

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

Respectfully,



LEONARD WABASHA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Good morning,

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

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

Please contact Mark Strohfus at 763-445-5210 or MStrohfus@GREnergy.com should you need additional information.

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

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



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Minnesota Department of Health

August 29, 2023

Matt Strohfus

Project Manager, Transmission Permitting

Great River Energy

12300 Elm Creek Boulevard

Maple Grove, MN 55369

Matt Strohfus:

Thank you for providing the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) with the opportunity to comment on Great River Energy Pilot Knob to Burnsville Project. The mission of MDH is to protect, maintain, and improve the health of all Minnesotans. The careful planning and development of projects such as this one supports this mission and is an important step in ensuring health in all policies.

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 proposes the following methods to mitigate potential impacts from this project:

- The project is within the Emergency Response Area for the City of Eagan's wells. Any project staging should take place more than 200 feet from the City's wells.
- The project crosses both the City of Burnsville and City of Eagan Drinking Water Supply Management Areas. The Emergency Response Plans for both cities should be on hand and followed in the case of a spill.
- Contact information (name, address, phone number) for all well owners with wells located within 200' of the 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 aren't included in the Minnesota Well Index (<https://mnwellindex.web.health.state.mn.us/#>), and should also be provided to Anneka Munsell at 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 the existing well in accordance with Minnesota Statute prior to energizing the transmission line.

Health starts where we live, learn, work, and play. To create and maintain healthy Minnesota communities, we have to think in terms of health in all policies. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments on the Great River Energy Cedar Lake Pilot Knob to Burnsville Project. Feel free to contact Aneka Munsell at (651) 201-5841 or anneka.munsell@state.mn.us if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Aneka Munsell".

Aneka Munsell
Environmental Health – Source Water Protection
PO BOX 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
651-201-5841
anneka.munsell@state.mn.us
www.health.state.mn.us

Enclosure:

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: Pilot Knob Transmission Line

Project Proposer: Great River Energy

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

Project Type Activities: Tree Removal; Structure Removal or Bridge Removal; Wetland impacts (e.g., dewatering, discharge, excavation, fill, runoff, sedimentation)

TRS: T115 R20 S17, T115 R20 S20, T115 R20 S8, T27 R23 S20, T27 R23 S21, T27 R23 S22, T27 R23 S27, T27 R23 S29, T27 R23 S30, T27 R24 S25, T27 R24 S36

County(s): Dakota

DNR Admin Region(s): Central

Reason Requested: PUC Site or Route Application

Project Description: Transmission line rebuild. Timing and construction methods are TBD but work will occur within existing ROW to the extent possible.

Existing Land Uses: urban/residential

Landcover / Habitat Impacted: urban/residential

Waterbodies Affected: waterbodies will be spanned by the project.

Groundwater Resources Affected: N/A

Previous Natural Heritage Review: No

Previous Habitat Assessments / Surveys: No

SUMMARY OF AUTOMATED RESULTS

Category	Results	Response By Category
Project Details	No Comments	No Further Review Required
Ecologically Significant Area	Comments	Protected Wetlands: Calcareous Fens
State-Listed Endangered or Threatened Species	Needs Further Review	State-protected Species in Vicinity
State-Listed Species of Special Concern	Comments	Recommendations
Federally Listed Species	Comments	Visit IPaC for Federal Review RPBB High Potential Zone



June 14, 2023

Project Name: Pilot Knob Transmission Line
Project Proposer: Great River Energy
Project Type: Utilities, Transmission (electric, cable, phone)
Project ID: MCE #2023-00454

AUTOMATED RESULTS: FURTHER REVIEW IS NEEDED

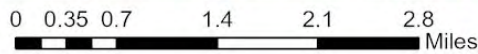
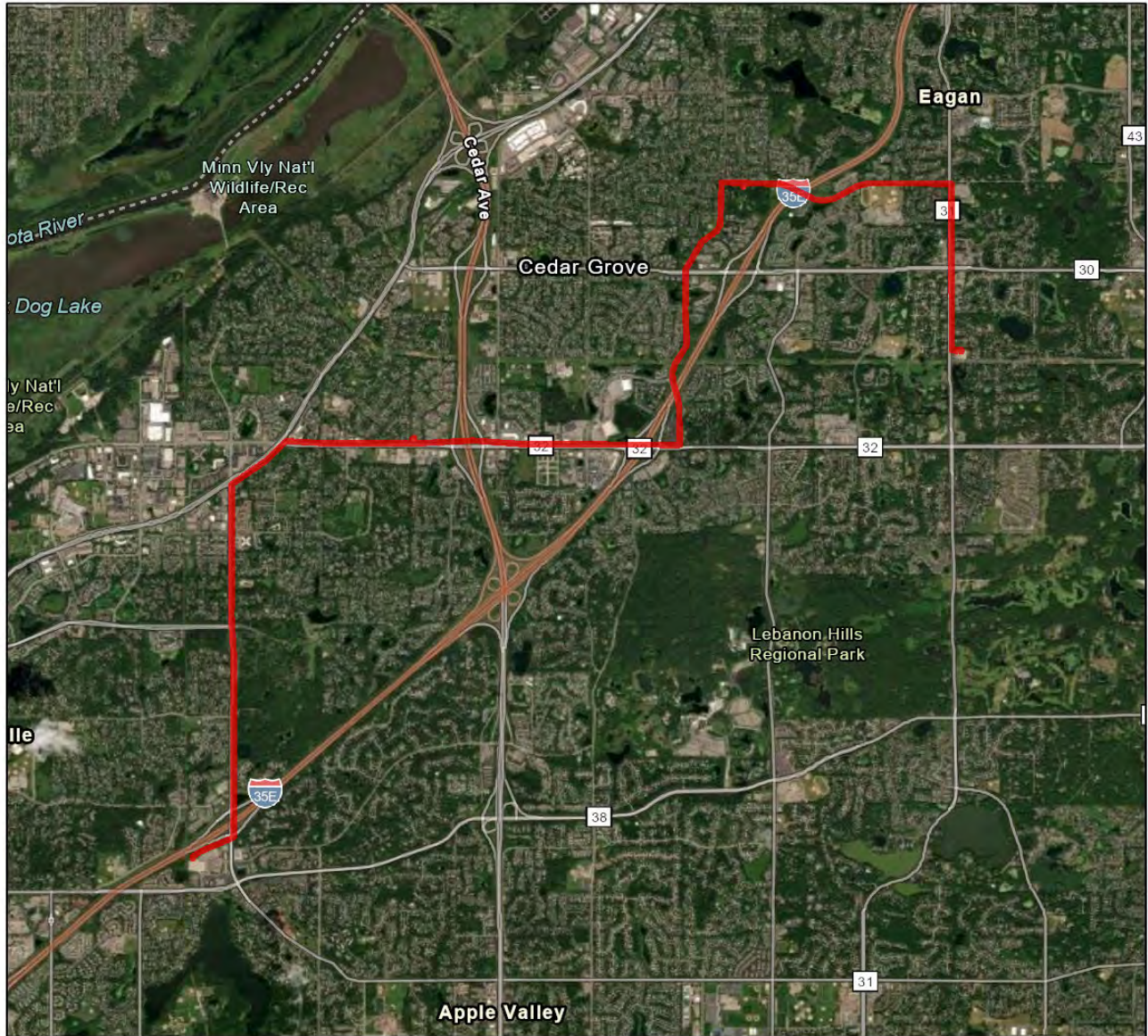
As requested, the above project has undergone an automated review for potential impacts to rare features. Based on this review, one or more rare features may be impacted by the proposed project and further review by the Natural Heritage Review Team is needed. You will receive a separate notification email when the review process is complete and the Natural Heritage Review letter has been posted.

Please refer to the table on the cover page of this report for a summary of potential impacts to rare features. For additional information or planning purposes, use the Explore Page in Minnesota Conservation Explorer to view the potentially impacted rare features or to create a Conservation Planning Report for the proposed project.

If you have additional information to help resolve the potential impacts listed in the summary results, please attach related project documentation in the Edit Details tab of the Project page. Relevant information includes, but is not limited to, additional project details, completed habitat assessments, or survey results. This additional information will be considered during the project review.

Pilot Knob Transmission Line

Aerial Imagery With Locator Map



 Project Boundary

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

Project Size (acres): 76.72

County(s): Dakota

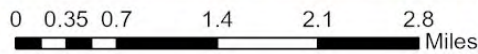
TRS: T115 R20 S17, T115 R20 S20, T115 R20 S8, T27 R23 S20, T27 R23 S21 +

County of Dakota, Metropolitan Council, MetroGIS, Three Rivers Park District, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA



Pilot Knob Transmission Line

USA Topo Basemap With Locator Map



 Project Boundary

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

Project Size (acres): 76.72

County(s): Dakota

TRS: T115 R20 S17, T115 R20 S20, T115 R20 S8, T27 R23 S20, T27 R23 S21 +

County of Dakota, Metropolitan Council, MetroGIS, Three Rivers Park District, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA



From: [Kristin Lenz](#)
To: "[Vickery, Martha L \(DNR\)](#)"
Cc: [Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG](#); [Mandy Bohnenblust](#)
Subject: RE: Great River Energy Pilot Knob Rebuild and Upgrade Project, Dakota County, MN - Project Introduction
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2023 3:29:00 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

Good afternoon Martha,

Thank you for your response. Great River has not identified any state land or public waters that are crossed by the existing or proposed alignment at this time.

Thank you,
Kristin

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



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From: Vickery, Martha L (DNR) <martha.vickery@state.mn.us>
Sent: Friday, August 25, 2023 9:50 AM
To: Kristin Lenz <kristin.lenz@merjent.com>
Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy Pilot Knob Rebuild and Upgrade Project, Dakota County, MN - Project Introduction

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Hi Kristin:

As a first step, please provide documentation of your land rights for any crossings of state land or public waters in this rebuild route. If there are easement rights, I will need to read the easement for what construction activities are allowed.

If your company has existing utility licenses from DNR, please provide them. The allowed activities vary by the era in which the license was issued.

If there are state land crossings, that crossing will need to be reviewed for any federal aid concerns. Happy to chat about all this.

Martha Vickery

Central Region Operations Coordinator | Lands and Minerals Division

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

1200 Warner Road

St. Paul, MN 55106

Phone: 651-259-5792

Fax: 651-772-7977

Email: martha.vickery@state.mn.us

mndnr.gov



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

Sent: Friday, August 25, 2023 9:23 AM

To: Warzecha, Cynthia (DNR) <cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us>

Cc: Vickery, Martha L (DNR) <martha.vickery@state.mn.us>; Collins, Melissa (DNR) <Melissa.Collins@state.mn.us>; Drake, James F (DNR) <James.F.Drake@state.mn.us>; Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohf@GREnergy.com>; Mandy Bohnenblust <mandy.bohnenblust@merjent.com>

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

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Good morning,

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

The Project will include rebuilding and upgrading three sections of transmission line: the line between the Pilot Knob and Deerwood Substations; the line between the Deerwood and River Hills Substations; and the line between the River Hills and Burnsville Substations. Great River Energy is proposing to construct the new 115-kV transmission line generally following the centerline of the

existing 69-kV transmission line. The Project would involve removal of existing poles within the Great River Energy right-of-way, and replacement with new, 60- to 95-foot-high poles placed 350 to 400 feet apart, also within the Great River Energy right-of-way. Great River Energy is planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in Fall 2023.

Please contact Mark Strohfus at 763-445-5210 or MStrohfus@GREnergy.com should you need additional information.

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

Kristin Lenz
Senior Project Manager
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kristin.lenz@merjent.com



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From: [Kristin Lenz](#)
To: [Collins, Melissa \(DNR\)](#)
Cc: [Vickery, Martha L \(DNR\)](#); [Drake, James F \(DNR\)](#); [Mandy Bohnenblust](#); [Warzecha, Cynthia \(DNR\)](#); [Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG](#)
Subject: RE: Great River Energy Pilot Knob Rebuild and Upgrade Project, Dakota County, MN - Project Introduction
Date: Wednesday, August 30, 2023 11:58:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Good morning Melissa,

Thank you for your response and clarification on the points of contact. The size and depth of footings would be approximately 5-7 feet in diameter and 20-30 feet deep; however, additional work is needed to finalize these dimensions. The Proposed Route will follow an existing 69-kV transmission line that was built in the late 1970s to mid-1980s and will be located primarily within existing ROW (approximately 70 feet wide – 35 feet on either side of the centerline). Limited geotechnical borings may have been conducted for the original installation; nevertheless, Great River Energy plans to conduct geotechnical borings after the Route Permit is approved by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to inform the final alignment and pole locations. Great River Energy will coordinate with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources regarding pole placement and calcareous fen considerations at that time.

