

**STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**ROUTE PERMIT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A HIGH  
VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINE  
IN**

**JACKSON COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**ISSUED TO  
NORTHSTAR TRANSMISSION, LLC**

**PUC DOCKET NO. IP-6686/TL-08-1120**

In accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7849, this route permit is hereby issued to:

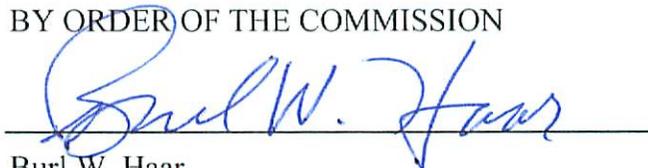
Northstar Transmission, LLC

Northstar Transmission, LLC, is authorized by this route permit to construct a ten-mile 161 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between a new Tatman substation and the existing Jackson substation in Jackson County, Minnesota.

The transmission line shall be built within the route identified in this permit and as portrayed on the attached official route map, and in compliance with the conditions specified in this permit.

Approved and adopted this 24<sup>th</sup> day of August 2009

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Burl W. Haar", is written over a horizontal line.

Burl W. Haar,  
Executive Secretary

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e. large print or audio tape) by calling (651) 201-2202 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through Minnesota Relay at (800) 627-3529 or by dialing 711.

## **I. ROUTE PERMIT**

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) hereby issues this route permit to Northstar Transmission, LLC (permittee) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7849. This permit authorizes the permittee to construct approximately ten miles of 161 kV transmission line and associated facilities between a new Tatman substation to be located in Petersburg Township and the existing Jackson substation near the city of Jackson, in Jackson County, Minnesota.

## **II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The 161 kV transmission line will be supported by direct-embedded galvanized steel poles with braced posts for the majority of the route. These tangent structures would average 75 feet in height with foundations that are approximately 30 to 36 inches in diameter with a 400 foot span between each structure.

In cooperation with the Rural Electric Administration (REA), the permittee will co-locate or underbuild the existing Rural Electric Administration (REA) distribution lines along 558<sup>th</sup> and 560<sup>th</sup> Avenues onto the newly proposed transmission line structures or work with the REA to bury the lines, thereby consolidating electrical utilities within one right-of-way.

The approximate one-mile route segment that would run between pole #114 to the Jackson substation will require galvanized steel pole double-circuit structures with davit arms supported by a concrete foundation. The structures will be approximately 110 feet to 150 feet in height and 36 inches in diameter with an average span of 565 feet between poles.

The three phases for this project will each consist of single 795 (Drake) aluminum conductor steel reinforced (ACSR). The ACSR conductors are 795,000 circular mils or approximately 1.108 inches in diameter and are comprised of seven steel wires in the center surrounded by 26 aluminum strands. Ultimately, the proposed 161 kV transmission line would be a single-circuit, three-phase, 60 Hz (hertz), alternating current line with the exception of the segment between pole #114 and the Jackson substation which will be a double-circuit 161/161 kV, co-located on new double-circuit structures with Xcel's existing 161 kV line. There will also be shield wires strung above the phases to prevent damage from potential lightning strikes. The shield wire may include a fiber optic cable that allows for substation protection equipment to communicate with other terminals on the line.

The new Tatman substation will be constructed on approximately 2.5 acres of a 9-acre parcel located just north of the Minnesota-Iowa border on the east side of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 25 in the southwest quarter of Section 32, Township 101N, Range 34W. The substation will be designed to accommodate the 161 kV line along with a 34.5 kV collector line that would be constructed underground from the Northstar Wind Farm collector system in Iowa to the substation. The substation design has not been completed but would generally include circuit breakers, high voltage switches, steel structures to support the high voltage bust, switches and other miscellaneous equipment, surge arresters, ground grid, power and control cable, control building and control panels, DC battery system, AC station power, AC and DC station service panels, communication panel, crushed rock used as surfacing of the substation, and fencing around the facility to restrict public access.

