

Appendix D

Correspondence with Agencies and Tribes

Federal Agencies

Federal Aviation Administration



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

April 14, 2023

Fred Souchet
Federal Aviation Administration
Air Traffic - Minnesota
fred.souchet@faa.gov

**Subject: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project
115-kV Transmission Line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota**

Fred Souchet:

Great River Energy is proposing to reroute approximately 4.5 miles of an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota as part of the Cedar Lake Reroute Project (the Project). The purpose of the Project is to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. Great River Energy is planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in June 2023.

Great River Energy held an Open House at the American Legion Park Ballroom in New Prague, Minnesota on March 29, 2023, to provide information and solicit comments from landowners and other interested stakeholders. Great River Energy received feedback at the Open House which resulted in revisions to its proposed route. At this time, Great River Energy's proposed route would begin at the existing Cedar Lake Substation and travel 6.3 miles to tie-in with the existing MV-EVX 115-kV transmission line near the intersection of Panama Avenue/County Road 23 and Minnesota Highway 19. The Project would be located in Helena and Cedar Lake Townships, east of the City of New Prague, in Scott County, and in Wheatland Township, in Rice County, MN.

Fred Souchet
April 14, 2023
Page 2

Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project and the proposed route. The enclosed Project Fact Sheet provides additional information on the Project, including a map of the Project area and proposed route. Great River Energy also maintains a web site that contains Project information at: https://greatriverenergy.com/transmission_project/cedar-lake-transmission-project/. Please contact me at 763-445-5210 or MStrohfu@GREnergy.com should you need additional information.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

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

Mark Strohfus
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting

Encl: Project Fact Sheet

cc: Robert Kiser

Cedar Lake reroute transmission project

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Overview

The Project will include construction of a new approximately 6.3-mile 115-kV transmission line. The transmission line will connect at Great River Energy's existing MV-EVX 115-kV transmission line near the intersection of County Road 23 and Minnesota Highway 19 and extend to the existing Cedar Lake Substation south of County Road 2 (see map on back). The Project will be built to Great River Energy's 115-kV design but will initially operate at 69 kV. Designing to 115-kV standards will simplify operating the regional transmission system at 115 kV as electrification and load development increases in the area. The route permit application will include analyses with the transmission line operating at 115 kV. Once the transmission line is constructed and connected to the substation, Great River Energy's existing 4.5-mile MV-CDT 115-kV transmission circuit, which is co-located in part on the CapX2020 345-kV transmission structures along County Road 2, will be removed.

After Great River Energy submits the route permit application to the Minnesota PUC, a representative from Great River Energy will contact property owners to discuss access to the proposed route and the process for acquisition of easements. Following construction of the transmission line, Great River Energy will promptly repair any damages that may occur.



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

Permitting and public involvement

Great River Energy will submit a route permit application for the proposed project to the PUC. During the route permit process, the public and regulatory agencies will have numerous opportunities to provide input on the Project, including public meetings facilitated by the PUC and Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DOC EERA). The DOC EERA will prepare an environmental assessment for the Project. Construction cannot begin until an approved route permit is issued by the PUC.

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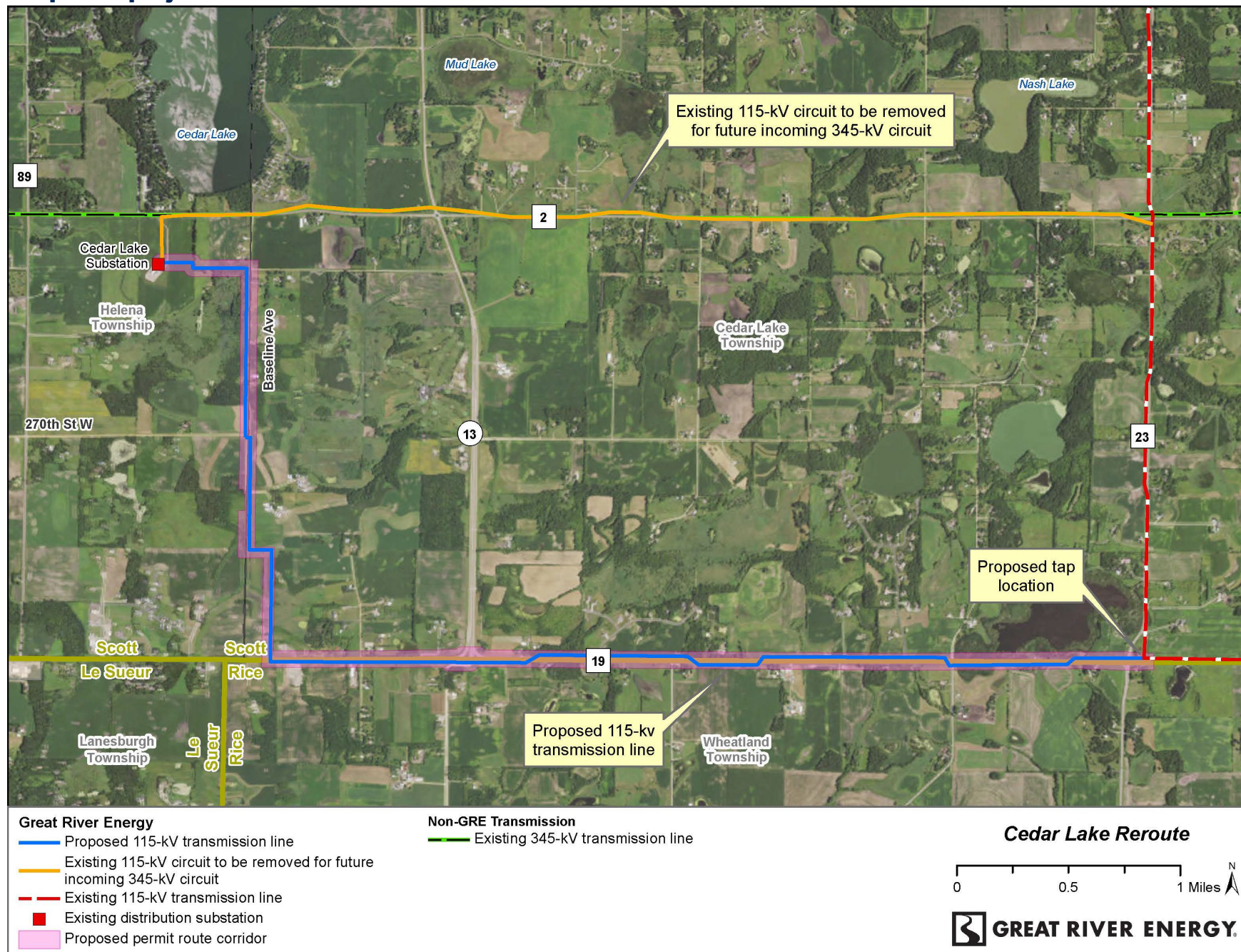
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Quick facts

Length	– 6.3 miles
Voltage	– 115 kV (initially operated at 69 kV)
Structures	– 60 to 90-foot wood or steel poles
Spans	– 300 to 400 feet apart
Right of way	– 100-foot-wide right of way, 50 feet on each side of the centerline
Permits	– MN Public Utilities Commission route permit

Proposed project



Great River Energy representatives

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

Matthew Hagelin, SR/WA
Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights
(763) 445-5981 | mhagelin@greenergy.com

Mark Strohbus
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting
763-445-5210 | mstrohbus@greenergy.com

4/12/2023

From: [Kiser, Robert K-CTR \(FAA\)](#)
To: [Kristin Lenz](#); [Souchet, Fred \(FAA\)](#)
Cc: [Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG](#); [Britta Bergland](#)
Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project Introduction
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 1:49:59 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Kristin,

I'd say just to file for the transmission lines where you want them to go and if there are any that you are replacing, just show it as the prior study. Otherwise, I will work them like I would normally. We will see how the Part 77 looks but I can't see that until they are already filed. Additionally, if you have that many miles of lines, please make sure to fill out the correct city and/or county as it makes verifying them that much easier.

Please let me know if you have any further questions or concerns. I look forward to working with you going forward on this project.

Robby

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

Robby Kiser

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

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



- 1) To see if your structure is required to file with FAA, please go to:
<https://oeaaa.faa.gov/oeaaa/external/gisTools/gisAction.jsp?action=showNoNoticeRequiredToolForm>
- 2) OEAAA.faa.gov Filing Instructions: <https://oeaaa.faa.gov/oeaaa/external/content/instructions.jsp>
- 3) General FAQs: <https://oeaaa.faa.gov/oeaaa/external/searchAction.jsp?action=generalFAQs>
- 4) DOT/FAA Obstruction Marking & Lighting Advisory Circular (AC 70/7460-1M):
https://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/advisory_circulars/index.cfm/go/document.information/documentID/1030047
- 5) Light Outage Reporting: <https://oeaaa.faa.gov/oeaaa/external/content/lightOutageReporting.jsp>
- 6) Helpdesk (System Issues/Support): 202-580-7500/Email: oeaaa_helpdesk@cghtech.com

From: Kristin Lenz <kristin.lenz@merjent.com>
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2023 3:13 PM
To: Souchet, Fred (FAA) <Fred.Souchet@faa.gov>; Kiser, Robert K-CTR (FAA) <Robert.K-CTR.Kiser@faa.gov>
Cc: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfu@GREnergy.com>; Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>

Subject: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project Introduction

Good afternoon,

Great River Energy is proposing to reroute approximately 4.5 miles of an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota as part of the Cedar Lake Reroute Project (the Project). The purpose of the Project is to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. Great River Energy is planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in June 2023.

Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project and the proposed route. The enclosed letter and Project Fact Sheet provide additional information on the Project, including a map of the Project area and proposed route. Great River Energy also maintains a web site that contains Project information at: https://greatriverenergy.com/transmission_project/cedar-lake-transmission-project/. Please contact Mark Strohfus at 763-445-5210 or MStrohfu@GREnergy.com should you need additional information.

Thank you,
Kristin Lenz on behalf of Mark Strohfus, Great River Energy

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



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

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



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

April 14, 2023

Chad Konickson
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District - Regulatory and Permits
332 Minnesota St., Ste. E1500
St. Paul, MN 55101
usace_requests_MN@usace.army.mil

**Subject: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project
115-kV Transmission Line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota**

Chad Konickson:

Great River Energy is proposing to reroute approximately 4.5 miles of an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota as part of the Cedar Lake Reroute Project (the Project). The purpose of the Project is to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. Great River Energy is planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in June 2023.

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Chad Konickson
April 14, 2023
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Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

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Mark Strohfu
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting

Encl: Project Fact Sheet

Cedar Lake reroute transmission project

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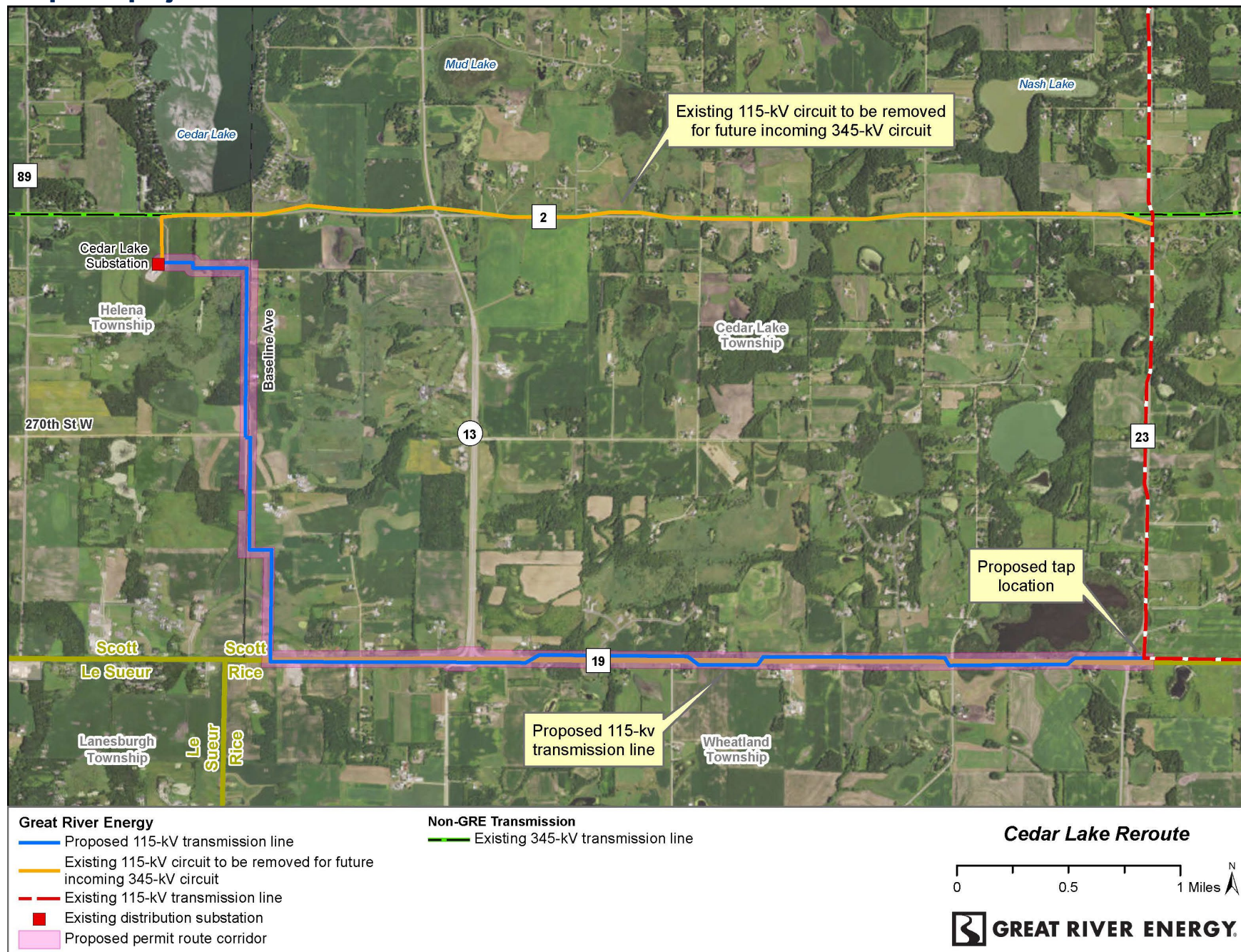
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Proposed project



Great River Energy representatives

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 Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights
 (763) 445-5981 | mhagelin@greenergy.com

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

4/12/2023



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

04/17/2023

Regulatory File No. MVP-2017-01526-RMH

THIS IS NOT A PERMIT

Mark Strohfus
1 Main Street SE
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414

To: Mark Strohfus:

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

File Number: MVP-2017-01526-RMH

Applicant: Mark Strohfus

Project Name: Great River Energy / Cedar Lake 115 kV Transmission Line Reroute

Project Location: Section 24 of Township 113 N, Range 23 W, Scott County, Minnesota
(Latitude: 44.5727324992638; Longitude: -93.4866532094447)

Received Date: 04/17/2023

Project Manager: Raelene Hegge
(651) 290-5355
Raelene.Hegge@usace.army.mil

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

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

Thank you.

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



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

May 11, 2023

Regulatory File No. MVP-2017-01526-RMH

Great River Energy
c/o: Mark Strohfus
12300 Elm Creek Blvd
Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718
mstrohfus@greenergy.com

Dear Mark Strohfus:

This letter is in response to correspondence we received regarding the Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project. The project site is located in Helena and Cedar Lake Townships, east of the City of New Prague, in Scott County, and in Wheatland Township, in Rice County, MN.

Without detailed plans, we cannot provide specific comments regarding the effects the proposed activity would have on jurisdictional waters of the United States or whether a Department of the Army Permit would be required. In lieu of a specific response, please consider the following general information concerning our regulatory program that may apply to the proposed project.

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

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

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

If the proposal requires a Section 404 permit application, the Guidelines specifically require that "no discharge of dredged or fill material shall be permitted if there is a practicable

Regulatory Branch (File No. MVP-2017-01526-RMH)

alternative to the proposed discharge which would have less adverse impact on the aquatic ecosystem, so long as the alternative does not have other significant adverse environmental consequences" (40 CFR § 230.10(a)). Time and money spent on the proposal prior to applying for a Section 404 permit cannot be factored into the Corps' decision whether there is a less damaging practicable alternative to the proposal.

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

If you have any questions, please contact Raelene Hegge in our St. Paul office at (651) 290-5355 or Raelene.Hegge@usace.army.mil. In any correspondence or inquiries, please refer to the Regulatory file number shown above.

Sincerely,

Raelene Hegge
Regulatory Specialist

cc:
Kristin Lenz, Merjent (kristin.lenz@merjent.com)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District



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

April 14, 2023

Eric Mruz
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District
3815 American Blvd.
Bloomington, MN 55425
eric_mruz@fws.gov

**Subject: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project
115-kV Transmission Line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota**

Eric Mruz:

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Eric Mruz
April 14, 2023
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GREAT RIVER ENERGY

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Mark Strohfu
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting

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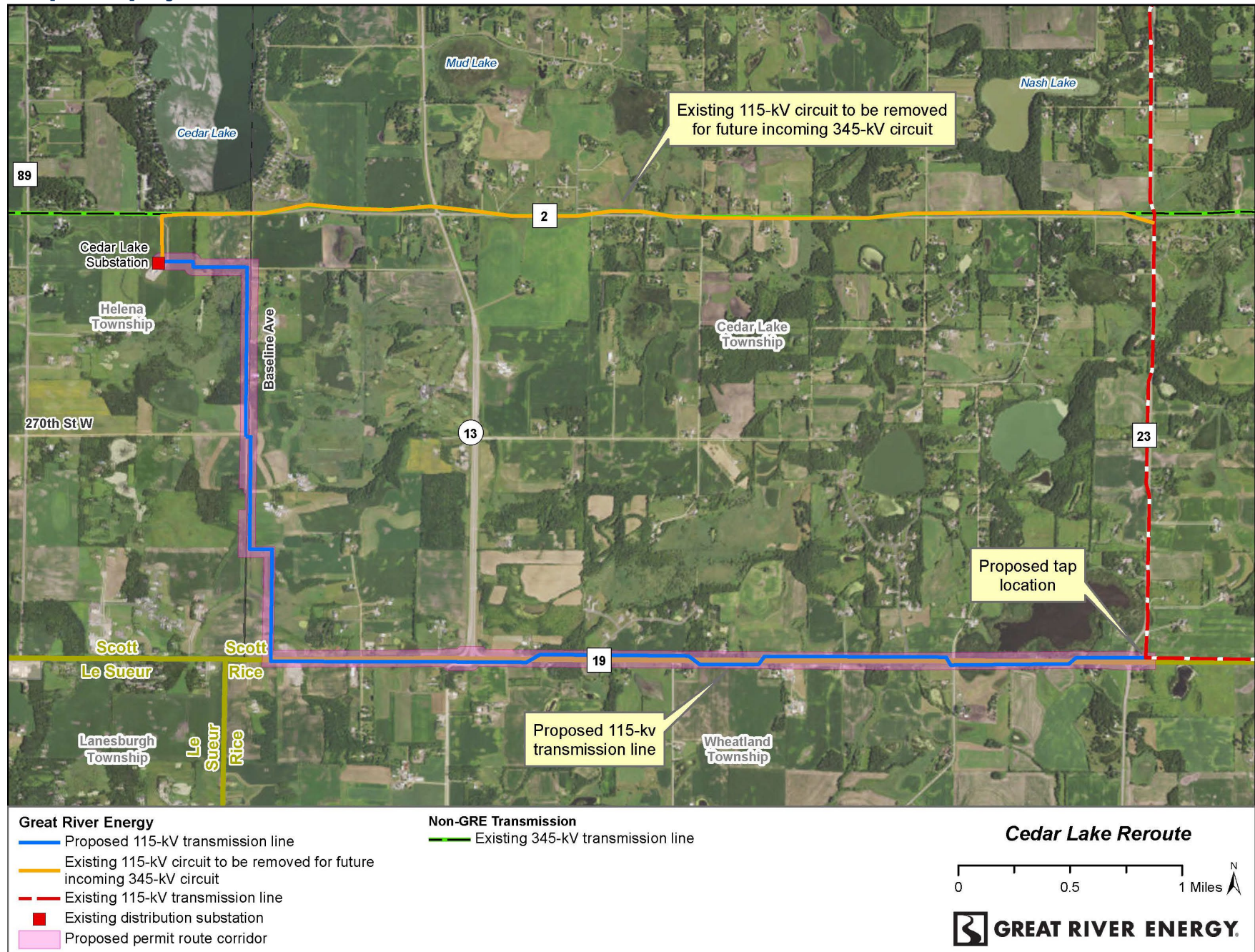
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Mark Strohfus
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting
763-445-5210 | mstrohfus@greenergy.com

4/12/2023

From: [Britta Bergland](#)
To: [Healy, Faye L](#); [Mruz, Eric](#); [Randa, Jacob G](#)
Cc: [Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG](#); [Kristin Lenz](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] GRE Cedar Lake Reroute Project - FWS Interest Review
Date: Friday, May 19, 2023 11:45:31 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

That works, thank you! I'll set up a meeting.

Have a great weekend –

Britta

Britta Bergland

612.746.3673 direct
612.220.9692 mobile
britta.bergland@merjent.com



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

From: Healy, Faye L <faye_healy@fws.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2023 9:28 AM
To: Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>; Mruz, Eric <eric_mruz@fws.gov>; Randa, Jacob G <Jacob_Randa@fws.gov>
Cc: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfu@GREnergy.com>; Kristin Lenz <kristin.lenz@merjent.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] GRE Cedar Lake Reroute Project - FWS Interest Review

Would 9-10am on Tuesday the 23rd work?

Faye Healy (she/her) · Supervisory Wildlife Refuge Specialist · Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge & Wetland Management District · 3815 American Blvd East · Bloomington MN 55425 · cell 612-720-3420 · faye_healy@fws.gov



Find us on [Facebook](#) | On the Web: fws.gov/refuge/minnesota_valley

From: Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 1:19 PM

To: Healy, Faye L <faye_healy@fws.gov>; Mruz, Eric <eric_mruz@fws.gov>; Randa, Jacob G <Jacob_Randa@fws.gov>

Cc: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfu@GREnergy.com>; Kristin Lenz <kristin.lenz@merjent.com>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] GRE Cedar Lake Reroute Project - FWS Interest Review

Hi Faye, thanks – I am only free until 10am on Wednesday – I have an appointment that starts at 10am. Do any other times work for you? Feel free to send over some blocks of time that are good on your end.

Thanks!

Britta Bergland

612.746.3673 direct

612.220.9692 mobile

britta.bergland@merjent.com



1 Main Street SE, Suite 300

Minneapolis, MN 55414

612.746.3660

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From: Healy, Faye L <faye_healy@fws.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 7:30 AM

To: Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>; Mruz, Eric <eric_mruz@fws.gov>; Randa, Jacob G <Jacob_Randa@fws.gov>

Cc: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfu@GREnergy.com>; Kristin Lenz <kristin.lenz@merjent.com>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] GRE Cedar Lake Reroute Project - FWS Interest Review

We are available Wednesday at 10 am.

Faye Healy (she/her) · Supervisory Wildlife Refuge Specialist · Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge & Wetland Management District · 3815 American Blvd East · Bloomington MN 55425 · cell 612-720-3420 · faye_healy@fws.gov



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From: Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 12:11 PM

To: Healy, Faye L <faye_healy@fws.gov>; Mruz, Eric <eric_mruz@fws.gov>; Randa, Jacob G <Jacob_Randa@fws.gov>
Cc: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfus@GREnergy.com>; Kristin Lenz <kristin.lenz@merjent.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] GRE Cedar Lake Reroute Project - FWS Interest Review

Good afternoon – Yes, we'd be happy to set a meeting for next week. Would your group have availability between 8-10am on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Friday? To be safe I think we should book an hour. If you let me know a time that works for you, I can send an invite.

Thanks!

Britta Bergland

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From: Healy, Faye L <faye_healy@fws.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 11:03 AM
To: Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>; Mruz, Eric <eric_mruz@fws.gov>; Randa, Jacob G <Jacob_Randa@fws.gov>
Cc: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfus@GREnergy.com>; Kristin Lenz <kristin.lenz@merjent.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] GRE Cedar Lake Reroute Project - FWS Interest Review

Hi Britta,

Eric is on annual leave right now, but he will be back by next week.

We had some questions about this project. Would it be possible for us to set up a call for next week to discuss?

Thanks

Faye Healy (she/her) · Supervisory Wildlife Refuge Specialist · Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge & Wetland Management District · 3815 American Blvd East · Bloomington MN 55425 · cell 612-720-3420 · faye_healy@fws.gov



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From: Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 11:00 AM

To: Mruz, Eric <eric_mruz@fws.gov>

Cc: Healy, Faye L <faye_healy@fws.gov>; Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfu@GREnergy.com>;
Kristin Lenz <kristin.lenz@merjent.com>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] GRE Cedar Lake Reroute Project - FWS Interest Review

Good morning Eric – just checking in on this item. We are planning to file a Route Permit Application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission soon and would like to accurately characterize this area in our materials.

Thanks so much for your help!

Britta

Britta Bergland

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britta.bergland@merjent.com



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From: Mruz, Eric <eric_mruz@fws.gov>

Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 1:49 PM

To: Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>

Cc: Healy, Faye L <faye_healy@fws.gov>

Subject: Re: EXTERNAL: Re: [EXTERNAL] GRE Cedar Lake Reroute Project - FWS Interest Review

Britta,

my apologies, we are still working on a response.

Thanks

Eric Mruz · Acting Project Leader · Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge & Wetland Management District Complex · 3815 American Blvd East · Bloomington MN 55425 · cell 612-590 - 8073 · eric_mruz@fws.gov



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From: Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>

Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 2:24 PM

To: Mruz, Eric <eric_mruz@fws.gov>

Cc: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfus@GREnergy.com>; Hagelin, Matthew GRE-MG <mhagelin@GREnergy.com>; Kristin Lenz <kristin.lenz@merjent.com>

Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: Re: [EXTERNAL] GRE Cedar Lake Reroute Project - FWS Interest Review

Hi Eric -

Hope you are well – just checking in on the request below. Thank you for your help!

Britta

Britta Bergland

612.746.3673 direct

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From: Britta Bergland

Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2023 3:19 PM

To: Mruz, Eric <eric_mruz@fws.gov>

Cc: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfus@GREnergy.com>; Hagelin, Matthew GRE-MG <mhagelin@GREnergy.com>; Kristin Lenz <kristin.lenz@merjent.com>

Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: Re: [EXTERNAL] GRE Cedar Lake Reroute Project - FWS Interest Review

Hi Eric,

Thanks for the quick response. The attached shapefile presents the route width that GRE is considering requesting from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission as part of the Route Permit process. The transmission line, as well as any temporary construction workspace and permanent rights-of-way, would be contained within this area.

We'd appreciate your review of all FWS interests that intersect with this shape. We're especially interested in copies of public records regarding the easements and any additional information you can share that might impact GRE's routing efforts in this area.

Thanks!

Britta

Britta Bergland

612.746.3673 direct

612.220.9692 mobile

britta.bergland@merjent.com



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Minneapolis, MN 55414

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From: Mruz, Eric <eric_mruz@fws.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 11:45 AM

To: Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>

Cc: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfu@GREnergy.com>; Hagelin, Matthew GRE-MG

<mhagelin@GREnergy.com>; Kristin Lenz <kristin.lenz@merjent.com>

Subject: EXTERNAL: Re: [EXTERNAL] GRE Cedar Lake Reroute Project - FWS Interest Review

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Britta,

thank you for reaching out and providing this information. Would it be possible to get a georeferenced file (like a geodatabase feature class or shapefile) so we could line it up with the FWS cadastral layer ?

Eric Mruz · Acting Project Leader · Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge & Wetland Management District Complex · 3815 American Blvd East · Bloomington MN 55425 · cell 612-590 - 8073 · eric_mruz@fws.gov



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From: Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 10:21 AM

To: Mruz, Eric <eric_mruz@fws.gov>

Cc: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfu@GREnergy.com>; Hagelin, Matthew GRE-MG

<mhagelin@GREnergy.com>; Kristin Lenz <kristin.lenz@merjent.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] GRE Cedar Lake Reroute Project - FWS Interest Review

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Hi Eric –

Great River Energy will be applying to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a Route Permit to reroute approximately 4.5 miles of an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice County, MN, referred to as the Cedar Lake Reroute Project (Project). Great River Energy anticipates filing the Route Permit application with the Commission later in 2023. Great River Energy held an Open House in New Prague, Minnesota on March 29, 2023, to provide information and solicit comments from landowners and other interested stakeholders. This has resulted in refinements to the originally designed proposed route based on landowners' comments. At this time, Great River Energy proposes that the Project follow an approximately 6.3-mile route starting from the existing Cedar Lake Substation to tie-in with Great River Energy's existing MV-EVX 115-kV transmission line near the intersection of Panama Avenue/County Road 23 and Minnesota Highway 19. I've attached a fact sheet and overview map with additional Project information.

During routing review, we identified two USFWS units in the vicinity of the Project that are part of the Scott County Waterfowl Production Area – these are identified in USFWS realty data as the Wixon and Cervenka Easements (see below). Both are within T112, R22, S3. We are hoping that you could provide us with a copy of these easements and feedback regarding routing in this area. Please let me know if you need additional information to complete your review – thank you!

Britta



Britta Bergland

**Great River Energy
Cedar Lake Reroute Project
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) – Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District
Meeting Notes – May 23, 2023**

Participants: Steve Lawler (Great River Energy), Kristin Lenz (Merjent), Britta Bergland (Merjent), Eric Mruz (USFWS, Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District, Deputy Manager), Faye Healy (USFWS, Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District), Jacob Randa (USFWS, Wildlife Refuge Specialist)

Lenz and Bergland provided an overview of the Cedar Lake Reroute Project (Project) purpose and Proposed Route using a web viewer with Project and resource layers. Lenz explained that Great River Energy is currently preparing to apply for a Route Permit (RP) with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC). The RP application will include a route width for the Proposed Route and will include other route alternatives. The MPUC will determine which Route Width will be utilized for the Project. Within the Route Width (which is proposed as 400 feet for the Project), Great River Energy will have flexibility to move the Route Alignment based on feedback from stakeholders, including landowners and permitting agencies. This flexibility in the Route Alignment is in part in order to minimize and avoid impacts to resources along the route and allow for execution of final easements with underlying landowners. Although the Route Width currently overlaps with the USFWS Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) easements, the Route Alignment is largely to the south of the easements along 280th St E / State Highway 19, except for one portion on the eastern side where the Project Alignment currently crosses back over to the north side of 280th St E / State Highway 19 prior to connecting to Great River Energy's existing 115-kV transmission line along Panama Ave. The right-of-way (ROW) or easement width that Great River Energy would require for the Project Alignment would be 100 feet; 50 feet on either side of the line. Trees would be cleared within the 100-foot-wide ROW. Lawler shared that the proposed construction start is fall 2024.

USFWS inquired whether Great River Energy has contacted the landowners associated with the WPA. Lenz confirmed that Great River Energy held an Open House for the Project in New Prague in March 2023 and that one of the landowners attended.

USFWS also inquired regarding the process for landowner engagement and easement acquisition. Lenz explained that Great River Energy has interacted with several of the landowners along the Proposed Route. The Project Alignment would not be finalized until the MPUC selects a route, and then Great River Energy will work with resource agencies (as part of the permitting process) and landowners to finalize the alignment, including pole placement.

Lenz and Lawler asked regarding the location of the southern extent of the WPA, which does not seem accurate because the easements extend across the Minnesota Department of Transportation State Highway 19 easement to the south side of the road. Randa indicated that the road has moved a few times so it is possible that the USFWS easement does extend across the road. Randa will request a review of the legal boundaries of the easement; this will be completed by USFWS Realty staff.

