Ground Water

The DNR divides Minnesota into six groundwater provinces. Becker County is in the Central Province, which is described as sand aquifers in generally thick sandy and clayey glacial drift overlying Precambrian and Cretaceous bedrock.[20]

Lakes

The route is closest to Lake Eunice. about 1,222 feet from open water. Lakes near the proposed route (**Figure 7-1**) include:

- Northwest: Lake Eunice (370 acres),
- South: Little Pelican Lake (385 acres), and
- South: Pelican Lake (516 acres)[21].

Rivers and Streams

There are no rivers and streams near the proposed route (**Figure 7-4**).

Public Waters

The proposed transmission line will not cross any DNR Public Waters.

Impaired Waters

Section 303(D) of the Federal Clean Water Act requires states to publish, every two years, a list of streams and lakes that are not meeting their designated uses because of excess pollutants (impaired waters). The list, known as the 303(d) list, is based on violations of water quality standards. In Minnesota, the MPCA has jurisdiction over determining 303(d) waters. These waters are described as "impaired."

The closest impaired water to the project is Pelican Lake at approximately 2,100 feet south of the project; however, no additional construction requirements are indicated on the MPCA website (**Figure 7-4**).

Wetlands

National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps show no wetlands in the proposed route. The closest wetland (504P) is over 1,200 feet east of the project. The USACE was contacted[22] requesting information on the possible effects of the proposed Project on wetlands in the Project area. In a

[20] http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/natural_resources/water/groundwater/provinces/gwprov.pdf (2010)

[21] http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/index.html; http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/maps/compass.html (2010)

[22] Letter from Marsha Parlow, Great River Energy to Thomas Hingsberger, USACE. March 14, 2019. Appendix D.

letter dated April 5, 2019[23], the USACE indicated "[t]he work proposed at the location stated is not within the regulatory jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers."

Impacts and Mitigation

No impacts to groundwater in the Project area are anticipated. Any effects on water tables would be localized and short term and would not affect hydrologic resources.

No navigable waters will be affected by the Project, because, the transmission line will not cross any navigable waters.

Once the Project is completed, there would be no significant impact on surface water quality, because disturbed soil will be restored to previous conditions or better, and the amount of land area converted to an impervious (will not allow fluid to pass through) surface will be small.

The Project should have no impact on the impairment status of the waters in the Project area. Appropriate erosion and sediment control measures will be implemented to avoid or minimize such impacts.

In the event that impacts to hydrologic features may happen, Great River Energy will work with the jurisdictional agencies to determine the best ways to minimize the impacts and create appropriate mitigation measures.

7.6.3 Flora and Fauna

Flora

Prior to European settlement of the area, the vegetation in the western half of the county was mainly tall prairie grass species, wetland reeds, and sedges and the eastern half of the county was mainly mixed hardwoods.

There are no DNR Wildlife Management Areas, DNR Scientific and Natural Areas, or USFWS Waterfowl Production Areas in the Project area. There are no state or county forests or parks in the vicinity of the project area.

Fauna

Wildlife species in Becker County include ruffed grouse, sharp-tail grouse, partridge, rabbits, squirrels, red and gray fox, raccoon, deer, bear, muskrat, mink, beaver, migratory waterfowl (geese, ducks, trumpeter swans, herons) and various birds (meadowlark, field sparrow, thrush, woodpeckers, shore birds) [24].

[23] Letter from Aiden Schore, USACE to Marsha Parlow, Great River Energy. April 5, 2019. Appendix D.

[24] Becker County Soil Survey. https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx

The USFWS website[25] for threatened and endangered species in Becker County includes the Canada lynx (threatened), the Gray wolf (threatened) and the Northern long-eared bat (threatened).

The USFWS was contacted by letter[26] and in their April 23, 2019[27] email response, indicated that they "have no significant concerns and no comments to provide."

Impacts and Mitigation

Minimal impacts to native vegetation are anticipated. The proposed transmission line will use and parallel existing utility and road ROW, minimizing impacts to previously undisturbed vegetation in that area.

There is minimal potential for the displacement of wildlife and loss of habitat from construction of the Project. Wildlife that inhabit natural areas could be impacted in the short-term within the immediate area of construction. The distance that animals will be displaced will depend on the species. Additionally, these animals will be typical of those found in agricultural and forested settings and should not incur population level effects due to construction.

Raptors, waterfowl and other bird species may be affected by the construction and placement of the transmission lines. Avian collisions are a possibility after the completion of the transmission lines. Waterfowl are typically more susceptible to transmission line collision, especially if the transmission line is placed between agricultural fields that serve as feeding areas, or between wetlands and open water, which serve as resting areas.

Great River Energy will address avian issues by working with the DNR and USFWS to identify any areas that may require marking transmission line shield wires and/or to use alternate structures to reduce the likelihood of collisions.

The Northern long-eared bat (NLEB) is discussed in more detail in **Section 7.7**.

7.6.4 Invasive Species Management

The movement of construction equipment to, from, and between various work sites has the potential to introduce and/or spread invasive species. Such species include reed canary grass, common buckthorn, purple loosestrife, and leafy spurge, in addition to various invasive aquatic species.

---

[25] US Fish and Wildlife Webpage Endangered Species. http://www.fws.gov/Midwest/Endangered/LISTS/minnesot-cty.html

[26] Letter from Marsha Parlow, Great River Energy to Andrew Horton, US Fish and Wildlife Service. March 13, 2019. *See* Appendix D.

[27] Email from Andrew Horton, US Fish and Wildlife Service to Marsha Parlow, Great River Energy. April 23, 2019. *See* Appendix D.

Impacts and Mitigation

Great River Energy anticipates a construction schedule that would allow for stringing of conductor during late fall/winter months. To minimize the potential for the introduction or spread of invasive species, Great River Energy proposes to follow BMPs during Project construction:

- All disturbed areas will be revegetated using weed-free seed mixes. If practicable, native plant species will be used to revegetate disturbed areas. Weed-free straw or weed-free hay will be used for erosion control;
- Herbicidal or manual vegetation removal may be implemented to minimize the spread of invasive species where such removal is consistent with easement conditions or landowner restrictions;
- Construction vehicles will be cleaned and inspected to remove dirt, mud, plants, and debris from vehicles and equipment prior to arriving at, and leaving from, construction sites; and
- The Construction Field Representative will oversee BMP installation and effectiveness.

7.7 Rare and Unique Natural Resources

A desktop review of the Natural Heritage Inventory System (NHIS) records provided by the DNR indicates no rare features within the proposed route (**Figure 7-5**).

The DNR was contacted[28] requesting information on the possible effects of the proposed Project on rare and unique features in the Project area. In a letter dated August 9, 2018[29], the DNR responded they "do not believe the proposed Project will negatively affect any known occurrences of rare features."

The NLEB is listed as threatened by the USFWS. However, in their email response of April 23, 2019 (**Appendix D**), the USFWS indicated no significant concerns or comments to provide, regarding the project.

Impacts and Mitigation

Constructing in and adjacent to an existing electric utility ROW will minimize impacts to habitat in this area. Great River Energy will continue to coordinate with the DNR and USFWS to ensure that sensitive species near the proposed route are not impacted by construction of the Project.

The following general measures will be used to help avoid or minimize impacts to area wildlife and rare natural resources during and after the completion of the proposed transmission line:

- Minimize tree felling and shrub removal that are important to area wildlife.

[28] Letter from Marsha Parlow, Great River Energy to Lisa Joyal, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. June 11, 2018. *See* Appendix D.

[29] Letter from Lisa Joyal, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to Marsha Parlow, Great River Energy. August 9, 2018. *See* Appendix D.

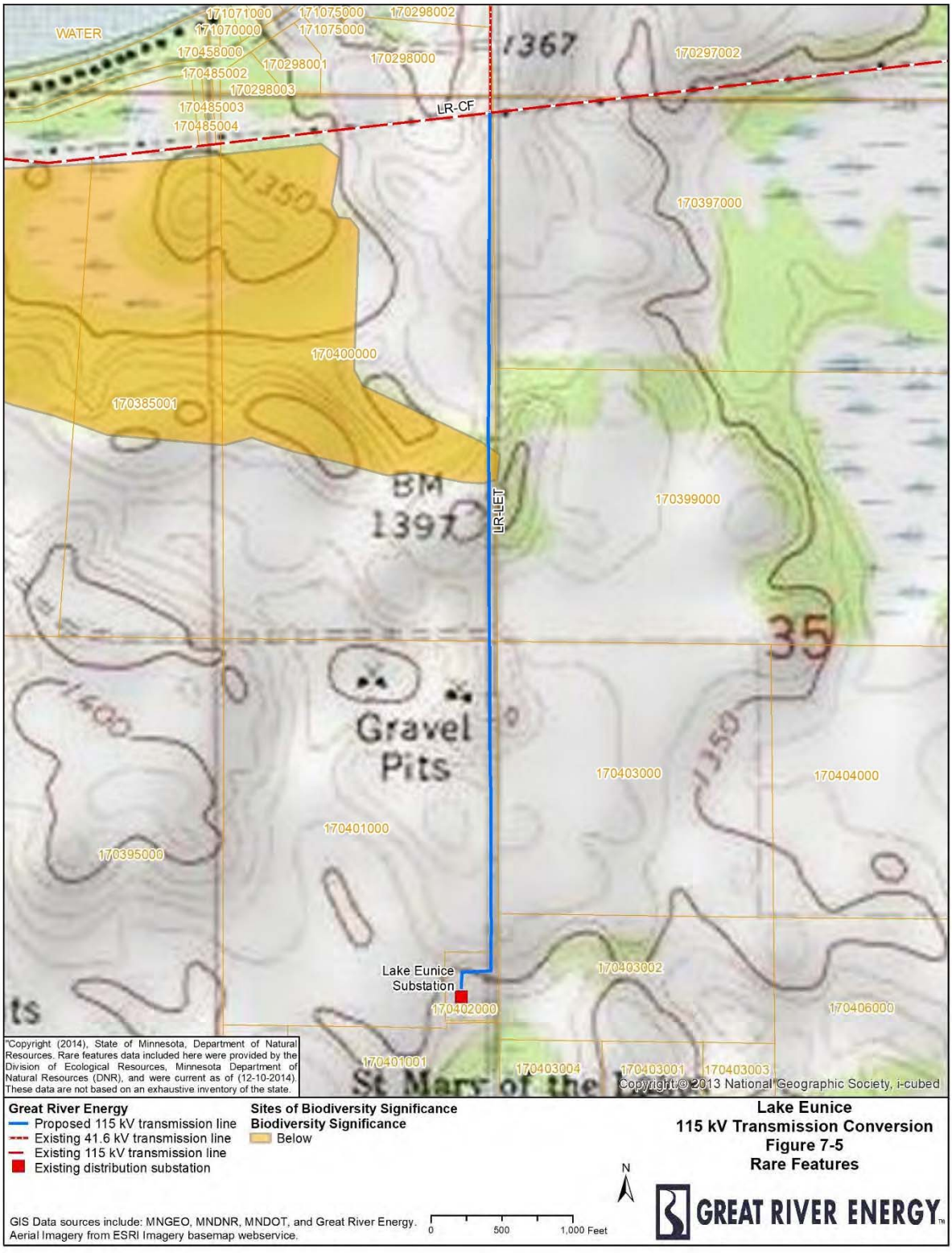
- Utilize BMPs to prevent erosion of the soils in the areas of impact.

