



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA
MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

Bringing power to your life.

THE CITY OF
**REDWOOD
FALLS**

December 14, 2010

Via Electronic Filing and U.S. Mail

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

RE: Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency and Redwood Falls Public Utilities'
Redwood County 115 kV Transmission Project

Dear Dr. Haar:

In accordance with the Power Plant Siting Act, Minnesota Statutes Section 216E.05, subdivision 3, this letter serves as the required notice to the Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") that Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency ("SMMPA") and Redwood Falls Public Utilities ("RFPU") have elected to seek local approval to construct a five (5)-mile long overhead 115 kilovolt ("kV") transmission line and 115 kV substation ("the Project") in the City of Redwood Falls and Delhi, Redwood Falls, and Paxton townships, Minnesota. The proposed transmission line will be constructed and owned by SMMPA and will connect the new RFPU electric distribution substation (proposed to be called "East Substation") along County State Aid Highway 1 with RFPU's existing West Substation in the City of Redwood Falls ("Project").

Project Need

The Project is listed in the 2009 Minnesota Biennial Transmission Projects Report in the Southwest Zone under Section 6.6.11. Load in the area around Redwood Falls continues to grow. Because of the increasing demand, additional resources are necessary to serve residential and commercial customers in the area around Redwood Falls, Minnesota. SMMPA and RFPU considered two alternatives to meet this need: 1) serving the load by upgrading the existing 69 kV transmission system in the area; and 2) providing a new 115 kV source into the proposed East Substation. After further study, it was determined that a new 115 kV source into RFPU's proposed East Substation was preferable because even with modifications, the 69 kV transmission system in the area would be capable of providing adequate service only until 2015.

Project Description

SMMPA and RFPU are applying for a Conditional Use Permit ("CUP") through Redwood County to obtain authorization to construct the Project. SMMPA is proposing to follow existing road rights-of-way or utility easement corridors to lessen impact to agricultural and residential properties along the transmission line route. RFPU has acquired the necessary property for the proposed East Substation. Project information is available on the enclosed Project Fact Sheet.

Substation

As part of the Project, RFPU proposes to construct a new 1-acre 115 kV substation located south of East Bridge Street and west of County State Aid Highway 1, beyond the Redwood Falls city limits in Paxton Township, but still within the RFPU service territory.

Transmission Line

The 115 kV transmission line portion of the Project to be permitted and constructed by SMMPA is located in Sections 1, 2, 11 and 12, T112N, R36W; Section 36, T113N, R36W; and Sections 5, 6, 7 and 8, T112N, R35W. The transmission line will be constructed using wood poles approximately 60 to 80 feet above the ground line.

Local Unit of Government

SMMPA and RFPU will permit the Project through the Redwood County CUP process. A CUP application for the Project was submitted to Redwood County on December 6, 2010. Redwood County has been informed that it has 60 days after receiving the CUP application to refer the permitting process to the Commission.

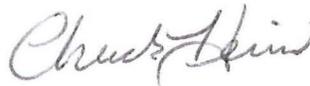
Questions regarding the CUP or the CUP process should be directed to Brian Blastad, Land Use and Zoning Supervisor, Redwood County, at 507-637-4023 and questions regarding the Project should be directed to Rick Hettwer, SMMPA, at 507-292-6451 or Chuck Heins, RFPU, at 507-627-1301.

Sincerely,



Richard Hettwer, PE
Manager of Power Delivery
SMMPA

Sincerely,



Chuck Heins
Public Utilities Superintendent
RFP

RJH:nw:2k10066
enclosure

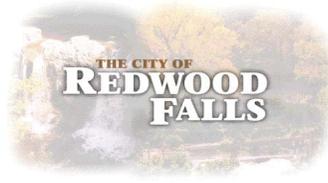
cc: Affidavit of Service on: General List of Interested Persons – with enclosure
Brian Balstad, Land Use & Zoning Supervisor, Redwood County – with enclosure
Deborah Pile, Department of Commerce – with enclosure

