



May 22, 2013

ELECTRONIC FILING

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

Re: *In the Matter of the Application for a Route Permit for the Fargo to St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission Line Project*

Application for Approval of Four Minor Alterations – Alexandria to Border Portion and Coordinating Plan and Profile Approval
MPUC Docket No. E002, ET2/TL-09-1056

Dear Dr. Haar:

Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation, and Great River Energy, a Minnesota cooperative corporation (“Permittees”), hereby submit this application for four minor alterations to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission’s (“Commission”) June 24, 2012 Route Permit (“Route Permit”) for the Fargo to St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission Line Project (“Project”). This application is brought on behalf of landowners who have all agreed to the changes.

In support of the application, Permittees describe each requested minor alterations and the reasons for the changes and submit the following documentation:

- **Attachment A:** Maps showing the Approved Route with the Route Permit Alignment along with the Proposed Right-of-Way¹ and the Proposed Alignment for each minor alteration, labeled Minor Alteration 1 through 4.
- **Attachment B.** A table comparing the impacts of the anticipated alignments with the requested proposed alignments.
- **Attachment C:** Lists of landowners along each of the minor alterations.
- **Attachment D.** Plan and Profile submissions for each of these requested minor alterations are included. Permittees request that these Plan and Profile submissions be reviewed along with the requested minor alterations and considered compliant with Permit Condition IV.A for any minor alterations granted by the Commission.

¹ Permittees request a route width of 150 feet which is the right-of-way necessary for constructing the line. Accordingly, the right-of-way and route are equivalent for purposes of this filing.

Applicable Law and Analysis

A minor alteration is a change in a high voltage transmission line that does not result in significant changes in the human or environmental impact of the facility subject to the Power Plant Siting Act, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E. Permittees requesting a minor alteration must submit the application to the Commission. Minnesota Rule 7850.4800. The Commission is authorized to approve a minor alteration after providing “at least a ten-day period for interested persons to submit comments on the application or to request that the matter be brought to the [C]ommission for consideration.” Minn. R. 7850.4800, Subp. 2.

Permittees request a route width of 150 feet for the minor alterations, a width equal to the right-of-way for the 345 kV transmission line. Permittees believe that the four alterations requested in this application should be granted because the proposed minor alterations do not result in significant changes in the human or environmental impact of the facility, as demonstrated in Attachment B. In addition, the alterations are unanimously supported by the impacted landowners.

Minor Alteration 1

Approximately 11 miles south of Fergus Falls, the Approved Route crosses I-94 twice in Tumuli Township. During the Route Permit proceedings, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (“MnDOT”) raised concerns about the total number of interstate crossings. After issuance of the Route Permit, MnDOT requested a detailed review of I-94 crossings. In an attempt to address MnDOT’s highway crossing concerns, Permittees further evaluated the alignment to determine whether any I-94 crossings could be eliminated.

Through the course of the easement acquisition process, potential alternative alignments were discussed. Minor Alteration 1 was an alignment acceptable to all affected landowners. The re-route eliminates the two freeway crossings and avoids interference with billboards and businesses in the area while keeping the Project on the northeast side of I-94.

Minor Alteration 2

In the Route Permit, the Commission approved a route that avoided a rest area with a scenic easement located approximately 12 miles south of Fergus Falls in Tumuli Township. Just north of the rest area, the Approved Route deviates from I-94 to the east along a property line and then south along 273rd Avenue. After the Route Permit Order was issued, Permittees met with the two landowners whose property was crossed by the east-west portion of the Approved Route. In working with these landowners, a route alternative that was more acceptable, yet with comparable overall impacts, was developed. Minor Alteration 2 follows the I-94 right-of-way farther south before turning east on the property of one of these landowners. This minor alteration alleviates the landowner concerns regarding future business development and parcel configuration. It also reduces the total number of parcels crossed by the Project.

Minor Alteration 3

Minor Alteration 3 was requested by the landowner to avoid proximity to lake lots. The Route Permit Alignment is oriented west to east and then south along properties that abut Clear Lake in Tumuli Township 13 miles south of Fergus Falls. The building that is shown in the aerial map at the northwest corner of the property directly under the proposed right-of-way has been removed. The neighboring residential house owner, also in the northwest corner of the affected parcel, has agreed to this minor alteration. The minor alteration also reduces the total number of parcels crossed in this area by the Project from four to one.

