



# Permitting process

## Frazee to Erie transmission project

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Great River Energy, our member-owner cooperatives and other utilities work with local and state governmental units to obtain the permits and regulatory approvals necessary to build new transmission lines. For the proposed Frazee to Erie transmission project, Great River Energy and Otter Tail Power Company will follow the state of Minnesota's permitting process.

One major approval from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) is necessary: a Route Permit (RP). The Route Permit proceeding determines the route and design of the line.

### **Analysis and public input**

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Great River Energy and Otter Tail Power Company held an open house on Feb. 13, 2020, to provide information about the project and gather feedback from the public and property owners. Great River Energy and Otter Tail Power Company will consider public input in the preparation of the Route Permit Application. Once Great River Energy submits the application to the MPUC, there will be more opportunities for public input through the permitting process.

Through the state of Minnesota's permitting process, a considerable amount of analysis will be completed and made available to the public. An important part of the process is the preparation of in-depth environmental documents that evaluate the socioeconomic, physical and environmental impacts of the project and various routing

options. These documents are prepared by the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) staff. Environmental review and analysis is required for the Route Permit proceeding.

These environmental documents, along with the Route Permit Application prepared by Great River Energy and Otter Tail Power Company, will be available to the public and will provide details for the MPUC to use in making an informed decision on the project's route. Public input is also considered throughout the permitting process:

- Early in the process, the state will hold a public scoping meeting and an associated comment period. At this meeting, the public can provide input on the scope of the environmental document(s) and suggest alternate routing options to be evaluated.
- Once the environmental document(s) are completed, the MPUC will hold a public hearing. This hearing may be conducted by an Administrative Law Judge. Interested persons can comment on the environmental document(s), and those comments become part of the public record in the proceeding.

### **Timing**

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Great River Energy plans to submit a Route Permit Application to the MPUC in mid-June 2020 and expects the permitting process to be completed by spring 2021. Upon issuance of the RP, easement acquisition and permit approval from other public agencies will commence.

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## Who you can talk to

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Once Great River Energy and Otter Tail Power Company submit the application to the MPUC, the EERA staff become the facilitator of the permitting process and your best source of information about the process. The notices you receive about public meetings for the project will come directly from the EERA.

If you have questions for Great River Energy or Otter Tail Power Company at any time, you are welcome to contact us.

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## View documents on eDockets website

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Visit the MPUC eDockets website at <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> to view documents associated with the project, including notices, filings, letters submitted by landowners and more. Select 20 in the “year” field and enter **423** in the “number” field. Then click above on “search.”



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