

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**ROUTE PERMIT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION
LINE AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES**

IN HENNEPIN COUNTY

**ISSUED TO
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY, A MINNESOTA CORPORATION
PUC DOCKET NO. E002/TL-11-223**

In accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850, this route permit is hereby issued to:

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY, A MINNESOTA CORPORATION

Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota Corporation, (Xcel Energy) is authorized by this route permit to relocate approximately 0.2 miles of Xcel Energy Line 0831, to construct approximately 0.4 miles of new double-circuit 115 kV transmission line between Xcel Energy Line 0831 and the Orono Substation, and to expand and modify the Orono Substation to accommodate the new 115 kV transmission line.

The transmission line and associated facilities shall be built within the route identified in this permit, as portrayed on the official route map, and in compliance with the all other conditions specified in this permit.

Approved and adopted this 6th day of April, 2012

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar,
Executive Secretary



CONTENTS

1	ROUTE PERMIT.....	4
2	PROJECT DESCRIPTION.....	4
2.1	Project Location	4
2.2	Associated Facilities and Substations	4
2.3	Structures and Conductors	5
3	DESIGNATED ROUTE.....	5
3.1	Route Width and Alignment	6
3.2	Right-of-Way Placement.....	7
3.3	Right-of-Way Width	7
4	GENERAL CONDITIONS	7
4.1	Plan and Profile	7
4.2	Construction Practices.....	8
4.2.1	Field Representative.....	8
4.2.2	Local Governments	8
4.2.3	Cleanup.....	8
4.2.4	Noise.....	8
4.2.5	Vegetation Removal in the Right-of-Way	9
4.2.6	Aesthetics	9
4.2.7	Erosion Control	9
4.2.8	Wetlands and Water Resources.....	10
4.2.9	Temporary Work Space	10
4.2.10	Restoration	11
4.2.11	Notice of Permit	11
4.3	Periodic Status Reports	11
4.4	Complaint Procedures	11
4.5	Notification to Landowners.....	11
4.6	Completion of Construction.....	12
4.6.1	Notification to Commission	12
4.6.2	As-Builts.....	12
4.6.3	GPS Data.....	12
4.7	Electrical Performance Standards.	12
4.7.1	Grounding.....	12
4.7.2	Electric Field	13
4.7.3	Interference with Communication Devices.....	13
4.8	Other Requirements.....	13

4.8.1	Applicable Codes	13
4.8.2	Other Permits.....	13
4.8.3	Pre-emption	13
4.8.4	Delay in Construction.....	13
4.9	Archeological and Historic Resources	13
4.10	Avian Mitigation.....	14
5	SPECIAL CONDITIONS.....	14
5.1	Noise Mitigation.....	14
5.2	Swan Flight Diverters.....	14
5.3	Replacement Substation Design Plan.....	14
5.4	Archaeological Surveys.....	15
6	PERMIT AMENDMENT	15
7	TRANSFER OF PERMIT	15
8	REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF THE PERMIT	16

ATTACHMENTS

Complaint Handling Procedures for High-Voltage Transmission Lines

Permit Compliance Filings

Compliance Filing Procedures for Permitted Energy Facilities

ROUTE MAPS

Overview Route

HVTL Route Aerial Map

1 ROUTE PERMIT

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) hereby issues this route permit to Northern States Power, a Minnesota corporation (Permittee) pursuant to Minnesota Statute 216E.03 and Minnesota Rules 7850. This permit authorizes the Permittee to construct approximately 0.6 miles of new 115 kV transmission line and associated facilities in Hennepin County, Minnesota and as identified in the attached route permit maps, hereby incorporated into this document.

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Permittee is authorized to construct a project comprising of the relocation of an existing 115 kV transmission line, construction of a new 115 kV transmission line, and associated facilities described as:

- Construction of approximately 0.4 miles of new double circuit 115 kV transmission line between Xcel Energy line 0831 and the Orono Substation.
- Relocation of approximately 0.2 miles of the existing Xcel Energy single circuit 115 kV transmission line 0831.
- Replacement of the existing 69 kV Orono Substation with a new 115 kV substation at the same location, but with a larger footprint to accommodate the new 115 kV transmission line.

2.1 Project Location

The project is located in Township 118N, Range 23 W, Sections 29, 30, and 32 in the northeastern portion of the city of Orono in Hennepin County, Minnesota.

2.2 Associated Facilities and Substations

The project would replace the existing 69 kV Orono Substation with an expanded 115 kV substation at the same location in the southwest portion of the 16 acre parcel owned by Xcel Energy, encompassing the existing 69kV site. Depending upon the extent of landscaping to mitigate substation impacts, up to 50 feet west of the Xcel Energy Parcel may be required.

