



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Energy Security



Issued: June 1, 2009

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AVAILABILITY

In the Matter of the Certificate of Need and Route Permit Applications for a 161 kV Transmission Line and Associated Facilities in Jackson County, Minnesota.

PUC Docket Numbers: IP-6686/CN-08-944 and IP-6686/TL-08-1120

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Northstar Transmission, LLC (Northstar) 161 kV transmission line project has been completed and is available to the public. The EA contains information on the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and addresses required methods to mitigate such impacts for all of the routes considered. Copies of the EA and other relevant documents are accessible at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19789>.

Project Description. Northstar is proposing to construct a 9- or 10-mile 161 kV transmission line, a substation in Petersburg Township, and a switching station east of the city of Jackson, Minnesota. The transmission line would originate at a newly constructed substation located approximately one half mile north of the Minnesota-Iowa border in Petersburg Township and proceed north out of the substation along County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 25/560th Avenue for approximately five and one half miles to 558th Avenue and continue north two miles to CSAH 14 traveling one-quarter mile east. At this point the transmission line route would veer slightly north-northwest traveling across private agricultural land along property and section lines to a newly proposed switching station (Figure 1).

Review Process. A certificate of need application and a route permit application for the project were filed by Northstar on October 28, 2008. The applications were accepted as complete by the Public Utilities Commission (Commission).

The certificate of need and route permit applications are being reviewed jointly and the Office of Energy Security (OES) is preparing an EA on the transmission line project to cover the environmental review requirements for the certificate of need and route permit processes. The EA considers issues related to both the need for the project such as size, type, timing, voltage, and system configurations as well as issues related to routing, including construction impacts, environmental features, use of existing rights-of-way, and impacts to homes and businesses.

A public hearing presided over by an Administrative Law Judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings will be scheduled in June 2009 at a location near Jackson, Minnesota. Notice of the hearing will be published in a local newspaper and mailed to persons who register their names on the project mailing list. Persons interested in adding their names to this mailing list should contact the OES or register on the Commission's website at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19789>

The Commission maintains a separate official service list for certificate of need proceedings. To be added to the list for this project contact: Robin Benson, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147, fax: (651)-297-7073, email: robin.benson@state.mn.us.

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

Department of Commerce

Scott Ek, Project Manager
Energy Facility Permitting
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
(651) 296-8813
scott.ek@state.mn.us

Deborah Pile, Public Advisor
Energy Facility Permitting
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
(651) 297-2375
deborah.pile@state.mn.us

Public Utilities Commission

Tricia DeBleekere
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147
(651) 201-2254
tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us

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 1: Proposed Project

