



**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
Office of Energy Security



Issued: January 11, 2010

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
AND PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

In the Matter of the Xcel Energy and Great River Energy Application for a High Voltage Transmission Line Route Permit for the Monticello to St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission and Substation Project in Wright and Stearns counties (PUC Docket Number: E002, ET2/TL-09-246)

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security (OES) has released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Monticello to St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission and Substation Project for public comment, as well as the date, location and times for the public meetings.

The DEIS may be viewed at the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) web site on January 11, 2010:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19957>

A hard copy will be available for viewing at the following public libraries by January 15, 2010:

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| <b>Saint Cloud Public Library</b><br>405 St. Germain Street West<br>Saint Cloud, MN 56301 | <b>Monticello Public Library</b><br>200 West 6th Street<br>Monticello, MN 55362 |
| <b>Elk River Public Library</b><br>13020 Orono Parkway<br>Elk River, MN 55330             | <b>Buffalo Library</b><br>18 NW Lake Boulevard<br>Buffalo, MN 55313             |
| <b>Stickney Crossing Library</b><br>822 Clearwater Center<br>Clearwater, MN 55320         | <b>Al Ringsmuth Library</b><br>253 North 5th Avenue<br>Waite Park, MN 56387     |

***Public Meetings***

OES will conduct public information meetings to obtain comments on the DEIS. The meetings will be held at:

**Tuesday, February 9, 2010**  
**2 p.m. and 6 p.m.**  
at  
**Clearwater Township Hall**  
**15015 State Highway 24**

The public will also have until Friday, February 26, 2010, to submit written comments on the DEIS to the OES. Comments can be faxed, mailed or emailed to the OES Project Manager (see contact information below). Comments can also be submitted electronically at:

<http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/publicComments.html>

### ***Project Description***

Xcel Energy and Great River Energy plan to construct and operate a new 345 kV HVTL between the existing Monticello Substation and a new Quarry Substation west of St. Cloud:

- Monticello Substation - Modifications will be made at the existing Monticello Substation to accommodate the proposed 345 kV transmission Line.
- Monticello to St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission Line - The proposed 28-mile line will be constructed primarily on single-pole, double-circuit capable, self-weathering or galvanized steel structures.
- Quarry Substation - The proposed Quarry Substation will be located west of the city of St. Cloud. The substation is proposed to be a 345/115 kV substation, ultimately up to 15 acres in size, to allow for the interconnection of the proposed 345 kV transmission line, an existing 115 kV transmission line and future high voltage transmission lines.

### ***Procedures***

OES will respond to the timely substantive comments received on the Draft EIS consistent with the scoping decision and prepare the final EIS.

Public hearings on the Application will be held March 8, 2010, presided over by Administrative Law Judge Beverly Jones Heydinger from the Office of Administrative Hearings. Notice of the public hearings will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who have registered their names on the project mailing list with OES.

### ***Project Contacts and Information***

OES Project Manager

David Birkholz

651-296-2878

[david.birkholz@state.mn.us](mailto:david.birkholz@state.mn.us)

OES Public Advisor

Raymond Kirsch

651-296-7588

[raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us](mailto:raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us)

Minnesota Office of Energy Security

85 7<sup>th</sup> Place E., Suite 500

St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198

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Other contact information: Toll-Free Tel: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-297-7891 or TTY: Minnesota Relay Service, 800-627-3529, ask for DOC.