After understanding the proposed Project impacts, Mruz stated that a crossing of the USFWS interests would typically be through a ROW Grant. This process takes about 2 years and would include a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) component. USFWS has concerns regarding potential impacts to wetlands and wildlife. This wetland is very productive for migratory birds. Bergland asked if the permitting process would change if permanent impacts could be avoided – for example, if poles were placed outside of USFWS interests and the transmission line just spanned the USFWS interest. Mruz was unsure and will confirm with USFWS Realty regarding the permit mechanism and process.

**Great River Energy
Cedar Lake Reroute Project
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) – Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District
Meeting Notes – May 23, 2023**

USFWS inquired on whether other route alternatives have been reviewed, including joining or aligning with/widening the existing CapX2020 structures. Lawler indicated that several other route alternatives have been reviewed, and joining the CapX2020 structure is not an option because Xcel Energy will be stringing the second 345-kV circuit on those structures; for that reason Great River Energy has to vacate these structures with the existing transmission line. Landowners along the CapX line have also already recently been disturbed. The intent of the Project is to move wind and solar energy out of southwest Minnesota, and this Project is important to ensuring that occurs. There is an existing Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative (Minnesota Valley) distribution line along 280th St E / State Highway 19. Great River Energy understands that Minnesota Valley would likely bury where the new transmission line overtakes the distribution lines. Great River Energy typically places its line 2 feet within private property lines when along road easements.

Lawler stated that in terms of avian mitigation, Great River Energy can install bird diverters on top of the poles. USFWS requested an Avian Mitigation Plan and would like to have input on that plan, including the type of diverters used.

USFWS inquired whether the transmission line can be buried; Lawler indicated that distribution lines can be buried, burying transmission lines is cost prohibitive. USFWS inquired why Great River Energy cannot stay on the south side of 280th St E / State Highway 19 to avoid the USFWS interest. Lenz indicated that Great River Energy is trying to avoid additional tree clearing for the landowner to the south, as well as proximity to structures. The Minnesota Valley distribution line currently crosses this landowners' property, but additional tree clearing would be necessary for the transmission line.

Lenz requested a copy of the WPA easements; USFWS indicated these are public record and should be available from the County recorder; USFWS will also review its ability to share the records. Randa provided an easement number.

USFWS reiterated their desire to keep the line to the south of the easements and south of 280th St E / State Highway 19; they noted that the USFWS District is short staffed and it would be a minimum of 2 years to process any authorization. Lawler indicated that two years would be problematic for the Project schedule and inquired if Great River Energy could facilitate a cost recovery agreement to facilitate USFWS project review.

USFWS inquired on the extent of clearing associated with the existing distribution lines. Lawler indicated that Minnesota Valley minimizes clearing, mainly just to keep trees off the line; the transmission line will require tree clearing 50 feet either side of centerline to avoid falling trees taking down lines and causing outages.

USFWS asked for a map of the layers shown on the call (USFWS easements, property lines, proposed Project Alignment and Route Width, and existing distribution line); Merjent will prepare and provide. USFWS asked if Great River Energy could show a route that avoids the easements; Lenz stated that this would not be immediately available, but that Merjent would discuss with Great River Energy after the meeting. Bergland noted that this meeting correspondence will be included in the pending RP application to show agency consultation, and offered to share notes from the call with USFWS.

**Great River Energy
Cedar Lake Reroute Project
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) – Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District
Meeting Notes – May 23, 2023**

Action Items:

USFWS Actions:

- Check on availability of easements; confirm southern boundary of the easements relative to 280th St E / State Highway 19
- Check on permitting mechanism if transmission line spans property without poles placed in property

Great River Energy:

- Provide map of route alignment across USFWS interest
- Provide map of potential alternatives avoiding pole placement and/or avoiding USFWS interest entirely
- Provide copy of meeting notes

Kristin Lenz

From: Kristin Lenz
Sent: Friday, June 2, 2023 11:51 AM
To: 'Mruz, Eric'
Cc: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG; Hagelin, Matthew GRE-MG; Lawler, Steve GRE-MG; Britta Bergland; Healy, Faye L; Randa, Jacob G
Subject: RE: GRE/USFWS - Cedar Lake Reroute Project
Attachments: GRE_CedarLake_USFWS_MVWMD_RouteUpdate_20230602.pdf

Good morning Eric,

Great River Energy was able to obtain and review the easement documents associated with the Scott County Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) (easement numbers A477514, A4775115 and A477516), and has also revised the Proposed Alignment associated with the Cedar Lake Reroute Project to avoid structure placement within the Scott County WPA. The attached letter provides additional information regarding Great River Energy's review of the easement documents and includes a map with the revised Proposed Alignment. Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the revised Proposed Alignment.

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

Thank you,
Kristin Lenz, on behalf of Mark Strohfus, Great River Energy

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



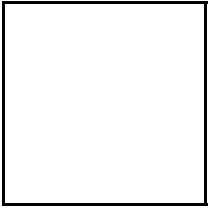
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From: Mruz, Eric <eric_mruz@fws.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2023 8:52 AM
To: Kristin Lenz <kristin.lenz@merjent.com>
Cc: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfus@GREnergy.com>; Hagelin, Matthew GRE-MG <mhagelin@GREnergy.com>; Lawler, Steve GRE-MG <slawler@GREnergy.com>; Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>; Healy, Faye L <faye_healy@fws.gov>; Randa, Jacob G <Jacob_Randa@fws.gov>
Subject: EXTERNAL: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: GRE/USFWS - Cedar Lake Reroute Project Meeting Notes

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Thanks Kristen for sending over the notes from our meeting. We are meeting with our realty staff late next week and will get back to you shortly after that.

Eric Mruz · Acting Project Leader · Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge & Wetland Management
District Complex · 3815 American Blvd East · Bloomington MN 55425 · cell 612-590 - 8073 · eric_mruz@fws.gov



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

Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2023 2:09 PM

To: Healy, Faye L <faye_healy@fws.gov>; Mruz, Eric <eric_mruz@fws.gov>; Randa, Jacob G <Jacob_Randa@fws.gov>

Cc: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfu@GREnergy.com>; Hagelin, Matthew GRE-MG <mhagelin@GREnergy.com>;

Lawler, Steve GRE-MG <slawler@GREnergy.com>; Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: GRE/USFWS - Cedar Lake Reroute Project Meeting Notes

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Good afternoon,

Thanks again for meeting with us this week to discuss the Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project. Attached are the meeting notes for your review. As Britta mentioned, we plan to include these notes in an Agency Correspondence appendix associated with the Route Permit application. Please let us know if you have any revisions.

Thank you!

Kristin

Kristin Lenz

Senior Project Manager

612.924.3962 direct

763.913.4740 mobile

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greatriverenergy.com

June 2, 2023

Eric Mruz
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District
3815 American Blvd.
Bloomington, MN 55425
eric_mruz@fws.gov

**Subject: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project
115-kV Transmission Line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota**

Eric Mruz:

We appreciate the opportunity to meet with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District on May 23, 2023. During that discussion, the USFWS requested that Great River Energy review the Cedar Lake Reroute Project Proposed Alignment and avoid impacting the Scott County Waterfowl Production Area (WPA).

Great River Energy was able to obtain and review the easement documents associated with the Scott County WPA (easement numbers A477514, A4775115 and A477516). Based on our review of these documents, the easements are subject to all valid existing rights-of-way for highways, roads, railroads, pipelines, canals, laterals, electrical transmission lines, cable lines, and all mineral rights. This is consistent with long-standing Minnesota law, which grants electric power companies, like Great River Energy, the right to use road rights-of-way. *See* Minn. Stat. § 222.37 (“Any . . . electric light, heat, power company may use public roads for the purpose of constructing, using, operating, and maintaining lines, . . . for their business. . . .”); *see also Minneapolis Gas Co. v. Zimmerman*, 91 N.W.2d 642, 649 (Minn. 1958) (“Clearly since the *Cater* decision in 1895, Minnesota has been definitely committed to the use that the use of rights-of-way by utilities for locating their facilities is one of the proper and primary purposes for which highways are designed. . . .”). Accordingly, as a matter of law, Great River Energy has the right to use the road (subject to the road authority’s regulation), though it may also be encumbered in part by the USFWS easements.

Great River Energy has revised the Proposed Alignment to extend farther to the east south of 280th St E / State Highway 19 before crossing to the north side of the highway to avoid structure placement within the Scott County WPA; however, the 100-foot-wide right-of-way associated with the Proposed Alignment would still overlap a portion of the Scott County WPA, as reflected in the enclosed figure. This overlap would occur entirely within the 280th St E / State Highway 19 road right-of-way, which Great River Energy has a legal right to use, and to which the USFWS easements are subordinate. To ensure safe and reliable operation of the proposed transmission line, Great River Energy would maintain the ROW by clearing any tall growing species. Given that this area of the WPA is cleared road ROW, this would not alter the WPA, and there would be no impacts to the WPA. Great River Energy proposes this revised Proposed Alignment in consideration of Minnesota law, and the express USFWS easement language, and to minimize tree clearing both north and south of 280th St E / State Highway 19.

Eric Mruz
June 2, 2023
Page 2

Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the revised Proposed Alignment. Please contact me at 763-445-5210 or MStrohfus@GREnergy.com should you need additional information.

Sincerely,

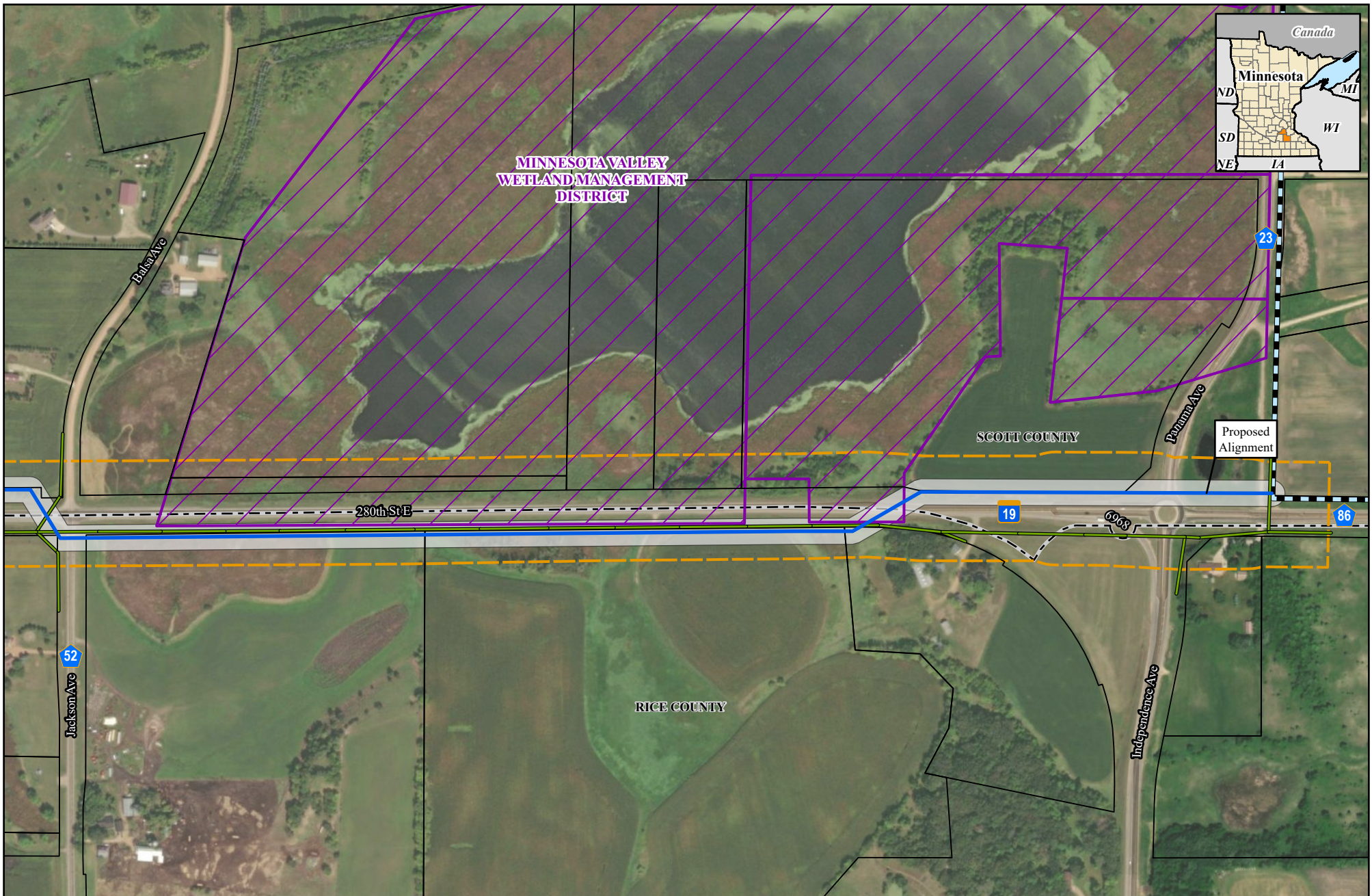
GREAT RIVER ENERGY

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

Mark Strohfus
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting

cc: Britta Bergland, Merjent
Kristin Lenz, Merjent

Encl: Revised Proposed Alignment Figure



0 250 500 Feet
1:6,000



For Environmental Review Purposes Only

USFWS Waterfowl Production Area **Cedar Lake Reroute Project** **Rice and Scott Counties, Minnesota**

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Proposed Alignment | USFWS Waterfowl Production Area |
| 100ft Right-of-Way | MV-EVX 115-kV Transmission Line |
| Proposed Route Width | Minnesota Valley Distribution Line |
| | Parcel Boundary |
| | County Boundary |

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



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Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369-4718
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April 17, 2023

Shauna Marquardt
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Minnesota Ecological Services Field Office
3815 American Blvd.
Bloomington, MN 55425
Shauna_Marquardt@fws.gov

**Subject: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project
115-kV Transmission Line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota**

Shauna Marquardt:

Great River Energy is proposing to reroute approximately 4.5 miles of an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota as part of the Cedar Lake Reroute Project (the Project). The purpose of the Project is to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. Great River Energy is planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in June 2023.

Great River Energy held an Open House at the American Legion Park Ballroom in New Prague, Minnesota on March 29, 2023, to provide information and solicit comments from landowners and other interested stakeholders. Great River Energy received feedback at the Open House which resulted in revisions to its proposed route. At this time, Great River Energy's proposed route would begin at the existing Cedar Lake Substation and travel 6.3 miles to tie-in with the existing MV-EVX 115-kV transmission line near the intersection of Panama Avenue/County Road 23 and Minnesota Highway 19. The Project would be located in Helena and Cedar Lake Townships, east of the City of New Prague, in Scott County, and in Wheatland Township, in Rice County, MN.

Shauna Marquardt
April 17, 2023
Page 2

Great River Energy obtained an official species list and determination for the Project (Project code 2023-0069468, Project locator 217-125004562) via the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) planning tool on April 14, 2023. Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project and the proposed route. The enclosed Project Fact Sheet provides additional information on the Project, including a map of the Project area and proposed route. Great River Energy also maintains a web site that contains Project information at: https://greatriverenergy.com/transmission_project/cedar-lake-transmission-project/. Please contact me at 763-445-5210 or MStrohfu@GREnergy.com should you need additional information.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Strohfu".

Mark Strohfu
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting

Encl: Project Fact Sheet

Cedar Lake reroute transmission project

Great River Energy is proposing to construct a new 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties ("Cedar Lake Reroute" or "Project"). The Project is being done to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. The Project, along with the second 345-kV circuit, will ensure we maintain reliable and resilient service to electric customers in the future by addressing reliability concerns and increasing deliverability of renewable resources from southern Minnesota to the southwest metropolitan area. A route permit must be issued by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) before construction can begin.

Overview

The Project will include construction of a new approximately 6.3-mile 115-kV transmission line. The transmission line will connect at Great River Energy's existing MV-EVX 115-kV transmission line near the intersection of County Road 23 and Minnesota Highway 19 and extend to the existing Cedar Lake Substation south of County Road 2 (see map on back). The Project will be built to Great River Energy's 115-kV design but will initially operate at 69 kV. Designing to 115-kV standards will simplify operating the regional transmission system at 115 kV as electrification and load development increases in the area. The route permit application will include analyses with the transmission line operating at 115 kV. Once the transmission line is constructed and connected to the substation, Great River Energy's existing 4.5-mile MV-CDT 115-kV transmission circuit, which is co-located in part on the CapX2020 345-kV transmission structures along County Road 2, will be removed.

After Great River Energy submits the route permit application to the Minnesota PUC, a representative from Great River Energy will contact property owners to discuss access to the proposed route and the process for acquisition of easements. Following construction of the transmission line, Great River Energy will promptly repair any damages that may occur.



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

Permitting and public involvement

Great River Energy will submit a route permit application for the proposed project to the PUC. During the route permit process, the public and regulatory agencies will have numerous opportunities to provide input on the Project, including public meetings facilitated by the PUC and Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DOC EERA). The DOC EERA will prepare an environmental assessment for the Project. Construction cannot begin until an approved route permit is issued by the PUC.

About Great River Energy and Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative

Great River Energy is a not-for-profit wholesale electric power cooperative which provides electricity to approximately 1.7 million people through its 27 member-owner cooperatives and customers. Through our member-owners, we serve two-thirds of Minnesota geographically and parts of Wisconsin, including Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative.

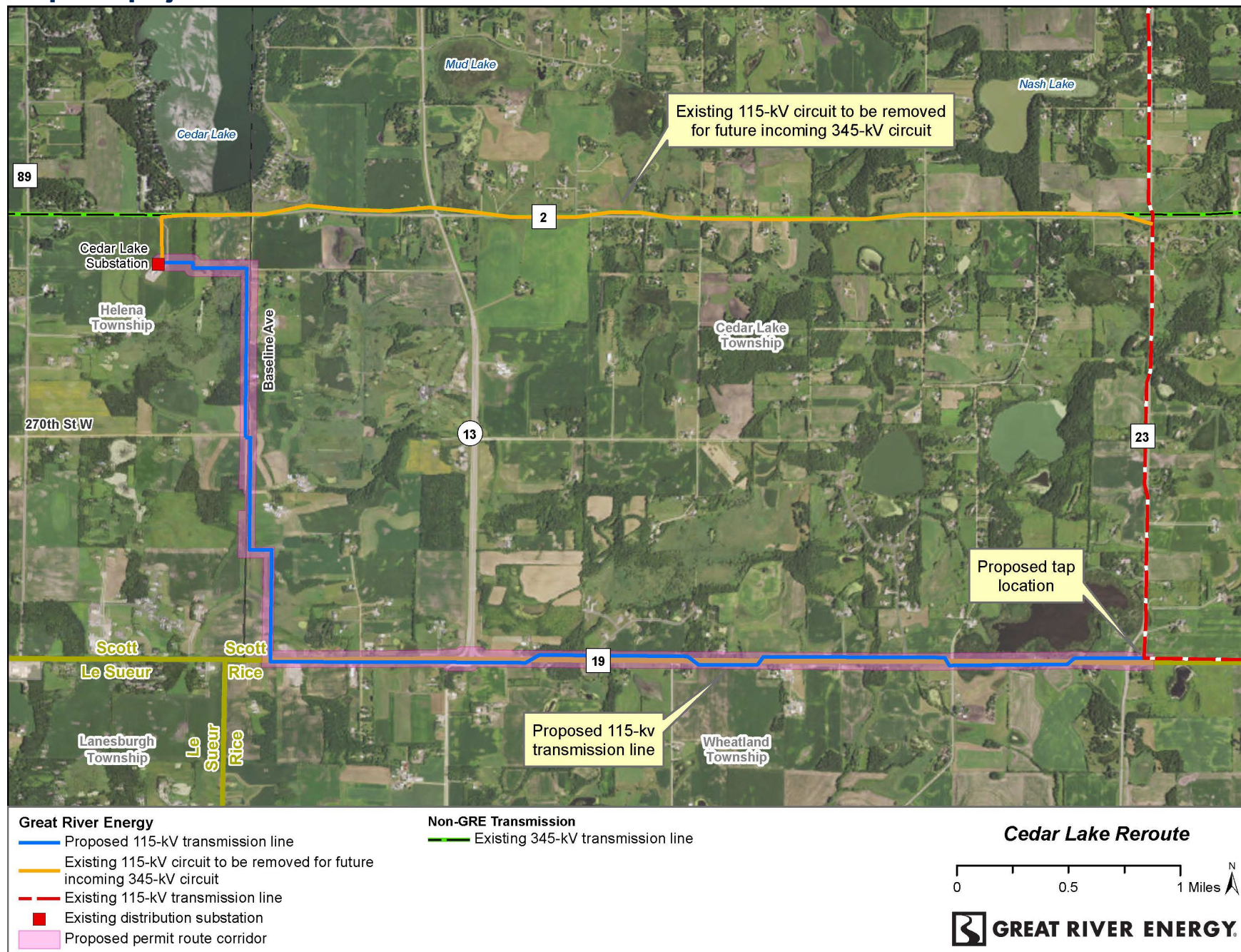
Schedule

Notifications	Winter/Spring 2023
State permitting	Spring 2023 – Spring 2024
Survey/design	Fall 2023 – Spring 2024
Easements/Environmental permits	Winter 2024 – Spring 2025
Transmission line construction	Fall 2024 – Summer 2025
Energization	Summer 2025

Quick facts

Length	– 6.3 miles
Voltage	– 115 kV (initially operated at 69 kV)
Structures	– 60 to 90-foot wood or steel poles
Spans	– 300 to 400 feet apart
Right of way	– 100-foot-wide right of way, 50 feet on each side of the centerline
Permits	– MN Public Utilities Commission route permit

Proposed project



Great River Energy representatives

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

Matthew Hagelin, SR/WA
Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights
(763) 445-5981 | mhagelin@grenergy.com

Mark Strohfus
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting
763-445-5210 | mstrohfus@grenergy.com

4/12/2023

From: [Marquardt, Shauna R](#)
To: [Kristin Lenz](#)
Cc: [Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG](#); [Britta Bergland](#); [Mandy Bohnenblust](#)
Subject: Re: EXTERNAL: Re: [EXTERNAL] Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project Introduction
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 4:03:16 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thank you for the follow-up Kristin,

I'll forward your request to a biologist for review. The consistency and verification letters you received are official correspondence from USFWS and require no additional concurrence from us if your project fits the measures outlined in the determination keys and predetermined outcomes. If a permit from USACE or USFWS National Wildlife Refuges is required, you should provide your documentation to them so they can review as federal agencies with ESA section 7 responsibilities. Because of the potential intersection with NWR lands, I'll ask the reviewer to provide any additional recommendations and coordinate with National Wildlife Refuges as appropriate.

Shauna Marquardt ([she/her](#))
Field Office Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office
mobile: 573-239-3293

From: Kristin Lenz <kristin.lenz@merjent.com>
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 12:00 PM
To: Marquardt, Shauna R <Shauna_Marquardt@fws.gov>
Cc: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfus@GREnergy.com>; Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>; Mandy Bohnenblust <mandy.bohnenblust@merjent.com>
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: Re: [EXTERNAL] Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project Introduction

Good morning Shauna,

This Project does not have a federal funding source; however, it may require a federal permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and/or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife for crossing of a Waterfowl Production Area. Final permit requirements will be determined based on the route approved by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

Based on the results of the Official Species List, Merjent, on behalf of Great River Energy, completed the Determination Key (DKey) for the northern long-eared bat. If a federal authorization is not required for the project, the DKey indicate that the project will 'not result in unauthorized take' of northern long-eared bats. If a federal authorization is required, the federal action agency can review the project in IPaC and convert the consistency letter to a concurrence letter. We do not anticipate that the project will have "unauthorized take" or "adverse impacts" to federally listed species.

Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project and the proposed route.

Thank you,

Kristin

Kristin Lenz

Senior Project Manager

612.924.3962 direct

763.913.4740 mobile

kristin.lenz@merjent.com



1 Main Street SE, Suite 300

Minneapolis, MN 55414

612.746.3660

www.merjent.com

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

Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 11:00 AM

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

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

Subject: EXTERNAL: Re: [EXTERNAL] Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project Introduction

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Good morning,

Thanks for contacting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Does this project have any federal funding sources (e.g. Rural Utilities Service or infrastructure funding)? Based on the results of your IPaC submission, determination key results, and subsequent analysis, do you anticipate potential impacts to listed species?

Shauna Marquardt ([she/her](#))
Field Office Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office
mobile: 573-239-3293

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

Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 10:34 AM

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

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

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project Introduction

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

Good morning,

Great River Energy is proposing to reroute approximately 4.5 miles of an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota as part of the Cedar Lake Reroute Project (the Project). The purpose of the Project is to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. Great River Energy is planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in June 2023.

Great River Energy obtained an official species list and determination for the Project (Project code 2023-0069468, Project locator 217-125004562) via the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) planning tool on April 14, 2023. Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project and the proposed route. The enclosed letter and Project Fact Sheet provide additional information on the Project, including a map of the Project area and proposed route. Great River Energy also maintains a web site that contains Project information at: https://greatriverenergy.com/transmission_project/cedar-lake-transmission-project/. Please contact Mark Strohfus at 763-445-5210 or MStrohfus@GREnergy.com should you need additional information.

Thank you,
Kristin Lenz on behalf of Mark Strohfus, Great River Energy

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



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United States Department of the Interior

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



In Reply Refer To:
Project Code: 2023-0074835
Project Name: Cedar Lake

April 27, 2023

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

To Whom It May Concern:

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

Threatened and Endangered Species

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

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

Consultation Technical Assistance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Northern Long-Eared Bats

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

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

Examples of unsuitable habitat include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Whooping Crane

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

Other Trust Resources and Activities

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

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

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

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

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

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

State Department of Natural Resources Coordination

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

Minnesota

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

Email: Review.NHIS@state.mn.us

Wisconsin

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

Email: DNRERReview@wi.gov

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

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
 - USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
 - Migratory Birds
 - Wetlands
-

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

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

This species list is provided by:

Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office

3815 American Blvd East

Bloomington, MN 55425-1659

(952) 858-0793

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2023-0074835

Project Name: Cedar Lake

Project Type: Transmission Line - New Constr - Above Ground

Project Description: Transmission line reroute

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@44.55668365,-93.52225062635912,14z>



Counties: Rice and Scott counties, Minnesota

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 4 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

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

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

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

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

MAMMALS

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

BIRDS

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

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate

CRITICAL HABITATS

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

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

USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

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

The following FWS National Wildlife Refuge Lands and Fish Hatcheries lie fully or partially within your project area:

FACILITY NAME	ACRES
SCOTT COUNTY WATERFOWL PRODUCTION AREA https://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=32591	178.796

MIGRATORY BIRDS

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

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

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

The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the [USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern \(BCC\)](#) list or warrant special attention in your project location. To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this list is generated, see the FAQ [below](#). This is not a list of every bird you may find in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have sighted birds in and around your project area, visit the [E-bird data mapping tool](#) (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur off the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found [below](#).

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

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
American Golden-plover <i>Pluvialis dominica</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds elsewhere
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3093	Breeds May 15 to Aug 20
Bobolink <i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 20 to Jul 31
Canada Warbler <i>Cardellina canadensis</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 20 to Aug 10
Chimney Swift <i>Chaetura pelagica</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25
Golden-winged Warbler <i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8745	Breeds May 1 to Jul 20
Henslow's Sparrow <i>Ammodramus henslowii</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3941	Breeds May 1 to Aug 31
Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679	Breeds elsewhere
Rusty Blackbird <i>Euphagus carolinus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA	Breeds elsewhere
Short-billed Dowitcher <i>Limnodromus griseus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9480	Breeds elsewhere
Western Grebe <i>aechmophorus occidentalis</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6743	Breeds Jun 1 to Aug 31

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read and understand the

FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is $0.25/0.25 = 1$; at week 20 it is $0.05/0.25 = 0.2$.
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

Breeding Season (■)

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

No Data (—)

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

Survey Timeframe

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.



Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Birds of Conservation Concern <https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-birds/species>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>

MIGRATORY BIRDS FAQ

Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

[Nationwide Conservation Measures](#) describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. [Additional measures](#) or [permits](#) may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

What does IPaC use to generate the list of migratory birds that potentially occur in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS [Birds of Conservation Concern \(BCC\)](#) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#) and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle ([Eagle Act](#) requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the [Rapid Avian Information Locator \(RAIL\) Tool](#).

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). This data is derived from a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#).

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering or migrating in my area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may query your location using the [RAIL Tool](#) and look at the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point

within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are [Birds of Conservation Concern](#) (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the [Eagle Act](#) requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the [Northeast Ocean Data Portal](#). The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the [NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf](#) project webpage.

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the [Diving Bird Study](#) and the [nanotag studies](#) or contact [Caleb Spiegel](#) or [Pam Loring](#).

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to [obtain a permit](#) to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated, and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please also look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the "no

data" indicator (a red horizontal bar). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds" at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.

WETLANDS

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

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

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

FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND

- [PEM1Af](#)
- [PEM1A](#)
- [PEM1Ad](#)
- [PEM1F](#)
- [PEM1C](#)
- [PEM1Cx](#)

FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND

- [PFO1A](#)
- [PSS1A](#)
- [PSS1Cd](#)
- [PFO1Ad](#)

FRESHWATER POND

- [PABH](#)
- [PUBHx](#)
- [PABHx](#)

RIVERINE

- [R5UBH](#)
 - [R4SBC](#)
 - [R2UBFx](#)
-

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

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United States Department of the Interior

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In Reply Refer To:
Project code: 2023-0069468
Project Name: Cedar Lake

April 14, 2023

Federal Nexus: yes
Federal Action Agency (if applicable):

Subject: Technical assistance for 'Cedar Lake'

Dear Mandy Bohnenblust:

This letter records your determination using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on April 14, 2023, for 'Cedar Lake' (here forward, Project). This project has been assigned Project Code 2023-0069468 and all future correspondence should clearly reference this number. **Please carefully review this letter. Your Endangered Species Act (Act) requirements are not complete.**

Ensuring Accurate Determinations When Using IPaC

The Service developed the IPaC system and associated species' determination keys in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and based on a standing analysis. All information submitted by the Project proponent into the IPaC must accurately represent the full scope and details of the Project. Failure to accurately represent or implement the Project as detailed in IPaC or the Northern Long-eared Bat Rangewide Determination Key (Dkey), invalidates this letter.

Determination for the Northern Long-Eared Bat

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

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

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

- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Candidate
- Tricolored Bat *Perimyotis subflavus* Proposed Endangered
- Whooping Crane *Grus americana* Experimental Population, Non-Essential

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

Next Step

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

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

1. Log into IPaC using an agency email account and click on My Projects, click "Search by record locator" to find this Project using **217-125004562**. (Alternatively, the originator of the project in IPaC can add the agency representative to the project by using the Add Member button on the project home page.)
2. Review the answers to the Northern Long-eared Bat Range-wide Determination Key to ensure that they are accurate.
3. Click on Review/Finalize to convert the 'not likely to adversely affect' consistency letter to a concurrence letter. Download the concurrence letter for your files if needed.

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

If you have any questions regarding this letter or need further assistance, please contact the Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office and reference Project Code 2023-0069468 associated with this Project.

Action Description

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

1. Name

Cedar Lake

2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Cedar Lake':

Construct a new 115kV transmission line with a total ROW of 100 ft. ROW clearing of trees. Drilling holes for monopoles approximately every 300 - 400 feet.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@44.55668365,-93.52225062635912,14z>



DETERMINATION KEY RESULT

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

QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

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

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

No

2. Do you have post-white nose syndrome occurrence data that indicates that northern long-eared bats (NLEB) are likely to be present in the action area?

Bat occurrence data may include identification of NLEBs in hibernacula, capture of NLEBs, tracking of NLEBs to roost trees, or confirmed acoustic detections. With this question, we are looking for data that, for some reason, may have not yet been made available to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

No

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

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

No

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

Yes

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

No

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

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

No

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

No

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

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

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

No

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

No

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

No

11. Is suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat present within 1000 feet of project activities?
(If unsure, answer "Yes.")

