As part of the state permitting process, the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security (OES) issued its Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) scoping report in August 2010. The scoping report identifies the human and environmental issues as well route alternatives that will be studied in the EIS.

During the OES public scoping period in spring 2010, many comments were received from the public and local government officials. In response, the OES revised the scope of its study to include 46 route alternatives and 12 route alignments. These additional routes will be studied along with the routes presented in the Route Permit application filed by CapX2020. The map shows both the CapX2020 routes and the recently added OES routes.

The OES will host public meetings in early 2011 on the draft EIS to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the document. Landowners and interested stakeholders will be notified of the meetings by mail and newspaper ads.

The map at right includes the route options filed by CapX2020 (shown in pink and blue) as well as the route alternatives and alignments included by the OES (shown in green) for study in the EIS. Detailed route maps can be found at www.CapX2020.com.
Wisconsin permitting process

A Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) is required from the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) prior to constructing a transmission line in that state. CapX2020 expects to file a CPCN in January 2011. Public meetings will take place in Wisconsin in 2011.

Federal permitting process

Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is the lead federal agency and is responsible for completing any requirements with the National Environmental Policy Act, including preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). RUS will coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other entities as part of the EIS process.