

# Alternative Urban Areawide Review Adoptions

## Project Title: Digi-Key Expansion Area Final AUAR

**Project Description:** The City of Thief River Falls adopted the Digi-Key Expansion Area AUAR on January 2, 2018

**Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU):** City of Thief River Falls

**RGU Contact Person:**

Mark Borseth  
Public Works Director  
405 3rd St E  
Thief River Falls, MN, 56701  
218-681-8506  
[mborseth@citytrf.net](mailto:mborseth@citytrf.net)

---

## Notices

### NOTICE OF THE POWER PLANT SITING AND TRANSMISSION LINE ROUTING PROGRAM ANNUAL HEARING

Issued: January 15, 2018

**PUC Docket Number(s):** E999/M-17-18  
**OAH Docket Number:** 8-2500-34843

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission held its Power Plant Siting and Transmission Line Routing annual hearing on December 22, 2017. An extended comment period has been established to afford interested persons an opportunity to submit comments regarding any matters relating to the siting and routing of Large Energy Facilities.

**New Close of Comment Period:** Friday, February 9, 2018 at 4:30 pm

#### Hearing Information

On December 22, 2017, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission held a public hearing as required by Minnesota Statute § 216E.07. The hearing was presided over by Judge Eric L. Lipman from the Office of Administrative Hearings.

During the hearing, which lasted from 9:30 am until approximately 12:00 pm, Commission staff and the Department of Commerce staff provided an overview of the program and projects pending or completed in 2017. A representative from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) testified on the DNR's involvement and participation in reviewing the permits for these projects.

A number of members from the public offered comments and asked questions about specific projects, or commented in general about the Commission's permit review process and offered suggested improvements to increase public participation in future project review.

The entire hearing was recording as an electronic audio file and this recording can be made available to any interested members of the public wishing to review the hearing testimony. A link to the recording is found here: <https://mn.gov/puc/newsroom/?id=14-321925>.

On November 20, 2017, the Commission issued an official notice of the December 22 hearing, which was efiled in eDockets. The notice was served to a combined service list comprised of all the service lists from all of the 2017 projects. In total, the notice was served to approximately 1000 recipients, but the notice was inadvertently omitted from being published in the EQB Monitor as required by Minnesota Statute § 216E.07.

Commission staff is taking input from the public regarding whether a second hearing is necessary in this docket. If members of the public feel they did not receive enough notification for the December 22, 2017 hearing, because the notice was not published in the EQB Monitor prior to the hearing, please contact Commission staff.

Listed below is the agenda for the hearing.

## **Agenda**

- I. Introductions
- II. Overview of Programs
  - A. Public Utilities Commission – Energy Facilities Permitting Unit
  - B. Department of Commerce – Energy Environmental Review & Analysis
  - C. Role of Other State Agencies
- III. Projects Reviewed
  - A. Projects Completed in 2017
  - B. Pending and Anticipated Projects
  - C. Electric Facilities Subject to Power Plant Siting Act
    - 1. Generating Plants
    - 2. Transmission Lines
  - D. Electric Facilities Not Subject to Power Plant Siting Act
    - 1. Wind Plants
    - 2. Pipelines
- IV. Public Questions and Testimony
- V. Adjourn

## **Written Comment Period**

**Comment Period:** Written comments will be accepted through **February 9, 2018 at 4:30 pm**. Please include the Commission's Docket Number (17-18) and OAH Docket Number (8-2500-34843) in all communications.

**Topics for Public Comment:** Any matters related to the siting and routing of large energy facilities.

Note – No decisions on specific projects were made at the annual hearing.

### **Comments may be submitted via:**

**Online:** Visit [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select Speak Up! or click [HERE](#) to find this docket (17-18), and add your comments to the discussion.

Comments in Speak Up! must be submitted in the Open Discussion entitled, "2017 Power Plant Siting Act Annual Hearing, PUC Docket No. E999/M-17-18 and OAH Docket No. 8-2500-34843." Comments filed in other dockets or on the Speak Up! discussion board will not be considered as part of this proceeding.

**U.S. Mail:** Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350,  
St. Paul, MN 55101

**Important:** Comments received after the comment period closes may not be considered. Comments will be made available to the public via the 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 annual hearing is required by Minnesota Statute § 216E.07, which provides that:

The commission shall hold an annual public hearing at a time and place prescribed by rule in order to afford interested persons an opportunity to be heard regarding any matters relating to the siting of large electric generating power plants and routing of high-voltage transmission lines. At the meeting, the commission shall advise the public of the permits issued by the commission in the past year....

Judge Lipman will use information gathered at the public hearing and during the comment period to write a summary report for the Commission.

#### **Learn More**

**Full Case Record:** See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission's website at [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select Search eDockets, enter the year (17) and the docket number (18), select Search.

**Subscribe** to receive email notification when new documents are filed in this docket at [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select Subscribe, or click [HERE](#) and follow the prompts.

#### **Contacts**

##### **Public Utilities Commission**

**Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure?** Contact Commission staff, Cezar Panait, at [Cezar.Panait@state.mn.us](mailto:Cezar.Panait@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2207.

**Change your mailing preferences:** Email [docketing.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:docketing.puc@state.mn.us) or call Jamie Eschbach at 651-201-2204.

To request this document in another format such as large print or audio, call 651.296.0406 (voice). Persons with a hearing or speech impairment may call using their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service or email [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us) for assistance.

---

## **Citizen Environmental Review Survey - 2018**

Have you engaged in the Minnesota Environmental Review program recently? The Environmental Quality Board, which oversees the guidance and technical assistance of the program, is currently undergoing a continuous improvement project to better engage citizens in the Environmental Review Program. Please consider taking 10 minutes to complete the survey at the link below. Find the survey at <http://survey.mn.gov/s.asp?k=151335922389>.

#### **RGU Contact Person:**

Kristin Mroz  
Environmental Quality Board  
520 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-757-2873  
[env.review@state.mn.us](mailto:env.review@state.mn.us)

---

## **January EQB Meeting CANCELLED**

There will be no January Environmental Quality Board Meeting due to the Board Retreat on January 31, 2018.