

29054 680th Ave.
Roosevelt, MN 56673
9/24/14

Jim Atkinson, Minnesota Power Project Contact
Tracy Smetana, Public Utilities Commission Public Advisor

PUC Docket Number/s: E-015/CN-12-1163
OAH Docket Number: 65-2500-31196

Minnesota Power's Route Permit Application
PUC Docket Number/s: E-015/TL-14-21
OAH Docket Number: 65-2500-31637

Dear Mr. Atkinson and Mr. Smetana:

This letter is regarding the proposed route of the Great Northern Transmission Line running east/west and south of Roosevelt, MN of which I strongly oppose. I live in the rural Roosevelt area, and there are already two other manmade/synthetic structures (transmission/power lines) running east/west and south of Roosevelt within three miles of each other through beautiful wilderness including the Beltrami Island State Forest. In addition, I own 160 acres of land in the Beltrami Island State Forest in addition to my residence (homestead) in close proximity of this area. However, I have a couple suggestions/requests and "reasons why" regarding the proposed power line, and they are as follows:

- One suggestion/request is to run the proposed power line north of our 160 acres paralleling the existing power line running east/west, and it would not run through our private property, which is surrounded by state land. Therefore, the proposed power line would run through state land 100%, and the state of MN would get the money for the easement of our property's width of ½ mile. My brother, Jeff Johnson, and I have planted 100s of jack pine, white pine, and white cedar trees on the north side of our property that would be destroyed by the power line going to the south of the existing power line. In addition, permanent deer stands would be affected by the power line going to the south of the existing power line.
- Another suggestion/request if the power line goes to the south of the existing power line running east/west is to do a "land trade" with the state of MN. My request would be to acquire the width of the easement of the new power line on the south side of our 160 acres of perhaps 200-300 feet by ½ mile or whatever land would be affected by the new power line being installed. This option would give the state of MN the easement money and keep our 160 acres of private property intact as it is historical regarding the fact that it is an "original homestead" of 160 acres in Beltrami Island State Forest, which there are few today that are still intact and without a manmade/synthetic structure running through it.



The legal description of the 160 acres and my residence in this area are as follows, respectively:

- 160 Acres – Roosevelt, MN (**Jeffrey N. Johnson and James L. Johnson**)
The Northwest Quarter (NW¼) of Section Fifteen (15) in Township One Hundred Sixty-one (161) North, Range Thirty-five (35) West of the Fifth Principal Meridian in Minnesota, according to the United States Government Survey thereof.

- 29054 680th Ave., Roosevelt, MN (**James L. Johnson**)
All that part of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SW¼ SW¼) of Section Twenty-six (26), Township One Hundred Sixty-two (162) North, Range Thirty-five (35) West of the Fifth Principal Meridian in Minnesota, according to the United States Government Survey thereof, LYING AND BEING South of the South right-of-way line of Minnesota Trunk Highway NO. 11, as now located and established.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and my suggestions/requests to the proposed route of the Great Northern Transmission Line running east/west and south of Roosevelt, MN. Please call me at (218) 242-2462 or e-mail at jimjohnson767@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


James L. Johnson

Comments submitted re:
Great Northern Transmission Line
Sally Sedgwick
P.O. Box 243
Bigfork, MN 56628

October 14, 2014

Route location/environmental impacts:

I would like to comment regarding locating a transmission line with a 200 foot open easement and towers above the treeline in the scenic wilderness area south and east of Effie. In this area, which is highly dependent on tourism and seasonal visitors, there is economic as well as aesthetic value in not creating visible manmade structures, especially those which can be seen for long distances.

For seasonal residents, there is also value in privacy. A new open path through the forest will create access where none is wanted.

Even if the line would create economic positives for another area, is it correct to damage one area's economic interest in order to benefit another area?

I think a solution would be to collocate this new line with the existing transmission line running near Highway 65.



