



Publication Date: June 2, 2008
Vol. 32, No. 11

Next Publication: June 16, 2008
Submittal Deadline: June 9, 2008

EQB MONITOR

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: July 2, 2008

Project Title: MinnErgy, LLC

Description: MinnErgy, LLC proposes to construct a dry mill ethanol production facility (Facility) in Olmsted County, near the city of Eyota, Minnesota. Facility construction will proceed in two phases. During Phase I, the Facility will have the capacity to produce 52.25 million gallons per year (MMGY) of undenatured ethanol and 153,533 tons per year (TPY) of Distillers' Dried Grains with Solubles (DDGS). During Phase II, the Facility will have the capacity to produce 75 MMGY of undenatured ethanol and 220,382 TPY of DDGS. The estimated Facility water demand during Phase I will be approximately 296.4 MMGY. The estimated Facility water demand during Phase II will be approximately 415.7 MMGY.

In addition to the Environmental Assessment Worksheet, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency will soon release for public comment a draft Air Emissions Permit and State Water Permit for the proposed project. The contact person for the Air Emissions Permit is Dave Beil at 651-296-7810, and for the Water Permit is Nancy Drach at 651-297-8236.

The MPCA will hold a public information meeting on the MinnErgy EAW, scheduled for Tuesday, June 19, at the Dover-Eyota High School. The meeting will begin with an open house, which will begin at 6 p.m., followed by a formal presentation by MPCA staff at 7 p.m.

A copy of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet will be posted on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Web site, at the following: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/eaw/index.html>.

The *EQB Monitor* is a biweekly publication of the Environmental Quality Board that lists descriptions and deadlines for Environmental Assessment Worksheets, Environmental Impact Statements, and other notices. The *EQB Monitor* is posted on the Environmental Quality board home page at <http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/>.

Upon request, the *EQB Monitor* will be made available in an alternative format, such as Braille, large print, or audio tape. For TTY, contact Minnesota Relay Service at 800-627-3529 and ask for Department of Administration. For information on the *EQB Monitor*, contact:

Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
658 Cedar St., 300 Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155-1388
Phone: 651-201-2480
Fax: 651-296-3698
<http://www.eqb.state.mn.us>

RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contact Person:

Steve Sommer, Planner Principal
Biofuels Sector
Industrial Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road No.
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194
651-282-5851

Project Title: Steve and Terry Athman Swine Finishing Site Expansion

Description: Steve and Terry Athman Swine Finishing Site Expansion (Athman Swine) is proposing to expand the existing operation with the construction of a new swine finishing barn in the S 1/2 of Section 3, Granite Township, Morrison County. The barn will be equipped with a concrete, slatted floor and an eight-foot reinforced concrete pit located beneath the barn to hold the manure generated by the finishing hogs. The new total confinement swine finishing barn will have a maximum physical capacity of 2,400 finishing hogs (720 animal units), which is in addition to the existing 2,400-head (720 animal units) barn. Manure will be collected and stored in reinforced concrete pits beneath the barns. Manure will be pumped from the facility twice each year and applied at agronomic rates into designated cropland as fertilizer.

RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contact Person:

Kevin Kain, Planner Principal
Environmental Review and Operations Section
Regional Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road No.
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194
Phone: 651-296-7432

Project Title: Brown County Solid Waste Landfill Expansion

Description: Brown County is proposing to expand the Brown County Landfill facility located south of New Ulm on County Road 11 in Sigel Township. The expansion of the facility will include new cell construction, stormwater management and site drainage upgrades, leachate system expansion and relocation, and new road construction. The landfill is a mixed municipal and industrial solid waste landfill facility.

A copy of the environmental Assessment Worksheet will be posted on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Web site, at the following: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/eaw/index.html>.

RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contact Person:

Kevin Kain, Planner Principal
Environmental Review and Operations Section
Regional Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road No.
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194
Phone: 651-296-7432

Project Title: Deer Park

Description: John Morton is proposing a subdivision plat entitled Deer Park, an 11-lot single family residential development located in Section 26, Glenwood Township within the shoreland of Lake Marlu (Classified as Natural Environment Lake). The development will include roads, storm water management systems, electrical and telephone lines. Individual septic systems and wells would be installed as homes are built.

Pope County has been delegated the Responsible Governmental Unit and will receive any written comments from the public concerning the information within the EAW until July 2, 2008. A copy of the EAW is available at the Pope County website located at www.mncounties3.org/pope. Click on the Land & Resource Management webpage and the EAW can be reviewed. Paper copies can be received and comments accepted by contacting the address below.

