

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of the Application of Great
River Energy for a Route Permit for the
115-kV Pilot Knob to Burnsville Rebuild and
Upgrade Project in Dakota County,
Minnesota

ISSUE DATE: December 27, 2024

DOCKET NO. ET-2/TL-23-410

ORDER ADOPTING
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
REPORT AND ISSUING ROUTE
PERMIT AS REVISED

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On November 17, 2023, Great River Energy (GRE or Applicant) applied for a route permit to rebuild portions of a transmission line extending from the Pilot Knob Substation in Eagan to the Burnsville Substation in Burnsville, and to upgrade the Burnsville Substation, to permit the line to carry 115 kilovolts (kV).

On January 17, 2024, the Commission issued an order finding the application complete and referring the case to the Office of Administrative Hearings for record development before an administrative law judge under the alternative review process set forth in Minn. R. 7850.2800 to 7850.3900. The Commission asked that the administrative law judge prepare a report with findings, conclusions, and recommendations.

On February 20 and 21, 2024, the staffs of the Commission and the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis unit (EERA) conducted meetings to provide information to the public about the Project and solicit ideas about the appropriate scope for a study assessing the Project's consequences for people and the environment. They held one meeting in Burnsville and another meeting online.

On April 16, 2024, the Commission issued an order accepting that the appropriate scope for the environmental assessment of the project would address only the route proposed by the Applicant.

On May 1, 2024, EERA issued its decision on the appropriate scope for the environmental assessment (Scoping Decision).

On August 1, 2024, EERA issued the environmental assessment.

On August 7, 2024, GRE filed direct testimony supporting its application.

On August 21 and 22, 2024, Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) James Mortensen from the Office of Administrative Hearings presided over in-person and online public hearings.

On September 3, 2024, the period for the public to file written comments on this matter closed.

Also on September 3, 2024 GRE submitted comments on the environmental assessment and the draft route permit, including proposed revisions to the permit. Likewise, EERA filed comments on and proposed revisions to the permit.

On September 10, 2024, GRE filed additional comments addressing issues raised in public comments—including electromagnetic fields, property values, route widths and right of ways, removal of trees, and proposed changes to the route permit. GRE also included proposed findings of fact and a proposed route permit.

On September 23, 2024, EERA filed a reply to GRE’s comments, proposed findings of fact, and a draft route permit.

On October 24, 2024, the ALJ filed his Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendations (ALJ Report).

On November 7, 2024, GRE filed exceptions to the ALJ Report.

On November 21, 2024, the Commission met to consider this matter.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

I. The Project

The project would upgrade approximately 8.75 miles of an existing 69 kV transmission line with a 115 kV line. Specifically, GRE proposes to rebuild the line connecting the Pilot Knob and Deerwood substations, the line connecting the Deerwood and River Hills substations, and the line connecting the River Hills and Burnsville substations. GRE also proposes to upgrade the Burnsville Substation—removing existing bus work, and installing new bus work, breakers, and control equipment—to enable the substation to operate at 115 kV; this would entail expanding the substation by 0.06 acres. The project would traverse the cities of Eagan, Burnsville, and Apple Valley, in Dakota County, Minnesota.

The proposed line would generally follow the transmission line right-of-way and alignment currently occupied by the existing transmission line. However, GRE proposes a minor realignment at the intersection of Blackhawk Road and Interstate 35E. This change would permit GRE to build, operate, and maintain this portion of the transmission line from the east side of Blackhawk Road—where there are no residences, on parcels owned by Dakota County and the Minnesota Department of Transportation—rather than from the interstate. Likewise, while the existing 69-kV line connects to the eastern side of the Burnsville Substation, GRE proposes a minor realignment to permit the new 115-kV line to connect on the western side where the 115-

kV bus work is located. While GRE has a roughly 70-foot-wide easement along the existing transmission line right-of-way, GRE states that it may need some renewed, amended, or new easements to complete the project. GRE already owns the land where it proposes to expand the Burnsville Substation.

The existing 69-kV transmission line, poles, and other associated structures would be removed from the right-of-way as the new 115-kV high-voltage transmission line is erected.

Dakota Electric Association (DEA) owns overhead distribution lines strung on portions of the existing 69-kV structures. As GRE removes the existing lines, poles and other structures as part of this project, GRE understands that DEA would remove its distribution lines and install them on the new structures supporting the 115 kV line.

GRE anticipates beginning construction on this project in the winter of 2025/2026, and placing the Project in service by the spring of 2028.

II. Route Permit Requirement

Developers seeking to build a transmission line in Minnesota longer than 1,500 feet and capable of conducting 100 kV or more must first secure a route permit from the Commission.¹ Because GRE proposes to build a transmission line 8.75 miles long capable of transmitting 115 kV, GRE must first secure a route permit for this project.

The Commission reviews the application to ensure that the line is routed in a manner consistent with the state's goals of conserving resources, minimizing harm to people and the environment, minimizing other land use conflicts, and ensuring the state's electric energy security and reliability through efficient, cost-effective power supply and electric transmission infrastructure. When a developer applies for a route permit for a transmission line with a capacity between 100 and 200 kV, the Commission may review it using its alternative permitting process.² Under the alternative permitting process, (1) an applicant need not propose alternative routes in its application but must identify other routes it examined and discuss the reasons for rejecting those routes; (2) environmental review occurs through an environmental assessment rather than an environmental impact statement; and (3) no contested case proceeding is required.

III. Environmental Review

Under the alternative permitting process, EERA performs its environmental review by conducting an environmental assessment addressing the proposed project's consequences for people and the environment and identifying potential measures to mitigate those consequences for all sites or routes considered. EERA defined the environmental assessment's scope and prepared the review after receiving input from other agencies, members of the public, and the Applicant.

¹ Minn. Stat. § 216E.01, subd. 4; § 216E.03, subd. 2.

A developer seeking to build ten miles of high-voltage transmission line in Minnesota must first obtain a certificate of need from the Commission. *See* Minn. Stat. § 216B.2421, subd. 2(3); § 216B.243, subd. 2. Because GRE's project would not reach 10 miles in length, it does not require a certificate of need.

² Minn. Stat. § 216E.04; Minn. R. 7850.2800 to 7850.3900.

