

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

In the Matter of the Xcel Energy's Application for a Route Permit Under the Alternative Permitting Process for the Eastwood 115 KV HVTL Tap Project (EQB Docket # 05-95-TR-Eastwood 115-115 kV; PUC Docket #E002/TR-05-1192)

Minnesota River Room
Located on the 1st Floor of the
Intergovernmental Center
10 Civic Center Plaza
Mankato, MN 56001

Thursday
August 25, 2005
5:00-8:00 p.m.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (MDOC) will conduct a public information meeting in the Minnesota River Room at 10 Civic Center Plaza in Mankato, at **5:00-8:00 p.m. on August 25, 2005**, concerning a proposal by Xcel Energy to construct and operate a 115 kilovolt (kV) double-circuit transmission line in Lime and Mankato Townships in Blue Earth County. This Project is part of a series of transmission projects that will allow the electrical system to support the interconnection of the new Mankato Energy Center into the Wilmarth Substation. The purposes of the meeting are to provide information to the public about the proposed project, answer questions, and scope an environmental assessment, helping to identify potentially significant issues and alternatives.

Staff of the MDOC will conduct the meeting and describe the state's transmission route permitting process. Please note that the authority for high voltage transmission line (HVTL) permits was transferred to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) from the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board on July 1, 2005, and responsibility for conducting the public review process was assigned to the MDOC. Representatives of the applicant, Xcel Energy, will be at the meeting to describe the proposed project and answer questions.

Proposed Project Description

The line will be approximately 3.5 miles long and will begin as a tap off of the Summit to Loon Lake 115 kV transmission line near the intersection of 232nd Street and County Road 12. It will continue south along the east side of County Road 12 for approximately 0.75 miles. At the junction of County Road 12 and 589th Avenue, the line will cross to the west side of the road and continue south paralleling the railroad for approximately 1.25 miles to the intersection of 589th Avenue and Thompson Ravine Road. Due to potential development in the area and landowner concerns, the line will continue west at Thompson Ravine Road for up to 0.5 miles before turning south for about 0.5 miles and crossing T.H. 14. Xcel Energy will work with the interested parties to identify the best location for the new 115 kV/115 kV transmission line between Thompson Ravine Road and T.H. 14.

Upon crossing T.H. 14, the new 115 kV/115 kV line will continue south approximately 0.25 miles until it enters the Eastwood Substation, paralleling the existing Wilmarth-to-Eastwood 69 kV transmission line that enters the northwestern edge of the substation.

In accordance with their authority under state law, Xcel Energy may be required to exercise the power of eminent domain.

Route Permit Review Process

Under the Power Plant Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes, Sections 116C.51-.697) a route permit from the PUC is required to build an HVTL. Xcel Energy applied for a route permit on June 14, 2005, under Minnesota Rules parts 4400.2000 to 4400.2950, which allow for a six-month permitting process for HVTL projects between 100 and 200 kV. On June 28, 2005, the application was accepted as substantially complete.

As part of the permitting process, the MDOC holds a public meeting on the project and prepares an Environmental Assessment (EA). Public comments on scoping the EA are solicited at the public meeting. **The public will have until Friday, September 9, 2005, to submit written comments to the MDOC**, attention David Birkholz (see address below). Upon completion of the review requirements, the MDOC will present the record of this matter to the MPUC for a final decision.

Copies of the application and other relevant documents, including Minnesota Rules governing the process, are publicly available at:

<http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=17001> or

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=17001>

Interested persons can also request to be added to the project mailing list at these same sites.

Project Contacts

MDOC staff member David Birkholz (david.birkholz@state.mn.us or 651.296.2878) is the project manager and George Johnson (george.johnson@state.mn.us or 651.296.2888) has been designated public advisor in this matter. Inquiries about this project should be directed to Mr. Birkholz or Mr. Johnson at 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, Saint Paul, MN 55101-2198, facsimile 651.297.7891 (TTY relay service 800.657.3794).

Project Location

County	Township Name	Township	Range	Section
Blue Earth	Lime	109N	26W	34, 35
	Mankato	108N	26W	2, 3, 10



