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July 8, 2014

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Dr. Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Route Permit Compliance Filing
Monthly Status Report and Complaint Report for June 2014
Brookings County - Hampton 345 kV Transmission Line Project
Docket No. ET2/TL-08-1474

Dear Dr. Haar:

On September 14, 2010, the Commission granted Great River Energy, a Minnesota cooperative corporation, and Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (“Permittees”) a route permit for the Brookings County to Hampton 345 kV Transmission Line Project in southern Minnesota.

Per Condition IV.C. of the route permit, the Monthly Status Report for June 2014 is attached.

Per the Complaint Handling Procedures established for this Project, Permittees are required to report to the Commission (via electronic filing) a summary of all complaints, including substantial complaints received or resolved during the preceding month. **No complaints/comments were received from landowners in June 2014.**

Please feel free to give me a call at 763-445-5214 if you have any questions regarding this filing.

Respectfully Submitted,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Carole L. Schmidt
Supervisor, Transmission Permitting and Compliance

Attachments

cc: Deborah Pile, Minnesota Department of Commerce-EERA

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July 8, 2014

Great River Energy (CapX2020)

Route Permit, Project Docket # ET2/TL-08-1474

Brookings County – Hampton 345 kV Transmission Line Project

Lincoln, Lyon, Yellow Medicine, Chippewa, Redwood, Brown, Renville, Sibley, Le Sueur,
Scott, and Dakota Counties

Route Permit Section IV, Conditions IV.C and IV.D

Description of Filing: Monthly Status Report and Complaint Documentation for June 2014

Brookings County – Hampton 345 kV Transmission Line Project

Monthly Status Report and Complaint Documentation

June 2014

Pre-Construction Activities

Summary

Great River Energy has acquired all necessary regulatory/environmental permits, licenses and approvals for construction of the Brookings Project.

PUC Summary

| Segment or Substation | Plan and Profile Approved | Minor Alteration Approved |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Helena Substation | 9-26-11 | |
| Cedar Mountain-Helena | 3-30-12 | |
| Lyon County Substation | 5-16-12 | |
| Lyon County-Cedar Mountain | | 7-12-12 |
| Cedar Mountain-Franklin | 8-22-12 | |
| Chub Lake Substation | 9-7-12 | |
| Lyon County-Cedar Mountain | 10-2-12 | |
| Lyon County-Cedar Mountain | | 10-15-12 |
| Helena-Structure 103 | 3-8-13 | |
| Hampton Substation | 5-15-13 | |
| Structure 103-Chub Lake | 5-15-13 | |
| Chub Lake-Hampton | 7-3-13 | |
| Chub Lake-Hampton | | 7-18-13 |
| Hazel Creek Substation | 7-8-13 | |
| MN Valley Substation | 9-4-13 | |
| SD Border-Lyon County | 9-27-13 | |
| Lyon County-Hazel Creek- MN Valley | 1-10-14 | |

Resource Agency Permits/Licenses

Great River Energy continues to interface with other permitting agencies during the construction phase.

Cultural resource survey work in the Helena to Chub Lake segment was completed in May 2013, and reports on the findings were finalized and sent to the Corps, SHPO and EFP. Cultural resource survey work in the Chub Lake to Hampton segment and the Border to Lyon segment was completed in May 2013 and July 2013, respectively. Reports for the Chub Lake to Hampton segment were sent to the agencies in September 2013.

