



Delivering electricity you can rely on

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

# SE Twin Cities-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV transmission line Project update

CapX 2020 is a joint initiative of 11 transmission-owning utilities in Minnesota and the surrounding region to expand the electric transmission grid to ensure continued reliable and affordable service. Planning studies show that customer demand for electricity will increase by 4,000 to 6,000 megawatts (MW) by 2020. The new transmission lines will be built in phases designed to meet this increasing demand as well as to support renewable energy expansion. The first group of CapX 2020 projects (Group 1) is comprised of three proposed 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines, including the SE Twin Cities-Rochester-La Crosse line and a proposed 230-kV line.

CapX 2020 utilities are committed to working closely with residents, landowners, local and tribal governments, business groups, state agencies and other stakeholders to explain the need for the proposed transmission lines and to determine the most preferable routes.

## Project need

CapX 2020 utilities have applied for a Certificate of Need (CON) with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC) that covers all three 345-kV projects. The CON process will determine the need for the lines as well as their characteristics, such as substations and end-points, in Minnesota. To view CON documents, go to the MN PUC's website at [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us), click on "eDockets & eFilings" on the left-hand side and then click on "Search Documents" and search for docket 06-1115. Use "06" for the year (when the first CapX 2020 document was filed) and "1115" in the second field, then press the search button. All filings in the CapX 2020 eDocket will be listed. The MN PUC can also be reached at 1-800-657-3782.

The regulatory process in Wisconsin combines need and routing into one permit, a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN), which will be filed with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in early 2009. Check the status of the project case on the PSCW website, [www.psc.wi.gov](http://www.psc.wi.gov), by entering document number 05-CE-136 in the "Link Directly to a Case" section. The PSCW can also be reached at 1-888-816-3831.

## Routing process

Siting a transmission line is a three-phase process that involves mapping resources, identifying opportunities and constraints within the project study area, and evaluating each alternative. A recommended route and alternatives will be identified based on a series of project-specific siting criteria, which typically includes the following:

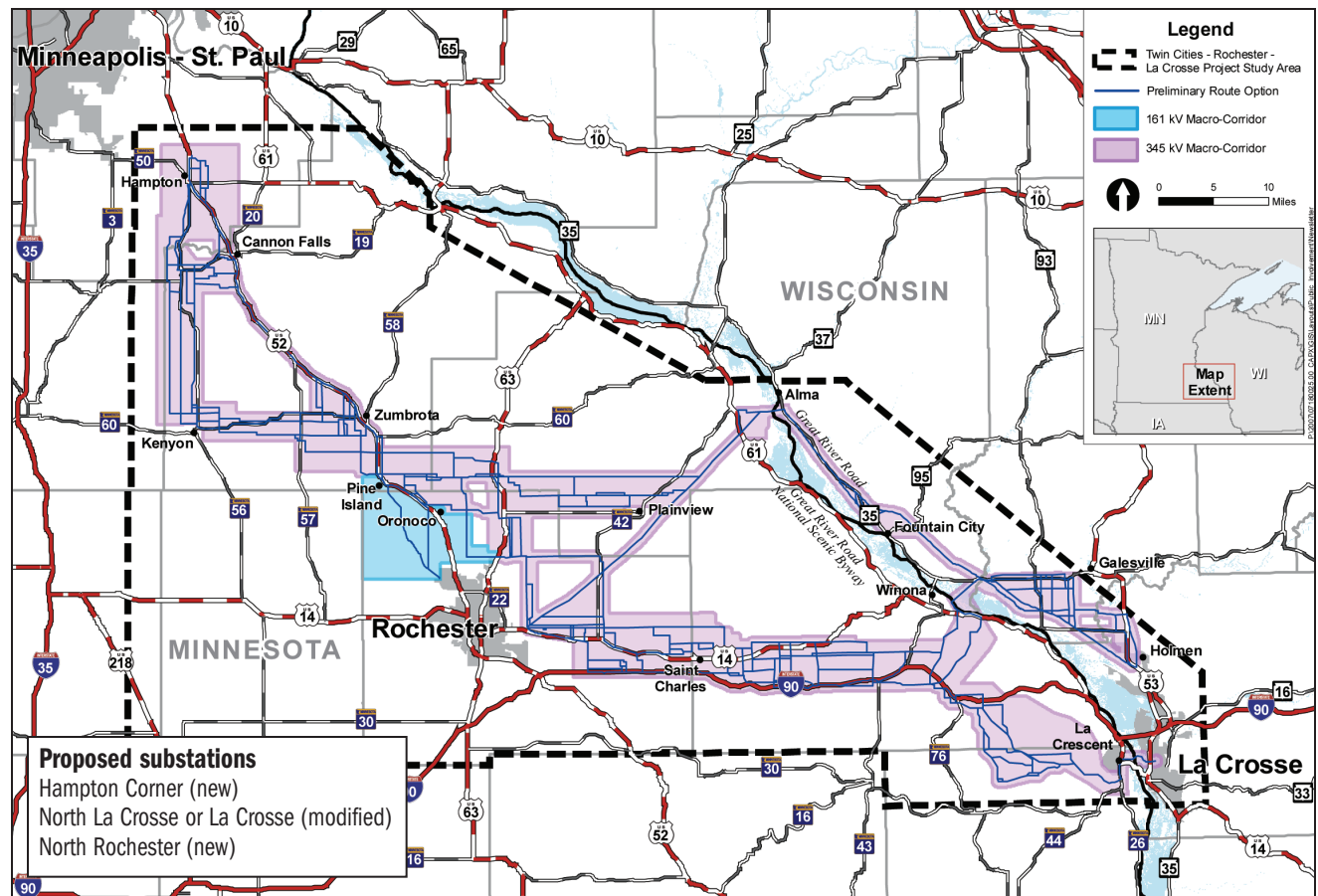
- Transmission line length
- Right-of-way requirements and availability
- Existing road and transmission line corridors
- Land use considerations, such as proximity to residences, impact on agricultural activities, existing and future land use and visual impacts
- Environmental resource considerations such as impacts on cultural and historic sites, or biological resources such as wildlife, plants and wetlands
- Topography
- Jurisdiction and regulatory considerations
- Conflicts with airport height restrictions
- Cost

In Minnesota, a Route Permit application proposing two route options must be filed with the MN PUC. CapX 2020 utilities plan to submit a Route Permit to the MN PUC for the SE Twin Cities-Rochester-La Crosse transmission line in early 2009. The MN PUC and PSCW determine the transmission line's final route, taking into consideration

SE Twin Cities-Rochester-La Crosse

[www.capx2020.com](http://www.capx2020.com)

# SE Twin Cities-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV proposed route options



recommendations from all participating parties and land-owners, complying with federal agency review, and following a comprehensive process that includes public meetings and hearings examining route alternatives.

## Federal approval

Before the lines can be built, permits and approvals are also required from several federal agencies, including the Rural Utilities Services, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Federal agencies will conduct environmental reviews to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The MN PUC, the PSCW and participating federal agencies will work together and coordinate their processes.

## Public information and outreach

There are many opportunities for public comment throughout the project schedule and permitting process. Early input is encouraged to help the project team minimize potential impacts in the project area. For more information on the dates and locations of upcoming meetings, visit [www.capx2020.com](http://www.capx2020.com).

## Project contacts

**Tom Hillstrom**, routing lead  
Xcel Energy  
PO Box 9437  
Minneapolis, MN 55440-9437  
1-800-238-7968  
[lacrosseinfo@capx2020.com](mailto:lacrosseinfo@capx2020.com)

**Chuck Thompson**  
Dairyland Power Cooperative  
PO Box 9437  
Minneapolis, MN 55440-9437  
(608) 787-1432  
[lacrosseinfo@capx2020.com](mailto:lacrosseinfo@capx2020.com)