

CapX2020

Delivering electricity you can rely on

Brookings County-Hampton 345 kV transmission line

PROJECT UPDATE

Project overview

The Brookings County-Hampton project is a double circuit 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line (some segments constructed as double circuit capable) being built between the Brookings County Substation near Brookings, S.D., and the Hampton Substation in Hampton, Minn. The line will be constructed primarily of single pole structures attached to concrete foundations spaced

about five per mile. Construction is expected to begin in mid 2012 and be complete in 2015.

Project need

The last major upgrade to the region's electric transmission infrastructure took place more than 30 years ago. Since then, the population has grown, home sizes have nearly doubled, appliance and electric device usage have increased exponentially, and interest and availability of electric cars is growing. The result: Energy use has increased.

The Brookings County-Hampton project will help meet projected electric growth in southern and western Minnesota and the growing areas south of the Twin Cities metro area, particularly Scott and Dakota counties where population has more than doubled since the last major transmission upgrade.

Additionally, Minnesota has one of the most aggressive renewable energy standards in the country, requiring 25 percent of electricity to come from renewable sources like wind. The Brookings County-Hampton project will connect into the central part of the Buffalo Ridge, one of the nation's windiest areas.

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC) must grant two approvals before construction – a Certificate of Need (CN) and a Route Permit.

The CapX2020 utilities were granted a CN from the MN PUC on

May 22, 2009 for all three 345 kV projects. To view CN documents, including an environmental report prepared by the Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security (OES), visit the MN PUC's website at www.puc.state.mn.us and search for eDocket 06-1115. The MN PUC can also be reached at 1-800-657-3782.

Project route

The project was granted a final Route Permit (docket 08-1474) from the MN PUC on February 3, 2011. To view Route Permit documents, visit the MN PUC's website and search for eDocket 08-1474.

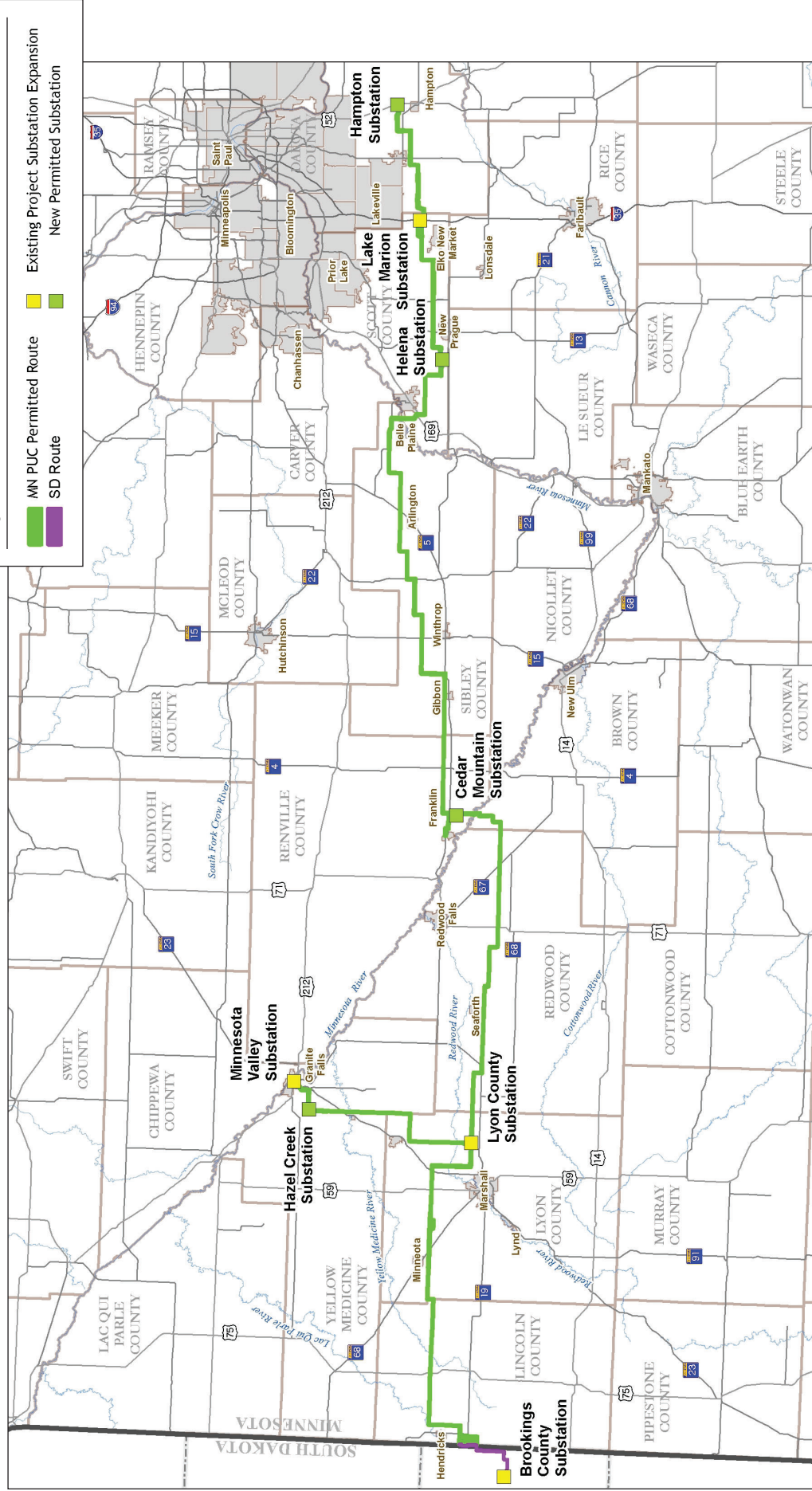
A Facility Permit was granted by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission in June 2011. Visit the SD PUC website at <http://www.puc.sd.gov/> or call (605) 773-3201 for more information on the regulatory process.

The Midwest ISO granted the project conditional approval as a multi-value project (MVP) in June 2011. The MVP designation is a new tariff that enables projects that meet one of three criteria to be financed by all MISO member utilities in 12 states and Manitoba. A vote for full MVP status is scheduled for December 2011.



Single pole steel structures will primarily be used to reduce land impacts; some locations may require two-pole structures. Poles are between 140 and 170 feet tall and will be about 1,000 feet apart. Typically, a 150-foot wide right-of-way will be required.

Brookings County-Hampton 345 kV approved route



What's next

Great River Energy, the project's construction manager, began contacting landowners in July 2011 to begin discussions on easement acquisition for the necessary right-of-way.

About CapX2020

CapX2020 is a joint initiative of 11 transmission-owning utilities in Minnesota and the surrounding region formed to upgrade and expand the electric transmission grid to ensure continued reliable and affordable service. The CapX2020 Group 1 projects include three proposed 345 kV transmission lines, including the Brookings County-Hampton line, and a proposed 230 kV line.

Project development manager:

Great River Energy

Dan Lester, routing lead
 Randy Fordice, communications specialist
 12300 Elm Creek Blvd
 Maple Grove, MN 55369
 1-888-473-2279
 brookingsinfo@capx2020.com