Big Stone South-Brookings County
345-kilovolt transmission line project

The Big Stone South-Brookings County project is a 345-kilovolt transmission line that will extend 70 miles between the new Big Stone South Substation near Big Stone City, South Dakota, to the Brookings County Substation near Brookings, South Dakota. The project, estimated to cost nearly $225 million, is expected to be complete in 2017. The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission granted a Facility Permit, approving construction of the line. Otter Tail Power Company and Xcel Energy are joint owners of the project. Xcel Energy is the construction manager.

What are the construction steps?

In August 2015 surveying, staking, improving minimum maintenance roads, preparing laydown yards, and tree clearing began. In November 2015 foundation construction on the northern end of the project will begin.

When foundation construction is complete, crews will set structures and string conductor.

Why is the project needed?

The Big Stone South-Brookings County project is one of 16 multi-value projects (MVPs) approved by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) and state regulatory agencies. The MVPs will 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.

www.capx2020.com
Big Stone South-Brookings County transmission line route

Estimated Construction Schedule

Vegetation Removal: Aug. 2015 – Nov. 2015
Structure Erection: June 2016 – Sept. 2017
Conductor Installation: July 2016 – Oct. 2017
In-service date: Fall, 2017
Final Restoration: Sept 2017 – Nov 2017 (may extend to May 2018)
Safety Message

Safety is our first priority. Daily safety briefings help to emphasize safety messages and challenges crews face in the field.

The Big Stone South-Brookings County project includes

- About 33,000 cubic yards of concrete
- About 2 million feet of conductor
- 371 structures

Contact Us

View more information about the project, and let us know if you have questions or comments at CapX2020.com.

You can also reach us at:

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Project Partners

Xcel Energy
Otter Tail Power Company
What is CapX2020?

CapX2020 is a joint initiative of 11 transmission-owning utilities in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin formed to upgrade and expand the electric transmission grid to ensure continued reliable and affordable service. The CapX2020 projects also provide outlets to support new generation, including renewable energy. The projects include four 345-kilovolt transmission lines and one 230-kilovolt transmission line. This is the largest development of new transmission in the upper Midwest in 40 years. The projects cover nearly 800 miles and represent an investment of $2 billion.

Big Stone South-Brookings County

Construction begins August 2015

This 70-mile, 345-kV line will run between the new Big Stone South Substation near Big Stone, SD, and the Brookings County Substation near Brookings, SD.

Brookings County-Hampton

Energized spring 2015

This 250-mile, 345-kV line spans between the Brookings County Substation near Brookings, SD, and the Hampton Substation south of the Twin Cities.

Fargo-St. Cloud-Monticello

Energized spring 2015

This 240-mile, 345-kV line runs between the Bison Substation near Fargo, ND, and the Quarry Substation in St. Cloud, MN.

Bemidji-Grand Rapids

Energized fall 2012

This 70-mile, 230-kV line runs between the Wilton Substation near Bemidji, MN, and the Boswell Substation in Grand Rapids, MN.

Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse

Energization expected in 2016

This 150-mile, 345-kV transmission line runs between the Hampton Substation south of the Twin Cities and the North Rochester Substation north of Pine Island, MN, where it continues on to the Briggs Substation north of La Crosse, WI. The project includes two 161-kV lines connecting the North Rochester Substation and two Rochester-area substations.