

# Public Information and Scoping Meeting

## Canisteo Transmission Line Project

Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Number:

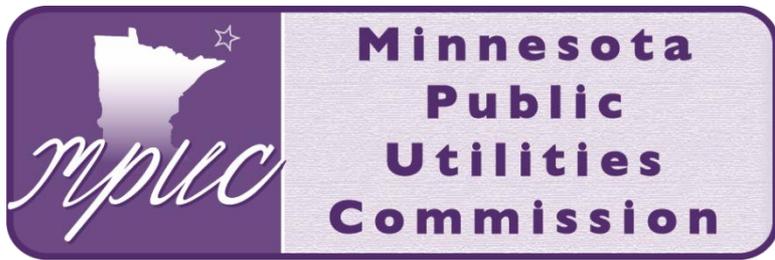
E-015/TL-13-805

December 18, 2013  
Bovey



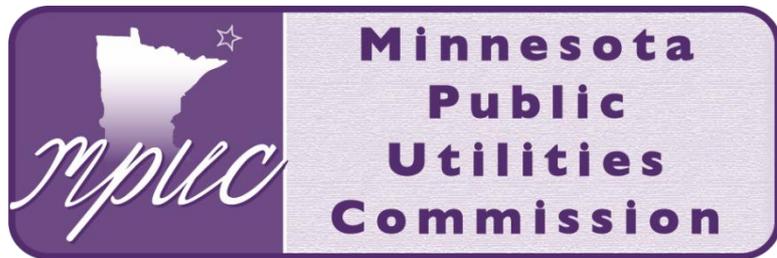
# AGENDA

- ▶ Introduction
  - Public Utilities Commission
- ▶ Route Permit Roles and Process
  - Public Utilities Commission
- ▶ Project Summary
  - Minnesota Power
- ▶ Environmental Review
  - Department of Commerce
- ▶ **Citizen Comments and Questions**



# 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
  - Full time employment
- ▶ 50 staff



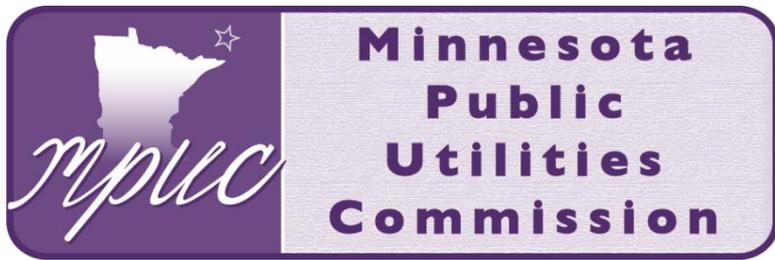
## Who's Who?

- ▶ **Applicant** – Company asking for Transmission Line Route Permit – *Minnesota Power*
- ▶ **Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA)** – State agency, conducts 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, makes recommendations to Public Utilities Commission



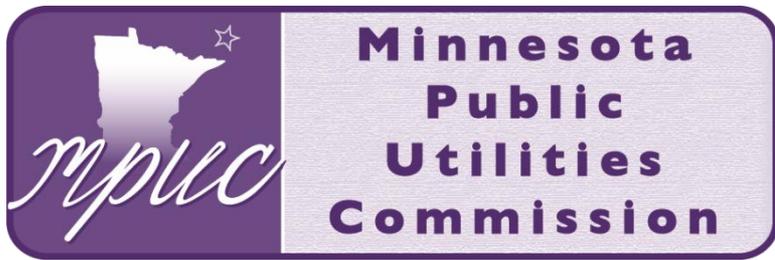
## Who's Who?

- ▶ **Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Public Advisor** – Helps citizens participate in the route permit process. Neutral party, does not give legal advice, not an advocate.
- ▶ **Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Staff Analyst** – Assists in building the record. Informs Commissioners on impacts of different decisions. Neutral party, does not give legal advice, not an advocate.



