



12300 Elm Creek Blvd • Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369-4718 • 763-445-5000 • Fax 763-445-5050

January 15, 2015

Mr. Dan Wolf
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

**Re: Application for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit by Great River Energy
and Minnesota Power
Menahga Area 115 kV Project
MPUC Docket Nos. ET2, E015/CN-14-787; ET2, E015/TL- 14-797**

Dear Mr. Wolf:

On behalf of Great River Energy and Minnesota Power (Applicants), under a separate eFile submission, dated today, please find the combined Certificate of Need Application and Route Permit Application (Application) to construct approximately 22.5 miles of 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line and associated facilities in the Menahga area in Hubbard, Wadena and Becker counties, Minnesota (Project). The Application details the Applicants' need for and proposed route for the Project.

The Project is needed to address transmission system overload issues in the Menahga area and to serve a new substation that will in turn serve a new pump station proposed by Minnesota Pipe Line Company as part of the Minnesota Pipe Line Reliability Project (Docket No. PL-5/CN-14-320). The existing transmission system that serves this area of the state has reached its maximum peak load-serving capability and is not sufficiently robust to serve the new pump station.

The Certificate of Need Application is submitted under Minnesota Rules 7849.0010 to 7849.2100 and Minnesota Statutes Section 216B.243. Two paper copies and CD ROMs of the Application have been provided to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. One paper copy and one CD ROM of the Application have been provided to Mr. Michael Zajicek of the Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources Staff.

A check for \$3,650 made payable to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for 25% of the total estimated fee for processing the Certificate of Need application (as required by Minn. R. 7849.0210 and Minn. Stat. § 216B.243, subd. 6) has been provided to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

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The Route Permit Application is submitted under the Alternative Permitting processes of Minn. Rules 7850.2800 to 7850.3900 and Minn. Stat. § 216E.04. Ten paper copies and 10 CD ROMs of the Application have been provided to Ray Kirsch of the Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis staff.

A check for \$20,000 made payable to the Department of Commerce for 50% of the total estimated fee for processing the Route Permit Application (as required by Minn. R. 7850.1800 and Minn. Stat. § 216E.18) has been provided to the Department of Commerce.

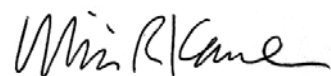
Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 216E.04, subdivision 4 (*citing* Minn. Stat. § 216E.03, subd. 4) and Minnesota Rule 7850.3300 (*citing* Minn. R. 7850.2100), Great River Energy will, on behalf of Applicants, provide notice of the Application to the required stakeholders within 15 days.

Please direct any questions you may have with respect to the filing to Carole Schmidt of Great River Energy at 763-445-5214.

Thank you for your attention to this important regional project.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY



William R. Kaul
Vice President, Transmission

c: Deborah Pile, DOC-EERA
Service List

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In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy and Minnesota Power for a Certificate of Need for the Menahga Area 115 kV Project in Hubbard, Wadena and Becker Counties, Minnesota

Docket No. ET2, E015/CN-14-787

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Carole L. Schmidt certifies that on the 15th day of January 2015, she efiled true and correct copies of Great River Energy's Filing Letter, Filing Summary, Application for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit for the Menahga Area 115 kV Project in Hubbard, Wadena and Becker Counties, Minnesota, and Appendices via eDockets (www.edockets.state.mn.us).

Said documents were also served via email through the eDockets system as designated on the Official Service List on file with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in the above-referenced docket, a copy of said Official Service List is attached hereto (**Exhibit A**).

Said documents were also served via hand delivery on the Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources and via Federal Express on the Residential Utilities Division of the Office of the Attorney General as required by Minnesota Rule 7829.2500, subpart 3 and as indicated on the attached service list. Said documents were also served via hand delivery or Federal Express on the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and State agencies with regulatory responsibilities in connection with the proposed facility as required by Minnesota Rule 7849.0200, subpart 2 and as indicated on the attached list (**Exhibit B**).

The Filing Summary prepared in accordance with Minnesota Rule 7829.1300, subpart 1, was also served via email through the eDockets system using Special Service List: General List 7850.2100-1A, mailing list of persons interested in power plants and transmission lines, as required by Minnesota Rule 7829.2500, subpart 3. A copy of the Filing Summary and said General List is attached hereto, along with an Affidavit of Mailing for those on the list requesting paper service (**Exhibit C**).

