



**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
Department of Commerce



Issued: March 28, 2012

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SCOPING MEETING**

**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**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff will conduct a public information and environmental assessment scoping meeting on the route permit application by Northern States Power Company (Xcel Energy) to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for the proposed Black Dog to Savage 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line project. 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, April 18, 2012 -- 6:00 p.m.

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

**EFP staff will accept written comments on the scope of the EA until Friday, May 4, 2012.** Please include PUC Docket No. TL-11-795 on all comments. Comments should be mailed, emailed, or faxed to:

Ray Kirsch  
State Permit Manager  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7th Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198  
Fax: 651-297-7891  
[raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us](mailto:raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us)

The meeting will include a brief presentation of the state's transmission line permitting process, the proposed project, and how the public can participate in the permitting process. Representatives from Xcel 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 route alternatives to be studied in the EA.

**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 limestone quarry reclamation 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.

**Review Process.** Under the Power Plant Siting Act (Minn. Stat. 216E), a route permit from the Commission is required to construct a high voltage transmission line. A route permit application for the project was filed by Xcel Energy on February 14, 2012. The application was accepted as complete by the Commission on March 23, 2012.

EFP staff is responsible for conducting the environmental review for route permit applications submitted to the Commission (Minn. Rules 7850). Environmental review for a project of this size requires the preparation of an environmental assessment (EA). The EA will examine the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed transmission line route (and any alternative routes) 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 (ALJ) 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 Black Dog to Savage project is anticipated in October 2012.

**Eminent Domain.** If issued a route permit by the Commission, Xcel Energy 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) 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 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 eDockets system: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the year "11" and the number "795").

The route permit application 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 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](mailto:raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us)

Bill Storm, Public Advisor  
651-296-9535  
[bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto: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](mailto:timothy.g.rogers@xcelenergy.com), Xcel Energy, 414 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401.

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

