

# CapX2020

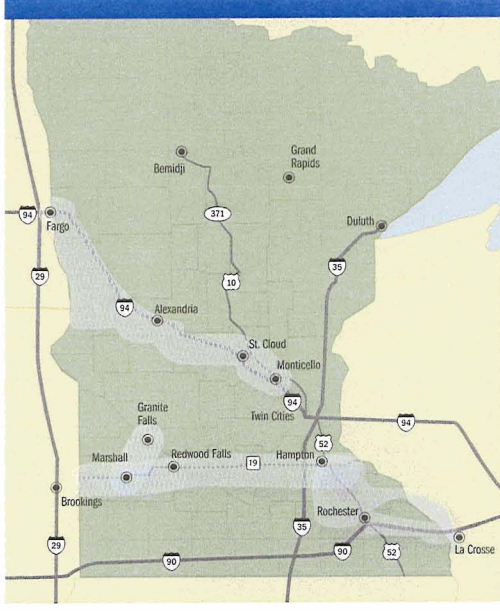
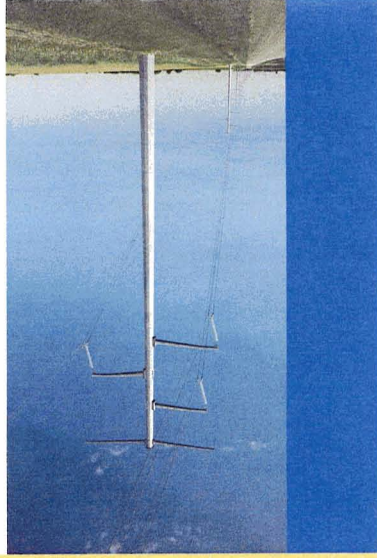
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Numerous public meetings and hearings will be held throughout the process. The September open houses are the first of many that the CapX 2020 utilities plan to host, and your involvement is essential. If you are unable to attend the upcoming open houses, feel free to submit comments at [www.capx2020.com](http://www.capx2020.com) or call or email us.

\* The dates and locations of the CapX 2020 open houses are listed on the inside.

Contact information for the three projects:

<b>Brookings, SD-SE Twin Cities</b>	<b>Fargo-Alexandria-St. Cloud-Monticello</b>	<b>SE Twin Cities-Rochester-La Crosse</b>
888-473-2279	866-876-2869	800-238-7968
<a href="mailto:brookingsinfo@capx2020.com">brookingsinfo@capx2020.com</a>	<a href="mailto:fargoinfo@capx2020.com">fargoinfo@capx2020.com</a>	<a href="mailto:lacrosseinfo@capx2020.com">lacrosseinfo@capx2020.com</a>



## INVITATION TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

Dear Landowner,

In July you were sent a notice letter by a group of regional utilities informing you of the proposal for three major transmission lines. These lines are proposed to ensure customers in Minnesota and the surrounding region receive continued reliable, low-cost electricity, and increase access to renewable energy sources. CapX 2020, a joint initiative of these 11 transmission-owning utilities in Minnesota and the surrounding states, filed a Certificate of Need application for this project on August 16, 2007, with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

The CapX 2020 utilities have scheduled open houses in your area to provide information on the proposed high voltage lines and to answer your questions.

These proposed lines represent one of the largest single transmission initiatives in the region in decades, possibly spanning more than 600 miles. The approximate lengths and general location of the lines are as follows:

- A 200-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) line between Brookings, SD, and the southeast Twin Cities, plus a related 345-kV line between Marshall and Granite Falls, MN
- A 250-mile, 345-kV line between Fargo, ND, and Alexandria, St. Cloud and Monticello, MN
- A 150-mile, 345-kV line between the southeast Twin Cities, Rochester, MN, and La Crosse, WI

Following a rigorous public process, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission will likely decide whether the lines are needed by early 2009. If it is determined that the projects are needed, the Commission will decide routes for the new lines in separate proceedings. Portions of the proposed lines also will require approvals by federal officials and by regulators in North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

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## Brookings, SD-SE Twin Cities (345-kV)

### Monday, September 10

3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Wind Energy Center  
2390 County Hwy 1  
Hendricks, MN 56136

