GREAT RIVER
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April 15, 2011

Crooked Lake to Enterprise Park
WO #40011

ANOKA INDUSTRIAL I LLC
3500 THURSTON AVE
ANOKA, MN 55303-0000

Dear Landowner:

In October we invited you to an open house regarding a transmission line project proposed in your area by Great River Energy in conjunction with Anoka Municipal Utilities and Connexus Energy. If you attended the meeting or provided feedback, it is much appreciated. After receiving input from citizens, agency representatives, municipal officials and staff, we have identified a route for this important transmission line project that we will propose to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC). Please join us for an open house to have your questions answered, and to learn more about the next steps in the project and how you can participate in the state permitting process.

OPEN HOUSE
April 26, 2011, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Anoka City Hall
2015 First Avenue North, Anoka, MN 55303
No formal presentation will be given. Attendees are encouraged to come any time during the hours indicated.

This spring Great River Energy intends to submit a Route Permit Application to the MPUC for the proposed route shown on the enclosed map. Once the permit application is filed, the Minnesota Department of Commerce Office of Energy Security will become the facilitator of the process.

Even if you do not live or do business near the route proposed by Great River Energy, it is important that you learn about the State of Minnesota's permitting process and participate in the process. The MPUC selects the final route corridor for the transmission line, and it may be different than the applicant's proposed route. Staff from Great River Energy and Anoka Municipal Utilities will be available during the open house to answer your questions about the process. Also, a fact sheet on how the permitting process works is enclosed.

Direct Dial (763) 445-5210 E-Mail MStrohfus@GREnergy.com FAX (763) 445-5241

If you have questions or are unable to attend the open house, feel free to contact me at mstrohfus@grenergy.com or 763-445-5210. Visit greatriverenergy.com/enterprisepark anytime for project information and updates.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Mark Strohfus

Mark Strohfus
Environmental Project Lead

Enclosure

c: Dan Voss, Anoka Municipal Utilities – w/encls.
Don Haller, Connexus Energy – w/encls.
Carolyn Braun, Anoka Planning – w/encls.
Courtney Bednarz, Andover Planning – w/encls.
Tim Gladhill, Ramsey Planning – w/encls.
Scott Harlicker, Coon Rapids Planning – w/encls.
Lori Buffington, Great River Energy – w/o encls.

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Enterprise Park 115 kV Substation and Transmission Line

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Blvd
Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718
1-888-521-0130
www.greatriverenergy.com

ANOKA MUNICIPAL UTILITY

Anoka Municipal Utility
2015 1st Ave
Anoka, MN 55303
763-576-2750
www.anokaelectric.govoffice3.com/

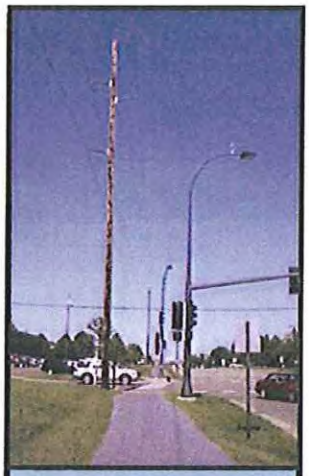
Project Need

Great River Energy proposes to build a new single circuit 115 kV (115,000 volt) overhead electric transmission line to connect the existing Crooked Lake Substation to the existing Enterprise Park Substation. Great River Energy is the wholesale power supplier to Connexus Energy and 27 other distribution cooperatives in Minnesota and Wisconsin and is the owner of a critical portion of the high voltage transmission system that delivers electricity to Anoka Municipal Utility. This project will ensure continued reliable electric service and support economic development in the northwest metro region.

Planned Project

Great River Energy will build the transmission line connecting the two substations (see map) and Anoka Municipal Utility and Xcel Energy will modify the two substations as necessary. Most of the transmission line poles will be single wood structures (top photo) approximately 65 to 80 feet tall with 250- to 400-foot spans between poles. Angles along the line and certain soil conditions will require the use of laminated wood poles or steel monopoles; guy wires with anchors or multi-pole structures may be needed in some areas. The 115 kV transmission line will carry three energized wires and one non-energized shield wire for lightning protection. In some areas, lower voltage distribution lines owned by Anoka Municipal Utility may be underbuilt (attached with cross-arms) on the new transmission line structures (bottom photo).

A public open house about this project was hosted by Great River Energy, Connexus Energy and Anoka Municipal Utility in October 2010 to provide information and gather public input. Great River Energy anticipates applying to the Minnesota Public Utility Commission (MPUC) for a Route Permit in spring 2011. The public will have opportunities to participate and provide feedback on the project during the MPUC permitting process. If a Route Permit is approved by the MPUC, representatives of Great River Energy will contact landowners and business owners along the approved transmssion line route to discuss the details of the project and easements. The width of the easements will vary from one location to another, but will not exceed 70 feet.



Typical 115 kV Wood Single Circuit Transmission Line Structure

Typical 115 kV Wood Single Circuit Transmission Line Structure with Distribution Underbuild

Project Schedule

Open house and public notifications.....Completed October 2010
MPUC route permitting process.....Spring 2011 to winter 2011
Easement acquisition.....Winter 2011 to spring 2012
Construction.....Summer 2012 to winter 2012

