



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Energy Facility Permitting



March 29, 2012

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND
AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**In the Matter of the Route Permit Application for the Enterprise Park to Crooked Lake
115 kV Transmission Line Project in Anoka County, Minnesota**

OAH Docket # 7-2500-22654-2 / PUC Docket # ET2/TL-11-915

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) will hold a public hearing on behalf of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) on the route permit application by Great River Energy for a new, approximately 5.8-mile long, 115 kilovolt (kV) overhead transmission line in Anoka County, Minnesota. The public hearing will be held at the time and location listed below. The hearing will run no later than 8:00 p.m. and may conclude earlier if all attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been completed.

PUBLIC HEARING

Monday, April 16, 2012
6:00 p.m.

Anoka City Hall
2015 First Ave
Anoka MN 55303

Project Description. On October 4, 2011, Great River Energy (Applicant) filed a route permit application under the alternative permitting process for the construction of approximately 5.8 miles of new, overhead 115 kV transmission line between Xcel Energy's existing Crooked Lake Substation in Coon Rapids, Minn., and Anoka Municipal Utility's existing Enterprise Park Substation in Anoka, Minn., in Anoka County. The project will remove, rebuild, and attach Anoka Municipal Utility's existing overhead (12.5 kV) distribution lines to the new 115 kV transmission line where the new line overtakes the existing distribution lines. (Alternatively, Anoka Municipal Utility may choose to bury some of the distribution lines.) The project would also include modifications to the Crooked Lake and Enterprise Park substations to accommodate the new transmission line, including a new ring bus, breaker additions, step down transformers, and associated switch gear.

The Applicant is requesting a route width as narrow as 100 feet in some locations, and as wide as 400 feet in others, except for the area near Anoka High School where the requested route width is 800 feet. The variation in route width is due to the developed nature of the project area. The

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typical right-of-way for the 115 kV line is 50-75 feet, depending on the structure used. The typical span between poles without underbuild is 300 to 400 feet, and 250 to 300 where 12.5 kV distribution lines are attached. Poles range in height from 60 to 85 feet. Most poles will be constructed as single-pole, wood structures with horizontal post insulators.

The Applicant states the purpose of the proposed project is to meet future electric load requirements in the area, to provide relief on the existing transmission system, and to provide backup service to an existing 69 kV transmission line.

EFP held an open public scoping process from November 14, 2011 to December 19, 2011, and held Public Information and Environmental Assessment Scoping meetings on December 1, 2011. The purpose of the meetings and comment period was to solicit public comment on the issues and route alternatives that should be evaluated in the environmental assessment. The Department of Commerce issued its scoping decision on January 5, 2012, which included one route segment alternative (see attached figure.)

Environmental Assessment. EFP staff has completed an environmental assessment (EA) on the proposed project. The EA addresses the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project. Electronic versions of the EA, maps of the proposed project, and other documents relevant to this matter are available for viewing and download on the eDockets website at:

<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (Search “11” Year and “915” Number).

The Environmental Assessment can also be viewed at the following public libraries in the project area:

Anoka County Law Library

325 E Main St # E130
Anoka, MN 55303

Champlin Library

12154 Ensign Avenue North
Champlin, MN 55316

Anoka County Library: Rum River Branch

4201 6th Ave
Anoka, MN 55303

Crooked Lake Branch Library

11440 Crooked Lake Boulevard NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Conduct of Hearing. The public hearing will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Power Plant Siting Act, Minnesota Statute 216E.04, subdivision 6, and Minnesota Rule 7850.3800. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions of EFP staff and Great River Energy representatives and to offer oral and written comments and submit material into the record. The Honorable Richard Luis, Administrative Law Judge, will preside over the hearing.

Comment period. The record will remain open until **4:30 p.m., Monday, April 30, 2012**, for interested persons to submit written comments to the Administrative Law Judge. Comments must be submitted directly to Judge Luis at:

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

The Administrative Law Judge will provide EFP staff a written summary of testimony given at the hearing along with comments received during the prescribed comment period. The Commission will make a final decision on the route permit application after receipt of the complete record.

Additional Information. For more information about the process, the project, or to place your name on the project mailing list, please contact:

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Mailing List. Any person may add his or her name to the mailing list maintained by EFP staff for future mailings pertaining to this project. If you would like to receive notice of the Commission's final decision in this matter please add your name to the mailing list. Names can be added to the list by contacting the state permit manager.