### **III. DESIGNATED ROUTE/SITE**

The route designated by the Commission in this permit comprises the 10-mile segment located in Jackson County, Minnesota, as described in detail below, and shown on the official route map attached to this permit.

The transmission line will originate at a newly constructed Tatman substation located approximately one-half mile north of the Minnesota-Iowa border in Petersburg Township. The transmission line route will head north out of the Tatman substation along CSAH 25/560<sup>th</sup> Avenue for approximately five and one-half miles to 558<sup>th</sup> Avenue and continue north two miles to CSAH 14. At this point the transmission line route continues north crossing CSAH 14 and travels along property and section lines across private agricultural land to existing pole #114 and then one mile west co-located on new double-circuit structures with Xcel's 161 kV line to the Jackson substation.

The route width approved by this permit is as follows:

- A 200 foot wide route width centered on CSAH 25 from the Tatman substation to CSAH 4;
- A 166 foot wide route width centered on 560<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 558<sup>th</sup> Avenue from CSAH 4 to CSAH 14;
- A 200 foot wide route width centered on the west Section line of the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 19, Township 102 North, Range 34 West to the northwest corner of northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 19, Township 102 North, Range 34 West;
- A 200 foot wide route width starting at the northwest corner of the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 19, Township 102 North, Range 34 West and centered on the north Section line of the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter to the center of Section 19;

- A 200 foot wide root width centered on the boundary between northwest and northeast quarters of Section 19, Township 102 North, Range 34 West from the center of Section 19 and extending north for one-mile to pole #114; and
- A 200 foot wide route width (encompassing and following Xcel Energy's existing 80 foot right-of-way and extending an additional 120 feet north) from pole #114 one mile west to the Jackson substation.

The permittee will locate the transmission line within the road rights-of-way for the route segment along CSAH 25/560<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 558<sup>th</sup> Avenue from the Tatman substation to CSAH 14. The transmission centerline will be constructed on the west side of the road, sharing road right-of-way, for the route segment that would follow along 560<sup>th</sup> Avenue from CSAH 23/Petersburg Road to approximately one-quarter mile (1,320 feet) north of the southwest corner of Section 5, Township 101N, Range 34W. Construction of the transmission line within road rights-of-way will be at a distance acceptable to the county and townships, in this case as close to the edge of road right-of-way as possible. The required rights-of-way for the approved route are as follows:

- A 100-foot right-of-way from the Tatman substation to CSAH 4.
- An 83-foot right-of-way from CSAH 4 to CSAH 14.
- A 100-foot right-of-way from CSAH 14 to pole #114.
- A 200-foot right-of-way from pole #114 to the Jackson substation.

The transmission line and associated facilities will be designed to meet or exceed all relevant state and local codes and requirements of the National Electric Safety Code (NESC), which is the utility safety standard that applies to all transmission line facilities. The transmission line facility will also meet the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's (NERC) reliability standards. In addition, the substation station facilities will be fenced, kept free of vegetation, maintained for adequate drainage, and access will be limited to authorized personnel in accordance with the above requirements and standards.

#### **IV. PERMIT CONDITIONS**

The permittee shall comply with the following conditions during construction of the transmission line and associated facilities and the life of this permit.

**A. Plan and Profile.** At least 14 calendar days before right-of-way preparation for construction begins, the permittee shall provide the Commission with a plan and profile of the right-of-way and the specifications and drawings for right-of-way preparation, construction, cleanup, and restoration for the transmission line. The permittee may not commence construction until the 14 days has expired or until the Commission has

advised the permittee in writing that it has completed its review of the documents and determined that the planned construction is consistent with this permit.

If the permittee intends to make any significant changes in its plan and profile or the specifications and drawings after submission to the Commission, the permittee shall notify the Commission at least five days before implementing the changes. No changes shall be made that would be in violation of any of the terms of this permit.

**B. Construction Practices.**

1. **Application.** The permittee shall follow those specific construction practices and material specifications described in the Northstar Transmission, LLC, Application to the Public Utilities Commission for a Route Permit, dated October 2008, and as described in the environmental assessment and findings of fact, unless this permit establishes a different requirement, in which case this permit shall prevail.

