

APPENDIX B

EA Scoping Letter and Public Comments



City of Eagan

Mike Maguire
Mayor

Paul Bakken
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Municipal Center
3830 Pilot Knob Road
Eagan, MN 55122-1810
651.675.5000 phone
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The Lone Oak Tree
The symbol of
strength and growth
in our community.

June 12, 2009

RE: Request for Comments on Project and Scope of Environmental Assessment for Yankee Doodle-Pilot Knob 115 kV System Upgrades in Eagan, MN

Dear Property Owner:

Great River Energy, Dakota Electric Association, and Xcel Energy have determined that a portion of the transmission system serving the City of Eagan service area requires upgrading to reliably serve growing electrical loads. The utilities are therefore proposing several 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission upgrades within the City of Eagan, Dakota County, Minnesota.

The project is located in Sections 11, 14, 23, 26 and 27, T27N, R23W. The three components of the project, all of which involve the upgrade of existing infrastructure, are described briefly below and on the enclosed fact sheet/map.

Great River Energy

Great River Energy will rebuild approximately one mile of Xcel Energy's existing single circuit, 115 kV transmission line (currently operated at 69 kV) to a double circuit, 115 kV line from the Yankee Doodle Substation south to Wescott Road. Xcel Energy will own the poles and one circuit that will operate at 115 kV and Great River Energy will own the other circuit that will operate at 69 kV to restore the 69 kV loop feed to the Wescott Park Distribution Substation. This part of the project will be completed first, in fall 2009.

Xcel Energy

Xcel Energy will construct a 115 kV line from the Pilot Knob Substation to the Eagan Substation (in 2010) by:

- Upgrading approximately 1.5 miles of existing single circuit, 115 kV transmission line (5525 line) to double circuit, 115 kV line from the Pilot Knob Substation to the intersection with Xcel Energy's 0703 line approximately ¼ mile east of Lexington Ave.
- Upgrading approximately ½ mile of Xcel Energy's existing single circuit, 69 kV transmission line (0703 line) to single circuit, 115 kV line from the previously described intersection north to the Eagan Substation.

The upgraded transmission lines will be constructed using steel poles approximately 70-80 feet tall, and construction will be accomplished within the existing easements.

June 12, 2009

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Substations

Dakota Electric Association will rebuild the Eagan Substation from 69 kV to 115 kV in 2009/2010. The project will also include a new exit at Dakota Electric Association's Yankee Doodle Substation, minor modifications to Xcel Energy's Lone Oak Substation, and a new 115 kV breaker at Great River Energy's Pilot Knob Substation

The utilities are seeking approval for the project from the City of Eagan. As part of the permitting process, the City must prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the project and afford the public an opportunity to participate in the development of the scope of the EA before it is prepared.

The intent of this letter is to solicit public comment on the project and input on the content of the EA. A preliminary Table of Contents for the EA is attached as a starting point for what should be covered in the EA. We encourage you to provide comments on the project and additional topics you want to see addressed in the EA.

The utilities have requested environmental review of the project by several federal and state agencies. The status of those reviews is provided below.

United States Corps of Engineers – The proposed work is not within the regulatory jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers; no permit is required (letter of 6/10/09).

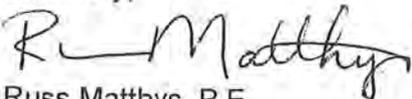
United States Fish and Wildlife Service – No response has been received yet; however, the only species of concern in the project area is the Prairie bush-clover (threatened), which is unlikely to be found in the disturbed corridors in which the transmission upgrades will take place.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – the DNR concurred with the assessment that the project will not negatively impact any known occurrences of rare features (email of 6/9/09).

Minnesota Department of Transportation (aviation issues) – No anticipated effects on publicly-owned airports; Office of Aeronautics has no objection to the project (letter of 5/20/09).

Thank you for your input on this project. Please provide comments to me (by mail, phone: 651-675-5646, or email: rmatthys@cityofeagan.com) by June 26, 2009.

