

March
2008

CapX2020 *UPDATE*

Sept/Oct 2007
Open Houses

Open houses: 10

Total attendance: 1000

Submitted comment
cards: 100

www.capx2020.com

CapX 2020 Utilities Host Public Meetings In Your Area

The CapX 2020 utilities are holding another round of open houses in late March and early April in seven communities to provide information on the proposed electric transmission line between Brookings, SD 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 on the ongoing route development process. The open houses will include maps that display revised corridors from the original notice corridor that was presented last fall.

The Brookings - 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 Brookings - SE Twin Cities 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, 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 with the MN PUC in late summer or fall 2008.

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

[Open house schedule inside](#)

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To help the CapX 2020 project teams gather local information that will be used to develop refined corridors for the three proposed 345-kV lines, the utilities hosted 20 public routing work group meetings since January. Landowners, local government officials, representatives from agriculture, state and federal agencies, and environmental groups participated in the meetings. Additional work groups will be scheduled in late spring and early summer. To participate, visit www.capx2020.com and click the Contact Us link.

Open House Schedule

Brookings, SD-SE Twin Cities

Wednesday, March 26

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.;
3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Best Western Marshall Inn
1500 East College Dr.
Marshall, MN 56258

Thursday, March 27

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Midwest Center for Wind Energy
2390 County Hwy 1
Hendricks, MN 56136

Monday, March 31

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Max's Grill
1325 West Lincoln Ave.
Olivia, MN 56277

Monday, March 31

3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Redwood Area Community
Center
901 Cook St.
Redwood Falls, MN 56258

Tuesday, April 1

3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
1300 East Main St.
New Prague, MN 56071

Wednesday, April 2

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.;
3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Arlington Community Center
204 Shamrock Dr.
Arlington, MN 55307

Thursday, April 3

3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Dakota County Extension and
Conservation Center
4100 220th St. West, Suite 100
Farmington MN 55024

Contact information for the three projects:

Brookings, SD – SE Twin Cities
(888) 473-2279
brookingsinfo@capx2020.com

**Fargo – Alexandria – St. Cloud –
Monticello**
(866) 876-2869
fargoinfo@capx2020.com

**SE Twin Cities – Rochester –
La Crosse**
(800) 238-7968
lacrosseinfo@capx2020.com

CapX2020 UPDATE

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-June—Direct testimony and rebuttal testimony of all parties

June—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

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 North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin for the portions of the lines in those states.

North Dakota

The North Dakota Public Service Commission (ND PSC) requires three permits – a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN), a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and a Route Permit. The CapX 2020 utilities plan to file the CPCN application in the spring of 2008 and the Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit applications in late 2008. Contact the ND PSC at www.psc.state.nd.us or 1-701-328-2400 for further information.

South Dakota

The CapX 2020 utilities are required to obtain a Facilities Permit from the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (SD PUC) for the proposed Brookings, S.D.-SE Twin Cities line. The utilities plan to file an application with the SD PUC in late 2008 that will begin an approximately one-year process. In March, the utilities plan to send informational letters on the proposed project to about 400 South Dakota landowners. Additional information can be obtained from the SD PUC at www.puc.sd.gov or by calling 1-800-332-1782.

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 or call 1-888-816-3831.

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, 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 and click on the link "Minnesota Regulatory Process Fact Sheet."



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)

Buffalo Ridge Transmission

No, the CapX 2020 utilities are not contacting landowners about purchasing right-of-way for the Brookings-SE Twin Cities transmission line. However, agents for Xcel Energy, a CapX 2020 partner, are contacting property owners in Nobles and Murray counties about purchasing right-of-way for a 115-kilovolt (kV) line that will run between substations near Chandler and Reading.

Xcel Energy plans to construct three 115-kV lines to enable additional wind farm development. Xcel Energy will begin contacting Lyon County landowners this spring for a 115-kV line that will run between substations near Balaton and Marshall. Landowner contacts for a line that will run between substations near Lake Benton and in western South Dakota will begin this summer. Landowner contacts also are being made for a substation site near Granite Falls.