2. **Field Representative.** At least 10 days prior to commencing construction, the permittee shall advise the Commission in writing of the person or persons designated to be the field representative for the permittee with the responsibility to oversee compliance with the conditions of this permit during construction. The field representative's address, phone number, emergency phone number, and email address shall be provided to the Commission and shall be made available to affected landowners, residents, public officials and other interested persons. The permittee may change its field representative at any time upon written notice to the Commission.

3. **Local Governments.** The permittee will work closely with Jackson County Department of Transportation and the city of Jackson to ensure minimal disruption to area traffic and will obtain licenses required for county and township road right-of-way sharing. Oversize and overweight truck permits will be coordinated with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and the Jackson County Department of Transportation

4. **Cleanup.** All waste and scrap that is the product of construction shall be removed from the area and properly disposed of upon completion of each task. Personal litter, including bottles, cans, and paper from construction activities shall be removed on a daily basis.

5. **Vegetation Removal in the Right-of-Way.** The permittee shall minimize the number of trees to be removed in selecting the right-of-way. As part of construction, low growing brush or tree species are allowable within and at the outer limits of the easement area. Taller tree species that endanger the safe and reliable operation of the transmission facility need to be removed. To the extent practical, low growing vegetation that will not pose a threat to the transmission facility or impede construction should remain in the easement area. Should removal of vegetation require herbicide application, the permittee will coordinate with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to avoid the potential of directly or indirectly affecting native prairie and rare plant species.

6. **Erosion Control.** The permittee shall implement reasonable measures to minimize runoff during construction and shall promptly plant or seed, erect silt fences, and/or use erosion control blankets in non-agricultural areas that were disturbed where structures are installed. All areas disturbed during construction of the facilities will be returned to their pre-construction condition.

7. **Temporary Work Space.** The permittee shall limit temporary easements to special construction access needs and additional staging or lay-down areas required outside of the authorized right-of-way.

8. **Restoration.** The permittee shall restore the right-of-way, temporary work spaces, access roads, abandoned right-of-way, and other private lands affected by construction of the transmission line. Restoration within the right-of-way must be compatible with the safe operation, maintenance, and inspection of the transmission line. Within 60 days after completion of all restoration activities, the permittee shall advise the Commission in writing of the completion of such activities. The permittee shall fairly reimburse landowners for any damage including, but not limited to, yard/landscape damages, structure/fence damage, crop damage, soil compaction, or drain tile damage sustained during construction or maintenance activities.

9. **Notice of Permit.** The permittee shall inform all employees, contractors, and other persons involved in the transmission line construction of the terms and conditions of this permit.

C. **Periodic Status Reports.** Upon request, the permittee shall report to the Commission on progress regarding finalization of the route, design of structures, and construction of the transmission line. The permittee need not report more frequently than quarterly.

D. **Complaint Procedure.** Prior to the start of construction, the permittee shall submit to the Commission, the procedures that will be used to receive and respond to complaints. The procedures shall be in accordance with the requirements set forth in the complaint procedures attached to this permit.

E. **Notification to Landowners.** The permittee shall provide all affected landowners with a copy of this permit at the time of the first contact with the landowners after issuance of this permit. The permittee shall contact landowners prior to entering the property or conducting maintenance along the route and avoid maintenance practices, particularly the use of fertilizer, herbicides, or pesticides, inconsistent with the landowner's or tenant's use of the land. The permittee shall work with landowners to locate the high voltage transmission lines to minimize the loss of agricultural land, forest, and wetlands, and to avoid homes and farmsteads, tree clearing, and other aesthetic concerns.