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

Yes

12. Will the action cause effects to a bridge?

No

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

No

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

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

No

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

No

16. Will the action cause construction of one or more new roads open to the public?

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

No

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

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

No

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

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

No

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

No

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

No

21. Will the action include drilling or blasting?

Yes

22. Will the drilling or blasting affect known or potentially suitable hibernacula, summer habitat, or active year-round habitat (where applicable) for the northern long-eared bat?

Note: In addition to direct impacts to hibernacula, consider impacts to hydrology or air flow that may impact the suitability of hibernacula. Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat can be found at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/northern-long-eared-bat-assisted-determination-key-selected-definitions>

No

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

No

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

No

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

Note: Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat can be found at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/northern-long-eared-bat-assisted-determination-key-selected-definitions>

No

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

Note: Additional information defining suitable roosting habitat for the northern long-eared bat can be found at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/northern-long-eared-bat-assisted-determination-key-selected-definitions>

No

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

Yes

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

No

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

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

No

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

Yes

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

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

Automatically answered

No

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

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

No

PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

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

8.2

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

8.2

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

0

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

Yes

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

8.2

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

0

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

Yes

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

No

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

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**U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service**



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April 17, 2023

Christopher Schmidt
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Natural Resources Conservation Service
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**Subject: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project
115-kV Transmission Line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota**

Chris Schmidt:

Great River Energy is proposing to reroute approximately 4.5 miles of an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota as part of the Cedar Lake Reroute Project (the Project). The purpose of the Project is to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. Great River Energy is planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in June 2023.

Great River Energy held an Open House at the American Legion Park Ballroom in New Prague, Minnesota on March 29, 2023, to provide information and solicit comments from landowners and other interested stakeholders. Great River Energy received feedback at the Open House which resulted in revisions to its proposed route. At this time, Great River Energy's proposed route would begin at the existing Cedar Lake Substation and travel 6.3 miles to tie-in with the existing MV-EVX 115-kV transmission line near the intersection of Panama Avenue/County Road 23 and Minnesota Highway 19. The Project would be located in Helena and Cedar Lake Townships, east of the City of New Prague, in Scott County, and in Wheatland Township, in Rice County, MN.

Chris Schmidt
April 17, 2023
Page 2

Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project and the proposed route. The enclosed Project Fact Sheet provides additional information on the Project, including a map of the Project area and proposed route. Great River Energy also maintains a web site that contains Project information at: https://greatriverenergy.com/transmission_project/cedar-lake-transmission-project/. Please contact me at 763-445-5210 or MStrohfu@GREnergy.com should you need additional information.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

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

Mark Strohfus
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting

Encl: Project Fact Sheet

Cedar Lake reroute transmission project

Great River Energy is proposing to construct a new 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties ("Cedar Lake Reroute" or "Project"). The Project is being done to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. The Project, along with the second 345-kV circuit, will ensure we maintain reliable and resilient service to electric customers in the future by addressing reliability concerns and increasing deliverability of renewable resources from southern Minnesota to the southwest metropolitan area. A route permit must be issued by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) before construction can begin.

Overview

The Project will include construction of a new approximately 6.3-mile 115-kV transmission line. The transmission line will connect at Great River Energy's existing MV-EVX 115-kV transmission line near the intersection of County Road 23 and Minnesota Highway 19 and extend to the existing Cedar Lake Substation south of County Road 2 (see map on back). The Project will be built to Great River Energy's 115-kV design but will initially operate at 69 kV. Designing to 115-kV standards will simplify operating the regional transmission system at 115 kV as electrification and load development increases in the area. The route permit application will include analyses with the transmission line operating at 115 kV. Once the transmission line is constructed and connected to the substation, Great River Energy's existing 4.5-mile MV-CDT 115-kV transmission circuit, which is co-located in part on the CapX2020 345-kV transmission structures along County Road 2, will be removed.

After Great River Energy submits the route permit application to the Minnesota PUC, a representative from Great River Energy will contact property owners to discuss access to the proposed route and the process for acquisition of easements. Following construction of the transmission line, Great River Energy will promptly repair any damages that may occur.



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

Permitting and public involvement

Great River Energy will submit a route permit application for the proposed project to the PUC. During the route permit process, the public and regulatory agencies will have numerous opportunities to provide input on the Project, including public meetings facilitated by the PUC and Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DOC EERA). The DOC EERA will prepare an environmental assessment for the Project. Construction cannot begin until an approved route permit is issued by the PUC.

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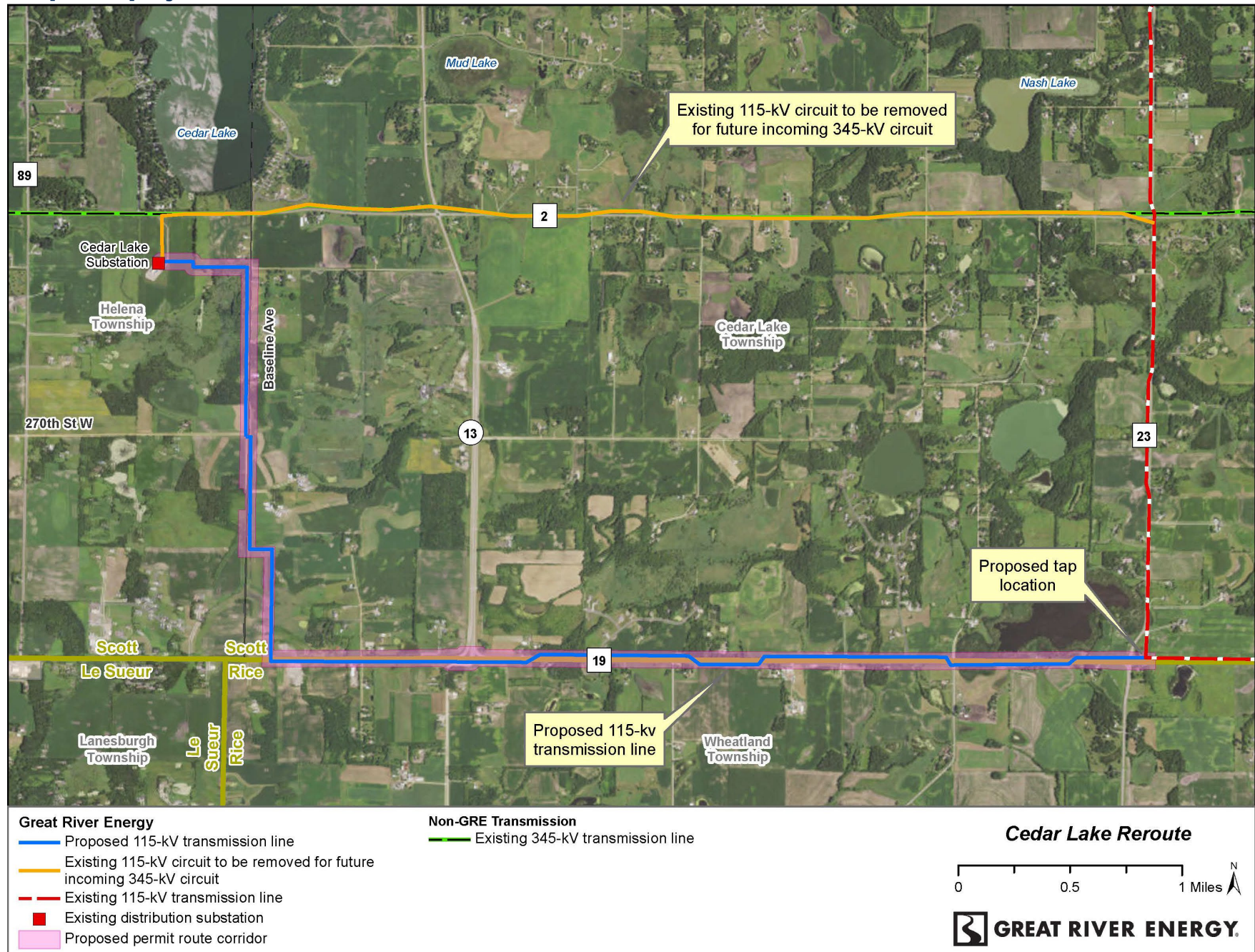
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Length	– 6.3 miles
Voltage	– 115 kV (initially operated at 69 kV)
Structures	– 60 to 90-foot wood or steel poles
Spans	– 300 to 400 feet apart
Right of way	– 100-foot-wide right of way, 50 feet on each side of the centerline
Permits	– MN Public Utilities Commission route permit

Proposed project



Great River Energy representatives

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

Matthew Hagelin, SR/WA
Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights
(763) 445-5981 | mhagelin@greenergy.com

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

4/12/2023

Kristin Lenz

From: Kristin Lenz
Sent: Friday, April 21, 2023 1:37 PM
To: Veith, Stuart - FPAC-NRCS, MN
Cc: Schmidt, Chris - FPAC-NRCS, MN
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: FW: [External Email]Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project Introduction

Hi Stuart,

Thank you for your response. The proposed project will largely be collocated with existing utility and road ROWs, but not entirely. Our first step is to file an application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, who will issue a Route Permit for the designated route corridor. Great River Energy will then work with landowners, agencies and other stakeholders to establish the final alignment and pole placement. Can you clarify what you mean by a letter of exemption? Is that related to minimal effects on agricultural lands? If that is the case, it sounds like we should reach back out when we are closer to the permitting stage?

Thank you for your feedback.

Kristin

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



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

From: Veith, Stuart - FPAC-NRCS, MN <stuart.veith@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 21, 2023 9:19 AM
To: Kristin Lenz <kristin.lenz@merjent.com>
Cc: Schmidt, Chris - FPAC-NRCS, MN <chris.schmidt@usda.gov>
Subject: EXTERNAL: FW: [External Email]Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project Introduction

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Kristin,

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. From what it appears the proposed project will take place within an existing right of way and there will be no expansion or new right of way? Just wanted to double-check to make sure I understood correctly. If this is the case I will be more than happy to provide you with a letter of exemption for your records. If not we can work on taking the necessary next steps.

Thanks,

Stuart Veith

Area Resource Soil Scientist
USDA-NRCS
3555 9th ST NW Bld 350
Rochester, MN 55901
Office: 507-289-7454 ext. 3581
Cell: 507-298-4300

From: Schmidt, Chris - FPAC-NRCS, MN <chris.schmidt@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 3:03 PM
To: Veith, Stuart - FPAC-NRCS, MN <stuart.veith@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: [External Email]Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project Introduction

Stuart,

See below for your review, thanks.

Chris Schmidt
District Conservationist
Faribault Customer Service Team Lead
Waconia, Jordan, Le Center, Faribault, and Farmington Field Offices
USDA-NRCS
Faribault Field Office
1810 30th St NW, Suite 1
Faribault, MN 55021
Office: (507) 334-1887 ext. 3
Cell: 507-412-7186

From: Kristin Lenz <kristin.lenz@merjent.com>
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 3:01 PM
To: Schmidt, Chris - FPAC-NRCS, MN <chris.schmidt@usda.gov>
Cc: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfu@GREnergy.com>; Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>
Subject: [External Email]Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project Introduction

[External Email]

If this message comes from an **unexpected sender** or references a **vague/unexpected topic**;
Use caution before clicking links or opening attachments.
Please send any concerns or suspicious messages to: Spam.Abuse@usda.gov

Good afternoon,

Great River Energy is proposing to reroute approximately 4.5 miles of an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota as part of the Cedar Lake Reroute Project (the Project). The purpose of the Project is to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. Great River Energy is planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in June 2023.

Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project and the proposed route. The enclosed letter and Project Fact Sheet provide additional information on the Project, including a map of the Project area and proposed route. Great River Energy also maintains a web site that contains Project information at: https://greatriverenergy.com/transmission_project/cedar-lake-transmission-project/. Please contact Mark Strohfus at 763-445-5210 or MStrohfu@GREnergy.com should you need additional information.

Thank you,
Kristin Lenz on behalf of Mark Strohfus, Great River Energy

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



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Minneapolis, MN 55414
612.746.3660
www.merjent.com

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Tribal Authorities

Bois Forte Band of Chippewa



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

April 14, 2023

Jaylen Strong
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
1500 Bois Forte Road
Tower, MN 55790
jaylen.strong@boisforte-nsn.gov

**Subject: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project
115-kV Transmission Line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota**

Jaylen Strong:

Great River Energy is proposing to reroute approximately 4.5 miles of an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota as part of the Cedar Lake Reroute Project (the Project). The purpose of the Project is to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. Great River Energy is planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in June 2023.

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Jaylen Strong
April 14, 2023
Page 2

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Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

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Mark Strohfus
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting

Encl: Project Fact Sheet

Cedar Lake reroute transmission project

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

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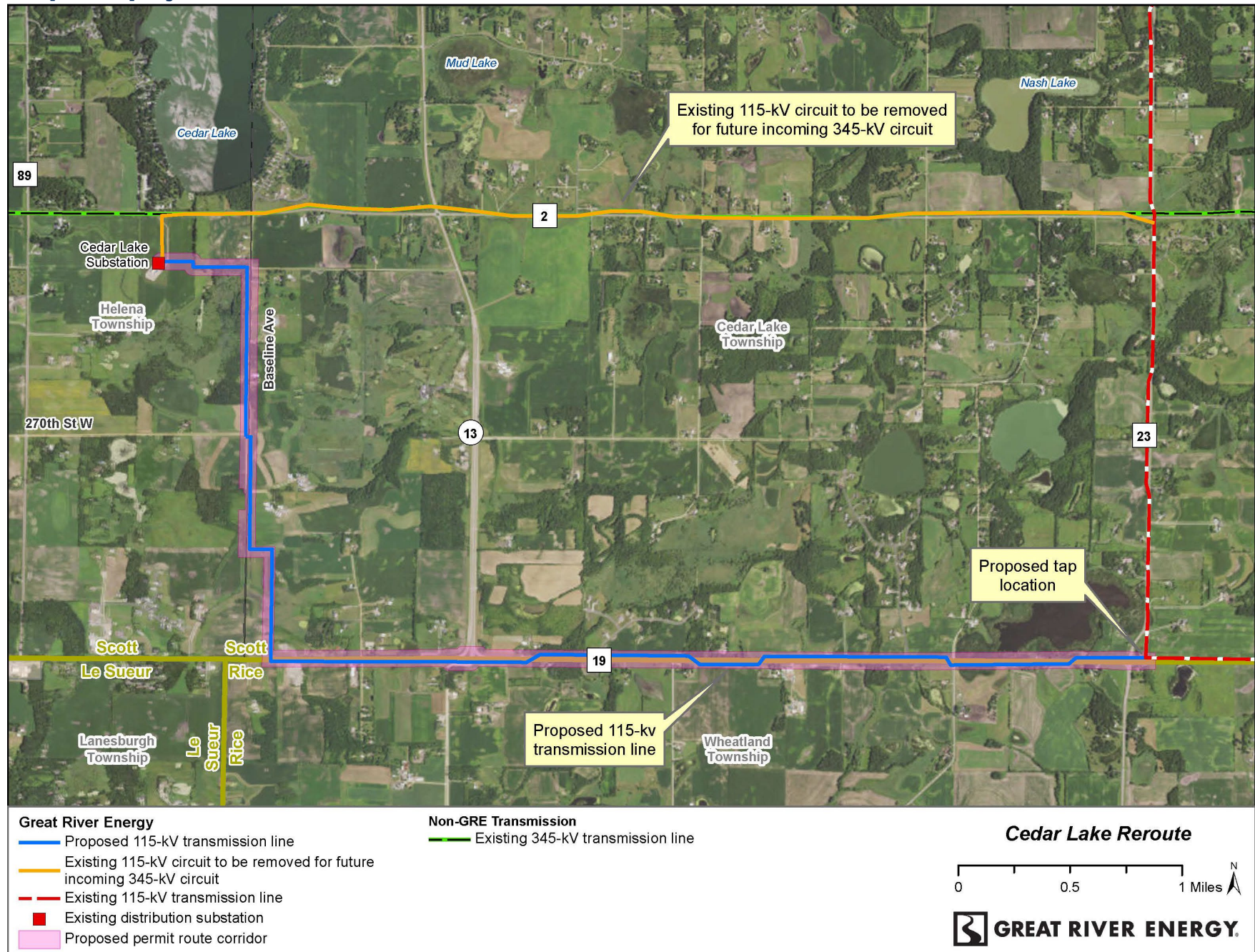
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Proposed project



Great River Energy representatives

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Matthew Hagelin, SR/WA
Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights
(763) 445-5981 | mhagelin@greenergy.com

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

4/12/2023

Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa



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

April 14, 2023

Evan Schroeder
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
28 University Rd.
Cloquet, MN 55720
evanschroeder@fdlrez.gov

**Subject: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project
115-kV Transmission Line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota**

Evan Schroeder:

Great River Energy is proposing to reroute approximately 4.5 miles of an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota as part of the Cedar Lake Reroute Project (the Project). The purpose of the Project is to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. Great River Energy is planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in June 2023.

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Evan Schroeder
April 14, 2023
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Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

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Mark Strohfu
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting

Encl: Project Fact Sheet

Cedar Lake reroute transmission project

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

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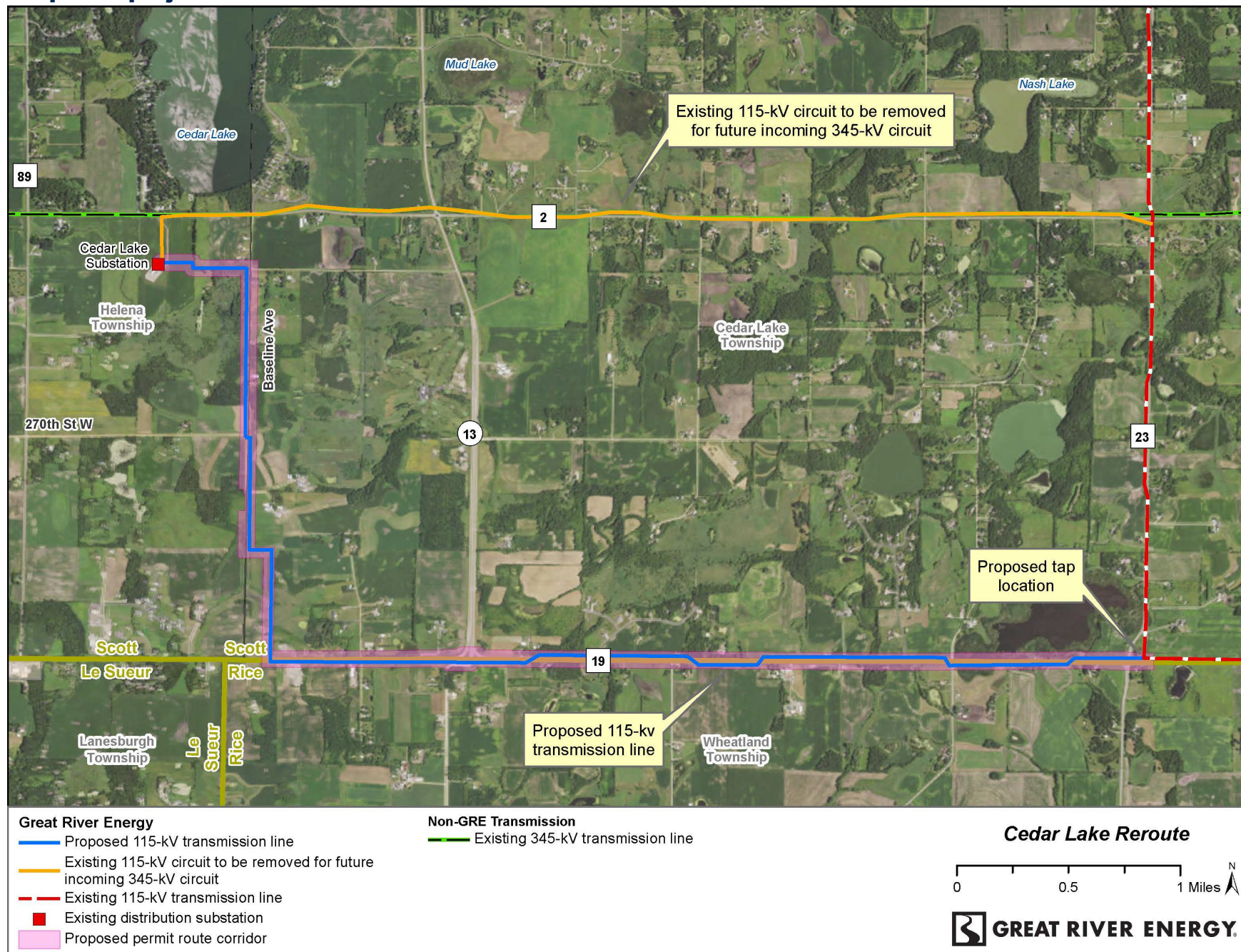
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Proposed project



Great River Energy representatives

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4/12/2023

Grand Portage Band of Ojibwe



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

April 14, 2023

Rob Hull
Grand Portage Band of Ojibwe
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
PO Box 428
Grand Portage, MN 55605
thpo@grandportage.com

**Subject: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project
115-kV Transmission Line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota**

Rob Hull:

Great River Energy is proposing to reroute approximately 4.5 miles of an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota as part of the Cedar Lake Reroute Project (the Project). The purpose of the Project is to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. Great River Energy is planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in June 2023.

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Rob Hull
April 14, 2023
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Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

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Mark Strohfu
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting

Encl: Project Fact Sheet

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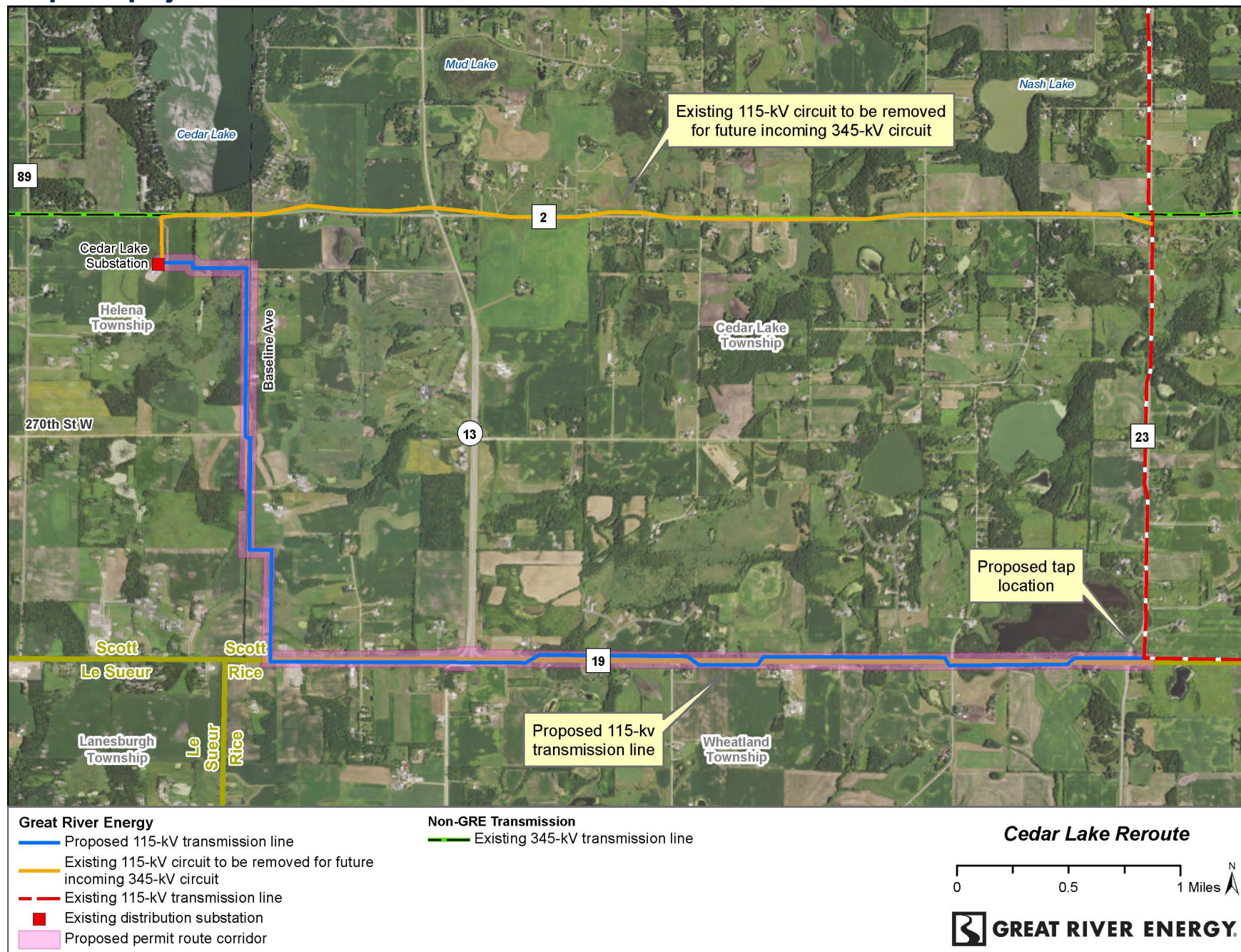
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Proposed project



Great River Energy representatives

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

4/12/2023

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe



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

April 14, 2023

Amy Burnette
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
15756 State 371 NW
Cass Lake, MN 56633
amy.burnette@llojibwe.net

**Subject: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project
115-kV Transmission Line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota**

Amy Burnette:

Great River Energy is proposing to reroute approximately 4.5 miles of an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota as part of the Cedar Lake Reroute Project (the Project). The purpose of the Project is to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. Great River Energy is planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in June 2023.

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Amy Burnette
April 14, 2023
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Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

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Mark Strohfus
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting

Encl: Project Fact Sheet

Cedar Lake reroute transmission project

Great River Energy is proposing to construct a new 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties ("Cedar Lake Reroute" or "Project"). The Project is being done to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. The Project, along with the second 345-kV circuit, will ensure we maintain reliable and resilient service to electric customers in the future by addressing reliability concerns and increasing deliverability of renewable resources from southern Minnesota to the southwest metropolitan area. A route permit must be issued by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) before construction can begin.

Overview

The Project will include construction of a new approximately 6.3-mile 115-kV transmission line. The transmission line will connect at Great River Energy's existing MV-EVX 115-kV transmission line near the intersection of County Road 23 and Minnesota Highway 19 and extend to the existing Cedar Lake Substation south of County Road 2 (see map on back). The Project will be built to Great River Energy's 115-kV design but will initially operate at 69 kV. Designing to 115-kV standards will simplify operating the regional transmission system at 115 kV as electrification and load development increases in the area. The route permit application will include analyses with the transmission line operating at 115 kV. Once the transmission line is constructed and connected to the substation, Great River Energy's existing 4.5-mile MV-CDT 115-kV transmission circuit, which is co-located in part on the CapX2020 345-kV transmission structures along County Road 2, will be removed.

After Great River Energy submits the route permit application to the Minnesota PUC, a representative from Great River Energy will contact property owners to discuss access to the proposed route and the process for acquisition of easements. Following construction of the transmission line, Great River Energy will promptly repair any damages that may occur.



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

Permitting and public involvement

Great River Energy will submit a route permit application for the proposed project to the PUC. During the route permit process, the public and regulatory agencies will have numerous opportunities to provide input on the Project, including public meetings facilitated by the PUC and Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DOC EERA). The DOC EERA will prepare an environmental assessment for the Project. Construction cannot begin until an approved route permit is issued by the PUC.

About Great River Energy and Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative

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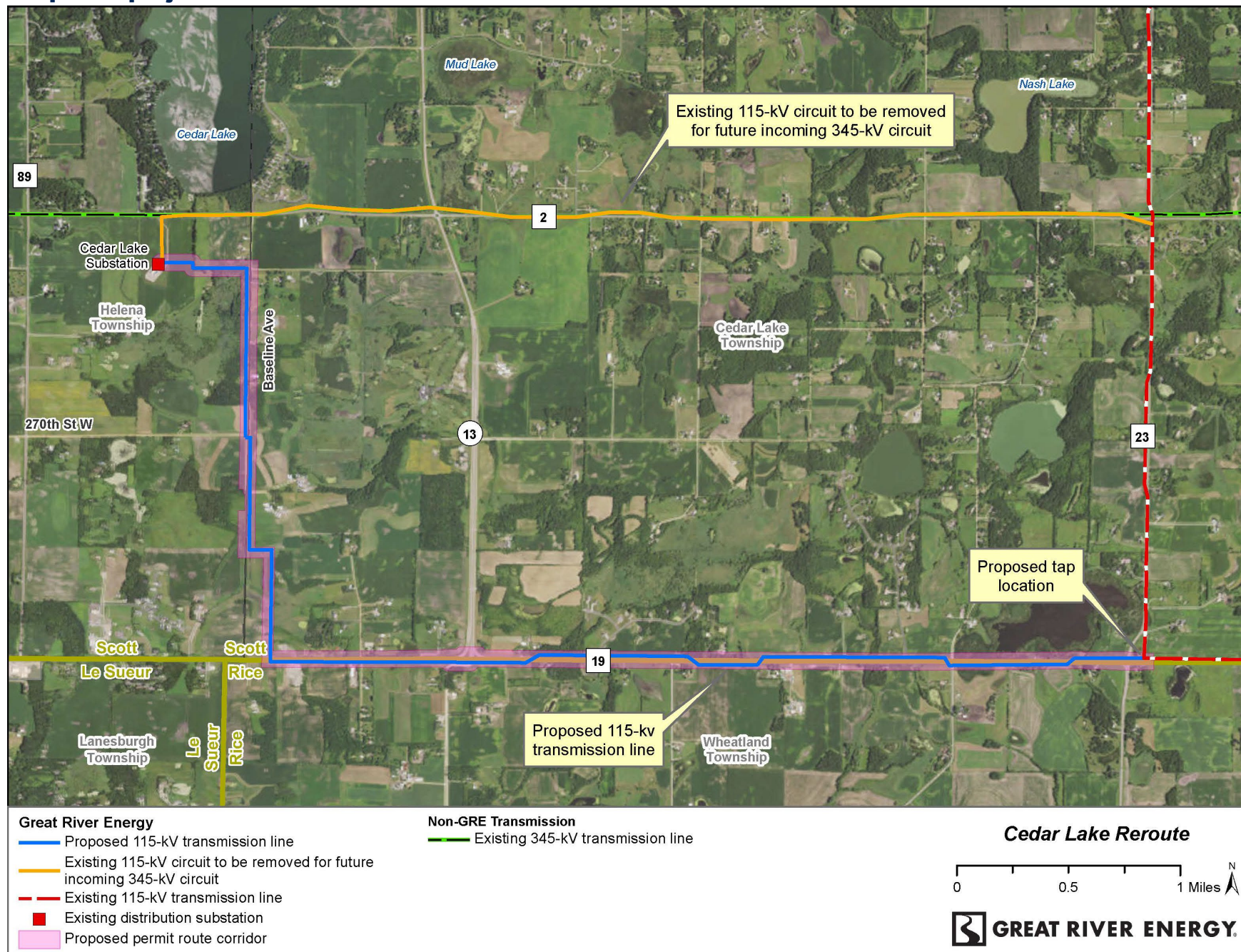
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Quick facts

Length	– 6.3 miles
Voltage	– 115 kV (initially operated at 69 kV)
Structures	– 60 to 90-foot wood or steel poles
Spans	– 300 to 400 feet apart
Right of way	– 100-foot-wide right of way, 50 feet on each side of the centerline
Permits	– MN Public Utilities Commission route permit

Proposed project



Great River Energy representatives

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

Matthew Hagelin, SR/WA
Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights
(763) 445-5981 | mhagelin@grenergy.com

Mark Strohbus
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting
763-445-5210 | mstrohbus@grenergy.com

4/12/2023

Lower Sioux Indian Community



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

April 14, 2023

Cheyenne St. John
Lower Sioux Indian Community
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
39527 Reservation Highway 1
Morton, MN 56270
cheyanne.stjohn@lowersioux.com

**Subject: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project
115-kV Transmission Line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota**

Cheyenne St. John:

Great River Energy is proposing to reroute approximately 4.5 miles of an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota as part of the Cedar Lake Reroute Project (the Project). The purpose of the Project is to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. Great River Energy is planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in June 2023.

