GREAT RIVER ENERGY

12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369-4718
763-445-5000
greatriverenergy.com

September 24, 2026

Spirit Lake to Opstead 69-kV transmission line rebuild & relocate
WO #211235

Susan Shaw
Mille Lacs Swcd
635 2nd St SE
Milaca, MN 56353-1305

Subject: Open House for Spirit Lake to Opstead 69-kV transmission line rebuild & relocate project

You are Invited:

Great River Energy and Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative are reconstructing an approximately 28-mile, 69-kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Spirit Lake and Opstead, Minnesota. Construction is scheduled for winter 2029. As a landowner along the project corridor, local governmental official, or agency representative, you are invited to attend the project's public Open Houses. The enclosed fact sheet will provide you with the project details and the proposed route. The project is needed to maintain transmission system reliability and continue serving the electric power needs of Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative members.

Three informational open houses will be held on October 6 and 7, 2026, to seek input on the proposed project. The open houses will be held on:

Tuesday, October 6th, 2026
4:00-6:00 p.m.
Aitkin Fieldhouse
204 Bill Cline Way
Aitkin, MN 56431

Wednesday, October 7, 2026
9:00-11:00 a.m. & 4:00-6:00 p.m.
Lakeside Township Town Hall
32365 220th St.
Aitkin, MN 56431

Staff from Great River Energy and ERM, a consultant firm working on permitting and land acquisition, will be present to answer project questions. No formal presentation will be given and attendees are encouraged to come anytime during the hours listed.

If you have any questions regarding this rebuild project and are unable to attend the meeting, please contact Great River Energy's representative from ERM Jake Fahrenkrog at 715-797-2423 or jake.fahrenkrog@erm.com. Thank you.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Madalynn Brendon

Madalynn Brendon
Field Representative

Email: mbrendon@grenergy.com

Cell: 612-790-6300

Enclosure: Fact Sheet

Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Blvd
Maple Grove, MN 55369
763-445-5000
grenergy.com

Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative
23483 US Highway 169
Aitkin, MN 56431
218-927-2191
mlecmn.net

Spirit Lake to Opstead 69-kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Great River Energy, wholesale electric supplier to Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative, plans to rebuild approximately 27.6 miles of the existing DO and DL 69-kV overhead transmission lines in Mille Lacs and Aitkin counties, Minnesota. The Project is needed to maintain transmission system reliability and continue serving the electric power needs of Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative members.

Overview

The Project will rebuild the existing 69-kV DL transmission line north of the Spirit Lake Switch within existing easements, situated approximately 0.25 miles north of the intersection of 270th Street and 420th Avenue in Hazelton Township. From there, the rebuilt line will extend north approximately 1.9 miles along 420th Avenue and toward the Spirit Lake Substation in Farm Island Township. The rerouted 69-kV transmission line will then extend approximately 5.3 miles east along County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 28, then southeast approximately 6.8 miles along CSAH 12, 340th Avenue, and 270th Street before entering the existing Glen Substation in Malmo Township. The reroute will continue south from the Glen Substation along Trunk Highway 47 for approximately 2.9 miles before turning east along 240th Lane, where it will continue approximately 1.0 mile before reaching the existing DO 69-kV transmission line corridor. From there, approximately 9.7 miles of existing 69-kV transmission line will be rebuilt within existing easements heading south and west before re-terminating at the existing Opstead Substation, located southeast of the intersection of 475th Street and 40th Avenue in East Side Township.

In total, approximately 13.1 miles will be reconstructed within Great River Energy's existing transmission line corridors, while approximately 14.5 miles will be rerouted along nearby road rights-of-way to improve maintenance response times. (See map on back.)



Typical 69-kV single wood structure and steel structure.

Wood poles will primarily be used, although laminated wood and/or steel poles may be used where engineering design needs require.

The Project will include retirement of existing DO line structures 116-259 (Spirit Lake Switch to east of Glen Substation) and structures 262-303 (Glen Substation to intersection of 240th Lane and 310th Place). After construction is complete, the existing line will be removed.

Public involvement

Great River Energy will host three public open house meetings near the Project to share information, answer questions, and address concerns. Project representatives will also contact landowners along the route to discuss the Project and address site-specific questions or concerns. Periodic mailers will provide landowners with updates.

Permits and easements

Great River Energy will work with federal, state, county, township and local authorities to acquire approvals necessary to complete the work. Great River Energy will contact landowners along the proposed transmission-line route to discuss easement agreements, tree removal, construction access and practices, transmission line removal and restoration. All vegetation will be removed 50 feet on either side of the transmission line.