The ALJ determined that EERA conducted an appropriate environmental assessment of the Project that satisfies Minn. R. 7850.3700 and 7850.3900. The ALJ specifically found that the assessment and record adequately address the issues identified in the Scoping Decision; that the assessment addressed the items required by Minn. R. 7850.3700, subp. 4; and that EERA prepared the assessment in compliance with the procedures set forth in Minn. R. 7850.3700.

IV. Route Permit Criteria

Commission determinations related to routing of high-voltage transmission lines are guided by the state's goals to conserve resources, minimize harm to people and the environment, minimize other land-use conflicts, and ensure the state's electric energy security and reliability through efficient, cost-effective power supply and electric transmission infrastructure.³

Minn. Stat. § 216E.03, subd. 7(b), directs the Commission to consider the following factors, among others, when evaluating a route permit:

- (1) evaluation of research and investigations relating to the effects on land, water and air resources of large electric power facilities and the effects of water and air discharges and electric and magnetic fields resulting from such facilities on public health and welfare, vegetation, animals, materials and aesthetic values, including baseline studies, predictive modeling, and evaluation of new or improved methods for minimizing adverse impacts of water and air discharges and other matters pertaining to the effects of power plants on the water and air environment;
- (2) environmental evaluation of sites and routes proposed for future development and expansion and their relationship to the land, water, air and human resources of the state;
- (3) evaluation of the effects of new electric power generation and transmission technologies and systems related to power plants designed to minimize adverse environmental effects;
- (4) evaluation of the potential for beneficial uses of waste energy from proposed large electric power generating plants;
- (5) analysis of the direct and indirect economic impact of proposed sites and routes including, but not limited to, productive agricultural land lost or impaired;
- (6) evaluation of adverse direct and indirect environmental effects that cannot be avoided should the proposed site and route be accepted;

³ Minn. Stat. § 216E.03, subd. 7(a).

(7) evaluation of alternatives to the applicant's proposed site or route proposed pursuant to subdivisions 1 and 2;

(8) evaluation of potential routes that would use or parallel existing railroad and highway rights-of-way;

(9) evaluation of governmental survey lines and other natural division lines of agricultural land so as to minimize interference with agricultural operations;

(10) evaluation of the future needs for additional high-voltage transmission lines in the same general area as any proposed route, and the advisability of ordering the construction of structures capable of expansion in transmission capacity through multiple circuiting or design modifications;

(11) evaluation of irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources should the proposed site or route be approved;

(12) when appropriate, consideration of problems raised by other state and federal agencies and local entities;

(13) evaluation of the benefits of the proposed facility with respect to (i) the protection and enhancement of environmental quality, and (ii) the reliability of state and regional energy supplies;

(14) evaluation of the proposed facility's impact on socioeconomic factors; and

(15) evaluation of the proposed facility's employment and economic impacts in the vicinity of the facility site and throughout Minnesota, including the quantity and quality of construction and permanent jobs and their compensation levels. The commission must consider a facility's local employment and economic impacts, and may reject or place conditions on a site or route permit based on the local employment and economic impacts.

The Commission must make specific findings that it has considered locating a route for a high-voltage transmission line on an existing high-voltage transmission route and the use of parallel existing highway right-of-way and, to the extent those are not used for the route, the Commission must state the reasons.⁴

Additionally, in determining whether to issue a permit for high voltage transmission line, the Commission must consider the following:

⁴ *Id.*, subd. 7(e).

- A. effects on human settlement, including, but not limited to, displacement, noise, aesthetics, cultural values, recreation, and public services;
- B. effects on public health and safety;
- C. effects on land-based economies, including, but not limited to, agriculture, forestry, tourism, and mining;
- D. effects on archaeological and historic resources;
- E. effects on the natural environment, including effects on air and water quality resources and flora and fauna;
- F. effects on rare and unique natural resources;
- G. application of design options that maximize energy efficiencies, mitigate adverse environmental effects, and could accommodate expansion of transmission or generating capacity;
- H. use or paralleling of existing rights-of-way, survey lines, natural division lines, and agricultural field boundaries;
- I. use of existing large electric power generating plant sites;
- J. use of existing transportation, pipeline, and electrical transmission systems or rights-of-way;
- K. electrical system reliability;
- L. costs of constructing, operating, and maintaining the facility which are dependent on design and route;
- M. adverse human and natural environmental effects which cannot be avoided; and
- N. irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources.⁵

V. Public Comments

A. Aaron Jaeger

On August 20 and 22, 2024, resident Aaron Jaeger submitted written comments opposing the Project. He expressed concern that increasing the voltage would increase the electromagnetic field, and that this could harm the health of people living on his nearby property. He emphasized concerns for a child with special needs, and for the sensitive clients for his home-based business.

⁵ Minn. R. 7850.4100.

He also expressed concern about how the Project would affect his property values and the ability to sell his property in the future.

On September 10, 2024, GRE filed replies to Mr. Jaeger's comments. According to GRE, Mr. Jaeger's home is located approximately 260 feet from an existing transmission line, with another home and street between his property and the line. GRE stated that it intended to rebuild the transmission line within its existing right-of-way. GRE noted that the Environmental Assessment for the Project found that any exposure to electromagnetic fields from the transmission lines were not expected to impact public health or safety, and that the terms of any permit would require GRE to comply with all applicable safety codes and regulations. Finally, GRE cited the Environmental Assessment's finding that upgrading the transmission line from a 69 kV to 115 kV is not expected to have any incremental effect on property values.

B. Art Kalmes

On September 3, 2024, resident Art Kalmes submitted written comments seeking clarification about the Project's rights-of-way and vegetation management plans. Mr. Kalmes also proposed modifying the proposed route permit to incorporate language from the Environmental Assessment as follows:

5.3.10 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 the areas such as trails, and stream crossings, and private residences where vegetation screening may minimize aesthetic, human, or environmental impacts, to the extent that such actions do not violate sound engineering principles or system reliability criteria. The Permittee may shall remove tall growing species with a mature height equal to the lowest transmission line located within the transmission line right-of-way that endanger the safe and reliable operation of the transmission line. The Permittee shall leave undisturbed, to the extent possible, existing low growing species that have a mature height below the lowest transmission line in the right-of-way or replant such species in the right-or-way to blend the difference between the right-of-way and adjacent areas, to the extent that the low growing vegetation will not pose a threat to the transmission line or impede construction.

