



**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
Office of Energy Security



Issued: September 22, 2009

**Notice of Public Information Meeting**

**In the Matter of the Application of EcoEnergy, LLC for a Route Permit for a 161kV  
Transmission Line, Substation and Switching Station**

**MPUC Docket Number: IP-6688/TL-09-601**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Minnesota Office of Energy Security (OES) will conduct a public information and environmental assessment scoping meeting at the location listed below on an application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for a route permit by EcoEnergy, LLC to construct a new high voltage electric transmission line, a new substation and a new switching station in Fillmore County, Minnesota. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to the public about the proposed transmission line project and to identify issues and route alternatives to study in an Environmental Assessment (EA) to be prepared by OES evaluating the proposal.

**Thursday, October 8, 2009  
Harmony Fire Department  
910 Main Avenue South  
Harmony, Minnesota 55939  
6:30 p.m.**

The public information meeting will follow an open-house format until 7:00 p.m. when OES staff will give a presentation about the permitting process and the proposed project. The public is invited to review the application and proposed route, learn more about the PUC route permitting process and ask questions. The public may propose additional routes to be considered for the new transmission line and propose issues to be addressed in the EA. The OES will accept written comments on the scope of the EA and alternatives to the project to be considered in the EA until **October 22, 2009**. Comments should be mailed or e-mailed to Matthew Langan, Project Manager, at 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198 or [matthew.langan@state.mn.us](mailto:matthew.langan@state.mn.us).

***Project Description***

The project involves the construction of an 8.5-mile 161 kV transmission line, a substation in Bristol township, and a switching station in Harmony township. The transmission line would originate at a newly constructed substation (EcoHarmony West substation), head east along County Highway 44 for approximately four and one half miles to 305<sup>th</sup> Avenue where it would turn south one mile to 120<sup>th</sup> Street where it would head east three miles to the switching station (see attached map).

The applicants are requesting a proposed route 220 feet in width. The route follows existing road rights-of-way. The requested route width allows for 110 feet on each side from the roadways' centerline. The proposed transmission line right-of way is 50 to 100 feet, depending on whether the line can be co-located on double-circuit poles.

### ***PUC Review Process***

On July 30, 2009, EcoEnergy, LLC filed an application for a route permit for the proposed project with the PUC. On September 2, 2009, the PUC accepted the route permit application as complete and issued an Order formally accepting the application on September 8, 2009. The OES is responsible for conducting public meetings and environmental review of the proposed transmission line under the Power Plant Siting Act's alternative review process found in Minnesota Rules 7849.5500 – 7849.5720.

The OES will prepare an EA prior to the PUC's consideration of a specific route for the transmission line. The EA will cover issues related to routing, such as construction impacts, environmental features, use of existing rights-of-way, and impacts on homes and businesses.

After completion of the EA, a public hearing will be held. Notice of the hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who register their names on the project mailing list with OES. Persons interested in adding their names to this mailing list should contact the OES project manager or public advisor or register on the webpage cited below.

### ***Project Contacts and Information***

For more information about the project, process, and/or to place your name on the project mailing list contact the following:

