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December 4, 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 November 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 November 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. **One complaint/comment was received from a landowner in November 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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December 4, 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 November
2014**

Brookings County – Hampton 345 kV Transmission Line Project
Monthly Status Report and Complaint Documentation
November 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.

Great River Energy met with the Dakota County SWCD and Eureka and Castle Rock township representatives on July 23, 2014 to do a final inspection of wetland areas in the Chub Lake to Hampton segment. All temporary wetland fill areas in this segment were deemed to have been adequately restored.

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	% Easements Completed (includes Settlements & Awards)
Cedar Mountain-Helena	74	90
Lyon County-Cedar Mountain	96.5	100
Cedar Mountain-Franklin	100	100
Helena-Chub Lake	60	74
Chub Lake-Hampton	67	85
SD Border-Lyon County	99.4	100
Lyon County-Hazel Creek-MN Valley	100	100

Construction Activities

The monthly inspection report summary for November 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 is replacing) was completed in mid August 2014. Tree clearing for the Project is complete. Blasting in Segment 8 (Hazel Creek to Minnesota Valley, Structures 25-32) to accommodate foundation installation is complete (blasting occurred between August 12 and August 26, 2014).

Foundation installation for the Project is complete (including Structure 33, within the Minnesota Valley Substation, installed by Xcel Energy in October 2014).

We are working with Stanley Consultants on a solution for erosion issues at Structure 341 at the Minnesota River crossing in Belle Plaine. We will coordinate with the Corps of Engineers and the DNR once a solution is developed.

Material will be excavated beneath Structures 0960-001 and 0960-002 in the Helena to Chub Lake segment (just east of the Helena Substation) in early December 2014 to meet clearance requirements within the span. All excavated soils will be dispersed onsite, just outside the easement area and within the Helena Substation site.

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 Interphase spacer installation complete on first circuit; spacers to be installed on second circuit in 2015.
Lyon County Substation	Complete; energized 3-17-14
Lyon County-Cedar Mountain	Both circuits energized 3-27-14 Interphase spacer installation complete on first circuit; spacers to be installed on second circuit in 2015.
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	Construction is complete except for several minor punch list items. The construction crew is demobilizing and will return for commissioning when construction of the 345 and 230 kV lines is complete. Crews will also return to clear up punch list items as parts become available.
MN Valley Substation	Phase 2 TR6 and Hazel Creek 230 kV line yard work is 90% complete. Control modifications are about 95% complete. Grounding modifications are complete.
SD Border-Lyon County	Subsegment 6B – 127 of 127 foundations installed and structures set; 30 structures strung Subsegment 6C – 139 of 139 foundations installed and structures set; 126 structures strung
Lyon County-Hazel Creek-MN Valley	Segment 7 - Lyon County-Hazel Creek – 135 of 135 foundations installed; 95 structures set Segment 8 – Hazel Creek to MN Valley – 33 of 33 foundations installed and structures set

Complaints

One complaint/comment was received from a landowner in November 2014 (see attached report).

Brookings - Hampton Monthly Inspection Report Summary

Inspection Report Summary for [11/1/2014](#) to [11/30/2014](#)

Report Statistics for this date range:

Total Number of Inspections Conducted:	9
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Number of Inspections With Compliance Issues:	0
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Number of Unresolved Inspections:	0
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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.

Great River Energy Brookings to Hampton 345 kV Transmission Line Project Complaint Report

PUC Docket No. ET2/TL-08-1474

Complainant Name: **Bernard DeCock**

Address: **3364 Highway 68, Ghent, MN 56239**

Phone Number: **507-428-3885**

Email Address:

Property Description or Parcel Number:

Structure 223, Border to Lyon County Segment

**Does Complaint Relate to (1) a route permit matter, or (2) a compliance issue:
(2) Compliance Issue**

Nature of Complaint and Applicable Site Permit Condition:

The landowner called about settlement for crop damage.

Activities Undertaken to resolve the Complaint:

Dori Harms of Great River Energy forwarded this message to John Meyers (crop damages lead for Land Service Company). John contacted the landowner and sent him the paperwork the landowner needs to fill out for reimbursement.

Name of Person Receiving Complaint:

Dori Harms of Great River Energy; passed to John Meyers of Land Service Company.

Date of Receipt of Complaint:

11/13/14

Contact Information for Person Reporting Complaint to the PUC:

Name: **Carole Schmidt**

Phone Number: **763-445-5214**

Email Address: **cschmidt@grenergy.com**

Final Disposition and Date:

Ongoing, payment pending.