



**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
Office of Energy Security



Issued: June 15, 2009

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION & EIS SCOPING MEETINGS**

**In the Matter of the Application by Xcel Energy and Great River Energy for a Route Permit for the Monticello to St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission Line Project**

**PUC Docket Number: E002, ET2/TL-09-246**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Minnesota Department of Commerce Office of Energy Security (OES) will conduct public information and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) scoping meetings, at the times and location listed below, on the route permit application by Xcel Energy and Great River Energy to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for the proposed Monticello to St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission Project (Project) in Wright and Stearns counties. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to the public about the project and to identify issues and route alternatives to study in an EIS that will be prepared by the OES Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION & EIS SCOPING MEETINGS**

**Thursday, July 2, 2008 – 2:00 p.m.\* and 6:00 p.m.\*\***

**Clearwater Township Hall  
15015 State Highway 24**

\* An open house will begin at 1:30 p.m.; the information meeting begins at 2:00 p.m.

\*\* An open house will begin at 5:30 p.m.; the information meeting begins at 6:00 p.m.

The public information meetings will follow an open house format until the stated time, when EFP staff will give a presentation about the state's high voltage transmission line full permitting process, the proposed project, and how the public may be involved. The applicant will have representatives at the public meetings who can answer general questions about the proposed project. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions, present comments, and propose issues, impacts and alternatives to be studied in the EIS.

Review copies of the route permit application, a flow chart depicting the full permitting process, and comment forms will be available at the public information meeting. Each meeting will offer the same process and information, so interested persons need attend only one of the meetings.

## **Project Description**

Xcel Energy and Great River Energy are making this Application to construct and operate a new 345 kV high voltage transmission line (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.

Construction of the transmission line is proposed to begin in 2011 with completion by 2012.

## **Review Process**

A route permit application for the project was filed by Xcel Energy and Great River Energy on April 8, 2009. The application was accepted as complete by the Commission on May 13, 2009.

Applications for HVTL route permits are subject to environmental review, which is conducted by EFP staff. Staff is herein providing notice and will conduct public information and scoping meetings to solicit public comments on the scope of the EIS. The Director of the OES will ultimately determine the final scope of the document. The EIS will address issues related to routing, such as construction impacts, environmental features, use of existing rights-of-way, impacts on homes and businesses, and possible route alternatives.

Upon completion of the draft EIS, it will be issued for public review and comment, including public meetings. Comments on the draft EIS will be responded to and included in a final EIS. Concurrent with development of the final EIS, public hearings will be held, presided over by an administrative law judge (ALJ). Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak at the hearings, present evidence, ask questions, and submit comments. The ALJ will submit a report to the Commission containing findings, conclusions, and a recommendation on a route permit for the proposed transmission line.

Notice of the public meetings and public hearings will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who register their names on the OES project mailing list.

Minnesota Statutes and Rules governing the process are available on the following website:

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

## Project Documents

A more detailed explanation of the proposed project is contained in the Xcel Energy and Great River Energy route permit application. An electronic version of the application and other documents relevant to this matter are available on the PUC website at:

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

or on eDockets by entering “09” and “246” at:

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

The Route Permit application is also available at public libraries in the cities listed below:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <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     |

Persons interested in adding their names to the project mailing list should contact the OES project manager or public advisor, or register online at the above PUC site.

## Public Comments

Comments on this project will be accepted until **4:30 p.m. on July 24, 2009**. Comments may be submitted by letter, email, fax, or directly on line at the PUC website (see above). Please include docket number “TL-09-246” on your comments.

