

## NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD ON MINNESOTA POWER'S REQUEST FOR A MINOR ALTERATION

*Issued: October 20, 2016*

**In the Matter of the Application of Minnesota Power for a Route Permit for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project in Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Koochiching and Itasca Counties**

**PUC Docket Number: E-015/TL-14-21**

**Comment Period: Comments accepted through November 3, 2016 at 4:30pm**

*Comments received after comment period closes may not be considered*

### **Topic/s Open for Comment:**

- Does the request meet the definition of a minor alteration under Minnesota Rule 7850.4800?
- Should the Commission approve the minor alteration request?
- If the minor alteration is approved, should any conditions be required?

**Project Background:** On April 11, 2016, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission issued a high-voltage transmission line route permit for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project authorizing Minnesota Power to construct and operate an approximately 229-mile, 500-kilovolt transmission line and associated facilities in the Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Koochiching and Itasca counties.

Minnesota Power has requested a modification to an approximately 6.5-mile segment of the approved route near the North Black River in Koochiching County in order to address environmental concerns raised by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Minnesota Power asserted that the request is reasonable and that approval is appropriate because the proposed alteration has impacts comparable to the impacts associated with the initially approved route and anticipated alignment and, therefore, does not result in significant change in the human or environmental impact of the facility.

Under Minnesota Rule 7850.4800, a minor alteration is defined as a change in a large electric power generating plant or high-voltage transmission line that does not result in significant changes in the human or environmental impact of the facility. At the close of the comment period, the Commission will decide whether the requested alteration is a minor alteration, whether to authorize the minor alteration, and determine whether additional conditions are appropriate.

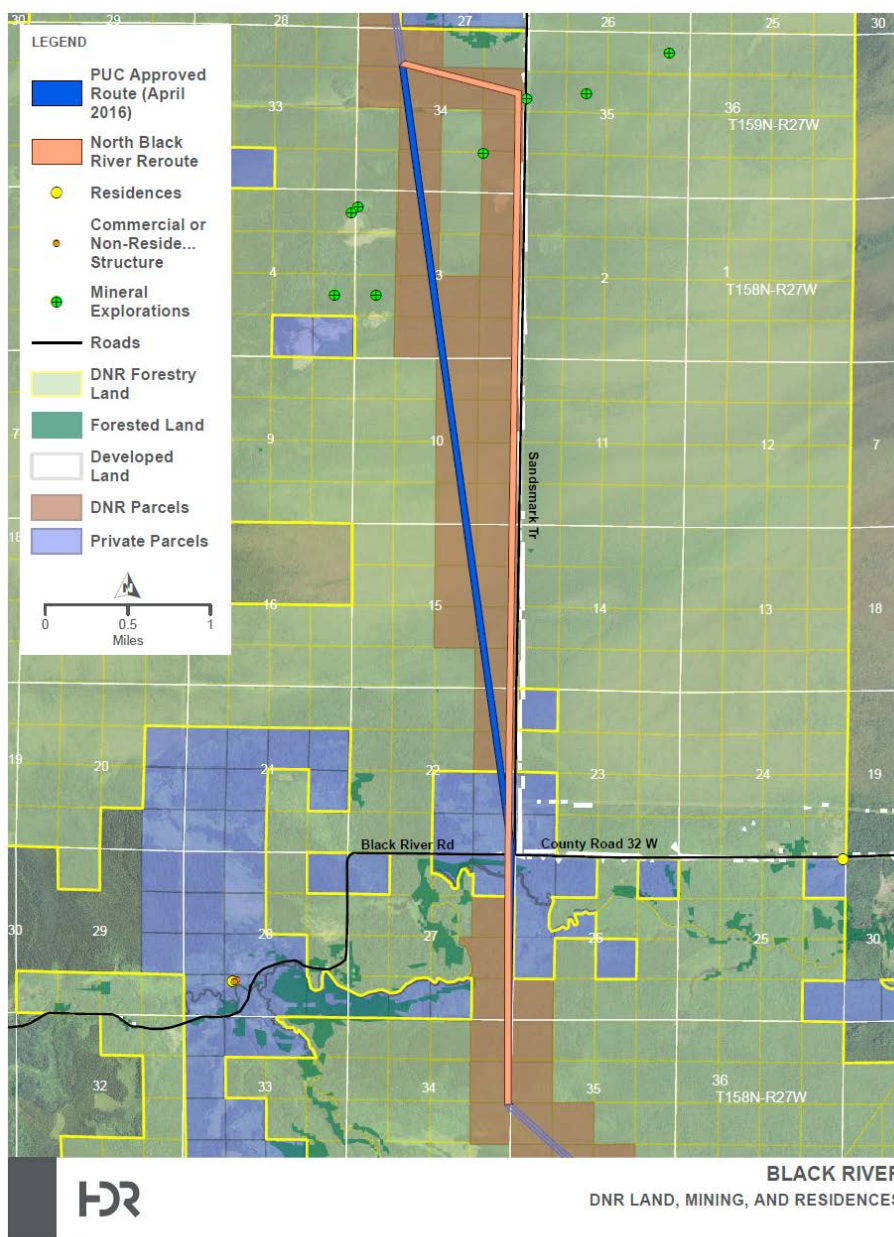
**Submit Public Comments:** Visit [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *Speak Up!*, find this docket, and add your comments to the discussion. If you wish to include an exhibit, map or other attachment, please send your comments via U.S. Mail to the address below.

**Full Case Record:** See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission’s website - [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (14) and the docket number (21), select *Search*.

**Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure?** Contact Commission staff, Michael Kaluzniak, at [mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us](mailto:mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2257.

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Minnesota Power Compliance Filing: Minor Alteration Request, Appendix A, Attachment 3, e-Dockets Filing Number 201610-125804-02, October 18, 2016