Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Minnesota Department of Commerce

Public Information and Scoping Meeting

Clearbrook Transmission Project

Public Utilities Commission Docket Number

- ET-6/TL-14-665

Meeting Purpose

- Explain the Commission's review process
- Provide information about the proposed project
- Gather information for the environmental review
- Answer general questions about the process and the project

Public Utilities Commission

- State Agency
- Regulates
  - Permitting for power plants, pipelines, transmission lines
  - Local and in-state long distance telephone companies
  - Investor-owned electric and natural gas utilities – rates and services
- 5 Commissioners
  - Appointed by the Governor
  - Serve staggered terms
  - Full time employment
- 50 staff

High Voltage Transmission Line

- Will operate at 100 kV or more *and*
- Greater than 1500 feet in length

- Requires Route Permit from Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
  - Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 216E
  - Minnesota Rules, Part 7850

Who's Who?

- **Applicant** – Company asking for Route Permit – *Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.*
- **Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA)** –State agency, conducts environmental review
- **Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH)** – State agency, Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) holds hearings, summarizes the facts in the record, writes report for Public Utilities Commission

Who's Who?

- **Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Energy Facilities Planner** – Assists in building the record. Informs Commissioners on impacts of different decisions. Neutral party, does not give legal advice, not an advocate.

- **Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Public Advisor** – Helps citizens participate in the certificate of need and route permit processes. Neutral party, does not give legal advice, not an advocate.

Factors Considered in Public Utilities Commission's Decision

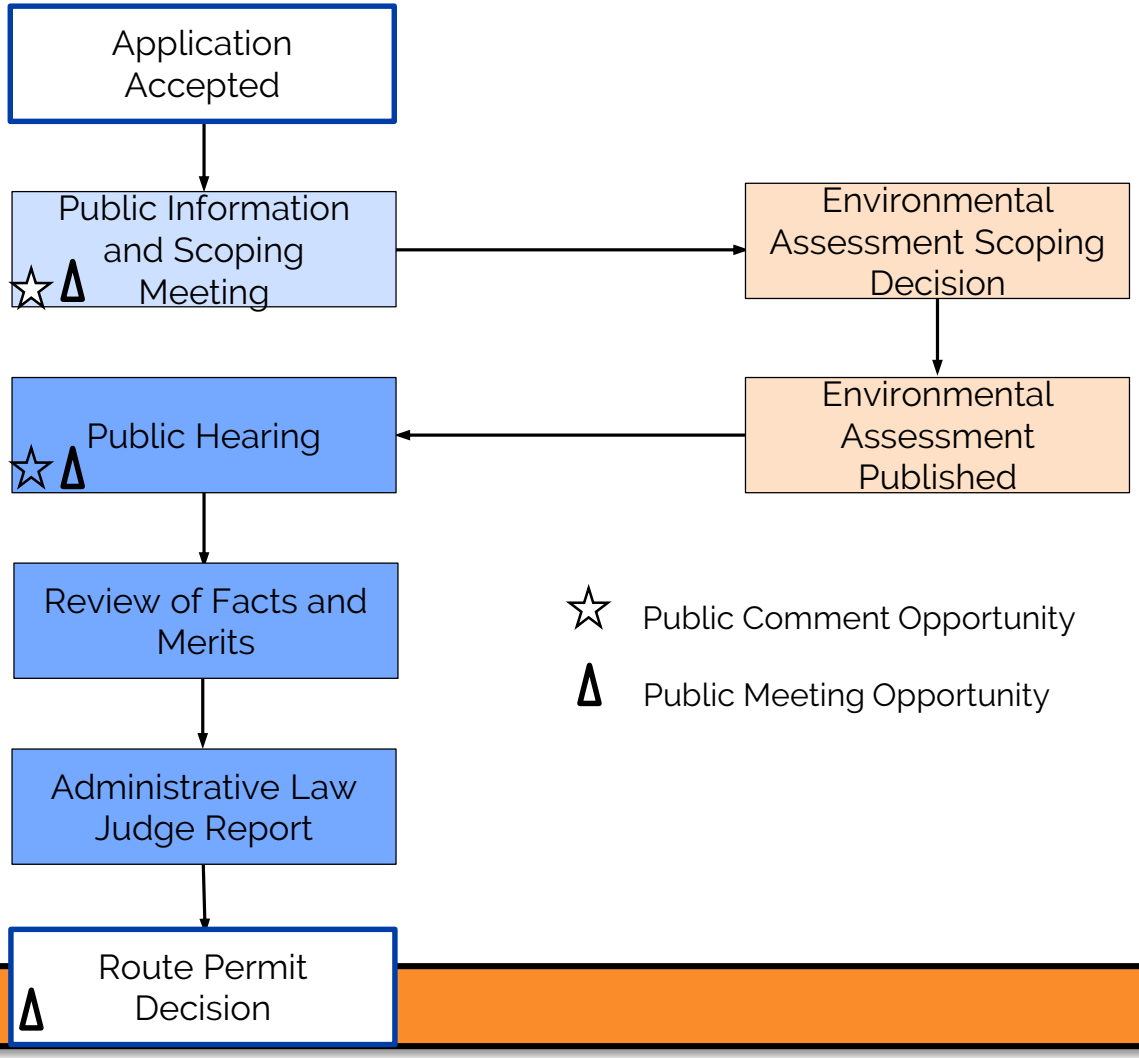
- Human settlement – displacement, noise, aesthetics, cultural values, recreation, public services
- Public health and safety
- Economy– agriculture, forestry, tourism, mining
- Archaeological and historic resources
- Natural environment – air, water, plants, animals

