

Appendix A

**Letter of Intent to file a route
permit application under the
alternative review procedures,
dated July 14, 2022**



July 14, 2022

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Mr. Will Seuffert
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
Docket No. ET2/TL-22-235
Rebuild Existing 69-kV Transmission Line to 115-kV in Stearns County, MN**

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

In accordance with Minn. R. 7850.2800, subp. 2, this letter serves as notice to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) that Great River Energy (Applicant) intends to submit a Route Permit Application for the St Joseph 115 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line and Substation Upgrade Project (Project) in Stearns County, Minnesota, under the alternative permitting procedures of Minn. R. 7850.2800 to 7850.3900. The Applicant intends to submit the Route Permit Application to the Commission in July/August 2022.

Please contact me at 763-445-5210 or by email at MStrohfus@GREnergy.com if you have any questions regarding this notice.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark Strohfus'.

Mark Strohfus
Environmental Project Lead

Appendix C

**Mailing list for landowners within and adjacent to
proposed route, Local Governmental Units
("LGUs"), and Agencies**

Appendix C

Cynthia H Aho
6777 Black Spruce St
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Bret J Benesh
1773 Casselberry Rd
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Mary A Christensen
1024 Celebration Cir
Sartell, MN 56377

Mary A Christensen
1169 Yellowstone Ave
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Brian A Douvier
1153 Yellowstone Ave
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Michael J Engelking
1765 Casselberry Rd
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Jon L Foshaug
1777 Casselberry Rd
St. Cloud, MN 56303

James J & Lois A Gebhardt
8355 320th St
St. Joseph, MN 56374

Roger & Kelly Gerads
1753 Casselberry Rd
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Michael J & Sandra S Goodwin
1523 Mulberry Rd
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Michael A Gruzka
1161 Yellowstone Ave
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Peter R Heinen
1928 73rd Ave N
St. Joseph, MN 56374

Amanda R Hemmesch Breaker
1515 Mulberry Rd
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Kim R & Carol L Hintermeister
1421 Mulberry Rd
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Thomas K & Nancy M Horn
7286 Kenwood Rd
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Shannon Koester
1043 Yellowstone Ave
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Jon Kraayenbrink
1761 Casselberry Rd
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Kim I Lykken
7520 Mullen Rd
St. Joseph, MN 56374

James J & Julie Marthaler
PO Box 762
St. Joseph, MN 56374

James J & Julie Marthaler
8425 320th St
St. Joseph, MN 56374

David Morreim
7001 Rolling Rdg Rd
St. Cloud, MN 56303

David Morreim
31371 73rd Ave
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Aslya Musa
1113 Yellowstone Ave
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Adam C Nordmark
1185 Yellowstone Ave
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Jay M O'Donnell
8025 Mullen Rd
St. Joseph, MN 56374

Evelyn L Odonnell
7855 Mullen Rd
St. Joseph, MN 56374

Mark W & Ann M Pierskalla
1501 Mulberry Rd
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Kevin T Reller
1177 Yellowstone Ave
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Todd & Rita Roben
1425 Mulberry Rd
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Robert W Rucks
1413 Mulberry Rd
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Appendix C

Kimberly Schmitt
1509 Mulberry Rd
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Christian Schulke
1035 Yellowstone Ave
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Katherine M Stearns
1757 Casselberry Rd
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Lisa M Tadych
1145 Yellowstone Ave
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Mike Truong
1417 Mulberry Rd
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Dennis E & Judith A Voigt
1769 Casselberry Rd
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Benedict J Warnert
32144 County Road 133
St. Joseph, MN 56374

Gregory L Warnert
31928 County Road 133
St. Joseph, MN 56374

Ronald O Warnert
1203 33rd St S
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Thomas J & Betty L Wolterman
1405 Mulberry Rd
St. Cloud, MN 56303

B & K Properties of St. Joseph LLC
7818 Ridgewood Rd
St. Joseph, MN 56374

B & K Properties of St Joseph LLC
PO Box 99
St. Joseph, MN 56374

B & K Properties of St Joseph LLC
7939 Ridgewood Rd
St. Joseph, MN 56374

C & F Properties LLC
7402 Ridgewood Rd
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Central Minnesota Habitat For
Humanity
3335 St Germain St W #108
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Central Minnesota Habitat For
Humanity
Ridgewood Rd
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Chokecherry Acres LLC
428 Pondview Ln
St. Joseph, MN 56374

Heritage Homes Inc of MN
PO Box 343
Sartell, MN 56377

Heritage Homes Inc of MN
1129 Yellowstone Ave
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Heritage Homes Inc of MN
1121 Yellowstone Ave
St. Cloud, MN 56303

JTM Properties LLC
7916 105th Ave SE
Clear Lake, MN 55319

JTM Properties LLC
1051 Yellowstone Ave
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Justin Honer Excavating LLC
PO Box 242
St. Joseph, MN 56374

Justin Honer Excavating LLC
7316 Ridgewood Rd
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Mitzel Family Living Trust
1409 Mulberry Rd
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Northern Metal Products Inc
PO Box 70
St. Cloud, MN 56302

Northern Metal Products Inc
6601 Ridgewood Rd
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Rfelix Properties LLC
1536 39th St S
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Rfelix Properties LLC
1105 Yellowstone Ave
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Salvage Properties LLC
7505 Ridgewood Rd
St. Cloud, MN 56303

St Joe Mini-Storage LLC
PO Box 639
St. Joseph, MN 56374

Appendix C

Stacey Kotch Office of Land Management
MN Dept. of Transportation
Transportation Bldg-RM 715N
395 John Ireland Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Sauk River Watershed District
524 4th Street
Sauk Centre, MN 56378

DNR Parks & Trails, Sauk Rapids-PAT 3A
1035 S Benton Dr.
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

Christopher Hogge
NRCS Waite Park Service Center
110 2nd St. S, Ste. 128
Waite Park, MN 56387

St. Joseph Area Historical Society
PO Box 434
St. Joseph, MN 56374

Jodi Teich
Stearns County Highway Engineer
455 28th Ave. S
Waite Park, MN 56387

Commissioner Joe Perske
Stearns County Second District
705 Courthouse Square
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Commissioner Leigh Lenzmeier
Stearns County Fourth District
705 Courthouse Square
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Randy R. Schreifels
Stearns County Auditor-Treasurer
705 Courthouse Square, Rm 148
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Anna Reischl
St. Joseph Twp Clerk
200 Hill St. W
St. Joseph, MN 56374

St. Cloud District Office
MN Department of Health
Midtown Square
3333 W Division St., Ste. 212
St. Cloud, MN 56301

DNR Forestry, Little Falls
16543 Haven Rd.
Little Falls, MN 56345

Martha Vickery
DNR Region 3
1200 Warner Road
St. Paul, MN 55106

Chuck Rau Supervisor
Benton Soil & Water Conservation District
11275 West Lake Road
Rice, MN 56367

Michael Williams
Stearns County Administrator
705 Courthouse Square, Rm 121
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Commissioner Tarryl Clark
Stearns County First District
705 Courthouse Square
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Commissioner Jeff Mergen
Stearns County Vice-Chair, Third District
705 Courthouse Square
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Commisisoner Steve Notch
Stearns County Chair, Fifth District
705 Courthouse Square
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Chelle Benson, AICP
Stearns County Environmental Services
3301 Co Rd 138
Waite Park, MN 56387

Daniel A. Rassier
St. Joseph Twp Treasurer
29748 91st Ave.
St. Joseph, MN 56374

Appendix C

Doug Fredrickson
St. Joseph Twp Chair
26545 Jade Road
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Dennis Durand
St. Joseph Twp Supervisor
9756 County Rd. 138
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Robin Doege, CEO
Stearns Electric Association
900 Kraft Drive SE
PO Box 40
Melrose, MN 56352

Mayor Rick Schultz
City of St. Joseph
75 Callaway St. E
St. Joseph, MN 56374

Councilmember Bob Loso
City of St. Joseph
75 Callaway St. E
St. Joseph, MN 56374

Councilmember Kevin Kluesner
City of St. Joseph
75 Callaway St. E
St. Joseph, MN 56374

Mayor Dave Kleis
City of St. Cloud
400 2nd St. S
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Councilmember Steve Laraway
City of St. Cloud, 2nd Ward
400 2nd St. S
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Councilmember Mike Conway
City of St. Cloud, 4th Ward
400 2nd St. S
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Councilmember George Hontos
City of St. Cloud, At-large
400 2nd St. S
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Ralph Eiyneck
St. Joseph Twp Supervisor
12838 287th St.
St. Joseph, MN 56374

Jon Halter, SHE
St. Joseph Twp Engineer & Stormwater Administrator
PO Box 1717
St. Cloud, MN 56302

James Pachan
Stearns Electric Association
900 Kraft Drive SE
PO Box 40
Melrose, MN 56352

