

**In the Matter of Minnesota Power and Great River Energy for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit for up to an approximately 180-mile, double circuit 345-kV transmission.**

**PUC Docket No. E015,ET2/CN-22-416 & E015,ET2/TL-22-415**

**Commissioner Tuma offers the following revised Decision Option 6:**

**TUMA REVISED 6:**

Issue a route permit to Minnesota Power and Great River Energy for the Northland Reliability Project authorizing the Co-Location Maximization Route proposed by the Applicants, and adopt the ALJ's findings and conclusions consistent with that route, except as modified below:

a. Iron Range Substation Region

ii. Reject ALJ Findings 97 and 737 and ALJ Conclusions 11 and 14 (Staff if A3 is not selected), and

viii. Adopt the Applicants' route and EERA's modified Findings 97 and 737 filed on 11/25/2024. (EERA, Staff)

b. Hill City to Little Pine Region

~~i. Adopt AA1 (Public)~~ For the property identified in AA1 require the applicant to continue the proposed route to the south and east of the 92 line without the proposed realignment, and require the permittee to work with the affected landowners to provide mitigation or relocation in consultation with the Landowner Resolution Liaison.

vii. Do not adopt the Swatara route width expansion, require the applicant to continue the proposed route to the east of the 92 line, and require the permittee to work with the affected land owners to provide mitigation or relocation in consultation with the Landowner Resolution Liaison.

c. Cole Lake to Riverton Region

iii. Reject the ALJ's Finding 737 and Conclusions 11 and 14. (Staff, if any of the below routes are selected in this region),

xvi. Adopt the Applicants' route and EERA's modification to Findings 116 and 737 filed on 11/25/2024. (EERA, Staff)

xvii. Extend the co-location at the Mississippi River in Perry Lake Township to reduce the number of structures at the Mississippi Crossing as proposed by the applicant in their Attachment 1 of their January 10, 2025 filing.

d. Long Lake Region

ii. Adopt H4/H7 Applicants' modified route alternative (ALJ, Staff)

xv. Reject ALJ Finding 738 and Conclusions 11 and 14 (Staff if any of the above routes are selected in this region)

xvi. ~~From the North, follow H1~~ Follow the Applicants' route to and through Applicants' modified H4/H7, but when it reaches the northern boundary of Erickson's property, locate the line on the eastern boundary of the 3,000-foot route width leading to and through Applicants' modified H4/H7. (Erickson/Loehr, Staff)

xvii. Expand the route width at the already expanded Area at the intersection of Minnesota Highway 18, CSAH 23 and County Road 159 in Crow Wing County by another 500 feet to the north and work with the landowners and the Landowner Resolution Liaison in this portion of the route to identify acceptable route from West to East in this area.

xviii. Between Platte Township Crow Wing County and Mayhew Township Morrison County the realignments of the existing 230kv lines are not adopted unless the applicant can show opportunities for land acquisition or mitigation that would not require realignment are fully explored with landowners and the Landowner Resolution Liaison; Applicants bear the risk of denial of cost recovery for realignments found to be imprudent and unreasonable.

e. Benton County Elk River Region

i. Adopt the Co-Location Maximization Route (ALJ, Staff, Applicants)

f. Additional Findings and Conclusion

iii. Adopt the Applicants' alternative modifications to ALJ Conclusion 11 as filed on 11/25/2024, to the extent it aligns with other decisions made by the Commission. (If the Commission does not adopt ALJ's recommendation to include A3, E4, E5, H1, or modified H4/H7) (Staff)