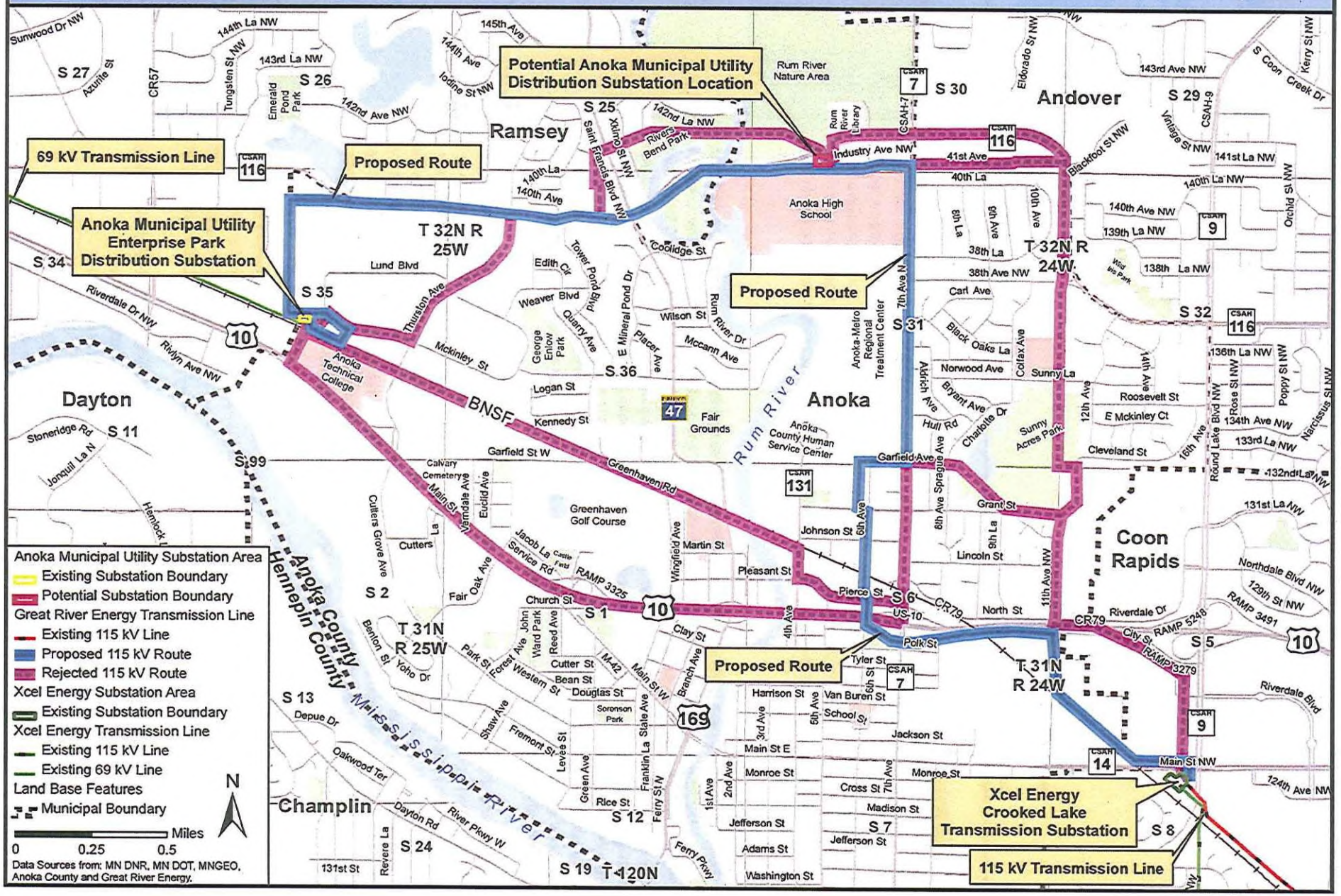
For project updates and information, visit greatriverenergy.com/enterprisepark or contact:

Mark Strohfus
Environmental Project Lead
Great River Energy
763-445-5210 or 1-888-521-0130
MStrohfus@GREnergy.com

Carolyn Braun
Planning Director
City of Anoka
763-576-2722
cbraun@ci.anoka.mn.us

Date last revised: 4/13/2011

Proposed Project



Permitting process

Enterprise Park 115-kV project

Great River Energy, our member cooperatives and other utilities work with local and state governmental units to obtain the permits and regulatory approvals necessary to build a new transmission line.

For the proposed Enterprise Park-to-Crooked Lake 115-kV substation and transmission line project, Great River Energy will follow the state of Minnesota's permitting process and obtain a Route Permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC).

The utilities held an open house in October of 2010 to provide information about the project and gather feedback from the public and landowners. Public input will be considered in the preparation of the Route Permit Application.

Analysis and public input

Once Great River Energy submits a Route Permit Application to the MPUC, there are more opportunities for public input. An important part of the state of Minnesota's permitting process is the preparation of a detailed document called the Environmental Assessment, which discusses the socioeconomic, physical and environmental impacts of various routing options. This document, along with the Route Permit Application, will provide details for the MPUC to use in making an informed decision on a route. Public input is considered throughout the process:

- Early in the process, the state will hold a public meeting at a location near the proposed project. At this meeting the public can provide input on the scope of the Environmental Assessment and suggest alternate routing options to be evaluated in the Environmental Assessment.
- Once the Environmental Assessment is completed, the public can comment on the document at a public hearing that will be held at a location near the proposed project.

The Environmental Assessment will be prepared by the Minnesota Department of Commerce – Office of Energy Security (OES).

Timing

Great River Energy plans to submit a Route Permit Application to the MPUC in early 2011 and expects the permitting process to be complete by the end of the year. Upon issuance of the Route Permit, easement acquisition and permit approval from other public agencies will commence.

Who you can talk to

Once the Route Permit Application is submitted, the OES becomes the facilitator of the permitting process and your best source of information about the process. After the initial open house, the notices you receive about public meetings for the project will come directly from the OES.

If you have questions for Great River Energy at any time, you are welcome to contact us.

Mark Strohfus
Environmental Project Lead
Great River Energy
763-445-5210 or 1-888-521-0130, ext. 763-445-5210
mstrohfus@grenergy.com

ANOKA COUNTY
Shopper
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Tuesday, June 07, 2011

I, Colleen Carlisle, verify that the Great River Energy Open House ad ran in the following Editions:

- April 15, 2011 Anoka County Union
- April 20, 2011 Anoka County Shopper

Colleen Carlisle

Signature

Colleen Carlisle
763-712-3521

Tracy Petro

TRACY A. PETRO
Notary Public-Minnesota
My Commission Expires Jan 31, 2012

The Andover Park and Recreation Commission is meeting 7 p.m. Thursday, April 21. Agenda items include: Anoka County Sheriff's Office first quarter report, park dedication improvement fund first quarter report and a work shop after the regular meeting to discuss park comprehensive plan and future playground equipment replacement.

Anoka

Anoka City Council will host a regular meeting on Monday, April 18 at 7 p.m. Agenda items include: appearances by Pete Beberg and Karin Small on Anoka sister city assistance and fund-raiser, proclamation for Police Week, proclamation for Arbor Day, public hearing for the assessment of delinquent utility bills, Waste Reduction and Recycling Board annual report, presentation of award and donation to Anoka Lions, revocation of CUP for 633 East Main St., support for county-wide records for MIS (police and fire), amending purchase agreement for The Homestead at Anoka, adopting social host ordinance, connectivity services agreement with Anoka County for broadband, amendment for personnel policy, memorandum of understanding and letter of intent with Great River Energy, approval of special events licensing for Anoka Car Show/Anoka Wrestling, first quarter financial report.

The Anoka Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is meeting 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 19. Agenda items include: Opportunity City Program, Arbor Day/Tree City USA report (2011 planning activities--Cottonwood at Rice Street Beach), 2011 park signage plan, updates on Riverfront Park, Castle Field and Sunny Acres, Greens of Anoka study, athletic field fee update and May park tour preferences.

East Bethel

The East Bethel Local Board of Appeals and Equalization is meeting 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 20 for the assessor's report and Board of Equalization meeting that pertains to property valuations for the 2012 tax year.

The East Bethel City Council is meeting 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 20. Agenda items include: Joint Law Enforcement Council agreement, public hearing for on-sale/Sunday liquor license for Viking Meadows Golf Course, appoint seasonal maintenance workers, Joint Powers Agreement with the Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization, Joint Powers Agreement with the Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization, GRE report and closed session on Anoka County HRA lawsuit.

