

# INVITATION TO PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

## FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



### CAPX2020 HAMPTON-ROCHESTER-LA CROSSE 345-KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

#### PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

**June 16**

6 – 8 p.m.  
Plainview-Elgin-Millville High  
School Cafeteria  
500 West Broadway  
Plainview, MN 55964

**June 17**

6 – 8 p.m.  
Wanamingo Community Center  
401 Main Street  
Wanamingo, MN 55983

**June 18**

6 – 8 p.m.  
City of St. Charles  
Community Meeting Room  
830 Whitewater Avenue  
St. Charles, MN 55972

**June 23**

6 – 8 p.m.  
La Crescent American Legion  
509 North Chestnut  
La Crescent, MN 55947

**June 24**

6 – 8 p.m.  
Centerville/Town of Trempealeau  
Community Center  
W24854 State Road 54/93  
Galesville, WI 54630

**June 25**

6 – 8 p.m.  
Cochrane-Fountain City High School  
S2770 State Road 35  
Fountain City, WI 54629

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Utilities Service (RUS), Dairyland Power Cooperative and other CapX2020 utilities invite you to attend a public scoping meeting to discuss the proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission system improvement proposal.

Serving as the lead federal agency, RUS is responsible for completing any requirements with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), including preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Dairyland Power Cooperative is requesting RUS provide financing for its portion of the proposed project. The public scoping meetings provide an opportunity for you to discuss project details with agency and company representatives and for your comments to be incorporated into the planning process and development of an EIS.

RUS will use input provided by government agencies, private organizations and the public in the preparation of the Draft EIS, which will be available for review and comments for 45 days. A Final EIS that considers all comments received will subsequently be prepared.

#### PROPOSAL

The CapX2020 utilities are proposing to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line and associated facilities between Hampton and Rochester, Minnesota, and the La Crosse, Wisconsin area. The proposal includes the proposed 345 kV transmission line from a substation near Hampton to a proposed substation in north Rochester and to a new or existing substation near La Crosse. The proposal also includes construction of a new 161-kV transmission line and associated facilities in the Rochester area. (Detailed project map on back.)

The proposed facilities are needed to improve regional reliability, enhance local load serving needs and provide generation outlet support. CapX2020 is a joint initiative of 11 electric transmission-owning utilities in Minnesota, Wisconsin and the surrounding region to expand the electric transmission grid to meet the increasing demand for power.

Xcel Energy is the lead utility for the proposal. Dairyland Power Corporation has requested financial assistance from RUS for Dairyland's anticipated 11 percent ownership interest in the proposal. Other anticipated owners of the proposed facilities include WPPI Energy, Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, and Rochester Public Utilities. Before the proposal can be built, the CapX2020 utilities must obtain approval from state and federal agencies. Proposal approval also involves NEPA processes and the NEPA implementation guidance of RUS.

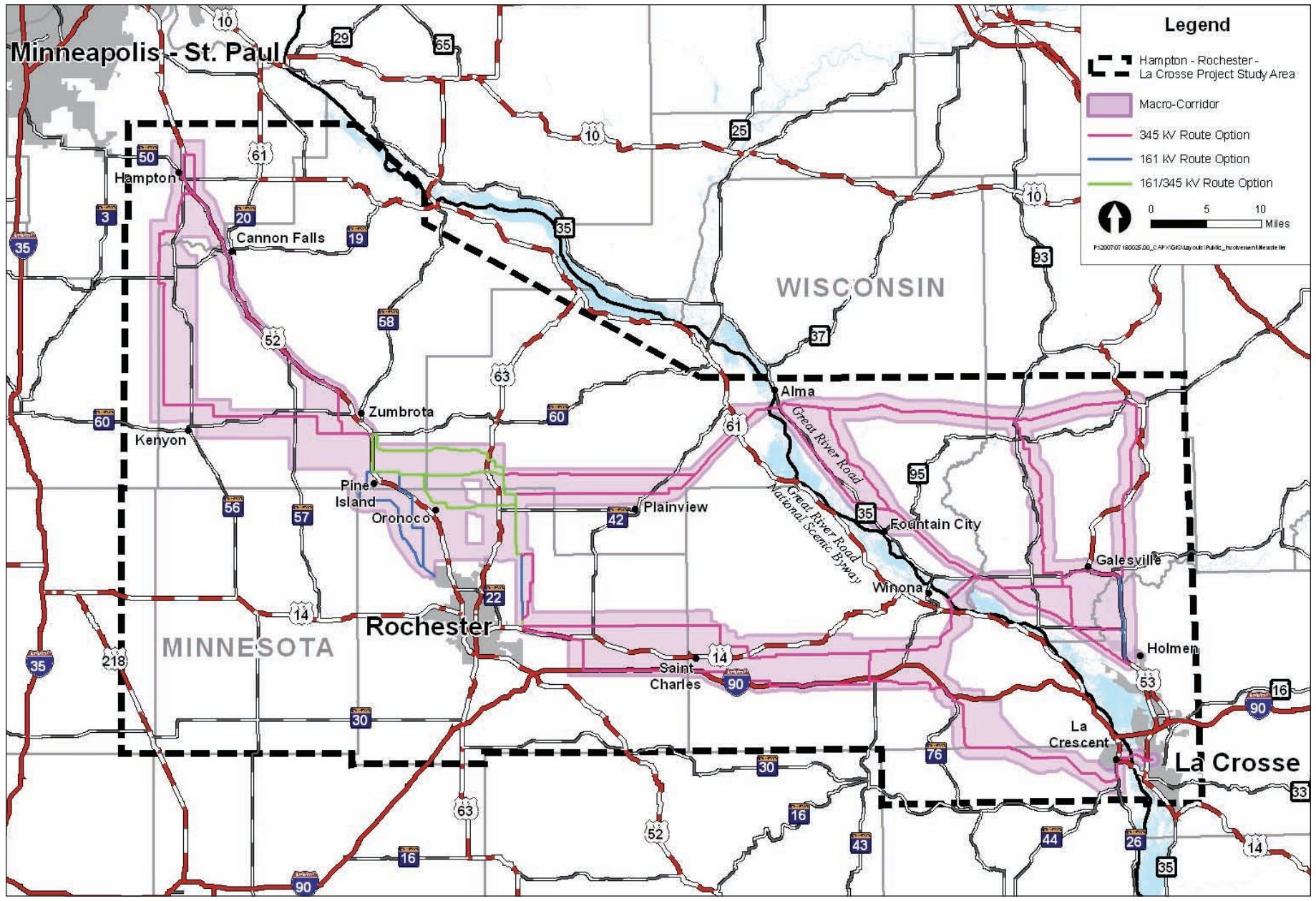
#### DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY & REQUESTS

