

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Commissioners, Clark, Cramer and Wefald  
**Fr:** Jerry Lein  
**Da:** November 14, 2003  
**Re:** Report of Post-Construction Inspection, Case No. PU-2149-00-605.

On October 13, 2003, I conducted a post-construction inspection of Great River Energy's (GRE's) reroute of approximately 22 miles of 230 kV electric transmission line to a new route of approximately 35 miles around the north side of the rising waters of Devils Lake. The inspection consisted of an overview of both the original and new routes. I found that GRE has done a good job on its reclamation and the project appears to be in compliance with the Commission's Order granting the route permit.

GRE reports approximately 500 trees were removed during construction, which would require planting of 1,000 replacement trees under the Commission's Order. GRE actually planted more than 1,500 trees on five separate properties. In July 2003 GRE filed its second of three annual tree status reports required by the Commission's Order. The tree survival rates were reported by property and vary from 52% to 73%. I did not count the trees during the inspection, but from my overview it appears GRE's reported survival rates are approximately correct.

GRE's final tree status report is due in October 2004.

JRL