



Permitting process

St. Joseph 115-kV transmission line and substation upgrades

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 St. Joseph 115-kV transmission line and substation upgrades, Great River Energy will follow the state of Minnesota's permitting process.

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

Analysis and public input

Great River Energy hosted an open house on Feb. 17, 2022, to provide information about the project and gather feedback from the public and property owners. Great River Energy will consider public input in the preparation of the Route Permit Application. Once Great River Energy submits the application to the PUC, 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, will be available to the public and will provide details for the PUC 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 PUC 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

Great River Energy plans to submit a Route Permit Application to the PUC late summer in 2022 and expects the permitting process to be completed by early 2024. Upon issuance of the RP, easement acquisition and permit approval from other public agencies will commence.

Who you can talk to

Once Great River Energy submits the application to the PUC, 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 at any time, you are welcome to contact us.

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View documents on eDockets website

Visit the PUC 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.



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