

Exhibit A

Notice to PUC

Letter from PUC Confirming Local Review



GREAT RIVER
ENERGY®

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

February 17, 2015

Mr. Daniel P. Wolf
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Stockade 115 kV Transmission Project

Dear Mr. Wolf:

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 for construction of a 115 kilovolt (kV) substation and approximately 5.5 miles of 115 kV line in Meeker County, Minnesota.

The proposed Project will provide electric power for a new Minnesota Pipe Line company pumping station in the area. The proposed single circuit 115 kV transmission line will be located in the Forest City and Kingston Townships, along Sections 23, 22, 15, 14, 13, and 12, T120N, R20W and Sections 18, 7, 6, and 5, T120N, R29W, in Meeker County. A project description/site map is enclosed for your information.

On November 18, 2014, the Meeker County Board of Commissioners carried the motion to be the permitting authority for the GRE Transmission Line Project and coordinate an environmental assessment. Great River Energy intends to permit the entire project through Meeker County.

A Conditional Use Permit application has been submitted to Meeker County on February 11th, 2015. The county has been informed that it has 60 days after the application submittal to refer the permitting process to the Commission.

Mr. Daniel P. Wolf
February 17, 2015
Page 2

Questions regarding this project should be directed to Kristin Cote, Zoning Administrator, Meeker County at (320) 693-5290; or Dale Aukee of Great River Energy at (763) 445-5978; or me at (763) 445-5215. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marsha Parlow".

Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Analyst

Enclosure

cc: Affidavit of service on: General List of Interested Persons – w/encl.
Kristin Cote, Zoning Administrator, Meeker County – w/encl.
Deborah Pile, Department of Commerce – w/encl.
Dale Aukee, Great River Energy - w/encl.

Stockade 115 kV Transmission Project



Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Blvd
Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718
888-521-0130
www.greatriverenergy.com



Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Assoc.
1725 U.S. Hwy. 12 E., Suite 100
Litchfield, MN 55355
800-232-6257
www.meeker.coop

Project Need

Great River Energy and Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Association are proposing to construct a new overhead 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line and substation that will provide electric power for a new Minnesota Pipe Line Company pumping station.

Transmission Line Route and Substation

The five and one-half mile transmission line (see map on back for proposed route) will tap Great River Energy's existing 115 kV transmission line on 700th Avenue, north of 330th street. From there the line will run south to 330th Street and turn west to Minnesota Highway 24. Then the route will follow Minnesota Highway 24 south across the Crow River, continuing west to 670th Avenue and there turn south to the proposed substation.

Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Association will construct a new electric substation on the southwest corner of 670th Avenue and 305th Street.

Construction

Construction will consist of wood poles that are 350 to 400 feet apart and 70 to 80 feet above ground. Guy wires and anchors, when necessary, will be used to stabilize poles. Some specialty poles may be required. The new transmission line will require a 100-foot-wide right of way, 50 feet on each side of the centerline. Trees and vegetation in the right of way will be removed to provide a safe construction, operation and maintenance area.



*Typical 115 kV Wood
Single Circuit
Structure*

Permitting and Easements

This transmission project falls under the Minnesota Electric Facility Permitting Rules (MN Rules 7850.5300), due to its voltage and length. Under these rules, Great River Energy will request approval of a Conditional Use Permit and Environmental Assessment from the Meeker County Board of Commissioners.

New easements will be necessary to construct the transmission line. Landowners along the proposed transmission line route will be contacted to discuss the project, review an easement request and detail the necessary tree removal.

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Construction activities-----	2016 - 2017



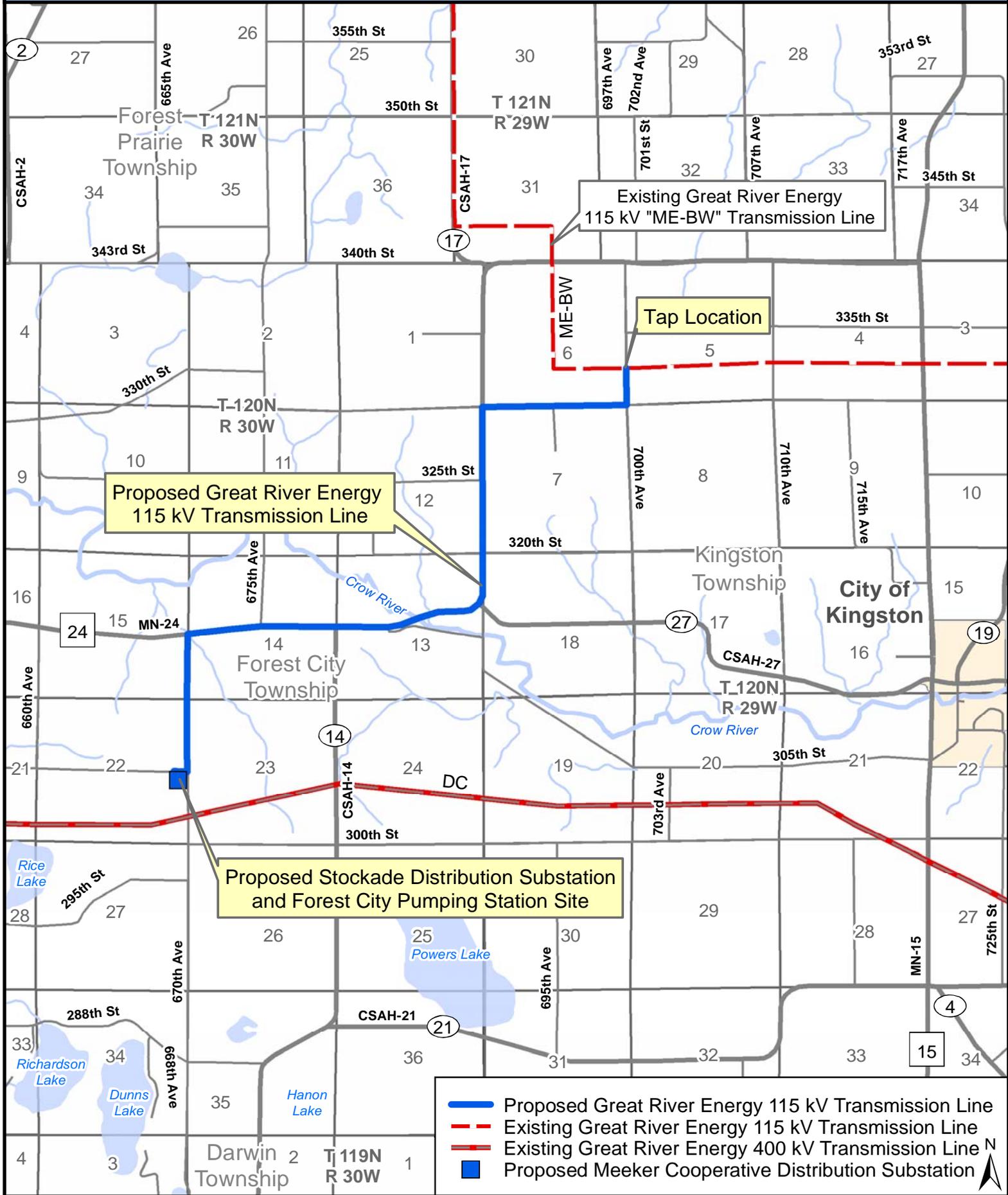
*Typical 115 kV
Distribution Substation*

For project updates and information, visit greatriverenergy.com/Stockade or contact:

Dale Aukee
Sr. Field Representative
Land Rights Department
763-445-5978
daukee@grenergy.com

Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Analyst
Environmental Services Department
763-445-5215
mparlow@grenergy.com

Proposed Project



- Proposed Great River Energy 115 kV Transmission Line
- Existing Great River Energy 115 kV Transmission Line
- Existing Great River Energy 400 kV Transmission Line
- Proposed Meeker Cooperative Distribution Substation

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret
James J.	Bertrand	james.bertrand@leonard.com	Leonard Street & Deinard	150 South Fifth Street, Suite 2300 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No
Josh	Bird	joshua.bird@ge.com	GE Power and Water	2025 49th Ave N Minneapolis, MN 55430	Electronic Service	No
David	Birkholz	david.birkholz@state.mn.us	MN Department of Commerce	Suite 500 85 7th Place East St. Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service	No
Michelle F.	Bissonnette	N/A	HDR Engineering, Inc.	Golden Hills Office Center 701 Xenia Ave S Ste 600 Minneapolis, MN 55416	Paper Service	No
B. Andrew	Brown	brown.andrew@dorsey.com	Dorsey & Whitney LLP	Suite 1500 50 South Sixth Street Minneapolis, MN 554021498	Electronic Service	No
PUC	CAO	consumer.puc@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	Consumer Affairs Office 121 7th Place E Suite 350 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No
Bill	Cook	bcook@rpu.org	Rochester Public Utilities	4000 East River Road NE Rochester, MN 55906	Electronic Service	No
John	Crane	johncranefishing@gmail.com	Fishing	1250 Wee Gwaus DR SW Bemidji, MN 56601	Electronic Service	No
George	Crocker	gwillc@nawo.org	North American Water Office	PO Box 174 Lake Elmo, MN 55042	Electronic Service	No
Thomas	Davis	N/A	-	1161 50th Ave Sherburn, MI 56171	Paper Service	No
Patricia	DeBleeckere	tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	Suite 350 121 Seventh Place East St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret
John E.	Drawz	jdrawz@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.	Suite 4000 200 South Sixth Street Minneapolis, MN 554021425	Electronic Service	No
Kristen	Eide Tollefson	HealingSystems@earthlink.net	R-CURE	P O Box 129 Frontenac, MN 55026	Paper Service	No
Scott	Ek	scott.ek@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Place East Suite 350 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No
Annette	Fiedler	phydev@swrdc.org	Southwest Regional Development Comm.	2401 Broadway Ave Ste 1 Slayton, MN 56172	Electronic Service	No
Karen A	Gebhardt	kageb1@gvtel.com		43901 253rd Ave Leonard, MN 56652-4026	Electronic Service	No
Larry	Hartman	Larry.Hartman@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place East, Suite 500 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No
Charles	Healy	chuckh@electrotech-inc.com	ElectroTech, Inc	7101 Madison Ave Minneapolis, MN 55427	Electronic Service	No
Bill	Heaney	billheaney@billheaney.com	IBEW Minnesota State Council	940 44th Ave NE Unite 21067 Columbia Hts, MN 55421-3099	Electronic Service	No
Valerie	Herring	vherring@briggs.com	Briggs and Morgan, P.A.	2200 IDS Center 80 S. Eighth Street Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No
Tiffany	Hughes	Regulatory.Records@xcelenergy.com	Xcel Energy	414 Nicollet Mall FL 7 Minneapolis, MN 554011993	Electronic Service	No
Scott	Johnson	Scott.Johnson@ci.medina.mn.us	City of Medina	2052 County Road 24 Medina, MN 55340-9790	Electronic Service	No
Michael	Kaluzniak	mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	Suite 350 121 Seventh Place East St. Paul, MN	Electronic Service	No

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret
				55101		
Bruce	King	bruce@ranww.org	Realtors, Association of Northwestern WI	Suite 3 1903 Keith Street Eau Claire, WI 54701	Electronic Service	No
Stacy	Kotch	Stacy.Kotch@state.mn.us	MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	395 John Ireland Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service	No
Karen	Kromar	karen.kromar@state.mn.us	MN Pollution Control Agency	520 Lafayette Rd Saint Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service	No
Kim	Lindquist	kim.lindquist@ci.rosemount.mn.us		2875 145th St W Rosemount, MN 55068	Electronic Service	No
Paula	Maccabee	Pmaccabee@justchangelaw.com	Just Change Law Offices	1961 Selby Ave Saint Paul, MN 55104	Electronic Service	No
Brian	Meloy	brian.meloy@stinsonleonard.com	Stinson, Leonard, Street LLP	150 S 5th St Ste 2300 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No
Kevin	Mixon	kevin.mixon@state.mn.us	Department of Natural Resources	261 HWY 15 S New Ulm, MN 56073	Electronic Service	No
Andrew	Moratzka	apmoratzka@stoel.com	Stoel Rives LLP	33 South Sixth Street Suite 4200 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No
Colleen	Mueller	N/A		22186 State Hwy 4 Paynesville, MN 56362	Paper Service	No
Steven	Nyhus	swnyhus@flaherty-hood.com	Flaherty & Hood PA	525 Park St Ste 470 Saint Paul, MN 55103	Electronic Service	No
Kate	O'Connell	kate.oconnell@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	Suite 50085 Seventh Place East St. Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service	No
Carol A.	Overland	overland@legalelectric.org	Legalelectric - Overland Law Office	1110 West Avenue Red Wing, MN 55066	Electronic Service	No
Kevin	Peterson	kjp@ibew160.org	IBEW Local 160	1109 Northway Lane NE Rochester,	Electronic Service	No

