



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Energy Facility Permitting



Issued: October 12, 2011

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SCOPING MEETING

In the Matter of the Route Permit Application for the Hollydale 115 kV Transmission Line Project in the Cities of Plymouth and Medina, Hennepin County

PUC Docket No. E002/TL-11-152

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 joint route permit application by Xcel Energy and Great River Energy to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for the proposed Hollydale 115 kV transmission line project (Figure 1). The purpose of the meeting is to provide information about the project and to identify issues and alternatives to study in the environmental assessment (EA) that will be prepared by EFP staff.

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SCOPING MEETING

Wednesday, October 26, 2011
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Best Western Kelly Inn
2705 North Annapolis Lane
Plymouth, Minnesota 55441

EFP staff will accept written comments on the scope of the EA until Wednesday, November 9, 2011. Please include PUC Docket No. E002/TL-11-152 on all comments. Comments should be mailed, emailed, or faxed to:

Scott Ek
State Permit Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198
Fax: 651-296-7588
scott.ek@state.mn.us

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

The meeting will include a brief presentation of the state's high-voltage transmission line permitting process, the proposed project, and how the public can participate in the permitting process. Representatives from Xcel Energy and Great River Energy will be present to answer 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.

Project Description. Xcel Energy and Great River Energy (applicants) propose to rebuild approximately 8 miles of existing 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV, construct up to approximately 0.8 miles of new 115 kV transmission line, construct a new 115 kV substation (Pomerleau Lake Substation), and modify associated transmission facilities located in cities of Medina and Plymouth, Hennepin County, Minnesota. The applicants indicate the project is needed to address electric distribution concerns and to avoid feeder circuit overloads in the Plymouth area distribution delivery system.

More specifically, the applicants propose the following for the project:

- rebuild and follow the existing 69 kV line (8 miles) that exits the existing GRE Medina Substation and runs through the existing Xcel Energy Hollydale Substation to the intersection with an existing GRE 115 kV transmission line located north of Fernbrook Lane and the Canadian Pacific Railway;
- construct 0.8 miles of new 115 kV transmission line on new right-of-way from the above described existing GRE 115 kV transmission line intersection, which completes the connection of the rebuild line to the proposed new Pomerleau Lake Substation;
- construct the proposed new Pomerleau Lake Substation just southwest of the intersection of Schmidt Lake Road and Interstate Highway 494; and
- modify the existing Medina and Hollydale substations to accommodate the proposed 115 kV transmission line rebuild. Proposed modifications to existing substations will be located within existing property boundaries.

The proposed structures for the project would be single pole, galvanized steel or weathering steel poles. The height of the new single-circuit poles would range from 70 to 90 feet, while the double-circuit poles would range from 75 to 105 feet. The average span between poles will be about 300 to 500 feet, with a maximum span of approximately 1,200 feet to keep the conductor within existing right-of-way.

For the rebuild portion of the project, applicants are requesting a 200-foot-wide route width within which the 75-foot right-of-way would be located. Applicants, however, have stated they plan to construct the rebuild portion of the 115 kV transmission line on the current centerline and within the existing right-of-way of the GRE 69 kV line where reasonably possible. The existing 69 kV right-of-way ranges from 70 to 100 feet in width. For the new transmission line route segment, applicants request a 400-foot-wide route width within which the 75-foot right-of-way would be located.

Review Process. Under the Power Plant Siting Act (Minnesota Statute 216E), a route permit from the Commission is required to construct a high-voltage transmission line. A joint route permit application for the project was filed by Xcel Energy and Great River on June 30, 2011. The application was accepted as complete by the Commission on August 25, 2011.

EFP staff is responsible for conducting the environmental review for route permit applications submitted to the Commission (Minnesota Rules 7850). Environmental review for a project of this size requires the preparation of an EA. An EA examines the potential human and environmental impacts of a proposed project, alternative routes or route segments, and potential mitigative measures. EFP staff conducts a public information meeting to gather comments and suggestions on the proposed project in order to focus the content or “scope” of the EA.

Upon completion of the EA, a public hearing will be held in the project area. The hearing will be presided over by an administrative law judge 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 project mailing list (see below).

Upon completion of the environmental review and hearing process, the record compiled for the route permit application will be presented to the Commission for a final decision. A decision by the Commission on a route permit for the project is anticipated in spring 2012.

Eminent Domain. If issued a route permit by the Commission, the applicants 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: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/#mailing> to get their name on the project mailing list. Persons on the mailing list will receive notices of meetings 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. Project mailing list registration is voluntary and may be done at any time.

Project Documents. A more detailed description of the proposed project is contained in the route permit application. An electronic version of this document is available on the Commission’s Energy Facility Permitting website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=32121>. 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 “152”).

