

APPENDIX E
Correspondence with Regulatory Agencies
and Stakeholders

PUBLIC

PROJECT INTRODUCTION NOTIFICATION

Table E-1. Recipients Sent and Copied on the Project Introduction Notification Letter

Agency	Department/District/Division	Contact Name	Address	Email	Intro Letter Sent
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	St. Paul District - Regulatory and Permits	Matthew Groshek	332 Minnesota St., Ste. E1500 St. Paul, MN 55101	Matthew.M.Groshek@usace.army.mil	<i>Unique letter</i> Primary addressee
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Natural Resources Conservation Service, Waconia Field Office	Christopher Schmidt	219 E Frontage Road Waconia, MN 55387-1862	chris.schmidt@usda.gov	Primary addressee
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Minnesota Ecological Services Field Office	Shauna Marquardt	3815 American Blvd. East Bloomington, MN 55425	Shauna_Marquardt@fws.gov	<i>Unique letter</i> Primary addressee
Federal Aviation Administration	Obstruction Evaluation Technician	Marla Duchatellier	10101 Hillwood Parkway Fort Worth, TX 76177	Marla.Duchatellier@faa.gov	Primary addressee (R. Kiser replaced with M. Duchatellier)
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Jaylen Strong	1500 Bois Forte Road Tower, MN 55790	jaylen.strong@boisfortensn.gov	Primary addressee
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Evan Schroeder	1720 Big Lake Road Cloquet, MN 55720	EvanSchroeder@FDLREZ.COM	Primary addressee
Grand Portage Band of Ojibwe	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Rob Hull	PO Box 428 Grand Portage, MN 55605	thpo@grandportage.com	Primary addressee
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Gina Lemon	190 Sailstar Drive NE Cass Lake, MN 56633	gina.lemon@llojibwe.net	Primary addressee
Lower Sioux Indian Community	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Cheyenne St. John	39527 Res.Hwy. 1 Morton, MN 56270	cheyanne.stjohn@lowersioux.com	Primary addressee
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Mike Wilson	43408 Oodena Drive Onamia, MN 56359	mike.wilson@millelacsband.com	Primary addressee
Prairie Island Indian Community	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Noah White	5636 Sturgeon Lake Road Welch, MN 55089	noah.white@piic.org	Primary addressee
Red Lake Nation	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Kade Ferris	15484 Migizi Drive Red Lake, MN 56671	kade.ferris@redlakenation.org	Primary addressee
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Leonard Wabasha	2330 Sioux Trail NW Prior Lake, MN 55372	leonard.wabasha@shakopedakota.org	Primary addressee
Upper Sioux Community	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Samantha Odegard	PO Box 147, 5722 Travers Lane Granite Falls, MN 56241	samanthao@uppersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov	Primary addressee
White Earth Nation	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Jaime Arsenault	PO Box 418 White Earth, MN 56591-0418	Jaime.Arsenault@whiteearth-nsn.gov	Primary addressee

PUBLIC DOCUMENT - NOT PUBLIC DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED

Agency	Department/District/Division	Contact Name	Address	Email	Intro Letter Sent
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	Ag Marketing & Development	Stephan Roos	625 Robert Street North St. Paul, MN 55155-2538	stephan.roos@state.mn.us	Primary addressee
Minnesota Department of Health	Environmental Health Division - Metro, Planner	Abby Shea	625 Robert Street N, PO Box 64975 St Paul, MN 55164	abby.shea@state.mn.us	Primary addressee
Minnesota Department of Health	Environmental Health Division - Metro, Hydrologist	Anneka Munsell	625 Robert Street N, PO Box 64975 St Paul, MN 55164	anneka.munsell@state.mn.us	Copied on letter to A Shea (Minnesota Department of Health)
Minnesota Department of Health	Environmental Health Division - Surface Water Protection Program	Dereck Richter	625 Robert Street N, PO Box 64975 St Paul, MN 55164	dereck.richter@state.mn.us	Copied on letter to A Shea (Minnesota Department of Health)
Minnesota Department of Health	Environmental Health Division - Surface Water Protection Program	Danielle Nielsen	625 Robert Street N, PO Box 64975 St Paul, MN 55164	danielle.nielsen@state.mn.us	Copied on letter to A Shea (Minnesota Department of Health)
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Environmental Review Coordinator	Kate Fairman	500 Lafayette Rd., Box 25 St. Paul, MN 55155	kate.fairman@state.mn.us	<i>Unique letter</i> Primary addressee (C. Warzecha replaced with K Fairman), combined letter with M. Collins (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources)
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Lands & Minerals Region 3 - Central Minnesota	Joe Rokala	1200 Warner Road St. Paul, MN 55106	joe.rokala@state.mn.us	Copied on letter to C. Warzecha and M. Collins (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources)
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	<i>Unique letter</i> Primary addressee, combined letter with C. Warzecha (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources)
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Land Management	Stacy Kotch Egstad	395 John Ireland Blvd, Mailstop 678 St. Paul, MN 55155	stacy.kotch@state.mn.us	Primary addressee
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	Primary addressee

PUBLIC DOCUMENT - NOT PUBLIC DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED

Agency	Department/District/Division	Contact Name	Address	Email	Intro Letter Sent
Office of the State Archaeologist	Section 106 / MN Cultural Resources Review	Amanda Gronhovd	328 W. Kellogg Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55102	Amanda.Gronhovd@state.mn.us	Primary addressee
Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources	Wetland Conservation Act	Alyssa Core	520 Lafayette Rd N St. Paul, MN 55155	alyssa.core@state.mn.us	Copied on letters to K Larson (Carver County Water Management Organization) and Permitting Department (Minnehaha Creek Watershed District)
Carver County	Public Works Department	Whitney Schroeder	11360 Highway 212, Suite 1 Cologne, MN 55322	wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us	Primary addressee
Carver County	Public Works Department	Luke Schwarz	11360 Highway 212, Suite 1 Cologne, MN 55322	lschwarz@co.carver.mn.us	Copied on letter to W. Schroeder (Carver County PWD)
Carver County	Public Works Department	Darin Mielke	11360 Highway 212, Suite 1 Cologne, MN 55322	dmielke@co.carver.mn.us	Copied on letter to W. Schroeder (Carver County PWD)
Carver County	Planning & Zoning, Land Use	Jason Mielke	600 E. 4th Street Chaska, MN 55318	landmanagement@co.carver.mn.us	Primary addressee
Carver County Water Management Organization	Wetland Conservation Act LGU - Dahlgren Township /Laketown Township	Kristen Larson	600 East Fourth Street Chaska, MN 55318	klarson@co.carver.mn.us	Primary addressee
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District	Wetland Conservation Act LGU - Laketown Township - Option 1 outside of WD boundaries	Permitting Department	15320 Minnetonka Blvd. Minnetonka, MN 55345	permitting@minnehahacreek.org	<i>Unique letter</i> Primary addressee
City of Victoria	City of Victoria Community Development Department	Brian McCann	1670 Stieger Lake Lane, PO Box 36 Victoria MN 55386	bmccann@ci.victoria.mn.us	Primary addressee
Southwest Trails Association	Carver County Snowmobile Trails	Jim Struble	3237 Gladstone Ln. Mound, MN 55364	swtrailsmn@gmail.com	Primary addressee
Note: All introduction letters were sent via email.					

Standard Introduction Letter



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

April 19, 2024

[Name]

[Agency]

[Address]

[City, State, Zipcode]

[Email address]

**Subject: Great River Energy
Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project
Laketown and Dahlgren Townships, Carver County, Minnesota**

Dear :

Great River Energy is proposing to construct approximately 4.3 miles of new double-circuit, 115-kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line (HVTL) within Laketown and Dahlgren Townships in Carver County, Minnesota (the Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project, or Project). As part of the Project, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative would construct a new distribution substation at the northwest corner of the intersection of County Road 10 and Laketown Road. Great River Energy and Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative are planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in the summer of 2024. Construction would begin in fall 2027 and energization would occur in summer 2028.

The enclosed Project Fact Sheet provides additional information on the Project, including a map of the Project area. The map shows three transmission line route options initially considered by Great River Energy. Based on discussions with local stakeholders, along with an environmental and constructability review, Great River Energy intends to move forward with Option 1 as the Proposed Alignment.

The Project will primarily use single direct-embedded, 70- to 95-foot-tall steel poles placed 300 to 450 feet apart. Some specialty poles will be required for larger angles. Final design will determine the span distances and need for specialty poles. Construction will occur within a 100-foot-wide right-of-way (ROW) easement that Great River Energy will obtain to operate the transmission line. The 100-foot-wide ROW easement is centered on the Proposed Alignment (or 50 feet on either side of the transmission line).

Robert Kiser
April 19, 2024
Page 2

Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project. Please contact me at 763-445-5979 or MSwenson@GREnergy.com should you need additional information.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Swenson".

Michael Swenson
Transmission Permitting Specialist

Encl: Project Fact Sheet



Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, MN 55369
1-888-521-0130
greatriverenergy.com



Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative
125 Minnesota Valley Electric Drive
Jordan, MN 55352-0125
952-492-2313
mvec.net

Laketown 115-kV transmission line project

Great River Energy, wholesale power provider to Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative, proposes to build approximately 3 to 5 miles of 115-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission lines within Laketown and Dahlgren Townships in Carver County. A route permit must be issued by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) before construction can begin.

Overview

Great River Energy is planning to construct a new 115-kV double-circuit transmission line to power a new distribution substation being built by Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative at the northwest corner of the intersection of Carver County Road 10 and Laketown Road (see map on back). Great River Energy reviewed three potential routes for the new transmission line as depicted on the map. Based on discussions with local stakeholders, along with an environmental and constructability review, Great River Energy intends to move forward with Option 1 as the preferred route.

Transmission line construction will generally use single direct-embedded steel poles 70 to 95 feet tall, placed 300 to 450 feet apart. Some specialty poles, including steel on foundation, may be required for larger angles. To provide a safe construction, operation and maintenance area, a 100-foot-wide right of way, 50 feet each side of the centerline, will need to be maintained to be clear of trees and vegetation.

Permitting and public involvement

Great River Energy hosted a public open house in January 2024 to share additional project information with landowners, local government officials and other stakeholders to solicit input on the project. Great River Energy will apply for a route permit from the PUC in the summer of 2024. During the route permitting process, all stakeholders will have opportunities to provide input on the project.



Typical 115-kV structures

Great River Energy will work with county, state and federal agencies to secure any other required environmental or construction and road crossing permits.

Easements

Once the project has been approved by the PUC, landowners will be contacted to begin the easement acquisition process. Easements will be needed to provide adequate land rights for construction, operation and maintenance of the new line. Landowners will be presented with a copy of the route permit, easement and compensation settlement offer. Information will also be provided on the proposed design and pole locations, along with information on tree removal, construction access, settlement of damages and restoration of the right-of-way.

Quick facts

Length – 3 to 5 miles

Voltage – 115-kV

Structures – 70 to 95 feet tall

Spans – 300 to 450 feet apart

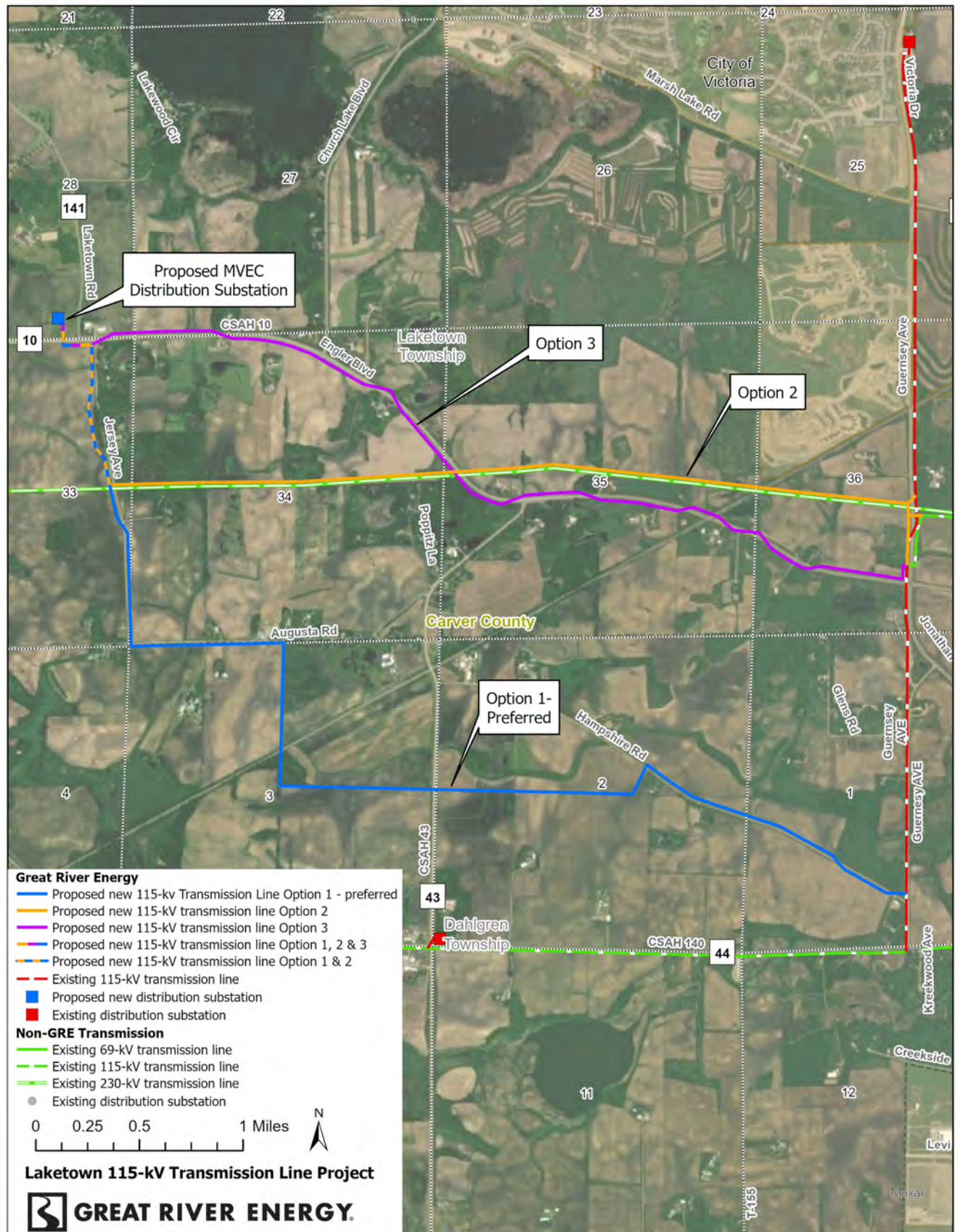
Right of way – Up to 100-foot-wide right of way, 50 feet on each side on the center line

Permits – MN Public Utilities Commission route permit

Schedule

State permitting	Summer 2024 – Spring 2026
Survey/design	Spring 2026
Easements/ Environmental permits	Summer 2026 – Fall 2027
Transmission line construction	Fall 2027 – Summer 2028
Energization	Summer 2028

Proposed project



1/02/2024

Great River Energy representatives

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

Michelle Lommel
Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights
763-445-5977 | mlommel@greenergy.com

Michael Swenson
Transmission Permitting Specialist
763-445-5979 | 952-807-4537 | mswenson@greenergy.com

Unique Introduction Letters

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District - Regulatory and Permits



12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
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April 19, 2024

Ben Orne
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – St. Paul District
332 Minnesota St., Ste. E1500
St. Paul, MN 55101
usace_requests_MN@usace.army.mil
Benjamin.G.Orne@usace.army.mil

**Subject: Great River Energy
Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project
Laketown and Dahlgren Townships, Carver County, Minnesota**

Dear Ben Orne:

Great River Energy is proposing to construct approximately 4.3 miles of new double-circuit, 115-kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line (HVTL) within Laketown and Dahlgren Townships in Carver County, Minnesota (the Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project, or Project). As part of the Project, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative would construct a new distribution substation at the northwest corner of the intersection of County Road 10 and Laketown Road. Great River Energy and Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative are planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in the summer of 2024. Construction would begin in fall 2027 and energization would occur in summer 2028.

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The Project will primarily use single direct-embedded, 70- to 95-foot-tall steel poles placed 300 to 450 feet apart. Some specialty poles will be required for larger angles. Final design will determine the span distances and need for specialty poles. Construction will occur within a 100-foot-wide right-of-way (ROW) easement that Great River Energy will obtain to operate the transmission line. The 100-foot-wide ROW easement is centered on the Proposed Alignment (or 50 feet on either side of the transmission line).

Ben Orne
April 19, 2024
Page 2

At this time Great River Energy is requesting that a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Project Number and Project Manager be assigned to the Project. Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project. Please contact me at 763-445-5979 or MSwenson@GREnergy.com should you need additional information.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Swenson", written in a cursive style.

Michael Swenson
Transmission Permitting Specialist

Encl: Project Fact Sheet



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12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
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Laketown 115-kV transmission line project

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Overview

Great River Energy is planning to construct a new 115-kV double-circuit transmission line to power a new distribution substation being built by Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative at the northwest corner of the intersection of Carver County Road 10 and Laketown Road (see map on back). Great River Energy reviewed three potential routes for the new transmission line as depicted on the map. Based on discussions with local stakeholders, along with an environmental and constructability review, Great River Energy intends to move forward with Option 1 as the preferred route.

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Permitting and public involvement

Great River Energy hosted a public open house in January 2024 to share additional project information with landowners, local government officials and other stakeholders to solicit input on the project. Great River Energy will apply for a route permit from the PUC in the summer of 2024. During the route permitting process, all stakeholders will have opportunities to provide input on the project.



Typical 115-kV structures

Great River Energy will work with county, state and federal agencies to secure any other required environmental or construction and road crossing permits.

Easements

Once the project has been approved by the PUC, landowners will be contacted to begin the easement acquisition process. Easements will be needed to provide adequate land rights for construction, operation and maintenance of the new line. Landowners will be presented with a copy of the route permit, easement and compensation settlement offer. Information will also be provided on the proposed design and pole locations, along with information on tree removal, construction access, settlement of damages and restoration of the right-of-way.

Quick facts

Length – 3 to 5 miles

Voltage – 115-kV

Structures – 70 to 95 feet tall

Spans – 300 to 450 feet apart

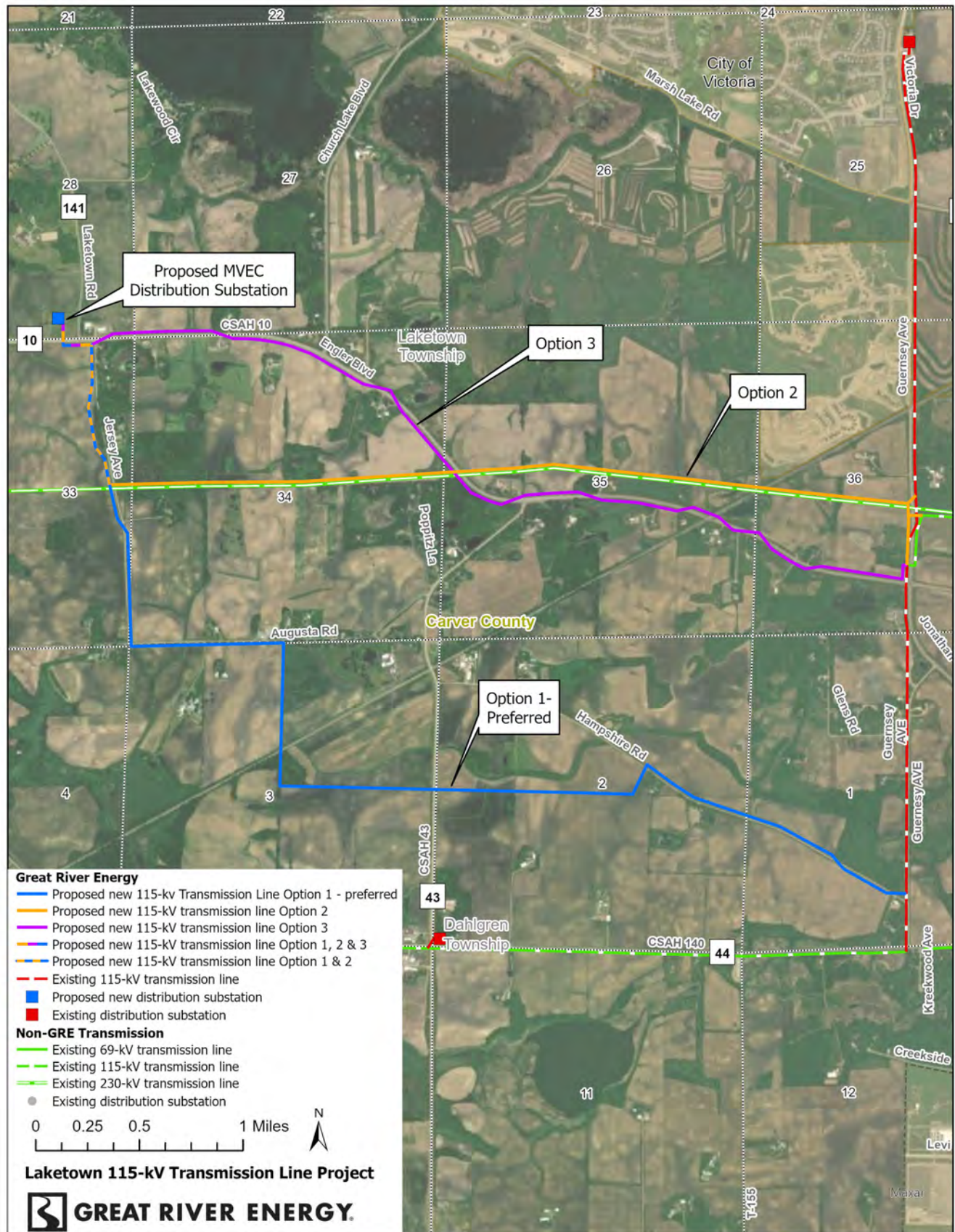
Right of way – Up to 100-foot-wide right of way, 50 feet on each side on the center line

Permits – MN Public Utilities Commission route permit

Schedule

State permitting	Summer 2024 – Spring 2026
Survey/design	Spring 2026
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Proposed project



1/02/2024

Great River Energy representatives

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

Michelle Lommel
Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights
763-445-5977 | mlommel@greenergy.com

Michael Swenson
Transmission Permitting Specialist
763-445-5979 | 952-807-4537 | mswenson@greenergy.com

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Minnesota Ecological Services Field Office



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Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369-4718
763-445-5000
greatriverenergy.com

April 19, 2024

Shauna Marquardt
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
3815 American Blvd. East
Bloomington, MN 55425
Shauna_Marquardt@fws.gov

**Subject: Great River Energy
Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project
Laketown and Dahlgren Townships, Carver County, Minnesota**

Dear Shauna Marquardt:

Great River Energy is proposing to construct approximately 4.3 miles of new double-circuit, 115-kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line (HVTL) within Laketown and Dahlgren Townships in Carver County, Minnesota (the Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project, or Project). As part of the Project, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative would construct a new distribution substation at the northwest corner of the intersection of County Road 10 and Laketown Road. Great River Energy and Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative are planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in the summer of 2024. Construction would begin in fall 2027 and energization would occur in summer 2028.

