

# **APPENDIX A**

## **LEGAL NOTICES AND MEDIA INFORMATION**

Notice to Public Utilities Commission and General List



GREAT RIVER  
ENERGY®

A LeSauk Electric Cooperative Member

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12300 Elm Creek Boulevard • Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369-4718 • 763-445-5000 • 763-445-5050

15 April 2009

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

RE: Proposed 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project in the Sartell Area

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 that Great River Energy has elected to seek local approval to build two miles of new 115 kilovolt (kV) line and upgrade 0.4 mile of a 69 kV line to 115 kV to support one new and one upgraded substation near Sartell in Stearns County, Minnesota.

Rapid continuous residential and commercial development in LeSauk Township and the cities of Sartell, Waite Park, St. Joseph and St. Cloud has led to increasing loads on the existing electric distribution system operated by Stearns Electric Association. Despite recent economic slowdown, there is strong evidence that customer demand for electricity will continue to grow at a rapid rate in this area.

To address these needs, Great River Energy proposes to increase the voltage capacity of the existing LeSauk distribution substation, rebuild an existing 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV, and construct approximately two miles of new 115 kV transmission line to serve a new distribution substation that will be constructed by Stearns Electric Association.

The project is located in Section 30, T125N, R28W; Sections 25 & 36, T125N, R29W; and Sections 1 & 2, T124N, R29W. The route is almost entirely located along the Stearns County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 133 between CSAH 4 and an existing Xcel Energy transmission line south of 320<sup>th</sup> Street. A project description/site map is enclosed for your information.

Dr. Burl W. Haar  
15 April 2009  
Page 2

Great River Energy intends to permit the project through Stearns County. A Conditional Use Permit application for the project was submitted to the county on April 9, 2009. Stearns County has been informed that it has 60 days to refer the permitting process to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

Questions regarding this project should be directed to Jennifer Buckentine, Stearns County Environmental Services Department, at 320-656-3613; Rick Heuring of Great River Energy at 763-445-5979; or me at 763-445-5215. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY



Marsha Parlow  
Transmission Permitting Analyst

Enclosure

cc: Affidavit of service on: General List of Interested Persons – w/encl.  
Jennifer Buckentine, Stearns County Environmental Services – w/encl.  
Deborah Pile, Department of Commerce – w/encl.

s:\legallenvironmental\transmission\projects\5433 Sartell\SLPUCNOTLTR

**Proposed LeSauk and Sartell 115 kV Transmission Lines  
Proposed 115 kV Conversion of LeSauk Distribution Substation  
Proposed Sartell 115 kV Distribution Substation**



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



**STEARNS ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION**  
900 East Kraft Drive PO Box 40  
Melrose, MN 56352-0040  
1-800-962-0655  
www.stearnslectric.org

**Project Need**

Rapid continuous residential and commercial development in LeSauk Township and the cities of Sartell, Waite Park, St. Joseph and St. Cloud has led to increasing loads on the existing electric distribution system operated by Stearns Electric Association. Despite recent economic slowdown, there is strong evidence that customer demand for electricity will continue to grow at a rapid rate in this area.

To address these needs, Great River Energy proposes to increase the voltage capacity of the existing LeSauk distribution substation (requiring the construction of approximately 0.4 miles of 115 kV transmission line), and to construct approximately two miles of 115 kV transmission line to serve a new distribution substation that will be constructed by Stearns Electric Association.

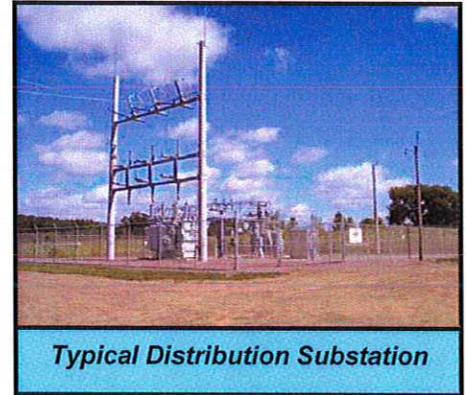
**Proposed Facilities**

This project consists of two related construction phases:

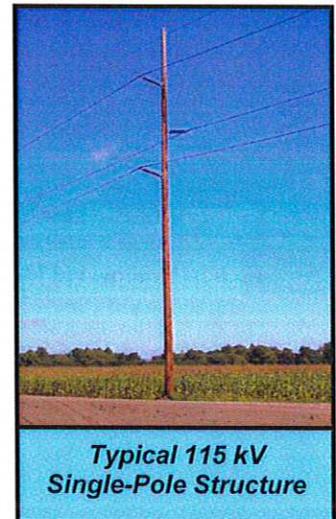
**Phase 1:** Great River Energy will convert the existing LeSauk Substation from 69 kV to 115 kV. The substation conversion also includes reconstructing an approximately 0.4 mile segment of existing 69 kV transmission line and increasing the voltage to 115 kV. The reconstructed 115 kV transmission line will connect to an existing Xcel Energy transmission line on the north side of County Road 133 in St. Joseph Township (see project map on back). The reconstructed 115 kV transmission line will extend northeasterly along the north side of County Road 133 to the existing LeSauk distribution substation located in the southwest corner of Stearns County Road 133 and 320th Street. This 115 kV transmission line and substation conversion will relieve electric loading issues on the West St. Cloud Substation and relieve low voltage problems in the surrounding electric transmission system.

**Phase 2:** Stearns Electric Association will construct a new Sartell 115 kV distribution substation on three acres located in the northeast corner of Stearns County Roads 133 and 4. The new substation will serve the electric load created by present and future residential and commercial growth in the City of Sartell and surrounding areas.

Great River Energy will construct a two mile segment of 115 kV transmission line (that will generally follow Stearns County Road 133) from the existing LeSauk Substation to the new Sartell Substation. The new transmission line poles will generally be 70-75 feet tall (see photos of typical 115 kV transmission line poles and a typical 115 kV substation). As part of this project, an existing Stearns Electric Association three-phase distribution line located along Stearns County Road 133 will be buried.



**Typical Distribution Substation**



**Typical 115 kV Single-Pole Structure**

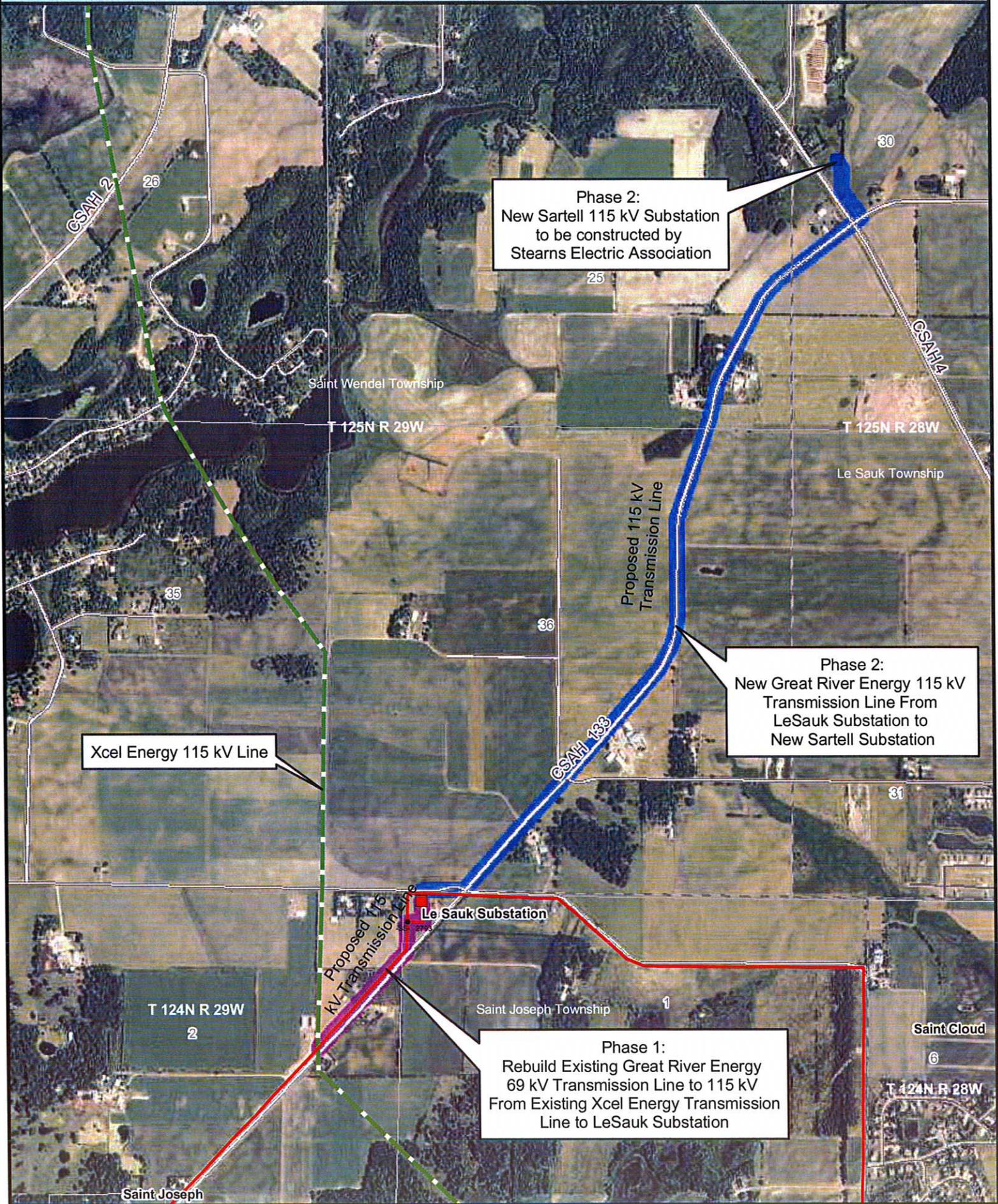
This project will be permitted locally through Stearns County in accordance with State Permitting Rules.

