

**Appendix G**  
**Agency Coordination**

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## Brookings County – Hampton 345 kV Project

### CapX2020 Brookings Project Meeting

February 23, 2010

10:00 AM

USFWS Office  
520 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave North  
Brookings, SD 57006

#### Meeting Participants

##### **South Dakota Agency Representatives:**

Kurt Forman, Private Lands Coordinator, [kurt\\_forman@fws.com](mailto:kurt_forman@fws.com)

Robert Hill, Brookings County Zoning, [rhill@brookingscountysd.gov](mailto:rhill@brookingscountysd.gov)

Larry Jensen, Brookings County Highway, [LJensen@brookingscountysd.gov](mailto:LJensen@brookingscountysd.gov)

##### **CapX2020 Brookings – Hampton Project Representatives:**

Dan Leshner, Great River Energy, Routing Lead, [dlesher@GREnergy.com](mailto:dlesher@GREnergy.com)

Carole Schmidt, Great River Energy Permitting Supervisor, [cschmidt@GREnergy.com](mailto:cschmidt@GREnergy.com)

Angela Piner, HDR Project Manager, [angela.piner@hdrinc.com](mailto:angela.piner@hdrinc.com)

Emily Siedschlag, HDR Environmental Scientist, [emily.siedschlag@hdrinc.com](mailto:emily.siedschlag@hdrinc.com)

#### **Meeting Notes –**

Dan Leshner provided an update of the Minnesota State Routing Process. Great River Energy (GRE) submitted a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission on December 29, 2008. The Minnesota Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security (OES) then developed an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to determine a decision. The OES held public hearings following the application submittal. The Final EIS was published on January 26, 2010. GRE anticipates a final decision on a route in Minnesota in July 2010.

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areas greater than 1,000 ft. The transmission line will be single-circuit and capable for double-circuit if needed later.

Brookings County staff supports the Brookings to Hampton Project. Brookings County staff received letters from landowners that live along one of the route options. GRE stated that SD Preferred Route A runs along the backside of the landowner's property instead of along the road near their homes (SD Preferred Route B) which may make SD Preferred Route A the better option. This route option follows a minimum maintenance road. Brookings County staff stated that following the minimum maintenance road would be handled at the township level and not at the County level. The township may require gravel to be laid for construction access. Typically, roads cannot be closed for construction. Also, the township board meets the first week in March. Brookings County suggested meeting with the Commissioner Board to provide a project update.

Brookings County staff mentioned Iberdrola has proposed additional wind projects in the area and suggested GRE and HDR meet with them to discuss future projects. Brookings County staff is hearing concerns regarding telephone interference caused by wind turbines and the associated transmission lines in the area. GRE and HDR should be prepared to address these issues with the public along with EMF. HDR staff mentioned that some of the transmission lines in the area are currently being updated which should minimize interference.

During the meeting Brookings County and USFWS identified existing facilities within the project area including:

- Rural Water on 207<sup>th</sup> Street
- Basin own pump at the intersection of 484<sup>th</sup> and 207<sup>th</sup>
- School house at northeast corner of 207<sup>th</sup> Street

The USFWS staff requested an updated GIS shapefile of the route options. Brookings USFWS staff will work with the Madison USFWS Field Office and NRCS to identify resources, easements, and Farm Service Agency (FSA) lands within the project area. HDR staff will provide a shapefile of the route options to USFWS. USFWS staff stated that there are no public lands that they own along the route options. There is a potential for USFWS easements to be located within sections 27 and 28 which are located adjacent to the route options. Overall, USFWS did not see major issues with the route options.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM



**Brookings County – Hampton 345 kV Project**

**South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Staff and CapX2020 Brookings Project Meeting**

**February 22, 2010**

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501  
605-773-3201

**Meeting Participants**

**Public Utilities Commission Representatives**

Nathan Solem, PUC  
Patty Van Gerpen, PUC

**CapX2020 Brookings – Hampton Project Representatives**

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PUC staff stated that they do not typically review a draft application, but staff is available to answer questions while developing the permit application. PUC staff reminded the project team to address everything in the SD statute if it is applicable or not. PUC staff also recommended reviewing online transmission project permit applications as a guide.

The Basin Project is located near the proposed SD route options and should be approved within the next few months at the state level. PUC staff recommended that GRE and HDR coordinate with Basin. The docket numbers for the Basin Project are EL09-015 (Plant) and HP09-002 (Pipeline)

PUC staff has heard informal discussion regarding the Project from the Lake Hendricks community. This community is normally concerned about environmental impacts and aesthetics. Also, within the project area landowners usually have concerns regarding tree removal for construction of transmission lines and will likely request replanting.

GRE asked a question regarding obtaining 100% of the landowner options before the PUC application is filed. PUC said they have seen projects (especially pipelines) that do not have full landowner buy-in when the application is filed, but they proceed with the application process. The landowner concerns are handled in the courts and not the PUC process.

PUC staff asked if there would be any interveners for the SD portion of the project and at this point, GRE and HDR do not anticipate interveners in SD.

While reviewing the routes, PUC did not see any major issues with any of the route options.

PUC notified the project team that all applications are submitted electronically. PUC normally requires 10 copies of the application following the electronic filing. The applicant is required to do all mailings and newspaper notices for the Project.

Future PUC contact will be through Karen Cremer. The PUC project team has not been determined, but will likely be Brian Rounds, Nathan Solem, and Karen Cremer. PUC normally do not require support from the applicant for the public hearings following the application submittal.

