



Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary  
Public Utilities Commission



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT SCOPING MEETINGS

*Issued: June 24, 2013*

**In the Matter of the Applications of ITC Midwest LLC for a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit for the Minnesota-Iowa 345 kV Transmission Line Project in Jackson, Martin, and Faribault Counties, Minnesota**

**Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Numbers:** ET-6675/CN-12-1053  
ET-6675/TL-12-1337

<p><b>Fairmont</b> <b>Tuesday, July 16, 2013</b> 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Knights of Columbus Hall 920 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street Fairmont, MN 56031</p>	<p><b>Jackson</b> <b>Wednesday, July 17, 2013</b> 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Minnesota West Community and Technical College 401 West Street Jackson, MN 56143</p>	<p><b>Blue Earth</b> <b>Thursday, July 18, 2013</b> 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Hamilton Hall 209 South Main Street Blue Earth, MN 56013</p>
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**Meeting Information:**

- Citizens will have the opportunity to offer oral and/or written comments into the record.
- Staff from the Public Utilities Commission, Department of Commerce, and ITC Midwest LLC (ITC) will be available to answer questions about the project and the process.
- The same information will be presented at each meeting.
- Each meeting will last until everyone at the meeting has the opportunity to speak.
- Comments received at the meeting and during the comment period will be used to develop the environmental impact statement for this project.

**Topics Open for Comment:**

- What human and environmental impacts of the proposed transmission line and facilities should be studied in the environmental impact statement prepared for this project?
- Are there any specific methods to address these impacts that should be studied in the environmental impact statement?

- Are there any alternative routes or route segments that should be considered to address these impacts?
- What alternatives to the proposed project should be studied in the environmental impact statement?

**Comment Period:**

- The comment period continues after this meeting, through **August 2, 2013 at 4:30pm.**

**Submit Public Comments:** Ray Kirsch, Environmental Review Manager

Minnesota Department of Commerce

85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500

St. Paul MN 55101

Email: [raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us](mailto:raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us)

Fax: 651-297-7891

Online: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment>

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

## Project Description

ITC Midwest proposes to:

- Build approximately 75 miles of new 345 kV transmission line
- Expand the existing Lakefield substation
- Build a new Huntley substation to replace the existing Winnebago substation
- Move several segments of existing 161 kV and 69 kV transmission line to connect to the new Huntley substation

## Process Information

Before the project can be built, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) must approve a certificate of need and a route permit. ITC submitted the certificate of need application in March 2013 and the route permit application was accepted in June 2013. The Commission's decision-making process takes about twelve months.

The Department of Commerce will prepare an environmental impact statement for this project. The environmental impact statement will analyze the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives to the project, as well as ways to address impacts.

After the draft environmental impact statement is issued, there will be an opportunity for public review and comment, including public meetings. The Department of Commerce will respond to substantive comments and include them in the final environmental impact statement.

After the draft environmental impact statement is issued, there will be public hearings. Citizens will have the opportunity to speak at the hearings, ask questions, and submit comments.

An Administrative Law Judge will use information gathered at the public hearings 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 Commission will make final decisions on this project at a separate meeting, expected by spring 2014.

**Eminent Domain:** If issued a route permit by the Commission, ITC Midwest 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=33080>

**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 (*Ex. 12*) and the docket number (*Ex. 1337*), select "Search."

**Subscribe to the Docket:** Receive email 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 Mailing List:** 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 certificate of need and route permit applications are available at the following public libraries:

- Blue Earth Public Library, 124 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Blue Earth MN 56013
- Fairmont Public Library, 110 North Park, Fairmont MN 56031
- Jackson County Library, 311 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

## 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**

Scott Ek at [scott.ek@state.mn.us](mailto:scott.ek@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2255

### **Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager**

Ray Kirsch at [raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us](mailto:raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us), 651-296-7588 (new number July 1, 2013 is 651-539-1841) or 1-800-657-3794

### **ITC Midwest Project Contact**

David Grover at [dgrover@itctransco.com](mailto:dgrover@itctransco.com) or 651-222-1000 Ext. 2308

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.

