



**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
Office of Energy Security



Issued: July 2, 2009

**Notice of Public Information Meeting**

**In the Matter of the  
Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission  
Minnesota Power  
HVTL Route Permit Application  
Essar Steel Transmission Line Project**

**PUC Docket Number: E280/TL-09-512**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Minnesota Department of Commerce Office of Energy Security (OES) will conduct a public information and environmental impact statement (EIS) scoping meeting at the location listed below. Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission (NPUC) and Minnesota Power (MP) have filed an application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a high voltage transmission line (HVTL) Route Permit to construct four 230 kV transmission lines and two 230 kV substations in Itasca County.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to the public about the NPUC/MP proposal and to identify issues and alternatives to study in an EIS to be prepared by OES.

**Wednesday, July 29, 2009 – 6:00 PM  
Taconite Community Center  
26 Haynes Street  
Taconite, MN 55786**

Representatives from the OES, NPUC and Minnesota Power will be available to answer questions about the permitting process and the proposed project. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions, present comments, and propose issues, alternatives and specific impacts to be addressed in the EIS.

The OES will accept written comments on the scope of the EIS until **August 14, 2009**.

Comments should be mailed or e-mailed to:

Bill Storm, Project Manager  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198  
[bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us)

## **Project Description**

NPUC and MP propose to construct four 230 kV transmission lines and two 230 kV substations. The purpose of the project is to supply reliable electric power to a single source entity - Essar Steel Minnesota (ESM). ESM has obtained state approvals to reactivate the former Butler Taconite mine by developing new facilities, including a taconite pellet plant and steel production plant. The Essar taconite pellet facility is expected to commence initial operation by early 2011, with initial steel plant operation planned for early 2014, at which time the projected demand would be approximately 300 megawatts. Although not committed to, ESM has site approvals for a second steel slab melt line, which would increase the ESM facilities' total electric power requirements to approximately 500-550 megawatts if constructed and at full operation.

The four routes would require approximately 37 miles of new transmission lines.

## **Review Process**

Under the Power Plant Siting Act (Minn. Stat. 216E), a route permit from the Commission is required to build a high voltage transmission line. A route permit application for the project was filed by the Applicants on June 1, 2009. The application was accepted as complete by the Commission on June 25, 2009. The Commission has one year from the time the application is accepted to complete the permitting process and make a decision on the route permit.

Route permit applications for high voltage transmission lines are subject to environmental review (Minn. Rules 7849). For this project, OES staff will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS). The EIS contains information on the human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and examines mitigating measures for anticipated impacts. To focus the content or "scope" of the EIS, OES staff conducts a public meeting to gather comments and suggestions on the proposed project.

Upon completion of the draft EIS, it will be issued for public review and comment, including a public meeting. Comments on the draft EIS will be responded to and included in a final EIS. Concurrent with development of the final EIS, a public hearing will be held, presided over by an administrative law judge (ALJ). Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak at the hearing, present evidence, ask questions, and submit comments. The ALJ will submit a report to the Commission containing findings, conclusions, and a recommendation on a route permit for the proposed transmission line.

Notice of the public meetings and public hearings will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who register their names on the OES project mailing list.

Additional information on the route permitting process is available on the Commission's energy facility permitting website: <http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/TransmissionLines.html>

## **Eminent Domain**

If issued a route permit by the Commission, NPUC/MP may exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire land for this project pursuant to Minnesota Stat. 216E.12.

## **Project Documents**

A more detailed explanation of the proposed project is contained in the NPUC/MP route permit application. An electronic version of the application and other documents relevant to this matter are available on the PUC website at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=24526>

or on eDockets by entering “09” and “512” at: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp>

The Route Permit application is also available at public libraries in the cities listed below:

<b>Hibbing Public Library</b> 2020 East 5 <sup>th</sup> Ave Hibbing, MN 55746 218-362-5959	<b>Calumet Library</b> Gary Street & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave. Calumet, MN 55716 218-247-3108
<b>Grand Rapids Library</b> 140 NE 2 <sup>nd</sup> St. Grand Rapids, MN 218-326-7640	<b>Keewatin Public Library</b> 125 W 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave Keewatin, MN 55753 218-778-6377

Persons interested in adding their names to the project mailing list should contact the OES project manager or public advisor, or register online at the above PUC site.

