

APPENDIX C

AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE

95°56'30"W

95°56'0"W

95°55'30"W

43°54'0"N

43°54'0"N

Chandler

NO-RC

NO-GHT

43°53'30"N

43°53'30"N

43°53'0"N

43°53'0"N

NWI Wetlands

Freshwater Emergent Wetland

Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland

Freshwater Pond

Lake

Riverine

Proposed GRE 115 kV Transmission Line

**Chandler - Chandler
115 kV Line**

N
1:10,000

NWI Wetlands data from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
2003 Digital Orthorectified Images from U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency





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2 May 2008

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 Transmission Line Reconstruction and Upgrade
Murray County, Minnesota

WO# 5391

Dear Ms. Joyal:

Great River Energy, wholesale power supplier to Nobles Electric Cooperative and 27 other distribution cooperatives in Minnesota and Wisconsin, is planning to reconstruct and upgrade 1 mile of existing 69 kV (69,000 volt) overhead electric transmission line to a 115 kV (115,000 volt) transmission line. The line is located along the south side of Section 18, T105N, R42W of Fenton Township in Murray County. Due to the age and reliability concerns of this segment of line, it is necessary for it to be rebuilt as soon as possible. To meet current load growth and anticipated future demand for additional generation outlets in this area; this line will also be designed and constructed to operate at 115 kV. It will continue to be operated at 69 kV into the near future.

The DNR Rare Features map indicates there are no recorded features of interest in the vicinity of the project area. Also, the DNR Public Waters Inventory (PWI) maps indicate that the rebuilt line should not affect any public waterbodies.

GRE is requesting concurrence of its interpretation of the rare features in the vicinity and the possible effects of the new transmission lines on wetlands, threatened and endangered species, and other important state natural resources that occur in the project area. A project description/site map, rare features map and PWI map are enclosed for your information.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Friday, 23 May 2008. 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:\Member Services\Environmental\Transmission\Projects\5391 Chandler Chandler\Chandler Chandler DNR.doc



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
St. Paul District Corps of Engineers
190 Fifth Street East
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1683

RECEIVED MAY 12 2008

May 9, 2008

Operations
Regulatory (2008-1882-DAS)

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

Dear Ms. Parlow:

We have reviewed the information about your project to reconstruct and upgrade one mile of existing 69 kV overhead electric transmission line to a 115 kV transmission line referred to as the Chandler – Chandler Line. The project site is along the north side of 31st Street in the S 1/2, Sec. 18, T. 105N, R. 42W, Murray County, Minnesota.

The work proposed at the location stated is not within the regulatory jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers. No work will be done in a navigable water of the United States, and no dredged or fill material, including that incidental to mechanical land clearing, will be discharged in any water of the United States, including wetlands. Therefore, a Department of the Army permit is not required to do this work.

This letter is valid only for the project referenced above. If any change in design, location, or purpose is contemplated, contact this office to avoid doing work that may be in violation of Federal law. PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS CONFIRMATION LETTER DOES NOT ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR STATE, LOCAL, OR OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS, SUCH AS THOSE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES OR COUNTY.

The decision regarding this action is based on information found in the administrative record, which documents the District's decision-making process, the basis for the decision, and the final decision.

If you have any questions, contact David Studenski in our La Crescent Field office at (507) 895-2064. In any correspondence or inquiries, please refer to the Regulatory number shown above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Studenski".

f Robert J. Whiting
Chief, Regulatory Branch



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

2 May 2008

Mr. Tom Hingsberger
US Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District, Attn: OP-R
190 Fifth Street East, Suite 401
St. Paul, MN 55101-1638

RE: Proposed Transmission Line Reconstruction and Upgrade
Murray County, Minnesota

WO# 5391

Dear Mr. Hingsberger:

Great River Energy, wholesale power supplier to Nobles Electric Cooperative and 27 other distribution cooperatives in Minnesota and Wisconsin, is planning to reconstruct and upgrade 1 mile of existing 69 kV (69,000 volt) overhead electric transmission line to a 115 kV (115,000 volt) transmission line. The line is located along the south side of Section 18, T105N, R42W of Fenton Township in Murray County. Due to the age and reliability concerns of this segment of line, it is necessary for it to be rebuilt as soon as possible. To meet current load growth and anticipated future demand for additional generation outlets in this area; this line will also be designed and constructed to operate at 115 kV. It will continue to be operated at 69 kV into the near future.

