

~ PUBLIC NOTICE ~

The CapX 2020 utilities will conduct informational open houses in your area beginning in early September to discuss a series of proposed high voltage transmission line projects.

The 11 transmission-owning utilities in Minnesota and the surrounding region filed an application for a Certificate of Need with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in August 2007 for the construction of three 345-kilovolt-transmission lines. The application is the beginning of a rigorous regulatory process to determine if the proposed high-voltage transmission projects are needed to deliver continued reliable, affordable electricity to Minnesota customers, and to connect with renewable energy resources in the region.

A ruling on the Certificate of Need application is expected in early 2009.

Determining Project Routes

Specific routes for the CapX 2020 projects have NOT been determined. The upcoming open houses are designed to provide general information about proposed transmission lines, as well as to begin the process of collecting information that will be used to develop a route permit application. Route permit applications will be filed in mid-2008.

Significant local input is needed to help utilities determine the best routes for transmission lines like the CapX 2020 proposals, and the utilities encourage local governments, landowners and residents to participate.

There will be numerous public meetings and hearings throughout the process, including many opportunities to provide input. If you are unable to attend the upcoming open houses, submit comments by visiting www.CapX2020.com, calling 866-876-2869 or sending an email to fargoinfo@CapX2020.com.

Additional information on the regulatory process is available by contacting:

Minnesota Department of Commerce
(www.commerce.state.mn.us)

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
(www.puc.state.mn.us)

CapX 2020 participating utilities include: 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., and Xcel Energy

Open house schedule for Fargo-Alexandria-St. Cloud-Monticello Project:

Tuesday, September 11

3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Best Western Bigwood Conference Center
921 Western Ave.
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Wednesday, September 12*

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.; 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Courtyard by Marriot
1080 28th Ave. S.
Moorhead, MN 56560

Thursday, September 13

3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Holiday Inn
5637 Highway 29 S.
Alexandria, MN 56308

Wednesday, September 19*

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Ramada Inn
2115 S. 6th St.
Brainerd, MN

Tuesday, September 25

3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
American Legion
265 County Road 173
Melrose, MN 56352

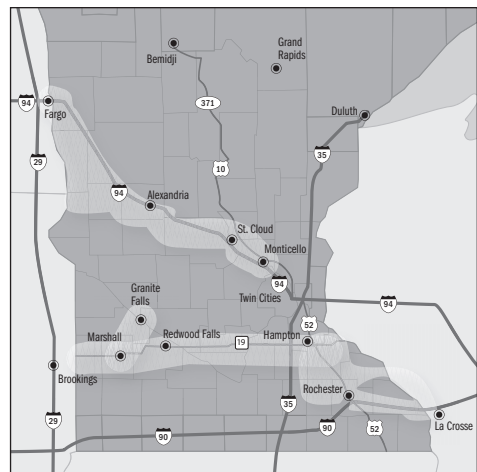
Wednesday, September 26

5:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
West Central High School
303 County Road 2
Barrett, MN 56311

Thursday, September 27

3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
American Legion
505 Pine St.
Clearwater, MN 55320

* Coordinated with Biennial Transmission Planning meeting- www.minnelectrans.com



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The CapX 2020 utilities will conduct additional informational open houses in your area in October to discuss a series of proposed high voltage transmission line projects.

The 11 transmission-owning utilities in Minnesota and the surrounding states filed an application for a Certificate of Need with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in August 2007 for the construction of three 345-kilovolt-transmission lines, including a 250-mile line between Fargo, ND and Monticello, MN. The application is the beginning of a rigorous regulatory process to determine if the proposed projects are needed to deliver continued reliable, affordable electricity to customers in Minnesota as well as eastern North Dakota, and to connect with renewable energy resources in the region.

These public meetings are a repeat of the open houses the CapX 2020 utilities hosted in September and will not contain any new information. As there will be no formal presentation, you are invited to come anytime during the open house hours and share your insights about the projects.

