



Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary

STATE OF MINNESOTA
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION & DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT SCOPING MEETING**

Issued: November 26, 2013

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

Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Number: E-015/TL-13-805

Date: December 18, 2013

Time: 6:30pm

Location: Bovey City Hall
402 2nd Street
Bovey MN

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 Minnesota Power will be available to answer questions about the project and the process.
- Citizens who do not wish to speak may submit questions or comments in writing.
- The 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 assessment for this project.

Topics Open for Comment:

- What human and environmental impacts of the proposed transmission line should be studied in the environmental assessment prepared for this project?
- Are there any specific methods 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 the public meeting, through **January 3, 2014 at 4:30pm.**

Submit Public Comments: Bill Storm, Environmental Review Manager
Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA)
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul MN 55101
Email: bill.storm@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 two five-mile 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines
- Build a substation

The proposed project is located near Coleraine, Minnesota.

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 November 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, and 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 PUC will make a final decision on this project at a separate meeting, expected by July 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=33603>

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 (805), 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) to sign up for the project mailing list.

Public Libraries: The route permit application is available at the following public libraries:

- Bovey Public Library, 402 2nd Street, Bovey MN
- Coleraine Public Library, Independent Building, 203 Cole Avenue, Coleraine MN

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

Michael Kaluzniak at mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us or 651-201-2257

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Minnesota Power Project Contact

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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.

- Proposed Alignment
- ▭ Proposed Route
- ▨ Proposed Substation Area
- ▭ PLS Section Within 1 Mile
- Existing Substation



Figure 2

PROJECT DETAILED MAP
 Proposed Canisteo 115 kV
 HVTL and Substation
 Minnesota Power
 Itasca County, MN

Source: Esri, DeLorme, USGS, NEX, GeoEye, @mapping, AerialGrid, @GN, IGP, and the GIS User Community

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