

PUBLIC FORUM

across the country to hunt there. We would like to support more strict regulation on wetlands.

Thank you for your time; we appreciate it.

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Claire Schweer

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Marshall High School

CapX economically driven

To the editor:

Marshall area residents have been very active in opposing CapX 2020 transmission by participating at hearings and commenting on environmental review, but the project has steamrolled forward, hardly a bump in CapX 2020's path.

Now for an interesting twist — CapX 2020 and Xcel have filed notice that the Brookings (S.D.) to Hampton transmission line is delayed by over one year! They claim it will take time to establish cost-apportionment.

Just last month, the PUC denied Xcel's cost recovery for construction work in progress, \$1.9 million of a \$2 billion project. Xcel has asked the PUC for "clarification" and whether they should continue already slowed work, delay or cease work.

CapX and Xcel's stunning admission of delay was timed just prior to the PUC's decision whether to issue a route permit for Brookings. NoCapX 2020 and U-CAN, intervenors in the Certificate of Need and Brookings-Hampton routing dockets, quickly filed Motions to Suspend the Proceedings in both Brookings-Hampton and Hampton-Alma/LaCrosse routing dockets. We filed in both because they're physically and electrically connected at Hampton, and if one is delayed or "ceased," both should be.

If Xcel is delaying Brookings over \$1.9 million rate recovery, about 1 percent of CapX Phase I cost, why? Meanwhile, the project is delayed and the lights aren't going out. Plus Xcel peak demand has dropped over 15 percent since its 2006 peak.

What this proves is that CapX 2020 is not about electricity or reliability. Their delay proves it's economically driven — there is no local load need, and without Big Stone II interconnecting, there's no big generator to pay for it.

This is important news. You can follow this at www.nocapx2020.info. NoCapX greatly appreciates all that the Marshall area landowners have done thus far. It's not over yet!
Carol A. Overland
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United Citizen Action Network