



2200 IDS Center  
80 South 8th Street  
Minneapolis MN 55402-2151  
tel 612.977.8400  
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November 9, 2012

**Kodi J. Church**  
(612) 977-8591  
kchurch@briggs.com

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Dr. Burl W. Haar  
Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
350 Metro Square Building  
121 Seventh Place East  
St. Paul, MN 55101

**Re: Notice Plan Petition for the Application of Great River Energy for a Certificate of Need for its 115 kV Transmission Line Project in the Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota  
MPUC Docket No. ET2/CN-12-\_\_\_\_\_**

Dear Dr. Haar:

Enclosed please find Great River Energy's proposed Notice Plan Petition for review and approval by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. Great River Energy intends to submit a Certificate of Need Application to rebuild and convert existing 69 kV transmission lines to 115 kV standards and construct several miles of new 115 kV transmission lines in the Elko New Market and Cleary Lake areas in Scott and Rice counties.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (612) 977-8591.

Sincerely,  
Briggs and Morgan, P.A.

*/s/ Kodi J. Church*

Kodi J. Church  
Associate

KJC

Enclosure

cc: The Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources  
Office of the Attorney General, Residential and Small Business Utilities Division  
General List of Persons

5035022v1

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
BEFORE THE  
MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Beverly Jones Heydinger  
David C. Boyd  
J. Dennis O'Brien  
Phyllis Reha  
Betsy Wergin

Chair  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF  
GREAT RIVER ENERGY, A NOT-FOR-PROFIT  
COOPERATIVE, FOR A CERTIFICATE OF  
NEED FOR ITS 115 KV TRANSMISSION LINE  
PROJECT IN THE ELKO NEW MARKET AND  
CLEARY LAKE AREAS IN SCOTT AND RICE  
COUNTIES, MINNESOTA

MPUC Docket No.  
ET2/CN-12-\_\_\_

**NOTICE PLAN PETITION**

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**Public Comments on this Notice Plan Petition can be submitted to the Minnesota Public  
Utilities Commission until 4:30 P.M. November 29, 2012.**

**Replies to Comments can be submitted to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission until  
4:30 P.M. December 19, 2012.**

**The Commission's address is: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East,  
Suite 350, St Paul, MN 55101-2147**

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Great River Energy, a not-for-profit Minnesota cooperative corporation, submits this Notice Plan for approval by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) pursuant to Minnesota Rule 7829.2550.

Great River Energy intends to submit applications for a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit to construct its 115 kV Transmission Line Project in the Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas in Scott and Rice counties, Minnesota. Great River Energy will seek permission to:

- Rebuild approximately 3.5 miles of existing single circuit 69 kilovolt (“kV”) transmission line to 115 kV standards, but operated at 69 kV until approximately 2030, along primarily existing right-of-way,<sup>1</sup> from Prior Lake Junction to Credit River Junction in Credit River Township and the City of Prior Lake in Scott County, Minnesota;
- Rebuild approximately 2.4 miles of existing single circuit 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV standards, but operated at 69 kV until approximately 2030, along existing right-of-way, between the Credit River Distribution Substation (owned by Northern States Power Company, doing business as “Xcel Energy”) and Credit River Junction in Spring Lake and Credit River townships in Scott County, Minnesota;
- Permit approximately 2.0 miles of existing double circuit 69 kV transmission line between Great River Energy’s Chub Lake Substation (currently under construction) and Natchez Avenue to be operated at 115 kV by approximately 2022, in New Market Township, Scott County, Minnesota;<sup>2</sup>
- Rebuild approximately 5.6 miles of existing single circuit 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV standards, but operated at 69 kV until approximately 2022, along existing right-of-way from Natchez Avenue, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative’s (“Minnesota Valley”) Elko Substation and Minnesota Valley’s New Market Substation in New Market and Cedar Lake townships in Scott County, Minnesota; and
- Construct approximately 5.4 miles of new double circuit transmission line to 115 kV standards but to be operated at 69 kV between the Minnesota Valley’s New Market Substation to a new 69 kV breaker station in Wheatland Township (“Veseli Breaker

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<sup>1</sup> Deviations from the existing right-of-way may be proposed where Great River Energy has determined that there is not sufficient space to expand the existing right-of-way to comply with Company clearance standards for a 115 kV transmission line.

<sup>2</sup> The DA-AN line along County Road 62/245<sup>th</sup> Avenue was proposed to be reconstructed to 115 kV standards as part of the Brookings County to Hampton 345 kV Transmission Line Project (MPUC Docket No. ET2/TL-08-1474) (“Brookings Project”) through a Plan and Profile filing approved by the Commission on November 5, 2012 (eDocket Document No. 201211-80387-01). Even though the DA-AN line will be rebuilt to 115 kV standards as part of the Brookings Project, it is included as part of this proposal for purposes of obtaining permission to operate it at 115 kV.

Station”),<sup>3</sup> in Rice County, Minnesota. One side of the double circuit line will be operated at 69 kV until approximately 2022, and the other side of the double circuit line will be operated at 69 kV until approximately 2030.

All segments discussed above will be referred to, collectively, as the “Project.” The 69 kV transmission system to the west of the Project area and bounded by the Scott County, Carver County, Owatonna, and Faribault substations (“Scott-Faribault System”) (**Attachment A**) is at risk of experiencing low voltage and transmission system overload issues by 2016. To provide sufficient support to the Scott-Faribault System, transmission planning engineers determined that connecting that system to the 69 kV transmission system in the Project area (“Cleary-Elko System”) would alleviate the identified transmission load-serving deficiencies on the Scott-Faribault System. Connecting these two systems would require construction of a new double circuit line between the New Market Substation and the proposed 69 kV Veseli Breaker Station.

Further analysis determined that without any additional upgrades to the existing Cleary-Elko System, connecting this system to the Scott-Faribault System would result in overload conditions on the lines identified to be rebuilt as part of this Project. Although Great River Energy initially investigated rebuilding these lines at 69 kV, it was determined that 115 kV operation of these facilities would be necessary within the standard transmission planning time frame (2022 for the facilities located in the south portion of the Project area and 2030 for the facilities located in the north portion of the Project area). Therefore, Great River Energy determined it was in the interest of the Company, the Company’s cooperatives, and the cooperatives’ ratepayers to construct the lines to 115 kV standards at this time.

Minnesota Statutes Section 216B.243, subdivision 2 provides that “no large energy facility” shall be sited or constructed in Minnesota without the issuance of a Certificate of Need by the Commission. The definition of a “large energy facility” that is applicable here is “a high-voltage transmission line with a capacity of 100 kV or more with more than 10 miles of its length in Minnesota.” Minn. Stat. § 216B.2421, subd. 2(3). Minnesota Rule 7829.2550 requires a Notice Plan to be submitted for review by the Commission at least three months before filing a Certificate of Need application for any high voltage transmission line under Minnesota Statutes Section 216B.2421. Great River Energy, therefore, submits this Notice Plan for the Commission’s approval.

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<sup>3</sup> The breaker station, currently intended to be called the “Veseli Breaker Station” will be constructed, owned and operated by Xcel Energy. Xcel Energy anticipates it will expand its existing Veseli Distribution Substation to the north and east to accommodate the 69 kV breakers. It is not proposed as part of this Project as it will be only constructed to 69 kV operating standards at this time and local approvals will be obtained related to that construction. Xcel Energy will seek whatever approvals are necessary at the time it converts the operation of the facility to 115 kV if any approvals are necessary.

## **II. NOTICE PLAN PROPOSAL**

This Notice Plan is prepared as an initial step in the Certificate of Need regulatory process. Preparation of a Notice Plan, and its review and approval by the Commission, will ensure that interested persons have the opportunity to participate in the proceeding. The area proposed to be included in notices under this proposal (“Notice Area”) is depicted in **Attachment B**.

This Notice Plan includes the following proposed direct mail and publication notices:

- **Direct Mail Notice:**
  - Landowners within the Notice Area (**Attachment C**);
  - Residents with mailing addresses within the Notice Area (**Attachment C**);
  - Local units of government in and around the Notice Area (**Attachments D and E**);
  - Local and State elected officials (**Attachments D and F**); and
  - State and local government agencies and offices (**Attachments C and G**).
- **Published Notice (Attachment H)** in local and regional newspapers with circulation within the Notice Area as identified in **Attachment I**.

### **A. Direct Mail Notice to Landowners**

Minnesota Rule 7829.2550, Subpart 3(A), requires an applicant for a Certificate of Need to provide direct mail notice to all landowners likely to be affected by the proposed transmission lines. Great River Energy will obtain landowner names and addresses within the Notice Area using tax records. A draft of the letter proposed to be used for the direct mail notice requirement for landowners in the Notice Area is included as **Attachment C**.

### **B. Direct Mail Notice to Mailing Addresses**

Minnesota Rule 7829.2550, Subpart 3(B), requires an applicant for a Certificate of Need to provide direct mail notice to all mailing addresses in the area that are likely to be affected by the proposed transmission lines. Great River Energy will rely on mailing lists available from the United States Post Office, County GIS data, and/or from bulk mailing firms to create a list of mailing addresses within the Notice Area for the Project. A draft of the letter that Great River Energy proposes to use for the direct mail notice to residents in the Notice Area is included as **Attachment C**.

### **C. Direct Mail Notice to Tribal Government Officials**

Minnesota Rule 7829.2550, Subpart 3(C) requires an applicant for a Certificate of Need for a high voltage transmission line to provide direct mail notice to tribal governments whose jurisdictions are reasonably likely to be affected by the proposed Project. There are no tribal lands within the Notice Area; however, a copy of the notice provided in

**Attachment C** will be provided to Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Chairman, Charlie Vig.

#### **D. Direct Mail Notice to Local Governments**

Minnesota Rule 7829.2550, Subpart 3(C), requires an applicant to provide direct mail notice to governments of towns, cities, home rule charter cities, and counties whose jurisdictions are reasonably likely to be affected by the proposed transmission lines. Great River Energy proposes to provide direct mail notice (**Attachment D**) to the towns, cities, and counties listed in **Attachment E**. The notice will also be provided to the elected officials of those local units of government identified in **Attachment D** and to those State Senators and Representatives whose districts are within the Notice Area as identified in **Attachment F**.<sup>4</sup> Additionally, the notice provided in **Attachment C** will be provided to the federal, state, and local government agencies and offices identified in **Attachment G**.

