



January 5, 2012

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING and U.S. MAIL

Dr. Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
350 Metro Square Building
121 Seventh Place East
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Application for Approval of Minor Alteration for Interconnections, Hampton Substation and Interstate 35 Crossing

In the Matter of the Route Permit Application by Great River Energy and Xcel Energy for a 345 kV Transmission Line from Brookings County, South Dakota to Hampton, Minnesota
MPUC Docket No. ET-2/TL-08-1474

Dear Dr. Haar:

Great River Energy, a Minnesota cooperative corporation, and Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation, (“Permittees”) request that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) approve minor alterations for the Brookings County to Hampton 345 kV Transmission Line Project (“Project”) pursuant to Minnesota Rule 7850.4800. The three minor alterations are requested to clarify the provisions of the Route Permit and to authorize additional conductors at the crossing of Interstate 35. None of the requests results in significant changes in the human or environmental impact of the facility.

Summary of Request

First, Permittees request that the Commission approve a minor alteration to incorporate 115 kV and 345 kV transmission line interconnections at Cedar Mountain and Hampton substations that were not included in the Route Permit maps. The record was fully developed on these two connections and addressed in the Route Permit, and the routes should be included in the maps for completeness. Great River Energy contacted Scott Ek at the Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting (“EFP Staff”), regarding this omission, and he noted that a request for a minor alteration would need to be submitted.

Second, Permittees request that the Route Permit, including the relevant map page, be amended to clarify that the minimum area required for the Hampton Substation is 15 acres on the southern portion of the original siting area. This modification is sought in response to landowner concerns raised by the limited discussion of the substation size based only on the fenced area of 6 to

8 acres rather than the minimum 15 acres of land necessary for equipment, setbacks, ponding requirements and access.

Third, Permittees request that a minor alteration be approved to authorize the installation of six conductors at the crossing of Interstate 35 to enhance the double circuit capability of the Project and to respond to Minnesota Department of Transportation's preference to avoid additional traffic impacts when a second circuit is constructed.

Further details regarding these requests are provided below.

Discussion

Interconnections

On December 29, 2008, Permittees submitted an Application for a Route Permit for the Project. The application requested a route for 345 kV transmission line facilities from Brookings County Substation to Hampton Substation with six intermediary substations including two new substations: Cedar Mountain Substation near Franklin, Minnesota, and Hampton Substation in Hampton, Minnesota.

As part of the proceeding, Permittees requested Commission approval of a 115 kV transmission line between the Franklin Substation and the Cedar Mountain Substation.¹ The Permittees also requested approval for a 345 kV connection between the Hampton Substation and the Prairie Island – Blue Lake 345 kV transmission line.²

The Route Permit for the Project was issued September 14, 2010, as amended March 1, 2011. The Route Permit identifies the Cedar Mountain 115 kV and Hampton 345 kV interconnections in the text of the Route Permit:

C. Interconnections and Associated Facilities

The project will include a short transmission line connector (approximately one-half mile) between the existing Wilmarth – Blue Lake 345 kV line and the new Helena Substation; and a short transmission line connector (approximately one-half mile) between the existing Prairie Island – Blue Lake 345 kV line and the new Hampton Substation.

An approximate five-mile 115 kV transmission line will be constructed between the Cedar Mountain Substation and Franklin Substation and expansion of and modifications to the Franklin Substation to accommodate the new 115 kV transmission line facilities.³

¹ See e.g. Route Permit Application, p. 2-4 and Section 7.3.

² See e.g. Route Permit Application, p. 2-4.

³ Route Permit at pp. 5-6.

The maps attached to the Route Permit showing the approved route and alignment for the Project facilities, however, do not show the Cedar Mountain 115 kV and Hampton 345 kV interconnections. To correct the map set included with the Route Permit, Permittees request that the enclosed maps, **Attachment 1**, labeled CF1-CF5, be added to the map set to depict the 115 kV line route between Cedar Mountain Substation and Franklin Substation. Revised maps showing the 345 kV interconnection at Hampton Substation is also requested as detailed below. Permittees believe that adding revised maps showing these connections to the Route Permit will clarify for landowners the facilities approved in the permit.