Meeting adjourned at 9:33 AM



**Brookings County – Hampton 345 kV Project**

**South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Staff and  
CapX2020 Brookings County - Hampton Project Meeting  
March 9, 2009**

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501  
605-773-3201

**Meeting Participants**

**Public Utilities Commission Staff**

Karen Cremer, PUC, [Karen.Cremer@state.sd.us](mailto:Karen.Cremer@state.sd.us)

Bob Knadle, PUC

Tim Binder, PUC

Patty Van Gerpen, PUC

**CapX2020 Brookings County – Hampton Project Representatives**

Craig Poorker, Great River Energy Routing Lead, [cpoorker@GREnergy.com](mailto:cpoorker@GREnergy.com)

Carole Schmidt, Great River Energy Permitting Supervisor, [cschmidt@GREnergy.com](mailto:cschmidt@GREnergy.com)

Laureen L. Ross McCalib, CapX2020/Great River Energy, Manager Regional Transmission Regulation, [lrossmccalib@greenergy.com](mailto:lrossmccalib@greenergy.com)

Pam Rasmussen, Xcel Energy, Manager Siting and Land Rights, [pamela.jo.rasmussen@xcelenergy.com](mailto:pamela.jo.rasmussen@xcelenergy.com)

Mrg Simon, Missouri River Energy Services, Director Legal, [mrgsimon@mrenergy.com](mailto:mrgsimon@mrenergy.com)

Angela Piner, HDR Project Manager, [angela.piner@hdrinc.com](mailto:angela.piner@hdrinc.com)

Lisa Agrimonti, Briggs and Morgan, [lagrimonti@briggs.com](mailto:lagrimonti@briggs.com)

**Agenda**

1) Project Update

Certificate of Need Status – Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC)

Ms. Ross McCalib provided an overview of the status of the Certificate of Need proceedings. She stated that a decision is anticipated in the May/June timeframe. Mr. Knadle asked what environmental intervenors were involved in the Certificate of Need proceedings. Mr. Poorker and Ms. Ross McCalib noted that there were several environmental intervenors who joined together as the “Joint Intervenors” (The Joint Intervenors are Wind on the Wires, Izaak Walton League of America – Midwest Office, Fresh Energy, and Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy). They also noted that the Institute for Local Self Reliance/North American Water Office was also a party, as is Citizens Energy Task Force, the Midwest ISO and a group called NoCapX. Ms. Ross McCalib also described the “upsizing” proposal and Mr. Binder asked about the timing of installation of the second circuit. Ms. Ross McCalib stated that the line will be built capable of carrying a second circuit, and that the second

circuit would be strung when needed and after additional regulatory approvals are obtained.

#### Route Permit Application and Schedule – MPUC

Mr. Poorker provided the status of the Minnesota Route Permit Application and gave an overview of the public involvement efforts. He stated that Applicants hope to receive a route permit by January or February 2010. Mr. Knadle asked if CapX2020 contacted potentially affected South Dakota landowners. Applicants confirmed that representatives met with landowners in the notice area in June 2008 during an open house meeting in White, SD.

#### Review Preferred and Alternate Routes in Minnesota

Mr. Poorker gave a brief overview of the preferred and alternate routes in Minnesota. Mr. Knadle asked whether the routes were along the roads or cross country. Applicants advised that the majority of the routes followed roadways.

#### Brookings County Meetings

Mr. Poorker also provided an overview of the meetings with Brookings County. He said the meetings were very positive, and the county indicated support for the project.

### 2) Discussion of Timing and Projects in Vicinity

The group discussed the feeder lines and generation projects in the vicinity of the Brookings County Substation. In particular, PUC Staff identified several wind projects and a new combined cycle combustion turbine project proposed by Basin.

PUC Staff also stated they've heard that wind developers are trying to obtain easements that prohibit the installation of transmission facilities.

### 3) South Dakota Route Permit Application

PUC Staff routinely hears from the Commission that the Commission prefers to see easement options on the land needed for a project when the applicant applies for the permit. Also, plan and profile drawings indicating easements and pole locations are required as part of the settlement agreement. The settlement agreement takes the most time in the process, and the more information the Applicants can provide up front, the easier it is to get a permit. PUC Staff also noted the importance of gathering landowner information to be able to promptly file notice of hearing after filing--the PUC must hold a hearing within 60 days of filing and this timing can be tight. Ms. Cremer advised that Applicants should contact her regarding application filing dates and schedule several weeks prior to filing. Mr. Knadle suggested that an environmental assessment be completed prior to filing. He also suggested that such assessment include letters to/from local governments and relevant state and federal agencies.

Applicants questioned whether alternative routes could be proposed in an application. PUC Staff confirmed that an application must contain only one route proposal. PUC Staff also stated that the process is one year and if the route materially changes, the process starts over. They also reminded the Applicants to answer every question in the rules, even if the rule is not applicable.

Ms. Ross McCalib noted that the ultimate ownership of the Project has not been determined, but ownership is being discussed among the CapX participants. PUC Staff stated there is a transfer provision in South Dakota statute and the application could be amended later once final ownership is decided. .

#### Summary of Potential Issues

Once the application is filed, the applicants should be aware of the requirements of 49-41B-5.2 which requires landowners within ½ mile of the proposed route for the transmission line be notified within 30 days. There may also be a potential issue with schedule between the time of filing and the Commission hearing schedule. SDCL 49-41B-15 and 16 were also referenced.

