

CAH 23-2500-40748  
MPUC ET-2, E-017, ET-6135, E-100/  
CN-24-263 and ET-2, E-017, ET-6135,  
E-100/TL-24-264

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

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

**SECOND  
PREHEARING ORDER**

On August 25, 2025, Administrative Law Judge Suzanne Todnem convened a prehearing conference in this matter. The prehearing conference was held by videoconference.

Cody Bauer, Fredrickson & Byron, P.A., appeared on behalf of Great River Energy, Otter Tail Power Co., Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, Agralite Electric Coop., and the City of Benson (the Applicants), with Mark Strohfus.

Sam Weaver, Environmental Review and Analysis, appeared on behalf of the Energy Infrastructure Permitting staff (formerly Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis).

Sam Lobby, Director, Energy Facilities Planner, Public Utilities Commission (Commission), appeared on behalf of Commission staff with Bret Eknes, Supervisor.

Based upon the record herein and the agreement of the parties,

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

1. **Schedule.** The schedule is amended as follows:<sup>1</sup>

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>
Application filed	December 27, 2024
Application complete	March 10, 2025
Public information and scoping meetings	March 12 and 13, 2025
Close of public comment period	March 28, 2025
Scoping decision	April 25, 2025
Environmental assessment issued	August 1, 2025
Applicants' direct testimony	August 14, 2025
Public hearings	September 3 (in-person) and 4 (virtual), 2025  Applicants propose in-person hearings in Appleton (mid-day) and Benson (evening) on September 3.
Close of public comment period	<b>September 30, 2025</b>
<b>Close of reply comment period</b>	<b>October 8, 2025</b>
Applicant's proposed findings and response to public comments	<b>October 10, 2025</b>
EERA revisions to Applicants' proposed findings	<b>October 22, 2025</b>
Administrative Law Judge report issued	<b>December 5, 2025</b>
Exceptions	<b>December 16, 2025</b>
MPUC meeting (tentative)	December 2025 – January 2026

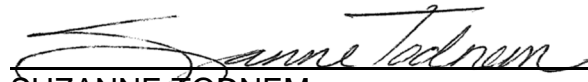
---

<sup>1</sup> Amended items in bold.

2. **Amended Hearing Notice.** The Parties shall issue an Amended Notice of Public Hearing (Amended Notice) that clearly adds to the scope of public comment sought to include comments on the merits of the certificate of need. The Amended Notice shall be served electronically to the service list in this matter and by U.S. mail to landowners impacted by the proposed project by **August 28, 2025**. The specific hearing dates, times, location, and call-in information will remain the same as provided in the August 8, 2025, public hearing notice. The Amended Notice shall clearly distinguish the new or amended information from repeated information from the August 8, 2025, Notice of Public Hearing.

3. **Prior Orders.** Unless amended herein, the terms of the First Prehearing Order remain in effect.

Dated: August 25, 2025

  
SUZANNE TODNEM  
Administrative Law Judge

August 25, 2025

See Attached Service List

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

**CAH 23-2500-40748**

**MPUC ET-2, E-017, ET-6135, E-100/CN-24-263 and ET-2, E-017, ET-6135, E-100/TL-24-264**

To All Persons on the Attached Service List:

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

If you have any questions, please contact me at (651) 361-7857, [nichole.sletten@state.mn.us](mailto:nichole.sletten@state.mn.us), or via facsimile at (651) 539-0310.

Sincerely,



NICHOLE SLETTEN  
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, Otter Tail Power Co., Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, Agralite Electric Coop and the City of Benson (the Applicants) for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit for the Appleton to Benson 115 Kilovolt Transmission Line Project	CAH Docket No.: 23-2500-40748 MPUC ET-2, E-017, ET-6135, E-100/CN-24-263 and ET-2, E-017, ET-6135, E-100/TL-24-264
---	---

On August 25, 2025, a true and correct copy of the **SECOND 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	Lisa	Agrimonti	lagrimonti@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.		60 South Sixth Street Suite 1500 Minneapolis MN, 55402-4400 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-263 Official CC Service List
2	Cody M.	Bauer	cbauer@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.		60 South 6th Street, Suite 1500 Minneapolis MN, 55402 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-263 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		No	24-263 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	24-263 Official CC Service List
5	Thomas	Hoffman	thoffman@agralite.com	Agralite Electric Cooperative		320 Highway 12 SE Benson MN, 56215 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-263 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	24-263 Official CC Service List
7	Kris	Koch	kkoch@otpc.com	Otter Tail Power Company		215 S. Cascade Street Fergus Falls MN, 56537 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-263 Official CC Service List
8	Stacy	Kotch Egstad	stacy.kotch@state.mn.us		MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	395 John Ireland Blvd. St. Paul MN, 55155 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-263 Official CC Service List
9	Stephen	Kowal	skowal@bensonmnlaw.com	Wilcox Law Office, P.A.		1150 Wisconsin Avenue Benson MN, 56215 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-263 Official CC Service List
10	Sam	Lobby	sam.lobby@state.mn.us		Public Utilities Commission	350 Metro Square Building 121 7th Place East St. Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-263 Official CC Service List
11	David C.	McLaughlin	dmclaughlin@fluegellaw.com	Western Minnesota Municipal		129 2nd Street Ortonville MN, 56278	Electronic Service		No	24-263 Official CC