## **F. Completion of Construction.**

1. **Notification to Commission.** At least three days before the line is to be placed into service, the permittee shall notify the Commission of the date on which the line will be placed into service and the date on which construction was complete.
2. **As-Builts.** Upon request of the Commission, the permittee shall submit copies of all the final as-built plans and specifications developed during the project.
3. **GPS Data.** Within 60 days after completion of construction, the permittee shall submit to the Commission, in the format requested by the Commission, geo-spatial information (GIS compatible maps, GPS coordinates, etc.) for all above ground structures associated with the transmission lines, each switch, and each substation connected.

## **G. Electrical Performance Standards.**

1. **Grounding.** The permittee shall design, construct, and operate the transmission line in a manner that the maximum induced steady-state short-circuit current shall be limited to five milliamperes, root mean square (rms) alternating current between the ground and any non-stationary object within the right-of-way, including but not limited to large motor vehicles and agricultural equipment. All fixed metallic objects on or off the right-of-way, except electric fences that parallel or cross the right-of-way, shall be grounded to the extent necessary to limit the induced short circuit current between ground and the object so as not to exceed one milliamperes rms under steady state conditions of the transmission line and to comply with the ground fault conditions specified in the NESC.
2. **Electric Field.** The transmission line shall be designed, constructed, and operated in such a manner that the electric field measured one meter above ground level immediately below the transmission line shall not exceed 8.0 kV/m.
3. **Interference with Communication Devices.** If interference with radio or television, satellite or other communication devices is caused by the presence or operation of the transmission line, the permittee shall take whatever action is prudently feasible to restore or provide reception equivalent to reception levels in the immediate area just prior to the construction of the line.

## **H. Special Conditions**

1. **Archaeological and Historic Resources.** The permittee shall make every effort to avoid impacts to identified archaeological and historic resources when installing the high voltage transmission line on the approved route. Prior to construction a Phase IA archaeological survey of the proposed project area will be conducted by the permittee to identify archaeological resources in areas with surface visibility greater than 25 percent and to determine the need for additional subsurface testing along the project route.

The results of the cultural resource assessment and the Phase IA survey will be provided to the Commission and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for their review and response.

SHPO will be consulted by the permittee regarding the potential for visual impacts to the 36 National Register of Historic Places properties and one eligible architectural history property within the city of Jackson, one mile from the project area. An appropriate management plan or standing structures survey will be completed with assistance from the SHPO to address potential impacts on the architectural resources.

2. **Wetlands/Water Resources.** The permittee will minimize potential impacts to wetland areas by locating structures outside of wetlands and adjacent to these resource areas when feasible and spanning all surface flows. Unavoidable wetland impacts as a result of the placement of poles shall be limited to the immediate area around the poles. The permittee will use construction mats or perform construction during frozen conditions to minimize disturbance and compaction of wetlands and riparian areas during construction. Soil excavated from the wetlands and riparian areas will be contained and not placed back into the wetland or riparian area. Silt fencing or other erosion control measures will be used to prevent sedimentation when working near wetlands and watercourses. Areas disturbed by construction activities will be restored to pre-construction conditions (soil horizons, contours, vegetation, etc.). Where waterways must be crossed to pull in the new conductors and shield wires, workers may walk across, use boats, or drive equipment across ice in the winter.

Prior to construction activities, the District Engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) will be notified with a preconstruction notification authorized under the Corps St. Paul District Regional General Permit for structural discharges. An application will be filed with the Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to determine if the proposed project would impact any wetlands or public waters under local jurisdiction of the SWCD. Conditions provided in the MPCA NPDES permit, and the DNR license to cross public lands and waters will also be followed.

If construction activities will result in the disturbance of one acre or more of soils, a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System stormwater permit from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency will be required. Standard erosion control measures outlined in Minnesota Pollution Control Agency guidance and best management practices regarding sediment control practice during construction. These practices include, but are not limited to, protecting storm drain inlets, use of silt fences, protecting exposed soil, immediately stabilizing restored soil, controlling temporary soil stockpiles, and controlling vehicle tracking.

3. **Avian Collision.** The permittee will evaluate mitigative measures in areas of the project where the chance of avian collision or electrocution is higher, specifically where the route will span the Des Moines River. The permittee, in cooperation with the DNR and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will identify locations (Des Moines River and other tributaries) where bird flight diverters can be incorporated into the transmission line design to prevent large avian collisions attributed to visibility issues.

