

## **APPENDIX B**

LANDOWNER SURVEY

RESPONSES TO SURVEY

GREAT RIVER ENERGY REPLIES TO LANDOWNERS

## Landowner Survey



# COUNTY OF STEARNS

## *Environmental Services Department*

Administration Center Rm 343 • 705 Courthouse Square • St. Cloud, MN 56303  
320-656-3613 • Fax 320-656-6484 • 1-800-450-0852

April 3, 2009

To: Property Owners within ¼ mile of Proposed Transmission Line Project  
Chair and Clerk, St. Joseph Township, St. Wendel Township and LeSauk Township  
City of Sartell  
City of St. Joseph

**RE: Survey on Proposed 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project in the Sartell Area**

Great River Energy is proposing a transmission line project near Sartell in Stearns County, Minnesota. Rapid continuous residential and commercial development in LeSauk Township and the cities of Sartell, Waite Park, St. Joseph and St. Cloud has led to increasing loads on the existing electric distribution system operated by Stearns Electric Association. Despite recent economic slowdown, there is strong evidence that customer demand for electricity will continue to grow at a rapid rate in this area.

To address these needs, Great River Energy proposes to increase the voltage capacity of the existing LeSauk distribution substation, rebuild an existing 69 kilovolt (kV) transmission line to 115 kV, and construct approximately two miles of new 115 kV transmission line to serve a new distribution substation that will be constructed by Stearns Electric Association.

The transmission line will be constructed with single wood poles that will be 70-75 feet in height. The spacing between the new poles will be approximately 350-400 feet.

The route is almost entirely located along the Stearns County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 133 between CSAH 4 and an existing Xcel Energy transmission line south of 320<sup>th</sup> Street.

The project is located in Sections 1 & 2, T124N, R29W; Section 30, T125N, R28W; and Sections 25 & 36, T125N, R29W. The line will generally start in the northeast corner of the intersection of CSAH 4 and 133; follow along CSAH 133 to the LeSauk Substation and continue southwest along CSAH 133 to the existing Xcel Energy transmission line. A project description/site map is enclosed for your information.

April 2009

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Great River Energy is seeking approval for the project from Stearns County. As part of the permitting process, Stearns County must prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the project and afford the public an opportunity to participate in the development of the scope of the EA before it is prepared.

This survey is intended to allow the public to comment on the project and provide input on the content of the EA. A preliminary Table of Contents for the EA is attached as a starting point for what should be covered in the EA. We encourage you to provide comments on the project and additional topics you want to see addressed in the EA.

Great River Energy has requested environmental review of the project by several federal and state agencies. The status of those reviews is provided below.

**United States Corps of Engineers** – there are no navigable waters in the area. USACE has no jurisdiction (letter of 3/9/09).

**United States Fish and Wildlife Service** – no federally listed species or critical habitat are documented within the proposed project area (per USFWS internet webpage <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/LISTS/minnesot-cty.html>).

**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources** – the project will not negatively affect any known occurrences of rare features (e-mail of 2/26/09).

**Minnesota Historical Society** – no properties listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places will be affected by this project (letter of 3/17/09).

**Minnesota Department of Transportation (aviation issues)** – this project will not adversely affect the airports in the area; no objection to the project (email of 3/24/09).

Thank you for your input on this project. Please return your survey form in the self-addressed envelope provided by April 24, 2009.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Buckentine  
Senior Planning Specialist

Enclosures

## Preliminary Table of Contents

### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Project Location
- 1.2 Project Description
- 1.3 Project Need
- 1.4 Project Cost Estimate
- 1.5 Project Schedule

### 2.0 Regulatory Framework

- 2.1 Permit Requirement
- 2.2 Environmental Assessment Requirement
- 2.3 Scoping of Environmental Assessment/Public Participation
- 2.4 Conditional Use Permit

### 3.0 Engineering Design, Right-of-Way Acquisition, and Construction

- 3.1 Substation
- 3.2 Transmission Line
- 3.3 Right-of-Way Acquisition
- 3.4 Construction and Maintenance Procedures