<b>Schedule</b>	Public Meetings	Spring/Summer 2009
	Local Permitting Phases I and II	Spring/Summer 2009
	Easement Acquisition Phase I	Spring 2009
	Construction Phase I	Fall 2009
	Easement Acquisition Phase II	Spring/Summer 2010
	Construction Phase II	Fall 2010
	Energization Phase II	Winter 2010

**Contacts**  
Rick Heuring  
Great River Energy  
1-888-521-0130, #5979  
Direct Dial 763-445-5979  
rheuring@grenergy.com

Tim Weir  
Stearns Electric Association  
1-800-962-0655  
Direct Dial 320-256-1604  
tweir@stearnslectric.org

# PROJECT MAP



AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA )  
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN)

) RE: Great River Energy's Notice of Intent to  
) ss. seek local approval of the new LeSauk  
Substation, conversion of the Sartell  
Substation to 115 kV and the new LeSauk and  
Sartell 115 kV Transmission Lines in Stearns  
County

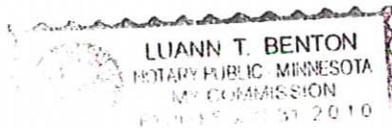
MPUC Docket No. 09-412

Wendy I Phelps, being first duly sworn on oath, deposes and states that on the 15 th day of April, 2009, copies of Great River Energy's Notice of Intent to seek local approval for the above-referenced project were mailed either by email (as noted) or by United States first class mail, postage prepaid thereon, to the parties on the attached Service List.

Wendy I. Phelps

SWORN TO BEFORE ME this  
15 th day of April, 2009.