Matthew Langan, Project Manager  
Energy Facility Permitting  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
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St. Paul, MN 55101-2198  
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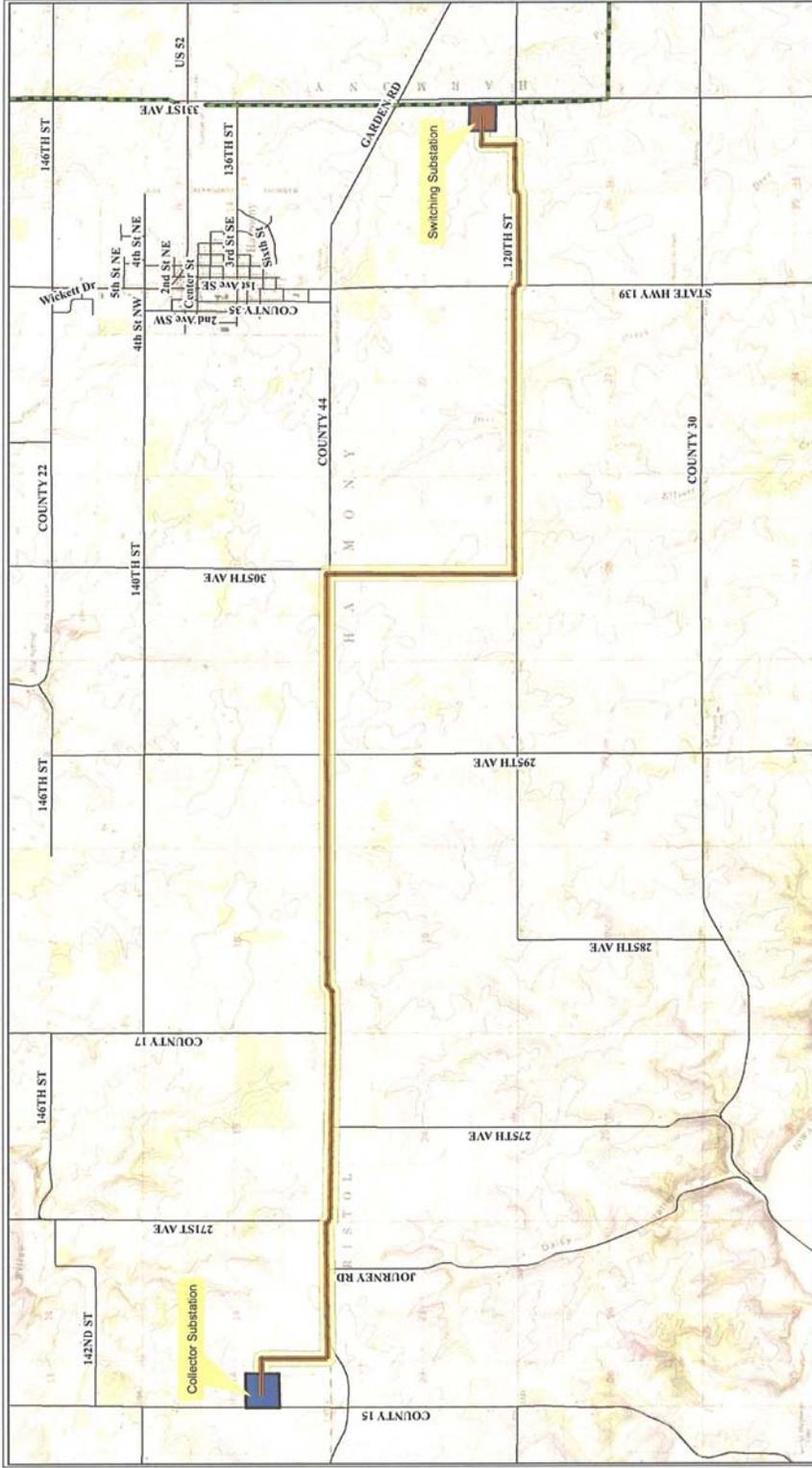
Additional contact information includes: toll-free number 1-800-657-3794, fax number: (651) 297-7891, or TTY Minnesota Relay Service: 1-800-627-3529 (ask for the OES).

Copies of the application and other relevant documents, including Minnesota Statutes and Rules governing the process, are accessible at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/TransmissionLines.html>

or

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/admin/resource.html?Id=24696>



**EcoHarmony West**  
**General Transmission Line**  
**Layout Map**  
**Figure 2**

**Legend**

- Proposed Transmission Line Route
- ITC Interconnect Line
- Collector Substation
- Switching Substation
- 220ft Buffer Route Width
- Roads
- County Boundary
- municipalities

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

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