Implosive connectors to be used to string transmission conductor

Implosive connectors will be used in the stringing of transmission conductor for the Monticello-St. Cloud 345 kV transmission line project. This type of connector uses implosions to splice transmission conductor (wire) joints and terminations at structures.

How it works is simple. A sleeve with a small, engineered implosive charge is wrapped around a specifically designed metallic sleeve. The charge creates an implosive compression, seamlessly joining the two conductor ends. The split second detonation creates a flash and a loud boom. Implosive connectors produce a smoother, stronger and more electrically efficient connection. The connectors also can significantly reduce construction time, result in fewer environmental impacts and lower project costs.

A fact sheet about implosive connectors and a video of the February 10 demonstration can be found on the CapX2020 website.
Monticello-St. Cloud
About 55 transmission poles are now installed, starting at the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant and heading west generally paralleling Interstate 94; installation will continue to the new Quarry Substation northwest of St. Cloud. Stringing of transmission conductor (wire) will begin this summer.
Follow Monticello-St. Cloud project construction on the CapX2020 website.

Fargo-St. Cloud
The North Dakota Public Service (ND PSC) granted the project's Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity on January 12. A Certificate of Corridor Compatibility application was filed December 30, 2010 with the ND PSC. The CapX2020 utilities expect to file a Route Permit application with the ND PSC in mid 2011.
Public hearings on the Minnesota Route Permit application took place in late 2010. A route recommendation from the administrative law judge is expected this spring, with a final route decision from the MN PUC expected this summer.

Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV project
A Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity application was e-filed December 21, 2010 with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW); as expected, PSCW staff declared the application incomplete, a typical process used to request additional information. Public meetings on the document will take place in Wisconsin this spring.
The Minnesota Office of Energy Security is expected to issue the project's draft Environmental Impact Statement in March; public meetings will follow this spring.

Brookings County-Hampton 345 kV project
On February 3, the MN PUC approved the Minnesota River crossing at Belle Plaine. It finalizes the last segment of the project route between the Cedar Mountain substation (Renville County) and the Helena substation (Scott County).
The route follows the original preferred route from the Cedar Mountain substation and connects with the alternate route in Sibley County at what is known as the “Gibbon Crossover,” an approximately three-mile route west of Gibbon. It then follows the alternate route to cross the river near an existing 69 kV transmission line by Belle Plaine. After crossing the river, the route follows roads, fields and section lines to connect with the permitting Helena substation site near 270th Street and Aberdeen Avenue west of New Prague.
A Facility Permit application was filed with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission on November 23, 2010. A public hearing on the application took place January 6 in Brookings.