



## Formal Natural Heritage Review - Cover Page

See next page for results of review. A draft watermark means the project details have not been finalized and the results are not official.

**Project Name:** Laketown

**Project Proposer:** Great River Energy

**Project Type:** Utilities, Transmission (electric, cable, phone)

**Project Type Activities:** Tree Removal;Wetland impacts (e.g., dewatering, tiling, drainage, discharge, excavation, fill, runoff, sedimentation, changes in hydrology)

**TRS:** T115 R24 S1, T115 R24 S12, T115 R24 S2, T115 R24 S3, T115 R24 S4, T116 R24 S27, T116 R24 S28, T116 R24 S33, T116 R24 S34

**County(s):** Carver

**DNR Admin Region(s):** Central

**Reason Requested:** PUC Site or Route Application

**Project Description:** Transmission line development. Construction methods, timing, TBD

**Existing Land Uses:** Ag, rural, road right of way.

**Landcover / Habitat Impacted:** Agricultural, forested areas, road rights of way

**Waterbodies Affected:** TBD - should be spanned

**Groundwater Resources Affected:** TBD

**Previous Natural Heritage Review:** No

**Previous Habitat Assessments / Surveys:** No

### SUMMARY OF AUTOMATED RESULTS

Category	Results	Response By Category
Project Details	Comments	Tree Removal - Recommendations
Ecologically Significant Area	Comments	Protected Wetlands: Calcareous Fens
State-Listed Endangered or Threatened Species	No Comments	No Further Review Required
State-Listed Species of Special Concern	Comments	Recommendations
Federally Listed Species	Comments	RPBB High Potential Zone



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Ecological & Water Resources  
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025

November 27, 2023

Project ID: MCE #2023-00902

Mandy Bohnenblust  
Merjent, Inc.  
1 Main Street SE, Suite 300  
Minneapolis, MN 55414

RE: Automated Natural Heritage Review of the proposed Laketown  
See Cover Page for location and project details.

Dear Mandy Bohnenblust,

As requested, the above project has been reviewed for potential effects to rare features. Based on this review, the following rare features may be adversely affected by the proposed project:

*Project Type and/or Project Type Activity Comments*

- The Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS) tracks bat roost trees and hibernacula plus some acoustic data, but this information is not exhaustive. Even if there are no bat records listed below, all seven of Minnesota's bats, including the federally endangered northern long-eared bat ([Myotis septentrionalis](#)), can be found throughout Minnesota. During the active season (approximately April-November) bats roost underneath bark, in cavities, or in crevices of both live and dead trees. Tree removal can negatively impact bats by destroying roosting habitat, especially during the pup rearing season when females are forming maternity roosting colonies and the pups cannot yet fly. To minimize these impacts, the DNR recommends that tree removal be avoided from June 1 through August 15.

*Ecologically Significant Area*

- One or more calcareous fens have been documented in the vicinity of the proposed project. A calcareous fen is a rare and distinctive peat-accumulating wetland that is legally protected in Minnesota. Many of the unique characteristics of calcareous fens result from the upwelling of groundwater through calcareous substrates. Because of this dependence on groundwater hydrology, calcareous fens can be affected by nearby activities or even those several miles away. Calcareous fens are fragile and may be impacted by activities within the fen, activities that affect surface water flows (e.g., stormwater flow/runoff, erosion), or activities that affect groundwater hydrology (e.g., groundwater pumping, contamination, or discharge). For more information regarding calcareous fens, please see the [Calcareous Fen Fact Sheet](#). To minimize stormwater impacts, please refer to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's [General Principles for Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control](#) in the Minnesota Stormwater Manual. Please note that calcareous fens are "Special Waters"

and a [buffer zone](#) may be required.

Depending on the distance to the calcareous fen(s), additional guidance may be provided below if you indicated that potential project activities include wetland impacts or groundwater impacts. **If you did not correctly identify wetland or groundwater impacts as part of your project, this impact analysis may be incorrect.**

#### *State-Listed Endangered or Threatened Species*

No state-listed endangered or threatened species have been documented in the vicinity of the project.

