Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Staff Briefing Papers

Meeting Date:	July 10, 2014.....Agenda Item *1
Company:	Great River Energy
Docket No.	ET-2/CN-12-1235, ET-2/TL-12-1245
	In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy for a Certificate of Need for a 115 kV Transmission Line Project in the Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota
	In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy for a Route Permit for a 115 kV Transmission Line Project in the Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota
Issues:	Should the Commission adopt the Administrative Law Judge Report?
	Should the Commission find that the Environmental Assessment and the record created at the public hearing on this project adequately addresses the Scoping Decision of the Department of Commerce?
	Should the Commission grant a Certificate of Need for the proposed 115 kV transmission line project?
	Should the Commission grant a Route Permit for the proposed 115 kV transmission line project? If approved, should the Commission include any additional permit conditions?.....
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Relevant Documents

Great River Energy – Certificate of Need Petition, Docket No. ET-2/CN-12-1235

Great River Energy Application for a Certificate of Need..... June 20, 2013

Commission Order Finding Application Complete ..... September 5, 2013
Department of Commerce, EERA Scoping Decision ..... December 2, 2013
Department of Commerce, DER Comments…….....December 18, 2013
Great River Energy Reply Comments.....January 7, 2014
Department of Commerce, DER Supplemental Comments…….....January 8, 2014
Department of Commerce, EERA Environmental Assessment..... February 21, 2014

Great River Energy – Route Permit Application, Docket No. ET-2/TL-12-1245

Great River Energy Application for a Route Permit..... June 20, 2013
Commission Order Finding Application Complete ..... September 9, 2013
Department of Commerce, EERA Scoping Decision ..... December 2, 2013
Department of Commerce, EERA Environmental Assessment..... February 21, 2014
Office of Administrative Hearings Report .....May 14, 2014
Great River Energy, Letter of No Exceptions to ALJ Report..... May 23, 2014
Department of Commerce, EERA Exceptions to ALJ Report..... May 29, 2014

Attached Documents

Attachment I: Table from DER Comments
Attachment II: Proposed High-Voltage Transmission Line Route Permit
Attachment III: Discussion of Generic Permit Changes

The attached materials are work papers of the Commission staff. They are intended for use by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and are based upon information already in the record unless noted otherwise.

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I. Statement of the Issues

Should the Commission adopt the Administrative Law Judge Report?
Should the Commission find that the Environmental Assessment and the record created at the public hearing on this project adequately addresses the Scoping Decision of the Department of Commerce?
Should the Commission grant a Certificate of Need for the proposed 115 kV transmission line project?
Should the Commission grant a Route Permit for the proposed 115 kV transmission line project? If approved, should the Commission include any additional permit conditions?

II. Proposed Project Overview

Great River Energy (GRE) has proposed to construct approximately 5.4 miles of new double circuit 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line and to rebuild approximately 11.3 miles of existing 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV standards. The proposed project is located in the townships of Cedar Lake, Credit River, New Market, Spring Lake, Webster, and Wheatland and the cities of Elko New Market, Prior Lake, and Savage in Rice and Scott counties.

The purpose of the project is to provide support to the Scott-Faribault 69 kV transmission system to the west of the proposed project. GRE indicated that the most efficient way to alleviate the identified deficiencies on the Scott-Faribault system was to connect to the Cleary Lake-Elko New Market 69 kV system in the proposed project area by way of a new double circuit line between Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative's New Market substation and Xcel Energy's Veseli distribution substation.

III. Procedural History

On June 20, 2013, GRE filed a certificate of need application and a route permit application under the alternative permitting process for its proposed 115 kV transmission line project.

On September 5, 2013, the Commission issued an Order Finding Application Complete, Initiating Informal Review Process and Other Actions. The order accepted the Certificate of Need application as complete and directed the use of the informal review process to develop the record for Commission action without contested case proceedings.

On September 9, 2013, the Commission issued an Order Finding Application Complete, Granting Variance, and Referring Application to the Office of Administrative Hearings.

The Order accepted the route permit application as complete and the Commission referred the case to the Office of Administrative Hearings under the Alternative Permitting Process in Minn. R. Ch. 7850.2800-.3900.

On October 1, 2013, a Public Information and Environmental Assessment (EA) scoping meeting was held at the Elko New Market Public Library and at Prior Lake High School.

On December 2, 2013, Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) issued the EA Scoping Decision.

On December 18, 2013, the Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources (DER) filed comments on the merit of the Certificate of Need filing.

On January 7, 2014, GRE filed reply comments on the merits of the Certificate of Need filing.

On January 8, 2014, DER filed supplemental comments on the merit of the Certificate of Need filing.

On February 21, 2014, EERA filed the EA on this project.

On March 4, 2014, public hearings were held before an administrative law judge (ALJ) at the Elko New Market Public Library and at Prior Lake High School.

May 14, 2014, the Office of Administrative Hearings filed the ALJ's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Recommendation (ALJ's Report).

May 23, 2014, GRE filed a letter indicating it had no exceptions to the ALJ's Report.

May 29, 2014, EERA filed exceptions to the ALJ's Report.

IV. Statutes and Rules

A. Certificate of Need Requirements

Under Minn. Stat. § 216B.243, subd. 2, "No large energy facility shall be sited or constructed in Minnesota without the issuance of a certificate of need by the commission…" Also, Minn. Stat. § 216B.2421, subd. 2 (3) defines a large energy facility as any high-voltage transmission line with a capacity of 100 kilovolts or more with more than ten miles of its length in Minnesota or that crosses a state line.

The project as proposed by GRE would consist of approximately 5.4 miles of new double circuit 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line and 11.3 miles of 115 kV rebuild of existing 69 kV transmission line and therefore requires a certificate of need from the Commission.

B. Route Permit Requirements

Under Minn. Stat. § 216E.03, subd. 1, "No person may construct a high-voltage transmission line without a route permit from the commission. A high-voltage transmission line may be constructed only along a route approved by the commission."

Minn. Stat. § 216E.01, subd. 4, defines a high-voltage transmission line as "…a conductor of electric energy and associated facilities designed for and capable of operation at a nominal voltage of 100 kilovolts or more and is greater than 1,500 feet in length." The project as proposed by GRE would consist of approximately 5.4 miles of new double circuit 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line and 11.3 miles of 115 kV rebuild of existing 69 kV transmission line and therefore requires a route permit from the Commission.

The proposed project qualifies for alternative review under Minn. Stat. § 216E.04 because it is a high-voltage transmission line between 100 kV and 200 kV.[1] The alternate review process is a six month process that doesn't require the applicant to propose an alternative route.[2]

The proposed project is subject to Minn. Stat. § 216E which requires that high-voltage transmission lines be routed consistent with state policy[3] and in a manner that "minimizes adverse human and environmental impact while insuring continuing electric power system reliability and integrity and insuring that electric energy needs are met and fulfilled in an orderly and timely fashion."[4] The statute also affords the Commission the authority to specify the design, routing, right-of-way preparation, and facility construction it deems necessary, and with any other appropriate conditions when issuing a permit for a high-voltage transmission line.[5]

V. Environmental Assessment

Minn. Stat. § 216E.04, subd. 5, requires the commissioner of the Department of Commerce to prepare an EA on proposed high-voltage transmission lines. The EA must contain information on the potential human and environmental impacts of a proposed project and of alternative sites or routes considered and must address mitigation measures for identified impacts.

[1] Minn. Stat. § 216E.04, subd. 2.
[2] Minn. Stat. § 216E.04, subd. 3.
[3] Minn. Stat. § 216E.03, subd. 7.
[4] Minn. Stat. § 216E.02, subd. 1.
[5] Minn. Stat. § 216E.04, subd. 9(b).

On December 2, 2013, EERA filed the EA scoping decision in accordance with Minn. R. 7850.3700. The scoping decision identified the issues to be addressed including any alternative sites or routes; specific potential project impacts; and a schedule for completion of the environmental assessment.[6]

On February 21, 2014, EERA filed the EA on the proposed project in accordance with Minn. R. 7850.3700. The EA contained a comprehensive description of the proposed project; a discussion of potential impacts of the project on the human and natural environment; reasonable mitigation measures that could be implemented to minimize any identified adverse impacts; and required permits and approvals.[7]

VI. Certificate of Need

A. Department Comments

DER agreed that the actual load for the area exceeds the level at which reliable service can be provided. Also, historical data show that the electrical peak demand in the affected load area has been growing at a weighted annual average rate of nearly four percent over the last five years. Based on this information DER concluded that the accuracy of the forecast of demand is not relevant to a determination of need because the area already experienced historical demand greater than the ability of the existing infrastructure to provide reliable service.

DER concluded that the size, type, and timing of the Project is reasonable compared to other reasonable alternatives. The Department DER stated that the 115 kV AC lines are the right size and type of solution to the existing need because the proposed Project could serve between 9 and 11 years of growth over the 40 years of service time and the 115 kV AC line is more appropriate than other voltage options or DC line since GRE plans to upgrade the area with 115 kV system. Also, DER concluded that the timing of the project is reasonable since the historical demand is greater than the ability of the existing infrastructure to provide reliable service.

DER stated that the Commission's externality costs and the cost of future CO2 regulation should be added to the analysis of alternatives to address the effects of the proposed facility upon the natural and socioeconomic environments compared to the effects of reasonable alternatives.[8] However, GRE did not add such costs to its analysis.

[6] Minn. R. 7850.3700, subp. 3.
[7] Minn. R. 7850.3700, subp. 4.
[8] Minn. R. 7849.0120 B (3).

DER recommended that, in reply comments GRE should add the Commission's externality costs and the future cost of CO2 regulation values to the economic analysis of alternatives presented in the Petition.

DER withheld a final recommendation to the Commission pending GRE's submittal of additional information in reply comments.

B. GRE Reply Comments

GRE provided the table of the economic analysis of alternatives that incorporated Commission's externality costs and future cost of carbon dioxide regulation values.

C. Department Supplemental Comments

DER reviewed the additional analysis provided by GRE and concluded that GRE's analysis addresses the requirements of Minn. R. 7849.0120 B (3).

DER recommended that the Commission approve GRE's certificate of need application.

VII. Public Hearing

Administrative Law Judge, Steve M. Mihalchick with the Office of Administrative Hearings presided over a public hearing conducted on March 4, 2014, at the Elko New Market Public Library in Elko New Market, Minnesota and at Prior Lake High School in Savage, Minnesota.

The hearing procedures included a brief presentation to describe the proposed project; an explanation of the process to be followed; introduction of documents to be included in the record; and an opportunity for any person to present comments and to ask questions of the applicant, EERA, and Commission staff. A court reporter was present to transcribe the public hearing. Following the public hearing, a comment period for submission of written comments into the record was open until March 19, 2014.[9]

VIII. Administrative Law Judge Report

On May 14, 2014, the ALJ filed his Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Recommendation. The ALJ's report included 192 findings of fact, including a summary of public comment and government agency participation; 20 conclusions of law; and a recommendation. The ALJ recommended:

[9] Minn. Stat § 216E.04, subd. 6; Minn. R. 7850.3800.

The Commission should issue the following permit to Great River Energy for the Project:

A Route Permit for a 115 kV transmission line along Great River Energy's Proposed Route, including the Existing Line Segment and the West Option, as depicted in Appendix A of the Environmental Assessment, in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota.

The ALJ also concluded that the environmental assessment prepared by EERA as appropriate and satisfies the requirements of Minn. R. 7850.3900.

IX. Exceptions

On May 23, 2014, GRE filed a letter indicating that it had no exceptions to the ALJ's Report.

On May 29, 2014, EERA filed its exceptions to the ALJ Report. EERA recommended the following two edits to the Conclusion of Law section of the ALJ Report:

5. Notice was provided by EERA and the Commission as required by applicable statutes and rules, namely, Minn. Stat. §§ 216E.03, subd. 6; 216E.04, subd. 6; and Minn. R. 7850.2300, subp. 2; ~~7850.2500, subps. 2, 7, 8 and 9;~~ 7850.3500, subp 1; 7850.3700, subps. 2, 3, and 6; and 7850.3800.

11. In the southern area, the West Option is generally superior to the East Option. The East Option is somewhat ~~shorter~~ longer, ~~but~~ and has negative impacts upon planned road projects, parkland, and possible other environmental impacts. The City of Elko New Market opposes the East Option.

X. Staff Discussion

A. Environmental Assessment Completeness

Staff has reviewed the environmental assessment and agrees with the ALJ that EERA has conducted an appropriate environmental analysis of the project for purposes of the certificate of need and route permit proceeding and the environmental assessment satisfies Minn. R. 7850.3700. Specifically, the environmental assessment and the record created at the public hearing addresses the issues identified in the scoping decision.[10]

[10] Minn. R. 7850.3900, subp 2 and Minn. R. 7849.1200.

B. Certificate of Need

Staff reviewed the record, the public hearing transcripts and public comments and has identified no substantive concerns regarding the need for the proposed project.

Staff agrees with the DER's recommendation to approve the certificate of need application.

C. Exceptions to ALJ Report

Staff agrees with EERA's recommendations.

D. Proposed Route Permit Language

Staff based the route permit general conditions off the Generic Route Permit Template that was entered into the record on November 25, 2013. The form and the format of the generic route permit was subsequently modified. In an effort to provide a more logical flow and organization, and achieve consistency between Commission issued high-voltage transmission line route permits and pipeline route permits, Commission staff proposes organizational and minor text changes to the high-voltage transmission line route permit format and language. Changes are described in Attachment III of these briefing papers.

Under Minn. Stat. § 216E.03, subd. 10, the Commission is authorized to issue a route permit for a high-voltage transmission line that specifies the design, routing, right-of-way preparation, and facility construction and operation it deems necessary, and with any other appropriate conditions.

All route permit conditions suggested by the ALJ are included as Commission permit conditions or special conditions under Section 5.0. No party has objected to these conditions.

XI. Commission Decision Alternatives

A. Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Recommendation

1. Approve and adopt the ALJ's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Recommendation for GRE's proposed 115 kV Transmission Line Project in Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas in Scott and Rice Counties.

2. Approve and adopt the ALJ's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Recommendation for GRE's proposed 115 kV Transmission Line Project in Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas in Scott and Rice Counties with the modifications as proposed by EERA.

3. Take some other action deemed appropriate.

B. Environmental Assessment

1. Determine that the EA and the record created at the public hearing addresses the issues identified in the EA scoping decision.

2. Take some other action deemed appropriate.

C. Certificate of Need

1. Grant a Certificate of Need for GRE's proposed 115 kV Transmission Line Project in Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas in Scott and Rice Counties.

2. Take some other action deemed appropriate.

D. Transmission Line Route Permit

1. Issue a high-voltage transmission line route permit identifying a specific route and permit conditions to GRE for the proposed 115 kV Transmission Line Project in Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas in Scott and Rice Counties.

2. Take some other action deemed appropriate.

Staff Recommendation: A2, B1, C1, D1.

