



STATE OF MINNESOTA  
Office of Energy Security



Issued: January 5, 2009

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
AND AVAILABILITY OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**In the Matter of the Route Permit Application for the Southdale to Scearcyville 115 kV  
Transmission Line and Breaker Station**

**PUC Docket No. ET2/TL-08-712**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Minnesota Department of Commerce Office of Energy Security (OES) will hold a public hearing on behalf of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC or Commission) on the route permit application by Great River Energy and Minnesota Power to construct a new 115 kV transmission line and breaker station in Cass and Crow Wing counties, Minnesota.

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**Thursday, January 22, 2009 - 6:00 P.M.**  
**Cragun's Conference Center**  
**Shoreline Meeting Room**  
**1000 Craguns Drive**  
**Brainerd, Minnesota 56401**

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**Project Description.** The applicants propose to construct 9.3 miles of new 115 kV transmission line and build a new breaker station (Scearcyville Breaker Station). The proposed project would extend from the west side of Baxter to the north end of Sylvan Township and would parallel existing utility and county/state highway rights-of-way for approximately 95 percent of the project (Figure 1).

**Environmental Assessment.** OES has completed an environmental assessment (EA) on the proposed project. The EA addresses the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and evaluates six alternative route segments (Figures 2-7). Electronic versions of the EA including maps of the six alternative routes and other documents relevant to this matter are available for viewing and download on the PUC website or eDockets at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19661>

or

<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter Docket Number 08-712).

**Conduct of Hearing.** The public hearing will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Power Plant Siting Act, Minnesota Statutes 216E.04, and Minnesota Rule 7849.5710. The Honorable Steve Mihalchick, Administrative Law Judge will preside over the hearing.

OES 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. Representatives of the applicants (Great River Energy and Minnesota Power) will be present to offer evidence and to answer questions. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions of OES staff and the applicants, to make statements, and to offer written comments and material into the record.

The record will remain open until **4:30 P.M., Friday, February 6, 2009**, for interested persons to submit written comments to the Administrative Law Judge. Comments must be submitted directly to Judge Mihalchick:

The Honorable Steve Mihalchick  
Office of Administrative Hearings  
P.O. Box 64620  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620  
Steve.Mihalchick@state.mn.us

The Administrative Law Judge will provide OES staff a written summary of testimony given at the hearing. The Commission will make a final decision on the route permit application after receipt of the complete record.