#### *State-Listed Species of Special Concern*

Taxonomic Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Water Regime	Habitat	Federal Status
Vertebrate Animal	Least Darter	Etheostoma microperca		Littoral Zone of Lake, Small Rivers and Streams	

- The above table identifies state-listed species of special concern that have been documented in the vicinity of your project. If suitable habitat for any of these species occurs within your project footprint or activity impact area, the project may negatively impact those species. To avoid impacting state-listed species of special concern, the DNR recommends modifying the location of project activities to avoid suitable habitat or modifying the timing of project activities to avoid the presence of the species. Please visit the [DNR Rare Species Guide](#) for more information on the habitat use of these species and recommended measures to avoid or minimize impacts. For further assistance, please contact the appropriate [DNR Regional Nongame Specialist](#) or [Regional Ecologist](#). Species-specific comments, if any, appear below.

#### *Federally Listed Species*

- The area of interest overlaps with a U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Rusty Patched Bumble Bee [High Potential Zone](#). The [rusty patched bumble bee](#) (*Bombus affinis*) is federally listed as endangered and is likely to be present in suitable habitat within High Potential Zones. From April through October this species uses underground nests in upland grasslands, shrublands, and forest edges, and forages where nectar and pollen are available. From October through April the species overwinters under tree litter in upland forests and woodlands. The rusty patched bumble bee may be impacted by a variety of land management activities including, but not limited to, prescribed fire, tree-removal, haying, grazing, herbicide use, pesticide use, land-clearing, soil disturbance or compaction, or use of non-native bees. If applicable, the DNR recommends reseeding disturbed soils with native species of grasses and forbs using [BWSR Seed Mixes](#) or [MnDOT Seed Mixes](#). To ensure compliance with federal law, please conduct a federal regulatory review using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's online [Information for Planning and Consultation \(IPaC\) tool](#). Please note that all projects, regardless of whether there is a federal nexus, are subject to federal take prohibitions. The IPaC review will determine if prohibited take is likely to occur and, if not, will generate an automated letter. The [USFWS RPBB guidance](#) provides guidance on avoiding impacts to rusty patched bumble bee and a key for determining if actions are likely to affect the species; the determination key can be found in the appendix.

The Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS), a collection of databases that contains information about Minnesota's rare natural features, is maintained by the Division of Ecological and Water Resources, Department of Natural Resources. The NHIS is continually updated as new information becomes available, and is the most complete source of data on Minnesota's rare or otherwise significant species, native plant communities, and other natural features. However, the NHIS is not an exhaustive inventory and thus does not represent all of the occurrences of rare features within the state. Therefore, ecologically significant features for which we have no records may exist within the project area. If additional information becomes available regarding rare features in the vicinity of the project, further review may be necessary.

For environmental review purposes, the results of this Natural Heritage Review are valid for one year; the results are only valid for the project location and the project description provided on the cover page. If project details change or construction has not occurred within one year, please resubmit the project for review.

The Natural Heritage Review does not constitute project approval by the Department of Natural Resources. Instead, it identifies issues regarding known occurrences of rare features and potential effects to these rare features. For information on the environmental review process or other natural resource concerns, you may contact your [DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist](#).

Thank you for consulting us on this matter, and for your interest in preserving Minnesota's rare natural resources.

