

CapX | QUARTERLY

Delivering electricity you can rely on

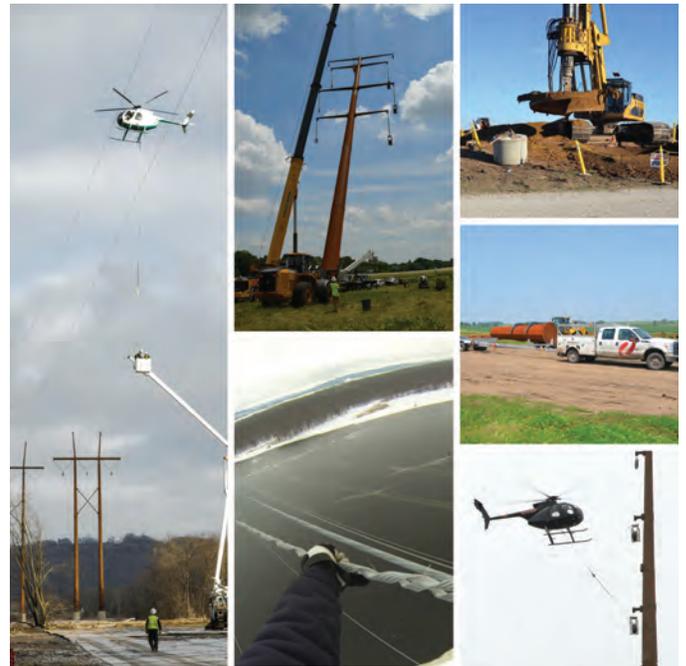
Energy Flowing

The fourth CapX2020 project was fully energized on September 16, bringing another 156 miles of transmission line onto the grid. The 345/161-kilovolt Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse project will improve electric reliability and open up new avenues for renewable energy in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

A commemoration was held at the Hampton Substation in Hampton, Minn. in September to celebrate. Project partners, renewable energy advocates and community leaders attended.

CapX2020 has now invested \$1.85 billion in completing four high voltage transmission line projects totaling 725 miles across Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

“When we proposed the CapX2020 projects more than a decade ago, we said ‘if you build it they will come’”, said Teresa Mogensen, senior vice president of transmission, Xcel Energy. “Not everyone believed us. But sure enough, the renewable energy developers are knocking on the door. There are currently more than 1,200 megawatts of wind energy requesting interconnection to CapX2020 lines.”



Commemoration speakers pictured left to right include Mark Kotschevar, Rochester Public Utilities; Dave Geschwind, Southern MN Municipal Power Agency; Teresa Mogensen, Xcel Energy; Chris Kunkle, Wind on the Wires; Ben Porath, Dairyland Power Cooperative; Priti Patel, MISO; Tim Noeldner, WPPI Energy.

“Delivering renewable energy, maintaining reliability and keeping electric costs low are key benefits of the regional grid,” said Priti Patel, executive director of Mid Continent Independent System Operator’s (MISO) North Region. “We congratulate the CapX2020 partners on completion of this critical link.”

The Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse transmission line runs between the Hampton Substation near Hampton, Minn., the North Rochester Substation north of Pine Island, Minn., and the Briggs Road Substation north of La Crosse, Wis. [View project video.](#)

“By providing access to the least-cost sources of clean, renewable wind energy, CapX2020 will deliver long-term benefits to customers throughout the region for decades to come.” – Chris Kunkle, Wind on the Wires

“We’re pleased the line is complete and grateful to our project partners,” said Dave Geschwind, SMMPA Executive Director & CEO. “Since the Minnesota portion of the project is double-circuit capable, this investment in reliability and greater access to renewable energy will benefit our members far into the future.”

“We are very proud to be part of the CapX2020 project and what it means to the region, and to Rochester,” said Mark Kotschevar, Rochester Public Utilities General Manager. “It serves as a wonderful example of what can be accomplished when multiple utilities come together with a common goal.”

The project is jointly owned by Xcel Energy, Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, Dairyland Power Cooperative, Rochester Public Utilities and WPPI Energy.