Great River Energy has also initiated coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Thank you,
Kristin

Kristin Lenz
Senior Project Manager
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kristin.lenz@merjent.com



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From: Collins, Melissa (DNR) <Melissa.Collins@state.mn.us>
Sent: Friday, August 25, 2023 9:48 AM
To: Kristin Lenz <kristin.lenz@merjent.com>; Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfu@GREnergy.com>
Cc: Vickery, Martha L (DNR) <martha.vickery@state.mn.us>; Drake, James F (DNR) <James.F.Drake@state.mn.us>; Mandy Bohnenblust <mandy.bohnenblust@merjent.com>; Warzecha, Cynthia (DNR) <cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us>
Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy Pilot Knob Rebuild and Upgrade Project, Dakota County, MN - Project Introduction

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Hi Kristin and Mark,

Thank you for making us aware of this project. I would be the DNR point of contact during early coordination until the route permit application is submitted to PUC. From that point on, Cynthia would be the point of contact, but please cc her on all communications.

Can you please tell me the size and depth of the footings for the pole structures and if any geotechnical reports have been conducted for the project? It appears that two calcareous fens are in close proximity to the project, and we would want to insure that groundwater hydrology is not impacted.

Will the ROW need to be expanded or will the project be entirely within the existing ROW?

The project is located entirely within a High Potential Zone for the federally-endangered, rusty-patched bumble bee. We recommend coordination with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service if you have not already initiated that process.

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

mndnr.gov



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

Sent: Friday, August 25, 2023 9:23 AM

To: Warzecha, Cynthia (DNR) <cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us>

Cc: Vickery, Martha L (DNR) <martha.vickery@state.mn.us>; Collins, Melissa (DNR) <Melissa.Collins@state.mn.us>; Drake, James F (DNR) <James.F.Drake@state.mn.us>; Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfu@GREnergy.com>; Mandy Bohnenblust <mandy.bohnenblust@merjent.com>

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

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Please contact Mark Strohfus at 763-445-5210 or MStrohfus@GREnergy.com should you need additional information.

Regards,

Kristin Lenz on behalf of Mark Strohfus, Great River Energy

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

September 20, 2023

Correspondence # MCE 2023-00454

Mandy Bohnenblust
Merjent, Inc.

RE: Natural Heritage Review of the proposed Pilot Knob Transmission Line,
T115N R20W Sects 17, 20, T27N R24W Sects 25, 36, T27N R23W Sects 20-22, 27, 29; Dakota County

Dear Mandy Bohnenblust,

As requested, the [Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System](#) has been reviewed to determine if the proposed project has the potential to impact any rare species or other significant natural features. Based on the project details provided with the request, the following rare features may be impacted by the proposed project:

Ecologically Significant Areas

- A calcareous fen (*Kelleher Park, ID# 41531*) has been documented in the vicinity of the proposed project area. Sterile sedge (*Carex sterilis*) and stream parsnip (*Berula erecta*), state-listed threatened plants, have been documented within the fen. A calcareous fen is a rare and distinctive peat-accumulating wetland that is legally protected in Minnesota. The Wetlands Conservation Act, authorized by *Minnesota Statutes*, section 103G.223, states that calcareous fens may not be filled, drained, or otherwise degraded, wholly or partially, by any activity, except as provided for in a management plan approved by the commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources. 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. 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.

Calcareous fens may be impacted by activities within the fen, activities that affect surface water flows (e.g., stormwater flow, erosion), or activities that affect groundwater hydrology (e.g., groundwater pumping, contamination, or discharge). To ensure compliance with WCA, please contact the Calcareous Fen Program Coordinator, Keylor Andrews (Keylor.Andrews@state.mn.us). **If it is determined the project will impact the fen in any way, including indirect impacts through the alteration of hydrological conditions, a botanical survey is required.** Surveys must be conducted by a qualified surveyor and follow the standards contained in the [Rare Species Survey Process](#) and [Rare Plant Guidance](#). Visit the [Natural Heritage Review](#) page for a list of certified surveyors and more information on this process. Project planning should take into account that any botanical survey needs to be conducted during the appropriate time of the year, which may be limited. Please consult with the NH Review Team at Reports.NHIS@state.mn.us if you have any questions regarding this process.

State-listed Species

- Blanding's turtles (*Emydoidea blandingii*), a state-listed threatened species, have been documented in the vicinity of the proposed project. Blanding's turtles use upland areas up to and over a mile distant from wetlands, waterbodies, and watercourses. Uplands are used for nesting, basking, periods of dormancy, and traveling between wetlands. Factors believed to contribute to the decline of this species include collisions with vehicles, wetland drainage and degradation, and the development of upland habitat. Any added mortality can be detrimental to populations of Blanding's turtles, as these turtles have a low reproduction rate that depends upon a high survival rate to maintain population levels.

This project has the potential to impact this rare turtle through direct fatalities and habitat disturbance/destruction due to excavation, fill, and other construction activities associated with the project. Minnesota's Endangered Species Statute (*Minnesota Statutes*, section 84.0895) and associated Rules (*Minnesota Rules*, part 6212.1800 to 6212.2300 and 6134) prohibit the take of threatened or endangered species without a permit. As such, **the following avoidance measures are required:**

- Avoid wetland and aquatic impacts during hibernation season, between September 15th and April 15th, if the area is suitable for hibernation.
- The use of [erosion control](#) blanket shall be limited to 'bio-netting' or 'natural-netting' types, and specifically not products containing plastic mesh netting or other plastic components.
 - Also, be aware that hydro-mulch products may contain small synthetic (plastic) fibers to aid in their matrix strength. These loose fibers could potentially re-suspend and make their way into wetlands and other waters. As such, please review mulch products and do not allow any materials with synthetic (plastic) fiber additives in areas that drain into water bodies.

- Construction areas, especially aquatic or wetland areas, should be thoroughly checked for turtles before the use of heavy equipment or any ground disturbance. Any holes or trenches that are left unattended for prolonged periods should be checked before filling.
 - The [Blanding's turtle flyer](#) must be given to all contractors working in the area.
 - Monitor for turtles during construction and report any sightings to the [DNR Nongame Specialist](#), Erica Hoaglund (Erica.Hoaglund@state.mn.us).
 - If turtles are in imminent danger they must be moved by hand out of harm's way, otherwise, they are to be left undisturbed.

If following the above avoidance measures is not possible, please contact NHIS.Review@state.mn.us as further action may be needed.

For additional information, see the [Blanding's turtle fact sheet](#), which describes the habitat use and life history of this species. The fact sheet also provides two lists of recommendations for avoiding and minimizing impacts to this rare turtle. **Please refer to both lists of recommendations and apply those that are relevant to your project.** For further assistance regarding the Blanding's turtle, please contact the DNR Regional Nongame Specialist, Erica Hoaglund.

- The Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii*), a state-listed bird species of special concern, has been documented in the vicinity of the project. In Minnesota, Bell's vireo prefers shrub thickets within or bordering open habitats such as grasslands or wetlands. This bird suspends its nests from forks of low branches of small trees or shrubs. If feasible, avoid tree & shrub removal from May 15th through August 15th to avoid disturbance of nesting birds.
- 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 nearby, 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.
- 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 with these species, please contact the appropriate [DNR Regional Nongame Specialist](#) or [Regional Ecologist](#).

Federally Protected 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.

- To ensure compliance with federal law, conduct a federal regulatory review using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) online [Information for Planning and Consultation \(IPaC\) tool](#).

Environmental Review and Permitting

- Please include a copy of this letter and the MCE-generated Final Project Report in any state or local license or permit application. Please note that measures to avoid or minimize disturbance to the above rare features may be included as restrictions or conditions in any required permits or licenses.

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 project description provided with the request. If project details change or the project has not occurred within one year, please resubmit the project for review within one year of initiating project activities.

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 impacts to these rare features. Visit the [Natural Heritage Review website](#) for additional information regarding this process, survey guidance, and other related information. 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Drake".

James Drake
Natural Heritage Review Specialist
James.F.Drake@state.mn.us

Cc: Melissa Collins, Keylor Andrews

Minnesota Department of Transportation

**Great River Energy
Pilot Knob to Burnsville Rebuild and Upgrade Project
Project Introduction Meeting with Minnesota Department of Transportation
Meeting Notes – August 29, 2023**

Participants:

Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT): Stacy Kotch Egstad, Tod Sherman, Jeremy Pratt, E Craig, Ann Driver, Jeffrey Dierberger, Paul Hartzheim
Great River Energy: Mark Strohfus, Michael Swenson, Rob Toomey, Molly Pruess
Merjent: Kristin Lenz

Strohfus shared the Great River Energy Viewer to walk through the proposed Project route starting from the Pilot Knob Substation. Existing 69-kilovolt (kV) transmission line is currently within the MnDOT Interstate Highway 35E (I-35E) right-of-way (ROW) that requires Great River Energy to access the poles via the MnDOT ROW. To facilitate maintenance, Great River Energy proposes a reroute closer to Blackhawk Road and access would occur from Blackhawk Road instead of the I-35E ROW.

The first crossing of I-35E is at Deerwood Drive – there are existing structures within the ROW at that location. The parcel data indicates it is County property, but Strohfus wants to confirm that MnDOT still has an easement. MnDOT indicated that the I-35E crossing is MnDOT ROW. The current preference is to not place the new pole locations at the current pole locations – would be 10 to 15 feet from existing locations. At highway crossings, poles would be concrete foundation. Existing poles are left in place while the new poles are being installed to hold the wire, and the existing wire is then used to pull the new wire through the new structures. Then the old pole will be removed. Seeding requirements will be consistent with the MnDOT seeding requirements. Impacts generally 20 square feet associated with the pole installation. Seed will be selected consistent with existing vegetation; can use pollinator mixes as well.

Kotch Egstad inquired if Great River Energy is planning to move the poles farther away from the highway; Pruess confirmed that that is likely. The use of a concrete structure also provides more support/reliability for the highway crossing. There are steep slopes at this location.

Hartzheim inquired on whether there is an existing line along the entire ROW; Strohfus confirmed that is the case. This Project will go through the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) Route Permit (RP) application process that will include a wider route corridor to allow for flexibility to move across the road if needed. It is not Great River Energy's preference to get closer to residences or cross to the other side of the road.

Sherman inquired why Great River Energy was proposing a realignment at I-35E near Blackhawk Rd. Strohfus explained that it is because access to the poles currently occurs along I-35E, which is not Great River Energy's preference due to traffic. The realignment would allow access along Blackhawk Rd where there are no residences on the east side.

Great River Energy sent out over 1,100 invitations to the Project's Open Houses and only 16 people attended; not seeing a lot of landowner engagement on this Project to date. The existing line is 69-kV and it would be rebuilt to 115-kV, operating at first at 69-kV. Additional tree clearing will need to occur to maintain the 115-kV line. Hartzheim noted that there is a bike/pedestrian path along the I-35E reroute. Strohfus confirmed that there is a path along the I-35E realignment. There is also a steep hill

Great River Energy
Pilot Knob to Burnsville Rebuild and Upgrade Project
Project Introduction Meeting with Minnesota Department of Transportation
Meeting Notes – August 29, 2023

sloping from Blackhawk Rd toward I-35E. Structures would be pulled to the west towards the top of the hill.

Driver inquired on the proximity to the Blackhawk Rd bridge over I-35E; Strohfus thought it was about 50 feet. Pruess inquired with the MnDOT if there is a preferred distance; GRE will at least maintain the current distance and will ensure NESC compliance.

The existing line was built in the late 1970s and mid-1980s.

The 2nd crossing of I-35E at Cliff Road would maintain the existing transmission line alignment. Great River Energy would be interested in pulling the structures back from the highway at this crossing as well, but structures 24, 25 and 26 would continue to be within the MnDOT ROW at this location. Great River Energy has existing permits with MnDOT for these structures for a 69-kV line, so the permits would need to be updated.

