Monticello-St. Cloud 345 kV project

On July 12, 2010, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC) approved the project’s final route. The 28-mile route generally follows Interstate 94 between Monticello and St. Cloud. More than 100 landowners on the route were mailed a packet detailing the project and next steps. Discussions with landowners are ongoing. For detailed route maps, visit www.CapX2020.com.

Construction will start this fall with an in-service date of late 2011.
**Fargo-St. Cloud 345 kV project**

After seeking input from North Dakota stakeholders, additional route areas were added to provide flexibility to potentially accommodate the Army Corps of Engineers’ Red River diversion project. They will be included in the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which is being completed by the Minnesota Office of Energy Security (OES). The EIS will examine land use and environmental issues associated with the routes proposed by CapX2020 as well as the additional OES route alternatives and alignments. Public meetings on the draft EIS are expected to take place this fall.

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**Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 kV project**

The OES is expected to issue the final EIS in September, with the administrative law judge’s report to follow. The MN PUC is expected to consider the Route Permit application in early November.

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**Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV project**

The OES issued its scoping report on August 6 detailing what will be studied in the EIS. During the OES public scoping period in spring 2010, 211 comments were received. In response, the OES will study 46 route alternatives and 12 route alignments in addition to the routes presented in the Route Permit application filed by CapX2020. The scoping decision maintains the focus on one Mississippi River crossing at Alma. The EIS will examine land use and environmental issues associated with the routes proposed by CapX2020 as well as the additional OES route alternatives and alignments.

Public meetings on the draft EIS will be scheduled for late 2010. Detailed route maps can be found at www.CapX2020.com.
Brookings County-Hampton 345 kV project

The MN PUC approved approximately 165 miles of the project’s 240-mile route. It follows the modified preferred route as identified in the original Route Permit application and subsequent testimony. The approved route includes an approximate two-mile route segment in Dakota County.

The MN PUC has not yet approved the 65-mile segment between the Cedar Mountain substation in Renville County and the Helena substation in Scott County, as it referred the Minnesota River crossing location back to the administrative law judge (ALJ). The ALJ will consider a June 2010 letter from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service regarding impacts to eagles at the river. To further develop the record regarding the crossing, the MN PUC will host public meetings October 4-6 in Belle Plaine, Arlington and Le Sueur. Exact times and locations are still being finalized.

CapX2020 expects to begin contacting landowners in mid-2011 to negotiate easements for the transmission line. Construction is expected to begin in mid-2012, with an in-service date of 2015.