

Appendix M

Phase 1 Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey

March 13, 2026

Scott Wright
LSP CG Storage LLC
917 Tahoe Blvd, Ste 202
Incline Village, NV 89511

Re: Phase I Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey for the Cottage Grove BESS
Project, Washington County, Minnesota
File **R0071487.00**

LSP CG Storage LLC (Client) contracted Westwood Professional Services, Inc., (Westwood) to conduct a cultural resources literature review for the Cottage Grove Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Project (Project) in the City of Cottage Grove in south-central Washington County, Minnesota. The Project is located in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 27 of Township 27N, Range 21W (Exhibit 1). The archaeological survey was performed to attempt to identify archaeological sites within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the Project, and to delineate the horizontal and vertical extents of any identified sites. The survey was conducted in anticipation of the requirement for a Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) Site Permit prior to construction.

The APE consisted of all locations where ground disturbance may occur for the Project (Exhibit 1). The potential for ground disturbance includes the entirety of 6.83-acre Project Area. The Project consists of a proposed 80 MWac Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

Mr. Ryan Steeves, MA, RPA, meets the Secretary of Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for archaeology as stipulated in 36 C.F.R. Part 61 and served as Principal Investigator for the Project. Westwood Cultural Resource Manager Ryan P. Grohnke, RA, managed the cultural resources task of the Project.

The Project Area is located in Minnesota Archaeological Region 4E – Central Lakes Deciduous East. Prehistoric camp sites in this region are generally located near lakes, rivers, and other water sources with resource procurement sites located anywhere the resource could be found (Anfinson 1990). Early and Early Middle Prehistoric site location patterns are not well known, but by the Late Middle Prehistoric large village sites were found on major lakes, with smaller campsites found along major rivers and large lakes. By the Late Prehistoric Period, much of the region was only used for resource procurement with villages generally near wild rice beds (Anfinson 1990; Gibbon et al. 2002).

At contact, Santee Dakota groups controlled the eastern part of the Central Lakes Deciduous Region. By the mid-1700s, the Ojibwa had begun to move into the northern parts of the region and controlled this section of the Central Lakes Deciduous Region by the early 1800s. During this period of strife, much of the southern portion of the region remained unoccupied. In general, however, historic Indian village locations followed the Late Prehistoric Period pattern and are often located near wild rice beds. By the late 1600s, French traders had entered the region and established posts on some major lakes and rivers, a pattern generally followed by later Anglo-American traders. The contact period as defined in this review ends with the establishment of the American settlement at Fort Snelling in 1821 (Gibbon et al. 2002).

Literature Review

No previously recorded archaeological sites are within the Study Area. There are 18 historic resources in the Study Area (Table 1). Thirteen of the previously recorded resources are *Unevaluated* for NRHP eligibility, and four have been determined *Not Eligible* for NRHP eligibility. One liner district, XX-RRD-CSP044, the St. Paul and Chicago Railroad, has been determined *Eligible* for the NRHP. The historic rail district and the associated section of rail corridor (WA-CGC-00211) are within 40 meters of the Project Area. This section of line represents the Chicago Milwaukee St. Paul & Pacific Railroad Line. The entrance to the 3M Chemolite Plant (WA-CGC-00019) is to the immediate southwest and is located across Miller Road.

Table 1: Historic Properties within 1-mile of the Project.

SHPO ID	Resource Name	Property Type	Address	NRHP Status	Proximity Project
XX-RRD-CSP044	St. Paul and Chicago Railway Company/Chicago Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway Company/Chicago Milwaukee St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company, River Division Railroad Corridor Historic District	District	RR right-of-way between Union Depot in St. Paul and Mississ. Riv. Crossing near La Crescent	Eligible	Buffer/ Adjacent
XX-ROD-00040	Trunk Highway 10	Structure	TH10	Unevaluated	Buffer
XX-ROD-00006 XX-ROD-00009	Trunk Highway 61 (Formerly TH 1 and 3)	Structure	TH61	Not Eligible	Buffer
WACGC-00210	Point Douglas Road – Cottage Grove Segment	Structure	Point Douglas Road	Unevaluated	Buffer
WA-CGC-00212	Chicago Burlington & Quincy Railroad Line	Structure		Not Eligible	Buffer
WA-CGC-00211	Chicago Milwaukee St. Paul & Pacific Railroad Line	Structure		Unevaluated	Buffer
WA-CGC-00214	Glacial River Channel	Site	off U.S. Hwy. 10	Unevaluated	Buffer
WA-CGC-00154	Larson House	Building	9747 Miller Road	Unevaluated	Buffer
WA-CGC-00174	Smallidge Farmstead (razed)	Building	10051 Miller Road	Unevaluated	Buffer
WA-CGC-00229	Cottage View Drive-In	Building	9338 Point Douglas Road East	Not Eligible	Buffer

