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EQB MONITOR

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: June 30, 2010

Project Title: Picha Creek Stream Restoration

Description: The proposed Picha Creek Stream Restoration is a stream restoration of approximately 2620 linear feet of Picha Creek. The project is designed to stabilize an actively eroding reach with an emphasis on grade stabilization, bioengineering, and natural fluvial processes. The project will also eliminate a fish migration barrier.

RGU: Scott County

Contact Person:

Jason Swenson
Water Resources Engineer
Scott County
200 Fourth Ave West
Shakopee, MN 55379
Phone: 952-496-8881
Fax: 952-496-8496
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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/>.

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Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
658 Cedar St., 300 Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155-1388
Phone: 651-201-2480
Fax: 651-296-3698
<http://www.eqb.state.mn.us>

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AVAILABLE

Project Title: Pokegama 115 kV Substation and Transmission Line

Description: Great River energy and Lake Country Power have determined that a new 115 kilovolt (kV) substation and transmission line are needed to meet the growing electrical needs in the Wildwood and Spang township areas south of Pokegama Lake near Grand Rapids in Itasca County, Minnesota (see enclosed fact sheet/map).

Lake Country Power proposes to construct the new “Pokegama” 115 kV Substation on the southwest corner of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 67 and Wildwood Road in Section 1 of Spang Township (see photo of typical substation on fact sheet).

Great River Energy proposes to construct approximately eight miles of new overhead 115 kV transmission line to energize this new substation. The line will exit the new substation, run east along CSAH 67, turn south and then southeast along CSAH 68, to a tap point with a Minnesota Power 115 kV transmission line northeast of Splithand Lake. The line generally follow Lake Country Power’s existing distribution corridor.

The project is located in Section 1, T53N R26W; and Sections 3,4,5,6,9,10,14,15,23, and 24, T53N, R25W. The transmission line will be constructed using wood poles with horizontal post insulators. When practical, Lake Country Power will attach an upgraded distribution system on wood crossarms. The poles will be approximately 65-75 feet all with a 250-280 foot span between poles.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed 115kV Substation and Transmission Line entitled Pokegama Project is available for review by contacting the Itasca County Environmental Services Department, 123 NE 4th Street, Grand Rapids, 55744 or on the Itasca County Web at <http://co.itasca.mn.us> – click on Environmental Services.

Comments may be submitted to the Environmental Services Department at the address below, or to don.dewey@co.itasca.mn.us , or Fax: 218-327-7331.

Comment Period Deadline: June 15, 2010 at 4:30 p.m.

RGU Decision: Tuesday, June 22, 2010. County Board meeting begins at 3:00 p.m.

RGU: Itasca County

Contact Person:

Don Dewey
Environmental Services Administrator
Itasca County
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Fax: 218-327-7331
Email: don.dewey@co.itasca.mn.us

Pokegama 115 kV Substation and Transmission Line



GREAT RIVER
ENERGY*

GREAT RIVER ENERGY
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718
1-888-521-0130
www.greatriverenergy.com



LAKE COUNTRY POWER
2810 Elida Drive
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
1-800-421-9959
www.lakecountrypower.com

Project Need

In recent years, Lake Country Power's winter electric demand has increased, primarily due to electric heat installations. In the years 2002-2006, electric demand in the area between Hill City and Grand Rapids (generally in and around Pokegama Lake) grew at approximately 11% annually. Although changes in the global economy have slowed the growth, the demand still has increased 7% annually over the past 10 years. This growth, which is making it difficult to serve this area from the existing distribution substations and is straining the electrical delivery system, is driving the need for a new Lake Country Power distribution substation.

Substation and Transmission Line

Lake Country Power will construct the new "Pokegama" distribution substation (see representative photo on right) on the southwest corner of County Highway 67 and Wildwood Road in Section 1 of Spang Township, east of US Highway 169. The substation will tap the new transmission line and will house a transformer that will lower the voltage to distribution levels. The location for the substation was chosen to bring a strong electric source to the middle of the demand area.

Great River Energy, power supplier to Lake Country Power, will construct approximately 8 miles of new 115,000 volt (115 kV) transmission line to energize this new substation (see map on back). The new 115 kV transmission line will tap a Minnesota Power 115 kV transmission line where it crosses County Highway 68 northeast of Split Hand Lake. The new line will then run west and north along County Highway 68 and continue west along County Highway 67 to the new substation. The new line will generally follow Lake Country Power's existing distribution corridor.



Typical 115 kV
Distribution Substation

Poles and Construction

Great River Energy will construct the new line using wood poles with horizontal post insulators. When practical, Lake Country Power will attach an upgraded distribution system on wood crossarms (see photo). The poles will generally be 65-75 feet above ground with a 250-280 foot span between poles. Guy wires and anchors will be used to counter angles. Where guys and anchors are not practical, a laminated wood pole or steel pole on foundation may be used.

