Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 kV project

The project set its first structures August 3, 2011 in the Chippewa National Forest near Cass Lake. As of February 21, 404 of 532 foundations have been drilled and 340 or 532 transmission poles have been installed along the 70-mile route. The poles are more than 100 feet tall, including about 14 feet underground. Right-of-way clearing continues along the eastern portion of the line.

Clearing from Cass Lake west to the Wilton Substation began in January.

Conductor installation using helicopters and implosive devices began in January and is expected to continue through April on the eastern portion of the line.

Because of numerous wetlands and above-average precipitation, construction matting is being used to prevent damage from heavy equipment to plant life and terrain.
Administrative Law Judge Kathleen Sheehy issued her route recommendation February 8 for the project route in Minnesota. After reviewing the record, including public comments, she recommended a route detailed in the map below, including crossing the Cannon River at the Byllesby Dam and the Zumbro River at the Zumbro Dam. Her report and detailed route maps can be found at www.CapX2020.com. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC) will review the record and consider the judge’s recommendation at a meeting this spring. The commission makes the final decision on the transmission line’s final route.

Rural Utilities Service issued the project’s federal draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in December 2011. Public hearings on the document took place January 9-13 in locations along the project corridor.

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin issued the project’s draft and final EIS. Submit comments on the final EIS through March 7 to:

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
610 North Whitney Way | PO Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

PSCW public hearings are scheduled as follows:

**March 13 | 1p and 6p**
American Legion
501 North Main Street
Alma, WI 54610

**March 14 | 1p and 6p**
Centerville Community Center
W24854 State Road 54/93
Centerville, WI 54630

A Route Permit application was filed September 19, 2011 with the MN PUC for the North Rochester-Chester 161 kV project, which is part of the La Crosse 345 kV project. The project’s EIS is expected to be issued in March.
Grading is complete at the Helena Substation, and foundations are being poured. Project construction is scheduled to start in April.

At its December 2011 meeting, the MISO board unanimously approved MISO’s Transmission Expansion Plan 2011 (MTEP11). Sixteen multi-value projects fall under the plan, including the Brookings project. The cost of the Brookings project will be shared across all 12 states in the MISO footprint.
We want to hear from you.
Contact us at www.capx2020.com or:

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