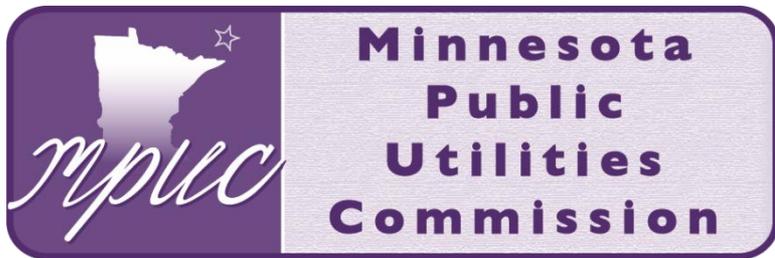
# High Voltage Transmission Line

- Will operate at 100 kilovolts (kV) or more *and*
- Greater than 1500 feet in length
  
- Requires Route Permit from Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
  - Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 216E
  - Minnesota Rules, Part 7850



# Route Permit Includes...

- ▶ Permitted Route
  - Location of a high voltage transmission line between two end points
  - Route width may vary, up to 1.25 miles
  
- ▶ Right-of-Way
  - Land required within a route for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a high voltage transmission line
  
- ▶ Anticipated Alignment
  - The anticipated location of the lines and poles



## Factors considered in Public Utilities Commission's decision on the **route**

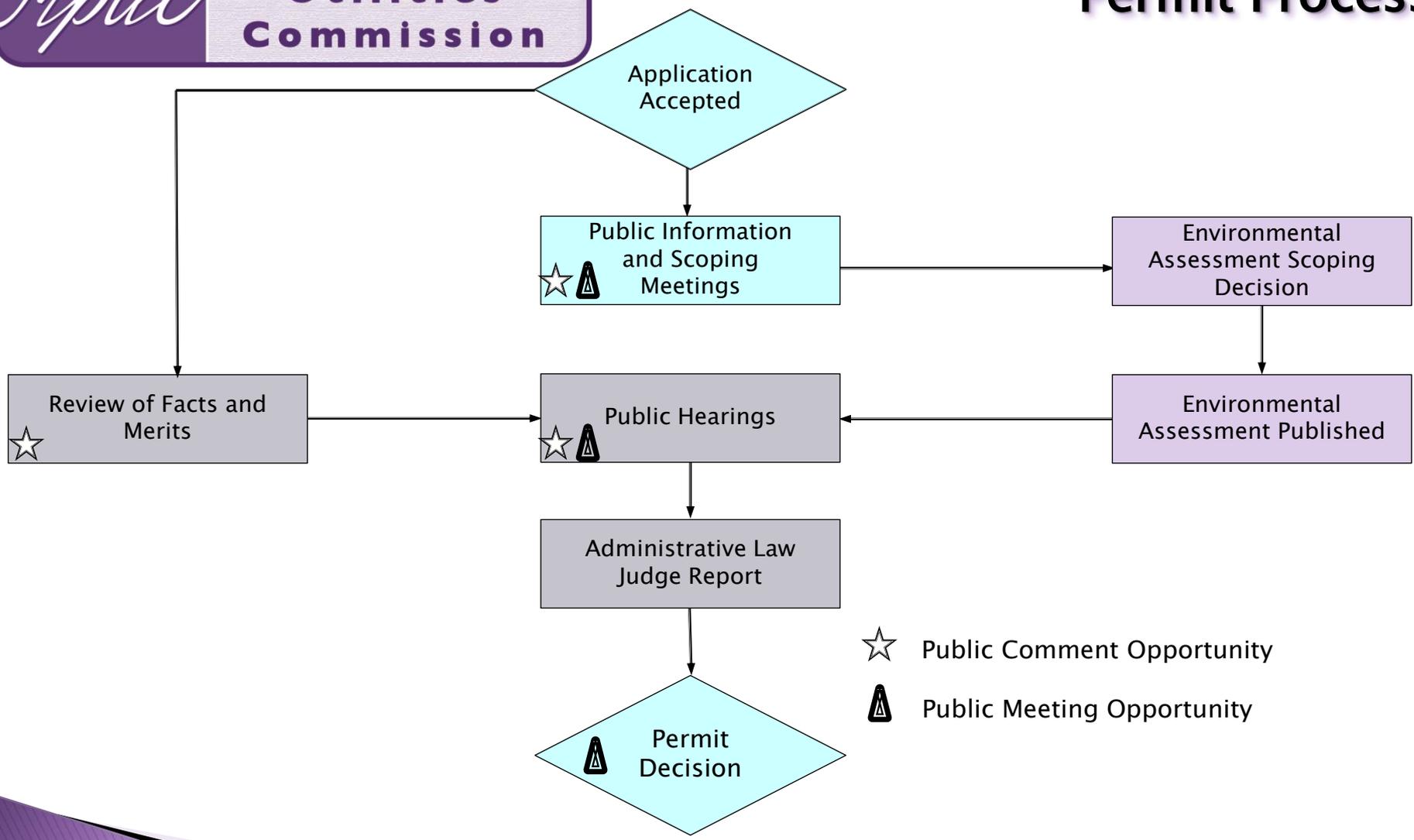
- ▶ Human settlement – displacement, noise, aesthetics, cultural values, recreation, public services
- ▶ Public health and safety
- ▶ Economy– agriculture, forestry, tourism, mining
- ▶ Archaeological and historic resources
- ▶ Natural environment – air, water, plants, animals



