



February 10, 2011

Dr. Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

**Re: Application for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit by
Great River Energy and Minnesota Power
Savanna 115 kV Transmission Project
MPUC Docket nos. ET-2, E015/CN-10-973; ET-2, E015/TL- 10-1307**

Dear Dr. Haar:

Under a separate eFile submission, dated today, please find the Great River Energy and Minnesota Power ("Applicants") combined Certificate of Need Application and Route Permit Application ("Application") for a new 115 kV switching station and approximately 37 miles of 115 kV high voltage transmission line ("HVTL") between the Cedar Valley Substation north of Floodwood, Minnesota and the Cromwell Substation south of Cromwell, Minnesota ("Savanna 115 kV Project"). The Application details the Applicants' need for and proposed location of the Savanna 115 kV Project, located in St. Louis and Carlton counties.

The Savanna 115 kV Project is needed to address the increasing demand for electricity in the area. The existing transmission systems that serve this area of the state are no longer adequate to maintain acceptable voltage levels.

The Certificate of Need Application is submitted under Minn. Rules 7849.0010 to 7849.2100 and Minn. Stat. § 216B.243. Two paper copies of the Application have been provided to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and two paper copies of the Application have been provided to Chris Shaw of the Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security staff.

A check for \$3650 made payable to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for 25% of the total estimated fee for processing the Certificate of Need application (as required by Minn. Rules 7849.0210 and Minn. Stat. § 216B.243, subd. 6) has been provided to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

The Route Permit Application is submitted under the Alternative Permitting processes of Minn. Rules 7850.2800 to 7850.3900 and Minn. Stat. § 216E.04. An electronic copy on CD ROM and 15 paper copies of the Application have been provided to Bill Storm of the Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security staff.

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A check for \$15,000 made payable to the Department of Commerce for 50% of the total estimated fee for processing the route permit application (as required by Minn. Rules 7850.1800 and Minn. Stat. § 216E.18) has been provided to the Department of Commerce.

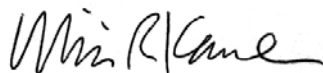
Pursuant to the Notice Plan approved by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission on January 26, 2011 and Minn. Rules 7850.2100, the Applicants will, within 15 days, provide notice of the Application as outlined in the Notice Plan.

Please direct any questions you may have with respect to the filing to Carole Schmidt of Great River Energy at 763-445-5214 or David Moeller of Minnesota Power at 218-723-3963.

Thank you for your attention to this important regional project.

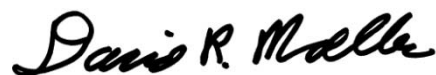
Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY



William R. Kaul
Vice President, Transmission

MINNESOTA POWER



David R. Moeller
Senior Attorney

c: Deborah Pile, DOC-OES