



Burl Haar, Executive Secretary

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD ON APPLICATION COMPLETENESS

Issued: July 17, 2012

**In the Matter of the Route Permit Application by Xcel Energy and Great River
Energy for the Chaska Area Transmission Line Upgrade Project**

PUC Docket Number: **E002/TL-12-401**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on July 11, 2012, Xcel Energy and Great River Energy filed an application for a route permit for the Upgrade of the Chaska Area 69 Kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line to 115 kV Capacity Project (Chaska Project) pursuant to the alternative permitting procedures in Minnesota Rules 7850.2800 to 7850.3900.

The proposed Chaska Project includes upgrading approximately 6.1 miles of existing 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV single circuit transmission line facilities, changing the operating voltage of 2.9 miles of an existing 69 kV line to 115 kV, constructing two segments of new 115 kV transmission line totaling 2.4 miles, abandoning in place approximately 1 mile of existing 69 kV line, removing approximately 0.39 miles of existing 69 kV transmission line through the City of Chaska, and making associated 115 kV reconfigurations and/or upgrades at the various 69 kV substation facilities along these lines. The proposed Chaska Project is located in eastern Carver County and northern Scott County near and within the City of Chaska, and through Laketown, Dahlgren, and Jackson townships.

The Applicants have stated that the Chaska Project qualifies for review under the Alternative Permitting Process authorized by Minnesota Statutes § 216E.04, subd. 2(3) and Minnesota Rules 7850.2800, Subp. 1(C) because the project is a high voltage transmission line between 100 and 200 kV. Accordingly, the Applicants are following the provisions of the Alternative Permitting Process outlined in Minnesota Rules 7850.2800 to 7850.3900 for this Project. The Applicants anticipate a spring 2014 in-service date for the Project and construction to commence upon receipt of a Commission Route Permit.

Comment Period. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) will consider comments on whether the application contains the contents required by Minnesota Rule 7850.3100, and particularly whether there are any contested issues of fact known at this time, with respect to the representations made in the application. **Initial comments** will be considered if received by **4:30 p.m. on Friday, July 27, 2012**. **Reply comments** will be considered if received by **4:30 p.m. on Friday, August 3, 2012**. Parties, agencies and other entities are required to use the Commission eFiling system accessible at www.puc.state.mn.

Comments submitted by the public will be accepted at Publiccomments.PUC@state.mn.us, or by U.S. mail, addressed to Burl Haar, Executive Secretary, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101. **Comments should include the docket number, TL-12-401, in the subject line.**

Comments submitted to individual staff members outside the established public comment administrative process may be delayed and unavailable for timely processing. Commission staff will review the record of the proceeding, including the comments submitted, and issue a briefing paper on the Project before the Commission makes a decision on the matter.

www.puc.state.mn.us

Questions regarding this matter may be directed to Commission staff, Tricia DeBleekere (651) 201-2254 or e-mail at: tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us.

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