



Publication Date: October 31, 2011
Vol. 35, No. 22

Next Publication: November 14, 2011
Submittal Deadline: November 7, 2011
Submit to EQB.Monitor@state.mn.us

PUBLIC NOTICE

Special meeting notice

The EQB will be holding a special meeting on November 18, 2011, in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Board Room. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. The Board will hear from the Board of Water and Soil Resources on a draft strategic plan it is developing. Additionally, the board seeks to continue a public conversation on the future of the EQB. An invitation from Chair Frederickson can be found at:

http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/documents/10_17_11_EQB_Input_Letter.pdf.

To learn more, see the agenda and materials for the EQB meeting, which are scheduled to be posted on the EQB website on November 10. Go to "[Agendas and Minutes](#)" on the EQB website to view the meeting agenda and materials (to see EQB meeting materials, click the "View List" link in the right hand column of the table for November 18, 2011).

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: November 30, 2011

Project Title: Grade Separated Interchange at Highway 169 and 93rd Ave (CSAH 30)

Description: This project, located in the cities of Osseo and Brooklyn Park, proposes to replace the existing signalized intersection at Highway 169 and 93rd Avenue (CSAH 30) with a grade separated interchange including a bridge for 93rd Avenue to travel over Highway 169. Loop ramps will be constructed on the north side of 93rd Avenue.

Copies of the EAW, which documents the purpose and need for the project, along with the anticipated social, economic and environmental impacts, are available for public viewing beginning October 31, 2011, during regular business hours at the following locations:

The *EQB Monitor* is a biweekly publication of the Environmental Quality Board that lists descriptions and deadlines for Environmental Assessment Worksheets, Environmental Impact Statements, and other notices. The *EQB Monitor* is posted on the Environmental Quality board home page at <http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/>.

Upon request, the *EQB Monitor* will be made available in an alternative format, such as Braille, large print, or audio tape. For TTY, contact Minnesota Relay Service at 800-627-3529 and ask for Department of Administration. For information on the *EQB Monitor*, contact:

Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
520 Lafayette Road – 4th Floor
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194
Phone: 651-296-6300
Fax: 651-297-2343
<http://www.eqb.state.mn.us>

EQB MONITOR

- Minnesota Department of Transportation, Metro District
1500 W. County Rd B2, Roseville, MN 55113
- Minnesota Department of Transportation Library
395 John Ireland Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155
- Legislative Reference Library
645 State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155
- Brooklyn Park Library
8600 Zane Avenue N, Brooklyn Park, MN 55443
- Osseo Library
415 Central Avenue, Osseo MN 55369
- Minneapolis Public Library
300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401

Information on the project is also available on the project website at:
<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/hwy169brooklynpark/index.html>

The EAW comment period will begin on October 31, 2011. Written comments will be accepted through November 30, 2011. Comments should be submitted to the MnDOT Project Environmental Coordinator listed below.

There will be a public open house meeting to provide an opportunity for the public to find out more about the proposed project and to provide comments on the EAW. The meeting will be held at the Brooklyn Park City Hall on November 16, 2011, from 3:30 to 6:30 PM CST.

RGU: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Contact Person:

Brigid Gombold, Environmental Coordinator
Minnesota Department of Transportation, Metro District
1500 West County Road B2, Roseville, MN 55113
651/234-7674
Email: brigid.gombold@state.mn.us

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS AVAILABLE

Comment Deadline: November 10, 2011

Project Title: Glencoe Light & Power 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation

Description: GLPC's project will consist of the construction of approximately 4.5 miles of new overhead 115 kV transmission line and an electric substation. To lessen impact to agricultural and residential property use along the line route, GLPC is proposing a route that will follow along road right-of-ways or utility-easement corridors.

The proposed route of the overhead line will begin at the existing Armstrong Substation located on Armstrong Avenue and 11th Street East, following Armstrong Avenue south along the west side of the road to an existing overhead distribution line and turn east, the line will follow the existing distribution line until it intersects with the north ROW of US Trunk Highway 212, follow north ROW line of US Trunk Highway 212 for approximately 5,900 feet, the line will cross US Trunk Highway 212 diagonally to the south ROW of US Trunk Highway 212, the line will follow the south ROW of US Trunk Highway 212 for approximately 9,000 feet, the line will turn north on the west side of Diamond Avenue for approximately 2,700 feet, the line will turn west and terminate in the new Diamond Avenue Substation.

