



Energy Facility Permitting
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198
ph 651.296.4026 | fx 651.297.7891
<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities>

Issued: October 10, 2012

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SCOPING MEETINGS

**In the Matter of the Northern States Power Company and Great River Energy
Certificate of Need Application for the
Hollydale 115 kV High Voltage Transmission Line Project
In Plymouth and Medina, Minnesota
PUC Docket E002, ET2/CN-12-113**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Facility Permitting Unit (EFP) will conduct public information and environmental report (ER) scoping meetings at the times and location listed below, on the Certificate of Need application by Northern States Power Company (Xcel Energy) and Great River Energy (applicants) submitted to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for the proposed Hollydale 115 kV high voltage transmission line (HVTL) project in the cities of Plymouth and Medina, Hennepin County, Minnesota pursuant to Minnesota Rules 7849.

The purpose of the meetings is to provide information to the public about the project and to identify alternative ways to meet the stated need for the project that could be studied in an ER that will be prepared by EFP staff.

Transmission line routing is being addressed in a separate docket (E002,ET2/TL-11-152), and will not be the focus of the ER Public Information and Scoping meetings. Information on the transmission line routing process can be found on the Department of Commerce website:

<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=32121>, or the Commission's eDockets website at: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the year "11" and the number "152").

Public Information and Scoping Meetings

<p>Thursday, October 25, 2012 6:00pm Plymouth Creek Center 14800 34th Avenue Plymouth, MN 55447</p>	<p>Friday, October 26, 2012 1:00pm Plymouth Creek Center 14800 34th Avenue Plymouth, MN 55447</p>
<p>Note: Members of the public need only attend one of the two meeting sessions, as the information presented will be identical in both</p>	

During the meetings, EFP staff will give a presentation about the state's high voltage transmission line permitting process, certificate of need process, the proposed project, and how the public can participate. Xcel Energy and Great River Energy (GRE) will have representatives at the public meetings who can answer questions about the proposed project. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions, present comments, and propose issues, impacts and alternatives to be studied in the ER.

Review copies of the route permit application, certificate of need application, permitting process flowcharts, and comment forms will be available at the meetings. Each meeting will offer the same process and information, so interested persons need attend only one of the meetings.

EFP will accept written comments on the scope of the ER through Friday, November 16, 2012. Please include PUC Docket No. CN-12-113 on all comments. Comments should be mailed, emailed, or faxed to:

Suzanne Steinhauer
State Permit Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198
Fax: 651-297-7891
suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us

Comments may also be submitted on the Department of Commerce's energy facility permitting website: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment>

Project Description. The applicants propose removing approximately eight miles of an existing GRE-owned 69 kV overhead transmission line and constructing a new 115 kV overhead transmission line in its place, constructing an additional eight-tenths of a mile of new 115 kV overhead transmission line, constructing a new substation, and modifying associated transmission facilities in the cities of Medina and Plymouth, Hennepin County, Minnesota.

The proposed project is designed to meet the electrical needs of the Plymouth and Medina area. The applicants have evaluated different ways to provide upgraded electrical service in their Certificate of Need application. The applicants state that constructing a new substation, expanding another substation, and connecting the two substations with a 115 kilovolt transmission line, is the best approach to meeting the electric needs of the project area.

REVIEW PROCESS

Certificate of Need. The Commission must determine whether the HVTLs are 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 EFP is responsible for administering the environmental review process for the Commission. The Commission is responsible for determining if the transmission lines proposed are needed.

Environmental Report and Public Comment Period. The environmental review process includes public information/scoping meetings and the preparation of an environmental review document, the ER. The ER is a written document that describes the human and environmental impacts of the proposed project, alternatives to the project and methods to mitigate anticipated adverse impacts. The ER must be prepared before the Commission can make a decision on the Certificate of Need application.

Public Hearing. After completion of the ER, a public hearing will be held. The hearing will be presided over by an administrative law judge (ALJ) from the Office of Administrative Hearings. Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak at the hearing, present evidence, ask questions, and submit comments. Notice of the public hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who register their names on the EFP project mailing list (see below).

Upon completion of the environmental review and hearing process, the record compiled for the Certificate of Need proceeding will be presented to the Commission for a final decision. This review process is the only process during which alternatives to the project will be considered, including the “no build” alternative and alternatives related to the size, type, timing, and configuration of the project.

Eminent Domain. If issued a Certificate of Need and route permit by the Commission, the applicants may exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire the land necessary for the project pursuant to Minnesota Statute 216E.12 and Minnesota Statute 117.

Project Mailing List. Persons should contact the EFP staff member (noted above) or register online at: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#mailing> to get their name on the project mailing list, Docket number E002, ET2/CN-12-113. Persons on the mailing list will receive notices of meetings/hearings and notices of document availability for this project. **If you do not register to be on the mailing list you will not receive correspondence regarding this project after this notice.** Registration to the project mailing list is voluntary and may be done at any time.

Project Documents. A more detailed description of the proposed project is contained in the applicants' certificate of need application. An electronic version of this document is available on 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 route permit applications 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

Project Contacts. The EFP has designated staff member Suzanne Steinhauer (651-296-2888, suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us) to administrate the environmental review process for this project. You may contact him at: Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting Unit, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198. Other contact information: Toll-Free: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-297-7891 or TTY: Minnesota Relay Services, 1-800-627-3529, and ask for the Commerce.

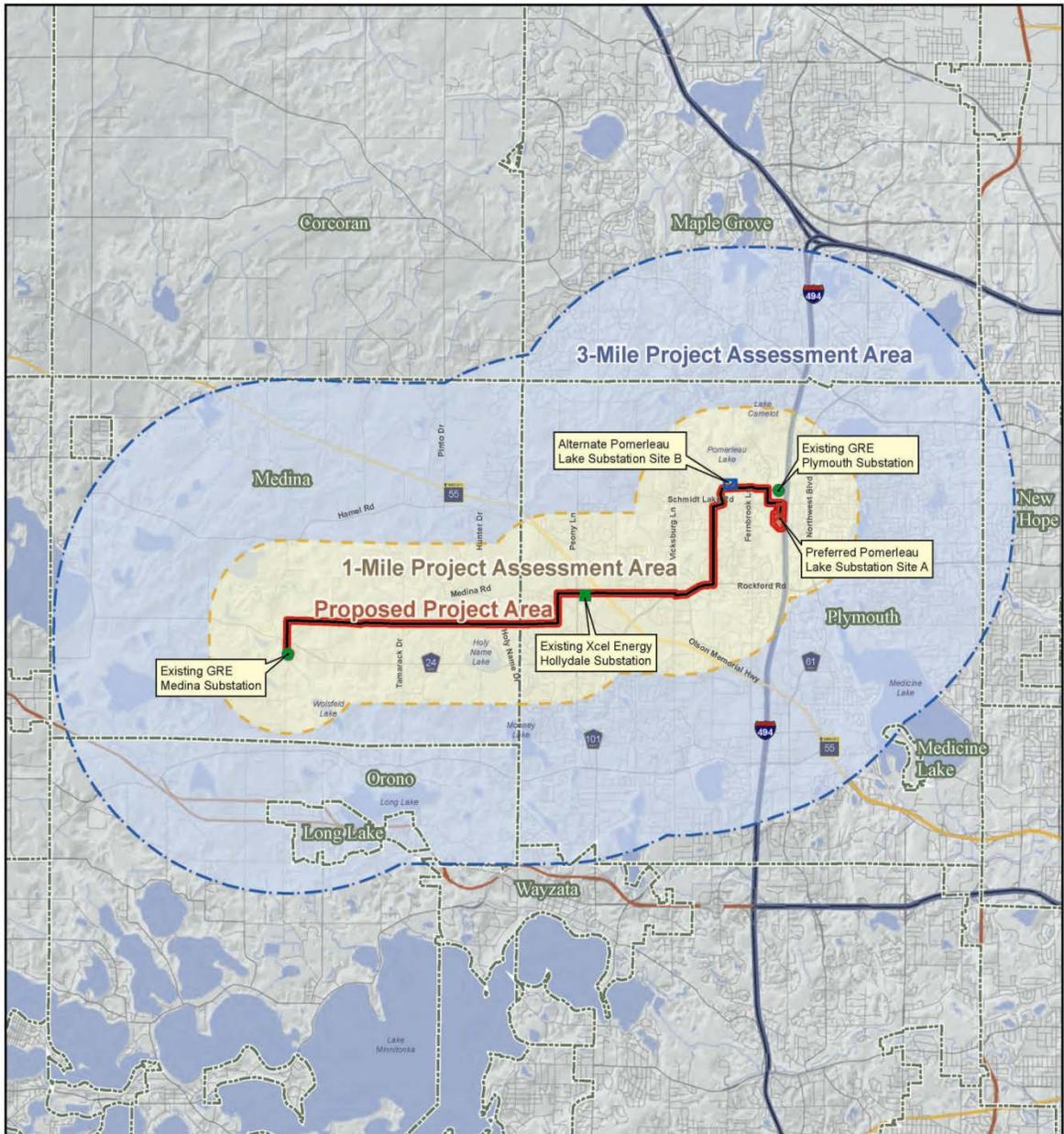
Public Utilities Commission. If you would like additional information about the certificate of need process or Commission practice and procedure, please contact Commission staff member Michael Kaluzniak (651-201-2257, Fax: 651-297-7073, mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us). Mr. Kaluzniak may be contacted in writing 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, (MP 8), Minneapolis, MN 55401.

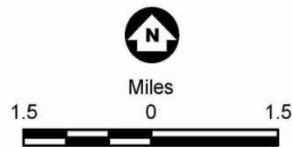
Great River Energy. Information about this project is available from GRE. You can direct questions to Marsha Parlow (763-444-5215, mparlow@GREnergy.com). Ms. Parlow may be contacted in writing at: Great River Energy, 12300 Elm Creek Boulevard, Maple Grove, MN 55369.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651.296.0406 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through Minnesota Relay at 1.800.627.3529 or by dialing 711.

Xcel Energy and Great River Energy Hollydale 115 kV HVTL Project Area



- Existing Xcel Energy Substation
- Existing GRE Substation
- ~ Proposed Route
- ▨ Preferred Pomerleau Lake Substation Site A
- ▨ Alternate Pomerleau Lake Substation Site B
- ⊞ Municipality
- 👉 Proposed Project Area
- 👉 1-Mile Project Assessment Area
- 👉 3-Mile Project Assessment Area



ASSESSMENT ZONES Hollydale Project