The enclosed Project Fact Sheet provides additional information on the Project, including a map of the Project area. The map shows three transmission line route options initially considered by Great River Energy. Based on discussions with local stakeholders, along with an environmental and constructability review, Great River Energy intends to move forward with Option 1 as the Proposed Alignment.

The Project will primarily use single direct-embedded, 70- to 95-foot-tall steel poles placed 300 to 450 feet apart. Some specialty poles will be required for larger angles. Final design will determine the span distances and need for specialty poles. Construction will occur within a 100-foot-wide right-of-way (ROW) easement that Great River Energy will obtain to operate the transmission line. The 100-foot-wide ROW easement is centered on the Proposed Alignment (or 50 feet on either side of the transmission line).

Per past U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) guidance, we understand that USFWS does not provide technical guidance through these initial notification letters. Therefore, Great River Energy will rely on the USFWS' web-based tools for initial technical assistance, including the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system and Determination Keys (Dkeys). We will contact USFWS if further assistance is required following use of these tools.

Shauna Marquardt
April 19, 2024
Page 2

Please contact me at 763-445-5979 or MSwenson@GREnergy.com should you need additional information.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Swenson".

Michael Swenson
Transmission Permitting Specialist

Encl: Project Fact Sheet



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12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
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Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative
125 Minnesota Valley Electric Drive
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mvec.net

Laketown 115-kV transmission line project

Great River Energy, wholesale power provider to Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative, proposes to build approximately 3 to 5 miles of 115-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission lines within Laketown and Dahlgren Townships in Carver County. A route permit must be issued by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) before construction can begin.

Overview

Great River Energy is planning to construct a new 115-kV double-circuit transmission line to power a new distribution substation being built by Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative at the northwest corner of the intersection of Carver County Road 10 and Laketown Road (see map on back). Great River Energy reviewed three potential routes for the new transmission line as depicted on the map. Based on discussions with local stakeholders, along with an environmental and constructability review, Great River Energy intends to move forward with Option 1 as the preferred route.

Transmission line construction will generally use single direct-embedded steel poles 70 to 95 feet tall, placed 300 to 450 feet apart. Some specialty poles, including steel on foundation, may be required for larger angles. To provide a safe construction, operation and maintenance area, a 100-foot-wide right of way, 50 feet each side of the centerline, will need to be maintained to be clear of trees and vegetation.

Permitting and public involvement

Great River Energy hosted a public open house in January 2024 to share additional project information with landowners, local government officials and other stakeholders to solicit input on the project. Great River Energy will apply for a route permit from the PUC in the summer of 2024. During the route permitting process, all stakeholders will have opportunities to provide input on the project.



Typical 115-kV structures

Great River Energy will work with county, state and federal agencies to secure any other required environmental or construction and road crossing permits.

Easements

Once the project has been approved by the PUC, landowners will be contacted to begin the easement acquisition process. Easements will be needed to provide adequate land rights for construction, operation and maintenance of the new line. Landowners will be presented with a copy of the route permit, easement and compensation settlement offer. Information will also be provided on the proposed design and pole locations, along with information on tree removal, construction access, settlement of damages and restoration of the right-of-way.

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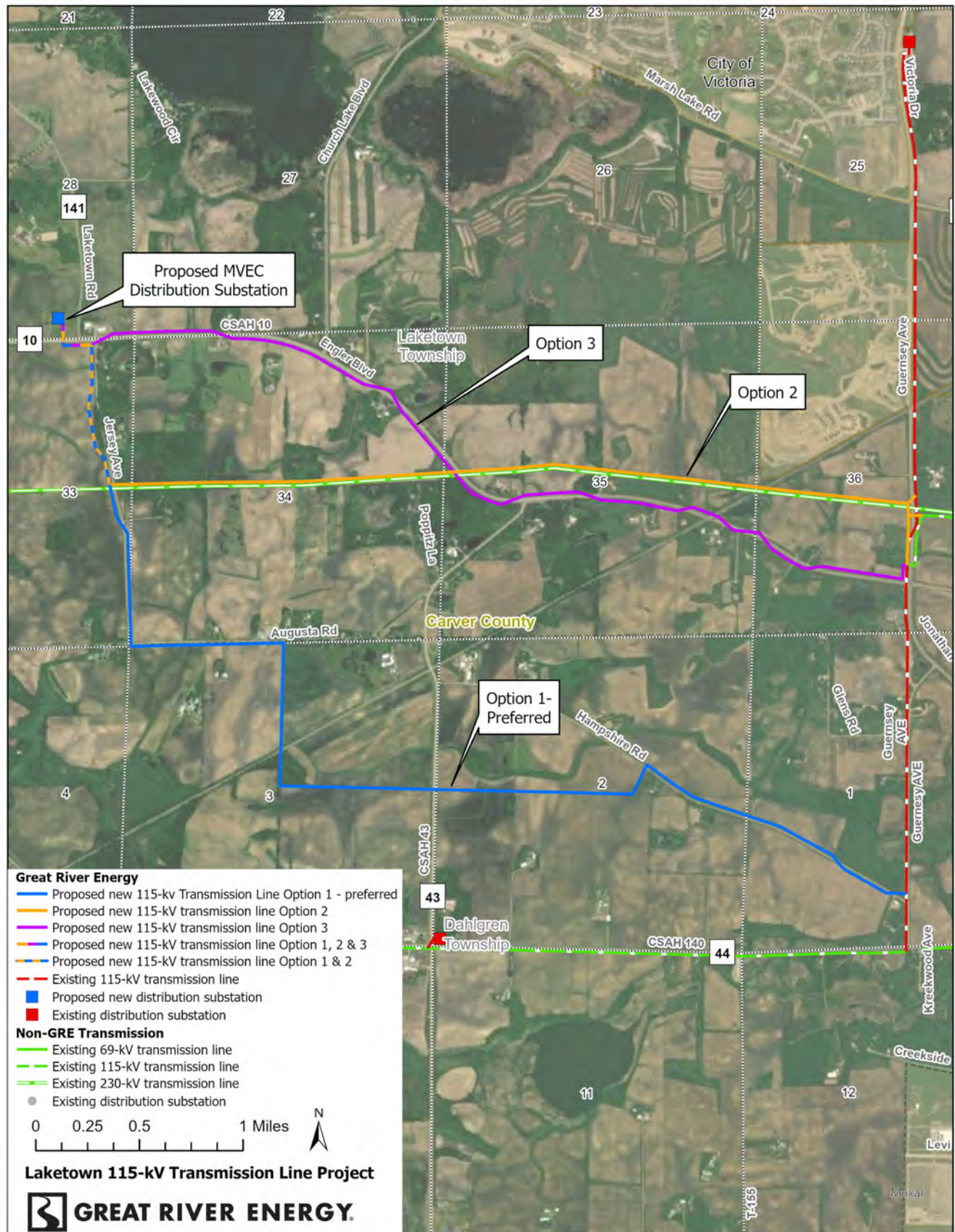
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Proposed project



1/02/2024

Great River Energy representatives

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

Michelle Lommel
Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights
763-445-5977 | mlommel@greenergy.com

Michael Swenson
Transmission Permitting Specialist
763-445-5979 | 952-807-4537 | mswenson@greenergy.com

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources



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

April 19, 2024

Melissa Collins
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
1200 Warner Road
St. Paul, MN 55106
melissa.collins@state.mn.us

Cynthia Warzecha
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Rd., Box 25
St. Paul, MN 55155
Cynthia.Warzecha@state.mn.us

**Subject: Great River Energy
Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project
Laketown and Dahlgren Townships, Carver County, Minnesota**

Dear Melissa Collins and Cynthia Warzecha:

Great River Energy is proposing to construct approximately 4.3 miles of new double-circuit, 115-kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line (HVTL) within Laketown and Dahlgren Townships in Carver County, Minnesota (the Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project, or Project). As part of the Project, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative would construct a new distribution substation at the northwest corner of the intersection of County Road 10 and Laketown Road. Great River Energy and Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative are planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in the summer of 2024. Construction would begin in fall 2027 and energization would occur in summer 2028.

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The Project will primarily use single direct-embedded, 70- to 95-foot-tall steel poles placed 300 to 450 feet apart. Some specialty poles will be required for larger angles. Final design will determine the span distances and need for specialty poles. Construction will occur within a 100-foot-wide right-of-way (ROW) easement that Great River Energy will obtain to operate the transmission line. The 100-foot-wide

Melissa Collins and Cynthia Warzecha
April 19, 2024
Page 2

ROW easement is centered on the Proposed Alignment (or 50 feet on either side of the transmission line).

Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project. Please contact me at 763-445-5979 or MSwenson@GREnergy.com should you need additional information.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Swenson".

Michael Swenson
Transmission Permitting Specialist

Encl: Project Fact Sheet

CC: Joe Rokala, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources



Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, MN 55369
1-888-521-0130
greatriverenergy.com



Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative
125 Minnesota Valley Electric Drive
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Laketown 115-kV transmission line project

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Great River Energy hosted a public open house in January 2024 to share additional project information with landowners, local government officials and other stakeholders to solicit input on the project. Great River Energy will apply for a route permit from the PUC in the summer of 2024. During the route permitting process, all stakeholders will have opportunities to provide input on the project.



Typical 115-kV structures

Great River Energy will work with county, state and federal agencies to secure any other required environmental or construction and road crossing permits.

Easements

Once the project has been approved by the PUC, landowners will be contacted to begin the easement acquisition process. Easements will be needed to provide adequate land rights for construction, operation and maintenance of the new line. Landowners will be presented with a copy of the route permit, easement and compensation settlement offer. Information will also be provided on the proposed design and pole locations, along with information on tree removal, construction access, settlement of damages and restoration of the right-of-way.

Quick facts

Length – 3 to 5 miles

Voltage – 115-kV

Structures – 70 to 95 feet tall

Spans – 300 to 450 feet apart

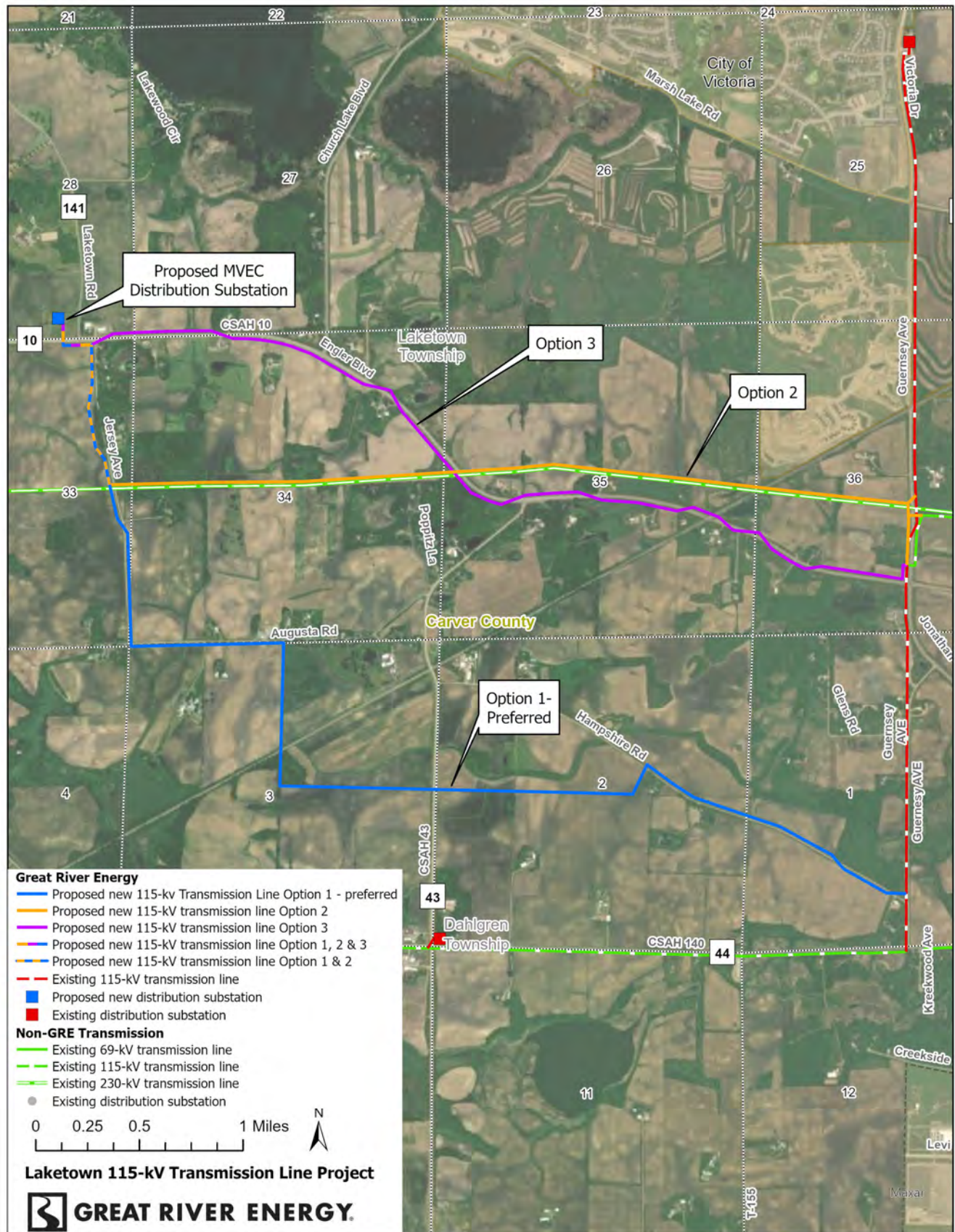
Right of way – Up to 100-foot-wide right of way, 50 feet on each side on the center line

Permits – MN Public Utilities Commission route permit

Schedule

State permitting	Summer 2024 – Spring 2026
Survey/design	Spring 2026
Easements/ Environmental permits	Summer 2026 – Fall 2027
Transmission line construction	Fall 2027 – Summer 2028
Energization	Summer 2028

Proposed project



1/02/2024

Great River Energy representatives

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

Michelle Lommel
Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights
763-445-5977 | mlommel@greenergy.com

Michael Swenson
Transmission Permitting Specialist
763-445-5979 | 952-807-4537 | mswenson@greenergy.com

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District



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

April 19, 2024

Permitting Department
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
15320 Minnetonka Blvd.
Minnetonka, MN 55345
permitting@minnehahacreek.org

**Subject: Great River Energy
Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project
Laketown and Dahlgren Townships, Carver County, Minnesota**

To Permitting Department:

Great River Energy is proposing to construct approximately 4.3 miles of new double-circuit, 115-kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line (HVTL) within Laketown and Dahlgren Townships in Carver County, Minnesota (the Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project, or Project). As part of the Project, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative would construct a new distribution substation at the northwest corner of the intersection of County Road 10 and Laketown Road. Great River Energy and Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative are planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in the summer of 2024. Construction would begin in fall 2027 and energization would occur in summer 2028.

The enclosed Project Fact Sheet provides additional information on the Project, including a map of the Project area. The map shows three transmission line route options initially considered by Great River Energy. Based on discussions with local stakeholders, along with an environmental and constructability review, Great River Energy intends to move forward with Option 1 as the Proposed Alignment. Note that Option 1 does not presently cross the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District boundaries; however, Option 3, another route once considered by Great River Energy, does cross the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District boundaries along County Highway 10.

The Project will primarily use single direct-embedded, 70- to 95-foot-tall steel poles placed 300 to 450 feet apart. Some specialty poles will be required for larger angles. Final design will determine the span distances and need for specialty poles. Construction will occur within a 100-foot-wide right-of-way (ROW) easement that Great River Energy will obtain to operate the transmission line. The 100-foot-wide ROW easement is centered on the Proposed Alignment (or 50 feet on either side of the transmission line).

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District- Permitting Department

April 19, 2024

Page 2

Please contact me at 763-445-5979 or MSwenson@GREnergy.com should you need additional information regarding the Project.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Swenson".

Michael Swenson
Transmission Permitting Specialist

Encl: Project Fact Sheet

CC: Alyssa Core, Board of Water and Soil Resources



Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, MN 55369
1-888-521-0130
greatriverenergy.com



Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative
125 Minnesota Valley Electric Drive
Jordan, MN 55352-0125
952-492-2313
mvec.net

Laketown 115-kV transmission line project

Great River Energy, wholesale power provider to Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative, proposes to build approximately 3 to 5 miles of 115-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission lines within Laketown and Dahlgren Townships in Carver County. A route permit must be issued by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) before construction can begin.

Overview

Great River Energy is planning to construct a new 115-kV double-circuit transmission line to power a new distribution substation being built by Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative at the northwest corner of the intersection of Carver County Road 10 and Laketown Road (see map on back). Great River Energy reviewed three potential routes for the new transmission line as depicted on the map. Based on discussions with local stakeholders, along with an environmental and constructability review, Great River Energy intends to move forward with Option 1 as the preferred route.

Transmission line construction will generally use single direct-embedded steel poles 70 to 95 feet tall, placed 300 to 450 feet apart. Some specialty poles, including steel on foundation, may be required for larger angles. To provide a safe construction, operation and maintenance area, a 100-foot-wide right of way, 50 feet each side of the centerline, will need to be maintained to be clear of trees and vegetation.

Permitting and public involvement

Great River Energy hosted a public open house in January 2024 to share additional project information with landowners, local government officials and other stakeholders to solicit input on the project. Great River Energy will apply for a route permit from the PUC in the summer of 2024. During the route permitting process, all stakeholders will have opportunities to provide input on the project.



Typical 115-kV structures

Great River Energy will work with county, state and federal agencies to secure any other required environmental or construction and road crossing permits.

Easements

Once the project has been approved by the PUC, landowners will be contacted to begin the easement acquisition process. Easements will be needed to provide adequate land rights for construction, operation and maintenance of the new line. Landowners will be presented with a copy of the route permit, easement and compensation settlement offer. Information will also be provided on the proposed design and pole locations, along with information on tree removal, construction access, settlement of damages and restoration of the right-of-way.