### Project Contacts

To submit comments, ask questions or seek further information about this project please contact:

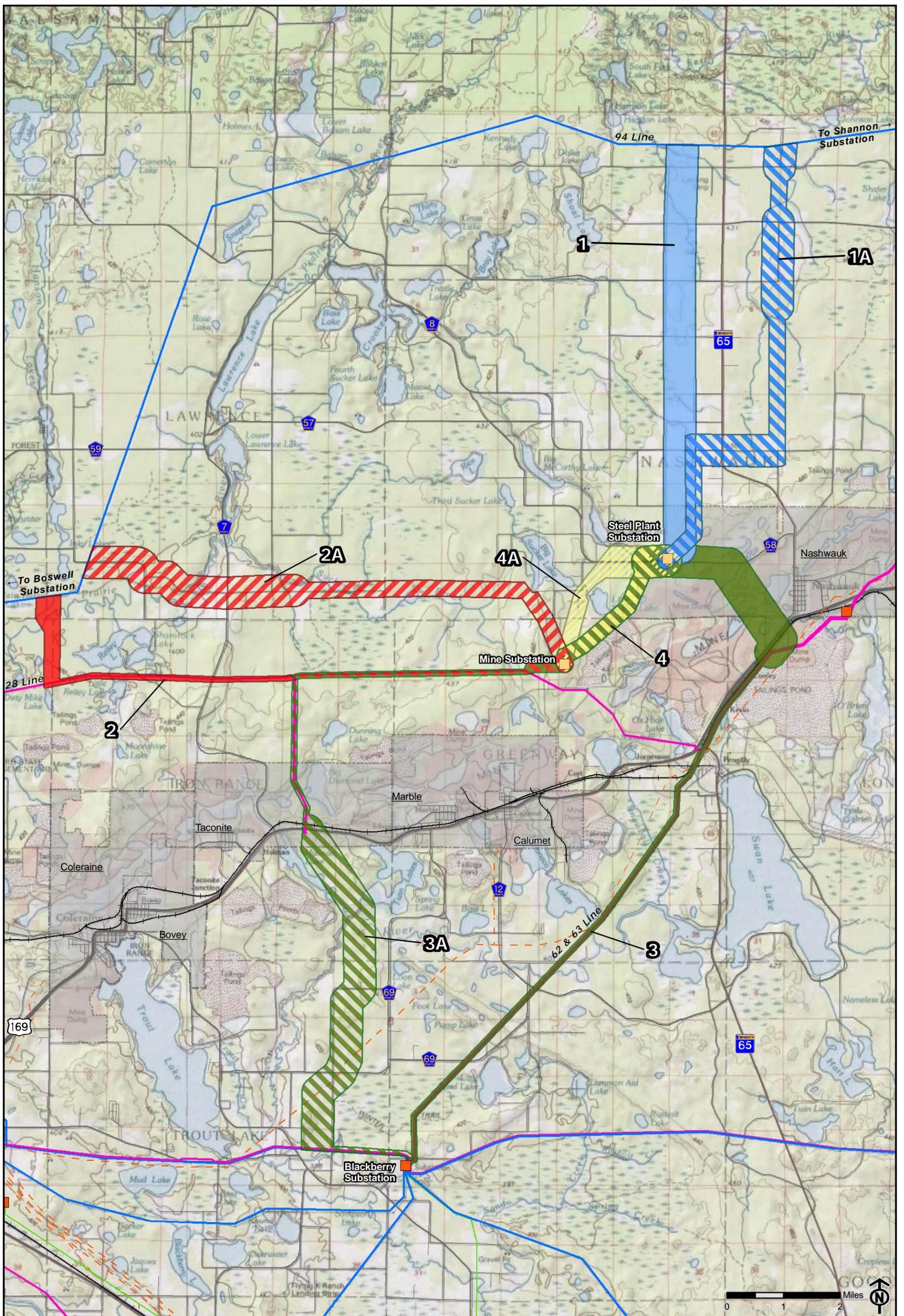
Bill Storm, Project Manager  
(651) 296-9535  
[bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us)

Deborah Pile, Public Advisor  
651-297-2375  
[deborah.pile@state.mn.us](mailto:deborah.pile@state.mn.us)

Energy Facility Permitting  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198  
Fax (651) 297.7891

Information about this project is also available from NPUC and MP. For NPUC you can direct questions to Bryan Adams (218-885-1210, [badams.nashwauk@mcschi.com](mailto:badams.nashwauk@mcschi.com)). Mr. Adams may be contacted in writing at: NPUC, 301 Central Avenue, Nashwauk, MN 55769. For MP you can direct questions to Bob Lindholm (218-355-3342, [rlindholm@allete.com](mailto:rlindholm@allete.com)). Mr. Lindholm may be contacted in writing at: Minnesota Power, 30 West Superior Street, Duluth, MN 55802.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio tape) by calling 651- 201-2202 (Voice) or 1-800-627-3529 (TTY relay service).



Map Document: (\\mspe-gis-file\gisproj\Nashwauk\198-143\map\_dcs\route\_Application\_Figures\Figure\_1\_11x17\_Overview.mxd) 4/21/2009 3:15:05 PM

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|--|----------|--|----------|--|---------------------|--|--------------------|
|  | Route 1  |  | Route 3  |  | Proposed Substation |  | 69kV Transmission  |
|  | Route 1A |  | Route 3A |  | Existing Substation |  | 115kV Transmission |
|  | Route 2  |  | Route 4  |  | Municipal Boundary  |  | 230kV Transmission |
|  | Route 2A |  | Route 4A |  | Pipeline            |  |                    |

Figure 1 - Overview  
 Nashwauk 230 kV Route Application  
 Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission

