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Submittal Deadline: November 21, 2011
Submit to EQB.Monitor@state.mn.us

The EQB Monitor Publication Calendar for 2012 is included in this edition.

EQB MONITOR

EQB 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. Please see the letter of invitation online from EQB Chair Dave Frederickson.

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: December 14, 2011

Project Title: Northern Metals Application for Major Permit Amendment

Description: Northern Metals, LLC proposes a major modification of its 1998 Air Emission Permit to: 1) include additions to pollution control equipment; 2) eliminate obsolete permit requirements; 3) modify other permit requirements to reflect actual emission rates achieved in practice; and 4) eliminate feedstock restrictions. The proposal includes only permit changes, no new construction.

In addition to the EAW, the MPCA's draft Air Emission Permit is being placed on public notice concurrently with the EAW. The contact person for the Air Emission Permit is Kelsey Suddard at 651-757-2767.

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>

A copy of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet will be posted on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency website, at the following: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/eaw/index.html>.

RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contact Person: William Lynott
Planner Principal
Environmental Review Unit
Prevention and Assistance Division – 4th Floor
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194
651-757-2542

Project Title: Asmus Egg Farms, Inc. Feedlot Expansion

Description: Asmus Egg Farms, Inc. is proposing an expansion to their existing egg laying hen farm in Section 2, Alfsborg Township, Sibley County that contains 575 animal units in 2 barns. The proposed project includes two 75-foot by 425-foot egg laying chicken barns, one 80-foot by 200-foot manure storage building, one 65-foot by 135-foot manure storage building, two water wells, and other associated infrastructure. The project proposer plans to begin construction in the spring of 2012. When completed, there will be an additional 373,248 egg laying hens (under five pounds), or 1,120 animal units, for a total of 1,695 animal units.

In addition to the Environmental Assessment Worksheet, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System (NPDES/SDS) Permit will also be available for public comment beginning November 14, 2011. The contact person for the NPDES/SDS Permit is Wayne Cords at 507-344-5245.

A copy of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet will be posted on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency website, at the following: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/eaw/index.html>.

RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contact Person: Charles Peterson
Planner Principal
Environmental Review Unit
Prevention and Assistance Division – 4th Floor
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194
651-757-2856

DRAFT SFEIS NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Project Title: Trunk Highway 60– Cottonwood and Watonwan Counties, Minnesota Draft Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement

Description: The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) is proposing capacity improvements along three segments of Truck Highway 60 in Cottonwood and Watonwan Counties. The three remaining two-lane highway section between St. James and Windom are proposed to be expanded to rural four-lane divided highway sections. Construction on the East Gap (St. James to Butterfield) is planned to begin in 2013, the Middle Gap (Butterfield to Mountain Lake) is scheduled for construction in 2015, and the West Gap (Mountain Lake to Windom) construction is anticipated to begin in 2017.

A Draft Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement (DSFEIS) has been prepared by MnDOT and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The DSFEIS document describes the proposed project, potential impacts, and proposed mitigation. This document also includes information on the project purpose and need, alternatives considered, and funding.

Open House Meeting & Public Hearing: An Open House and Public Hearing for the project will be held on Tuesday, December 13, 2011, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Windom Community Center in the City of Windom. A second open house and public hearing will be held on Thursday, December 15, 2011, from 4:00 to 7:00 pm at the Fire Hall in the City of Butterfield. The Open House/Public Hearings will provide information about the proposed project and answer questions. Maps, drawings and other pertinent information, including the DSFEIS, will be available for review. The public is encouraged to attend one of the meetings to discuss the project. The purpose of the public hearings is to collect comments and feedback on the DSFEIS document. During the meetings participants will have the opportunity to submit comments that will become part of the official public hearing record. Written comments may be submitted to MnDOT through Wednesday, January 4, 2012.

