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For Environmental Review Purposes Only

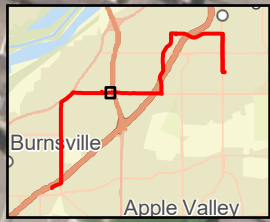
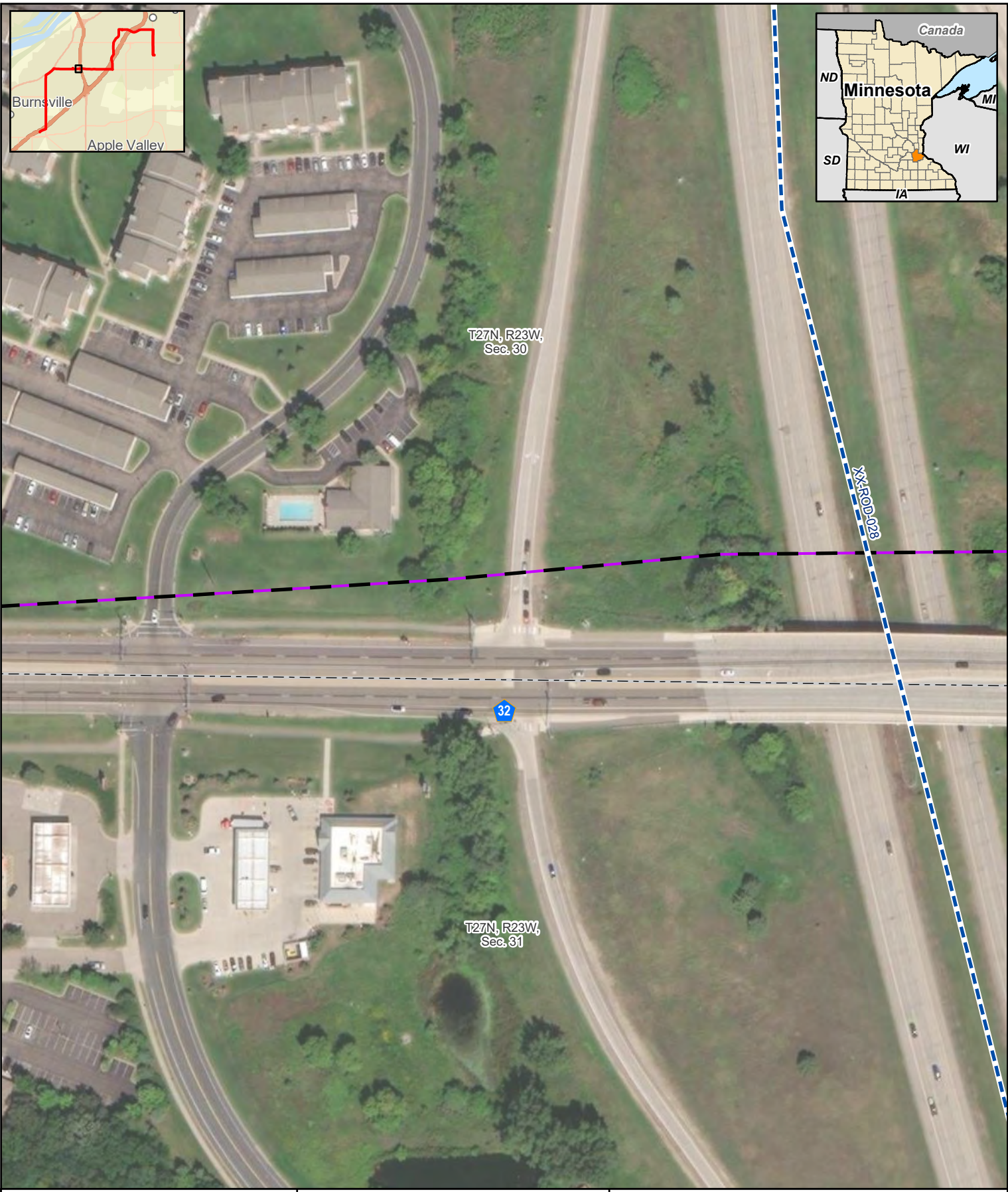
**Figure 2**  
**Pilot Knob Project**  
**Aerial Map**  
**Dakota County, Minnesota**  
**Page 21 of 36**

**Proposed 115-kV Alignment**

- Pilot Knob to Deerwood;
- Deerwood to River Hills
- River Hills to Burnsville;
- - - Great River Energy Existing 69-kV Transmission Line

- Substation
- - - Historic Site
- Section Boundary

Date: (7/31/2023) Source:



T27N, R23W,  
Sec. 30

T27N, R23W,  
Sec. 31

32

XX-RD-028

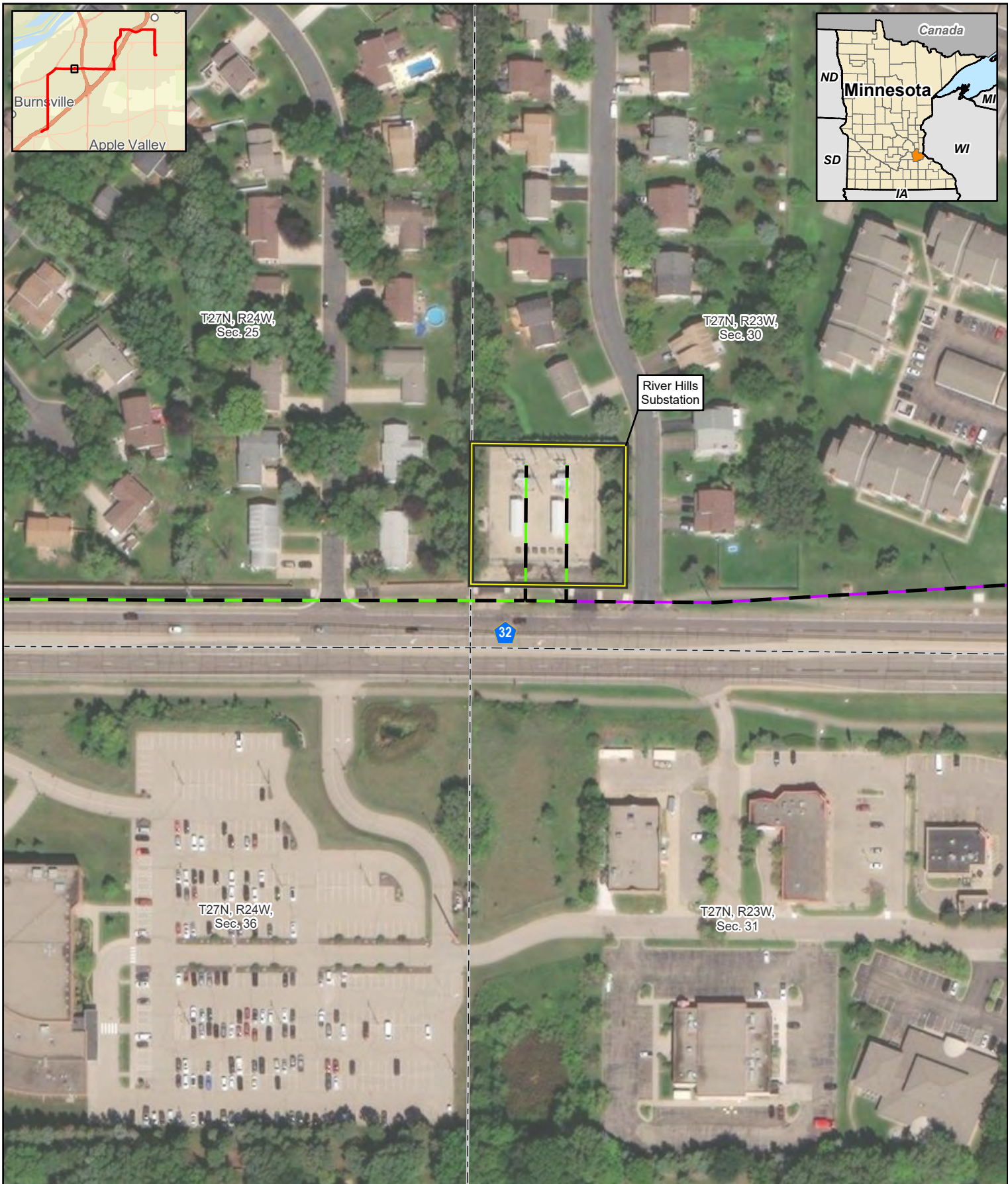
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For Environmental Review Purposes Only

**Figure 2**  
**Pilot Knob Project**  
**Aerial Map**  
**Dakota County, Minnesota**  
**Page 22 of 36**

- Proposed 115-kV Alignment**
- Pilot Knob to Deerwood;
  - Deerwood to River Hills
  - River Hills to Burnsville;
  - - - Great River Energy Existing 69-kV Transmission Line
- Substation
  - Historic Site
  - Section Boundary



**Figure 2**  
**Pilot Knob Project**  
**Aerial Map**  
**Dakota County, Minnesota**  
**Page 23 of 36**

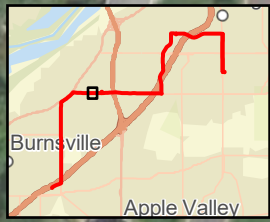
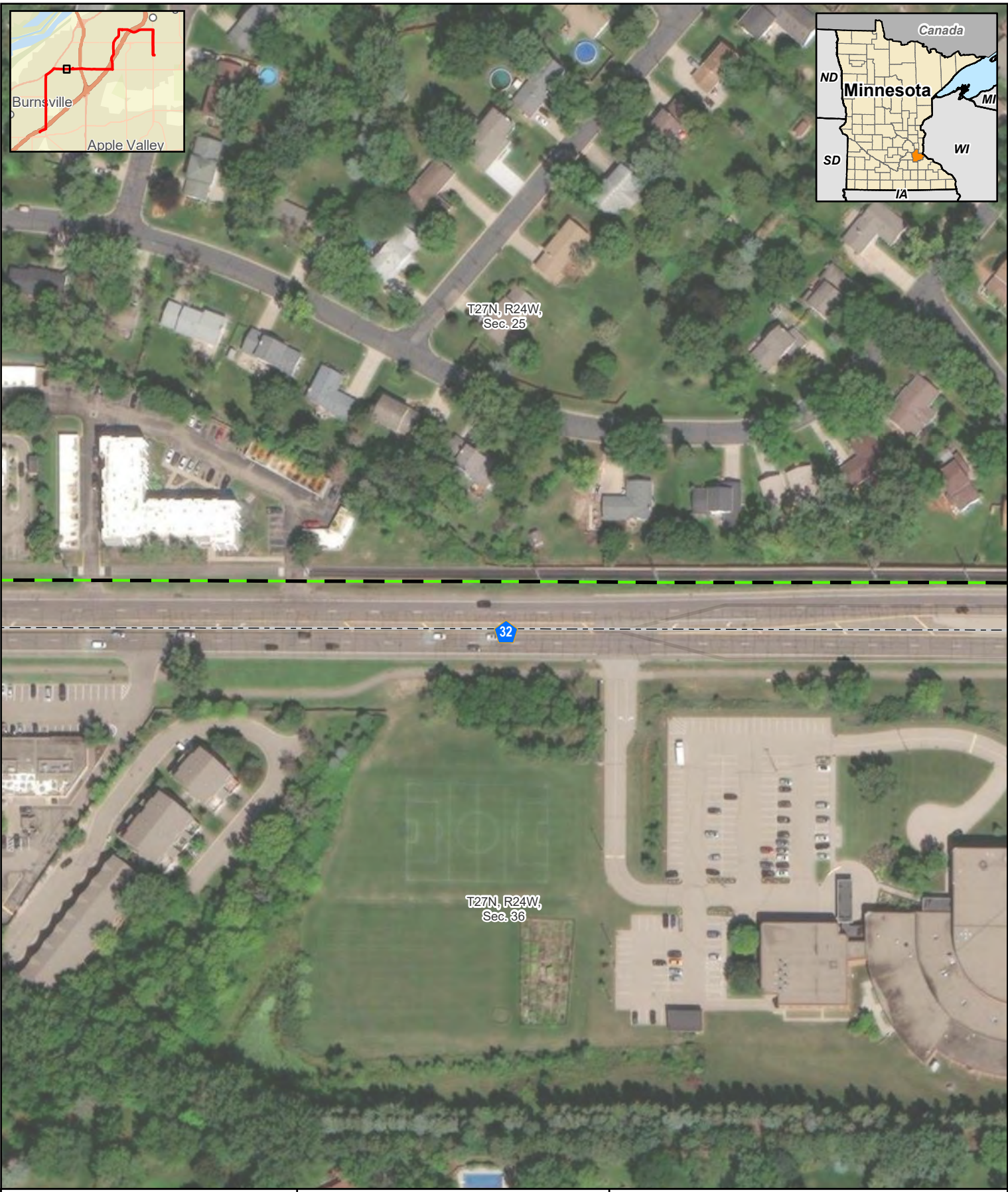
**Proposed 115-kV Alignment**

- Pilot Knob to Deerwood;
- Deerwood to River Hills
- River Hills to Burnsville;

- Great River Energy Existing 69-kV Transmission Line

Substation

Section Boundary



T27N, R24W,  
Sec. 25

T27N, R24W,  
Sec. 36

32

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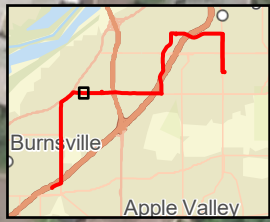
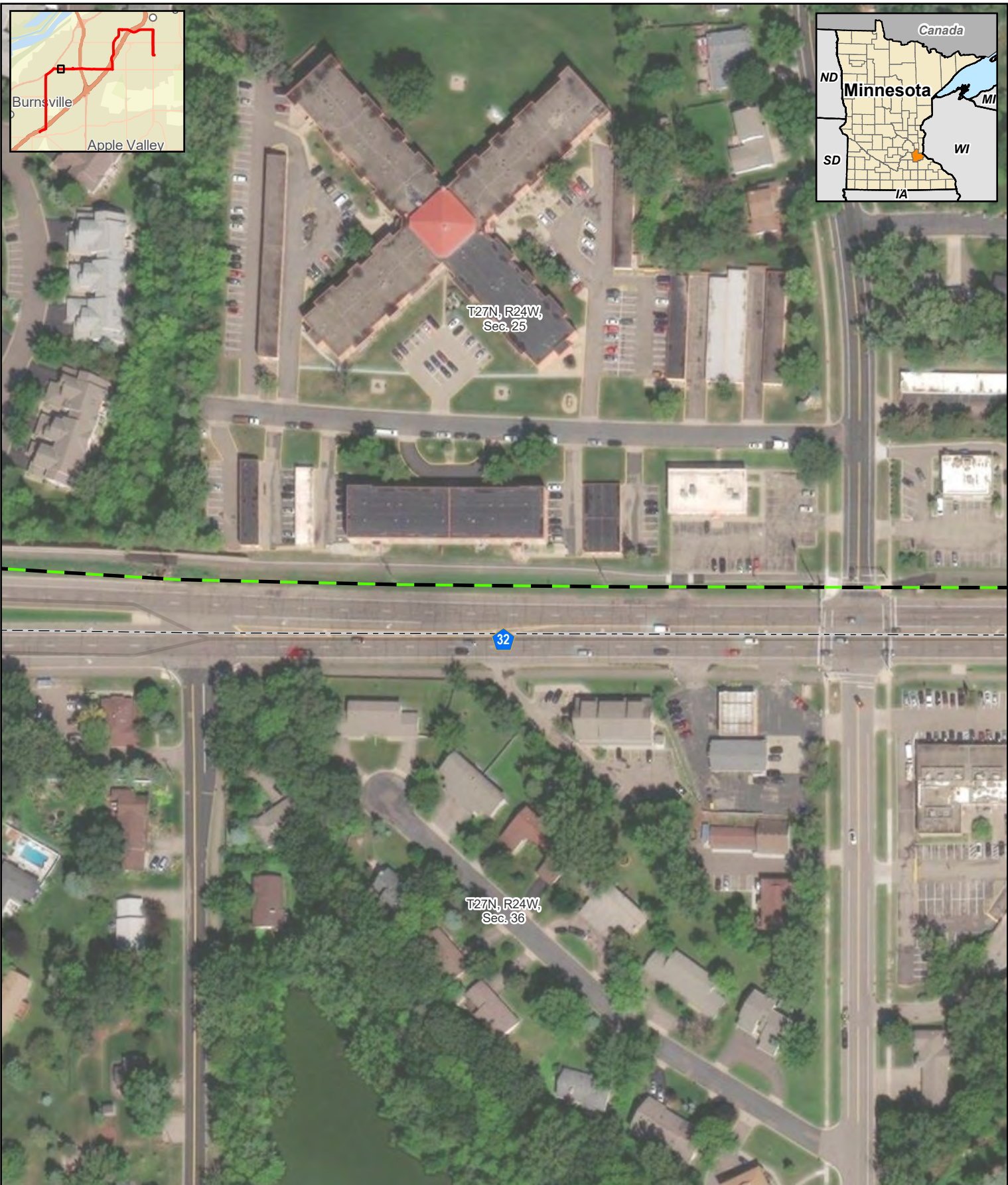
**Figure 2**  
**Pilot Knob Project**  
**Aerial Map**  
**Dakota County, Minnesota**  
**Page 24 of 36**

**Proposed 115-kV Alignment**

- Pilot Knob to Deerwood;
- Deerwood to River Hills
- River Hills to Burnsville;
- Great River Energy Existing 69-kV Transmission Line

- Substation
- Section Boundary

Date: (7/31/2023) Source:



T27N, R24W,  
Sec. 25

T27N, R24W,  
Sec. 36

32

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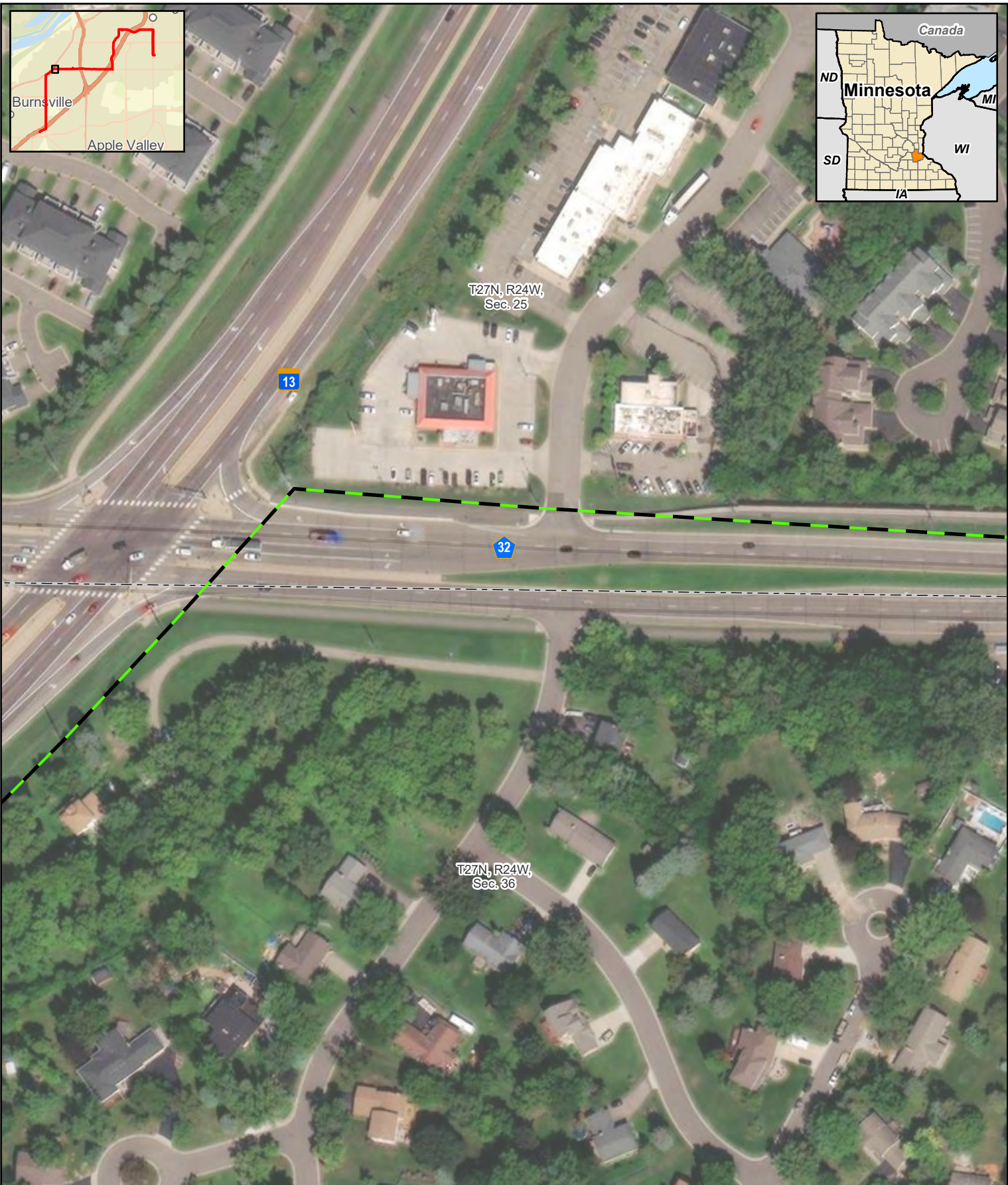
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**Figure 2**  
**Pilot Knob Project**  
**Aerial Map**  
**Dakota County, Minnesota**  
**Page 25 of 36**

- Proposed 115-kV Alignment**
- Pilot Knob to Deerwood;
  - Deerwood to River Hills
  - River Hills to Burnsville;
  - Great River Energy Existing 69-kV Transmission Line
- Substation
  - Section Boundary



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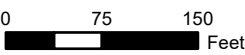


**Figure 2**  
**Pilot Knob Project**  
**Aerial Map**  
**Dakota County, Minnesota**  
**Page 26 of 36**

**Proposed 115-kV Alignment**

- Pilot Knob to Deerwood;
- Deerwood to River Hills
- River Hills to Burnsville;
- - - Great River Energy Existing 69-kV Transmission Line

- Substation
- Section Boundary



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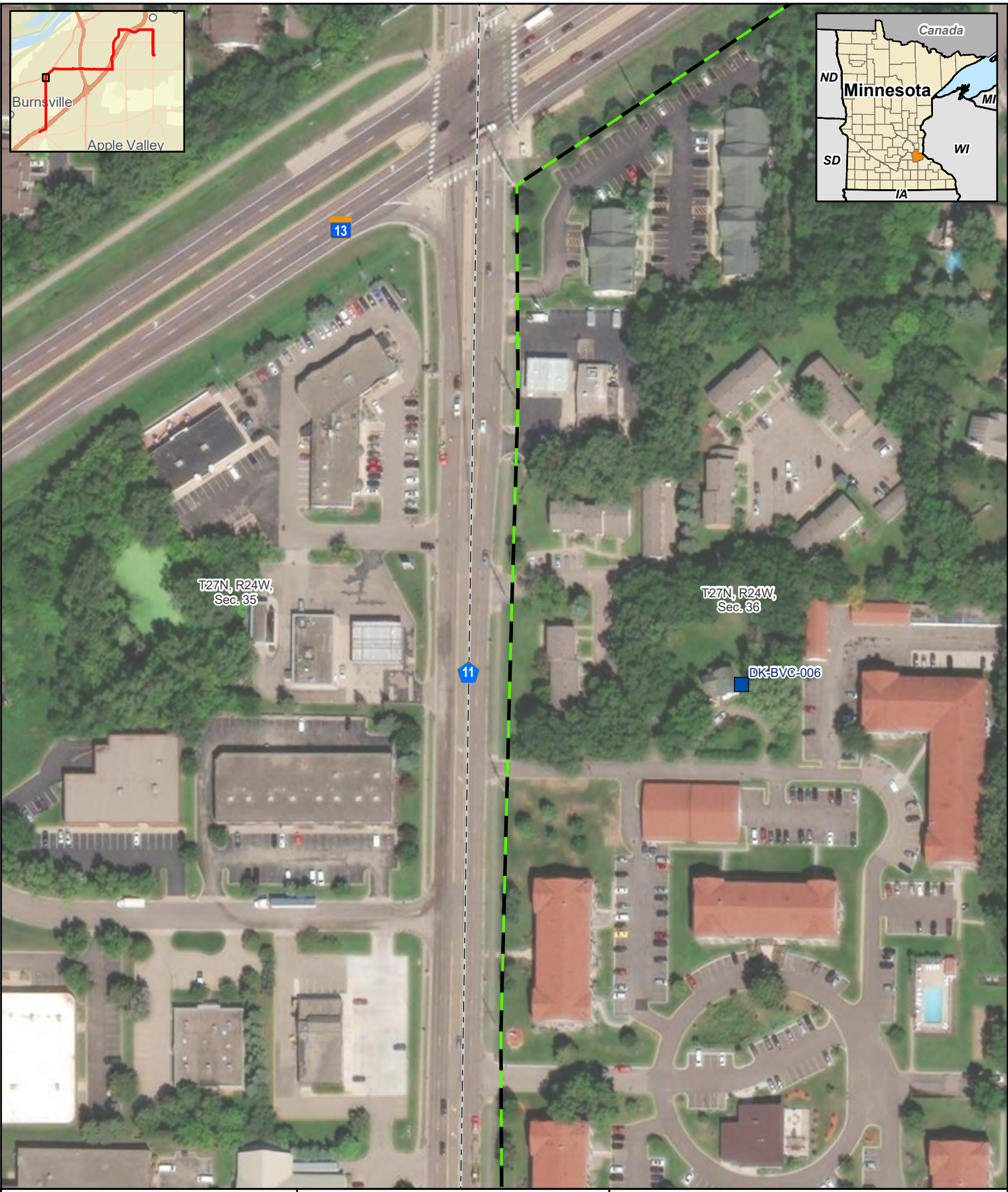


For Environmental Review Purposes Only

**Figure 2**  
**Pilot Knob Project**  
**Aerial Map**  
**Dakota County, Minnesota**  
**Page 27 of 36**

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <b>Proposed 115-kV Alignment</b>                    | Substation       |
| Pilot Knob to Deerwood;                             | Section Boundary |
| Deerwood to River Hills                             |                  |
| River Hills to Burnsville;                          |                  |
| Great River Energy Existing 69-kV Transmission Line |                  |

Date: (7/31/2023) Source:



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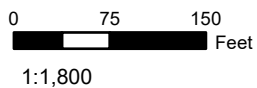
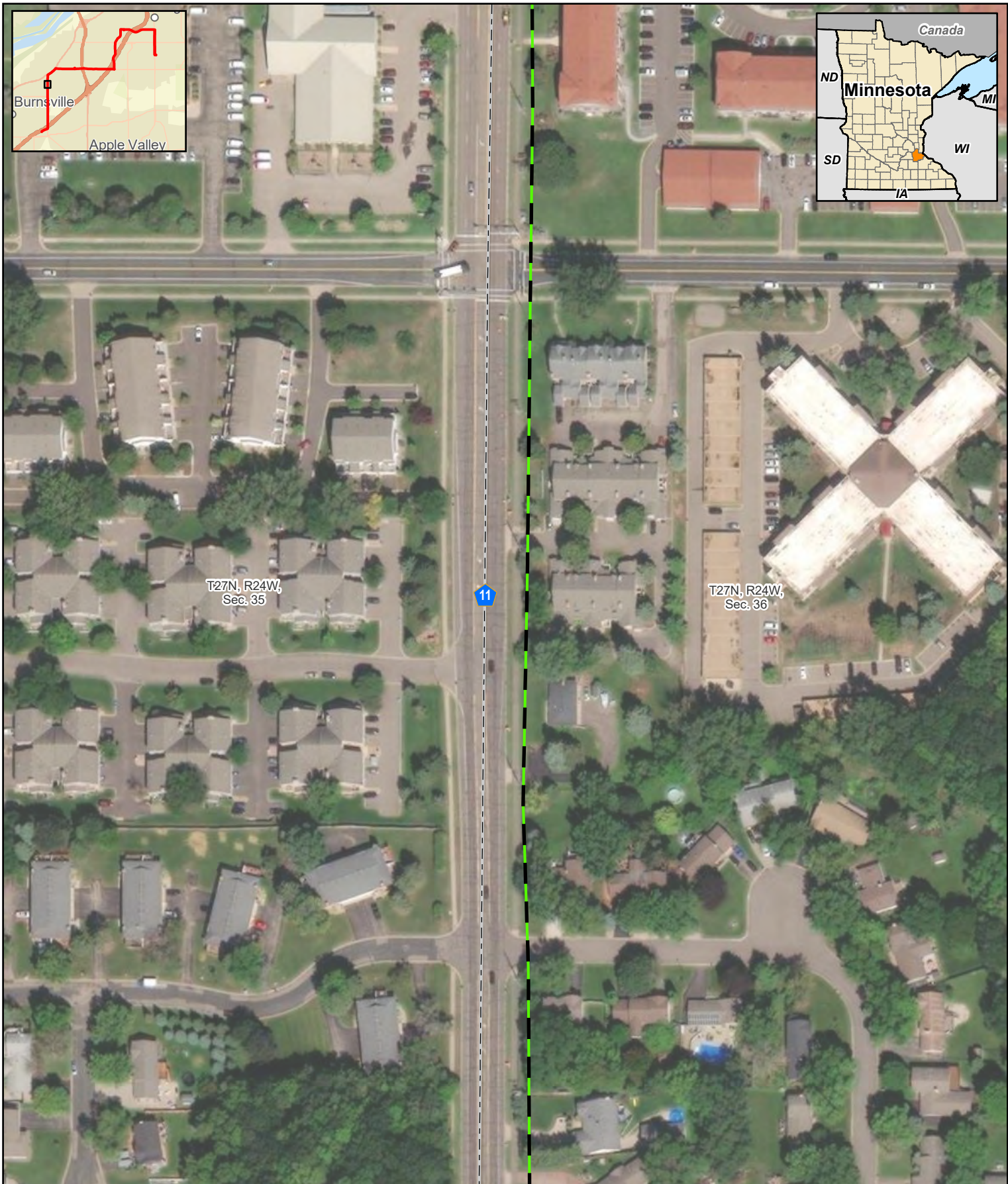
**Figure 2**  
**Pilot Knob Project**  
**Aerial Map**  
**Dakota County, Minnesota**  
**Page 28 of 36**

**Proposed 115-kV Alignment**

- Pilot Knob to Deerwood;
- Deerwood to River Hills
- River Hills to Burnsville;
- Great River Energy Existing 69-kV Transmission Line

- Substation
- Historic Site
- Section Boundary



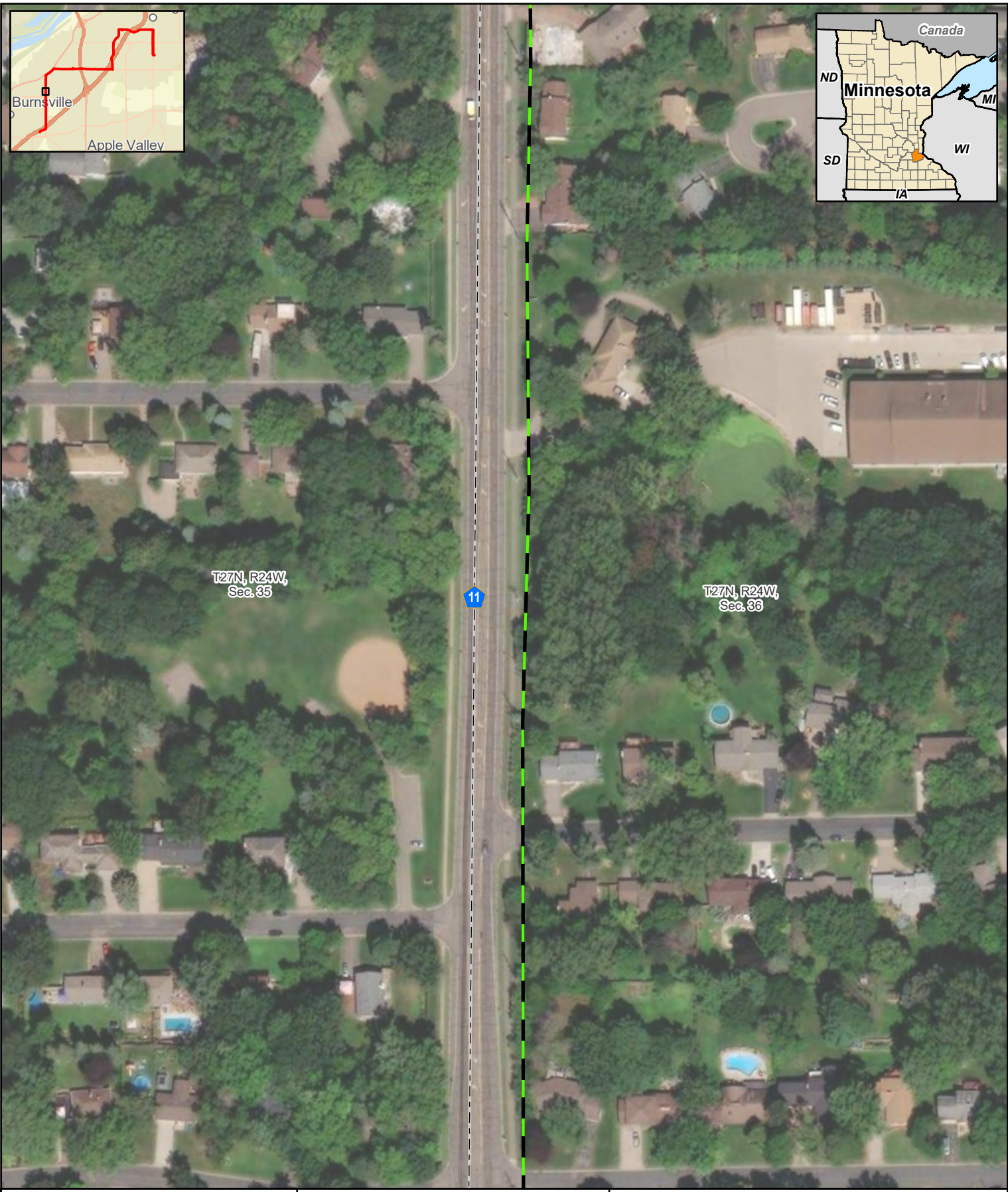


**Figure 2**  
**Pilot Knob Project**  
**Aerial Map**  
**Dakota County, Minnesota**  
**Page 29 of 36**

**Proposed 115-kV Alignment**

- Pilot Knob to Deerwood;
- Deerwood to River Hills
- River Hills to Burnsville;
- Great River Energy Existing 69-kV Transmission Line

