



STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DATE: May 28, 2008

TO: Service List

FROM: Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Burl W. Haar", written over the printed name.

SUBJECT: In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy, Northern States Power Company (d/b/a Xcel Energy) and others for Certificates of Need for the Cap X 345-kV Transmission Projects. PUC Docket No. ET-2, E-002/CN-06-1115

ADVANCE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

Public hearings in this matter have been scheduled to begin on June 17, 2008 and continue over 19 sessions in 13 locations. The attached notice has been prepared by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for publication in 53 local or state newspapers between May 31 and June 5, 2008. In advance of the official newspaper publications, the Commission is making the public hearing notice available on its website and edockets at www.edockets.state.mn.us earlier than prescribed by rule to enable interested persons sufficient time to plan summer schedules.

In addition, the official Notice of Public Hearing will be included in a direct mailing by the Applicants in early June 2008 to approximately 73,000 landowners within the notice corridors approved earlier by the Commission.

Questions regarding this notice may be directed to Commission staff member Tricia DeBleeckere at (651) 201-2254 or Tricia.DeBleeckere@state.mn.us.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio tape) by calling (651) 201-2202 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through Minnesota Relay by dialing 7-1-1 or 1(800) 627-3529.

www.puc.state.mn.us

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Xcel Energy and Great River Energy Certificate of Need
Application for Three 345 kV Transmission Lines in Minnesota

PUC Docket ET-2, E-002/CN-06-1115



PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) will hold public hearings in this matter at the dates, times and locations listed below. The purpose of these proceedings is to determine whether the proposed high voltage electric transmission lines are needed and in the public interest.

Proposed Project Description

Xcel Energy and Great River Energy, on behalf of 11 transmission-owning utilities known as the CapX 2020 applicants (applicants), have jointly applied to the MPUC for a Certificate of Need for three 345 kilovolt (kV) and two 161 kV electric transmission lines. The applicants' projects, referred to cumulatively as the CapX 2020 transmission expansion initiative (CapX 2020) proposes transmission lines to connect substations in the following general locations:

- A 250-mile, 345 kV line between Fargo, North Dakota and Monticello, Minnesota.
- A 200-mile, 345 kV line between Brookings, South Dakota and Dakota County (Hampton), Minnesota; including a related 345 kV line between Marshall, Minnesota and Granite Falls, Minnesota.
- A 150-mile, 345 kV line from Dakota County (Hampton), Minnesota, to Rochester, Minnesota and continuing to La Crosse, Wisconsin; including two connecting 161kV lines near Rochester, Minnesota.

The applicants state that the transmission lines are part of a long-term plan intended to strengthen the transmission network to meet demand for electrical power anticipated in Minnesota and surrounding states by 2020, in part to increase access to renewable energy sources. In addition, the project is intended to address service reliability concerns in several communities including Rochester, St. Cloud, the Alexandria area and the Red River Valley.

Purpose and Conduct of Public Hearings

Xcel Energy and Great River Energy, on behalf of the applicants, applied to the MPUC for a Certificate of Need on August 16, 2007. Before any high voltage transmission line project(s) can be constructed in Minnesota, the MPUC must determine that the project(s) is necessary and in the best interest of the state. The Certificate of Need process includes a limited environmental review, public hearings, and evidentiary hearings. The review process typically requires at least 12-months to complete. The public hearings are the only opportunity for the public to appear in person, in Minnesota, to: 1) provide their input on the necessity of this project, 2) provide input on the no-build alternative, and 3) address alternatives (non-route related) for the MPUC to consider (see below for information on written comments). The criteria that the MPUC must address when rendering a final decision are found in Minnesota Statutes 216B.243, Subd.3 & 3a, and Minnesota Rules 7849.0120.

SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Moorhead, MN

Tuesday, June 17, 2008
5 pm
Horizon Middle School Cafetorium
3601 12th Avenue South

Fergus Falls, MN

Wednesday, June 18, 2008
10 am
MN State Community and
Technical College
Science Lecture Hall, Room S450
1414 College Way

Alexandria, MN

Wednesday, June 18, 2008
5 pm
Alexandria Technical College
Auditorium 205, Main Building
1601 Jefferson Street

Melrose, MN

Thursday, June 19, 2008
10 am
Melrose Area High School Auditorium,
Door 13
546 North 5th Avenue East

Clearwater, MN

Thursday, June 19, 2008, 5 pm
Friday, June 20, 2008, 9 am
Clearwater Township Hall
15015 State Highway 24

Marshall, MN

Monday, June 23, 2008, 5 pm
Tuesday, June 24, 2008, 10 am
Marshall High School Auditorium
400 Tiger Drive

Redwood Falls, MN

Tuesday, June 24, 2008
5 pm
Redwood Falls High School Auditorium
100 George Ramseth Drive

Arlington, MN

Wednesday, June 25, 2008
10 am
Arlington Community Center, Room 2
204 Shamrock Drive

New Prague, MN

Wednesday, June 25, 2008
5 pm
New Prague High School Commons
221 12th Street N.E.

Lakeville, MN

Thursday, June 26, 2008
1 pm and 5 pm
Lakeville South High School
Auditorium
21135 Jacquard Avenue

Cannon Falls, MN

Monday, June 30, 2008
1 pm and 7 pm
Cannon Falls Elementary School
1020 E. Minnesota Street

Winona, MN

Tuesday, July 1, 2008
1 pm and 7 pm
Tau Conference Center
Winona State University West Campus
511 Hilbert Street

Rochester, MN

Wednesday, July 2, 2008
1 pm and 7 pm
John Adams Middle School
Auditorium
1525 31st Street N.W.

Public Hearing

An Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) from the Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings will hold public hearings for the MPUC to establish a complete and accurate record regarding the need for the proposed CapX 2020 electric transmission line projects. Any person who would like to comment on this matter can do so at any of the scheduled public hearings (above) or in writing to the ALJ (see address below). If you need any reasonable accommodation to enable you to fully participate in these public hearings (i.e. sign language or foreign language interpreter, wheel chair accessibility, or large-print materials) please contact the MPUC at (651) 201-2202 or (800) 657-3782 at least one week in advance of the hearing.

Written Public Comment Period Deadline

In order to be considered, written public comments should be filed with the Administrative Law Judge on or before 4:30 p.m. on August 22, 2008. Comments may be filed by U.S. mail (see address below), fax (651) 361-7936, or e-mail to capx.oah@state.mn.us. Written comments are most effective when the following items are included:

1. The section of the CapX proposal you are addressing.
2. Your specific recommendation.
3. The reason for your recommendation.

Administrative Law Judge

Judge Beverly Jones Heydinger will preside at the hearing; written comments can be mailed to her at:

Office of Administrative Hearings
Attn: Beverly Jones Heydinger
P.O. Box 64620
St. Paul, MN, 55164-0620

Upon completion of all hearings, the Judge will forward the record of the proceedings (including oral and written public comments), a summary report of the facts in the record, and a recommendation to the MPUC. Thereafter, the MPUC will schedule a final public hearing, likely in the winter of 2008-2009, to determine whether a Certificate of Need should be granted or denied.

Evidentiary Hearing

Time: Monday, July 14, 2008 at 10:00 am (CST)
Location: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
Large Hearing Room (3rd Floor)
121 7th Place East
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

Following the public hearings as described above, Judge Heydinger will convene the evidentiary hearing, which will continue until all formal Parties to the case have completed presentations of evidence and examined witnesses pursuant to Minn. Rules Chapter 1400. It is anticipated that the evidentiary hearing may continue at the MPUC for three to four weeks. The public is welcome to observe the hearing. Only testimony from formal Parties will be heard at the evidentiary hearing; no public testimony will be taken.

Becoming a Party

Any person who desires to intervene in this matter and be granted Party status must submit a written petition (request to intervene) to Judge Heydinger by July 3, 2008. Persons interested in becoming a Party should review Minn.

Rules 1400.6200 governing intervention. Petitions to intervene received after July 3, 2008 will be considered, but the scope of participation may be limited. Persons who are not Parties may, upon request, be granted the opportunity for limited participation, including the opportunity to testify, offer exhibits and question other parties' witnesses, but will not be deemed a Party by reason of such participation. Persons who are not Parties are encouraged to provide their testimony and exhibits at the public hearings.

