

~ NOTICE ~

UTILITIES PROPOSE TO BUILD Major New High-Voltage Electric Transmission Lines Between Fargo, ND and Monticello, MN; Brookings, SD and Southeast Twin Cities, MN; Southeast Twin Cities, MN, Rochester, MN and La Crosse, WI;

Xcel Energy, Great River Energy and other utilities propose to build major new electric transmission lines:

- A 250-mile, 345-kV transmission line between Fargo, ND, Alexandria, St. Cloud, and Monticello, MN.
- A 230-mile, 345-kV transmission line between Brookings, SD and Southeast Twin Cities, MN, including a 30-mile, 345-kV transmission line between Marshall, MN and Granite Falls, MN.
- A 150-mile, 345-kV transmission line from Southeast Twin Cities, MN to Rochester, MN to La Crosse, WI.

Transmission Planning

Our proposals were identified as part of a long-range planning study conducted by a number of Minnesota utilities. The long-range study is posted on the web at www.capx2020.com, as are the names of sponsoring utilities and links to their respective web sites. Minnesota utilities also post biennial transmission plans at www.minnelectrans.com.

Project Information

Typically, 345-kV power lines are built using steel double-pole or single-pole structures, 120 to 150 feet tall, spaced 600 to 1000 feet apart, on a 150-foot-wide right-of-way.

If the lines are authorized by state and federal permitting agencies, the utilities will work with landowners to purchase a property right, called an easement, in order to build the transmission lines. If agreement on terms for an easement cannot be reached, the utilities can then submit the dispute to the eminent domain process.

Public Process

Before these lines can be built, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission must certify that the lines are needed by issuing a **Certificate of Need** and then must determine where the lines should be located by issuing **Route Permits**. Please note that comments regarding Need must be submitted during the Need process; comments regarding Routing must be submitted during the Routing process. As part of the Certificate of Need process, the Department of Commerce will solicit public comment and prepare a report on the environmental consequences of building the new lines.

Minnesota Statutes, §216B.243, and Minnesota Rules, Chapters 4410, 7829 and 7849, govern requests for Certificates of Need for high-voltage transmission lines. Minnesota Statutes, §216E and Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4400, govern requests for Route Permits.

Sponsoring utilities plan to file an application for a Certificate of Need in Summer, 2007 for these lines. We will post our Certificate of Need application and other regulatory filings on the web at www.capx2020.com. We will make copies available at public libraries and we can provide a copy upon request.

Both the Certificate of Need and routing processes emphasize public participation. You can get involved at several points in the process, and there will be public meetings and hearings in your area during the coming year. Watch for notices in local papers.

These state agency representatives can help you learn more and add you to mailing lists they administer.

Certificate of Need Process

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Routing and Environmental Review

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Please feel welcome to contact us with your questions.

Brookings—SE Twin Cities

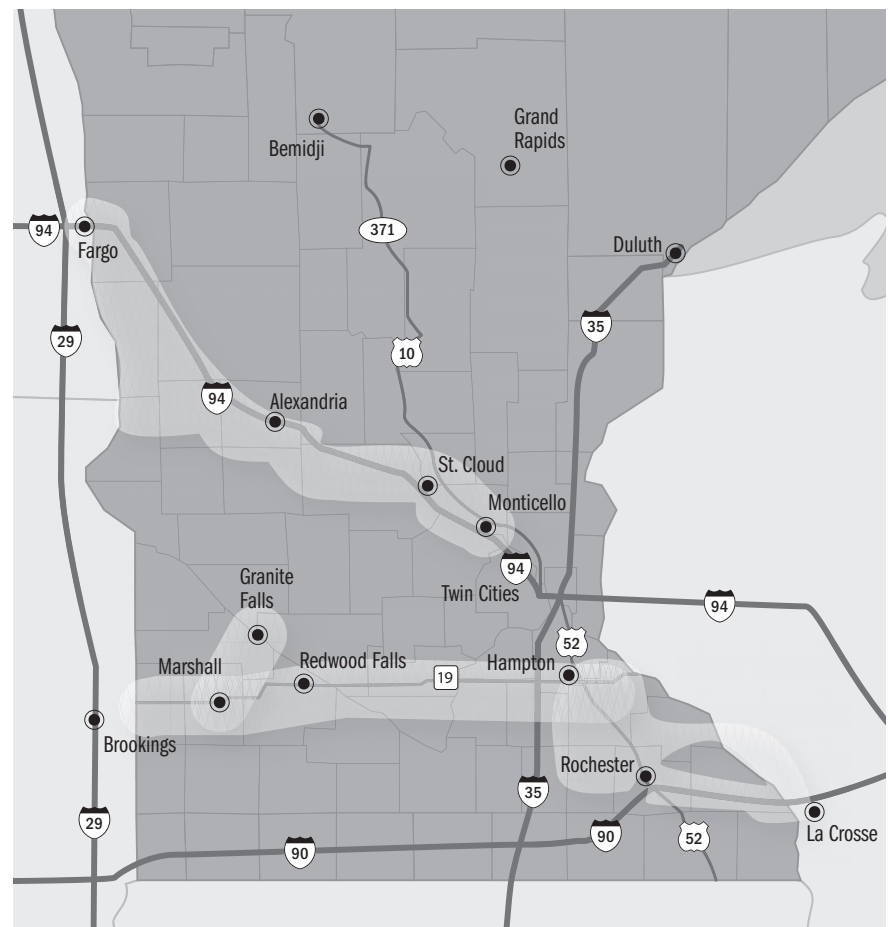
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CapX2020

Delivering electricity you can rely on

Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency • Dairyland Power Cooperative
Great River Energy • Minnesota Power • Minnkota Power Cooperative
Missouri River Energy Services • Otter Tail Power Company • Rochester Public Utilities
Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency • Wisconsin Public Power Inc. • Xcel Energy

**We encourage you to get involved
in these important electric energy decisions.
We look forward to working with you.**