Appendix C- Draft Route Permit

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

ROUTE PERMIT FOR
Appleton to Benson 115-kV HVTL Project

A HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINE AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES

IN
SWIFT COUNTY

ISSUED TO
Great River Energy, Otter Tail Power, Western Minnesota, Agralite, and the City of Benson

PUC DOCKET NO. IP-7115/TL-24-264

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, Otter Tail Power, Western Minnesota, Agralite, and the City of Benson

Great River Energy, Otter Tail Power, Western Minnesota (through its agent MRES), Agralite, and the City of Benson are authorized by this route permit to construct and operate the 115 kilovolt high voltage transmission line.

The high-voltage transmission line shall be constructed within the route identified in this route permit and in compliance with the conditions specified in this route permit.

Approved and adopted this ____ day of [Month, Year]

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

_____

Mike Bull,
Acting Executive Secretary

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ATTACHMENTS

1 ROUTE PERMIT

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) hereby issues this route permit to Great River Energy, Otter Tail Power, Western Minnesota, Agralite, and the City of Benson (the Permittees) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850. This route permit authorizes the Permittees to construct and operate a 115 kilovolt high voltage transmission line (Appleton to Benson 115-kV HVTL Project, henceforth known as Transmission Facility). The high-voltage transmission line shall be constructed within the route identified in this route permit and in compliance with the conditions specified in this route permit.

1.1 Pre-emption

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216E.10, this route permit shall be the sole route approval required for construction of the transmission facilities and this route 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 TRANSMISSION FACILITY DESCRIPTION

The Applicants propose to upgrade approximately 18.3 miles of existing 41.6-kV transmission lines, rebuild or reconduct approximately 1.0 mile of an existing 115-kV transmission line, and construct 8.0 miles of new 115-kV transmission line in Swift County, MN, as provided in Table 1.3-1, Location of the Project. The transmission lines that are upgraded, rebuilt, reconductored, and/or constructed new will connect the following substations: Appleton, Shible Lake, Moyer, Danvers, and Benson (Figure 1 in Appendix A).

Additionally, an approximately 1.7-mile 115-kV transmission line will be installed from Great River Energy's existing AG-BK 115-kV line southwest of the City of Benson to the Benson Municipal Substation. As part of this construction, 0.7 mile of the existing AG-BK 115-kV line will be removed, including the Chippewa River crossing.

The Applicants will construct the new Appleton transmission and distribution substations and will either relocate or expand the Moyer and Danvers Substations. Improvements will also be made at the Shible Lake and Benson Municipal Substations to accommodate the new 115-kV transmission line. The Project will be located within the Cities of Appleton, Holloway, Danvers and Benson, and Townships of Appleton, Shible, Edison, Moyer, Marysland, Six Mile Grove, Clontarf, and Torning in Swift County, Minnesota.

The Transmission Facility is located in the following:

Township	Section	Ranges

120N	42W	2, 3, 4, 5, 6
120N	43W	1, 2, 3, 9, 10, 15, 16
121N	39W	6, 7
121N	40W	1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 30
121N	41W	19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30
121N	42W	23, 24, 25, 26, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36
121N	43W	35, 36
122N	40W	36

2.1 Structures

The upgraded, newly built, and rebuilt transmission line will include new structures and wires. The majority of the new 115 kV transmission line would consist of single circuit, horizontal post, or braced post monopole wood structures. The structures will be direct-embedded when feasible, and concrete piers will be used to embed the poles when direct-embedding is not feasible.

2.2 Conductors

The single circuit structures will have three single conductor phase wires and one shield wire. The phase wires proposed will be twisted pair conductor with 266 Aluminum Conductor Steel Reinforced (ACSR) or 366 ACSR wire sizes or a conductor with similar capacity. The shield wire will be 0.528 optical ground wire.

2.3 Substations and Associated Facilities

The Project will include the construction of two new Appleton substations. Two other existing substations (Moyer and Danvers) may also be relocated if there is insufficient space for expansion in their current locations. The final location of these substations will depend on the Project's route and further coordination with applicable stakeholders. To accommodate this further coordination and design, the Applicants have identified substation siting areas as part of the Project's route width.

3 DESIGNATED ROUTE

The route designated by the Commission is depicted on the route maps attached to this route permit (Designated Route). The Designated Route is generally described as follows:

The Designed Route includes an anticipated alignment and a right-of-way. The right-of-way is the physical land needed for the safe operation of the transmission line. The Permittees shall locate the alignment and associated right-of-way within the Designated Route unless otherwise authorized by this route permit or the Commission. The Designated Route provides the Permittees with flexibility for minor adjustments of the alignment and right-of-way to accommodate landowner requests and unforeseen conditions.