Cultural resource survey work in the Lyon to Hazel Creek to MN Valley segments was started in October 2013 and completed in November 2013. Reports for the Lyon to Hazel Creek to MN Valley segments were sent to the Corps in January 2014 and to DOC and SHPO in late February 2014. **The Border to Lyon segment report was sent to DOC and SHPO in June 2014.**

Corps of Engineers Summary

| Segment or Substation | Permit Issued |
|--|--------------------|
| Cedar Mountain-Helena | 7-27-12 |
| Lyon County-Cedar Mountain-Franklin | 12-4-12 |
| Helena-Chub Lake | 5-29-13 |
| Chub Lake-Hampton | 8-16-13 |
| MN Valley Substation | 8-27-13 |
| SD Border-Lyon County | No permit required |
| Lyon County-Hazel Creek-MN Valley | 5-15-14 |

DNR Summary

| Segment | License Issued |
|--|----------------|
| Cedar Mountain-Helena (Public Waters) | 7-6-12 |
| Cedar Mountain-Helena (O'Brien WMA) | 8-3-12 |
| Lyon County-Cedar Mountain (Daub's Lake WMA and Nesburg Landing AMA) | 10-25-12 |
| Lyon County-Cedar Mountain (Public Waters) | 11-2-12 |
| Helena-Chub Lake (Public Waters) | 3-5-13 |
| Chub Lake-Hampton (Public Waters) | 8-6-13 |
| MN Valley Substation (Public Waters Work Permit) | 9-9-13 |
| SD Border-Lyon County (Public Waters) | 10-24-13 |
| Lyon County-Hazel Creek (Lines WMA) | 2-7-14 |
| Lyon County-Hazel Creek-MN Valley (Public Waters) | 2-19-14 |
| Hazel Creek-MN Valley (Prairie Bank) | 3-3-14 |

All activities related to the LWCF conversion/mitigation for crossing Memorial Park in the Hazel Creek to MN Valley segment are now complete.

Other Agencies

Wetland Conservation Act applications for utility exemption for the Chub Lake to Hampton segment were submitted to New Market, Eureka, Castle Rock, Empire, and Vermillion Townships on June 10, 2013. A Notice of Decision (NOD) was received for Empire Township (Exemption) on July 24, 2013. A NOD was received for Castle Rock, Eureka and Vermillion townships (No-Loss, Exemption) on July 26, 2013.

Wetland Conservation Act applications for utility exemptions were sent to the Lincoln, Lyon, and Yellow Medicine County SWCDs in January 2014. A NOD (Exemption) was received from the Lincoln County SWCD on January 22, 2014. **A NOD (No-Loss Decision) was received from the Yellow Medicine SWCD on May 14, 2014. A NOD (Exemption) was received from the Lyon County SWCD on May 22, 2014.**

Documents demonstrating compatibility with State conservation easements in the Lyon to Hazel Creek to MN Valley segments were sent to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) on February 3, 2014. On February 11, 2014, BWSR replied and consented to the additional ROW on their State RIM easements.

The MPCA has indicated that our original SWPPP covers what is expected for BMPs for any line segment, including the requirements for stream crossings on the line segments; therefore, the MPCA did not need to review the details for the individual line segments. Stormwater details for the Minnesota Valley and Hazel Creek Substations were sent to the MPCA in June 2013. In an email dated July 24, 2013, the MPCA indicated that they were not going to do any further formal reviews for the Brookings Project.

Notifications for Helena to Cedar Mountain, Chub Lake to Hampton, and Hazel Creek to Minnesota Valley segments were filed with the FAA in February 2013. The FAA has granted approval for all structures in the Helena to Cedar Mountain, Chub Lake to Hampton, and Hazel Creek to Minnesota Valley segments. The FAA determinations were provided to MN DOT in December 2013.

Real Estate

The table below shows the current acquisition status. Condemnation has been filed on all remaining unsigned parcels and we will proceed through the commissioners' hearings for the easement and Buy-the-Farm takings over the next few years.

| Segment | % Easements Signed |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cedar Mountain-Helena | 74 |
| Lyon County-Cedar Mountain | 96 |
| Cedar Mountain-Franklin | 100 |
| Helena-Chub Lake | 59 |
| Chub Lake-Hampton | 65 |
| SD Border-Lyon County | 99 |
| Lyon County-Hazel Creek-MN Valley | 100 |

Construction Activities

The monthly inspection report summary for June 2014 is attached.

