

**Notice of Public Information Meeting and
Public Comment Period**

**Monday May 15, 2006, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Straight River Township Hall
Menahga, Minnesota 56464**

**In the Matter of the Application of GRE and Itasca-Mantrap Cooperative Electrical
Association for a High Voltage Transmission Line Route Permit under the
Alternative Permitting Process
PUC Docket Number: ET2/TL-06-468**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public information meeting will be held on the application by Great River Energy (GRE) and Itasca-Mantrap to upgrade approximately 2.5 miles of existing 34.5 kV electrical line to a 115 kV High Voltage Transmission Line (HVTL) within existing right-of-way (ROW) between the Itasca-Mantrap RDO Substation in Park Rapids, Minnesota and the GRE “HP” 115 kV HVTL. A portion of the proposed transmission line will include approximately one (1) mile of double circuit 115/34.5 kV line along Trunk Highway 87. In addition, the Applicants propose to upgrade the Itasca-Mantrap RDO substation to allow a 115 kV electrical source.

Staff of the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) will conduct the public information meeting, and will review the state’s transmission line alternative permitting process. A presentation about the process and project will begin at 7:00 p.m. Representatives of GRE and Itasca-Mantrap will be at the meeting to describe the proposed project and answer questions.

Authority for transmission line route permits was transferred to the PUC from the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board on July 1, 2005, and responsibility for conducting the public review process was assigned to the DOC.

PUC Site Permit Review Process

The RDO Project application was accepted and public review procedures were initiated by the PUC on April 20, 2006. The DOC is now reviewing the RDO Project application under the Power Plant Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes, sections 116C.51 - 116C.69) and the Alternative Permitting Process Rules (Minnesota Rules, parts 4400.2000-4400.2950). A public information meeting will be held on May 15th to provide information about the project and to solicit comments on the scope of the Environmental Assessment (EA) to be prepared on the project. The DOC Commissioner will issue a scoping decision that will determine the contents of the EA. The EA will be published and made available to the public. A public hearing will be announced and held prior to the DOC presenting the record of this matter to the PUC for a final permitting decision, which must be made on or before October 20, 2006.

Public Comment Period

Interested persons may comment on the route permit application and the scope of issues to be addressed in the Environmental Assessment. Persons may also propose alternate routes to be studied in the EA in accordance with Minnesota Rules, part 4400.2750. Interested persons may comment on the project at the May 15th meeting and/or submit written comments to the DOC no later than **June 2, 2006**. Written comments should be directed to Sharon Ferguson at the Minnesota Department of Commerce at the address below and should include a heading referring to docket number **ET2/TL-06-468**.

All project documents including the route permit application, notices, agency rules guiding the review process, and PUC orders in this matter are available on the PUC website at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=18517>

Interested persons can also request to be added to the project mailing list this web site.

Project Contacts

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Questions about the project and the PUC permitting process may be directed to Mr. Sokolski or Ms. Pile. Ms. Pile has been appointed as the public advisor to assist and advise citizens on how to participate in the site permit process.

Additional Information

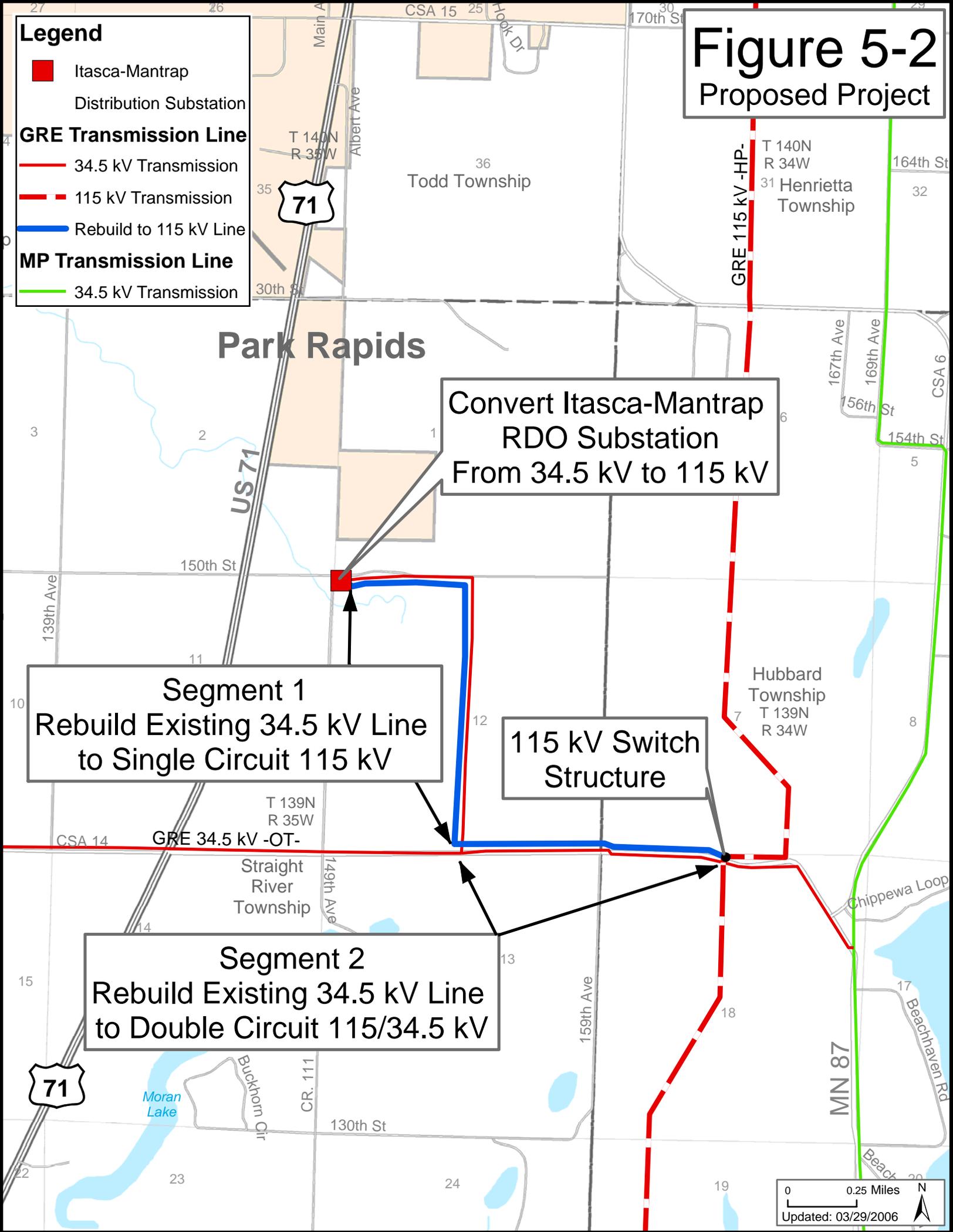
Copies of the route permit application for the RDO Project are available at the Itasca-Mantrap offices in Park Rapids, or by contacting any of the project contacts above.

Figure 5-2

Proposed Project

Legend

-  Itasca-Mantrap Distribution Substation
- GRE Transmission Line**
 -  34.5 kV Transmission
 -  115 kV Transmission
 -  Rebuild to 115 kV Line
- MP Transmission Line**
 -  34.5 kV Transmission



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

115 kV Switch Structure

Segment 2 Rebuild Existing 34.5 kV Line to Double Circuit 115/34.5 kV