



Burl W. Haar

Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

AND



NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT SCOPING MEETING

Issued: June 20, 2014

In the Matter of the Application of Minnesota Power for a Route Permit for the Great Northern Transmission Line

Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Number: E-015/TL-14-21

COUNTY	CITY	MEETING LOCATION	DATE AND TIME
Roseau	Roseau	Roseau Civic Center 121 Center Street E	Wednesday, July 16, 2014 11:00am – 3:00pm
Lake of the Woods	Baudette	Lake of the Woods School 236 15 th Ave SW	Wednesday, July 16, 2014 6:00pm – 10:00pm
Koochiching	Littlefork	Littlefork Community Center 220 Main St	Thursday, July 17, 2014 11:00am – 3:00pm
Koochiching	International Falls	AmericInn 1500 Highway 71	Thursday, July 17, 2014 6:00pm – 10:00pm
Beltrami	Kelliher	Kelliher Public School 345 4th Street NW	Wednesday, July 23, 2014 11:00am – 3:00pm
Itasca	Bigfork	Bigfork School 100 Huskie Blvd	Wednesday, July 23, 2014 6:00pm – 10:00pm
Itasca	Grand Rapids	Sawmill Inn 2301 S Highway 169	Thursday, July 24, 2014 11:00am – 3:00pm
Itasca	Grand Rapids	Sawmill Inn 2301 S Highway 169	Thursday, July 24, 2014 6:00pm – 10:00pm

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.

Meeting Information

- The meeting starts on time.
- Plan to arrive a few minutes early so you have time to sign in, pick up materials, and find a seat.
- Public Utilities Commission, United States Department of Energy, Department of Commerce, and Minnesota Power staff will present information and answer questions about the permitting process and the project.
- Citizens will have the opportunity to offer oral comments, written comments, or both into the record.
- Citizens who do not wish to speak may submit questions or comments in writing.
- Comments received at the meeting and during the comment period will be used to develop the environmental impact statement for this project.
- The meeting will last until everyone at the meeting has the opportunity to speak, or until the scheduled end time, whichever comes first.
- The same information will be presented at each meeting.

Submit Comments

Topics Open for Public Comment:

- What human and environmental impacts of the proposed transmission line 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?

Comment Period: June 20, 2014 through August 15, 2014 at 4:30pm.

Submit Public Comments: Bill Storm, Environmental Review Manager

Minnesota Department of Commerce

85 7th Place East, Suite 500

St. Paul MN 55101

Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us

Fax: 651-539-1549

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

- Please include the PUC Docket Number (14-21) in all communications.

Important

Comments will be made available to the public via the Public Utilities Commission's and Department of Commerce's websites, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. Personally identifying information is not edited or deleted from submissions.

Process Information

Before the project can be built, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) must approve a certificate of need and a route permit. Since the project would cross the international boundary between Minnesota and Canada, a Presidential Permit from the United States Department of Energy is also required.

The Commission accepted Minnesota Power's route permit application in June 2014. This means the company submitted all the information required to begin the review process. The Commission's decision-making process takes about fifteen (15) months.

Minnesota Power has submitted a certificate of need application for this project. The certificate of need application is PUC Docket Number E-015/CN-12-1163. The certificate of need application is being handled separately from the route permit application.

The Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis staff and the United States Department of Energy will work together to prepare an environmental impact statement for this project. The environmental impact statement will review the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives, as well as ways to address impacts.

The Department of Commerce and United States Department of Energy will hold public meetings on the draft environmental impact statement after it is issued. Citizens will be able to ask questions and submit comments about the draft environmental impact statement. The final environmental impact statement will address issues and concerns raised about the draft environmental impact statement.

After the draft environmental impact statement is issued, an Administrative Law Judge will hold public hearings. Citizens will be able to speak at the hearings, ask questions, and submit comments about the project.

The judge 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 this project. After receiving the judge's report, the Commission will schedule a meeting to make a final decision on the route permit for this project, expected by October 2015.

Eminent Domain: If the Commission issues a route permit, Minnesota Power may use the power of eminent domain to take land for this project.

How to Learn More

Department of Commerce Project Website:

<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=33847>

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 (14-21), your name, mailing address, and email address.

Full Case Record: All documents filed in this docket are available online at mn.gov/puc, select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (14) and the docket number (21), select *Search*.

