



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Energy Security



Issued: January 7, 2011

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**In the Matter of the Application by Xcel Energy and Great River Energy for a Route
Permit for the Fargo to St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission Line Project
PUC Docket Number: E002, ET2/TL-09-1056; OAH Docket No. 15-2500-20995-2**

The Minnesota Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security (OES) has released the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Fargo-to-St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project.

The intent of the environmental review process is to inform the public, the applicants and decision-makers about potential impacts and possible mitigations for a proposed project. The FEIS for the Fargo-to-St. Cloud transmission project evaluated impacts for a number of route alternatives, including one along Interstate Highway 94. It addresses the unique issues that could arise when placing a high voltage transmission line along a major trunk highway. It also presents a comparative analysis of human and environmental impacts amongst route alternatives.

Copies of the FEIS can be obtained through the OES and may be viewed at the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission web site: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25053>.

A hard copy will be available for viewing at the following public libraries by January 17, 2011:

Albany Public Library	Barnesville Library	Breckenridge Library
Browns Valley Public Library	Clemens Library	Douglas County Public Library
Fargo Public Library	Fergus Falls Public Library	Glenwood Public Library
Melrose Public Library	Moorhead Library	Sauk Centre Public Library
Saint Cloud Public Library	Thorson Memorial Library	

Project Description

Xcel Energy and Great River Energy submitted an Application to construct a new 345 kV high voltage transmission line (HVTL) between the Red River, either at a location south of Moorhead or south of Breckenridge, and the new Quarry Substation west of St. Cloud. The Minnesota portion of the proposed Fargo to St. Cloud 345 kV Project will be approximately 169 to 180 miles long, extending from the Red River to the existing Alexandria Switching Station located south of Alexandria and to the new Quarry Substation in St. Joseph. The North Dakota portion of the Project from a new Bison Substation west of Fargo to the Red River, depending on the route selected, will be approximately 31 to 81 miles.

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