



17845 East Highway 10 • P.O. Box 800 • Elk River, Minnesota 55330-0800 • 763-441-3121 • Fax 763-241-2366

26 October 2006

Dr. Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: *Application for Minor Alteration, RDO 115 kV Project*
Docket No. ET2/TL-06-468

Dear Dr. Haar:

Attached is Great River Energy's Application for Minor Alteration, filed by eFiling, which is submitted pursuant to Minn. R. pt. 4400.3820. An Affidavit of Service is also enclosed. Please let me know if additional information regarding the Application is required.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carole L. Schmidt".

Carole L. Schmidt
Environmental Scientist

Enclosures

c: Gary Ostrom, GRE
Adam Sokolski, DOC

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STATE OF MINNESOTA
BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

LeRoy Koppendrayer
Marshall Johnson
Kenneth Nickolai
Thomas Pugh
Phyllis Reha

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of Application of Great River
Energy for a Transmission Route Permit
under the Alternative Permitting Process for
the RDO 115 kV Project in Hubbard County

MPUC Docket No.: ET2/TL-06-468

APPLICATION FOR MINOR ALTERATION

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”), in its September 8, 2006 Order in the above-entitled matter, designated a new 115 kV high voltage transmission line route of 2.5 miles from the existing RDO Substation to the Great River Energy’s (“GRE”) 115 kV “HP” transmission line in Hubbard County and issued a corresponding route permit. Pursuant to Minn. R. pt. 4400.3820, GRE applies for a minor alteration to allow a change in the alignment of the line within the route corridor. The minor alteration is requested to resolve concerns of a landowner; and the voluntary easements needed to implement the minor change in the alignment within the route have been secured. The portion of the project that is the subject of this minor alteration is located along Trunk Highway (TH) 87 near Park Rapids, Hubbard County, Minnesota. A map depicting the alteration of the alignment within the route is attached.

DESCRIPTION AND EXPLANATION OF MINOR ALTERATION

The RDO project includes conversion of Itasca-Mantrap Cooperative Electric Association’s existing RDO Substation from 34.5 kV to 115 kV, and upgrading approximately 2.5 miles of an existing GRE transmission line from 34.5 kV to 115 kV. One mile of this transmission line upgrade (along TH 87) will be a double circuit 115/34.5 kV line. The project is necessary to improve voltage deficiencies and area reliability concerns.

The portion of the RDO project that is the subject of this minor alteration is in Sections 7 and 18, T139N, R34W, and Sections 12 and 13, T139N, R35W (in the double circuit section along TH

87). The length of the requested alteration is two spans or approximately 500 feet in length. Figure 1 shows the original route alignment for this area as proposed in GRE's permit application (black), the alternative alignment within the route that was permitted (red), and the new modified alignment (magenta).

The minor alteration is necessary to avoid the concerns of a private landowner. Landowners along the new alignment have been contacted regarding the proposed change in alignment, and all easements needed to affect the change have been voluntarily secured.

The modification is proposed as a minor alteration because it is a minor shift in alignment within the route and will not result in significant changes to human or environmental resources in the vicinity.

Construction of this transmission line is scheduled to begin in late fall 2006.

ESTIMATED COST

The cost to change the alignment will be approximately \$15,000.

PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

The alternative would be to uphold the permitted alignment, located on the south side of Highway 87 in Section 13 as shown in red on Figure 1.