Therese Haffner
City of St. Joseph Administrator
75 Callaway St. E
St. Joseph, MN 56374

Councilmember Kelly Beniek
City of St. Joseph
75 Callaway St. E
St. Joseph, MN 56374

Councilmember Jon Hazen
City of St. Joseph
75 Callaway St. E
St. Joseph, MN 56374

Councilmember Dave Masters
City of St. Cloud, 1st Ward
400 2nd St. S
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Councilmember Paul Brandmire
City of St. Cloud, 3rd Ward
400 2nd St. S
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Councilmember Jeff Goerger
City of St. Cloud, At-large
400 2nd St. S
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Councilmember Carol Lewis
City of St. Cloud, At-large
400 2nd St. S
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Appendix C

Representative Lisa Demuth District 13A
Assistant Minority Leader
223 State Office Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Tama Theis District 14A
201 State Office Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Steven Foss
City of St. Cloud Engineer
400 2nd St. S
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Ryan Wensmann
City of St. Joseph Public Works Director
75 Callaway St. E
St. Joseph, MN 56374

Nate Keller, AICP
City of St. Joseph Community Development
Director/Planning
75 Callaway St. E
St. Joseph, MN 56374

Senator Jeff R. Howe District 13
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Rm 3231
95 University Ave. W
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Aric Putman District 14
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Rm 2327
95 University Ave. W
St. Paul, MN 55155

Matt Glaesman, AICP
City of St. Cloud Community Development Director
400 2nd St. S
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Randy Sabart
SEH - City of St. Joseph Engineer
75 Callaway St. E
St. Joseph, MN 56374

Appendix D

Correspondence with
Landowners and LGUs



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

February 3, 2022

ST-WS Line
WO #207335

SUBJECT: Transmission line project open house Feb. 17
PID(s):

Dear :

Great River Energy, wholesale electric supplier to Stearns Electric Association, is proposing a 3.2-mile rebuild of the existing overhead 69-kV (69,000 volt) transmission line to upgrade it to 115-kV. Over the last decade, Great River Energy has been upgrading the St. Joseph area to a more reliable 115-kV transmission system. This project will complete the area upgrade and loop the 115-kV system. This project will use modern construction and accessibility standards to improve electric reliability for the area.

As an identified landowner along the proposed route, Great River Energy is encouraging you to attend the project open house.

Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022
4 – 6 p.m.
St. Joseph Community Fire Hall
323 4th Ave NE, St. Joseph, MN 56374

Enclosed is a project fact sheet showing the proposed route and timeline. If you are unable to attend the open house, please contact me with comments or questions at 612-840-4019 or via email at daukee@greenergy.com. Great River Energy appreciates your understanding as we begin this important electric project.

Sincerely,
GREAT RIVER ENERGY

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dale Aukee'.

Dale Aukee
Senior Field Representative

Enclosure

DA:jh\SP\trans capital projects\207333 Westwood\207335 ST-WS line\LR\Notifications\22.2.17 ST-WS open house\Open house letter.docx

February 10, 2022

St. Cloud Times
3000 North 7th Street
St. Cloud, MN 56303

RE: Publication of Notice February 10, 2022

This letter certifies that on February 10, 2022, The St. Cloud Times did publish the ¼-page public notification on behalf of Great River Energy to all subscribers and single copy purchasers of the February 10, 2022 edition of St. Cloud Times.

Marla Warner
Account Executive

Affidavit Completed:

Date: 2/23/2022

By: Marla Warner

Title: Account Executive

I declare under perury that the information set fourth in this Affidavit of Performance is accurate in all aspects.

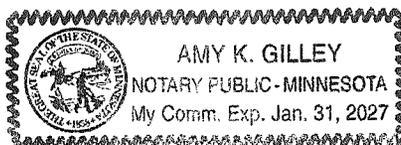
By: Marla Warner

Notary Information:

Affirmed before me, this 23rd day of February 2022

Commission Expires 1/31/27

Amy Gilley
(signature)



Please join us for an
OPEN HOUSE

to learn about an important electric power line project being proposed by Great River Energy in St. Joseph

THURSDAY, FEB. 17, 2022

4 – 6 p.m.

St. Joseph Community Fire Station
323 4th Ave NE
St. Joseph, MN 56374

No formal presentation will be given.

Attendees are encouraged to come anytime during the hours indicated.

