



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Public Utilities Commission

Issued Date: February 22, 2013

Notice of Public Hearings

In the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power Company (Xcel Energy) and Great River Energy for a Certificate of Need for the Hollydale 115 kV Transmission Line Project in the Cities of Plymouth and Medina

PUC Docket Number: E002, ET2/CN-12-113
OAH Docket Number: 8-2500-23147-2

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Public Hearings will be held March 6 and 7, 2013, at the location and times listed below concerning Xcel Energy and Great River Energy's Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a certificate of need for one new substation and one 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Plymouth and Medina, MN.

In this proceeding, the hearing will address: (a) whether the proposed transmission line project is needed and in the public interest, and (b) the costs, benefits, and impacts of various alternatives to the proposed transmission line project.

Evening Session

Wednesday, March 6, 2013, 6:30 PM
Medina Entertainment Center
Grand Ballroom
500 Highway 55
Medina, MN 55340
763-478-6661

Afternoon Session

Thursday, March 7, 2013, 1:30 PM
Medina Entertainment Center
Grand Ballroom
500 Highway 55
Medina, MN 55340
763-478-6661

Administrative Law Judge Eric L. Lipman will preside at the hearing.

Deadline for written public comments to the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) on the Certificate of Need application must be received at the Office of Administrative Hearings by **4:30 p.m.** on **March 25, 2013**. The mailing address is:

Honorable Eric L. Lipman,
Administrative Law Judge
P.O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
Saint Paul, MN 55164-0620
routecomments.oah@state.mn.us
Facsimile 651-361-7936

Please include the PUC Docket Number – E-002. ET2/CN-12-113, and the OAH Docket Number – 8-2500-23147-2, on all correspondence.

Purpose of the Public Hearing. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments from members of the public and to compile the record for the Commission to consider in making a final decision on the transmission line certificate of need request. The ALJ will write a report and make a recommendation to the Commission on the need for the Project. The Commission will make a final decision on the certificate of need at a subsequent Commission meeting.

Project Description. The applicants propose to construct a new 115 kV transmission line, build a new 115 kV substation, and modify associated transmission facilities in the cities of Medina and Plymouth, Hennepin County, Minnesota.

Certificate of Need. The Commission must determine whether the HVTL- is necessary and in the best interest of the state. The Certificate of Need process includes environmental review and public hearings, and typically takes 12 months. The applicants applied for a Certificate of Need on July 2, 2012. The Department of Commerce is responsible for preparing the Environmental Report required for the Certificate of Need proceeding. The Commission is responsible for determining if the proposed transmission line project is needed.

Electronic versions of the Certificate of Need, Environmental Report, prefiled testimony, and other documents relevant to this matter are available for viewing at the Commission's eDockets website:

<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the year "12" and the number "113").

The Certificate of Need and Environmental Report are also available at the public libraries noted below:

Plymouth Public Library
15700 36th Avenue N
Plymouth, Minnesota 55446

Long Lake Library
1865 Wayzata Boulevard W
Long Lake, Minnesota 55365

Conduct of Hearing. Minnesota Statute 216B.243, subd. 4 requires that the Commission hold a public hearing pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 14. The ALJ will conduct the contested case hearings in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, 14.57 to 14.62, the rules of the Office of Administrative Hearings Minn. R. 1400.5100 to 1400.8400; and to the extent that they are not superseded by those rules, the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, Minn.R. 7829.0100 to 7829.3200. The applicable statutes and rules are available on the Office of the Revisor of Statutes webpage at: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov>. Statutes and rules may also be purchased at Minnesota's Bookstore, 660 Olive St., St. Paul, Minn. 55155, or telephone at (651) 297-3000.

At the start of each hearing session, the ALJ will explain the procedural rules for the hearing, including the sequence for providing testimony and questioning witnesses. Members of the public may participate without the necessity of intervening as a party. Those attending the hearing who are uncomfortable with testifying in a public setting, may suggest useful lines of inquiry by submitting questions in writing to the Administrative Law Judge. Representation by legal counsel is permitted but not required. Participation includes: a) offering direct testimony; b) offering testimony or other material in written form at or following the hearing; and c) questioning witnesses.

A transcript of the proceedings will also be available.

Request for Accommodation. Any person who needs an accommodation for a disability in order to participate in the hearing, and any person who requires an interpreter, including a foreign language interpreter, should promptly notify the Office of Administrative Hearings, P.O. Box 64620, 600 North Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620, Phone: (651) 361-7900 (voice) or (651) 361-7878 (TDD).

Continuation of Hearing. The ALJ may elect to recess the hearing and set additional days for hearing, if necessary.

Evidentiary Hearing. The evidentiary hearings for the parties on the Certificate of Need will convene in the Public Utilities Commission Large Hearing Room, 121 7th Place East, St. Paul, Minnesota on March 12, 2013, beginning at 9 AM and shall continue on March 13 and 14, as necessary to complete the presentation of the evidence.

Project Contacts:

Public Utilities Commission. The Commission has designated Mike Kaluzniak, Facilities Planner, as the Public Advisor to facilitate and coordinate public participation in this proceeding. If you would like additional information about the certificate of need process or Commission practice and procedure, please contact Commission staff member Michael Kaluzniak (651-201-2257, Fax: 651-297-7073, mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us). Mr. Kaluzniak may be contacted in writing at: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place E., Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147.

Xcel Energy. Information about this project is available from Xcel Energy. You can direct questions to Paul J Lehman (612-330-7529, paul.lehman@xcelenergy.com). Mr. Lehman may be contacted in writing at: Xcel Energy, 414 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401.

Great River Energy. Information about this project is available from GRE. You can direct questions to Marsha Parlow (763-444-5215, mparlow@GREnergy.com). Ms. Parlow may be contacted in writing at: Great River Energy, 12300 Elm Creek Boulevard, Maple Grove, MN 55369.

This document can be made available in alternative formats; i.e. large print or audio tape by calling (651) 201-2202 (Voice) or 1-800-627-3529 (TTY relay service).