### Tuesday, September 11\*

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.; 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Prairie Events Center  
1507 East College Drive  
Marshall, MN 56258



### Wednesday, September 12

3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Kilowatt Center  
600 Kilowatt Drive  
Granite Falls, MN 56241

### Thursday, September 13\*

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.; 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Max's Grill  
1325 West Lincoln Ave.  
Olivia, MN 56277

### Tuesday, September 18

3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Redwood Area Community Center  
901 Cook St.  
Redwood, MN 56258

### Wednesday, September 19

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.; 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Arlington Community Center  
204 Shamrock Drive  
Arlington, MN 55307

### Thursday, September 20

3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Pla-Mor Ballroom  
1913 9<sup>th</sup> St. E.  
Glencoe, MN 55336

### Tuesday, September 25

3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Park Ballroom  
300 Lexington Ave. S  
New Prague, MN 56071

### Wednesday, September 26

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.; 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Archer House  
212 Division St.  
Northfield, MN 55057

### Thursday, September 27

3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Holiday Inn  
20800 Kendrick Ave.  
Lakeville, MN 55044

\* Coordinated with Biennial Transmission Planning meeting- [www.minnelectrans.com](http://www.minnelectrans.com)

## Fargo-Alexandria-St. Cloud-Monticello (345-kV)

### Tuesday, September 11

3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Best Western Big Woods Conference Center  
921 Western Ave.  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

### Wednesday, September 12\*

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.; 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Courtyard by Marriot  
1080 28<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.  
Moorhead, MN 56560

### Thursday, September 13

3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Holiday Inn  
5637 Highway 29 S.  
Alexandria, MN 56308

### Wednesday, September 19\*

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Ramada  
2115 S. 6<sup>th</sup> St.  
Brainerd, MN

### Tuesday, September 25

3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
American Legion  
265 County Road 173  
Melrose, MN 56352

### Wednesday, September 26

5:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.  
West Central High School  
303 County Road 2  
Barrett, MN 56311

### Thursday, September 27

3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
American Legion  
505 Pine St.  
Clearwater, MN 55320

\* Coordinated with Biennial Transmission Planning meeting- [www.minnelectrans.com](http://www.minnelectrans.com)



## SE Twin Cities-Rochester-La Crosse (345-kV)

### Tuesday, September 11

3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Riverport Inn  
900 Bruski Drive  
Winona, MN 55987

### Wednesday, September 12\*

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.; 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
International Event Center  
7333 Airport View Drive SW  
Rochester, MN 55902

### Thursday, September 13

3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Coffee Mill Golf Course and Country Club  
180 Coffee Mill Drive  
Wabasha, MN 55981

### Tuesday, September 25

3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Red Wing Community Library, Foot Room  
225 East Ave.  
Red Wing, MN 55066

### Wednesday, September 26

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.; 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Archer House  
212 Division St.  
Northfield, MN 55057

### Thursday, September 27

3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Holiday Inn  
20800 Kendrick Ave.  
Lakeville, MN 55044

\* Coordinated with Biennial Transmission Planning meeting- [www.minnelectrans.com](http://www.minnelectrans.com)

# CapX2020 UPDATE

## CapX 2020 Web Site is Useful Information Tool

Please visit the CapX 2020 Web site at [www.capx2020.com](http://www.capx2020.com) for information and updates. The site includes an overview of the projects, maps of proposed line corridors, information on regulatory processes, and a glossary of transmission and electricity terms. Visit the Web site for photos of transmission line and wind turbine construction, a calendar of upcoming open houses and public meetings, and to contact CapX 2020 with any questions or feedback on the projects.

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

## CapX 2020 to Organize Work Groups for Community Involvement

*In early 2008* the three 345-kV CapX 2020 project managers will hold a series of meetings where small groups of community representatives will come together to discuss the individual projects. The work groups will be comprised of stakeholders representing various parties with an interest in the routing process. These meetings will help to ensure that the project managers receive community input about the proposed routes. Local government officials, representatives from agriculture, state and federal agencies, and environmental groups, among others, will be invited to join these work groups. The work groups will be asked to participate in a series of meetings over the next six months to help identify and confirm some of the criteria used in proposing routes, evaluate local routing issues and provide feedback on initial ideas the utilities have developed for narrowed corridor and route options. This input will assist in the development of refined corridors that will be presented at a second round of CapX 2020 open houses in Spring 2008.