Project Routes

Specific routes for the CapX 2020 projects have NOT been determined. The three October open houses are designed to provide general information about proposed transmission lines, as well as begin the process of collecting information that will be used to develop a Minnesota route permit application that will be filed in 2008. Portions of the proposed lines also will require approvals by federal officials and by regulators in North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

Significant local input is needed to help utilities determine the best routes for transmission lines like the CapX 2020 proposals, and the utilities encourage local governments, landowners and residents to participate.

There will be numerous public meetings and hearings throughout the process, including many opportunities to provide input. If you are unable to attend the upcoming open houses, feel free to submit comments at www.CapX2020.com, calling 866-876-2869 or sending an email to fargoinfo@CapX2020.com.

Additional information on the regulatory process is available by contacting:

Minnesota Department of Commerce
(www.commerce.state.mn.us)

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
(www.puc.state.mn.us)

Open houses:

Tuesday, October 23

3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS)
Student Center (1st building on the campus oval)
Red River Valley Room
800 6th Street North
Wahpeton, ND 58076

Wednesday, October 24

3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

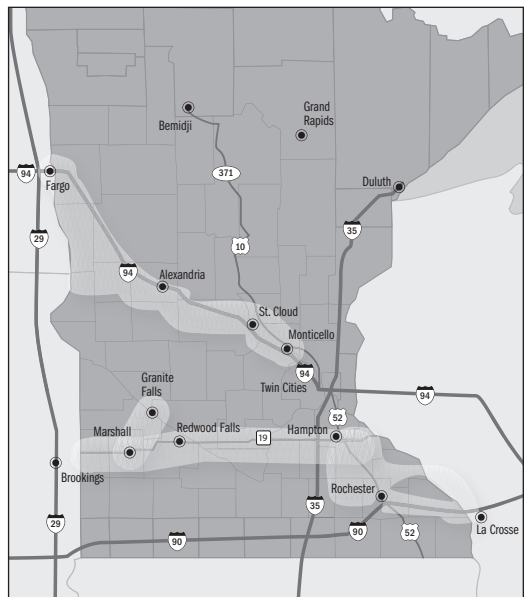
Wheaton American Legion
Highway 75 North
Wheaton, MN 56296

Thursday, October 25

3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Municipal Building
417 Washburn
Belgrade, MN 56312

CapX 2020 participating utilities include: Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, Blue Earth, Minn.; Dairyland Power Cooperative, La Crosse, Wis.; Great River Energy, Elk River, Minn.; Minnesota Power, Duluth, Minn.; Minnkota Power Cooperative, Grand Forks, N.D.; Missouri River Energy Services, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Otter Tail Power Company, Fergus Falls, Minn.; Rochester Public Utilities, Rochester, Minn.; Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, Rochester, Minn.; Wisconsin Public Power Inc., Sun Prairie, Wis. and Xcel Energy, Minneapolis



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CapX 2020 Utilities Host Public Meetings In Your Area

The CapX 2020 utilities are holding another round of open houses in late March in seven communities to provide information on the proposed electric transmission line between Fargo, Alexandria, St. Cloud and Monticello. Utility representatives will be available to answer questions about the proposed 345 kilovolt (kV) line and substations and to discuss and collect information in the ongoing route development process. The open houses will include maps that display revised corridors from the original notice corridor that was presented last fall.

The Fargo-Monticello line is one of three 345-kV lines being proposed by CapX 2020, a joint initiative of 11 transmission-owning utilities in Minnesota and the surrounding region. The initiative is designed to expand the electricity infrastructure to ensure continued reliable service, meet the growth in electricity demand and support renewable energy expansion. If approved, the proposed Fargo-Monticello line would be built in phases to accommodate the needs of the region. The projected in-service dates are:

- Monticello to St. Cloud, 2011
- St. Cloud to Alexandria, 2013
- Alexandria to Fargo, 2015

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC) must approve two permit applications before the lines can be built: a Certificate of Need (CON) and a Route Permit. The CON application, which was filed on Aug. 16, 2007, examines whether the proposed facilities are necessary and what the appropriate size, configuration and timing of the projects should be. In a separate Route Permit proceeding, the MN PUC determines the route and design of the line. The CapX 2020 utilities plan to file a Route Permit application with the MN PUC in late summer or fall 2008.

