

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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

IN BELTRAMI, HUBBARD, CASS, and ITASCA COUNTIES

**ISSUED TO
OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY, MINNESOTA POWER,
MINNKOTA POWER COOPERATIVE, INC., NORTHERN
STATES POWER COMPANY, A MINNESOTA CORPORATION,
AND GREAT RIVER ENERGY**

PUC DOCKET No. E017, E015, ET6/TL-07-1327

In accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E.03 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850, this route permit is hereby issued to:

**OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY, MINNESOTA POWER AND MINNKOTA POWER
COOPERATIVE, INC., NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY, A MINNESOTA
CORPORATION, AND GREAT RIVER ENERGY**

Otter Tail Power Company, Minnesota Power, Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc., on behalf of themselves and Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation, and Great River Energy (Permittees) are authorized by this route permit to construct approximately 70 miles of new 230 kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission lines (HVTL) between the Wilton Substation in Beltrami County and the Boswell Substation in Itasca County (the Project). The HVTL and associated facilities will be located in Beltrami, Hubbard, Cass and Itasca counties.

The Project shall be built within the route identified in this permit and as portrayed on the attached official route maps, and in compliance with the conditions specified in this permit.

Approved and adopted this _____ day of November, 2010

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar,
Executive Secretary

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Contents

1	ROUTE PERMIT.....	4
2	PROJECT DESCRIPTION.....	4
2.1	A 230 kV high voltage transmission line	4
2.2	Wilton Substation Modifications	5
2.3	Cass Lake Substation Expansion and Modifications	5
2.4	Boswell Substation Modifications	5
3	DESIGNATED ROUTE.....	5
3.1	Route Width and Alignment	6
3.2	Right-of-Way Placement.....	6
3.3	Right-of-Way Width	7
4	PERMIT CONDITIONS	7
4.1	Plan and Profile	7
4.2	Construction Practices.....	8
	4.2.1 Field Representative.....	8
	4.2.2 Local Governments	8
	4.2.3 Cleanup	8
	4.2.4 Noise.....	8
	4.2.5 Vegetation Removal in the Right-of-Way	9
	4.2.6 Aesthetics.....	9
	4.2.7 Archaeological and Historic Resources.....	9
	4.2.8 Erosion Control	9
	4.2.9 Wetlands and Water Resources.....	10
	4.2.10 Temporary Work Space	10
	4.2.11 Restoration.....	10
	4.2.12 Notice of Permit.....	10
4.3	Periodic Status Reports	11
4.4	Complaint Procedure.....	11
4.5	Notification to Landowners.....	11
4.6	Completion of Construction	11
	4.6.1 Notification to Commission	11
	4.6.2 As-Built.....	11
	4.6.3 GPS Data	12
4.7	Electrical Performance Standards	12
	4.7.1 Grounding.....	12
	4.7.2 Electric Field.....	12
	4.7.3 Interference with Communication Devices.....	12
4.8	Other Requirements.....	12
	4.8.1 Applicable Codes	12

	4.8.2 Other Permits	13
	4.8.3 Pre-emption.....	13
	4.8.4 Delay in Construction	13
5	SPECIAL CONDITIONS.....	13
5.1	Construction Environmental Control Plan	13
5.2	Environmental Management Plan	14
5.3	Vegetation Management Plan	14
5.4	Treaty Trust Resources.....	14
5.5	Avian Mitigation Plan	15
5.6	Alignment Alternatives	15
	5.6.1 Carr Lake Area	15
6	PERMIT AMENDMENT.....	15
7	TRANSFER OF PERMIT	15
8	REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF THE PERMIT	16
	COMPLIANCE FILING PROCEDURE FOR PERMITTED ENERGY FACILITIES	17
	COMPLAINT HANDLING PROCEDURES FOR HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES	20

1 ROUTE PERMIT

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) hereby issues this route permit to Otter Tail Power Company, Minnesota Power, Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc., Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation, and Great River Energy (Permittees) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E.03 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850. This permit authorizes the Permittees to build approximately 70 miles of 230 kV transmission line, and modify the Wilton, Cass Lake, and Boswell substations to accommodate the HVTL.

