



## STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

July 21, 2015

Carole L. Schmidt  
Great River Energy  
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard  
Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718

Teresa Ohm  
Clover Township  
9545 Little Mantrap Lane  
Park Rapids, MN 56470

RE: Local Review of Great River Energy's Clover to Potato Lake 115 kV Transmission Line Project in Hubbard County, Minnesota  
Docket No. ET-2/LR-15-689

Dear Ms. Schmidt and Ms. Ohm:

This letter confirms that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) has received Great River Energy's letter dated July 20, 2015, indicating that it has elected to pursue local review approval to construct approximately seven miles of new 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Clover and Arago townships in Hubbard County, Minnesota. The new transmission line would provide electric power to a proposed Enbridge Energy pump station.

Under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E, a route permit from the Commission is required for most high-voltage transmission lines that are greater than 100 kV. However, certain projects may be eligible for review and permitting by local units of government with jurisdiction instead of filing with the Commission. In this case, the new 115 kV transmission line proposed by Great River Energy is eligible for local review under Minn. Stat. § 216E.05.

Great River Energy indicated that Clover Township is the local government unit with jurisdiction to permit the proposed project, and that a conditional use permit application was filed with the township on July 15, 2015.

Under Minn. Stat. § 216E.05, subd. 1(b), a local unit of government may relinquish its jurisdiction by requesting the Commission to assume jurisdiction and make a decision on the permit. The request must be filed with the Commission within 60 days after an application for a project has been filed. Clover Township has until September 14, 2015, to notify the Commission of its decision.

Under Minn. R. 7850.5300, subp. 5, an environmental assessment must be prepared by the local unit of government with jurisdiction over the project. Specific requirements with regard to the environmental review process include providing an opportunity for the public to participate in the development of the scope of the environmental assessment before it is prepared; publishing notice in the *EQB Monitor* of when the assessment is available for review and of the procedure for commenting on the assessment; and withholding a final decision on the project until at least 10 days after the notice appears in the *EQB Monitor*. A copy of the environmental assessment and other relevant documents must be provided to the Commission upon completion. The environmental assessment may be filed using the Commission's electronic filing system (<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling>).

This letter acknowledges that Great River Energy has provided notice to the Commission and to those persons on the Commission's general notification list that a permit has been applied for from the local unit of government as required by Minn. R. 7850.5300, subp. 3.

If you have any questions, please direct them to Scott Ek of the Commission staff at 651-201-2255 or [scott.ek@state.mn.us](mailto:scott.ek@state.mn.us).

Sincerely,

Daniel P. Wolf  
Executive Secretary

Cc: Patti Stulich, Arago Township