#### **E. Newspaper Notice**

Minnesota Rule 7829.2550, Subpart 3(D), requires an applicant to publish notice in newspapers in the areas that may be affected by the transmission lines. The proposed notice text is provided in **Attachment H**. Great River Energy proposes to place notice advertisements in the newspapers identified in **Attachment I**.

In addition to the Notice Plan newspaper notice requirement, Minnesota Rule 7829.2500, Subpart 5, requires that after a Certificate of Need application is filed that an applicant publish newspaper notice of the filing in a newspaper of general circulation throughout the state. Given that under the proposed Notice Plan, Great River Energy will publish newspaper notice of the Certificate of Need proceeding no more than 60 days before a Certificate of Need application is filed in newspapers of local, regional, and statewide circulation, Great River Energy requests a waiver from this additional newspaper notice requirement.

#### **F. Notice Content**

Minnesota Rule 7829.2550, Subpart 4, requires notice packets to include several pieces of information including: a map; right-of-way requirements and statement of intent to acquire property rights; notice that the transmission upgrade cannot be constructed unless the Commission certifies that it is needed; Commission contact information; utility website information; a statement that the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting (“EFP”) will prepare an environmental report; an explanation of how to get on the Project’s mailing list; and a list of applicable regulatory laws and rules. Great River Energy’s notice mailing will include these requirements.

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<sup>4</sup> This list will be revised after the results of the November 6, 2012 election are certified.

The notice letter will serve three purposes: 1) to introduce and explain the need and location of the proposed Project; 2) to encourage potentially-affected persons to participate in the regulatory process; and 3) to provide contact information for citizens and officials to obtain additional information about the Project and the regulatory process. The map that will be included with the notice letter will depict the transmission line corridor area, substations, counties, townships, and notable landmarks to aid in orientation.

#### **G. Distribution of Notice Plan Filing**

As required under Minnesota Rule 7829.2550, Subpart 1, this Notice Plan filing has been sent to the EFP, the Residential and Small Business Utilities Division of the Office of the Attorney General, and to those parties listed on the “General List of Persons Interested in Power Plants and Transmission Lines.” In addition, copies have been provided to each city and county within the Notice Area.

#### **H. Notice Timing**

Minnesota Rule 7829.2550, Subpart 6, requires the applicant to implement the Notice Plan within 30 days of its approval by the Commission. Great River Energy requests that the Commission modify the Notice Plan implementation requirement to allow notice to more closely coincide with the Certificate of Need filing. Great River Energy requests that the Commission direct the notices identified in this Notice Plan to occur no more than 60 days prior to the filing of the Certificate of Need application.

#### **I. Project Service List**

Pursuant to Minnesota Rule 7829.0700, Subpart 1, Great River Energy requests that the following persons be placed on the Commission’s Official Service List for this matter, and request electronic service for these persons:

<b>Utility Employees Responsible for Filing</b>	Carole L. Schmidt Supervisor, Transmission Permitting and Compliance 12300 Elm Creek Blvd Maple Grove, MN 55369 <a href="mailto:cschmidt@GREnergy.com">cschmidt@GREnergy.com</a>	
<b>Utility Attorneys Responsible for Filing</b>	Kodi Jean Church Attorney Briggs and Morgan, P.A. 2200 IDS Center 80 South 8 <sup>th</sup> Street Minneapolis, MN 55402 <a href="mailto:kchurch@briggs.com">kchurch@briggs.com</a>	Valerie T. Herring Attorney Briggs and Morgan, P.A. 2200 IDS Center 80 South 8 <sup>th</sup> Street Minneapolis, MN 55402 <a href="mailto:vherring@briggs.com">vherring@briggs.com</a>

### III. CONCLUSION

Great River Energy respectfully requests that the Commission: (1) approve this Notice Plan prepared in advance of our Certificate of Need application to construct our 115 kV Transmission Line Project in the Elko New Market and Cleary Lake areas; (2) grant the variance from duplicative newspaper notice requirements under Minnesota Rule 7829.2500, Subpart 5; and (3) grant the variance from the 30-day implementation notice contemplated in Minnesota Rule 7829.2550, Subpart 6, and modify the time for implementation of the Notice Plan to no more than 60 days and no less than two weeks prior to the filing of the Certificate of Need application.

Dated: November 9, 2012

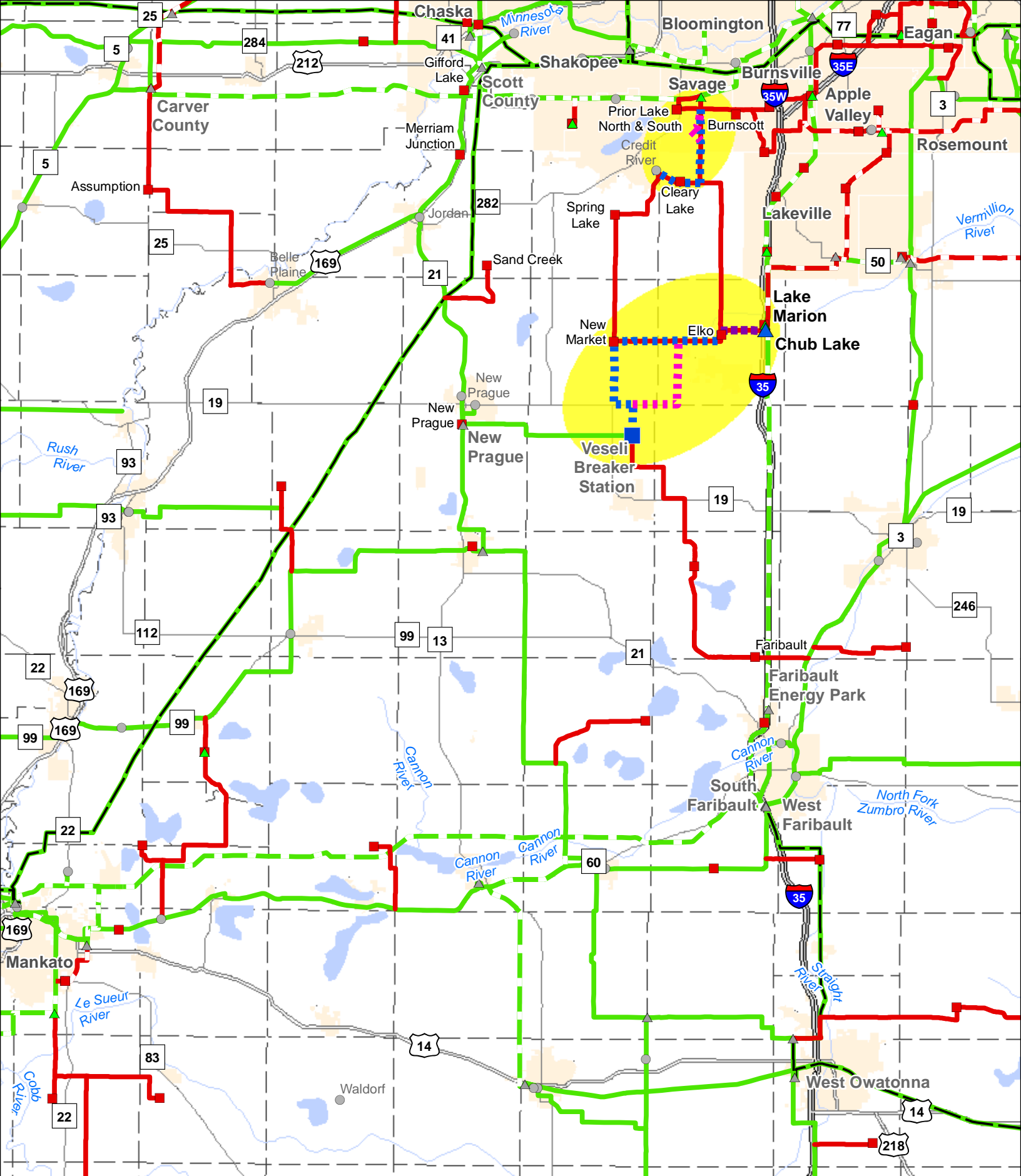
Respectfully submitted,

**BRIGGS AND MORGAN, P.A.**

By: /s/ *Kodi Jean Church*  
Kodi Jean Church (#391056)  
Valerie T. Herring (#336865)  
2200 IDS Center  
80 South Eighth Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55402  
(612) 977-8400

**Attorneys for Great River Energy, a not-for-profit Minnesota cooperative corporation**





**Proposed Great River Energy**

- 115 kV Transmission Line
- Proposed Route
- Alternate Route
- Permit Line to 115 kV
- Approved and under construction**
- Transmission Substation

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy

**Project Area**

- Existing Great River Energy
- 115 kV Transmission Line
- 69 kV Transmission Line
- Transmission Substation
- Cooperative
- Distribution Substation

**Existing Foreign Transmission**

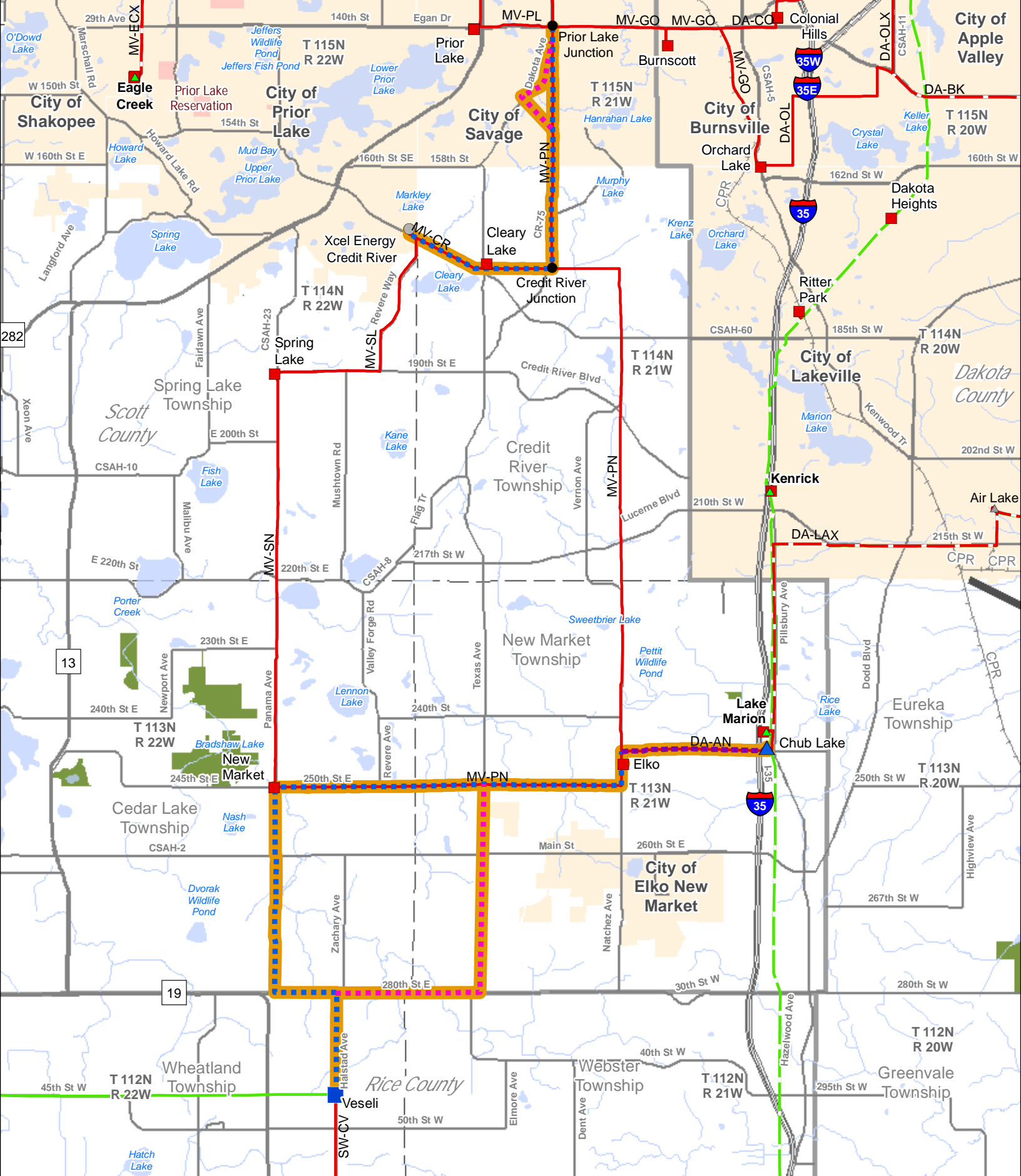
- 161 kV and above Transmission Line
- 115 kV Transmission Line
- 69 kV Transmission Line
- Transmission Substation
- Distribution Substation
- New Xcel Energy
- 69 kV Breaker Station

**Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project System Map - Attachment A**

**GREAT RIVER ENERGY**

A True Energy Cooperative

0 2 Miles



**Proposed Great River Energy**

115 kV Transmission Line

Proposed Route

Alternate Route

Permit Line to 115 kV

Approved and under construction

New Transmission Substation

**Existing Great River Energy**

115 kV Transmission Line

69 kV Transmission Line

Transmission Substation

Cooperative

Distribution Substation

Notice Area (1,000 feet wide)

**Existing Xcel Energy**

69 kV Transmission Line

115 kV Transmission Line

Transmission Substation

Distribution Substation

New Xcel Energy

69 kV Breaker Station

**Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project**

**Attachment B**

**GREAT RIVER ENERGY**

A TrueSource Energy Cooperative

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy

\_\_\_\_\_, 2013

**RE: Notice of Certificate of Need Application for Great River Energy's 115 kV Transmission Line Project in the Elko New Market and Clearly Lake Areas in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota**  
**MPUC Docket No.: ET2/CN-\_\_\_\_\_**

Dear Stakeholder:

Great River Energy, a Minnesota cooperative corporation, is proposing a 115 kV transmission line project in the townships of Cedar Lake, Credit River, Spring Lake, and New Market, townships and the City of Prior Lake in Scott County, and Wheatland Township in Rice County, Minnesota. Great River Energy will file applications for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit with the Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") and request permission to:

- Rebuild approximately 3.5 miles of existing single circuit 69 kilovolt ("kV") transmission line to 115 kV standards, but operated at 69 kV until approximately 2030, along primarily existing right-of-way,<sup>1</sup> from Prior Lake Junction to Credit River Junction in Credit River Township and the City of Prior Lake in Scott County, Minnesota;
- Rebuild approximately 2.4 miles of existing single circuit 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV standards, but operated at 69 kV until approximately 2030, along existing right-of-way, between the Credit River Distribution Substation (owned by Northern States Power Company, doing business as "Xcel Energy") and Credit River Junction in Spring Lake and Credit River townships in Scott County, Minnesota;
- Permit approximately 2.0 miles of existing double circuit 69 kV transmission line between Great River Energy's Chub Lake Substation (currently under construction) and Natchez Avenue to be operated at 115 kV by approximately 2022, in New Market Township, Scott County, Minnesota;<sup>2</sup>
- Rebuild approximately 5.6 miles of existing single circuit 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV standards, but operated at 69 kV until approximately 2022, along existing right-of-way from Natchez Avenue, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative's ("Minnesota Valley") Elko Substation and Minnesota Valley's New Market Substation in New Market and Cedar Lake townships in Scott County, Minnesota; and
- Construct approximately 5.4 miles of new double circuit transmission line to 115 kV standards but to be operated at 69 kV between the Minnesota Valley's New Market Substation to a new 69 kV breaker station in Wheatland Township ("Veseli Breaker Station"),<sup>3</sup> in Rice County, Minnesota. One side of the double circuit line will be operated

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<sup>1</sup> Deviations from the existing right-of-way may be proposed where Great River Energy has determined that there is not sufficient space to expand the existing right-of-way to comply with Company clearance standards for a 115 kV transmission line.

<sup>2</sup> The DA-AN line along County Road 62/245<sup>th</sup> Avenue was proposed to be reconstructed to 115 kV standards as part of the Brookings County to Hampton 345 kV Transmission Line Project (MPUC Docket No. ET2/TL-08-1474) ("Brookings Project") through a Plan and Profile filing approved by the Commission on November 5, 2012 (eDocket Document No. 201211-80387-01). Even though the DA-AN line will be rebuilt to 115 kV standards as part of the Brookings Project, it is included as part of this proposal for purposes of obtaining permission to operate it at 115 kV.

<sup>3</sup> The breaker station, currently intended to be called the "Veseli Breaker Station" will be constructed, owned and operated by Xcel Energy. Xcel Energy anticipates it will expand its existing Veseli Distribution Substation to the north

at 69 kV until approximately 2022, and the other side of the double circuit line will operated at 69 kV until approximately 2030.

Collectively, the segments discussed above will be referred to as the “Project.” The Project must be complete by 2016 to address overloads that have been identified in the Project area, although operation of the system at 115 kV is not anticipated until 2022. The area under consideration for the location of the Project is depicted in **Attachment 1**.

This notice is being provided to those who fall within one or more of the categories listed below as they relate to the area (“Notice Area”) shown on Attachment 1:

- Landowners with property within the Notice Area;
- Residents within the Notice Area;
- Local units of government in and around the Notice Area;
- Local and State elected officials; or
- State and local government agencies and offices.

### **Regulatory Process Overview**

For the Project, the Commission must determine whether the Project is needed (Certificate of Need) and where the Project should be located (Route Permit). Before the Project can be constructed, the Commission must first certify that the Project is needed. The certification of the Project is governed by Minnesota law, including Minnesota Statutes Section 216B.243, and Minnesota Rules Chapters 7829 and 7849, specifically Rules 7849.0010 to 7849.0400 and 7849.1000 to 7849.2100. In the Certificate of Need proceeding, the Commission will analyze whether Great River Energy has proposed the most appropriate size, type, and timing for the Project. The Certificate of Need application, once submitted, can be obtained by visiting the Commission’s website at [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us) in Docket No. ET2/CN-12-\_\_\_\_.

In addition to certifying the Project, the Commission must also grant a Route Permit for the Project. The routing of the Project is governed by Minnesota law, including Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850, specifically Rules 7850.2900 to 7850.4600, as they pertain to the alternative permitting process. Information on the Route Permit application, once filed, can be obtained by visiting the Commission’s website in Docket No. ET2/TL-12-\_\_\_\_.

Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Facility Permitting staff (“EFP”) is responsible for conducting environmental review of the Project. EFP will prepare an environmental report for the Certificate of Need proceeding. EFP will prepare an environmental assessment (“EA”) for the Route Permit proceeding. EFP may elect to combine these two documents and issue one document, an EA, which satisfies the environmental review requirements for the Certificate of Need and Route Permit proceedings.

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and east to accommodate the 69 kV breakers. It is not proposed as part of this Project as it will be only constructed to 69 kV operating standards at this time and local approvals will be obtained related to that construction. Xcel Energy will seek whatever approvals are necessary at the time it converts the operation of the facility to 115 kV if any approvals are necessary.

Great River Energy will be submitting an application for a Route Permit and will identify the route which it prefers for the Project. More detail on the routes Great River Energy intends to propose for the Project in its Route Permit Application is shown on **Attachment 2**. Other routes can be proposed during the EA scoping process to be completed by EFP. As part of its analysis, EFP will evaluate the route proposed by Great River Energy in its Route Permit application and any other routes proposed during the scoping process that will aid in the Commission's decision on the Route Permit application. The Commission may determine that a route submitted by Great River Energy, or a route proposed during the scoping process, or some combination of such routes is the most appropriate route for the Project. Selection of a final route by the Commission will be based on evaluation of the routes, guided by the Factors identified in Minnesota Statutes Section 216E.03, subdivision 7, Minnesota Rule 7850.4100, and stakeholder input received during the regulatory process.

For the Project, where Great River Energy is proposing new construction, we anticipate that we will obtain a 70-foot wide permanent right-of-way. Where Great River Energy is proposing to rebuild existing 69 kV transmission facilities, the right-of-way measures 28 to 70 feet in width. Before beginning construction, Great River Energy will acquire additional property rights for the right-of-way where necessary, typically through an easement that will be negotiated with the landowner for each parcel. For the portions of the Project that are being rebuilt, Great River Energy will not necessarily acquire additional property rights if we determine that the 115 kV facilities can be operated within the existing rights-of-way. Areas where Great River Energy anticipates that property rights will need to be acquired will be identified in our Route Permit application.

