



Energy Facility Permitting
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Issued: November 19, 2009

SOLICITATION OF ADVISORY TASK FORCE MEMBERS

To Whom it May Concern:

This notice is soliciting nominations for a Freeport to St. Cloud Advisory Task Force (ATF) for the proposed Fargo to St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission Project (Project). On October 1, 2009, Xcel Energy and Great River Energy submitted a High Voltage Transmission Line (HVTL) Route Permit application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for the Project. The application was accepted as complete on November 13, 2009. In its Order, the Commission authorized the establishment of an advisory task force for the Freeport to St. Cloud portion of the Project.

The task force will assist the Minnesota Office of Energy Security (OES) Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff in developing the scope of the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Fargo to St. Cloud 345 kV transmission line project. The OES is establishing that ATF and charging the ATF members to:

1. Assist in determining specific impacts and issues of local concern that should be assessed in the EIS; and
2. Assist in determining potential route alternatives that should be assessed in the EIS.

The ATF will expire upon designation of the EIS scoping decision by the OES Director.

ATF members will be selected from the list of nominations received. The ATF will consist of no more than 15 persons. The final structure will comprise one representative from each county (1), one representative from each city (5), representatives from the twelve townships (1-9), and one representative each from up to three citizens' organizations (0-3).

The structure of the advisory task force will be pursuant to Minn. Stat. 216E.08, subdivision 1. Therefore, members of the AFT will be solicited from the following:

Type	Name
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
NGO	
NGO	
NGO	

Please provide the name of a person(s) who may well represent their nongovernmental organization in regard to this endeavor. The qualifications for serving on the task force are (1) that the person be an employee or representative of the entity; (2) that the person be willing, interested, and available to serve on the task force; (3) preferably that the person be knowledgeable about local planning and environmental issues; and (4) that the person not be an officer, agent, or employee of Great River Energy or Xcel Energy. If you or someone in your organization would like to be considered for inclusion on the ATF, please fill out the attached candidate information form and **e-mail, fax or mail the form to be received by 4:30 p.m. on December 8, 2009** to:

David Birkholz, Project Manager
Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

david.birkholz@state.mn.us

ph. 651.296.2878, fax 651.297.7891

Members of the ATF will be contacted by December 15, 2009. The ATF will meet three times in January and early February. Meeting times and locations within the project area will be announced.

If you imagine an appropriate contact person within your organization, please pass on this letter along with the enclosed form to them. Also, please pass on this letter along with the enclosed form to any other groups you think might be interested, notably nongovernmental environmental or civic organizations.

To learn more about the application, visit the project webpage at:

<http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25053>

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Birkholz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

David Birkholz, Project Manager

enc: Candidate Form
ATF Charge