

STATE OF MINNESOTA
BEFORE THE
MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

LeRoy Koppendrayer	Chair
Marshall Johnson	Commissioner
Kenneth Nickolai	Commissioner
Thomas Pugh	Commissioner
Phyllis Reha	Commissioner

IN THE MATTER OF A PETITION FOR A
CERTIFICATE OF NEED FOR 345 & 230
KILOVOLT TRANSMISSION FACILITIES

DOCKET No. E002/CN - 06-___

PROPOSED CERTIFICATE OF NEED NOTICE PLAN
CapX Brookings, S.D. to Southeast Twin Cities Line

Public Comments on this Notice Plan proposal can be submitted to
the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission until
4:30 PM June 29, 2006.

Replies to Comments can be submitted to the Minnesota Public
Utilities Commission until
4:30 PM July 19, 2006.

INTRODUCTION

Great River Energy submits this proposed notice plan for approval by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission pursuant to Minnesota Rules Part 7829.2550. Great River Energy and several other utilities intend to jointly file an application for a Certificate of Need for three new 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines and associated system interconnections in late 2006.

The three proposed 345 kV transmission lines that will be part of the Certificate of Need Application are:

CapX Brookings, S.D. - Southeast Twin Cities Line

An approximately 200-mile, 345 kV transmission line between Brookings, S.D., and the southeast Twin Cities; plus a related approximately 30-mile, 345 kV transmission line between Marshall, Minn., and Granite Falls, Minn.

CapX Fargo, N.D. - St. Cloud/Monticello Area Line

An approximately 200-mile, 345 kV transmission line between Fargo, N.D., and the St. Cloud/Monticello, Minn., area.

CapX Southeast Twin Cities-Rochester-LaCrosse, Wis. Line

An approximately 150-mile, 345 kV transmission line between the southeast Twin Cities, Rochester, Minn., and La Crosse, Wis.

The proposed transmission facilities are part of the utilities' planning effort known as CapX 2020 that identifies a comprehensive framework for new transmission infrastructure for Minnesota and neighboring states. These proposed transmission lines are the first CapX 2020-related projects to come out of a long-range planning study conducted by an alliance of transmission-owning cooperatives, municipals, and investor-owned utilities. A proposed 70-mile, 230 kV line to be constructed in the Bemidji area of north central Minnesota is also part of the CapX 2020 Group 1 projects. The Certificate of Need and other filings for that project are expected to be made separately, although it is possible that the project will be included in the filings for the other three Group 1 projects listed above. The CapX 2020 utilities came together to address transmission issues facing the state and region -- including an estimated increase in customer demand for electricity by as much as 6300 megawatts by 2020. Additional information about the CapX 2020 planning effort is available at the group's website: www.capx2020.com.

The first step in the regulatory process is to establish a Notice Plan to provide potentially interested people the opportunity to participate in the Certificate of Need proceeding. Because the three proposed lines affect distinctly different parts of the state, a separate notice plan proposal will be filed for each. This filing is the proposed notice plan for the CapX Brookings, S.D., to southeast Twin Cities Line. Notice plans for the remaining 345 kV lines will be filed later in June and July 2006.

The CapX Brookings, S.D., to southeast Twin Cities proposal, the subject of this notice plan, is a 345 kV transmission line between the Brookings County Substation near Brookings, S.D., and a new substation in the southeastern quadrant of the Twin Cities area, plus a 345 kV transmission line between Marshall and the Granite Falls area. Alternatively, a portion of the proposal could follow an existing 230 kV line corridor between Granite Falls and near New Prague, Minn. The proposed notice corridors are shown in Figure 1. Parts of the new transmission infrastructure may be

located in the following Minnesota counties: Brown, Carver, Chippewa, Dakota, Le Sueur, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Redwood, Renville, Rice, Scott, Sibley and Yellow Medicine.

The proposal includes the following connections to the existing transmission system:

- Brookings County Substation near Brookings, S.D.
- Lyon County Substation near Marshall, Minn.
- A new substation (Hazel Run) near Granite Falls, Minn.
- A 230 kV line from Hazel Run to Minnesota Valley Substation on the east side of Granite Falls.
- Franklin Substation or a new substation in the Franklin area.
- A new substation (Union Hill), west of New Prague, to connect with the existing Twin Cities to Mankato 345 kV line.
- Lake Marion Substation or a new substation further south in the Interstate 35 corridor to connect to an existing 115 kV line.
- A new substation (Hampton Corner) to connect the line to an existing 345 kV line northeast of Hampton.

