



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Energy Security



Issued: October 28, 2008

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

In the Matter of the Route Permit Application for a 115/69 Kilovolt (kV) High Voltage Transmission Line Rebuild from a Newly Proposed West New Ulm Substation to the Existing Fort Ridgley Substation

PUC Docket Number: E-002/TL-08-956

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Office of Energy Security (OES) - Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff will conduct a public information and environmental assessment scoping meeting at the location listed below on the route permit application by Xcel Energy to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for the proposed 115/69 kV High Voltage Transmission Line Rebuild from a Newly Proposed West New Ulm Substation to the Existing Fort Ridgley Substation. 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 - EFP staff.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
Wednesday, November 19, 2008 - 6:00 P.M.

New Ulm Civic Center
1212 North Franklin Street
New Ulm, Minnesota 56073

An open house will begin at 6:00 P.M. followed by the public information meeting at 6:30 P.M.

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

Xcel Energy is proposing to construct a new, 4.2-mile 115 kV high voltage transmission line between a newly proposed West New Ulm Substation in Brown County, Minnesota, and the existing Fort Ridgley Substation in Nicollet County, Minnesota.

Approximately 3.8 miles or 90 percent of the new 115 kV transmission line will be constructed along the existing Fort Ridgley 69 kV transmission line alignment using double circuit 115/69 kV structures; thereby, accommodating the new 115 kV and the existing 69 kV on a single structure alignment. The proposed project also involves the construction of a new substation (West Ulm Substation) near New Ulm in Brown County, Minnesota, and modifications to the existing Fort Ridgley Substation.

Review Process

A route permit application for the project was filed by Xcel Energy on August 29, 2008. The application was accepted as complete by the Commission on October 6, 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 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. The Director of the OES will determine the final scope of the environmental assessment.

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 Xcel Energy may be required to exercise the power of eminent domain in accordance with their authority under state law.

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 Xcel Energy route permit application. Electronic versions of the application and other documents relevant to this matter are available on the Public Utilities Commission website or eDockets at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19744>
<http://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter Docket Number 08-956)

Persons interested in adding their names to the project mailing list should contact the EFP 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 December 5, 2008**. Please include docket number E-T2/TL-08-956 on your comments.

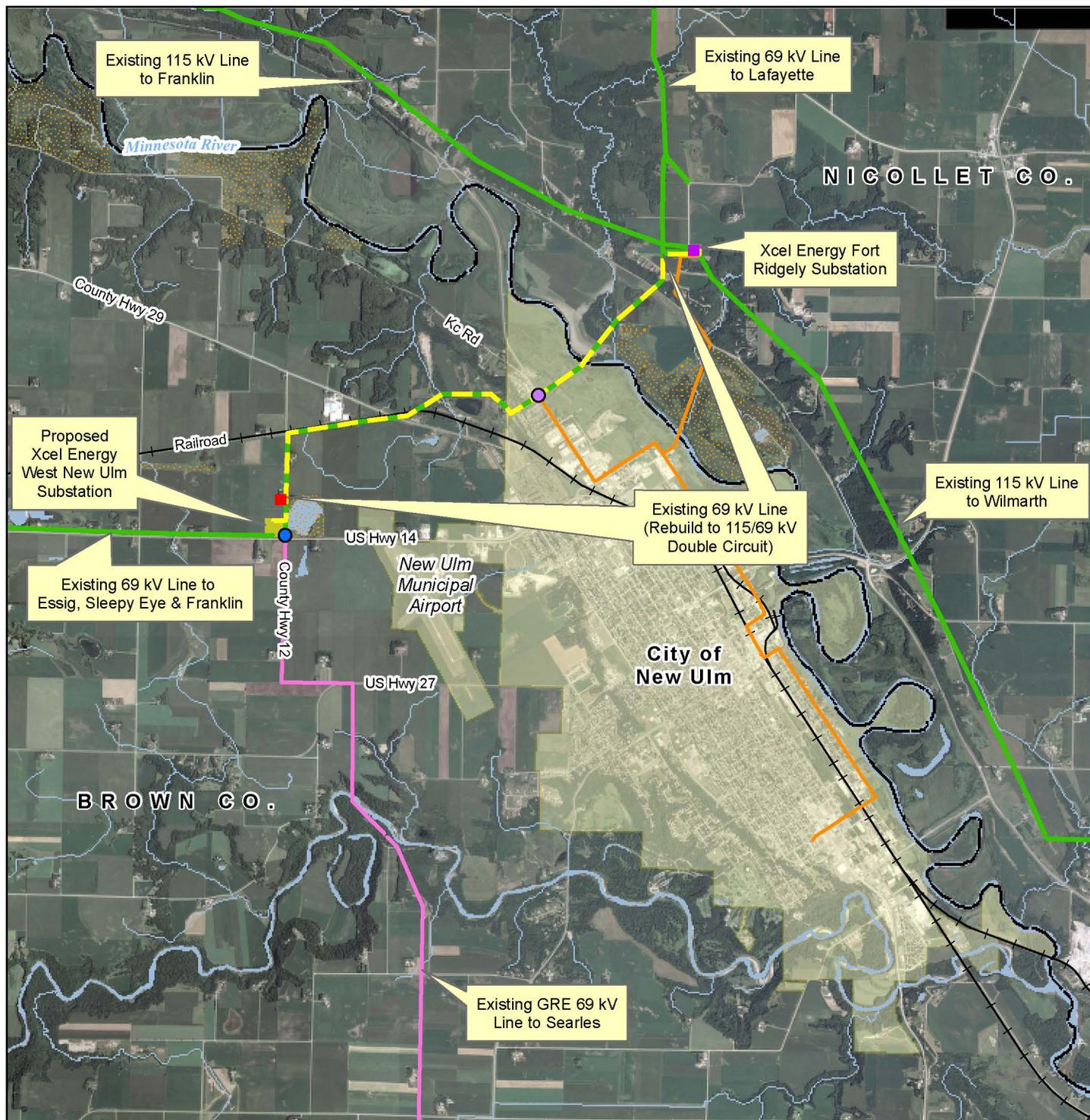
Project Contacts

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).



Proposed West New Ulm Substation and 115/69 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project

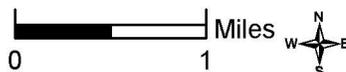
Brown and Nicollet counties, MN

Legend

- Existing Substation - Fort Ridgely
- Existing Substation - Brown Co. REA
- New Ulm Switch
- GRE Switch
- Proposed Xcel Energy 115/69 kV Transmission Line
- Proposed Xcel Energy West New Ulm Substation
- Xcel Energy Transmission Line
- GRE Transmission Line
- New Ulm Public Utilities Transmission Line
- Railroad
- MN DNR Wildlife Area
- Waterbody
- River/Stream
- County Boundary
- City Boundary



Data Source(s): Xcel Energy, MN DNR, USDA.



General Vicinity Map
Revised Appendix B.1