

Notice of Public Information Meeting

**In the Matter of the 115 kV Mud Lake to Wilson Lake
High Voltage Transmission Line Project proposed by Great River Energy
MPUC Docket Numbers: ET2/TL-06-980 and ET2/CN-06-367**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) will conduct a public information and environmental assessment scoping meeting at the location listed below on a proposal by Great River Energy (GRE) to construct a new electric transmission line in Crow Wing County, Minnesota. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to the public about the proposed transmission line project and to identify issues and route alternatives to study in an Environmental Assessment (EA) to be prepared by the Department evaluating the proposal.

**Tuesday, September 19, 2006
Garrison Township Hall
10701 Bollenbacher Road
Garrison, Minnesota
4:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

Directions: From Highway 18, take County Road 10 south to Emstad Road, then to Bollenbacher Road and south for ½ mi. There are Town hall signs starting at Emstad Road.

The public information meeting will follow an open-house format. The public is invited to review the applications and proposed route, learn more about the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) process and ask questions. The public may propose additional routes to be considered for the new transmission line and propose issues to be addressed in the EA. The DOC will accept written comments on the project and the scope of the EA until October 6, 2006. Comments should be mailed or e-mailed to Sharon Ferguson, Docket Manager, at 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198 or sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us.

Project Description

The project is a new, 12-mile, 115,000 volt high voltage transmission line (HVTL). The proposed route would run parallel along existing transmission lines from the Mud Lake Substation north to Minnesota Trunk Highway 18 then eastward along Highway 18 to the Wilson Lake Substation. The proposal includes a 5-acre expansion of the Wilson Lake Substation.

PUC Review Process

GRE has submitted an Application for a Certificate of Need and an Application for a Route Permit to the PUC. Effective July 1, 2005, the Legislature transferred the authority over routing new transmission lines from the Environmental Quality Board to the PUC. The DOC has been assigned the responsibility to conduct public meetings and environmental review of the proposed transmission lines under the alternative review process found in Minnesota Rule Chapter 4400.

The DOC will prepare an EA prior to the PUC's determination of the need for the project and consideration of a specific route for the transmission line. The EA will consider issues related

both to the need for the project, such as size, type, timing, voltage and system configurations, and issues related to routing, such as construction impacts, environmental features, use of existing rights-of-way, and impacts on homes and businesses.

After completion of the EA, the PUC will hold a public hearing presided over by an Administrative Law Judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings. Notice of the hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who register their names on the project mailing list with the Department. Persons interested in adding their names to this mailing list should contact the DOC project manager or public advisor or register on the webpage cited below.

If issued a Certificate of Need and Route Permit by the PUC, and in accordance with their authority under state law, GRE may exercise the power of eminent domain in this matter.

Project Contacts and Information

For more information about the process, the project or to place your name on the project mailing list, contact the DOC project manager, Adam Sokolski (Tel: 651-296-2096 or adam.sokolski@state.mn.us) or Deborah Pile, (Tel: 651-297-2375 or deborah.pile@state.mn.us) Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198. Other contact information: Toll-Free Tel: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-297-7891 or TTY: Minnesota Relay Service, 800-627-3529, and ask for the DOC.

Copies of both Applications and other relevant documents, including Minnesota Rules and Statutes governing the process, are accessible at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/TransmissionLines.html>

or

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=18665>

Copies of the Certificate of Need Application and the Route Permit Application are also available at the following public libraries:

Crosby Public Library 101 1 st Street SE. Crosby, MN 56441	Brainerd Public Library 416 South 5 th Street Brainerd, MN 56401
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