

Appendix D

Correspondence with Agencies and Tribes

Pilot Knob to Burnsville 115-kV Transmission Line
Rebuild and Upgrade Project
Route Permit Application
MPUC Docket No. ET2/TL-23-410
November 2023

Appendix D
Correspondence with Agencies and Tribes
Great River Energy Pilot Knob to Burnsville Rebuild and Upgrade Project

Jurisdiction	Agency	Department/District/Division	Contact Name	Address	Email	Response to Introductory Letter?
Federal	Federal Aviation Administration	Air Traffic, Technician	Robert Kiser	1701 Columbia Ave. College Park, GA 30337	Robert.K-CTR.Kiser@faa.gov	Y
Federal	Federal Aviation Administration	Air Traffic, Specialist/Crane Specialist	Fred Souchet		fred.souchet@faa.gov	Y
Federal	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	St. Paul District - Regulatory and Permits	Rachel Gralnek	332 Minnesota St., Ste. E1500, St. Paul, MN 55101	Rachel.Gralnek@usace.army.mil	Y
Federal	U.S. Department of Agriculture	Natural Resources Conservation Service	Elizabeth Dawson	430 3rd Street, Suite 250 Farmington, MN 55024	elizabeth.dawson@usda.gov	N
Federal	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Minnesota Ecological Services Field Office	Darin Simpkins	3815 American Blvd. East, Bloomington, MN 55425	Darin_Simpkins@fws.gov	Y; IPaC / DKey Online Reviews
Tribal	Bois Forte Band of Chippewa	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Jaylen Strong	1500 Bois Forte Road, Tower, MN 55790	jaylen_strong@boisforte-nsn.gov	N
Tribal	Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Evan Schroeder	28 University Rd., Cloquet, MN 55720	EvanSchroeder@FDLREZ.COM	N
Tribal	Grand Portage Band of Ojibwe	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Rob Hull	PO Box 428, Grand Portage, MN 55605	thpo@grandportage.com	N
Tribal	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Amy Burnette	15756 State 371 NW, Cass Lake, MN 56633	amy.burnette@llojibwe.net	N
Tribal	Lower Sioux Indian Community	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Cheyenne St. John	39527 Reservation Highway 1, Morton, MN 56270	cheyanne.stjohn@lowersioux.com	N
Tribal	Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Mike Wilson		mike.wilson@millelacsband.com	N
Tribal	Prairie Island Indian Community	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Noah White	5636 Sturgeon Lake Road, Welch, MN 55089	noah.white@piic.org	N
Tribal	Red Lake Nation	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Kade Ferris	15484 Migizi Drive, Red Lake, MN 56671	kade.ferris@redlakenation.org	N
Tribal	Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Leonard Wabasha	2330 Sioux Trail NW, Prior Lake, MN 55372	leonard.wabasha@shakopeedakota.org	Y
Tribal	Upper Sioux Community	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Samantha Odegard	PO Box 147, 5722 Travers Lane, Granite Falls, MN 56241	samanthao@uppersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov	N
Tribal	White Earth Nation	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Jaime Arsenault	PO Box 418, White Earth, MN 56591-0418	Jaime.Arsenault@whiteearth-nsn.gov	N
State	Minnesota Department of Agriculture	Ag Marketing & Development	Stephan Roos	625 Robert Street North, St. Paul, MN 55155-2538	stephan.roos@state.mn.us	N
State	Minnesota Department of Health	Environmental Health Division - Metro (Dakota County)	Anneka Munsell	PO Box 64975 St. Paul, MN 55164-0975	anneka.munsell@state.mn.us	Y
State	Minnesota Department of Health	Environmental Health Division - Surface Water Protection Program	Dereck Richter		dereck.richter@state.mn.us	Y
State	Minnesota Department of Health	Environmental Health Division - Surface Water Protection Program	Danielle Nielsen		danielle.nielsen@state.mn.us	Y
State	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Environmental Review Coordinator	Cynthia Warzecha		Cynthia.Warzecha@state.mn.us	N
State	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Lands & Minerals	Martha Vickery	1200 Warner Road, St. Paul, MN 55106	martha.vickery@state.mn.us	Y
State	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Ecological and Water Resources - Environmental Review Program	Melissa Collins	1200 Warner Road, St. Paul, MN 55106	melissa.collins@state.mn.us	Y
State	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Minnesota Endangered Species	James Drake	500 Lafayette Rd., Box 25, St. Paul, MN 55155	james.f.drake@state.mn.us	MCE Online Review
State	Minnesota Department of Transportation	Land Management	Stacy Kotch Egstad		stacy.kotch@state.mn.us	Y
State	Minnesota Indian Affairs Council	Section 106 / MN Cultural Resources Review	Melissa Cerda	161 St. Anthony Ave, Ste. 919, St. Paul, MN 55103	melissa.cerda@state.mn.us	N
State	Minnesota Indian Affairs Council	Section 106 / MN Cultural Resources Review	Dylan Goetsch	161 St. Anthony Ave, Ste. 919, St. Paul, MN 55103	dylan.goetsch@state.mn.us	N
State	Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office	Section 106 / MN Cultural Resources Review	Kelly Gragg Johnson	Administration Building #203, 50 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul, MN 55155	ENReviewSHPO@state.mn.us	Y; Phase Ia Literature Review
State	Office of the State Archaeologist	Section 106 / MN Cultural Resources Review	Amanda Gronhvd	328 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55102	Amanda.Gronhvd@state.mn.us	N
Local	Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources	Wetland Conservation Act	Ied Chesnut	500 Lafayette Rd., Box 25, St. Paul, MN 55155	ied.chesnut@state.mn.us	N
Local	Dakota County	Water Resources		1590 Highway 55 Hastings, MN 55033	environ@co.dakota.mn.us	N
Local	Dakota County	Invasive Species Management		1590 Highway 55 Hastings, MN 55033	environ@co.dakota.mn.us	N
Local	Dakota County Highway Department	Highway Permits		1590 Highway 55 Hastings, MN 55033	hw@co.dakota.mn.us	N
Local	City of Eagan	Wetland Conservation Act	Jenna Olson	3501 Coachman Point Eagan, MN 55122	jolson@cityofeagan.com	N
Local	City of Apple Valley	Wetland Conservation Act	Samantha Berger	7100 W 147th St. Apple Valley, MN 55124	sberger@ci.apple-valley.mn.us	Y
Local	City of Burnsville	Wetland Conservation Act	Daryl Jacobson	100 Civic Center Parkway Burnsville, MN 55337-3867	daryl.jacobson@burnsvillemn.gov	N

Notes: The agencies and Tribal points of contact identified in this table received a Project Introductory letter (example letter included herein). Additional correspondence received from these points of contacts, as noted in the "Response to Introductory Letter?" column, is also included in this appendix.



