



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Department of Commerce



Issued: March 24, 2014

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS

In the Matter of the Certificate of Need and Route Permit Applications by ITC Midwest LLC for the Minnesota to Iowa 345 kV Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Jackson, Martin and Faribault Counties

PUC Docket Nos. ET6675/CN-12-1053 and ET6675/TL-12-1337

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) has released the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the proposed Minnesota to Iowa 345 kV transmission line project in the counties of Jackson, Martin and Faribault. The Department will conduct public information meetings at the following locations and times to provide opportunities for public comment on the DEIS:

<p>Fairmont Tuesday, April 22, 2014 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Knights of Columbus Hall 920 East 10th Street Fairmont, MN 56031</p>	<p>Jackson Wednesday, April 23, 2014 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>National Guard Armory 108 County Road 51 Jackson, MN 56143</p>	<p>Blue Earth Thursday, April 24, 2014 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Hamilton Hall 209 South Main Street Blue Earth, MN 56013</p>
--	--	--

Department staff will make a brief presentation at each meeting. Following the presentation, members of the public will have opportunity to provide comments on the DEIS. Each meeting will offer the same information and opportunity to comment.

Comments are sought on information that needs to be clarified or included in the DEIS to ensure that the final EIS is complete and accurate. Comments received on the DEIS will be used by the Department to prepare a final EIS for the project.

The Department will accept written comments on the DEIS through **Friday, May 9, 2014**. Please include the docket numbers CN-12-1053 and TL-12-1337 on all comments. Comments should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:

Ray Kirsch, Environmental Review Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101
Fax: 651-539-0109 | raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us

Comments can also be submitted electronically at: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities>.

DEIS Availability. The DEIS can be viewed on the Department's energy facility permitting website: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=33080>.

The DEIS can also be viewed through the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's website: www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Search eDockets," enter the year ("12") and the docket number ("1053" or "1337"), and select "Search."

The DEIS will be available for viewing at the following public libraries:

- Blue Earth Public Library, 124 West 7th Street, Blue Earth MN 56013
- Fairmont Public Library, 110 North Park, Fairmont MN 56031
- Jackson County Library, 311 3rd Street, Jackson MN 56143
- Lakefield Public Library, 410 Main Street, Lakefield MN 56150
- Muir Library, 36 Main Street North, Winnebago MN 56098
- Sherburn Public Library, 27 North Main Street, Sherburn MN 56171

Review copies of the DEIS, as well as a limited number of electronic copies (on CD), will be available at the public information meetings.

Project Description. ITC Midwest LLC (ITCM) has proposed to construct approximately 73 miles of new 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line in southern Minnesota, in the counties of Jackson, Martin and Faribault. The proposed transmission line would proceed from the existing Lakefield substation near Lakefield, Minn., eastward to a new Huntley substation near Winnebago, Minn., and then southward to the Iowa border. The project includes expansion of the Lakefield substation, construction of the new Huntley substation, and the relocation of several segments of existing 161 kV and 69 kV transmission lines.

State of Minnesota Review Process. In order to construct the proposed transmission line project, ITCM must obtain two approvals from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) – a certificate of need (CN) and a route permit.

Environmental Review. Department Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) staff is responsible for conducting environmental review for CN and route permit applications submitted to the Commission. EERA staff has prepared the above-noted EIS to meet these responsibilities.

The EIS evaluates the potential human and environmental impacts of ITCM's proposed project and possible mitigation measures, including route alternatives and route variations. Additionally, the EIS evaluates potential alternatives to the project itself. The EIS does not advocate or state a preference for a specific route or route alternative, or for an alternative to the project. The EIS analyzes and compares potential impacts and mitigation measures such that citizens, local governments, agencies, and the Commission can work from a common set of facts. The EIS is issued in draft form so that it can be improved through public comment.

Public Hearings. Public hearings on ITCM's CN and route permit applications will be held in the project area the week of May 12, 2014, and will be presided over by Administrative Law Judge James E. LaFave from the Office of Administrative Hearings. Notice of the hearings will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons on the project mailing list. Interested

persons will have an opportunity at the hearings to ask questions, provide comments, submit evidence, and advocate for the route(s) that they believe are most appropriate for the project. An evidentiary hearing will be held in St. Paul, Minn., the week of May 19, 2014.

