



Public Hearing Scott County – Westgate 69 kV to 115 kV Transmission Upgrade Project Certificate of Need & Route Permit Application

Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Numbers: 11-332, 11-948
Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) Docket Number: 16-2500-22873

May 16, 2013



Consumers



Electricity



Energy Facilities



Natural Gas



Telecom

AGENDA

- Introduction – Office of Administrative Hearings
- Certificate of Need Process and Roles – Public Utilities Commission
- Project Summary – Xcel Energy
- Citizen Comments and Questions



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Who's Who?

- **Xcel Energy** – Applicant asking for Certificate of Need & Route Permit
- **Department of Commerce Energy Facility Permitting (EFP)** – State agency, completes Environmental Review
- **Department of Commerce Energy Regulation & Planning** – State agency, represents the public interest when utilities ask to change rates, services, facilities
- **Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH)** – State agency, Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) holds hearings, summarizes the facts in the record
- **Public Utilities Commission (PUC)** – State agency, makes decision on Certificate of Need & Route Permit applications



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Public Utilities Commission

- Regulates
 - Permitting for power plants, pipelines, transmission lines
 - Local and in-state long distance telephone companies
 - Investor-owned electric and natural gas utilities
- 5 Commissioners
 - Appointed by the Governor
 - Serve staggered terms
 - FT employment
- 50 staff



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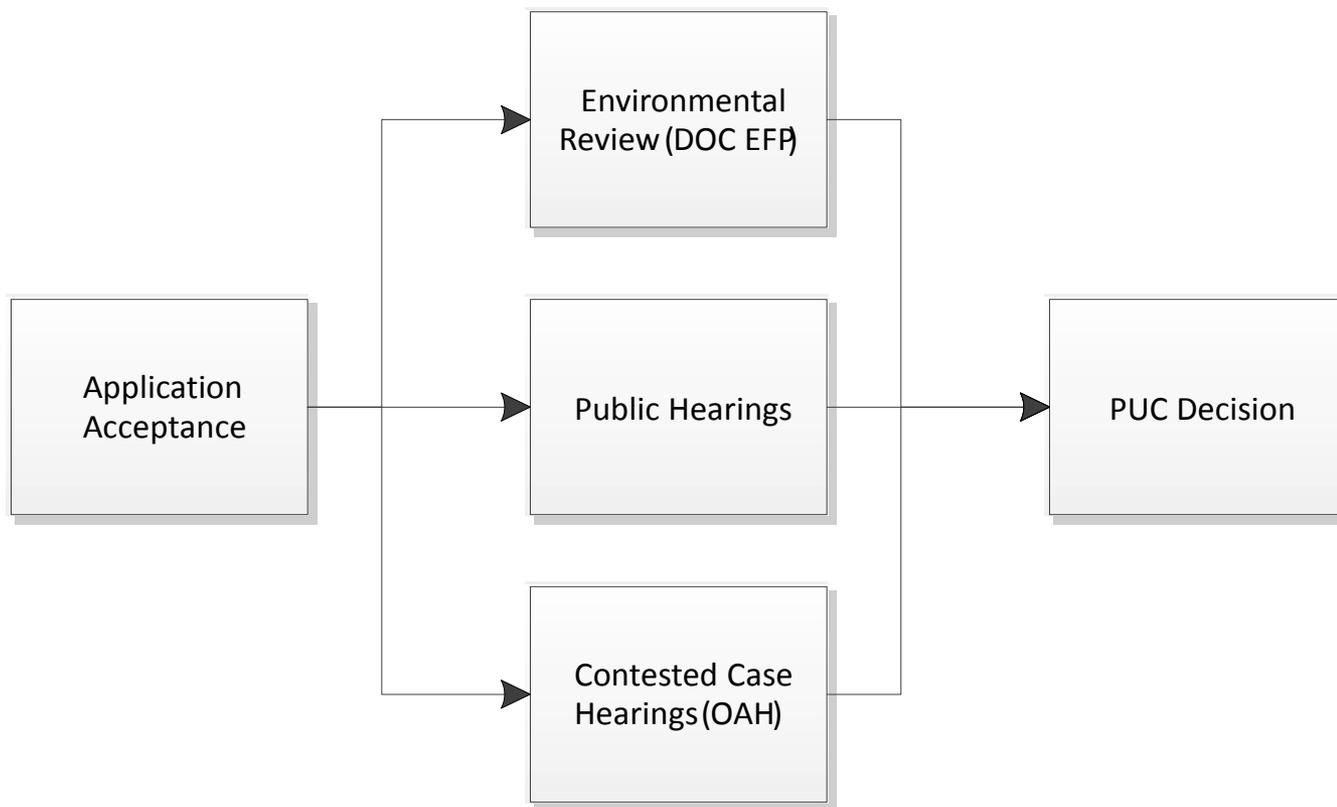
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Certificate of Need

- Gas Pipeline
- Gas Storage
- High Voltage Transmission Line
- Petroleum Facility
- Power Plants



Certificate of Need Process



Application Acceptance to PUC Decision = 12-15 Months





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How does the PUC decide?

- What if the applicant doesn't build the project?
 - Future of adequate, reliable, efficient service for Minnesota and neighboring states
- Is there a better solution?
 - Size
 - Type
 - Cost
 - Reliability



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How does the PUC decide?

