

## **Appendix I      Correspondence related to Wellhead Protection**

August 29, 2023

Matt Strohfus

Project Manager, Transmission Permitting

Great River Energy

12300 Elm Creek Boulevard

Maple Grove, MN 55369

Matt Strohfus:

Thank you for providing the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) with the opportunity to comment on Great River Energy Pilot Knob to Burnsville Project. The mission of MDH is to protect, maintain, and improve the health of all Minnesotans. The careful planning and development of projects such as this one supports this mission and is an important step in ensuring health in all policies.

Potential impacts of the proposed project include groundwater contamination in the event of a spill, and limiting well owners access to properly maintain and seal wells. In order to ensure that access to clean and sufficient water is available, MDH proposes the following methods to mitigate potential impacts from this project:

- The project is within the Emergency Response Area for the City of Eagan's wells. Any project staging should take place more than 200 feet from the City's wells.
- The project crosses both the City of Burnsville and City of Eagan Drinking Water Supply Management Areas. The Emergency Response Plans for both cities should be on hand and followed in the case of a spill.
- Contact information (name, address, phone number) for all well owners with wells located within 200' of the line should be identified and cataloged with the well location, for use in the event of a spill or release of hazardous substance. This list of wells should include identification of wells that aren't included in the Minnesota Well Index (<https://mnwellindex.web.health.state.mn.us/#>), and should also be provided to Anneka Munsell at [Anneka.munsell@state.mn.us](mailto:Anneka.munsell@state.mn.us).
- Drill rigs with masts are typically required to service or seal abandoned wells. The presence of active powerlines near a well can make it difficult or impossible to safely complete this necessary work. The proposed transmission line should be located far enough away from existing wells that safe and legal access for service or sealing with a drill rig is not impacted when the line is active at the maximum proposed voltage. Alternatively, accommodation should be made to well owners to provide an alternative source of water of similar chemistry and supply, as well as sealing the existing well in accordance with Minnesota Statute prior to energizing the transmission line.

Health starts where we live, learn, work, and play. To create and maintain healthy Minnesota communities, we have to think in terms of health in all policies. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments on the Great River Energy Cedar Lake Pilot Knob to Burnsville Project. Feel free to contact Anneka Munsell at (651) 201-5841 or [anneka.munsell@state.mn.us](mailto:anneka.munsell@state.mn.us) if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anneka Munsell". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Anneka Munsell  
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Enclosure: