



In the Matter of the Xcel Energy and Great River Energy Route Permit Application for a 345 kV Transmission Line Project from Fargo, ND to St. Cloud in Stearns County

**FREEPORT TO ST. CLOUD
ADVISORY TASK FORCE
DECISION AND CHARGE
PUC Docket E002, ET2/TL-09-1056**

FREEPORT TO ST. CLOUD ADVISORY TASK FORCE AUTHORIZATION

The above-entitled matter has come before the Office of Energy Security (OES) Director for a decision on the appointment of an advisory task force (ATF) to advise the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) on the application by Xcel Energy and Great River Energy for a route permit for the Fargo to St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission Line Project (Project).

As authorized by the Commission, the OES Director is establishing an Advisory Task Force by this Order to assist in identifying impacts and route alternatives to be evaluated in the environmental impact statement (EIS) prepared by OES Energy Facilities Permitting (EFP) staff for the proposed Fargo to St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission Line Project. The particular area in question is where the Applicants' proposed routes deviate from the Hwy 94 corridor between Freeport and St. Cloud.

ATF members are being solicited, as required by Minn. Stat. 216E.08, Subpart 1, from the following affected governmental units:

County	Stearns
City	Albany
City	Avon
City	Freeport
City	St. Anthony
City	St. Joseph
Township	Albany
Township	Avon
Township	Brockway
Township	Collegeville
Township	Farming
Township	Holding
Township	Krain
Township	Millwood
Township	Oak
Township	St. Joseph
Township	St. Martin
Township	St. Wendel

The ATF will comprise no more than 12 local government members and up to three representatives of nongovernmental organizations.

OES herein charges the ATF members to:

1. Assist in determining specific impacts and issues of local concern that should be assessed in the EIS by adding detail to the draft Scoping Document;
2. Assist in determining potential route alternatives that should be assessed in the EIS.

ATF members will be expected to participate with OES staff in up to three meetings and to assist staff with the development of a summary of the task force's work including their preferences or recommendations, if any. Meetings will be facilitated by the Management Analysis Division of the Minnesota Management and Budget Office as engaged by OES staff.

The Freeport to St. Cloud ATF will expire upon issuance of the OES Director's EIS Scoping Decision.

THE DIRECTOR MAKES THE FOLLOWING ORDER

WHEREAS, the applicants submitted an application for a route permit for the Project on October 1, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. 216E.08 provides for the establishment of an ATF to assist the Commission in carrying out its duties; and

WHEREAS, in its November 13, 2009, Order the Commission authorized OES to establish an ATF and develop a structure and charge for the ATF; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. 216E.08 establishes that an ATF comprise at least one representative from each county and municipal corporation, and at least one town board member from each county in which a route is proposed to be located;

THEREFORE, The OES Director herein establishes the Freeport to St. Cloud Advisory Task Force, authorizes OES EFP to appoint members of the ATF and adopts the above determination with regard to its structure and charge.

Signed this 16th day of November, 2009

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OFFICE OF ENERGY SECURITY


William Glahn, Director