

# **APPENDIX A**

## **COMMISSION AND AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE**



GREAT RIVER  
ENERGY®

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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12300 Elm Creek Boulevard • Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369-4718 • 763-445-5000 • 763-445-5050

25 August 2011

Dr. Burl W. Haar  
Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Notice of Intent by Great River Energy to Submit a Route Permit Application  
under the Alternative Permitting Process

Dear Dr. Haar:

Pursuant to Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850.2800 subpt.2, this letter, filed via e-Filing, serves as notice that Great River Energy intends to submit a Route Permit Application for the Parker Prairie 115 kV Substation and Transmission Line Project in Otter Tail County, Minnesota under the Alternative Permitting processes of Minnesota Rules Chapters 7850.2800 to 7850.3700.

It is anticipated that the application will be submitted to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in late September 2011.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Marsha Parlow  
Transmission Permitting Analyst

c: Deborah Pile, OES  
Rick Heuring, Great River Energy  
Steve Lawler, Great River Energy





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12300 Elm Creek Boulevard • Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369-4718 • 763-445-5000 • Fax 763-445-5050 • [www.GreatRiverEnergy.com](http://www.GreatRiverEnergy.com)

25 July 2011

Ms. Lisa Joyal  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program  
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25  
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Proposed Parkers Prairie Transmission Line and Substation Construction  
Otter Tail County, Minnesota  
T 131N, R 37W, Sections 8, 9, 10, 15, 16 and 17

WO# 76051

Dear Ms. Joyal:

Great River Energy is proposing to replace the existing 41.6 kilovolt (kV) transmission line with a new 115 kV transmission line near Parkers Prairie in Otter Tail County, Minnesota. The line is to support the 115 kV conversion of the 41.6 kV Lake Region Electric Cooperative Parkers Prairie Substation located in Section 8 of Parkers Prairie Township. The conversion is necessary to improve service reliability in the area.

The Rare Features map indicates that there are no features of interest in the vicinity of the project area. The DNR Public Waters Inventory (PWI) maps indicate that the new line will not affect any public waterbodies. Although, the maps show a waterfowl area in Section 9, northwest of the intersection of MN 29 and CSAH 6. However, Great River Energy believes that construction and timing of construction can keep impact to waterfowl at a minimum.

Great River Energy is requesting concurrence of its interpretation of the rare features in the vicinity and the possible effects of the new transmission lines on wetlands, threatened and endangered species, and other important state natural resources that occur in the project area. A project description, PWI map and rare features map are enclosed for your information. The proposed line is marked in blue.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Friday, 26 August 2011. If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact me at (763) 445-5215. If you wish to respond by e-mail, my address is [mparlow@greenergy.com](mailto:mparlow@greenergy.com). Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Marsha Parlow  
Transmission Permitting Analyst

Enclosures

S:\Member Services\Environmental\Transmission\Projects\76051 Parkers Prairie\Agency Letters\Parkers Prairie DNR.doc



# Parkers Prairie 115 kV substation and transmission line rebuild project



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Maple Grove, MN 55369  
1-888-521-0130  
[www.greatriverenergy.com](http://www.greatriverenergy.com)



LREC  
Pelican Rapids, Minnesota

**LAKE REGION ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**  
1401 South Broadway, PO Box 643  
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572  
1-800-552-7658  
[www.lrec.coop](http://www.lrec.coop)

## Project need and project description

The existing Parkers Prairie 41.6/12.5 kV distribution substation owned and operated by Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) is located approximately two miles west of the City of Parkers Prairie and is currently served by a two-mile 41.6 kV radial transmission line owned and operated by Great River Energy (GRE). The substation is located in the Southwest Quarter of Section 8, T 131 N, R 37 W in Parkers Prairie Township. System load studies indicate low-voltage issues will occur across the local LREC and Otter Tail Power (OTP) distribution systems due to unplanned outage events of the regional 115/41.6 kV transmission grid.

To address this issue, GRE and LREC propose to replace the existing 41.6 kV transmission line with a new 115 kV transmission line and convert the 41.6/12.5 kV distribution substation to 115/12.5 kV. The new two-mile-long 115 kV transmission line will connect to an existing GRE 115 kV transmission line located one-quarter mile east of State Highway 29 in the Northwest Quarter of Section 15, T 131 N, R 37 W (see map on back). Completion of this project will benefit LREC members and OTP customers in the Parkers Prairie area by providing stronger voltage support in their respective distribution systems, which will improve service reliability.

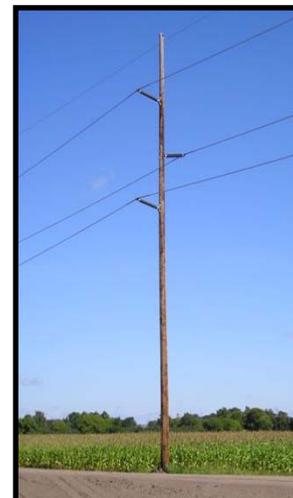
The new 115 kV transmission line will consist of three energized conductors attached to horizontal post insulators on single wood poles (see photo). A grounded shield wire will be attached at the top of each pole for lightning protection. Typical pole heights will range from 60 to 75 feet above the ground, and the distance between poles will range from 300 to 400 feet depending on terrain and physical features. All energized substation equipment is located inside a chain link fence providing safety and security.

## Easement and permitting requirements

GRE is required to negotiate and obtain easements from each landowner where the new transmission line will be located. Since the voltage of this project exceeds 100 kV, GRE and LREC are required to receive approval from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

## Schedule

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission permitting process will be conducted during the second half of 2011. Easement acquisition will take place in 2012, and construction will occur during the winter of 2012/2013. The project is expected to be completed by the spring of 2013.