The proposed structures for the Project are primarily single pole, wood structures approximately 75 to 95 feet above ground. Structures are proposed to be placed using spans of approximately 200 to 500 feet, with an average span of approximately 300 feet. Additionally, specialty structures, other than the single pole wood structures discussed above, may be used through areas of environmental sensitivity or where construction conditions require their use.

### **Need for the Project**

The 69 kV transmission system to the west of the Project area and bounded by the Scott County, Carver County, Owatonna, and Faribault substations ("Scott-Faribault System") is at risk of experiencing low voltage and transmission system overload issues by 2016. To provide sufficient support to the Scott-Faribault System, transmission planning engineers determined that connecting that system to the 69 kV transmission system in the Project area ("Cleary-Elko System") would alleviate the identified transmission load-serving deficiencies on the Scott-Faribault System. Connecting these two systems would require construction of a new double circuit line between the New Market Substation and the proposed 69 kV Veseli Breaker Station.

Further analysis determined that without any additional upgrades to the existing Cleary-Elko System, connecting this system to the Scott-Faribault System would result in overload conditions on the lines identified to be rebuilt as part of this Project. Although Great River Energy initially investigated rebuilding these lines at 69 kV, it was determined that operation of these facilities at 115 kV would be necessary within the standard transmission planning timeframe (2022 for the facilities located in the south portion of the Project area and 2030 for the facilities located in the north portion of the Project area). Therefore, Great River Energy determined it was in the interest

of the Company, the Company's cooperatives, and the cooperatives' ratepayers to construct the lines to 115 kV standards at this time. To meet the 69 kV needs of the area, however, the Project must be constructed by 2016.

### **Biennial Transmission Planning**

Minnesota statutes include a requirement that each electric transmission-owning utility in the state file a biennial transmission planning report with the Commission in the fall of odd years. These reports provide an excellent source of background information on the transmission planning process used by utilities in Minnesota. The 2011 Biennial Transmission Planning Report is available at: [www.minnelectrans.com](http://www.minnelectrans.com).

### **Project Notifications**

To subscribe to the Project Certificate of Need docket and receive email notifications when information is filed that is related to the Certificate of Need for the Project, please visit [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us), click on the "Subscribe to a Docket" button, enter your email address and select "Docket Number" from the Type of Subscription dropdown box, then select "12" from the first Docket Number dropdown box and enter "\_\_\_\_" in the second box before clicking on the "Add to List" button. You must then click the "Save" button at the bottom of the page to confirm your subscription to the Project Docket. These same steps can be followed to subscribe to the Project Route Permit docket (Docket No. ET2/TL-12-\_\_\_\_).

Please visit <http://greatriverenergy.com/deliveringelectricity/currentprojects/> for more information on the Project. If you have questions about the process, you may contact the Minnesota regulatory staff listed below:

<b>Minnesota Public Utilities Commission</b> Bret Eknes 121 7 <sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350 St. Paul, Minnesota 55101 651.296.7124 800.657.3782 <a href="mailto:bret.eknes@state.mn.us">bret.eknes@state.mn.us</a> <a href="http://www.puc.state.mn.us">www.puc.state.mn.us</a>	<b>Minnesota Department of Commerce</b> Deborah Pile, State Permit Manager 85 7 <sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500 St. Paul, Minnesota 55101 651.297.2375 800.657.3794 <a href="mailto:deborah.pile@state.mn.us">deborah.pile@state.mn.us</a>
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If you would like to have your name added to the Project Route Permit mailing list (Docket No. ET2/TL-12\_\_\_\_), you may register by visiting the Department of Commerce webpage at [mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/](http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/), clicking on the "Transmission Lines" tab, selecting the link for the 115 kV Transmission Line Project in the Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas from the listed projects, and then clicking the links next to the "Mailing List" heading. Alternately, you may contact Department of Commerce staff at the address above. Please be aware that the Route Permit mailing list may not be available for online registration until the Route Permit application is submitted.

## Attachment C

A separate service list is maintained for the Certificate of Need proceeding. To be **placed on the Project Certificate of Need mailing list** (Docket No. ET2/CN-12-\_\_\_\_), mail, fax, or email Robin Benson at Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place E., Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147, Fax: 651-297-7073 or [robin.benson@state.mn.us](mailto:robin.benson@state.mn.us).

The Great River Energy contacts for questions about this Project are:

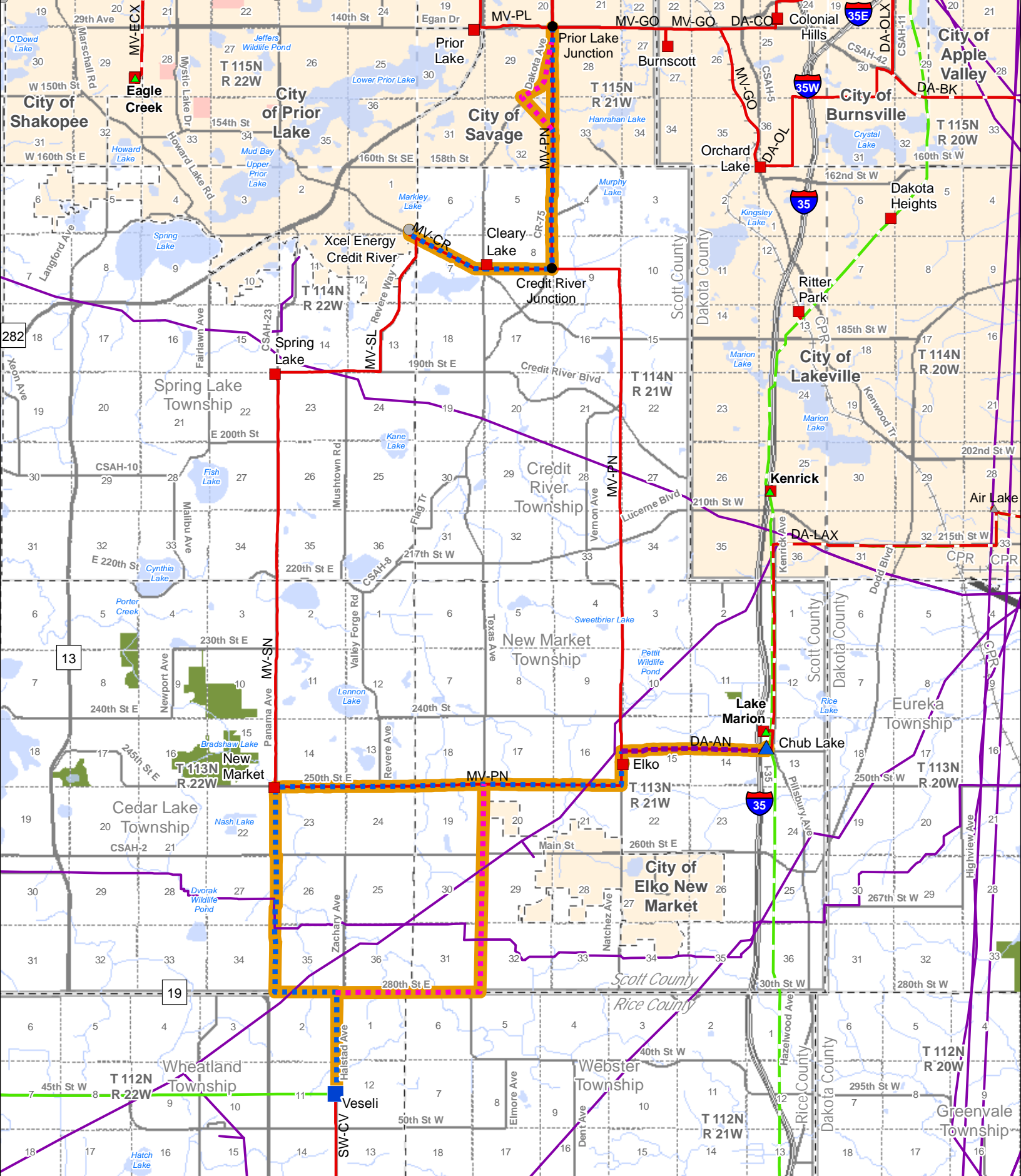
Carole L. Schmidt  
Supervisor, Transmission Permitting and  
Compliance  
Great River Energy  
12300 Elm Creek Blvd  
Maple Gove, MN 55369  
763.445.5214  
[cschmidt@GREnergy.com](mailto:cschmidt@GREnergy.com)

Peter Schaub  
Senior Field Representative  
Great River Energy  
12300 Elm Creek Blvd  
Maple Grove, MN 55369  
763.445.5976  
612.801.7370  
[pschaub@GREnergy.com](mailto:pschaub@GREnergy.com)

Sincerely,

Carole L. Schmidt  
Supervisor, Transmission Permitting and Compliance





**Proposed Great River Energy**

- 115 kV Transmission Line
- Proposed Route
- Alternate Route
- Permit Line to 115 kV
- Approved and under construction
- Transmission Substation

**Existing Great River Energy**

- 115 kV Transmission Line
- 69 kV Transmission Line
- Transmission Substation
- Cooperative
- Distribution Substation
- Notice Area (1,000 feet wide)

**Existing Xcel Energy**

- 69 kV Transmission Line
- 115 kV Transmission Line
- Transmission Substation
- Distribution Substation
- New Xcel Energy
- 69 kV Breaker Station
- Gas Pipelines

N

0 1 Miles

**Elko New Market and  
Cleary Lake Areas Project  
Attachment 1**

**GREAT RIVER ENERGY**

A TrueSource Energy Cooperative

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy



# Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Transmission Upgrade

Great River Energy  
12300 Elm Creek Blvd  
Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718  
1-888-521-0130  
www.greatriverenergy.com

GREAT RIVER ENERGY<sup>®</sup>

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



## Project Need

Great River Energy, power supplier to Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative (MVEC) and 27 other Minnesota cooperatives, proposes to rebuild a portion of the existing 69 kV transmission system and construct a new double circuit transmission line in Scott and Rice counties. These upgrades will improve the reliability of the transmission system in the area, and address risks associated with low voltage and transmission line overloading that were identified in a study of the 69 kV transmission system bounded by the Carver County, Scott County, Faribault and Owatonna areas.

