

**Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy
Southwest Minnesota 825 MW Wind Transmission Expansion Project**

Updated In-service Date Projection

June 5, 2007

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Background:

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 d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel Energy) 825 MW wind generation outlet transmission capacity expansion project. The project -- which consists of nearly 50 individual projects -- was approved by the Minnesota PUC in its certificate of need order in Docket No. E002/CN-01-1958. We understand schedule information is of interest so individual parties can plan their activities. This informational update is provided to respond to those requests.

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:

XET has prioritized its work and secured resources to proceed with construction of the 825 MW upgrades and to meet its contractual milestones for interconnection at a reasonable total cost and consistent with good utility practices. Current activities include:

XET is scheduling construction to first energize 35 kV buses at Fenton and Yankee, then complete the balance of the infrastructure required for delivery, consistent with relevant interconnection agreement milestones.

- o Fenton will be first energized from Chanarambie
- o Yankee will be first energized from Buffalo Ridge

Project component	Projected In Service Date
Bird Island to Franklin rebuild 69 kV	Complete
Chanarambie - Lake Yankton - Lyon Co. new 115 kV	Complete
Lyon substation	Complete
Wilmarth to Lakefield Generation (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
Alexandria to Douglas Co. 115 kV rebuild	Complete
Willmar Transformer	Complete
Black Dog Transformer	Complete
Paynesville Transformer	Complete
Lake Yankton substation and SVC	Complete
Brandon to Alexandria 115 kV rebuild	Complete
Loon Tap to West Faribault 115 kV rebuild	Complete

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Project component	Projected In Service Date
Troy substation 69 kV new	Complete
Lyon County to Marshall 115 kV upgrade	Complete
Fox Lake substation upgrade	Complete
West Faribault substation upgrade	Complete
Bird Island substation upgrade	Complete
Franklin substation upgrade	Complete
Lakefield to Fox Lake 161 kV line	Complete
Douglas substation upgrade	Complete
Minn Valley to Redwood Falls Tap 115 kV rebuild	Complete
Redwood Falls Tap to Franklin 115 kV rebuild	Complete
Minn Valley Transformers	Complete (except 115 kV bus tie breaker replacement to be completed 2007)
Chanarambie substation upgrade	June 2007
Buffalo Ridge to Yankee 115 kV line	August 2007
Buffalo Ridge substation upgrade	August 2007
Yankee substation	August 2007: 35 kV backfeed power November 2007: Balance of substation
Chanarambie to Fenton 115 kV line	September 2007
Fenton substation	September 2007
Lakefield Junction substation upgrade	October 2007
Fenton to Nobles County 115 kV line	October 2007
Series Compensation – Wilmarth – Lakefield Generation line	October 2007
Special Protection Scheme (SPS) in lieu of Fox Lake to Winnebago 161 kV rebuild	October 2007
Nobles County to Lakefield Junction 345 kV line	November 2007
Nobles Co. substation	November 2007
Lakefield Junction to Lakefield Generation phase raise	November 2007
White substation upgrade	November 2007
Brookings County Substation	November 2007
Yankee to Brookings County 115 kV line	December 2007
Brookings County to White 345 kV line	December 2007
Nobles County Substation 35 kV	January 2008
Split Rock substation upgrade	July 2008
Split Rock to Nobles County 345 kV line	July 2008

Limitations:

Some projects require permit, right-of-way or other approvals before construction can commence, in particular:

- South Dakota portion of Yankee to Brookings County to White transmission line
- Split Rock to Nobles County Substation 345 kV line in South Dakota

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The table above provides the current estimate by XET 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 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 Transmission Capacity for Buffalo Ridge Generation Outlet

Certain project components from the table above will likely allow an increase in transmission outlet capacity above the current 425 MW level. Specifically, new ties between generation and the existing 345 kV system (such as Fenton-Nobles-Lakefield Junction and Yankee-Brookings County-White) have the greatest potential for increasing available transmission capacity (ATC). 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 2004 when outlet ATC was increased from 260 MW to the current 425 MW.

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.

Questions may be submitted through the XET Question and Answer (Q&A) Function available at 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.