



Publication Date: February 25, 2008
Vol. 32, No. 4

Next Publication: March 10, 2008
Submittal Deadline: March 3, 2008

EQB MONITOR

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: March 26, 2008

Project Title: Brainerd Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade (2008)

Description: This is a re-notice of the Brainerd Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) upgrade. The city of Brainerd proposes to upgrade its WWTF and increase its capacity from 3.6 million gallons per day (mgd) to 7.5 mgd in two phases. The project includes construction of new headworks, a new sequencing batch reactor system, a new ultraviolet disinfection system, and biosolids handling facilities. Treated effluent will continue to discharge into the Mississippi River under the existing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System (NPDES/SDS) Permit from the existing outfall. Pollutant mass loadings of total suspended solids and carbonaceous biological oxygen demand will be frozen, and phosphorus and mercury limits will apply. A permit limit for perfluorooctane sulfonate has been added.

In addition to the Environmental Assessment Worksheet, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's draft NPDES/SDS Permit will also be available for public comment, most likely beginning in the first week of March. The contact person for the Discharge Permit is Robin Novotny at 218-828-6114.

RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contact Person:

Barbara Jean Conti
Planner Principal
Environmental Review and Operation Section
Regional Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194
Phone: 651-296-6703

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>

Project Title: Central Lakes Region Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Facility

Description: The Central Lakes Region Sanitary District, in Douglas County, proposes to build a new mechanical wastewater treatment facility (WWTF). The proposed capacity is 0.34 million gallons per day average wet weather design flow. The proposed WWTF will provide wastewater treatment for the residents around Lake Miltona and Lake Irene in Miltona, Carlos, and Leaf Valley townships, as well as capacity for two neighboring cities and future growth in the area.

In addition to the Environmental Assessment Worksheet, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's draft National Pollution Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System Permit will also be available for public comment. The contact person for the Discharge Permit is Holly Christensen at 218-846-0775.

RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contact Person:

Barbara Jean Conti
Planner Principal
Environmental Review and Operations Section
Regional Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194
Phone: 651-201-6703

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*.

- Steele County CSAH 34/North Beltine, Steel County Board, December 11, 2007 (November 5, 2007)

DRAFT AUAR AVAILABLE

Project Title: First Park Lakeville – Lakeville, Minnesota

Description: First Industrial Realty Trust, Inc. is proposing a light industrial/warehouse development on a 140± acre farmland parcel in the southeast quadrant of Dodd Boulevard (CSAH No.9) and 215th Street West (CSAH No. 70). Development of the AUAR study area has the potential of providing up to 1.4± million square feet of light industrial/warehouse as well as associated surface parking and loading areas, utility improvements and public streets. The proposed development is consistent with the City of Lakeville's Comprehensive Plan.

Parties interested in receiving additional information should contact Frank Dempsey (City of Lakeville) at 952-985-4400 or fdempsey@ci.lakeville.mn.us .

AUAR UPDATE AVAILABLE

Project Title: UnitedHealth Group – Eden Prairie, Minnesota

Description: The proposed Mixed Use Development consists of 1,140,000 square feet of office, 25,000 square feet of retail, a 125 room hotel with restaurant, and approximately 324 attached residential units. The 71± acre site is located in the southeast quadrant of TH 62 and Shady Oak Road.

RGU: City of Eden Prairie

Contact Person:

Scott Kipp
Senior Planner
8080 Mitchell Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55344
Phone: 952-949-8489
Fax: 952-949-8392
skip@edenprairie.org

SUPPLEMENTAL DEIS PREPARATION NOTICE

Project Title: Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Supplemental DEIS) for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit System

Description: The Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (LRT) project proposes the construction of a light rail system between Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota. The Central Corridor Alternatives Analysis and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (AA/DEIS) was published in the *EQB Monitor* and distributed on April 24, 2006. Public hearings were held the week of May 22, 2006, and public comment was accepted until June 5, 2006. Based on findings from the AA/DEIS and public and agency input received, the Metropolitan Council adopted a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the Central Corridor on June 28, 2006, namely, LRT operating on Washington and University avenues.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in cooperation with the Metropolitan Council, the local lead agency, will be preparing a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for the proposed Central Corridor LRT project. The SDEIS will focus on potential changes to the LPA based on AA/DEIS comments and subsequent preliminary engineering; it is not intended to repeat all the analyses contained in the project's AA/DEIS. The Supplemental DEIS will evaluate the following key project elements: the Hiawatha LRT and Central Corridor connection in the City of Minneapolis; University of Minnesota East Bank alignment (tunnel vs. at-grade and stations); potential stations at Hamline Avenue, Western Avenue or Victoria Street in St. Paul; alignment and stations in the Capitol Area; downtown St. Paul alignment and station modifications; requirements for 3-car train operations; the general locations of traction power substations; potential locations

for a Central Corridor light-rail vehicle maintenance facility; Washington Avenue Bridge improvements; and other key project elements determined through the on-going decision-making process to have potential significant impacts to human and natural environments. A June 2008 publication of the SDEIS is anticipated. Comments on the proposed scope of the Central Corridor LRT SDEIS can be addressed to the contact person listed below and are being accepted through March 17, 2008.

For those wishing more information on the Central Corridor LRT project, a Web site has been created and can be found at <http://www.metrocouncil.org/transportation/ccorridor/centralcorridor.htm>

RGU: Metropolitan Council

Contact Person:

Ms. Kathryn L. O'Brien, AICP, Project Manager
Central Corridor Project Office
540 Fairview Ave. North, Suite 200S
St. Paul, MN 55104
Phone: 651-602-1927
kathryn.obrien@metc.state.mn.us

NOTICES

Notification of Releases of Genetically Engineered Organism Minnesota Department of Agriculture

File Number	Company	Crop	Project	County
08-NO-007	Monsanto	Corn	Herbicide Tolerance	Rice, Blue Earth, Renville, Steele, Freeborn
08-NO-008	Betaseed	Sugarbeet	Virus Resistance	Scott (5 locations)
08-NO-009	Monsanto	Corn	Insect Resistance	Freeborn (2), Swift (2), Clay, Nicollet, Blue Earth (3), Steele, Lincoln, Rice, Renville, Stearns, Redwood, Kandiyohi
08-NO-010	Monsanto	Corn	Insect Resistance	Swift (2), Clay, Nicollet, Blue Earth (3), Steele, Renville, Rice, Kandiyohi, Redwood, Lincoln, Freeborn

File Number	Company	Crop	Project	County
08-NO-011	Pioneer	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerance Disease Resistance Selectable Marker	Chippewa, Faribault, Kandiyohi, McLeod, Pope, Redwood, Renville, Rock, Sherburne, Stevens
08-NO-012	Pioneer	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerance	Blue Earth, Chippewa, Clay (2), Grant, Kandiyohi, Nicollet, Otter Tail, Swift, Waseca
08-NO-013	Syngenta	Sugarbeet	Disease Resistance	Wilkin, Polk Renville, Clay, Kandiyohi, Chippewa
08-NO-014	Pioneer	Soybean	Yield Enhancement, Herbicide Tolerance, Selectable Marker, Altered Amino Acid Composition	Chippewa, Rock, Faribault, Pope, Kandiyohi, McLeod, Stevens, Redwood, Renville, Sherburne

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 Information Meeting

**In the Matter of the Application for a Route Permit for the
Mary Lake 115 kV High Voltage Transmission Line**

MPUC Docket Number: E002/TL-07-1365

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) will conduct a public information and environmental assessment scoping meeting at the location listed below on a proposal by Xcel Energy to construct a new high voltage electric transmission line in Wright County, Minnesota. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to the public about the proposed transmission line project and to identify

issues and route alternatives to study in an Environmental Assessment (EA) to be prepared by the Department evaluating the proposal.

Tuesday, March 11, 2008
Bison Creek Event Center
(Huikko's Bowling Center)
1207 North Highway 25
Buffalo, MN 55313
6:30 p.m.

The public is invited to review the application and proposed route, learn more about the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) route permitting process and ask questions. Representatives from the DOC and Xcel Energy will be available to answer questions about the route permitting process and the proposed Project. Members of the public may propose additional routes to be considered for the new transmission line and may propose issues to be addressed in the EA. The DOC will accept written comments on the scope of the EA until March 26, 2008. Comments should be mailed or e-mailed to:

Sharon Ferguson, Docket Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500,
Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198
sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us.

