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10 January 2014

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



RE: Great River Energy DC Transmission Line Clearance Issues; PU-13-900

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

On December 11, 2013, Great River Energy submitted a letter to the PSC that described an analysis done by Great River Energy that revealed a few spans of Great River Energy's 400 kV "DC" line in North Dakota that meet the clearance requirements as specified by the 2007 National Electric Safety Code (NESC) of 28.1 feet, but do not meet the clearance requirements outlined in Special Route Condition 4 of the Permit to Construct Transmission Facility issued by the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) in 1976. The structure locations are as follows:

Structure 64, T144N, R80W, Section 18, McLean County
Structures 65-66, T144N, R80W, Section 19, McLean County
Structures 137A-138, T143N, R77W, Section 30, Burleigh County
Structures 236-237, T141N, R74W, Section 24, Kidder County

The letter indicated that because these are relatively small clearance discrepancies on only a very small proportion of spans (relative to the many hundreds of spans comprising the built line), Great River Energy does not believe that the considerable resources that would be required and substantial expense that would be incurred to bring these few spans into compliance with these old permit conditions would be warranted. Great River Energy sought an opinion from the PSC regarding these minor clearance issues.

Rather than an opinion, Great River Energy respectfully requests a variance of Special Route Condition 4 of the PSC order for these minor clearance discrepancies.

Please feel free to call me at 763-445-5214 with any questions you may have.

Respectfully Submitted,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Carole L. Schmidt

Carole L. Schmidt
Supervisor, Transmission Permitting and Compliance

cc: Jerry Lein, PSC

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Letter requesting variance

Great River Energy
Carole Schmidt

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