Proposed 115 kV Transmission Line - Redwood Falls Area



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA
MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

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Municipal Power Agency**
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Redwood Falls Public Utilities
333 S Washington St
Redwood Falls, MN 56283
1- 507-637-5755
www.ci.redwood-falls.mn.us

Project Need

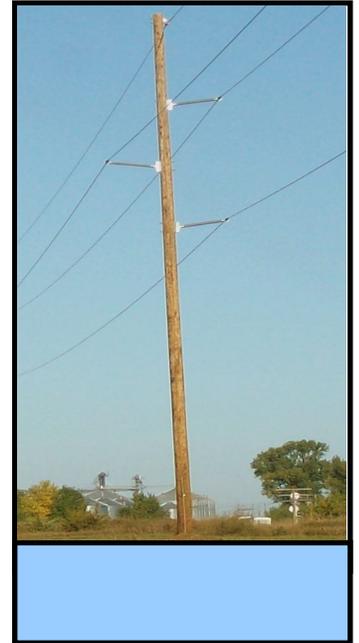
Redwood Falls Public Utilities (RFPU) is planning to add an electric distribution substation on the east side of the City along County Road 1. This project is needed to keep up with increasing electrical demand within the City and to provide necessary system reliability. Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA), power supplier to Redwood Falls Public Utilities, is planning to construct new 115 kV (115,000 volts) transmission line facilities from RFPU's existing West Substation to RFPU's new East Substation.

Planned Project (Shown on Map on Back)

SMMPA's new construction transmission line project will consist of approximately 5.0 miles of overhead 115 kV transmission line. To lessen impact to agricultural and residential property use along the line route, SMMPA is proposing a route that will follow existing road right-of-ways or utility-easement corridors.

The proposed route of the overhead line would begin at RFPU's West Substation near the intersection of Hwy 19 and Westfalls Drive, follow Hwy 19 west to Laser Ave, continue south to a point on the south side of the Redwood River, then east to Ramsey St, turning south along Ramsey St to 327th St, and continuing east and then north along 327th St to Normandale Road. From Normandale Road, the line would continue east for approximately 1.5 miles, and then continue north for 0.5 miles to a new substation site. Poles will primarily be wood single-pole structures (see photo at right). Guy wires and anchors may be required in areas, but will be minimized to the extent possible to lessen the impact on agricultural activities. The transmission lines will carry four wires (three electrical and one for lightning protection). In certain areas, RFPU's or the rural electric cooperative's distribution line may be underbuilt on SMMPA's new transmission line structures.

An easement will be requested from landowners that will have transmission line poles or an overhang of the wires or apparatus on their property. The easement will provide for such things as construction and maintenance access, vegetation control and structure limitations in the easement area. The majority of the easement area will still be allowed for use by the landowner for such things as farming activities, drainage systems, underground utilities and access drives. A fair offer of compensation will be presented along with the easement to landowners.



Project Schedule

Easement Acquisition	Fall 2010 - Winter 2010/2011
Project Permitting	Fall 2010 – Spring 2010
Construction Start	Summer/Fall 2011

Contact

Rick Hettwer
Manager of Power Delivery
Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency
507-285-0478
rj.hettwer@smmpa.org