SHPO ID	Resource Name	Property Type	Address	NRHP Status	Proximity Project
WA-CGC-00019	3M Chemolite Plant	Building	xxx Chemolite Rd.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WA-CGC-00155	Kemp Farmstead	Building	9430 Point Douglas Road	Unevaluated	Buffer
WA-CGC-00156	Pommerening Barn	Building	9826 Point Douglas Rd.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WA-CGC-00064	James Sheridan Barn (razed)	Building	9866 Kimbro Avenue South	Unevaluated	Buffer
WA-CGC-00159	Eckdahl House	Building	10581 E. Point Douglas Road	Unevaluated	Buffer
WA-CGC-00225	Point Douglas Road Wayside Rest Area	Structure	East Point Douglas Road	Unevaluated	Buffer
WA-CGC-00158	Hale Barn	Building	10532 East Point Douglas Road	Unevaluated	Buffer
WA-CGC-00237	Bridge 9071	Structure	CSAH 19 3.1 mi NW of Jct. TH 95	Not Eligible	Buffer

Other Sources

Historical maps, atlases, and aerial photographs of the Project Area were reviewed to ascertain locations of potential, unrecorded, historic or archaeological resources. Maps and aerial photographs with coverage of the Study Area in Cottage Grove were reviewed in the following publications:

- 1847 General Land Office Survey Map (Bureau of Land Management [BLM])
- 1870-79? Geologic and Natural History Survey of Minnesota: Washington County (N.H. Winchell)
- 1874 Map of Washington County, Minn., St. Corix Valley Academy, Afton. (A.T. Andreas)
- 1847-1857 Road Book 1, Washington County, Minnesota (Minnesota Historical Society)
- 1911 Washington County Map (Rand, McNally and Co.)
- 1912 Cottage Grove Township, Langdon, St Paul Park (Web Publishing Co.)
- 1938 Cottage Grove Township, Langboy, St. Paul Park (Hudson Map Co.)
- 1950, 1951, 1967 Map of St Paul Park, MN 7.5 topographic maps (USGS 2025)
- 1953, 1959 Saint Paul, MN 7.5' topographic maps (USGS 2025)
- 1985, 1990 Hastings Scale 1:100000 topographic maps (USGS 2025)
- 1947, 1957, 1966, 1972, 1979, 1980, 1986, 1991, 2003, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021 aerial photography (Historic Aerials 2025)

The BLM GLO Map notes the natural ridge passing through the Study Area, with the Mississippi River in the southern portion of the Study Area. The 1874 Winchell Map depicts the C.M. Rail Road (Chicago-Minneapolis) as running through the Study Area. No structures are presented within the Study Area.

The 1874 Winchell map shows some development, including main roads to the east and north of the Study Area, as well as ownership to the south along the Mississippi River. A school appears just over one mile from the study area, at the intersection of two main roadways.

The 1911 Rand, McNally and Company Map further confirms the presence of the Chicago Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad (WA-CGC-00211) within the vicinity of the Project as well as the Chicago Burlington and Quincy Railroad Line (WA-CHC-00212) to the south of the Project.

In 1912, the parcel in the northeast quarter of Section 27, to the northeast of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad Line, has an owner with the surname Daulton. In 1938, Jos. A Daulton is shown to be the owner of the same parcel. Both maps show that Daulton also owned the southwest corner of Section 22 adjacent to the property. A roadway was located to the west of Daulton's property, while trunk highways 10 and 61 defined the boundary to the northeast in the 1938 map. Structures are not marked within the property on either map.

