



12300 Elm Creek Boulevard  
Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369-4718  
763-445-5000  
greatriverenergy.com

VIA EFILING

WO# 210575  
Otto Tap 115-kV

February 23, 2026

Ms. Sasha Bergman  
Executive Secretary Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7th Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101

**Re: In the Matter of 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**

**MPUC Docket No. ET2/TL-25-269**

Dear Ms. Bergman,

On November 3, 2025, Great River Energy and Lake Region Electric Cooperative submitted the Route Permit Application for their Otto Tap 115-kV Transmission Line project in Otter Tail County. Great River Energy, on behalf of Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) and Energy Infrastructure (EIP) Permitting staff, submitted and had newspaper notices published for the in-person and virtual Public Hearings. Notices were published in the New York Mills Dispatch on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, and the Perham Focus on Thursday, January 22, 2026.

Affidavits of publication and copies of the notices are enclosed.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark Strohfus'.

Mark Strohfus  
Project Manager – Transmission Permitting

cc: Craig Janezich

Encl

**AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION**  
[FORM Rev. 6/15]

STATE OF MINNESOTA)

) ss.

COUNTY OF OTTER TAIL )

Chad Koenen, being first duly sworn, on oath states as follows:

1. I am the publisher of the New York Mills Dispatch, or the publisher's designated agent. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this Affidavit, which is made pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §331A.07.

2. The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements to constitute a qualified newspaper under Minnesota law, including those requirements found in Minnesota Statutes §331A.02.

3. The dates of the month and the year and day of the week upon which the public notice attached/copied below was published in the newspaper are as follows:

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

4. The publisher's lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space, as determined pursuant to § 331A.06, is as follows: \$1.70 per column inch.

5. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §580.033 relating to the publication of mortgage foreclosure notices: The newspaper's known office of issue is located in Otter Tail County. The newspaper complies with the conditions described in §580.033, subd. 1, clause (1) or (2). If the newspaper's known office of issue is located in a county adjoining the county where the mortgaged premises or some part of the mortgaged premises described in the notice are located, a substantial portion of the newspaper's circulation is in the latter county.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAITH NOT.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
[Signature]

Subscribed and sworn to before me on  
this 21<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2026.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public



# PUBLIC NOTICE

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS AND AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT PERMIT

Issued: January 16, 2026

**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**

**PUC Docket Number:** ET2/TL-25-269  
**CAH Docket Number:** 28-2500-41458

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) will hold public hearings on the application of Great River Energy and Lake Region Electric Cooperative (applicants) for a route permit for the Otto Tap 115 kV Transmission Line Project (Project) in Otter Tail County, Minnesota.

The Applicants propose to construct a new 2.9-mile 115 kV single-circuit transmission line between Great River Energy's existing Perham to Rush Lake 115 kV transmission line and the new replacement Otto Substation (map attached). The applicants generally requested a route width of 200 feet, with up to 750 feet around the substation and at the proposed crossing of U.S. Highway 10. The applicants indicate that the project will require a 100-foot right-of-way, 50 feet on either side of the centerline. Structures utilized for the Project will be wood or steel monopoles, 70 to 90 feet tall, and placed 350 to 400 feet apart. The applicants propose to begin construction in the fall of 2027, with an in-service date of summer 2028.

The Commission accepted this application as complete on November 18, 2025, in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, chapter 216I. You may find information on the project, including the application and the Environmental Assessment completed by the applicants, on the Commission's website: <https://puc.eip.mn.gov/web/project/25269>.

### In-Person Hearing

**Date:** February 2, 2026  
**Time:** 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Open House)  
 6:00 p.m. (hearing)  
 The hearing ends when all present attendees have commented, or at 8:00 p.m., whichever comes first. Please arrive at the start time to ensure participation  
**Location:** New York Mills City Hall (Ballroom)  
 28 W Centennial 84 Dr  
 New York Mills, MN 56567

Doors will open 30 minutes prior to the hearing to provide attendees an opportunity to review the application, maps, and other materials for the proposed project and ask questions of state staff and the applicants. **During this time, comments made by attendees will become part of the record for Commission consideration only if the attendee submits the comment in writing.** Forms will be available for this purpose.

If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in these hearings, please contact the Commission at 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782 at least one week in advance of the hearing. To find out if a hearing is canceled due to bad weather or other call 1-855-731-6208 or visit [mn.gov/puc](https://mn.gov/puc).

### Online Hearing

**Date:** February 3, 2026  
**Time:** Noon  
 The hearing ends when all present attendees have commented or at 2:00 p.m., whichever comes first. Please arrive at the start time to ensure participation.

