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August 25, 2011

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

Re: Application for Approval of Route Permit Amendment

**In the Matter of the Route Permit Application for the Essar Steel Transmission Project in Itasca County, Minnesota
Docket No. E280/TL-09-512**

Dear Dr. Haar:

Pursuant to Minn. Rules 7850.4900, Minnesota Power respectfully requests that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) approve a route permit amendment for the Essar Steel Transmission Project. The Commission granted Minnesota Power and Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission a Route Permit in an order dated August 2, 2010.

Specifically, Minnesota Power requests the additional authority to build the southerly five (5) miles of Route 1 with double-circuited structures to accommodate Great River Energy’s proposed 115 kV Shoal Lake Project (see attachment A). The proposed design envisions employing either of two variations of double-circuit wood H-frame structures (see attachments B and C) capable of carrying both circuits on a 130’ right-of-way. This proposed change of design is contingent upon reaching agreement with Great River Energy. Therefore, the authority the Commission granted to construct a stand-alone 230kV line in this area remains necessary.

An amendment to the Route Permit is warranted because its overall effect upon the routing factors listed in Minn. Rules 7850.4100 would be negligible while its potential to minimize effects of the Shoal Lake Project are significant. The proposed double-circuit structures are somewhat taller than the single-circuit structures originally contemplated, but their use in this five mile-long corridor will eliminate the need for an additional 85’ right-of-way strip adjacent to Minnesota Power’s planned 130’ easement. The net effect is 52 acres less land being cleared and permanently encumbered by easement. Moreover, the proposed structure types are roughly the same height as the single pole steel double-circuit structures detailed in the June 2009 Route Permit Application.

Minnesota Power believes that the criteria set forth in Minn. Rules 7850.4900, subp. 2 has been met by the enclosed information and respectfully requests the Commission utilize the notice and comment process set forth in this rule.

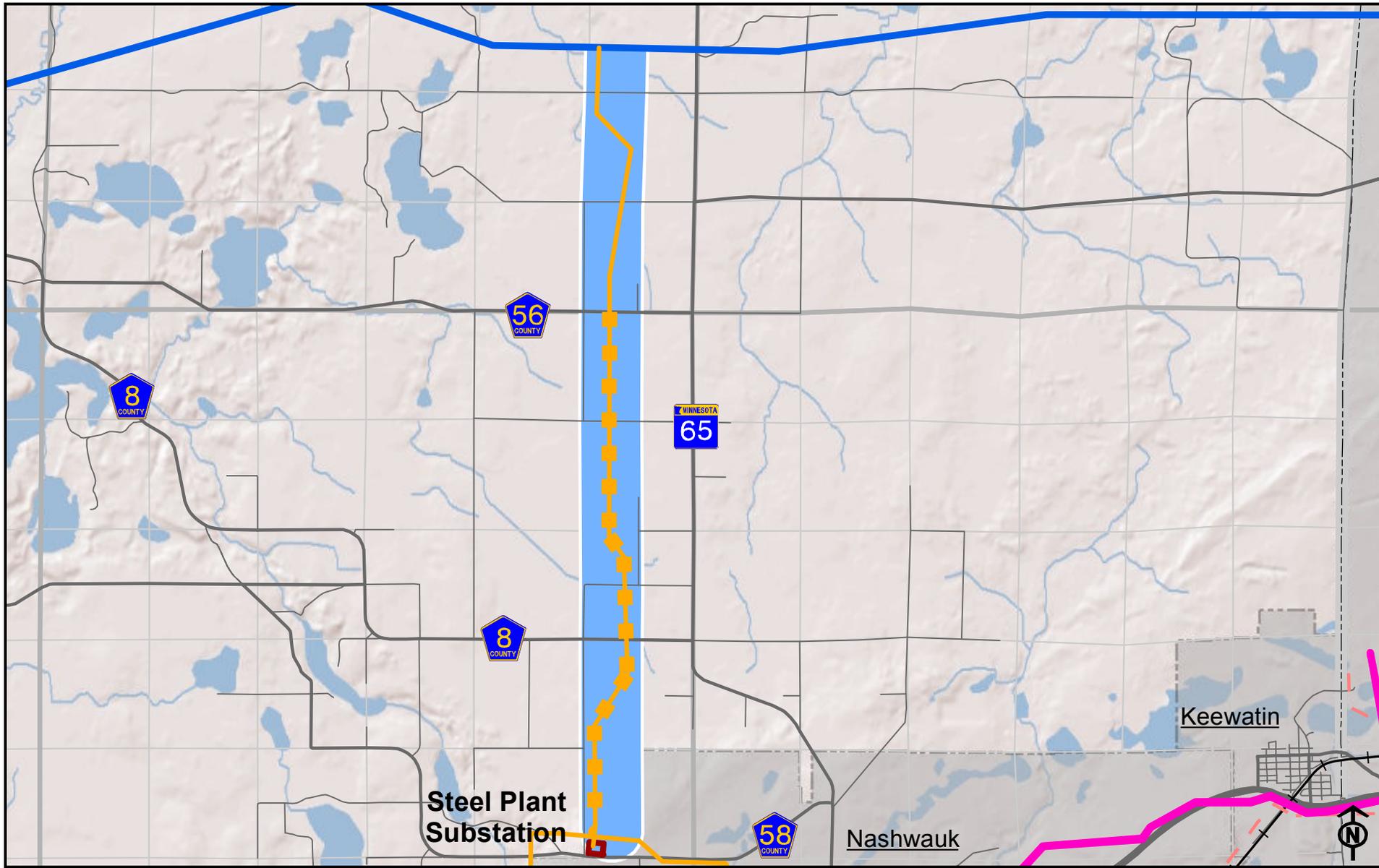
Please contact me 218-343-9119 or jbatkinson@allete.com with any questions.

Best Regards,



James B. Atkinson
Supervisor, Environmental Siting and Permitting

c: Bill Storm, Energy Facility Permitting
Bob Cupit, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission



- Steel Substation
- █ Route 1
- 69kV Transmission
- █ Proposed Substation
- Proposed Centerline - Double Circuit
- - - Pipeline
- 115kV Transmission
- █ Existing Substation
- Proposed Centerline - Single Circuit
- 230kV Transmission
- █ Municipal Boundary

Route 1 Overview

Nashwauk 230 kV Route Application
 Nashwauk PUC
HDR

Map Document: (\\mspe-gis-file\gisproj\Nashwauk\96143\map_docs\Route_Application_Figures\FigureXX_StudyAreas.mxd) 2/22/2009 -- 3:15:05 PM

