Administrative law judge recommends route for Monticello-St. Cloud 345 kV project


After reviewing the record, including public comments, the ALJ recommended that a Route Permit be issued for a route that generally follows the Applicant’s preferred route identified in the Route Permit application.

Although the ALJ recommended a route in her report, other route options are not exempt from consideration by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC) when making its final decision on the Route Permit application.

The next step in the Route Permit process: The MN PUC will schedule time at an official meeting to deliberate and discuss the record and consider the ALJ’s recommendation. The date will be posted on the MN PUC’s web calendar. The MN PUC has the final authority over the selection of the transmission line’s final route. A final decision is expected in July 2010.

Engineering and construction

If the MN PUC selects the ALJ’s recommended route, construction of the line is expected to generally follow an alignment identified in the Route Permit application (please see map). Based on the current level of review, it is expected that in areas where the transmission line parallels County Road 75, it would generally be located 8-10 feet from the edge of the right-of-way. Where the line parallels I-94, it is expected to follow an alignment that is generally 25 feet from the edge of the right-of-way. The exact location of the poles will continue to be evaluated to balance landowner, agency and project needs. To view the Route Permit application, visit http://bit.ly/bXJX5n.

Additional information will be posted at www.CapX2020.com when available.
The administrative law judge recommended in her May 18 report that the Monticello-St. Cloud 345 kV transmission line follow the Applicant’s preferred route as identified in the Route Permit application. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission makes the final decision on the route and has not yet ruled; a decision is expected in July 2010.

Monticello-St. Cloud project recommended route