- Implement sound water and soil conservation practices during construction and operation of the Project to protect topsoil and adjacent water resources and minimize soil erosion. Practices may include containing excavated material, protecting exposed soil, and stabilizing restored soil.

- Re-vegetate disturbed areas with native species and wildlife conservation species where applicable.

- Implement raptor protection measures, if consultation with local wildlife management staff deems necessary.

Figure 7-5. Rare Features



7.8 Physiographic Features

7.8.1 Topography

The proposed Project lies within the Pine Moraines and Outwash Plains Subsection of the Laurentian Mixed Forest Province under the DNR Ecological Classification System.

The Laurentian Mixed Forest Province is characterized by broad areas of conifer forest, mixed hardwood and conifer forests, and conifer bogs and swamps. The landscape ranges from rugged lake-dotted terrain with thin glacial deposits over bedrock, to hummocky or undulating plains with deep glacial drift, to large, flat, poorly drained peatlands.

The Pine Moraines and Outwash Plains Subsection is a mix of outwash plains, end moraines, till plains, and drumlin fields. The topography of the proposed route is nearly level to rolling.

Impacts and Mitigation

Construction of the Project will not alter the topography along the route; therefore, no mitigation is proposed.

7.8.2 Geology

Depth of glacial drift over bedrock in the Pine Moraines and Outwash Plains Subsection varies from 200 to over 600 feet, with the greatest depths in the southwestern portion of the subsection. Underlying bedrock is a variety of Precambrian rock. There are some localized cretaceous marine shale, sandstone and variegated shale in the southwestern portion of the subsection.

Impacts and Mitigation

Few geological constraints on design, construction, or operation are anticipated in the Project area. Dewatering (i.e., during pole embedding) will likely not be necessary. Any effects on water tables would be localized and short term and would not affect geologic resources. Construction of the Project will not alter the geology along the routes; therefore, no mitigation is proposed.

7.8.3 Soils

USDA data[30] was reviewed to describe soil resources in the vicinity of the Project. Soils are generally grouped into categories known as "associations." A soil association has a distinctive pattern of soils, relief and drainage, and is a unique natural landscape. Typically, an association consists of one or more major soils and some minor soils. There are five soil associations along the proposed route. These soil associations are listed in **Table 7-6** and shown in **Figure 7-6**.

[30] https://soilseries.sc.egov.usda.gov/OSD_Docs/.html

Table 7-5. Soil Associations in the Vicinity of the Project

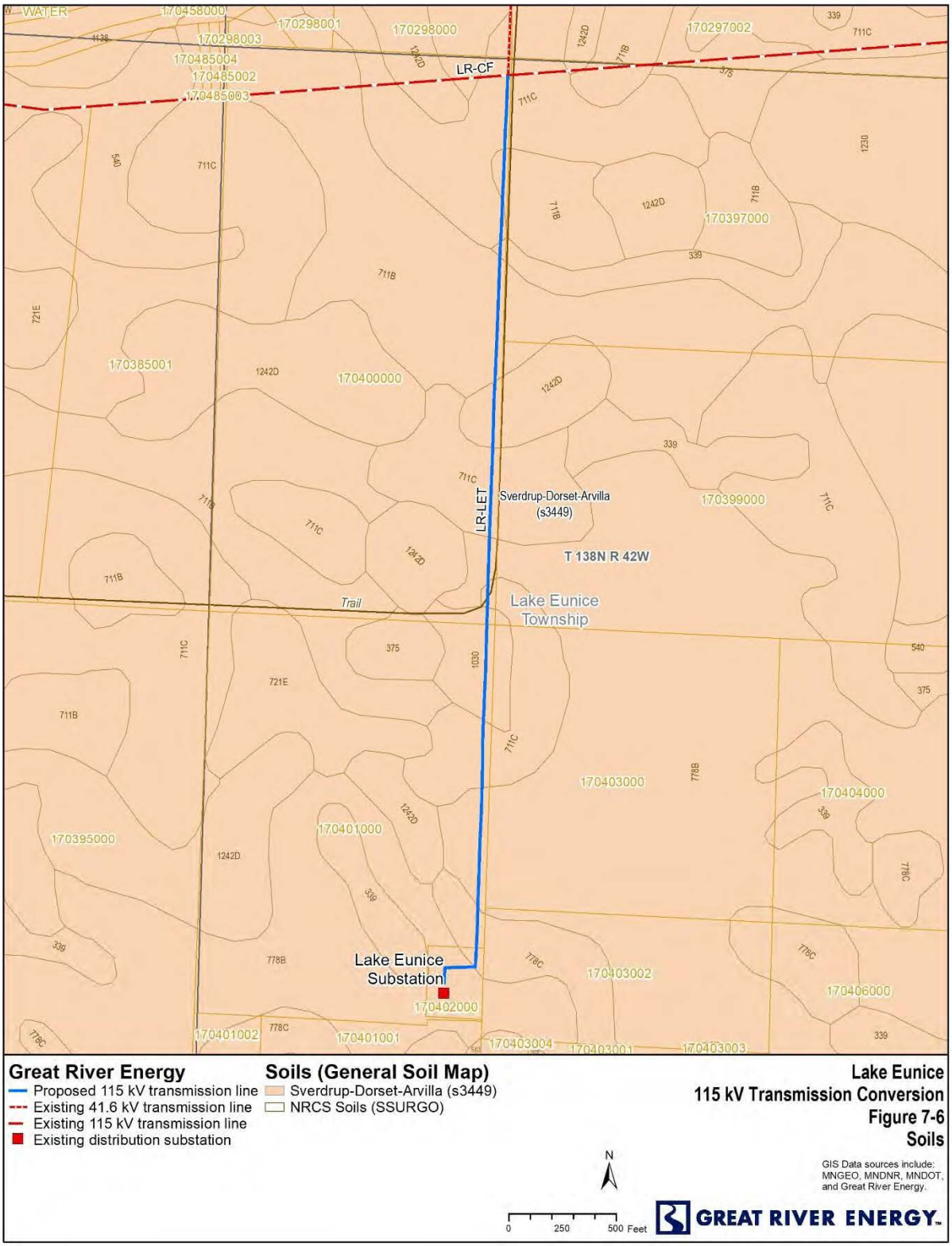
Soil Association	General Description
Dorset-Corliss complex, 1 to 6 percent slopes (778B) **Dorset-Corliss complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes (778C)**	**Dorset-Corliss complexes** are flats with deep, well drained soils (loams over very gravelly coarse sand). Considered prime farmland soils.
Arvilla-Sandberg complex, 2 to 6 percent slopes (711B) **Arvilla-Sandberg complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes (711C)**	**Arvilla-Sandberg complexes** are hillslopes on outwash plains with somewhat excessively drained soils (sandy loams over gravelly coarse sand).
Pits, gravel-Udipsamments complex (1030)	**Pits, gravel-Udipsamments complexes** are lake plains, moraines, outwash plains with deep excessively drained sands over gravelly coarse sand.
Sandberg-Arvilla complex, 12 to 20 percent slopes (1242D)	**Sandberg-Arvilla complexes** are hillslopes with outwash plains that have a thin layer of coarse loamy sand over gravelly loamy coarse sand and gravelly coarse sand. Soils are somewhat excessively drained.
Fordville loam (339)	**Ford loams** are flats with deep, well drained soils (loams over very gravelly coarse sand). Considered prime farmland soils.

Impacts and Mitigation

Potential impacts of construction are compaction of the soil and exposing the soils to wind and water erosion. Impacts to physiographic features should be minimal during and after installation of the transmission line structures, and these impacts will be short term. There should be no long-term impacts resulting from this Project.

If over an acre of soil will be disturbed during the construction of the transmission line, Great River Energy will prepare a SWPPP and obtain a NPDES construction stormwater permit from the MPCA. Erosion control methods and BMPs will be utilized to minimize runoff during line construction. Soils will be revegetated as soon as possible to minimize erosion.

Figure 7-6. Soils



7.9 Unavoidable Impacts

Construction of the Lake Eunice 115 kV Transmission Conversion Project will have nominal unavoidable impacts.

The Project will require only minimal commitments of resources that are irreversible and irretrievable. Irreversible and irretrievable resource commitments are related to the use of nonrenewable resources and the effects that the use of these resources have on future generations. Irreversible commitments of resources are those that result from the use or destruction of a specific resource that cannot be replaced within a reasonable timeframe. Irretrievable resource commitments are those that result from the loss in value of a resource that cannot be restored after the action.

Those commitments that do exist are primarily related to construction. Construction resources include aggregate resources, concrete, steel, and hydrocarbon fuel. During construction, vehicles necessary for these activities would be deployed on site and would need to travel to and from the construction area, consuming hydrocarbon fuels. Other resources would be used in pole construction, pole placement, and other construction activities.

8 APPLICATION OF RULE CRITERIA

8.1 Route Permit

According to Minnesota Statutes Section 216E.02, subd. 1, it is the policy of the state of Minnesota to locate high voltage transmission lines in an orderly manner that minimizes adverse human and environmental impacts and ensures continuing electric power system reliability and integrity. The Commission has promulgated standards and criteria for issuing route permits (Minn. R. 7850.4000). That rule provides that the Commission shall issue route permits for high voltage transmission lines that are consistent with state goals to conserve resources, minimize environmental impacts and impacts to human settlement, minimize land use conflicts, and ensure the state's electric energy security through efficient, cost-effective transmission infrastructure.

The 115 kV transmission proposed for the Lake Eunice Transmission Conversion Project addresses all the criteria that are applied in evaluating a new transmission line project. Utilization of an existing transmission line corridor conserves resources and minimizes environmental impacts and other impacts. Constructing the line at 115 kV capability helps ensure a reliable and secure power source for the Lake Eunice Substation.

For all the reasons described in this Application, the Commission should issue a Route Permit for the Lake Eunice 115 kV Transmission Conversion Project.

8.2 Conclusion

Great River Energy respectfully requests that the Commission issue a Route Permit that designates the route for the Lake Eunice 115 kV Transmission Conversion Project. Great River Energy requests that the Commission designate a slightly wider route than the necessary ROW for the Project, to allow flexibility in determining the precise location of the transmission centerline and structures.

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APPENDIX A

Notice of Intent to File Under Alternative Permitting Process

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GREAT RIVER ENERGY

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

May 8, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Mr. Daniel P. Wolf
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

SUBJECT: Notice of Intent by Great River Energy to Submit a Route Permit Application under the Alternative Permitting Process
Lake Eunice 115-kV Conversion Project

Dear Mr. Wolf:

In accordance with Minnesota Rules 7850.2800 subp. 2, Great River Energy submits this notice of its intent to submit a Route Permit Application under the Alternative Permitting Process for the approximately 0.8-mile long Lake Eunice 115-kilovolt (kV) Conversion Project ("Project") in Becker County, Minnesota. The proposed Project will move the existing Lake Eunice Substation from a radial to a loop feed and improve the reliability of the transmission service to the Lake Eunice Substation that will be converted by Lake Region Electric Cooperative. Great River Energy intends to submit the route permit application in late May 2019.

Please contact me at 763-445-5215 or mparlow@grenergy.com if you have any questions regarding this filing.

