

# **APPENDIX B**

EA Scoping Letter and Public Comment



## City of Chaska

**INVITATION  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OPEN HOUSE  
for  
PROPOSED 115 kV TRANSMISSION TAP LINE TO SERVE THE  
CITY OF CHASKA  
WEST CREEK SUBSTATION**

**Thursday, February 16, 2012  
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Chaska City Hall, Council Chambers  
One City Hall Plaza  
Chaska, MN 55318**

---

You are invited to attend a public information open house hosted by the City of Chaska and Xcel Energy to discuss Northern States Power Company's (Xcel Energy) proposed transmission tap line to serve the City of Chaska West Creek Substation.

**Please see the enclosed Fact Sheet for project details and site map.**

Xcel Energy is seeking approval of a Conditional Use Permit for the project from the City of Chaska. As part of the permitting process, the City of Chaska must prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the project and afford the public an opportunity to participate in the development of the scope of the EA before it is prepared. A preliminary Table of Contents for the EA is attached as a starting point for what should be covered in the EA. We encourage you to provide comments on the project and additional topics you want to see addressed in the EA.

You can provide comments on the proposed project and the scope of the EA in several ways: (1) in person at the public information open house on February 16<sup>th</sup>, (2) by mail to the address on the enclosed comment form, or (3) by email to the contacts below.

Xcel Energy and City of Chaska staff will be available at the informational open house to answer questions about the project and the permitting process. You may attend the open house any time between 6:00pm and 7:30pm. Please note that although the public information meeting will be held in the council chambers, the City will not be taking any action on the project at this time.

For more information about the project, please contact:

Sage Tauber, Permit Analyst  
Xcel Energy  
414 Nicollet Mall – MP8  
Minneapolis, MN 55401  
(612) 330-2909  
[Sage.Tauber@xcelenergy.com](mailto:Sage.Tauber@xcelenergy.com)

or

Melissa Duchinsky, City Planner  
City of Chaska  
One City Hall Plaza  
Chaska, MN 5518  
(952) 448-9200  
[MDuchinsky@chaskamn.com](mailto:MDuchinsky@chaskamn.com)



## PROPOSED TRANSMISSION TAP LINE TO SERVE THE CITY OF CHASKA WEST CREEK SUBSTATION

### FACT SHEET

#### Project Location

The Project site is located northeast of the intersection of County Road 11 (Guernsey Avenue) and County Road 10 in the City of Chaska, Carver County, MN.

#### Project Need

The City of Chaska is constructing a new electrical substation (West Creek Substation) to serve 50 megawatts (MW) of electric load, including 20 MW to serve the West Creek Corporate Center currently under construction, and 30 MW to serve three additional distribution feeders for the electric needs on the west side of Chaska. In order to provide electric service from the City's substation, a new transmission tap line is required between the substation and the existing Great River Energy (GRE) transmission line located along County Road 11 (aka Guernsey Avenue).

#### Project Description

Xcel Energy proposes to construct an approximately 0.5-mile long, single circuit, 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission tap line and associated facilities. As shown on attached **Figure 1**, the proposed transmission tap line route will extend from the west side of the City of Chaska's West Creek Substation and run approximately 80 feet south of, and parallel to, an existing 230 kV transmission line for approximately 0.4 miles, then south adjacent to County Road 11 (Guernsey Avenue) on private property for approximately 0.1 mile. From that point, the tap line will cross County Road 11 and connect to a new switch structure on GRE's transmission line on the west side of County Road 11. The proposed transmission line will be designed using single pole, horizontal or braced post structures composed of galvanized or weathering steel. The poles will be approximately 60-90 feet high with a span length of approximately 300-400 feet. Tangent structures will be directly embedded into the ground and dead-end structures will be constructed using 6 to 8-foot diameter concrete pier foundations.

#### Construction Schedule

Project construction is expected to commence in late spring or early summer of 2012.

#### Public Information Open House and Comments

An information open house will be held Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012, 6:00-7:30 PM at Chaska City Hall, Council Chambers. Comments on the project can be submitted in person at the open house, mailed to the address on the enclosed comment form, or emailed to the project contacts below.