Docket No. ET-2/CN-12-1235, ET-2/TL-12-1245

Attachment I

Table from DER Comments

Docket No. ET2/CN-12-1235

Attachment No. 1

Rules and Statutes Addressed in the Comments		
Statute or Rule Citation	**Department Comment**	**Location**
7849.0120 CRITERIA. A certificate of need must be granted to the applicant on determining that:		
A. the probable result of denial would be an adverse effect upon the future adequacy, reliability, or efficiency of energy supply to the applicant, to the applicant's customers, or to the people of Minnesota and neighboring states, considering:		
(1) the accuracy of the applicant's forecast of demand for the type of energy that would be supplied by the proposed facility;	actual load for the area exceeds the level at which reliable service can be provided	**III.A.1.a**
(2) the effects of the applicant's existing or expected conservation programs and state and federal conservation programs;	conservation will not be able to address issues related to meeting existing demand at the levels indicated by GRE	**III.B.2**
(3) the effects of promotional practices of the applicant that may have given rise to the increase in the energy demand, particularly promotional practices which have occurred since 1974;	The Department is not aware of any promotional activities that may have triggered the need for the proposed Project	**III.E.2**
(4) the ability of current facilities and planned facilities not requiring certificates of need to meet the future demand; and	the lower voltage 69 kV rebuild could not meet the claimed due to engineering considerations, the DG alternative has far higher costs	**III.C.1.a**
(5) the effect of the proposed facility, or a suitable modification thereof, in making efficient use of resources;	addressed in environmental report	**III.D**
B. a more reasonable and prudent alternative to the proposed facility has not been demonstrated by a preponderance of the evidence on the record, considering:		
(1) the appropriateness of the size, the type, and the timing of the proposed facility compared to those of reasonable alternatives;	this subcriterion has been met	**III.C.1.b**
(2) the cost of the proposed facility and the cost of energy to be supplied by the proposed facility compared to the costs of reasonable alternatives and the cost of energy that would be supplied by reasonable alternatives;	that the internal cost of the proposed Project and the internal cost of energy to be supplied by the proposed Project are less than the alternatives	**III.C.1.c**
(3) the effects of the proposed facility upon the natural and socioeconomic environments compared to the effects of reasonable alternatives; and	in reply comments GRE should add the Commission's externality costs and internal cost of CO_2 regulation values to the economic analysis of alternatives	**III.C.1.d**
(4) the expected reliability of the proposed facility compared to the expected reliability of reasonable alternatives;	the proposed Project is proposed to improve reliability … each of the alternatives would result in equivalent or inferior reliability	**III.C.2**

C. by a preponderance of the evidence on the record, the proposed facility, or a suitable modification of the facility, will provide benefits to society in a manner compatible with protecting the natural and socioeconomic environments, including human health, considering:		
(1) the relationship of the proposed facility, or a suitable modification thereof, to overall state energy needs;	the proposed project is not directly related to overall state energy needs, it is necessary to restore reliable service in the local area	**III.A.1.b**
(2) the effects of the proposed facility, or a suitable modification thereof, upon the natural and socioeconomic environments compared to the effects of not building the facility;	the Department relies on the ER for its analysis of impacts on the socioeconomic and natural environments	**III.D**
(3) the effects of the proposed facility, or a suitable modification thereof, in inducing future development; and	the Department relies on the ER for its analysis of impacts on the socioeconomic and natural environments	**III.D**
(4) the socially beneficial uses of the output of the proposed facility, or a suitable modification thereof, including its uses to protect or enhance environmental quality; and	the Department relies on the ER for its analysis of impacts on the socioeconomic and natural environments	**III.D**
D. the record does not demonstrate that the design construction, or operation of the proposed facility, or a suitable modification of the facility, will fail to comply with relevant policies, rules, and regulations of other state and federal agencies and local governments.	the record does not demonstrate GRE will fail to comply	**III.E.1**
Minnesota Statutes §216B.243, subd. 3 (9)	the proposed line would have little further impact, positive or negative,	**III.A.2**
Minnesota Statutes §§216B.243 subd. 3a & 216B.2422, subd. 4	these renewable preference statutes do not apply	**III.B.1**
Minnesota Statutes §216B.2426	the question of whether and how much DG might be certified by the Commissioner of the Department of Commerce in the future is not relevant to this Petition	**III.C.3**
Minnesota Statutes §216B.1694, subd. 2 (a) (5)	this statute does not apply	**III.C.4**
Minnesota Statutes §216B.243 subd. 3 (10) Compliance with §216B.1691	the Department's June 19, 2013 letter concludes that GRE complied with the RES in 2012	**III.E.3.a**
Minnesota Statutes §216B.1612 (c)	GRE has met this statutory criterion	**III.E.3.b**
Minnesota Statutes §216B.243, subd. 3 (12)	this statute does not apply	**III.E.4**
Minnesota Statutes §216B.243, subd. 3 (10) Compliance with §216B.2425, subd. 7	there is sufficient time to allow events to develop before CN petitions are necessary for RES-related transmission projects	**III.E.5**
Minnesota Statutes §§216H.03	the proposed Project will not contribute to, and in fact will reduce, statewide power sector CO_2 emissions	**III.E.6**

Docket No. ET-2/CN-12-1235, ET-2/TL-12-1245

Attachment II

Proposed
High-Voltage Transmission Line
Route Permit

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

ROUTE PERMIT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINE AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES

IN
SCOTT AND RICE COUNTIES

ISSUED TO
GREAT RIVER ENERGY

PUC DOCKET NO. ET-002/TL12-1245

In accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850 this route permit is hereby issued to:

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Great River Energy is authorized by this route permit to construct 5.4 miles of double-circuit115 kV transmission line and rebuild 11.3 miles of existing 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV standards in the Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota.

The transmission line and associated facilities shall be built within the route identified in this permit and as portrayed on the official route maps, and in compliance with the conditions specified in this permit.

Approved and adopted this ____ day of [*Month, Year*]

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

_____

Burl W. Haar,
Executive Secretary

CONTENTS

FIGURES

ATTACHMENTS

1.0 ROUTE PERMIT

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) hereby issues this route permit to Great River Energy (Permittee) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850. This permit authorizes Great River Energy to construct 5.4 miles of double-circuit115 kV transmission line and rebuild 11.3 miles of existing 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV standards in the Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota, and as identified in the attached route permit maps, hereby incorporated into this document.

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216E.10, this route permit shall be the sole approval required to be obtained by the Permittee for construction of the transmission facilities and this permit shall supersede and preempt all zoning, building, or land use rules, regulations, or ordinances promulgated by regional, county, local and special purpose government.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project includes construct approximately 5.4 miles of new double circuit 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line and to rebuild approximately 11.3 miles of existing 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV standards.

2.1 Project Location

The proposed project is located in the townships of Cedar Lake, Credit River, New Market, Spring Lake, Webster, and Wheatland and the cities of Elko New Market, Prior Lake, and Savage in Rice and Scott counties.

County	Township Name	Township	Range	Section
Scott	Savage	115N	21W	28, 29, 32, 33
	Credit River TWP	114N	21W	4, 5, 7, 8, 9
	Spring Lake TWP	114N	22W	1, 12
	New Market TWP	113N	21W	15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 22, 30, 31, 32
	Elko New Market	113N	21W	20
	Cedar Lake TWP	113N	22W	13, 14, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 34, 35, 36
Rice	Webster TWP	112N	21W	5, 6
	Wheatland TWP	112N	22W	1, 2, 11, 12

2.2 Associated Facilities

The transmission line and associated facilities shall be designed to meet or exceed all relevant local and state codes, the National Electric Safety Code (NESC), and North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) requirements. This includes standards relating to clearances to ground, clearance to crossing utilities, clearance to buildings, strength of materials, clearances over roadways, right-of-way widths, and permit requirements. The transmission line shall be equipped with protective devices to safeguard the public if an accident occurs.

2.2.1 Substations

No substation construction is authorized.

2.2.2 Structures

The structures authorized for the project are specified as below.

The table below details specifics on the various structure types as presented in the route permit application.

Line Type	Conductor	Structure		Foundation	Height	Span
		Type	Material			
115 kV Single circuit or Double circuit	795 ACSS	Single pole, horizontal post or horizontal braced post insulator	Wood, laminated wood, galvanized steel or weathering steel	Direct embedded for tangents and guyed or self-supporting for angle/ dead-end structures	52-92	350 to 400
115 kV Single circuit	795 ACSS	Two pole or H-Frame	Wood, laminated wood, galvanized steel or weathering steel	Direct embedded for tangent H-Frame and guyed or self-supporting for angle/ dead-end	52-75	600 to 1000

				structures		
115 kV Single circuit with 69 kV or Distribution Underbuild	795 ACSS	Single pole, horizontal post or braced post with underbuild crossarm	Wood, laminated wood, galvanized steel or weathering steel	Direct embedded for tangents and guyed or self-supporting for angle/ dead-end structures	52-92	250 to 350

2.2.3 Conductors

The conductors authorized for the project be will be 795 thousand circular mil aluminum conductor steel-supported (ACSS) with seven steel core strands and 26 outer aluminum strands.

3.0 DESIGNATED ROUTE

The route designated by the Commission in this permit is the route described below and shown on the route maps attached to this permit. The route is generally described as follows:

Cleary Lake Area Rebuild MV-PN Line
This line begins at Prior Lake Junction, located in the southeast corner of the intersection of Eagan Drive (County State Aid Highway 42) and Dakota Avenue (County State Aid Highway 27), and runs south along County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 27 and the section line for about 1.0 mile. The transmission line leaves the highway and continues along the section line for approximately 1.75 miles until it meets up with a north/south portion of Murphy Lake Boulevard (CR 75) and then continues south on the section line approximately 0.75 mile to Credit River Junction, which is located approximately 350 feet east of Murphy Lake Boulevard on 175th Street East.

Cleary Lake Area Rebuild MV-PN Line
On the very north end of the Project, a deviation of approximately 0.6 mile to the west of the existing Great River Energy MV-PN 69 kV line is a possible route because the existing Great River Energy easement in this area is only 60 feet wide. Beginning on the north side of Dufferin Drive, the line would run approximately 280 feet west to the east side of CSAH 27, then follow CSAH 27 in a southerly direction approximately 0.3 mile, then straight south approximately 0.1 mile along a property line, then east approximately 0.2 mile along another property line to the existing MV-PN line.

Cleary Lake Area Rebuild MV-CR Line
From Credit River Junction, the line runs west on 175th Street East for about 0.5 mile and to the end of 175th St., and then west cross country for approximately 0.4 miles into the MVEC Cleary Lake Substation. From the Cleary Lake Substation, the transmission line crosses over Texas Avenue (CSAH 27) and then runs northwest adjacent to Eagle Creek Avenue SE (CSAH 21) for 1.2 miles to just past the intersection of CSAH 21 and 170th Street East. The transmission line then runs straight north, for about 0.1 mile across Eagle Creek Ave. (CSAH 21) and Credit River Road SE, and into Xcel Energy's Credit River Substation, on the east side of Welcome Avenue SE.

Elko New Market Area Rebuild MV-PN Line
From the intersection of County Road (CR) 62 (245th St. E) and County Highway 91 (Natchez Avenue), this line runs south along Natchez Avenue for approximately 0.6 miles, then turns and heads west for 5.0 miles along 250th St. E to the New Market Substation (owned by MVEC) at the intersection of 250th St. E and CSAH 23.

Elko New Market Area New Transmission Line
Approximately 5.4 miles of the new double circuit transmission line (built to 115 kV standards) to the Veseli Breaker Station would run from the MVEC New Market Substation (at the intersection of 250th St. E and CSAH 23) south along CSAH 23 for 3.0 miles, then east along CSAH 86 for 0.9 mile, then south along Halstad Avenue for about 1.5 miles to the Xcel Energy Veseli Breaker Station.

The identified route widths will provide the Permittee with flexibility for minor adjustments of the alignment or right-of-way to accommodate landowner requests and unforeseen conditions. The final alignment (i.e., permanent and maintained rights-of-way) will be located within this designated route unless otherwise authorized below.

3.1 Right-of-Way

The approved right-of-way width for the project is up to 70 feet. This permit anticipates that the right-of-way will generally conform to the alignment identified on the attached route permit maps unless changes are requested by individual landowners and agreed to by the Permittee or for unforeseen conditions that are encountered or are otherwise provided for by this permit.

Any right-of-way modifications within the designated route shall be located so as to have comparable overall impacts relative to the factors in Minn. R. 7850.4100, as does the right-of-way identified in this permit, and shall be specifically identified and documented in and approved as part of the plan and profile submitted pursuant to Section 8.1 of this permit.

Where the transmission line route parallels existing highway and other road rights-of-way, the transmission line right-of-way shall occupy and utilize the existing right-of-way to the maximum extent possible, consistent with the criteria in Minn. R. 7850.4100, the other requirements of this permit, and for highways under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) rules, policies, and procedures for accommodating utilities in trunk highway rights-of-way.

4.0 GENERAL CONDITIONS

The Permittee shall comply with the following conditions during construction of the transmission line and associated facilities over the life of this permit.

4.1 Notification to Landowners

The Permittee shall provide all affected landowners with a copy of this permit and, as a separate information piece, the complaint procedures at the time of the first contact with the landowners after issuance of this permit. The Permittee shall contact landowners prior to entering the property or conducting maintenance along the route.

The Permittee shall work with landowners to locate the high-voltage transmission line to minimize the loss of agricultural land, forest, and wetlands, and to avoid homes and farmsteads.

4.2 Construction Practices

The Permittee shall follow those specific construction practices and material specifications described in Great River Energy's Application to the Commission for a route permit for the 115 kV Transmission Line Project in the Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota, dated June 20, 2013, unless this permit establishes a different requirement in which case this permit shall prevail.

4.2.1 Field Representative

At least 14 days prior to commencing construction, the Permittee shall advise the Commission in writing of the person or persons designated to be the field representative for the Permittee with the responsibility to oversee compliance with the conditions of this permit during construction. This person shall be accessible by telephone during normal business hours throughout right-of-way preparation, construction, cleanup, and restoration.

The field representative's address, phone number, emergency phone number, and email shall be provided to the Commission and shall be made available to affected landowners, residents, public officials and other interested persons. The Permittee may change the field representative at any time upon notice to landowners and the Commission.

4.2.2 Employee Training and Education of Permit Terms and Conditions

The Permittee shall inform all employees, contractors, and other persons involved in the transmission line construction of the terms and conditions of this permit.

4.2.3 Public Services, Public Utilities, and Existing Easements

During construction, the Permittee shall minimize any disruption to public services or public utilities. To the extent disruptions to public services or public utilities occur these would be temporary and the Permittee will restore service promptly. Where any impacts to utilities have the potential to occur the Permittee will work with both landowners and local agencies to determine the most appropriate transmission structure placement.

The Permittee shall work with the landowners, townships, cities, and counties along the route to accommodate concerns regarding tree clearing, distance from existing structures, drain tiles, pole depth and placement in relationship to existing roads and road expansion plans.

The Permittee shall cooperate with county and city road authorities to develop appropriate signage and traffic management during construction.

4.2.4 Temporary Work Space

The Permittee shall limit temporary easements to special construction access needs and additional staging or lay-down areas required outside of the authorized right-of-way. Temporary space shall be selected to limit the removal and impacts to vegetation. Temporary easements outside of the authorized transmission line right-of-way will be obtained from affected landowners through rental agreements and are not provided for in this permit.

Temporary driveways may be constructed between the roadway and the structures to minimize impact using the shortest route possible. Construction mats should also be used to minimize impacts on access paths and construction areas.

4.2.5 Noise

Construction and routine maintenance activities shall be limited to daytime working hours, as defined in Minn. R. 7030.0200, to ensure nighttime noise level standards will not be exceeded.

4.2.6 Aesthetics

The Permittee shall consider input pertaining to visual impacts from landowners or land management agencies prior to final location of structures, rights-of-way, and other areas with the potential for visual disturbance. Care shall be used to preserve the natural landscape, minimize tree removal and prevent any unnecessary destruction of the natural surroundings in the vicinity of the project during construction and maintenance.

Structures shall be placed at a distance, consistent with sound engineering principles and system reliability criteria, from intersecting roads, highway, or trail crossings and could cross roads to minimize or avoid impacts.

4.2.7 Vegetation Removal and Protection

The Permittee shall minimize the number of trees to be removed in selecting the right-of-way specifically preserving to the maximum extent practicable windbreaks, shelterbelts, living snow fences, and vegetation in areas such as trail and stream crossings where vegetative screening may minimize aesthetic impacts, to the extent that such actions do not violate sound engineering principles or system reliability criteria.

Tall growing species located within the transmission line right-of-way that endanger the safe and reliable operation of the transmission facility will be removed by the Permittee. The Permittee shall leave undisturbed, to the extent possible, existing low growing species in the right-of-way or replant such species in the right-of-way to blend the difference between the right-of-way and adjacent areas, to the extent that the low growing vegetation that will not pose a threat to the transmission facility or impede construction.

4.2.8 Application of Herbicides

The Permittee shall restrict herbicide use to those herbicides and methods of application approved by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Selective foliage or basal application shall be used when practicable. The Permittee shall contact the landowner or his designee to obtain approval for the use of herbicide prior to any application on their property. The landowner may request that there be no application of herbicides on any part of the right-of-way within the landowner's property.