## Project Goal/Description

This project includes constructing a new transmission line and rebuilding existing transmission lines. All lines will be built or rebuilt to 115 kV standards but will operate at 69 kV until load growth dictates the need for an increase in voltage. The lines that are rebuilt will generally remain in the current centerline; however, existing structures and other construction considerations may require that some portions be offset from the centerline. Where necessary, property owners along the existing lines will be contacted to discuss acquisition of easements for additional transmission line right-of-way. Property owners along the new transmission line route will be contacted to discuss acquisition of easements. The new transmission line route will require a 70-foot wide right-of-way, 35 feet on either side of the centerline.

Some segments of the transmission lines will carry distribution line underbuild (**see photo at right**). In most cases, round wood structures ranging in height from 75 - 95 feet above ground will be used. Span lengths will range from 200 feet to 500 feet. This project will include the following components:

- Rebuild approximately 3.5 miles of the existing Great River Energy single circuit 69 kV "MV-PN" line to 115 kV standards from Prior Lake Junction south to Credit River Junction;
- Rebuild approximately 2.4 miles of the existing Great River Energy single circuit 69 kV "MV-CR" line to 115 kV standards from Credit River Junction west past MVEC's Cleary Lake Substation to Xcel Energy's Credit River Substation;
- Permit the 2.0 miles of existing Great River Energy double circuit 69 kV "DA-AN" line to operate at 115 kV between the new Chub Lake Substation and Natchez Avenue (to be strung on quad circuit structures as part of the CapX2020 Brookings 345 kV project);
- Rebuild approximately 5.6 miles of the existing Great River Energy single circuit 69 kV "MV-PN" (New Market to Elko) 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV standards (along 250th Street between Panama Avenue and Natchez Avenue);
- Construct approximately 5.4 miles of new double circuit transmission line (**see photo at right**) from the New Market – Elko "MV-PN" line to Xcel Energy's Veseli 69 kV breaker station.

## Trees

Removal of trees and vegetation along the transmission line right-of-way will be necessary for safety and maintenance purposes. A representative from Great River Energy will contact property owners before any tree work takes place to discuss the work and access to the easement area.

## Project Schedule

Project contact and/or notifications -----	Winter 2012/2013
Permitting -----	Winter 2013 – Spring 2014
Survey/Design -----	Spring 2014 – Spring 2015
Easement/Environmental permits -----	June 2014 – December 2014
Transmission Line Construction -----	February 2015 - March 2016
Energyization -----	April 2016

## For project updates and information contact:

Peter M. Schaub  
Sr. Field Representative  
Great River Energy - Land Rights Department  
(763) 445-5976 or 1-888-521-0130  
pschaub@grenergy.com

Carole Schmidt  
Supervisor, Transmission Permitting and Compliance  
Great River Energy – Environmental Services Department  
763-445-5214  
cschmidt@grenergy.com



*Typical 115 kV Wood  
Single Circuit  
Transmission Line  
Structure with  
Distribution Underbuild*



*Typical 115 kV Wood  
Double Circuit  
Transmission Line  
Structure without  
Distribution Underbuild*

# Proposed Project

This map illustrates the proposed transmission line projects in Scott County, Minnesota. It shows the layout of existing and new 115 kV and 69 kV lines, substations, and breakers. The map includes labels for various towns and cities, as well as major roads and water bodies. Key features include:

- Existing Infrastructure:** Dakota Electric Cooperative (red lines), Great River Energy (red lines), and Xcel Energy (blue lines).
- Proposed Infrastructure:** Great River Energy 115 kV Transmission Line (red lines), Xcel Energy 69 kV Breaker Station (blue square), and Xcel Energy 69 kV Transmission Line (blue lines).
- Proposed Routes:** Solid red lines for the main route, dashed red lines for alternate routes, and dotted red lines for permit lines to operate at 115 kV.
- Substations and Breakers:** Red squares for distribution substations, blue squares for 69 kV breaker stations, and green triangles for transmission substations.

**Legend:**

- Existing Dakota Electric Cooperative Distribution Substation
- Proposed Great River Energy 115 kV Transmission Line
- Proposed Route
- Alternate Route
- Permit line to operate at 115 kV
- Existing Great River Energy 115 kV Transmission Line
- 69 kV Transmission Line
- Transmission Substation
- New Xcel Energy 69 kV Breaker Station
- Existing Xcel Energy 69 kV Transmission Line
- 115 kV Transmission Line
- Distribution Substation

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

**GREAT RIVER ENERGY**  
A Isthmian Energy Cooperative

\_\_\_\_\_, 2013

**RE: Notice of Certificate of Need Application for Great River Energy's 115 kV Transmission Line Project in the Elko New Market and Clearly Lake Areas in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota**  
**MPUC Docket No.: ET2/CN-\_\_\_\_\_**

Dear Local Government Representative or Elected Official:

Great River Energy, a Minnesota cooperative corporation, is proposing a 115 kV transmission line project in the townships of Cedar Lake, Credit River, Spring Lake, and New Market, townships and the City of Prior Lake in Scott County, and Wheatland Township in Rice County, Minnesota. Great River Energy will file applications for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit with the Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") and request permission to:

- Rebuild approximately 3.5 miles of existing single circuit 69 kilovolt ("kV") transmission line to 115 kV standards, but operated at 69 kV until approximately 2030, along primarily existing right-of-way,<sup>1</sup> from Prior Lake Junction to Credit River Junction in Credit River Township and the City of Prior Lake in Scott County, Minnesota;
- Rebuild approximately 2.4 miles of existing single circuit 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV standards, but operated at 69 kV until approximately 2030, along existing right-of-way, between the Credit River Distribution Substation (owned by Northern States Power Company, doing business as "Xcel Energy") and Credit River Junction in Spring Lake and Credit River townships in Scott County, Minnesota;
- Permit approximately 2.0 miles of existing double circuit 69 kV transmission line between Great River Energy's Chub Lake Substation (currently under construction) and Natchez Avenue to be operated at 115 kV by approximately 2022, in New Market Township, Scott County, Minnesota;<sup>2</sup>
- Rebuild approximately 5.6 miles of existing single circuit 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV standards, but operated at 69 kV until approximately 2022, along existing right-of-way from Natchez Avenue, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative's ("Minnesota Valley") Elko Substation and Minnesota Valley's New Market Substation in New Market and Cedar Lake townships in Scott County, Minnesota; and
- Construct approximately 5.4 miles of new double circuit transmission line to 115 kV standards but to be operated at 69 kV between the Minnesota Valley's New Market Substation to a new 69 kV breaker station in Wheatland Township ("Veseli Breaker

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<sup>1</sup> Deviations from the existing right-of-way may be proposed where Great River Energy has determined that there is not sufficient space to expand the existing right-of-way to comply with Company clearance standards for a 115 kV transmission line.

<sup>2</sup> The DA-AN line along County Road 62/245<sup>th</sup> Avenue was proposed to be reconstructed to 115 kV standards as part of the Brookings County to Hampton 345 kV Transmission Line Project (Docket No. ET2/TL-08-1474) ("Brookings Project") through a Plan and Profile filing approved by the Commission on November 5, 2012 (eDocket Document No. 201211-80387-01). Even though the DA-AN line will be rebuilt to 115 kV standards as part of the Brookings Project, it is included as part of this proposal for purposes of obtaining permission to operate it at 115 kV.

Station”),<sup>3</sup> in Rice County, Minnesota. One side of the double circuit line will be operated at 69 kV until approximately 2022, and the other side of the double circuit line will be operated at 69 kV until approximately 2030.

Collectively, the segments discussed above will be referred to as the “Project.” The Project must be complete by 2016 to address overloads that have been identified in the Project area, although operation of the system at 115 kV is not anticipated until 2022. The area under consideration for the location of the Project is depicted in **Attachment 1**.

This notice is being provided to those who fall within one or more of the categories listed below as they relate to the area (“Notice Area”) shown on Attachment 1:

- Landowners with property within the Notice Area;
- Residents within the Notice Area;
- Local units of government in and around the Notice Area;
- Local and State elected officials; or
- State and local government agencies and offices.

**Because your constituents may have questions related to the Project, we wanted to inform you of our proposal and also how you and your constituents may get involved in the regulatory process for the Project.**

### **Regulatory Process Overview**

For the Project, the Commission must determine whether the Project is needed (Certificate of Need) and where the Project should be located (Route Permit). Before the Project can be constructed, the Commission must first certify that the Project is needed. The certification of the Project is governed by Minnesota law, including Minnesota Statutes Section 216B.243, and Minnesota Rules Chapters 7829 and 7849, specifically Rules 7849.0010 to 7849.0400 and 7849.1000 to 7849.2100. In the Certificate of Need proceeding, the Commission will analyze whether Great River Energy has proposed the most appropriate size, type, and timing for the Project. The Certificate of Need application, once submitted, can be obtained by visiting the Commission’s website at [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us) in Docket No. ET2/CN-12-\_\_\_\_.

In addition to certifying the Project, the Commission must also grant a Route Permit for the Project. The routing of the Project is governed by Minnesota law, including Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850, specifically Rules 7850.2900 to 7850.4600, as they pertain to the alternative permitting process. Information on the Route Permit application, once filed, can be obtained by visiting the Commission’s website in Docket No. ET2/TL-12-\_\_\_\_.

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<sup>3</sup> The breaker station, currently intended to be called the “Veseli Breaker Station” will be constructed, owned and operated by Xcel Energy. Xcel Energy anticipates it will expand its existing Veseli Distribution Substation to the north and east to accommodate the 69 kV breakers. It is not proposed as part of this Project as it will be only constructed to 69 kV operating standards at this time and local approvals will be obtained related to that construction. Xcel Energy will seek whatever approvals are necessary at the time it converts the operation of the facility to 115 kV if any approvals are necessary.



## Attachment D

Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Facility Permitting staff (“EFP”) is responsible for conducting environmental review of the Project. EFP will prepare an environmental report for the Certificate of Need proceeding. EFP will prepare an environmental assessment (“EA”) for the Route Permit proceeding. EFP may elect to combine these two documents and issue one document, an EA, which satisfies the environmental review requirements for the Certificate of Need and Route Permit proceedings.