If you are interested in participating in a routing work group, please contact us through the Web site at [www.capx2020.com](http://www.capx2020.com) or call one of the toll-free project phone numbers. Work group meeting summaries will be posted on the CapX 2020 Web site.



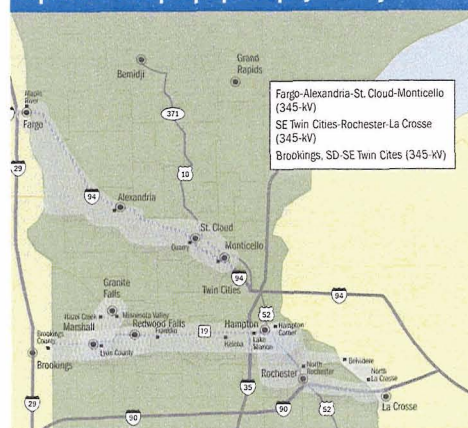
The CapX 2020 utilities hosted 24 open houses in September and October to provide information on the proposed high voltage lines and to answer questions

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## CapX 2020 Group 1 proposed project study corridors



## Contact information

E-mail addresses and toll-free numbers for the three projects:

**Brookings, SD - SE Twin Cities**  
(888) 473-2279 • [brookingsinfo@capx2020.com](mailto:brookingsinfo@capx2020.com)  
**Fargo - Alexandria - St. Cloud - Monticello**  
(866) 876-2869 • [fargoinfo@capx2020.com](mailto:fargoinfo@capx2020.com)  
**SE Twin Cities - Rochester - La Crosse**  
(800) 238-7968 • [lacrosseinfo@capx2020.com](mailto:lacrosseinfo@capx2020.com)

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Minnesota Power • Minnesota Power Cooperative • Missouri River Energy Services • Otter Tail Power Company  
Rochester Public Utilities • Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency • Wisconsin Public Power Inc. • Xcel Energy

# CapX2020 UPDATE

## Regulatory and Permitting Process

Two major approvals must be obtained from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) before a high voltage transmission line can be built: a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit. The Certificate of Need proceeding examines whether the proposed facilities are necessary and what the appropriate size, configuration and timing of the project should be. In August 2007 the CapX 2020 utilities filed a Certificate of Need application for three 345 kilovolt (kV) lines with the PUC. In October, the PUC found the 345-kV Certificate of Need application to be complete and referred the application to an Administrative Law Judge to schedule public hearings. In a separate Route Permit proceeding, the PUC determines the route and design of the line. The utilities expect to file a Route Permit with the PUC in 2008.

The CapX 2020 utilities are involved in similar review, permit and approval processes for the proposed 345-kV lines from the regulatory commissions in North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

## New Fact Sheet Highlights Regulatory Process

A new fact sheet titled "Minnesota Regulatory Process for High Voltage Transmission Lines" is now available on the CapX 2020 Web site ([www.capx2020.com/learn.html](http://www.capx2020.com/learn.html)). The fact sheet provides an overview of the regulatory process associated with the major approvals necessary before a high voltage transmission line can be built in Minnesota.

### North Dakota Public Service Commission

Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity  
Certificate of Corridor Compatibility  
Transmission Facility Permit

### Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity

### South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

Facilities Permit

## Department of Commerce to Address CapX 2020 Projects at December Public Meetings

In December, the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) will host 10 public meetings to gather input from the public concerning the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed CapX 2020 345-kilovolt transmission line projects. Information provided by the public will be used by the DOC to help generate an environmental scoping document. The meetings also will give citizens an opportunity to ask questions and to learn more about the proposed transmission projects. We encourage you to participate in these meetings.

### Scoping Document/Environmental Report

The DOC will use the scoping document to frame important human and environmental considerations in the proposed project areas. Based on this document, the DOC commissioner will issue an order identifying the alternatives to be analyzed, potential impacts to be addressed, the schedule for completion of the environmental report and any other matters that are to be included in the environmental review. The final product, known as an Environmental Report, will be submitted to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission as part of the public record that will be compiled during the Certificate of Need process. The report will help the commission determine whether to grant the CapX 2020 utilities a Certificate of Need for the projects.