Hampton Substation

The Project included construction of four new substations, including the Hampton Substation. The Route Permit notes that for the Hampton Substation, the “substation fenced and graded area will be approximately five to eight acres.”⁴ The Route Permit does not address additional land necessary for the substation.

After the Route Permit was issued, Permittees sought to purchase the substation site and were advised by the landowner that he believed that a maximum of 8 acres was needed for the substation based on the Route Permit language. The landowner, Jerome Werner, subsequently submitted a complaint to the Department of Commerce. In response to the complaint, Permittees met with EFP Staff to review the substation requirements. The minimum amount of space necessary to accommodate the 345 kV double circuit compatible design is approximately 15 acres (excluding road right-of-way) and is necessary for the equipment, water management requirements, grading and buffer. The substation area abuts the southern border of the Werner property. A diagram showing these requirements is included as **Attachment 2**. Permittees believe that a modification of the Route Permit to identify space requirements for the Hampton Substation is appropriate to clarify the minimum amount of land needed for construction, operation and maintenance of the substation.

Permittees request that the enclosed map, **Attachment 3**, labeled LH22, be substituted in place of existing maps LH21-22 to the Route Permit to show the Prairie Island—Blue Lake 345 kV line connection and a 15-acre substation area for the Hampton Substation. Additionally, Permittees request a revision to the Route Permit text to clarify that 15 acres of land as shown on the enclosed maps is the minimum space necessary for the Hampton Substation.

Six Conductors Across I-35

The approved route for the Project crosses Interstate 35 into the Chubb Lake Substation, formerly Lake Marion Substation, north of Elko New Market. The configuration in the segment between Helena Substation and Lake Marion Substation is a double circuit capable configuration with all arms installed, but conductors strung on only one side. The Minnesota Department of Transportation has stated its preference for this configuration and Permittees request a minor

⁴ Route Permit, p. 4.

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alteration to authorize the initial installation of six conductors at the span crossing Interstate 35. The conductors initially would be tied together. When conditions warrant, and a second circuit is strung, the two sets of conductors can be separated with minimal disruption to traffic and the operation of Interstate 35. This request is consistent with the Route Permits issued for the Monticello—St. Cloud 345 kV Project, Docket No. ET2, E002/TL-09-246, and the Fargo—St. Cloud 345 kV Project, Docket No. ET2, E002/TL-09-1056. The one private landowner whose property along the span at issue is copied on this submission.⁵

Closing

Permittees respectfully request that the Commission approve the three changes to the Route Permit pursuant to the minor alteration rule, Minnesota Rule 7850.4800. Should you have any questions regarding this submission, please contact me at (763) 445-5975.

Sincerely,



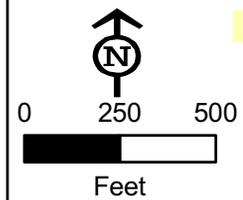
Dan Leshner
Routing Lead
Great River Energy

Enclosures

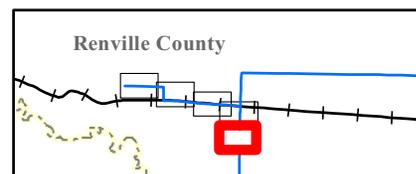
cc: w/enclosures:
Scott Ek, Minnesota Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting Staff
James Burkhardt, counsel for Jerome Werner
Potts Properties, LLC
Dave Seykora, Minnesota Department of Transportation
Service List

