



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Issued: April 22, 2016

In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy for a Route Permit under the Alternative Permitting Process for the Palisade 115 kV Project near the city of Palisade, Minnesota

Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Numbers: ET2/TL-15-423
Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) Docket Number: 5-2500-32920

Date: May 5, 2016

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Waukenabo Town Hall
26797 Grove Street
Palisade, MN 56469

Bad weather? Find out if a meeting is canceled. Call (toll-free) 1-855-731-6208 or 651-201-2213 or visit mn.gov/puc

Project Description

Great River Energy proposes to:

- Build approximately 13 miles of new 115 kV transmission line
- Build a new 115 kV breaker station

The proposed project would be located in Aitkin County, northeast of the city of Aitkin. Great River Energy states the project is needed to serve a new oil pumping station.

Great River Energy proposed that the new 115 kV transmission line run between Enbridge's proposed Palisade Pump Station, east of U.S. Highway 169 and south of 510th Lane, and a new Rice River Breaker Station, west of U.S. Highway 169 and south of 390th Street. The Project would connect to the existing Minnesota Power Cromwell to Riverton (the "13 Line") 115 kV transmission line. Great River Energy anticipates starting construction and energizing the line in 2018.

Public Hearing Information

- Public Hearings start on time.
- Arrive a few minutes early so you have time to sign in, pick up materials, and find a seat.
- What is the most appropriate route for this project?
- Administrative Law Judge James Mortenson will preside over the public hearing. Public Utilities Commission, Department of Commerce (DOC), and Great River Energy staff members are available to answer questions about the permitting process and the project.
- Should any specific permit conditions be placed on this project?
- You may add verbal comments, written comments, or both into the record.

Submit Comments

Topics for Public Comment:

- Should the Public Utilities Commission issue a route permit?
- What are the environmental and human impacts of each route under consideration and how can these impacts be addressed?
- Are there other project-related issues or concerns?

Comment Period: Comments are accepted through May 16, 2016 at 4:30pm.

Comments must be received by 4:30pm on the close date

Comments received after comment period closes may not be considered

Online Visit mn.gov/puc, select *Speak Up!*, find this docket, and add your comments to the discussion.

If you wish to include an exhibit, map or other attachment, please send your comments via U.S. Mail or eFiling.

U.S. Mail Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul MN 55101.

Please include the Commission's docket number (15-423) in all communications.

eFiling Visit mn.gov/puc, select *eFiling*, and follow the prompts.

Important Comments will be made available to the public via the Public Utilities Commission's website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The Commission does not edit or delete personal identifying information from submissions.

Process Information

The Public Utilities Commission (Commission) must approve a route permit before the project can be built. Great River Energy's route permit application was accepted in October 2015. This means

the company submitted all the information required to begin the review process. The Commission's decision-making process takes about nine months.

The Department of Commerce prepared an environmental assessment for this project. The environmental assessment reviewed the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives, as well as ways to address impacts. The environmental assessment was issued on April 20, 2016.

After the public hearings, the Commission reviews all the information in the record, including written comments and comments received at the public hearings. The Commission's final decision on the route permit for this project is expected in Fall 2016.

Eminent Domain: If the Commission issues a route permit, Great River Energy may use the power of eminent domain to acquire land for this project.

How to Learn More

Department of Commerce Project Website:

<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=34249>

Project Mailing List: Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate (meetings, comment periods, etc.).

Contact docketing.puc@state.mn.us or 651-201-2204 with the docket number (15-423), your name, mailing address and email address.

Subscribe to receive email notification when new documents are filed.

1. mn.gov/puc
2. Select *Subscribe*
3. Type your email address
4. For *Type of Subscription*, select *Docket Number*
5. For *Docket Number*, select 15 in the first box, type 423 in the second box
6. Select *Add to List*
7. Select *Save*

*Note - subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

Full Case Record: See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission's website - mn.gov/puc, select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (15) and the docket number (423), select *Search*.

Community Locations: The route permit application and environmental assessment are available at these locations:

- Aitkin Public Library, 110 1st Avenue Northeast, Aitkin, MN 56431

Minnesota Statutes and Rules: This project is reviewed under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850, available at www.revisor.mn.gov.

Project Contacts

Public Utilities Commission Public Advisor

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Public Utilities Commission Energy Facilities Planner

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Great River Energy Project Contact

Dan Leshner at dlesher@GREnergy.com or 763-445-5975

If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in these meetings (e.g., sign language or large print materials), please contact the Office of Administrative Hearings at 651-361-7000 (voice) or 651-361-7878 (TTY) at least one week in advance of the meeting.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (e.g., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.

