



Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary
Public Utilities Commission



NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCOPING MEETING

Issued: May 1, 2015

In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy and Minnesota Power for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit for the Motley Area 115 kV Transmission Line Project in Morrison, Cass and Todd Counties, Minnesota

Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Numbers: ET, 2, E-015/CN-14-853
ET-2, E-015/TL-15-204

Date: May 19, 2015

Time: 6:00pm

Location: Motley Staples Middle School Cafeteria
132 1st Avenue South
Motley MN 56466

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 16 mile, 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line
- Build one new substation
- Make changes at two existing substations

The project would be located in Cass, Morrison, and Todd Counties.

Great River Energy and Minnesota Power state the project is needed to improve reliability in the area and to serve a proposed oil pipeline 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 run the meeting.

- Public Utilities Commission, Department of Commerce, and Great River Energy staff will be available to answer questions about the permitting process and the project.
- You may add verbal comments, written comments, or both into the record.
- The Department of Commerce uses comments received at the meeting and during the comment period 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 (avoid, minimize, mitigate) 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 Comments accepted through June 3, 2015

- Please include the PUC Docket Numbers (*14-853 and 15-204*) in all communications.

Online mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment

Email richard.davis@state.mn.us

U.S. Mail Richard Davis, 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

The Public Utilities Commission (Commission) must approve a certificate of need and a route permit before the project can be built. The Commission accepted Great River Energy and Minnesota Power's certificate of need and route permit application at a meeting in April 2015. 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 prepares an environmental assessment for this project. The environmental assessment reviews 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, an Administrative Law Judge holds a public hearing. You may speak at the hearing, ask questions, and submit written comments about the project.

After the public hearing, the Commission reviews all the information in the record, including written comments and comments received at the public hearings. The Commission's final decision on the certificate of need and route permit for this project is expected by February 2016.

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

How to Learn More

Department of Commerce Project Website:

<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=34095>

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 (14-853 and 15-204), your name, mailing address, and email address.

Full Case Record: All documents filed in these dockets are available via the Commission's website at mn.gov/puc, select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (ex. 14) and the docket number (ex. 853), 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 853 in the second box (Certificate of Need)
6. For *Docket Number*, select 15 in the first box, type 204 in the second box (Route Permit)
7. Select *Add to List*
8. Select *Save*

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

- Brainerd Public Library, 416 South 5th Street, Brainerd
- Carnegie Public Library, 108 3rd Street Northeast, Little Falls
- Great River Regional Library, 122 6th Street Northeast, Staples
- Motley City Hall, 316 Highway 10 South, Motley

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

Tricia DeBleeckere at tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us or 651-201-2254

Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager

Richard Davis at richard.davis@state.mn.us, 651-539-1846 or 1-800-657-3794

Great River Energy Project Contact

Rick Heuring at rheuring@greenergy.com or 763-445-5979

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.

Figure 1-3. Proposed Project

