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ENERGY®

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12 December 2011

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

RE: Request for Minor Alteration, Southdale to Scearcyville 115 kV Project
Docket ET2/TL-08-712

Dear Dr. Haar:

On April 9, 2009, the Commission issued a route permit for the 9.3-mile 115 kV transmission line and associated Minnesota Power 115 kV breaker station between the south side of the City of Baxter and the north portion of Sylvan Township.

During the final design of the transmission line, the transmission alignment deviated slightly from the permitted route in two areas. Per Minn. R. 7850.4800, Great River Energy respectfully seeks authorization to make a minor alteration in the transmission line as described below.

Intersection of County Highway 18 and State Highway 210

At the northeast corner of County Highway 18 and State Highway 210 (NW¼ of NW¼ of Section 17, T133N, R29W in Sylvan Township, Cass County, Minnesota), Structure 38 and the conductors are located within the permitted route but the right of way is slightly beyond (0.1 acre) the permitted route (see attached Route Deviation 1). During the detailed engineering and design process, we determined there was a need to shift the transmission alignment easterly to avoid an operational conflict with an existing aerial distribution system that was situated on the same alignment and general location. At this location, the existing aerial distribution system is higher than normal with a longer span length to provide minimum clearances over the BNSF railroad tracks and State Highway 210. Carrying the distribution system as underbuild would have necessitated an excessively tall structure to meet minimum clearances over the railroad and highway, as well as being very expensive and visually detrimental. Consequently, we shifted the transmission alignment easterly to provide adequate separation between the two systems.

The slight shift in the alignment will only impact property of one landowner who is already impacted by the permitted route. The shift has been discussed and agreed to by the affected landowner (easement was executed on February 16, 2010). There will be no adverse environmental impacts (it is a hayfield).

Near Island Lake

Early in the routing process Great River Energy identified a portion of the existing Minnesota Power 35.4 kV "504" line that was within the 200-foot shoreland buffer around Island Lake in the NE1/4, SE1/4, Section 22, T133N, R29W. Great River Energy therefore requested a wider triangular route in this area to allow removal of the existing line from its current location and relocation closer to the property lines north and east of Island Lake (see attached Route Deviation 2). During final design of the transmission line, Structures 105 and 106 were shifted slightly to the east to locate the structures out of the wetland/shoreland fringe and within more structurally stable soils.

The slight shift in the alignment in this area will only impact the property of one landowner. The shift has been discussed and agreed to by the affected landowner (easement was executed on January 19, 2010). The proposed alignment will result in a lesser environmental impact to the shoreland buffer area around Island Lake.

For the reasons set forth above, Great River Energy respectfully requests that the Commission approve the minor alteration and authorize construction in the areas indicated on the attached maps.

Please feel free to call me at 763-445-5214 if you have any questions regarding this request for minor alteration.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Carole L. Schmidt