Project Description

Xcel Energy proposes to build approximately five miles of 115 kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line (HVTL) in Wright County. The proposed Project will be built to 115 kV standards, but will initially operate at 69 kV. The proposed Project will connect the Buffalo Power – Maple Lake 69 kV transmission line and the Mary Lake – Dickinson 69 kV transmission line near Buffalo using taps located near the Buffalo Power and Mary Lake substations. The Project is proposed to improve electric reliability in the Buffalo area.

PUC Review Process

On January 24, 2008, Xcel Energy filed an application for a route permit for the proposed project with the PUC. On February 7, 2007, the PUC accepted the route permit application as complete. The DOC has been assigned the responsibility to conduct public meetings and environmental review of the proposed transmission line under the alternative review process found in Minnesota Rules 7849.5500 – 7849.5720.

The DOC will prepare an EA prior to the PUC's consideration of a specific route for the transmission line. The EA will consider issues related to routing, such as construction impacts, environmental features, use of existing rights-of-way, and impacts on homes and businesses.

After completion of the EA, a public hearing will be held. Notice of the hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who register their names on the project mailing list with the Department. Persons interested in adding their names to this mailing list should contact the DOC project manager or public advisor or register on the webpage cited below.

If issued a route permit by the PUC, and in accordance with their authority under state law, Xcel Energy may exercise the power of eminent domain in this matter.

Project Contacts and Information

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

Suzanne Steinhauer, Project Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2128
Tel: 651-296-2888
suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us

David Birkholz, Public Advisor
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2128
651-296-2878 or
david.birkholz@state.mn.us

Other contact information: Toll-Free Tel: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-297-7891 or TTY: Minnesota Relay Service, 800-627-3529, and ask for the DOC.

Copies of the Application and other relevant documents, including Minnesota Statutes and Rules governing the process, are accessible at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/TransmissionLines.html>
or
<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19402>

A copy of the Route Permit Application is available for review at the Buffalo Public Library, 18 NW Lake Boulevard, Buffalo, MN 55313.

Notice of Public Information Meeting

In the Matter of the Application for a Route Permit for the Lake Yankton – Southwest Marshall 115 kilovolt (kV) High Voltage Transmission Line (HVTL)

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Docket Number: E002/TL-07-1407

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) will conduct a public information and environmental assessment scoping meeting at the location listed below on an application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for a route permit by Xcel Energy to construct a new high voltage electric transmission line in Lyon County, Minnesota. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to the public about the proposed transmission line project and to identify issues and route alternatives to study in an Environmental Assessment (EA) to be prepared by the Department evaluating the proposal.

Tuesday, March 4, 2008
Lyon County Government Center (Court House)
607 West Main Street, Second Floor, Marshall, MN
6:30 p.m.

The public information meeting will follow an open-house format until 7:00 p.m. when the DOC staff will give a presentation about the permitting process and the proposed project. The public is invited to review the application and proposed route, learn more about the PUC route permitting process and ask questions. The public may propose additional routes to be considered for the new transmission line and propose issues to be addressed in the EA. The DOC will accept written comments on the scope of the EA until March 14, 2008. Comments should be mailed or emailed to:

Sharon Ferguson, Docket Manager
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
Saint Paul, MN, 55101-2198
sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us

Project Description

Xcel Energy proposes to build an approximately 15.7 mile, 115,000 volt high voltage transmission line (HVTL) between its existing Lake Yankton Substation near Balaton to the existing Marshall Southwest Substation in Marshall. The proposed route runs parallel to road rights of way for nearly its entire length between these existing substations and is shown on the attached map.

PUC Review Process

On January 14, 2008, Xcel Energy filed an application for a route permit for the proposed project with the PUC. On February 7, 2008, the PUC accepted the route permit application as complete. DOC is responsible for conducting public meetings and environmental review of the proposed transmission line under the alternative review process found in Minnesota Rules 7849.5500 to 7849.5720.

The DOC will prepare an EA prior to the PUC's consideration of a specific route for the transmission line. The EA will address issues related to routing, such as construction impacts, environmental features, use of existing rights-of-way, impacts on homes and businesses, and consideration of public comments proposing additional routes and issues to be addressed in the EA.

After completion of the EA, a public hearing will be held. Notice of the hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who register their names on the project mailing list with the Department. Persons interested in adding their names to this mailing list should contact the DOC project manager, public advisor, or register online at: http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Users/user_registration.htm.