Schedule

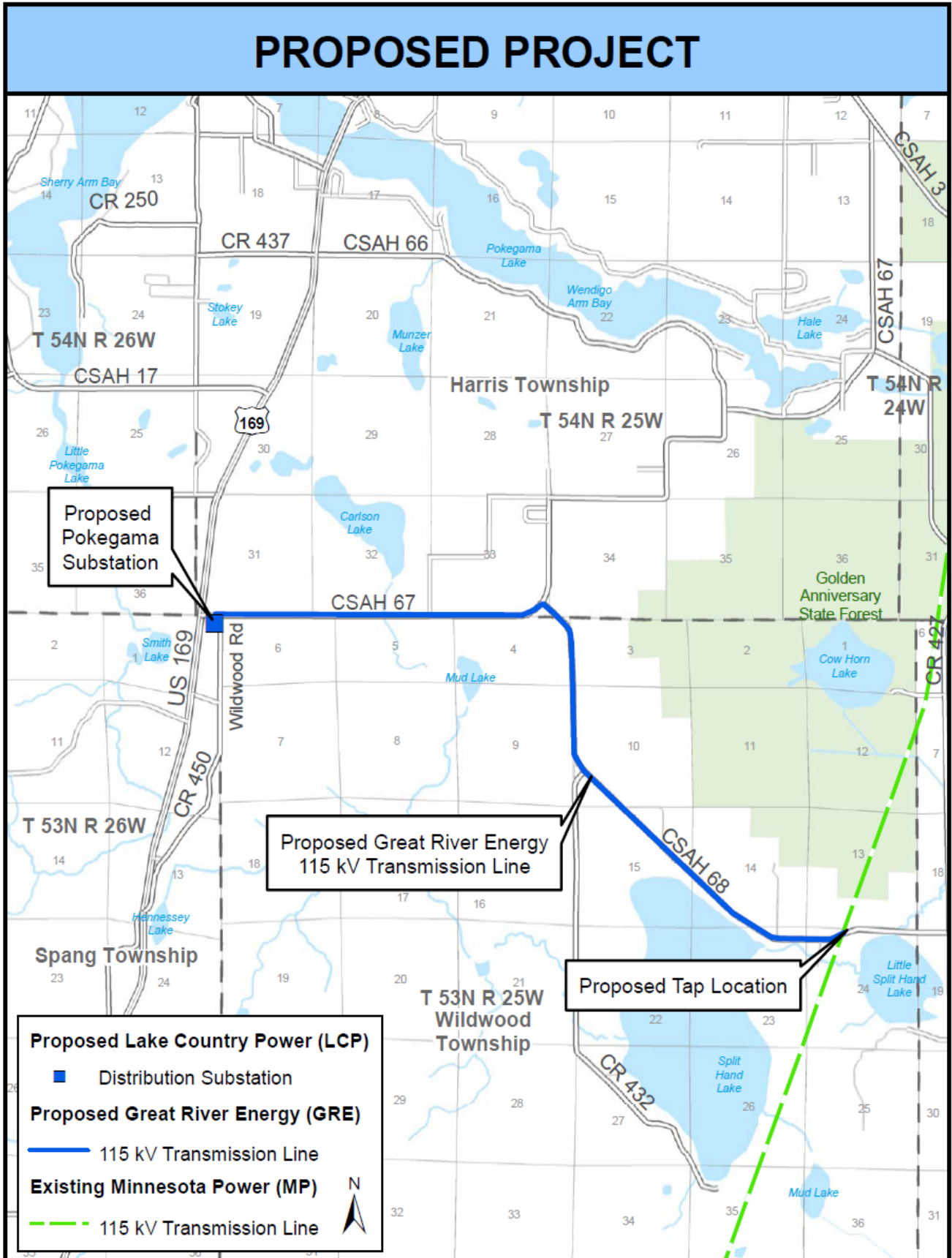
Public Information Meeting / Permitting – Late 2009/Early 2010
Survey and Easement acquisition – Spring/Summer 2010
Engineering design - Summer/Fall 2010
Construction – 2011

Contact

Dale Aukee
Great River Energy
Senior Field Representative
763-445-5978



Typical 115 kV
Transmission Line
With Distribution
Underbuild



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*.

- Washington County, Broadway Avenue (CSAH 2) Improvement Project, May 18, 2010 (April 5, 2010)
- City of Chaska, Chaska Creek Corporate Park development, May 17, 2010 (March 8, 2010)
- St. Louis County Public Works Department, St. Louis County State Aid Highway 91, May 20, 2010 (March 22, 2010)

NOTICES

STATE OF MINNESOTA Office of Energy Security

Issued: May 19, 2010

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT SITE PERMIT

**In the Matter of the Application of AWA Goodhue, LLC, for
a Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) Site Permit
for the 78 MW Goodhue Wind Project in Goodhue County
PUC Docket No. IP-6701/WS-08-1233**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) in an Order dated May 6, 2010, issued a Draft Site Permit for public review and comment for the Goodhue Wind Project. The Commission's Order also expanded the scope of the public hearing on the Certificate of Need proceeding in Docket No. IP-6701/CN-09-1186 to include siting matters related to the Draft Site Permit. See **Project Contacts and Information** for project related documents.

