

**Appendix I**

**Public Meeting**



# Open House Public Information Meeting

Proposed Electric Power Delivery Project  
for Essar Steel Minnesota

**February 11, 2009 • 4:30 to 7:30 pm**

**Nashwauk City Hall**  
301 Central Ave  
Nashwauk, MN 55769

Property owners and others who have an interest in the area around Nashwauk (see study area map) are invited to an open house information sharing meeting about the electric power delivery project being proposed by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission (NPUC) and Minnesota Power (MP).

To provide adequate, reliable electric power to the Essar Steel Minnesota Project, the project partners propose to permit and construct three

230-kilovolt transmission lines from existing MP facilities to be connected to two new 230-kilovolt substations located on the Essar project site.

NPUC and MP (the Applicants) will be developing a Route Permit Application for submission to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) this summer. Additionally, the partners are proposing a realignment of an existing MP 115-kilovolt transmission line at the Essar project site.

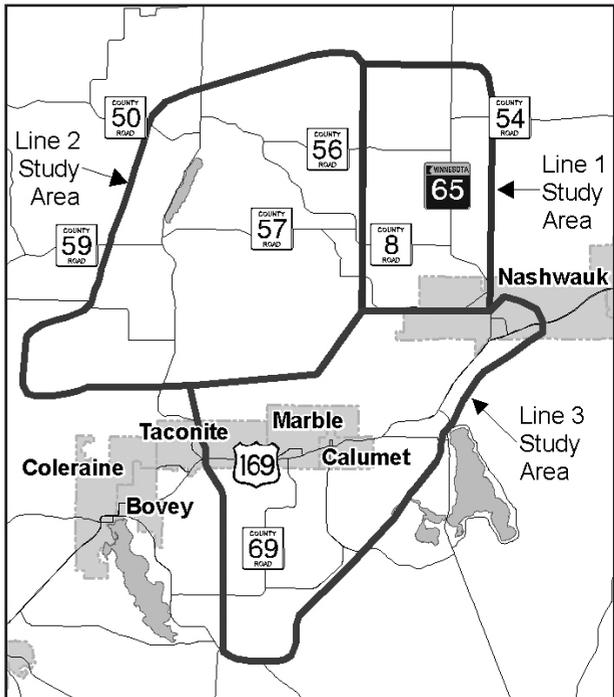
## Open House:

- View maps of the project study area and discuss the proposed project and possible routes.
- Provide input and ask questions of project representatives.
- Learn how the MPUC routing process works.

If you'd like to know more about the Essar Electric Power Delivery Project but are unable to attend the open house, please contact:

**Bob Lindholm—MP**  
218-355-3342  
rlindholm@allete.com

**Lydia Nelson—HDR  
Engineering, Inc**  
651-278-5909  
lydia.nelson@hdrinc.com



**Open House Public Information Meeting  
Proposed Electric Power Delivery Project  
For Essar Steel Minnesota**

Where: Nashwauk City Hall, 301 Central Avenue  
When: Wednesday, February 11, 2009  
Time: 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

You are receiving this Open House invitation because you own property or may have other interests in areas where Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission (NPUC) and Minnesota Power (MP) are studying options for the Electric Power Delivery Project necessary to support the proposed Essar Steel Minnesota facility. NPUC and MP (the Applicants) will be developing a Route Permit Application for submission to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC).

**The Project:**

The Applicants are evaluating construction of three 230 kV transmission lines and two 230 kV substations that would connect to the proposed Essar Steel Minnesota facilities. See Figure 1 on the back of this announcement depicting the project study area.

- Line 1 would connect with the existing 230 kV Boswell to Shannon 94 Line (owned by MP) and travel south to the proposed Essar Steel Plant Substation.
- Line 2 would connect with the same existing transmission line (94 Line), travel east to the proposed Essar Taconite Plant Substation and continue to the proposed Essar Steel Plant Substation.
- Line 3 would connect with the existing Blackberry Substation and travel north to the proposed Essar Steel Plant Substation.

**The Process:**

The Applicants expect to file a Route Permit Application using the Full Process with the MPUC in the summer of 2009. The MPUC will work with the public, the Minnesota Office of Energy Security, and the Applicants to determine the best routes for the three 230 kV lines and sites for two substations. Following filing of the Route Permit Application, the MPUC may take approximately one year to complete the environmental review process, including the development of an Environmental Impact Statement, conduct public information meetings and public hearings.

