Appendix D
Route Permit Example

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

ROUTE PERMIT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINE AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES

IN HUBBARD COUNTY

ISSUED TO
GREAT RIVER ENERGY
PUC DOCKET NO. ET2/TL-10-86

In accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850, this route permit is hereby issued to:

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Great River Energy is authorized by this route permit to construct a new 7.25-mile 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between a newly proposed Potato Lake substation to be constructed in Arago Township and a tap point on Great River Energy's existing Mantrap Sub Tap 34.5 kV transmission line in Lake Emma Township, Hubbard County, Minnesota. The new 115 kV transmission facility line would initially be operated at 34.5 kV until conversion to 115 kV becomes necessary.

The transmission line and associated facilities shall be built within the route identified in this permit, as portrayed on the official route maps, and in compliance with the conditions specified in this permit.

Approved and adopted this _____ day of November, 2010

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

_____

Burl W. Haar,
Executive Secretary

EXAMPLE ONLY

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651.296.0406 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through Minnesota Relay at 1.800.627.3529 or by dialing 711.

CONTENTS

1 ROUTE PERMIT 4
2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION 4
2.1 115 kV High-Voltage Transmission Line 4
2.2 Substation 5
2.3 Structures & Conductors 5
3 DESIGNATED ROUTE 7
3.1 Route Width and Alignment 7
3.2 Right-of-Way Placement 8
3.3 Right-of-Way Width 8
4 PERMIT CONDITIONS 9
4.1 Plan and Profile 9
4.2 Construction Practices 9
4.2.1 Field Representative 9
4.2.2 Local Governments 10
4.2.3 Cleanup 10
4.2.4 Noise 10
4.2.5 Vegetation Removal in the Right-of-Way 10
4.2.6 Aesthetics 10
4.2.7 Erosion Control 11
4.2.8 Wetlands and Water Resources 11
4.2.9 Archaeological and Historic Resources 12
4.2.10 Temporary Work Space 12
4.2.11 Restoration 12
4.2.12 Notice of Permit 13
4.3 Periodic Status Reports 13
4.4 Complaint Procedure 13
4.5 Notification to Landowners 13
4.6 Completion of Construction 13
4.6.1 Notification to Commission 13
4.6.2 As-Builts 13
4.6.3 GPS Data 14
4.7 Electrical Performance Standards. 14
4.7.1 Grounding 14
4.7.2 Electric Field 14
4.7.3 Interference with Communication Devices 14

EXAMPLE ONLY

4.8 Other Requirements 15
4.8.1 Applicable Codes 15
4.8.2 Other Permits 15
4.8.3 Pre-emption 15
4.8.4 Delay in Construction 15
5 SPECIAL CONDITIONS 16
5.1 Avian Mitigation Plan for Potato River Crossing 16
5.2 Blanding's Turtle 16
6 PERMIT AMENDMENT 17
7 TRANSFER OF PERMIT 17
8 REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF THE PERMIT 17

FIGURES

Figure 1 – Overview Proposed Route
Figures 2 A-F – Proposed Route

ATTACHMENTS

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Complaint Handling Procedures for High-Voltage Transmission Lines
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Compliance Filing Procedures for Permitted Energy Facilities

EXAMPLE ONLY

1 ROUTE PERMIT

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) hereby issues this route permit to Great River Energy (Permittee) pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216E.03 and Minn. R. Chapter 7850. This permit authorizes the Permittee to construct approximately 7.25 miles of new 115 kV transmission line and associated facilities in Hubbard County, Minnesota and as identified in the attached Route Permit Maps, hereby incorporated into this document.

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Permittee is authorized to construct a project comprising a 7.25-mile transmission line and Potato Lake Substation as described in the Route Permit Application and evaluated in the Environmental Assessment. The approved route is shown on the Route Permit Maps attached to this permit and further designated as described.

2.1 115 kV High-Voltage Transmission Line

The 115 kV transmission line route would be located northeast of the city of Park Rapids in Hubbard County, Minnesota. The project would specifically be located in sections of Arago, Lake Emma, Todd, and Henrietta townships.