Factors Considered

- Maximize energy efficiencies
- Allow for future expansion
- Use of existing rights-of way
- Use of natural boundaries - survey lines, field boundaries
- Electrical system reliability
- Costs to construct, operate, and maintain the transmission line

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Route Permit Process



Application Accepted to Decision = 9 months

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Estimated Project Timeline

Route Permit Application Filed	November 2015
Route Permit Application Accepted	January 2016
*Public Information & Scoping Meeting	February 2016
Comment Period Closes	March 7, 2016
Environmental Assessment Scoping Decision	May 2016
Environmental Assessment Published	August 2016
Public Hearing	August 2016
Administrative Law Judge Report	September 2016
Commission route Decision	October 2016

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Sample
Notice of Comment Period

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary

NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD

Issued: December 4, 2015

In the Matter of the Application of Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.'s for a Route Permit under the Alternative Permitting Process for the Clearbrook-Clearbrook West 115 kV HVTL Project

PUC Docket Number/s: **ET6/TL-14-665**

Comment Period: Initial comment period closes December 16, 2015 at 4:30pm
Reply comment period closes December 23, 2015 at 4:30pm

Comments must be received by 4:30pm on the close date
Comments received after comment period closes may not be considered

Topics Open for Comment:

- Does the route permit application contain the information required by Minnesota Rules parts 7850.1900?
- Are there any contested issues of fact with respect to the representations made in the application?
- Should the Commission appoint an advisory task force?
- Any other project-related issues or concerns?

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

KEYS to Sending Comments

- Include the docket number (*14-665*)
- Stick to topics listed
- No need to submit comments more than once
- Verbal and written comments carry the same weight
- Commission's decision based on facts in the record
- Comments are public information
- Must be received before deadline

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

How to Learn More

See all documents related to this project

- mn.gov/puc
- Select *Search eDockets*
- Enter the year and the Docket Number
  - 14 is the year and 665 is the number
  - Select *Search*
- The list of documents will appear on the next page

How to Learn More

Project Mailing List

- Receive information about project milestones and opportunities for citizen participation
  - Email or US Mail
  - Complete and return *Project Mailing List* card
  - Contact the Public Utilities Commission
    - docketing.puc@state.mn.us
    - 651-201-2204 or 1-800-657-3782

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

How to Learn More

Subscribe to receive email notification when new documents are added to the Docket

1. mn.gov/puc
2. Select *Subscribe to a Docket*
3. Type your email address
4. For *Type of Subscription*, select *Docket Number*
5. For *Docket Number*, select *14* in the first box, type *665* in the second box
6. Select *Add to List*

*Subscribing may result in a large number of emails

How to Learn More

Subscribe to Dockets

Instructions

You may subscribe to receive electronic notification of documents filed before the MNF
You will receive electronic notification at the email address you provide below. You may

Email Address:	abc@sample.com *
Type of Subscription:	Docket Number *
Docket Number:	14 665 *
Description:	Route Permit Application Under the Alternative Permitting Process for the Clearbrook-Clearbrook West 115 kV

Add to List | Remove from List

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

PUC Project Contacts

Public Advisor
Public Utilities Commission
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Phone 651-296-0406
Toll Free 1-800-657-3782

Energy Facilities Planner
Public Utilities Commission
Tricia DeBleeckere
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Phone 651-201-2254

Minnkota Power Cooperative

Clearbrook to Clearbrook West 115kV HVTL Project

MNPUC DOCKET NO.

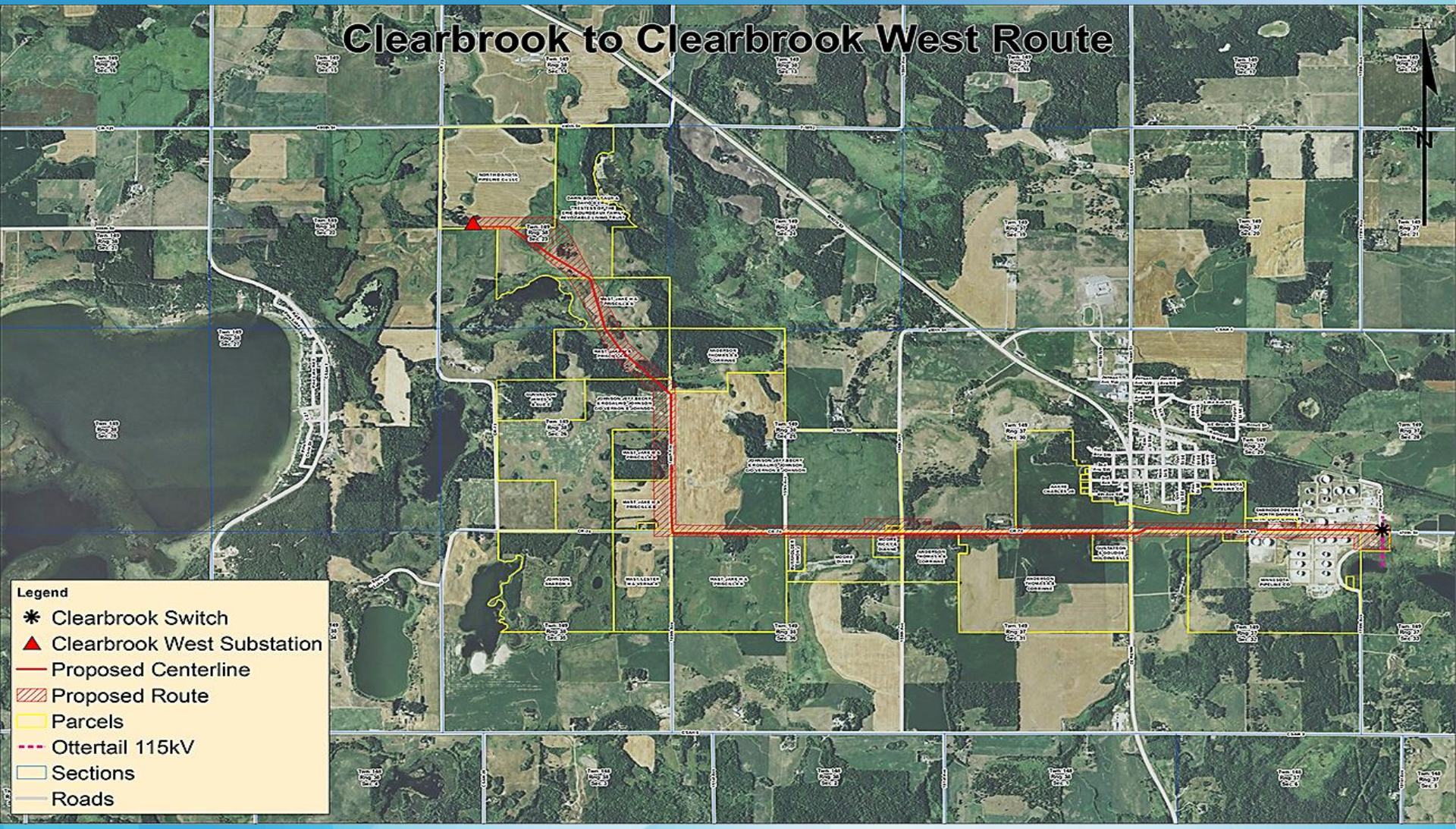
ET6/TL-14-665

Minnkota Power COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Project Need

- The project would provide electrical service to distribution cooperative's customer load in Pine Lake Township.
- Construct new 115kV substation – Clearbrook West Substation
- Construct approximately 5.3 miles of 115kV transmission line to service Clearbrook West Substation and Clearbrook Pumping Station