Minor Alteration 4

The Approved Route deviates from I-94 approximately 18 miles south of Fergus Falls to avoid a Waterfowl Production Area and a MnDOT Scenic Easement adjacent to I-94. The Route Permit Alignment is adjacent to four residences and several farm buildings. The landowners in this area requested Permittees explore a new alignment that would cross property owned by them but would not be located between their residences and the county roads. In addition to accommodating the landowners' requests, the proposed minor alteration increases the distance from farmsteads, residences and the MnDOT scenic easement. Permittees note also that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has issued a license for crossing of the PWI water crossed on the property along County Road 4.

Permittees request that the Commission approve all four minor alterations requested in this filing for the reasons set forth above. Please contact me at (612) 33-5835 or Thomas.Hillstrom@xcelenergy.com if there are any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely,

Tom Hillstrom
Permit Project Lead
Xcel Energy

Enclosures

cc: Bret Eknes, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (w/enc.)
David Birkholz, Minnesota Dept. of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting (w/enc.)
Landowner List, **Attachment C**

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*In the Matter of the Application for a Route
Permit for the Fargo to St. Cloud 345 kV
Transmission Line Project*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
MPUC Docket No. E002, ET2/TL-09-1056**

Rachel Rolseth certifies that on the 22nd day of May 2013, she filed true and correct copy of **Application for Approval of Four Minor Alterations – Alexandria to Border Portion and Coordinating Plan and Profile Approval**, by posting it 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.

/s/ Rachel Rolseth

Rachel Rolseth

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
Brama	Elizabeth	ebra@briggs.com	Briggs and Morgan	Electronic Service	No
Church	Kodi	kchurch@briggs.com	Briggs & Morgan	Electronic Service	No
Felstul	Chad	c.felstul@pemlaw.com	Pemberton Sorlie Rufer and Kershner	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
Kershner	H. Morrison	m.kershner@pemlaw.com	Pemberton Sorlie Rufer and Kershner	Electronic Service	No
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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
Overland	Carol A.	overland@legalelectric.org	Legalelectric - Overland Law Office	Electronic Service	No
Pemberton	Richard	r.pemberton@pemlaw.com	Pemberton Sorlie Rufer and Kershner	Electronic Service	No
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Rufer	Stephen	s.rufer@pemlaw.com	Pemberton Sorlie Rufer and Kershner	Electronic Service	No
Schrenzel	Jamie	jamie.schrenzel@state.mn.us	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Electronic Service	No
Seykora	David	dave.seykora@state.mn.us	MN Department of Transportation	Electronic Service	No
Shaddix Elling	Janet	jshaddix@janetshaddix.com	Shaddix And Associates	Electronic Service	Yes
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Stephenson	Donna	dstephenson@greenergy.com	Great River Energy	Electronic Service	No
Thompson	SaGonna	Regulatory.Records@xcelenergy.com	Xcel Energy	Electronic Service	No
Thulien Smith	Jennifer	jennifer.thulien@xcelenergy.com	Xcel Energy Services, Inc.	Electronic Service	No
Undersander	Robert and Pauline	Rob.Undersander@gmail.com	N/A	Electronic Service	No
Von Korff	Gerald	jvonkorff@noon.com	N/A	Electronic Service	No

Paper Service Member(s)

Last Name	First Name	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret
Eikmeier	Kenneth and Linda	N/A	8825 Old Highway Road, St. Cloud, MN-56301	Paper Service	No
Hylla	Scott	North Route Citizens Alliance	12385 Co Rd #5, Holdingford, MN-56340	Paper Service	No
Kaul	Will	Great River Energy	12300 Elm Creek Boulevard, Maple Grove, MN-553694718	Paper Service	No
Lahr	Darrin F.	Xcel Energy	8701 Monticello Lane, Maple Grove, MN-55369	Paper Service	No
Larson	Kent	Xcel Energy	414 Nicollet Mall, MP 800, Minneapolis, MN-55401	Paper Service	No
Maccabee	Paula	Just Change Law Offices	1961 Selby Avenue, St. Paul, MN-55104	Paper Service	No
O'Neil	Lyn Richert and Terra	N/A	2583 86th Avenue, St. Cloud, MN-56301	Paper Service	No
Osborn	Joyce H.	N/A	PO Box 1165, Burnsville, MN-55337	Paper Service	No
Scott	John	N/A	39522 115th Ave., St. Joseph, MN-56374	Paper Service	No
Undersander	Hal and Patricia	N/A	8705 Old Highway Road, St. Cloud, MN-56301	Paper Service	No

Assigned Service List Members

Weisbrich	Tim and Brenda	N/A	8601 Old Highway Road, St. Cloud, MN-56301	Paper Service	No
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