The permittee shall design the transmission line infrastructure to avoid vegetation impacts and reduce the easement right-of-way to the extent possible by engineered measures such as placing the line on one side of the pole or similar methods.

On September 10, 2024, GRE filed a response opposing any permit revisions that could affect safety and reliability; in particular, GRE argued that language providing for retaining trees in the transmission line right-of-way—even trees that allegedly “have a mature height below the lowest transmission line”—would pose an unwarranted threat to safety and reliability. GRE also

opposed the proposal to narrow the easement right-of-way, noting that the existing right-of-way is already restricted to a range of 70-100 feet and overlaps with the road right-of-way, thereby reducing the extent to which the Project impinges on private property interests.

VI. ALJ Report

In his report, the ALJ stated that the evidence in the record demonstrated that the Applicant's proposed route satisfied the factors in Minn. Stat. § 216E.03 subd. 7(b), and Minn. R. 7850.4100. Furthermore, the ALJ found that there is no reasonable alternative to the construction of the project. Therefore, the ALJ recommended that the Commission issue a route permit for the Applicant's proposed route to construct and operate the project and associated facilities.

The ALJ recommended that the Commission adopt the permit conditions proposed by GRE and further revised by EERA. Specifically, the ALJ recommended that the route permit include general route permit conditions plus additional special permit conditions addressing the following topics:

- Proximity to Radio Antennas
- Wells
- Wildlife-friendly Erosion Control
- Dust Control
- Facility Lighting
- Vegetation Management Plan
- Vegetation Clearing
- Protection of Bats
- Blanding's Turtle
- Minnesota Department of Transportation Requirements

VII. Exceptions to the ALJ Report

On November 7, 2024, GRE filed exceptions to the ALJ Report—proposing that the Commission generally adopt the ALJ's report and recommendations as written, but adopt Finding 57 revised as follows:

Single circuit structures would have three phases of bundled conductor wires and one shield wire. Double circuit structures would have six phases of bundled conductor wires and up to two shield wires. It is anticipated that the phase wires would be 795 thousand circular mil aluminum-clad steel supported (795 ACSS) or a conductor with similar capacity.

GRE argued that this revision would merely incorporate the changes that the ALJ recommended making to the draft route permit at Section 2.2.

VIII. Commission Action

A. Public Comments

The Commission appreciates the public's participation in its dockets evaluating the appropriate siting and routes for energy facilities. Members of the public bring particularized knowledge and concerns about specific locations that could otherwise go unrecognized in the record.

In this case, the Commission is not persuaded that the concerns raised by Mr. Jaeger justify substantive changes to the ALJ Report or draft route permit. The Commission finds that the Environmental Assessment appropriately considered the Project's potential consequences on the health of people at Mr. Jaeger's residence, as well as the potential consequence on Mr. Jaeger's property values.

Regarding Mr. Kalmes's concerns, the Commission finds that GRE has appropriately addressed the questions raised. The Commission appreciates residents' interest in preserving foliage as much as is practicable, even within a transmission line's right-of-way. To this end, the Commission is persuaded that Mr. Kalmes has articulated a practicable revision to the route permit's language governing vegetation management. The draft permit already provides for minimizing the number of trees to be removed in selecting the right-of-way under a variety of contexts. Mr. Kalmes's proposal to specify that GRE should minimize tree removal in the context of private residences, and specifically when appropriate to minimize human and environmental impacts, provides a practicable approach—subject to the existing proviso that any action must be consistent with “engineering principles [and] system reliability criteria.”

However, the Commission will decline to adopt Mr. Kalmes's other proposed amendments. The Commission is persuaded that its routing process has identified an appropriately sized right-of-way for the construction of this project. The Commission concurs with GRE that permit terms calling for the preservation of plants “with a mature height equal to the lowest transmission line” would require GRE to make unknowable estimates that would inevitably undermine efforts to keep transmission line corridors free from obstructions—threatening both safety and electric reliability. And Mr. Kalmes's other proposed changes reflect a rearticulation of standards already provided in the routing permit.

B. ALJ Report and Route Permit

The ALJ Report is well-reasoned, comprehensive, and thorough. The Commission has examined the record, generally concurs with the ALJ's findings, conclusions, and recommendations, and will therefore adopt the ALJ Report to the extent it is consistent with the decisions herein. The Commission scrutinized the record to determine whether the proposed Project would be located along an existing route for a high-voltage transmission line, and whether it would parallel existing highway right-of-way. The Commission finds that the Project largely fulfills these criteria, with only minor realignments along Blackhawk Road at its intersection with Interstate 35E, and when it connects with the Burnsville Substation. The Commission finds that these realignments are necessary to achieve the Project's purposes in a practical manner, and that on balance the Applicant's proposed route best fulfills the relevant statutory and regulatory criteria.

That said, the Commission will adopt the ALJ Report and draft permit with one additional amendment. The Commission concurs with GRE that it would be appropriate to acknowledge in Finding 57, consistent with the language in the draft permit, that double circuit structures would have six phases of bundled conductor wires and up to two shield wires. The Commission will therefore adopt Finding 57 with this addition, as set forth in the Ordering Paragraphs below.

Except as otherwise noted, the Commission agrees with the ALJ Report's recommendation to issue a route permit for the Project including the ALJ's recommended special route permit conditions. Therefore, the Commission will issue the attached route permit for the Project.

ORDER

1. The Commission adopts the report of the Administrative Law Judge to the extent that it is consistent with the Commission's decisions, and with the following modification to Finding 57:

Single circuit structures would have three phases of bundled conductor wires and one shield wire. Double circuit structures would have six phases of bundled conductor wires and up to two shield wires. It is anticipated that the phase wires would be 795 thousand circular mil aluminum-clad steel supported (795 ACSS) or a conductor with similar capacity.

2. The Commission finds that the Environmental Assessment and the record created at the public hearing address the issues identified in the Scoping Decision.
3. The Commission modifies Section 5.3.10 of the draft routing permit as follows:

5.3.10 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 the areas such as trails, and stream crossings, and private residences where vegetation screening may minimize aesthetic, human, or environmental impacts, to the extent that such actions do not violate sound engineering principles or system reliability criteria. The Permittee 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 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 will not pose a threat to the transmission line or impede construction.