The enclosed National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) map indicates that the portion of the line to be rebuilt will not cross any wetlands. A project description and 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 new transmission line on wetlands that occur in the project area. We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Friday, 23 May 2008. 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

Enclosures

S:\Member Services\Environmental\Transmission\Projects\5391 Chandler Chandler\Chandler Chandler COE.doc

Chandler to Chandler 115 kV Transmission Line Rebuild



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Project Need

Great River Energy, wholesale power supplier to Nobles Electric Cooperative and 27 other distribution cooperatives in Minnesota and Wisconsin, is planning to reconstruct and upgrade one mile of existing 69 kV (69,000 volt) overhead electric transmission line to a 115 kV (115,000 volt) transmission line. The line is located along the south side of Section 18 of Fenton Township in Murray County. Due to the age and reliability concerns of this segment of line, it is necessary for it to be rebuilt as soon as possible. To meet current load growth and anticipated future demand for additional generation outlets in this area, this line will also be designed and constructed to operate at 115 kV. It will continue to be operated at 69 kV into the near future.

Planned Project (Shown on Map on Back)

The reconstructed segment of line will consist of a single circuit transmission line on the north side of 31st Street that will tie into an existing two-pole structure in the southwest corner of Section 18 and continue easterly for one mile, where the line will attach to an existing steel pole owned by Xcel Energy that is located in the southeast corner of Section 17.

Poles will be single-pole structures (see representative photo at right) and will generally be 65 to 75 feet in height and will be located two to three feet off of the township road right-of-way on private property. Guy wires and anchors may be required in some areas, although they will be minimized to the extent possible to reduce the impact on agricultural activities. The single circuit transmission lines will carry three energized wires and one non-energized shield wire for lightning protection.

As pole locations of the reconstructed line will be on private property, it will be necessary for Great River Energy to acquire new easements from landowners that will allow transmission line poles on the property. The majority of the easement area will still be available for use by the landowner for farming activities, drainage systems, underground utilities and access drives. A fair offer of compensation will be presented to landowners along with the easement.

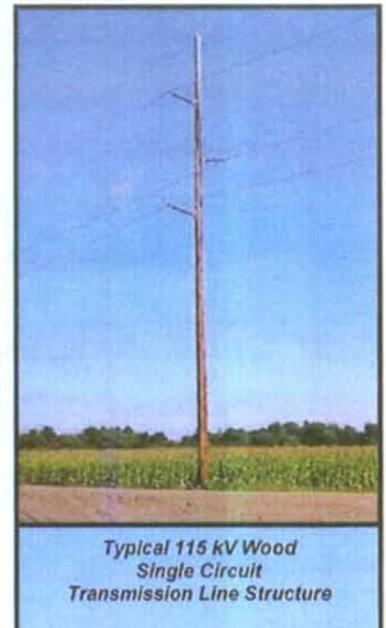
The project will be permitted locally through Murray County.

Project Schedule

Project Permitting.....	Spring/Summer 2008
Easement Acquisition.....	Spring/Summer 2008
Construction Start.....	Summer 2008

Contact

Michelle Lommel
Sr. Field Representative
Great River Energy
763-445-5977 or
1-800-521-0130 ext. 5977
mlommel@grenergy.com



*Typical 115 kV Wood
Single Circuit
Transmission Line Structure*

Rare Features in the Vicinity of the
Township T105N R 42/43W
Section 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24
Murray County



Legend

- Rare Natural Features Points**
- Vertebrate Animal
 - Terrestrial Community - Other Classification
 - Invertebrate Animal
 - Nonvascular Plant
 - Vascular Plant
 - Animal Assemblage
 - Fungus
 - Other (Ecological)
- Rare Natural Features Polygons**
- Vertebrate Animal
 - Terrestrial Community - Other Classification
 - Invertebrate Animal
 - Nonvascular Plant
 - Vascular Plant
 - Animal Assemblage
 - Fungus
 - Other (Ecological)
 - Native Plant Community Polygons
- Sites of Biodiversity Significance**
- Outstanding
 - High
 - Moderate
 - Below
- Prairie Railroad Survey**
- Very Good
 - Good
 - Fair
- State Wildlife Management Boundaries**
- Proposed GRE Overhead Transmission Line

Chandler to Chandler 115 kV Transmission Line Rebuild



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Project Need

Great River Energy, wholesale power supplier to Nobles Electric Cooperative and 27 other distribution cooperatives in Minnesota and Wisconsin, is planning to reconstruct and upgrade one mile of existing 69 kV (69,000 volt) overhead electric transmission line to a 115 kV (115,000 volt) transmission line. The line is located along the south side of Section 18 of Fenton Township in Murray County. Due to the age and reliability concerns of this segment of line, it is necessary for it to be rebuilt as soon as possible. To meet current load growth and anticipated future demand for additional generation outlets in this area, this line will also be designed and constructed to operate at 115 kV. It will continue to be operated at 69 kV into the near future.

