

Frazee to Erie Transmission Project

To address reliability concerns and increase the load serving capability of the existing transmission system between Audubon and Rush Lake in west central Minnesota, Great River Energy and Otter Tail Power Company, in collaboration with other neighboring utilities propose to construct a new substation and a new 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Becker and Otter Tail counties. This project will reduce risks associated with low-voltage and transmission line overloading and ensure continued reliable service to customers in the future. A route permit must be issued by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) before the project can be constructed.

Overview

The proposed project will include constructing a 230/115-kV substation called Erie northwest of the intersection of the existing Audubon-to-Hubbard 230-kV line and its intersection with 360th Avenue in Height of Land Township. A new 115-kV transmission line will also be constructed to connect the new Erie Substation to Great River Energy’s existing Frazee Substation just south of the City of Frazee (see map on back).

Specifically, the project will entail:

- Otter Tail Power constructing and owning the new 230/115-kV Erie Substation and connecting it to the existing Xcel Energy 230-kV line.
- Great River Energy constructing and owning approximately 9.4 miles of new 115-kV transmission line, potentially with some distribution underbuild. Approximately 1.7 miles will be double circuited with Great River Energy’s existing 41.6-kV line.
- Great River Energy installing and owning new transmission equipment at the Frazee Substation to accommodate the new 115-kV transmission line.

After the PUC issues a route permit, a representative from Great River Energy will contact property owners to discuss acquisition of easements and access to the easement area. Following construction of the transmission lines, Great River Energy will promptly repair any damages that may occur.



Typical 115-kV wood single circuit structure with distribution underbuild



Typical 115-kV wood double circuit structure without distribution underbuild

Permitting and public involvement

Great River Energy and Otter Tail Power will submit a route permit application for the proposed project to the Minnesota PUC. During the route permit process, the public and regulatory agencies will have numerous opportunities to provide input on the proposed project, including public meetings facilitated by the PUC and Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DOC EERA) staff. The DOC EERA will prepare an environmental assessment for the project. Construction cannot begin until an approved route permit is granted by the PUC.

About Great River Energy and Otter Tail Power Company

Great River Energy is a not-for-profit wholesale electric power cooperative that provides electricity to 28 member-owner distribution cooperatives, including Lake Region Electric Cooperative. Otter Tail Power Company is an investor owned electric utility that provides electricity to approximately 132,500 residential, commercial and industrial customers across 422 communities in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota.

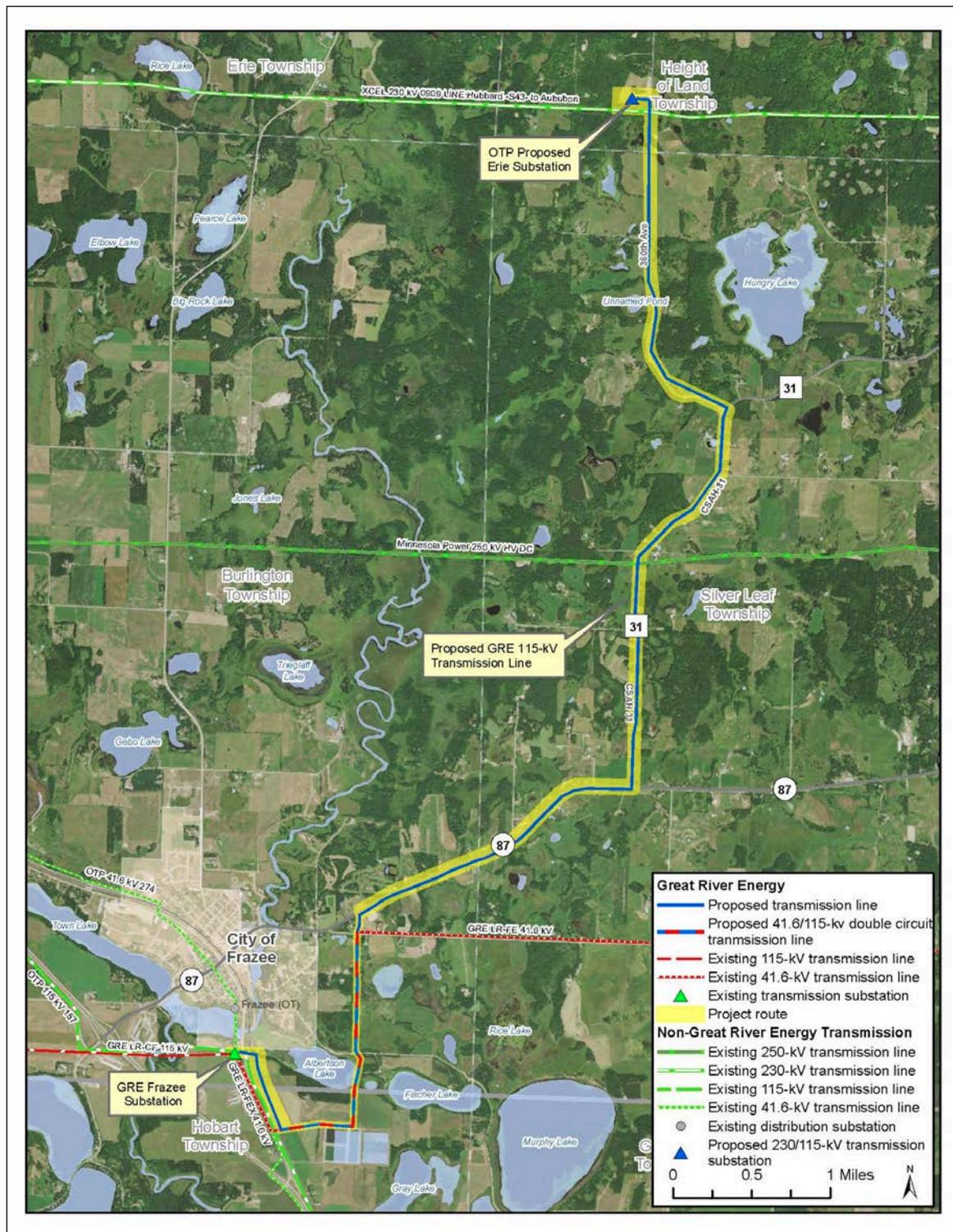
Schedule

Notifications	Winter 2019/20
State permitting	Summer 2020 – Summer 2021
Survey/design	Spring 2021 – Spring 2022
Easements/ Environmental permits	Spring 2021 – Spring 2022
Transmission line construction	Fall 2022 – Spring 2023
Energization	Spring 2023

Quick facts

Length	– 9.4 miles
Voltage	– 115 kV, 41.6 kV
Structures	– 60 to 90-foot tall wood or steel poles
Spans	– 300 to 400 feet apart
Right of way	– 100-foot-wide right of way, 50 feet on each side of the centerline
Permits	– MN Public Utilities Commission route permit

Proposed project



Great River Energy and Otter Tail Power Company representatives

For project updates and information, visit greatriverenergy.com/frazeetoerie or contact any of the following:

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