

**Minnesota Public Utilities Commission**  
*Staff Supplemental Briefing Papers*

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Meeting Date: December 19, 2013 .....Agenda Item \*5

Company: Minnesota Power

Docket No. E-015/TL-12-1123

In the Matter of the Application of Minnesota Power for a Route Permit for  
the 39 Line 115 kV Transmission Line Project in St. Louis 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 39 Line 115 kV High Voltage Transmission Line Project in St. Louis County?

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**I. Supplemental Modifications**

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**A. Modification to Section 3.1**

**3.1 Right-of-Way**

The approved right-of-way width for the project is up to 100 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 are encountered or are otherwise provided for by this permit.

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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.

## **B. Minnesota Power Complaint Contact**

Since the staff briefing papers were issued, staff has received the updated complaint contact for Minnesota Power. Staff proposes to change Attachment A, page 3 to add the following information to the contact listed: Minnesota Power, Attn: Bryan Maslowski, phone: 218-355-2943, and email [bmaslowski@mnpower.com](mailto:bmaslowski@mnpower.com) .

## **II. Commission Decision Alternatives**

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### **A. Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Recommendation**

1. Approve and adopt the ALJ's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Recommendation for Minnesota Power's 39 Line HVTL Project in St. Louis County, Minnesota.
2. 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. (*modified*) Transmission Line Route Permit**

1. Issue a high-voltage transmission line route permit identifying a specific route and permit conditions to Minnesota Power for the 39 Line 115 kV Transmission Line Project in St. Louis County.
2. Issue a high-voltage transmission line route permit identifying a specific route and permit conditions to Minnesota Power for the 39 Line 115 kV Transmission Line Project in St. Louis County, as attached to staff's original briefing papers and modified by the supplemental briefing papers.
3. Take some other action deemed appropriate.

**Staff Recommendation:** A1, B1, C2.