



Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

STATE OF MINNESOTA
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION & DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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

Issued: March 20, 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

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) and Minnesota Department of Commerce will hold a public information and environmental assessment scoping meeting on the route permit application by Northern States Power Company (Xcel Energy) for its proposed Kohlman Lake to Goose Lake 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line project.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to the public about the proposed project and the state's high-voltage transmission line route permitting process. The meeting is also an opportunity for members of the public to participate in the development of the scope of the environmental assessment by providing comments on issues and alternatives to be reviewed.

Public Information and Scoping Meeting

Tuesday, April 23, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

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

Comments on the scope of the environmental assessment will be accepted until Friday, May 10, 2013. Comments may be sent by mail, email, fax, or online as follows:

Ray Kirsch, Environmental Review Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
Email: raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us; Fax: 651-297-7891
Online: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment>

Please include PUC Docket No. TL-12-1151 in all communications.

Project Description. Xcel Energy is proposing 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 proposed project is located in Ramsey County in White Bear Lake Township and the cities of Maplewood, Vadnais Heights, and White Bear Lake.

Specifically, the proposed 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.

The new double circuit transmission line will be constructed with steel poles ranging in height from 80 to 100 feet. Xcel Energy proposes to use a mix of new and existing rights-of-way for the project. Where new right-of-way is necessary, Xcel Energy is proposing a width of 75 feet. Xcel Energy anticipates a summer 2015 in-service date for the project.

Review Process. Under the Power Plant Siting Act (Minn. Stat. § 216E), a route permit from the Commission is required to construct a high voltage transmission line. Xcel Energy filed a route permit application for the project on January 17, 2013.

Environmental Review. The Department of Commerce staff is responsible for conducting the environmental review for route permit applications filed with the Commission. Environmental review for a project of this size requires the preparation of an environmental assessment. The environmental assessment will examine the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed transmission line route and any alternative routes, as well as potential mitigative measures.

Public Hearing. When the environmental assessment is complete, a public hearing will be held in the project area. The hearing will be presided over by an administrative law judge 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 those who sign up for the project mailing list (see below).

Upon completion of the hearing process, the Commission will make a final decision on whether to issue a route permit to Xcel Energy. The Commission's decision is expected by September 2013. If issued a route permit by the Commission, Xcel Energy may exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire land for this project pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216E.12.

How to Learn More

Project Mailing List. Persons may contact the Public Advisor or the Environmental Review Manager (see below) or visit <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#mailing> to sign up for the project mailing 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 project 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.

Project Information. All documents filed in this docket, including an electronic version of the route permit application, are available on the on the Commission's website at www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Search eDockets," enter the year (12) and the docket number (1151), select "Search," and on the Department of Commerce website: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=33013>.

Public Libraries. A printed copy of the route permit application is also 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

Subscribe to the Docket. Receive email notification when new documents are filed in this docket at www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Subscribe to a Docket," and follow the prompts.

Project Contacts

If you have questions or would like more information please contact:

Public Utilities Commission Public Advisor

Tracy Smetana, 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782, consumer.puc@state.mn.us

Public Utilities Commission Staff Analyst

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Ray Kirsch, 651-296-7588 or 1-800-657-3794, raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us

Xcel Energy Permitting Analyst

Sage Tauber, 612-330-2909, sage.tauber@xcelenergy.com.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., 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 at least one week in advance of the meeting.

Project Overview Map – Kohlman Lake to Goose Lake 115 kV Transmission Line Project