## Factors considered (continued)

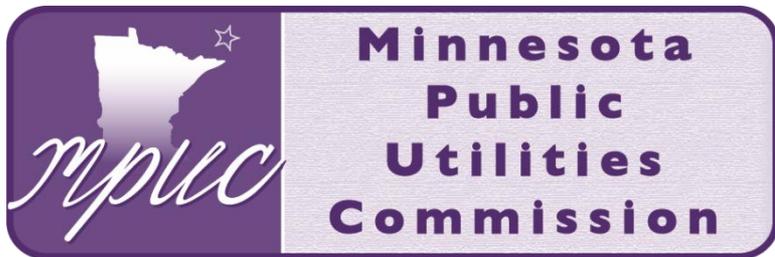
- ▶ Maximize efficiencies
- ▶ Allow for future expansion
- ▶ Use of existing rights-of-way
- ▶ Use of natural boundaries – survey lines, field boundaries
- ▶ Electrical system reliability
- ▶ Costs to construct, operate, and maintain the transmission line

# High Voltage Transmission Line Permit Process



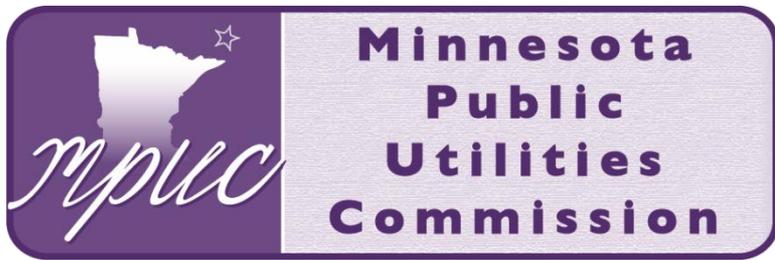
☆ Public Comment Opportunity  
 ⚠ Public Meeting Opportunity

Application Acceptance to Permit Decision = 6-9 months



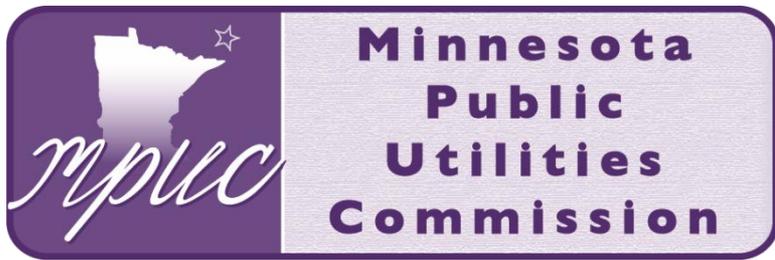
# Estimated Project Timeline

Route Permit Application Accepted	November 2013
<b>*Public Information &amp; Scoping Meetings</b>	<b>December 18, 2013</b>
Comment Period Closes	January 3, 2014
Scope of Environmental Assessment	January 2014
Environmental Assessment Published	April 2014
Public Hearings	April 2014
Administrative Law Judge Report	June 2014
Certificate of Need and Permit Decisions	July 2014