Project Description

AWA Goodhue, LLC, proposes a Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) of 78 MW in Goodhue County. The proposed project will include up to 52 General Electric (GE) XLE 1.5 MW wind turbine generators, with a hub height 262.5 feet (80 meters) and a rotor diameter of 271 feet (82.5 meters). In addition to the wind turbines, the Project will include access roads, two meteorological towers, an electrical collection system, and junction boxes delivering power to two proposed project substations. The two substations will increase the voltage from the 34.5 kV feeder lines to 69 kV and be carried by two 69 kV transmission lines, one existing and the other proposed to the electrical grid.

Proposed Site Location

The Project area (shown in the accompanying map) consists of approximately 32,000 acres located in southern Goodhue County in the townships of Belle Creek, Goodhue, Vasa, Minneola and Zumbrota.

Eminent Domain for Goodhue Wind Project

The Applicant **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.

Authority and Statement of Issues to Be Decided

To proceed with this project, the Applicant must obtain both a certificate of need (CN) and a site permit from the Commission. The Commission is authorized by Minnesota Statute 216B.243, Subd. 2, to issue a CN for a large energy facility if the applicant can demonstrate there is a need for the project. The CN process includes development of an environmental report (ER), which describes the human and environmental impacts of the Project, alternatives to the Project, and methods to mitigate anticipated impacts. The ER must be prepared before the Commission can make a decision on the CN for the Project.

After completion of the ER, the Commission will hold a public hearing on the CN and Site Permit applications, presided over by an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) from the Office of Administrative Hearings. This hearing is the only time at which the “no-build” alternative and the size, type, and timing of the Project can be considered. These items will not be addressed in the Site Permit process. Notice of the public hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who register on the Office of Energy Security, Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) Project Mailing List.

The Commission is authorized by Minnesota Statutes 216E.02, Subd. 2 and 216F.04, Subd. a, to designate sites and issue site permits for LWECs. When the Commission designates a site, it issues a permit for the construction of the project specifying the design, location, preparation, and operation of the facility, along with any other appropriate conditions it deems necessary. The Commission is required by Minnesota Statutes 216B.243, Subd. 4, and 216F.05, Subd. 3 to hold public meetings and hearings on such applications.

Public Comment Period

Public comment on the Draft Site Permit will be accepted through the end of the public hearing comment period, which will be announced in the separate Notice of Public Hearing and will run at least through the end of June 2010. This hearing also fulfills the public information meeting requirements of Minnesota Rules 7854.0900.

Comments on the Draft Site Permit may be mailed, emailed, or faxed to Larry Hartman (see contact information below). All comments received will be submitted to the ALJ for inclusion in the record of this proceeding. If you would like to offer comments directly to the ALJ, this can be done at the hearing or when the hearing notice becomes available.

Contested Case Hearing Request

Any person may request a more formal contested case hearing on the site permit proceeding for this project pursuant to Minnesota Rules part 7854.0900. All contested case hearing requests must be filed in writing with EFP or the ALJ by the close of the public hearing comment period. Persons requesting the contested case hearing must list the issues to be addressed in the hearing and the reason why a contested case hearing is required to resolve those issues. The Commission shall order a contested case hearing if it finds that a material

issue of fact has been raised and that the contested case hearing will aid it in making a final decision on whether to authorize construction of the project.

The Commission heard a request for a contested case in this docket and the CN docket (09-1186) on April 15, 2010. In its May 6, 2010 Order, the Commission denied the request for a contested case and instead ordered the scope of the public hearing in the certificate of need docket be expanded to include comments on the Draft Site Permit.

The record that is developed through the public participation and hearing process will be presented to the Commission for a final decision.

Project Contacts and Information

The Draft Site Permit, Site Permit application and other documents relevant to the proposed Project are available on the Commission's website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25631>, and on the Department of Commerce's eDocket website: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the docket number 08-1233 for the Site Permit documents (See document id # [20105-50170-02](#) for the draft site permit) or 09-1186 for the CN documents).

Questions about the Project and the Public Utilities Commission's permitting process may be directed to:

Larry Hartman, State Permit Manager
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 296-5089
Fax: 651-297-7891
larry.hartman@state.mn.us

Ray Kirsch, Public Advisor
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 296-7588
Fax: 651-297-7891
raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us

Persons interested in adding their names to the EFP Project Mailing List for this project should contact the state permit manager, public advisor, or register online at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25631>

Questions about the Goodhue Wind Project and its applications can also be directed to the applicant by contacting Ben Kerl, Senior Wind Developer, Tel (612) 746-6606, bkerl@nationalwind.com.

Copies of the applications are also available for review at the public library in Zumbrota, the Auditor's Office in Goodhue County, and the city offices in Goodhue and Zumbrota and with the clerks of Belle Creek, Goodhue, Minneola, Vasa and Zumbrota townships.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio tape) by calling 651-201-2202 (Voice) or 1-800-627-3529 (TTY relay service).

Attachment 1