PUC Staff asked whether the issue of a one time easement payment versus an annual payment comes up. Mr. Poorker and Ms. Rasmussen both commented that Minnesota law allows a 10-year payment structure, the agreed-upon payment spread out over 10 years at 8% interest, and on the Xcel Energy line in southwest Minnesota, several landowners elected that option.

PUC Staff recommended having environmental studies completed when the application is filed. They identified a potential issue with an airstrip south of the Brookings County Substation.

#### 4) Other Topics / Open Discussion

PUC Staff mentioned proposed legislation (likely to pass this legislative session) which would allow applicants seeking to construct transmission lines of 115 kV or lower voltage to permit the lines locally, or at the SD PUC, at the applicant's election.

PUC Staff requested to be notified when the next round of open house meetings is scheduled and to keep staff informed of issues raised by landowners.

Electronic filing of the application was discussed. The number of hard copies required is determined once the application is electronically filed. Additionally, no docket will be opened until the application is filed.

#### ACTION ITEMS

- Notify PUC Staff about open house meeting times and locations
- Send link to CapX2020 website pointing PUC Staff to the application and maps.
- Coordinate filing date and Commission hearing schedule with Ms. Cremer prior to filing.

**Brookings County – Hampton 345 kV Project****CapX2020 Brookings Project Meeting****February 22, 2010****1:00 PM**USFWS Office  
420 S. Garfield Ave, Suite 400  
Pierre, SD 57501  
605-224-8693**Meeting Participants****South Dakota Agency Representatives:**

Tom Lowin, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, [Thomas.A.Lowin@usace.army.mil](mailto:Thomas.A.Lowin@usace.army.mil)  
Nathan Morey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, [Nathan.M.Morey@usace.army.mil](mailto:Nathan.M.Morey@usace.army.mil)  
Charlene Bessken, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, [charlene\\_bessken@fws.gov](mailto:charlene_bessken@fws.gov)  
Scott Larson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, [scott\\_larson@fws.gov](mailto:scott_larson@fws.gov)  
Bill Smith, South Dakota Department of Agriculture, [Bill.Smith@state.sd.us](mailto:Bill.Smith@state.sd.us)  
Doug Backlund, South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Department, [Doug.Backlund@state.sd.us](mailto:Doug.Backlund@state.sd.us)  
John Miller, SD Department of Environment and Natural Resources, [John.Miller@state.sd.us](mailto:John.Miller@state.sd.us)  
Dave Hausmann, South Dakota Department of Transportation, [Dave.Hausmann@state.sd.us](mailto:Dave.Hausmann@state.sd.us)

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DNR staff asked GRE why there are northern route options in South Dakota (referring to the SD Preferred Route Options) instead of taking the south route option (referring to the SD Alternate Route Option) and then going north in Minnesota which would minimize impacts to South Dakota. GRE explained that the Minnesota PUC requires two distinct route options in the Route Permit Application. The two options in South Dakota connect to the two Minnesota route options. Also, through the Minnesota routing process, GRE and HDR determined that the northern route in Minnesota was the Preferred Route. GRE and HDR spent several months using data and assessing routes on the Minnesota portion of the project to determine the Minnesota Preferred and Alternate Routes. The Minnesota PUC will determine which route will be permitted for construction. DNR staff stated that the SD Alternate Route would have the least impacts from the DNR's perspective, but they have no big concerns for any of the routes.

DNR staff stated that it may be more cost effective to buy easements in South Dakota rather than Minnesota because of the difference in cost of land. GRE explained that land value is basically the same in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota. It will actually be more expensive in South Dakota because GRE will get land options on all routes prior to the submittal of the PUC Route Permit Application compared to in Minnesota where land options are obtained following the application process.

DNR staff stated there would be minimum impacts to stream crossings if there is no in-stream construction. Currently, GRE has not completed a detailed wetland assessment. Also, DNR staff suggested working with the rural water staff to coordinate pole placement.

USFWS staff stated that the conductor length should be sufficient to protect raptors. The USFWS will want take a look at the specifications of the poles, once complete. GRE to provide specs to Scott Larson, USFWS. Also, as long as construction is outside of streams the USFWS does not see any impacts to Topeka Shiners. There is a potential to find Western Prairie Fringed Orchids within the Project area, but they haven't been found in many years. The proposed routes are outside of the Whooping crane corridor. USFWS and DENR staff did not think there were any Bald eagle nests in the area. If staff locates any, they will notify GRE and HDR. USFWS staff stated that the habitat analysis surveys conducted in 2008 would be sufficient for the permit application as long as surveys are conducted prior to construction.

DOA staff preferred SD Preferred Route A and B since they have will have the least impacts to agricultural lands. Preferred Route A is the most preferred if GRE has landowner buy-in.

GRE explained the 45-degree angles will reduce impact to agricultural lands by minimizing large 90-degree angle corner structures in the fields. DOA staff visited with local landowners and the biggest concerns was with SD Preferred Route B. There is one family that owns the majority of the land along that route. DOA staff suggested working with the state office in Huron to identify wetland reserve easements and grassland reserve contacts. Also, the state loan officer can provide information regarding FSA lands.

There is a walk-in area located north of the proposed routes near Lake Hendricks. DENR staff does not anticipate any issues with walk-in areas.

A question was asked regarding the clearance of the line sag to the ground. GRE stated that the bottom of the sag will be no lower than 30 feet from the ground at the highest load.