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret
				MN 55906		
Deborah	Pile	Deborah.Pile@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	Suite 50085 7th Place East St. Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service	No
Angela	Piner	angela.piner@hdrinc.com	HDR, Inc.	Suite 600 701 Xenia Avenue South Suite 600 Minneapolis, MN 55416	Electronic Service	No
Larry	Rebman	larryemls@hotmail.com	EMLS, Inc	PO Box 122 Appleton, MN 56208	Electronic Service	No
Margaret	Rheude	Margaret_Rheude@fws.gov	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Twin Cities Ecological Services Field Office 4101 American Blvd. E. Bloomington, MN 55425	Electronic Service	No
Jamie	Schrenzel	jamie.schrenzel@state.mn.us	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	500 Lafayette Road Saint Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service	No
Rod	Schumacher	rod.schumacher@is-grp.com	I&S Group	115 E Hickry St Suite 300 Mankato, MN 56001	Electronic Service	No
David	Shaffer	david.shaffer@startribune.com		425 Portland Minneapolis, MN 55488	Electronic Service	No
Tom	Slukich	tom@nationalconductor.com	National Conductor Constructors	18119 Hwy 371 North Braiderd, MN 56401	Electronic Service	No
Tracy	Smetana	tracy.smetana@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Place East Suite 350 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No
Adam	Sokolski	adam.sokolski@iberdrolaren.com	Iberdrola Renewables	701 fourth Avenue South Suite 1010 Minneapolis, MN 55415	Electronic Service	No
Mike	Steckelberg	msteckelberg@grenergy.com	Great River Energy	12300 Elm Creek Boulevard Maple	Electronic Service	No

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret
				Grove, MN 553694718		
Mark	Strohfus	mstrohfus@greenergy.com	Great River Energy	12300 Elm Creek Boulevard Maple Grove, MN 553694718	Electronic Service	No
Carl	Strohlm	cjsmg@sbcglobal.net	SBC Global	105 East Edgewood Ave Indianapolis, IN 46227	Electronic Service	No
Tom	Swafford	tswafford@umsi.us	Utility Mapping Services, Inc	3947 E Calvary Rd Suite 103 Duluth, MN 55803	Electronic Service	No
Eric	Swanson	eswanson@winthrop.com	Winthrop Weinstine	225 S 6th St Ste 3500 Capella Tower Minneapolis, MN 554024629	Electronic Service	No
Todd	Tadych	ttadych@atcllc.com	American Transmission Company LLC	5303 Fen Oak Dr Madison, WI 53718	Electronic Service	No
Steve	Thompson	stevet@cmmmpa.org	Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency	459 S Grove St Blue Earth, MN 56013- 2629	Electronic Service	No
Caren	Warner	caren.warner@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place East Suite 500 St. Paul, MN 55101-2198	Electronic Service	No
Brian	Zelenak	brian.r.zelenak@xcelenergy.com	Xcel Energy	414 Nicollet Mall FL 7 Minneapolis, MN 55401- 1993	Electronic Service	No
Hans	van Lingen	hans.vanlingen@enel.com	Enel Green Power North America	1 Tech Drive Suite 220 Andover, MA 01810	Electronic Service	No

AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) ss. RE: Notice of Intent by Great River Energy to
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN) seek local approval of the Stockade 115kV
) Transmission Line Project in Meeker County

MPUC Docket No. _____

I, Cheri J. Finseth hereby certify that on the 17th day of February, 2015, I directed to be sent via U.S. Mail a true and correct copy of the following notice to all persons on the attached mailing list (those on the Special Service List – General List 7850.2100-1A requesting paper service), by depositing same, postage prepaid mail, in the United States mail:

Notice by Great River Energy of Election to Seek Local Approval of the Stockade 115 kV Transmission Line Project in Meeker County, Minnesota

Cheri J. Finseth

Subscribed and sworn to before me this
17th day of February 2015.

Victoria Ely
NOTARY PUBLIC



Michelle Bissonnette
HDR Engineering Inc
701 Xenia Ave S Ste 600
Minneapolis MN 55416

Thomas Davis
1161 50th Ave
Sherburn MI 56171

Kristen Eide Tollefson
R-CURE
PO Box 129
Frontenac MN 55026

Colleen Mueller
22186 State Hwy 4
Paynesville MN 56362

RECEIVED FEB 23 2015



STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

February 19, 2015

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

Kristin Cote
Meeker County
325 North Sibley Avenue
Litchfield, MN 55355-2155

RE: Local Review of Great River Energy's Stockade 115 kV Transmission Line and
Substation Project in Meeker County, Minnesota
Docket No. ET-2/LR-15-166

Dear Ms. Parlow and Ms. Cote:

This letter confirms that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) has received Great River Energy's (GRE) letter dated February 17, 2015, indicating that it has elected to pursue local review approval to construct approximately five and one-half miles of new 115 kilovolt (kV) overhead transmission line and a substation in Forest City and Kingston townships, Meeker County, Minnesota.

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

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.

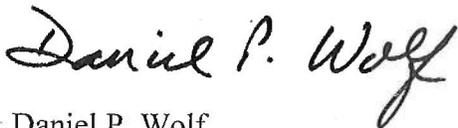
The request must be filed within 60 days after an application for the proposed project has been filed. GRE has indicated that Meeker County is the local government unit with jurisdiction to conduct environmental review and permit the proposed project. GRE has indicated that on November 18, 2014, the Meeker County Board of Commissioners passed a motion authorizing review of the project under its jurisdiction. GRE filed a conditional use permit application for the project with Meeker County on February 11, 2015.

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 also sent the required notice under Minn. R. 7850.5300, subp. 3, to those persons on the Commission's general notification list that a permit has been applied for from the local unit of government.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel P. Wolf". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'W'.

Daniel P. Wolf
Executive Secretary

Exhibit B

Survey Letter and Responses

RECEIVED

APR 28 2015

April 24, 2015

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

**RE: Survey on Proposed Stockade 115 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line and Substation
Located near Forest City in Meeker County, Minnesota**

Dear Ms. Parlow:

Great River Energy and Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Association are proposing to construct a new overhead 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line and substation that will provide electric power for a new Minnesota Pipe Line pumping station near Forest City, Minnesota. The proposed transmission line will serve the proposed substation located south of the intersection of 305th Street and 670th Avenue.

Great River Energy is planning to build approximately five and one-half miles of 115 kV transmission line. The line is located in the townships of Forest City along Sections 23, 22, 15, 14, 13 and 12, T120N, R30W and Kingston along Sections 18, 8, 7, and 5, T120N, R29W in Meeker County. The proposed line is to connect existing Great River Energy's 115 kV "ME-BW" line to the proposed Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Association's substation and will be permitted, designed and constructed to 115 kV standards (see attached map).

In the cases where the line will run along roads, Great River Energy would like to move the centerline of the transmission line two to three feet outside of road right-of-way, onto private property. The new line will be constructed with wood poles that will be 70 to 80 feet in height. The spacing between the new poles will be approximately 350 to 400 feet.

Great River Energy is seeking approval for the project from Meeker County. As part of the permitting process, the Meeker County 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.

This survey is intended to allow the public to comment on the project and provide 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.

Great River Energy has 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 agency has yet to respond with any comments or concerns related to the proposed project. Specific information will be provided to the agency, once design details are available.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service – reviewed the project and recommended all tree clearing outside of Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) roost season. The species is anticipated to not be present between the dates of October 1st to March 30th (email of 3/3/15).

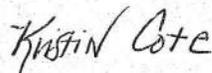
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – reviewed the project and indicated that a DNR License will be required to cross the Crow River (letter of 2/24/15).

Minnesota Historical Society – recommends that a Phase 1 archaeological survey be completed (letter of 2/26/15).

Minnesota Department of Transportation (aviation issues) – the agency has yet to respond with any comments or concerns related to the proposed project.

Thank you for your input on this project. Please return your survey form in the self-addressed envelope provided by May 15, 2015. As an alternative, you may email the survey form to kristin.cote@co.meeker.mn.us.

Sincerely,
Meeker County



Kristin Cote
Zoning Administrator

Enclosures

Preliminary Table of Contents

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- 3.4 Construction Procedures
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 - 4.3.2 Agriculture
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5.0 Regulatory Permits and Approvals Required

Figures

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Appendices

- Appendix A Notice to PUC
Letter from PUC Confirming Local Review

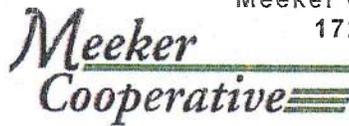
- Appendix B Survey Letter and Responses

- Appendix C Agency Correspondence

Stockade 115 kV Transmission Project



Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Blvd
Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718
888-521-0130
www.greatriverenergy.com



Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Assoc.
1725 U.S. Hwy. 12 E., Suite 100
Litchfield, MN 55355
800-232-6257
www.meeker.coop

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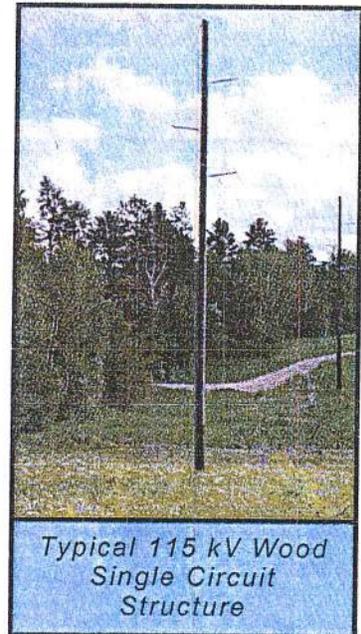
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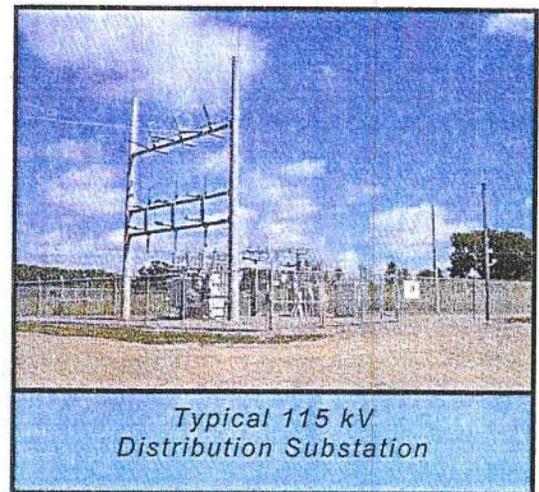
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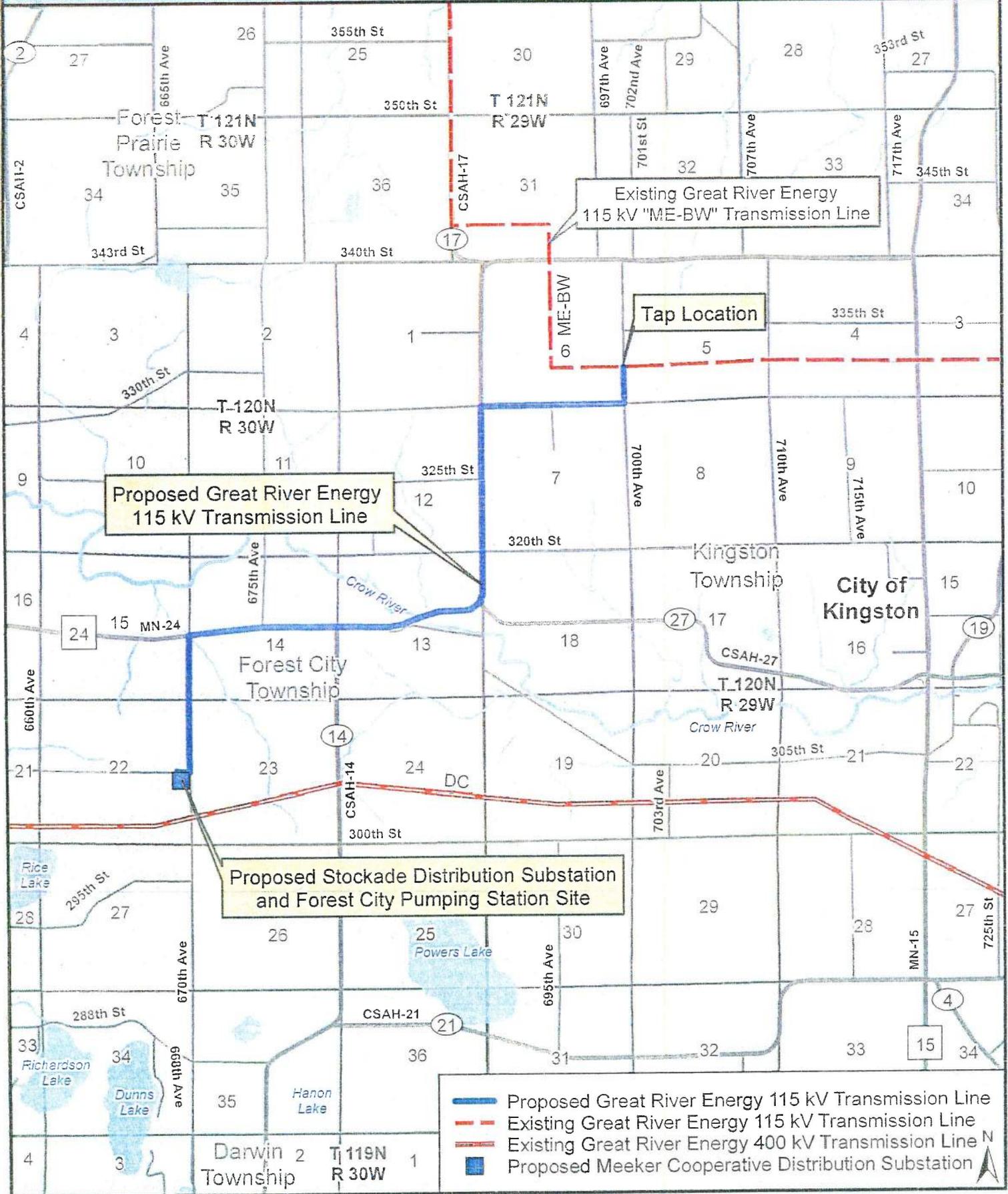
Typical 115 kV
Distribution Substation

For project updates and information, visit greatriverenergy.com/Stockade or contact:

Dale Aukee
Sr. Field Representative
Land Rights Department
763-445-5978
daukee@grenergy.com

Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Analyst
Environmental Services Department
763-445-5215
mparlow@grenergy.com

Proposed Project



SURVEY:

Please respond by _____, 2015 via the enclosed self-addressed envelope or email to kristin.cote@co.meeker.mn.us.

