



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

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
SCOPING DECISION
AMENDMENT**

**PUC Docket No. E002/CN-11-332
PUC Docket No. E002/TL-11-948**

A new route option was requested by Xcel Energy (Applicant) in its October 25, 2012, letter.¹ The request asks the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Commerce to amend his scope in the above matter to include review of this option in the Environmental Assessment (EA).

According to Minn. Rule 7850.3700 subp 3, "Once the [Deputy] has determined the scope of the environmental assessment, the scope shall not be changed except upon a decision by the [Deputy] that substantial changes have been made in the project or substantial new information has arisen significantly affecting the potential environmental effects of the project or the availability of reasonable alternatives."

The Highway 5 Alternative was developed based on substantial new engineering information provided by Xcel Energy, which shows that the alternative meets the identified need and appears reasonable. In order to properly analyze the impacts of this information on potential route decisions, the Scoping Decision is hereby amended to include the following:

Highway 5 Route Alternate

The alternative route is a connection along Highway 5 between the Westgate Substation and Structure #57 using the existing 115 kV structures, a short segment of new 69 kV line and a new substation near Bluff Creek, as depicted on the attached map and comprising:

- A new 115/69 kV substation in close proximity to the existing Bluff Creek substation ("New Substation");
- A new 69 kV line from Structure #57 to the New Substation and termination of the existing 69 kV line from Excelsior Substation into the New Substation;
- Operating the existing 115 kV transmission line from Scott County Substation to Structure #57 at 115 kV by terminating it into the New Substation. The line currently operates at 69 kV;

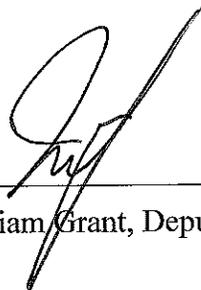
¹ eDockets no. [201210-80097-01](#).

- Operating the existing 115 kV line from Structure #57 to Westgate Substation along Highway 5 at 115 kV. It is built to double-circuit, with both circuits capable of operating at 115 kV. Only one of the two circuits is currently operating at 115 kV and the other circuit is being used as a 34.5 kV distribution feeder;
- Constructing a new 34.5 kV distribution feeder from Westgate Substation to Structure #57 to replace the line converted to 115 kV operation;
- Upgrading the Westgate Substation 115/69 kV transformer serving Excelsior and Deephaven substations to 70 MVA or larger capacity; and
- Upgrading sections of the existing 69 kV line between Westgate and Deephaven substations to a higher capacity 69 kV line (68 MVA or higher).

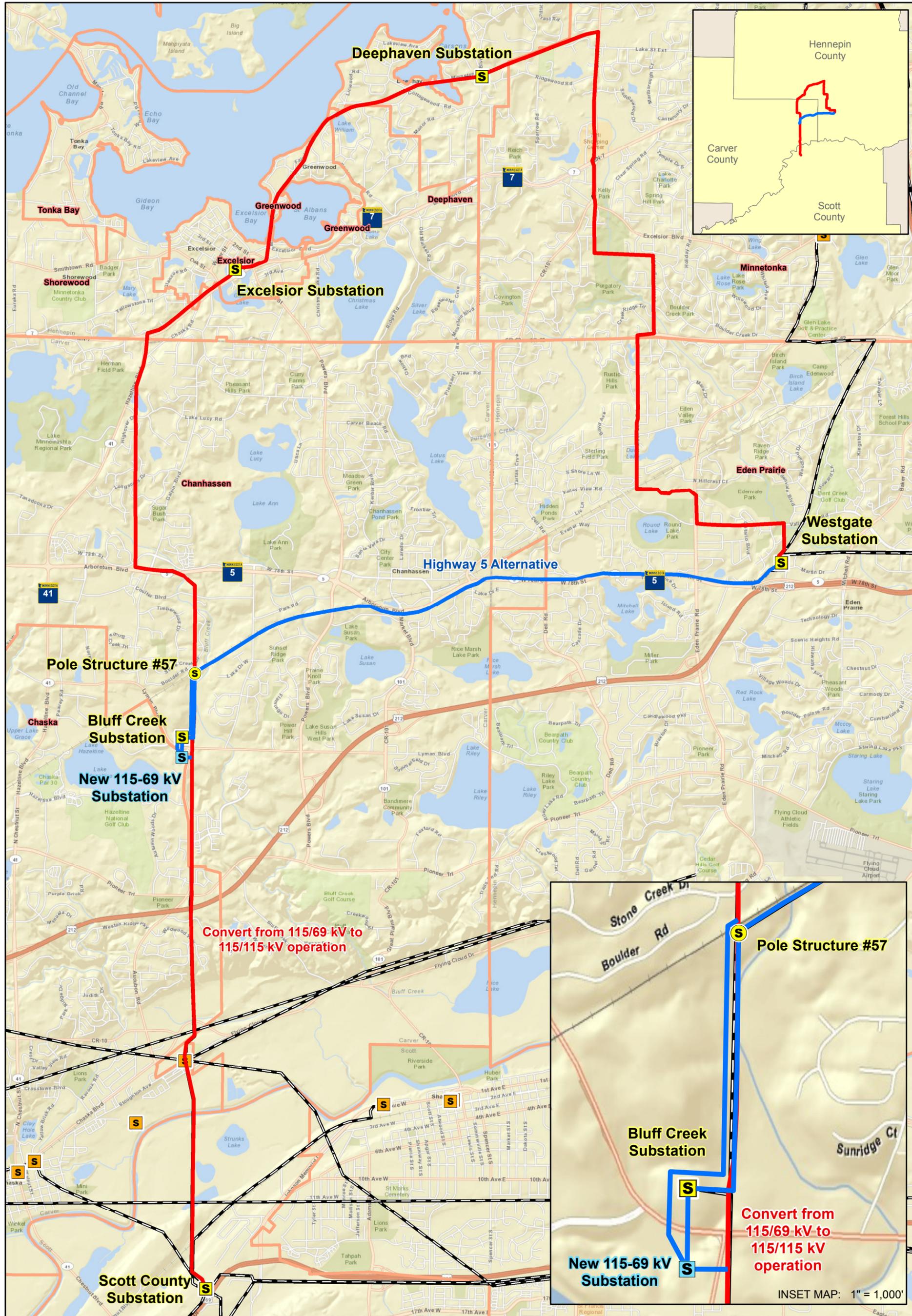
The analysis of this route option will include the issues identified in Section 5 of the Scoping Decision's "Matters to be Addressed." This approach will enable an informed decision on the potential for the route alternative to provide the ability to construct and operate a transmission line that avoids or minimizes social, economic, and environmental impacts.

Signed this 30th day of October, 2012

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



William Grant, Deputy Commissioner



Data Source: Westwood (2012); Xcel (2012); esri (2012)

- Legend**
- Pole Structure #57
 - Xcel Substations
 - Proposed Substation Location
 - Highway 5 Alternative
 - Applicant's Proposed Route for the Scott County-Westgate Project
 - Approximate Existing Transmission Line
 - Municipal Boundary
 - World Street Map

Scott County - Westgate 115kV Upgrade

Carver, Hennepin and Scott Counties, Minnesota



Highway 5 Alternative

INSET MAP: 1" = 1,000'