- Substation
- Section Boundary



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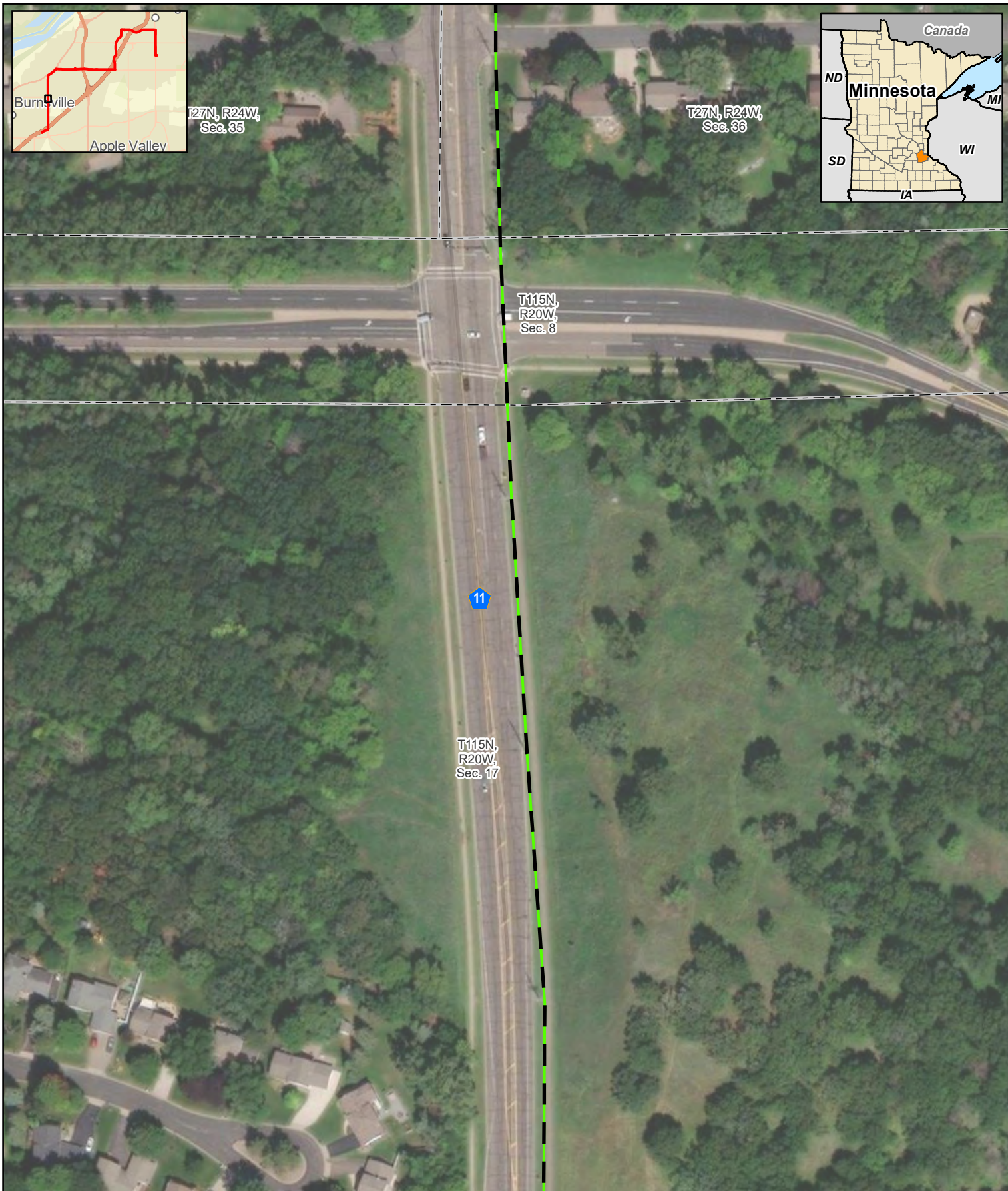
**Figure 2**  
**Pilot Knob Project**  
**Aerial Map**  
**Dakota County, Minnesota**  
**Page 30 of 36**

**Proposed 115-kV Alignment**

- Pilot Knob to Deerwood;
- Deerwood to River Hills
- River Hills to Burnsville;
- Great River Energy Existing 69-kV Transmission Line

Substation

Section Boundary



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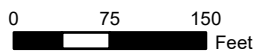
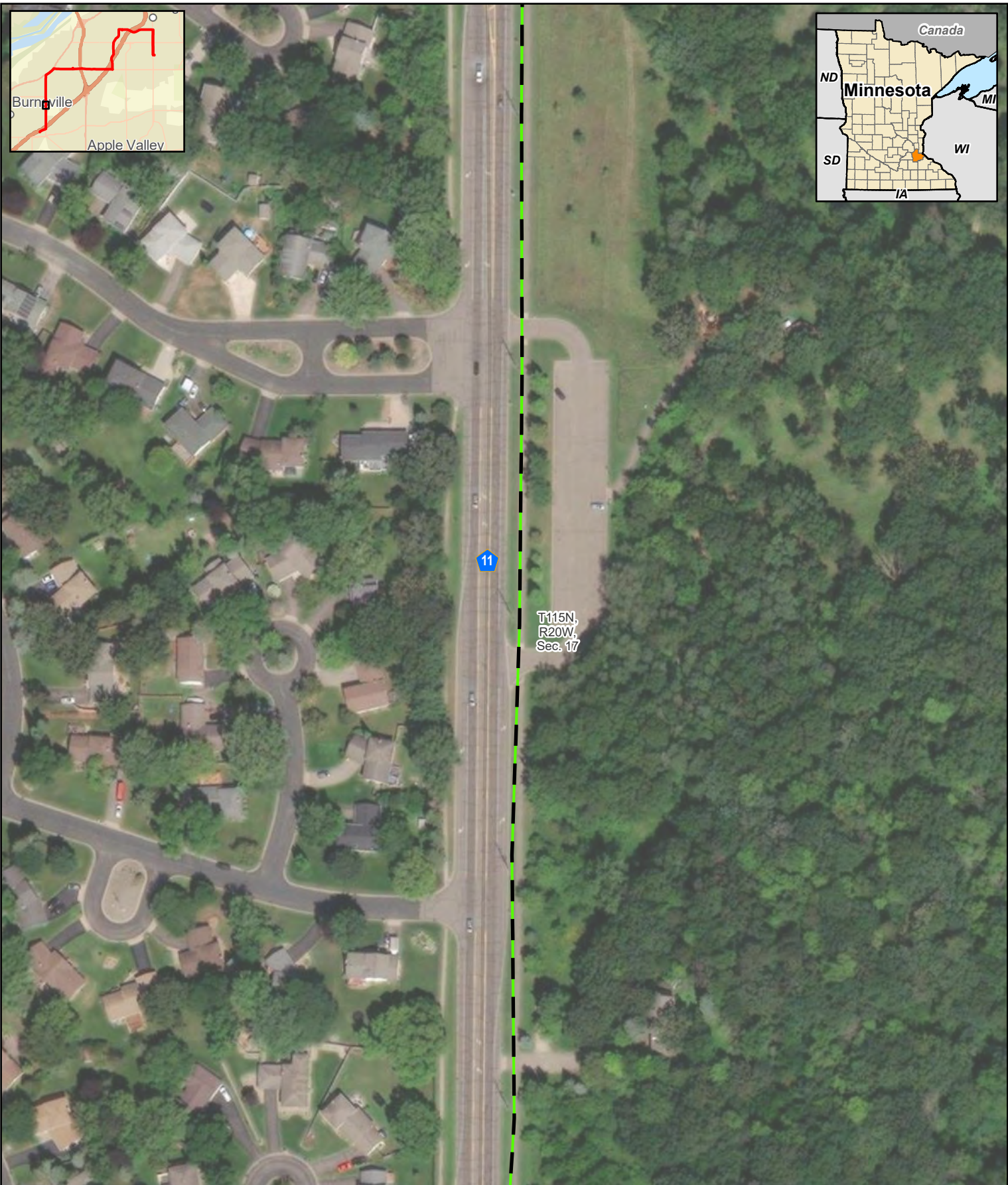


**Figure 2**  
**Pilot Knob Project**  
**Aerial Map**  
**Dakota County, Minnesota**  
**Page 31 of 36**

**Proposed 115-kV Alignment**

- Pilot Knob to Deerwood;
- Deerwood to River Hills
- River Hills to Burnsville;
- Great River Energy Existing 69-kV Transmission Line