**The Purpose:**

This Open House is a voluntary meeting sponsored by the Applicants. The primary purposes are to provide the public with information about the project and to identify issues and concerns important to the local community.

At this Open House you will have an opportunity to:

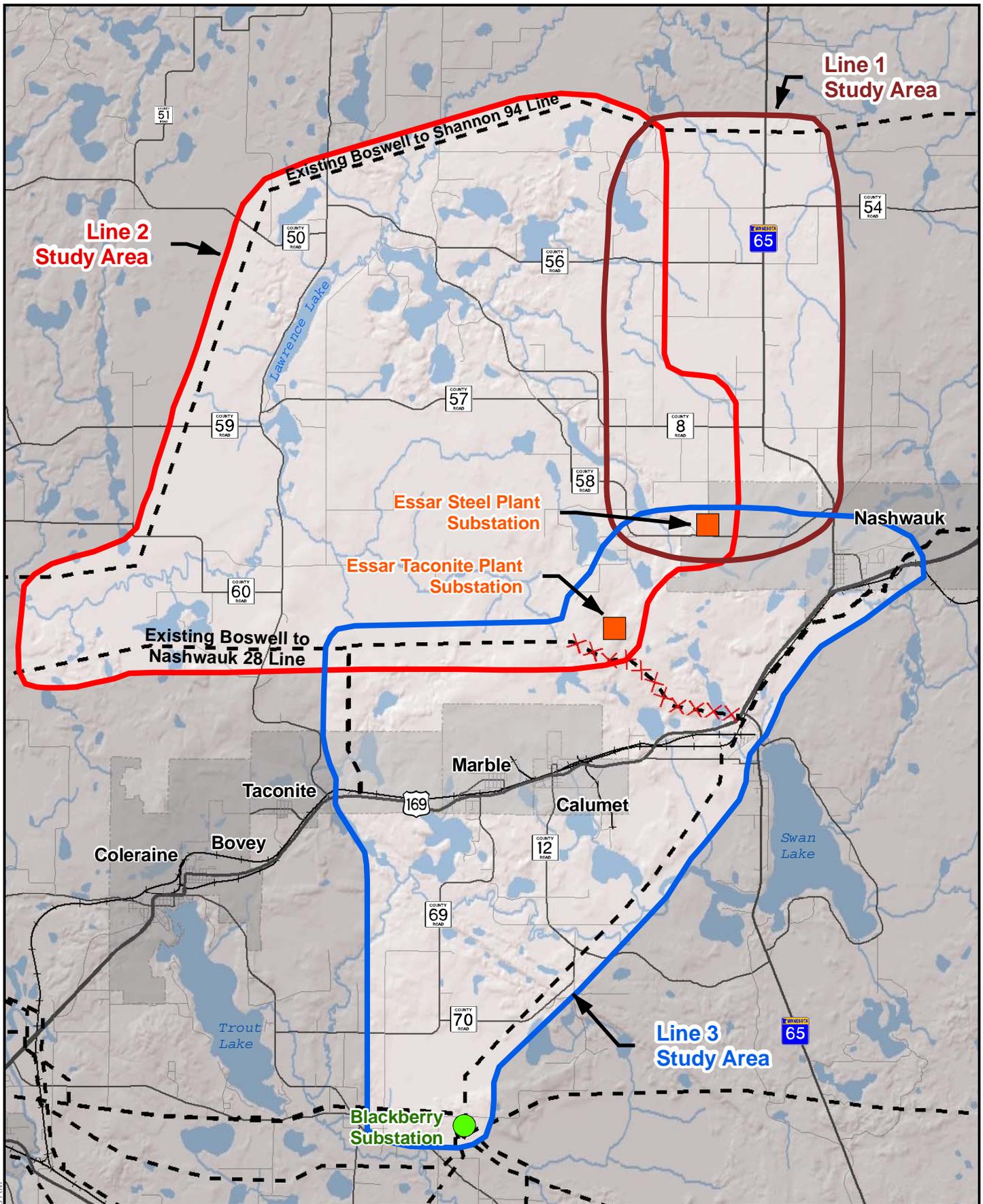
- See maps of the study area and discuss the proposed project with the Applicants
- Understand how the MPUC routing process works
- Provide your suggestions, issues and concerns for the proposed project

**COME ANYTIME** during the Open House hours and share your insights about this project. The project applicants will be available to listen to your input and answer your questions.

