



**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**Minnesota Department of Commerce**  
Issued: February 8, 2008



**Notice of Public Information Meeting**

**In the Matter of the Application of Rochester Public Utilities for a Route Permit for a  
161kV Transmission Line and Substation**

**MPUC Docket Number: E299/TL-07-1366**

**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 an application for a route permit by Rochester Public Utilities to construct a new high voltage electric transmission line and a new substation in Olmsted 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.

**Thursday, February 28, 2008**  
**Rochester Athletic Club**  
**3100 19th Street NW**  
**Rochester, Minnesota 55901**  
**6:30 p.m.**

The public information meeting will follow an open-house format until 7:00 p.m. when the DOC staff will give a presentation about the permitting process and the proposed project. 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 and alternatives to the project to be considered in the EA until **March 12, 2008**. Comments should be mailed or e-mailed to Sharon Ferguson, Docket Manager, at 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500, Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198 or [sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us](mailto:sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us).

***Project Description***

Rochester Public Utilities proposes to a new, approximately 6.6 -mile, 161,000 volt (161 kV) high voltage transmission line (HVTL) on a route that connects to the existing 161 kV line at the Valleyhigh Road/C.R. 4 intersection with 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, then proceeding due south along and parallel to 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 19<sup>th</sup> Street NW where the route turns west approximately 1 mile along 19<sup>th</sup> Street NW to the proposed Westside Substation. From the Westside Substation, the proposed route proceeds north approximately 3.4 miles, sharing the 60<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW/County Road 104 right-of-way, to the Douglas Trail. The proposed route turns southeasterly and the

proposed line would be installed on existing power poles just south of the Douglas Trail corridor for approximately 1.3 miles and terminates at the existing Northern Hills Substation.

### ***PUC Review Process***

On December 14, 2007, Rochester Public Utilities filed an application for a route permit for the proposed project with the PUC. On January 24, 2008, the PUC accepted the route permit application as complete and issued an Order formally accepting the application on January 29, 2008. The DOC has been assigned the responsibility to conduct public meetings and environmental review of the proposed transmission line under the Power Plant Siting Act's 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, Rochester Public Utilities 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](mailto:adam.sokolski@state.mn.us)) or Deborah Pile, (Tel: 651-297-2375 or [deborah.pile@state.mn.us](mailto:deborah.pile@state.mn.us)) Department of Commerce, 85 7<sup>th</sup> 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 the application and other relevant documents, including Minnesota Statutes and Rules governing the process, are accessible at:

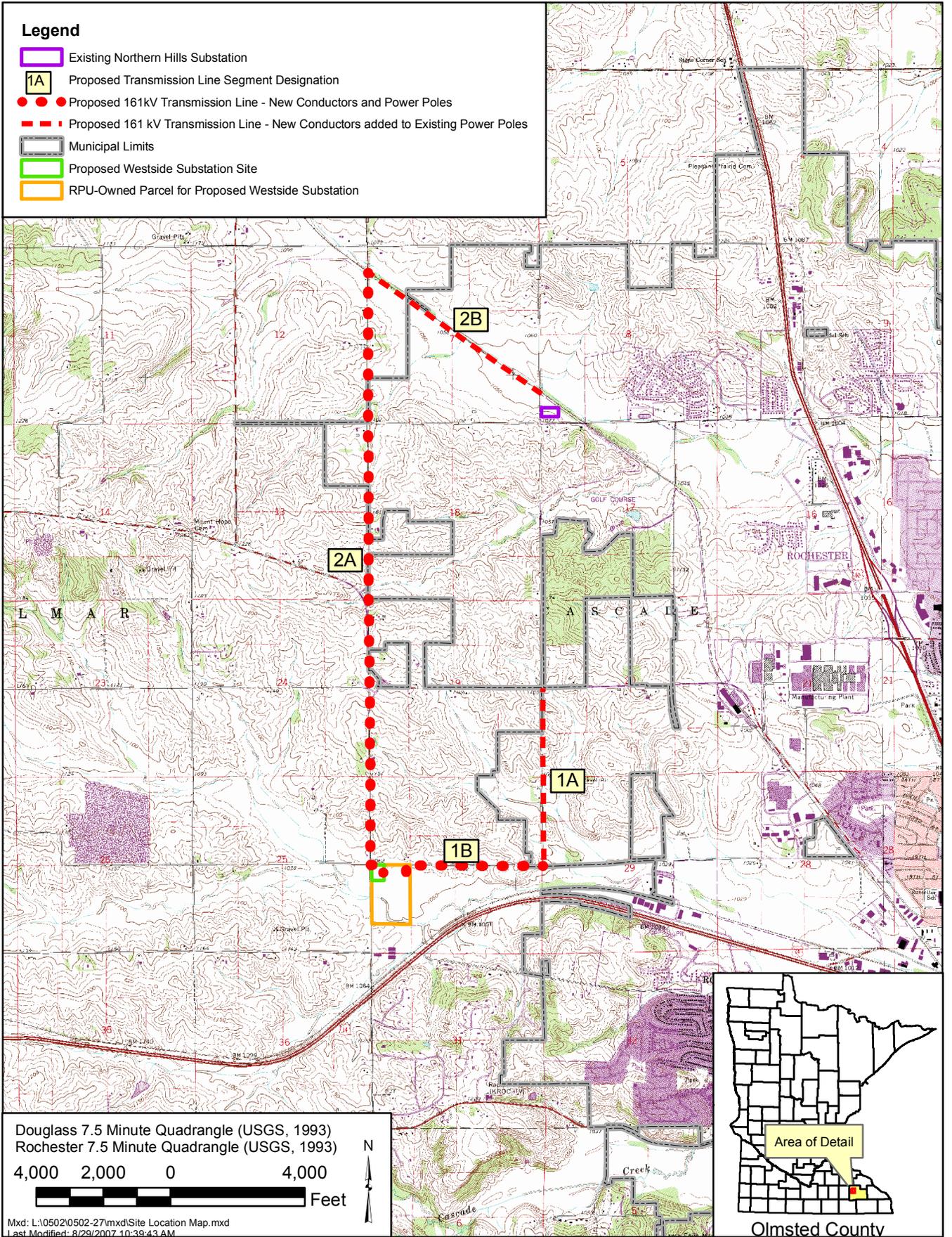
<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/TransmissionLines.html>

or

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/admin/resource.html?Id=19459>

**Legend**

-  Existing Northern Hills Substation
-  Proposed Transmission Line Segment Designation
-  Proposed 161kV Transmission Line - New Conductors and Power Poles
-  Proposed 161 kV Transmission Line - New Conductors added to Existing Power Poles
-  Municipal Limits
-  Proposed Westside Substation Site
-  RPU-Owned Parcel for Proposed Westside Substation



**ROCHESTER PUBLIC UTILITIES - NORTHWEST  
TRANSMISSION LINE ROUTE PERMIT APPLICATION**

**Project Location**

**Wenck**  
Wenck Associates, Inc. 1800 Pioneer Creek Center  
Environmental Engineers Maple Plain, MN 55359-0429

DEC 2007

Figure 1