

**ROUTE PERMIT
FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A
HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINE
IN
BLUE EARTH COUNTY, MINNESOTA
ISSUED TO
NORTHERN STATES POWER Co. d/b/a XCEL ENERGY
EQB DOCKET No. 05-95-TR-Eastwood
PUC DOCKET No. E002/TR-05-1192**

In accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Section 116C.575 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 4400, this Route Permit is hereby issued to:

NORTHERN STATES POWER CO. d/b/a XCEL ENERGY

Northern States Power Co. d/b/a Xcel Energy (hereinafter referred to as Xcel Energy) is authorized by this route permit to construct a new double-circuit 115 kilovolt high voltage transmission line 3.5 miles long from a tap into the Summit-Loon Lake Line, located south of the Mankato Airport in Lime Township, to the Eastwood Substation in Mankato Township, all in Blue Earth County. The project shall be built along the route identified in this Permit and as portrayed on the project map, and in compliance with the conditions specified in this Permit.

Approved and adopted this _____ day of December, 2005.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar,
Executive Secretary

I. ROUTE PERMIT

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) hereby issues this Route Permit to Xcel Energy pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 116C.575 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 4400. This permit authorizes Xcel Energy to construct a double-circuit 115 kilovolt high voltage transmission line in Blue Earth County, Minnesota.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The new alternating current high voltage transmission line (HVTL) authorized to be constructed under this Permit is a double-circuit 115,000-volt (115 kilovolt or kV) line that will connect the Summit-Loon Lake Line in Lime Township to the Eastwood Substation in Mankato Township, all in Blue Earth County. The line will require new right-of-way that will vary in width from 45 feet along existing road right-of-way to 80 feet for any segment of the line traversing open area. The route is approximately 3.5 miles in length.

Xcel Energy is proposing to use single pole, galvanized steel, double-circuit 115 kV davit arm structures. A portion of the route for .75 mile south of the tap will be designed to accommodate existing distribution lines as an underbuild on the 115 kV structures. The conductor will be 795 aluminum core steel supported (ACSS).

III. DESIGNATED ROUTE

The permitted route shall be 100 feet on either side of the roadway centerline along the preferred alignment to allow for exigencies in the plan and implementation of the HVTL. Where the line proceeds cross country south of Power Drive, the route shall be a continuation of the width along the roadway centerline.

IV. PREFERRED ALIGNMENT

The line begins on the east side of County Road 12 where it taps the Summit to Loon Lake 115 kV transmission line near the intersection of 232nd Street and County Road 12. The line then continues south along the east side of County Road 12 for approximately 0.75 miles. There is an existing distribution line in this area which will be underbuilt on the new transmission line structure.

At the junction of County Road 12 and 589th Avenue, the line will cross to the west side of the road and continue south paralleling the railroad for approximately one mile where it will cross over to the east side of 589th Avenue for 0.25 miles until it reaches Thompson Ravine Road (County Road 3).

The line then turns west following the north side of Thompson Ravine Road for 0.5 miles, then turns south following the east side of Power Drive for 0.3 miles and then cross country for 0.2 miles until it crosses T.H. 14. Upon crossing T.H. 14, the line will continue south approximately 0.25 miles until it enters the Eastwood Substation, paralleling the existing Wilmarth-to-Eastwood 69 kV transmission line that enters the northwestern edge of the substation.

V. PERMIT CONDITIONS

The Permittee shall comply with the following conditions during construction of the transmission line and associated facilities and the life of this Permit.

A. Plan and Profile. At least 14 days before right-of-way preparation for construction begins, the Permittee shall provide the PUC with a plan and profile of the right-of-way and the specifications and drawings for right-of-way preparation, construction, cleanup, and restoration for the transmission line. The Permittee may not commence construction until the 14 days has expired or until the PUC has advised the Permittee in writing that it has completed its review of the documents and determined that the planned construction is consistent with this permit. If the Permittee intends to make any significant changes in its plan and profile or the specifications and drawings after submission to the PUC, the Permittee shall notify the PUC at least five days before implementing the changes. No changes shall be made that would be in violation of any of the terms of this permit.

B. Construction Practices.

1. Application. The Permittee shall follow those specific construction practices and material specifications described in the Xcel Energy Application to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board for a Route Permit dated June 14, 2005, and as described in section 3.0 of the Environmental Assessment unless this Permit establishes a different requirement in which case this Permit shall prevail.

2. Field Representative. At least ten days prior to commencing construction, the Permittee shall advise the PUC in writing of the person or persons designated to be the field representative for the Permittee with the responsibility to oversee compliance with the conditions of this Permit during construction. This person's address, phone number, and emergency phone number shall be provided to the PUC, which may make the information available to local residents and public officials and other interested persons. The Permittee may change its field representative at any time upon written notice to the PUC.

3. Cleanup. All waste and scrap that is the product of construction shall be removed from the area and properly disposed of upon completion of each task. Personal litter, including bottles, cans, and paper, from construction activities shall be removed on a daily basis.

4. Vegetation Removal. The Permittee shall minimize the number of trees to be removed as part of the construction of the line, taking into account Permit Condition V.H.1, which recognizes that the Permittee has obligations to comply with clearance requirements.

5. Erosion Control. The Permittee shall implement reasonable measures to minimize runoff during construction and shall plant or seed non-agricultural areas that were disturbed where structures are installed. Upon request, the Permittee shall submit to

the PUC a copy of any Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan prepared for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as part of a storm-water runoff permit application.

6. Temporary Work Space. The Permittee shall limit temporary easements to special construction access needs and additional staging or lay-down areas required outside of the authorized right-of-way.

7. Restoration. The Permittee shall restore all temporary work spaces, access roads, and other private lands affected by construction of the transmission line. Restoration must be compatible with the safe operation, maintenance, and inspection of the transmission line. Within 60 days after completion of all restoration activities, the Permittee shall advise the PUC in writing of the completion of such activities.

8. Notice of Permit. The Permittee shall inform all employees, contractors, and other persons involved in the construction of the transmission line of the terms and conditions of this Permit.

C. Periodic Status Reports. Upon request, the Permittee shall report to the PUC on progress regarding finalization of the route, design of structures, and construction of the transmission line. The Permittee need not report more frequently than quarterly.

D. Complaint Procedure. Prior to the start of construction, the Permittee shall submit to the PUC the company's procedures to be used to receive and respond to complaints. The procedures shall be in accordance with the requirements set forth in Exhibit 1 attached to this Permit.

E. Notification to Landowners. The Permittee shall provide all affected landowners with a copy of this Permit at the time of the first contact with the landowners after issuance of this Permit.

F. Completion of Construction.

1. Notification to PUC. At least three days before the line is to be placed into service, the Permittee shall notify the PUC of the date on which the line will be placed into service and the date on which construction was complete.

2. As-Builts. Upon request of the PUC, the Permittee shall submit copies of all the final as-built plans and specifications developed during the project.

3. GPS Data. Within 60 days after completion of construction, the Permittee shall submit to the PUC, in the format requested by the PUC, geo-spatial information (GIS compatible maps, GPS coordinates, etc.) for all above ground structures associated with the transmission lines and each substation connected.

G. Electrical Performance Standards.

1. Grounding. The Permittee shall design, construct, and operate the transmission line in such a manner that the maximum steady-state short-circuit current shall be limited

to five milliamperes rms alternating current between the ground and any non-stationary object within the right-of-way including but not limited to, large motor vehicles and agricultural equipment. All fixed metallic objects on or off the right-of-way, except electric fences that parallel or cross the right-of-way, shall be grounded to the extent necessary to limit the short circuit current between ground and the object so as not to exceed one milliamperes rms under steady state conditions of the transmission line and to comply with the ground fault conditions specified in the National Electric Safety Code.

2. Electric Field. The transmission line shall be designed, constructed, and operated in such a manner that the electric field measured one meter above ground level immediately below the transmission line shall not exceed 8.0 kV/m rms.

3. Interference with Communication Devices. If interference with radio or television, satellite or other communication devices is caused by the presence or operation of the transmission line, the Permittee shall take whatever action is prudently feasible to restore or provide reception equivalent to reception levels in the immediate area just prior to the construction of the line.

H. Other Requirements.

1. Applicable Codes. The Permittee shall comply with applicable North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) construction standards and requirements of the National Electric Safety Code (NESC) including clearances to ground, clearance to crossing utilities, clearance to buildings, right-of way widths, erecting power poles, and stringing of transmission line conductors.

2. Other Permits. The Permittee shall comply with all applicable state rules and statutes. The Permittee shall obtain all required permits for the project and comply with the conditions of these permits. A list of the required permits is included in the permit application and the environmental assessment. The Permittee shall submit a copy of such permits to the PUC upon request.

3. Pre-emption. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 116C.61, subdivision 1, this Route Permit shall be the sole route approval required to be obtained by the Permittee and this Permit shall supersede and preempt all zoning, building, or land use rules, regulations, or ordinances promulgated by regional, county, local and special purpose government.

I. Delay in Construction. If the Permittee has not commenced construction or improvement of the route within four years after the date of issuance of this Permit, the PUC shall consider suspension of the Permit in accordance with Minn. Rule 4400.3750.

J. Special Conditions.

1. Distribution Underbuild. South of the tap into the Summit-Loon Lake 115 kV line, Xcel Energy shall underbuild the distribution line on its transmission structures through the existing .75 miles and remove the existing distribution structures.

VI. PERMIT AMENDMENT

The permit conditions in Section V. may be amended at any time by the PUC. Any person may request an amendment of the conditions of this permit by submitting a request to the PUC in writing describing the amendment sought and the reasons for the amendment. The PUC will mail notice of receipt of the request to the Permittee. The PUC may amend the conditions after affording the Permittee and interested persons such process as is required.

VII. TRANSFER OF PERMIT

The Permittee may request at any time that the PUC transfer this permit to another person or entity. The Permittee shall provide the name and description of the person or entity to whom the permit is requested to be transferred, the reasons for the transfer, a description of the facilities affected, and the proposed effective date of the transfer. The person to whom the permit is to be transferred shall provide the PUC with such information as the PUC shall require to determine whether the new permittee can comply with the conditions of the permit. The PUC may authorize transfer of the permit after affording the Permittee, the new permittee, and interested persons such process as is required.

VIII. REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF THE PERMIT

The PUC may initiate action to revoke or suspend this permit at any time. The PUC shall act in accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Rules part 4400.3950 to revoke or suspend the permit.

Legend

 Route (200 feet Wide)

Preferred Alignment

 115 kV Double Circuit

 115 kV Double Circuit with Distribution Underbuild

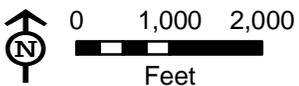
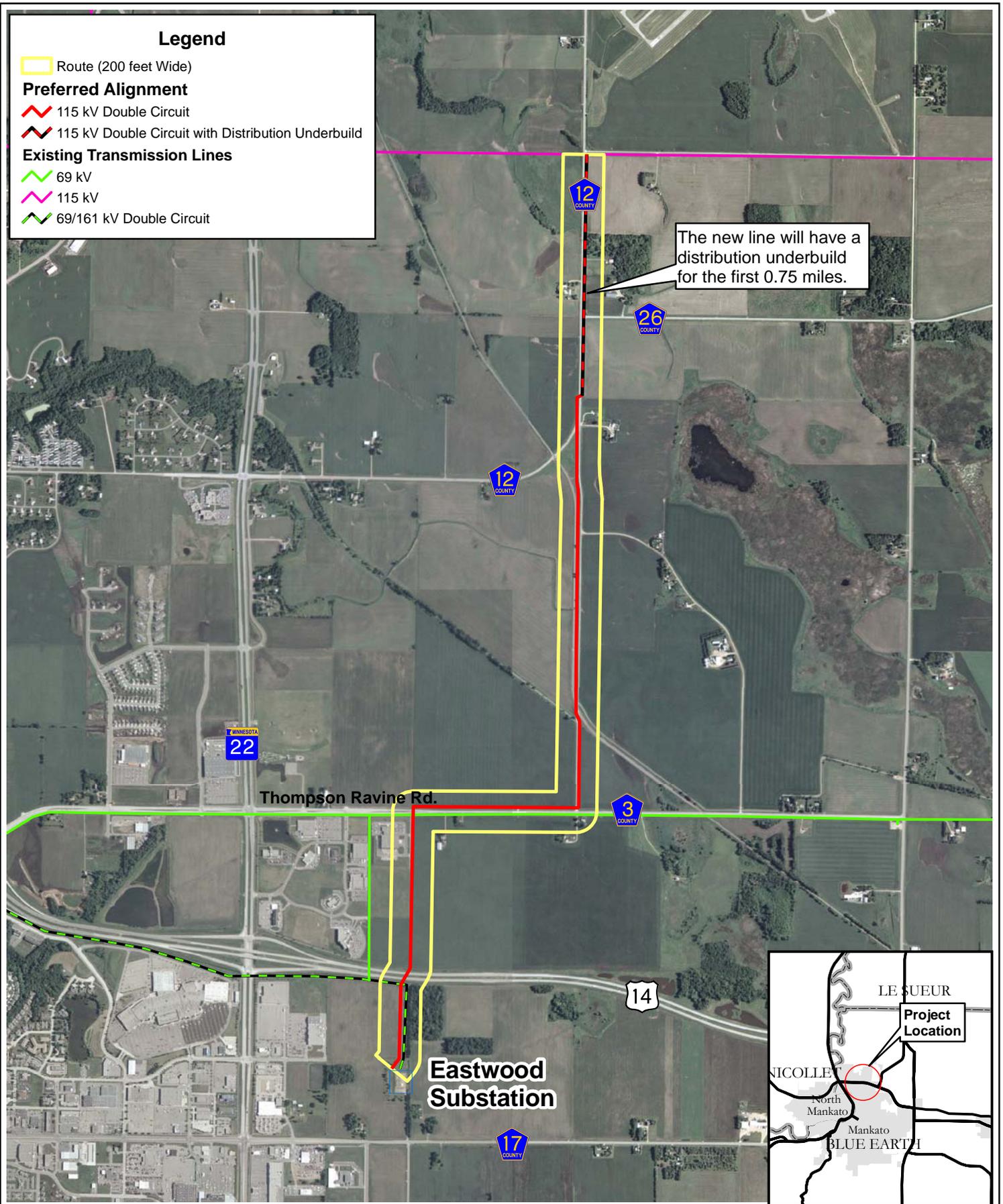
Existing Transmission Lines

 69 kV

 115 kV

 69/161 kV Double Circuit

The new line will have a distribution underbuild for the first 0.75 miles.



Eastwood Double Circuit Transmission Line Project Mankato, Blue Earth County, Minnesota



**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
COMPLAINT REPORT PROCEDURES FOR
HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES**

1. Purpose

To establish a uniform and timely method of reporting complaints received by the permittee concerning the permit conditions for right-of-way preparation, construction, cleanup and restoration, and resolution of such complaints.

2. Scope

This reporting plan encompasses complaint report procedures and frequency.

3. Applicability

The procedures shall be used for all complaints received by the permittee.

4. Definitions

Complaint - A statement presented by a person expressing dissatisfaction, resentment, or discontent as a direct result of right-of-way preparation, construction, cleanup and restoration. Complaints do not include requests, inquiries, questions, or general comments.

Substantial Complaint - Any complaints submitted to the permittee in writing that, if substantiated, could result in permit modification or suspension pursuant to the applicable regulations.

Person - An individual, partnership, joint venture, private or public corporation, association, firm, public service company, cooperative, political subdivision, municipal corporation, government agency, public utility district, or any other entity, public or private, however organized.

5. Responsibilities

Everyone involved with right-of-way preparation, construction, cleanup and restoration is responsible to ensure expeditious and equitable resolution of all complaints. It is therefore, necessary to establish a uniform method for documenting and handling complaints directed to this project. The following procedures will satisfy this requirement:

- A. The Permittee shall document all complaints by maintaining a record of all applicable information concerning the complaint, including the following:
1. Name of the permittee and project.
 2. Name of complainant, address and phone number.
 3. Precise property description or tract number (where applicable).
 4. Nature of complaint.
 5. Response given.
 6. Name of person receiving complaint and date of receipt.
 7. Name of person reporting complaint to the EQB and phone number.
 8. Final disposition and date.
- B. The Permittee shall assign an individual to summarize complaints for transmittal to the PUC.

6. Requirements

The permittee shall report all complaints to the PUC according to the following schedule:

Immediate Reports - All substantial complaints shall be reported to the PUC by phone the same day received (or on the following working day for complaints received after working hours) at 651-201-2255.

Monthly Reports

By the 15th of each month, a summary of all complaints, including substantial complaints received or resolved during the proceeding month, and a copy of each complaint shall be sent to Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place E., Suite 350 Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147.

7. Complaints Received by the PUC

Copies of complaints received directly by the PUC from aggrieved persons regarding right-of-way preparation, construction, cleanup and restoration shall be promptly sent to the permittee.