APPENDIX A

Notices

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office of energy security

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April 12, 2010

Carole Schmidt
Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Blvd.
Maple Grove, MN 55369

Don Dewey
Itasca County Environmental Services
123 NE 4th St.
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Re: Local Review of Pokegama 115 kV Substation and Transmission Line
Commission Docket Number: ET2/LR-10-268

Dear Ms. Schmidt and Mr. Dewey,

This letter confirms that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) has received notification that Great River Energy intends to seek local review to construct a new 115 kilovolt (kV) substation ("Pokegama substation") and approximately eight miles of new 115 kV transmission line to energize this substation. The substation and transmission line will be located near the City of Grand Rapids in Itasca County.

Under the Power Plant Siting Act, a permit from the Commission is required for transmission line projects over 100 kV (Minn. Stat. § 216E). However, local review and permitting is possible for eligible projects. For such projects, a utility may apply to a local unit of government instead of the Commission for a permit to build the project. This letter confirms that Great River Energy's proposed project is eligible for local review (Minn. Stat. § 216E.05).

Great River Energy has indicated that Itasca County is the local unit of government with jurisdiction to permit the project. A zoning permit application was submitted to the county on March 23, 2010. A local unit of government may relinquish its jurisdiction by requesting the Commission to assume jurisdiction within 60 days of the filing of an application with the local unit of government (Minn. Rules 7850.5300, subp. 4).

An environmental review process, including the development of an environmental assessment, must be conducted by the local unit of government with jurisdiction over the project. This letter

acknowledges that Itasca County is the responsible governmental unit for the proposed project and associated environmental review.

Specific requirements with regard to the environmental review process include:

(1) providing an opportunity for the public to participate in the development of the scope of the environmental assessment before it is prepared,

(2) publishing notice in the EQB Monitor when the assessment is available for review and the procedure for commenting on the assessment, and

(3) withholding a final decision on the project until at least ten days after the notice appears in the EQB Monitor.

Itasca County must also provide a copy of the environmental assessment to the Commission when it is completed (Minn. Rules 7850.5300, subp. 5). Electronic filing (eFiling) of the environmental assessment is encouraged (https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling). Files of less than five megabytes (5 MB) in size are also encouraged.

Finally, this letter confirms that Great River Energy has sent the required notice to those persons on the Commission's general notification list that a permit has been applied for from a local unit of government (Minn. Rules 7850.5300, subp. 3).

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Ray Kirsch
Energy Facility Permitting
Office of Energy Security
raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us
651-296-7588

cc: Burl Haar, Commission
Bob Cupit, Commission

GREAT RIVER ENERGY®

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March 26, 2010

Dr. Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Pokegama 115 kV Substation and Transmission Line Project

Dear Dr. Haar:

In accordance with the Power Plant Siting Act, Minn. Stat. § 216E.05, subd. 3, this letter, filed via eFiling, serves as the required notice to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) that Great River Energy has elected to seek local approval to construct approximately eight miles of new 115 kilovolt (kV) overhead transmission line to serve a new substation near Grand Rapids in Itasca County, Minnesota (see enclosed fact sheet/map). The project is needed to meet the growing electrical needs in the area.

One of Great River Energy's 28 cooperatives, Lake Country Power, proposes to construct the new "Pokegama" 115 kV Substation on the southwest corner of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 67 and Wildwood Road in Section 1 of Spang Township (see photo of typical substation on fact sheet).

Great River Energy proposes to construct approximately eight miles of new overhead 115 kV transmission line to energize this new substation. The line will exit the new substation, run east along CSAH 67, turn south and then southeast along CSAH 68 to a tap point with a Minnesota Power 115 kV transmission line northeast of Split Hand Lake. The line will generally follow Lake Country Power's existing distribution corridor.

The project is located in Section 1, T53N, R26W; and Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 14, 15, 23 and 24, T53N, R25W. The transmission line will be constructed using wood poles with horizontal post insulators. When practical, Lake Country Power will attach an upgraded distribution system on wood crossarms. The poles will be approximately 65-75 feet tall with a 250-280 foot span between poles.

Great River Energy intends to permit the project through Itasca County. A zoning permit application was submitted to the County on March 23, 2010. Itasca County has been informed that it has 60 days to refer the permitting process to the Commission.

Questions regarding this project should be directed to Don Dewey, Itasca County Environmental Services at 218-327-2857; or Carole Schmidt, Great River Energy at 763-445-5214.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Carole L. Schmidt

Carole L. Schmidt
Supervisor, Transmission Permitting and Compliance

Enclosure

cc: Affidavit of service on: General List of Interested Persons – w/encl.
Don Dewey, Itasca County Environmental Services – w/encl.
Deborah Pile, Department of Commerce – w/encl.

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Pokegama 115 kV Substation and Transmission Line

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1-888-521-0130
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LAKE COUNTRY POWER
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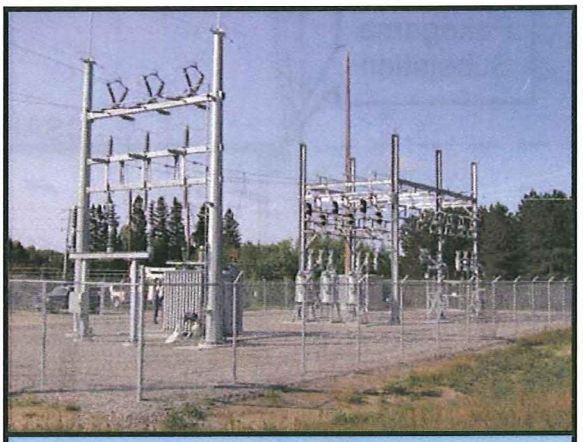
1-800-421-9959
www.lakecountrypower.com

Project Need

In recent years, Lake Country Power's winter electric demand has increased, primarily due to electric heat installations. In the years 2002-2006, electric demand in the area between Hill City and Grand Rapids (generally in and around Pokegama Lake) grew at approximately 11% annually. Although changes in the global economy have slowed the growth, the demand still has increased 7% annually over the past 10 years. This growth, which is making it difficult to serve this area from the existing distribution substations and is straining the electrical delivery system, is driving the need for a new Lake Country Power distribution substation.

Substation and Transmission Line

Lake Country Power will construct the new "Pokegama" distribution substation (see representative photo on right) on the southwest corner of County Highway 67 and Wildwood Road in Section 1 of Spang Township, east of US Highway 169. The substation will tap the new transmission line and will house a transformer that will lower the voltage to distribution levels. The location for the substation was chosen to bring a strong electric source to the middle of the demand area.



Typical 115 kV Distribution Substation

Great River Energy, power supplier to Lake Country Power, will construct approximately 8 miles of new 115,000 volt (115 kV) transmission line to energize this new substation (see map on back). The new 115 kV transmission line will tap a Minnesota Power 115 kV transmission line where it crosses County Highway 68 northeast of Split Hand Lake. The new line will then run west and north along County Highway 68 and continue west along County Highway 67 to the new substation. The new line will generally follow Lake Country Power's existing distribution corridor.

Poles and Construction

Great River Energy will construct the new line using wood poles with horizontal post insulators. When practical, Lake Country Power will attach an upgraded distribution system on wood crossarms (see photo). The poles will generally be 65-75 feet above ground with a 250-280 foot span between poles. Guy wires and anchors will be used to counter angles. Where guys and anchors are not practical, a laminated wood pole or steel pole on foundation may be used.