Removal of the existing Xcel Energy 115 kV transmission line ('0825 line') between the Lyon County Substation and the Minnesota Valley Substation (that the Brookings 345 kV line will replace) will be completed in July 2014.

Construction Status

| Segment or Substation | Status |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Helena Substation | Complete |
| Cedar Mountain Substation | Complete; energized 3-17-14 |
| Cedar Mountain-Helena | First circuit energized 3-24-14; second circuit energized 3-31-14 One circuit will be temporarily taken out of service over the next few months to install the interphase spacers. |
| Lyon County Substation | Complete; energized 3-17-14 |
| Lyon County-Cedar Mountain | Both circuits energized 3-27-14 One circuit will be temporarily taken out of service over the next few months to install the interphase spacers. |
| Franklin Substation | Complete |
| Cedar Mountain-Franklin (115 kV) | Energized 3-17-14 |
| Chub Lake Substation | Complete; energized 4-3-14 |
| Helena-Chub Lake | Energized 4-11-14; restoration ongoing |
| Hampton Substation | Complete |
| Chub Lake-Hampton | Energized 4-29-14; restoration ongoing |
| Hazel Creek Substation | Substation telephone service should be provided first week in July. Precast trench installation is complete and control cables have been installed to the 345 kV yard and to TR9. Cable installation to all other areas should be complete by mid-July. Installation of the 345 kV bus is complete and jumpers are being installed. The 230 kV bus is configured and installation with jumpers is scheduled for July. The substation ground grid is 40% complete. |
| MN Valley Substation | Installation of TR5 115 kV termination structure complete. The AC auxiliary system is about 50% complete. Wire checking is complete. Pier installation is ongoing. Solutions are in place for rock encountered. The 230 kV switch assembly is underway. |
| SD Border-Lyon County | Subsegment 6B – 127 of 127 foundations installed Subsegment 6C – 123 of 139 foundations installed; 17 structures set |
| Lyon County-Hazel Creek-MN Valley | Existing Xcel Energy 115 kV “0825” line removal ongoing Tree clearing ongoing |

Complaints

No complaints/comments were received from landowners in June 2014.

Brookings - Hampton Monthly Inspection Report Summary

Inspection Report Summary for 6/1/2014 to 6/30/2014

Report Statistics for this date range:

| | |
|---|----|
| Total Number of Inspections Conducted: | 17 |
| Number of Inspections With Compliance Issues: | 3 |
| Number of Unresolved Inspections: | 0 |

Summary List of BMP Issues for this date range:

| BMP Reference #/Source Doc | Primary Agency |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| 036 - (SWPPP 7.2) | MPCA |
| 002 - (SWPPP 4.2) | MPCA |

The following attached inspection reports reflect only those inspections in which there was a compliance issue. Inspections with no compliance issues are not included in the attached reports.

If there are no reports attached to this page, there were no compliance issues discovered during this date range.

Structure #: N/A

Line Segment/Substation: 0972 MN SD/MN Border - Lyon City (MN Only)

BMPs Not Followed In This Inspection:

| BMP Reference #/Source Doc | BMP Excerpt |
|----------------------------|---|
| 036 - (SWPPP 7.2) | Silt fences and other temporary erosion and sediment controls are kept in working order throughout project construction. Photo document and provide GPS coordinates where correction is needed. |

BMPs Not Followed In This Inspection:

| BMP Reference #/Source Doc | BMP Excerpt |
|----------------------------|-------------|
|----------------------------|-------------|

Inspection Issue and Resolution Information

Inspection Notes: Recent rainfalls have left large amounts of standing water across the ROW. Multiple foundations are under water and the vast majority of erosion control devices are inundated. Heavy rutting was noted near STRs 01-043 where crews are setting poles. Once conditions improve crew will need to restore these areas. Spoils near STR 029 require erosion control to be placed on the downhill side as rainfall has resulted in erosion down hill towards the wetland area.

Resolution Status: Resolved

Date Resolution Due: 6/24/2014

Date Resolution Implemented: 6/26/2014

Resolution Notes: Crews have installed required erosion control devices.

Inspection Type: Active Construction

Original Report ID (if applicable): N/A

Follow up required?: Yes

General Inspection Information

Inspector Name: Mike Swenson

How was the issue discovered?: Routine Inspection

Work Type: Construction

Report ID: 563

Date Inspection Conducted: 6/19/2014

Structure #: N/A

Line Segment/Substation: 0972 MN SD/MN Border - Lyon City (MN Only)

Last Inspection Date:

Next Inspection Date:

Weather:

Temp: 80 degrees

Precipitation: 4 in inches

Site Characteristics

Location Description: N/A

Latitude:

Longitude:

LandOwnership: N/A

**Distance to Nearest
Waterbody:** N/A

Plant Communities: N/A

State Listed Species: N/A

Images

Structure #: N/A

Line Segment/Substation: 0972 SD Brookings City - SD/MN Border (SD Only)

BMPs: All BMPs were followed during this inspection.

Inspection Issue and Resolution Information

Inspection Notes: Inspection performed by Shannon Kulseth. Site conditions remain unchanged from previous inspection on 6/19. Large amounts of standing water are present across the ROW, most erosion control measures are submerged.

Refer to Report Number 563 for outstanding issues.

Resolution Status: Resolved

Date Resolution Due: 6/24/2014

Date Resolution Implemented: 6/26/2014

Resolution Notes: Crews have installed required erosion control devices.

Inspection Type: Active Construction

Original Report ID (if applicable): N/A

Follow up required?: Yes

General Inspection Information

Inspector Name: Shannon Kulseth

How was the issue discovered?: Routine Inspection

Work Type: Construction

Last Inspection Date:

Next Inspection Date:

Weather:

Temp: 70 degrees

Precipitation: 1.5 inches

Structure #: N/A

Line Segment/Substation: 0972 SD Brookings City - SD/MN Border (SD Only)

Site Characteristics

Location Description: N/A

Latitude:

Longitude:

LandOwnership: N/A

Distance to Nearest
Waterbody: N/A

Plant Communities: N/A

State Listed Species: N/A

Images

Structure #: N/A

Line Segment/Substation: 0962 Lyon City - Hazel Creek

BMPs Not Followed In This Inspection:

| BMP Reference #/Source Doc | BMP Excerpt |
|----------------------------|---|
| 002 - (SWPPP 4.2) | Paved roads in front of the construction entrances/exits are inspected at the end of each day and tracked soil is removed within 24 hours of discovery. |

Inspection Issue and Resolution Information

Inspection Notes: Crews were mobilizing construction equipment to the ROW and placing mats along the ROW. Extremely wet conditions persist along the ROW. A significant amount of soil had been tracked out onto Lyon County Road 9 directly adjacent to the ROW. Crews are reminded that all tracked out material is to be cleaned up on a daily basis.

Resolution Status: Resolved

Date Resolution Due: 6/25/2014

Date Resolution Implemented:

Resolution Notes: N/A

Inspection Type: Active Construction

Original Report ID (if applicable): N/A

Follow up required?: Yes

General Inspection Information

Inspector Name: Mike Swenson

How was the issue discovered?: Routine Inspection

Work Type: Construction

Last Inspection Date:

Next Inspection Date:

Weather:

Temp: 70 degrees

Precipitation: N/A inches

Structure #: N/A

Line Segment/Substation: 0962 Lyon City - Hazel Creek

Site Characteristics

Location Description: N/A

Latitude:

Longitude:

LandOwnership: N/A

Distance to Nearest
Waterbody: N/A

Plant Communities: N/A

State Listed Species: N/A

Images