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April 26, 2024

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Mr. William Seuffert  
Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission 1221  
Seventh Place East, Suite 350 Saint Paul,  
MN 55101-2147

**Re: In the Matter of Application of Great River Energy for a Route Permit for the  
Reroute 115-kV Cedar Lake Transmission Line Project in Scott and Rice Counties  
MPUC Docket No. ET-2/TL-23-170**

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

With this filing, Great River Energy submits an updated version of the proposed Route Permit included with its February 16, 2024, comments. This version reflects corrections to Route Permit Sections 1 and 2.1 to include townships and sections included within the expanded route width near Baseline Avenue that were previously inadvertently omitted. Attachment A to this filing includes both a clean and redline version of the document.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this filing. These comments have been e-filed through [www.edocket.state.mn.us](http://www.edocket.state.mn.us). A copy of this filing is also being served upon the persons on the Official Service List of record.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Haley Waller Pitts*

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**STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**ROUTE PERMIT FOR A**

**HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINE AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES**

**IN**

**Scott and Rice Counties**

**ISSUED TO**

**Great River Energy**

**PUC DOCKET NO. ET2/TL-23-170**

In accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850 this route permit is hereby issued to:

**Great River Energy**

Great River Energy is authorized by this route permit to construct and operate a 6.3-mile 115-kV Transmission Line in Helena Township and Cedar Lake Township in Scott County, Wheatland Township in Rice County, and Lanesburgh Township in Le Sueur County, Minnesota.

The high-voltage transmission line and associated facilities shall be built within the route identified in this permit and as portrayed on the route maps and in compliance with the conditions specified in this permit.

Approved and adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of 2024

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

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Will Seuffert,  
Executive Secretary

To request this document in another format such as large print or audio, call 651-296-0406 or 800-657-3782 (voice). Persons with a hearing or speech impairment may call using their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service or email [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us) for assistance.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 – Complaint Handling Procedures for Permitted Energy Facilities

Attachment 2 – Compliance Filing Procedures for Permitted Energy Facilities

Attachment 3 – Route Permit Maps

## 1. ROUTE PERMIT

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) hereby issues this route permit to Great River Energy (Permittee) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850. This permit authorizes the Great River Energy to construct and operate a 6.3-mile 115-kV Transmission Line in Helena and Cedar Lake Townships in Scott County, Wheatland Township in Rice County, and Lanesburgh Township in Le Sueur County, Minnesota, and as identified in the attached Route Maps, hereby incorporated into this document as Attachment 3.

### 1.1. Pre-emption

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216E.10, this permit shall be the sole route approval required to be obtained by the Permittee for construction of the transmission facilities and this permit shall supersede and preempt all zoning, building, or land use rules, regulations, or ordinances promulgated by regional, county, local and special purpose governments.

## 2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Great River Energy (GRE) will construct and own approximately 6.3 miles of new 115 kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line (HVTL) beginning at the Cedar Lake Substation located in Helena Township and terminating at a switch at GRE's existing MV-EVX 115-kV line near Panama Avenue/County Highway 23.

### 2.1. Project Location

Township Name	Township	Range	Sections
Helena	T113N	R23W	25, 36
Lanesburgh	T112N	R23W	1
Cedar Lake	T113N	R22W	30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35
Wheatland	T112N	R22W	2, 3, 4, 5, 6

### 2.2. Substations and Associated Facilities

The Cedar Lake Substation is already equipped with breakers and relays. This equipment is designed to protect human health, as well as all of the equipment on the transmission system,

by de-energizing the transmission line should any unsafe line faults occur. No modifications are anticipated other than to connect the new transmission line to the substation.

### 2.3. Structures

The 115-kV line will consist primarily of single circuit, monopole wood structures spaced approximately 300 to 400 feet apart. Laminated wood or steel structures may be needed for switch structures, angle structures, and dead-end structures. Guy wires may also be used on some angle structures. Transmission structures will typically range in height from 60 to 90 feet above ground, depending upon the terrain and environmental constraints. The average diameter of the wood structures at ground level is 20 inches.

### 2.4. Conductors

The single-circuit structures will have three single-conductor phase wires and one shield wire. It is anticipated that the phase wires will be 795 thousand circular mil aluminum conductor steel supported with seven steel core strands and 26 outer aluminum strands, or a conductor with similar capacity. The shield wire will be 0.528 optical ground wire.

The table below details specifics on the various structure types as presented in the route permit application.

Structure Type	Material	Approximate Height Above Ground (feet)	Structure Base Diameter	Span Between Distances (feet)
Monopole with horizontal post or braced post	Wood, steel, or ductile iron	60 - 90	18 - 36	300 - 400
H-Frame	Wood, steel, or ductile iron	60 - 90	18 - 36	350 - 800
Three-pole	Wood, steel, or ductile iron	60 - 90	18 - 36	350 - 800

## 3. DESIGNATED ROUTE

The route designated by the Commission in this permit is the route described below and shown on the Route Maps in Attachment 3 of this permit. The route is generally described as follows:

The Project will begin at GRE's existing Cedar Lake Substation located approximately 1,000 feet south of 260th Street West in Helena Township in Scott County. The route will extend east from the Cedar Lake Substation through agricultural fields and forested areas to Baseline Avenue. From there, it will continue to follow Baseline Avenue south until 270th Street West to Baseline

Avenue's termination point. The route will continue south for approximately 1,300 feet to a landowner property boundary, where it will turn east for approximately 600 feet to the eastern edge of the landowner property boundary. The route will then continue south for approximately 2,650 feet to 280th Street East/State Highway 19 and then turn east. It will continue along 280th Street East/State Highway 19 for approximately 4 miles until it intersects with GRE's existing MV-EVX 115-kV line near Panama Avenue/County Highway 23.

#### **4. RIGHT-OF-WAY**

This Permit authorizes the Permittee to obtain a new permanent right-of-way for the transmission line up to 100 feet in width. The permanent right-of-way is typically 50 feet on both sides of the transmission line measured from its centerline. If guy wires are needed to support a structure, a 250-foot box right-of-way around such structures to accommodate guy wires and anchors are authorized.

The Project's anticipated alignment is intended to minimize potential impacts relative to criteria identified in Minn. R. 7850.4100. The actual right-of-way will generally conform to the anticipated alignment identified on the Route Maps, unless changes are requested by individual landowners and agreed to by the Permittee or for unforeseen conditions that are encountered or as otherwise provided for by this permit.

Any right-of-way modifications within the designated route shall be located so as to have comparable overall impacts relative to the factors in Minn. R. 7850.4100, as does the right-of-way identified in this permit, and shall be specifically identified and documented in and approved as part of the plan and profile submitted pursuant to Section 9.1 of this permit.