All herbicides shall be applied in a safe and cautious manner so as not to damage crops, orchards, tree farms, or gardens.

4.2.9 Noxious Weeds

The Permittee shall take all reasonable precautions against the spread of noxious weeds during all phases of construction. When utilizing seed to establish temporary and permanent vegetative cover on exposed soil, the Permittee shall select site appropriate seed certified to be free of noxious weeds. To the extent possible, the Permittee shall use native seed mixes. The Permittee shall consult with landowners on the selection and use of seed for replanting.

4.2.10 Site Sediment and Erosion Control

The Permittee shall implement those erosion prevention and sediment control practices recommended by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Construction Stormwater Program.

The Permittee shall implement reasonable measures to minimize erosion and sedimentation during construction and shall employ perimeter sediment controls, protect exposed soil by promptly planting, seeding, using erosion control blankets and turf reinforcement mats, stabilizing slopes, protecting storm drain inlets, protecting soil stockpiles, and controlling vehicle tracking. Contours shall be graded as required so that all surfaces provide for proper drainage, blend with the natural terrain, and are left in a condition that will facilitate re-vegetation and prevent erosion. All areas disturbed during construction of the facilities shall be returned to pre-construction conditions.

Where larger areas of one acre or more are disturbed or other areas designated by the MPCA, the Permittee shall obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)/State Disposal System (SDS) Construction Stormwater permit from the MPCA.

4.2.11 Wetlands and Water Resources

Wetland impact avoidance measures that shall be implemented during design and construction of the transmission line will include spacing and placing the power poles at variable distances to span and avoid wetlands, watercourses, and floodplains. Unavoidable wetland impacts as a result of the placement of poles shall be limited to the immediate area around the poles. To minimize impacts, construction in wetland areas shall occur during frozen ground conditions. When construction during winter is not possible, wooden or composite mats shall be used to protect wetland vegetation. Soil excavated from the wetlands and riparian areas shall be contained and not placed back into the wetland or riparian area.

Wetlands and riparian areas shall be accessed using the shortest route possible in order to minimize travel through wetland areas and prevent unnecessary impacts. No staging or stringing set up areas shall be placed within or adjacent to wetlands or water resources, as practicable. Power pole structures shall be assembled on upland areas before they are brought to the site for installation.

Areas disturbed by construction activities shall be restored to pre-construction conditions. Restoration of the wetlands will be performed by Permittee in accordance with the requirements of applicable state and federal permits or laws and landowner agreements.

All requirements of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (wetlands under federal jurisdiction), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (Public Waters/Wetlands), and County (wetlands under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act) shall be met.

4.2.12 Archaeological and Historic Resources

The Permittee shall make every effort to avoid impacts to identified archaeological and historic resources when installing the high-voltage transmission line on the approved route. The Permittee shall consult with the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) prior to commencing construction to determine whether an archaeological survey will be necessary for any length of the transmission line route.

In the event that a resource is encountered, the Permittee shall contact and consult with SHPO. The Permittee shall not excavate at such locations until authorization is provided by SHPO. Where feasible, avoidance of the resource is required. Where not feasible, mitigation must include an effort to minimize project impacts on the resource consistent with SHPO and State Archaeologist requirements. If human remains are encountered during construction, the Permittee shall immediately halt construction at that location and promptly notify local law enforcement authorities and the State Archaeologist.

Prior to construction, workers shall be trained about the need to avoid cultural properties, how to identify cultural properties, and procedures to follow if undocumented cultural properties, including gravesites, are found during construction.

4.2.13 Avian Mitigation

The Permittee’s standard transmission design shall incorporate adequate spacing of conductors and grounding devices in accordance with Avian Power Line Interaction Committee standards to eliminate the risk of electrocution to raptors with larger wingspans that may simultaneously come in contact with a conductor and grounding devices.

The Permittee will consult with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources regarding type and placement of bird diverters.

4.2.14 Restoration

The Permittee shall restore the right-of-way, temporary work spaces, access roads, abandoned right-of-way, and other public or private lands affected by construction of the transmission line. Restoration within the right-of-way must be compatible with the safe operation, maintenance, and inspection of the transmission line. Within 60 days after completion of all restoration activities, the Permittee shall advise the Commission in writing of the completion of such activities.

4.2.15 Cleanup

All waste and scrap that is the product of construction shall be removed from the right-of-way and all premises on which construction activities were conducted and properly disposed of upon completion of each task. Personal litter, including bottles, cans, and paper from construction activities shall be removed on a daily basis.

4.2.16 Pollution and Hazardous Wastes

All appropriate precautions to protect against pollution of the environment must be taken by the Permittee. The Permittee shall be responsible for compliance with all laws applicable to the generation, storage, transportation, clean up and disposal of all wastes generated during construction and restoration of the right-of-way.

4.2.17 Damages

The Permittee shall fairly compensate landowners for damage to crops, fences, private roads and lanes, landscaping, drain tile, or other damages sustained during construction.

4.3 Electrical Performance Standards

4.3.1 Grounding

The Permittee shall design, construct, and operate the transmission line in a manner so that the maximum induced steady-state short-circuit current shall be limited to five milliamperes root mean square (rms) alternating current between the ground and any non-stationary object within the right-of-way, including but not limited to large motor vehicles and agricultural equipment.

All fixed metallic objects on or off the right-of-way, except electric fences that parallel or cross the right-of-way, shall be grounded to the extent necessary to limit the induced short-circuit current between ground and the object so as not to exceed one milliampere rms under steady state conditions of the transmission line and to comply with the ground fault conditions specified in the NESC. The Permittee shall address and rectify any induced current problems that arise during transmission line operation.

4.3.2 Electric Field

The transmission line shall be designed, constructed, and operated in such a manner that the electric field measured one meter above ground level immediately below the transmission line shall not exceed 8.0 kV/m rms.

4.3.3 Interference with Communication Devices

If interference with radio or television, satellite, wireless internet, GPS-based agriculture navigation systems or other communication devices is caused by the presence or operation of the transmission line, the Permittee shall take whatever action is feasible to restore or provide reception equivalent to reception levels in the immediate area just prior to the construction of the line.

4.4 Other Requirements

4.4.1 Applicable Codes

The Permittee shall comply with applicable NERC planning standards and requirements of the NESC including clearances to ground, clearance to crossing utilities, clearance to buildings, right-of way widths, erecting power poles, and stringing of transmission line conductors.

4.4.2 Other Permits and Regulations

The Permittee shall comply with all applicable state rules and statutes. The Permittee shall obtain all required permits for the project and comply with the conditions of these permits. A list of the permits known to be required is included in the permit application. The Permittee shall submit a copy of such permits to the Commission upon request.

5.0 SPECIAL CONDITIONS

The Permittee shall provide a report to the Commission as part of the plan and profile submission that describes the actions taken and mitigative measures developed regarding the project and the following special conditions. Special conditions shall take precedence over other conditions of this permit should there be a conflict.

5.1.1 Coordination with Scott County

The Permitee shall coordinate with Scott County and report any proposed changes to the Project alignment as a result of Scott County's design and easement acquisition process for its planned upgrades of County Road 27 and of 250th Street.

5.1.2 Avian Mitigation Plan

The Permitee shall develop an Avian Mitigation Plan for construction of the Project, including bird flight diverter locations as specified in Appendix A of the Environmental Assessment, and allow the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) an opportunity to comment on the plan before the Permitee submits the plan with its plan and profile compliance filing.

5.1.3 Coordination with Three Rivers Park District

The Permitee shall work with Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) throughout the construction process to develop a phased vegetation removal plan to be implemented by the Permitee and a TRPD replanting plan that will include species compatible with the safe operation and maintenance of the 115 kV transmission line. The results of these discussions should be reflected in a Vegetation Management Plan for construction of the Project through the TRPD properties.

5.1.4 Protection of Northern Long-Eared Bat

The Permitee shall complete tree clearing for the Project before that time the Northern Long-Eared Bat is listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). If tree clearing occurs after the Northern Long-Eared Bat is listed under the ESA, the tree clearing shall be completed between October 1 to March 31. If tree clearing cannot be completed during this timeframe, the Permitee shall consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

5.1.5 Coordination with Minnesota Department of Agriculture

The Permitee shall work with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) to determine what, if any, mitigation measures beyond normal construction protocol are necessary to minimize further impact of the Project on agricultural lands.

5.1.6 Coordination with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

The Permitee shall coordinate with the MnDNR regarding rare species, including whether further surveys are necessary.

6.0 DELAY IN CONSTRUCTION

If the Permittee has not commenced construction or improvement of the route within four years after the date of issuance of this permit the Permittee shall file a report on the failure to construct and the Commission shall consider suspension of the permit in accordance with Minn. R. 7850.4700.

7.0 COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

Prior to the start of construction, the Permittee shall submit to the Commission the procedures that will be used to receive and respond to complaints. The procedures shall be in accordance with the requirements of Minn. R. 7829.1500 or Minn. R. 7829.1700, and as set forth in the complaint procedures attached to this permit.

Upon request, the Permittee shall assist the Commission with the disposition of unresolved or longstanding complaints. This assistance shall include, but is not limited to, the submittal of complaint correspondence and complaint resolution efforts.

8.0 COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

Failure to timely and properly make compliance filings required by this permit is a failure to comply with the conditions of this permit. Compliance filings must be electronically filed with the Commission.

8.1 Plan and Profile

At least 30 calendar days before right-of-way preparation for construction begins on any segment or portion of the project, the Permittee shall provide the Commission with a plan and profile of the right-of-way and the specifications and drawings for right-of-way preparation, construction, structure specifications and locations, cleanup, and restoration for the transmission line. The documentation shall include maps depicting the plan and profile including the right-of-way, alignment, and structures in relation to the route and alignment approved per this permit.

The Permittee may not commence construction until the 30 days has expired or until the Commission has advised the Permittee in writing that it has completed its review of the documents and determined that the planned construction is consistent with this permit. If the Permittee intends to make any significant changes in its plan and profile or the specifications and drawings after submission to the Commission, the Permittee shall notify the Commission at least five days before implementing the changes. No changes shall be made that would be in violation of any of the terms of this permit.

8.2 Periodic Status Reports

The Permittee shall report to the Commission on progress regarding finalization of the route, design of structures, and construction of the transmission line. The Permittee need not report more frequently than monthly.

8.3 Completion of Construction

8.3.1 Notification to Commission

At least three days before the line is to be placed into service, the Permittee shall notify the Commission of the date on which the line will be placed into service and the date on which construction was complete.

8.3.2 As-Builts

Within 60 days after completion of construction, the Permittee shall submit copies of all final as-built plans and specifications developed during the project.

8.3.3 GPS Data

Within 60 days after completion of construction, the Permittee shall submit to the Commission, in the format requested by the Commission, geo-spatial information (e.g., ArcGIS compatible map files, GPS coordinates, associated database of characteristics) for all structures associated with the transmission line and each substation connected.

9.0 PERMIT AMENDMENT

This permit may be amended at any time by the Commission. Any person may request an amendment of the conditions of this permit by submitting a request to the Commission in writing describing the amendment sought and the reasons for the amendment.
The Commission will mail notice of receipt of the request to the Permittee. The Commission may amend the conditions after affording the Permittee and interested persons such process as is required.

10.0 TRANSFER OF PERMIT

The Permittee may request at any time that the Commission transfer this permit to another person or entity. The Permittee shall provide the name and description of the person or entity to whom the permit is requested to be transferred, the reasons for the transfer, a description of the facilities affected, and the proposed effective date of the transfer.

The person to whom the permit is to be transferred shall provide the Commission with such information as the Commission shall require to determine whether the new Permittee can comply with the conditions of the permit. The Commission may authorize transfer of the permit after affording the Permittee, the new Permittee, and interested persons such process as is required.

11.0 REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF PERMIT

The Commission may initiate action to revoke or suspend this permit at any time. The Commission shall act in accordance with the requirements of Minn. R. 7850.5100, to revoke or suspend the permit.

MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
COMPLAINT HANDLING PROCEDURES FOR
HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES

A. Purpose

To establish a uniform and timely method of reporting complaints received by the permittee concerning permit conditions for site preparation, construction, cleanup and restoration, operation, and resolution of such complaints.

B. Scope

This document describes complaint reporting procedures and frequency.

C. Applicability

The procedures shall be used for all complaints received by the permittee and all complaints received by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) under Minn. R. 7829.1500 or Minn. R. 7829.1700 relevant to this permit.

D. Definitions

Complaint: A verbal or written statement presented to the permittees by a person expressing dissatisfaction or concern regarding site preparation, cleanup or restoration or other route and associated facilities permit conditions. Complaints do not include requests, inquiries, questions or general comments.

Substantial Complaint: A written complaint alleging a violation of a specific permit condition that, if substantiated, could result in permit modification or suspension pursuant to the applicable regulations.

Unresolved Complaint: A complaint which, despite the good faith efforts of the permittee and a person, remains to both or one of the parties unresolved or unsatisfactorily resolved.

Person: An individual, partnership, joint venture, private or public corporation, association, firm, public service company, cooperative, political subdivision, municipal corporation, government agency, public utility district, or any other entity, public or private, however organized.

E. Complaint Documentation and Processing

1. The permittee shall designate an individual to summarize complaints for the Commission. This person's name, phone number and email address shall accompany all complaint submittals.

2. A person presenting the complaint should to the extent possible, include the following information in their communications:

    a. name, address, phone number, and email address;
    b. date of complaint;
    c. tract or parcel number; and
    d. whether the complaint relates to a permit matter or a compliance issue.

3. The permittee shall document all complaints by maintaining a record of all applicable information concerning the complaint, including the following:

    a. docket number and project name;
    b. name of complainant, address, phone number and email address;
    c. precise description of property or parcel number;
    d. name of permittee representative receiving complaint and date of receipt;
    e. nature of complaint and the applicable permit condition(s);
    f. activities undertaken to resolve the complaint; and
    g. final disposition of the complaint.

F. Reporting Requirements

The permittee shall commence complaint reporting at the beginning of project construction and continue through the term of the permit. The permittee shall report all complaints to the Commission according to the following schedule:

Immediate Reports: All substantial complaints shall be reported to the Commission the same day received, or on the following working day for complaints received after working hours. Such reports are to be directed to the Commission's Consumer Affairs Office at 1-800-657-3782 (voice messages are acceptable) or consumer.puc@state.mn.us. For e-mail reporting, the email subject line should read "PUC EFP Complaint" and include the appropriate project docket number.

Monthly Reports: By the 15th of each month, a summary of all complaints, including substantial complaints received or resolved during the preceding month, shall be filed to Dr. Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary, Public Utilities Commission, using the eDockets system. The eDockets system is located at: https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/home.jsp

If no complaints were received during the preceding month, the permittee shall file a summary indicating that no complaints were received.

G. Complaints Received by the Commission

Complaints received directly by the Commission from aggrieved persons regarding site preparation, construction, cleanup, restoration, operation and maintenance shall be promptly sent to the permittee.

H. Commission Process for Unresolved Complaints

Commission staff shall perform an initial evaluation of unresolved complaints submitted to the Commission. Complaints raising substantial permit issues shall be processed and resolved by the Commission. Staff shall notify the permittee and appropriate persons if it determines that the complaint is a substantial complaint. With respect to such complaints, each party shall submit a written summary of its position to the Commission no later than ten (10) days after receipt of the staff notification. The complaint will be presented to the Commission for a decision as soon as practicable.

I. Permittee Contacts for Complaints and Complaint Reporting

Complaints may filed by mail or email to:

Carole L. Schmidt
Great River Energy
Supervisor, Transmission Permitting and Compliance
12300 Elm Creek Blvd.
Maple Grove, MN 55369
763-445-5214
cschmidt@grenergy.com

This information shall be maintained current by informing the Commission of any changes by eFiling, as they become effective.

MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
COMPLIANCE FILING PROCEDURE FOR
PERMITTED ENERGY FACILITIES

A. Purpose

To establish a uniform and timely method of submitting information required by the Commission energy facility permits.

B. Scope and Applicability

This procedure encompasses all compliance filings required by permit.