- Does the project solve the problem while protecting environment?
 - Wildlife
 - Human health
 - Other socioeconomic concerns
- Does it meet other government requirements?
 - State
 - Federal
 - Local



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What happens next?

- The Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) will submit a report to the Public Utilities Commission
- Report will include findings, conclusions, and recommendations about the Certificate of Need & Route Permit Application
- The Public Utilities Commission will hold a meeting to make a decision about the Certificate of Need & Route Permit Application



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Project Timeline – Certificate of Need (CN)

- March 9, 2012 - CN Petition, Notice Plan Implemented
- June 6, 2012 – PUC accepts Petition
- July 18, 2012 – Public Info & Scoping Meetings
- August 15, 2012 – DOC Scoping Decision for EA
- October 30, 2012 – Scoping Decision Amended
- February 25, 2013 – DOC Issues Environ. Assessment
- May 16, 2013 – Public Hearing

- Future Items – ALJ Report & PUC Decision



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Project Timeline – Route Permit Application

- April 12, 2012 – Route Permit Application Filed
- May 24, 2012 – PUC refers case to OAH
- Jul 18, 2012 – Public Info & Scoping Meetings
- August 15, 2012 – DOC Scoping Decision for EA
- October 30, 2012 – Scoping Decision Amended
- February 25, 2013 – DOC Issues Environ. Assessment
- May 16, 2013 – Public Hearing

- Future Items – ALJ Report & PUC Decision



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How do I get more information?

- See all documents related to the Certificate of Need
 - www.puc.state.mn.us
 - Select *Search eDockets*
 - Enter the year and the Docket Number
 - For example, in Docket E123/12-1234, *12* is the year and *1234* is the number
 - Select *Search*, and the list of documents will appear on the next page



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How do I get more information?

- Subscribe to receive e-mail notification when new documents are added to the Docket
 - www.puc.state.mn.us
 - Select *Subscribe to a Docket*
 - Subscribe by Docket Number
 - For example, in Docket E123/12-1234, 12 is the year and 1234 is the number



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How do I get more information?

- Sign up for the Project Mailing List
- Receive information about project milestones and opportunities for citizen participation
 - Complete and return “Project Mailing List” card
 - Sign up online
 - mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#mailing
 - Contact the Public Utilities Commission
 - consumer.puc@state.mn.us
 - 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782



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Additional Resources

- Department of Commerce
mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/
- Minnesota Statutes and Rules
www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/
- Public Utilities Commission
www.puc.state.mn.us





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Project Contacts

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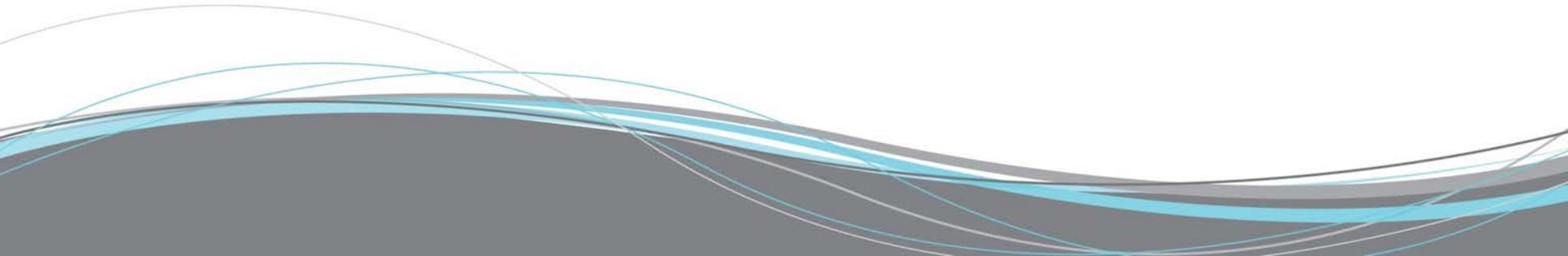


