



STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

April 22, 2015

Marsha Parlow
Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718

Deborah Anderson
Henrietta Township
P.O. Box 81
Park Rapids, MN 56470

RE: Local Review of Great River Energy's Mantrap 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Upgrade Project in Hubbard County, Minnesota
Docket No. ET-2/LR-15-367

Dear Ms. Parlow and Ms. Anderson:

This letter confirms that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) has received Great River Energy's (GRE) letter dated April 20, 2015, indicating that it has elected to pursue local review approval to rebuild approximately 6.5 miles of existing 34.5 kilovolt (kV) transmission line to 115 kV and upgrade the associated substation in Emma and Henrietta townships, Hubbard County, Minnesota.

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 transmission line and substation upgrade proposed by GRE is eligible for local review under Minn. Stat. § 216E.05.

GRE has indicated that: 1) Henrietta Township is the local government unit with jurisdiction to conduct environmental review and permit the proposed project; 2) the Henrietta Township Board of Commissioners passed a motion authorizing review of the project under its jurisdiction on

March 12, 2015; and 3) GRE will file a conditional use permit application for the project with Henrietta Township in late April or May 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.

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 GRE has provided notice 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. Stat. § 216E.05, subd. 3, and 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.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. Wolf
Executive Secretary

Cc: Michelle Lommel, Great River Energy