Standard transmission design will incorporate adequate spacing of conductor(s) and grounding devices. This is intended to eliminate the risk of electrocution to raptors with larger wingspans that may simultaneously come in contact with a conductor and grounding devices.

4. **Rare and Unique Resources.** The DNR identified nine known occurrences of rare species and natural plant communities within one mile of the project area, with eight of the nine located within the projects boundaries. Five of these rare species are threatened or of special concern mussels that are located in the Des Moines River. The Loggerhead Shrike, a state threatened bird specie, is known to occur in and around the proposed project area. There are also known occurrences of the state threatened Sullivant's Milkweed and special concern specie Snow Trillium as well as three records of mesic prairie remnants located within or near the proposed project area.

Due to the proximity of the project to the existing railroad and riparian areas along the Des Moines River and its tributaries combined with the known occurrence of rare and unique resources in the area, the permittee, in consultation with the DNR, will perform a botanical survey of the project area. The results of the botanical survey will be provided to the Commission and DNR for their review and response.

Ground disturbance within the mesic prairie remnant areas will be completely avoided, there shall be no vehicle use or stockpiling of equipment within the prairie, construction runoff will be diverted from the prairie, and areas adjacent to the prairie will be immediately be replanted with prairie species native to Minnesota in consultation with DNR. In addition, best management practices will be identified and implemented in cooperation with the DNR when working near the remnant prairies to reduce potentially negative impacts to the Loggerhead Shrike. Construction and maintenance personnel will be made aware of the rare resources and plant communities during pre-construction meetings in effort to minimize possible disturbance.

The permittee, in coordination with the DNR, will employ best management practices to avoid the potential spread of invasive species within and adjacent to the right-of-way during construction and maintenance of the transmission line.

5. **Accommodation of Existing and Planned Infrastructure.** The permittee is required to work with the landowners, townships, cities, and counties along the route to accommodate their concerns regarding tree clearing, distance from existing structures, drain tiles, pole depth and placement in relationship to existing roads and road expansion plans.

The project is located within the area of influence of the Jackson Municipal Airport. The permittee will need to submit a Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration Application for each transmission structure within the flight area of influence to ensure that structures comply with airport safety zones and ordinances.

## **I. Other Requirements.**

1. **Applicable Codes.** The permittee shall comply with applicable requirements of the NESC including clearances to ground, clearance to crossing utilities, clearance to buildings, right-of-way widths, erecting power poles, and stringing of transmission line conductors.

2. **Other Permits.** The permittee shall comply with all applicable state rules and statutes. The permittee shall obtain all required local, state and federal permits for the project and comply with the conditions of these permits. A list of the required permits is included in the route permit application and the environmental assessment. The permittee shall submit a copy of such permits to the Commission upon request.

3. **Pre-emption.** Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 216E.10, subdivisions 1 and 2, this route permit shall be the sole route approval required to be obtained by the permittee and this permit shall supersede and preempt all zoning, building, or land use rules, regulations, or ordinances promulgated by regional, county, local and special purpose government.

**J. Delay in Construction.** If the permittee has not commenced construction or improvement of the route within four years after the date of issuance of this permit, the Commission shall consider suspension of the permit in accordance with Minnesota Rule 7849.5970.

## **V. PERMIT AMENDMENT**

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 permittee. The Commission may amend the conditions after affording the permittee and interested persons such process as is required.

## **VI. TRANSFER OF PERMIT**

The permittee may request at any time that the Commission transfer this permit to another person or entity. The permittee shall provide the name and description of the person or entity to whom the permit is requested to be transferred, the reasons for the transfer, a description of the facilities affected, and the proposed effective date of the transfer. The person to whom the permit is to be transferred shall provide the Commission with such information as the Commission shall require to determine whether the new permittee can comply with the conditions of the permit. The Commission may authorize transfer of the permit after affording the permittee, the new permittee, and interested persons such process as is required.

