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NEWS

Utilities Schedule Annual Electric Transmission Planning Meeting

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DULUTH, Minn.—A public meeting will be held Wednesday, October 13 in Proctor to discuss the electric transmission planning process for the Northeast area of Minnesota. Counties included in the zone covered by the Proctor meeting are Aitkin, Carlton, Cass, Cook, Crow Wing, Isanti, Itasca, Hubbard, Kanabec, Koochiching, Lake, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Pine, St. Louis, Todd and Wadena. Utilities serving this zone are Minnesota Power, Xcel Energy and Great River Energy.

Citizen participation is an integral part of the transmission planning process as utilities build the system to accommodate future needs. The regional meeting is held every year and the public is invited to participate in the October 13 event which is scheduled for 7 p.m. at Blackwoods Banquet and Conference Center located at 195 Highway 2 in Proctor.

Representatives of area utility companies will discuss area electric transmission system inadequacies that must be addressed to meet growing electricity demand. High-voltage transmission lines under consideration for construction in the next five years will be presented at the meeting.

A summary of public comments at this and similar meetings elsewhere in the state will be included in a biennial state transmission plan, which utilities will submit to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) on November 1, 2005.

No prior registration is required. More information about the transmission planning process is available on the Web site www.minnelectrans.com. The MPUC's biennial transmission planning rules are available at www.puc.state.mn.us/docs.



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