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Permittees are authorized to construct a project comprising a 230 kV HVTL, and improvements at Wilton, Cass Lake, and Boswell substations as described in the Application, Environmental Impact Statement, and detailed below:

2.1 A 230 kV high voltage transmission line

The HVTL proceeds roughly west to east between Wilton and Boswell substations. Beginning at the Wilton Substation, the route proceeds south from the Wilton Substation along two 69 kV transmission lines for 1.2 miles, then over land for approximately 2,000 feet, before turning southeast to follow the Great Lakes Pipeline through southern Bemidji. Aside from some slight deviations to avoid homes, the route continues eastward along the Great Lakes Pipeline until Hubbard County Highway 45. At Hubbard County Highway 45, the route jogs overland to the northeast for approximately one-half mile to parallel the Enbridge pipeline for approximately 5.9 miles to the Cass Lake Substation in the City of Cass Lake.

From the Cass Lake Substation, the route continues east along the BNSF railway and Enbridge pipeline, but deviates from the Railroad and pipeline to skirt the south side of the city of Cass Lake for approximately one mile before turning north and then east to generally parallel the Enbridge pipelines and the BNSF railroad for approximately 26 miles to the Mississippi River near Ball Club. The Project crosses the Mississippi River at a new crossing, located approximately 500 feet south of the existing Great River Energy 69 kV transmission line.

After crossing the Mississippi, the route continues to parallel the pipelines and 69 kV transmission line for approximately 0.6 mile to Itasca County Road 119. At County Road 119, the route heads cross-country in a southeasterly direction to Itasca County Road 118. The route follows County Road 118 for approximately 1,200 feet, continuing east cross country, then north for approximately 1,000 feet before turning northeast for another 2,150 feet before rejoining the Great Lakes pipeline. The route continues to follow the Great Lakes pipeline for approximately 10.2 miles. The route then follows a Minnesota Power 115 kV transmission line for the remaining 4.5 miles to the Boswell Substation.

2.2 Wilton Substation Modifications

The Project's additions and modification to the existing Wilton 230 kV Substation do not require physical expansion beyond the limits of the existing fenced perimeter. The Project would add two new 230 kV breakers and a line termination structure, modifications to the existing 230 kV buses, and relay panels. The Project will also entail completion of a new ring bus section, as well as five new 230 kV switches with foundations, steel structures, and control panels. All of the proposed improvements will be similar in size to existing structures; changes to height and visibility are not anticipated.

2.3 Cass Lake Substation Expansion and Modifications

The existing Cass Lake 115/69 kV Substation in Section 17 of Pike Bay Township (Township 145N, Range 31W) in Cass County will be upgraded and expanded by approximately 320 feet to the west to provide for 230 kV capability. Otter Tail Power Company owns the approximately 2.2 acres where the expansion would take place. The new 230 kV equipment will include a 230 kV three-breaker ring bus with line switches, a new 230/115 kV transformer (~187 MVA), and a new 115 kV three-breaker ring bus to integrate the 230/115 kV transformer into existing 115 kV equipment and transmission lines at the substation. Due to the addition of new 230 kV equipment and associated protection facilities, the substation will require a new control house, relay panels, foundations, steel structures, and switches. The existing substation will remain energized during and after the expansion to serve local loads.

2.4 Boswell Substation Modifications

The Project's additions and modifications to the existing Boswell 230 kV do not require physical expansion beyond the limits of the existing fenced perimeter. The following additions and modifications are proposed: relocation of an existing 230 kV transmission line to a new terminal structure within the substation fence line, enabling the Project's HVTL to use the vacated 230 kV terminal structure in the substation; a new 230 kV circuit breaker, instrument transformers, air break switch, and associated buswork and steel structures; and new protection /control equipment for the Project's HVTL and the relocated, existing 230 kV line, with minor changes to existing substation protection/control equipment. All of the proposed improvements will be similar in size to existing structures; changes to height and visibility are not anticipated.