The fenced area of the new 115 kV substation would be approximately 1.2 acres, encompassing the existing 0.1 acre site of the 69 kV substation. Xcel Energy will grade a total area of approximately 1.6 acres, for the substation and re-aligned access road to ensure both a stable base for the substation equipment and proper drainage and runoff control. Additional area may be graded to establish landscaping to mitigate substation impacts. Project work at the substation would entail:

- Removal of the termination structure for Great River Energy's (GRE) 69 kV transmission line; switchgear from the existing 69 kV substation will be reused in its existing location;
- Installation of a mobile substation or use of GRE's existing 69 kV transmission line during construction to ensure that service is maintained until the 115 kV source is energized;

- Installation of a new 115-13.8 kV substation with a 28 mega volt ampere (MVA), 118-14.3 kV transformer;
- Installation of two 115 kV line terminations, each with a motor-operated transmission line switch, one with a quick-break line dropping whip;
- Installation of two single-phase coupling capacitor voltage instrument transformers with carrier accessories;
- Installation of two 2000 amp line traps and tuners; and
- Installation of six 76 kV maximum continuous operating voltage station class surge arresters.
- Installation of noise walls of the size and type evaluated in the Noise Assessment.

2.3 Structures and Conductors

The Permittee shall use 115/115 kV single pole double-circuit structures constructed of galvanized steel for Structures 076-1 to 076-5. Structures would be approximately 75 to 115 feet in height with average spans of 300 to 500 feet between structures.

Permittee shall install a new self-supporting single-circuit angle structure, 077, in the portion of the line relocating Xcel Energy's existing line 0831. The new structure would be constructed of galvanized steel and be approximately 70 to 90 feet in height with spans of 300 feet to 500 feet between structures.

Permittee shall use single-pole cross arm Y-frame structures constructed of galvanized steel to replace the existing Structure 076, in Baker Park Reserve, and 078, where Xcel Energy's existing line 0831 would be relocated. These structures would be 70 to 90 feet in height, with spans of 300 to 500 feet between structures.

The transmission line shall be equipped with protective devices to safeguard the public if an accident occurs.

The transmission line shall be designed to meet or exceed local and state codes, the National Electric Safety Code (NESC), and North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) requirements. This includes standards relating to clearances to ground, clearance to crossing utilities, clearance to buildings, strength of materials, clearances over roadways, right-of-way widths, and permit requirements.

3 DESIGNATED ROUTE

The approved route is shown on the route map attached to this permit and further designated as follows:

The new transmission line would exit an expanded Orono Substation, head north for 866 feet as a double circuit line and then turn to the northwest along the southern edge of the BNSF railroad right-of-way for approximately 1,205 feet to the existing 115 kV transmission Line 0831. At this point, the Project would replace three existing transmission structures and approximately

1,030 feet of single circuit 115 transmission Line 0831 with two new structures and approximately 1,095 feet of single circuit 115 kV transmission line, re-routing the existing line off of two residential parcels and onto adjacent Huntington Farm Home Owners Association property adjacent to the BNSF railroad. A new double-circuit corner structure would connect the single- and double-circuit portions of the project. The Project would also install fiber optic ground wire along the entire length of the Project

3.1 Route Width and Alignment

The designated route width will be as follows: 100 feet on each side of existing Line 0831 from Structure 076 to 078 (200 feet total width) for removal and replacement work; 100 feet on each side of new single circuit 115 kV transmission line from Structure 078 to new Structure 077 (200 feet total width); 100 feet on south side and 50 feet on north side of new 115 kV transmission line from new Structure 077 to new Structures 076-1, 076-2, and 076-3 (150 feet total width); 100 feet on either side of new 115 kV transmission line from new Structure 076-3 into the replacement substation area, except that the route width along west property line of Xcel Energy site shall be 50 feet west of Xcel Energy property on Huntington Farm Home Owners Association property and not on residential parcels.

This width will provide the Permittee with flexibility for minor adjustments of the specific alignment or right-of-way to accommodate landowner requests and unforeseen conditions. The final alignment (i.e., permanent and maintained rights-of-way) will be located within this designated route unless otherwise authorized below.

The designated route identifies an alignment that minimizes the overall potential impacts to the factors identified in Minnesota Rule 7850.4100 and which was evaluated in the environmental review and permitting process. Consequently, this permit anticipates that the actual right-of-way will generally conform to the alignment shown in the attached maps, unless changes are requested by individual landowners, unforeseen conditions are encountered, or are otherwise provided for by this permit.

Any alignment modifications within this designated route shall be located so as to have comparable overall impacts relative to the factors in Minnesota Rule 7850.4100 as does the alignment identified in this permit, and shall be specifically identified and documented in and approved as part of the Plan and Profile submitted pursuant to Section 4.1 of this permit.

Route width variations outside the designated route may be allowed for the Permittee to overcome potential site specific constraints. These constraints may arise from any of the following:

- 1) Unforeseen circumstances encountered during the detailed engineering and design process.
- 2) Federal or state agency requirements.

- 3) Existing infrastructure within the transmission line route, including but not limited to roadways, railroads, natural gas and liquid pipelines, high voltage electric transmission lines, or sewer and water lines.
- 4) Planned infrastructure improvements identified by state agencies and local government units (LGUs) and made part of the record for this permit.

