

FOR BOARD ACTION

Agenda Item # 11.

Meeting Date:

1/31/06

SUBJECT:

Regional Transmission Line Update

PREPARED BY:

Greg Woodworth, Manager of Engineering

ITEM DESCRIPTION:

We began studying the area transmission system a few years ago in order to determine its ability to serve the growing load in the Rochester area. We have examined the ability of the transmission system to supply the load in the Rochester area based on different contingencies and generation patterns that exist and are planned in the future. We have studied six different 161kV construction alternatives and five different 345kV alternatives. These alternatives have been evaluated based on expected future conditions including:

In late 2004, the major Minnesota transmission utilities undertook a joint effort to look at future transmission needs in a global, coordinated way. This effort was named CAPX 2020. The primary objective was to determine the transmission expansions that will need to be completed in order to serve the 2020 load. Although RPU is not now a CAPX member, we have coordinated closely with the CAPX participants since the inception of the CAPX effort.

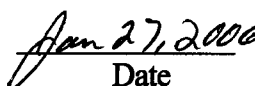
For the last year, staff has been aggressively pursuing the possibility of a joint project to construct a 345kV line from a new Hampton Corners substation to La Crosse, which would be routed on the north side of Rochester. This project would be regional in nature, and would probably continue into Wisconsin in the future. This would create a strong regional tie.

Staff will be providing a brief presentation to update the Board on the progress made and describe the current status of the effort.

UTILITY BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

This is an informational item. No action is required of the Board.


General Manager


Date

ROCHESTER PUBLIC UTILITIES