Any modifications to the Designated Route or modifications that would result in right-of-way placement outside the Designated Route shall be specifically reviewed by the Commission in accordance with Minn. R. 7850.4900 and Section 10 of this route permit.

4 RIGHT-OF-WAY

This route permit authorizes the Permittees 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 or alignment.

The anticipated alignment is intended to minimize potential impacts relative to the criteria identified in Minn. R. 7850.4100. The final alignment must generally conform to the anticipated alignment identified on the route maps unless changes are requested by individual landowners and agreed to by the Permittees or for unforeseen conditions that are encountered or as otherwise provided for by this route permit.

Any right-of-way or alignment 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 and alignment identified in this route 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 route 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 route permit; and for highways under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), the procedures for accommodating utilities in trunk highway rights-of-way.

5 GENERAL CONDITIONS

The Permittees shall comply with the following conditions during construction and operation of the Transmission Facility over the life of this route permit.

5.1 Route Permit Distribution

Within 30 days of issuance of this route permit, the Permittees shall provide all affected landowners with a copy of this route permit and the complaint procedures. An affected landowner is any landowner or designee that is within or adjacent to the Designated Route. In no case shall a landowner receive this route permit and complaint procedures less than five days prior to the start of construction on their property. The Permittees shall also provide a copy of this route permit and the complaint procedures to the applicable regional development commissions, county environmental offices, and city and township clerks. The Permittees shall file with the Commission an affidavit of its route permit and complaint procedures distribution within 30 days of issuance of this route permit.

5.2 Access to Property

The Permittees shall notify landowners prior to entering or conducting maintenance within their property, unless otherwise negotiated with the landowner. The Permittees shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Commission staff.

5.3 Construction and Operation Practices

The Permittees shall comply with the construction practices, operation and maintenance practices, and material specifications described in the permitting record for this Transmission Facility unless this route permit establishes a different requirement in which case this route permit shall prevail.

5.3.1 Field Representative

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

The Permittees shall file with the Commission the name, address, email, phone number, and emergency phone number of the field representative at least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting. The Permittees shall provide the field representative's contact information to affected landowners, local government units and other interested persons at least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting. The Permittees may change the field representative at any time upon notice to the Commission, affected landowners, local government units and other interested persons. The Permittees shall file with the Commission

an affidavit of distribution of its field representative's contact information at least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting and upon changes to the field representative.

5.3.2 Employee Training - Route Permit Terms and Conditions

The Permittees shall train all employees, contractors, and other persons involved in the Transmission Facility construction regarding the terms and conditions of this route permit. The Permittees shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Commission staff.

5.3.3 Independent Third-Party Monitoring

Prior to any construction, the Permittees shall propose a scope of work and identify an independent third-party monitor to conduct construction monitoring on behalf of the Commission. The scope of work shall be developed in consultation with and approved by the Commission staff. This third-party monitor will report directly to and will be under the control of the Commission with costs borne by the Permittee. Commission staff shall keep records of compliance with this section and will ensure that status reports detailing the construction monitoring are filed in accordance with scope of work approved by the Commission.

5.3.4 Public Services, Public Utilities, and Existing Easements

During Transmission Facility construction, the Permittees shall minimize any disruption to public services or public utilities. To the extent disruptions to public services or public utilities occur these shall be temporary, and the Permittees shall restore service promptly. Where any impacts to utilities have the potential to occur the Permittees shall work with both landowners and local entities to determine the most appropriate mitigation measures if not already considered as part of this route permit.

The Permittees shall cooperate with county and city road authorities to develop appropriate signage and traffic management during construction. The Permittees shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Commission staff.

5.3.5 Temporary Workspace

The Permittees 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. The Permittees shall obtain temporary easements outside of the authorized transmission line right-of-way from affected landowners through rental agreements. Temporary easements are not provided for in this route permit.

The Permittees may construct temporary driveways between the roadway and the structures to minimize impact using the shortest route feasible. The Permittees shall use construction mats to minimize impacts on access paths and construction areas. The Permittees shall submit the location of temporary workspaces and driveways with the plan and profile pursuant to Section 9.1.

5.3.6 Noise

The Permittees shall comply with noise standards established under Minn. R. 7030.0010 to 7030.0080. The Permittees shall limit construction and maintenance activities to daytime working hours to the extent practicable.

5.3.7 Aesthetics

The Permittees 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. The Permittees shall use care to preserve the natural landscape, minimize tree removal and prevent any unnecessary destruction of the natural surroundings in the vicinity of the Transmission Facility during construction and maintenance. The Permittees 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. The Permittees shall place structures at a distance, consistent with sound engineering principles and system reliability criteria, from intersecting roads, highways, or trail crossings.

5.3.8 Soil Erosion and Sediment Control

The Permittees shall implement those erosion prevention and sediment control practices recommended by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Construction Stormwater Program. If construction of the Transmission Facility disturbs more than one acre of land or is sited in an area designated by the MPCA as having potential for impacts to water resources, the Permittees shall obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System Construction Stormwater Permit from the MPCA that provides for the development of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan that describes methods to control erosion and runoff.

The Permittees 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 Transmission Facility shall be returned to pre-construction conditions.

5.3.9 Wetlands and Water Resources

The Permittees shall develop wetland impact avoidance measures and implement them during construction of the Transmission Facility. Measures shall 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, the Permittees shall construct in wetland areas during frozen ground conditions where practicable and according to permit requirements by the applicable permitting authority. When construction during winter is not possible, the Permittees shall use wooden or composite mats to protect wetland vegetation.

The Permittees shall contain soil excavated from the wetlands and riparian areas and not place it back into the wetland or riparian area. The Permittees shall access wetlands and riparian areas using the shortest route possible in order to minimize travel through wetland areas and prevent unnecessary impacts. The Permittees shall not place staging or stringing set up areas within or adjacent to wetlands or water resources, as practicable. The Permittees shall assemble power pole structures on upland areas before they are brought to the site for installation.

The Permittees shall restore wetland and water resource areas disturbed by construction activities to pre-construction conditions in accordance with the requirements of applicable state and federal permits or laws and landowner agreements. The Permittees shall meet the USACE, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, and local units of government wetland and water resource requirements.

5.3.10 Vegetation Management

The Permittees 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.

The Permittees shall remove tall growing species located within the transmission line right-of-way that endanger the safe and reliable operation of the transmission line. The Permittees 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 line or impede construction.

5.3.11 Application of Pesticides

The Permittees shall restrict pesticide use to those pesticides and methods of application approved by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), DNR, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 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 Permittees shall contact the landowner at least 14 days prior to pesticide application on their property. The Permittees may not apply any pesticide if the landowner requests that there be no application of pesticides within the landowner's property. The Permittees shall provide notice of pesticide application to landowners and beekeepers operating known apiaries within three miles of the pesticide application area at least 14 days prior to such application. The Permittees shall keep pesticide communication and application records and provide them upon the request of Commission staff.

5.3.12 Invasive Species

The Permittees shall employ best management practices to avoid the potential introduction and spread of invasive species on lands disturbed by Transmission Facility construction activities. The Permittees shall develop an Invasive Species Prevention Plan and file it with the Commission at least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting. The Permittees shall comply with the most recently filed Invasive Species Prevention Plan.

5.3.13 Noxious Weeds

The Permittees 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 Permittees shall select site appropriate seed certified to be free of noxious weeds. To the extent possible, the Permittees shall use native seed mixes. The Permittees shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Commission staff.

5.3.14 Roads

The Permittees 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 Transmission Facility. Where practical, existing roadways shall be used for all activities associated with construction of the Transmission Facility. Oversize or overweight loads

associated with the Transmission Facility shall not be hauled across public roads without required permits and approvals.

The Permittees shall construct the fewest number of site access roads required. 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 Permittees shall promptly repair private roads or lanes damaged when moving equipment or when accessing construction workspace, unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner.

5.3.15 Archaeological and Historic Resources

The Permittees shall make every effort to avoid impacts to archaeological and historic resources when constructing the Transmission Facility. In the event that a resource is encountered, the Permittees shall 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 Transmission Facility impacts on the resource consistent with State Historic Preservation Office and State Archaeologist requirements.

Prior to construction, the Permittees shall train workers 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 Permittees shall immediately halt construction and promptly notify local law enforcement and the State Archaeologist. The Permittees shall not resume construction at such location until authorized by local law enforcement or the State Archaeologist. The Permittees shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Commission staff.

5.3.16 Avian Protection

The Permittees in cooperation with the DNR shall identify areas of the transmission line 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. The Permittees shall submit documentation of its avian protection coordination with the plan and profile pursuant to Section 9.1.

5.3.17 Drainage Tiles

The Permittees shall avoid, promptly repair, or replace all drainage tiles broken or damaged during all phases of the Transmission Facility's life unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner. The Permittees shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Commission staff.

5.3.18 Restoration

The Permittees shall restore the right-of-way, temporary workspaces, access roads, abandoned right-of-way, and other public or private lands affected by construction of the Transmission Facility. 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 Permittees shall file with the Commission a Notice of Restoration Completion.

5.3.19 Cleanup

The Permittees shall remove and properly dispose of all construction waste and scrap from the right-of-way and all premises on which construction activities were conducted upon completion of each task. The Permittees shall remove and properly dispose of all personal litter, including bottles, cans, and paper from construction activities daily.

5.3.20 Pollution and Hazardous Wastes

The Permittees shall take all appropriate precautions to protect against pollution of the environment. The Permittees shall be responsible for compliance with all laws applicable to the generation, storage, transportation, clean up and disposal of all waste generated during construction and restoration of the Transmission Facility.

5.3.21 Damages

The Permittees shall fairly restore or compensate landowners for damage to crops, fences, private roads and lanes, landscaping, drain tile, or other damages sustained during construction. The Permittees shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Commission staff.

5.4 Electrical Performance Standards

5.4.1 Grounding

The Permittees 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 Permittees shall address and rectify any induced current problems that arise during transmission line operation.

5.4.2 Electric Field

The Permittees shall design, construct, and operate the transmission line 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 Facility, the Permittees 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 Transmission Facility. The Permittees shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Commission staff.

5.5 Other Requirements

5.5.1 Safety Codes and Design Requirements

The Permittees shall design the transmission line and associated facilities 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.

5.5.2 Other Permits and Regulations

The Permittees shall comply with all applicable state statutes and rules. The Permittees shall obtain all required permits for the Transmission Facility and comply with the conditions of

those permits unless those permits conflict with or are preempted by federal or state permits and regulations.

At least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting, the Permittees shall file with the Commission an Other Permits and Regulations Submittal that contains a detailed status of all permits, authorizations, and approvals that have been applied for specific to the Transmission Facility. The Other Permits and Regulations Submittal shall also include the permitting agency name; the name of the permit, authorization, or approval being sought; contact person and contact information for the permitting agency or authority; brief description of why the permit, authorization, or approval is needed; application submittal date; and the date the permit, authorization, or approval was issued or is anticipated to be issued.

The Permittees shall demonstrate that it has obtained all necessary permits, authorizations, and approvals by filing an affidavit stating as such and an updated Other Permits and Regulations Submittal prior to commencing construction. The Permittees shall provide a copy of any such permits, authorizations, and approvals at the request of or Commission staff.

6 SPECIAL CONDITIONS

6.1 Impacts to Irrigators

The Permittees shall coordinate with landowners that maintain irrigation equipment within the proposed route to ensure that irrigation operations are not impacted by Project construction or operation. Landowners should be consulted during the Project's design phase to ensure that pole placement and clearances will not negatively impact irrigation operations.

6.2 Blanding's Turtles

The Permittees must work with DNR to develop a Blanding's Turtle avoidance plan for those portions of the project DNR determines applicable for the project. The avoidance plan must include measures to be taken to minimize disturbance to the species and seasonal maps of disturbance areas overlayed with the timing of project impacts.

6.3 Facility Lighting

For all new lighting installations at Project substations and facilities associated with substations, the Permittees shall utilize downlit and shielded lighting to reduce harm to birds, insects, and other animals. Lighting utilized shall minimize blue hue. The Permittees shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Commission staff.

6.4 Dust Control

The Permittees are prohibited from using dust control products containing calcium chloride or magnesium chloride during construction and operation of the Project. The Permittees shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Commission staff.

6.5 Wildlife-friendly Erosion Control

The Permittees shall use only "bio-netting" or "natural netting" types and mulch products without synthetic (plastic) fiber additives.

6.6 MnDOT Consultation and Coordination

The Permittees shall coordinate with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, including a pole-by-pole analysis once an initial project design has been prepared, prior to construction. In particular, consultation with MnDOT regarding the intersection of US Highway 59, 60th St. SW, and Burlington Northern Railroad, must occur during the design phase to ensure compliance with MnDOT regulations.

6.7 Well Protection

The Permittees shall stage all equipment over 200 feet from known well locations. If a spill occurs, Emergency Response Plans for the cities of Appleton and Benson will be followed. A contact list of well owners will be prepared and provided to the Minnesota Department of Health prior to construction. Finally, the transmission lines will be located a sufficient distance from existing wells to allow safe and legal access for maintenance, service, or sealing with a drill rig, or provide accommodation to well owners. This accommodation could include relocation of the well to provide similar chemistry and supply to the owner, and properly abandoning the impacted well.

6.8 Bat Protections

The applicants will avoid tree removal from June 1 through August 15 to avoid impacts to roosting northern long-eared bats.

6.9 Vegetation Management Plan

The Permittees shall develop a vegetation management plan (VMP), in coordination with the in coordination with the Vegetation Management Plan Working Group (VMPWG), using best management practices established by the DNR and BWSR. The Permittee shall file the VMP and documentation of the coordination efforts between the Permittee and the DNR with the Commission as part of the plan and profile required in Section 9.2 of the Permit.

7 DELAY IN CONSTRUCTION

If the Permittees has not commenced construction or improvement of the route within four years after the date of issuance of this route permit the Permittees shall file a Failure to Construct Report and the Commission shall consider suspension of this route permit in accordance with Minn. R. 7850.4700.

8 COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

At least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting, the Permittees shall file with the Commission the complaint procedures that will be used to receive and respond to complaints. The complaint 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 route permit.

Upon request, the Permittees shall assist Commission staff 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 route permit is a failure to comply with the conditions of this route permit. Compliance filings must be electronically filed with the Commission.

9.1 Pre-Construction Meeting

Prior to the start of construction, the Permittees shall participate in a pre-construction meeting with Commission staff to review pre-construction filing requirements, scheduling, and to coordinate monitoring of construction and site restoration activities. Within 14 days following the pre-construction meeting, the Permittees shall file with the Commission a summary of the topics reviewed and discussed and a list of attendees. The Permittees shall indicate in the filing the anticipated construction start date.

9.2 Plan and Profile

At least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting, the Permittees shall file with the Commission, and provide the counties where the Transmission Facility, or portion of the Transmission Facility, will be constructed, 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 Facility. 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 route permit.

The Permittees may not commence construction until the earlier of (i) 30 days after the pre-construction meeting or (ii) or until the Commission staff has notified the Permittees in writing that it has completed its review of the documents and determined that the planned construction is consistent with this route permit.

If the Commission notifies the Permittees in writing within 30 days after the pre-construction meeting that it has completed its review of the documents and planned construction, and finds that the planned construction is not consistent with this route permit, the Permittees may submit additional and/or revised documentation and may not commence construction until the Commission has notified the Permittees in writing that it has determined that the planned construction is consistent with this route permit.

If the Permittees intends to make any significant changes in its plan and profile or the specifications and drawings after submission to the Commission, the Permittees shall notify the Commission and county staff 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 route permit.

9.3 Status Reports

The Permittees shall file with the Commission monthly Construction Status Reports beginning with the pre-construction meeting and until completion of restoration. Construction Status Reports shall describe construction activities and progress, activities undertaken in compliance with this route permit, and shall include text and photographs.

If the Permittees does not commence construction of the Transmission Facility within six months of this route permit issuance, the Permittees shall file with the Commission Pre-Construction Status Reports on the anticipated timing of construction every six months beginning with the issuance of this route permit until the pre-construction meeting.

9.4 In-Service Date

At least three days before the Transmission Facility is to be placed into service, the Permittees shall notify the Commission of the date on which the Transmission Facility will be placed into service and the date on which construction was completed.

9.5 As-Builts

Within 90 days after completion of construction, the Permittees shall submit to the Commission copies of all final as-built plans and specifications developed during the Transmission Facility construction.

9.6 GPS Data

Within 90 days after completion of construction, the Permittees 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 Facility and each substation connected.

9.7 Right of Entry

The Permittees 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.
To examine and copy any documents pertaining to compliance with the conditions of this route permit.

10 ROUTE PERMIT AMENDMENT

This route permit may be amended at any time by the Commission. Any person may request an amendment of the conditions of this route 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 Permittees and interested persons such process as is required under Minn. R. 7850.4900.

11 TRANSFER OF ROUTE PERMIT

The Permittees may request at any time that the Commission transfer this route permit to another person or entity (transferee). In its request, the Permittees must provide the Commission with:

(a) the name and description of the transferee;
(b) the reasons for the transfer;
(c) a description of the facilities affected; and
(d) the proposed effective date of the transfer.

The transferee must provide the Commission with a certification that it has read, understands and is able to comply with the plans and procedures filed for the Transmission Facility and all conditions of this route permit. The Commission may authorize transfer of the route permit after affording the Permittee, the transferee, and interested persons such process as is required under Minn. R. 7850.5000.

12 REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF ROUTE PERMIT

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