4. The Commission issues the attached route permit that identifies the route proposed by Great River Energy for its 115-kilovolt Pilot Knob to Burnsville Rebuild and Upgrade Project, and includes the requirements and conditions recommended by the ALJ.
5. This order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION



Will Seuffert
Executive Secretary



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STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
ROUTE PERMIT FOR
PILOT KNOB TO BURNSVILLE 115 KV REBUILD AND UPGRADE PROJECT
A HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINE AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES
IN
DAKOTA COUNTY
ISSUED TO
GREAT RIVER ENERGY
PUC DOCKET NO. ET-2/TL-23-410

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 the Pilot Knob to Burnsville 115 kV Rebuild and Upgrade Project.

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

Approved and adopted this 27th day of December, 2024

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION



Will Seuffert,
Executive Secretary

CONTENTS

1	ROUTE PERMIT	1
1.1	Pre-emption	1
2	TRANSMISSION FACILITY DESCRIPTION	1
2.1	Structures	2
2.2	Conductors.....	2
2.3	Substations and Associated Facilities	3
3	DESIGNATED ROUTE	3
4	RIGHT-OF-WAY.....	3
5	GENERAL CONDITIONS.....	4
5.1	Route Permit Distribution.....	4
5.2	Access to Property	4
5.3	Construction and Operation Practices.....	5
5.3.1	Field Representative	5
5.3.2	Employee Training - Route Permit Terms and Conditions	5
5.3.3	Independent Third-Party Monitoring	6
5.3.4	Public Services, Public Utilities, and Existing Easements.....	6
5.3.5	Temporary Workspace	6
5.3.6	Noise	7
5.3.7	Aesthetics	7
5.3.8	Soil Erosion and Sediment Control	7
5.3.9	Wetlands and Water Resources	7
5.3.10	Vegetation Management.....	8
5.3.11	Application of Pesticides.....	8
5.3.12	Invasive Species	9
5.3.13	Noxious Weeds	9
5.3.14	Roads	9
5.3.15	Archaeological and Historic Resources.....	10
5.3.16	Avian Protection	10
5.3.17	Restoration	10
5.3.18	Cleanup	11
5.3.19	Pollution and Hazardous Wastes.....	11
5.3.20	Damages	11
5.4	Electrical Performance Standards	11
5.4.1	Grounding	11
5.4.2	Electric Field.....	12
5.4.3	Interference with Communication Devices	12

5.5	Other Requirements	12
5.5.1	Safety Codes and Design Requirements	12
5.5.2	Other Permits and Regulations.....	12
6	SPECIAL CONDITIONS.....	13
6.1	Proximity to Radio Antennas	13
6.2	Wells	13
6.3	Wildlife-friendly Erosion Control	14
6.4	Dust Control.....	14
6.5	Facility Lighting	14
6.6	Vegetation Management Plan.....	14
6.7	Vegetation Clearing	15
6.8	Northern Long-Eared Bats	16
6.9	Blanding’s Turtle	16
6.10	Minnesota Department of Transportation Requirements	16
7	DELAY IN CONSTRUCTION.....	16
8	COMPLAINT PROCEDURES.....	16
9	COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS	17
9.1	Pre-Construction Meeting	17
9.2	Plan and Profile.....	17
9.3	Status Reports.....	18
9.4	In-Service Date.....	18
9.5	As-Builts	18
9.6	GPS Data	18
9.7	Right of Entry	19
10	ROUTE PERMIT AMENDMENT	19
11	TRANSFER OF ROUTE PERMIT.....	19
12	REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF ROUTE PERMIT	20

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Compliance Filing Procedures for Permitted Energy Facilities

Attachment 2 – Complaint Handling 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 route permit authorizes the Permittee to construct and operate approximately 8.75 miles of 115-kV high voltage transmission line and as identified in the attached route maps, hereby incorporated into this document (Pilot Knob to Burnsville 115 kV Rebuild and Upgrade Project, henceforth known as Transmission Facility).

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 project includes the following segments of existing 69 kV transmission to be rebuilt and upgraded:

- Approximately 2.1 miles between the existing Pilot Knob and Deerwood substations;
- Approximately 3.2 miles between the existing Deerwood and River Hills substations; and
- Approximately 3.4 miles between the existing River Hills and Burnsville substations.

Additionally, the existing Burnsville Substation would be upgraded and modified as part of the project.

The Transmission Facility is located in the following:

County	Township Name	Township	Range	Section
Dakota	City of Eagan	27N	23W	20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32
	City of Burnsville	27N	24W	25, 35, 36
		115N	20W	17, 20
	City of Apple Valley	115N	20W	20

2.1 Structures

The majority of the new 115-kV transmission line will consist of single circuit, horizontal post, or braced post direct-imbedded monopole steel structures spaced approximately 300 to 400 feet apart. Transmission structures will typically range in height from 65 to 100 feet above ground. The diameter of the direct-embedded steel structures at ground level would be between 22 and 40 inches.


Laminated wood structures or steel structures on concrete foundations may be needed for switches and angled structures. Multi-pole (e.g., 3-pole deadend) and/or H-frame structures are designed in a horizontal configuration, which maintains the transmission line conductors parallel to the ground. Horizontal configuration is sometimes desirable where the proposed transmission line crosses under other existing high voltage transmission lines.

In some cases where overhead clearances require the use of H-frame structures, it may be necessary to also bury the optical ground shield/communication wire.

A deadend structure is used to change direction and / or wire tension on a transmission line. A typical deadend structure with bundled conductor has a height of approximately 75 feet, a diameter of approximately 70 inches, and a concrete foundation diameter of approximately 82 inches.

2.2 Conductors

Single circuit structures will have three phases of bundled conductor wires and one shield wire. Double circuit structures will have six phases of bundled conductor wires and up to two shield wires. It is anticipated that the phase wires would be 795 thousand circular mil aluminum-clad steel supported (795 ACSS) or a conductor with similar capacity.