## **VII. REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF THE PERMIT**

The Commission may initiate action to revoke or suspend this permit at any time. The Commission shall act in accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Rules part 7849.6010 to revoke or suspend the permit.

# MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION COMPLAINT REPORT PROCEDURES FOR HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES

## 1. Purpose

To establish a uniform and timely method of reporting complaints received by the permittee concerning the permit conditions for site preparation, construction, cleanup and restoration, special conditions, other requirements, and resolution of such complaints.

## 2. Scope

This reporting plan encompasses complaint report procedures and frequency.

## 3. Applicability

The procedures shall be used for all complaints received by the permittee.

## 4. Definitions

***Complaint*** – A statement presented by a person expressing dissatisfaction, resentment, or discontent as a direct result of the high voltage transmission line and associated facilities. Complaints do not include requests, inquiries, questions or general comments.

***Telephone Complaint*** – A person presenting a complaint by telephone shall indicate whether the complaint relates to (1) a substantive routing permit matter, (2) a high voltage transmission line location matter, or (3) a compensation matter. All callers must provide the following information when presenting a complaint by telephone: (1) name; (2) date and time of call; (3) phone number; (4) email address (if available); (5) home address; (6) parcel number.

***Substantial Complaint*** – Written complaints alleging a violation of a specific route permit condition that, if substantiated, could result in permit modification or suspension pursuant to the applicable regulations.

***Person*** – An individual, partnership, joint venture, private or public corporation, association, firm, public service company, cooperative, political subdivision, municipal corporation, government agency, public utility district, or any other entity, public or private, however organized.

## 5. Responsibilities

Everyone involved with any phase of the high voltage transmission line is responsible to ensure expeditious and equitable resolution of all complaints. It is therefore necessary to establish a uniform method for documenting and handling complaints related to this high voltage transmission line project. The following procedures will satisfy this requirement:

- A. The permittee shall document all complaints by maintaining a record of all applicable information concerning the complaint, including the following:
  - 1. Name of the permittee and project.
  - 2. Name of complainant, address and phone number.
  - 3. Precise property description or tract numbers (where applicable).
  - 4. Nature of complaint.
  - 5. Response given.
  - 6. Name of person receiving complaint and date of receipt.
  - 7. Name of person reporting complaint to the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) and phone number.
  - 8. Final disposition and date.
- B. The permittee shall assign an individual to summarize complaints for transmittal to the Commission.

## 6. Requirements

The permittee shall report all complaints to the Commission according to the following schedule:

***Immediate Reports*** – All substantial complaints shall be reported to the Commission by phone or by e-mail the same day received or on the following working day for complaints received after working hours. Such reports are to be directed to high voltage transmission line permit compliance at the following: DOC.energypermitcompliance@state.mn.us or 1-800-657-3794. Voice messages are acceptable.

***Monthly Reports*** – By the 15th of each month, a summary of all complaints, including substantial complaints received or resolved during the preceding month shall be sent to Dr. Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, Metro Square Building, 121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147. A copy of each complaint shall be sent to Permit Compliance, Minnesota Department of Commerce, 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198.

***Unresolved Complaints*** – The permittee shall submit all unresolved complaints to the Commission for resolution by the Commission, where appropriate, no later than 45 days after the date of the submission.

**7. Complaints Received by the Commission**

Copies of complaints received directly by the Commission from aggrieved persons regarding site preparation, construction, cleanup, restoration, operation and maintenance shall be promptly sent to the permittee.

***Initial Screening*** – Commission staff shall perform an initial evaluation of unresolved complaints submitted to the Commission. Complaints raising substantive routing permit issues shall be processed and resolved by the Commission. Staff shall notify permittee and the complainant if it determines that the complaint is a substantial complaint. With respect to such complaints, each party shall submit a written summary of its position to the Commission no later than ten days after receipt of the staff notification. Staff shall present briefing papers to the Commission, which shall resolve the complaint within 20 days of submission of the briefing papers.

