


Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCOPING MEETINGS

Issued: July 14, 2023

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

Docket Number: ET2/TL-23-170

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) and the Department of Commerce (Department) will hold public information and environmental analysis (EA) scoping meetings on Great River Energy's (GRE) application for a route permit to construct approximately 6.3 miles of 115 kilovolt (kV) high-voltage transmission line (HVTL) to connect the Cedar Lake substation to GRE's MV-EVX 115-kV HVTL in Scott and Rice counties.

The purpose of the meeting is to: (1) provide information to the public about the proposed project and the state's high-voltage transmission line route permitting process; and (2) provide members of the public an opportunity to participate in developing the scope of the environmental assessment. This includes commenting on issues or concerns related to the proposed project and proposing alternatives for consideration. This information will be available on eDockets and on the project webpage (<https://apps.commerce.state.mn.us/web/project/15078>).

There will be two public meetings in this matter: an in-person meeting and a WebEx (online) meeting. The information presented will be the same at both meetings.

In-Person Meeting

Date: August 1, 2023
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: The Park Ballroom
300 Lexington Ave. S.
New Prague, MN 56071
Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/BDBfSi9aH6k2EHkm6>

Online Meeting (Webex)

Date: August 2, 2023
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Meeting No: 2490 423 2259
Call-In No: 1-855-282-6330
Access Code: 2490 423 2259
Password: eNrRB6gY655

Online Meeting Address:

<https://minnesota.webex.com/minnesota/j.php?MTID=m0bf7bd7771b94793c6223942b5e69d67>

To find out if a meeting is canceled due to bad weather or other call 1-855-731-6208 or 651-201-2213 or visit mn.gov/puc.

If you are joining the meeting online using WebEx and would like to ask a question or make a comment during the designated portion of the meeting, raise your hand using the button at the bottom of the screen or press *3 if you are joining by phone. When it is your turn to speak your line will be unmuted and you will be able to ask questions and provide comments. The chat function is also available if you are having technical issues and our meeting moderator is available to support. Additional instructions for participating are available at: <https://mn.gov/puc/activities/meetings/webex/>.

If any reasonable accommodation is needed for you to fully participate in these meetings, please contact the Commission at 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782 at least one week in advance of the meeting.

Written Comment Period

Written comments will be accepted through **August 14, 2023, at 4:30 pm**. Please include the docket number (23-170) in all communications. Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not be considered by the Commission.

Please focus your comments on the following topics:

- What potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project should be studied in the environmental assessment for this project?
- Are there any methods to minimize, mitigate, or avoid potential impacts of the proposed project that should be considered in the environmental assessment?
- Are there any alternative routes or route segments that should be considered to address potential impacts associated with the proposed project?
- Are there any unique characteristics of the proposed route or the project that should be considered?

Comments may be submitted:

Online <https://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment>
Email bill.storm@state.mn.us (include subject line: Scoping Comment 23-170)
U.S. Mail Department of Commerce
Attn: Bill Storm
85 7th Place East, Suite 280
St. Paul, MN 55101

Important. Comments will be made available to the public via the Commission's website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The Commission and the Department do not edit or delete personal identifying information from submissions.

Project Summary

The Project is being done to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. The Project will include construction of a new approximately 6.3-mile 115-kV transmission line. The transmission line will connect at GRE's existing MV-EVX 115-kV transmission line near the intersection of County Road 23 and Minnesota Highway 19 and extend to the existing Cedar Lake Substation south of County Road 2. The Project will initially operate at 69 kV; but will be designed to 115-kV standards to accommodate future load growth in the area. Once the transmission line is constructed and connected to the substation, GRE's existing 4.5-mile MV-CDT 115-kV transmission circuit, which is co-located in part on the CapX2020 345-kV transmission structures along County Road 2, will be removed.

The Commission accepted the route permit application as substantially complete on July 5, 2023.

Route Permit Application Review Process

Under the Power Plant Siting Act (Minn. Stat. ch. 216E), a route permit from the Commission is required to construct a high-voltage transmission line. The project will be reviewed under the alternative permitting process because it is a high-voltage transmission line between 100 and 200 kilovolts. The statutes (Minn. Stat. § 216E.04) and rules (Minn. R. 7850.2800 to 7850.3900) detailing the alternative permitting process may be viewed at: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov>.

Environmental Review. The Minnesota Department of Commerce is tasked with preparing an environmental assessment for the Commission on high-voltage transmission line projects filed under the alternative permitting process. The environmental assessment will contain information on the human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and of any alternative routes identified. The environmental assessment will identify and address mitigating measures for all routes considered.

Public Hearing. When the environmental assessment is complete, a public hearing will be held in the project area. The hearing will be presided over by an administrative law judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings. At the hearing, members of the public will have an opportunity to make an oral presentation, present evidence, and ask questions of the applicant and staff.

Upon completion of the public hearing process, the Commission will make a final decision on whether to issue a route permit. If a route permit is issued by the Commission, it is possible that GRE may be able to exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire land for this project to the extent otherwise authorized by law.

Additional Information

Filing Requirements. Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are required to file documents using the Commission's electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants, and interested persons are encouraged to use eFiling: mn.gov/puc/edockets, select *How to read notices and use eDockets* and follow the prompts.