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

August 25, 2023

Name

Title

Agency

Address

Address

Email Address

**Subject: Great River Energy Pilot Knob to Burnsville
Rebuild and Upgrade of Existing 69-kV Transmission Line to 115-kV in Dakota County,
Minnesota**

Name:

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 Project Fact Sheet 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 me at 763-445-5210 or MStrohfus@GREnergy.com should you need additional information.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Strohfus'.

Mark Strohfus
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting

Encl: Project Fact Sheet

Pilot Knob - Burnsville transmission line upgrade project

Great River Energy, wholesale power provider to Dakota Electric Association, proposes to rebuild and upgrade approximately 8.75 miles of 69-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission lines within the cities of Eagan and Burnsville, replacing them with new transmission lines capable of operating at 115-kV. The Pilot Knob – Burnsville Upgrade Project will enable Great River Energy to maintain reliable and resilient service to electric cooperative members, first by installing new equipment built to modern design standards, and second by adding the capability to operate at 115-kV in the future. While there is not a current need to operate at a higher voltage, the ability to operate at the higher voltage will ensure there is sufficient electrical capability to serve increased electrical demand in the future. A route permit must be issued by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) before construction can begin.

Overview

The project will include replacing existing structures primarily with direct-imbedded steel poles, 60-95 feet above ground and placed 350 to 400 feet apart. Specialty poles may be required in some areas, which will mean different size/type of poles and spans.

The project will be built to Great River Energy's 115-kV design standards but will initially operate at 69-kV. Designing to 115-kV standards will allow the flexibility to operate the regional transmission system at 115-kV as future electrification and load development increases in the area.

Permitting and public involvement

Great River Energy will submit an application for a route permit from the PUC. During the route permit process, the public and regulatory agencies will have opportunities to provide input on the project, including public meetings facilitated by the PUC and the Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DOC EERA). The DOC EERA will prepare an environmental assessment for the project.



Typical 115-kV single circuit structure with and without distribution under build.

After Great River Energy submits the route permit application to the PUC, a representative from Great River Energy will contact property owners along the route to discuss access to the proposed route and the process for acquisition of additional easements. New or amended easements may be requested to provide adequate land rights. We will also provide information on tree removal, construction access and restoration of the right of way.

Great River Energy will work with county, state and federal agencies to secure road crossing permits and any other required environmental or construction permits. Contact information for Great River Energy representatives is listed on the back of this page.

Following construction of the transmission lines, Great River Energy will promptly repair any damage to properties.

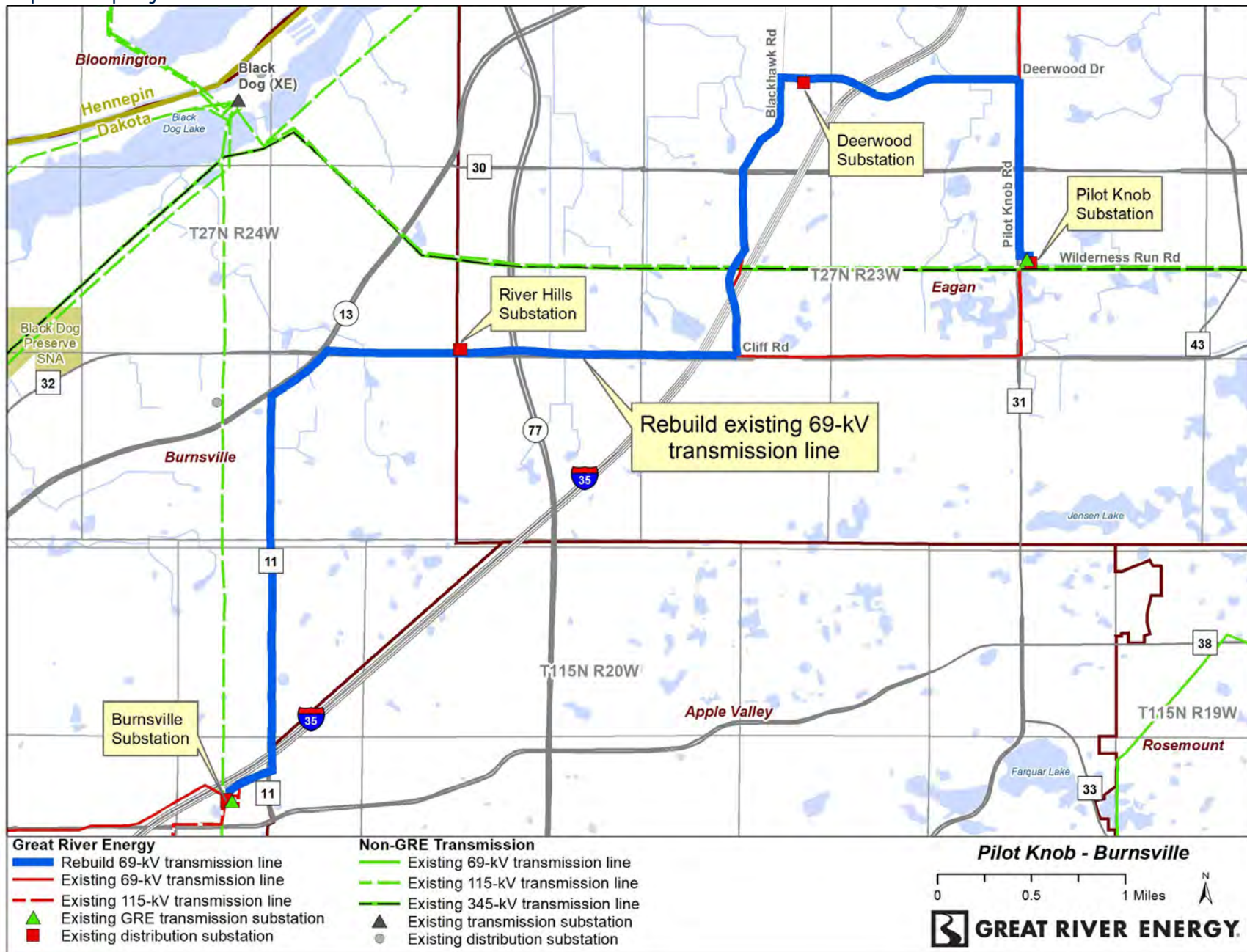
Schedule

Notifications	Summer 2023
State permitting	Fall 2023 – Spring 2025
Survey/design	Spring 2025
Easements/ Environmental permits	January 2025 – Summer 2026
Transmission line construction	Fall 2026 – Summer 2028
Energization	Summer 2028

Quick facts

Length – 8.75 miles
Voltage – 115 kV
Structures – 60- to 95-foot steel poles
Spans – 350 to 400 feet apart
Right of way – Up to 100-foot-wide right of way, 50 feet on each side of the centerline
Permits – MN Public Utilities Commission route permit

