Big Stone South-Brookings County 345 kV transmission line

Project overview
The Big Stone South-Brookings County project is a 70 mile, 345 kV transmission line between a new Big Stone South Substation near Big Stone City, S.D., and the Brookings County Substation near Brookings, S.D. Xcel Energy and Otter Tail Power Company are joint owners and CapX2020 partners on the estimated $226 million transmission line.

What’s next
Soil boring work was completed in February, 2015 at approximately 370 locations. Tree clearing and site access improvements are scheduled to begin in August/September 2015, and foundation construction will begin in November 2015.

Project need
The Big Stone South-Brookings County project is one of 16 multi-value projects approved by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) in December 2011. The multi-value projects will help expand and enhance the region’s transmission system, reduce congestion, provide access to affordable energy sources, as well as meet public policy requirements, including renewable energy mandates.

Regulatory process
The South Dakota regulatory process requires a Facility Permit prior to construction. The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (SD PUC) reviews the permit, and if approved (ruling must occur within 12 months of receiving the application), grants a permit order for location, construction and operation of the proposed project.

A Facility Permit was granted to Otter Tail Power Company in January 2007 for approximately 35 miles from just west of Big Stone City to just north of Gary, S.D. The SD PUC granted a Facility Permit in February 2014 for an additional 42 miles from just north of Gary to the existing Brookings County Substation. You can learn more about the process by accessing a copy of the Facility Permit online at the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission website at http://www.puc.sd.gov/ and search for EL12-063 and EL13-020.

Project quick facts
345 kV line
70 miles
Targeted in-service – 2017
Estimated cost – $226 million

About CapX2020
CapX2020 is a joint initiative of 11 transmission-owning utilities in Minnesota and the surrounding region formed to upgrade and expand the electric transmission grid to ensure continued reliable and affordable service. The CapX2020 projects include four 345 kV projects, including the Big Stone South-Brookings County line, and a 230 kV line.
Big Stone South-Brookings County 345 kV transmission line route

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