

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS TO ADDRESS ROUTING A NATURAL GAS PIPELINE

The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board will conduct public meetings to receive comments concerning the routing and construction of a proposed 11-mile long, natural gas pipeline in the city of Shakopee and Jackson, Sand Creek and Louisville Townships of Scott County.

The Public Meeting will be held:

May 10, 2004 3p.m. & 7p.m.

Public Meeting Room Shakopee City Hall

129 South Holmes Street, Shakopee, Mn.

Xcel Energy proposes to expand its Blue Lake Power Plant in Shakopee, Minnesota by adding two, 160-megawatt, natural gas fueled, combustion turbine electric generators. The proposal includes an 11-mile long, 16-inch diameter, natural gas pipeline that requires a Pipeline Route Permit from the Environmental Quality Board (Minnesota Statutes 116I, Minnesota Rules 4415). The proposed location of the pipeline is illustrated on the map below.

The purpose of the public meeting is to present information about the proposal to the public, to answer questions, and to receive comments regarding the location of the proposed pipeline, its construction and the potential for environmental impacts.

Xcel Energy has requested that a Permit be issued using the Board's partial exemption procedure provided in Minnesota Rules Part 4415.0035. The procedure requires the Board must be able to find that the proposed pipeline will not have significant impact on humans or the environment before a Permit can be issued.

Copies of Xcel Energy's application for a Pipeline Route Permit can be viewed and copied at the Board's web site at www.eqb.state.mn.us/Docket.htm?Id=6272

The public has 30 days from the date of this notice to provide its comments concerning Xcel Energy's request.

You may direct questions or your written comments to Bill Storm, Minnesota Environmental Quality Board, 658 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155. Bill can be reached by phone at 651 296 9535, by fax at 651 296 3698, by TTY relay service at 800 627 3529 or at bill.storm@state.mn.us.