3 DESIGNATED ROUTE

The approved route is shown on the aerial photos attached to this permit and further designated as follows:

3.1 Route Width and Alignment

The width of the designated route ranges from approximately 155 to 1,000 feet and is indicated on the attached aerial photos. The final alignment (i.e., permanent and maintained rights-of-way) will be located within this designated route unless otherwise authorized below. This width will provide the Permittee with flexibility for minor adjustments of the specific alignment or right-of-way to accommodate landowner requests and unforeseen conditions.

The designated route identifies an anticipated alignment, also shown on the attached aerial photos, that minimizes the overall potential impacts relating to the factors identified in Minn. Rule 7850.4100 and was evaluated in the environmental review and permitting processes. Consequently, this permit anticipates that the actual right-of-way will generally conform to this alignment unless changes are requested by individual landowners, unforeseen conditions are encountered, or are otherwise provided for by this permit. Any alignment modifications within this designated route shall be located so as to have comparable overall impacts relative to the factors in Minn. Rule 7850.4100 as does the alignment identified in this permit, and shall be specifically identified in and approved as part of the Plan and Profile submitted pursuant to Part 4.1 of this permit.

Route width variations outside the designated route may be allowed for the Permittee to overcome potential site specific constraints. These constraints may arise from any of the following:

1. Unforeseen circumstances encountered during the detailed engineering and design process.
2. Federal or state agency requirements.
3. Existing infrastructure within the transmission line route, including but not limited to roadways, railroads, natural gas and liquid pipelines, high voltage electric transmission lines, or sewer and water lines.
4. Planned infrastructure improvements identified by state agencies and LGUs and made part of the evidentiary record during the contested case proceeding for this permit.

Any alignment modifications arising from these site specific constraints that would result in right-of-way placement outside the designated route shall be located so as to have comparable overall impacts relative to the factors in Minn. Rule 7850.4100 as does the alignment identified in this permit and shall also be specifically identified in and approved as part of the Plan and Profile submitted pursuant to Part 4.1 of this permit.

3.2 Right-of-Way Placement

Where the transmission line route parallels existing highway rights-of-way, the transmission line right-of-way shall occupy and utilize the existing highway right-of-way to the maximum extent possible, consistent with the criteria in Minn. Rule 7850.4100, the other requirements of this permit and, for highways under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT), Mn/DOT rules, policies, and procedures for accommodating utilities in trunk highway rights-of-way.

3.3 Right-of-Way Width

The 230 kV transmission line will be built primarily with two-pole H-frame structures, which will typically require a 125 feet right-of-way. Typically, H-frame structures will range in height from 60 to 90 feet and will be placed between 600 to 1,000 feet apart.

The Project shall use single pole, self-supporting structures, with a narrower right-of-way in the following areas:

1. Cass Lake: The portion of the Route in Cass Lake along the BNSF Railroad and along MN Highway 371 (shown on Map Sheet 19);
2. Bena: The portion of the Route south of the Enbridge pipelines through Bena (shown on Map Sheet 38);
3. Deer River – Enbridge Pumping Station: The area between the Enbridge Pumping Station and US Highway 2 would require single pole structures to avoid US Highway 2 right-of-way and the Enbridge facilities (shown on Map Sheet 59):.
4. Boswell Substation: The last 2,370 feet of the route into the Boswell Substation (Map Sheet 66).

The right-of-way width in these three areas will be determined during final design, but is anticipated to be approximately 75 feet.

Permittees shall locate the poles as close to property division lines as reasonably possible along the entire route.

4 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.

4.1 Plan and Profile

At least 30 calendar days before right-of-way preparation for construction begins, the Permittees shall provide the Commission 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.

Permittees shall submit a Vegetation Management Plan, as described in Section 5.3, at least 30 days prior to right-of-way preparation.

The Permittees may not commence construction until the 30 days has expired or until the Commission 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 intends to make any significant changes in its plan and profile or the

specifications and drawings after submission to the Commission, the Permittees shall notify the Commission at least five working days before implementing the changes. No changes shall be made that would be in violation of any of the terms of this permit.

