

215 South Cascade Street
PO Box 496
Fergus Falls, Minnesota 56538-0496
218 739-8200
www.otpc.com (web site)

August 13, 2012



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

RE: Bemidji 69 kV Transmission Line Upgrade to 115 kV

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 Otter Tail Power Company has elected to seek local approval for construction to upgrade an existing 69 kilovolt (kV) transmission line to 115 kV in the City of Bemidji, as well as modifications to four substations in Bemidji.

Otter Tail Power Company presently operates a 69 kV transmission line that extends from the Bemidji 115 kV Substation to the Bemidji Nymore Sub, the Bemidji 25 Street Sub, and the Bemidji University Sub. Otter Tail Power Company is proposing to rebuild these 69 kV lines to 115 kV which would remove the overload concerns, boost the reliability of the transmission line with enhanced shielding, and better serve the existing and future growth and additional loads that are in the planning stages in the City of Bemidji.

The proposed project involves converting approximately 8 miles of an existing 69 kV line to operate at 115 kV. It also involves constructing approximately four-tenths of a mile of new 115 kV single circuit transmission line facilities. This project is located in the city of Bemidji in Sections 4, 5, 7, 8, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21 and 22, Township 146, Range 33, in the County of Beltrami. A project description and a site map are enclosed for your information.

The Greater Bemidji Area Joint Planning Board (GBAJPB) is the permitting authority for the city of Bemidji. We filed a Letter of Application to the board requesting they act as the Local Government Unit (LGU) on this project. At the joint powers board meeting on Wednesday, August 8, 2012, the GBAJPB approved our request to act as LGU.

We will follow with submission of a Conditional Use Permit/Routing Permit Application soon.

Sincerely,

/S/VICKI SEVERSON
Vicki Severson, RWP
Land Rights and Permitting

Enclosures
By electronic filing
C: Service List

Bemidji Substations and 115 kV transmission line



Need:

Electrical load growth in the Bemidji area is greater than recent projections anticipated and, with several additional loads in the planning stages, is estimated to continue to grow in the future. To reliably serve these loads, four electrical distribution substations need to be modified as well as an existing 69 kilovolt transmission line upgraded to 115 kV.

Description:

Otter Tail Power Company will be embarking on a multi-million dollar project to upgrade approximately eight (8) miles of 69 kV lines to 115 kV and modify four distribution substations to more efficiently serve customers in Bemidji. In addition, a distribution express feeder system with automatic source transfer would create a smart grid.

This reliability enhancement plan will transfer the Bemidji load to the 115 kV transmission system, which is shielded from lightning. Building the 12.5kV express feeder ties will allow the utility to protect against the contingency of loss of a distribution substation for an estimated 15 years with 2 percent load growth.

Otter Tail Power Company is proposing to rebuild this 69 kV line with a heavier conductor, which would mitigate the overload concerns, boost the reliability of the transmission line, and better serve the existing and future growth and additional loads that are being planned in the City of Bemidji.

Schedule:

Local/state permitting 4th Quarter 2012
Substation upgrades 2014 – 2018
Transmission line upgrade 2013 – 2018
Project completion 4th quarter 2018

Public input process:

Otter Tail Power Company has chosen to seek local review of these proposed facilities in accordance with the Power Plant Siting Act, Minn. Stat. 216E.05, Subd.3. In August 2012 the company requested review by the City of Bemidji via Letter of Application. We anticipate that the City of Bemidji will be seeking input from local residents regarding the scope of the environmental review processes. Potentially impacted residents will be notified by mail and through newspaper ads.



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For project updates and information, please contact:

Mayana Rice, AICP
 Planning Administrator
 GBAJPB
 317 4th Street Northwest
 Bemidji, MN 56601
 Office: 218-759-3594
 Cell 218-766-2409
 Fax: 218-759-3591
 mayana.rice@jpbgba.org

Joe Braun, P.E.
 Area Engineer
 Otter Tail Power Company
 320 4th St NW
 Bemidji, MN 56601
 Office: 218-739-8830
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 jbraun@otpc.com

Darren Matetich
 Bemidji Operations Manager
 Otter Tail Power Company
 320 4th Street NW
 Bemidji, MN 56601
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August 3, 2012



Ms. Mayana Rice, AICP
Planning Administrator
Greater Bemidji Area Joint Planning Board
317 4th Street Northwest
Bemidji, MN 56601

RE: Bemidji 69 kV Transmission Line Upgrade to 115 kV and Substations Modification

Dear Ms. Rice:

In accordance with the Power Plant Siting Act, Minn. Stat. 216E.05, subd.3, this letter serves as the Letter of Application requesting the Greater Bemidji Area Joint Planning Board to act as the Local Government Unit (LGU) for the proposed Bemidji 69 kilovolt (kV) upgrade to 115 kV transmission line and substations modification project.

Otter Tail Power Company presently operates a 69 kV transmission line that extends from the Bemidji 115 kV Substation to the Bemidji Nymore Substation, the Bemidji 25 Street Substation, and the Bemidji University Substation. Otter Tail Power Company is proposing to rebuild these 69 kV lines which would remove overload concerns, boost reliability of the transmission line with enhanced shielding, and better serve existing and future growth and additional loads that are in the planning stages within the City of Bemidji.