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

Line Type	Conductor	Structure		Foundation	Height	Span
		Type	Material			
115 kV	795 ACSS	Monopole with horizontal post or braced post	Wood, steel, or ductile iron	Direct embed or concrete	65 – 100 feet	300 – 400 feet

		H-Frame	Wood, steel, or ductile iron	Direct embed or concrete	65 – 100 feet	350 - 800
		Three-pole	Wood, steel, or ductile iron	Direct embed or concrete	65 – 100 feet	350 – 800

2.3 Substations and Associated Facilities

Upgrades at Burnsville Substation will include shifting the upgraded and rebuilt 69 kV transmission to the west side of Burnsville Substation, removal of existing bus work, and installation of new bus work, new breakers, and new control equipment.

3 DESIGNATED ROUTE

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

The three sections of the high-voltage transmission line rebuild and upgrade are as follows: 1) between the existing Pilot Knob and Deerwood substations, 2) between the existing Deerwood and River Hills substations, and 3) between the existing River Hills and Burnsville substations. The existing Burnsville Substation will also be upgraded and modified as part of the Project.

The Designated 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 Permittee 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 Permittee 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 Permittee to obtain a new permanent right-of-way for the transmission line up to 500 feet in width. The permanent right-of-way is typically 35 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 Permittee 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, the procedures for accommodating utilities in trunk highway rights-of-way.

5 GENERAL CONDITIONS

The Permittee 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 Permittee 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 Permittee 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 Permittee 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 Permittee shall notify landowners prior to entering or conducting maintenance within their property, unless otherwise negotiated with the landowner. The Permittee shall keep records of

compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Commerce) or Commission staff.

5.3 Construction and Operation Practices

The Permittee 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 Permittee 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 Permittee 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 Permittee 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 Permittee need only provide the field representative's contact information to those landowners that are the subject of the Permittee's vegetation clearing or plan and profile submission, and additional landowners may be notified separately when the Permittees are ready to proceed with a vegetation clearing or plan and profile filing for other Transmission Facility areas. The Permittee may change the field representative at any time upon notice to the Commission, affected landowners, local government units and other interested persons. The Permittee shall file with the Commission an affidavit of distribution of its field representative's contact information at least 14 days prior to commencing construction and upon changes to the field representative.

5.3.2 Employee Training - Route Permit Terms and Conditions

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

5.3.3 Independent Third-Party Monitoring

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 the Department of Commerce. The scope of work shall be developed in consultation with and approved by the Department of Commerce. This third-party monitor will report directly to and will be under the control of the Department of Commerce with costs borne by the Permittee. The Permittee shall file with the Commission the scope of work and the name, address, email, and telephone number of the third party-monitor at least 30 days prior to commencing any construction or right-of-way preparation and upon any change in contact information that may occur during construction of the project and restoration of the right-of-way.

5.3.4 Public Services, Public Utilities, and Existing Easements

During Transmission Facility 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 shall be temporary, and the Permittee shall restore service promptly. Where any impacts to utilities have the potential to occur the Permittee will 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 Permittee shall cooperate with county and city road authorities to develop appropriate signage and traffic management during construction. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Commerce or Commission staff.

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

5.3.6 Noise

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

5.3.7 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. The Permittee 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 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. The Permittee 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 Permittee shall implement those erosion prevention and sediment control practices recommended by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 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 Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as having potential for impacts to water resources, the Permittee shall obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System Construction Stormwater Permit from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency that provides for the development of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan that describes methods to control erosion and runoff.

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 Transmission Facility shall be returned to pre-construction conditions.

5.3.9 Wetlands and Water Resources

The Permittee 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 Permittee 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 Permittee shall use wooden or composite mats to protect wetland vegetation.

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

The Permittee 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 Permittee shall meet all requirements of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and local units of government.

5.3.10 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 the areas such as trails, and stream crossings, and private residences where vegetation screening may minimize aesthetic, human, or environmental impacts, to the extent that such actions do not violate sound engineering principles or system reliability criteria.

The Permittee 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 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 line or impede construction.

5.3.11 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 at least 14 days prior to pesticide application on their property. The Permittee may not apply any pesticide if the landowner requests that there be no application of pesticides within the landowner's property. The Permittee 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 Permittee shall keep pesticide communication and application records and provide them upon the request of Commerce or Commission staff.

5.3.12 Invasive Species

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

5.3.13 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 keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Commerce or Commission staff.

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

5.3.15 Archaeological and Historic Resources

The Permittee 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 Permittee shall consult with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the State Archaeologist, and the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC). 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 (SHPO) and State Archaeologist requirements.

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

5.3.16 Avian Protection

The Permittee in cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources 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 Permittee shall submit documentation of its avian protection coordination with the DNR with the plan and profile pursuant to Section 9.1.

5.3.17 Restoration

The Permittee 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 Permittee shall file with the Commission a Notification of Restoration Completion.

5.3.18 Cleanup

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

5.3.19 Pollution and Hazardous Wastes

The Permittee shall take all appropriate precautions to protect against pollution of the environment. 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.

5.3.20 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. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Commerce or Commission staff.

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 Permittee 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 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 Transmission Facility. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Commerce or Commission staff.

5.5 Other Requirements

5.5.1 Safety Codes and Design Requirements

The Permittee 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 Permittee shall comply with all applicable state rules and statutes. The Permittee 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. The Permittee shall submit a copy of such permits upon the request of Commerce or Commission staff.

At least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting, the Permittee 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

or authority, 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.

6 SPECIAL CONDITIONS

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

- Proximity to Radio Antennas
- Wells
- Wildlife-friendly Erosion Control
- Dust Control
- Facility Lighting
- Vegetation Management Plan
- Vegetation Clearing
- Protection of Bats
- Blanding's Turtle
- Minnesota Department of Transportation Requirements

6.1 Proximity to Radio Antennas

The Permittee shall conduct technical studies to determine the effects of rebuilding and upgrading the transmission line in proximity to the AM 980 KKMS antennas. The study shall be based on final engineering of the transmission structure components' location in space, identify radio signal interference, determine the ability for the antennas to induce a voltage on the transmission line, and propose mitigation for any interference or induced voltage. At least 30 days prior to commencing construction within one-half-mile of the AM 908 KKMS antennas, the Permittee shall submit a compliance filing summarizing the results of the technical studies conducted, its coordination with AM 908 KKMS, and any mitigation incorporated by the Permittee. Construction in proximity to the AM 908 KKMS antennas will not be authorized until the special condition has been met.

