



City Administrator's Weekly Update

WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 16, 2016

Upcoming Events:

December 13, 7:00 pm
Planning Commission
City Hall

December 20, 4:30 pm
Parks Commission
City Hall

December 20, 5:30 pm
Council Work Session
City Hall

December 20, 7:00 pm
City Council - Regular
City Hall

December 21, 6:00 pm
CAFD Board
Scanlon City Hall

December 23 & 26
Christmas Eve
City Hall Closed

December 27, 4:15 pm
Library Board
Public Library

January 2
New Year's Day
City Hall Closed

January 3, 5:30 pm
Council Work Session
City Hall

January 3, 7:00 pm
City Council - Regular
City Hall

January 4, 8:00 am
EDA
City Hall

Administration/Finance

Personnel

All departments are in the process of completing the employee's year-end performance evaluations. The open enrollment period for the City's health insurance plan and flexible spending accounts ended last week and staff is now working to process those changes with our various providers.

Holly received word this week that she has been certified by the National Development Council as an Economic Development Financing Professional.

Board, Committee and Commission Openings

As we near the end of the year a number of members of our various boards, committees and commissions terms are set to expire. Openings effective January 1 will exist for sure on the City's Parks Commission and Planning Commission. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to consider applying for these openings. Currently we have received several applications for the Parks opening and a couple for the Planning opening. On the Council side, be thinking about the opening on the WLSSD, EDA, and Fire District Boards. There will be openings on all three of these of which are Boards that do require some significant participation.

Community Sign

Staff continues to work on this project and has met with a sign company to explore the various issues involved. Staff is also investigating a second potential location for the sign. Once additional information is gathered the Council will be asked to provide feedback before staff pursues a final design and proposals for the project.

Public Works/Parks

Miscellaneous

Rinks are getting flooded and ready for opening. Lots of small dustings of snow which require attention to sanding/salting and some snow removal scattered in between.

Lake Superior Water Line Pump Station Electrical

Staff continues to work with Sappi representatives on improvements necessary to both stations 1 & 2 as it relates to a variety of electrical components at the facilities. The existing system is original or near original and is in need of significant repair. Total costs for the project are estimated between \$1.5 - \$2.3 million.

Community Development

Landfill CUP Application

The Planning Commission received an application from the SKB Landfill for an amendment to its CUP to allow it to expand its operating hours and increase the volume of paper sludge in the landfill. The Commission tabled consideration seeking additional information related to the gasification system to be used with the increased paper sludge.

HRA Housing Development

The HRA and Commonwealth Development met with city staff this week to further conversations on the actual site development issues related to their proposed multi-family housing project. The project will be required to go through the Planning Commission and City Council once the plan is a bit more refined.

Dave Hallback, Mayor

City Council Members:

Jeff Rock, Ward 1
David Bjerkness, Ward 2
Roger Maki, Ward 3
Kerry Kolodge, Ward 4
Steve Langely, Ward 5
Lara Wilkinson, At Large

Brian Fritsinger,
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www.ci.cloquet.mn.us

Community Marketing Plan

Staff has been busy scheduling meetings and preparing for the various activities associated with the kick-off of the community marketing plan development. Ady Advantage will be here next week for two full days of meetings with local and regional business leaders as well as economic development partners.

"What if you gave someone a gift, and they neglected to thank you for it -- would you be likely to give them another? Life is the same way. In order to attract more of the blessings that life has to offer, you must truly appreciate what you already have."

*-- Ralph Marston,
American writer*

**Other Information
Attached:**

- * December 2, 2016 Letter from Mediacom
- * December 5, 2016 Letter from Minnesota Department of Commerce



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Theresa Sunde
Senior Manager, Government Relations

Via Certified Mail

December 2, 2016

Dear Cloquet Community Official:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that, on or about January 3, 2016, Mediacom will be implementing the following rate adjustments:¹

Product:	New Rate:	Net Change:
Local Broadcast Station Surcharge	\$7.00	\$0.96
Regional Sports Surcharge	\$3.73	\$0.76
Family TV	\$73.95	\$2.00

The decision to make price adjustments is always a difficult one. We are very reluctant to raise video prices because, when we do, we lose subscribers. However, cable and satellite companies are constantly being pressured by the programmers we buy from to pay more for the channels we carry.