Respectfully Submitted,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Marsha Parlow

Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Specialist

c: Bill Storm, Minnesota Department of Commerce-EERA

MP:jh:S:\Transmission\Capital Projects\206758 - Lake Eunice 115 kV Conversion Projects\206759 - Lake Eunice - Trans Tap Line 115 kV (0.8mi)\Permitting & Compliance\PUC\Lake Eunice Notice of Intent to File under Alternative Permitting Process.docx

APPENDIX B
Detailed Route Maps

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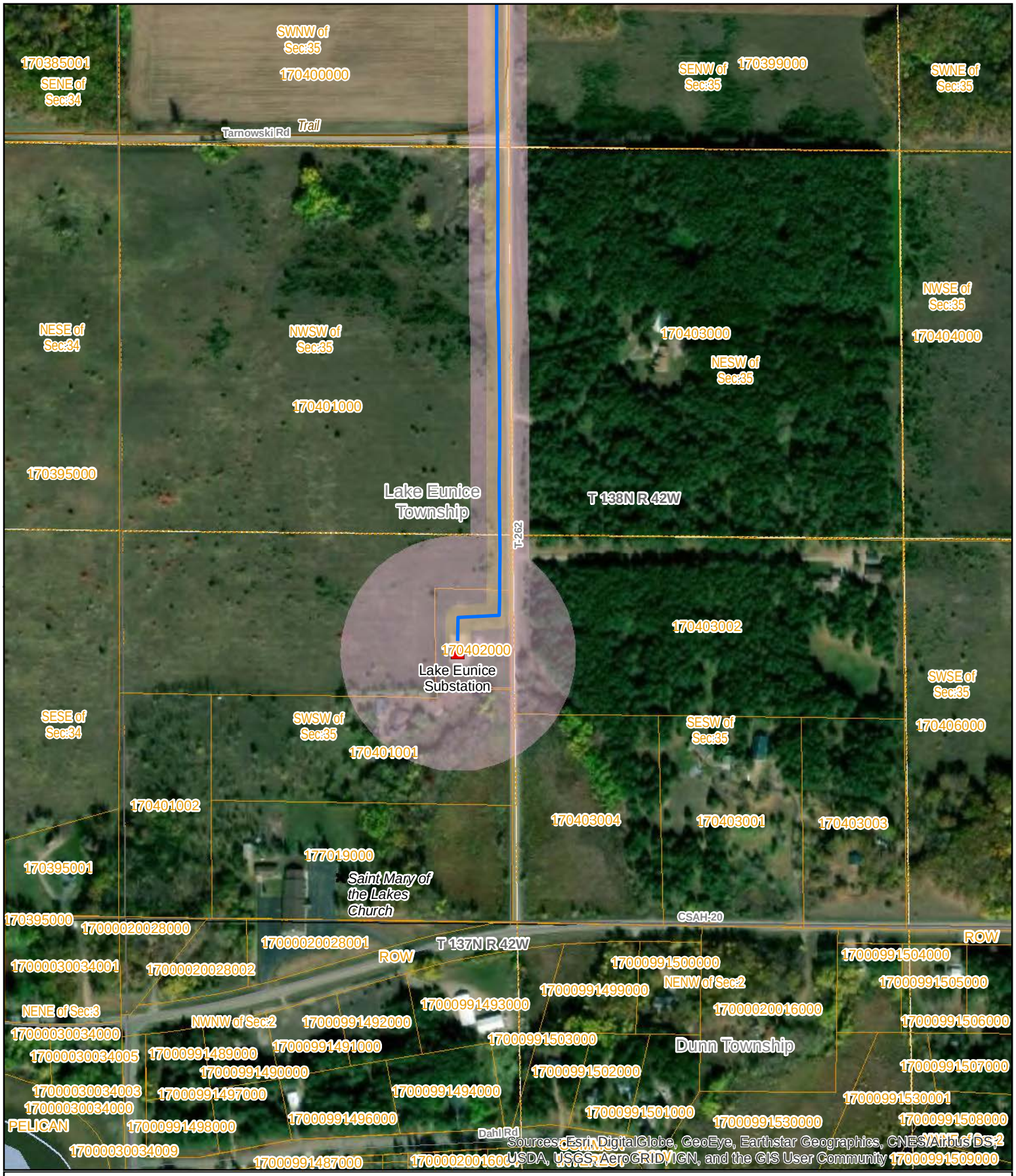

Great River Energy

- Proposed 115 kV transmission line
- Existing 41.6 kV transmission line
- Existing distribution substation
- 90 ft ROW width
- 200 ft project width
- 400 ft substation buffer

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy

N

0 250 500 Feet

Lake Eunice
115 kV Transmission Conversion
Appendix B - Detailed Route Map

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Great River Energy

- Proposed 115 kV transmission line
- Existing 41.6 kV transmission line
- Existing 115 kV transmission line
- 90 ft ROW width
- 200 ft project width

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy

N

0 250 500 Feet

Lake Eunice
115 kV Transmission Conversion
Appendix B - Detailed Route Map

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

APPENDIX C
List of Landowners within Proposed Route

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Landowners within Proposed Route

Joseph Thorman
Robert & Romana Lindblad

Landowners within 400 feet of Proposed Route

Joseph Thorman
Robert & Romana Lindblad
Scott Fergen
Gary & Cynthia Kennedy Trust
Phyllis Bergquist
Peter & Connie Olson
Michael Reep

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APPENDIX D
Agency Correspondence

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GREAT RIVER ENERGY

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

March 13, 2019

Lake Eunice
WO #206759

Mr. Dan Boerner
Office of Aeronautics
Minnesota Department of Transportation
222 E. Plato Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55107-1618

SUBJECT: Proposed Lake Eunice 115-kV Transmission Line
Becker County, Minnesota
T138, R42W, Section 35

Dear Mr. Boerner:

Great River Energy is proposing to construct approximately 0.80 mile of 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line to support the proposed Lake Eunice Substation conversion located in Lake Eunice Township, Becker County, Minnesota. The proposed project is to convert the existing 41.6-kV transmission line along `St. Mary's of the Lakes Road and connect to the existing Great River Energy "LR-CF" transmission line.

The transmission line will be constructed with single wood poles and possibly steel switch poles that will generally range between 45 to 100 feet in height. Elevations in the project area range from 1,352 feet (Lake Eunice Substation in the SW ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 35, T138N, R42W) to 1,401 feet (south of structure 11 in the SW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 35, T138N, R42W). Great River Energy is requesting information on the possible effects of the proposed project on airports or airstrips in the project area.

From my research, I find that the closest public airport to the project is the Detroit Lakes-Wething Field Airport (6.4 nm NNE of project) and the closest private airport is the Kaiser's Airstrip Airport (7.0 nm NW of project). A project description and map are enclosed for your information. The proposed line is marked in blue.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Friday, April 12, 2019. If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact me at mparlow@GREnergy.com or 763-445-5215.

Sincerely,
GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Specialist

Attachments: Fact Sheet/Project Map

MP:jh\s:\trans\capital projects\206758 Lake Eunice \206759 Lake Eunice\Permitting& Compliance\Agency letters\Lake Eunice MNDOT ltr.docx

Direct Dial (763) 445-5215 E-mail mparlow@grenergy.com Fax (763) 445-5246

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

Lake Region Electric Cooperative
1401 South Broadway
P.O. Box 643
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572-0643
1-800-552-7658
Lrec.coop

Lake Eunice 115-kV Transmission Conversion

Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) and Great River Energy propose to convert and operate LREC's Lake Eunice Substation and about a 0.8-mile portion of Great River Energy's 41.6-kV LR-LET transmission line to 115-kV standards. These facilities are located in Lake Eunice Township, Becker County, Minn. These upgrades will move the Lake Eunice Substation from a radial to a loop feed and improve the reliability of transmission service to the Lake Eunice Substation.

Overview

The proposed project will be located in Section 35, Township 138N, Range 42W, Becker County (see map on back).

This project will consist of two phases. The first phase will consist of LREC converting the existing Lake Eunice Substation from 41.6-kV to 115-kV service.

In phase two, Great River Energy will remove the 41.6-kV component of the LR-LET transmission line and convert 0.8 miles of the LR-LET line to 115-kV standards. Specifically, this line will connect to the Great River Energy owned "LR-CF" 115-kV transmission line near LR-LET structure #18 and run approximately 0.8 miles to the Lake Eunice Substation.

- The structures for the converted line will consist primarily of single wood poles with some steel or wood-laminate poles (see photo). Distance between the poles will range from 200 to 400 feet. The existing transmission line currently carries distribution line underbuilt on the poles and the rebuilt lines will also carry distribution line.
- The rebuilt lines will generally remain in or near the current centerline; however, existing structures and other construction considerations may require that some portions be offset from the centerline.

Typical 115 kV wood single circuit structure with distribution underbuild

Where necessary, property owners will be contacted to discuss acquisition of easements for additional transmission line rights-of-way. Existing easements will generally be used for the line conversion.

Removal of trees and vegetation along the transmission line right-of-way will be necessary for safety and maintenance purposes. A representative from Great River Energy will contact property owners before any tree work takes place to discuss the work and access to the easement area. Following construction of the transmission lines, Great River Energy will promptly repair any damages that may occur.

Permitting and Public Involvement

Great River Energy will seek a Route Permit for the project from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. In this state permitting process, the public is afforded several opportunities to provide feedback on the project.

