

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COURT OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS  
FOR THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy and Lake Region Electric Cooperative for a Route Permit for the Otto Tap 115 kV Transmission Line Project in Otter Tail County, Minnesota

**FIRST PREHEARING ORDER**

This matter came before Administrative Law Judge Joseph C. Meyer for a prehearing conference on January 9, 2026.

Haley L. Waller Pitts, Fredrikson & Byron, P.A., and Mark Strohfus, Project Manager, on behalf of Great River Energy (Applicant).

Craig Janezich and Suzanne Steinhauer appeared on behalf of Public Utilities Commission staff (Commission Staff).

During the prehearing conference, the parties indicated they were in agreement as to the scheduling milestones and the locations for public hearings in this matter.

Based upon the record and the discussion among the participants at the prehearing conference,

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

1. This matter will proceed according to the following schedule:

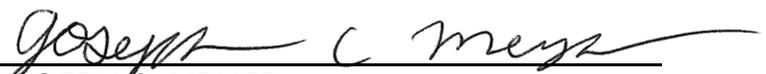
Date	Event
January 16, 2026	Notice of Public Hearings
January 26, 2026	Applicant Direct Testimony (if any)
February 2 and 3, 2026	Public Hearings
February 19, 2026	Close of Public Comment Period

Date	Event
February 26, 2026	Applicant Response to Hearing Comments
March 5, 2026	Administrative Law Judge Report (Summary of Public Testimony)

2. There shall be an in-person public hearing in New York Mills, Minnesota at 6:00 p.m. on February 2, 2026 and a virtual public hearing at 12:00 p.m. on February 3, 2026. The Applicant shall arrange for space for the in-person public hearing and Commission staff shall arrange for an appropriate virtual platform for the virtual public hearing.

3. The Commission will issue the Notice of Public Hearings. Commission Staff will circulate a draft of the notice to the parties and Administrative Law Judge prior to issuance. The Notice of Public Hearing will include the specific times of the public hearings, the address of the public hearing in New York Mills, and any necessary information to access the virtual public hearing.

Dated: January 13, 2026

  
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JOSEPH C. MEYER  
Administrative Law Judge

January 13, 2026

See Attached Service List

**Re: *In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy and Lake Region Electric Cooperative for a Route Permit for the Otto Tap 115 kV Transmission Line Project in Otter Tail County, Minnesota***

**CAH 28-2500-41458  
MPUC Docket No. ET2/C-25-269**

To All Persons on the Attached Service List:

Enclosed and served upon you is the Administrative Law Judge's **FIRST PREHEARING ORDER** in the above-entitled matter.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (651) 361-7970, [cara.hunter@state.mn.us](mailto:cara.hunter@state.mn.us), or via facsimile at (651) 539-0310.

Sincerely,



CARA HUNTER  
Legal Assistant

Enclosure

cc: Docket Coordinator

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COURT OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS  
PO BOX 64620  
600 NORTH ROBERT STREET  
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55164

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy and Lake Region Electric Cooperative for a Route Permit for the Otto Tap 115 kV Transmission Line Project in Otter Tail County, Minnesota	CAH Docket No.: 28-2500-41458 MPUC Docket No. ET2/C-25-269
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On January 13, 2026, a true and correct copy of the **FIRST PREHEARING ORDER** was served by eService, and United States mail, (in the manner indicated on the attached service list) to the following individuals:

#	First Name	Last Name	Email	Organization	Agency	Address	Delivery Method	Alternate Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
1	Sasha	Bergman	sasha.bergman@state.mn.us		Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Pl E Ste 350 St. Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	25-269 Official CC Service List
2	Mike	Bull	mike.bull@state.mn.us		Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Place East, Suite 350 St. Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	25-269 Official CC Service List
3	Generic	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.state.mn.us		Office of the Attorney General - Department of Commerce	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400 St. Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	25-269 Official CC Service List
4	Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us		Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 280 Saint Paul MN, 55101-2198 United States	Electronic Service		No	25-269 Official CC Service List
5	Craig	Janezich	craig.janezich@state.mn.us		Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Pl E #350 St. Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		No	25-269 Official CC Service List
6	Breann	Jurek	bjurek@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron PA		60 S Sixth St Ste 1500 Minneapolis MN, 55402 United States	Electronic Service		No	25-269 Official CC Service List
7	Joseph	Meyer	joseph.c.meyer@state.mn.us		Office of Administrative Hearings	PO Box 64620 St. Paul MN, 55164 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	25-269 Official CC Service List
8	Generic Notice	Residential Utilities Division	residential.utilities@ag.state.mn.us		Office of the Attorney General - Residential Utilities Division	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul MN, 55101-2131 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	25-269 Official CC Service List
9	Janet	Shaddix Elling	jshaddix@janetshaddix.com	Shaddix And Associates		7400 Lyndale Ave S Ste 190 Richfield MN, 55423 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	25-269 Official CC Service List
10	Suzanne	Steinhauer	suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us		Department of Commerce	121 7th Place East Suite 350 St. Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		No	25-269 Official CC Service List
11	Mark	Strohfus	mstrohfus@grenergy.com	Great River Energy		12300 Elm Creek Blvd Maple Grove MN, 55369 United States	Electronic Service		No	25-269 Official CC Service List
12	Haley	Waller Pitts	hwallerpitts@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.		60 S Sixth St Ste 1500 Minneapolis MN, 55402-4400 United States	Electronic Service		No	25-269 Official CC Service List