



GREAT RIVER ENERGY®

Notice of Filing of Route Permit Application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC Docket No. ET2/TL 22-235)

Aug. 25, 2022

Great River Energy (“Applicant”), wholesale electric supplier to Stearns Electric Association, is proposing a 3.2-mile rebuild of the existing overhead 69-kilovolt (kV) transmission line to upgrade it to 115 kV (“Project”). During the last decade, Great River Energy has been upgrading the St. Joseph area to a more reliable 115-kV transmission system. This Project will complete the area upgrade and loop the 115-kV system. Applicant submitted an application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) for a route permit for the Project (Docket No. ET2/TL 22-235) pursuant to the alternative permitting process contained in Minnesota Rules parts 7850.2800 to 7850.3900, and Minnesota Statutes, section 216E.04.

Project Description

As shown on the map, the Project will include Great River Energy rebuilding approximately 3.2 miles of the existing 69-kV “ST-WW” transmission line to 115-kV in St. Joseph Township, the City of St. Joseph, and St. Wendell Townships in Stearns County, MN.

Route Permit Process

A Route Permit from the Commission is required before the Project can be constructed. The Power Plant Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E) and Minnesota Rules parts 7850.1000 to 7850.5600 establish the requirements for submitting and processing a Route Permit application. The statutes and rules also establish notice requirements for various stages of the process. The Route Permit application will be considered by the Commission under the alternative permitting process in Minnesota Statutes section 216E.04 and Minnesota Rules parts 7850.2800 to 7850.3900. The Commission has up to six months from the time the application is accepted as complete to process and make a decision on the Route Permit according to Minnesota Statutes section 216E.04, subd. 7, and Minnesota Rule 7850.3900, subp. 1. The Commission may extend this time limit for up to three months for just cause or upon agreement of the applicant.

Within 60 days after the Commission accepts the application as complete, the Commission and the Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (“EERA”) unit will hold a public information and scoping meeting to provide information and seek comments from the public. At this meeting, members of the public may propose additional route alternatives for consideration in the environmental assessment the EERA will prepare. Once the public meeting is scheduled, notice of

the meeting will be provided to persons whose names are on the Project contact list and will be published in a legal newspaper of general circulation in the Project area. After the environmental assessment has been completed, a public hearing will be held on the application. Any person may speak at the public hearing, present documentary evidence, ask questions of Applicants’ representatives and EERA staff and submit comments.

If the Commission issues a Route Permit for the Project, Applicants may, if necessary, exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire land necessary for the Project (Minn. Stat. § 216E.12; Minn. Stat. Ch. 117).

Certificate of Need

Minnesota Statutes section 216B.243, subdivision 2 states that “[n]o large energy facility shall be sited or constructed in Minnesota without the issuance of a certificate of need by the [Public Utilities Commission]”. A

large energy facility is defined as “any high-voltage transmission line with a capacity of 100 kilovolts or more with more than 10 miles of its length in Minnesota or that crosses a state line.” The proposed Project is less than 10 miles in length and does not cross a state line; therefore, a certificate of need is not required.

How to Learn More

For more information about the regulatory process or to have your name included on the Project mailing lists, contact:

Minnesota Department of Commerce
Jamie MacAlister,
Environmental Review
Manager
85 Seventh Place E., Suite 280
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
jamie.macalister@state.mn.us
651-539-1775
mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities

Minnesota Public Utilities
Commission
Scott Ek, Energy Facilities

Planner
121 Seventh Place E.,
Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147
scott.ek@state.mn.us
651-201-2255
mn.gov/puc

There are two options for citizens, landowners, and interested persons to receive Project information:

1. Sign up for the Project Mailing List. To sign up to receive notices about Project milestones and opportunities to participate (meetings, comment periods, etc.) email docketing.puc@state.mn.us or call 651-201-2234 with the docket number (22-235), your name, mailing address and email address. You may request to receive notices by email or U.S. Mail.

2. Subscribe to the Docket. To receive email notifications when new documents are filed in the Route Permit docket visit: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us>

[mn.us/EFiling](https://www.edockets.state.mn.us), select Subscribe to eDockets and follow the prompts. Note: subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

Current information about the Project and Route Permit Application is available online at https://greatriverenergy.com/transmission_project/st-joseph-115-kv-transmission-line-and-substation-upgrade/.

A paper copy of the Route Permit Application is also available for review at:

St. Joseph City Hall/
St. Joseph Government Center
75 Callaway St E
St. Joseph, MN 56374

Additional information may be obtained by calling Mark Strohfus at Great River Energy: 1-888-521-0130 ext. 5210, direct 763-445-5210 or by email at mstrohfus@greenergy.com.

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