

**ROUTE PERMIT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A HIGH
VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINE**

IN

HUBBARD COUNTY, MINNESOTA

ISSUED TO

**Great River Energy and Itasca-Mantrap Cooperative Electric
Association**

PUC DOCKET No. ET2/TL-06-468

In accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Section 116C.575 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 4400, this route permit is hereby issued to:

**Great River Energy and Itasca-Mantrap Cooperative Electric
Association**

Great River Energy (GRE) is authorized by this route permit to upgrade its 2.5 mile 34.5 kV transmission line to 115 kV between the Itasca-Mantrap RDO Substation and the GRE "HP" 115 kV transmission line located in Straight River and Hubbard townships in Hubbard County, Minnesota. The permit authorizes Itasca-Mantrap to upgrade its RDO Substation to allow a 115 kV electrical supply source. The project shall be built along the route identified in this permit and as portrayed on the attached official route map, and in compliance with the conditions specified in this permit.

Approved and adopted this _____ day of September, 2006

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar,
Executive Secretary

I. ROUTE PERMIT

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) hereby issues this route permit to Great River Energy and the Itasca-Mantrap Cooperative Electrical Association pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 116C.575 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 4400. This permit authorizes the Permittees to construct a 115 kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line (HVTL) and upgrade an existing substation to accommodate the new HVTL in Hubbard County.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

GRE and Itasca-Mantrap propose to upgrade approximately 2.5 miles of existing 34.5 kV transmission line to a 115 kV HVTL. The Applicants also propose to upgrade the Itasca-Mantrap RDO Substation to allow a 115 kV electrical supply source.

GRE will use wood, single pole horizontal arm, single circuit structures in segment 1 and wood, single pole, horizontal arm, double-circuit 115 kV/34.5 kV structures in segment 2A. Segment 2A will be designed to accommodate the existing 34.5 kV transmission line as a double-circuit on 115 kV structures. The 115 kV line will use 795 aluminum conductor steel supported (ACSS) conductors. Transmission structures will be between 60 and 85 feet in height and will have span lengths of averaging 300 to 400 feet.

III. DESIGNATED ROUTE

The route designated by the Commission in this permit is comprised of route segments 1 and 2A as described in detail below, as analyzed in the EA, and shown on the Official Route Map attached to this permit:

- a. **Route Segment 1:** The route will begin at the RDO Substation in Straight River Township Section 12 and follow GRE's existing 34.5 kV ROW east along 150th Street approximately one-half mile until the existing line turns south. The route will follow the existing line alignment as close as practicable southward approximately one mile to TH 87. GRE may acquire additional ROW width in segment 1 not to exceed 100 feet total.
- b. **Route Segment 2A:** The line in segment 2A will be double-circuit 115 kV and 34.5 kV. The route will cross from the north side to the south side of TH 87 near the half section line in Straight River Township Sections 12 and 13. Upon crossing TH 87, the route turns east and runs generally parallel to TH 87 for approximately one mile to the GRE "HP" 115 kV transmission line in Hubbard Township Section 18. GRE is permitted to acquire up to 100 feet of new ROW in segment 2A. GRE shall place transmission line structures no more than 10 feet outside of the TH 87 clear zone or ROW from the point the line crosses TH 87 to the point it meets the existing GRE 34.5 kV ROW east of 159th Avenue. East of 159th Avenue, GRE shall place structures as close as practicable to existing structures.

IV. PERMIT CONDITIONS

The Permittees shall comply with the following conditions during construction of the transmission line and associated facilities and the life of this permit.

A. Plan and Profile. At least 14 calendar days before right-of-way preparation for construction begins, the Permittees shall provide the PUC with a plan and profile of the right-of-way and the specifications and drawings for right-of-way preparation, construction, cleanup, and restoration for the transmission line. The Permittees may not commence construction until the 14 days has expired or until the PUC has advised the Permittees in writing that it has completed its review of the documents and determined that the planned construction is consistent with this permit. If the Permittees intend to make any significant changes in its plan and profile or the specifications and drawings after submission to the PUC, the Permittees shall notify the PUC at least five days before implementing the changes. No changes shall be made that would be in violation of any of the terms of this permit.

B. Construction Practices.

1. Application. The Permittees shall follow those specific construction practices and material specifications described in the GRE application to the PUC for a route permit, dated April 6, 2006, and as described in the EA unless this permit establishes a different requirement in which case this permit shall prevail.