Sherman inquired if Great River Energy keeps track of pole hits and wondered if any of these locations have more pole hits than others (with regard to pole 24 in particular – appears to be behind a guard rail). Pruess indicated that over the last decade Great River Energy has started tracking this information, but it is not available at all locations yet.

Great River Energy has also considered routing parallel to I-35E from Blackhawk Rd to Cliff Rd to reduce crossings. Driver indicated that transmission lines cannot parallel interstate highways, so they would not allow that.

Strohfus indicated that the MPUC Commissioners have recently discussed routing utilities within existing road ROWs as a preference. Kotch Egstad indicated that the MnDOT is aware that this has been direction from the MPUC over the years; however, they have not made the distinction between paralleling and within the road ROW. Safety issues and future expansion would generally preclude siting utilities within the road ROW.

State Highway 77 crossing at Cliff Road – there are interchanges and 4-5 structures within MnDOT ROW (structures 4-7). Great River Energy will work with MnDOT on any preferred structure locations in this area. Structures must be positioned to stay away from the bridges at this location as well; the MnDOT bridge department will need to review the structure placement. Structures should avoid proximity to bridges.

State Highway 13 crossing at Cliff Rd E – structures are located within the MnDOT ROW at this crossing as well. Structures need to be located out of the clear zone. Pruess will follow-up on the MnDOT clear zone requirements; structures 43 and 53 may need to be reviewed for consistency with those requirements. Pruess indicated that those two structures may have to go into the same spot due to other constraints.

I-35E crossing at County Road 11 – may be clearance issues at Structure 7 close to the bridge. Better clearance at structure 6 on the south side of the bridge. There are two additional structures within the

**Great River Energy
Pilot Knob to Burnsville Rebuild and Upgrade Project
Project Introduction Meeting with Minnesota Department of Transportation
Meeting Notes – August 29, 2023**

interchanges. The transmission line then parallels I-35E on the edge of the MnDOT ROW into the Burnsville Substation.

Single circuit 115-kV line – MnDOT may have some preferences for the position of the davit arms (e.g., stack conductors on east side) where there are bridges and height clearances in particular. Pruess indicated that Great River Energy can work with MnDOT on these preferences – there is some flexibility.

Great River Energy plans to submit the RP application in late November 2023; any comments that MnDOT wants to provide until then will be incorporated into the RP application. Great River Energy understands that additional coordination will need to occur as the design is refined. Great River Energy will not have a final design until after the Route Order is issued so most coordination will occur after that point. Great River Energy would appreciate comments on where pole placement should be avoided as well due to constraints as that could inform route width as well. Kotch Egstad intends to attend the scoping meeting for Pilot Knob as well.

In 2030-2031 there is a repaving project in the I-35E area; unlikely to affect pole placement but MnDOT will confirm. Great River Energy intends to energize this project in 2028, so construction activities should be complete.

MnDOT will be requesting shapefiles of the Project for further review.

For Cedar Lake Reroute Project, MnDOT looked further at the State Highway 13 ROW and would continue to recommend that Great River Energy route to the outside edge of that ROW. MnDOT is planning to provide formal comments in the next couple of weeks.

From: [Kotch Egstad, Stacy \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Kristin Lenz](#); [Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG](#)
Cc: [Swenson, Michael GRE-MG](#); [Toomey, Robert GRE-MG](#); [Pruess, Molly GRE-MG](#); [Mandy Bohnenblust](#)
Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy Pilot Knob Project Meeting Notes - 8/29/23
Date: Friday, September 15, 2023 10:46:12 AM
Attachments: [image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image013.png](#)
[image014.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[GRE - PILOT KNOB UPGRADE Utility Project Review ENM Rev 1 2023-09-15 - APPLICANT PORTION.docx](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Good Morning Mark and Kristin,

Please find the attached ENM Request for Information (with Supplemental Checklist at the end) for MnDOT's use in a pre-filing review of the Pilot Knob – Burnsville Upgrade Project.

Please note that it is understood that all requested information may not be available at this time, but please provide what you can.

This ENM document/process is a work in progress and therefore, future ENM requests may look different than what you see today.

Finally, to be respectful of your PUC submittal timeline, please allow MnDOT 30 days for a complete agency review of the information you provide.

Thank you for your participation in this process,

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

O: 651-366-4635

mndot.gov/

 **DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION**



From: Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT)

Sent: Wednesday, August 30, 2023 2:19 PM

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

Cc: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfu@GREnergy.com>; Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <mswenson@GREnergy.com>; Toomey, Robert GRE-MG <rtoomey@GREnergy.com>; Pruess, Molly GRE-MG <MPruess@GREnergy.com>; Mandy Bohnenblust <mandy.bohnenblust@merjent.com>

Subject: RE: Great River Energy Pilot Knob Project Meeting Notes - 8/29/23

Thank you, Kristin. We appreciate the early coordination efforts on your part.

I've sent the notes to my group for review. To allow extra time for those who may already be out for the holiday weekend, I plan to have them back to you next week.

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

O: 651-366-4635

mndot.gov/



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

Sent: Wednesday, August 30, 2023 1:52 PM

To: Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>

Cc: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohf@GREnergy.com>; Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <mSwenson@GREnergy.com>; Toomey, Robert GRE-MG <rToomey@GREnergy.com>; Pruess, Molly GRE-MG <MPruess@GREnergy.com>; Mandy Bohnenblust <mandy.bohnenblust@merjent.com>

Subject: Great River Energy Pilot Knob Project Meeting Notes - 8/29/23

This message may be from an external email source.

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Good afternoon Stacy,

Thank you for meeting with us yesterday. Attached are the notes from the meeting – please let us know if you have any revisions or clarifications.

Thank you,
Kristin

Kristin Lenz

Senior Project Manager

612.924.3962 direct

763.913.4740 mobile

kristin.lenz@merjent.com

Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office



August 8, 2023

Sarah Beimers
Environmental Review Program Manager
State Historic Preservation Office
Administration Building Suite 203
50 Sherburne Ave
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Great River Energy - Pilot Knob to Burnsville Project
Archaeological Overview

Dear Ms. Beimers:

This letter presents the results of a file search completed in support of the Pilot Knob to Burnsville Project (Project) in Dakota County, Minnesota. Great River Energy proposes to rebuild portions of its existing electrical transmission system in the area. As shown in the enclosed Aerial Maps, the Project will include rebuilding three sections of transmission line: (1) the line between the Pilot Knob and Deerwood substations (Aerial Map pages 1-10), (2) between the Deerwood and River Hills substations (Aerial Map pages 10-23), and (3) between the River Hills and Burnsville substations (Aerial Map pages 23-36). The Project would involve removal of existing poles and installing new poles generally following the existing centerline. Presently, the transmission system provides 69-kilovolt (kV) service; following the Project, the rebuilt line will be capable of providing 115-kV service to support growth and expansion in the Project area. A 115-kV transmission line requires wider clearances from trees for safety and reliability, and additional right-of way may be needed for the Project. The Project would also involve upgrades at the Burnsville Substation (Aerial Map page 36).

The Project will include replacing existing structures primary with direct-imbedded steel poles, 60-95 feet above ground and placed 350-400 feet apart. Specialty poles may be required in some areas, which will mean different size or type of poles and spans. The project will be built to Great River Energy's 115-kV design standards but will initially operate at 69-kV. Designing to 115-kV standards will allow the flexibility to operate the regional transmission system at 115-kV as future electrification and load development increases in the area. Great River Energy is proposing minor reroutes from the existing line at State Highway 35E¹ (Aerial Map pages 14-15) and at the Burnsville Substation (Aerial Map page 1); the old infrastructure would be removed along the existing route at these locations during the execution of this Project.

To assist with Project planning, Merjent, Inc. (Merjent) prepared this letter; it includes the results of a file search and recommendations and is not intended to replace a formal field survey. To

¹ Great River Energy will be working with the Minnesota Department of Transportation and Dakota County to explore altering the alignment of the transmission line near the where Blackhawk Road crosses over State Highway 35E. The alignment would enable Great River Energy to conduct maintenance activities by accessing its right-of-way via Blackhawk Road rather than State Highway 35E.

adequately address resources that may be affected by Project improvements, 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 centerline. The Study Area is comprised of the following locations:

County	Township	Range	Sections
Dakota	27N	23W	20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33
Dakota	27N	24W	25, 26, 35, 36
Dakota	115N	20W	7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

When Project development proceeds, we anticipate that the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act (Minn. Stat § 138.31-138.42) may 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.

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has jurisdiction for the placement of dredged or fill material in waters of the U.S. pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1344; 33 CFR Part 323). A Section 404 permit would be a federal action associated with the Undertaking that requires compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA and 36 CFR Part 800; this Project may require coverage under a Section 404 Regional General Permit. In addition, Appendix C of 33 CFR Part 325 contains the USACE procedures for the protection of historic properties to fulfill the requirements set forth in the NHPA and other applicable laws.

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 American Indian burial mounds as well as historic cemeteries.

Literature Review

Merjent, Inc. (Merjent) on behalf of Great River Energy conducted a Phase IA Literature Review. On Friday, May 26, 2023, Merjent retrieved cultural resources site information (archaeological sites and historic structures) and 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 at <https://osa.gisdata.mn.gov/OSAportal>.

BACKGROUND RESEARCH RESULTS

Previously Recorded Archaeological Resources

No archaeological sites occur within a half mile of the Project. Two historic cemeteries were identified within one mile of the Project.

Site Number/Name	Site Type	Location (TRS)	NRHP Status
Christ Lutheran Cemetery	Cemetery	T27N R12W S29	Protected under Minn. Stat § 307.08
Mount Calvary Cemetery	Cemetery	T115N R20W S15	Protected under Minn. Stat § 307.08

According to the OSA files, two cemeteries are located within a half mile of the Project. The Christ Lutheran Cemetery is located on the north side of County Highway 32 / Cliff Road (see enclosed Topographic Map page 1). Additional online sources show that the Christ Lutheran Cemetery is located on the property of the Christ Lutheran Church, which is located north and west of the Project at the southwest corner of the intersection of Diffley Road and Beaver Dam Road. Aerial images show a cemetery plot immediately south of the church, bordered by trees on the east, south, and west. This cemetery is 0.21 mile west of the Project where the alignment follows Blackhawk Rd. Several roads, buildings, and a small lake provide a buffer between Project activities and the cemetery.

St. John's Cemetery is located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Blackhawk Rd and Diffley Rd (see enclosed Topographic Map page 1). It is a small cemetery bordered on the north and east with a chain-link fence. According to Google Street View, Project components do not overlap these borders. The Project is located on the west side of Blackhawk Rd, and crosses to the east side of Blackhawk Rd immediately north of St. John's Cemetery. Additionally, Google Street View shows a wide bike lane between the ROW and the cemetery. All Project activities will take place within this ROW. At this location, the replacement line will generally follow the route of the existing line, therefore a pole may be located immediately northeast of St. John's Cemetery, but not within the cemetery. However, some tree clearing will likely be required within the cemetery boundaries. Given the close proximity to the cemetery, Merjent recommends a qualified archaeologist monitor construction activity at this pole location.

Previously Recorded Archaeological Surveys

The Study Area falls mostly within **Low Site Potential/Well Surveyed** layers of the Mn Model (Phase 4) Survey Implementation Model. The presence of waterbodies is often used as an indicator of high site probability in an area, and many of the sites discussed above are located near the Minnesota River. However, there is considerable distance from these sites to where Project activities will take place. Additionally, given that the Project is a rebuild project within an existing ROW, which is also collocated with existing roads, it is unlikely that the Project area contains intact cultural deposits.

Previously Recorded Standing Historic Buildings and Structures

Five historic buildings and structures are located within the Study Area, one of which intersects the Project. All of these resources are currently considered unevaluated for the NRHP. The Project crosses Trunk Highway 77 (XX-ROD-028) at its intersection with County Highway 32 / Cliff Road (see enclosed Topographic Map page 2). The work in this area will consist of replacement along the same route as the existing line, and the replacement line will not result in an appreciable change to viewshed.

