

SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEFING PAPERS

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
Staff Briefing Papers

Meeting Date: December 19, 2013Agenda Item *1

Company: Xcel Energy

Docket No. E-002/TL-12-1151

In the Matter of the Application of Xcel Energy for a Route Permit for the Kohlman Lake to Goose Lake 115 kV Transmission Line Upgrade Project in Ramsey County, Minnesota

Issue(s): Should the Commission find that the environmental assessment and the record created at the public hearing adequately address the issues identified in the scoping decision? Should the Commission issue a route permit identifying a specific route and permit conditions for the Kohlman Lake to Goose Lake 115 kV Transmission Line Project in Ramsey County?

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I. Supplemental Route Permit Language Modifications

A. Route Permit Section 3.1 (Right-of-Way)

3.1 Right-of-Way

The approved right-of-way width for the project is up to 75 feet. The Permittee will utilize its existing rights-of-way associated with the single circuit 115 kV transmission line being replaced to the greatest extent possible.

This permit anticipates that the right-of-way will generally conform to the anticipated alignment as noted on the attached route permit maps unless changes are requested by individual landowners and agreed to by the Permittee or for unforeseen conditions that are encountered or are otherwise provided for by this permit.

Any alignment modifications within the designated route shall be located so as to have comparable overall impacts relative to the factors in Minn. R. 7850.4100, as does the alignment identified in this permit, and shall be specifically identified and documented in and approved as part of the plan and profile submitted pursuant to section 4.1 of this permit.

Where the transmission line route parallels existing highway and other road rights-of-way, the transmission line right-of-way shall occupy and utilize the existing right-of-way to the maximum extent possible, consistent with the criteria in Minn. R. 7850.4100, the other requirements of this permit, and for highways under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) rules, policies, and procedures for accommodating utilities in trunk highway rights-of-way.

Staff has been requested to make this change to ensure that the permit language matches the current practices in place. Currently landowners are not allowed to make alignment changes without the consent of the permittee.

Revised Commission Decision Alternatives

A. Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Recommendation

1. Approve and adopt the ALJ Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Recommendation for Xcel Energy's Kohlman Lake to Goose Lake 115 kV Transmission Line Upgrade Project in Ramsey County, Minnesota.
2. Approve and adopt the ALJ Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Recommendation for Xcel Energy's Kohlman Lake to Goose Lake 115 kV Transmission Line Upgrade Project in Ramsey County, Minnesota, with modifications to:
 - a. Finding 35 as suggested by Xcel Energy.
 - b. Finding 64 as suggested by Xcel Energy.
 - c. Finding 84 as suggested by Xcel Energy.
 - d. Finding 161 as suggested by Xcel Energy.
 - e. Finding 164 as suggested by Xcel Energy.
 - f. Conclusion 14 as suggested by Xcel Energy.
 - g. Conclusion 14 as suggested by the Department.
 - h. Conclusion 14 as suggested by Commission staff.
3. Take some other action deemed appropriate.

B. Environmental Assessment

1. Determine that the environmental assessment and the record created at the public hearing addresses the issues identified in the environmental assessment scoping decision.
2. Take some other action deemed appropriate.

C. Transmission Line Route Permit

1. Issue a high-voltage transmission line route permit identifying a specific route and permit conditions to Xcel Energy for the Kohlman Lake to Goose Lake 115 kV Transmission Line Project in Ramsey County.
2. Issue a high-voltage transmission line route permit identifying a specific route and permit conditions to Xcel Energy for the Kohlman Lake to Goose Lake 115 kV Transmission Line Project in Ramsey County, as attached to staff's original briefing papers and modified by the supplemental briefing papers.
3. Take some other action deemed appropriate.

Revised Staff Recommendation: A2a, A2c-f, A2h, B1, and ~~C1~~ C2