



Burl Haar
Executive Secretary

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD ON COMPLETENESS OF APPLICATION

Issued: December 12, 2012

**In the Matter of the Application of Minnesota Power for a Route Permit for the 39 Line
115 Kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Project in St. Louis County
Docket No. E015/TL-12-1123**

On November 30, 2012, Minnesota Power (MP) filed a route permit application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for the 39 Line Transmission Project (Project) pursuant to the alternative permitting procedures in Minnesota Rules 7850.2800 to 7850.3900 and Minnesota Statutes Section 216E.04.

The proposed Project is to construct an approximately 3.0 mile, 115 kV high voltage transmission line (HVTL) in St. Louis County near the city of Eveleth. MP also plans to remove about 1.9 miles of existing 39 Line that runs through United Taconite's north pit. The 39 Line Project is proposed to provide a new source of power to the surrounding area as a result of United Taconite's plans to extend its mining operation located west of the city of Eveleth.

MP stated the Project qualifies for review under the Alternative Route Permitting Process authorized by Minnesota Statutes Section 216E.04, subd. 2(3) and Minnesota Rules 7850.2800, Subp. 1(C) because it is a HVTL between 100 and 200 kV. Accordingly, MP is following the provision of the Alternative Route Permitting Process outlined in Minnesota Rules 7850.2800 to 7850.3900 for this Project. MP plans to begin construction in the summer of 2013 and an in-service-date of winter 2013.

Comment Period. The Commission will consider initial comments on the following:

- whether the application contains the contents required by Minnesota Rule 7850.3100;
- whether there are any contested issues of fact with respect to the representations made in the application;
- the appointment of a public advisor; and
- the appointment of an advisory task force.

Initial comments will be accepted until **4:30 p.m. on December 21, 2012**, reply comments will be accepted until **4:30 p.m. on December 31, 2012**.

Public comments may be submitted via PublicComments.puc@state.mn.us or by mail to: Burl Haar, Executive Secretary, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147. Parties, agencies and other entities are required to use the eFiling system accessible from the Commission's website.

www.puc.state.mn.us

Project Information. The application and other project related documents are available on the Commission's eDockets system at www.puc.state.mn.us, click "Search eDockets" and enter docket number 12-1123. Questions may be directed to Commission staff, Tricia DeBleeckere, at 651-201-2254 or tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us.

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