Project Location Data

County	Township Name	Township	Range	Sections
Hubbard	Arago	141 N	35 W	21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 34, 35, 36
	Henrietta	140 N	34 W	5, 6
	Lake Emma	141 N	34 W	31, 32
	Todd	140 N	35 W	1, 2

The Route is 7.25 miles of new overhead 115 kV transmission line between the new Potato Lake Substation in section 21 of Arago Township and a tap point on GRE's existing Mantrap Sub Tap 34.5 kV line in both section five of Henrietta Township and section 32 of Lake Emma Township.

EXAMPLE ONLY

2.2 Substation

The new Potato Lake substation will be a fenced-in area of 96 feet by 146 feet on a 3.2 acre parcel located in section 21 of Arago Township, along U.S. Highway 71. Itasca-Mantrap has purchased 3.2 acres of the land and will own all common facilities (land, fence, etc.) (*See* Figure 1).

2.3 Structures & Conductors

The Permittee will use single-pole, direct-embedded wood structures, or similar. The poles average 65 to 80 feet in height with spans of 300 to 400 feet between poles. Horizontal post insulators will be used unless design requires longer spans beyond the capability of the insulators, in which case a braced post design will be utilized to accommodate the increased loadings.

Single-pole with underbuild design will be used in areas where the new transmission line will utilize the existing right-of-way of Itasca-Mantrap distribution lines along U.S. Highway 71 and 230th Street (Northern Pine Road) and including new 12.5 kV distribution lines on the new 115 kV structures that follow along 230th Street (Northern Pine Road) and 141st Avenue up to the intersection with County Highway 18. Where the structures are "stacked" with a 115kV above a 12.5 kV the higher total voltage will result in poles heights of 75 to 85 feet with span length of 250 to 300 feet.

The Applicant will develop strategies in an Avian Mitigation Plan that will be implemented to avoid or minimize impacts to birds or their habitats at the Potato River crossing and other public waters along the route, pursuant to Section 5.1 of this Permit. The Avian Mitigation Plan will be submitted to the Commission with the Plan and Profile for the Project.

The three phases of the 115kV transmission line will each consist of one single 26/7 kcmil 477 steel-reinforced aluminum conductor.

One shield wire will be strung above the conductors to prevent damage from lightning strikes. These shield wires are typically less than one inch in diameter and include fiber optic cables, which allow a path for substation protection equipment to communicate with equipment at other terminals on the transmission line.

EXAMPLE ONLY

Transmission Line and Structure Specifications

Line Voltage	Conductor	Structure Type	Pole Material	Foundation	Found-ation dia.	Height (feet)	Span (feet)
115 kV Single- Circuit	ACSR 477 kcmil 26/7	Single Pole Horizontal-Post	Wood	Direct Embed	20 inches	60-85	300-400
115 kV Single-Circuit with 12.5 kV Distribution Underbuild	ACSR 477 kcmil 26/7	Single Pole Horizontal-Post with 12.5 kV Distribution Underbuild	Wood	Direct Embed	20 inches	70-85	250-300
115 kV Single-Circuit	ACSR 477 kcmil 26/7	Angle Structure	Guyed Wood, Laminated Wood or Steel	Direct Embedment with guys or Drilled Pier	48-60 inches	60-85	NA
115 kV Single-Circuit	ACSR 477 kcmil 26/7	H-Frame	Wood	Direct Embed	20 inches	60-85	600-800

EXAMPLE ONLY

Transmission lines shall be equipped with protective devices (breakers and relays located where transmission lines connect to substations) to safeguard the public in the event of an accident. Associated facilities will be properly fenced and accessible only by authorized personnel.

3 DESIGNATED ROUTE

The approved route is shown on the official route maps attached to this permit and further designated as follows:

The transmission line route exits the new Potato Lake Substation in Section 21 of Arago Township along U.S. Highway 71 and proceeds south paralleling U.S. Highway 71 for approximately 1.5 miles to 230th Street (Northern Pine Road); east along 230th Street for approximately 1.5 miles to 141st Avenue; south approximately 1 mile along 141st Avenue to County Highway 18; then east paralleling County Highway 18 for approximately 3.25 miles to County Highway 4 and a new three-way switch on the existing Mantrap Sub Tap 34.5 kV line in both section five of Henrietta Township and section 32 of Lake Emma Township along County Highway 4.