The CapX 2020 utilities also are involved in similar proceedings for new transmission lines with the North Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

If you are unable to attend the upcoming open houses, submit comments by visiting www.CapX2020.com, calling 866-876-2869 or sending an email to fargoinfo@CapX2020.com.

For additional information on the regulatory process:

Minnesota Department of Commerce
(www.commerce.state.mn.us)
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
(www.puc.state.mn.us)

Open house schedule for Fargo- Alexandria-St. Cloud-Monticello 345-kV line:

Monday, March 17

3 - 7 p.m.
Eagle Trace Golfers Club
1100 NW Main St
Clearwater, MN 55320

Tuesday, March 18

3 - 7 p.m.
American Legion
265 County Road 173
Melrose, MN 56352

Wednesday, March 19

3 - 7 p.m.
Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center
2100 Arrowwood Lane NW
Alexandria, MN 56308

Thursday, March 20

3 - 7 p.m.
Barrett Community Center
109 Barrett Ave
Barrett, MN 56311

Tuesday, March 25

3 - 7 p.m.
Best Western Bigwood Event Center
925 Western Avenue
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Wednesday, March 26

3 - 7 p.m.
Best Western Doublewood Inn
3333 13th Ave S
Fargo, ND 58103

Thursday, March 27

3 - 7 p.m.
St. Mary's School gymnasium
221 North 4th Street
Breckenridge, MN

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CapX 2020 utilities: 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. and Xcel Energy.

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CapX 2020 Utilities Host Public Meetings In Your Area

The CapX 2020 utilities are hosting five open houses in your area on the proposed high voltage transmission line between Fargo, Alexandria, St. Cloud and Monticello. The open houses will include maps that display several transmission line route options (1,000 feet wide). Please stop by anytime to provide your comments on the route options. No formal presentation is scheduled.

In order to first target the critical electrical reliability needs in the St. Cloud area, the utilities have divided the project into two - Monticello to St. Cloud and St. Cloud to Fargo. The utilities are moving toward filing a Route Permit for the Monticello to St. Cloud project with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in late summer and a Route Permit for St. Cloud to Fargo in late fall.

This line is one of three 345-kilovolt lines proposed by CapX 2020, a joint initiative of 11 transmission-owning utilities in Minnesota and the surrounding region. The initiative is designed to expand the electricity infrastructure to ensure continued reliable service, meet the growth in electricity demand and support renewable energy expansion.

The CapX 2020 utilities also are involved in similar proceedings for new transmission lines with the North Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

If you are unable to attend the open houses, submit comments by visiting www.CapX2020.com, calling 866-876-2869 or sending an e-mail to fargoinfo@CapX2020.com.

Open house schedule:

Monday, June 2

3 - 7 p.m.
American Legion
265 County Road 173
Melrose, MN 56352

Tuesday, June 3

3 - 7 p.m.
Broadway Ballroom
115 30th Ave East
Alexandria, MN 56308

Wednesday, June 4

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Barrett Community Center
109 Barrett Ave
Barrett, MN 56311

Wednesday, June 4

4 - 7 p.m.
Best Western Bigwood Event Center
925 Western Ave
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Thursday, June 5

3 - 6 p.m.
Best Western Doublewood Inn
3333 13th Ave South
Fargo, ND 58103

For additional information on the regulatory process:

Minnesota Department of Commerce
(www.commerce.state.mn.us)

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
(www.puc.state.mn.us)

**North Dakota Public Service
Commission**
(www.psc.state.nd.us)

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