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February 4, 2005

Mr. Charles Davis
Environmental Health Officer
Wright County
10 2nd Street NW
Buffalo, MN 55313-1188

Mr. Dale Aukee
Field Representative
Great River Energy
17845 East Highway 10
P.O. Box 800
Elk River, MN 55330-0800

RE: Lake Constance 115 kV Substation

Dear Sirs;

This letter confirms that the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board has received notification that Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association proposes to construct a 115 kV substation in Buffalo Township in Wright County.

This project falls under the Power Plant Siting Act, Minnesota Statutes § 116C.51-.69, and Minnesota Rules chapter 4400, which, for most transmission line projects over 100 kV, requires a permit from the EQB. Minn. Stat. § 116C.61 subd.1 provides that the EQB permit supersedes and preempts all zoning, building, or land use rules, regulations, or ordinances promulgated by regional, county, local, and special purpose government. However, for eligible projects, a utility may apply to those local units of government that have jurisdiction over the route for approval to build the project instead of applying to the EQB. The proposed 115 kV transmission line and substation project is eligible for local review. [Minn. Stat. § 116C.576 and Minn. R. part 4400.5000 subp. 2 C]

Great River Energy (GRE) has indicated that Wright County is the local unit of government with jurisdiction in permitting the project and that a Conditional Use Permit application was submitted to the Wright County on January 21, 2005. A local unit of government may relinquish its jurisdiction by requesting the EQB to assume jurisdiction within 60 days of the filing of an application with the local unit of government. [Minn. R. 4400.5000 subp. 4]

An environmental assessment must be prepared by the local unit of government with jurisdiction over the project. The EQB acknowledges that Wright County is the RGU for the Lake Constance 115 kV Substation Project.

Specific requirements with regard to the environmental review process include an opportunity for the public to participate in the development of the scope of the environmental assessment

before it is prepared; notice published in the EQB Monitor of when the assessment is available for review and of the procedure for commenting on the assessment; and that the final decision on the project will not be made until at least ten days after the notice appears in the EQB Monitor. Wright County must provide a copy of the environmental assessment to the EQB when it is completed. [Minn. R. 4400.5000 subp. 5]

Also note that GRE/Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association is required to send notice to those persons on the EQB power plant siting general notification list that a permit has been applied for from the local unit of government. [Minn. R. 4400.5000 subp. 3] The EQB can supply that list by electronic file to GRE/Wright-Hennepin CEA upon request.

If there are any other questions, please feel free to contact me by phone or email.

Sincerely,



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