More than 1 million hours worked safely

CapX2020 utilities pride themselves on keeping their employees and the communities they serve safe. The CapX2020 construction activities are a testament to that commitment having passed more than 1 million hours of construction with minimal hours lost due to injury. In fact, out of the more than 100,000 work-days completed, only 21 have been lost to injury.

Working around heavy equipment in areas with uneven ground, such as farm fields, can be dangerous. CapX2020 crew members all undergo a safety orientation before beginning their employment on the project. Crews also review activities scheduled for each day to ensure workers know the potential safety hazards and how to work around them to minimize the dangers.

In addition to the protective equipment, such as high visibility gear and hardhats, workers use harnesses while working in the air, and in some cases are secured to strong, stationary objects when drilling holes for foundations. When someone enters a job site, they are required to sign in with the crew, review safety procedures, wear proper safety gear, and are made aware of any potential hazards, including equipment being used, activities occurring, and other conditions.

Hundreds of crew members are at work each day building the CapX2020 projects, and it’s a credit to their training and care that they continue to work safely.

PROJECT UPDATES

Brookings County-Hampton 345 kV Transmission Line

Construction on the 73-mile first segment between the Cedar Mountain Substation in Renville County and the Helena Substation in Scott County is nearing completion, and is scheduled to be energized in late summer. Construction progresses on east and west project areas, with work moving west of Cedar Mountain towards the Lyon County Substation near Marshall, and east of the Helena Substation towards the Chub Lake Substation near I-35.

A helicopter was used to install wire and equipment across the Minnesota River near Franklin in May (see photo), as well as bird diverters near Arlington and Belle Plaine. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2015.
In early June, CapX2020 filed a Facility Permit Application with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (SDPUC) for the Big Stone South-Brookings County 345 kV transmission line project. The 70-mile line would run between a new substation near Big Stone City and the existing Brookings County Substation near Brookings. The Facility Permit covers the 40-mile area from just north of Gary to the existing Brookings County Substation. The SDPUC will host a public meeting on the project in Brookings on July 31. The targeted in-service date for this line is 2017.
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Line

Construction continues on the North Rochester to Northern Hills 161 kV line, with completion expected in October 2013. Four substations are also under construction in Pine Island, Hampton, and Northwest Rochester, as well as in Holmen, WI. Construction of the 345 kV line will begin with tree clearing in Wabasha County in July, followed by foundation construction in September 2013. Right of way contacts, surveys and soil investigations are being conducted in Wisconsin and along the Hampton to North Rochester route this summer.

Crews have completed initial grading work on the Briggs Road Substation which is located near Holmen.

Fargo-St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission Line

Phase 2 of the Fargo-St. Cloud project continues between St. Cloud and Alexandria with poles and wire being installed over the summer. Phase 2 is scheduled to be energized in May 2014.

Approximately 30 percent of the foundations on Phase 3 between Alexandria and the Bison Substation west of Fargo have been installed. About 90 foundations were completed in North Dakota during the winter with foundation work to resume in the state after the fall harvest. Pole erection and wire installation will start in the fall between Barnesville, Minnesota and the Red River. The entire project is expected to be complete in 2015.

The CapX2020 transmission line is creating property tax revenue for cities and counties across Minnesota. According to the St. Cloud Times, Northern States Power (NSP), an Xcel Energy Company, is now the top property taxpayer in Stearns County. The St. Cloud Times reports NSP, with its ownership share in the CapX2020 Fargo-Monticello project, will pay $3.3 million in property taxes this year in Stearns County, with a total estimated market value of $93.7 million.
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 763-445-5713 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
Randy Fordice, Communications Specialist
1.888.473.2279
brookingsinfo@capx2020.com

Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse
Grant Stevenson, Project Manager
Sarah Schwartz, 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