

August 12, 2015



**NOTICE OF THE GREAT RIVER ENERGY APPLICATION FOR A NEW TRANSMISSION LINE NEAR BACKUS, MINNESOTA**

Great River Energy, headquartered in Maple Grove, MN is proposing a new high voltage transmission line project that will serve a proposed new Enbridge Energy (Enbridge) petroleum pump station near Backus in Cass County, Minnesota (Project). On August 7, 2015, Great River Energy (Applicant) submitted an application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a route permit for the Project (Docket No. ET2/TL-15-628) pursuant to the alternative permitting process contained in Minnesota Rules 7850.2800 to 7850.3900, and Minnesota Statutes Section 216E.04 (the Minnesota Power Plant Siting Act).

Great River Energy proposes to construct a new approximately 2.5-mile 115 kilovolt (kV) overhead transmission line between the existing Minnesota Power Badoura to Pine River 115 kV transmission line (#142 Line) and the proposed Backus Pump Station. The proposed transmission line will interconnect with the #142 Line and then head northeast cross country for about 0.25 mile toward the existing  $\pm 250$  kV DC transmission line (DC Line) owned by Minnesota Power. The transmission line will then head east paralleling the DC Line right-of-way (ROW) on the south side (immediately adjacent to but not overlapping) for approximately 2.25 miles. The transmission line will then turn north and cross under the DC Line and terminate at the proposed Enbridge Backus Substation associated with the proposed Backus Pump Station (located just west of 48<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW).

See the enclosed fact sheet and map showing the proposed Project.

Great River Energy is requesting a route width of 200 feet, 100 either side of the transmission line centerline. Within those 200 feet, a ROW width of 100 feet is necessary for the 115 kV line (50 feet each side of the transmission centerline). Single wood poles ranging in height from 70 to 80 feet above ground would be used for most of the Project.

The proposed Project parallels (immediately adjacent to) an existing electric utility for the majority of the route. If the Commission issues a route permit for the Project, the applicant may, if necessary, exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire the land necessary for the Project (Minnesota Statute 216E.12).

The Minnesota Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) unit will conduct an environmental review of the Project. EERA will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA). Within 60 days of acceptance of the Route Permit Application by the Commission, Commission and EERA staff will hold an information and scoping meeting in the Project area, at which the public will have an opportunity to pose questions, suggest issues to be studied, and propose route alternatives for evaluation in the EA. A public comment period will occur. After the EA has been issued, a public hearing for the Project will be held in the Project area, and another public comment period will occur.

A final decision is generally made by the Commission within six months after the Route Permit Application has been accepted.

For more information about the regulatory process or to have your name included on the Project mailing lists, contact:

**Minnesota Department of Commerce**

Larry Hartman, Environmental Review Manager  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198  
651-539-1839  
800-657-3794  
[larry.hartman@state.mn.us](mailto:larry.hartman@state.mn.us)  
[mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities](http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities)

**Minnesota Public Utilities Commission**

Cezar Panait, Staff Analyst  
121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147  
651-201-2207  
800-657-3782  
[cezar.panait@state.mn.us](mailto:cezar.panait@state.mn.us)  
[mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc)

There are two options for citizens, landowners, and interested persons to receive Project information:

1. **Sign up for the Project Mailing List.** To sign up to receive notices about Project milestones and opportunities to participate (meetings, comment periods, etc.) email [docketing.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:docketing.puc@state.mn.us) or call 651-201-2234 with the docket number (15-628), your name, mailing address and email address. You may request to receive notices by email or U.S. Mail.
2. **Subscribe to the Docket.** To receive email notifications when new documents are filed in the Route Permit docket:
  1. Go to: [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc)
  2. Select the green box *Subscribe to a Docket*
  3. Type your e-mail address
  4. For *Type of Subscription*, select *Docket Number*
  5. For *Docket Number*, select 15 in the first box, type 628 in the second box
  6. Select *Add to List*
  7. Select *Save*