C. Definitions

Compliance Filing: A filing of information to the Commission, where the information is required by a Commission site or route permit.

D. Responsibilities

1. The permittee shall eFile all compliance filings with Dr. Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary, Public Utilities Commission, through the eDockets system. The eDockets system is located at: https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/home.jsp

General instructions are provided on the eDockets website. Permittees must register on the website to eFile documents.

2. All filings must have a cover sheet that includes:

    a. Date
    b. Name of submitter/permittee
    c. Type of permit (site or route)
    d. Project location
    e. Project docket number
    f. Permit section under which the filing is made
    g. Short description of the filing

3. Filings that are graphic intensive (e.g., maps, engineered drawings) must, in addition to being eFiled, be submitted as paper copies and on CD. Paper copies and CDs should be sent to: 1) Dr. Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147, and 2) Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198.

The Commission may request a paper copy of any eFiled document.

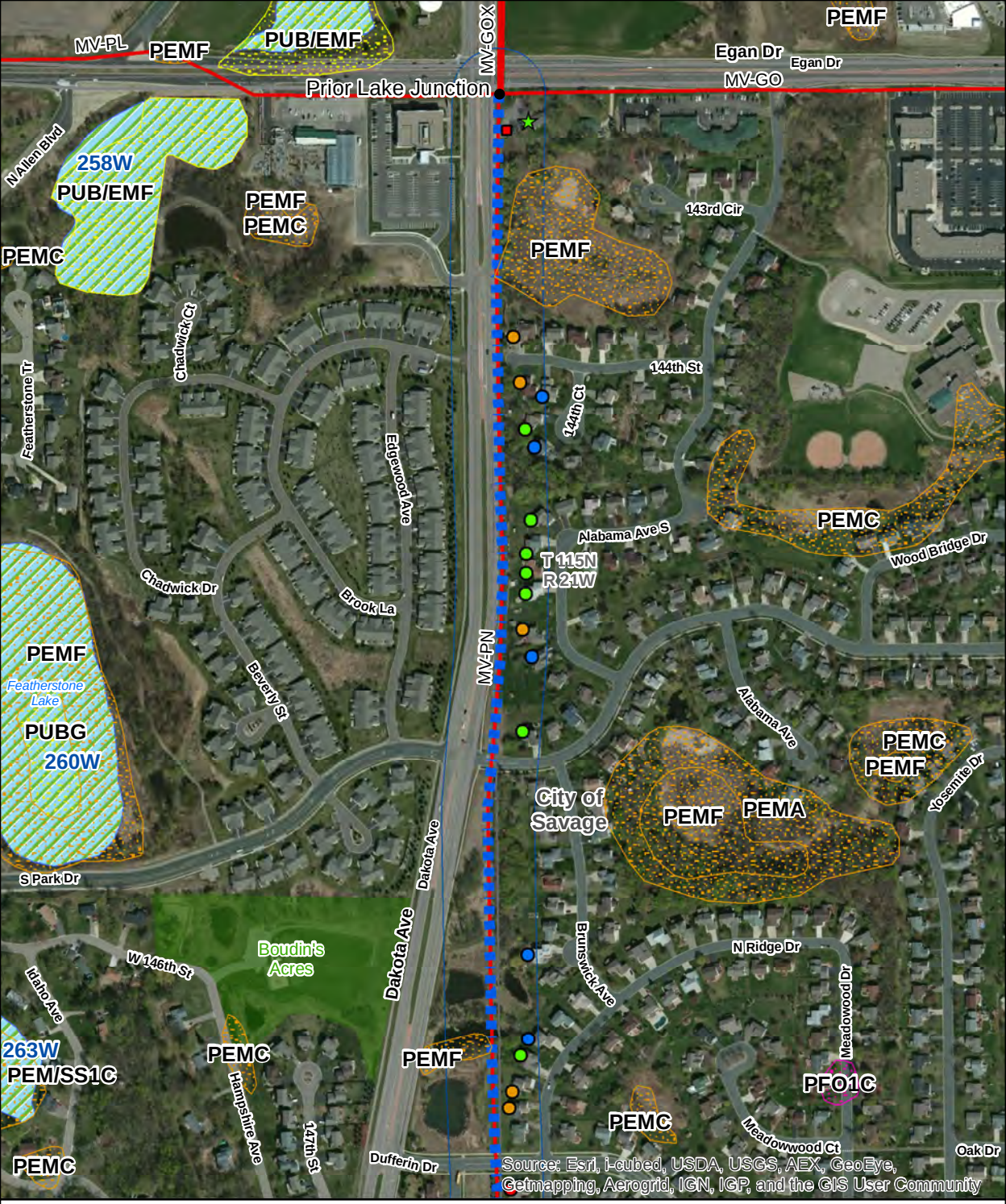
PERMIT COMPLIANCE FILINGS[1]

PERMITTEE: Great River Energy
PERMIT TYPE: HVTL Route Permit
PROJECT LOCATION: Scott and Rice Counties
PUC DOCKET NUMBER: ET002/TL12-1245

Filing Number	Permit Section	Description of Compliance Filing	Due Date
1	8. 1	Plan and profile of right-of-way (ROW)	30 days before ROW preparation for construction
2	4.2.1	Contact information for field representative	14 days prior to construction
3	4.2.14	Restoration complete	60 days after completion of all restoration activities
4	8.2	Periodic status reports	Monthly
5	7.0	Complaint procedures	Prior to start of construction
6	Complaint Handling Procedures	Complaint reports	By the 15th of each month
7	4.1	Notification to landowners	First contact with landowners after permit issuance
8	8.3.1	Notice of completion and date of placement in service	Three days prior to energizing
9	8.3.2	Provide as-built plans and specifications	Within 60 days after completion of construction
10	8.3.3	Provide GPS data	Within 60 days after completion of construction

[1] 1 This compilation of permit compliance filings is provided for the convenience of the permittee and the Commission. It is not a substitute for the permit; the language of the permit controls.

11	4.2.12	Notification of previously unrecorded archaeological sites	Upon discovery



Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
MV-PN North Segment
Existing Great River Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
300' route width

Residence
within 150' (5)
within 100' (7)
within 75' (5)
within 50' (1)

Business
within 100' (1)

Non-Residential Building
within 50' (1)

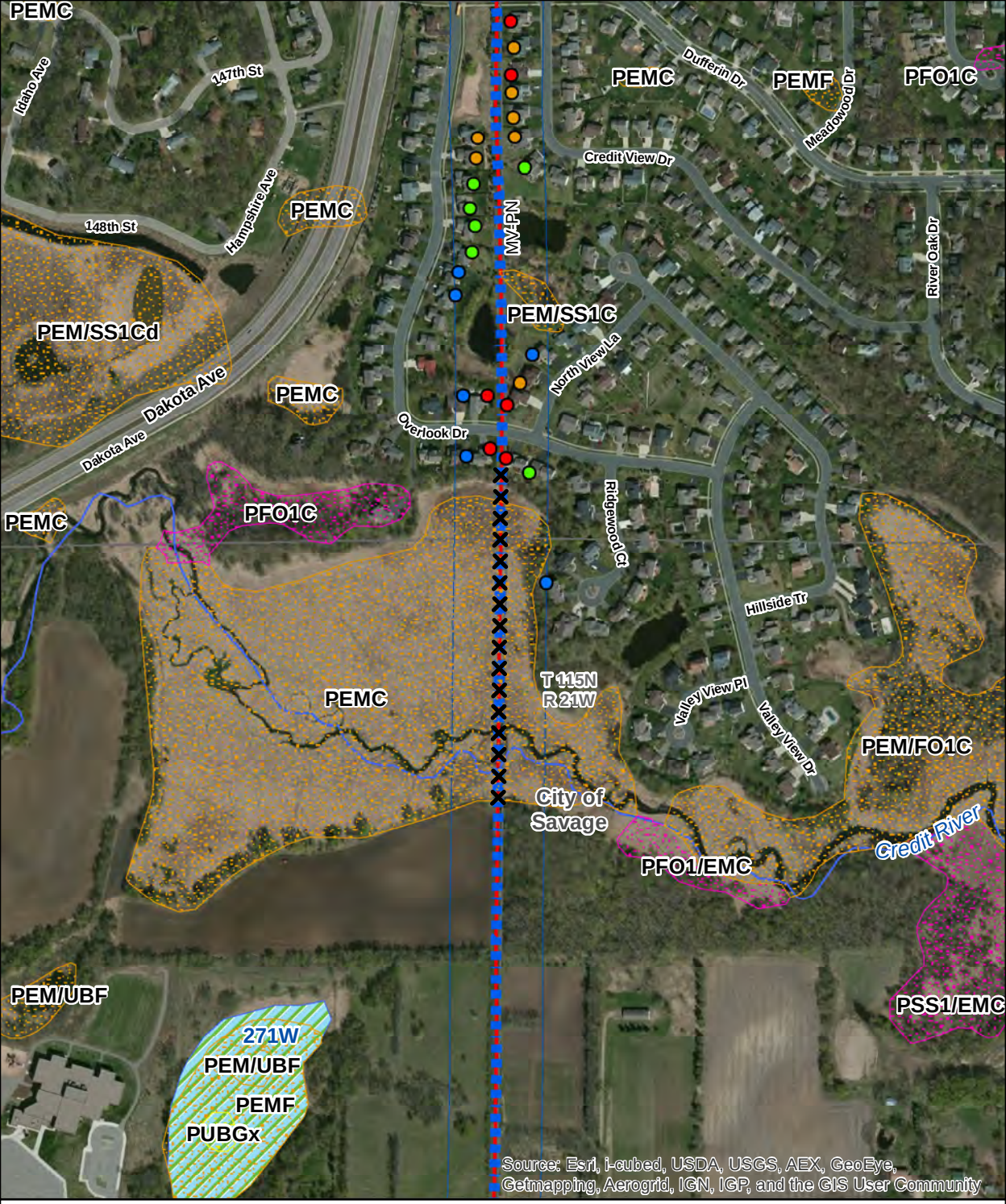
NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
Freshwater Pond
Park
Public Water Wetland

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
Prior Lake Junction to Credit River Junction
Map Series 1 of 5

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service



Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
MV-PN North Segment
Existing Great River Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
300' route width
Potential Bird Diverter Locations

Residence
within 150' (6)
within 100' (6)
within 75' (7)
within 50' (6)

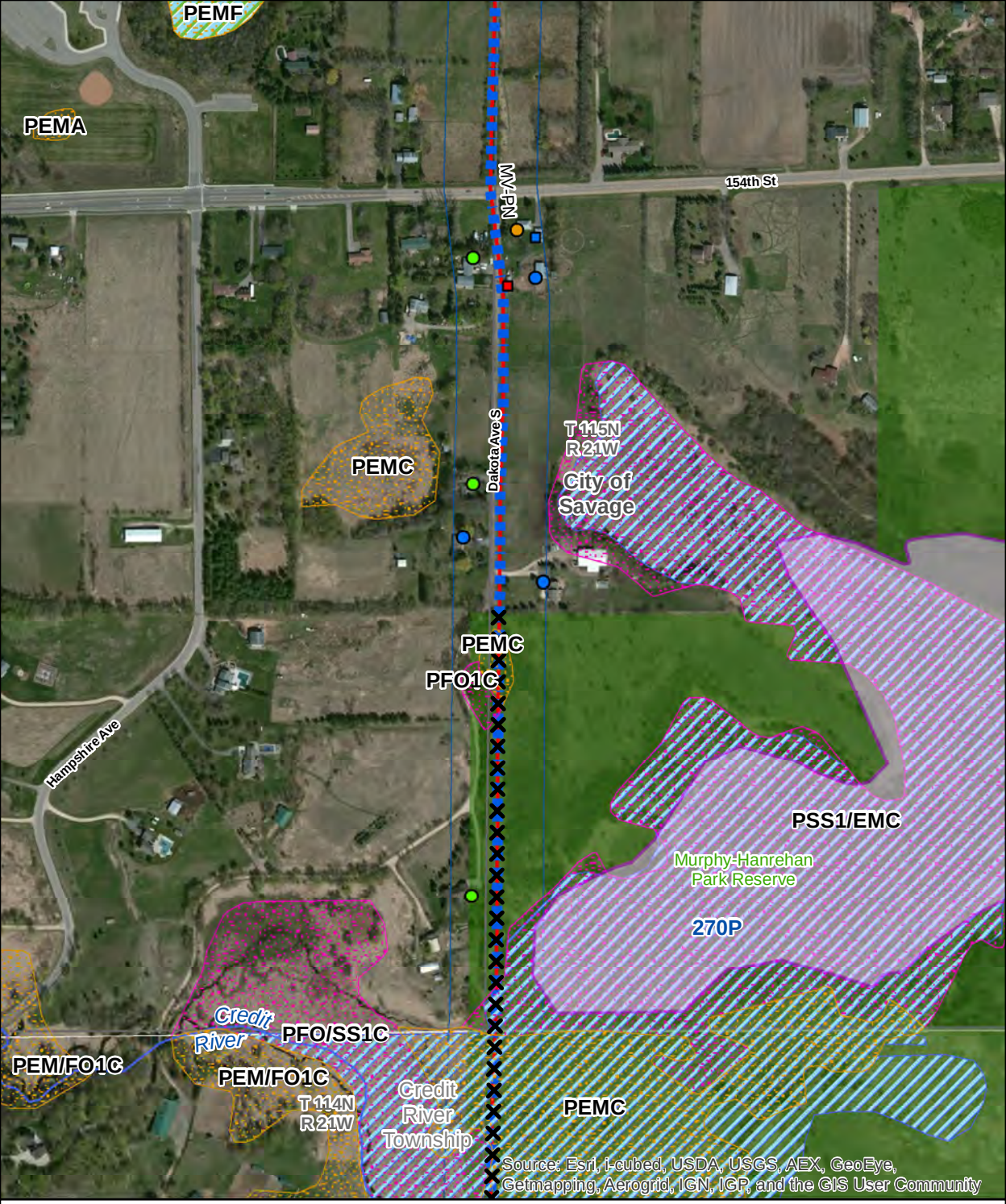
NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
Freshwater Pond
Public Watercourse
Public Water Wetland

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
Prior Lake Junction to Credit River Junction
Map Series 2 of 5

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service



Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
MV-PN North Segment
Existing Great River Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
300' route width
Potential Bird Diverter Locations

Residence
within 150' (3)
within 100' (3)
within 75' (1)
Non-Residential Building
within 150' (1)
within 50' (1)

