MN PUC approves Brookings County-Hampton Route Permit

*Majority of final route determined; landowners to be contacted beginning in 2011*

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission approved the Route Permit application for the majority of the CapX2020 Brookings County-Hampton 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line on July 15, 2010. The approved route follows the modified preferred route as identified in the original application and subsequent testimony, as modified by an approximate two-mile route segment in Dakota County (segment P6-06 was proposed in the Environmental Impact Statement scoping process).

The MN PUC has not yet approved the segment between the Cedar Mountain substation in Renville County and the Helena substation in Scott County, as it referred the Minnesota River crossing location back to the administrative law judge (ALJ). The ALJ will consider a June 2010 letter from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service regarding impacts to eagles at the river and may schedule a hearing to further develop the record regarding the crossing. A timetable for the judge’s review has not been scheduled.

**Next steps**

In the coming weeks, the MN PUC will publish a written order detailing its final decision on the Route Permit (eDocket 08-1474), which will be posted on the MN PUC website at www.puc.state.mn.us. CapX2020 expects to begin contacting landowners in mid-2011 to negotiate easements for the transmission line, and construction is expected to begin in mid-2012. The line’s projected in-service date is 2015.

For additional project information, please visit www.CapX2020.com or call 1-800-473-2279.
The map below shows the approved route for the Capx2020 Brookings County-Hampton project. The segment from the Cedar Mountain substation to the Helena substation has not yet been decided. Route options for crossing the Minnesota River and crossover options from the modified preferred route to the alternate route in Sibley County are also shown below.

Brookings County-Hampton project approved route