



Oral Public Meeting Comments Received on the Scope of the Environmental Assessment for the Appleton to Benson 115 kV Transmission Line Project

Docket Nos. CN 24-263; TL 24-264

**Public Meetings**

- March 12, 2025 – Appleton, Minnesota, 11:00 a.m.
  - No oral comments
- March 12, 2025 – Benson, Minnesota, 6:00 p.m.
  - No oral comments
- March 13, 2025 – Virtual, online Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
  - No oral comments

1 INFORMATIONAL AND SCOPING MEETING - 24-263 & 24-264

2 Appleton - March 12, 2025 - 11:00 a.m.

3 BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

4 AND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

5 In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy,  
6 Otter Tail Power Co., Western Minnesota Municipal Power  
7 Agency, Agralite Electric Coop, and the City of Benson  
for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit for the  
Appleton to Benson 115 Kilovolt Transmission Line Project

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10 MPUC DOCKET NO.:

11 ET-2, E-017, ET-6135, E-100/CN24-263; TL-24-264

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16 Appleton Government Center  
323 West Schlieman Avenue  
Appleton, Minnesota

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March 12, 2025

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STENOGRAPHIC COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

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## **PROCEEDINGS:**

**STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD:**

An open house meeting was scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and a formal Informational and Scoping meeting was scheduled from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

During the open house, approximately five landowners attended and asked questions of the project Applicants. All of their questions were answered and none were interested in hearing the formal Informational and Scoping presentation.

At approximately 11:20 a.m., PUC and DOC staff closed the Informational and Scoping meeting given that no interested parties were present.

Applicants, PUC and DOC staff packed up their materials and equipment and were departing the facility at approximately 11:40 a.m., at which time three persons arrived who owned and/or were leasing land within the proposed route.

Applicants, PUC and DOC staff returned to the meeting room and talked with the landowners while displaying the project route on an iPad.

Applicants and staff satisfactorily addressed all of their questions, and they were not interested in

1 hearing the formal Informational and Scoping Meeting  
2 presentation. PUC and DOC staff provided them hard  
3 copies of the presentation meetings.

4 (Matter concluded.)

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A	house (2) 2:4,8	2:20 provided (1) 3:2 PUC (4) 2:13,16,21;3:2		
addressed (1) 2:24	I		R	
and/or (1) 2:19	Informational (4) 2:5,12,14;3:1		RECORD (1) 2:3	
answered (1) 2:11	interested (3) 2:11,15,25		returned (1) 2:21	
Applicants (4) 2:10,16,21,24	iPad (1) 2:23		room (1) 2:22	
approximately (3) 2:8,13,18	L		route (2) 2:20,23	
arrived (1) 2:19	land (1) 2:20		S	
attended (1) 2:9	landowners (2) 2:9,22		satisfactorily (1) 2:24	
C	leasing (1) 2:19		scheduled (2) 2:4,6	
closed (1) 2:14	M		Scoping (4) 2:6,12,14;3:1	
concluded (1) 3:4	materials (1) 2:17		staff (5) 2:14,16,21,24;3:2	
copies (1) 3:3	Matter (1) 3:4		STATEMENT (1) 2:3	
D	meeting (5) 2:4,6,14,22;3:1		T	
departing (1) 2:17	meetings (1) 3:3		N	
displaying (1) 2:23			talked (1) 2:22	
DOC (4) 2:13,16,21;3:2			three (1) 2:19	
During (1) 2:8	O		U	
E	open (2) 2:4,8		W	
equipment (1) 2:17	owned (1) 2:19		P	
F			within (1) 2:20	
facility (1) 2:18	packed (1) 2:16		1	
five (1) 2:8	parties (1) 2:15		1:00 (1) 2:7	
formal (3) 2:5,12;3:1	persons (1) 2:19		10:00 (1) 2:5	
G	pm (1) 2:7		11:00 (2) 2:5,6	
given (1) 2:15	present (1) 2:15		11:20 (1) 2:13	
H	presentation (3) 2:12;3:2,3		11:40 (1) 2:18	
hard (1) 3:2	PROCEEDINGS (1) 2:1			
hearing (2) 2:11;3:1	project (2) 2:10,23			
	proposed (1)			

1 INFORMATIONAL AND SCOPING MEETING - 24-263 & 24-264

2 Benson - March 12, 2025 - 6:00 p.m.

3 BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

4 AND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

5 In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy,  
6 Otter Tail Power Co., Western Minnesota Municipal Power  
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10 MPUC DOCKET NO.:

11 ET-2, E-017, ET-6135, E-100/CN24-263; TL-24-264

15 Northside Elementary Lunchroom  
16 1800 West Nevada Avenue  
17 Benson, Minnesota

20 March 12, 2025

24 STENOGRAPHIC COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

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I N D E X

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**SPEAKER**

**PAGE**

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**Sam Lobby**

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**Mark Strohfus**

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**Sam Weaver**

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**Ray Kirsch**

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## **PROCEEDINGS:**

MR. SAM LOBBY: Good evening, folks.

Thank you very much for coming tonight. We appreciate you being here.

My name is Sam Lobby, I'm with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and so I first just want to thank you very much for coming out tonight and taking your time to be here.

So the Public Utilities Commission, we are not for or against the project, we're here to give the public a chance to speak and have your voice heard on the project and have that potentially be factored into the decision-making process.

So just a quick meeting agenda on what we're going to cover here.

So, again, I'm Sam Lobby with the Public Utilities Commission. So I'm going to talk about the permit application and review process. Then I will hand it over to Mark with the company and he will talk about the project itself. And then we will have Sam with the Department of Commerce talk about the environmental review requirements.

So a big part about tonight is the environmental study that is going to be done on the

1 project. We want to get feedback from you all on  
2 how to do that study or things that should be  
3 included, including potential route alternatives.

4                   Then after we go through our  
5 presentation, we'll open up the floor for questions  
6 and comments from folks.

7                   We've got a few more folks coming in  
8 here, too.

9                   So just real quick, a little background  
10 on who the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission is.  
11 We consist of five commissioners that are appointed  
12 by the governor. We regulate three service  
13 industries, electricity, natural gas, and  
14 telephones. Our mission is to ensure safe, adequate  
15 and efficient utility services at fair and  
16 reasonable rates, and we provide independent  
17 professional oversight in the regulation of utility  
18 service providers in a manner that is consistent  
19 with the public interest.

20                   So tonight's meeting, just to let you  
21 know what it's about.

22                   First we'll talk a little bit about the  
23 proposed project as well as the state's high voltage  
24 transmission line route permit process, so how do we  
25 permit the route.

1 So tonight is about getting feedback from  
2 the public, from you all, you live in the area, you  
3 know the area the best, so we want to hear what you  
4 have to say so that if a permit is granted we can be  
5 in line with what folks in the area who know the  
6 area the best are interested in.

7 So we want to provide an opportunity for  
8 you all to participate in developing the scope of  
9 the environmental assessment and so that's what I  
10 was talking about before. This is the environmental  
11 review where you can help us determine what will  
12 actually be studied. That includes commenting on  
13 potential impacts of the proposed project as well as  
14 commenting on methods to minimize, mitigate and  
15 avoid potential impacts, and that includes proposing  
16 alternative routes or route segments for  
17 consideration.

18 So the route that you're seeing right now  
19 is not set in stone. If you have any thoughts or  
20 opinions on that you are more than welcome to let  
21 the commissioners know. Commenting in the record is  
22 something that the commissioners take very seriously  
23 and they will review your comments, so your voice  
24 will be heard if you have something that you want to  
25 say here.

1                   And then we have our contact information  
2                   in the presentation here, and you can find that  
3                   presentation over here and get our contact  
4                   information and always reach out with questions.

5                   So I won't get too deep into this part of  
6                   it just because Mark will be covering more about the  
7                   project itself.

8                   But the Appleton to Benson transmission  
9                   project proposes to construct approximately 29 miles  
10                   of 115 kV transmission line. The first segment will  
11                   be 27 miles and go from the existing Appleton  
12                   Substation near the City of Appleton to the existing  
13                   Great River Energy Benson Substation near the City  
14                   of Benson.

15                   The second proposed route segment would  
16                   be a new 1.7 mile transmission line extending from  
17                   the City of Benson's Substation and would  
18                   interconnect with Great River Energy's existing  
19                   AG-BK 115-kV transmission line.

20                   So as far as the permits are concerned  
21                   that the Applicant will need to get from the Public  
22                   Utilities Commission, there would need to be a  
23                   certificate of need. So any high voltage  
24                   transmission line with a capacity of 100 kilovolts  
25                   or more with more than ten miles of its length in

1 Minnesota require a certificate of need and then a  
2 route permit. And this is going to be following the  
3 alternative review process. If you're curious about  
4 what that is you can go to the Minnesota Public  
5 Utilities Commission website and there's some info  
6 that talks about the different permitting processes.  
7 So the route permits are required for any high  
8 voltage transmission line operating at a nominal  
9 voltage of 100 kV or more and greater than 1500 feet  
10 in length.

11 So just to give you a little idea of what  
12 to expect as far as the timeline of this project.  
13 So the applications were filed at the end of 2024  
14 and they were just recently accepted. The public  
15 information and scoping meetings, the in person and  
16 the virtual, that's today and tomorrow. So if  
17 you're here right now, we do have tomorrow as a  
18 virtual meeting, so if there's something you think  
19 of this evening or tomorrow morning and you want to  
20 speak on that again you do have another opportunity  
21 to participate virtually. But if you're not a  
22 public speaker, there is no pressure to speak.  
23 There is also a written comment period that goes  
24 through March 28th, so we're going to have some  
25 information in here about how you can comment

1                   online. There is also a comment form out front that  
2                   looks like this and so you can just write your  
3                   comment and fold it in half and there's a spot to  
4                   stick a stamp and then it'll just mail directly to  
5                   us.

6                   So as I mentioned, tonight is about  
7                   determining the scope of the environmental review.  
8                   What, you know, essentially what the study is going  
9                   to include, so we want to get your feedback on what  
10                   to study, like I mentioned, including route  
11                   alternatives or route segment alternatives.

12                   So then after we get your feedback, Sam  
13                   Weaver with the Department of Commerce, he will be  
14                   speaking in a couple minutes, he's going to be the  
15                   one doing the environmental review. So after he  
16                   collects all of the feedback that we get from the  
17                   public, then he will come up with a scoping decision  
18                   and so that'll say what are we actually going to  
19                   study and then he will do that study.

20                   It's a very rigorous months' long study  
21                   that will come out, we're estimating August of 2025.  
22                   Then after that comes out, so that will come out in  
23                   August, we will send out a notice to everybody, so  
24                   if you're on the mailing list, you will get that  
25                   notice. If you want to get on the mailing list and

1 you are not currently, you can sign up on the  
2 sign-in sheet there at the front to get on that.

3 And so at that point, at the public  
4 hearings, we'll have a judge come, the judge will  
5 run the meetings, and that gives you a chance to  
6 react to the environmental study that was done.

7 So tonight is about getting your feedback  
8 on what to study, then in September we will get your  
9 feedback on did we study what you wanted us to.

10 So, as I mentioned, a judge will be  
11 running those hearings, and he or she will come up  
12 with an administrative law judge report and they  
13 will file that, and we're estimating in quarter four  
14 of 2025, or early Q1, I should say, and then a final  
15 commission decision meeting will be late quarter 4  
16 or early quarter of 2026.

17 So we do have a court reporter with us  
18 here tonight, so there's going to be an opportunity  
19 for you all to speak into the record. So this is a  
20 formal proceeding that will be put into the record,  
21 and anything that goes into the record is what the  
22 commissioners use to make a decision. So if you  
23 want to see what's in the record, what the  
24 commissioners are actually looking at to make their  
25 decisions, you can go to the eDockets website. You

1 can also see the environmental assessment there when  
2 that comes out. You can see comments, what other  
3 state agencies are saying and things like that. So  
4 you go to the eDockets website, it's listed there,  
5 and you can also just go into Google and type in  
6 eDockets, and that's an easy way to get there.

7 For this project, the way to get to this  
8 project is using the docket numbers, 24-263 or  
9 24-264. If you use either one of those that will  
10 bring you to the page of everything in the record.  
11 And you can see here kind of what that looks like.  
12 The docket number is the red square, you put in  
13 either 23-263 -- excuse me, 24-263 or 24-264, and  
14 then you'll find everything that we have in the  
15 record.

16 With that, I will hand it over to Mark.

17 MR. MARK STROHFUS: Thanks, Sam.

18 So there's actually five applicants on  
19 this project. I'm with Great River Energy, my name  
20 again is Mark Strohfus, I'm the lead permitting  
21 person for the project team.

22 Each of the utilities has an individual  
23 lands right agent and so we are probably your  
24 primary contacts if you have questions and we have  
25 contact information at the end of my presentation

1 here.

2                   If you have comments on the permitting  
3 process, you can certainly call Sam, you can also  
4 call me, and if you have land rights questions and  
5 want to speak with a land rights agent, if people  
6 call me we'll get them transferred over to the right  
7 people.

8                   So Great River Energy, in addition to  
9 being the permitting lead, this project is roughly  
10 29 miles of transmission lines. 20 of those 29  
11 miles are being built with an existing right-of-way  
12 for Otter Tail Power's 41.6 transmission line, so we  
13 are primarily taking over and only building roughly  
14 nine new miles of transmission line with new  
15 right-of-way.

16                   We'll have some additional work we're  
17 doing at the Benson Substation. And there's two  
18 Benson substations, it gets confusing a little bit,  
19 there's the City of Benson Substation just across  
20 the tracks here, that's owned by Benson Municipal  
21 and the City of Benson, and then there's one up the  
22 tracks here over where the old fiber main plant was  
23 located. Great River Energy will have the Benson  
24 Transmission Substation, sometimes we call it, we'll  
25 do some modifications in that because we have to

1 have a new 115 kv transformer I think in that one.

15 And then the City of Benson, their  
16 primary roll is to expand the Benson Distribution  
17 Substation and will provide space for the new  
18 breaker station that's going in.

19                   This is a map. We have more detailed  
20                   maps in the back. And if people have questions on  
21                   their property, probably the best way is if you have  
22                   questions after this, which is reported by the court  
23                   reporter, or we can just do one-on-one  
24                   conversations.

25 But the Applicant substation is located

1                   here. Again, it follows existing transmission line  
2                   here. This is the new stretch of transmission line,  
3                   and then it snakes up through here, through the  
4                   Danvers Substation and eventually this is the GRE  
5                   Benson Substation and then the City of Benson  
6                   Substation.

7                   Why do we need this project? It's  
8                   reliability. Energy demand is increasing in the  
9                   area, we're forecasting additional energy demand  
10                  into the future. It's a reliability project for the  
11                  City of Benson. It's probably got a significant  
12                  advantage in that we're increasing service from  
13                  currently -- oop. One transmission line coming in  
14                  here into the Benson Substation, and if that line  
15                  gets taken out of service because of an accident or  
16                  something, then there is power loss throughout the  
17                  city.

18                  And so the project will have a second  
19                  line coming in from here up through mostly  
20                  commercial and then all on the railroad tracks here  
21                  which offers additional reliability.

22                  And, again, why are we seeing energy  
23                  growth? We're seeing electrification. I just  
24                  bought myself a new air source heat pump for my  
25                  house last year when my air conditioner died on me.

1 It was really cost-effective, great tax benefits for  
2 me, and it was about a couple thousand dollars more  
3 than if I did kind of the standard lower efficiency  
4 systems. And to be honest, we love it. It's great.

5 It runs -- I set the price point for natural gas  
6 into my thermostat and the electric prices and my  
7 thermostat will decide what is the most  
8 cost-effective way to heat this house. And down to  
9 20 degrees my air source heat pump is running and  
10 doing a great job on my house's heating.

11 So the big process the landowners want to  
12 know about is, first of all, where is the  
13 transmission line relative to my home. And, again,  
14 we can look at individual maps and talk about that.

15 But then next is do I get paid for this  
16 transmission line. Yes. If you have a transmission  
17 line on your property, we will acquire an easement  
18 with you, we'll negotiate an easement. We typically  
19 get easements that are 50 feet either side of the  
20 centerline, but if you have road right-of-way, we  
21 typically put our transmission line two to five feet  
22 outside of road right-of-way, so if we are five feet  
23 out, we will be purchasing a 55-foot-wide easement  
24 from you. That's a negotiation process.

25 Let's see. So I overlapped that.

1                   And, again, once we finish the design on  
2 the project, then we will start -- we may start  
3 coming out a little bit earlier to having  
4 preliminary conversations with landowners, but until  
5 we have final design, then we'll send surveyors out,  
6 they'll state where we plan to put structures, we'll  
7 have feedback from the landowners at that point,  
8 saying can you move this five feet this direction,  
9 five feet that direction. Generally, we can  
10 accommodate most of those changes as long as they're  
11 not, you know, can you move this line and this  
12 structure 500 feet over here.

13                   At that time we'll talk about tree  
14 clearing. There's not a lot of trees out in the  
15 rural area that need to be cleared out. There is  
16 probably not a lot even in town when we look at the  
17 route we are proposing, as long that's the route  
18 that the Commission issues us in the final route  
19 permit.

20                   When the project is done, the land agent  
21 will come back again and ask is there anything else  
22 we need to do to clean up on the line and make sure  
23 everybody is happy. We will typically send a letter  
24 out asking is there anything else we can do to leave  
25 the property in good shape.

1                   This is the typical kind of structures  
2                   that we will be using on GRE's segments of the line.  
3                   I think Otter Tail will do something more similar to  
4                   this, where they're horizontal insulators without  
5                   these brace posts. Through town here, along the  
6                   railroad tracks, that will be double-circuited, so  
7                   there will be six lines versus three on the  
8                   structures.

9                   Again, we will notify you before any work  
10                  is done. We'll survey again for right-of-way  
11                  clearing and for construction and we'll conduct any  
12                  tree clearing that's needed to happen.

13                  We basically drill a hole in the ground,  
14                  the pole is set in there, backfilled with rock  
15                  around it. Once a segment is constructed, we would  
16                  come back in and we put the new conductors on it and  
17                  pull it through and string it out.

18                  Finally, again, we come back to  
19                  right-of-way restoration. We'll fix any damages to  
20                  your property. If there's ag land and there is crop  
21                  damages, we pay for crop damages. You guys tell us  
22                  how many acres we impacted and what current prices  
23                  are and we'll send you a check.

24                  As I said, I'm the permitting lead.

25                  We've got Dale here -- oop -- Dale here for Great

1                   River Energy, Carly is here as well for Otter Tail  
2                   Power. But, again, you can call any one of us and  
3                   we'll make sure you get to the right person. Carly  
4                   is actually new to the project, but we'll get all  
5                   that information to you.

6                   That's all I have.

7                   MR. SAM WEAVER: All right. So my name  
8                   is Sam Weaver. I'm with the Energy Environmental  
9                   Review and Analysis unit with the Department of  
10                   Commerce and I'm just here to talk about the  
11                   environmental review process for this project.

12                   So we're going to start talking about  
13                   Commerce's role in the environmental review, how we  
14                   create the environmental assessment, how you can  
15                   comment on the environmental assessment and the  
16                   project, and then we'll get around to your questions  
17                   and comments.

18                   So we, the EERA, conducts environmental  
19                   review for all transmission line projects on behalf  
20                   of the Commission.

21                   For this project, we're going to prepare  
22                   an environmental assessment that's going to have the  
23                   following goals. It's intended to be an objective  
24                   analysis of the project. Namely, its potential  
25                   impacts to humans and the environment. We will

1 identify any strategies used by the Applicant to  
2 avoid, minimize, or mitigate those impacts. And  
3 specifically to identify impacts that cannot be  
4 avoided as a result of the project. And we are a  
5 neutral third-party, we are not an advocate for the  
6 Applicant or the Commission here, we're just  
7 presenting the information of these impacts.

8 And the goal is to collect a bunch of  
9 information that can be used for understanding of  
10 the project's impacts. And, finally, to inform the  
11 PUC's decision-making as to whether or not the  
12 project goes forward and what that project ends up  
13 looking like.

14 So thinking about the scope of the  
15 environmental assessment, right, this is why we are  
16 here tonight, to talk about the scope of this  
17 environmental assessment. We're going to talk about  
18 the human and environmental impacts, strategies to  
19 mitigate those impacts. And then finally any  
20 alternatives to the proposed project as a whole or  
21 the proposed route. And if we're talking about  
22 alternatives, we want to identify alternatives that  
23 can mitigate impacts.

24 So your input tonight is very important.  
25 That's why we're here, to get your feedback. Your

1           input shapes the scope of what this EA is going to  
2           contain. The scope is basically the table of  
3           contents for the document, it highlights what we're  
4           studying, what we're looking at. So this part of  
5           this again is what are the potential and human and  
6           environmental impacts of the proposed project. What  
7           impacts should we consider when we're putting this  
8           document together. What are any methods that we  
9           could use to minimize, mitigate, or avoid those  
10           projects. And then are there any unique  
11           characteristics of the proposed project area that we  
12           need to consider for the EA. And, finally, are  
13           there other ways to meet the stated need for the  
14           project to provide power to this community, whether  
15           it's through a different type of facility or a  
16           different route or a different route segment. So if  
17           you have ideas that vary from the proposed route  
18           from the Applicant, this is your time to make those  
19           known.

20           So if you want to propose an alternative  
21           route, these alternatives must mitigate a potential  
22           impact, be specific and identifiable, still meet the  
23           needs for the project, and be feasible.

24           So just as an example, right, let's say  
25           the project is planned and it goes through a bunch

1 of people's driveways along the highway  
2 right-of-way, you could say to avoid impacts to  
3 people's property and their driveways, maybe we go  
4 along the property line that would mitigate the  
5 impact. For people with those driveways, it's a  
6 viable alternative, the project can still go  
7 forward.

8 And the most important part here is that  
9 your comments be submitted on time. You can submit  
10 them online, you can submit them by mail, by March  
11 28th.

12 So if you do suggest an alternative, we  
13 will make a recommendation as to whether or not we  
14 want to include it in the EA, and then it gets  
15 carried forward and will be studied by me in the EA  
16 and the PUC might select it as the final route.  
17 Then GRE would have the power of eminent domain to  
18 construct that alternative.

19 So how you can comment. Verbal comments  
20 at today's meeting. You can submit a comment sheet,  
21 which we have in the back. You can submit comments  
22 online at this link. Or you can mail or email a  
23 comment straight to me. And, again, the comment  
24 period ends March 28th at 4:30.

25 So here is the summary of all of this

1 information. This is in the printout. A bunch of  
2 people's contact information.

3 And, finally, we'll get to comments and  
4 questions. We're able to kind of take over this  
5 part for me. But I think we have one person here  
6 who is not from the Applicant, so you don't have to  
7 worry about limiting your time on any comments or  
8 questions you might have tonight, you can take as  
9 much time as you want.

10 But one speaker at a time. State and  
11 spell your name for the court reporter. Limit your  
12 comments to a few minutes. Again, you don't have to  
13 worry about that. And maintain respect. And if you  
14 could direct any comments or questions to the scope  
15 of the environmental assessment that would be  
16 appreciated, it makes it easier for us to act upon  
17 those comments.

18 And that's it.

19 MR. RAY KIRSCH: I'm Ray Kirsch, I'm with  
20 the Minnesota Department of Commerce and I'm a  
21 colleague of Sam's. I'm just here to facilitate  
22 questions and comments if you have any tonight and  
23 to follow sort of the ground rules.

24 Does anybody have a question or comment?  
25 Just a show of hands, if you do.

1                   All right. I'm not seeing any questions  
2 or comments from anybody.

3                   I will go back a slide or two. This is  
4 the pertinent information that you can comment on  
5 tonight or through the comment sheets that are on  
6 the back table. This is what they look like. You  
7 can fold them up and put a stamp on them and mail  
8 them. You can comment online or you can send a  
9 comment directly to Sam, and here is his email  
10 address at the Department of Commerce.

11                  One more time. Does anybody have a  
12 question or comment tonight?

13                  All right. I'm not seeing any.

14                  So I think we'll conclude our meeting.  
15 Thank you all for coming out tonight and travel  
16 safe.

17                  Thank you all.

18                  (Meeting concluded at 6:30 p.m.)

19  
20  
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23  
24  
25

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1 INFORMATIONAL AND SCOPING MEETING - 24-263 & 24-264

2 Virtual - March 13, 2025 - 6:00 p.m.

3 BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

4 AND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

5 In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy,  
6 Otter Tail Power Co., Western Minnesota Municipal Power  
7 Agency, Agralite Electric Coop, and the City of Benson  
for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit for the  
Appleton to Benson 115 Kilovolt Transmission Line Project

8

9

10 MPUC DOCKET NO.:

11 ET-2, E-017, ET-6135, E-100/CN24-263; TL-24-264

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16 Held Virtually by  
Webex and Telephone

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20 March 13, 2025

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25 STENOGRAPHIC COURT REPORTER: Christine Simons, RDR, RPR

**STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD:**

A formal Virtual Informational and Scoping meeting was scheduled from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The Applicant, DOC and PUC staff were present.

No member of the public appeared virtually. At approximately 6:20 p.m., PUC and DOC staff ended the Virtual Public Hearing in this matter.

(Matter concluded.)

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