Sincerely,

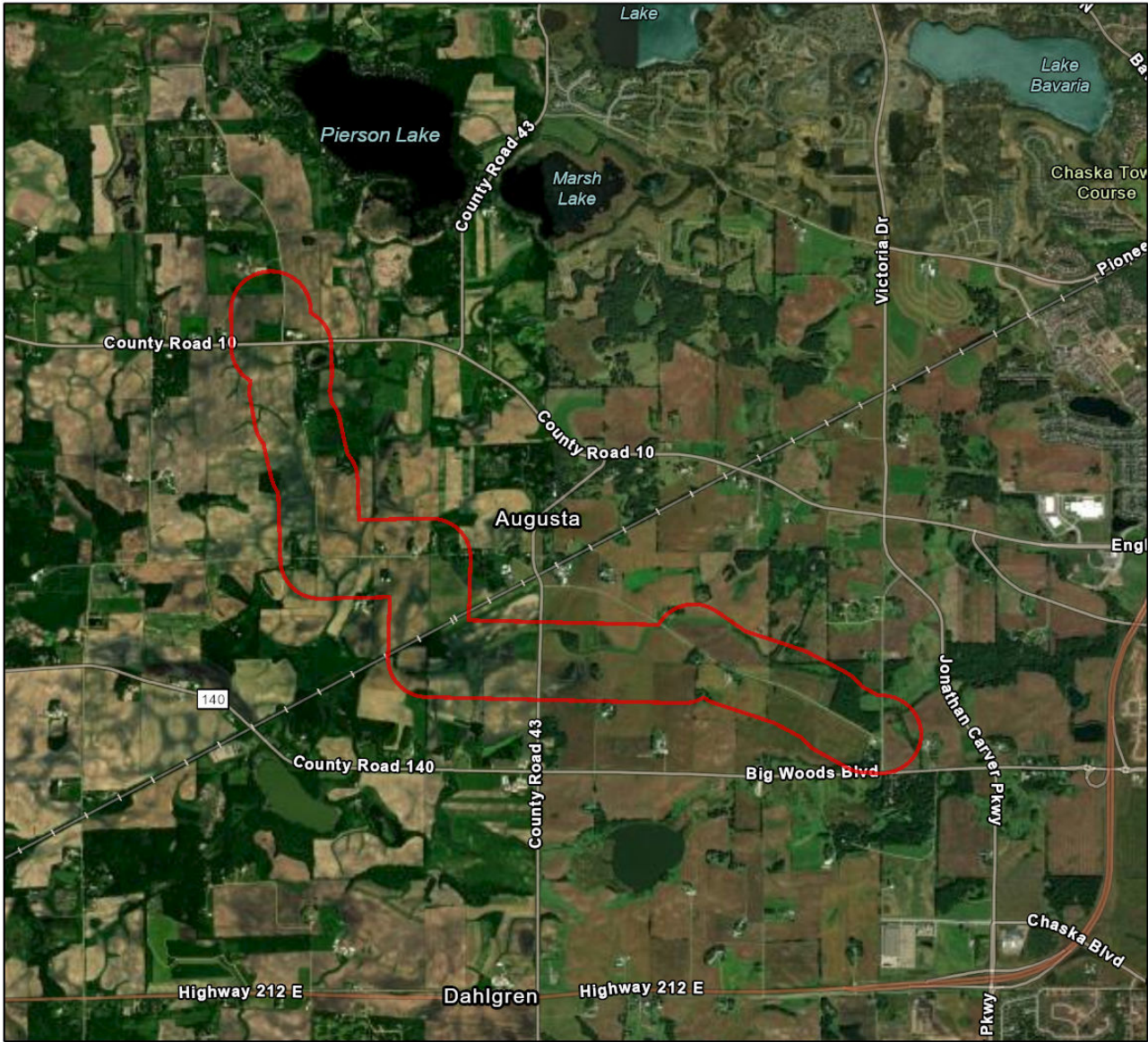
*Jim Drake* Jim Drake  
Natural Heritage Review Specialist  
[James.F.Drake@state.mn.us](mailto:James.F.Drake@state.mn.us)

Links: USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) tool  
[Information for Planning and Consultation \(IPaC\) tool](#)  
DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist Contact Info  
[https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/ereview/erp\\_regioncontacts.html](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/ereview/erp_regioncontacts.html)



# Laketown

Aerial Imagery With Locator Map



0 0.28 0.55 1.1 1.65 2.2 Miles

 Project Boundary

Project Type: Utilities, Transmission (electric, cable, phone)

