



## Power Plant Siting Act 2010 Year in Review

### Permitted Energy Facilities

In 2010, Office of Energy Security, Energy Facility Permitting (OES EFP) staff assisted the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) in permitting 19 energy facilities and prepared 19 required environmental documents:

- 1 Power plants (1,200 MW)
- 1 pipeline (14 Miles)
- 8 transmission lines (approximately 400 miles)
- 9 wind farms (1,424 MW)
- 19 Environmental Documents (9 Environmental Impact Statements, 2 Environmental Assessments, and 8 Environmental Reports)

### Energy Projects under Review

As of December 2010, OES EFP staff had 14 energy facilities in the permitting process:

- 7 transmission lines (approximately 330 miles)
- 6 Wind farms (527 MW)

### 2010 Focus Areas

#### Transmission Line Routing

Staff engaged in permitting several large transmission projects, including five transmission lines associated with CapX 2020 Phase I. Areas of work related to transmission line routing issues included:

- Continued collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Transportation to explore issues associated with locating transmission lines adjacent to interstate highways.
- Continued discussions with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources on avian issues, including implications of the Bald and Golden Eagle protection act.

#### Public Participation and Outreach Activities

Staff developed and enhanced tools for increased public participation in the permitting process and provided outreach services to Minnesota counties. These included:

- Evaluating existing website use and redesigning the energy facilities permitting website to improve ease of use, aid public participation, and better integrate the site with the state's electronic docketing system (eDockets).
- Providing outreach services to Minnesota counties, including (1) web features to track projects by county using RSS feeds and to submit public comments online, (2) assisting with local review projects, and (3) meeting with them to discuss wind farm siting and county ordinances.
- Developing a rights-of-way and easement [fact sheet](#) to aid landowners potentially affected by the construction of energy facilities in Minnesota.