



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Energy Facility Permitting



November 30, 2011

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

**In the Matter of the Route Permit Application for the Orono Substation Replacement
and new 115 kV Transmission Line Project**

PUC Docket Number: E002/TL-11-223
OAH Docket Number: 8-2500-22429-2

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held on behalf of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) on the route permit application by Xcel Energy for the Orono Substation Replacement and new 115 kV Transmission Line Project in Orono, Minnesota. The public hearing will be held at the time and location listed below. Ending times reflect the latest a public hearing will run. Hearings may conclude earlier where all attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded.

PUBLIC HEARING

December 15, 2011 – 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Orono City Hall
Council Chambers
2750 Kelley Parkway
Orono, MN 55356
952-249-4600

The purpose of the hearing is to gather public comments on the most prudent route for the Orono Substation Replacement and new 115 kV Transmission Line Project and issues that should be addressed in a route permit for the project. Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Eric L. Lipman will preside at the hearing. Any person who would like to comment on the project route or issues that should be addressed in a route permit may do so at the hearing or in writing to Judge Lipman.

The hearing record will remain open until **4:30 p.m., Friday, January 6, 2012**, for the receipt of written comments. Comments should be submitted directly to Judge Lipman at:

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
 Office of Administrative Hearings
 P.O. Box 64620
 St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620
 Fax: (651) 361-7936
Eric.Lipman@state.mn.us

Conduct of Hearing. The public hearing will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Power Plant Siting Act (Minn. Stat. 216E, Minn. Rules 7850.3800). Members of the public will have an opportunity to offer testimony, submit materials into the record, and ask questions. Any person who wishes to ask a question, but does not want to ask the question personally, may submit it in writing to the ALJ who will then ask the question during the hearing. The hearing will continue until all persons have had the opportunity to offer testimony and ask questions. If necessary, the hearing may be recessed and continued by the ALJ. Upon completion of the hearing, a transcript of the proceedings will be available at local libraries.

At the close of the written comment period, Judge Lipman will provide a report including a written summary of testimony given at the hearing along with comments received during the comment period to the Commission. Upon receipt of the ALJ's report, the Commission will make a final decision on the route permit application.

Request for Accommodation. Any person who needs an accommodation for a disability in order to participate in the hearing, and any person who requires an interpreter, including a foreign language interpreter, should promptly notify the Office of Administrative Hearings, P.O. Box 64620, 600 North Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620, Phone: (651) 361-7900 (voice) or (651) 361-7878 (TDD).

Environmental Assessment. Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff has completed an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed project. The EA analyzes the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project as well as possible mitigative measures. Electronic versions of the EA, maps of the proposed project, and other documents relevant to this matter will be available for viewing after November 30, 2011, on the Commission's energy facility permitting website:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=32082>. Additionally, documents are available on the Commission's eDockets system:
<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the year "11" and the number "223").

The EA will also be available after November 30, 2011, at the locations noted below:

Orono City Hall	Maple Plain Library	Long Lake Library
Planning and Zoning Department	5184 Main Street East	1865 Wayzata Boulevard West
2750 Kelley Parkway	Maple Plain, MN 55359	Long Lake, MN 55365
Orono, MN 55356		

Project Description. The Project, as proposed by the Applicant, would replace the existing 69 kV Orono Substation with a new 115 kV Substation at the same location, but with a larger

footprint. The Project would connect the new substation to the existing Xcel Energy 115 kV transmission line 0831 through new double circuit 115 kV transmission lines of approximately 0.4 miles. The Project, as proposed, would also relocate approximately 0.2 miles of 115 kV transmission line. While not part of the Route Permit requested by Xcel Energy, approximately 400 feet of the existing Great River Energy 69 kV transmission line BD would be rerouted around the new Orono Substation.

Xcel Energy proposes to use steel single-pole structures with spans of approximately 300 to 500 feet between poles; structure heights are anticipated to range from 70 to 90 feet for the single-circuit structures to 75 to 115 feet for the double-circuit structures. Xcel Energy is requesting a route width of approximately 400 feet, or 200 feet either side of the proposed alignment shown in the Application maps. The anticipated right-of-way for the new transmission line would be 75 feet.

The Project is located entirely within the city of Orono in Hennepin County. Xcel Energy estimates the cost for the Project at approximately \$5.3 million dollars.

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

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Information about the project may also be obtained by contacting Joseph G. Sedarski at Xcel Energy (612-330-6435, joseph.g.sedarski@xcelenergy.com). Mr. Sedarski may be contacted in writing at: Xcel Energy, 414 Nicollet Mall, MP-8, Minneapolis, MN 55401.

Project Mailing List. Interested persons can add their names to the mailing list for this project by contacting the state permit manager or public advisor, or by registering on-line at: www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us.