Foundation construction began in November on the Big Stone South-Brookings County 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission project. During a groundbreaking event in September, South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard applauded the project saying, “I commend CapX2020 officials for undertaking the largest development of new transmission in this part of the country in 40 years.” The new transmission line will run approximately 70 miles between a new Big Stone South Substation near Big Stone City to the existing Brookings County Substation about 10 miles northeast of Brookings. The Big Stone South-Brookings County transmission line will ensure reliable and affordable electric service in South Dakota, while also opening up access to renewable energy. Construction is expected to be complete in 2017.


Crews drill for a foundation near Milbank, S.D. A typical 345 kV drilled pier foundation is eight to 11 feet in diameter and drilled 30 to 60 feet deep.
CapX2020 Project Status

The Big Stone South-Brookings County project includes

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

90 MILES ENERGIZED
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse Project

A major portion of the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse project is now in-service. State and local officials, renewable energy advocates and CapX2020 partners gathered in October to celebrate 90 miles of the 345 kV transmission line being energized. The newly completed segments stretch between Holmen, Wis. and Pine Island, Minn., including 50 miles in Wisconsin, 40 miles in Minnesota and two new substations.

“Major transmission lines, like the CapX2020 project, are helping to unlock the potential for a major build out of wind energy in the Midwest, while also offering important reliability benefits for customers,” said Chris Kunkle, a regional policy manager at Wind on the Wires. “By providing increased access to cost-effective wind power, CapX2020 will play a vital role in our region’s transition to a cleaner energy future.”
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction is underway on the two remaining segments of the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse project. Foundations are nearly complete, 50 percent of the steel poles are set and stringing of conductor has begun for the new 345 kV transmission line between Pine Island and Hampton. Construction of a second 161 kV transmission line into the Rochester area is expected to be complete in January, 2016. The 12-mile 161 kV line connects to an existing substation northeast of the city, and will ensure electric reliability for Rochester and the surrounding areas, helping to meet regional energy policy goals, including renewable energy mandates. The first CapX2020 161 kV line, which was energized in 2014, connects to a substation northwest of Rochester. The entire project is expected to be energized in September, 2016.

Fargo-St. Cloud-Monticello

Final restoration work was completed in November, 2015 on the Fargo-St. Cloud-Monticello project. The final portion of the 240-mile 345 kV transmission line was energized April 2.

Brookings County-Hampton

The 250-mile 345 kV Brookings County-Hampton transmission line was energized March 26. Crews finished construction on the 11-mile segment in South Dakota on February 11.

Even though the Brookings County-Hampton line was energized in full in March, there were two segments of the line (totaling approximately 122 miles) where the installation of interphase spacers (IPS) had not been completed. Crews continued their work and IPS installation was completed on September 16. Interphase spacers can mitigate the risks of wind and ice damage to transmission lines.
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.

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