Great River Energy held an Open House at the American Legion Park Ballroom in New Prague, Minnesota on March 29, 2023, to provide information and solicit comments from landowners and other interested stakeholders. Great River Energy received feedback at the Open House which resulted in revisions to its proposed route. At this time, Great River Energy's proposed route would begin at the existing Cedar Lake Substation and travel 6.3 miles to tie-in with the existing MV-EVX 115-kV transmission line near the intersection of Panama Avenue/County Road 23 and Minnesota Highway 19. The Project would be located in Helena and Cedar Lake Townships, east of the City of New Prague, in Scott County, and in Wheatland Township, in Rice County, MN.

Cheyenne St. John
April 14, 2023
Page 2

Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project and the proposed route. The enclosed Project Fact Sheet provides additional information on the Project, including a map of the Project area and proposed route. Great River Energy also maintains a web site that contains Project information at: https://greatriverenergy.com/transmission_project/cedar-lake-transmission-project/. Please contact me at 763-445-5210 or MStrohfu@GREnergy.com should you need additional information.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Strohfu".

Mark Strohfu
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting

Encl: Project Fact Sheet

Cedar Lake reroute transmission project

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Overview

The Project will include construction of a new approximately 6.3-mile 115-kV transmission line. The transmission line will connect at Great River Energy's existing MV-EVX 115-kV transmission line near the intersection of County Road 23 and Minnesota Highway 19 and extend to the existing Cedar Lake Substation south of County Road 2 (see map on back). The Project will be built to Great River Energy's 115-kV design but will initially operate at 69 kV. Designing to 115-kV standards will simplify operating the regional transmission system at 115 kV as electrification and load development increases in the area. The route permit application will include analyses with the transmission line operating at 115 kV. Once the transmission line is constructed and connected to the substation, Great River Energy's existing 4.5-mile MV-CDT 115-kV transmission circuit, which is co-located in part on the CapX2020 345-kV transmission structures along County Road 2, will be removed.

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

Permitting and public involvement

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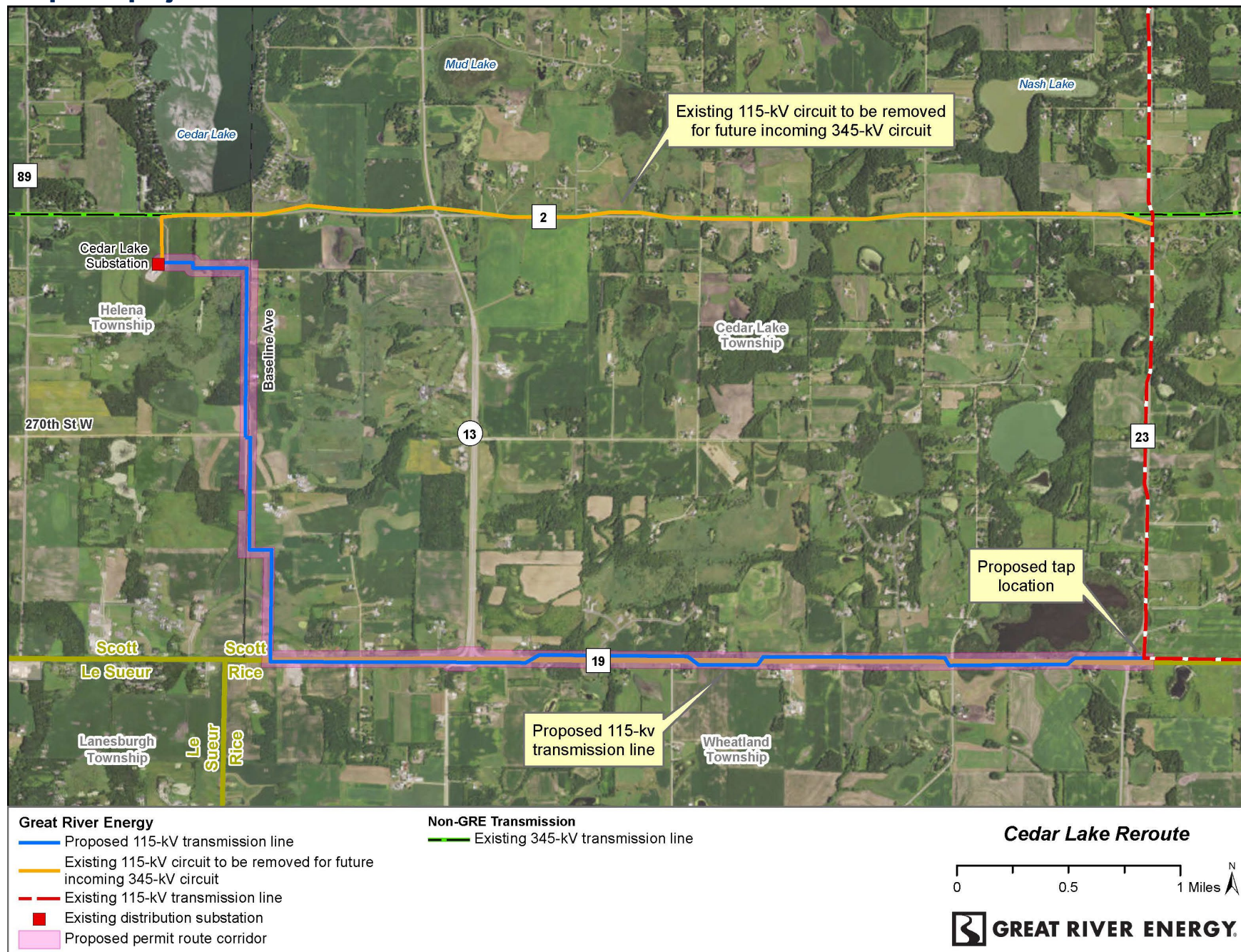
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Quick facts

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Spans	– 300 to 400 feet apart
Right of way	– 100-foot-wide right of way, 50 feet on each side of the centerline
Permits	– MN Public Utilities Commission route permit

Proposed project



Great River Energy representatives

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Matthew Hagelin, SR/WA
 Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights
 (763) 445-5981 | mhagelin@greenergy.com

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

4/12/2023

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe



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

April 14, 2023

Terry Kemper
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Terry.Kemper@millelacsband.com

**Subject: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project
115-kV Transmission Line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota**

Terry Kemper:

Great River Energy is proposing to reroute approximately 4.5 miles of an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota as part of the Cedar Lake Reroute Project (the Project). The purpose of the Project is to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. Great River Energy is planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in June 2023.

Great River Energy held an Open House at the American Legion Park Ballroom in New Prague, Minnesota on March 29, 2023, to provide information and solicit comments from landowners and other interested stakeholders. Great River Energy received feedback at the Open House which resulted in revisions to its proposed route. At this time, Great River Energy's proposed route would begin at the existing Cedar Lake Substation and travel 6.3 miles to tie-in with the existing MV-EVX 115-kV transmission line near the intersection of Panama Avenue/County Road 23 and Minnesota Highway 19. The Project would be located in Helena and Cedar Lake Townships, east of the City of New Prague, in Scott County, and in Wheatland Township, in Rice County, MN.

Terry Kemper
April 14, 2023
Page 2

Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project and the proposed route. The enclosed Project Fact Sheet provides additional information on the Project, including a map of the Project area and proposed route. Great River Energy also maintains a web site that contains Project information at: https://greatriverenergy.com/transmission_project/cedar-lake-transmission-project/. Please contact me at 763-445-5210 or MStrohfu@GREnergy.com should you need additional information.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Strohfu".

Mark Strohfu
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting

Encl: Project Fact Sheet

Cedar Lake reroute transmission project

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

Permitting and public involvement

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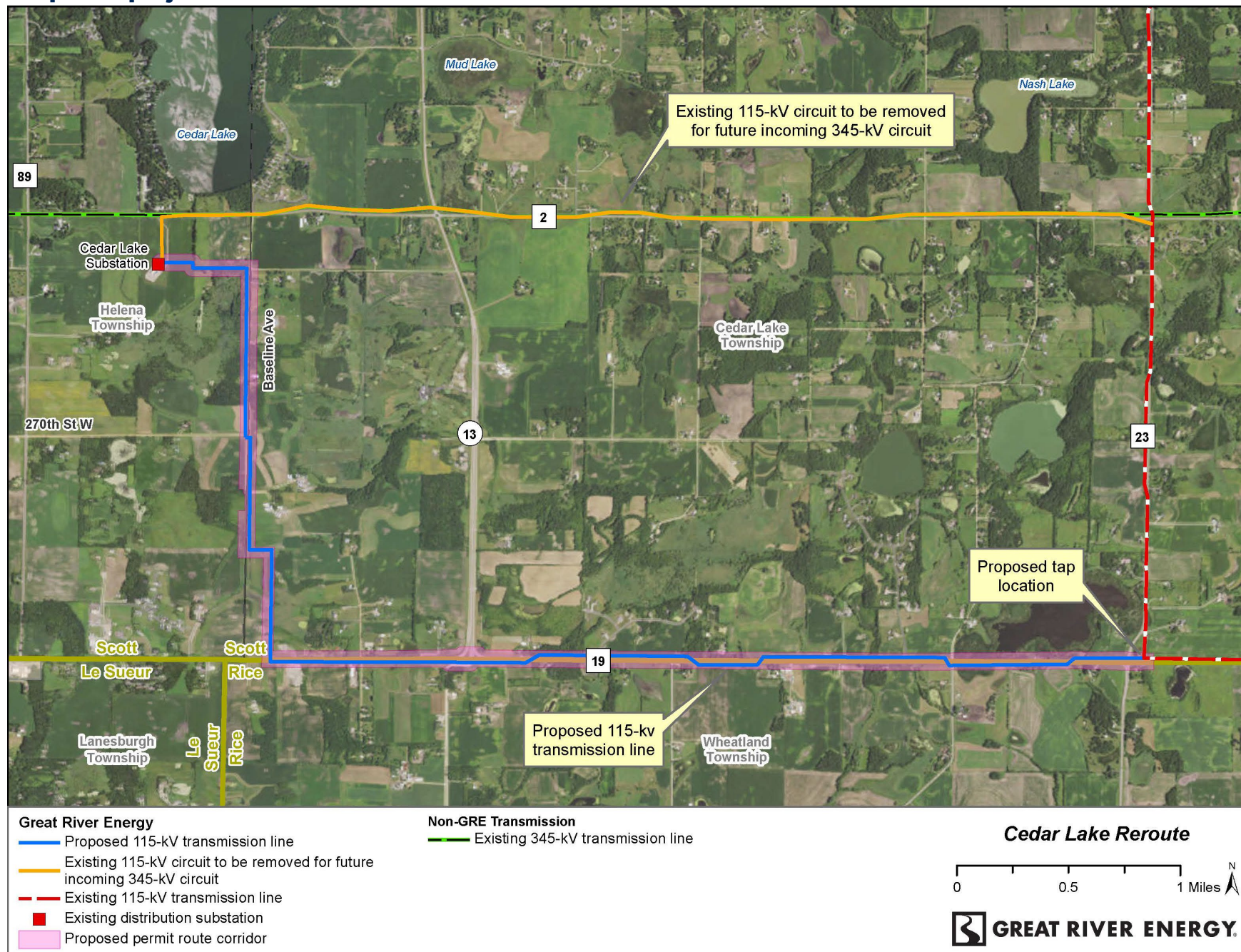
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Permits	– MN Public Utilities Commission route permit

Proposed project



Great River Energy representatives

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Matthew Hagelin, SR/WA
Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights
(763) 445-5981 | mhagelin@greenergy.com

Mark Strohbus
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting
763-445-5210 | mstrohbus@greenergy.com

4/12/2023

Prairie Island Indian Community



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

April 14, 2023

Noah White
Prairie Island Indian Community
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
5636 Sturgeon Lake Road
Welch, MN 55089
noah.white@piic.org

**Subject: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project
115-kV Transmission Line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota**

Noah White:

Great River Energy is proposing to reroute approximately 4.5 miles of an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota as part of the Cedar Lake Reroute Project (the Project). The purpose of the Project is to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. Great River Energy is planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in June 2023.

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Noah White
April 14, 2023
Page 2

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Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Strohfu".

Mark Strohfu
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting

Encl: Project Fact Sheet

Cedar Lake reroute transmission project

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

Permitting and public involvement

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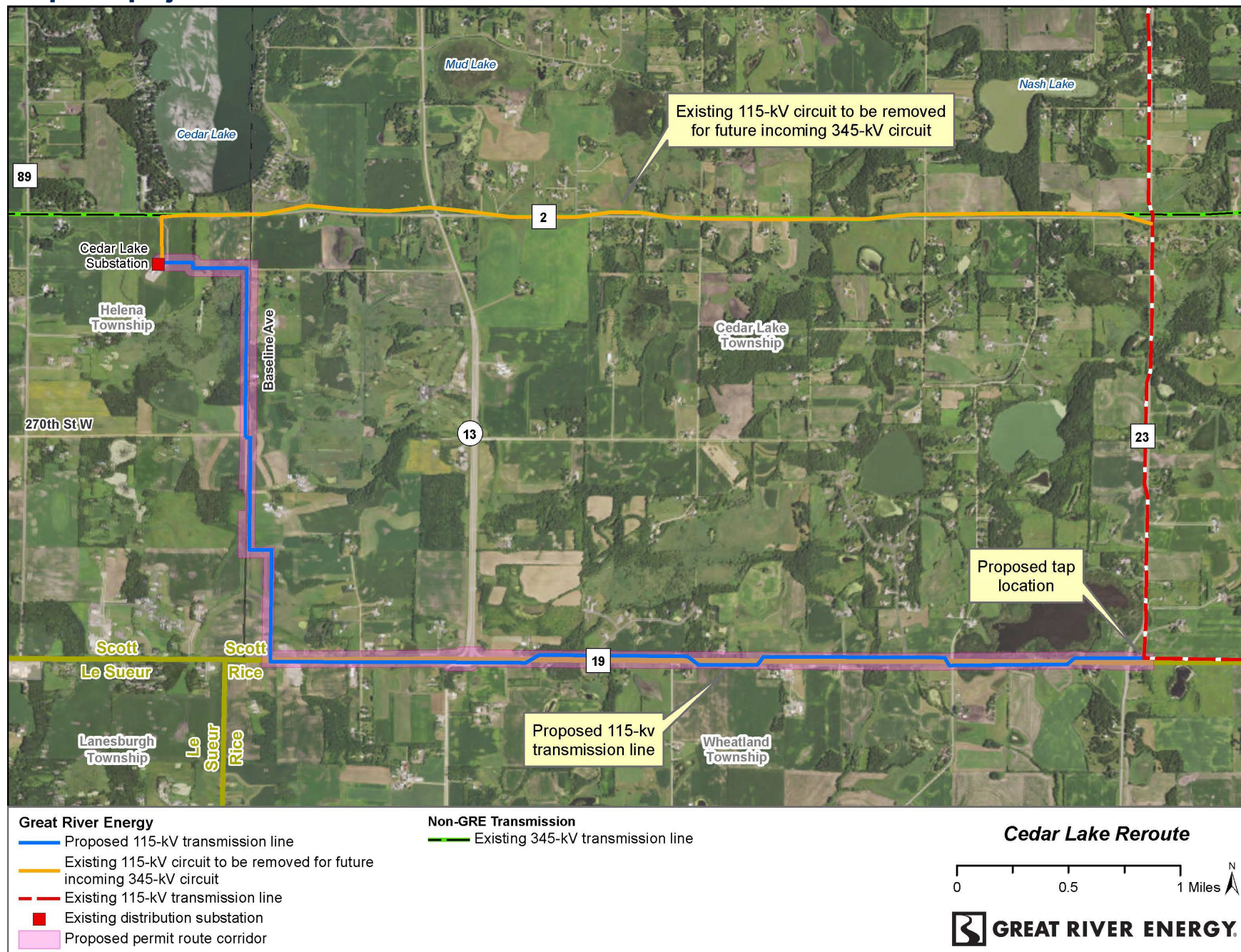
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Quick facts

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Right of way	– 100-foot-wide right of way, 50 feet on each side of the centerline
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Proposed project



Great River Energy representatives

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Matthew Hagelin, SR/WA
Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights
(763) 445-5981 | mhagelin@greenergy.com

Mark Strohbus
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting
763-445-5210 | mstrohbus@greenergy.com

4/12/2023

Red Lake Nation



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

April 14, 2023

Kade Ferris
Red Lake Nation
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
15484 Migizi Drive
Red Lake, MN 56671
kade.ferris@redlakenation.org

**Subject: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project
115-kV Transmission Line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota**

Kade Ferris:

Great River Energy is proposing to reroute approximately 4.5 miles of an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota as part of the Cedar Lake Reroute Project (the Project). The purpose of the Project is to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. Great River Energy is planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in June 2023.

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Kade Ferris
April 14, 2023
Page 2

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Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Strohfu".

Mark Strohfu
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting

Encl: Project Fact Sheet

Cedar Lake reroute transmission project

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

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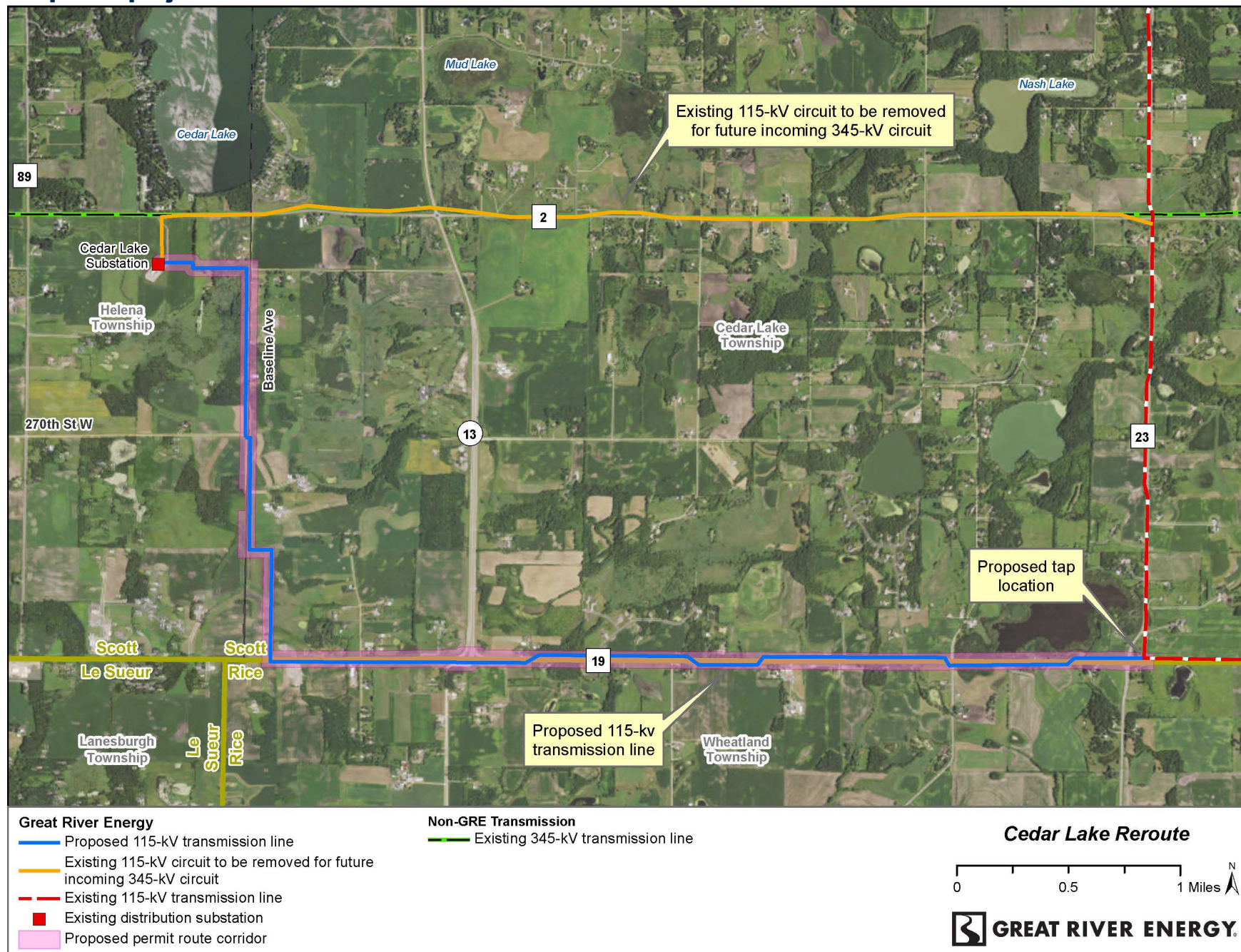
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Proposed project



Great River Energy representatives

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 Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights
 (763) 445-5981 | mhagelin@greenergy.com

Mark Strohbus
 Project Manager, Transmission Permitting
 763-445-5210 | mstrohbus@greenergy.com

4/12/2023

Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community



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

April 14, 2023

Leonard Wabasha
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
2330 Sioux Trail NW
Prior Lake, MN 55372
leonard.wabasha@shakopeedakota.org

**Subject: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project
115-kV Transmission Line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota**

Leonard Wabasha:

Great River Energy is proposing to reroute approximately 4.5 miles of an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota as part of the Cedar Lake Reroute Project (the Project). The purpose of the Project is to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. Great River Energy is planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in June 2023.

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Leonard Wabasha
April 14, 2023
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Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Strohfu".

Mark Strohfu
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting

Encl: Project Fact Sheet

Cedar Lake reroute transmission project

Great River Energy is proposing to construct a new 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties ("Cedar Lake Reroute" or "Project"). The Project is being done to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. The Project, along with the second 345-kV circuit, will ensure we maintain reliable and resilient service to electric customers in the future by addressing reliability concerns and increasing deliverability of renewable resources from southern Minnesota to the southwest metropolitan area. A route permit must be issued by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) before construction can begin.

Overview

The Project will include construction of a new approximately 6.3-mile 115-kV transmission line. The transmission line will connect at Great River Energy's existing MV-EVX 115-kV transmission line near the intersection of County Road 23 and Minnesota Highway 19 and extend to the existing Cedar Lake Substation south of County Road 2 (see map on back). The Project will be built to Great River Energy's 115-kV design but will initially operate at 69 kV. Designing to 115-kV standards will simplify operating the regional transmission system at 115 kV as electrification and load development increases in the area. The route permit application will include analyses with the transmission line operating at 115 kV. Once the transmission line is constructed and connected to the substation, Great River Energy's existing 4.5-mile MV-CDT 115-kV transmission circuit, which is co-located in part on the CapX2020 345-kV transmission structures along County Road 2, will be removed.

After Great River Energy submits the route permit application to the Minnesota PUC, a representative from Great River Energy will contact property owners to discuss access to the proposed route and the process for acquisition of easements. Following construction of the transmission line, Great River Energy will promptly repair any damages that may occur.



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

Permitting and public involvement

Great River Energy will submit a route permit application for the proposed project to the PUC. During the route permit process, the public and regulatory agencies will have numerous opportunities to provide input on the Project, including public meetings facilitated by the PUC and Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DOC EERA). The DOC EERA will prepare an environmental assessment for the Project. Construction cannot begin until an approved route permit is issued by the PUC.

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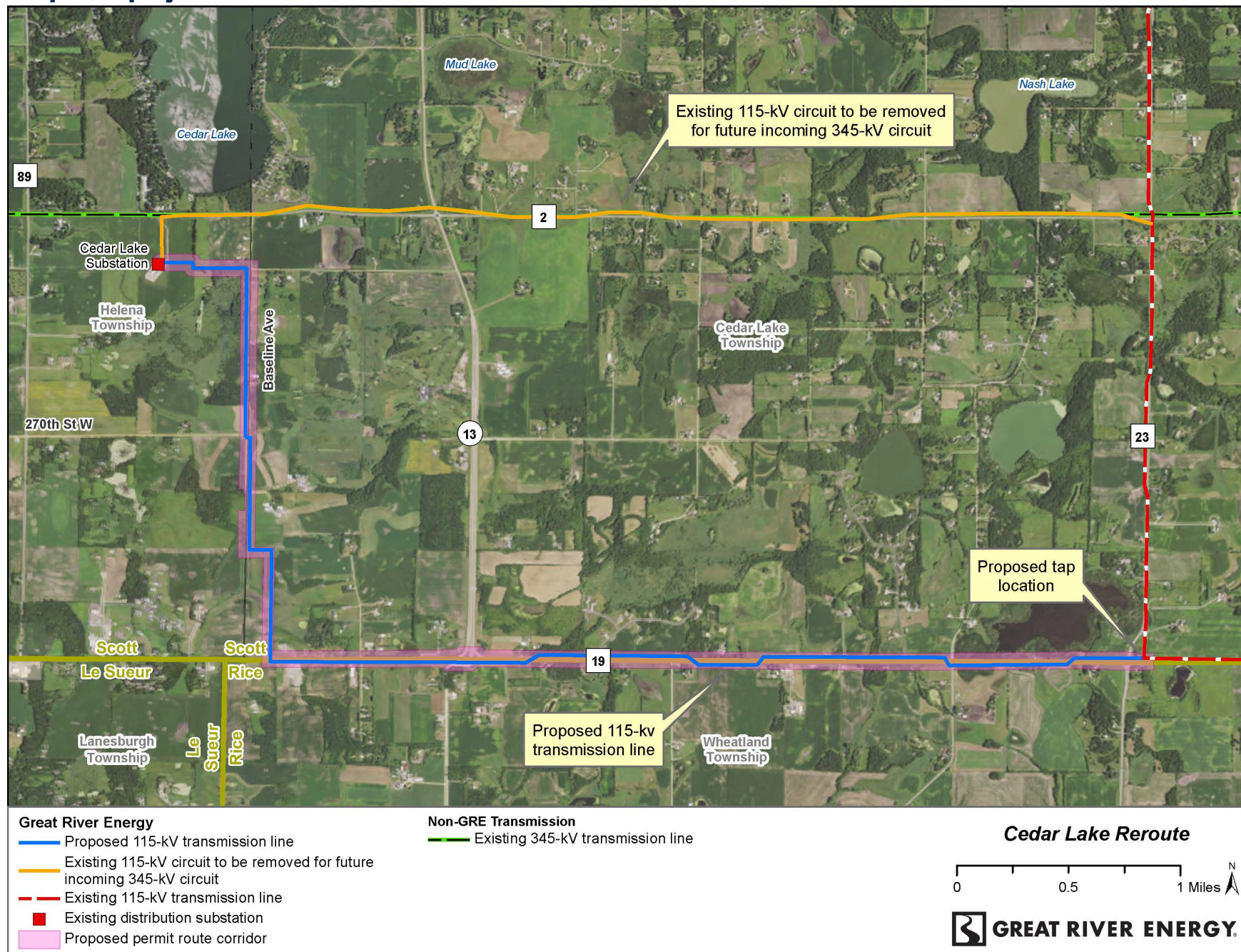
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Quick facts

Length	– 6.3 miles
Voltage	– 115 kV (initially operated at 69 kV)
Structures	– 60 to 90-foot wood or steel poles
Spans	– 300 to 400 feet apart
Right of way	– 100-foot-wide right of way, 50 feet on each side of the centerline
Permits	– MN Public Utilities Commission route permit

Proposed project



Great River Energy representatives

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

Matthew Hagelin, SR/WA
Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights
(763) 445-5981 | mhagelin@greenergy.com

Mark Strohbus
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting
763-445-5210 | mstrohbus@greenergy.com

4/12/2023

Upper Sioux Community



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

April 14, 2023

Samantha Odegard
Upper Sioux Community
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
PO Box 147
5722 Travers Lane
Granite Falls, MN 56241
samanthao@uppersiouxcommunity-nsn.org

**Subject: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project
115-kV Transmission Line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota**

Samantha Odegard:

Great River Energy is proposing to reroute approximately 4.5 miles of an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota as part of the Cedar Lake Reroute Project (the Project). The purpose of the Project is to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. Great River Energy is planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in June 2023.

Great River Energy held an Open House at the American Legion Park Ballroom in New Prague, Minnesota on March 29, 2023, to provide information and solicit comments from landowners and other interested stakeholders. Great River Energy received feedback at the Open House which resulted in revisions to its proposed route. At this time, Great River Energy's proposed route would begin at the existing Cedar Lake Substation and travel 6.3 miles to tie-in with the existing MV-EVX 115-kV transmission line near the intersection of Panama Avenue/County Road 23 and Minnesota Highway 19. The Project would be located in Helena and Cedar Lake Townships, east of the City of New Prague, in Scott County, and in Wheatland Township, in Rice County, MN.

Samantha Odegard
April 14, 2023
Page 2

Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project and the proposed route. The enclosed Project Fact Sheet provides additional information on the Project, including a map of the Project area and proposed route. Great River Energy also maintains a web site that contains Project information at: https://greatriverenergy.com/transmission_project/cedar-lake-transmission-project/. Please contact me at 763-445-5210 or MStrohfu@GREnergy.com should you need additional information.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Strohfu".

Mark Strohfu
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting

Encl: Project Fact Sheet

Cedar Lake reroute transmission project

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

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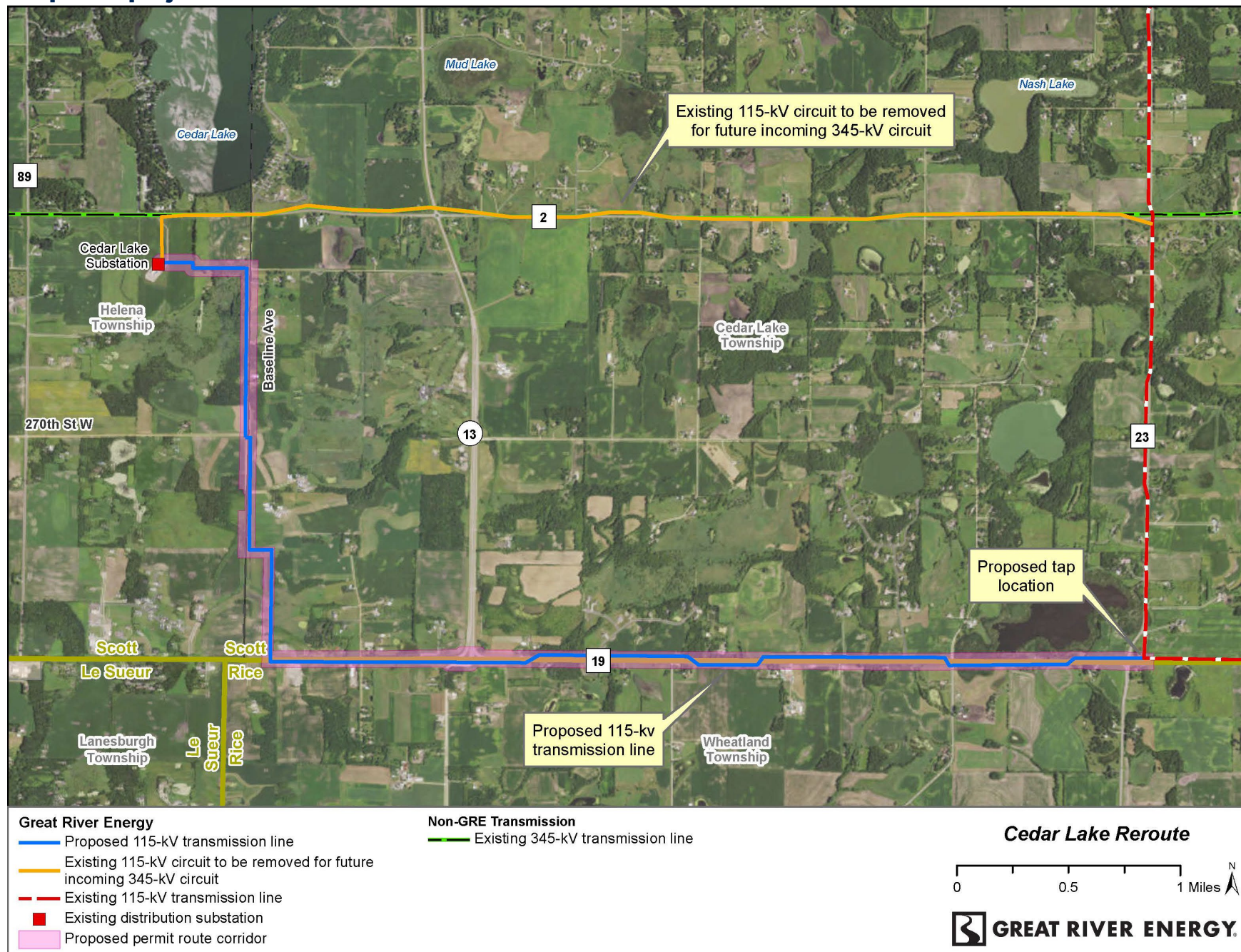
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Proposed project



Great River Energy representatives

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Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights
(763) 445-5981 | mhagelin@grenergy.com

Mark Strohbus
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting
763-445-5210 | mstrohbus@grenergy.com

4/12/2023

White Earth Nation



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

April 14, 2023

Jaime Arsenault
White Earth Nation
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
PO Box 418
White Earth, MN 56591-0418
Jaime.Arsenault@whiteearth-nsn.gov

**Subject: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project
115-kV Transmission Line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota**

Jaime Arsenault:

Great River Energy is proposing to reroute approximately 4.5 miles of an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota as part of the Cedar Lake Reroute Project (the Project). The purpose of the Project is to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. Great River Energy is planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in June 2023.