-  Substation
-  Section Boundary

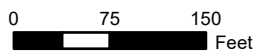
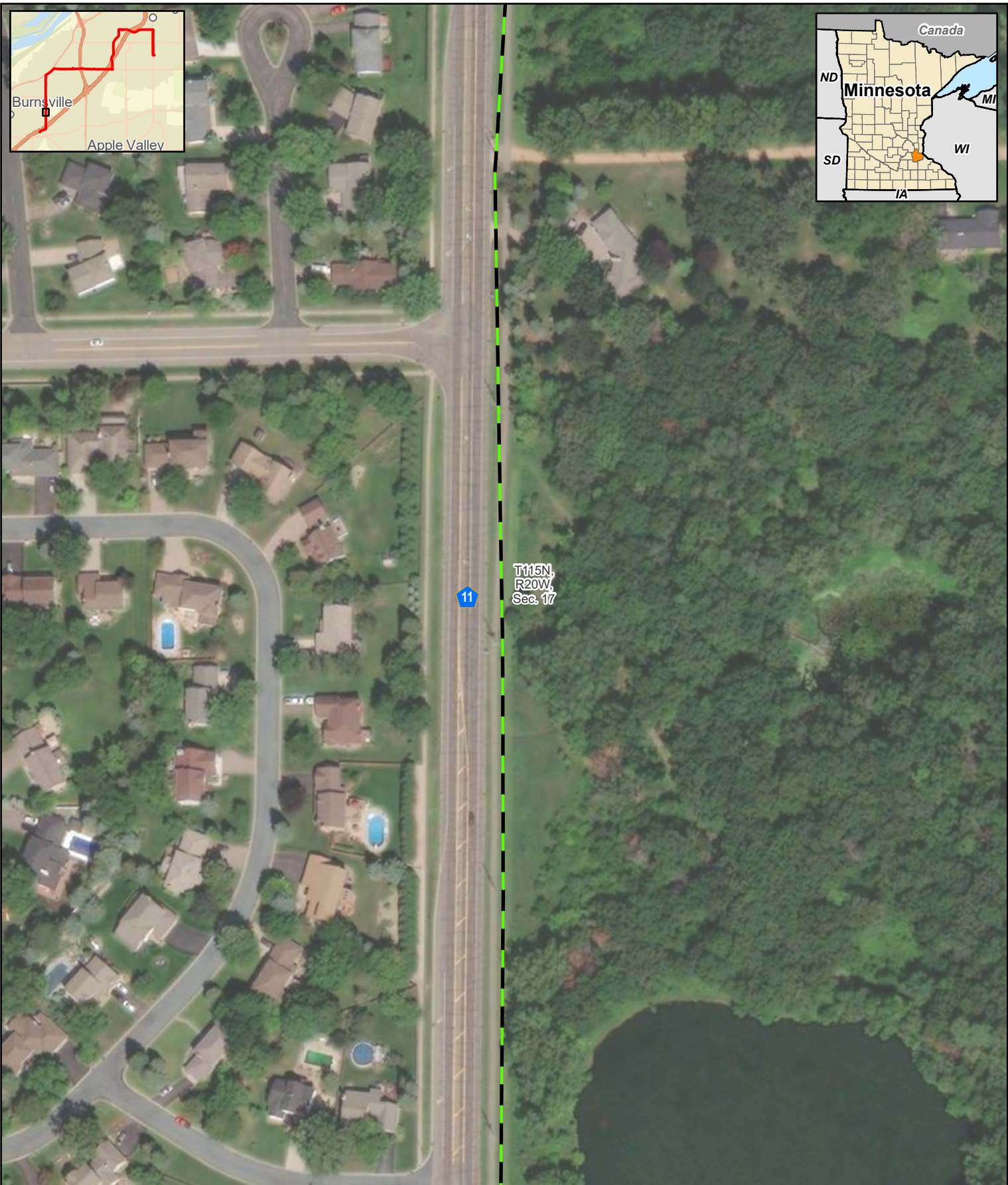


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**Figure 2**  
**Pilot Knob Project**  
**Aerial Map**  
**Dakota County, Minnesota**  
**Page 32 of 36**

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <b>Proposed 115-kV Alignment</b>                    | Substation       |
| Pilot Knob to Deerwood;                             | Section Boundary |
| Deerwood to River Hills                             |                  |
| River Hills to Burnsville;                          |                  |
| Great River Energy Existing 69-kV Transmission Line |                  |



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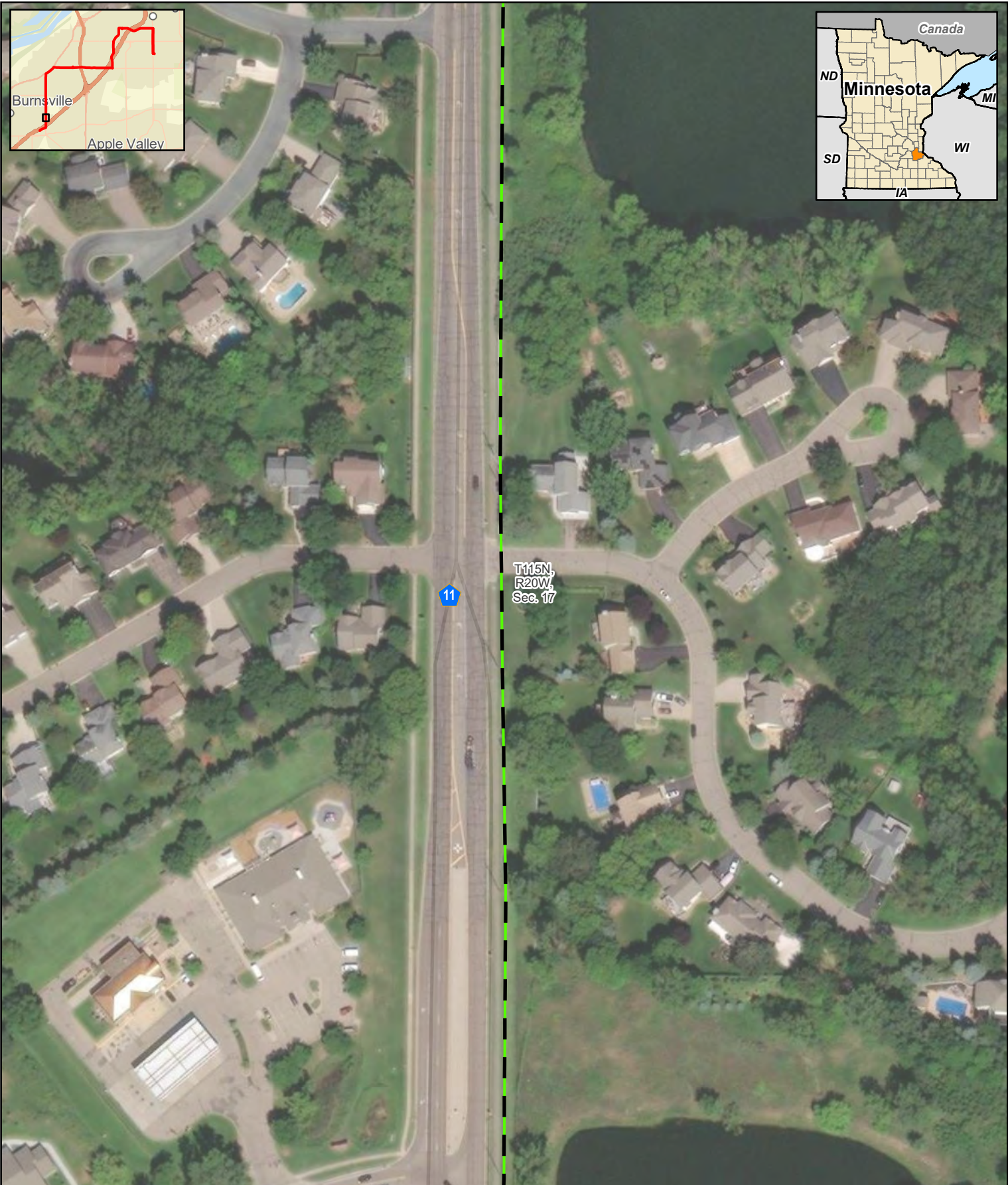


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**Figure 2**  
**Pilot Knob Project**  
**Aerial Map**  
**Dakota County, Minnesota**  
**Page 33 of 36**

- Proposed 115-kV Alignment**
- Pilot Knob to Deerwood;
  - Deerwood to River Hills
  - River Hills to Burnsville;
  - Great River Energy Existing 69-kV Transmission Line
- Substation
  - Section Boundary

Date: (7/5/2023) Source:



11

T115N,  
R20W,  
Sec. 17



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**Figure 2**  
**Pilot Knob Project**  
**Aerial Map**  
**Dakota County, Minnesota**  
**Page 34 of 36**

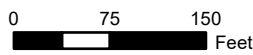
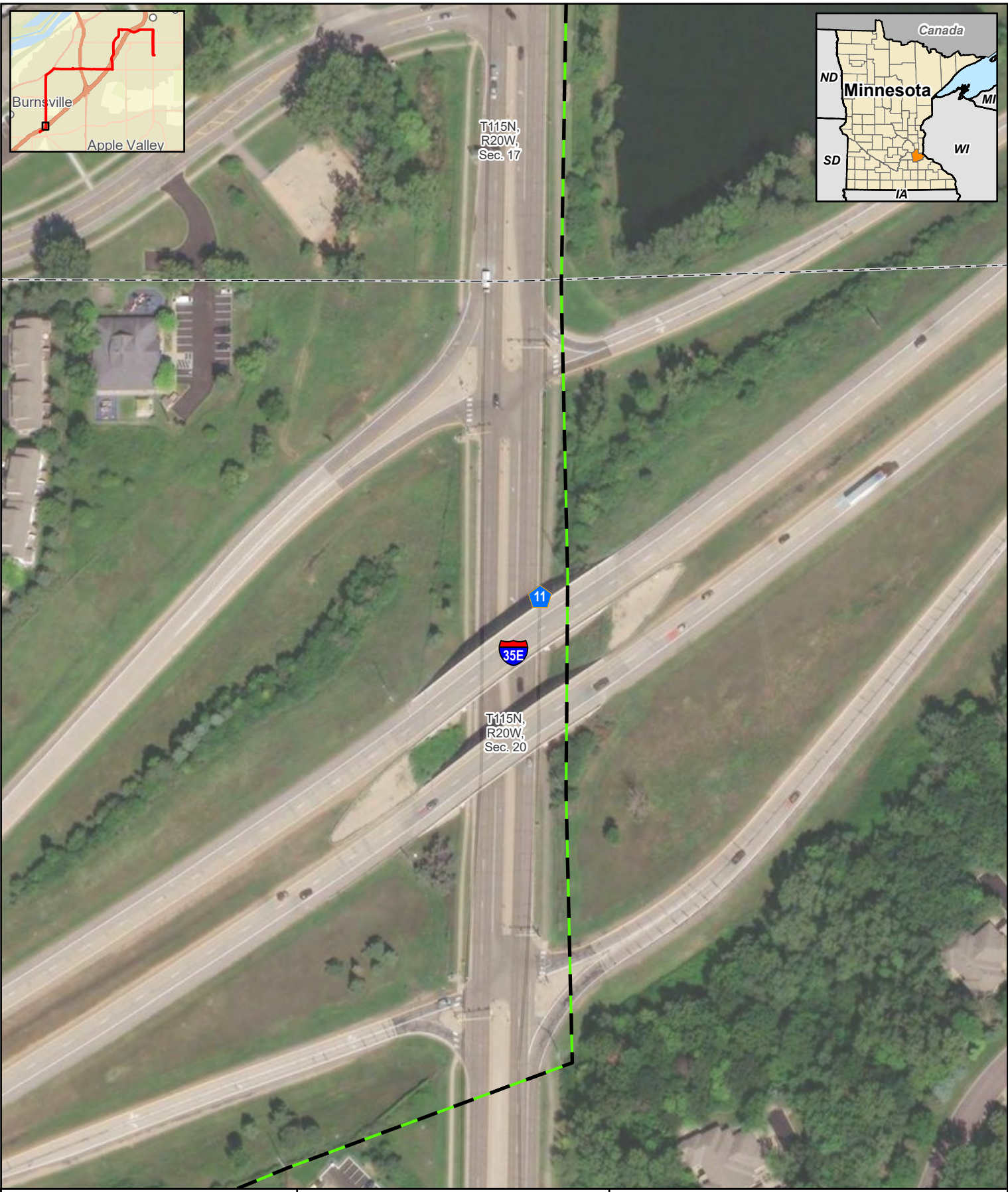
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- Pilot Knob to Deerwood;
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Substation