DOA staff asked about the impacts of stray voltage. GRE and HDR responded that stray voltage becomes a greater concern with distribution lines rather than high-voltage lines. Largest concerns of stray voltage occur with hog and dairy cow confinements. If stray voltage becomes an issue, GRE can test for stray voltage and mitigated as needed.

SDDOT staff requested consultation once a SD route is determined. SDDOT will review plans to identify if there are future plans to widen Highway 30. If needed, road crossing permits are handled at the local level.

Consultation with USACE should be through Carolyn Kutz.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM



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Brookings, SD 57006

**Meeting Participants**

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Robert Hill, Brookings County Zoning, [rhill@brookingscountysd.gov](mailto:rhill@brookingscountysd.gov)  
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areas greater than 1,000 ft. The transmission line will be single-circuit and capable for double-circuit if needed later.

Brookings County staff supports the Brookings to Hampton Project. Brookings County staff received letters from landowners that live along one of the route options. GRE stated that SD Preferred Route A runs along the backside of the landowner's property instead of along the road near their homes (SD Preferred Route B) which may make SD Preferred Route A the better option. This route option follows a minimum maintenance road. Brookings County staff stated that following the minimum maintenance road would be handled at the township level and not at the County level. The township may require gravel to be laid for construction access. Typically, roads cannot be closed for construction. Also, the township board meets the first week in March. Brookings County suggested meeting with the Commissioner Board to provide a project update.

Brookings County staff mentioned Iberdrola has proposed additional wind projects in the area and suggested GRE and HDR meet with them to discuss future projects. Brookings County staff is hearing concerns regarding telephone interference caused by wind turbines and the associated transmission lines in the area. GRE and HDR should be prepared to address these issues with the public along with EMF. HDR staff mentioned that some of the transmission lines in the area are currently being updated which should minimize interference.

During the meeting Brookings County and USFWS identified existing facilities within the project area including:

- Rural Water on 207<sup>th</sup> Street
- Basin own pump at the intersection of 484<sup>th</sup> and 207<sup>th</sup>
- School house at northeast corner of 207<sup>th</sup> Street

The USFWS staff requested an updated GIS shapefile of the route options. Brookings USFWS staff will work with the Madison USFWS Field Office and NRCS to identify resources, easements, and Farm Service Agency (FSA) lands within the project area. HDR staff will provide a shapefile of the route options to USFWS. USFWS staff stated that there are no public lands that they own along the route options. There is a potential for USFWS easements to be located within sections 27 and 28 which are located adjacent to the route options. Overall, USFWS did not see major issues with the route options.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM

BROOKINGS COUNTY ZONING DIRECTOR

1921 Building  
601 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 105  
BROOKINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA 57006

ROBERT W. HILL  
TELEPHONE (605) 696-8350  
FAX (605) 696-8355  
E-MAIL rhill@brookingscountysd.gov

HDR Engineering, Inc.  
Attn: Joyce Pickle  
701 Xenia Avenue South, Suite 600  
Minneapolis, MN 55416

RECEIVED  
OCT 06 2008  
October 3, 2008  
HDR Engineering, Inc.

RE: CapX 345 kV Transmission Line, Brookings to Twin Cities Project Brookings County, South Dakota; Lincoln, Lyon, Redwood, Yellow Medicine, Renville, Brown, McLeod, Chippewa, Sibley, Le Sueur, Rice, Carver, Scott and Dakota counties, Minnesota, dated July 31, 2008

Dear Ms. Pickle:

This letter is to inform you that my office has received your request for input pertaining to the possible development of the CapX 345 kV Transmission Line, Brookings to Twin Cities Project.

The Brookings County Commission fully supports the development of renewable energy in Brookings County.

The Brookings County Highway Department requires permits for driveways and occupancy of the County right-of-way. Depending on the time of the year overweight permits may also be required. The Brookings County Highway Superintendent will send the appropriate permit applications to your office. The Brookings County Highway Department can be contacted at 605-696-8270.

The project covers four different Brookings County Townships and the Brookings County Commission requests that your company contacts each Township Chairperson and notify them of this project. Each Township board is responsible for non-county roadways in Brookings County. A list of Township Officers is attached to this letter.

RE: CapX 345 kV Transmission Line, Brookings to Twin Cities Project Brookings County, South Dakota; Lincoln, Lyon, Redwood, Yellow Medicine, Renville, Brown, McLeod, Chippewa, Sibley, Le Sueur, Rice, Carver, Scott and Dakota counties, Minnesota, dated July 31, 2008

The Brookings County Commission will also register for Party Status for this project. It is the policy of the Commission to request for Party Status for all projects being constructed in Brookings County that appear before the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

If you have any questions please contact the Brookings County Zoning office at 605-696-8350.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Hill  
Brookings County  
Zoning and Drainage Director

Attachments: Township Board Contact List

Brookings County  
**2008 Township Officers List**

<b>Afton Township</b> Chairman Robert Schwartz Supervisor Mike Lucas Supervisor Rick Thompson Clerk Joseph A. Klein Treasurer Allan Jones Bank 1st Nat'l Bank	20658 474th Ave 20376 475th Ave 20593 475th Ave 20439 478th Ave 20613 473rd Ave Box 365	683-4107 629-4121 629-6571 629-3491 693-5674	Aurora SD 57002 White SD 57276 White SD 57276 White SD 57276 Brookings SD 57006 White SD 57276	<b>Elkton Township</b> Chairman Dan Brown Supervisor Dennis Nielsen Supervisor Larry W. Moulton Clerk Duane Smallfield Treasurer Marlon Brandt Bank Bankstar Financial	21674 487th Ave 21447 487th Ave. 48549 219th St 21539 485th Ave 48514 220th St Box A	542-3251 542-7051 542-2461 542-3891 542-4231 542-4231	Elkton SD 57026 Elkton SD 57026 Elkton SD 57026 Elkton SD 57026 Elkton SD 57026 Elkton SD 57026
<b>Alton Township</b> Chairman John Gebhart Supervisor Wilmer Friedrich Supervisor Tom Davis Clerk Kurt Wiese Treasurer Gordon Brodersen Bank 1st Bank & Trust	48259 213th St 47845 213th St 48185 210St 21124 480th Ave 48356 Hwy 14 520 6th St	542-3321 693-4538 693-4455 693-4043 542-3281	Elkton SD 57026 Aurora SD 57002 Elkton SD 57026 White SD 57276 Elkton SD 57026 Brookings SD 57006	<b>Eureka Township</b> Chairman James Hansen Supervisor David Holler Supervisor Chuck Rang Clerk Matthew Bebenese Treasurer Randy Jensen Bank Richland State Bank	47166 200th St 20146 467th Ave 47190 198th St 19920 470th Ave 47157 200th St Box 338	693-4149 627-5457 693-4144 693-4143 693-4100 693-4100	Brookings SD 57006 Bruce SD 57220 Bruce SD 57220 Bruce SD 57220 Brookings SD 57006 Bruce SD 57220
<b>Argo Township</b> Chairman Clifford Jorency Supervisor Mark Johnson Supervisor John Kleinjan Clerk Michael M Olson Treasurer Delores M Jorency Bank 1st Nat'l Bank	19818 478th Ave 19753 475th Ave 47725 200th St 19829 475th Ave 19818 478th Ave Box 365	794-2291 794-4521 629-3741 794-4641 794-2291	White SD 57276 White SD 57276 White SD 57276 White SD 57276 White SD 57276 White SD 57276	<b>Lake Hendricks Township</b> Chairman Dan Lutgen Supervisor Duane Olson Supervisor Mark Sandro Clerk Thomas W Reeves Treasurer Bernhard Larson Bank 1st Nat'l Bank	20237 485th Ave 48822 198th St 20019 496th Ave Box 6 48642 197th St Box 365	479-3005 479-3022 479-3875 275-3105 479-3171 479-3171	White SD 57276 Hendricks MN 56136 Hendricks MN 56136 Hendricks MN 56136 Hendricks MN 56136 White SD 57276
<b>Aurora Township</b> Chairman Terry Hill Supervisor David Vostad Supervisor Mark Jorency Clerk Eugene L. Miller Treasurer Norma Jensen Bank 1st Bank & Trust	47670 US Hwy 14 47407 210th St 47400 209th St 21183 476th Ave 47434 214th St 520 6th St	693-3641 693-3859 693-6455 693-3362 693-3887	Aurora SD 57002 Aurora SD 57002 Aurora SD 57002 Aurora SD 57002 Aurora SD 57002 Brookings SD 57006	<b>Lake Sinai Township</b> Chairman Donald Weiss Supervisor Wallace Tvedt Supervisor Walton Olson Clerk David Negstad Treasurer Alan Husher Bank Citizens State Bank	21728 459th St 21445 458th Ave 45934 216th St 45404 218A St 45933 215th St Box 706	826-4129 826-4145 826-4312 826-4120 826-4137 826-4137	Volga SD 57071 Volga SD 57071 Volga SD 57071 Arlington SD 57212 Volga SD 57071 Sinai SD 57061
<b>Bangor Township</b> Chairman Daniel Madsen Supervisor Dale Knulson Supervisor Craig Kjellisen Clerk Curtis Larsen Treasurer Charles Olson Bank Citizens State Bank	21830 455th Ave 20725 460th Ave 45726 210th St 45620 213th St 21163 456th Ave Box 706	983-3386 627-9934 983-5028 983-5702 983-5726	Arlington SD 57212 Volga, SD 57071 Arlington SD 57212 Arlington SD 57212 Arlington SD 57212 Sinai SD 57061	<b>Laketon Township</b> Chairman Bryce Olson Supervisor Lawrence Furney Supervisor Bill Carlson Clerk Harlan F Olson Treasurer Doris Kjellisen Bank Citizens State Bank	45678 199th St 300 S Lake Dr 19956 455th Ave 45667 197th St 19708 456th Ave. Drawer 1	627-5123 983-3932 983-5011 983-5332 983-5977 983-5977	Bruce SD 57220 Arlington SD 57212 Arlington SD 57212 Arlington SD 57212 Arlington SD 57212 Arlington SD 57212
<b>Brookings Township</b> Chairman Lyle Johnson Supervisor Dan Miller Supervisor Troy Johnson Clerk Leon Wrage Treasurer Leon F Bush Bank 1st Bank & Trust	46726 212th St 2531 30th St W 5015 Western Ave 3104 Sunnyview Dr 1023 Sunnyview Ln 520 6th St	693-4052 693-3341 693-3388 693-4225 693-3246	Brookings SD 57006 Brookings SD 57006 Brookings SD 57006 Brookings SD 57006 Brookings SD 57006 Brookings SD 57006	<b>Medary Township</b> Chairman Mike Erickson Supervisor Marc Richards Supervisor Douglas Vockrodt Clerk John Folkerts Treasurer Londa Hexum Bank 1st Bank & Trust	6736 Seaview Beach R 2801 W 16th Ave S 2004 44th St S 3005 Western Ave 21792 468th Ave. 520 6th St	693-4367 693-3517 693-3680 693-4966 693-4189 693-4189	Volga SD 57071 Brookings SD 57006 Brookings SD 57006 Brookings SD 57006 Volga SD 57071 Brookings SD 57006



DEPARTMENT of ENVIRONMENT  
and NATURAL RESOURCES

PMB 2020  
JOE FOSS BUILDING  
523 EAST CAPITOL  
PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA 57501-3182  
www.state.sd.us/denr

RECEIVED  
SEP 05 2008  
HDR Engineering, Inc.

Angela Piner  
HDR Engineering Inc  
701 Xenia Avenue  
Suite 600  
Minneapolis, MN 55416

Dear Ms. Piner:

The South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) reviewed the CapX 345 kV Transmission Line Project in Brookings County, South Dakota dated July 31, 2008. Based on the general information provided the DENR has the following comments:

**The Air Quality Program**

The department does not anticipate any adverse impacts to the air quality of the state. The Air Quality Program has no objections to this project.

**The Surface Water Program**

1. Best Management Practices (BMP) for sediment and erosion control should be incorporated into the planning, design, and construction.
2. A Surface Water Discharge (SWD) permit may be required if any construction dewatering should occur. Please contact this office for more information.
3. Surface water bodies may be impacted by this project. The discharge of pollutants from any source, including indiscriminate use of fill material, may not cause destruction or impairment except where authorized under Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. Please contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers concerning this permit.
4. A General Storm Water Permit for Construction Activities may be required. If you have any questions, please contact Al Spangler at 1-800-SDSTORM (1-800-737-8676).

**The Drinking Water Program**

The department does not anticipate any adverse impacts to drinking waters of the state. The Drinking Water Program has no objections to this project. However, it is requested that the rural water provider in the area be notified to ensure that the cable installations do not adversely impact the existing water distribution systems that may be present.

**The Ground Water Quality Program**

The department does not anticipate adverse impacts to ground water quality by this project.

However, there have been accidental petroleum and other chemical releases throughout the state. There is the possibility that this project may encounter contaminated material. If you would like to do research regarding accidental releases, information on accidental releases reported in South Dakota may be obtained at the following website:  
<http://www.state.sd.us/denr/DES/ground/dataspil.htm>. In the unlikely event that contamination is encountered during construction activities, CapX Utilities or its designated representative must report the contamination to the department at (605) 773-3296. Any contaminated soil encountered must be temporarily stockpiled and sampled to determine disposal requirements and the materials of construction through the contaminated area should be evaluated for chemical compatibility and adjusted accordingly.

**The Waste Management Program**

The Waste Management Program does not anticipate any adverse impacts. Any construction debris needs to be disposed of at a permitted solid waste facility. Please contact the Waste Management Program if you have any questions on solid waste disposal at (605) 773-3153.

Thank you for the submitting this information, however, the DENR requests the opportunity to review this project again when the information becomes more specific. If you have any questions concerning these comments, please contact me at (605) 773-3351.

Sincerely,



John Miller  
Environmental Program Scientist  
Surface Water Quality Program

cc: Sheldon Hamann, Ground Water Quality Program  
Mark Mayer, Drinking Water Program  
Brad Schultz, Air Quality Program  
Vonni Kallemeyn, Waste Management Program



**Department of Transportation  
Office of Project Development  
700 E Broadway Avenue  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-2586 605/773-3268  
FAX: 605/773-6608**

RECEIVED  
AUG 18 2008  
HDR Engineering, Inc.

DATE: August 14, 2008  
TO: Angela Piner, Environmental Specialist  
HDR Corporation  
701 Xenia Avenue South, Suite 600  
Minneapolis, Mn 55416

RE: CAP X 345 kV Transmission Line; Brookings to Twin Cities Project, Brookings Co, South Dakota

Dear Ms. Piner;

In response to your July 31, 2008 letter a review of the preliminary proposed project area was accomplished by utilizing the rectangular descriptions as provided in the submittal letter by HDR. The proposed project area encompasses approximately 6.5 miles of SD Hwy. 30 between White, SD and the South Dakota/Minnesota state line.

As stated in that letter, the proposed 345 kV transmission line will be constructed utilizing single or double circuit structures. The assumption was made that the transmission line would be constructed similar to the same size transmission line from Minnesota to Sioux Falls, SD along Interstate 90. Therefore, utilizing that similar design, the findings of the review resulted in no impacts to SD Highway 30 or any Department owned property with the proposed 345 kV transmission line.

Once the final alignment for the 345 kV transmission line has been finalized, a thorough review will be accomplished during the utility permit process as required by ARSD 70:04:05.