4207154v4

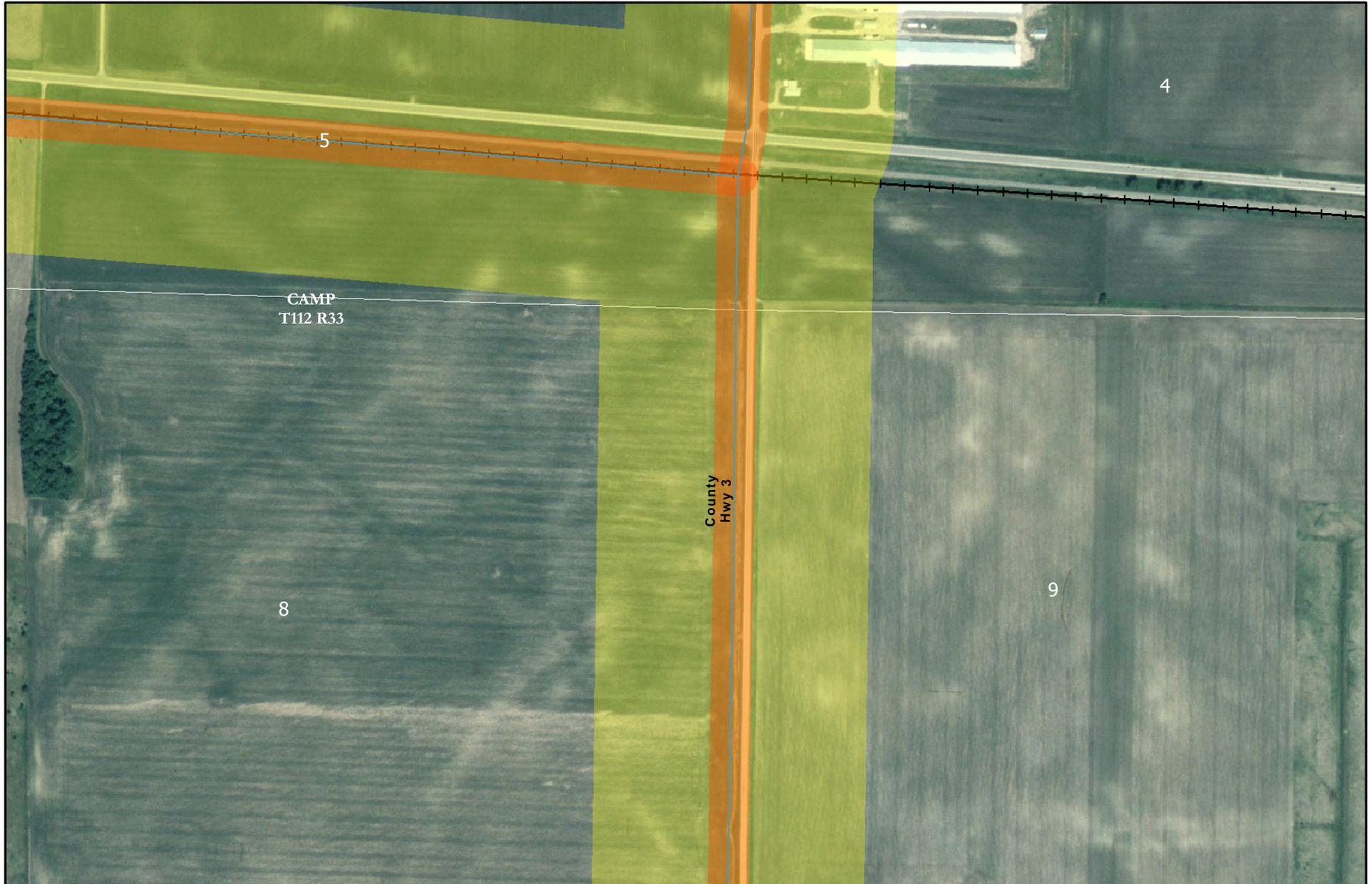
⁵ Great River Energy is the owner of the only other affected parcel.



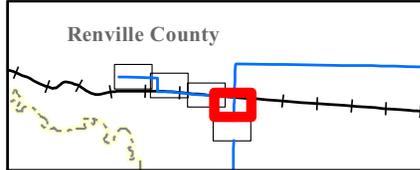
- Permitted Route
- Existing Substation
- Anticipated Centerline
- Anticipated Right-of-Way
- Permitted Substation Expansion Area
- New Permitted Substation



Brookings-Hampton Route Maps
PUC Docket Number ET2/TL-08-1474



 0 250 500  Feet	 Permitted Route	 Anticipated Centerline
	 Existing Substation	 Anticipated Right-of-Way
	 Permitted Substation Expansion Area	 New Permitted Substation