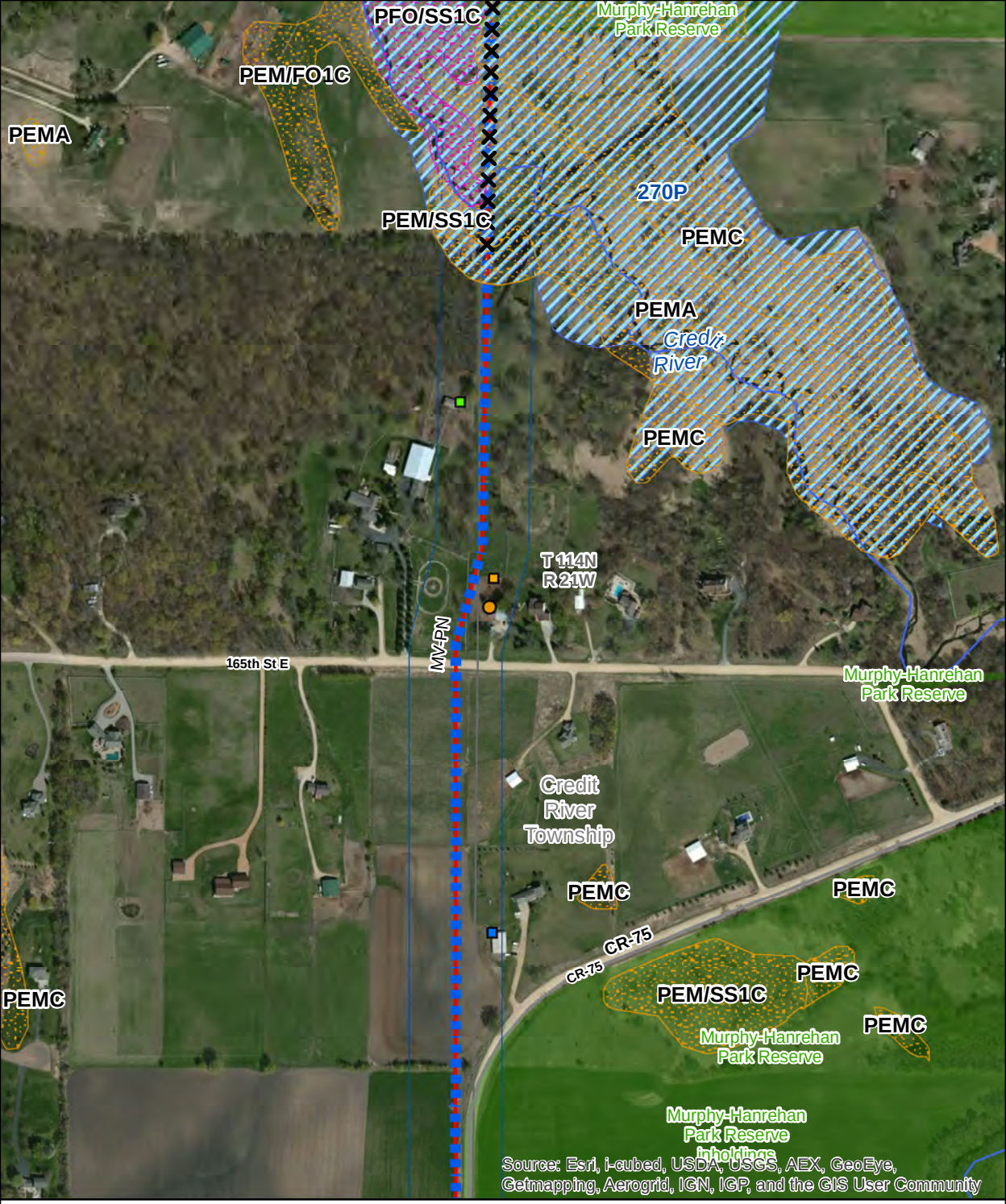
NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
Park
Biodiversity Significance
Outstanding
Public Watercourse
Public Water Wetland
Public Water Basin

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
Prior Lake Junction to Credit River Junction
Map Series 3 of 5

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service



Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
MV-PN North Segment
Existing Great River Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
300' route width
Potential Bird Diverter Locations

Residence
within 75' (1)
Non-Residential Building
within 150' (1)
within 100' (1)
within 75' (1)

NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
Park
Public Watercourse
Public Water Basin

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
Prior Lake Junction to Credit River Junction
Map Series 4 of 5

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service

Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
MV-PN North Segment
Existing Great River Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
300' route width

Residence
within 150' (1)
within 100' (1)
Non-Residential Building
within 150' (4)

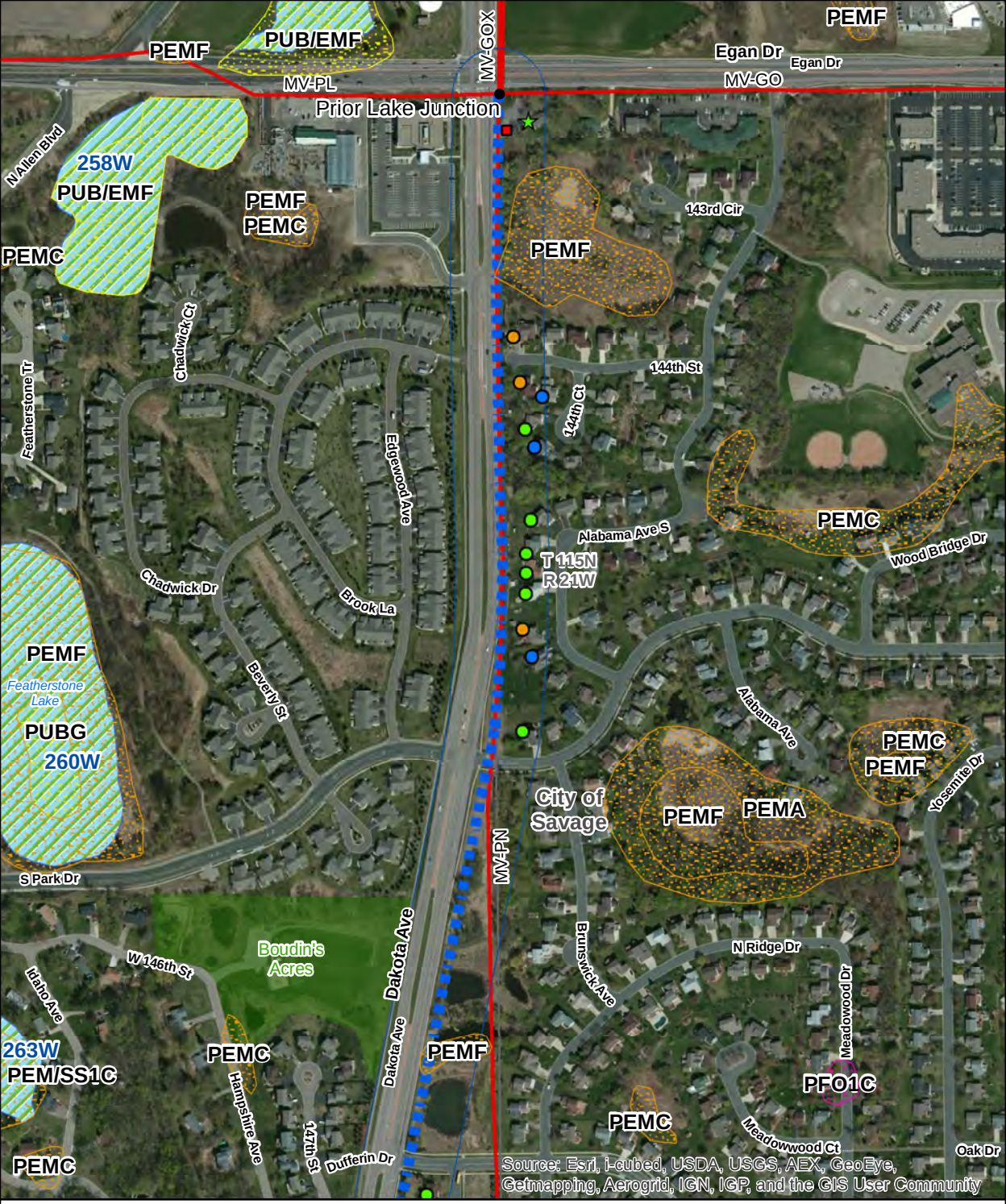
NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Park
Public Watercourse

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
Prior Lake Junction to Credit River Junction
Map Series 5 of 5

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service



Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
MV-PN North Deviation Segment
Existing Great River Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
300' route width

Residence
within 150' (3)
within 100' (7)
within 75' (3)
Business
within 100' (1)
Non-Residential Building
within 50' (1)

NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
Freshwater Pond
Park
Public Water Wetland

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
Prior Lake Junction to Credit River Junction with Deviation
Map Series 1 of 6

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service

Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
MV-PN North Deviation Segment
Existing Great River Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
300' route width
Potential Bird Diverter Locations

Residence
within 150' (6)
within 100' (9)
within 75' (1)

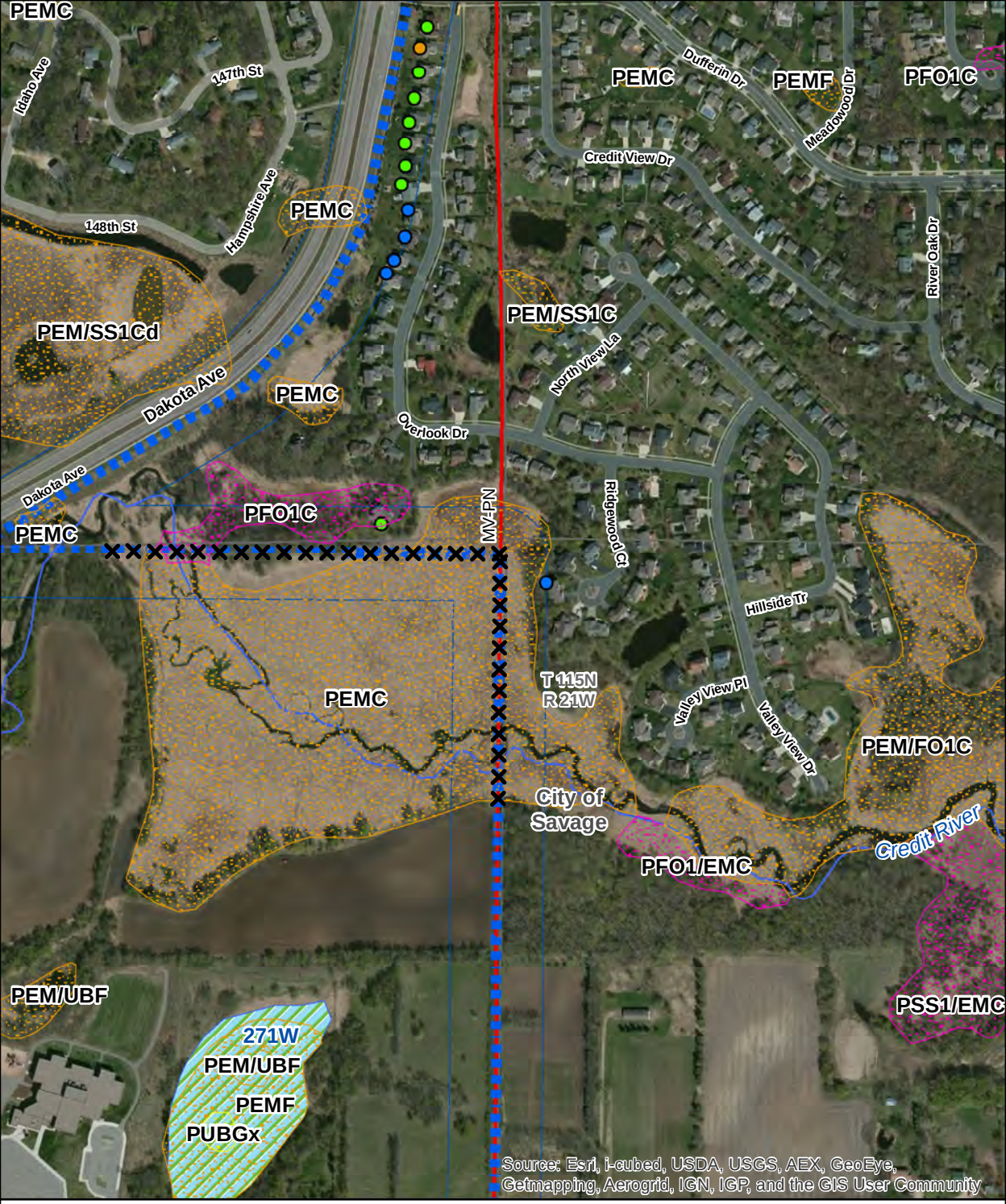
NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
Freshwater Pond
Park
Public Watercourse
Public Water Wetland

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
Prior Lake Junction to Credit River Junction with Deviation
Map Series 2 of 6

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service



Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
MV-PN North Deviation Segment
Existing Great River Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
300' route width
Potential Bird Diverter Locations

Residence
within 150' (5)
within 100' (8)
within 75' (1)

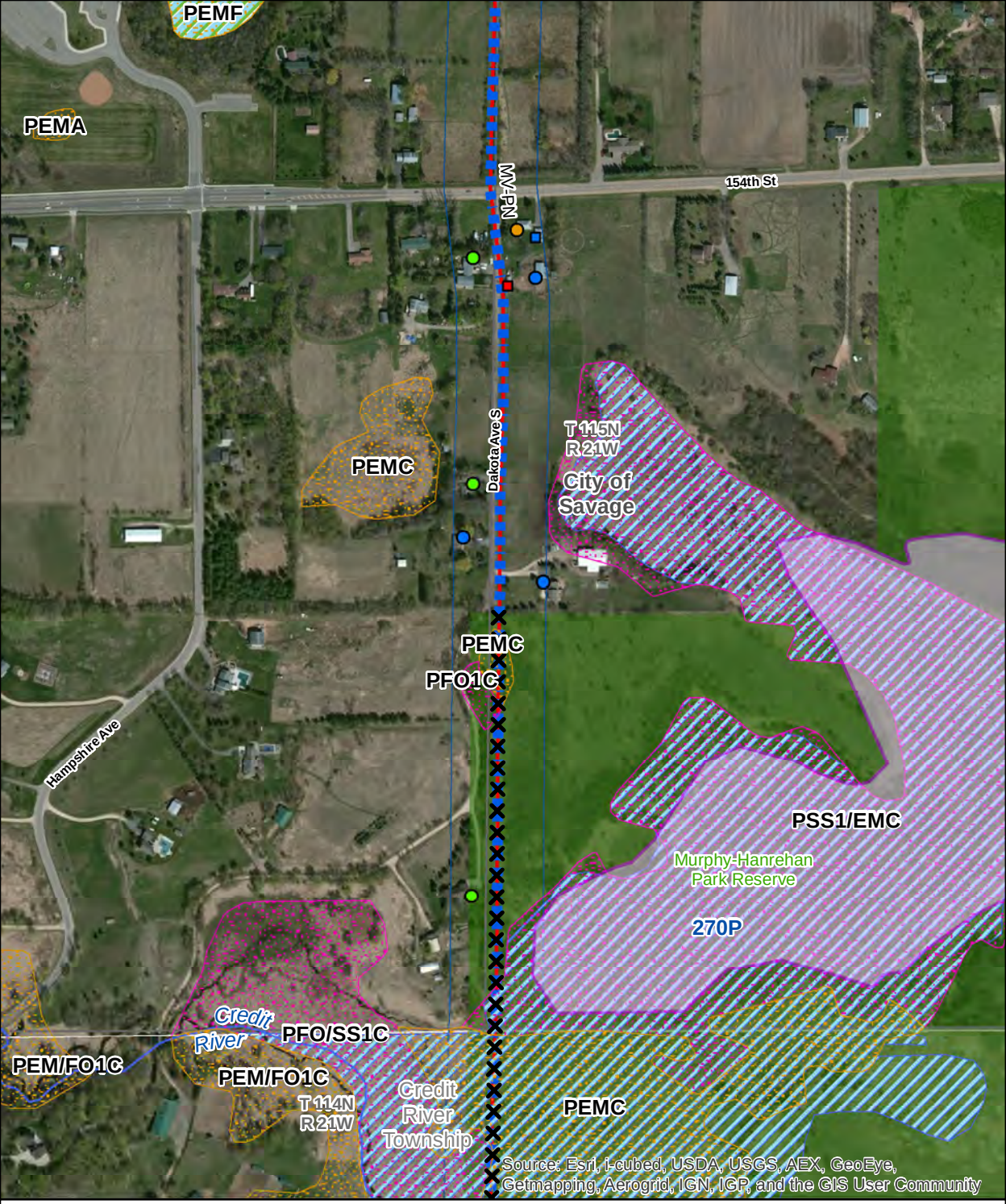
NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
Freshwater Pond
Public Watercourse
Public Water Wetland

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
Prior Lake Junction to Credit River Junction with Deviation
Map Series 3 of 6

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service



Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
MV-PN North Deviation Segment
Existing Great River Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
300' route width
Potential Bird Diverter Locations

Residence
within 150' (3)
within 100' (3)
within 75' (1)
Non-Residential Building
within 150' (1)
within 50' (1)