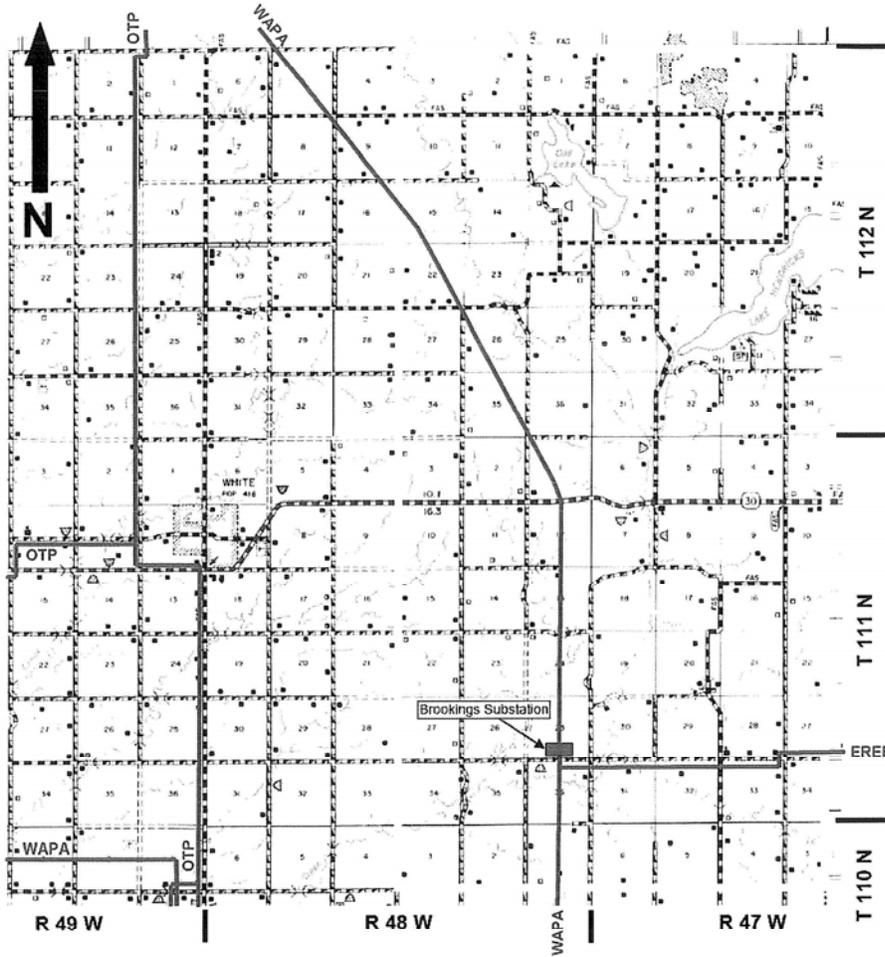
Any system interconnections associated with the subject transmission line will require a separate review.

Sincerely,

Dean VanDeWiele, P.E.  
Engineering Supervisor – Project Development  
South Dakota Department of Transportation

Enclosure: Project Evaluation Map

cc: Tveidt – Deputy Secretary  
Sherman – Watertown Area Engineer  
Bjorneberg-Project Development Program Manager  
File



### CapX 345 Kv Transmission Line (Brookings to Twin Cities Project)

Denotes – potentially affected sections is South Dakota



## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Ecological Services  
420 South Garfield Avenue, Suite 400  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5408

August 19, 2008

RECEIVED

AUG 21 2008

HDR Engineering, Inc.

Ms. Angela Piner, Environmental Scientist  
HDR Engineering, Inc.  
701 Xenia Avenue South, Suite 600  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55416

Re: CapX Utilities 345 kV Transmission  
Line in Brookings County, South  
Dakota

Dear Ms. Piner:

This letter is in response to your request dated July 31, 2008, for environmental comments regarding the above referenced project involving construction of a 345 kV transmission line between the existing Brookings County substation and a new Hampton Corner Substation in central Dakota County, Minnesota. This response is only for the portion in Brookings County, South Dakota. Please contact the Twin Cities Ecological Services Office for comments on the Minnesota portion. Their address is 4101 East 80<sup>th</sup> Street, Bloomington, Minnesota 55425, Telephone No. (612) 725-3548.

As stated in your letter, "exact route locations have not yet been established." Therefore, it is impossible to predict the effects on wetlands. Please consult the National Wetlands Inventory maps which are available online at <http://wetlands.fws.gov/> to determine if wetlands exist in the proposed construction area. If a project may impact wetlands or other important fish and wildlife habitats, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321-4347) and other environmental laws and rules, recommends complete avoidance of these areas, if possible; then minimization of any adverse impacts; and finally, replacement of any lost acres; in that order. Alternatives should be examined and the least damaging practical alternative selected. If wetland impacts are unavoidable, a mitigation plan addressing the number and types of wetland acres to be impacted and the methods of replacement should be prepared and submitted to the resource agencies for review.

Work requiring the alteration or disturbance of wetlands or streams may require a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) according to the regulations set forth in section 10 of The Rivers and Harbors Act or section 404 of The Clean Water Act. You may contact the Corps' Regulatory Office at 28563 Powerhouse Road, Room 118, Pierre, South Dakota 57501, Telephone No. (605) 224-8531.

The Service may hold easements on some of the properties proposed for construction. For exact locations of these easements and any additional restrictions that may apply regarding these sites, you will need to contact the Service's Madison Wetland Management District at P.O. Box 48, Madison, South Dakota 57042, Telephone No. (605) 256-2974.

In accordance with section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq., we have determined that the following federally listed species may occur in the project area (this list is considered valid for 90 days):

<u>Species</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Expected Occurrence</u>
Western prairie fringed orchid ( <u>Platanthera praeclara</u> )	Threatened	Possible Habitat, No Recent Specimens.
Topeka shiner ( <u>Notropis topeka</u> )	Endangered	Possible Resident.

The Western prairie fringed orchid has not recently been documented in South Dakota. However, in light of the facts that the life cycle of the plant often makes it difficult to detect, populations currently exist in the neighboring states of Nebraska, Minnesota, and North Dakota, and potential habitat may still be found in South Dakota, the potential exists for the Western prairie fringed orchid to be found in this state. Although the plant is typically associated with intact native prairie, the Western prairie fringed orchid has also been found on disturbed sites. Potential habitats generally include mesic upland prairies, wet prairies, sedge meadows, subirrigated prairies, and swales in sand dune complexes. If these habitats exist at the site, surveys for the Western prairie fringed orchid should be conducted prior to construction.

Topeka shiners are known to occupy numerous small streams within eastern South Dakota, and most are concentrated within the Big Sioux, Vermillion, and James River watersheds. Wolf Creek is a known area with Topeka shiners. Survey efforts continue to reveal additional inhabited streams. We recommend that the proposed project implement the following best management practices to minimize potential impacts specifically to Topeka shiners.

1. Avoid construction activities during the spawning period from May 15 to July 31.
2. Minimize work area at stream locations. The majority of the work (including heavy equipment and storage sites) should occur above the high bank line.
3. Implement comprehensive and effective erosion and sediment controls. These methods should be implemented and maintained for the duration of the project and should be considered at all stages of project planning and design. Close attention is warranted for the placement and maintenance of temporary erosion control measures at the construction site to minimize sediment loading. These erosion/sediment control techniques should keep sediments from entering the stream and should remain in place until work areas become revegetated and stable. Such erosion control measures may include properly placed sediment/silt screens or curtains and hay bales. Proper techniques are important to the placement of these types of structures and include trenching, staking, and backfilling as well as using the appropriate number of bales. These techniques are best used in combination with each other rather than separately.
4. Erosion and sediment controls should be monitored daily during construction to ensure effectiveness, particularly after storm events, and only the most effective techniques should be utilized.
5. Methods that block a stream should not be constructed for extended periods of time. If temporary blocks are necessary, flexible water barriers should be used.

6. Exposed stream banks must be stabilized immediately after construction activity. Eroded surfaces should not be left exposed for greater than one day. If rain is predicted, no construction should commence unless eroded surfaces are immediately treated with geotextile fabric, mulch, seeding, or some techniques that would stabilize the bank or exposed areas from eroding.
7. Erosion repair and stream bank restoration should use appropriate bioengineering solutions.
8. No in-water dredging and substrate disturbance should occur in Topeka shiner inhabited streams. This includes no removal of stream bottom substrates for construction material. If modifications to the stream substrate cannot be avoided, formal section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act may be necessary. Although this process is a regulatory necessity, projects will likely continue with restoration of those physical habitat features that were disturbed during construction activities.
9. Develop and implement a hazardous materials safety protocol. This would include that all temporary storage facilities for petroleum products, other fuels, and chemicals must be located and protected to prevent accidental spills from entering streams within the project area.

If these best management practices are not implemented or applied effectively, potential adverse impacts to Topeka shiners and their habitats could occur.

If the Federal action agency or their designated representative determines that the project "may adversely affect" listed species in South Dakota, it should request formal consultation from this office. If a "may affect-not likely to adversely affect" determination is made for this project, it should be submitted to this office for concurrence. If a "no effect" determination is made, further consultation may not be necessary. However, a copy of the determination should be sent to this office.

If changes are made in the project plans or operating criteria, or if additional information becomes available, the Service should be informed so that the above determinations can be reconsidered.

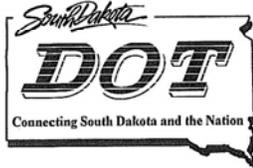
The Service appreciates the opportunity to provide comments. If you have any questions on these comments, please contact Charlene Bessken of this office at (605) 224-8693, Extension 231.

Sincerely,



Pete Gober  
Field Supervisor  
South Dakota Field Office

cc: Corps/Regulatory; Pierre, SD  
(Attention: Steve Naylor)  
FWS/Madison NWR; Madison, SD  
FWS/Region 3 ES; Bloomington, MN



**Department of Transportation  
Office of Project Development  
700 E Broadway Avenue  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-2586  
FAX: 605/773-6608**

RECEIVED

605/773-3268

DEC 17 2009

HDR Engineering, Inc.

DATE: December 14, 2009  
TO: Angela Piner, Environmental Specialist  
HDR Corporation  
701 Xenia Avenue South, Suite 600  
Minneapolis, MN 55416

**RE:** CAP X 345 Kv Transmission Line, Brookings County to Hampton Project, Brookings County, South Dakota

Dear Ms. Piner,

In response to your December 7, 2009 letter, the SDDOT would like to meet with you and discuss the project and proposed alignment routes. Someone from the department will be available anytime during the first part of January 2010. Please inform us of the date and location of the meeting after it has been set.

As you recall, a preliminary review was completed as per your request in August 2008. At that time, the findings of the review resulted in no impacts to SD Highway 30 or any Department owned property with the proposed 345 Kv transmission line. However, that review was completed utilizing a rectangular description with no alignment routes chosen at that time. It was also based on the assumption that the transmission line would be constructed similar to other 345 Kv transmission lines in the state. It is for that reason that the department would like to meet with you and review the 3 proposed routes, as shown in the project map and discuss design, construction, proposed scheduling etc.

Sincerely,

Dean VanDeWiele, P.E.  
Engineering Supervisor – Project Development  
South Dakota Department of Transportation

Cc: Tveidt – Deputy Secretary  
Sens – Aberdeen Region Engineer  
Sherman – Watertown Area Engineer  
Bjorneberg – Project Development Program Manager  
File

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