



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Energy Facility Permitting



Issued: January 17, 2012

**NOTICE OF MINOR ALTERATION APPLICATION
AND COMMENT PERIOD**

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

PUC Docket No. ET2/TL-08-1474

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on January 6, 2012, Great River Energy and Northern States Power (permittees) applied to the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a minor alteration (eDocket No. 20121-69979-01) to the Brookings County, South Dakota to Hampton, Minnesota 345 kV (kilovolt) transmission line project (Brookings to Hampton project). The route permit and route permit on remand were issued by the Commission on September 14, 2010, and March 1, 2011, respectively.

Specifically, the permittees are requesting three minor alterations to clarify the conditions of the route permit and to authorize additional conductors at the crossing of Interstate 35.

First, the permittees are requesting that the Commission approve an alteration of the route permit to incorporate maps of the 115 kV and 345 kV transmission line interconnections at the Cedar Mountain and Hampton substations that were inadvertently excluded from the official route permit maps for the project.

Second, the permittees request the route permit be amended to clarify that the area required for the new Hampton Substation is 15 acres and shall be located in southeast corner of the property directly adjacent to 215th Avenue on the south and State Highway 52 on the east.

Third, in response to preference by the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the permittees request that a minor alteration be approved to authorize the installation of six conductors at the crossing of Interstate 35 to enhance the double-circuit capability of the project and to avoid additional traffic impacts if and when a second circuit is constructed.

Comment Period

Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff, on behalf of the Commission, is providing notice of the permittees' request for a minor alteration and associated comment period. Comments are sought on the minor alteration application, and conditions that may be appropriate should the minor alteration(s) be authorized. At the close of the comment period, the Commission will decide whether to authorize a minor alteration or determine that the alteration is not minor and requires a full permitting decision.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e. large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0391 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through Minnesota Relay at 1-800-627-3529 or by dialing 711.

Comments will be accepted on this application for a minor alteration until **January 31, 2012**. Comments may be submitted by mail, fax, or e-mail; please include Docket Number 08-1474 on all comments. Comments should be submitted to: Scott Ek, Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting, 85 - 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198; fax: 651-297-7891; e-mail: scott.ek@state.mn.us.

Project Information

Information about the Brookings to Hampton project and a copy of the application for a minor alteration is available on the Commission's Energy Facility Permitting website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19860>, and on the eDockets website: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp>, search on the year "08" and number "1474." Additionally, you may contact the EFP state permit manager, Scott Ek, phone: (651) 296-8813, e-mail: scott.ek@state.mn.us.