



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Energy Facility Permitting



August 4, 2011

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SCOPING MEETING

In the Matter of the Certificate of Need and Site and Route Permit Application for the Black Dog Repowering Project in Burnsville, Minnesota.

PUC Docket Numbers: E002/CN-11-184 and E002/GS-11-307

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff will conduct a public information and environmental assessment scoping meeting on the certificate of need and site and route permit applications by Xcel Energy to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for the proposed repowering of the existing Black Dog Plant Site in Burnsville, Dakota County, Minnesota (Figure 1).

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SCOPING MEETING

Tuesday, August 23, 2011 – 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.*

Burnsville City Hall Council Chambers
100 Civic Center Parkway
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337

*Meeting may finish earlier when all attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to the public about the proposed project and the state's high-voltage transmission line certificate of need and site and route permitting processes. Following brief presentations by EFP staff and Xcel Energy representatives, members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions, provide comments, and identify potential impacts and alternatives to be considered in the scope of the environmental assessment (EA).

Project Description. The proposed project entails installing natural gas-fired combined-cycle electric generating technology to replace the existing coal-fired electric generating technology in Units 3 and 4. The project would be fueled entirely by natural gas with no backup fuel. The project would result in more than 450 megawatts (MW) of additional generating capacity at the plant (current 250 MW).

The major components of the project include:

- Two natural gas combustion turbine – generator sets
- Two heat recovery steam generators

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- Two exhaust stacks
- Steam turbine generator, condenser and cooling tower (70 feet in height)
- Natural gas interconnection (to be permitted separately by supplier, as necessary)
- 345 kV onsite substation
- Rebuild 1,000 to 1,500 feet of existing 115 kV transmission lines
- Two 4,000 foot sections of 345 kV double-circuit transmission lines

The project would be constructed onsite in what is now the plant's coal storage yard. This area would be filled with imported soil to bring portions of the proposed site above the 100-year flood elevation. A power generation building will house the two combustion turbine generators, two heat recovery steam generators, and one steam turbine generator. Two exhaust stacks would be located outside each building and are anticipated to be 230 feet in height.

Review Process. Two separate Commission approvals are required for the proposed Black Dog Repowering project. A certificate of need application for the project was filed by Xcel Energy on March 15, 2011, and was accepted as complete by the Commission in its May 25, 2011, Order. A site and route permit application was filed on May 19, 2011, and was accepted as complete by the Commission in its June 24, 2011 Order. The certificate of need and site and route permit applications will be reviewed jointly (Minnesota Rule 7849.1900) and an EA will be prepared in lieu of the environmental report required under Minnesota Rule 7849.1200.

EFP staff will prepare an EA prior to the Commission's determination of the need for the project and consideration of a specific site and route. The EA will consider issues related to both the need for the project such as size, type, timing, alternatives, and potential mitigation measures, as well as issues related to siting and routing including construction impacts, human and environmental impacts, impacts to homes and businesses, and potential mitigative measures.

The Commission will hold a public hearing upon completion of the EA. The hearing will be presided over by an administrative law judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings. The public will be afforded the opportunity to make oral presentation, present documentary evidence, and ask questions of the applicants and staff. Notice of the hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who register their names on the project mailing list (see below). The public hearing will be held in the county where the proposed project would be located.

Upon completion of the environmental review and hearing process, the records compiled for both the certificate of need and site and route permit proceedings will be presented to the Commission for final decisions.

Further information on Minnesota statutes and rules governing the certificate of need and siting and routing processes are available on the following website:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/>

Project Documents. A detailed explanation of the proposed project is provided in Xcel Energy's certificate of need and site/route permit applications. Electronic versions of the applications and other documents relevant to this project are available for viewing and downloading on:

- Energy Facility Permitting website:
<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=32056>
- eDockets website: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (under Basic Search enter the year "11" and the number "307" for the site/route permit application and enter the year "11" and the number "184" for the certificate of need application)

A hard copy of the site and route permit application is available for public review at: Burnsville City Hall | 100 Civic Center Parkway | Burnsville, Minnesota 55337

Project Mailing List. Persons should contact the state permit manager or public advisor (below), or register online at <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/#mailing> to get their name and contact information on the project mailing list. Persons on the mailing list will receive project updates, 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 on the project after this notice.** Registration to the project mailing list is voluntary and may be done at any time.

The Commission maintains a separate official service list for certificate of need proceedings. To be added to the list for this project contact: Robin Benson, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147, fax: (651)-297-7073, email: robin.benson@state.mn.us. The list is public information, and persons on the list will receive all official documents related to the case.

Public Comments. In addition to receiving comments at the public information meeting, EFP staff will also accept written comments on the scope of the environmental assessment until **4:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 6, 2011**. Please include Docket Number E002/CN-11-184 (certificate of need) and/or E002/GS-11-307 (siting and routing) on your comments. Comments should be mailed, faxed, or emailed to the state permit manager (see contact information below).

