



MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

October 11, 2004 ♦ 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm
Dakota County Extension Office
4100 220th Street W., Suite 101
Farmington, Minnesota

In the Matter of a 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 Public Hearing on 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 a new Vermillion River Substation in Farmington, all in Dakota County. The public hearing will be held on October 11, 2004, at the Dakota County Extension Office in Farmington, Minnesota. The hearing will convene at 2:00 p.m. and an evening session will be held commencing at 7:00 p.m.

Administrative Law Judge Allan W. Klein will preside at the hearing. Judge Klein's address is Office of Administrative Hearings, 100 Washington Square, Suite 1700, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-2138, phone 612.341.7609.

Project Description Xcel 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 half mile of transmission line from the Air Lake Substation in Lakeville to the east is currently a triple-circuit 115 kV line and is not part of the application. 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, requiring approximately 5.8 miles of new right-of-way. In addition, certain reconfigurations are required at the substations.

Environmental Assessment The EQB released an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the proposed project on September 27, 2004. The EA addresses the potential impacts of the proposed project and evaluates alternative route segments suggested by several residents and the city of Farmington. A map detailing the proposed route and the

proposed route alternatives is attached to this notice. Copies of the permit application and the EA are available for public review at the Farmington City Hall. These and other project-related documents may also be found on the EQB webpage at:

<http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=6237>

Conduct of Hearing The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Power Plant Siting Act, Minn. Stat. § 116C.51 to 116C.69, and the rules of the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board, Minn. Rules parts 4400.2000 to 4400.2950, for projects of the size and type proposed here.

The EQB staff will be present at the hearing and make a brief presentation about the project and introduce into the record a number of documents relating to the project, including the application, the Environmental Assessment, and certain procedural documents. Representatives of the applicants (Xcel Energy and Great River Energy) will be present to offer evidence and to answer questions. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions of EQB staff and the applicants, to make statements, and to offer written comments and material into the record at both the afternoon and evening sessions. Members of the public are not required to file any papers in advance of the hearing in order to participate. There is no advance sign-up process. Judge Klein will call on those who want to speak.

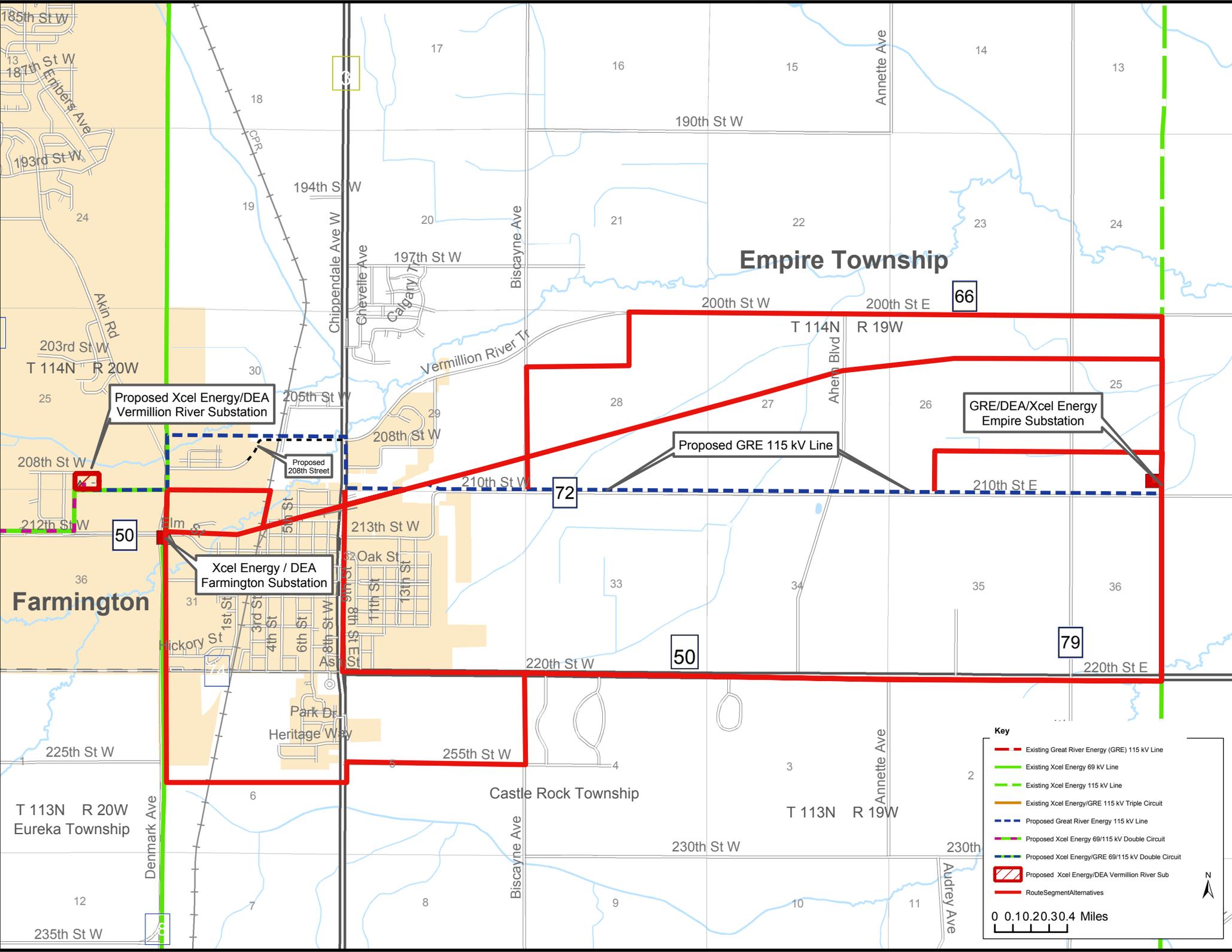
The record will remain open for at least ten days after the close of the hearing for interested persons to submit written comments to the Administrative Law Judge. Judge Klein will determine at the hearing a date for the comment period to end. Comments must be submitted directly to Judge Klein at the address above.

Purpose of Hearing The purpose of the public hearing is to compile the record for the EQB Board to consider in making a final decision on the route to approve. Upon closure of the public comment period, Judge Klein will write a report and make a recommendation to the EQB on which route to authorize and on any appropriate permit conditions. The EQB will make a final decision on the permit at a subsequent Board meeting.

Additional Information Questions about the EQB process can be directed to 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 to the public advisor, George Johnson, at the same address, phone 651.296.2888, e-mail at George.Johnson@state.mn.us.

Mailing List Any person may add his or her name to the mailing list maintained by the EQB for future mailings regarding this project, including notice of the EQB's final decision in this matter. Names can be added to the list by contacting Mr. Birkholz or Mr. Johnson or electronically by visiting the EQB webpage cited above.

Dated: September 27, 2004



Proposed Xcel Energy/DEA Vermillion River Substation

Proposed 208th Street

Xcel Energy / DEA Farmington Substation

Proposed GRE 115 kV Line

GRE/DEA/Xcel Energy Empire Substation

Key

- Existing Great River Energy (GRE) 115 kV Line
- Existing Xcel Energy 69 kV Line
- - - Existing Xcel Energy 115 kV Line
- Existing Xcel Energy/GRE 115 kV Triple Circuit
- - - Proposed Great River Energy 115 kV Line
- Proposed Xcel Energy 69/115 kV Double Circuit
- - - Proposed Xcel Energy/GRE 69/115 kV Double Circuit
- Proposed Xcel Energy/DEA Vermillion River Sub
- RouteSegmentAlternatives

0 0.10.20.30.4 Miles