### 4.0 Assessment of Impacts and Mitigation

- 4.1 Description of Environmental Setting
- 4.2 Impacts on Human Settlement
  - 4.2.1 Socioeconomics
  - 4.2.2 Displacement
  - 4.2.3 Noise
  - 4.2.4 Aesthetics
  - 4.2.5 Human Health and Safety
  - 4.2.6 Public Services
- 4.3 Impacts on Land-based Economies
  - 4.3.1 Recreation/Tourism
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  - 4.3.3 Transportation
  - 4.3.4 Mining and Forestry
  - 4.3.5 Archaeological and Historic Resources
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  - 4.4.1 Air Quality
  - 4.4.2 Water Resources, Wetlands and Soils
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## 5.0 Regulatory Permits and Approvals Required

### Figures

Figure 1-1	General Vicinity Map
Figure 1-2	Proposed Project
Figure 3-1	Typical 115 kV Substation
Figure 3-2	Substation Layout
Figure 3-3	115 kV Horizontal Post Structure
Figure 4-1	City of Sartell Zoning Map
Figure 4-2	Le Sauk Township Zoning Map
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Figure 4-5	DNR Public Waters Map
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Table 4-1	Common Noise Sources and Levels
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### Appendices

Appendix A	Legal Notices and Media Information
Appendix B	Landowner Survey and Responses to Survey
Appendix C	Agency Correspondence

**SURVEY:**

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I have the following comments on the Sartell Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation project: (Please write your comments below. Use another sheet of paper if more space is needed.)

I have No comments on the Sartell Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation project.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Responses to Survey/ GRE Replies to Landowners

# TOWNSHIP OF SAINT JOSEPH

FROM THE OFFICE OF

April 22, 2009

Environmental Services  
Administration Center Rm 343  
705 Courthouse Square  
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Re: Great River Energy Project

The St. Joseph Township is supportive of the proposed Great River Energy 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project in the Sartell Area as submitted.

Sincerely,



Ann Reischl  
St. Joseph Town Clerk

**SURVEY:**

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I have the following comments on the Sartell Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation project: (Please write your comments below. Use another sheet of paper if more space is needed.)

RECEIVED  
APR 07 2009  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

I have **No** comments on the Sartell Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation project.

---

Name: Quelyn O'Donnell  
Address: 7855 Mullen Road St. Joseph MN 56314  
Phone: 252-1602

RECEIVED

APR 08 2009

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

SURVEY:

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I have the following comments on the Sartell Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation project: (Please write your comments below. Use another sheet of paper if more space is needed.)

I WAS GLAD TO HEAR THAT THE  
TRANSMISSION LINE WAS PUT IN THE  
RIGHT OF WAY ON CTY RD. # 133.  
CROSSING MY PROPERTY AND OTHER  
NEIGHBORS FIELDS WAS NOT A VERY  
GOOD IDEA AS WAS FIRST ATTEMPTED  
STAY ON TOP OF THIS PROJECT!  
THANK'S

I have No comments on the Sartell Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation project.

---

Name: Jim MARSHALL  
Address: P.O. Box 762 St. Joseph, Minn  
Phone: 320-333-1538

**SURVEY:**

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I have the following comments on the Sartell Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation project: (Please write your comments below. Use another sheet of paper if more space is needed.)

RECEIVED  
APR 16 2009  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

I have No comments on the Sartell Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation project. *as discussed at our 4/14/09 township meeting.*

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Name: *Marilyn Plante, LeBauk Township Clerk*  
Address: *2293 Pinecone Rd Sartell, Mn 56377*  
Phone: *252-6158*

RECEIVED

APR 07 2009

SURVEY:

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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I have the following comments on the Sartell Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation project: (Please write your comments below. Use another sheet of paper if more space is needed.)

I am happy to see the need for this project, I am all for growth and jobs, go full steam ahead.

I have No comments on the Sartell Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation project.

---

Name: Michael Glick  
Address: 7506 322nd St. Joseph  
Phone: 320-493-7092

APR 07 2009

**SURVEY:**

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

I have the following comments on the Sartell Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation project: (Please write your comments below. Use another sheet of paper if more space is needed.)

