



Energy Facility Permitting
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198
ph 651.296.4026 | fx 651.297.7891
<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities>

June 17, 2013

Dr. Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

RE: EFP Review – Compliance Filing of May 30, 2013
Plan and Profile for the Brookings County to Hampton 345 kV Transmission Line Project
Grading Plan for Hazel Creek Substation
Docket No. ET2/TL-08-1474

Dear Dr. Haar,

Attached are the review and comments of Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff in the above matter.

In accordance with the route permits issued by the Commission for the Brookings County to Hampton 345 kV transmission line project, Great River Energy and Northern States Power Company (permittees) have submitted a grading plan for the Hazel Creek substation.

The grading plan was filed on May 30, 2013, by:

Carole Schmidt
Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Blvd.
Maple Grove, MN 55369

EFP staff is available to answer any questions the Commission may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ray Kirsch'.

Ray Kirsch
EFP Staff

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PERMIT COMPLIANCE FILING REVIEW

PUC Docket No. ET2/TL-08-1474

Great River Energy and Northern States Power Company (permittees) have submitted a compliance filing to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for the Hazel Creek substation in Yellow Medicine County. The substation is part of the Brookings County to Hampton 345 kV transmission line project.

The permittee has submitted this compliance information pursuant to the Commission's route permit for this portion of the project, issued on September 14, 2010, and in accordance with the following permit conditions:

Permit Section	Description	eDockets Number	Date Filed
IV.A	Plan and Profile	20135-87588-01	May 30, 2013
IV.B.2	Field Representatives	20135-87588-01	May 30, 2013

Plan and Profile

Section IV.A of the Commission's route permit for the Brookings County to Hampton project states:

At least 30 calendar days before right-of-way preparation for construction begins on any segment or portion of the project, the Permittees shall provide the Commission with a plan and profile of the right-of-way and the specifications and drawings for right-of-way preparation, construction, transmission structure specifications and locations, and restoration for the transmission line. The documentation shall include maps depicting the plan and profile including the right-of-way and alignment in relation to the route and alignment approved per the permit.

Several sections of the route permit place conditions on the plan and profile, including Section II.B (substations), Section II.D (structures), Section III.A (route width and alignment), Section III.B (right-of-way placement), and Section III.C (right-of-way width).

Section II.B.1 of the route permit specifies the location and size of the Hazel Creek substation. Per this section of the permit, the substation must be located at the southeast corner of the intersection for 520th Street (County Road B3) and 250th Avenue in section 18 of Minnesota

Falls Township. The fenced and graded area of the substation must be approximately 10 to 12 acres in size.

EFP staff has reviewed the permittees' plan and profile filing for compliance with the Commission's route permit. EFP staff finds that the filing is in accordance with the route permit. The filing – a grading plan – indicates that the Hazel Creek substation will be located in the southeast corner of the intersection of 520th Street and 260th Avenue in Section 18 of Minnesota Falls Township, in Yellow Medicine County. Per the grading plan, the area required for the substation – including an access road and stormwater management system – is approximately 12 acres. Thus, the plan indicates that the permittees' proposed location and size for the substation are in accordance with the Commission's route permit.

Section IV.B.8 of the route permit indicates that project substation sites require National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits and associated Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs). The permittees' filing indicates that the permittees have received an NPDES permit from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for the Brookings to Hampton project. The filing indicates that information regarding the Hazel Creek substation, including a location-specific SWPPP, will be submitted to the MPCA for their review prior to grading at the Hazel Creek substation site.

Field Representatives

Section IV.B.2 of the route permit requires the permittees to identify field representatives for the permittees who will be responsible for overseeing compliance of this section of the project with the permit. EFP staff notes that the permittees' filing identifies field representatives for this section of the project, and this identification is in accordance with the route permit.

EFP Recommendation

Based on EFP staff's review of the permittees' filing, EFP staff concludes that the filing is in accordance with the Commission's route permit and all permit conditions.

The filing meets applicable permit conditions:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Partially
Permit condition requires an action by the Commission:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>
EFP staff suggests filing be brought to the Commission for decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Response letter to permittee is recommended:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>

/s/ Ray Kirsch

June 17, 2103

*Energy Facility Permitting
 Minnesota Department of Commerce*

Date