



GREAT RIVER
ENERGY®

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20 September 2005

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

Re: Application for Route Permit Amendment, Plymouth-Maple Grove Project

Dear Dr. Haar:

This letter serves as formal application to the Commission for an amendment of Great River Energy's route permit (MEQB Docket No. 03-65-TR-GRE PMG) for the Plymouth-Maple Grove 115 kilovolt transmission line project in Hennepin County, Minnesota.

Great River Energy hereby submits this application pursuant to Minnesota Rules 4400.3840. The permit amendment is required because the developer of the Arbor Lakes area in Maple Grove has requested that GRE modify the alignment of approximately 0.75 miles of the transmission line to accommodate retail development in that area.

A description of the requested amendment project, the reason for the amendment, 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: Rick Heuring, GRE
George Johnson, 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 (CP) and United Power Association (UPA) 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 4400.3840, GRE hereby applies for an amendment of Great River Energy's route permit (MEQB Docket No. 03-65-TR-GRE PMG) for the Plymouth-Maple Grove 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line project.

The portion of the project that is the subject of this amendment is located in the NE ¼ of Section 26, T30N, R22W in Maple Grove, Hennepin County, Minnesota (Figure 1).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION, NEED AND SCHEDULE

This portion of the Plymouth-Maple Grove project includes rebuilding GRE's existing 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV. OPUS Northwest, LLC (OPUS), a developer in the Maple Grove area, has requested that GRE move the alignment of approximately 0.75 miles of the transmission line just north of Interstate 94 (Figure 2) to accommodate a large new retail development (Fountains at Arbor Lakes) proposed in that area (Figure 3). Both the existing line and the proposed alignment are located on land owned by OPUS.

Construction of this reroute is scheduled to be completed in fall 2005. The line will be built at 115 kV but operated at 69 kV until spring 2006, when the rest of the line north of this development is rebuilt and the whole segment is energized at 115 kV.

ESTIMATED COST

The estimated cost to move the transmission line is \$340,000, which will be paid by OPUS.

PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

OPUS has purchased land on both sides of GRE's existing line for the development, and they requested that the transmission line be located on the perimeter of the development rather than in the middle of it. The only alternative to the proposed new alignment was to run the line diagonally through the development, which was not acceptable to the developer. The proposed alignment is preferred because it is on the edge of the proposed development and along the existing highway corridor (Interstate 94) and a future city street (Zachary Lane).

Figure 2.
Permitted Route and
Proposed Reroute



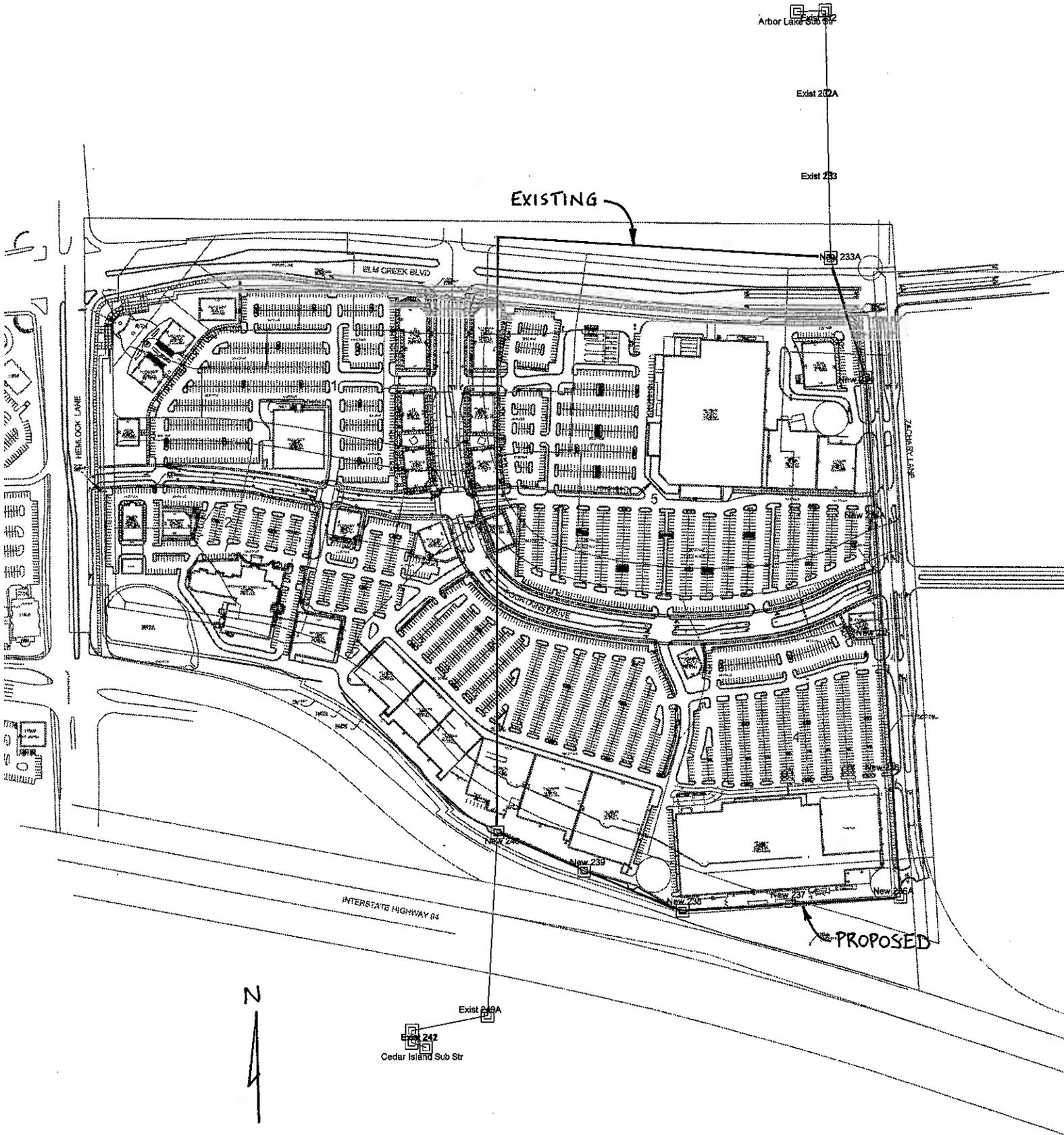


Figure 3. Proposed Development at Arbor Lakes