



**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
Office of Energy Security



Issued: February 12, 2009

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**In the Matter of the Xcel Energy and Great River Energy Route Permit Application for the South Bend-Stoney Creek 115 kV High Voltage Transmission Line and Substations Project**

**PUC Docket Number: E-002, ET-2/TL-08-734**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Minnesota Department of Commerce Office of Energy Security (OES) will hold a public hearing on behalf of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) at the time and location listed below, on the route permit application by Great River Energy and Xcel Energy (Applicants) to the Commission for the proposed South Bend to Stoney Creek project in Rapidan and Mankato townships in Blue Earth County.

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Monday, February 23, 2009**  
**at 6:30 p.m.**

**Mankato National Guard Armory and Community Center**  
**100 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive**  
**Mankato, Minnesota**

**Conduct of Hearing.** The public hearing will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Power Plant Siting Act, Minn. Statutes 216E.04, and Minn. Rule 7849.5710. The Honorable Kathleen D. Sheehy, Administrative Law Judge will preside over the hearing.

OES staff will be present at the hearing to make a brief presentation about the project and introduce into the record a number of documents relating to the project. Representatives of the Applicants will be present to offer evidence and to answer questions. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions of OES staff and the applicants, to make statements, and to offer written comments and material into the record.

The record will remain open until **4:30 P.M., Monday, March 9, 2009**, for interested persons to submit written comments to the Administrative Law Judge. Comments must be submitted directly to Judge Sheehy:

The Honorable Kathleen D. Sheehy  
Office of Administrative Hearings  
P.O. Box 64620  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620  
Kathleen.Sheehy@state.mn.us

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

**Project Description.** The Project includes the following components of a 69-kilovolt (kV) transmission line that the Applicants intend to rebuild within the existing easement to a 115 kV transmission line to loop around Mankato. The Applicants are requesting a route width of 200 ft. in order to accommodate any necessary adjustments to that alignment.

- Two new substations: 115-161/69 kV South Bend Substation and 115/69 kV substation and a 69 kV breaker station at Stoney Creek
- Approximately four miles of an existing NSP-Minnesota 69 kV transmission line will be rebuilt to 115 kV from South Bend Substation to Ballard Corner switches.
- Approximately two miles of an existing NSP-Minnesota 69 kV transmission line will be rebuilt to 115/69 kV double-circuits from Ballard Corner switches to Stoney Creek Substation.
- Approximate two miles of an existing NSP-Minnesota and Great River Energy 69 kV transmission line will be rebuilt to 115 kV from the Stoney Creek Substation to the Pohl Substation.
- A segment alternate introduced by Mankato Township would reroute the line from Hwy 16 along CSAH 90; place the Stoney Creek Substation at CSAH 90 and Pohl Road; and run the line north along Pohl Road, replacing the existing 69 kV line up to 200<sup>th</sup> Street.

The proposed facilities would require substation and equipment upgrades at the Eastwood and Wilmarth substations to accommodate the upgraded transmission facilities.

**Environmental Review.** OES has completed an environmental assessment (EA) on the proposed project. The EA addresses the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and the alternative route segment. The EA and other documents relevant to this matter are available on the PUC website at:

<http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19642>

or on eDockets by entering “08” and “734” at:

<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp>

**Project Contacts.** Persons interested in adding their names to the project mailing list or seeking further information about this project should contact the OES project manager or public advisor, or register online at the above PUC site.

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# Proposed and Alternative Routes