Sincerely,



Russ Matthys, P.E.
City Engineer

Enclosure

Yankee Doodle – Pilot Knob 115 kV System Upgrades



GREAT RIVER ENERGY
 12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
 Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718
 1-888-521-0130
 www.greatriverenergy.com

DAKOTA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
 4300-220th Street West
 Farmington, MN 55024
 1-800-874-3409
 www.dakotaelectric.com

XCEL ENERGY
 414 Nicollet Mall
 Minneapolis, MN 55401
 612-330-5893
 www.xcelenergy.com

Project Need

Great River Energy (GRE), power supplier to Dakota Electric Association (DEA), and Northern States Power, doing business as Xcel Energy, have determined that the transmission system serving the City of Eagan service area requires upgrading to reliably serve growing electrical loads.

A number of facilities in the area between Yankee Doodle Road and Diffley Road will be upgraded to uniformly operate at 115 kV, including segments of transmission line from the Yankee Doodle Substation south, through the Eagan Substation, to the Pilot Knob Substation.

Proposed Project

The project will be constructed in two phases (see map on back):

1) Great River Energy will rebuild approximately one mile of Xcel Energy's existing single circuit, 115 kV transmission line (currently operated at 69 kV) to a double circuit, 115 kV line (Figure 1) from the Yankee Doodle Substation south to Wescott Road. Xcel Energy will own the poles and one circuit that will operate at 115 kV and Great River Energy will own the other circuit that will operate at 69 kV to restore the 69 kV loop feed to the Wescott Park Distribution Substation.

2) Xcel Energy will construct a 115 kV line from the Pilot Knob Substation to the Eagan Substation by:

- Upgrading approximately 1.5 miles of Xcel Energy's existing single circuit, 115 kV transmission (5525) line to double circuit, 115 kV line (Figure 1) from the Pilot Knob Substation to the intersection with Xcel Energy's 0703 line approximately ¼ mile east of Lexington Ave.
- Upgrading approximately ½ mile of Xcel Energy's existing single circuit, 69 kV transmission (0703) line to single circuit, 115 kV line (Figure 2) from the previously described intersection north to the Eagan Substation.

The upgraded transmission lines will be constructed using steel poles approximately 70 – 80 feet tall and construction will be accomplished within the existing easements. The project will also include a new exit at DEA's Yankee Doodle Substation, rebuild of DEA's Eagan Substation from 69 kV to 115 kV, minor modifications to Xcel Energy's Lone Oak Substation, and a new 115 kV breaker at GRE's Pilot Knob Substation.

Schedule

Permitting/Right-of-Way Acquisition-----Summer 2009
 Line Construction-----Fall/Winter 2009
 Line Energization-----Spring 2010

Contacts

Peter Schaub
 Great River Energy
 Sr. Field Representative
 (763) 445-5976
 pschaub@GREnergy.com

Craig Knudsen
 Dakota Electric Association
 Land Use Manager
 (651) 463-6332
 cknudsen@dakotaelectric.com

Tim Lisson
 Xcel Energy-NSP
 Sr. Land Rights Agent
 (715) 737-2513
 timothy.j.lisson@xcelenergy.com



Figure 1
*Typical 115 kV Double
 Circuit Structure*



Figure 2
*Typical 115 kV Single Circuit
 Structure*

PROJECT MAP

Existing Dakota Electric Association (DEA)

- Distribution Substation

Proposed Great River Energy (GRE)

- 69/115 kV Double Circuit Transmission Line

Existing Great River Energy

- 69 kV Transmission Line

- 115 kV Transmission Line

- ▲ GRE Transmission Substation

Proposed Xcel Energy (XE)