4.2 Construction Practices

The Permittees shall follow those specific construction practices and material specifications described in the Otter Tail Power Company, Minnesota Power, and Minnkota Power Cooperative Application to the Public Utilities Commission for a Route Permit, dated June 4, 2008 (Route Permit Application), and as described in the Environmental Impact Statement and ALJ Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Recommendations for the Project, unless this permit establishes a different requirement, in which case this permit shall prevail.

4.2.1 Field Representative

At least 10 days prior to commencing construction, the Permittees shall advise the Commission 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. The field representative's address, phone number, and emergency phone number shall be provided to the Commission and shall be made available to affected landowners, residents, public officials and other interested persons. The Permittees may change the field representative at any time upon written notice to the Commission.

4.2.2 Local Governments

During construction the Permittees shall minimize any disruption to public services or public utilities. To the extent disruptions to public services occur, these would be temporary and the Permittees will work to restore service promptly. Where any impacts to utilities have the potential to occur, Permittees will work with both landowners and local agencies to determine the most appropriate pole placement.

The Permittees shall cooperate with county and city road authorities to develop appropriate signage and traffic management during construction.

4.2.3 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.

4.2.4 Noise

Construction and routine maintenance activities will be limited to daytime working hours, as defined in Minnesota Rule 7030.0200, to ensure nighttime noise level standards will not be exceeded.

4.2.5 Vegetation Removal in the Right-of-Way

The Permittees shall minimize the number of trees to be removed in selecting the right-of-way. As part of construction, low growing brush or tree species are allowable within and at the outer limits of the easement area. Taller tree species that endanger the safe and reliable operation of the transmission facility need to be removed. To the extent practical, low growing vegetation that will not pose a threat to the operation and maintenance of the transmission facility or impede construction should remain in the easement area.

4.2.6 Aesthetics

The Permittees will consider input pertaining to visual impacts from landowners or land management agencies prior to final location of structures, rights-of-way, and other areas with the potential for visual disturbance. Care will be used to preserve the natural landscape and prevent any unnecessary destruction of the natural surroundings in the vicinity of the project during construction and maintenance.

Structures will be placed at the maximum feasible distance, consistent with sound engineering principles and system reliability criteria, from intersecting roads, highway, or trail crossings, and could cross roads to minimize or avoid impacts. The Permittees shall work with landowners to identify and address issues related to the transmission line such as distance from existing structures, tree clearing and other aesthetic concerns.

4.2.7 Archaeological and Historic Resources

The Permittees shall make every effort to avoid impacts to identified archaeological and historic resources when installing the high voltage transmission line on the approved route. Permittees shall comply with the stipulations identified in the Programmatic Agreement developed for this Project.

4.2.8 Erosion Control

The Permittees shall implement reasonable measures to minimize runoff during construction and shall promptly plant or seed, erect silt fences, erosion control blankets or other best management practices suitable to site conditions in non-agricultural areas that were disturbed where structures are installed. Contours will be graded as required so that all surfaces drain naturally, blend with the natural terrain, and are left in a condition that will facilitate re-vegetation, provide for proper drainage, and prevent erosion. All areas disturbed during construction of the facilities will be returned to their pre-construction condition.

The Project will be regulated by a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan prepared (SWPPP).

Permittees shall identify erosion control measures in the Environmental Management Plan developed for this Project, at Condition 5.2.

4.2.9 Wetlands and Water Resources

Structures shall be located to span watercourses, wetlands, and floodplains to the extent practicable. Minimal grading of areas around pole locations may be required to accommodate construction vehicles and equipment. The Permittees will use wooden mats or the DURA-BASE[®] composite mat system or construction during frozen conditions to minimize disturbance and compaction of wetlands and riparian areas during construction. Soil excavated from the wetlands and riparian areas will be contained and not placed back into the wetland or riparian area. Silt fencing or other erosion control measures will be used to prevent sedimentation when working near wetlands and watercourses. Areas disturbed by construction activities will be restored to pre-construction conditions (soil horizons, contours, vegetation, etc.).