Schedule

Notifications	Fall 2026
Survey/design	Fall 2026 – Spring 2028
Easements/ Environmental permits	Spring 2028 – Summer 2029
Transmission line construction	Winter 2029 - Spring 2031
Energization	Spring 2031

Quick facts

Length – Approximately 27.6 miles

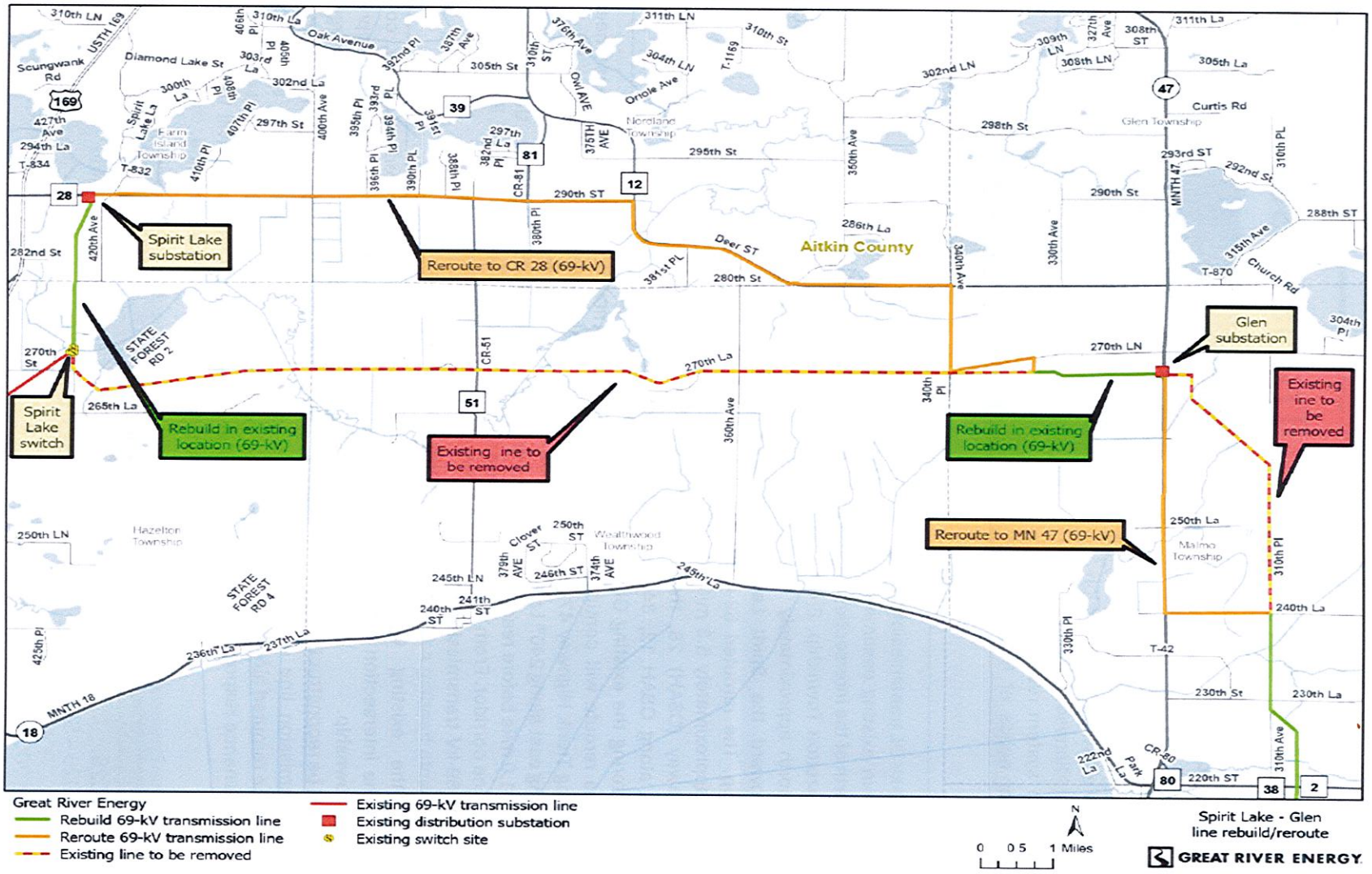
Voltage – 69-kV

Structures – Wood, laminate and steel monopoles

Spans – 325 to 450 feet apart

Right of way – 100 feet wide (50 feet each side of center of pole line)