NOTICE PLAN PROPOSAL

At this early stage in the regulatory process, detailed analysis of routing alternatives for the proposed CapX Brookings, S.D. to southeast Twin Cities transmission lines and sites for the new substations has not been completed. However, broad corridors, one or two townships wide, within which Great River Energy estimates the proposed transmission lines may be located, have been identified. Great River Energy proposes to provide notice to rural residents throughout the corridors shown in Figure 1.

The notice plan consists of four parts:

- Direct mail notice to rural landowners with property in the notice corridors;
- Direct mail notice to others with rural mailing addresses within the notice corridors;
- Direct mail notice to tribal governments and local units of government with part of their jurisdiction within the notice corridors; and
- General notice by publishing ads in local papers serving parts of the notice corridors.

Examples of the notice material Great River Energy plans to provide are included.

A. Direct Mail Notice to Landowners

Minnesota Rules Part 7829.2550, Subpart 3(A) requires applicants to provide direct mail notice to all landowners reasonably likely to be affected by the proposed transmission lines. Great River Energy intends to gather rural landowner names and addresses from tax records of the counties that the notice corridors cross. The primary notice corridor is 6 to 12 miles wide, approximately 200 miles long, and encompasses over 1800 square miles of land area. The notice corridor along the existing 230 kV line is approximately four miles wide.

B. Direct Mail Notice to Mailing Addresses

Minnesota Rules Part 7829.2550, Subpart 3(B) requires applicants to provide a direct mail notice to all mailing addresses in the area reasonably likely to be affected by the proposed transmission lines. Great River Energy intends to provide notice to all rural mailing addresses in the notice corridors depicted on our maps, relying on mailing lists available from the post office and/or from bulk mailing firms. The lists generated in A and B will be merged so that both landowners and other residents throughout the corridors are notified to the best of our ability.

Looking at the geography of the area, it is unlikely that the line would be routed through incorporated places. Because Subpart 3(A) and 3(B) of the notice rules were established to give those who may be directly affected the opportunity to get involved early in the regulatory process, direct mail notice to those living within incorporated cities within the notice corridors is not proposed. However, those living in cities will receive notice through local newspapers. Local officials in those communities will receive notice and community officials will be invited to sponsor public information meetings.

C. Direct Mail Notice to Tribal and Local Governments

Minnesota Rules Part 7829.2550, Subpart 3(C) requires applicants to provide direct mail notice to tribal governments and to the governments of towns, statutory cities, home rule charter cities, and counties whose jurisdictions are reasonably likely to be affected by the proposed transmission line. Great River Energy will provide direct mail notice to the Lower Sioux Indian Community and the following local governments:

HAMPTON CORNER - LAKE MARION - UNION HILL

County	Townships	Cities
Dakota	Vermillion	Hampton
	Empire	Farmington
	Hampton	Lakeville
	Castle Rock	
	Waterford	
	Greenvale	
	Eureka	
Scott	New Market	New Market
	Cedar Lake	New Prague
	Helena	
Rice	Belle Plaine	
	Webster	Northfield
	Wheatland	Lonsdale
	Northfield	
Le Sueur	Bridgewater	
	Lanesburg	
	Derrynane	

UNION HILL - FRANKLIN

County	Townships	Cities
Le Sueur	Tyrone	LeSueur
	Derrynane	
Scott	Blakely	Blakeley
	Belle Plaine	Belle Plaine
	Helena	
	Cedar Lake	
	New Market	
Sibley	Jessenland	Henderson
	Henderson	Arlington
	Arlington	Gaylord
	Kelso	Winthrop
	Dryden	Gibbon
	Sibley	
	Transit	
	Alfsborg	
	Cornish	
	Bismarck	
	Moltke	
Severance		
Renville	Cairo	Fairfax
	Wellington	Franklin
	Camp	
	Bandon	
	Birch Cooley	
Brown	Eden	
Redwood	Sherman	

FRANKLIN - LYON COUNTY

County	Townships	Cities
Renville	Bandon Camp Birch Cooley	Franklin
Brown Redwood	Eden Sherman Paxton Redwood Falls Sheridan Vesta Underwood	Redwood Falls Vesta
Lyon	Stanley	Marshall

LYON COUNTY - BROOKINGS COUNTY

County	Townships	Cities
Lyon	Stanley Clifton Lake Marshall Lynd Island Lake Nordland Grandview Fairview Lucas	Marshall Lynd
Lincoln	Lake Stay Ash Lake Shaokatan Hendricks Royal Limestone	Arco Ivanhoe

LYON COUNTY - HAZEL RUN - MINNESOTA VALLEY

County	Townships	Cities
Lyon	Stanley Lucas	Marshall Cottonwood
Yellow Medicine	Sandnes Posen Wood Lake Hazel Run Minnesota Falls	Wood Lake Hanley Falls
Chippewa	Granite Falls	Granite Falls