2. Field Representative. At least 10 days prior to commencing construction, the Permittees shall advise the PUC in writing of the person or persons designated to be the field representative for the Permittees with the responsibility to oversee compliance with the conditions of this Permit during construction. This person's address, phone number, and emergency phone number shall be provided to the PUC, which may make the information available to local residents and public officials and other interested persons. The Permittees may change its field representative at any time upon written notice to the PUC.

3. Cleanup. All waste and scrap that is the product of construction shall be removed from the area and properly disposed of upon completion of each task. Personal litter, including bottles, cans, and paper, from construction activities shall be removed on a daily basis.

4. Vegetation Removal. The Permittees shall minimize the number of trees to be removed as part of the construction of the line, taking into account Permit Condition IV.H.1, which recognizes that the Permittees has obligations to comply with clearance requirements.

5. Erosion Control. The Permittees shall implement reasonable measures to minimize runoff during construction and shall plant or seed non-agricultural areas that were disturbed where structures are installed.

6. Temporary Work Space. The Permittees shall limit temporary easements to special construction access needs and additional staging or lay-down areas required outside of the authorized ROW.

7. Restoration. The Permittees shall restore all temporary work spaces, access roads, abandoned ROW, and other private lands affected by construction of the transmission line. Restoration must be compatible with the safe operation, maintenance, and inspection of the transmission line. Within 60 days after completion of all restoration activities, the Permittees shall advise the PUC in writing of the completion of such activities.

8. Notice of Permit. The Permittees shall inform all employees, contractors, and other persons involved in the construction of the transmission line of the terms and conditions of this permit.

C. Periodic Status Reports. Upon request, the Permittees shall report to the PUC on progress regarding finalization of the route, design of structures, and construction of the transmission line. The Permittees need not report more frequently than quarterly.

D. Complaint Procedure. Prior to the start of construction, the Permittees shall submit to the PUC the company's procedures to be used to receive and respond to complaints. The procedures shall be in accordance with the requirements set forth in the complaint procedures attached to this permit.

E. Notification to Landowners. The Permittees shall provide all affected landowners with a copy of this permit at the time of the first contact with the landowners after issuance of this permit.

F. Completion of Construction.

1. Notification to PUC. At least three days before the line is to be placed into service, the Permittees shall notify the PUC of the date on which the line will be placed into service and the date on which construction was complete.

2. As-Builts. Upon request of the PUC, the Permittees shall submit copies of all the final as-built plans and specifications developed during the project.

3. GPS Data. Within 60 days after completion of construction, the Permittees shall submit to the PUC, in the format requested by the PUC, geo-spatial information (GIS compatible maps, GPS coordinates, etc.) for all above ground structures associated with the transmission lines, each switch, and each substation connected.

G. Electrical Performance Standards.

1. Grounding. The Permittees shall design, construct, and operate the transmission line in such a manner that the maximum steady-state short-circuit current shall be limited to five milliamperes rms alternating current between the ground and any non-stationary object within the ROW including but not limited to, large motor vehicles and agricultural

equipment. All fixed metallic objects on or off the ROW, except electric fences that parallel or cross the right-of-way, shall be grounded to the extent necessary to limit the short circuit current between ground and the object so as not to exceed one milliampere rms under steady state conditions of the transmission line and to comply with the ground fault conditions specified in the National Electric Safety Code.

2. Electric Field. The transmission line shall be designed, constructed, and operated in such a manner that the electric field measured one meter above ground level immediately below the transmission line shall not exceed 8.0 kV/m rms.

3. Interference with Communication Devices. If interference with radio or television, satellite or other communication devices is caused by the presence or operation of the transmission line, the Permittees shall take whatever action is prudently feasible to restore or provide reception equivalent to reception levels in the immediate area just prior to the construction of the line.

H. Other Requirements.

1. Applicable Codes. The Permittees shall comply with applicable Rural Utilities Service (RUS), North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) construction standards and requirements of the National Electric Safety Code (NESC) including clearances to ground, clearance to crossing utilities, clearance to buildings, ROW widths, erecting power poles, and stringing of transmission line conductors.

2. Other Permits. The Permittees shall comply with all applicable state rules and statutes. The Permittees shall obtain all required permits for the project and comply with the conditions of these permits. A list of the required permits is included in the permit application and the environmental assessment. The Permittees shall submit a copy of such permits to the PUC upon request.

3. Pre-emption. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 116C.61, subdivision 1, this route permit shall be the sole route approval required to be obtained by the Permittees and this permit shall supersede and preempt all zoning, building, or land use rules, regulations, or ordinances promulgated by regional, county, local and special purpose government.

I. Delay in Construction. If the Permittees has not commenced construction or improvement of the route within four years after the date of issuance of this permit, the PUC shall consider suspension of the permit in accordance with Minn. Rule 4400.3750.

