



Burl W. Haar

Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Issued: December 3, 2013

In the Matter of the Application of Minnesota Power for a Route Permit for the Deer River 115 Kilovolt High Voltage Transmission Line (HVTL) Project in Itasca County

Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Number: E-015/TL-13-68

Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) Docket Number: 60-2500-30781

Date: January 6, 2014

Time: 6:00 p.m.

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

Hearing Information:

- 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.
- Citizens will have the opportunity to offer oral comments, written comments, or both into the record.
- Citizens who have questions, but do not want to ask questions orally, may submit questions in writing to the Administrative Law Judge.
- The hearing will last until everyone has the opportunity to offer comments or ask questions.

Topics for Public Comment:

- What are the costs and benefits of the proposed transmission line?
- What are the environmental and human impacts of the 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. The comment period ends on **January 20, 2014 at 4:30pm.**

Submit Public Comments: The Honorable James E. LaFave
Office of Administrative Hearings
Email: RouteComments.OAH@state.mn.us
Fax: 651-361-7936
P.O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul MN 55164-0620

Reply Comment Period Closes February 4, 2014 at 4:30pm

- Minnesota Power, the Department of Commerce and other interested persons may respond to filings provided during the public comment period.

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

Project Description

Minnesota Power proposes to:

- Build approximately 1.0 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 June 2013. The Commission's decision-making process takes six to nine months.

The Department of Commerce is preparing an environmental assessment for this project. The environmental assessment reviews the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives, as well as ways to address impacts. The environmental assessment will be issued in late November 2013.

Judge LaFave 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 PUC 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, 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."

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 and environmental assessment are available at the following public libraries:

- 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

Bill Storm at bill.storm@state.mn.us, 651-539-1844 or 1-800-657-3794

Minnesota Power Project Contact

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

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 651-361-7000 (voice) or 651-361-7878 (TTY) at least one week in advance of the meeting.

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.