



Janez D. Homaley for
Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary
Public Utilities Commission



NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCOPING MEETING

Issued: February 27, 2015

In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy and Minnesota Power for a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit for the Menahga Area 115 kV Transmission Project in Hubbard, Wadena and Becker Counties, Minnesota

Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Numbers: ET-2, E-015/CN-14-787
ET-2, E-015/TL-14-797

Date: March 24, 2015

Time: 6:00pm

Location: Menahga Senior Center
19 Cedar Avenue
Menahga MN 56464

Bad weather? Find out if a meeting is canceled. Call (toll-free) 1-855-731-6208 or 651-201-2213 or visit mn.gov/puc

Project Description

Great River Energy and Minnesota Power propose to:

- Build a new 22.5 mile, 115 kV transmission line
- Build three new substations

The project would be located in Becker, Hubbard, and Wadena Counties.

Great River Energy and Minnesota Power state the project is needed to address overloads on the existing transmission system and to serve a proposed oil pump station.

Meeting Information

- The meeting starts on time.
- Arrive a few minutes early so you have time to sign in, pick up materials, and find a seat.
- State agency staff members preside over the meeting.

- Public Utilities Commission, Department of Commerce, Great River Energy, and Minnesota Power staff will be available to answer questions about the permitting process and the project.
- Citizens will be able to offer oral comments, written comments, or both into the record.
- Comments received at the meeting and during the comment period will be used to develop the environmental assessment for this project.
- Learn more about participating at a public meeting at mn.gov/puc/aboutus/index.html

Submit Comments

Topics Open for Public Comment:

- What human and environmental impacts of the proposed transmission line should be studied in the environmental assessment prepared for this project?
- Are there any specific methods to address these impacts that should be studied in the environmental assessment?
- Are there any alternative routes or route segments that should be considered to address these impacts?
- Are there other ways to meet the stated need of the proposed project, instead of the proposed transmission line?
- What alternatives to the proposed project should be studied in the environmental assessment?

Comment Period February 27, 2015 through April 10, 2015 at 4:30pm

- Please include the PUC Docket Numbers (*14-787 and 14-797*) in all communications.

Online mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment

Email raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us

U.S. Mail Ray Kirsch, Environmental Review Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul MN 55101

Fax 651-539-0109

Important Comments will be made available to the public via the Public Utilities Commission’s and the Department of Commerce’s websites, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. Personally identifying information is not edited or deleted from submissions.

Process Information

Before the project can be built, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) must approve a certificate of need and a route permit. The Commission accepted Great River Energy and Minnesota Power's certificate of need and route permit application at a February 2015 meeting. This means the companies submitted all the information required to begin the review process. The Commission's decision-making process takes about twelve months.

Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis staff will prepare an environmental assessment for this project. The environmental assessment will review the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives, as well as ways to address impacts.

After the environmental assessment is issued, there will be a public hearing. Citizens will be able to speak at the hearing, ask questions, and submit comments about the project.

An Administrative Law Judge will use all the information in the record, including written comments and comments received at the public hearing, to write a report for the Commission. The report is a summary of findings, conclusions, and recommendations about this project. After receiving the Judge's report, the Commission will schedule a meeting to make final decisions on the certificate of need and the route permit for this project, expected by January 2016.

Eminent Domain: If the Commission issues a route permit, Great River Energy and Minnesota Power may use the power of eminent domain to get land for this project.

How to Learn More

Department of Commerce Project Website:

<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=33985>

Project Mailing List: Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate (meetings, comment periods, etc.).

Contact docketing.puc@state.mn.us or 651-201-2204 with the docket numbers (14-787 and 14-797), your name, mailing address, and email address.

Full Case Record: All documents filed in this docket are available via the Commission's website at mn.gov/puc, select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (14) and the docket number (787 or 797), select *Search*.

Subscribe to the Docket: Subscribe to receive email notifications when new documents are filed. Note - subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

1. mn.gov/puc
2. Select green box *Subscribe to a Docket*
3. Type your e-mail address
4. For *Type of Subscription*, select *Docket Number*
5. For *Docket Number*, select *14* in the first box, type *787 or 797* in the second box
6. Select *Add to List*
7. Select *Save*

Community Locations: The certificate of need and route permit application is available at the following locations:

- Menahga City Hall, 115 2nd Street Northeast, Menahga
- Park Rapids Library, 210 1st Street West, Park Rapids
- Sebeka City Hall, 213 Minnesota Avenue West, Sebeka
- Wadena Library, 304 1st Street Southwest, Wadena

Minnesota Statutes and Rules: This project is being reviewed under Minnesota Statutes 216B and 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapters 7849 and 7850, available at www.revisor.mn.gov.

Project Contacts

Public Utilities Commission Public Advisor

Tracy Smetana at consumer.puc@state.mn.us, 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782

Public Utilities Commission Energy Facilities Planner

Cezar Panait at cezar.panait@state.mn.us or 651-201-2207

Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager

Ray Kirsch at raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us, 651-539-1841 or 1-800-657-3794

Great River Energy Project Contact

Michelle Lommel at mlommel@greatriverenergy.com or 763-445-5977

This document can be made available in alternative formats (e.g., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.

If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in these meetings (e.g., sign language, foreign language interpreter, large print materials), please contact the Commission at 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782 at least one week in advance of the meeting.

Project Map