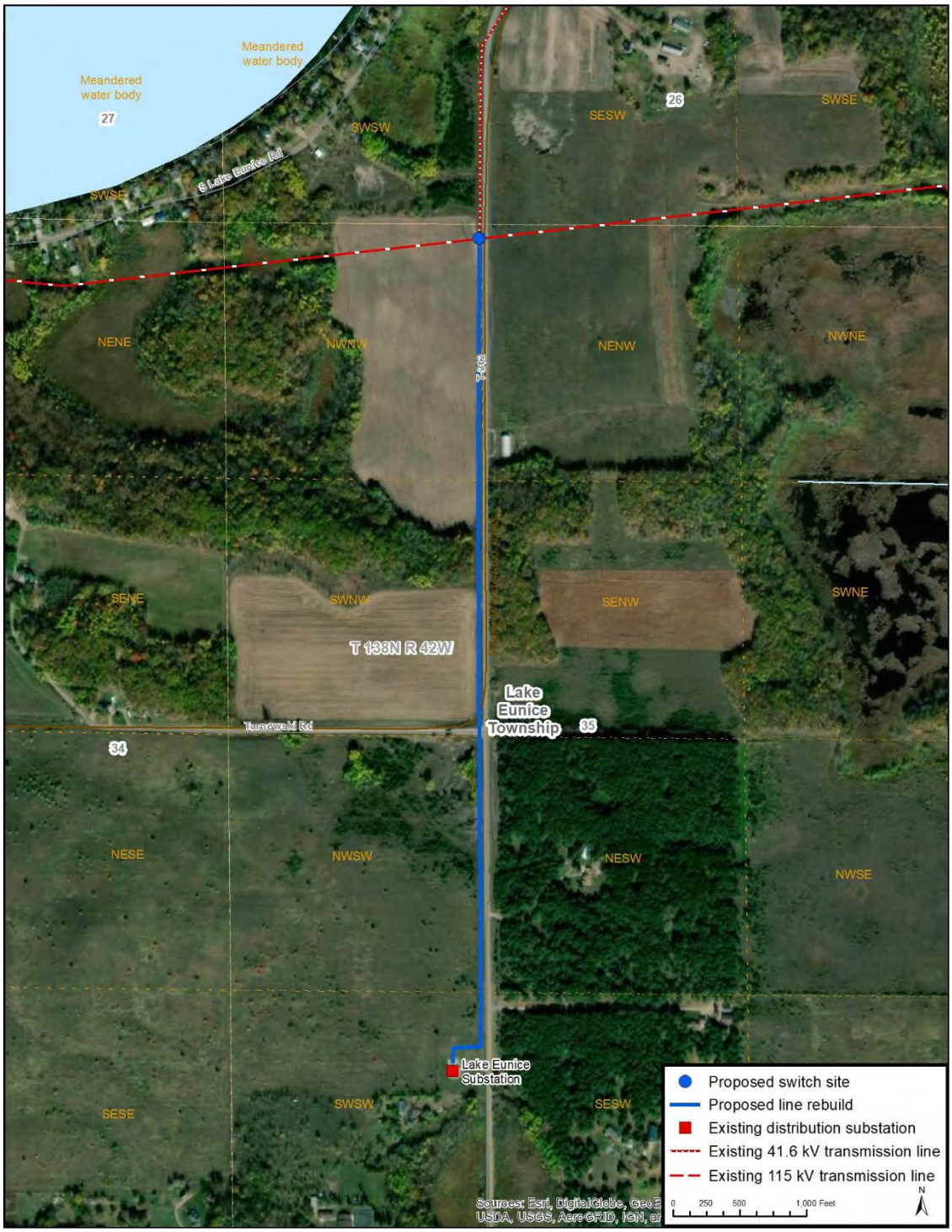
Schedule

Notifications	**Winter/Spring 2019**
State permitting	**Spring 2019 – Spring 2020**
Survey/design	**Spring 2019 – Summer 2020**
Easements/ Environmental permits	**Spring 2020 – Summer 2020**
Transmission line construction	**Fall 2020 – Winter 2020**
Energization	**Winter 2020**

Quick facts

- Length – **0.8 mile**
- Voltage – **115 kV**
- Structures – **Wood poles**
- Spans – **200 to 300 feet apart**
- Right of way – **80-foot-wide right of way with 40 feet on each side of the centerline**
- Permits – **PUC route permit**

Proposed project (map)



Great River Energy representatives

For project updates and information, visit greatriverenergy.com/lakeeunice or contact:

Peter M. Schaub Sr. Field Representative
Land Rights
(763) 445-5976 or 1-888-521-0130 | pschaub@grenergy.com

Marsha Parlow, Transmission Permitting Specialist
Transmission Permitting and Compliance
763-445-5215 | mparlow@grenergy.com

About Great River Energy

Great River Energy is a not-for-profit electric cooperative providing wholesale power to 28 member-owner distribution cooperatives. Together, our systems provide power to approximately two-thirds of Minnesota geographically and parts of Wisconsin, serving 695,000 families, farms and businesses.

Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG

From: Boerner, Daniel (DOT) <dan.boerner@state.mn.us>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 10:02 AM
To: Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG
Cc: Schneider, Gregory M (DOT)
Subject: As you mentioned in your letter ... RE: Proposed Lake Eunice 115-kV Transmission Line Project

EXTERNAL
Hi Marsha,

As you mentioned in your letter. The Detroit Lakes airport is the closest airport to the project, at about 6.5 nautical miles. This project will not have an adverse impact to Minnesota Airports.

Dan

From: Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG [mailto:mparlow@GREnergy.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 9:23 AM
To: Boerner, Daniel (DOT) <dan.boerner@state.mn.us>
Subject: FW: Proposed Lake Eunice 115-kV Transmission Line Project
Importance: High

Hi Dan,

We are submitting a route permit application to the state for this project. Do you have any comments I could put into the application?

Thanks,

Marsha Parlow
Direct: 763-445-5215 | Cell: 612-345-1212

** Please consider the environment before you print this e-mail.*

From: Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2019 2:12 PM
To: Boerner, Daniel (DOT) <dan.boerner@state.mn.us>
Subject: FW: Proposed Lake Eunice 115-kV Transmission Line Project

Hi Dan,

Did you have a chance to review our Proposed Lake Eunice 115-kV Transmission Line Conversion Project?

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Marsha Parlow

Direct: 763-445-5215 | Cell: 612-345-1212

** Please consider the environment before you print this e-mail.*

From: Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 4:31 PM
To: Boerner, Daniel (DOT) <dan.boerner@state.mn.us>
Subject: Proposed Lake Eunice 115-kV Transmission Line Project

Dear Mr. Boerner,

Please find attached for your review, the proposed Lake Eunice 115-kV Transmission Line project. Please contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Specialist
Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, MN 55369
Direct: 763-445-5215 | Fax: 763-445-5246 | Cell: 612-345-1212
WWW.GreatRiverEnergy.com

** Please consider the environment before you print this e-mail.*

GREAT RIVER ENERGY™

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

March 14, 2019

Lake Eunice
WO #206759

Ms. Sarah Beimers
Government Programs & Compliance
Minnesota Historical Society
345 Kellogg Blvd. West
St. Paul, MN 55102-1906

SUBJECT: Proposed Lake Eunice 115-kV Transmission Line
Becker County, Minnesota
T138, R42W, Section 35

Dear Ms. Beimers:

Great River Energy is proposing to construct approximately 0.80 mile of 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line to support the proposed Lake Eunice Substation conversion located in Lake Eunice Township, Becker County, Minnesota. The proposed project is to convert the existing 41.6-kV transmission line along St. Mary's of the Lakes Road and connect to the existing Great River Energy "LR-CF" transmission line.

Wench conducted a Phase IA Cultural Resources Assessment (see attached) on March 11, 2019 and "recommends that there will be no adverse impact on known or suspected cultural resources or historic properties as a result of this project and that no cultural resources survey is needed." A project description/map is included for your review. The proposed line is marked in blue.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Friday, April 12, 2019. If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact me at 763-445-5215 or mparlow@grenergy.com.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Marsha Parlow

Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Specialist

Enclosures: Fact Sheet/Project Map, Phase 1A Cultural Resources Assessment

MP:jh\s:\trans\capital projects\206758 Lake Eunice \206759 Lake Eunice\Permitting& Compliance\Agency letters\Lake Eunice MHS ltr.docx

Direct Dial (763) 445-5215 E-mail mparlow@grenergy.com Fax (763) 445-5246

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

Lake Region Electric Cooperative
1401 South Broadway
P.O. Box 643
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572-0643
1-800-552-7658
Lrec.coop

Lake Eunice 115-kV Transmission Conversion

Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) and Great River Energy propose to convert and operate LREC's Lake Eunice Substation and about a 0.8-mile portion of Great River Energy's 41.6-kV LR-LET transmission line to 115-kV standards. These facilities are located in Lake Eunice Township, Becker County, Minn. These upgrades will move the Lake Eunice Substation from a radial to a loop feed and improve the reliability of transmission service to the Lake Eunice Substation.

Overview

The proposed project will be located in Section 35, Township 138N, Range 42W, Becker County (see map on back).

This project will consist of two phases. The first phase will consist of LREC converting the existing Lake Eunice Substation from 41.6-kV to 115-kV service.

In phase two, Great River Energy will remove the 41.6-kV component of the LR-LET transmission line and convert 0.8 miles of the LR-LET line to 115-kV standards. Specifically, this line will connect to the Great River Energy owned "LR-CF" 115-kV transmission line near LR-LET structure #18 and run approximately 0.8 miles to the Lake Eunice Substation.

- The structures for the converted line will consist primarily of single wood poles with some steel or wood-laminate poles (see photo). Distance between the poles will range from 200 to 400 feet. The existing transmission line currently carries distribution line underbuilt on the poles and the rebuilt lines will also carry distribution line.
- The rebuilt lines will generally remain in or near the current centerline; however, existing structures and other construction considerations may require that some portions be offset from the centerline.

Typical 115 kV wood single circuit structure with distribution underbuild

Where necessary, property owners will be contacted to discuss acquisition of easements for additional transmission line rights-of-way. Existing easements will generally be used for the line conversion.

Removal of trees and vegetation along the transmission line right-of-way will be necessary for safety and maintenance purposes. A representative from Great River Energy will contact property owners before any tree work takes place to discuss the work and access to the easement area. Following construction of the transmission lines, Great River Energy will promptly repair any damages that may occur.

Permitting and Public Involvement

Great River Energy will seek a Route Permit for the project from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. In this state permitting process, the public is afforded several opportunities to provide feedback on the project.

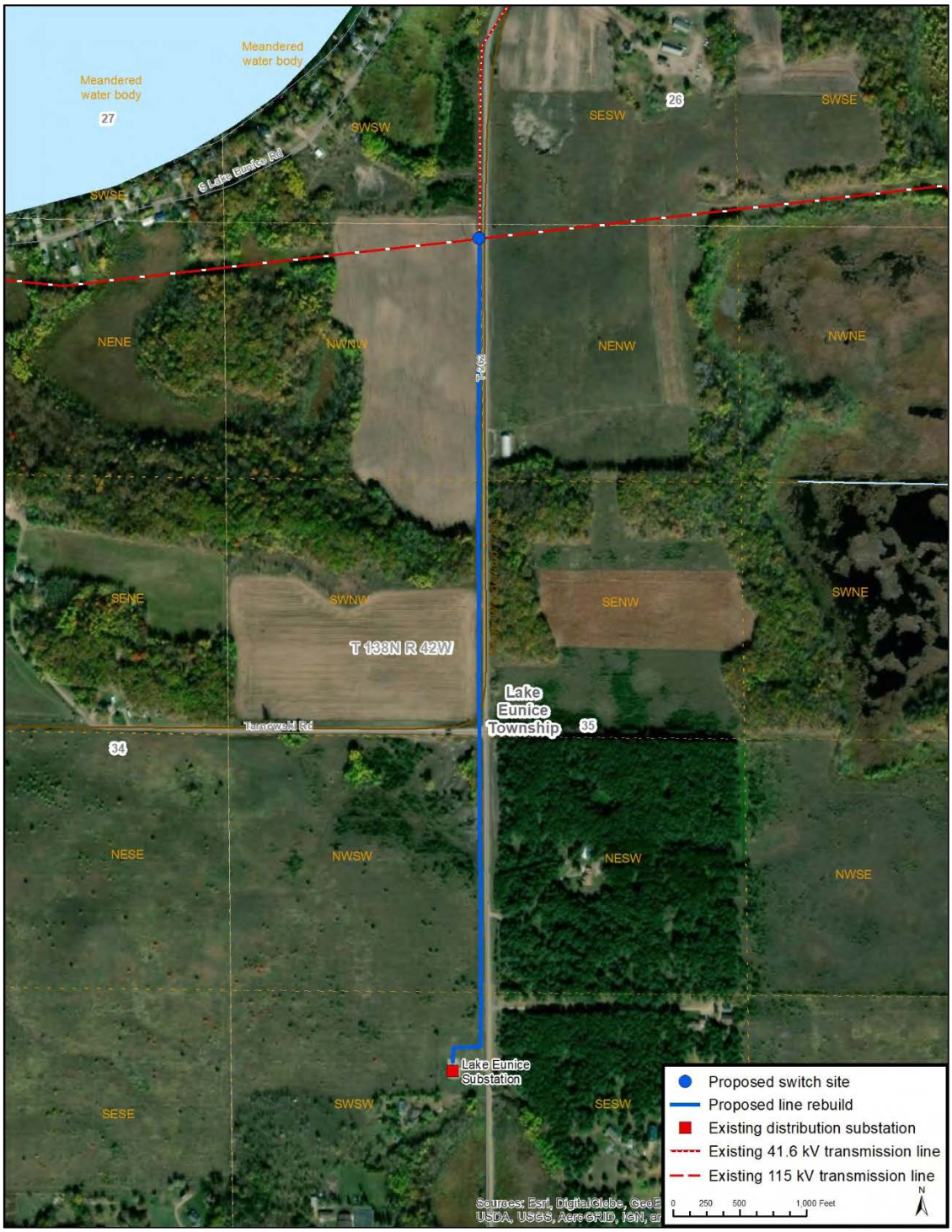
Schedule

Notifications	**Winter/Spring 2019**
State permitting	**Spring 2019 – Spring 2020**
Survey/design	**Spring 2019 – Summer 2020**
Easements/ Environmental permits	**Spring 2020 – Summer 2020**
Transmission line construction	**Fall 2020 – Winter 2020**
Energization	**Winter 2020**