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Jaime Arsenault
April 14, 2023
Page 2

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Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Strohfu".

Mark Strohfu
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting

Encl: Project Fact Sheet

Cedar Lake reroute transmission project

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

Permitting and public involvement

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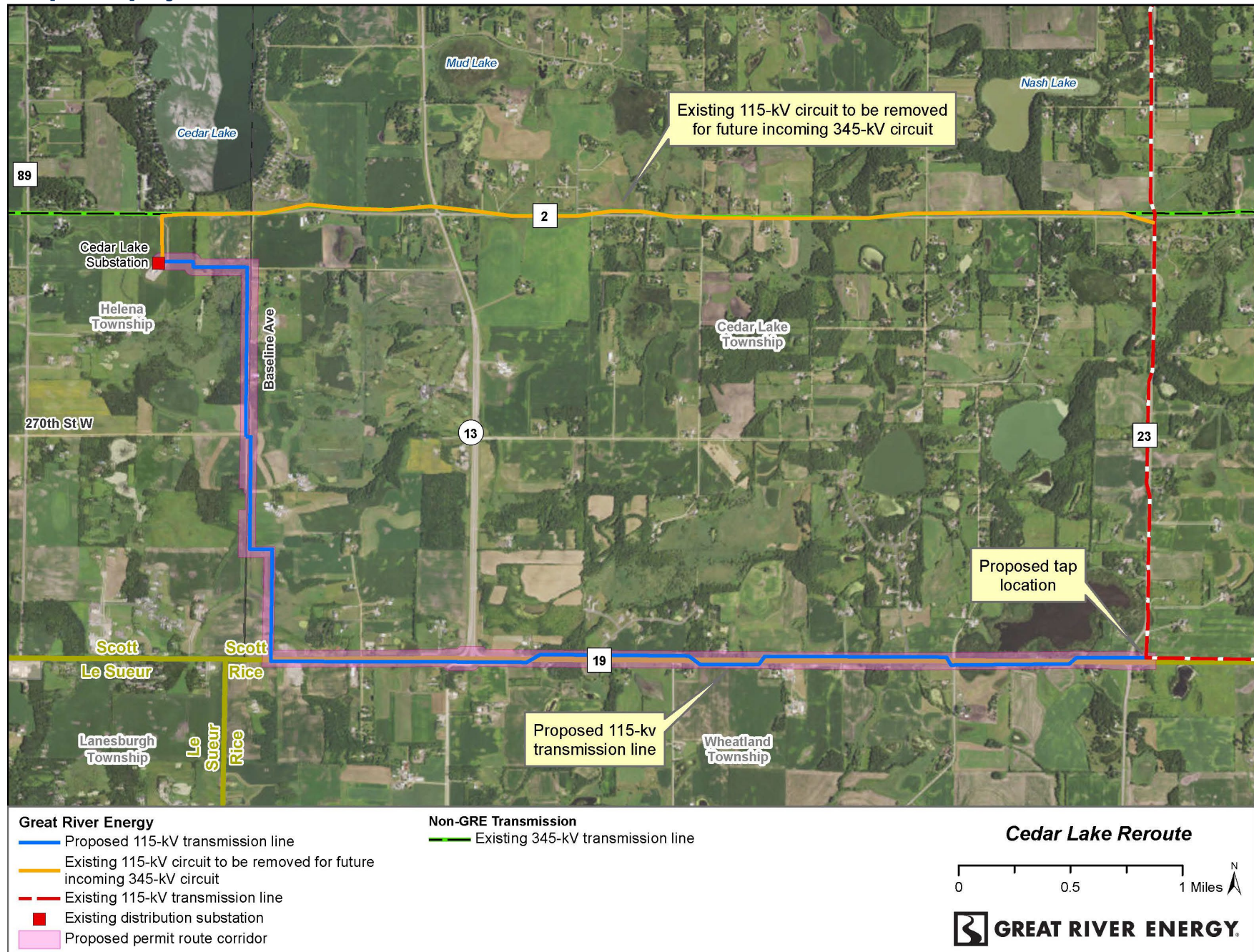
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Proposed project



Great River Energy representatives

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 Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights
 (763) 445-5981 | mhagelin@greenergy.com

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

4/12/2023

State Agencies

Minnesota Department of Agriculture



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

April 14, 2023

Stephan Roos
Minnesota Department of Agriculture
625 Robert St N
St. Paul, MN 55155-2538
Stephan.roos@state.mn.us

**Subject: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project
115-kV Transmission Line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota**

Stephan Roos:

Great River Energy is proposing to reroute approximately 4.5 miles of an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota as part of the Cedar Lake Reroute Project (the Project). The purpose of the Project is to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. Great River Energy is planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in June 2023.

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Stephan Roos
April 14, 2023
Page 2

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Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

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

Mark Strohfu
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting

Encl: Project Fact Sheet

Cedar Lake reroute transmission project

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

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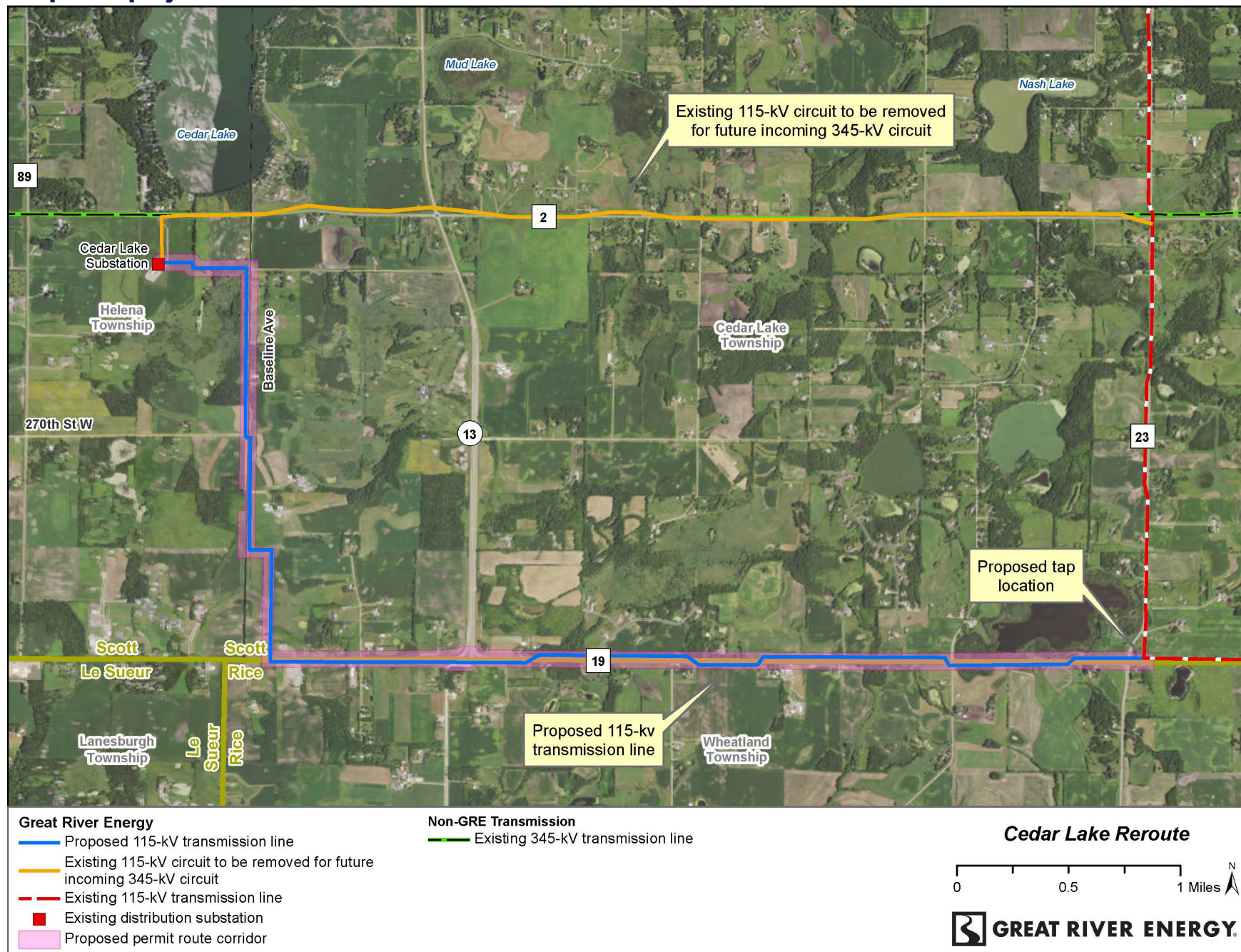
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Right of way	– 100-foot-wide right of way, 50 feet on each side of the centerline
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Proposed project



Great River Energy representatives

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Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights
(763) 445-5981 | mhagelin@greenergy.com

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

4/12/2023

Minnesota Department of Health



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

April 14, 2023

Scott Hanson (Southeast)
Anneka Munsell (Metro)
Minnesota Department of Health
Environmental Health Division, Drinking Water Protection
scott.j.hanson@state.mn.us
anneka.munsell@state.mn.us

**Subject: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project
115-kV Transmission Line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota**

Scott Hanson and Anneka Munsell:

Great River Energy is proposing to reroute approximately 4.5 miles of an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota as part of the Cedar Lake Reroute Project (the Project). The purpose of the Project is to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. Great River Energy is planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in June 2023.

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Scott Hanson and Anneka Munsell
April 14, 2023
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Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY



Mark Strohfus
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting

Encl: Project Fact Sheet

cc:

Lauren Larkin, Wellhead Protection Program, Southeast
Dereck Richter, Surface Water Protection (Statewide)
Danielle Nielsen, Surface Water Protection (Statewide)

Cedar Lake reroute transmission project

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

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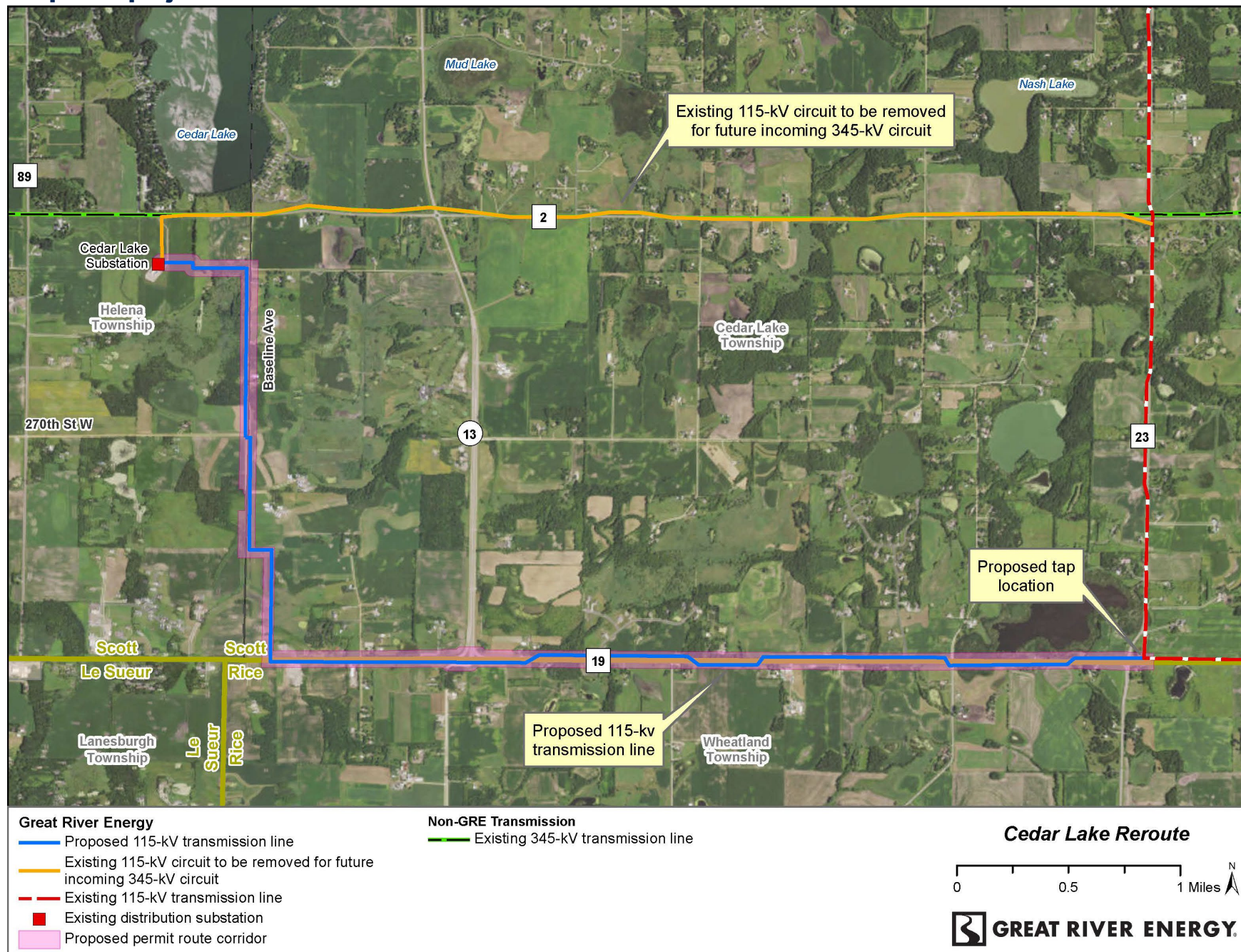
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Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights
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Mark Strohfus
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting
763-445-5210 | mstrohfus@greenergy.com

4/12/2023

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Ecological and Water Resources



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

April 14, 2023

Melissa Collins (Central Region)
Haley Byron (South Region)
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Ecological and Water Resources – Environmental Review
melissa.collins@state.mn.us
haley.byron@state.mn.us

**Subject: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project
115-kV Transmission Line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota**

Melissa Collins and Haley Bryon:

Great River Energy is proposing to reroute approximately 4.5 miles of an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota as part of the Cedar Lake Reroute Project (the Project). The purpose of the Project is to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. Great River Energy is planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in June 2023.

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Melissa Collins and Haley Byron
April 14, 2023
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Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Strohfu".

Mark Strohfu
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting

Encl: Project Fact Sheet

cc:

Martha Vickery, MDNR Lands & Minerals, Central Region
Benjamin J. Schaefer, Lands & Minerals, South Region

Cedar Lake reroute transmission project

Great River Energy is proposing to construct a new 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties ("Cedar Lake Reroute" or "Project"). The Project is being done to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. The Project, along with the second 345-kV circuit, will ensure we maintain reliable and resilient service to electric customers in the future by addressing reliability concerns and increasing deliverability of renewable resources from southern Minnesota to the southwest metropolitan area. A route permit must be issued by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) before construction can begin.

Overview

The Project will include construction of a new approximately 6.3-mile 115-kV transmission line. The transmission line will connect at Great River Energy's existing MV-EVX 115-kV transmission line near the intersection of County Road 23 and Minnesota Highway 19 and extend to the existing Cedar Lake Substation south of County Road 2 (see map on back). The Project will be built to Great River Energy's 115-kV design but will initially operate at 69 kV. Designing to 115-kV standards will simplify operating the regional transmission system at 115 kV as electrification and load development increases in the area. The route permit application will include analyses with the transmission line operating at 115 kV. Once the transmission line is constructed and connected to the substation, Great River Energy's existing 4.5-mile MV-CDT 115-kV transmission circuit, which is co-located in part on the CapX2020 345-kV transmission structures along County Road 2, will be removed.

After Great River Energy submits the route permit application to the Minnesota PUC, a representative from Great River Energy will contact property owners to discuss access to the proposed route and the process for acquisition of easements. Following construction of the transmission line, Great River Energy will promptly repair any damages that may occur.



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

Permitting and public involvement

Great River Energy will submit a route permit application for the proposed project to the PUC. During the route permit process, the public and regulatory agencies will have numerous opportunities to provide input on the Project, including public meetings facilitated by the PUC and Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DOC EERA). The DOC EERA will prepare an environmental assessment for the Project. Construction cannot begin until an approved route permit is issued by the PUC.

About Great River Energy and Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative

Great River Energy is a not-for-profit wholesale electric power cooperative which provides electricity to approximately 1.7 million people through its 27 member-owner cooperatives and customers. Through our member-owners, we serve two-thirds of Minnesota geographically and parts of Wisconsin, including Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative.

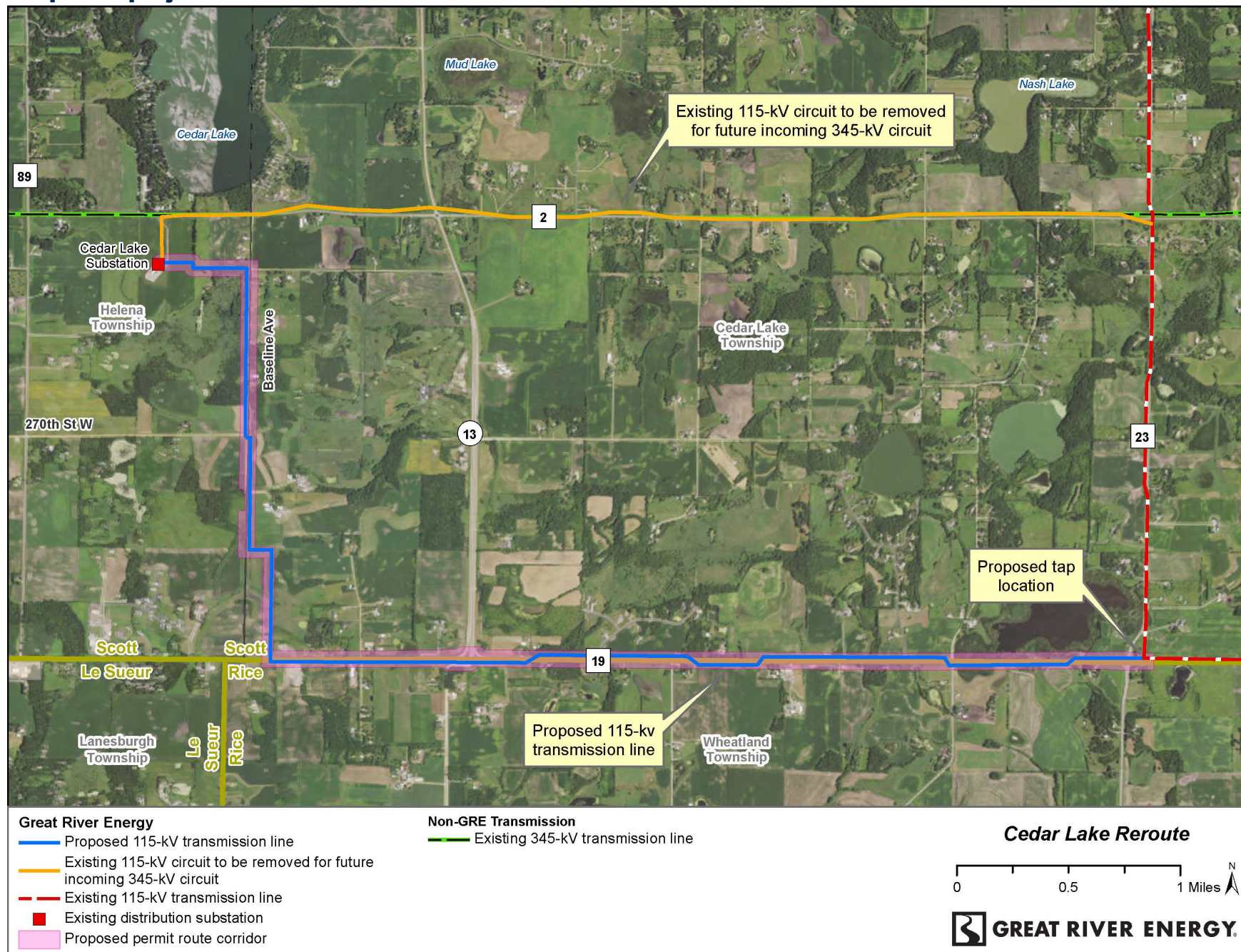
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Easements/ Environmental permits	Winter 2024 – Spring 2025
Transmission line construction	Fall 2024 – Summer 2025
Energization	Summer 2025

Quick facts

Length	– 6.3 miles
Voltage	– 115 kV (initially operated at 69 kV)
Structures	– 60 to 90-foot wood or steel poles
Spans	– 300 to 400 feet apart
Right of way	– 100-foot-wide right of way, 50 feet on each side of the centerline
Permits	– MN Public Utilities Commission route permit

Proposed project



Great River Energy representatives

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

Matthew Hagelin, SR/WA
Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights
(763) 445-5981 | mhagelin@greenergy.com

Mark Strohbus
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting
763-445-5210 | mstrohbus@greenergy.com

4/12/2023

From: [Schaefer, Benjamin \(DNR\)](#)
To: [Kristin Lenz](#)
Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project Introduction
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 2:59:18 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Thanks Kerstin,

I have passed this on to my staff in DNR Southern Region (Rice County). At first glance I did not see any state land affected in our region, but possibly some public water crossings. Karla Ihns and Krista Hawk from my office have been briefed on the project. Thanks.



BENJAMIN J. SCHAEFER

Southern Region Operations Coordinator

Division of Lands and Minerals

21371 State Highway 15

New Ulm, MN 56073

Phone: 507-233-1211

Cell: 507-276-1985

benjamin.schaefer@state.mn.us

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

Sent: Friday, April 14, 2023 2:28 PM

To: Collins, Melissa (DNR) <Melissa.Collins@state.mn.us>; Byron, Haley (DNR) <Haley.Byron@state.mn.us>

Cc: Vickery, Martha L (DNR) <martha.vickery@state.mn.us>; Schaefer, Benjamin (DNR) <benjamin.schaefer@state.mn.us>; Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfus@GREnergy.com>; Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>

Subject: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project Introduction

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

Good afternoon,

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Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project and the proposed route. The enclosed letter and Project Fact Sheet provide additional information on the Project, including a map of the Project area and proposed route. Great River Energy also maintains a web site that contains Project information at:

https://greatriverenergy.com/transmission_project/cedar-lake-transmission-project/. Please contact Mark Strohfus at 763-445-5210 or MStrohfu@GREnergy.com should you need additional information.

Thank you,

Kristin Lenz on behalf of Mark Strohfus, Great River Energy

Kristin Lenz

Senior Project Manager

612.924.3962 direct

763.913.4740 mobile

kristin.lenz@merjent.com



1 Main Street SE, Suite 300

Minneapolis, MN 55414

612.746.3660

www.merjent.com

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From: [Kristin Lenz](#)
To: [Collins, Melissa \(DNR\)](#); [Haley Byron](#)
Cc: [Vickery, Martha L \(DNR\)](#); [Schaefer, Benjamin \(DNR\)](#); [Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG](#); [Warzecha, Cynthia \(DNR\)](#); [Britta Bergland](#); [Rasmussen, Elizabeth \(She/Her/Hers\) \(DNR\)](#)
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project Introduction
Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 3:30:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Thank you for your response Melissa. We have submitted the Project to the MCE and we will also make note of your recommendations. You are correct that there is a public watercourse crossing and we will pursue permitting upon identification of the final route.

Thank you,
Kristin

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



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

From: Collins, Melissa (DNR) <Melissa.Collins@state.mn.us>
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 2:40 PM
To: Kristin Lenz <kristin.lenz@merjent.com>; Haley Byron <Haley.Byron@state.mn.us>
Cc: Vickery, Martha L (DNR) <martha.vickery@state.mn.us>; Schaefer, Benjamin (DNR) <benjamin.schaefer@state.mn.us>; Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfu@GREnergy.com>; Warzecha, Cynthia (DNR) <cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us>; Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>; Rasmussen, Elizabeth (She/Her/Hers) (DNR) <Elizabeth.Rasmussen@state.mn.us>
Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project Introduction

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Hi Kristin,

Thank you for reaching out to coordinate on this project. Please excuse the late reply. I'm still playing catch up after returning from medical leave. I reviewed the information you provided, and don't have any major concerns with the proposed route. If you have not already, please submit this project to [Minnesota Conservation Explorer](#) in order to query the Natural Heritage Information System and understand how the project may impact protected state-listed species and rare features. Please note that the only way to screen a project for impacts to

state-listed species that are protected by law, is to query the NHIS database through MCE or by using a private NHIS license agreement. If rare features are identified within one mile of a project using a private license, the project should be submitted for review through MCE for further coordination with DNR. If protected species are identified with a mile, the project will be manually reviewed by Natural Heritage review staff who will follow up with next steps.

It appears that the proposed new line will cross a DNR Public Watercourse (Unnamed Stream, M-055-023-012) in multiple places, and require a DNR license to cross. Please refer to this website for more information on how to apply:

https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/permits/utility_crossing/index.html.

We recommend that the project avoid impacting wetlands to the greatest degree possible. If work in wetlands is necessary, please use poly/timber mats to limit soil compaction or work under completely frozen conditions. We recommend using wildlife-friendly erosion control materials, and reseeding with appropriate native, weed-free [seed mixes](#) to limit the spread of invasive species.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Melissa Collins

Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist | Ecological and Water Resources

Pronouns: She/her/hers

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

1200 Warner Road

St. Paul, MN 55106

Phone: 651-259-5755

Email: melissa.collins@state.mn.us

mndnr.gov



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

Sent: Friday, April 14, 2023 2:28 PM

To: Collins, Melissa (DNR) <Melissa.Collins@state.mn.us>; Byron, Haley (DNR) <Haley.Byron@state.mn.us>

Cc: Vickery, Martha L (DNR) <martha.vickery@state.mn.us>; Schaefer, Benjamin (DNR) <benjamin.schaefer@state.mn.us>; Strohuf, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfu@GREnergy.com>; Britta

Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>

Subject: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project Introduction

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Good afternoon,

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Thank you,

Kristin Lenz on behalf of Mark Strohfus, Great River Energy

Kristin Lenz

Senior Project Manager

612.924.3962 direct

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**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Natural Heritage Information System**



Formal Natural Heritage Review - Cover Page

See next page for results of review. A draft watermark means the project details have not been finalized and the results are not official.

Project Name: Cedar Lk - Chub Lk 1

Project Proposer: Great River Energy

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

Project Type Activities: ;

TRS: T112 R22 S2, T112 R22 S3, T112 R22 S4, T112 R22 S5, T112 R22 S6, T112 R23 S1, T113 R22 S19, T113 R22 S30, T113 R22 S31, T113 R22 S32, T113 R22 S33, T113 R22 S34 +

County(s): Le Sueur, Rice, Scott

DNR Admin Region(s): Central, South

Reason Requested: PUC Site or Route Application

Project Description: Construct a new 115kV transmission line with a total ROW of 100 ft. ROW clearing of trees. Drilling holes for monopoles approximately every 300 - 400 feet.

Existing Land Uses: Agricultural, rural residential.

Landcover / Habitat Impacted: Agricultural, forested, wetlands, road ROW

Waterbodies Affected: Numerous wetlands would be crossed several of which can be spanned. Some crossings are greater than 400 ft and would require a pole to be located in the wetland.

Groundwater Resources Affected: None

Previous Natural Heritage Review: No

Previous Habitat Assessments / Surveys: No

SUMMARY OF AUTOMATED RESULTS

Category	Results	Response By Category
Project Details	Comments	Tree Removal - Recommendations
Ecologically Significant Area	No Comments	No Further Review Required
State-Listed Endangered or Threatened Species	No Comments	No Further Review Required
State-Listed Species of Special Concern	No Comments	No Further Review Required
Federally Listed Species	No Records	Visit IPaC For Federal Review



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

April 12, 2023

Project ID: MCE #2022-00769

Mark Strohfus
Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, MN 55369

RE: Automated Natural Heritage Review of the proposed Cedar Lk - Chub Lk 1
See Cover Page for location and project details.

Dear Mark Strohfus,

As requested, the above project has been reviewed for potential effects to rare features. Given the project details provided on the cover page, I do not believe the proposed project will negatively affect any known occurrences of rare features. To ensure compliance with federal law, conduct a federal regulatory review using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) online [Information for Planning and Consultation \(IPaC\) tool](#).

Project Type and/or Project Type Activity Comments

- The Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS) tracks bat roost trees and hibernacula plus some acoustic data, but this information is not exhaustive. Even if there are no bat records listed below, all seven of Minnesota's bats, including the federally threatened northern long-eared bat ([Myotis septentrionalis](#)), can be found throughout Minnesota. Tree removal can negatively impact bats by destroying roosting habitat, especially during the pup rearing season when females are forming maternity roosting colonies and the pups cannot yet fly. To minimize these impacts, the DNR recommends that tree removal be avoided during the months of June and July.

The Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS), a collection of databases that contains information about Minnesota's rare natural features, is maintained by the Division of Ecological and Water Resources, Department of Natural Resources. The NHIS is continually updated as new information becomes available, and is the most complete source of data on Minnesota's rare or otherwise significant species, native plant communities, and other natural features. However, the NHIS is not an exhaustive inventory and thus does not represent all of the occurrences of rare features within the state. Therefore, ecologically significant features for which we have no records may exist within the project area. If additional information becomes available regarding rare features in the vicinity of the project, further review may be necessary.

For environmental review purposes, the results of this Natural Heritage Review are valid for one year; the results are only valid for the project location and the project description provided on the cover page. If project details change or construction has not occurred within one year, please resubmit the project for review.

The Natural Heritage Review does not constitute project approval by the Department of Natural Resources. Instead, it identifies issues regarding known occurrences of rare features and potential effects to these rare features. For information on the environmental review process or other natural resource concerns, you may contact your [DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist](#).

Thank you for consulting us on this matter, and for your interest in preserving Minnesota's rare natural resources.

