

October 15, 2010

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**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING AND U.S. MAIL**

Hon. Richard C. Luis  
Administrative Law Judge  
PO Box 64620  
St. Paul, MN 55164-0620

**Re: In the Matter of the Route Permit Application by Great River Energy and Xcel Energy for a 345 kV Transmission Line from Brookings County, South Dakota to Hampton, Minnesota  
MPUC Docket No: ET2/TL-08-1474  
OAH Docket No: 7-2500-20283-2**

Dear Judge Luis:

I am writing on behalf of Great River Energy and Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota Corporation (“Applicants”) to respectfully request a modest extension to the Public Comment Period set forth in your August 18, 2010 First Prehearing Order on Remand. The purpose for this requested extension—from October 18 to November 1, 2010 – is to provide additional time for Applicants to work with the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (“USFWS”) to ensure that a complete record is developed.

As you know, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) remanded the proceeding to develop the record on the two potential river crossings – Le Sueur and Belle Plaine – and to ensure that relevant evidence about the river crossings was properly included in the record. As part of the record development, Applicants have encouraged USFWS to include comments for consideration in this proceeding. Applicants recently learned that USFWS is willing to make a public comment available for filing into the record. Applicants are concerned that the October 18, 2010 deadline does not leave adequate time to work through this issue.

As a result, Applicants respectfully request a two week extension of the public comment deadline to November 1, 2010 – for the purpose of receiving any comment prepared by USFWS. We are not requesting that any other deadline be varied and we believe that a one-week extension for this narrow purpose should allow all parties a reasonable opportunity to take this comment into account in post-hearing submissions without creating delay to the overall schedule.

B R I G G S   A N D   M O R G A N

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Applicants respectfully request expedited consideration of this extension request. Applicants have attempted to contact OES and intervenors to seek agreement on this modest extension. We contacted OES but were unable to reach the appropriate personnel prior to filing this letter. I have spoken with Ms. Overland and she does not oppose this extension. I have left a message with Ms. Maccabee. I note that Ms. Maccabee's clients, the Johnson's, have not participated during the remand stage but that they are still "parties" to this case.

I have prepared a draft order for your consideration. Please note that I have copied Mr. Michael Lewis of the OAH office at his request as I understand that you are out of the office at this time and he will be able to work with the office to process this request in your absence.

Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Lisa M. Agrimonti*

Lisa M. Agrimonti

LMA/dba  
Enclosures  
cc: See Service List  
Mr. Michael Lewis, OAH

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS  
FOR THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Route Permit Application by Great River Energy and Xcel Energy for a 345 kV Transmission Line from Brookings County, South Dakota to Hampton, Minnesota.

**AMENDMENT TO  
FIRST PREHEARING ORDER  
ON REMAND**

On August 18, 2010, Richard C. Luis, Administrative Law Judge (“ALJ”), issued the First Prehearing Order on Remand in the above-referenced Docket. In such Order, the ALJ imposed a deadline of October 18, 2010 for Public Comment.

Applicants request that this public comment period be extended by two weeks – to November 1, 2010 – for the purpose of receiving any comment prepared by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS”). Applicants are not requesting that any other deadline be extended. This short extension is requested to facilitate USFWS comment and should allow all parties a reasonable opportunity to take this comment into account in post-hearing submissions without creating delay to the overall schedule.

Applicants request expedited consideration of this extension request. Applicants state they contacted Ms. Overland who does not oppose the extension. Applicants attempted to contact OES to seek OES’s position but were unable to do so. Applicants left a message with Ms. Maccabee. The ALJ notes that Ms. Maccabee’s clients, the Johnsons, have not participated during the remand stage of this proceeding.

Based on the foregoing, the ALJ finds good cause to extend and hereby does extend the deadline for public comment to November 1, 2010.

Dated on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard C. Luis  
Administrative Law Judge

**In the Matter of the Route Permit  
Application by Great River Energy  
and Xcel Energy for a 345 kV  
Transmission Line from Brookings  
County, South Dakota to Hampton, MN**

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE  
MPUC Docket No. ET2/TL-08-1474  
OAH Docket No. 7-2500-20283-2**

Theresa Senart certifies that on the 15th day of October 2010, she filed a true and corrected copy of Letter and proposed Amendment to First Prehearing Order on Remand by posting said documents on [www.edockets.state.mn.us](http://www.edockets.state.mn.us). The Letter and Amendment to First Prehearing Order on Remand is also served via U.S. Mail and e-mail as designated on the Official Service List on file with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in the above-referenced docket.

*/s/ Therersa Senart*  
Theresa Senart

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Lisa	Agrimonti	lagrimonti@briggs.com	Briggs And Morgan, P.A.	2200 IDS Center80 South 8th Street Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_8-1474_CC-SL-7-1-2009
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