10 energy and money-saving tips

1. Turn lights off when they’re not needed.
2. Lower your thermostat 10 to 15 degrees when you’re not home.
3. Clean or replace your furnace filters monthly.
4. Open window coverings during the day to let warm sunshine in; close them at night to keep the heat in and the cold out.
5. Opt for the cold-water cycle when washing clothes.
6. Turn off your computer when not in use.
7. Plug home electronics into powerstrips, and turn them off when the equipment isn’t in use.
8. Turn down your water heater to the warm setting (120 degrees).
9. Apply caulk or weather stripping around leaky doors and windows.
10. Only wash full loads of dishes and clothes; consider air drying for each.

Bemidji-Grand Rapids
230 kV project

The OES is expected to issue the project’s draft EIS in late January. Rural Utilities Service (RUS), a division of the United States Department of Agriculture, is collecting federal agency comments for incorporation into the EIS. Public meetings on the document are scheduled for March 1-3. Evidentiary hearings, presided over by Administrative Law Judge Eric Lipman, are scheduled for March 30 and April 1 and will give the public an opportunity to ask questions or provide comments on the proposed routes. A final decision on the Route Permit application is expected in spring 2010.

Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse
345 kV project

A Route Permit application will be filed with the MN PUC on or around January 15, with a decision expected in mid-2011. The Route Permit will detail a preferred and alternate route, both crossing the Mississippi River at Alma. Notification letters, maps and an executive summary will be mailed to landowners on the preferred and alternate routes; newsletters will be mailed to all landowners in the project corridor. The application will also be available on the CapX2020 website at www.capx2020.com/HRL-mn-route-permit. A Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, a regulatory permit that combines need and routing, will be filed with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin later this year.

Brookings County-Hampton
345 kV project

Administrative Law Judge Richard Luis presided over public hearings in nine communities throughout the project route in December 2009; more than 1,000 people attended. The OES is expected to issue the final EIS on January 22. Public comments can be submitted to Judge Luis via email at capx.oah@state.mn.us through February 3, 2010.

Judge Luis is expected to make a recommendation to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC) on the project’s Route Permit application in spring 2010; the MN PUC is expected to decide on the final route in late spring or summer 2010.
Fargo-St. Cloud-Monticello 345 kV project

Fargo-St. Cloud
The Minnesota Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security (OES) has scheduled public information and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) scoping meetings for the Fargo-St. Cloud project. The purpose of the meetings is to provide project information and to identify issues and route alternatives to study in the EIS that will be prepared by the OES. The public meetings – at 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at each venue – are scheduled as follows:

January 19
Broadway Ballroom
115 30th Avenue East
Alexandria, MN 56308

January 20
American Legion
265 East County Road 173
Melrose, MN 56352

January 21
El Paso Sports Bar and Grill
200 2nd Avenue NW
St. Joseph, MN 56374

January 26
Bigwood Event Center
925 Western Avenue
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

January 27
Hildebrand Hall
307 Front Street North
Barnesville, MN 56514

January 28
Dream Weaver’s Banquet Facility
410 2nd Street NE
Elbow Lake, MN 56531

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

Fargo-St. Cloud-Monticello
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Brookings County-Hampton
Dan Lesher, routing lead
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Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse
Tom Hillstrom, routing lead
Chuck Thompson, Dairyland Power Cooperative
1.800.238.7968
lacrosseinfo@capx2020.com

Bemidji-Grand Rapids
Bob Lindholm, routing lead
Cindy Kuismi, communications specialist
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bemidjiinfo@capx2020.com

A 12 to 15-month regulatory process is expected, with a decision in early 2011. The required North Dakota regulatory documents will be filed in 2011.

Monticello-St. Cloud
The OES is currently developing the project’s draft EIS. Public and contested case hearings are scheduled to begin March 8 in Clearwater. Watch www.capx2020.com and your local newspaper for hearing times and locations.