The fees we pay to retransmit local broadcast stations like ABC, CBS, FOX and NBC are by far our fastest growing programming cost component. A recently issued Federal Communications Commission pricing survey revealed that the monthly per subscriber fee per broadcast station rose 43% between 2013 and 2014. All told, the fees charged by broadcasters, according to SNL Kagan, grew from \$800 million to \$7.7 billion annually or 863% between 2009 and 2016.

The problems with sports programming are equally as alarming. One look at the skyrocketing rights fees announced with recent deals and it is easy to see that the marketplace for live televised sports is out of control. Broadcast networks and national and regional sports networks are shelling out billions of dollars for the rights to carry pro sports like the NFL, NBA, MLB and NHL, the Olympic Games, World Cup and NCAA football and basketball games. Unrestrained spending has become the hallmark of the sports programming business, and the American consumer, whether a sports fan or not, is left to pay the price.

¹ Depending on the terms of their contract, certain customers on promotional rates may or may not receive this rate change at this time.

In an effort to bring more transparency to the unjustified fee increases being taken by the owners of broadcast and sports television channels, Mediacom previously introduced a Local Broadcast Surcharge and a Regional Sports Surcharge. By identifying the cumulative fee increases being taken by these channel owners, we hope to draw the attention of consumers and their elected representatives to this rapidly escalating problem.

Despite the challenges we face, Mediacom has continued to aggressively invest in the communities we serve. As part of a 3-year, \$1 billion capital investment plan announced early this year, Mediacom has been aggressively installing the newest generation of broadband technology throughout its entire internet service territory. By year end, virtually all of the 3 million homes and businesses within the 1,500 communities that Mediacom serves across its 22 state footprint will be upgraded to the latest DOCSIS 3.1 "Gigasphere" platform. In doing so, Mediacom will be first major cable company in the United States to fully transition to the DOCSIS 3.1 network infrastructure.

As part of these network upgrades, Mediacom will be making major speed and/or data allowance enhancements to many of our most popular internet services tiers.² The below table summarizes the changes to our internet service tiers:

Current Speed (Up/Down)	Current Retail Price	Current Data Allowance	New Speed (Up/Down)	New Retail Price	New Data Allowance
3Mbps/512kbps	\$29.95	150GB	60Mbps/5Mbps	\$34.99	150GB
15Mbps/1Mbps	\$49.95	250GB	60Mbps/5Mbps	\$54.99	250GB
50Mbps/5Mbps	\$59.95	350GB	60Mbps/5Mbps	\$69.99	400GB
100Mbps/10Mbps	\$79.95	999GB	100Mbps/10Mbps	\$79.99	1000GB
150Mbps/20Mbps	\$99.99	2000GB	200Mbps/20Mbps	\$99.99	2000GB

In addition, Mediacom will be announcing the availability of our new Gigasphere powered 1-Gig service tier in your market in 2017. More details to follow.

Mediacom appreciates the opportunity to continue to serve your community's telecommunications needs. If you have any questions, please contact me directly at (507) 837-4878 or email at tsunde@mediacomcc.com

Sincerely,

Theresa Sunde 

² Moving forward, Mediacom will be moving all its 3 Mbps/512kbps, 15Mbps/3Mbps and 50Mbps/5Mbps internet service customers to a service speed of 60Mbps/5Mbps. The distinguishing feature between these service levels moving forward will be a data allowance of 150GB, 250GB or 400GB. The entry level internet service tier offered to new customers moving forward will be 60Mbps/5Mbps and include a 400GB data allowance.

Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice Line 3 Pipeline Replacement Project

December 05, 2016

Enbridge Energy, Limited Partnership (Enbridge) has applied for a Certificate of Need and a route permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to construct and operate the Line 3 Replacement Pipeline Project (L3R). The Commission has authorized the Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis unit (EERA) to prepare an EIS for the proposed project in consultation with the Commission's executive secretary. Commerce EERA is preparing the EIS in cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Enbridge's proposed 337-mile long route for the project would cross Kittson, Marshall, Pennington, Red Lake, Polk, Clearwater, Hubbard, Wadena, Cass, Crow Wing, Aitkin and Carlton counties in Minnesota. The proposed project also includes upgrades to existing pump stations at Clearbrook, Donaldson, Plummer and Viking; and construction of new pump stations at Backus, Cromwell, Palisade and Two Inlets. Upon completion of the project, Enbridge proposes to permanently deactivate the existing Line 3 pipeline and leave it in place.