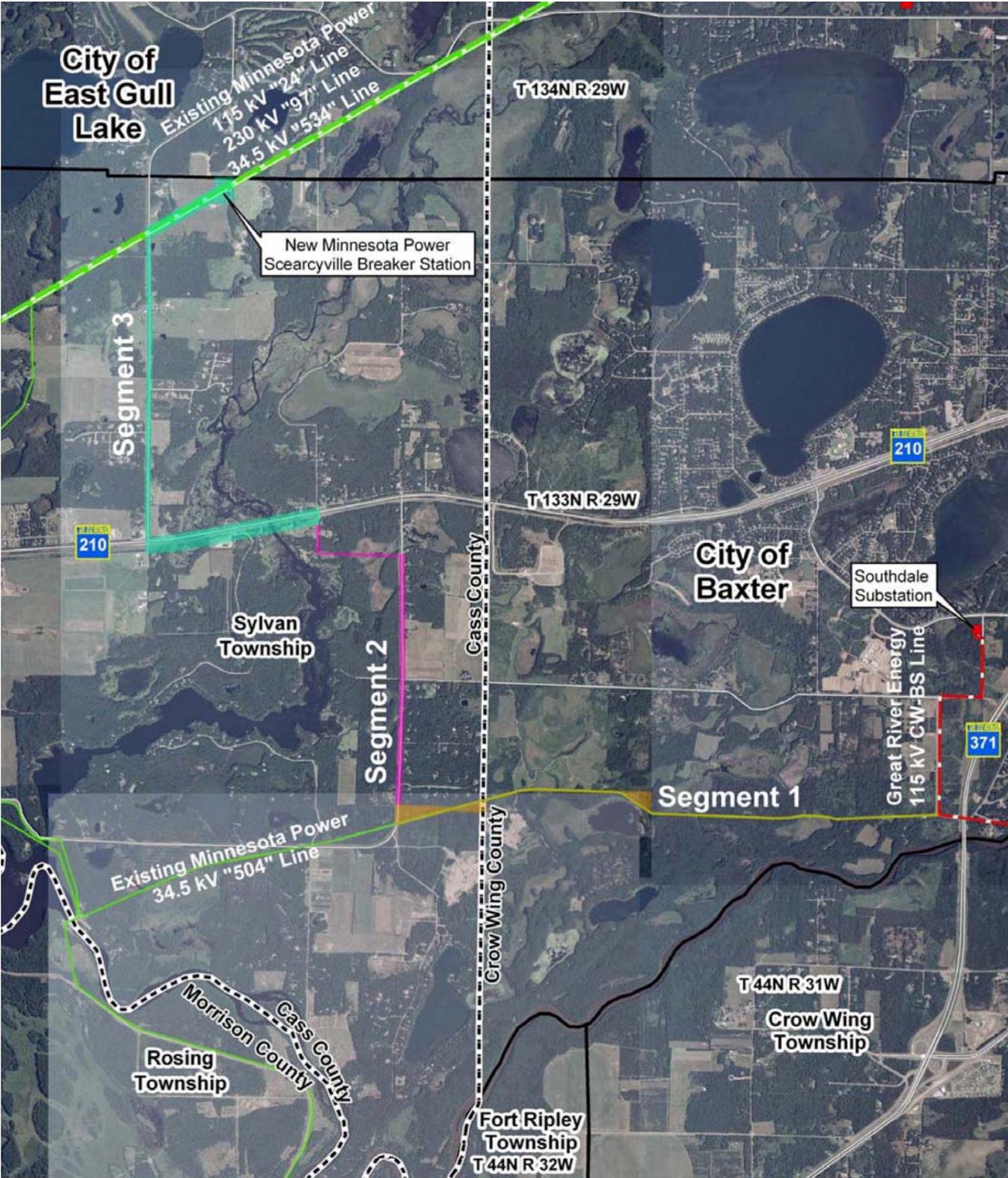
**Additional Information.** For more information about the process, the project, or to place your name on the project mailing list, please contact:

Scott Ek, Project Manager  
Energy Facility Permitting  
Office of Energy Security  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198  
(651) 296-8813  
scott.ek@state.mn.us

