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May 5, 2009

Public meetings in your area for the proposed CapX2020 high voltage electric transmission line between Hampton and Rochester, Minnesota and La Crosse, Wisconsin

Dear Landowner or Resident:

This letter is a notification of upcoming public meetings to discuss several potential route alternatives in your area for a high voltage electric transmission line. The CapX2020 utilities are studying the potential route options based on their routing analysis to date as well as feedback from citizens and local and state agencies.

The proposed line is part of a major upgrade of the region's transmission system to meet customers' growing demand for electricity and to increase access to new generation, including renewable energy. The CapX2020 utilities are evaluating a number of possible route options in Minnesota and Wisconsin for the proposed line including several new route options in Wisconsin. The route options are highlighted on the enclosed maps and include potential upgrades of existing lines between Alma and Blair, Arcadia and Galesville, and Blair and Holmen. A new corridor is also being studied south of Galesville along Highway 53. Many route options are currently being studied, but the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin will only approve one route at the end of its permitting process.

The CapX2020 utilities are hosting three public informational meetings this month on the proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse electric transmission line. Utility representatives will answer questions and collect information in the ongoing route development process. A presentation will be made at 7 p.m. at each meeting. We encourage you to attend one of the meetings:

Monday, May 18 6 - 8 p.m. Centerville Community Center/Curling Club W24854 State Road 54/93 Centerville, WI 54630	Tuesday, May 19 6 - 8 p.m. Arcadia Town Hall W26051 State Road 95 Arcadia, WI 54612	Wednesday, May 20 6 - 8 p.m. Hilltop Bar and Ballroom S3135 County Road M Fountain City, WI 54629
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Electricity consumption has doubled in Wisconsin and Minnesota since 1980, but few transmission lines have been built during the past 30 years. CapX2020, a joint initiative of 11 electric utilities in the Upper Midwest, including Xcel Energy and Dairyland Power Cooperative, is proposing to construct a new 345-kilovolt transmission line between Hampton and Rochester, Minnesota, and La Crosse, Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Permit Process

The Wisconsin regulatory process combines need and routing into one permit, a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN), which the CapX2020 utilities plan to file in late 2009 with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW). The PSCW makes the final decision on the line's need and its route. For more information on the Wisconsin process, visit www.psc.wi.gov or call 1-800-816-3831. To check the status of the project case on the PSCW Web site, enter the document number 05-CE-136 in the "Link Directly to a Case" section.

Minnesota Permit Process

In August 2007, the CapX2020 utilities filed a Certificate of Need application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC) for three 345-kV transmission lines, including the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse line. As part of that filing, the utilities notified approximately 20,000 landowners and local officials in Minnesota and Wisconsin. On April 16, 2009, the MN PUC voted unanimously that the three lines are needed.

Federal Environmental Review

In addition to the CapX2020 informational meetings, Rural Utilities Service (RUS), a federal agency, will host several public meetings in June along the project study corridor. Due to the project's potential impact on wildlife refuge lands, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be involved; the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be as well. RUS will hold a series of scoping meetings in late June.

Project schedule

- May 18-20, 2009 – CapX2020 presentation of route alternatives and process
- June 15-25, 2009 (tentative dates) – federal scoping meetings
- Summer 2009 – Minnesota Route Permit application filing
- Fall 2009 – Wisconsin CPCN application filing

For more information on the proposed transmission line visit www.capx2020.com, email us at lacrosseinfo@capx2020.com or call 1-800-238-7968.

Sincerely,

Tom Hillstrom
Xcel Energy

Chuck Thompson
Dairyland Power Cooperative