Proposed project



Great River Energy representatives

For project updates and information, visit www.greatriverenergy.com/pilotknob or contact any of the following

Peter M. Schaub
Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights
763- 445-5976 | 612-801-7370 | pschaub@greenergy.com

Mark Strohfus
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting
763-445-5210 | 612-961-9820 | mstrohfus@greenergy.com

8/3/2023

Federal Aviation Administration

From: [Kiser, Robert K-CTR \(FAA\)](#)
To: [Kristin Lenz](#)
Cc: [Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG](#); [Mandy Bohnenblust](#)
Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy Pilot Knob Rebuild and Upgrade Project, Dakota County, MN - Project Introduction
Date: Monday, August 28, 2023 7:21:35 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Good morning everyone,

Thank you for the email about rebuilding the 8+ miles of transmission lines. I look forward to working with you on this project. Once you have these all filed, please send me an email letting me know and the list of ASN numbers associated with this. I will promptly begin work on it as soon as my case load permits.

I hope you all have a great week. Please don't hesitate in reaching out to me with any questions.

Robby

NOTE: *Email is the fastest way to reach me.*

Robby Kiser

Federal Aviation Administration
AJV-A51/Obstruction Evaluation Group
Air Traffic Specialist III / FAA OEG – NAVTAC Support
1701 Columbia Ave. College Park, GA 30337
Telephone: Work: 404-305-6616 Fax: 404-305-6588
Email: Robert.k-CTR.kiser@faa.gov

Level III Technician for the states of Michigan, Minnesota and Rhode Island



1) To see if your structure is required to file with FAA, please go to:

<https://oeaaa.faa.gov/oeaaa/external/gisTools/gisAction.jsp?action=showNoNoticeRequiredToolForm>

2) OEAAA.faa.gov Filing Instructions:

<https://oeaaa.faa.gov/oeaaa/external/content/instructions.jsp>

- 3) General FAQs: <https://oeaaa.faa.gov/oeaaa/external/searchAction.jsp?action=generalFAQs>
4) DOT/FAA Obstruction Marking & Lighting Advisory Circular (AC 70/7460-1M):
https://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/advisory_circulars/index.cfm/go/document.information/documentID/1030047
5) Light Outage Reporting: <https://oeaaa.faa.gov/oeaaa/external/content/lightOutageReporting.jsp>
6) Helpdesk (System Issues/Support): 202-580-7500/Email: oeaaa_helpdesk@cghitech.com

From: Kristin Lenz <kristin.lenz@merjent.com>

Sent: Friday, August 25, 2023 10:55 AM

To: Kiser, Robert K-CTR (FAA) <Robert.K-CTR.Kiser@faa.gov>

Cc: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfus@GREnergy.com>; Mandy Bohnenblust
<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 MStrohfus@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



1 Main Street SE, Suite 300

From: [Souchet, Fred \(FAA\)](#)
To: [Kristin Lenz](#)
Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy Pilot Knob Rebuild and Upgrade Project, Dakota County, MN - Project Introduction
Date: Wednesday, August 30, 2023 9:17:34 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

In accordance with 14 CFR Part 77.9, if you propose any type of construction or alteration that exceeds an imaginary surface extending outward and upward at 100 to 1 for a horizontal distance of 20,000 ft. from the nearest point of the nearest runway at a public use airport, you will need to file separate studies for poles and any temporary cranes.

Please use the Notice Criteria Tool link on **the <https://oeaaa.faa.gov/oeaaa/external/portal.jsp>** website to determine whether notice is required. The tool is based on Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 77 (14 CFR Part 77). There is also a link to Part 77 on the home page of the website. Subpart B of part 77 identifies when construction or alteration requires or does not require notice. Please submit your filing electronically via the mentioned website. If you don't have an account for e-filing, there are instructions on the home page for setting up your account and e-filing the notice ("**Click Here for Instructions on how to E-file your proposal with the FAA**").

If you need assistance or have additional questions in filing please contact **Natalie Schmalbeck**, natalie.schmalbeck@faa.gov (816) 329-2525 for assistance.

Thank you,

Fred Souchet
Air Traffic Control Specialist
FAA Obstruction Evaluation Group, AJV-A520
Office: 847-294-7458
Fax: 847-294-7457

<https://oeaaa.faa.gov>



From: Kristin Lenz <kristin.lenz@merjent.com>
Sent: Friday, August 25, 2023 9:57 AM
To: Souchet, Fred (FAA) <Fred.Souchet@faa.gov>
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 MStrohfus@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



1 Main Street SE, Suite 300

Minneapolis, MN 55414

612.746.3660

www.merjent.com

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, ST. PAUL DISTRICT
332 MINNESOTA STREET, SUITE E1500
ST. PAUL, MN 55101-1323

08/28/2023

Regulatory File No. MVP-2023-01068-RLG

THIS IS NOT A PERMIT

Mark Strohfus
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369

To: Mark Strohfus:

We have received your submittal described below. You may contact the Project Manager with questions regarding the evaluation process. The Project Manager may request additional information necessary to evaluate your submittal.

File Number: MVP-2023-01068-RLG

Applicant: Mark Strohfus

Project Name: Pilot Knob to Burnsville Transmission Rebuild

Project Location: Section 35 of Township 27 N, Range 24 W, Dakota County, Minnesota
(Latitude: 44.7839799670719; Longitude: -93.209111104231)

Received Date: 08/25/2023

Project Manager: Rachel Gralnek
(651) 290-5276
Rachel.Gralnek@usace.army.mil

Additional information about the St. Paul District Regulatory Program can be found on our web site at <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/missions/regulatory>.

Please note that initiating work in waters of the United States prior to receiving Department of the Army authorization could constitute a violation of Federal law. If you have any questions, please contact the Project Manager.

Thank you.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District
Regulatory Branch



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, ST. PAUL DISTRICT
332 MINNESOTA STREET, SUITE E1500
ST. PAUL, MN 55101-1323

Regulatory File No. MVP-2023-01068-RLG

Great River Energy
C/o Mark Strohfus
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, Mn 55369

Dear Mark Strohfus:

This letter is in response to correspondence we received from Great River Energy regarding the Pilot Knob project. This letter contains our initial comments on this project for your consideration. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that based on the introduction letter for the project referenced above a Department of the Army (DA) permit would be required for your proposed activity. In lieu of a specific response, please consider the following general information concerning our regulatory program that may apply to the proposed project.

If the proposal involves activity in navigable waters of the United States, it may be subject to the Corps of Engineers' jurisdiction under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (Section 10). Section 10 prohibits the construction, excavation, or deposition of materials in, over, or under navigable waters of the United States, or any work that would affect the course, location, condition, or capacity of those waters, unless the work has been authorized by a Department of the Army permit.