The 1950, 1951, and 1967 St. Paul Park topographic maps do not depict any structures located in the northwest corner of Section 27. To the south a substation and disposal ponds appear to be among the infrastructure put in place by 1967.

The 1967 topographic map does not show any structures within the Project Area. Historic aerial photographs from 1966 do show one small substation in place near the train tracks, immediately to the west of the Project Area. Prior to this, 1947 and 1957 historic aerial photos show the land as used for agriculture. An expansion is added to the substation to the south in 1972, which was destroyed between 1986 and 1991. The expansion is adjacent to, but outside of, the Project Area. The LSP-Cottage Grove power station is in place by 2003.

Field Investigations

Ryan Steeves completed a Phase I Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey of the proposed Project APE on October 9, 2025 (Exhibit 1). Weather was clear and cool throughout the day. Survey consisted of visual inspection of the entirety of the Project as well as 21 subsurface shovel tests which were screened through ¼-inch hardware mesh. Shovel testing was completed in intervals of 15 meters with adjustments made to compensate for heavy disturbance and drainages. The 21 test locations were examined, recorded, and photographed (Exhibit 2; Appendix B) with the results available in Appendix A.

Several shovel tests were conducted in areas that appeared least disturbed throughout the Project Area. The western shovel test area was placed above the modified drainage in the southwestern portion of the Project, south of the pressurized gas pipe infrastructure. The southern portion of this shovel testing area showed heavy gravel near the drainage area. A large field in the northeast portion of the Project was also shovel tested in a 15-meter grid. The soils within the field were inconsistent and should be considered heavily disturbed. Those areas adjacent to the plant entrance were heavily landscaped, with buried lines prevalent. Appendix B shows images of disturbance throughout the Project Area. Testing failed to yield any cultural materials.

Natural soils in the Project consist of the Dickman and Sparta series, both of which consist of very deep, drained soils that formed in glacial outwash or eolian materials. The A horizon of the Sparta Series consists of a 10YR 2/2 loamy fine sand, which is followed by an AB horizon of 7.5YR 3/2. Sparta soils are often located in cultivated fields. The AB horizon extends to approximately 38 cm, where a 7.5YR 4/4 fine sand is encountered. The A-horizon of the Dickman Series consists of a 10YR 2/1 sandy loam that transitions into a 10YR 3/1 sandy loam. The B horizon begins with a

10YR 4/3 sandy loam (SoilWeb 2025). Encountered soils throughout the Project Area were not consistent with natural soils. Elements of the A-Horizon were often mixed with lower levels and potentially introduced soils. Soils within the Project Area were heavily disturbed.

Results and Recommendations

No cultural resources were identified during the archaeological survey of the APE. It is likely that the entirety of the Project was disturbed during the construction of the Cottage Grove Facility. Westwood recommends that the Project may proceed as planned.

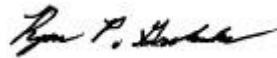
Westwood stresses that if construction plans are altered to include areas not previously surveyed, those locations must be examined for cultural resources. Although an archaeological survey was completed, the possibility of unidentified resources remains. Minnesota Statute 307.08, the Private Cemeteries Act, prohibits the intentional disturbance of human burials. If human remains are encountered during construction activities, all ground disturbing activity must cease and local law enforcement must be notified.

Sincerely,

WESTWOOD PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



Ryan Steeves, MA RPA
Principal Investigator



Ryan P. Grohnke, RA
Cultural Resources Manager

Attached:

- Exhibit 1: Project Location
- Exhibit 2: Archaeological Investigation Results
- Appendix A: Shovel Test Results Table
- Appendix B: Representative Photographs

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APPENDIX A:

Shovel Test Results Table

Cottage Grove BESS Project

Washington County, Minnesota

Appendix A. Shovel Test Results

Pole ID/ Shovel Test #	Depth (cmbs)	Soil Description	Soil Color	Results	Comments
CG-01	0-8	Loam; loam; loam and sand; loamy sand	10YR 3/3	Negative	Increasingly compact and increasingly mottled towards the base.
	8-19		10YR 2/2		
	19-28		10YR 2/2 (10YR 5/4)		
	28-48		10YR 2/2 (10YR 5/4)		
	Base of Excavation				
CG-02	0-10	Loam; loam; loam and sand	10YR 3/3	Negative	Increasingly compact and increasingly mottled towards the base.
	10-23		10YR 2/2		
	23-49		10YR 2/2 (10YR 5/4)		
	Base of Excavation				
CG-03	0-12	Sandy loam; sandy loam	10YR 4/3	Negative	Increasing rock and gravel towards base, 40%.
	12-44		10YR 4/2		
	Base of Excavation				
CG-04	0-13	Sandy loam; sandy loam	10YR 4/3	Negative	Increasing rock and gravel towards base, 40%.
	13-34		10YR 4/2		
	Base of Excavation				
CG-05	0-20	Sandy loam; sandy loam	10YR 4/3	Negative	Increasing rock and gravel towards base, 40%.
	20-40		10YR 4/2		
	Base of Excavation				
CG-06	0-19	Sandy loam; sandy loam	10YR 4/3	Negative	Increasing rock and gravel towards base, 40%.
	19-47		10YR 4/2		
	Base of Excavation				

Appendix A. Shovel Test Results

Pole ID/ Shovel Test #	Depth (cmbs)	Soil Description	Soil Color	Results	Comments
CG-07	0-8	Loamy clay; sand; loamy sand; sand	10YR 3/4	Negative	Level II is likely result of disturbance, small sand layer. Base entirely sand.
	8-11		10YR 7/2		
	11-23		10YR 2/2		
	23-40		10YR 5/2		
	Base of Excavation				
CG-08	0-10	Compact mottled clay	10YR 2/2 (10YR 5/2)	Negative	Very compact mottled clay.
	Base of Excavation				
CG-09	0-10	Compact clay; clay sand	10YR 2/2 (10YR 5/2)	Negative	Mottled compact clay gives way to sand. Heavy disturbance.
	10-30		10YR 5/3		
	Base of Excavation				
CG-10	0-10	Compact clay; clay sand	10YR 3/3	Negative	Heavily disturbed.
	10-36		10YR 4/3		
	Base of Excavation				
CG-11	0-10	Compact mottled clay	10YR 2/2 (10YR 5/2)	Negative	Heavily disturbed.
	Base of Excavation				
CG-12	0-15	Clay loam; sandy clay loam	10YR 3/3	Negative	Heavily disturbed.
	15-34		10YR 5/2		
	Base of Excavation				
CG-13	0-10	Clay loam; sandy clay loam	10YR 3/3	Negative	Heavily disturbed
	10-22		10YR 5/2		
	Base of Excavation				

Appendix A. Shovel Test Results

Pole ID/ Shovel Test #	Depth (cmbs)	Soil Description	Soil Color	Results	Comments
CG-14	0-13	Compact mottled clay	10YR 2/2 (10YR 5/2)	Negative	Very compact, heavily disturbed.
	Base of Excavation				
CG-15	0-14	Clay loam; sandy clay loam	10YR 3/3	Negative	Heavily disturbed.
	14-34		10YR 5/2		
	Base of Excavation				
CG-16	0-10	Compact mottled clay	10YR 2/2 (10YR 5/2)	Negative	Very compact, heavily disturbed.
	Base of Excavation				
CG-17	0-13	Compact mottled clay; sandy clay	10YR 2/2 (10YR 5/2)	Negative	Very compact, heavily disturbed.
	13-20		10YR 5/2		
	Base of Excavation				
CG-18	0-15	Clay loam; sandy clay loam	10YR 3/3	Negative	Heavily disturbed.
	15-34		10YR 5/2		
	Base of Excavation				
CG-19	0-12	Clay loam; sandy clay loam	10YR 3/3	Negative	Heavily disturbed.
	12-27		10YR 5/2		
	Base of Excavation				
CG-20	0-13	Clay loam; sandy clay loam	10YR 3/3	Negative	Heavily disturbed.
	13-29		10YR 5/2		
	Base of Excavation				
CG-21	0-10	Clay loam; sandy clay loam	10YR 3/3	Negative	Heavily disturbed.
	10-33		10YR 5/2		
	Base of Excavation				

APPENDIX B:

Representative Photographs

Cottage Grove BESS Project

Washington County, MN

Photo 1.
Overview from
southwest
Property Area,
facing north,
large drainage
area.