Renville County

Brookings-Hampton Route Maps
PUC Docket Number ET2/TL-08-1474

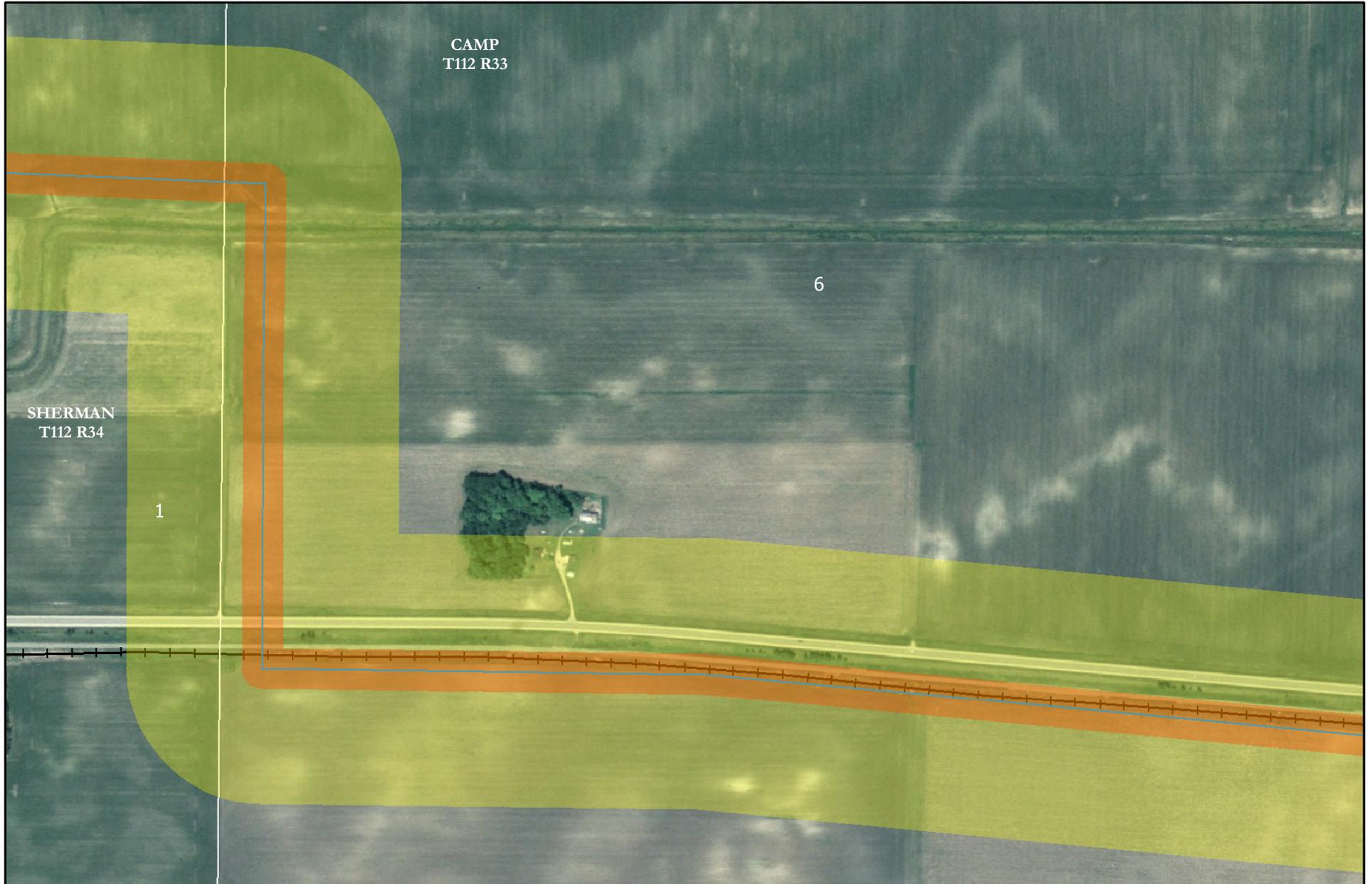
Page CF2



 0 250 500 Feet	 Permitted Route	 Anticipated Centerline	
	 Existing Substation	 Anticipated Right-of-Way	 Permitted Substation Expansion Area
		 New Permitted Substation	