Full Case Record. See all documents filed in this matter via the Commission's website at mn.gov/puc/edockets, select *Go to eDockets*, enter the year (23) and the docket number (170), and select *Search*.

Subscribe to the Docket. To receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter visit: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/>, select *Subscribe to Dockets* and follow the prompts.

Project Mailing List. Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate or change your mailing preference. Email docketing.puc@state.mn.us or call Leesa Norton at 651-201-2246 with the docket number (23-170), your name, mailing address, and email address.

Department of Commerce Website: <https://apps.commerce.state.mn.us/web/project/15078>

Community Application Location. Physical copies of the route permit application are available for review at the following location:

New Prague City Hall – Planning Department,
18 Central Ave. N.
New Prague, MN 56071

Project Contacts

Public Utilities Commission Public Advisor

Contact publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us, 651-201-2251

Public Utilities Commission Energy Facilities Planner

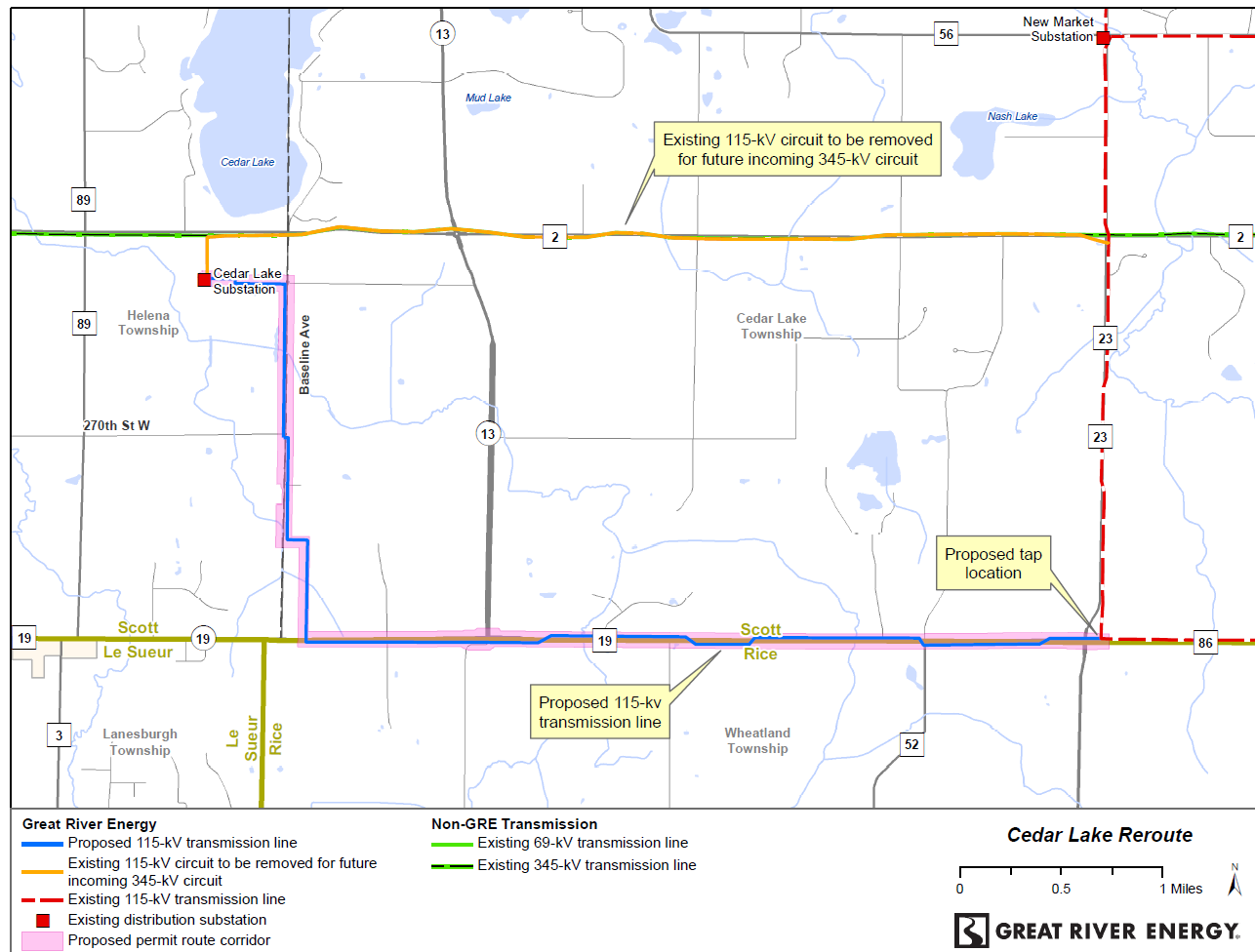
Michael Kaluzniak – mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us or 651-201-2257

Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager

Bill Storm – bill.storm@state.mn.us, 651-539-1844 or 1-800-657-3794

Great River Energy Project Contact

Mark Strohufus – MStrohfu@GREnergy.com or 763-445-5210



PROJECT AREA

If any reasonable accommodation is needed so that you may fully participate in these meetings, for example sign language or large print materials, please contact the Office of Administrative Hearings at 651-361-7900 (voice) at least one week before the meeting.

To request this document in another format such as large print or audio, call 651.296.0406 (voice). Persons with a hearing or speech impairment may call using their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.