- 115 kV Double Circuit Transmission Line

- 115 kV Single Circuit Transmission Line

Existing Xcel Energy

- 115 kV Transmission Line

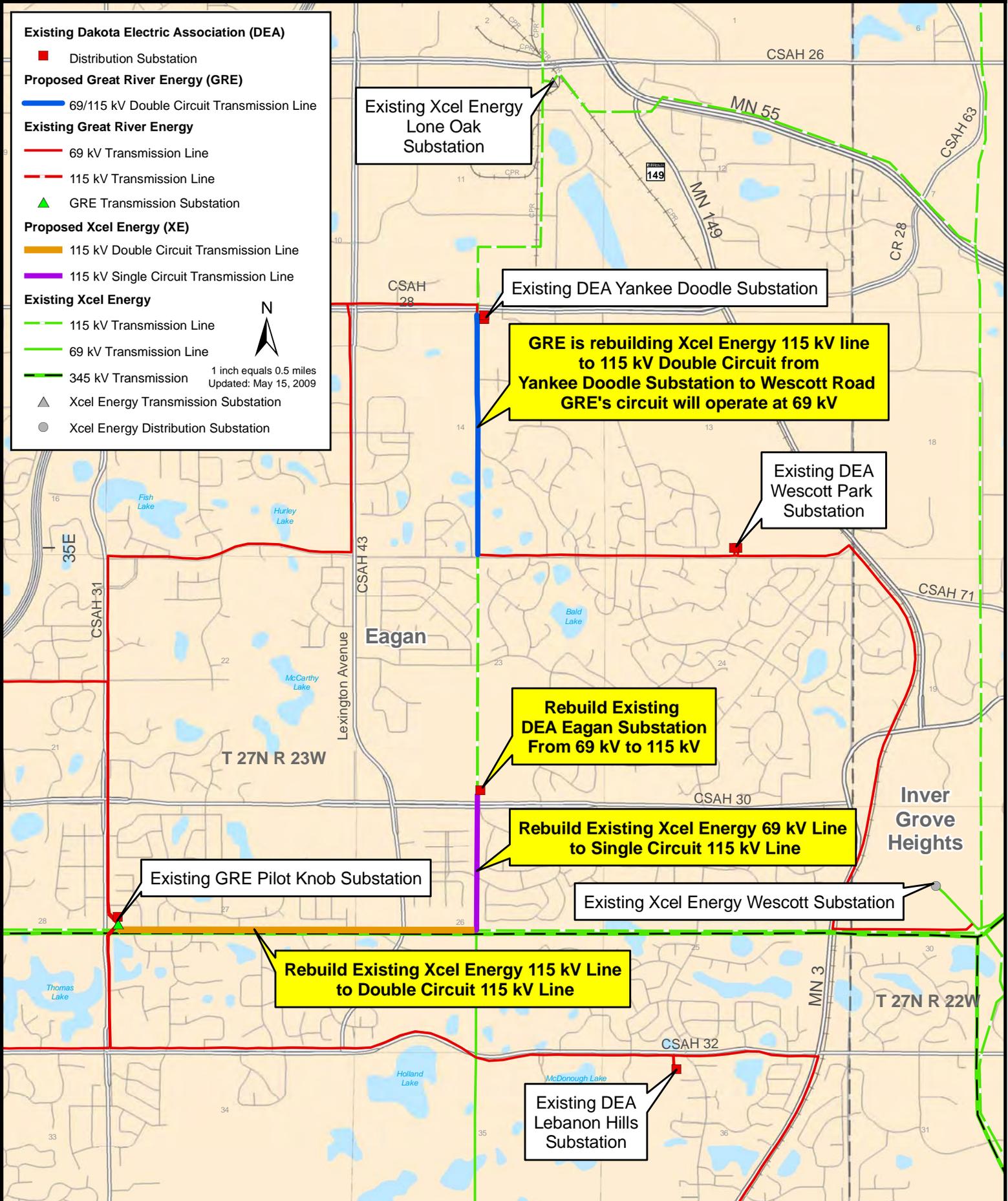
- 69 kV Transmission Line

- 345 kV Transmission

- ▲ Xcel Energy Transmission Substation

- Xcel Energy Distribution Substation

1 inch equals 0.5 miles
Updated: May 15, 2009



Existing Xcel Energy Lone Oak Substation

Existing DEA Yankee Doodle Substation

GRE is rebuilding Xcel Energy 115 kV line to 115 kV Double Circuit from Yankee Doodle Substation to Wescott Road GRE's circuit will operate at 69 kV