Quick facts

- Length – **0.8 mile**
- Voltage – **115 kV**
- Structures – **Wood poles**
- Spans – **200 to 300 feet apart**
- Right of way – **80-foot-wide right of way with 40 feet on each side of the centerline**
- Permits – **PUC route permit**

Proposed project (map)



Great River Energy representatives

For project updates and information, visit greatriverenergy.com/lakeeunice or contact:

Peter M. Schaub Sr. Field Representative
Land Rights
(763) 445-5976 or 1-888-521-0130 | pschaub@grenergy.com

Marsha Parlow, Transmission Permitting Specialist
Transmission Permitting and Compliance
763-445-5215 | mparlow@grenergy.com

About Great River Energy

Great River Energy is a not-for-profit electric cooperative providing wholesale power to 28 member-owner distribution cooperatives. Together, our systems provide power to approximately two-thirds of Minnesota geographically and parts of Wisconsin, serving 695,000 families, farms and businesses.

WENCK

Responsive partner.
Exceptional outcomes.

March 11, 2019

Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Specialist
Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Blvd.
Maple Grove, MN 55369

RE: Phase IA Cultural Resources Assessment of the proposed Lake Eunice 115-kV Transmission Conversion Project, Becker County, Minnesota.
Wenck File # 0548-0007

Dear Ms. Parlow:

Wenck was contacted in March 2019 by Great River Energy to conduct a Phase IA Cultural Resources Assessment in support of the proposed Lake Eunice 115-kV Transmission Conversion Project (Project) in Becker County, Minnesota.

Project Description

Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) and Great River Energy propose to convert and operate LREC's Lake Eunice Substation and about a 0.8-mile portion of Great River Energy's 41.6-kV LR-LET transmission line to 115-kV standards. These upgrades will move the Lake Eunice Substation from a radial to a loop feed and improve the reliability of transmission service to the Lake Eunice Substation.

Great River Energy will remove the 41.6-kV component of the LR-LET transmission line and convert 0.8 miles of the LR-LET line to 115-kV standards. The structures for the converted line will consist primarily of single wood poles with some steel or wood-laminate poles. Distance between the poles will range from 200 to 400 feet. The rebuilt lines will generally remain in or near the current centerline; however, existing structures and other construction considerations may require that some portions be offset from the centerline.

Project Location

Proposed Project activities may occur within or adjacent to portions of the following legal locations, which served as the Phase IA study area:

County	Township	Range	Section(s)
Becker	138N	42W	35

Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting
Specialist
Great River Energy
3/11/2019

WENCK
Responsive partner.
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Literature Review

The main objective in reviewing the cultural resources literature is to identify recorded cultural sites and assess the potential for unrecorded sites within the study area. The standard for considering a cultural property as significant is whether it meets the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The initial criterion for such listing is an age of 50 or more years. Beyond age, a property must retain integrity and be associated with significant historic trends, historic persons, building styles and craftsmanship, or the property must have the potential to provide significant information about the past.

Wenck reviewed and followed the published guidelines for conducting cultural resources literature reviews in Minnesota. The Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), located in the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul, maintains the state's prehistoric and historic archaeological site files, historic standing structure inventory files, and field survey reports. A study area encompassing a 0.5-mile radius around the transmission line route was established. Wenck examined the current topographic maps and aerial photographs to understand the modern land use of the study area and to provide a baseline for examining the historic maps and documents. Wenck Senior Client Manager Dean Sather examined site files maintained by the SHPO.

Previously Recorded Archaeological Resources

No previously recorded archaeological sites were identified within the Study Area.

Previously Recorded Standing Historic Structures

No previously recorded standing historic structures were identified within the Study Area.

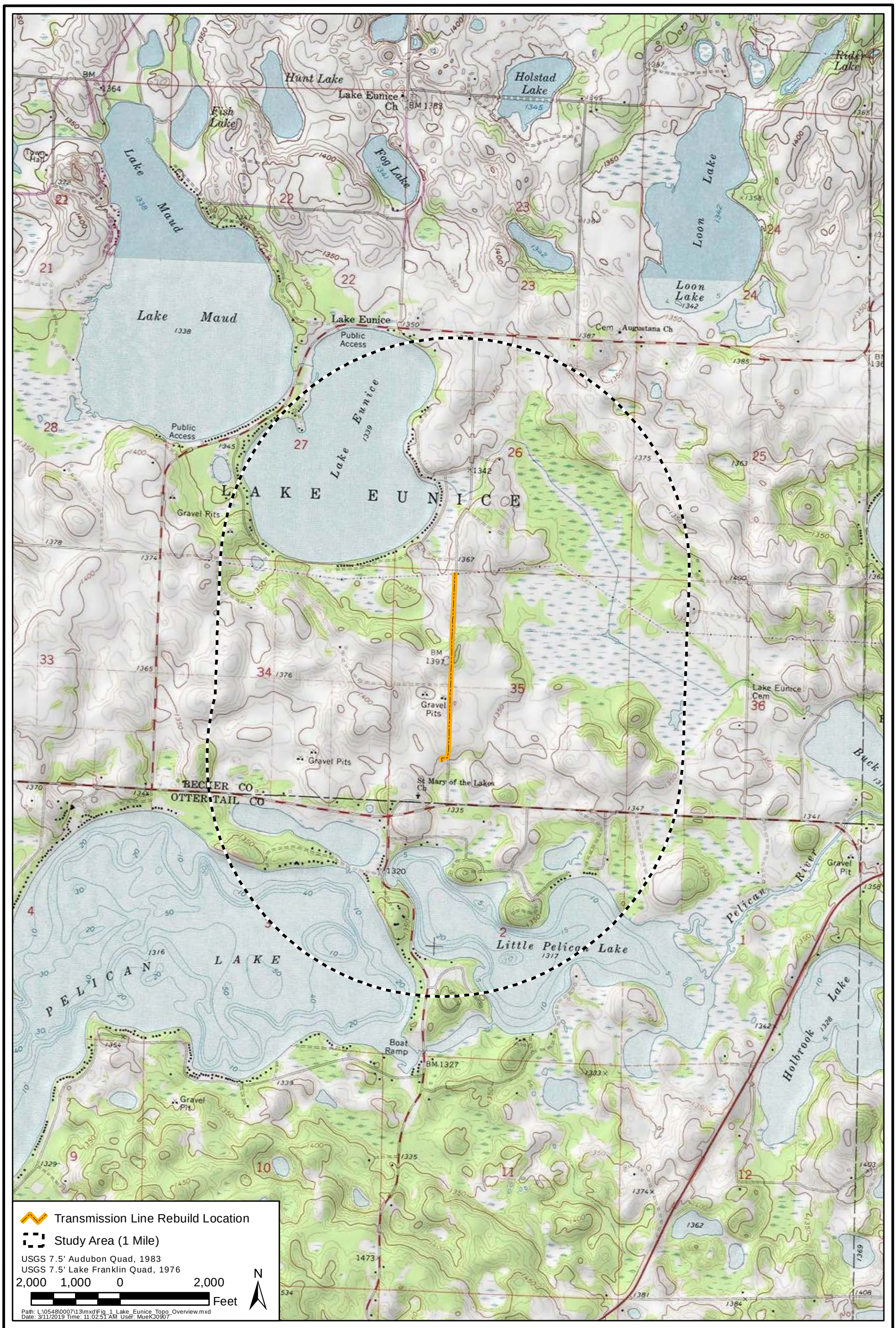
Conclusions

Wenck recommends that there will be no adverse impact on known or suspected cultural resources or historic properties as a result of this Project and that no cultural resource survey is needed. Wenck recommends that if plans are altered to physically affect areas that were not previously surveyed or disturbed, these locations should be examined for cultural resources. Further, if human remains are encountered during construction activities, all ground disturbing activity must cease, and local law enforcement must be notified per MN 307.08.

On behalf of the 250+ employee-owners of Wenck, thank you for this opportunity to work with Great River Energy. Should you have any questions or need clarification of anything presented in the attached proposal, please do not hesitate to call me at 763-479-5179.

Sincerely,

Dean Sather, Senior Client Manager
Wenck Associates, Inc.



GRE LAKE EUNICE TRANSMISSION LINE REBUILD PROJECT

Topographic Overview

WENCK

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MAR 2019

Figure 1

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

April 18, 2019

Marsha Parlow
Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Blvd.
Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718

RE: Great River Energy to construct Lake Eunice 115-kV overhead transmission line and upgrade existing substation
T138 R42 S35 W
Lake Eunice Twp., Becker County
SHPO Number: 2019-1142

Dear Ms. Parlow:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above project. It has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Office by the Minnesota Historic Sites Act and the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act.

Based on information that is available to us at this time, we have determined that there are no properties listed in the National or State Registers of Historic Places, and no known or suspected archaeological properties in the area that will be affected by this project.

Please note that this comment letter does not address the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36 CFR § 800. If this project is considered for federal financial assistance, or requires a federal permit or license, then review and consultation with our office will need to be initiated by the lead federal agency. Be advised that comments and recommendations provided by our office for this state-level review may differ from findings and determinations made by the federal agency as part of review and consultation under Section 106.

Please contact our Environmental Review Program at (651) 201-3285 if you have any questions regarding our review of this project.

Sincerely,

Sarah J. Beimers
Environmental Review Program Manager

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

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

March 13, 2019

Lake Eunice
WO #206759

Mr. Andrew Horton, Fish and Wildlife Biologist
United States Department of the Interior
Twin Cities Field Office
4101 American Boulevard East
Bloomington, MN 55425-1665

SUBJECT: Proposed Lake Eunice 115-kV Transmission Line
Becker County, Minnesota
T138, R42W, Section 35

Dear Mr. Horton:

Great River Energy is proposing to construct approximately 0.80 mile of 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line to support the proposed Lake Eunice Substation conversion located in Lake Eunice Township, Becker County, Minnesota. The proposed project is to convert the existing 41.6-kV transmission line along St. Mary's of the Lakes Road and connect to the existing Great River Energy "LR-CF" transmission line.

