

B. The 2005 Vision Plan analyzed what transmission upgrades should be constructed to meet a projected increase in demand of 4,500 to 6,300 MW between the year 2009 and 2020. Planning engineers recognized that the performance of the transmission system depends not only on the demand for power by consumers but also on the location of the generation to meet consumer demand. Accordingly, planning engineers developed and studied three generation scenarios, a Minnesota bias, a western bias and an eastern bias. As described above, specific generation locations were developed by engineers through a broad data gathering process involving MISO, wind supporters and utility planners. Based on the data gathering, it was apparent that there were common geographic locations, or regions, where generation was likely to develop. These regions were categorized into the SW Minnesota, SE Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Manitoba and Wisconsin. In addition it was recognized that gas generation needed to serve Minnesota load would likely be located in Minnesota. It was unlikely that all generation to meet future load would come from one region, therefore generation scenarios were developed that included generation from each region. The scenarios were developed by having a larger amount of generation coming from one region. Once the amount of generation from each region was determined, specific sites were selected based on the data that we had gathered during the data gathering phase of the study.

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