Subscribe to the Docket: Subscribe to 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 14 in the first box, type 21 in the second box
6. Select *Add to List*
7. Select *Save*

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

- 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
- Duluth Public Library, 520 W Superior Street, Duluth
- Grand Rapids Public Library, 140 NE 2nd Street, Grand Rapids
- Greenbush Public Library, PO Box 9, Greenbush
- International Falls Public Library, 750 4th Street, International Falls
- Marble Public Library, 302 Alice Avenue, Marble
- Northome Public Library, 12064 Main Street, Northome
- Roseau Public Library, 121 Center Street E, Suite 100, Roseau
- 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: This route permit is being reviewed under Minnesota Statute 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850, 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

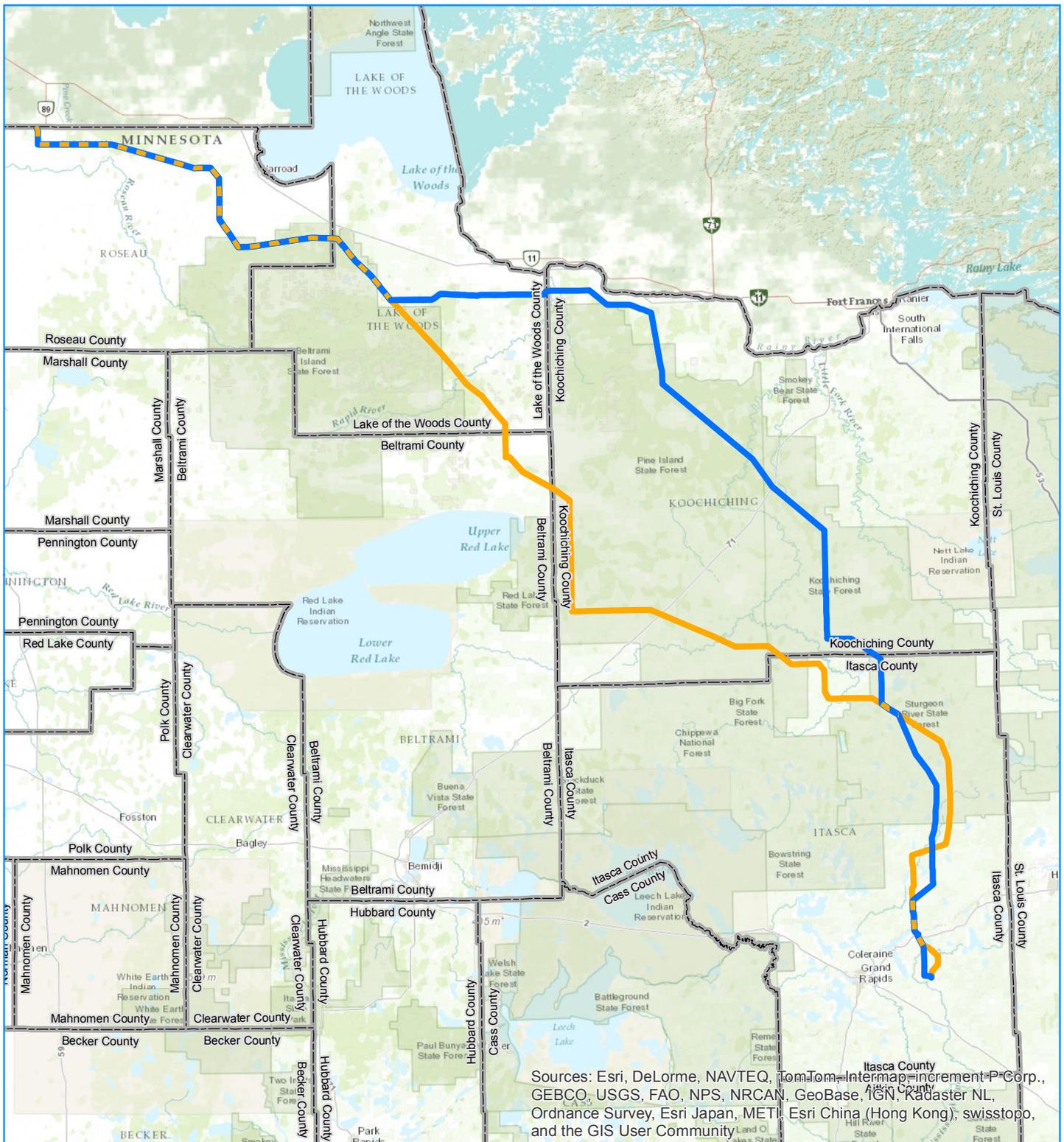
Minnesota Power Project Contact

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, 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.

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