One site (DK-EGC-017) was formerly located less than a half mile from the transmission line, however it has since been moved and is no longer located at its original location (see enclosed Topographic Map page 1). Because it has been moved, it is possible that it is now not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP per criteria consideration B (36 CFR 60.4). Two sites (DK-BVC-001 and DK-BVC-002) (Topographic Map page 2) have been razed and are no longer extant. Because these sites have been razed, they are no longer eligible for inclusion in the NRHP per criteria consideration B (36 CFR 60.4).

The remaining building (DK-BVC-006) is a single dwelling located 250 feet east of the Project where it follows south on Highway 11 (Topographic Map page 2). According to Google Street View, this site is not visible from the Project ROW due to a wooded area and modern apartment complex. Due to these physical barriers, construction activities will not impact site DK-BVC-006. Additionally, because this is a replacement Project, there will not be an appreciable change to viewshed and the eligibility of site DK-BVC-006 will not be impacted.

Following Appendix B of the Nationwide Programmatic Agreement for Review of Effects on Historic Properties for Certain Undertakings Approved by the Federal Communications Commission (September 2004), the proposed area of potential effect (APE) for visual effects is a half mile radius for structures 200 feet or less in overall height. Therefore, structures more than a half mile from the proposed projects will not be subject to visual or indirect effects.

Site Number/Name	Site Type	Location (TRS)	NRHP Recommendation
DK-BVC-001/Connelly Farmhouse (razed)	Farmstead	T27N R24W S26	Unevaluated
DK-BVC-002/Kennelly Farmstead (razed)	Farmstead	T27N R24W S25	Unevaluated
DK-BVC-006	Single Dwelling	T27N R24W S36	Unevaluated
DK-EGC-017/ Eagan Town Hall (moved)	Governmental	T27N R23W S22	Unevaluated
XX-ROD-028/TH 36 (including TH 77)	Road-related	T27N R23W S18 and 19	Unevaluated

General Land Office and Aerial Photo Review

Merjent reviewed Nineteenth century GLO maps and notes on file with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM 2023). The GLO map of the Project area illustrated conditions in 1870 as being largely prairie with the Minnesota River and associated floodplains and wetlands, as well as Fort Snelling. No cultural features are present on the GLO map of the Project area. Proximity

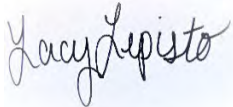
to water is an indication of high site potential. Aerial photographs from 1940 show the presence of established roads and farmsteads in the area. Subsequent historic and modern aerial photographs show that the landscape of the Project area has been heavily developed, and roads and infrastructure have been expanded extensively since the 1940s.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

No conventional archaeological sites were identified within the Study Area. Two cemeteries and two historic buildings were identified within the Study Area. There is potential for Historic-era 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 rebuild project within an already disturbed utility ROW, and within a heavily disturbed and relatively recently developed and dynamic urban landscape subject to continual change, there is a low potential for intact historic sites. Based on the information obtained through the background research and given that the work is a rebuild project and there is low potential for intact sites, it is recommended that no survey is needed in advance of construction. Merjent does recommend that a qualified archaeologist monitor the construction activity at the pole location northeast of St. John's Cemetery. If human remains are encountered during construction activities, all ground disturbing activity must cease, and local law enforcement must be notified per MN 307.08.

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

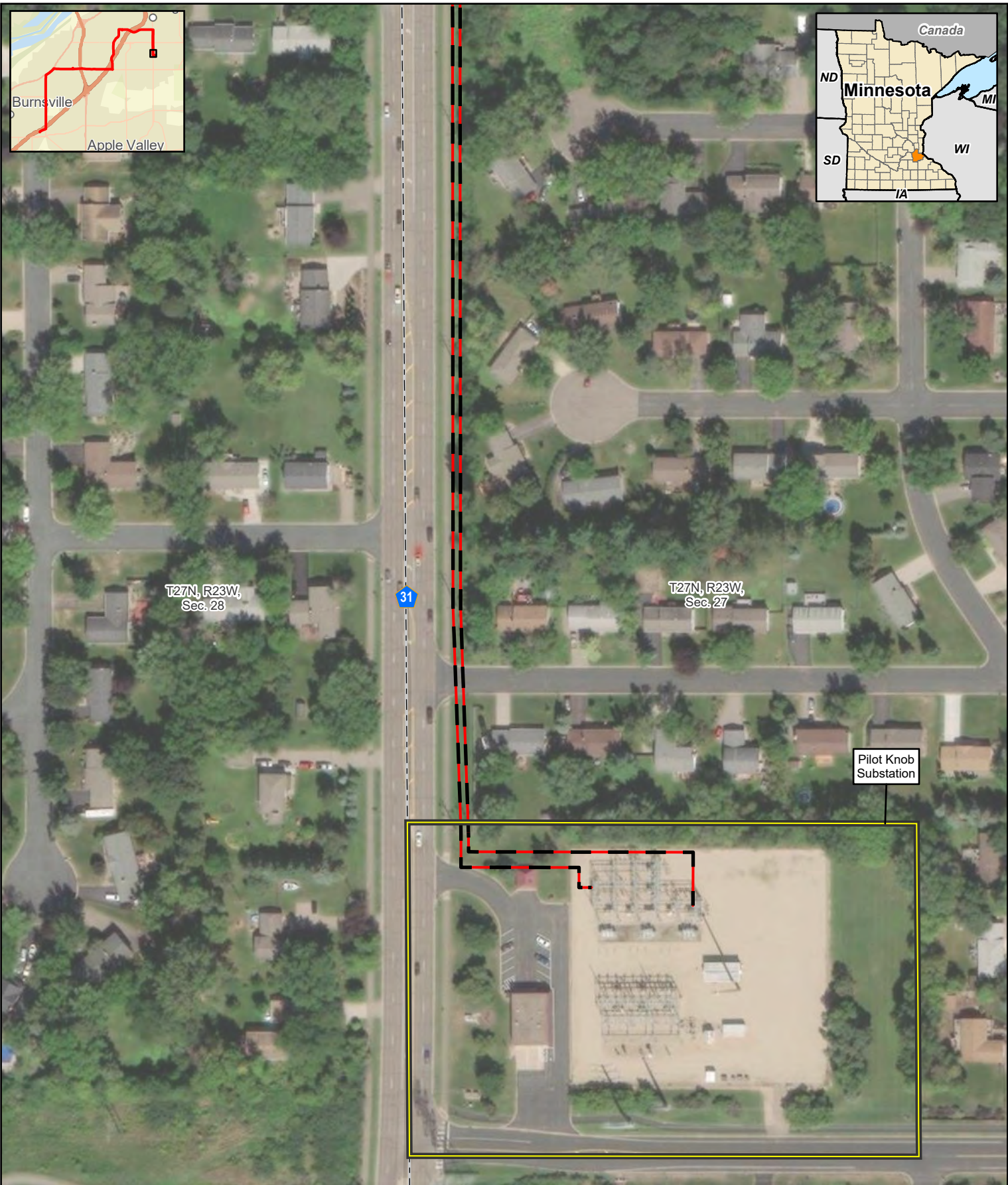
Sincerely,
Merjent, Inc.



Lacy Lepisto
Cultural Resource Specialist

Enclosures: Pilot Knob Project Aerial Maps
Pilot Knob Project Topographic Maps

CC: Mark Stroffhus, Great River Energy
Britta Bergland, Merjent
Kristin Lenz, Merjent



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Figure 2
Pilot Knob Project
Aerial Map
Dakota County, Minnesota
Page 1 of 36

Proposed 115-kV Alignment

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

Substation

Section Boundary

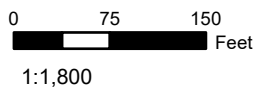
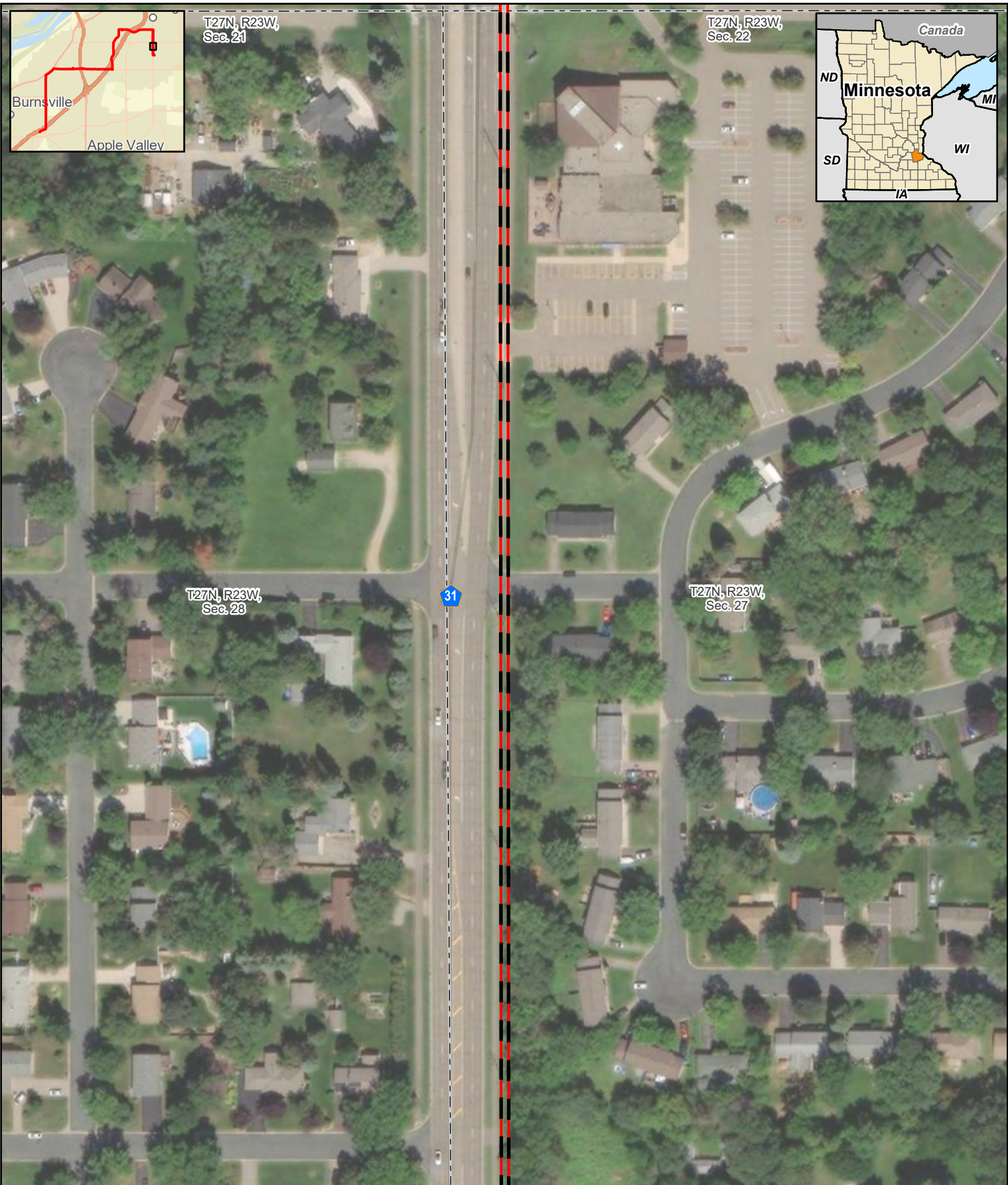
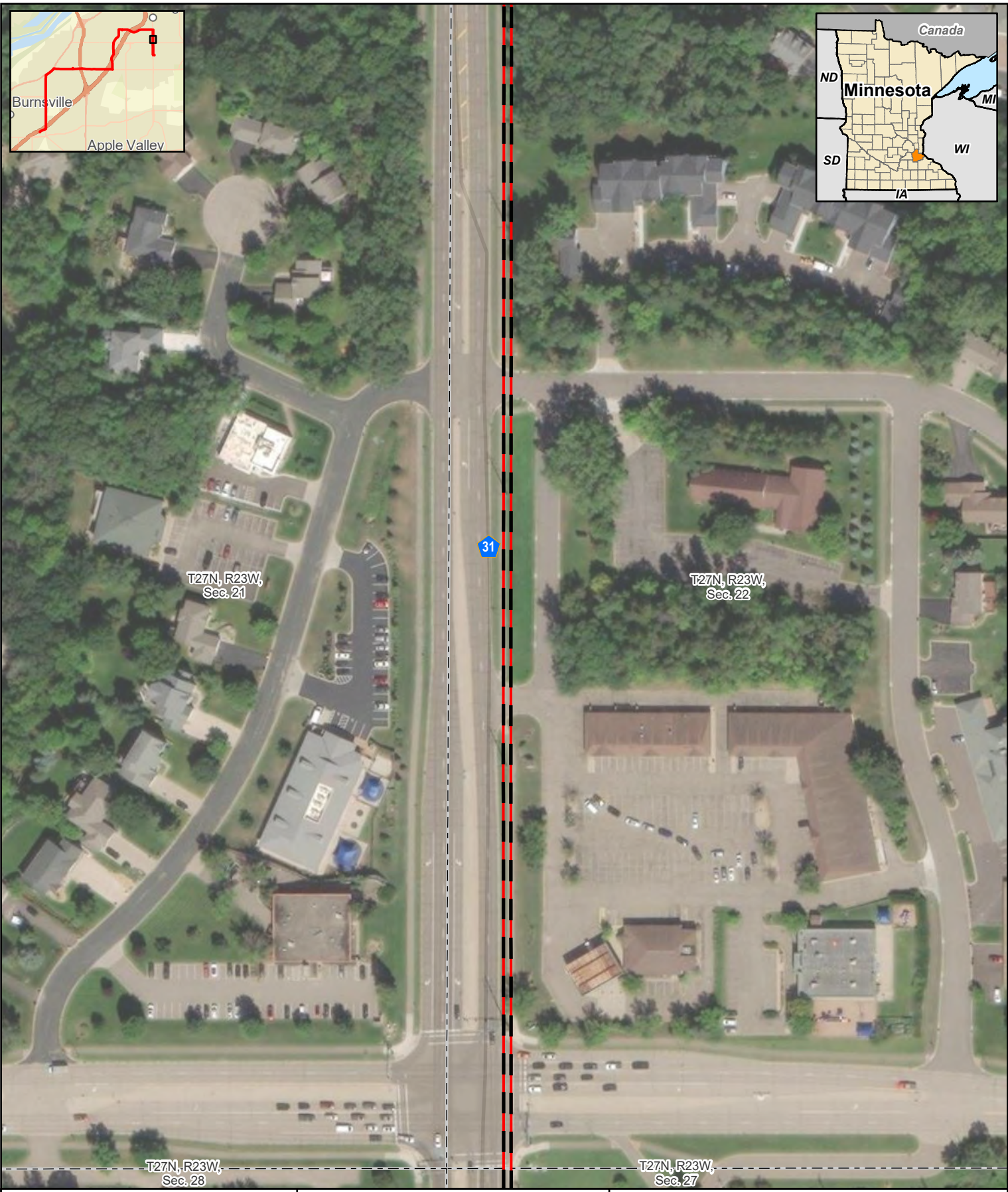