6.2 Wells

Permittee shall coordinate with the cities of Eagan and Burnsville regarding the location of any city wells in the vicinity of the Project and obtain copies of each city's applicable emergency

response plan prior to construction. Records of compliance shall be retained by the Permittee, and be provided to the Commission and Commerce staff upon request.

6.3 Wildlife-friendly Erosion Control

Due to entanglement issues with small animals, the Permittee shall use erosion control blankets limited to “bio-netting” or “natural netting” types, and shall specifically not use products containing plastic mesh netting or other plastic components, including hydro-mulch products that may contain small synthetic (plastic) fibers to aid in its matrix strength.

In accordance with any applicable Construction Stormwater General Permit, Permittee will document the type and location of installed erosion and sediment control best management practices in the site plans associated with the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan.

6.4 Dust Control

To protect plants and wildlife from chloride products that do not break down in the environment, the Permittee is prohibited from using dust control products containing calcium chloride or magnesium chloride during construction and operation. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Department of Commerce or Commission staff.

6.5 Facility Lighting

The Permittee shall follow the MnDOT Approved Products for luminaries for new construction at substations, which limits the uplight rating to zero. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Department of Commerce or Commission staff.

6.6 Vegetation Management Plan

The Permittee shall develop a vegetation management plan (VMP), 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 coordinating agencies with the Commission at least 14 days prior to the plan and profile required under this permit. The Permittee shall provide all landowners along the route with copies of the VMP. The Permittee shall file an affidavit of its distribution of the VMP to landowners with the Commission at least 14 days prior to the plan and profile.

The VMP shall include, at a minimum, the following:

- 1) short term and long-term management objectives; roles and responsibilities of site personnel.
- 2) a description of planned restoration and vegetation activities, including how the route will be prepared, timing of activities, and how seeding will occur (broadcast, drilling, etc.), and the types of seed mixes to be used.
- 3) a description of how the route will be monitored and evaluated to meet management objectives.
- 4) a description of management tools used to maintain vegetation (e.g., mowing, spot spraying, hand removal, etc.), including timing/frequency of maintenance activity.
- 5) identification, monitoring and management plan for noxious weeds and invasive species (native and non-native) on route; and
- 6) a plan showing how the route will be revegetated and corresponding seed mixes. Seed mixes, seeding rates, and cover crops should follow best management practices.

6.7 Vegetation Clearing

If the Permittee proposes to clear vegetation for any portion of the Transmission Facility prior to completion of the design necessary to provide a plan and profile contemplated under Section 9.2, the Permittee shall file with the Commission at least 14 days prior to such vegetation clearing activities:

- The Vegetation Management Plan contemplated under Section 6.6 of this Route Permit that is applicable to any portion of the Transmission Facility being proposed for vegetation clearing;
- A map showing the area proposed for vegetation removal and its location within the Designated Route and compared to the right-of-way identified in this route permit;
- A statement of confirmation that the Permittee has obtained, or will obtain before commencing, all necessary land rights and agency permits for the vegetation removal in this area;
- If the Permittee has made any modifications to the right-of- way or alignment within the Designated Route from that identified in this route permit, as required by Section 4 of this route permit, the Permittee shall demonstrate that the right-of- way to be cleared of vegetation will 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.

6.8 Northern Long-Eared Bats

The Permittee will coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the timing of tree-clearing and any other construction or restoration actions that may impact Northern Long Eared Bat. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Department of Commerce or Commission staff.

6.9 Blanding's Turtle

The Permittee will comply with applicable Minnesota Department of Natural Resources requirements related to the Blanding's turtle. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Department of Commerce or Commission staff.

6.10 Minnesota Department of Transportation Requirements

The permittee will comply with applicable Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) requirements for the project including but not limited to MnDOT's Utility Accommodation on Highway Right of Way Policy and shall obtain all applicable MnDOT permits. The Permittee shall give MnDOT district specialists the opportunity to participate in pre-construction meetings as they apply to MnDOT-owned property. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Department of Commerce or Commission staff.

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 route permit the Permittee 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 Permittee 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 Permittee shall assist Commerce or 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 Permittee shall participate in a pre-construction meeting with Commerce and Commission staff to review pre-construction filing requirements, scheduling, and to coordinate monitoring of construction and site restoration activities. Because the Project will be developed and constructed in distinct phases, multiple pre-construction meetings and submissions under Section 9.2 are allowed. Within 14 days following the pre-construction meeting, the Permittee shall file with the Commission a summary of the topics reviewed and discussed and a list of attendees. The Permittee 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 Permittee shall file with the Commission, and provide the Department of Commerce, and the county where the Transmission Facility, or portion of the Transmission Facility, will be constructed 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 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 Permittee 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 Permittee 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 Permittee 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 Permittee may submit additional and/or revised documentation and may not commence construction until the Commission has notified the Permittee in writing that it has determined that the planned construction is consistent with this route 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, the Department of Commerce, 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 Permittee 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 Permittee does not commence construction of the Transmission Facility within six months of this route permit issuance, the Permittee 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 Permittee 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 Permittee 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 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 Facility and each substation connected.

9.7 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.
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 Permittee and interested persons such process as is required under Minn. R. 7850.4900.

11 TRANSFER OF ROUTE PERMIT

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

ATTACHMENT 1

Compliance Filing Procedures for Permitted Energy Facilities

**MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
COMPLIANCE FILING PROCEDURE FOR
PERMITTED ENERGY FACILITIES**

A. Purpose

To establish a uniform and timely method of submitting information required by Commission energy facility permits.

B. Scope and Applicability

This procedure encompasses all known compliance filings required by permit.

C. Definitions

Compliance Filing: A filing of information to the Commission, where the information is required by a Commission site or route permit.

D. Responsibilities

1. The permittee shall file all compliance filings with Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary, Public Utilities Commission, through the eDockets system. The eDockets system is located at:
<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/home.jsp>

General instructions are provided on the eDockets website. Permittees must register on the website to file documents.

2. All filings must have a cover sheet that includes:
 - a. Date
 - b. Name of submitter/permittee
 - c. Type of permit (site or route)
 - d. Project location
 - e. Project docket number
 - f. Permit section under which the filing is made
 - g. Short description of the filing

3. Filings that are graphic intensive (e.g., maps, engineered drawings) must, in addition to being electronically filed, be submitted as paper copies and on CD. Paper copies and CDs should be sent to: 1) Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147, and 2) Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198.

The Commission may request a paper copy of any electronically filed document.

PERMIT COMPLIANCE FILINGS¹

PERMITTEE:

PERMIT TYPE:

PROJECT LOCATION:

PUC DOCKET NUMBER:

Filing Number	Permit Section	Description of Compliance Filing	Due Date

¹ This compilation of permit compliance filings is provided for the convenience of the permittee and the Commission. It is not a substitute for the permit; the language of the permit controls.

ATTACHMENT 2

Complaint Handling Procedures for Permitted Energy Facilities

**MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
COMPLAINT HANDLING PROCEDURES FOR
PERMITTED ENERGY FACILITIES**

A. Purpose

To establish a uniform and timely method of reporting and resolving complaints received by the permittee concerning permit conditions for site or route preparation, construction, cleanup, restoration, operation, and maintenance.

B. Scope

This document describes complaint reporting procedures and frequency.

C. Applicability

The procedures shall be used for all complaints received by the permittee and all complaints received by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) under Minn. R. 7829.1500 or Minn. R. 7829.1700 relevant to this permit.

D. Definitions

Complaint: A verbal or written statement presented to the permittee by a person expressing dissatisfaction or concern regarding site or route preparation, cleanup or restoration, or other permit conditions. Complaints do not include requests, inquiries, questions or general comments.

Substantial Complaint: A written complaint alleging a violation of a specific permit condition that, if substantiated, could result in permit modification or suspension pursuant to the applicable regulations.

Unresolved Complaint: A complaint which, despite the good faith efforts of the permittee and a person, remains unresolved or unsatisfactorily resolved to one or both of the parties.

Person: An individual, partnership, joint venture, private or public corporation, association, firm, public service company, cooperative, political subdivision, municipal corporation, government agency, public utility district, or any other entity, public or private; however organized.

E. Complaint Documentation and Processing

1. The permittee shall designate a representative responsible for filing complaints to the Commission's eDocket system. This person's name, phone number and email address shall accompany all complaint submittals. The name and contact information for the representative shall be kept current in eDockets.
2. A person presenting the complaint should, to the extent possible, include the following information in their communications:
 - a. name, address, phone number, and email address;
 - b. initial date of the complaint;
 - c. tract, parcel number, or address of the complaint;
 - d. a summary of the complaint; and
 - e. whether the complaint relates to a permit violation, a construction practice issue, or other type of complaint.
3. The permittee shall document all complaints by maintaining a record of all applicable information concerning the complaint, including the following:
 - a. docket number and project name;
 - b. name of complainant, address, phone number and email address;
 - c. precise description of property or parcel number;
 - d. name of permittee representative receiving complaint and date of receipt;
 - e. nature of complaint and the applicable permit condition(s);
 - f. summary of activities undertaken to resolve the complaint; and
 - g. a statement on the final disposition of the complaint.

F. Reporting Requirements

The permittee shall commence complaint reporting at the beginning of project construction and continue through the term of the permit, unless otherwise required below. The permittee shall report all complaints to the Commission according to the following schedule:

Immediate Reports: All substantial complaints shall be reported to the Commission the same day received, or on the following working day for complaints received after working hours. Such reports are to be directed to the Commission's Public Advisor at 1-800-657-3782 (voice messages are acceptable) or publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us. For e-mail reporting, the email

subject line should read “PUC EFP Complaint” and include the appropriate project docket number.

Monthly Reports: During project construction, restoration, and operation, a summary of all complaints, including substantial complaints received or resolved during the preceding month, shall be filed by the 15th of each month to Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary, Public Utilities Commission, using the eDockets system. The eDockets system is located at: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/home.jsp>. If no complaints were received during the preceding month, the permittee shall file a summary indicating that no complaints were received.

If a project has submitted twelve consecutive months of complaint reports with no complaints, monthly reports can terminate by a letter to eDockets notifying the Commission of such action. If a substantial complaint is received (by the company or the Commission) following termination of the monthly complaint report, as noted above, the monthly reporting should commence for a period of six months following the most recent complaint or upon resolution of all pending complaints.

If a permittee is found to be in violation of this section, the Commission may reinstate monthly complaint reporting for the remaining permit term or enact some other commensurate requirement via notification by the Executive Secretary or some other action as decided by the Commission.

G. Complaints Received by the Commission

Complaints received directly by the Commission from aggrieved persons regarding the permit or issues related to site or route preparation, construction, cleanup, restoration, or operation and maintenance will be promptly sent to the permittee.

The permittee shall notify the Commission when the issue has been resolved. The permittee will add the complaint to the monthly reports of all complaints. If the permittee is unable to find resolution, the Commission will use the process outlined in the Unresolved Complaints Section to process the issue.

