



**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
Office of Energy Security



November 6, 2009

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**In the Matter of the Route Permit Application for a 345 kV Transmission Line from  
Brookings County, South Dakota to Hampton, Minnesota**

**PUC Docket Number: ET2/TL-08-1474**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that public hearings will be held on behalf of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) on the Great River Energy and Xcel Energy route permit application for a new 345 kV transmission line facility. The public hearings will be held at the times and locations listed below. Ending times reflect the latest a public hearing will run. Hearings may conclude earlier where all attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded.

**PUBLIC HEARING DATES & LOCATIONS**

November 30, 2009 (Monday)	2:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. & 7:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.	Prairie's Edge Casino & Resort 5616 Prairie's Edge Lane Granite Falls, MN 56241
December 1, 2009 (Tuesday)	1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. & 7:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.	Best Western 1500 East College Drive Marshall, MN
December 2, 2009 (Wednesday)	1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. & 7:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.	Redwood Area Community Center 901 Cook Street Redwood Falls, MN
December 3, 2009 (Thursday)	1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. & 7:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.	Winthrop Veterans Club 206 North Main Street Winthrop, MN
December 7, 2009 (Monday)	1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. & 7:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.	Brass Top Hall/Hog Wild Saloon 514 Main Street Henderson, MN
December 8, 2009 (Tuesday)	1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. & 7:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.	Lonsdale American Legion 115 2 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue Northwest Lonsdale, MN
December 9, 2009 (Wednesday)	1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. & 7:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.	Park Ballroom/American Legion 300 Lexington Avenue New Prague, MN
December 10, 2009 (Thursday)	1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. & 7:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.	Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites 20800 Kenrick Avenue Lakeville, MN
December 11, 2009 (Friday)	9:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.	Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites 20800 Kenrick Avenue Lakeville, MN

\*Evidentiary Hearings begin at 9:30 A.M. each day from December 15 to 18, 2009, at the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, St. Paul, MN 55101.

**Administrative Law Judge.** Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), Richard C. Luis will preside at the hearings. His address and contact information is: Office of Administrative Hearings, P.O. Box 64620, 600 North Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620, Phone: (651) 361-7900, Fax: (651) 361-7936, email: [capx.oah@state.mn.us](mailto:capx.oah@state.mn.us).

**Written Comments.** Written comments regarding the route permit should be submitted directly to Judge Luis. Comments may be submitted by U.S. Mail, Fax or email. Comments will be accepted through January 15, 2010, and should include the Office of Administrative Hearings Docket Number: 7-2500-20283-2. Mailed comments must be post marked by that date. Faxed, emailed, and delivered comments must be received by 4:30 P.M. that date.

**Purpose of Hearing.** The purpose of the public hearing is to compile the record for the Commission to consider in making a final decision on the transmission line route permit request. The ALJ will write a report and make a recommendation to the Commission on which route to authorize and on any appropriate permit conditions. The Commission will make a final decision on the route permit at a subsequent Commission hearing.

**Project Description.** Great River Energy and Xcel Energy (applicants) propose to construct and operate a 345 kV transmission line, approximately 237 miles long, beginning at the state's western border near Hendricks, Minnesota, and ending south of the Twin Cities metro area near Hampton, Minnesota. The applicants have proposed two possible routes for the transmission line, a preferred and alternate route. These routes cross portions of the following counties: Lincoln, Lyon, Yellow Medicine, Chippewa, Redwood, Brown, Renville, Sibley, Le Sueur, Scott, Rice, and Dakota.

**Route Permit.** Under the Power Plant Siting Act (Minn. Stat. 216E, subd. 2), a route permit from the Commission is required to build a high-voltage transmission line. A high-voltage transmission line is a conductor of electric energy and associated facilities designed for and capable of operation at a nominal voltage of 100 kilovolts (kV) or more and is greater than 1,500 feet in length. A route permit application for the proposed 345 kV transmission line project was filed by the applicants on December 29, 2008, and was accepted as complete by the Commission on January 29, 2009. The Office of Energy Security (OES) staff prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposed project. As outlined in the EIS Scoping Decision Document, the Draft EIS discusses potential impacts of the project, evaluates alternatives, and suggests mitigation.

Electronic versions of the Route Permit Application, Scoping Decision Document, Draft EIS and other documents relevant to this matter are available for viewing and download on the Commission's website at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19860> or eDockets at: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> ("08" year and "1474" number).

**Office of Administrative Hearing Rules.** The ALJ will conduct the contested case hearings in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 14, and the Office of Administrative Hearings procedural rules for the Commission's energy facility permitting process (Minnesota Rules, Chapter 1405). The applicable statutes and rules are available on the Office of the Revisor of Statutes webpage at: <https://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/index.php>. Statutes and rules may also be purchased at Minnesota's Bookstore, 660 Olive St., St. Paul, Minn. 55155, phone (651) 297-3000.

**Conduct of Hearing.** At the start of each hearing session, the ALJ will explain the procedural rules for the hearing, including the sequence for providing testimony and questioning witnesses. Members of the public will be allowed to participate without the necessity of intervening as a party. Representation by legal counsel is permitted but not required. Participation includes: a) offering direct testimony; b) offering testimony or other material in written form at or following the hearing; and c) questioning witnesses.

Any person who wishes to question a witness, but does not want to ask the questions, may submit questions in writing to the ALJ, who will then question the witness. Questions may be submitted during the hearing or may be sent to the ALJ in advance of the hearing. A transcript of the proceedings will also be available on request.

**Continuation of Hearing.** The ALJ may elect to recess the hearing and set additional days for hearing, if necessary.

**Identified Parties.** The parties to this proceeding identified on the date of this Notice are as follows:

Applicants

Craig Poorker, Great River Energy, 12300 Elm Creek Boulevard, Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718, 1-888-473-2279, [cpoorker@greenergy.com](mailto:cpoorker@greenergy.com).

Pamela Rasmussen, Xcel Energy, P.O. Box 9437, Minneapolis, MN 55440-9437, 1-800-238-7968, [pamela.jo.rasmussen@xcelenergy.com](mailto:pamela.jo.rasmussen@xcelenergy.com).

Intervenors

Paula Maccabee, Attorney at Law, 1961 Selby Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104 (on behalf of Robert and Patricia Johnson).

Joyce Osborn, P.O. Box 1165, Burnsville, MN 55337 (on behalf of United Citizens Action Network or U-CAN).

Carol Overland, Attorney at Law, Overland Law Office, P.O. Box 176, Red Wing, MN 55066 (on behalf of No CapX 2020 and U-CAN).

**Project Contacts.** If you have questions or would like further information about this project please contact OES staff. Scott Ek ([scott.ek@state.mn.us](mailto:scott.ek@state.mn.us), (651) 296-8813) is the project manager and Ray Kirsch ([raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us](mailto:raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us), (651) 296-7588) is the public advisor. The public advisor is available to answer questions about the permitting procedures and how to effectively participate in the process, but does not provide legal advice. The address for staff is: Minnesota Office of Energy Security, 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198.

**OES Legal Counsel.** Karen Finstad Hammel, Minnesota Attorney General's Office, 1400 Bremer Tower, 445 Minnesota Street, St. Paul, MN 55101-2127, Phone (651) 297-1852, Fax (651) 297-1138, [karen.hammel@state.mn.us](mailto:karen.hammel@state.mn.us).

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