STATE OF MINNESOTA
Minnesota Department of Commerce
Issued: October 31, 2007

Notice of Public Information Meeting

In the Matter of the Application for a Route Permit for the Fenton – Nobles #2 115kV High Voltage Transmission Line

MPUC Docket Number: E002/TL-07-1233

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) will conduct a public information and environmental assessment scoping meeting at the location listed below on a proposal by Xcel Energy to construct a new high voltage electric transmission line in Murray and Nobles counties, 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 the Department evaluating the proposal.

Thursday, November 15, 2007
Wilmont Community Center
316 4th Avenue, Wilmont, MN
6:30 p.m.

The public information meeting will follow an open-house format. The public is invited to review the application and proposed route, learn more about the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (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 DOC will accept written comments on the scope of the EA until **December 2, 2007**. Comments should be mailed or e-mailed to Sharon Ferguson, Docket Manager, at 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198 or sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us.

Project Description
Xcel Energy proposes to build a second, approximately 21-mile, 115,000 volt high voltage transmission line (HVTL). The proposed route would run parallel along existing transmission lines from the existing Fenton Substation to the existing Nobles County Substation.

PUC Review Process
On October 18, 2007, Xcel Energy filed and a application for a route permit for the proposed project with the PUC. On November 2, 2007, the PUC accepted the rout permit application as complete. The DOC has been assigned the responsibility to conduct public meetings and environmental review of the proposed transmission line under the alternative review process found in Minnesota Rules 7849.5500 – 7849.5720.

The DOC will prepare an EA prior to the PUC's consideration of a specific route for the transmission line. The EA will consider 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 the Department. Persons interested in adding their names to this mailing list should contact the DOC project manager or public advisor or register on the webpage cited below.

If issued a route permit by the PUC, and in accordance with their authority under state law, Xcel Energy may exercise the power of eminent domain in this matter.

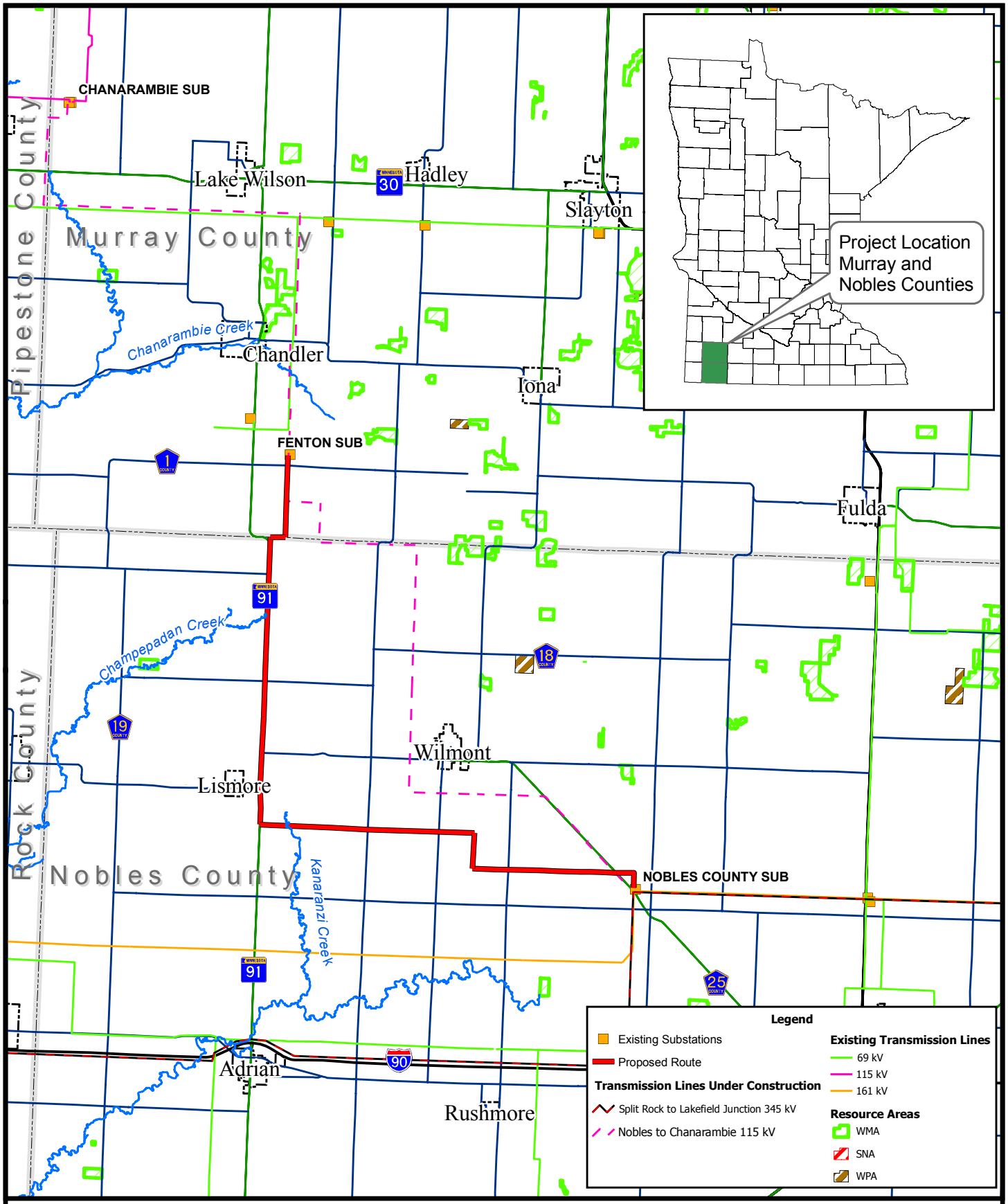
Project Contacts and Information

For more information about the process, the project or to place your name on the project mailing list, contact the DOC project manager, Adam Sokolski (Tel: 651-296-2096 or adam.sokolski@state.mn.us) or Deborah Pile, (Tel: 651-297-2375 or deborah.pile@state.mn.us) Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198. Other contact information: Toll-Free Tel: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-297-7891 or TTY: Minnesota Relay Service, 800-627-3529, and ask for the DOC.

Copies of both Applications 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/Docket.html?Id=19346

Copies of the Route Permit Application is available at the Slayton Public Library, 2451 Broadway Avenue, Slayton, MN 56172.



0 1 2 4 Miles

Appendix B.1 General Vicinity Map
Fenton - Nobles County
115 kV Transmission Line Project
Nobles and Murray Counties, MN

Xcel Energy
NORTHERN STATES POWER

Map Document: (N:\GISProj\xcel\55365\map_docs\mxd\RouteApplication\Fenton_Nobles_GeneralVicinity.mxd)
10/1/2007 --