Brookings-Hampton Route Maps
PUC Docket Number ET2/TL-08-1474

Page CF3



0 250 500
Feet

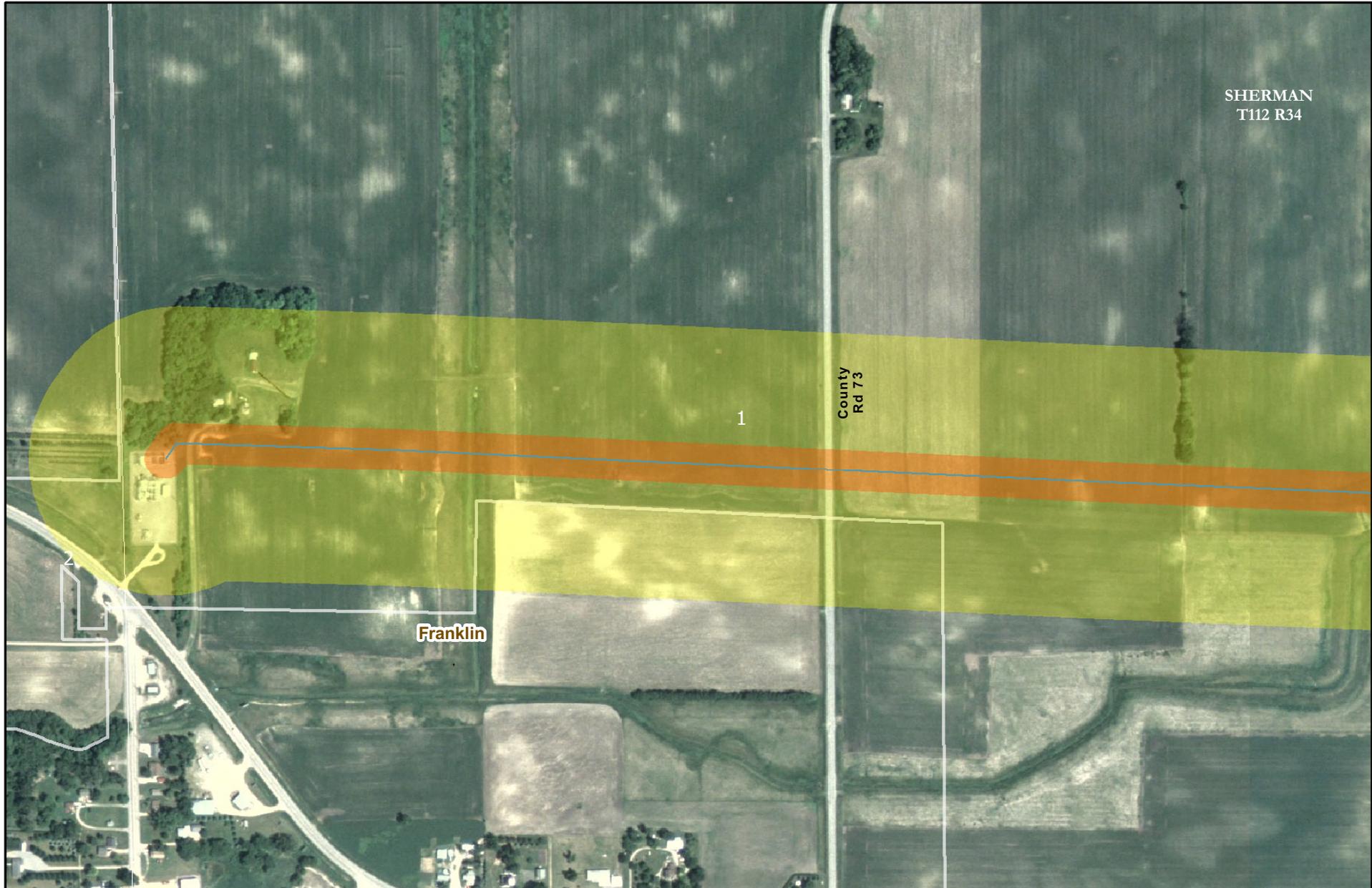
Permitted Route
Existing Substation

Anticipated Centerline
Anticipated Right-of-Way
Permitted Substation Expansion Area
New Permitted Substation

