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CapX2020 utilities file South Dakota regulatory permit application for transmission line project
Big Stone South-Brookings County 345 kilovolt transmission line

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – June 6, 2013 – Two CapX2020 utility partners and joint owners – Otter Tail Power Company and Xcel Energy – have filed a Facility Permit application with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission for the Big Stone South-Brookings County 345 kV transmission line project. The approximately 70-mile line would run between a new substation about three miles west of Big Stone City and the existing Brookings County Substation 12 miles east of Brookings.

The Facility Permit covers the southern 40-mile portion of the project from just north of Gary to the existing Brookings County Substation. The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission issued a Facility Permit in January 2007 for the northern segment of the planned line from just west of Big Stone City to just north of Gary.

“In developing the Facility Permit, CapX2020 hosted eight public open houses and participated in numerous briefings and meetings with local government officials, state and federal agencies, and other stakeholders,” said Joe Samuel, Xcel Energy project manager. “Filing a Facility Permit starts a very comprehensive state regulatory review process, during which the commission will host a public meeting in Brookings on July 31st to gather input.”

The project is one of 17 multi-value projects (MVPs), as approved by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) in December 2011. The MVPs will help expand and enhance the region’s transmission system, reduce congestion, provide access to affordable energy sources, as well as meet public policy requirements, including renewable energy mandates.

The targeted in-service date for the Big Stone South-Brookings County project is 2017. Visit www.capx2020.com to review the Facility Permit application, project maps, and additional information. A public meeting hosted by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission will be held on July 31, 2013, at 6:30 p.m. at the McCrory Gardens Education & Visitors Center (room 110 A-B), 631 22nd Ave., Brookings, S.D.

About CapX2020

CapX2020 is a joint initiative of 11 transmission-owning utilities in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin formed to upgrade and expand the electric transmission grid to ensure continued reliable and affordable service. The CapX2020 projects include four 345 kV transmission lines and a 230 kV line. This is the largest development of new transmission in the upper Midwest in nearly 40 years. The lines are projected to cost more than \$2 billion and cover a distance of nearly 800 miles.