

Public Notice

(First Date of Pub.: Wed., Nov. 8, 2023)
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COUNTY OF LYON
STATE OF MINNESOTA

LYON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, October 3, 2023

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the Lyon County Board of Commissioners on November 21, 2023, in the Commissioner's Room at the Lyon County Government Center, 607 West Main Street Marshall, MN, at 9:30 a.m. to consider granting property tax abatements for applications filed with the Auditor/Treasurer's office according to the County's tax abatement policies for new construction of single and multi-family homes or commercial/industrial construction. Consideration is for the properties identified below. The proposed abatement of the county portion of property taxes is for a term of four years and the county portion of the increased tax would be reduced as follows: Year 1: 80 percent; Year 2: 60 percent; Year 3: 40 percent; Year 4: 20 percent.

The properties are as follows:

Parcel	Address	Type	Start Year	Year 1 Est	Year 2 Est	Year 3 Est	Year 4 Est	Total Est	
1	18-015002-1	3294 310 th St, Marshall	RES	2023	\$ 814.03	\$ 610.52	\$ 407.02	\$ 203.51	\$ 2,035.08
2	28-117019-0	200 Eisenhower St N, Minneota	RES	2023	\$ 1,048.41	\$ 786.31	\$ 524.20	\$ 262.10	\$ 2,621.02
3	15-102002-0	1587 Friese Sunset Dr, Balaton	RES	2023	\$ 911.30	\$ 683.48	\$ 455.65	\$ 227.83	\$ 2,278.26
4	09-102025-0	203 Prairieview Ct, Marshall	RES	2023	\$ 1,386.53	\$ 1,039.90	\$ 693.26	\$ 346.63	\$ 3,466.32
5	14-034002-0	1426 280 th St, Minneota	RES	2025	\$ 458.36	\$ 343.77	\$ 229.18	\$ 114.59	\$ 1,145.90
6	11-014009-1	2166 County Road 74, Marshall	RES	2025	\$ 1,935.98	\$ 1,451.98	\$ 967.99	\$ 483.99	\$ 4,839.94

Aurora Heard
Lyon County Auditor/Treasurer

A Summary of the Proceedings of the Lyon County Board
9:00 a.m. pursuant to notice the Lyon County Commissioners met with the following members present: Commissioners Graupmann, Anderson, Crowley, Draper and Andries. Also present: Administrator Stomberg and County Attorney Wikelius.

- MSP** to approve the agenda with the addition.
 - MSP** to approve consent agenda as presented.
 - MSP** to sign the agreement with David Gifford to coordinate winter storage at the Lyon County fairgrounds.
 - MSP** to adjust the Murray County contract for jail services to increase to \$65 per day, effective January 1, 2024.
 - MSP** to approve the subordination agreement.
 - MSP** to agree to option 2, with the Axon company for body-worn camera video storage, to not exceed the amount of \$100,000.
 - MSP** to authorize the county engineer to purchase up to \$175,000 worth of gravel from L&S Construction at the price of \$5.50 per ton.
 - MSP** to declare 2 Yamaha 350 BigBear ATV's surplus equipment and advertise on MN bid.
- Meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM.

A copy of these proceedings are available in the County Administrator Office of Lyon County and also available at www.lyonco.org.

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Notice to landowners and stakeholders affected by the proposed construction of the Minnesota Energy Connection 345-kV transmission line between the retiring Sherco power plant near Becker and Lyon County, Minnesota.

Re: Notice of Filing of Route Permit Application with the
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC Docket No. E002/TL 22-132)

Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation, doing business as Xcel Energy (the Applicant or Xcel Energy) has submitted a route permit application (Application) to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC or Commission) for approval to construct the Minnesota Energy Connection Project (MNEC or Project) in Sherburne, Stearns, Kandiyohi, Wright, Meeker, Chippewa, Yellow Medicine, Renville, Redwood, and Lyon counties in Minnesota. The Project will provide a 345 kilovolt (kV) connection between the existing Sherburne County Generation Station (Sherco Substation) in Becker, Minnesota, and a new substation proposed to be constructed near the Town of Garvin in Lyon County, Minnesota. A map of the Project is included with this notice.

The Application was submitted pursuant to the full permitting process contained in Minnesota Statute § 216E.03 and Minnesota Rules 7850.1700 to 7850.2700 and 7850.4000 to 7850.4400.

Project Description

The Project components include:

- A double-circuit 345 kV transmission line connecting Xcel Energy's Sherco Solar West Substation in Becker, Minnesota, to a new substation near Garvin. The routes included in the Application are between 171 and 174 miles long;
- A new 3.3-mile single circuit 345 kV line between the Sherco Substation and the Sherco Solar West Substation to be co-located as a double circuit line with an existing 345 kV line between these two substations;
- Modifications to the existing Sherco Substation and Sherco Solar West Substation;
- A Voltage Support Substation that will be located approximately 80 miles along the transmission line west and south of the Sherco Substation in Meeker, Kandiyohi, or Renville County, depending on the final route selected;
- An Intermediate Substation that will be located approximately 20 miles north of the new substation proposed near Garvin in Lyon or Redwood County, depending on the final route selected; and
- A new substation as the terminal point of the Project near Garvin in Lyon County referred to in this Application as the Terminal Substation.

Certificate of Need

Minnesota Statutes section 216B.243, subdivision 2 states that "[n]o large energy facility shall be sited or constructed in Minnesota without the issuance of a certificate of need by the [Public Utilities Commission]". A large energy facility includes "any high-voltage transmission line with a capacity of 200 kilovolts or more and greater than 1,500 feet in length" and "any high-voltage transmission line with a capacity of 100 kilovolts or more with more than ten miles of its length in Minnesota or that crosses a state line." Minn. Stat. § 216B.2421. The Applicant filed an application for a certificate of need to construct the Project in March 2023 in Docket No. E002 /CN-22-131.

Route Permit Process

A route permit from the Commission is required before the Project can be constructed. The Power Plant Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E) and Minnesota Rules parts 7850.1000 to 7850.5600 establish the requirements for submitting and processing a route permit application. The statutes and rules also establish notice requirements for various stages of the process, including this letter being sent to landowners, local government officials, tribal governments and other interested stakeholders. The Application will be considered by the Commission under the full permitting process in Minnesota Statute § 216E.03 and Minnesota Rules 7850.1000 to 7850.2700 and 7850.4000 to 7850.5600. The Commission has up to one year from the time the Application is accepted as complete to process and make a decision on the route permit according to Minnesota Statutes section 216E.03, subd. 9, and Minnesota Rule 7850.2700, subp. 1. The Commission may extend this time limit for up to three months for just cause or upon agreement of the Applicant.

Within 60 days after the Commission accepts the application as complete, the Commission and the Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) unit will hold a public

information and scoping meeting to provide information and seek public comment on the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will be prepared for the Project. At this scoping meeting, and throughout a comment period after the scoping meeting, EERA will gather information from stakeholders on potential impacts and mitigation measures that should be evaluated in the EIS. EERA will recommend to the Commission those impacts and mitigation measures, including routes and route alternatives, that it believes should be evaluated in the EIS. EERA will issue a "Scoping Decision" that identifies the impacts and mitigation measures to be evaluated in the EIS. EERA will issue a Draft EIS and meetings will be held in the Project area to gather comments on the content of the Draft EIS. After these meetings, EERA will issue a Final EIS.

In addition to a Draft and Final EIS, public hearings on the Project will be held. The public will be invited to make comments on the Project at the hearings before an administrative law judge. Anyone may speak at the public hearings, present documentary evidence, ask questions of Applicant and EERA staff, and submit written comments. After the hearings, the administrative law judge will provide a period during which stakeholders can provide written comments on the Project. Additionally, the administrative law judge will receive briefs from the Applicant and other parties to the proceeding. The administrative law judge will review the record and will then prepare findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations for the Commission. During an open meeting, the Commission will deliberate and make a decision as to the Certificate of Need and the Route Permit for the Project.

Before beginning construction, Xcel Energy will acquire property rights for the transmission line. The Project requires a 150-foot-wide right-of-way. Xcel Energy typically will acquire these property rights through the purchase of an easement that will be negotiated with the landowner. If Xcel Energy and the landowner are unable to negotiate an easement for the right-of-way, Xcel Energy will acquire real property rights through exercise of the power of eminent domain pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 117. The process of exercising the power of eminent domain is called condemnation.

How to Learn More

For more information about the regulatory process or to have your name included on the Project mailing lists, contact:

Minnesota Department of Commerce
Andrew Levi,
Environmental Review Manager
85 7th Place East, Suite 280
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
andrew.levi@state.mn.us
651-539-1840
mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
Scott Ek,
Energy Facilities Planner
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147
Scott.Ek@state.mn.us
651-539-1070
mn.gov/puc

There are two options for citizens, landowners, and interested persons to receive Project information:

- 1. Sign up for the Project Mailing List.** To sign up to receive notices about Project milestones and opportunities to participate (meetings, comment periods, etc.) email docketing.puc@state.mn.us or call 651-201-2234 with the docket number (22-132), your name, mailing address and email address. You may request to receive notices by email or U.S. Mail.
- 2. Subscribe to the Docket.** To receive email notifications when new documents are filed in the Route Permit docket visit: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling>, select Subscribe to eDockets and follow the prompts.

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

Current information about the Project and Route Permit Application is available online at <https://www.mnenergyconnection.com/>.

A paper copy of the Route Permit Application is also available for review at the following public locations:

Great River Regional Library 13020 Orono Parkway Elk River, MN 55330	Great River Regional Library 1300 W. St. Germain St. St. Cloud, MN 56301	Great River Regional Library 18 Lake Blvd NW Buffalo, MN 55313
Willmar Public Library 410 5th Street SW Willmar, MN 56201	Litchfield Public Library 216 N Marshall Ave. Litchfield, MN 55355	Canby Public Library 110 Oscar Ave N. Canby, MN 56220
Marshall-Lyon County Library 201 C St. Marshall, MN 56258	Montevideo Public Library 224 S 1st St. Montevideo, MN 56265	Redwood Falls Public Library 509 S Lincoln St. Redwood Falls, MN 56283
Olivia Public Library 405 S 10th St. Olivia, MN 56277		

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Project team at MNEnergyConnection@xcelenergy.com or by phone at 1-888-292-4714.

Sincerely,
Matt Langan
Principal Agent, Siting & Land Rights