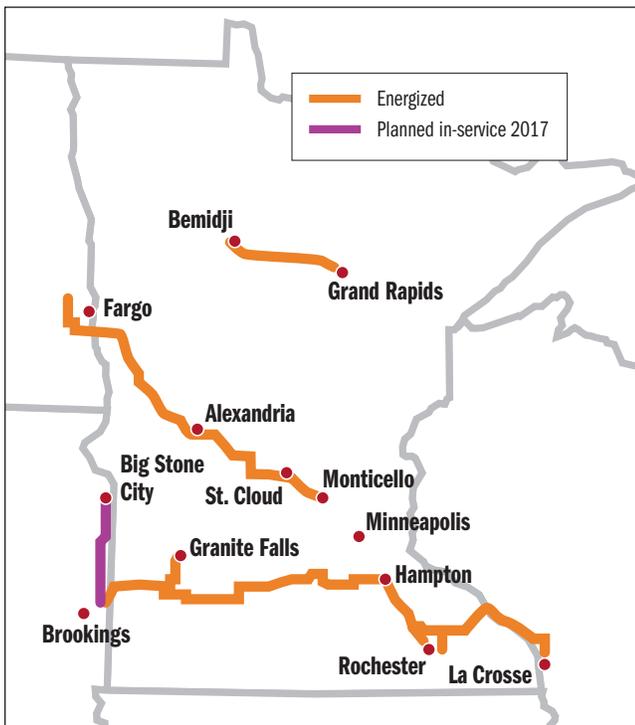


By the Numbers

The Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse project includes

- 1,113 structures
- 3.3 million feet of conductor
- 150,000 cubic yards of concrete

CapX2020 Project Status



Thank you

On September 16, the CapX2020 utilities energized the final segment of the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse transmission line as part of the largest electric grid expansion in the Upper Midwest in decades.

This project is not only helping ensure continued reliable, affordable electric service to Minnesota, Wisconsin and the surrounding region, it is also expanding access to renewable energy.

The CapX2020 utilities would like to extend our sincere appreciation to businesses, local government leaders, environmental agencies and others who helped ensure the completion of this important project. In particular, we thank the property owners along the power line route.

CapX2020 is a joint initiative of 11 utilities to expand and strengthen the electric grid in the region. We are proud of the contributions these projects are making and the people who made it possible.



Delivering electricity you can rely on

Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency • Dairyland Power Cooperative
Great River Energy • Mimesota Power • Mimkota Power Cooperative •
Missouri River Energy Services • Otter Tail Power Company • Rochester Public Utilities
Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency • WPPI Energy • Xcel Energy

CapX2020 partners placed ads in local newspapers (copy of ad above) along the transmission line thanking landowners and communities for their patience and support during the CapX2020 construction.



Pathway for Renewable Energy

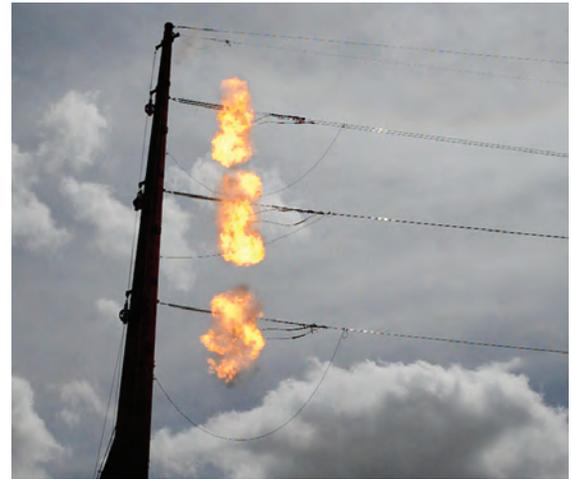
The CapX2020 transmission lines are opening up a new pathway for more renewable energy to flow on the electric grid. On October 25, Xcel Energy announced a proposed plan to own four new wind farms in Minnesota and North Dakota. If approved, two of the wind farms, totaling 400 megawatts would connect onto the CapX2020 345-kilovolt Brookings County-Hampton transmission line in Lincoln County, Minn.

Construction Status

Construction is underway on the 70-mile Big Stone South-Brookings County project. The 345-kilovolt transmission line is being built in South Dakota between the new Big Stone South Substation near Big Stone City and the Brookings County Substation near Brookings.

Foundation construction on the project was completed in October, 2016. Structure setting began in June and is 85 percent complete. Matting is being used to minimize land impact. Conductor stringing is also underway. A helicopter is being used at times to assist in stringing.

Xcel Energy and Otter Tail Power Company are joint owners of the project. Xcel Energy is the development manager. The project is expected to be energized in the fall of 2017.



Crews are using implosive connectors at times to splice and connect conductor. The connectors create an extremely loud blast. Landowners in the area of the blast will be informed ahead of time.



The last foundation is poured on the Big Stone South-Brookings County project. More than 33,000 cubic yards of concrete were used to construct project foundations.



Crews frame a structure prior to setting it near White, S.D. Structures on the Big Stone South-Brookings County project are between 140-170 feet tall and are typically about 1,000 feet apart.



Delivering electricity you can rely on

We want to hear from you.

Contact us at www.capx2020.com or:

Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse

Grant Stevenson, Project Manager

Tim Lisson, Real Estate

1.800.238.7968

lacrosseinfo@capx2020.com

Big Stone South-Brookings County

Joe Samuel, Project Manager

Tom Hillstrom, Routing Lead

1.800.238.7968

bssinfo@capx2020.com

CapX2020 partners

*Central Municipal Power Agency/Services • 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 • WPPI Energy • Xcel Energy*