The Fish and Wildlife Service website (http://www.fws.gov/Midwest/Endangered/LISTS/minnesot-cty.html) indicates that the Gray Wolf (*Canis Lupus*) and the Northern Long Eared Bat *(Myotis septentrionalis*) are listed on the threatened and endangered list for Becker County, Minnesota. Great River Energy is requesting concurrence or information on the possible effects of the proposed project on any listed or proposed threatened or endangered species and designated or proposed critical habitat that may be present in the project area. A project description has been included for your review. The proposed line is marked in blue.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Friday, April 12, 2019. If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact me at 763-445-5215 or mparlow@grenergy.com.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Marsha Parlow

Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Specialist

Attachments: Fact Sheet/Project Map

MP:jh\s:\transmissi\capital projects\206758 Lake Eunice \206759 Lake Eunice\Permitting& Compliance\Agency letters\Lake Eunice FWSltr.docx

Direct Dial (763) 445-5215 E-mail mparlow@grenergy.com Fax (763) 445-5246

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

Lake Region Electric Cooperative
1401 South Broadway
P.O. Box 643
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572-0643
1-800-552-7658
Lrec.coop

Lake Eunice 115-kV Transmission Conversion

Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) and Great River Energy propose to convert and operate LREC's Lake Eunice Substation and about a 0.8-mile portion of Great River Energy's 41.6-kV LR-LET transmission line to 115-kV standards. These facilities are located in Lake Eunice Township, Becker County, Minn. These upgrades will move the Lake Eunice Substation from a radial to a loop feed and improve the reliability of transmission service to the Lake Eunice Substation.

Overview

The proposed project will be located in Section 35, Township 138N, Range 42W, Becker County (see map on back).

This project will consist of two phases. The first phase will consist of LREC converting the existing Lake Eunice Substation from 41.6-kV to 115-kV service.

In phase two, Great River Energy will remove the 41.6-kV component of the LR-LET transmission line and convert 0.8 miles of the LR-LET line to 115-kV standards. Specifically, this line will connect to the Great River Energy owned "LR-CF" 115-kV transmission line near LR-LET structure #18 and run approximately 0.8 miles to the Lake Eunice Substation.

- The structures for the converted line will consist primarily of single wood poles with some steel or wood-laminate poles (see photo). Distance between the poles will range from 200 to 400 feet. The existing transmission line currently carries distribution line underbuilt on the poles and the rebuilt lines will also carry distribution line.
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Typical 115 kV wood single circuit structure with distribution underbuild

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Great River Energy will seek a Route Permit for the project from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. In this state permitting process, the public is afforded several opportunities to provide feedback on the project.

Schedule

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Easements/ Environmental permits	**Spring 2020 – Summer 2020**
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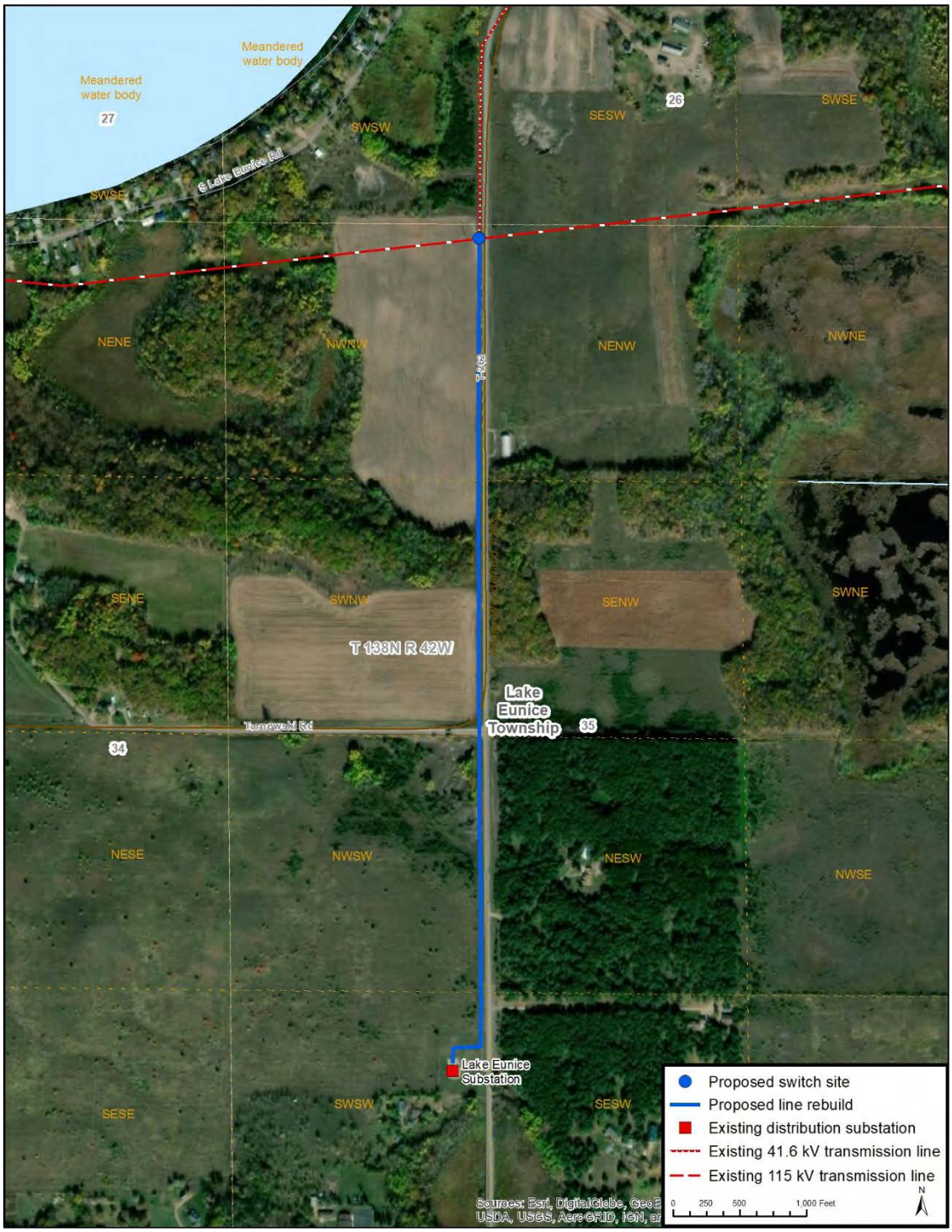
Energization	**Winter 2020**

Quick facts

- Length – **0.8 mile**
- Voltage – **115 kV**
- Structures – **Wood poles**
- Spans – **200 to 300 feet apart**
- Right of way – **80-foot-wide right of way with 40 feet on each side of the centerline**
- Permits – **PUC route permit**

Proposed project (map)



Great River Energy representatives

For project updates and information, visit greatriverenergy.com/lakeeunice or contact:

Peter M. Schaub Sr. Field Representative
Land Rights
(763) 445-5976 or 1-888-521-0130 | pschaub@grenergy.com

Marsha Parlow, Transmission Permitting Specialist
Transmission Permitting and Compliance
763-445-5215 | mparlow@grenergy.com

About Great River Energy

Great River Energy is a not-for-profit electric cooperative providing wholesale power to 28 member-owner distribution cooperatives. Together, our systems provide power to approximately two-thirds of Minnesota geographically and parts of Wisconsin, serving 695,000 families, farms and businesses.

Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG

From: Horton, Andrew <andrew_horton@fws.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 9:32 AM
To: Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: Proposed Lake Eunice 115-kV Transmission Line Project

EXTERNAL
I am just catching up on emails now. Regarding this project, I have no significant concerns and no comments to provide.

- Andrew

Andrew Horton
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Minnesota-Wisconsin Field Office
4101 American Blvd East
Bloomington, MN 55425-1665
(952) 252-0092, ext. 208

On Tue, Apr 23, 2019 at 9:21 AM Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG <mparlow@grenergy.com> wrote:

> Hi Andrew,
>
> We are submitting a route permit application to the state for this project. Do you have any comments I could put into the application?
>
> Thanks,
>
> **Marsha Parlow**
>
> Direct: 763-445-5215 | Cell: 612-345-1212
>
> ** Please consider the environment before you print this e-mail.*
>
> **From:** Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG
> **Sent:** Wednesday, April 17, 2019 10:03 AM

To: Horton, Andrew <andrew_horton@fws.gov>
Subject: FW: Proposed Lake Eunice 115-kV Transmission Line Project

Hi Andrew,

Did you have a chance to review our Proposed Lake Eunice 115-kV Transmission Line Conversion Project?

Marsha Parlow

Direct: 763-445-5215 | Cell: 612-345-1212

** Please consider the environment before you print this e-mail.*

From: Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 4:10 PM
To: 'Horton, Andrew' <andrew_horton@fws.gov>
Subject: Proposed Lake Eunice 115-kV Transmission Line Project

Dear Mr. Horton,

Please find attached for your review, the proposed Lake Eunice 115-kV Transmission Line project. Please contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Marsha Parlow

Transmission Permitting Specialist

Great River Energy

12300 Elm Creek Boulevard

Maple Grove, MN 55369

Direct: 763-445-5215 | Fax: 763-445-5246 | Cell: 612-345-1212

WWW.GreatRiverEnergy.com

GREAT RIVER ENERGY™

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

June 11, 2018

Ms. Lisa Joyal
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Proposed Lake Eunice 115 kV Transmission Line
Becker County, Minnesota
T138N, R42W, Sections 35

WO# 206759

Dear Ms. Joyal:

Great River Energy is proposing to construct approximately 0.80 miles of 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line to support the proposed Lake Eunice Substation upgrade located in Lake Eunice Township, Becker County, Minnesota.

The proposed transmission line would start at the Lake Eunice Substation located approximately 940 feet north of the intersection of County Highway 20 and St Mary's of the Lakes Road. The line would continue north to follow an existing 41.6 kV transmission line corridor (portion of line that will be retired) for 0.80 mile and connect to the existing LR-CF 115 kV transmission line. The proposed route is marked in blue on the enclosed map.

The project will not cross any DNR public waters (see attached map). As shown on the enclosed Rare Features map, there is one feature (Scientific and Natural Area in SW ¼ NW ¼ of Section 35, T138N, R42W) in the vicinity of the project. Great River Energy believes the project will have minimal impact on this feature.

A NHIS data request form is attached. We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Friday, July 13, 2018. If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact me at (763) 445-5215. If you wish to respond by e-mail, my address is mparlow@grenergy.com. Thank you for your attention to this important project.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Marsha Parlow

Marsha Parlow

Transmission Permitting Specialist

Enclosures: Rare Features Map, NHIS form

s:\transmission\environmetal-permitting\ projects\Lake Eunice\Agency Letters\Lake Eunice DNRltr.doc

Great River Energy Enterprise GIS Map

Standard Mapviewer

Facility Site Locations
(Green is Foreign Owned)

- Generation Site
- Transmission Substation
- Breaker Station
- Switch Station
- GRE EQ in Foreign Sub
- Communication Site
- Capacitor Site
- Electrode Site
- Distribution Substation Site
- Headquarters
- Office
- Outpost
- Cooperative Office
- Cooperative Outpost

Facility Equipment Assets
(Grey is Foreign Owned)

- Breaker
- Substation Switch
- Capacitor
- Reactor
- Miscellaneous Device
- Transformer
- Ground-Fault Neutralizer
- Electrode
- Meter
- Generating Unit

Transmission Line Locations
By Voltage (Green is foreign Owned)

- Under 15-kV AC Line
- 23-kV AC Line
- 34.5-kV AC Line
- 41.6-kV AC Line
- 46-kV AC Line
- 57-kV AC Line
- 69-kV AC Line
- 115-kV AC Line
- 138-kV AC Line
- 16-kV AC Line
- 230-kV AC Line
- 250-kV DC Line
- 345-kV AC Line
- 400-kV DC Line
- 500-kV AC Line
- Busbar
- Joint Use Line
- Switch Site

Line Equipment Assets

- Structure Location
- Fault Indicator
- Line Switch
- Control Area Tie Meter

Land Information

- Easement Area

Proposed Lake Eunice 115 kV Transmission Line

0 550 1,100 2,200 Feet

0 0.1 0.2 0.4 Miles

Author: Great River Energy
Date Produced: 6/7/2018
United Service Group - Great River Energy
Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri

N

1:9,043

GREAT RIVER ENERGY™

NO STAPLES PLEASE

Minnesota DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

2012	For Agency Use Only:	
	Received _____ Due _____ Inv _____	#Sec _____ Contact Rqsted? _____
	Search Radius _____mi. L / I / D EM Map'd _____	#EOs _____ Survey Rqsted? _____
	NoR / NoF / NoE / Std / Sub Let _____ Log out _____	#Com _____
		Related ERDB# _____

NATURAL HERITAGE INFORMATION SYSTEM (NHIS) DATA REQUEST FORM

Please read the instructions on page 3 before filling out the form. Thank you!