*Typical 115 kV  
Transmission  
Structure*

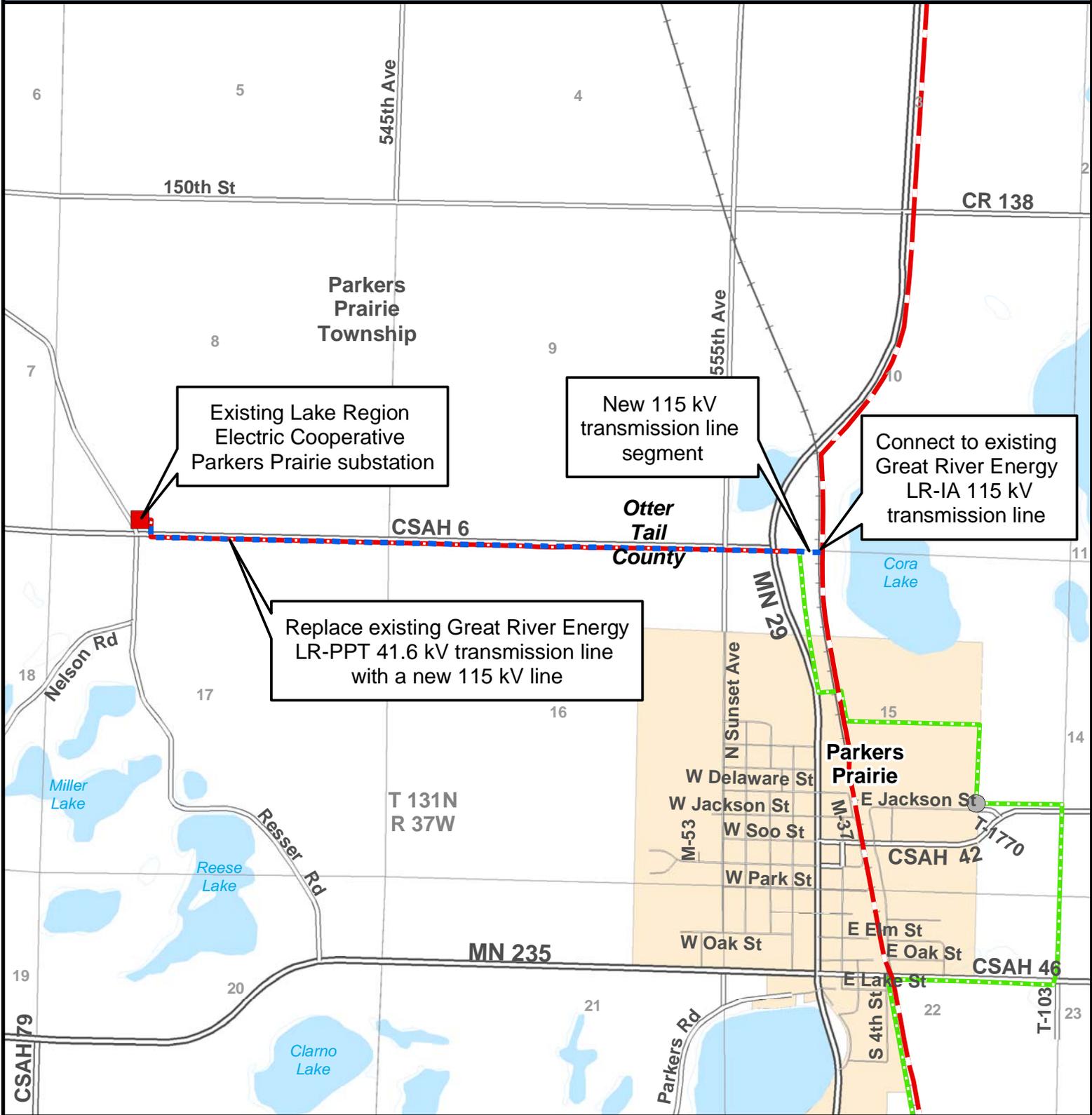
**For project updates and information, visit [greatriverenergy.com/parkersprairie](http://greatriverenergy.com/parkersprairie) or contact:**

Rick Heuring, Sr. Field Representative  
Great River Energy  
763-445-5979 or 1-888-521-0130, ext. 763-445-5979  
[rheuring@grenergy.com](mailto:rheuring@grenergy.com)

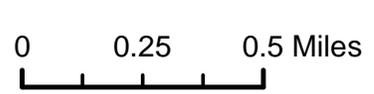
Al Fazio, Electrical Engineer  
Lake Region Electric Cooperative  
218-863-1171  
[afazio@lrec.coop](mailto:afazio@lrec.coop)

Date last revised: 6/20/2011

# Proposed project



- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Proposed Great River Energy   | Existing Lake Region Electric Cooperative |
| --- 115 kV Transmission Line  | ■ Distribution Substation                 |
| --- 41.6 kV Transmission Line | ● Existing Otter Tail Power               |
| --- 115 kV Transmission Line  | ● Distribution Substation                 |

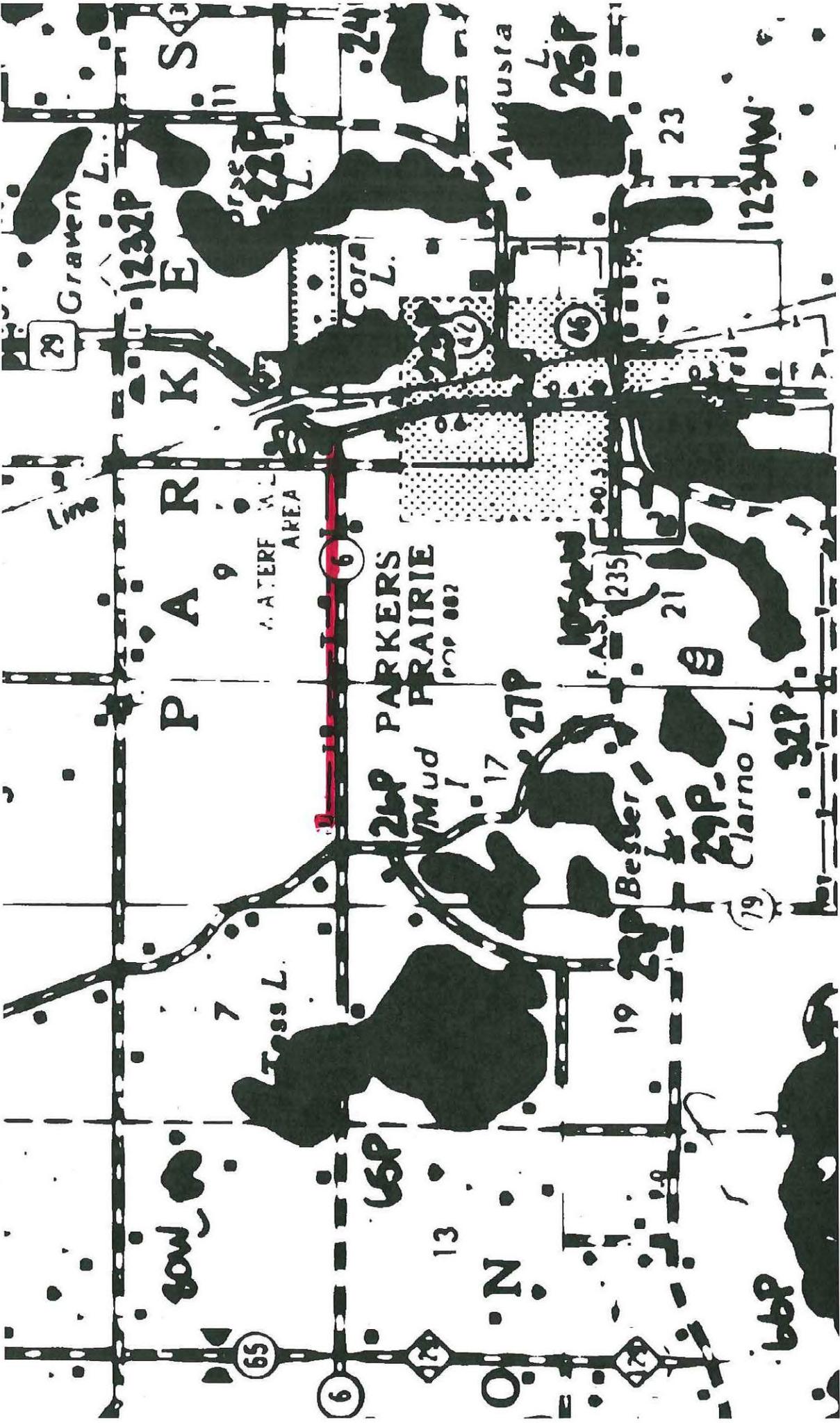


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Date last revised: 6/20/2011





PARKERS PRAIRIE

PARKERS PRAIRIE  
POP 662

Mud Creek

Graven L.

Cora L.

Besser L.

Clarno L.

Augusta

1232P

11

24

25P

23

1234W

WATERF AREA

F.A.S. 235

7

Foss L.

13

17

19

21P

25P

29P

32P

65

6

42

46

19

66P

## Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG

---

**From:** Joyal, Lisa (DNR) [lisa.joyal@state.mn.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 28, 2011 5:58 PM  
**To:** Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG  
**Subject:** FW: Parkers Prairie Transmission Line and Substation

Hi Marsha,

Our database was a bit glitchy this week and was creating erroneous project numbers. Please note that the ERDB # for this project has been changed to #20120003.