Figure 2
Pilot Knob Project
Aerial Map
Dakota County, Minnesota
Page 2 of 36

Proposed 115-kV Alignment

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

- Substation
- Section Boundary



0 75 150 Feet

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Figure 2
Pilot Knob Project
Aerial Map
Dakota County, Minnesota
Page 3 of 36

Proposed 115-kV Alignment

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

- Substation
- Section Boundary



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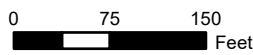
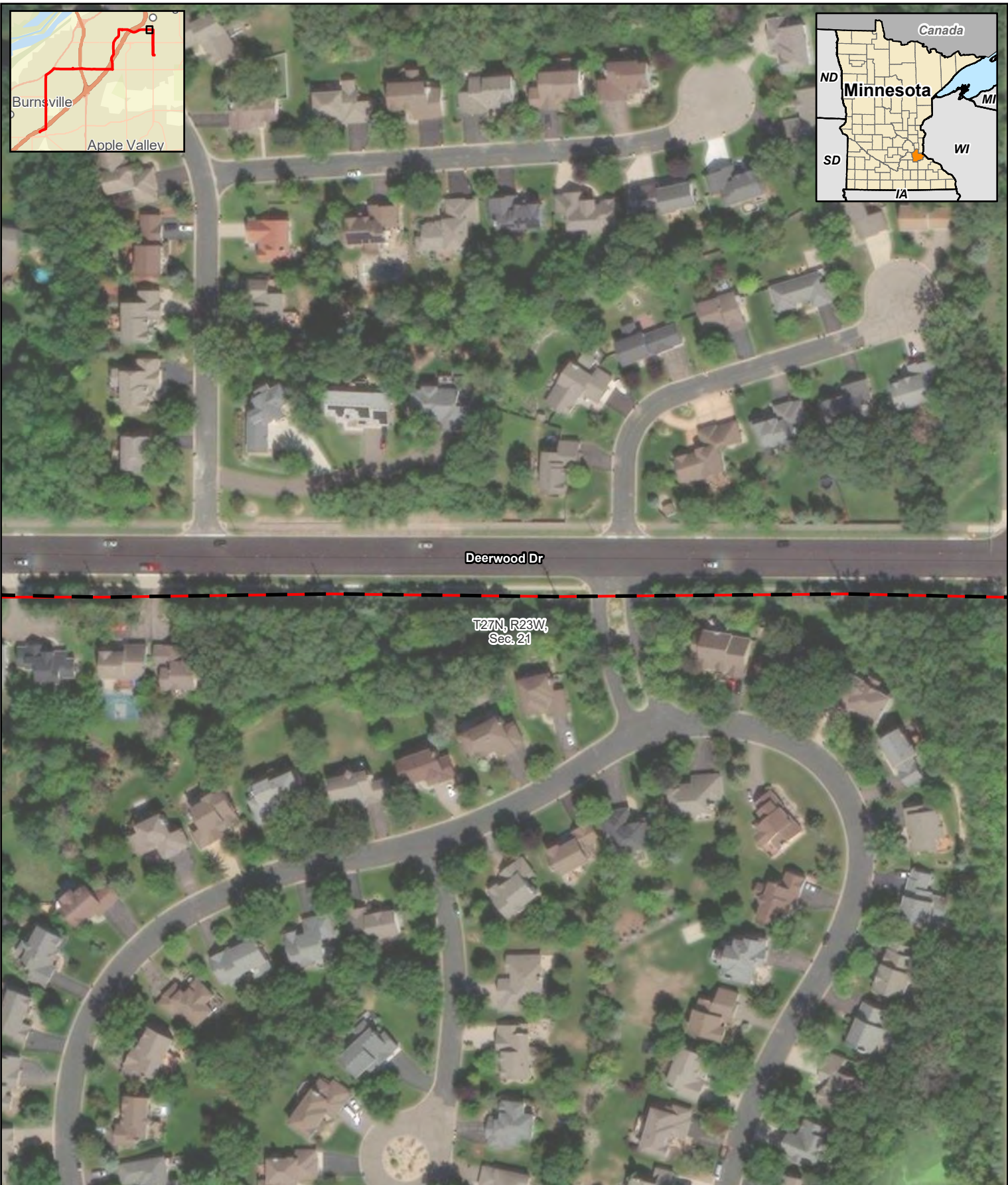
Figure 2
Pilot Knob Project
Aerial Map
Dakota County, Minnesota
Page 4 of 36

Proposed 115-kV Alignment

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

Substation

Section Boundary



1:1,800



For Environmental Review Purposes Only

Figure 2
Pilot Knob Project
Aerial Map
Dakota County, Minnesota
Page 5 of 36

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

Date: (7/5/2023) Source:



merjent.

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For Environmental Review Purposes Only



Figure 2
Pilot Knob Project
Aerial Map
Dakota County, Minnesota
Page 6 of 36

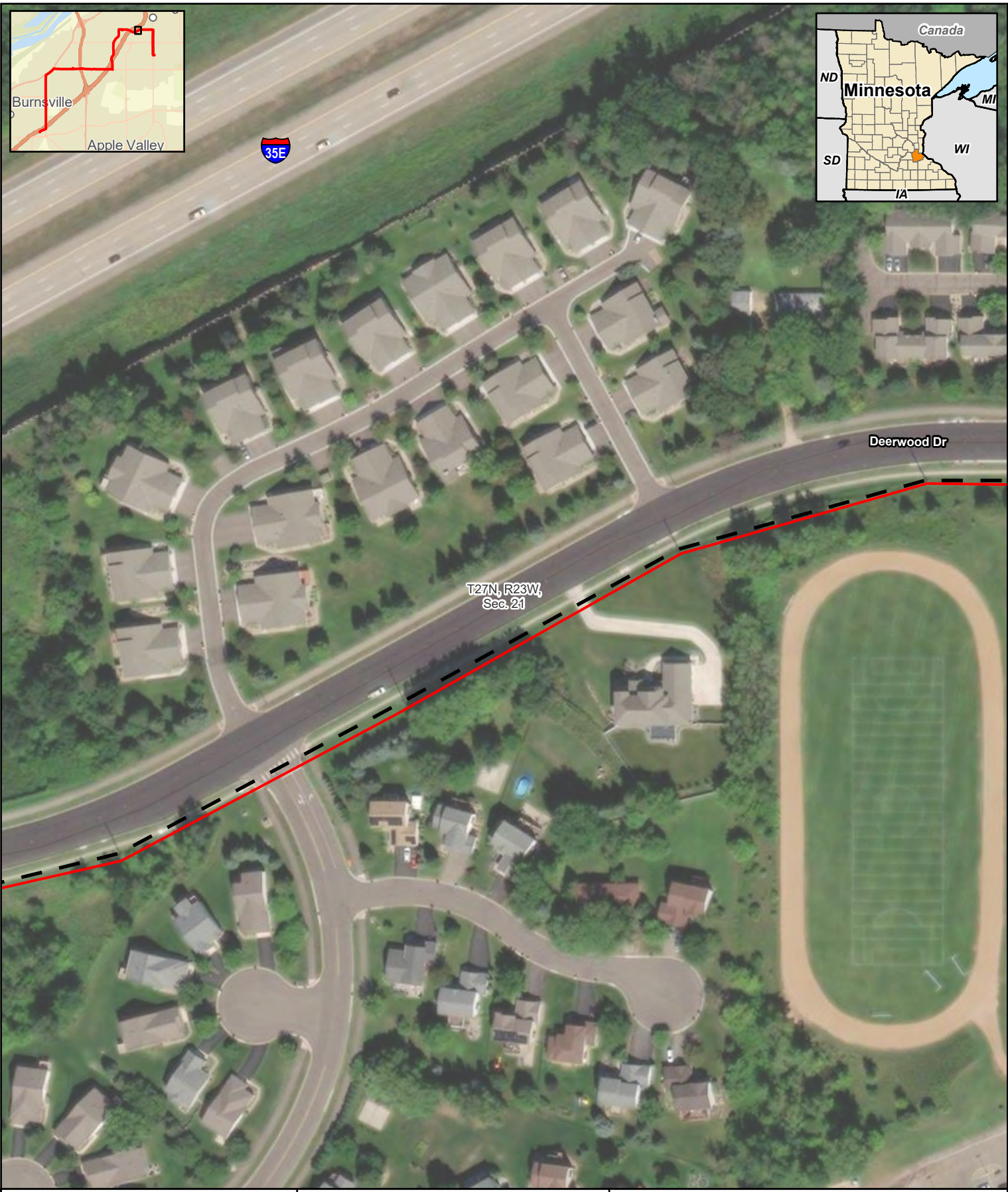
Proposed 115-kV Alignment

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

Legend:

- Substation
- Section Boundary

Date: (7/31/2023) Source:



merjent.