WHO IS REQUESTING THE INFORMATION?

Mr. ■ Ms.

Name and Title Marsha Parlow

Agency/Company Great River Energy

Mailing Address 12300 Elm Creek Blvd. (Street) Maple Grove (City) MN (State) 55369 (Zip Code)

Phone 763-445-5215 e-mail mparlow@grenergy.com

Responses will be sent via email. If you prefer US Mail check here: ☐

THIS INFORMATION IS BEING REQUESTED FOR A:

☐ Federal EA ☐ State EAW ☐ PUC Site or Route Application ☐ Watershed Plan ☐ BER

☐ Federal EIS ☐ State EIS ☐ Local Government Permit ☐ Research Project

☐ NEPA Checklist ☑ Other (describe) Preliminary Project scoping

☐ Check here if this project is funded through any of the following grant programs: Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (L-SOHC), Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL), or Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

INFORMATION WE NEED FROM YOU:

1) **Enclose a map** of the project boundary/area of interest (topographic maps or aerial photos are preferred).

2) Please **provide a GIS shapefile*** (NAD 83, UTM Zone 15N) of the project boundary/area of interest.

3) List the following locational information* (attach additional sheets if necessary):

For Agency Use: Region / MCBS Status

For Agency Use: TRS Confirmed ☐

County	Township #	Range #	Section(s) (please list **all** sections)
Otter Tail	138N	42W	35

4) Please provide the following information (attach additional sheets if necessary):

Project Name: Lake Eunice 115 kV Transmission Project

Project Proposer: Great River Energy and Lake Region Electric Cooperative

Description of Project (including types of disturbance anticipated from the project):

This Project consists of an upgraded Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) distribution substation and approximately 0.80 mile of new overhead 115 kV transmission line to serve the substation in Lake Eunice Township, Otter Tail County, Minnesota. The transmission line will be located on the west side of St. Mary's of the Lakes Road and will tap the existing Great River Energy LR-CF 115 kV transmission line. Disturbance from the proposed transmission line will be limited (minor tree clearing, approximately 12 to 14 wood poles) and construction is not expected to impact the SNA.

Describe the existing land use of the project site. What types of land cover / habitat will be impacted by the proposed project?

The substation upgrade will remain on the existing substation property. The transmission line will overtake an existing 41.6 kV transmission line corridor. Some minor tree clearing will be required.

List any waterbodies (e.g., rivers, intermittent streams, lakes, wetlands) that may be affected by the proposed project, and discuss how they may be impacted (e.g., dewatering, discharge, riverbed disturbance).

The substation boundaries will be approximately 0.4 mile south of the SNA. The new transmission line will overtake an existing transmission right of way and keep the similar number of structures (1 to 2) on the SNA. Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be used to ensure that the SNA is protected. No DNR Public Waters will be crossed.

Does the project have the potential to affect any groundwater resources (e.g., groundwater appropriation, change in recharge, or contamination)?

No

To your knowledge, has the project undergone a previous Natural Heritage review? If so, please list the correspondence #: ERDB # _____. How does this request differ from the previous request (e.g., change in scope, change in boundary, project being revived, project expansion, different phase)?

No

To your knowledge, have any native plant community or rare species surveys been conducted within the site? If so, please list:

No

List any DNR Permits or Licenses that you will be applying for or have already applied for as part of this project:

Land License for SNA

INFORMATION WE PROVIDE TO YOU:

1) The response will include a Natural Heritage letter. If applicable, the letter will discuss potential effects to rare features.

☐ Check here if you are interested in a list of rare features in the vicinity of the area of interest but you do **not** need a review of potential effects to rare features. Please list the reason a review is not needed:

_____

2) Depending on the results of the query or review, the response may include an Index Report of known aggregation sites and known occurrences of federally and state-listed plants and animals* within an approximate one-mile radius of the project boundary/area of interest. The Index Report and Natural Heritage letter can be included in any public environmental review document.

3) A Detailed Report that contains more information on each occurrence may also be requested. Please note that the Detailed Report may contain specific location information that is protected under *Minnesota Statutes*, section 84.0872, subd. 2, and, as such, the Detailed Report may not be included in any public document (e.g., an EAW).

☐ Check here if you would like to request a Detailed Report. Please note that if the results of the review are 'No Effects' or a standard comment, a Detailed Report may not be available.

FEES / TURNAROUND TIME

There is a fee* for this service. Requests generally take **3-4 weeks** from date of receipt to process, and are processed in the order received.

I have read the entire form and instructions, and the information supplied above is complete and accurate. I understand that material supplied to me from the Natural Heritage Information System is copyrighted and that I am not permitted to reproduce or publish any of this copyrighted material without prior written permission from the DNR. Further, if permission to publish is given, I understand that I must credit the Minnesota Division of Ecological and Water Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, as the source of the material.

Signature **(required)** Marsha Parlow	Note: Digital signatures representing the name of a person shall be sufficient to show that such person has signed this document.

Mail or email completed form to:

Lisa Joyal, Endangered Species Review Coordinator
Division of Ecological and Water Resources
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
Review.NHIS@state.mn.us

Form is available at
http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nhnrp/nhis_data_request.pdf

Revised March 2, 2012

* Please see the instructions on page 3.

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

August 9, 2018
Correspondence # ERDB 20190028

Ms. Marsha Parlow
Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, MN 55369

RE: Natural Heritage Review of the proposed Lake Eunice 115 kV Transmission Project,
T138N R42W Section 35; Becker County

Dear Ms. Parlow,

As requested, the above project has been reviewed for potential effects to known occurrences of rare features. Given the project details provided with the data request form, I do not believe the proposed project will negatively affect any known occurrences of rare features.

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 (noted above) and the project description provided on the NHIS Data Request Form. Please contact me if project details change or for an updated review if construction has not occurred within one year.

The Natural Heritage Review does not constitute review or approval by the Department of Natural Resources as a whole. Instead, it identifies issues regarding known occurrences of rare features and potential effects to these rare features. If needed, please contact your DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist to determine whether there are other natural resource concerns associated with the proposed project. Please be aware that additional site assessments or review may be required.

Thank you for consulting us on this matter, and for your interest in preserving Minnesota's rare natural resources. Please include a copy of this letter in any state or local license or permit application. An invoice will be mailed to you under separate cover.

Sincerely,

Samantha Bump
Natural Heritage Review Specialist
Samantha.Bump@state.mn.us

Links: DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist Contact Info
http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/ereview/erp_regioncontacts.html

GREAT RIVER ENERGY™

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

March 14, 2019

Lake Eunice
WO #206759

Thomas Hingsberger
US Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District, Regulatory Branch
180 Fifth Street East, Suite 700
St. Paul, MN 55101-1678

SUBJECT: Proposed Lake Eunice 115-kV Transmission Line
Becker County, Minnesota
T138, R42W, Section 35

Dear Mr. Hingsberger:

Great River Energy is proposing to construct approximately 0.80 mile of 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line to support the proposed Lake Eunice Substation conversion located in Lake Eunice Township, Becker County, Minnesota. The proposed project is to convert the existing 41.6-kV transmission line along St. Mary's of the Lakes Road and connect to the existing Great River Energy "LR-CF" transmission line.

Great River Energy is requesting information on the possible effects of the proposed project on floodplains, wetlands, and other important natural resources that occur in the project area. My research indicates there are no wetlands in the area and the project will not impact DNR public waters (see enclosed PWI map). A project description and NWI map have been included for your review. The proposed line is marked with blue in the project description.

Great River Energy is requesting concurrence of its interpretation of the possible effects of the proposed transmission project on wetlands that occur in the project area. We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Friday, April 12, 2019. If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact me at 763-445-5215 or mparlow@grenergy.com. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Marsha Parlow

Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Specialist

Enclosures: Fact Sheet/Project map, NWI Map, PWI Map

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Direct Dial (763) 445-5215 E-mail mparlow@grenergy.com Fax (763) 445-5246

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

Lake Region Electric Cooperative
1401 South Broadway
P.O. Box 643
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572-0643
1-800-552-7658
Lrec.coop

Lake Eunice 115-kV Transmission Conversion

Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) and Great River Energy propose to convert and operate LREC's Lake Eunice Substation and about a 0.8-mile portion of Great River Energy's 41.6-kV LR-LET transmission line to 115-kV standards. These facilities are located in Lake Eunice Township, Becker County, Minn. These upgrades will move the Lake Eunice Substation from a radial to a loop feed and improve the reliability of transmission service to the Lake Eunice Substation.

Overview

The proposed project will be located in Section 35, Township 138N, Range 42W, Becker County (see map on back).

This project will consist of two phases. The first phase will consist of LREC converting the existing Lake Eunice Substation from 41.6-kV to 115-kV service.

In phase two, Great River Energy will remove the 41.6-kV component of the LR-LET transmission line and convert 0.8 miles of the LR-LET line to 115-kV standards. Specifically, this line will connect to the Great River Energy owned "LR-CF" 115-kV transmission line near LR-LET structure #18 and run approximately 0.8 miles to the Lake Eunice Substation.

- The structures for the converted line will consist primarily of single wood poles with some steel or wood-laminate poles (see photo). Distance between the poles will range from 200 to 400 feet. The existing transmission line currently carries distribution line underbuilt on the poles and the rebuilt lines will also carry distribution line.
- The rebuilt lines will generally remain in or near the current centerline; however, existing structures and other construction considerations may require that some portions be offset from the centerline.

Typical 115 kV wood single circuit structure with distribution underbuild

Where necessary, property owners will be contacted to discuss acquisition of easements for additional transmission line rights-of-way. Existing easements will generally be used for the line conversion.

Removal of trees and vegetation along the transmission line right-of-way will be necessary for safety and maintenance purposes. A representative from Great River Energy will contact property owners before any tree work takes place to discuss the work and access to the easement area. Following construction of the transmission lines, Great River Energy will promptly repair any damages that may occur.

Permitting and Public Involvement

Great River Energy will seek a Route Permit for the project from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. In this state permitting process, the public is afforded several opportunities to provide feedback on the project.

