

Reliability CapX 2020

While electric consumption has doubled since 1980, few transmission lines have been built during the past 25 years. CapX 2020 (Capacity Expansion by 2020) is a joint initiative of transmission-owning electric utilities serving Minnesota, North Dakota and the surrounding region formed to expand the electric transmission grid to ensure electric reliability for years to come. The project began as a collaborative planning effort by the utilities (including cooperatives, municipal utilities and investor-owned utilities) to assess the current system and project the growth in customer demand for electricity through 2020.

This summer CapX 2020 utilities are entering into the regulatory and implementation phase of the project. They will begin seeking regulatory approval for approximately 600 miles of 345 kilovolt lines in Minnesota with short segments in North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Regulatory filings for a smaller, 230 kilovolt line in north-central Minnesota also are planned.

One of the first projects being proposed is a 345-kV transmission line between Fargo, North Dakota and Monticello, Minnesota. This line will strengthen service reliability to the Red River Valley, the North Central Minnesota area around Alexandria, and the St. Cloud area. It will also support the development of new power generation including the expansion of wind energy in the region. The line will be connected to the existing electrical system at Alexandria and on the west side of St. Cloud.

Regulatory approvals will be required from state agencies in Minnesota and North Dakota before it can be built. Landowners, residents and local governments in areas where the new lines are being proposed will be provided information about the project and encouraged to participate in the regulatory process.

Planning, regulatory approvals, and construction of the CapX2020 project will continue to unfold over the next decade.

More information is available at: www.capx2020.com.