Project Size (acres): 1,032.82

County(s): Carver

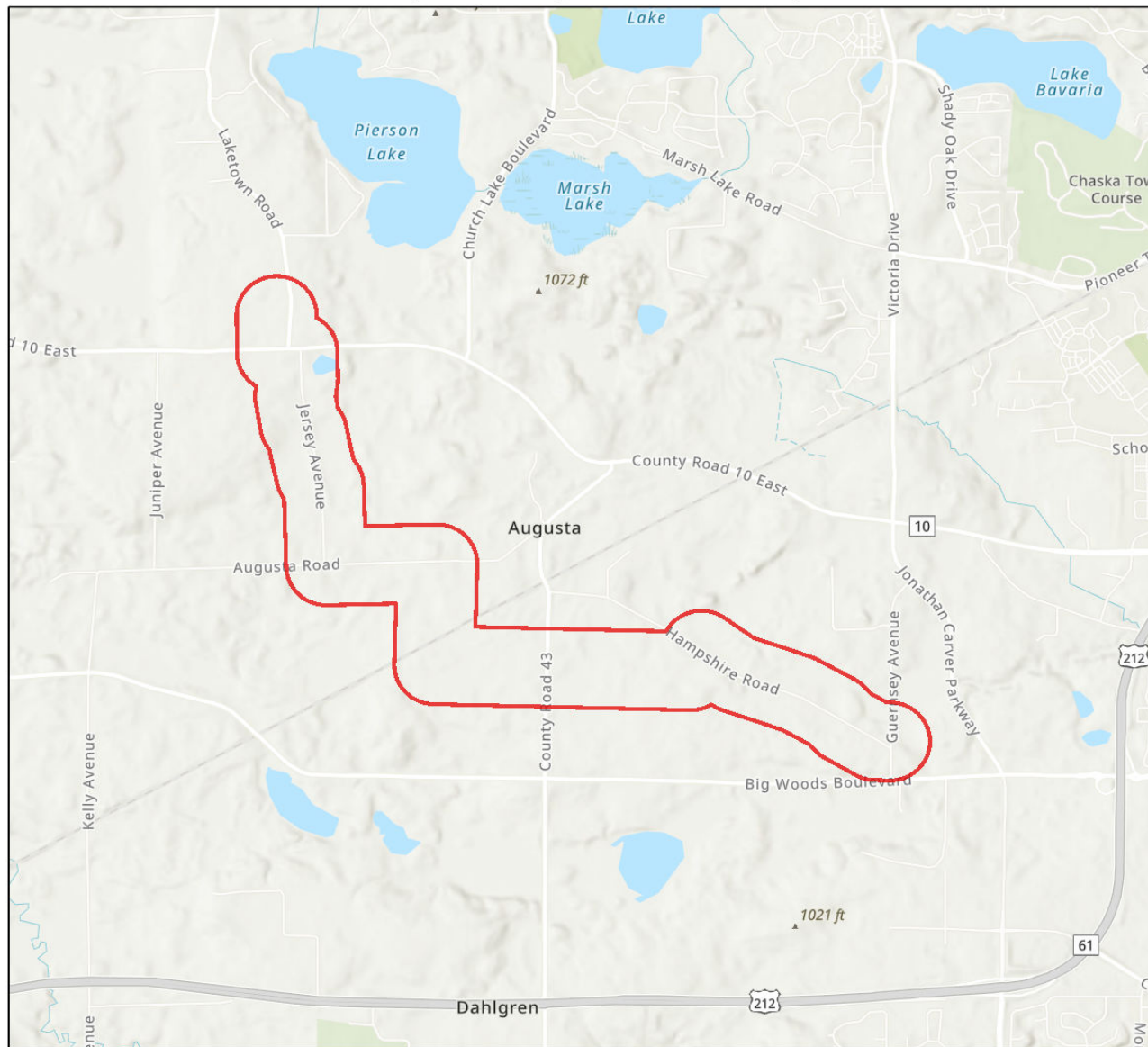
TRS: T115 R24 S1, T115 R24 S12, T115 R24 S2, T115 R24 S3, T115 R24 S4 +

Earthstar Geographics  
Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA  
Metropolitan Council, MetroGIS, Three Rivers Park District, Esri, HERE, Garmin,



# Laketown

## USA Topo Basemap With Locator Map



0 0.28 0.55 1.1 1.65 2.2 Miles

Project Boundary

Project Type: Utilities, Transmission (electric, cable, phone)

Project Size (acres): 1,032.82

County(s): Carver

TRS: T115 R24 S1, T115 R24 S12, T115 R24 S2, T115 R24 S3, T115 R24 S4 +

Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA  
Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA  
Metropolitan Council, MetroGIS, Three Rivers Park District, Esri, HERE, Garmin,

