

**TRANSMISSION PLANNING MEETING  
WEST CENTRAL ZONE  
HTTP://MINNELECTRANS.WEBEX.COM  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2009 1:00 PM-3:00 PM**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that on September 17, 2009 at 1:00 pm, Minnesota utilities will be conducting a webcast meeting to present information about possible future transmission line projects in west central 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 17, 2009	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	<a href="http://Minnelectrans.Webex.com">http://Minnelectrans.Webex.com</a>  Location for people without Internet access: Brian Zavesky Missouri River Energy Services Holiday Inn 5637 Highway 29 S. Alexandria MN  605-338-4042	Great River Energy Hutchinson Utilities Commission Missouri River Energy Services Otter Tail Power Company Willmar Municipal Utilities 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](http://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.

**West Central Zone.** The utilities have identified areas in the West Central Zone where an inadequacy in the present system has been identified. These include areas around St. Cloud, Bird Island and Paynesville. Additional information, including a map of the West Central Zone and a list of the inadequacies reported in 2007, is available in the 2007 report at [www.Minnelectrans.com](http://www.Minnelectrans.com). During the webcast, utility representatives will provide an update of the inadequacies identified in the West Central 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](http://www.CapX2020.com). Information on the Minnesota Renewable Energy Standard studies can be found at [www.Minnelectrans.com](http://www.Minnelectrans.com). Information on the Green Power Express can be found at [www.ITCMidwest.com](http://www.ITCMidwest.com).

**The Webcast.** The September 17 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](http://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 West Central 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](http://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](http://www.Minnelectrans.com) or contact Brian Zavesky at [bzavesky@mrenergy.com](mailto:bzavesky@mrenergy.com) or at the number listed above.