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### **South Dakota Facility Permit application filed for CapX2020 Brookings County-Hampton 345 kV transmission line project**

Minneapolis—November 23, 2010—The CapX2020 utilities announced today they filed an application with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (SD PUC) for a Facility Permit for the South Dakota portion of the Brookings County-Hampton 345-kV transmission line. The 11-mile segment will begin at the Brookings County substation near White, South Dakota, and connect at the South Dakota/Minnesota border with the 240-mile Minnesota segment of the line. The Brookings County-Hampton project is designed to allow additional generation, particularly renewable energy, in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota to connect to the transmission system, while also helping ensure electric reliability in western and central Minnesota and the southern Twin Cities.

The South Dakota transmission line segment will predominantly follow local roads and field lines to the Minnesota border.

“We’ve worked with local officials and landowners in South Dakota for several years in preparation for this important filing,” said Dan Leshner, routing lead for the project. “The early outreach brought landowners into the process, and we continue to work with property owners during easement option process.”

A public hearing is expected to take place in early 2011 and will be presided over by the SD PUC. At that hearing, local officials and landowners can ask questions and provide comments about the project.

Project construction is expected to begin in 2013; the line will be energized in 2015.

The Facility Permit application, project maps and additional information are located at [www.CapX2020.com](http://www.CapX2020.com).

“The South Dakota Facility Permit application is another step forward in CapX2020’s multi-state transmission expansion effort in the Upper Midwest to provide affordable reliable electricity to

our customers and meet state renewable energy requirements,” said Terry Grove, co-executive director of CapX2020.

The majority of the Minnesota project was approved in July 2010 by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC), including the expansion or construction of several substations. The transmission line segment between the new Cedar Mountain and Helena substations is expected to be considered by the MN PUC in early 2011.

### **About CapX2020**

CapX2020 is a joint initiative of 11 transmission-owning utilities in Minnesota and the surrounding region to upgrade and expand the electric transmission grid to ensure continued reliable and affordable service. The CapX2020 Group 1 projects include four proposed 345 kV transmission lines and a proposed 230 kV line. It is the largest development of new transmission in the upper Midwest in 30 years. The projects are projected to cost nearly \$2 billion and cover a distance of more than 700 miles. The new infrastructure will provide a foundation for the region’s projected electric growth as well as connect into renewable energy sources in southern and western Minnesota and the Dakotas.

Along with Great River Energy, Maple Grove, Minn., and Xcel Energy, Minneapolis, utilities that expect to participate in one or more of the CapX2020 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 WPPI Energy, Sun Prairie, Wis.