### Public Input

The December meetings will be informal and will include a brief presentation by DOC staff members and from representatives of the CapX 2020 utilities. Citizens will have an opportunity to comment and ask questions. Citizens are encouraged to make suggestions regarding alternatives to the proposed projects and to provide input on impacts

that should be reviewed. Comments can be made either orally or in writing. They must be submitted to the DOC by Jan. 14, 2008.

### Additional Information

If you are unable to attend one of the meetings or if you prefer to mail your comments, please send them to Mr. David Birkholz, Energy Facility Permitting, Minnesota Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101. If you would like additional information about the DOC meetings or the Certificate of Need or permitting processes, contact Mr. Birkholz or go to <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19120>. If you would like additional information about the CapX2020 projects, contact Mark Suel at (612) 330-6750 or visit the project Web site at [www.capx2020.com](http://www.capx2020.com).



## Long-Term Energy Savings

Compact fluorescent bulbs cost more to buy than comparable incandescent bulbs, but less to use

	15-watt fluorescent	60-watt conventional
Retail price	\$3.50	\$0.50
Lifetime hours	12,000	1,000
Lifetime cost*	\$18	\$92

\* Includes energy and maintenance costs in addition to the initial retail purchase price. Based on an electricity rate of \$0.101 per kilowatt hour.  
Sources: Environmental Protection Agency; Department of Energy.

## 10 Public Meetings

Minnesota Department of  
Commerce Public Meetings

### Monday, December 10

12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.  
Courtyard by Marriott  
1080 28th Ave. S.  
Moorhead, MN 56560

6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.  
Best Western Events Center  
921 Western Ave.  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

### Tuesday, December 11

12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.  
Alexandria City Hall  
Council Chambers  
704 Broadway  
Alexandria, MN 56308

6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.  
American Legion  
505 Pine St.  
Clearwater, MN 55320

### Thursday, December 13

12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.  
Riverport Inn  
900 Briski Drive  
Winona, MN 55987

6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.  
Heritage Suites  
2829 43rd St. NW  
Rochester, MN 55901

### Monday, December 17

12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.  
Best Western Marshall Inn  
1500 East College Drive  
Marshall, MN 56258

6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.  
Max's Grill  
1325 West Lincoln Ave.  
Olivia, MN 56277

### Tuesday, December 18

12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.  
Arlington Community Center  
204 Shamrock Drive  
Arlington, MN 55307

6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.  
Grandpa's Event Center  
31846 65th Ave.  
Cannon Falls, MN 55009

# ADDITIONAL PUBLIC MEETINGS ANNOUNCED

## Dear Landowner,

In early September you received an invitation to attend a CapX 2020 open house in your area. Due to the high level of interest in the projects we have scheduled three additional public meetings this month to ensure that as many landowners as possible have an opportunity to learn more about the proposed high voltage transmission line projects, including a 250-mile 345-kV line between Fargo, ND and Monticello, MN. These meetings are a repeat of the meetings hosted in September and will not contain any new information.

