



**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
Office of Energy Security



Issued: January 8, 2009

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

**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 information and environmental assessment scoping meeting on the certificate of need and route permit applications by Northstar Transmission, LLC (Northstar) to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC or Commission) for the proposed 161 kilovolt (kV) transmission line and associated facilities in Jackson County, Minnesota. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to the public about the project and to identify issues and alternatives to study in an environmental assessment that will be prepared by the OES Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff.

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**PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**  
**Thursday, January 29, 2009 - 6:00 P.M.**  
**AmericInn of Jackson**  
**110 Belmont Lane**  
**Jackson, Minnesota 56143**

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The public information meeting will follow an open house format until 6:30 P.M., when PUC and EFP staff will give presentations about the certificate of need and high voltage transmission line alternative permitting process, the proposed project, and how the public may be involved.

The applicant will have representatives at the public meeting who can answer general questions about the proposed project. Review copies of the certificate of need and route permit applications, a flow chart depicting the certificate of need and permitting processes, and comment forms will be available at the public information meeting.

**Project Description.** Northstar is proposing to construct a 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 (Tatman substation) located approximately one half mile north of the Minnesota-Iowa border in Petersburg Township.

The transmission line route would proceed north out of the Tatman substation along County Highway (CH) 25/560<sup>th</sup> Avenue for approximately five and one half miles to 558<sup>th</sup> Avenue and continue north two miles to CH 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 (see attached Figure).

The applicant indicates they have coordinated with private land owners, township and county officials and representatives of the REA Coop of Jackson County to minimize land use impacts. The proposed project would therefore, not result in displacement of existing residences or businesses.

**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 Commission. The certificate of need and route permit applications will be reviewed jointly and an environmental assessment (EA) will be prepared in lieu of the environmental report required under Minnesota Rule 7849.7030.

EFP staff will prepare an EA prior to the Commission's determination of the need for the project and consideration of a specific route for the transmission line. The EA will consider issues related to both the need for the project such as size, type, timing, voltage, and system configurations and issues related to routing, including construction impacts, environmental features, use of existing rights-of-way, and impacts to homes and businesses.

The PUC will hold a public hearing upon completion of the environmental assessment. The public will be afforded the opportunity to make oral presentation, present documentary evidence, and ask questions of the applicants and staff. 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.

Minnesota statutes and rules governing the processes 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 Northstar certificate of need and route permit applications. Electronic versions of the applications 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=19789>

or

<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp>  
(enter Docket Number 08-1120 [route permit] or 08-944 [CN]).

Persons interested in adding their names to the Department of Commerce 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](http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Users/user_registration.htm).

The PUC 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 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147, fax: (651)-297-7073, email: [robin.benson@state.mn.us](mailto:robin.benson@state.mn.us). The list is public information, and persons on the list will receive all official documents related to the case.

**Public Comments.** Comments on the scope of the EA for this project will be accepted until 4:30 P.M., February 12, 2009. Please include Docket Number IP-6686/CN-08-944 and/or IP-6686/TL-08-1120 on your comments.

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

#### **Department of Commerce**

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

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

#### **Public Utilities Commission**

Tricia DeBleeckere  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147  
(651) 201-2254  
[tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us](mailto: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