If the proposal involves discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, it may be subject to the Corps of Engineers' jurisdiction under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA Section 404). Waters of the United States include navigable waters, their tributaries, and adjacent wetlands (33 CFR § 328.3). CWA Section 301(a) prohibits discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, unless the work has been authorized by a Department of the Army permit under Section 404. Information about the Corps permitting process can be obtained online at <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/regulatory>.

The Corps evaluation of a Section 10 and/or a Section 404 permit application involves multiple analyses, including (1) evaluating the proposal's impacts in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (33 CFR part 325), (2) determining whether the proposal is contrary to the public interest (33 CFR § 320.4), and (3) in the case of a Section 404 permit, determining whether the proposal complies with the Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines (Guidelines) (40 CFR part 230).

If the proposal requires a Section 404 permit application, the Guidelines specifically require that "no discharge of dredged or fill material shall be permitted if there is a practicable alternative to the proposed discharge which would have less adverse impact on the aquatic ecosystem, so long as the alternative does not have other significant adverse environmental consequences" (40 CFR § 230.10(a)). Time and money spent on the proposal prior to applying for a Section 404 permit cannot be factored into the Corps' decision whether there is a less damaging practicable alternative to the proposal.

If an application for a Corps permit has not yet been submitted, the project proposer may request a pre-application consultation meeting with the Corps to obtain information regarding the data, studies or other information that will be necessary for the permit evaluation process. A pre-application consultation meeting is strongly recommended if the proposal has substantial impacts to waters of the United States, or if it is a large or controversial project.

If you have any questions, please contact me in our St. Paul office at (651) 290-5276 or Rachel.Gralnek@usace.army.mil. In any correspondence or inquiries, please refer to the Regulatory file number shown above.

Sincerely,

Rachel Gralnek
Regulatory Specialist

cc:
Jed Chesnut (LGU)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office
3815 American Blvd East
Bloomington, MN 55425-1659
Phone: (952) 858-0793 Fax: (952) 646-2873



In Reply Refer To:
Project Code: 2024-0000788
Project Name: Pilot Knob

October 03, 2023

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

This response has been generated by the Information, Planning, and Conservation (IPaC) system to provide information on natural resources that could be affected by your project. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) provides this response under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543), the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 *et seq.*).

Threatened and Endangered Species

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirement for obtaining a Technical Assistance Letter from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

Consultation Technical Assistance

Please refer to our [Section 7 website](#) for guidance and technical assistance, including [step-by-step instructions](#) for making effects determinations for each species that might be present and for specific guidance on the following types of projects: projects in developed areas, HUD, CDBG, EDA, USDA Rural Development projects, pipelines, buried utilities, telecommunications, and requests for a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) from FEMA.

We recommend running the project (if it qualifies) through our **Minnesota-Wisconsin Federal Endangered Species Determination Key (Minnesota-Wisconsin ("D-key"))**. A [demonstration video](#) showing how-to access and use the determination key is available. Please note that the Minnesota-Wisconsin D-key is the third option of 3 available d-keys. D-keys are tools to help Federal agencies and other project proponents determine if their proposed action has the potential to adversely affect federally listed species and designated critical habitat. The Minnesota-Wisconsin D-key includes a structured set of questions that assists a project proponent in determining whether a proposed project qualifies for a certain predetermined consultation outcome for all federally listed species found in Minnesota and Wisconsin (except for the northern long-eared bat- see below), which includes determinations of "no effect" or "may affect, not likely to adversely affect." In each case, the Service has compiled and analyzed the best available information on the species' biology and the impacts of certain activities to support these determinations.

If your completed d-key output letter shows a "No Effect" (NE) determination for all listed species, print your IPaC output letter for your files to document your compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

For Federal projects with a "Not Likely to Adversely Affect" (NLAA) determination, our concurrence becomes valid if you do not hear otherwise from us after a 30-day review period, as indicated in your letter.

If your d-key output letter indicates additional coordination with the Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office is necessary (i.e., you get a "May Affect" determination), you will be provided additional guidance on contacting the Service to continue ESA coordination outside of the key; ESA compliance cannot be concluded using the key for "May Affect" determinations unless otherwise indicated in your output letter.

Note: Once you obtain your official species list, you are not required to continue in IPaC with d-keys, although in most cases these tools should expedite your review. If you choose to make an effects determination on your own, you may do so. If the project is a Federal Action, you may want to review our section 7 step-by-step instructions before making your determinations.

Using the IPaC Official Species List to Make No Effect and May Affect Determinations for Listed Species

1. If IPaC returns a result of "There are no listed species found within the vicinity of the project," then project proponents can conclude the proposed activities will have **no effect** on any federally listed species under Service jurisdiction. Concurrence from the Service is not required for **no effect** determinations. No further consultation or coordination is required. Attach this letter to the dated IPaC species list report for your records.
 2. If IPaC returns one or more federally listed, proposed, or candidate species as potentially present in the action area of the proposed project – other than bats (see below) – then project proponents must determine if proposed activities will have **no effect** on or **may affect** those species. For assistance in determining if suitable habitat for listed, candidate, or proposed species occurs within your project area or if species may be affected by project activities, you can obtain [Life History Information for Listed and Candidate Species](#) on our office website. If no impacts will occur to a species on the IPaC species list (e.g., there is no habitat present in the project area), the appropriate determination is **no effect**. No further consultation or coordination is required. Attach this letter to the dated IPaC species list report for your records.
-

3. Should you determine that project activities **may affect** any federally listed, please contact our office for further coordination. Letters with requests for consultation or correspondence about your project should include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header. Electronic submission is preferred.

Northern Long-Eared Bats

Northern long-eared bats occur throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin and the information below may help in determining if your project may affect these species.

This species hibernates in caves or mines only during the winter. In Minnesota and Wisconsin, the hibernation season is considered to be November 1 to March 31. During the active season (April 1 to October 31) they roost in forest and woodland habitats. Suitable summer habitat for northern long-eared bats consists of a wide variety of forested/wooded habitats where they roost, forage, and travel and may also include some adjacent and interspersed non-forested habitats such as emergent wetlands and adjacent edges of agricultural fields, old fields and pastures. This includes forests and woodlots containing potential roosts (i.e., live trees and/or snags ≥ 3 inches dbh for northern long-eared bat that have exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices, and/or hollows), as well as linear features such as fencerows, riparian forests, and other wooded corridors. These wooded areas may be dense or loose aggregates of trees with variable amounts of canopy closure. Individual trees may be considered suitable habitat when they exhibit the characteristics of a potential roost tree and are located within 1,000 feet (305 meters) of forested/wooded habitat. Northern long-eared bats have also been observed roosting in human-made structures, such as buildings, barns, bridges, and bat houses; therefore, these structures should also be considered potential summer habitat and evaluated for use by bats. If your project will impact caves or mines or will involve clearing forest or woodland habitat containing suitable roosting habitat, northern long-eared bats could be affected.

