



Energy Facility Permitting
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Issued: May 22, 2011

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION & SCOPING MEETING

In the Matter of the Prairie Rose Transmission, LLC Route Permit Application for a 115 kV Transmission Line in Rock County for Interconnection of the Prairie Rose Wind Farm

PUC Docket Number: IP-6638/TL-10-134

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff will conduct a public information and Environmental Assessment (EA) scoping meeting, at the time and location listed below, on the route permit application by Prairie Wind Transmission, LLC to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a proposed 115 kV transmission line in Rose Dell Township in Rock County.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to the public about the project and to identify issues and route alternatives to study in the EA that will be prepared by the EFP staff. The public information meeting will include a presentation about the state's high voltage transmission line alternative permitting process, the proposed project, and how the public may be involved. The applicant will have representatives at the public meeting who can answer general questions about the proposed project.

Tuesday, June 7, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

Memorial Hall

101 East Wall Street
Jasper, MN

Public Comments

Comments on this project will be accepted until **4:30 p.m. on June 20, 2011**. Please include docket number "10-134" on your comments. Comments may be submitted by letter, email, fax, or online at the Commission website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=28283>.

Project Description

The complete proposed transmission line would span approximately 24 miles, from the Prairie Rose Wind Farm Substation in Rose Dell Township in Rock County to the Split Rock Substation in Brandon, South Dakota. The Minnesota portion of the proposed Project would be approximately 5.5 to seven miles long. The single-circuit transmission line would head west along County Highway 7 to County Highway 23. There it would continue due west along Township Road 72 to the Minnesota-South Dakota border. The proposed route would be sited along a combination of existing road right-of-way (ROW) and private land adjacent the public road ROW.

The proposed structures would be single-pole steel structures that would range in height between 60 and 80 feet. The span length between structures would range between 350 and 600 feet depending on site-specific considerations. The right-of-way for the proposed 115 kV electrical transmission line would generally be 80 feet in width.

The estimated cost for the 24 miles of transmission line between the Prairie Rose Wind substation and the Split Rock Substation is \$15 million. The portion of this cost relating to the Minnesota piece of the Project is estimated to be approximately \$5 million.

Review Process

A route permit application for the project was filed by Prairie Rose Transmission, LLC on March 10, 2011. The application was accepted as complete by the Commission on April 15, 2011, authorizing EFP to process the application under the alternative review process in Minn. Rule 7850.2900-3900.

Applications for high voltage transmission line route permits are subject to environmental review, which is conducted by EFP staff. The staff is herein providing notice and will conduct a public information and scoping meeting to solicit public comments on the scope of the environmental assessment. The DOC Commissioner will ultimately determine the final scope of the environmental assessment. The environmental assessment will address issues related to routing, such as construction impacts, environmental features, use of existing rights-of-way, impacts on homes and businesses, and consideration of public comments.

Applications for high voltage transmission line route permits require a public hearing upon completion of the environmental assessment. Notice of the hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who register their names on the project mailing list. The public hearing will be held in the project area.

The Commission may issue a route permit in accordance with its authority under the Power Plant Siting Act (Minnesota Statute 216E.03). However, Prairie Rose Transmission, LLC may not exercise the power of eminent domain in this matter.

Minnesota Statutes and Rules governing the process are available on the following website:

<http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/TransmissionLines.html>

Project Mailing List

Persons should contact the state permit manager or public advisor (noted below) or register online at the Commission website below to get their name on the project mailing list. Persons on the mailing list will receive notices of meetings, hearings and notices of document availability for this project. **If you do not register to be on the mailing list you will not receive correspondence regarding this project after this notice.** Registration to the project mailing list is voluntary and may be done at any time.

Project Documents

A more detailed explanation of the proposed project is contained in the route permit application. Electronic versions of the application and other documents relevant to this matter are available on the Commission website at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=28283>

Additionally, these documents are available on the eDockets system:

<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter year "10" and number "134").

Copies of the application are also available for review at the county courthouses of Pipestone and Rock counties and at the Rock County Community Library at 201 W Main in Luverne.