Copies of the DSFEIS will be available for public viewing at the public meeting and during business hours at the following locations beginning Monday, November 14, 2011:

- Watonwan County Library – Butterfield Branch, 111 North 2nd Street, Butterfield, MN 56102
- St. James Public Library, 125 5th Street, St. James, MN 56081
- Mountain Lake Public Library, 1054 4th Avenue, Mountain Lake, MN 56159
- Windom Public Library, 904 4th Avenue, Windom, MN 56101
- Region 8 –Marshall/Lyon County Library, 301 W Lyon Street, Marshall, MN 56258
- Region 9 – Blue Earth County Library, 100 E. Main Street, Mankato, MN 56002

The DSFEIS can also be viewed on the project website at: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d7/projects/hwy60stjames>. Written comments can be submitted at the public meeting or mailed, prior to the close of the public comment period on January 4, 2012, to Peter Harff, MnDOT Project Manager, 2151 Bassett Drive, Mankato, MN 56001 or via e-mail at peter.harff@state.mn.us.

Accessibility and ASL

For accessibility or ASL, please make your request by December 2, 2011. To request an ASL interpreter or other reasonable accommodations, call Bruce Lattu at (651) 366-4718 or 1-800-657-3774 or e-mail your request to bruce.lattu@state.mn.us.

RGU: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Contact Person: Peter Harff
MnDOT District 7
2151 Bassett Drive
Mankato, MN 56001
507-304-6165
e-mail: peter.harff@state.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 Windom, Des Moines River Dam Removal, October 4, 2011 (August 22, 2011)
- Minnesota Department of Transportation, Interstate-494 (I-494) Expansion Project (I-394 to East Fish Lake Road Overpass, Cities of Minnetonka, Plymouth and Maple Grove), November 1, 2011 (December 27, 2010)
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Kandiyohi County Landfill Proposed Expansion Phases 7 and 8, October 31, 2011 (September 5, 2011)
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Prairieland Solid Waste Management Resource Recovery Facility, October 31, 2011 (September 5, 2011)

NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SCOPING MEETING

**In the Matter of the Route Permit Application for the North Rochester to Chester
161 kV Transmission Line Project in Goodhue, Wabasha, and Olmsted Counties**

PUC Docket No. E002/TL-11-800

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff will conduct a public information and environmental assessment scoping meeting on the route permit application by Xcel Energy to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for the proposed North Rochester to Chester 161 kilovolt (kV) transmission line project (see attached map). The purpose of the meeting is to provide information about the project and to identify issues and alternative routes to study in the environmental assessment (EA) that will be prepared by EFP staff.

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SCOPING MEETING

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Oronoco Community Center

115 2nd Street NW

Oronoco, MN 55960

EFP staff will accept written comments on the scope of the EA until Thursday, December 8, 2011. Please include PUC Docket No. E002/TL-11-800 on all comments. Comments should be mailed, emailed, or faxed to:

Matthew Langan
State Permit Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198
Fax: 651-296-2096
matthew.langan@state.mn.us

Comments may also be submitted on the Commission's Energy Facility Permitting website, <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/#comment>.

The meeting will include a brief presentation of the state's high-voltage transmission line permitting process, the proposed project, and how the public can participate in the permitting process. Representatives from Xcel Energy will be present to answer questions about the proposed project. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions, present comments, and propose issues, impacts, and route alternatives to be studied in the EA.

Project Description. On September 19, 2011, Xcel Energy (applicant) filed a route permit application under the alternative permitting process for the construction of 29 to 30 miles of 161 kV transmission line between the proposed North Rochester Substation, located between Pine Island and Zumbrota, Minn., in Goodhue County, and the existing Chester Substation, east of Rochester, Minn., in Olmsted County. The project would also include modifications to the Chester Substation. Xcel Energy has submitted this application on behalf of itself and other anticipated co-owners of the project, including Dairyland Power Cooperative, Rochester Public Utilities, Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, and WPPI Energy.

The project consists of two segments: 1) An East-West segment, in which the applicant proposes to place the Chester 161kV line on the same poles as the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345kV line for a distance of 13 to 19 miles; and 2) A North-South segment that leaves the 345kV transmission right-of-way east of the Zumbro River and travels south for 11 to 16 miles to the Chester Substation. The North-South segment would consist of portions of single-circuit 161 kV line and portions of double-circuited 161/69 kV transmission line.

The applicants are requesting a 600-foot route width for the North-South segment. The typical right-of-way for a 161 kV line is 80 feet, the typical span between poles is 400 to 700 feet, and poles range in height from 70 to 120 feet. For the East-West segment, the applicants are requesting the same route width (1000 feet) described in the route permit application for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345kV project. The 345kV poles range from 130 to 175 feet in height, with spans of 600 to 1000 feet between the poles. The typical right-of-way for 345kV lines is 150 feet.

