

PUBLIC NOTICE

GREAT RIVER ENERGY AND XCEL ENERGY

PROPOSED 115 kV TRANSMISSION LINE AND DISTRIBUTION SUBSTATION

Great River Energy, Elk River; Dakota Electric Association, Farmington; and Xcel Energy, Minneapolis, are proposing a high voltage transmission line and associated substation project to improve system reliability for customers in the Farmington and Lakeville areas. On April 30, 2004, Great River Energy and Xcel Energy submitted a route permit application for the transmission line and new substation to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) pursuant to the alternative permitting process contained in Minn. Rules pts. 4400.2000 to 4400.2950, and Minn. Stat. § 116C.51 to 116C.69 (the Minnesota Power Plant Siting Act).

The project involves approximately 9.25 miles of 115 kV transmission line and a new distribution substation (see map). The proposed 115 kV transmission line will connect the existing Xcel Energy Air Lake Substation, the proposed new Xcel Energy/Dakota Electric Association Vermillion River Substation, and the existing Great River Energy/Dakota Electric Association/Xcel Energy Empire Substation. Approximately one-third of the transmission project (Xcel Energy's portion) will be the addition of a second circuit to an existing Xcel Energy's 69 kV transmission line (using existing rights of way). The remaining two-thirds of the transmission line (Great River Energy's portion) will follow a new route and require acquisition of new rights of way.

For more information about the route permit application or to have your name included on the EQB contact list for this project, contact David Birkholz, Environmental Quality Board, 658 Cedar St., St. Paul, MN 55155 or call 651-296-2878. TTY: Minnesota Relay Service, 800-657-3794, and ask for EQB. You can also add your name to the project interest list at <http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=6237>.

Current information about the project and a copy of the route permit application are available online at www.GreatRiverEnergy.com. Click on the "projects and studies" and then "power lines" button on the home page. Copies of the permit application are also available at the Dakota County Library in Farmington. Information on Great River Energy's portion of the project may be obtained by calling Dale Aukee at 763-241-2229 or e-mailing projects@greenergy.com. Information on Xcel Energy's portion of the project may be obtained by calling Pam Rasmussen at 1-800-238-7968 ext. 4661 or e-mailing pamela.jo.rasmussen@xcelenergy.com.

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