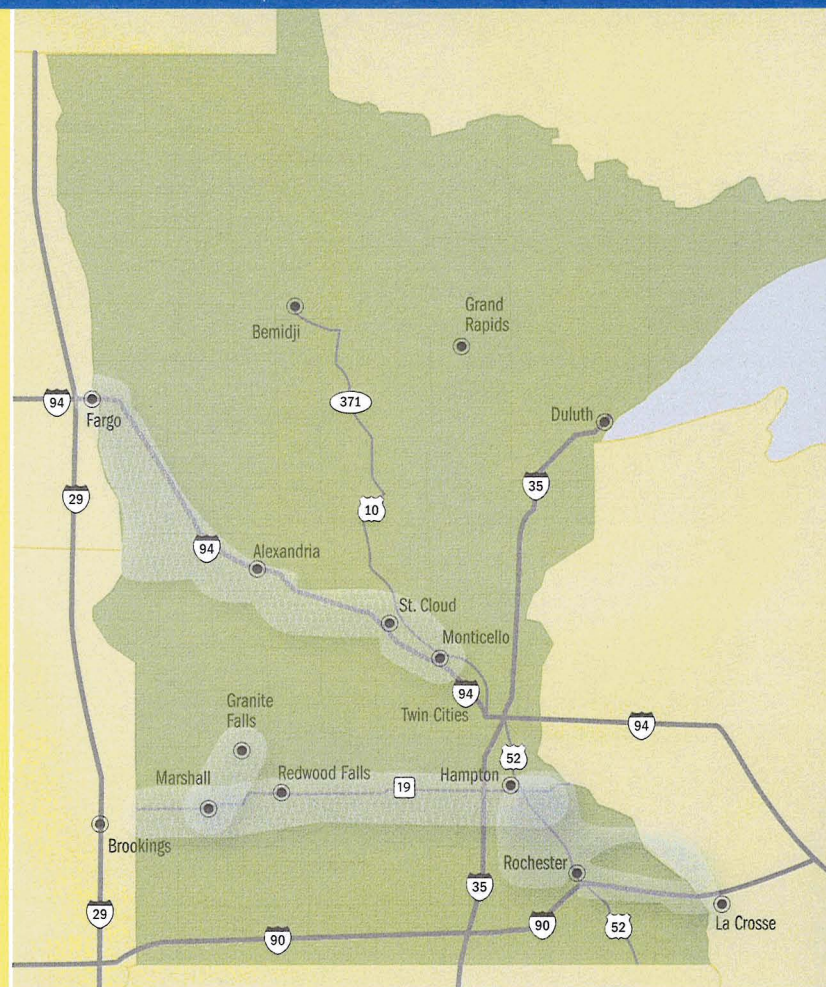
As there will be no formal presentation, please come anytime during the open house hours and share your insights about the projects.

CapX 2020 is a joint initiative of 11 transmission-owning utilities in Minnesota and the surrounding region to expand the electric transmission grid to deliver continued reliable, affordable electricity and increase access to renewable energy sources. The CapX 2020 utilities filed a Certificate of Need application for three 345-kV lines on August 16, 2007, with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

These proposed lines represent one of the largest single transmission initiatives in the region in decades, possibly spanning more than 600 miles.

Following a rigorous public process, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission will likely decide whether the lines are needed by early 2009. If it is determined that the projects are needed, the Commission will decide routes for the new lines in separate proceedings. Portions of the proposed lines also will require approvals by federal officials and by regulators in North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

Numerous public meetings and hearings will be held throughout the process. If you are unable to attend the October open houses, feel free to submit comments at [www.capx2020.com](http://www.capx2020.com) or call or email us.



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Otter Tail Power Company  
Rochester Public Utilities  
Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency  
Wisconsin Public Power Inc.  
Xcel Energy

## OPEN HOUSES

### **Tues. 10/23 • 3pm-7pm • Wahpeton, ND**

North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS)  
Student Center (1st building on the campus oval)  
Red River Valley Room  
800 6th Street North  
Wahpeton, ND 58076

### **Wed. 10/24 • 3pm-7pm • Wheaton**

Wheaton American Legion  
Highway 75 North  
Wheaton, MN 56296

### **Thurs. 10/25 • 3pm-7pm • Belgrade**

Municipal Building  
417 Washburn  
Belgrade, MN 56312

**Contact information for the Fargo-Alexandria-St. Cloud-Monticello project:**

866-876-2869 • [fargoinfo@capx2020.com](mailto:fargoinfo@capx2020.com)



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EXHIBIT 5

**For more information, contact:**  
**Xcel Energy Media Relations**  
**(612) 215-5300**

## CapX 2020 utilities schedule open houses to provide information about transmission line proposals

**MINNEAPOLIS (Sept. 5, 2007)** - The CapX 2020 utilities have scheduled open houses in seven communities to provide information to local residents and landowners who may be affected by a proposed high-voltage transmission line between Fargo, N.D., Alexandria, St. Cloud and Monticello, Minn.

Utility representatives will answer questions about the need for the new 345-kilovolt line and related facilities, advise attendees about how the public process works and answer questions area residents may have. The utilities also will use the meetings to begin collecting information for a route permit application that will be filed with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in the fall of 2008 and for additional filings that will be made with the North Dakota Public Service Commission.