RGU: Pope County

Contact Person:

Steven A Lawrence, Director
Pope County Land & Resource Management
130 East Minnesota Ave.
Glenwood, MN 56334
Phone: 320-634-5715
Fax: 320-634-5711

EA AVAILABLE**Project Title: Benson 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation**

Description: The project consists of the construction of approximately 1.4 miles of 115 kV transmission line located primarily in BNSF and public right-of-way in the City of Benson. The new line will provide service to an upgraded city substation.

The 115 kV transmission line will consist of narrow profile construction, utilizing horizontal post insulators. The poles will be either wood or laminated wood construction. The pole heights will range from 60 feet to 70 feet above the ground.

RGU: City of Benson

Contact Persons:

Rob Wolfington, City Manager
Elliot Nelson, Public Works Director
City of Benson
1410 Kansas Ave.
Benson, MN 56215
Phone: 210-843-4775

Project Title: Richmond to Farming 115 kV Transmission Line Upgrade

Description: Great River Energy is planning to rebuild six miles of overhead transmission line near Richmond in Stearns County, Minnesota. GRE presently operates a 69 kV transmission line that extends from Richmond to Stearns Electric Association's Farming distribution substation located six miles north of Richmond and also directly feeds their Big Fish distribution substation. Great River Energy is proposing to rebuild this 69 kV line with a heavier conductor size, which would remove line overload concerns, boost the reliability of the transmission line, and better serve the existing and future load growth in the area.

Due to anticipated transmission system upgrades from 69 kV to 115 kV in the greater St. Cloud area, this rebuild project will be permitted, designed and built to 115 kV standards, but will initially operate at 69 kV until the adjoining transmission systems are upgraded to 115 kV.

A copy of the Environmental Assessment for the project is available at:

Stearns County Environmental Services
Administration Center Room 343
705 Courthouse Square
St. Cloud, MN 56303

RGU: Stearns County

Contact Person:

Jennifer Buckentine
Stearns County Environmental Services
Administration Center Room 343
705 Courthouse Square
St. Cloud, MN 56303
Phone: 320-656-3613 or 800-450-0852
Fax: 320-656-6484
jennifer.buckentine@co.stearns.mn.us

EAW NEED DECISIONS

The noted responsible governmental unit has made a decision regarding the need for an EAW in response to a citizen petition.

- Washington County Board of Commissioners, 800 MHz radio tower, City of Afton. Denied.

EIS NEED DECISIONS

The responsible governmental unit has determined the following projects do not require preparation of an EIS. The dates given are, respectively, the date of the determination and the date the EAW notice was published in the *EQB Monitor*.

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Big Stone Hutterite Brethren Feedlot Expansion, May 20, 2008 (March 10, 2008)
- Minnesota Department of Transportation, Minnesota Trunk Highway/US 52 Project, April 30, 2008 (November 5, 2007)
- Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), Project No. 49, Oakport Flood Mitigation, May 12, 2008 (March 24, 2008)
- Grant Co. Board of Commissioners, Joint Project of Grant County and Douglas County Projects SAP 26-19-01 and SAP 21-619-01, May 6, 2008 (March 10, 2008)
- Wright County Highway Department, CSAH 19 Improvement Project, March 18, 2008 (February 11, 2008)
- City of Woodbury, Commerce Hill Development, March 10, 2008 (May 14, 2008)

PETITION FILED

The following petitions have been filed with the EQB requesting preparation of an EAW. The EQB has assigned the indicated unit of government to review the petition and decide on the need for an EAW.

- Duluth Planning Department, Duluth Off-leash Dog Trail Areas project
- City of Scandia, Tiller Corporation mining project
- Pope County Environmental Services Dept., South Pointe Park RV Park project

EIS ADEQUACY DECISION

On May 20, 2008, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Citizens' Board voted to approve the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order regarding the adequacy of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Xcel Energy West Lakeland Ash Disposal Facility, Washington County. The MPCA has determined that the Xcel Energy West Lakeland Ash Disposal Facility EIS is adequate as that term

is defined in law. This concludes the environmental review process for this project. Normally, this, in turn, clears the way for the permitting process to begin at all governmental levels with approval authority over the proposed project.

However, in this case, the legislature has passed legislation that imposes a two-year moratorium on landfill siting in the state and requires the MPCA to write rules during that time that “shall include site-specific criteria to prohibit solid waste disposal based on the area’s sensitivity to groundwater contamination, including site-specific testing.” The complete text of this law can be found on the Web at:

<https://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/bin/bldbill.php?bill=H812.5.html&session=1s85>

on line 81.35. The MPCA will begin the rulemaking process this summer by publishing a notice of intent to conduct the rulemaking in the State Register.

The mailing list for the EIS has been passed on to the MPCA rulemaking group for their use in keeping the public informed about the rulemaking process. Everyone on this project mailing list will be included in the rulemaking notices. If you wish to be removed from the mailing list, please contact Nathan Cooley at 651-297-7544. Additional information can be found at the MPCA’s Web site at:

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/rulesregs/index.html>.

We appreciate the time and effort of those who submitted comments and otherwise participated in the environmental review process.

NOTICES

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Southeast Regional Landscape Committee Minnesota Forest Resources Council

The Southeast Regional Landscape Committee of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) will meet on Friday, June 6, 2008, from 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Weaver Dunes TNC Office south of Kellogg, Minnesota.

For more information, please contact Lindberg Ekola at (320) 256-8300 or go to the calendar on the MFRC website at <http://www.frc.state.mn.us>.

**North Central Regional Landscape Committee
Minnesota Forest Resources Council**

The North Central Regional Landscape Committee of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) will meet on Wednesday, June 11, 2008, from 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. in Grand Rapids at the Forest History Center.

For more information, please contact Lindberg Ekola at (320) 256-8300 or go to the calendar on the MFRC website at <http://www.frc.state.mn.us>.

**Northeast Regional Landscape Committee
Minnesota Forest Resources Council**

The Northeast Regional Landscape Committee of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) will meet on Wednesday, June 18, 2008, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. in Duluth at the Natural Resources Institute (NRI) building.

For more information, please contact Lindberg Ekola at (320) 256-8300 or go to the calendar on the MFRC website at <http://www.frc.state.mn.us>.

**Landscape Committee
Minnesota Forest Resources Council**

The Landscape Committee of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) will meet on Thursday, June 19, 2008, from 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. in Cloquet at the Cloquet Forestry Center.

For more information, please contact Lindberg Ekola at (320) 256-8300 or go to the calendar on the MFRC website at <http://www.frc.state.mn.us>.

**Notification of Releases of
Genetically Engineered Organisms**

File Number	Company	Crop	Project	County
08-NO-081	Syngenta	Corn	Insect Resistance	Goodhue

For more information contact Mary Hanks, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St N., St. Paul, MN 55155, 651/201-6277, mary.hanks@state.mn.us .

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
AND AVAILABILITY OF
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

Issued: May 30, 2008

**In the Matter of the Xcel Energy Route Permit Application for the Yankee Substation to Brookings County
Substation 115 kV #2 Transmission Line Project**

PUC Docket No. E002/TL-07-1626

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC), Office of Energy Security (OES) will hold a public hearing on behalf of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC or the Commission) on the route permit application by Xcel Energy to construct an approximately six and one-half mile 115 kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line between the existing Yankee Substation, Lincoln County, Minnesota (southeast corner of County Highway 1 and 160th Street) and the South Dakota/Minnesota border.

**Friday, June 13, 2008 • 12:30 p.m.
Midwest Center for Wind Energy
2390 County Highway 1**

(Approximately 7 miles south from the city of Hendricks on Cty. Hwy. 1)
Hendricks, Minnesota

Project Description. Xcel Energy proposes to build a second 115 kV high voltage transmission line from its existing Yankee Substation in Lincoln County, Minnesota, to its existing Brookings County Substation in South Dakota (the project). The total length of the proposed transmission line route is approximately 13 miles, six and one-half miles of which are in Minnesota. The area along the proposed route is rural and dominated by agricultural land use. Nearly the entire proposed route runs parallel to county and township road rights-of-way (see attached map).

Environmental Assessment. Office of Energy Security has completed an environmental assessment (EA) on the proposed project. The environmental assessment addresses the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed route. The environmental assessment and other documents relevant to the route permit process are available for review and download on the PUC website at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19453> or by contacting the OES staff listed below.

Conduct of Hearing. The public hearing will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Power Plant Siting Act, Minnesota Statutes 216E.01 to 216E.18, and Minnesota Rules 7849.5500 to 7849.5720. The Honorable Steve Mihalchick, Administrative Law Judge will preside over the hearing.

Public Hearing. Office of Energy Security staff will be present at the hearing to make a brief presentation describing the project, explain the process to be followed, and to introduce documents to be included in the record; including the application, the environmental assessment, and relevant procedural documents. Representatives from Xcel Energy will be present to introduce evidence by way of testimony and exhibits and to answer questions.

Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions of OES staff and Xcel Energy representatives, to make oral statements/presentations, and to offer written comments and documents into the record. Members of the public are not required to file any papers in advance of the hearing in order to participate.

The record will remain open until **4:30 p.m., Friday, June 27, 2008**, for interested persons to submit written comments to the Administrative Law Judge. Comments must be submitted directly to:

The Honorable Steve Mihalchick
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620
email: Steve.Mihalchick@state.mn.us

The Administrative Law Judge will provide OES staff a written summary of testimony given at the hearing. The Commission will make a final decision on the route permit application after receipt of the complete record.

Additional Information. For more information about the process, the project, or to place your name on the project mailing list, please contact:

Scott Ek, Project Manager
Energy Facility Permitting
Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
(651) 296-8813
scott.ek@state.mn.us

Adam Sokolski, Public Advisor
Energy Facility Permitting
Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
(651) 297-2375
adam.sokolski@state.mn.us

Mailing List. Any person may add his or her name to the mailing list maintained by OES for future mailings regarding this project. If you would like to receive notice of the Commission's final decision in this matter please add your name to the mailing list. Names can be added to the list by contacting Mr. Ek or by registering on [the](http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19453) PUC website at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19453>.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

In the Matter of the Xcel Energy Route Permit Application for the Mary Lake 115 kV Transmission Line Tap Project

PUC Docket No. E002/TL-07-1365

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC), Office of Energy Security (OES), will hold a public hearing on behalf of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) on Xcel Energy's application to the PUC to construct approximately five miles of 115 kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line (HVTL) between the Buffalo Power – Maple Lake 69 kV transmission line and the Mary Lake – Dickinson 69 kV transmission line in and near the city of Buffalo in Wright County.

**Monday, June 9, 2008 • 6:30 p.m.
Buffalo Public Library**

**Community Room A
18 NW Lake Blvd.
Buffalo, MN 55313**

Project Description. The proposed transmission line route is approximately five miles, and connects a new tap outside the Buffalo Power Substation to a new tap outside of the Mary Lake Substation. Xcel Energy has proposed a route that runs generally east and then south along public roads between the two tap structures. In addition to the route proposed by Xcel Energy, two route alternatives following public roads or railroad tracks between the two taps are also being considered (see attached map). The proposed Project will not require work at either substation.

Environmental Assessment. The OES has prepared an environmental assessment on the proposed project. The environmental assessment addresses the potential impacts of the proposed and alternative routes for the project. The environmental assessment along with other documents relevant to the route permit process are available for review and download on the PUC website at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19402> or by contacting the OES staff listed below.

Conduct of Hearing. The public hearing will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Power Plant Siting Act, Minnesota Statutes 216E.01 to 216E.18, and Minnesota Rules 7849.5500 to 7849.5720. The Honorable Manuel J. Cervantes, Administrative Law Judge, will preside over the hearing.

Public Hearing. The OES staff will be present at the hearing to make a brief presentation describing the project, explain the process to be followed, and to introduce documents to be included in the record, including the application, the environmental assessment, and relevant procedural documents. Representatives from Xcel Energy will be present to introduce evidence by way of testimony/exhibits and to answer questions. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions of OES staff and Xcel Energy representatives, to make oral statements/presentations, and to offer written comments and documents into the record. Members of the public are not required to file any papers in advance of the hearing in order to participate. The record will remain open until **4:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 24, 2008**, for interested persons to submit written comments to the Administrative Law Judge. Comments must be submitted directly to:

The Honorable Manuel J. Cervantes
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620
Email: Manuel.Cervantes@state.mn.us

