



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

24 April 2008

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

RE: Richmond to Farming Transmission Line Upgrade

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 (Commission) that Great River Energy has elected to seek local approval to upgrade six miles of 69 kilovolt (kV) line to 115 kV near Richmond in Stearns County, Minnesota.

Great River Energy presently operates a 69 kV transmission line that extends from Richmond to Stearns Electric Association's (SEA) Farming distribution substation located six miles north of Richmond and also directly feeds SEA's Big Fish distribution substation. Great River Energy is proposing to rebuild this 69 kV line with a heavier conductor size, which would remove line overload concerns, boost the reliability of the transmission line, and better serve the existing and future load growth in the area.

Due to anticipated future transmission system upgrades from 69 kV to 115 kV in the greater St. Cloud area, this rebuild project will be permitted, designed and built to 115 kV standards, but will initially operate at 69 kV until the adjoining transmission systems are upgraded to 115 kV.

The project is located in Sections 24, 25, 36, T124N, R31W; and Sections 1, 12 and 13, T123N, R31W, and it will generally follow the same route as the existing 69 kV transmission line. A project description/site map is enclosed for your information.

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 22, 2008. Stearns County has been informed that it has 60 days to refer the permitting process to the Commission.

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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 763-445-5214. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY



Carole L. Schmidt
Supervisor, Transmission Permitting and Compliance

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.

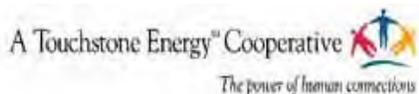
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Richmond to Farming 115 kV Transmission Line Upgrade



GREAT RIVER
ENERGY

GREAT RIVER ENERGY
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718
1-888-521-0130
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STEARNS ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
900 East Kraft Drive, PO Box 40
Melrose, MN 56352-0040
1-800-962-0655
www.stearnselectric.org

Project Need

Stearns Electric Association (SEA) is the retail electric supplier for the electric service territory located immediately north of Richmond, Minnesota, and Great River Energy (GRE) is SEA's wholesale supplier of electricity. Existing and future electric load growth in this area has raised concerns that the existing 69 kV system would become overloaded under emergency outage conditions in the western St. Cloud area of GRE's transmission system.

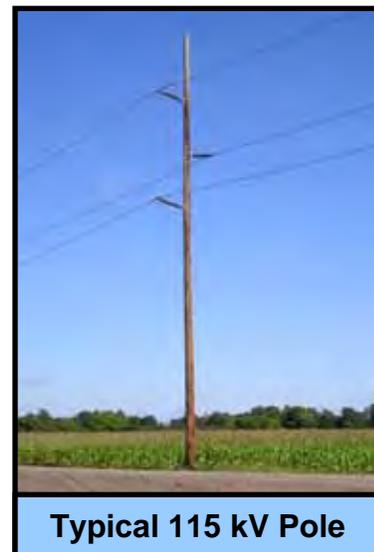
GRE presently operates a 69 kilovolt (kV) transmission line that extends from Richmond to SEA's Farming distribution substation located six miles north of Richmond and also directly feeds SEA's Big Fish distribution substation. GRE is proposing to rebuild this 69 kV line with a heavier conductor size, which would remove the line overload concerns, boost the reliability of the transmission line, and better serve the existing and future load growth in the area.

Proposed Line Rebuild

Due to anticipated future transmission system upgrades from 69 kV to 115 kV in the greater St. Cloud area, this rebuild project will be permitted, designed and built to 115 kV standards, but will initially operate at 69 kV until the adjoining transmission systems are upgraded to 115 kV. The new line will be constructed with 795 ACSS conductor supported by single wood poles that will be 60-75 feet in height (see typical structure photo). The spacing between the new poles will be approximately 350 feet.

Proposed Route

The proposed route of the rebuilt transmission line is approximately six miles in length, and it will generally follow the same route as the existing 69 kV transmission line (see map on back). The route is almost entirely located on the east side of Stearns County Road 9 between Richmond and SEA's Farming distribution substation. There are three isolated areas where the new line will be shifted four to seven feet easterly of its present location to comply with applicable County State Aid Highway minimum clear zone requirements.



Typical 115 kV Pole

Schedule

GRE plans to obtain approval for this project through Stearns County, and will begin the permitting process in early 2008. Design and construction of the project is scheduled for summer and fall of 2008, with project completion in December 2008.

Contacts

Rick Heuring
Great River Energy
1-888-521-0130 ext. 5979
763-445-5979

Tim Weir
Stearns Electric Association
320-256-1604

PROJECT MAP