Great River Energy will be submitting an application for a Route Permit and will identify the route which it prefers for the Project. More detail on the routes Great River Energy intends to propose for the Project in its Route Permit Application is shown on **Attachment 2**. Other routes can be proposed during the EA scoping process to be completed by EFP. As part of its analysis, EFP will evaluate the route proposed by Great River Energy in its Route Permit application and any other routes proposed during the scoping process that will aid in the Commission’s decision on the Route Permit application. The Commission may determine that a route submitted by Great River Energy, or a route proposed during the scoping process, or some combination of such routes is the most appropriate route for the Project. Selection of a final route by the Commission will be based on evaluation of the routes, guided by the Factors identified in Minnesota Statutes Section 216E.03, subdivision 7, Minnesota Rule 7850.4100, and stakeholder input received during the regulatory process.

For the Project, where Great River Energy is proposing new construction, we anticipate that we will obtain a 70-foot wide permanent right-of-way. Where Great River Energy is proposing to rebuild existing 69 kV transmission facilities, the right-of-way measures 28 to 70 feet in width. Before beginning construction, Great River Energy will acquire additional property rights for the right-of-way where necessary, typically through an easement that will be negotiated with the landowner for each parcel. For the portions of the Project that are being rebuilt, Great River Energy will not necessarily acquire additional property rights if we determine that the 115 kV facilities can be operated within the existing rights-of-way. Areas where Great River Energy anticipates that property rights will need to be acquired will be identified in our Route Permit application.

The proposed structures for the Project are primarily single pole, wood structures approximately 75 to 95 feet above ground. Structures are proposed to be placed using spans of approximately 200 to 500 feet, with an average span of approximately 300 feet. Additionally, specialty structures, other than the single pole wood structures discussed above, may be used through areas of environmental sensitivity or where construction conditions require their use.

### **Need for the Project**

The 69 kV transmission system to the west of the Project area and bounded by the Scott County, Carver County, Owatonna, and Faribault substations (“Scott-Faribault System”) is at risk of experiencing low voltage and transmission system overload issues by 2016. To provide sufficient support to the Scott-Faribault System, transmission planning engineers determined that connecting that system to the 69 kV transmission system in the Project area (“Cleary-Elko System”) would alleviate the identified transmission load-serving deficiencies on the Scott-Faribault System. Connecting these two systems would require construction of a new double circuit line between the New Market Substation and the proposed 69 kV Veseli Breaker Station.

## Attachment D

Further analysis determined that without any additional upgrades to the existing Cleary-Elko System, connecting this system to the Scott-Faribault System would result in overload conditions on the lines identified to be rebuilt as part of this Project. Although Great River Energy initially investigated rebuilding these lines at 69 kV, it was determined that operation of these facilities at 115 kV would be necessary within the standard transmission planning timeframe (2022 for the facilities located in the south portion of the Project area and 2030 for the facilities located in the north portion of the Project area). Therefore, Great River Energy determined it was in the interest of the Company, the Company's cooperatives, and the cooperatives' ratepayers to construct the lines to 115 kV standards at this time. To meet the 69 kV needs of the area, however, the Project must be constructed by 2016.

### **Biennial Transmission Planning**

Minnesota statutes include a requirement that each electric transmission-owning utility in the state file a biennial transmission planning report with the Commission in the fall of odd years. These reports provide an excellent source of background information on the transmission planning process used by utilities in Minnesota. The 2011 Biennial Transmission Planning Report is available at: [www.minnelectrans.com](http://www.minnelectrans.com).

### **Project Notifications**

To subscribe to the Project Certificate of Need docket and receive email notifications when information is filed that is related to the Certificate of Need for the Project, please visit [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us), click on the "Subscribe to a Docket" button, enter your email address and select "Docket Number" from the Type of Subscription dropdown box, then select "12" from the first Docket Number dropdown box and enter "\_\_\_" in the second box before clicking on the "Add to List" button. You must then click the "Save" button at the bottom of the page to confirm your subscription to the Project Docket. These same steps can be followed to subscribe to the Project Route Permit docket (Docket No. ET2/TL-12-\_\_\_\_\_).

Please visit <http://greatriverenergy.com/deliveringelectricity/currentprojects/> for more information on the Project. If you have questions about the process, you may contact the Minnesota regulatory staff listed below:

<b>Minnesota Public Utilities Commission</b> Bret Eknes 121 7 <sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350 St. Paul, Minnesota 55101 651.296.7124 800.657.3782 <a href="mailto:bret.eknes@state.mn.us">bret.eknes@state.mn.us</a> <a href="http://www.puc.state.mn.us">www.puc.state.mn.us</a>	<b>Minnesota Department of Commerce</b> Deborah Pile, State Permit Manager 85 7 <sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500 St. Paul, Minnesota 55101 651.297.2375 800.657.3794 <a href="mailto:deborah.pile@state.mn.us">deborah.pile@state.mn.us</a>
--	--

## Attachment D

If you would like to have your name added to the **Project Route Permit mailing list** (Docket No. ET2/TL-12\_\_\_\_), you may register by visiting the Department of Commerce webpage at [mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/](http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/), clicking on the “Transmission Lines” tab, selecting the link for the 115 kV Transmission Line Project in the Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas from the listed projects, and then clicking the links next to the “Mailing List” heading. Alternately, you may contact Department of Commerce staff at the address above. Please be aware that the Route Permit mailing list may not be available for online registration until the Route Permit application is submitted.

A separate service list is maintained for the Certificate of Need proceeding. To be **placed on the Project Certificate of Need mailing list** (Docket No. ET2/CN-12-\_\_\_\_), mail, fax, or email Robin Benson at Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place E., Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147, Fax: 651-297-7073 or [robin.benson@state.mn.us](mailto:robin.benson@state.mn.us).

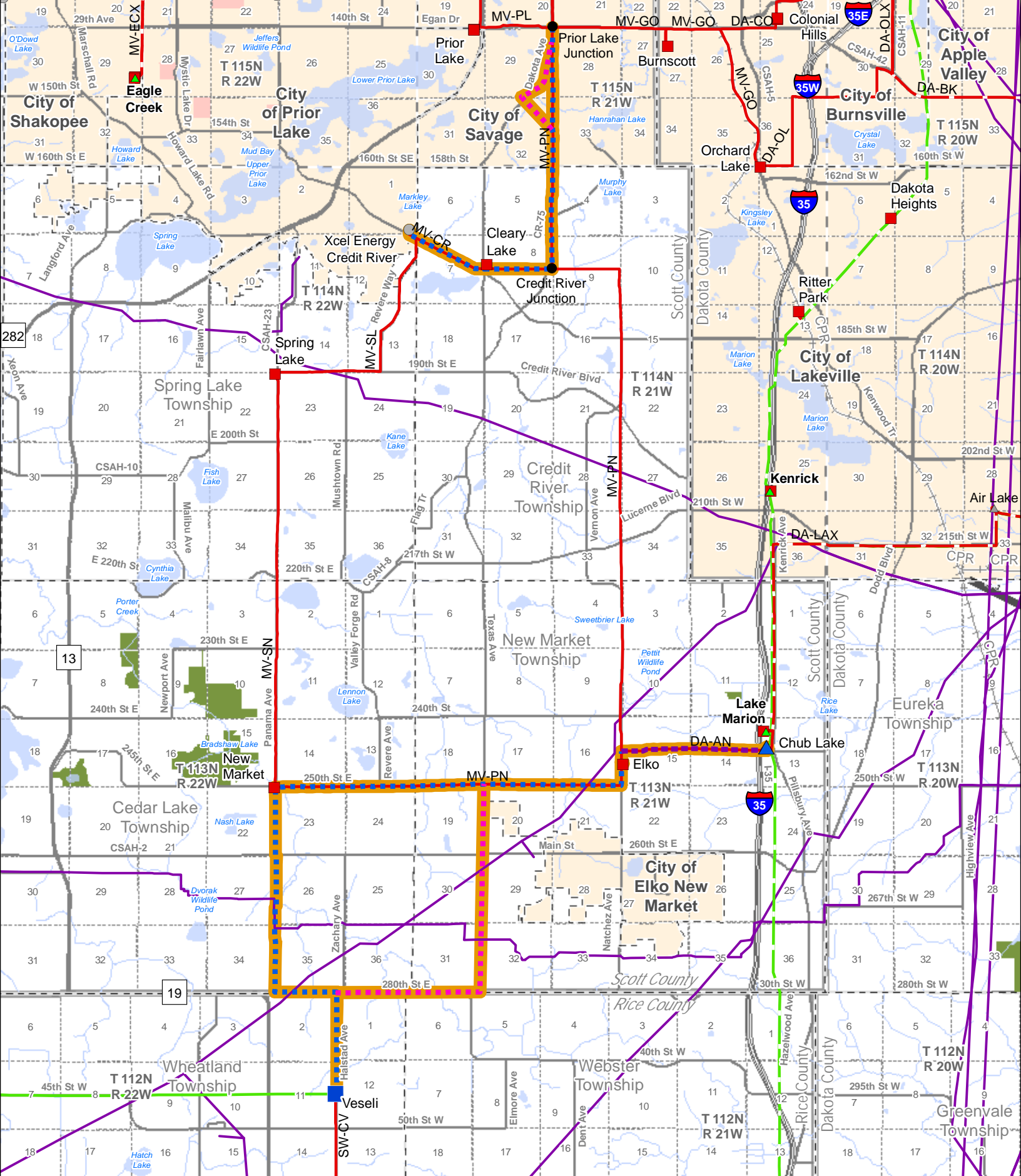
The Great River Energy contacts for questions about this Project are:

Carole L. Schmidt  
Supervisor, Transmission Permitting and  
Compliance  
Great River Energy  
12300 Elm Creek Blvd  
Maple Gove, MN 55369  
763.445.5214  
[cschmidt@GREnergy.com](mailto:cschmidt@GREnergy.com)

Peter Schaub  
Senior Field Representative  
Great River Energy  
12300 Elm Creek Blvd  
Maple Grove, MN 55369  
763.445.5976  
612.801.7370  
[pschaub@GREnergy.com](mailto:pschaub@GREnergy.com)

Sincerely,

Carole L. Schmidt  
Supervisor, Transmission Permitting and Compliance



**Proposed Great River Energy**

- 115 kV Transmission Line
- Proposed Route
- Alternate Route
- Permit Line to 115 kV
- Approved and under construction
- Transmission Substation

**Existing Great River Energy**

- 115 kV Transmission Line
- 69 kV Transmission Line
- Transmission Substation
- Cooperative
- Distribution Substation
- Notice Area (1,000 feet wide)

**Existing Xcel Energy**

- 69 kV Transmission Line
- 115 kV Transmission Line
- Transmission Substation
- Distribution Substation
- New Xcel Energy
- 69 kV Breaker Station
- Gas Pipelines

N

0 1 Miles

**Elko New Market and  
Cleary Lake Areas Project  
Attachment 1**

**GREAT RIVER ENERGY**

A TrueSource Energy Cooperative

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy



# Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Transmission Upgrade

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12300 Elm Creek Blvd  
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## Project Need

Great River Energy, power supplier to Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative (MVEC) and 27 other Minnesota cooperatives, proposes to rebuild a portion of the existing 69 kV transmission system and construct a new double circuit transmission line in Scott and Rice counties. These upgrades will improve the reliability of the transmission system in the area, and address risks associated with low voltage and transmission line overloading that were identified in a study of the 69 kV transmission system bounded by the Carver County, Scott County, Faribault and Owatonna areas.