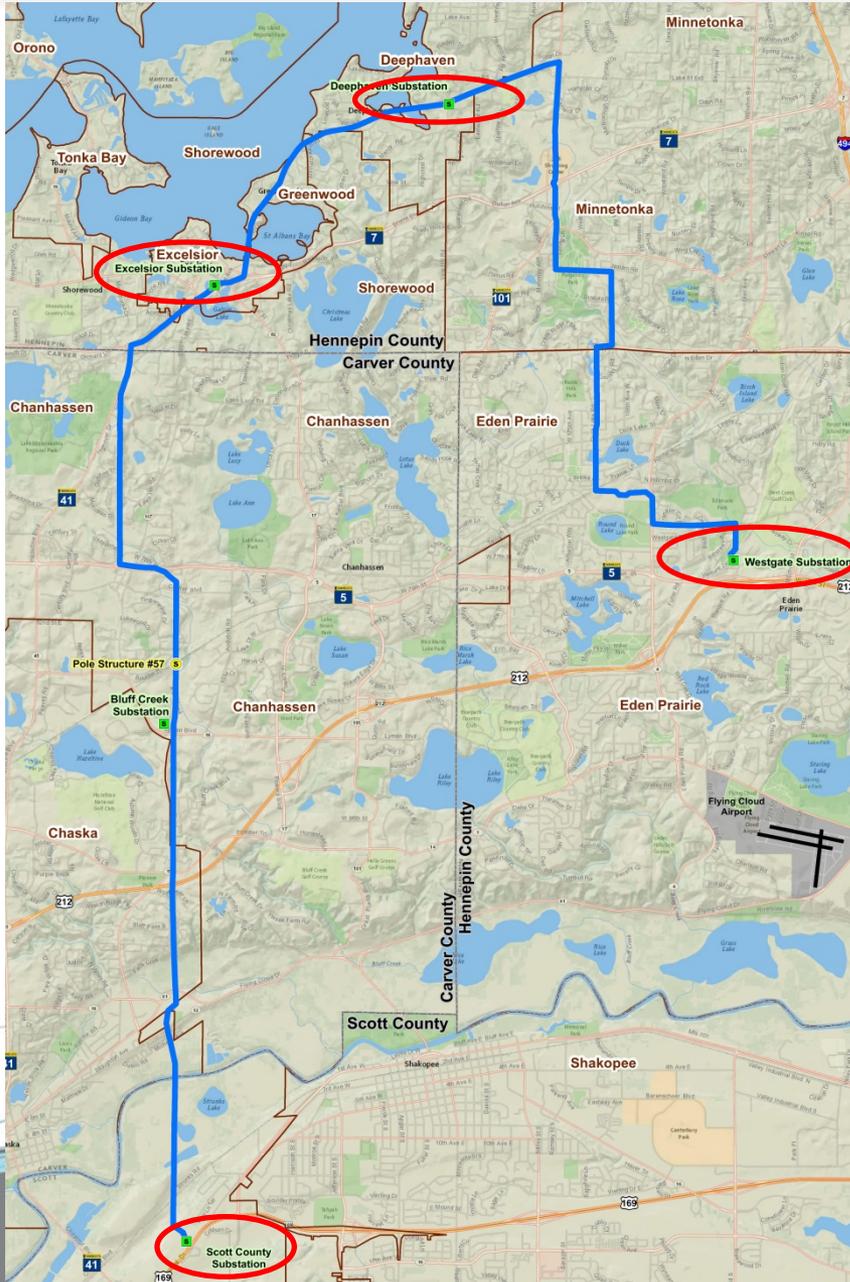
Scott County to Westgate 69 to 115 kV Transmission Upgrade Project

Public Hearing

PUC Docket Numbers E002/CN-11-332 & E002/TL-11-948

May 16, 2013

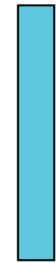




Original System Alternative

Introduces a new 115 kV source to alleviate overload and low voltage conditions.