Where the transmission line parallels existing highway and other road rights-of-way, the transmission line right-of-way shall occupy and utilize the existing right-of-way to the maximum extent possible; consistent with the criteria in Minn. R. 7850.4100 and the other requirements of this permit; and for highways under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the procedures for accommodating utilities in trunk highway rights-of-way.

##### **4.1. ROUTE WIDTH VARIATIONS**

Route width variations may be allowed to accommodate the potential site-specific constraints listed below. These constraints may arise from any of the following:

1. Unforeseen circumstances encountered during the detailed engineering and design process.
2. Federal or state agency requirements.
3. Existing infrastructure within the route, including but not limited to railroads, natural gas and liquid pipelines, high voltage electric transmission lines, or sewer and water lines.

Any alignment modifications arising from these site-specific constraints that would result in right-of-way placement outside of the designated route shall be specifically reviewed by the Commission under Minn. R. 7850.4900.

## **5. GENERAL CONDITIONS**

The Permittee shall comply with the following conditions during construction and operation of the transmission line and associated facilities over the life of this permit.

### **5.1. Permit Distribution**

Within 30 days of permit issuance, the Permittee shall provide all affected landowners with a copy of this permit and the complaint procedures. In no case shall the landowner receive this route permit and complaint procedures less than five days prior to the start of construction on their property. An affected landowner is any landowner or designee that is within or adjacent to the permitted route.

At the time of first contact, the Permittee shall also provide all affected landowners with a copy of the Department of Commerce's Rights-of-Way and Easements for Energy Facility Construction and Operation fact sheet.<sup>1</sup>

### **5.2. Access to Property**

The Permittee shall notify landowners or their designee at least 14 days in advance but not greater than 60 days in advance of entering the property, unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner.

### **5.3. Construction and Operation Practices**

The Permittee shall follow those specific construction practices and material specifications described in GRE's Application to the Commission for a route permit for the Cedar Lake Reroute Project, dated June 7, 2023, and the record of the proceedings unless this permit establishes a different requirement in which case this permit shall prevail.

#### **5.3.1 Field Representative**

The Permittee shall designate a field representative responsible for overseeing compliance with the conditions of this permit during construction of the project. This person shall be accessible by telephone or other means during normal business hours throughout site preparation, construction, cleanup, and restoration.

The Permittee shall file with the Commission the name, address, email, phone number, and emergency phone number of the field representative 14 days prior to commencing construction.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/documents/Easements%20Fact%20Sheet\\_08.05.14.pdf](http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/documents/Easements%20Fact%20Sheet_08.05.14.pdf)



The Permittee shall provide the field representative's contact information to affected landowners, residents, local government units and other interested persons 14 days prior to commencing construction. The Permittee may change the field representative at any time upon notice to the Commission, affected landowners, residents, local government units and other interested persons.

### **5.3.2 Employee Training and Education of Permit Terms and Conditions**

The Permittee shall inform and educate all employees, contractors, and other persons involved in the construction and ongoing operation of the transmission line of the terms and conditions of this permit.

### **5.3.3 Public Services, Public Utilities, and Existing Easements**

During construction, the Permittee shall minimize any disruption to public services or public utilities. To the extent disruptions to public services or public utilities occur these will be temporary, and the Permittee will restore service promptly. Where any impacts to utilities have the potential to occur, the Permittee will work with both landowners and local agencies to determine the most appropriate transmission structure placement.

The Permittee shall consult with landowners, townships, cities, and counties along the route and consider concerns regarding tree clearing, distance from existing structures, drain tiles, pole depth and placement in relationship to existing roads and road expansion plans.

The Permittee shall cooperate with county and city road authorities to develop appropriate signage and traffic management during construction.

### **5.3.4 Temporary Workspace**

The Permittee shall limit temporary easements to special construction access needs and additional staging or lay-down areas required outside of the authorized right-of-way. Temporary space shall be selected to limit the removal and impacts to vegetation. Temporary easements outside of the authorized transmission line right-of-way will be obtained from affected landowners through rental agreements and are not provided for in this permit.

Temporary driveways may be constructed between the roadway and the structures to minimize impact using the shortest route possible. Construction mats should be used to minimize impacts on access paths and construction areas.

### **5.3.5 Noise**

The Permittee shall comply with noise standards established under Minn. R. 7030.0010 to 7030.0080. Construction and maintenance activities shall be limited to daytime working hours to the extent practicable to ensure nighttime noise level standards will not be exceeded.

### **5.3.6 Aesthetics**

The Permittee shall consider input pertaining to visual impacts from landowners or land management agencies prior to final location of structures, rights-of-way, and other areas with the potential for visual disturbance. Care shall be used to preserve the natural landscape, minimize tree removal, and prevent any unnecessary destruction of the natural surroundings in the vicinity of the project during construction and maintenance. The Permittee shall work with landowners to locate the high-voltage transmission line to minimize the loss of agricultural land, forest, and wetlands, and to avoid homes and farmsteads. Structures shall be placed at a distance, consistent with sound engineering principles and system reliability criteria, from intersecting roads, highways, or trail crossings.

### **5.3.7 Soil Erosion and Sediment Control**

The Permittee shall implement those erosion prevention and sediment control practices recommended by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Construction Stormwater Program.

The Permittee shall implement reasonable measures to minimize erosion and sedimentation during construction and shall employ perimeter sediment controls, protect exposed soil by promptly planting, seeding, using erosion control blankets and turf reinforcement mats, stabilizing slopes, protecting storm drain inlets, protecting soil stockpiles, and controlling vehicle tracking. Contours shall be graded as required so that all surfaces provide for proper drainage, blend with the natural terrain, and are left in a condition that will facilitate re-vegetation and prevent erosion. All areas disturbed during construction of the facilities shall be returned to pre-construction conditions.

In accordance with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency requirements, the Permittee shall obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)/State Disposal System (SDS) Construction Stormwater permit from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

### **5.3.8 Wetlands and Water Resources**

Wetland impact avoidance measures that shall be implemented as practical during design and construction of the transmission line will include spacing and placing the power poles at variable distances to span and avoid wetlands, watercourses, and floodplains. Unavoidable wetland impacts as a result of the placement of poles shall be limited to the immediate area around the poles. To minimize impacts, construction in wetland areas shall occur during frozen ground conditions where practicable and shall be according to permit requirements by the applicable permitting authority. When construction during winter is not possible, wooden or composite mats shall be used to protect wetland vegetation. Soil excavated from the wetlands and riparian areas shall be contained and not placed back into the wetland or riparian area. Wetlands and riparian areas shall be accessed using the shortest route possible in order to minimize travel through wetland areas and prevent unnecessary impacts. No staging or stringing set up areas shall be placed within or adjacent to wetlands or water resources, as practicable. Power pole structures shall be assembled on upland areas before they are brought to the site for installation.

Areas disturbed by construction activities shall be restored to pre-construction conditions. Restoration of the wetlands will be performed by the Permittee in accordance with the requirements of applicable state and federal permits or laws and landowner agreements.