Project Contacts

To submit comments, ask questions, or seek further information about this project please contact:

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Questions regarding the Prairie Rose permit application can also be directed to the applicant by contacting:

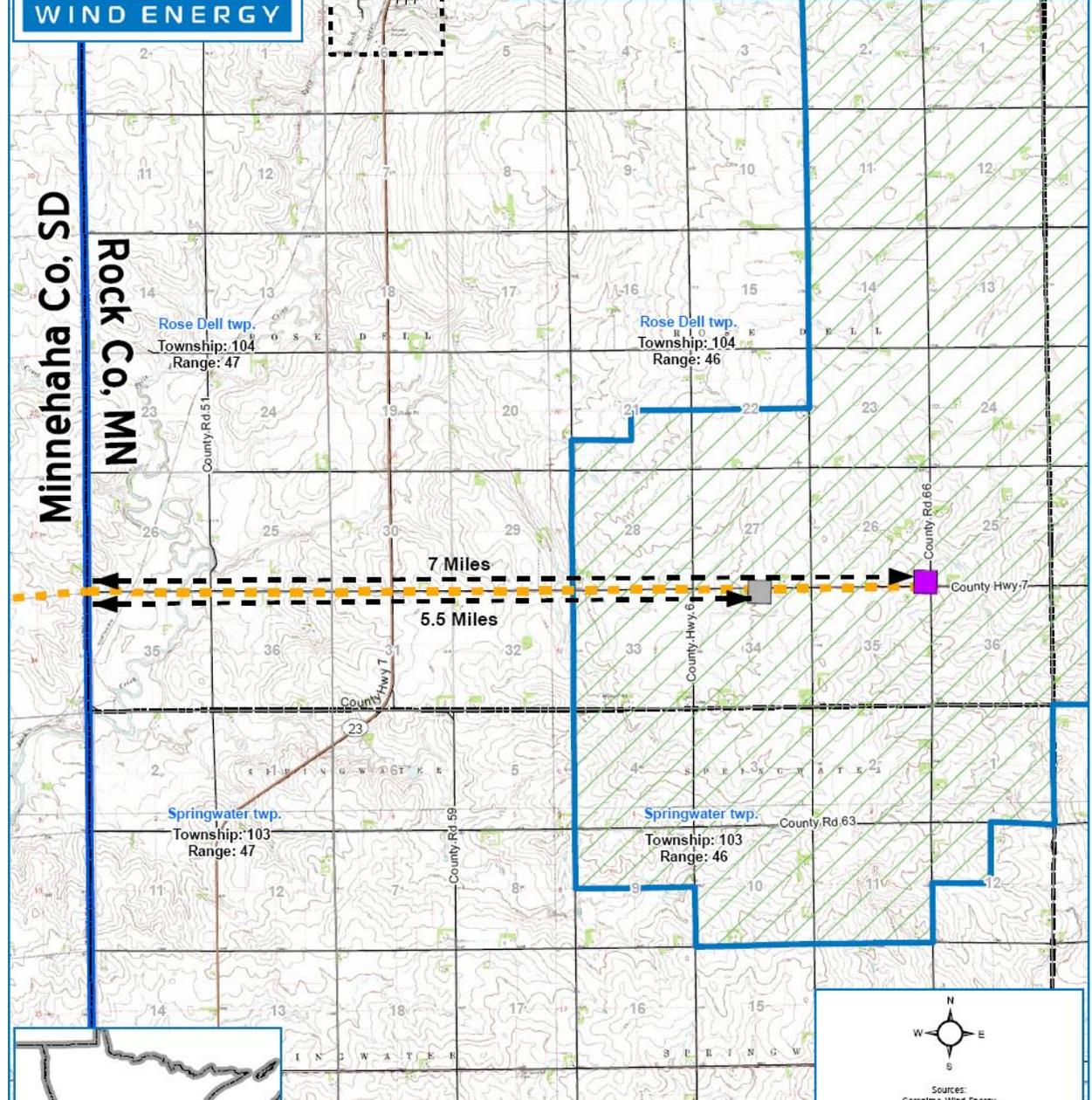
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This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0391 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through Minnesota Relay at 1-800-627-3529 or by dialing 711.



PRAIRIE ROSE TRANSMISSION ROUTE



LEGEND

- Preferred Substation
- Alternate Substation
- Transmission Route
- Wind Farm Footprint
- Section Lines
- PLS Township Boundary
- Municipal Civil Divisions
- County Boundaries
- State Boundary
- Roads

Sources:
Geronimo Wind Energy
MN DNR

DG 3/22/2011

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Feet