20 mile Proposed Route

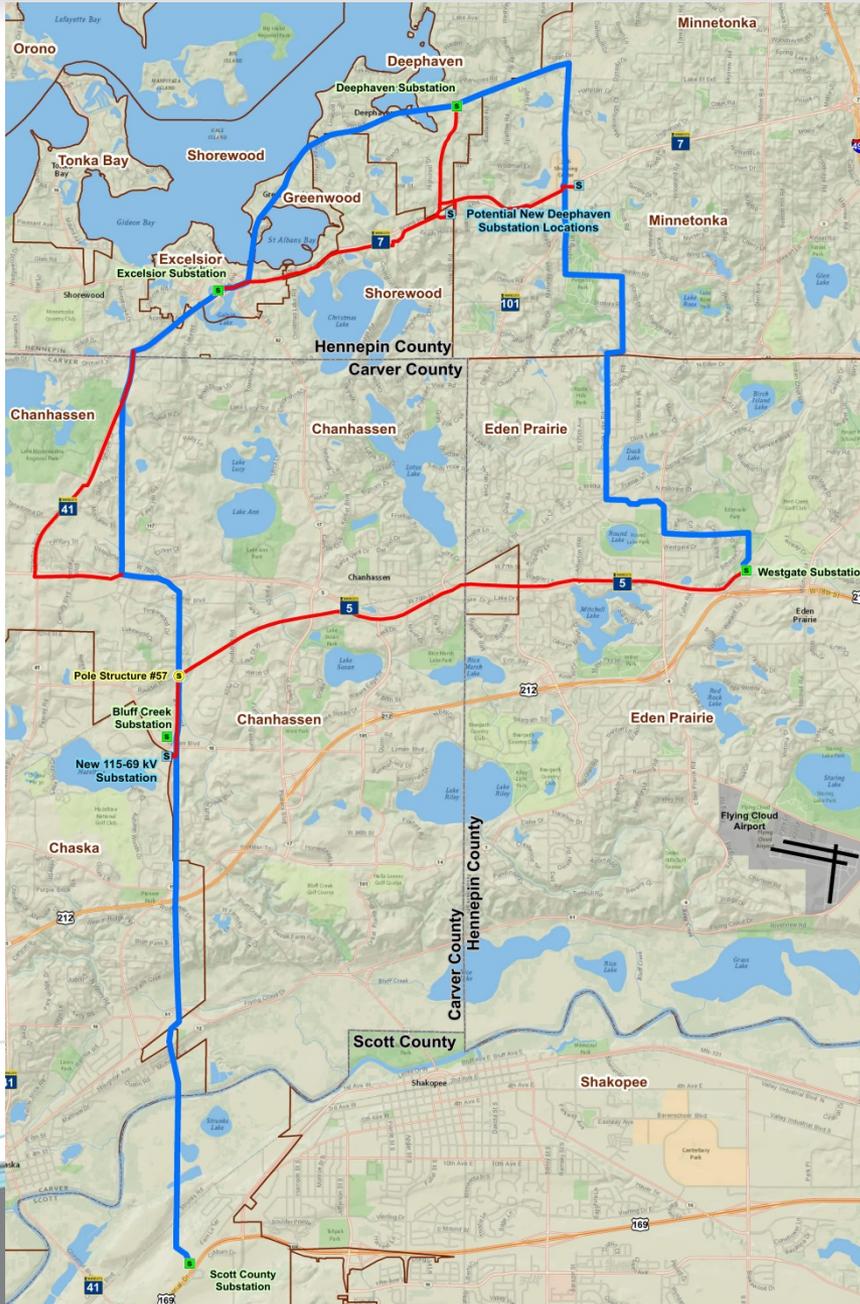


Original System Alternative

1. Proposed Route
2. Highway 7 Route Alternative 1
3. Highway 7 Route Alternative 2
4. Highway 7 Route Alternative 3
5. Highway 7 Route Alternative 4
6. Highway 41 Route Alternative

Highway 5 System Alternative

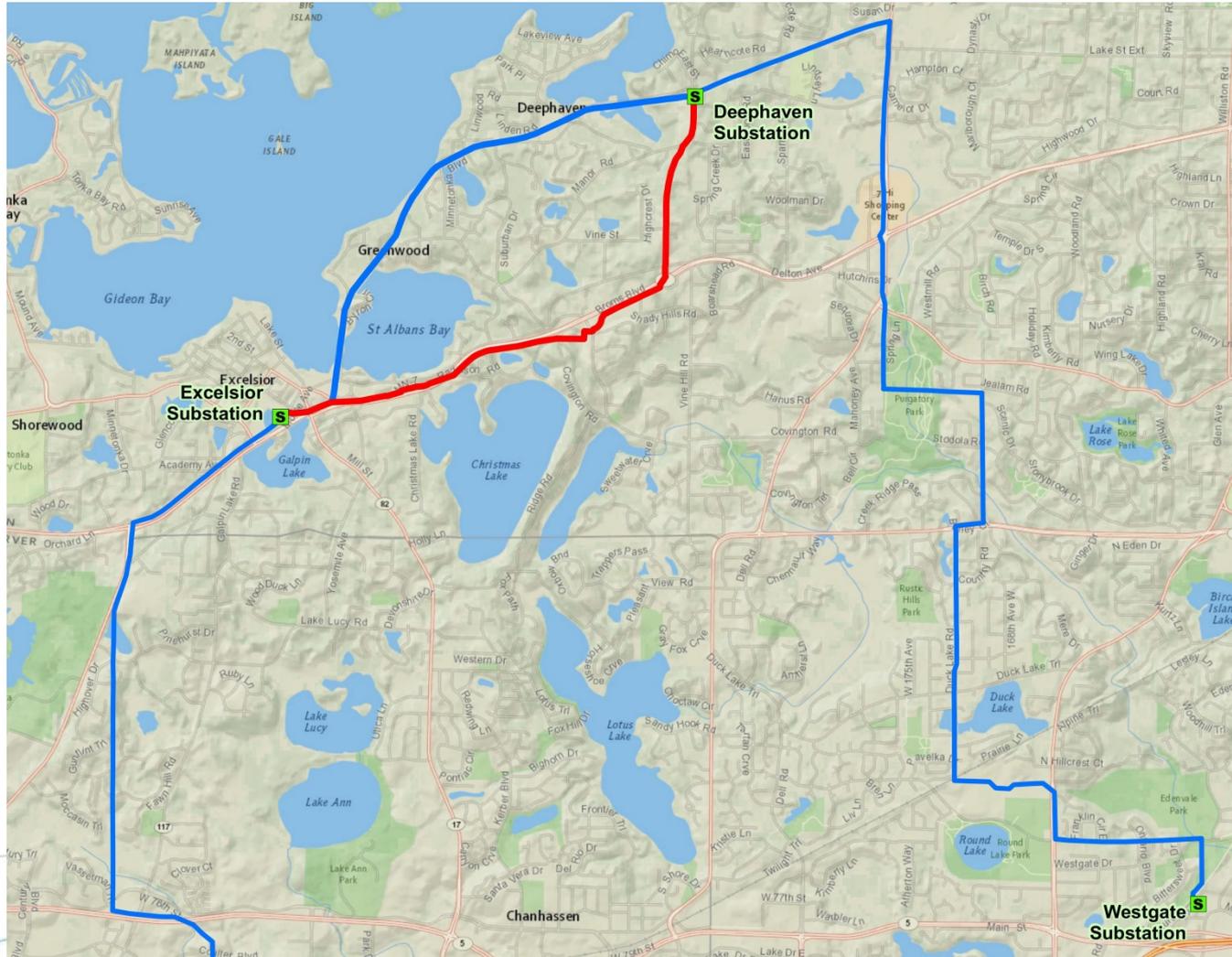
1. Highway 5 Route Alternative



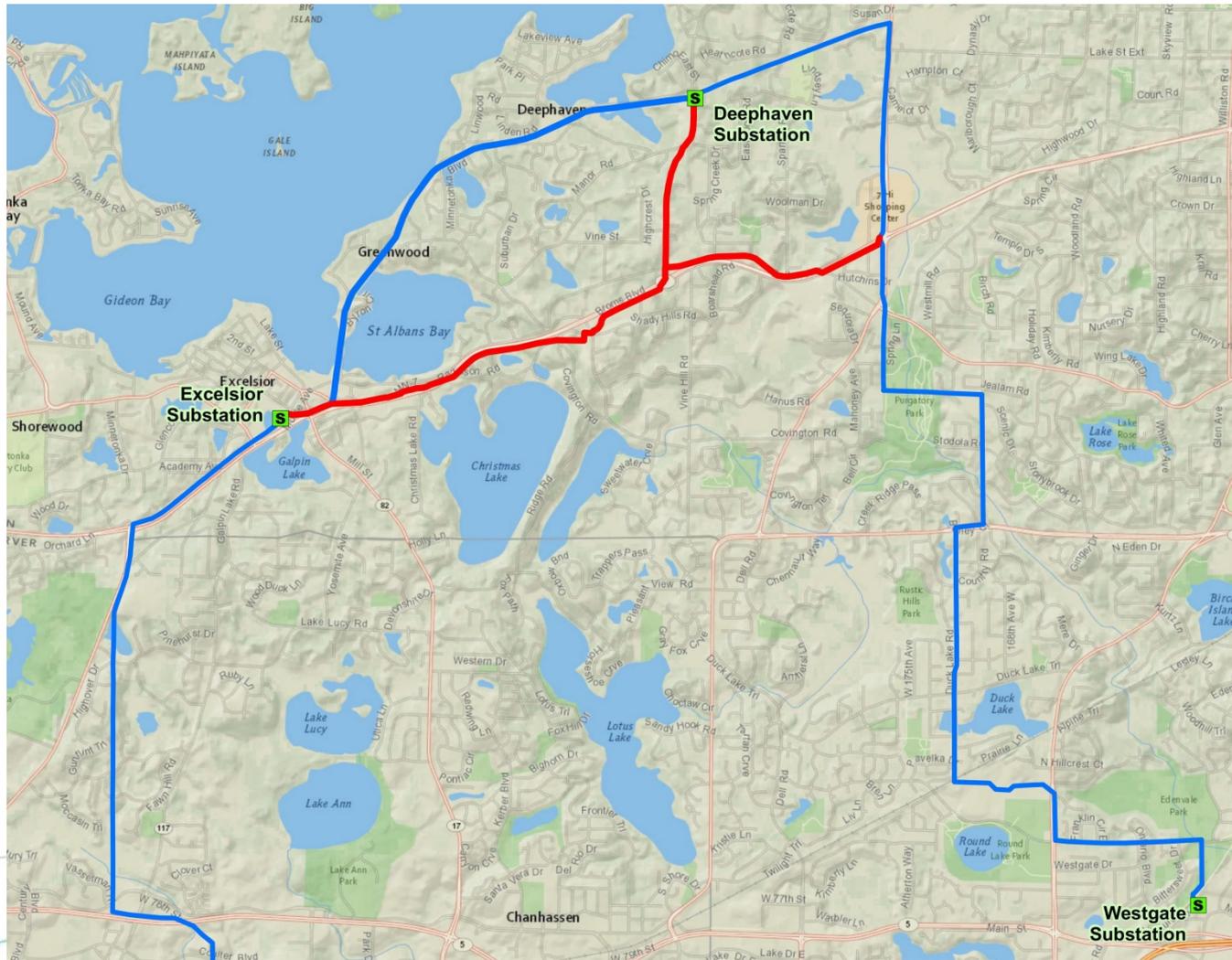
Original System Alternative
Highway 7 Route Alternatives
Highway 41 Route Alternative