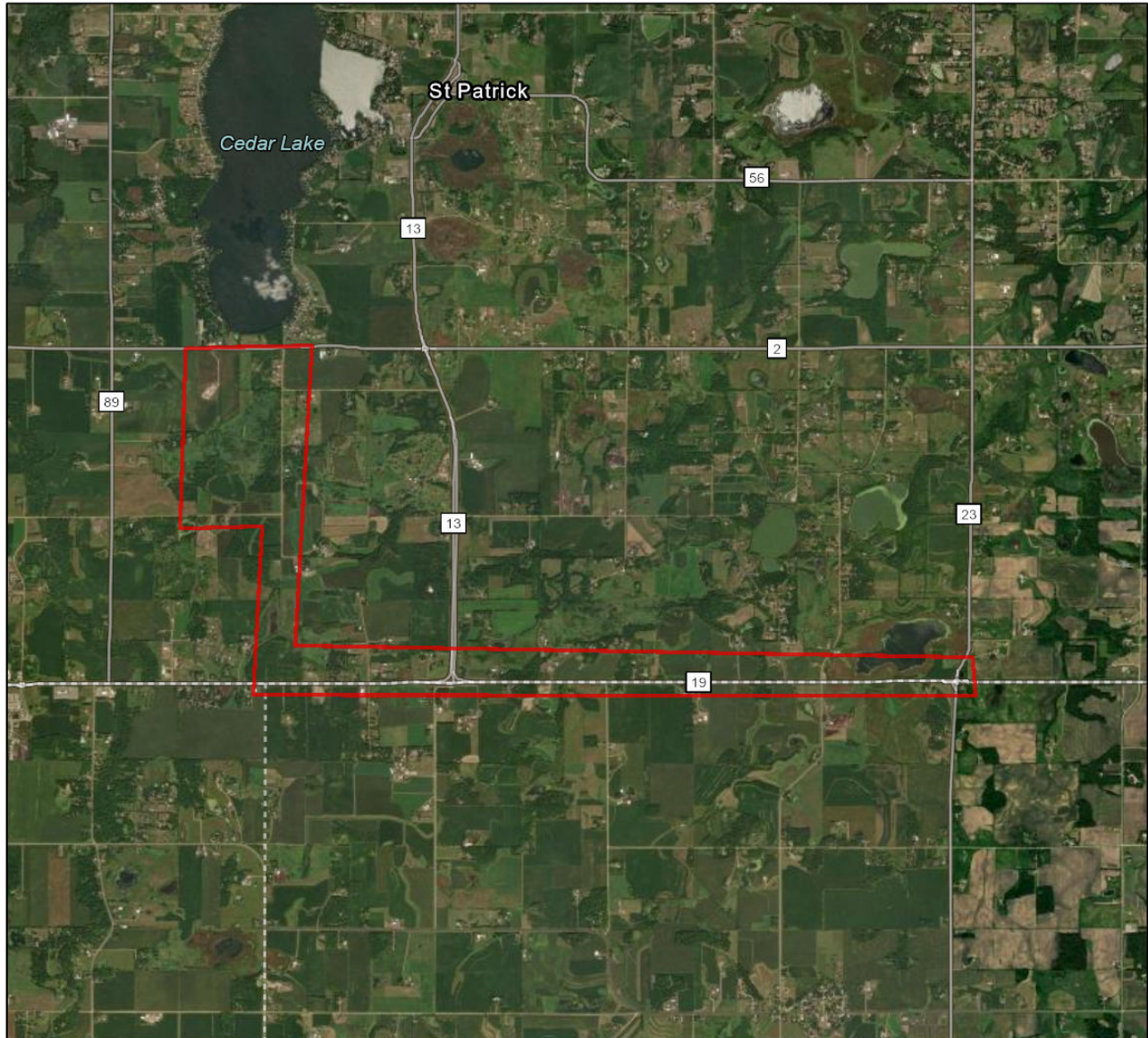
Sincerely,

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

Links: USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) tool
[Information for Planning and Consultation \(IPaC\) tool](#)
DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist Contact Info
https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/ereview/erp_regioncontacts.html

Cedar Lk - Chub Lk 1

Aerial Imagery With Locator Map



0 0.38 0.75 1.5 2.25 3 Miles

 Project Boundary

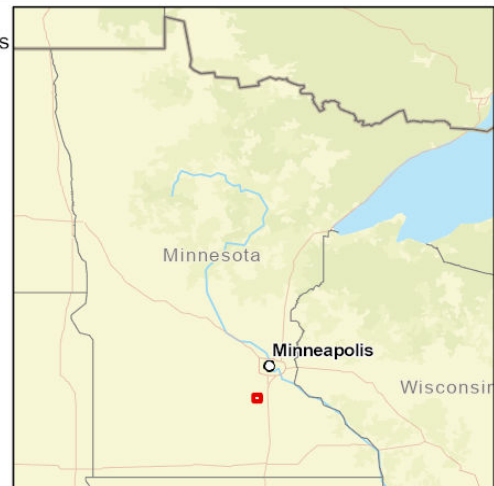
Project Type: Utilities, Transmission (electric, cable, phone)

Project Size (acres): 1,317.35

County(s): Le Sueur, Rice, Scott

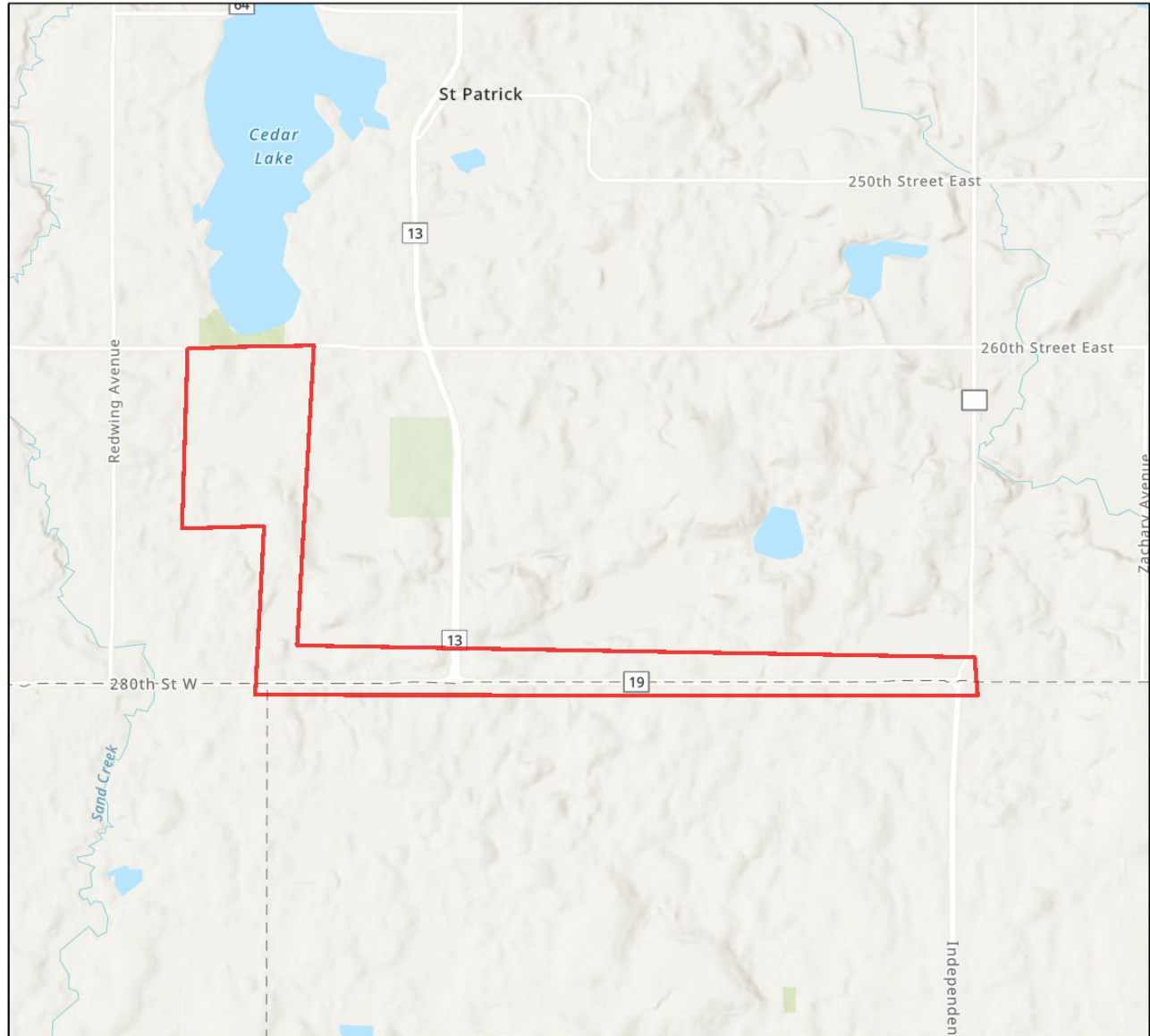
TRS: T112 R22 S2, T112 R22 S3, T112 R22 S4, T112 R22 S5, T112 R22 S6 +

Earthstar Geographics
Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA
Metropolitan Council, MetroGIS, Three Rivers Park District, Esri, HERE, Garmin,



Cedar Lk - Chub Lk 1

USA Topo Basemap With Locator Map



0 0.38 0.75 1.5 2.25 3 Miles

 Project Boundary

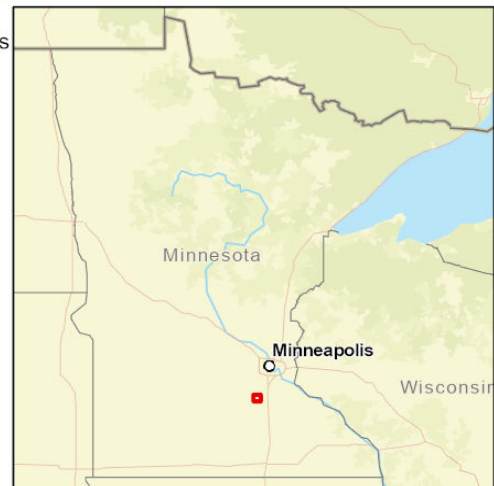
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Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS
Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA
Metropolitan Council, MetroGIS, Three Rivers Park District, Esri, HERE, Garmin,



Minnesota Department of Transportation



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

April 14, 2023

Stacy Kotch Egstad, Utility Routing & Siting Coordinator
Minnesota Department of Transportation
Land Management
stacy.kotch@state.mn.us

**Subject: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project
115-kV Transmission Line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota**

Stacy Kotch Egstad:

Great River Energy is proposing to reroute approximately 4.5 miles of an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota as part of the Cedar Lake Reroute Project (the Project). The purpose of the Project is to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. Great River Energy is planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in June 2023.

Great River Energy held an Open House at the American Legion Park Ballroom in New Prague, Minnesota on March 29, 2023, to provide information and solicit comments from landowners and other interested stakeholders. Great River Energy received feedback at the Open House which resulted in revisions to its proposed route. At this time, Great River Energy's proposed route would begin at the existing Cedar Lake Substation and travel 6.3 miles to tie-in with the existing MV-EVX 115-kV transmission line near the intersection of Panama Avenue/County Road 23 and Minnesota Highway 19. The Project would be located in Helena and Cedar Lake Townships, east of the City of New Prague, in Scott County, and in Wheatland Township, in Rice County, MN.

Stacy Kotch Egstad
April 14, 2023
Page 2

Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project and the proposed route. The enclosed Project Fact Sheet provides additional information on the Project, including a map of the Project area and proposed route. Great River Energy also maintains a web site that contains Project information at: https://greatriverenergy.com/transmission_project/cedar-lake-transmission-project/. Please contact me at 763-445-5210 or MStrohfu@GREnergy.com should you need additional information.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Strohfu".

Mark Strohfu
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting

Encl: Project Fact Sheet

cc:

Tod Sherman, MNDOT Metro District
Buck Craig, MNDOT Metro District
Dave Evans, MNDOT Southeast District

Cedar Lake reroute transmission project

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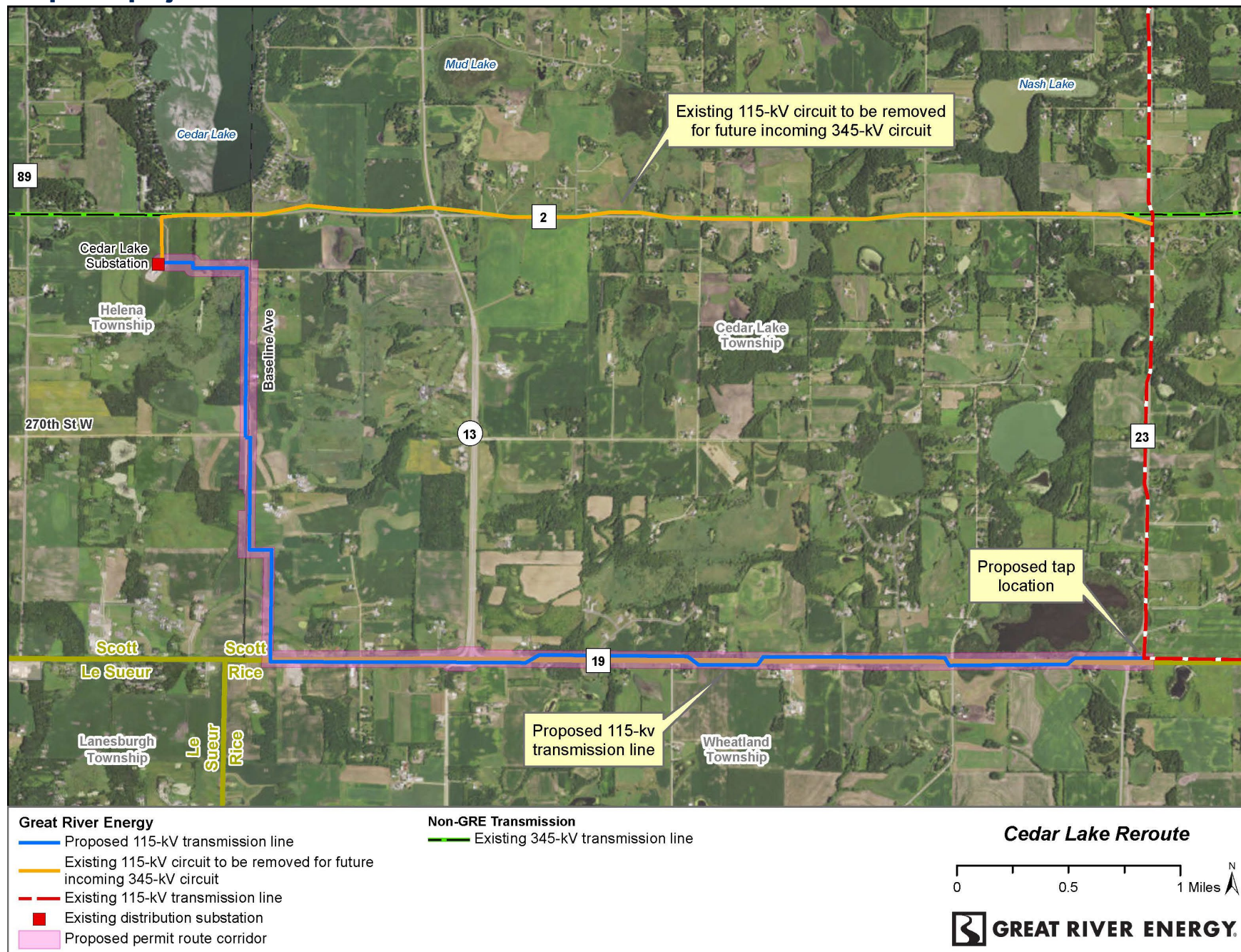
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Proposed project



Great River Energy representatives

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

Matthew Hagelin, SR/WA
Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights
(763) 445-5981 | mhagelin@greenergy.com

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

4/12/2023

From: [Kristin Lenz](#)
To: [Kotch Egstad, Stacy \(DOT\)](#)
Cc: [Sherman, Tod \(DOT\)](#); [Craig, E \(DOT\)](#); [Evans, David \(DOT\)](#); [Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG](#); [Britta Bergland](#)
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project Introduction
Date: Thursday, April 20, 2023 4:52:00 PM
Attachments: [P1_20230412_CedarLk.kmz](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[P1 Align_20230412_CedarLk.zip](#)

Good afternoon Stacy,

Thanks again for the meeting today. Attached are a shapefile and .kmz file of the Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project proposed route alignment and route width.

Thank you,
Kristin

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



1 Main Street SE, Suite 300
Minneapolis, MN 55414
612.746.3660
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From: Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 10:55 AM
To: Kristin Lenz <kristin.lenz@merjent.com>
Cc: Sherman, Tod (DOT) <tod.sherman@state.mn.us>; Craig, E (DOT) <buck.craig@state.mn.us>; Evans, David (DOT) <david.evans@state.mn.us>; Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfu@GREnergy.com>; Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project Introduction

Good Morning Kristin,

This week I can make Wed 4/19 at 11am or 1pm OR Thurs 4/20 at 10am work for myself and most District staff. Metro staff will be optional as the build portion does not currently affect TH ROW in their District.

You can send me the Teams meeting request and I will forward to the appropriate attendees on my side.

If additional dates/times are needed, please let me know,

Stacy Kotch Egstad

Utility Routing & Siting Coordinator | Office of Land Management

Minnesota Department of Transportation

395 John Ireland Blvd Mailstop 678

St. Paul, MN. 55155

O: 651-366-4635

mndot.gov/



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

Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 10:28 AM

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

Cc: Sherman, Tod (DOT) <tod.sherman@state.mn.us>; Craig, E (DOT) <buck.craig@state.mn.us>;

Evans, David (DOT) <david.evans@state.mn.us>; Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG

<MStrohfus@GREnergy.com>; Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>

Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project Introduction

Good morning Stacy,

Great River Energy would like to set up a meeting with MNDOT to further discuss Project specifics.
Are there some convenient dates/times that work for you to set something up?

Thank you,

Kristin

Kristin Lenz

Senior Project Manager

612.924.3962 direct

763.913.4740 mobile

kristin.lenz@merjent.com



1 Main Street SE, Suite 300

Minneapolis, MN 55414

612.746.3660

www.merjent.com

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

Sent: Friday, April 14, 2023 2:46 PM

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

Cc: Sherman, Tod (DOT) <tod.sherman@state.mn.us>; Craig, E (DOT) <buck.craig@state.mn.us>;

Evans, David (DOT) <david.evans@state.mn.us>; Strohfu, Mark GRE-MG
<MStrohfu@GREnergy.com>; Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>
Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project Introduction

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Kristin,

Thank you for the information and early outreach.

Before MnDOT can provide useful feedback for the project, we'd like to know 2 things:

1. Is the line along TH 19 inside/outside/combo/aerial encroachment only of MnDOT ROW?
2. Can you provide a brief explanation for the many crossings of TH 19 shown on the map?

Thank you,

Stacy Kotch Egstad

Utility Routing & Siting Coordinator | Office of Land Management

Minnesota Department of Transportation

395 John Ireland Blvd Mailstop 678

St. Paul, MN. 55155

O: 651-366-4635

mndot.gov/



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

Sent: Friday, April 14, 2023 2:30 PM

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

Cc: Sherman, Tod (DOT) <tod.sherman@state.mn.us>; Craig, E (DOT) <buck.craig@state.mn.us>;
Evans, David (DOT) <david.evans@state.mn.us>; Strohfu, Mark GRE-MG
<MStrohfu@GREnergy.com>; Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>

Subject: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project Introduction

This message may be from an external email source.

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

Good afternoon,

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Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project and the proposed route. The enclosed letter and Project Fact Sheet provide additional information on the Project, including a map of the Project area and proposed route. Great River Energy also maintains a web site that contains Project information at:

https://greatriverenergy.com/transmission_project/cedar-lake-transmission-project/. Please contact Mark Strohfus at 763-445-5210 or MStrohfus@GREnergy.com should you need additional information.

Thank you,
Kristin Lenz on behalf of Mark Strohfus, Great River Energy

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



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**Great River Energy
Cedar Lake Reroute Project
Minnesota Department of Transportation
April 20, 2023 Meeting Notes**

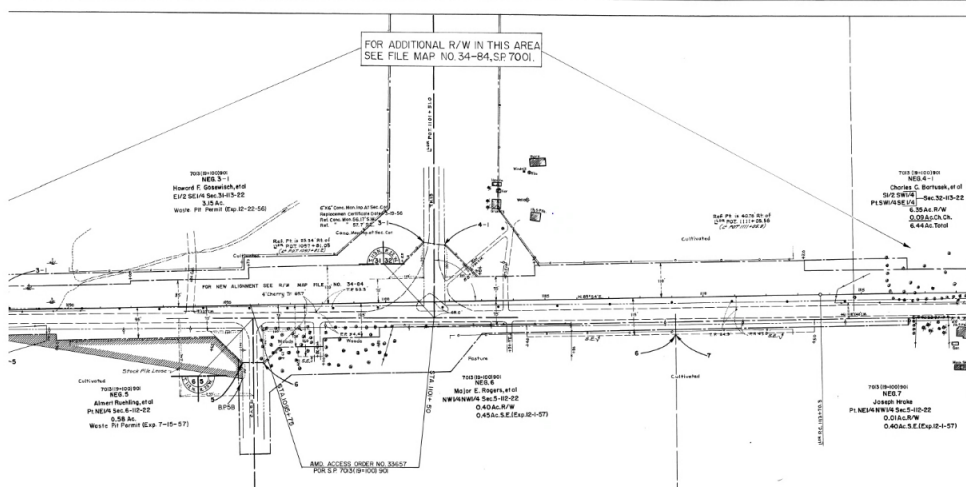
Participants: Stacy Koch-Egstad, David Evans, Heather Lukes, Tracy Schnell, Steve Schoeb, Tod Sherman, Angie Piltaver (Minnesota Department of Transportation [MNDOT])
Mark Strohfus (Great River Energy)
Kristin Lenz, Britta Bergland (Merjent)

- Koch-Egstad confirmed that the Great River Energy structures appear to be within MNDOT right-of-way (ROW).
- Strohfus described the proposed Cedar Lake Reroute Project alignment along 280th St E / State Highway 19, including features that Great River Energy is trying to avoid, thus creating crossovers. Strohfus described other complications including reluctant landowners, wetlands, threading between houses.
- MNDOT has concerns about powerlines on either side of the road and would like to avoid a boxed-in effect. Koch-Egstad described certain regulations that MNDOT must consider as an agency. Strohfus described that where Great River Energy overtakes the Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative (MN Valley) distribution lines, they would seek to bury the MN Valley line. Great River Energy prefers to not have under-build. Where they do not overtake it, there would be lines on both sides of the road.
- The group discussed the intersection of State Highways 19 and 13. MNDOT would like to keep the route on the south side near State Highway 13, in case a roundabout is added at the northern side of the intersection of State Highways 13 and 19. There are no immediate/present plans to do work on State Highway 19 in the 10-Year Plan for District 7. Piltaver provided the following link to the District 7 Project Page: <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/d7/projects.html>. If at some time this intersection does become built into a roundabout, it would affect 2-3 poles currently proposed as part of Cedar Lake Reroute Project; however, there are no certain plans at this time.
- Strohfus described that Great River Energy intends to submit its Route Permit Application in June 2023. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) is considering a 9-month Route Permit process. In service-date is planned for summer 2025. Normally, Great River Energy plans for a project like this to take 5 years, but this is looking more like 3 years. Great River Energy will engage in additional consultations with MMDOT before easement acquisitions.
- Koch-Egstad stated that this communication is considered pre-filing consultation. Then, once an application is filed, MNDOT will advise the MPUC and Department of Commerce (DOC) on its comments on the route. Koch-Egstad prefers to engage in early review with the MNDOT environmental group. She would like Great River Energy to send KMZ and shapefiles of the centerline and route width. Great River Energy will send over the geospatial data today after the meeting.
- MNDOT can provide updates on projects in the area when needed and also closer to construction. Schnell described that in District 6, there is one project in 2025 near Lonsdale, constructing a roundabout at State Highway 19 and Rice County Hwy 2; there may be closures that impact the Project, but otherwise, that is all she sees for her district. In District 7, the earliest project along State Highway 19 is in 2029 (Gaylord to State Highway 169) and then State Highway 169 to State Highway 13 in New Prague in 2031.
- Schoeb explained sight corners are angled for traffic at intersections to be able to have a clear view around corners. MNDOT prohibits the installation of poles in sight corners.

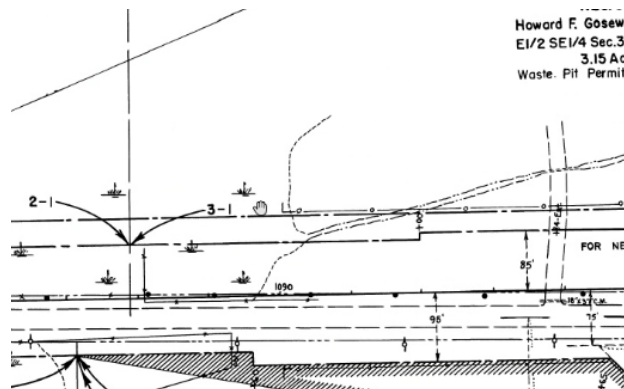
**Great River Energy
Cedar Lake Reroute Project
Minnesota Department of Transportation
April 20, 2023 Meeting Notes**

- Great River Energy would also need to stay out of areas where the MNDOT has access control along State Highway 19. Access control refers to areas where access is withheld to allow people to get in and out of their property (e.g., driveways). It can apply to MNDOT trunk highways like it applies to interstate. MNDOT does not allow longitudinal placement in access control areas. Access control areas are indicated as dashed tick marks on the MNDOT ROW maps available in PDF format on their website (examples provided below). MNDOT will also confirm.
- Strohfus displayed current alignment near intersection of State Highway 19 and Panama Ave / County Road 23. There is a wetland east of Panama Ave / County Road 23 that may be a stormwater pond. The MNDOT ROW through this area is quite wide and MNDOT is currently in the process of both expanding and contracting the ROW in this location. MNDOT inquired on the maximum span between transmission poles; Strohfus to follow-up. Strohfus provided example of potential pole placement in this area and inquired if causes concerns for the MNDOT. MNDOT recommended that the pole on the west side be pushed back closer to the ROW line. This may allow locating the eastern pole further to the west to completely span the MNDOT ROW.
- Koch-Egstad recommended that Great River Energy provide MNDOT with a shapefile of the pole placements as soon as possible for review.
- MNDOT also indicated their preference for perpendicular versus diagonal crossing of the ROW. GRE is open to planning more perpendicular crossings.

R/W Map #11-8



Zoomed In



**Great River Energy
Cedar Lake Reroute Project
Minnesota Department of Transportation
June 1, 2023 Meeting Notes**

Participants: Stacy Kotch Egstad (Minnesota Department of Transportation [MNDOT]), David Evans (MNDOT), Ann Driver (MNDOT), Mark Strohfus (Great River Energy), Kristin Lenz (Merjent)

Strohfus introduced Great River Energy's Cedar Lake Reroute Proposed Alignment change to avoid the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Scott County Waterfowl Production Area. The Proposed Alignment would be extended farther to the east on the south side of State Highway 19 before crossing over to the north side of the highway; the angle of the crossing may also be shallower. The intent is to avoid both the Waterfowl Production Area and to avoid tree clearing as much as possible to the north and south of State Highway 19. The MNDOT did not see any issues with this route revision at this time.

Driver indicated that the Proposed Alignment will need to be moved a little further to the north to avoid the roundabout lanes at the State Highway 19 / Panama Ave. Should be aligned to avoid sight corners and lighting at the roundabout. The move needs to be sufficient to avoid safety concerns with lighting and be sufficiently out of the lanes.

Great River Energy is looking to establish a pole within the area between Panama Ave and Great River Energy's existing 115-kV N/S line – the intent would be to avoid the wetland and place the pole where the wetland boundary is farther north (in the upland area). The MNDOT is working with the County to transfer ownership of this area to the MNDOT; however, this may not occur for another couple of years. Therefore, Great River Energy may need to coordinate with the County regarding this property and not MNDOT. The MNDOT had previously mentioned that the wetland in this area may have been stormwater mitigation; however, MNDOT could not confirm for sure.

The MNDOT also shared a project proposed to occur from 2027-2030 on State Highway 19 that should be reviewed and considered during the engineering and pole placement decision-making process: [Hwy 19 from Lonsdale to Northfield - MnDOT \(state.mn.us\)](https://www.state.mn.us/hwy19/).

Minnesota Indian Affairs Council



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

April 14, 2023

Melissa Cerda, Senior Cultural Resources Specialist
Dylan Goetsch, Cultural Resources Field Investigator
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council
161 St. Anthony Ave., Ste. 919
St. Paul, MN 55103
melissa.cerda@state.mn.us
dylan.goetsch@state.mn.us

**Subject: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project
115-kV Transmission Line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota**

Melissa Cerda and Dylan Goetsch:

Great River Energy is proposing to reroute approximately 4.5 miles of an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota as part of the Cedar Lake Reroute Project (the Project). The purpose of the Project is to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. Great River Energy is planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in June 2023.

Great River Energy held an Open House at the American Legion Park Ballroom in New Prague, Minnesota on March 29, 2023, to provide information and solicit comments from landowners and other interested stakeholders. Great River Energy received feedback at the Open House which resulted in revisions to its proposed route. At this time, Great River Energy's proposed route would begin at the existing Cedar Lake Substation and travel 6.3 miles to tie-in with the existing MV-EVX 115-kV transmission line near the intersection of Panama Avenue/County Road 23 and Minnesota Highway 19. The Project would be located in Helena and Cedar Lake Townships, east of the City of New Prague, in Scott County, and in Wheatland Township, in Rice County, MN.

Melissa Cerda and Dylan Goetsch
April 14, 2023
Page 2

Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project and the proposed route. The enclosed Project Fact Sheet provides additional information on the Project, including a map of the Project area and proposed route. Great River Energy also maintains a web site that contains Project information at: https://greatriverenergy.com/transmission_project/cedar-lake-transmission-project/. Please contact me at 763-445-5210 or MStrohfu@GREnergy.com should you need additional information.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Strohfu".

Mark Strohfu
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting

Encl: Project Fact Sheet

Cedar Lake reroute transmission project

Great River Energy is proposing to construct a new 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties ("Cedar Lake Reroute" or "Project"). The Project is being done to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. The Project, along with the second 345-kV circuit, will ensure we maintain reliable and resilient service to electric customers in the future by addressing reliability concerns and increasing deliverability of renewable resources from southern Minnesota to the southwest metropolitan area. A route permit must be issued by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) before construction can begin.

Overview

The Project will include construction of a new approximately 6.3-mile 115-kV transmission line. The transmission line will connect at Great River Energy's existing MV-EVX 115-kV transmission line near the intersection of County Road 23 and Minnesota Highway 19 and extend to the existing Cedar Lake Substation south of County Road 2 (see map on back). The Project will be built to Great River Energy's 115-kV design but will initially operate at 69 kV. Designing to 115-kV standards will simplify operating the regional transmission system at 115 kV as electrification and load development increases in the area. The route permit application will include analyses with the transmission line operating at 115 kV. Once the transmission line is constructed and connected to the substation, Great River Energy's existing 4.5-mile MV-CDT 115-kV transmission circuit, which is co-located in part on the CapX2020 345-kV transmission structures along County Road 2, will be removed.

After Great River Energy submits the route permit application to the Minnesota PUC, a representative from Great River Energy will contact property owners to discuss access to the proposed route and the process for acquisition of easements. Following construction of the transmission line, Great River Energy will promptly repair any damages that may occur.



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

Permitting and public involvement

Great River Energy will submit a route permit application for the proposed project to the PUC. During the route permit process, the public and regulatory agencies will have numerous opportunities to provide input on the Project, including public meetings facilitated by the PUC and Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DOC EERA). The DOC EERA will prepare an environmental assessment for the Project. Construction cannot begin until an approved route permit is issued by the PUC.

