



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Energy Facility Permitting



ISSUED: DECEMBER 22, 2011

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Little Falls 115 kV Transmission Line Project

PUC Docket Number: ET-2, E015/TL-11-318

OAH Docket Number: 40-2500-22485-2

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held on behalf of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) on the route permit application by Great River Energy and Minnesota Power (Applicants) for the Little Falls 115 kV Transmission Line Project near Little Falls, Minnesota. The public hearing will be held at the time and location listed below. Ending times reflect the latest a public hearing will run. Hearings may conclude earlier where all attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded.

PUBLIC HEARING

January 12, 2012 – 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Little Falls Township Hall
15132 Gordon Circle
Little Falls, MN 56345**

The purpose of the hearing is to gather public comments on the most prudent route for the proposed Little Falls 115 kV Transmission Project and issues that should be addressed in a route permit for the project. The Honorable Bruce Johnson, Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), will preside at the hearing. Any person who would like to comment on the project route or issues that should be addressed in a route permit may do so at the hearing or in writing to Judge Johnson.

The hearing record will remain open until **4:30 p.m., Friday, January 27, 2012**, for the receipt of written comments. Comments should be submitted directly to Judge Johnson at:

The Honorable Bruce Johnson
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620
Fax: (651) 361-7936
Bruce.Johnson@state.mn.us

Conduct of Hearing. The public hearing will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Power Plant Siting Act (Minn. Stat. 216E, Minn. Rules 7850.3800). Members of the public will have an opportunity to offer testimony, submit materials into the record, and ask questions. Any person who wishes to ask a question, but does not want to ask the question personally, may submit it in writing to the ALJ who will then ask the question during the hearing. The hearing will continue until all persons have had the opportunity to offer testimony and ask questions. If necessary, the hearing may be recessed and continued by the ALJ. Upon completion of the hearing, a transcript of the proceedings will be available at local libraries.

At the close of the written comment period, Judge Johnson will provide a report including a written summary of testimony given at the hearing along with comments received during the comment period to the Commission. Upon receipt of the ALJ's report, the Commission will make a final decision on the route permit application.

Request for Accommodation. Any person who needs an accommodation for a disability in order to participate in the hearing, and any person who requires an interpreter, including a foreign language interpreter, should promptly notify the Office of Administrative Hearings, P.O. Box 64620, 600 North Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620, Phone: (651) 361-7900 (voice) or (651) 361-7878 (TDD).

Environmental Assessment. Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed project. The EA analyzes the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project as well as possible mitigation measures. Electronic versions of the EA, maps of the proposed project, and other documents relevant to this matter will be available for viewing in early January 2012 on the Commission's energy facility permitting website:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=32098>. Additionally, documents are available on the Commission's eDockets system:

<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the year "11" and the number "318").

Following publication in early January 2012, the EA will also be available for public review at the locations noted below:

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| Morrison County Planning and Zoning Morrison County Government Center 213 First Avenue SE Little Falls, MN 56345 | Little Falls City Library 108 3 rd Street NE Little Falls, MN 56345 |
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Project Description. The Project would provide an additional power delivery source to rural areas east of Little Falls. As proposed by Applicants, the Project totals approximately 3.8 miles of transmission line and includes the following components:

- Construction of approximately 3.8 miles of new overhead 115 kV transmission line between Minnesota Power's Little Falls Substation and Crow Wing Power's Little Falls Substation.

- Modifications to the Minnesota Power Little Falls Substation to accommodate new 115 kV source.
- Expansion and modification of Crow Wing Power's Little Falls Substation to accommodate the new 115 kV source.

The Project is located east of Little Falls in Little Falls Township of Morrison County. The Applicants request a route width of 300 feet, within which a right-of-way of 100 to 120 feet would be located. Applicants propose to use a combination of single pole and H-frame structures with a height of approximately 60 to 85 feet and spans of approximately 300 to 400 feet between poles for the majority of the route length.

The Applicants anticipate beginning construction in mid-2012, with an in-service date of November, 2012. The Project is expected to cost approximately \$2.6 million dollars.

Project Contacts. If you have questions or would like further information about this project, please contact:

Suzanne Steinhauer, State Permit Manager
 Energy Facility Permitting
 Department of Commerce
 85 7th Place East, Suite 500
 St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
 (651) 296-2888 or 1-800-657-3794
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 Energy Facility Permitting
 Department of Commerce
 85 7th Place East, Suite 500
 St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
 (651) 297-1335
 jamie.macalister@state.mn.us

Information about the project may also be obtained by contacting Marsha Parlow at Great River Energy (763-445-5215, mparlow@GREnergy.com). Ms. Parlow may be contacted in writing at: Great River Energy, 12300 Elm Creek Boulevard, Maple Grove, MN 55369.

Project Mailing List. Interested persons can add their names to the mailing list for this project by contacting the state permit manager or public advisor, or by registering on-line at: www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us.

