



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Minnesota Department of Commerce
Issued: February 20, 2008



Notice of Public Information Meeting

In the Matter of the Application for a Route Permit for the Mary Lake 115 kV High Voltage Transmission Line

MPUC Docket Number: E002/TL-07-1365

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 Wright County, 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.

Tuesday, March 11, 2008
Bison Creek Event Center
(Huikko's Bowling Center)
1207 North Highway 25
Buffalo, MN 55313
6:30 p.m.

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. Representatives from the DOC and Xcel Energy will be available to answer questions about the route permitting process and the proposed Project. Members of the public may propose additional routes to be considered for the new transmission line and may propose issues to be addressed in the EA. The DOC will accept written comments on the scope of the EA until **March 26, 2008**. Comments should be mailed or e-mailed to:

Sharon Ferguson, Docket Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500,
Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198
sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us.

Project Description

Xcel Energy proposes to build approximately five miles of 115 kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line (HVTL) in Wright County. The proposed Project will be built to 115 kV standards, but will initially operate at 69 kV. The proposed Project will connect the Buffalo Power – Maple Lake 69 kV transmission line and the Mary Lake – Dickinson 69 kV transmission

line near Buffalo using taps located near the Buffalo Power and Mary Lake substations. The Project is proposed to improve electric reliability in the Buffalo area.

PUC Review Process

On January 24, 2008, Xcel Energy filed an application for a route permit for the proposed project with the PUC. On February 7, 2007, the PUC accepted the route 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:

Suzanne Steinhauer, Project Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
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St. Paul, MN 55101-2128
Tel: 651-296-2888
suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us

David Birkholz, Public Advisor
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2128
651-296-2878 or
david.birkholz@state.mn.us

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 the Application 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=19402>

A copy of the Route Permit Application is available for review at the Buffalo Public Library, 18 NW Lake Boulevard, Buffalo, MN 55313.