The route permit application is also available at the locations noted below:

Plymouth Public Library
15700 36th Avenue N
Plymouth, Minnesota 55446

Long Lake Library
1865 Wayzata Boulevard W
Long Lake, Minnesota 55365

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

Scott Ek, State Permit Manager
651-296-8813
1-800-657-3794
scott.ek@state.mn.us

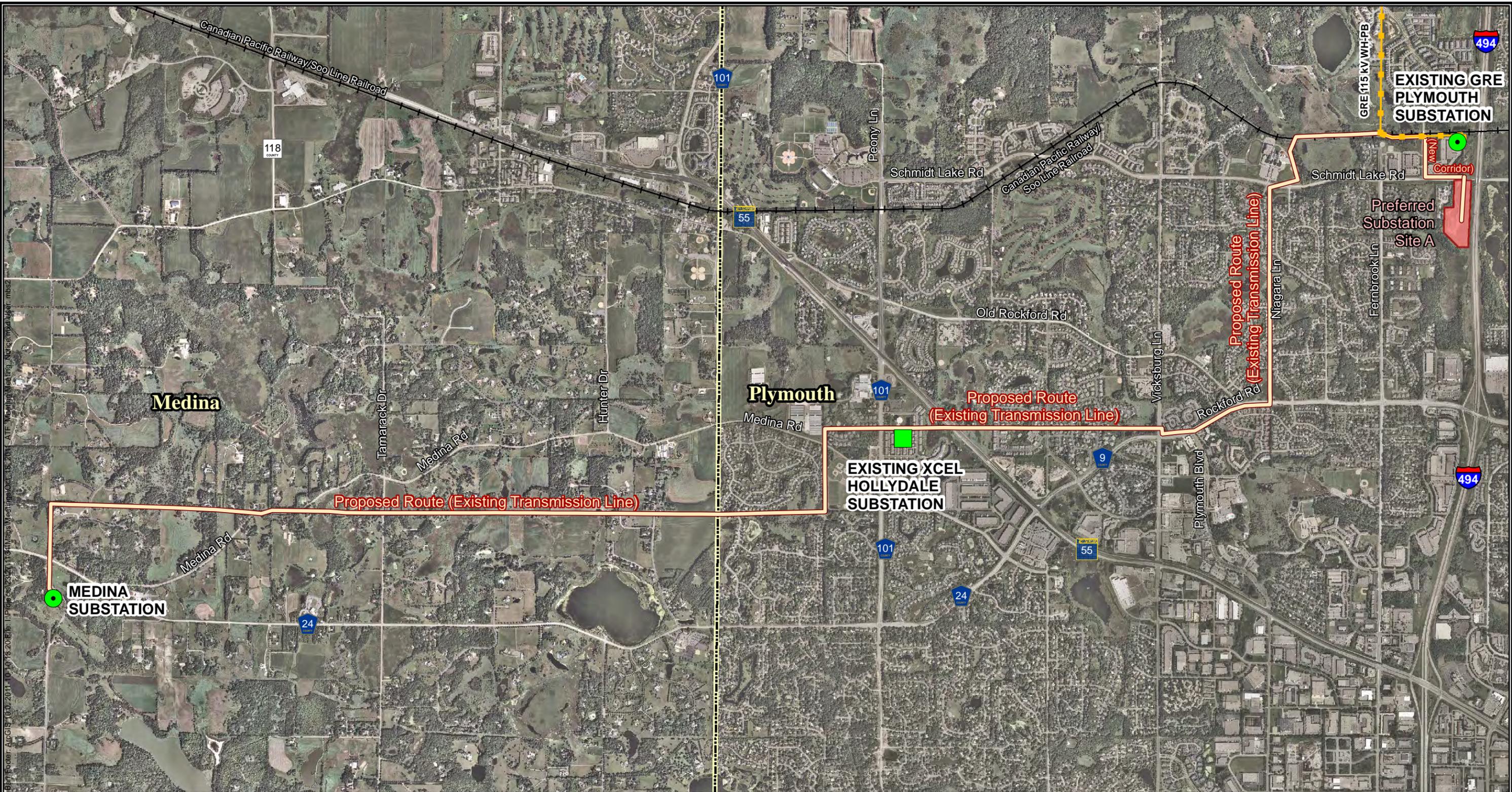
Raymond Kirsch, Public Advisor
651-296-7588
raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us

Information about the project may also be obtained by contacting the applicants:

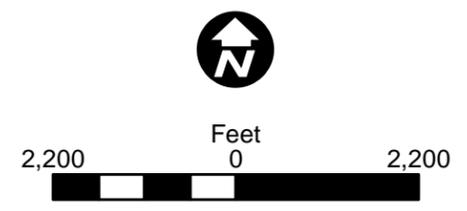
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This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0391 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through Minnesota Relay at 1-800-627-3529 or by dialing 711.



-  Proposed Route (Existing Transmission Corridor)
-  GRE Substation
-  Preferred Substation Site A
-  Xcel Energy Substation
-  GRE WH-PB 115 kV
-  Railroad
-  Municipal Boundary



**Hollydale Project
PROJECT AREA MAP
Hennepin County, Minnesota**

PUC Docket No. E002/TL-11-152

Data Source: Xcel Energy, GRE, MN DNR, MNDOT, USGS
Background: 2009 Aerial Express Imagery for the Twin Cities