Any alignment modifications arising from these site specific constraints that would result in right-of-way placement outside the designated route shall be located so as to have comparable overall impacts relative to the factors in Minnesota Rule 7850.4100 as does the alignment identified in this permit and shall also be specifically identified and documented in and approved as part of the plan and profile submitted pursuant to Section 4.1 of this permit.

3.2 Right-of-Way Placement

Where the transmission line route parallels existing highway and other road rights-of-way, the transmission line right-of-way shall occupy and utilize the existing right-of-way to the maximum extent possible, consistent with the criteria in Minnesota Rule 7850.4100, the other requirements of this permit, and for highways under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT), Mn/DOT rules, policies, and procedures for accommodating utilities in trunk highway rights-of-way.

3.3 Right-of-Way Width

The 115 kV transmission line will be built with single pole structures, which will require a 75-foot right-of-way, 37.5 feet on each side of the transmission line centerline.

4 GENERAL CONDITIONS

The Permittee shall comply with the following general conditions during construction of the transmission line and associated facilities and the life of this permit.

4.1 Plan and Profile

At least thirty (30) days before right-of-way preparation for construction begins on any segment or portion of the project, the Permittee shall provide the Commission with a plan and profile of the right-of-way and the specifications and drawings for right-of-way preparation, construction, transmission structure specifications and locations, and restoration for the transmission line. The documentation shall include maps depicting the plan and profile including the right-of-way, alignment, and structures in relation to the route and alignment approved per the permit.

The permittee will continue to consult with adjacent landowners regarding final design of the noise walls and berms, and provide a noise abatement design for the substation during the Plan and Profile.

The Permittee may not commence construction until the thirty (30) days has expired or until the Commission has advised the Permittee in writing that it has completed its review of the documents and determined that the planned construction is consistent with this permit. If the

Permittee intend to make any significant changes in the plan and profile or the specifications and drawings after submission to the Commission, the Permittee shall notify the Commission at least five (5) days before implementing the changes. No changes shall be made that would be in violation of any of the terms of this permit.

4.2 Construction Practices

The Permittee shall follow those specific construction practices and material specifications described in the Northern States Power Company application to the Commission for a route permit, dated June 7, 2011, and as described in the environmental assessment and Findings of Fact, unless this permit establishes a different requirement, in which case this permit shall prevail.

4.2.1 Field Representative

At least fourteen (14) days prior to commencing construction, the Permittee shall advise the Commission in writing of the person or persons designated to be the field representative for the Permittee with the responsibility to oversee compliance with the conditions of this permit during construction.

The field representative's address, phone number, email, and emergency phone number shall be provided to the Commission and shall be made available to affected landowners, residents, public officials and other interested persons. The Permittee may change the field representative at any time upon written notice to the Commission.

4.2.2 Local Governments

During construction, the permittee shall minimize any disruption to public services or public utilities. To the extent disruptions to public services occur, these would be temporary and the permittee will work to restore service promptly.

Where any impacts to utilities have the potential to occur, permittee will work with both landowners and local agencies to determine the most appropriate transmission structure placement.

The Permittee shall cooperate with county and city road authorities to develop appropriate signage and traffic management during construction.

4.2.3 Cleanup

All waste and scrap that is the product of construction shall be removed from the area and properly disposed of upon completion of each task. Personal litter, including bottles, cans, and paper from construction activities shall be removed on a daily basis.

4.2.4 Noise

Construction and routine maintenance activities shall be limited to daytime working hours, as defined in Minnesota Rule 7030.0200, to ensure nighttime noise level standards will not be exceeded.

4.2.5 Vegetation Removal in the Right-of-Way

The Permittee shall minimize the number of trees to be removed in selecting the right-of-way specifically preserving to the maximum extent practicable windbreaks, shelterbelts, living snow fences and vegetation in areas such as trail and stream crossings, where vegetative screening may minimize aesthetic impacts, to the extent that such actions do not violate sound engineering principles or system reliability criteria.

Tall tree species located within the transmission line right-of-way that endanger the safe and reliable operation of the transmission facility will be removed.

In many cases certain low and slow growing species that do not exceed a mature height of 15 feet can be planted in the right-of-way to blend the difference between the right-of-way and adjacent wooded areas, to the extent that the low growing vegetation that will not pose a threat to the transmission facility or impede construction.

4.2.6 Aesthetics

The Permittee shall consider input pertaining to visual impacts from landowners or land management agencies prior to final location of structures, rights-of-way, and other areas with the potential for visual disturbance. Care shall be used to preserve the natural landscape, minimize tree removal and prevent any unnecessary destruction of the natural surroundings in the vicinity of the project during construction and maintenance. Structures shall be placed at the reasonable distance, consistent with sound engineering principles and system reliability criteria, from intersecting roads, highway, or trail crossings and could cross roads to minimize or avoid impacts.