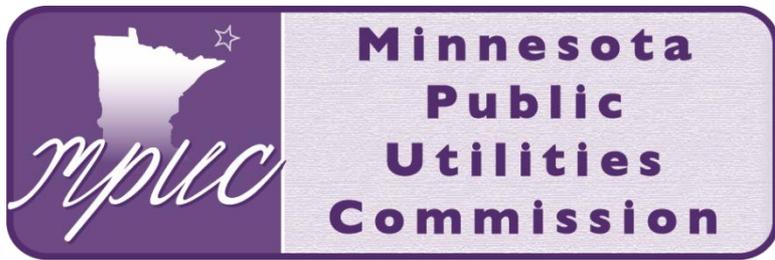
# How do I get more information?

- ▶ Department of Commerce Project Website
  - <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=33603>
  
- ▶ See all documents related to this project
  - [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us)
  - Select *Search eDockets*
  - Enter the year and the Docket Number
    - 13 is the year and 805 is the number
    - Select *Search*
    - The list of documents will appear on the next page



# How do I get more information?

- ▶ Subscribe to receive e-mail notification when new documents are added to the Docket
  1. [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us)
  2. Select green box *Subscribe to a Docket*
  3. Type your e-mail address
  4. For *Type of Subscription*, select *Docket Number*
  5. For *Docket Number*, select *13* in the first box, type *805* in the second box
  6. Select *Add to List*



# How do I get more information?

- ▶ Project Mailing List –
  - Complete and return *Project Mailing List* card
  - Contact the Public Advisor
    - [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us)
    - 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782

# Additional Resources

- ▶ Department of Commerce  
[mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/](http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/)
- ▶ Minnesota Statutes and Rules  
[www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/](http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/)
- ▶ Public Utilities Commission  
[www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us)





# PUC Project Contacts

Public Advisor  
Public Utilities Commission  
**Tracy M.B. Smetana**  
[consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us)  
Phone 651-296-0406  
Toll Free 1-800-657-3782

Staff Analyst  
Public Utilities Commission  
**Michael Kaluzniak**  
[mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us](mailto:mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us)  
Phone 651-201-2257

# Department of Commerce



Environmental Review Manager  
Department of Commerce  
Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA)

**Bill Storm**

[bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us)

