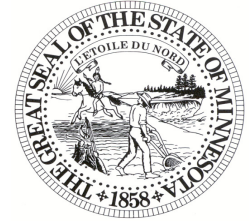




**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
Office of Energy Security



Issued: September 6, 2010

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
AND PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

In the Matter of the Xcel Energy and Great River Energy Application for a High Voltage Transmission Line Route Permit for the Fargo to St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission Project (PUC Docket Number: E002, ET2/TL-09-1056)

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security (OES) has released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Fargo to St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission Project for public comment, as well as the date, location and times for the public information meetings.

The DEIS may be viewed at the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) web site:

<http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25053>

A hard copy will be available by September 7, 2010, for viewing at these public libraries:

**Albany Public Library**

400 Railroad Avenue  
Albany, MN 56307  
320-845-4843

**Browns Valley Public Library**

15 3rd Street South  
Browns Valley, MN 56219  
320-695-2318

**Fargo Public Library**

102 Third Street North  
Fargo, ND 58102  
701-241-1472

**Melrose Public Library**

225 East First Street North  
Melrose, MN 56352  
320-256-3885

**Saint Cloud Public Library**

1300 St. Germain Street West  
Saint Cloud, MN 56301  
320-650-2500

**Barnesville Library**

104 North Front Street  
Barnesville, MN 56514  
218-354-2301

**Clemens Library**

37 College Avenue South  
St. Joseph, MN 56374  
320-363-5611

**Fergus Falls Public Library**

205 East Hampden Avenue  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537  
218-739-9387

**Moorhead Library**

118 South 5th Street  
Moorhead, MN 56560  
218-233-7594

**Thorson Memorial Library**

117 Central Avenue  
Elbow Lake, MN 56531  
218-685-6850

**Breckenridge Library**

205 7th Street North  
Breckenridge, MN 56520  
218-643-2113

**Douglas Cty Public Library**

720 Fillmore  
Alexandria, MN 56308  
320-762-3014

**Glenwood Public Library**

108 SE First Avenue  
Glenwood, MN 56334  
320-634-3375

**Sauk Centre Public Library**

430 Main Street  
Sauk Centre, MN 56378  
320-352-3016

**Public Meetings**

OES will conduct public information meetings to obtain comments on the DEIS. The meetings will be held at:

<p><b>Barnesville</b></p> <p><b>September 27, 2010</b> <b>1:00 p.m.</b> American Legion 101 2nd St SE</p>	<p><b>Fergus Falls</b></p> <p><b>September 27, 2010</b> <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Bigwood Event Center 925 Western Avenue</p>
<p><b>Elbow Lake</b></p> <p><b>September 28, 2010</b> <b>1:00 p.m.</b> Dream Weaver's Banquet Facility 410 2nd St NE</p>	<p><b>Alexandria</b></p> <p><b>September 28, 2010</b> <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Broadway Ballroom 115 30th Ave E</p>
<p><b>Melrose</b></p> <p><b>September 29, 2010</b> <b>1:00 p.m.</b> Rondezvous Grille 401 Main Street East</p>	<p><b>Albany</b></p> <p><b>September 29, 2010</b> <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Paul's Par-A-Dice 451 Railroad Ave</p>
<p><b>St. Joseph</b></p> <p><b>September 30, 2010</b> <b>1:00 p.m.</b> El Paso Sports Bar and Grill 200 2nd Ave NW</p>	<p><b>St. Joseph</b></p> <p><b>September 30, 2010</b> <b>7:00 p.m.</b> El Paso Sports Bar and Grill 200 2nd Ave NW</p>

Review copies of the DEIS and comment forms will be available at the public information meeting. Each of the meetings will offer the same information and opportunity to comment, so interested persons need attend only one of the meetings.

The public will also have until **Monday, October 18, 2010**, to submit written comments on the DEIS to the OES. Comments can be faxed, mailed or emailed to the OES permitting manager (see contact information below). Comments can also be submitted electronically at:

<http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/publicComments.html>

OES will respond to the timely, substantive comments received on the Draft EIS consistent with the scoping decision and prepare the Final EIS.

## ***Project Description***

Xcel Energy and Great River Energy have submitted an Application to construct a new 345 kV high voltage transmission line (HVTL) between the Red River, either at a location south of Moorhead or south of Breckenridge, and the new Quarry Substation west of St. Cloud.

The Minnesota portion of the proposed Fargo to St. Cloud 345 kV Project will be approximately 169 to 180 miles long, extending from the Red River to the existing Alexandria Switching Station located south of Alexandria and to the new Quarry Substation to be located in St. Joseph. The North Dakota portion of the Project from a new Bison Substation west of Fargo to the Red River, depending on the route selected, will be approximately 31 to 81 miles.

The proposed structures will primarily include single-pole, double-circuit capable, self-weathering or galvanized steel structures that will range in height between 130 and 175 feet. The span length between structures will range between 600 and 1,000 feet depending on site-specific considerations. Although the proposed line will be built using double-circuit capable poles, only one circuit will be installed for this Project. The second position will be left available for a future additional circuit, as per the Commission's Certificate of Need (CN) Order. The right-of-way for the proposed 345 kV electrical transmission line will generally be 150 feet in width.

Construction of the Project is expected to begin in 2014 and be completed and in service by the third quarter of 2015.

## ***Public Hearings***

A Public Hearing on the Application will be held along the route between November 16-19, and November 30-December 3, 2010, (times and locations to be determined) presided over by Administrative Law Judge Beverly Jones Heydinger from the Office of Administrative Hearings. Notice of the Public Hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who have registered their names on the project mailing list with OES. An Evidentiary Hearing will be held in St. Paul December 6-17, 2010.

## ***Project Contacts***

State Permit Manager

David Birkholz

651-296-2878

[david.birkholz@state.mn.us](mailto:david.birkholz@state.mn.us)

Public Advisor

Raymond Kirsch

651-296-7588

[raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us](mailto:raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us)

Minnesota Office of Energy Security

85 7<sup>th</sup> Place E., Suite 500

St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198

Minnesota Office of Energy Security

85 7<sup>th</sup> Place E., Suite 500

St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198

Other contact information: Toll-Free Tel: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-297-7891 or TTY: Minnesota Relay Service, 800-627-3529, ask for DOC.