



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Energy Facility Permitting



September 14, 2011

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND
AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**In the Matter of the Route Permit Application for the St. Cloud Loop 115 kV Transmission
Line Project in Sauk Rapids, Minnesota**

PUC Docket Number: E002/TL-10-1026

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) will hold a public hearing on behalf of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) on the route permit application by Xcel Energy for a new 4.7-mile long 115 kilovolt (kV) overhead transmission line in Benton County, Minnesota. The public hearing will be held at the time and location listed below. The hearing will run no later than 9:00 p.m. and may conclude earlier if all attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been completed.

PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, September 28, 2011 – 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School
Community Room
901 1st Street South
Sauk Rapids, Minnesota

Project Description. Xcel Energy proposes to construct a new 4.7-mile long 115 kV overhead transmission line. The proposed project is located in the northern part of the city of Sauk Rapids and the townships of Minden and Sauk Rapids in Benton County, Minnesota.

As described in the route permit application the new transmission line route would exit the existing Mayhew Lake Substation, head west along County Road 29 for one-half mile and south-southwest for three-tenths of a mile cross-country to Highway 10. The route would proceed south along the east side of Highway 10 for two and nine-tenths miles, turn east for three tenths of a mile following County Ditch 3 to the existing Granite City Substation.

A second segment of new transmission line would connect to existing Line 5509 at 14th Avenue NE and head south-southeast following County Ditch 3 and existing transmission lines in the area for approximately seven-tenths of a mile to existing transmission Structure 39 (see attached figure).

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.

Environmental Assessment. EFP staff has completed an environmental assessment (EA) on the proposed project. The EA addresses the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project. Electronic versions of the EA, maps of the proposed project, and other documents relevant to this matter are available for viewing and download on the Commission's Energy Facility Permitting website or the eDockets website at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=31941>

or

<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (Search "10" Year and "1026" Number).

Conduct of Hearing. The public hearing will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Power Plant Siting Act, Minnesota Statute 216E.04, subdivision 6, and Minnesota Rule 7850.3800. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions of EFP staff and Xcel Energy representatives and to offer oral and written comments and submit material into the record. The Honorable Barbara L. Neilson, Administrative Law Judge, will preside over the hearing.

Comment period. The record will remain open until **4:30 p.m., Monday, October 11, 2011**, for interested persons to submit written comments to the Administrative Law Judge. Comments must be submitted directly to Judge Neilson at:

The Honorable Barbara L. Neilson
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620
Fax: (651) 361-7900
Barbara.Neilson@state.mn.us

The Administrative Law Judge will provide EFP staff a written summary of testimony given at the hearing along with comments received during the prescribed comment period. The Commission will make a final decision on the route permit application after receipt of the complete record.

Additional Information. For more information about the process, the project, or to place your name on the project mailing list, please contact:

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Mailing List. Any person may add his or her name to the mailing list maintained by EFP staff for future mailings pertaining to this project. If you would like to receive notice of the Commission's final decision in this matter please add your name to the mailing list. Names can be added to the list by contacting the project manager or by registering on the Commission's Energy Facility Permitting website at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/#mailing>