**Contacts:**

If you would like to know more about the Electric Power Delivery Project or are unable to attend this Open House, please contact: Bob Lindholm (MP) at 218-355-3342, [rlindholm@allete.com](mailto:rlindholm@allete.com) or Lydia Nelson (HDR Engineering) at 651-278-5909, [lydia.nelson@hdrinc.com](mailto:lydia.nelson@hdrinc.com).

Map Document: (\\M\spc-gis-file\gis\proj\Nashwauk\8143\map\_docs\8x11\_Public\_Notice\_Figure.mxd) 01/23/2009 -- 9:31:23 AM



- Existing Substation
- Proposed Substation
- Existing Transmission
- XXX Remove Existing Transmission

Figure 1  
Project Study Area  
0 1 2 Miles  
N

Subject: Public Meeting for the three 230 kV transmission lines near Nashwauk Minnesota		
Client: Nashwauk PUC/Minnesota Power	Project No:	98143
Project: Nashwauk PUC	Meeting Location:	Nashwauk City Hall
Meeting Date: 2-11-09	Notes by:	Kelly Garvey

**PROJECT TEAM ATTENDEES**

Bob Lindholm, Jim Atkinson, Dave Van House-MP  
 Bryan Adams, Ed Bolf-City of Nashwauk  
 Ron Dicklich  
 Lydia Nelson, Sean Touhey, Kelly Garvey-HDR

**MEETING FORMAT**

- Approximately 130 people attended the public meeting
- The meeting was open to the public from 4:30-7:30 pm. There was not a formal presentation.
- Several stations were set up throughout the room. Three stations displayed the study areas for each of the three lines. One station identified the state route permit application process. Several figures showed what the transmission line structures would look like. One station was set up to provide interested parties with individual maps of their property.

**GENERAL COMMENTS**

- Some attendees felt that the meeting did not provide enough information to understand exactly where the transmission lines would be constructed. They wanted to see the proposed routes.
- Some attendees were confused by the figure mailed out. They thought the study area boundary lines identified on the figure were the proposed transmission line routes.
- Several people did not understand that the project is proposing three separate transmission lines, one in each study area.
- Some attendees questioned why the lines needed to be put in three separate locations, rather than parallel to each other; particularly for lines 1 and 2.
- Some attendees wanted to know how long the process would take, when they would see proposed line locations, and if they would get additional mailings.
- Some attendees asked what the structures would look like, how much right-of-way would be required, and the distance between structures.

- Several attendees asked if any homes would be taken.
- Some attendees asked what the process is for land acquisition: easements, eminent domain, payments?

### **ROUTE 1 COMMENTS**

- Several attendees suggested that the transmission line should be constructed east of MN 65 on property that is managed as forestland by Blandin Paper Company and mining companies.
- Some attendees expressed concern about running the line on MN 65, due to the number of houses on this road.
- Some attendees expressed concern about running the line by Shoal Lake, because of all of the homes located along the lake.
- Most attendees would rather have the line offset from roads, and run along the backside of property lines if present.
- One property owner identified an airstrip that was not shown on the maps.
- One property owner noted that there are old rail beds in the study area – these may be of interest for alternate routes.

### **ROUTE 2 COMMENTS**

- Most people recommended that the new line be constructed adjacent to the existing Boswell to Nashwauk 28 line, rather on a new corridor.
- Several people expressed concern about running the line by the larger lakes, including Lawrence, Lower Lawrence and O’Riley lakes.
- Most landowners residing in the far NW section of this study area questioned why we would consider route options in the area because the routes would be longer and need to avoid the many homes and lakes.

### **ROUTE 3 COMMENTS**

- James Sellner, MDNR Division of Minerals – Hibbing, suggested that we fully investigate mineral rights ownership in addition to surface rights ownership for route alternatives that would cross the iron formation; the alignment for the 115 kV re-route and Route #3.
- Dave McKenzie, SEH Project Manager for the Essar railroad spur is interested in the timing for the removal of the existing Line # 28 because the railroad will intersect the 115 kV transmission line and there are concerns regarding vertical clearance between the present line and the proposed (elevated) railroad grade.
- There were quite a number of landowners that asked about the possible alignment and design/construction options if the MPUC decision involved a route parallel to the 115 kV lines between the Blackberry Substation and the Nashwauk Substation (Lines # 62 and 63).

- There were a number of landowners from Trout Lake Township that inquired about possible alternate routes through their township when there is an existing transmission line corridor from Blackberry to Nashwauk.