Section Boundary



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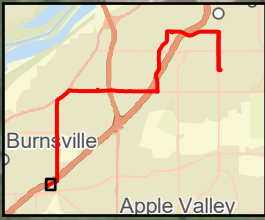
**Figure 2**  
**Pilot Knob Project**  
**Aerial Map**  
**Dakota County, Minnesota**  
**Page 35 of 36**

**Proposed 115-kV Alignment**

- Pilot Knob to Deerwood;
- Deerwood to River Hills
- River Hills to Burnsville;
- Great River Energy Existing 69-kV Transmission Line

Substation

Section Boundary



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**Figure 2**  
**Pilot Knob Project**  
**Aerial Map**  
**Dakota County, Minnesota**  
**Page 36 of 36**

**Proposed 115-kV Alignment**

- Pilot Knob to Deerwood;
- Deerwood to River Hills
- River Hills to Burnsville;
- Great River Energy Existing 69-kV Transmission Line

**Substation**

**Section Boundary**

Date: (7/31/2023) Source:



## Kristin Lenz

---

**From:** Beimers, Sarah (ADM) <sarah.beimers@state.mn.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 8, 2023 11:07 AM  
**To:** Kristin Lenz  
**Cc:** Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG; Britta Bergland; Lacy Lepisto; GraggJohnson, Kelly (ADM)  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy Pilot Knob-Burnsville Transmission Line Rebuild Project

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Kristin,

Thank you for submitting this project for review.

Please note for any future submissions, to ensure timely acknowledgment of receipt and logging in on our end, please send to our dedicated email address at [ENReviewSHPO@state.mn.us](mailto:ENReviewSHPO@state.mn.us) per [our current guidelines](#).

I have moved your 8/8 email to this dedicated inbox, so you do not need to resubmit at this time.

I've copied Kelly Gragg Johnson on this reply as she will be the primary SHPO review manager for this project under state statute. FYI, We will not review pursuant to Section 106/36 CFR Part 800 until we've been notified by the relevant federal agency, if applicable.

Please reach out if you have any questions.

Sarah

**Sarah Beimers (she/her) | Environmental Review Program Manager**

State Historic Preservation Office

Minnesota Department of Administration

---

**From:** Kristin Lenz <kristin.lenz@merjent.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 8, 2023 10:40 AM  
**To:** Beimers, Sarah (ADM) <sarah.beimers@state.mn.us>  
**Cc:** Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohf@GREnergy.com>; Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>; Lacy Lepisto <lacy.lepisto@merjent.com>  
**Subject:** Great River Energy Pilot Knob-Burnsville Transmission Line Rebuild Project

You don't often get email from [kristin.lenz@merjent.com](mailto:kristin.lenz@merjent.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good morning,

Great River Energy proposes to rebuild portions of its existing electrical transmission system within the cities of Eagan and Burnsville, Dakota County, MN between the Pilot Knob and Burnsville Substations, depicted in the figures in the attached letter. The Project would involve removal of existing poles and installing new poles generally following the existing centerline. Presently, the transmission system provides 69-kilovolt (kV) service; following the Project, the rebuilt line will be capable of providing 115-kV service to support growth and expansion in the Project area. A 115-kV transmission line requires wider clearances from trees for safety and reliability, and additional right-of way may be needed for the Project. The Project would also involve upgrades at the Burnsville Substation.

On behalf of Great River Energy, Merjent Inc. (Merjent) conducted a Phase IA Cultural Resources Assessment, which is attached for your review. Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project and the

proposed route. The enclosed letter provides additional information on the Project, including a map of the Project area and proposed route. Great River Energy also maintains a web site that contains Project information at: [https://greatriverenergy.com/transmission\\_project/pilot-knob-burnsville-transmission-line-rebuild-project/](https://greatriverenergy.com/transmission_project/pilot-knob-burnsville-transmission-line-rebuild-project/). Please contact Mark Strohfus at 763-445-5210 or [MStrohfus@GREnergy.com](mailto:MStrohfus@GREnergy.com) should you need additional information.

Thank you,  
Kristin Lenz on behalf of Mark Strohfus, Great River Energy Project Manager

**Kristin Lenz**  
*Senior Project Manager*  
612.924.3962 direct  
763.913.4740 mobile  
[kristin.lenz@merjent.com](mailto:kristin.lenz@merjent.com)



1 Main Street SE, Suite 300  
Minneapolis, MN 55414  
612.746.3660  
[www.merjent.com](http://www.merjent.com)

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September 25, 2023

Lacy Lepisto  
Cultural Resource Specialist  
Merjent  
1 Main St SE, Suite 300  
Minneapolis, MN 55414

RE: Great River Energy – Pilot Knob to Burnsville Project  
Rebuild portions of an existing electrical transmission system  
Rebuild 3 sections of transmission line and upgrade the Burnsville Substation  
SHPO Number: 2023-2640

Dear Lacy Lepisto:

Thank you for consulting with our office on the above-referenced project. At this time, our comments are to be considered as technical assistance only as the regulatory framework for this project is unclear.

According to your August 8, 2023 cover letter, Great River Energy is proposing to rebuild three (3) sections of existing transmission line and upgrade the Burnsville Substation. The project will replace existing structures with new poles 60-90 ft above ground and placed 350-400 feet apart, with minor reroutes of the existing line at I-35E and at the Burnsville Substation.

Based on information that is available to us at this time, we have determined that there are **no properties** listed in the National or State Registers of Historic Places and no known or suspected archaeological properties in the area that will be affected by this project.

Please note that this comment letter does not address the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36 CFR § 800. If this project is considered for federal financial assistance, or requires a federal permit or license, then review and consultation with our office will need to be initiated by the lead federal agency. Be advised that comments and recommendations provided by our office for this state-level review may differ from findings and determinations made by the federal agency as part of review and consultation under Section 106.

If you have any questions regarding our review of this project, please contact Kelly Gragg-Johnson, Environmental Review Program Specialist, at (651) 201-3285 or [kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us](mailto:kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us).

Sincerely,



Sarah J. Beimers  
Environmental Review Program Manager

# **City of Apple Valley**

**From:** [Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG](#)  
**To:** [Samantha Berger](#); [Kristin Lenz](#)  
**Cc:** [jed.chesnut@state.mn.us](mailto:jed.chesnut@state.mn.us); [Mandy Bohnenblust](#)  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy Pilot Knob Rebuild and Upgrade Project, Dakota County, MN - Project Introduction  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 29, 2023 9:52:07 AM  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)  
[image009.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of Merjent.