About Great River Energy and Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative

Great River Energy is a not-for-profit wholesale electric power cooperative which provides electricity to approximately 1.7 million people through its 27 member-owner cooperatives and customers. Through our member-owners, we serve two-thirds of Minnesota geographically and parts of Wisconsin, including Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative.

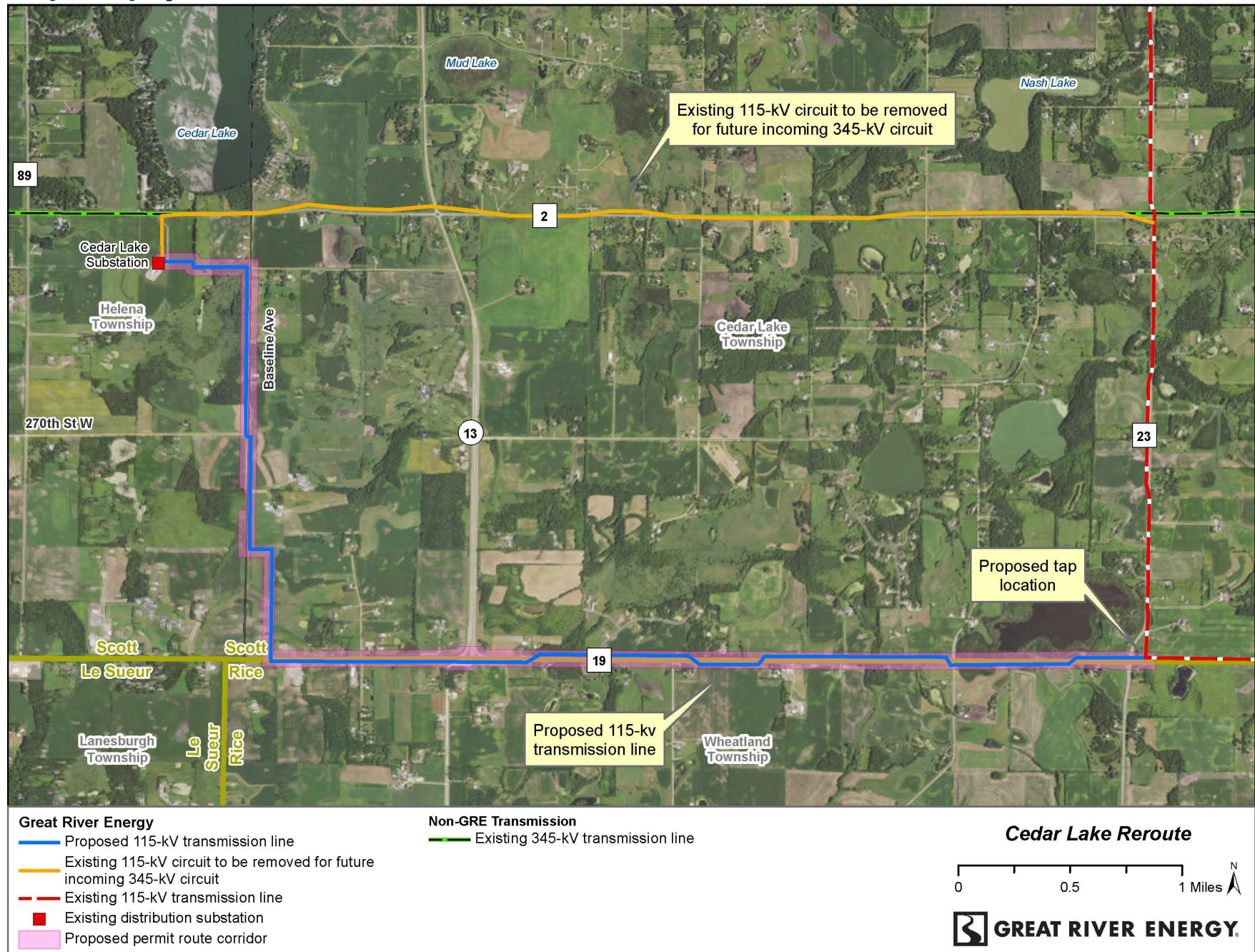
Schedule

Notifications	Winter/Spring 2023
State permitting	Spring 2023 – Spring 2024
Survey/design	Fall 2023 – Spring 2024
Easements/ Environmental permits	Winter 2024 – Spring 2025
Transmission line construction	Fall 2024 – Summer 2025
Energization	Summer 2025

Quick facts

Length	– 6.3 miles
Voltage	– 115 kV (initially operated at 69 kV)
Structures	– 60 to 90-foot wood or steel poles
Spans	– 300 to 400 feet apart
Right of way	– 100-foot-wide right of way, 50 feet on each side of the centerline
Permits	– MN Public Utilities Commission route permit

Proposed project



Great River Energy representatives

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

Matthew Hagelin, SR/WA
Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights
(763) 445-5981 | mhagelin@greenergy.com

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

4/12/2023

Office of the State Archaeologist



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

April 14, 2023

Amanda Gronhovd
Office of the State Archaeologist
328 W Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55102
Amanda.Gronhovd@state.mn.us

**Subject: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project
115-kV Transmission Line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota**

Amanda Gronhovd:

Great River Energy is proposing to reroute approximately 4.5 miles of an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota as part of the Cedar Lake Reroute Project (the Project). The purpose of the Project is to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. Great River Energy is planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in June 2023.

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Amanda Gronhovd
April 14, 2023
Page 2

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Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

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Mark Strohfu
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting

Encl: Project Fact Sheet

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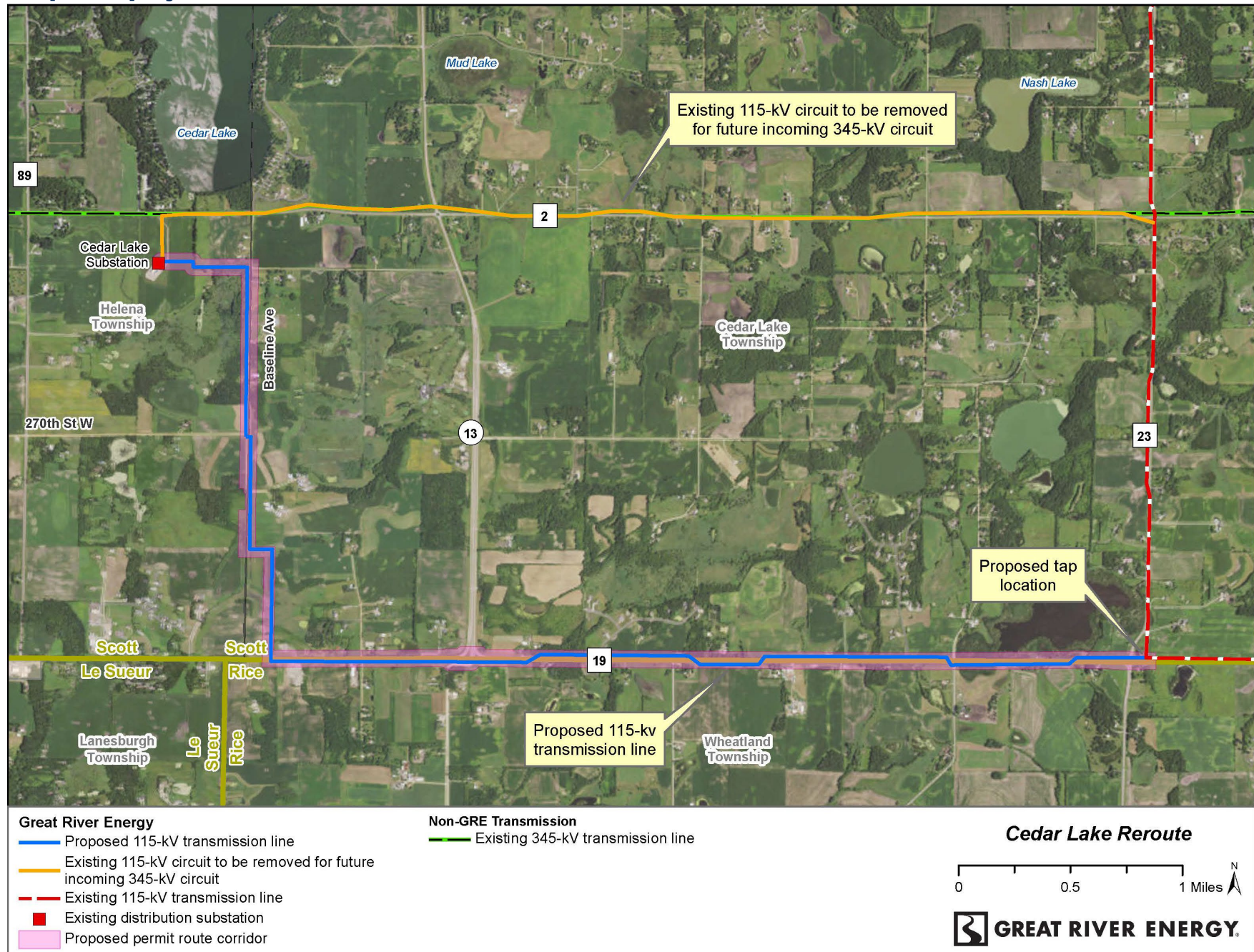
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Proposed project



Great River Energy representatives

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

Matthew Hagelin, SR/WA
 Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights
 (763) 445-5981 | mhagelin@grenergy.com

Mark Strohbus
 Project Manager, Transmission Permitting
 763-445-5210 | mstrohbus@grenergy.com

4/12/2023

Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office



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

May 10, 2023

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

**Subject: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project
115-kV Transmission Line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota**

Sarah Beimers:

Great River Energy proposes to build an overhead 6.3-mile-long 115-kV transmission line and structures (Project) in order to replace approximately 4.5 miles of the existing MV-CDT 115-kV transmission line that is currently located on the CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission line (CapX2020) structures. The existing line must be removed from the CapX2020 structures in order to make room for construction of a second 345-kV circuit on the g CapX2020 structures. Great River Energy is planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in June 2023.

Great River Energy held an Open House at the American Legion Park Ballroom in New Prague, Minnesota on March 29, 2023, to provide information and solicit comments from landowners and other interested stakeholders. Great River Energy received feedback at the Open House which resulted in revisions to its proposed route. At this time, Great River Energy's proposed route would begin at the existing Cedar Lake Substation and travel 6.3 miles to tie-in with the existing MV-EVX 115-kV transmission line near the intersection of Panama Avenue/County Road 23 and Minnesota Highway 19. The Project would be located in Helena and Cedar Lake Townships, east of the City of New Prague, in Scott County, and in Wheatland Township, in Rice County, MN.

Sarah Beimers
May 10, 2023
Page 2

On behalf of Great River Energy, Merjent Inc. (Merjent) conducted a Phase IA Cultural Resources Assessment, which is enclosed with this letter for your review. Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project and the proposed route. The enclosed Project Fact Sheet provides additional information on the Project, including a map of the Project area and proposed route. Great River Energy also maintains a web site that contains Project information at: https://greatriverenergy.com/transmission_project/cedar-lake-transmission-project/. Please contact me at 763-445-5210 or MStrohfu@GREnergy.com should you need additional information.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Strohfu".

Mark Strohfu
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting

Encl:
Project Fact Sheet
Phase IA Cultural Resources Assessment



May 10, 2023

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

Re: Cedar Lake Reroute Project Phase IA Cultural Resources Assessment

Dear Sarah Beimers:

This letter presents the results of a file search completed in support of the Cedar Lake Reroute Project (Project) in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota. Great River Energy proposes to build an overhead 6.3-mile-long 115-kV transmission line and structures in order to replace remove approximately 4.5 miles of the existing MV-CDT 115-kV transmission line that is currently located on the CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton (CapX2020) transmission line structures. The existing line must be removed from CapX2020 structures in order to make room for Xcel Energy's second 345-kV circuit. To assist with Project planning, Merjent, Inc (Merjent) prepared this letter; it includes the results of a file search and recommendations and is not intended to replace a formal field survey.

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

County	Township	Range	Sections
Rice	112N	22W	3, 4, 5, 6
Scott	113N	22W	31, 32, 33, 34, 35
Scott	113N	23W	25, 36

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

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

The Minnesota Field Archaeology Act (Minn. Stat § 138.32-138.42) establishes the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA); requires licenses to engage in archaeology on nonfederal public land; establishes ownership, custody, and use of objects and data recovered during survey; and requires state agencies to submit development plans to the OSA, Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council for review when there are known or suspected archaeological sites in the area.

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

Literature Review

On Friday, April 28, 2023, Merjent retrieved cultural resources site (archaeological sites and historic structures) and previous survey files from the SHPO. Merjent Cultural Resource Specialists reviewed archaeological site files on the OSA online portal, as well as the General Land Office (GLO) maps and available historical aerial photography accessed online through the OSA Portal¹. Enclosed Figures 1 and 2 show the features discussed below identified during this review.

BACKGROUND RESEARCH RESULTS

Previously Recorded Archaeological Resources

According to the OSA and SHPO files, there is one site that minimally intersects the Project Route. This site is an alpha site, meaning that it was identified by historic documentation and has not been verified in the field by a professional archaeologist. Due to the imprecise locational information of this site, alpha site boundaries are likely larger than they would be if the site was physically located. It is unlikely that this site would have intact deposits where it intersects the current Project given that the point of intersect is a small portion of an existing right-of-way (ROW).

- Site 21SCs is described as a historic ghost town known as Raven Stream, a small town inhabited in the mid-late 1800s.

There is one additional archaeological site within one mile of the Project, however it is at least 1,000 feet from the Project Route. Due to distance, there will be no impact to this site. This site is described as a small lithic scatter initially identified in 2001.

Site Number/Name	Site Type	Location (TRS)	NRHP Status
21SC0063	Lithic Scatter	T113N R22W Sec. 33	Unevaluated
21SCs	Ghost Town	T113N R23W Sec 36	Unevaluated

Previously Recorded Archaeological Surveys

The Study Area falls mostly within **Unknown Site Potential/Poorly Surveyed** layers of the Mn Model (Phase 4) Survey Implementation Model. One previous archaeological survey was identified in the Study Area. The precise location of the survey was not provided, however the survey (SC-99-01) identified site 21SC0063 (discussed above), which is located near the outer edge of the Study Area, and in an area that is Low Site Potential/Well Surveyed layer of the Mn

¹ OSA Portal. 2023. <https://osa.gisdata.mn.gov/OSAportal>. Accessed April 28, 2023.

Model. Given that the Project is located largely along utility and road ROWs, it is unlikely that the Project area contains intact cultural deposits.

Previously Recorded Standing Historic Buildings and Structures

Four historic buildings and structures are located within the Study Area, with one overlapping the Project area. Trunk Highway 19 (XX-ROD-041) (aka 280th St E / State Highway 19) is a linear resource which the Project Route intersects at various points. Given that this is an aboveground transmission line, these intersections will not impact the resource. Poles supporting the existing Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative distribution lines are visible from Trunk Highway 19. Because the Project is collocated and parallels existing utility and road ROWs, it will not result in an appreciable change in viewshed.

The remaining historic buildings and structures will not be impacted due to distance. The remaining buildings and structures include a farmstead (RC-WHE-001), a log outbuilding associated with a farmstead (SC-CLK-009), and a bridge (SC-HEL-015). The exact location of the bridge was not provided; however, a review of Google Street View indicates that the bridge has been removed.

Site Number/Name	Site Type	Location (TRS)	NRHP Recommendation
RC-WHE-001	Farmstead	T112N R22W Sec 3	Unevaluated
SC-CLK-009	Log Outbuilding	T113N R22W Sec 35	Unevaluated
SC-HEL-015/70507	Bridge	T113N R23W Sec 36	Unevaluated
XX-ROD-041/Trunk Highway 19	Road-related	Multiple	Unevaluated

General Land Office and Aerial Photo Review

Merjent reviewed Nineteenth century GLO maps and notes on file with the Bureau of Land Management² (Bureau of Land Management 2023). The GLO map of the Project Area illustrated conditions in 1870 as being prairie with many lakes and connecting streams and rivers. An unnamed trail is present near Cedar Lake. The trail continues south and intersects the Project Route at the same point that alpha site 21SCs intersects it. Aerial photographs from 1937 show that roads have been constructed and farms have been established with agricultural fields dominating the landscape. There is no trace of the GLO trail on historic aerials, by 1937 it had been superseded by roads and fields. Subsequent historic and modern aerial photographs show that the landscape of the Project Area has remained largely the same since that time, with roads being the main addition to the area.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

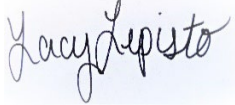
Two total archaeological sites and four historic buildings and structures were identified within the Study Area. There is potential for Historic-era sites within the Project Area because the area has been inhabited at least since the 1930s; however, given that the Project is an overhead transmission line project proposed mostly within an already disturbed ROW, there is a low

² Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records. 2023. <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/>

potential for intact historic sites. Mn Model4 indicates that the Project's Area of Potential Effect has an unknown site potential because the area has been poorly surveyed. The Project Area could contain pre-contact sites given its location among several water sources. Given the lack of previous survey and that the Project Route intersects an archaeological site and a historic structure, Merjent recommends that a Phase I Archaeological Reconnaissance be conducted. Additionally, if human remains are encountered during construction activities, all ground disturbing activity must cease, and local law enforcement must be notified per Minn. Stat § 307.08.

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

Sincerely,
Merjent, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lacy Lepisto". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lacy Lepisto
Cultural Resource Specialist

Enclosed:

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

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

cc:

Mark Strohfus, Great River Energy

Kristin Lenz, Merjent

Bill Harding, Merjent

Local Government Units

Scott County Soil & Water Conservation District



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

April 14, 2023

Troy Kuphal
Scott County Soil & Water Conservation District
7151 190th St W Suite 125
Jordan, MN 55352-2103
tkuphal@co.scott.mn.us

**Subject: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project
115-kV Transmission Line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota**

Troy Kuphal:

Great River Energy is proposing to reroute approximately 4.5 miles of an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota as part of the Cedar Lake Reroute Project (the Project). The purpose of the Project is to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. Great River Energy is planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in June 2023.

Great River Energy held an Open House at the American Legion Park Ballroom in New Prague, Minnesota on March 29, 2023, to provide information and solicit comments from landowners and other interested stakeholders. Great River Energy received feedback at the Open House which resulted in revisions to its proposed route. At this time, Great River Energy's proposed route would begin at the existing Cedar Lake Substation and travel 6.3 miles to tie-in with the existing MV-EVX 115-kV transmission line near the intersection of Panama Avenue/County Road 23 and Minnesota Highway 19. The Project would be located in Helena and Cedar Lake Townships, east of the City of New Prague, in Scott County, and in Wheatland Township, in Rice County, MN.

Troy Kuphal
April 14, 2023
Page 2

You are receiving this letter because your agency has been identified as the Local Government Unit that administers the Wetland Conservation Act in Scott County. Great River Energy would also like to request Scott County's noxious weeds list. Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project and the proposed route. The enclosed Project Fact Sheet provides additional information on the Project, including a map of the Project area and proposed route. Great River Energy also maintains a web site that contains Project information at: https://greatriverenergy.com/transmission_project/cedar-lake-transmission-project/. Please contact me at 763-445-5210 or MStrohfu@GREnergy.com should you need additional information.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY



Mark Strohfus
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting

Encl: Project Fact Sheet

cc:

Alyssa Core, Minnesota Board of Soil and Waters Resources

Cedar Lake reroute transmission project

Great River Energy is proposing to construct a new 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties ("Cedar Lake Reroute" or "Project"). The Project is being done to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. The Project, along with the second 345-kV circuit, will ensure we maintain reliable and resilient service to electric customers in the future by addressing reliability concerns and increasing deliverability of renewable resources from southern Minnesota to the southwest metropolitan area. A route permit must be issued by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) before construction can begin.

Overview

The Project will include construction of a new approximately 6.3-mile 115-kV transmission line. The transmission line will connect at Great River Energy's existing MV-EVX 115-kV transmission line near the intersection of County Road 23 and Minnesota Highway 19 and extend to the existing Cedar Lake Substation south of County Road 2 (see map on back). The Project will be built to Great River Energy's 115-kV design but will initially operate at 69 kV. Designing to 115-kV standards will simplify operating the regional transmission system at 115 kV as electrification and load development increases in the area. The route permit application will include analyses with the transmission line operating at 115 kV. Once the transmission line is constructed and connected to the substation, Great River Energy's existing 4.5-mile MV-CDT 115-kV transmission circuit, which is co-located in part on the CapX2020 345-kV transmission structures along County Road 2, will be removed.

After Great River Energy submits the route permit application to the Minnesota PUC, a representative from Great River Energy will contact property owners to discuss access to the proposed route and the process for acquisition of easements. Following construction of the transmission line, Great River Energy will promptly repair any damages that may occur.



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

Permitting and public involvement

Great River Energy will submit a route permit application for the proposed project to the PUC. During the route permit process, the public and regulatory agencies will have numerous opportunities to provide input on the Project, including public meetings facilitated by the PUC and Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DOC EERA). The DOC EERA will prepare an environmental assessment for the Project. Construction cannot begin until an approved route permit is issued by the PUC.

About Great River Energy and Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative

Great River Energy is a not-for-profit wholesale electric power cooperative which provides electricity to approximately 1.7 million people through its 27 member-owner cooperatives and customers. Through our member-owners, we serve two-thirds of Minnesota geographically and parts of Wisconsin, including Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative.

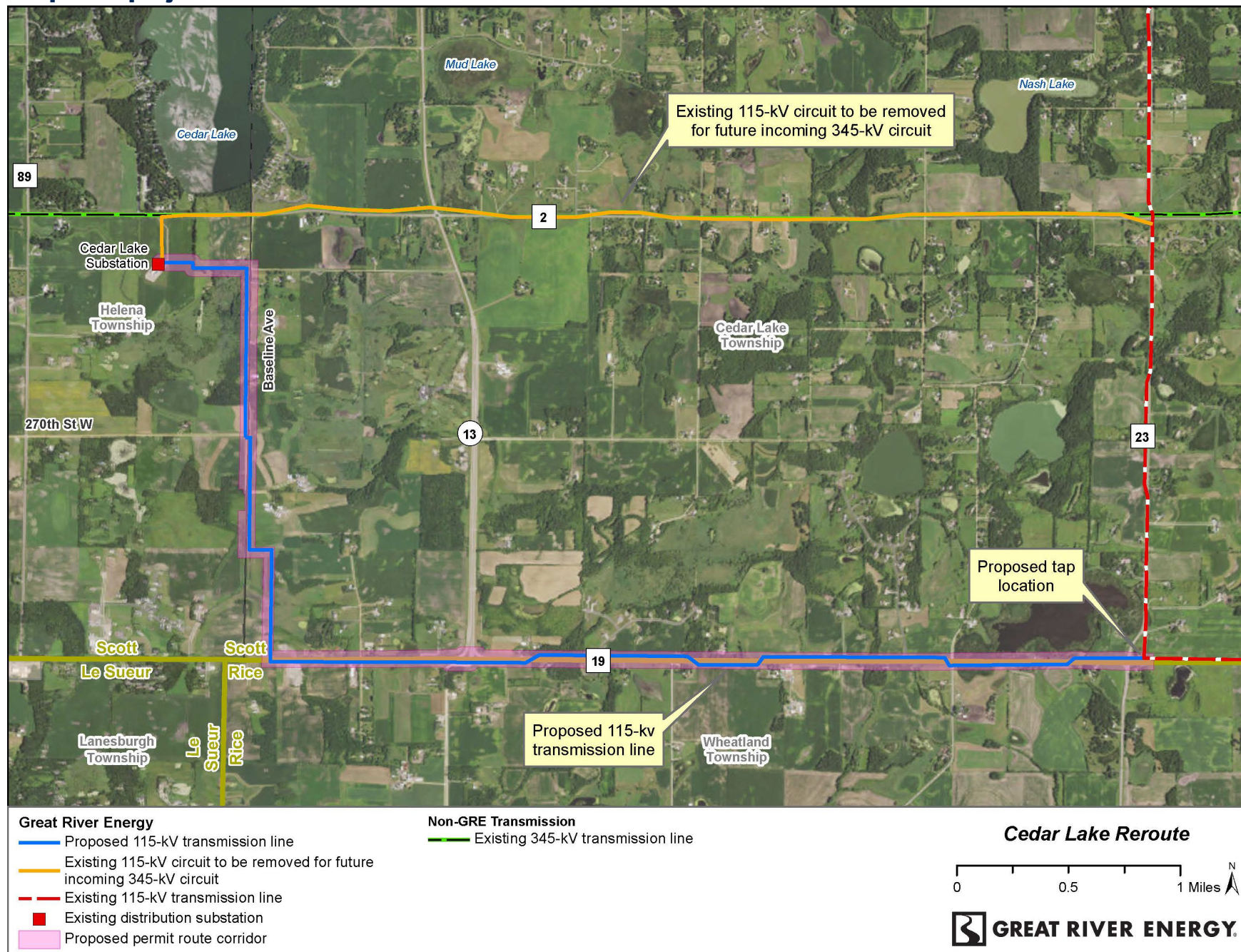
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Transmission line construction	Fall 2024 – Summer 2025
Energization	Summer 2025

Quick facts

Length	– 6.3 miles
Voltage	– 115 kV (initially operated at 69 kV)
Structures	– 60 to 90-foot wood or steel poles
Spans	– 300 to 400 feet apart
Right of way	– 100-foot-wide right of way, 50 feet on each side of the centerline
Permits	– MN Public Utilities Commission route permit

Proposed project



Great River Energy representatives

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

Matthew Hagelin, SR/WA
Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights
(763) 445-5981 | mhagelin@greenergy.com

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

4/12/2023

Rice County



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

April 14, 2023

Julie Renkel
Rice County - Water Resource Management
310 Third St. NW
Faribault, MN 55021
RCPlanningZoning@ricecountymn.gov

**Subject: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project
115-kV Transmission Line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota**

Julie Renkel:

Great River Energy is proposing to reroute approximately 4.5 miles of an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota as part of the Cedar Lake Reroute Project (the Project). The purpose of the Project is to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. Great River Energy is planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in June 2023.

Great River Energy held an Open House at the American Legion Park Ballroom in New Prague, Minnesota on March 29, 2023, to provide information and solicit comments from landowners and other interested stakeholders. Great River Energy received feedback at the Open House which resulted in revisions to its proposed route. At this time, Great River Energy's proposed route would begin at the existing Cedar Lake Substation and travel 6.3 miles to tie-in with the existing MV-EVX 115-kV transmission line near the intersection of Panama Avenue/County Road 23 and Minnesota Highway 19. The Project would be located in Helena and Cedar Lake Townships, east of the City of New Prague, in Scott County, and in Wheatland Township, in Rice County, MN.

Julie Renkel
April 14, 2023
Page 2

Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project and the proposed route. The enclosed Project Fact Sheet provides additional information on the Project, including a map of the Project area and proposed route. Great River Energy also maintains a web site that contains Project information at: https://greatriverenergy.com/transmission_project/cedar-lake-transmission-project/. Please contact me at 763-445-5210 or MStrohfu@GREnergy.com should you need additional information.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Strohfu".

Mark Strohfu
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting

Encl: Project Fact Sheet

Cedar Lake reroute transmission project

Great River Energy is proposing to construct a new 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties ("Cedar Lake Reroute" or "Project"). The Project is being done to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. The Project, along with the second 345-kV circuit, will ensure we maintain reliable and resilient service to electric customers in the future by addressing reliability concerns and increasing deliverability of renewable resources from southern Minnesota to the southwest metropolitan area. A route permit must be issued by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) before construction can begin.

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

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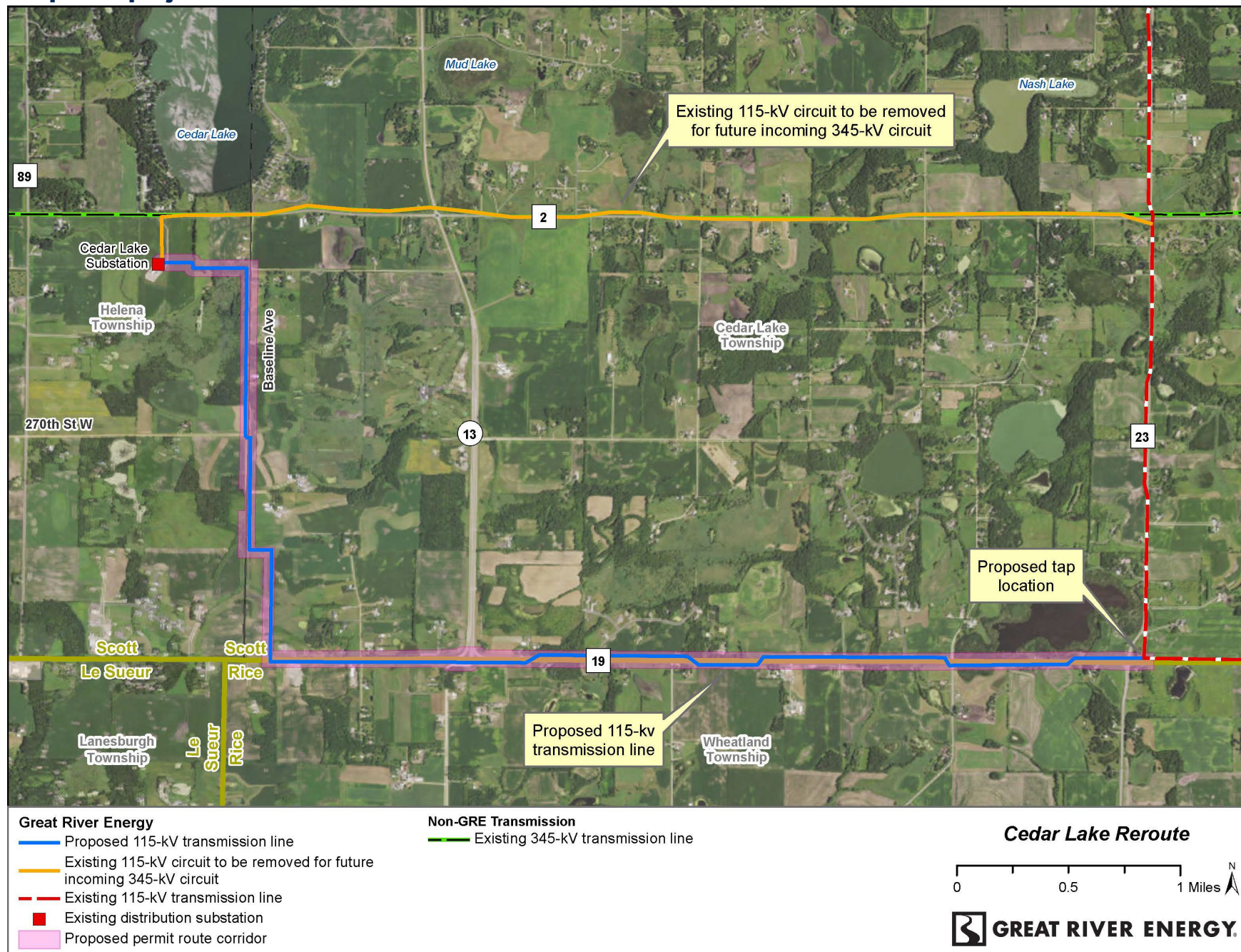
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Proposed project



Great River Energy representatives

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

Matthew Hagelin, SR/WA
Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights
(763) 445-5981 | mhagelin@greenergy.com

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

4/12/2023

Rice County Soil & Water Conservation District



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

April 14, 2023

Jarett Spitzack
Rice County Soil & Water Conservation District
1810-30th St. NW
Faribault, MN 55021-1843
Jarett.Spitzack@riceswcd.org

**Subject: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project
115-kV Transmission Line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota**

Jarett Spitzack:

Great River Energy is proposing to reroute approximately 4.5 miles of an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota as part of the Cedar Lake Reroute Project (the Project). The purpose of the Project is to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. Great River Energy is planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in June 2023.