Two documents have been prepared for the proposal and are available for review prior to the agency and public scoping meetings in June 2009. The Alternative Evaluation Study (AES) explains the proposal's need, discusses the alternative methods that have been considered to meet that need, and which alternative is considered the best for fulfilling the need. The Macro Corridor Study (MCS) defines the proposal study area and shows the proposal's end points. Within the proposal study area, macro-corridors have been developed based on environmental, engineering, economic, land use and permitting constraints. Both documents are available at the libraries detailed in the attached list. If you are interested in receiving copies of either of these documents, please contact [Stephanie.strength@usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@usda.gov) or (202) 720-0468.

#### For more information, please contact:

Stephanie Strength, Environmental Protection Specialist  
United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service  
Engineering and Environmental Staff  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Stop 1571  
Washington, DC 20250-1571  
Phone: (202) 720-0468  
Email: [stephanie.strength@usda.gov](mailto:stephanie.strength@usda.gov)

Or, contact Tom Hillstrom or Chuck Thompson at [lacrosseinfo@capx2020.com](mailto:lacrosseinfo@capx2020.com) or 1-800-238-7968 or visit [www.capx2020.com](http://www.capx2020.com) for additional project information and detailed project maps.



# REPORTS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW



## TRANSMISSION REPORTS AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS

An Alternative Evaluation Study (AES) and Macro Corridor Study (MCS), prepared by Dairyland Power Cooperative, will be presented at the public scoping meetings. The reports are available for public review at the RUS address provided in this notice and at Dairyland Power Cooperative, 3251 East Avenue South, La Crosse, WI 54602.

In addition, the reports are available at RUS' website, <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>, and at the following repositories:

**Alma Public Library**  
312 North Main Street  
Alma, WI 54610  
Phone: 608-685-3823

**Arcadia Public Library**  
406 East Main Street  
Arcadia, WI 54612  
Phone: 608-323-7505

**Blair-Preston Library**  
122 Urberg Street  
Blair, WI 54616  
Phone: 608-989-2502

**Campbell Library**  
2219 Bainbridge Street  
La Crosse, WI 54603  
Phone: 608-783-0052

**Cannon Falls Library**  
306 West Mill Street  
Cannon Falls, MN 55009  
Phone: 507-263-2804

**Dairyland Power Cooperative**  
500 Old State Highway 35  
Alma, WI 54610  
Phone: 608-685-4497

**Galesville Public Library**  
16787 South Main Street  
Galesville, WI 54630  
Phone: 608-582-2552

**Hokah Public Library**  
57 Main Street  
Hokah, MN 55941  
Phone: 507-894-2665

**Holmen Area Library**  
16787 South Main Street  
Galesville, WI 54630  
Phone: 608-526-4198

**Kenyon Public Library**  
709 2nd Street  
Kenyon, MN 55946  
Phone: 507-789-6821

**Riverland Energy Cooperative**  
N28988 State Road 93  
Arcadia, WI 54612  
Phone: 608-323-3381

**Rochester Public Library**  
101 2nd Street SE  
Rochester, MN 55963  
Phone: 507-328-2309

**Shirley M. Wright Memorial Library**  
11455 Fremont Street  
Trempealeau, WI 54650  
Phone: 608-534-6197

**St. Charles Public Library**  
125 West 11th Street  
St. Charles, MN 55927  
Phone: 507-932-3227

**Tri-County Electric**  
31110 Cooperative Way  
Rushford, MN 55971  
Phone: 507-864-7783

**La Crescent Public Library**  
321 Main Street  
La Crescent, MN 55947  
Phone: 507-895-4047

**La Crosse Public Library**  
800 Main Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
Phone: 608-789-7109

**Onalaska Public Library**  
741 Oak Avenue South  
Onalaska, WI 54650  
Phone: 608-781-9568

**People's Cooperative Services**  
3935 Hwy 14 E  
Rochester, MN 55903  
Phone: 507-288-4004

**Plainview Public Library**  
345 1st Avenue NW  
Plainview, MN 55964  
Phone: 507-534-3425

**Van Horn Public Library**  
115 SE 3rd Street  
Pine Island, MN 55963  
Phone: 507-356-8558

**Winona Public Library**  
151 West 5th Street  
Winona, MN 55987  
Phone: 507-452-4582

**Xcel Energy**  
5050 Service Drive  
Winona, MN 55987  
Phone: 800-422-0782

**Xcel Energy**  
1414 West Hamilton Avenue  
Eau Claire, WI 54701  
Phone: 715-839-2621

**Zumbrota Public Library**  
100 West Avenue  
Zumbrota, MN 55992  
Phone: 507-732-5211