



June 9, 2006

## **NOTICE OF JOINT PETITION TO TRANSFER A PORTION OF A ROUTE PERMIT PUC Docket No. ET2,E002/M-06-847**

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 Xcel Energy permitted portion of the line runs east from the Air Lake Substation in Lakeville to the new Vermillion River Substation in Farmington. The GRE permitted portion of the line runs east from the Vermillion River Substation to the Empire Substation in Empire Township.

On May 30, 2006, GRE and Xcel Energy applied to the Public Utilities Commission to transfer ownership of a portion of the transmission line from GRE to Xcel Energy. (In July 2005, the Minnesota Legislature transferred the authority for energy facility permitting from the EQB to the PUC.)

The request involves transferring the authority to construct the one-third mile segment from the Vermillion River Substation directly east to Akin Road from GRE to Xcel Energy. The segment currently is a 69 kV line owned by Xcel Energy that will be rebuilt to a 69/115 kV double-circuit under the permit. Since Xcel Energy owns the easement rights for this segment, the companies are requesting that Xcel Energy would construct, own, and operate that double-circuit line under this transfer.



In accordance with Minnesota Rule 4400.3850, the PUC is providing notice to the public that GRE and Xcel Energy have applied for approval of this permit change. The PUC can decide after seven days past this notice whether to authorize the Transfer of Ownership. The determination to be made by the PUC is whether the new permittee (Xcel Energy) would be capable of complying with the conditions of the permit currently granted to GRE.

To get further information about this proposed transfer, contact David Birkholz at 651.296.2878 or [david.birkholz@state.mn.us](mailto:david.birkholz@state.mn.us). To review the "Joint Petition for Transfer of Route Permit" or other documents associated with this project, go to

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