4.2.10 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 right-of-way.

Temporary lay down areas outside of the authorized transmission line right-of-way will be obtained from affected landowners through rental agreements and are not provided for in this permit.

Temporary driveways may be constructed between the roadway and the structures to minimize impact by using the shortest route possible. Construction mats may also be used to minimize impacts on access paths and construction areas.

4.2.11 Restoration

The Permittees shall restore the right-of-way, temporary work spaces, access roads, abandoned right-of-way, and other private lands affected by construction of the transmission line. As necessary, areas will be reseeded with native species approved by appropriate state, federal, tribal and local resource agencies and that is certified to be free of noxious weeds. A vegetative buffer comprised of existing low-growing shrubs and woody vegetation will be preserved along riparian corridors to maintain wildlife habitat and minimize potential unauthorized crossings of these areas from off-highway vehicles. Restoration within the right-of-way 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 Commission in writing of the completion of such activities. The Permittees shall compensate landowners for any yard/landscape, crop, soil compaction, drain tile, or other damages that may occur during construction.

4.2.12 Notice of Permit

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

4.3 Periodic Status Reports

At the request of the Commission, the Permittees shall report to the Commission on progress regarding finalization of the route and design of structures. Permittees shall report to the Commission on construction of the Project in a manner outlined in the Construction Environmental Control Plan at Condition 5.2.

4.4 Complaint Procedure

Prior to the start of construction, the Permittees shall submit to the Commission, the procedures that will 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.

4.5 Notification to Landowners

The Permittees shall provide all affected landowners with a copy of this permit and the complaints procedures at the time of the first contact with the landowners after issuance of this permit. At the time of first contact, the Permittees shall also provide all affected landowners with a copy of the *Landowner Guide to Easements* publication provided by Commission.

The Permittees shall contact landowners prior to entering the property or conducting maintenance along the route and avoid maintenance practices, particularly the use of fertilizer, herbicides, or pesticides, that are inconsistent with the landowner's or tenant's use of the land.

The Permittees shall work with landowners to locate the high voltage transmission lines to minimize the loss of agricultural land, forest, and wetlands, and to avoid homes and farmsteads.

4.6 Completion of Construction

4.6.1 Notification to Commission

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

4.6.2 As-Built.

Within 60 days after completion of construction, the Permittees shall submit copies of all the final as-built plans and specifications developed during the project.

4.6.3 GPS Data

Within 60 days after completion of construction, the Permittees shall submit to the Commission, in the format requested by the Commission, 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.

4.7 Electrical Performance Standards

4.7.1 Grounding

The Permittees shall design, construct, and operate the transmission line in a manner that the maximum induced steady-state short-circuit current shall be limited to five milliamperes, root mean square (rms) alternating current between the ground and any non-stationary object within the right-of-way, including but not limited to large motor vehicles and agricultural equipment. All fixed metallic objects on or off the right-of-way, except electric fences that parallel or cross the right-of-way, shall be grounded to the extent necessary to limit induced short circuit current between ground and the object so as not to exceed one milliamperere rms under steady state conditions of the transmission line and to comply with the ground fault conditions specified in the National Electric Safety Code.

4.7.2 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.

4.7.3 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.

4.8 Other Requirements

4.8.1 Applicable Codes

The Permittees shall comply with applicable requirements of the National Electric Safety Code including clearances to ground, clearance to crossing utilities, clearance to buildings, right-of-way widths, erecting power poles, and stringing of transmission line conductors. The transmission line facility will also meet the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's (NERC) reliability standards.

4.8.2 Other Permits

The Permittees shall comply with all applicable federal, tribal, and state rules and statutes. The Permittees shall obtain all required local, state, tribal, and federal permits and permissions for the project and comply with the conditions of these permits and permissions. A list of the required permits is included in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Permittees shall submit a copy of such permits to the Commission upon request.

