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# Big Stone South-Brookings County 345 kV transmission line

## PROJECT UPDATE

### Project overview

The Big Stone South-Brookings County project is a 345 kV transmission line proposed between the Big Stone South Substation near Big Stone City, S.D., to the Brookings County Substation near Brookings, S.D.

The Big Stone South-Brookings County project is one of 16 multi-value projects (MVP) 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.

### Project quick facts

**345 kV line**

**70 miles**

**Targeted in-service - 2017**

### Regulatory process

The South Dakota regulatory process requires a Facility Permit prior to construction. The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (SD PUC) reviews the permit, and if approved (ruling must

occur within 12 months of receiving the application), grants a permit order for location, construction and operation of the proposed project. Contact the SD PUC at (605) 773-3201 or [www.puc.sd.gov](http://www.puc.sd.gov).

A Facility Permit was granted to Otter Tail Power Company in January 2007 for approximately 35 miles from just west of Big Stone City to just north of Gary, S.D. CapX2020 filed a Facility Permit in June 2013 for an additional 42 miles from just north of Gary to the existing Brookings County Substation. You can learn more about the proposal by accessing a copy of the Application online at the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission website: <http://puc.sd.gov/Dockets/Electric/2013/el13-020.aspx>

### Routing process

Siting a transmission line is a three-step process that involves mapping resources, identifying opportunities and constraints within the project study area, and evaluating each alternative.

Project-specific siting criteria include:

- Transmission line length
- Right-of-way requirements and availability
- Existing road and transmission line corridors
- Land use considerations, such as proximity to residences, impact on agricultural activities, existing and future land use and visual impacts
- Environmental resource considerations such as impacts on cultural and historic sites, or biological resources such as wildlife, plants and wetlands
- Topography
- Jurisdiction and regulatory considerations
- Conflicts with airport height restrictions
- Cost

The SD PUC approves the transmission line's final route, taking into consideration recommendations from all participating parties and landowners, complying with federal agency reviews, and following a comprehensive process that includes public meetings and hearings examining route alternatives.

### Public information and outreach

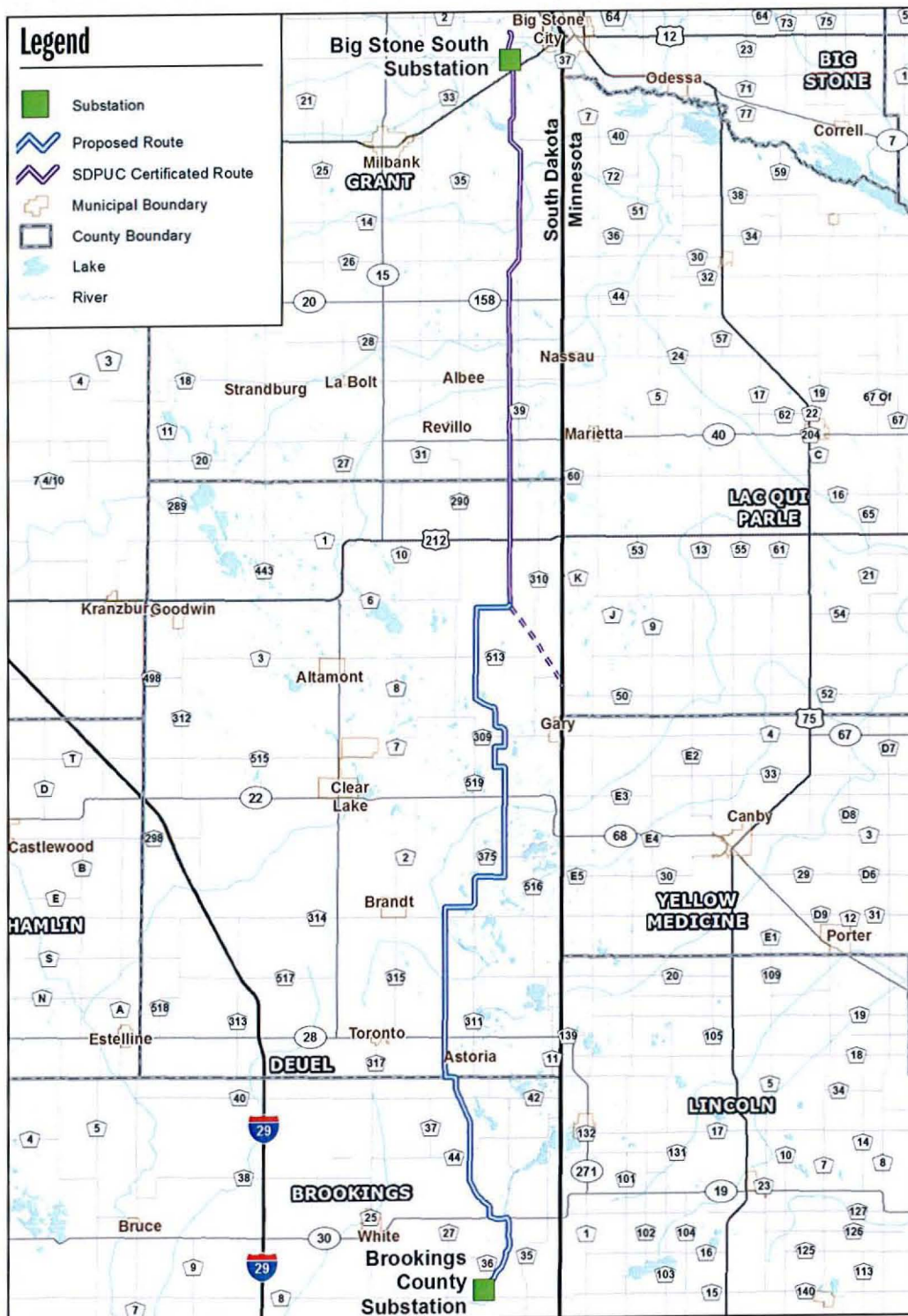
The CapX2020 utilities are committed to working with all residents, landowners, local officials, business groups, state agencies and other stakeholders to explain the need for the proposed transmission line and to determine the most preferable route. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the regulatory process by attending public meetings and providing information to the SD PUC and the CapX2020 utilities. For more information visit [www.capx2020.com](http://www.capx2020.com).

### About CapX2020

CapX2020 is a joint initiative of 11 transmission-owning utilities in Minnesota and the surrounding region formed to upgrade and expand the electric transmission grid to ensure continued reliable and affordable service. The CapX2020 projects include four 345 kV projects, including the Big Stone South-Brookings County line, and a 230 kV line.



# Big Stone South-Brookings County 345 kV transmission line proposed route



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