June 3, 2009

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

RE: Yankee Doodle – Pilot Knob 115 kV System Upgrades

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, Dakota Electric Association, and Xcel Energy have elected to seek local approval to make several 115 kilovolt (kV) system improvements in the City of Eagan in Dakota County, Minnesota.

The utilities have determined that a portion of the transmission system serving the City of Eagan service area requires upgrading to reliably serve growing electrical loads, and are proposing the following 115 kV transmission upgrades (see enclosed fact sheet/map) within the City of Eagan:

Great River Energy

Great River Energy will rebuild approximately one mile of Xcel Energy's existing single circuit, 115 kV transmission line (currently operated at 69 kV) to a double circuit, 115 kV line from the Yankee Doodle Substation south to Wescott Road. Xcel Energy will own the poles and one circuit that will operate at 115 kV and Great River Energy will own the other circuit that will operate at 69 kV to restore the 69 kV loop feed to the Wescott Park Distribution Substation.

Xcel Energy

Xcel Energy will construct a 115 kV line from the Pilot Knob Substation to the Eagan Substation by:

- Upgrading approximately 1.5 miles of existing single circuit, 115 kV transmission line (5525 line) to double circuit, 115 kV line from the Pilot Knob Substation to the intersection with Xcel Energy's 0703 line approximately ¼ mile east of Lexington Ave.

- Upgrading approximately ½ mile of Xcel Energy's existing single circuit, 69 kV transmission line (0703 line) to single circuit, 115 kV line from the previously described intersection north to the Eagan Substation.

Substations

Dakota Electric Association will rebuild the Eagan Substation from 69 kV to 115 kV. The project will also include a new exit at Dakota Electric Association's Yankee Doodle Substation, minor modifications to Xcel Energy's Lone Oak Substation, and a new 115 kV breaker at Great River Energy's Pilot Knob Substation.

The project is located in Sections 11, 14, 23, 26 and 27, T27N, R23W. The upgraded transmission lines will be constructed using steel poles approximately 70-80 feet tall, and construction will be accomplished within the existing easements.

The utilities intend to permit the project through the City of Eagan. A plat approval application for building permit issuance was submitted to the City on May 27, 2009. The City of Eagan has been informed that it has 60 days to refer the permitting process to the Commission.

Questions regarding this project should be directed to Russ Matthys, City of Eagan at 651-675-5646; Carole Schmidt, Great River Energy at 763-445-5214; Craig Knudsen, Dakota Electric Association at 651-463-6332; or Tim Rogers, Xcel Energy at 612-330-1955. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY	DAKOTA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION	XCEL ENERGY
Carole L. Schmidt		Timothy G. Rogers
Carole L. Schmidt Supervisor, Transmission Permitting and Compliance	Craig E. Knudsen Land Use Manager	Timothy G. Rogers Supervisor, Siting and Permitting

Enclosure

cc: Affidavit of service on: General List of Interested Persons – w/encl.
Russ Matthys, City of Eagan – w/encl.
Deborah Pile, Department of Commerce – w/encl.

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Yankee Doodle – Pilot Knob 115 kV System Upgrades

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

DAKOTA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
4300-220th Street West
Farmington, MN 55024
1-800-874-3409
www.dakotaelectric.com

XCEL ENERGY
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401
612-330-5893
www.xcelenergy.com

Project Need

Great River Energy (GRE), power supplier to Dakota Electric Association (DEA), and Northern States Power, doing business as Xcel Energy, have determined that the transmission system serving the City of Eagan service area requires upgrading to reliably serve growing electrical loads.

A number of facilities in the area between Yankee Doodle Road and Diffley Road will be upgraded to uniformly operate at 115 kV, including segments of transmission line from the Yankee Doodle Substation south, through the Eagan Substation, to the Pilot Knob Substation.

Proposed Project

The project will be constructed in two phases (see map on back):

1) Great River Energy will rebuild approximately one mile of Xcel Energy's existing single circuit, 115 kV transmission line (currently operated at 69 kV) to a double circuit, 115 kV line (Figure 1) from the Yankee Doodle Substation south to Wescott Road. Xcel Energy will own the poles and one circuit that will operate at 115 kV and Great River Energy will own the other circuit that will operate at 69 kV to restore the 69 kV loop feed to the Wescott Park Distribution Substation.