3.1 Route Width and Alignment

The designated route will be limited to 300 feet in width as depicted on the attached Official Route Maps. This width will provide the Permittee with flexibility for minor adjustments of the specific alignment or right-of-way to accommodate landowner requests and unforeseen conditions. The final alignment (i.e., permanent and maintained rights-of-way) will be located within this designated route unless otherwise authorized below.

The designated route, as shown on the attached aerial photos anticipates an alignment that would follow two to five feet outside existing road rights-of-way (County Highway 4, County Highway 18, 141st Street, 230th Street and U.S. Highway 71) or replace distribution structures and follow Itasca-Mantrap's existing distribution line right-of-way along U.S. Highway 71, and that minimizes the overall potential impacts relating to the factors identified in Minn. R. 7850.4100, as evaluated in the environmental review and permitting processes. Consequently, this permit anticipates that the actual right-of-way will generally conform to this alignment unless changes are requested by individual landowners, unforeseen conditions are encountered, or are otherwise provided for by this permit. Any alignment modifications within this designated route shall be located so as to have comparable overall impacts relative to the factors in Minn. R. 7850.4100 as does the alignment identified in this permit, and shall be specifically identified in, and approved as, part of the Plan and Profile submitted pursuant to Part 4.1 of this permit.

Route width variations outside the designated route may be allowed for the Permittee to overcome potential site specific constraints. These constraints may arise from any of the following:

1) Unforeseen circumstances encountered during the detailed engineering and design process.

2) Federal or state agency requirements.

3) Existing infrastructure within the transmission line route, including but not limited to roadways, railroads, natural gas and liquid pipelines, high voltage electric transmission lines, or sewer and water lines.

EXAMPLE ONLY

4) Planned infrastructure improvements identified by state agencies and LGUs and made part of the evidentiary record during the contested case proceeding for this permit.

Any alignment modifications arising from these site specific constraints that would result in right-of-way placement outside the designated route shall be located so as to have comparable overall impacts relative to the factors in Minn. R. 7850.4100 as does the alignment identified in this permit and shall also be specifically identified (i.e., highlight or otherwise specified) in and approved as part of the Plan and Profile submitted pursuant to Part 4.1 of this permit.

3.2 Right-of-Way Placement

Where the transmission line route parallels existing highway and other road rights-of-way, the transmission line right-of-way shall occupy and utilize the existing right-of-way to the maximum extent possible, consistent with the criteria in Minn. R. 7850.4100, the other requirements of this permit and, for highways under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT), Mn/DOT rules, policies, and procedures for accommodating utilities in trunk highway rights-of-way.

3.3 Right-of-Way Width

The 115 kV transmission line will be built primarily with single pole structures, which will require a 100-foot right-of-way. Where specialty structures are required for long spans or in environmentally sensitive areas, up to 180 feet of right-of-way may be employed.

EXAMPLE ONLY

4 PERMIT CONDITIONS

The Permittee shall comply with the following conditions during construction of the transmission line and associated facilities and the life of this permit.

4.1 Plan and Profile

At least 30 calendar days before right-of-way preparation for construction begins on any segment or portion of the project, the Permittee shall provide the Commission with a Plan and Profile of the right-of-way and the specifications and drawings for right-of-way preparation, construction, transmission structure specifications and locations, and restoration for the transmission line. The documentation shall include maps depicting the plan and profile including the right-of-way, alignment, and structures in relation to the route and alignment approved per the permit.

The Permittee may not commence construction until the 30 days has expired or until the Commission has advised the Permittee in writing that it has completed its review of the documents and determined that the planned construction is consistent with this permit. If the Permittee intend to make any significant changes in its Plan and Profile or the specifications and drawings after submission to the Commission, the Permittee shall notify the Commission at least five days before implementing the changes. No changes shall be made that would be in violation of any of the terms of this permit.