Planned Project (Shown on Map on Back)

The reconstructed segment of line will consist of a single circuit transmission line on the north side of 31st Street that will tie into an existing two-pole structure in the southwest corner of Section 18 and continue easterly for one mile, where the line will attach to an existing steel pole owned by Xcel Energy that is located in the southeast corner of Section 17.

Poles will be single-pole structures (see representative photo at right) and will generally be 65 to 75 feet in height and will be located two to three feet off of the township road right-of-way on private property. Guy wires and anchors may be required in some areas, although they will be minimized to the extent possible to reduce the impact on agricultural activities. The single circuit transmission lines will carry three energized wires and one non-energized shield wire for lightning protection.

As pole locations of the reconstructed line will be on private property, it will be necessary for Great River Energy to acquire new easements from landowners that will allow transmission line poles on the property. The majority of the easement area will still be available for use by the landowner for farming activities, drainage systems, underground utilities and access drives. A fair offer of compensation will be presented to landowners along with the easement.

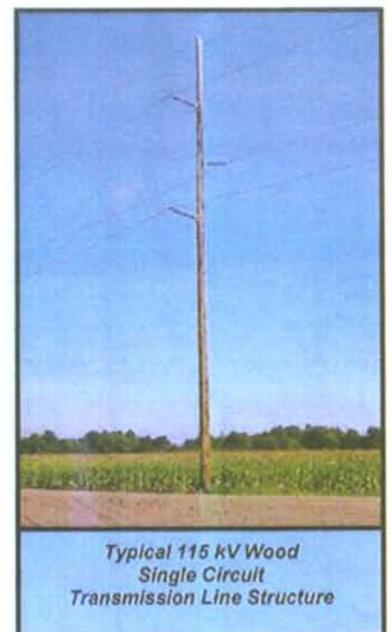
The project will be permitted locally through Murray County.

Project Schedule

Project Permitting.....	Spring/Summer 2008
Easement Acquisition.....	Spring/Summer 2008
Construction Start.....	Summer 2008

