

# CapX2020 UPDATE

## CapX 2020 Utilities Host Public Meetings In Your Area

*The CapX 2020 utilities are holding* another round of open houses in May in five communities to provide information on the proposed electric transmission line between La Crosse, Rochester and the SE Twin Cities. Utility representatives will be available to answer questions about the proposed 345 kilovolt (kV) line and substations and to discuss and collect information in the ongoing route development process. The open houses will include maps that display narrowed corridors from the original notice corridor that was presented last fall.

The La Crosse - Rochester - SE Twin Cities line is one of three 345-kV lines being proposed by CapX 2020, a joint initiative of 11 transmission-owning utilities in Minnesota and the surrounding region. The initiative is designed to expand the electric infrastructure to ensure continued reliable service, meet the growth in electricity demand and support renewable energy expansion. If approved, the proposed 150-mile line would be built in phases to accommodate the needs of the region.

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC) must approve two permit applications before the lines can be built: a Certificate of Need (CON) and a Route Permit. The CON application, which was filed on Aug. 16, 2007, examines whether the proposed facilities are necessary and what the appropriate size, configuration and timing of the project should be. In a separate Route Permit proceeding, the MN PUC determines the route and design of the line. The CapX 2020 utilities plan to file a Route Permit application for the 345-kV line with the MN PUC in early 2009.

The CapX 2020 utilities also are involved in similar proceedings for new transmission lines with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (see inside story).

**Open house schedule inside**

Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency • Dairyland Power Cooperative • Great River Energy  
Minnesota Power • Minnesota Power Cooperative • Missouri River Energy Services • Otter Tail Power Company  
Rochester Public Utilities • Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency • Wisconsin Public Power Inc. • Xcel Energy

To help the CapX 2020 project teams gather local information that is being used to develop refined corridors for the proposed SE Twin Cities-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV line, the utilities hosted four public routing work group meetings along the project corridor in March. Landowners, local government officials, representatives from agriculture, state and federal agencies, and environmental groups participated in the meetings.



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September 2007  
Open Houses

Open houses: 6

Total attendance: 468

Submitted comment  
cards: 80

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## Minnesota Certificate of Need Update

The Certificate of Need application for the three CapX 2020 345-kV transmission lines continues to progress through the Minnesota regulatory process. Administrative Law Judge Beverly Heydinger has been assigned the case and has set the following schedule:

**March**—Environmental Report published

**April-July**—Direct testimony and rebuttal testimony of all parties

**June -Early July**—Public hearings (held throughout project corridors; public can make comments directly to Judge Heydinger for the public record)

**July-August**—Evidentiary hearings

**September-October**—Post-hearing briefs

**November**—Administrative Law Judge report

**Early 2009**—Public Utilities Commission hearings and decision  
To view all documents filed with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission go to the MN PUC's Web site at [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us), click on E-dockets on the left-hand side, click on Search Documents and search for docket 06-1115. In the search field, "06" stands for the year 2006 (when the first CapX 2020 document was filed). Use "06" for the year and "1115" in the second field, then press the search button. All filings in the CapX 2020 E-Docket will be listed. You can also visit [www.CapX2020.com/learn.html](http://www.CapX2020.com/learn.html) and click on the link "Minnesota Regulatory Process Fact Sheet."

## Stay Informed about the Regulatory Process

Just as the MN PUC makes final decisions on the need and routes for the proposed CapX 2020 transmission lines in Minnesota, similar review and approval processes are required by regulators in Wisconsin for the portion of the line in that state.

### Wisconsin

The regulatory process in Wisconsin combines need and routing into one permit. The Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) application will be filed with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) later this year. The PSCW makes the final decision on whether the line is needed and for the route. For more information on the Wisconsin process visit [www.psc.wi.gov](http://www.psc.wi.gov) or call 1-888-816-3831.

## Rural Utilities Service

Under the authority of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service (RUS) makes direct loans and loan guarantees to electric utilities to serve customers in rural areas. Dairyland Power Cooperative, a CapX 2020 utility, expects to request financing from the RUS for its portion of the SE Twin Cities-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. The RUS is required to conduct an environmental review of the project involving other federal agencies in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be involved due to the project's potential impact on wildlife refuge lands. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will assess impacts on wetlands and waters under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and impacts under Section 10 of the River and Harbors Act. The RUS will work with these agencies in the permitting and will coordinate preparation of the environmental review documents.

Since Minnesota and Wisconsin have comprehensive requirements for environmental impact documentation as part of their routing reviews, the RUS will work with these states to coordinate project reviews. Federal and state agencies currently are determining how they will proceed on the reviews. The CapX 2020 utilities expect to have more details in the coming months and will provide regular updates on the process.



Despite shrinking families and increasing costs for construction and energy, the average new house has grown by nearly 400 square feet to 2,434 square feet. The average household size has shrunk slightly since 1990, to about 2.6 people. (Associated Press)

## Open House Schedule

SE Twin Cities - Rochester -  
La Crosse

### Tuesday, May 20

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Riverport Inn  
900 Bruski Dr.  
Winona, MN 55987

### Tuesday, May 20

5 - 8 p.m.  
Centerville Community  
Center/Curling Club  
W24854 State Road 54/93  
Centerville, WI 54630

### Wednesday, May 21

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Mayo Civic Center-Riverview  
Suite  
30 Civic Center Drive SE  
Rochester, MN 55904

### Wednesday, May 21

5 - 8 p.m.  
St. Charles Community Center  
830 Whitewater Ave.  
St. Charles, MN 55972

### Thursday, May 22

4 - 7 p.m.  
Grandpa's Event Center  
31846 65th Ave.  
Cannon Falls, MN 55009

## Contact information:

SE Twin Cities - Rochester - La Crosse

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