H. Commission Process for Unresolved Complaints

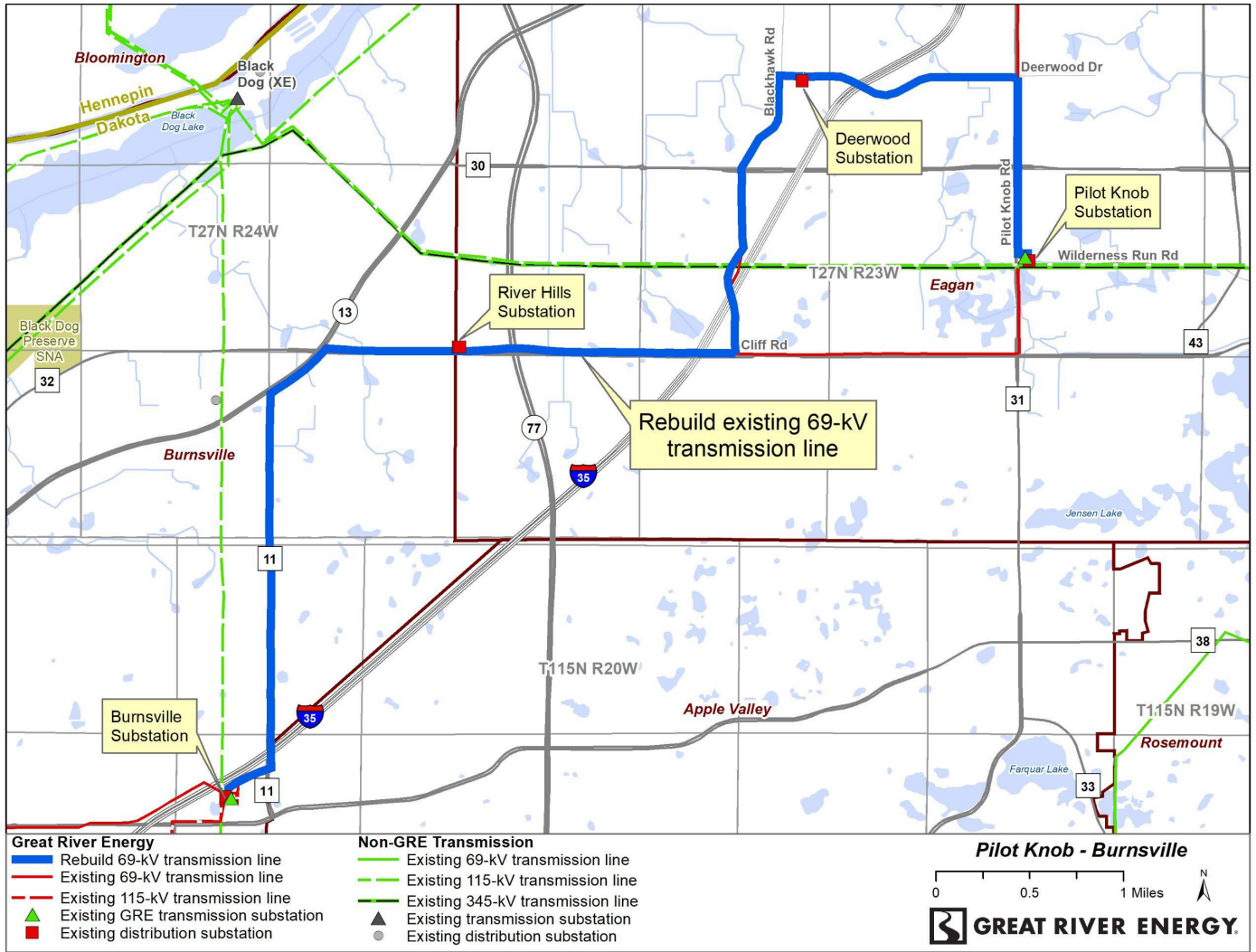
Complaints raising substantial and unresolved permit issues will be investigated by the Commission. Staff will notify the permittee and appropriate people if it determines that the

complaint is a substantial complaint. With respect to such complaints, the permittee and complainant shall be required to submit a written summary of the complaint and its current position on the issues to the Commission. Staff will set a deadline for comments. As necessary, the complaint will be presented to the Commission for consideration.

I. Permittee Contacts for Complaints and Complaint Reporting

Complaints may be filed by mail or email to the permittee's designated complaint representative, or to the Commission's Public Advisor at 1-800-657-3782 or publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us. The name and contact information for the permittee's designated complaint representative shall be kept current in the Commission's eDocket system.

ATTACHMENT 3
Route Permit Maps



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

**ORDER ADOPTING ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE REPORT AND ISSUING
ROUTE PERMIT AS REVISED**

Docket Number **ET-2/TL-23-410**

Dated this 27th day of December, 2024

/s/ Mai Choua Xiong

#	First Name	Last Name	Email	Organization	Agency	Address	Delivery Method	Alternate Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
1	Generic	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.state.mn.us		Office of the Attorney General - Department of Commerce	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400 St. Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	23-41023-410
2	Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us		Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 280 Saint Paul MN, 55101-2198 United States	Electronic Service		No	23-41023-410
3	Brock	FLUEGGE	brock@lakesideins.com	Lakeside Insurance Brokers		11979 County Rd 11 Ste 270 Burnsville MN, 55337 United States	Electronic Service		No	23-41023-410
4	Breann	Jurek	bjurek@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron PA		60 S Sixth St Ste 1500 Minneapolis MN, 55402 United States	Electronic Service		No	23-41023-410
5	Stacy	Kotch Egstad	stacy.kotch@state.mn.us		MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	395 John Ireland Blvd. St. Paul MN, 55155 United States	Electronic Service		No	23-41023-410
6	Kellie	LeClair	scokejolo@msn.com			4100 Blackhawk Road Eagan MN, 55122 United States	Electronic Service		No	23-41023-410
7	James	Mortenson	james.mortenson@state.mn.us		Office of Administrative Hearings	PO BOX 64620 St. Paul MN, 55164-0620 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	23-41023-410
8	Generic Notice	Residential Utilities Division	residential.utilities@ag.state.mn.us		Office of the Attorney General - Residential Utilities Division	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul MN, 55101-2131 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	23-41023-410
9	Will	Seuffert	will.seuffert@state.mn.us		Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Pl E Ste 350 Saint Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	23-41023-410
10	Janet	Shaddix Eling	jshaddix@janetshaddix.com	Shaddix And Associates		7400 Lyndale Ave S Ste 190 Richfield MN, 55423 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	23-41023-410
11	Ben	Spencer				32301 Woodward Avenue Royal Oak MI, 48073 United States	Paper Service		No	23-41023-410
12	Mark	Strohfus	mstrohfus@grenergy.com	Great River Energy		12300 Elm Creek Boulevard Maple Grove MN, 55369-4718 United States	Electronic Service		No	23-41023-410
13	Sarah	Turton	sturton@agreerealty.com			Agree Stores, LLC (Bldg. MN-301629) 32301 Woodward Avenue Royal Oak MI, 48073 United States	Electronic Service		No	23-41023-410
14	Haley	Waller Pitts	hwallerpitts@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.		60 S Sixth St Ste 1500 Minneapolis MN, 55402-4400 United States	Electronic Service		No	23-41023-410
15	Cynthia	Warzecha	cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources		500 Lafayette Road Box 25 St. Paul MN, 55155-4040 United States	Electronic Service		No	23-41023-410
16	Kathy	Zeroth	kathyzern@gmail.com			4134 Signal Pointe Eagan MN, 55122 United States	Electronic Service		No	23-41023-410