



Great River Energy eyes St. Cloud data center sites



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(Photo: Times graphic)

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Two sites in St. Cloud are being evaluated by a Maple Grove-based wholesale power provider for potential data center locations.

A 23-acre plot adjacent to Interstate Highway 94 on Eighth Street and an 80-acre plot on Stearns County Road 75 near Interstate 94 are two sites Great River

Energy is exploring for data centers within its Minnesota coverage area. These data center sites would be marketed by Great River as available for purchase and development if companies need extra data storage locations.

A statement released by Great River Energy says the company has worked with Deloitte Consulting's Real Estate & Location Strategy to secure possible sites for four new data centers.

Great River Energy has named Northport Industrial Park in north Mankato as its primary data center site, meaning it meets or exceeds their requirements

The two St. Cloud locations and a 40-acre site in White Bear Township are considered secondary sites, meaning they show strong potential, but need added investment.

Each site was evaluated for its electric power capacity, fiber availability and location of existing utility infrastructure.

Tom Lambrecht, manager of economic development services for Great River, said in a statement that since the company began looking to data center operations in 2014, it has learned a great deal about the potential for growth in the data center market.

"We look forward to showcasing our designated sites to future partners and allowing them to see why Minnesota is an ideal state for data center development," Lambrecht said.

Great River Energy is a nonprofit energy cooperative that services 28 distribution cooperatives throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin. In Central Minnesota, Great River Energy serves Stearns Electric, based in Melrose. Great River Energy provides electricity to about 1.7 million people.

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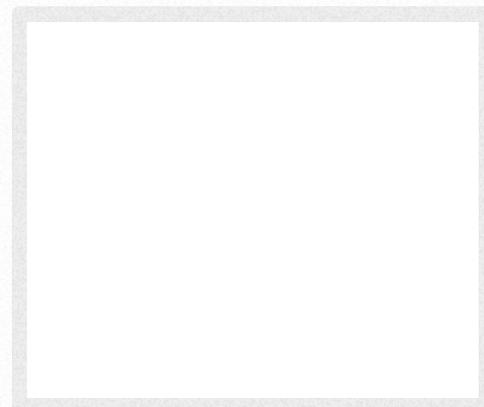
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