Luann T. Benton  
NOTARY PUBLIC



## Document Upload Confirmation

## Submission Information

Submission Number: 20094-36229  
Submission Date/Time: 04/14/2009 04:41 PM

## Filer Information

Filer: Parlow, Marsha  
Company: Great River Energy  
Email: mparlow@GREnergy.com  
Phone Number: 763-445-5215

## Document Information

Document Date: 04/15/2009  
Document Type: Notice  
On Behalf Of: Great River Energy

## Uploaded Documents Information

Selected Document	Classification	Additional Information
SLPUCNOTltr.pdf	Public	Proposed LeSauk and Sartell 115 kV Transmission Line Project

Print

Close

## Document Upload Confirmation

## Submission Information

**Submission Number:** 20094-36423  
**Submission Date/Time:** 04/17/2009 04:16 PM

## Filer Information

**Filer:** Parlow, Marsha  
**Company:** Great River Energy  
**Email:** mparlow@GREnergy.com  
**Phone Number:** 763-445-5215

## Document Information

**Document Date:** 04/17/2009  
**Document Type:** Compliance Filing  
**On Behalf Of:** Great River Energy

## Existing Dockets Information

Related Industry	Year	Number
Energy	09	412

## Uploaded Documents Information

Selected Document	Classification	Additional Information
Affidavit of Service_List.pdf	Public	Affidavit of Service

Print

Close

## Public Utilities Commission Letter

RECEIVED APR 21 2009



85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198  
main: 651.296.4026 tty: 651.296.2860 fax: 651.297.7891  
[www.commerce.state.mn.us](http://www.commerce.state.mn.us)

April 17, 2009

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

Jennifer Buckentine  
Stearns County Environmental Services  
705 Courthouse Square, Room 343  
St Cloud, MN 56303

**Re: Sartell 115 kV Transmission and Substation Upgrade – Local Review  
PUC Docket Number: ET2/LR-09-412**

Dear Ms. Parlow and Ms. Buckentine,

This letter confirms that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC or Commission) has received notification that Great River Energy (GRE) intends to seek local review to construct two miles of new 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line and to upgrade 0.4 miles of an existing 69 kV transmission line to operate at 115 kV. The 115 kV lines would support one new and one upgraded substation near the City of Sartell in Stearns County, MN.

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 the proposed project, consisting of (a) new and upgraded 115 kV transmission lines, (b) a new distribution substation (Sartell), and (c) an upgraded distribution substation (LeSauk), is eligible for local review (Minn. Stat. § 216E.05).

Great River Energy has indicated that Stearns County is the local unit of government with jurisdiction to permit the project. A conditional use permit application was submitted to the county on April 9, 2009. 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 7849.6200, 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 Stearns County is the responsible governmental unit for GRE's 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. Stearns County must also provide a copy of the environmental assessment to the Commission when it is completed (Minn. Rules 7849.6200, subp. 5). Electronic filing (eFiling) of the environmental assessment is encouraged; 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 7849.6200, subp. 3).

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ray Kirsch".

Ray Kirsch  
Planner, Energy Facility Permitting  
Office of Energy Security

cc: Burl Haar, PUC  
Bob Cupit, PUC

## Great River Energy Open House

PRINTERS' AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION  
STATE OF MINNESOTA)  
)ss  
COUNTY OF STEARNS)

wsleaders.com

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LEGAL NOTICE

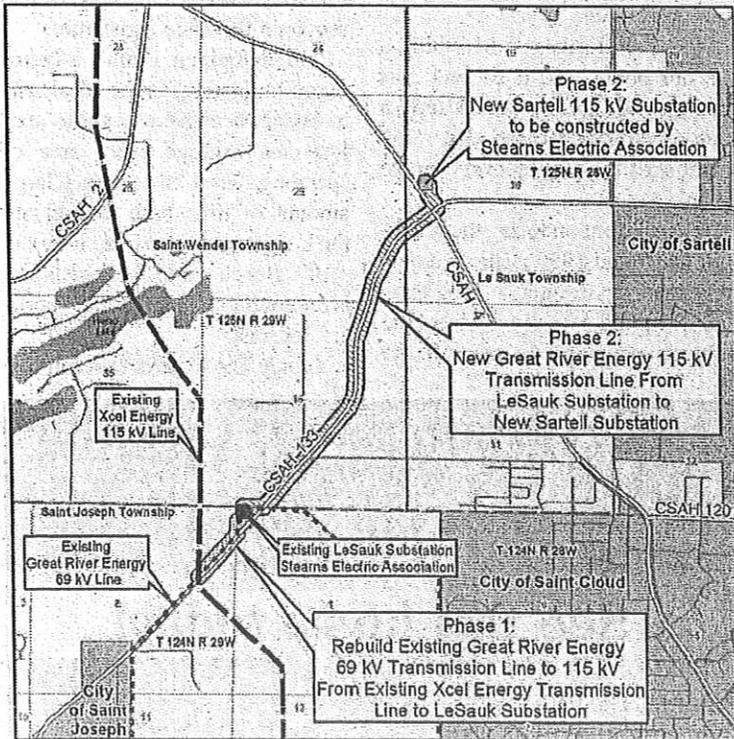
**LESAUK - SARTELL 115 kV TRANSMISSION LINE  
AND SUBSTATION PROJECT OPEN HOUSE  
5-8 P.M. TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2009  
SARTELL CITY HALL**

This notice is being published to inform you of Great River Energy's plan to construct a 2.4-mile-long 115,000 volt (115kV) overhead power line along County Road 133 between St. Joseph and Sartell. As part of this project, Stearns Electric Association proposes to construct a new electric substation at the NE corner of County Roads 133 and 4. This proposed project is being completed to improve electric capacity and reliability in several Stearns Electric Association service areas located west of St. Cloud.

Below is a project map that depicts the location of the proposed power line and substation. Great River Energy and Stearns Electric Association will host an open house meeting at the Sartell City Hall from 5-8 p.m. Tuesday March 24. Representatives of the two electric utilities will be present to answer questions. The Sartell City Hall is located at 125 Pine Cone Road.

If you are unable to attend, questions regarding this project can be directed to Rick Heuring of Great River Energy at 763-445-5979 or toll free at 1-888-521-0130, extension 5979.

Publish: March 20, 2009



Janelle Von Pinnon, being duly sworn, on oath says that he/she is the publisher of the newspaper known as St. Joseph Newsleader, and has full knowledge of the facts which are stated below:

(A) The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements constituting qualifications as a qualified newspaper, as provided by Minnesota Statute 331A.02, 331A.07, and other applicable laws, as amended.

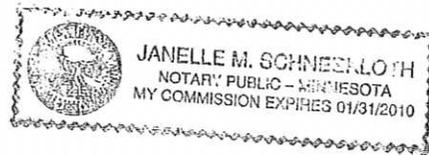
(B) The printed open house

which is attached was cut from the columns of said newspaper, and was printed and published once a week, for 1 successive week(s); it was first published on Friday, the 20 day of March, 2009, and was thereafter printed and published every \_\_\_\_\_ to and including \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2009; printed below is a copy of the lower case alphabet from A to Z, both inclusive, which is hereby acknowledged as being the size and kind of type used in the composition and publication of the notice:

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyza

BY: Kiw Roberts  
TITLE: Administrative Clerk

Subscribed and sworn to me before this 20th day of MARCH, 2009.



Janelle M. Schmeckloth  
Notary Public

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| (1) Lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space | \$8.00<br>(Line, word or inch) |
| (2) Maximum rate allowed by law for the above matter                     | \$8.00<br>(Line, word or inch) |
| (3) Rate actually charged for the above matter                           | \$8.00<br>(Line, word or inch) |

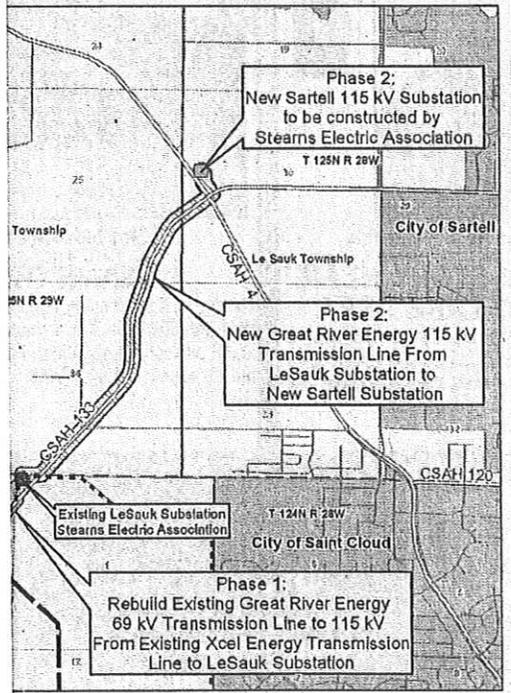
STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF STEARNS

