Work on the Big Stone South-Brookings County 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line is kicking off this month. Surveying, staking, improving minimum maintenance roads, preparing laydown yards, and tree clearing will start in August 2015 followed by foundation construction in November 2015.

The Big Stone South-Brookings County project is a 70-mile, 345-kV transmission line that will extend between a new Big Stone South Substation near Big Stone City, South Dakota, and the Brookings County Substation near Brookings, South Dakota (see map on back). Xcel Energy and Otter Tail Power Company are joint owners of the transmission line and CapX2020 partners.

Single pole steel structures will primarily be used to reduce land impacts; some locations may require two pole structures. Poles are between 140 and 170 feet tall and will be about 1,000 feet apart. Typically, a 150-foot wide right-of-way will be required.
Construction Schedule
Foundation construction will begin on the north end of the project in November 2015. We expect to complete the project in fall 2017. If you are a landowner on the line, we will contact you prior to construction work in your area.

Project Need
The Big Stone South-Brookings County project is one of 16 multi-value projects (MVPs) approved by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator and state regulatory agencies. The MVPs will help expand and enhance the region’s transmission system, reduce congestion, provide access to affordable energy sources, and meet public policy requirements, including renewable energy mandates.