



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

December 13, 2016

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Mr. Daniel P. Wolf
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: In the Matter of the Great River Energy Route Permit for the Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota ("Route Permit")
MPUC Docket No. ET2/TL-12-1245
Joint Request to Transfer a Portion of the Route Permit

Dear Mr. Wolf:

Enclosed please find the request by Great River Energy and Xcel Energy to transfer a portion of the subject Route Permit from Great River Energy to Xcel Energy. Construction of the Project by Great River Energy is now complete except for the three transmission line spans from Structure 34 into Xcel Energy's Credit River Substation (in the Credit River Junction to Credit River Substation segment of the project).

The original plan was that Great River Energy would take ownership of the switch at Structure 34, and rebuild and own the three spans of transmission line into the Credit River Substation. However, due to Xcel Energy outage constraints and a change in plans on Xcel Energy's part, Great River Energy's project now ends at the switch (Structure 34) and Xcel Energy will build those three spans in to the Credit River Substation. Great River Energy and Xcel Energy therefore respectfully request that the portion of the route permit from Structure 34 to the Credit River Substation be transferred to Xcel Energy.

The desired effective date of the transfer is no later than January 31, 2017. The enclosed request details the proposed transition of the compliance and other responsibilities under the Route Permit from Great River Energy to Xcel Energy.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me at 763-445-5214.

Respectfully Submitted,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Carole L. Schmidt'.

Carole L. Schmidt
Supervisor, Transmission Permitting and Compliance

Enclosure

cc: Service List

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
BEFORE THE
MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Beverly Jones Heydinger
Nancy Lange
Dan Lipschultz
Matt Schuerger
John Tuma

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of the Route Permit
for the Elko New Market and Cleary
Lake Areas Project in Scott and Rice
Counties, Minnesota

Docket No. ET2/TL-12-1245

JOINT REQUEST TO TRANSFER A PORTION OF THE ROUTE PERMIT

In accordance with Minnesota Rule 7850.5000 and the Route Permit for Construction of a High-Voltage Transmission Line Project in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota (Route Permit) issued by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) on August 5, 2014, Great River Energy and Xcel Energy jointly request that the Commission transfer a portion of this Route Permit from Great River Energy to Xcel Energy effective as of January 31, 2017.

A. Executive Summary

Permittee: Great River Energy

Proposed New Permittee: Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (Xcel Energy) is headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Xcel Energy is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Xcel Energy Inc., a utility holding company with its headquarters in Minneapolis. Xcel Energy provides electric services to approximately 1.4 million customers and natural gas services to 0.5 million residential, commercial and industrial customers in the State.

Description of facilities to be transferred: Approximately 0.18 mile (approximately 930 feet) of 115-kV transmission line from Structure 34 to the existing Xcel Energy Credit River Substation in Prior Lake, Minnesota. This segment of line is owned by Xcel Energy.

Reason for transfer: The original plan was that Great River Energy would take ownership of the switch at Structure 34, and rebuild and own the three spans of transmission line into the Credit River Substation. However, due to Xcel Energy outage constraints and a change in plans on Xcel Energy's part, Great River Energy's project now ends at the switch (Structure 34) and Xcel Energy will build those three spans in to the Credit River Substation. The portion of the route permit from Structure 34 to the Credit River Substation should therefore be transferred to Xcel Energy.

Proposed effective date of transfer: On or before January 31, 2017.

B. Description of Great River Energy

Great River Energy is a not-for-profit electric generation and transmission cooperative serving the wholesale power needs of 28 member distribution cooperatives, who in turn supply electricity to nearly 665,000 customers in Minnesota and a portion of western Wisconsin. Great River Energy is a transmission-owning member of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO) and owns approximately 4700 miles of transmission lines in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

C. Description of Xcel Energy

Xcel Energy is a Minnesota corporation headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Xcel Energy is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Xcel Energy Inc., a utility holding company with its headquarters in Minneapolis. Xcel Energy provides electricity services to approximately 1.4 million customers and natural gas services to 0.5 million residential, commercial and industrial customers in the State. Like Great River Energy, Xcel Energy is a transmission-owning member of MISO and owns transmission lines in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

D. Background

On June 20, 2013, Great River Energy submitted an application for a certificate of need and route permit for the proposed Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota (Project). The Project included rebuilding approximately 11.3 miles of existing 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV standards and approximately 5.4 miles of new 115 kV double circuit transmission line. On August 5, 2014, the Commission issued the Route Permit authorizing Great River Energy to construct the Project. Construction of the Project is now complete except for the three spans into Xcel Energy's Credit River Substation.

The original plan was that Great River Energy would take ownership of the switch at Structure 34, and rebuild and own the three spans of line (approximately 930 feet, 0.18 mile) into the Credit River Substation. However, due to Xcel Energy outage constraints and a change in plans on Xcel Energy's part, Great River Energy's project now ends at the switch (Structure 34) and Xcel Energy will build those three spans in to the Credit River Substation (**see attached Exhibit B, Map 1 of 7 from compliance filing**). The portion of the route permit from Structure 34 to the Credit River Substation should therefore be transferred to Xcel Energy. Xcel Energy will obtain any necessary Commission approvals prior to start of construction, and will comply with the Route Permit as outlined below.

E. Xcel Energy's Compliance with the Route Permit

Xcel Energy will comply with the General Conditions outlined in Section 4.0 of the Route Permit.

The Special Conditions outlined in Section 5.0 of the Route Permit are generally not applicable to this portion of the Project.

Xcel Energy will comply with Sections 6.0 and 7.0 of the Route Permit.

Xcel Energy will submit a separate Plan and Profile Compliance Filing for this portion of the Project (Section 8.1) and comply with the other requirements outlined in Section 8.0 of the Route Permit.

F. Requested Commission Action

For the reasons stated herein, Joint Applicants respectfully request the Commission authorize the transfer a portion of the Route Permit issued in the above-captioned proceeding from Great River Energy to Xcel Energy effective no later than January 31, 2017.

Dated: December 13, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY



Carole L. Schmidt
Supervisor, Transmission Permitting and
Compliance

XCEL ENERGY



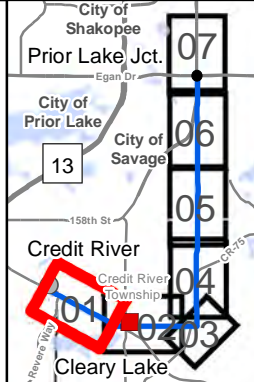
Pam Rasmussen
Senior Manager, Siting and Land Rights

Attachment: Exhibit B, Map 1 of 7



- Great River Energy
- New Transmission Centerline
- New Structure Locations
- Existing 69 kV Transmission Line
- Foreign Transmission Line
- Existing 69 kV Transmission Line
- Existing Distribution Substation

- Permitted Route
- Permitted Route (300' width)
- Right of Way Area (100' width)
- Permitted Alignment
- XX Bird Diverters



Credit River to Prior Lake Junction Exhibit B Map 1 of 7

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy. Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service.

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GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Updated Date: 8/11/2015

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community