



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

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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 not work for the applicant.
 - EERA does not advocate for or against a project.
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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
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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.
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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.
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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?
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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. ET 6/TL-14-665



Impact (General)

- Rare and Unique Natural Resource



Impact (Specific)

- Blandings Turtle

February 2016

Prepared by the Energy Environmental Review and Analysis Staff of the

Scoping Comment: Suggesting Route Alternatives

Alternative Routes must:

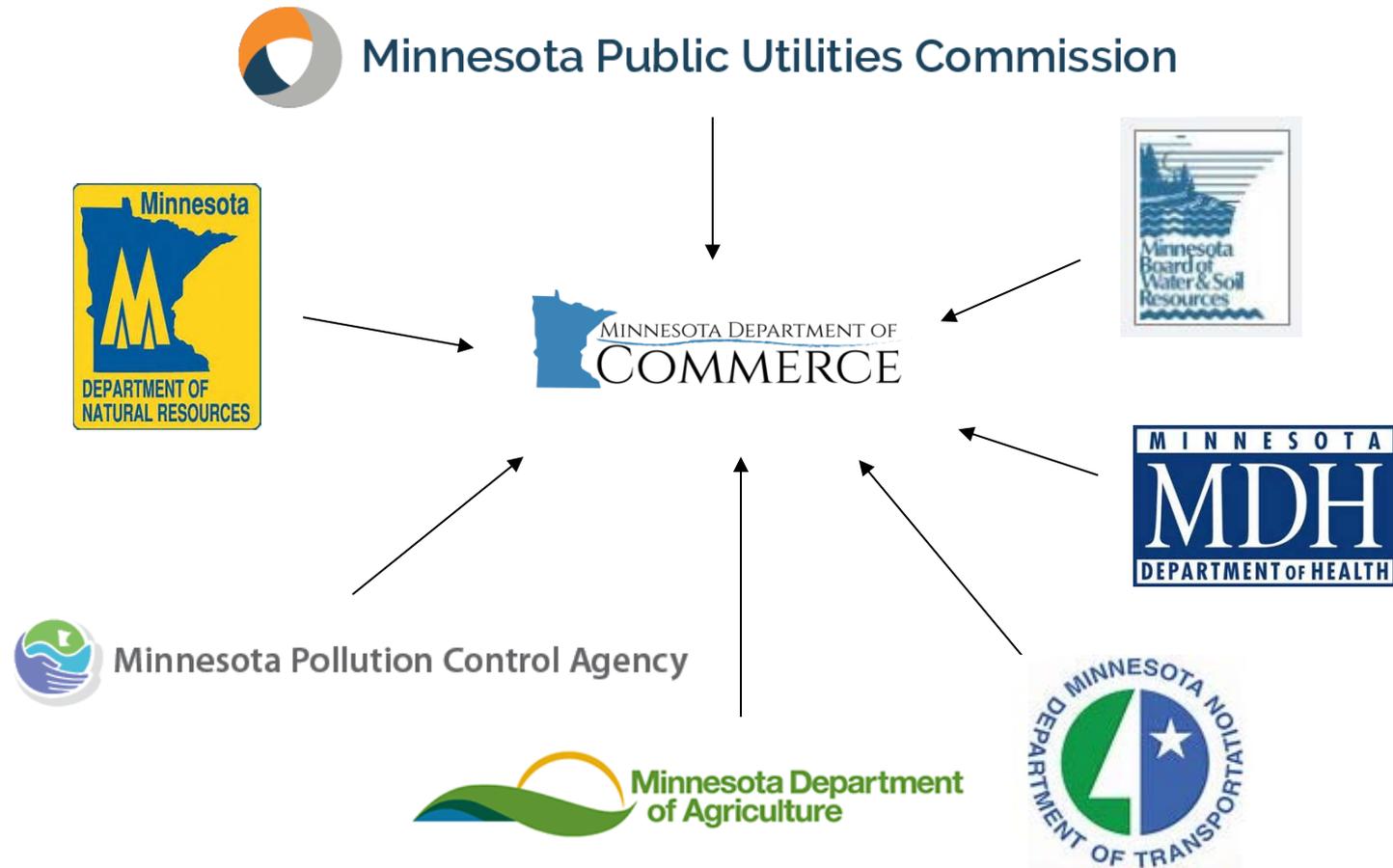
- Be specific and identifiable
- Mitigate a specific impact
- Meet the need for the project
- Be submitted on time
- Be feasible

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.

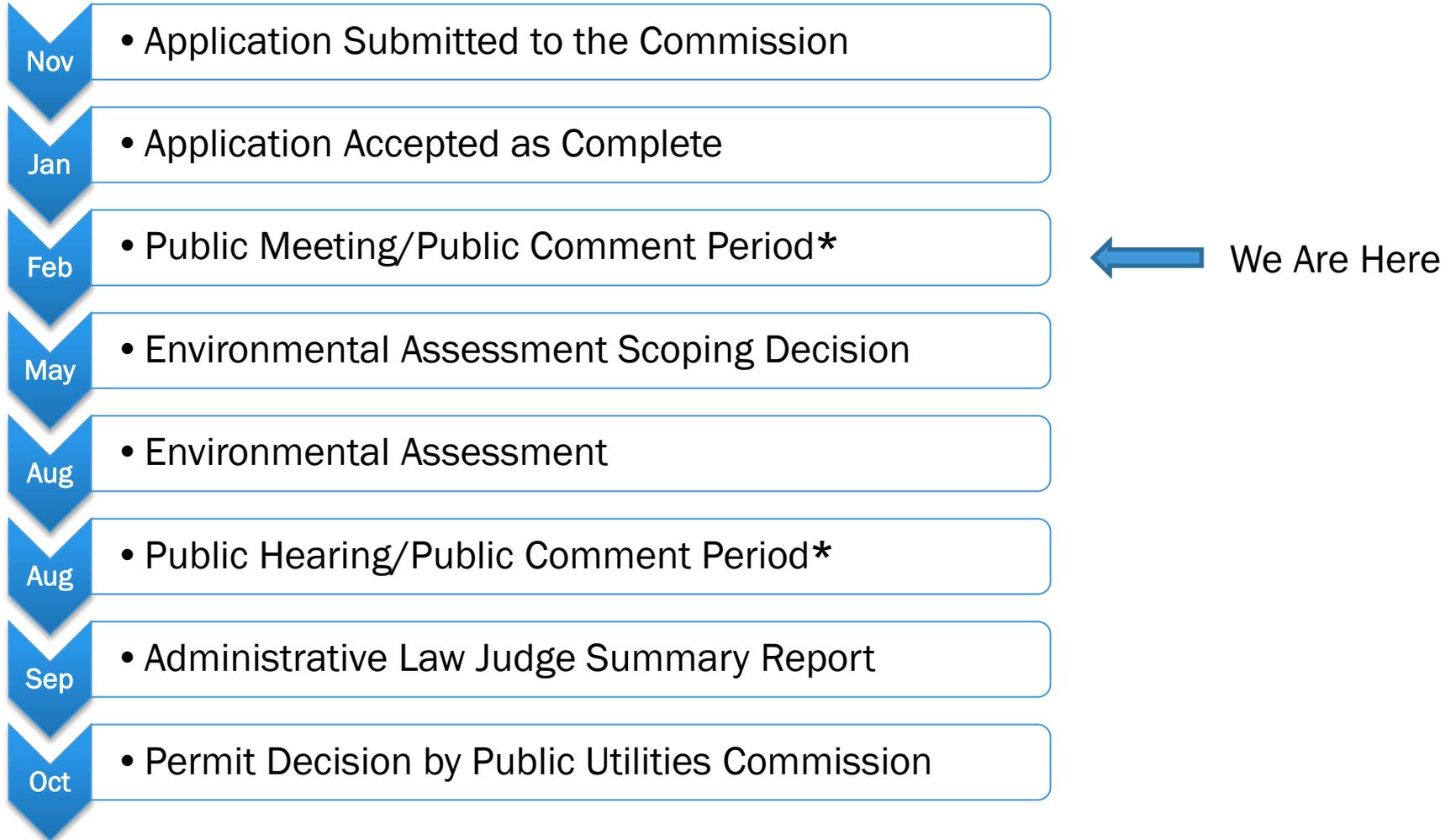
Example: Re-Align with Cty Road



Scoping Comment: Agency Input



Environmental Review Timeline



* 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

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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**
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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
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