Clearbrook to Clearbrook West Route
N
Legend
Clearbrook Switch
Clearbrook West Substation
Proposed Centerline
Proposed Route
Parcels
Ottertail 115kV
Sections
Roads

Project Route

- The general route width varies between 205’ – 500’
- Areas of additional width
  - *Near the Clearbrook West Substation and the eastern tie-in*

Project Right-of-Way (ROW)

- ROW width 100’ (designated as 50’ either side of the centerline of transmission line)
- Easements will be negotiated with landowners for required ROW

Proposed Transmission Structures

Minnkota Power COOPERATIVE, INC.
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

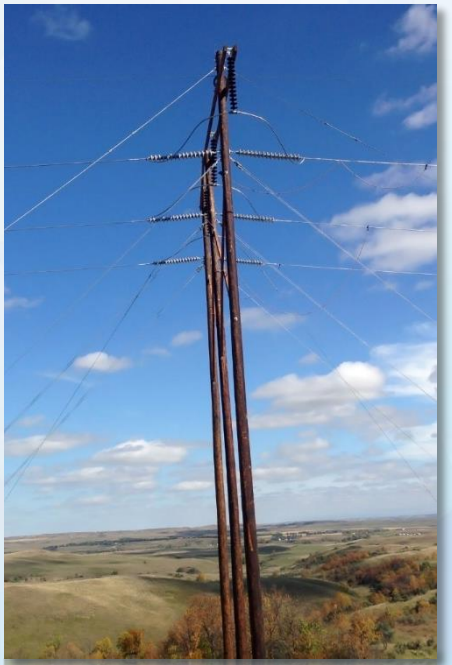
- Single pole wood or steel structures 65’ – 95’ above ground will be used in most areas
- Where existing distribution lines exist, distribution line will be placed underground
- Pole structure spacing between 300’ – 350’
- Three-pole guyed structures used to span wetlands (2) and to stay out of existing pipeline right of way (3)

Proposed Transmission Structures

Minnkota Power
MPC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Single-Pole Structure

Three-Pole Structure



Construction Process

- Stake clearing limits and ROW/easement centerline
- Tree clearing
- Pole delivery and setting
- Conductor stringing
- Site restoration

Project Contacts

- **John Graves**
- Environmental Manager
- 1822 Mill Road
- Grand Forks, ND 58206-3200
- 701-795-4000
- jgraves@minnkota.com

- **Jay Bushy**
- Project Manager
- 1822 Mill Road
- Grand Forks, ND 58206-3200
- 701-795-4000
- jbushy@minnkota.com

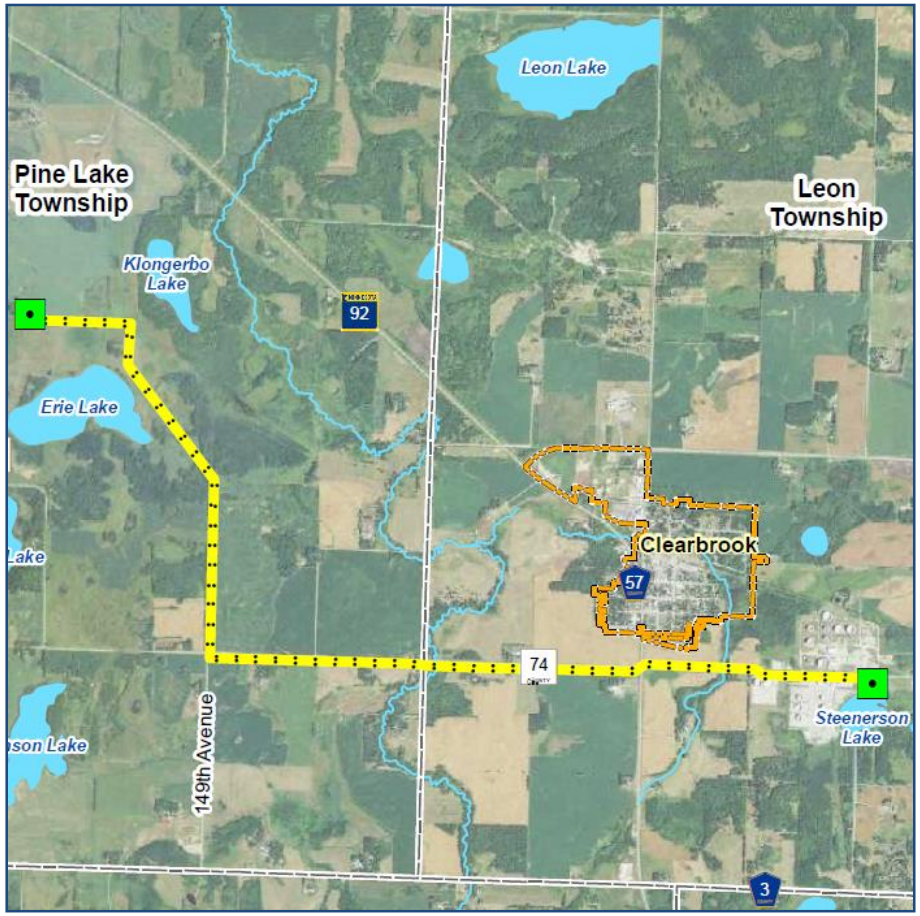
- **Brian Hoffart**
- Right-of-Way/Property Manager
- 1822 Mill Road
- Grand Forks, ND 58206-3200
- 701-795-4000
- bhoffart@minnkota.com

Clearbrook-Clearbrook West 115 kV Project Public Information and Scoping Meeting

MPUC Docket no. ET6/TL-14-665
Clearbrook, Minnesota
February 22, 2016

Clearbrook-Clearbrook West 115 kV Project

Minnkota Power Cooperative Transmission and Substation Project in Clearwater County



Scoping the EA

David Birkholz, Environmental Review Manager
Energy Environmental Review and Analysis

What is EERA?

Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) provides technical expertise and assistance to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, and conducts environmental review.

- EERA and the Commission work cooperatively, but have distinct roles and function independently.
- EERA does <u>not</u> work for the applicant.
- EERA does <u>not</u> advocate for or against a project.

Environmental Assessment (EA)

A tool for the public, agencies and decision-makers to assist in routing and permitting of a proposed project and alternatives:

- Discusses potential human and environmental impacts
- Identifies strategies for avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating potential impacts

EA Requirements

An EA must contain the following information:

- A **general description** of the proposed project;
- A list of any **alternative routes** to be addressed;
- A discussion of **potential impacts** on the human and natural environment;
- A discussion of **mitigative measures;**
- An analysis of the **feasibility** of each alternative;
- A list of **required permits;** and
- A discussion of **other matters** identified during scoping.

EA Scope

Provides an outline for the EA developed for the project by identifying:

- Issues and Impacts to be addressed
- Alternative routes, if any, to be addressed
- Schedule for completion of the EA
- Other matters to be included in the EA; and
- Matters to be excluded from the EA.

EA Scoping Comments

- What potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project should be studied in the EA?
- Are there any specific methods or potential changes to the proposed Project that could serve to avoid, reduce or mitigate these impacts that should be studied in the EA?
- Are there specific alternative routes that should be addressed in the EA?

Scoping Comment: Impact

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

DRAFT SCOPING DOCUMENT

In the Matter of the Application of Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. for a Route Permit for the Clearbrook-Clearbrook West 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project in Clearwater County

PUC DOCKET no. ET6/TL-14-665

February 2016

Prepared by the Energy Environmental Review and Analysis Staff of the

Minnesota Department of Commerce

Impact (General)

- Rare and Unique Natural Resource

Impact (Specific)