Materials Available for Review

All official public materials relating to this matter can be viewed on 'edockets' the MPUC's electronic documents system. To access information in this matter by computer, go to the MPUC's webpage at www.puc.state.mn.us, click 'CapX 2020' under Quick Links, and follow the guidance for accessing edockets. The Application (received date 8/16/07) and the Environmental Report (received date 3/31/08) are key documents describing the proposed project. The Environmental Report describes the human and environmental impacts of the proposed project, alternatives to the project and methods to mitigate anticipated adverse impacts. Persons without internet access may contact the MPUC staff listed below to request documents of interest or assistance in identifying appropriate documents. Reasonable efforts will be made to provide such documents by mail. The Application, Environmental Report, applicable procedural rules, and the pre-filed testimony of all parties will be available for public review at the hearings.

The applicable agency rule in this matter, Minn. Rule Chapter 7849, is available to review online at <https://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/pubs/>, and will be available at the public hearings.

Inquiries, Project Contact

The Commission has designated Bret Eknes of the MPUC staff as its public advisor in this matter. He may be contacted by phone at (651) 201-2236, by email at bret.eknes@state.mn.us, or in writing to: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place E., Suite 350, Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147. The public advisor has been appointed to assist and advise persons interested in taking part in the proceedings. However, the public advisor is not authorized to give legal advice. Public comments on this matter should be sent to the ALJ as described above.

Forthcoming Route Permit Application and Routing Process

Please note, that specific routes the proposed transmission lines may follow have not yet been proposed by the CapX 2020 utilities. The transmission line routes will be reviewed through a separate MPUC permitting process expected to begin in the fall of 2008. Additional public hearings on routing of the lines will be announced when the route applications have been filed with the MPUC. The public hearings that are the subject of this notice are not intended to address routing related issues. A route permit cannot be issued until the project is determined to be in the public's interest and needed by the PUC.

Eminent Domain Authority

If the PUC issues a Certificate of Need in this current matter, and also issues a route permit, Xcel Energy and Great River Energy may exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire the land necessary for the project pursuant to Minnesota Statute 216E.12 and Minnesota Statute 117.

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
)SS
COUNTY OF RAMSEY)

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

I, Margie DeLaHunt, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

That on the 28th day of May, 2008 she served the attached
ADVANCE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE.

MNPUC Docket Number: ET-2,E-002/CN-06-1115

XX By depositing in the United States Mail at the City of St. Paul, a true and correct copy thereof, properly enveloped with postage prepaid

XX By personal service

XX By inter-office mail

to all persons at the addresses indicated below or on the attached list:

Commissioners
Carol Casebolt
Peter Brown
Marcia Johnson
Kate Kahlert
Bob Cupit
Mike Kaluzniak
David Jacobson
Bret Eknes
Tricia Debleeckere
DOC Docketing
AG - PUC
Julia Anderson - OAG
John Lindell - OAG

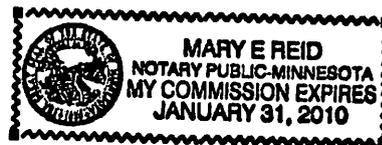
Margie DeLaHunt

Subscribed and sworn to before me,

a notary public, this 28 day of

May, 2008

Mary E. Reid
Notary Public



10:
MN PUC

Lisa M. Agrimonti
Briggs And Morgan, P.A.
2200 IDS Center
80 South 8th Street
Minneapolis MN 55402

Brady Busselman, P.E., CPESC
McCombs Frank Roos Associates, Inc.
Suite 140
14800 28th Avenue North
Plymouth MN 55447

Burl W. Haar
MN Public Utilities Commission
Suite 350
121 East Seventh Place
St. Paul MN 55101-2147

Kenneth & Myron Alberts
A Limited Partnership
54046 265th Ave.
Pine Island MN 55963

Current Chair
Rural Minnesota Energy Board
Suite 1
2401 Broadway Avenue
Slayton MN 56172

20:
Dept. of Commerce

Richard Alberts
David L. & Duane O. Alberts
53951 265th Avenue
Pine Island MN 55963

Delane Christenson
3700 Hazelwood Avenue
Webster MN 55088

David Birkholz
MN Department of Commerce
Suite 500
85 7th Place East
St. Paul MN 55101-2198

Brett Anderson
PO Box 191
Sauk Centre MN 56378

Jim Clowes
Rt. 1 Box 1773
Hermitage MO 65688

Sharon Ferguson
MN Department Of Commerce
Suite 500
85 7th Place East
St. Paul MN 55101-2198

