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Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**REVISED NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

*Issued: August 20, 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**

**Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Numbers:** E-015/TL-12-1123

**Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) Docket Number:** 68-2500-30811

**Date:** September 4, 2013

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** Leonidas Community Center  
201 1<sup>st</sup> St. N.  
Eveleth MN 55734

**Hearing Information:**

- Staff from the Public Utilities Commission, Department of Commerce (DOC), and Minnesota Power will be available to answer questions about the project and the process.
- Citizens will have the opportunity to offer oral comments, written comments, or both into the record.
- Citizens who have questions, but do not want to ask questions orally, may submit questions in writing to the Administrative Law Judge.
- The hearing will last until everyone has the opportunity to offer comments or ask questions.

**Topics for Public Comment:**

- What are the environmental and human impacts of each route under consideration and how can these impacts be addressed?
- Are there other project-related issues or concerns?

**Public Comment Period:** The comment period continues after the public hearing. The comment period ends on **September 18, 2013 at 4:30pm.**

**Submit Public Comments:** The Honorable Jeanne M. Cochran  
Office of Administrative Hearings  
Email: [RouteComments.OAH@state.mn.us](mailto:RouteComments.OAH@state.mn.us)  
Fax: 651-361-7936  
P.O. Box 64620  
600 North Robert Street  
St. Paul MN 55164-0620

**Initial Arguments and Analysis Period Closes October 4, 2013 at 4:30pm**

- Minnesota Power, the Department of Commerce and other interested persons may submit initial arguments and analysis.

**Reply Arguments and Analysis Period Closes October 18, 2013 at 4:30pm**

- Minnesota Power, the Department of Commerce and other interested persons may respond to initial arguments and analysis.

Please include the PUC and OAH Docket Numbers (above) in all communications.

### **Project Description**

Minnesota Power proposes to:

- Build an approximately 3 mile long, 115 kV transmission line near the city of Eveleth
- Remove approximately 1.9 miles of transmission line in United Taconite's north pit

### **Process Information**

Before the project can be built, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) must approve a route permit. Minnesota Power's route permit application was accepted in January 2013. The Commission's decision-making process takes six to nine months.

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 address impacts. The environmental assessment was issued in July 2013.

Judge Cochran will use information gathered at the public hearing and during the comment period to write a report for the Commission. 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 at a separate meeting, expected by winter 2013.

**Eminent Domain:** If issued a route permit by the Commission, Minnesota Power 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=32972>

**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."

**Project Mailing List:** Sign up to receive notices about this project. Contact the Public Advisor (see below) or visit <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#mailing> to sign up for the project mailing list.

**Public Libraries:** The route permit application and environmental assessment are available at the following public libraries:

- Eveleth Public Library, 614 Pierce Street, Eveleth MN 55734
- Mountain Iron Public Library, 8586 Enterprise Drive South, Mountain Iron MN 55768

## Project Contacts

### Public Utilities Commission Public Advisor

Tracy Smetana at [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us), 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782

### Public Utilities Commission Staff Analyst

Tricia DeBleekere at [tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us](mailto:tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2254

### Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager

Bill Storm at [bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us), 651-539-1844 or 1-800-657-3794

### Minnesota Power Project Contact

Daniel McCourtney at [dmccourtney@allete.com](mailto:dmccourtney@allete.com) or 218-355-3515

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.