

**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**

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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.