

REVISED NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING



STATE OF MINNESOTA Office of Energy Security



Issued: August 19, 2008 – Reissued: August 26, 2008

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A ROUTE PERMIT AND REVISED NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

**In the Matter of the Route Permit Application for the Southdale to Scarecyville 115
Kilovolt High Voltage Transmission Line and Breaker Station**

PUC Docket Number: ET2/TL-08-712

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce Office of Energy Security (OES) will conduct a public information and environmental assessment scoping meeting at the location listed below on the route permit application by Great River Energy (GRE) and Minnesota Power (MP) to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC or Commission) for the proposed Southdale to Scarecyville project. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to the public about the project and to identify issues and route alternatives to study in an environmental assessment that will be prepared by the OES Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff.

RESCHEDULED PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING* **Tuesday, September 23, 2008 - 6:00 pm**

**Cragun's Conference Center
Shoreline Meeting Room
1000 Craguns Drive
Brainerd, Minnesota 56401**

An open house will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the public information meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.

*The original public meeting date of September 9, 2008 was rescheduled due to the Minnesota State Primary Election.

The public information meeting will follow an open house format until 6:30 p.m. when EFP staff will give a presentation about the state's high voltage transmission line alternative permitting process, the proposed project, and how the public may be involved.

Limited copies of the route permit application, a flow chart depicting the alternative permitting process, and comment forms will be available at the public information meeting.

Project Description

The applicants propose to construct approximately 9.3 miles of new 115 kV high voltage transmission line and build a new 115 kV breaker station (Scarcyville Breaker Station) to be located in Crow Wing and Cass counties, Minnesota. The proposed project would extend from the west side of Baxter to the north end of Sylvan Township and would parallel existing utility and county/state highway rights-of-way for approximately 95 percent of the project (see attached Figure 3-1, Proposed Project Segments).

The requested routes widths and lengths vary by segment and range from 100 feet to 700 feet in width. The proposed rights-of-way would also vary in width from 70 total feet along the proposed route that would follow CSAH 36, Little Pine Road, CSAH 18, and TH 210 to 100 total feet where the proposed transmission line would overtake and underbuild the existing MP 34.5 kV distribution line and the proposed section from CSAH 36 to Little Pine Road.

Review Process

A route permit application for the project was filed by GRE and MP on July 17, 2008. The application was accepted as complete by the Commission on August 15, 2008.

Applications for high voltage transmission line route permits are subject to environmental review, which is conducted by EFP staff. The staff will provide notice and conduct a public information and environmental assessment scoping meeting to solicit public comments on the scope of the environmental assessment. The Director of the OES will ultimately determine the final scope of the environmental assessment. The environmental assessment will address issues related to routing, such as construction impacts, environmental features, use of existing rights-of-way, impacts on homes and businesses, and consideration of public comments.

Applications for high voltage transmission line route permits require a public hearing upon completion of the environmental assessment. Notice of the hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who register their names on the project mailing list. A portion of the public hearing will be held in the counties where the proposed project would be located.

Should the Commission issue a route permit, in accordance with the authority under state law, GRE and MP may, if necessary, may exercise the power of eminent domain in this matter.

Minnesota Statutes and Rules governing the process are available on the following website (<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/TransmissionLines.html>).

Project Documents

A more detailed explanation of the proposed project is contained in the GRE and MP route permit application. Electronic versions of the application and other documents relevant to this matter are available on the PUC website or eDockets at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19634>

<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter Docket Number 08-712)

Persons interested in adding their names to the project mailing list should contact the OES project manager, public advisor, or register online at (http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Users/user_registration.htm).

Public Comments

Comments on this project will be accepted until **4:30 p.m. on October 6, 2008**. Please include docket number ET2/TL-08-712 on your comments.

Project Contacts

To submit comments, ask questions, or seek further information about this project please contact:

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This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio tape) by calling 651- 201-2202 (Voice) or 1-800-627-3529 (TTY relay service).

Figure 3-1 Proposed Project Segments

