



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Minnesota Department of Commerce
Issued: November 30, 2006



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, December 13, 2006 ♦ 3:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
Garrison Township Hall
10701 Bollenbacher Road
Garrison, Minnesota

Certificate of Need and Route Permit Applications
By Great River Energy

For the
Mud Lake to Wilson Lake Transmission Project
In Crow Wing County, Minnesota

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) will hold a Public Hearing on applications by Great River Energy (GRE) to construct a new 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between the Mud Lake Substation east of Brainerd to the Wilson Lake Substation west of Garrison, a distance of 12 miles. The public hearing will be held on **Wednesday, December 13, 2006**, at the Garrison Township Hall, 10701 Bollenbacher Road, Garrison, MN. The hearing will convene at 3:00 p.m. and an evening session will be held commencing at 6:30 p.m.

Administrative Law Judge Eric Lipman will preside at the hearing. Judge Lipman's address is Office of Administrative Hearings, 100 Washington Square, Suite 1700, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-2138, phone 612-341-7601, fax 612-349-2665. email eric.lipman@state.mn.us

Project Description GRE proposes to build a new 12 mile, 115 kV electric transmission line between the Mud Lake and the Wilson Lake substations. GRE proposes to increase the size of the Wilson Lake Substation approximately 4.55 acres to accommodate high voltage equipment.

Environmental Assessment The DOC has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the proposed project and a proposed route alternative. The EA addresses alternatives to the project, and the potential impacts of the proposed and alternative routes for the transmission line. The EA will be available for review at the hearing. Documents relevant to the Certificate of Need and Route Permit, including the EA, are available on the PUC webpage at:

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

Conduct of Hearing The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Power Plant Siting Act, Minn. Stat. §216E.01 to §216E.18 (formerly §116C.51 to §116C.69), and the rules of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC), Minn. Rules parts 4400.2000 to 4400.2950, for projects of the size and type proposed here.

The DOC staff will be present at the hearing and make a brief presentation about the project and introduce into the record a number of documents relating to the project, including the applications, the EA, and certain procedural documents. Representatives of GRE will be present to offer evidence and to answer questions. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions of DOC staff and GRE representatives, to make statements, and to offer written comments and material into the record at both the afternoon and evening sessions. Members of the public are not required to file any papers in advance of the hearing in order to participate.

The record will remain open until December 26, 2006, for interested persons to submit written comments to the Administrative Law Judge. Comments must be submitted directly to Judge Lipman at the address above.

Purpose of Hearing The purpose of the public hearing is to compile the record for the PUC to consider in making a final decision on Certificate of Need and Route Permit requested. Upon closure of the public comment period, Judge Lipman will write a report to the PUC whether to grant the Certificate of Need and Route Permit. The PUC will make a final decision on the permits at a subsequent meeting.

Additional 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 public advisor 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.

Mailing List Any person may add his or her name to a mailing list maintained by the DOC for future mailings regarding this project. If you would like to receive notice of the PUC's final decision in this matter, you may put your name on this mailing list. Names can be added to the list by contacting Mr. Sokolski or by visiting the PUC website:

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