## Project Goal/Description

This project includes constructing a new transmission line and rebuilding existing transmission lines. All lines will be built or rebuilt to 115 kV standards but will operate at 69 kV until load growth dictates the need for an increase in voltage. The lines that are rebuilt will generally remain in the current centerline; however, existing structures and other construction considerations may require that some portions be offset from the centerline. Where necessary, property owners along the existing lines will be contacted to discuss acquisition of easements for additional transmission line right-of-way. Property owners along the new transmission line route will be contacted to discuss acquisition of easements. The new transmission line route will require a 70-foot wide right-of-way, 35 feet on either side of the centerline.

Some segments of the transmission lines will carry distribution line underbuild (**see photo at right**). In most cases, round wood structures ranging in height from 75 - 95 feet above ground will be used. Span lengths will range from 200 feet to 500 feet. This project will include the following components:

- Rebuild approximately 3.5 miles of the existing Great River Energy single circuit 69 kV "MV-PN" line to 115 kV standards from Prior Lake Junction south to Credit River Junction;
- Rebuild approximately 2.4 miles of the existing Great River Energy single circuit 69 kV "MV-CR" line to 115 kV standards from Credit River Junction west past MVEC's Cleary Lake Substation to Xcel Energy's Credit River Substation;
- Permit the 2.0 miles of existing Great River Energy double circuit 69 kV "DA-AN" line to operate at 115 kV between the new Chub Lake Substation and Natchez Avenue (to be strung on quad circuit structures as part of the CapX2020 Brookings 345 kV project);
- Rebuild approximately 5.6 miles of the existing Great River Energy single circuit 69 kV "MV-PN" (New Market to Elko) 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV standards (along 250th Street between Panama Avenue and Natchez Avenue);
- Construct approximately 5.4 miles of new double circuit transmission line (**see photo at right**) from the New Market – Elko "MV-PN" line to Xcel Energy's Veseli 69 kV breaker station.

## Trees

Removal of trees and vegetation along the transmission line right-of-way will be necessary for safety and maintenance purposes. A representative from Great River Energy will contact property owners before any tree work takes place to discuss the work and access to the easement area.

## Project Schedule

Project contact and/or notifications -----	Winter 2012/2013
Permitting -----	Winter 2013 – Spring 2014
Survey/Design -----	Spring 2014 – Spring 2015
Easement/Environmental permits -----	June 2014 – December 2014
Transmission Line Construction -----	February 2015 - March 2016
Energyization -----	April 2016

## For project updates and information contact:

Peter M. Schaub  
Sr. Field Representative  
Great River Energy - Land Rights Department  
(763) 445-5976 or 1-888-521-0130  
pschaub@grenergy.com

Carole Schmidt  
Supervisor, Transmission Permitting and Compliance  
Great River Energy – Environmental Services Department  
763-445-5214  
cschmidt@grenergy.com

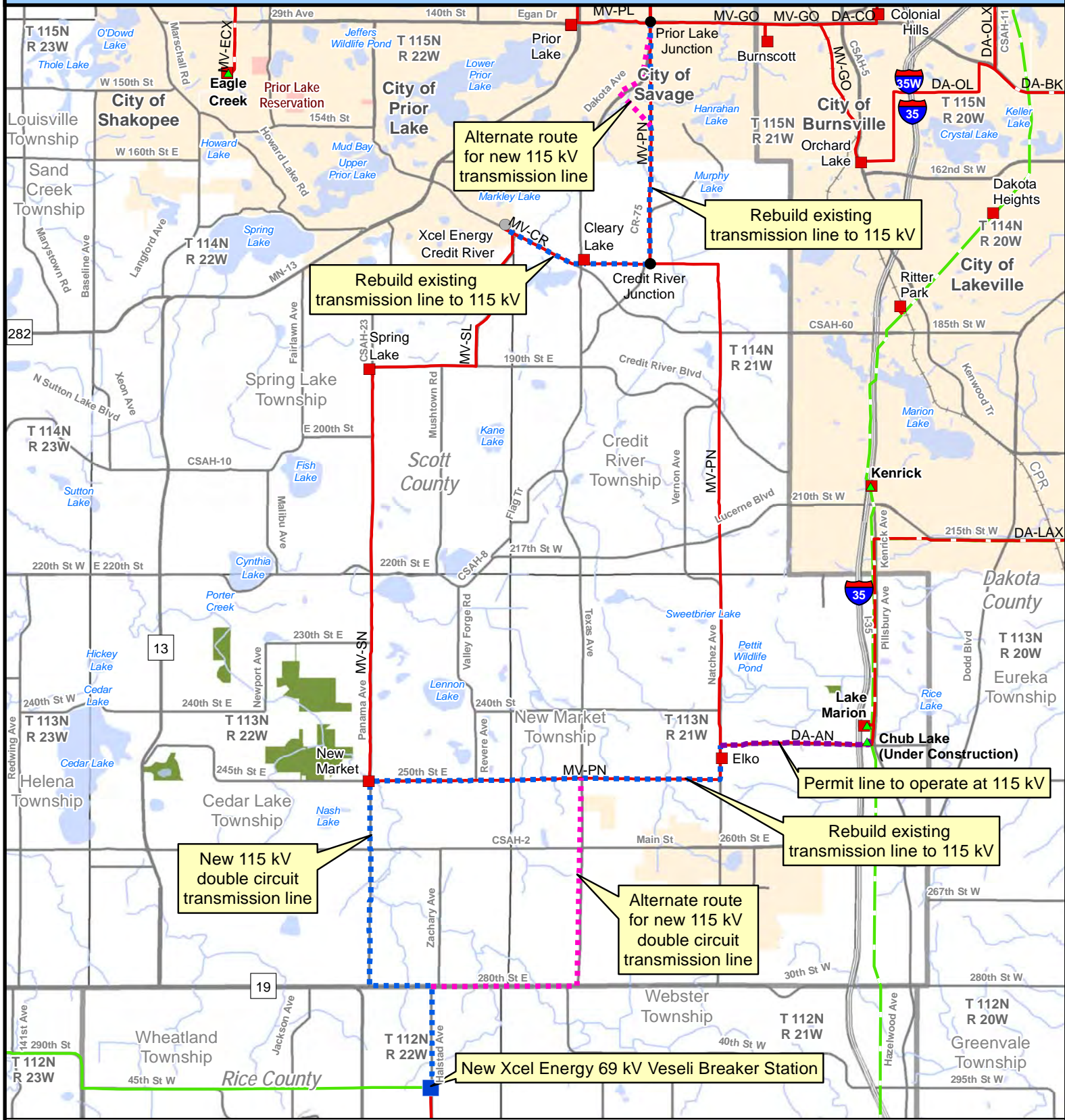


*Typical 115 kV Wood  
Single Circuit  
Transmission Line  
Structure with  
Distribution Underbuild*



*Typical 115 kV Wood  
Double Circuit  
Transmission Line  
Structure without  
Distribution Underbuild*

# Proposed Project



- |                                      |                             |                            |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Existing Dakota Electric Cooperative | Existing Great River Energy | New Xcel Energy            |
| ■ Distribution Substation            | — 115 kV Transmission Line  | ■ 69 kV Breaker Station    |
| Proposed Great River Energy          | — 69 kV Transmission Line   | Existing Xcel Energy       |
| 115 kV Transmission Line             | ▲ Transmission Substation   | — 69 kV Transmission Line  |
| ■ Proposed Route                     |                             | — 115 kV Transmission Line |
| ■ Alternate Route                    |                             | ● Distribution Substation  |
| ■ Permit line to operate at 115 kV   |                             |                            |

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy

0 0.5 1 2 Miles



**GREAT RIVER ENERGY**  
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



## Attachment E

County	City	Town
Rice	--	Webster Wheaton
Scott	Elko New Market Prior Lake Savage	Cedar Lake Credit River New Market

## Attachment F

State Elected	Congress and Senate
Rep. Tony Albright	Rep. John Kline
Rep. David Bly	Rep. Tim Walz
Rep. Kelby Woodward	Sen. Amy Klobuchar
Sen. Kevin Dahle	Sen. Al Franken
Sen. Eric Pratt	

\* This list will be revised if necessary once election results are certified.