4.2 Construction Practices

The Permittee shall follow those specific construction practices and material specifications described in the Great River Energy Application to the Commission for a Route Permit, dated February 26, 2010, and as described in the environmental assessment and Findings of Fact, unless this permit establishes a different requirement, in which case this permit shall prevail.

4.2.1 Field Representative

At least 10 days prior to commencing construction, the Permittee shall advise the Commission in writing of the person or persons designated to be the field representative for the Permittee with the responsibility to oversee compliance with the conditions of this permit during construction.

The field representative's address, phone number, email, and emergency phone number shall be provided to the Commission and shall be made available to affected landowners, residents, public officials and other interested persons. The Permittee may change the field representative at any time upon written notice to the Commission.

EXAMPLE ONLY

4.2.2 Local Governments

During construction, the Permitee shall minimize any disruption to public services or public utilities. To the extent disruptions to public services occur, these would be temporary and the Permitee will work to restore service promptly. Where any impacts to utilities have the potential to occur, Permitee will work with both landowners and local agencies to determine the most appropriate pole placement.

The Permittee shall cooperate with county and city road authorities to develop appropriate signage and traffic management during construction.

4.2.3 Cleanup

All waste and scrap that is the product of construction shall be removed from the area and properly disposed of upon completion of each task. Personal litter, including bottles, cans, and paper from construction activities shall be removed on a daily basis.

4.2.4 Noise

Construction and routine maintenance activities will be limited to daytime working hours, as defined in Minn. R. 7030.0200, to ensure nighttime noise level standards will not be exceeded.

4.2.5 Vegetation Removal in the Right-of-Way

The Permittee shall minimize the number of trees to be removed in selecting the right-of-way specifically preserving to the maximum extent practicable windbreaks, shelterbelts, living snow fences and areas such as, trail crossings and the Lake Country Scenic By-Way, where vegetative screening may minimize aesthetic impacts, to the extent that such actions do not violate sound engineering principles or system reliability criteria.

As part of construction, low growing brush or tree species are allowable within and at the outer limits of the easement area. Taller tree species that endanger the safe and reliable operation of the transmission facility need to be removed. To the extent practical, low growing vegetation that will not pose a threat to the transmission facility or impede construction should remain in the easement area.

4.2.6 Aesthetics

The Permittee will consider input pertaining to visual impacts from landowners or land management agencies prior to final location of structures, rights-of-way, and other areas with the potential for visual disturbance. Care will be used to preserve the natural landscape and prevent any unnecessary destruction of the natural surroundings in the vicinity of the project during construction and maintenance.

EXAMPLE ONLY

New structures will be designed to support the existing transmission and distribution lines, thereby allowing the use of existing alignments and will share existing road rights-of-way to the extent that such actions do not violate sound engineering principles or system reliability criteria.

Structures will be placed at the maximum feasible distance, consistent with sound engineering principles and system reliability criteria, from intersecting roads, highway, or trail crossings and could cross roads to minimize or avoid impacts. The Permittee shall work with landowners to identify and address issues related to the transmission line such as distance from existing structures, tree clearing, and other aesthetic concerns.

4.2.7 Erosion Control

The Permittee shall follow standard erosion control measures outlined in Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) guidance and best management practices regarding sediment control practice during construction include protecting storm drain inlets, use of silt fences, protecting exposed soil, immediately stabilizing restored soil, controlling temporary soil stockpiles, and controlling vehicle tracking.

The Permittee shall implement reasonable measures to minimize runoff during construction and shall promptly plant or seed, erect silt fences, and/or use erosion control blankets in non-agricultural areas that were disturbed where structures are installed.

When utilizing seed to establish temporary and permanent vegetative cover on exposed soil, the Permittee will consult with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) to select site characteristic seed certified to be free of noxious weeds.

Contours will be graded as required so that all surfaces drain naturally, blend with the natural terrain, and are left in a condition that will facilitate re-vegetation, provide for proper drainage, and prevent erosion. All areas disturbed during construction of the facilities will be returned to their pre-construction condition.