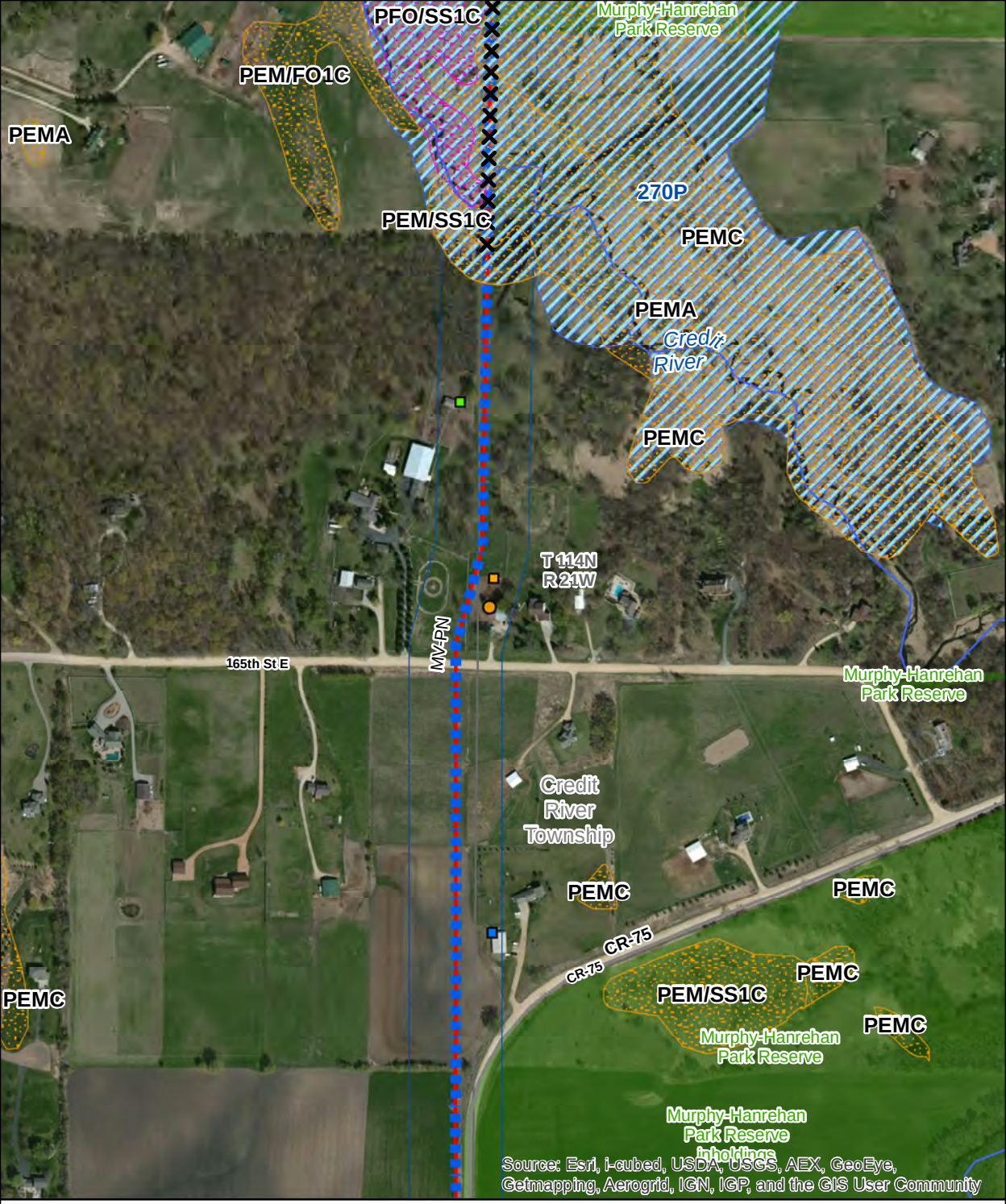
NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
Park
Biodiversity Significance
Outstanding
Public Watercourse
Public Water Wetland
Public Water Basin

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
Prior Lake Junction to Credit River Junction with Deviation
Map Series 4 of 6

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service



Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
MV-PN North Deviation Segment
Existing Great River Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
300' route width
Potential Bird Diverter Locations

Residence
within 75' (1)
Non-Residential Building
within 150' (1)
within 100' (1)
within 75' (1)

NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
Park
Public Watercourse
Public Water Basin

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
Prior Lake Junction to Credit River Junction with Deviation
Map Series 5 of 6

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service

Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
MV-PN North Deviation Segment
Existing Great River Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
300' route width

Residence
within 150' (1)
within 100' (1)
Non-Residential Building
within 150' (4)

NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Park
Public Watercourse

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
Prior Lake Junction to Credit River Junction with Deviation
Map Series 6 of 6

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service

Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
MV-CR Segment
Existing Great River Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
300' route width

Non-Residential Building
within 150' (1)

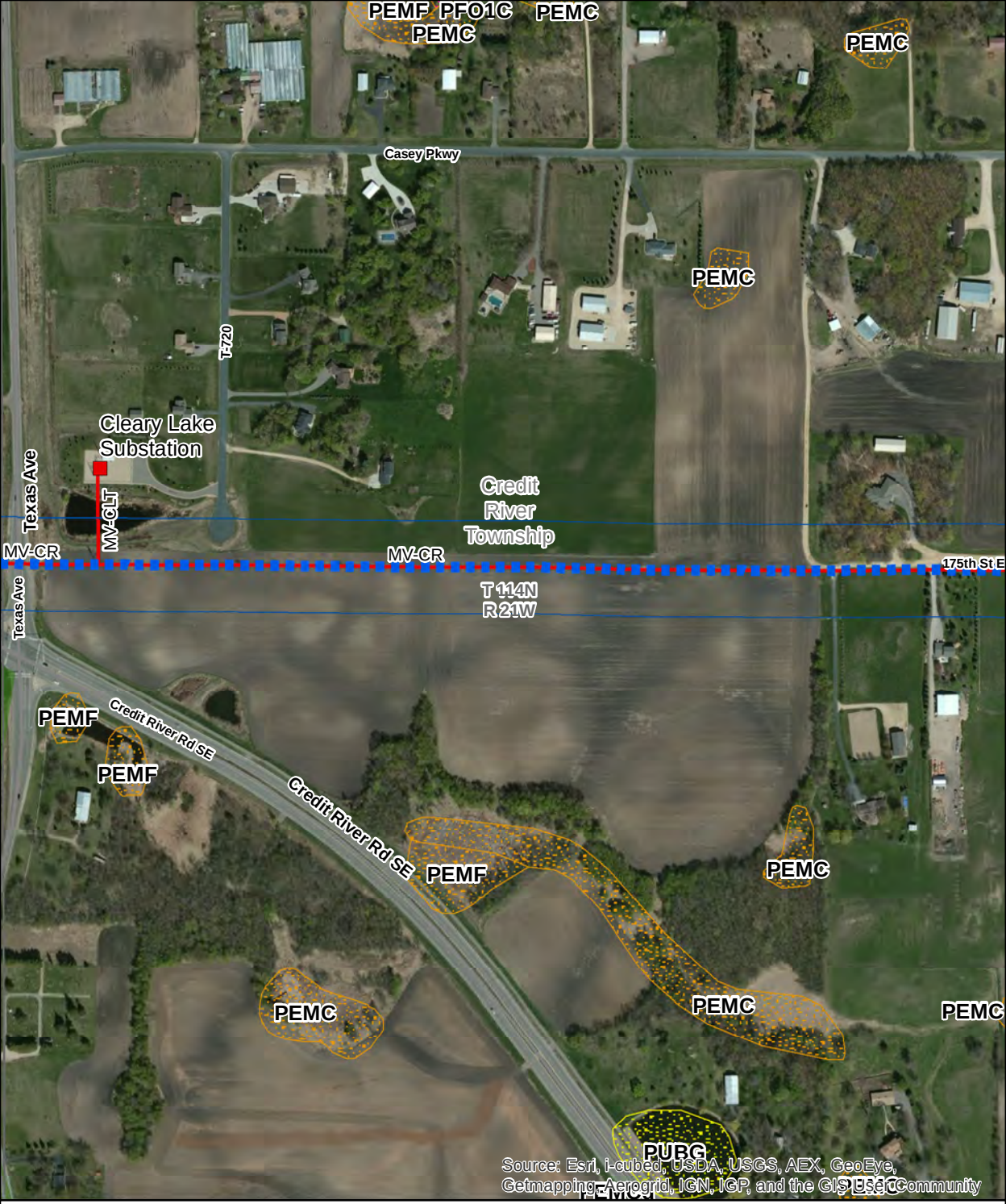
NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Freshwater Pond
Park

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
Credit River Junction to Credit River Substation
Map Series 1 of 4

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service



Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
MV-CR Segment
Existing Cooperative
Distribution Substation
Existing Great River Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
300' route width

NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
Freshwater Pond
Park

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
Credit River Junction to Credit River Substation
Map Series 2 of 4

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service

Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
MV-CR Segment
Existing Great River Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
300' route width
Potential Bird Diverter Locations

Residence
within 150' (3)
Non-Residential Building
within 150' (1)
within 100' (2)

NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
Freshwater Pond
Lake
Park
Public Watercourse
Public Water Basin

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
Credit River Junction to Credit River Substation
Map Series 3 of 4

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service

Source: Esri, i-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, GeoEye, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, and the GIS User Community

Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
MV-CR Segment
Existing Great River Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
Existing Xcel Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
Distribution Substation
300' route width
Potential Bird Diverter Locations

Business
within 100' (1)

NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
Freshwater Pond
Lake
Park
Public Watercourse
Public Water Wetland
Public Water Basin

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
Credit River Junction to Credit River Substation
Map Series 4 of 4

Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
MV-PN South Segment
Existing Cooperative
Distribution Substation
Existing Great River Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
300' route width

NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Freshwater Pond

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
245th Street to New Market Substation
Map Series 1 of 9

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service

Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
MV-PN South Segment
Existing Great River Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
300' route width

Residence
within 150' (2)
within 50' (1)
Non-Residential Building
within 150' (1)
within 100' (1)

NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
245th Street to New Market Substation
Map Series 2 of 9

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service

Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
MV-PN South Segment
Existing Great River Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
300' route width

Residence
within 150' (1)
Non-Residential Building
within 150' (3)

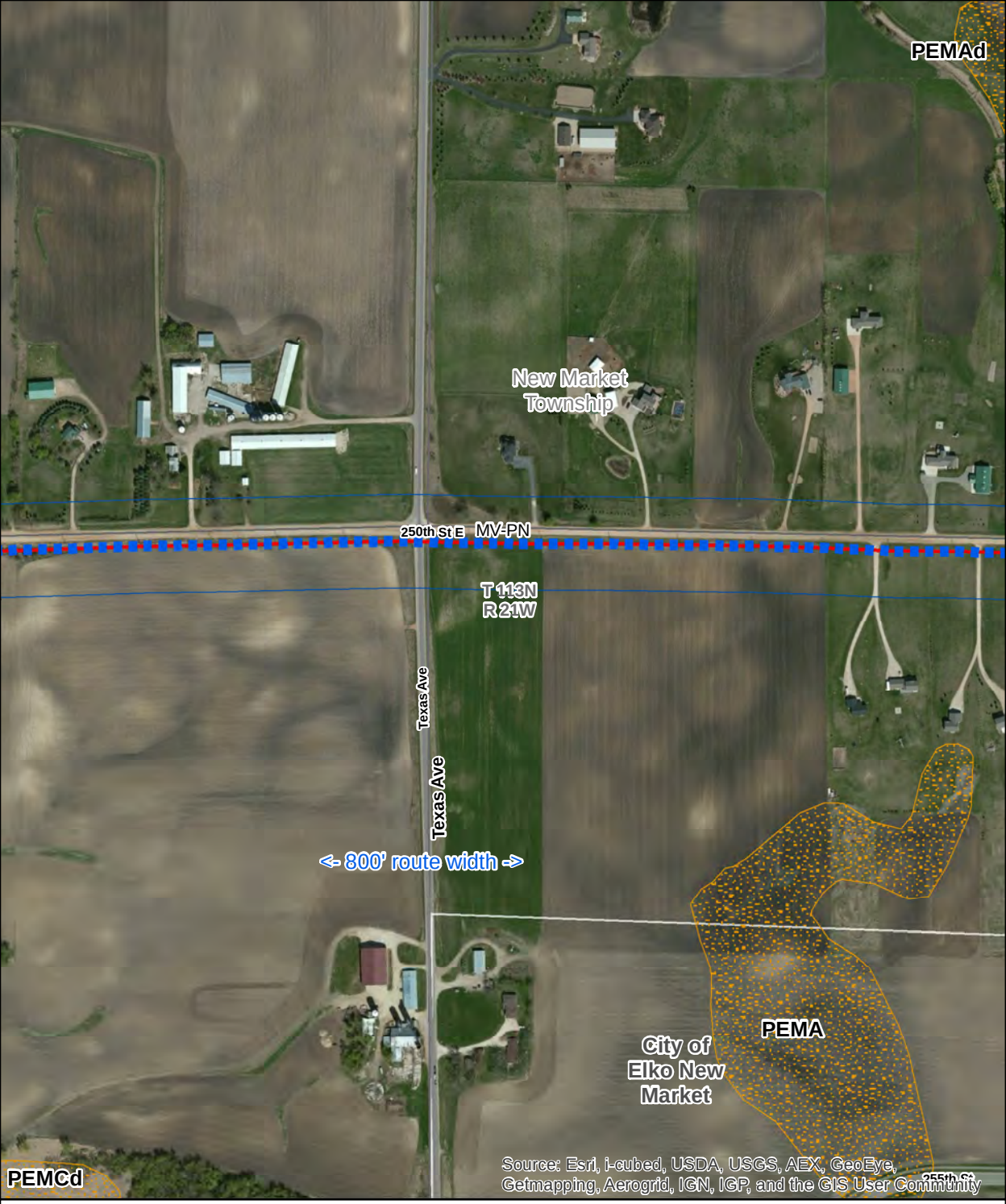
NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
245th Street to New Market Substation
Map Series 3 of 9

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service



Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
MV-PN South Segment
Existing Great River Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
300' route width

NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
245th Street to New Market Substation
Map Series 4 of 9

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service

Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
MV-PN South Segment
Existing Great River Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
300' route width

NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Freshwater Pond
Public Watercourse

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
245th Street to New Market Substation
Map Series 5 of 9

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service

Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
MV-PN South Segment
Existing Great River Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
300' route width
500' route width portion
Potential Bird Diverter Locations

NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
Freshwater Pond
Public Watercourse
Public Water Wetland

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
245th Street to New Market Substation
Map Series 6 of 9

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service

Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
MV-PN South Segment
Existing Great River Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
300' route width

Residence
within 150' (2)

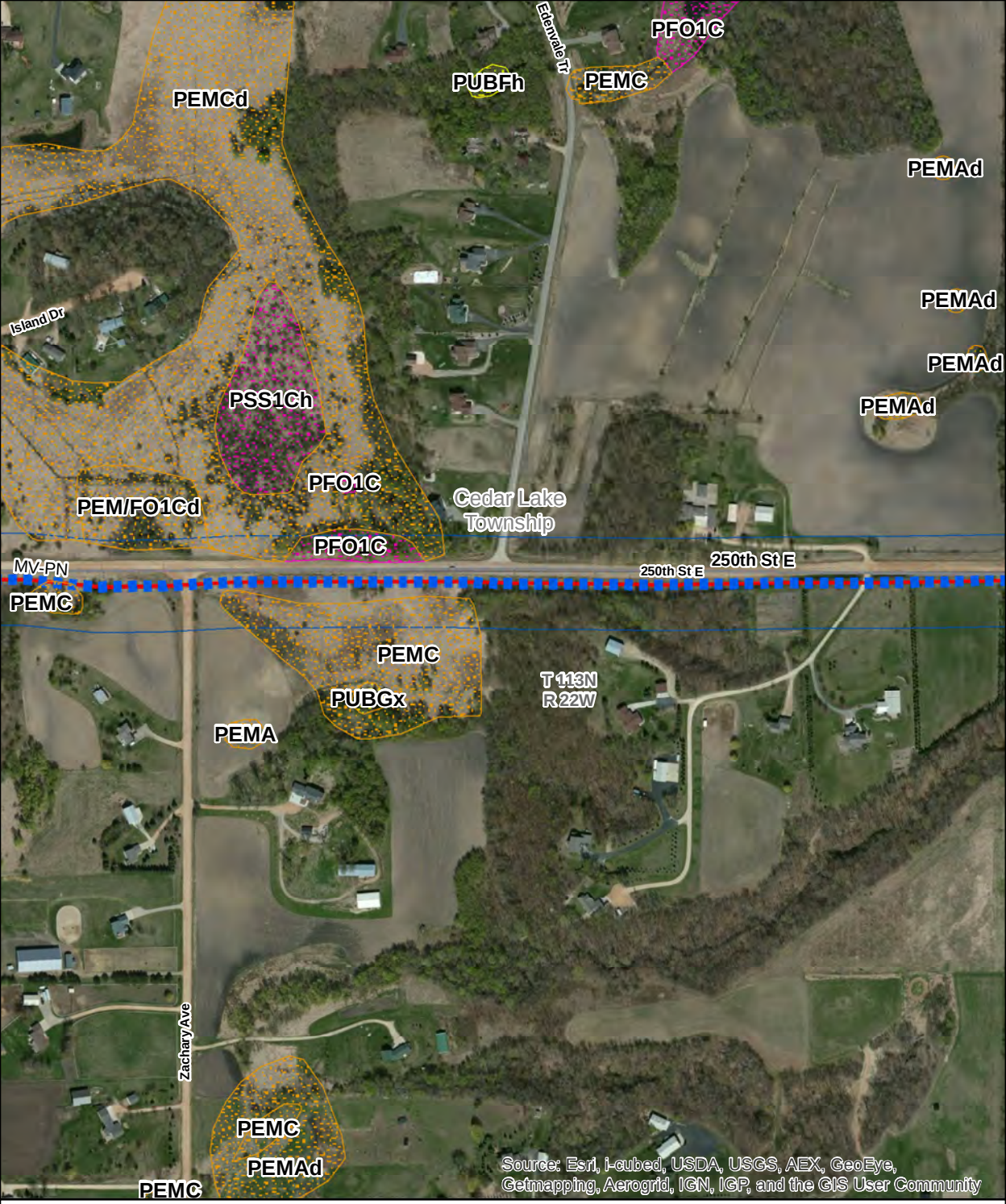
NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
Freshwater Pond
Lake
Public Water Basin