4.8.3 Pre-emption

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 216E.10, subdivisions 1 and 2, this route permit shall be the sole route approval required to be obtained by the Permittees from the State and its political subdivisions 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.

4.8.4 Delay in Construction

If the Permittees have not commenced construction or improvement of the route within four years after the date of issuance of this permit, the Commission shall consider suspension of the permit in accordance with Minnesota Rule 7850.4700.

5 SPECIAL CONDITIONS

Permittees shall provide a report to the Commission as part of the Plan and Profile submission that describes the actions taken and mitigative measures developed regarding the following Special Conditions.

5.1 Construction Environmental Control Plan

Permittees shall develop a Construction Environmental Control Plan. This Plan shall include all Environmental Control Plans and permits developed for the Project, including, but not limited to Environmental Management Plan, Vegetation Management Plan, Avian Mitigation Plan, and Programmatic Agreement. The Permittees shall file the Construction Environmental Control Plan with the Commission at the time that the Plan and Profile are filed.

The Construction Environmental Control Plan shall also include a process for reporting construction process and plans to the Commission and appropriate state, federal, and tribal resource agencies.

The Permittees shall provide dedicated environmental inspectors and monitors to oversee the construction process and to monitor compliance with 1) the Environmental Management Plan, 2) Vegetation Management Plan, 3) Programmatic Agreement for Cultural Resources, 4) Avian Protection Plan, and 5) the requirements of this and all other environmental permits.

5.2 Environmental Management Plan

Permittees shall develop an Environmental Management Plan prior to construction and submit the Plan to the Commission. The purpose of the Environmental Mitigation Plan is to minimize soil erosion and impacts to agricultural lands.

The Environmental Mitigation Plan shall:

- Identify erosion control measures to be implemented during Project construction and restoration. The plan shall include, at a minimum, grading plans, plans for construction and drainage of the right-of-way and any access roads, soil information, and detailed design features to maintain downstream water quality. This Environmental Management Plan shall include the SWPPP submitted to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) as part of the NPDES permit application. Erosion and sedimentation control measures shall be installed prior to construction and maintained until restoration is completed.
- Identify methods for disposal or storage of excavated material.
- Identify mitigation measures that avoid, mitigate, or compensate for negative agricultural impacts that may result from transmission line construction.

5.3 Vegetation Management Plan

The Permittees shall develop a Vegetation Management Plan prior to right-of-way clearing and submit it to the Commission. The purpose of the Vegetation Management Plan is to minimize tree clearing, prevent the introduction of noxious weeds and invasive species, and revegetate disturbed non-cropland areas with appropriate native species in cooperation with landowners and appropriate state, federal, tribal and local resource agencies.

The Vegetation Management Plan shall:

- Identify measures taken to minimize tree removal and minimize ground disturbance.
- Identify a comprehensive revegetation plan for non-cropland areas.
- Identify areas, such as trail crossings, where vegetative screening would minimize aesthetic impacts to the extent that such actions do not violate sound engineering principles or system reliability criteria.
- Identify vegetation control methods to be used during the operation and maintenance of the HVTL.
- Identify areas where landowners or resource agencies have specified no herbicide application.
- Identify measures to prevent the introduction of noxious weeds and invasive species on lands disturbed by construction activities.

5.4 Treaty Trust Resources

The Permittees shall advise the Commission when the cultural resource and environmental justice mitigation measures identified in the Record of Decision issued by the Chippewa National Forest have been fulfilled.

5.5 Avian Mitigation Plan

In light of the concerns to avian species raised with this Project, the Permittees shall develop an Avian Mitigation Plan to identify potential risks to avian species from the Project and to identify strategies that will be implemented to avoid or minimize impacts to birds or their habitats. The Avian Mitigation Plan shall be filed with the Commission at the same time as the Vegetation Management Plan.

5.6 Alignment Alternatives

The alignment alternative identified below falls within the 1,000 foot requested route width and provides one or more mitigations to the impacts potentially realized should a transmission line be constructed in this area:

5.6.1 Carr Lake Area

The transmission alignment would either follow the Great Lakes Pipeline or double circuit with the existing 115 kV transmission line in the area between Carr Lake and Carr Lake Road, between approximately Holland Road Southwest and Monroe Avenue Southwest.

The Permittees will work with landowners in this area to develop the most appropriate alignment to the extent that such actions do not violate sound engineering principles or system reliability criteria.

6 PERMIT AMENDMENT

The permit conditions in Sections 4 and 5 may be amended at any time by the Commission. Any person may request an amendment of the conditions of this permit by submitting a request to the Commission in writing describing the amendment sought and the reasons for the amendment. The Commission will mail notice of receipt of the request to the Permittees. The Commission may amend the conditions after affording the Permittees and interested persons such process as is required.

7 TRANSFER OF PERMIT

The Permittees may request at any time that the Commission 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 Commission with such information as the Commission shall require to determine whether the new Permittee can comply with the conditions of the permit. The Commission may authorize transfer of the permit after affording the Permittees, the new Permittees, and interested persons such process as is required.

8 REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF THE PERMIT

The Commission may initiate action to revoke or suspend this permit at any time. The Commission shall act in accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Rules part 7850.5100 to revoke or suspend the permit.

COMPLIANCE FILING PROCEDURE FOR PERMITTED ENERGY FACILITIES

1. **Purpose**

To establish a uniform and timely method of submitting information required by the Commission energy facility permits.

2. **Scope and Applicability**

This procedure encompasses all compliance filings required by permit.

3. **Definitions**

Compliance Filing – A sending (filing) of information to the Commission, where the information is required by a Commission site or route permit.

4. **Responsibilities**

A) The Permittees shall eFile all compliance filings with Dr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary, Public Utilities Commission, through the Department of Commerce (DOC) eDocket system. The system is located on the DOC website: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/home.jsp>

General instructions are provided on the website. Permittees must register on the website to eFile documents.

B) All filings must have a cover sheet that includes:

- 1) Date
- 2) Name of submitter / Permittees
- 3) Type of Permit (Site or Route)
- 4) Project Location
- 5) Project Docket Number
- 6) Permit Section Under Which the Filing is Made
- 7) Short Description of the Filing

Filings that are graphic intensive (e.g., maps, plan and profile) must, in addition to being eFiled, be submitted as paper copies and on CD. Copies and CDs should be sent to: 1) Dr. Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN, 55101-2147, and 2) Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN, 55101-2198.

MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

PERMIT COMPLIANCE FILINGS¹

PERMITTEES: Otter Tail Power Company, Minnesota Power, Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.
PERMIT TYPE: HVTL Route Permit
PROJECT LOCATION: Beltrami, Hubbard, Cass, and Itasca counties
PUC DOCKET NUMBER: E017, E015, ET-6/TL-07-1327

Filing Number	Permit Section	Description	Due Date
1	Section 4.2.1	Contact information for field representative	10 days prior to commencing construction
2	Section 4.4	Complaint Procedure	Prior to start of construction.
3	Section 4.1.	Plan and profile	30 days before ROW preparation or construction
4	Section 4.6.1	Notice of completion and date of placement in service	Three days prior to energizing
5	Sections 4.6.2 and 4.6.3	Provide As-built and GPS information	Within 60 days of construction
6	Section 5.1	Construction Environmental Control Plan	At least 30 days before ROW construction
7	Section 5.2	Environmental Management Plan, may be submitted as part of Construction Environmental Control Plan	At least 30 days before ROW construction
8	Section 5.3	Vegetation Management Plan	At least 30 days before ROW preparation
9	Section 5.4	Provide documentation that the mitigation measures identified in the Chippewa National Forest Record of Decision have been fulfilled	Within 60 days of fulfillment of mitigation measures.

¹ This compilation of permit compliance filings is provided for the convenience of the permittees and the PUC. However, it is not a substitute for the permit; the language of the permit controls.

MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

10	Section 5.5	Avian Mitigation Plan, may be submitted as part of Construction Environmental Control Plan	At least 30 days before ROW preparation
11	Section 5.6	Alignment Alternatives	Submit with Plan and Profile, at least 30 days before ROW construction

COMPLAINT HANDLING PROCEDURES FOR HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES

A. Purpose:

To establish a uniform and timely method of reporting complaints received by the Permittees concerning Permit conditions for site preparation, construction, cleanup and restoration, operation and resolution of such complaints.

B. Scope:

This document describes Complaint reporting procedures and frequency.

C. Applicability:

The procedures shall be used for all complaints received by the Permittees and all complaints received by the Commission under Minn. Rule 7829.1500 or 7829.1700 relevant to this Permit.

D. Definitions:

Complaint: A verbal or written statement presented to the Permittees by a person expressing dissatisfaction or concern regarding site preparation, cleanup or restoration or other HVTL and associated facilities route permit conditions. Complaints do not include requests, inquiries, questions or general comments.

Substantial Complaint: A written Complaint alleging a violation of a specific Route Permit condition that, if substantiated, could result in Permit modification or suspension pursuant to the applicable regulations.

Unresolved Complaint: A Complaint which, despite the good faith efforts of the Permittees and a person(s), remains to both or one of the parties unresolved or unsatisfactorily resolved.

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.

E. Complaint Documentation and Processing:

1. The Permittees shall document all Complaints by maintaining a record of all applicable information concerning the Complaint, including the following:

MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

- a. Name of complainant, address, phone number, and e-mail address.
 - b. Precise property description or parcel number.
 - c. Name of Permittees representative receiving Complaint and date of receipt.
 - d. Nature of Complaint and the applicable Route Permit conditions(s).
 - e. Activities undertaken to resolve the Complaint.
 - f. Final disposition of the Complaint.
2. The Permittees shall designate an individual to summarize Complaints for substantial to the Commission. This person's name, phone number and e-mail address shall accompany all complaint submittals.
 3. A Person presenting the Complaint should to the extent possible, include the following information in their communications:
 - a. Name, address, phone number, and e-mail address.
 - b. Date
 - c. Tract or parcel
 - d. Whether the complaint relates to (1) a Route Permit matter, (2) a HVTL and associated facility issue, or (3) a compliance issue.

F. Reporting Requirements:

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

Immediate Reports: All substantial complaints shall be reported to the Commission the same day received, or on the following working day for complaints received after working hours. Such reports are to be directed to HVTL Permit Compliance, 1-800-657-3794, or by e-mail to: DOC.energypermitcompliance@state.mn.us, or. Voice messages are acceptable.

Monthly Reports: By the 15th of each month, a summary of all complaints, including substantial complaints received or resolved during the preceding month, shall be Filed to Dr. Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary, Public Utilities Commission, using the Minnesota Department of Commerce eDocket system (see eFiling instructions attached to this permit).

If no Complaints were received during the preceding month, the Permittees shall submit (eFile) a summary indicating that no complaints were received.

G. Complaints Received by the Commission or OES:

Complaints received directly by the Commission from aggrieved persons

MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

regarding site preparation, construction, cleanup, restoration, operation and maintenance shall be promptly sent to the Permittees.

H. Commission Process for Unresolved Complaints:

Initial Screening: Commission staff shall perform an initial evaluation of unresolved Complaints submitted to the Commission. Complaints raising substantial HVTL Route Permit issues shall be processed and resolved by the Commission. Staff shall notify Permittees and appropriate person(s) if it determines that the Complaint is a Substantial Complaint. With respect to such Complaints, each party shall submit a written summary of its position to the Commission no later than ten days after receipt of the Staff notification. Staff shall present Briefing Papers to the Commission, which shall resolve the Complaint within twenty days of submission of the Briefing Papers.

I. Permittees Contacts for Complaints:

Mailing Address: Complaints filed by mail shall be sent to:

ATTN: Mr. Al Koeckeritz
Project Manager, Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Project
Ottertail Power Company
215 Cascade St. S
PO Box 496
Fergus Falls, MN 56538

Tel: 218-739-8416,

Email: akoeckeritz@otpc.com