



NEWS RELEASE

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Public open house provides opportunity to comment on proposed transmission line project in Sawyer and Rusk counties

EAU CLAIRE, WIS.— Xcel Energy invites local officials and residents along a 35.5-mile-long proposed transmission line project in Sawyer and Rusk counties to an open house anytime between 4 and 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 14, at the Ladysmith City Hall.

To meet the area's growing electricity needs, Xcel Energy needs to rebuild an aging transmission line that connects the Couderay Substation in Sawyer County with the Osprey Substation in Rusk County.

The proposed project will consist of replacing the existing two-pole wood structures with single-pole steel structures. Most of the new structures will be within the existing right-of-way, however; additional right-of-way may be necessary to cross beneath American Transmission Company's existing 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line.

“The existing 69 kV single-circuit transmission line is approximately 60 years old and in poor condition,” said Dave Rockwell, project manager. “The proposed 161/69 kV double-circuit line will support additional load growth and strengthen the reliability to the electric system in the area.”

During the open house event, area landowners and other interested residents will learn about the transmission line rebuild project, including the proposed route and areas where additional right-of-way may be needed. Representatives from Xcel Energy will also have detailed maps and photographs of existing and proposed pole structures and will be available to answer questions throughout the event.

Interested parties may submit written comments to Matt McFarlane, Xcel Energy, P.O. Box 8, Eau Claire, Wis., 54702-0008 or send email to matthew.j.mcfarlane@xcelenergy.com. All comments will be incorporated into the Certificate of Authority application, which is expected to be filed with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin in early 2012.

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Xcel Energy is committed to reducing its impact on the environment by reducing emissions, promoting conservation and using renewable energy. Xcel Energy is the No. 1 wind power provider in the United States, according to the American Wind Energy Association and a leading provider of renewable energy in Wisconsin. Visit www.xcelenergy.com for more information.

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