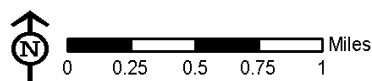
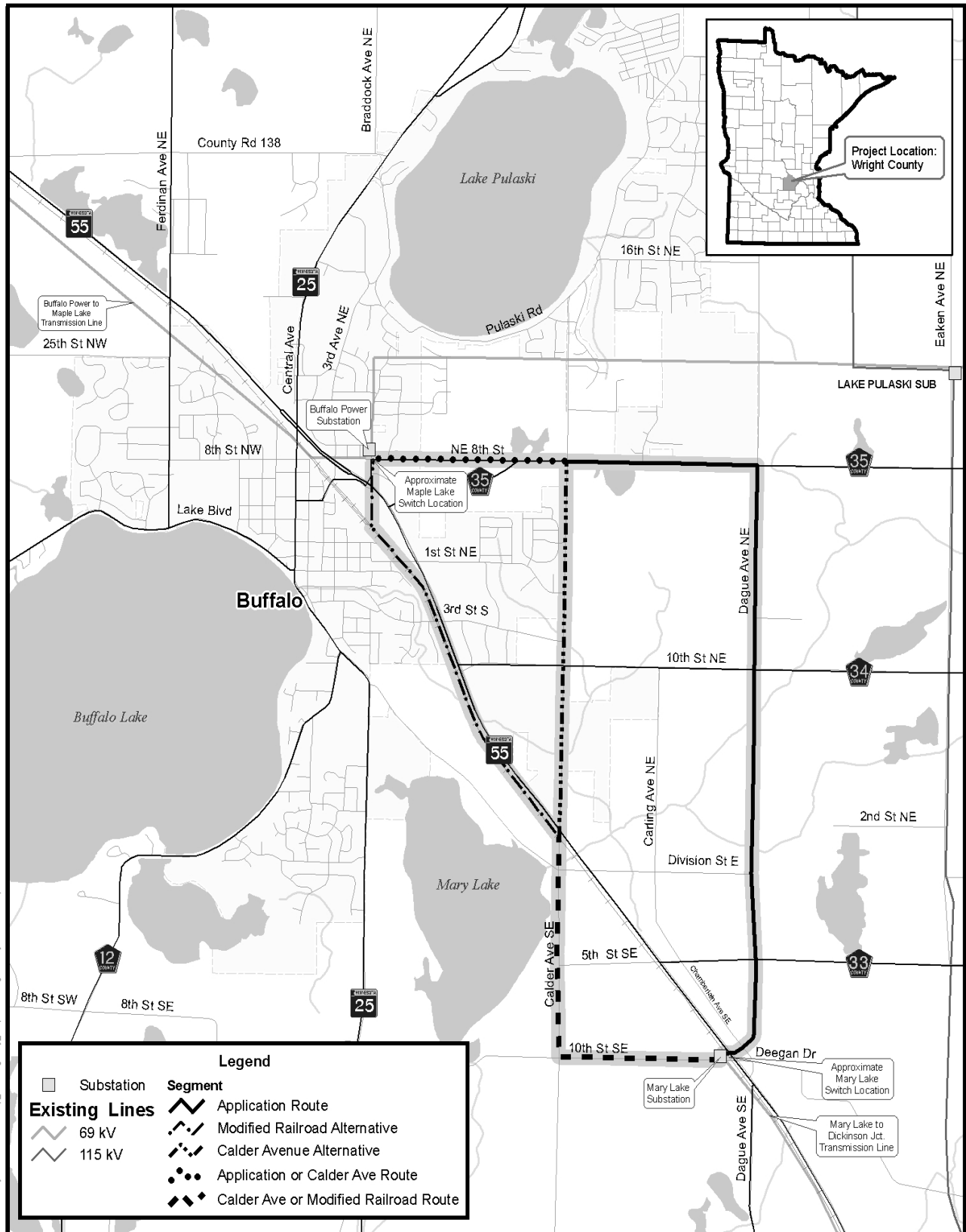
After the close of the public comment period, Judge Cervantes will provide the OES with a written summary of testimony given at the hearing. The PUC will make a final decision on the route permit application after receipt of the complete record.

Additional Information. For more information about the process, the project or to place your name on the project mailing list, please contact:

Suzanne Lamb Steinhauer, Project Manager
Energy Facility Permitting
Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
(651) 296-2888
suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us

David Birkholz, Public Advisor
Energy Facility Permitting
Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
(651) 296-2378
david.birkholz@state.mn.us

Mailing List. Any person may add his or her name to the mailing list maintained by the OES for future mailings regarding this project. If you would like to receive notice of the Commission's final decision in this matter please add your name to the mailing list. Names can be added to the list by contacting Ms. Steinhauer or by registering on [the](http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19402) PUC website at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19402>.



General Vicinity Map
Mary Lake
115 kV Transmission Line Tap Project



Figure 1

Document: (N:\GISProj\vol128\336\MaryLake\Buffalo\map_docs\legency_mapsworking\vicintp050508.mxd)