Carole L. Schmidt
Supervisor, Transmission Permitting and Compliance

c: Scott Ek, EFP
Rick Heuring, Chuck Lukkarila, GRE

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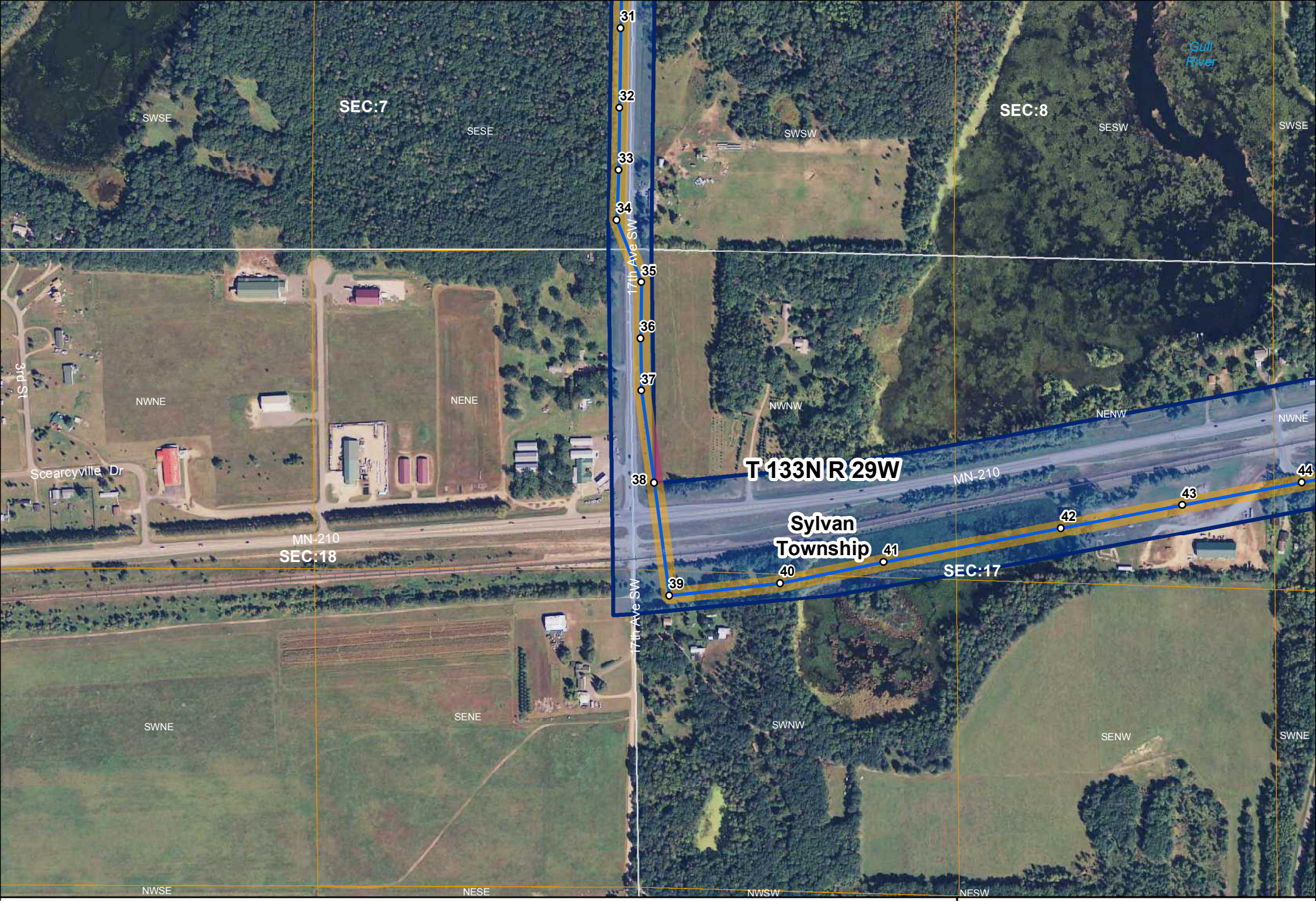

Great River Energy CW-SS 115-kV Line

Structures

Transmission Centerline

Easement Area

Permitted Route Area

Non-permitted easement area

N

Updated: 12/9/2011

0 400 Feet

Map Projection:
UTM, NAD83, Zone15, Meters

GREAT RIVER ENERGY®
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Southdale to Scearcyville 115 kV Transmission Project: Route Deviation 1

Great River Energy CW-SS 115-kV Line

Structures

Transmission Centerline

Easement Area

Permitted Route Area

Non-permitted easement area

N

Updated: 12/9/2011

0 100 Feet

Map Projection:
UTM, NAD83, Zone15, Meters

GREAT RIVER ENERGY®
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Southdale to Scearcyville 115 kV Transmission Project: Route Deviation 1

Great River Energy CW-SS 115-kV Line

Structures

Transmission Centerline

Easement Area

Permitted Route Area

Non-permitted easement area

N

Updated: 12/12/2011

0 400 Feet

Map Projection:
UTM, NAD83, Zone15, Meters

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Southdale to Searcyville 115 kV Transmission Project: Route Deviation 2

Great River Energy CW-SS 115-kV Line
Structures
Transmission Centerline
Easement Area
Permitted Route Area
Non-permitted easement area

N

Updated: 12/12/2011

0 100 Feet

Map Projection:
UTM, NAD83, Zone15, Meters

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Southdale to Scearcyville 115 kV Transmission Project: Route Deviation 2