Examples of unsuitable habitat include:

- Individual trees that are greater than 1,000 feet from forested or wooded areas,
- Trees found in highly developed urban areas (e.g., street trees, downtown areas),
- A pure stand of less than 3-inch dbh trees that are not mixed with larger trees, and
- A monoculture stand of shrubby vegetation with no potential roost trees.

If IPaC returns a result that northern long-eared bats are potentially present in the action area of the proposed project, project proponents can conclude the proposed activities **may affect** this species **IF** one or more of the following activities are proposed:

- Clearing or disturbing suitable roosting habitat, as defined above, at any time of year,
- Any activity in or near the entrance to a cave or mine,
- Mining, deep excavation, or underground work within 0.25 miles of a cave or mine,
- Construction of one or more wind turbines, or
- Demolition or reconstruction of human-made structures that are known to be used by bats based on observations of roosting bats, bats emerging at dusk, or guano deposits or stains.

If none of the above activities are proposed, project proponents can conclude the proposed activities will have **no effect** on the northern long-eared bat. Concurrence from the Service is not required for **No**

Effect determinations. No further consultation or coordination is required. Attach this letter to the dated IPaC species list report for your records.

If any of the above activities are proposed, and the northern long-eared bat appears on the user's species list, the federal project user will be directed to either the range-wide northern long-eared bat D-key or the Federal Highways Administration, Federal Railways Administration, and Federal Transit Administration Indiana bat/ Northern long-eared bat D-key, depending on the type of project and federal agency involvement. Similar to the Minnesota-Wisconsin D-key, these d-keys help to determine if prohibited take might occur and, if not, will generate an automated verification letter.

Please note: On November 30, 2022, the Service published a proposal final rule to reclassify the northern long-eared bat as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. On January 26, 2023, the Service published a 60-day extension for the final reclassification rule in the Federal Register, moving the effective listing date from January 30, 2023, to March 31, 2023. This extension will provide stakeholders and the public time to preview interim guidance and consultation tools before the rule becomes effective. When available, the tools will be available on the Service's northern long-eared bat website (<https://www.fws.gov/species/northern-long-eared-bat-myotis-septentrionalis>). Once the final rule goes into effect on March 31, 2023, the 4(d) D-key will no longer be available (4(d) rules are not available for federally endangered species) and will be replaced with a new Range-wide NLEB D-key (range-wide d-key). For projects not completed by March 31, 2023, that were previously reviewed under the 4(d) d-key, there may be a need for reinitiation of consultation. For these ongoing projects previously reviewed under the 4(d) d-key that may result in incidental take of the northern long-eared bat, we recommend you review your project using the new range-wide d-key once available. If your project does not comply with the range-wide d-key, it may be eligible for use of the Interim (formal) Consultation framework (framework). The framework is intended to facilitate the transition from the 4(d) rule to typical Section 7 consultation procedures for federally endangered species and will be available only until spring 2024. Again, when available, these tools (new range-wide d-key and framework) will be available on the Service's [northern long-eared bat website](#).

Whooping Crane

Whooping crane is designated as a non-essential experimental population in Wisconsin and consultation under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act is only required if project activities will occur within a National Wildlife Refuge or National Park. If project activities are proposed on lands outside of a National Wildlife Refuge or National Park, then you are not required to consult. For additional information on this designation and consultation requirements, please review "[Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of Whooping Cranes in the Eastern United States](#)."

Other Trust Resources and Activities

Bald and Golden Eagles - Although the bald eagle has been removed from the endangered species list, this species and the golden eagle are protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Should bald or golden eagles occur within or near the project area please contact our office for further coordination. For communication and wind energy projects, please refer to additional guidelines below.

Migratory Birds - The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) prohibits the taking, killing, possession, transportation, and importation of migratory birds, their eggs, parts, and nests, except when specifically authorized by the Service. The Service has the responsibility under the MBTA to proactively prevent the

mortality of migratory birds whenever possible and we encourage implementation of [recommendations that minimize potential impacts to migratory birds](#). Such measures include clearing forested habitat outside the nesting season (generally March 1 to August 31) or conducting nest surveys prior to clearing to avoid injury to eggs or nestlings.

Communication Towers - Construction of new communications towers (including radio, television, cellular, and microwave) creates a potentially significant impact on migratory birds, especially some 350 species of night-migrating birds. However, the Service has developed [voluntary guidelines for minimizing impacts](#).

Transmission Lines - Migratory birds, especially large species with long wingspans, heavy bodies, and poor maneuverability can also collide with power lines. In addition, mortality can occur when birds, particularly hawks, eagles, kites, falcons, and owls, attempt to perch on uninsulated or unguarded power poles. To minimize these risks, please refer to [guidelines](#) developed by the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee and the Service. Implementation of these measures is especially important along sections of lines adjacent to wetlands or other areas that support large numbers of raptors and migratory birds.

Wind Energy - To minimize impacts to migratory birds and bats, wind energy projects should follow the Service's [Wind Energy Guidelines](#). In addition, please refer to the Service's [Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance](#), which provides guidance for conserving bald and golden eagles in the course of siting, constructing, and operating wind energy facilities.

State Department of Natural Resources Coordination

While it is not required for your Federal section 7 consultation, please note that additional state endangered or threatened species may also have the potential to be impacted. Please contact the Minnesota or Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for information on state listed species that may be present in your proposed project area.

Minnesota

[Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Endangered Resources Review Homepage](#)

Email: Review.NHIS@state.mn.us

Wisconsin

[Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - Endangered Resources Review Homepage](#)

Email: DNRERReview@wi.gov

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. Please feel free to contact our office with questions or for additional information.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
 - USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
 - Bald & Golden Eagles
 - Migratory Birds
 - Wetlands
-

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office

3815 American Blvd East

Bloomington, MN 55425-1659

(952) 858-0793

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2024-0000788

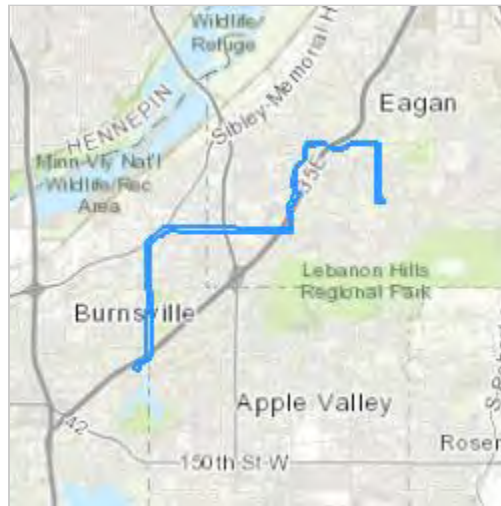
Project Name: Pilot Knob

Project Type: Transmission Line - Maintenance/Modification - Above Ground

Project Description: Electric Transmission

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@44.78448245,-93.24817121266635,14z>