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
245th Street to New Market Substation
Map Series 7 of 9

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service



Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
MV-PN South Segment
Existing Great River Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
300' route width

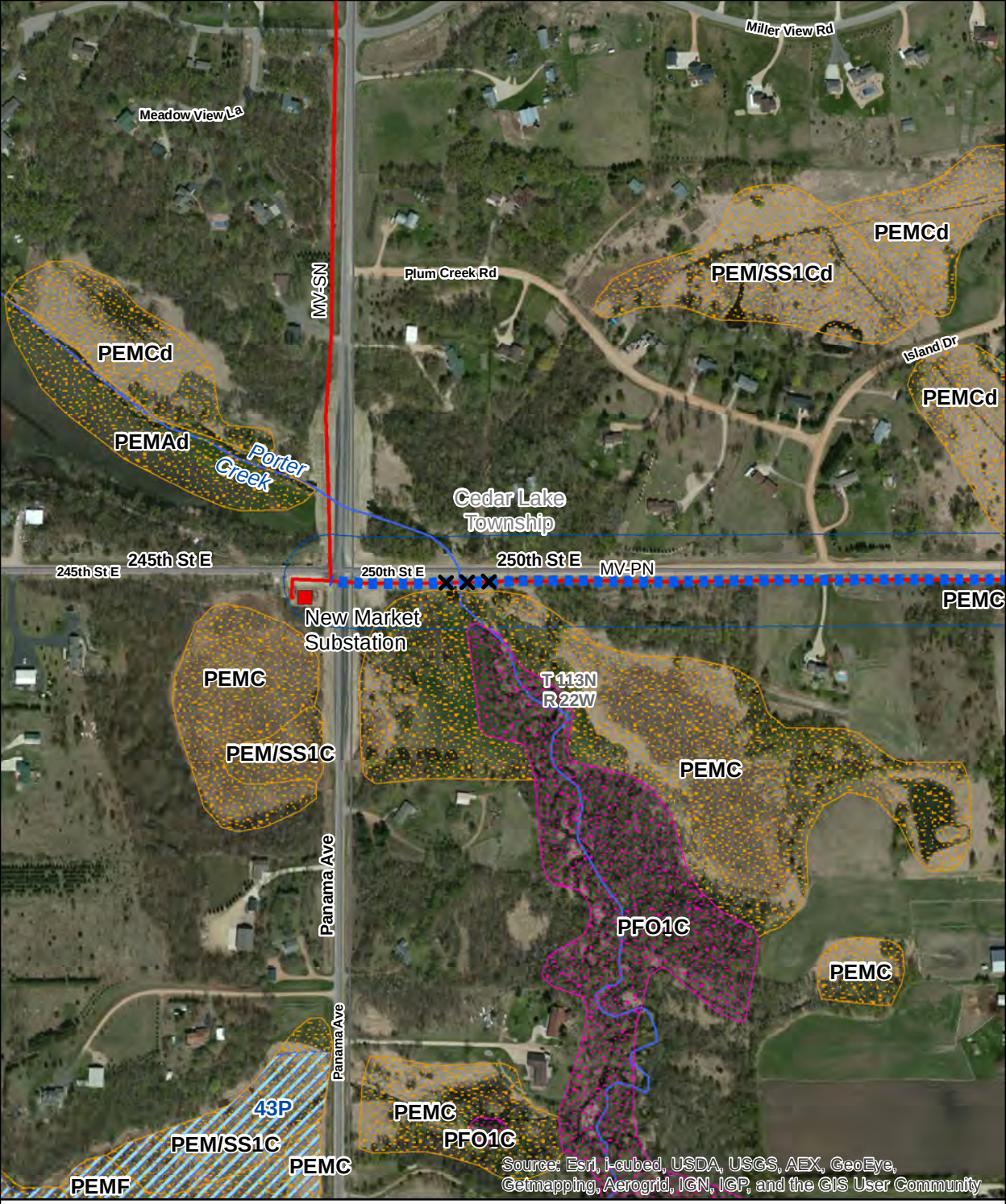
NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
Freshwater Pond

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
245th Street to New Market Substation
Map Series 8 of 9

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service



Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
MV-PN South Segment
Existing Cooperative
Distribution Substation
Existing Great River Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
300' route width
Potential Bird Diverter Locations

NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
Public Watercourse
Public Water Basin

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
245th Street to New Market Substation
Map Series 9 of 9

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service

Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
East Segment
Existing Great River Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
300' route width
800' route width portion

Residence
within 300' (3)
Non-Residential Building
within 200' (2)
within 150' (1)
within 100' (1)
within 50' (2)

NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
250th Street to Veseli Breaker Station (East Option)
Map Series 1 of 11

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service

Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
East Segment
300' route width

NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
250th Street to Veseli Breaker Station (East Option)
Map Series 2 of 11

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service

Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
East Segment
300' route width

Residence
within 150' (1)

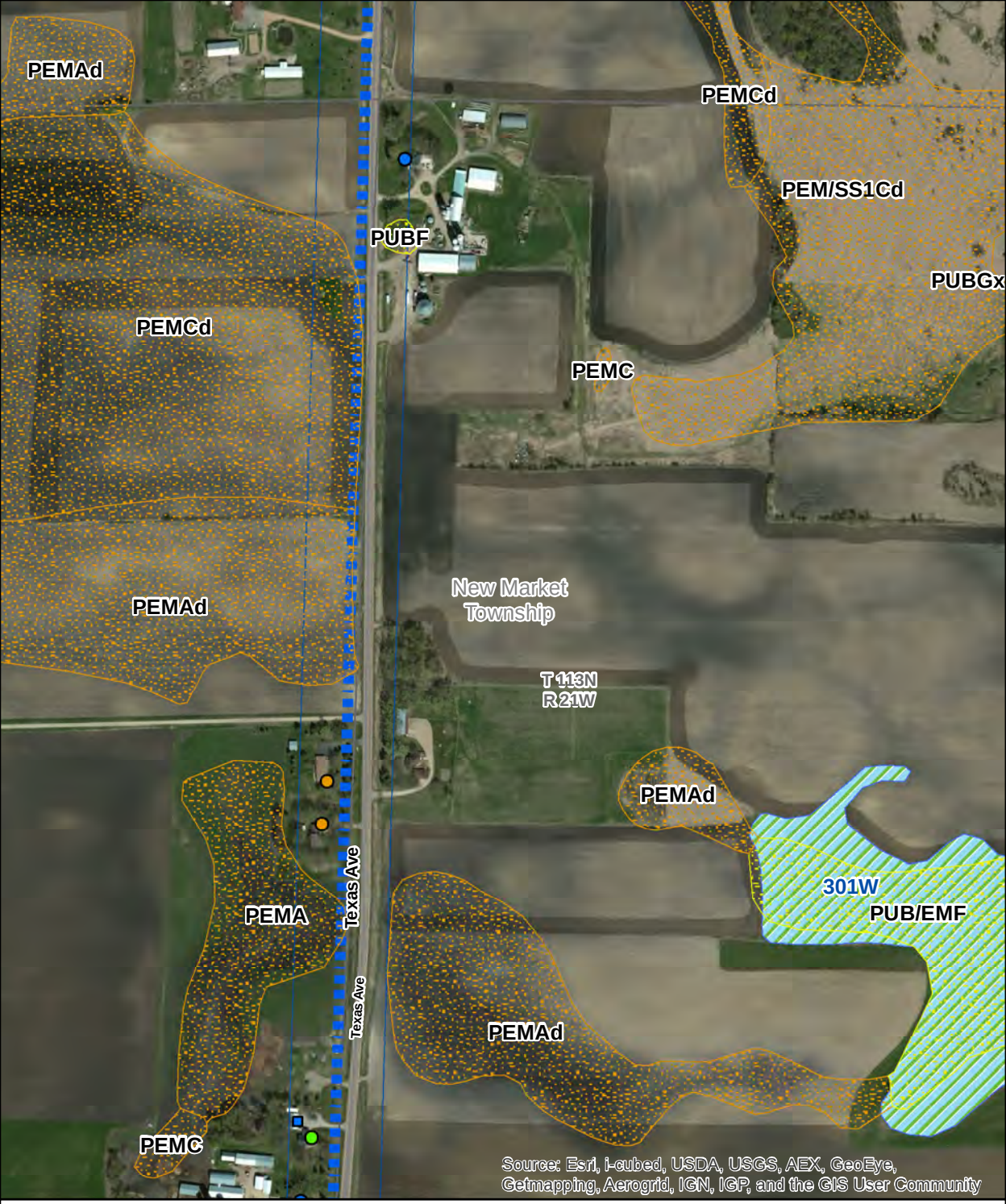
NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Public Watercourse

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
250th Street to Veseli Breaker Station (East Option)
Map Series 3 of 11

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service



Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
East Segment
300' route width

Residence
within 150' (2)
within 100' (1)
within 75' (2)

Non-Residential Building
within 150' (1)

NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Freshwater Pond
Public Water Wetland

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
250th Street to Veseli Breaker Station (East Option)
Map Series 4 of 11

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service

Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
East Segment
300' route width

Residence
within 150' (1)
Non-Residential Building
within 100' (1)

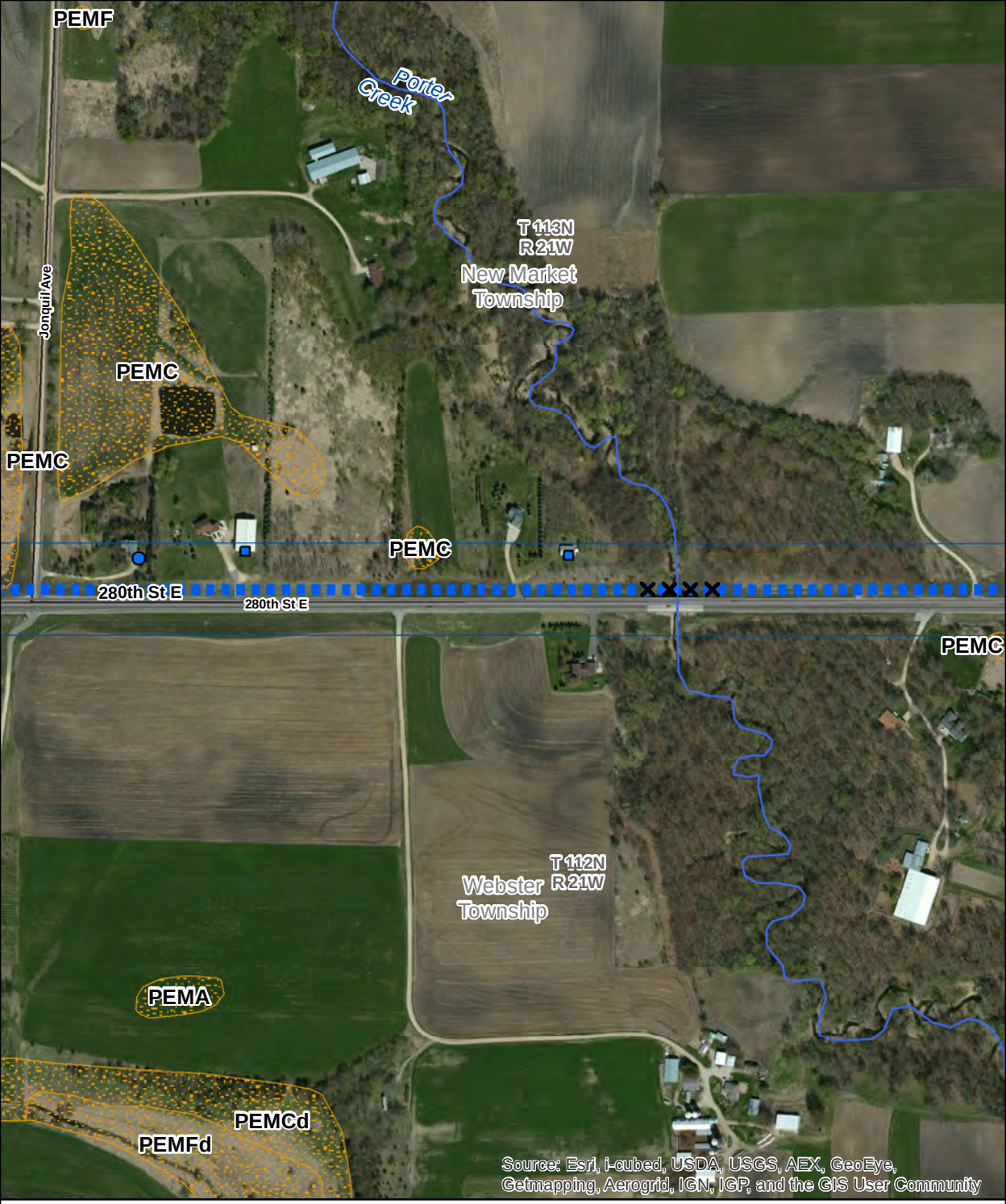
NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Public Watercourse

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
250th Street to Veseli Breaker Station (East Option)
Map Series 5 of 11

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service



Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
East Segment
300' route width
Potential Bird Diverter Locations

Residence
within 150' (1)
Non-Residential Building
within 150' (2)

NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Public Watercourse

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
250th Street to Veseli Breaker Station (East Option)
Map Series 6 of 11

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service

Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
East Segment
300' route width

NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
250th Street to Veseli Breaker Station (East Option)
Map Series 7 of 11

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service

Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
East Segment
300' route width

Non-Residential Building
within 150' (3)

NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Freshwater Pond

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
250th Street to Veseli Breaker Station (East Option)
Map Series 8 of 11

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service

Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
East Segment
300' route width

Non-Residential Building
within 150' (3)

NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Freshwater Pond

Elko New Market and
Cleary Lake Areas Project
250th Street to
Veseli Breaker Station (East Option)
Map Series 9 of 11

N

0 100 200 Feet

GIS Data sources include:
MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT,
and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service

Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
East Segment
300' route width

NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
250th Street to Veseli Breaker Station (East Option)
Map Series 10 of 11

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service

Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
East Segment
Existing Great River Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
Proposed Xcel Energy
69 kV Breaker Station
Existing Xcel Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
300' route width

Non-Residential Building
within 150' (1)