4.2.7 Erosion Control

The Permittee shall follow standard erosion control measures outlined in Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) guidance and best management practices regarding sediment control practice during construction include protecting storm drain inlets, use of silt fences, protecting exposed soil, immediately stabilizing restored soil, controlling temporary soil stockpiles, and controlling vehicle tracking.

The Permittee shall implement reasonable measures to minimize runoff during construction and shall promptly plant or seed, erect sediment control fences (e.g. biorolls, sandbags, and silt fences), apply mulch (e.g. hay or straw) on exposed soils, and/or use erosion control blankets and turf reinforcement mats to provide structural stability to bare surfaces and slopes.

When utilizing seed to establish temporary and permanent vegetative cover on exposed soil, the Permittee shall select specific site characteristic seed, certified to be free of noxious weeds.

Contours shall be graded as required so that all surfaces drain naturally, blend with the natural terrain, and are left in a condition that will facilitate re-vegetation, provide for

proper drainage, and prevent erosion. All areas disturbed during construction of the facilities shall be returned to their pre-construction condition.

Where larger areas of one acre or more are disturbed or other areas designated by the MPCA, the Permittee shall prepare the required Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)/State Disposal System (SDS) construction stormwater permit from the MPCA.

4.2.8 Wetlands and Water Resources

Structures shall be located to span watercourses, wetlands, and floodplains to the extent practicable and consistent with sound engineering principles. Minimal grading of areas around pole locations may be required to accommodate construction vehicles and equipment.

Construction of Public Water crossings shall be consistent with construction methods identified in Minn. Rule 6135.1300, as required by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in the License to Cross Public Lands and Waters. Permittee shall minimize disturbance to natural streambed and shoreline vegetation and restrict clearance of banks, shorelines and adjacent lands to the minimum necessary for equipment to complete the installation to the extent that such actions do not violate sound engineering principles or system reliability criteria.

The Permittee shall endeavor to access wetlands and riparian areas using the shortest route possible in order to minimize travel through wetland areas and prevent unnecessary impacts wherever possible.

Construction in wetlands and riparian areas shall be scheduled during frozen ground conditions, when practicable. When construction during winter is not possible, construction mats (wooden mats or a composite mat system) shall be used to protect wetland vegetation. All-terrain construction vehicles designed to minimize soil impact in damp areas may also be used.

No staging or stringing set up areas shall be placed within or adjacent to wetlands or water resources, as practicable. The structures shall be assembled on upland areas before they are brought to the site for installation.

Soil excavated from the wetlands and riparian areas shall be contained and not placed back into the wetland or riparian area. The Permittee shall also utilize erosion control methods identified in Section 4.2.7 (Erosion Control), as warranted. Areas disturbed by construction activities shall be restored to pre-construction conditions (soil horizons, contours, vegetation, etc.).

4.2.9 Temporary Work Space

The Permittee shall limit temporary easements to special construction access needs and additional staging or lay-down areas required outside of the authorized right-of-way. Space shall be selected to limit the removal and impacts to vegetation.

Temporary lay down areas outside of the authorized transmission line right-of-way will be obtained from affected landowners through rental agreements and are not provided for in this permit.

Temporary driveways may be constructed between the roadway and the structures to minimize impact by using the shortest route possible. Construction mats may also be used to minimize impacts on access paths and construction areas.

4.2.10 Restoration

The Permittee shall restore the right-of-way, temporary work spaces, access roads, abandoned right-of-way, and other public or private lands affected by construction of the transmission line. Practices to restore areas impacted by construction and maintenance activities are also described in Section 4.2.7 of this permit.

Restoration within the right-of-way must be compatible with the safe operation, maintenance, and inspection of the transmission line.

Within 60 days after completion of all restoration activities, the Permittee shall advise the Commission in writing of the completion of such activities. The Permittee shall compensate landowners for any yard/landscape, crop, soil compaction, drain tile, or other damages that may occur during construction.

4.2.11 Notice of Permit

The Permittee shall inform all employees, contractors, and other persons involved in the transmission line construction of the terms and conditions of this permit.

4.3 Periodic Status Reports

The Permittee shall report to the Commission on progress regarding finalization of the route, design of structures, and construction of the transmission line. The Permittee need not report more frequently than monthly.

4.4 Complaint Procedures

Prior to the start of construction, the Permittee shall submit to the Commission the procedures that will be used to receive and respond to complaints. The procedures shall be in accordance with the requirements set forth in the complaint procedures attached to this permit.

4.5 Notification to Landowners

The Permittee shall provide all affected landowners with a copy of this permit and the complaints procedures at the time of the first contact with the landowners after issuance of this permit. At the time of first contact, the Permittee shall also provide all affected landowners with a copy of the *Landowner Guide to Easements* publication provided by the Department of Commerce.

The Permittee shall contact landowners prior to entering the property or conducting maintenance along the route. The Permittee shall avoid construction and maintenance practices, particularly the use of fertilizer, herbicides or other pesticides, that are inconsistent with the landowner's or tenant's use of the land (See also, Section 4.2.5).

