



Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Issued: September 9, 2014

In the Matter of the Application of Minnesota Power for a Certificate of Need for the Great Northern High Voltage Transmission Line Project from the Manitoba, Canada – Minnesota Border to the Blackberry Substation near Grand Rapids, Minnesota

Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Number: E-015/CN-12-1163

Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) Docket Number: 65-2500-31196

Table with 3 columns: COUNTY, MEETING LOCATION, DATE AND TIME. Rows include Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Koochiching, Beltrami, Itasca, and Grand Rapids locations.

Bad weather? Find out if a meeting is canceled. Call (toll-free) 1-855-731-6208 or 651-201-2213 or visit mn.gov/puc

Project Description

Minnesota Power proposes to:

- Build approximately 220 miles of 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from the Manitoba, Canada – Minnesota border to its Blackberry Substation in Itasca County
- Expand its Blackberry Substation

The proposed project would be located in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau counties.

Public Hearing Information

- The meeting starts on time.
- Arrive a few minutes early so you have time to sign in, pick up materials, and find a seat.
- Public Utilities Commission, Department of Commerce, and Minnesota Power staff will be available to answer questions about the permitting process and the project.
- Citizens will be able to offer oral comments, written comments, or both into the record.
- The hearing will last until everyone has the opportunity to speak or until the scheduled end time, whichever comes first.
- The same information will be presented at each meeting.
- Learn more about attending a public hearing at mn.gov/puc/aboutus/index.html

Submit Comments

Topics for Public Comment:

- Is the proposed project needed and in the public interest?
- What are the costs and benefits of the proposed project?
- What are the environmental and human impacts of the proposed project and how can these impacts be addressed?
- Are there other project-related issues or concerns?

Note: Minnesota Power's route permit application for this project is being handled separately, in PUC Docket Number *E-015/TL-14-21* and OAH Docket Number *65-2500-31637*. Comments on the route permit application and the proposed routes should be submitted to these dockets.

Comment Period: September 9, 2014 through December 3, 2014 at 4:30pm.

Comments must be received by 4:30pm on the close date

Submit Public Comments: The Honorable Ann O'Reilly
Office of Administrative Hearings
Email: RouteComments.OAH@state.mn.us

Fax: 651-539-0300
P.O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul MN 55164-0620

Please include the Docket Numbers (PUC - E-015/CN-12-1163 and OAH - 65-2500-31196) in the subject line of all communications. Communications that do not include the Docket Numbers may be misdirected and may not be entered into the hearing record.

Important

Comments will be made available to the public via the Public Utilities Commission's website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The Commission does not edit or delete personally identifying information from submissions.

Process Information

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

Minnesota Power's route permit application for this project is being handled separately, in PUC Docket Number E-015/TL-14-21.

The Department of Commerce prepared an environmental report for this project. The environmental report studied the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives, as well as ways to address impacts. The environmental report was issued in July 2014.

Judge O'Reilly will use all the information in the record, including written comments and comments received at the public hearings, to write a report for the Commission. The report will include findings, conclusions, and recommendations about the need for this project. After receiving the Judge's report, the Commission will schedule a meeting to make a final decision on the need for this project, expected by May 2015.

How to Learn More

Department of Commerce Project Website:

<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=33608>

Project Mailing List: Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate (meetings, comment periods, etc.).

Contact docketing.puc@state.mn.us or 651-201-2204 with the docket number (12-1163), your name, mailing address and email address.

Subscribe to the Docket: Receive email notifications when new documents are filed.

Note - subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

1. mn.gov/puc
2. Select green box *Subscribe to a Docket*
3. Type your e-mail address
4. For *Type of Subscription*, select *Docket Number*
5. For *Docket Number*, select *12* in the first box, type *1163* in the second box
6. Select *Add to List*
7. Select *Save*

Full Case Record: All documents filed in this docket are available via the Commission's website at mn.gov/puc, select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (*12*) and the docket number (*1163*), select *Search*.

Public Libraries: The certificate of need application and environmental report are available at the following public libraries:

- Bagley Public Library, 21 Main Avenue N, Bagley
- Baudette Library, 110 1st Street SW, Baudette
- Blackduck Public Library, 72 1st Street SE, Blackduck
- Bovey Public Library, 402 2nd Street, Bovey
- Calumet Library, 932 Gary Street, Calumet
- Coleraine Public Library, 203 Cole Street, Coleraine
- Crookston Public Library, 110 N Ash Street, Crookston
- Duluth Public Library, 520 W Superior Street, Duluth
- Godel Memorial Library, 314 E Johnson Ave, Warren
- Grand Rapids Public Library, 140 NE 2nd Street, Grand Rapids
- Great River Regional Library, Center Street E, Clearwater
- Greenbush Public Library, PO Box 9, Greenbush
- Grygla Library, 127 N Main Avenue, Grygla
- Hallock Public Library, 163 3rd Street S, Hallock
- International Falls Public Library, 750 4th Street, International Falls
- Karlstad Public Library, 104 1st Street S, Suite 4, Karlstad
- Lake Agassiz Regional Library, 170 Main Street, Gonvick
- Marble Public Library, 302 Alice Avenue, Marble
- McIntosh Public Library, 115 Northwest Broadway, McIntosh
- Northome Public Library, 12064 Main Street, Northome
- Red Lake Falls Public Library, 105 Champagne Avenue SW, Red Lake Falls
- Roseau Public Library, 121 Center Street E, Suite 100, Roseau

- Thief River Falls Public Library, 102 First Street E, Thief River Falls
- Warroad Public Library, 202 Main Avenue NE, Warroad
- Williams Public Library, 350 Main Street, Williams

Minnesota Power Project Information

www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com or 1-877-657-9934

Minnesota Statutes and Rules: The certificate of need application is being reviewed under Minnesota Statute 216B and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7849. Minnesota Statutes and Rules are available at www.revisor.mn.gov.