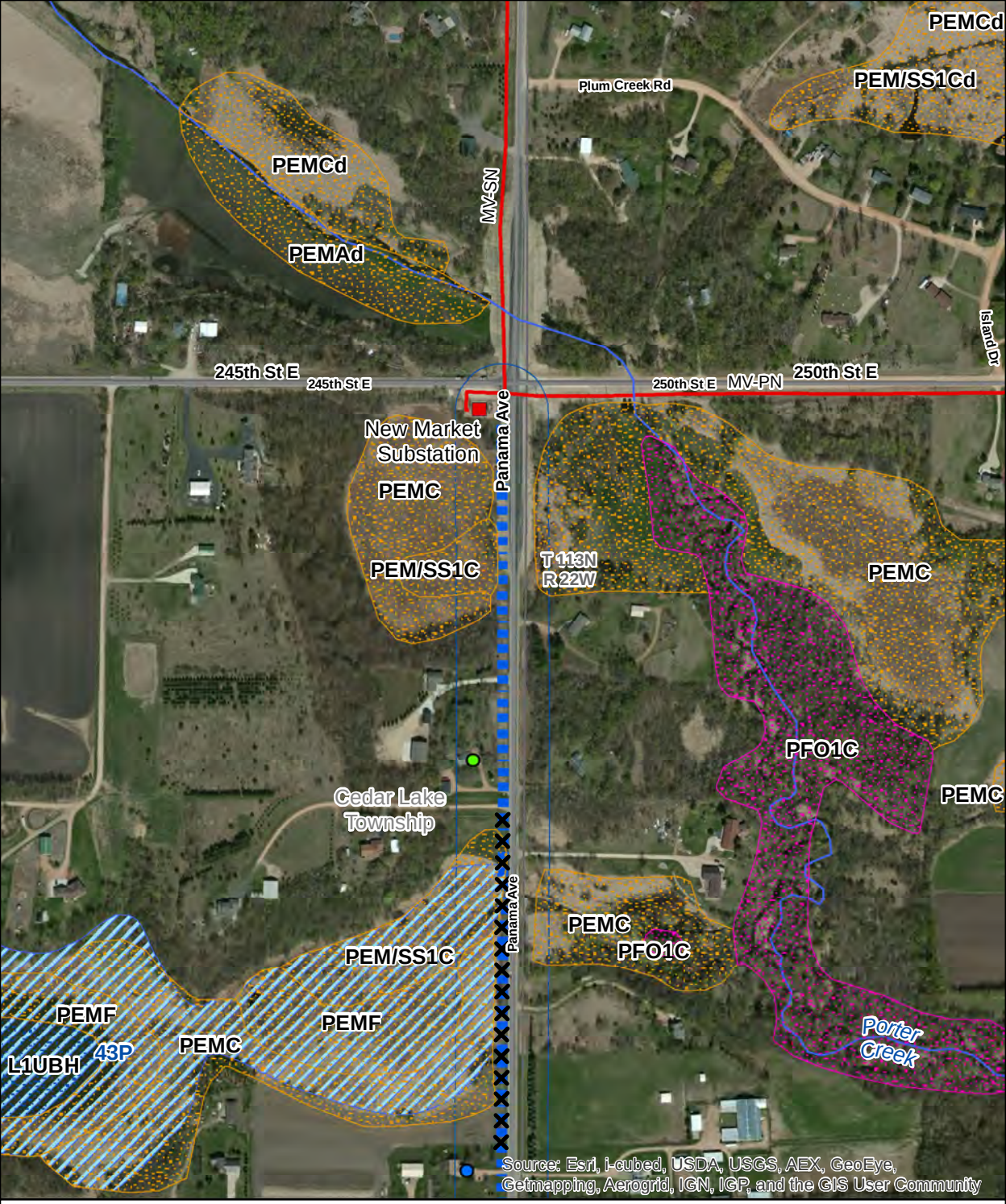
NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
250th Street to Veseli Breaker Station (East Option)
Map Series 11 of 11

N

0 100 200 Feet

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service



Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
West Segment
Existing Cooperative
Distribution Substation
Existing Great River Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
300' route width
Potential Bird Diverter Locations

Residence
within 150' (1)
within 100' (1)

NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
Lake
Public Watercourse
Public Water Basin

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
New Market Substation to Veseli Breaker Station (West Option)
Map Series 1 of 9

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service

Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
West Segment
300' route width
500' route width portion

Residence
within 150' (1)

NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Freshwater Pond
Public Watercourse
Public Water Wetland
Public Water Basin

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
New Market Substation to Veseli Breaker Station (West Option)
Map Series 2 of 9

N

0 100 200 Feet

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service

Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
West Segment
300' route width
Potential Bird Diverter Locations

NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
Freshwater Pond
Public Watercourse
Public Water Wetland

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
New Market Substation to Veseli Breaker Station (West Option)
Map Series 3 of 9

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service

Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
West Segment
300' route width
Potential Bird Diverter Locations

NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Waterfowl Production Area

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
New Market Substation to Veseli Breaker Station (West Option)
Map Series 4 of 9

N

0 100 200 Feet

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service

Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
West Segment
300' route width
Potential Bird Diverter Locations

NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Freshwater Pond
Waterfowl Production Area

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
New Market Substation to Veseli Breaker Station (West Option)
Map Series 5 of 9

0 100 200 Feet

N

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service

Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
West Segment
300' route width

NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Public Water Wetland

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
New Market Substation to Veseli Breaker Station (West Option)
Map Series 6 of 9

N

0 100 200 Feet

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service

Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
West Segment
300' route width

NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Freshwater Pond

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
New Market Substation to Veseli Breaker Station (West Option)
Map Series 7 of 9

N

0 100 200 Feet

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service

Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
West Segment
300' route width

Residence
within 150' (1)
within 75' (1)

NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
New Market Substation to Veseli Breaker Station (West Option)
Map Series 8 of 9

N

0 100 200 Feet

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service

Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
West Segment
Existing Great River Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
Proposed Xcel Energy
69 kV Breaker Station
Existing Xcel Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
300' route width

Non-Residential Building within 150' (1)

NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project
New Market Substation to Veseli Breaker Station (West Option)
Map Series 9 of 9

N

0 100 200 Feet

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service

Docket No. ET-2/CN-12-1235, ET-2/TL-12-1245

Attachment III

Discussion of Generic Permit Changes

Under Minn. Stat. § 216E.03, subd. 10, the Commission is authorized to issue a route permit for a high-voltage transmission line that specifies the design, routing, right-of-way preparation, and facility construction and operation it deems necessary, and with any other appropriate conditions.

In an effort to provide a more logical flow and organization, and achieve consistency between Commission issued high-voltage transmission line route permits and pipeline route permits, Commission staff proposes the following changes to the high-voltage transmission line route permit format and language.

1. The section discussing Pre-emption (previously under Section 4.8) was moved and is now under Section 1.0. This change comports to the organization found in pipeline route permits.

2. Section 2.2 was renamed Associated Facilities and was subdivided into the following subsections: Section 2.2.1 (Substations), Section 2.2.2 (Structures), Section 2.2.3 (Conductors). The changes was made to provide clarity and ensure the statement discussing NESC and NERC to come first in the section, as it applies to all associated facilities.

3. Language changes were made to Section 3.1 (Right-of-Way) to provide greater clarity concerning modifications within the approved route. The term right-of-way was substituted for alignment, as the Commission does not necessarily permit an alignment, but does permit a right-of-way.

   > Any ~~alignment~~ right-of-way modifications within the designated route shall be located so as to have comparable overall impacts relative to the factors in Minn. R. 7850.4100, as does the ~~alignment~~ right-of-way identified in this permit, and shall be specifically identified and documented in and approved as part of the plan and profile submitted pursuant to Section 8.1 of this permit.

4. The Notification to Landowners section was moved so that it is now the first subsection (now Section 4.1) under General Conditions and before the subsection Construction Practices. This change was made to provide a better chronological order. Landowner notification is one of the first steps a utility must take prior to initiating construction activities.

5. The subsections under Section 4.2 (Construction Practices) were reorganized to provide a more logical grouping and flow of required conditions. The following provides a comparison of the previous section ordering and the new section ordering

Previous Section Titles and Ordering	**New Section Titles and Ordering**
Field Representative	Field Representative
Local Governments	Employee Training and Education of Permit Terms and Conditions

Cleanup	Public Services, Public Utilities, and Existing Easements
Noise	Temporary Work Space
Vegetation Removal	Noise
Aesthetics	Aesthetics
Erosion Control	Vegetation Removal and Protection
Wetlands and Water Resources	Application of Herbicides
Archaeological and Historic Resources	Noxious Weeds
Avian Mitigation	Site Sediment and Erosion Control
Temporary Work Space	Wetlands and Water Resources
Restoration	Archaeological and Historic Resources
Notice of Permit	Avian Mitigation
	Restoration
	Cleanup
	Pollution and Hazardous Wastes
	Damages

Modifications to section titles and language are discussed below.

Field Representative
New language was added to comport with the language found in pipeline route permits.

> At least 14 days prior to commencing construction, the Permittee shall advise the Commission in writing of the person or persons designated to be the field representative for the Permittee with the responsibility to oversee compliance with the conditions of this permit during construction. <u>This person shall be accessible by telephone during normal business hours throughout right-of-way preparation, construction, cleanup, and restoration.</u>

<u>Employee Training and Education of Permit Terms and Conditions</u>
Section was previously titled “Notice of Permit.”

<u>Public Services, Public Utilities, and Existing Easements</u>
Section was previously titled “Local Governments.” The following language was added to this section to comport with pipeline route permits.

> <u>The Permittee shall work with the landowners, townships, cities, and counties along the route to accommodate concerns regarding tree clearing, distance from existing structures, drain tiles, pole depth and placement in relationship to existing roads and road expansion plans.</u>

Temporary Work Space
No changes to section language.

Noise
No changes to section language.

Aesthetics
No changes to section language.

Vegetation Removal and Protection
The following language was removed from this section and a new section (Application of Herbicides) was created: "The Permittee shall avoid construction and maintenance practices, particularly the use of fertilizer, herbicides or other pesticides, that are inconsistent with the landowner's or tenant's use of the land. The Permittee will provide notification to affected landowners and tenants before using these materials."

Application of Herbicides
A new section was created and new language was added to comport with the language found in pipeline route permits. Language also follows with DNR recommendations on numerous HVTL route permits previously issued by the Commission.

> The Permittee shall restrict herbicide use to those herbicides and methods of application approved by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Selective foliage or basal application shall be used when practicable. The Permittee shall contact the landowner or his designee to obtain approval for the use of herbicide prior to any application on their property. The landowner may request that there be no application of herbicides on any part of the right-of-way within the landowner's property. All herbicides shall be applied in a safe and cautious manner so as not to damage crops, orchards, tree farms, or gardens.

Noxious Weeds
A new section was created and new language was added to comport with the language found in pipeline route permits. Language also follows with DNR recommendations on numerous HVTL route permits previously issued by the Commission.

> The Permittee shall take all reasonable precautions against the spread of noxious weeds during all phases of construction. When utilizing seed to establish temporary and permanent vegetative cover on exposed soil the Permittee shall select site appropriate seed certified to be free of noxious weeds. To the extent possible, the Permittee shall use native seed mixes. The Permittee shall consult with landowners on the selection and use of seed for replanting.

Site Sediment and Erosion Control

The following language was removed from this section and a new section (Noxious Weeds) was created: "When utilizing seed to establish temporary and permanent vegetative cover on exposed soil the Permittee shall select site appropriate seed certified to be free of noxious weeds. To the extent possible, the Permittee shall use native seed mixes. The Permittee shall consult with landowners on the selection and use of seed for replanting.

Wetlands and Water Resources

The following language was added to this section and comports with pipeline route permits.

> Areas disturbed by construction activities shall be restored to pre-construction conditions. Restoration of the wetlands will be performed by Permittee in accordance with the requirements of applicable state and federal permits or laws and landowner agreements.

Archaeological and Historic Resources

The language of this section was modified to comport with language found under the same section of pipeline route permits, as follows:

> The Permittee shall make every effort to avoid impacts to identified archaeological and historic resources when installing the high-voltage transmission line on the approved route. The Permittee shall consult with the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) prior to commencing construction to determine whether an archaeological survey will be necessary for any length of the transmission line route.
>
> In the event that a resource is encountered, the Permittee shall contact and consult with ~~the State Historic Preservation Office (~~SHPO~~)~~. The Permittee shall not excavate at such locations until authorization is provided by SHPO. Where feasible, avoidance of the resource is required. Where not feasible, mitigation must include an effort to minimize project impacts on the resource consistent with SHPO and State Archaeologist requirements. If human remains are encountered during construction, the Permittee shall immediately halt construction at that location and promptly notify local law enforcement authorities and the State Archaeologist.

Avian Mitigation

No changes to section language.

Restoration
No changes to section language.

Cleanup
The language of this section was modified to comport with language found under the same section of pipeline route permits, as follows:

> All waste and scrap that is the product of construction shall be removed from the ~~area~~ right-of-way and all premises on which construction activities were conducted and properly disposed of upon completion of each task. Personal litter, including bottles, cans, and paper from construction activities shall be removed on a daily basis.

Pollution and Hazardous Wastes
A new section was created and new language was added to comport with the language found in pipeline route permits. Language also follows with MPCA recommendations on numerous HVTL route permits previously issued by the Commission.

> All appropriate precautions to protect against pollution of the environment must be taken by the Permittee. The Permittee shall be responsible for compliance with all laws applicable to the generation, storage, transportation, clean up and disposal of all wastes generated during construction and restoration of the right-of-way.

Damages
The following language previously under Restoration was moved to this newly created section: "The Permittee shall fairly compensate landowners for damage to crops, fences, landscaping, drain tile, or other damages sustained during construction." This change comports with the pipeline route permit format.

6. The section discussing Electric Performance Standards (previously Section 4.7) and its subsections (Grounding, Electric Field, and Interference with Communication Devices) was moved and is now Section 4.3 which follows the Construction Practices section.

7. The section discussing Other Requirements (previously Section 4.8) and its subsections (Applicable Codes and Other Permits and Regulations) was moved and is now Section 4.4 which follows the Electric Performance Standards section.

8. The section Delay in Construction (previously Section 4.9) was moved from Section 4.0 and is now a standalone section (Section 6.0 - Delay in Construction). This change comports with the pipeline route permit format.

9. The section Compliance Procedures (previously Section 4.4) was moved from Section 4.0 and is now a standalone section (Section 7.0 - Delay in Construction). The language under this section was modified as follows. These changes comport with the pipeline route permit format.

   Prior to the start of construction, the Permittee shall submit to the Commission the procedures that will be used to receive and respond to complaints. The procedures shall be in accordance with the requirements of Minn. R. 7829.1500 or Minn. R. 7829.1700, and as set forth in the complaint procedures attached to this permit.

   Upon request, the Permittee shall assist the Commission with the disposition of unresolved or longstanding complaints. This assistance shall include, but is not limited to, the submittal of complaint correspondence and complaint resolution efforts.

10. A new section that discusses permit compliance requirements was created (Section 8.0 – Compliance Requirements) to comport with a similar section found in pipeline route permits. Following is the new language that was added.

    COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

    Failure to timely and properly make compliance filings required by this permit is a failure to comply with the conditions of this permit. Compliance filings must be electronically filed with the Commission.

    The following sections that discuss the various compliance requirements of the HVTL route permit were moved under the Compliance Requirements section and renumbered. This change provides a more logical organization of the permit by placing all compliance requirements under one category.

    - The Plan and Profile section previously found under General Conditions as Section 4.1 was moved under Compliance Requirements and is now Section 8.1 – Plan and Profile.

    - The Periodic Status Reports section previously found under General Conditions as Section 4.3 was moved under Compliance Requirements and is now Section 8.2 – Periodic Status Reports.

- The Completion of Construction section and its subsections (Notification to Commission, As-Builts, and GPS Data) previously found under General Conditions as Section 4.6 were moved under Compliance Requirements and is now Section 8.3 – Completion of Construction.

11. The following sections remain the same, but have been renumbered accordingly: Permit Amendment (Section 9.0), Transfer of Permit (Section 10.0), and Revocation or Suspension of ~~the~~ Permit (Section 11.0).