Ham Lake

The Ham Lake City Council is meeting 6 p.m. Monday, April 18. Agenda items include: Jim Larson requesting a conditional use permit to operate North Metro Asphalt and Contracting Inc. at 1455 165th Ave. N.E., Richard Hobbs requesting a conditional use permit to operate Simonson Lumber at 1455 165th Ave. N.E., appearance by Brent Kavitz of Ellingson Companies to provide an update on the Community Assessment Report for the Hiawatha Beach/Comfort Resort area, discussion of proposed final connectivity services agreement from Anoka County and consideration of resolution awarding the bids for Fire Station No. 1 and public works buildings.

The Ham Lake Park and Tree Commission is meeting 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 20. Agenda items include: sketch plan from Denny Jensen for eight residential lots at Lake Life Estates, discussion of the "Go Anoka County" program, discussion of the new requirements of the American with Disabilities Act, discussion of dog waste disposal dispensers in parks and discussion of League of Minnesota Cities Land Use Incentive program.

St. Francis

The Board of Review for 2012 property valuations begins at 5:30 p.m. Monday, April 18. This will be administered by Anoka County assessors at St. Francis City Hall.

The St. Francis City Council is meeting 6 p.m. Monday, April 18. Agenda items include: Northern Anoka County River Crossing study presentation and public works report on dust control and lawn care proposals.

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businesses and our employees have made it clear they are interested in this option," said Rhonda Sivarajah, county board chairperson.

"Our voluntary separation program has been designed foremost with the taxpayer and employee in mind."

"We are looking at this as a cost savings measure."

County Commissioner Jim Kordiak supported the voluntary separation program concept. "It makes sense," Kordiak said.

While the program "will chip away at the historic brainpool that has been amassed," there is a clear benefit for the employee to retire early of their own choosing rather face the possibility of the difficult decisions that county budget cuts bring, he said.

When Sivarajah became county board chairperson at the beginning of the year, one of her first initiatives was to establish an internal innovation committee, through which county employees could offer their ideas on making county government more cost-effective and save the county money.

The voluntary separation program was suggested by more than one county employee to the innovation committee.

According to the county's records department, there are currently 398 employees considered eligible for voluntary separation.

Under the voluntary separation program, if 100 of those eligible chose to voluntarily leave county employment with Anoka County, there would be an approximate payout of $1.5 million, which would come from existing reserves.

After first paying back reserves by holding positions vacant, resulting savings on an ongoing basis would range from $600,000 to $1.2 million per year, depending on whether the vacant position was filled, time equivalent (FTE) for part-time employees.

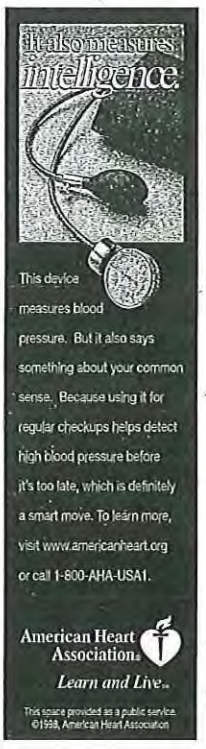
Eligibility depends on whether an employee qualifies for either a full or reduced PERA-managed annuity - Coordinated, Police and Fire, Corrections, etc.

tion must occur by the end of business July 1, 2011.

According to the county board resolution approving the program, eligible employees who serve at the will of the county board will be considered on a case-by-

ered by collective bargaining agreements with the county are excluded from the voluntary separation program, so are temporary employees.

Peter Bodley is at peter.bodley@ecm-inc.com



NOTICE

Please join us for an

OPEN HOUSE

to receive updates about an important electric transmission project being proposed by Great River Energy, in conjunction with Anoka Municipal Utilities and Connexus Energy, in the cities of Anoka, Ramsey, Andover and Coon Rapids

Tuesday, April 26, 2011
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Anoka City Hall
2015 First Avenue North
Anoka, MN 55303

No formal presentation will be given.
Attendees are encouraged to come any time during the hours indicated.

To sustain the reliability and quality of electric service and to enable economic growth, Great River Energy, in conjunction with Anoka Municipal Utilities and Connexus Energy, proposes to enhance the electric transmission system in the areas served by Anoka Municipal Utilities and Connexus Energy. Great River Energy proposes to construct a new 115-kilovolt transmission line from the Crooked Lake Substation (Main Street and Round Lake Blvd in Coon Rapids) to the Enterprise Park Substation (west of Thurston Ave near the railroad tracks in Anoka). The project will benefit people and businesses in the area by:

- Ensuring the continued reliability of the area's electric transmission system
- Reducing the risk of the transmission system overloading
- Enabling future economic growth

After receiving feedback from citizens, agency representatives, municipal officials and staff, Great River Energy has identified a route for the transmission line to propose to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. Even if you do not live near the route, your participation in the process is important. The state of Minnesota will ultimately decide which route will be built and sometimes they do not choose the route proposed by the applicant. We encourage you to attend the open house to have your questions answered, learn about the next steps in the project and find out how you can participate in the state of Minnesota's permitting process.

PROJECT NEED

Over the past several years, increased demand for electricity in the northwest metro region has strained the existing transmission system due to its age and operational limits. To ensure the continued reliability of electric service to the people and businesses served by Anoka Municipal Utilities and Connexus Energy and to enable economic growth in this region, the transmission system needs to be strengthened.

If you have questions, please contact
Mark Strohfus
Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Blvd
Maple Grove, MN 55369
763-445-5210
1-888-521-0130, ext 763-445-5210
MStrohfus@GREnergy.com

Project updates can be found at greatriverenergy.com/enterprisepark

PROPOSED PROJECT

The route Great River Energy will propose to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission is shown below.

AMU Anoka Municipal Utility · Connexus Energy · Great River Energy

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Project updates can be found at greatriverenergy.com/enterprisepark

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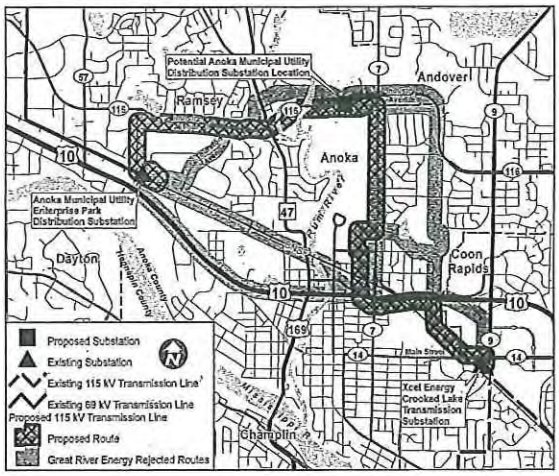

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Sign-In Sheet

Crooked Lake to Enterprise Park Transmission Project - Open House

Tuesday, April 26, 2011 – Anoka City Hall

Name	Address	Add me to the Mailing List	Phone Number (Optional)
Edward Evans	1186 Benton St An Anoka City Board	Y / N	763-427-1803
Darlene Bearl	604 Grant St Anoka	Y / N	
Jan Dooper	873 40th Ln Anoka, MN 55303	Y / N	763-421-3672
Dan Pinewski	546 W. MAIN ST. Anoka 55303	Y / N	763-422-0329
Jon Palmquist	14173 Blackfoot St Anoka 55304	Y / N	
JODI & BOB TRICK	945 40th Lane ANOKA	Y / N	
Dottie Carlson	3118 - 8TH Ave. @	Y / N	763-421-6587
MATEPRECISION TOOLING DUANE VANDENBERGHE	1295 LUND BLVD ANOKA	Y / N	763-576-3435
Pete & Angie DeLong	1196 3rd Ave Anoka 55303-2775	Y / N	763-323-7544