## Attachment G

Agencies	Regional Development Commissions	Soil & Water Conservation Districts	Watershed Districts
<p>Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources</p> <p>Minnesota Department of Agriculture</p> <p>Minnesota Department of Health</p> <p>Minnesota Department of Natural Resources</p> <p>Minnesota Department of Transportation</p> <p>Minnesota Pollution Control Agency</p> <p>Natural Resources Conservation Service</p> <p>State Historic Preservation Office-Minnesota Historical Society</p> <p>St. Paul District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</p> <p>U.S. Department of Agriculture</p> <p>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</p>	<p>Metropolitan Council</p>	<p>Scott County Soil and Water Conservation District</p> <p>Rice County Soil and Water Conservation District</p>	<p>Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District</p>

### NOTICE

#### **Great River Energy to Propose to Construct a 115 kV Electric Transmission Line in the Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas in Scott and Rice Counties**

Great River Energy, a Minnesota cooperative corporation, is proposing a 115 kV transmission line project in the townships of Cedar Lake, Credit River, Spring Lake, and New Market, townships and the City of Prior Lake in Scott County, and Wheatland Township in Rice County, Minnesota. Great River Energy will file applications for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit with the Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) and request permission to:

- Rebuild approximately 3.5 miles of existing single circuit 69 kilovolt (“kV”) transmission line to 115 kV standards, but operated at 69 kV until approximately 2030, along primarily existing right-of-way, from Prior Lake Junction to Credit River Junction in Credit River Township and the City of Prior Lake in Scott County, Minnesota;
- Rebuild approximately 2.4 miles of existing single circuit 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV standards, but operated at 69 kV until approximately 2030, along existing right-of-way, between the Credit River Distribution Substation (owned by Northern States Power Company, doing business as “Xcel Energy”) and Credit River Junction in Spring Lake and Credit River townships in Scott County, Minnesota;
- Permit approximately 2.0 miles of existing double circuit 69 kV transmission line between Great River Energy’s Chub Lake Substation (currently under construction) and Natchez Avenue to be operated at 115 kV by approximately 2022, in New Market Township, Scott County, Minnesota;
- Rebuild approximately 5.6 miles of existing single circuit 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV standards, but operated at 69 kV until approximately 2022, along existing right-of-way from Natchez Avenue, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative’s (“Minnesota Valley”) Elko Substation and Minnesota Valley’s New Market Substation in New Market and Cedar Lake townships in Scott County, Minnesota; and
- Construct approximately 5.4 miles of new double circuit transmission line to 115 kV standards but to be operated at 69 kV between the Minnesota Valley’s New Market Substation to a new 69 kV breaker station in Wheatland Township (“Veseli Breaker Station”), in Rice County, Minnesota. One side of the double circuit line will be operated at 69 kV until approximately 2022, and the other side of the double circuit line will be operated at 69 kV until approximately 2030.

Collectively, the segments discussed above will be referred to as the “Project.” The Project must be complete by 2016 to address overloads that have been identified in the Project area, although operation of the system at 115 kV is not anticipated until 2022.

#### **Project Information**

For the Project, where Great River Energy is proposing new construction, we anticipate that we will obtain a 70-foot wide permanent right-of-way. Where Great River Energy is proposing to rebuild existing 69 kV transmission facilities, the right-of-way measures 28 to 70 feet in width. Before beginning construction, Great River Energy will acquire additional property rights for the right-of-way where necessary, typically through an easement that will be negotiated with the landowner for each parcel. For the portions of the Project that are being rebuilt, Great River Energy will not



necessarily acquire additional property rights if we determine that the 115 kV facilities can be operated within the existing rights-of-way. Areas where Great River Energy anticipates that property rights will need to be acquired will be identified in our Route Permit application.

The proposed structures for the Project are primarily single pole, wood structures approximately 75 to 95 feet above ground. Structures are proposed to be placed using spans of approximately 200 to 500 feet, with an average span of approximately 300 feet.

### **Need for the Project**

The Project is needed to improve local reliability and address existing thermal overloads and low voltage concerns. Great River Energy also participates in biennial transmission planning with the most recent plan available at [www.minnelectrans.com](http://www.minnelectrans.com).

### **Regulatory Process Overview**

For the Project, the Commission must determine whether the Project is needed (Certificate of Need) and where the Project should be located (Route Permit). Before the Project can be constructed, the Commission must first certify that the Project is needed. The certification of the Project is governed by Minnesota law, including Minnesota Statutes Section 216B.243, and Minnesota Rules Chapters 7829 and 7849, specifically Rules 7849.0010 to 7849.0400 and 7849.1000 to 7849.2100. In the Certificate of Need proceeding, the Commission will analyze whether Great River Energy has proposed the most appropriate size, type, and timing for the Project. The Certificate of Need application, once submitted, can be obtained by visiting the Commission's website at [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us) in Docket No. ET2/CN-12-\_\_\_\_.

### **Public Involvement**

If you would like to have your name added to the Project Route Permit mailing list (Docket No. ET2/TL-12\_\_\_\_), you may register by visiting the Department of Commerce webpage at [mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/](http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/), clicking on the "Transmission Lines" tab, selecting the link for the 115 kV Transmission Line Project in the Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas from the listed projects, and then clicking the links next to the "Mailing List" heading. Alternately, you may contact Department of Commerce staff at the address above. Please be aware that the Route Permit mailing list may not be available for online registration until the Route Permit application is submitted.

A separate service list is maintained for the Certificate of Need proceeding. To be placed on the Project Certificate of Need mailing list (Docket No. ET2/CN-12-\_\_\_\_), mail, fax, or email Robin Benson at Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place E., Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147, Fax: 651-297-7073 or [robin.benson@state.mn.us](mailto:robin.benson@state.mn.us).

<b>Minnesota Public Utilities Commission</b> Bret Eknes 121 7 <sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350 St. Paul, Minnesota 55101 651.296.7124 800.657.3782 <a href="mailto:bret.eknes@state.mn.us">bret.eknes@state.mn.us</a> <a href="http://www.puc.state.mn.us">www.puc.state.mn.us</a>	<b>Minnesota Department of Commerce</b> Deborah Pile, State Permit Manager 85 7 <sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500 St. Paul, Minnesota 55101 651.297.2375 800.657.3794 <a href="mailto:deborah.pile@state.mn.us">deborah.pile@state.mn.us</a>
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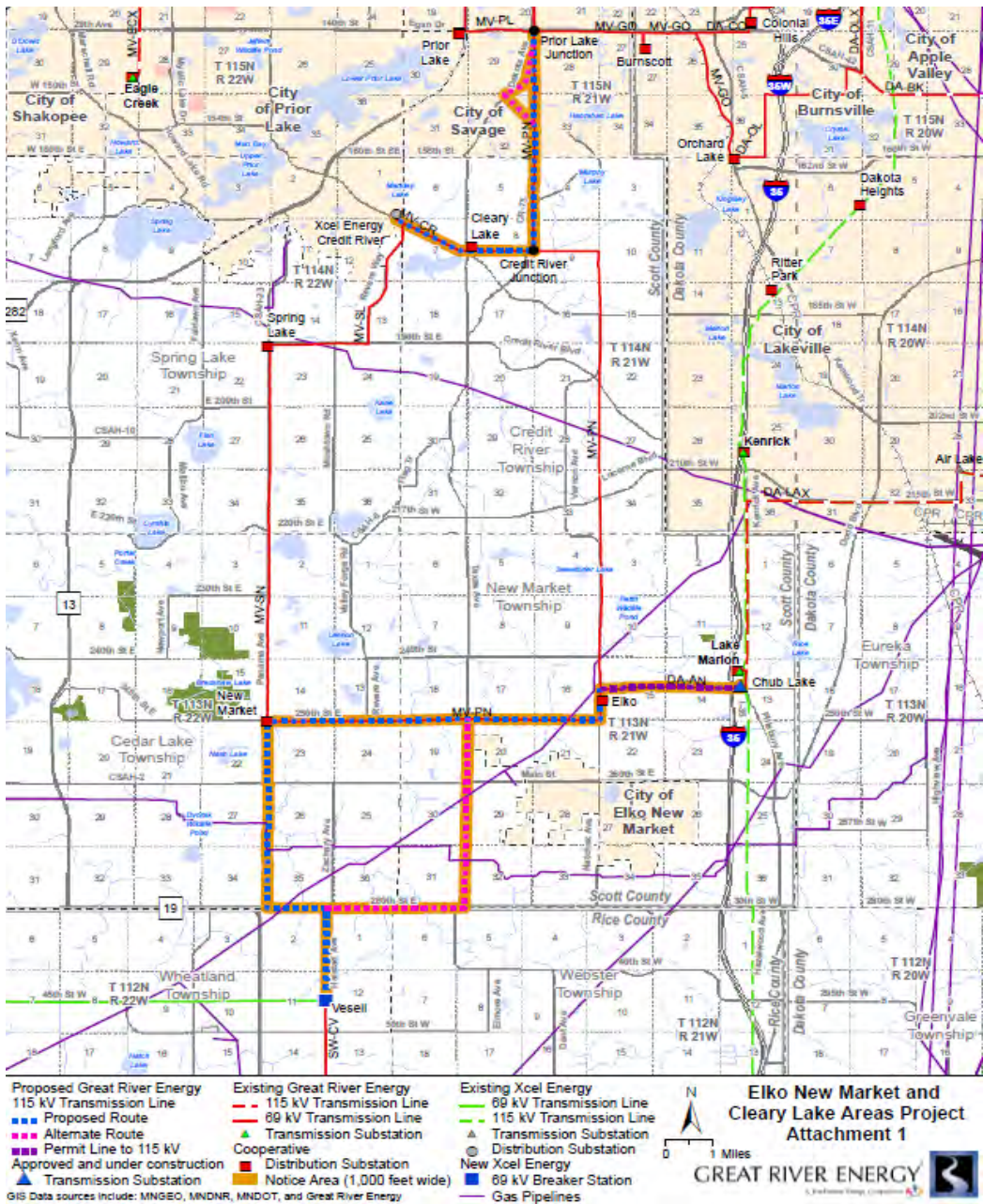
## Attachment H

Please visit <http://greatriverenergy.com/deliveringelectricity/currentprojects/> for more information on the Project or you may contact us directly with your questions:

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Newspapers/Publications
Faribault Daily News & Northfield News
Belle Plaine Herald
Prior Lake American
Star Tribune

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy, a not-for-profit cooperative, for a Certificate of Need for its 115 kV Transmission Line Project in the Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota

MPUC Docket No. ET2/CN-12-\_\_\_\_

**AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING**

STATE OF MINNESOTA     )  
  )  
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN    )

I, Jill N. Yeaman, hereby certify that on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2012, I directed to be sent via U.S. Mail or email a true and correct copy of the following notice to all persons on the attached mailing list, by depositing same, postage prepaid mail, in the United States mail, and by transmitting the same via email:

**Notice Plan Petition for the Application of Great River Energy, a not-for-profit cooperative, for a Certificate of Need for its 115 kV Transmission Line Project in the Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota**

  
Jill N. Yeaman

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this 9th day of November, 2012.

  
Notary Public



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