Quick facts

Length – 3 to 5 miles

Voltage – 115-kV

Structures – 70 to 95 feet tall

Spans – 300 to 450 feet apart

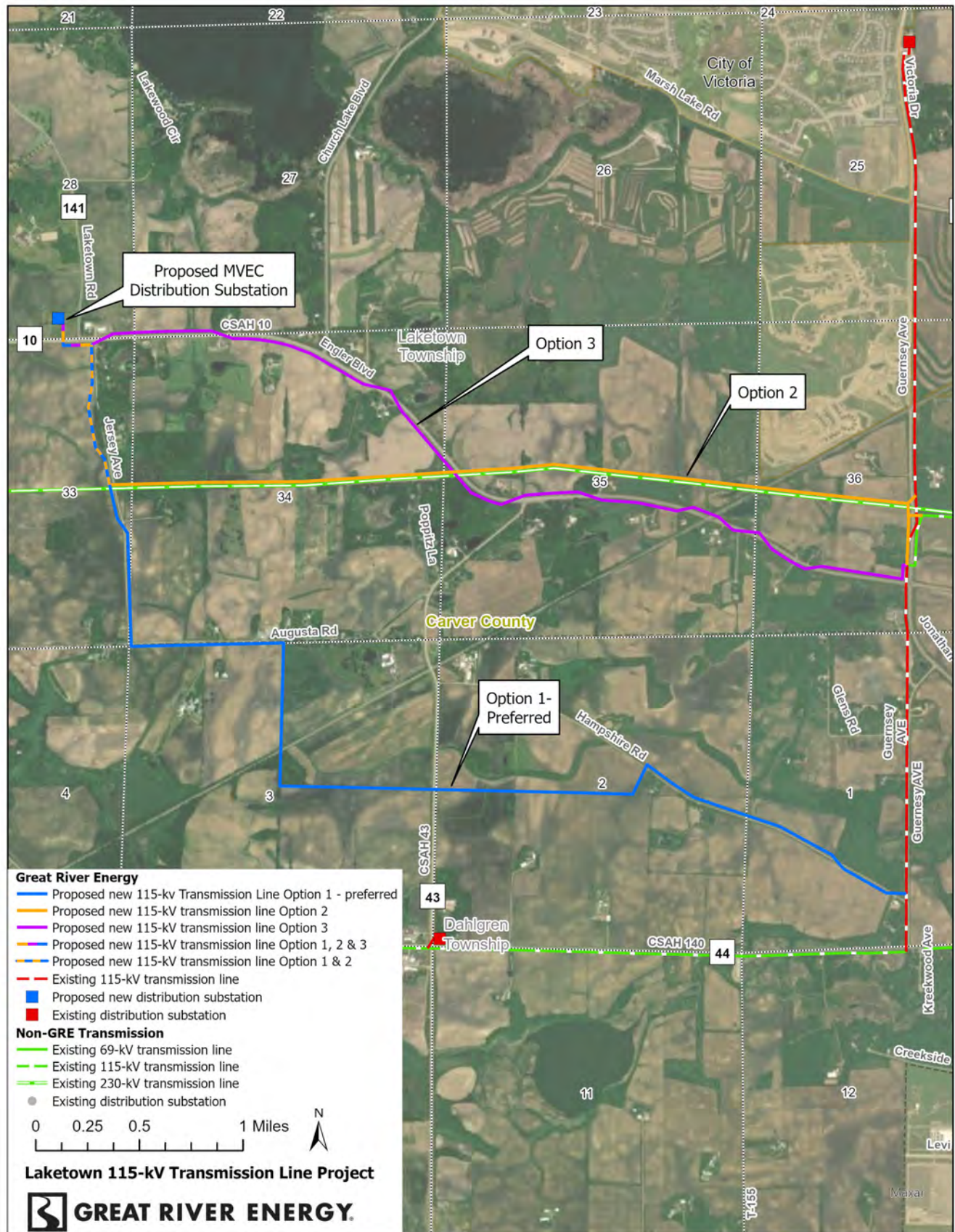
Right of way – Up to 100-foot-wide right of way, 50 feet on each side on the center line

Permits – MN Public Utilities Commission route permit

Schedule

State permitting	Summer 2024 – Spring 2026
Survey/design	Spring 2026
Easements/ Environmental permits	Summer 2026 – Fall 2027
Transmission line construction	Fall 2027 – Summer 2028
Energization	Summer 2028

Proposed project



1/02/2024

Great River Energy representatives

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

Michelle Lommel
Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights
763-445-5977 | mlommel@grenergy.com

Michael Swenson
Transmission Permitting Specialist
763-445-5979 | 952-807-4537 | mswenson@grenergy.com

ADDITIONAL AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District - Regulatory and Permits

From: USACE_Requests_MN <USACE_Requests_MN@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 2:19 PM
To: Britta Bergland
Cc: Swenson, Michael GRE-MG; Groshek, Matthew M CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA); alyssa.core@state.mn.us; klarson@co.carver.mn.us; permitting@minnehahacreek.org
Subject: EXTERNAL: MVP-2024-00483-MMG (Great River Energy - Laketown 115kV Transmission Line Project) ACK
Attachments: 2024-00483-MMG 20240422 ACK.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Attached please find the subject document(s). If you have any questions, please contact the project manager indicated in the letter.

Thanks,

Erik Madaus
Office Automation Assistant
US Army Corps of Engineers, Saint Paul District
Saint Paul MN, 55101
Office: 651-290-5357
erik.a.madaus@usace.army.mil



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

04/22/2024

Regulatory File No. MVP-2024-00483-MMG

THIS IS NOT A PERMIT

Britta Bergland
Merjent, Inc.
1 Main Street SE, Suite 300
Minneapolis, MN 55414

To Britta Bergland:

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-2024-00483-MMG

Applicant: Michael Swenson

Project Name: Great River Energy - Laketown 115kV Transmission Line Project

Project Location: Section 3 of Township 115 N, Range 24 W, Carver County, Minnesota
(Latitude: 44.8063200364951; Longitude: -93.6802214143113)

Received Date: 04/19/2024

Project Manager: Matthew Groshek
(651) 290-5732
Matthew.M.Groshek@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

Cc: Carver County WCA LGU, BWSR Rep

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



In Reply Refer To:
Project Code: 2024-0064903
Project Name: Laketown_Waconia

03/19/2024 16:23:50 UTC

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 helps 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: 2024-0064903
Project Name: Laketown_Waconia
Project Type: Transmission Line - New Constr - Above Ground
Project Description: Transmission Line
Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@44.80668635,-93.69904066412836,14z>



Counties: Carver County, Minnesota

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 5 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

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/OFEYUXGIZBFN5E2F6K6XP5BSSI/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 in the links below. Specifically, please review the ["Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles"](#).

-
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 likely bald eagles present in your project area. For additional information on bald eagles, refer to [Bald Eagle Nesting and Sensitivity to Human Activity](#)

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY below 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. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	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 ["Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles"](#), specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

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 in the links below. Specifically, please review the ["Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles"](#).

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)

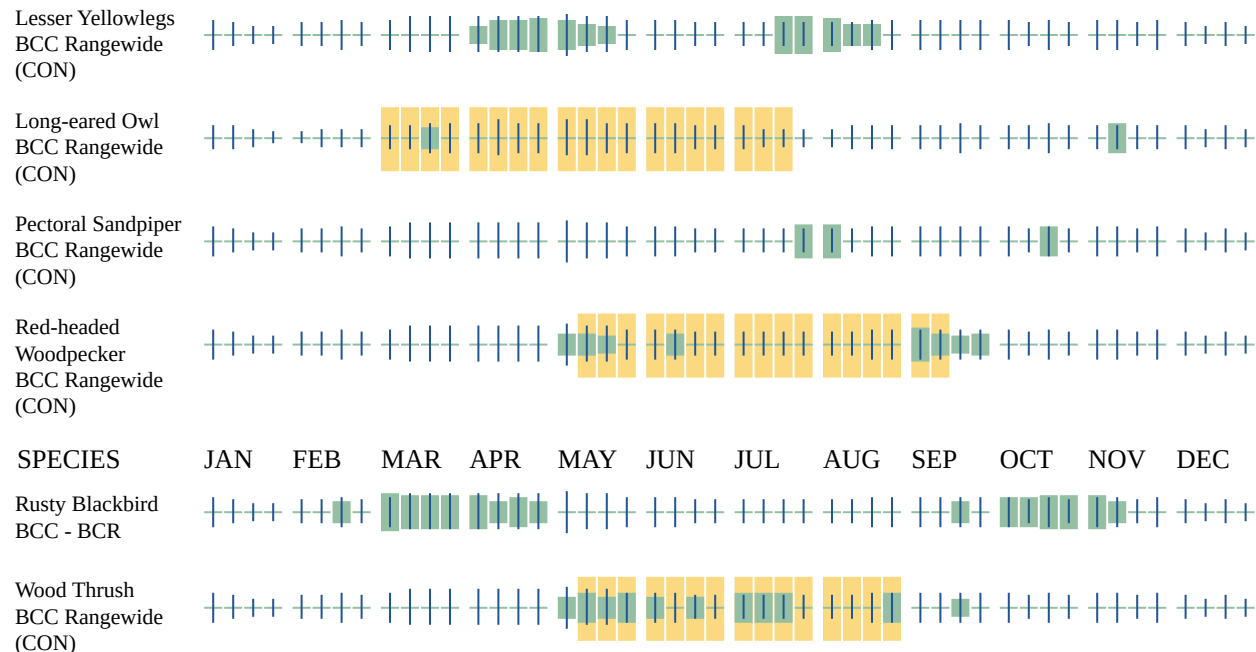
For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

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. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31
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. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9454	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. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9643	Breeds May 20 to Aug 10
Chimney Swift <i>Chaetura pelagica</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9406	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. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10678	Breeds May 1 to Aug 20

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
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
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
Pectoral Sandpiper <i>Calidris melanotos</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9561	Breeds elsewhere
Red-headed Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9398	Breeds May 10 to Sep 10
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 https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9478	Breeds elsewhere
Wood Thrush <i>Hylocichla mustelina</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9431	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 "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.



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 EMERGENT WETLAND

- PEM1C
- PEM1Fd

- PEM1Af
- PEM1Cd
- PEM1F
- PEM1Ad
- PEM1A

FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND

- PFO1A

RIVERINE

- R4SBC
- R2UBFx
- R5UBH

FRESHWATER POND

- PUBHx
- PABH
- PUBF

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



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



In Reply Refer To:
Project code: 2024-0064903
Project Name: Laketown_Waconia

05/17/2024 14:38:58 UTC

Federal Nexus: yes
Federal Action Agency (if applicable): Army Corps of Engineers

Subject: Technical assistance for 'Laketown_Waconia'

Dear Mandy Bohnenblust:

This letter records your determination using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on May 17, 2024, for 'Laketown_Waconia' (here forward, Project). This project has been assigned Project Code 2024-0064903 and all future correspondence should clearly reference this number. **Please carefully review this letter. Your Endangered Species Act (Act) requirements are not complete.**

Ensuring Accurate Determinations When Using IPaC

The Service developed the IPaC system and associated species' determination keys in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and based on a standing analysis. All information submitted by the Project proponent into IPaC must accurately represent the full scope and details of the Project.

Failure to accurately represent or implement the Project as detailed in IPaC or the Northern Long-eared Bat Rangewide Determination Key (Dkey), invalidates this letter. ***Answers to certain questions in the DKey commit the project proponent to implementation of conservation measures that must be followed for the ESA determination to remain valid.***

Determination for the Northern Long-Eared Bat

Based upon your IPaC submission and a standing analysis, your project is not reasonably certain to cause incidental take of the northern long-eared bat. Unless the Service advises you within 15 days of the date of this letter that your IPaC-assisted determination was incorrect, this letter verifies that the Action is not likely to result in unauthorized take of the northern long-eared bat.

Other Species and Critical Habitat that May be Present in the Action Area

The IPaC-assisted determination for the northern long-eared bat does not apply to the following ESA-protected species and/or critical habitat that also may occur in your Action area:

- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Candidate
- Rusty Patched Bumble Bee *Bombus affinis* Endangered
- Tricolored Bat *Perimyotis subflavus* Proposed Endangered
- Whooping Crane *Grus americana* Experimental Population, Non-Essential

You may coordinate with our Office to determine whether the Action may cause prohibited take of the animal species listed above. Note that if a new species is listed that may be affected by the identified action before it is complete, additional review is recommended to ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

Next Step

Consultation with the Service is necessary. The project has a federal nexus (e.g., Federal funds, permit, etc.), but you are not the federal action agency or its designated (in writing) non-federal representative. Therefore, the ESA consultation status is incomplete and no project activities should occur until consultation between the Service and the Federal action agency (or designated non-federal representative), is completed.

As the federal agency or designated non-federal representative deems appropriate, they should submit their determination of effects to the Service by doing the following.

1. Log into IPaC using an agency email account and click on My Projects, click "Search by record locator" to find this Project using **722-140333607**. (Alternatively, the originator of the project in IPaC can add the agency representative to the project by using the Add Member button on the project home page.)
2. Review the answers to the Northern Long-eared Bat Range-wide Determination Key to ensure that they are accurate.
3. Click on Review/Finalize to convert the 'not likely to adversely affect' consistency letter to a concurrence letter. Download the concurrence letter for your files if needed.

If no changes occur with the Project or there are no updates on listed species, no further consultation/coordination for this project is required for the northern long-eared bat. However, the Service recommends that project proponents re-evaluate the Project in IPaC if: 1) the scope, timing, duration, or location of the Project changes (includes any project changes or amendments); 2) new information reveals the Project may impact (positively or negatively) federally listed species or designated critical habitat; or 3) a new species is listed, or critical habitat designated. If any of the above conditions occurs, additional coordination with the Service should take place before project implements any changes which are final or commits additional resources.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or need further assistance, please contact the Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office and reference Project Code 2024-0064903 associated with this Project.

Action Description

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

1. Name

Laketown_Waconia

2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Laketown_Waconia':

Transmission Line

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@44.80668635,-93.69904066412836,14z>



DETERMINATION KEY RESULT

Based on the answers provided, the proposed Action is consistent with a determination of “may affect, but not likely to adversely affect” for the Endangered northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*).

QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. Does the proposed project include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, intentional take of the northern long-eared bat or any other listed species?

Note: Intentional take is defined as take that is the intended result of a project. Intentional take could refer to research, direct species management, surveys, and/or studies that include intentional handling/encountering, harassment, collection, or capturing of any individual of a federally listed threatened, endangered or proposed species?

No

2. The action area does not overlap with an area for which U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service currently has data to support the presumption that the northern long-eared bat is present. Are you aware of other data that indicates that northern long-eared bats (NLEB) are likely to be present in the action area?

Bat occurrence data may include identification of NLEBs in hibernacula, capture of NLEBs, tracking of NLEBs to roost trees, or confirmed NLEB acoustic detections. Data on captures, roost tree use, and acoustic detections should post-date the year when white-nose syndrome was detected in the relevant state. With this question, we are looking for data that, for some reason, may have not yet been made available to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

No

3. Does any component of the action involve construction or operation of wind turbines?

Note: For federal actions, answer ‘yes’ if the construction or operation of wind power facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for a federal agency action (federal permit, funding, etc.).

No

4. Is the proposed action authorized, permitted, licensed, funded, or being carried out by a Federal agency in whole or in part?

Yes

5. Is the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), or Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

No

6. Are you an employee of the federal action agency or have you been officially designated in writing by the agency as its designated non-federal representative for the purposes of Endangered Species Act Section 7 informal consultation per 50 CFR § 402.08?

Note: This key may be used for federal actions and for non-federal actions to facilitate section 7 consultation and to help determine whether an incidental take permit may be needed, respectively. This question is for information purposes only.

No

7. Is the lead federal action agency the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC)? Is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

No

8. Is the lead federal action agency the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)?

No

9. Have you determined that your proposed action will have no effect on the northern long-eared bat? Remember to consider the [effects of any activities](#) that would not occur but for the proposed action.

If you think that the northern long-eared bat may be affected by your project or if you would like assistance in deciding, answer “No” below and continue through the key. If you have determined that the northern long-eared bat does not occur in your project’s action area and/or that your project will have no effects whatsoever on the species despite the potential for it to occur in the action area, you may make a “no effect” determination for the northern long-eared bat.

Note: Federal agencies (or their designated non-federal representatives) must consult with USFWS on federal agency actions that may affect listed species [50 CFR 402.14(a)]. Consultation is not required for actions that will not affect listed species or critical habitat. Therefore, this determination key will not provide a consistency or verification letter for actions that will not affect listed species. If you believe that the northern long-eared bat may be affected by your project or if you would like assistance in deciding, please answer “No” and continue through the key. Remember that this key addresses only effects to the northern long-eared bat. Consultation with USFWS would be required if your action may affect another listed species or critical habitat. The definition of [Effects of the Action](#) can be found here: <https://www.fws.gov/media/northern-long-eared-bat-assisted-determination-key-selected-definitions>

No

10. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.5 miles of a known northern long-eared bat hibernaculum?

Note: The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

Automatically answered

No

11. Does the action area contain any caves (or associated sinkholes, fissures, or other karst features), mines, rocky outcroppings, or tunnels that could provide habitat for hibernating northern long-eared bats?

No

12. Does the action area contain or occur within 0.5 miles of (1) talus or (2) anthropogenic or naturally formed rock crevices in rocky outcrops, rock faces or cliffs?

No

13. Is suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat present within 1000 feet of project activities?

(If unsure, answer "Yes.")

Note: If there are trees within the action area that are of a sufficient size to be potential roosts for bats (i.e., live trees and/or snags ≥ 3 inches (12.7 centimeter) dbh), answer "Yes". If unsure, additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat can be found at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/northern-long-eared-bat-assisted-determination-key-selected-definitions>

Yes

14. Will the action cause effects to a bridge?

No

15. Will the action result in effects to a culvert or tunnel?

No

16. Does the action include the intentional exclusion of northern long-eared bats from a building or structure?

Note: Exclusion is conducted to deny bats' entry or reentry into a building. To be effective and to avoid harming bats, it should be done according to established standards. If your action includes bat exclusion and you are unsure whether northern long-eared bats are present, answer "Yes." Answer "No" if there are no signs of bat use in the building/structure. If unsure, contact your local U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services Ecological Services Field Office to help assess whether northern long-eared bats may be present. Contact a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator (NWCO) for help in how to exclude bats from a structure safely without causing harm to the bats (to find a NWCO certified in bat standards, search the Internet using the search term "National Wildlife Control Operators Association bats"). Also see the White-Nose Syndrome Response Team's guide for bat control in structures

No

17. Does the action involve removal, modification, or maintenance of a human-made structure (barn, house, or other building) **known or suspected to contain roosting bats**?

No

18. Will the action directly or indirectly cause construction of one or more new roads that are open to the public?

Note: The answer may be yes when a publicly accessible road either (1) is constructed as part of the proposed action or (2) would not occur but for the proposed action (i.e., the road construction is facilitated by the proposed action but is not an explicit component of the project).

No

19. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase average daily traffic on one or more existing roads?

Note: For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

No

20. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase the number of travel lanes on an existing thoroughfare?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

No

21. Will the proposed action involve the creation of a new water-borne contaminant source (e.g., leachate pond pits containing chemicals that are not NSF/ANSI 60 compliant)?

No

22. Will the proposed action involve the creation of a new point source discharge from a facility other than a water treatment plant or storm water system?

No

23. Will the action include drilling or blasting?

No

24. Will the action involve military training (e.g., smoke operations, obscurant operations, exploding munitions, artillery fire, range use, helicopter or fixed wing aircraft use)?

No

25. Will the proposed action involve the use of herbicide or other pesticides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides)?

No

26. Will the action include or cause activities that are reasonably certain to cause chronic nighttime noise in suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat? Chronic noise is noise that is continuous or occurs repeatedly again and again for a long time.

Note: Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat can be found at:

<https://www.fws.gov/media/northern-long-eared-bat-assisted-determination-key-selected-definitions>

No

27. Does the action include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, the use of artificial lighting within 1000 feet of suitable northern long-eared bat roosting habitat?

Note: Additional information defining suitable roosting habitat for the northern long-eared bat can be found at:

<https://www.fws.gov/media/northern-long-eared-bat-assisted-determination-key-selected-definitions>

No

28. Will the action include tree cutting or other means of knocking down or bringing down trees, tree topping, or tree trimming?

Yes

29. Has a presence/probable absence summer bat survey targeting the northern long-eared bat following the Service's [Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#) been conducted within the project area? If unsure, answer "No."

No

30. Does the action include emergency cutting or trimming of hazard trees in order to remove an imminent threat to human safety or property? See hazard tree note at the bottom of the key for text that will be added to response letters

Note: A "hazard tree" is a tree that is an immediate threat to lives, public health and safety, or improved property and has a diameter breast height of six inches or greater.

No

31. Are any of the trees proposed for cutting or other means of knocking down, bringing down, topping, or trimming suitable for northern long-eared bat roosting (i.e., live trees and/or snags ≥ 3 inches dbh that have exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices, and/or cavities)?

Yes

32. [Semantic] Does your project intersect a known sensitive area for the northern long-eared bat?

Note: The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your [state agency or USFWS field office](#)

Automatically answered

No

33. Will all tree cutting/trimming or other knocking or bringing down of trees be restricted to the inactive season for the northern long-eared bat?

Note: Inactive Season dates for summer habitat outside of staging and swarming areas can be found here: <https://www.fws.gov/media/inactive-season-dates-swarming-and-staging-areas>.

No

PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

Enter the extent of the action area (in acres) from which trees will be removed - round up to the nearest tenth of an acre. For this question, include the entire area where tree removal will take place, even if some live or dead trees will be left standing.

5

In what extent of the area (in acres) will trees be cut, knocked down, or trimmed during the inactive (hibernation) season for northern long-eared bat? **Note:** Inactive Season dates for spring staging/fall swarming areas can be found here: <https://www.fws.gov/media/inactive-season-dates-swarming-and-staging-areas>

5

In what extent of the area (in acres) will trees be cut, knocked down, or trimmed during the active (non-hibernation) season for northern long-eared bat? **Note:** Inactive Season dates for spring staging/fall swarming areas can be found here: <https://www.fws.gov/media/inactive-season-dates-swarming-and-staging-areas>

5

Will all potential northern long-eared bat (NLEB) roost trees (trees ≥ 3 inches diameter at breast height, dbh) be cut, knocked, or brought down from any portion of the action area greater than or equal to 0.1 acre? If all NLEB roost trees will be removed from multiple areas, select 'Yes' if the cumulative extent of those areas meets or exceeds 0.1 acre.

No

Enter the extent of the action area (in acres) from which all potential NLEB roost trees will be removed. If all NLEB roost trees will be removed from multiple areas, entire the total extent of those areas. Round up to the nearest tenth of an acre.