LAND RIGHTS DEPARTMENT
12300 Elm Creek Blvd
Maple Grove, MN 55369
763 445-5210 OR 1-888-521-0130 (EXT. 763-445-5210)

GREAT RIVER ENERGY
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Sign-In Sheet

Crooked Lake to Enterprise Park Transmission Project - Open House

Tuesday, April 26, 2011 – Anoka City Hall

Name	Address	Add me to the Mailing List	Phone Number (Optional)
Frank Franklin	1605 NORTH ST. ANOKA 55303	Y / N	763-422-6875
Sharon Knox Jerry LaTour	3117 Sprague Ave Anoka, MN 55303	Y / N	763-427-7466
MARK GAUSMAN	2371 7th AVE ANOKA MN 55303	Y / N	763-422-5000X12
Mark Riverblood	7550 Sunwood Drive Ramsey " "	Y / N	763 2381733
Randy Bettinger Anoka Co. Highway	1440 Bunker Lake Blvd Andover, MN 55304	Y / N	763-862-4216
ADRIAN DAHLHEIMER	16241 [illegible] DIA. LK. RD. DAYTON MN 55327	Y / N	763-670-1733
PAT BRAMA	~~[illegible]~~ Wave Park	Y / N	
Mark Shasky	4022 7th Ave	Y / N	763-433-0963
Dennis Taylor	727 Washington	Y / N	763 427 4326

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Name	Address	Add me to the Mailing List	Phone Number (Optional)
Richard Tourell	362 Coolidge St. Anoka, MN 55303	Y / N	763-242-8416
Dale L. Wilson	4002 7th. Ave. N. Anoka 55303	Y / N	763-421-8812
Wm Richardson	936 40 Lane Anoka 55303	(Y) / N	763-421-8284
Tom Redmann	4462 149th LANE NW ANDOVER	Y / N	
Cindy Taylor	747 Washington St Anoka	Y / (N)	
Dave & Marly Johnson (Prestige Drywall, Inc.)	800 Bunker Hill Blvd. NW, Anoka	(Y) / N	763-506-0030
Tim + Theresa Hentges	719 Polk St Anoka mn	(Y) / N	763-421-9171
MERRYWAYNE ELVIG	3805 WEAVER CT ANOKA	(Y) / N	763-421-0511
		Y / N	

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Name	Address	Add me to the Mailing List	Phone Number (Optional)
Sally Sullivan	PO Box 682 Anoka MN 55303	(Y) / N	~~763~~
Donald Johnson	829 Grant St 55307	(Y) / N	
Ricky JoAnne Beckes	3958 10th Ln Anoka	(Y) / N	
CHARLIE DAVIDSON	815 CHARLOTTE DR ANOKA	(Y) / N	
		Y / N	
		Y / N	
		Y / N	
		Y / N	
		Y / N	

LAND RIGHTS DEPARTMENT
12300 Elm Creek Blvd
Maple Grove, MN 55369
763 445-5210 OR 1-888-521-0130 (EXT. 763-445-5210)

GREAT RIVER ENERGY™
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Your feedback is important to us

Please feel welcome to share your comments or questions below.

Name _____ E-mail address _____

Home phone number _____ Cell /other _____

Mailing address _____ City _____

Comments/Questions can be sent to Mark Strohfus at 12300 Elm Creek Blvd., Maple Grove, MN 55369 or by email to mstrohfus@grenergy.com

Interesting presentation. Well-prepared presenters.
Good job!

Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG

From: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2011 3:42 PM
To: 'Theresa Hentges'
Subject: FW: Proposed Enterprise Park Transmission Line Project

Hello Theresa,

Thank you for your questions. These are common questions and I am happy to answer them for you. What I really want to emphasize is that if you have concerns about the route we will be proposing to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC), it is very important that you participate in the permitting process. Ultimately the MPUC decides where the transmission corridor will be and you do have opportunities to influence their decision. There is information on our website about the state permitting process here. Your participation is very important if you have concerns.

Responses to your questions are provided below. In the mean time, if you have any more questions, please feel free to contact me.

If you like, we'd also be happy to meet with you individually or with your neighbors to discuss the project. Just let me know a couple dates and time that that would work.

Hope to see you Tuesday, April 26.

Sincerely,
Mark Strohfus
Environmental Project Lead
Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, MN. 55369-4718
direct: 763-445-5210 / fax: 763-445-5241 / cell: 612-961-9820
www.GreatRiverEnergy.com

Hi,
My name is Theresa and I am writing this today for myself and a couple of neighbors. We currently live on Polk St and have a few questions about this proposed project.
First, looking at the map it is stating that the line will come right up Polk St. Is this going to be in the back of homes or right down the street?
Response: The location, or alignment, of the transmission line will ultimately be decided as an outcome of the state permitting process. However, several Great River Energy personnel have analyzed possible routing options along Hwy 10 between Round Lake Boulevard and 6th Avenue, and we concluded a viable location is along the south side of Hwy 10 in close proximity of the highway right of way. Until the permitting process is completed and only after we begin preliminary design, will we be able to say with certainty the exact alignment.

Will this be another pole in the ground with the existing poles that are already there?
Response: Again, the exact alignment is yet to be determined. Typically, if we overtake existing distribution lines such as those between Polk Street and Hwy 10, those existing lines would be attached to the new poles.

Either way that will dramatically reduce the value of our homes. People don't want to live or buy a home that is next to those high voltage wires. We see that most of the line will not be real close to many homes as most of the proposed route doesn't have many if any homes on one side of the route proposed except on Polk St where on one side of the road it would be real close to 7 homes if comes up the back of homes and more if come up the street. Our homes butt up to the freeway and we are very concerned about this impact on the value of our homes.

Response: We understand your concerns about how a transmission line might impact the value of your homes; however, statistically reliable studies reveal negligible impact to property values for the lower voltage transmission lines such as that being proposed. One of our routing criteria is to avoid residential areas because the dense construction around homes tends to increase the difficulty of designing and constructing the transmission lines. Anoka is a densely populated city with limited undeveloped land, which has made routing this project very challenging and we are not able to avoid homes along the full length of the project.

Second, It has been proven that there are large health risks with living that close to high voltage wires. What is going to be done to protect our families and pets? We spend a lot of time outside in our yards with young children, pets, and gardens etc.
Response: I believe you are referring to EMF, or electric and magnetic fields. EMF exists wherever electricity is produced or used, and EMF surrounds any electrical appliance or wire that is conducting electricity. The issue has been studied for more than 30 years by government and scientific institutions all over the world. The balance of scientific evidence does not indicate that exposure to EMF causes adverse health outcomes. If you would like to read more about EMF, there is more information and links to third-party sources on our website here. These fields are strongest closest to their source; the farther away you are from the source the less EMF. EMF exposure from transmission lines, which are high in the air and outside the negotiated easement area, is minimal. In terms of construction, Great River Energy builds and maintains transmission lines to meet or exceed safety requirements outlined in the National Electrical Safety Code and standards from the North American Electric Reliability Corporation.

