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Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary  
Public Utilities Commission

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Issued: January 23, 2017

**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.**

**Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Number:** ET-6/TL-16-327

**Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) Docket Number:** 80-2500-34009

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission will hold a public hearing on the route permit application by Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. for its proposed 115 KV transmission line project in Clearwater and Hubbard Counties, Minnesota.

**Date:** Thursday, February 16, 2017  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Frank White Education Center  
301 Huntzinger Ave.  
Park Rapids, MN 56470

To find out if a meeting has been cancelled due to bad weather call 1-855-731-6208 or visit [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc).

The Honorable LauraSue Schlatter, an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) with the Office of Administrative Hearings, will conduct this hearing. The purpose of this hearing is to receive comments regarding the environmental assessment issued by the Department of Commerce, or other concerns regarding the project from the public.

### **Project Description**

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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

The proposed project is located in Itasca Township in Clearwater County and Lake Hattie and Lake Alice Townships in Hubbard County. A map of the proposed project location is attached to this Notice. This project, will serve a new pipeline pumping station operated by Minnesota Pipeline Company, LLC.

## Written Comment Period

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**Comment Period:** Written comments will be accepted through **March 3, 2017** at 4:30pm. Please include both the Commission's Docket Number (16-327) and OAH's Docket Number (80-2500-34009) in all communications.

Please focus your comments on information that will help answer the following questions:

- Should the Public Utilities Commission issue a route permit?
- Is the proposed transmission line in the public interest?
- What are the costs and benefits of the proposed transmission line?
- What are the environmental and human impacts of each route under consideration and how can these impacts be addressed?
- Are there other project-related issues or concerns?

### Comments may be submitted via:

**Online:** Visit [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *Speak Up!*, select *Open Discussions*, and find this docket.

**eFiling:** Visit [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *eFiling* and follow the prompts.

**U.S. Mail:** Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place E., 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

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The Commission must approve a route permit before the project can be built. This hearing satisfies the public hearing requirement for route permit application (Minnesota Rules 7850.3800).

The Department of Commerce issued an environmental assessment scoping decision on October 31, 2016, followed by an environmental assessment and a draft site permit on January 20, 2017. This public hearing will provide an opportunity for interested persons to ask questions and provide comments on the environmental assessment.

Following the written comment period ending March 3, 2017, the applicant and the Department will have the opportunity to respond to the comments made. In addition to the other information submitted into the record, the ALJ will use the information gathered at the public hearing or submitted during the comment period and submit a report including findings of fact and recommendations to the Commission. The Commission will make final decisions on this project at a public meeting in June 2017. For additional information on the alternative review process, see Minnesota Rules, parts 7850.2800 – 7850.4400.

## Learn More

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**Full Case Record:** The **certificate of need and site permit applications** and other documents filed in this matter are available at: [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *eDockets*, enter the year (*16*) and the docket number (*327*), select *Search*.

On July 27, 2016, Minnkota filed a minor revision to the application (Revision 1). See Document ID: [20167-123650-01](http://mn.gov/puc/eDockets/20167-123650-01) in eDockets.

**Department of Commerce Website:** <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=34468>.

**Subscribe to the Docket:** To receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter visit: [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *Subscribe*, and follow the prompts.

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

**Community Locations:** Copies of the route permit application and the Environmental Assessment (EA) document are available for public inspection at the following locations:

- Park Rapids Public Library, 210 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.revisor.mn.gov).

## Contacts

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### Public Utilities Commission

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Cezar Panait, Energy Facilities Planner: [cezarc.panait@state.mn.us](mailto:cezarc.panait@state.mn.us); 651-201-2201

### Department of Commerce

Bill Storm, Environmental Review Manager: [bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us); 651-539-1844 or 1-800-657-3794

### Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.

Craig Bleth, Environmental Manager: [Cbleth@minnkota.com](mailto:Cbleth@minnkota.com); 701-795-4661

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. Individuals with a disability who need reasonable accommodations to participate in this public hearing please also contact the Public Utilities Commission at 651-296-0406 at least one week in advance of the meeting.

# Proposed Project Location