Phone 651-539-1844

Toll Free 1-800-657-3794

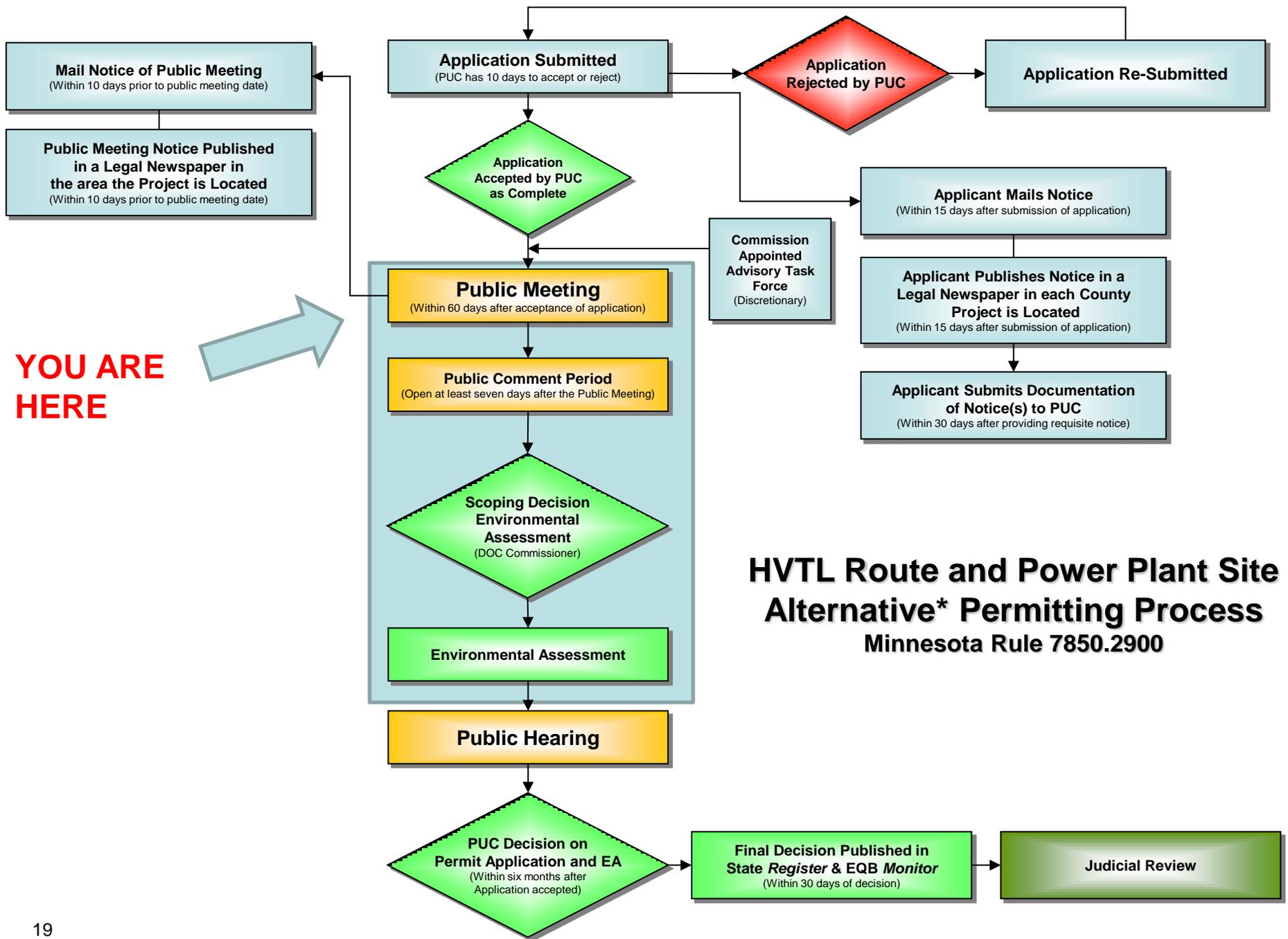
# EA SCOPING MEETING

## MINNESOTA POWER CANISTEO HVTL PROJECT

### Environmental Document Scoping Meeting

**Minnesota Department of Commerce  
Wednesday, December 18, 2013  
Bovey City Hall  
402 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Bovey, MN**





## HVTL Route and Power Plant Site Alternative\* Permitting Process Minnesota Rule 7850.2900

# Environmental Review Alternative Review Process

Environmental review under the alternative permitting process includes:

- public scoping meeting and comment period,
- Scoping Decision,
- the preparation of an environmental review document, the Environmental Assessment (EA).

# Environmental Review Alternative Review Process

Purpose of the scoping meeting/comment period:

- Provide the public an opportunity to participate in the development of the Scoping Decision,

By:

- Suggesting alternative routes, and
- Suggesting specific impacts to be evaluated in the Environmental Assessment (EA).

# Environmental Review Alternative Review Process

The Scoping Decision must identify:

- alternative routes, if any, to be addressed in the EA,
- specific potential impacts to be addressed,
- the schedule for completion of the EA,
- other matters to be included in the EA.

# Environmental Assessment

...a written document that describes the human and environmental impacts of the transmission line project (and selected alternative routes) and methods to mitigate such impacts.



# Environmental Assessment

The environmental review document under the HVTL Route Permit procedures (Minnesota Rules, 7850.3700, subpart 4) must include the following:

- A **general description** of the proposed project;
- A list of any **alternative routes** that are to be addressed;
- A discussion of the **potential impacts** of the proposed project and each alternative site or route on the human and natural environment;
- A discussion of **mitigative measures** that could reasonably be implemented to eliminate or minimize any adverse impacts identified for the proposed project and each alternative;
- An analysis of the **feasibility** of each alternative route considered;
- A list of **permits required** for the project; and
- A discussion of **other matters** identified in the scoping process.