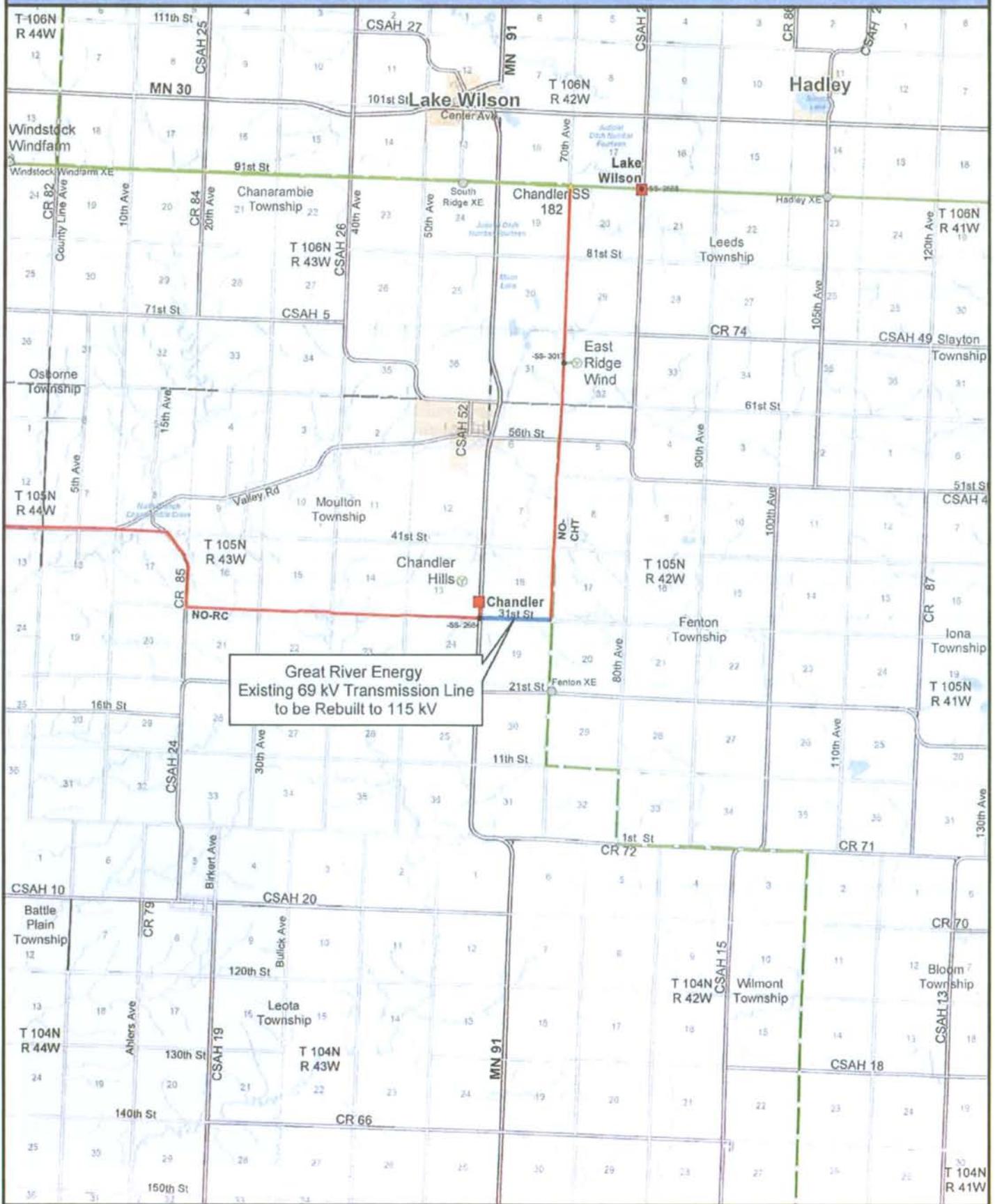
Contact

Michelle Lommel
Sr. Field Representative
Great River Energy
763-445-5977 or
1-800-521-0130 ext. 5977
mlommel@grenergy.com



Typical 115 kV Wood
Single Circuit
Transmission Line Structure

PROJECT MAP



Parlow, Marsha GRE/MG

From: Lisa Joyal [Lisa.Joyal@dnr.state.mn.us]
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2008 7:38 PM
To: Parlow, Marsha GRE/MG
Subject: Chandler to Chandler 115 kV Transmission Line Rebuild, MurrayCounty

I received your 2 May 2008 letter regarding the above project. I concur with your assessment that there are no known occurrences of rare features within an approximate one-mile radius of the project. The reference number for this correspondence is ERDB # 20080767.

Thank you for consulting us on this matter, and for your interest in preserving Minnesota's rare natural resources.