Carole L. Schmidt

1-15-15

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method
Julia	Anderson	Julia.Anderson@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	1800 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul, MN 551012134	Electronic Service
Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 500 Saint Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service
John	Lindell	agorud.ecf@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul, MN 551012130	Electronic Service
Michelle	Lommel	mlommel@GREnergy.com	Great River Energy	12300 Elm Creek Blvd Maple Grove, MN 55369	Electronic Service
David	Moeller	dmoeller@allete.com	Minnesota Power	30 W Superior St Duluth, MN 558022093	Electronic Service
Carole	Schmidt	cschmidt@greenergy.com	Great River Energy	12300 Elm Creek Boulevard Maple Grove, MN 553694718	Electronic Service
Donna	Stephenson	dstephenson@greenergy.com	Great River Energy	12300 Elm Creek Boulevard Maple Grove, MN 55369	Electronic Service
Daniel	Wolf	dan.wolf@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	Suite 350 121 7th Place East St. Paul, MN 551022147	Electronic Service

Hand Delivery

Dan Wolf (2 copies and 2 CDs)
MN Public Utilities Commission
350 Metro Square Building
121 7th Place East
St. Paul, MN 55101

Michael Zajicek (1 copy and 1 CD)
MN Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Ray Kirsch (10 copies and 10 CDs)
MN Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Federal Express (one copy and 1 CD each)

Karen Kromar
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

Linda Jensen
Assistant Attorney General
Office of Minnesota Attorney General
1400 Bremer Tower
445 Minnesota Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

Jamie Schrenzel
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040

Office of Minnesota Attorney General
Residential Utilities Division
1400 Bremer Tower
445 Minnesota Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

Michele Ross
Minnesota Department of Health
P.O. Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975

Sarah Beimers
Government Programs and Compliance
Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office
345 Kellogg Blvd. West
St. Paul, MN 55102-1906

Bob Patton
Minnesota Department of Agriculture
625 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN 55155-2538

Stacy Kotch/Deb Moynihan
Minnesota Department of Transportation
395 John Ireland Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55155-1899

STATE OF MINNESOTA
BEFORE THE
MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Beverly Jones Heydinger	Chair
David C. Boyd	Commissioner
Nancy Lange	Commissioner
Betsy Wergin	Commissioner
Dan Lipschultz	Commissioner

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF GREAT RIVER ENERGY AND MINNESOTA POWER FOR A CERTIFICATE OF NEED FOR THE MENAHGA AREA 115 kV PROJECT IN HUBBARD, WADENA AND BECKER COUNTIES, MINNESOTA

Docket No. ET2, E015/CN-14-787

**SUMMARY OF
CERTIFICATE OF NEED FILING**

On January 15, 2015, Great River Energy and Minnesota Power filed an application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a Certificate of Need to construct the Menahga Area 115 kV Project in Hubbard, Wadena and Becker Counties, Minnesota (Project).

The Project includes construction of approximately 22.5 miles of new overhead 115 kV transmission line between the existing Great River Energy Hubbard Substation and the proposed Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (Todd-Wadena) “Red Eye” Substation. The first seven miles of the line, between the Hubbard Substation and the proposed “Straight River” Substation, will replace an existing Minnesota Power 34.5 kV feeder line. Approximately 4.5 miles of those first seven miles of transmission line are proposed as double circuit 115 kV to accommodate a future Great River Energy project to the north.

The Project includes construction of three new substations including the Minnesota Power “Straight River” Substation, Great River Energy “Blueberry” Substation, and Todd-Wadena Red Eye Substation (this substation will serve the proposed Minnesota Pipe Line Company (MPL) pump station); relocation of the existing Todd-Wadena Menahga Substation to the Blueberry Substation site, including conversion of the voltage from 34.5 kV to 115 kV; and modifications to the existing Great River Energy Hubbard Substation and Minnesota Power Pipeline Substation.

The Project is needed to serve a new pump station proposed by MPL as part of the Minnesota Pipe Line Reliability Project (Docket No. PL-5/CN-14-320) and to address power system overload issues in the Project area. The existing transmission system that serves this area has reached its maximum peak load-serving capability.

A copy of the Application is available at the Commission’s website:

<http://www.puc.state.mn.us/PUC/index.html>

On the Commission’s homepage, click on the “Search e-Dockets” link, and then enter the docket number “14-787” in the docket look up box. A copy of this Application is also available at:

<http://www.greatriverenergy.com/deliveringelectricity/currentprojects/>

On Great River Energy’s webpage, click on Hubbard, Wadena or Becker County on the State map and then the “Menahga area 115-kV transmission project” link.