Comments may also be submitted via the Commission's Energy Facility Permitting website at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/#comment>.

Project Contacts. To submit comments, ask questions or seek further information about the site and route permit process, certificate of need process and the proposed project please contact:

Department of Commerce

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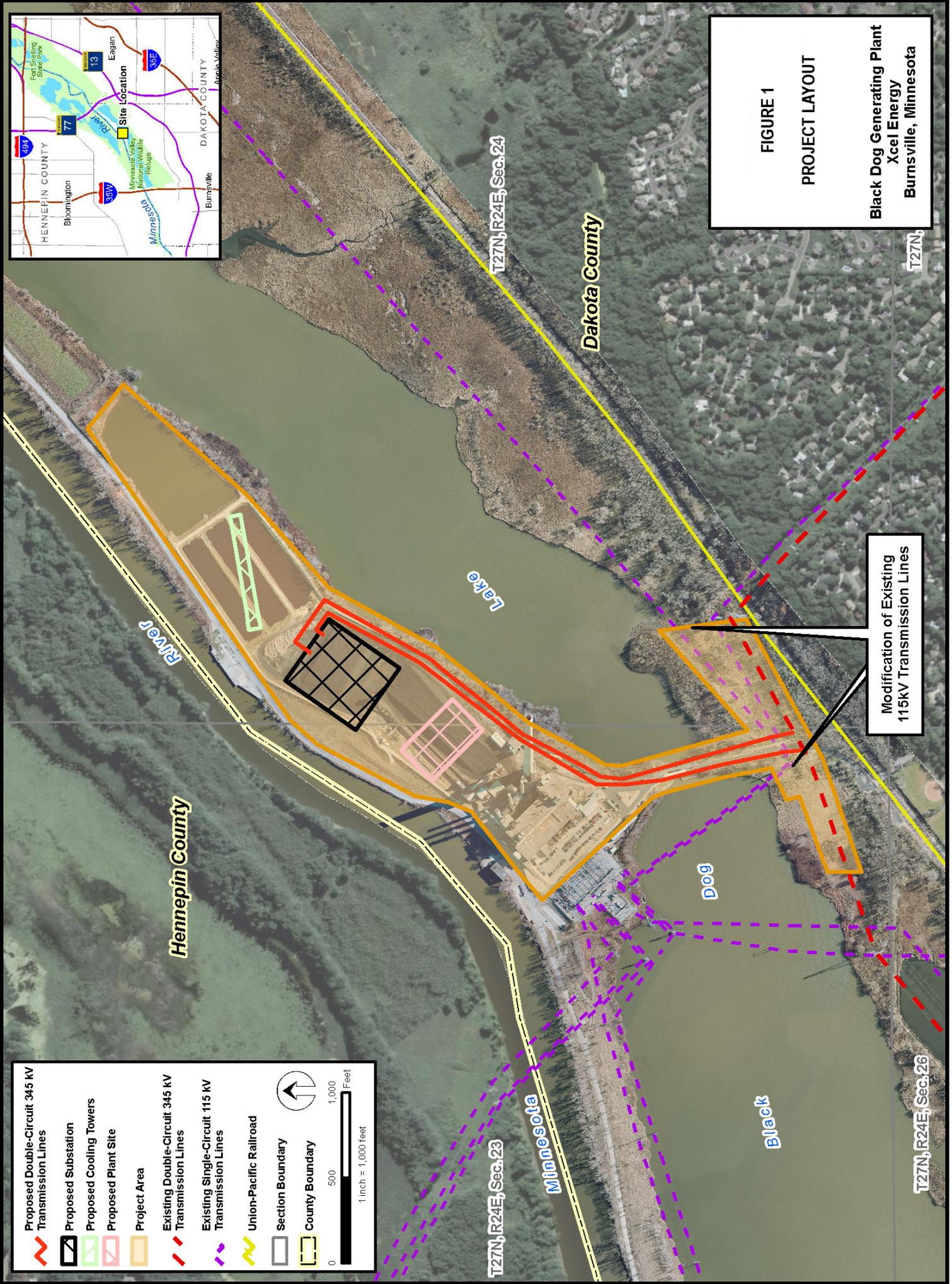
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FIGURE 1
PROJECT LAYOUT
Black Dog Generating Plant
Xcel Energy
Burnsville, Minnesota



	Proposed Double-Circuit 345 kV Transmission Lines
	Proposed Substation
	Proposed Cooling Towers
	Proposed Plant Site
	Project Area
	Existing Double-Circuit 345 kV Transmission Lines
	Existing Single-Circuit 115 kV Transmission Lines
	Union-Pacific Railroad
	Section Boundary
	County Boundary

1 inch = 1,000 feet

0 500 1,000 Feet

Modification of Existing
 115kV Transmission Lines

Hennepin County

Dakota County

River

Lake

Dog

Black

T27N, R24E, Sec. 23

T27N, R24E, Sec. 24

T27N, R24E, Sec. 26

T27N,