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Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD ON GREAT RIVER ENERGY AND  
XCEL ENERGY'S REQUEST FOR A MINOR ALTERATION**

*Issued: February 24, 2015*

**In the Matter of the Route Permit Application by Great River Energy and Xcel Energy for a  
345 kV Transmission Line from Brookings County, South Dakota to Hampton, Minnesota**

**PUC Docket Number/s:      Docket No. ET-2/TL-08-1474**

**Comment Period:**      Comment period closes March 16, 2015 at 4:30pm

*Comments must be received by 4:30pm on the close date*

*Comments received after comment period closes may not be considered*

**Topic/s Open for Comment:**

- Does the request meet the definition of a minor alteration?
- Should the Commission approve the minor alteration request?
- If the minor alteration is approved, should any conditions be required?

**Project Background:** On September 14, 2010, and March 1, 2011, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission granted Great River Energy and Xcel Energy a Route Permit for the Brookings County-Hampton 345 kV High-Voltage Transmission Line Project.

Great River Energy has requested the temporary use of the open position on the double circuit capable structures on a portion of the Helena to Chub Lake Segment (between Structures #044 and #068) of the Brookings Transmission Line for an approximate 4.2 mile new 115 kV transmission line needed to serve the proposed Cedar Lake Substation, which will in turn serve the new St. Patrick Pump Station proposed by Minnesota Pipe Line Company as part of the Minnesota Pipe Line Reliability Project (see Commission Docket No. PL-5/CN-14-320).

If the minor alteration is approved, the temporary use of the open circuit position on the Brookings Transmission Line by the Cedar Lake 115 kV transmission line will commence in 2017 and extend no longer than the time when the open position is needed for a new permanent transmission circuit. At that time, Great River Energy will be required to develop alternative facilities for the 115 kV facilities on this portion of the Brookings Transmission Line in the Helena to Chub Lake Segment,

including seeking the required approvals for such alternative facilities. The terms and conditions of Great River Energy's temporary use of the open second circuit position for the Cedar Lake 115 kV line, including the manner in which the temporary use can be terminated, would be specified in a formal agreement between the other Brookings Project Owners and Great River Energy.

Under Minnesota Rule 7850.4800, a minor alteration is defined as a change in a large electric power generating plant or high-voltage transmission line that does not result in significant changes in the human or environmental impact of the facility. At the close of the comment period, the Commission will decide whether the requested alteration is a minor alteration, whether to authorize the minor alteration, and determine whether additional conditions are appropriate.

**Submit Public Comments:** Visit [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *Speak Up!*, find this docket, and add your comments to the discussion.

Persons without Internet access may send by U.S. Mail to Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul MN 55101-2147. Please include the Commission's docket number in all communications.

**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 encouraged to use eFiling: [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *eFiling*, and follow the prompts.

**Full Case Record:** All documents filed in this docket are available at [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *Search eDockets*, enter the year ("08") and the docket number ("1474"), select *Search*.

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**Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure?** Contact Commission staff, Michael Kaluzniak, at 651-201-2257 or [mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us](mailto:mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us).

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