ALTERNATE GRANITE FALLS – TWIN CITIES CORRIDOR

County	Townships	Cities
Chippewa Renville	Granite Falls	
	Wang	Sacred Heart
	Hawk Creek	Renville
	Ericson	Danube
	Sacred Heart	Olivia
	Crooks	Bird Island
	Winfield	
	Emmet	
	Troy	
	Kingman	
	Bird Island	
	Osceola	
	Melville	
	Brookfield	
	Hector	
	Boon Lake	
	Preston Lake	
McLeod	Lynn	Hutchinson
	Collins	Glencoe
	Hassan Valley	Plato
	Sumter	
	Rich Valley	
	Glencoe	
	Bergen	
	Helen	
Carver	Camden	Waconia
	Young America	Benton
	Waconia	Norwood Young America
	Benton	
	Laketown	
	Dahlgren	
	Hancock	
	San Francisco	
Sibley	Washington Lake	Green Isle
	Faxon	
Scott	St. Lawrence	Jordan

D. Newspaper Notice

Minnesota Rules Part 7829.2550, Subpart 3(D) requires that applicants publish notice in newspapers to members of the public in areas reasonably likely to be affected by the transmission lines.

Great River Energy proposes to place notice advertisements in the following newspapers:

Minneapolis, Star Tribune
425 Portland Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55488-0001
Phone: 612-673-4000 - Fax: 612-673-7788
www.startribune.com

Saint Paul Pioneer Press
345 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55101-1057
Phone: 651-222-5011 Fax: 651-225-5500
sengelhart@pioneerpress.com
www.twincities.com

BROWN COUNTY

New Ulm, The Journal
303 North Minnesota - Box 487
New Ulm, MN 56073-0487
Phone: 507-359-2911 - Fax: 507-359-7362
comp@nujournal.com - advertising
news@nujournal.com - new
editor@nujournal.com - editor
www.nujournal.com

LINCOLN COUNTY

Hendricks Pioneer
100 South Main Street - Box 5
Hendricks, MN 56136-0005
Phone: 507-275-3197 - Fax: 507-275-3108
journal@itctel.com
www.hendrickspioneer.com

DAKOTA COUNTY

Farmington Independent
312 Oak Street - PO Box 192
Farmington, MN 55024-0192
Phone: 651-460-6606 - Fax: 651-463-7730
enews@farmingtonindependent.com
www.farmingtonindependent.com

Ivanhoe Times

315 North Norman - Box 100
Ivanhoe, MN 56142-0100
Phone: 507-694-1246 - Fax: 507-694-1246
luminamin@vahoo.com
www.ivanhoetimes-freesevers.com

LE SUEUR COUNTY

Le Sueur News-Herald
101 Bridge Street
Le Sueur, MN 56058-1801
Phone: 507-665-3332 - Fax: 507-665-3334
shill@lesueurnews-herald.com
www.lesueurnews-herald.com

Montgomery Messenger

310-1st Street South - Box 49
Montgomery, MN 56069-0049
Phone: 507-364-8601 - Fax: 507-364-8602
mpaper@frontiernet.net

LYON COUNTY

Balaton Press Tribune
 220 Central Avenue South - Box 310
 Balaton, MN 56115-0310
 Phone: 507-734-5421 - Fax: 507-734-5457
balapub@hotmail.com

Cottonwood Tri-County News
 74 West Main - Box 76
 Cottonwood, MN 56229-0076
 Phone: 507-423-5664 - Fax: 507-423-6230
ccedit@mvtvwireless.com

Marshall Independent
 508 West Main - Box 411
 Marshall, MN 56258-0411
 Phone: 507-537-1551 - Fax: 507-537-1557
adcomp@marshallindependent.com
www.marshallindependent.com

MURRAY COUNTY

Fulda Free Press
 118 North St. Paul Avenue - Box 439
 Fulda, MN 56131-0439
 Phone: 507-425-2303 - Fax: 507-425-2501
ffpads@prairie.lakes.com
www.fuldafreepress.com

Slayton, Murray County News
 2627 Broadway Avenue PO Box 288
 Slayton, MN 56172-0288
 Phone: 507-836-8929 Fax: 507-836-6162
mcnews@frontiernet.net
www.murraycountynews.net

Slayton, Murray County Wheel-Herald
 2734 Broadway Box 263
 Slayton, MN 56172-0263
 Phone: 507-836-8726 Fax: 507-836-8942
thewheel@rconnect.com

NOBLES COUNTY

Worthington, Daily Globe
 300-11th Street Box 639
 Worthington, MN 56187-0639
 Phone: 507-376-9711 Fax: 507-376-5202
dgadvertisers@d globe.com
www.dglobe.com

