



GREAT RIVER  
ENERGY®

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

February 4, 2015

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

RE: Quarry 115 kV Transmission Line 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 approximately two miles of 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Stearns County, Minnesota.

The proposed Project will strengthen the area's electric transmission system, improve reliability and guard against overloading in the greater St. Cloud area. The proposed single circuit 115 kV transmission line is located in Saint Joseph Township, in Sections 24, 14, 13, 12, T24N, R29W in Stearns County. A project description/site map is enclosed for your information.

Stearns County has agreed to act as the lead local unit of government that will conduct the Environmental Assessment for the project. A Conditional Use Permit application was submitted to Stearns County on February 2, 2015. The County has been informed that it has 60 days to refer the permitting process to the Commission.

Questions regarding this project should be directed to Jennifer Buckentine, Stearns County Environmental Services Department, at 320-656-3613; 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

Marsha Parlow  
Transmission Permitting Analyst

Enclosure

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



# Quarry 115 kV Transmission Line Project

Great River Energy  
12300 Elm Creek Blvd  
Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718  
1-888-521-0130  
www.greatriverenergy.com

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## Project Need

Great River Energy, wholesale power provider to Stearns Electric Association, is proposing to construct a new overhead 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Stearns County. This project will strengthen the area's electric transmission system, improve reliability and guard against overloading and voltage collapse in the Greater St. Cloud area.

The area's existing transmission system is at risk during an unexpected outage or scheduled maintenance. If an additional outage occurs the area's electric demand cannot be sustained. This situation could potentially produce blackouts both locally and in a wider geographical area as far as Little Falls and Long Prairie. Completion of this project will minimize the operational concerns during an outage.

## Transmission Line Route and Substation Modifications

The two mile route (see back for the proposed transmission line route) will exit on the west side of the Quarry Substation replacing an existing 115 kV transmission line and turn north. It then bypasses the substation it currently serves, crossing the Sauk River and continues north along the section line to a point north of County Highway 75. The route then turns east for a short distance and finally north into the West St Cloud Substation.

The Quarry Substation will require additional infrastructure and rerouting of the existing 115 kV lines into the substation. The West St Cloud Substation's south fence line will be expanded by 75 feet for additional infrastructure and the new transmission line.

## Construction

Construction will consist of wood poles ranging in height from 80-95 feet above ground with a distance between poles of 400-500 feet. In wet areas, guy wires and anchors will be used to stabilize the poles. Some specialty poles may be required. The new transmission line will require a 120-foot-wide right of way, 60 feet on each side of the centerline. Trees and vegetation in the right of way will be removed to provide a safe operation area.

## Permitting and Easements

Great River Energy will seek local approval for the project. An Environmental Assessment must be prepared and accepted as complete by the local permitting authority before final project approval. Landowners along the proposed transmission line route will be provided information on the project and approval process.

New easements will be required to construct this project. Landowners will be contacted to discuss the easement and review the necessary tree removal.

## Project Schedule

Public notice and approval process -----	2014-15
Easement Acquisition/Environmental permits -----	2015
Survey/Design -----	2015-16
Construction Activities -----	2016-17



