



85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
main: 651.296.4026 tty: 651.296.2860 fax: 651.297.7891
www.commerce.state.mn.us

STATE OF MINNESOTA
Minnesota Department of Commerce
Office of Energy Security
Issued: May 30, 2008

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Thursday, June 12, 2008 ♦ 6:30 p.m.
Lyon County Government Center (Court House)
607 West Main Street, Second Floor, Marshall, MN

**On the Application of Xcel Energy for a Route Permit for the Lake Yankton to Marshall
Transmission Line Project in Lyon County**

PUC Docket E002/TL-07-1407

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 or the Commission) on the route permit application by Xcel Energy to construct a new 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between the Lake Yankton Substation in Balaton to the Southwest Marshall Substation in Marshall, a distance of approximately 15 miles.

Project Description. Xcel Energy proposes to build an approximately 15-mile, 115 kV volt high voltage transmission line (HVTL). The proposed route would primarily run parallel along existing public roads and transmission lines from the existing Lake Yankton Substation to the existing Southwest Marshall Substation.

Environmental Assessment. The OES has completed an environmental assessment (EA) on the proposed project. The environmental assessment addresses the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed route. The environmental assessment and other documents relevant to the route permit process are available for review and download on the PUC website <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19448> or by contacting the OES staff listed below.

Conduct of Hearing. The purpose of the public hearing is to compile the record for the PUC to consider in making a final decision on the route permit application. Upon closure of the public comment period, Judge Mihalchick will provide a written summary of testimony given at the hearing to the DOC. The PUC will make a final decision on the route permit application at a subsequent meeting.

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 Steve Mihalchick, Administrative Law Judge, will preside over the hearing.

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 and 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., June 23, 2008**, for interested persons to submit written comments to the Administrative Law Judge. Comments must be submitted directly to:

The Honorable Steve Mihalchick
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
St. Paul, MN 55164-0620
phone 651-361-7844, fax 651-361-7936
email Steve.Mihalchick@state.mn.us

The Administrative Law Judge will provide OES staff a written summary of testimony given at the hearing. The Commission 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:

Adam Sokolski, Project Manager
Energy Facility Permitting
Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
(651) 297-2375
adam.sokolski@state.mn.us

Scott Ek, Public Advisor
Energy Facility Permitting
Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
(651) 296-8813
scott.ek@state.mn.us

Mailing List. Any person may add his or her name to the mailing list maintained by 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 Mr. Sokolski or by registering on the PUC website at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19448>