***Condemnation/Compensation Issues*** – If the Commission’s staff initial screening determines that a complaint raises issues concerning the just compensation to be paid to landowners on account of permittee acquisition of high voltage transmission line easements, staff shall recommend to the Executive Secretary that the matter be resolved under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 117. If the Executive Secretary concurs, he shall so report to the Commission and the matter shall be dealt with in the high voltage transmission line condemnation proceedings as an issue of just compensation.

**MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
COMPLIANCE FILING PROCEDURE  
FOR PERMITTED ENERGY FACILITIES**

**1. Purpose**

To establish a uniform and timely method of submitting information required by Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) Energy Facility Permits.

**2. Scope and Applicability**

This procedure encompasses all compliance filings required by permit.

**3. Definitions**

***Compliance Filing*** – A sending (filing) of information to the Commission, where the information is required by a Commission site or route permit.

**4. Responsibilities**

A) The permittee shall eFile all compliance filings with Dr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, through the Department of Commerce (DOC) eDocket system. The system is located on the DOC website: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/home.jsp>

General instructions are provided on the website. Permittee must register on the website to eFile documents.

B) All filings must have a cover sheet that includes:

- 1) Date
- 2) Name of submitter/permittee
- 3) Type of Permit (Site or Route)
- 4) Project Location
- 5) Project Docket Number
- 6) Permit Section Under Which the Filing is Made
- 7) Short Description of the Filing

C) Filings that are graphics intensive (e.g., maps or plan and profile) must, in addition to being eFiled, be submitted as paper copies and on CD. Copies and CDs should be sent to: 1) Dr. Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN, 55101-2147, and 2) Office of Energy Security, Energy Facility Permitting, 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN, 55101-2198. Additionally, the PUC may request a paper copy of any eFiled document.

## PERMIT COMPLIANCE FILINGS<sup>1</sup>

**PERMITTEES:** Northstar Transmission, LLC  
**PERMIT TYPE:** High Voltage Transmission Route Permit  
**PROJECT LOCATION:** Jackson County  
**PUC DOCKET NUMBER:** IP-6686/TL-08-1120

Filing Number	Permit Section	Description	Due Date
1	IV.A.	Submit <b>Plan and Profile</b> of the right-of way and design specifications.	At least 14 days prior to right-of-way clearing
2	IV.A.	Any significant changes made in <b>Plan and Profile</b> or <b>Specifications</b> after initial submission.	Notify Commission at least 5 days prior to implementing changes.
3	IV.B.2.	Name <b>Field Representative</b> to oversee compliance with permit conditions.	At least 10 days prior to commencing construction
4	IV.C.	<b>Periodic Status Reports</b> (finalization of route, design of structures, and construction progress/milestones)	Quarterly
5	IV.D	Submit <b>Complaint Procedure</b> to be used to receive and respond to complaints.	Prior to the start of construction
6	IV.F.1.	Provide <b>Notification to Commission</b> of construction completeness and in-service date.	At least 3 days before the line is placed into service
7	IV.F.3.	Submit <b>GPS Data</b> of structures, lines and substations.	Within 60 days after completion of construction
8	IV.H.1.	Submit <b>Phase 1A Archaeological Survey</b> <sup>2</sup>	Prior to the start of construction
9	IV.H.4.	Submit <b>Botanical Survey</b> of project area <sup>3</sup>	Prior to the start of construction

<sup>1</sup> This compilation of permit compliance filings is provided for the convenience of the permittee and the Commission. However, it is not a substitute for the permit; the language of the permit controls.

<sup>2</sup> Also to be submitted to the State Historical Preservation Office for review.