"These open houses are our first opportunity to explain why the line is needed and to begin working directly with local government officials and landowners to help determine the best location for the line," said Darrin Lahr of Xcel Energy, routing lead for the Fargo-Monticello line. "The process for building new transmission lines is an open and inclusive one."

The Fargo-Monticello line is one of three 345-kilovolt lines CapX 2020 utilities are proposing to meet future demand for electricity. Utility projections show that electricity use in Minnesota and the surrounding region will increase between 4,000 and 6,000 megawatts by 2020. The proposed lines also would significantly expand the ability to deliver renewable energy to electricity customers.

"The 345-kilovolt lines proposed by the CapX 2020 utilities will help ensure continued reliable electricity service in Minnesota and the surrounding region by upgrading and expanding the high voltage transmission network that is the backbone of the region's electricity system," said Terry Grove of Great River Energy, a co-leader of the CapX 2020 effort. "Additionally, the lines will strengthen the network so that more wind energy resources can be developed in southern and western Minnesota and eastern North Dakota and South Dakota."

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission must approve two main applications before the lines can be built. The first application, filed on Aug. 16 and available at [www.capx2020.com](http://www.capx2020.com), asks the commission to determine the lines are needed. The second, a route permit application, will be filed in mid-2008. Both applications require a rigorous

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public regulatory process and each takes approximately 18 months to complete. Additionally, the project requires the approval of the North Dakota Public Service Commission and will undergo review by federal agencies.

Utilities involved in the CapX 2020 proposals will work with landowners, local, state and federal government officials and interested parties to determine the best locations for the lines and use that information in developing the applications. Opportunities for significant public input are built into the state and federal regulatory processes, including public meetings and hearings, on both need and routing decisions.

Along with Great River Energy, Elk River, Minn., and Xcel Energy, Minneapolis, utilities or groups that expect to participate in one or more of the CapX 2020 projects are: Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, Blue Earth, Minn.; Dairyland Power Cooperative, La Crosse, Wis.; Minnesota Power, Duluth, Minn.; Minnkota Power Cooperative, Grand Forks, N.D.; Missouri River Energy Services, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Otter Tail Power Company, Fergus Falls, Minn.; Rochester Public Utilities, Rochester, Minn.; Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, Rochester, Minn., and Wisconsin Public Power Inc., Sun Prairie, Wis.

Here are the dates and locations for open houses in the Fargo-Alexandria-St. Cloud-Monticello study corridor:

- Tuesday, Sept. 11, 3-7 p.m., Best Western Bigwood Event Center, 921 Western Ave., Fergus Falls, Minn.
- Wednesday, Sept. 12, 9 a.m.-noon and 3-7 p.m., Courtyard by Marriot, 1080 28th Ave. S., Moorhead, Minn., coordinated with Biennial Transmission Planning meeting ([www.minnelectrans.com](http://www.minnelectrans.com))
- Thursday, Sept. 13, 3-7 p.m., Holiday Inn, 5637 Highway 29 S., Alexandria, Minn.
- Wednesday, Sept. 19, 9 a.m.-noon, Ramada, 2115 S. 6th St., Brainerd, Minn., coordinated with Biennial Transmission Planning meeting ([www.minnelectrans.com](http://www.minnelectrans.com))
- Tuesday, Sept. 25, 3-7 p.m., American Legion, 265 County Road 173, Melrose, Minn.
- Wednesday, Sept. 26, 5:30-8 p.m., West Central High School, 303 County Road 2, Barrett, Minn.
- Thursday, Sept. 27, 3-7 p.m., American Legion, 505 Pine St., Clearwater, Minn.

The open house schedules in other CapX 2020 study corridors and more information about the CapX 2020 proposals are posted on the CapX 2020 Web site at [www.capx2020.com](http://www.capx2020.com).

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**For more information, contact:  
Xcel Energy Media Relations  
(612) 215-5300**

## CapX 2020 utilities schedule open houses to provide information about transmission line proposals

**MINNEAPOLIS (Sept. 5, 2007)** - The CapX 2020 utilities have scheduled open houses in six communities to provide information to local residents and landowners who may be affected by a proposed high-voltage transmission line between the Southeast Twin Cities, Rochester and La Crosse, Wis.

