

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy for a Route Permit to Rebuild the Existing 69kV ST-WW Transmission Line to 115kV in Stearns County, Minnesota

PUC Docket Number: ET-2/TL-22-235
OAH Docket Number: 23-2500-38942

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) will hold a public hearing on the route permit application of Great River Energy (GRE) for its proposed transmission line rebuild project in the city of St. Joseph and in St. Joseph and Wendell townships in Stearns County, Minnesota.

There will be two public hearings in this matter: an in-person hearing and an online hearing. The information presented will be the same at both hearings.

In-Person Hearing

Date: Wednesday, May 17, 2023
Time: 6 p.m.
Location: Millstream Park Meeting Facility
 725 County Road 75 W
 St. Joseph, Minnesota, 56374
 Link to Google Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/KscEgwuRMLaZsyss7>

To find out if a meeting is canceled due to bad weather or other call 1-855-731-6208 or 651-201-2213 or visit mn.gov/puc.

Remote-Access Hearing

Date: Thursday, May 18, 2023
Time: 6 p.m.
WebEx Link:
<https://minnesota.webex.com/minnesota/j.php?MTID=mba12cac1de4d06b65020c15bdf7b1631>
WebEx Number: 2491 582 9464
WebEx Password: Kp3cmMw3Nm6 (57326693 from phones)

Join by Phone: 1-855-282-6330 Toll Free Access Code: 2491 582 9464

If you are joining the hearing by WebEx and would like to ask a question or make a comment during the designated portion of the hearing, use the chat function to send a message to the hearing moderator. If you are joining the hearing by phone, press *3 on your phone. When it is your turn to speak your line will be unmuted and you will be able to ask questions and provide comments.

Additional information and instructions are available at: <https://mn.gov/puc/activities/meetings/webex/>

Written Comment Period

Written comments will be accepted through June 1, 2023, by 4:30 p.m. Please include the docket number (22-235) in all communications. Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not be considered by the Commission.

Please focus your comments on information that will help answer the following questions:

- Should the Commission grant a route permit for the proposed high-voltage transmission line?
- If granted, what additional conditions or requirements should be included in a route permit for the high-voltage transmission line?

Comments may be submitted:

Online <https://mn.gov/puc/get-involved/public-comments/>
Email consumer.puc@state.mn.us
U.S. Mail Consumer Affairs Office
 Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
 121 Seventh Place E., Suite 350
 St. Paul, MN 55101

Comments will be made available to the public via the Commission's website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The Commission does not edit or delete personal identifying information from submissions.

Project Description

GRE has applied for a route permit to rebuild its existing 69 kilovolt transmission line (ST-WW Line) in the city of St. Joseph and in St. Joseph and Wendell townships in Stearns County, Minnesota. The proposed transmission line rebuild project would include:

- Removing approximately 3.2 miles of an existing 69-kilovolt transmission line and structures between the West St. Cloud, Westwood and Le Sauk substations and replacing those facilities with a new overhead 115-kilovolt transmission line and structures.
- Extending the transmission line approximately 170 feet northwest near the Le Sauk Substation to tap into a new switch to be added on GRE's existing 115-kilovolt transmission line and add a new switch near the existing Westwood Substation.
- Expanding the existing West St. Cloud Substation by approximately 6,500 square feet to accommodate facility upgrades and additions.

GRE has indicated that the distribution lines owned by Stearns Electric Association and Xcel Energy that are currently underbuilt on the existing 69-kilovolt transmission line will be placed underground.

Hearing Information

The Honorable Suzanne Todnem, Administrative Law Judge with the Office of Administrative Hearings, will preside over the public hearings and will provide the Commission with findings of fact, conclusions of law and a recommendation.

The purpose of the public hearings is to receive public input on the proposed project and the route permit. Interested persons will have the opportunity to: (1) ask questions of the applicant and agency staff; (2) offer oral and written comments on the merits of the proposed project; and (3) suggest possible conditions to be considered for inclusion in a route permit. Members of the public may participate without the necessity of intervening as a party. Representation by legal counsel is permitted but not required.

The hearings will end when all attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded, or 9 p.m., whichever occurs first. Written comments may be submitted during the comment period following the hearing using the methods described in this notice.

