



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Energy Security



Issued: June 1, 2009

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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 Minnesota Department of Commerce Office of Energy Security (OES) will conduct a public hearing on behalf of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) on the certificate of need and route permit applications submitted by Northstar Transmission, LLC (Northstar) for a proposed 161 kilovolt (kV) transmission line and associated facilities in Jackson County, Minnesota.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

Tuesday, June 23, 2009 - 6:00 P.M.

AmericInn of Jackson

110 Belmont Lane

Jackson, Minnesota

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).

Environmental Assessment. The certificate of need and route permit applications are being reviewed jointly and the OES has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) on the transmission line project to cover the environmental review requirements for both 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.

Electronic versions of the EA and other documents relevant to this matter are available for viewing and download on the PUC website or eDockets at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19789>

or

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

(Certificate of Need Docket Number 08-944 or Route Permit Docket Number 08-1120).

Conduct of Hearing. The public hearing will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Power Plant Siting Act, Minnesota Statute 216E.04, subd. 6, and Minnesota Rule 7849.5710. The Honorable Bruce Johnson, Administrative Law Judge, will preside over the hearing.

OES staff will be present at the hearing and make a brief presentation describing the project, explain the process to be followed, and introduce various procedural documents related to the project to be included in the record. Representatives of the Northstar will also be present to offer their evidence by way of testimony and exhibits. In addition, the public will be afforded the opportunity to make oral presentations, present documentary evidence, and ask questions of the applicants, OES, and Commission staff.

The record will remain open until **4:30 P.M., Tuesday, July 7, 2009**, for interested persons to submit written comments to the Administrative Law Judge. Comments must be submitted directly to:

The Honorable Bruce Johnson
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620
bruce.johnson@state.mn.us

The Administrative Law Judge will provide OES staff a written summary of testimony given at the hearing along with comments received during the prescribed comment period. The Commission will make a final decision on the certificate of need and route permit application after receipt of the complete record.

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

Department of Commerce

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Mailing List. Any person may add his or her name to the mailing list maintained by OES for future mailings regarding this project. If you would like to receive notice of the Commission's final decision in this matter please add your name to the mailing list. Names can be added to the list by contacting the project manager or by registering on the 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.

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

