



Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Issued: April 10, 2013

In the Matters of the Applications for a Route Permit and Certificate of Need for the Scott County-Westgate 69 kV to 115 kV Transmission Upgrade Project

Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Number/s: E002/CN-11-332

E002/TL-11-948

Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) Docket Number: 16-2500-22873

Date: May 16, 2013

Times: 1:30pm – 4:30pm

6:00pm – 9:00pm

Location: Chanhassen Recreation Center
2310 Coulter Boulevard
Chanhassen MN 55317

Hearing Information: Citizens will have the opportunity to offer oral and/or written comments into the record. Staff from the Public Utilities Commission, Department of Commerce (DOC), and Xcel Energy will be available to answer questions about the project and the review process. The hearing will last until all citizens in attendance have had the opportunity to offer comments or ask questions.

Topic/s Open for Comment:

- Is the proposed transmission line needed and in the public interest?
- What are the costs and benefits of the proposed transmission line?
- What are the environmental and human impacts of each route and how can these impacts be reduced?
- Are there other issues or concerns related to the project?

Comment Period: The comment period on the project continues after the public hearings, through **May 31, 2013 at 4:30pm.**

Submit Public Comments: The Honorable Ann C. O'Reilly
Office of Administrative Hearings
Email: RouteComments.OAH@state.mn.us
Fax: 651-361-7936
P.O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul MN 55164-0620

Please include the PUC and OAH Docket Numbers (above) in all communications.

Project Description

Xcel Energy proposes to upgrade the Scott County-Bluff Creek-Westgate 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV capacity near the cities of Chanhassen, Shorewood, Excelsior, Deephaven, Greenwood, Minnetonka and Eden Prairie.

Xcel Energy's original proposal includes upgrading approximately 20 miles of 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV capacity including the following upgrades and additions:

- Changing the voltage of approximately 5.3 miles of 115/69 kV transmission line to 115/115 kV operation between the Scott County and Bluff Creek substations
- Converting approximately 3.6 miles of 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV transmission line between the Bluff Creek and Excelsior Substations
- Converting approximately 3.0 miles of 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV capacity between the Excelsior and Deephaven Substations
- Converting approximately 7.5 miles of 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV capacity between the Deephaven and Westgate (Highway 5) Substations
- Upgrading the Excelsior and Deephaven Substations to 115 kV capacity

Xcel Energy's *Highway 5 Alternative* proposal includes:

- Using existing structures along Highway 5
- Building a new substation
- Building a short segment of 69kV transmission line
- Relocating the 34.5 kV feeder line along Highway 5
- Upgrading the Westgate Substation 115/69 kV transformer to 70 MVA or larger capacity

Process Information

Before the project can be built, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) must approve a certificate of need and a route permit. Xcel Energy submitted the certificate of need application in March 2012, and the route permit application was accepted in May 2012.

The Department of Commerce prepared an environmental assessment for this project. The environmental assessment reviewed the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives, as well as ways to mitigate impacts. The environmental assessment was published in February 2013.

Judge O'Reilly will use information gathered at the public hearings and during the comment period to write a report for the PUC. The report will include findings, conclusions and recommendations about this project. After receiving the Judge's report, the PUC will make final decisions on this project, expected by August 2013.

Eminent Domain: If issued a route permit by the Commission, Xcel Energy and Great River Energy may exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire land for this project.

How to Learn More

Department of Commerce Project Website:

<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=32547>

Full Case Record: All documents filed in this docket are available on the Commission's website at www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Search eDockets," enter the year (*ex. 11*) and the docket number (*ex. 332*), select "Search."

Project Mailing List: Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate (meetings, comment periods, etc.). Contact the Public Advisor (see below) or visit <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#mailing> to sign up for the project mailing list.

Public Libraries: The certificate of need, route permit application, and environmental assessment are available at the following public libraries:

- Chanhassen Public Library, 7711 Kerber Boulevard, Chanhassen MN 55317
- Eden Prairie Public Library, 565 Prairie Center Drive, Eden Prairie MN 55344
- Excelsior Public Library, 343 Third Street, Excelsior MN 55331
- Minnetonka Public Library, 17524 Excelsior Boulevard, Minnetonka MN 55345

Project Contacts

- **Public Utilities Commission Public Advisor**

Tracy Smetana at consumer.puc@state.mn.us, 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782

- **Public Utilities Commission Staff Analyst**

Michael Kaluzniak at mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us or 651-201-2257

- **Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager**

David Birkholz at david.birkholz@state.mn.us, 651-296-2878 or 1-800-657-3794

- **Xcel Energy Project Contact – Certificate of Need**
Paul Lehman at paul.lehman@xcelenergy.com or 612-330-7529
- **Xcel Energy Project Contact – Route Application**
Timothy Rogers at timothy.g.rogers@xcelenergy.com or 612-330-1955

If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in these meetings (e.g., sign language or large print materials), please contact the Office of Administrative Hearings at 651-361-7000 (voice) or 651-361-7878 (TTY) at least one week in advance of the meeting.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (e.g., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.