

## **Appendix G**

### **Notice of Intent to File a Route Permit Application under the Alternative Route Permit Process**





30 West Superior Street, Duluth, MN 55802  
218.772.2641, www.mnpower.com

12300 Elm Creek Boulevard, Maple Grove, MN 55369  
763.445.5000, www.greatriverenergy.com

July 5, 2023

**Via E-Filing**

Will Seuffert  
Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
350 Metro Square Building  
121 Seventh Place East  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: *Notice of Intent to File a Route Permit Application for the Northland Reliability Project Pursuant to the Alternative Permitting Process*  
MPUC Docket No. E015, ET2/TL-22-415

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

In accordance with Minn. R. 7850.2800, subp. 2, Minnesota Power and Great River Energy (collectively, the “Applicants”) hereby notify the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (the “Commission”) of their intent to submit an application for a Route Permit for the Northland Reliability Project (the “Project”) following the alternative permitting process set forth in Minn. Stat. § 216E.04 and Minn. R. 7850.2800 to 7850.3900. In the Route Permit application, the Applicants will propose a route that is located along high-voltage transmission line rights-of-way for more than 85 percent of its length. Based on this use of existing high-voltage transmission line rights-of-way, the Project is eligible for the alternative permitting process for the route permit pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216E.04, subd. 2(5).

The Project consists of two major segments:

1. Segment 1: construction of a new, approximately 140-mile long, double-circuit 345 kV transmission line connecting the existing Iron Range Substation, a new Cuyuna Series Compensation Station, and the existing Benton County Substation, and generally located near existing transmission line corridors; and
2. Segment 2: replacement of two existing transmission lines.
  - a. Replace an approximately 20-mile 230 kV line with two 345 kV circuits from the Benton County Substation to the new Big Oaks Substation along existing transmission corridors on double-circuit 345 kV structures; and

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- b. Replace an approximately 20-mile 345 kV line from the Benton County Substation to the existing Sherco Substation in Sherburne County along existing transmission corridors using double-circuit 345 kV structures.

The Project will also involve the following improvements to the power grid:

1. Expansion of the existing Iron Range Substation, located near Grand Rapids, and expansion of the existing Benton County Substation, located near St. Cloud, and rerouting existing transmission lines at the Iron Range and Benton County substations; and
2. Construction of a new Cuyuna Series Compensation Station at or near the existing Riverton Substation and rerouting an existing transmission line in the Riverton area.

The Applicants plan to file a combined Certificate of Need and Route Permit application in August 2023. Applicants will work with the Commission and Minnesota Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (“EERA”) staff to address any comments they may have in order to expedite application acceptance and completion of the environmental review of the Project.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact us.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jim Atkinson  
Jim Atkinson  
Minnesota Power  
Manager – Environmental and Real Estate  
218-355-3561  
[Jbatkinson@allete.com](mailto:Jbatkinson@allete.com)

/s/ Dan Leshner  
Dan Leshner  
Great River Energy  
Manager, Transmission Permitting and  
Land Rights  
763-445-5975  
[Dlesher@GREnergy.com](mailto:Dlesher@GREnergy.com)

cc: Craig Janezich, MPUC (via email)  
Raymond Kirsch, EERA (via email)  
Service List

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF  
MINNESOTA POWER AND GREAT RIVER  
ENERGY FOR A ROUTE PERMIT FOR THE  
NORTHLAND RELIABILITY PROJECT 345kV  
TRANSMISSION LINE.

MPUC DOCKET NO. E015/TL-22-415

**CERTIFICATE OF E-FILING**

Theresa A. Senart certifies that on the 5th day of July, 2023, she filed a true and correct copy of Minnesota Power's **Notice of Intent to File a Route Permit Application for the Northland Reliability Project Pursuant to the Alternative Permitting Process** via eDockets ([www.edockets.state.mn.us](http://www.edockets.state.mn.us)). Said document is also sent via e-mail to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and the Minnesota Department of Commerce as follows:

Craig Janezich  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
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121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350  
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Raymond Kirsch  
Minnesota Department of Commerce,  
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*/s/ Theresa A. Senart*  
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Theresa A. Senart

There is no Service List for Docket No. E015,ET2/TL-22-415 in eDockets.