Special Service List: General List 7850.2100-1A

Exhibit C

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method
James J.	Bertrand	james.bertrand@leonard.com	Leonard Street & Deinard	150 South Fifth Street, Suite 2300 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service
Josh	Bird	joshua.bird@ge.com	GE Power and Water	2025 49th Ave N Minneapolis, MN 55430	Electronic Service
David	Birkholz	david.birkholz@state.mn.us	MN Department of Commerce	Suite 500 85 7th Place East St. Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service
Michelle F.	Bissonnette	N/A	HDR Engineering, Inc.	Golden Hills Office Center 701 Xenia Ave S Ste 600 Minneapolis, MN 55416	Paper Service
B. Andrew	Brown	brown.andrew@dorsey.com	Dorsey & Whitney LLP	Suite 1500 50 South Sixth Street Minneapolis, MN 554021498	Electronic Service
PUC	CAO	consumer.puc@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	Consumer Affairs Office 121 7th Place E Suite 350 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service
Bill	Cook	bcook@rpu.org	Rochester Public Utilities	4000 East River Road NE Rochester, MN 55906	Electronic Service
John	Crane	johncranefishing@gmail.com	Fishing	1250 Wee Gwaus DR SW Bemidji, MN 56601	Electronic Service
George	Crocker	gwillc@nawo.org	North American Water Office	PO Box 174 Lake Elmo, MN 55042	Electronic Service
Thomas	Davis	N/A	-	1161 50th Ave Sherburn, MI 56171	Paper Service
Patricia	DeBleekere	tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	Suite 350 121 Seventh Place East St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service
John E.	Drawz	jdrawz@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.	Suite 4000 200 South Sixth Street	Electronic Service

Special Service List: General List 7850.2100-1A

Exhibit C

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method
				Minneapolis, MN 554021425	
Kristen	Eide Tollefson	HealingSystems@earthlink.net	R-CURE	P O Box 129 Frontenac, MN 55026	Paper Service
Scott	Ek	scott.ek@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Place East Suite 350 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service
Annette	Fiedler	phydev@swrdc.org	Southwest Regional Development Comm.	2401 Broadway Ave Ste 1 Slayton, MN 56172	Electronic Service
Karen A	Gebhardt	kageb1@gvtel.com		43901 253rd Ave Leonard, MN 56652-4026	Electronic Service
Larry	Hartman	Larry.Hartman@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place East, Suite 500 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service
Brooke	Haworth	Brooke.Haworth@state.mn.us	Department of Natural Resources	500 Lafayette Road Saint Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service
Charles	Healy	chuckh@electrotech-inc.com	ElectroTech, Inc	7101 Madison Ave Minneapolis, MN 55427	Electronic Service
Bill	Heaney	billheaney@billheaney.com	IBEW Minnesota State Council	940 44th Ave NE Unite 21067 Columbia Hts, MN 55421-3099	Electronic Service
Valerie	Herring	vherring@briggs.com	Briggs and Morgan, P.A.	2200 IDS Center 80 S. Eighth Street Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service
Tiffany	Hughes	Regulatory.Records@xcelenergy.com	Xcel Energy	414 Nicollet Mall FL 7 Minneapolis, MN 554011993	Electronic Service
Scott	Johnson	Scott.Johnson@ci.medina.mn.us	City of Medina	2052 County Road 24 Medina, MN 55340-9790	Electronic Service
Michael	Kaluzniak	mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	Suite 350 121 Seventh Place East	Electronic Service

Special Service List: General List 7850.2100-1A

Exhibit C

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method
				St. Paul, MN 55101	
Bruce	King	bruce@ranww.org	Realtors, Association of Northwestern WI	Suite 3 1903 Keith Street Eau Claire, WI 54701	Electronic Service
Stacy	Kotch	Stacy.Kotch@state.mn.us	MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	395 John Ireland Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service
Karen	Kromar	karen.kromar@state.mn.us	MN Pollution Control Agency	520 Lafayette Rd Saint Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service
Kim	Lindquist	kim.lindquist@ci.rosemount.mn.us		2875 145th St W Rosemount, MN 55068	Electronic Service
Paula	Maccabee	Pmaccabee@justchangelaw.com	Just Change Law Offices	1961 Selby Ave Saint Paul, MN 55104	Electronic Service
Brian	Meloy	brian.meloy@stinsonleonard.com	Stinson, Leonard, Street LLP	150 S 5th St Ste 2300 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service
Kevin	Mixon	kevin.mixon@state.mn.us	Department of Natural Resources	261 HWY 15 S New Ulm, MN 56073	Electronic Service
Andrew	Moratzka	apmoratzka@stoel.com	Stoel Rives LLP	33 South Sixth Street Suite 4200 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service
Colleen	Mueller	N/A		22186 State Hwy 4 Paynesville, MN 56362	Paper Service
Steven	Nyhus	swnyhus@flaherty-hood.com	Flaherty & Hood PA	525 Park St Ste 470 Saint Paul, MN 55103	Electronic Service
Kate	O'Connell	kate.oconnell@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	Suite 50085 Seventh Place East St. Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service
Carol A.	Overland	overland@legalelectric.org	Legalelectric - Overland Law Office	1110 West Avenue Red Wing, MN 55066	Electronic Service
Kevin	Peterson	kjp@ibew160.org	IBEW Local 160	1109 Northway Lane NE Rochester,	Electronic Service

