



12300 Elm Creek Blvd • Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369-4718 • 763-445-5000 • Fax 763-445-5050

June 20, 2013

Dr. Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

**Re: Application for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit by Great River Energy
Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas 115 kV Transmission Project
MPUC Docket Nos. ET-2/CN-12-1235; ET-2/TL- 12-1245**

Dear Dr. Haar:

Under a separate eFile submission, dated today, please find the Great River Energy (Applicant) combined Certificate of Need Application and Route Permit Application (Application) to construct approximately 5.4 miles of new double circuit 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line and to rebuild approximately 11.3 miles of existing 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV specifications in the Elko New Market and Cleary Lakes areas south of the Twin Cities metro area in Scott and Rice counties, Minnesota (Project). The Application details the Applicant's need for and proposed route for the Project.

The Project is needed to address low voltage and transmission system overload issues in these areas. The existing transmission system that serves this area of the state has reached its maximum peak load-serving capability.

The Certificate of Need Application is submitted under Minnesota Rules 7849.0010 to 7849.2100 and Minnesota Statutes Section 216B.243. The "original" paper Application, three paper copies of the Application, and a CD ROM of the Application have been provided to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. One paper copy and one CD ROM of the Application have been provided to Dr. Steve Rakow of the Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources Staff.

A check for \$3,650 made payable to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for 25% of the total estimated fee for processing the Certificate of Need application (as required by Minn. R. 7849.0210 and Minn. Stat. § 216B.243, subd. 6) has been provided to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

The Route Permit Application is submitted under the Alternative Permitting processes of Minn. Rules 7850.2800 to 7850.3900 and Minn. Stat. § 216E.04. An electronic copy on CD ROM and 6 paper copies of the Application have been provided to David Birkholz of the Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting Staff.

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A check for \$17,500 made payable to the Department of Commerce for 50% of the total estimated fee for processing the Route Permit Application (as required by Minn. R. 7850.1800 and Minn. Stat. § 216E.18) has been provided to the Department of Commerce.

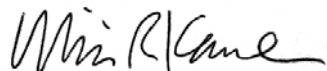
Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 216E.04, subdivision 4 (*citing* Minn. Stat. § 216E.03, subd. 4) and Minnesota Rule 7850.3300 (*citing* Minn. R. 7850.2100), the Applicant will, within 15 days, provide notice of the Application to the required stakeholders.

Please direct any questions you may have with respect to the filing to Carole Schmidt of Great River Energy at 763-445-5214.

Thank you for your attention to this important regional project.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY



William R. Kaul
Vice President, Transmission

c: Deborah Pile, DOC-EFP
Service List

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In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy for a Route Permit for its 115 kV Transmission Line Project in the Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota

MPUC Docket No. ET2/TL-12-1245

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Carole L. Schmidt certifies that on the 20th day of June, 2013, she efiled a true and correct copy of Great River Energy's Filing Letter, Application for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit for its 115 kV Transmission Line Project in the Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota, and Appendices, via eDockets (www.edockets.state.mn.us) and served the same on the attached Official Service List on file with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for Docket No. ET2/TL-12-1245.

Carole L. Schmidt

6-20-13

**NO OFFICIAL SERVICE LIST ON FILE WITH THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION FOR DOCKET NO. ET2/TL-12-1245.**