



**STATE OF MINNESOTA
Minnesota Department of Commerce
Office of Energy Security**



Issued: May 22, 2008

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
AND
AVAILABILITY OF
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**In the Matter of the Xcel Energy Route Permit Application for the Mary Lake 115 kV
Transmission Line Tap Project**

PUC Docket No. E002/TL-07-1365

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC), Office of Energy Security (OES), will hold a public hearing on behalf of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) on Xcel Energy's application to the PUC to construct approximately five miles of 115 kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line (HVTL) between the Buffalo Power – Maple Lake 69 kV transmission line and the Mary Lake – Dickinson 69 kV transmission line in and near the city of Buffalo in Wright County.

**Monday, June 9, 2008 • 6:30 p.m.
Buffalo Public Library
Community Room A
18 NW Lake Blvd.
Buffalo, MN 55313**

Project Description. The proposed transmission line route is approximately five miles, and connects a new tap outside the Buffalo Power Substation to a new tap outside of the Mary Lake Substation. Xcel Energy has proposed a route that runs generally east and then south along public roads between the two tap structures. In addition to the route proposed by Xcel Energy, two route alternatives following public roads or railroad tracks between the two taps are also being considered (see attached map). The proposed Project will not require work at either substation.

Environmental Assessment. The OES has prepared an environmental assessment on the proposed project. The environmental assessment addresses the potential impacts of the proposed and alternative routes for the project. The environmental assessment along with other documents relevant to the route permit process are available for review and download on the PUC website at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19402> or by contacting the OES staff listed below.

Conduct of Hearing. The public hearing will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Power Plant Siting Act, Minnesota Statutes 216E.01 to 216E.18, and Minnesota Rules 7849.5500 to 7849.5720. The Honorable Manuel J. Cervantes, Administrative Law Judge, will preside over the hearing.

Public Hearing. The OES staff will be present at the hearing to make a brief presentation describing the project, explain the process to be followed, and to introduce documents to be included in the record, including the application, the environmental assessment, and relevant procedural documents. Representatives from Xcel Energy will be present to introduce evidence by way of testimony/exhibits and to answer questions. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions of OES staff and Xcel Energy representatives, to make oral statements/presentations, and to offer written comments and documents into the record. Members of the public are not required to file any papers in advance of the hearing in order to participate. The record will remain open until **4:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 24, 2008**, for interested persons to submit written comments to the Administrative Law Judge. Comments must be submitted directly to:

The Honorable Manuel J. Cervantes
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620
Email: Manuel.Cervantes@state.mn.us

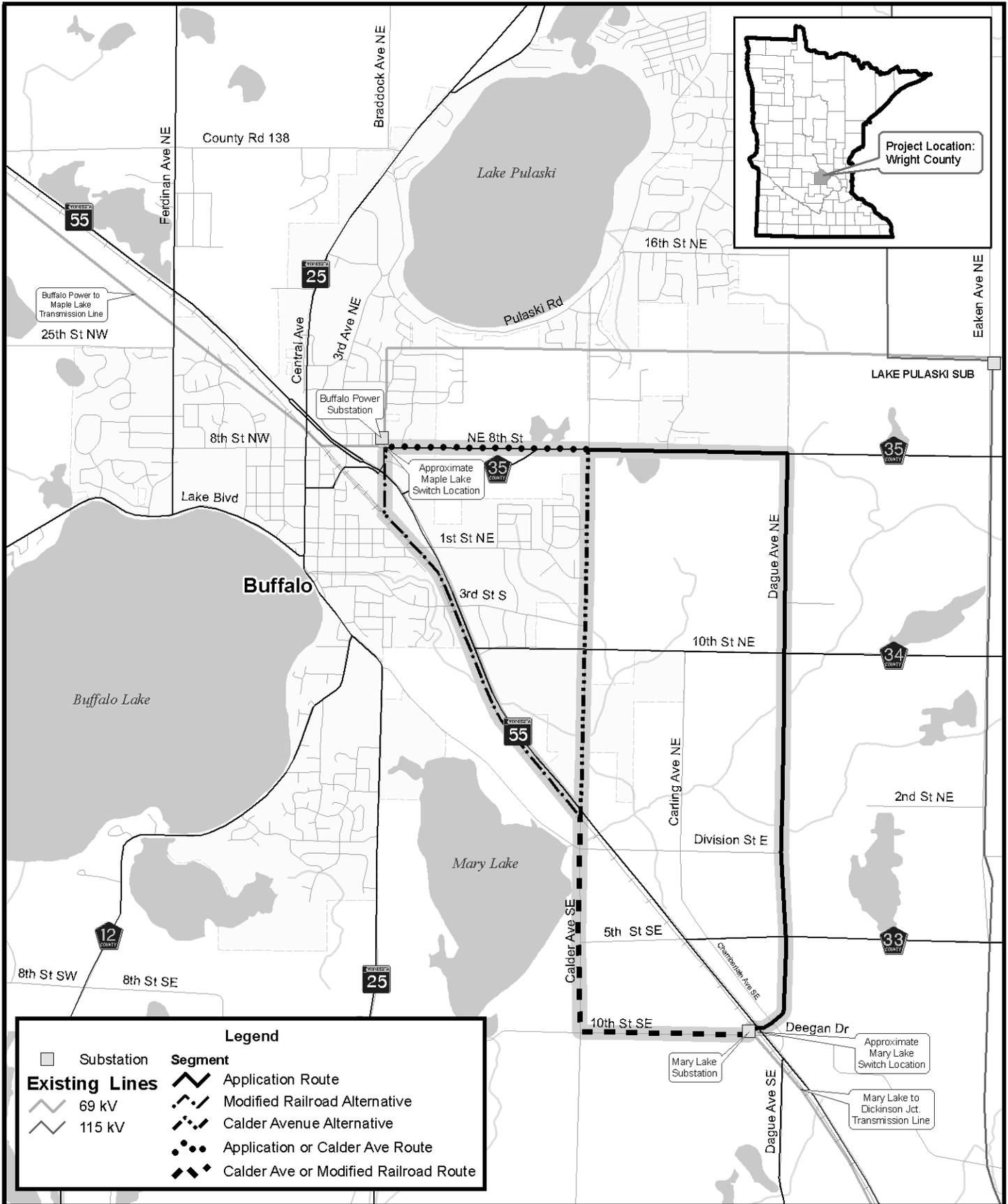
After the close of the public comment period, Judge Cervantes will provide the OES with a written summary of testimony given at the hearing. The PUC will make a final decision on the route permit application after receipt of the complete record.

Additional Information. For more information about the process, the project or to place your name on the project mailing list, please contact:

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Mailing List. Any person may add his or her name the mailing list maintained by the OES for future mailings regarding this project. If you would like to receive notice of the Commission's final decision in this matter please add your name to the mailing list. Names can be added to the list by contacting Ms. Steinhauer or by registering on the PUC website at:
<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19402>.



Map Document: (N:\GIS\Projects\128336\MaryLake\Map\Buffalo\map_docs\agency_maps\working\vicinity\050508.mxd)

Legend	
	Substation
	Existing Lines
	69 kV
	115 kV
	Application Route
	Modified Railroad Alternative
	Calder Avenue Alternative
	Application or Calder Ave Route
	Calder Ave or Modified Railroad Route



General Vicinity Map
 Mary Lake
 115 kV Transmission Line Tap Project

Figure 1