Larger disturbed areas of one acre or more (substation site) will be regulated by a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan prepared for the project.

4.2.8 Wetlands and Water Resources

Structures shall be located to span watercourses, wetlands, and floodplains to the extent practicable and consistent with sound engineering principles. Minimal grading of areas around pole locations may be required to accommodate construction vehicles and equipment.

EXAMPLE ONLY

Minimal grading of areas around pole locations may be required to accommodate construction vehicles and equipment. The Permittee will use wooden mats or a composite mat system for construction during frozen conditions to minimize disturbance and compaction of wetlands and riparian areas during construction. Soil excavated from the wetlands and riparian areas will be contained and not placed back into the wetland or riparian area. Silt fencing or other erosion control measures will be used to prevent sedimentation when working near wetlands and watercourses. Areas disturbed by construction activities will be restored to pre-construction conditions (soil horizons, contours, vegetation, etc.) (*See also* Section 4.2.7 [Erosion Control]).

4.2.9 Archaeological and Historic Resources

The Permittee shall make every effort to avoid impacts to identified archaeological and historic resources when installing the high-voltage transmission line on the approved route. In the event that a resource is encountered, the SHPO should be contacted and consulted; the nature of the resource should be identified; and a determination should be made on the eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Where feasible, avoidance of the resource is required.

4.2.10 Temporary Work Space

The Permittee shall limit temporary easements to special construction access needs and additional staging or lay-down areas required outside of the authorized right-of-way. Space should be selected to limit the removal and impacts to vegetation.

Temporary lay down areas outside of the authorized transmission line right-of-way will be obtained from affected landowners through rental agreements and are not provided for in this permit

Temporary driveways may be constructed between the roadway and the structures to minimize impact by using the shortest route possible. Construction mats may also be used to minimize impacts on access paths and construction areas.

4.2.11 Restoration

The Permittee shall restore the right-of-way, temporary work spaces, access roads, abandoned right-of-way, and other public or private lands affected by construction of the transmission line. Practices to restore areas impacted by construction and maintenance activities are further described in Section 4.2.7 of this permit. Restoration within the right-of-way must be compatible with the safe operation, maintenance, and inspection of the transmission line.

Within 60 days after completion of all restoration activities, the Permittee shall advise the Commission in writing of the completion of such activities. The Permittee shall compensate landowners for any yard/landscape, crop, soil compaction, drain tile, or other damages that may occur during construction.

EXAMPLE ONLY

4.2.12 Notice of Permit

The Permittee shall inform all employees, contractors, and other persons involved in the transmission line construction of the terms and conditions of this permit.

4.3 Periodic Status Reports

The Permittee shall report to the Commission on progress regarding finalization of the route, design of structures, and construction of the transmission line. The Permittee need not report more frequently than weekly.

At the request of the Commission, the Permittee shall report to the Commission on progress regarding finalization of the route and design of structures. The Permittee shall report to the Commission on construction of the Project in a manner outlined in the Environmental Management Plan under Section 5.1 Special Conditions.

4.4 Complaint Procedures

Prior to the start of construction, the Permittee shall submit to the Commission, the procedures that will be used to receive and respond to complaints. The procedures shall be in accordance with the requirements set forth in the complaint procedures attached to this permit.

4.5 Notification to Landowners

The Permittee shall provide all affected landowners with a copy of this permit and the complaints procedures at the time of the first contact with the landowners after issuance of this permit. At the time of first contact, the Permittee shall also provide all affected landowners with a copy of the *Landowner Guide to Easements* publication provided by OES.

The Permittee shall contact landowners prior to entering the property or conducting maintenance along the route. The Permittee shall avoid construction and maintenance practices, particularly the use of fertilizer, herbicides or other pesticides, that are inconsistent with the landowner's or tenant's use of the land.

The Permittee shall work with landowners to locate the high-voltage transmission lines to minimize the loss of agricultural land, forest, and wetlands, and to avoid homes and farmsteads.

4.6 Completion of Construction

4.6.1 Notification to Commission

At least three days before the line is to be placed into service, the Permittee shall notify the Commission of the date on which the line will be placed into service and the date on which construction was complete.

