

**Northern States Power Company  
Southwest Minnesota 825 MW Wind Transmission Expansion Project**

Updated In-service Date Projection

April 1, 2008

**Background:**

This posting is an update of projected in-service dates for various components of the Southwestern Minnesota 825 MW wind transmission project. This replaces the update posted on December 6, 2007.

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 Northern States Power Company (NSP) 825 MW wind generation outlet transmission capacity expansion project. The project was approved by the Minnesota PUC in its certificate of need order in Docket No. E002/CN-01-1958. This informational update is provided to respond to those requests.

The NSP Transmission Function (NSPT) 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> |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Bird Island to Franklin rebuild 69 kV            | Complete                         |
| Chanarambie – Lake Yankton - Lyon Co. new 115 kV | Complete                         |
| Lyon substation                                  | Complete                         |
| Wilmarth to Martin Co. 345 kV upgrade            | Complete                         |
| Paynesville to Wakefield 115 kV rebuild          | Complete                         |
| Willmar to Kerkhoven 115 kV rebuild              | Complete                         |
| Summit to Dome to Loon Tap 115 kV rebuild        | Complete                         |
| Grant Co. to Brandon 115 kV rebuild              | Complete                         |
| Brandon to Alexandria 115 kV rebuild             | Complete                         |
| Alexandria to Douglas Co. 115 kV rebuild         | Complete                         |
| Willmar Transformer                              | Complete                         |
| Black Dog Transformer                            | Complete                         |
| Paynesville Transformer                          | Complete                         |
| Lake Yankton substation and SVC                  | Complete                         |
| Loon Tap to West Faribault 115 kV rebuild        | Complete                         |
| Troy substation 69 kV new                        | Complete                         |
| Lyon County to Marshall 115 kV upgrade           | Complete                         |
| Fox Lake substation upgrade                      | Complete                         |
| West Faribault substation upgrade                | Complete                         |
| Lakefield to Fox Lake 161 kV line                | Complete                         |
| Bird Island substation upgrade                   | Complete                         |
| Franklin substation upgrade                      | Complete                         |
| Chanarambie to Fenton 115 kV line                | Complete                         |
| Chanarambie substation upgrade                   | Complete                         |
| Douglas substation upgrade                       | Complete                         |
| Minn Valley to Redwood Falls Tap 115 kV rebuild  | Complete                         |
| Redwood Falls Tap to Franklin 115 kV rebuild     | Complete                         |

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| <b>Project component</b>  | <b>Projected In Service Date</b>  |
|---|---|
| Lakefield Junction to Lakefield Generation phase raise                          | Complete  |
| Fenton substation   | Complete  |
| Buffalo Ridge to Yankee 115 kV line   | Complete  |
| Buffalo Ridge substation upgrade  | Complete  |
| Yankee substation   | Complete  |
| Minn Valley Transformers  | Complete  |
| Fenton to Nobles County 115 kV line   | Complete  |
| Lakefield Junction substation upgrade   | Complete  |
| Nobles County to Lakefield Junction 345 kV line                                 | Complete  |
| Nobles Co. substation   | Complete  |
| Yankee to Brookings County 115 kV line  | Complete  |
| Special Protection Scheme (SPS) in lieu of Fox Lake to Winnebago 161 kV rebuild | Complete  |
| Brookings County Substation   | Complete  |
| Brookings County to White 345 kV line   | Complete  |
| White substation upgrade  | Complete  |
| Series Compensation – Wilmarth – Lakefield Generation line                      | Mostly Complete. Remaining remote end control work will be completed by May 2008. |
| Split Rock substation upgrade   | May 2008  |
| Split Rock to Nobles County 345 kV line   | May 2008  |
| Nobles County Substation 35 kV  | Postponed pending further MISO studies  |

Please note that the 345 kV interconnection between the NSP system and the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) at the WAPA White substation is subject to an interim agreement between NSP and WAPA in effect through February 2008. Under the interim agreement, WAPA may open the interconnection at White at its discretion in the event of unacceptable reliability impacts on the WAPA Integrated System (IS).

**Limitations:**

The table above provides the current estimate by NSPT of the in-service date for specific facilities associated with the 825 MW project. The actual in-service date for individual component projects may be affected or delayed if NSPT experiences construction delays for any reason (because of inclement weather, etc.).

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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 Transfer Capability for Buffalo Ridge Generation Outlet**

With the 345 kV interconnection to WAPA at White substation in service under the interim agreement, MISO has indicated the generation outlet capability from Buffalo Ridge is now 900 MW. However, if WAPA opens the interconnection at White, generation outlet capacity would be reduced. The actual reduction in outlet capacity would be determined by MISO.

Access to the NSP transmission system is managed by MISO, as Transmission Provider. Any change to the outlet capability in the Buffalo Ridge area would be communicated by MISO as the change is effectuated.

**If You Have Questions:**

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

Questions may be submitted through the 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.

As noted earlier, 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.