If issued a route permit by the PUC, and in accordance with their authority under state law, Xcel Energy may exercise the power of eminent domain in this matter.

Project Contacts and Information

For more information about the project, process, and/or to place your name on the project mailing list contact the following:

Adam Sokolski, Project Manager
Energy Facility Permitting
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
(651) 296-2096
adam.sokolski@state.mn.us

Scott Ek, Public Advisor
Energy Facility Permitting
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
(651) 296-8813
scott.ek@state.mn.us

Additional contact information includes: toll-free number 1-800-657-3794, fax number: (651) 297-7891, or TTY Minnesota Relay Service: 1-800-627-3529 (ask for the DOC).

Copies of the application and other relevant documents, including Minnesota Statutes and Rules governing the process are available on the following websites:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/TransmissionLines.html> or
<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19448>

Notice of Public Information Meeting

**In the Matter of the Application for a Route Permit for the Yankee Substation to Brookings County
Substation 115 kilovolt (kV) High Voltage Transmission Line (HVTL)**

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Docket Number: E002/TL-07-1626

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) will conduct a public information and environmental assessment scoping meeting at the location listed below on an application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for a route permit by Xcel Energy to construct a new HVTL in Lincoln County, Minnesota and Brookings County, South Dakota. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to the public about the proposed transmission line project and to identify issues and route alternatives to study in an Environmental Assessment (EA) to be prepared by the Department evaluating the proposal.

Monday, March 3rd, 2008
Midwest Center for Wind Energy
2390 Lincoln County Highway 1, Hendricks, MN
6:30 p.m.

The public information meeting will follow an open-house format until 7:00 p.m. when DOC staff will give a presentation about the permitting process and the proposed project. The public is invited to review the application and proposed route, learn more about the PUC route permitting process and ask questions. The public may propose additional routes to be considered for the new transmission line and propose issues to be addressed in the EA. The DOC will accept written comments on the scope of the EA until March 14, 2008. Comments should be mailed or emailed to:

Sharon Ferguson, Docket Manager
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
Saint Paul, MN, 55101-2198
sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us

Project Description

Xcel Energy proposes to build a second 115 kV HVTL from its existing Yankee Substation in Lincoln County, Minnesota to its existing Brookings County Substation in South Dakota (project). The length of the proposed transmission line route is approximately 13 miles, approximately 6.5 miles of which is 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).

PUC Review Process

On January 18, 2008, Xcel Energy filed a route permit application for the proposed project with the PUC. On February 8, 2008, the PUC accepted the route permit application as complete. The DOC is responsible for conducting public meetings and environmental review of the proposed transmission line under the alternative review process found in Minnesota Rules 7849.5500 to 7849.5720.

The DOC will prepare an EA prior to the PUC's consideration of a specific route for the transmission line. The EA will address issues related to routing, such as construction impacts, environmental features, use of existing rights-of-way, impacts on homes and businesses, and consideration of public comments proposing additional routes and issues to be addressed in the EA.

After completion of the EA, an additional public hearing will be held. Notice of the hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who register their names on the project mailing list with the DOC. Persons interested in adding their names to this mailing list should contact the DOC project manager, public advisor, or register online at: http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Users/user_registration.htm.

If issued a route permit by the PUC, and in accordance with their authority under state law, Xcel Energy may exercise the power of eminent domain in this matter.

Project Contacts and Information

For more information about the project, process, and/or to place your name on the project mailing list contact the following:

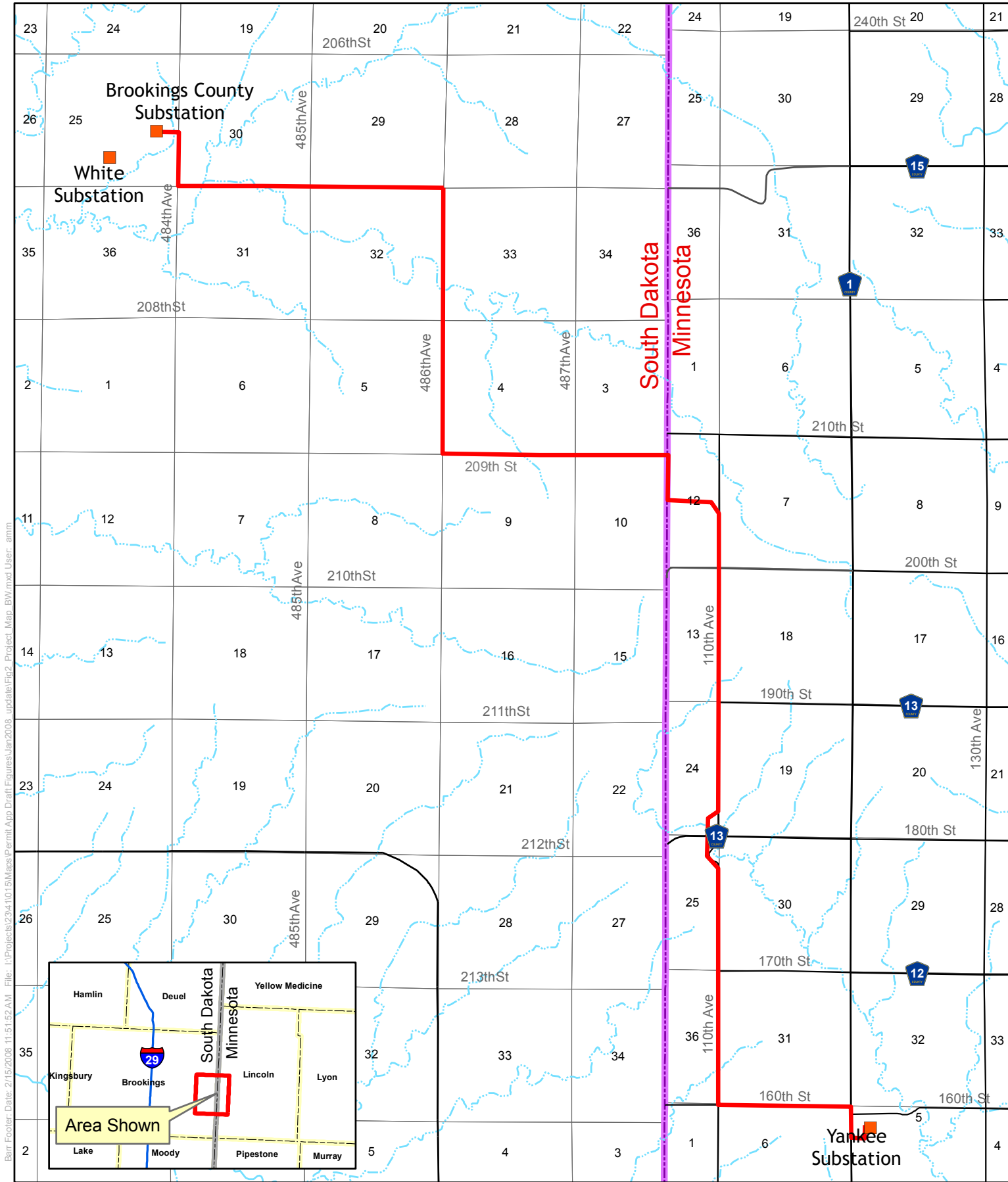
Scott Ek, Project Manager
Energy Facility Permitting
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
(651) 296-8813
scott.ek@state.mn.us

Adam Sokolski, Public Advisor
Energy Facility Permitting
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
(651) 296-2096
adam.sokolski@state.mn.us

Additional contact information includes: toll-free number 1-800-657-3794, fax number: (651) 297-7891, or TTY Minnesota Relay Service: 1-800-627-3529 (ask for the DOC).

Copies of the application and other relevant documents, including Minnesota Statutes and Rules governing the process are available on the following websites:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/TransmissionLines.html>
<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19453>



Barr Footer: Date: 2/15/2008 11:51:52 AM; File: I:\Projects\23\4101\5\Maps\Permit App Draft Figures\Jan2008_update\Fig2_Project_Map_BW.mxd User: amm

- Proposed Route
- MN-SD State Line
- Section Lines

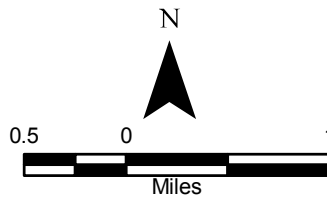


Figure 2. Proposed Route
BRIGO Yankee-Brookings County
Transmission Line

Xcel Energy
Route Permit Application
January 2008