**- Sartell 115 kV Transmission Line  
and Substation Project**  
Friday, March 24, 2009, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm  
Sartell City Hall

Inform you of Great River Energy's plan to construct a 2.4 mile long 115,000 volt transmission line along County Road 133 between St. Joseph and Sartell. As part of this project, the utility proposes to construct a new electric substation at the NE corner of the intersection of the proposed project is being completed to improve electric capacity and reliability in the transmission service areas located west of St. Cloud.

To inform you of the location of the proposed power line and substation, Great River Energy will host an open house meeting at the Sartell City Hall on Tuesday, March 24th from 5:00 pm to 8:00 p.m. Representatives of the two electric utilities will be present to answer your questions. The City Hall is located at 125 Pine Cone Road.

For more information regarding this project can be directed to Rick Heuring of Great River Energy at 1-888-521-0130, extension 5979.



Marion Gross, being duly sworn on oath, says that she is the publisher or authorized agent and employee of the newspaper known as the St. Cloud Times, and has full knowledge of the facts which are stated below:

(a) The St. Cloud Times has complied with all of the requirements constituting a qualified newspaper, as defined by Minnesota Statutes 331A.01 to 331A.11 and other applicable laws, as amended.

(b) She further states that the printed Public Notice: LeSauk - Sartell 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project - Open House - 3/24/09 hereto attached as a part hereof was cut from the columns of the St. Cloud Times, and was printed and published therein in the English language, that it was so published on: Friday, March 13, 2009. The following is a printed copy of the lower case alphabet from 'a' to 'z', both inclusive, and is hereby acknowledged as being the size and kind of type used in the composition and publication of said notice, to-wit:

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

*Marion Gross*  
Marion Gross

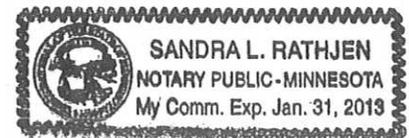
3/17/09

Subscribed and sworn to before me

*Sandra L. Rathjen*  
Notary Public, Minnesota  
My commission expires January 31, 2013.

Rate Information

- 1. Lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space: 0.94 / 1.25 daily/Sunday per agate line
- 2. Maximum rate allowed by law for the above matter: 0.94 / 1.25 daily/Sunday per agate line
- 3. Rate actually charged for 6pt line: 0.94 / 1.25 daily/Sunday
- 4. Rate actually charged for bold inch: 17.00 / 21.00 daily/Sunday
- 5. The rates above will carry a 10% surcharge for Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.



**Sartell/LeSauk Open House  
Tuesday, March 24, 5:00 PM  
Sartell City Hall**

**SIGN IN SHEET**

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
Florence Heim	2593-6 <sup>th</sup> St. Sartell <sup>56377</sup>	
Dorinda Heim	521 20 <sup>th</sup> Ave N Sartell 51377	
Janet Johnson	8881 315 St St Joseph	
Carl Stik	Stamundel	953-3899
Chuck Cedergren	33622 Co Rd 4 St. Joseph <sup>56371</sup>	253-6771
Teff Gebhardt	31653 Co. Rd 133 ST. Joseph <sup>56374</sup>	252-5418
Debbie Gebhardt	31653 Co Rd 133 St. Joseph <sup>56374</sup>	252-5418
Jim Gebhardt	8355 320 <sup>th</sup> Street St Joe <sup>56374</sup>	253-0191
GLEN LAUER	33100 Co RD 133 ST JOSEPH	251-3802
Dave Feld	8564 31 <sup>st</sup> Str	363-4552
Mae Glumondel	14724 305 <sup>th</sup> St. St Joseph	293-9585

LAND RIGHTS DEPARTMENT  
12300 Elm Creek Blvd  
Maple Grove, MN 55369  
763-445-5979 OR 1-888-521-0130 (EXT.5979)

GREAT RIVER ENERGY   
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative