Stay Informed

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.

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW): Can be contacted at (888) 816-3831 or by checking the status of the project case on the PSCW Web site, www.psc.wi.gov, by entering document number 05-CE-136 in the ‘Link Directly to a Case’ section.

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 SE Twin Cities – Rochester – La Crosse 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 SE Twin Cities – Rochester – La Crosse 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.

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Contact information for the three 345-kV projects:
SE Twin Cities – Rochester – La Crosse
(800) 238-7968
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Brookings, SD – SE Twin Cities
(888) 473-2279
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Fargo – Alexandria – St. Cloud – Monticello
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Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency • Dairyland Power Cooperative • Great River Energy
Minnesota Power • Minnkota Power Cooperative • Missouri River Energy Services • Otter Tail Power Company
Rochester Public Utilities • Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency • Wisconsin Public Power Inc. • Xcel Energy
CapX2020 UPDATE

June 2008

SE Twin Cities – Rochester – La Crosse Project Narrowed Corridors

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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 SE Twin Cities – Rochester – La Crosse project team is moving toward an early 2009 filing of permit applications with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and Wisconsin Public Service Commission. These state regulatory agencies will make the final determination on the routes. Project review and approval processes are also required by the Rural Utilities Service and other state agencies.