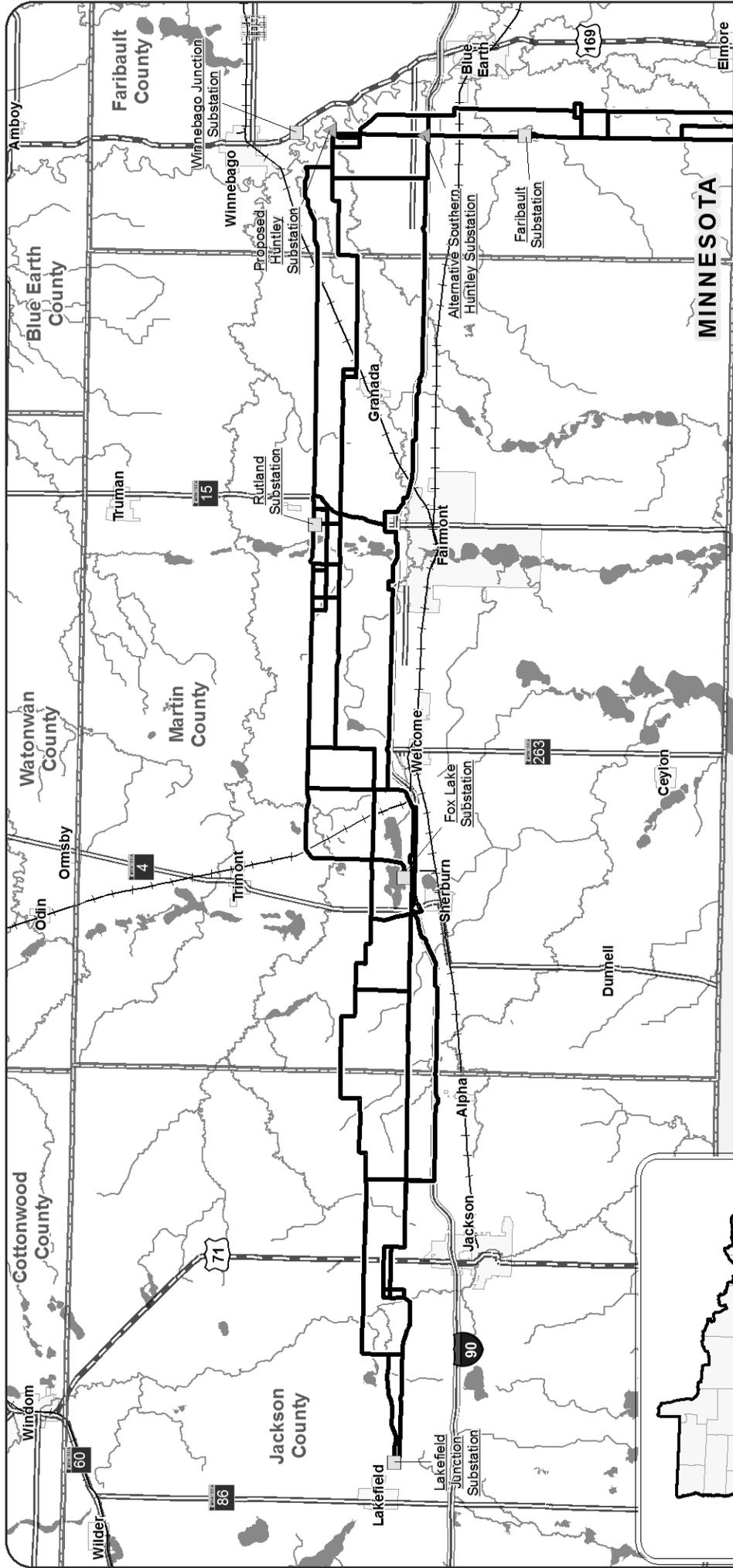
Judge LaFave will submit a report to the Commission which includes findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations on ITCM's applications. The Commission will use the report in deciding whether to grant a CN and route permit for the project.

Project Mailing List. To sign up for the project mailing list, contact the environmental review manager or public advisor (see below) or sign up on-line at: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=33080>.

Subscribe to the Docket. In addition to the project mailing list, interested persons can receive email notification every time new documents are filed in the CN and route permit dockets for this project by signing up at: www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Subscribe to a Docket," and follow the prompts. Note – subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

Project Contacts. If you have questions or would like more information, contact environmental review manager Ray Kirsch (651-539-1841, raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us) or public advisor Tracy Smetana (651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782, consumer.puc@state.mn.us).

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-539-1530.

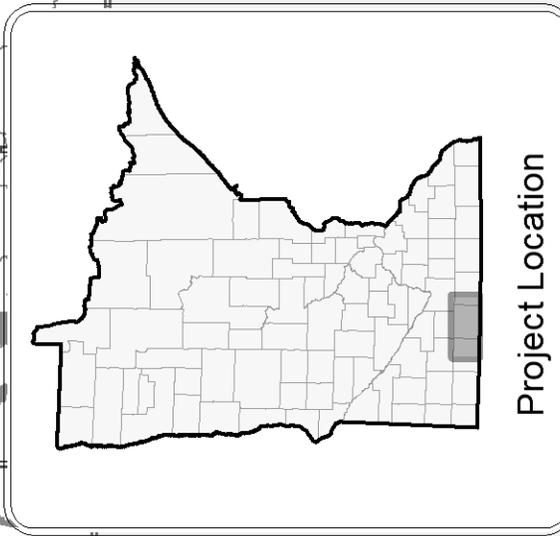


IOWA

MINNESOTA

ITCM Minnesota - Iowa 345 kV Transmission Line Project

-  Routing Options
-  Evaluated in EIS
-  Existing Substation
-  Potential New Substation



ESRI, FORGIS, ADOBE, 10/2/2014 2:34:07 PM, F:\1010\GIS\B23451012\345KV\ITCM_Minnesota_EIS\Map.mxd, E:\SIT\esri\... Notices\EIS_Minnesota_Map.mxd User: admin