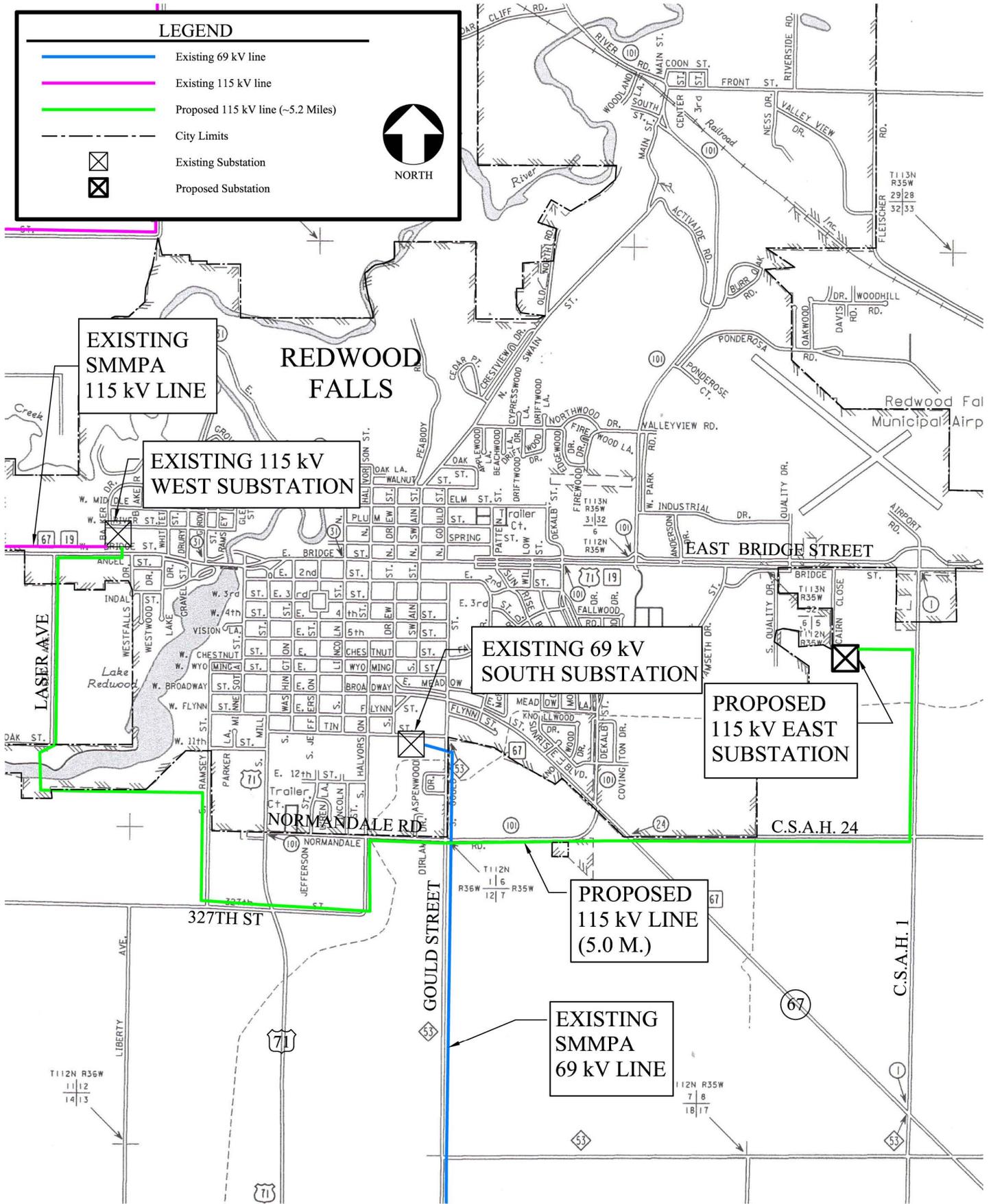
Chuck Heins
Public Utilities Superintendent
Redwood Falls Public Utilities
507-627-1301
cheins@ci.redwood-falls.mn.us

PROJECT MAP

LEGEND

-  Existing 69 kV line
-  Existing 115 kV line
-  Proposed 115 kV line (~5.2 Miles)
-  City Limits
-  Existing Substation
-  Proposed Substation


NORTH



**EXISTING
SMMPA
115 kV LINE**

**EXISTING 115 kV
WEST SUBSTATION**

**EXISTING 69 kV
SOUTH SUBSTATION**

**PROPOSED
115 kV EAST
SUBSTATION**

**PROPOSED
115 kV LINE
(5.0 M.)**

**EXISTING
SMMPA
69 kV LINE**