



Energy Facility Permitting

85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198
1.800.657.3794 / 651.296.4026
FAX 651.297.7891 TTY 651.297.3067
<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us>

Issued: May 29, 2009

Notice of Public Information Meeting

**In the Matter of the Northern States Power Company (Xcel Energy)
HVTL Route Permit Application**

Hiawatha Transmission Line Project

PUC Docket Number: E002/TL-09-38

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce Office of Energy Security (OES) will conduct a public information and environmental impact statement (EIS) scoping meeting at the location listed below. Xcel Energy has filed an application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a high voltage transmission line (HVTL) Route Permit for two new distribution substations and two 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines in south Minneapolis, in an area known as the Midtown District.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to the public about the Xcel Energy proposal and to identify issues and alternatives to study in an EIS to be prepared by OES.

Thursday, June 18, 2009 – 6:00 PM

Midtown Global Market

920 East Lake Street

Minneapolis, MN 55407

<http://www.midtownglobalmarket.org/>

Representatives from the OES and Xcel Energy will be available to answer questions about the permitting process and the proposed project. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions, present comments, and propose issues, alternatives and specific impacts to be addressed in the EIS.

The OES will accept written comments on the scope of the EIS until **July 10, 2009**.

Comments should be mailed or e-mailed to:

Bill Storm, Project Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198
bill.storm@state.mn.us

Project Description. Xcel Energy proposes to construct two new distribution substations and two 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines in south Minneapolis, in an area known as the Midtown District. Xcel Energy has included four separate alternative routes and five design options for consideration in its application. Xcel Energy also identifies two locations for the Hiawatha Substation and two locations for the Midtown Substation.

Review Process. Under the Power Plant Siting Act (Minn. Stat. 216E), a route permit from the Commission is required to build a high voltage transmission line. A route permit application for the project was filed by the Applicant on April 24, 2009. The application was accepted as complete by the Commission on May 21, 2009. The Commission has one year from the time the application is accepted to complete the permitting process and make a decision on the route permit.

Route permit applications for high voltage transmission lines are subject to environmental review (Minn. Rules 7849). For this project, OES staff will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS). The EIS contains information on the human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and examines mitigating measures for anticipated impacts. To focus the content or “scope” of the EIS, OES staff conducts public meetings to gather comments and suggestions on the proposed project.

Upon completion of the draft EIS, it will be issued for public review and comment, including a public meeting. Comments on the draft EIS will be responded to and included in a final EIS. Concurrent with development of the final EIS, a public hearing will be held, presided over by an administrative law judge (ALJ). Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak at the hearing, 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 meeting and public hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who register their names on the OES project mailing list.

Additional information on the route permitting process is available on the Commission’s energy facility permitting website: <http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/TransmissionLines.html>

Eminent Domain. If issued a site permit by the Commission, Xcel Energy may exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire land for this project pursuant to Minnesota Stat. 216E.12.

Project Contacts and Mailing Lists. The OES and the Commission have been appointed staff to assist persons interested in taking part in the permitting process. For more information, contact one of the persons listed below:

Department of Commerce – Office of Energy Security

The OES has designated staff member Bill Storm (651-296-9535, bill.storm@state.mn.us) as project manager and Deborah Pile (651-297-2375, deborah.pile@state.mn.us) as public advisor. You may contact them at: Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198. Other contact information: Toll-Free: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-297-7891 or TTY: Minnesota Relay Services, 1-800-627-3529, and ask for the DOC.

Public Utilities Commission

The Commission has designated staff member Tricia DeBleeckere (651-201-2254, Fax: 651-297-7073, tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us) as its contact person. Ms. DeBleeckere may be contacted in writing at: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place E., Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147.

Xcel Energy

Information about this project is available from Xcel Energy. You can direct questions to Raelynn Asah (612-330-6512, Raelynn.Asah@xcelenergy.com). Ms. Asah may be contacted in writing at: Xcel Energy, 414 Nicollet Mall, (MP 8), Minneapolis, MN 55401.

Project Mailing Lists

If you would like to have your name added to the OES project mailing list for this project, you may register on line at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19981> or contact OES staff at the address above.

Information Availability. Copies of the route permit application are available at:

- <http://www.xcelenergy.com/Company/Transmission/Transmission%20Projects/Pages/HiawathaProject.aspx>
- <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19981>

The application can also be viewed at the following libraries:

- Central, 300 Nicollet Mall
- East Lake, 2727 E. Lake St.
- Franklin, 1314 E. Franklin Ave.
- Roosevelt, 4026 28th Ave. S.
- Hosmer, 347 E. 36th St.
- Nokomis, 5100 34th Ave S