Thanks,  
Lisa

---

**From:** Joyal, Lisa (DNR)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 27, 2011 7:26 PM  
**To:** 'Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG'  
**Subject:** Parkers Prairie Transmission Line and Substation

I have received your letter regarding the above project. I concur with your assessment that there are no known occurrences of rare features in the vicinity of the project. The reference number for this correspondence is ERDB #20120578. Thank you for notifying us of this project, and for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

*Lisa Joyal*

~~~~~  
Lisa Joyal  
Natural Heritage Review Coordinator  
NHIS Data Distribution Coordinator  
Division of Ecological and Water Resources  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25  
St. Paul, MN 55155

phone: 651-259-5109  
[lisa.joyal@state.mn.us](mailto:lisa.joyal@state.mn.us)  
[www.mndnr.gov/eco](http://www.mndnr.gov/eco)





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25 July 2011

Mr. Leo Garbowski  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
Brainerd Field Office  
10867 East Gull Lake Dr. NW  
Brainerd, MN 56401

RE: Proposed Parkers Prairie Transmission Line and Substation Construction  
Otter Tail County, Minnesota  
T 131N, R 37W, Sections 8, 9, 10, 15, 16 and 17

**WO# 76051**

Dear Mr. Grabowski:

Great River Energy is proposing to replace the existing 41.6 kilovolt (kV) transmission line with a new 115 kV transmission line near Parkers Prairie in Otter Tail County, Minnesota. The line is to support the 115 kV conversion of the 41.6 kV Lake Region Electric Cooperative Parkers Prairie Substation located in Section 8 of Parkers Prairie Township. The conversion is necessary to improve service reliability in the area.

Great River Energy is requesting information on the possible effects of the proposed project on floodplains, wetlands, and other important natural resources that occur in the project area. The transmission line will not span any DNR public waters. Our review shows no wetlands along the proposed line. A project description and NWI map has been included for your review. The proposed line is marked in blue.

Great River Energy is requesting concurrence of its interpretation of the possible effects of the new transmission line on wetlands that occur in the project area. We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Friday, 26 August 2011. If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact me at (763) 445-5215. If you wish to respond by e-mail, my address is [mparlow@greenergy.com](mailto:mparlow@greenergy.com). Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Marsha Parlow  
Transmission Permitting Analyst

Enclosures

S:\Member Services\Environmental\Transmission\Projects\76051 Parkers Prairie\Agency Letters\Parkers Prairie ACE.doc



# Parkers Prairie 115 kV substation and transmission line rebuild project



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1401 South Broadway, PO Box 643  
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1-800-552-7658  
[www.lrec.coop](http://www.lrec.coop)

## Project need and project description

The existing Parkers Prairie 41.6/12.5 kV distribution substation owned and operated by Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) is located approximately two miles west of the City of Parkers Prairie and is currently served by a two-mile 41.6 kV radial transmission line owned and operated by Great River Energy (GRE). The substation is located in the Southwest Quarter of Section 8, T 131 N, R 37 W in Parkers Prairie Township. System load studies indicate low-voltage issues will occur across the local LREC and Otter Tail Power (OTP) distribution systems due to unplanned outage events of the regional 115/41.6 kV transmission grid.

To address this issue, GRE and LREC propose to replace the existing 41.6 kV transmission line with a new 115 kV transmission line and convert the 41.6/12.5 kV distribution substation to 115/12.5 kV. The new two-mile-long 115 kV transmission line will connect to an existing GRE 115 kV transmission line located one-quarter mile east of State Highway 29 in the Northwest Quarter of Section 15, T 131 N, R 37 W (see map on back). Completion of this project will benefit LREC members and OTP customers in the Parkers Prairie area by providing stronger voltage support in their respective distribution systems, which will improve service reliability.

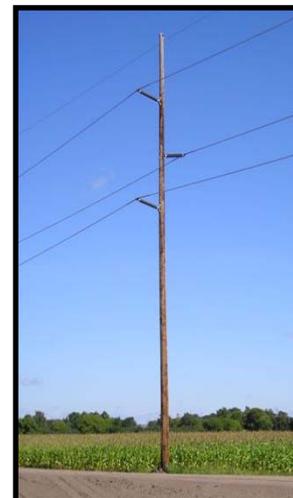
The new 115 kV transmission line will consist of three energized conductors attached to horizontal post insulators on single wood poles (see photo). A grounded shield wire will be attached at the top of each pole for lightning protection. Typical pole heights will range from 60 to 75 feet above the ground, and the distance between poles will range from 300 to 400 feet depending on terrain and physical features. All energized substation equipment is located inside a chain link fence providing safety and security.

## Easement and permitting requirements

GRE is required to negotiate and obtain easements from each landowner where the new transmission line will be located. Since the voltage of this project exceeds 100 kV, GRE and LREC are required to receive approval from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

## Schedule

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission permitting process will be conducted during the second half of 2011. Easement acquisition will take place in 2012, and construction will occur during the winter of 2012/2013. The project is expected to be completed by the spring of 2013.



*Typical 115 kV  
Transmission  
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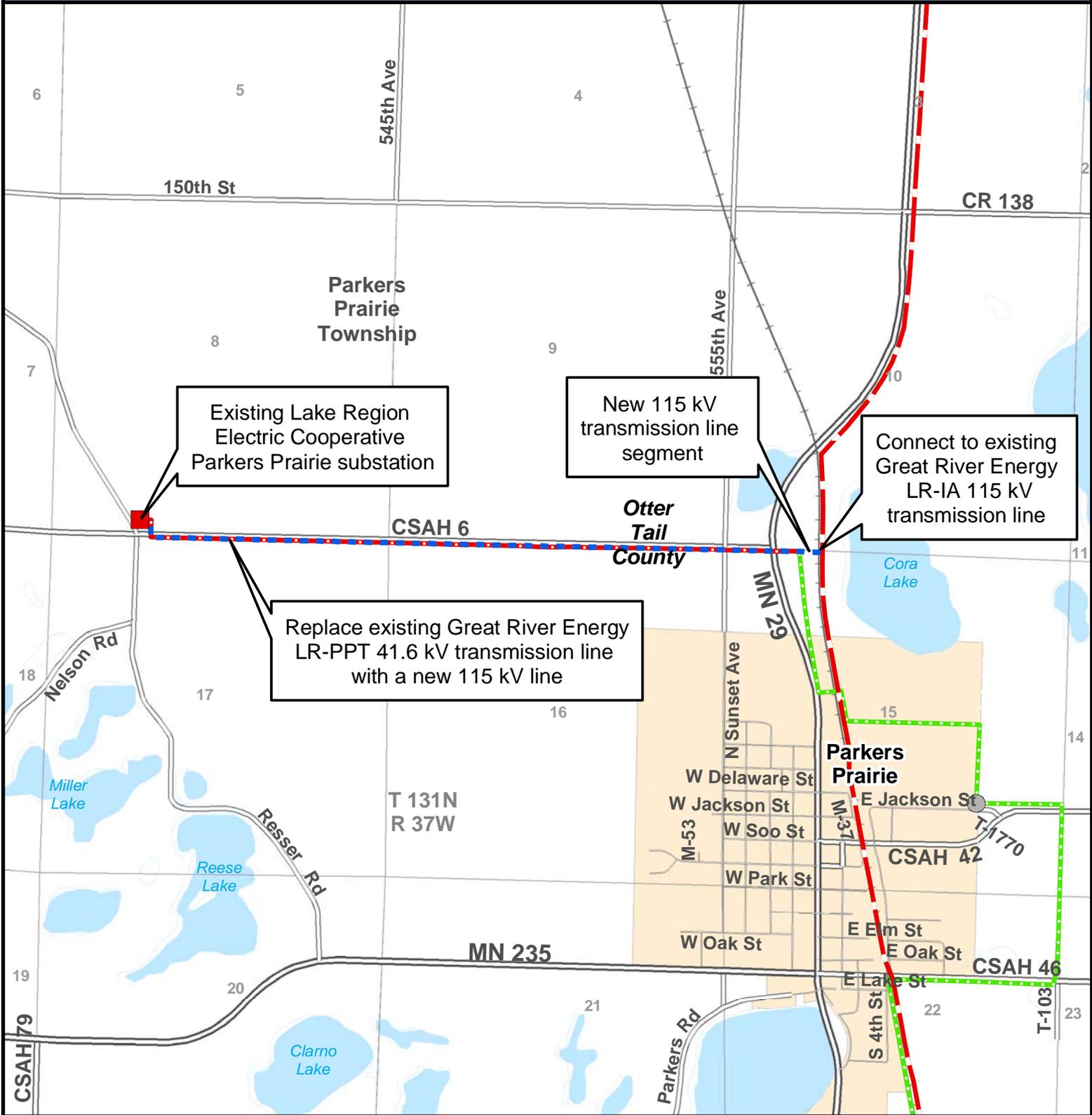
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Rick Heuring, Sr. Field Representative  
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[rheuring@greenergy.com](mailto:rheuring@greenergy.com)

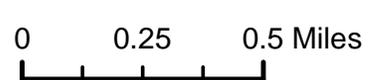
Al Fazio, Electrical Engineer  
Lake Region Electric Cooperative  
218-863-1171  
[afazio@lrec.coop](mailto:afazio@lrec.coop)

Date last revised: 6/20/2011

# Proposed project



- |                                |                                           |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Proposed Great River Energy    | Existing Lake Region Electric Cooperative |
| ••••• 115 kV Transmission Line | ■ Distribution Substation                 |
| Existing Great River Energy    | Existing Otter Tail Power                 |
| --- 41.6 kV Transmission Line  | --- 41.6 kV Transmission Line             |
| --- 115 kV Transmission Line   | ● Distribution Substation                 |



**GREAT RIVER ENERGY**  
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Date last revised: 6/20/2011



**GREAT RIVER ENERGY**

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Existing Lake Region Electric Coop

- Distribution Substation
- Proposed Great River Energy Route Permit Area
- Existing Great River Energy 41.6 kV Transmission Line
- Existing 115 kV Transmission Line
- Existing Other Tail Power
- 41.6 kV Transmission Line
- Distribution Substation

**Hydrologic Features**

- PWI Lake
- PWI Wetland
- **NWI Wetlands**
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Riverine



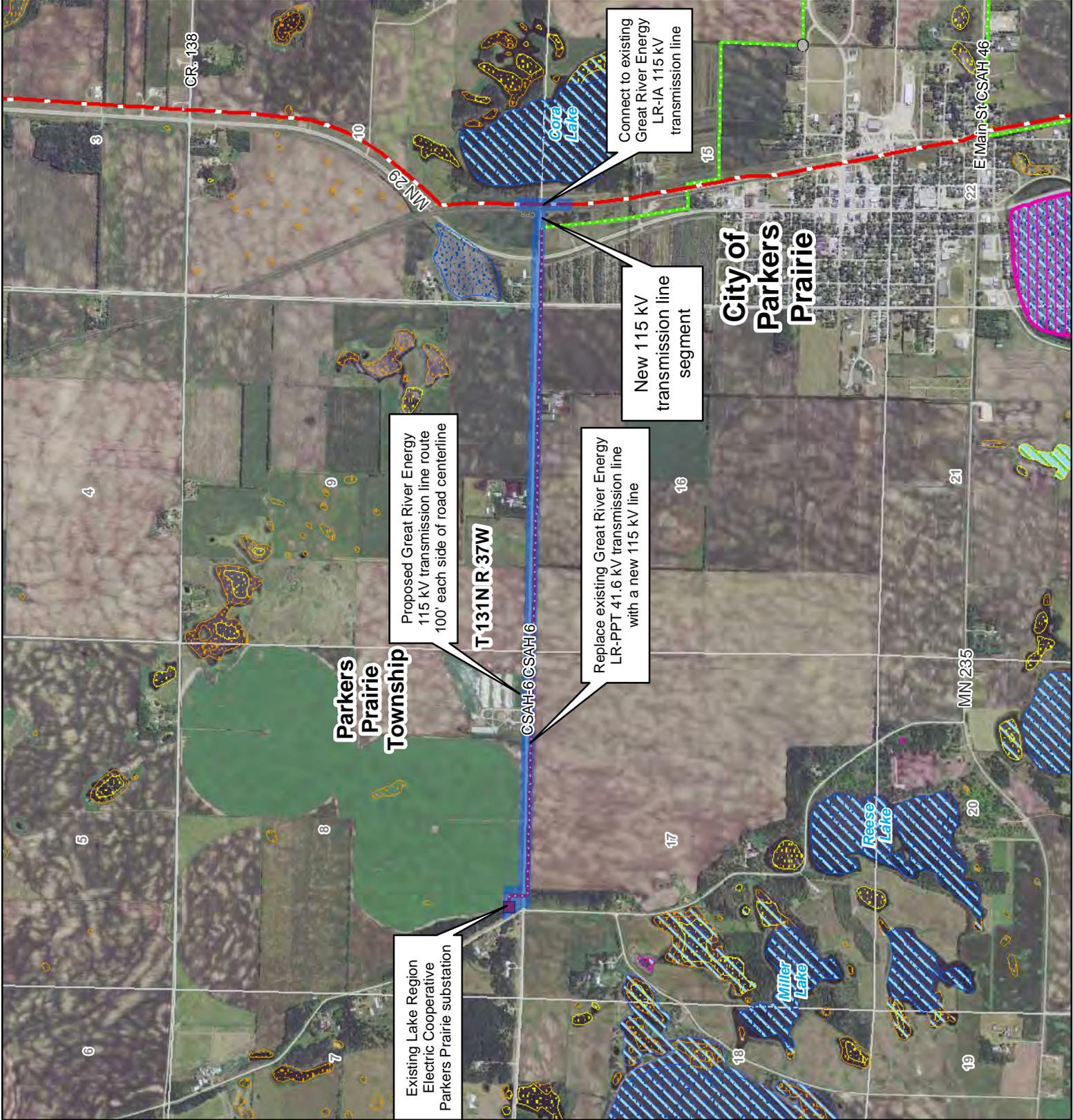
\*Copyright (2011), State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources. Rare features data included here were provided by the Division of Ecological Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Data Sources Vary Between MNDOT, MNDNR, MNGEO and Great River Energy. NWI Wetlands & PWI from MNDNR. Impaired Waters from MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). 2010 Color Orthophotos from Farm Services Administration (FSA)

Map Projection: UTM, NAD83, Zone15, Meters

**Parkers Prairie 115-kV Project Wetlands**

Updated: 7/25/2011



Proposed Great River Energy 115 kV transmission line route 100' each side of road centerline

**T 131N R 37W**

Replace existing Great River Energy LR-PPT 41.6 kV transmission line with a new 115 kV line

New 115 kV transmission line segment

Connect to existing Great River Energy LR-IA 115 kV transmission line

**City of Parkers Prairie**

**Parkers Prairie Township**

Existing Lake Region Electric Cooperative Parkers Prairie substation





REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

ST. PAUL DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
180 FIFTH STREET EAST, SUITE 700  
ST. PAUL, MN 55101-1678

August 3, 2011

Operations  
Regulatory (2011-02990-LAG)

Ms. Marsha Parlow  
Great River Energy  
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard  
Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369-4718

Dear Ms. Parlow:

We have reviewed the information submitted for your proposed Parkers Prairie transmission line and substation construction project located in Sections 8, 9 and 10, T. 131N., R. 37W., Otter Tail County, Minnesota. You requested our comments on the project with respect to the Corps regulatory jurisdiction.

This response is limited to our regulatory jurisdiction and does not address specific environmental impacts or mitigation.

The project would need a Department of the Army (DOA) permit, under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, if the work involves a discharge of dredged or fill material into any water of the United States, including most wetlands. A review of the National Wetland Inventory mapping suggests that there are numerous wetlands in the project area.

The project would need a DOA permit, under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, if the work involves a navigable water of the United States. A preliminary review of the project map indicates that there are no navigable waters of the United States in the project area.

If the project would include any temporary placement of excavated or fill material into a waterbody or wetland, the applicant may also need authorization for that work.

Applications for permit may be addressed to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch, 10867 East Gull Lake Dr. NW, Brainerd, Minnesota 56401. If you have any questions, contact Leo Grabowski in our Brainerd office at (218) 829-8402. In any correspondence or inquiries, please refer to the Regulatory number shown above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leo Grabowski".

Handwritten initials in cursive script, appearing to be "T.E.C.".

Tamara E. Cameron  
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Cc: Otter Tail Land & Resources





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25 July 2011

Dan Boerner  
Office of Aeronautics  
Minnesota Department of Transportation  
222 E. Plato Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55107-1618

RE: Proposed Parkers Prairie Transmission Line and Substation Construction  
Otter Tail County, Minnesota  
T 131N, R 37W, Sections 8, 9, 10, 15, 16 and 17

WO# 76051

Dear Mr. Boerner

Great River Energy is proposing to replace the existing 41.6 kilovolt (kV) transmission line with a new 115 kV transmission line near Parkers Prairie in Otter Tail County, Minnesota. The line is to support the 115 kV conversion of the 41.6 kV Lake Region Electric Cooperative Parkers Prairie Substation located in Section 8 of Parkers Prairie Township. The conversion is necessary to improve service reliability in the area.

The transmission line will be constructed with single wood poles that will generally range between 60 and 75 feet in height. Great River Energy is requesting information on the possible effects of the proposed project on airports or airstrips in the project area. From my research, I find that the closest airport to the project is the Henning Municipal Airport (8.8 nm NNW). A project description is enclosed for your information. The proposed line is marked in blue.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Friday, 26 August 2011. If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact me at (763) 445-5215. If you wish to respond by e-mail, my address is [mparlow@GREnergy.com](mailto:mparlow@GREnergy.com). Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Marsha Parlow  
Transmission Permitting Analyst

Enclosure

S:\Member Services\Environmental\Transmission\Projects\76051 Parkers Prairie\Agency Letters\Parkers Prairie MNDO.doc



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## Schedule

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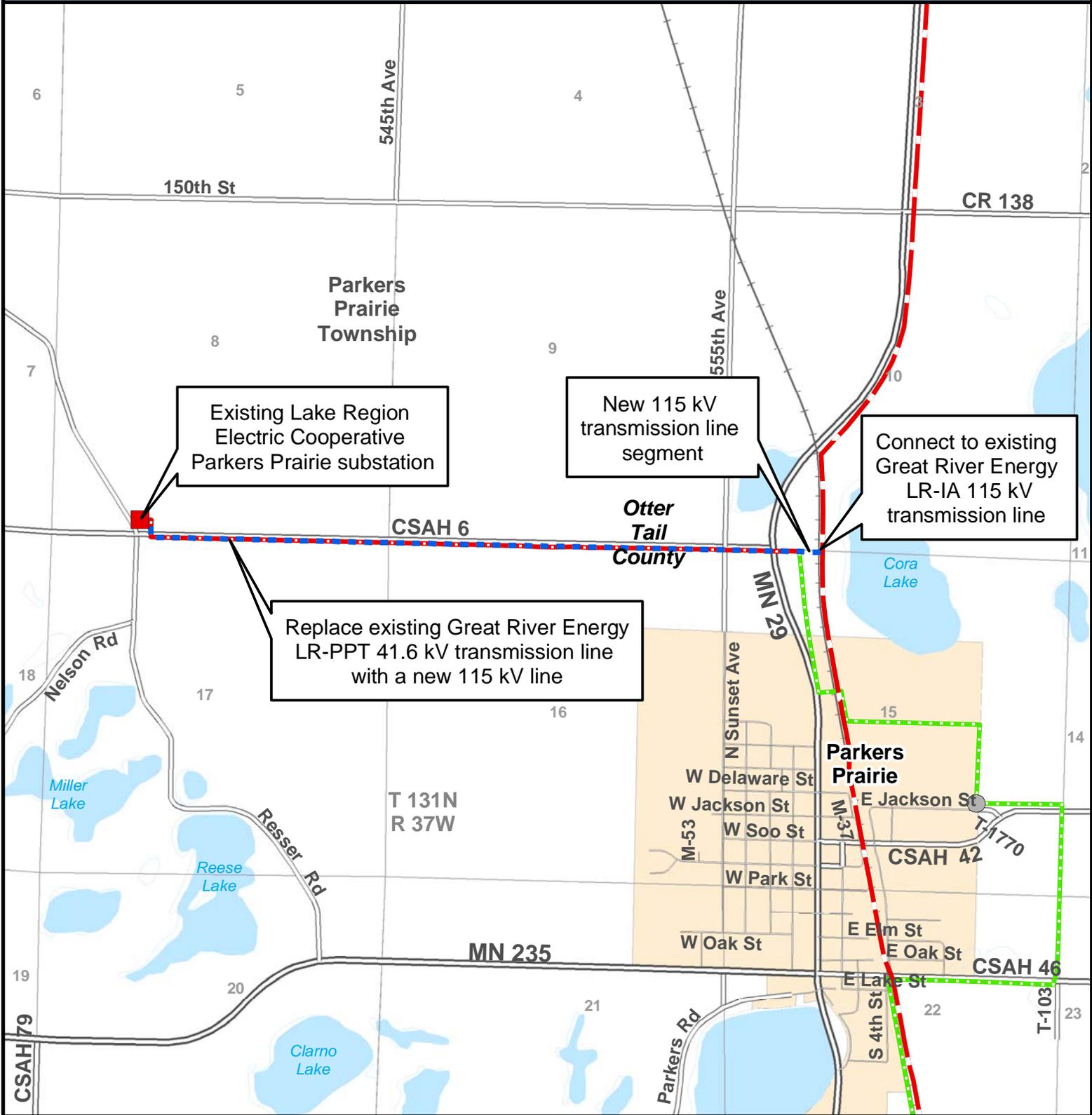
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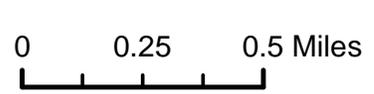
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Lake Region Electric Cooperative  
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Date last revised: 6/20/2011

# Proposed project



- |                                |                                           |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
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| ••••• 115 kV Transmission Line | ■ Distribution Substation                 |
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| --- 41.6 kV Transmission Line  | --- 41.6 kV Transmission Line             |
| --- 115 kV Transmission Line   | ● Distribution Substation                 |



**GREAT RIVER ENERGY**  
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



Date last revised: 6/20/2011

## Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG

---

**From:** Boerner, Dan (DOT) [dan.boerner@state.mn.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 29, 2011 10:41 AM  
**To:** Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG  
**Subject:** closest airport is Henning ... RE: Parkers Prairie or Little Falls substation ... RE: Parkers Prairie Project

Hi Marsha,

You are correct, the closest airport is the Henning airport. The proposed transmission line will not have an impact on the Henning Municipal airport or any other airports.

Dan

---

**From:** Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG [mailto:[mparlow@GREnergy.com](mailto:mparlow@GREnergy.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 29, 2011 10:22 AM  
**To:** Boerner, Dan (DOT)  
**Subject:** RE: Parkers Prairie or Little Falls substation ... RE: Parkers Prairie Project

Dan,

My apologies. I sent you the wrong factsheet.

Here is the correct information.

Marsha

---

**From:** Boerner, Dan (DOT) [mailto:[dan.boerner@state.mn.us](mailto:dan.boerner@state.mn.us)]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 29, 2011 10:12 AM  
**To:** Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG  
**Subject:** Parkers Prairie or Little Falls substation ... RE: Parkers Prairie Project

Hi Marsha,

The attachment you sent talks about the Parkers Prairie transmission line in Ottertail County in the cover letter, but the attachments to the cover letter details information about a new transmission line at the Little Falls substation in Morrison county. Could you clarify?

Thanks,  
Dan

---

**From:** Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG [mailto:[mparlow@GREnergy.com](mailto:mparlow@GREnergy.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 29, 2011 9:19 AM  
**To:** Boerner, Dan (DOT)  
**Subject:** Parkers Prairie Project

Hi Dan,

I know you are busy.

Have you had a chance to review our Parkers Prairie Project?

Thanks,

**Marsha Parlow**

**Transmission Permitting Analyst, Environmental Services**

**Great River Energy**

2300 Elm Creek Boulevard

Maple Grove, MN 55369

Direct: 763-445-5215 | Fax: 763-445-5246 | Cell: 612-345-1212

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25 July 2011

Mr. Nick Rowse, Habitat Conservation Biologist  
United States Department of the Interior  
Twin Cities Field Office  
4101 American Blvd East  
Bloomington, MN 55425-1665

RE: Proposed Parkers Prairie Transmission Line and Substation Construction  
Otter Tail County, Minnesota  
T 131N, R 37W, Sections 8, 9, 10, 15, 16 and 17

**WO# 76051**

Dear Mr. Nick Rowse:

Great River Energy is proposing to replace the existing 41.6 kilovolt (kV) transmission line with a new 115 kV transmission line near Parkers Prairie in Otter Tail County, Minnesota. The line is to support the 115 kV conversion of the 41.6 kV Lake Region Electric Cooperative Parkers Prairie Substation located in Section 8 of Parkers Prairie Township. The conversion is necessary to improve service reliability in the area.

The Fish and Wildlife Service website (<http://www.fws.gov/Midwest/Endangered/LISTS/minnesotacy.html>) indicates that the Gray Wolf is listed on the threatened and endangered list in Otter Tail County, Minnesota. Great River Energy is requesting concurrence or information on the possible effects of the proposed project on any listed or proposed threatened or endangered species and designated or proposed critical habitat that may be present in the project area. A project description has been included for your review. The proposed line is marked in blue.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Friday, 26 August 2011. If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact me at (763) 445-5215. If you wish to respond by e-mail, my address is [mparlow@grenergy.com](mailto:mparlow@grenergy.com). Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Marsha Parlow  
Transmission Permitting Analyst

Enclosure

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# Parkers Prairie 115 kV substation and transmission line rebuild project



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LREC  
Pelican Rapids, Minnesota

**LAKE REGION ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**  
1401 South Broadway, PO Box 643  
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572  
1-800-552-7658  
[www.lrec.coop](http://www.lrec.coop)

## Project need and project description

The existing Parkers Prairie 41.6/12.5 kV distribution substation owned and operated by Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) is located approximately two miles west of the City of Parkers Prairie and is currently served by a two-mile 41.6 kV radial transmission line owned and operated by Great River Energy (GRE). The substation is located in the Southwest Quarter of Section 8, T 131 N, R 37 W in Parkers Prairie Township. System load studies indicate low-voltage issues will occur across the local LREC and Otter Tail Power (OTP) distribution systems due to unplanned outage events of the regional 115/41.6 kV transmission grid.

To address this issue, GRE and LREC propose to replace the existing 41.6 kV transmission line with a new 115 kV transmission line and convert the 41.6/12.5 kV distribution substation to 115/12.5 kV. The new two-mile-long 115 kV transmission line will connect to an existing GRE 115 kV transmission line located one-quarter mile east of State Highway 29 in the Northwest Quarter of Section 15, T 131 N, R 37 W (see map on back). Completion of this project will benefit LREC members and OTP customers in the Parkers Prairie area by providing stronger voltage support in their respective distribution systems, which will improve service reliability.

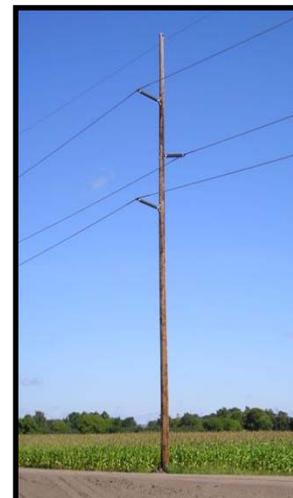
The new 115 kV transmission line will consist of three energized conductors attached to horizontal post insulators on single wood poles (see photo). A grounded shield wire will be attached at the top of each pole for lightning protection. Typical pole heights will range from 60 to 75 feet above the ground, and the distance between poles will range from 300 to 400 feet depending on terrain and physical features. All energized substation equipment is located inside a chain link fence providing safety and security.

## Easement and permitting requirements

GRE is required to negotiate and obtain easements from each landowner where the new transmission line will be located. Since the voltage of this project exceeds 100 kV, GRE and LREC are required to receive approval from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

## Schedule

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission permitting process will be conducted during the second half of 2011. Easement acquisition will take place in 2012, and construction will occur during the winter of 2012/2013. The project is expected to be completed by the spring of 2013.



*Typical 115 kV  
Transmission  
Structure*

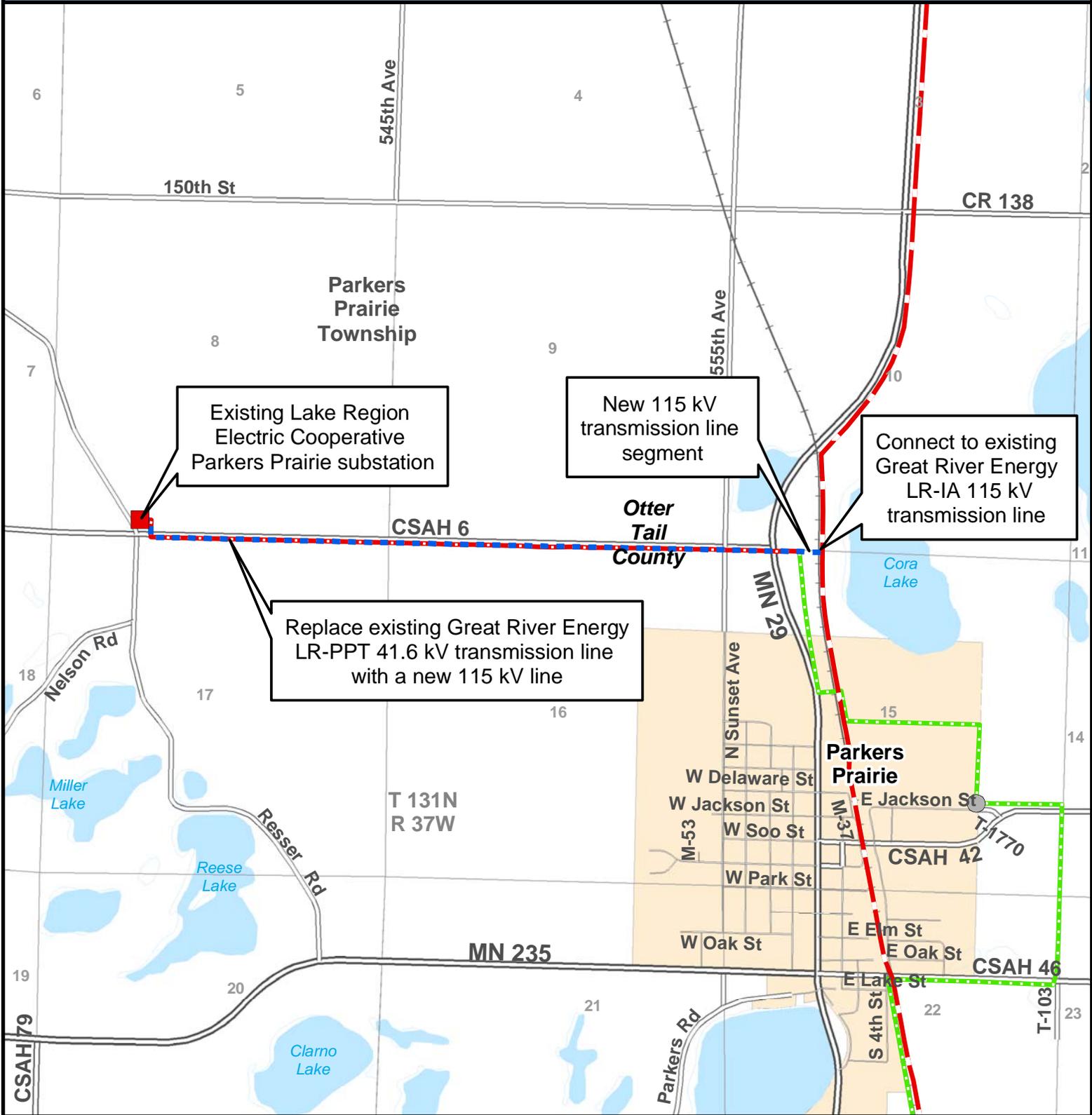
**For project updates and information, visit [greatriverenergy.com/parkersprairie](http://greatriverenergy.com/parkersprairie) or contact:**

Rick Heuring, Sr. Field Representative  
Great River Energy  
763-445-5979 or 1-888-521-0130, ext. 763-445-5979  
[rheuring@grenergy.com](mailto:rheuring@grenergy.com)

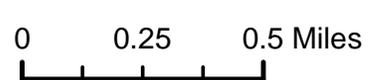
Al Fazio, Electrical Engineer  
Lake Region Electric Cooperative  
218-863-1171  
[afazio@lrec.coop](mailto:afazio@lrec.coop)

Date last revised: 6/20/2011

# Proposed project



- |                                |                                           |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Proposed Great River Energy    | Existing Lake Region Electric Cooperative |
| ••••• 115 kV Transmission Line | ■ Distribution Substation                 |
| Existing Great River Energy    | Existing Otter Tail Power                 |
| --- 41.6 kV Transmission Line  | --- 41.6 kV Transmission Line             |