5

For the area from which all potential northern long-eared bat (NLEB) roost trees will be removed, on how many acres (round to the nearest tenth of an acre) will trees be allowed to regrow? Enter '0' if the entire area from which all potential NLEB roost trees are removed will be developed or otherwise converted to non-forest for the foreseeable future.

0

Will any snags (standing dead trees) ≥ 3 inches dbh be left standing in the area(s) in which all northern long-eared bat roost trees will be cut, knocked down, or otherwise brought down?

Yes

Will all project activities be completed by April 1, 2024?

No

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

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Agency: Army Corps of Engineers

Federal Aviation Administration

From: Kiser, Robert K-CTR (FAA) <Robert.K-CTR.Kiser@faa.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 6:27 AM
To: Duchatellier, Marla (FAA)
Cc: Britta Bergland
Subject: EXTERNAL: FW: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project
Attachments: GRE_Laketown_FAA_Intro_Letter_Final_20240419.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Good morning, Britta,

I no longer work the state of MN as one of my states. The technician duties are now being performed by Marla Duchatellier. I have forwarded this email to her along with all the attachments. Please reach out to Marla with any questions going forward.

Have a great week.

With Kind Regards, I Am,

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
Email: robert.k-CTR.kiser@faa.gov

Level III Technician for the states of North Carolina, South Carolina and Rhode Island

"Email is the fastest way to reach me"

From: Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 11:32 AM
To: Kiser, Robert K-CTR (FAA) <Robert.K-CTR.Kiser@faa.gov>
Subject: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Robert Kiser,

Great River Energy is proposing to construct approximately 4.3 miles of new double-circuit, 115-kilovolt high voltage transmission line within Laketown and Dahlgren Townships in Carver County, Minnesota (the Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project, or Project). As part of the Project, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative would

construct a new distribution substation at the northwest corner of the intersection of County Road 10 and Laketown Road. More information on the Project, along with a Project map, is available in the attached letter and fact sheet.

Great River Energy and Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative are planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in the summer of 2024. Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project. Please reach out to Michael Swenson with Great River Energy at 763-445-5979 or MSwenson@GREnergy.com with questions, written comments, or a request for a meeting.

Thank you –

Britta Bergland [on behalf of Michael Swenson, Great River Energy]

Britta Bergland

612.746.3673 direct

612.472.0329 mobile

britta.bergland@merjent.com



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612.746.3660

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Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

From: Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <mswenson@GREnergy.com>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2024 12:01 PM
To: Britta Bergland
Subject: EXTERNAL: Fwd: thpo # 24-206
Attachments: 24-206-NCRI, Carver Co., MN 5-2-24.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Michael Swenson
Transmission Permitting Specialist
Great River Energy
Direct: 763-445-5979 | Cell: 952-807-4537
mswenson@greenergy.com

From: Anita Cloud <anita.cloud@llojibwe.net>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2024 11:59:22 AM
To: Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <mswenson@GREnergy.com>
Cc: Gina Lemon <gina.lemon@llojibwe.net>
Subject: thpo # 24-206

This email was sent by an external sender. Opening attachments or clicking links from untrusted sources may cause damage to you and Great River Energy.

Sorry....here is the attachment...

Have a good day...

Respectfully,

Anita M Cloud

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
Tribal Historic Preservation Assistant
190 Sailstar Drive NE
Cass Lake, MN 56633
anita.cloud@llojibwe.net

NOTICE TO RECIPIENT: The information contained in this message from Great River Energy and any attachments are confidential and intended only for the named recipient(s). If you have received this message in error, you are prohibited from copying, distributing or using the information. Please contact the sender immediately by return email and delete the original message.



LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE

Tribal Historic Preservation Office

Gina M Lemon, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Anita M Cloud, Tribal Historic Preservation Assistant

May 2, 2024

Via Internet

Great River Energy
Attn: Michael Swenson, Transmission Permitting Specialist
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369-4718

RE: Great River Energy; Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project.

Great River Energy is proposing to construct approximately 4.3 miles of new double-circuit, 115-kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line (HVTL) within Laketown & Dahlgren Townships. As part of the project, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative would construct a new distribution substation at the northwest corner of the intersection of County Road 10 and Laketown Road.

Carver County, MN

LL THPO No. 24-206-NCRI

Dear Michael Swenson,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced project. This has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given to the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended in 1992, and the Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (38CFR800).

I have reviewed the documentation. After careful consideration of our records, I have determined that the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe does not have any recorded historic properties, within this area. ** This does not mean there are not any cultural resources present, at this time. **

Should any human remains or suspected human remains be encountered, all work shall cease and the following personnel should be notified immediately: County Sheriff's Office, Office of the State Archaeologist, and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe along with other interested parties.

Please note the above determination does not "exempt" future projects from Section 106 review. In the event of any other tribe notifying you of an issue or us (LLBO) of concerns for this specific project, we may reenter into the consultation process.

You may contact me at **(218) 335-2940** if you have questions regarding our review of this project. Please refer to the **LL-THPO Number** as stated above in all correspondence with this project

Respectfully submitted,

Gina M Lemon

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Leech Lake Tribal Historic Preservation Office - Established in 1996

190 Sailstar Drive NE * Cass Lake, MN 56633

Gina.lemon@llojibwe.net

Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

From: Leonard Wabasha (TO) <leonard.wabasha@shakopeedakota.org>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 1:16 PM
To: Britta Bergland
Cc: Swenson, Michael GRE-MG
Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

If a desktop survey has been completed may I see a copy of the survey to make a better decision or offer a better opinion of the use of the preferred route?

Thank you and have a great day!!



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: Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 12:55 PM
To: Leonard Wabasha (TO) <leonard.wabasha@shakopeedakota.org>
Cc: Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <mswenson@GREnergy.com>
Subject: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

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Dear Leonard Wabasha,

Great River Energy is proposing to construct approximately 4.3 miles of new double-circuit, 115-kilovolt high voltage transmission line within Laketown and Dahlgren Townships in Carver County, Minnesota (the Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project, or Project). As part of the Project, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative would construct a new distribution substation at the northwest corner of the intersection of County Road 10 and Laketown Road. More information on the Project, along with a Project map, is available in the attached letter and fact sheet.

Great River Energy and Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative are planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in the summer of 2024. Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project. Please reach out to Michael Swenson with Great River Energy at 763-445-5979 or MSwenson@GREnergy.com with questions, written comments, or a request for a meeting.

Thank you –

Britta Bergland [on behalf of Michael Swenson, Great River Energy]

Britta Bergland

612.746.3673 direct

612.472.0329 mobile

britta.bergland@merjent.com



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Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project
Attachments: GRE_Laketown_Cultural_Phase IA_20240314.pdf

Good afternoon!

We submitted the attached to SHPO on March 14, 2024, and have not yet received a response. Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

Thank you,

Britta

Britta Bergland
612.746.3673 direct
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~~~~~



March 14, 2024

Sarah Beimers
 Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office
 Administration Building #203
 50 Sherburne Ave.
 St. Paul, MN 55155
sarah.beimers@state.mn.us

Re: Great River Energy
 Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project
 Phase IA Cultural Resources Assessment

Dear Ms. Beimers:

This letter presents the results of a file search completed in support of the Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project (Project) in Carver County, Minnesota. Great River Energy proposes to build a new 115-kilovolt (kV) double-circuit transmission line to power a new Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative (Minnesota Valley) distribution substation at the northwest corner of the intersection of Carver County Road 10 and Laketown Road in Carver County, Minnesota. To assist with Project planning, Merjent, Inc. (Merjent) prepared this letter which includes the results of a file search and recommendations.

In order to adequately address resources that may be affected by the Project, a larger Study Area was created to establish context and understand nearby archaeological site density. The Study Area includes the Project Area plus an additional half-mile buffer on each side of the transmission line. The Study Area is comprised of the following locations:

County	Township	Range	Sections
Carver	115N	24W	1, 2, 3, 4, 12
Carver	116N	24W	27, 28, 33, 34

The Project route is collocated with existing roads for approximately 2.4 miles and with existing overhead distribution lines for approximately 1.0 mile. Great River Energy will likely seek to locate the new transmission line in the distribution right-of-way in this area.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

When Project development proceeds, we expect that the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act (Minn. Stat § 138.31-138.42) will apply to the Project. Regardless of specific permits required prior to construction, the Private Cemeteries Act (Minn. Stat § 307.08) will apply.

The Minnesota Field Archaeology Act (Minn. Stat § 138.32-138.42) establishes the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA); requires licenses to engage in archaeology on nonfederal public land; establishes ownership, custody, and use of objects and data recovered during survey; and requires state agencies to submit development plans to the OSA, Minnesota State Historic

Preservation Office (SHPO), and the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council for review when there are known or suspected archaeological sites in the area.

Minnesota's Private Cemeteries Act (Minn. Stat § 307.08) affords all human burial grounds and remains older than 50 years and located outside of platted or identified cemeteries protection from unauthorized disturbance. This statute applies to burials on either public or private lands or waters and includes prehistoric Indian burial mounds as well as historic cemeteries.

Literature Review

On November 27, 2023, Merjent retrieved cultural resources site information (archaeological sites and historic structures) and on January 16, 2024, retrieved previous survey files from the SHPO. Merjent Cultural Resource Specialists reviewed archaeological site files on the OSA online portal, as well as the General Land Office (GLO) maps and available historical aerial photography accessed online through the OSA Portal¹. Enclosed Figures 1 and 2 show the features discussed below identified during this review.

BACKGROUND RESEARCH RESULTS

Previously Recorded Archaeological Resources

According to the OSA and SHPO files, there are three sites within the Study Area that also intersect the Project route. Two sites are alpha sites (21CRm and 21CRd), meaning that they were identified by historic documentation and have not been verified in the field by a professional archaeologist. Due to the imprecise locational information of these sites, alpha site boundaries are likely larger than they would be if the site were physically located.

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- Site 21CR0087 () is described as a small lithic scatter consisting of two grey chert flakes. According to the site form, the precise location is unknown. Additionally, the site is located in an agricultural field that has been maintained as such since the site's first identification in 1977. Due to this, there is a potential for the flakes to have been moved by agricultural machinery.
- Site 21CRd () is described as a . According to a historic aerial photograph from 1937, this station is located of the Project route² along the present Twin Cities and Western Railroad (historically the Chicago Milwaukee Saint Paul and Pacific Railroad), which is crossed by the Project.
- Site 21CRm () is described as a , a small town inhabited in the 1800s. According to historic maps,

¹ OSA Portal. 2023. <https://osa.gisdata.mn.gov/OSAportal>. Accessed January 11, 2024.

² OSA Portal. 2023. <https://osa.gisdata.mn.gov/OSAportal>. Accessed January 11, 2024.

It minimally intersects the Project route on the . An existing overhead Minnesota Valley distribution line crosses the site at the southerly edge³.

Site Number/Name	Site Type	Location (TRS)	NRHP Status
21CR0087	Lithic Scatter		Unevaluated
21CRd			Unevaluated
21CRm			Unevaluated

Previously Recorded Archaeological Surveys

No previous archaeological surveys were located within the Study Area.

Previously Recorded Standing Historic Buildings and Structures

Fifteen historic buildings and structures are located within the Study Area, four of which overlap the Project Area. Three structures share the same location because it is an overlapping section of three railways. These railways were all constructed and operated by the Chicago Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway Company/Chicago Milwaukee St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company. These three routes consist of the Southern Minnesota Division Main Line (XX-RRD-CSP029) constructed in 1866, the Hastings and Dakota Division Mainline (XX-RRD-CSP010) constructed in 1872, and the Hastings and Dakota Division Benton Cutoff (XX-RRD-CSP011) constructed in 1880. XX-RRD-CSP010 and XX-RRD-CSP011 are considered potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP, and XX-RRD-CSP029 was determined not eligible by SHPO on September 10, 2021. The remaining building (CR-LKT-062) is a farmhouse constructed in 1887 which has not been evaluated for listing on the NRHP.

Property Number/Name	Property Category	Location (TRS)	NRHP Status
CR-LKT-062	Building		Unevaluated
XX-RRD-CSP010	Structure		Eligible
XX-RRD-CSP011	Structure		Eligible
XX-RRD-CSP029	Structure		Not Eligible

The remaining eleven historic buildings and structures will not be impacted due to distance from the Project. The remaining buildings and structures include six farmsteads (CR-CKC-633, CR-LKT-022, CR-LKT-023, CR-LKT-024, CR-LKT-054, CR-LKT-055), five farmhouses (CR-DHL-024, CR-LKT-067, CR-LKT-068, CR-LKT-069), and one bridge (CR-DHL-019). Poles supporting existing Minnesota Valley distribution lines and Great River Energy transmission lines are visible from portions of Guernsey Avenue/Highway 11, Hampshire Road, Jersey Avenue, Augusta Road, and Highway 43. These distribution lines are approximately 0.1- to 0.5-mile from the Project. Where the new 115-kV line is collocated with existing distribution lines, Great River Energy is exploring the possibility of installing the new line in existing right-of-way and including the distribution lines on the new structures. Because the Project is collocated with existing utility and road rights-of-way near these structures, it will not result in an appreciable change in viewshed.

...NONPUBLIC DATA ENDS HERE]

³ Historical Maps of Minnesota <https://alabamamaps.ua.edu/>

General Land Office and Aerial Photo Review

Merjent reviewed nineteenth-century GLO maps and notes on file with the Bureau of Land Management⁴. The GLO map of the Project Area illustrated conditions in 1870 as being prairie, with many lakes and wetlands and connecting streams and rivers. An unnamed trail is present south of Augusta and north of Hampshire Road. The trail does not intersect the Project route. Aerial photographs from 1937 show that roads and the railroad have been constructed and farms have been established, with agricultural fields dominating the landscape. There is no trace of the GLO trail on historic aerials; by 1937 it had been superseded by roads and agricultural fields. Subsequent historic and modern aerial photographs show that the landscape of the Project area has remained largely the same since that time, with roads being the main addition to the area.

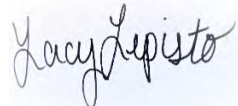
SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Three archaeological sites and fifteen historic buildings and structures were identified within the Study Area. There is potential for Historic-period sites within the Project Area because the area has been inhabited at least since the 1930s; however, given that the Project is an overhead transmission line proposed partially within already disturbed rights-of-way, there is a low potential for intact historic sites. Mn Model4 indicates that the Project's Area of Potential Effect has a low site potential, and although no survey has occurred in the areas impacted by the Project, the larger general area has been well surveyed. The Project area could contain precontact sites given its location near several water sources. Given that the Project is located in an area with several existing overhead distribution lines and will be constructed along and within areas of previous disturbance such as existing rights-of-way and agricultural fields, Merjent recommends no survey required ahead of Project construction.

If human remains are encountered during construction activities, all ground disturbing activity must cease, and local law enforcement must be notified per Minn. Stat § 307.08. GRE will also develop an Unanticipated Discoveries Plan for the Project.

If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, please do not hesitate to contact me (lacy.lepisto@merjent.com).

Sincerely,
Merjent, Inc.



Lacy Lepisto
Cultural Resource Specialist

Enclosed:

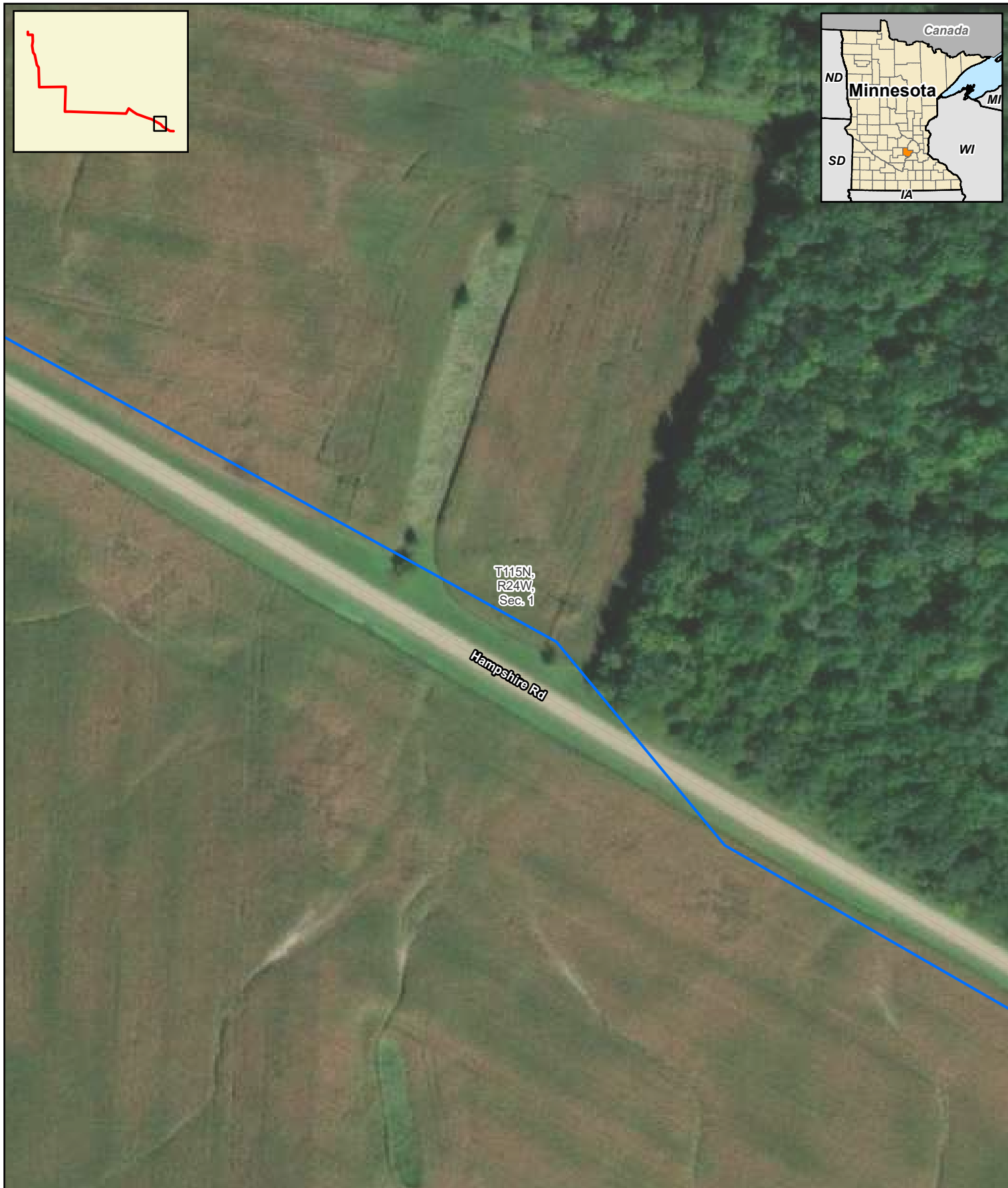
Figure 1 Topographic Map (*Contains Confidential and Privileged Information*)

Figure 2 Aerial Map (*Contains Confidential and Privileged Information*)

⁴ Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records. 2024. <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/>

cc: Michael Swenson, Great River Energy
Britta Bergland, Merjent
Bill Harding, Merjent

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Figure 2
Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project
Aerial Map
Carver County, Minnesota
Page 2 of 18

— Proposed 115-kV Transmission Line
□ Section Boundary



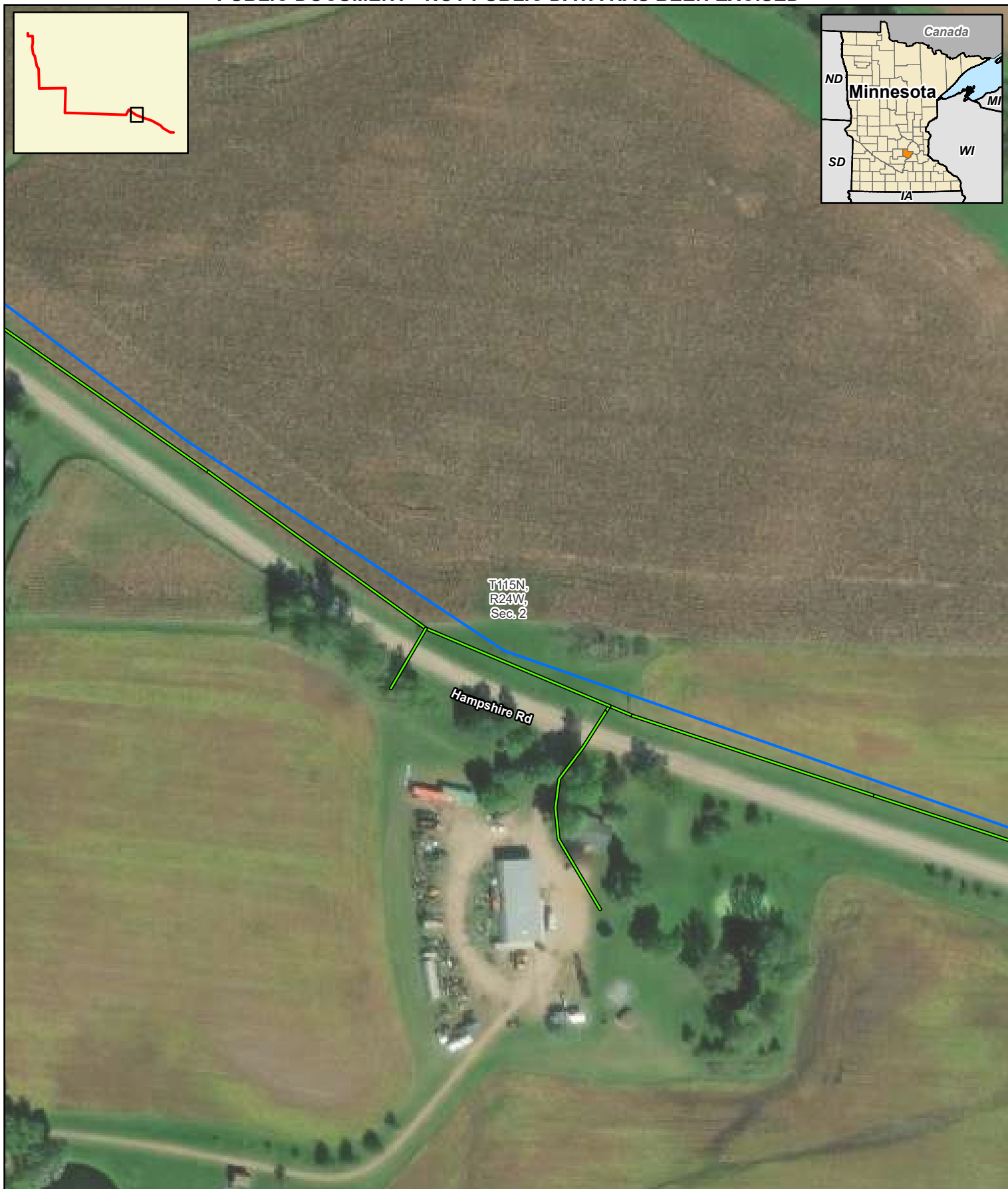
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For Environmental Review Purposes Only



