



Delivering electricity you can rely on

Fargo-St. Cloud 345 kV transmission line

PROJECT UPDATE

Project overview

The Fargo-St. Cloud 345 kV transmission line will improve community reliability in the southern Red River Valley and the Fargo, Alexandria and St. Cloud areas. The project will also support additional generation development, including renewable generation, in eastern North Dakota and western Minnesota.

The double circuit capable 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line will be built between the new Bison Substation west of Fargo, North Dakota, the existing Alexandria Switching Station in Alexandria, Minnesota, and the new Quarry Substation west of St. Cloud, Minnesota.

Project quick facts

345 kV line

About 210 miles

Targeted in-service - 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 usage has increased. The new transmission lines will be built in phases designed to meet this electricity growth as well as to tap into vast wind energy resources in southern and western Minnesota and the Dakotas.

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, 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 ET-2, E002/TL-09-1056) from the MN PUC on June 10, 2011. To view



Single pole steel structures will be used to reduce land impacts and will be between 700 and 1,000 feet apart. Typically a 150-foot right-of-way will be required.

Route Permit documents, visit the MN PUC's website at www.puc.state.mn.us and search for eDocket 09-1056.

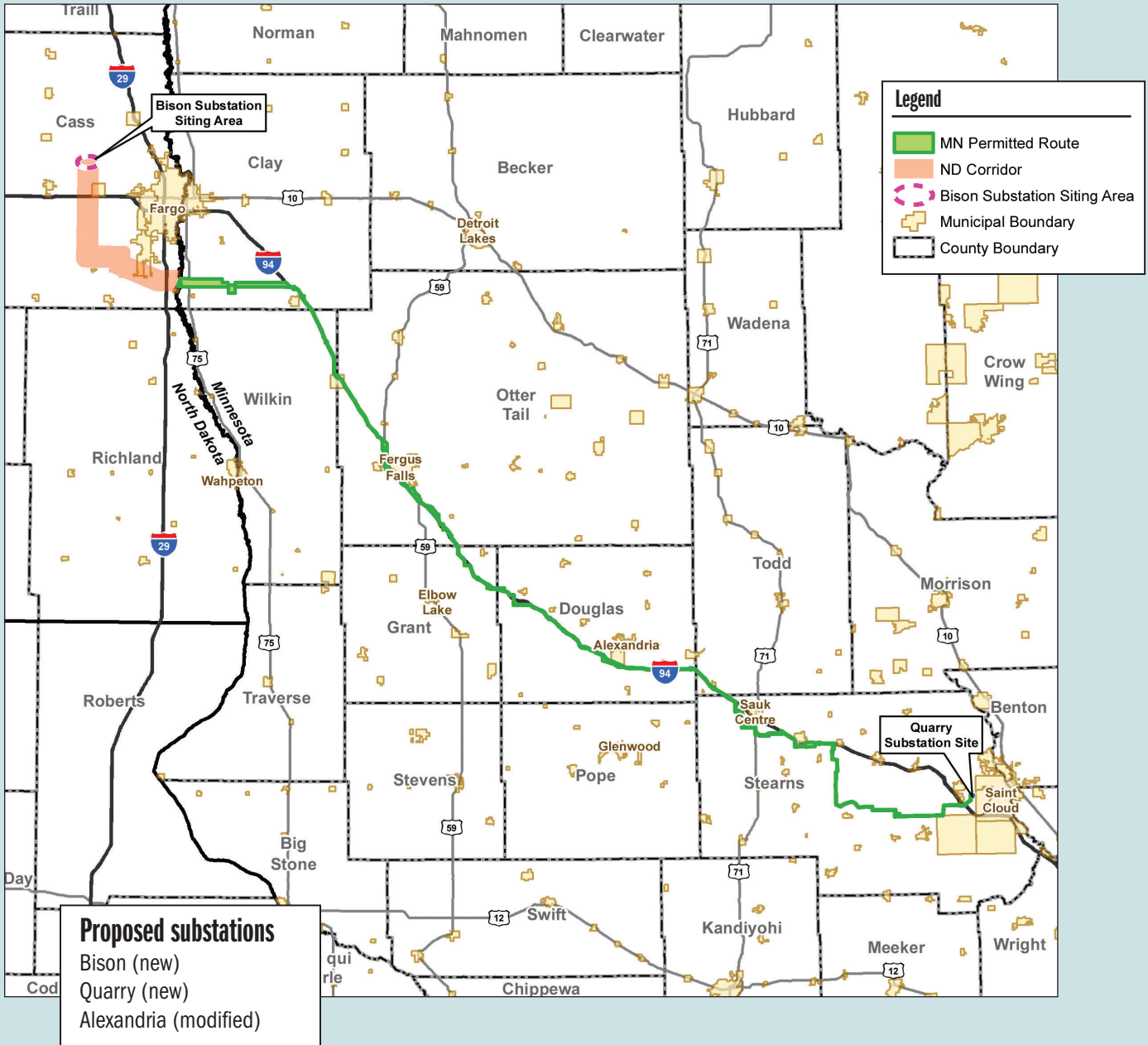
North Dakota

The North Dakota regulatory process requires a Letter of Intent be submitted followed by three applications. The North Dakota Public Service Commission (ND PSC) granted a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity in January 2011. A joint Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit application was filed October 3, 2011 with the ND PSC. A public hearing is scheduled for January 30, 2012. Visit the ND PSC website at www.psc.state.nd.us or call (701) 328-2400 for more information on the regulatory process.

Federal approval

Before the lines can be built, permits and approvals are also required from several federal agencies, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Federal agencies will conduct environmental reviews to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. The MN PUC, the ND PSC and participating federal agencies will work together to coordinate their processes.

Fargo-St. Cloud 345 kV approved route in Minnesota and route corridor in North Dakota



What's next

Construction began in January 2012 between Alexandria and Sauk Centre. Xcel Energy, the project's construction manager, began contacting landowners in summer 2011 to discuss easement acquisition for the necessary right-of-way.

The 28-mile Monticello-St. Cloud project was energized and placed in service in December 2011. The Fargo-St. Cloud project, including a North Dakota segment, is scheduled to be energized in 2015.

About CapX2020

CapX2020 is a joint initiative of 11 transmission-owning utilities in Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and Wisconsin to expand the electric transmission grid to ensure continued reliable and affordable service. The 700 miles of CapX2020 Group 1 projects include three proposed 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines, including the Fargo-St. Cloud line, and a 230 kV line.

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