#	First Name	Last Name	Email	Organization	Agency	Address	Delivery Method	Alternate Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
				Power Agency		United States				Service List
12	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		No	24-263 Official CC Service List
13	Janet	Shaddix Eling	jshaddix@janetshaddix.com	Shaddix And Associates		7400 Lyndale Ave S Ste 190 Richfield MN, 55423 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-263 Official CC Service List
14	Mark	Strohfus	mstrohfus@greenergy.com	Great River Energy		12300 Elm Creek Boulevard Maple Grove MN, 55369-4718 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-263 Official CC Service List
15	Suzanne	Todnem	suzanne.todnem@state.mn.us		Office of Administrative Hearings	600 Robert St N PO Box 64620 St. Paul MN, 55164 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-263 Official CC Service List
16	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	24-263 Official CC Service List
17	Sam	Weaver	sam.weaver@state.mn.us		Department of Commerce		Electronic Service		No	24-263 Official CC Service List
18	Brian	Zavesky	brianz@mrenergy.com	Missouri River Energy Services		3724 West Avera Drive P.O. Box 88920 Sioux Falls SD, 57108-8920 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-263 Official CC Service List

#	First Name	Last Name	Email	Organization	Agency	Address	Delivery Method	Alternate Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
1	Lisa	Agrimonti	lagrimonti@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.		60 South Sixth Street Suite 1500 Minneapolis MN, 55402-4400 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-264 Official CC Service List
2	Cody M.	Bauer	cbauer@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.		60 South 6th Street, Suite 1500 Minneapolis MN, 55402 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-264 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		No	24-264 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	24-264 Official CC Service List
5	Thomas	Hoffman	thoffman@agralite.com	Agralite Electric Cooperative		320 Highway 12 SE Benson MN, 56215 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-264 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	24-264 Official CC Service List
7	Kris	Koch	kkoch@otpc.com	Otter Tail Power Company		215 S. Cascade Street Fergus Falls MN, 56537 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-264 Official CC Service List
8	Stacy	Kotch Egstad	stacy.kotch@state.mn.us		MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	395 John Ireland Blvd. St. Paul MN, 55155 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-264 Official CC Service List
9	Stephen	Kowal	skowal@bensonmnlaw.com	Wilcox Law Office, P.A.		1150 Wisconsin Avenue Benson MN, 56215 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-264 Official CC Service List
10	Sam	Lobby	sam.lobby@state.mn.us		Public Utilities Commission	350 Metro Square Building 121 7th Place East St. Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-264 Official CC Service List
11	David C.	McLaughlin	dmclaughlin@fluegellaw.com	Western Minnesota Municipal		129 2nd Street Ortonville MN, 56278	Electronic Service		No	24-264 Official CC



#	First Name	Last Name	Email	Organization	Agency	Address	Delivery Method	Alternate Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
				Power Agency		United States				Service List
12	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		No	24-264 Official CC Service List
13	Janet	Shaddix Eling	jshaddix@janetshaddix.com	Shaddix And Associates		7400 Lyndale Ave S Ste 190 Richfield MN, 55423 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-264 Official CC Service List
14	Mark	Strohfus	mstrohfus@greenergy.com	Great River Energy		12300 Elm Creek Boulevard Maple Grove MN, 55369-4718 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-264 Official CC Service List
15	Suzanne	Todnem	suzanne.todnem@state.mn.us		Office of Administrative Hearings	600 Robert St N PO Box 64620 St. Paul MN, 55164 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-264 Official CC Service List
16	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	24-264 Official CC Service List
17	Sam	Weaver	sam.weaver@state.mn.us		Department of Commerce		Electronic Service		No	24-264 Official CC Service List
18	Brian	Zavesky	brianz@mrenergy.com	Missouri River Energy Services		3724 West Avera Drive P.O. Box 88920 Sioux Falls SD, 57108-8920 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-264 Official CC Service List