4.6.2 As-Builts

Within 60 days after completion of construction, the Permittee shall submit copies of all the final as-built plans and specifications developed during the project.

EXAMPLE ONLY

4.6.3 GPS Data

Within 60 days after completion of construction, the Permittee shall submit to the Commission, in the format requested by the Commission, geo-spatial information (ArcGIS compatible map files, GPS coordinates, associated database of characteristics, etc.) for all structures associated with the transmission lines, each switch, and each substation connected.

4.7 Electrical Performance Standards.

4.7.1 Grounding

The Permittee shall design, construct, and operate the transmission line in a manner that the maximum induced steady-state short-circuit current shall be limited to five milliamperes (mA), root mean square (rsm) alternating current between the ground and any non-stationary object within the right-of-way, including but not limited to large motor vehicles and agricultural equipment. All fixed metallic objects on or off the right-of-way, except electric fences that parallel or cross the right-of-way, shall be grounded to the extent necessary to limit the induced short-circuit current between ground and the object so as not to exceed one mA rms under steady state conditions of the transmission line and to comply with the ground fault conditions specified in the National Electric Safety Code (NESC). Permittee shall address and rectify any induced current problems that arise during transmission line operation.

4.7.2 Electric Field

The transmission line shall be designed, constructed, and operated in such a manner that the electric field measured one meter above ground level immediately below the transmission line shall not exceed 8.0 kV/m rms.

4.7.3 Interference with Communication Devices

If interference with radio or television, satellite, wireless internet, GPS-based agriculture navigation systems or other communication devices is caused by the presence or operation of the transmission line, the Permittee shall take whatever action is prudently feasible to restore or provide reception equivalent to reception levels in the immediate area just prior to the construction of the line.

EXAMPLE ONLY

4.8 Other Requirements.

4.8.1 Applicable Codes

The Permittee shall comply with applicable requirements of the NESC including clearances to ground, clearance to crossing utilities, clearance to buildings, right-of-way widths, erecting power poles, and stringing of transmission line conductors. The transmission line facility shall also meet the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's (NERC) reliability standards.

4.8.2 Other Permits

The Permittee shall comply with all applicable state rules and statutes. The Permittee shall obtain all required local, state and federal permits for the project and comply with the conditions of these permits. A list of the required permits is included in the route permit application and the environmental assessment. The Permittee shall submit a copy of such permits to the Commission upon request.

4.8.3 Pre-emption

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216E.10, subd. 1 and 2, this route permit shall be the sole route approval required to be obtained by the Permittee and this permit shall supersede and preempt all zoning, building, or land use rules, regulations, or ordinances promulgated by regional, county, local and special purpose government.

4.8.4 Delay in Construction

If the Permittee have not commenced construction or improvement of the route within four years after the date of issuance of this permit, the Commission shall consider suspension of the permit in accordance with Minn. R. 7850.4700.

EXAMPLE ONLY

5 SPECIAL CONDITIONS

The Permittee shall provide a report to the Commission as part of the Plan and Profile submission that describes the actions taken and mitigative measures developed regarding the Project and the following Special Conditions.

5.1 Avian Mitigation Plan for Potato River Crossing

The Permittee will prepare an Avian Mitigation Plan to identify potential issues that may pose a risk to avian species or their habitats at the Potato River crossing and other public waters along the route. The Permittee will develop strategies in an Avian Mitigation Plan that will be implemented to avoid or minimize impacts to birds or their habitats at this crossings. Among other elements, the Plan shall require the Permittee to use large swan type bird diverters. The Permittee shall coordinate the number and spacing of the diverters with the MnDNR. The Permittee is to consult with the MnDNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in developing the Plan. The Plan shall include strategies to ensure construction activities are scheduled to avoid disturbing normal eagle breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior, as necessary. The Permittee shall ensure the project conforms with the requirements of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act in consultation with the USFWS. The Avian Mitigation Plan will be submitted to the Commission for approval with the Plan and Profile for the Project.