**Join by WebEx (Webinar) Link:** <https://minnesota.webex.com/minnesota/j.php?MTID=m647685dafebcb541683b08a8906746d5>  
**Webinar Number:** 2497 123 6569  
**Webinar Password:** MnPUC! (667820 when dialing from a phone or video system)  
**Join by Phone:** 1-855-282-6330 **Toll Free Access Code:** 2497 123 6569

If you are joining the hearing via WebEx and would like to ask a question or make a comment during the designated portion of the hearing, use the raised-hand function or the chat function to send a message to the hearing moderator. If you are joining the hearing by phone, press \*3 on your phone. When it is your turn to speak, your line will be unmuted, and you will be able to ask questions and provide comments.

Additional information and instructions are available at: <https://mn.gov/puc/activities/meetings/webex/>

### Public Hearing Information

The public hearings will be presided over by the Honorable Joseph C. Meyer, an administrative law judge with the Court of Administrative Hearings, who will provide the Commission with a summary of public testimony.

The purpose of the public hearings is to obtain public input on the proposed project and compile the record for the Commission to consider in making a final decision on the route permit application. Specifically, interested persons will have the opportunity to: (1) ask questions of state staff and the applicants; (2) offer oral and written comments on the merits of the proposed project; and (3) suggest possible conditions to be considered for inclusion in the route permit.

- Comments received at the hearings and during the comment period will be used to inform the record and help the Commission make its final decision.
- The information presented will be the same at the in-person and online hearing.
- The hearings will end when all present attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded, or at the scheduled end time of the hearing, whichever occurs first. **Accordingly, all interested persons are recommended to arrive at the scheduled start time.**
- Members of the public may participate without the necessity of intervening as a party; representation by legal counsel is permitted but not required.

### Comment Period

Written comments will be accepted through **February 19, 2026, by 4:30 p.m.** Please include the docket number in all communications. Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not be considered by the Commission.

### Topics for Comment

- Should the Commission grant a route permit for the proposed project?

- If granted, what additional conditions or requirements should be included in the route permit?

### Submit Comments

**Online** <https://mn.gov/puc/consumers/public-comments>  
**Email** [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us)  
**U.S. Mail** Consumer Affairs Office  
 Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
 121 7th Place East, Suite 350  
 St. Paul, MN 55101

Comments will be made available to the public via the Commission's website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The Commission does not edit or delete personal identifying information from the submissions.

### Draft Permit

The Commission issued a draft permit for the proposed Otto Tap project in its January 9, 2026, Order in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, chapter 216I. The draft permit contains standard and special permit conditions that are being considered for the project. Construction of the project is not authorized by a draft route permit. The Commission can either modify the draft route permit prior to its final issuance based on the record, or deny it. A copy of the draft permit is available on the Commission's website at: <https://puc.eip.mn.gov/web/project/25269> and via the Commission's eDockets system at: [edockets.state.mn.us](https://edockets.state.mn.us), select Search Documents, enter the docket number (25-269), and select Search.

### Additional Information

**Minnesota Statutes and Rules.** This project is being reviewed under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 216I. The rules and statutes are available for review at: [revisor.mn.gov](https://revisor.mn.gov).

**Review Process.** Information on the review processes for large energy infrastructure facilities is available on the Commission's website at: [puc.eip.mn.gov](https://puc.eip.mn.gov).

**Filing Requirements.** Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are required to file documents using the Commission's electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants, and interested persons are also encouraged to use eFiling: [edockets.state.mn.us](https://edockets.state.mn.us), select Sign In/Register and follow the prompts.

**Full Case Record.** See all documents filed in this matter via the Commission's website at: [edockets.state.mn.us](https://edockets.state.mn.us), select Search Documents, enter the docket number (25-269), and select Search.

**Subscribe to the Docket.** To receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter visit: [edockets.state.mn.us](https://edockets.state.mn.us), select Subscriptions.

**Project Mailing List.** Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate or change your mailing preference. Email [eservice.admin@state.mn.us](mailto:eservice.admin@state.mn.us) or call 651-201-2246 with the docket number (25-269), your name, mailing address, and email address.

### Contacts

**Public Utilities Commission**  
 Craig Janezich, Energy Facilities Planner,  
[craig.janezich@state.mn.us](mailto:craig.janezich@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2203  
 Suzanne Steinhauer, Environmental Review Manager,  
[suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us](mailto:suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2253

**Great River Energy**  
 Mark Strohfus, Project Manager, [MStrohfus@GREnergy.com](mailto:MStrohfus@GREnergy.com) or 763-445-5210

**Lake Region Electric Cooperative**  
 Mike Kawlewski, Engineering Supervisor, [mkawlewski@rec.coop](mailto:mkawlewski@rec.coop), 218-863-9846

To request this document in another format such as large print or audio, call 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with a hearing or speech impairment may call using their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service or email [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us) for assistance.

