
**Minnesota PUC:** To view CapX 2020 filings, go to the PUC’s Web site at www.puc.state.mn.us, click on E-documents on the left-hand side, click on Search documents, and search for docket 06-1115. In the search field, “06” stands for the year 2006 (when the first CapX 2020 document was filed). Use “06” for the year and “1115” in the second field, then press the search button.

**South Dakota Public Utilities Commission:** Can be contacted at (605)773-3201 or by visiting www.puc.sd.gov

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**State public hearings on Certificate of Need**

Two major approvals must be obtained from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) before a high voltage transmission line can be built: a Certificate of Need (CON) and a Route Permit. The CapX 2020 utilities filed a CON application with the PUC for its three 345 kilovolt (kV) lines in August 2007, including the Brookings, SD – SE Twin Cities line. As part of the CON process, the PUC is hosting 19 public hearings from June 17 to July 2 (see insert).

The PUC public hearings, which will take place in 13 cities, will be presided over by an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ). The purpose of the hearings is to determine whether the proposed transmission lines are needed and in the public interest. Several parties involved in the proceedings have asked the CapX 2020 utilities to look at increasing the capacity and size of the Brookings, SD – SE Twin Cities line (higher voltage or double circuit). The question of line size will be determined in the CON hearing process.

Anyone can present testimony and express opinions concerning the utility proposal or alternatives on the Certificate of Need. The CapX 2020 utilities urge all interested citizens to attend a hearing in their area.

**Contact information for the three 345-kV projects:**

- **Brookings, SD – SE Twin Cities**
  (888) 473-2279  brookingsinfo@capx2020.com

- **Fargo – Alexandria – St. Cloud – Monticello**
  (866) 876-2869  fargoinfo@capx2020.com

- **SE Twin Cities – Rochester – La Crosse**
  (800) 238-7968  lacrosseinfo@capx2020.com
What Happens Next?

When the CapX 2020 utilities filed their Minnesota Certificate of Need application they included broad ‘notice corridors’ that extended between the general areas proposed for the beginning and end-points of each proposed line. Over the past 10 months the three project teams have met with landowners, local and state officials, community leaders, agencies, and environmental and other interested parties to collect input for the development of route options that will be included in a Minnesota Route Permit.

The Brookings – SE Twin Cities project team is moving toward filing a Route Permit in late 2008. Similar review, permit and approval processes are required by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission. The state regulatory agencies will make the final determination on the routes.

Factoid

States with the largest percentage of wind generation in 2007

Wind generation (as percentage of all electricity generation)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Dakota</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
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</tbody>
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Brookings, SD to Franklin Substation Area Proposed Route Options

Franklin Substation Area to SE Twin Cities Proposed Route Options