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method
				MN 55906	
Deborah	Pile	Deborah.Pile@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	Suite 50085 7th Place East St. Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service
Angela	Piner	angela.piner@hdrinc.com	HDR, Inc.	Suite 600 701 Xenia Avenue South Suite 600 Minneapolis, MN 55416	Electronic Service
Larry	Rebman	larryemls@hotmail.com	EMLS, Inc	PO Box 122 Appleton, MN 56208	Electronic Service
Margaret	Rheude	Margaret_Rheude@fws.gov	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Twin Cities Ecological Services Field Office 4101 American Blvd. E. Bloomington, MN 55425	Electronic Service
Jamie	Schrenzel	jamie.schrenzel@state.mn.us	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	500 Lafayette Road Saint Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service
Rod	Schumacher	rod.schumacher@is-grp.com	I&S Group	115 E Hickry St Suite 300 Mankato, MN 56001	Electronic Service
David	Shaffer	david.shaffer@startribune.com		425 Portland Minneapolis, MN 55488	Electronic Service
Tom	Slukich	tom@nationalconductor.com	National Conductor Constructors	18119 Hwy 371 North Braiderd, MN 56401	Electronic Service
Tracy	Smetana	tracy.smetana@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Place East Suite 350 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service
Adam	Sokolski	adam.sokolski@iberdrolaren.com	Iberdrola Renewables	701 fourth Avenue South Suite 1010 Minneapolis, MN 55415	Electronic Service
Mike	Steckelberg	msteckelberg@greenergy.com	Great River Energy	12300 Elm Creek Boulevard Maple Grove, MN 553694718	Electronic Service

Special Service List: General List 7850.2100-1A

Exhibit C

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method
Mark	Strohfus	mstrohfus@grenergy.com	Great River Energy	12300 Elm Creek Boulevard Maple Grove, MN 553694718	Electronic Service
Carl	Strohm	cjsmg@sbcglobal.net	SBC Global	105 East Edgewood Ave Indianapolis, IN 46227	Electronic Service
Tom	Swafford	tswafford@umsi.us	Utility Mapping Services, Inc	3947 E Calvary Rd Suite 103 Duluth, MN 55803	Electronic Service
Eric	Swanson	eswanson@winthrop.com	Winthrop Weinstine	225 S 6th St Ste 3500 Capella Tower Minneapolis, MN 554024629	Electronic Service
Todd	Tadych	ttadych@atcllc.com	American Transmission Company LLC	5303 Fen Oak Dr Madison, WI 53718	Electronic Service
Steve	Thompson	stevet@cmmpa.org	Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency	459 S Grove St Blue Earth, MN 56013-2629	Electronic Service
Caren	Warner	caren.warner@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place East Suite 500 St. Paul, MN 55101-2198	Electronic Service
Brian	Zelenak	brian.r.zelenak@xcelenergy.com	Xcel Energy	414 Nicollet Mall FL 7 Minneapolis, MN 55401-1993	Electronic Service
Hans	van Lingen	hans.vanlingen@enel.com	Enel Green Power North America	1 Tech Drive Suite 220 Andover, MA 01810	Electronic Service

AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) ss.
 COUNTY OF HENNEPIN)

Summary of Filing - In the Matter of the
 Application of Great River Energy and
 Minnesota Power for a Certificate of Need
 for the Menahga Area 115 kV Project in
 Hubbard, Wadena and Becker Counties,
 Minnesota

Docket No.: ET-2, E015/CN-14- 787

I, Carol Heurung, hereby certify that on the 15th day of January, 2015, I directed to be sent via U.S. Mail a true and correct copy of the following summary of certificate of need filing to all persons on the attached mailing list (those on the Special Service List - General List 7850.2100-1A requesting paper service), by depositing same, postage prepaid mail, in the United States mail:

Summary of Filing - Application of Great River Energy and Minnesota Power for a Certificate of Need for the Menahga Area 115 kV Project in Hubbard, Wadena and Becker Counties, Minnesota

Carol Heurung

Subscribed and sworn to before me this
15th day of January, 2015.

Victoria Ely
NOTARY PUBLIC



Michelle Bissonnette
HDR Engineering Inc
701 Xenia Ave S Ste 600
Minneapolis MN 55416

Thomas Davis
1161 50th Ave
Sherburn MI 56171

Kristen Eide Tollefson
R-CURE
PO Box 129
Frontenac MN 55026

Colleen Mueller
22186 State Hwy 4
Paynesville MN 56362