Photo 2. Large
wetland,
southern
Project Area,
facing north.



Photo 3. Central Project Area, landscape with buried lines, heavily disturbed, facing south.



Photo 4. Northwest Project Area, pressurized gas pipe, heavily modified landscape.



Photo 5.
Northern
Project Area,
buried lines,
ditch and road
berm, facing
south.



Photo 6.
Northern
corridor,
disturbed.

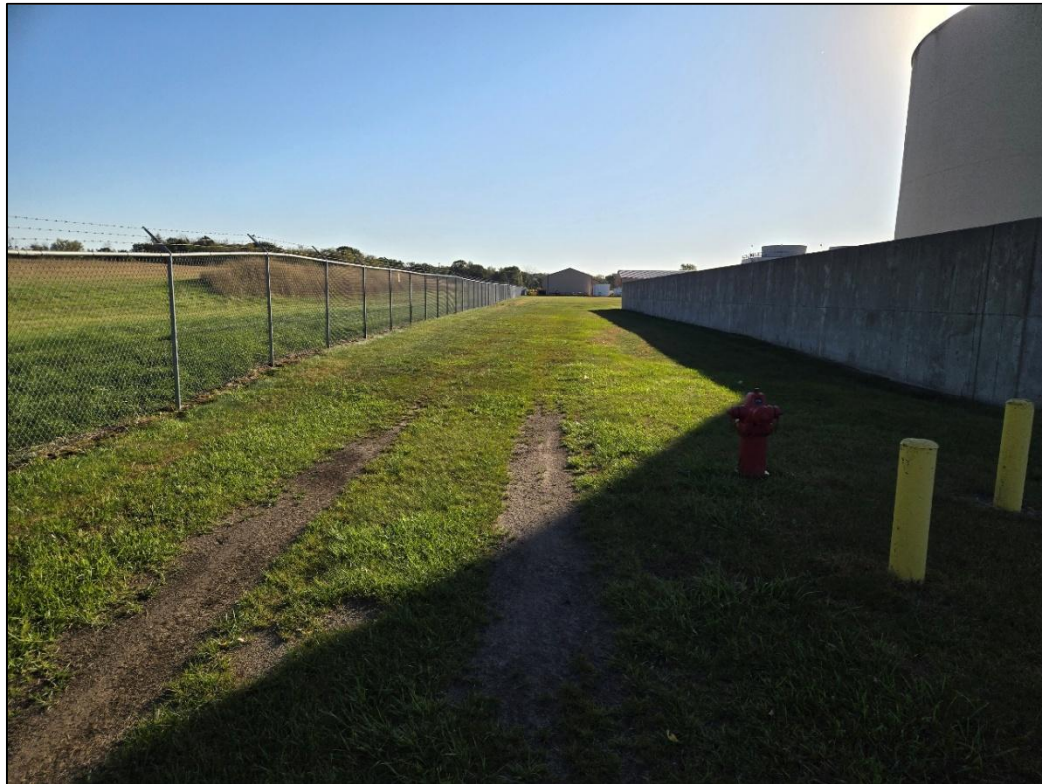


Photo 7.
Overview from
southwest
Property Area,
facing north,
large drainage
area.



Photo 8.
Disturbed area
near in place
infrastructure.



Photo 9.
Western shovel
testing area,
towards fence
line. Facing
south.



Photo 10.
Eastern shovel
testing area
towards fence
line, facing
north.