The Permittee shall work with landowners to locate the high-voltage transmission line to minimize the loss of agricultural land, forest, and wetlands, and to avoid homes and farmsteads.

4.6 Completion of Construction

4.6.1 Notification to Commission

At least three days before the line is to be placed into service, the Permittee shall notify the Commission of the date on which the line will be placed into service and the date on which construction was complete.

4.6.2 As-Builts

Within 60 days after completion of construction, the Permittee shall submit copies of all the final as-built plans and specifications developed during the project.

4.6.3 GPS Data

Within 60 days after completion of construction, the Permittee shall submit to the Commission, in the format requested by the Commission, geo-spatial information (ArcGIS compatible map files, GPS coordinates, associated database of characteristics, etc.) for all structures associated with the transmission line, each switch, and each substation connected.

4.7 Electrical Performance Standards.

4.7.1 Grounding

The Permittee shall design, construct, and operate the transmission line in a manner that the maximum induced steady-state short-circuit current shall be limited to five milliamperes (mA), root mean square (rms) alternating current between the ground and any non-stationary object within the right-of-way, including but not limited to large motor vehicles and agricultural equipment. All fixed metallic objects on or off the right-of-way, except electric fences that parallel or cross the right-of-way, shall be grounded to the extent necessary to limit the induced short-circuit current between ground and the object so as not to exceed one mA rms under steady state conditions of the transmission line and to comply with the ground fault conditions specified in the NESC. The Permittee shall address and rectify any induced current problems that arise during transmission line operation.

4.7.2 Electric Field

The transmission line shall be designed, constructed, and operated in such a manner that the electric field measured one meter above ground level immediately below the transmission line shall not exceed 8.0 kV/m rms.

4.7.3 Interference with Communication Devices

If interference with radio or television, satellite, wireless internet, GPS-based agriculture navigation systems or other communication devices is caused by the presence or operation of the transmission line, the Permittee shall take whatever action is prudently feasible to restore or provide reception equivalent to reception levels in the immediate area just prior to the construction of the line.

4.8 Other Requirements.

4.8.1 Applicable Codes

The Permittee shall comply with applicable requirements of the NESC including clearances to ground, clearance to crossing utilities, clearance to buildings, right-of-way widths, erecting power poles, and stringing of transmission line conductors. The transmission line facility shall also meet the NERC reliability standards.

4.8.2 Other Permits

The Permittee shall comply with all applicable state rules and statutes. The Permittee shall obtain all required local, state and federal permits for the project and comply with the conditions of these permits. A list of the required permits is included in the route permit application and the environmental assessment. The Permittee shall submit a copy of such permits to the Commission upon request.

4.8.3 Pre-emption

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 216E.10, subdivisions 1 and 2, this route permit shall be the sole route approval required to be obtained by the Permittee and this permit shall supersede and preempt all zoning, building, or land use rules, regulations, or ordinances promulgated by regional, county, local and special purpose government.

4.8.4 Delay in Construction

If the Permittee have not commenced construction or improvement of the route within four years after the date of issuance of this permit, the Commission shall consider suspension of the permit in accordance with Minnesota Rule 7850.4700.

4.9 Archeological and Historic Resources

If any previously unrecorded archaeological sites are discovered during construction of the project, the Permittee shall immediately stop work at the site and shall mark and preserve the site(s) and notify the Commission and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of the discovery. The Commission and the SHPO shall have three (3) working days from the time the

agency is notified to conduct an inspection of the site if either agency chooses to do so. On the fourth day after notification, the Permittee may begin work on the site unless the SHPO has directed that work shall cease. In such event, work shall not continue until the SHPO determines that construction can proceed.

If human remains are encountered during construction, the Permittee shall immediately halt construction at that location and promptly notify local law enforcement authorities and the State Archaeologist. Construction at the human remains location shall not proceed until authorized by local law enforcement authorities or the State Archaeologist.

If any federal funding, permit, or license is involved or required, the Permittee shall notify the SHPO as soon as possible in the planning process to coordinate section 106 (36 C.F.R. part 800) review.

Prior to construction, construction workers shall be trained about the need to avoid cultural properties, how to identify cultural properties, and procedures to follow if undocumented cultural properties, including gravesites, are found during construction.

4.10 Avian Mitigation

The Permittee' standard transmission design shall incorporate adequate spacing of conductor(s) and grounding devices in accordance with Avian Power Line Interaction Committee standards to eliminate the risk of electrocution to raptors with larger wingspans that may simultaneously come in contact with a conductor and grounding devices.

5 SPECIAL CONDITIONS

Special conditions shall take precedence over any of the other conditions of this Permit if there should be a conflict between the two.

The Permittee shall provide a report to the Commission as part of the plan and profile submission that describes the actions taken and mitigative measures developed regarding the project and the following Special Conditions.

5.1 Noise Mitigation

The Permittee shall limit construction activities to occur between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. on weekdays and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekends, consistent with the city of Orono's noise regulations.

