

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

In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy, Minnesota Power, Xcel Energy, Missouri River Energy Services and Otter Tail Power Company for a Certificate of Need for the Big Stone South - Alexandria - Big Oaks 345 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Project.

**ORDER**

In the Matter of the Application for a Route Permit for the Alexandria to Big Oaks 345 kV Transmission Project in central Minnesota

This matter is pending before Administrative Law Judge Megan J. McKenzie.

On July 15, 2024, the Applicants filed proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendations. On July 22, 2024, the Applicants filed responses to comments made by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDR). The response included an alternative option for the Western Crossing Option B (Double-Circuit) to address the MnDNR's concerns about the potential impacts of this route on Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) Sites of Biodiversity Significance.

Based upon the record and the discussion among the parties and participants at the prehearing conference,

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

The Parties may file amended or supplemental proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendations by **4:30 p.m. on August 20, 2024.**

Dated: August 15, 2024

  
MEGAN J. MCKENZIE  
Administrative Law Judge

August 15, 2024

See Attached Service List

**Re: *In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy, Minnesota Power, Xcel Energy, Missouri River Energy Services and Otter Tail Power Company for a Certificate of Need for the Big Stone South - Alexandria - Big Oaks 345 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Project.***

***In the Matter of the Application for a Route Permit for the Alexandria to Big Oaks 345 kV Transmission Project in Central Minnesota***

**OAH 25-2500-39723  
MPUC ET-2, E-017, E002, ET-10, E-015/CN-22-538  
MPUC E002, ET-2, ET-10, E-015, E-017/TL-23-159**

To All Persons on the Attached Service List:

Enclosed and served upon you is the Administrative Law Judge's **ORDER** in the above-entitled matter.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (651) 361-7874, [michelle.gedicke@state.mn.us](mailto:michelle.gedicke@state.mn.us), or via facsimile at (651) 539-0310.

Sincerely,



MICHELLE GEDICKE  
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Enclosure

cc: Docket Coordinator

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

<p>In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy, Minnesota Power, Xcel Energy, Missouri River Energy Services and Otter Tail Power Company for a Certificate of Need for the Big Stone South - Alexandria - Big Oaks 345 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Project.</p>	<p>OAH Docket No.: 25-2500-39723</p> <p>MPUC ET-2, E-017, E002, ET-10, E-015/CN-22-538</p>
<p>In the Matter of the Application for a Route Permit for the Alexandria to Big Oaks 345-kV Transmission Project in Central Minnesota</p>	<p>MPUC E002, ET-2, ET-10, E-015, E-017/TL-23-159</p>

On August 15, 2024, a true and correct copy of the **ORDER** was served by eService, and United States mail, (in the manner indicated below) to the following individuals:

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