Note - subscribing may result in a large number of emails

Current information about the Project and Route Permit Application is available online at [www.GreatRiverEnergy.com](http://www.GreatRiverEnergy.com). On the home page, click on “Delivering Electricity” on the top ribbon bar, then “Transmission Projects” on the left side bar, then “Cass County” on the map of Minnesota. Paper copies of the Route Permit Application are also available for review at:

Backus City Hall  
112 King St. S  
Backus, MN 56435

Information on the Project may be obtained by calling Dan Leshner at Great River Energy: 1-888-521-0130 ext. 763-445-5975 or by email at [projects@greenergy.com](mailto:projects@greenergy.com).

# Bull Moose 115 kV Transmission Line



**GREAT RIVER ENERGY™**

**GREAT RIVER ENERGY**  
12300 Elm Creek Blvd  
Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718  
1-888-521-0130  
www.greatriverenergy.com



**CROW WING POWER**  
17330 Highway 371 North, PO Box 507  
Brainerd, MN 56401  
218-829-2827  
www.CWPower.com

## Project Description/Need

Great River Energy, wholesale electric supplier to Crow Wing Power and 27 other electric cooperatives, proposes to construct a new overhead 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line that is needed to provide electric power to a new petroleum pump station (Backus Station) being proposed by Enbridge Energy (Enbridge). The Enbridge pump station is part of a pipeline replacement project that will require permits from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

## Proposed Project

The 2.5-mile transmission line (see map on back for proposed route) would interconnect with an existing Minnesota Power (MP) 115 kV transmission line approximately four miles southwest of the City of Backus. From there the line would run northeast for one quarter mile to the existing  $\pm 250$  kV Direct Current (DC) transmission line owned by MP. The line would then run east for 2.25 miles, paralleling the DC Line (on the south side). From there the line would turn north and cross under the DC line to terminate at the proposed pump station location just west of 48<sup>th</sup> Ave SW.

The proposed transmission line will consist of wood poles that are 350 to 400 feet apart and 70 to 80 feet above ground. Guy wires and anchors, when necessary, will be used to stabilize poles. Some specialty poles may also be required. The new transmission line will require a 100-foot-wide right of way, 50 feet on each side of the centerline. Trees and vegetation in the right of way will be removed to provide a safe construction, operation and maintenance area.

## Permitting

Great River Energy submitted a route permit application for the proposed Project to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) on August 7, 2015. During the route permit process, the public and regulatory agencies will have numerous opportunities to provide input on the proposed Project, including public meetings facilitated by MPUC and Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DOC EERA) staff. The DOC EERA will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Project. Construction cannot begin until an approved route permit is granted by the MPUC.



*Typical 115 kV  
Transmission Structure*

## Easements/Trees

Once the project has been approved, Great River Energy will contact landowners to present an easement and offer of compensation. At that time, information will also be shared on tree removal, construction access and practices, and restoration of the right of way.