EXHIBIT
C

Legend

- Blue Route
- Orange Route
- Segment Option
- State Boundary
- County Boundary
- City/Township Boundary

Existing Transmission

- 115kV AC
- 230kV AC
- 500kV AC
- Existing Transmission Paralleling

Existing Tran:

- 115 kV: 3.3 Mi
- 230 kV: 44.3 Mi
- 500 kV: 35.2 Mi

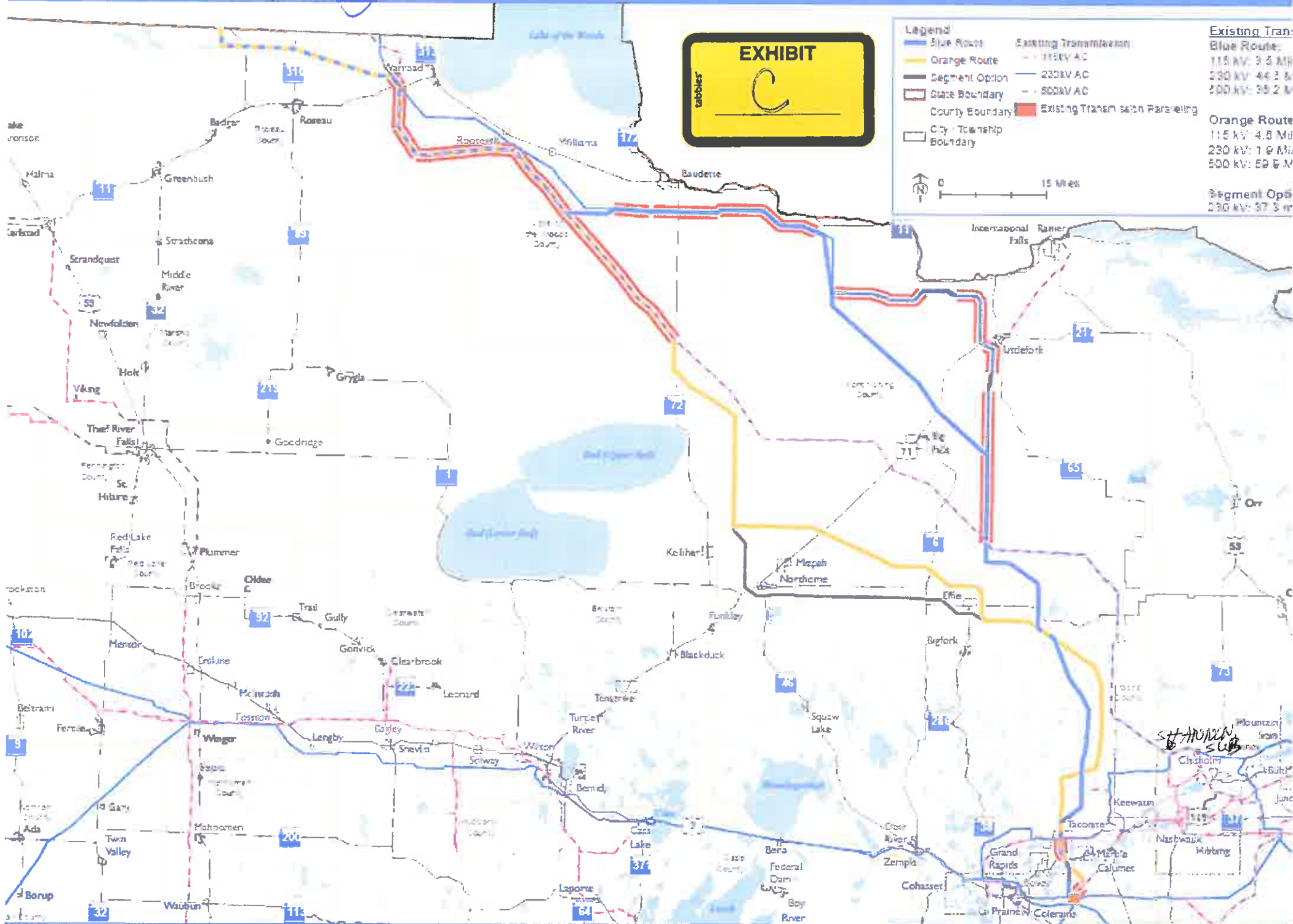
Orange Route:

- 115 kV: 4.8 Mi
- 230 kV: 1.9 Mi
- 500 kV: 59.6 Mi

Segment Opti:

- 230 kV: 37.3 Mi

0 15 Miles



ST. ANTHONY SUB



Project Description

Announced publicly on February 9, 2012, Minnesota Power's Great Northern Transmission Line is a proposed 500kV single-circuit transmission line (approximately 220 miles in length depending on route selection), from the Manitoba/Minnesota border to Minnesota Power's Blackberry Substation 10 miles east of the Iron Range city of Grand Rapids, Minnesota. The line will be capable of transmitting at least 750MW of clean, flexible hydropower and constitutes a key component of Minnesota Power's *EnergyForward* resource plan.

