



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Burl W. Haar".

Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD ON THE ROUTE PERMIT  
APPLICATION COMPLETENESS**

*Issued: April 18, 2014*

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

**PUC Docket Number/s:** E-015/TL-14-21

**Comment Period:** Initial comment period closes May 16, 2014 at 4:30pm.  
Reply comment period closes May 30, 2014 at 4:30pm.

**Topic/s Open for Comment:**

- Whether the route permit application contains the information required under Minnesota Rules, 7850.1900; and
- Whether an advisory task force should be appointed

**Project Background:** On April 15, 2014, Minnesota Power filed a route permit application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission). Minnesota Power is proposing to construct an approximately 220 mile 500 kV transmission line from the Manitoba, Canada Border to its Blackberry Substation near the City of Grand Rapids in Itasca County. The project would include an expansion of the Blackberry Substation to accommodate the 500 kilovolt (kV) line, consisting of a 500/230 kV transformer, and associated equipment.

The permit application will be reviewed under Minnesota Statute § 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850, which can be viewed at <http://www.revisor.mn.gov/>. The proposed project is considered a “high-voltage transmission line” as defined by Minnesota Statute § 216E.01, subdivision 4, because it is designed for and capable of operation at a voltage of 100 kV or more and is greater than 1,500 feet in length. Under Minnesota Statute § 216E.03, subdivision 2, no person may construct a high-voltage transmission line in Minnesota without a route permit from the Commission.

**Submit Public Comments:** E-mail to [PublicComments.PUC@state.mn.us](mailto:PublicComments.PUC@state.mn.us).

Persons without e-mail access may send by U.S. mail to: Burl Haar, Executive Secretary, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul MN 55101-2147. Please include the Commission's docket number in all communications.

**Filing Requirements:** Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are **required** to file documents using the Commission's electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants and interested persons are encouraged to use eFiling: [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us), select "eFiling," and follow the prompts.

**Full Case Record:** All documents filed in this docket are available on the Commission's website at [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us), select "Search eDockets," enter the year (*14*) and the docket number (*21*), select "Search."

**Project Mailing List:** Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate (comment periods, public hearings, etc.) by contacting the Public Advisor (see below).

**Subscribe to the Docket:** Receive notification when new documents are filed in this docket at [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us), select "Subscribe to a Docket," and follow the prompts.

**Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure?** Contact Commission staff, Michael Kaluzniak, at [mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us](mailto:mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us) or 651- 201-2257.

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