Dated: October 26, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By

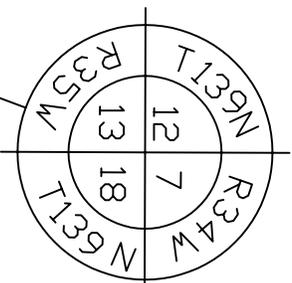
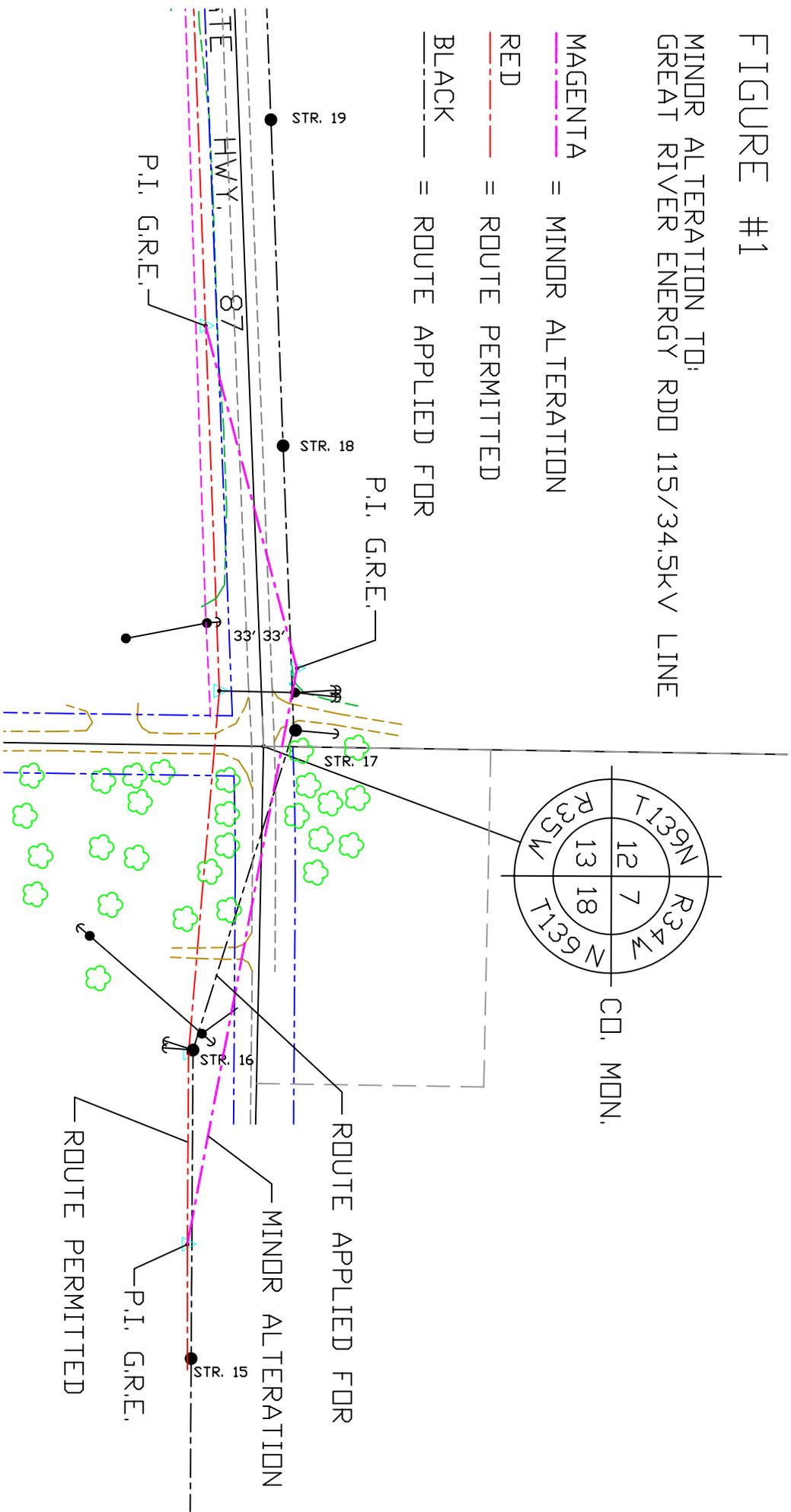


Carole L. Schmidt
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FIGURE #1

MINOR ALTERATION TO:
GREAT RIVER ENERGY RDD 115/34.5KV LINE

- MAGENTA = MINOR ALTERATION
- RED = ROUTE PERMITTED
- BLACK = ROUTE APPLIED FOR



CD. MON.

STR. 19

STR. 18

STR. 17

STR. 16

STR. 15

P.I. G.R.E.

P.I. G.R.E.

P.I. G.R.E.

Hwy. 87

ROUTE PERMITTED

MINOR ALTERATION

ROUTE APPLIED FOR

ROUTE PERMITTED

ROUTE APPLIED FOR

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN)

In the Matter of the Application of Great
River Energy for a Transmission Route
Permit under the Alternative Permitting
Process for the RDO 115 kV Project in
Hubbard County

MPUC Docket No ET2/TL-06-468.

Cheri J. Finseth, being first duly sworn on oath, deposes and states that on the 26 day of October, 2006, copies of GRE's Application for Minor Alteration in the above-referenced matter were filed electronically or mailed by United States first class mail, postage prepaid thereon, to the following:

Dr. Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 Seventh Place E, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

Sharon Ferguson
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 Seventh Place E, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101

Curt Nelson
Assistant Attorney General
900 NCL Tower
445 Minnesota Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

Julia Anderson
Attorney General's Office
1400 NCL Tower
445 Minnesota Street
St. Paul, MN 55101-2131

Cheri J. Finseth

SWORN TO BEFORE ME this
26 day of October, 2006

Wendy L. Case
NOTARY PUBLIC