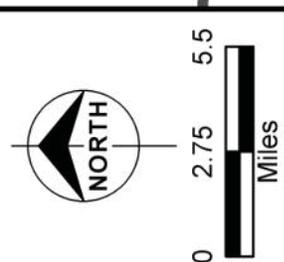
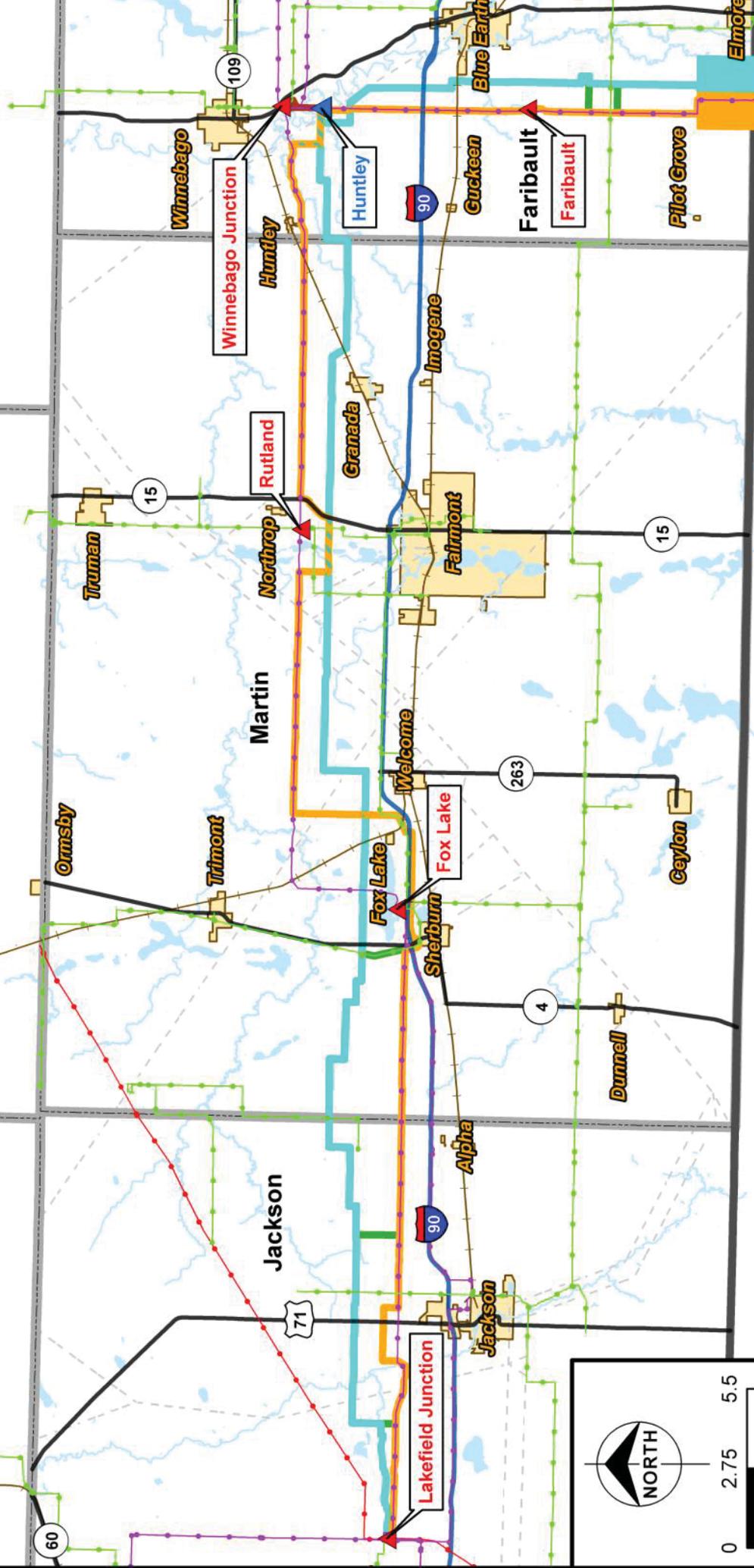
If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in these public meetings (e.g. sign language, foreign language interpreter, large print materials), please contact the Commission at 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782 at least one week in advance of the meeting.



Cottonwood

Watonwan

Blue Earth



- Legend**
- Route A
  - Route B
  - Connector Segment
  - Associated Facilities
  - Railroad
  - Existing Substation
  - Proposed Substation
  - Existing 69 kV Lines
  - Existing 161 kV Lines
  - Existing 345 kV Lines
  - City
  - County Boundary
  - State Boundary
  - Existing Pipeline



ITC Midwest  
 Minnesota-Iowa  
 345 kV Transmission Project  
 Route Overview