The proposed project involves converting approximately eight miles of an existing 69 kV line to operate at 115 kV. It also involves constructing approximately four-tenths of a mile of new 115 kV single circuit transmission line facilities. This project is located in the City of Bemidji in Sections 4, 5, 7, 8, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21 and 22, Township 146, Range 33, in the County of Beltrami. A project description and a site map are enclosed for your information.

We request that you participate as the Local Government Unit on this project. If you have questions regarding the project, please call Joe Braun, Otter Tail Power Company Area Engineer in Bemidji at 218-739-8830, Darren Matetich, Bemidji Operations Manager, 218-739-8667, or Cindy Kuismi, Supervisor, Land Rights and Permitting, at 218-739-8751.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vicki Severson".

Vicki Severson, RWP
Land Rights and Permitting

Enclosures

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

RE: Bemidji 69 kV Transmission Line Upgrade to 115 kV

I, Jana Emery, hereby certify that I have this day served a copy of the following, or a summary thereof, on Dr. Burl W. Haar and Sharon Ferguson by e-filing, and to all other persons on the attached service list by electronic service or by First Class mail.

**Otter Tail Power Company
Notice**

Dated this **13th** day of **August, 2012**

/s/ JANA EMERY

Jana Emery, Regulatory Filings Coordinator
Otter Tail Power Company
215 South Cascade Street
Fergus Falls MN 56537
(218) 739-8879

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Christopher	Anderson	canderson@allete.com	Minnesota Power	30 W Superior St Duluth, MN 558022191	Electronic Service	No	GEN_SL_Otter Tail Power Company_GENERAL SERVICE LIST
Michael	Bradley	bradleym@moss- barnett.com	Moss & Barnett	4800 Wells Fargo Ctr 90 S 7th St Minneapolis, MN 55402-4129	Electronic Service	No	GEN_SL_Otter Tail Power Company_GENERAL SERVICE LIST
Gary	Chesnut	gchesnut@agp.com	AG Processing Inc. a cooperative	12700 West Dodge Road PO Box 2047 Omaha, NE 681032047	Paper Service	No	GEN_SL_Otter Tail Power Company_GENERAL SERVICE LIST
James C.	Erickson	jericksonkbc@gmail.com	Kelly Bay Consulting	17 Quechee St Superior, WI 54880-4421	Paper Service	No	GEN_SL_Otter Tail Power Company_GENERAL SERVICE LIST
Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn. .us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 500 Saint Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service	No	GEN_SL_Otter Tail Power Company_GENERAL SERVICE LIST
Bruce	Gerhardson	bgerhardson@otpc.com	Otter Tail Power Company	PO Box 496 215 S Cascade St Fergus Falls, MN 565380496	Electronic Service	No	GEN_SL_Otter Tail Power Company_GENERAL SERVICE LIST
Burl W.	Haar	burl.haar@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	Suite 350 121 7th Place East St. Paul, MN 551012147	Electronic Service	No	GEN_SL_Otter Tail Power Company_GENERAL SERVICE LIST
Shane	Henriksen	shane.henriksen@enbridge .com	Enbridge Energy Company, Inc.	1409 Hammond Ave FL 2 Superior, WI 54880	Electronic Service	No	GEN_SL_Otter Tail Power Company_GENERAL SERVICE LIST
James D.	Larson		Avant Energy Services	200 S 6th St Ste 300 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Paper Service	No	GEN_SL_Otter Tail Power Company_GENERAL SERVICE LIST
Douglas	Larson	dlarson@dakotaelectric.co m	Dakota Electric Association	4300 220th St W Farmington, MN 55024	Electronic Service	No	GEN_SL_Otter Tail Power Company_GENERAL SERVICE LIST
John	Lindell	agorud.ecf@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul, MN 551012130	Electronic Service	No	GEN_SL_Otter Tail Power Company_GENERAL SERVICE LIST

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Kavita	Maini	kmaini@wi.rr.com	KM Energy Consulting LLC	961 N Lost Woods Rd Oconomowoc, WI 53066	Paper Service	No	GEN_SL_Otter Tail Power Company_GENERAL SERVICE LIST
Andrew	Moratzka	apm@mcmlaw.com	Mackall, Crouse and Moore	1400 AT&T Tower 901 Marquette Ave Minneapolis, MN 55402	Paper Service	No	GEN_SL_Otter Tail Power Company_GENERAL SERVICE LIST
Larry L.	Schedin	Larry@LLSResources.com	LLS Resources, LLC	12 S 6th St Ste 1137 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Paper Service	No	GEN_SL_Otter Tail Power Company_GENERAL SERVICE LIST
Stuart	Tommerdahl	stommerdahl@otpc.com	Otter Tail Power Company	215 S Cascade Fergus Falls, MN 56537	Electronic Service	No	GEN_SL_Otter Tail Power Company_GENERAL SERVICE LIST