All requirements of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (wetlands under federal jurisdiction), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (Public Waters/Wetlands), and County (wetlands under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act) shall be met.

#### **5.3.9 Vegetation Management**

The Permittee shall minimize the number of trees to be removed in selecting the right-of-way specifically preserving to the maximum extent practicable windbreaks, shelterbelts, living snow fences, and vegetation in areas such as trail and stream crossings where vegetative screening may minimize aesthetic impacts, to the extent that such actions do not violate sound engineering principles or system reliability criteria.

Tall growing species located within the transmission line right-of-way that endanger the safe and reliable operation of the transmission facility will be removed by the Permittee. The Permittee shall leave undisturbed, to the extent possible, existing low growing species in the right-of-way or replant such species in the right-of-way to blend the difference between the right-of-way and adjacent areas, to the extent that the low growing vegetation that will not pose a threat to the transmission facility or impede construction.

#### **5.3.10 Application of Pesticides**

The Permittee shall restrict pesticide use to those pesticides and methods of application approved by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Selective foliage or basal application shall be used when practicable. All pesticides shall be applied in a safe and cautious manner so as not to damage adjacent properties including crops, orchards, tree farms, apiaries, or gardens. The Permittee shall contact the landowner or designee to obtain approval for the use of pesticide at least 14 days prior to any application on their property. The landowner may request that there be no application of pesticides on any part of the site within the landowner's property. The Permittee shall provide notice of pesticide application to affected landowners and known beekeepers operating apiaries within three miles of the project site at least 14 days prior to such application.

#### **5.3.11 Invasive Species**

The Permittee shall employ best management practices to avoid the potential spread of invasive species on lands disturbed by project construction activities.

#### **5.3.12 Noxious Weeds**

The Permittee shall take all reasonable precautions against the spread of noxious weeds during all phases of construction. When utilizing seed to establish temporary and permanent vegetative cover on exposed soil the Permittee shall select site appropriate seed certified to be free of

noxious weeds. To the extent possible, the Permittee shall use native seed mixes. The Permittee shall consult with landowners on the selection and use of seed for replanting.

#### **5.3.13 Roads**

The Permittee shall advise the appropriate governing bodies having jurisdiction over all state, county, city or township roads that will be used during the construction phase of the project. Where practical, existing roadways shall be used for all activities associated with construction of the facility. Oversize or overweight loads associated with the facility shall not be hauled across public roads without required permits and approvals.

The Permittee shall construct the least number of site access roads it can. Access roads shall not be constructed across streams and drainage ways without the required permits and approvals. Access roads shall be constructed in accordance with all necessary township, county or state road requirements and permits.

The Permittee shall promptly repair private roads or lanes damaged when moving equipment or when accessing construction workspace, unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner.

#### **5.3.14 Archaeological and Historic Resources**

The Permittee shall make every effort to avoid impacts to identified archaeological and historic resources when constructing the transmission facility. In the event that a resource is encountered, the Permittee shall contact and consult with the State Historic Preservation Office and the State Archaeologist. Where feasible, avoidance of the resource is required. Where not feasible, mitigation must include an effort to minimize project impacts on the resource consistent with State Historic Preservation Office and State Archaeologist requirements.

Prior to construction, workers shall be trained about the need to avoid cultural properties, how to identify cultural properties, and procedures to follow if undocumented cultural properties, including gravesites, are found during construction. If human remains are encountered during construction, the Permittee shall immediately halt construction and promptly notify local law enforcement and the State Archaeologist. Construction at such location shall not proceed until authorized by local law enforcement or the State Archaeologist.

#### **5.3.15 Avian Protection**

The Permittee in cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources shall identify areas of the project where bird flight diverters will be incorporated into the transmission line design to prevent large avian collisions attributed to visibility issues. Standard transmission design shall incorporate adequate spacing of conductors and grounding devices in accordance with Avian Power Line Interaction Committee standards to eliminate the risk of electrocution to raptors with larger wingspans that may simultaneously come in contact with a conductor and grounding devices.

#### **5.3.16 Restoration**

The Permittee shall restore the right-of-way, temporary work spaces, access roads, abandoned right-of-way, and other public or private lands affected by construction of the transmission line. Restoration within the right-of-way must be compatible with the safe operation, maintenance, and inspection of the transmission line. Within 60 days after completion of all restoration activities, the Permittee shall advise the Commission in writing of the completion of such activities.

#### **5.3.17 Cleanup**

All waste and scrap that is the product of construction shall be removed from the right-of-way and all premises on which construction activities were conducted and properly disposed of upon completion of each task. Personal litter, including bottles, cans, and paper from construction activities shall be removed on a daily basis.

#### **5.3.18 Pollution and Hazardous Wastes**

All appropriate precautions to protect against pollution of the environment must be taken by the Permittee. The Permittee shall be responsible for compliance with all laws applicable to the generation, storage, transportation, clean up and disposal of all wastes generated during construction and restoration of the right-of-way.

#### **5.3.19 Damages**

The Permittee shall fairly restore or compensate landowners for damage to crops, fences, private roads and lanes, landscaping, drain tile, or other damages sustained during construction.

### **5.4. Electrical Performance Standards**

#### **5.4.1 Grounding**

The Permittee shall design, construct, and operate the transmission line in a manner so that the maximum induced steady state short-circuit current shall be limited to five milliamperes root mean square (rms) alternating current between the ground and any non-stationary object within the right-of-way, including but not limited to large motor vehicles and agricultural equipment. All fixed metallic objects on or off the right-of-way, except electric fences that parallel or cross the right-of-way, shall be grounded to the extent necessary to limit the induced short-circuit current between ground and the object so as not to exceed one milliampere rms under steady state conditions of the transmission line and to comply with the ground fault conditions specified in the National Electric Safety Code. The Permittee shall address and rectify any induced current problems that arise during transmission line operation.

#### **5.4.2 Electric Field**

The transmission line shall be designed, constructed, and operated in such a manner that the electric field measured one meter above ground level immediately below the transmission line shall not exceed 8.0 kV/m rms.

#### **5.4.3 Interference with Communication Devices**

If interference with radio or television, satellite, wireless internet, GPS-based agriculture navigation systems or other communication devices is caused by the presence or operation of the transmission line, the Permittee shall take whatever action is necessary to restore or provide reception equivalent to reception levels in the immediate area just prior to the construction of the line.

### **5.5. Other Requirements**

#### **5.5.4 Safety Codes and Design Requirements**

The transmission line and associated facilities shall be designed to meet or exceed all relevant local and state codes, the National Electric Safety Code, and North American Electric Reliability Corporation requirements. This includes standards relating to clearances to ground, clearance to crossing utilities, clearance to buildings, strength of materials, clearances over roadways, right-of-way widths, and permit requirements.

#### **5.5.5 Other Permits and Regulations**

The Permittee shall comply with all applicable state rules and statutes. The Permittee shall obtain all required permits for the project and comply with the conditions of those permits unless those permits conflict with or are preempted by federal or state permits and regulations. A list of the permits known to be required is included in the permit application. The Permittee shall submit a copy of such permits to the Commission upon request.

## **6. SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

Special conditions shall take precedence over other conditions of this permit should there be a conflict.

### **6.1. Independent Third-Party Monitor**

Prior to any construction, the Permittee shall propose a scope of work and identify an independent third-party monitor to conduct Project construction monitoring on behalf of Commerce. The scope of work shall be developed in consultation with and approved by Commerce. This third-party monitor will report directly to and will be under the control of Commerce with costs borne by the Permittee.

**6.2. Coordination with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS”)**

The permittee shall coordinate with the USFWS regarding the timing of tree-clearing and any other construction or restoration actions that may impact Northern Long-Eared Bat in the vicinity of the Project.

**6.3. Implementation of a Vegetation Management Plan**

The permittee shall follow its Vegetation Management Plan, as filed on August 10, 2023.

**6.4. Dust Control**

The Permittee shall utilize non-chloride products for dust control during construction.

**6.5. Wildlife Friendly Erosion Control**

The Permittee shall use only “bio-netting” or “natural netting” types and mulch products without synthetic (plastic) fiber additives for purposes of erosion control.

**7. DELAY IN CONSTRUCTION**

If the Permittee has not commenced construction or improvement of the route within four years after the date of issuance of this permit the Permittee shall file a report on the failure to construct and the Commission shall consider suspension of the permit in accordance with Minn. R. 7850.4700.

**8. COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**

Prior to the start of construction, the Permittee shall submit to the Commission the procedures that will be used to receive and respond to complaints. The procedures shall be in accordance with the requirements of Minn. R. 7829.1500 or Minn. R. 7829.1700, and as set forth in the complaint procedures attached to this permit.

Upon request, the Permittee shall assist the Commission with the disposition of unresolved or longstanding complaints. This assistance shall include, but is not limited to, the submittal of complaint correspondence and complaint resolution efforts.

**9. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS**

Failure to timely and properly make compliance filings required by this permit is a failure to comply with the conditions of this permit. Compliance filings must be electronically filed with the Commission.

**9.1. Plan and Profile**

At least 30 days before right-of-way preparation for construction begins on any segment or portion of the project, the Permittee shall provide the Commission with a plan and profile of the right-of-way and the specifications and drawings for right-of-way preparation, construction, structure specifications and locations, cleanup, and restoration for the transmission line. The documentation shall include maps depicting the plan and profile including the right-of-way, alignment, and structures in relation to the route and alignment approved per this permit.

The Permittee may not commence construction until the 30 days has expired or until the Commission has advised the Permittee in writing that it has completed its review of the documents and determined that the planned construction is consistent with this permit. If the Permittee intends to make any significant changes in its plan and profile or the specifications and drawings after submission to the Commission, the Permittee shall notify the Commission at least five days before implementing the changes. No changes shall be made that would be in violation of any of the terms of this permit.

**9.2. Status Reports**

The Permittee shall report to the Commission on progress during finalization of the route, design of structures, and construction of the transmission line. The Permittee need not report more frequently than monthly. Reports shall begin with the submittal of the plan and profile for the project and continue until completion of restoration.

**9.3. Notification to Commission**

At least three days before the line is to be placed into service, the Permittee shall notify the Commission of the date on which the line will be placed into service and the date on which construction was complete.

**9.4. As-Builts**

Within 90 days after completion of construction, the Permittee shall submit copies of all final as-built plans and specifications developed during the project.

**9.5. GPS Data**

Within 90 days after completion of construction, the Permittee shall submit to the Commission, in the format requested by the Commission, geo-spatial information (e.g., ArcGIS compatible map files, GPS coordinates, associated database of characteristics) for all structures associated with the transmission line and each substation connected.



**9.6. Right of Entry**

The Permittee shall allow Commission designated representatives to perform the following, upon reasonable notice, upon presentation of credentials and at all times in compliance with the Permittee's site safety standards.

- (a) To enter upon the facilities easement of the property for the purpose of obtaining information, examining records, and conducting surveys or investigations.
- (b) To bring such equipment upon the facilities easement of the property as is necessary to conduct such surveys and investigations.
- (c) To sample and monitor upon the facilities easement of the property.
- (d) To examine and copy any documents pertaining to compliance with the conditions of this route permit.

**10. PERMIT AMENDMENT**

This permit may be amended at any time by the Commission. Any person may request an amendment of the conditions of this permit by submitting a request to the Commission in writing describing the amendment sought and the reasons for the amendment. The Commission will mail notice of receipt of the request to the Permittee. The Commission may amend the conditions after affording the Permittee and interested persons such process as is required.

**11. TRANSFER OF PERMIT**

The Permittee may request at any time that the Commission transfer this permit to another person or entity. The Permittee shall provide the name and description of the person or entity to whom the permit is requested to be transferred, the reasons for the transfer, a description of the facilities affected, and the proposed effective date of the transfer.

The person to whom the permit is to be transferred shall provide the Commission with such information as the Commission shall require to determine whether the new Permittee can comply with the conditions of the permit. The Commission may authorize transfer of the permit after affording the Permittee, the new Permittee, and interested persons such process as is required.

**12. REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF THE PERMIT**

The Commission may initiate action to revoke or suspend this permit at any time. The Commission shall act in accordance with the requirements of Minn. R. 7850.5100, to revoke or suspend the permit.

**Draft Route Permit** GRE Cedar Lake Reroute 115-kV Transmission Line ET2/TL-23-170

## **Attachment 1 – Complaint Handling Procedures for Permitted Energy Facilities**

**Draft Route Permit** GRE Cedar Lake Reroute 115-kV Transmission Line ET2/TL-23-170

## Attachment 2 – Compliance Filing Procedures for Permitted Energy Facilities

**Draft Route Permit** GRE Cedar Lake Reroute 115-kV Transmission Line ET2/TL-23-170

## Attachment 3 – Route Permit Maps

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

ROUTE PERMIT FOR A  
HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINE AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES

IN  
Scott and Rice Counties

ISSUED TO  
Great River Energy

PUC DOCKET NO. ET2/TL-23-170

In accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850 this route permit is hereby issued to:

**Great River Energy**

Great River Energy is authorized by this route permit to construct and operate a 6.3-mile 115-kV Transmission Line in Helena Township and Cedar Lake Township in Scott County, ~~and~~ Wheatland Township in Rice County, ~~Minnesota~~ and Lanesburgh Township in Le Sueur County, Minnesota.

The high-voltage transmission line and associated facilities shall be built within the route identified in this permit and as portrayed on the route maps and in compliance with the conditions specified in this permit.

Approved and adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of 2024

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

\_\_\_\_\_  
Will Seuffert,  
Executive Secretary

To request this document in another format such as large print or audio, call 651-296-0406 or 800-657-3782 (voice). Persons with a hearing or speech impairment may call using their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service or email [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us) for assistance.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment 1 – Complaint Handling Procedures for Permitted Energy Facilities
- Attachment 2 – Compliance Filing Procedures for Permitted Energy Facilities
- Attachment 3 – Route Permit Maps



1. ROUTE PERMIT

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) hereby issues this route permit to Great River Energy (Permittee) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850. This permit authorizes the Great River Energy to construct and operate a 6.3-mile 115-kV Transmission Line in Helena and Cedar Lake Townships in Scott County, ~~Minnesota, and~~ Wheatland Township in Rice County, ~~and Lanesburgh Township in Le Sueur County,~~ Minnesota, and as identified in the attached Route Maps, hereby incorporated into this document as Attachment 3.

1.1. Pre-emption

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216E.10, this permit shall be the sole route approval required to be obtained by the Permittee for construction of the transmission facilities and this permit shall supersede and preempt all zoning, building, or land use rules, regulations, or ordinances promulgated by regional, county, local and special purpose governments.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Great River Energy (GRE) will construct and own approximately 6.3 miles of new 115 kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line (HVTL) beginning at the Cedar Lake Substation located in Helena Township and terminating at a switch at GRE's existing MV-EVX 115-kV line near Panama Avenue/County Highway 23.

2.1. Project Location

Township Name	Township	Range	Sections
Helena	T113N	R23W	25, 36
<a href="#">Lanesburgh</a>	<a href="#">T112N</a>	<a href="#">R23W</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
Cedar Lake	T113N	R22W	30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35
Wheatland	T112N	R22W	2, 3, 4, 5, 6

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2.2. Substations and Associated Facilities

The Cedar Lake Substation is already equipped with breakers and relays. This equipment is designed to protect human health, as well as all of the equipment on the transmission system,

by de-energizing the transmission line should any unsafe line faults occur. No modifications are anticipated other than to connect the new transmission line to the substation.

### 2.3. Structures

The 115-kV line will consist primarily of single circuit, monopole wood structures spaced approximately 300 to 400 feet apart. Laminated wood or steel structures may be needed for switch structures, angle structures, and dead-end structures. Guy wires may also be used on some angle structures. Transmission structures will typically range in height from 60 to 90 feet above ground, depending upon the terrain and environmental constraints. The average diameter of the wood structures at ground level is 20 inches.

### 2.4. Conductors

The single-circuit structures will have three single-conductor phase wires and one shield wire. It is anticipated that the phase wires will be 795 thousand circular mil aluminum conductor steel supported with seven steel core strands and 26 outer aluminum strands, or a conductor with similar capacity. The shield wire will be 0.528 optical ground wire.

The table below details specifics on the various structure types as presented in the route permit application.

Structure Type	Material	Approximate Height Above Ground (feet)	Structure Base Diameter	Span Between Distances (feet)
Monopole with horizontal post or braced post	Wood, steel, or ductile iron	60 - 90	18 - 36	300 - 400
H-Frame	Wood, steel, or ductile iron	60 - 90	18 - 36	350 - 800
Three-pole	Wood, steel, or ductile iron	60 - 90	18 - 36	350 - 800

## 3. DESIGNATED ROUTE

The route designated by the Commission in this permit is the route described below and shown on the Route Maps in Attachment 3 of this permit. The route is generally described as follows:

The Project will begin at GRE's existing Cedar Lake Substation located approximately 1,000 feet south of 260th Street West in Helena Township in Scott County. The route will extend east from the Cedar Lake Substation through agricultural fields and forested areas to Baseline Avenue. From there, it will continue to follow Baseline Avenue south until 270th Street West to Baseline

Avenue's termination point. The route will continue south for approximately 1,300 feet to a landowner property boundary, where it will turn east for approximately 600 feet to the eastern edge of the landowner property boundary. The route will then continue south for approximately 2,650 feet to 280th Street East/State Highway 19 and then turn east. It will continue along 280th Street East/State Highway 19 for approximately 4 miles until it intersects with GRE's existing MV-EVX 115-kV line near Panama Avenue/County Highway 23.

#### **4. RIGHT-OF-WAY**

This Permit authorizes the Permittee to obtain a new permanent right-of-way for the transmission line up to 100 feet in width. The permanent right-of-way is typically 50 feet on both sides of the transmission line measured from its centerline. If guy wires are needed to support a structure, a 250-foot box right-of-way around such structures to accommodate guy wires and anchors are authorized.

The Project's anticipated alignment is intended to minimize potential impacts relative to criteria identified in Minn. R. 7850.4100. The actual right-of-way will generally conform to the anticipated alignment identified on the Route Maps, unless changes are requested by individual landowners and agreed to by the Permittee or for unforeseen conditions that are encountered or as otherwise provided for by this permit.

Any right-of-way modifications within the designated route shall be located so as to have comparable overall impacts relative to the factors in Minn. R. 7850.4100, as does the right-of-way identified in this permit, and shall be specifically identified and documented in and approved as part of the plan and profile submitted pursuant to Section 9.1 of this permit.

Where the transmission line parallels existing highway and other road rights-of-way, the transmission line right-of-way shall occupy and utilize the existing right-of-way to the maximum extent possible; consistent with the criteria in Minn. R. 7850.4100 and the other requirements of this permit; and for highways under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the procedures for accommodating utilities in trunk highway rights-of-way.

##### **4.1. ROUTE WIDTH VARIATIONS**

Route width variations may be allowed to accommodate the potential site-specific constraints listed below. These constraints may arise from any of the following:

1. Unforeseen circumstances encountered during the detailed engineering and design process.
2. Federal or state agency requirements.
3. Existing infrastructure within the route, including but not limited to railroads, natural gas and liquid pipelines, high voltage electric transmission lines, or sewer and water lines.

Any alignment modifications arising from these site-specific constraints that would result in right-of-way placement outside of the designated route shall be specifically reviewed by the Commission under Minn. R. 7850.4900.

## **5. GENERAL CONDITIONS**

The Permittee shall comply with the following conditions during construction and operation of the transmission line and associated facilities over the life of this permit.

### **5.1. Permit Distribution**

Within 30 days of permit issuance, the Permittee shall provide all affected landowners with a copy of this permit and the complaint procedures. In no case shall the landowner receive this route permit and complaint procedures less than five days prior to the start of construction on their property. An affected landowner is any landowner or designee that is within or adjacent to the permitted route.

At the time of first contact, the Permittee shall also provide all affected landowners with a copy of the Department of Commerce's Rights-of-Way and Easements for Energy Facility Construction and Operation fact sheet.<sup>1</sup>

### **5.2. Access to Property**

The Permittee shall notify landowners or their designee at least 14 days in advance but not greater than 60 days in advance of entering the property, unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner.

### **5.3. Construction and Operation Practices**

The Permittee shall follow those specific construction practices and material specifications described in GRE's Application to the Commission for a route permit for the Cedar Lake Reroute Project, dated June 7, 2023, and the record of the proceedings unless this permit establishes a different requirement in which case this permit shall prevail.

#### **5.3.1 Field Representative**

The Permittee shall designate a field representative responsible for overseeing compliance with the conditions of this permit during construction of the project. This person shall be accessible by telephone or other means during normal business hours throughout site preparation, construction, cleanup, and restoration.

The Permittee shall file with the Commission the name, address, email, phone number, and emergency phone number of the field representative 14 days prior to commencing construction.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/documents/Easements%20Fact%20Sheet\\_08.05.14.pdf](http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/documents/Easements%20Fact%20Sheet_08.05.14.pdf)

The Permittee shall provide the field representative's contact information to affected landowners, residents, local government units and other interested persons 14 days prior to commencing construction. The Permittee may change the field representative at any time upon notice to the Commission, affected landowners, residents, local government units and other interested persons.

**5.3.2 Employee Training and Education of Permit Terms and Conditions**

The Permittee shall inform and educate all employees, contractors, and other persons involved in the construction and ongoing operation of the transmission line of the terms and conditions of this permit.

**5.3.3 Public Services, Public Utilities, and Existing Easements**

During construction, the Permittee shall minimize any disruption to public services or public utilities. To the extent disruptions to public services or public utilities occur these will be temporary, and the Permittee will restore service promptly. Where any impacts to utilities have the potential to occur, the Permittee will work with both landowners and local agencies to determine the most appropriate transmission structure placement.

The Permittee shall consult with landowners, townships, cities, and counties along the route and consider concerns regarding tree clearing, distance from existing structures, drain tiles, pole depth and placement in relationship to existing roads and road expansion plans.

The Permittee shall cooperate with county and city road authorities to develop appropriate signage and traffic management during construction.

**5.3.4 Temporary Workspace**

The Permittee shall limit temporary easements to special construction access needs and additional staging or lay-down areas required outside of the authorized right-of-way. Temporary space shall be selected to limit the removal and impacts to vegetation. Temporary easements outside of the authorized transmission line right-of-way will be obtained from affected landowners through rental agreements and are not provided for in this permit.

Temporary driveways may be constructed between the roadway and the structures to minimize impact using the shortest route possible. Construction mats should be used to minimize impacts on access paths and construction areas.

**5.3.5 Noise**

The Permittee shall comply with noise standards established under Minn. R. 7030.0010 to 7030.0080. Construction and maintenance activities shall be limited to daytime working hours to the extent practicable to ensure nighttime noise level standards will not be exceeded.

### **5.3.6 Aesthetics**

The Permittee shall consider input pertaining to visual impacts from landowners or land management agencies prior to final location of structures, rights-of-way, and other areas with the potential for visual disturbance. Care shall be used to preserve the natural landscape, minimize tree removal, and prevent any unnecessary destruction of the natural surroundings in the vicinity of the project during construction and maintenance. The Permittee shall work with landowners to locate the high-voltage transmission line to minimize the loss of agricultural land, forest, and wetlands, and to avoid homes and farmsteads. Structures shall be placed at a distance, consistent with sound engineering principles and system reliability criteria, from intersecting roads, highways, or trail crossings.

### **5.3.7 Soil Erosion and Sediment Control**

The Permittee shall implement those erosion prevention and sediment control practices recommended by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Construction Stormwater Program.

The Permittee shall implement reasonable measures to minimize erosion and sedimentation during construction and shall employ perimeter sediment controls, protect exposed soil by promptly planting, seeding, using erosion control blankets and turf reinforcement mats, stabilizing slopes, protecting storm drain inlets, protecting soil stockpiles, and controlling vehicle tracking. Contours shall be graded as required so that all surfaces provide for proper drainage, blend with the natural terrain, and are left in a condition that will facilitate re-vegetation and prevent erosion. All areas disturbed during construction of the facilities shall be returned to pre-construction conditions.

In accordance with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency requirements, the Permittee shall obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)/State Disposal System (SDS) Construction Stormwater permit from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

### **5.3.8 Wetlands and Water Resources**

Wetland impact avoidance measures that shall be implemented as practical during design and construction of the transmission line will include spacing and placing the power poles at variable distances to span and avoid wetlands, watercourses, and floodplains. Unavoidable wetland impacts as a result of the placement of poles shall be limited to the immediate area around the poles. To minimize impacts, construction in wetland areas shall occur during frozen ground conditions where practicable and shall be according to permit requirements by the applicable permitting authority. When construction during winter is not possible, wooden or composite mats shall be used to protect wetland vegetation. Soil excavated from the wetlands and riparian areas shall be contained and not placed back into the wetland or riparian area. Wetlands and riparian areas shall be accessed using the shortest route possible in order to minimize travel through wetland areas and prevent unnecessary impacts. No staging or stringing set up areas shall be placed within or adjacent to wetlands or water resources, as practicable. Power pole structures shall be assembled on upland areas before they are brought to the site for installation.

Areas disturbed by construction activities shall be restored to pre-construction conditions. Restoration of the wetlands will be performed by the Permittee in accordance with the requirements of applicable state and federal permits or laws and landowner agreements.

All requirements of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (wetlands under federal jurisdiction), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (Public Waters/Wetlands), and County (wetlands under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act) shall be met.

#### **5.3.9 Vegetation Management**

The Permittee shall minimize the number of trees to be removed in selecting the right-of-way specifically preserving to the maximum extent practicable windbreaks, shelterbelts, living snow fences, and vegetation in areas such as trail and stream crossings where vegetative screening may minimize aesthetic impacts, to the extent that such actions do not violate sound engineering principles or system reliability criteria.

Tall growing species located within the transmission line right-of-way that endanger the safe and reliable operation of the transmission facility will be removed by the Permittee. The Permittee shall leave undisturbed, to the extent possible, existing low growing species in the right-of-way or replant such species in the right-of-way to blend the difference between the right-of-way and adjacent areas, to the extent that the low growing vegetation that will not pose a threat to the transmission facility or impede construction.

#### **5.3.10 Application of Pesticides**

The Permittee shall restrict pesticide use to those pesticides and methods of application approved by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Selective foliage or basal application shall be used when practicable. All pesticides shall be applied in a safe and cautious manner so as not to damage adjacent properties including crops, orchards, tree farms, apiaries, or gardens. The Permittee shall contact the landowner or designee to obtain approval for the use of pesticide at least 14 days prior to any application on their property. The landowner may request that there be no application of pesticides on any part of the site within the landowner's property. The Permittee shall provide notice of pesticide application to affected landowners and known beekeepers operating apiaries within three miles of the project site at least 14 days prior to such application.

#### **5.3.11 Invasive Species**

The Permittee shall employ best management practices to avoid the potential spread of invasive species on lands disturbed by project construction activities.

#### **5.3.12 Noxious Weeds**

The Permittee shall take all reasonable precautions against the spread of noxious weeds during all phases of construction. When utilizing seed to establish temporary and permanent vegetative cover on exposed soil the Permittee shall select site appropriate seed certified to be free of

noxious weeds. To the extent possible, the Permittee shall use native seed mixes. The Permittee shall consult with landowners on the selection and use of seed for replanting.

#### **5.3.13 Roads**

The Permittee shall advise the appropriate governing bodies having jurisdiction over all state, county, city or township roads that will be used during the construction phase of the project. Where practical, existing roadways shall be used for all activities associated with construction of the facility. Oversize or overweight loads associated with the facility shall not be hauled across public roads without required permits and approvals.

The Permittee shall construct the least number of site access roads it can. Access roads shall not be constructed across streams and drainage ways without the required permits and approvals. Access roads shall be constructed in accordance with all necessary township, county or state road requirements and permits.

The Permittee shall promptly repair private roads or lanes damaged when moving equipment or when accessing construction workspace, unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner.

#### **5.3.14 Archaeological and Historic Resources**

The Permittee shall make every effort to avoid impacts to identified archaeological and historic resources when constructing the transmission facility. In the event that a resource is encountered, the Permittee shall contact and consult with the State Historic Preservation Office and the State Archaeologist. Where feasible, avoidance of the resource is required. Where not feasible, mitigation must include an effort to minimize project impacts on the resource consistent with State Historic Preservation Office and State Archaeologist requirements.

Prior to construction, workers shall be trained about the need to avoid cultural properties, how to identify cultural properties, and procedures to follow if undocumented cultural properties, including gravesites, are found during construction. If human remains are encountered during construction, the Permittee shall immediately halt construction and promptly notify local law enforcement and the State Archaeologist. Construction at such location shall not proceed until authorized by local law enforcement or the State Archaeologist.

#### **5.3.15 Avian Protection**

The Permittee in cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources shall identify areas of the project where bird flight diverters will be incorporated into the transmission line design to prevent large avian collisions attributed to visibility issues. Standard transmission design shall incorporate adequate spacing of conductors and grounding devices in accordance with Avian Power Line Interaction Committee standards to eliminate the risk of electrocution to raptors with larger wingspans that may simultaneously come in contact with a conductor and grounding devices.



#### **5.3.16 Restoration**

The Permittee shall restore the right-of-way, temporary work spaces, access roads, abandoned right-of-way, and other public or private lands affected by construction of the transmission line. Restoration within the right-of-way must be compatible with the safe operation, maintenance, and inspection of the transmission line. Within 60 days after completion of all restoration activities, the Permittee shall advise the Commission in writing of the completion of such activities.

#### **5.3.17 Cleanup**

All waste and scrap that is the product of construction shall be removed from the right-of-way and all premises on which construction activities were conducted and properly disposed of upon completion of each task. Personal litter, including bottles, cans, and paper from construction activities shall be removed on a daily basis.

#### **5.3.18 Pollution and Hazardous Wastes**

All appropriate precautions to protect against pollution of the environment must be taken by the Permittee. The Permittee shall be responsible for compliance with all laws applicable to the generation, storage, transportation, clean up and disposal of all wastes generated during construction and restoration of the right-of-way.

#### **5.3.19 Damages**

The Permittee shall fairly restore or compensate landowners for damage to crops, fences, private roads and lanes, landscaping, drain tile, or other damages sustained during construction.

### **5.4. Electrical Performance Standards**

#### **5.4.1 Grounding**

The Permittee shall design, construct, and operate the transmission line in a manner so that the maximum induced steady state short-circuit current shall be limited to five milliamperes root mean square (rms) alternating current between the ground and any non-stationary object within the right-of-way, including but not limited to large motor vehicles and agricultural equipment. All fixed metallic objects on or off the right-of-way, except electric fences that parallel or cross the right-of-way, shall be grounded to the extent necessary to limit the induced short-circuit current between ground and the object so as not to exceed one milliamperes rms under steady state conditions of the transmission line and to comply with the ground fault conditions specified in the National Electric Safety Code. The Permittee shall address and rectify any induced current problems that arise during transmission line operation.

#### **5.4.2 Electric Field**

The transmission line shall be designed, constructed, and operated in such a manner that the electric field measured one meter above ground level immediately below the transmission line shall not exceed 8.0 kV/m rms.

#### **5.4.3 Interference with Communication Devices**

If interference with radio or television, satellite, wireless internet, GPS-based agriculture navigation systems or other communication devices is caused by the presence or operation of the transmission line, the Permittee shall take whatever action is necessary to restore or provide reception equivalent to reception levels in the immediate area just prior to the construction of the line.

### **5.5. Other Requirements**

#### **5.5.4 Safety Codes and Design Requirements**

The transmission line and associated facilities shall be designed to meet or exceed all relevant local and state codes, the National Electric Safety Code, and North American Electric Reliability Corporation requirements. This includes standards relating to clearances to ground, clearance to crossing utilities, clearance to buildings, strength of materials, clearances over roadways, right-of-way widths, and permit requirements.

#### **5.5.5 Other Permits and Regulations**

The Permittee shall comply with all applicable state rules and statutes. The Permittee shall obtain all required permits for the project and comply with the conditions of those permits unless those permits conflict with or are preempted by federal or state permits and regulations. A list of the permits known to be required is included in the permit application. The Permittee shall submit a copy of such permits to the Commission upon request.

### **6. SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

Special conditions shall take precedence over other conditions of this permit should there be a conflict.

#### **6.1. Independent Third-Party Monitor**

Prior to any construction, the Permittee shall propose a scope of work and identify an independent third-party monitor to conduct Project construction monitoring on behalf of Commerce. The scope of work shall be developed in consultation with and approved by Commerce. This third-party monitor will report directly to and will be under the control of Commerce with costs borne by the Permittee.

**6.2. Coordination with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS”)**

The permittee shall coordinate with the USFWS regarding the timing of tree-clearing and any other construction or restoration actions that may impact Northern Long-Eared Bat in the vicinity of the Project.

**6.3. Implementation of a Vegetation Management Plan**

The permittee shall follow its Vegetation Management Plan, as filed on August 10, 2023.

**6.4. Dust Control**

The Permittee shall utilize non-chloride products for dust control during construction.

**6.5. Wildlife Friendly Erosion Control**

The Permittee shall use only “bio-netting” or “natural netting” types and mulch products without synthetic (plastic) fiber additives for purposes of erosion control.

**7. DELAY IN CONSTRUCTION**

If the Permittee has not commenced construction or improvement of the route within four years after the date of issuance of this permit the Permittee shall file a report on the failure to construct and the Commission shall consider suspension of the permit in accordance with Minn. R. 7850.4700.

**8. COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**

Prior to the start of construction, the Permittee shall submit to the Commission the procedures that will be used to receive and respond to complaints. The procedures shall be in accordance with the requirements of Minn. R. 7829.1500 or Minn. R. 7829.1700, and as set forth in the complaint procedures attached to this permit.

Upon request, the Permittee shall assist the Commission with the disposition of unresolved or longstanding complaints. This assistance shall include, but is not limited to, the submittal of complaint correspondence and complaint resolution efforts.

**9. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS**

Failure to timely and properly make compliance filings required by this permit is a failure to comply with the conditions of this permit. Compliance filings must be electronically filed with the Commission.

**9.1. Plan and Profile**

At least 30 days before right-of-way preparation for construction begins on any segment or portion of the project, the Permittee shall provide the Commission with a plan and profile of the right-of-way and the specifications and drawings for right-of-way preparation, construction, structure specifications and locations, cleanup, and restoration for the transmission line. The documentation shall include maps depicting the plan and profile including the right-of-way, alignment, and structures in relation to the route and alignment approved per this permit.

The Permittee may not commence construction until the 30 days has expired or until the Commission has advised the Permittee in writing that it has completed its review of the documents and determined that the planned construction is consistent with this permit. If the Permittee intends to make any significant changes in its plan and profile or the specifications and drawings after submission to the Commission, the Permittee shall notify the Commission at least five days before implementing the changes. No changes shall be made that would be in violation of any of the terms of this permit.

**9.2. Status Reports**

The Permittee shall report to the Commission on progress during finalization of the route, design of structures, and construction of the transmission line. The Permittee need not report more frequently than monthly. Reports shall begin with the submittal of the plan and profile for the project and continue until completion of restoration.

**9.3. Notification to Commission**

At least three days before the line is to be placed into service, the Permittee shall notify the Commission of the date on which the line will be placed into service and the date on which construction was complete.

**9.4. As-Builts**

Within 90 days after completion of construction, the Permittee shall submit copies of all final as-built plans and specifications developed during the project.

**9.5. GPS Data**

Within 90 days after completion of construction, the Permittee shall submit to the Commission, in the format requested by the Commission, geo-spatial information (e.g., ArcGIS compatible map files, GPS coordinates, associated database of characteristics) for all structures associated with the transmission line and each substation connected.

**9.6. Right of Entry**

The Permittee shall allow Commission designated representatives to perform the following, upon reasonable notice, upon presentation of credentials and at all times in compliance with the Permittee's site safety standards.

- (a) To enter upon the facilities easement of the property for the purpose of obtaining information, examining records, and conducting surveys or investigations.
- (b) To bring such equipment upon the facilities easement of the property as is necessary to conduct such surveys and investigations.
- (c) To sample and monitor upon the facilities easement of the property.
- (d) To examine and copy any documents pertaining to compliance with the conditions of this route permit.

**10. PERMIT AMENDMENT**

This permit may be amended at any time by the Commission. Any person may request an amendment of the conditions of this permit by submitting a request to the Commission in writing describing the amendment sought and the reasons for the amendment. The Commission will mail notice of receipt of the request to the Permittee. The Commission may amend the conditions after affording the Permittee and interested persons such process as is required.

**11. TRANSFER OF PERMIT**

The Permittee may request at any time that the Commission transfer this permit to another person or entity. The Permittee shall provide the name and description of the person or entity to whom the permit is requested to be transferred, the reasons for the transfer, a description of the facilities affected, and the proposed effective date of the transfer.

The person to whom the permit is to be transferred shall provide the Commission with such information as the Commission shall require to determine whether the new Permittee can comply with the conditions of the permit. The Commission may authorize transfer of the permit after affording the Permittee, the new Permittee, and interested persons such process as is required.

**12. REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF THE PERMIT**

The Commission may initiate action to revoke or suspend this permit at any time. The Commission shall act in accordance with the requirements of Minn. R. 7850.5100, to revoke or suspend the permit.

**Draft Route Permit** GRE Cedar Lake Reroute 115-kV Transmission Line ET2/TL-23-170

**Attachment 1 – Complaint Handling Procedures for Permitted Energy Facilities**

**Draft Route Permit** GRE Cedar Lake Reroute 115-kV Transmission Line ET2/TL-23-170

**Attachment 2 – Compliance Filing Procedures for Permitted Energy Facilities**



**Draft Route Permit** GRE Cedar Lake Reroute 115-kV Transmission Line ET2/TL-23-170

**Attachment 3 – Route Permit Maps**

**In the Matter of Application of Great  
River Energy for a Route Permit for the  
Reroute 115-kV Cedar Lake  
Transmission Line Project in Scott and  
Rice Counties**

**MPUC Docket No. ET-2/TL-23-170**

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Breann Lee Jurek certifies that on the 26th day of April 2024, she e-filed on behalf of Great River Energy a true and correct copy of these additional comments via eDockets ([www.edockets.state.mn.us](http://www.edockets.state.mn.us)). Said documents were also served as designated on the Official Service List on file with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (attached hereto).

Dated: April 26, 2024

/s/ Breann Lee Jurek  
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.  
60 South Sixth Street, Suite 1500  
Minneapolis, MN 55402

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Jon	Brekke	jbrekke@grenergy.com	Great River Energy	12300 Elm Creek Boulevard  Maple Grove, MN 553694718	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_23-170_Official
Generic Notice	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400  St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_23-170_Official
Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 280  Saint Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_23-170_Official
Breann	Jurek	bjurek@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron PA	60 S Sixth St Ste 1500  Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_23-170_Official
Stacy	Kotch Egstad	Stacy.Kotch@state.mn.us	MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	395 John Ireland Blvd.  St. Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_23-170_Official
James	Mortenson	james.mortenson@state.mn.us	Office of Administrative Hearings	PO BOX 64620  St. Paul, MN 55164-0620	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_23-170_Official
Generic Notice	Residential Utilities Division	residential.utilities@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul, MN 551012131	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_23-170_Official
Will	Seuffert	Will.Seuffert@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Pl E Ste 350  Saint Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_23-170_Official
Janet	Shaddix Elling	jshaddix@janetshaddix.com	Shaddix And Associates	7400 Lyndale Ave S Ste 190  Richfield, MN 55423	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_23-170_Official
Mark	Strohfus	mstrohfus@grenergy.com	Great River Energy	12300 Elm Creek Boulevard  Maple Grove, MN 553694718	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_23-170_Official

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Haley	Waller Pitts	hwallerpitts@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.	60 S Sixth St Ste 1500 Minneapolis, MN 55402-4400	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_23-170_Official
Cynthia	Warzecha	cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	500 Lafayette Road Box 25 St. Paul, MN 55155-4040	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_23-170_Official