Modifications to the Chester Substation will consist of addition of a 161 kV circuit-breaker, switches, line termination and expanded box structure, electrical bus and associated equipment. The substation yard would be expanded by approximately one acre to accommodate the added equipment.

Review Process. Under the Power Plant Siting Act (Minnesota Statute 216E), a route permit from the Commission is required to construct a high-voltage transmission line. A route permit application for the project was filed by Xcel Energy on September 19, 2011. The application was accepted as complete by the Commission on October 24, 2011.

EFP staff is responsible for conducting the environmental review for route permit applications submitted to the Commission (Minnesota Rules 7850). Environmental review for a project of this size requires the preparation of an EA. An EA examines the potential human and environmental impacts of a proposed project, alternative routes or route segments, 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 EA. Upon completion of the EA, a public hearing will be held in the project area. The hearing will be presided over by an administrative law judge 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 route permit application will be presented to the Commission for a final decision. A decision by the Commission on a route permit for the project is anticipated in spring 2012.

Certificate of Need. On May 22, 2009, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) granted a Certificate of Need (CON) for the North Rochester-Chester 161 kV project, as one of three components of the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV transmission line project. The other two components granted in the CON (CN-06-115) are the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345kV transmission line and the North Rochester-Northern Hills 161kV transmission line, which were filed in a separate route permit application (TL-09-1448) on January 19, 2010. The CON stated this project was needed to improve regional reliability of the transmission system, to improve community reliability of the transmission system in specified communities, and to increase generator outlet.

Eminent Domain. If issued a route permit by the Commission, the applicant may exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire land for this project pursuant to Minnesota Statute 216E.12.

Project Mailing List. Persons should contact the state permit manager or public advisor (noted below) or register online at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/#mailing> to get their name on the project mailing list. Persons on the mailing list will receive notices of meetings 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 route permit 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=32260>. 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 “800”).

The route permit application is also available at the locations noted below:

Zumbrota Public Library
100 West Ave.
Zumbrota, MN 55992

Van Horn Public Library
115 3rd Street SE
Pine Island, MN 55963

Rochester Public Library
101 2nd Street SE
Rochester, MN 55904

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

Matt Langan, State Permit Manager
651-296-2096
1-800-657-3794
matthew.langan@state.mn.us

Raymond Kirsch, Public Advisor
651-296-7588
raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us

Information about the project may also be obtained by contacting the applicant:

Tom Hillstrom
Xcel Energy, Inc.
612-330-6538
thomas.g.hillstrom@xcelenergy.com

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 at 1-800-627-3529 or by dialing 711.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SCOPING MEETING

**In the Matter of the Route Permit Application for the Enterprise Park to Crooked Lake 115 kV
Transmission Line Project in Anoka County**

PUC Docket No. ET2/TL-11-915

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff will conduct a public information and environmental assessment scoping meeting on the route permit application by Great River Energy to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for the proposed Enterprise Park to Crooked Lake 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line project (see attached map). The purpose of the meeting is to provide information about the project and to identify issues and alternative routes to study in the environmental assessment (EA) that will be prepared by EFP staff. Members of the public need only attend one of the two meeting sessions, as the information presented will be identical in both.

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SCOPING MEETINGS

Thursday, December 1, 2011
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Anoka City Hall
2015 First Ave
Anoka MN 55303

EFP staff will accept written comments on the scope of the EA until Monday, December 19, 2011. Please include PUC Docket No. ET2/TL-11-915 on all comments. Comments should be mailed, emailed, or faxed to:

Matthew Langan
State Permit Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198
Fax: 651-296-2096
matthew.langan@state.mn.us

Comments may also be submitted on the Commission's Energy Facility Permitting website, <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/#comment>.

The meeting will include a brief presentation of the state's high-voltage transmission line permitting process, the proposed project, and how the public can participate in the permitting process. Representatives from Great River Energy will be present to answer questions about the proposed project. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions, present comments, and propose issues, impacts, and route alternatives to be studied in the EA.