## Project Overview Map



**AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION**

STATE OF MINNESOTA

ss.

COUNTY OF OTTER TAIL

Kris Adamson, being first duly sworn, on oath states as follows:

1. I am the publisher of the PERHAM FOCUS, or the publisher's designated agent. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this Affidavit, which is made pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §331A.07.

2. The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements to constitute a qualified newspaper under Minnesota law, including those requirements found in Minnesota Statutes §331A.02.

3. The dates of the month and the year and day of the week upon which the public notice attached/copied below was published in the newspaper are as follows:  
Thursday, January 22, 2026

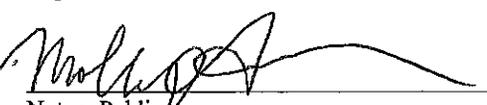
4. The publisher's lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space, as determined pursuant to § 331A.06, is as follows:

5. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §580.033 relating to the publication of mortgage foreclosure notices: The newspaper's known office of issue is located in OTTER TAIL County. The newspaper complies with the conditions described in §580.033, subd. 1, clause (1) or (2). If the newspaper's known office of issue is located in a county adjoining the county where the mortgaged premises or some part of the mortgaged premises described in the notice are located, a substantial portion of the newspaper's circulation is in the latter county.

Dated this 22nd day of January, 2026.

Kris Adamson

Legals Clerk

  
Notary Public

MOLLY E GUCK  
Notary Public  
State of North Dakota  
My Commission Expires Mar 28, 2027



*Sasha Bergman*  
 Sasha Bergman, Executive Secretary

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS AND AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT PERMIT**

Issued: January 16, 2026

**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**

**PUC Docket Number:** ET2/TL-25-269  
**CAH Docket Number:** 28-2500-41458

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) will hold public hearings on the application of Great River Energy and Lake Region Electric Cooperative (applicants) for a route permit for the Otto Tap 115 kV Transmission Line Project (Project) in Otter Tail County, Minnesota.

The Applicants propose to construct a new 2.9-mile 115 kV single-circuit transmission line between Great River Energy’s existing Perham to Rush Lake 115 kV transmission line and the new replacement Otto Substation (map attached). The applicants generally requested a route width of 200 feet, with up to 750 feet around the substation and at the proposed crossing of U.S. Highway 10. The applicants indicate that the project will require a 100-foot right-of-way, 50 feet on either side of the centerline. Structures utilized for the Project will be wood or steel monopoles, 70 to 90 feet tall, and placed 350 to 400 feet apart. The applicants propose to begin construction in the fall of 2027, with an in-service date of summer 2028.

The Commission accepted this application as complete on November 18, 2025, in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, chapter 216I. You may find information on the project, including the application and the Environmental Assessment completed by the applicants, on the Commission’s website: <https://puc.eip.mn.gov/web/project/25269>.

**In-Person Hearing**

**Date:** February 2, 2026  
**Time:** 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Open House)  
 6:00 p.m. (hearing)  
 The hearing ends when all present attendees have commented, or at 8:00 p.m., whichever comes first. Please arrive at the start time to ensure participation  
**Location:** New York Mills City Hall (Ballroom)  
 28 W Centennial 84 Dr  
 New York Mills, MN 56567

Doors will open 30 minutes prior to the hearing to provide attendees an opportunity to review the application, maps, and other materials for the proposed project and ask questions of state staff and the applicants. **During this time, comments made by attendees will become part of the record for Commission consideration only if the attendee submits the comment in writing.** Forms will be available for this purpose.

If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in these hearings, please contact the Commission at 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782 at least one week in advance of the hearing. To find out if a hearing is canceled due to bad weather or other call 1-855-731-6208 or visit [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc).

**Online Hearing**

**Date:** February 3, 2026  
**Time:** Noon  
 The hearing ends when all present attendees have commented or at 2:00 p.m., whichever comes first. Please arrive at the start time to ensure participation.

