



What is  
CapX2020?

- Three ultra high voltage power lines proposed by Xcel Energy, Dairyland Power and 9 other utilities.

Nearly \$2 bill. cost to rate-payers. Slated to cross through Minn. and Wis. on its way to Madison, WI and points East.

CapX2020—  
A bad idea for  
our energy  
future.

Say NO!  
to CapX!

# Power Line Truths

**Power Line Truth—Dedicated to local clean & renewable community-based energy, which avoids costly and unnecessary new long-distance ultra-high voltage transmission systems.**

- **1. We don't NEED it—Energy use has declined.** Electric demand for some utilities has significantly declined, rather than growing as CapX predicted. Bottom line: There is no regional energy need for CapX2020. Citizens Energy Task Force, NoCapX2020 and U-CAN are appealing the MN Public Utilities Commission decision refusing to reconsider their approval of “need.”
- **2. It's Not for Wind—it's More Dirty Coal:** CapX2020 has no requirement for Community-Based Energy Development ([www.c-bed.com](http://www.c-bed.com)) or renewable energy on the La Crosse line. This means dirty coal, nuclear or any energy source can travel on these wires, holding us in a costly and environmentally dangerous old-world energy system. Local renewable energy, like solar and wind---dispersed efficiently with smart technology is the key. [Studies](#) show renewable energy goals can be met without new ultra high voltage lines and it is 9 times less costly.
- **3. We Pay—They Benefit.** You, the rate-payer will fund the multi-billion dollar ultra high voltage lines with rate increases. Energy companies profit by exporting power to points east. For what? Chicago has already identified 9,000 megawatts of potential wind capacity closer to home. East coast energy experts also question the need for costly long-distance lines (*America's Wind Web*, Christian Science Monitor, Feb. 18, 2009). And ten East-coast governors sent a letter to Congress stating they don't want transmission from the Midwest.
- **Mississippi River/National Wildlife Refuge—Harmful Impact.** Crossing the protected Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge would negatively impact wildlife and ecosystems. In January '10, the utilities announced their preferred routes and river crossing in their application to construct the 345kV La Crosse Line. It would cross Minnesota's Great River Road National Scenic Byway and cut run through the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. The utilities did not provide an alternate route across the Mississippi River and no alternative that would avoid the Refuge. After crossing the Mississippi, CapX would connect at Alma, WI and would either travel South along the River Road (Hwy 53) to Holmen, and La Crosse or extend due east from Alma to Arcadia, and then divert south through Blair, Galesville and Holmen to La Crosse. This should be of grave concern to these communities of Western Wisconsin. Final decisions have not yet been made on routing in Minnesota or Wisconsin. Routes: [www.capx2020.com](http://www.capx2020.com)
- **5. It Would Harm Minnesota & Wisconsin: Tourism and Property Values Would Diminish.** Bluff land, farm land, cityscapes and scenic byways will all be negatively impacted. **Through eminent domain—they can take your land!**
- **6. Health Risks Exist:** High voltage lines create electro-magnetic field (EMF) exposure, associated with increases in childhood leukemia. Coal power increases already dangerous mercury levels—affecting childhood brain functions.
- **7. Long Distance Lines are Inefficient and Pose National Security Risks.** Likewise, sending Midwest-generated wind energy long-distances causes significant line losses.

-Certificate of Need was Approved by MPUC in Aug. '09.

-CETF is currently legally appealing the decision.

-Next steps: 2010 – Utilities will hold Routing sessions pitting neighbor against neighbor.

-Wis. Connection: ATC announced Partnership with CapX (July '09) which would extend lines from La Crosse to Madison, WI

-Wisconsin Public Service Commission must still approve CapX into WI.

-Citizens must make their voices heard. Contact your local and federal legislators. Tell them we Don't NEED CapX and it would harm our energy future.

**8. CapX Won't Promote "Smart Grid" Clean Technology:** "Smart transmission" can come on-line immediately and be gradually used as needed, according to George Crocker, energy expert from The North American Water Office. "Community-based energy development creates thousands of good jobs, enough wealth for healthy communities, and enough tax revenue to educate the children and care for our elders." (View: [www.ilsr.org](http://www.ilsr.org) and [www.nawo.org](http://www.nawo.org))

**9. Environmental and Corporate Stewardship is Lacking:** Everyone has responsibility for protecting environmental resources, yet CapX doesn't fully consider impacts on clean air, water, land and other natural resources. Corporate profitability is important and ensures jobs—but as we evolve into a new energy paradigm, balance of these will be crucial. We can do this smartly and cost effectively, but not by using old school "centralized" energy production with long-distance delivery. Energy companies should be partners with America's communities - not just energy supply zones, private investors and Wall Street.

**10. CapX2020--Part of a Master Plan** of long-distance high voltage power lines criss-crossing the country that would not promote new local, distributed generation of renewable power—our TRUE energy Future.

**TAKE ACTION NOW:** Concerned about increased health risks, environmental impacts, massive 200-foot towers, increased rates, decreased home values and tourism? Call and e-mail your Federal/State legislators. Urge them to scrutinize the utilities role in proposing this nearly \$2 billion line and ask the USDA (Rural Utilities Service) to deny tax-payer funding of Dairyland Power's portion of the project (nearly 50 million). Comment to: [Stephanie.strength@usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@usda.gov). **Also, display your Power Line Truth Yard Sign. Go to [www.cetf.us](http://www.cetf.us) for more information.**

Conservation with local, renewable and sustainable energy should be our future--using local jobs. **Become a CETF member (it's free): Go to: [www.cetf.us](http://www.cetf.us).** CETF is launching educational campaigns and legal efforts which are necessary to inform the public and change the direction of this project. Support this work with contributions.

## **Partnership for Power Line Truth:**

**Power Line Truth** is collaborating with other organizations seeking to promote local, clean energy and challenge the need for new ultra high voltage power lines. Organizations:

- Citizens Energy Task Force ([cetf.us](http://cetf.us))
- Institute for Local Self Reliance ([ilsr.org](http://ilsr.org))
- North American Water Office ([nawo.org](http://nawo.org))
- Mississippi River Revival
- Bluff Land Environment Watch
- Power Line Truth.org
- [nocapx2020.info](mailto:nocapx2020.info)
- [stopcapx2020.com](http://stopcapx2020.com)
- [u-canmn.com](http://u-canmn.com)
- (partial list)



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