Energizing Months

It has been an energizing few months on the CapX2020 transmission line projects. Phase 2 of the Fargo-Monticello 345 kV transmission line was placed into service in late April. The 75-mile segment running from St. Cloud to Alexandria was taken out of service over the summer to install interphase spacers for galloping prevention. Spacer installation on Phase 2 is expected to be finished July 24, and the line will be restored to full service next week.

Nearly 170 miles of the 250-mile Brookings County-Hampton 345 kV project were energized between March and May. Portions of the line will be taken out of service to install interphase spacers. The energized sections stretch from the Lyon County substation to the Hampton substation. Construction continues on the remaining sections in Lincoln, Lyon and Yellow Medicine Counties as well as the 11 miles of the line across the South Dakota border.

The North Rochester to Northern Hills 161 kV transmission line went into service on May 15, 2014. The 16-mile line, which is part of the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse project, will improve electric reliability to the Rochester area and surrounding communities.

Devices called interphase spacers are installed to prevent damage caused by ice and wind. When steady winds blow over conductor covered by ice, galloping may occur.
Transformer will Travel

Transporting the nearly 400,000 pound CapX2020 Briggs Road transformer almost seven miles from a rail siding to the substation didn’t require a driver, at least not one behind the wheel. Rosemount, Minn. based Vic’s Crane & Heavy Haul, Inc. used a 14-axle self-propelled trailer that is run remotely to get the job done. The South Korean-manufactured transformer was shipped from Houston to Holmen, Wis. by rail. In addition to the unique trailer, crews had to cross two farm fields to avoid a weight restricted bridge. Wet weather delayed the initial move date, but the transporter made it through the field safely, and into the Briggs Road Substation on July 10 (view video). The substation is an endpoint of the CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse project, which is expected to be complete in 2015. The project includes three new substations, including Briggs Road, expansion of three existing substations as well as 130 miles of 345 kV transmission line and 30 miles of 161 kV transmission line. This was the second largest transformer move on the project. In February, a 542,000 pound transformer manufactured in Wisconsin by SPX Transformer Solutions was placed in the North Rochester substation near Pine Island, Minn.

Wisconsin Construction Begins

Crews reached a major milestone on June 30th in Wisconsin by beginning construction on the first foundation for the Mississippi River-Briggs Road segment of the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse project. Construction on the Mississippi River crossing near Alma, Wis. is expected to begin in the fall. In Minnesota, structure setting continues on the 345 kV segment between the North Rochester substation near Pine Island and the Mississippi River crossing.

Going Local

CapX2020 continues to utilize local contractors in construction areas. Two examples include La Crosse, Wis. based JF Brennan for foundation work on the Mississippi River crossing near Alma, and Onalaska, Wis. based Modern Crane for setting steel.
The first phase of soil borings is 60 percent complete on the Big Stone South-Brookings County 345 kV transmission line project in South Dakota. Affected landowners will be contacted for the remaining borings expected to take place in the fall. Construction on the 70-mile Big Stone South-Brookings County project near Big Stone City, S.D. and Brookings, S.D. is scheduled to begin in late 2015 and be complete in 2017.

Interstate Crossings

Five of 16 wire crossings of Interstate 94 have been completed on Phase 3 of the Fargo-St. Cloud project between Alexandria and Fargo. Structure setting is also underway on the Minnesota portion of the project. Construction in North Dakota has been temporarily halted due to wet weather, but is expected to resume in September.

Trooper Tweet

Helicopters are often used for CapX2020 stringing work and component installation along Interstate 94. Sergeant Jesse Grabow with the Minnesota State Patrol sent out a tweet warning drivers to avoid stopping and gawking.
About the CapX Quarterly

The CapX Quarterly is a quarterly newsletter to inform and update interested stakeholders about CapX2020 project status and milestones. For more information about CapX2020, please visit the project website at www.capx2020.com.

The CapX Quarterly is primarily distributed via e-mail. Sign up for future issues at www.capx2020.com. If you do not have internet access, please call 612-330-5701 to receive a printed version (if you have previously called, you will continue to receive the printed version).

We want to hear from you.
Contact us at www.capx2020.com or:

**Fargo-St. Cloud-Monticello**
Jerry Chezik, Project Manager
Tom Hillstrom, Routing Lead
1.866.876.2869
fargoinfo@capx2020.com

**Brookings County-Hampton**
Dan Lesher, Routing Lead
Lori Buffington, Communications Specialist
1.888.473.2279
brookingsinfo@capx2020.com

**Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse**
Grant Stevenson, Project Manager
Tim Lisson, Real Estate
1.800.238.7968
lacrosseinfo@capx2020.com

**Big Stone South-Brookings County**
Joe Samuel, Project Manager
Tom Hillstrom, Routing Lead
1.800.238.7968
bssinfo@capx2020.com