



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Department of Commerce



Issued: August 31, 2011

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

**In the Matter of the Application by Xcel Energy for a Route Permit for the
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV and 161 kV Transmission Line Project**

PUC Docket Number: E002/TL-09-1448

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) unit has released the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV and 161 kV transmission line 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 evaluates impacts for a number of route alternatives, and presents a comparative analysis of human and environmental impacts amongst route alternatives.

The FEIS can be viewed at the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission web site: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25731>, and on the Department of Commerce's eDockets website at: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (Enter year "09" and number "1448.")

A hard copy will be available for viewing at the following public libraries by Sept. 3, 2011:

Cannon Falls Library
306 West Mill Street
Cannon Falls, MN 55009
507-263-2804

Zumbrota Public Library
100 West Avenue
Zumbrota, MN 55992
507-732-5211

Van Horn Public Library
115 SE 3rd Street
Pine Island, MN 55963
507-356-8558

Wabasha City Library
168 Allegheny Avenue
Wabasha, MN 55981
651-565-3927

Northfield Public Library
210 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057
507-645-6606

Plainview Public Library
345 1st Avenue NW
Plainview, MN 55964
507-534-3425

Dakota County Library
508 3rd Street
Farmington, MN 55024
651-438-0250

Kenyon Public Library
709 2nd Street
Kenyon, MN 55946
507-789-6821

Rochester Public Library
101 2nd Street SE
Rochester, MN 55904
507-328-2309

Alma Public Library
312 N Main St
Alma, WI 54610
608-685-3823

Project Description. Xcel Energy, on behalf of itself and regional utilities that are part of the CapX2020 initiative, is proposing to construct and operate a new 345 kV high voltage transmission line (HVTL), approximately 90 miles in length in Minnesota, connecting an existing substation near Hampton, Minn., to a proposed North Rochester Substation between Zumbrota and Pine Island, Minn., and continuing eastward to cross the Mississippi River near Kellogg, Minn. The line would continue in Wisconsin an additional 50 miles to a new substation in the La Crosse, Wis., area. In addition, the project includes a new 161 kV line, approximately 15 miles in length, between the proposed North Rochester Substation and the existing North Hills Substation in northwest Rochester.

The proposed 345 kV transmission line would be constructed primarily with single-pole steel structures, ranging in height from 130 to 175 feet, with an average span of 1,000 feet between poles. The structures would be “double circuit capable,” meaning that a second 345 kV circuit could be placed on the structures in the future if warranted. The typical right-of-way (ROW) for the 345 kV transmission line would be 150 feet.

The proposed 161 kV transmission line would be constructed primarily with single-pole steel structures, ranging in height from 70 to 105 feet, with an average span of 400 to 700 feet between poles. The typical ROW for the 161 kV transmission line would be 80 feet.

The proposed project includes construction of a new substation, in an area between Zumbrota and Pine Island, Minnesota, and modifications at two existing substations. Project construction is expected to begin in the second quarter of 2012 and be completed and in service by the fourth quarter of 2015.

Project Contacts. If you have questions or if you would like further information about this project please contact:

State Permit Manager
Matthew Langan
651-296-2096
matthew.langan@state.mn.us

Public Advisor
Raymond Kirsch
651-296-7588
raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us

Persons interested in adding their names to this project’s mailing list should contact the EFP state permit manager or public advisor, or register online at:
<http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/#mailing>.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0391 (voice.) Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through Minnesota Relay at 1-800-627-3529 or by dialing 711.