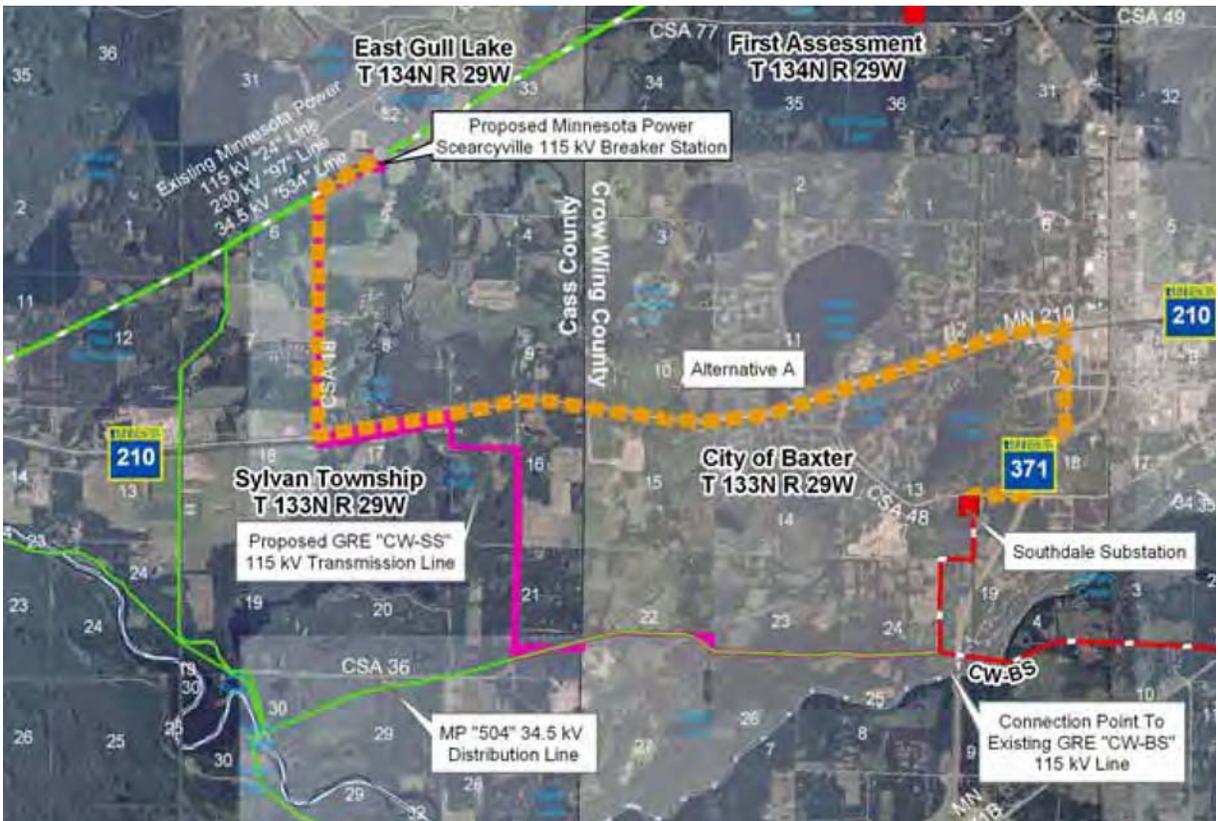
Deborah Pile, Public Advisor  
Energy Facility Permitting  
Office of Energy Security  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198  
(651) 297-2375  
deborah.pile@state.mn.us

**Mailing List.** Any person may add his or her name to the mailing list maintained by OES for future mailings regarding this project. If you would like to receive notice of the Commission's final decision in this matter please add your name to the mailing list. Names can be added to the list by contacting the project manager or by registering on the PUC website at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19661>.