Renville County

Brookings-Hampton Route Maps
PUC Docket Number ET2/TL-08-1474

Page CF4



0 250 500
Feet

Permitted Route
Existing Substation

Anticipated Centerline
Anticipated Right-of-Way

Permitted Substation Expansion Area
New Permitted Substation

Renville County

Brookings-Hampton Route Maps
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- Red rectangle: minimum size to support CapX double circuit capable substation:
- Approximately 550 feet north/south by 1225 feet east/west
 - Approximately 1.5-acre site excluding road right-of-way which includes:
 - Road setbacks
 - 4.5 acres fenced area
 - 5.0 acres total graveled area (includes the fenced area)
 - Graded (disturbed) area will extend beyond the graveled area to accommodate sloping, storm water ponding, drainage, etc.

Tap into existing 345kV line #0976

To Blue Lake
To Prairie Island

To Chub Lake

215th St E

To North Rochester

Hampton Substation

CONCEPTUAL

Proposed Layout

- 345 Transmission Line
- Substation Equipment
- Sediment Pond
- Road Right of Way
- 120 ft Setback from Hwy

Future Layout

- 345 Transmission Line
- Substation Equipment

Existing Features

- 345 Transmission Line
- Existing Structures

Irrigation Pivot Point

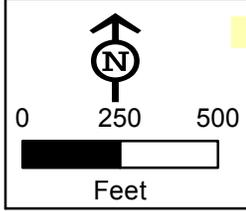
Range of Irrigation

Xcel Energy
REPRESENTATIVE BY LETTER

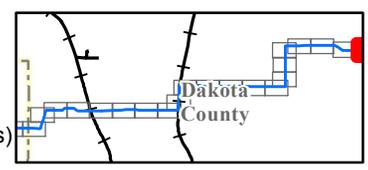
DISCLAIMER: This information is provided to complete the project for change and is not for contract.

Aerial Imagery
2010 NADIP





- Permitted Route
- Existing Substation
- Anticipated Centerline
- Anticipated Right-of-Way
- Permitted Substation Expansion Area
- New Permitted Substation (Approx. 15 Acres)



Brookings-Hampton Route Maps
PUC Docket Number ET2/TL-08-1474

*In the Matter of the Route Permit Application by MPUC Docket No. ET-2/TL-08-1474
Great River Energy and Xcel Energy for a 345
kV Transmission Line from Brookings County,
South Dakota to Hampton, Minnesota*

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Jill N. Yeaman certifies that on the 5th day of January, 2012, she filed a true and correct copy of **Great River Energy and Northern States Power Company's Application for Approval of Minor Alteration for Interconnections, Hampton Substation and Interstate 35 Crossing**, by posting on www.edockets.state.mn.us. Said document was also served via U.S. Mail and e-mail as designated on the Official Service List on file with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in the above-referenced docket and to persons named in the attached Landowners Mailing List.

/s/ Jill N. Yeaman
Jill N. Yeaman

Service List Member Information

Electronic Service Member(s)

