



Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary
Public Utilities Commission



NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT SCOPING MEETINGS

Issued: January 15, 2014

In the Matter of the Application of Minnesota Power for a Certificate of Need for the Great Northern High Voltage Transmission Line Project from the Manitoba, Canada – Minnesota Border to the Blackberry Substation near Grand Rapids, Minnesota

Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Number: E-015/CN-12-1163
Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) Docket Number: 65-2500-31196

COUNTY	CITY	MEETING LOCATION	DATE AND TIME
Roseau	Roseau	Roseau Civic Center 121 Center Street E	Tuesday, February 11, 2014 6:00 pm
Lake of the Woods	Baudette	Baudette Ambulance Garage 111 First Avenue SW	Wednesday, February 12, 2014 6:00 pm
Koochiching	International Falls	AmericInn 1500 Hwy 71	Thursday, February 13, 2014 6:00 pm
Pennington	Thief River Falls	Ralph Engelstad Arena, Imperial Room 525 Brooks Avenue N	Tuesday, February 18, 2014 6:00 pm
Beltrami	Bemidji	The Sanford Center 1111 Event Center Drive NE	Wednesday, February 19, 2014 6:00 pm
Itasca	Grand Rapids	Sawmill Inn 2301 S Highway 169	Thursday, February 20, 2014 6:00 pm

Bad weather? Find out if a meeting is canceled - call (toll-free) 1-855-731-6208 or 651-201-2213 or visit www.puc.state.mn.us.

Meeting Information:

- Citizens will have the opportunity to offer oral comments, written comments, or both into the record.
- Public Utilities Commission, Department of Commerce, and Minnesota Power staff will be available to answer questions about the project and the process.
- Citizens who do not wish to speak may submit questions or comments in writing.
- Comments received at the meetings and during the comment period will help develop the scope of the environmental report.

- The same information will be presented at each meeting.

Topics Open for Public Comment:

- Is the proposed project needed and in the public interest?
- What human and environmental impacts should be studied in the environmental report?
- Are there other ways to meet the stated need for the proposed project, instead of the proposed transmission line?

Comment Period: The comment period continues after the public meeting, through **March 14, 2014 at 4:30pm.**

Submit Public Comments: Bill Storm, Environmental Review Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul MN 55101
Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us
Fax: 651-539-1549
Online: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment>

- Please include the PUC Docket Number (*E-015/CN-12-1163*) in all communications.

Project Description

Minnesota Power proposes to:

- Build approximately 235-270 miles of 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from the Manitoba, Canada – Minnesota border to its Blackberry Substation in Itasca County
- Expand its Blackberry Substation

The proposed project would be located in Beltrami, Clearwater, Itasca, Kittson, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Roseau, and Pennington counties.

Process Information

Before the project can be built, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) must approve a certificate of need and a route permit. At its December 19, 2013 meeting, the Commission determined Minnesota Power’s certificate of need application is complete. This means the company submitted all the information required to begin the review process.

Minnesota Power has not yet submitted a route permit application for this project. The route permit is PUC Docket Number E-015/TL-14-21.

The Commission's decision-making process takes about twelve to fifteen months. The Commission's process is the only place where the no-build alternative and the size, type, timing, system configuration, and voltage will be considered.

The Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis staff will prepare an environmental report for this project. The environmental report will describe the human and environmental impacts of this project (and alternatives) and ways to address these impacts.

After the environmental report is issued, there will be public hearings. Citizens will have the opportunity to speak at the hearings, ask questions, and submit comments about the environmental report and about the project.

An Administrative Law Judge will use all the information in the record, including written comments and comments received at the public hearings, to write a report for the Commission. The report will include findings, conclusions, and recommendations about this project. After receiving the Judge's report, the Commission will schedule a meeting to make a final decision on the certificate of need for this project, expected by December 2014.

Minnesota Statutes and Rules: This certificate of need is being reviewed under Minnesota Statute 216B and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7849, available at <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/>.

Eminent Domain: If issued a route permit by the Commission, Minnesota Power may exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire land for this project.

How to Learn More

Department of Commerce Project Website:

<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=33608>

Full Case Record: All documents filed in this docket are available on the Commission's website at www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Search eDockets," enter the year (12) and the docket number (1163), select "Search."

Subscribe to the Docket: Subscribe to receive e-mail notifications when new documents are filed:

1. www.puc.state.mn.us
2. Select green box *Subscribe to a Docket*
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5. For *Docket Number*, select 12 in the first box, type 1163 in the second box
6. Select *Add to List*
7. Select *Save*

Project Mailing List: Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate (meetings, comment periods, etc.) by contacting the Public Advisor (see below).

Public Libraries: The certificate of need application is available at the following public libraries:

- Bagley Public Library, 21 Main Avenue N, Bagley
- Baudette Library, 110 1st Street SW, Baudette
- Blackduck Public Library, 72 1st Street SE, Blackduck
- Bovey Public Library, 402 2nd Street, Bovey
- Calumet Library, 932 Gary Street, Calumet
- Coleraine Public Library, 203 Cole Street, Coleraine
- Crookston Public Library, 110 N Ash Street, Crookston
- Duluth Public Library, 520 W Superior Street, Duluth
- Godel Memorial Library, 314 E Johnson Ave, Warren
- Grand Rapids Public Library, 140 NE 2nd Street, Grand Rapids
- Great River Regional Library, Center Street E, Clearwater
- Greenbush Public Library, PO Box 9, Greenbush
- Grygla Library, 127 N Main Avenue, Grygla
- Hallock Public Library, 163 3rd Street S, Hallock
- International Falls Public Library, 750 4th Street, International Falls
- Karlstad Public Library, 104 1st Street S, Suite 4, Karlstad
- Lake Agassiz Regional Library, 170 Main Street, Gonvick
- Marble Public Library, 302 Alice Avenue, Marble
- McIntosh Public Library, 115 Northwest Broadway, McIntosh
- Northome Public Library, 12064 Main Street, Northome
- Red Lake Falls Public Library, 105 Champagne Avenue SW, Red Lake Falls
- Roseau Public Library, 121 Center Street E, Suite 100, Roseau
- Thief River Falls Public Library, 102 First Street E, Thief River Falls
- Warroad Public Library, 202 Main Avenue NE, Warroad
- Williams Public Library, 350 Main Street, Williams

Minnesota Power Project Information

www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com or 1-877-657-9934

Project Contacts

Public Utilities Commission Public Advisor

Tracy Smetana at consumer.puc@state.mn.us, 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782

Public Utilities Commission Staff Analyst

Michael Kaluzniak at mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us or 651-201-2257

Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager

Bill Storm at bill.storm@state.mn.us, 651-539-1844 or 1-800-657-3794

Minnesota Power Project Contact

Jim Atkinson at jbatkinson@mnpower.com or 218-355-3561

This document can be made available in alternative formats (e.g., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.

If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in these public meetings (e.g. sign language, foreign language interpreter, large print materials), please contact the Commission at 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782 at least one week in advance of the meeting.

