



**STATE OF MINNESOTA
Minnesota Department of Commerce**



**NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT
AVAILABILITY**

Issued: April 25, 2007

In the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota Corporation and Wholly Owned Subsidiary of Xcel Energy Inc., for Three 115 kV Transmission Lines in Southwestern Minnesota

MPUC Docket Number: E002/CN-06-154

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Environmental Report (ER) for the Xcel Energy Buffalo Ridge Incremental Generation Outlet (BRIGO) transmission line project has been completed and is available to the public. The ER addresses potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed high voltage transmission line (HVTL) Project and alternatives to the Project. Copies the ER and other relevant documents are accessible at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=18664>

Paper copies may be requested from the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) staff listed at the end of this notice.

Project Description

On December 4, 2006, Xcel Energy applied for a Certificate of Need (CON) from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to build the proposed BRIGO transmission line project. The Project includes three separate 115,000 volt (115 kV) transmission lines, each between 10 and 20 miles long in the southwestern Minnesota counties of Murray, Lincoln, Nobles, and Lyon.

The Project is a Large HVTL as defined by Minnesota Statutes 216B.243 and requires a CON from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. An Environmental Report (ER) is required for the CON. The Project(s) also will require designation of a transmission line route(s), which will be reviewed by the PUC or local government in a separate, future routing proceeding.

PUC Review Process

Public and evidentiary hearings will be held by Administrative Law Judge Beverly Heydinger in southwestern Minnesota and in St. Paul. Details about the hearings are listed below:

PUBLIC HEARINGS

May 16, 2007

7:00 p.m.

**Murray County Govt Ctr
Courts Bldg Meeting Room
2848 Broadway
Slayton, MN**

May 17, 2007

1:00 p.m.

**Lincoln County Courthouse
Assembly Room
319 North Rebecca Street
Ivanhoe, MN**

May 17, 2007

7:00 p.m.

**Marshall Municipal
Utilities
113 South 4th Street
Marshall, MN**

EVIDENTIARY HEARING

May 22, 2007

9:00 a.m.

**Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place E., Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55101**

Notice of the hearings will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons receiving this notice by U.S. Mail and those who register their names on the project mailing list with the Department. Persons interested in adding their names to this mailing list should contact the DOC or register on the webpage cited below.

Project Contacts and Additional Information

Persons interested in receiving additional information regarding the environmental review in this matter can register their names on the Project Docket webpage at <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=18664>, by contacting Adam Sokolski, Energy Facilities Permitting, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101, phone (651) 296-2096, e-mail: adam.sokolski@state.mn.us, or by contacting PUC staff person David Jacobsen, Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101, (651) 201-2238.