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Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary  
Public Utilities Commission

## **NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCOPING MEETING**

*Issued: January 26, 2016*

**In the Matter of the Application of Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. for a Route Permit under the Alternative Permitting Process for the Clearbrook-Clearbrook West Transmission Line in Clearwater County Minnesota**

**Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Number:** ET-6/TL-14-665

**Date:** February 22, 2016

**Time:** 6:00pm

**Location:** Clearbrook Community Center  
200 Elm Street SW  
Clearbrook MN 56634

**Bad weather?** Find out if a meeting is canceled. Call (toll-free) 1-855-731-6208 or 651-201-2213 or visit [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc)

### **Project Description**

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota) proposes to:

- Build a new 5.3 mile 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line
- Build a new 115/4.16 kV distribution substation

The proposed project is located in Leon and Pine Lake townships in Clearwater County. Minnkota states the project is needed to serve an industrial customer in the Clearbrook area.

### **Meeting Information**

- The meeting starts on time.
- Arrive a few minutes early so you have time to sign in, pick up materials, and find a seat.
- State agency staff members run the meeting.
- Public Utilities Commission, Department of Commerce, and Minnkota staff members are available to answer questions about the permitting process and the project.
- You may add verbal comments, written comments, or both into the record.
- The Department of Commerce uses comments received at the meeting and during the comment period to develop the scope of the environmental assessment for this project.

## Submit Comments

### Topics Open for Public Comment:

- Please focus your comments on information that will help answer the following questions.
- In your comments, please state which question(s) you are addressing.
  1. What human and environmental impacts of the proposed transmission line should be studied in the environmental assessment prepared for this project?
  2. Are there any specific methods to address (avoid, minimize, or mitigate) these impacts that should be studied in the environmental assessment?
  3. Are there any alternative routes or route segments that should be considered to address these impacts?

**Comment Period**      Comments accepted through March 7, 2016

- Please include the PUC Docket Number (*14-665*) in all communications

**Online**            <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment>

**Email**            [david.birkholz@state.mn.us](mailto:david.birkholz@state.mn.us)

**U.S. Mail**        David Birkholz, Environmental Review Manager  
 Minnesota Department of Commerce  
 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
 St. Paul MN 55101

**Fax**                651-539-0109

**Important**      Comments will be made available to the public via the Public Utilities Commission's and the Department of Commerce's websites, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. Personally identifying information is not edited or deleted from submissions.

## Process Information

The Public Utilities Commission (Commission) must approve a route permit before the project can be built. The Commission accepted Minnkota's route permit application in January 2016. This means the company submitted all the information required to begin the review process. The Commission's decision-making process takes about nine months.

Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis staff prepares an environmental assessment for this project. The environmental assessment reviews the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives, as well as ways to address impacts.

After the environmental assessment is issued, an Administrative Law Judge holds a public hearing. You may speak at the hearing, ask questions, and submit written comments about the project.

After the public hearing, the Commission reviews all the information in the record, including written comments and comments received at the public hearings. The Commission's final decision on the route permit for this project is expected in late 2016.

**Eminent Domain:** If the Commission issues a route permit, Minnkota may use the power of eminent domain to acquire land for this project.

## How to Learn More

### Department of Commerce Project Website:

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

**Project Mailing List:** Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate (meetings, comment periods, etc.). Contact [docketing.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:docketing.puc@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2204 with the docket number (*14-665*), your name, mailing address, and email address.

**Full Case Record:** See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission's website - [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (*14*) and the docket number (*665*), select *Search*.

**Subscribe** to receive email notification when new documents are filed.

1. [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc)
2. Select *Subscribe*
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*
7. Select *Save*

Note - subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

**Community Locations:** The route permit application is available at the following location:

- Bagley Public Library, 79 Spencer Avenue SW, Bagley

**Minnesota Statutes and Rules:** This project is reviewed under Minnesota Statute 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850, available at [www.revisor.mn.gov](http://www.revisor.mn.gov).

## Project Contacts

### Public Utilities Commission Public Advisor

Tracy Smetana - [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us), 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782

### Public Utilities Commission Energy Facilities Planner

Tricia DeBleeckere – [tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us](mailto:tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2254

### Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager

David Birkholz – [david.birkholz@state.mn.us](mailto:david.birkholz@state.mn.us), 651-539-1838 or 1-800-657-3794

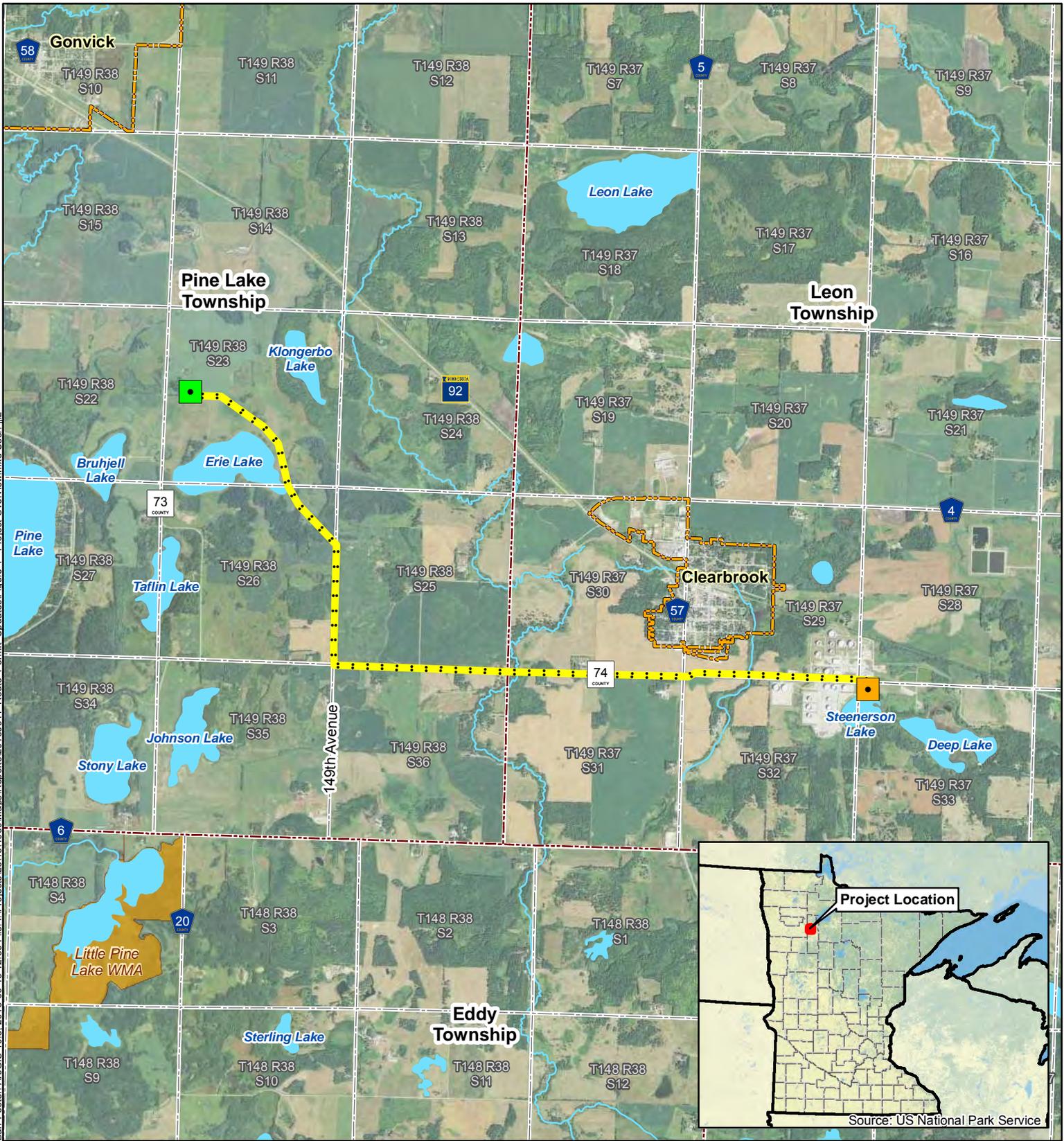
### Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. Project Contact

John T. Graves – [jgraves@minnkota.com](mailto:jgraves@minnkota.com) or 701-795-4221

This document can be made available in alternative formats (e.g., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.

If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in these meetings (e.g., sign language, foreign language interpreter, large print materials), please contact the Commission at 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782 at least one week in advance of the meeting.

Bar: Footer: ArcGIS 10.3\_2015-09-15 12:58 File: I:\Projects\231515\_1039\Map\Reports\20150911\_Route\_Permit\_Updates\Figure 1 - Project Overview.mxd User: jll2



-  Existing Substation Location
-  Proposed Substation Location
-  Anticipated Alignment
-  PWI Watercourse
-  PWI Basin
-  Wildlife Management Area
-  Municipal Boundary
-  PLS Section
-  Township Boundary

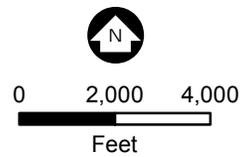


Image Source: 2013 Farm Service Agency  
 PUC Docket ET-6/TL-14-665  
 Document ID# 201511-115970-01  
 Figure 1

**PROJECT OVERVIEW**  
 Proposed Clearbrook – Clearbrook West  
 115 kV HVTL Project  
 Minnkota Power  
 Clearwater County, MN