Utility representatives will answer questions about the need for the new 345-kilovolt line and related facilities, advise attendees about how the public process works and answer questions area residents may have. The utilities also will use the meetings to begin collecting information for a route permit application that will be filed with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and a certificate of public convenience and necessity that will be filed with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin in the fall of 2008.

"These open houses are our first opportunity to explain why the line is needed and to begin working directly with local government officials and landowners to help determine the best location for the line," said Pam Rasmussen of Xcel Energy, routing lead for the Twin Cities-Rochester-La Crosse line. "The process for building new transmission lines is an open and inclusive one, and this is just the beginning of our efforts to give people the opportunity to provide input."

The Twin Cities-Rochester-La Crosse line is one of three 345-kilovolt lines CapX 2020 utilities are proposing to meet future demand for electricity. Utility projections show that electricity use in Minnesota and the surrounding region will increase between 4,000 and 6,000 megawatts by 2020. The proposed lines also would significantly expand the ability to deliver renewable energy to electricity customers.

"The 345-kilovolt lines proposed by the CapX 2020 utilities will help ensure continued reliable electricity service in Minnesota and the surrounding region by upgrading and expanding the high voltage transmission network that is the backbone of the region's electricity system," said Terry Grove of Great River Energy, a co-leader of the CapX 2020 effort. "Additionally, the lines will strengthen the network so that more wind energy resources can be developed in southern and western Minnesota and eastern North Dakota and South Dakota."

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The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission must approve two main applications before the lines can be built. The first application, filed on Aug. 16 and available at [www.capx2020.com](http://www.capx2020.com), asks the commission to determine the lines are needed. The second, a route permit application, will be filed in mid-2008. Both applications require a rigorous public regulatory process and each takes approximately 18 months to complete. In addition, the Twin Cities-Rochester-La Crosse project requires approval of the Wisconsin commission and will undergo a national Environmental Policy Act review with federal agencies.

Utilities involved in the CapX 2020 proposals will work with landowners, local, state and federal government officials and interested parties to determine the best locations for the lines and use that information in developing the applications to Minnesota and Wisconsin commissions. Opportunities for significant public input are built into the state and federal regulatory processes, including public meetings and hearings, on both need and routing decisions.

Along with Great River Energy, Elk River, Minn., and Xcel Energy, Minneapolis, utilities or groups that expect to participate in one or more of the CapX 2020 projects are: Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, Blue Earth, Minn.; Dairyland Power Cooperative, La Crosse, Wis.; Minnesota Power, Duluth, Minn.; Minnkota Power Cooperative, Grand Forks, N.D.; Missouri River Energy Services, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Otter Tail Power Company, Fergus Falls, Minn.; Rochester Public Utilities, Rochester, Minn.; Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, Rochester, Minn., and Wisconsin Public Power Inc., Sun Prairie, Wis.

Here are the dates and locations for open houses in the Southeast Twin Cities-Rochester-La Crosse study corridor:

Tuesday, Sept. 11, 3-7 p.m., Riverport Inn, 900 Bruski Dr., Winona, Minn.

Wednesday, Sept. 12, 9 a.m.-noon and 3-7 p.m., International Event Center, 7333 Airport View Dr. SW, Rochester, Minn., coordinated with Biennial Transmission Planning meeting ([www.minnelectrans.com](http://www.minnelectrans.com))

Thursday, Sept. 13, 3-7 p.m., Coffee Mill Golf Course and Country Club, 180 Coffee Mill Dr., Wabasha, Minn.

Tuesday, Sept. 25, 3-7 p.m., Red Wing Community Library, Foot Room, 225 East Ave., Red Wing, Minn.

Wednesday, Sept. 26, 9 a.m.-noon and 3-7 p.m., Archer House, 212 Division St., Northfield, Minn.

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Thursday, Sept. 27, 3-7 p.m., Holiday Inn, 20800 Kendrick Ave., Lakeville, MN 55044.

The open house schedules in other CapX 2020 study corridors and more information about the CapX 2020 proposals are posted on the CapX 2020 Web site at [www.capx2020.com](http://www.capx2020.com).

