



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Energy Security



Issued: March 12, 2010

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AVAILABILITY

In the Matter of the Route Permit Applications for a 161 kV Transmission Line and Associated Facilities in Fillmore County, Minnesota.

PUC Docket Numbers: IP-6688/TL-09-601

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed EcoEnergy, LLC (EcoEnergy) 161 kV transmission line project has been completed and is available to the public. The EA contains information on the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and addresses required methods to mitigate such impacts for all of the routes considered. Copies of the EA and other relevant documents are accessible at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=24696>.

Project Description. The project involves the construction of an 8.5-mile 161 kV transmission line, a substation in Bristol Township, and a switching station in Harmony Township. The proposed transmission line route would originate at a newly constructed substation (EcoHarmony West substation), head east along County Highway 44 for approximately four and one half miles to 305th Avenue where it would turn south one mile to 120th Street where it would head east three miles to the switching station. Two alternate route segments were proposed during the environmental scoping process (see attached map.)

Environmental Assessment. The Department of Commerce Office of Energy Security (OES) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) on the proposed project to meet the environmental review requirements for the route permit process. The EA addresses the potential impacts of the proposed transmission line and two alternate route segments. Electronic versions of the EA and other documents relevant to this matter are available for viewing and download on the Commission's energy facility permitting website at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=24696>, or on eDockets at: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (search on year "09" and number "601").

Review Process. A public hearing presided over by an Administrative Law Judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings is scheduled for March 24, 2010 at the Harmony Fire Department. Notice of the hearing will be published in a local newspaper and mailed to persons who register their names on the project mailing list. Persons interested in adding their names to this mailing list should contact the OES or register on the Commission's website at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=24696>

Administrative Law Judge. Administrative Law Judge Steve Mihalchick will preside at the hearing. Judge Mihalchick's address is: Office of Administrative Hearings, P.O. Box 64620, St. Paul, MN 55164, phone: 651-361-7844, email: steve.mihalchick@state.mn.us.

Project Contacts. For more information about the process, the project, or to place your name on the project mailing list, please contact.

Department of Commerce

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