Figure 2
Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project
Aerial Map
Carver County, Minnesota
Page 3 of 18

- Proposed 115-kV Transmission Line
- Minnesota Valley Distribution Line
- Section Boundary

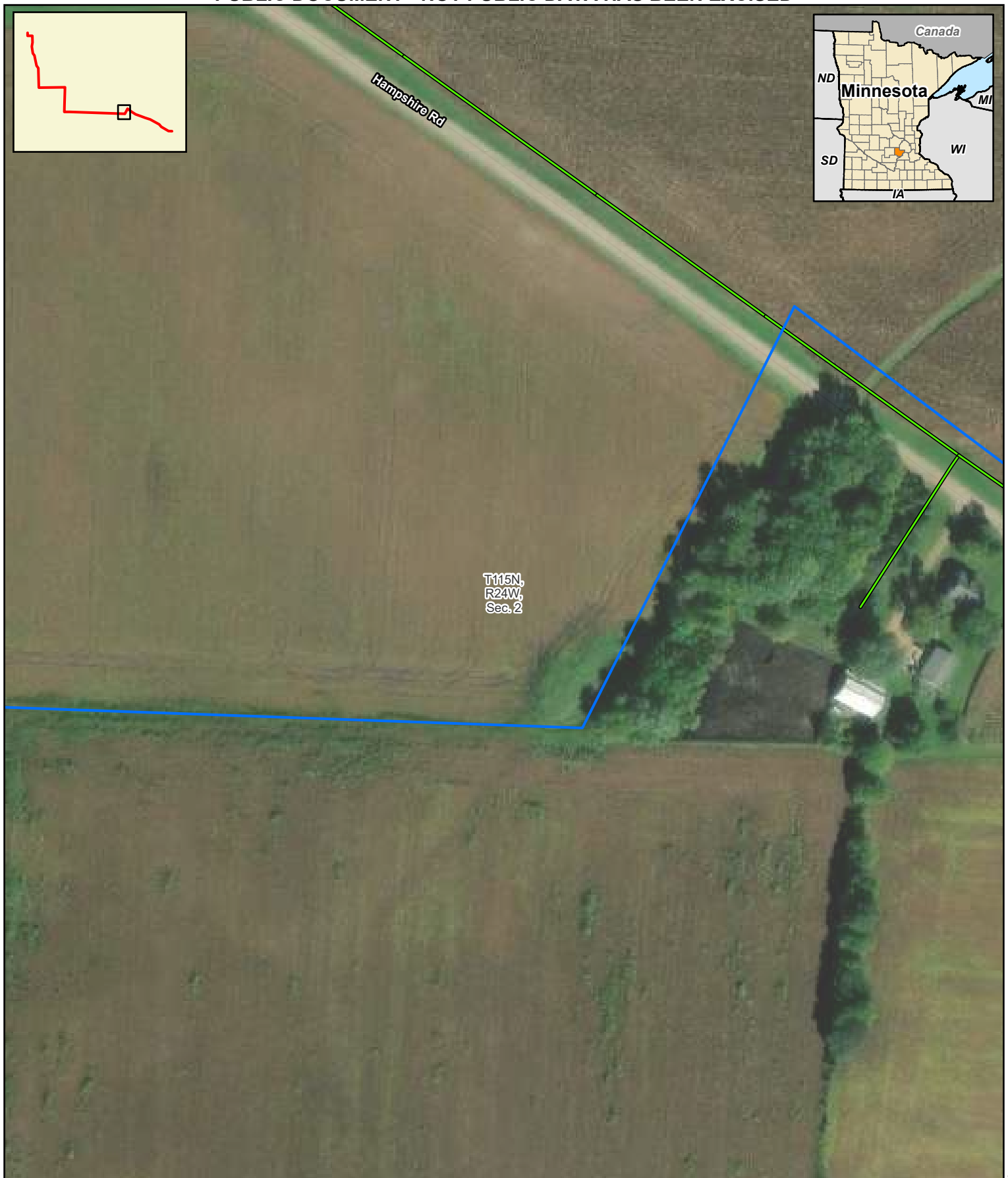


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Aerial Map
Carver County, Minnesota
Page 4 of 18

- Proposed 115-kV Transmission Line
- Minnesota Valley Distribution Line
- - - Section Boundary



0 75 150 Feet

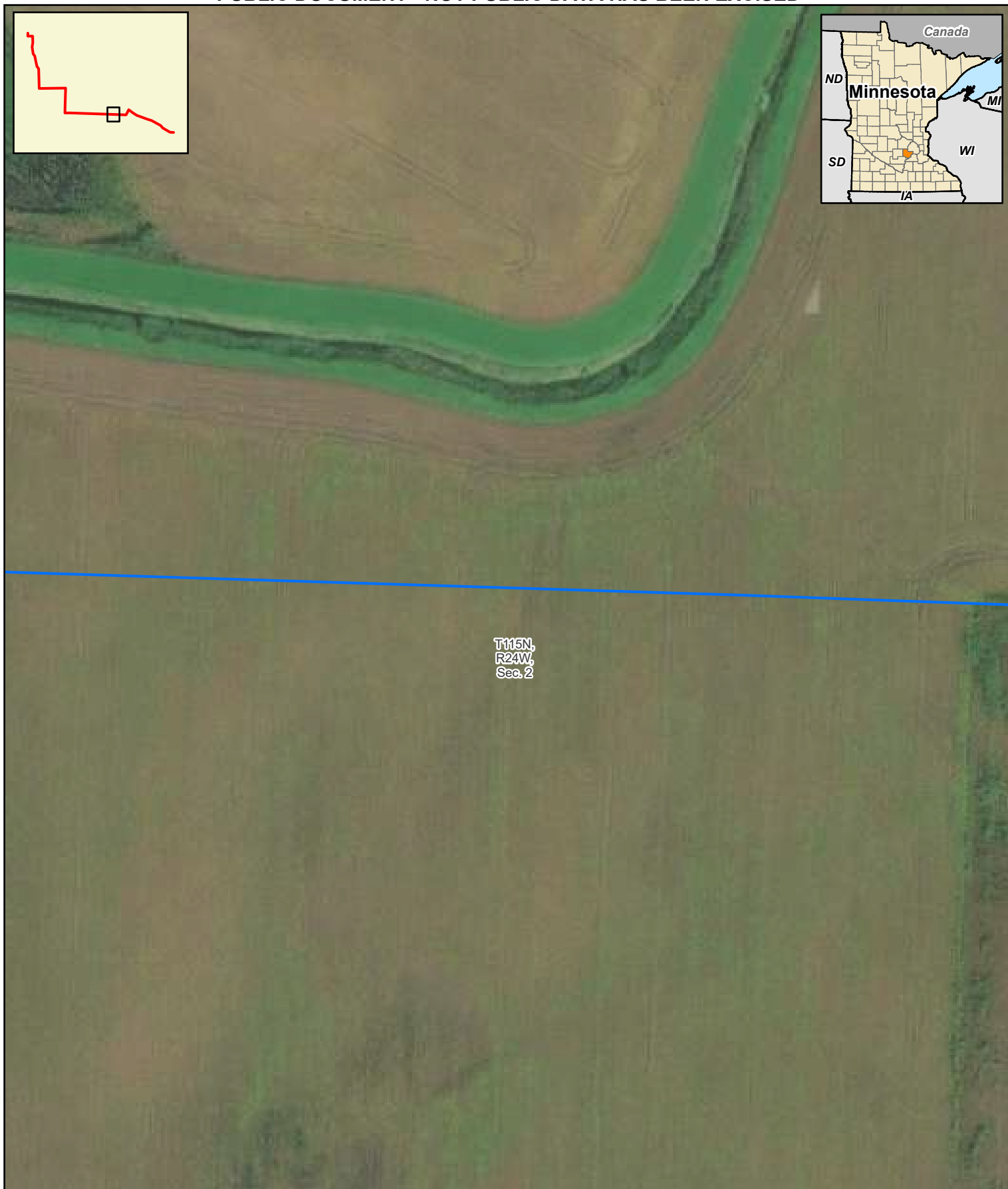
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For Environmental Review Purposes Only



Figure 2
Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project
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 Carver County, Minnesota
 Page 5 of 18

- Proposed 115-kV Transmission Line
- Minnesota Valley Distribution Line
- Section Boundary



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Aerial Map
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Page 6 of 18

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□ Section Boundary

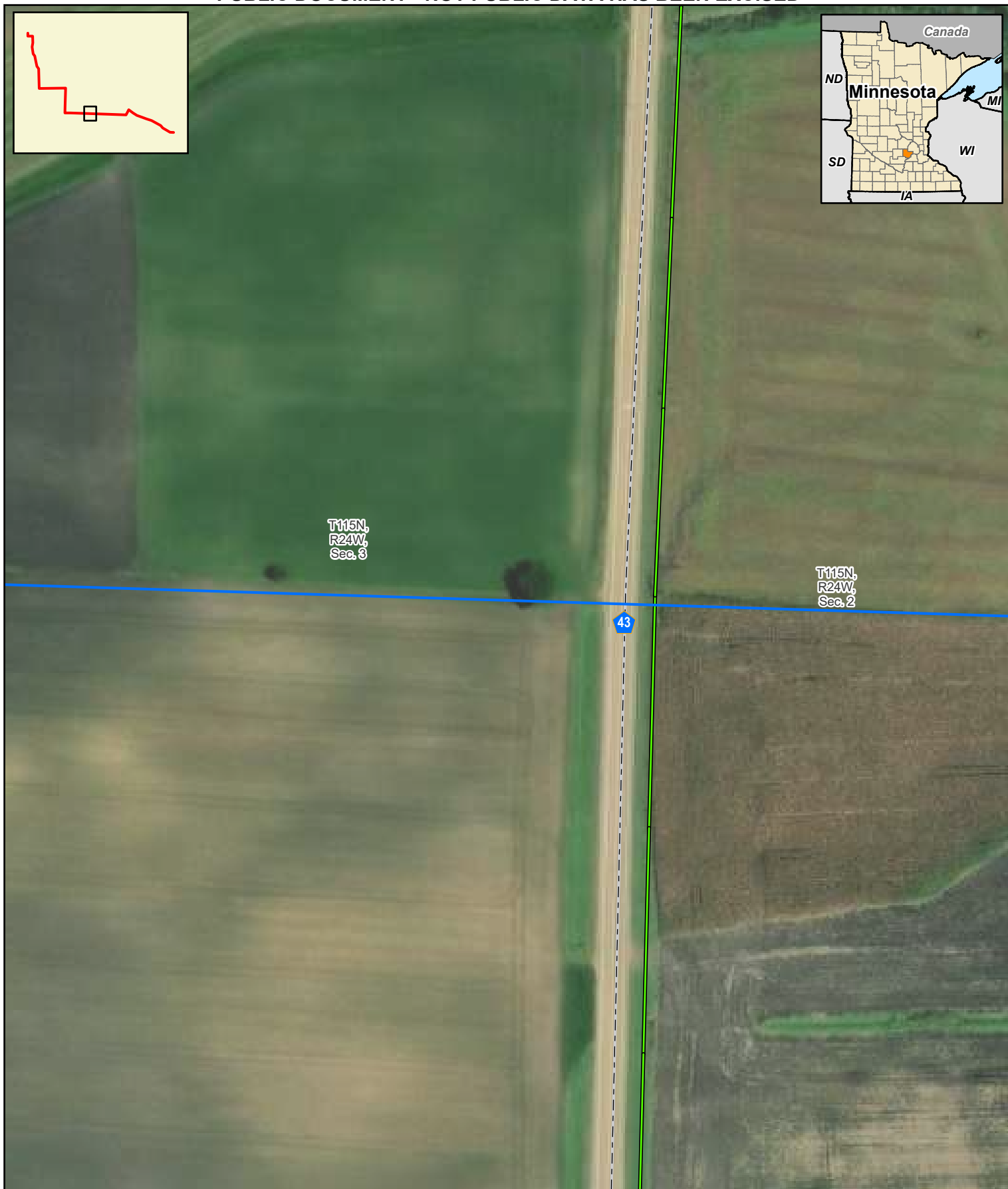


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Page 7 of 18

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□ Section Boundary



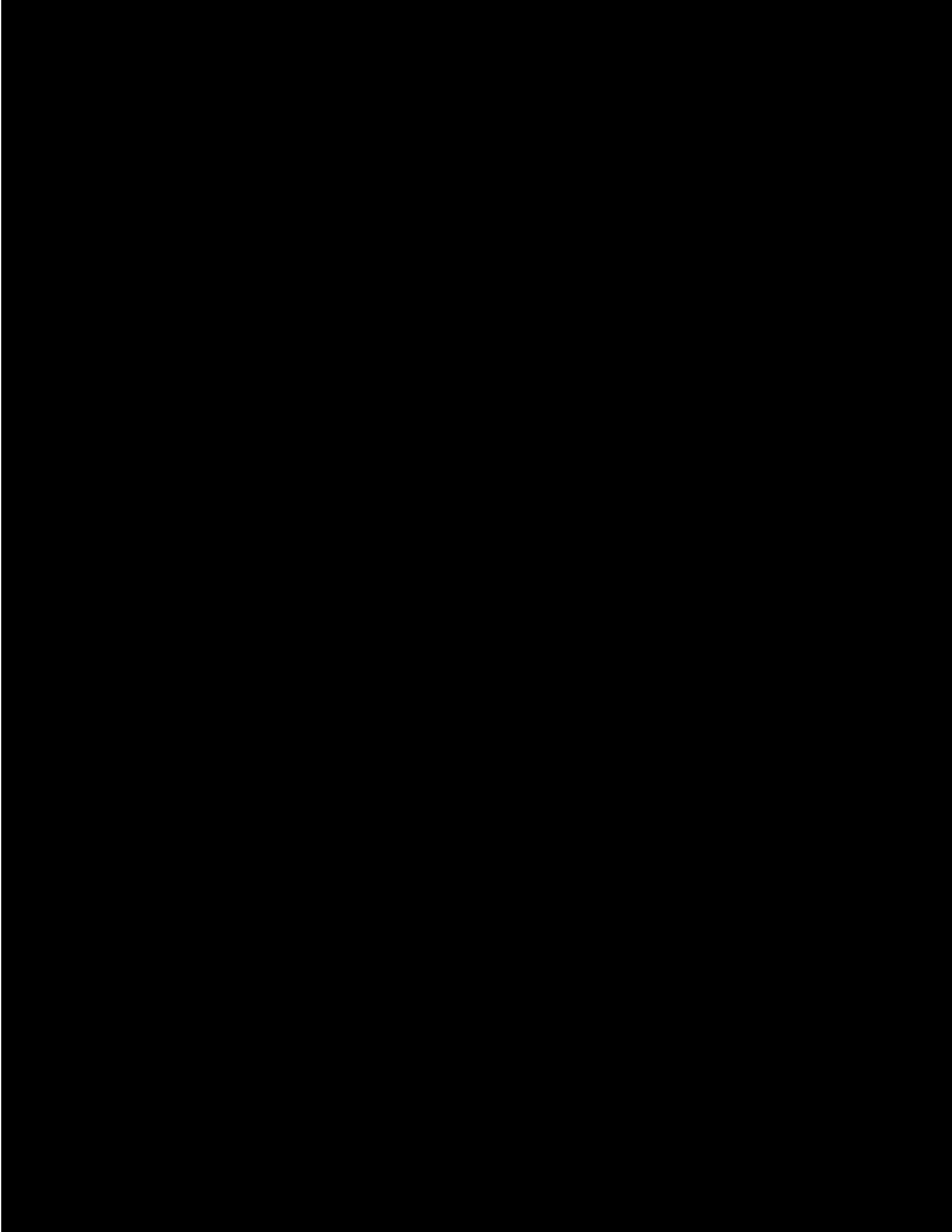
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Page 8 of 18

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- Minnesota Valley Distribution Line
- Section Boundary

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Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 1:59 PM
To: Britta Bergland
Cc: Swenson, Michael GRE-MG
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

Thank you, I've heard there are changes taking place at the SHPO, but whatever you send to the SHPO you send to the THPO, after all they are equivalents!
After seeing this information and seeing there are no recorded burials or significant sites I have no concerns... Thank you again and Have a Great Day!



LEONARD WABASHA

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

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Thank you –

Britta Bergland [on behalf of Michael Swenson, Great River Energy]

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**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**



