



Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary  
Public Utilities Commission



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCOPING MEETING

*Issued: September 18, 2015*

**In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy for a Route Permit for the Bull Moose  
115 kV Transmission Line in Cass County, Minnesota**

**Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Number:** ET-2/TL-15-628

**Date:** October 12, 2015

**Time:** 6:00pm

**Location:** Backus City Hall  
112 King Street South  
Backus MN 56435

**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](http://mn.gov/puc)

### Project Description

- Great River Energy proposes to build approximately 2.5 miles of new 115 kV transmission line.
- The proposed project is located in Cass County, near the city of Backus.
- Great River Energy states the project is needed to serve a proposed oil pumping 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 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.

## Submit Comments

### Topics Open for Public Comment:

- Please focus your comments on information that will help answer the following questions.
- In your comments, please state which question(s) you are addressing.
  1. What human and environmental impacts of the proposed transmission line should be studied in the environmental assessment prepared for this project?
  2. Are there any specific methods to address (avoid, minimize, or mitigate) these impacts that should be studied in the environmental assessment?
  3. Are there any alternative routes or route segments that should be considered to address these impacts?

**Comment Period**    Comments accepted through October 26, 2015

- Please include the PUC Docket Number (*15-628*) in all communications

**Online**            [mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment](http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment)

**Email**            [andrew.levi@state.mn.us](mailto:andrew.levi@state.mn.us)

**U.S. Mail**        Andrew Levi, Environmental Review Specialist  
 Minnesota Department of Commerce  
 85 7<sup>th</sup> 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 route permit before the project can be built. The Commission accepted Great River Energy's route permit application at a September 2015 meeting. This means the company submitted all the information required to begin the review process. The Commission's decision-making process takes about six 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 April 2016.

**Eminent Domain:** If issued a route permit by the Commission, Great River Energy 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=34235>

**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](mailto:docketing.puc@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2204 with the docket number (15-628), 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](http://mn.gov/puc), select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (15) and the docket number (628), 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](http://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 15 in the first box, type 628 in the second box
6. Select *Add to List*
7. Select *Save*

**Community Location:** The route permit application is available for review at the Backus City Hall, 112 King Street South, Backus

**Minnesota Statutes and Rules:** This project is being reviewed under Minnesota Statute 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850, available at [www.revisor.mn.gov](http://www.revisor.mn.gov).

## Project Contacts

**Public Utilities Commission Public Advisor**

Tracy Smetana at [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto: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](mailto:cezar.panait@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2207

**Department of Commerce Environmental Review Staff**

Larry Hartman at [larry.hartman@state.mn.us](mailto:larry.hartman@state.mn.us), 651-539-1839 or 1-800-657-3794

Andrew Levi at [andrew.levi@state.mn.us](mailto:andrew.levi@state.mn.us), 651-539-1840 or 1-800-657-3794

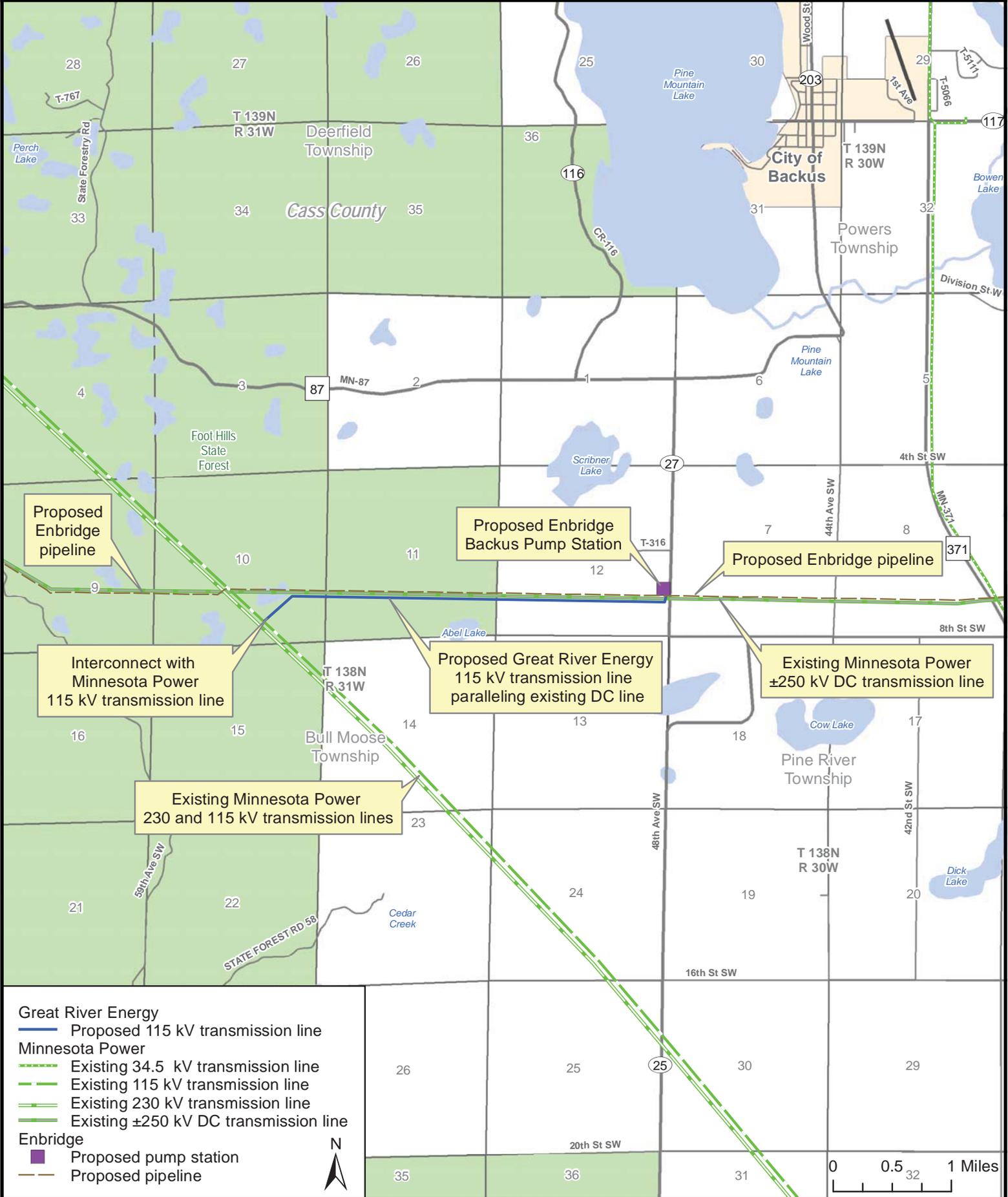
**Great River Energy Project Contact**

Dan Leshner at [dlesher@greenergy.com](mailto:dlesher@greenergy.com) or 763-445-5975

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.

# Proposed Project



- Great River Energy**  
 — Proposed 115 kV transmission line
- Minnesota Power**  
 - - - Existing 34.5 kV transmission line  
 - - - Existing 115 kV transmission line  
 - - - Existing 230 kV transmission line  
 - - - Existing ±250 kV DC transmission line
- Enbridge**  
 ■ Proposed pump station  
 - - - Proposed pipeline