Highway 5 System Alternative
Highway 5 Route Alternative

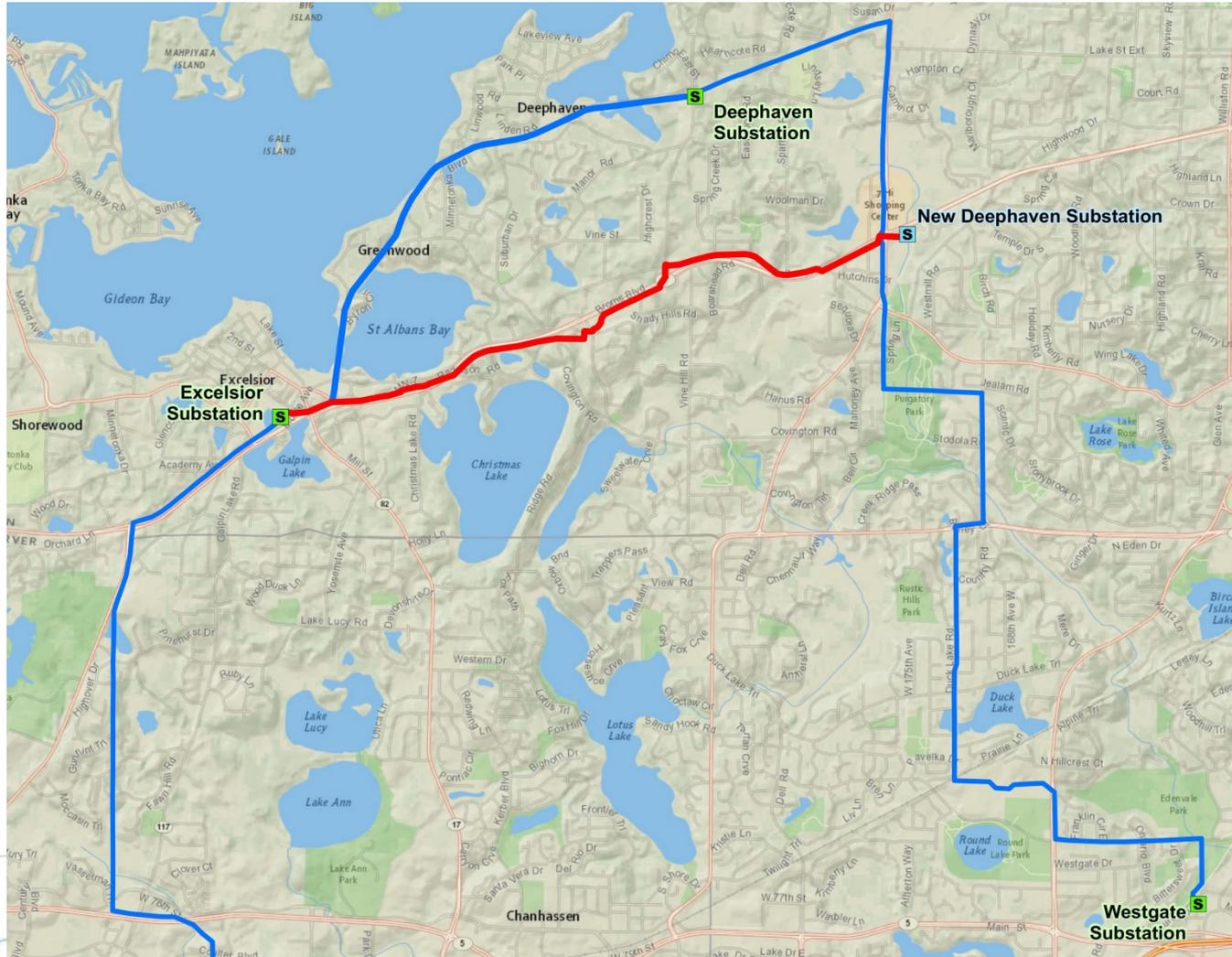
Hwy 7 Alternative 1



Hwy 7 Alternative 2



Hwy 7 Alternative 3



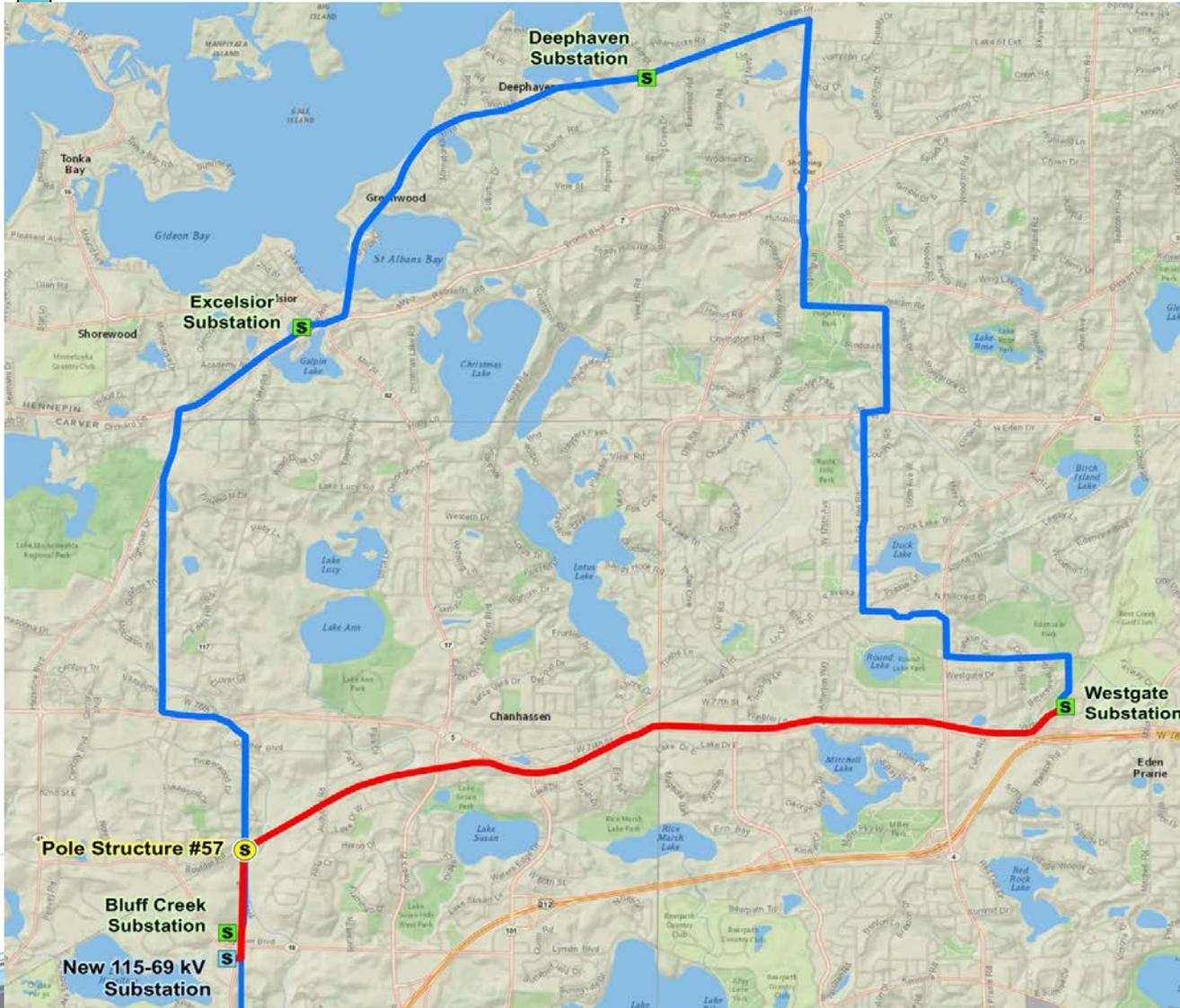
Hwy 7 Alternative 4



Highway 41 Alternative

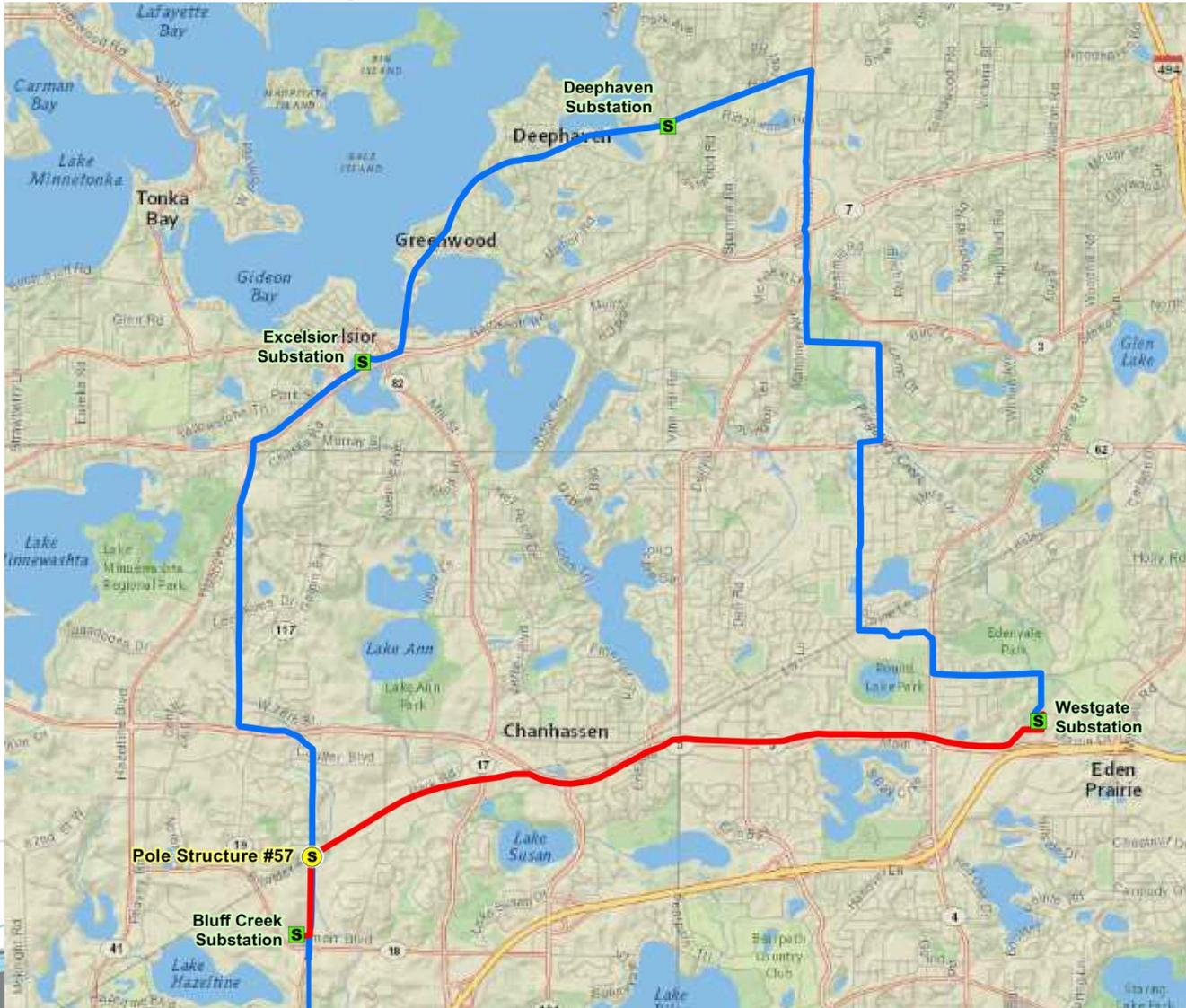


Highway 5 System Alternative

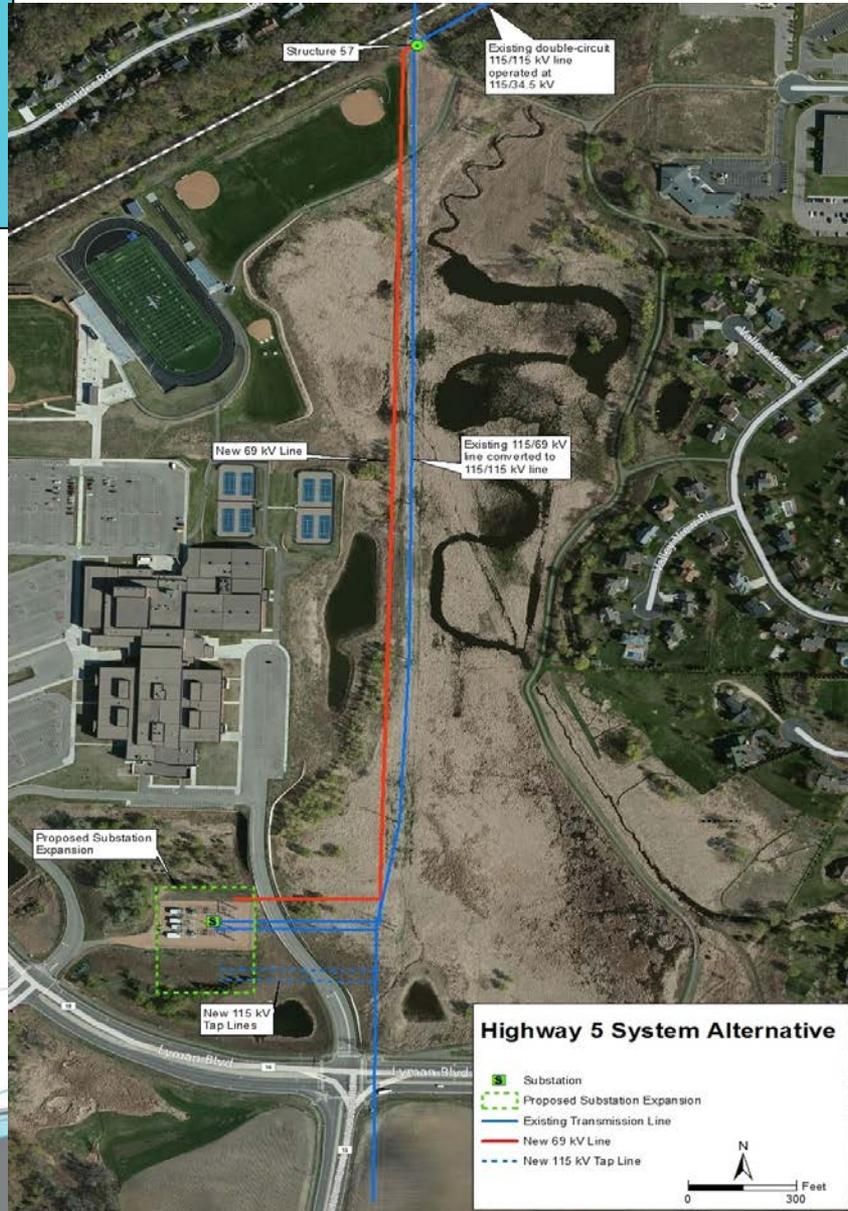


- New 115 kV source along Hwy 5 to Westgate sub.
- Existing double circuit 115/115 kV line (operating at 115/34.5 kV) along Hwy 5.
- Requires a new 115/69 kV substation.
- Requires new 69 kV line (0.5 miles)

Revised Highway 5 System Alternative



Highway 5 Route Alternative





Original System Alternative

1. Proposed Route
2. Highway 7 Route Alternative 1
3. Highway 7 Route Alternative 2
4. Highway 7 Route Alternative 3
5. Highway 7 Route Alternative 4
6. Highway 41 Route Alternative

Revised Highway 5 System Alternative

1. Highway 5 Route Alternative

- Utilizes existing transmission corridor and fewer construction miles.
- More cost effective (\$/MW load served).
- Route located in a more commercial area.



Original System Alternative

1. Proposed Route
2. Highway 7 Route Alternative 1
3. Highway 7 Route Alternative 2
4. Highway 7 Route Alternative 3
5. Highway 7 Route Alternative 4
6. Highway 41 Route Alternative

Revised Highway 5 System Alternative

1. Highway 5 Route Alternative
 - Utilizes existing transmission line corridor.
 - Fewer landowner and natural resource impacts.
 - New substation is costly.