Sincerely,

Lisa

~~~~~  
Lisa Joyal  
Endangered Species Environmental Review Coordinator  
NHIS Data Distribution Coordinator  
Division of Ecological Resources  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25  
St. Paul, MN 55155

phone: 651-259-5109  
fax: 651-296-1811  
lisa.joyal@dnr.state.mn.us  
www.mndnr.gov/eco



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2 May 2008

Ms. Laurie Fairchild, Habitat Conservation Biologist  
United States Department of the Interior  
Twin Cities Field Office  
4101 East 80th Street  
Bloomington, MN 55425-1665

RE: Proposed Transmission Line Reconstruction and Upgrade  
Murray County, Minnesota

WO# 5391

Dear Ms. Fairchild:

Great River Energy, wholesale power supplier to Nobles Electric Cooperative and 27 other distribution cooperatives in Minnesota and Wisconsin, is planning to reconstruct and upgrade 1 mile of existing 69 kV (69,000 volt) overhead electric transmission line to a 115 kV (115,000 volt) transmission line. The line is located along the south side of Section 18, T105N, R42W of Fenton Township in Murray County. Due to the age and reliability concerns of this segment of line, it is necessary for it to be rebuilt as soon as possible. To meet current load growth and anticipated future demand for additional generation outlets in this area; this line will also be designed and constructed to operate at 115 kV. It will continue to be operated at 69 kV into the near future.

GRE is requesting 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.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Monday, 2 June 2008. 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](mailto:mparlow@greenergy.com). Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Marsha Parlow  
Transmission Permitting Analyst

Enclosure

S:\Member Services\Environmental\Transmission\Projects\5391 Chandler Chandler\Chandler Chandler FWS.doc

# Chandler to Chandler 115 kV Transmission Line Rebuild



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## Project Need

Great River Energy, wholesale power supplier to Nobles Electric Cooperative and 27 other distribution cooperatives in Minnesota and Wisconsin, is planning to reconstruct and upgrade one mile of existing 69 kV (69,000 volt) overhead electric transmission line to a 115 kV (115,000 volt) transmission line. The line is located along the south side of Section 18 of Fenton Township in Murray County. Due to the age and reliability concerns of this segment of line, it is necessary for it to be rebuilt as soon as possible. To meet current load growth and anticipated future demand for additional generation outlets in this area, this line will also be designed and constructed to operate at 115 kV. It will continue to be operated at 69 kV into the near future.

## Planned Project (Shown on Map on Back)

The reconstructed segment of line will consist of a single circuit transmission line on the north side of 31<sup>st</sup> Street that will tie into an existing two-pole structure in the southwest corner of Section 18 and continue easterly for one mile, where the line will attach to an existing steel pole owned by Xcel Energy that is located in the southeast corner of Section 17.

Poles will be single-pole structures (see representative photo at right) and will generally be 65 to 75 feet in height and will be located two to three feet off of the township road right-of-way on private property. Guy wires and anchors may be required in some areas, although they will be minimized to the extent possible to reduce the impact on agricultural activities. The single circuit transmission lines will carry three energized wires and one non-energized shield wire for lightning protection.

As pole locations of the reconstructed line will be on private property, it will be necessary for Great River Energy to acquire new easements from landowners that will allow transmission line poles on the property. The majority of the easement area will still be available for use by the landowner for farming activities, drainage systems, underground utilities and access drives. A fair offer of compensation will be presented to landowners along with the easement.

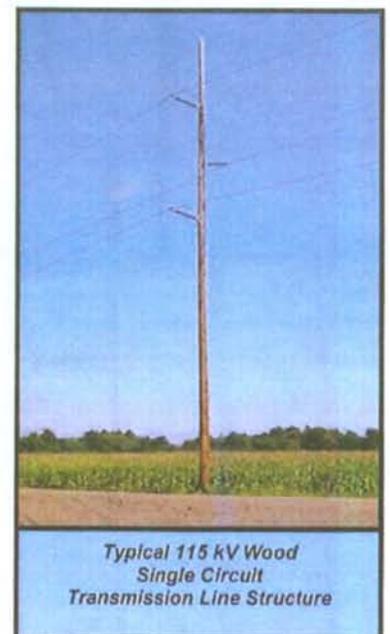
The project will be permitted locally through Murray County.

## Project Schedule

|                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Project Permitting.....   | Spring/Summer 2008 |
| Easement Acquisition..... | Spring/Summer 2008 |
| Construction Start.....   | Summer 2008        |

## Contact

Michelle Lommel  
Sr. Field Representative  
Great River Energy  
763-445-5977 or  
1-800-521-0130 ext. 5977  
mlommel@grenergy.com



Typical 115 kV Wood  
Single Circuit  
Transmission Line Structure



**Parlow, Marsha GRE/MG**

---

**From:** Laurie\_Fairchild@fws.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 29, 2008 10:12 AM  
**To:** Parlow, Marsha GRE/MG  
**Subject:** Re: Chandler to Chandler Project - 1 Mile Upgrade

Hi Marsha,

