

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Katie J. Sieben
Hwikwon Ham
Audrey C. Partridge
Joseph K. Sullivan
John A. Tuma

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy, Otter Tail Power Co., Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, Agralite Electric Coop., and the City of Benson for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit for the Appleton to Benson 115 Kilovolt Transmission Line Project

SERVICE DATE: April 29, 2025

DOCKET NO.
ET-2,E-017,ET-6135,E-100/CN-24-263;
ET-2,E-017,ET-6135, E-100/TL-24-264

The above-entitled matter has been considered by the Commission and the following disposition made:

Authorized the Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) to include solely in the scoping decision for the environmental assessment (EA) the route and the route alternatives through the City of Benson proposed by the applicant that can be found in Figure 5-1 of the Route Permit Application for the project.

This decision is issued by the Commission's consent calendar subcommittee, under a delegation of authority granted under Minn. Stat. § 216A.03, subd. 8 (a). Unless a party, a participant, or a Commissioner files an objection to this decision within ten days of receiving it, it will become the Order of the full Commission under Minn. Stat. § 216A.03, subd. 8 (b).

The Commission agrees with and adopts the recommendations of the Department of Commerce, which are attached and hereby incorporated into the Order.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Will Seuffert".

Will Seuffert
Executive Secretary

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April 15, 2025

Mr. Will Seuffert
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
127 7th Place East, Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

RE: Environmental Assessment Routing Alternatives
Appleton to Benson 115 kV Transmission Line Project

Dear Mr. Seuffert,

Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) staff has completed the environmental assessment scoping process in the following matter:

In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy, Otter Tail Power Co., Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, Agralite Electric Coop., and the City of Benson for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit for the Appleton to Benson 115 Kilovolt Transmission Line Project in Swift County, Minnesota.

The scoping period for the environmental assessment (EA) was open from February 11, 2025, through March 28, 2025. Public meetings for the project were held on March 12 and March 13, 2025. Verbal and written comments related to the scope of the EA were received from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Minnesota Department of Transportation, and the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council.¹ None of the commentors suggested an alternative route or route segment for the Appleton to Benson 115 kV Transmission Line Project.

Accordingly, EERA staff recommends that the Commission authorize EERA to include in the scoping decision for the EA solely the route and route alternatives for the project identified by the applicants in their application. The three route alternatives through the City of Benson proposed by the applicant can be found in Figure 5-1 of the Route Permit Application²

¹ Oral Public Meeting Comments on the Scope of the Environmental Assessment, eDockets No. [20254-217378-01](#); and Written Comments on Environmental Assessment Scoping, eDockets No. [20254-217555-01](#)

² Appleton to Benson Joint Application - Figures, eDockets No. [202412-213349-03](#)

EERA staff is available to answer any questions the Commission may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Weaver".

Sam Weaver
Environmental Review Manager
Energy Environmental Review and Analysis

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Hannah Olson, hereby certify that I have this day, served a true and correct copy of the following document to all persons at the addresses indicated below or on the attached list by electronic filing, electronic mail, courier, interoffice mail or by depositing the same enveloped with postage paid in the United States mail at St. Paul, Minnesota.

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ORDER

Docket Number ET-2,E-017,ET-6135,E-100/CN-24-263; ET-2,E-017,ET-6135, E-100/TL-24-264

Dated this 29th day of April, 2025

/s/ Hannah Olson

#	First Name	Last Name	Email	Organization	Agency	Address	Delivery Method	Alternate Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
1	Lisa	Agrimonti	lagrimonti@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.		60 South Sixth Street Suite 1500 Minneapolis MN, 55402-4400 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-263 Official CC Service List
2	Cody M.	Bauer	cbauer@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.		60 South 6th Street, Suite 1500 Minneapolis MN, 55402 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-263 Official CC Service List
3	Generic	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General - Department of Commerce		445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400 St. Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-263 Official CC Service List
4	Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce		85 7th Place E Ste 280 Saint Paul MN, 55101-2198 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-263 Official CC Service List
5	Thomas	Hoffman	thoffman@agralite.com	Agralite Electric Cooperative		320 Highway 12 SE Benson MN, 56215 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-263 Official CC Service List
6	Breann	Jurek	bjurek@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron PA		60 S Sixth St Ste 1500 Minneapolis MN, 55402 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-263 Official CC Service List
7	Kris	Koch	kkoch@otpco.com	Otter Tail Power Company		215 S. Cascade Street Fergus Falls MN, 56537 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-263 Official CC Service List
8	Stacy	Kotch Egstad	stacy.kotch@state.mn.us	MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION		395 John Ireland Blvd. St. Paul MN, 55155 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-263 Official CC Service List
9	Stephen	Kowal	skowal@bensonmnlaw.com	Wilcox Law Office, P.A.		1150 Wisconsin Avenue Benson MN, 56215 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-263 Official CC Service List
10	David C.	McLaughlin	dmclaughlin@fluegellaw.com	Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency		129 2nd Street Ortonville MN, 56278 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-263 Official CC Service List
11	Generic Notice	Residential Utilities Division	residential.utilities@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General - Residential Utilities Division		1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul MN, 55101-2131	Electronic Service		No	24-263 Official CC Service List

#	First Name	Last Name	Email	Organization	Agency	Address	Delivery Method	Alternate Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
						United States				
12	Will	Seuffert	will.seuffert@state.mn.us		Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Pl E Ste 350 Saint Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-263 Official CC Service List
13	Janet	Shaddix Elling	jshaddix@janetshaddix.com		Shaddix And Associates	7400 Lyndale Ave S Ste 190 Richfield MN, 55423 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-263 Official CC Service List
14	Mark	Strohfus	mstrohfus@greenergy.com		Great River Energy	12300 Elm Creek Boulevard Maple Grove MN, 55369-4718 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-263 Official CC Service List
15	Suzanne	Todnem	suzanne.todnem@state.mn.us		Office of Administrative Hearings	600 Robert St N PO Box 64620 St. Paul MN, 55164 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-263 Official CC Service List
16	Haley	Waller Pitts	hwallerpitts@fredlaw.com		Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.	60 S Sixth St Ste 1500 Minneapolis MN, 55402-4400 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-263 Official CC Service List
17	Sam	Weaver	sam.weaver@state.mn.us		Department of Commerce		Electronic Service		No	24-263 Official CC Service List
18	Brian	Zavesky	brianz@mrenergy.com		Missouri River Energy Services	3724 West Avera Drive P.O. Box 88920 Sioux Falls SD, 57108-8920 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-263 Official CC Service List

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