



PROPOSED MARY LAKE 115 kV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT Additional Information and Project Contacts

Xcel Energy

Contact Information:

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Route Permit Application

General Information:

Xcel Energy will file a Route Application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. After the application is filed you may go to the website and search for the project:

<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp>

You may also request further information on the Comment Form or from the Department of Commerce (DOC) who is responsible for the energy facility permitting process. The documents for the project are also available on the DOC website at:

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



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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Why is this project needed?

The region has experienced steady electric growth and is in need of additional transmission capacity. New electronic devices, more homes and businesses all contribute to increased demand for electricity.

How will the line help?

The Mary Lake 115 kV transmission line will provide a new source of electricity to the Buffalo Substation and improves the reliability at the Mary Lake Substation.

Who will benefit?

All customers in Buffalo and the area south east of Buffalo will see benefits.

When will the line be built?

The PUC routing process is expected to take up to six months from the date of our filing. After the route is approved, we will begin the right-of-way contacts, survey and design. We expect the transmission line construction to begin in early 2008. The project will be in-service in late 2008.

Who will own the line?

Xcel Energy is the transmission provider in the area and is responsible to build and own the transmission line.

Where will the route for the new transmission line be located?

We have provided maps to show our initial study area. We have not chosen any routes to date and are seeking public input. The information we gathered will help us identify potential opportunities and constraints in developing preliminary routes. This public input along with fieldwork and environmental reviews will provide the basis for preliminary routes. We will host another meeting in late August or Early September to share our initial route analysis with you. After the meeting, we will submit a permit application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) with a preferred route, which incorporates your feedback.

The MPUC will follow their regulatory process to determine the final route for the line based on information Xcel Energy provides in its application, as well as information supplied by the public and other interested parties.

What can landowners expect in the form of compensation if the final route for one of the transmission line projects is on their land?

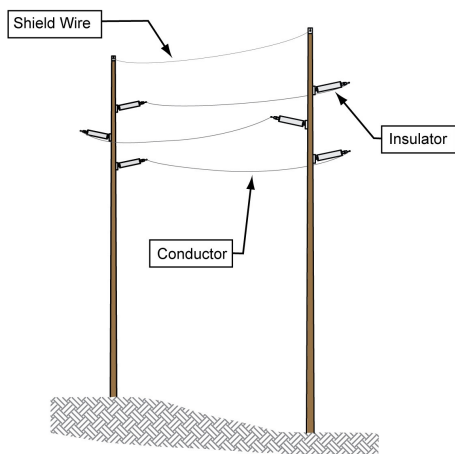
Xcel Energy will provide fair compensation in the form of easement payments to property owners who host power lines. We will work directly with property owners to address their questions and concerns. Property owners may continue to use the land around transmission structures as long as it doesn't interfere with the safe operation of the facility. We have additional handouts providing more detailed right-of-way information and a description of how the landowner contact process works.

What about Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF)?

Electric and magnetic fields, called EMF for short, are created by anything that conducts electricity, including transmission lines, household appliances and business equipment. These fields are strongest closest to their source, so the farther you are away from the source, the lower the strength of the field. Decades of scientific and medical research, reviewed by national and international expert panels and government agencies, have found no convincing evidence of adverse impacts to human health from EMF. We would be happy to provide more detailed background information concerning the question of health effects associated with magnetic fields if you wish. We will also provide information on this issue to the Department of Commerce (DOC) in our application.

What will the line look like?

The transmission line structure we propose using is a single pole structure that is made of wood. The picture to the right is very similar to what the transmission line structure will look like and is called a "horizontal line post" structure.



Who do I contact for more information on this project?

Contact Darrin Lahr,
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