

**Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy**  
**Buffalo Ridge Incremental Generation Outlet Transmission Expansion Project**  
**In-service Date Projection**  
**April 1, 2008**  
**Page 1 of 2**

Background:

This posting is the initial projection of in-service dates for various components of the Buffalo Ridge Incremental Generation Outlet (“BRIGO”) wind transmission project. This posting will be updated periodically as conditions warrant.

Wind developers, their financiers and power purchasers have periodically requested information regarding the status of the transmission infrastructure upgrades in southwestern Minnesota associated with the various Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy (NSP or Xcel Energy) wind generation outlet transmission capacity expansion projects. This posting is provided to respond to those requests.

The three 115 kV BRIGO projects were approved by the Minnesota PUC in its certificate of need order in Docket No. E002/CN-06-154 in September 2007, and route permit and facility permit applications are pending before the Minnesota PUC and South Dakota PUC, respectively.

The Xcel Energy Transmission Function (XET) may post periodic updates to the project schedule below on OASIS as construction progresses and more information is available. Interested parties should periodically check the OASIS site (<http://oasis.midwestiso.org/OASIS/NSP>) for updated in-service schedule information.

Current Project In-Service Schedule:

<b>Project component</b>	<b>Projected In Service Date</b>
Nobles County Substation Upgrade	June, 2009
Fenton Substation Upgrade	June, 2009
Nobles County to Fenton 115 kV new transmission line	June, 2009
SW Marshall Substation (Owned by Marshall Municipal Utilities)	Contact MMU for information
Lake Yankton Substation Upgrade	June, 2009
Marshall to Lake Yankton 115 kV new transmission line	June, 2009
Hazel Creek Substation	December, 2009
Hazel Creek Tap 115 kV new transmission line	December, 2009
Brookings County (SD) Substation 345 kV and 115 kV Upgrade	December, 2009
Yankee Substation Upgrade	December, 2009
Brookings County to Yankee 115 kV new transmission line	December, 2009
Brookings County to White 345 kV new transmission line	December, 2009

Limitations:

Most projects require permit, right-of-way or other approvals before construction can commence. The table above provides the current estimate by XET of the in-service date for specific facilities associated with the BRIGO projects. The actual in-service date for individual component projects may

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**Page 2 of 2**

be affected or delayed if required approvals cannot be obtained or are delayed, or if XET experiences construction delays for any reason (because of inclement weather, etc.).

In addition, the schedule information above is expressly **not** a modification to the construction milestones provided in any Large Generation Interconnection Agreement (LGIA) or other interconnection agreement for any specific generation project. Parties to specific interconnection agreements should review the milestone provisions of their interconnection agreement for specific milestone information.

Increases to Available Transfer Capability for Buffalo Ridge Generation Outlet

Certain project components from the table above will likely allow an increase in transmission outlet capacity above the current level.<sup>1</sup> As these components near completion, Xcel Energy will conduct the appropriate studies in coordination with the Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator, Inc. (MISO) and make adjustments similar to those made in late 2007 when outlet available transfer capability was increased as portions of the Southwest Minnesota 825 MW wind generation outlet project were placed in service.

Access to the Xcel Energy transmission system is managed by MISO, as Transmission Provider. Any change to the ATC in the Buffalo Ridge area would be posted on the MISO OASIS as the change is effectuated.

If You Have Questions:

XET is subject to FERC's Order No. 2004 rules establishing Standards of Conduct for Transmission Providers. Under those rules, XET cannot provide preferential access to transmission information such as construction schedule information. To facilitate disclosure, there are two ways interested parties can obtain information.

First, questions may be submitted through the XET Question and Answer (Q&A) Function available at [http://www.rmao.com/xfpp/nsp\\_qa.html](http://www.rmao.com/xfpp/nsp_qa.html). Answers will be made available to the public when the answer is posted on the Q&A page.

In addition, project information of more general interest (such as updates to this schedule) will also be periodically posted at the MISO OASIS (<http://oasis.midwestiso.org/OASIS/NSP>).

Interested parties should check these sites periodically.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> NSP recently completed the 825 Wind outlet project, which was designed to provide a nominal 825 MW generation outlet level. This is available, in part, because of the interconnection of the NSP and Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) at 345 kV at WAPA's White substation near the Brookings County substation. The interconnection is presently closed-through pursuant to a short-term agreement between NSP and WAPA. However, it is possible the interconnection could be opened if a longer term arrangement cannot be completed between the parties. If the NSP-WAPA interconnection is opened, the generation outlet level would be reduced.