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For Environmental Review Purposes Only



Figure 2
Pilot Knob Project
Aerial Map
Dakota County, Minnesota
Page 7 of 36

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

Date: (7/5/2023) Source:



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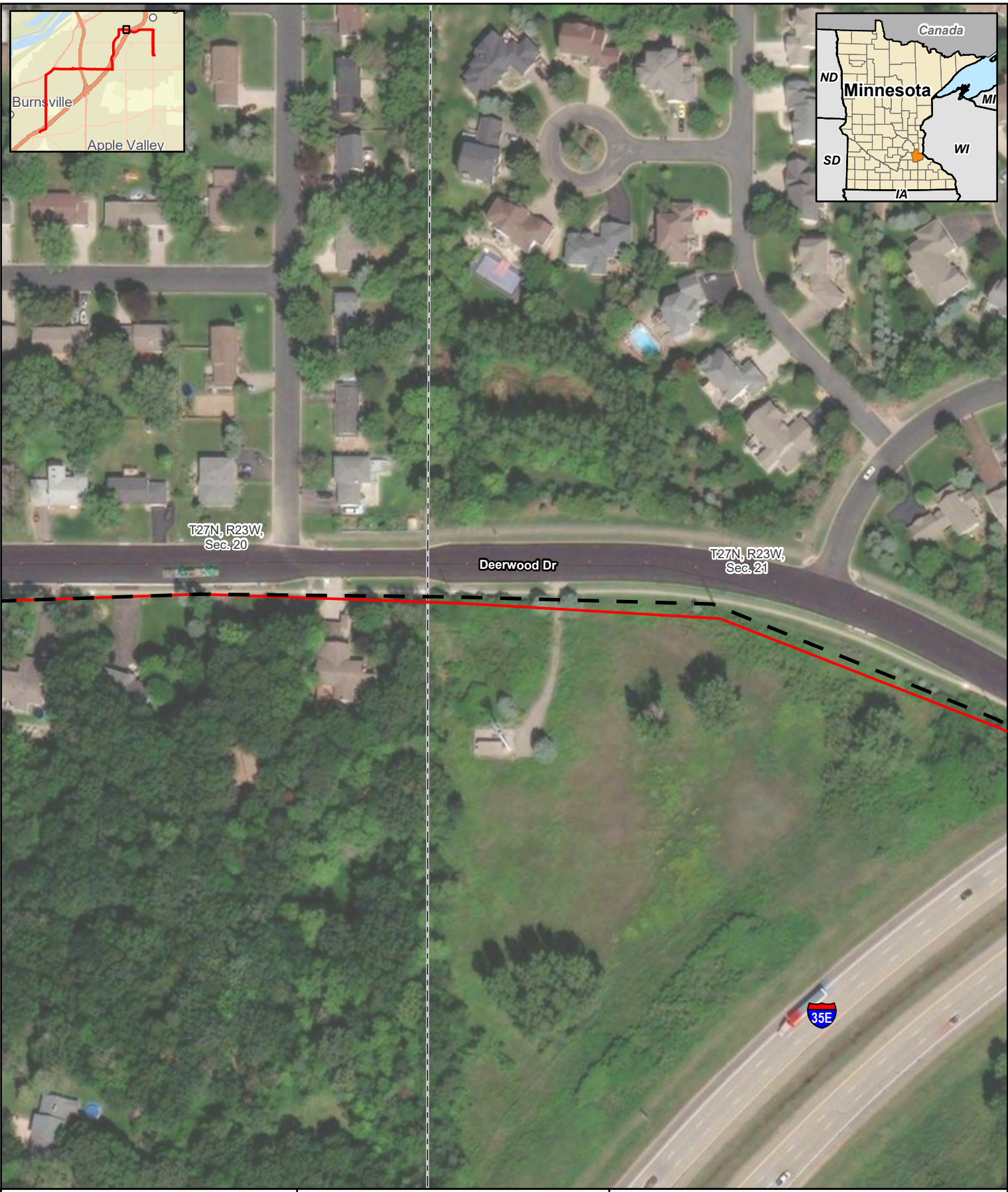
Figure 2
Pilot Knob Project
Aerial Map
Dakota County, Minnesota
Page 8 of 36

Proposed 115-kV Alignment

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

Substation

Section Boundary



0 75 150 Feet

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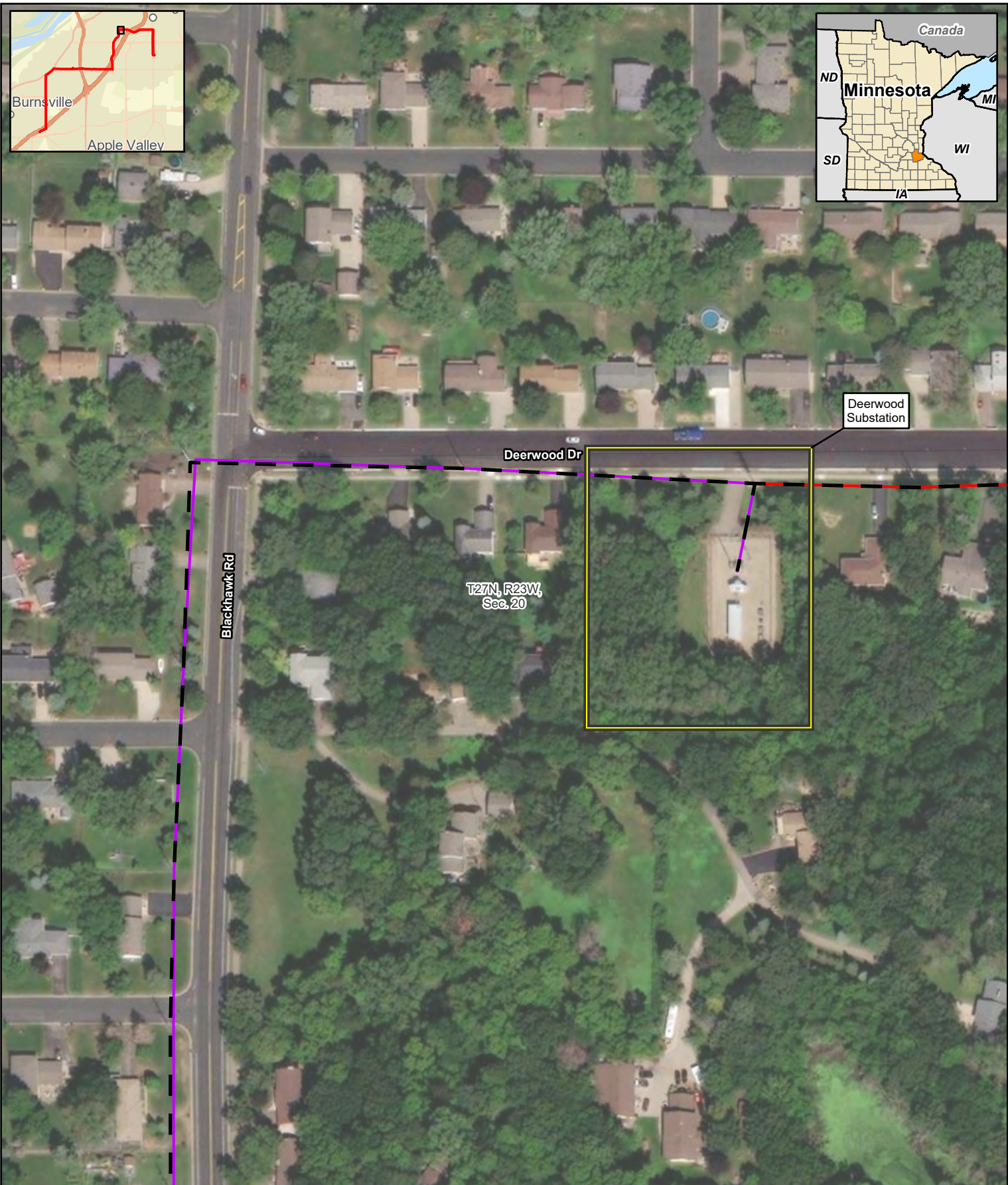
Figure 2
Pilot Knob Project
Aerial Map
Dakota County, Minnesota
Page 9 of 36

Proposed 115-kV Alignment

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

Substation

Section Boundary



0 75 150 Feet

1:1,800



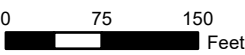
Figure 2
Pilot Knob Project
Aerial Map
Dakota County, Minnesota
Page 10 of 36

Proposed 115-kV Alignment

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

Substation

Section Boundary



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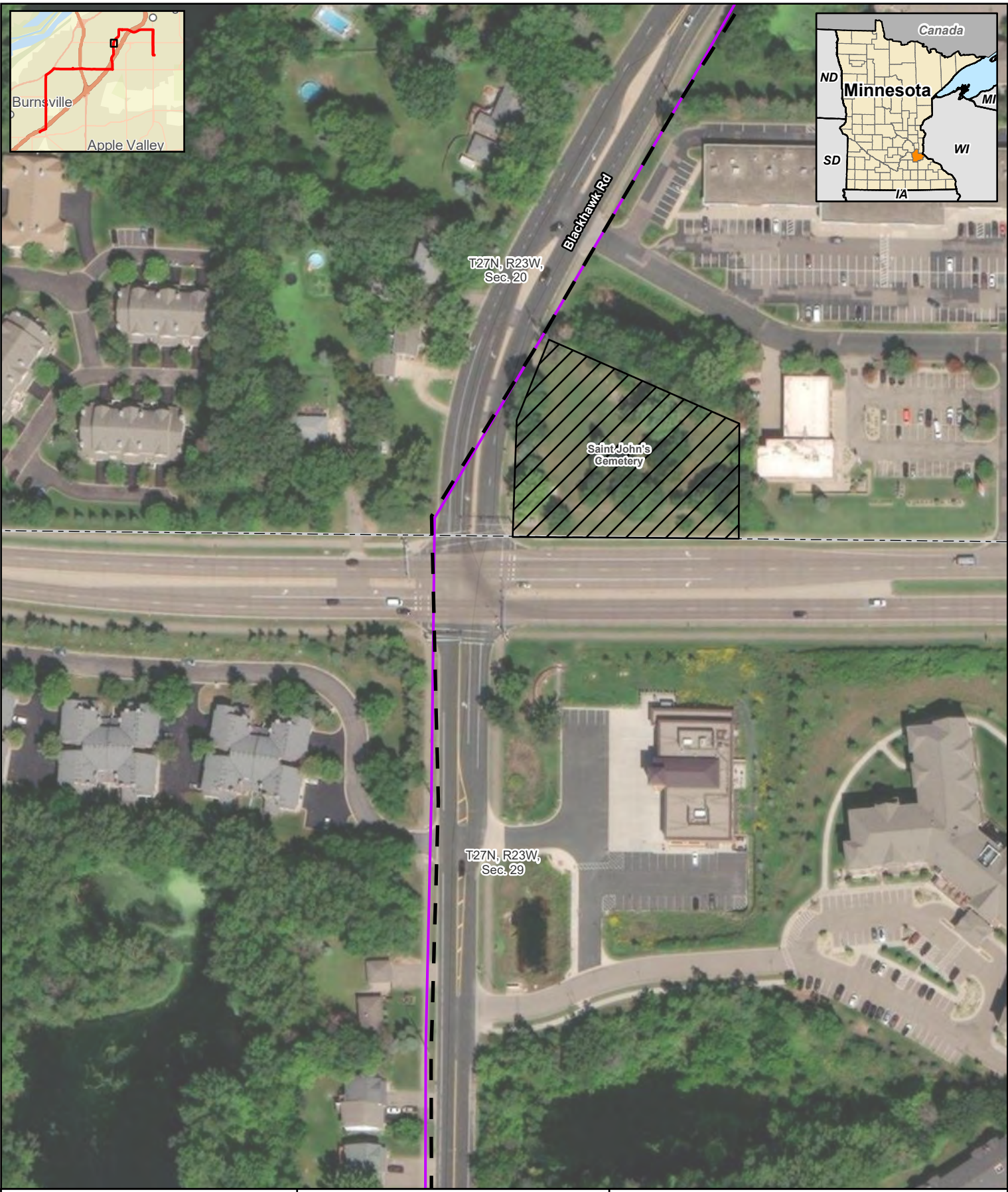
Figure 2
Pilot Knob Project
Aerial Map
Dakota County, Minnesota
Page 11 of 36

Proposed 115-kV Alignment

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

- Substation
- Section Boundary

Date: (7/5/2023) Source:



0 75 150 Feet

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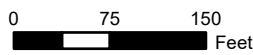
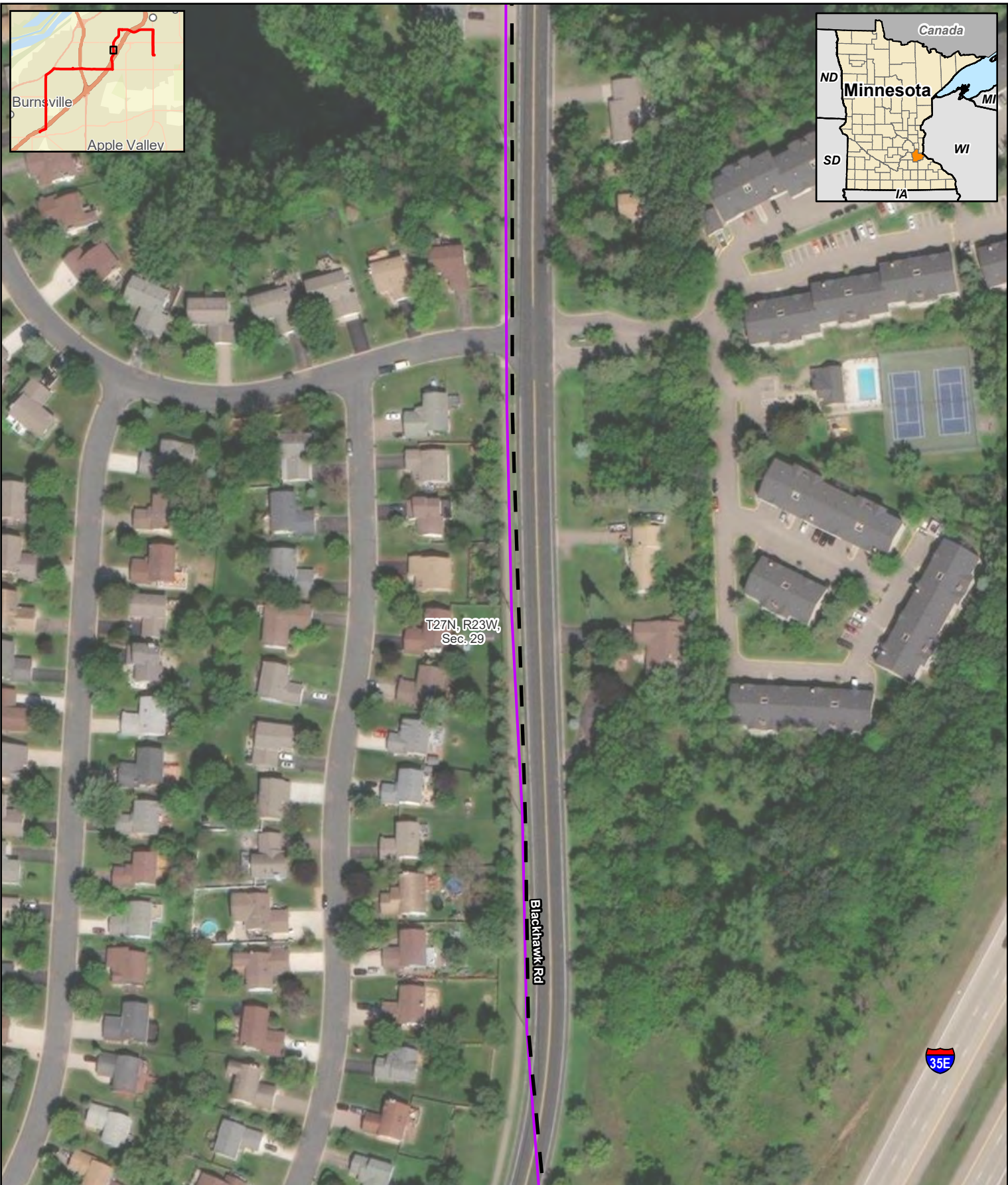


Figure 2
Pilot Knob Project
Aerial Map
Dakota County, Minnesota
Page 12 of 36

Proposed 115-kV Alignment

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

- Substation
- Cemetery
- Section Boundary



1:1,800

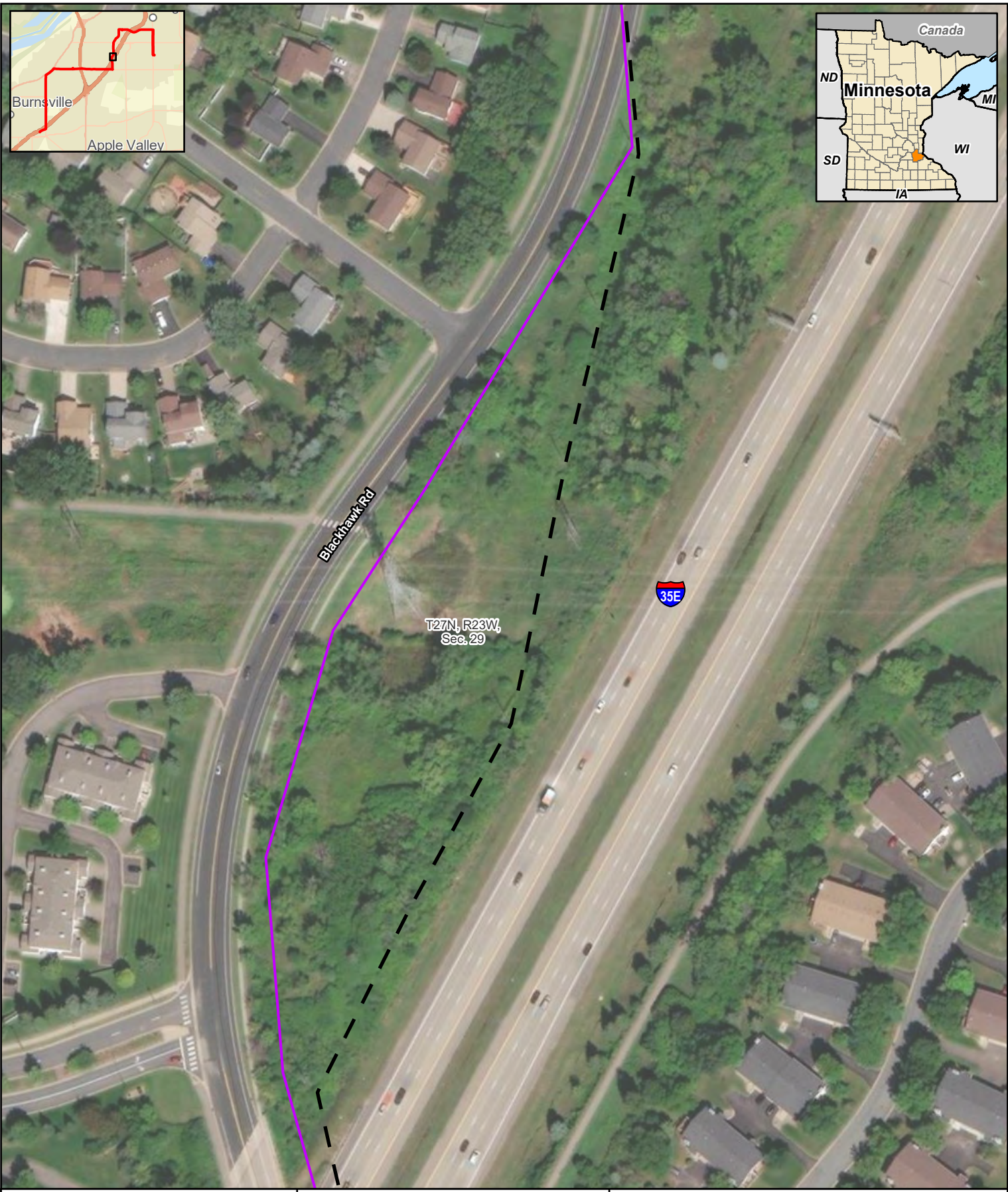


Figure 2
Pilot Knob Project
Aerial Map
Dakota County, Minnesota
Page 13 of 36

Proposed 115-kV Alignment

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

- Substation
- Section Boundary



0 75 150 Feet

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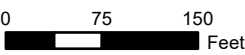
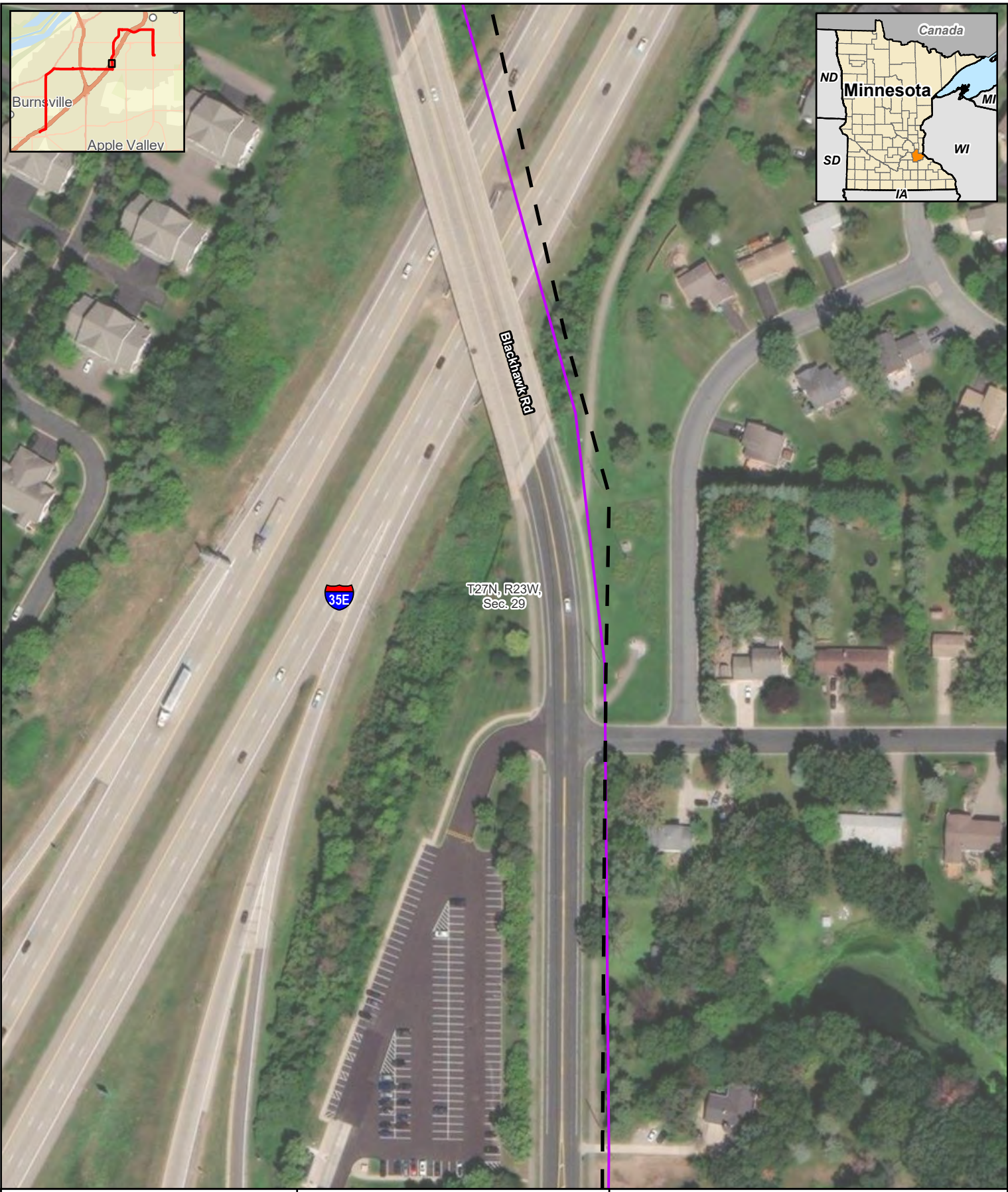


