Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary
Public Utilities Commission

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Energy Facility Permitting
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCOPING MEETING

Issued: June 3, 2013

In the Matter of the Application of Minnesota Power for a Route Permit for the Deer River High Voltage Transmission Line Project in Itasca County

Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Number: E015/TL-13-68

Date: June 19, 2013

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: White Oak Inn & Suites
201 4th Avenue NW
Deer River MN 56636

Meeting Information:

- Citizens will have the opportunity to ask questions about the proposed project and to offer oral and/or written comments into the record.
- 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.
- Comments received at the meeting and during the comment period will be used to develop the environmental assessment that will be prepared for the proposed project.
- The meeting will last until everyone at the meeting has the opportunity to speak or until the scheduled end time, whichever comes first.

Topics Open for Comment:

- What environmental and human impacts of the proposed transmission line should be studied in the environmental assessment prepared for this project?

- Are there any specific strategies to address these impacts that should be studied in the environmental assessment?
- Are there any alternative routes or route segments that should be considered to address these impacts?

Comment Period:

- The comment period continues after this meeting, through **July 3, 2013 at 4:30pm**.

Submit Public Comments: Suzanne Steinhauer, Environmental Review Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul MN 55101
Email: suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us
Fax: 651-297-7891
Online: http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment

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

Project Description

Minnesota Power proposes to:

- Build approximately one mile of new 115kV transmission line
- Build approximately 0.3 miles of new 230 kV transmission line
- Replace its existing Deer River substation with the new Zemple substation at the same location
- Rebuild approximately 0.9 miles of an existing 115kV transmission line
- Remove an existing 7.5 mile 115 kV transmission line

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 May 2013. The Commission's decision-making process takes about nine months.

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

After the environmental assessment is issued, there will be a public hearing. Citizens will have the opportunity to speak at the hearing, ask questions, and submit comments.

An Administrative Law Judge 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 Commission will make a final decision on this project at a separate meeting, expected by February 2014.

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=33156

Full Case Record: All documents filed in this docket are available on the Commission's website at www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Search eDockets," enter the year (*13*) and the docket number (*68*), select "Search."

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 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 is available at the following public library:

- Grand Rapids Area Library, 140 NE 2nd Street, Grand Rapids MN 55744

Project Contacts

Public Utilities Commission Public Advisor

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

Public Utilities Commission Staff Analyst

Tricia DeBleeckere at tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us or 651-201-2254

Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager

Suzanne Steinhauer at suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us, 651-296-2888 or 1-800-657-3794

Minnesota Power Project Contact

Daniel McCourtney at dmccourtney@allete.com or 218-355-3515

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.