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PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SCOPING MEETING - APRIL 18, 2012
STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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 NO. E002/TL-11-795

April 18, 2012

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1 MR. KIRSCH: So I'm going to stop there
2 and open it up to questions or comments. Would
3 anyone like to ask a question or a comment?

4 We're all here, now is the time to speak
5 up if you have a question or a comment.

6 All right. I'll give it one more minute,
7 and if we don't have any questions or comments,
8 that's fine, you can send a comment through May 4th.
9 I certainly encourage you to do so. The more
10 comments we receive in general the better because
11 we'll have a better record to build upon that we can
12 bring to the Commission so they can ultimately make
13 a decision.

14 So anybody have a comment?

15 MR. TERRY SCHULTZ: Well, I feel like
16 somebody should ask a question.

17 MR. KIRSCH: Would you state and spell
18 your name, please?

19 MR. TERRY SCHULTZ: Terry Schultz, with
20 the City of Burnsville. Schultz, S-C-H-U-L-T-Z.

21 I guess it's a question that I have and
22 perhaps it's for Xcel. Once the right-of-way width
23 is established, is the power company then obligated
24 to clear everything out from the entire width of
25 that right-of-way in terms of trees or what may grow

1 up within that area?

2 MR. TIM ROGERS: Yeah, I think Chris
3 Rogers, our land agent, can handle that.

4 MR. CHRIS ROGERS: Chris Rogers,
5 R-O-G-E-R-S, Xcel Energy. I guess the answer to the
6 question, typically within an easement area we are
7 going to clear things that are a danger to that
8 line, typically trees that are going to grow beyond
9 15 feet anything, that's going to cause a possible
10 interference to a line, basically. So trees that
11 would grow taller than 15 feet, obviously we don't
12 want to route over buildings or those types of
13 things whenever feasible as well. We are able to
14 work with landowners, like, for example, in the
15 farming community, farmers, which is not the case
16 here, but farmers can continue to farm and do their
17 operations pretty much as normal. But, again, we
18 want to make sure that that line is safe and that
19 there is clearance from that lowest conductor to the
20 ground. Does that answer your question, Terry?

21 MR. TERRY SCHULTZ: Yes.

22 MR. KIRSCH: I'll also add that the
23 Commission, once it issues a route permit for the
24 project, does not typically get involved in the
25 easement agreements or negotiations between the

1 landowner and the utility company. But there are
2 negotiations and agreements and so there may be ways
3 to meet Xcel's needs for the height of the
4 vegetation and also maybe meet the landowner's needs
5 as to having some vegetation there. Whether it's
6 grass for cows to graze on or low-growing shrubs or
7 something like that. And if there is an issue that
8 you think can be resolved by routing, which is don't
9 go through these trees to begin with, or around
10 them, then that's something you should bring up in
11 the permitting process and say either the route, or
12 if you have plenty of route, the alignment of the
13 route, the natural placement of the poles should be
14 shifted one way or another. That's something the
15 Commission would really want to know.

16 Anybody else have a question or a
17 comment? This gentleman here.

18 MR. LARRY SCHEDIN: My name is Larry
19 Schedin, S-C-H-E-D-I-N. I'm a consultant.

20 And the question is does the rebuild go
21 all the way into the Savage substation? On the map
22 you showed the new route intersects the old route
23 near but not into Savage, and so the question is
24 what about the remainder of the route, maybe it's a
25 half mile or two miles or whatever, will it be

1 rebuilt all the way into Savage substation?

2 MR. KIRSCH: I'll try to answer that. As
3 I understand it, it will not be rebuilt all the way
4 into Savage substation. It will be built to what's
5 called structure 31-A, which is a structure before
6 you get to the substation. As I understand it, the
7 line from there into the Savage substation is
8 already a double-circuit line.

9 MR. LARRY SCHEDIN: A follow-up question
10 then. Given that the capacity of one of the lines
11 has to be increased, will the conductor size be
12 increased on the existing structures to use the
13 remainder of the way into Savage and will those
14 existing structures handle the larger conductor?

15 MR. KIRSCH: I don't know the answer to
16 that. Do you want to take a shot at it?

17 MR. TIM ROGERS: Yeah. You know me, Tim
18 Rogers. We have a new engineer assigned to this
19 project. Ben, I'm not sure if you've looked into
20 this end of the project yet and how we're going to
21 handle the double-circuit that's already built.

22 MR. BEN GALLAY: Ben Gallay, G-A-L-L-A-Y.
23 I haven't looked at it specifically, but, yeah,
24 those structures are existing steel double-circuit,
25 it's assumed that they'll be able to handle an

1 upgrade all the way to Savage.

2 MR. KIRSCH: Thank you for your question.

3 Does anybody else have a question or
4 comment? Anybody else?

5 All right. Well, then, I'm going to draw
6 the meeting to a close here. I want to thank
7 everybody for coming out. I'll remind you that you
8 have until May 4th, 2012 to get a comment in by any
9 of the methods we discussed here tonight. Please
10 grab a comment sheet on the way out, if you'd like,
11 and please sign up for the mailing list if you're
12 not already on it.

13 Thank you very much for coming tonight.
14 We're adjourned.

15 (Matter concluded at 6:32 p.m.)

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