

Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary
Public Utilities Commission



NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCOPING MEETING

Issued: August 15, 2016

In the Matter of the Application of Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. for a Route Permit for the MPL-Laporte 115 kV Transmission Line Project in Clearwater and Hubbard Counties, Minnesota.

Docket Number: ET-6/TL-16-327

Date: Tuesday, August 30, 2016

Time: 6:00pm

Location: Park Rapids Public Library
210 1st Street SW
Park Rapids, MN 56470

Bad weather? Find out if a meeting is canceled. Call (toll-free) 1-855-731-6208 or 651-201-2213 or visit mn.gov/puc

Project Description

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota) proposes to:

- Build a new 9.4 mile 115 kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line
- Build a new 115/4.16 kV distribution substation
- On July 27, 2016, Minnkota filed a minor revision to the application (Revision 1). See Document ID: [20167-123650-01](https://www.puc.state.mn.us/eDockets/20167-123650-01) in eDockets.

The proposed project is located in Itasca Township in Clearwater County and Lake Hattie and Lake Alice Townships in Hubbard County. This project, will serve an industrial load for a new pumping station to be constructed and operated by Minnesota Pipeline Company, LLC.

Meeting Information

- The meeting starts on time.
- Arrive a few minutes early so you have time to sign in, pick up materials, and find a seat.
- State agency staff members run the meeting.
- Public Utilities Commission, Department of Commerce, and Minnkota staff members are available to answer questions about the permitting process and the project.
- You may add verbal comments, written comments, or both into the record.
- The Department of Commerce uses comments received at the meeting and during the comment period to develop the scope of the environmental assessment for this project.

Submit Comments

Topics Open for Public Comment:

- Please focus your comments on information that will help answer the following questions.
- In your comments, please state which question(s) you are addressing:
 1. What **human and environmental impacts** of the proposed transmission line should be studied in the environmental assessment prepared for this project?
 2. Are there any specific **methods to address (avoid, minimize, or mitigate) these impacts** that should be studied in the environmental assessment?
 3. Are there any **alternative routes or route segments** that should be considered to address these impacts?

Comment Period Comments accepted through Tuesday, September 13 at 4:30pm.

Please include the PUC Docket Number (16-327) in all communications

Online <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment>

Email bill.storm@state.mn.us

U.S. Mail Bill Storm, Environmental Review Manager
 Minnesota Department of Commerce
 85 7th Place East, Suite 500
 St. Paul MN 55101

Fax 651-539-0109

Important Comments will be made available to the public via the Public Utilities Commission's and the Department of Commerce's websites, except in limited circumstances, consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. Personally identifying information is not edited or deleted from submissions.

Process Information

The Public Utilities Commission (Commission) must approve a route permit before the project can be built. The Commission accepted Minnkota's route permit application in July 2016. This means the company submitted all the information required to begin the review process. The Commission's decision-making process takes about nine months.

Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis staff will prepare an environmental assessment for this project. The environmental assessment reviews the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives, as well as ways to address these impacts. The deadline for submitting comments on alternatives and the scope of environmental review is 4:30pm on September 13, 2016

After the environmental assessment is issued, an Administrative Law Judge will hold a public hearing. You may speak at the hearing, ask questions, and submit written comments about the project.

After the public hearing, the Commission will review all of the information in the record, including written comments and comments received at the public hearing. The Commission's final decision on the route permit for this project is expected in early 2017.

Eminent Domain: If the Commission issues a route permit, Minnkota may use the power of eminent domain to acquire land for this project.

How to Learn More

Department of Commerce Project Website:

<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=34468>

Project Mailing List: Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate (meetings, comment periods, etc.). Contact docketing.puc@state.mn.us or 651-201-2204 with the docket number (*16-327*), your name, mailing address, and email address.

Full Case Record: See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission's website - mn.gov/puc, select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (*16*) and the docket number (*327*), select *Search*.

Subscribe to receive email notification when new documents are filed.

1. mn.gov/puc
2. Select *Subscribe*
3. Type your email address
4. For *Type of Subscription*, select *Docket Number*
5. For *Docket Number*, select *16* in the first box, type *327* in the second box
6. Select *Add to List*
7. Select *Save*

Note - subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

Community Locations: The route permit application is available at the following location:

- Park Rapids Public Library, 210 1st Street SW, Park Rapids, MN 56470

Minnesota Statutes and Rules: This project is reviewed under Minnesota Statute 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850, available at www.revisor.mn.gov.

Project Contacts

Public Utilities Commission Public Advisor

Kevin George – kevin.george@state.mn.us, 651-201-2251 or 1-800-657-3782

Public Utilities Commission Energy Facilities Planner

Cezar Panait – cezar.panait@state.mn.us or 651-201-2201

Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager

Bill Storm – bill.storm@state.mn.us, 651-539-1844 or 1-800-657-3794

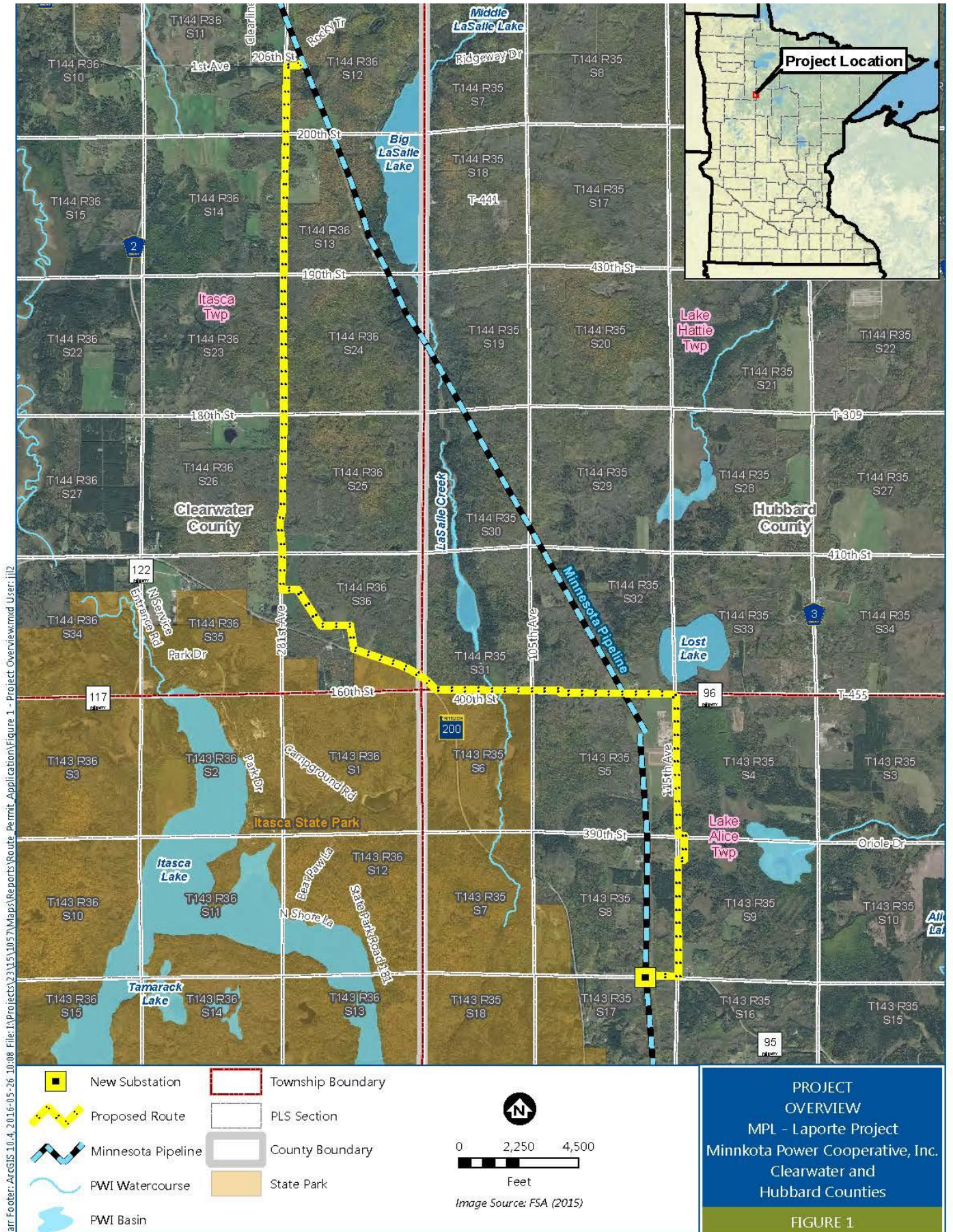
Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. Project Contact

John T. Graves – jgraves@minnkota.com or 701-795-4221

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

If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in these meetings (e.g., sign language, foreign language interpreter, large print materials), please contact the Commission at 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782 at least one week in advance of the meeting.

FIGURE 1: project map; filed in PUC Docket No. ET-6/TL-16-327



PROJECT OVERVIEW
 MPL - Laporte Project
 Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.
 Clearwater and Hubbard Counties
FIGURE 1