- Blandings Turtle

Scoping Comment: Suggesting Route Alternatives

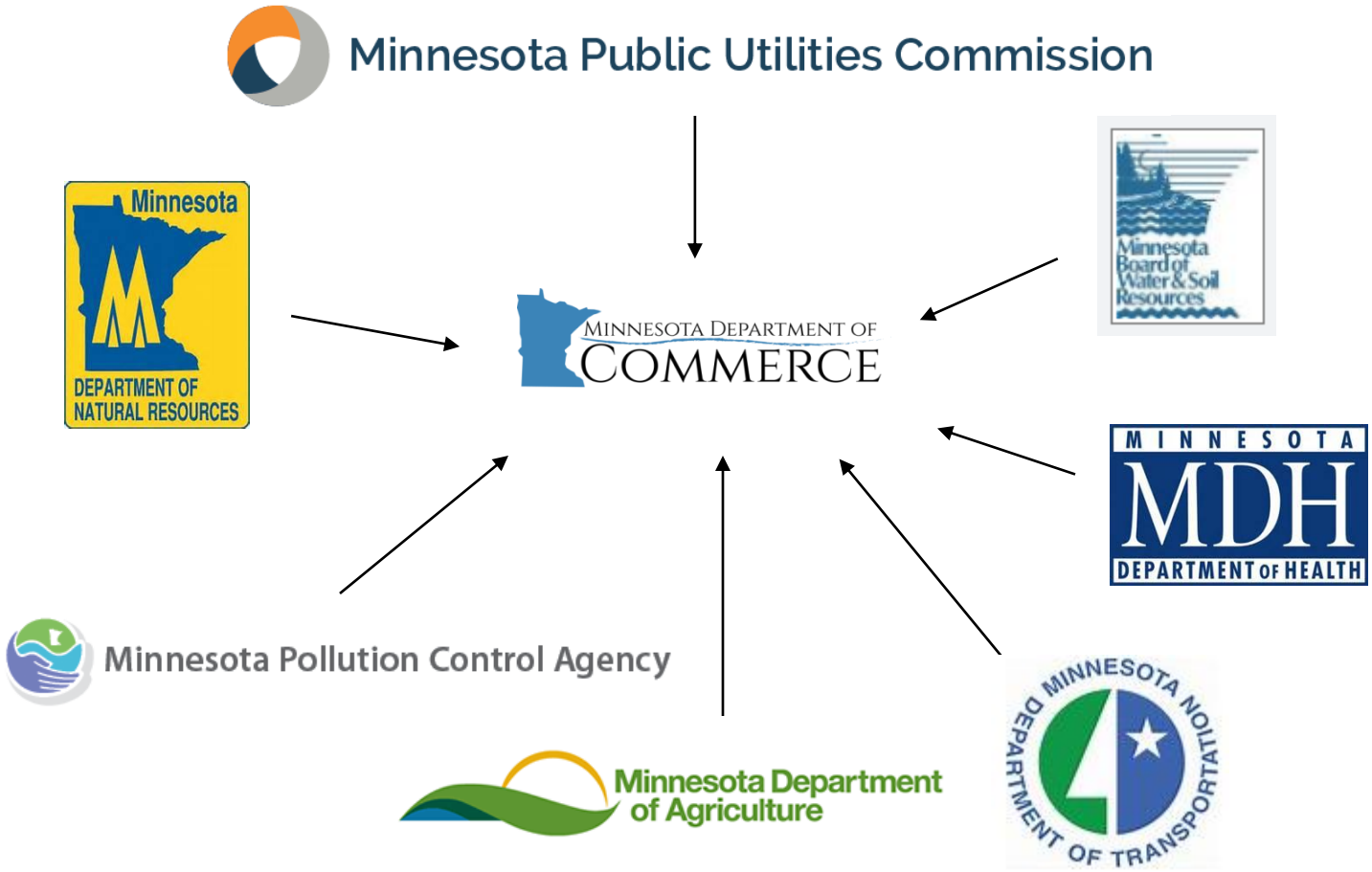
Alternative Routes must:

- Be specific and identifiable
- Mitigate a specific impact
- Meet the need for the project
- Be submitted on time
- Be feasible

Suggestions need to explain why an alternative should be included in the EA, and include all supporting information the person wants the Department to consider. Include a map.

Example: Re-Align with Cty Road

Scoping Comment: Agency Input



Environmental Review Timeline

- Nov • Application Submitted to the Commission
- Jan • Application Accepted as Complete
- Feb • Public Meeting/Public Comment Period* ← We Are Here
- May • Environmental Assessment Scoping Decision
- Aug • Environmental Assessment
- Aug • Public Hearing/Public Comment Period*
- Sep • Administrative Law Judge Summary Report
- Oct • Permit Decision by Public Utilities Commission

* Public Comment Opportunity

Project Information

Department of Commerce

Energy Environmental Review and Analysis

Website for Clearbrook-Clearbrook West Project:

http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=33970

Department Contact

David Birkholz, Environmental Review Manager

Phone: 651-539-1838
800-657-3794

Email: david.birkholz@state.mn.us

Scoping Comments

- Verbal Comments at Tonight's Meeting
- Complete and Submit a Comment Sheet
- Comment On-Line:

  http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comments
- Mail, Fax, or Email a Comment:
  - David Birkholz
    Minnesota Department of Commerce
    85 7th Place East, Suite 500
    St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
  - fax: 651-539-0109
  - david.birkholz@state.mn.us
- Comment Period Ends: **Monday, March 7, 2016**

Public Comments

- One Speaker at a Time
- Please Limit Comments to a Few Minutes
- Please State and Spell Your Name for the Court Reporter
- Maintain Respect for Others
- Direct Your Comments/Questions to the Scope of the EA