## 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.

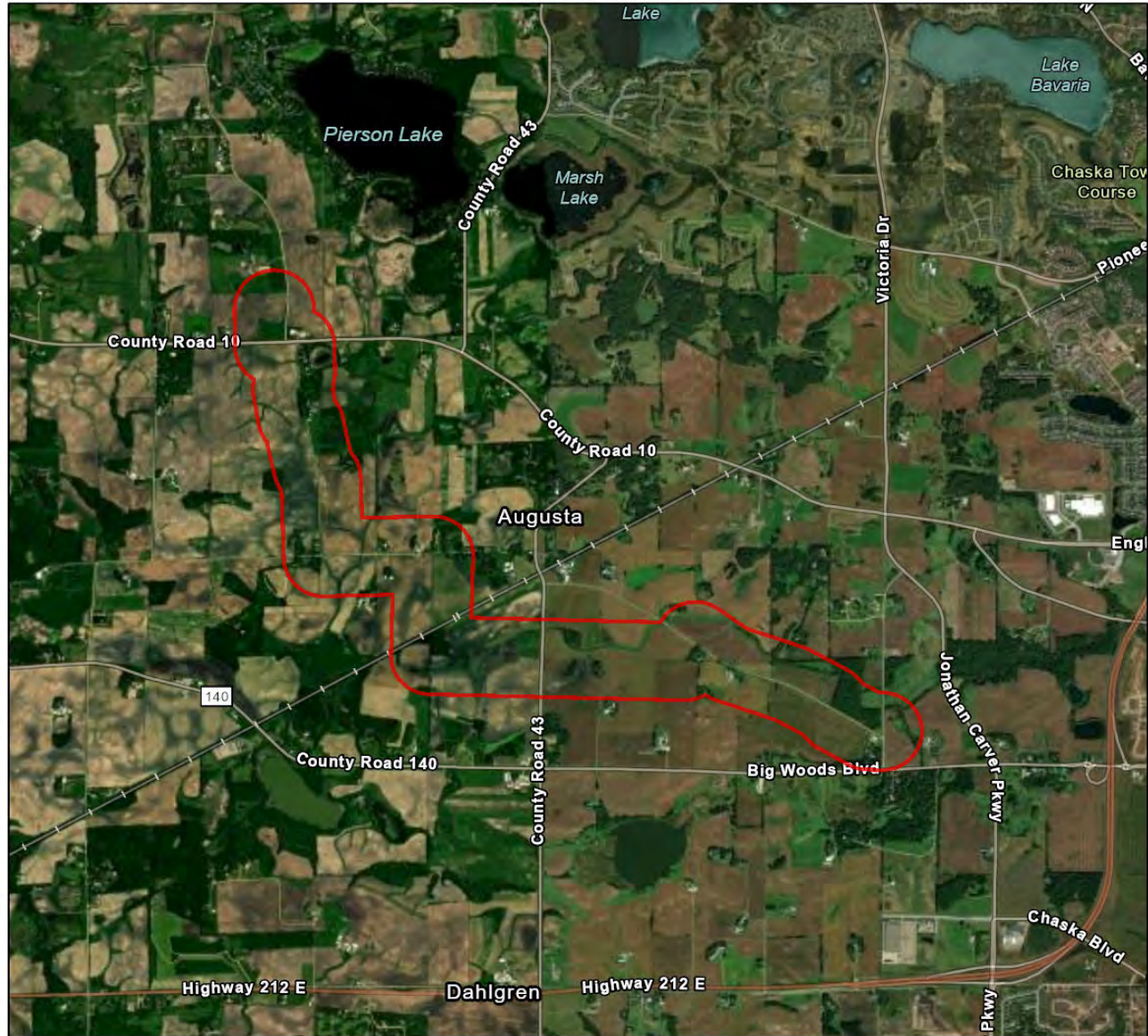
Sincerely,

*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

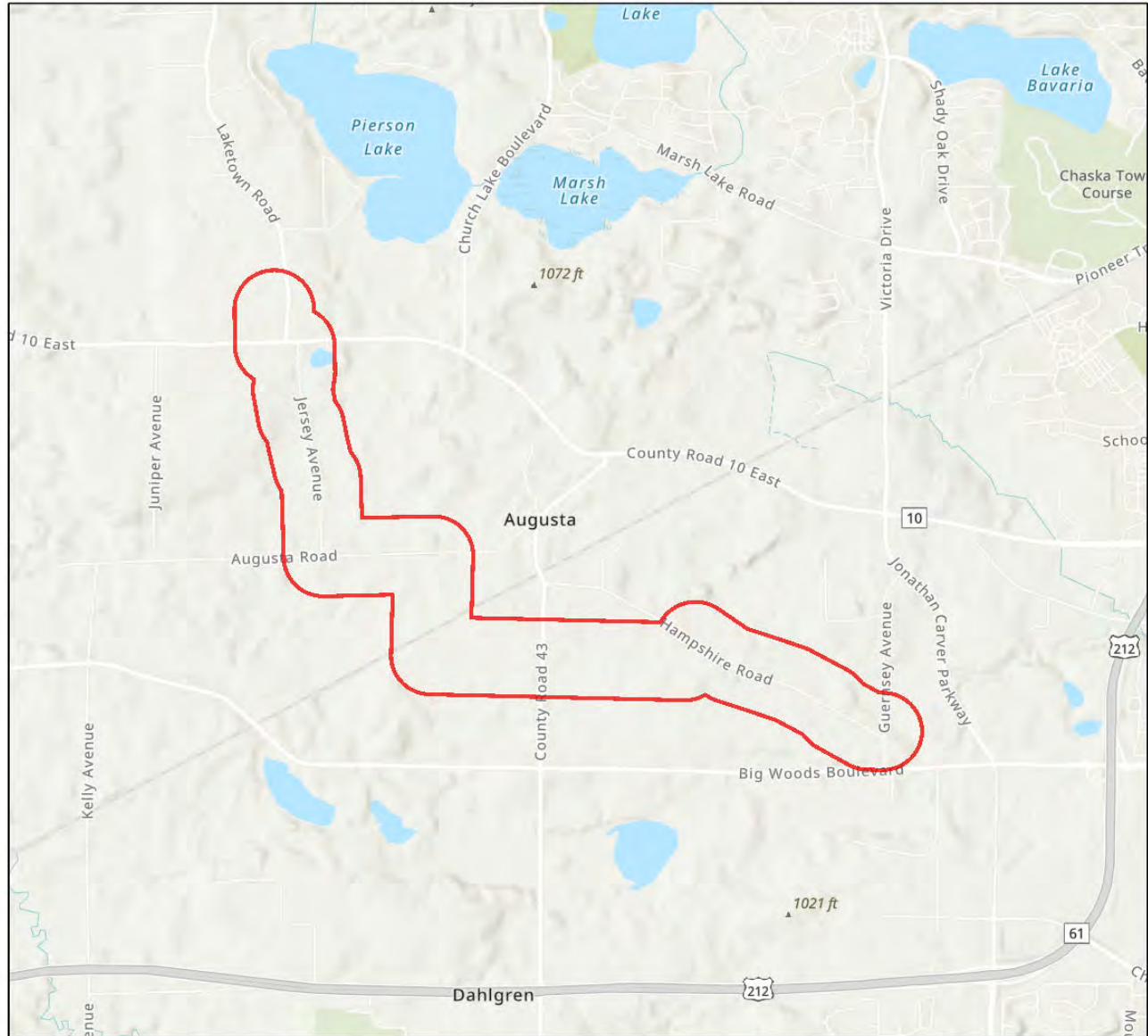
TRS: T115 R24 S1, T115 R24 S12, T115 R24 S2, T115 R24 S3, T115 R24 S4 +

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,



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**From:** Collins, Melissa (DNR) <Melissa.Collins@state.mn.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2024 4:26 PM  
**To:** Britta Bergland  
**Cc:** Swenson, Michael GRE-MG; Rokala, Joe A (DNR); Fairman, Kate (DNR); Plank, Catherine (DNR)  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project  
**Attachments:** GRE\_Laketown\_MDNR\_Intro\_Letter\_Final\_20240419.pdf

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

Hi Britta,

Thank you for reaching out to the DNR for early coordination. We always appreciate the opportunity to weigh in on potential natural resource impacts as early in the planning stages as possible. I reviewed the project information that you sent regarding the Laketown 115 - kV Transmission Line Project located in Carver County. We have no major comments or concerns regarding the proposed route options.

Option 2 route would cross Public Water Wetland (10020400), and would require a DNR Public Waters Work Permit, which can be applied for through the [Minnesota DNR Permitting and Reporting System](#) (MPARS). Please be aware that part of our permit review process will require an alternative analysis that examines why other less impactful routes that wouldn't require impacts to a public water wetland were not used.

A DNR Water Appropriation Permit is required if the water pumped exceeds 10,000 gallons in a day, and/or one million gallons in one year. The DNR General Permit for Temporary Appropriation, with its lower permit application fee and reduced time for review, may be used for the dewatering if the dewatering volume is less than 50 million gallons and the time of the appropriation is less than one year. A DNR Water Appropriations Permit can also be applied for using MPARS.

It appears that portions of Option 1 would be located within the shoreland of public watercourses, Unnamed Creek (M-055-020-001) and Unnamed Creek (M-055-020-001-001), both tributaries of Chaska Creek. Please refer to local shoreland ordinances for any rules or restrictions that would apply to this alternative. Option 1 would also require a DNR license to cross a public watercourse.

We appreciated that the proposed route options have minimal natural resource impacts and/or follow existing routes and roads. Please be aware that the project area is within a *High Potential Zone* for the federally-endangered, rusty-patched bumble bee. Therefore, we recommend initiating coordination with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the Information for Planning and Consultation [website](#).

Please note that Cynthia Warzecha has retired, and Kate Fairman is covering her role until a new DNR energy planner can be hired. Please cc Kate on all communication for this project and let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

**Melissa Collins**

Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist | Ecological and Water Resources

Pronouns: She/her/hers

**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**

1200 Warner Road

St. Paul, MN 55106

Phone: 651-259-5755

Email: [melissa.collins@state.mn.us](mailto:melissa.collins@state.mn.us)

[mndnr.gov](http://mndnr.gov)



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**From:** Warzecha, Cynthia (DNR) <[cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us](mailto:cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us)>

**Sent:** Monday, April 22, 2024 2:45 PM

**To:** Britta Bergland <[britta.bergland@merjent.com](mailto:britta.bergland@merjent.com)>; Collins, Melissa (DNR) <[Melissa.Collins@state.mn.us](mailto:Melissa.Collins@state.mn.us)>

**Cc:** Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <[mswenson@GREnergy.com](mailto:mswenson@GREnergy.com)>; Rokala, Joe A (DNR) <[joe.rokala@state.mn.us](mailto:joe.rokala@state.mn.us)>

**Subject:** RE: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

Hi Britta,

We have received your early coordination request for GRE's Laketown Transmission Line Project. Please coordinate with Melissa Collins, the Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist in the DNR's Central Region, for early coordination. Melissa may need shapefiles to facilitate her review. Due to staffing changes, your primary contact after the route permit application has been submitted is currently unknown.

Best regards,

**Cynthia Warzecha**

Energy Projects Planner

**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**

500 Lafayette Road

St. Paul, MN 55155

Phone: 651-259-5078

Email: [cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us](mailto:cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us)



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**From:** Britta Bergland <[britta.bergland@merjent.com](mailto:britta.bergland@merjent.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 11:58 AM

**To:** Collins, Melissa (DNR) <[Melissa.Collins@state.mn.us](mailto:Melissa.Collins@state.mn.us)>; Warzecha, Cynthia (DNR) <[cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us](mailto:cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us)>

**Cc:** Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <[mswenson@GREnergy.com](mailto:mswenson@GREnergy.com)>; Rokala, Joe A (DNR) <[joe.rokala@state.mn.us](mailto:joe.rokala@state.mn.us)>

**Subject:** Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

**This message may be from an external email source.**

Do not select links or open attachments unless verified. Report all suspicious emails to Minnesota IT Services Security Operations Center.

Dear Melissa Collins and Cynthia Warzecha,

Great River Energy is proposing to construct approximately 4.3 miles of new double-circuit, 115-kilovolt high voltage transmission line within Laketown and Dahlgren Townships in Carver County, Minnesota (the Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project, or Project). As part of the Project, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative would construct a new distribution substation at the northwest corner of the intersection of County Road 10 and Laketown Road. More information on the Project, along with a Project map, is available in the attached letter and fact sheet.

Great River Energy and Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative are planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in the summer of 2024. Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project. Please reach out to Michael Swenson with Great River Energy at 763-445-5979 or [MSwenson@GREnergy.com](mailto:MSwenson@GREnergy.com) with questions, written comments, or a request for a meeting.

Thank you –

Britta Bergland [on behalf of Michael Swenson, Great River Energy]

**Britta Bergland**  
612.746.3673 direct  
612.472.0329 mobile  
[britta.bergland@merjent.com](mailto:britta.bergland@merjent.com)



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

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**Minnesota Department of Health**

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**From:** Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <mswenson@GREnergy.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 4:34 PM  
**To:** Britta Bergland  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL: Fwd: Great River Energy - Laketown HVTL Project - MDH Comments  
**Attachments:** MDH-GRE Laketown HVTL Comments.pdf

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

**Michael Swenson, CMWP**  
Transmission Permitting Specialist  
Great River Energy  
Direct: 763-445-5979 | Cell: 952-807-4537  
[mswenson@greenergy.com](mailto:mswenson@greenergy.com)

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**From:** Shea, Abby (She/Her/Hers) (MDH) <Abby.Shea@state.mn.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 4:28:15 PM  
**To:** Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <mswenson@GREnergy.com>  
**Cc:** Munsell, Anneka (She/Her/Hers) (MDH) <Anneka.Munsell@state.mn.us>; Wettlaufer, Mark (MDH) <mark.wettlaufer@state.mn.us>; Richter, Dereck (He/Him/His) (MDH) <dereck.richter@state.mn.us>; Nielsen, Danielle (MDH) <Danielle.Nielsen@state.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Great River Energy - Laketown HVTL Project - MDH Comments

**This email was sent by an external sender. Opening attachments or clicking links from untrusted sources may cause damage to you and Great River Energy.**

Good afternoon,

Please find attached comments from the Minnesota Department of Health's Source Water Protection Unit regarding the proposed high voltage transmission line project in Carver County, MN.

Sincerely,

**Abby Shea**  
Principal Planner, Metro District | Source Water Protection Unit

**Minnesota Department of Health**  
Office: 651-201-4386 | Mobile: 651-396-0018



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*Protecting, Maintaining and Improving the Health of All Minnesotans*

April 19, 2024

Michael Swenson, Transmission Permitting Specialist  
Great River Energy  
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard  
Maple Grove, MN 55369  
[MSwenson@GREnergy.com](mailto:MSwenson@GREnergy.com)

**RE: Written Comments for Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project, Laketown and Dahlgren Townships, Carver County, Minnesota**

Dear Mr. Swenson,

This letter is in response to your notification on April 19, 2024, regarding Great River Energy's proposal to construct approximately 4.3 miles of new double-circuit, 115-kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line within Laketown and Dahlgren Townships in Carver County, Minnesota. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has reviewed the information that was submitted with the notification for potential impacts on the groundwater and drinking water resources that serve the area and support its public health.

Potential impacts of the proposed project include groundwater contamination in the event of a spill and limiting well owners' access to properly maintain and seal wells. In order to ensure that access to clean and sufficient water is available, MDH proposing the following methods to mitigate potential impacts from this project:

- Contact information (name, address, phone number) for all well owners with wells located within 200' of the future line should be identified and cataloged with the well location, for use in the event of a spill or release of hazardous substance. This list of wells should include identification of wells that are not included in the Minnesota Well Index (<https://health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/mwi/index.html>) and should also be provided to [Anneka.Munsell@state.mn.us](mailto:Anneka.Munsell@state.mn.us).
- Drill rigs with masts are typically required to service or seal abandoned wells. The presence of active powerlines near a well can make it difficult or impossible to safely complete this necessary work. The proposed transmission line should be located far enough away from existing wells that safe and legal access for service or sealing with a drill rig is not impacted when the line is active at the maximum proposed voltage. Alternatively, accommodation should be made to well owners to provide an alternative

source of water of similar chemistry and supply, as well as sealing of the existing well in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 103I.301 prior to energizing the transmission line to protect the aquifer.

Thank you for your consideration regarding these proposed mitigation methods. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (651) 201-4386 or [abby.shea@state.mn.us](mailto:abby.shea@state.mn.us). You may also contact the metro area Source Water Protection Hydrologist, Anneka Munsell, at (651) 259-5733 or [Anneka.Munsell@state.mn.us](mailto:Anneka.Munsell@state.mn.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abby Shea', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Abby Shea, Principal Planner  
Minnesota Department of Health  
Source Water Protection Unit  
PO Box 64975  
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975  
[www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us)

CC: Anneka Munsell, MDH Source Water Protection Unit  
Mark Wettlaufer, MDH Source Water Protection Unit  
Dereck Richter, MDH Source Water Protection Unit  
Danielle Nielsen, MDH Source Water Protection Unit

**Minnesota Department of Transportation**

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**From:** Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 10:49 AM  
**To:** Swenson, Michael GRE-MG  
**Cc:** Britta Bergland  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

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

Good Morning Michael,

MnDOT has reviewed the information provided regarding the above-mentioned Project and offers the following preliminary comments.

As currently shown, the proposed Project does not look to directly intersect with MnDOT rights-of-way. If the Project scope should change to include MnDOT areas of interest, please utilize the helpful links below to begin early coordination with myself and any affected MnDOT Metro District permitting, planning and environmental staff.

[Large Energy Facility Project Guidance - MnDOT \(state.mn.us\)](#)  
[MnDOT Transmission Line Guidelines](#)  
[MnDOT Environmental Requirements](#)  
[Policy and Guidance - Utility Agreements & Permits - MnDOT \(state.mn.us\)](#)  
[Permit Information and Forms - Utility Agreements & Permits - MnDOT \(state.mn.us\)](#)  
[Minnesota Rail Viewer Application \(MnRail\) \(arcgis.com\)](#) – for the TCWR rail crossing

Thank you for your early outreach. Please contact me with any questions.

Regards,

**Stacy Kotch Egstad**  
Utility Routing & Siting Coordinator | Office of Land Management  
**Minnesota Department of Transportation**  
395 John Ireland Blvd Mailstop 678  
St. Paul, MN. 55155  
651-358-0786  
[mndot.gov/](http://mndot.gov/)

 **DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION**



Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office

**From:** Lacy Lepisto  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 8:48 AM  
**To:** ENReviewSHPO@state.mn.us  
**Cc:** Britta Bergland; Bill Harding; Swenson, Michael GRE-MG  
**Subject:** Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project Submittal  
**Attachments:** GRE\_Laketown\_Cultural\_Phase IA\_20240314.pdf

Hello,

I have attached the Phase IA letter report of the abovementioned project for your review.

Respectfully,

**Lacy Lepisto (Smith)** (she/her)  
319.759.3261 mobile  
lacy.smith@merjent.com



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



March 14, 2024

Sarah Beimers  
 Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office  
 Administration Building #203  
 50 Sherburne Ave.  
 St. Paul, MN 55155  
[sarah.beimers@state.mn.us](mailto:sarah.beimers@state.mn.us)

Re: Great River Energy  
 Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project  
 Phase IA Cultural Resources Assessment

Dear Ms. Beimers:

This letter presents the results of a file search completed in support of the Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project (Project) in Carver County, Minnesota. Great River Energy proposes to build a new 115-kilovolt (kV) double-circuit transmission line to power a new Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative (Minnesota Valley) distribution substation at the northwest corner of the intersection of Carver County Road 10 and Laketown Road in Carver County, Minnesota. To assist with Project planning, Merjent, Inc. (Merjent) prepared this letter which includes the results of a file search and recommendations.

In order to adequately address resources that may be affected by the Project, a larger Study Area was created to establish context and understand nearby archaeological site density. The Study Area includes the Project Area plus an additional half-mile buffer on each side of the transmission line. The Study Area is comprised of the following locations:

| County | Township | Range | Sections       |
|--------|----------|-------|----------------|
| Carver | 115N     | 24W   | 1, 2, 3, 4, 12 |
| Carver | 116N     | 24W   | 27, 28, 33, 34 |

The Project route is collocated with existing roads for approximately 2.4 miles and with existing overhead distribution lines for approximately 1.0 mile. Great River Energy will likely seek to locate the new transmission line in the distribution right-of-way in this area.

#### REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

When Project development proceeds, we expect that the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act (Minn. Stat § 138.31-138.42) will apply to the Project. Regardless of specific permits required prior to construction, the Private Cemeteries Act (Minn. Stat § 307.08) will apply.

The Minnesota Field Archaeology Act (Minn. Stat § 138.32-138.42) establishes the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA); requires licenses to engage in archaeology on nonfederal public land; establishes ownership, custody, and use of objects and data recovered during survey; and requires state agencies to submit development plans to the OSA, Minnesota State Historic

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Preservation Office (SHPO), and the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council for review when there are known or suspected archaeological sites in the area.

Minnesota's Private Cemeteries Act (Minn. Stat § 307.08) affords all human burial grounds and remains older than 50 years and located outside of platted or identified cemeteries protection from unauthorized disturbance. This statute applies to burials on either public or private lands or waters and includes prehistoric Indian burial mounds as well as historic cemeteries.

### Literature Review

On November 27, 2023, Merjent retrieved cultural resources site information (archaeological sites and historic structures) and on January 16, 2024, retrieved previous survey files from the SHPO. Merjent Cultural Resource Specialists reviewed archaeological site files on the OSA online portal, as well as the General Land Office (GLO) maps and available historical aerial photography accessed online through the OSA Portal<sup>1</sup>. Enclosed Figures 1 and 2 show the features discussed below identified during this review.

### BACKGROUND RESEARCH RESULTS

#### Previously Recorded Archaeological Resources

According to the OSA and SHPO files, there are three sites within the Study Area that also intersect the Project route. Two sites are alpha sites (21CRm and 21CRd), meaning that they were identified by historic documentation and have not been verified in the field by a professional archaeologist. Due to the imprecise locational information of these sites, alpha site boundaries are likely larger than they would be if the site were physically located.

#### [NONPUBLIC DATA BEGINS HERE...

- Site 21CR0087 ( ) is described as a small lithic scatter consisting of two grey chert flakes. According to the site form, the precise location is unknown. Additionally, the site is located in an agricultural field that has been maintained as such since the site's first identification in 1977. Due to this, there is a potential for the flakes to have been moved by agricultural machinery.
- Site 21CRd ( ) is described as a . According to a historic aerial photograph from 1937, this station is located of the Project route<sup>2</sup> along the present Twin Cities and Western Railroad (historically the Chicago Milwaukee Saint Paul and Pacific Railroad), which is crossed by the Project.
- Site 21CRm ( ) is described as a , a small town inhabited in the 1800s. According to historic maps,

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<sup>1</sup> OSA Portal. 2023. <https://osa.gisdata.mn.gov/OSAportal>. Accessed January 11, 2024.

<sup>2</sup> OSA Portal. 2023. <https://osa.gisdata.mn.gov/OSAportal>. Accessed January 11, 2024.

It minimally intersects the Project route on the . An existing overhead Minnesota Valley distribution line crosses the site at the southerly edge<sup>3</sup>.

| Site Number/Name | Site Type      | Location (TRS) | NRHP Status |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| 21CR0087         | Lithic Scatter |                | Unevaluated |
| 21CRd            |                |                | Unevaluated |
| 21CRm            |                |                | Unevaluated |

### Previously Recorded Archaeological Surveys

No previous archaeological surveys were located within the Study Area.

### Previously Recorded Standing Historic Buildings and Structures

Fifteen historic buildings and structures are located within the Study Area, four of which overlap the Project Area. Three structures share the same location because it is an overlapping section of three railways. These railways were all constructed and operated by the Chicago Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway Company/Chicago Milwaukee St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company. These three routes consist of the Southern Minnesota Division Main Line (XX-RRD-CSP029) constructed in 1866, the Hastings and Dakota Division Mainline (XX-RRD-CSP010) constructed in 1872, and the Hastings and Dakota Division Benton Cutoff (XX-RRD-CSP011) constructed in 1880. XX-RRD-CSP010 and XX-RRD-CSP011 are considered potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP, and XX-RRD-CSP029 was determined not eligible by SHPO on September 10, 2021. The remaining building (CR-LKT-062) is a farmhouse constructed in 1887 which has not been evaluated for listing on the NRHP.

| Property Number/Name | Property Category | Location (TRS) | NRHP Status  |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| CR-LKT-062           | Building          |                | Unevaluated  |
| XX-RRD-CSP010        | Structure         |                | Eligible     |
| XX-RRD-CSP011        | Structure         |                | Eligible     |
| XX-RRD-CSP029        | Structure         |                | Not Eligible |

The remaining eleven historic buildings and structures will not be impacted due to distance from the Project. The remaining buildings and structures include six farmsteads (CR-CKC-633, CR-LKT-022, CR-LKT-023, CR-LKT-024, CR-LKT-054, CR-LKT-055), five farmhouses (CR-DHL-024, CR-LKT-067, CR-LKT-068, CR-LKT-069), and one bridge (CR-DHL-019). Poles supporting existing Minnesota Valley distribution lines and Great River Energy transmission lines are visible from portions of Guernsey Avenue/Highway 11, Hampshire Road, Jersey Avenue, Augusta Road, and Highway 43. These distribution lines are approximately 0.1- to 0.5-mile from the Project. Where the new 115-kV line is collocated with existing distribution lines, Great River Energy is exploring the possibility of installing the new line in existing right-of-way and including the distribution lines on the new structures. Because the Project is collocated with existing utility and road rights-of-way near these structures, it will not result in an appreciable change in viewshed.

...NONPUBLIC DATA ENDS HERE]

<sup>3</sup> Historical Maps of Minnesota <https://alabamamaps.ua.edu/>

---

**General Land Office and Aerial Photo Review**

Merjent reviewed nineteenth-century GLO maps and notes on file with the Bureau of Land Management<sup>4</sup>. The GLO map of the Project Area illustrated conditions in 1870 as being prairie, with many lakes and wetlands and connecting streams and rivers. An unnamed trail is present south of Augusta and north of Hampshire Road. The trail does not intersect the Project route. Aerial photographs from 1937 show that roads and the railroad have been constructed and farms have been established, with agricultural fields dominating the landscape. There is no trace of the GLO trail on historic aerials; by 1937 it had been superseded by roads and agricultural fields. Subsequent historic and modern aerial photographs show that the landscape of the Project area has remained largely the same since that time, with roads being the main addition to the area.

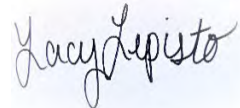
**SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Three archaeological sites and fifteen historic buildings and structures were identified within the Study Area. There is potential for Historic-period sites within the Project Area because the area has been inhabited at least since the 1930s; however, given that the Project is an overhead transmission line proposed partially within already disturbed rights-of-way, there is a low potential for intact historic sites. Mn Model4 indicates that the Project's Area of Potential Effect has a low site potential, and although no survey has occurred in the areas impacted by the Project, the larger general area has been well surveyed. The Project area could contain precontact sites given its location near several water sources. Given that the Project is located in an area with several existing overhead distribution lines and will be constructed along and within areas of previous disturbance such as existing rights-of-way and agricultural fields, Merjent recommends no survey required ahead of Project construction.

If human remains are encountered during construction activities, all ground disturbing activity must cease, and local law enforcement must be notified per Minn. Stat § 307.08. GRE will also develop an Unanticipated Discoveries Plan for the Project.

If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, please do not hesitate to contact me ([lacy.lepisto@merjent.com](mailto:lacy.lepisto@merjent.com)).

Sincerely,  
Merjent, Inc.



Lacy Lepisto  
Cultural Resource Specialist

Enclosed:

Figure 1 Topographic Map (*Contains Confidential and Privileged Information*)

Figure 2 Aerial Map (*Contains Confidential and Privileged Information*)

---

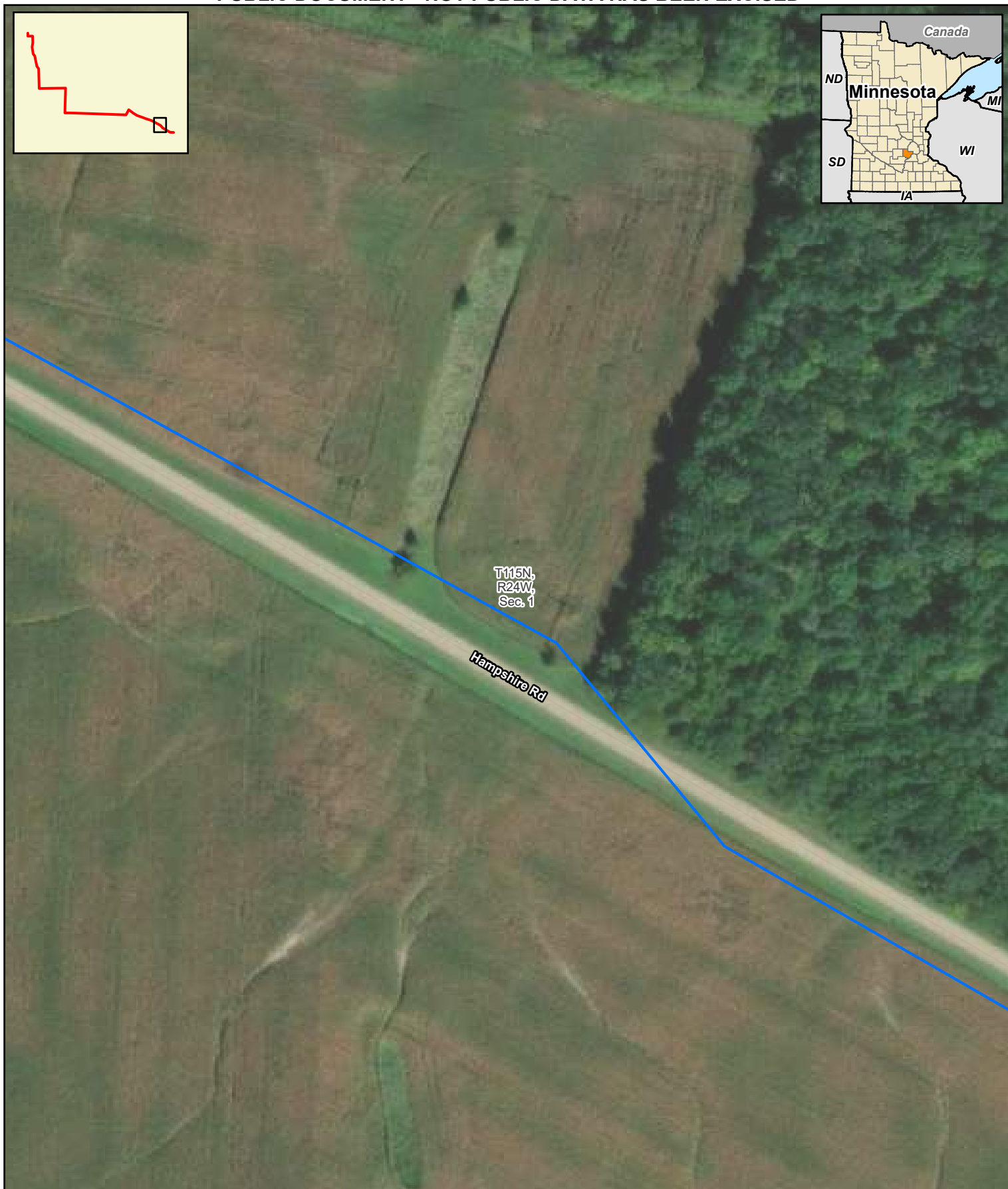
<sup>4</sup> Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records. 2024. <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/>

cc: Michael Swenson, Great River Energy  
Britta Bergland, Merjent  
Bill Harding, Merjent

[NONPUBLIC DATA BEGINS HERE...







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**Figure 2**  
**Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project**  
Aerial Map  
Carver County, Minnesota  
Page 2 of 18

— Proposed 115-kV Transmission Line  
□ Section Boundary



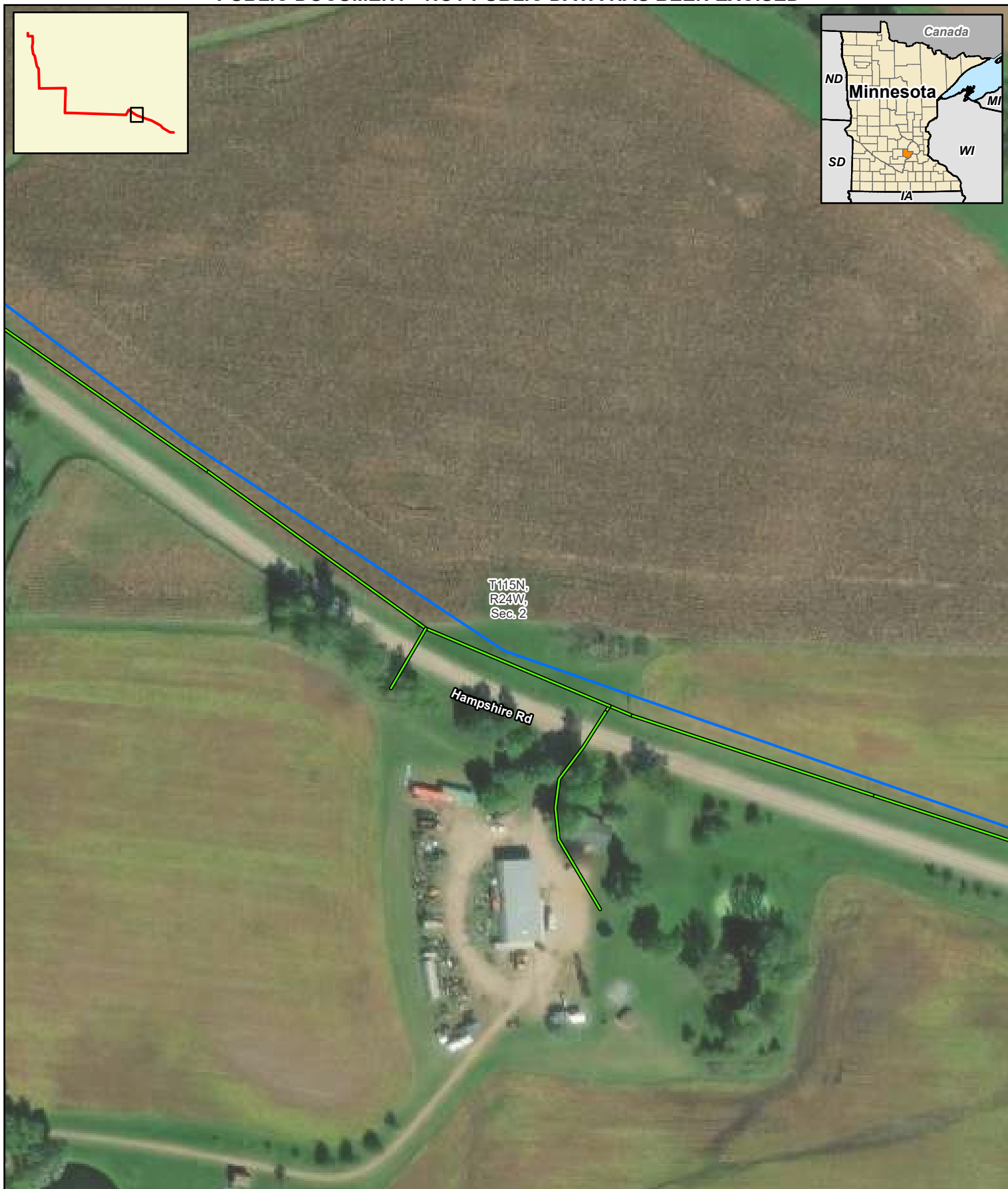
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Feet  
1:1,800

For Environmental Review Purposes Only



**Figure 2**  
**Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project**  
Aerial Map  
Carver County, Minnesota  
Page 3 of 18

- Proposed 115-kV Transmission Line
- Minnesota Valley Distribution Line
- Section Boundary

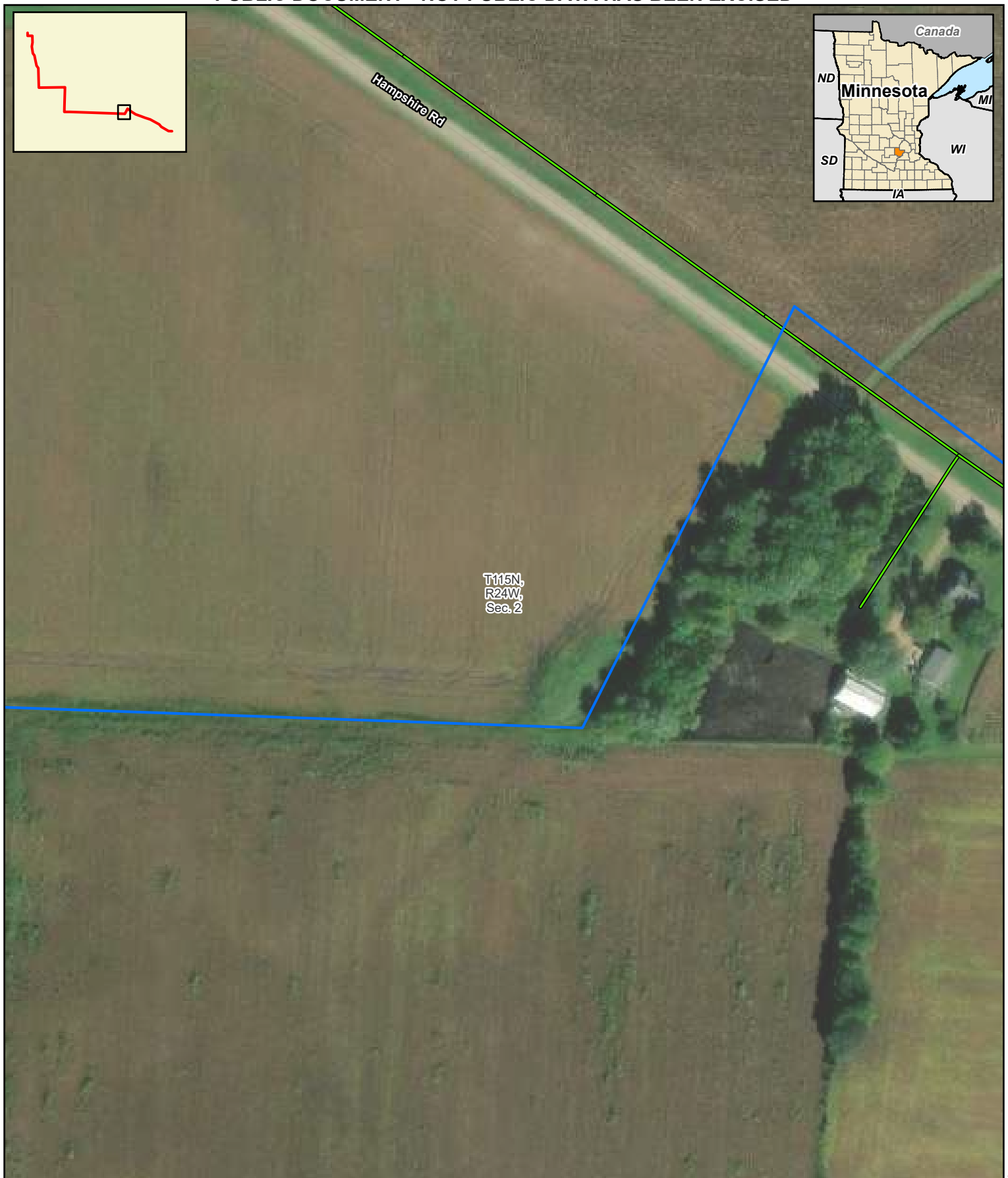


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Feet  
1:1,800

For Environmental Review Purposes Only

**Figure 2**  
**Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project**  
Aerial Map  
Carver County, Minnesota  
Page 4 of 18

- Proposed 115-kV Transmission Line
- Minnesota Valley Distribution Line
- - - Section Boundary

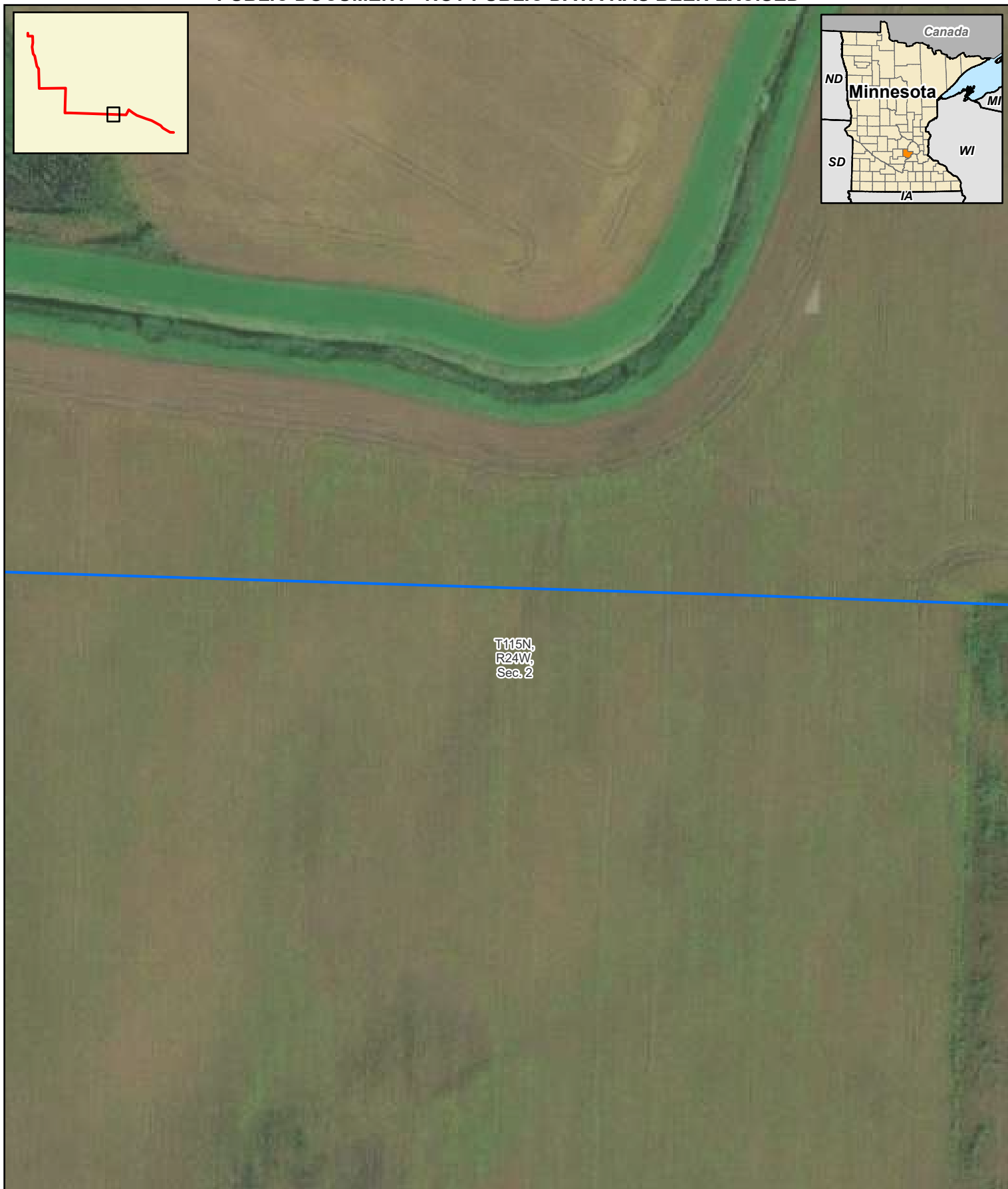


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**Figure 2**  
**Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project**  
Aerial Map  
Carver County, Minnesota  
Page 5 of 18

- Proposed 115-kV Transmission Line
- Minnesota Valley Distribution Line
- Section Boundary



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For Environmental Review Purposes Only



**Figure 2**  
**Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project**  
Aerial Map  
Carver County, Minnesota  
Page 6 of 18

— Proposed 115-kV Transmission Line  
— Section Boundary

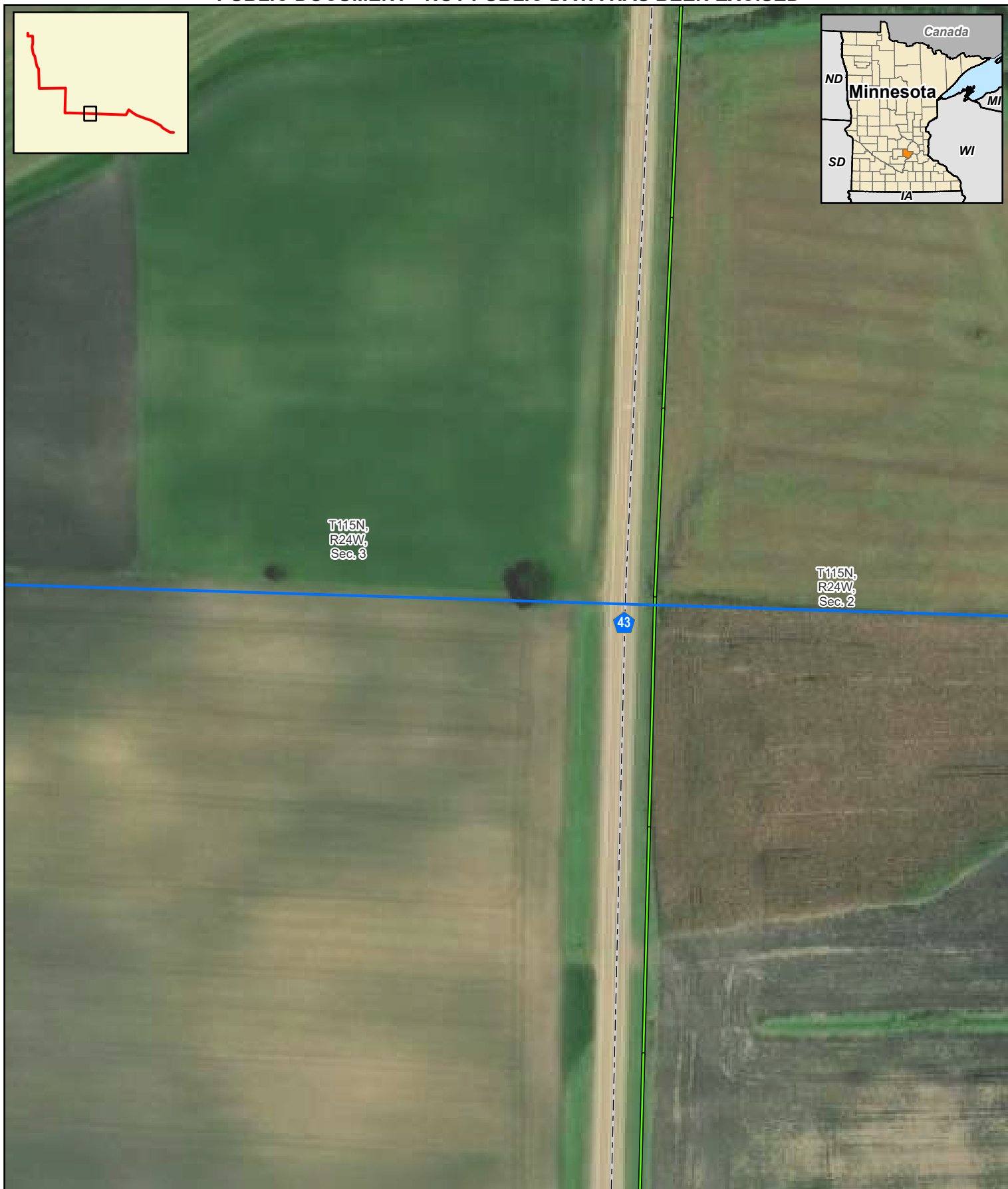


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For Environmental Review Purposes Only

**Figure 2**  
**Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project**  
Aerial Map  
Carver County, Minnesota  
Page 7 of 18

— Proposed 115-kV Transmission Line  
□ Section Boundary



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Feet  
1:1,800

For Environmental Review Purposes Only



**Figure 2**  
**Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project**  
Aerial Map  
Carver County, Minnesota  
Page 8 of 18

- Proposed 115-kV Transmission Line
- Minnesota Valley Distribution Line
- Section Boundary

[NONPUBLIC DATA BEGINS HERE...



the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased by 1.5 million, from 2.5 million in 1980 to 4 million in 1995 (Department of Health 1996).

