



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Ecological & Water Resources  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040

September 2, 2022

Consumer Affairs Office  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7th Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul MN 55101

**RE: In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy and Otter Tail Power Company for a Route Permit for the Frazee to Erie 115 kV Transmission Line Project in Becker and Otter Tail Counties PUC Docket Number: E017/TL-20-423**

Consumer Affairs Office:

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has reviewed the recent letter filed by Great River Energy (August 26, 2022) regarding efforts to relocate showy lady's slippers. The letter satisfactorily reflects the DNR's recommendations. However, agency staff would like to clarify one inaccuracy: orchids need a large amount of soil when transplanted because of their relationship with a mycorrhizal fungus, *not an enzyme*.

It is our understanding that potential transplant locations may continue to evolve. The DNR encourages Great River Energy to maintain coordination with our agency's regional ecologist to aid the successful transplant of showy lady's slippers.

If you have any questions, I may be reached at [cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us](mailto:cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us) or 651-259-5078.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Cynthia Warzecha*

Energy Projects Planner

CC: Charley Bruce, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
Andrew Levi, Minnesota Department of Commerce – EERA  
Becky Marty, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
ERDB 20200326

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