

MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

March 18, 2004
Plymouth Creek Center
14800 34th Avenue North
Plymouth, Minnesota

Route Permit Application
By Great River Energy
For A Proposed 115 Kilovolt
High Voltage Transmission Line
in Plymouth and Maple Grove, Minnesota

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) will hold a Public Hearing on an application by Great River Energy for a Route Permit for a 115 kilovolt high voltage transmission line (HVTL) approximately 14 miles in length in Hennepin County, Minnesota. The public hearing will be held on **Thursday, March 18, 2004**, at the Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Avenue North, Plymouth, Minnesota. The hearing will convene at 11:00 a.m. and an evening session will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Administrative Law Judge Kathleen Sheehy will preside at the hearing.

a.) Project Description

GRE proposes to convert an existing 69-kV transmission line connecting the Hennepin, Arbor Lake, Cedar Island, Bass Lake and Plymouth substations to a 115-kV transmission line. The 115-kV transmission line would be extended to terminate at the Elm Creek Substation located at County Road 81 and Fernbrook Lane in Maple Grove on the north end and at the Parkers Lake Substation located near I-494 and County Road 6 in Plymouth on the south end. The total proposed route would involve about 14 miles of transmission line. Two-thirds of the proposed route would follow an existing transmission line corridor and use existing rights of way; one-third of the route would follow a new corridor along an existing highway and require acquisition of new rights of way.

b.) Hearing Procedure

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Power Plant Siting Act, Minn. Stat. §§ 116C.51 to 116C.69, and the rules of the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board, Minn. Rules parts 4400.2000 to 4400.2950, for projects of the size and type proposed here.

The purpose of the public hearing is to compile the record for the EQB Board to consider in making a final decision on the permit request. The EQB staff will be present at the hearing and make a brief presentation about the project and introduce into the record a number of

documents relating to the project, including the application, the Environmental Assessment, and certain procedural documents. Representatives of the applicant (Great River Energy) will be present to offer evidence and to answer questions. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions of EQB staff and GRE representatives, to make statements, and to offer written comments and material into the record at both the afternoon and evening sessions. Members of the public are not required to file any papers in advance of the hearing in order to participate.

The record will remain open for at least ten days after the close of the hearing for interested persons to submit written comments to the Administrative Law Judge. The Judge will determine at the hearing a date for the comment period to end. Comments can be submitted to Judge Sheehy at the following address: Office of Administrative Hearings, 100 Washington Square, Suite 1700, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-2138.

Upon closure of the public comment period, Judge Sheehy will prepare a report and make a recommendation to the EQB. The EQB will make a final decision on the permit at a subsequent Board meeting.

c.) Environmental Assessment

The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board has prepared an Environmental Assessment addressing the potential impacts of the line along the proposed route and considering certain alternatives to the proposed route. The Environmental Assessment is available on the EQB webpage at the page listed below.

d.) Available Information

All pertinent information regarding this matter, including the Route Permit application and the Environmental Assessment, can be accessed at <http://www.eqb.state.mn.us> or by contacting George Johnson at 651.296.2888 or at EQB, 658 Cedar Street, 300 Centennial Building, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155.

e.) Mailing List

Any person may add his or her name to a mailing list maintained by the EQB for future mailings regarding the GRE Plymouth-Maple Grove project. If you would like to receive notice of the EQB's final decision in this matter, you can put your name on this mailing list. Names can be added to the list by contacting Mr. Johnson or electronically by visiting the EQB website:

<http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=3892>