Last Name	First Name	Email	Company Name	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret
Agrimonti	Lisa	lagrimonti@briggs.com	Briggs And Morgan, P.A.	Electronic Service	No
Anderson	Julia	Julia.Anderson@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	Electronic Service	Yes
Bauer	Robert	BauerR@seversonsheldon.com	Severson, Sheldon, Dougherty & Molenda, P.A.	Electronic Service	No
Ferguson	Sharon	sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	Electronic Service	Yes
Haar	Burl W.	burl.haar@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	Electronic Service	Yes
Herring	Valerie	vherring@briggs.com	Briggs and Morgan, P.A.	Electronic Service	Yes
Hill	Ben	Ben.Hill@state.mn.us	Office of the Governor	Electronic Service	No
Klemm	Michael	KlemmM@seversonsheldon.com	Severson, Sheldon, Dougherty & Molenda, P.A.	Electronic Service	No
Krikava	Michael	mkrikava@briggs.com	Briggs And Morgan, P.A.	Electronic Service	No
Lindell	John	agorud.ecf@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	Electronic Service	Yes
Martin	Russell	bens@integra.net	N/A	Electronic Service	No
Pile	Deborah	Deborah.Pile@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	Electronic Service	Yes
Schmidt	Carole	cschmidt@grenergy.com	Great River Energy	Electronic Service	No
Shaddix Elling	Janet	jshaddix@janetshaddix.com	Shaddix And Associates	Electronic Service	Yes
Stephenson	Donna	dstephenson@grenergy.com	Great River Energy	Electronic Service	No

Paper Service Member(s)

Last Name	First Name	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret
Biestek	Catherine	Briggs and Morgan	2200 IDS Center80 South Eighth Street, Minneapolis, MN-55402	Paper Service	No
Hammel	Karen Finstad	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	1400 BRM Tower, 445 Minnesota Street, St. Paul, MN-551012131	Paper Service	No
Jennings	Carrie	N/A	8919 280th Street West, Northfield, MN-55057	Paper Service	No
Johnson	Robert and Patricia	N/A	3940 220th Street East, Hampton, MN-55031	Paper Service	No
Kaufman	Mark J.	IBEW Local Union 949	12908 Nicollet Avenue South, Burnsville, MN-55337	Paper Service	No
Krass	Phillip R.	Malkerson Gunn Martin LLP	Suite 1900, 220 South Sixth Street, Minneapolis, MN-55402	Paper Service	No
Larson	Brent	N/A	25755 Xerxes Avenue, Elko-New Market, MN-55020	Paper Service	No
Luis	Richard	Office of Administrative Hearings	PO Box 64620, St. Paul, MN-551640620	Paper Service	No
Maccabee	Paula	Just Change Law Offices	1961 Selby Avenue, St. Paul, MN-55104	Paper Service	No
Osborn	Joyce H.	N/A	PO Box 1165, Burnsville, MN-55337	Paper Service	No
Otto	Jeff	N/A	25580 Dodd Road, Lakeville, MN-55044	Paper Service	No
Overland	Carol A.	Legalelectric - Overland Law Office	1110 West Avenue, Red Wing, MN-55066	Paper Service	No
Patel	Priti R.	Xcel Energy	414 Nicollet Mall, MP 800, Minneapolis, MN-55401	Paper Service	No
Peterson	Mark R.	Audubon Minnesota	Suite 107, 2357 Ventura Drive, St. Paul, MN-55125	Paper Service	No
Poorker	Craig	Great River Energy	12300 Elm Creek Boulevard, Maple Grove, MN-55369	Paper Service	No
Rasmussen	Pamela J.	Xcel Energy	PO Box 8, 1414 West Hamilton Avenue, Eau Claire, WI-54701	Paper Service	No
Ross McCalib	Laureen	CapX2020/Great River Energy	12300 Elm Creek Boulevard, Maple Grove, MN-553694718	Paper Service	No
Sullins	Tony	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Twin Cities Ecological Services Field Office, 4101 American Blvd. E., Bloomington, MN-55425	Paper Service	No
Topp	Bev	Citizens' Energy Task Force	26045 Ipava Ave West, Lakeville, MN-55044	Paper Service	No

***In the Matter of the Route Permit
Application by Great River Energy and
Xcel Energy for a 345 kV Transmission
Line from Brookings County, South
Dakota to Hampton, Minnesota***

***Application for Approval of Minor Alteration
for Interconnections, Hampton Substation
and Interstate 35 Crossing***

MPUC Docket No. ET-2/TL-08-1474

LANDOWNER MAILING LIST

James M. Burkhardt
Attorney at Law
215 4th Street North
Cannon Falls, MN 55009

Potts Properties
11386 East Hedgehog Place
Scottsdale, AZ 85262

Mr. David Seykora
Minnesota Department of Transportation ("MnDOT")
395 John Ireland Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55104