# Draft Scoping Document

(suggested item/issue to be addressed)

## DRAFT SCOPING DOCUMENT

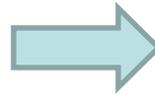
MP 39 LINE RELOCATION PROJECT

PUC DOCKET No. E015/TL-12-1123

Prepared by the Staff of the Energy Facility Permitting



February 4, 2013



- ...
- 5.12 Archaeological & Historic Resources
- 5.13 Natural Environment
  - Air Quality
  - Water Quality
  - Flora
  - Fauna
- 5.14 Rare & Unique Natural resources
- ...
- ...



Lapland Buttercup  
(*Ranunculus lapponicus*)



# Draft Scoping Document (suggested alternative to be addressed)

## DRAFT SCOPING DOCUMENT

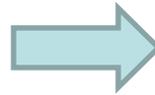
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February 4, 2013



...

3.4 Project Implementation

4. Alternative Routes and/or Route Segments

5.0 Potential Impacts of the Proposed Route

5.1 Description of Environmental Setting

...



John Doe Alternative Route Segment



# EA SCOPING

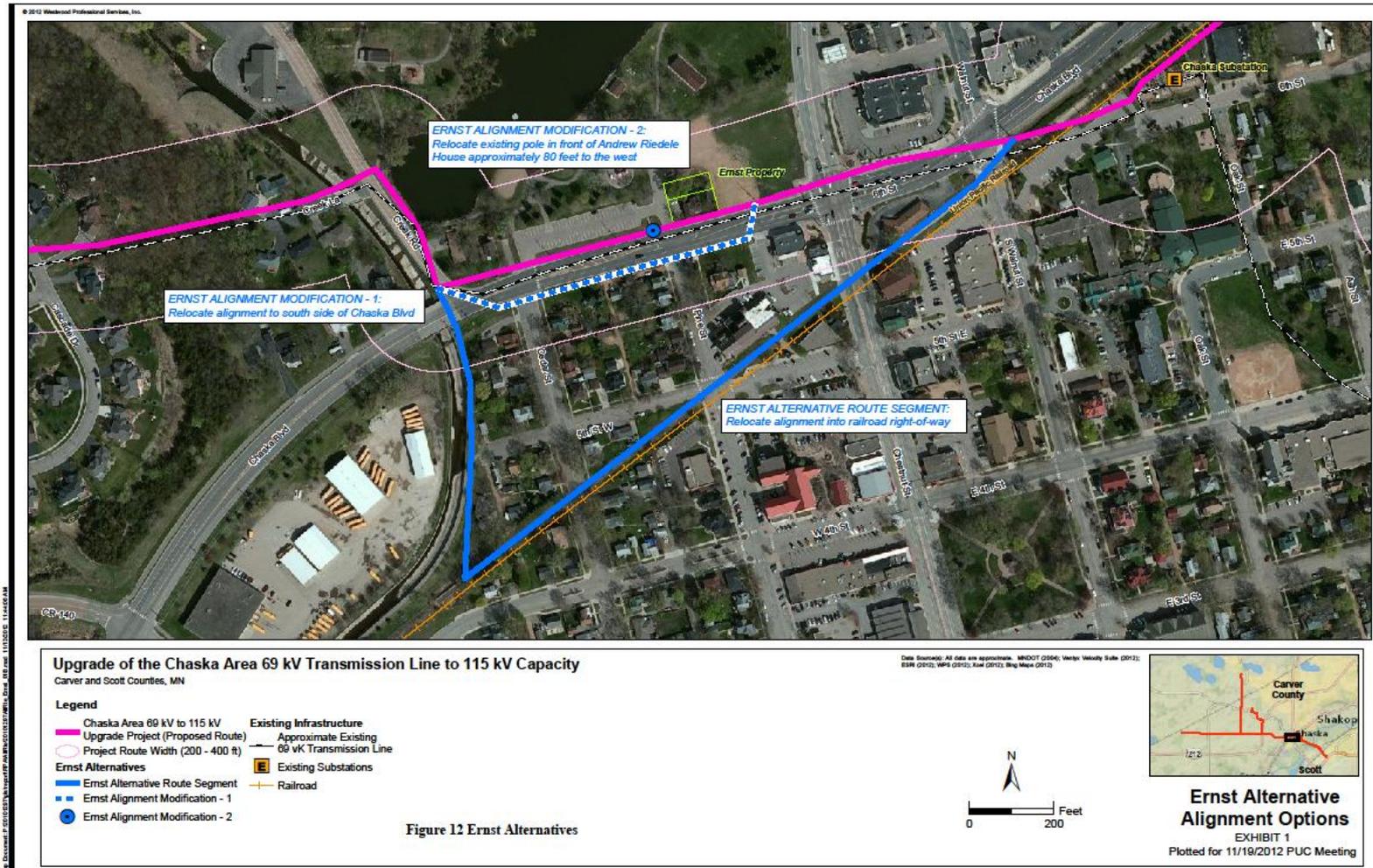
## ALTERNATIVE ROUTES (Minn. R. 7850.3700)