Figure 2
Pilot Knob Project
Aerial Map
Dakota County, Minnesota
Page 14 of 36

Proposed 115-kV Alignment

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

- Substation
- Section Boundary



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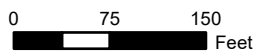
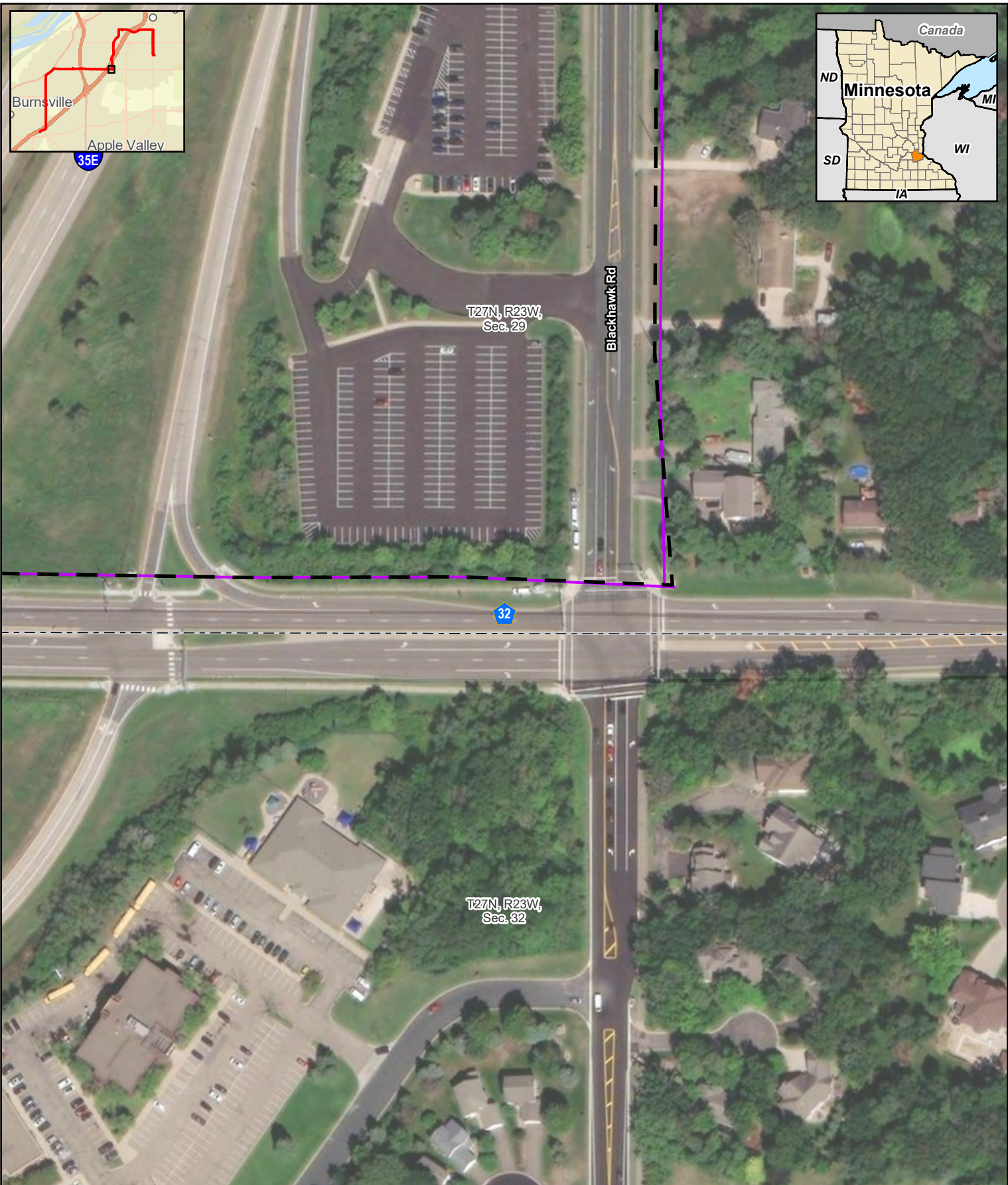


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Figure 2
Pilot Knob Project
Aerial Map
Dakota County, Minnesota
Page 15 of 36

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

Date: (7/5/2023) Source:



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Figure 2
Pilot Knob Project
Aerial Map
Dakota County, Minnesota
Page 16 of 36

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



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0 75 150 Feet

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For Environmental Review Purposes Only



Figure 2
Pilot Knob Project
Aerial Map
Dakota County, Minnesota
Page 17 of 36

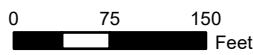
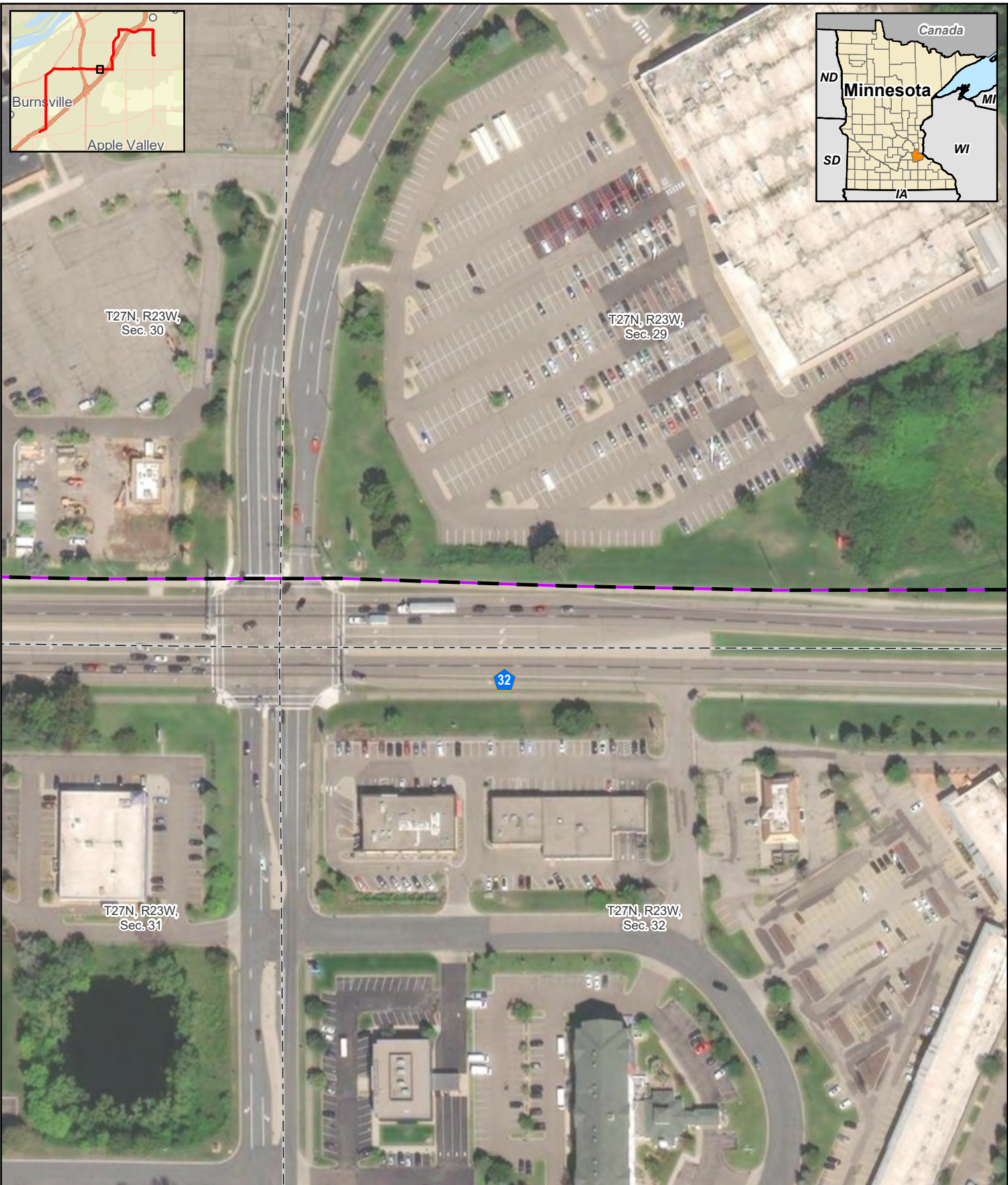
Proposed 115-kV Alignment

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

Legend:

- Substation
- Section Boundary

Date: (7/31/2023) Source:



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Figure 2
Pilot Knob Project
Aerial Map
Dakota County, Minnesota
Page 18 of 36

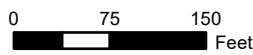
Proposed 115-kV Alignment

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

- Great River Energy Existing 69-kV Transmission Line

Substation

Section Boundary

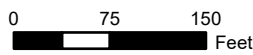
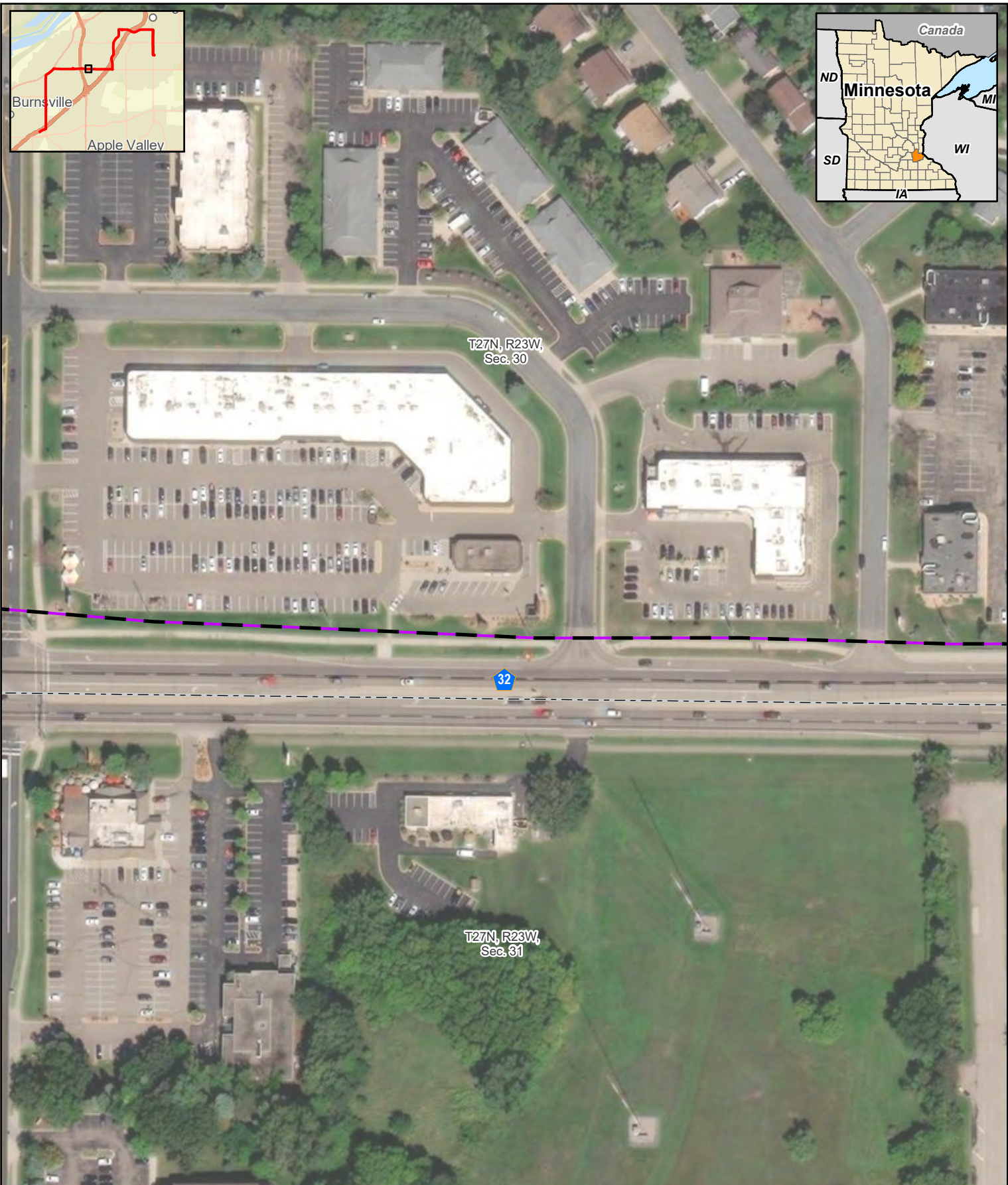


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Figure 2
Pilot Knob Project
Aerial Map
Dakota County, Minnesota
Page 19 of 36

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



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Figure 2
Pilot Knob Project
Aerial Map
Dakota County, Minnesota
Page 20 of 36

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

Date: (7/31/2023) Source: