

# CapX UPDATE

JULY 2013

## Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse Transmission Line

### Current Status:

The CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345/161 kV transmission project received federal approval in January of 2013. Construction started in February of 2013 on the 161 kV segment between the new North Rochester Substation near Pine Island and the existing Northern Hills Substation, northwest of Rochester, in February of 2013.

### Activities occurring after regulatory approval:

Prior to construction, several environmental, land acquisition, permitting, engineering and purchasing activities must occur.

- Engineers create preliminary designs for the line and pole locations.
- Land agents contact landowners to introduce the project.
- Surveys are conducted where required, including biological, cultural and soil borings.

- The design is finalized and materials are ordered.
- Right of way acquisition is finalized with landowners, and construction permits are acquired where necessary.
- Construction begins with tree clearing, building foundations, pole and wire installation and land restoration.
- Land owners are reimbursed for actual crop loss and other property damages. An environmental monitor affirms compliance with regulations and permit requirements.

### Road use agreements:

The project team will meet with local government staff and officials to define road use agreements. The project's construction contractors will be limited to defined haul routes and those haul routes will be the basis for discussing road use agreements with the townships and counties.



*Single pole steel structures will be used to reduce land impacts. 345 kV structures are typically between 140 and 170 feet tall and will be between 800 and 1,000 feet apart. Typically, a 150-foot right-of-way will be required. 161 kV structures are typically between 80 and 120 feet tall and will be between 500 and 700 feet apart. Typically, an 80 foot right-of-way will be used.*

**We want to hear from you.**  
**Contact us at [www.capx2020.com](http://www.capx2020.com) or:**

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**CapX2020**

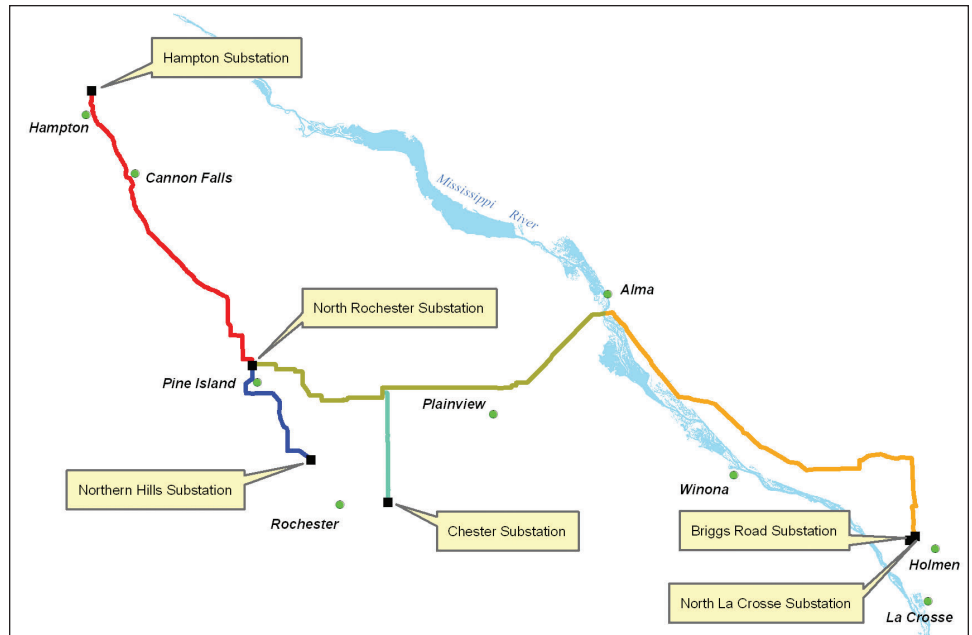
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Great River Energy • Minnesota Power • Minnkota Power Cooperative  
Missouri River Energy Services • Otter Tail Power Company  
Rochester Public Utilities • Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency  
WPPI Energy • Xcel Energy*

# Construction Schedule:

## ■ North Rochester to Northern Hills 161 kV Transmission Line (Pine Island to Rochester)

Construction began in February of 2013 on the 161 kilovolt (kV) line between a new North Rochester Substation to the existing Northern Hills Substation. Progress has been slowed by wet spring weather. Construction is projected to be complete by October of 2013.



## ■ North Rochester to Mississippi River 345 kV Transmission Line (Wabasha, Olmsted and southeastern Goodhue Counties)

Construction starts this summer with tree clearing near the Wabasha/Olmsted County line and moving east. Right of way work to allow access to structures will begin in August. Foundation construction is expected to start in September, followed by pole and wire installation in November. The McCarthy Lake WMA Wetland area east of Highway 61 will be constructed in January and February of 2014. Residents will see contractors moving in equipment and making preparations in advance of the start dates, particularly at construction lay down areas along Highway 42 northwest of Plainview. The Oronoco Township Board filed a petition with the Minnesota Supreme Court in July 2013 to review the route approved by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. The Supreme Court is expected to decide if they will take the case by September.

## ■ Mississippi River to La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Line (Trempealeau, Buffalo and La Crosse County)

Right of way agents began making contact with landowners in 2013 to obtain permission to conduct biological, cultural and soil surveys. Easement acquisition will begin this summer. Construction begins in the summer of 2014 in Trempealeau County and will proceed to Buffalo County before finishing in La Crosse County. Completion is scheduled for the summer of 2015.

## ■ Hampton to North Rochester 345 kV Transmission Line (Dakota and Goodhue Counties)

Right of way agents are currently contacting landowners to gain permission to conduct biological, cultural and soil surveys. Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2015 and be complete at the end of 2015.

## ■ North Rochester to Chester 161 kV Transmission Line (Farmington, Haverhill and Marion Townships)

Right of way agents will begin contacting landowners in the summer of 2013 to gain permission to conduct biological, cultural and soil surveys. Construction is slated to begin in 2015.

### Project management:

Xcel Energy is managing design and construction of the project on behalf of itself and the other owners, including Dairyland Power Cooperative, Rochester Public Utilities, Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency and WPPI Energy.

### Substation Work:

The Hampton, North Rochester, Northern Hills and Briggs Road substations are currently under construction.



Crews working on the control house at the new North Rochester substation outside Pine Island.