



STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

May 2, 2011

To: Service List, OES Project List

From: Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel P. Wolf, Sr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Re: **In the Matter of the Application for a HVTL Route Permit for the Fargo to St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission Line Project: MPUC Docket ET-2, E-002/TL-09-1056**

Next Steps in Commission Process

This notice is provided as general information describing the next stage of the Commission's review in this matter.

With the April 25, 2011 filing of the Administrative Law Judge's FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION, this case now moves back to the Commission for adjudication. The Judge will forward the official record to the Commission for its use in preparing the case for a decision. In her report, Judge Heydinger provided the following instructions:

NOTICE

Under the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, Minn. R. 7829.0100 to 7829.3200, exceptions to this Report, if any, by any party adversely affected must be filed within 15 days of the mailing date hereof with the Executive Secretary of the PUC, 350 Metro Square Building, 121 Seventh Place East, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2147. Exceptions must be specific, relevant to the matters at issue in this proceeding, and stated and numbered separately. Proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions, and Order should be included, and copies served upon all parties.

The Commission shall make its determination on the application for the Route Permit after the period to file Exceptions as set forth above, or after oral argument, if such is requested and conducted in this matter. In accordance with Minn. R. 4400.1900, the PUC shall make a final decision on the Route Permit within 60 days after receipt of this Report.

Notice is hereby given that the Commission may accept, modify, condition, or reject this Report and that this Report has no legal effect unless expressly adopted by the Commission.

As stated in this notice, exceptions to the Judge's report by Parties must be *specific, relevant to the matters at issue in this proceeding, and stated and numbered separately*. Party's exceptions must cite the specific finding(s) of the ALJ that are allegedly in error and cite to specific facts in

the official record to support your argument and must be received at the Commission or e-filed in edockets by 4:30 PM on Tuesday, May 10, 2011. No replies to filed exceptions are permitted.

After the exceptions period closes, the Commission will set a date for formal parties' final oral arguments and Commission deliberation. The meeting will likely be held in the first two weeks of June. An official notice of the meeting will be mailed to known interested persons at least ten (10) days before the meeting date and posted on the Commission's website calendar at www.puc.state.mn.us. The meeting notice will include information about how formal parties and interested persons can participate; how to access the Briefing Papers prepared for the Commission (typically available on-line the week before the meeting); and how to watch the live broadcast of the meeting on the internet.

The Commission is under no obligation to take additional public comment at this final stage in the permitting process. While the Commission's decisional meeting is an open meeting, they are not public hearings like those conducted earlier in the project area by the Administrative Law Judge. Typically, only formal parties address the Commission at a decisional meeting. However, the Commission understands there has been significant interest and concern regarding this project and may allow limited comment from organized groups and the public on this matter.

PLEASE NOTE: Ex parte communication with Commissioners is prohibited [Minnesota Statute, Chapter 216A.037]. Ex parte communication is defined as "oral or written, off-the-record communication made to or by commissioners or commission decision-making personnel, without notice to parties, that is directed to the merits or outcome of an on the-record proceeding."

Questions regarding scheduling of this matter may be directed to Commission staff at bret.eknes@state.mn.us or at 651-201-2236. Communication with staff is allowed for procedural, scheduling and status inquiries, or other inquiries or requests, as long as they have no bearing on the outcome of the proceeding. Comments on the Judge's Report and Recommendation can be submitted at:

- E-mail: PublicComments.puc@state.mn.us
- Phone: 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782, Option 1.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e. large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782 (voice). Citizens with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through Minnesota Relay at 1-800-627-3529 or by dialing 711.