Richard West, P.E.
County Engineer

Phone 218-998-8470
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OTTER TAIL COUNTY
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
505 S. Court Street, Suite 1, Fergus Falls, MN 56537

December 12, 2011

RECEIVED
DEC 15 2011
MN Dept of Commerce
Mailroom

Mr. Ray Kirsch
State Permit Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Re: Route Permit Application for the Parkers Prairie 115 kV Transmission Line Project in Otter Tail County, Minnesota – PUC Docket Number: ET2/TL-11-867

Dear Mr. Kirsch:

The following is provided in response to the notice issued November 29, 2011 for the above reference permit application.

We have reviewed the information in the notice and on the web site and have the following comments:

1. As we understand the proposed route the majority of the transmission line will be placed along the south side of County State Aid Highway Number 6 (CSAH 6). According to Appendix B, Figure B-2 of the Application the new pole line will be approximately 55 feet from the centerline of CSAH 6. We would request that the 55 foot distance from the centerline be reconsidered and request that the distance be greater than 60 feet. When we reconstruct highways on our system we typically increase our Highway Right of Way to 60 feet either side of the centerline, giving us a 120 foot highway corridor. The extra width allows us to reconstruct the highway with adequate shoulders, inslopes, ditches and backslopes and also allows for alignment corrections. While we have no immediate plans to reconstruct this portion of CSAH 6, reconstruction will eventually occur. This section of CSAH 6 was last reconstructed in 1980 or 31 years ago. Typically we reconstruct highway on a 50 to 60 year cycle. Thus we assume the reconstruction of this section of CSAH 6 would occur within the life expectancy of the proposed transmission line. If the transmission line stays as proposed our potential cost to relocate the transmission line in the future could be cost prohibitive. On a recent similar reconstruction project on our CSAH 83 we paid Great River Energy approximately $700,000 to relocate about 2.7 miles of 46 kV transmission line.

2. A County Utility Permit will be require if any portion of the transmission line runs through or across the CSAH 6 Right of Way. A permit application can be obtained from the Otter Tail County Highway Department at the above address.

If you have any questions or require more information, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,
Otter Tail County Highway Department

Richard West, P.E.
County Engineer

cc: Roger Froemming, County Commissioner
David Hauser, County Attorney
Charles H. Grotte, Assistant County Engineer
Rick Heuring, Great River Energy