Minnesota Statutes and Rules. This project is being reviewed under Minnesota Statutes chapter 216E and Minnesota Rules chapter 7850. The rules and statutes are available for review at: www.revisor.mn.gov.

Additional Information

Filing Requirements: Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties and state agencies are required to file documents using the Commission's electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants and interested persons are encouraged to use eFiling at: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling>.

Full Case Record: See all documents filed in this matter on the Commission's website at: mn.gov/puc/edockets, select Go to eDockets Project Database, enter the year (22) and the docket number (235), and select Search.

Subscribe to the Docket: To receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter visit: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling> and select Subscribe to Dockets.

Project Mailing List: Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate or change your mailing preference. Email docketing.puc@state.mn.us or call 651-201-2246 with the docket number (22-235), your name, mailing address and email address.

Department of Commerce Website: <https://apps.commerce.state.mn.us/eera/web/project/14925>

Project Contacts

Public Utilities Commission

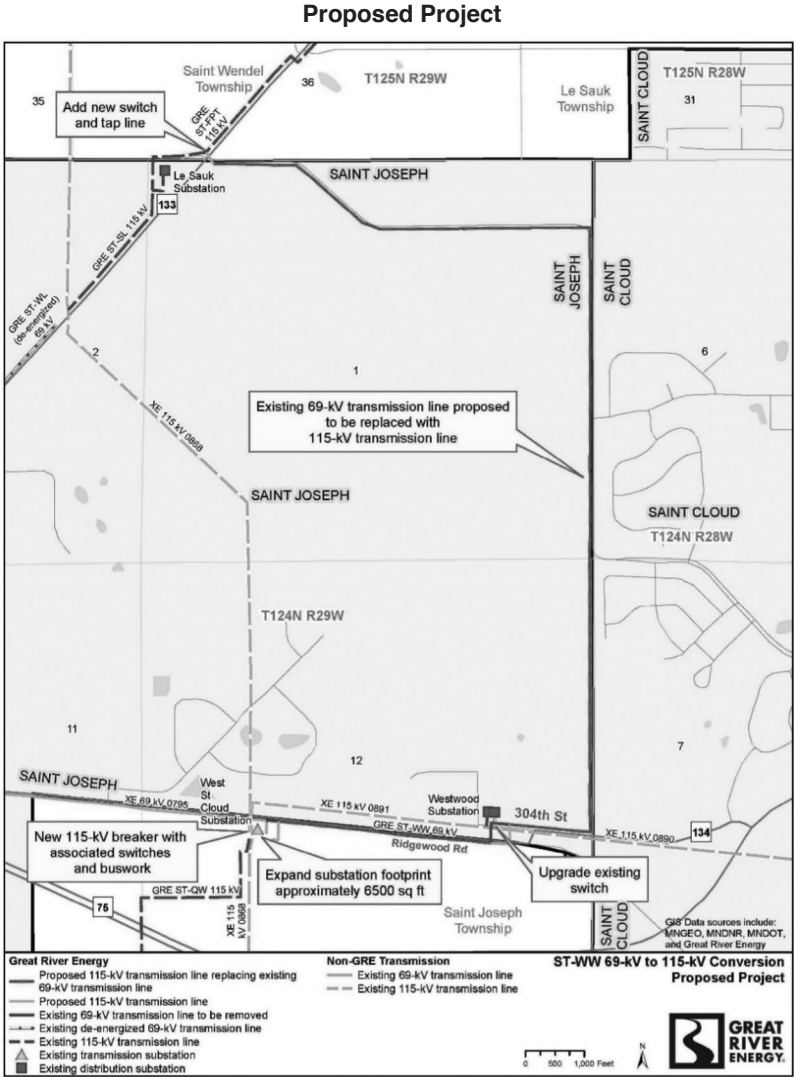
Cezar Panait, Public Advisor, cezar.panait@state.mn.us or 651-201-2207

Department of Commerce

Jamie MacAlister, Environmental Review Manager, jamie.macalister@state.mn.us or 651-539-1775

Great River Energy

Mark Strohfus, Project Manager, MStrohfus@GREnergy.com or 763-445-5210



If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in this hearing, please contact the Commission at 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782 at least one week in advance of the hearings. To request this document in another format such as large print or audio, call 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with a hearing or speech impairment may call using their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service or email consumer.puc@state.mn.us for assistance.