

Carol Overland

This is "Certificate of Need" docket 12-1163, where our Public Utilities Commission determines if this transmission project is needed under statutory criteria. Minn. Stat. §216B.243 (PUC process chart on reverse side). Now is the time to weigh in.

Criteria includes long-range demand forecasts, needs, conservation and efficiency, "regional reliability" and deliverability and cost. There will be both public and evidentiary hearings, and you may participate or intervene as a party. It's very complicated, "big picture" energy issues, but the only way you can have an influence in the Commission's determination is to show up!

Subscribe to PUC Docket 12-1163, write robin.benson@state.mn.us to get on service list, get a copy of the Application from Minnesota Power, file comments on whether the Application is complete, and consider intervening to have a place at table as a full party. You can find updates at www.legalelectric.org, search for **Great Northern Transmission Line**.

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Powerline targeting your land? Consider the "BUY THE FARM" option

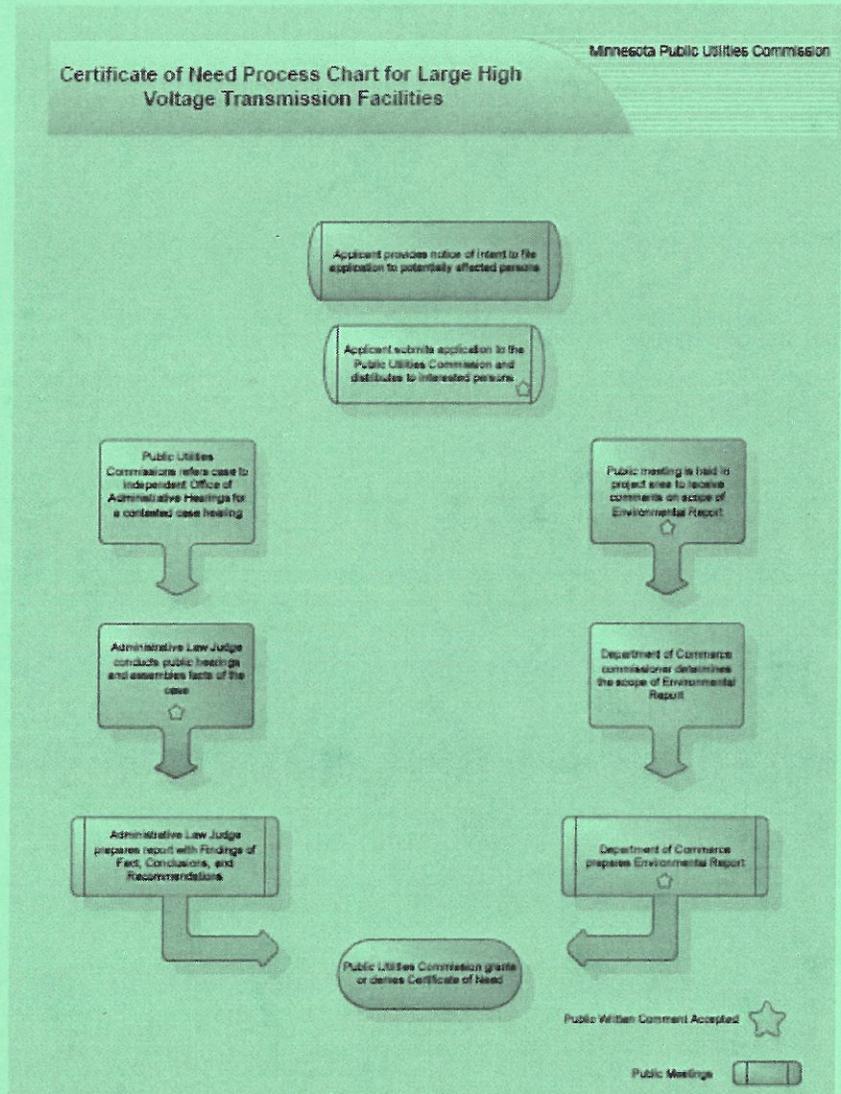
Minn. Stat. § 216E.12 EMINENT DOMAIN POWERS; POWER OF CONDEMNATION

Subd. 4. **Contiguous land.** When private real property that is an agricultural or nonagricultural homestead, nonhomestead agricultural land, rental residential property, and both commercial and noncommercial seasonal residential recreational property... is proposed to be acquired for the construction of a site or route for a high-voltage transmission line with a capacity of 200 kilovolts or more by eminent domain proceedings, the fee owner... shall have the option to require the utility to condemn a fee interest in any amount of contiguous, commercially viable land which the owner or vendee wholly owns... and elects in writing to transfer to the utility within 60 days after receipt of the notice of [condemnation] filed pursuant to section 117.055...

The enactment of §216E.04 subd. 4 (f/k/a 116C.63) reflects a creative legislative response to a conflict between rural landowners and utilities concerning HVTL right-of-ways. Opponents of the utilities, resisting further encroachments upon the rural landscape and fearing the effects upon the rural environment and public health, not only challenge the placement and erection of high voltage transmission lines, but question whether the rural community's sacrifice to the commonweal serves a greater social good. See *Cooperative Power Ass'n ex rel. Bd. Of Dirs. v. Assand*, 288 N.W. 2d 697, 698 (Minn. 1980).

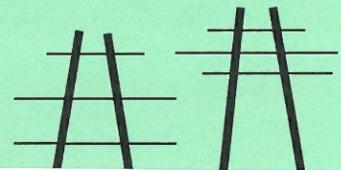
The "Buy the Farm" option is under siege – utilities are trying to restrict landowner rights and compensation, and the Supreme Court has taken up this case, NoCapX 2020 and others have filed an Amicus Brief in this case on behalf of transmission routing clients. Supreme Court decision due in roughly two more months. For updates, visit www.nocapx2020.info and search "Buy the Farm."

WARNING: Weigh in and participate at Certificate of Need stage, because if Certificate of Need is granted, it's "needed" and then a routing docket will determine WHERE it goes, not IF it goes! **NOW'S THE TIME!!!**



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GREAT NORTHERN TRANSMISSION LINE Certificate of Need -- Public Utilities Commission docket 12-1163

The PUC determines whether this project is "needed" under criteria, Minn. Stat. §216B.243: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=216B.243>

Criteria includes long-range demand forecasts, needs, conservation and efficiency, "regional reliability" and deliverability and cost. There will be public and evidentiary hearings, and you may participate or intervene as a party. It's complicated, "big picture" energy issues, but you can have an influence in whether the PUC determines it is "needed" -- just show up!

Subscribe to PUC Docket 12-1163 by going to www.puc.state.mn.us, then to "Search Dockets" and plug in "year" 12 and "docket" 1163, hit "search" and the full docket will appear. Click on "Subscribe" and then follow the directions, and check your email and confirm the subscription.

If you have questions about how the process works, or how you can participate, contact the PUC's Public Advisor, Tracey Smetana, at 651-296-0406 or Tracey.Smetana@state.mn.us.

March 28, 2014	Scoping Decision Released
June 30, 2014	Environmental Report Released
August 10, 2014	MP Direct Testimony Filed
August 29, 2014	INTERVENTION DEADLINE *****
September 19, 2014	Other Parties' Direct Testimony Filed
October 7-10 & 13-17	PUBLIC HEARINGS in Northern Minnesota
October 24, 2014	All Rebuttal Testimony Filed
November 7, 2014	All Surrebuttal Testimony Filed & Transcripts of Public hearings at libraries
November 12-14 & 17-19	Evidentiary Hearings at PUC in St. Paul
December 3, 2014	PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD CLOSES
December 4, 2014	Comments filed, Hearing Transcript available
December 19, 2014	Initial Briefs & Applicants Findings of Fact Filed
January 16, 2015	Reply Briefs & Others' Findings of Fact Filed
March 16, 2015	Administrative Law Judge Recommendation Filed

If you are interested in participating consider intervening to have a place at table as a full party, or join in the RRANT effort -- we've been granted full intervenor status and will work to challenge the "need" for this line. You can find regular updates at www.not-so-great-northern-transmission-line.org

Produced and paid for by Carol A. Overland, overland@legalectric.org
RRANT -- Residents and Ratepayers Against Not-so-Great Northern Transmission
www.not-so-great-northern-transmission-line.org

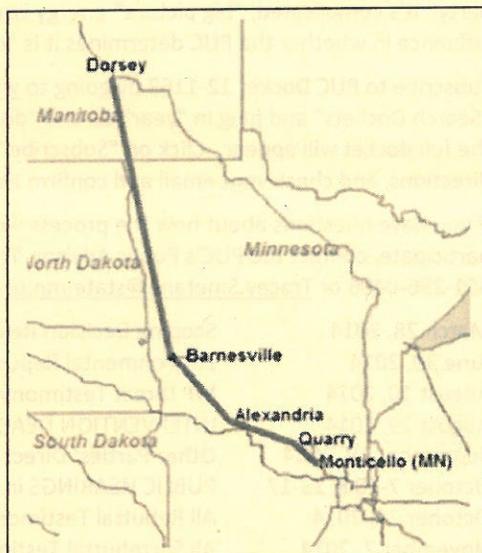
Carol Overland 10/20/14

What are the "Regional Utilities" up to?

The "Regional Utilities" are Xcel Energy, Otter Tail Power and Missouri River Energy Resources (MRES). They filed comments in this docket stating that they wanted to introduce another "system alternative" which is that the line should instead go, as on the map below, from the Dorsey substation south to Barnesville and connect into CapX 2020 down to the metro.

At the Prehearing Conference in December, "Regional Utilities" counsel Brusven reiterated that position, saying that "The Western Option provides a reasonable alternative." And now here it is, the scoping meetings to collect comments on Environmental Review, and they've not yet intervened and haven't taken a position.

Do consider – where there's no demonstrated need for the project in the first place, why would a "system alternative" of any sort be needed? What's the point? Why should this "alternative" be considered – there's no need ! It's not needed, plain and simple!



System Alternatives? Request that the Commission consider all alternatives, individually and in combination, such as efficiency and conservation, demand side management, and distributed generation. Who needs transmission? What's the benefit, and who benefits?

Scoping Comments due 4:30 p.m. on March 14, 2014

Send to Bill.Storm@state.mn.us

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