The Commission approved the Final Scoping Decision Document (FSDD) for the EIS on November 30, 2016. The FSDD and other relevant documents are available electronically on the Commerce website (<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?id=34079>) and at the following libraries:

Hennepin County Library - Minneapolis Central 300 Nicollet Mall Government Documents, 2nd Floor Minneapolis, MN 55401-1992	Arrowhead Library System 5528 Emerald Avenue Mountain Iron, MN 55768	Bemidji Public Library 509 American Ave. NW Bemidji, MN 56601
Kitchigami Regional Library 212 Park Ave. PO Box 14 Pine River, MN 56474	Northwest Regional Library 210 LaBree Ave N., PO Box 593 Thief River Falls, MN 56701	Lake Agassiz Regional Library 118 5th Street South Moorhead, MN 56560
Crookston Public Library 110 No. Ash St. Crookston, MN 56716	Viking Library System 1915 Fir Avenue West Fergus Falls, MN 56537	Duluth Public Library 520 W Superior St. Duluth MN 55802
Pioneerland Library System 410 5th St SW Willmar MN 56201	Great River Regional Library 1300 W St. Germain St. Cloud, MN 56301-3667	Traverse des Sioux Library System 1400 Madison Avenue Suite 622 Mankato, MN 56001
East Central Regional Library 244 So. Birch St. Cambridge, MN 55008	Southeast Library System 2600 19th Street NW Rochester MN 55901	

In accordance with the FSDD, the EIS will analyze the following general topics:

- Pipeline deactivation or abandonment
- Greenhouse gas emissions and climate change
- Potential impacts of oil spills and leaks on area lakes, rivers, groundwater, and other natural resources such as wildlife, wild rice, and human settlements
- Unique tribal concerns (e.g., cultural resources, treaty rights, wild rice areas)
- Potential impacts to humans settlements and local economies
- Natural resource impacts (e.g. water, wetlands, wildlife, and natural communities)
- Cumulative potential effects
- Development of a new pipeline corridor

The EIS will analyze a variety of project alternatives including:

- Enbridge’s proposed route
- Alternative technologies (including oil transport by truck and rail)
- Modified designs or layouts (including one system alternative, four route alternatives, and 24 route segment alternatives; see attached maps)
- Alternatives incorporating reasonable mitigation measures
- No action alternative

A history of actions to date and a tentative EIS schedule are included in the table below:

EIS Tentative Schedule	
Task	Date
Scoping EAW and DSDD Issued	April 11, 2016
2016 EIS Public Scoping Meetings	April–May 2016
Close of 2016 EIS Public Comment Period	May 26, 2016
Scoping Summary Report, FSDD, Alternatives Screening Report, and Comments and Recommendations to Commission	September 21, 2016
Commission Meeting to Approve Final Scope	October 28, 2016
Commission Decision on Final Scope	November 30, 2016
EIS Preparation Notice (Start of 280-day EIS process)	December 05, 2016
Draft EIS Issued for Public Review and Comment	April 3, 2017
Draft EIS Public Meetings	April-May 2017
Final EIS Issued	July 10, 2017

How to Learn More

Project Mailing List

Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate (meetings, comment periods, etc.). Contact docketing.puc@state.mn.us, 651-201-2204, or 1-800-657-3782 with the project’s docket numbers, your name, mailing address, and email address. The Line 3 project has two docket numbers. The

docket number for Enbridge's certificate of need application is 14-916. The docket number for Enbridge's route permit application is 15-137.

Department of Commerce Project Website

Line 3: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=34079>

E-Dockets (Full Case Record)

To review all documents filed with the Commission regarding the Line 3 project, go to:

<http://www.mn.gov/puc/>, click on "Search Documents, eDockets," and enter the docket number. The Line 3 project has two docket numbers. The docket number for Enbridge's certificate of need application is 14-916. The docket number for Enbridge's route permit application is 15-137.

E-Dockets Subscription

To receive an email every time a document is filed with the Commission regarding the Line 3 project, create a subscription with the Commission's electronic docketing system (e-Dockets). Go to:

<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/Efiling/subscription/createSubscription.do?method=subscribeNew> and follow the instructions.

