

GREAT RIVER  
ENERGY®

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2 May 2006

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

**Re: *Application for Minor Alteration, Air Lake-Empire Project***  
**Docket No. 04-81-TR-AIR LAKE-EMPIRE**

Dear Dr. Haar:

This letter serves as formal application to the Commission for a minor alteration of Great River Energy's route permit for the Air Lake-Empire 115 kilovolt transmission line project in Dakota County, Minnesota.

Great River Energy hereby submits this application pursuant to Minnesota Rules 4400.3820. The minor alteration is required because the developer of proposed Sunrise Ponds P.U.D. has requested that GRE modify the alignment of approximately 1000 feet of the transmission line to accommodate the proposed development.

A description of the requested minor alteration, the reason for the minor alteration, and maps showing the location of the new alignment are enclosed. Please let me know if additional information regarding the project is required.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Carole L. Schmidt  
Environmental Scientist

Enclosures

c: Dale Aukee, GRE  
David Birkholz, DOC

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## **BACKGROUND**

Great River Energy (GRE) is a not-for-profit generation and transmission cooperative based in Elk River, Minnesota. GRE was created when Cooperative Power Association and United Power Association formed a joint operating company on January 1, 1999.

GRE provides electrical energy and related services to 28 member cooperatives. The distribution cooperatives, in turn, supply electricity and related services to more than 500,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Pursuant to Minnesota Rules 4400.3820, GRE hereby applies for a minor alteration of Great River Energy's route permit (Docket No. 04-81-TR-AIR LAKE-EMPIRE) for the Air Lake-Empire 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line project.

The portion of the project that is the subject of this minor alteration is located in the SW ¼ of Section 29, T114N, R19W near Farmington, Dakota County, Minnesota (Figure 1).

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION, NEED AND SCHEDULE**

This portion of the Air Lake-Empire project includes a new 115 kV transmission line. Bridgeland Development Company, a developer in the Farmington area, has requested that GRE move the alignment of approximately 1000 feet of the transmission line (Figure 2) to accommodate the Sunrise Ponds P.U.D. proposed in that area. Both the original proposed alignment and the new proposed alignment are located on land currently owned by Neil Perkins. This project is proposed as a minor alteration because it is a minor shift in alignment and will not result in significant changes to human or environmental resources in the vicinity.

Construction of this transmission line is scheduled to begin in summer 2006.

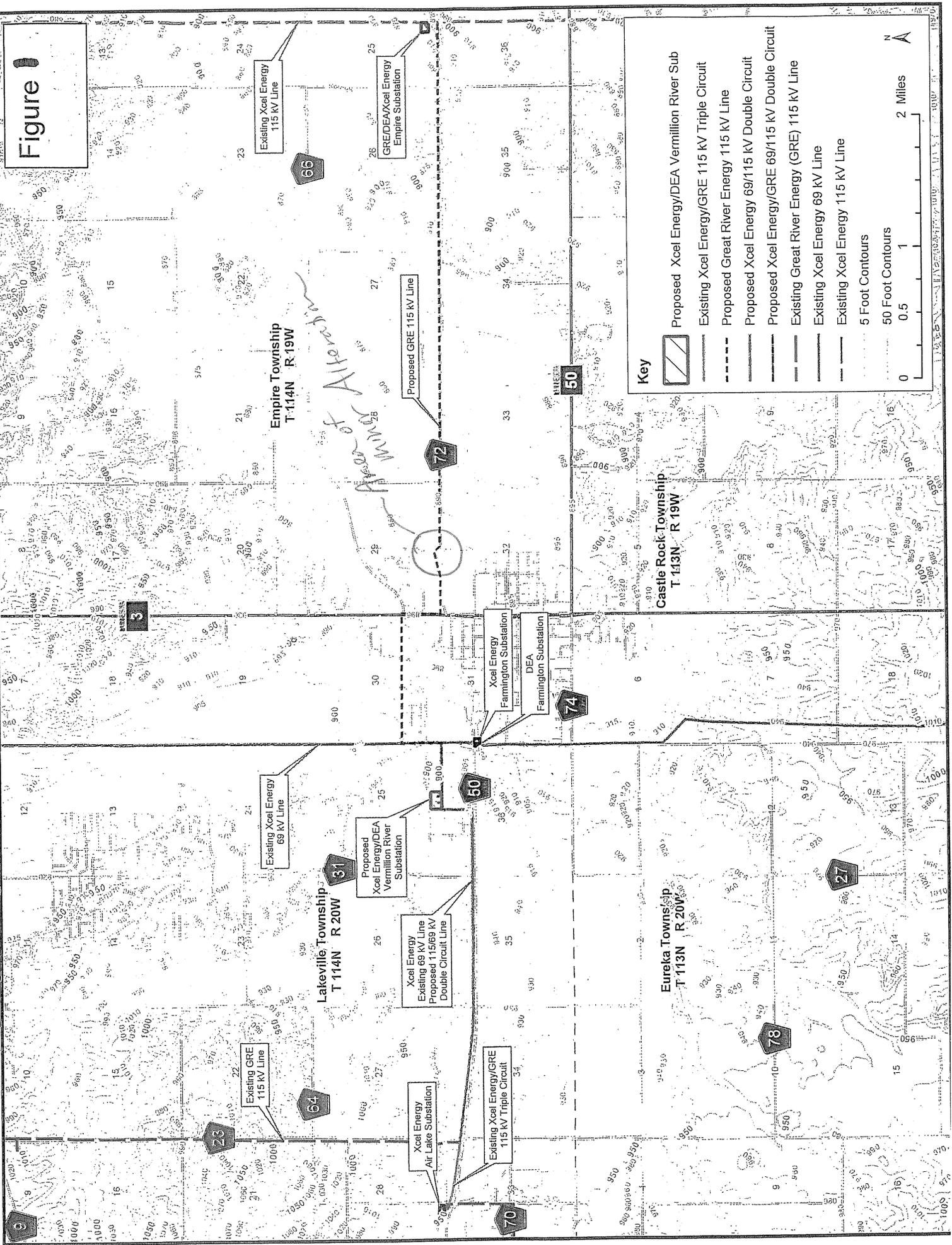
## **ESTIMATED COST**

The cost to change the alignment will be negligible.

## **PROJECT ALTERNATIVES**

The alternative would be to stay on the permitted route. The permitted route follows the north property line of the parcel. This minor alteration has been requested by the developer and was approved by the City of Farmington. The alteration will allow the developer to add approximately 18 additional affordable housing units within the parcel boundaries. The new alignment would be wholly within the developers' parcel and would follow the City-required extension of 210<sup>th</sup> Street.

Figure 1



**Key**

- Proposed Xcel Energy/DEA Vermillion River Sub
- Existing Xcel Energy/GRE 115 KV Triple Circuit
- Proposed Great River Energy 115 KV Line
- Proposed Xcel Energy 69/115 KV Double Circuit
- Proposed Xcel Energy/GRE 69/115 KV Double Circuit
- Existing Great River Energy (GRE) 115 KV Line
- Existing Xcel Energy 69 KV Line
- Existing Xcel Energy 115 KV Line
- 5 Foot Contours
- 50 Foot Contours

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Figure 2