Tom Ardolf
2992 County Road 137
Waite Park MN 56387

Mike & Becky Creglow
16481 Circle Drive
Welch MN 55089

30:
Inter-Office Mail

John Bailey
Institute For Local Self-Reliance
1313 Fifth Street SE
Minneapolis MN 55414

George Crocker
North American Water Office
P. O. Box 174
Lake Elmo MN 55042

Julia Anderson
MN Office Of The Attorney General
1400 BRM Tower
445 Minnesota Street
St. Paul MN 55101-2131

Keith L. Beall
Midwest ISO Legal Dept.
P.O. Box 4202
Carmel IN 46082

Robert Dahse
30319 Wiscoy Ridge Road
Winona MN 55987

John Lindell
OAG-RUD
900 BRM Tower
445 Minnesota Street
St. Paul MN 55101-2130

Catherine Biestek
Briggs and Morgan
2200 IDS Center
80 South Eighth Street
Minneapolis MN 55402

Lois Dandurard
26446 Langford Ave.
New Prague MN 56071

40:
Regular Postal Mail

Kevin Blanchette
25709 Hilltop Road
Richmond MN 56368

Lisa Daniels
Windustry
2105 First Avenue S.
Minneapolis MN 55404

David M. Aafedt
Winthrop & Weinstine, P.A.
Suite 3500
225 South Sixth Street
Minneapolis MN 55402

Christy Brusven
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
Suite 4000
200 South Sixth Street
Minneapolis MN 55402-1425

Delmar Debbaut
PO Box 116
Milroy MN 56263-0116

Atina Diffley
Gardens of Eagan
25498 Highview Ave.
Farmington MN 55024

Linda Hendrickson
Minnesota Power
30 West Superior St
Duluth MN 55802

Larry Kirkland
1527 20th Street NE
Byron MN 55920

John E. Drawz
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
Suite 4000
200 South Sixth Street
Minneapolis MN 55402-1425

Beverly Heydinger
Office Of Administrative Hearings
PO Box 64620
St. Paul MN 55164-0620

Leo Klisch
230 17th Ave. SE
St. Joseph MN 56374

Joseph R. Dudak
ITC Holdings Corp./ITC Transmission
Suite 200
39500 Orchard Hill Place Drive
Novi MI 48375

Bill and Carolyn Hovland
26835 Jaquard
Lakeville MN 55044

John A. Knapp
Winthrop & Weinstine
Suite 3500
225 South Sixth Street
Minneapolis MN 55402-4629

Kelly Fuller
Energy and Nature
PO Box 6732
Minneapolis MN 55406

Loren Ingebretsen
8438 100th Ave. N.
Felton MN 56536

Harold Kolbe
60702 194th Street
Pacific Junction IA 51561-4014

Elizabeth Goodpaster
MN Center for Environmental Advocacy
Suite 206
26 East Exchange Street
St. Paul MN 55101-1667

Grant Johnson
1883 15th Avenue, NW
New Brighton MN 55112

Phillip R. Krass
Krass Monroe, P.A.
Suite 1000
8000 Norman Center Drive
Minneapolis MN 55437

Mike Greco
25452 Ipava Ave. W.
Lakeville MN 55044

Rebecca Johnson
7000 Derby Drive
Chanhassen MN 55317

Michael C. Krikava
Briggs And Morgan, P.A.
2200 IDS Center
80 South 8th Street
Minneapolis MN 55402

Gary Ground
9200 280th Street, West
Northfield MN 55057

Peter Jones
5636 Sturgeon Lake Road
Welch MN 55089

Roman Kulzer
37347 County Road 187
Sauk Centre MN 56378

Erna A. Haring
155 Dolomite Drive
Colorado Springs CO 80919

John Jossart
Krass Monroe, P.A.
Suite 1000
8000 Normal Center Drive
Minneapolis MN 55437

Alan C. Lakes
Great Northern Power Development, L.P.
1749 Pinto Place
Bismarck ND 58503

Dale Hartman
2203 Raspberry Ct.
Buffalo MN 55313

Will Kaul
Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove MN 55369-4718

Dan Lemm
11380 Cameron Ave. NE
Monticello MN 55362

Joseph & Theresa Headley
225 Crossroads Blvd. #422
Carmel CA 93923

Chuck Kerr
Great Northern Power Development, L.P.
Suite 3600
601 Jefferson Street
Houston TX 77002-7906