Project Benefits

DIVERSIFY ENERGY SOURCES. Provides access to a very strong, flexible and cost-competitive source of renewable energy for Minnesota Power customers and other utilities in the region. The project is critical to Minnesota Power's goal of achieving an energy mix of one-third coal, one-third renewable and one-third natural gas and other strategic market purchases. Currently, coal fuels approximately 75% of Minnesota Power's power generation.

MEET DEMAND. Enables Minnesota Power to meet increasing demand from industrial load growth while simultaneously diversifying its energy supply portfolio.

RESOURCE SYNERGY. Innovative wind storage provision of Minnesota Power's Power Purchase Agreement with Manitoba Hydro couples its 500MW of North Dakota wind energy with equally clean Manitoba hydropower. This arrangement allows Minnesota Power to rely on Manitoba Hydro's vast hydroelectric system to balance energy needs with intermittent wind for the benefit of customers. The agreement calls for Manitoba Hydro to purchase wind energy from Minnesota Power when production exceeds demand and sell it back to Minnesota Power when needed.

Stakeholder Engagement

Since early 2012, Minnesota Power has implemented an aggressive program of public involvement and agency consultation. Public involvement has focused on gathering detailed information to identify the best possible routes. Over 2,200 residents and landowners participated in-person at one of 52 open house meetings conducted in four separate rounds over an 18-month period. Additional input was gathered via the Project website and information hotline. Consultation with local, state, and federal agencies was initiated in parallel with public involvement efforts and the ongoing exchange of information has contributed greatly to route development.

Regulatory Process

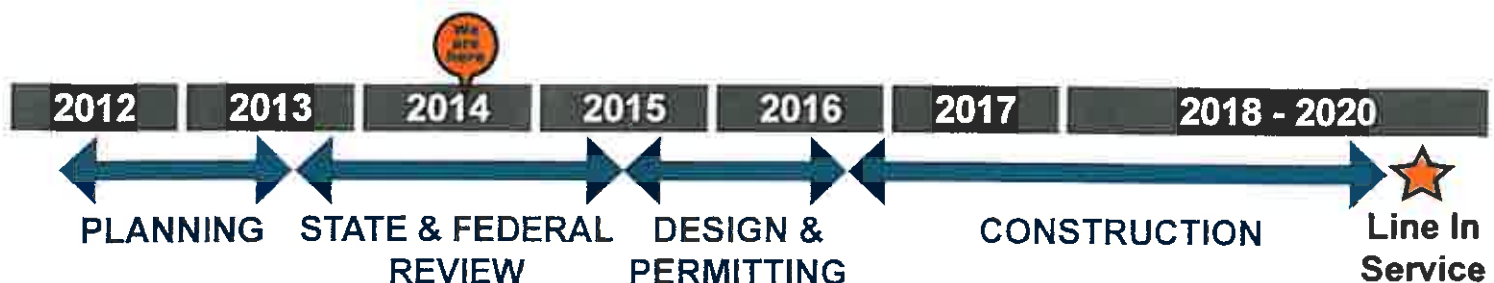
CERTIFICATE OF NEED: Filed October 21, 2013, the Certificate of Need application was deemed complete six weeks later by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC). Six environmental scoping meetings were held in February 2014. Additional public and evidentiary hearings will occur in fall 2014. A final decision by the MPUC is expected by May 2015.

ROUTE PERMIT: Minnesota Power filed its Route Permit Application on April 15, 2014. A little more than two months later, on June 19, 2014, the MPUC unanimously deemed the application complete. The initial meetings on the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) were held in July 2014. A final decision by the MPUC on the route permit is expected by late 2015.

PRESIDENTIAL PERMIT: The Presidential Permit application to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) was filed concurrently with the state route permit application. The DOE published its Notice of Intent in the Federal Register on June 20, 2014, moving the Presidential Permit Application forward to the federal environmental review process. The DOE and the Minnesota Department of Commerce will share the same EIS and schedule. After completion of the EIS, DOE anticipates a Presidential Permit by late 2015.

