



**Energy Facility Permitting**  
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## **NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

### **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 PUC Docket Nos. E002/TL-11-948 and E002/CN-11-332**

The Minnesota Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting Unit (EFP) has released the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Scott County to Westgate 115 kV Transmission Line Upgrade Project.

The intent of the environmental review process is to inform the public, the Applicant and decision-makers about potential impacts and possible mitigations for a proposed project. As two concurrent environmental reviews are required in this case – an Environmental Report (ER) for the CN application and an Environmental Assessment for the route permit application – EFP elected to combine the environmental review for the two applications (Minn. Rule 7849.1900). Thus, an EA in lieu of an ER was prepared to meet the requirements of both review processes.

Copies of the EA can be obtained through EFP staff, on the Energy Facilities Permitting web site at <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=32547> or by searching "11" as year and "948" as number on eDockets at <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp>.

Copies of the EA are also available for review at the following local libraries:

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

### ***Project Description***

The Project involves converting the existing double-circuit 115/69 kV transmission line to 115/115 kV operation from Scott County Substation, through Chanhassen Substation, to Structure #57 north of Bluff Creek Substation. This section of double-circuit line was permitted locally for 115/69 kV operation. Conversion to 115/115 kV operation will not require the rebuilding or replacement of any existing structures. The Proposed Route for the 115/69 kV conversion follows the existing transmission right-of-way for its entire 5.3 mile length.

The Proposed Project also includes rebuilding the existing single-circuit 69 kV to a single-circuit 115 kV line between Structure #57 to the Excelsior Substation, which would be converted for 115 kV use; rebuilding the line between Excelsior Substation and Deephaven Substation, which would also be converted for 115 kV use; and rebuilding the line between the Deephaven Substation and the Westgate Substation. As a result, the route for the rebuilt 69 kV to 115 kV line follows existing transmission line right-of-way for its entire length of nearly 15 miles.

Subsequent to the original applications, the Applicant submitted an additional system alternative for consideration that would use a route along Highway 5 instead of the existing 69 kV route. This alternative uses the existing structures along Highway 5 and requires building a new substation, a short segment of 69 kV line and a relocation of the 34.5 kV feeder line from along the highway. The EA analyzes the comparative impacts of the Proposed Project, the Highway 5 Alternative and alternative segments along Highway 41 and Highway 7.

### ***Public Hearing***

A Public Hearing on the Certificate of Need and the Route Permit will be held in the project area shortly after this release of the Environmental Assessment and will be noticed separately.

### ***Project Contacts***

For information about the environmental review process, contact David Birkholz (651-296-2878, [david.birkholz@state.mn.us](mailto:david.birkholz@state.mn.us)), Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting, 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198.

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