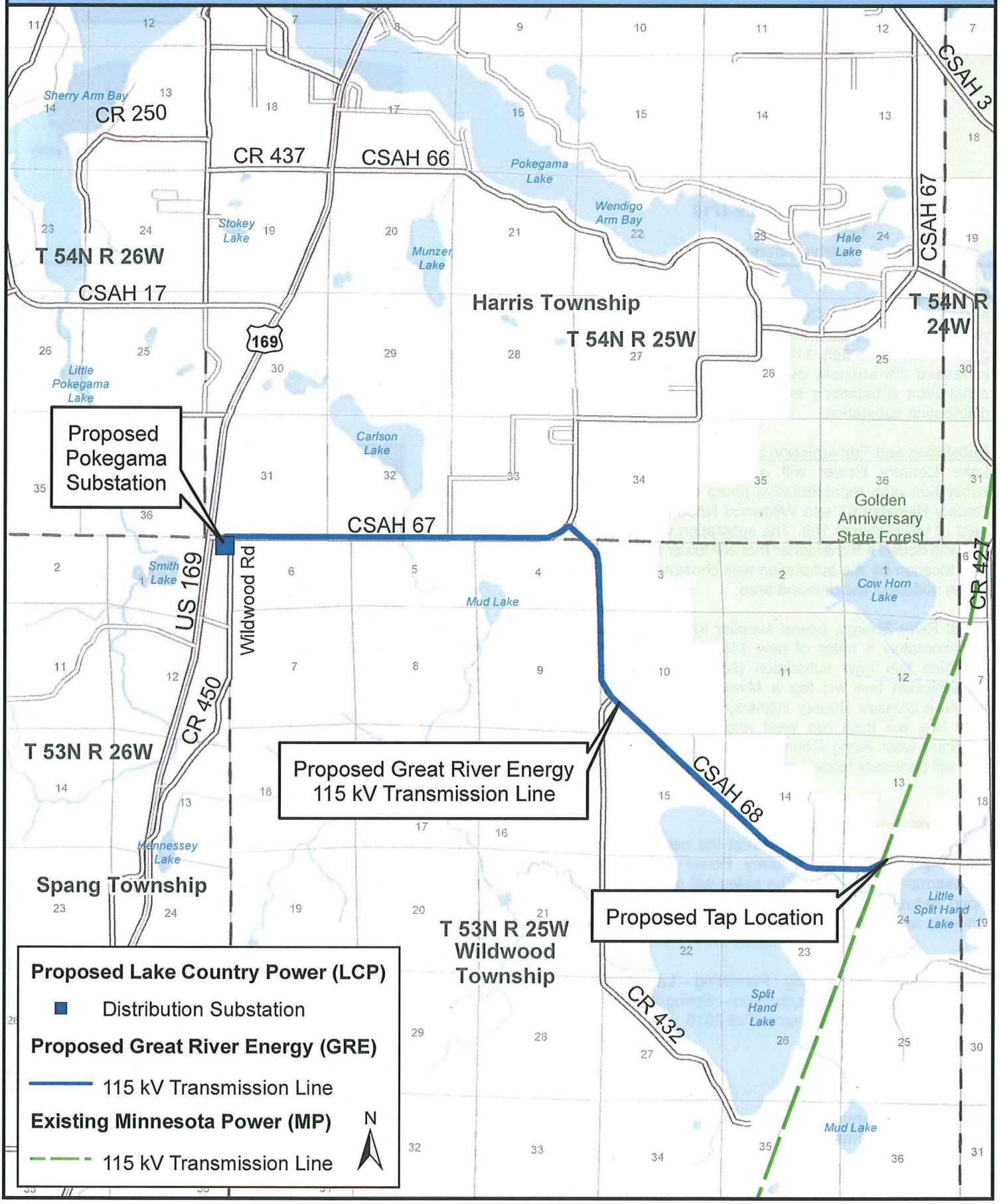
Typical 115 kV Transmission Line With Distribution Underbuild

Schedule

Public Information Meeting / Permitting – Late 2009/Early 2010
Survey and Easement acquisition – Spring/Summer 2010
Engineering design - Summer/Fall 2010
Construction – 2011

Contact

Dale Aukee
Great River Energy
Senior Field Representative
763-445-5978

1/6/2010

PROPOSED PROJECT