A person desiring that a particular alternative route be evaluated shall submit to the commissioner:

- an explanation of why the alternative route should be included in the environmental assessment, and
- all supporting information the person wants the commissioner to consider.



# EA SCOPING – Example of an Alternative Route Segment

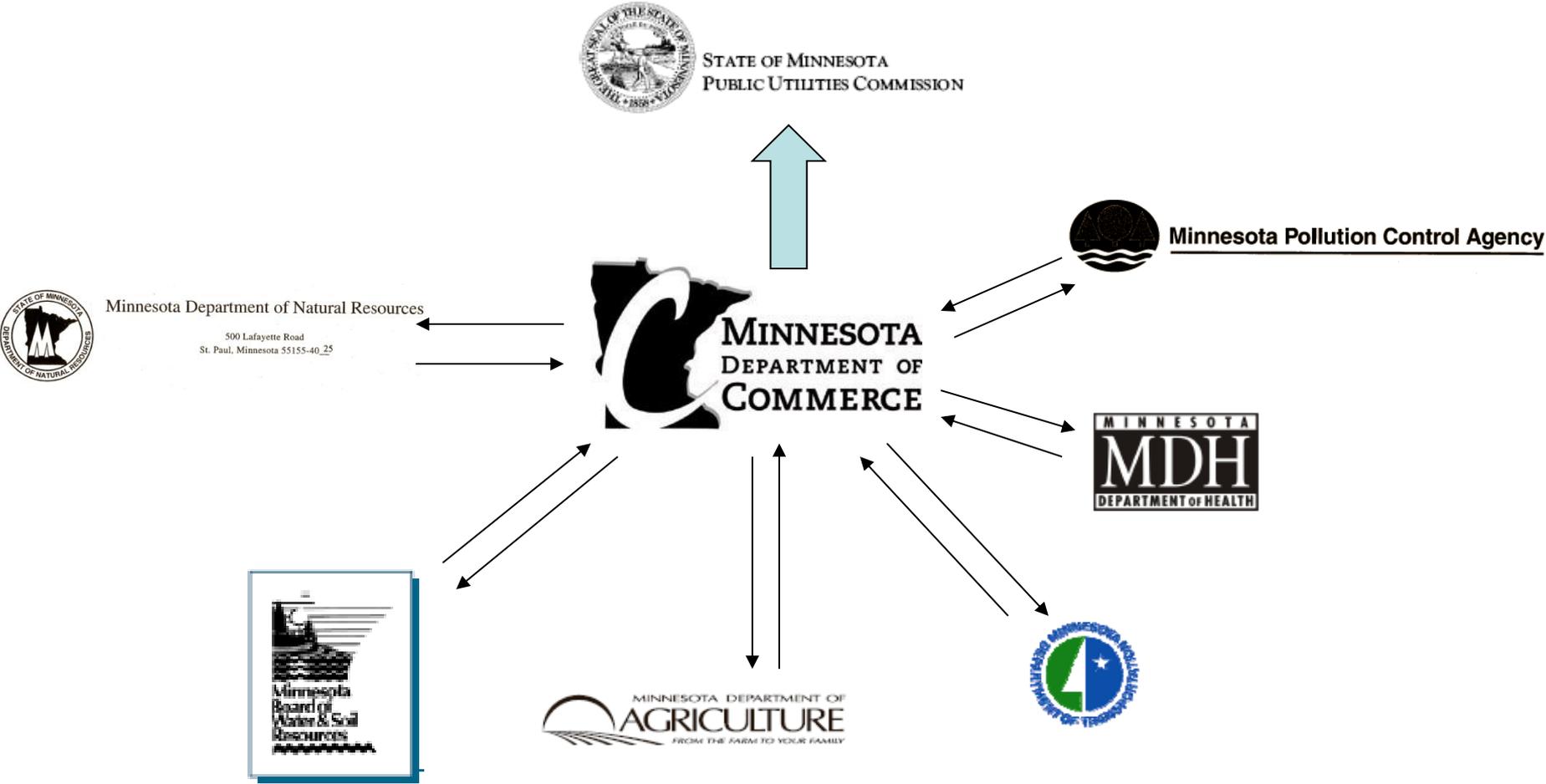


# Environmental Review and Other Permitting Agencies

State agencies having jurisdiction (“downstream” permit authority) involving large energy projects must participate in the process (Minn. S. §216E.10, Subd 3, Item a).



# Environmental Review: Participating Agencies



# Potential “downstream” Permits

Jurisdiction and Permit	Requirement
Federal	
COE, Clean Water Act, Section 404 Permit	Required if dredging and filling activities will occur within jurisdictional wetlands. If the proposed activities are not eligible for coverage under the General Permit or Letter of Permission, an Individual Permit will be obtained from the COE.
State	
MPUC, Route Permit	Required for any high voltage transmission line.
Minnesota DNR, License to Cross Public Waters	Required if any work is necessary in public waters.
Minnesota DOT, Utility Permit	Required if placing utilities on or across a Minnesota trunk highway right-of-way.