5.2 Swan Flight Diverters

The Permittee shall install Swan Flight Diverters (SFDs) at intervals of 25 feet along the approved route, as shown in the maps attached to this permit.

5.3 Replacement Substation Design Plan

The replacement substation shall be designed and constructed in a manner that, to the extent possible: 1) minimizes the impact of the project on persons living, working and traveling in close

proximity to the replacement substation, 2) minimizes the aesthetic impact, and 3) is compatible with the surrounding structures.

Within 60 days of the issuance of this permit, the Permittee shall submit a preliminary design plan for the replacement substation to the Commission, the city of Orono, the Huntington Farm Home Owners Association, and property owners of record with properties located south of U.S. Highway 12, west of the U.S Highway 12/Hennepin County Road 6 interchange, and within 2,500 feet of the proposed fenced area of the replacement substation,.

The preliminary design shall include, at a minimum, details concerning the location of the replacement substation on the site, grading of the site, the size and type of noise walls to be installed around the transformer location, fencing, lighting, and landscaping including location and dimension of proposed berms and vegetation around the replacement substation.

The Permittee shall allow the Commission, the city of Orono, the Huntington Farm Home Owners Association, and local landowners a minimum of 30 days to review and provide comments on the preliminary design.

Along with the required compliance filing of the Plan and Profile (see 3.1), the Permittee shall submit to the Commission the final replacement substation design, including a discussion of the comments received and rationale for the Permittee's final design decisions.

5.4 Archaeological Surveys

The Permittee shall perform an archeological survey as identified by the SHPO to identify any previously unknown archaeological resources.

6 PERMIT AMENDMENT

The permit may be amended at any time by the Commission. Any person may request an amendment of the conditions of this permit by submitting a request to the Commission in writing describing the amendment sought and the reasons for the amendment. The Commission will mail notice of receipt of the request to the Permittee. The Commission may amend the conditions after affording the Permittee and interested persons such process as is required.

7 TRANSFER OF PERMIT

The Permittee may request at any time that the Commission transfer this permit to another person or entity. The Permittee shall provide the name and description of the person or entity to whom the permit is requested to be transferred, the reasons for the transfer, a description of the facilities affected, and the proposed effective date of the transfer.

The person to whom the permit is to be transferred shall provide the Commission with such information as the Commission shall require to determine whether the new permittee can comply with the conditions of the permit. The Commission may authorize transfer of the permit after affording the Permittee, the new permittee, and interested persons such process as is required.

8 REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF THE PERMIT

The Commission may initiate action to revoke or suspend this permit at any time. The Commission shall act in accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Rule 7850.5100 to revoke or suspend the permit.

**MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
COMPLIANCE FILING PROCEDURE
FOR PERMITTED ENERGY FACILITIES**

1. Purpose

To establish a uniform and timely method of submitting information required by the Commission energy facility permits.

2. Scope and Applicability

This procedure encompasses all compliance filings required by permit.

3. Definitions

Compliance Filing – A sending (filing) of information to the Commission, where the information is required by a Commission site or route permit.

4. Responsibilities

- A) The Permittee shall eFile all compliance filings with Dr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary, Public Utilities Commission, through the Department of Commerce (DOC) eDocket system. The system is located on the DOC website: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/home.jsp>

General instructions are provided on the website. Permittee must register on the website to eFile documents.

- B) All filings must have a cover sheet that includes:
- 1) Date
 - 2) Name of submitter / Permittee
 - 3) Type of Permit (Site or Route)
 - 4) Project Location
 - 5) Project Docket Number
 - 6) Permit Section Under Which the Filing is Made
 - 7) Short Description of the Filing

Filings that are graphic intensive (e.g., maps, plan and profile) must, in addition to being eFiled, be submitted as paper copies and on CD. Copies and CDs should be sent to: 1) Dr. Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN, 55101-2147, and 2) Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN, 55101-2198.

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PERMIT COMPLIANCE FILINGS¹

PERMITTEES: Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota Corporation
PERMIT TYPE: HVTL Route Permit
PROJECT LOCATION: Hennepin County
PUC DOCKET NUMBER: E002/TL-11-223

Filing Number	Permit Section	Description	Due Date
1	4.1	Plan and profile of right-of-way	30 days before ROW preparation or construction
2	4.2.1	Contact information for field representative	14 days prior to construction
3	4.2.10	Restoration Complete	60 days after completion of all restoration activities
4	4.3	Periodic Status Reports	monthly
5	4.4	Complaint Procedures	Prior to start of construction
6	Paragraph F of Complaint Handling Procedures	Complaint Reports	By the 15 th of each month
7	4.5	Notification to landowners	
8	4.6.1	Notice of completion and date of placement in service	Three days prior to energizing
9	4.6.2	Provide As-built plans and specifications	Within 60 days after completion of construction
10	4.6.3	GPS information	Within 60 days after completion of construction
11	4.9	Notification of previously unrecorded archaeological sites	As needed

¹ This compilation of permit compliance filings is provided for the convenience of the permittees and the PUC. However, it is not a substitute for the permit; the language of the permit controls.

