

Notice

TO: Local Officials, Property Owners and Persons interested in the Minnkota power Cooperative Lund Substation and 230 kV Tap Project in Baudette, Minnesota
MEQB DOCKET NO. 5-93-TR-Minnkota

RE: Notice of Minnkota Power Cooperative Filing of Route Permit Application with Minnesota EQB – Alternative Process

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota) proposes to construct two 230 kV transmission lines each about 7 mile in length between the existing Moranville to Running 230 kV transmission line and a new substation to be built at the southwest corner of TH72 and County Road 80 (SW?SW? of Section 19, T160N, R30W). In addition, 1.5 miles of existing 69 kV single circuit transmission line will be replaced with a 69 kV double circuit transmission line, 1.2 miles of buried fiber optic cable will be installed adjacent to the 69 kV double circuit line, and a new 0.1 mile long 69 kV single circuit transmission line will be added. The project is needed to meet the needs of Minnkota's member distribution cooperatives. A map showing the area of Minnkota Power's project is attached as Exhibit A.

Under the Power Plant Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes, §116C.51-.69) a route permit from the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) is required to build a high voltage transmission line (HVTL). On March 16, 2005 Minnkota submitted an application (Application) to the EQB for a routing permit pursuant to the alternative permitting process contained in Minn. Rules parts 4400.2000, Subpart 1(C) and 4400.200, Subpart 1(D), and Minn. Stat. §116C.575.

The EQB has adopted rules for the administration of transmission line route permits (Minnesota Rules Chapter 4400). The EQB rules establish the requirements for submitting and processing a route permit application. The applicant must identify in the application their preferred route for the transmission line.

The EQB will prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Project. As part of this process, the EQB will seek comments from the public and will hold a public meeting within 60 days of the EQB's acceptance of the Application Minnkota submitted on March 16, 2005. The meeting may also serve as the scoping meeting for the Project at which additional alternatives may be proposed. The date of the first EQB meeting and location is as follows: Baudette City Call, Council Chambers, 106 West Main

Street, 7 PM, April 26, 2005.

The EQB will also hold a public hearing on the Application once the Environmental Assessment has been completed. The EQB is required to grant or deny the requested permit within seven months from the date the EQB accepts the Application.

The Chair has designated EQB staff member Larry Hartman as the public advisor in this matter. Inquiries about this project should be directed to the EQB project manager, George Johnson, (Tel: 651-296-2888 or george.johnson@state.mn.us) Environmental Quality Board, 300 Centennial Bldg., 658 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55155. Other contact information: Toll-Free Tel: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-296-3698 or TTY: Minnesota Relay Service, 800-627-3529, and ask for the EQB.

Project related materials, including the permit application, will be available at: www.eqb.state.mn.us. Click on "Energy Facilities" and the project will be listed under the "Open Projects" list. Any person may request to have his or her name or an organization's name placed on the project contact list by registering online at the EQB web site or by contacting Andrea at the EQB at 651-296-2571. Copies of the Permit Application will also be available at the Baudette Library after April 15, 2005.

Project information may also be obtained by contacting John Graves at: Minnkota Power Cooperative, 1822 Mill Rd, P.O. Box 13200, Grand Forks, ND 58208-3200; (701) 795-4221
jgraves@minnkota.com

Publish April 19, 2005.