Joel Levie
21467 County Rd 24 NW
Evansville MN 56326

Donald Lieffort
Douglas County
PO Box 398
Alexandria MN 56308

Corey McDonald
C.Mc D Home Inspection, Inc.
35002 Wagner Hill Way
Cannon Falls MN 55009

Bill Pascoe
Pascoe Energy Consulting, LLC
104 Country Club Lane
Butte MT 59701

Karen Lloyd
18150 East Souix Vista Drive
Jordan MN 55352

Harvey McMahan
Otter Tail Power
215 South Cascade Street
Fergus Falls MN 56538

Priti R. Patel
Xcel Energy
5th Floor
414 Nicollet Mall, 5th Flr
Minneapolis MN 55401-1993

Dave Lynchman
PO Box 21
Jordan MN 55352

Mike Michaud
N802 240th St.
Maiden Rock WI 54750

Ken and Milo Pomije
25815 Cedar Lane
New Prague MN 56071-7823

Paula Maccabee
Just Change Consulting
1961 Selby Avenue
St. Paul MN 55104

David R. Moeller
Minnesota Power
30 West Superior Street
Duluth MN 55802-2093

Jim Prokes
25300 Drexel Avenue
New Prague MN 56071

Phil Mahowald
Prairie Island Indian Community
5636 Sturgeon Lake Road
Welch MN 55089

Charles Myrbach
10599 State Hwy 19
Marshall MN 56258

Steven J. Quam, Esq.
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
Suite 4000
200 South Sixth Street
Minneapolis MN 55402-1425

Nicholas D. & Mary E. Majerus
Safari Estates Well System Two
1707 75th Street NW
Rochester MN 559018634

Janell Nygal
24568 County Highway 88
Fergus Falls MN 52537

R. L. Reid
Jill V. Trescott
30150 Cannon River Blvd.
Randolph MN 55065

Mary Winston Marrow
MN Center for Environmental Advocacy
Suite 206
26 East Exchange Street
St. Paul MN 55101-1667

Bob and Alice Nytes
5710 West 26th Street
New Prague MN 56071

John C. Reinhardt
Laura A. Reinhardt
3552 26Th Avenue South
Minneapolis MN 55406

Russell Martin
11600 270th Street
Elko MN 55020

Bruce Odegaard
2948 Jersey Ave. N.
Crystal MN 55427

Antone Rude
Great Northern Power Development, L.P.
10127 93rd Street N.E.
Monticello MN 55362

Matthew Mazzucchi
23210 Woodland Ridge
Lakeville MN 55044

Joyce H. Osborn
PO Box 1165
Burnsville MN 55337

Christopher Sandberg
LOCKRIDGE GRINDAL NAUEN & HOLSTE
Suite 2200
100 Washington Avenue South
Minneapolis MN 55401

Laureen Ross McCalib
Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove MN 55369-4718

Carol Overland
Overland Law Office
P.O. Box 176
Red Wing MN 55066

Larry L. Schedin
LLS Resources, LLC
Suite 1137
12 South Sixth Street
Minneapolis MN 55402

Matthew J. Schuerger P.E.
Energy Systems Consulting Services, LLC
P.O. Box 16129
St. Paul MN 55116

Heather Westra
Prairie Island Indian Community
5636 Sturgeon Lake Road
Welch MN 55089

Janet Shaddix Elling
Shaddix And Associates
9100 West Bloomington Freeway
Suite 122
Bloomington MN 55431

Gerald Worm
12837 Zebra Avenue
Nya MN 55368

Kim Skappel
Homer Township Treasurer
24185 County Road 9
Winona MN 55987

Jennifer Smestad
Otter Tail Corporation
215 South Cascade Street
Fergus Falls MN 56537

Beth H. Sohlt
Wind on the Wires
Suite 203
1619 Dayton Avenue
St. Paul MN 55104-6206

SaGonna Thompson
Xcel Energy
7th Floor
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis MN 55401-1993

Bev Topp
Citizens' Energy Task Force
26045 Ipava Ave West
Lakeville MN 55044

Roger Tupy
26445 Langford Avenue
New Prague MN 56071

Tom van der Linden
Jean Silberman
30585 County Road 1
La Crescent MN 55947

Richard A. Voss
Great Northern Power Development, L.P.
Suite E
1022 East Divide Avenue
Bismarck ND 58501