2) Xcel Energy will construct a 115 kV line from the Pilot Knob Substation to the Eagan Substation by:

- Upgrading approximately 1.5 miles of Xcel Energy's existing single circuit, 115 kV transmission (5525) line to double circuit, 115 kV line (Figure 1) from the Pilot Knob Substation to the intersection with Xcel Energy's 0703 line approximately ¼ mile east of Lexington Ave.

- Upgrading approximately ½ mile of Xcel Energy's existing single circuit, 69 kV transmission (0703) line to single circuit, 115 kV line (Figure 2) from the previously described intersection north to the Eagan Substation.

The upgraded transmission lines will be constructed using steel poles approximately 70 – 80 feet tall and construction will be accomplished within the existing easements. The project will also include a new exit at DEA's Yankee Doodle Substation, rebuild of DEA's Eagan Substation from 69 kV to 115 kV, minor modifications to Xcel Energy's Lone Oak Substation, and a new 115 kV breaker at GRE's Pilot Knob Substation.

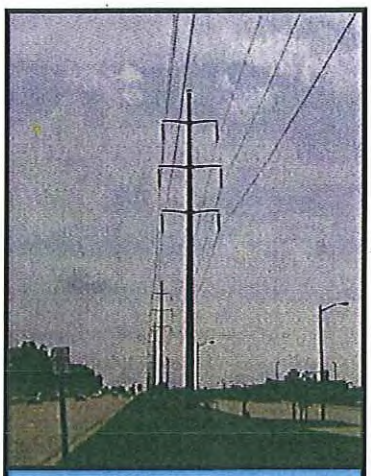

Figure 1
Typical 115 kV Double Circuit Structure

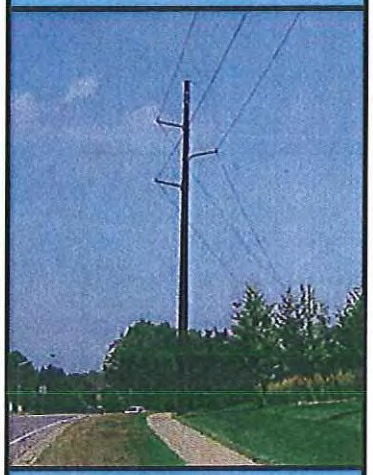

Figure 2
Typical 115 kV Single Circuit Structure

Schedule

Permitting/Right-of-Way Acquisition----------Summer 2009
Line Construction----------Fall/Winter 2009
Line Energization----------Spring 2010

