



Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Issued: April 10, 2013

In the Matter of the Application of Xcel Energy and Great River Energy (GRE) for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit for the SWTC Chaska Area 115 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project in Carver and Scott Counties

Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Number/s: E002/CN-11-826
E002/TL-12-401

Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) Docket Number: 61-2500-30573

Date: May 2, 2013

Time: 6:00pm

Location: Chaska City Hall – Council Chambers
One City Hall Plaza
Chaska MN 55318

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), Xcel Energy, and Great River 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 under consideration and how can these impacts be mitigated?
- Are there other project related issues or concerns?

Comment Period: The comment period on the project continues after the public hearing, through **May 17, 2013 at 4:30pm.**

Submit Public Comments: The Honorable M. Kevin Snell
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

The proposed transmission line is a total of approximately 12.75 miles, contains six segments, and mostly follows existing transmission line rights-of-way (ROW). Xcel Energy and GRE propose to:

- Upgrade approximately 6.1 miles of existing single circuit 69 kilovolt (kV) transmission line (Line #0740) to a single circuit 115 kV transmission line (**Segments 1, 4, & 6**);
- Change the operating voltage of approximately 2.9 miles of existing Great River Energy 69 kV transmission line to operate at 115 kV (**Segment 2**);
- Construct two segments of new 115 kV single circuit transmission line totaling approximately 2.4 miles (**Segments 3 & 5**);
- Abandon in place (de-energized under normal conditions) approximately 1.0 mile of existing 69 kV transmission line (**Segment 3a**); and
- Remove approximately 0.39 miles of existing 69 kV transmission line through the middle of the city of Chaska (**Segment 5a**).
- Modify five substations (Scott County, Chaska, West Creek, Victoria and Augusta).

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 and Great River Energy submitted the certificate of need application in May 2012 and the route permit application was accepted in September 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 March 2013.

Judge Snell will use information gathered at the public hearing 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 in September 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=32771>

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. 12*) and the docket number (*ex. 401*), select "Search."

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

- Carver County Public Library, 4 City Hall Plaza, Chaska MN 55318
- Shakopee Public Library, 235 Lewis Street, Shakopee MN 55379

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.

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

Tricia DeBleekere at tricia.debleekere@state.mn.us or 651-201-2254

Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager

Bill Storm at bill.storm@state.mn.us, 651-296-3595 or 1-800-657-3794

Xcel Energy Project Contact

Sage Tauber at sage.tauber@xcelenergy.com or 612-330-2909

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.