## Project Contacts

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

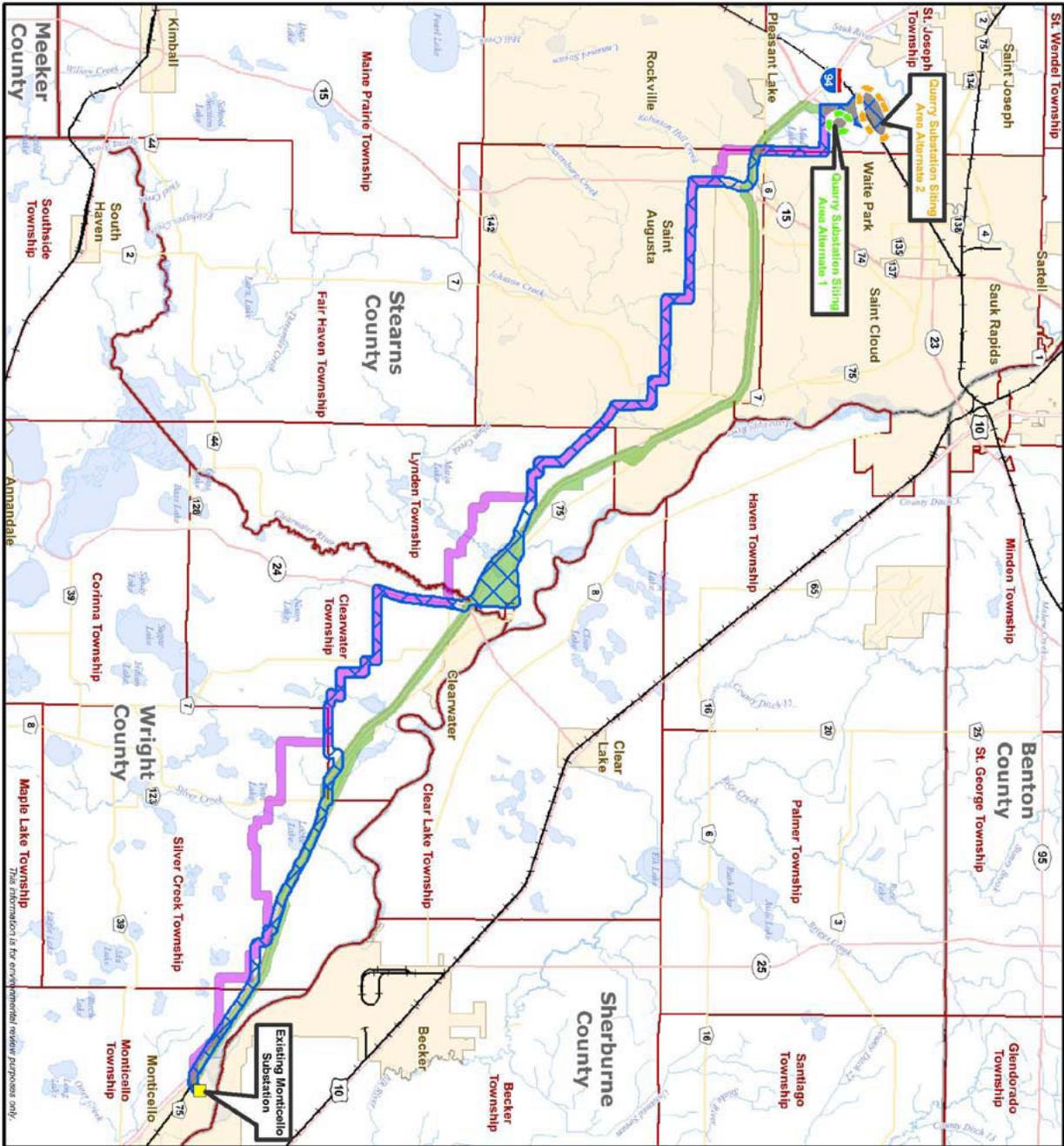
David Birkholz, Project Manager  
(651) 296-2878  
[david.birkholz@state.mn.us](mailto:david.birkholz@state.mn.us)

Raymond Kirsch, Public Advisor  
(651) 296-7588  
[raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us](mailto:raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us)

Energy Facility Permitting  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198  
Fax (651) 297.7891

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).

# General View of the Proposed Project



**CapX2020**  
EXAMINING ALTERNATE TRANSMISSION ROUTES

**Legend**

- Preferred Route
- Alternate Route A
- Alternate Route B
- Existing Monticello
- - - Quarry Substation Sling Area Alternate 1
- - - Quarry Substation Sling Area Alternate 2
- Township
- Municipal Boundary
- Lakes
- Streams

**Figure ES-1**  
**Proposed Routes**  
 Route Permit  
 Monticello to St. Cloud  
 345 KV Transmission Line

DATE: 02/12/09 REVISED: 03/27/09

DRAWN BY: ML Tschert

Map generated by CapX/Monticello\_Area05/03/09/02  
 Map\_Tschart\_ML\_CapX\_Monticello\_03/11/09

See Section 10.2 for data sources  
 1:190,000

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