Contacts

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Great River Energy
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Craig Knudsen
Dakota Electric Association
Land Use Manager
(651) 463-6332
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Tim Lisson
Xcel Energy-NSP
Sr. Land Rights Agent
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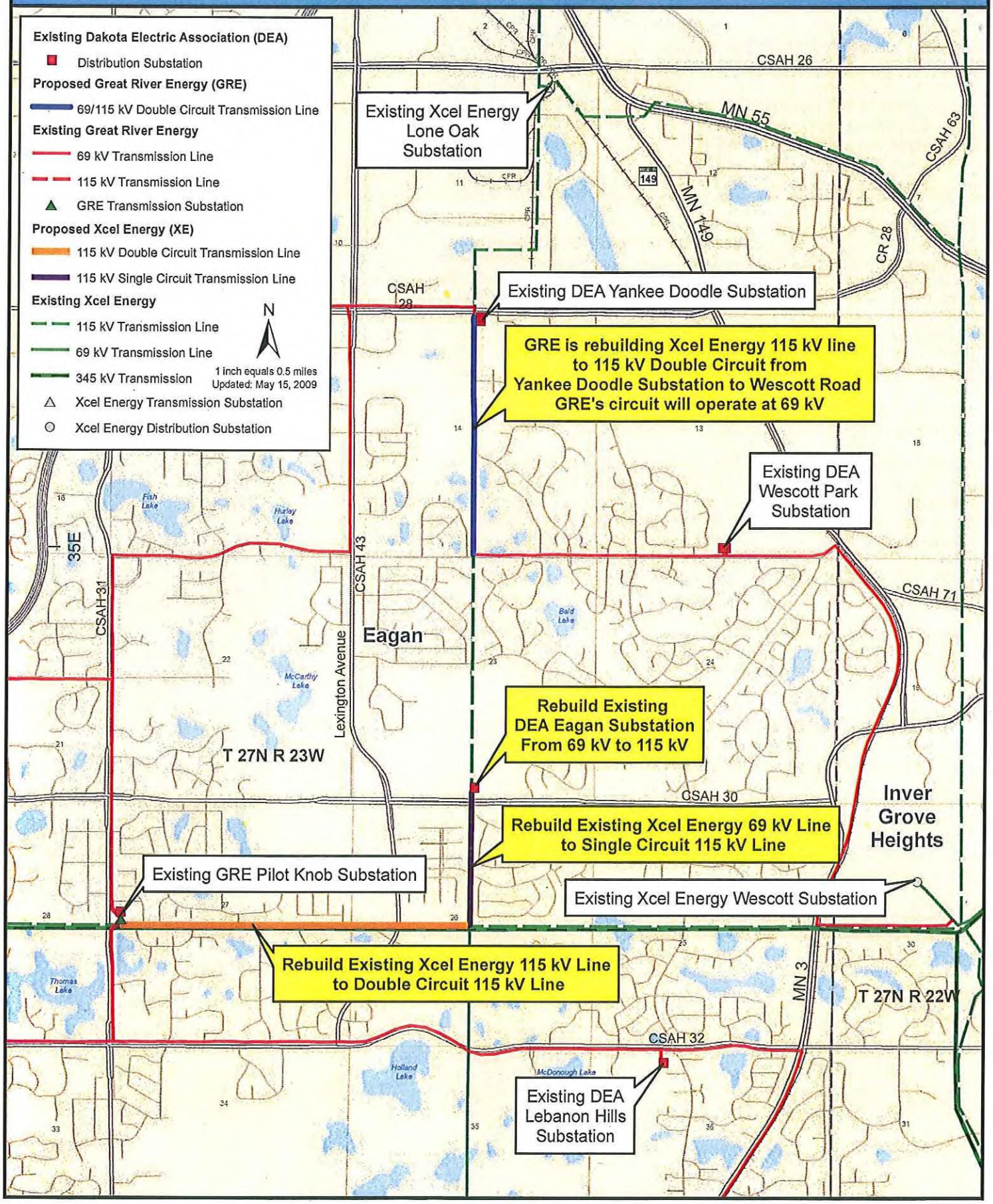
6/2/2009

PROJECT MAP


Existing Dakota Electric Association (DEA)
Distribution Substation
Proposed Great River Energy (GRE)
69/115 kV Double Circuit Transmission Line
Existing Great River Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
115 kV Transmission Line
GRE Transmission Substation
Proposed Xcel Energy (XE)
115 kV Double Circuit Transmission Line
115 kV Single Circuit Transmission Line
Existing Xcel Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
69 kV Transmission Line
345 kV Transmission
Xcel Energy Transmission Substation
Xcel Energy Distribution Substation
N
1 inch equals 0.5 miles
Updated: May 15, 2009
Existing Xcel Energy Lone Oak Substation
CSAH 26
MN 55
CSAH 63
MN 149
CR 28
CSAH 28
Existing DEA Yankee Doodle Substation
GRE is rebuilding Xcel Energy 115 kV line to 115 kV Double Circuit from Yankee Doodle Substation to Wescott Road GRE's circuit will operate at 69 kV
Existing DEA Wescott Park Substation
35E
CSAH 31
CSAH 43
CSAH 71
Eagan
Lexington Avenue
T 27N R 23W
Rebuild Existing DEA Eagan Substation From 69 kV to 115 kV
CSAH 30
Inver Grove Heights
Rebuild Existing Xcel Energy 69 kV Line to Single Circuit 115 kV Line
Existing GRE Pilot Knob Substation
Existing Xcel Energy Wescott Substation
Rebuild Existing Xcel Energy 115 kV Line to Double Circuit 115 kV Line
MN 3
T 27N R 22W
CSAH 32
Existing DEA Lebanon Hills Substation