

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Great River Energy  
DC Line Clearance Issues  
Siting Application**

**Case No. PU-13-900**

**ORDER GRANTING VARIANCE**

**March 26, 2014**

On December 13, 2013 and January 10, 2014, Great River Energy filed a request for variance from Special Condition #4 of Route Permit No. 1 issued Dec 17, 1976 for GRE's 400 kV DC Line. Specifically, GRE requests a variance to allow the existing ground clearances of four conductor spans that are less than the minimum 35 feet required by Special Condition #4 of the permit:

<u>Span Location</u>	<u>Existing Ground Clearance</u>
Structures 64-65 T144N, R80W, S18, McLean County	34 feet
Structures 65-66 T144n, R80W, S19, McLean County	31.4 feet
Structures 137A-138 T143N,R77W, S30, Burleigh County	34.9 feet
Structures 236-237 T141N, R74W, S24, Kidder County	34.8 feet

On January 14, 2014 the Commission issued a notice of opportunity for hearing, which provided until February 28, 2014 for receiving written comments and hearing requests. No response was received. The Notice identified the issue to be considered in this proceeding as whether the requested variance should be granted.

Having considered this matter, the Commission finds the existing ground clearances are in compliance with the National Electric Safety Code and the cost to increase the clearances to 35 feet as required by the permit are excessive. Therefore, the requested variance should be granted.

**Order**

The Commission Orders Great River Energy's request for variance is granted.

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

  
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**Randy Christmann**  
Commissioner

  
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**Brian P. Kalk**  
Chairman

  
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**Julie Fedorchak**  
Commissioner