| --- 115 kV Transmission Line   | ● Distribution Substation                 |



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Date last revised: 6/20/2011

## Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG

---

**From:** Nick\_Rowse@fws.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, September 12, 2011 11:50 AM  
**To:** Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG  
**Subject:** Re: Parkers Prairie Project

Marsha Parlow  
Environmental Services  
Great River Energy  
2300 Elm Creek Blvd.  
Maple Grove, MN 55369

Dear Ms. Parlow,

This responds to your request for our review of the Parkers Prairie project. Great River Energy is proposing to replace two miles of existing 41.6 kv transmission line with a new 115 kV transmission line. Our records indicate there are no federally listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat within the action area of the proposed project. If project plans change, additional information on listed or proposed species becomes available, or new species are listed that may be affected by the project, consultation should be reinitiated. This concludes section 7 consultation for proposed construction at the above location. Thank you for your cooperation in meeting our joint responsibilities under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. If you have any further endangered species questions, please contact me at (612) 725-3548 x2210.

Sincerely,

Nick Rowse  
Fish and Wildlife Biologist  
Twin Cities ES Field Office  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
4101 American Blvd. E.  
Bloomington, MN 55425-1665

"Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG" <[mparlow@GREnergy.com](mailto:mparlow@GREnergy.com)>

To "[Nick\\_Rowse@fws.gov](mailto:Nick_Rowse@fws.gov)" <[Nick\\_Rowse@fws.gov](mailto:Nick_Rowse@fws.gov)>

cc

Subject Parkers Prairie Project

09/12/2011 11:32 AM

Hi Nick,

Have you had a chance to review our Parkers Prairie project?

Thanks!

**Marsha Parlow**  
Transmission Permitting Analyst, Environmental Services  
Great River Energy  
2300 Elm Creek Boulevard  
Maple Grove, MN 55369  
Direct: 763-445-5215 | Fax: 763-445-5246 | Cell: 612-345-1212  
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[attachment "Parkers Prairie FWS.pdf" deleted by Nick Rowse/R3/FWS/DOI]



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25 July 2011

Ms. Mary Ann Heidemann  
Manager of Government Programs & Compliance  
Minnesota Historical Society  
345 Kellogg Blvd. West  
St. Paul, MN 55102-1906

RE: Proposed Parkers Prairie Transmission Line and Substation Construction  
Otter Tail County, Minnesota  
T 131N, R 37W, Sections 8, 9, 10, 15, 16 and 17

**WO# 76051**

Dear Ms. Heidemann:

Great River Energy is proposing to replace the existing 41.6 kilovolt (kV) transmission line with a new 115 kV transmission line near Parkers Prairie in Otter Tail County, Minnesota. The line is to support the 115 kV conversion of the 41.6 kV Lake Region Electric Cooperative Parkers Prairie Substation located in Section 8 of Parkers Prairie Township. The conversion is necessary to improve service reliability in the area.

Westwood Professional Services conducted a background literature search (see attached) on July 22<sup>nd</sup> and found that the area has low to moderate potential for cultural resources. Great River Energy is requesting information on the possible effects of the proposed project on cultural and historic properties in the project area. A project description/map is included for your review. The proposed line is marked in blue.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Friday, 26 August 2011. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (763) 445-5215. If you wish to contact me by e-mail, my address is [mparlow@greenergy.com](mailto:mparlow@greenergy.com).

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Marsha Parlow  
Transmission Permitting Analyst

Cc: Britta L. Bloomberg, Minnesota Historical Society

Enclosure

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# Parkers Prairie 115 kV substation and transmission line rebuild project



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LREC  
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1401 South Broadway, PO Box 643  
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572  
1-800-552-7658  
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## Project need and project description

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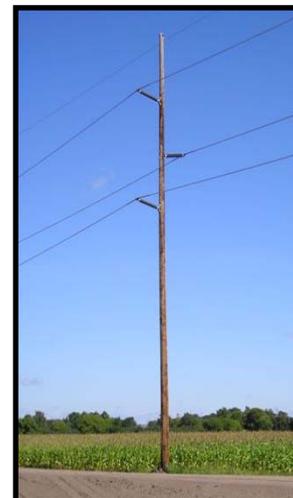
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## Easement and permitting requirements

GRE is required to negotiate and obtain easements from each landowner where the new transmission line will be located. Since the voltage of this project exceeds 100 kV, GRE and LREC are required to receive approval from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

## Schedule

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission permitting process will be conducted during the second half of 2011. Easement acquisition will take place in 2012, and construction will occur during the winter of 2012/2013. The project is expected to be completed by the spring of 2013.



*Typical 115 kV  
Transmission  
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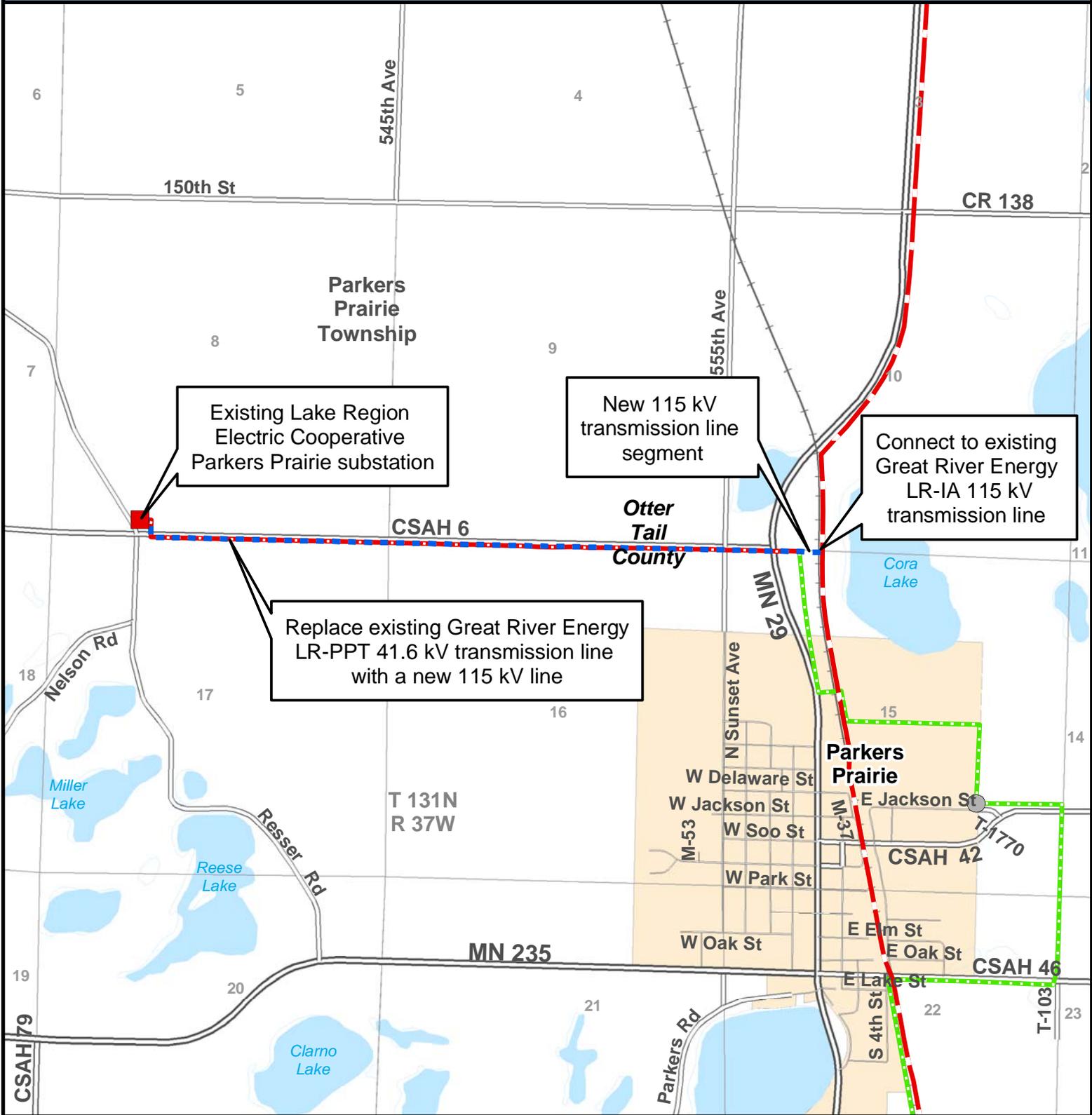
**For project updates and information, visit [greatriverenergy.com/parkersprairie](http://greatriverenergy.com/parkersprairie) or contact:**

Rick Heuring, Sr. Field Representative  
Great River Energy  
763-445-5979 or 1-888-521-0130, ext. 763-445-5979  
[rheuring@greenergy.com](mailto:rheuring@greenergy.com)

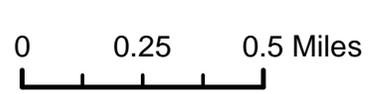
Al Fazio, Electrical Engineer  
Lake Region Electric Cooperative  
218-863-1171  
[afazio@lrec.coop](mailto:afazio@lrec.coop)

Date last revised: 6/20/2011

# Proposed project



- |                                 |                                           |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Proposed Great River Energy     | Existing Lake Region Electric Cooperative |
| --- 115 kV Transmission Line    | ■ Distribution Substation                 |
| --- Existing Great River Energy | ■ Existing Otter Tail Power               |
| --- 41.6 kV Transmission Line   | --- 41.6 kV Transmission Line             |
| --- 115 kV Transmission Line    | ● Distribution Substation                 |



**GREAT RIVER ENERGY**  
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Date last revised: 6/20/2011

July 25, 2011

Westwood Professional Services  
7699 Anagram Drive  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

MAIN 952-937-5150  
FAX 952-937-5822  
TOLL FREE 1-888-937-5150  
EMAIL [wps@westwoodps.com](mailto:wps@westwoodps.com)  
[www.westwoodps.com](http://www.westwoodps.com)



Marsha Parlow  
Transmission Permitting Analyst  
Great River Energy  
12300 Elm Creek Blvd.  
Maple Grove, MN 55369

**Re: Phase Ia Cultural Resource Literature Review of the Proposed Parkers Prairie 115 kV Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project, Ottertail County, Minnesota.**

Dear Ms. Parlow:

Westwood Professional Services, Inc. (Westwood) was contracted by Great River Energy to conduct a cultural resources literature review of the proposed location of the Parkers Prairie 115 kV Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project (Project). The proposed Project will be located in Sections 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, and 17, Township 131 N, Range 37 W (Parkers Prairie Township) in Otter Tail County, MN. The review consisted of an examination of resources including historic mapping, cultural resource survey reports, and archaeological site files.

On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011, Westwood Senior Cultural Resource Specialist Dean T. Sather conducted a background literature search of the proposed substation location and a one-mile buffer at the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) located at Fort Snelling in St. Paul, MN, and the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) located at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul, MN. Archaeological site files were examined to obtain a list of all previously recorded archaeological sites within the proposed project area. Cultural resource investigation summary reports for the county were reviewed to determine if previous surveys have been conducted within the project area. Other sources examined included the Andreas' Illustrated Atlas of Minnesota, 1874, and the historic Trygg maps,

No archaeological sites have been identified at the proposed substation location or within a one-mile buffer. No potential cultural resources were identified in the examined historic mapping. The area has a low to moderate potential for cultural resources. It must be noted, however, that to date no cultural resource surveys have been conducted at the proposed location.

Sincerely,

WESTWOOD PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Dean T. Sather  
Senior Cultural Resource Specialist





STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

September 14, 2011

Marsha Parlow  
Transmission Permitting Analyst  
Great River Energy  
12300 Elm Creek Blvd.  
Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718

RE: Proposed Parkers Prairie Transmission Line & Substation Construction  
Parkers Prairie Twp., Otter Tail County  
SHPO Number: 2011-3445

Dear Ms. Parlow:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the above project. It has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the Minnesota Historical Society by the Minnesota Historic Sites Act and the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act.

Based on our review of the project information, we conclude that there are no properties listed in the National or State Registers of Historic Places, and no known or suspected archaeological properties in the area that will be affected by this project.

Please note that this comment letter does not address the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36CFR800, Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for the protection of historic properties. If this project is considered for federal assistance, or requires a federal permit or license, it should be submitted to our office with reference to the assisting federal agency.

Please contact our Compliance Section at (651) 259-3455 if you have any questions regarding our review of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Kelly Gragg-Johnson'.

Handwritten initials 'JC' in blue ink.

Mary Ann Heidemann, Manager  
Government Programs and Compliance