



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Energy Security



Issued: January 14, 2011

NOTICE OF PERMIT AMENDMENT REQUEST

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)

On January 11, 2011, Xcel Energy and Great River Energy (Permittees) applied for a Permit Amendment to make three (3) alignment adjustments outside the route designated in their Route Permit to construct the Monticello to Saint Cloud transmission project.

In an Order issued July 12, 2010, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) issued a High Voltage Transmission Line Route Permit to Northern States Power (dba Xcel Energy) and Great River Energy for the Monticello to St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission Project, authorizing the Permittees to:

- Make modifications at the existing Monticello Substation to accommodate the proposed 345 kV transmission Line;
- Build the Monticello to St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission Line, consisting of an approximately 28-mile line that will be constructed primarily on single-pole, double-circuit capable, self-weathering or galvanized steel structures; and
- Build a new Quarry Substation 345/115 kV to be located in St. Joseph, ultimately up to 15 acres in size, to allow for the interconnection of the 345 kV transmission line, an existing 115 kV transmission line and future high voltage transmission lines.

As detailed in the Route Permit, Section V:

The permit conditions in Section IV may be amended at any time by the Commission. Any person may request an amendment of the conditions of this permit by submitting a request to the Commission in writing describing the amendment sought and the reasons for the amendment. The Commission will mail notice of receipt of the request to the Permittees. The Commission may amend the conditions after affording the Permittees and interested persons such process as is required.

According to Minn. Rule 7850.4900 subp. 2, interested persons may submit comments on the Permit Amendment. **A comment period will be open through January 28, 2011.** Comments need to be emailed, faxed or mailed to David Birkholz (see address below) by 4:30 on that date. Please refer to docket number "09-246" in all correspondence. Following the comment period, the request will go before the Commission for a decision.

The three alignment adjustments requested by the Permittees are discussed in their Permit Amendment application, which includes maps of the areas in question. The application can be viewed at the Commission website:

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

Or by entering “Year” as “09” and “Number” as “246” at eDockets:

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

For further information, please contact:

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