



Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

*Issued: August 26, 2013*

**In the Matter of the Application of Xcel Energy for a Route Permit for the Kohlman Lake to Goose Lake 115 kV Transmission Line Upgrade Project in Ramsey County, Minnesota**

**PUC Docket Number:** E-002/TL-12-1151

**OAH Docket Number:** 11-2500-30809

**Date:** September 10, 2013

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

**Location:** Best Western Plus White Bear Country Inn  
4940 Highway 61 North  
White Bear Lake, Minnesota

**Hearing Information:**

- Staff from the Public Utilities Commission (Commission), Department of Commerce (DOC), and Xcel Energy will be available to answer questions about the project and the permit review process.
- Citizens will have the opportunity to offer oral comments and written comments into the record.
- The hearing will last until everyone has the opportunity to offer comments or ask questions.

**Topics for Public Comment:**

- What are the human and environmental 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 until **September 20, 2013 at 4:30 p.m.**

**Submit Public Comments:** The Honorable Barbara L. Neilson  
Office of Administrative Hearings  
P.O. Box 64620  
600 North Robert Street  
St. Paul, MN 55164  
Fax: 651-361-7936  
Email: [routecomments.oah@state.mn.us](mailto:routecomments.oah@state.mn.us)

The Office of Administrative Hearings docket number (11-2500-30809) should be included in the subject line of the email and the sender's email address and a daytime telephone number should be included in the text of the message.

**Reply Arguments and Analysis:** The applicant, Department of Commerce, and other interested persons may file reply arguments and analysis until 4:30 p.m., October 8, 2013.

### **Project Description**

Xcel Energy has proposed to upgrade an existing transmission line running between the Kohlman Lake Substation and the Goose Lake Substation from a single circuit 115 kV to a double circuit 115/115 kV. The project is located in Ramsey County in White Bear Lake Township and the cities of Maplewood, Vadnais Heights, and White Bear Lake.

Specifically, the project involves: 1) removing an approximately 2.8-mile segment of single circuit 115 kV transmission line between the Kohlman Lake substation and Goose Lake substation; 2) constructing approximately 2.8 miles of new double circuit 115/115 kV transmission line in approximately the same alignment as the line to be removed; and 3) associated modifications to the Kohlman Lake substation and Goose Lake substation.

### **Process Information**

Before the proposed project can be built, Xcel Energy must obtain a route permit from the Commission. Xcel submitted a route permit application for the proposed project under the alternative permitting process that was accepted by the Commission on March 15, 2013. Under the alternative process, the Commission has six to nine months from the date an application is accepted to make a decision on whether to issue a permit.

The Department of Commerce is preparing an environmental assessment for the proposed project. An environmental assessment provides information on the potential human and environmental impacts of a proposed project, possible mitigation for identified impacts, and any alternatives. The environmental assessment will be available prior to the public hearing.

Information gathered at the public hearing and during the comment period will be used by Judge Neilson to write a report for the Commission. The report will include findings, conclusions, and recommendations on the merits of the proposed project and a preferred route alternative, and any conditions or provisions for the proposed route permit.

After receiving the Judge's report, the Commission will make a final decision on the permit at a separate meeting, anticipated in December 2013.

## How to Learn More

**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 (1151), select "Search."

**Department of Commerce Website:** Information is also available on the Department of Commerce website at <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=33013>.

**Public Libraries:** A printed copy of the route permit application and environmental assessment is available for review at the following libraries:

- Ramsey County Public Library, 2180 North Hamline Avenue, Roseville, MN 55113
- White Bear Lake Public Library, 4698 Clark Avenue, White Bear Lake, MN 55110

**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.

**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.

## Project Contacts

### Public Utilities Commission

Tracy Smetana, Public Advisor | [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us) | 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782  
Scott Ek, Energy Facility Planner | [scott.ek@state.mn.us](mailto:scott.ek@state.mn.us) | 651-201-2255

### Department of Commerce

Ray Kirsch, Environmental Review Manager | [raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us](mailto:raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us) | 651-539-1841

### Xcel Energy

Sage Tauber, Permitting Analyst | [sage.tauber@xcelenergy.com](mailto:sage.tauber@xcelenergy.com) | 612-330-2909

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 651-361-7832 (voice) or the Public Utilities Commission at 651-296-0406 (voice) at least one week in advance of the meeting. Persons with hearing loss or speech disabilities may call us through their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.