13	5.2	Swan Flight Diverter Locations	30 days before ROW preparation or construction
14	5.3	Replacement Substation Design Plan	30 days before ROW preparation or construction
15	5.4	Report of Archaeological Survey	30 days before ROW preparation or construction

**MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
COMPLAINT HANDLING PROCEDURES FOR
HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES**

A. Purpose:

To establish a uniform and timely method of reporting complaints received by the Permittee concerning Permit conditions for site preparation, construction, cleanup and restoration, operation and resolution of such complaints.

B. Scope:

This document describes Complaint reporting procedures and frequency.

C. Applicability:

The procedures shall be used for all complaints received by the Permittee and all complaints received by the Commission under Minn. Rule 7829.1500 or 7829.1700 relevant to this Permit.

D. Definitions:

Complaint: A verbal or written statement presented to the Permittee by a person expressing dissatisfaction or concern regarding site preparation, cleanup or restoration or other HVTL and associated facilities route permit conditions. Complaints do not include requests, inquiries, questions or general comments.

Substantial Complaint: A written Complaint alleging a violation of a specific Route Permit condition that, if substantiated, could result in Permit modification or suspension pursuant to the applicable regulations.

Unresolved Complaint: A Complaint which, despite the good faith efforts of the Permittee and a person(s), remains to both or one of the parties unresolved or unsatisfactorily resolved.

Person: An individual, partnership, joint venture, private or public corporation, association, firm, public service company, cooperative, political subdivision, municipal corporation, government agency, public utility district, or any other entity, public or private, however organized.

E. Complaint Documentation and Processing:

1. The Permittee shall document all Complaints by maintaining a record of all applicable information concerning the Complaint, including the following:

- a. Name of complainant, address, phone number, and e-mail address.
 - b. Precise property description or parcel number.
 - c. Name of Permittee representative receiving Complaint and date of receipt.
 - d. Nature of Complaint and the applicable Route Permit conditions(s).
 - e. Activities undertaken to resolve the Complaint.
 - f. Final disposition of the Complaint.
2. The Permittee shall designate an individual to summarize Complaints for substantial to the Commission. This person's name, phone number and e-mail address shall accompany all complaint submittals.
3. A Person presenting the Complaint should to the extent possible, include the following information in their communications:
 - a. Name, address, phone number, and e-mail address.
 - b. Date
 - c. Tract or parcel
 - d. Whether the complaint relates to (1) a Route Permit matter, (2) a HVTL and associated facility issue, or (3) a compliance issue.

F. Reporting Requirements:

The Permittee shall report all complaints to the Commission according to the following schedule:

Immediate Reports: All substantial complaints shall be reported to the Commission the same day received, or on the following working day for complaints received after working hours. Such reports are to be directed to HVTL Permit Compliance, 1-800-657-3794, or by e-mail to: DOC.energypermitcompliance@state.mn.us, or. Voice messages are acceptable.

Monthly Reports: By the 15th of each month, a summary of all complaints, including substantial complaints received or resolved during the preceding month, shall be Filed to Dr. Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary, Public Utilities Commission, using the Minnesota Department of Commerce eDocket system (see eFiling instructions attached to this permit).

If no Complaints were received during the preceding month, the Permittee shall submit (eFile) a summary indicating that no complaints were received.

G. Complaints Received by the Commission or DOC:

Complaints received directly by the Commission from aggrieved persons regarding site preparation, construction, cleanup, restoration, operation and maintenance shall be promptly sent to the Permittee.

H. Commission Process for Unresolved Complaints:

Initial Screening: Commission staff shall perform an initial evaluation of unresolved Complaints submitted to the Commission. Complaints raising substantial HVTL Route Permit issues shall be processed and resolved by the Commission. Staff shall notify Permittee and appropriate person(s) if it determines that the Complaint is a Substantial Complaint. With respect to such Complaints, each party shall submit a written summary of its position to the Commission no later than ten days after receipt of the Staff notification. Staff shall present Briefing Papers to the Commission, which shall resolve the Complaint within twenty days of submission of the Briefing Papers.

I. Permittee Contacts for Complaints:

Mailing Address: Complaints filed by mail shall be sent to:

ATTN: Mr. Joseph Sedarski
Senior Permitting Analyst
Xcel Energy Services
414 Nicollet Mall, MP-8
Minneapolis, MN 55401

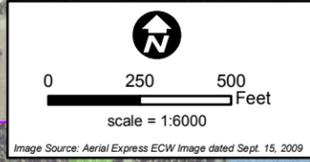
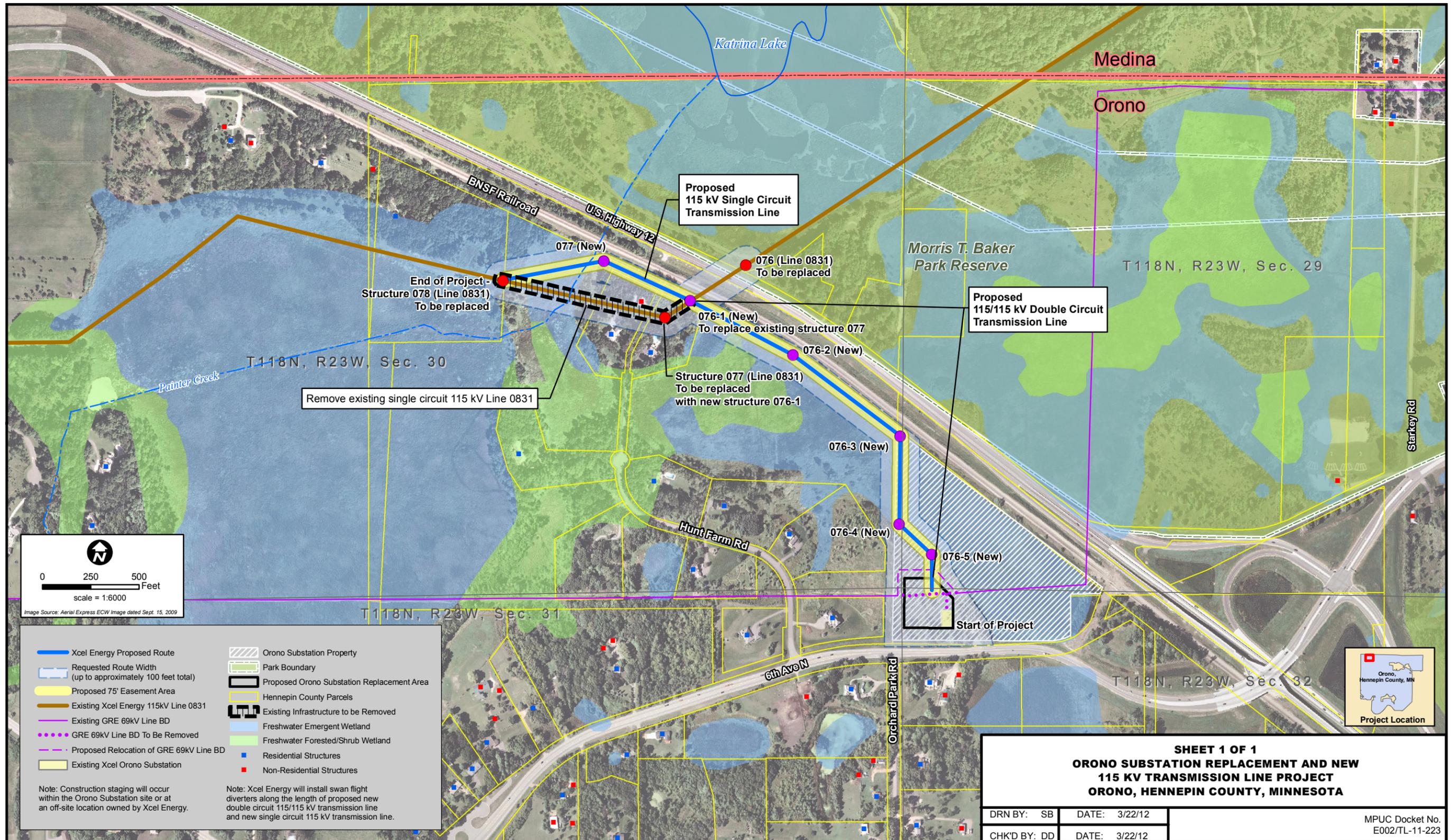
Tel: (612) 330-6435

Email: joseph.g.sedarskil@xcelenergy.com

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HVTL ROUTE MAP

Orono Substation Replacement and New 115 kV Transmission Line Project



- | | |
|--|--|
| Xcel Energy Proposed Route | Orono Substation Property |
| Requested Route Width (up to approximately 100 feet total) | Park Boundary |
| Proposed 75' Easement Area | Proposed Orono Substation Replacement Area |
| Existing Xcel Energy 115kV Line 0831 | Hennepin County Parcels |
| Existing GRE 69kV Line BD | Existing Infrastructure to be Removed |
| GRE 69kV Line BD To Be Removed | Freshwater Emergent Wetland |
| Proposed Relocation of GRE 69kV Line BD | Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland |
| Existing Xcel Orono Substation | Residential Structures |
| | Non-Residential Structures |

Note: Construction staging will occur within the Orono Substation site or at an off-site location owned by Xcel Energy.

Note: Xcel Energy will install swan flight diverters along the length of proposed new double circuit 115/115 kV transmission line and new single circuit 115 kV transmission line.

SHEET 1 OF 1 ORONO SUBSTATION REPLACEMENT AND NEW 115 KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT ORONO, HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA			MPUC Docket No. E002/TL-11-223
DRN BY: SB	DATE: 3/22/12		
CHK'D BY: DD	DATE: 3/22/12		