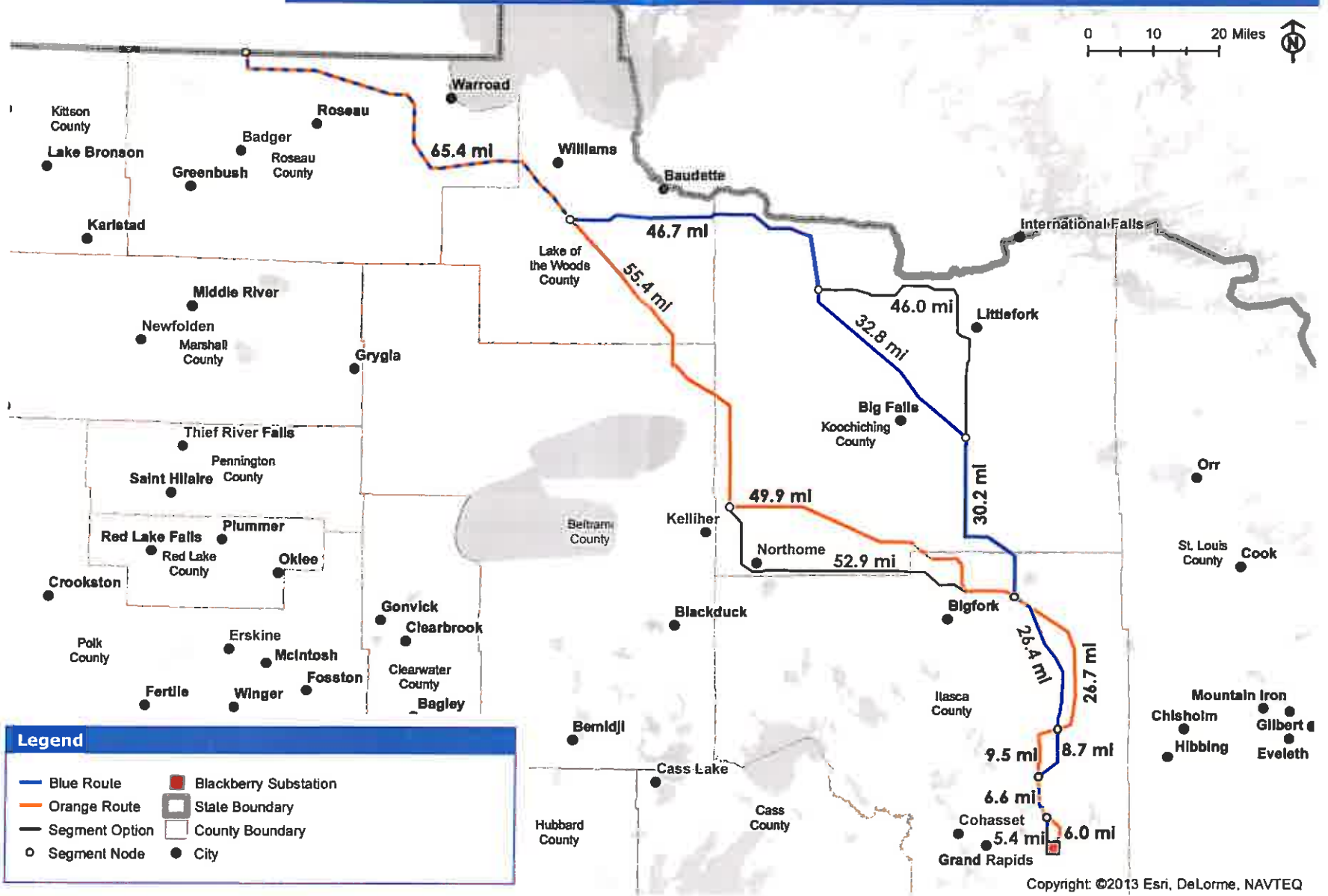
Project Schedule

The project schedule is driven by state and federal regulatory requirements and the required June 2020 in-service date.