J. Special Conditions.

1. Double Circuit. GRE shall double-circuit the existing 34.5 kV line on its new 115 kV transmission structures and remove the existing single circuit 34.5 kV structures on both sides of TH 87 in segment 2A. GRE shall restore the ROW where the existing line is removed.

V. PERMIT AMENDMENT

The permit conditions in Section V. may be amended at any time by the PUC. Any person may request an amendment of the conditions of this permit by submitting a request to the PUC in writing describing the amendment sought and the reasons for the amendment. The PUC will mail notice of receipt of the request to the Permittees. The PUC may amend the conditions after affording the Permittees and interested persons such process as is required.

VI. TRANSFER OF PERMIT

The Permittees may request at any time that the PUC transfer this permit to another person or entity. The Permittees shall provide the name and description of the person or entity to whom the permit is requested to be transferred, the reasons for the transfer, a description of the facilities affected, and the proposed effective date of the transfer. The person to whom the permit is to be transferred shall provide the PUC with such information as the PUC shall require to determine whether the new permittees can comply with the conditions of the permit. The PUC may authorize transfer of the permit after affording the Permittees, the new permittees, and interested persons such process as is required.

VII. REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF THE PERMIT

The PUC may initiate action to revoke or suspend this permit at any time. The PUC shall act in accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Rules part 4400.3950 to revoke or suspend the permit.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
COMPLAINT REPORT PROCEDURES FOR
HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES**

1. Purpose

To establish a uniform and timely method of reporting complaints received by the Permittees concerning the permit conditions for right-of-way preparation, construction, cleanup and restoration, and resolution of such complaints.

2. Scope

This reporting plan encompasses complaint report procedures and frequency.

3. Applicability

The procedures shall be used for all complaints received by the Permittees.

4. Definitions

Complaint - A statement presented by a person expressing dissatisfaction, resentment, or discontent as a direct result of right-of-way preparation, construction, cleanup and restoration. Complaints do not include requests, inquiries, questions, or general comments.

Substantial Complaint - Any complaints submitted to the Permittees in writing that, if substantiated, could result in permit modification or suspension pursuant to the applicable regulations.

Person - An individual, partnership, joint venture, private or public corporation, association, firm, public service company, cooperative, political subdivision, municipal corporation, government agency, public utility district, or any other entity, public or private, however organized.

5. Responsibilities

Everyone involved with right-of-way preparation, construction, cleanup and restoration is responsible to ensure expeditious and equitable resolution of all complaints. It is therefore, necessary to establish a uniform method for documenting and handling complaints directed to this project. The following procedures will satisfy this requirement:

- A. The Permittees shall document all complaints by maintaining a record of all applicable information concerning the complaint, including the following:
1. Name of the permittees and project.
 2. Name of complainant, address and phone number.
 3. Precise property description or tract number (where applicable).
 4. Nature of complaint.
 5. Response given.
 6. Name of person receiving complaint and date of receipt.
 7. Name of person reporting complaint to the DOC and phone number.
 8. Final disposition and date.
- B. The Permittees shall assign an individual to summarize complaints for transmittal to the PUC.

6. Requirements

The Permittees shall report all complaints to the DOC according to the following schedule:

Immediate Reports - All substantial complaints shall be reported to the DOC by phone the same day received (or on the following working day for complaints received after working hours) at 651-296-2096.

Monthly Reports

By the 15th of each month, a summary of all complaints, including substantial complaints received or resolved during the proceeding month, and a copy of each complaint shall be sent to Minnesota Department of Commerce, 85 East 7th Place, Suite 500, Saint Paul, MN 55101.

7. Complaints Received by the DOC

Copies of complaints received directly by the DOC from aggrieved persons regarding right-of-way preparation, construction, cleanup and restoration shall be promptly sent to the Permittees.

Legend

-  Itasca-Mantrap Distribution Substation
- GRE Transmission Line**
 -  34.5 kV Transmission
 -  115 kV Transmission
- Proposed GRE Overhead Transmission Line Rebuild to 115 kV**
 -  Segment 1
 -  Existing 34.5kV Line
 -  Segment 2A
- MP Transmission Line**
 -  34.5 kV Transmission

Official Route Map

Docket Number ET-2/TL-06-468

Convert Itasca-Mantrap RDO Substation From 34.5 kV to 115 kV

Segment 1 Rebuild Existing 34.5 kV Line to Single Circuit 115 kV

Segment Alternative 2A Rebuild to a 115/34.5 kV Double Circuit Entirely on the South Side of MN 87

115 kV Switch Structure

