



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

Issued: May 19, 2008

**In the Matter of the Xcel Energy Route Permit Application for the Yankee Substation to Brookings
County Substation 115 kV #2 Transmission Line Project**

PUC Docket No. E002/TL-07-1626

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 an approximately six and one-half mile 115 kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line (HVTL) between the existing Yankee Substation, Lincoln County, Minnesota (southeast corner of County Highway 1 and 160th Street) and the South Dakota/Minnesota border.

**Friday, June 13, 2008 • 12:30 p.m.
Midwest Center for Wind Energy
2390 Lincoln County Highway 1
Hendricks, Minnesota**

Project Description. Xcel Energy proposes to build a second 115 kV HVTL from its existing Yankee Substation in Lincoln County, Minnesota, to its existing Brookings County Substation in South Dakota (the project). The total length of the proposed transmission line route is approximately 13 miles, six and one-half miles of which are in Minnesota. The area along the proposed route is rural and dominated by agricultural land use. Nearly the entire proposed route runs parallel to county and township road rights-of-way (see attached map).

Environmental Assessment. Office of Energy Security 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 at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19453> 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 Steve Mihalchick, Administrative Law Judge will preside over the hearing.

Public Hearing. Office of Energy Security 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., Friday, June 17, 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, Minnesota 55164-0620
email: Steve.Mihalchick@state.mn.us

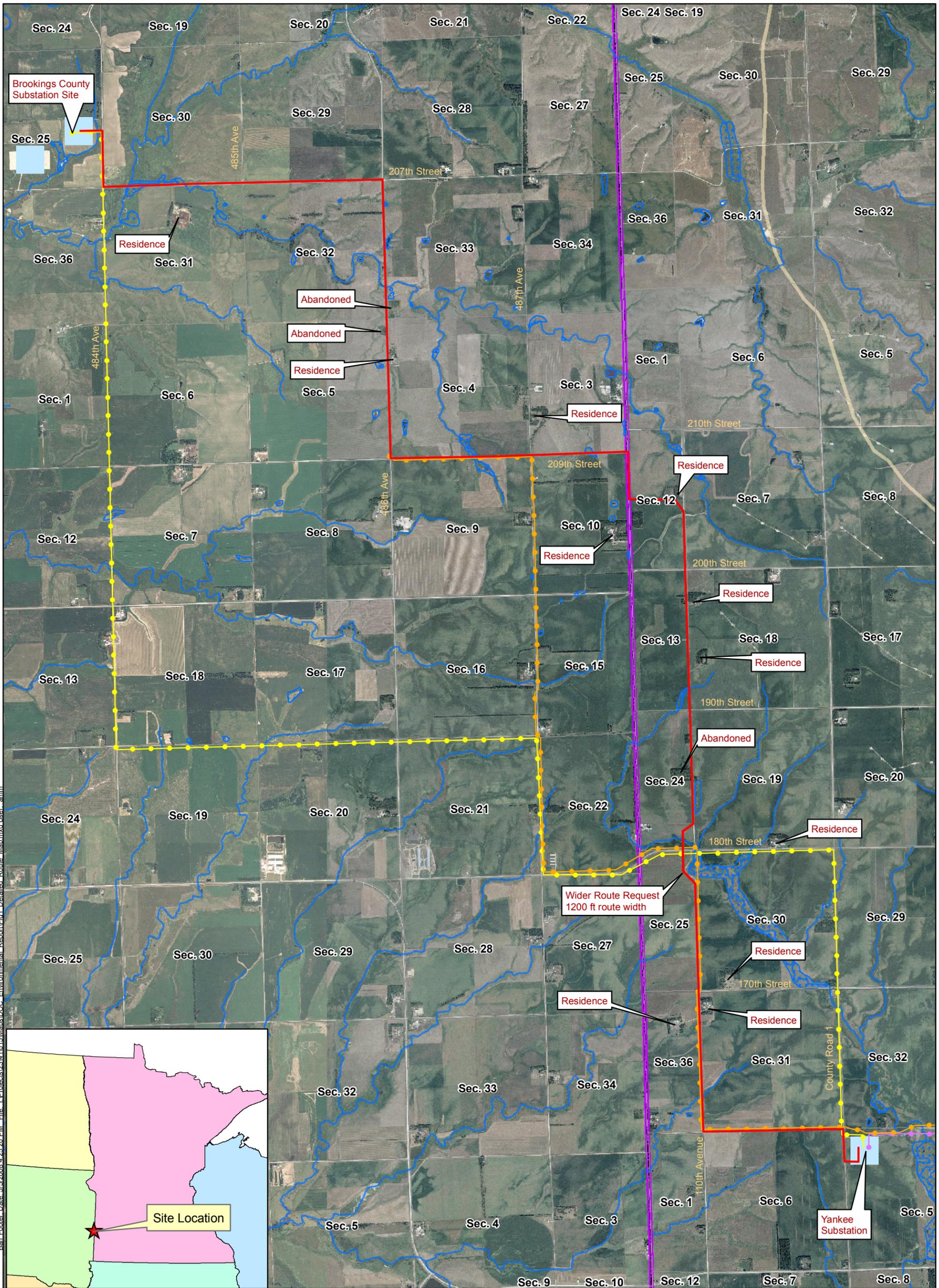
The Administrative Law Judge will provide OES staff a written summary of testimony given at the hearing. The Commission will make a final decision on the route permit application after receipt of the complete record.

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

Scott Ek, Project Manager
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

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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. Ek or by registering on the PUC website at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19453>.



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- Proposed Route Centerline
- PPM feeder line
- Brookings-Yankee 115 kV #1
- Yankee-Buffalo Ridge 115 kV
- Rivers & Streams
- Wetlands
- State Line

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles



Figure 1 - Detailed Route Map
BRIGO Yankee-Brookings County
Transmission Line