## Project Schedule

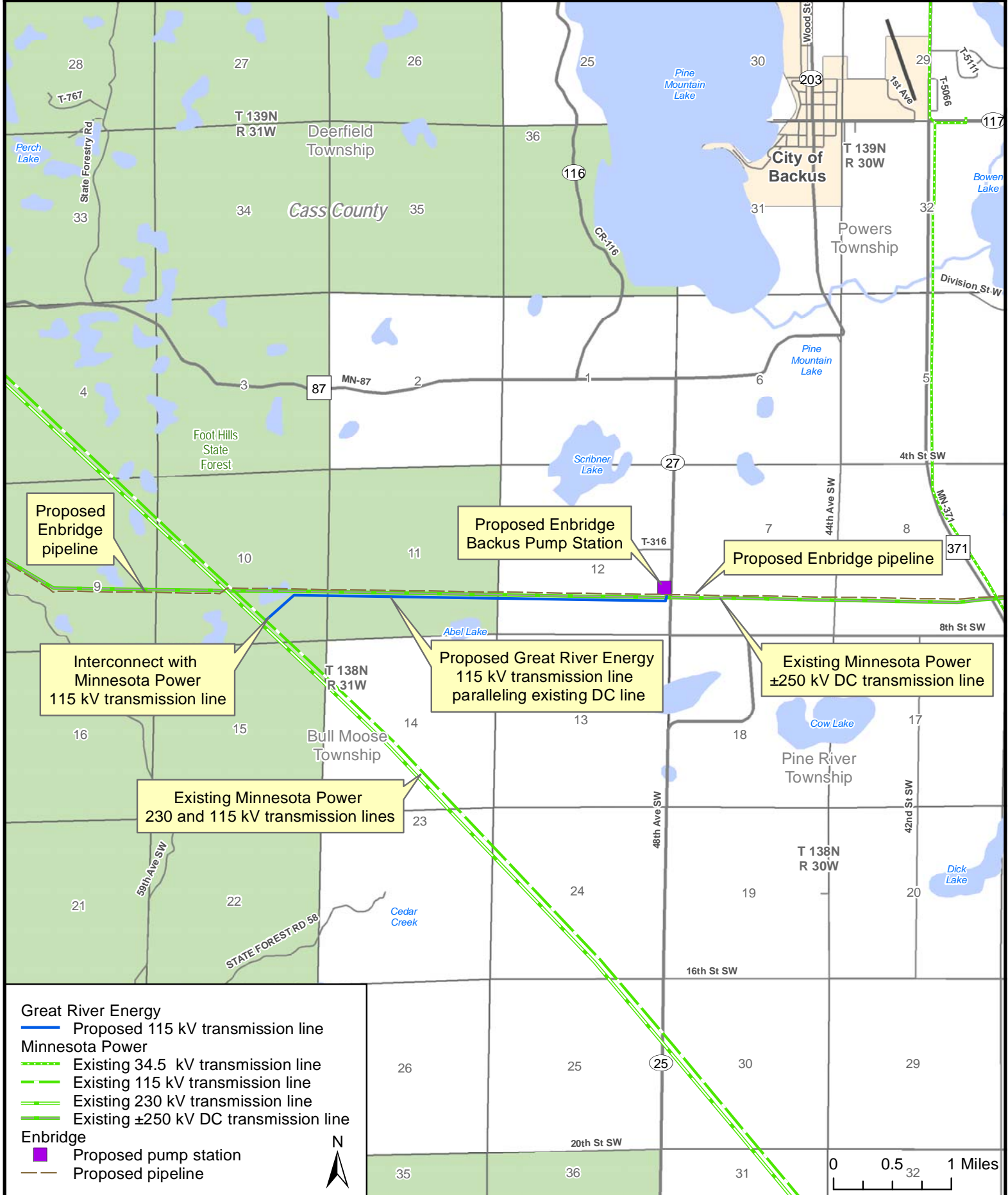
Public contacts and/or notifications -----	2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter 2015
Project permitting -----	Summer 2015 to winter 2016
Survey/design -----	Winter 2015/2016
Easement acquisition/right-of-way permits -----	Spring 2016
Transmission line construction -----	Starts 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2016
Energization -----	Spring 2017

**For project updates and information, visit [greatriverenergy.com/bullmoose](http://greatriverenergy.com/bullmoose) or contact:**

Dan Leshar  
Sr. Field Representative  
Great River Energy – Transmission Land Rights  
(763) 445-5975 or (612) 817-9910  
dlesher@grenergy.com

Carole Schmidt  
Supervisor, Transmission Permitting and Compliance  
Great River Energy  
763-445-5214  
cschmidt@grenergy.com

# Proposed Project



- Great River Energy
  - Proposed 115 kV transmission line
- Minnesota Power
  - - - Existing 34.5 kV transmission line
  - - - Existing 115 kV transmission line
  - - - Existing 230 kV transmission line
  - - - Existing ±250 kV DC transmission line
- Enbridge
  - Proposed pump station
  - - - Proposed pipeline