Photo 11. CG-01



Photo 12. CG-06

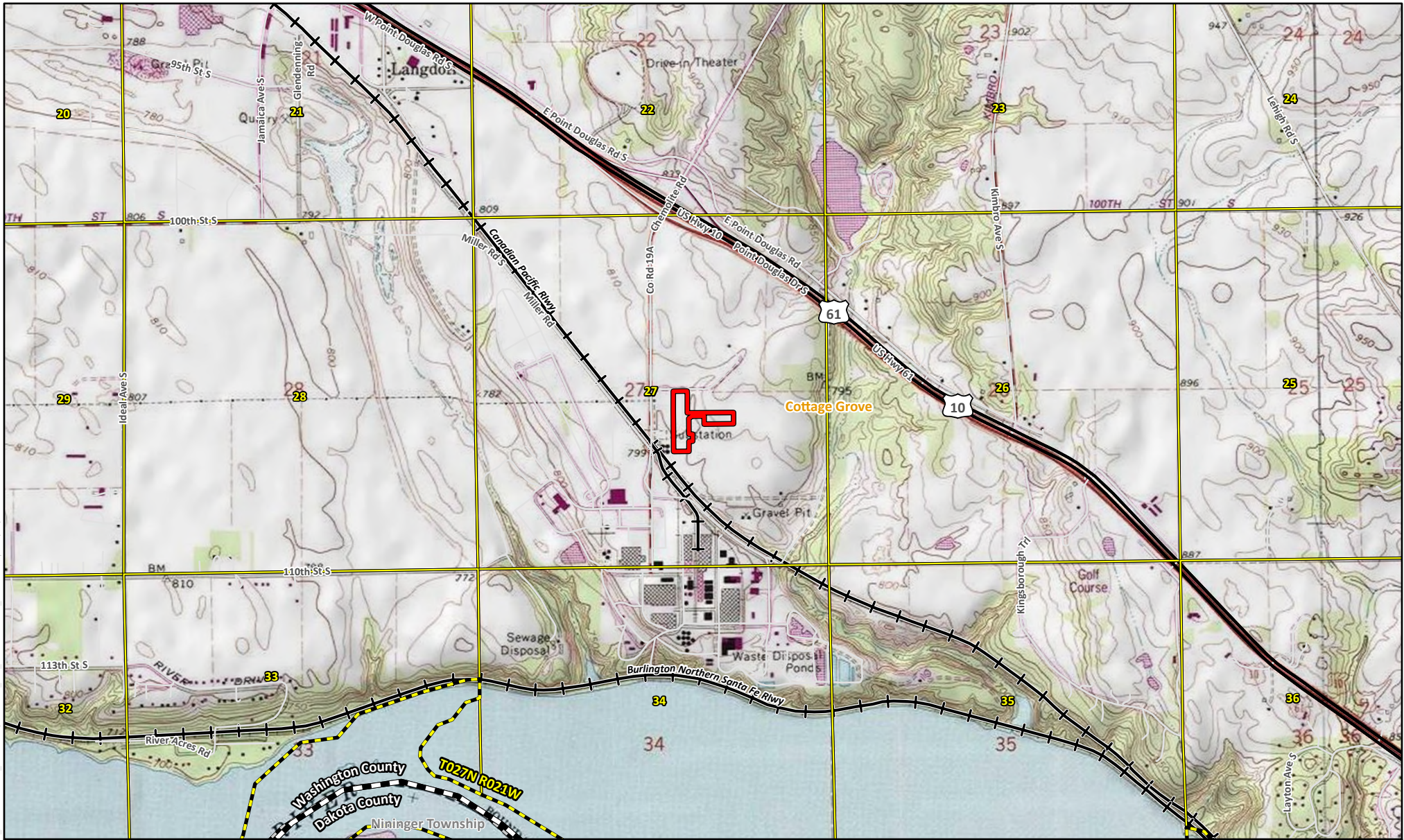


Photo 13. CG-07



Photo 14. CG-12





Data Source(s): Westwood (2026); Esri WMS USA Topo & World Streets Basemaps (Accessed 2025); PLSS (2024); U.S. Census Bureau (2024).