RGU: McLeod County – a copy of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project is available at the McLeod County Auditor’s Office, and McLeod County Planning and Zoning Office.

Contact Person:

Please submit comments to:

Larry Gasow

McLeod County

830 E 11th Street

Glencoe, MN 55336

PH: 320-864-1291 Fax: 320-864-3410

Project Title: Moorhead Public Utilities 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation

Description: MPS’s project will consist of the construction of approximately 7.5 miles of new overhead 115 kV transmission line and an electric substation. To lessen impact to agricultural and residential property use along the line route, MPS is proposing a route that will follow along road right-of-ways or utility-easement corridors.

The proposed route of the new transmission line would begin at MPS’s 115 kV line near the intersection of 50th Ave S and the BNSF railroad ROW. The line would proceed east along and adjacent to the right-of-way of 50th Ave S to the drainage ditch on the east side of Highway 52. The line would proceed in a northwesterly direction along the existing easement of the Buffalo Red River Watershed District Drainage Ditch No. 47 on the east side of the railroad right-of-way to a point south of 40th St S. The proposed line would then turn east along the south side of the McCara Business Park and turn north along 42nd St S to the proposed location of the new Opportunity Substation. The line would then turn west along the north property on the McCara Business Park to Hwy 52. The line then would turn northwesterly along the Drainage Ditch No. 47 east of the existing railroad right-of-way. The line will tie to the existing line at the intersection of Hwy 52 and 20th Ave S.

RGU: Clay County – a copy of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project is available at the Clay County Auditor’s Office, and Clay County Planning and Zoning Office.

Contact Person:

Please submit comments to:

Tim Magnusson
Clay County
Planning & Environmental Programs
807 11th Street North
Moorhead, MN 56560
PH: 218-299-5002 Fax: 5218-299-5195
e-mail: planning@co.clay.mn.us

EIS NEED DECISIONS

The responsible governmental unit has determined the following projects do not require preparations of an EIS. The dates given are, respectively, the date of the determination and the date the EAW notice was published in the *EQB Monitor*.

- City of Minneapolis, Dock Street Residential Development, October 14, 2011 (August 1, 2011)

NOTICES

Notice of Clarification of the Public Hearing Date for the Metropolitan Airports Commission/Assessment of Environmental Effects of the 2012-2018 Capital Improvement Program for MSP and Reliever Airports

The notice of public hearing published in the October 17 EQB Monitor is corrected as follows concerning the day of the week of the public hearing:

Additionally, a copy of the AOEE can be obtained by contacting Christene Sirois Kron, Metropolitan Airports Commission, 6040 28th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55450; 612-725-6455. Comments concerning the AOEE can be given at a Public Hearing to be held on **Monday**, November 7, 2011, at 11:00 a.m. in room 3048, Mezzanine level, Lindbergh Terminal, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, or in writing to Christene Sirois Kron at 6040 28th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55450. Comments on the AOEE must be received by the close of business on Wednesday, November 16, 2011. Persons planning to attend the public hearing should call Christene Sirois Kron at 612-725-6455 for security checkpoint information.

The close of the public comment period remains unchanged.

A copy of the AOEE can be downloaded on the Internet at: www.macnoise.com/files/MAC-2012-AOEE-10-10-11.pdf.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SCOPING MEETING**In the Matter of the Certificate of Need for the 98.9 MW
Ellerth Windpark in Marshall County, Minnesota
PUC Docket: IP-6855/CN-11-112**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff will conduct a public information and environmental report scoping meeting on the certificate of need (CN) application by Ellerth Wind, LLC (EW), to the to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for the proposed 98.9 megawatt (MW) Ellerth Windpark (Project) in Marshall County. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information about the project and to identify issues and alternatives to study in the environmental report (ER) that will be prepared by EFP staff.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SCOPING MEETING*
Monday, November 7, 2011, 7:00 p.m.**

**NEWFOLDEN COMMUNITY CENTER
145 East First Street
Newfolden, MN 56738**

***Prior to the public information meeting, the Applicant will host an open house beginning at 6:30 p.m.**

EFP staff will accept written comments on the scope of the ER until November 30, 2011. Please include PUC Docket No. 11-112 on all comments. Comments should be mailed, faxed or emailed to:

Larry B. Hartman
State Permit Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
Fax: 651-296-7588; Tel: 651-296-5089
Larry.hartman@state.mn.us

Comments may also be submitted on the Commission's energy facility permitting website,
www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us

The meeting will include a brief presentation of the state's certificate of need process, the proposed project, and how the public can participate in the certificate of need process. Representatives from Ellerth Wind will be present to answer questions about the proposed project. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions, and propose issues, impacts, and alternatives to be studied in the ER.

Project Description and Location. The CN Application is for an up to 98.9 MW Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS), including the following:

1. Anywhere from 43 to 61 turbines will be used; this number depends on the size and model of turbine selected. The three turbines under consideration vary in size from 1.6 to 2.3 MW. However, the total nameplate capacity will be limited to 98.9 MW.
2. Associated project facilities include gravel access roads, a step-up substation, a wind electrical collection system, permanent meteorological towers, installation of a supervisory control and data acquisition (“SCADA”) system; and an operations and maintenance (O&M) building.

The project is located approximately two miles west of the community of Newfolden and four miles north of Viking in portions of the townships of Wright, West Valley, Foldahl, Marsh Grove, Comstock and Viking (see attached map). The project area encompasses approximately 33,709 acres of mostly agricultural land. Ellerth Wind currently has agreements with landowners over approximately 18,870 acres of private land within the project area.

Review Process. Two separate Commission approvals are required for the Ellerth Windpark – a certificate of need (CN) and a site permit. The applicant filed its CN Application on May 27, 2011. The Commission accepted the CN Application as complete on August 24, 2011. A site permit for the project cannot be issued prior to a determination by the Commission that the project is needed. The Commission CN process is the only process in which a no-build alternative and the size, type, and timing of the project and alternatives will be considered.

EFP staff is responsible for conducting the environmental review for certificate of need applications submitted to the Commission (Minn. Rules 7849). This review requires the preparation of an environmental report (ER). An ER examines the potential human and environmental impacts of a proposed project, alternatives to the proposed project, and potential mitigative measures. EFP staff conducts a public information meeting to gather comments and suggestions on the proposed project in order to focus the content or “scope” of the ER.

Upon completion of the ER, a public hearing will be held in the project area. The hearing will be presided over by an administrative law judge (ALJ) from the Office of Administrative Hearings. Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak at the hearing, present evidence, ask questions, and submit comments. Notice of the public hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who register their names on the project mailing list (see below).

Upon completion of the environmental review and hearing process, the record compiled for the CN application will be presented to the Commission for a final decision. A decision by the Commission on a certificate of need for the project is anticipated in spring 2012.

Eminent Domain. Ellerth Wind, LLC does not have the power of eminent domain to acquire the land or wind rights for the project. Wind and land rights necessary to build the facility must be in the form of voluntary easements or lease agreements between individual landowners and the applicant.

Project Mailing List. Persons should contact the state permit manager (noted below) or register online at: www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us to get their name on the project mailing list. Persons on the mailing list will receive notices of meeting and notices of document availability for this project. If you do not register to be on the mailing list you will not receive correspondence regarding this project after this notice. Project mailing list registration is voluntary and may be done at any time.

Project Documents. A more detailed description of the proposed project is contained in the certificate of need application. An electronic version of this document is available on the Commission's energy facility permitting website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=32308>. Additionally, documents are available on the Commission's eDockets system: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the year "11" and the number "112").

The CN application is also available from the applicant's representative listed below.

Copies of the Application will also be available for review at the Auditor's Office in Marshall County, City Offices in Newfolden and Viking and with the clerks of the following townships: Wright, West Valley, Foldahl, Marsh Grove, Comstock and Viking.

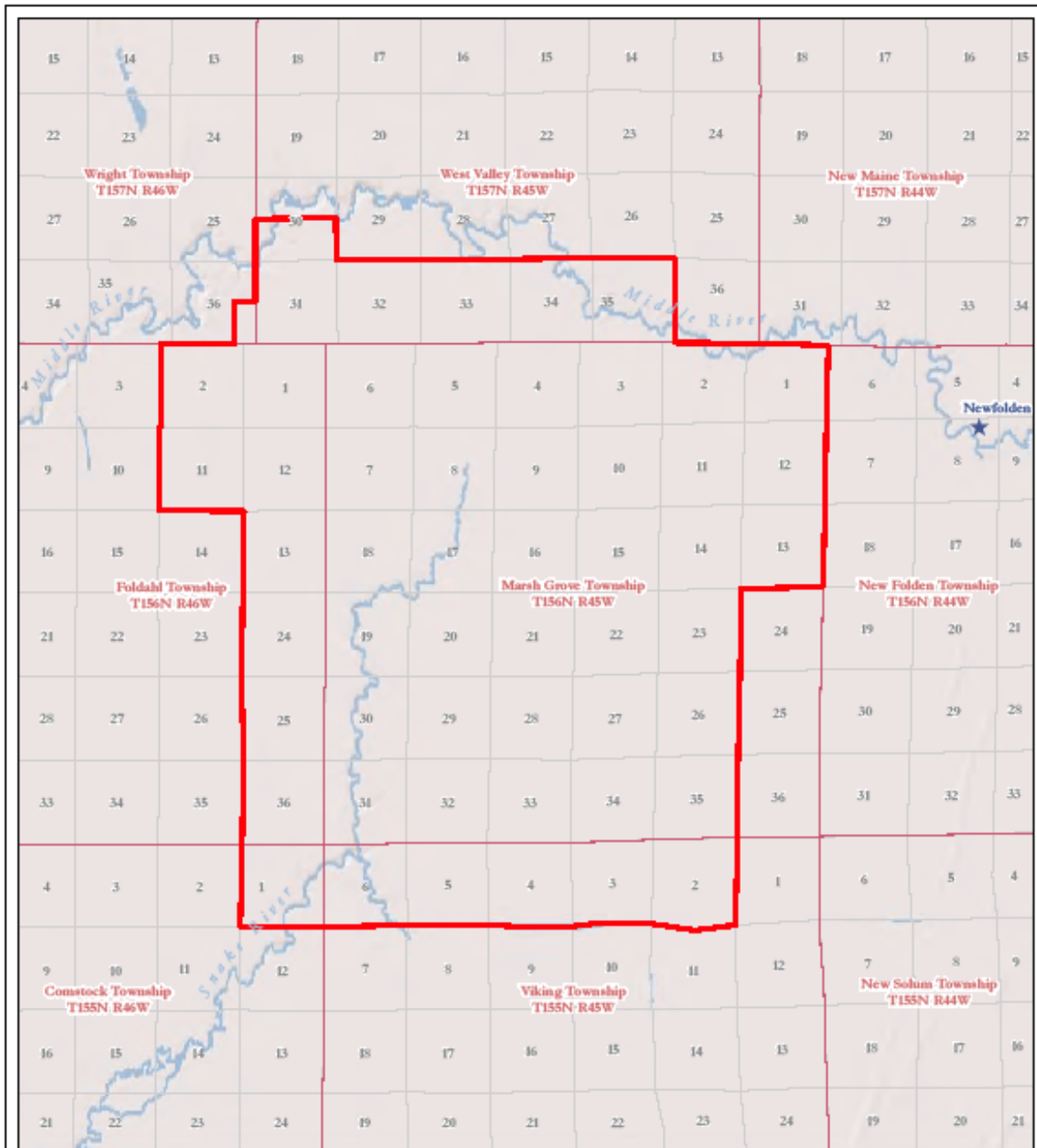
Project Contacts. If you have questions or would like further information about this project, please contact:

MN Department of Commerce – Environmental Review and Site Permit. Please contact Larry B. Hartman, State Permit Manager, Minnesota Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198, Tel: 651-296-5089; larry.hartman@state.mn.us.

MN Public Utilities Commission – Certificate of Need Process. Please contact Bret Eknes, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 5510, Tel: 651- 201-2236 or bret.eknes@state.mn.us.

Applicant. Brett O'Connor, Ellerth Wind, 381 Rue Notre-Dame West, Suite 102, Montreal, QC, H2Y 1V2, Tel: 514-842-1923; brett.oconnor@tcir.net

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0391 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through Minnesota Relay 1-800-627-3529 or by dialing 711.



- Project Boundary
- Township Boundary



Project Boundary
Ellerth Windpark
Ellerth Wind LLC
Marshall County, Minnesota



Source: Public Land System, MN PUC Electrical Transmission Lines, MN DNR Public Water Inventory, BGR USA, Base Map and Shaded Relief, and Project data provided by TCI Renewable (12/14/2010).

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

In the Matter of the Applications for a Route Permit and Certificate of Need for the 115 kV Savanna Rebuild Project

PUC Docket Numbers: ET-2, E015/TL-10-1307 and ET-2, E015/CN-10-973

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held on behalf of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) on the route permit application and the certificate of need application submitted by Great River Energy (GRE) and Minnesota Power (MP) for the proposed Savanna Project, a 115 kV Transmission Line Rebuild and new Savanna Switching Station.

This notice provides the date, starting time and location for public hearing for two matters over which the Commission has jurisdiction. In this consolidated proceeding, the hearing will address: (a) whether the proposed transmission line is needed and in the public interest, and (b) the costs, benefits and impacts of various alternative routes for the proposed transmission line.

This notice also provides additional detail about the public hearings and the procedural requirements of the Office of Administrative Hearings for public hearing on large energy facilities. If you have an interest in this project, please read this notice carefully. If you have questions about the project or upcoming hearings, please contact the appropriate person identified in this notice.

The hearing will run no later than 9:30 p.m. and may conclude earlier if all attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been completed.

Public Hearing

Tuesday, November 15, 2011
Afternoon Session – 2:00 p.m.
Evening Session – 6:00 p.m.

Fine Lakes Township Hall
3726 Prairie Lake Road
Wright, MN 55798-8017
218-476-2003

Conduct of Hearing. The public hearing will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Statute 216B.243, subd. 4, Minnesota Statute 216E.04, subdivision 6, and Minnesota Rule 7850.3800. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions of Department staff and the Applicants, and to offer oral and written comments and submit material into the record. The Honorable Bruce Johnson, Administrative Law Judge, will preside over the hearing.

Comment period. The record will remain open until **4:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 29, 2011**, for interested persons to submit written comments to the Administrative Law Judge. Comments must be submitted directly to Judge Johnson at:

The Honorable Bruce Johnson
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620
(651) 361-7900
Bruce.Johnson@state.mn.us

The Administrative Law Judge will prepare a written summary of testimony given at the hearing along with comments received during the prescribed comment period for the Commission. The Commission will make a final decision on the route permit application after receipt of the complete record.

Project Description. The Applicants propose that the new lines follow the same alignment 150 feet either side of the existing transmission line centerline that the existing Great River Energy 69 kV lines presently follow and have requested a route width of 300 feet. The proposed plan includes:

- Construct the new Savanna 115 kV Switching Station in Section 32 of Van Buren Township.
- Rebuild approximately seven miles of existing Great River Energy 69 kV transmission line to single circuit 115 kV between Lake Country Power's existing Cedar Valley Substation in Cedar Valley Township and the new Savanna Switching Station.
- Rebuild approximately nine miles of existing Great River Energy 69 kV transmission line to single circuit 115 kV between the new Savanna Switching Station and Lake Country Power's existing Gowan Substation in Floodwood Township.
- Rebuild approximately 21 miles of existing Great River Energy 69 kV transmission line to double circuit 115/69 kV between the Lake Country Power Gowan Substation and Great River Energy's existing Cromwell Substation in Kalevala Township.
- Modify the Lake Country Power Cedar Valley Substation and Great River Energy Cromwell Substation to accommodate the 115 kV transmission lines.

The transmission lines lie entirely in Minnesota in St. Louis and Carlton counties. Single-pole wood structures with horizontal post insulators will be used for most of the rebuild. Laminated wood poles or steel poles may be required in some locations (angle poles or areas where soil conditions are poor and guying is not practical), and two pole H-Frame structures maybe used in some areas. Typical pole heights will range from 60-85 feet above ground and the average span would be 350 to 400 feet for single pole structures and 600 to 800 feet for H-Frame structures.

