



Burl Haar, Executive Secretary



**Minnesota Public Utilities Commission**

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSESSMENT SCOPING MEETINGS**

*Issued: February 4, 2013*

**In the Matter of the Application of Minnesota Power for a Route Permit for the 39 Line 115  
Kilovolt High Voltage Transmission Line (HVTL) Project in St. Louis County**

**PUC Docket Number:** E015/TL-12-1123

Minnesota Power has submitted a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for its proposed 39 Line 115 kilovolt (kV) High Voltage Transmission Project (or 39 Line Reroute Project).

The Commission will conduct a public information and environmental assessment (EA) scoping meeting jointly with the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Facility Permitting unit (DOC EFP) on the 39 Line Reroute Project at the times and locations listed below.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to the public about the state's high-voltage transmission line route permitting process and the proposed project. Following brief presentations by Commission staff and DOC EFP staff, members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions, provide comments, and identify potential impacts and route alternatives to be considered in the scope of the EA.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SCOPING MEETINGS**

**Monday, February 25, 2013**

Afternoon Session – 2:00pm

Evening Session – 6:00pm

**Leonidas Community Center**

**141 2<sup>nd</sup> Street North**

**Eveleth, MN 55734**

Each public meeting will offer the same information.

Interested persons need attend only one meeting.

**Comments on the scope of the Environmental Assessment will be accepted until 4:30pm on  
Monday, March 11, 2013.** Please include the Commission's docket number in all communications.

Comments should be mailed, emailed, or faxed to:

Bill Storm, Environmental Manager  
Minnesota Department of Commerce – Energy Facility Permitting  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500 | St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198  
Fax: 651-297-7891 | email: [bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us)

Comments may also be submitted on the DOC EFP website: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities>.

### **Project and Process Information**

**Project Description:** Minnesota Power proposes to construct an approximate 3.0-mile-long, 115 kV high voltage transmission line (HVTL) in St. Louis County, near the city of Eveleth. Minnesota Power would also, at the request of United Taconite, remove approximately 1.9 miles of the existing 39 Line that runs through United Taconite's north pit.

**Review Process:** Minnesota Statute § 216E.03 provides that no person may construct a high voltage transmission line without a Route Permit from the Public Utilities Commission (Commission). The application is being processed under the Alternative Permitting Process outlined in Minnesota Rules 7850.2800-3900. The Alternative Process allots the Commission six months to reach a final decision on the route permit application from the date of the formal application acceptance (in this case, January 16, 2013). The Commission may extend this deadline for up to three months.

**Information and Scoping Meeting:** The purpose of these meetings is to provide information to the public about the project and to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on issues and alternatives to study in the EA that will be prepared by the DOC EFP staff.

**Environmental Document:** The DOC EFP will solicit public comments at this meeting on the scope of the EA. The purpose of the EA is to provide information on the potential human and environmental effects of the proposed project, discuss possible alternative routes or route segments (if any), and examine potential mitigating measures for anticipated effects.

**Public Hearing:** Following the release of the EA a public hearing will be held. 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 on the Project Contact List, below.

Upon completion of the environmental review and hearing process, the Commission will make a final decision on whether to issue a route permit to Minnesota Power.

**Eminent Domain:** If issued a route permit by the Commission, the Applicant may exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire land for this project pursuant to Minnesota Statute § 216E.12.

### How to Learn More About the 39 Line Project

**Project Mailing List:** Persons may contact the Environmental Manager or Public Advisor (noted below) or visit <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/> to sign up for the Project Contact List. Persons on the mailing list will receive notices of meetings and notices of document availability for this project. **If you do not sign up for the mailing list you will not receive correspondence about this project after this notice.** Signing up for the project mailing list is voluntary and may be done at any time.

**Full Case Record:** All documents filed in this docket are available on the Commission’s website at [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us), select “Search eDockets,” enter the year (12) and the docket number (1123), select “Search.”

**DOC EFP Project Webpage:** <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=32972>

**Subscribe to the Docket:** Receive notification when new documents are filed in this docket at [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us), select “Subscribe to a Docket,” and follow the prompts.

**Public Libraries:** The route permit application is available at the following public libraries:

Eveleth Public Library 614 Pierce Street Eveleth, MN 55734 218.744.7499	Mountain Iron Public Library 8586 Enterprise Drive South Mountain Iron, MN 55768 218.735.8625
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### Project Contacts

**Commission Public Advisor:** Tracy Smetana | [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us) |  
Phone: 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782.

**Commission Staff Analyst:** Tricia DeBleeckere | [tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us](mailto:tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us) |  
Phone: 651-201-2254

**DOC EFP Environmental Manager:** Bill Storm | [bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us) |  
Phone: 651-296-9535 | Toll-Free: 1-800-657-3794 | Fax: 651-297-7891

**Minnesota Power Project Contact:** Daniel McCourtney, [dmccourtney@allete.com](mailto:dmccourtney@allete.com) |  
Phone: 218-355-3515

*This document can be made available in alternative formats (e.g., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with hearing loss or speech disabilities may call us through Minnesota Relay at 1-800-627-3529 or by dialing 711.*

*If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in these public meetings (e.g. sign language, foreign language interpreter, large print materials), please contact the Commission at 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782 one week in advance of the hearing.*