As a homeowner whose home at 33622 County Road 4 is so close to the proposed substation, I'm concerned about the possible health effects and noise that could be created when this substation is constructed. The substation is probably needed to meet the increased energy needs of the area, but I just don't think such a project would make a safe "neighbor." My wife and I are concerned about the effect it will have on the resale value of our property.

I have No comments on the Sartell Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation project.

Name: Chuck Cedergren  
 Address: 33622 County Road 4 St. Joseph, MN 56374  
 Phone: 253-6771



GREAT RIVER  
ENERGY®

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May 5, 2009

ST-SLT 115 kV Line  
WO #54331

Chuck Cedergren  
33622 County Road 4  
St. Joseph, MN 56374

SUBJECT: PROPOSED SARTELL DISTRIBUTION SUBSTATION  
RESPONSE TO ISSUES RAISED BY LANDOWNERS

Dear Mr. Cedergren:

Recently you responded to a project scoping letter sent to you by the Stearns County Environmental Services Department. Your questions and comments were forwarded to Great River Energy so that we could address your concerns. It appears your concerns generally focus on three items: health effects, noise, and devaluation of your property.

- Health Effects – This issue has been studied for more than 30 years by government and scientific institutions all over the world. The balance of scientific evidence indicates that exposure to electric and magnetic fields (EMF's) produced by a high voltage electric facility does not cause disease. In 2002 the Minnesota Department of Health released "A White Paper on Electric and Magnetic Field Policy and Mitigation Options". Regarding the links between EMF and health effects, the report states: "The Minnesota Department of Health concludes that the current body of evidence is insufficient to establish a cause and effect relationship between EMF and adverse health effects."

The most recent and exhaustive studies of the health effects from power frequency fields conclude that the evidence if health risk is weak. Some of these studies are listed below:

Wisconsin Public Service Commission. January 2008. EMF- Electric & Magnetic Fields.  
<http://psc.wi.gov/thelibrary/publications/electric/electric12.pdf>

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. 2002. *EMF. Electric and Magnetic Fields Associated with the Use of Electric Power*. National Institutes of Health.

Minnesota Department of Health. 2002. *EMF White Paper on Electric and Magnetic Field (EMF) Policy and Mitigation Options*.

- Noise – The only noise generator in the substation facility is the voltage transformer. Stearns Electric Association (SEA) will own and operate the substation facility. SEA requires the transformer manufacturer to meet National Electric Manufacturers Association (NEMA) standards pertaining to noise levels. The quoted maximum noise

Direct Dial (763) 445-5979

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FAX (763) 445-6779

Chuck Cedergren  
May 6, 2009  
Page Two

level for the transformer to be installed at this substation is 72 decibels A-Weighted (dB(A)). The A-Weighting approximates human hearing. For comparison, 72 dB(A) is equivalent to the sound produced by a household vacuum cleaner, while 60 dB(A) approximates normal human conversation. With the proposed substation transformer being generally located in the center of the substation fence and at least 60 feet southerly of the property line common to your property, noise levels at the property line will not exceed Minnesota Pollution Control Agency standards for Noise Area Classification 1 (residential land use).

- Diminution of Property Value - Numerous studies have been conducted in many different areas to determine if closer proximity to transmission lines and substations can result in measurable and significant diminution in value to typical homes and other real estate in Minnesota and many other states. Findings and conclusions in these studies generally show that sales of homes and businesses located near power lines do not have a material impact in the selling price or in the marketing time. In rare cases, there can be a slight decrease in selling price when comparing a home located directly adjacent to a power line to a home located some greater distance from a power line. However, given the inexact nature of real estate markets in general, one cannot conclude that the entire difference is attributable to the power line, or that the difference is even considered significant. Based on these numerous studies, we conclude that a power line or substation does not cause a measurable or significant diminution in value to typical real estate properties located adjacent to these electric facilities. In the case of your property, the dense tree stand located between your home and the proposed substation provides an excellent visual and aesthetic buffer. This vegetative buffer will even further minimize any possible impact to your property value resulting from the substation facility.

Please contact me at 888-521-0130 ext. 5979 if you have any questions regarding the information I have provided above, or if you have any other questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY



Rick Heuring  
Sr. Field Representative

c: Jennifer Buckentine, Stearns County Environmental Services  
Tim Weir, Stearns Electric Association

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