**Join by WebEx (Webinar) Link:**  
<https://minnesota.webex.com/minnesota/j.php?MTID=m647685dafebcb541683b08a8906746d5>  
**Webinar Number:** 2497 123 6569  
**Webinar Password:** MnPUC! (667820 when dialing from a phone or video system)

**Join by Phone:** 1-855-282-6330 Toll Free      **Access Code:** 2497 123 6569

If you are joining the hearing via WebEx and would like to ask a question or make a comment during the designated portion of the hearing, use the raised-hand function or the chat function to send a message to the hearing moderator. If you are joining the hearing by phone, press \*3 on your phone. When it is your turn to speak, your line will be unmuted, and you will be able to ask questions and provide comments.

Additional information and instructions are available at:  
<https://mn.gov/puc/activities/meetings/webex/>

**Public Hearing Information**

The public hearings will be presided over by the Honorable Joseph C. Meyer, an administrative law judge with the Court of Administrative Hearings, who will provide the Commission with a summary of public testimony.

The purpose of the public hearings is to obtain public input on the proposed project and compile the record for the Commission to consider in making a final decision on the route permit application. Specifically, interested persons will have the opportunity to: (1) ask questions of state staff and the applicants; (2) offer oral and written comments on the merits of the proposed project; and (3) suggest possible conditions to be considered for inclusion in the route permit.

- Comments received at the hearings and during the comment period will be used to inform the record and help the Commission make its final decision.
- The information presented will be the same at the in-person and online hearing.
- The hearings will end when all present attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded, or at the scheduled end time of the hearing, whichever occurs first. **Accordingly, all interested persons are recommended to arrive at the scheduled start time.**
- Members of the public may participate without the necessity of intervening as a party; representation by legal counsel is permitted but not required.

**Comment Period**

Written comments will be accepted through **February 19, 2026, by 4:30 p.m.** Please include the docket number in all communications. Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not be considered by the Commission.

**Topics for Comment**

- Should the Commission grant a route permit for the proposed project?
- If granted, what additional conditions or requirements should be included in the route permit?

**Submit Comments**

**Online** <https://mn.gov/puc/consumers/public-comments>  
**Email** [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us)  
**U.S. Mail** Consumer Affairs Office  
 Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
 121 7th Place East, Suite 350  
 St. Paul, MN 55101

Comments will be made available to the public via the Commission’s website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The Commission does not edit or delete personal identifying information from submissions.

**Draft Permit**

The Commission issued a draft permit for the proposed Otto Tap project in its January 9, 2026, Order in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, chapter 216I. The draft permit contains standard and special permit conditions that are being considered for the project. Construction of the project is not authorized by a draft route permit. The Commission can either modify the draft route permit prior to its final issuance based on the record, or deny it. A copy of the draft permit is available on the Commission’s website at: <https://puc.eip.mn.gov/web/project/25269> and via the Commission’s eDockets system at: <http://mn.gov/puc/edockets>, select *Search Documents*, enter the docket number (25-269), and select *Search*.

**Additional Information**

**Minnesota Statutes and Rules.** This project is being reviewed under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 216I. The rules and statutes are available for review at: [revisor.mn.gov](http://revisor.mn.gov).

**Review Process.** Information on the review processes for large energy infrastructure facilities is available on the Commission’s website at: [puc.eip.mn.gov](http://puc.eip.mn.gov).

**Filing Requirements.** Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are required to file documents using the Commission’s electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants, and interested persons are also encouraged to use eFiling: <http://mn.gov/puc/edockets>, select *Sign In/Register* and follow the prompts.

**Full Case Record.** See all documents filed in this matter via the Commission’s website at: <http://mn.gov/puc/edockets>, select *Search Documents*, enter the docket number (25-269), and select *Search*.

**Subscribe to the Docket.** To receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter visit: <http://mn.gov/puc/edockets>, select *Subscriptions*.

**Project Mailing List.** Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate or change your mailing preference. Email [eservice.admin@state.mn.us](mailto:eservice.admin@state.mn.us) or call 651-201-2246 with the docket number (25-269), your name, mailing address, and email address.

**Contacts**

**Public Utilities Commission**

Craig Janezich, Energy Facilities Planner, [craig.janezich@state.mn.us](mailto:craig.janezich@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2203  
 Suzanne Steinhauer, Environmental Review Manager, [suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us](mailto:suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2253

**Great River Energy**

Mark Strohfus, Project Manager, [MStrohfus@GREnergy.com](mailto:MStrohfus@GREnergy.com) or 763-445-5210

**Lake Region Electric Cooperative**

Mike Kawlewski, Engineering Supervisor, [mkawlewski@lrec.coop](mailto:mkawlewski@lrec.coop), 218-863-9846

To request this document in another format such as large print or audio, call 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with a hearing or speech impairment may call using their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service or email [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us) for assistance.

**Project Overview Map**

