

*Daniel P. Wolf*

Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCOPING MEETING**

Issued: September 9, 2019

**In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy for a Route Permit for a 115 kV High Voltage Transmission Line to Accommodate the Lake Eunice Substation Conversion in Becker County**

**PUC Docket Number:** ET2/TL-19-311

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) and Minnesota Department of Commerce will hold a public information and environmental assessment scoping meeting on the route permit application of Great River Energy (GRE) for its proposed 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line and Lake Eunice Substation conversion project. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to the public about the proposed project and the state's high-voltage transmission line route permitting process. The meeting is also an opportunity for members of the public to participate in the development of the scope of the environmental assessment by providing comments on issues and alternatives to be considered.

**Date:** Wednesday, September 25, 2019  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Holiday Inn, 1155 U.S. Hwy 10, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

To find out if a meeting is canceled due to bad weather or other call 1-855-731-6208 or 651-201-2213 or visit [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc).

**Written Comment Period**

Written comments will be accepted through **Wednesday, October 9, 2019 by 4:30 p.m.** Please include the PUC Docket Number (19-311) in all communications. Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not be considered by the Commission.

Please focus your comments on information that will help answer the following questions:

- What potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project should be considered in the environmental assessment?
- Are there any methods to minimize, mitigate, or avoid potential impacts of the proposed project that should be considered in the environmental assessment?
- Are there any alternative routes or route segments that should be considered to address potential impacts associated with the proposed project?
- Are there any unique characteristics of the proposed route or the project that should be considered?

**Comments may be submitted via:**

**Online:** <https://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment>  
**Email:** [bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us)  
**U.S. Mail:** Bill Storm, Environmental Review Manager  
 Minnesota Department of Commerce  
 85 7th Place East, Suite 500  
 St. Paul MN 55101  
**Fax:** 651-539-0109

*Comments will be made available to the public via the Public Utilities Commission's website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The Commission does not edit or delete personal identifying information from submissions.*

### **Project Description**

The project involves removing a 0.8-mile segment of GRE's existing 41.6 kV LR-LET transmission line between the Lake Eunice Substation and GRE's LR-CF 115 kV transmission line and constructing a new 115 kV transmission line in its place. GRE is requesting approval of a 200-foot-wide route centered on the existing 41.6 kV transmission line alignment and a 400-foot-wide route around the Lake Eunice Substation. The final right-of-way for the new 115 kV transmission line would be 90 feet wide (45 feet on either side of the centerline).

### **Review Process**

Under the Power Plant Siting Act (Minn. Stat. ch. 216E), a route permit from the Commission is required to construct a high-voltage transmission line. GRE filed a route permit application with the Commission for the project on June 4, 2019. The project will be reviewed under the alternative permitting process because it is a high-voltage transmission line between 100 and 200 kV. The statutes (Minn. Stat. § 216E.04) and rules (Minn. R. 7850.2800 to 7850.3900) detailing the alternative permitting process may be viewed at: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov>.

**Environmental Review.** The Minnesota Department of Commerce is tasked with preparing an environmental assessment for the Commission for high-voltage transmission line projects filed under the alternative permitting process. The environmental assessment will contain information on the human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and of any alternative routes identified. The environmental assessment will identify and address mitigating measures for all routes considered.

**Public Hearing.** When the environmental assessment is complete, a public hearing will be held in the project area. The hearing will be presided over by an administrative law judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings. Members of the public will have an opportunity to make an oral presentation, present evidence, and ask questions of the applicant and staff.

Upon completion of the public hearing process, the Commission will make a final decision on whether to issue a route permit to GRE in spring 2020. If issued a route permit by the Commission, GRE may exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire land for this project pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216E.12.

#### Additional Information

**Project Mailing List.** Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate. Contact [docketing.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:docketing.puc@state.mn.us) or call Leesa Norton at 651-201-2246 with the docket number (19-311), your name, mailing address, and email address.

**Subscribe to the Docket.** Receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter at [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *Subscribe*, and follow the prompts.

**Full Case Record.** See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission's website: [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *Search eDockets*, and enter year (19) and the docket number (311), and select *Search*.