The Permittee's standard transmission design shall incorporate adequate spacing of conductor(s) and grounding devices in accordance with Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC) standards to eliminate the risk of electrocution to raptors with larger wingspans that may simultaneously come in contact with a conductor and grounding devices.

5.2 Blanding's Turtle

The Permittee shall follow measures and recommendations for avoiding and minimizing impacts to Blanding's turtle populations as outlined in the *Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Division of Ecological Resources Environmental Review Fact Sheet Series for Blanding's Turtle* (http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/natural_resources/animals/reptiles_amphibians/turtles/blandings_turtle/factsheet.pdf) . Construction and maintenance personnel shall be made aware of the Blanding's turtle and their habitat during pre-construction meetings.

EXAMPLE ONLY

6 PERMIT AMENDMENT

The permit conditions in Sections 4 and 5 may be amended at any time by the Commission. Any person may request an amendment of the conditions of this permit by submitting a request to the Commission in writing describing the amendment sought and the reasons for the amendment. The Commission will mail notice of receipt of the request to the Permittee. The Commission may amend the conditions after affording the Permittee and interested persons such process as is required.

7 TRANSFER OF PERMIT

The Permittee may request at any time that the Commission transfer this permit to another person or entity. The Permittee shall provide the name and description of the person or entity to whom the permit is requested to be transferred, the reasons for the transfer, a description of the facilities affected, and the proposed effective date of the transfer.

The person to whom the permit is to be transferred shall provide the Commission with such information as the Commission shall require to determine whether the new Permittee can comply with the conditions of the permit. The Commission may authorize transfer of the permit after affording the Permittee, the new Permittee, and interested persons such process as is required.

8 REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF THE PERMIT

The Commission may initiate action to revoke or suspend this permit at any time. The Commission shall act in accordance with the requirements of Minn. R. 7850.5100 to revoke or suspend the permit.

EXAMPLE ONLY

MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
COMPLAINT HANDLING PROCEDURES FOR
HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES

A. Purpose

To establish a uniform and timely method of reporting complaints received by the Permittees concerning Permit conditions for site preparation, construction, cleanup and restoration, operation and resolution of such complaints.

B. Scope

This document describes complaint reporting procedures and frequency.

C. Applicability

The procedures shall be used for all complaints received by the Permittees and all complaints received by the Commission under Minnesota Rule 7829.1500 or 7829.1700 relevant to this Permit.

D. Definitions

Complaint: A verbal or written statement presented to the Permittees by a person expressing dissatisfaction or concern regarding site preparation, cleanup or restoration or other route and associated facilities permit conditions. Complaints do not include requests, inquiries, questions or general comments.

Substantial Complaint: A written complaint alleging a violation of a specific Route Permit condition that, if substantiated, could result in Permit modification or suspension pursuant to the applicable regulations.

Unresolved Complaint: A complaint which, despite the good faith efforts of the Permittees and a person(s), remains to both or one of the parties unresolved or unsatisfactorily resolved.

Person: An individual, partnership, joint venture, private or public corporation, association, firm, public service company, cooperative, political subdivision, municipal corporation, government agency, public utility district, or any other entity, public or private, however organized.

EXAMPLE ONLY

E. Complaint Documentation and Processing

The Permittees shall document all complaints by maintaining a record of all applicable information concerning the complaint, including the following:

- Name of complainant, address, phone number, and e-mail address.
- Precise property description or parcel number.
- Name of Permittees representative receiving Complaint and date of receipt.
- Nature of Complaint and the applicable Site Permit conditions(s).
- Activities undertaken to resolve the Complaint.
- Final disposition of the Complaint.

The Permittees shall designate an individual to summarize Complaints for the Commission. This person's name, phone number and email address shall accompany all complaint submittals.

A Person presenting the Complaint should to the extent possible, include the following information in their communications:

- Name, address, phone number, and e-mail address.
- Date
- Tract or parcel
- Whether the complaint relates to (1) a route permit matter, or (2) a compliance issue.