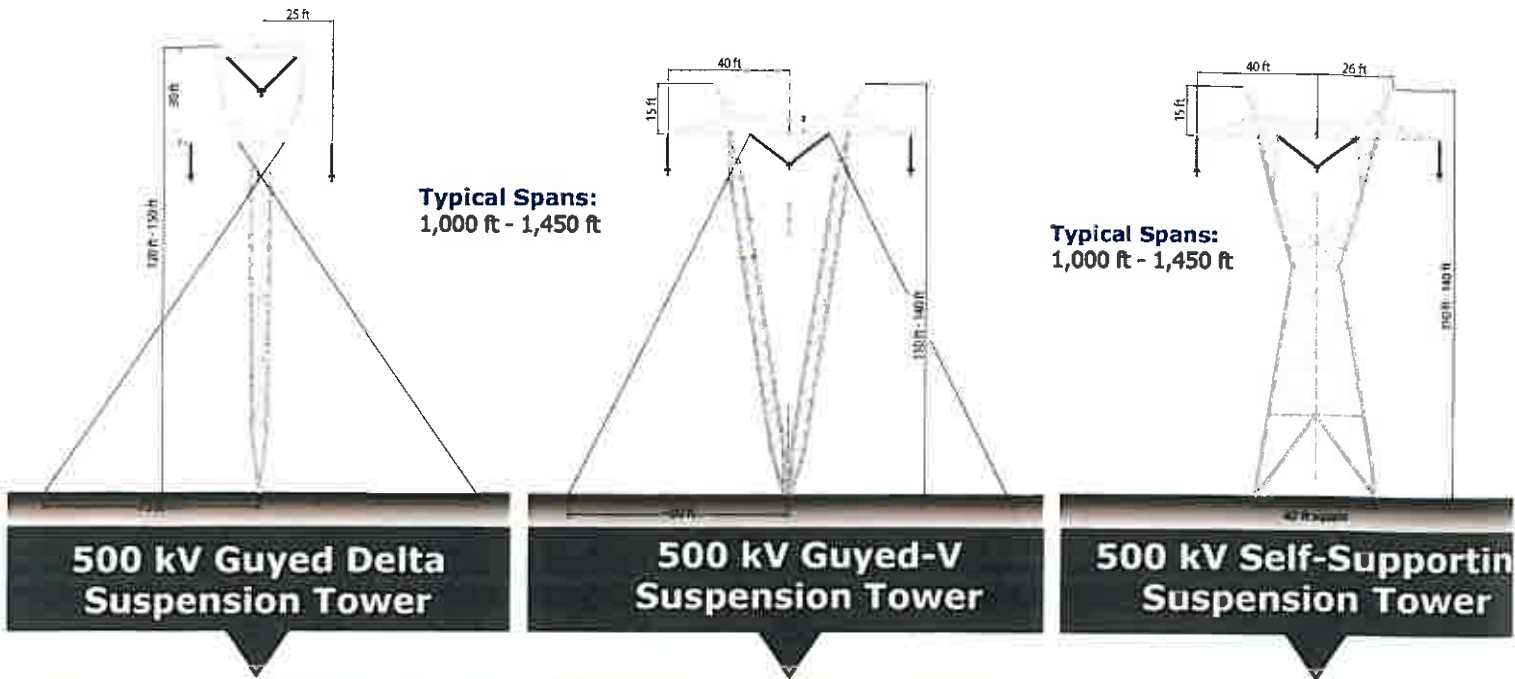


Proposed Route Alternatives

Figure 1



► Preliminary 500 kV Structure Design



These photos show a typical representation of existing transmission lines that are similar to the structures being considered for the project. The actual structure for the project may differ.



For more information or to provide input:

Visit us online: www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com

Call our toll-free hotline: 1-877-657-9934

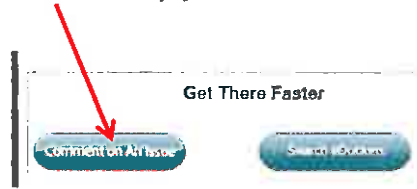
Email us: info@GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com



STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

How do I add my comments?

- 1. Visit mn.gov/puc, select *Comment on An Issue*, find this project – *Docket 12-1163* – add your comments to the discussion!



- 2 *OR* Send an email to routecomments.oah@state.mn.us
- 3 *OR* Send U.S. Mail to The Honorable Ann O'Reilly, Office of Administrative Hearings, PO Box 64620, 600 North Robert Street, St Paul MN 55164-0620

*Comments must be received by December 3, 2014 at 4:30pm

What should I include in my comments?

- 1 The Docket Numbers in the subject line or heading
 - OAH Docket Number *65-2500-31196*
 - PUC Docket Number *12-1163* (Certificate of Need)
- 2 Write about the *Topics for Public Comment* listed in the notice.
- 3 What decision do you want the Commission to make?
- 4 How will the issue affect you, your family, your job, your community?
- 5 Are you trying to stop or delay an action? Fix an error? Support an issue? Offer an alternative?

Important: Comments are made available to the public via the Commission's website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The Commission does not edit or delete personally identifying information from submissions.

Great Northern Transmission Line Certificate of Need
PUC Docket Number E-015/CN-12-1163
OAH Docket Number 65-2500-31196

Name	Address
Business or Organization	City, State Zip
Telephone Number	Email Address

Topics for Public Comment:

- Is the proposed project needed and in the public interest?
- What are the costs and benefits of the proposed project?
- What are the environmental and human impacts of the proposed project, and how can these impacts be addressed?
- Are there other project-related issues or concerns?

Comments:





STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Certificate of Need – Great Northern Transmission Line

Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Number E-015/CN-12-1163

Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) Docket Number 65-2500-31196

Q: What is a *Certificate of Need*?

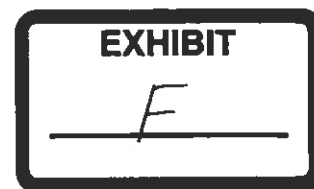
A: Answers the question - Is the transmission line needed?

Q: How does the PUC decide?

A: Minnesota Statute 216B.243 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7849

Q: When will the PUC decide on the certificate of need?

A: Timeline below



Certificate of Need Application Filed	October 2013
Certificate of Need Application Accepted	December 2013
Public Information & Scoping Meetings	February 2014
Environmental Report Published	July 2014
Public Hearings	October 2014
Evidentiary Hearings	November 2014
Public Comment Period Closes	December 3, 2014 at 4:30pm
Administrative Law Judge Report	March 2015
Certificate of Need Decision – Public Utilities Commission	May 2015



STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Route Permit – Great Northern Transmission Line

Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Number E-015/TL-14-21

Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) Docket Number 65-2500-31637

Q: What is a *Route Permit*?

A: Answers the question – If the transmission line is needed, where will it be built?

Q: How does the PUC decide?

A: Minnesota Statute 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850

Q: When will the PUC decide on the route permit?

A: Estimated timeline below

Route Permit Application Filed	March 2014
Route Permit Application Accepted	June 2014
Public Information & Scoping Meetings	July 2014
Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) Published	February 2015
Public Hearings	May 2015
Evidentiary Hearings	May 2015
Public Comment Period Closes	June 5, 2015 at 4:30pm
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Published	July 2015
Administrative Law Judge Report	October 2015
Route Permit Decision – Public Utilities Commission	December 2015

SHADDIX & ASSOCIATES

COURT REPORTERS
9100 WEST BLOOMINGTON FREEWAY, SUITE 122
BLOOMINGTON, MN 55431

952-888-7687 FAX 952-888-2711
TOLL FREE 1-800-952-0163

jshaddix@janetshaddix.com

October 30, 2014

To: Libraries on the attached list:

Re: In the Matter of the Request of Minnesota Power for a
Certificate of Need for the Great Northern Transmission
Line Project

OAH DOCKET NO. 65-2500-31196;
PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/CN-12-1163

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed find transcripts for the Public Hearings held on October 7, 8, 14
and 15, 2014 for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project. Please place
the transcripts with the materials you previously received in this matter.

After the transcripts from the evidentiary hearing to be held in November of
2014 in this matter are completed, those transcripts will be sent to you as
well.

These transcripts are being sent to the libraries at the request of the
Applicant so they can be made available for viewing by the public.

Please give me a call at 952-888-7687 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Shaddix & Associates

Janet Shaddix Elling
Registered Professional Reporter

Baudette Library, 110 1st Street SW, Baudette, Minnesota
Blackduck Public Library, 72 1st Street SE, Blackduck, Minnesota
Duluth Public Library, 520 W Superior Street, Duluth, Minnesota
Grand Rapids Public Library, 140 NE 2nd Street, Grand Rapids, Minnesota
Northome Public Library, 12064 Main Street, Northome, Minnesota
Roseau Public Library, 121 Center Street E, Suite 100, Roseau, Minnesota