



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Department of Commerce



Issued: August 16, 2012

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

**In the Matter of the Route Permit Application for the Black Dog to Savage
115 kV Transmission Line Project in Dakota County, Minnesota**

PUC Docket Number: E002/TL-11-795 | OAH Docket Number: 11-2500-22932-2

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 Black Dog to Savage 115 kV transmission line project. The hearing will be held at the time and location listed below. The hearing will continue until all persons have had the opportunity to offer testimony and ask questions and all other business has been concluded.

PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, September 11, 2012 -- 6:00 p.m.

Burnsville City Hall
100 Civic Center Parkway
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337
952-895-4400

The purpose of the hearing is to gather public comments on the most prudent route and alignment for the Black Dog to Savage project and issues that should be addressed in a route permit for the project. Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Barbara Neilson will preside at the hearing. Any person who would like to comment on the route and alignment for the project or issues that should be addressed in a route permit may do so at the hearing or in writing to Judge Neilson.

The hearing record will remain open until **4:30 p.m., Friday, September 28, 2012**, for the receipt of written comments. Please include Commission Docket No. TL-11-795 on all comments. Comments should be mailed, emailed, or faxed directly to Judge Neilson at:

The Honorable Barbara Neilson
Office of Administrative Hearings
PO Box 64620
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55164-0620
Fax: 651-361-7936
Email: routecomments@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.

At the close of the written comment period, Judge Neilson will provide a report including findings of fact, conclusions of law, and a recommendation 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, PO Box 64620, 600 North Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620, Phone: (651) 361-7832 (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 are available for viewing on the Department's energy facility permitting website: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=32529> and on the State of Minnesota eDockets system: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the year "11" and the number "795").

The EA is also available at the locations noted below:

Burnhaven Library
1101 County Rd 42W
Burnsville, MN 55306

Wescott Branch Library
1340 Wescott Rd.
Eagan, MN 55123

Project Description. Xcel Energy proposes to replace two existing 115 kV transmission lines with a new double circuit 115 kV line, approximately 4.2 miles in length miles, in Dakota County, Minnesota. The project will remove the two existing 115 kV lines from Black Dog Lake and will reroute the line to facilitate a quarry redevelopment project (see attached map). Xcel Energy indicates in its route permit application that the project is needed to replace aging and deteriorating wooden poles, and to meet North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) reliability requirements.

Xcel Energy has requested a route width of 750 feet for those portions of the transmission line east of Interstate 35 West (I-35W), and a route width of 400 feet for those portions west of I-35W. Xcel Energy has indicated that the new double circuit 115 kV line will require a right-of-way (easement) of 100 feet (50 feet on each side of the transmission line). Steel poles, ranging

in height from 50 to 100 feet, will be used for the new line. Xcel Energy anticipates beginning construction of the project in late 2012.

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

Ray Kirsch, State Permit Manager
651-296-7588
raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us

Bill Storm, Public Advisor
651-296-9535
bill.storm@state.mn.us

Information about the project may also be obtained by contacting Tim Rogers of Xcel Energy at (612) 330-1955, timothy.g.rogers@xcelenergy.com, Xcel Energy, 414 Nicollet Mall, 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: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities>.

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.

Project Overview Map --- Black Dog to Savage 115 kV Transmission Line Project