I took a quick look and there are no known federally listed species or critical habitat in your project area. We are definitely more busy, and I will personally be out of the office much more during the summer, so I'd encourage you to check our website for future evaluations. If you go to <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/lists/minnesot-cty.html> and work through the options, you'll be able to only contact me when you know there may be a potential for conflict with ESA listed species. There are actually a fair number of MN counties without any federally listed species - only those counties with species are listed on the website. Check it out and if you have questions, feel free to call (612-725-3548); if I'm not here you can speak directly with our Endangered Species Coordinator, Phil Delphey. I won't be back in the office again until 6/9, so if you've got any other projects that you believe are pending, shoot me their names/info and I can take a quick look at those too. Hope this helps,

Laurie

"Parlow, Marsha GRE/MG" <mparlow@GREnergy.com>

05/28/2008 03:15 PM

To <Laurie\_Fairchild@fws.gov>

cc

Subject Chandler to Chandler Project - 1 Mile Upgrade

Hi Laurie:

I know your office may be busy. However, could you do a quick review of the letter and information attached?

Please let me know if there are any concerns with the proposed route in regards to any threatened and endangered that may be in the area.

Thanks,

**Marsha Parlow**

Transmission Permitting Analyst

**Great River Energy**

12300 Elm Creek Boulevard N

Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718

Main Number 763.445.5000

D 763.445.5215 | F 763.445.5246 | C 612.345.1212

[mparlow@GREnergy.com](mailto:mparlow@GREnergy.com)

[attachment "Letter to FWS.PDF" deleted by Laurie Fairchild/R3/FWS/DOI]

5/30/2008



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2 May 2008

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

RE: Proposed Transmission Line Reconstruction and Upgrade  
Murray County, Minnesota

WO# 5391

Dear Mr. Baker:

Great River Energy, wholesale power supplier to Nobles Electric Cooperative and 27 other distribution cooperatives in Minnesota and Wisconsin, is planning to reconstruct and upgrade 1 mile of existing 69 kV (69,000 volt) overhead electric transmission line to a 115 kV (115,000 volt) transmission line. The line is located along the south side of Section 18, T105N, R42W of Fenton Township in Murray County. Due to the age and reliability concerns of this segment of line, it is necessary for it to be rebuilt as soon as possible. To meet current load growth and anticipated future demand for additional generation outlets in this area; this line will also be designed and constructed to operate at 115 kV. It will continue to be operated at 69 kV into the near future.

The tallest proposed structure is 65 to 75 feet above the ground. GRE is requesting information on the possible effects of the proposed project on airports or airstrips in the project area. A project description/site map is enclosed for your information. The proposed lines are marked in blue.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Friday, 23 May 2008. 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](mailto:mparlow@GREnergy.com). Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Marsha Parlow  
Transmission Permitting Analyst

Enclosure

S:\Member Services\Environmental\Transmission\Projects\5391Chandler Chandler\Chandler ChandlerMNDO.doc

# Chandler to Chandler 115 kV Transmission Line Rebuild



GREAT RIVER ENERGY  
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard  
Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718  
1-800-521-0130  
www.greatriverenergy.com



## Project Need

Great River Energy, wholesale power supplier to Nobles Electric Cooperative and 27 other distribution cooperatives in Minnesota and Wisconsin, is planning to reconstruct and upgrade one mile of existing 69 kV (69,000 volt) overhead electric transmission line to a 115 kV (115,000 volt) transmission line. The line is located along the south side of Section 18 of Fenton Township in Murray County. Due to the age and reliability concerns of this segment of line, it is necessary for it to be rebuilt as soon as possible. To meet current load growth and anticipated future demand for additional generation outlets in this area, this line will also be designed and constructed to operate at 115 kV. It will continue to be operated at 69 kV into the near future.

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As pole locations of the reconstructed line will be on private property, it will be necessary for Great River Energy to acquire new easements from landowners that will allow transmission line poles on the property. The majority of the easement area will still be available for use by the landowner for farming activities, drainage systems, underground utilities and access drives. A fair offer of compensation will be presented to landowners along with the easement.

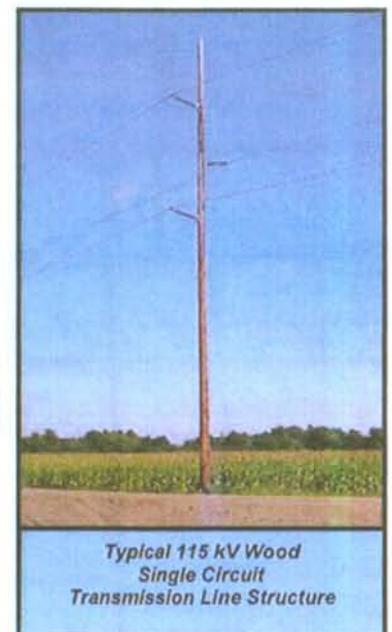
The project will be permitted locally through Murray County.

## Project Schedule

|                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Project Permitting.....   | Spring/Summer 2008 |
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## Contact

Michelle Lommel  
Sr. Field Representative  
Great River Energy  
763-445-5977 or  
1-800-521-0130 ext. 5977  
mlommel@grenergy.com



Typical 115 kV Wood  
