

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

In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy for a Route Permit for the Bull Moose 115 kV Transmission Line in Cass County, Minnesota

**SUMMARY OF
PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

This matter came before Administrative Law Judge Jim Mortenson for a public hearing on March 30, 2016. The public hearing was held at the Backus City Hall in Backus, Minnesota, and was convened to receive public testimony on the proposed 2.5 mile high voltage transmission line to serve a proposed oil pumping station.

Dan Leshner, Senior Field Representative; Carole Schmidt, Supervisor, Transmission Permitting and Compliance; Chuck Lukkarila, Project Manager; and Troy Paumen, Fixed Asset Data Specialist, appeared on behalf of Great River Energy, 12300 Elm Creek Boulevard, Maple Grove, MN 55369 (Applicant).

Andrew Levi, Environmental Review Specialist, and Larry Hartman, Environmental Review Manager, 445 Minnesota Street, Suite 1500, St. Paul, MN 55101, appeared on behalf of the Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA).

Cezar Panait, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) Staff, 121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101 appeared on behalf of the Commission.

One member of the public attended the hearing and signed the hearing register. The person was advised that, in addition to any comments at the hearing, he could also submit written comments to the Administrative Law Judge by April 13, 2016.

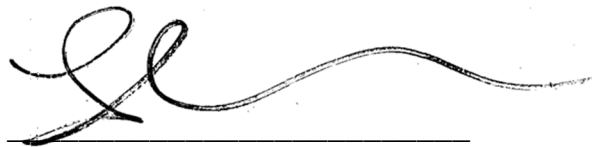
Mr. Panait described the history of the project and the route permit application process. Mr. Levi advised that he was prepared, along with Mr. Hartman, to answer any questions about the environmental assessment (EA). Mr. Leshner described the project, its purpose, and the evolving schedule to complete it.

The member of the public in attendance was invited to speak or ask questions and declined. No written public comments were received by the close of the comment period.

Two state agencies submitted comments. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) indicated that the EA incorporated the DNR's prior comments and that the DNR continued to view Alternative Route Segment A as the best route for the Project. In addition, the DNR noted that several new records for the little brown myotis and the Northern Long-Eared Bat (NLEB) have been entered into the National Heritage Information System (NHIS) database in the vicinity of the Project. The DNR recommended asking NHIS staff for an updated list of known maternity roosts prior to construction and, if impacts to roosting trees may take place, both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the DNR should be contacted and appropriate permits obtained. The DNR further recommended that the route permit include a condition that any tree removal be conducted during the winter months.¹

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) commented that if a Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 Permit is required, an MPCA CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification of waiver must be obtained.²

Dated: May 9, 2016

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JM', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

JIM MORTENSON
Administrative Law Judge

NOTICE

This report contains a summary of public testimony. It is not a final decision. Pursuant to Minn. R. 7850.3900, the Commission will make the final determination of following a review of the record from the administrative law judge.

¹ DNR Comments (Apr. 11, 2016), eDockets Document No. 20164-119912-01.

² MPCA Comments (Apr. 11, 2016), eDockets Document No. 20164-119918-01.

May 9, 2016

See Attached Service List

Re: In the Matter of the Bull Moose 115 kV Transmission Line Project

**OAH 5-2500-33286
MPUC ET-2/TL-15-628**

To All Persons on the Attached Service List:

Enclosed and served upon you is the Administrative Law Judge's **SUMMARY OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY** in the above-entitled matter.

If you have any questions, please contact my legal assistant Rachel Youness at (651) 361-7881 or rachel.youness@state.mn.us, or facsimile at (651) 539-0310.

Sincerely,



JIM MORTENSON
Administrative Law Judge

JRM:ry
Enclosure
cc: Docket Coordinator

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

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

In the Matter of the Bull Moose 115 kV Transmission Line Project	OAH Docket No.: 5-2500-33286 MPUC ET -2/TL-15-628
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Rachel Youness, certifies that on May 9, 2016 she served the true and correct **SUMMARY OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY** by eService (in the manner indicated below) to the following individuals:

Member Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret
<input type="checkbox"/> Julia Anderson	Julia.Anderson@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	1800 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul, MN 551012134	Electronic Service ▼	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Sarah Beimers	sarah.beimers@mnhs.org	Minnesota Historical Society	345 Kellogg Boulevard West St. Paul, MN 55102	Electronic Service ▼	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Paul Fairbanks	paul.fairbanks@co.cass.mn.us	Cass County Env Services Dept	PO Box 3000 Walker, MN 56484	Electronic Service ▼	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Sharon Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 500 Saint Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service ▼	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Linda Jensen	linda.s.jensen@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	1800 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota Street St. Paul, MN 551012134	Electronic Service ▼	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Patrice Jensen	patrice.jensen@state.mn.us	MN Pollution Control Agency	520 Lafayette Rd N St. Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service ▼	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Lisa Joyal	lisa.joyal@state.mn.us	Department of Natural Resources	500 Lafayette Road, Box 25 St. Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service ▼	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Will Kaul	wkaul@grenergy.com	Great River Energy	12300 Elm Creek Blvd Maple Grove, MN 553694718	Electronic Service ▼	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Stacy Kotch	Stacy.Kotch@state.mn.us	MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	395 John Ireland Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service ▼	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Karen Kromar	karen.kromar@state.mn.us	MN Pollution Control Agency	520 Lafayette Rd Saint Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service ▼	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Dan Leshner	dlesher@grenergy.com	Great River Energy	12300 Elm Creek Blvd Maple Grove, MN 55369	Electronic Service ▼	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> John Lindell	agorud.ecf@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul, MN 551012130	Electronic Service ▼	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> James R. Mortenson	james.mortenson@state.mn.us	Office of Administrative Hearing	PO Box 64620 Saint Paul, MN 55164-0620	Electronic Service ▼	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Debra Moynihan	debra.moynihan@state.mn.us	MN Department of Transportation	395 John Ireland Blvd MS 620 St. Paul, MN 55155-1899	Electronic Service ▼	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Bob Patton	bob.patton@state.mn.us	MN Department of Agriculture	625 Robert St N Saint Paul, MN 55155-2538	Electronic Service ▼	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Carole Schmidt	cschmidt@grenergy.com	Great River Energy	12300 Elm Creek Boulevard Maple Grove, MN 553694718	Electronic Service ▼	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Jamie Schrenzel	jamie.schrenzel@state.mn.us	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	500 Lafayette Road Saint Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service ▼	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Janet Shaddix Elling	jshaddix@janetshaddix.com	Shaddix And Associates	Ste 122 9100 W Bloomington Frwy Bloomington, MN 55431	Electronic Service ▼	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Daniel P Wolf	dan.wolf@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Place East Suite 350 St. Paul, MN 551012147	Electronic Service ▼	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>