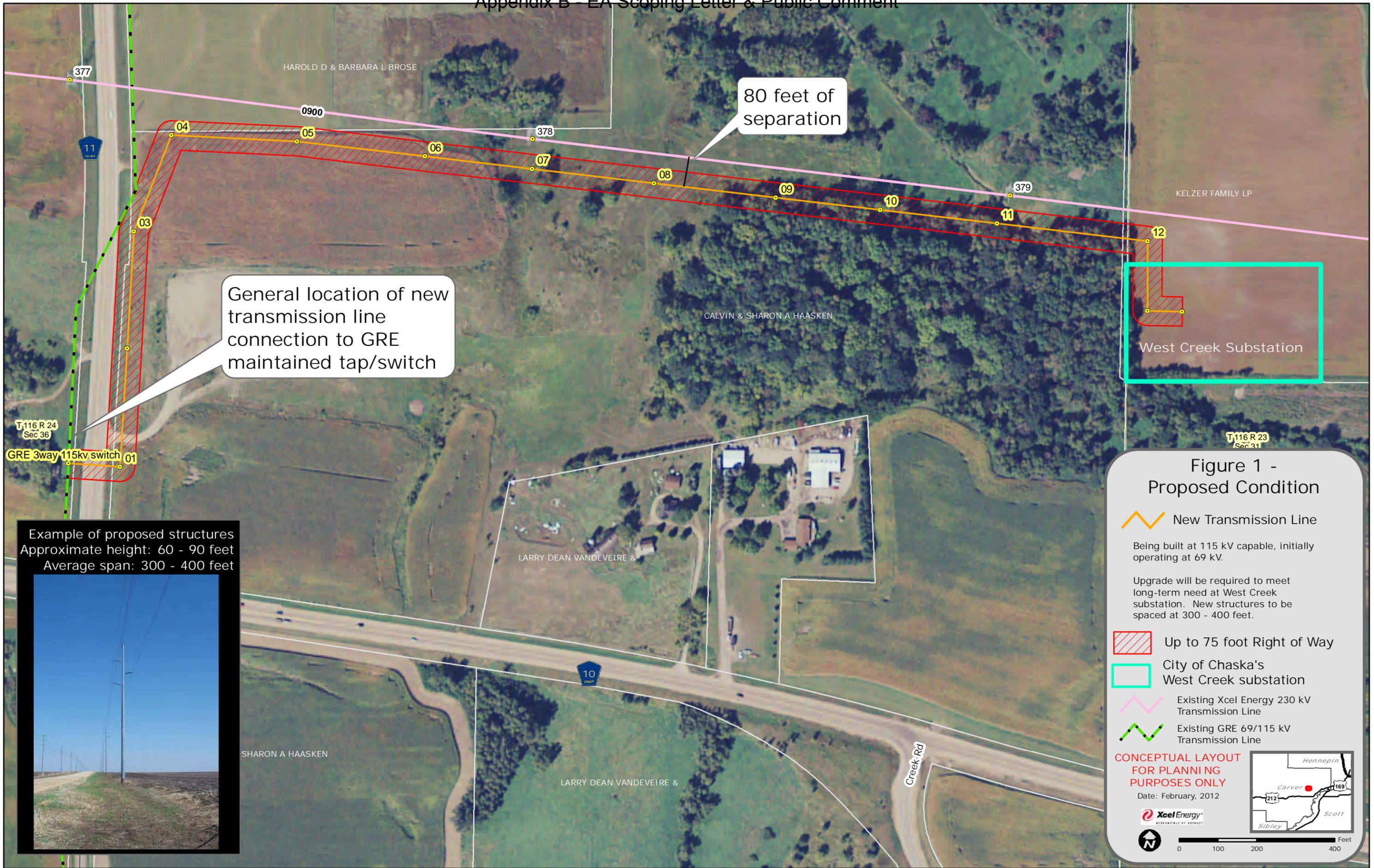
#### Project Contacts

Sage Tauber  
Xcel Energy  
Permitting Analyst  
612-330-2909

[Sage.Tauber@xcelenergy.com](mailto:Sage.Tauber@xcelenergy.com)

Brian Mielke  
Xcel Energy  
Siting and Land Rights Agent  
612-330-7946

[Brian.D.Mielke@xcelenergy.com](mailto:Brian.D.Mielke@xcelenergy.com)



General location of new transmission line connection to GRE maintained tap/switch

80 feet of separation

Example of proposed structures  
 Approximate height: 60 - 90 feet  
 Average span: 300 - 400 feet

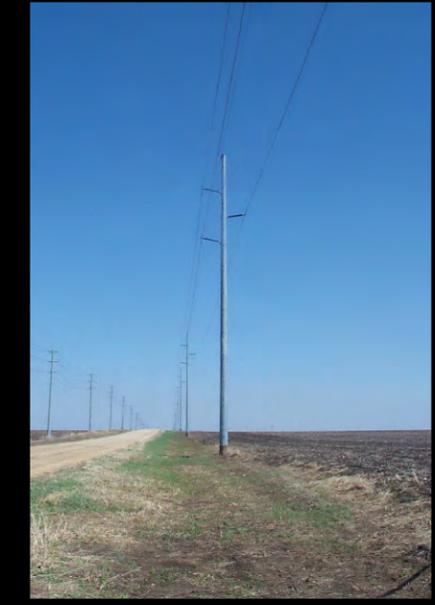
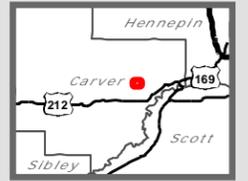


Figure 1 - Proposed Condition

-  New Transmission Line  
 Being built at 115 kV capable, initially operating at 69 kV.  
 Upgrade will be required to meet long-term need at West Creek substation. New structures to be spaced at 300 - 400 feet.
-  Up to 75 foot Right of Way
-  City of Chaska's West Creek substation
-  Existing Xcel Energy 230 kV Transmission Line
-  Existing GRE 69/115 kV Transmission Line

CONCEPTUAL LAYOUT FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY

Date: February, 2012



# Appendix B - EA Scoping Letter & Public Comment

## Environmental Assessment – Preliminary Table of Contents

115 kV Transmission Tap Line to Serve City of Chaska West Creek Substation

---

### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Proposed Project and Project Need
- 1.2 Project Location, Description and Schedule
- 1.3 Project Cost Estimate

### **2.0 Regulatory Framework**

- 2.1 Permit Requirement
- 2.2 Environmental Assessment Requirement
- 2.3 Public Participation/Scoping of Environmental Assessment

### **3.0 Engineering Design, Right-of-Way Acquisition, and Construction**

- 3.1 Engineering Design
- 3.2 Right-of-Way Acquisition
- 3.3 Construction and Maintenance Procedures

### **4.0 Assessment of Impacts and Mitigation**

- 4.1 Description of Environmental Setting
- 4.2 Impacts on Human Settlement
  - 4.2.1 Socioeconomics
  - 4.2.2 Displacement
  - 4.2.3 Noise
  - 4.2.4 Aesthetics
  - 4.2.5 Human Health and Safety
  - 4.2.6 Public Services
  - 4.2.7 Transportation
- 4.3 Impacts on Land-based Economies
  - 4.3.1 Recreation/Tourism
  - 4.3.2 Agriculture
  - 4.3.3 Mining and Forestry
- 4.4 Archaeological and Historic Resources
- 4.5 Natural Environment
  - 4.5.1 Air Quality
  - 4.5.2 Water Resources, Wetlands and Soils
  - 4.5.3 Vegetation and Wildlife/Rare and Unique Natural Resources

### **5.0 Regulatory Permits and Approvals Required**

# Appendix B - EA Scoping Letter & Public Comment

## **Figures**

General Vicinity Map  
Project Site Map  
Proposed 115 kV Single Circuit Structure Design  
Hydrologic Features Map  
Rare Features Map

## **Tables**

Common Noise Sources and Levels  
Calculated Electric Fields (kV/m)  
Regulatory Permits and Approvals Required

## **Appendices**

Appendix A Notices  
Appendix B EA Scoping Public Comments  
Appendix C Agency Correspondence

# Appendix B - EA Scoping Letter & Public Comment

## Environmental Assessment (EA) Scoping Comment Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Please share your comments on any potential impacts or issues that should be considered in the Environmental Assessment (EA) document being prepared for the proposed 0.5-mile 115 kV transmission tap line to serve the City of Chaska's West Creek Substation located in the City of Chaska, Carver County.

Please submit this form at the public information open house on Thursday, February 16, 2012 between 6:00pm-7:30pm, or mail your comments to the address on this form. You may also email any comments to [Sage.Tauber@xcelenergy.com](mailto:Sage.Tauber@xcelenergy.com) or [MDuchinsky@chaskamn.com](mailto:MDuchinsky@chaskamn.com).

**Comments must be received by Wednesday, February 29th, 2012.**

**COMMENTS:**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Appendix B - EA Scoping Letter & Public Comment

---

Fold on Lines, Fasten and Mail

---

Xcel Energy  
414 Nicollet Mall, MP 8  
Minneapolis, MN, 55401

Xcel Energy  
**Attention: Sage Tauber**  
414 Nicollet Mall MP-8A  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

---

## Appendix B - EA Scoping Letter & Public Comment

**Tauber, Sage**

---

**From:** kevin wendland [klmwendland@EMBARQMAIL.COM]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 02, 2012 9:50 AM  
**To:** Tauber, Sage; mduchinsky@chaskamn.com  
**Subject:** EA scoping Tap Line

Good morning. I would like to add my comments to the proposed tap line in our neighborhood. A few months ago residents in our neighborhood were told that the West Creek Substation was placed in the only feasible spot. Now I see with the enclosed aerial photo, that this substation could have been placed along county road 11, where the GRE 3 way 115v switch is located, then a transmission line from this site could have been sited along the proposed tap line route, to the West Creek complex. This siting would be more conducive to what the residents wanted; avoiding a substation eyesore in their backyards. Thank you.  
Kevin Wendland.