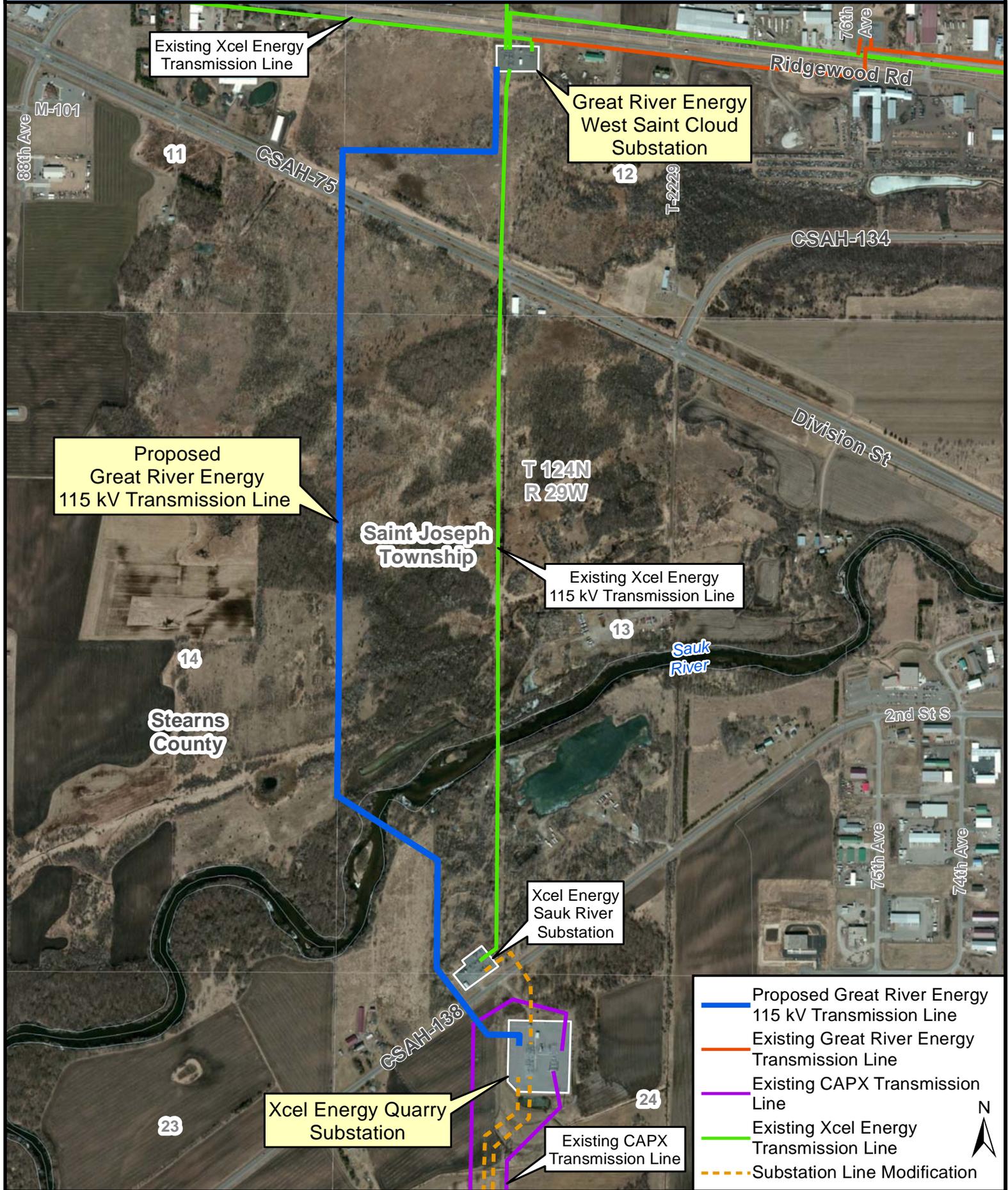
*Typical 115 kV Wood  
Single Circuit Structure  
with brace post insulators*

## For project updates and information, visit [greatriverenergy.com/Quarry](http://greatriverenergy.com/Quarry) or contact:

Dale Aukee  
Senior Field Representative  
Land Rights Department  
(763) 445-5978  
dauke@grenergy.com

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

# Proposed Project



First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method
James J.	Bertrand	james.bertrand@leonard.com	Leonard Street & Deinard	150 South Fifth Street, Suite 2300 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service
Josh	Bird	joshua.bird@ge.com	GE Power and Water	2025 49th Ave N Minneapolis, MN 55430	Electronic Service
David	Birkholz	david.birkholz@state.mn.us	MN Department of Commerce	Suite 500 85 7th Place East St. Paul, MN 55102198	Electronic Service
Michelle F.	Bissonnette	N/A	HDR Engineering, Inc.	Golden Hills Office Center 701 Xenia Ave S Ste 600 Minneapolis, MN 55416	Paper Service
B. Andrew	Brown	brown.andrew@dorsey.com	Dorsey & Whitney LLP	Suite 1500 50 South Sixth Street Minneapolis, MN 554021498	Electronic Service
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
Bill	Cook	bcook@rpu.org	Rochester Public Utilities	4000 East River Road NE Rochester, MN 55906	Electronic Service
John	Crane	johncranefishing@gmail.com	Fishing	1250 Wee Gwaus DR SW Bemidji, MN 56601	Electronic Service
George	Crocker	gwillc@nawo.org	North American Water Office	PO Box 174 Lake Elmo, MN 55042	Electronic Service
Thomas	Davis	N/A	-	1161 50th Ave Sherburn, MI 56171	Paper Service
Patricia	DeBleekere	tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	Suite 350 121 Seventh Place East St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service

Special Service List: General List 7850.2100-1A

2-4-15

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method
John E.	Drawz	jdrawz@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.	Suite 4000 200 South Sixth Street Minneapolis, MN 554021425	Electronic Service
Kristen	Eide Tollefson	HealingSystems@earthlink.net	R-CURE	P O Box 129 Frontenac, MN 55026	Paper Service
Scott	Ek	scott.ek@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Place East Suite 350 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service
Annette	Fiedler	phydev@swrdc.org	Southwest Regional Development Comm.	2401 Broadway Ave Ste 1 Slayton, MN 56172	Electronic Service
Karen A	Gebhardt	kageb1@gvtel.com		43901 253rd Ave Leonard, MN 56652-4026	Electronic Service
Larry	Hartman	Larry.Hartman@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place East, Suite 500 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service
Brooke	Haworth	Brooke.Haworth@state.mn.us	Department of Natural Resources	500 Lafayette Road Saint Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service
Charles	Healy	chuckh@electrotech-inc.com	ElectroTech, Inc	7101 Madison Ave Minneapolis, MN 55427	Electronic Service
Bill	Heaney	billheaney@billheaney.com	IBEW Minnesota State Council	940 44th Ave NE Unite 21067 Columbia Hts, MN 55421-3099	Electronic Service
Valerie	Herring	vherring@briggs.com	Briggs and Morgan, P.A.	2200 IDS Center 80 S. Eighth Street Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service
Tiffany	Hughes	Regulatory.Records@xcelenergy.com	Xcel Energy	414 Nicollet Mall FL 7 Minneapolis, MN 554011993	Electronic Service
Scott	Johnson	Scott.Johnson@ci.medina.mn.us	City of Medina	2052 County Road 24 Medina, MN 55340-9790	Electronic Service

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<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Company Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Delivery Method</b>
Michael	Kaluzniak	mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	Suite 350 121 Seventh Place East St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service
Bruce	King	bruce@ranww.org	Realtors, Association of Northwestern WI	Suite 3 1903 Keith Street Eau Claire, WI 54701	Electronic Service
Stacy	Kotch	Stacy.Kotch@state.mn.us	MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	395 John Ireland Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service
Karen	Kromar	karen.kromar@state.mn.us	MN Pollution Control Agency	520 Lafayette Rd Saint Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service
Kim	Lindquist	kim.lindquist@ci.rosemount.mn.us		2875 145th St W Rosemount, MN 55068	Electronic Service
Paula	Maccabee	Pmaccabee@justchangelaw.com	Just Change Law Offices	1961 Selby Ave Saint Paul, MN 55104	Electronic Service
Brian	Meloy	brian.meloy@stinsonleonard.com	Stinson, Leonard, Street LLP	150 S 5th St Ste 2300 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service
Kevin	Mixon	kevin.mixon@state.mn.us	Department of Natural Resources	261 HWY 15 S New Ulm, MN 56073	Electronic Service
Andrew	Moratzka	apmoratzka@stoel.com	Stoel Rives LLP	33 South Sixth Street Suite 4200 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service
Colleen	Mueller	N/A		22186 State Hwy 4 Paynesville, MN 56362	Paper Service
Steven	Nyhus	swnyhus@flaherty-hood.com	Flaherty & Hood PA	525 Park St Ste 470 Saint Paul, MN 55103	Electronic Service
Kate	O'Connell	kate.oconnell@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	Suite 50085 Seventh Place East St. Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service
Carol A.	Overland	overland@legalelectric.org	Legalelectric - Overland Law Office	1110 West Avenue Red Wing, MN 55066	Electronic Service

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First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method
Kevin	Peterson	kjp@ibew160.org	IBEW Local 160	1109 Northway Lane NE Rochester, MN 55906	Electronic Service
Deborah	Pile	Deborah.Pile@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	Suite 50085 7th Place East St. Paul, MN 55102198	Electronic Service
Angela	Piner	angela.piner@hdrinc.com	HDR, Inc.	Suite 600 701 Xenia Avenue South Suite 600 Minneapolis, MN 55416	Electronic Service
Larry	Rebman	larryemls@hotmail.com	EMLS, Inc	PO Box 122 Appleton, MN 56208	Electronic Service
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
Jamie	Schrenzel	jamie.schrenzel@state.mn.us	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	500 Lafayette Road Saint Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service
Rod	Schumacher	rod.schumacher@is-grp.com	I&S Group	115 E Hickry St Suite 300 Mankato, MN 56001	Electronic Service
David	Shaffer	david.shaffer@startribune.com		425 Portland Minneapolis, MN 55488	Electronic Service
Tom	Slukich	tom@nationalconductor.com	National Conductor Constructors	18119 Hwy 371 North Braiderd, MN 56401	Electronic Service
Tracy	Smetana	tracy.smetana@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Place East Suite 350 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service
Adam	Sokolski	adam.sokolski@iberdrolaren.com	Iberdrola Renewables	701 fourth Avenue South Suite 1010 Minneapolis, MN 55415	Electronic Service

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method
Mike	Steckelberg	msteckelberg@greenergy.com	Great River Energy	12300 Elm Creek Boulevard Maple Grove, MN 553694718	Electronic Service
Mark	Strohfus	mstrohfus@greenergy.com	Great River Energy	12300 Elm Creek Boulevard Maple Grove, MN 553694718	Electronic Service
Carl	Strohm	cjsmg@sbcglobal.net	SBC Global	105 East Edgewood Ave Indianapolis, IN 46227	Electronic Service
Tom	Swafford	tswafford@umsi.us	Utility Mapping Services, Inc	3947 E Calvary Rd Suite 103 Duluth, MN 55803	Electronic Service
Eric	Swanson	eswanson@winthrop.com	Winthrop Weinstine	225 S 6th St Ste 3500 Capella Tower Minneapolis, MN 554024629	Electronic Service
Todd	Tadych	ttadych@atcllc.com	American Transmission Company LLC	5303 Fen Oak Dr Madison, WI 53718	Electronic Service
Steve	Thompson	stevet@cmmpa.org	Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency	459 S Grove St Blue Earth, MN 56013-2629	Electronic Service
Caren	Warner	caren.warner@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place East Suite 500 St. Paul, MN 55101-2198	Electronic Service
Brian	Zelenak	brian.r.zelenak@xcelenergy.com	Xcel Energy	414 Nicollet Mall FL 7 Minneapolis, MN 55401-1993	Electronic Service
Hans	van Lingen	hans.vanlingen@enel.com	Enel Green Power North America	1 Tech Drive Suite 220 Andover, MA 01810	Electronic Service

AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING

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

MPUC Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_

I, Carol Heurung, hereby certify that on the 4th 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 Quarry 115 kV Transmission Line Upgrade in Stearns County, Minnesota**

Carol Heurung

Subscribed and sworn to before me this  
4th day of February 2015.

Victoria Ely  
NOTARY PUBLIC



MICROFILM  
MORRY PUBLISHING  
YERKES

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

Thomas Davis  
1161 50<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Sherburn MI 56171

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

Colleen Mueller  
22186 State Hwy 4  
Paynesville MN 56362