



E. Was a comparable analysis ever done by the Applicants of what transmission facilities would be needed under any load growth assumption less than 4,500 MW load growth from the utilities specified in Appendix A-1 between 2009 and 2020?

Response:

A. As described in Chapter 6 of the Application, CapX2020 planning engineers developed a forecast that indicated system-wide peak demand would reach approximately 26,500 MW by the year 2020, a growth of approximately 6,300 MW between 2009 and 2020. This value, and a value two-thirds lower, 4,500 MW, were selected to represent reasonable approximations of the range of power requirements in the 2020 timeframe within the systems of utilities serving Minnesota customers. Further analyses of Integrated Resource Plan and Load and Capability Report data indicate that load growth can reasonably be expected to be at least 4,000 MW over this time period.

A uniformly scaled down load growth of 4,500 MW was a reasonable approximation of system-wide load growth, to reflect overall demand for power. With respect to the generators, planning engineers gathered information from utilities' resource planners and made reasoned assumptions about where the generation may be located given that the ultimate locations of generators will be determined by the Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator through its queuing processes and the utilities' resource procurement processes. Planning engineers appropriately accounted for the potential resource locations through its analysis of three biases, the Northwest Bias, the Minnesota Bias and the Eastern Bias. The three 345 kV lines proposed in this docket were facilities that were common to all three scenarios and were therefore considered to be backbone transmission system facilities that would be needed regardless of the future generation locations.

B. This request is unclear. If it is asking what analyses were completed at the 4,500 MW growth level, the response is that the same power flow models used for the 6,300 MW growth level were used except that all future units were scaled down one-third and the load was reduced by 1800 MW. See Appendix A-1 and the technical appendices to Appendix A-1 at [www.CapX2020.com](http://www.CapX2020.com). The output for the 4,500 MW scenario begins on page 119.

If the request is asking for the rationale for the 4,500 MW load growth assumption, please see response to Part A.

C. No.

D. No.

E. No.

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