Are they going to be giving us the option to have our homes bought out if we don't want this projected high voltage line in our back yard or on our street? This definitely should be offered to us that are affected by this as it will have a direct impact on our home value and reselling as well as our health.
Response: Once a final route is determined and we have the necessary permits, we identify which landowners will be affected by the line. We then study current market property values and the type of land the line will cross. Next, we develop an "easement" payment schedule that becomes the basis for negotiations with landowners for each parcel of land. It is not our practice to "buy out" home owners.

Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG

From: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 9:10 AM
To: 'larrym8187'
Subject: RE: proposed transmission line

Mr. McNeff,

Thank you for your feedback. Great River Energy will be proposing to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) that the line be constructed on the south side of Hwy 10. We will be sure to share your feedback with the Department of Commerce Division of Energy Resources (formerly the Office of Energy Security), who will select the final route and prepare the route permit for the PUC's approval and issuance.

Sincerely,
Mark Strohfus
Environmental Project Lead
Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, MN. 55369-4718
direct: 763-445-5210 / fax: 763-445-5241 / cell: 612-961-9820
www.GreatRiverEnergy.com

From: larrym8187 [mailto:larrym8187@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2011 3:58 PM
To: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG
Subject: proposed transmission line

Dear Mark,

I have reviewed your letter of April 15, 2011 and the enclosed description of the proposed 115-KV transmission line along 6th Avenue. The map illustrated the proposed route to be along 6th Ave. in Anoka. The pictures of a typical 115-KV transmission lines are included. The 6th Avenue proposed route is near our office/plant campus at 617 Pierce Street in Anoka. The 60-80 foot poles under built with the lower transmission lines will tower over every building in the area. The proposed 70 foot easement would seem to pass through some of the existing buildings in the area. The properties of the businesses on the north side of Pierce Street are now cramped for space. Moving trucks and vehicles about the properties is difficult as it is. More restriction in the area from proposed guy wires, anchors and multiple pole structures will make snow storage and vehicle move ment much more difficult for business owners along the proposed route. The proposed line could more easily be located on the south side of highway ten where more space is available.

Sincerely,

Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG

From: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 3:13 PM
To: 'jodi@andysservice.com'
Cc: Heuring, Rick GRE-MG
Subject: FW: PROPOSED TRANSMISSION LINE TO ENTERPRISE PARK 115-KV PROJECT

Ms. Hallberg:
Thank you for your feedback. You make several good points that I'd like to respond to.

First of all, we will locate the new transmission line and develop new easements that consider the existing infrastructure in and around the proposed transmission line corridor. We are aware that many portions of the City of Anoka are highly congested with buildings and existing infrastructure, and we recognize that 70-foot wide easements are not practicable nor necessary in many instances.

Second, we won't know the exact alignment of the transmission line and placement of the poles until after the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission issues a Route Permit and we begin field surveying and preliminary design. During the design process, we will consider existing land uses and traffic patterns, we would be happy to meet with you to specifically review your day-to-day operations. Where the new transmission line overtakes existing distribution lines, we can normally attach the existing distribution line to the new power poles we will install for the transmission line. In some instances, we may bury the distribution lines. Furthermore, because of the relatively dense development in Anoka, we plan to use free standing structure as much as possible to minimize the use of guy wires.

Third, the portion of our proposed route located east of 6th Avenue is situated south of Hwy 10 just outside of the highway right-of-way. In the area where the line extends north of Hwy 10 along 6th Avenue, GRE may need to purchase an easement from you if we locate the line such that the easement encroaches upon any portion of your property along 6th Avenue.

Lastly, if you're unable to attend the Open House tonight, we'd be happy to meet with you directly to discuss your comments below or respond to any other questions you may have. Feel free to also contact me with any additional questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Mark Strohfus
Environmental Project Lead
Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, MN. 55369-4718
direct: 763-445-5210 / fax: 763-445-5241 / cell: 612-961-9820
www.GreatRiverEnergy.com

From: Jodi Hallberg [mailto:jodi@andysservice.com]
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2011 3:33 PM
To: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG
Subject: Fwd: PROPOSED TRANSMISSION LINE TO ENTERPRISE PARK 115-KV PROJECT

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Jodi Hallberg** <jodi@andysservice.com>
Date: Mon, Apr 25, 2011 at 3:23 PM
Subject: PROPOSED TRANSMISSION LINE TO ENTERPRISE PARK 115-KV PROJECT
To: mstrofus@grenergy.com, Andy Anderson <andylavonne@gmail.com>, Dan Hallberg <dan@andysservice.com>, beansacres@netzero.net

Dear Mark:

I have reviewed your letter of April 15, 2011 ~ description of the proposed 115-KV transmission line along 6th Avenue in Anoka.
The 6th Avenue proposed route is near/next to our shop at 611 Pierce Street in Anoka.
The 60-80 foot poles under built with the lower transmission lines will tower over every building in the area.
The proposed 70 foot easement would seem to pass through some of the existing buildings in the area.
The properties of the businesses on the north side of Pierce Street are now very cramped for space.
Moving trucks and vehicles about the properties is difficult as it is.
More restriction in the area from proposed guy wires, anchors and multiple poles will make snow storage and vehicle movement much more difficult for business owners along the proposed route.
The proposed line could more easily be located on the south side of highway ten where more space is available.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jodi Hallberg
Officer of Andy's Service

Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG

From: Don Haller [Don.Haller@connexusenergy.com]
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 9:38 PM
To: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG
Subject: Re: Open House Question for Connexus

Will do.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 29, 2011, at 12:33 PM, "Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG"
<MStrohfu@GREnergy.com<mailto:MStrohfu@GREnergy.com>> wrote:

Don,
At the Enterprise Park Open House, I had a question about Connexus's intentions for their line on the east side of 7th Ave when the Hwy project is undertaken. Mark Shasky, 4022 7th Ave, 763-433-0963, was concerned that when Anoka Cnty widens 7th Ave south of Bunker Lake Rd, then Connexus will move its dist line further into his yard and have to take the tree in his front yard. He also asked if you would bury this line. I didn't offer any answers, but said I'd get somebody from Connexus to contact him.

Can you have somebody contact Mr. Shasky?

If you or the person you assign to this issue have any questions, contact me.

Thanks,
Mark Strohfus
Environmental Project Lead
Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, MN. 55369-4718
direct: 763-445-5210 / fax: 763-445-5241 / cell: 612-961-9820
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12300 Elm Creek Boulevard • Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369-4718 • 763-445-5000 • Fax 763-445-5050 • www.GreatRiverEnergy.com

March 3, 2011

David Schneider
BNSF Railway
2500 Lou Menck Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76131

RE: Proposed Great River Energy Crooked Lake Substation to Enterprise Park Substation 115-kV Transmission Line Project
Anoka County, Minnesota
T 32N R 25W Sections 25, 35 & 36
T 32N R 24W Sections 29 – 31
T 31N R 24W Sections 5, 6 & 8 **WO# 40011**

Dear Mr. Schneider:

Great River Energy requests information on the possible impacts to Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway if a proposed 115-kilovolt transmission line project in Anoka County, Minnesota, is constructed adjacent to BNSF's rail line. Upon your review of the enclosed routing maps, you will note that one of the potential routing options for the overhead transmission line would parallel the double-track BNSF rail line for a distance of 3.1 miles from Section 35 T 32N R 25W to Section 6 T 31N R 24W. Your feedback is very important to us. We respectfully request your written comments by Monday, March 28, 2011.

A project description is enclosed as well as a map of the transmission line routing options we are analyzing.

Great River Energy intends to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in April of this year. As part of this application, we must submit a proposed route and discuss rejected route options. We strongly urge BNSF to provide comments on any of the routes, particularly those that would parallel the rail line. For BNSF's comments to be considered in Great River Energy's analysis to determine which route we will propose, the comments should be sent directly to me at Great River Energy. There will be future opportunities for BNSF to participate in the route permitting process and provide comments to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission; however, BNSF's early and direct communication with Great River Energy will ensure

that any of its concerns regarding a parallel transmission alignment will be adequately addressed by Great River Energy.

Please share this letter with any other appropriate BNSF personnel. I would also be interested in receiving information pertaining to BNSF's policy or guidelines on parallel transmission alignments. Unless otherwise notified, we will consider you as our project contact at BNSF.

If you have any questions, please contact me by telephone at 763-445-5210 or by email at MStrohfus@GREnergy.com. If you wish, you can also email me your written comments. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in this matter as Great River Energy moves forward with this critically important transmission project.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Mark Strohfus
Environmental Project Lead

Enclosure

cc/enc: Roger Schwinghammer, Jones Lang LaSalle America's, Inc.

\\erntfs\shared\Legal\Environmental\Transmission\Projects\4001 Enterprise Park\Agency Contacts\BNSF (2).docx

GREAT RIVER ENERGY®
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Proposed Enterprise Park Transmission Project

January 13, 2011 (Ver 4.0)

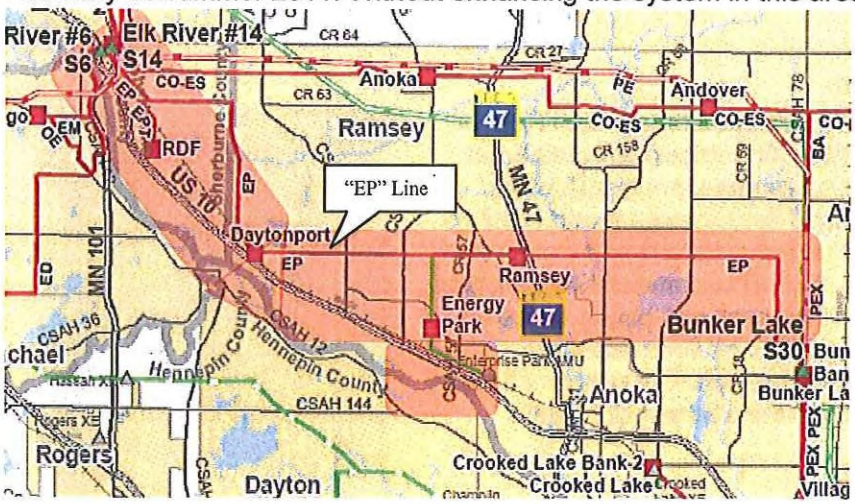
Great River Energy is in the process of developing a 115 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission project to address reliability issues associated with the northwest metro region's electric transmission system. Great River Energy is currently seeking input from the public and local landowners along the potential transmission routes. We have received preliminary feedback from the leaders of the cities in which the proposed project may be located: Anoka, Andover, Coon Rapids and Ramsey.

Need

Increased use of electricity in the northwest metro region (Anoka, Andover and Ramsey) has strained the existing 69 kV transmission system to its operational capacity. To ensure the continued reliability of the electric services in the region and equally as important, to enable future economic growth and development, the system needs to be enhanced.

Existing Transmission System

Electricity is delivered to the communities of Anoka, Andover, and Ramsey through a 69 kV transmission line (the "EP" line), extending from the Elk River Substation to the Bunker Lake Substation in Andover. Despite recent upgrades, forecasts suggest the line could be overloaded as early as summer 2011. Without enhancing the system in this area, the reliability of electric service to existing customers is at risk. The ability to add future electric loads to the system is also limited.



The northwest metro region receives electrical service from the 69 kV "EP" line.

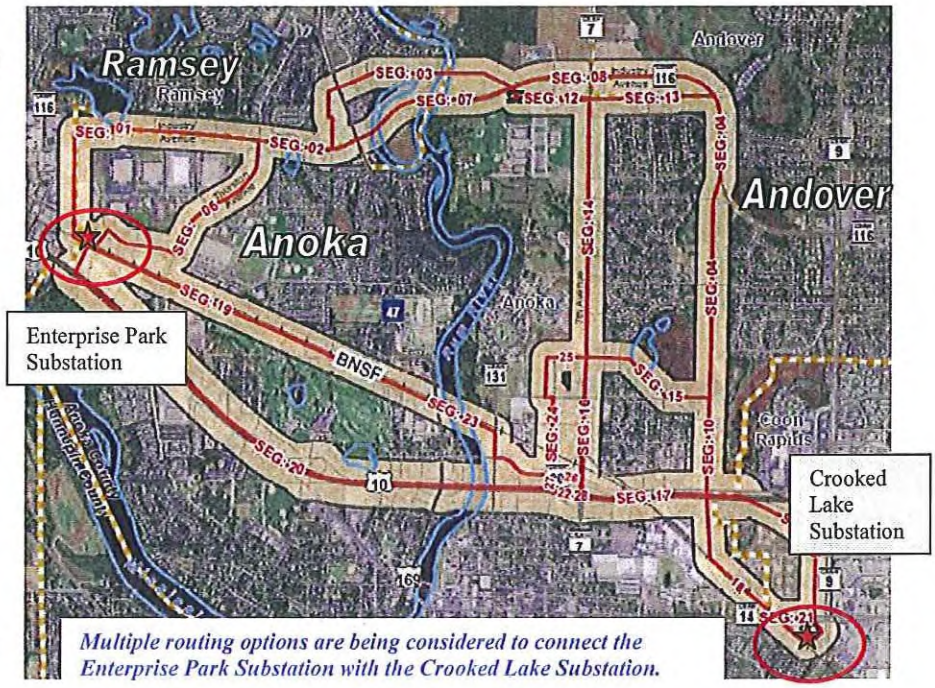
Proposed Project

Great River Energy is proposing two projects to offer short- and long-term solutions that will strengthen the region's transmission system.

Project I consists of constructing a new 115 kV transmission line from the Crooked Lake Substation in Coon Rapids to the Enterprise Park distribution substation in Anoka (see map on next page). This would provide a higher voltage power source to the region. It would also allow a portion of the electric load currently served by Anoka Municipal Utilities to be removed from the "EP" 69 kV line, which would enable future electric load growth

in Andover and Ramsey to be served by the "EP" 69 kV line. It is Great River Energy's goal to complete the required permitting for this project in 2011 to allow the new line to be in service in 2012.

Project II will provide a future extension of the 115 kV line from the Enterprise Park Substation to a new bulk substation that is anticipated to be located in the Elk River area. Additional details will be developed in the future.



Multiple routing options are being considered to connect the Enterprise Park Substation with the Crooked Lake Substation.

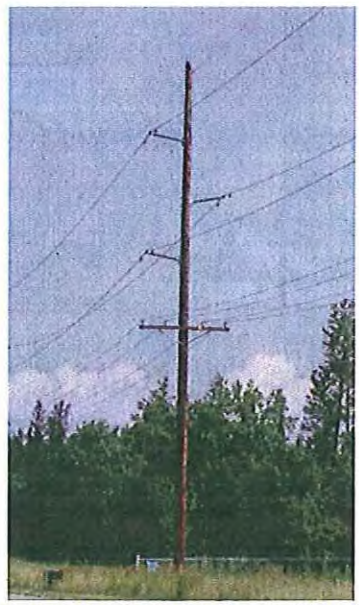
115 kV Transmission Line Routing and Public Outreach

Viable routing options for the proposed Project I transmission line are heavily influenced by existing and proposed residential and commercial developments, public facilities, transportation and municipal infrastructure, and environmental factors. Future development plans and upgrades to Hwy 10 and regional roads such as Bunker Lake Boulevard also affect routing options. Preliminary routing assessments suggest the proposed line could be situated in the four communities of Anoka, Andover, Ramsey and Coon Rapids.

To develop the transmission line route for the proposed project, Great River Energy has been working closely with local units of government and is seeking input from citizens and other interested parties. Great River Energy has also begun discussions with various state and local agencies (e.g., Department of Natural Resources, transportation offices, State Historical Preservation Office) soon.

Transmission Line Permitting

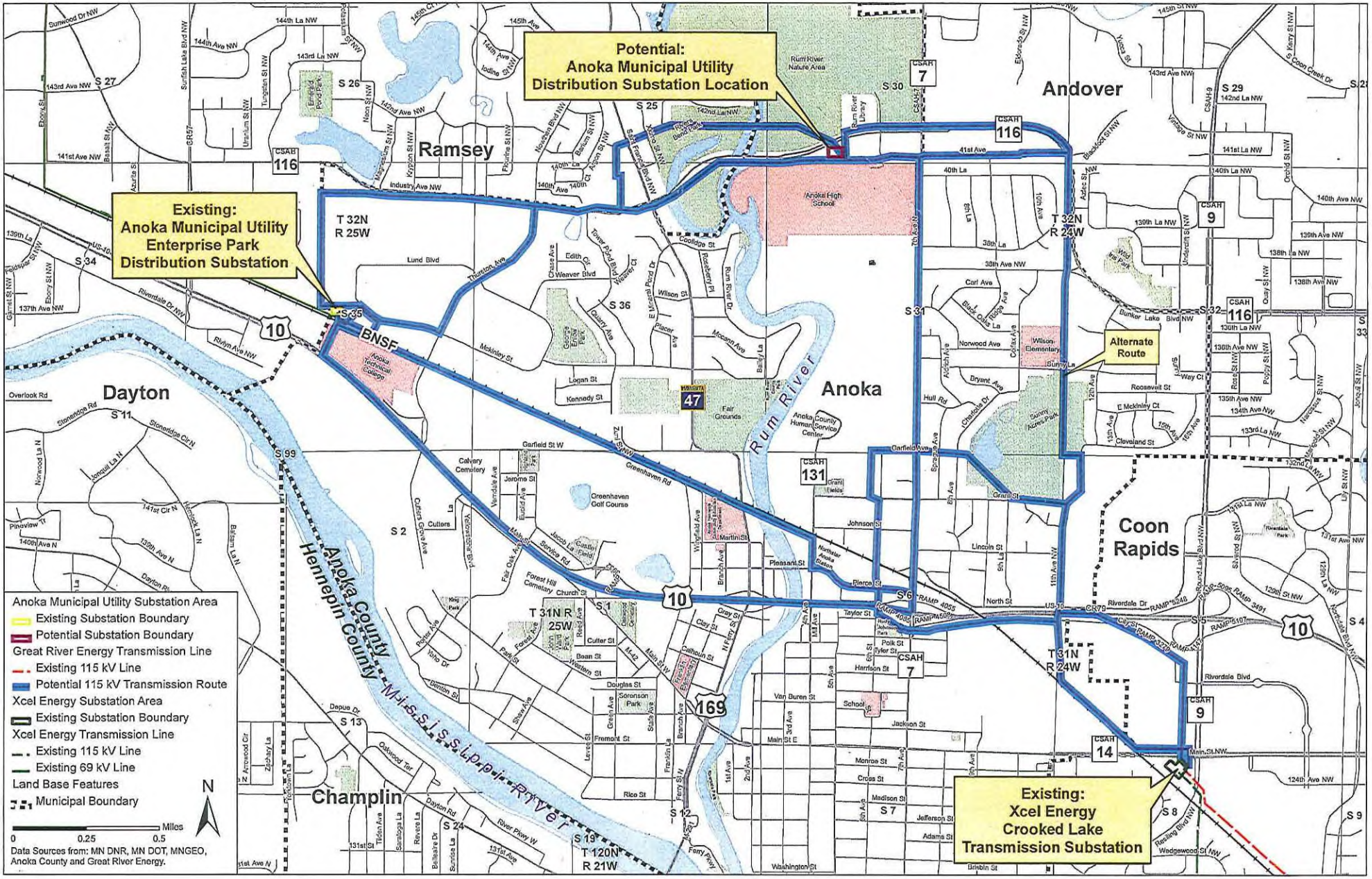
Great River Energy is required to obtain either a Route Permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission or obtain local permits, such as Conditional Use Permits, from each of the impacted cities. An Environmental Assessment report must be completed as a component of both the state Route Permit and the local permitting processes. The Environmental Assessment report requires a public scoping process and public notice for citizens and interested parties to provide comments and participate in the development of the report. Great River Energy will likely be pursuing a permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.



The proposed transmission line would be built using structures similar to that shown above.

Contact Information

Mark Strohfus, Environmental Project Lead
MStrohfus@GREnergy.com
(763) 445-5210
www.greatriverenergy.com/enterprisepark



Potential:
Anoka Municipal Utility
Distribution Substation Location
Existing:
Anoka Municipal Utility
Enterprise Park
Distribution Substation
Existing:
Xcel Energy
Crooked Lake
Transmission Substation
Alternate Route
Ramsey
Andover
Anoka
Dayton
Coon Rapids
Champlin
Rum River
Anoka County
Hennepin County
Mississippi River
Anoka Municipal Utility Substation Area
Existing Substation Boundary
Potential Substation Boundary
Great River Energy Transmission Line
Existing 115 kV Line
Potential 115 kV Transmission Route
Xcel Energy Substation Area
Existing Substation Boundary
Xcel Energy Transmission Line
Existing 115 kV Line
Existing 69 kV Line
Land Base Features
Municipal Boundary
Miles
0
0.25
0.5
N
Data Sources from: MN DNR, MN DOT, MNGEO, Anoka County and Great River Energy.

Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG

From: Schneider, David P [David.Schneider@bnsf.com]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 2:57 PM
To: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG
Cc: Bowden, Richard P; 'Schwinghammer, Roger (US)'
Subject: FW: Great River Energy proposed transmission line - Anoka County, MN (BNSF)

Mark,

Below in the email are comments from Roger Schwinghammer with Jones Lang LaSalle, BNSF service partner who manages the day to day real estate actives including subject location of proposed transmission line. As you can see there are many issues with a proposal of locating this line on BNSF right of way in this area.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us.

Regards,

Dave

-----Original Message-----
From: Schwinghammer, Roger (US) [mailto:Roger.Schwinghammer@am.jll.com]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 2:37 PM
To: Schneider, David P
Subject: Great River Energy proposed transmission line - Anoka County, MN

The impacts to BNSF for location of a 115KV longitudinal transmission line on BNSF right of way for a distance of 3.1 miles in Anoka County, MN are very serious. There are currently 2 mainline tracks and potential need for a 3rd mainline track at this location.

This rail line is the mainline between Chicago and the Pacific Northwest. BNSF runs at least 60 trains a day on this line. It is also the line used by Amtrak for the Empire Builder and more recently, the North Star Corridor. Amtrak runs one train a day in each direction. The North Star Commuter line each business day runs several trains in the morning and late afternoon as well as on weekdays and week-ends for special events such as Minnesota Twins or Minnesota Viking games in downtown Mpls.

The width of the right of way is 125 feet or less. BNSF has no additional right of way for lease or sale. BNSF needs at least this width in order to operate safely and efficiently, to access and maintain its right of way & to allow adequate room for communication systems on such a busy corridor.

Roger Schwinghammer
AD-Vice President
Jones Lang LaSalle Americas, Inc.
4105 Lexington Avenue North, Suite 200
Arden Hills, MN 55126
Direct Number: 651-415-2710 FAX 651-481-9361
Cell: 612-770-8737

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Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG

From: Schneider, David P [David.Schneider@bnsf.com]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 3:01 PM
To: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG
Subject: FW: (BNSF)
Attachments: Letter (2) (2).doc

Mark,

Attached is letter prepared by Richard Bowden in BNSF Signal group highlighting Policies and issues with locating a transmission line on BNSF right of way.

Should you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us.

Regards,

Dave

Richard P. Bowden
Director Signal Engineering

8310 Nieman Rd
Lenexa, KS 66214
Phone: 913-577-5501
Richard.Bowden@bnsf.com

March 21, 2011

Mr. Mark Strohfus
Environmental Project Lead
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369-4718

Dear Mr. Strohfus:

Depending on the proposed route, the 115kV transmission line in Anoka County, MN, may be adjacent to the two main line tracks on our Staples Subdivision for 3.1 miles.

Depending on the distance from the track, a main area of concern from the BNSF Signal Department perspective is the power line has the potential to cause interference to the BNSF Signal system, highway-grade crossing warning systems, and safety issues transmission lines present general to railroad operations.

The *BNSF Utility Accommodation Policy Manual* prescribes the accommodation, location and method of installation, adjustments, removal, relocation and maintenance of utility facilities within the property of Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF). The policy was developed in the interest of safety, protection, utilization, and future development of BNSF with due consideration given to public and private service afforded by adequate and economical utility installations. The policy states "Utilities will be located so as to provide a safe environment and shall conform to the current "National Electrical Safety Code," "American Waterworks Association Specifications," Federal Pipeline Safety Regulations," and "The American Railway Engineering and Maintenance Association Specifications." Where laws or orders of public authority prescribe a higher degree of protection, then the higher degree of protection prescribed shall supersede the provisions of this manual." Due to interference issues experienced by BNSF, the policy states "High voltage towers (34.5kV and higher) must be located off railroad right of way." The policy also states "For proposed electrical lines paralleling tracks, BNSF may request that an inductive interference study be performed at the expense of the utility owner. Inductive interference from certain lines have the potential to disrupt the signal system in the track causing failures in the track signals and highway grade crossing warning devices."

The inductive interference identified in the *BNSF Utility Accommodation Policy Manual* is addressed in the Electric Power Research Institute's (EPRI) handbook titled *Power System and Railroad Electromagnetic Compatibility Handbook.* The handbook is a source of technology and data for preventing and mitigating ac electrical interference problems on railroads. The Power System and Railroad Electromagnetic Compatibility Handbook is located on the EPRI website www.EPRI.com.

The handbook describes the types of interference that can be expected and their potential impact. One type of interference is electric field induction. *Electric field induction* is capacitive coupling and is the primary cause of induced voltages on objects the size of motor vehicles, people, or trains. This induction can set up a significant touch potential safety issue for personnel working near the power line.

Another type of interference is magnetic field induction. *Magnetic field induction* is inductive coupling, and is significant for objects that parallel the power line for a significant distance, such as rails. (At the risk of over-simplifying, magnetic field induction works similar to transformer coupling between the power line conductors and the rail. In this case the current in the power line creates a magnetic field which induces a current into the paralleling rail.) The distance between the power line and rail, the configuration of the power line, imbalances in the power line, the current in the power line, soil conditions, etc. affect the amount of coupling. The current and resultant voltage can cause interference with equipment used to control highway-grade crossing warning systems and signal systems for trains. The voltage encountered varies with the currents (peak, fault) on the power line, track ballast conditions (e.g.: wet, dry), distance between the power line and rail, configuration of the power line, and other parameters. Where there is a break, cut, or an insulated joint (a joint in the rail where the ends of rail are insulated from each other) in the rail, the out of phase voltage across the rail ends, or the voltage from rail-to-ground can also be high enough to cause touch potential issues and interfere with highway-grade crossing warning systems or signaling systems.

Highway-grade crossing warning systems or signaling systems for trains utilize the rails as part of circuits for detecting trains, direction of trains, and/or speeds of trains. The level of voltage required to cause interference varies with the highway-grade crossing warning systems or signaling systems at the location.

With other lines, BNSF has experienced rail-to-rail and rail-to-ground voltage high enough to result in:

- Interference with crossing control equipment and signal equipment
- Temporary mitigation measures requiring a speed restrictions on crossings (train and motorist delay)
- Unsafe touch potential rail-to-ground, rail-to-rail, and to other metal objects
- Damaged equipment (train and motorist delay)

Sincerely,

_____

Richard Bowden
Director Signal

cc: