office of energy security

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March 22, 2010

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
127 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

RE: Revised Comments and Recommendations of the Minnesota Office of Energy Security, Energy Facility Permitting Staff (Docket No. ET2/TL-10-86)

Dear Sir:

I am writing this letter to clarify Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff's rational for the March 22, 2010, revised comments and recommendations in the matter of the acceptance of a route permit application filed by Great River Energy (PUC Docket No. ET2/TL-10-86).

EFP staff initially e-filed comments and recommendations on March 17, 2010, that did not recommend the appointment of an advisory task force (ATF) for this project at this time due to short length of the proposed line and relatively simple and straight forward route. Staff believed that the alternative permitting process would provide adequate opportunities for the public to identify issues and route alternatives to be addressed in the environmental assessment.

However, after e-filing the initial comments and recommendations at least six letters were submitted by members of the public requesting that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission appoint an advisory task force for the proposed project. As a result of the letters requesting appointment of an ATF and the early interest shown by a number of potentially affected landowners within the proposed project area, EFP believes it would be appropriate to establish an ATF in this case at this time and revised its comments and recommendations accordingly.

Sincerely,

Scott E. Ek

Scott E. Ek
Energy Facility Permitting