



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Energy Facility Permitting



Issued: November 14, 2011

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SCOPING MEETING

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

PUC Docket No. ET2/TL-11-915

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff will conduct a public information and environmental assessment scoping meeting on the route permit application by Great River Energy to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for the proposed Enterprise Park to Crooked Lake 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line project (see attached map). The purpose of the meeting is to provide information about the project and to identify issues and alternative routes to study in the environmental assessment (EA) that will be prepared by EFP staff. Members of the public need only attend one of the two meeting sessions, as the information presented will be identical in both.

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SCOPING MEETINGS

Thursday, December 1, 2011

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Anoka City Hall
2015 First Ave
Anoka MN 55303

EFP staff will accept written comments on the scope of the EA until Monday, December 19, 2011. Please include PUC Docket No. ET2/TL-11-915 on all comments. Comments should be mailed, emailed, or faxed to:

Matthew Langan
State Permit Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198
Fax: 651-296-2096
matthew.langan@state.mn.us

Comments may also be submitted on the Commission's Energy Facility Permitting website, <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/#comment>.

The meeting will include a brief presentation of the state's high-voltage transmission line permitting process, the proposed project, and how the public can participate in the permitting process. Representatives from Great River Energy will be present to answer questions about the proposed project. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions, present comments, and propose issues, impacts, and route alternatives to be studied in the EA.

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 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.

Review Process. Under the Power Plant Siting Act (Minnesota Statute 216E), a route permit from the Commission is required to construct a high-voltage transmission line. A route permit application for the project was filed by Great River Energy on October 4, 2011. The application was accepted as complete by the Commission on November 4, 2011.

EFP staff is responsible for conducting the environmental review for route permit applications submitted to the Commission (Minnesota Rules 7850). Environmental review for a project of this size requires the preparation of an EA. An EA examines the potential human and environmental impacts of a proposed project, alternative routes or route segments, and potential mitigative measures. EFP staff conducts a public information meeting to gather comments and suggestions on the proposed project in order to focus the content or "scope" of the EA. Upon completion of the EA, a public hearing will be held in the project area. The hearing will be presided over by an administrative law judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings. Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak at the hearing, present evidence, ask questions, and submit comments. Notice of the public hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who register their names on the project mailing list (see below).

Upon completion of the environmental review and hearing process, the record compiled for the route permit application will be presented to the Commission for a final decision. A decision by the Commission on a route permit for the project is anticipated in spring 2012.

Eminent Domain. If issued a route permit by the Commission, the Applicant may exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire land for this project pursuant to Minnesota Statute 216E.12.

Project Mailing List. Persons should contact the state permit manager or public advisor (noted below) or register online at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/#mailing> to get their name on the project mailing list. Persons on the mailing list will receive notices of meetings and notices of document availability for this project. If you do not register to be on the mailing list you will not receive correspondence regarding this project after this notice. Project mailing list registration is voluntary and may be done at any time.

Project Documents. A more detailed description of the proposed project is contained in the route permit application. An electronic version of this document is available on the Commission's Energy Facility Permitting website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=32289>. Additionally, documents are available on the Commission's eDockets system: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the year "11" and the number "915").

The route permit application is also available at the locations noted below:

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

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

Matt Langan, State Permit Manager
651-296-2096
1-800-657-3794
matthew.langan@state.mn.us

Deborah Pile, Public Advisor
651-297-2375
deborah.pile@state.mn.us

Information about the project may also be obtained by contacting the applicant:

Mark Strohfus
Great River Energy
763-445-5210
MStrohfus@GREnergy.com

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0391 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through Minnesota Relay at 1-800-627-3529 or by dialing 711.

