

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND
ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT SCOPING MEETINGS**

Issued: May 18, 2026

In the Matter of the Application for a Certificate of Need for the Bison to Alexandria Second Circuit 345 kV Transmission Line Project in Clay, Wilkin, Otter Tail, Grant, and Douglas counties in Minnesota

PUC Docket Number: E002, ET2, E015, E017, ET6135/CN-25-116

In the Matter of the Application for a Route Permit Amendment for the Bison to Alexandria Second Circuit 345 kV Transmission Line Project in Clay, Wilkin, Otter Tail, Grant, and Douglas counties in Minnesota

PUC Docket Number: E002, ET2, E015, E017, ET6135/TL-09-1056

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) will hold public information and environmental report scoping meetings on the certificate of need application and the application for a route permit amendment issued in docket number TL-09-1056 filed by Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy (Xcel Energy), along with Great River Energy, Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail), and Missouri River Energy Services, on behalf of Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (Western Minnesota), (collectively, the Applicants) for their proposed Bison to Alexandria Second Circuit 345 kV Transmission Line Project.

The Applicants propose to add approximately 100 miles of a second 345 kV transmission circuit on mostly existing double-circuit capable transmission structures between the existing Alexandria Substation in Alexandria, Minnesota, in Douglas County and the Minnesota/North Dakota border in Holy Cross Township, Clay County (Project). The existing 345 kV structures were previously permitted and constructed as double-circuit capable as part of the CapX2020 Fargo–St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission Project.

The Project will be located within the existing 150-foot transmission line right-of-way (ROW). While the Project largely consists of adding a second 345 kV circuit to the existing double-circuit transmission line structures, an estimated 107 new monopole structures, including 86 within Minnesota, are planned for specific locations along the route to accommodate required turns and highway crossings. The Applicants anticipate construction to begin in July 2028 and to place the project in service in June 2032.

The Commission accepted the certificate of need application as complete on March 3, 2026, and received the route permit amendment application on April 17, 2026, in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, chapters 216B.243 and 216I.

Additional information on the project can be found on the Commission's website at: [Bison to Alexandria Second Circuit 345 kV Transmission Line Project](https://puc.eip.mn.gov/web/project/25116),
<https://puc.eip.mn.gov/web/project/25116>

In-Person Meetings

Date	Time*	Location
June 3, 2026	Open House from 10:00 am – 11:00 am Public Meeting from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm	Barnesville Event Center 101 2nd St SE Barnesville, MN 56514
June 3, 2026	Open House from 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm Public Meeting from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Bigwood Events Center 921 Western Ave Fergus Falls, MN 56537
June 4, 2026	Open House from 10:00 am – 11:00 am Public Meeting from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm	Broadway Ballroom Event Center 115 30th Ave E Alexandria, MN 56308

*The meetings end when all present attendees have commented or at the indicated end time, whichever comes first. Please arrive at the meeting start time to ensure participation.

Online Meeting

Date: June 4, 2026

Time: 6:00 pm

(The meeting ends when all present attendees have commented or at 9:00 p.m., whichever comes first. Please arrive at the meeting start time to ensure participation.)

Join by WebEx (Webinar) Link: <https://minnesota.webex.com>

Webinar Number: 2494 331 4932

Webinar Password: MNPUC (66782 when dialing from a phone or video system)

Join by Phone: 1-855-282-6330 Toll Free **Access Code:** 2494 331 4932

If you are joining the meeting via WebEx and would like to ask a question or make a comment during the designated portion of the meeting, use the raised-hand function or the chat function to send a message to the meeting moderator. If you are joining the meeting by phone, press *3 on your phone. When it is your turn to speak, your line will be unmuted, and you will be able to ask questions and provide comments.

Additional information and instructions are available at:

<https://mn.gov/puc/activities/meetings/webex/>

Public Meeting Information

The purpose of the meeting is to: (1) provide information about the proposed project and the state's certificate of need and route permit amendment process; (2) allow attendees to ask questions of state staff and the Applicants; and (3) provide an opportunity to offer oral or written comment on the proposed project and on information provided in the certificate of need and route permit amendment applications. For example, comments could include unique characteristics of the proposed project that were overlooked or potential impacts that were not identified or that would benefit from additional information and evaluation.

Open House Information. Doors will open one hour prior to each meeting to provide attendees an opportunity to review the application, maps, and other materials for the proposed project and ask questions of state staff and the Applicants. ***During this time, comments made by attendees will NOT become a part of the record for Commission consideration unless the attendee submits the comment in writing.*** Forms will be available for this purpose.

Formal Presentation and Oral Comment Period. State staff and the Applicants will both make presentations during the meeting. State staff will explain the permitting and environmental review processes, and the Applicants will provide an overview of the proposed project. Following the presentations, attendees will have the opportunity to offer oral and written comments for the record. The meetings will end when all present attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded, or at the scheduled end time of the meeting, whichever occurs first. ***Accordingly, it is recommended that all interested persons arrive at the scheduled start time.*** The information presented will be the same at all in-person and online meetings.

If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in these meetings, please contact the Commission at 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782 at least one week in advance of the meeting. To find out if a meeting is canceled due to bad weather or other call 1-855-731-6208 or visit mn.gov/puc.

Comment Period

Written comments will be accepted through **June 26, by 4:30 p.m.** Please include the docket numbers in all communications. Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not be considered by the Commission.

Topics for Comment

- *Are there other ways to meet the stated need for the project, for example, a different size project or a different type of facility?*
- *What potential human and environmental impacts or unique characteristics of the proposed project require further evaluation in the Environmental Report?*
- *Are there any methods to minimize, mitigate, or avoid potential impacts of the proposed project that should be further evaluated?*
- *Are there other project-related issues or concerns?*

Submit Comments

Online: mn.gov/puc/get-involved/public-comments
Email: jenna.ness@state.mn.us
U.S. Mail: Jenna Ness
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

Comments will be made available to the public via the Commission's website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The Commission does not edit or delete personal identifying information from submissions.

Additional Information

Minnesota Statutes and Rules. This project is being reviewed under Minnesota Statutes, chapters 216B.243 and 216I. The rules and statutes are available for review at: revisor.mn.gov.

Review Process. Information on the review processes for large energy infrastructure facilities is available on the Commission's website at: puc.eip.mn.gov.

Filing Requirements. Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are required to file documents using the Commission's electronic filing system (eFiling). All

parties, participants, and interested persons are also encouraged to use eFiling: edockets.state.mn.us, select *Sign In/Register* and follow the prompts.

Full Case Record. See all documents filed in this matter via the Commission's website at: edockets.state.mn.us, select *Search Documents*, enter the docket number (25-116 or 09-1056), and select *Search*.

Subscribe to the Docket. To receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter visit: edockets.state.mn.us, select *Subscriptions*.

Project Mailing List. Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate or change your mailing preference. Email eservice.admin@state.mn.us or call 651-201-2246 with the docket number (25-116 or 09-1056), your name, mailing address, and email address.

Contacts

Public Utilities Commission

Cezar Panait, Regulatory Engineer, cezar.panait@state.mn.us or 651-201-2207

Jenna Ness, Environmental Review Manager, jenna.ness@state.mn.us or 651-539-1061

Saarah Maxon, Public Advisor, Saarah.Maxon@state.mn.us or 651-201-2200

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy

Allison Ray, Siting and Land Rights, FargoToAlexandria@xcelenergy.com or (701) 420-1412

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 for assistance.

Project Overview Map