MPCA, NPDES/SDS General Stormwater Permit for Construction Activity	Required under the NPDES/SDS General Stormwater Permit for Construction Activity where construction activities will cause more than one acre of ground disturbance.
MPCA, Section 401 Water Quality Certification	If the COE authorizes the Project under its GP/LOP permitting program as expected, the MPCA waives its Section 401 Water Quality Certification authority.
Local	
Moving Permit (Hauling)	Required whenever legal dimensions and/or axle weights are exceeded per county regulations.
Oversize/Overweight Vehicle Permit	Required on all county highways. May be required to move over-width loads on county, township, or city roads.
Railroad Crossing Permit	Required if crossing a railroad.



# Project Information

## Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review & Analysis Web-site:

<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=33603>



# DUE DATE FOR COMMENTS

## January 3, 2014

SEND COMMENTS TO:

Bill Storm

Minnesota Department  
of Commerce

85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East

Suite 500

St. Paul, MN 55101

[bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us)

651-539-1844

651-539-1547 (f)

### Ways to Comment:

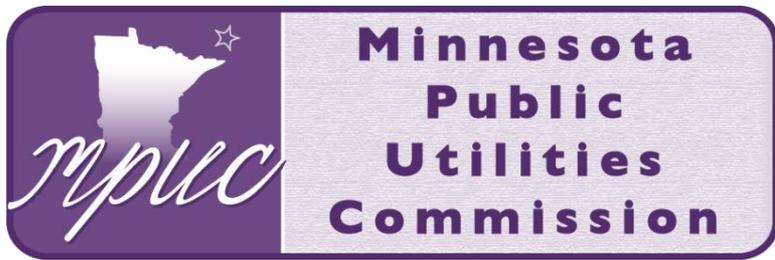
US Mail

eMail

Fax

Via Website





Thank you for attending