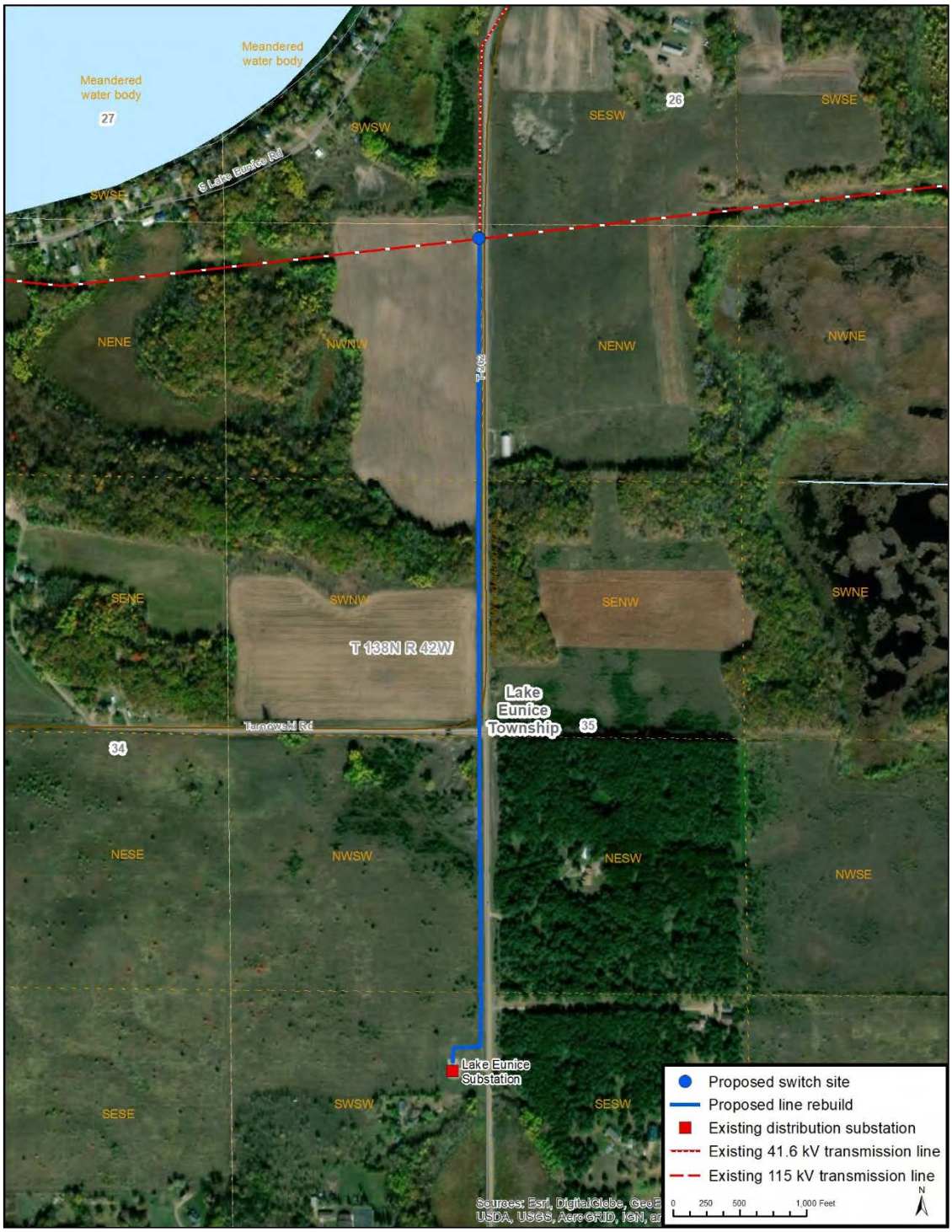
Schedule

Notifications	**Winter/Spring 2019**
State permitting	**Spring 2019 – Spring 2020**
Survey/design	**Spring 2019 – Summer 2020**
Easements/ Environmental permits	**Spring 2020 – Summer 2020**
Transmission line construction	**Fall 2020 – Winter 2020**
Energization	**Winter 2020**

Quick facts

- Length – **0.8 mile**
- Voltage – **115 kV**
- Structures – **Wood poles**
- Spans – **200 to 300 feet apart**
- Right of way – **80-foot-wide right of way with 40 feet on each side of the centerline**
- Permits – **PUC route permit**

Proposed project (map)



Great River Energy representatives

For project updates and information, visit greatriverenergy.com/lakeeunice or contact:

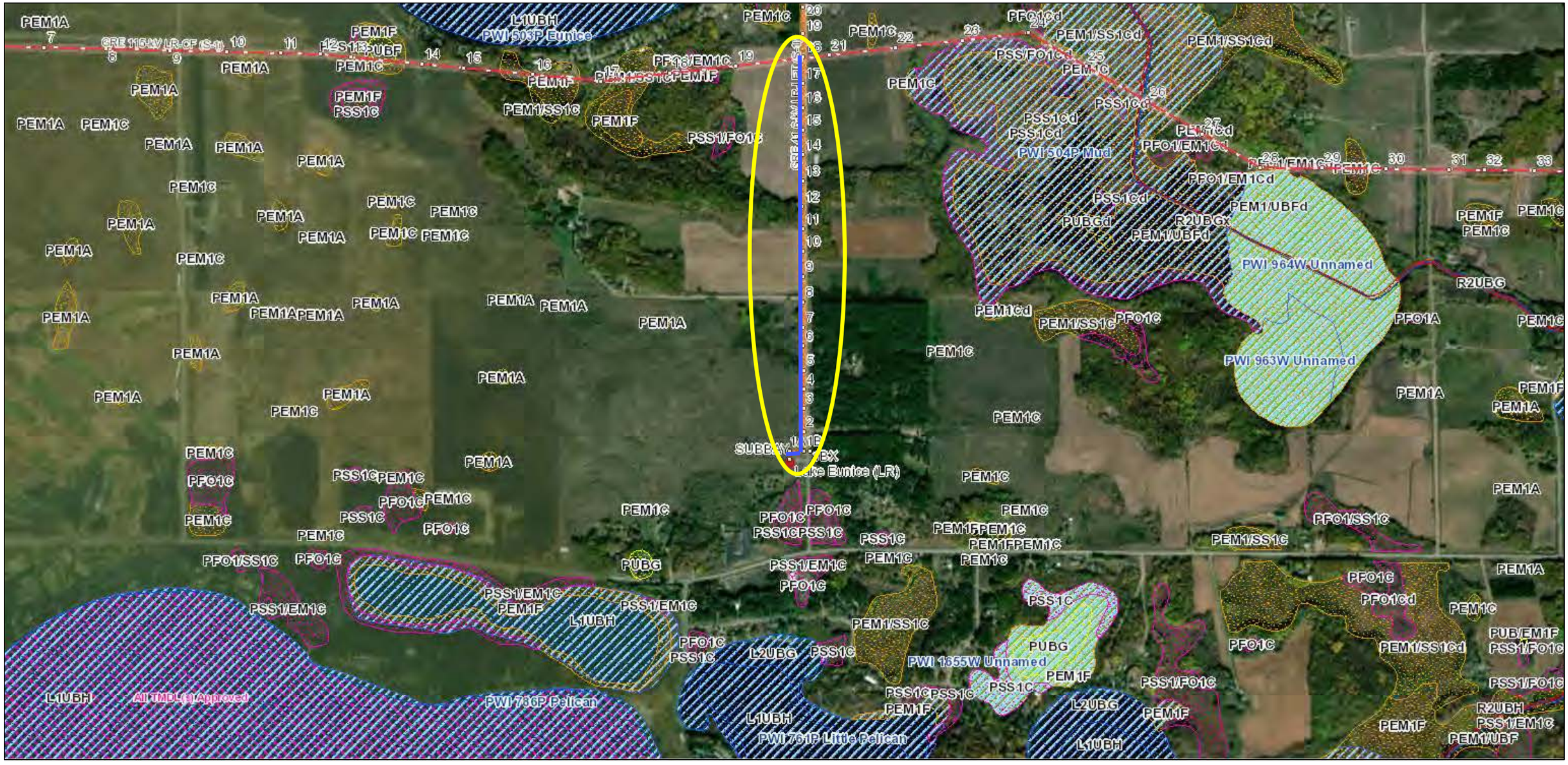
Peter M. Schaub Sr. Field Representative
Land Rights
(763) 445-5976 or 1-888-521-0130 | pschaub@grenergy.com

Marsha Parlow, Transmission Permitting Specialist
Transmission Permitting and Compliance
763-445-5215 | mparlow@grenergy.com

About Great River Energy

Great River Energy is a not-for-profit electric cooperative providing wholesale power to 28 member-owner distribution cooperatives. Together, our systems provide power to approximately two-thirds of Minnesota geographically and parts of Wisconsin, serving 695,000 families, farms and businesses.

ArcGIS Web Map



3/11/2019 1:20:27 PM

1:18,056

0 0.2 0.4 0.8 mi

0 0.35 0.7 1.4 km

Easements-Permits

- Easement
- Substation Boundary
- scientific and natural areas

streams

- prohibited
- restricted

lakes

- unclassified
- prohibited
- restricted
- GRE Owned Land Parcel
- GRE Line Switch
- GRE Fault Indicator

- GRE Control Area Tie Meter
- GRE Transmission Line Structure

GRE Office Shop Site

- Headquarters
- Office
- Outpost
- Cooperative Office
- Cooperative Outpost
- Other or Unknown
- GRE Generation Site

GRE Electric Facility Site

- Transmission Substation
- Breaker Station
- Switch Station
- Other or Unknown Site
- GRE Distribution Substation Site
- GRE Switch Site
- GRE Communication Site
- Proposed Lake Eunice Line Conversion Project

United Services Group - Great River Energy
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Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Web AppBuilder for ArcGIS

United Service Group - Great River Energy | Great River Energy | United Services Group - Great River Energy | MNDNR | LIDAR | Great River Energy (GRE) | USDA FSA, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, CNES/Airbus DS |

Great River Energy Lake Eunice 41.6 kV to 69 kV Transmission Line Conversion Project

Section 35-T148N-R35W, Lake Eunice Township, Becker County, MN

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, ST. PAUL DISTRICT
180 FIFTH STREET EAST, SUITE 700
ST. PAUL, MN 55101-1678

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF
REGULATORY BRANCH

April 5, 2019

Regulatory File No. 2019-00635-AIS

Great River Energy
c/o Marsha Parlow
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369

Dear Ms. Parlow:

This letter concerns your request for Department of the Army authorization to construct a transmission line over 0.8 miles of upland area. The project site is in Section 35, Township 138 North, Range 42 West, Becker County, Minnesota.

The work proposed at the location stated is not within the regulatory jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers. No work will be done in a navigable water of the United States, and no dredged or fill material, including that associated with mechanical land clearing or temporary sidecasting, will be discharged in any water of the United States, including wetlands. Therefore, a Department of the Army permit is not required to do this work.

This letter is valid only for the project referenced above. If any change in design, location, or purpose is contemplated, contact this office to avoid doing work that may be in violation of Federal law. PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS CONFIRMATION LETTER DOES NOT ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR STATE, LOCAL, OR OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS, SUCH AS THOSE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES OR COUNTY.

The decision regarding this action is based on information found in the administrative record which documents the District's decision-making process, the basis for the decision, and the final decision.

If you have any questions, please contact me in our St. Paul office at (651) 290-5266 or Aiden.Schore@usace.army.mil. In any correspondence or inquiries, please refer to the Regulatory file number shown above.

Sincerely,

Aiden Schore
Regulatory Specialist