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 Energy Facilities Planner

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

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

Jim Atkinson at jbatkinson@mnpower.com or 218-355-3561

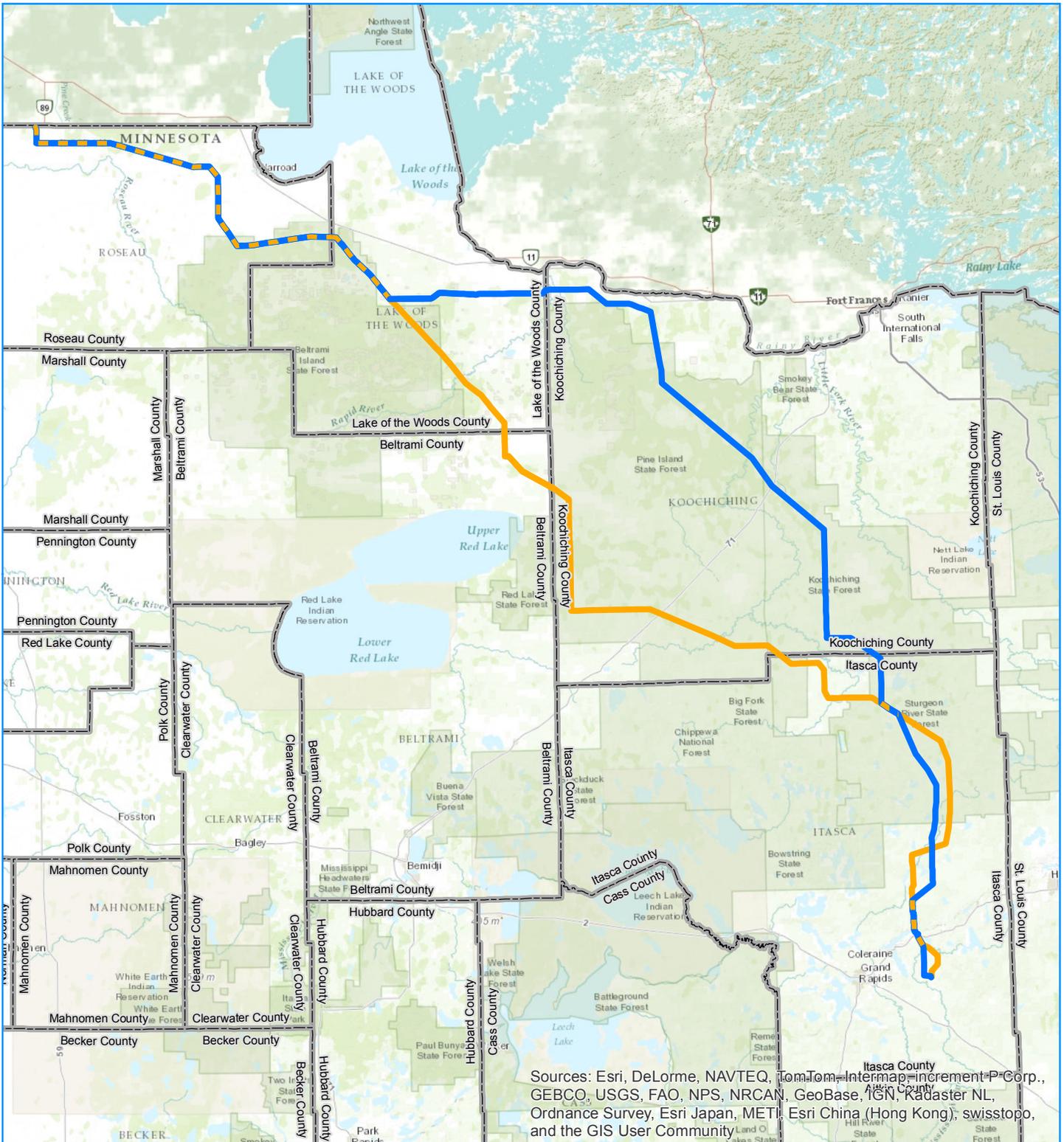
This document can be made available in alternative formats (e.g., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.

If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in these 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.

PROPOSED ROUTES - SUBJECT TO CHANGE



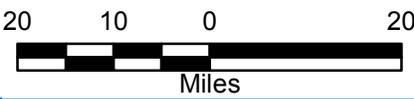
Great Northern Transmission Line



Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, TomTom, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

Legend

-  Blue Route
-  Orange Route
-  Shared Route
-  County Boundary



Sources: ESRI, Minnesota DNR