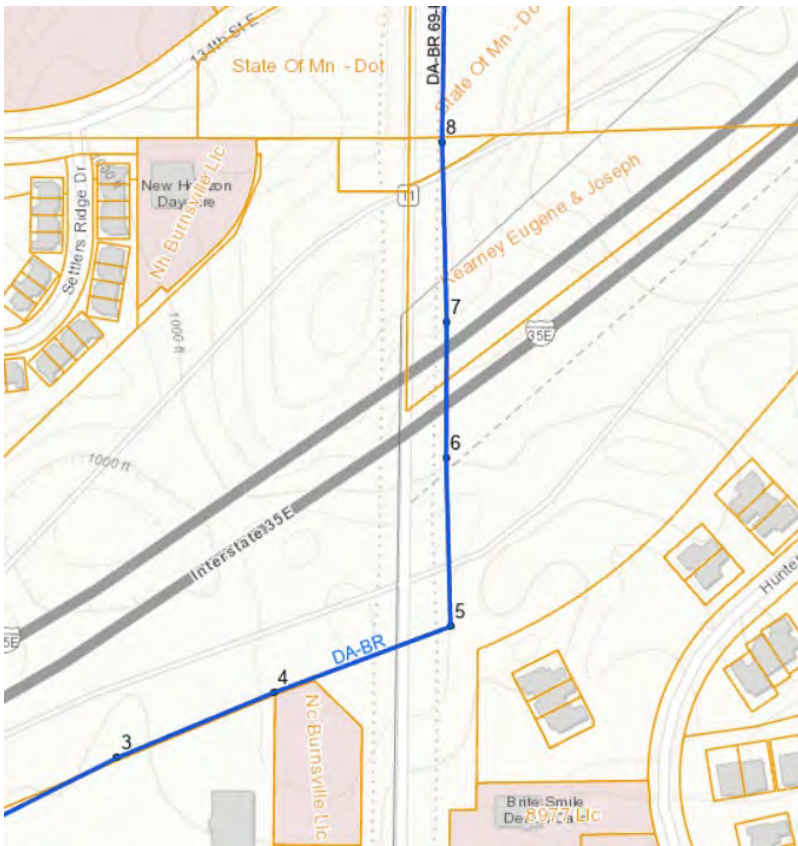
Good Morning Samantha,

The existing 69kV transmission line does cross into the City of Apple Valley between structures 5 and 6 as shown below.

We are intending to construct the new 115kV transmission line along the same centerline, so it would also cross into Apple Valley.

As you note, there are no wetlands in the area, but we will parallel Cnty Rd 11 and will coordinate with the City on paralleling Cnty Rd 11.

We will also be coordinating with MnDOT for the crossing of Hwy 35E and Dakota Cnty for the crossing of Cnty Rd 11.



If you have any questions, please reach out to me.

Thanks,

**Mark Strohfus**

**Project Manager, Transmission Permitting**

12300 Elm Creek Boulevard

Maple Grove, MN 5536-4718

D: 763-445-5210

C: 612-961-9820

[MStrohfus@GREnergy.com](mailto:MStrohfus@GREnergy.com)

---

**From:** Samantha Berger <sberger@ci.apple-valley.mn.us>

**Sent:** Monday, August 28, 2023 11:59 AM

**To:** Kristin Lenz <kristin.lenz@merjent.com>

**Cc:** jed.chesnut@state.mn.us; Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfus@GREnergy.com>; Mandy Bohnenblust <mandy.bohnenblust@merjent.com>

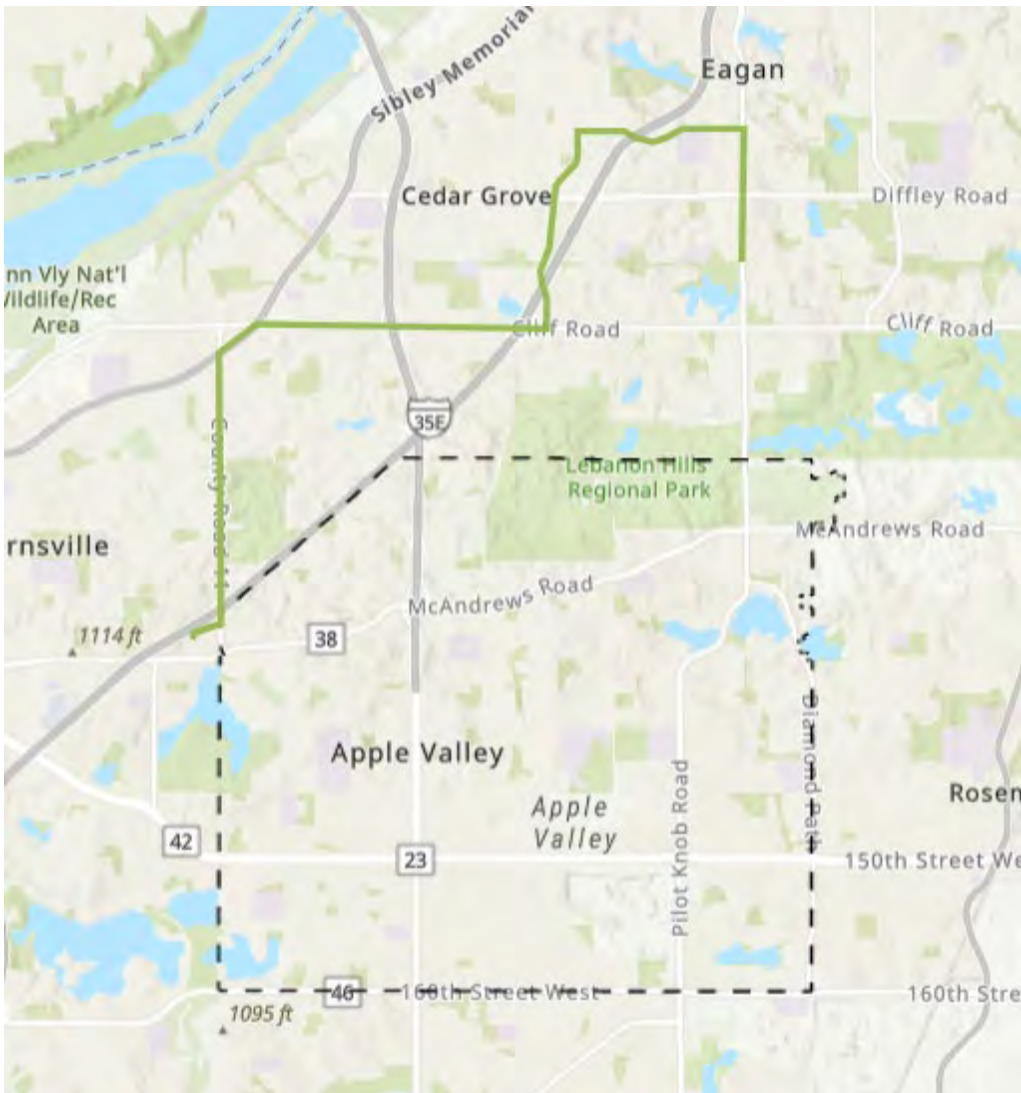
**Subject:** RE: Great River Energy Pilot Knob Rebuild and Upgrade Project, Dakota County, MN - Project Introduction

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Hi Kristin and Matt,

Based on my understanding of the project, (see image below) it appears that the area does not impact land located within the City of Apple Valley. A portion of transmission lines traverses the City boundary near County Road 11 and 35E, but not wetlands are present. ROW permits may be needed with the City of Apple Valley if completing work on the east side of County Road 11. The green line in the below image represents the transmission line upgrade locations, the are in black is the City of Apple Valley boundary.

If this misrepresents the project, please let me know.



**Samantha Berger**

City of Apple Valley | Water Resource Specialist

952.953.2462 | [samantha.berger@applevalleymn.gov](mailto:samantha.berger@applevalleymn.gov)

---

**From:** Kristin Lenz <[kristin.lenz@merjent.com](mailto:kristin.lenz@merjent.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, August 25, 2023 10:42 AM

**To:** Samantha Berger <[sberger@ci.apple-valley.mn.us](mailto:sberger@ci.apple-valley.mn.us)>

**Cc:** [jed.chesnut@state.mn.us](mailto:jed.chesnut@state.mn.us); Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <[MStrohfu@GREnergy.com](mailto:MStrohfu@GREnergy.com)>; Mandy Bohnenblust <[mandy.bohnenblust@merjent.com](mailto:mandy.bohnenblust@merjent.com)>

**Subject:** Great River Energy Pilot Knob Rebuild and Upgrade Project, Dakota County, MN - Project Introduction

Good morning,

Great River Energy is proposing to rebuild and upgrade approximately 8.75 miles of its existing electrical transmission system within the cities of Eagan and Burnsville in Dakota County, Minnesota (Project). The enclosed letter provides additional information on the Project, including a map of the Project area and proposed route. Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project and the proposed route.

The Project will include rebuilding and upgrading three sections of transmission line: the line between the Pilot Knob and Deerwood Substations; the line between the Deerwood and River Hills Substations; and the line between the River Hills and Burnsville Substations. Great River Energy is proposing to construct the new 115-kV transmission line generally following the centerline of the existing 69-kV transmission line. The Project would involve removal of existing poles within the Great River Energy right-of-way, and replacement with new, 60- to 95-foot-high poles placed 350 to 400 feet apart, also within the Great River Energy right-of-way. Great River Energy is planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in Fall 2023.

Please contact Mark Strohfus at 763-445-5210 or [MStrohfu@GREnergy.com](mailto:MStrohfu@GREnergy.com) should you need additional information.

Regards,

Kristin Lenz on behalf of Mark Strohfus, Great River Energy

**Kristin Lenz**

*Senior Project Manager*

612.924.3962 direct

763.913.4740 mobile

[kristin.lenz@merjent.com](mailto:kristin.lenz@merjent.com)



1 Main Street SE, Suite 300

Minneapolis, MN 55414

612.746.3660

[www.merjent.com](http://www.merjent.com)

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