I have the following comments on the Stockade 115 kV Transmission Project: (Please write your comments below. Use another sheet of paper if more space is needed.)

I have No comments on the Stockade 115 kV Transmission Project

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

SURVEY:

Please respond by _____, 2015 via the enclosed self-addressed envelope or email to kristin.cote@co.meeker.mn.us.

No envelope enclosed.

I have the following comments on the Stockade 115 kV Transmission Project: (Please write your comments below. Use another sheet of paper if more space is needed.)

I have No comments on the Stockade 115 kV Transmission Project

Name: Betty Alvord
Address: 2711/2 Park Drive, St Cloud 56303
Phone: 252-2843

Kristin Cote - Stockade Transmission line on TH 24

From: "Vick, Geralynn (DOT)" <geri.vick@state.mn.us>
To: "Kristin Cote (Kristin.Cote@co.meeker.mn.us)" <Kristin.Cote@co.meeker.mn...>
Date: 5/8/2015 11:49 AM
Subject: Stockade Transmission line on TH 24
CC: "Kotch, Stacy (DOT)" <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>, "Knutson, Lindsey (DOT)"...
Attachments: Reply to Meeker Co..pdf; From Meeker Co..pdf

Hi Kristin,

Attached pdf is my comments on the project.

Geri Vick
D8 Permits Supervisor - ES
320-214-6364

SURVEY:

Please respond by _____, 2015 via the enclosed self-addressed envelope or email to kristin.cote@co.meeker.mn.us.

I have the following comments on the Stockade 115 kV Transmission Project: (Please write your comments below. Use another sheet of paper if more space is needed.)

MnDOT requires that the proposed transmission line adhere to and submit all of MnDOT's permits connected with MnDOT's Utility Accommodation Policy including such provisions as locating lines near or outside of MnDOT Right of Way (overhanging the Right of Way).

I have No comments on the Stockade 115 kV Transmission Project

Name: Gerri Vick D8 Permits Supervisor
Address: 2505 Transportation Road, Willmar, Mn 56201
Phone: 320-214-6364

From: none <rgaaab@metel.net>
To: <kristin.cote@co.meekeer.mn.us>
Date: 5/6/2015 11:23 AM
Subject: Survey on Proposed Stockade line and substation

Kristin,

The Kingston Township board met last night and went thru the packet we received. The board feels additional information is needed and also there are many different options being discussed by the property owners that will be affected ex: poles in right a way or poles on private property.

Gail Schiefelbein / clerk
Kingston Township

To - Kristin Cote
FAX - 320-693-5294

SURVEY:

Please respond by _____, 2015 via the enclosed self-addressed envelope or email to kristin.cote@co.meecker.mn.us.

I have the following comments on the Stockade 115 kV Transmission Project: (Please write your comments below. Use another sheet of paper if more space is needed.)

While I have no objection to the project if it is felt necessary to be done - I do feel there should be a monetary compensation to the property owners (in this case me) for any brush removal, poles installed or moved, etc.

Please keep me informed.

I have No comments on the Stockade 115 kV Transmission Project

Name: Ann Hallberg
Address: 1130 So. Michigan, #511, Chicago, IL 60605
Phone: 312-922-1361

P.S. No envelope enclosed!

Exhibit C

Agency Correspondence



GREAT RIVER
ENERGY®

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

January 30, 2015

Ms. Jessie Diaz
US Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District Office
180 5th Street East, Suite 700
St. Paul, MN 55101-1678

RE: Proposed Stockade 115 kV Transmission Line
Meeker County, Minnesota
T120N, R29W, Sections 6 and 7
T120N, R30W, Sections 12, 13, 14, 15, 22 and 23

WO# 202974

Dear Ms. Diaz:

Great River Energy is proposing to construct a new 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Forest City, Minnesota. The line is to support a proposed Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Association substation to support a proposed new Minnesota Pipeline pumping station.

Great River Energy is requesting information on the possible effects of the proposed project on floodplains, wetlands, and other important natural resources that occur in the project area. The transmission line will span one DNR public water. There are wetlands in the vicinity of the project (see enclosed map). A project description and NWI map has been included for your review. The proposed line is marked in blue.

Great River Energy is requesting concurrence of its interpretation of the possible effects of the proposed transmission project on wetlands that occur in the project area. We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Monday, March 2, 2015. If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact me at (763) 445-5215. If you wish to respond by e-mail, my address is mparlow@greenergy.com. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Analyst

Enclosure

S:\Legal Services\Environmental\Transmission\Projects\202974 Stockade\Agency Letters\Stockade ACE.doc

Stockade 115 kV Transmission Project



Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Blvd
Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718
888-521-0130
www.greatriverenergy.com



Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Assoc.
1725 U.S. Hwy. 12 E., Suite 100
Litchfield, MN 55355
800-232-6257
www.meeker.coop

Project Need

Great River Energy and Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Association are proposing to construct a new overhead 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line and substation that will provide electric power for a new Minnesota Pipe Line Company pumping station.

Transmission Line Route and Substation

The five and one-half mile transmission line (see map on back for proposed route) will tap Great River Energy's existing 115 kV transmission line on 700th Avenue, north of 330th street. From there the line will run south to 330th Street and turn west to Minnesota Highway 24. Then the route will follow Minnesota Highway 24 south across the Crow River, continuing west to 670th Avenue and there turn south to the proposed substation.

Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Association will construct a new electric substation on the southwest corner of 670th Avenue and 305th Street.

Construction

Construction will consist of wood poles that are 350 to 400 feet apart and 70 to 80 feet above ground. Guy wires and anchors, when necessary, will be used to stabilize poles. Some specialty poles may be required. The new transmission line will require a 100-foot-wide right of way, 50 feet on each side of the centerline. Trees and vegetation in the right of way will be removed to provide a safe construction, operation and maintenance area.



*Typical 115 kV Wood
Single Circuit
Structure*

Permitting and Easements

This transmission project falls under the Minnesota Electric Facility Permitting Rules (MN Rules 7850.5300), due to its voltage and length. Under these rules, Great River Energy will request approval of a Conditional Use Permit and Environmental Assessment from the Meeker County Board of Commissioners.

New easements will be necessary to construct the transmission line. Landowners along the proposed transmission line route will be contacted to discuss the project, review an easement request and detail the necessary tree removal.

Schedule

Public notice and County approval process-----	2014 - 2015
Easement acquisition/Environmental permits -----	2015
Survey/Design -----	2015 - 2016
Construction activities-----	2016 - 2017



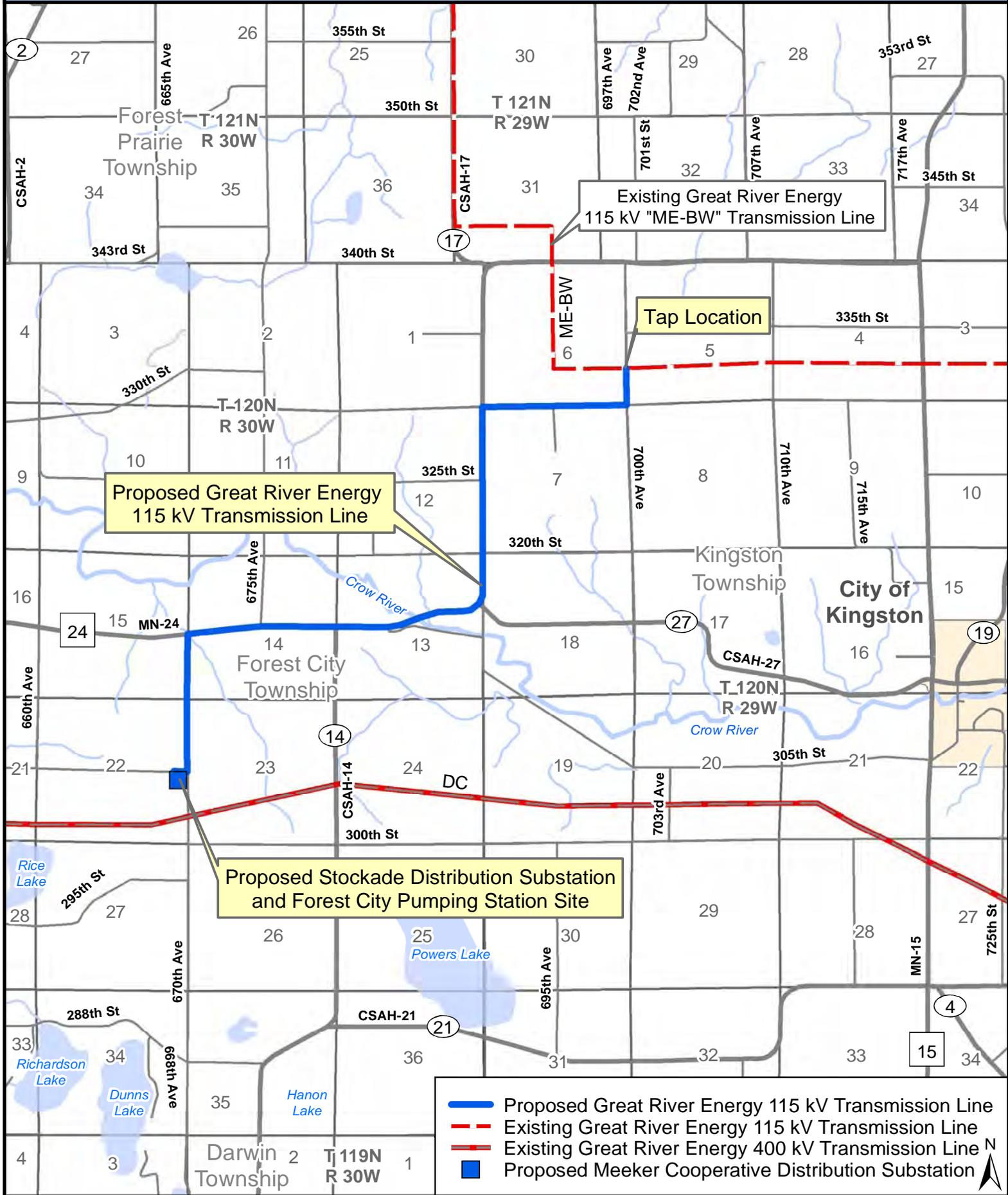
*Typical 115 kV
Distribution Substation*

For project updates and information, visit greatriverenergy.com/Stockade or contact:

Dale Aukey
Sr. Field Representative
Land Rights Department
763-445-5978
daukey@grenergy.com

Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Analyst
Environmental Services Department
763-445-5215
mparlow@grenergy.com

Proposed Project



- Proposed Great River Energy 115 kV Transmission Line
 - Existing Great River Energy 115 kV Transmission Line
 - Existing Great River Energy 400 kV Transmission Line
 - Proposed Meeker Cooperative Distribution Substation
- N



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Great River Energy

Proposed 115 kV Transmission Line

Existing 400 kV Transmission Line

Meeker Cooperative

Proposed Distribution

NWI Wetlands

Freshwater Emergent Wetland

Freshwater Forested/

Freshwater Pond

Riverine

MN Public Watercourse

MN MPCA Impaired Streams

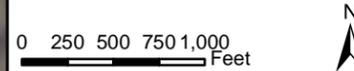
MN Wild and Scenic River

Updated: 12/4/2014

Data Sources vary between MNDOT, MNDNR, MNGEO and Great River Energy

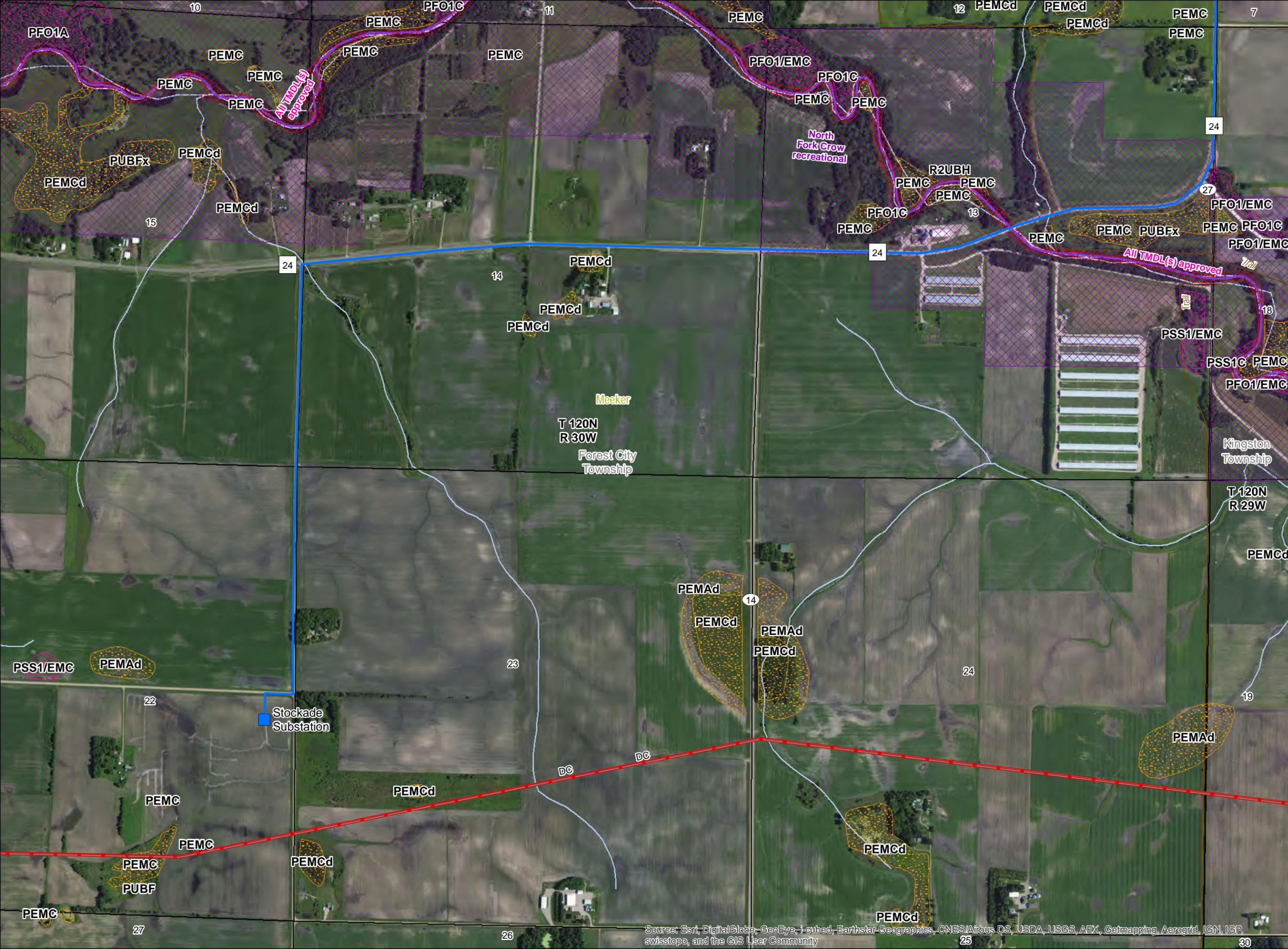
Aerial Imagery form: ESRI World Imagery Basemap service

Map Projection: UTM, NAD83, Zone15, Meters



Forest City Area 115kV Transmission Line and Stockade Distribution Substation Project Map 01 of 2

NWI Wetlands and Hydrologic Features





GREAT RIVER ENERGY

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

- Great River Energy
- Proposed 115 kV Transmission Line
 - Existing 115 kV Transmission Line
 - NWI Wetlands
 - Freshwater Emergent Wetland
 - Freshwater Forested/
 - Freshwater Pond
 - Riverine
 - MN Public Watercourse
 - MN MPCA Impaired Streams
 - MN Wild and Scenic River

Updated: 12/4/2014

Data Sources vary between MNDOT, MNDNR, MNGEO and Great River Energy

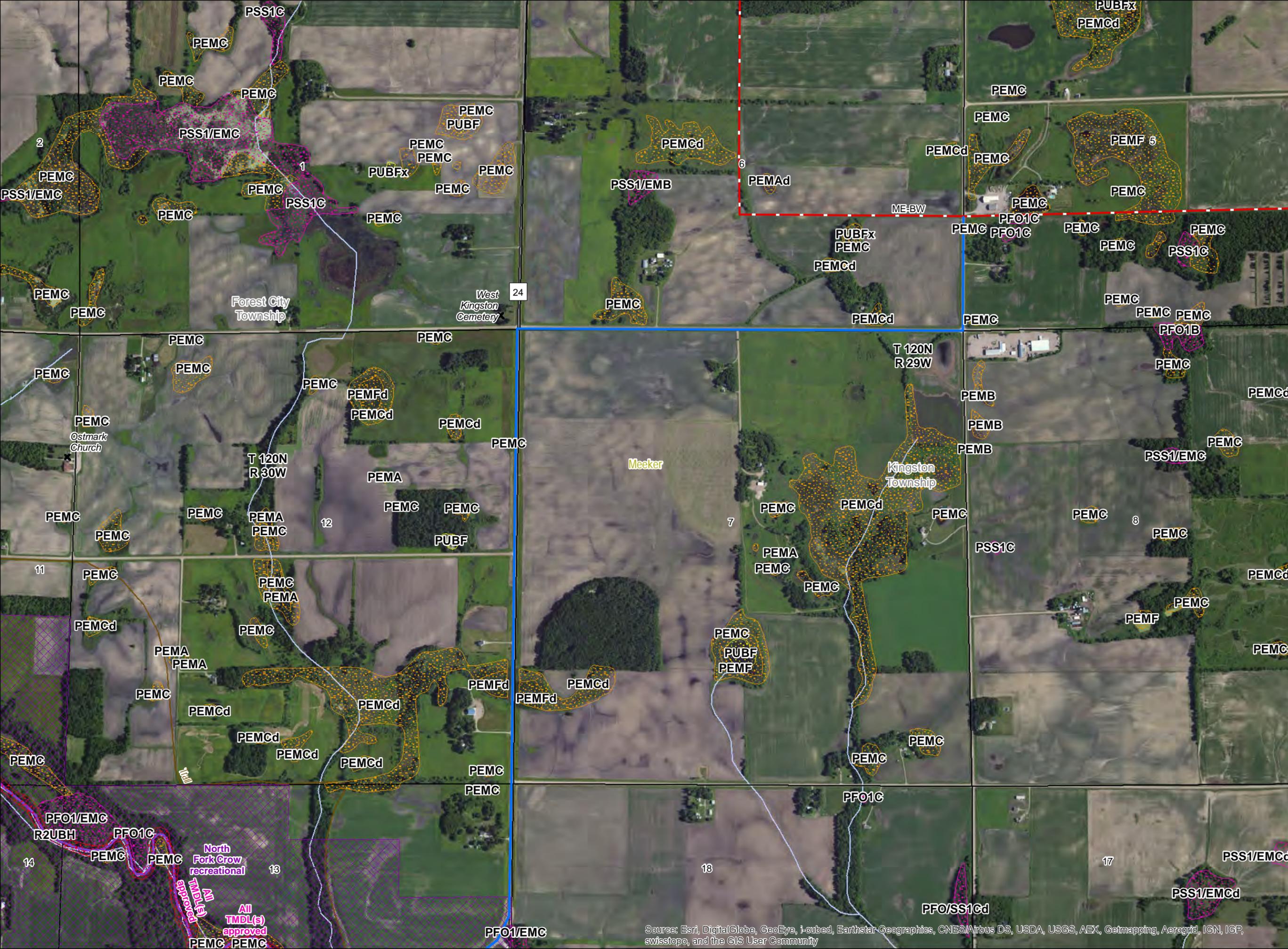
Aerial Imagery form: ESRI World Imagery Basemap service

Map Projection: UTM, NAD83, Zone15, Meters



Forest City Area 115kV Transmission Line and Stockade Distribution Substation Project
Map 02 of 2
NWI Wetlands and Hydrologic Features

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community





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30 January 2015

Mr. Andrew Horton, Fish and Wildlife Biologist
United States Department of the Interior
Twin Cities Field Office
4101 American Boulevard East
Bloomington, MN 55425-1665

RE: Proposed Stockade 115 kV Transmission Line
Meeker County, Minnesota
T120N, R29W, Sections 6 and 7
T120N, R30W, Sections 12, 13, 14, 15, 22 and 23

WO# 202974

Dear Mr. Horton:

Great River Energy is proposing to construct a new 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Forest City, Minnesota. The line is to support a proposed Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Association substation to support a proposed new Minnesota Pipeline pumping station.

The Fish and Wildlife Service website (<http://www.fws.gov/Midwest/Endangered/LISTS/minnesot-cty.html>) indicates that Northern Long Eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) is proposed for listing on the threatened and endangered list for Meeker County, Minnesota. Great River Energy is requesting concurrence or information on the possible effects of the proposed project on any listed or proposed threatened or endangered species and designated or proposed critical habitat that may be present in the project area. A project description has been included for your review. The proposed line is marked in blue.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Monday, March 2, 2015. If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact me at (763) 445-5215. If you wish to respond by e-mail, my address is mparlow@grenergy.com. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Analyst

Enclosure

S:\Legal Services\Environmental\Transmission\Projects\202974 Stockade\Agency Letters\Stockade FWS.doc

Stockade 115 kV Transmission Project



Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Blvd
Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718
888-521-0130
www.greatriverenergy.com



Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Assoc.
1725 U.S. Hwy. 12 E., Suite 100
Litchfield, MN 55355
800-232-6257
www.meeker.coop

Project Need

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Transmission Line Route and Substation

The five and one-half mile transmission line (see map on back for proposed route) will tap Great River Energy's existing 115 kV transmission line on 700th Avenue, north of 330th street. From there the line will run south to 330th Street and turn west to Minnesota Highway 24. Then the route will follow Minnesota Highway 24 south across the Crow River, continuing west to 670th Avenue and there turn south to the proposed substation.

Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Association will construct a new electric substation on the southwest corner of 670th Avenue and 305th Street.

Construction

Construction will consist of wood poles that are 350 to 400 feet apart and 70 to 80 feet above ground. Guy wires and anchors, when necessary, will be used to stabilize poles. Some specialty poles may be required. The new transmission line will require a 100-foot-wide right of way, 50 feet on each side of the centerline. Trees and vegetation in the right of way will be removed to provide a safe construction, operation and maintenance area.



*Typical 115 kV Wood
Single Circuit
Structure*

Permitting and Easements

This transmission project falls under the Minnesota Electric Facility Permitting Rules (MN Rules 7850.5300), due to its voltage and length. Under these rules, Great River Energy will request approval of a Conditional Use Permit and Environmental Assessment from the Meeker County Board of Commissioners.

New easements will be necessary to construct the transmission line. Landowners along the proposed transmission line route will be contacted to discuss the project, review an easement request and detail the necessary tree removal.

Schedule

Public notice and County approval process-----	2014 - 2015
Easement acquisition/Environmental permits -----	2015
Survey/Design -----	2015 - 2016
Construction activities-----	2016 - 2017



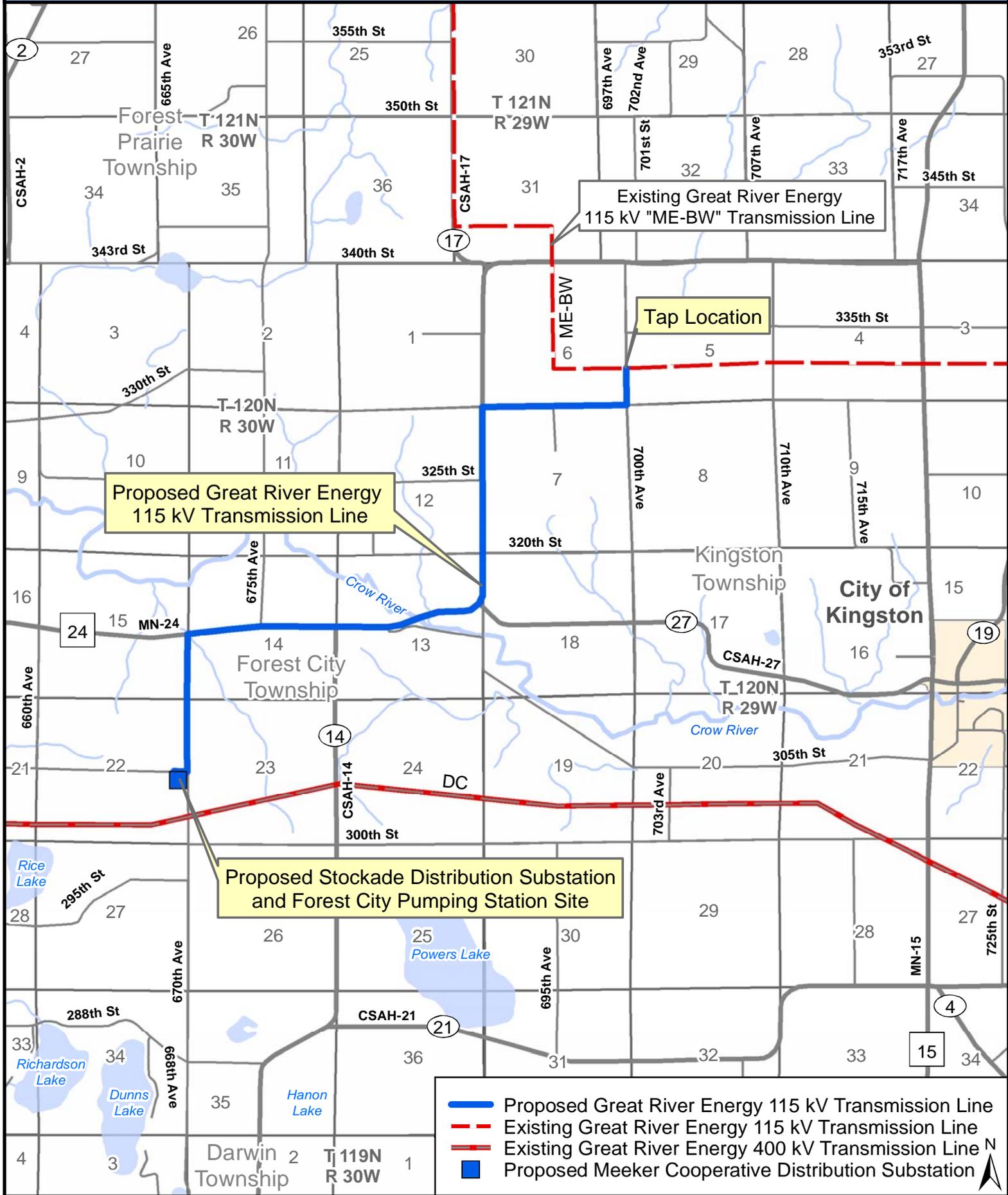
*Typical 115 kV
Distribution Substation*

For project updates and information, visit greatriverenergy.com/Stockade or contact:

Dale Aukee
Sr. Field Representative
Land Rights Department
763-445-5978
daukee@grenergy.com

Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Analyst
Environmental Services Department
763-445-5215
mparlow@grenergy.com

Proposed Project



- Proposed Great River Energy 115 kV Transmission Line
- Existing Great River Energy 115 kV Transmission Line
- Existing Great River Energy 400 kV Transmission Line
- Proposed Meeker Cooperative Distribution Substation



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30 January 2015

Ms. Lisa Joyal
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Proposed Stockade 115 kV Transmission Line
Meeker County, Minnesota
T120N, R29W, Sections 6 and 7
T120N, R30W, Sections 12, 13, 14, 15, 22 and 23

WO# 202974

Dear Ms. Joyal:

Great River Energy is proposing to construct a new 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Forest City, Minnesota. The line is to support a proposed Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Association substation to support a proposed new Minnesota Pipeline pumping station.

The DNR Rare Features map indicates there is one feature of interest in the vicinity of the project area (North Fork Crow Recreational Area). Also, the DNR Public Waters Inventory (PWI) maps indicate that the proposed transmission line affects one public waterbody (North Fork Crow River). However, Great River Energy believes that construction and timing of construction can keep the impact on these features to a minimum.

Great River Energy is requesting concurrence of its interpretation of the rare features in the vicinity and the possible effects of the new transmission line and substation on wetlands, threatened and endangered species, and other important state natural resources that occur in the project area. A project description, PWI map, rare features map, Data Request Form and shape files are enclosed for your information. The proposed line is marked in blue.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Monday, March 2, 2015. If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact me at (763) 445-5215. If you wish to respond by e-mail, my address is mparlow@greenergy.com. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Analyst

Enclosures

S:\Legal Services\Environmental\Transmission\Projects\202974 Stockade\Agency Letters\Stockade DNR.doc

NO STAPLES
PLEASE



2012	For Agency Use Only:			#Sec _____	Contact Rqsted? _____
	Received _____	Due _____	Inv _____	#EOs _____	Survey Rqsted? _____
	Search Radius _____ mi. L / I / D EM Map'd _____			#Com _____	
	NoR / NoF / NoE / Std / Sub Let _____ Log out _____			Related ERDB# _____	

NATURAL HERITAGE INFORMATION SYSTEM (NHIS) DATA REQUEST FORM

Please read the instructions on page 3 before filling out the form. Thank you!

WHO IS REQUESTING THE INFORMATION?

Mr. Ms. Name and Title Marsha Parlow, Transmission Permitting Analyst

Agency/Company Great River Energy

Mailing Address 12300 Elm Creek Blvd Maple Grove MN 55369

(Street) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

Phone 763-445-5215 e-mail mparlow@greenergy.com Responses will be sent via email.
If you prefer US Mail check here:

THIS INFORMATION IS BEING REQUESTED FOR A:

- Federal EA State EAW PUC Site or Route Application Watershed Plan BER
- Federal EIS State EIS Local Government Permit Research Project
- NEPA Checklist Other (describe) _____
- Check here if this project is funded through any of the following grant programs: Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (L-SOHC), Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL), or Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

INFORMATION WE NEED FROM YOU:

- 1) Enclose a map of the project boundary/area of interest (topographic maps or aerial photos are preferred).
- 2) Please provide a GIS shapefile* (NAD 83, UTM Zone 15N) of the project boundary/area of interest.
- 3) List the following locational information* (attach additional sheets if necessary):

For Agency Use: Region / MCBS Status	County	Township #	Range #	Section(s) (please list all sections)	For Agency Use: TRS Confirmed <input type="checkbox"/>
	Meeker	120N	30W	23, 22, 15, 14, 13, 12	
	Meeker	120N	29W	18, 7, 6, 5	

- 4) Please provide the following information (attach additional sheets if necessary):

Project Name: Stockade 115 kV Transmission Project

Project Proposer: Great River Energy

Description of Project (including types of disturbance anticipated from the project):
See attached factsheet.

Describe the existing land use of the project site. What types of land cover / habitat will be impacted by the proposed project?
Road right of way with trees and open upland areas.

List any waterbodies (e.g., rivers, intermittent streams, lakes, wetlands) that may be affected by the proposed project, and discuss how they may be impacted (e.g., dewatering, discharge, riverbed disturbance).

One public waterbody (North Crow River) will be spanned. Tall growing trees will be removed in the newly acquired transmission right of way.

Does the project have the potential to affect any groundwater resources (e.g., groundwater appropriation, change in recharge, or contamination)?

No.

To your knowledge, has the project undergone a previous Natural Heritage review? If so, please list the correspondence #: ERDB # _____. How does this request differ from the previous request (e.g., change in scope, change in boundary, project being revived, project expansion, different phase)?

Not Applicable.

To your knowledge, have any native plant community or rare species surveys been conducted within the site? If so, please list:
None.

List any DNR Permits or Licenses that you will be applying for or have already applied for as part of this project:

An application for a water crossing license on the North Crow River.

INFORMATION WE PROVIDE TO YOU:

1) The response will include a Natural Heritage letter. If applicable, the letter will discuss potential effects to rare features.

- Check here if you are interested in a list of rare features in the vicinity of the area of interest but you do **not** need a review of potential effects to rare features. Please list the reason a review is not needed:

2) Depending on the results of the query or review, the response may include an Index Report of known aggregation sites and known occurrences of federally and state-listed plants and animals* within an approximate one-mile radius of the project boundary/area of interest. The Index Report and Natural Heritage letter can be included in any public environmental review document.

3) A Detailed Report that contains more information on each occurrence may also be requested. Please note that the Detailed Report may contain specific location information that is protected under *Minnesota Statutes*, section 84.0872, subd. 2, and, as such, the Detailed Report may not be included in any public document (e.g., an EAW).

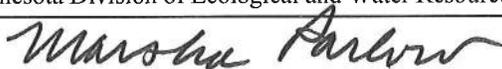
- Check here if you would like to request a Detailed Report. Please note that if the results of the review are 'No Effects' or a standard comment, a Detailed Report may not be available.

FEES / TURNAROUND TIME

There is a fee* for this service. Requests generally take **3-4 weeks** from date of receipt to process, and are processed in the order received.

I have read the entire form and instructions, and the information supplied above is complete and accurate. I understand that material supplied to me from the Natural Heritage Information System is copyrighted and that I am not permitted to reproduce or publish any of this copyrighted material without prior written permission from the DNR. Further, if permission to publish is given, I understand that I must credit the Minnesota Division of Ecological and Water Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, as the source of the material.

Signature
(required)



Note: Digital signatures representing the name of a person shall be sufficient to show that such person has signed this document.

Mail or email completed form to:

Lisa Joyal, Endangered Species Review Coordinator
Division of Ecological and Water Resources
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
Review.NHIS@state.mn.us

Form is available at

http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nhrnp/nhis_data_request.pdf

Revised March 2, 2012

Stockade 115 kV Transmission Project



Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Blvd
Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718
888-521-0130
www.greatriverenergy.com



Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Assoc.
1725 U.S. Hwy. 12 E., Suite 100
Litchfield, MN 55355
800-232-6257
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Project Need

Great River Energy and Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Association are proposing to construct a new overhead 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line and substation that will provide electric power for a new Minnesota Pipe Line Company pumping station.

Transmission Line Route and Substation

The five and one-half mile transmission line (see map on back for proposed route) will tap Great River Energy's existing 115 kV transmission line on 700th Avenue, north of 330th street. From there the line will run south to 330th Street and turn west to Minnesota Highway 24. Then the route will follow Minnesota Highway 24 south across the Crow River, continuing west to 670th Avenue and there turn south to the proposed substation.

Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Association will construct a new electric substation on the southwest corner of 670th Avenue and 305th Street.

Construction

Construction will consist of wood poles that are 350 to 400 feet apart and 70 to 80 feet above ground. Guy wires and anchors, when necessary, will be used to stabilize poles. Some specialty poles may be required. The new transmission line will require a 100-foot-wide right of way, 50 feet on each side of the centerline. Trees and vegetation in the right of way will be removed to provide a safe construction, operation and maintenance area.



*Typical 115 kV Wood
Single Circuit
Structure*

Permitting and Easements

This transmission project falls under the Minnesota Electric Facility Permitting Rules (MN Rules 7850.5300), due to its voltage and length. Under these rules, Great River Energy will request approval of a Conditional Use Permit and Environmental Assessment from the Meeker County Board of Commissioners.

New easements will be necessary to construct the transmission line. Landowners along the proposed transmission line route will be contacted to discuss the project, review an easement request and detail the necessary tree removal.

Schedule

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Easement acquisition/Environmental permits -----	2015
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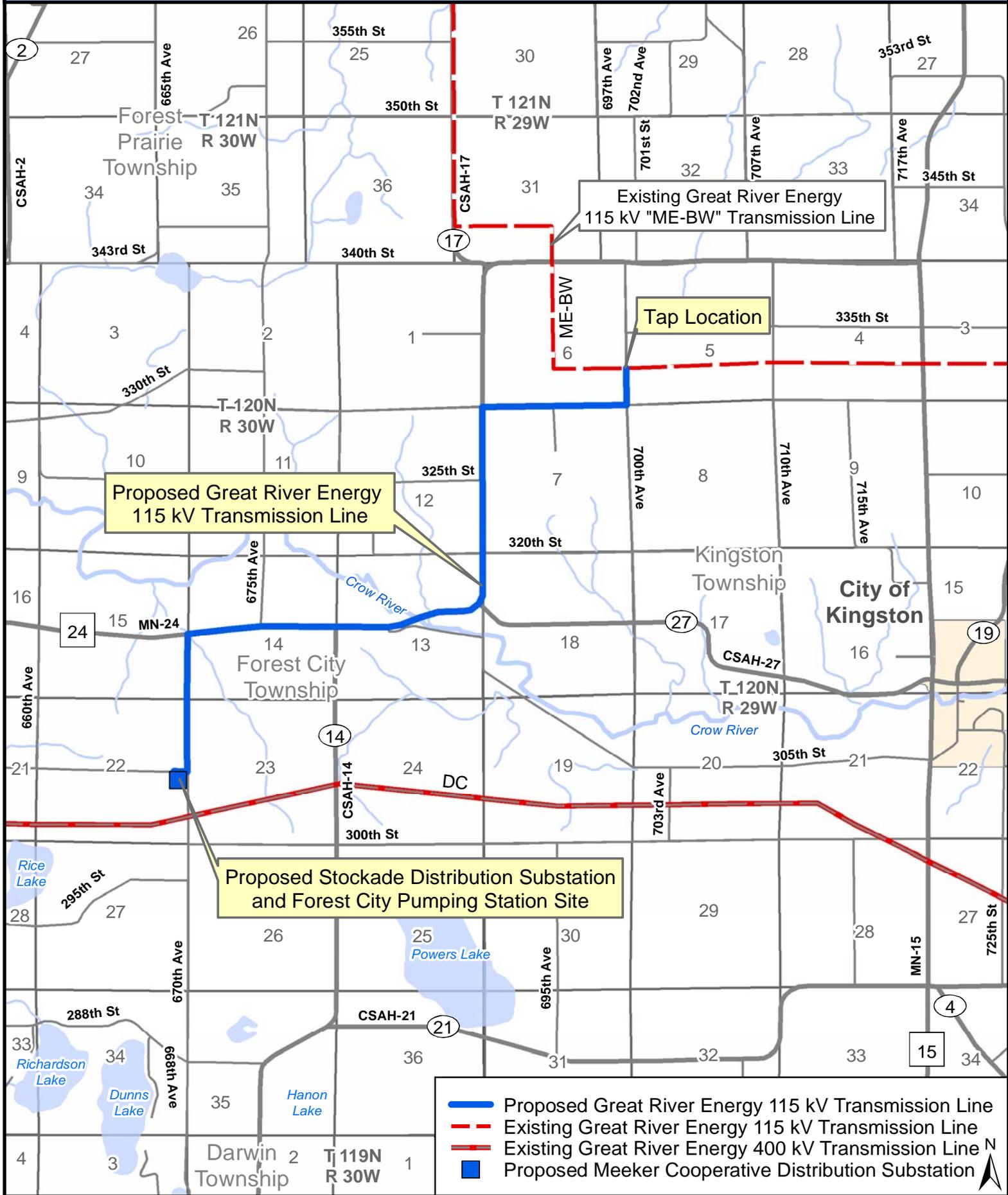
*Typical 115 kV
Distribution Substation*

For project updates and information, visit greatriverenergy.com/Stockade or contact:

Dale Aukey
Sr. Field Representative
Land Rights Department
763-445-5978
daukey@grenergy.com

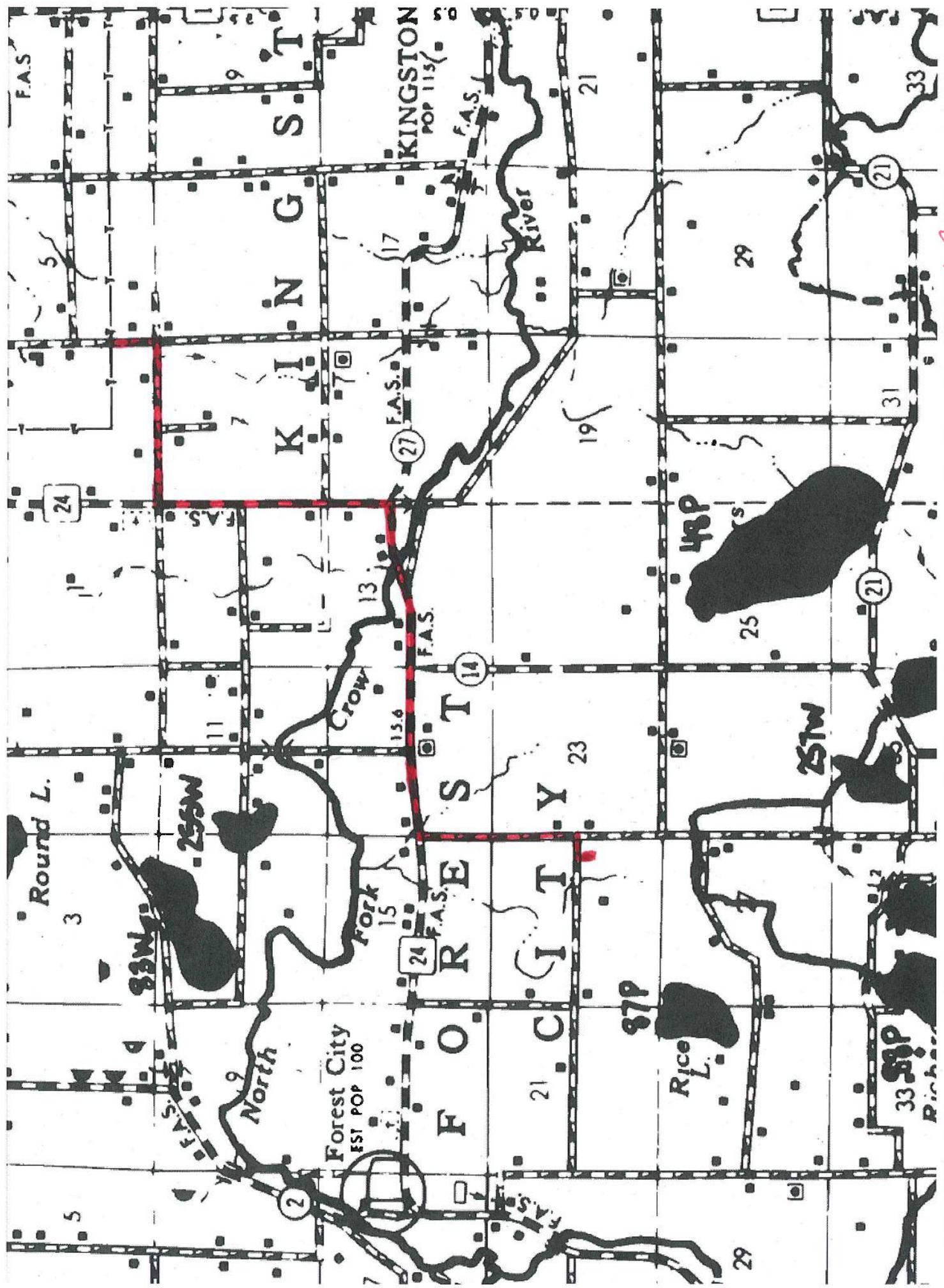
Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Analyst
Environmental Services Department
763-445-5215
mparlow@grenergy.com

Proposed Project



- Proposed Great River Energy 115 kV Transmission Line
- Existing Great River Energy 115 kV Transmission Line
- Existing Great River Energy 400 kV Transmission Line
- Proposed Meeker Cooperative Distribution Substation





115 KV Stockade Project North Crow River Section 13, T120N, R80W



GREAT RIVER ENERGY

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

- ★ Pumping Station
- ▬ Pipeline
- ▬ Proposed Great River Energy 115 kV Transmission Line
- MN Rare Natural Feature (NHIS) Protection Status
 - ▬ Endangered
 - ▬ Special Concern
 - ▬ Threatened
 - ▬ Not listed
- MN Sites of Biodiversity Significance Biodiversity Significance
 - ▬ Outstanding
 - ▬ High
 - ▬ Moderate
 - ▬ Below
- ▬ MN Prairie Railroad Survey
- ▬ MN Native Plant Community

Updated: 1/30/2015

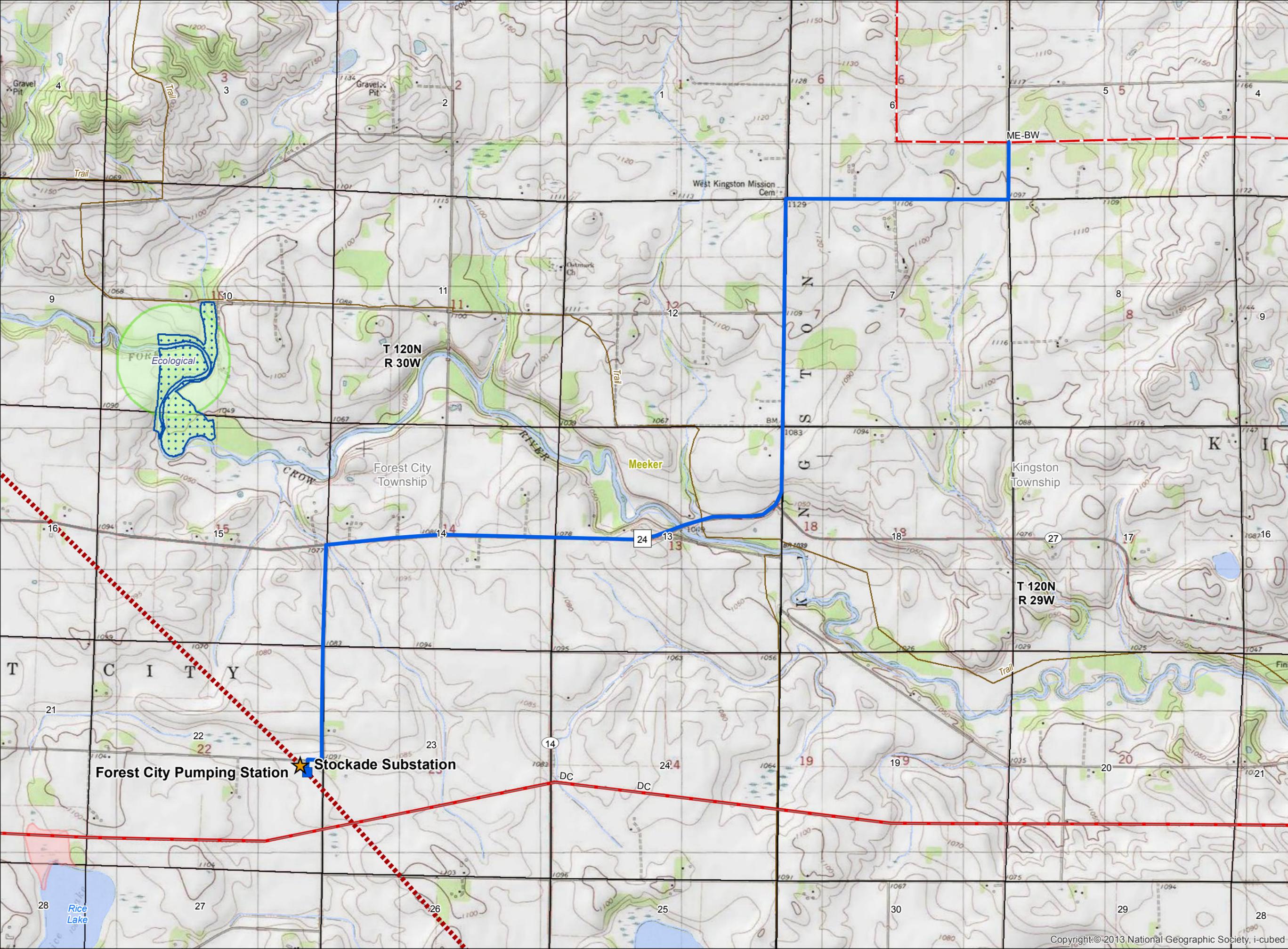
Data Sources Vary Between MNDOT, MNDNR, MNGEO and Great River Energy
 Rare Features Heritage data from MNDOT
 Topo scanned image maps from the United States Geological Survey (USGS)

Map Projection:
 UTM, NAD83, Zone15, Meters
 "Copyright (2011), State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources. Rare features data included here were provided by the Division of Ecological Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and were current as of (04-19-2011). These data are not based on an exhaustive inventory of the state. The lack of data for any geographic area shall not be construed to mean that no significant features are present."



Stockade Pumping Station 115 kV Line Project

Rare Features





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30 January 2015

Mr. Harris Baker
Office of Aeronautics
Minnesota Department of Transportation
222 E. Plato Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55107-1618

RE: Proposed Stockade 115 kV Transmission Line
Meeker County, Minnesota
T120N, R29W, Sections 6 and 7
T120N, R30W, Sections 12, 13, 14, 15, 22 and 23

WO# 202974

Dear Mr. Baker:

Great River Energy is proposing to construct a new 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Forest City, Minnesota. The line is to support a proposed Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Association substation to support a proposed new Minnesota Pipeline pumping station.

The transmission line will be constructed with wood single poles that will generally range between 70 to 90 feet in height. Elevations in the project area range from 1039 feet (SE ¼ NE ¼ of Section 13, T120N, R30W) to 1139 feet (NE ¼ SE ¼ of Section 12, T120N, R30W). Great River Energy is requesting information on the possible effects of the proposed project on airports or airstrips in the project area.

From my research, I find that the closest public airport to the project is the Litchfield Municipal Airport (6.1 nm SSW) and the closest private airport is the Tyler Farms Airport (4.7 nm NW). A project description is enclosed for your information. The proposed line is marked in blue.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Monday, March 2, 2015. If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact me at (763) 445-5215. If you wish to respond by e-mail, my address is mparlow@GREnergy.com. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Analyst

Enclosure

S:\Legal Services\Environmental\Transmission\Projects\202974 Stockade\Agency Letters\Stockade MNDO.doc

Stockade 115 kV Transmission Project



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Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718
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Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Association will construct a new electric substation on the southwest corner of 670th Avenue and 305th Street.

Construction

Construction will consist of wood poles that are 350 to 400 feet apart and 70 to 80 feet above ground. Guy wires and anchors, when necessary, will be used to stabilize poles. Some specialty poles may be required. The new transmission line will require a 100-foot-wide right of way, 50 feet on each side of the centerline. Trees and vegetation in the right of way will be removed to provide a safe construction, operation and maintenance area.



*Typical 115 kV Wood
Single Circuit
Structure*

Permitting and Easements

This transmission project falls under the Minnesota Electric Facility Permitting Rules (MN Rules 7850.5300), due to its voltage and length. Under these rules, Great River Energy will request approval of a Conditional Use Permit and Environmental Assessment from the Meeker County Board of Commissioners.

New easements will be necessary to construct the transmission line. Landowners along the proposed transmission line route will be contacted to discuss the project, review an easement request and detail the necessary tree removal.

Schedule

Public notice and County approval process-----	2014 - 2015
Easement acquisition/Environmental permits -----	2015
Survey/Design -----	2015 - 2016
Construction activities-----	2016 - 2017



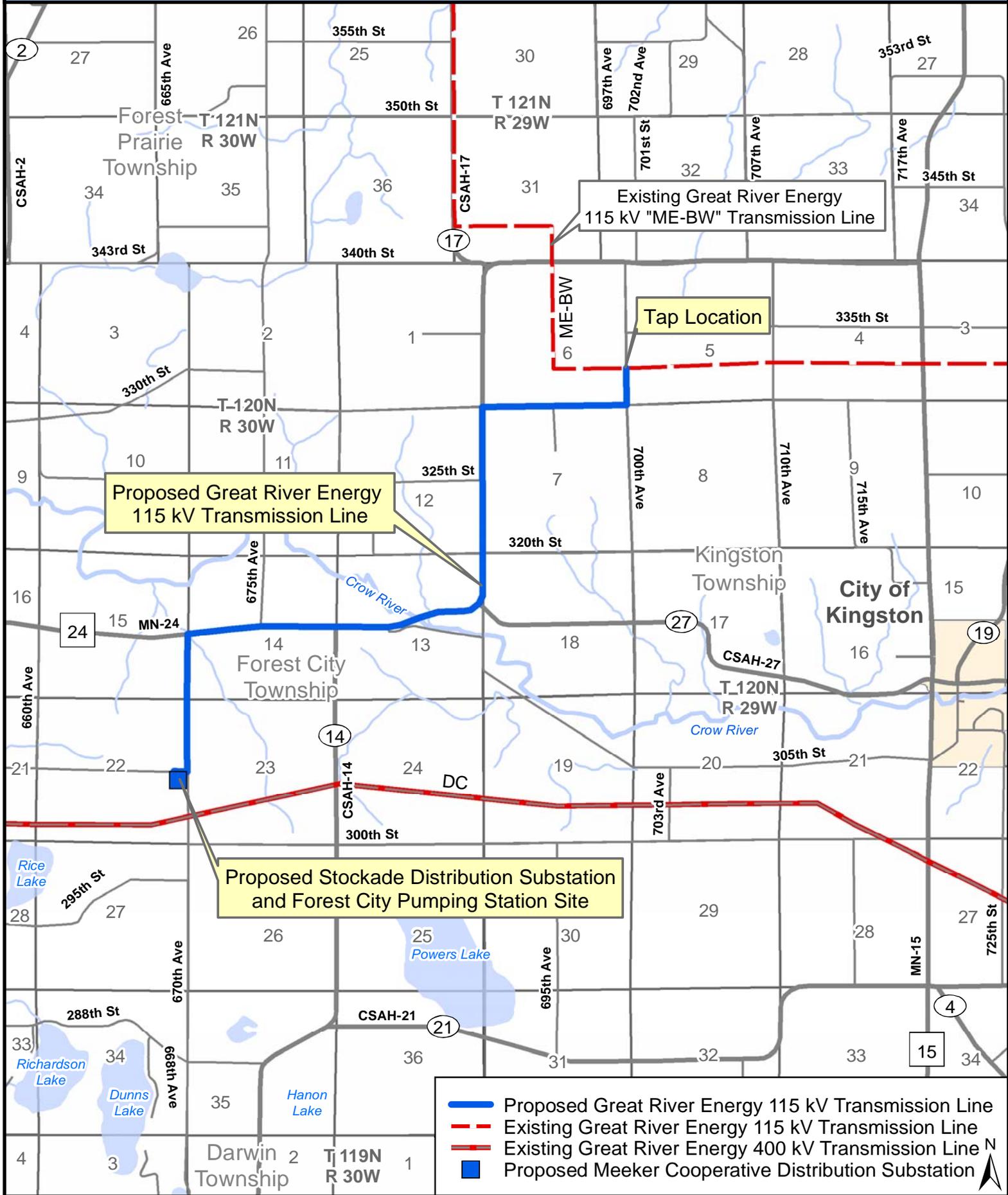
*Typical 115 kV
Distribution Substation*

For project updates and information, visit greatriverenergy.com/Stockade or contact:

Dale Aukee
Sr. Field Representative
Land Rights Department
763-445-5978
daukee@grenergy.com

Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Analyst
Environmental Services Department
763-445-5215
mparlow@grenergy.com

Proposed Project



- Proposed Great River Energy 115 kV Transmission Line
- Existing Great River Energy 115 kV Transmission Line
- Existing Great River Energy 400 kV Transmission Line
- Proposed Meeker Cooperative Distribution Substation



GREAT RIVER
ENERGY®

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

30 January 2015

Ms. Sarah Beimers
Government Programs & Compliance
Minnesota Historical Society
345 Kellogg Blvd. West
St. Paul, MN 55102-1906

RE: Proposed Stockade 115 kV Transmission Line
Meeker County, Minnesota
T120N, R29W, Sections 6 and 7
T120N, R30W, Sections 12, 13, 14, 15, 22 and 23

WO# 202974

Dear Ms. Beimers:

Great River Energy is proposing to construct a new 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Forest City, Minnesota. The line is to support a proposed Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Association substation to support a proposed new Minnesota Pipeline pumping station.

Westwood Professional Services conducted a background literature search (see attached) on December 5, 2014 and find that due to the proximity to the Crow River, the project area is considered to have moderate to high potential for unrecorded cultural resources. Great River Energy is requesting information on the possible effects of the proposed project on cultural and historic properties in the project area. A project description/map is included for your review. The proposed line is marked in blue.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Friday, March 2, 2015. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (763) 445-5215. If you wish to contact me by e-mail, my address is mparlow@greenergy.com.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Analyst

Enclosure

S:\Legal Services\Environmental\Transmission\Projects\202974 Stockade\Agency Letters\Stockade MHS.doc

Stockade 115 kV Transmission Project



Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Blvd
Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718
888-521-0130
www.greatriverenergy.com



Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Assoc.
1725 U.S. Hwy. 12 E., Suite 100
Litchfield, MN 55355
800-232-6257
www.meeker.coop

Project Need

Great River Energy and Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Association are proposing to construct a new overhead 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line and substation that will provide electric power for a new Minnesota Pipe Line Company pumping station.

Transmission Line Route and Substation

The five and one-half mile transmission line (see map on back for proposed route) will tap Great River Energy's existing 115 kV transmission line on 700th Avenue, north of 330th street. From there the line will run south to 330th Street and turn west to Minnesota Highway 24. Then the route will follow Minnesota Highway 24 south across the Crow River, continuing west to 670th Avenue and there turn south to the proposed substation.

Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Association will construct a new electric substation on the southwest corner of 670th Avenue and 305th Street.

Construction

Construction will consist of wood poles that are 350 to 400 feet apart and 70 to 80 feet above ground. Guy wires and anchors, when necessary, will be used to stabilize poles. Some specialty poles may be required. The new transmission line will require a 100-foot-wide right of way, 50 feet on each side of the centerline. Trees and vegetation in the right of way will be removed to provide a safe construction, operation and maintenance area.



*Typical 115 kV Wood
Single Circuit
Structure*

Permitting and Easements

This transmission project falls under the Minnesota Electric Facility Permitting Rules (MN Rules 7850.5300), due to its voltage and length. Under these rules, Great River Energy will request approval of a Conditional Use Permit and Environmental Assessment from the Meeker County Board of Commissioners.

New easements will be necessary to construct the transmission line. Landowners along the proposed transmission line route will be contacted to discuss the project, review an easement request and detail the necessary tree removal.

Schedule

Public notice and County approval process-----	2014 - 2015
Easement acquisition/Environmental permits -----	2015
Survey/Design -----	2015 - 2016
Construction activities-----	2016 - 2017



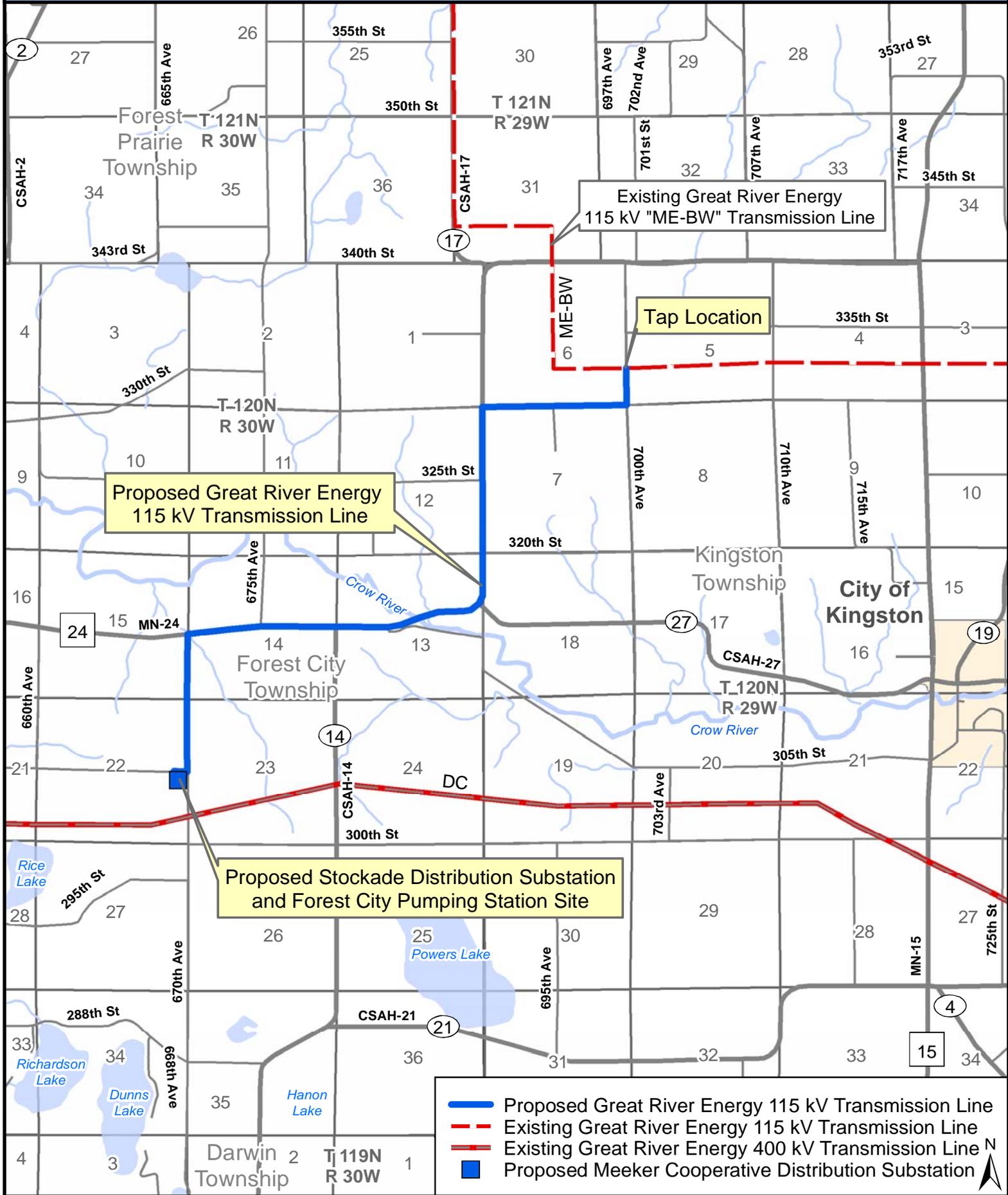
*Typical 115 kV
Distribution Substation*

For project updates and information, visit greatriverenergy.com/Stockade or contact:

Dale Aukey
Sr. Field Representative
Land Rights Department
763-445-5978
daukey@grenergy.com

Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Analyst
Environmental Services Department
763-445-5215
mparlow@grenergy.com

Proposed Project



-  Proposed Great River Energy 115 kV Transmission Line
 -  Existing Great River Energy 115 kV Transmission Line
 -  Existing Great River Energy 400 kV Transmission Line
 -  Proposed Meeker Cooperative Distribution Substation
- N

December 5, 2014

Westwood Professional Services

7699 Anagram Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

MAIN 952-937-5150
FAX 952-937-5822
TOLL FREE 1-888-937-5150
EMAIL wps@westwoodps.com

www.westwoodps.com



Ms. Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Analyst
Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Blvd.
Maple Grove, MN 55369

**Re: Cultural Resources Literature Review for the Proposed Stockade 115 kV
Transmission Line Project**

Dear Ms. Parlow:

Westwood Professional Services, Inc. (Westwood) was contracted by Great River Energy to conduct a cultural resources literature review of the location of a proposed transmission line. The proposed transmission line route along with a proposed substation will be approximately 5.5 miles in length. The proposed route is located in Forest City Township (T 120N, R 30W) and Kingston Township (T 120N, R 29W) of Meeker County, MN. The proposed line will be built to 115 kV standards and will consist of wooden poles approximately 70 to 80 feet above the ground. The review consisted of an examination of resources including historic mapping, archaeological site files, historic structure inventories, and previous cultural resource survey reports.

On December 5, 2014, Westwood Cultural Resource Specialist Ryan Grohne conducted a background literature search of the proposed transmission line route and a one-mile buffer at the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) located at Fort Snelling in St. Paul, MN, and the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) located at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul, MN. Archaeological site files and the historic structure inventory files were examined to obtain a list of all previously recorded archaeological sites and historic structures within the proposed project area. Cultural resource reports were investigated to determine if the project area had been surveyed during previous cultural resource investigations. Other sources examined included the Andreas' Illustrated Atlas of Minnesota, 1874 and the historic Trygg maps.

A review of records at the Minnesota SHPO and OSA indicate no previously recorded archaeological sites have been identified within the proposed route and one-mile buffer. No previous cultural resource survey reports for the area were located in the report files. It is assumed that no previous surveys have been conducted at the location of the proposed transmission line route.

One historic structure has been previously inventoried along the proposed transmission route. This structure is Bridge No. 5388 which spans the Crow River in

Ms. Marsha Parlow
December 5, 2014
Page 2



Section 13 of Forest City Township. The bridge has been certified as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

No cultural resources were observed on the Trygg Maps. A historic road was documented on the Andreas Atlas. This road appears to correspond with the location of modern highway MN-24.

Upon review of the archaeological sites and survey data compiled for the defined project area, Westwood concludes that the paucity of recorded archaeological sites along the proposed route are not necessarily indicative of a lack of cultural resources, but instead may reflect the lack of surveys in the area. Due to the proximity to the Crow River, the project area is considered to have a moderate to high potential for unrecorded cultural resources. Should construction plans involve ground disturbance of previously undisturbed areas, a Phase I Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey is recommended.

If the project becomes federalized and is reviewed under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Federal Lead Agency would determine the scope of work for cultural resources. Also, in the case of Section 106 review, visual or sonic impacts upon National Register eligible and listed structures may also need to be considered.

Sincerely,

WESTWOOD PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Ryan P. Grohnke
Cultural Resources Field Director/Project Manager

Agency Responses

**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

Division of Ecological and Water Resources

261 Highway 15 South, New Ulm, MN 56073

Phone: 507-359-6073 Email: kevin.mixon@state.mn.us

February 24, 2015

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

Subject: Stockade 115 kV Transmission Project
Meeker County, MN

Dear Ms. Parlow:

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) would like to thank you for the opportunity to review the above referenced project. The DNR has reviewed the project and we offer the following comments.

Project developers crossing (over, under, or across) any state land or public water with any utility (power lines, including feeder lines) need to secure a DNR License to Cross Public Lands and Waters (Minnesota Statutes, section 84.415). Information on obtaining a Utility License can be found at: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/permits/utility_crossing/index.html. For detailed information on where the Public Waters are located in a project area, visit the following site and click on the Public Waters Inventory (PWI) Maps Download button: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/pwi/maps.html.

The proposed project crosses the public watercourse known as the Crow River and a DNR License will be required. Please coordinate utility license requirements directly with Bob Hobart, Lands and Minerals, at (507) 359-6071.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Mixon', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kevin Mixon
Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist

cc: Bob Hobart, Lands & Minerals
Karla Ihns, Lands & Minerals



Minnesota
Historical Society

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Using the Power of History to Transform Lives
PRESERVING > SHARING > CONNECTING

February 26, 2015

Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Analyst
Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Blvd.
Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718

RE: Construct Stockade 115 kV Transmission Line
Forest City and Kingston Twp., Meeker County
T120 R29 S6-7; T120 R30 S12-15, 22-23
SHPO Number: 2015-1170

Dear Ms. Parlow:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above project. It is being reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given to the Minnesota Historical Society by the Minnesota Historic Sites Act and the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act.

Due to the nature and location of the proposed project, we recommend that a Phase I archaeological survey be completed. The survey must meet the requirements of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Identification and Evaluation, and should include an evaluation of National Register eligibility for any properties that are identified. For a list of consultants who have expressed an interest in undertaking such surveys, please visit the website preservationdirectory.mnhs.org, and select "Archaeologists" in the "Search by Specialties" box.

We will reconsider the need for survey if the project area can be documented as previously surveyed or disturbed. Any previous survey work must meet contemporary standards. **Note:** plowed areas and right-of-way are not automatically considered disturbed. Archaeological sites can remain intact beneath the plow zone and in undisturbed portions of the right-of-way.

Please note that this comment letter does not address the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36CFR800, procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for the protection of historic properties. If this project is considered for federal assistance, or requires a federal license or permit, it should be submitted to our office by the responsible federal agency.

If you have any questions regarding our review of this project, please contact Kelly Gragg-Johnson at (651) 259-3455.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah J. Beimers".

Sarah J. Beimers, Manager
Government Programs and Compliance

Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG

From: Horton, Andrew [andrew_horton@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 1:59 PM
To: Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG
Cc: Scott Glup
Subject: Stockade 115kV Transmission Project

Ms. Parlow,

I have reviewed the proposed new distribution substation and associated 115 kV transmission line located in Sections 6 and 7, Township 120N, Range 29W and Sections 12, 13, 14, 15, 22 and 23, Township 120N, Range 30W, Meeker County, Minnesota. For the county listed, the following species may occur:

Meeker	<u>Northern long-eared bat</u> <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Proposed as Endangered	Hibernates in caves and mines - swarming in surrounding wooded areas in autumn. Roosts and forages in upland forests during spring and summer.
---------------	---	------------------------	--

We have no known records for federally listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat within the action area, however suitable summer roosting habitat may be present for the northern long-eared bat. This may be especially likely in Section 13 where the proposed line crosses the riparian corridor of the Crow River. We recommend that any tree removal at this location be conducted outside the the summer roost period for the species. Between the months of October 1st and March 30th, we would not anticipate the northern long-eared bat to be present in the action area.

There is a USFWS wetland easement located in the northeast 1/4 of Section 7, Township 120N, Range 29W. We recommend that no new Right of Ways be placed on Service-owned property, as this would be an incompatible use of the original intent of the easement.

If project plans change, additional information on listed or proposed species becomes available, or new species are listed that may be affected by the project, our office should be contacted. This concludes our technical assistance review of the proposed construction at the above location. If you have any further endangered species questions, please contact me at (612) 725-3548 x2208.

- Andrew

Andrew Horton
Twin Cities Ecological Services Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4101 American Blvd East
Bloomington, MN 55425-1665
(612) 725-3548 ext. 2208



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Division of Ecological and Water Resources, Box 25

500 Lafayette Road

St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4025

Phone: (651) 259-5109 E-mail: lisa.joyal@state.mn.us

March 5, 2015

Correspondence # ERDB 20150247-0002

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

RE: Natural Heritage Review of the proposed Stockade 115 kV Transmission Project;
Meeker County

Dear Ms. Parlow,

As requested, the above project has been reviewed for potential effects to known occurrences of rare features. A search of the Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System did identify rare features within an approximate one-mile radius of the proposed project, but these records did not include any federally listed species and were either historical or not of concern given the project details that were provided with the data request form. As such, I do not believe the proposed project will adversely affect any known occurrences of rare features.

The Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS), a collection of databases that contains information about Minnesota's rare natural features, is maintained by the Division of Ecological and Water Resources, Department of Natural Resources. The NHIS is continually updated as new information becomes available, and is the most complete source of data on Minnesota's rare or otherwise significant species, native plant communities, and other natural features. However, the NHIS is not an exhaustive inventory and thus does not represent all of the occurrences of rare features within the state. Therefore, ecologically significant features for which we have no records may exist within the project area.

For environmental review purposes, the results of this Natural Heritage Review are valid for one year; the results are only valid for the project location (noted above) and project description provided on the NHIS Data Request Form. Please contact me if project details change or if an updated review is needed.

Furthermore, the Natural Heritage Review does not constitute review or approval by the Department of Natural Resources as a whole. Instead, it identifies issues regarding known occurrences of rare features and potential effects to these rare features. Additional rare features for which we have no data may be present in the project area, or there may be other natural resource concerns associated with the proposed project. For these concerns, please contact your DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist (contact information available at http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/ereview/erp_regioncontacts.html). Please be aware that additional site assessments or review may be required.

Thank you for consulting us on this matter, and for your interest in preserving Minnesota's rare natural resources. An invoice will be mailed to you under separate cover.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samantha Bump". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Samantha Bump
Natural Heritage Review Specialist



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ST. PAUL DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
180 FIFTH STREET EAST, SUITE 700
ST. PAUL MN 55101-1678

RECEIVED

APR 21 2015

APR 14 2015

LAND RIGHTS

Operations
Regulatory (2015-00834-KLB)

Great River Energy
c/o Marsha Parlow
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, Minnesota

Dear Ms. Parlow:

We have received your letter dated February 2, 2015 regarding the Great River Energy new transmission line and substation in Forest City, Minnesota. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that based on available information a Department of the Army (DA) permit may be required for your proposed activity. This letter also provides general information regarding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) regulatory program.

We note that you have used the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) as a cursory tool to identify potential wetlands. While this is a necessary first step it is not an accurate determination of existing wetlands within a given review area.

When a proposal involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, it may be subject to Corps jurisdiction under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA Section 404). Waters of the United States include navigable waters, their tributaries, and adjacent wetlands (33 CFR § 328.3). CWA Section 301(a) prohibits discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, unless the work has been authorized by a DA permit under CWA Section 404. Information about the Corps permitting process can be obtained online at <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>. You may also request a jurisdictional determination by contacting the Corps representative identified in the final paragraph of this letter for further instruction.

The Corps evaluation of a CWA Section 404 permit application involves multiple analyses, including (1) evaluating the proposal's impacts in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (33 CFR part 325), (2) determining whether the proposal is contrary to the public interest (33 CFT § 320.4), and (3) determining whether the proposal complies with the Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines (Guidelines) (40 CFR part 230).

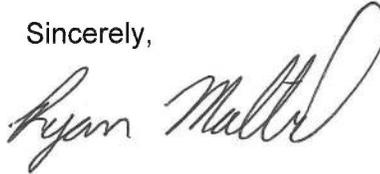
The Guidelines specifically require that "no discharge of dredged or fill material shall be permitted if there is a practicable alternative to the proposed discharge which would have less adverse impact on the aquatic environment, so long as the alternative does not have other significant adverse environmental consequences" (40 CFR § 230.10(a)). Time and money spent on the proposal prior to applying for a CWA Section 404 permit cannot be factored into the Corps decision whether there is a less damaging practicable alternative to the proposal.

You are advised not to perform any work that requires DA authorization without obtaining that authorization. If you have any questions about the Corps regulation of a

particular waterbody (including wetlands) or activity, please contact the Regulatory project manager listed below and arrange for an on-site consultation. To proceed without first obtaining required DA authorization violates Federal law and exposes the responsible party to criminal, civil, and administrative penalties.

If you have any questions, please contact me in our St. Paul office at (651) 290-5286. In any correspondence or inquiries, please refer to the Regulatory number shown above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ryan Malterud".

Ryan Malterud
Senior Project Manager

cc:

Kane Randal (BWSR)
Ethan Jenzen (DNR)
Joe Norman (LGU)

Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG

From: Boerner, Daniel (DOT) [dan.boerner@state.mn.us]
Sent: Wednesday, May 06, 2015 8:40 AM
To: Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG
Subject: Stockade expansion - no issues ... RE: Review of Proposed Stockade 115 kV Transmission Line

Hi Marsha,

I have no issues with the Stockade transmission line expansion.

Dan

From: Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG [mailto:mparlow@GREnergy.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2015 11:15 AM
To: Boerner, Daniel (DOT)
Subject: FW: Review of Proposed Stockade 115 kV Transmission Line

Hi Dan,

This is my last outstanding inquiry. It was resent to Harris on Friday but it looks like it would be in your area.

Marsha

From: Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG
Sent: Friday, May 01, 2015 3:48 PM
To: 'Baker, Harris (DOT)'
Subject: FW: Review of Proposed Stockade 115 kV Transmission Line

Hi Harris,

Have you had a chance to review our Stockade Project?

Thanks,

Marsha

From: Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 3:46 PM
To: 'Baker, Harris (DOT)'
Subject: Review of Proposed Stockade 115 kV Transmission Line

Hi Harris,

Have you had a chance to review our Stockade project?

Please find attached our letter for your reference. Please contact me if you have questions.

Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Analyst
Environmental Services

Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, MN 55369
Direct: 763-445-5215 | Fax: 763-445-5246 | Cell: 612-345-1212
WWW.GreatRiverEnergy.com

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