Single Circuit  
Transmission Line Structure



**Parlow, Marsha GRE/MG**

---

**From:** Richard Braunig [Rick.Braunig@dot.state.mn.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 12, 2008 6:23 PM  
**To:** Parlow, Marsha GRE/MG  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Chandler Chandler Project - 1 Mile Upgrade

Marsha,

I apologize for being slow to respond. I can't find anyone else to do it, so I guess it must be mine. The nearest public airport would be the Slayton airport and this project would not adversely affect operations at the Slayton airport. We are unaware of any private airports that would be negatively impacted and the height of this line would not affect aircraft transitioning the area.

The only possible impact would be to aerial applicators operating in the area and they can make adjustments as long as they are informed. I will pass along your letter to the Minnesota Aerial Applicators Association.

The Mn/DOT Office of Aeronautics has no objection to the proposed construction between Chandler and Lake Wilson east of CSAH 52.

Sincerely,

Rick Braunig  
Mn/DOT Aeronautics  
Office: 651-234-7230  
Cell: 651-226-2043

>>> "Parlow, Marsha GRE/MG" <mparlow@greenergy.com> 06/12/08 10:58 AM >>>  
Hello,

I have not heard back from you. Are you the correct contact to review? If not, I apologize and ask if you could direct me to the correct contact.

Thanks,

**Marsha Parlow**

Transmission Permitting Analyst  
**Great River Energy**  
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard N  
Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718  
Main Number 763.445.5000

D 763.445.5215 | F 763.445.5246 | C 612.345.1212  
[mparlow@GREnergy.com](mailto:mparlow@GREnergy.com)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Parlow, Marsha GRE/MG  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 03, 2008 10:51 AM  
**To:** 'Rick.Braunig@dot.state.mn.us'

6/16/2008

**Subject:** FW: Chandler Chandler Project - 1 Mile Upgrade

Hello,

Did you have a chance to review?

Thanks,

**Marsha Parlow**

Transmission Permitting Analyst

**Great River Energy**

12300 Elm Creek Boulevard N  
Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718  
Main Number 763.445.5000

D 763.445.5215 | F 763.445.5246 | C 612.345.1212  
[mparlow@GREnergy.com](mailto:mparlow@GREnergy.com)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Parlow, Marsha GRE/MG

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2008 3:27 PM

**To:** 'Rick.Braunig@dot.state.mn.us'

**Subject:** Chandler Chandler Project - 1 Mile Upgrade

Dear Mr. Braunig:

I would like to apologize in sending the letter to Harris Baker and not you. Harris had requested that I send all requests for reviews to you.

If you need me to send another physical copy of the information, please let me know. I will be sure to send that to you.

Thanks,

**Marsha Parlow**

Transmission Permitting Analyst

**Great River Energy**

12300 Elm Creek Boulevard N  
Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718  
Main Number 763.445.5000

D 763.445.5215 | F 763.445.5246 | C 612.345.1212  
[mparlow@GREnergy.com](mailto:mparlow@GREnergy.com)

6/16/2008



85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2196  
main: 651.296.4326 tty: 651.296.2860 fax: 651.297.7891  
[www.commerce.state.mn.us](http://www.commerce.state.mn.us)

August 8, 2008

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

Jean Christoffels  
Murray County Environmental Services  
PO Box 57  
Slayton, MN 56172

**Re: Chandler 115 kV Transmission Line Upgrade – Local Review**  
**PUC Docket Number: ET2/LR-08-865**

Dear Ms. Parlow and Ms. Christoffels,

This letter confirms that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has received notification that Great River Energy (GRE) proposes to seek local review to upgrade an existing 69 kilovolt (kV) transmission line to operate at 115 kV. The transmission line is approximately one mile long and located in Murray County, MN.

Under the Power Plant Siting Act, a permit from the PUC is required for transmission line projects over 100 kV (Minn. Stat. § 216E). However, local review and permitting is possible for eligible projects. If a project is eligible for local review, a utility may apply to a local unit of government instead of the PUC for a permit to build the project. This letter confirms that the proposed Chandler 115 kV transmission line upgrade is eligible for local review (Minn. Stat. § 216E.05).

Great River Energy has indicated that Murray County is the local unit of government with jurisdiction to permit the project. A conditional use permit application was submitted to the county on July 21, 2008. A local unit of government may relinquish its jurisdiction by requesting the PUC 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

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acknowledges that Murray County is the Responsible Government 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. Murray County must also provide a copy of the environmental assessment to the PUC 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 PUC 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,



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