



Issued: February 21, 2014

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy for a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit for a 115 kV Transmission Line Project in the Elko, New Market and Cleary Lake Areas in Scott and Rice Counties (PUC Docket Nos. ET2/TL-12-1245 and CN-12-1235)

The Minnesota Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis Unit (EERA) has released the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Area 115 kV Transmission Line Upgrade Project.

The intent of the environmental review process is to inform the public, the Applicant and decision-makers about potential impacts and possible mitigations for a proposed project. As two concurrent environmental reviews are required in this case – an Environmental Report (ER) for the certificate of need application and an Environmental Assessment for the route permit application – EERA elected to combine the environmental review for the two applications (Minn. Rule 7849.1900). Thus, an EA in lieu of an ER was prepared to meet the requirements of both review processes.

Copies of the EA can be obtained through EERA staff, on the EERA web site at http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=32989 or by searching year "12", number "1245" or "1235" on eDockets at https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp. Copies of the EA are also available for review at the following local libraries:

Table with 2 columns and 2 rows listing library names and addresses: Elko New Market Public Library, New Prague Public Library, Prior Lake Public Library, Savage Public Library.

Project Description

- Rebuild approximately 3.5 miles of the existing Great River Energy single circuit 69 kV "MV-PN" line to 115 kV standards from Prior Lake Junction south to Credit River Junction;
Rebuild approximately 0.9 mile of the existing Great River Energy single circuit 69 kV "MV-CR" line to single circuit 115 kV standards with 69 kV underbuild from Credit River Junction west to MVEC's Cleary Lake Substation;

- Rebuild approximately 1.3 miles of the existing Great River Energy single circuit 69 kV MV-CR line to 115 kV standards northwest from MVEC's Cleary Lake Substation to Xcel Energy's Credit River Substation;
- Rebuild approximately 5.6 miles of the existing Great River Energy single circuit 69 kV MV-PN (north of Elko Substation to New Market Substation). line to 115 kV standards; and
- Construct approximately 5.4 miles of new double circuit transmission line from the MV-PN line to Xcel Energy's Veseli 69 kV breaker station.

***Public Hearing***

A Public Hearing on the Certificate of Need and the Route Permit will be held in the Project area on March 4, 2014 after this release of this Environmental Assessment and will be noticed separately.

***Project Contacts***

For information about the environmental review process, contact David Birkholz (651-539-1838, [david.birkholz@state.mn.us](mailto:david.birkholz@state.mn.us)), Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis, 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198.

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