Small sections of the existing line near the two St. Louis River crossings have distribution under-build, which would be attached to the new 115 kV transmission line structures. The average span for these structures would be approximately 250 to 350 feet.

The Applicants propose that the majority of the new lines would follow the alignment of the existing 69 kV lines. A 15-foot offset from the existing pole locations may be required in some areas. The necessary permanent easement width is 50 feet on each side of the transmission centerline; however, in areas where the line follows an existing distribution line or roadway, the easement may overlap with existing easements and/or the road right-of-way. Great River Energy has existing easements for the majority of the 69 kV line and anticipates that only minimal additional property will be required when the line is upgraded to 115 kV. Great River Energy intends to enter into new easements or amendments of the existing easements with landowners to update the language to reflect typical provisions included in today's easements.

The Project will cost approximately \$29 million dollars.

Regulatory Review Process. Two separate Commission approvals are required to build the Savanna 115 kV transmission line rebuild project – a certificate of need (Minnesota Statute § 216B.243, subd. 2) and a route permit (Minnesota Statute 216E.02, subd. 2). The Applicants submitted a combined certificate of need (CN) and high voltage transmission line (HVTL) route permit application to the Commission on February 10, 2011. The applications were accepted as complete by the Commission via Orders released on April 4, 2011 and April 13, 2011.

Environmental Assessment. Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff is responsible for conducting the environmental review for CN applications submitted to the Commission (Minn. Rules 7849.1200). EFP staff prepares an environmental report (ER) prior to the Commission's determination of need for a proposed project. An ER examines the potential human and environmental impacts of a proposed project, alternatives to the project, and potential mitigative measures.

EFP staff is also responsible for conducting the environmental review for route permit applications submitted to the Commission (Minn. Rules 7850.3700). Environmental review for a project of this size requires the preparation of an environmental assessment (EA). An EA examines the potential human and environmental impacts of a proposed project, alternative routes for the project, and potential mitigative measures.

As two concurrent environmental reviews are required – one for the CN application and one for the route permit application – Department staff elected to combine the environmental review for the two applications (Minn. Rules 7849.1900). The environmental assessment (EA), which was prepared to meet the requirements of both review processes, is available.

Electronic versions of the EA and other documents relevant to this matter are available for viewing and download on the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission website or the eDockets website at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=31883>

or

<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (Search "10" Year and "1307" Number).

The CN and route permit applications and EA are also available at the public libraries noted below:

Cloquet Public Library 320 14 th Street Cloquet, MN 55720	Duluth Public Library 520 West Superior Street Duluth, MN 55802
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Request for Accommodation. Any person who needs an accommodation for a disability in order to participate in the hearing, and any person who requires an interpreter, including a foreign language interpreter, should promptly notify the Office of Administrative Hearings, P.O. Box 64620, 600 North Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620, Phone: (651) 361-7900 (voice) or (651) 361-7878 (TDD).

Project Contacts. The Department has designated staff member Bill Storm (651-296-9535, bill.storm@state.mn.us) as State Permit Manager and Suzanne Steinhauer (651-296-2888, suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us) as Public Advisor. You may contact them at: Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198.

Public Utilities Commission. If you would like additional information about the CN process or Commission practice and procedure, please contact Commission staff member Michael Kaluzniak (651-201-2257, Fax: 651-297-7073, mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us). Mr. Kaluzniak may be contacted in writing at: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place E., Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147.

Great River Energy. Information about this project is available from GRE. You can direct questions to Carole Schmidt (763-445-5214, cschmidt@greenergy.com). Ms. Schmidt may be contacted in writing at: Great River Energy, 12300 Elm Creek Blvd., Maple Grove, MN 55369.

Minnesota Power. Information about this project is available from Minnesota Power. You can direct questions to Dam McCourtney (218-355-3515, dmccourtney@allete.com). Mr. McCourtney may be contacted in writing at: Minnesota Power, 30 West Superior Street, Duluth, MN 55802.

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