FACT SHEET

August 2013 | MVP line

Big Stone South to Brookings | South Dakota

Transmission line project information

*This transmission line is one of 17 Midwestern projects **designed to help bring more renewable energy onto the grid,** while also **increasing service reliability** to our homes and businesses. The line will help South Dakota **capitalize on valuable wind resources,** creating **jobs and revenue for rural landowners and communities,** and continue to build a cleaner and healthier energy future.*

After a line is planned, siting is the next step

Siting is a process overseen by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission, during which project routes are considered and stakeholders have the opportunity to give input. A route specifies exactly where a line will be constructed within a proposed corridor (the general linear area the line will traverse), outlined by regional planning process (see over).

Project location and developer details *(see Figure 1)*

There are two line segments for this project:

Permitted segment: In 2007 the SD Public Utilities Commission issued the necessary permit to Otter Tail Power for the first 35 (approx.) of the 70 project line miles.

Unpermitted (new) segment: CapX2020, on behalf of Xcel Energy, will develop this portion of the line. Xcel filed a route permit on June 4, 2013 (docket EL13-020.) for the remaining 43 miles (approx.)

Transmission development process overview

- The SD Public Utilities Commission is responsible for granting the Facility Permit, the one state permit needed to begin line construction.
- Under South Dakota law, an application/project will automatically receive its Facility Permit if the SD Public Utilities Commission has not made a decision within twelve months of the filing of the route permit.
- South Dakota law requires that at least one public hearing and that the date of the hearing be published on the SD Public Utilities Commission website and in local newspapers at least 30 days in advance.

Getting Involved

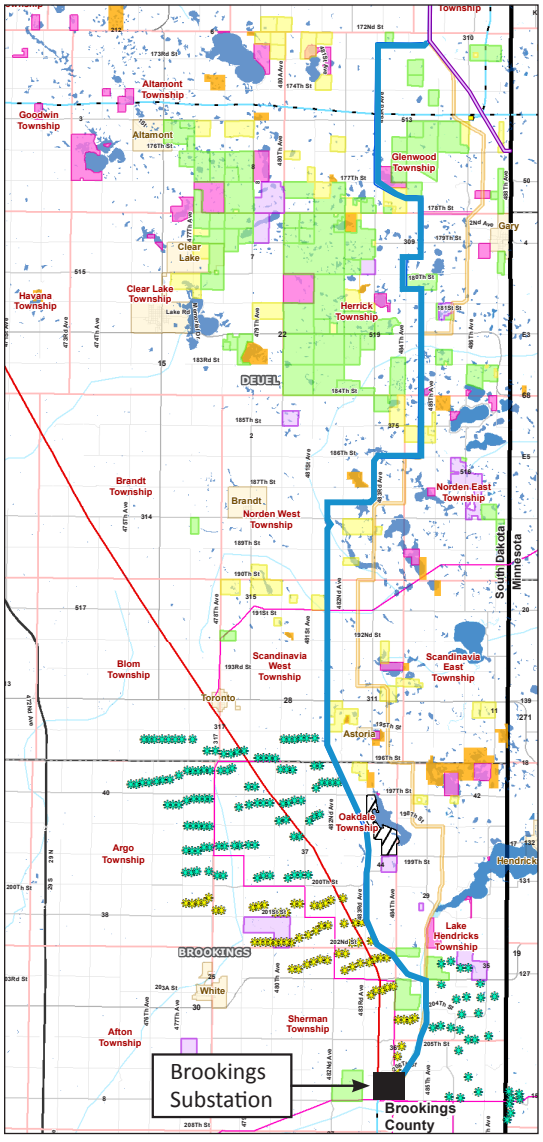
Developers have held open house meetings with the local public. Beyond this, there will be opportunities to engage in public hearings and public comment period, as well as communicate with a developer directly if your land will be directly affected. A public comment period has been announced on the PUC website. The PUC must hold at least one open hearing to receive public input about project siting. One was held on July 2nd, 2013, but more than one will likely be scheduled.
Public hearings are posted to the SD Public Utilities Commission website here: http://puc.sd.gov/Dockets/Electric/2013/el13-020.aspx

- **Submit public comments here**: http://puc.sd.gov/DocketFiling.aspx (reference docket number EL13-020)
- **Summer 2014**: Xcel anticipates application approval

Quick Facts

Connection: North of Gary, SD to NE Brookings Co., SD
Line length: 70 miles (approx.)
Line capacity: 345 kilovolts
Project owners/developers: Xcel Energy (primary), Otter Tail Power
Year in-service: Dec. 2017 (anticip.)

Figure 1. *Route Map* Proposed route for unpermitted segment (southern 43 miles of line)



Why new transmission in the upper Midwest?

The Midwest has some of the nation's richest wind resources along with significant solar potential. In the last 10 years Iowa and Minnesota have become the number two and number four producers of wind electricity in the U.S., with both South and North Dakota also ranking high on the list.

However, the growth of this rural-based wind industry is hindered by **insufficient capacity of our current transmission system**, preventing wind from powering homes and businesses. Additionally, the existing grid, that was designed to bring electricity from large generator facilities, is not built to support the large quantities of geographically diverse clean, **renewable energy shaping our new energy economy**.

Few large transmission lines have been constructed in the Midwest since the 1970s and 1980s. Costing hundreds of millions of dollars, it is necessary that transmission planning and siting balance a number of important issues: reliability, state renewable energy standards and goals, proximity to areas rich with renewable energy potential, impact to local lands. **Clean energy development is important – to creating jobs, to our communities and to protecting our air and water.** The 17 projects MISO, the regional grid operator, designated as Multi-Value Project lines, are intended to bring the greatest value to each state and regional expansion of renewables at the lowest cost. **Now, through local siting stakeholder engagement, local concerns must be balanced to determine an acceptable final route**.

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The Benefits of Transmission Line Development

Thoughtful and informed transmission line siting that engages all stakeholders can provide the Midwest with grid updates that are a smart investment for future generations, while also providing substantial benefits to rural communities, and the environment.

Landowners

- Leasing small portions of land to wind developers offers landowners and farmers hundreds or thousands of dollars each month in potential revenue that would otherwise go unrealized.

Job creation

- Clean energy jobs, like construction and manufacturing, will be created across the Midwest, using our already strong Midwest supply chain to strengthen local economies.

Rural communities

- Rural communities will have tremendous economic growth opportunities. Direct and indirect benefits will be brought to communities through tax revenue, investments, and job growth that will help grow local resources and amenities, retaining and/or growing populations that have been diminishing over the last 25 years.

Protecting our air and water

- Connecting more renewable energy sources to the grid will alleviate the need to build more large fossil fuel facilities. This will help mitigate rising costs associated with the impacts of climate change, including health care and insurance costs. In parallel, it will reduce pollution in our air and water.

Lowering customer bills

- Developing more renewable energy will help keep future costs of electricity lower, maintaining the Midwest competitive edge in low electricity rates.

Clean energy transmission lines

Transmission lines have long been associated with carrying dirty power, such as that being generated by coal plants. Although not all transmission projects are designed as clean transmission lines, this project is designed to enable more renewable energy sources, like wind, to power homes and businesses. Though energy efficiency is an important part of meeting our energy needs, these lines are needed to bring clean, renewable energy to where it's needed, as well as provide reliability benefits and reduce electricity costs.

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