###



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## **CapX 2020 utilities schedule open houses to provide information about transmission line proposals**

ELK RIVER, Minn. (Sept. 4, 2007) —The CapX 2020 utilities have scheduled open houses in 10 communities to provide information to local residents and landowners who may be affected by a proposed high-voltage transmission line between Brookings, S.D., and the southeast Twin Cities.

Utility representatives will answer questions about the need for the new 345-kilovolt line and related facilities, advise attendees about how the public process works and answer any questions area residents may have. The utilities also will use the meetings to begin collecting information for a route permit application that will be filed with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in mid-2008.

"The process for building new transmission lines is an open and inclusive one," said Kevin Lennon of Great River Energy, project manager for the Brookings-Twin Cities line. "These open houses are our first opportunity to explain to people why the line is needed and to begin working directly with local government officials and landowners to help determine the best locations for the lines."

The Brookings-Twin Cities line is one of three 345-kilovolt lines CapX 2020 utilities are proposing to meet future demand for electricity. Utility projections show that electricity use in Minnesota and the surrounding region will increase between 4,000 and 6,000 megawatts by 2020. The proposed lines also would significantly expand the ability to deliver renewable energy to electricity customers.

"The 345-kilovolt lines proposed by the CapX 2020 utilities will help ensure continued reliable electricity service in Minnesota and the surrounding region by upgrading and expanding the high voltage transmission network that is the backbone of the region's electricity system," said Terry Grove of Great River Energy, a co-leader of the CapX 2020 effort. "Additionally, the lines will strengthen the network so that more wind energy resources can be developed in southern and western Minnesota and eastern North Dakota and South Dakota."

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission must approve two main applications before the lines can be built. The first application, filed on Aug. 16 and available at [www.capx2020.com](http://www.capx2020.com), asks the Commission to determine the lines are needed. The second, a route permit application, will be filed in mid-2008. Both applications require a rigorous public regulatory process and each takes approximately 18 months to complete.

Utilities involved in the CapX 2020 proposals will work with landowners, local government officials and interested parties to determine the best locations for the lines and use that information in developing the route permit applications. Significant public input is built into the regulatory process, including public meetings and hearings, on both need and routing decisions.

Along with Great River Energy, Elk River, Minn., and Xcel Energy, Minneapolis, utilities or groups that expect to participate in one or more of the CapX 2020 projects are: Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, Blue Earth, Minn.; Dairyland Power Cooperative, La Crosse, Wis.; Minnesota Power, Duluth, Minn.; Minnkota Power Cooperative, Grand Forks, N.D.; Missouri River Energy Services, Sioux Falls,

S.D.; Otter Tail Power Company, Fergus Falls, Minn.; Rochester Public Utilities, Rochester, Minn.; Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, Rochester, Minn., and Wisconsin Public Power Inc., Sun Prairie, Wis.

The dates and locations for open houses in the Brookings-Twin Cities study corridor are:

- Monday, Sept. 10, 3-7 p.m., Wind Energy Center, Hendricks, Minn.
- Tuesday, Sept. 11, 9 a.m.-noon and 3-7 p.m., Prairie Events Center, Marshall, Minn., coordinated with the Biennial Transmission Planning meeting ([www.minnelectrans.com](http://www.minnelectrans.com))
- Wednesday, Sept. 12, 3-7 p.m., Kilowatt Community Center, Granite Falls, Minn.
- Thursday, Sept. 13, 9 a.m.-noon and 3-7 p.m., Max's Grill, Olivia, Minn., coordinated with the Biennial Transmission Planning meeting ([www.minnelectrans.com](http://www.minnelectrans.com))
- Tuesday, Sept. 18, 3-7 p.m., Redwood Area Community Center, Redwood Falls, Minn.
- Wednesday, Sept. 19, 9 a.m.-noon and 3-7 p.m., Arlington Community Center, Arlington, Minn.
- Thursday, Sept. 20, 3-7 p.m., Pla-Mor Ballroom, Glencoe, Minn.
- Tuesday, Sept. 25, 3-7 p.m., Park Ballroom, New Prague, Minn.
- Wednesday, Sept. 26, 9 a.m.-noon and 3-7 p.m., Archer House, Northfield, Minn.
- Thursday, Sept. 27, 3-7 p.m., Holiday Inn, Lakeville, Minn.

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