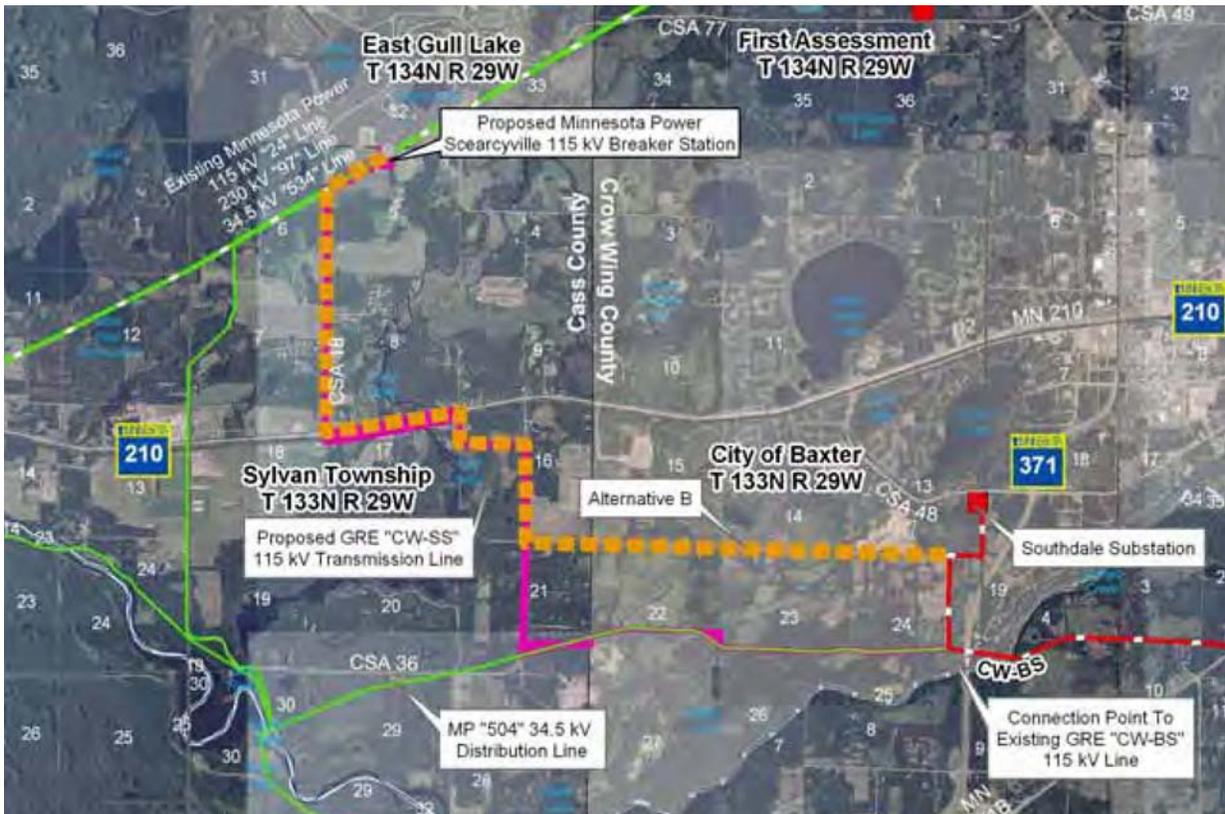
# Figure 1: Proposed Project



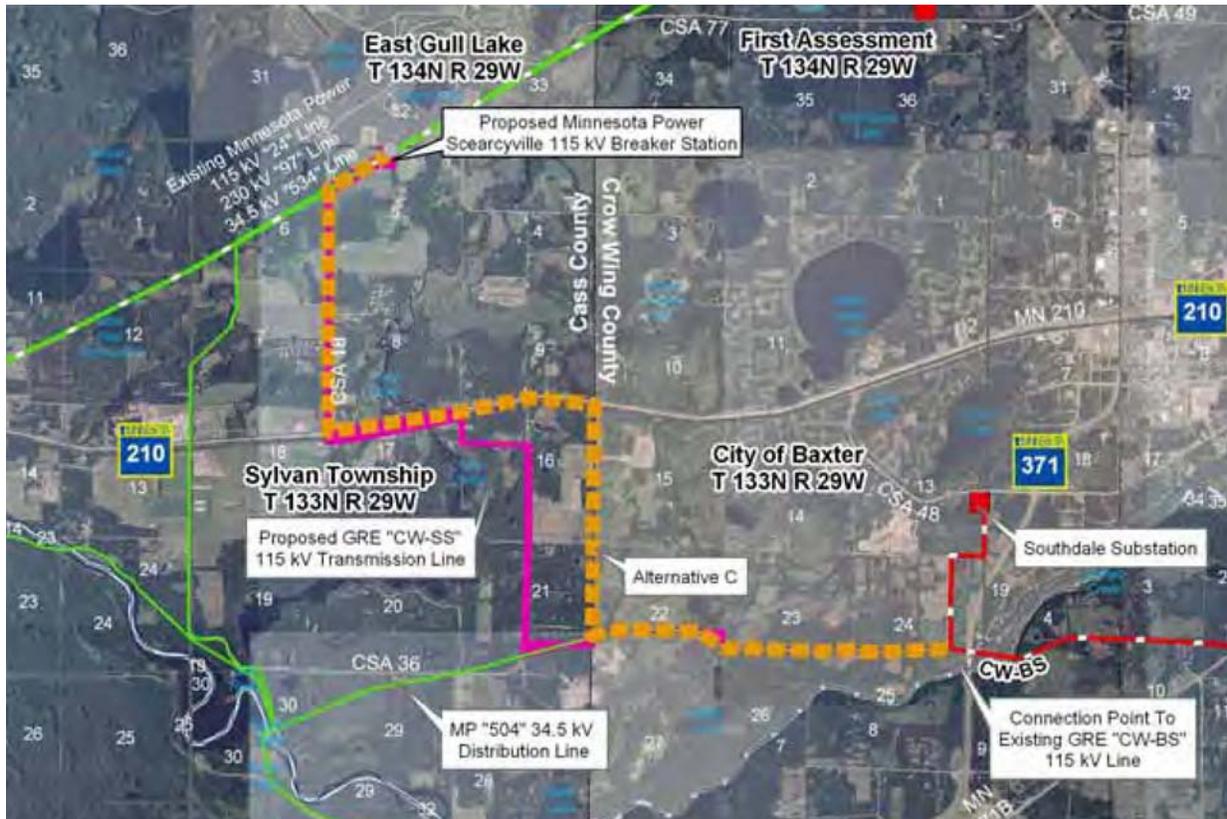
**Figure 2: Alternative A**



**Figure 3: Alternative B**



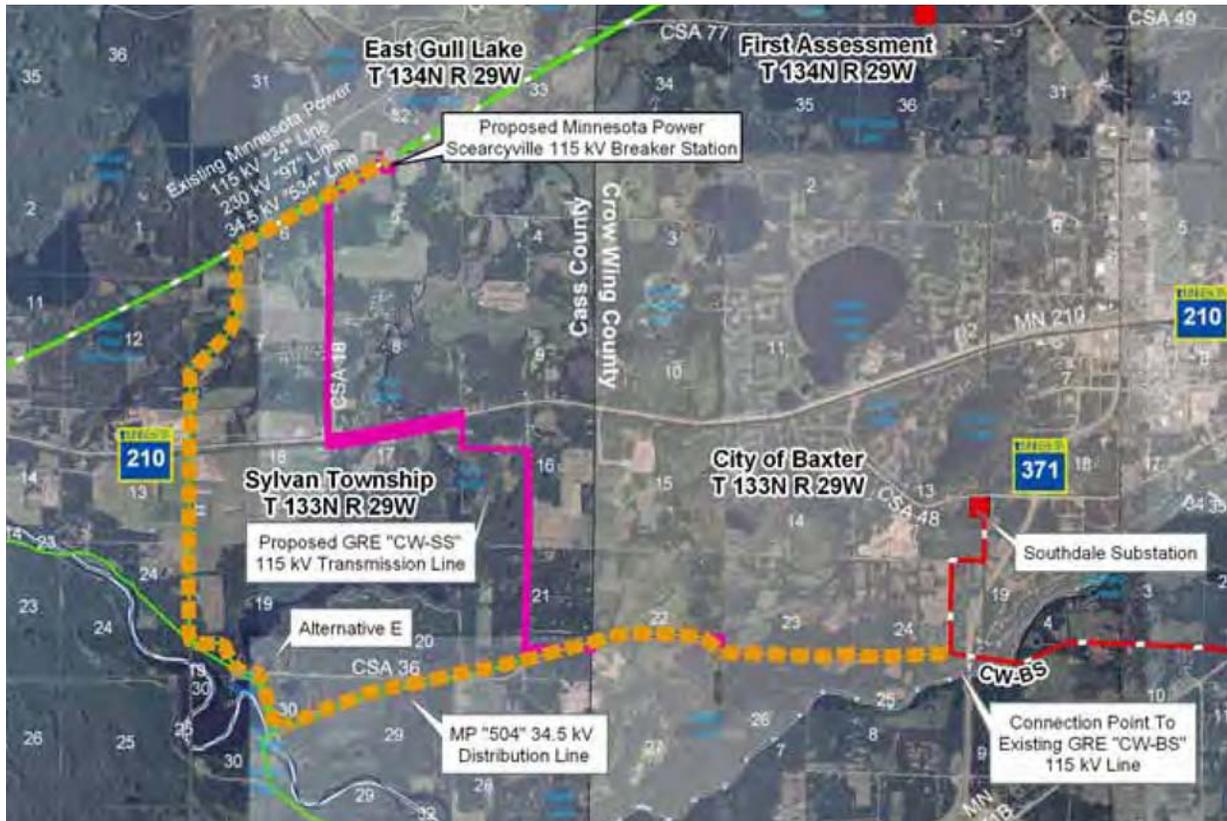
**Figure 4: Alternative C**



**Figure 5: Alternative D**



**Figure 6: Alternative E**



**Figure 7: Alternative F**

