

MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Certificate of Need Application and Site Permit Application by Great River Energy for a Large Electric Generating Facility in Cambridge Township, Minnesota

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ("PUC") and the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board ("EQB") will hold a Public Hearing on applications by Great River Energy ("GRE"), for proposed construction of a natural gas-fired large electric generating facility (the "Facility") just northeast of the Cambridge city limits in Cambridge Township, Minnesota on property currently being used for another generating facility. As part of the project, approximately 47 miles of 69-kV transmission line will be rebuilt using existing rights-of-way, except to accommodate potential future road relocations, to state-of-the-art 69-kV standards, and a natural gas pipeline approximately one-half mile in length would be constructed.

Two public hearings will be held starting at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on July 26, 2005. Formal intervention is not necessary to participate in these special sessions. Additional hearings may be scheduled if needed. The public hearings will be held as follows:

**Tuesday, July 26, 2005
3:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Cambridge Community Building
Isanti County Fairgrounds
310 Highway 95 NE
Cambridge, MN 55008
(763) 689-3768**

Administrative Law Judge. Kathleen Sheehy will preside at the hearings. Judge Sheehy's address is Office of Administrative Hearings, 100 Washington Square, Suite 1700, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401, phone (612) 341-7602. You may be represented by legal counsel at the hearings but it is not required. In addition to these hearings, formal parties to the proceedings will present their testimony at hearing sessions at the offices of the PUC, 121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2147. Those sessions will begin at 9:30 a.m. on July 28, 2005.

Project Description.

Great River Energy proposes to construct a natural gas-fired combustion turbine at its existing Cambridge Peaking Plant. The turbine will have a summer rating of approximately 170 megawatts. An existing fuel oil-fired combustion turbine and substation are currently located at the plant and both will remain in service following completion of the proposed project. Approximately 47 miles of existing 69-kV transmission line connected to the on-site substation will be rebuilt using primarily existing rights-of-way to provide outlets for the energy from the new turbine. Approximately 10 miles of new right-of-way may be established to accommodate potential future roadways. The rebuilt lines will remain rated at 69-kV. Additional equipment will also be installed at the substation using the existing land for the substation. An approximately one-half mile natural gas pipeline will be constructed to the site from an existing high capacity pipeline located south of the plant.

Environmental Assessment. The EQB has prepared an Environmental Assessment ("EA") on the proposed project. The EA will address the potential impacts of the Facility. The EA will be available for review prior to and at the public hearings. Copies of the permit application and other material are available for public review at the Cambridge Public Library. These documents and other project related documents may also be found on the EQB webpage at:

<http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=15966>

Purpose of Hearing. The purpose of the hearings is to compile the record for consideration by the PUC and the EQB in making their final decisions on the Certificate of Need and Site Permit, respectively. Upon closure of the public comment period, Judge Sheehy will write a report and make recommendations to the PUC and EQB. The PUC and EQB will make their respective decisions at subsequent meetings.

Conduct of Hearing. The hearings will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Power Plant Siting Act, Minn. Statutes §§ 116C.51 to 116C.69, the rules of the EQB, Minn. Rules §§ 4400.2000 to 4400.2950, the rules of the PUC, Minn. Rules chapters 7829 and 7849, and the Minnesota Administrative Procedure Act, Minn. Statutes chapter 14.

Both EQB staff and Department of Commerce ("Department") staff (representing the public in the CON proceeding) will be present at the public hearings and will make brief presentations about the project. Representatives of the applicant (GRE) will be present to describe the Facility and to answer questions. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions of the EQB staff, the Department, and the applicant. Members of the public may also make statements and offer written comments and material into the record at the public hearings.

Written Comments. 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. Judge Sheehy will determine at the hearing a date for the comment period to end. Comments must be submitted directly to Judge Sheehy at the address above.

Mailing List. Any person may add his or her name to a mailing list maintained by the EQB for future mailings regarding the Facility. If you would like to receive notice of the EQB's final decision in this matter, you may put your name on this mailing list. Names can be added to the list by contacting Mr. Storm or by visiting the EQB website at:

www.eqb.state.mn.us/Energy_Facilities/index.html.

Additional Information. Questions about the PUC process can be directed to David Jacobson, PUC, 121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2147, David.Jacobson@state.mn.us, (651) 201-2238, (800) 657-3782, or (800) 627-3529 (TTY Minnesota relay service).

Questions about the EQB process can be directed to Bill Storm of the EQB staff at 658 Cedar Street, Suite 300, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155, Bill.Storm@state.mn.us, (651) 296-9535, or (800) 627-3529 (TTY Minnesota relay service).