Counties: Dakota County, Minnesota

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 6 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

-
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	Endangered
Tricolored Bat <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515	Proposed Endangered

BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Whooping Crane <i>Grus americana</i> Population: U.S.A. (AL, AR, CO, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NC, NM, OH, SC, TN, UT, VA, WI, WV, western half of WY) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758	Experimental Population, Non- Essential

CLAMS

NAME	STATUS
Higgins Eye (pearlymussel) <i>Lampsilis higginsii</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5428	Endangered

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate
Rusty Patched Bumble Bee <i>Bombus affinis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9383 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/J4TMPEEKHRFCODK3NDJP7WC4PU/documents/generated/5967.pdf	Endangered

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS OR FISH HATCHERIES WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act¹ and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act².

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to bald or golden eagles, or their habitats³, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described below.

-
1. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
 2. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
 3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

There are bald and/or golden eagles in your project area.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the **PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY** at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31
Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680	Breeds elsewhere

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read the supplemental information and specifically the FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (■)

Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

Survey Effort (|)

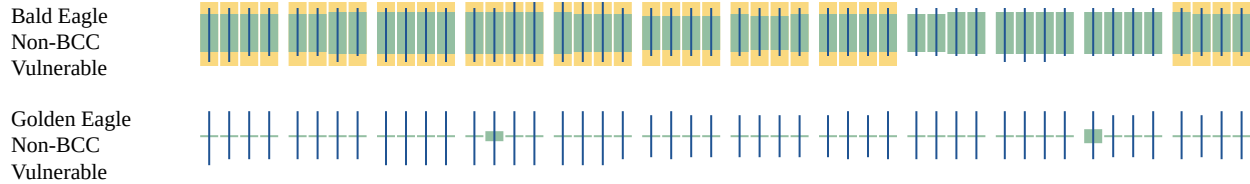
Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (—)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

■ probability of presence ■ breeding season | survey effort — no data

SPECIES JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC



Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act¹ and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act².

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats³ should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described below.

1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
American Golden-plover <i>Pluvialis dominica</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds elsewhere

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31
Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3093	Breeds May 15 to Aug 20
Black-billed Cuckoo <i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9399	Breeds May 15 to Oct 10
Bobolink <i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 20 to Jul 31
Canada Warbler <i>Cardellina canadensis</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 20 to Aug 10
Cerulean Warbler <i>Dendroica cerulea</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2974	Breeds Apr 22 to Jul 20
Chimney Swift <i>Chaetura pelagica</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25
Eastern Whip-poor-will <i>Antrostomus vociferus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 1 to Aug 20
Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680	Breeds elsewhere
Golden-winged Warbler <i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8745	Breeds May 1 to Jul 20
Henslow's Sparrow <i>Ammodramus henslowii</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3941	Breeds May 1 to Aug 31

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679	Breeds elsewhere
Long-eared Owl <i>asio otus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3631	Breeds Mar 1 to Jul 15
Marbled Godwit <i>Limosa fedoa</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9481	Breeds May 1 to Jul 31
Red-headed Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 10 to Sep 10
Ruddy Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres morinella</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA	Breeds elsewhere
Rusty Blackbird <i>Euphagus carolinus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA	Breeds elsewhere
Short-billed Dowitcher <i>Limnodromus griseus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9480	Breeds elsewhere
Western Grebe <i>aechmophorus occidentalis</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6743	Breeds Jun 1 to Aug 31
Wood Thrush <i>Hylocichla mustelina</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 10 to Aug 31

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read the supplemental information and specifically the FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (■)

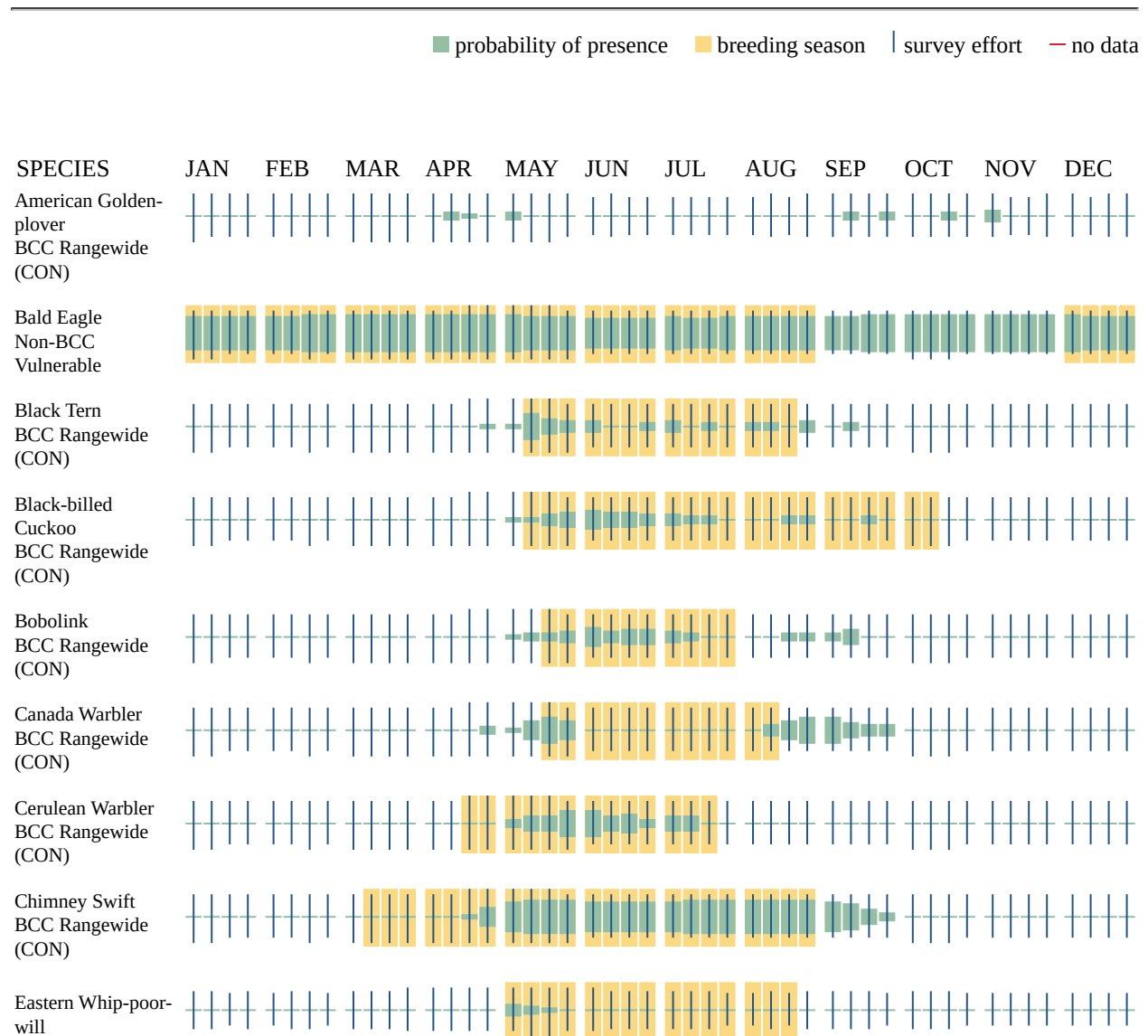
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