Westwood
Toll Free (888) 937-5150 westwoodps.com

Cottage Grove BESS Project

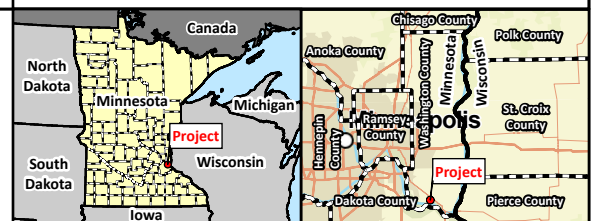
Project Location & USGS Topography

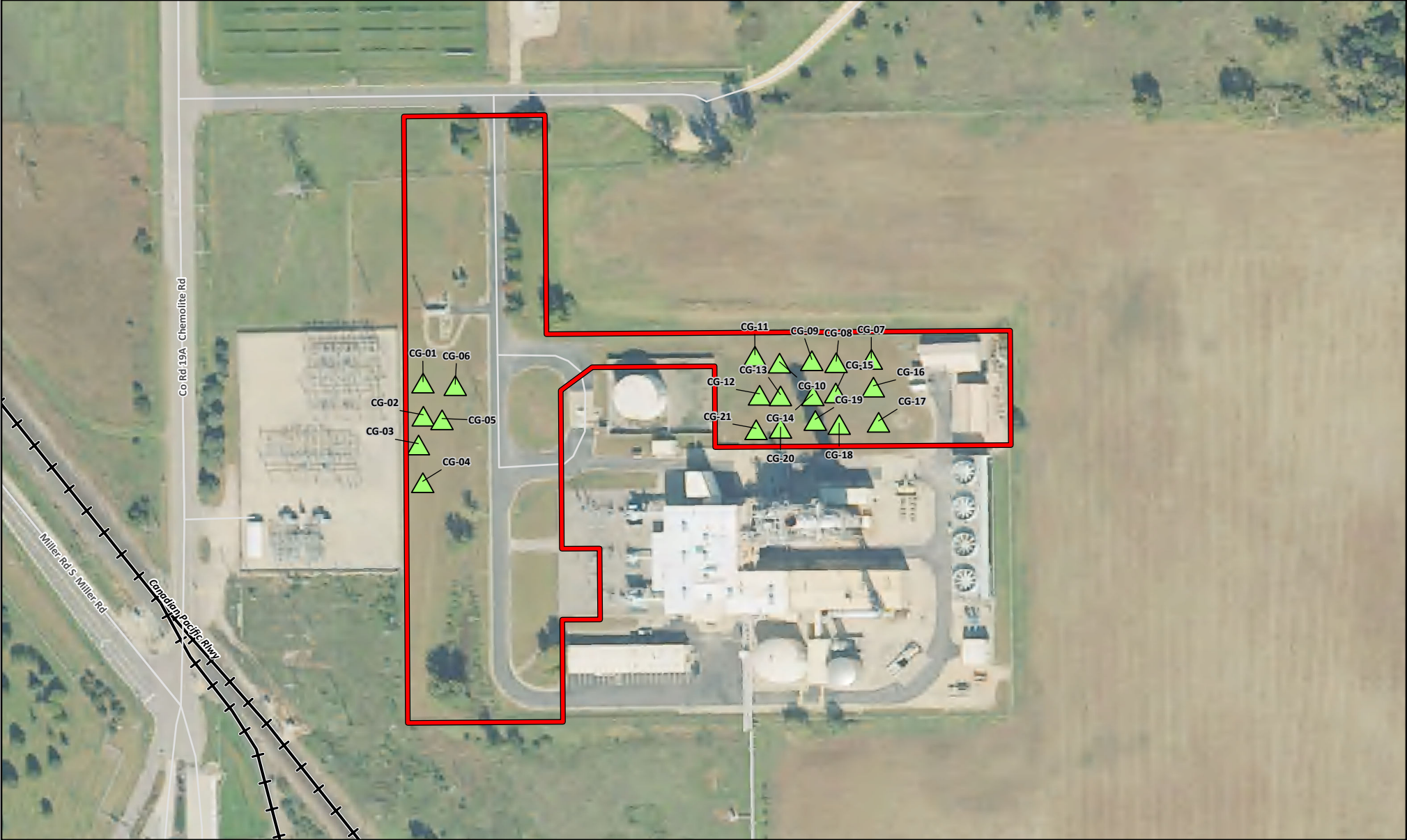
Legend

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Project Area | PLSS Section Boundary | Major Road |
| County Boundary | Municipal Boundary | Road |
| PLSS Township Boundary | Railroad | |

Cottage Grove, Washington County, Minnesota

Exhibit 1





Data Source(s): Westwood (2026); NAIP (2025); U.S. Census Bureau (2024, 2025).



Westwood
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Cottage Grove BESS Project

Archaeological Investigation Results

Legend



Project Area



Railroad



Road



Negative Shovel Test Point

Cottage Grove, Washington County, Minnesota

Exhibit 2