Contacts

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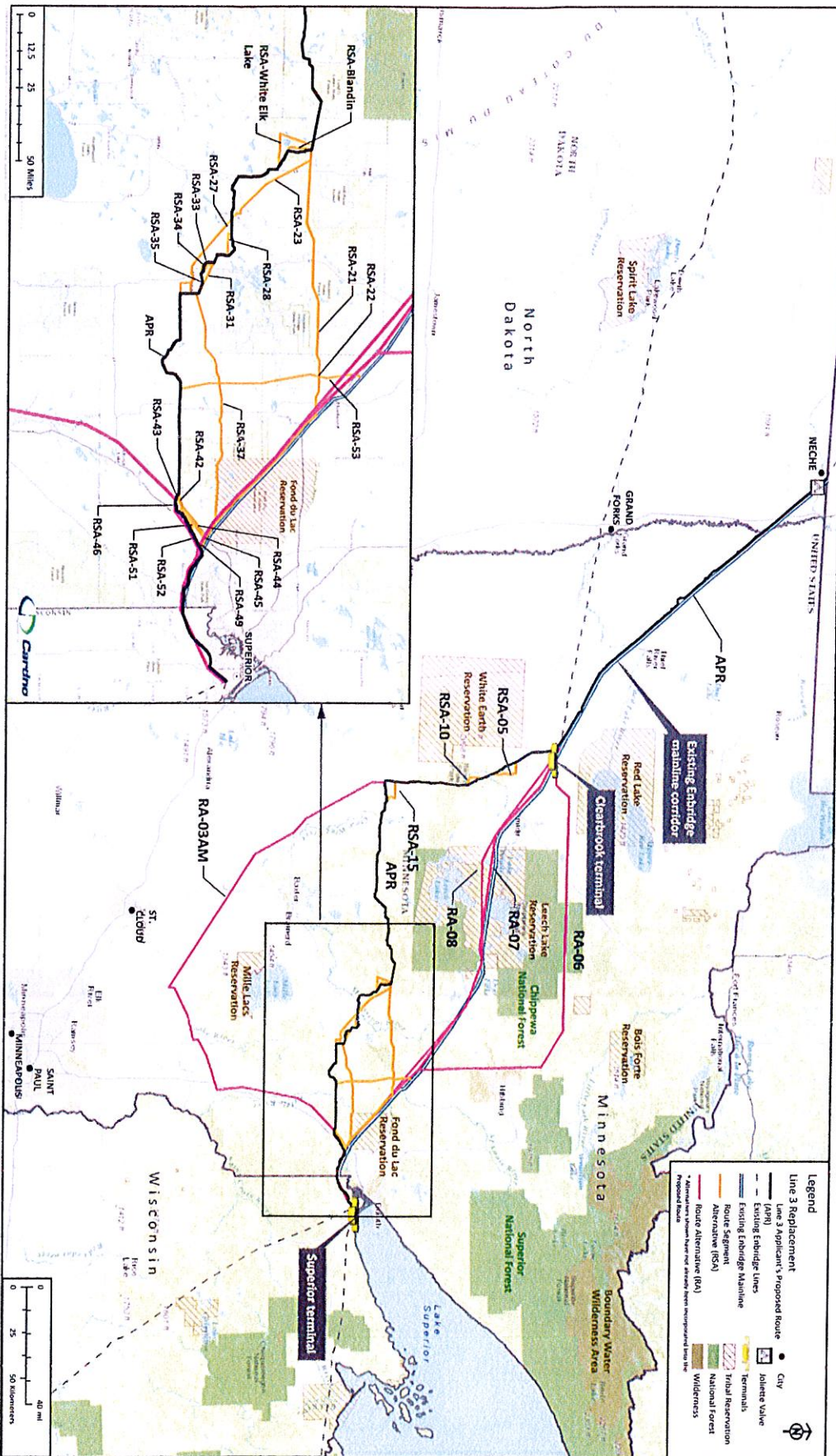
Scott Ek, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Energy Facilities Planner

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Kevin George, Public Advisor, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

651-201-2251 or kevin.george@state.mn.us

Line 3 Replacement Project
Figure 2: Route Alternatives and Route Segment Alternatives



Line 3 Replacement Project
 Figure 1a: System Alternative Selected for Analysis in the EIS