There is a growing emphasis on the need to improve the quality of care in the public sector, and to ensure that the public sector is able to meet the needs of the community. This has led to a number of initiatives, including the introduction of the Health Care Act 1999, which aims to improve the quality of care in the public sector.

The Health Care Act 1999 is a landmark piece of legislation, which aims to improve the quality of care in the public sector. It introduces a number of new measures, including the introduction of a new regulatory body, the Health Care Commission, which will be responsible for monitoring and improving the quality of care in the public sector.

The Health Care Commission will be responsible for monitoring and improving the quality of care in the public sector. It will be responsible for ensuring that the public sector is able to meet the needs of the community, and for ensuring that the quality of care is improved.

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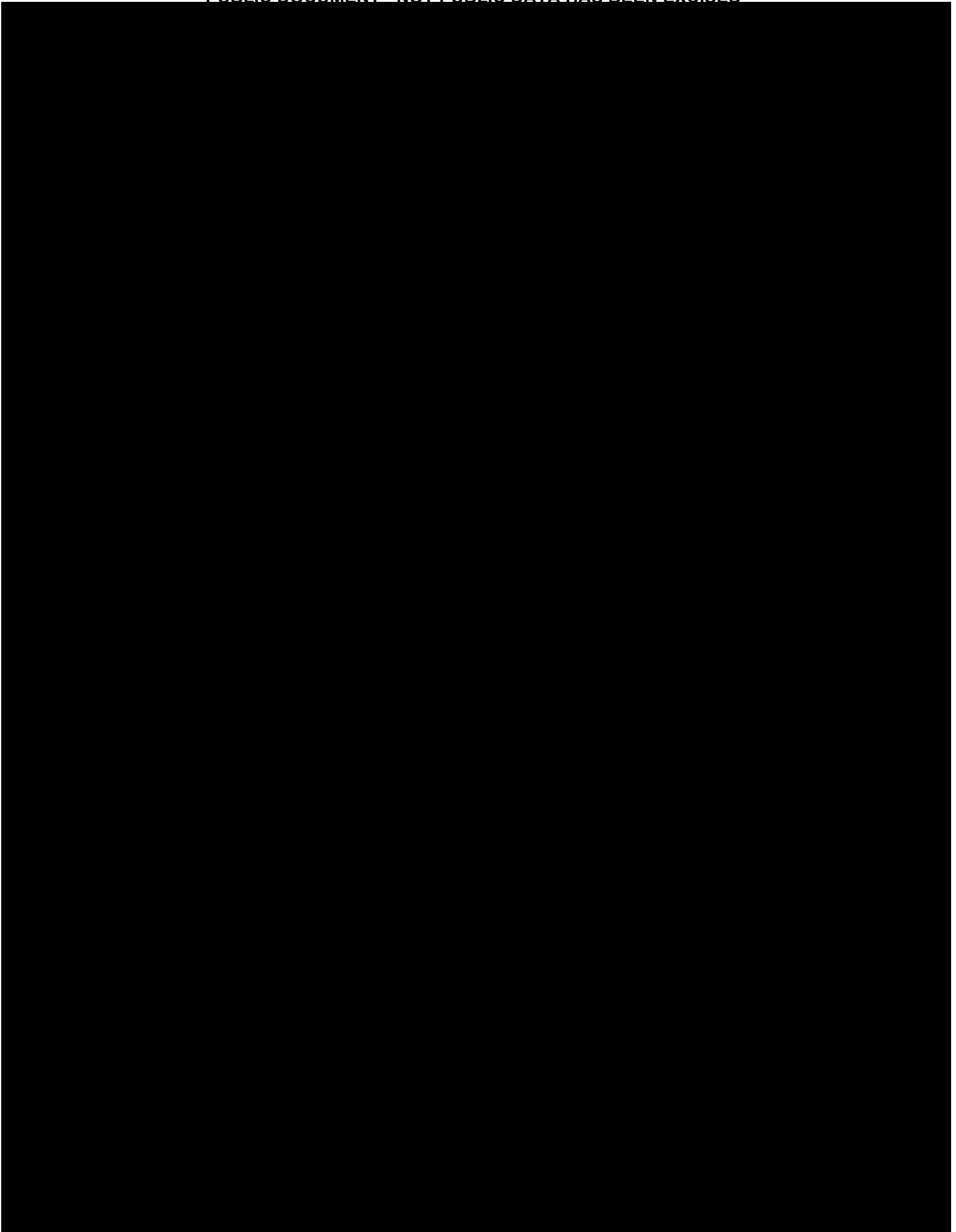
The Health Care Commission will be responsible for ensuring that the public sector is able to meet the needs of the community, and for ensuring that the quality of care is improved. It will be responsible for monitoring and improving the quality of care in the public sector.

The first part of the paper discusses the importance of the research and the objectives of the study. It then presents a literature review of the existing research on the topic. The next section describes the methodology used in the study, including the data collection and analysis techniques. The results of the study are then presented, followed by a discussion of the findings and their implications. Finally, the paper concludes with a summary of the main points and suggestions for future research.

The research was conducted using a quantitative approach, with data collected from a survey of 100 participants. The survey was designed to measure the levels of various factors related to the research topic. The data was then analyzed using statistical methods to identify patterns and relationships. The results of the analysis are presented in the following sections.

The findings of the study indicate that there is a significant relationship between the variables studied. This relationship is supported by the statistical analysis, which shows a strong correlation between the two variables. The implications of these findings are discussed in the next section.

In conclusion, the study has shown that the variables studied are closely related. This finding has important implications for the field of research and may lead to further exploration of the topic. The study also highlights the need for further research in this area.













---

**From:** Lacy Lepisto  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 15, 2024 8:37 AM  
**To:** Bill Harding; Britta Bergland; Swenson, Michael GRE-MG  
**Subject:** Fw: EXTERNAL: SHPO No 2024-1298 Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project Submittal  
**Attachments:** 2024-1298.pdf

---

**From:** GraggJohnson, Kelly (ADM) <kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 14, 2024 6:12 PM  
**To:** Lacy Lepisto <lacy.lepisto@merjent.com>  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL: SHPO No 2024-1298 Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project Submittal

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

Lacy – Here is the SHPO comment letter for this project. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Kelly



**Kelly Gragg-Johnson (she/her/hers) | Environmental Review Program Specialist**  
50 Sherburne Avenue, Suite 203  
Saint Paul, MN 55155  
(651) 201-3285 | [kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us](mailto:kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us)

Please reference this [SHPO Environmental Review Program Update](#) regarding current project review timelines and staffing changes for the Environmental Review Program.

---

**From:** Lacy Lepisto <lacy.lepisto@merjent.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 8:48 AM  
**To:** MN\_ADM\_ENV Review SHPO <ENReviewSHPO@state.mn.us>  
**Cc:** Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>; Bill Harding <bill.harding@merjent.com>; Swenson, Michael GRE-

MG <mswenson@GREnergy.com>

**Subject:** Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project Submittal

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

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Do not select links or open attachments unless verified. Report all suspicious emails to Minnesota IT Services Security Operations Center.

---

Hello,

I have attached the Phase IA letter report of the abovementioned project for your review.

Respectfully,

**Lacy Lepisto (Smith)** (she/her)

319.759.3261 mobile

[lacy.smith@merjent.com](mailto:lacy.smith@merjent.com)



1 Main Street SE, Suite 300

Minneapolis, MN 55414

612.746.3660 main

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

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DEPARTMENT OF  
ADMINISTRATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

May 14, 2024

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

RE: Great River Energy  
Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project  
Carver County  
SHPO No 2024-1298

Dear Lacy Lepisto:

Thank you for consulting with our office on the above-referenced project. It has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Office by the Minnesota Historic Sites Act (Minn. Stat. 138.665-666) and the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act (Minn. Stat. 138.40).

According to your March 14, 2024 submittal, Great River Energy is proposing to construct a new 115 kV double-circuit transmission line to power a new Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative distribution station in Carver County. We have reviewed the *Phase Ia Cultural Resources Assessment* (March 14, 2024, Merjent) that was prepared for this project. We do not agree with your assessment that an archaeological survey is not necessary for this project. Rather, due to the nature and location of the proposed project, we recommend that a Phase I archaeological survey be completed. The survey must meet the requirements of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Identification and Evaluation and should include an evaluation of National Register eligibility for any properties that are identified.

We will reconsider the need for survey if the project area can be documented as previously surveyed or disturbed. Any previous survey work must meet contemporary standards. **Note:** plowed areas and right-of-way are not automatically considered disturbed. Archaeological sites can remain intact beneath the plow zone and in undisturbed portions of the right-of-way.

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.

Please feel free to contact me with any general questions regarding our comments. I can be reached at 651-201-3285 or [kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us](mailto:kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us). For questions regarding archaeology, please contact Lucy Harrington, Environmental Review Archaeologist, at (651) 201-3283 or [lucy.harrington@state.mn.us](mailto:lucy.harrington@state.mn.us).

Sincerely,

*Kelly Gragg-Johnson*

Kelly Gragg-Johnson  
Environmental Review Program Specialist

---

MINNESOTA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

50 Sherburne Avenue ■ Administration Building 203 ■ Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155 ■ 651-201-3287 [mn.gov/admin/shpo](http://mn.gov/admin/shpo) ■  
[mnshpo@state.mn.us](mailto:mnshpo@state.mn.us)

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND SERVICE PROVIDER

**Minnehaha Creek Watershed District**

---

**From:** Permitting <permitting@minnehahacreek.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 1:29 PM  
**To:** Britta Bergland  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL: Automatic reply: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

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

**Thank you for your email. A member of our permitting team will reach out to you shortly.**

If you would like to submit a permit application, please visit our online permitting portal ([here](#)).

Our current rules can be found on our website ([here](#)), along with our proposed rule revisions ([here](#)).

Our rule revisions have been adopted by the Board and will go into effect on **April 29th**. Any permits submitted before that will be reviewed under our current rules.

For urgent inquiries or further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us directly at 952-641-4532.

If you have already been communicating with someone, please reach out directly to them.

Veronica Sannes - vsannes@minnehahacreek.org or 952-641-4580

Trey Jonas - tjonas@minnehahacreek.org or 952-641-4521

Maggie Menden - mmenden@minnehahacreek.org or 952-641-4586

For urgent inquiries or further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us directly at 952-641-4532.

**Office Hours:**

M-Th: 8-4:30

F: Office closed to the public, staff available via email

[15320 Minnetonka Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55345](#)

**Carver County**

---

**From:** Whitney Schroeder <[wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us](mailto:wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 2, 2024 3:46 PM  
**To:** Lommel, Michelle GRE-MG  
**Cc:** Swenson, Michael GRE-MG; MPruess; Lukkarila, Charles GRE-MG; Green, Joe COOP-MVEC; Luke Schwarz; Darin Mielke  
**Subject:** RE: GRE's Laketown project/Carver Co Hwy 10  
**Attachments:** GRE Laketown Project CSAH 10\_County Comments\_02022024.pdf

**This email was sent by an external sender. Opening attachments or clicking links from untrusted sources may cause damage to you and Great River Energy.**

Hi Michelle,

Please see attached for County comments on the proposed transmission alignment options. Please let us know if you need anything else.

Thanks,

**Whitney Schroeder, PE, PTOE | Traffic Engineer**  
Carver County Public Works  
11360 Highway 212, Suite 1, Cologne, MN 55322  
O: 952.466.5208 | M: 952.254.6918  
Email: [wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us](mailto:wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us)  
Web: [www.co.carver.mn.us](http://www.co.carver.mn.us)

---

**From:** Lommel, Michelle GRE-MG <[mlommel@GREnergy.com](mailto:mlommel@GREnergy.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2024 9:47 AM  
**To:** Luke Schwarz <[lschwarz@co.carver.mn.us](mailto:lschwarz@co.carver.mn.us)>; Darin Mielke <[dmielke@co.carver.mn.us](mailto:dmielke@co.carver.mn.us)>  
**Cc:** Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <[mswenson@GREnergy.com](mailto:mswenson@GREnergy.com)>; Pruess, Molly GRE-MG <[MPruess@GREnergy.com](mailto:MPruess@GREnergy.com)>; Lukkarila, Charles GRE-MG <[chuckl@GREnergy.com](mailto:chuckl@GREnergy.com)>; Green, Joe COOP-MVEC <[joeg@mvec.net](mailto:joeg@mvec.net)>  
**Subject:** GRE's Laketown project/Carver Co Hwy 10

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Darin and Luke,

Thanks again for your time to discuss the future Co Hwy 10 expansion and alignment. Our project fact sheet is attached.

If you can provide written comment to GRE so we are aware of the scope and schedule of the County's project, along with any comments on GRE's proposed route options, that would be helpful. Also, if we can get a .kmz or similar file that we could import into our GIS of the concept alignment, we'll better understand how complicated this route option would be.

Let us know if you have any questions or need additional information.

**Michelle Lommel**  
Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights

**Great River Energy**

12300 Elm Creek Blvd.

Maple Grove MN 55369-4718

direct: 763-445-5977 / fax: 763-445-6777

cell: 612-309-6839 / toll-free: 1-888-521-0130 ext. 5977

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

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**Carver County  
Public Works**

11360 Highway 212, Suite 1  
Cologne, MN 55322

February 2, 2024

Michelle Lommel  
Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights  
763-445-5977

Delivered via email: Michelle Lommel, [mlommel@GREnergy.com](mailto:mlommel@GREnergy.com)  
CC: Michael Swenson [mswenson@GREnergy.com](mailto:mswenson@GREnergy.com)  
Molly Pruess [MPruess@GREnergy.com](mailto:MPruess@GREnergy.com)  
Charles Lukkarila [chuckl@GREnergy.com](mailto:chuckl@GREnergy.com)  
Joe Green [joeg@mvec.com](mailto:joeg@mvec.com)

**Re: Great River Energy's (GRE) Laketown Project – Comments on Proposed 115-kv Transmission Line Alignment**

The purpose of this letter is to document the comments of Carver County Public Works (the County) on GRE's proposed 115-kv transmission line alignment options. Listed below are comments and information, as requested from GRE, regarding the future roadway project scope and schedule .

1. Proposed 115-kv transmission line alignment, received 2/2/24:
  - a. Option 3 is not recommended by the County due its location along County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 10 where the County has major reconstruction involving realignment planned within five to ten years following the transmission line's installation.
  - b. Options 1 or 2 would be preferred; however, Option 2 would still require close coordination with the County's future CSAH 10 realignment project.
  - c. Option 1 appears to have the least impact on County roadways.
2. CSAH 10 roadway realignment project:
  - a. The County is in the process of developing the preliminary scope, alignment, and schedule. Those will be shared with GRE once that information is available.

These are the County's comments at this time. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact the staff noted below:

|                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Whitney Schroeder<br>Traffic Engineer<br>Carver County Public Works<br>952.466.5208<br><a href="mailto:wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us">wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us</a> | Luke Schwarz<br>Engineering Manager<br>Carver County Public Works<br>320.766.0156<br><a href="mailto:wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us">wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us</a> | Darin Mielke<br>Assistant Public Works Director<br>Carver County Public Works<br>952.466.5222<br><a href="mailto:dmielke@co.carver.mn.us">dmielke@co.carver.mn.us</a> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

CARVER COUNTY

---

**From:** Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <mswenson@GREnergy.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2024 10:52 AM  
**To:** Britta Bergland  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL: FW: GRE's Laketown project/Carver Co Hwy 10  
**Attachments:** 117142\_gm\_west.dwg

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

CSAH 10 alignment is attached.

**Michael Swenson, CMWP**  
Transmission Permitting Specialist  
Great River Energy  
Direct: 763-445-5979 | Cell: 952-807-4537  
[mswenson@greenergy.com](mailto:mswenson@greenergy.com)

---

**From:** Luke Schwarz <lschwarz@co.carver.mn.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2024 12:24 PM  
**To:** Whitney Schroeder <wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us>; Lommel, Michelle GRE-MG <mlommel@GREnergy.com>  
**Cc:** Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <mswenson@GREnergy.com>; Pruess, Molly GRE-MG <MPruess@GREnergy.com>; Lukkarila, Charles GRE-MG <chuckl@GREnergy.com>; Green, Joe COOP-MVEC <joe@mvec.net>; Darin Mielke <dmielke@co.carver.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Re: GRE's Laketown project/Carver Co Hwy 10

**This email was sent by an external sender. Opening attachments or clicking links from untrusted sources may cause damage to you and Great River Energy.**

Please see the attached geometrics file for the area in question. Turns out this was not designed with an alignment, but the geometrics should get you on the right path.

Thanks,

**Luke Schwarz PE**

Engineering Manager

Carver County Public Works

Mobile: 320.766.0156

---

**From:** Whitney Schroeder <[wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us](mailto:wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 2, 2024 3:45 PM  
**To:** [mlommel@GREnergy.com](mailto:mlommel@GREnergy.com) <[mlommel@GREnergy.com](mailto:mlommel@GREnergy.com)>  
**Cc:** [mswenson@GREnergy.com](mailto:mswenson@GREnergy.com) <[mswenson@GREnergy.com](mailto:mswenson@GREnergy.com)>; [MPruess@GREnergy.com](mailto:MPruess@GREnergy.com) <[MPruess@GREnergy.com](mailto:MPruess@GREnergy.com)>;

[chuckl@GREnergy.com](mailto:chuckl@GREnergy.com) <[chuckl@GREnergy.com](mailto:chuckl@GREnergy.com)>; [joeg@mvec.net](mailto:joeg@mvec.net) <[joeg@mvec.net](mailto:joeg@mvec.net)>; Luke Schwarz <[lschwarz@co.carver.mn.us](mailto:lschwarz@co.carver.mn.us)>; Darin Mielke <[dmielke@co.carver.mn.us](mailto:dmielke@co.carver.mn.us)>

**Subject:** RE: GRE's Laketown project/Carver Co Hwy 10

Hi Michelle,

Please see attached for County comments on the proposed transmission alignment options. Please let us know if you need anything else.

Thanks,

**Whitney Schroeder, PE, PTOE** | Traffic Engineer  
Carver County Public Works  
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**From:** Lommel, Michelle GRE-MG <[mlommel@GREnergy.com](mailto:mlommel@GREnergy.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2024 9:47 AM

**To:** Luke Schwarz <[lschwarz@co.carver.mn.us](mailto:lschwarz@co.carver.mn.us)>; Darin Mielke <[dmielke@co.carver.mn.us](mailto:dmielke@co.carver.mn.us)>

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**Subject:** GRE's Laketown project/Carver Co Hwy 10

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Darin and Luke,

Thanks again for your time to discuss the future Co Hwy 10 expansion and alignment. Our project fact sheet is attached.

If you can provide written comment to GRE so we are aware of the scope and schedule of the County's project, along with any comments on GRE's proposed route options, that would be helpful. Also, if we can get a .kmz or similar file that we could import into our GIS of the concept alignment, we'll better understand how complicated this route option would be.

Let us know if you have any questions or need additional information.

**Michelle Lommel**

Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights

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