

**TRANSMISSION PLANNING MEETING
NORTHWEST ZONE
[HTTP://MINNELECTRANS.WEBEX.COM](http://minnelectrans.webex.com)
SEPTEMBER 16, 2009 10:00 AM-12:00 PM**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on September 16, 2009 at 10:00 am, Minnesota utilities will be conducting a webcast meeting to present information about possible future transmission line projects in northwest Minnesota and to seek input from local governmental officials and the public about local transmission needs and inadequacies and possible solutions. The meeting will be held online at:

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	HOST UTILITIES
September 16, 2009	10:00 am-12:00 pm	http://Minnelectrans.Webex.com Location for people without Internet access: Jason Weiers Otter Tail Power Address Fergus Falls MN 800-257-4044	Great River Energy Minnkota Power Cooperative Missouri River Energy Services Otter Tail Power Company Xcel Energy

Transmission Planning. Minnesota electric utilities with transmission lines in the state are required by law to conduct transmission planning and identify reasonably foreseeable inadequacies in the transmission system. These utilities must file a Biennial Transmission Projects Report with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission by November 1 of each odd numbered year. The last report was filed November 1, 2007. The 2007 Biennial Report and earlier reports can be found on the Internet at www.Minnelectrans.com.

The overall goal of transmission planning is to ensure the reliable operation of the transmission system to meet the demand for power at the lowest reasonable cost. Planning in advance is necessary to ensure that appropriate infrastructure is in place to meet increasing demands for power, to secure interconnections for new generating facilities, to address constraints in the large transmission grid, and to replace or upgrade old and deteriorating facilities. Planning is also necessary to ensure compliance with state energy policies, including those related to distributed generation, renewable energy, and conservation. Planning also requires consideration of other possible alternatives before determining whether additional transmission infrastructure is the preferred method to address a particular situation.

Northwest Zone. The utilities have identified areas in the Northwest Zone where an inadequacy in the present system has been identified. The areas include Otter Tail County and in the Northern Valley area. Additional information, including a map of the Northwest Zone and a list of the inadequacies reported in 2007, is available in the 2007 report at www.Minnelectrans.com. During the webcast, utility representatives will provide an update of the various inadequacies identified in the Northwest Zone

Regional Projects and Studies. Several statewide and regional projects have been proposed in the state since the 2007 report, including the CapX2020 projects, the Green Power Express, and studies identifying other potential system needs for renewable energy expansion. Information and updates on these reports and projects will be presented during the webcast. Information on the CapX2020 projects can be found at www.CapX2020.com. Information on the Minnesota Renewable Energy Standard studies can be found at www.Minnelectrans.com. Information on the Green Power Express can be found at www.ITCMidwest.com.

The Webcast. The September 16 webcast will be presented online at <http://Minnelectrans.Webex.com>. Pre-registration is not required. A recording and transcript of the webcast will be posted on www.Minnelectrans.com after the meeting's conclusion.

Discussion Topics. During the webcast, utility representatives will make a power point presentation and discuss inadequacies in the transmission system that must be addressed within the next ten years and alternative ways to address those inadequacies. Utility representatives will discuss the timing and status of those high voltage transmission lines under serious consideration in the Northwest zone and can provide information about the regulatory approval processes, including certificates of need and route permits that are applicable. The utilities can also discuss the status of the 2009 Biennial Report to be filed with the Public Utilities Commission on November 1 of this year and can describe any new inadequacies that have been identified since the 2007 Biennial Report was completed. The utilities will also be prepared to discuss ongoing efforts to carry out state energy policies relating to renewable energy standards, conservation and distributed generation.

Public Input. The public is invited to view the webcast and to learn about these planning activities and projects. The public will have an opportunity through the webcast chat function to ask questions, make suggestions, and

raise concerns about any of these activities. Input from the public and from local governmental officials on possible other inadequacies in the area and on alternative ideas for addressing any of the situations is particularly encouraged. Ideas about how to improve these planning meetings or what to include in the 2009 Biennial Report are welcome. In addition, the public may submit comments and suggestions in writing or by e-mail at the address on the www.Minnelectrans.com web page. The utilities will prepare a synopsis of the information that is received, which will be posted on the webpage and included in the 2009 Biennial Report.

Further Information. For more information, visit www.Minnelectrans.com or contact Jason Weiers at jweiers@otpc.com at the number listed above.