



May 16, 2006

**NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR MINOR ALTERATION OF A ROUTE PERMIT  
PUC Docket No. ET2/MC-06-695**

In the Matter of the Route Permit issued to Great River Energy and Xcel Energy for a 115 kV Overhead High Voltage Transmission Line and a New Vermillion River Substation in Farmington, all in Dakota County, Minnesota. EQB Docket No. 04-81-TR-Air Lake-Empire

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On February 22, 2005, the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) issued a route permit to Great River Energy (GRE) and Xcel Energy for the Air Lake-Empire 115 kV transmission line project in Dakota County. The GRE portion of the line runs east from the new Vermillion River Substation in Farmington to the Empire Substation in Empire Township.

On May 3, 2006, GRE applied to the Public Utilities Commission for a Minor Alteration to its permit. (In July 2005, the Minnesota Legislature transferred the authority for energy facility permitting from the EQB to the PUC.) GRE is requesting a change to the permit so that the route would parallel the proposed 210<sup>th</sup> Street extension between Highway 3 and the existing 210<sup>th</sup> Street (see attached map).

The proposed Minor Alteration involves relocating approximately 1000 ft. of line within the same property as originally permitted. The permit designated the transmission facilities should run along the north property line of the Neil Perkins' farm, so the line would not dissect the property. Since the original issuance, two events have occurred that warrant reconsideration. The property is being transferred to the Bridgeland Development Company that plans to develop a housing project on the site. Also, the city of Farmington has released its own plans to develop the 210<sup>th</sup> Street extension. The developer and GRE both agree that rerouting the line to parallel the new street is more practical than the original permit condition, given the change in circumstances.

GRE maintains that the proposed change constitutes a Minor Alteration. A Minor Alteration is a change in an existing or permitted transmission line that does not result in significant changes in the human or environmental impact of the facility. In accordance with Minnesota Rule 4400.3820, the PUC is providing notice to the public that GRE applied for approval of this permit change. The public has until May 29, 2006, to submit written comments on the project. The PUC will decide within ten days after the close of the public comment period whether to authorize the Minor Alteration or to determine that the alteration is not minor and requires a full permitting decision.

To submit comments or seek further information about this proposed alteration, contact David Birkholz at 651.296.2878 or [david.birkholz@state.mn.us](mailto:david.birkholz@state.mn.us). To review the Minor Alteration request or other documents associated with this project, go to

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=6237>.