F. Reporting Requirements

The Permittees shall report all complaints to the Commission according to the following schedule:

Immediate Reports: All substantial complaints shall be reported to the Commission the same day received, or on the following working day for complaints received after working hours. Such reports are to be directed to High-Voltage Transmission Line Permit Compliance, 1-800-657-3794, or by e-mail to: DOC.energypermitcompliance@state.mn.us, or voice messages are acceptable.

Monthly Reports: By the 15th of each month, a summary of all complaints, including substantial complaints received or resolved during the preceding month, shall be Filed to Dr. Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary, Public Utilities Commission, using the Minnesota Department of Commerce eDocket system (see eFiling instructions attached to this permit).

If no Complaints were received during the preceding month, the Permittees shall submit (eFile) a summary indicating that no complaints were received.

EXAMPLE ONLY

G. Complaints Received by the Commission or Office of Energy Security

Complaints received directly by the Commission from aggrieved persons regarding site preparation, construction, cleanup, restoration, operation and maintenance shall be promptly sent to the Permittees.

H. Commission Process for Unresolved Complaints

Initial Screening: Commission staff shall perform an initial evaluation of unresolved Complaints submitted to the Commission. Complaints raising substantial High-Voltage Transmission Line Permit issues shall be processed and resolved by the Commission. Staff shall notify Permittees and appropriate person(s) if it determines that the Complaint is a Substantial Complaint. With respect to such Complaints, each party shall submit a written summary of its position to the Commission no later than ten days after receipt of the Staff notification. Staff shall present Briefing Papers to the Commission, which shall resolve the Complaint within twenty days of submission of the Briefing Papers.

Permittees Contacts for Complaints

Complaints shall be sent to:

Michelle Lommel
Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, MN 55369

Telephone: (763) 445-5977

Email: mlommel@grenergy.com

EXAMPLE ONLY

MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
COMPLIANCE FILING PROCEDURE
FOR PERMITTED ENERGY FACILITIES

1. Purpose

To establish a uniform and timely method of submitting information required by the Commission energy facility permits.

2. Scope and Applicability

This procedure encompasses all compliance filings required by permit.

3. Definitions

Compliance Filing – A sending (filing) of information to the Commission, where the information is required by a Commission site or route permit.

4. Responsibilities

The Permittees shall eFile all compliance filings with Dr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary, Public Utilities Commission, through the Department of Commerce (DOC) eDocket system. The system is located on the DOC website: https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/home.jsp

General instructions are provided on the website. Permittees must register on the website to eFile documents.

All filings must have a cover sheet that includes:

- Date
- Name of submitter / Permittee
- Type of permit (Site or Route)
- Project location
- Project docket number
- Permit section under which the filing is made
- Short description of the filing

Filings that are graphic intensive (e.g., maps, plan and profile) must, in addition to being eFiled, be submitted as paper copies and on CD. Copies and CDs should be sent to: 1) Dr. Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN, 55101-2147, and 2) Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN, 55101-2198.

EXAMPLE ONLY

PERMIT COMPLIANCE FILINGS[1]

PERMITTEES: Great River Energy
PERMIT TYPE: 115 kV High-Voltage Transmission Line Route Permit
PROJECT LOCATION: Hubbard County, Minnesota
PUC DOCKET NUMBER: ET2/TL-10-86

Filing Number	Permit Section	Description	Due Date
1.	4.2.1	Contact information for field representative	10 days prior to construction
2.	4.3	Periodic Status Reports	Not more than weekly
3.	4.4	Complaint Procedures	Prior to start of construction
4.	4.5	Notification to Landowners	First contact with the landowners after issuance of permit
5.	4.1	Plan and Profile of Right-of-Way	30 days before right-of-way preparation or construction
6.	4.6.1	Notice of completion and date of placement in service	Three days prior to energizing
7.	4.6	Provide As-built and GPS information (ArcGIS files or similar)	Within 60 days of construction
8.	5.1	Avian Mitigation Plan	Submit with Plan and Profile

EXAMPLE ONLY

[1] This compilation of permit compliance filings is provided for the convenience of the Permittee and the Commission. However, it is not a substitute for the permit; the language of the permit controls.