



85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198  
651.296.4026 FAX 651.297.1959 TTY 651.297.3067

---

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION  
FOR A PIPELINE ROUTING PERMIT  
AND  
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS**

**Application of Xcel Energy for a  
Pipeline Routing Permit for the  
High Bridge Gas Pipeline**

**PUC Docket No. G002/GP05-1706**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that public information meetings will be held on the application by Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel for a pipeline routing permit to construct a 2.5-mile natural gas pipeline originating at the Mendota Regulator Station in Dakota County and terminating at the High Bridge generating facility in Ramsey County.

**INFORMATION MEETING SCHEDULE**

December 12, 2005	2:00 p.m.	Summit Room Department of Commerce 85 <sup>th</sup> 7 <sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500 St. Paul, MN
December 12, 2005	7:00 p.m.	Lilydale City Hall Lilydale, MN

Staff of the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) will conduct the meeting and describe the state's pipeline permitting process. Please note that the authority for pipeline routing permits was transferred to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission from the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board on July 1, 2005, and responsibility for conducting the public review process was assigned to the DOC. Representatives of Xcel Energy will also be at the meetings to describe the proposed project and answer questions.

The proposed 2.5-mile natural gas pipeline will begin at the Mendota Regulator Station in the southeast quadrant of the interchange between Interstate Highway 35E and Minnesota Highway 13 and end at the High Bridge facility on the north shore of the Mississippi River near downtown St. Paul. See accompanying map.

The proposed pipeline will have an outside diameter of 20-inches and an operating pressure of 650 pounds per square inch (psi). The pipeline will be buried underground and primarily within existing rights-of-way in the Minnesota counties of Dakota and Ramsey.

The PUC is reviewing this project pursuant to the requirements of the Pipeline Routing Rules (Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4415). This set of rules contains two different types of review procedures for a pipeline routing permit. Xcel Energy is seeking review under the shorter of the two review processes contained in the rules, referred to as a partial exemption from pipeline route selection procedures. Both review procedures require the applicant to submit the same information; however, the shorter process does not require the applicant to identify an alternative route and does not require a contested case hearing.

The Department of Commerce (DOC) will hold public information meetings to provide information on the proposed project and to receive information to assist the PUC in determining whether to grant or deny the partial exemption application. The public information meetings are scheduled for the times and places listed above. Representatives from other governmental agencies may be present to discuss their oversight of the project. A more detailed explanation of the proposed project is contained in the application for a partial exemption from pipeline route selection procedures filed with the PUC. Copies of Xcel Energy's application, pipeline routing rules and the pipeline routing act will be available at the information meetings and on the PUC Website listed below.

In deciding whether to grant or deny the partial exemption, the PUC shall consider comments that are filed with the DOC, the record of the public information meetings, and the information contained in the application relevant to the criteria for a partial exemption. Any person may file comments with the PUC stating reasons why the PUC should grant or deny the partial exemption. **All comments should be submitted to the PUC by January 4, 2006.** If the PUC grants the partial exemption application, it will also issue a pipeline routing permit. If the partial exemption is denied, the applicant may request that the PUC continue processing its application under full pipeline route selection procedures.

Xcel Energy expects to have the pipeline in service in May 2008.

The public has until 4:30 p.m. on January 4, 2006, to submit written or fax (651-297-1959) comments on this project. **Please include the following docket number (G002/GP05-1706).** Comments should be directed to: Sharon Ferguson, Department of Commerce, 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198 or by e-mail to: [sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us](mailto:sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us).

To ask questions or seek further information about this proposed project, please contact Larry Hartman at 651-296-5089 or [larry.hartman@state.mn.us](mailto:larry.hartman@state.mn.us).

For electronic access to all public documents in this proceeding see the PUC website at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=18167> or eDockets (05-1706) at: <http://www.edockets.state.mn.us>.

