



Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD ON REQUEST TO WITHDRAW
APPLICATIONS**

Issued: January 10, 2014

**In the Matter of the Application for a Certificate of Need for the Hollydale 115 kV
Transmission Line Project in the Cities of Plymouth and Medina, Hennepin County**

**In the Matter of the Application for a Route Permit for the Hollydale 115 kV Transmission
Line Project in the Cities of Plymouth and Medina, Hennepin County**

**PUC Docket Numbers: E-002/CN-12-113
 E-002/TL-11-152**

Comment Period: Initial comment period closes January 29, 2014 at 4:30pm.
 Reply comment period closes February 19, 2014 at 4:30pm.

Topic/s Open for Comment:

- Should the Commission allow the withdrawal of the Joint Applicants' Certificate of Need Petition and Route Permit Application for the Hollydale Project?
- Should the Commission request a summary of comments and testimony developed through the public hearing process from the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH)?
- If approved, should the Commission attach condition(s) to the withdrawal of the applications?

Project Background: On June 30, 2011, Xcel Energy and Great River Energy (Joint Applicants) filed an application for a route permit for a 115 kilovolt (kV) high-voltage transmission line project in the cities of Plymouth and Medina in Hennepin County (the Hollydale Project).

On July 12, 2012, the Joint Applicants filed a Certificate of Need application for the Hollydale Project.

On May 13, 2013, Senate File 521 was enacted into law as Chapter 57 of the 2013 Laws of Minnesota. In part, the law modified the standard for review the Commission would apply in assessing the Certificate of Need application.

On December 10, 2013, the Joint Applicants filed a petition with the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) Administrative Law Judge to withdraw the Certificate of Need and Route Permit applications. The Joint Applicants further requested their withdrawal request be certified to the Commission.

On January 8, 2014, the OAH issued an Order Granting Motion for Certification recommending the Commission allow withdrawal of the Applications, and requesting the Commission to consider the costs and benefits of a written summary of comments and testimony on the project to-date.

Submit Public Comments: E-mail to PublicComments.PUC@state.mn.us.

Persons without e-mail access may send by U.S. mail to Burl Haar, Executive Secretary, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul MN 55101-2147. Please include the Commission's docket number(s) in all communications.

Filing Requirements: Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are **required** to file documents using the Commission's electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants and interested persons are encouraged to use eFiling: www.puc.state.mn.us, select "eFiling," and follow the prompts.

Full Case Record: All documents filed in the route permit (11-152) and certificate of need (12-113) dockets are available on the Commission's website at www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Search eDockets," enter the year (*11 or 12*) and the docket number (*152 or 113*), and select "Search."

Subscribe to the Docket: Receive notification when new documents are filed in this docket at www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Subscribe to a Docket," and follow the prompts.

Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure? Contact Commission staff, Michael Kaluzniak, at mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us or 651-201-2257.

Change your mailing preferences: E-mail docketing.puc@state.mn.us or call 651-201-2204.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (e.g., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with hearing loss or speech disabilities may call us through their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.