CapX Quarterly

NOVEMBER 2010

About the CapX Quarterly

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 (if you have previously called, you will continue to receive the printed version). The next issue will be distributed in January 2010.

www.capx2020.com

Economic impact study: Thousands of jobs will be created during construction

The CapX2020 utilities released a study that determined the construction of the five projects will result in the creation of thousands of construction and related jobs. The study, conducted by the University of Minnesota Duluth's Bureau of Business and Economic Research, also estimates the projects will collectively provide more than $150 million in tax revenue to the four states in which the projects will be built.

The study projects the following job impacts during each year of construction (direct, inclirect and induced): 2010 – 571; 2011 – 2,257; 2012 – 4,580; 2013 – 7,802; 2014 – 5,907; and 2015 – 2,425.

For each dollar spent on construction, an additional $1.93 will be returned to the economy due to multiplier effects, as estimated by the modeling software; the money will circulate through the economy creating additional benefit to the state and surrounding region.

Local companies are under contract to provide materials for the projects, including enhanced rebar from Ambassador Steel's Minnesota facilities; steel towers from the Thomas and Betts, Inc. facility in Hager City, Wisconsin; and cement from Elk River-based AME Red-E-Mix, Inc.

View the entire study at www.CapX2020.com

"The CapX2020 Monticello-St. Cloud project will save us from closing a facility for the winter and laying off 10 to 15 fulltime employees," said Steve Linegar, president of AME Red-E-Mix, Inc. "It's a valuable project for our company and employees and comes at just the right time."

A new transmission structure in the making: Thomas and Betts, Inc. is supplying the steel towers for the Monticello-St. Cloud project. Manufactured at the company's Hager City, Wisconsin plant, they will build more than 150 structures and use more than 10 million pounds of steel for the project.

CapX2020

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 • WPPI Energy • Xcel Energy

Fargo-St. Cloud-Monticello 345 kV project

Monticello-St. Cloud

Field activities for the first portion of the route began mid-October, while construction at the new Quarry Substation near St. Cloud is underway.

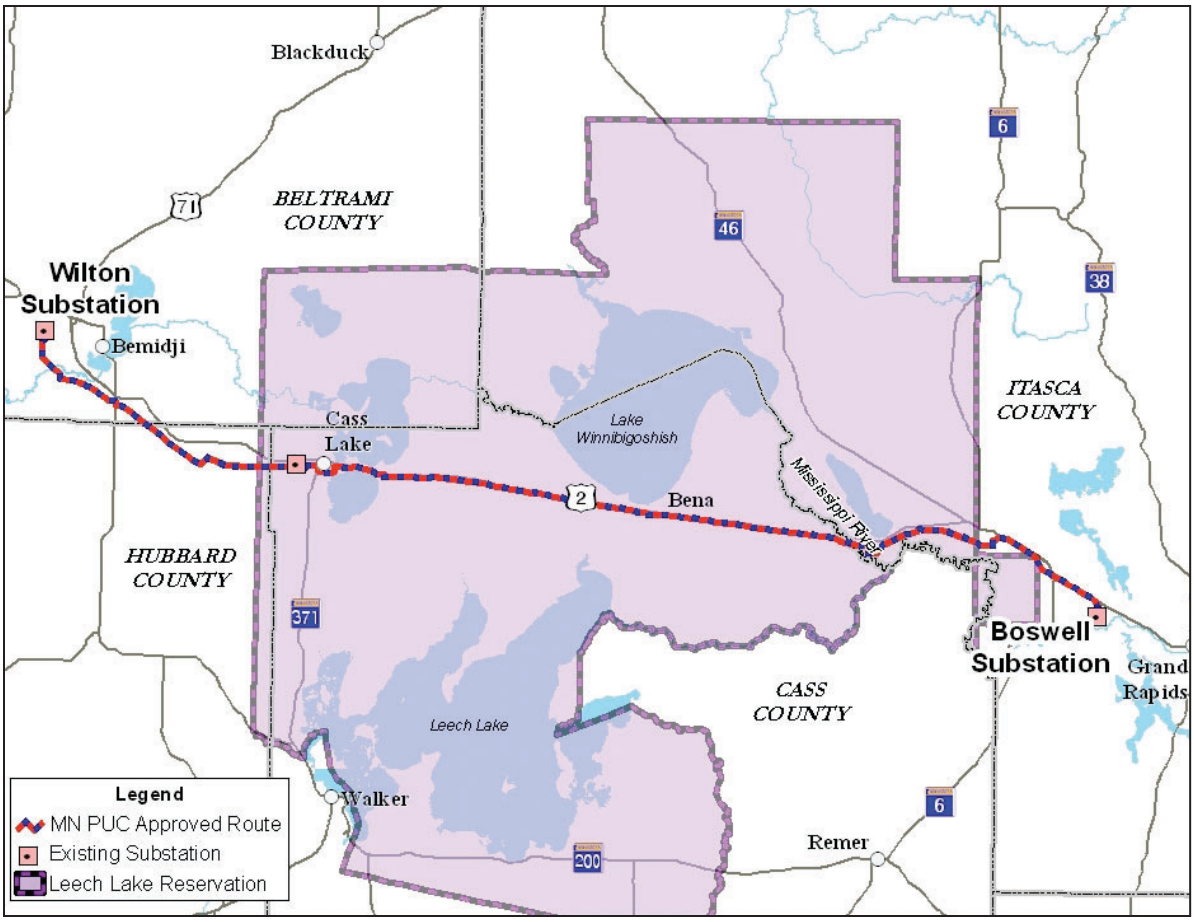
Fargo-St. Cloud

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC) will host public hearings on the project's Route Permit application November 16-18 and November 30-December 1. Find a detailed schedule with hearing locations and times here: www.capx2020.com/calendar.aspx.

Crews operate a drill crane for the first Monticello-St. Cloud project structure foundations near Interstate 94.

Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 kV project

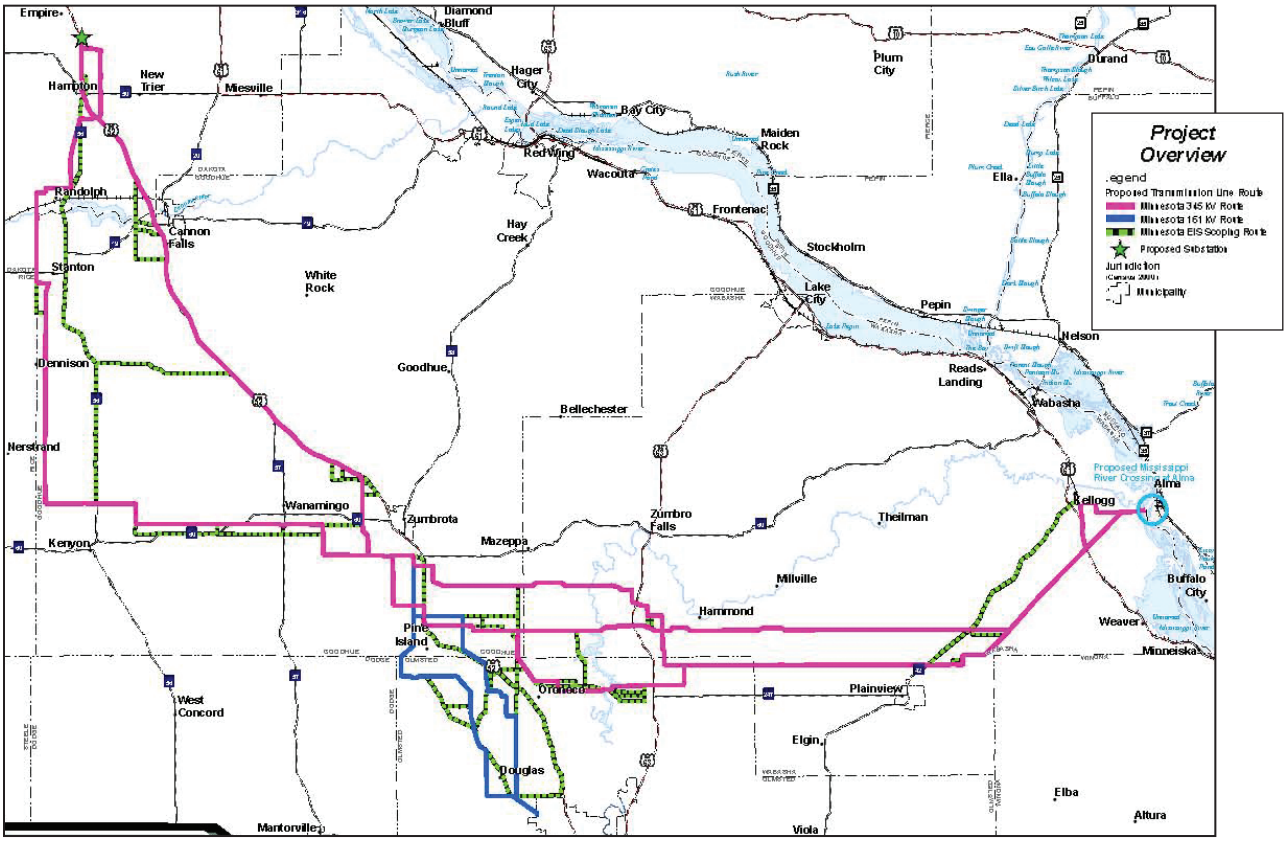
On October 28, the MN PUC unanimously approved the project route, which is a combination of two route alternatives proposed in the Route Permit application. Rural Utilities Service (RUS) expects to issue its Record of Decision on November 29. Otter Tail Power Company, the project's construction manager, will be contacting landowners to begin discussions on easement acquisition for the necessary right-of-way. Construction is expected to begin in early 2011.



Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV project

The Minnesota Office of Energy Security expects to issue the project's draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in February 2011; public meetings on the document will follow.

A Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity is expected to be filed with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin in early December 2010.



Brookings County-Hampton 345 kV project

Four public hearings and one evidentiary hearing on the Minnesota River crossing location took place in early October. An October 29, 2010 letter from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) proposed that a study be done on eagle winter habitat use and availability of Minnesota River Valley and Silver Lake area this winter. The letter also reversed the USFWS' prior opinion on the river crossing at Belle Plaine; the agency will work with the CapX2020 utilities on a permit for either crossing.

A Facilities Permit application is expected to be filed with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission in mid to late November 2010.

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

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