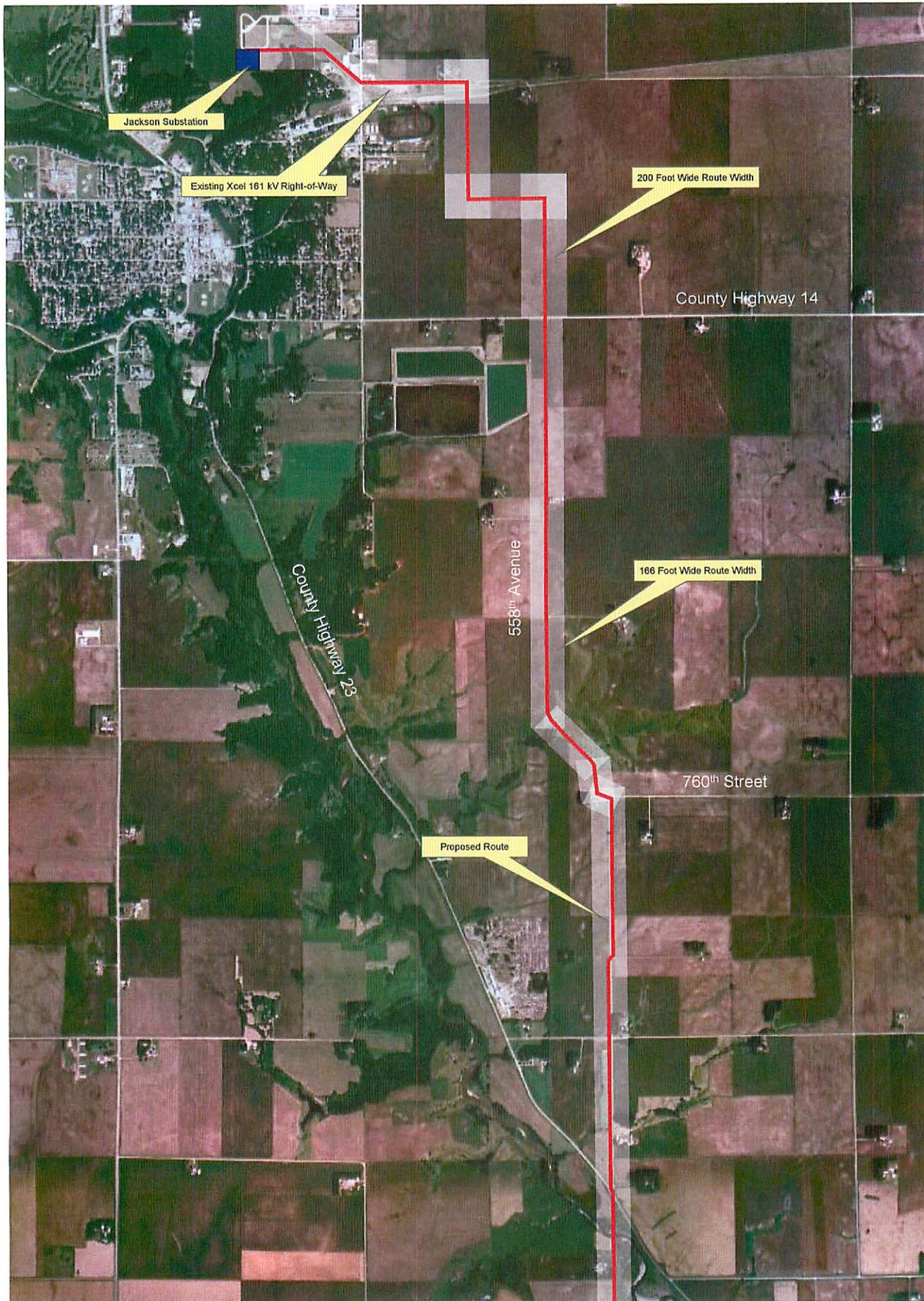
<sup>3</sup> Also to be submitted to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for review.



Base map source, Google Earth (accessed July 2009).

**FIGURE 1A (Amended)**  
 Route Map  
 Northstar Transmission, LLC (Docket No. IP-6686/TL-08-1120)





Base map source, Google Earth (accessed July 2009).

**FIGURE 1B (Amended)**  
 Route Map  
 Northstar Transmission, LLC (Docket No. IP-6686/TL-08-1120)

