Will the completion of the 825 MW of the Southwest Minnesota Wind Transmission Project or the proposed CapX 2020 transmission projects increase the transfer capability from NSP baseload generation to NSP's South Dakota loads? If so, when is the increased transfer expected to occur and in MW increment(s)?

Presumably adding a 345 kV line into Sioux Falls as identified as a portion of the 825 MW of the Southwest Minnesota Wind Transmission Project will facilitate some additional transmission transfer capability from NSP baseload Generation. This is presently posted for completion in the fall of 2007.

There are many factors however, that need to be assessed in evaluating what new capability this facility may add to the Xcel Energy transmission systems ability to reliably supply specific loads in a system designed to be shared use. This is not a trivial evaluation and will involve negotiations with other transmission providers. This cannot be accomplished in the short time frame allowed for responding to questions in this venue.

The proposed CAPX 2020 “vision facilities”, as presently conceived, are not likely to be interconnected near Xcel Energy’s service territory in South Dakota. The CAPX 2020 transmission “vision facilities” are not designed specifically to serve Xcel Energy South Dakota load independent of other transmission owners systems. The vision facilities are concepts of future facilities in general terms. Detailed studies of appropriate integration of the vision facilities into the existing system still need to be performed and have started on some of the projects including one for a 345 kV line from the Buffalo Ridge region of SD to the Twin Cities.