Survey Effort (|)

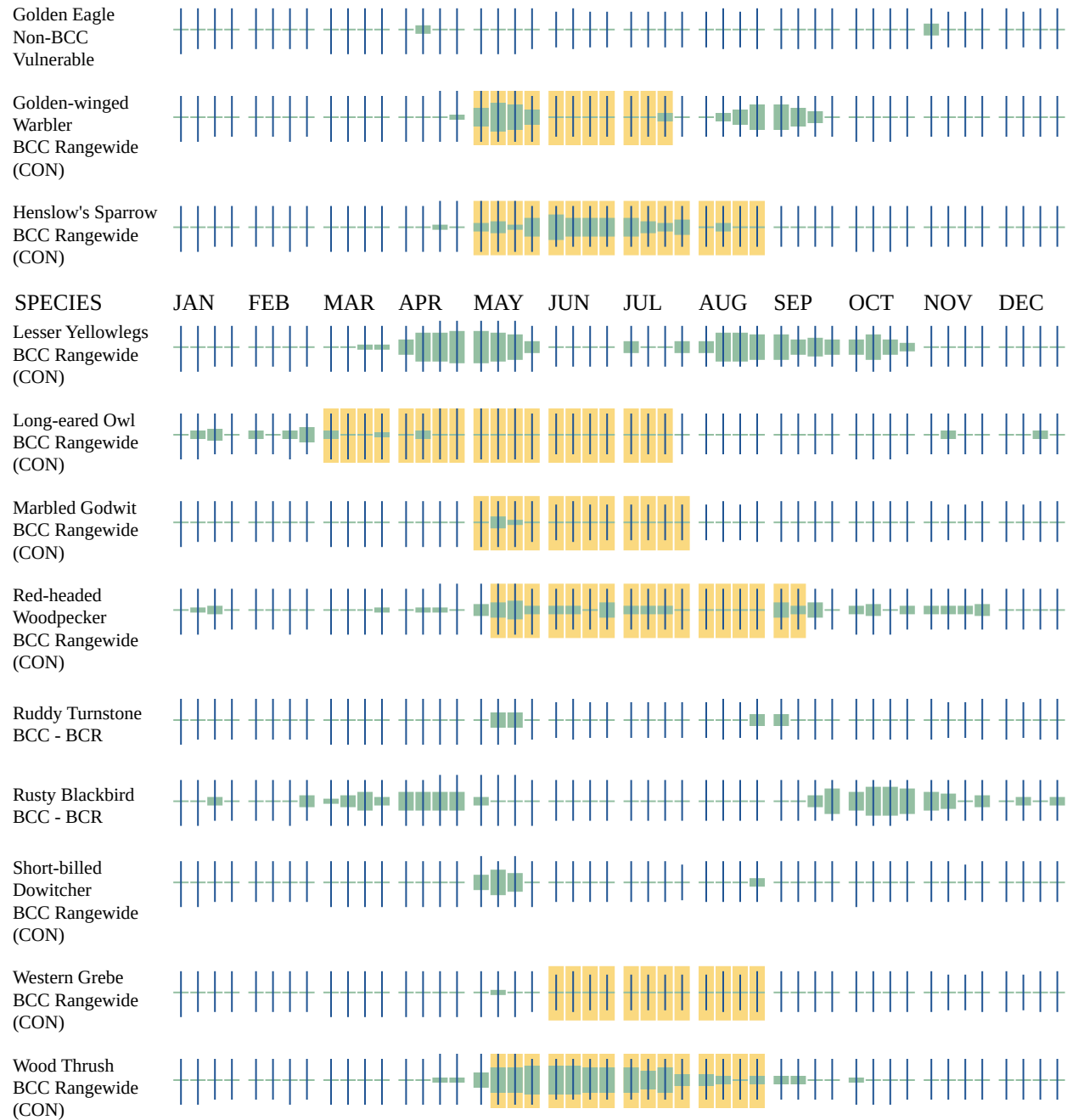
Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (—)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.



BCC Rangewide
(CON)



Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds>

- Nationwide conservation measures for birds <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

WETLANDS

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

FRESHWATER POND

- [PABH](#)
- [PUBH](#)
- [PUBHx](#)
- [PUBF](#)

FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND

- [PEM1F](#)
- [PEM1A](#)
- [PEM1C](#)

FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND

- [PFO1A](#)
-

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Merjent Inc.
Name: Mandy Bohnenblust
Address: 1 Main St SE, Suite 300
City: Minneapolis
State: MN
Zip: 55414
Email: mandy.bohnenblust@merjent.com
Phone: 6127463677

From: [Simpkins, Darin](#)
To: [Kristin Lenz](#)
Cc: [Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG](#); [Mandy Bohnenblust](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Great River Energy Pilot Knob Rebuild and Upgrade Project, Dakota County, MN - Project Introduction
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2023 3:25:37 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi Kristin -

You should first direct consultation requests toward IPaC to generate a species list and to use the D-Key to make determinations and follow the guidance automatically generated. If the guidance suggests that you contact the appropriate field office for further consultation guidance, and the transmission line project is within the boundaries of MN or WI, I will be your point of contact and you can direct your inquiry to me.

OK. So, if the project has a federal nexus, then consultation falls under section 7 of ESA. Section 7 consultation occurs with the agency that has the federal nexus. So, if the project is receiving USDA RUS funding, then consultation will need to be with them, or their official non-governmental representative. If the nexus is formed with USACE under a 404 permit, consultation would be with them or their official non-governmental representative. Representation authority is generally given in writing.

If the project has no federal nexus, then consultation falls under section 10 of the ESA, which is voluntary unless "TAKE" is expected. If take is expected, then the project proponent would need to either be part of an existing Habitat Conservation Plan Programmatic Agreement or would have to develop one themselves to acquire an Incidental Take Statement from the Service. This process is generally lengthy and takes some time in comparison to projects with a nexus.

