



MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

NOTICE OF EQB BOARD MEETING

**February 17, 2005 – 9:00 A.M.
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Boardroom
520 Lafayette Road
Saint Paul, Minnesota**

Re: Route Permit Application by Xcel Energy and Great River Energy for a 115 kilovolt High Voltage Transmission Line between the Air Lake Substation in Lakeville and the Empire Substation in Empire Township and a new Vermillion River Substation in Farmington, all in Dakota County.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) will hold a Board Meeting on February 17, 2005, at which they will consider an application by Xcel Energy and Great River Energy for a Route Permit to construct a new 115 kV high voltage transmission line about 9.25 miles long between the Air Lake Substation in Lakeville and the Empire Substation in Empire Township, and to construct a new Vermillion River Substation in Farmington, all in Dakota County.

The Board Meeting will be held in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Board Room in Saint Paul, Minnesota. This meeting is intended to determine the final route selection for the project. A briefing for agency technical representatives will be held on February 8, 2005, in Room 302 of the Centennial Office Building, 658 Cedar Street, Saint Paul, MN at 9:00 a.m.. Both meetings are public meetings where public comment can be offered.

Project Description. Xcel Energy has proposed to construct a 115 kilovolt high voltage transmission line about 2.75 miles long between the Air Lake Substation in Lakeville and a proposed new Vermillion River Substation in Farmington. The first segment of proposed line is on the same right-of-way as an existing Xcel 69 kV line. Great River Energy has proposed to build a 115 kV line from the new substation to the Empire Substation. This line would be 6.5 miles long, requiring approximately 5.8 miles of new right-of-way. In addition, certain reconfigurations are required at the substations.

Current Situation. The EQB Board considered the application at its last meeting on January 20, 2005, at which time the Board was not able to come to a conclusion regarding the final placement of the transmission line. The Board left open two options for consideration through the town of Farmington and three options for consideration east of Ahern Avenue in Empire Township to the end of the line at the Empire Substation.

One option in Farmington City would route the line north along Akin Road, running east north of the middle school to Highway 3. The route would then parallel Hwy 3 down to Willow Street, then east along the railway corridor. The other option would route the line south along Akin Road, running east, south of the middle school, through the commercial industrial corridor through to Hwy 3, then east along the railway corridor.

One option in Empire Township would divert the line from 210th Street at Ahern Avenue, where it would run north along the avenue to County Road 66. It would continue along CR 66 until it reached the existing transmission line running north and south, east of Blaine Avenue. The line would double circuit that transmission line to the Empire Substation. The other options still under consideration are the originally proposed route along 210th Street, and another that would use a route along the half-section line between County Road 66 and 210th Street.

Additional Information. For more information on the proposed transmission line, you can reference the EQB webpage at: <http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=6237>. Pertinent documents have been posted on that site throughout the routing process. If you have further questions, you may contact David Birkholz of the EQB staff at 658 Cedar Street, 300 Centennial Building, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155, phone 651.296.2878, e-mail at David.Birkholz@state.mn.us or the public advisor, George Johnson, at the same address, phone 651.296.2888, e-mail at George.Johnson@state.mn.us.