Project Description. On October 4, 2011, Great River Energy (Applicant) filed a route permit application under the alternative permitting process for the construction of approximately 5.8 miles of new, overhead 115 kV transmission line between Xcel Energy's existing Crooked Lake Substation in Coon Rapids, Minn., and Anoka Municipal Utility's existing Enterprise Park Substation in Anoka, Minn., in Anoka County. The project will remove, rebuild, and attach Anoka Municipal Utility's existing overhead (12.5 kV) distribution lines to the new 115 kV transmission line where the new line overtakes the existing distribution lines. (Alternatively, Anoka Municipal Utility may choose to bury some of the distribution lines.) The project would also include modifications to the Crooked Lake and Enterprise Park substations to accommodate the new transmission line, including a new ring bus, breaker additions, step down transformers, and associated switch gear.

The Applicant is requesting a route width as narrow as 100 feet in some locations, and as wide as 400 feet in others, except for the area near Anoka High School where the requested route width is 800 feet. The variation in route width is due to the developed nature of the project area. The typical right-of-way for the 115 kV line is 50-75 feet, depending on the structure used. The typical span between poles without underbuild is 300 to 400 feet, and 250 to 300 where 12.5 kV distribution lines are attached. Poles range in height from 60 to 85 feet. Most poles will be constructed as single-pole, wood structures with horizontal post insulators.

The Applicant states the purpose of the proposed project is to meet future electric load requirements in the area, to provide relief on the existing transmission system, and to provide backup service to an existing 69 kV transmission line.

Review Process. Under the Power Plant Siting Act (Minnesota Statute 216E), a route permit from the Commission is required to construct a high-voltage transmission line. A route permit application for the project was filed by Great River Energy on October 4, 2011. The application was accepted as complete by the Commission on November 4, 2011.

EFP staff is responsible for conducting the environmental review for route permit applications submitted to the Commission (Minnesota Rules 7850). Environmental review for a project of this size requires the preparation of an EA. An EA examines the potential human and environmental impacts of a proposed project, alternative routes or route segments, 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 EA.

Upon completion of the EA, a public hearing will be held in the project area. The hearing will be presided over by an administrative law judge 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 route permit application will be presented to the Commission for a final decision. A decision by the Commission on a route permit for the project is anticipated in spring 2012.

Eminent Domain. If issued a route permit by the Commission, the Applicant may exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire land for this project pursuant to Minnesota Statute 216E.12.

Project Mailing List. Persons should contact the state permit manager or public advisor (noted below) or register online at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/#mailing> to get their name on the project mailing list. Persons on the mailing list will receive notices of meetings 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 route permit 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=32289>. 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 “915”).

The route permit application is also available at the locations noted below:

Anoka County Law Library

325 E Main St # E130

Anoka, MN 55303

Champlin Library

12154 Ensign Avenue North

Champlin, MN 55316

Anoka County Library: Rum River Branch

4201 6th Ave

Anoka, MN 55303

Crooked Lake Branch Library

11440 Crooked Lake Boulevard NW

Coon Rapids, MN 55433

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

Matt Langan, State Permit Manager

651-296-2096

1-800-657-3794

matthew.langan@state.mn.us

Deborah Pile, Public Advisor

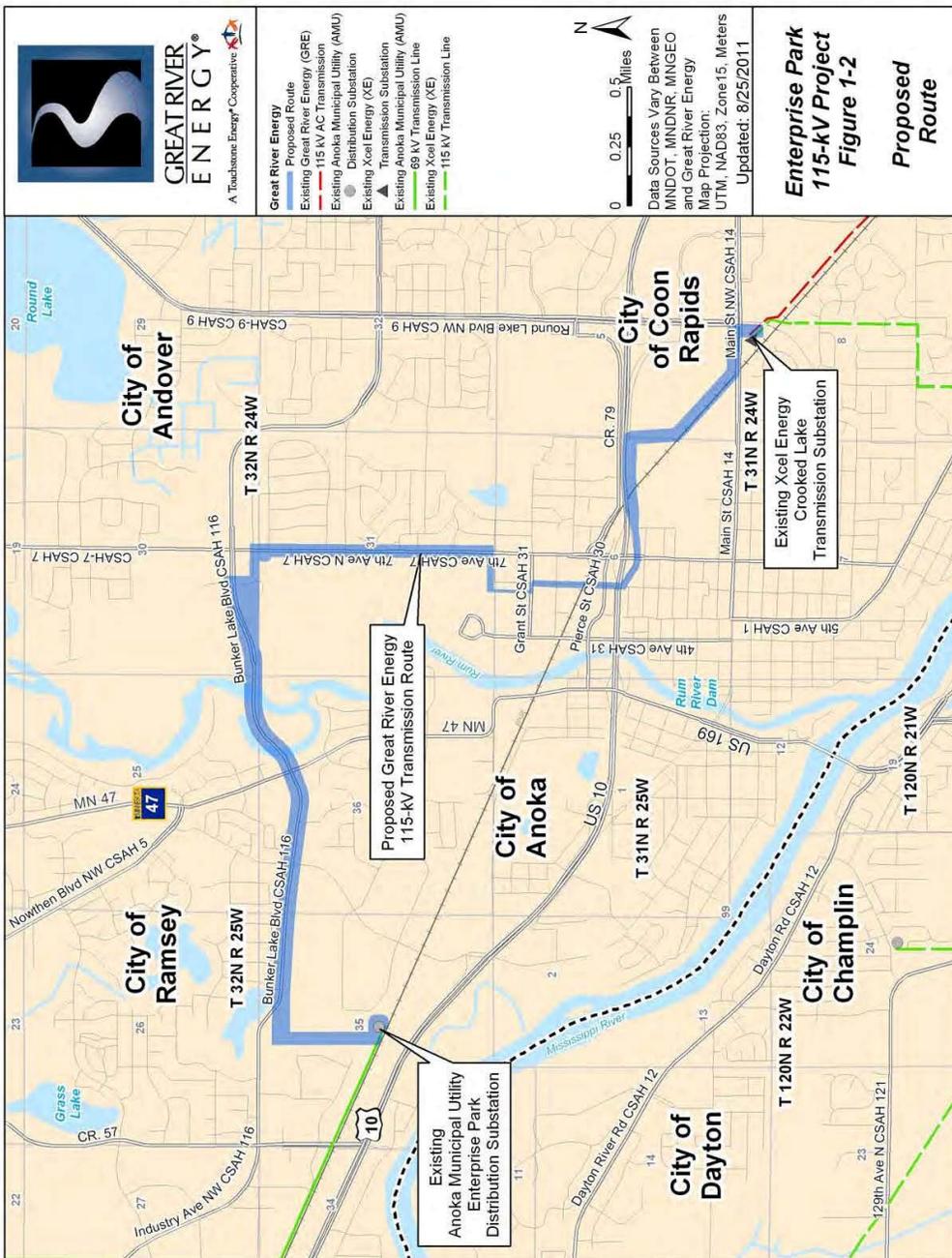
651-297-2375

deborah.pile@state.mn.us

Information about the project may also be obtained by contacting the applicant:

Mark Strohfus
Great River Energy
763-445-5210
MStrohfu@GREnergy.com

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 at 1-800-627-3529 or by dialing 711.



EQB Monitor Publication Calendar for 2012

Volume Number	Deadline for Submission	Publication Date	EAW Comment Deadline
36-1	December 30 (Friday)	January 9	February 8
36-2	January 13 (Friday)	January 23	February 22
36-3	January 30	February 6	March 7
36-4	February 13	February 20	March 21
36-5	February 27	March 5	April 4
36-6	March 12	March 19	April 18
36-7	March 26	April 2	May 2
36-8	April 9	April 16	May 16
36-9	April 23	April 30	May 30
36-10	May 7	May 14	June 13
36-11	May 21	May 28	June 27
36-12	June 4	June 11	July 11
36-13	June 18	June 25	July 25
36-14	July 2	July 9	August 8
36-15	July 16	July 23	August 22
36-16	July 30	August 6	September 5
36-17	August 13	August 20	September 19
36-18	August 27	September 3	October 3
36-19	September 10	September 17	October 17
36-20	September 24	October 1	October 31
36-21	October 8	October 15	November 14
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36-23	November 5	November 12	December 12
36-24	November 19	November 26	December 26
36-25	December 3	December 10	January 9, 2013
36-26	December 17	December 24	January 23, 2013