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Jarett Spitzack
April 14, 2023
Page 2

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Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY



Mark Strohfu
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting

Encl: Project Fact Sheet

cc:

Steve Pahs, Rice County Soil & Water Conservation District
Alyssa Core, Minnesota Board of Soil and Waters Resources

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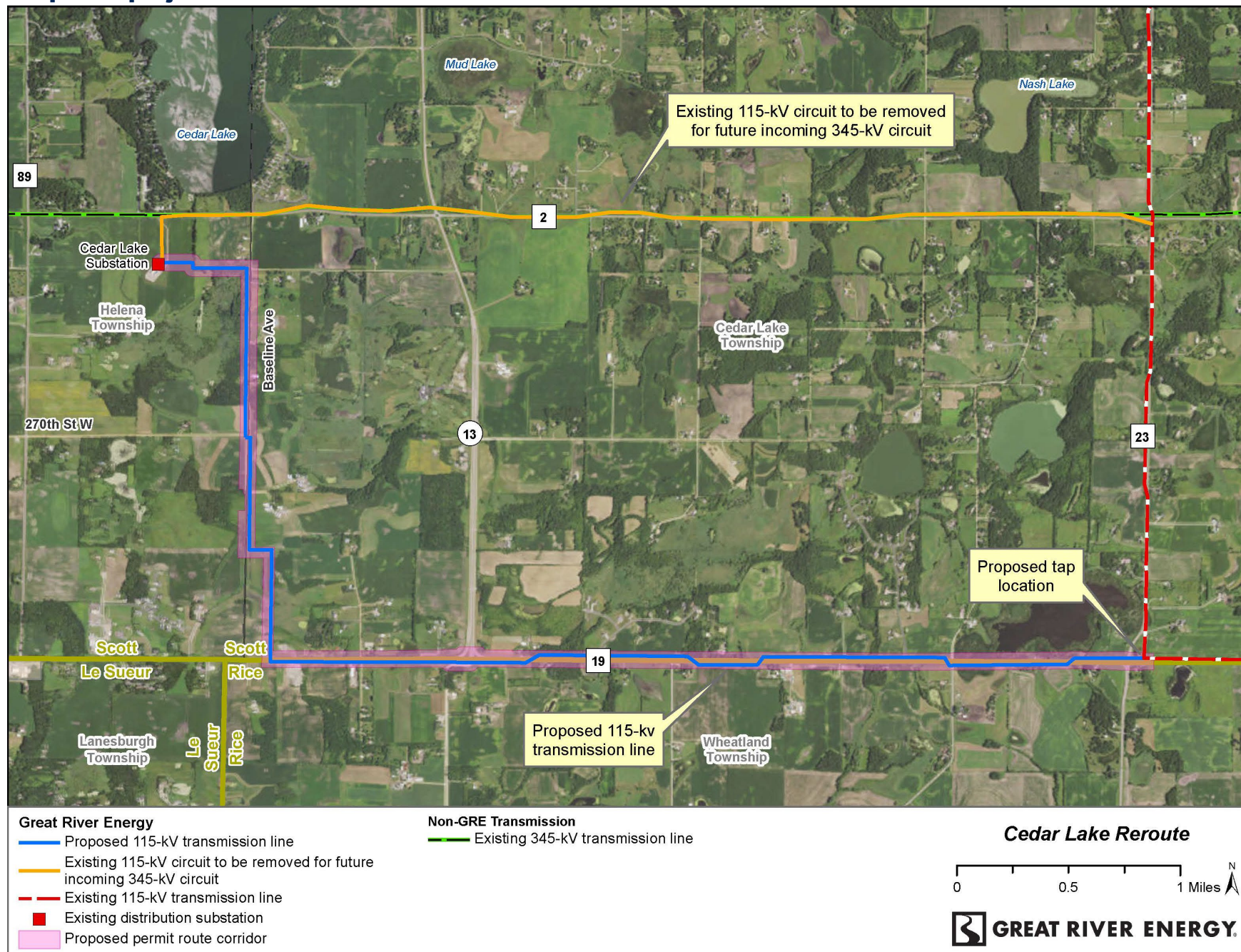
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Proposed project



Great River Energy representatives

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

Matthew Hagelin, SR/WA
Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights
(763) 445-5981 | mhagelin@grenergy.com

Mark Strohfus
Project Manager, Transmission Permitting
763-445-5210 | mstrohfus@grenergy.com

4/12/2023

From: [Kristin Lenz](#)
To: [Jarett Spitzack](#)
Cc: [Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG](#); [Britta Bergland](#)
Subject: RE: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project Introduction
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 10:43:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good morning Jarett,

Thank you for your response. Apart from some pole placement which may occur in wetlands, Great River Energy would only anticipate temporary fill associated with construction mats in wetlands at this time. The route alignment provided in the introduction letter is preliminary and is subject to change. Once we move through the Route Permit application process with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, we will have a better understanding of potential wetland impacts.

Thank you,
Kristin

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



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

From: Jarett Spitzack <Jarett.Spitzack@riceswcd.org>
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2023 2:45 PM
To: Kristin Lenz <kristin.lenz@merjent.com>
Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project Introduction

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Good afternoon Kristin,

Thanks for making us aware of the project. I believe MnDOT conducted a level 1 delineation on the Rice/Scott Co line earlier this year for a different project. As you are probably aware, posts and pilings are not considered fill under WCA. Do you anticipate any permanent impacts to wetlands or only temporary? Either way, I don't foresee any issues with WCA in Rice County.

Thanks,

Jarett

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

Sent: Friday, April 14, 2023 2:21 PM

To: Jarett Spitzack <Jarett.Spitzack@riceswcd.org>; Steven Pahs <Steven.Pahs@riceswcd.org>

Cc: Core, Alyssa (BWSR) <alyssa.core@state.mn.us>; Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfus@GREnergy.com>; Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>

Subject: Great River Energy Cedar Lake Reroute Project Introduction

Good afternoon,

Great River Energy is proposing to reroute approximately 4.5 miles of an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota as part of the Cedar Lake Reroute Project (the Project). The purpose of the Project is to make room for a second 345-kV circuit to be attached to the existing CapX2020 Brookings to Hampton transmission structures, which run along County Road 2 in the Project area. Great River Energy is planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in June 2023.

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https://greatriverenergy.com/transmission_project/cedar-lake-transmission-project/. Please contact Mark Strohfus at 763-445-5210 or MStrohfus@GREnergy.com should you need additional information.

Thank you,

Kristin Lenz on behalf of Mark Strohfus, Great River Energy

Kristin Lenz

Senior Project Manager

612.924.3962 direct

763.913.4740 mobile

kristin.lenz@merjent.com



1 Main Street SE, Suite 300

Minneapolis, MN 55414

612.746.3660

www.merjent.com

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Appendix E

Landowner Mailing List

**Great River Energy
Cedar Lake Reroute Project
Landowner Mailing List**

Contact Type	First Name	Last Name	Company	Address	City	State	Zip Code	PID
TAX	Jennifer K.	Alfonso		13890 Mckenna Rd NW	Prior Lake	MN	55372	039300065
TAX	William A.	Allen		14125 Louisiana Ave S Unit 5115	Savage	MN	55378	039310083
PROPERTY	William A.	Allen		27845 Teale Ave	New Prague	MN	56071	039310083
TAX	Cecil & Virgilene	Anderson		6451 190th St E	Prior Lake	MN	55372	0105150001, 0105275001
PROPERTY	Cecil & Virgilene	Anderson		3009 Lake Ave	New Prague	MN	56071	0105150001, 0105275001
TAX	Keith C. & Kelli M.	Balke Jr.		12876 New Prague Blvd	New Prague	MN	56071	0106225001
TAX	Susan & James	Barnes		27782 Balsa Ave	Webster	MN	55088	030310141
TAX	Benjamin	Bartusek		305 Sunrise Ave N	New Prague	MN	56071	0106175008
TAX	David	Bartusek		1815 West Melrose	Chicago	IL	60657	0104100002
TAX	John T. & Shirley	Bartusek		362 Rolling Hills Dr S	Le Center	MN	56057	0104275001
TAX	Richard R. & Karen L.	Bartusek Bierle		3062 Jackson Ave	Webster	MN	55088	103225002
TAX	Patricia A.	Bartusek Et Al		211 1st Ave Se	New Prague	MN	56071	0104175002
TAX	Karen	Bartusek-Bierle		Po Box 373	Park Rapids	MN	56470	0103225003
TAX	Frank	Bisek		1901 270th St W	New Prague	MN	56071	059360131
TAX	William & Susan	Bisek		175 280th St W	New Prague	MN	56071	07.001.2650
TAX	Kent S. & Kathleen	Bradfield		121 263 St E	New Prague	MN	56071	039300042
TAX	Christian & Lynette K.	Brandt		27797 Teale Ave	New Prague	MN	56071	039310084
TAX	Ronald E. & Debra M.	Busch		700 Forest Green Cir NE	New Prague	MN	56071	039320052
TAX	Roger & Judy	Carlson		9076 New Prague Blvd	Webster	MN	55088	0103100001
TAX	Bradley J.	Cervenka		8154 30 St W	Elko New Market	MN	55020	039350060, 039340140, 030350010
PROPERTY	Bradley J.	Cervenka		27901 Panama Ave	Webster	MN	55088	039350060, 039340140, 030350010
TAX	Joseph R. Clay and	Jan LaFavor-Clay Trust		3021 Lake Ave	New Prague	MN	56071	0105225001
TAX	Sarah	Dejoy		3260 Independence Ave	Webster	MN	55088	0103175001, 0103175002
TAX	Marvin	Deutsch		28414 141st Ave	New Prague	MN	56071	0106125002, 0106125003
PROPERTY	Marvin	Deutsch		12410 New Prague Blvd	New Prague	MN	56071	0106125002, 0106125003
TAX	Marvin J. & Kimberly M.	Deutsch		28414 141st Ave	New Prague	MN	56071	0106200001
PROPERTY	Marvin J. & Kimberly M.	Deutsch		12668 New Prague Blvd	New Prague	MN	56071	0106200001
TAX	Joan H. & Kenneth	Dille		6481 Casey Parkway	Prior Lake	MN	55372	0106100001
PROPERTY	Joan H. & Kenneth	Dille		12150 New Prague Blvd	New Prague	MN	56071	0106100001
TAX	Steven D.	Eischens		27776 Mark Ave	New Prague	MN	56071	050140010
TAX	Michael J. & Sara M.	Fatland		27941 Teale Ave	New Prague	MN	56071	039310081
TAX	Amanda L.	Foix		22781 Balsa Ave	Webster	MN	55088	030220010
TAX	John	Franek		3322 Lake Ave	New Prague	MN	56071	0105125001
TAX	John T. & Elizabeth	Franek		3322 Lake Ave	New Prague	MN	56071	0106175011
TAX	Rosemary	Franek		11220 New Prague Blvd	New Prague	MN	56071	0105100001
TAX	Jasen R.	Giles		27655 Langford Ave	New Prague	MN	56071	039320050
TAX	Lynette M.	Grobel		27832 Teale Ave	New Prague	MN	56071	030290012
TAX	Timothy L. & Susan J.	Hanson		26571 Baseline Ave	New Prague	MN	56071	039300064
TAX	Jon C. & Mary R.	Hendricks		880 260 St W	New Prague	MN	56071	050700040, 059250021, 050700030, 050700020, 050700010
TAX	Curtis L.	Hoffman		1991 Joel D Ln	New Prague	MN	56071	030740170
TAX	James L. & Lucille	Hurtle		1340 280 St E	New Prague	MN	56071	039320053
TAX	Jeffrey & Antonette	Jeurissen		1166 280 St E	New Prague	MN	56071	039320051
TAX	Jeffrey J.	Jeurissen		1166 280th St E	New Prague	MN	56071	039330080, 039330083, 039330090
TAX	John O. & Kristine B.	Johnson		27901 Teale Ave	New Prague	MN	56071	039310085
TAX	Tammy L. & David M.	Johnson		26525 Baseline Ave	New Prague	MN	56071	039300066
TAX	Tyler Robert	Kienow		1529 Cottonwood Trl	New Prague	MN	56071	030740030
TAX	Andrew J.	Kreuser		2026 280 St E	New Prague	MN	56071	039330081
TAX	Jeffery R.	Krocak		26801 Baseline Ave	New Prague	MN	56071	039300061
TAX	Chris A.	Kubes		26160 Baseline Ave	New Prague	MN	56071	050330020
TAX	James Jr. & Judith C.	Kubes		26140 Baseline Ave	New Prague	MN	56071	050410010
TAX	Wallace J. & Jeanne P.	Kubes		1002 3Rd St Ne	New Prague	MN	56071	059250061
TAX	Justin	Lennox		1522 Cottonwood Trl	New Prague	MN	56071	039320062
TAX	John L.	Magnussen		1773 Joel D Ln	New Prague	MN	56071	030740180, 030740210, 030740200, 030740151
TAX	Theresa Lynn	Marsyla		201 263rd St E	New Prague	MN	56071	039300043
TAX	Ronald D. & Heather	Meyers		11580 New Prague Blvd	New Prague	MN	56071	0105200001
TAX	Steven & Kathleen	Muhlenhardt		3225 Jackson Ave	Webster	MN	55088	0103200001
TAX	Roger G. & Catherine A.	Novak		27910 Country Hollows Ln	New Prague	MN	56071	030310010
TAX	Alan M.	Novotny		825 260 St W	New Prague	MN	56071	059250070, 050410020

**Great River Energy
Cedar Lake Reroute Project
Landowner Mailing List**

Contact Type	First Name	Last Name	Company	Address	City	State	Zip Code	PID
TAX	Anrita B.	Novotny Irrevocable Trust		210 7th Ave NW	New Prague	MN	56071	039310020
PROPERTY	Anrita B.	Novotny Irrevocable Trust		27750 Teale Ave	New Prague	MN	56071	039310020
TAX	Alvin & Genevieve	Novotny Trust		27255 Baseline Ave	New Prague	MN	56071	039310030
TAX	Joel J. & Mary E.	Olson		8916 30th St W	Webster	MN	55088	102225001
TAX	Kevin M. & Rita	Olson		3245 Lake Ave	New Prague	MN	56071	0105250001
TAX	Mark & Jacqueline	Pavek		6450 30th St W	Elko	MN	55020	0104150001, 0104225001, 0104250001
TAX	Donald & Elaine	Pesta		27840 Teale Ave	New Prague	MN	56071	030290021
TAX	Scott & Anne	Pexa Revocable Trust		196 280th St W	New Prague	MN	56071	030750010, 050620070
TAX	Ashley M.	Quam		27268 Baseline Ave	New Prague	MN	56071	059360132
TAX	Mark & Linda	Rahn Trust		26301 Baseline Ave	New Prague	MN	56071	039300041
TAX	David	Ranzinger		806 280 St E	New Prague	MN	56071	030150010
TAX	Tracy A.	Roorda		426 280 St E	New Prague	MN	56071	039310090
TAX	Bradley D. & Margaret	Schipper		3221 Leroy Ave	New Prague	MN	56071	0106125004
TAX	Christopher R. & Rose M.	Simones		26200 Baseline Ave	New Prague	MN	56071	050330030
TAX	Thomas M.	Sirek		3496 Halstad Ave	Webster	MN	55088	0102200001
TAX	Daniel J. & Teresa	Skruzacek		2650 280 St E	New Prague	MN	56071	039330060
TAX	Randall Joseph	Steinhoff		1146 138th Ave NW	Andover	MN	55304	030740010
PROPERTY	Randall Joseph	Steinhoff		1560 Joel D Ln	New Prague	MN	56071	030740010
TAX	Truman A. & Brenda	Tollefsrud		4515 Independence Ave	Lonsdale	MN	55046	0103125001
TAX	Steven C.	Trewartha		27747 Teale Ave	New Prague	MN	56071	039310021
TAX	Eugene A. & Dorothy	Tupy		10050 New Prague Blvd	New Prague	MN	56071	0104100001
TAX	Gladys M.	Tupy		420 Independence St	New Prague	MN	56071	0106250001
TAX	John A.	Tupy		1598 Joel D Ln	New Prague	MN	56071	030740020
TAX	Myron & Carol	Tupy		10950 New Prague Blvd	New Prague	MN	56071	0104225002
TAX	Thomas E. Voight and	Kayla Voight Millner		10550 New Prague Blvd	New Prague	MN	56071	0104200001
TAX	Jessica A.	Wallner		2030 280 St E	New Prague	MN	56071	039330082
TAX	Katie L.	Weiers		27846 Teale Ave	New Prague	MN	56071	039310110
TAX	Daniel M.	Wixon		27590 Panama Ave	Webster	MN	55088	039340100, 039340120, 039340150, 039340160
TAX			Bisek Brothers LLC	1901 270 St W	New Prague	MN	56071	059250050, 039300070, 039310010
PROPERTY			Bisek Brothers LLC	300 270th St W	New Prague	MN	56071	059250050, 039300070, 039310010
PROPERTY			Bisek Brothers LLC	27251 Baseline Ave	New Prague	MN	56071	059250050, 039300070, 039310010
TAX			Country Knolls Homeowners' Assoc	1798 Joel D Ln	New Prague	MN	56071	030740190
TAX			Dove Hill Farms LLC	PO Box 94	New Prague	MN	56071	039300044
PROPERTY			Dove Hill Farms LLC	26495 Baseline Ave	New Prague	MN	56071	039300044
TAX			Heritage United Meth Church	PO 32	New Prague	MN	56071	039310082
PROPERTY			Heritage United Meth Church	200 280th St E	New Prague	MN	56071	039310082
TAX			Johnson Reiland Builders And Remodelers	616 Highway 3 S	Dundas	MN	55019	030740161
PROPERTY			Johnson Reiland Builders And Remodelers	1851 Joel D Ln	New Prague	MN	56071	030740161
TAX			LEH Properties LLC	3765 Lake Ave	New Prague	MN	56071	0104125001
PROPERTY			LEH Properties LLC	10480 New Prague Blvd	New Prague	MN	56071	0104125001
TAX		Evan Bohlman	Minnesota Pipe Line Company LLC	PO 2900	Wichita	KS	67201	050140030
TAX			Pomije Farms LLC	301 260 St E	New Prague	MN	56071	039300031
TAX			Schaefer Living Trust	3109 Leroy Ave	New Prague	MN	56071	0106100002, 0106125001

Appendix F

Construction Emission Calculations

Great River Energy
Cedar Lake Reroute 2023
Construction Emission Calculations
Summary

Description	Construction Emissions (tons)					
	Criteria Pollutants					
	NO _x	CO	VOC	SO ₂	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
Off-Road Engine Emissions	5.12	1.50	0.36	0.00	0.21	0.20
Unpaved Roads	--	--	--	--	1.58	0.16
Commuters and Delivery Vehicles	--	--	--	--	--	--
Earthmoving	--	--	--	--	8.00	0.84
TOTAL	5.12	1.50	0.36	0.00	9.79	1.21

Great River Energy
Cedar Lake Reroute 2023
Construction Emission Calculations
Emission Factors for Construction Engines

Equipment	Quantity ^a	Hours per Day	Days per Week	Number of Weeks	Total Hours Used ^b	Max Power (HP)	Load Factor ^c	Loaded Power (HP)	VOC	CO	Emission Factors ^{d,e} (g/hp-hr)			
Air Compressor	1	10	5	16	800	80	1	80	0.367	2.366	4.700	0.240	0.240	0.002
ATV	1	10	5	16	800	20	0.5	10	0.438	2.161	4.440	0.267	0.267	0.002
Backhoe	1	50	5	16	4,000	75	0.8	60	0.367	2.366	4.700	0.240	0.240	0.002
Fork Lift	1	5	5	16	400	120	1	120	0.167	0.843	4.335	0.132	0.132	0.002
Dump Truck	1	5	5	16	400	325	0.8	260	0.338	0.867	4.100	0.180	0.180	0.002
Generator	1	5	5	16	400	250	0.5	125	0.167	0.843	4.335	0.132	0.132	0.002
Boom truck	2	10	5	16	1,600	50	1	50	0.338	0.867	4.100	0.180	0.180	0.002
Pickup Truck	5	10	5	16	4,000	150	0.25	38	0.167	0.843	4.335	0.132	0.132	0.002
Skid steer loader	2	10	5	16	1,600	50	1	50	0.309	0.748	4.000	0.132	0.132	0.002
Large Crane	1	10	5	16	800	15	0.21	3	0.438	2.161	4.44	0.267	0.259	0.002
Medium Crane	1	10	5	16	800	450	0.7	315	0.3085	0.7475	4.0	0.132	0.128	0.002
2-inch Water Pump	1	5	5	16	400	5	0.69	3	0.438	2.161	4.44	0.267	0.259	0.002
Semitruck/Trailer	1	5	5	16	400	500	0.59	500	0.167	0.843	4.335	0.132	0.132	0.002

^a Equipment counts based on experience with construction of a similar projects.

^b Generally assumes work will occur 7 am - 7 pm, Monday through Saturday.

^c Load Factors from Appendix A of EPA 420_P-04-005, Median Life, Annual Activity, and Load Factor Values for Nonroad Engine Emissions Modeling , USEPA, April 2004.

^d EPA 420-P-04-009, Exhaust and Crankcase Emission Factors for Nonroad Engine Modeling - Compression Ignition, USEPA, April 2004 - Tier 2 Engines.

^e GHG emission factors from Title 40 Subchapter C Part 98 Subpart C Table C-1 and C-2 to Subpart C.

Assumption:

393.5 hp-hr/MMBtu

453.6 g/lb

Great River Energy
Cedar Lake Reroute 2023
Construction Emission Calculations
Emission Estimates from Construction Engines

Equipment	Potential Emissions (tons)					
	VOC	CO	NOx	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	SO ₂
Air Compressor	2.59E-02	0.167	0.332	0.017	0.017	0.000
ATV	3.86E-03	0.019	0.039	0.002	0.002	0.000
Backhoe	9.71E-02	0.626	1.243	0.063	0.063	0.001
Fork Lift	8.83E-03	0.045	0.229	0.007	0.007	0.000
Dump Truck	3.88E-02	0.099	0.470	0.021	0.021	0.000
Generator	9.20E-03	0.046	0.239	0.007	0.007	0.000
Boom truck	2.98E-02	0.076	0.362	0.016	0.016	0.000
Pickup Truck	2.76E-02	0.139	0.717	0.022	0.022	0.000
Skid steer loader	2.72E-02	0.066	0.353	0.012	0.012	0.000
Large Crane	1.22E-03	0.006	0.012	0.001	0.001	0.000
Medium Crane	8.57E-02	0.208	1.111	0.037	0.036	0.001
2-inch Water Pump	6.66E-04	0.003	0.007	0.000	0.000	0.000
Semitruck/Trailer	6.66E-04	0.003	0.007	0.000	0.000	0.000
TOTAL	0.36	1.50	5.12	0.21	0.20	0.00

Great River Energy
Cedar Lake Reroute 2023
Construction Emission Calculations
Fugitive Dust Emissions from Unpaved Roads

Equipment	Quantity ^a	Total Days		W	Emission Factor (lb/VMT) ^c		Emissions (tons)	
		Used	VMT ^b		PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
ATV	1	80	40	20	1.73	0.17	0.03	0.00
Backhoe	1	400	200	50	2.62	0.26	0.26	0.03
Fork Lift	1	40	20	20	1.73	0.17	0.02	0.00
Dump Truck	1	40	20	21	1.77	0.18	0.02	0.00
Boom truck	2	160	160	24	1.88	0.19	0.15	0.02
Pickup Truck	5	400	1,000	24	1.88	0.19	0.94	0.09
Skid steer loader	2	160	160	26	1.95	0.20	0.16	0.02
Large Crane	1	10	5	50	2.62	0.26	0.01	0.00
Medium Crane	1	10	5	25	1.92	0.19	0.00	0.00
2-inch Water Pump	1	5	3	25	1.92	0.19	0.00	0.00
Semitruck/Trailer	1	5	3	25	1.92	0.19	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.58	0.16

^a Equipment counts are estimated based current construction plan.

^b Each vehicle is assumed to travel 0.5 mile per day on site.

^c AP-42 Section 13.2.2 Unpaved Roads, dated November 2006, Equations 1a and 2 TOTALS 11.19 1.12 Surface Silt content based on Table 13.2.2-1 - construction sites.

Eq 1a: $E = k * (s/12)^a * (W/3)^b$

Eq 2: $E_{ext} = E * [(365-P)/365]$

Constants	PM	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
k (lb/VMT)	4.9	1.5	0.15
a	0.7	0.9	0.9
b	0.45	0.45	0.45

where:

VMT = Vehicle Miles Traveled

W = Mean Vehicle Weight, tons

S = Mean Vehicle Speed, mph

P = 120 days with at least 0.01 inches rain, EPA's AP-42 Figure 13.2.2-1

s = 8.5 surface material silt content (%) for construction sites, EPA's AP-42 Table 13.2.2-1

E = size-specific emission factor, lb/ VMT

E_{ext} = annual size-specific emission factor extrapolated for natural migration, lb/VMT

Great River Energy
Cedar Lake Reroute 2023
Construction Emission Calculations
Fugitive Dust Emissions from Earthmoving Activities

Summary of Fugitive Dust Emissions From Earthmoving Activities							
Construction Activity	Daily Material Handling		Average Exposed Area (acres)	Emission Factors ^{b - d} (lb/ton)		Emissions (tons)	
	Construction Rate ^a	Handling Time		PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
	(ton/day)	(days)					
Topsoil removed by scraper ^e	855.6	180	---	0.058	0.0061	4.47	0.47
Topsoil replacement	855.6	180	---	0.012	0.0013	0.92	0.10
Wind erosion of exposed areas	--	180	76.36	0.38	0.03999	2.61	0.27
TOTAL						8.00	0.84

Notes and Assumptions:

^a Soil density: 1.25 tons per yard.

^b As worst case, PM₁₀ is set equal to Total Particulate Matter. PM_{2.5} is set to 0.105 times PM₁₀ per AP-42 Section 11.9 Table 11.9-1.

^c Wind Erosion Exposed Areas emission factor: AP-42 Section 11.9 Western Surface Coal Mining, Table 11.9-4, July 1998, wind erosion of exposed areas (ton/yr/acre).

^d Emission factor: AP-42 Section 11.9 Western Surface Coal Mining, Table 11.9-4, July 1998, topsoil removal by scraper.

^e Assumes the entire workspace is cleared to 1 foot deep, 1.25 tons per cubic yard.

Construction Schedule	
Total Days:	180

Topsoil Removed by Scraper ^a				
County/Facility	Total (Acres)	Soil Volume (yd ³)	Soil Weight (ton)	Daily Material Handling Rate (ton/day)
Cedar Lake Reroute	76.36	123,200	154,000	856
TOTAL	76.36	123,200	154,000	856

^a Assumes the entire ROW is cleared, 6.5 miles long and 100 feet wide.

Appendix G

Greenhouse Gas Emission Calculations

Great River Energy
Cedar Lake Reroute 2023
Greenhouse Gas Emission Calculations
Summary

Description	Greenhouse Gas Emissions From Construction Engines (tons)			
	CO ₂	CH ₄	N ₂ O	CO ₂ e ^a
Off-Road Engine Emissions	171.49	0.01	0.00	172.07
Commuters and Delivery Vehicles	114.83	0.00	0.00	114.83
TOTAL	286.32	0.01	0.00	286.90

^a CO₂e = carbon dioxide equivalent. Includes global warming potentials from 40 CFR 98 Table A-1.

Global Warming Potentials		
CO ₂	CH ₄	N ₂ O
1	25	298

Source: 40 CFR 98 Table A-1: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/chapter-I/subchapter-C/part-98#Table-A-1-to-Subpart-A-of-Part-98>

Great River Energy
Cedar Lake Reroute 2023
Greenhouse Gas Emission Calculations
Emission Estimates from Construction Engines

Equipment	Quantity ^a	Hours per Day	Days per Week	Number of Weeks	Total Hours Used ^b	Max Power (HP)	Load Factor ^c	Loaded Power (HP)	Emission Factors ^{d,e} (g/hp-hr)			Potential Emissions ^f (tons)			
									CO ₂	CH ₄	N ₂ O	CO ₂	CH ₄	N ₂ O	CO ₂ e
Air Compressor	1	10	5	16	0	80	1	80	188.262	0.008	0.002	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ATV	1	10	5	16	2,600	20	0.5	10	188.262	0.008	0.002	5.40	0.00	0.00	5.41
Backhoe	1	50	5	16	1,300	75	0.8	60	188.262	0.008	0.002	16.19	0.00	0.00	16.24
Fork Lift	1	5	5	16	0	120	1	120	188.262	0.008	0.002	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dump Truck	1	5	5	16	0	325	0.8	260	188.262	0.008	0.002	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Generator	1	5	5	16	0	250	0.5	125	188.262	0.008	0.002	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Boom truck	2	10	5	16	1,300	50	1	50	188.262	0.008	0.002	13.49	0.00	0.00	13.54
Pickup Truck	5	10	5	16	6,500	150	0.25	38	188.262	0.008	0.002	50.58	0.00	0.00	50.76
Skid steer loader	2	10	5	16	0	50	1	50	188.262	0.008	0.002	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Large Crane	1	10	5	16	1,300	15	0.21	3	188.262	0.008	0.002	0.85	0.00	0.00	0.85
Medium Crane	1	10	5	16	1,300	450	0.7	315	188.262	0.008	0.002	84.98	0.00	0.00	85.27
2-inch Water Pump	1	5	5	16	0	500	0.59	500	188.262	0.008	0.002	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Semitruck/Trailer	1	5	5	16	0	50	1	50	188.262	0.008	0.002	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	--	--						171.49	0.01	0.001	172.07

^a Equipment counts based on experience with construction of a similar projects.

^b Generally assumes work will occur 7 am - 7 pm, Monday through Saturday.

^c Load Factors from Appendix A of EPA 420_P-04-005, Median Life, Annual Activity, and Load Factor Values for Nonroad Engine Emissions Modeling, USEPA, April 2004.

^d EPA 420-P-04-009, Exhaust and Crankcase Emission Factors for Nonroad Engine Modeling - Compression Ignition, USEPA, April 2004 - Tier 2 Engines.

^e GHG emission factors from Title 40 Subchapter C Part 98 Subpart C Table C-1 and C-2 to Subpart C.

^f CO₂e is carbon dioxide equivalent and includes global warming potentials from 40 CRF Part 98 Table A-1.

Global Warming Potentials		
CO ₂	CH ₄	N ₂ O
1	25	298

Source: 40 CFR 98 Table A-1: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/chapter-I/subchapter-C/part-98#Table-A-1-to-Subpart-A-of-Part-98>

Great River Energy
Cedar Lake Reroute 2023
Greenhouse Gas Emission Calculations
Greenhouse Gas Emissions from On Road Construction Traffic

On-Road Vehicles					
	Vehicles per day	Miles per vehicle	Number of Days	Fuel Used (gallons)	CO ₂ Emissions ^a (tons)
Commuter Vehicles - Gasoline ^b	20	60	180	9,818	96
Delivery Trucks - Diesel ^c	1	60	180	1,662	19

^a Assumes 1 gallon of gasoline = 8,887 grams CO₂ and 1 gallon of diesel = 10,180 g CO₂, per US EPA's "Greenhouse Gas Emissions from a Typical Passenger Vehicle," available online at: <https://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi?Dockkey=P100U8YT.pdf>

^b Assumes commuters travel 30 miles each way (60 miles round trip) per day, with a fuel economy of 24 miles per gallon, per US EPA and US Department of Energy Fuel Economy data for combined city and highway driving in 2023, available online at: <https://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/download.shtml>.

^c Assumes delivery trucks travel 30 miles each way (60 miles round trip) per day, with a fuel economy of 6.5 miles per gallon, industry average.

Appendix H

Vegetation Management Plan
[To be filed at a later date]