Proposed Project – Page 1



Great River Energy representatives

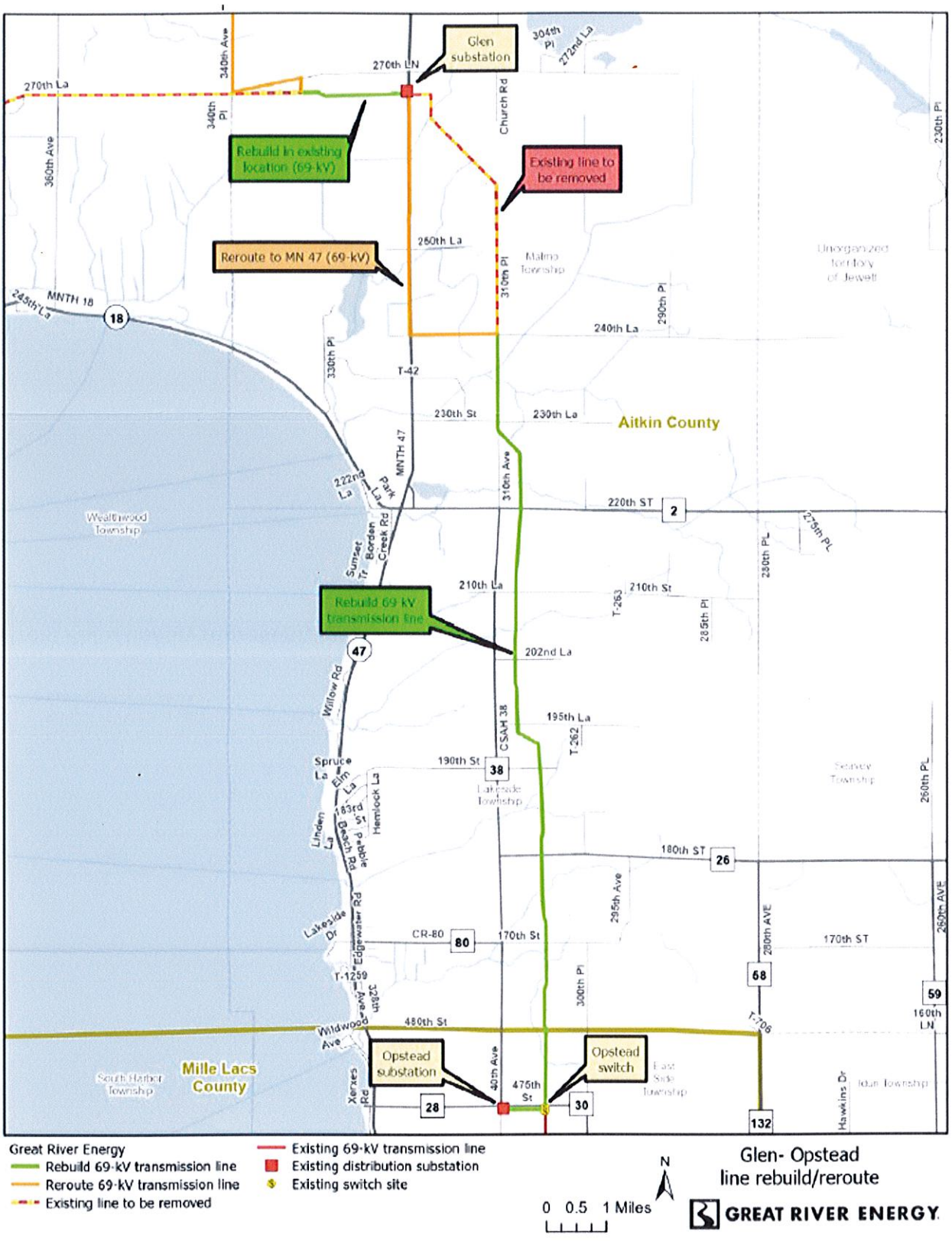
For project updates and information, contact:

https://greatriverenergy.com/transmission_project/spirit-lake-to-opstead-69-kv-transmission-line-rebuild-project/

Madalynn Brendon
Field Representative | Land Rights
612-790-6300 | mbrendon@grenergy.com

Marcus Green
Transmission Permitting Specialist | Transmission Permitting
763-445-5985 | mgreen@grenergy.com

Proposed Project – Page 2



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PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE REMINDER

Spirit Lake–Opstead 69-kV Transmission Line Project

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OPEN HOUSE OPTIONS

Tuesday, October 6, 2026	Wednesday, October 7, 2026
4:00–6:00 p.m. **Aitkin Fieldhouse** **204 Bill Cline Way** **Aitkin, MN 56431**	**9:00–11:00 a.m. or 4:00–6:00 p.m.** **Lakeside Township Town Hall** **32365 220th St.** **Aitkin, MN 56431**

No formal presentation—come anytime during the listed hours. Great River Energy and ERM staff will be available to answer questions.

QUESTIONS? Contact Jake Fahrenkrog, ERM | 715-797-2423 | jake.fahrenkrog@erm.com