**Department of Commerce Project Website:** <https://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities>

**Community Locations.** The route permit application is available for viewing at these locations:

- Detroit Lakes Public Library, 1000 Washington Ave, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

#### Project Contacts

##### Public Utilities Commission

Charley Bruce, Public Advisor, [charley.bruce@state.mn.us](mailto:charley.bruce@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2251

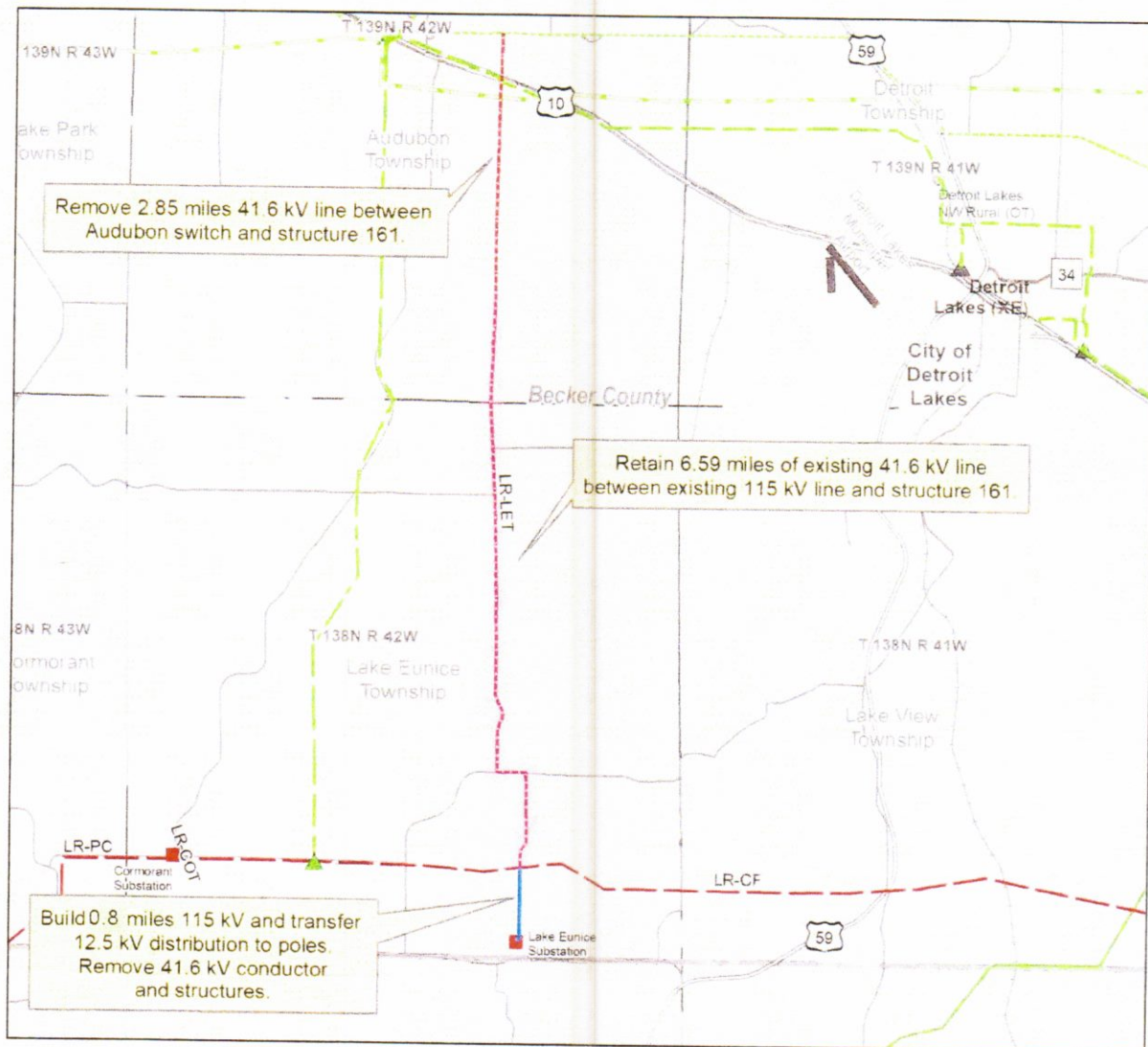
Scott Ek, Energy Facilities Planner, [scott.ek@state.mn.us](mailto:scott.ek@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2255

**Department of Commerce**

Bill Storm, Environmental Review Manager, [bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us) or 651-539-1844

**Great River Energy**

Dan Leshner, [dlesher@GREnergy.com](mailto:dlesher@GREnergy.com) or 763-445-5975



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 Commission at 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782 at least one week in advance of the meeting. To request this document in another format such as large print or audio, call 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with a hearing or speech disability may contact the Commission via their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service or email [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us) for assistance.