REDWOOD COUNTY

Morgan Messenger
 503-2nd West Street - Box 38
 Morgan, MN 56266-0038
 Phone: 507-249-3130 - Fax: 507-249-3131
morganmess@yahoo.com

Redwood Falls, Redwood Gazette
 219 South Washington Box 299
 Redwood Falls, MN 56283-0299
 Phone: 507-637-2929 Fax: 507-637-2128
pat@redwoodfallsgazette.com
www.redwoodfalls.townnews.com

Wabasso Standard
 715 West Main Box 70
 Wabasso, MN 56293-0070
 Phone: 507-342-5143 Fax: 507-342-5144
wabnews@redred.com

RENVILLE COUNTY

Fairfax Standard-Gazette
 102 SE First Street - PO Box 589
 Fairfax, MN 55332-0589
 Phone: 507-426-7235 - Fax: 507-426-7264
standard@prairie.lakes.com

RICE COUNTY

Northfield News
 115 West 5th Street - Box 58
 Northfield, MN 55057-0058
 Phone: 507-645-5615 - Fax: 507-645-6005
editor@northfieldnews.com
www.northfieldnews.com

SCOTT COUNTY

Belle Plaine Herald
 113 East Main - PO Box 7
 Belle Plaine, MN 56011-0007
 Phone: 952-873-2261 - Fax: 952-873-2262

The New Prague Times
 200 East Main Street-PO Box 25
 New Prague, MN 56071-0025
 Phone: 952-758-4435 - Fax: 952-758-4135
ads@newpraguetimes.com
news@newpraguetimes.com
www.newpraguetimes.com

SIBLEY COUNTY

Arlington Enterprise
402 West Alden - PO Box 388
Arlington, MN 55307-0388
Phone: 507-964-5547 - Fax: 507-964-5547

The Gaylord Hub
234 Fourth Street - PO Box 208
Gaylord, MN 55334-0208
Phone: 507-237-2476 - Fax: 507-237-2476
hubpub@mnbc.net

Henderson Independent
407 Main Street - Box 8
Henderson, MN 56044-0008
Phone: 507-248-3223 - Fax: 507-248-3611

Winthrop News
110 North Carver Box L
Winthrop, MN 55396-0478
Phone: 507-647-5357 Fax: 507-647-5358
winnews@means.net

YELLOW MEDICINE COUNTY

Granite Falls/Clarkfield Advocate-Tribune
713 Prentice Street - Box 99
Granite Falls, MN 56241-0099
Phone: 320-564-2126 - Fax: 320-564-4293
douglass@mvtvwireless.com
www.granitefallsnews.com

South Dakota

The Argus Leader
200 S. Minnesota
P.O. Box 5034
Sioux Falls, SD 57117-5034
Phone: (605) 331-2200 Fax: (605) 331-2294
editor@argusleader.com
www.argusleader.com

Brookings Register
312 Fifth Street
P.O. Box 177
Brookings, SD 57006-0177
Phone: (605) 692-6271 Fax: (605) 692-3175
registeradvertising@brookingsregister.com
www.brookingsregister.com

E. Notice Content

Minnesota Rules Part 7829.2550, Subpart 4, requires that notices include several pieces of information. The notice materials have been designed to provide the information needed to introduce our proposal and facilitate further involvement. Draft direct mail notice letters and newspaper ad copy are attached. An overall map of the CapX Brookings, S.D., to southeast Twin Cities Project and a more detailed map of the area in the vicinity of the recipients will be provided with each notice letter (see enclosed examples).

The notice plan proposes distribution of letters to landowners with property and other residents in a broad corridor, which is necessary because routing work has not yet been done to identify specific routing proposals. Most of those receiving correspondence will, in the end, not be directly affected should the Commission authorize construction. Great River Energy believes it is important to put this early stage in the regulatory process in perspective for recipients and have attempted to do so in the drafts.

F. Distribution of Notice Plan Filing

As required in Minnesota Rules Part 7829.2550, Subpart 1, copies of this notice plan filing have been provided to the Department of Commerce, the Residential and Small Business Division of the Office of the Attorney General, and those on the general List of Persons Interested in Power Plants and Transmission Lines, now administered at the Department of Commerce. In addition, copies have been provided to the Lower Sioux Indian Community and each county in the notice corridors.

CONCLUSION

Great River Energy respectfully requests the Commission approve this proposed notice plan in preparation for a Certificate of Need Application that will include this CapX 345 kV Brookings, S.D., to southeast Twin Cities Line and two other CapX 345 kV transmission lines.

Dated: 9 June 2006

Respectfully submitted,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY