



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

**Application of CenterPoint Energy
for a
Pipeline Routing Permit
for the
Riverside Pipeline Project**

PUC Docket No. G008/GP-06-426

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) will hold public information meetings/open houses at the places and times identified below, concerning the application submitted by CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp (formerly Minnegasco), doing business as CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Gas for a pipeline routing permit to construct a 16.3-mile natural gas pipeline originating at the Northern Natural Gas (Northern Natural) Town Border Station (TBS) located in the city of Andover in Anoka County and terminating at the Xcel Energy Riverside Power Plant located in Northeast Minneapolis in Hennepin County.

OPEN HOUSE & PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING SCHEDULE

<p>Hennepin County-May 23, 2006</p> <p>RiverVillage East</p> <p>2919 Randolph Street NE Minneapolis, MN</p> <p>Afternoon Session 2:00-3:00 p.m. Open House 3:00 p.m. Public Meeting</p> <p>Evening Session 6:00-7:00 p.m. Open House 7:00 p.m. Public Meeting</p>	<p>Anoka County - May 24, 2006</p> <p>Springbrook Nature Center</p> <p>6431 University Ave., NE Fridley, MN 55432</p> <p>Afternoon session 2:00-3:00 p.m. Open House 3:00 p.m. Public Meeting</p> <p>Evening session 6:00-7:00 p.m. Open House 7:00 p.m. Public Meeting</p>
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Staff of the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) will conduct the public meetings and review the state's pipeline permitting process and how the public may be involved. In conjunction with the DOC information meetings, CenterPoint Energy will hold an open house prior to each public meeting to answer questions and provide the public with information about the project.

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.

Project Description

The proposed pipeline will have an outside diameter of 20-inches and an operating pressure of 550 pounds per square inch (psi). The pipeline will be buried underground and primarily within existing rights-of-way in the cities of: Andover, Coon Rapids and Fridley (Anoka County); and Minneapolis (Hennepin County).

CenterPoint Energy plans to have the pipeline in service by December 2008.

Project Location

The proposed 16.3-mile natural gas pipeline will begin at a new Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern Natural) Town Border Station located adjacent to an existing Northern Natural facility in the city of Andover near the intersection of 148th Street and Prairie Road. The pipeline will traverse north approximately 200 feet to 148th Street. The pipeline will then go west along the 148th Street right-of-way for approximately 2,500 feet. The pipeline will continue west for approximately 600 feet until reaching the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad right-of-way. The pipeline will then traverse south generally outside but adjacent to the railroad right-of-way for approximately 11.4 miles. Next, the pipeline will go west approximately 600 feet to the intersection of Island Park Drive NE and East River Road. The pipeline will continue south along the East River Road for approximately 4.1 miles until reaching Xcel Energy's Riverside Power Plant facility on the east shore of the Mississippi River approximately 4 miles north of downtown Minneapolis (Hennepin County). See accompanying map.

PUC Pipeline Routing Permit Requirements

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. CenterPoint 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 permitting process 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 CenterPoint Energy's application, pipeline routing rules and the pipeline routing act will be available at the information meetings/open houses 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 June 14, 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.

Public Comments

The public has until 4:30 p.m. on June 14, 2006, to submit written or fax (651-297-1959) comments on this project. **Please include the following docket number (G008/GP-06-426).** Comments should be directed to: Sharon Ferguson, Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198.

DOC Project Contacts

To ask questions or seek further information about this proposed project from the DOC, please contact Larry Hartman (Tel: 651-296-5089 or larry.hartman@state.mn.us) or Jeffrey Haase (Tel: 651-297-6548 or jeffrey.haase@state.mn.us).

Project Information

For electronic access to all public documents in this proceeding see the PUC website at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=18522> or eDockets (06-426) at: <http://www.edockets.state.mn.us>. If you would like to have your name added to the mailing list for this project you may register online at the project website listed above or contact the DOC staff at the address above.