Existing DEA Wescott Park Substation

Rebuild Existing DEA Eagan Substation From 69 kV to 115 kV

Rebuild Existing Xcel Energy 69 kV Line to Single Circuit 115 kV Line

Existing GRE Pilot Knob Substation

Existing Xcel Energy Wescott Substation

Rebuild Existing Xcel Energy 115 kV Line to Double Circuit 115 kV Line

Existing DEA Lebanon Hills Substation

Schmidt, Carole GRE/MG

From: Angel Grey [Angel@hmr.net]
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2009 1:46 PM
To: Russ Matthys
Cc: shawn_swanstrom@comcast.net; Knudsen, Craig CO-OP/DEA; Schmidt, Carole GRE/MG; timothy.j.lisson@xcelenergy.com
Subject: RE: Pilot Knob 115kV System Upgrades

Mr. Matthys.

Thank you so much for helping me understand what is happening. This is our first home and we just wanted to understand what was happening. Thank you again for your time and responding to my email. I appreciate it greatly.

Have a wonderful day.

Angel Grey

From: Russ Matthys [mailto:RMatthys@cityofeagan.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2009 1:34 PM
To: Angel Grey
Cc: shawn_swanstrom@comcast.net; 'Knudsen, Craig'; 'Schmidt, Carole GRE/MG'; 'timothy.j.lisson@xcelenergy.com'
Subject: RE: Pilot Knob 115kV System Upgrades

Ms. Grey,

Thank you for your response to the letter I sent you regarding the proposed upgrade to a portion of the Xcel Energy electrical transmission line adjacent to your home. I realize there was a lot of information shared with you in the letter that definitely isn't a part of your typical everyday discussions.

There are actually two electrical transmission lines that run along both sides of Wilderness Run Road. The transmission line on the south side of Wilderness Run Road is definitely larger and more noticeable. However, the transmission line proposed to be upgraded, or replaced, is the transmission line on your side of Wilderness Run Road. If you look at the existing transmission line structures on your side of the street it is currently a 2 legged "H" structure. The proposal is to replace this existing "H" structure with the structure shown in Figure 1 on the attachment that was included with the letter I sent you.

The current plan is to leave the overhead wires in the same general location. By replacing the "H" structures with the Figure 1 structure in the same general location, the base of the new poles will actually be located further from the residential properties than the existing "H" structures. This may require some revising of the trail along Wilderness Run Road where the new poles will be located (same as existing locations). The trail will likely be re-located between the street and the new poles.

The bottom line is that you should not have any impact to your yard as a result of the upgrade of the Xcel Energy electrical transmission line. The orange spray paint that you currently have (or had with the rain) in your yard may be for some other reason, such as a new cable TV or telephone service line. The new structure won't be installed until this fall or winter, and as stated previously, will not impact your yard.

I hope this information relieves your concerns. Please contact me with any additional questions.

6/17/09

Russ Matthys, P.E. | City Engineer | City of Eagan
City of Eagan | 3830 Pilot Knob Road | Eagan, MN 55122 | 651-675-5646 | 651-675-5694 (Fax) | rmatthys@cityofeagan.com



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From: Angel Grey [<mailto:Angel@hmr.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2009 9:31 AM
To: Russ Matthys
Cc: shawn_swanstrom@comcast.net
Subject: Pilot Knob 115kV System Upgrades

Good Morning Mr. Matthys,

My fiancé and I received the letter yesterday from you that went over the plans for the system upgrades. However, we are a little confused. Would you please be able to explain to us how the proposed changes will affect our property. Our home address is 4398 Capricorn Court. Based on the map provided we live on the stretch that has a single circuit 115kV line that will be upgraded to a double circuit 115kV line. Currently the lines are on the south side of Wilderness Run and we live on the north side of Wilderness Run. Will the new lines be built on the existing poles or are new poles being created and now will be on our property? We will be happy to meet with you at our home or at your office to see how this change will affect us. We are a little concerned because our yard has orange spray paint and my fiancé noticed a large hole dug. Does this mean we are going to have these large poles in our yard now? Will our beautiful yard be distorted by this? We are so confused. I would really like to get more details on what is going to happen to our property.

Angel Grey
4398 Capricorn Court
Eagan MN 55123