



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Minnesota Department of Commerce
Office of Energy Security
Issued: March 17, 2008



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, April 1, 2008 ♦ 6:30 p.m.
Wilmont Community Center
1316 4th Avenue
Wilmont, Minnesota

**On the Application of Xcel Energy for a Route Permit for the Fenton to Nobles
Transmission Line Project in Murray and Nobles Counties**

PUC Docket E002/TL-7-1233

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) Office of Energy Security will hold a Public Hearing on the application by Xcel Energy to construct a second new 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between the Fenton Substation south of Chandler to the Nobles County Substation near Reading, a distance of approximately 23 miles. The public hearing will be held on **Tuesday, April 1, 2008**, at the Wilmont Community Center, 1316 4th Avenue, Wilmont, MN. The hearing will convene at **6:30 p.m.**

Project Description. Xcel Energy proposes to build a second, approximately 23-mile, 115 kV volt high voltage transmission line (HVTL). The proposed route would run parallel along existing public roads and transmission lines from the existing Fenton Substation to the existing Nobles County Substation.

Environmental Assessment The DOC has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the proposed project and an alternative route segment. The EA addresses the potential impacts of the proposed and alternative routes for the transmission line. The EA is available for review at the webpage below or by contacting the DOC staff listed below. Documents relevant to the Route Permit process, including the EA, are available on the PUC webpage at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19346>

Conduct of Hearing

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Power Plant Siting Act, Minn. Stat. §216E.01 to §216E.18, and the rules of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC), Minn. Rules parts 7849.5500-7849.5720 for projects of the size and type proposed here. Administrative Law Judge Eric Lipman will preside at the hearing.

The DOC staff will be present at the hearing and make a brief presentation about the project and introduce into the record a number of documents relating to the project, including the applications, the EA, and certain procedural documents. Representatives of Xcel Energy will be present to offer testimony and to answer questions. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions of DOC staff and Xcel Energy representatives, to make statements, and to offer written comments and material into the record at both the afternoon and evening sessions. Members of the public are not required to file any papers in advance of the hearing in order to participate.

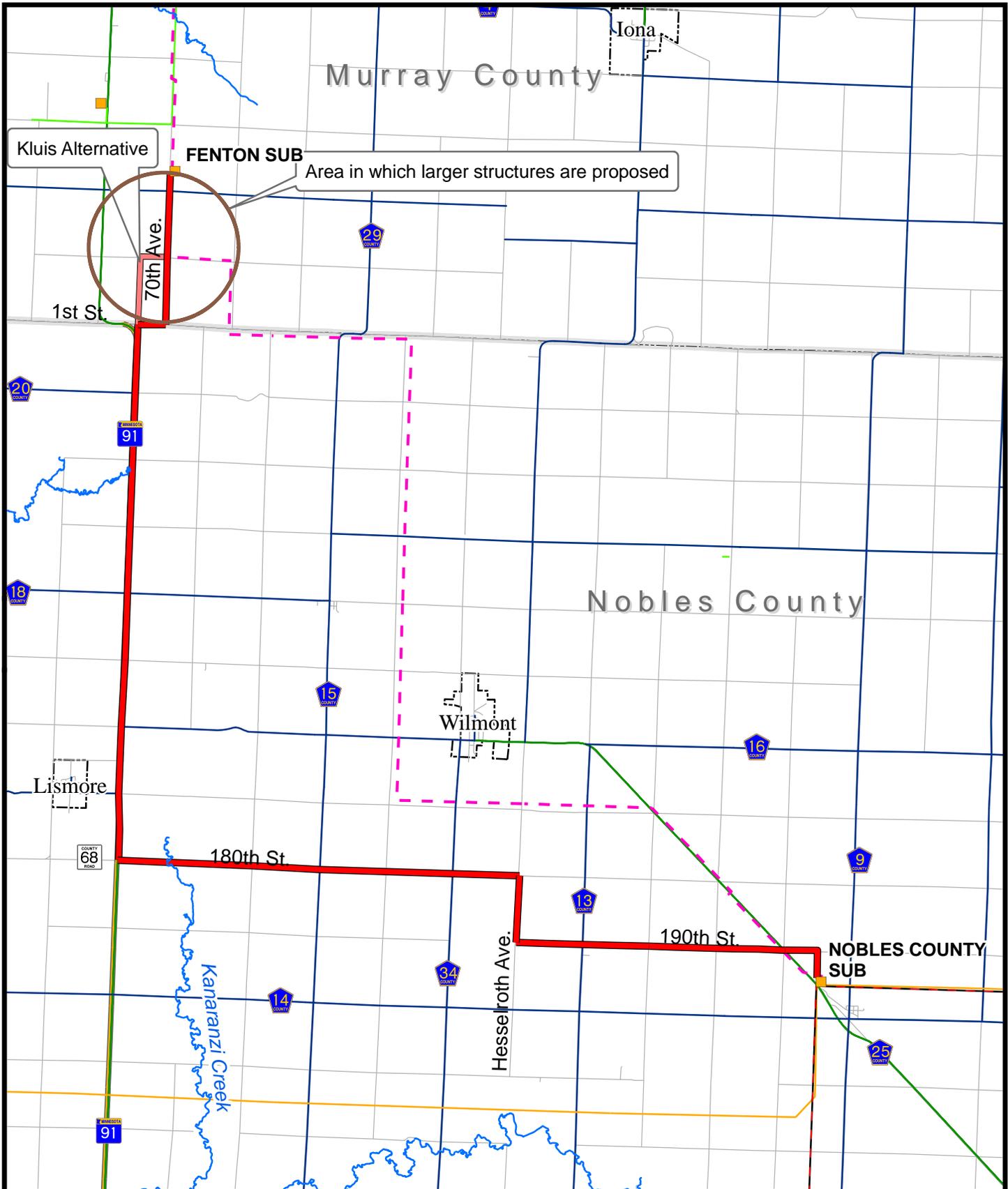
The record will remain open until **April 11, 2008**, for interested persons to submit written comments to the Administrative Law Judge. Comments must be submitted directly to Judge Lipman at: Office of Administrative Hearings, P.O. Box 64620, St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620, phone 651-361-7842, fax 651-361-7936. email eric.lipman@state.mn.us

Purpose of Hearing The purpose of the public hearing is to compile the record for the PUC to consider in making a final decision on the route permit application. Upon closure of the public comment period, Judge Lipman will provide a written summary of testimony given at the hearing to the DOC. The PUC will make a final decision on the route permit application at a subsequent meeting.

Additional Information For more information about the process, the project or to place your name on the project mailing list, contact the DOC project manager, Adam Sokolski (Tel: 651-296-2096 or adam.sokolski@state.mn.us) or public advisor Deborah Pile, (Tel: 651-297-2375 or deborah.pile@state.mn.us) Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198. Other contact information: Toll-Free Tel: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-297-7891 or TTY: Minnesota Relay Service, 800-627-3529, and ask for the DOC.

Mailing List Any person may add his or her name to a mailing list maintained by the DOC for future mailings regarding this project. If you would like to receive notice of the PUC's final decision in this matter, you may put your name on this mailing list. Names can be added to the list by contacting Mr. Sokolski or by visiting the PUC website:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19346>



Legend

— Proposed Route

■ Existing Substations

~ Kluis Alt

— Transmission Lines Under Construction

~ Split Rock to Lakefield Junction 345 kV

~ Nobles to Chanarambie 115 kV

— Existing Transmission Lines

— 69 kV

— 115 kV

— 161 kV