



Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS**

*Issued: February 19, 2014*

**In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy for a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit for a 115 kV Transmission Line Project in the Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota**

**Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Numbers: ET2/CN-12-1235  
ET2/TL-12-1245**

**Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) Docket Number: 48-2500-31007**

<p>Tuesday, March 4, 2014 1:00-3:00 pm <b>Elko New Market Public Library</b> 110 J Roberts Way Elko New Market</p>	<p>Tuesday, March 4, 2014 6:00-8:00 pm <b>Prior Lake High School</b> 7575 150<sup>th</sup> Street West Savage</p>
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**Hearing Information:**

- Staff from the Public Utilities Commission, Department of Commerce (DOC), and Great River Energy will be available to answer questions about the process and the project.
- Citizens will have the opportunity to offer oral comments, written comments, or both into the record.
- Citizens who have questions, but do not want to ask questions orally, may submit questions in writing to the Administrative Law Judge.
- The hearing will last until everyone has the opportunity to offer comments or ask questions.

**Topics for Public Comment:**

- Is the proposed transmission line needed and in the public interest?
- What are the costs and benefits of the proposed transmission line?
- What are the environmental and human impacts of each route under consideration and how can these impacts be addressed?
- Are there other project-related issues or concerns?

**Comment Period:** The comment period continues after the public hearing. The comment period ends **March 19, 2014 at 4:30pm.**

**Submit Public Comments:** The Honorable Steve M. Mihalchick  
Office of Administrative Hearings  
Email: [RouteComments.OAH@state.mn.us](mailto:RouteComments.OAH@state.mn.us)  
Fax: 651-539-0300  
P.O. Box 64620  
600 North Robert Street  
St. Paul MN 55164-0620

- Please include the PUC and OAH Docket Numbers (above) in all communications.

### Project Description

Great River Energy proposes to:

- Rebuild approximately 11.3 miles of 69 kV line to 115 kV
- Build 5.4 miles of new transmission line

The proposed project is located in Rice and Scott Counties.

### Process Information

Before the project can be built, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) must approve a certificate of need and a route permit. Great River Energy submitted the certificate of need application in June 20, 2013 and the route permit application was accepted in September 9, 2013. The Commission's decision-making process takes about twelve months.

The Department of Commerce is preparing an environmental assessment for this project. The environmental assessment reviews the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives, as well as ways to address impacts. The environmental assessment will be available before the public hearing.

Judge Mihalchick will use all the information in the record, including written comments and comments received at the public hearings, to write a report for the Commission. The report will include findings, conclusions, and recommendations about this project. After receiving the Judge's report, the Commission will schedule a meeting to make a final decision on this project, expected by July 2014.

**Minnesota Statutes and Rules:** The route permit application is being reviewed under Minnesota Statute 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850. The certificate of need application is being reviewed under Minnesota Statute 216B and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7849. Minnesota Statutes and Rules are available at <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/>.

**Eminent Domain:** If issued a route permit by the Commission, Great River Energy may exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire land for this project, under Minnesota Statute 117.

## How to Learn More

### Department of Commerce Project Website:

<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=32989>

**Project Mailing List:** Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate by contacting the Public Advisor (see below).

**Full Case Record:** View all documents filed in the certificate of need (Docket 12-1235) and route permit (Docket 12-1245) dockets at [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us), select “Search eDockets,” enter the year (12) and the docket number (1235 or 1245), select “Search.”

**Subscribe to the Docket:** Receive email notifications every time new documents are filed.

Note - subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

1. [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us)
2. Select green box *Subscribe to a Docket*
3. Type your e-mail address
4. For *Type of Subscription*, select *Docket Number*
5. For *Docket Number*, select 12 in the first box, type 1235 or 1245 in the second box
6. Select *Add to List*
7. Select *Save*

**Public Libraries:** The certificate of need and route permit applications and the environmental assessment are available at the following public libraries:

- Elko New Market Public Library, 110 J Roberts Way, Elko New Market
- New Prague Public Library, 400 E Main St, New Prague
- Prior Lake Public Library, 16210 Eagle Creek Ave SE, Prior Lake
- Savage Public Library, 13090 Alabama Ave S, Savage

## Project Contacts

### Public Utilities Commission Public Advisor

Tracy Smetana at [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us), 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782

### Public Utilities Commission Staff Analyst

Hwikwon Ham at [hwikwon.ham@state.mn.us](mailto:hwikwon.ham@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2253

### Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager

David Birkholz at [david.birkholz@state.mn.us](mailto:david.birkholz@state.mn.us), 651-539-1838 or 1-800-657-3794

### Great River Energy Project Contact

Carole Schmidt at [cschmidt@greenergy.com](mailto:cschmidt@greenergy.com) or 763-445-5214

If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in these meetings (e.g., sign language or large print materials), please contact the Office of Administrative Hearings at 651-361-7000 (voice) or 651-361-7878 (TTY) at least one week in advance of the meeting.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (e.g., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.