



**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**Office of Energy Security**



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SCOPING MEETINGS**

**In the Matter of the Applications for a Route Permit and  
Certificate of Need for the 115 kV Glencoe – Waconia Transmission Line Project**

**PUC Docket Numbers: E002/TL-10-249 and E002/CN-09-1390**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Minnesota Department of Commerce Office of Energy Security (OES) will conduct public information and environmental assessment (EA) scoping meetings at the times and location listed below, on the route permit application submitted by Northern States Power (Xcel Energy) and the certificate of need application submitted by Xcel Energy and the City of Glencoe to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for the proposed 115 kV Glencoe – Waconia transmission line project. The purpose of the meetings is to provide information to the public about the project and to identify issues and alternatives to study in an EA that will be prepared by OES Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff.

**Public Information and Scoping Meetings**

**Tuesday, March 1, 2011**  
**Afternoon Session – 2:00 PM**  
**Evening Session – 6:00 PM**

**Clay Community Building**  
**327 Elm Street West**  
**Norwood Young America, MN**  
**952-467-1800**

During the meetings, OES EFP staff will give a presentation about the state's high voltage transmission line permitting process, certificate of need process, the proposed project, and how the public can participate. Xcel Energy and the City of Glencoe will have representatives at the public meetings who can answer general questions about the proposed project. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions, present comments, and propose issues, impacts and alternatives to be studied in the EA.

Review copies of the route permit application, certificate of need application, permitting process flowcharts, and comment forms will be available at the meetings. Each meeting will offer the same process and information, so interested persons need attend only one of the meetings.

**The OES will accept written comments on the scope of the EA until Wednesday, March 23, 2011.** Please include PUC Docket No. TL-10-249 on all comments. Comments should be mailed, emailed, or faxed to:

Bill Storm  
State Permit Manager  
Minnesota Office of Energy Security  
85 7th Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198  
Fax: 651-297-7891  
[bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us)

Comments may also be submitted on the Commission's energy facility permitting website:  
<http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us>.

**Project Description.** Xcel Energy and the City of Glencoe (Applicants) proposes to construct new 69 and 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines, and to upgrade an existing 69 kV transmission line (approximately 28 miles total), near the cities of Glencoe, Plato, Norwood Young America and Waconia, in the southwest Twin Cities metro area (see attached map). In addition, the project includes a new substation and modifications to existing substations along the transmission line route.

The Applicants proposes using single-pole, steel structures that will range in height between 60 and 105 feet. The span length between structures will between 300 and 400 feet. Where the new transmission line is a rebuild of the existing 69 kV line (approximately 20 of the 28 miles), the existing wooden structures will be replaced with steel structures.

Project construction is expected to begin in 2011; the project is expected to be completed an in service late in 2012.

**Review Process.** Two separate Commission approvals are required to the build the Glencoe – Waconia 115 kV transmission line project (project) – a certificate of need (CON) and a route permit. The Applicants submitted a CON application to the Commission on November 30, 2010. The application was accepted as complete by the Commission on January 27, 2011. Xcel Energy submitted a route permit application to the Commission on December 10, 2010. The route permit application was accepted as complete by the Commission on January 6, 2011.

**OES EFP Review – Environmental Assessment.** OES EFP staff is responsible for conducting the environmental review for CON applications submitted s submitted to the Commission (Minn. Rules 7849.1200). OES EFP staff typically prepares an environmental report (ER) prior to the Commission's determination of need for a proposed project. An ER examines the potential human and environmental impacts of a proposed project, alternatives to the project, and potential mitigative measures.

OES EFP staff is also responsible conducting the environmental review for route permit application to the Commission (Minn. Rules 7850.3700). Environmental review for a project of this size requires the preparation of an environmental assessment (EA). An EA examines the potential human and environmental impacts of a proposed project, alternative routes for the project, and potential mitigative measures.

As two concurrent environmental reviews are required – one for the CON application and one for the route permit application – OES EFP staff has elected to combine the environmental review for the two applications (Minn. Rules 7849.1900). Thus, an environmental assessment (EA) will be prepared to meet the requirements of both review processes.

**Public Hearing.** After completion of the EA, a public hearing will be held. The hearing will be presided over by an administrative law judge (ALJ) from the Office of Administrative Hearings. Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak at the hearing, present evidence, ask questions, and submit comments. Notice of the public hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who register their names on the OES project mailing list (see below).

Upon completion of the environmental review and hearing process, the records compiled for each proceeding (CON, route permit) will be presented to the Commission for final decisions. This review process is the only process during which alternatives to the project will be considered, including the “no build” alternative and alternatives related to the size, type, timing, and configuration of the project.

**Eminent Domain.** If issued a route permit by the Commission, the applicant may exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire land for this project pursuant to Minnesota Statute 216E.12.

**Project Mailing List.** Persons should contact the state permit manager or public advisor (noted below) or register online at: [www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us) 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 description of the proposed project is contained in the certificate of need and route permit applications. Electronic versions of these documents are available on the Commission’s energy facility permitting website:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=30371>

Additionally, these documents are available on the Commission’s eDockets system: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the year “10” and the number “249” for the route permit application and enter the year “09” and the number “1390” for the CON application).

The CON and route permit applications are also available at the public libraries noted below:

Glencoe Public Library 1107 11 <sup>th</sup> Street East Glencoe, MN 55336	Norwood Young America Public Library 314 Elm Street West Norwood Young America, MN 55368	Waconia Public Library 217 South Vine Street Waconia, MN 55387
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**Project Contacts.** The OES has designated staff member Bill Storm (651-296-9535, [bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us)) as Project Manager and Suzanne Steinhauer (651-296-2888,

[suzanna.steinhauer@state.mn.us](mailto:suzanna.steinhauer@state.mn.us)) as Public Advisor. You may contact them at: Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security, 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198. Other contact information: Toll-Free: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-297-7891 or TTY: Minnesota Relay Services, 1-800-627-3529, and ask for the DOC.

**Public Utilities Commission.** If you would like additional information about the CON process or Commission practice and procedure, please contact Commission staff member Michael Kaluzniak (651-201-2257, Fax: 651-297-7073, [michael.kaluzniak@state.mn.us](mailto:michael.kaluzniak@state.mn.us)). Mr. Kaluzniak may be contacted in writing at: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place E., Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147.

**Xcel Energy.** Information about this project is available from Xcel Energy. You can direct questions to Timothy G. Rogers (612-330-1955, [timothy.g.rogers@xcelenergy.com](mailto:timothy.g.rogers@xcelenergy.com)). Mr. Rogers may be contacted in writing at: Xcel Energy, 414 Nicollet Mall, (MP 8), Minneapolis, MN 55401.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651.296.0406 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through Minnesota Relay at 1.800.627.3529 or by dialing 711.

