



GREAT RIVER  
ENERGY®

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5 April 2012

Mr. Darrell Nitschke, Executive Director  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 East Boulevard, Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

RE: Prairie Substation to Ramsey Substation 230 KV Transmission Line Clearance Issues  
Transmittal of Certification

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

As described in our letter dated March 21, 2012, Great River Energy has been conducting an analysis of the GD Line in response to a Recommendation to Industry (Consideration of Actual Field Conditions in Determination of Facility Ratings) issued in October of 2010 by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC). This NERC Recommendation was issued not only to Great River Energy, but to all electric utilities across North America. The Recommendation contained three basic elements: 1) Provide an Action Plan, 2) Conduct an Assessment, and 3) Remediate Identified Issues. A notice issued by NERC on January 7, 2011 regarding the 2010 Recommendation is attached.

As part of the Action Plan, which Great River Energy submitted to NERC in January 2011, utilities were asked to categorize their facilities as "high priority", "medium priority", or "low priority." Great River Energy's "high priority" lines, which consist of its 500 kV, 400 kV dc, and 345 kV lines, were assessed and analyzed in 2011 and in early January of 2012.

After completing the analysis of these lines, Great River Energy recently began the analysis of its "medium priority" lines, which consist of its entire 230 kV system. Great River Energy's 230 kV GD Line was the first of these lines to be analyzed.

The analysis revealed a number spans located in upland areas of the GD Line that do not meet clearance requirements as specified by the 2007 National Electric Safety Code (NESC). The following upland structures need to be replaced with taller structures (within five feet of the existing locations) to achieve the necessary clearance requirements:

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Structure Number	NESC Clearance Requirement (ft) (including 1 foot buffer)	Existing Above Ground Clearance (ft) at 168°F	Clearance Discrepancy (ft) at 168 ° F (including 1 foot buffer)	Segment of GD Line
232	23.4	20.99	2.41	4
240	23.4	21.66	1.74	4
250	23.4	20.86	2.54	4
279	23.4	23.26	0.14	4
296	23.4	22.34	1.06	4
352	23.4	23.04	0.36	5
444	23.4	21.64	1.76	6
484	23.4	21.31	2.09	7
540	23.4	23.26	0.14	7
545	23.4	22.19	1.21	8
548	23.4	21.12	2.28	8
550	23.4	18.38	5.02	8

In accordance with North Dakota Century Code 49-22-03 3(a)(3), please find enclosed a notarized certification that replacement of these structures will not affect any known exclusion or avoidance area, as those terms are defined in N.D.A.C 69-06-08-02(1) and (2), and that Great River Energy will comply with all applicable conditions and protections in siting laws and rules and commission orders previously issued for any part of the facility.

Please let me know if you need additional information regarding the replacement of these structures on the Prairie Substation to Ramsey Substation 230 kV "GD" Transmission Line. I can be reached at 763-445-5214, or by email at [cschmidt@greenergy.com](mailto:cschmidt@greenergy.com).

Thank you for your attention to this important transmission project.

Respectfully submitted,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Carole L. Schmidt  
Supervisor, Transmission Permitting and Compliance

Enclosures

c: Jerry Lein, ND PSC  
Chuck Lukkarila, GRE

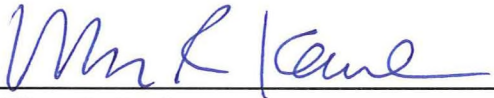
**CERTIFICATION OF APPLICANT PURSUANT TO N.D. CENTURY CODE 49-22-03(3)(a)(3)**

**GREAT RIVER ENERGY**

I, William R. Kaul, Vice President, a duly authorized agent of Great River Energy that has authority to bind the company in these matters, do hereby certify under oath:

1. That the replacement of 12 structures ( 232, 240, 250, 279, 296, 352, 444, 484, 540, 545, 548, 550) of Great River Energy's "GD Line" to correct NESC clearance discrepancies will not affect any known exclusion or avoidance area as defined under the N.D. Administration Code 69-06-08-02 (1) and (2).
2. That Great River Energy will comply with all applicable conditions and protections in applicable North Dakota siting laws and rules and commission orders previously issued for any part of the facility.

Dated at Maple Grove, Minnesota this 5<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2012.



William R. Kaul  
Vice President  
Transmission Division

This instrument was acknowledged before me this 5<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2012, by William R. Kaul on behalf of Great River Energy.

Sign: Wendy L. Case

Print: Wendy L. Case

My Commission Expires: 1/31/15