Regarding site specific information to use in the D-keys, the Service does not maintain such records outside of the generalities outlined in IPaC that is used to generate Official Species Lists etc. Rather, those records are generally maintained by the state Department of Natural Resources. I would suggest consulting with them for site-specific information to determine the level of effort needed prior to conducting surveys. This information can then be used for your federal consultation with us.

Let me know if you have any questions,

Darin

From: Kristin Lenz <kristin.lenz@merjent.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 29, 2023 2:54 PM
To: Simpkins, Darin <Darin_Simpkins@fws.gov>

Cc: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfu@GREnergy.com>; Mandy Bohnenblust
<mandy.bohnenblust@merjent.com>

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

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Good afternoon Darin,

Thank you for your response. For future reference, should we direct all transmission line projects to you?

The Project may require a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Section 404 Regional General Permit, but that is undetermined at this time – there are limited wetlands along the existing route that can likely be avoided. Great River Energy will not initiate federal and state permitting until the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) issues a Route Order and a final design is completed for permitting. The Project does qualify for the MN-WI D-key and we plan on running both that and the NLEB D-key. Currently, we are conducting habitat assessment surveys for both the NLEB and RPB in order to more accurately answer the D-key questions. Based on your data and understanding of this area, do you have any guidance for us as we complete the D-Keys?

Thank you!
Kristin

Kristin Lenz
Senior Project Manager
612.924.3962 direct
763.913.4740 mobile
kristin.lenz@merjent.com



1 Main Street SE, Suite 300
Minneapolis, MN 55414
612.746.3660
www.merjent.com

From: Simpkins, Darin <Darin_Simpkins@fws.gov>

Sent: Friday, August 25, 2023 11:43 AM

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

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

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Hi Kristin -

I am the POC for these kinds of projects. Before we get into the weeds too far, can you confirm that the project has a federal nexus and with what federal agency? USDA RUS? Does the project qualify to use the MN-WI d-key?

Thanks,

Darin

From: Kristin Lenz <kristin.lenz@merjent.com>

Sent: Friday, August 25, 2023 9:32 AM

To: Marquardt, Shauna R <Shauna_Marquardt@fws.gov>

Cc: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfus@GREnergy.com>; Mandy Bohnenblust <mandy.bohnenblust@merjent.com>

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

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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 MStrohfus@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



1 Main Street SE, Suite 300

Minneapolis, MN 55414

612.746.3660

www.merjent.com

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Tribal Historic Preservation Offices

From: [Kristin Lenz](#)
To: [Leonard Wabasha \(TO\)](#)
Cc: [Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG](#); [Mandy Bohnenblust](#)
Subject: RE: Great River Energy Pilot Knob Rebuild and Upgrade Project, Dakota County, MN - Project Introduction
Date: Tuesday, October 24, 2023 11:41:00 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[MN SHPO Response 2023-2640.pdf](#)
[Pilot Knob UDP_Rev0_20231020.pdf](#)

Good afternoon Leonard,

We received the attached response from the MN SHPO regarding the literature review for the Pilot Knob to Burnsville 115-kV Rebuild and Upgrade Project. We have also developed an Unanticipated Discoveries Plan per your guidance, attached for your review.

We hope to file the MPUC Route Permit application in early November.

Please reach out should you have any further questions or comments.

Thank you,
Kristin

Kristin Lenz
Senior Project Manager
612.924.3962 direct
763.913.4740 mobile
kristin.lenz@merjent.com



1 Main Street SE, Suite 300
Minneapolis, MN 55414
612.746.3660
www.merjent.com

From: Leonard Wabasha (TO) <leonard.wabasha@shakopeedakota.org>
Sent: Friday, August 25, 2023 12:27 PM
To: Kristin Lenz <kristin.lenz@merjent.com>
Cc: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfu@GREnergy.com>; Mandy Bohnenblust <mandy.bohnenblust@merjent.com>
Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy Pilot Knob Rebuild and Upgrade Project, Dakota County, MN - Project Introduction

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Good Afternoon All

Thank you for the early notification and opportunity to consult with you on this project. Please include at least all the Minnesota Dakota THPO's and include the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council. If you haven't already done so, please complete a desk top study to check for recorded archaeological sites through the Office of the State Archaeologist web portal and or SHPO. Should any sites be

directly in the path of the project please choose an alternate route by consulting with Tribes. In the event of ground disturbing activities please monitor the work in areas determined to be sensitive to the Tribes and have an Unanticipated Discovery Plan in place for the entire proposed project. Thank you for the opportunity to consult, I look forward to future conversation regarding this project. Have a Great Day!

Respectfully,



LEONARD WABASHA

Director of Cultural Resources • Cultural Resources
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
d: 952.496.6120
shakopeedakota.org
Leonard.Wabasha@shakopeedakota.org

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community is a federally recognized, sovereign Indian tribe located southwest of Minneapolis/St. Paul. With a focus on being a good neighbor, good steward of the earth, and good employer, the SMSC is committed to charitable donations, community partnerships, a healthy environment, and a strong economy.

From: Kristin Lenz <kristin.lenz@merjent.com>

Sent: Friday, August 25, 2023 12:10 PM

To: Leonard Wabasha (TO) <leonard.wabasha@shakopeedakota.org>

Cc: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohf@GREnergy.com>; Mandy Bohnenblust <mandy.bohnenblust@merjent.com>

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

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

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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.

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Regards,
Kristin Lenz on behalf of Mark Strohfus, Great River Energy

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1 Main Street SE, Suite 300
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www.merjent.com

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From: [Kristin Lenz](#)
To: [Leonard Wabasha \(TO\)](#)
Cc: [Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG](#); [Mandy Bohnenblust](#)
Subject: RE: Great River Energy Pilot Knob Rebuild and Upgrade Project, Dakota County, MN - Project Introduction
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2023 1:28:00 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[GRE Pilot Knob Phase IA LetterReport 20230808.pdf](#)

Good afternoon Leonard,

Thank you for your response. We have separately provided the Project Introduction letters to MIAC, OSA and to the 11 THPOs located in Minnesota. I have also attached the Phase IA letter report that Merjent has conducted on behalf of Great River Energy and submitted to the MN SHPO for review; we have not received a response from the MN SHPO yet.

When I emailed the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe THPO, Terry Kemper, we received an undeliverable message. Do you by chance know if there may be a new person in that position?

Thank you!
Kristin

Kristin Lenz
Senior Project Manager
612.924.3962 direct
763.913.4740 mobile
kristin.lenz@merjent.com



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Sent: Friday, August 25, 2023 12:27 PM
To: Kristin Lenz <kristin.lenz@merjent.com>
Cc: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfu@GREnergy.com>; Mandy Bohnenblust <mandy.bohnenblust@merjent.com>
Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy Pilot Knob Rebuild and Upgrade Project, Dakota County, MN - Project Introduction

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