



*Janet L. Homgaley for*  
Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary  
Public Utilities Commission



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCOPING MEETING

*Issued: February 27, 2015*

**In the Matter of the Application of Minnesota Power for the Line 16 Reroute Project in  
St. Louis County**

**Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Number:** E-015/TL-14-977

**Date:** March 23, 2015

**Time:** 6:00pm

**Location:** Eveleth City Hall  
413 Pierce Street  
Eveleth MN 55734

**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

Minnesota Power proposes to:

- Re-route a section of an existing transmission line (its *16 Line*)
- Construct approximately 3 miles of new 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line
- Remove approximately 3 miles of existing transmission line

The project would be located in St. Louis County.

### 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 preside over the meeting.
- Public Utilities Commission, Department of Commerce, and Minnesota Power staff will be available to answer questions about the permitting process and the project.
- Citizens will be able to offer oral comments, written comments, or both into the record.

- Comments received at the meeting and during the comment period will be used to develop the environmental assessment for this project.
- Learn more about participating at a public meeting at [mn.gov/puc/aboutus/index.html](http://mn.gov/puc/aboutus/index.html)

## Submit Comments

### Topics Open for Public Comment:

- What human and environmental impacts of the proposed transmission line should be studied in the environmental assessment prepared for this project?
- Are there any specific methods to address these impacts that should be studied in the environmental assessment?
- Are there any alternative routes or route segments that should be considered to address these project impacts?

**Comment Period** February 27, 2015 through April 3, 2015 at 4:30pm

- Please include the PUC Docket Number (14-977) in all communications.

**Online** [mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment](http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment)

**Email** [bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us)

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

**Fax** 651-539-1549

**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

Before the project can be built, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) must approve a route permit. The Commission accepted Minnesota Power's route permit application at a February 2015 meeting. This means the company submitted all the information required to begin the review process. The Commission's decision-making process takes about nine months.

The Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis staff will prepare an environmental assessment for this project. The environmental assessment will review 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, there will be a public hearing. Citizens will be able to speak at the hearing, ask questions, and submit comments about the project.

An Administrative Law Judge will use all the information in the record, including written comments and comments received at the public hearings, to write a report for the Commission. The report is a summary of findings, conclusions, and recommendations about this project. After receiving the Judge's report, the Commission will schedule a meeting to make a final decision on the route permit for this project, expected by October 2015.

**Eminent Domain:** If issued a route permit by the Commission, Minnesota Power may use the power of eminent domain to get land for this project.

## How to Learn More

### Department of Commerce Project Website:

<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=34059>

**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 (14-977), your name, mailing address, and email address.

**Full Case Record:** All documents filed in this docket are available via the Commission's website at [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (14) and the docket number (977), select *Search*.

**Subscribe to the Docket:** Subscribe to receive email notifications when new documents are filed. Note - subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

1. [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc)
2. Select green box *Subscribe to a Docket*
3. Type your e-mail address
4. For *Type of Subscription*, select *Docket Number*
5. For *Docket Number*, select 14 in the first box, type 977 in the second box
6. Select *Add to List*
7. Select *Save*

**Public Libraries:** The route permit application is available at the following public libraries:

- Eveleth Public Library, 614 Pierce Street, Eveleth
- Gilbert Public Library, 17 North Broadway Avenue, Gilbert

**Minnesota Statutes and Rules:** This project is being 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 at [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**

Michael Kaluzniak at [mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us](mailto:mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2257

**Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager**

Bill Storm at [bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us), 651-539-1844 or 1-800-657-3794

**Minnesota Power Project Contact**

Daniel McCourtney at [dmccourtney@allete.com](mailto:dmccourtney@allete.com) or 218-355-3515

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.

# Project Map

- Existing 16 Line
- Proposed 16 Line 100 foot-wide ROW
- Proposed 16 Line 500 foot-wide Route
- PWI Basin
- Tailings Basin Expansion Area
- Public Land Survey Sections

PUC Docket 14-977

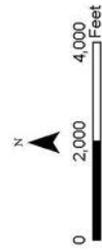
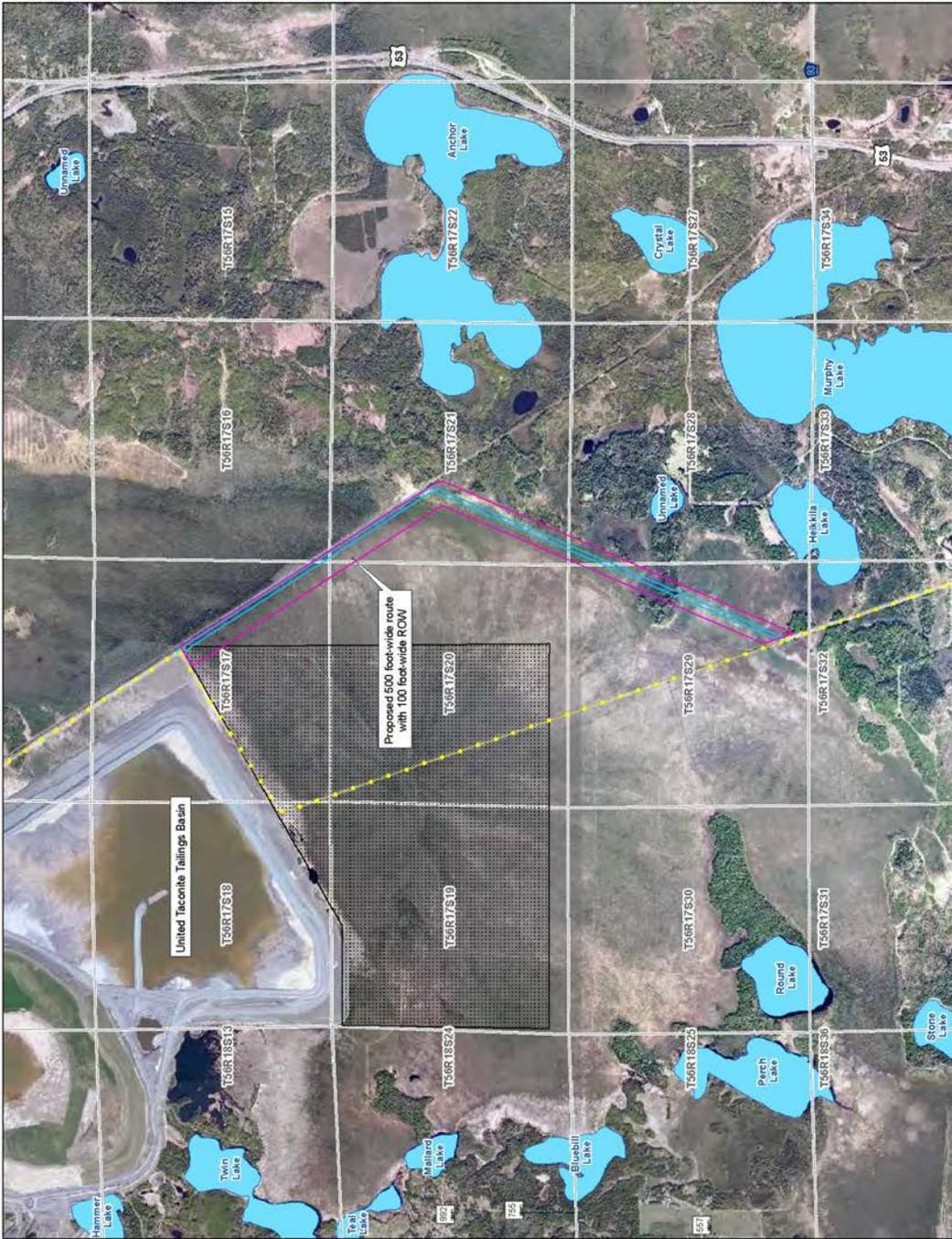


Figure 2

PROJECT DETAILED MAP  
 Proposed 16 Line Reroute  
 Saint Louis County, MN



Map File: ArcGIS 10.2.2 2015-01-15 10:19 File: I:\Project\2609592\Map\Project\0014\200 Public Point Application\Figure 2 - Project Detailed Map.mxd User: jv