CapX Quarterly

APRIL 2010

The CapX Quarterly is a quarterly newsletter to inform and update interested stakeholders about CapX2020 project status and milestones. For more information about CapX2020, please visit the project website at www.capx2020.com.

The CapX Quarterly is primarily distributed via e-mail. Sign up for future issues at www.capx2020.com. If you do not have internet access, please call 612.330.5701 to receive a printed version. The next issue will be distributed in July 2010.

Cool home = summer savings

Keeping your home comfortable during the summer doesn't have to mean a massive energy bill. Here are a few tips that can add up to summer savings.

1. Change or clean your central air conditioner's filter monthly.
2. Use ceiling fans. They keep air moving and can cost as little as 30 cents a month if used eight hours a day.
3. Raise your thermostat from 72 degrees to 78.
4. Install a programmable thermostat, which when programmed can save as much as 12 percent on cooling costs.
5. Close curtains and shades during the day to retain cool air.

Higher potential for U.S. wind resources

A report issued in February by the U.S. Energy Department's National Renewable Energy Laboratory found the nation's potential for wind-generated electricity to be triple previous estimates. In the report, Minnesota is now ranked the tenth windiest state, while South and North Dakota are the fourth and fifth, respectively. Find the report at http://bit.ly/a6c00g.

Fargo-St. Cloud-Monticello 345 kV project

Fargo-St. Cloud

The Minnesota Office of Energy Security (OES) issued its scoping report detailing what will be studied in the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The report includes additional route segments that were suggested by landowners and an OES advisory task force. View the report at www.capx2020.com.

Monticello-St. Cloud

Evidentiary hearings took place in March. Administrative Law Judge Beverly Heydinger is expected to issue her report and a route recommendation to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC) by May 24. The MN PUC is expected to make a final decision on the Route Permit application within 60 days of receiving Judge Heydinger's report.

Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 kV project

The Minnesota Office of Energy Security (OES) issued the project's draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on February 23. About 150 people attended public meetings held in mid-March on the draft EIS. Comments on the document are due by April 26.

Public and evidentiary hearings on the project's Route Permit application were April 21-23; administrative law judge Eric L. Lipman presided. Based on comments and testimony at the hearings, Judge Lipman will make a route recommendation to the MN PUC. The MN PUC makes the final decision on the Route Permit application, which is anticipated later this year.

Maps detailing updated route options under consideration by the OES and Rural Utilities Service (RUS) are now available on www.capx2020.com.

Brookings County-Hampton 345 kV project

Administrative Law Judge Richard Luis issued his findings of fact, conclusions and route recommendations on April 22. With a slight modification in Dakota County near Hampton, he recommended following the utilities' modified preferred route.

The report is available at www.puc.state.mn.us by searching for eDocket 08-1474 as well at www.capx2020.com.

The next step in the Route Permit application process: The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC) will schedule a hearing in early summer to deliberate and discuss the record and to consider the administrative law judge's route recommendation. A vote on the application and route may also take place at that time. The MN PUC has the final authority over whether the Route Permit application will be approved as well as the selection of the transmission line's final route.

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Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV project

A Route Permit application was filed with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission on January 19. It details a preferred and alternate route; Alma, Wisconsin is the proposed Mississippi River crossing location. Detailed route maps can be viewed at www.capx2020.com.

The Minnesota Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security (OES) has scheduled public information and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) scoping meetings. The purpose of the meetings is to provide project information and to identify issues and route alternatives to study in the EIS that will be prepared by the OES. The public meetings – at 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at each venue – are scheduled as follows:

May 4
American Legion
215 3rd Street SW
Plainview, MN 55964

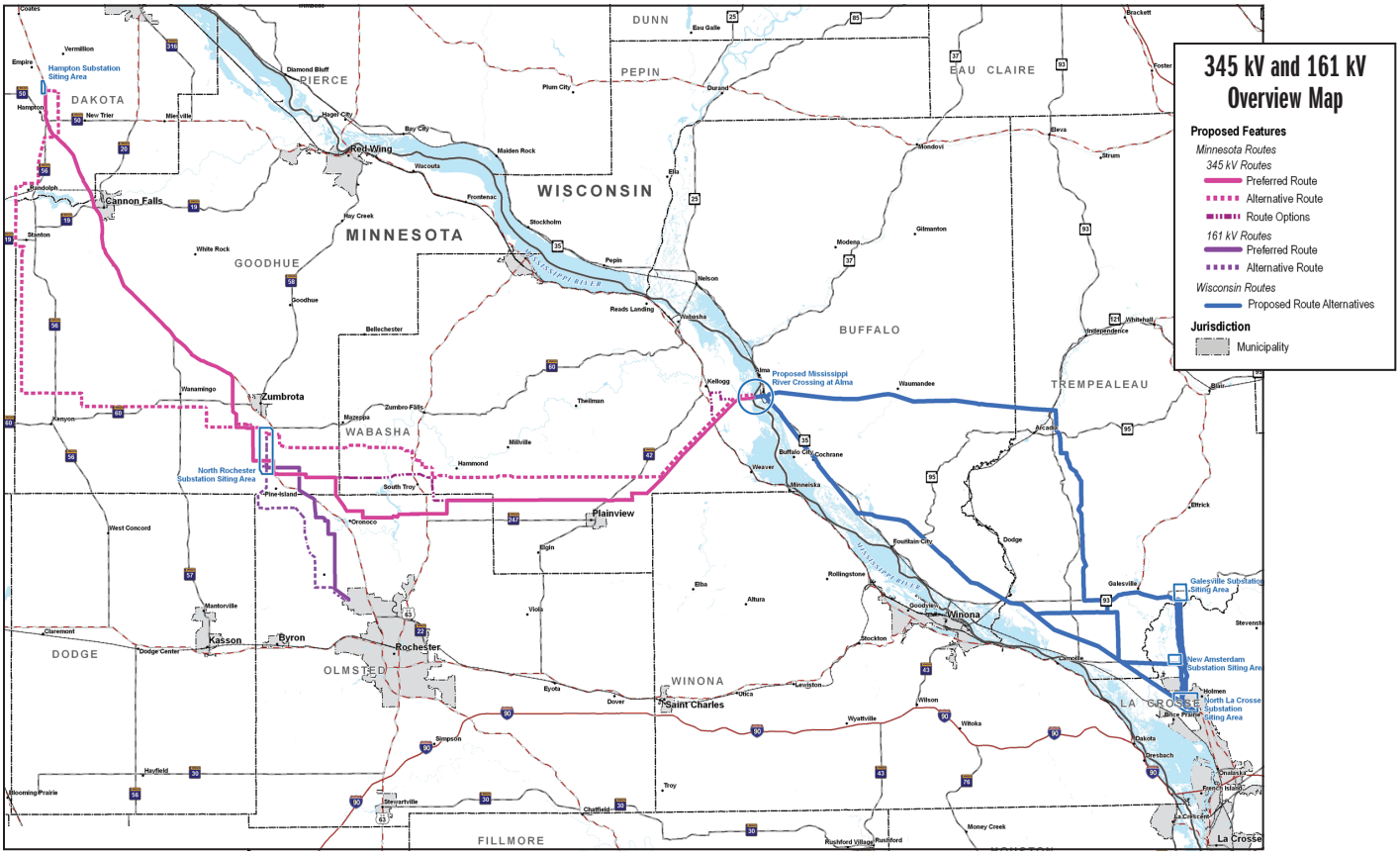
May 5
American Legion
108 1st Avenue SE
Pine Island, MN 55963

May 6
Grandpa's Event Center
31846 65th Avenue
Cannon Falls, MN 55009

A 12 to 15-month regulatory process is expected, with a decision in mid-2011. The required Wisconsin permitting documents will be filed in late 2010.

Rural Utilities Service (RUS) issued the project's scoping report in February. To view the report, please visit www.capx2020.com.

Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV project



We want to hear from you. Contact us at www.capx2020.com or:

Fargo-St. Cloud-Monticello
Darrin Lahr, routing lead
Jerry Chezik, project manager
1.866.876.2869
fargoinfo@capx2020.com

Brookings County-Hampton
Dan Lesher, routing lead
Randy Fordice,
communications specialist
1.888.473.2279
brookingsinfo@capx2020.com

Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse
Tom Hillstrom, routing lead
Chuck Thompson,
Dairyland Power Cooperative
1.800.238.7968
lacrosseinfo@capx2020.com

Bemidji-Grand Rapids
Bob Lindholm, routing lead
Cindy Kuismi,
communications specialist
1.888.373.4113
bemidjiinfo@capx2020.com

@capxprojects