

Issued: January 9, 2015

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT SCOPING DECISION

In the Matter of the Application of Minnesota Power for a Route Permit for the Great Northern High-Voltage Transmission Line Project in Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Koochiching and Itasca Counties, Minnesota

PUC Docket No. E015/TL-14-21

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) has issued the scoping decision for the environmental impact statement (EIS) to be prepared for the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line project in Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Koochiching and Itasca counties, Minnesota.

In addition to the high voltage transmission line Route Permit, the project also requires a Presidential permit from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), when considering an application for a Presidential permit the Department of Energy (DOE) must take into account possible environmental impacts of the proposed facility. DOE has determined that an EIS is the appropriate level of environmental review. Therefore, an EIS will be prepared in compliance with NEPA and DOE's implementing regulations, 10 CFR Part 1021.

In order to avoid duplication, DOE and the DOC will prepare a single EIS to comply with environmental review requirements under NEPA and the Power Plant Siting Act. DOE will act as federal joint lead agency with DOC acting as state joint lead agency per 40 CFR 1501.5(b). The EIS will address the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives to the project. The scoping decision identifies the route, alignment, and route alternatives that will be examined in the EIS. The decision also identifies alternatives that will not be addressed.

The scoping decision and other relevant documents are available on the Department's website: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=33847> and on the State of Minnesota's eDockets system: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the year "14" and the number "21").

A draft EIS is anticipated to be completed and available in June 2015. Public meetings and a comment period on the draft EIS will follow. Timely and substantive comments on the draft EIS will be responded to in a final EIS. Public hearings will be held in the project area after issuance of the draft EIS and are anticipated to occur in July 2015.

If you have questions, would like more information, or to place your name on the project mailing list, contact environmental review manager William Cole Storm (651-539-1844, bill.storm@state.mn.us) or public advisor Tracy Smetana (651-296-0406, consumer.puc@state.mn.us).

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-539-1530.

- Proposed Routes**
- Proposed Blue Route
 - Proposed Orange Route
 - Proposed Blue/Orange Shared Route
 - Proposed Alternative Route
 - Originally Proposed Route
- Scoping Process**
- Alignment Modification
 - Alternative Route Segment
- Existing Transmission Lines**
- 69 or 115 kV
 - 230 kV
 - 500 kV
- Streets and Highways**
- US Highway
 - State Trunk Highway
 - County State Aid Highway
 - Local Road
 - Municipal Boundary
 - County Boundary



Figure 0

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE SEGMENTS AND ALIGNMENT MODIFICATIONS OVERVIEW
Great Northern Transmission Line
Environmental Impact Statement
Scoping Decision