GREAT RIVER ENERGY invites you to attend a public open house meeting regarding a proposed 3.2-mile, 115-kV rebuild of an overhead transmission line. The purpose of this transmission project is to rebuild an existing 69-kV transmission line to 115-kV. Over the last decade, Great River Energy has been upgrading the St. Joseph area to a more reliable 115-kV transmission system. This project will complete the area upgrade and loop the 115-kV system. This project will benefit people and businesses in the area by:

- Ensuring continuing reliable service to customers in the future
- Improving electric reliability by adding a second electric source at the substation

If you have questions, please contact:

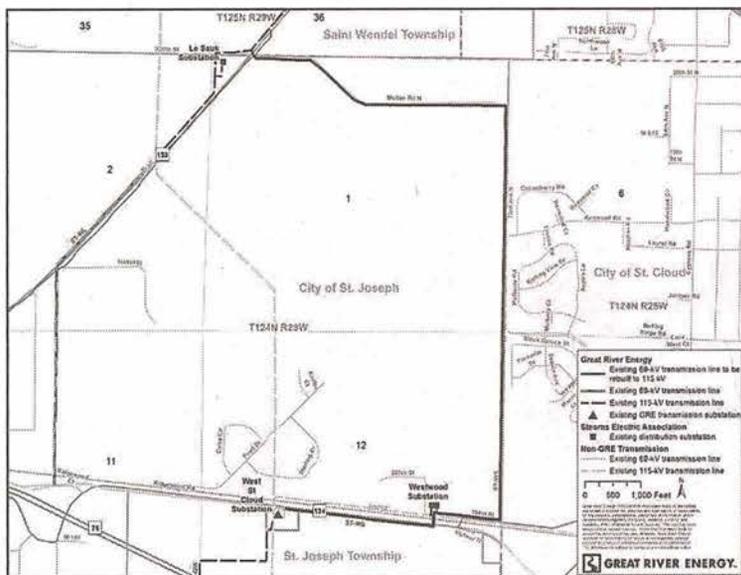
Dale Aukee

Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Blvd. | Maple Grove, MN 55369
612-840-4019 | daukee@greenergy.com

Project updates can be found at greatriverenergy.com/stjosephupgrade

Your feedback is important to us. We encourage you to attend the open house to have your questions answered and provide any comments you may have.

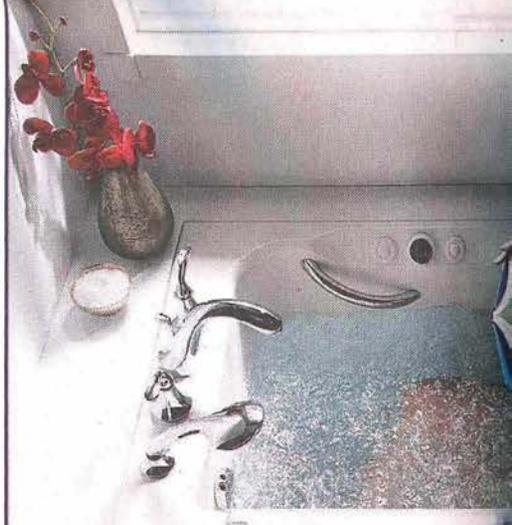
PROPOSED PROJECT



www.greatriverenergy.com

Appendix D

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+ SPECIAL FINANCING



FINANCING AVAILABLE

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*Offer ends February 28, 2022. Participating dealers only. Not available in AK; HI; NY. 50% off installation labor applies to the installation of the Walk-In Bath and... Cannot be combined with any other advertised offer. Contact local dealer for financing during the promotional period but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is no minimum monthly payment required during the promotional period. Financing provided by participating lenders to borrowers for the purchase of goods and/or services. Great River Energy is a federally insured, equal opportunity lender bank. NMLS #1416362. GreenSky® is a registered trademark of GreenSky®. GreenSky® is a registered trademark of GreenSky®. GreenSky® financing is provided on behalf of participating lenders. NMLS #1416362 GreenSky® financing

PRINTERS' AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION
STATE OF MINNESOTA)

)ss

COUNTY OF STEARNS)

Appendix D

Bruce Schneekloth, being first duly sworn,
on oath states as follows:

1. I am the publisher of the St. Joseph Newsleader, or the publisher's designated agent. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this Affidavit, which is made pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §331A.07.
2. The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements to constitute a qualified newspaper under Minnesota law, including those requirements found in Minnesota Statutes §331A.02.
3. The dates of the month and the year and day of the week upon which the public notice attached/copied below as published in the newspaper are as follows:

4. The publisher's lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space, as determined pursuant to §331A.06, is as follows: \$12/col./inch.
5. Mortgage Foreclosure Notices. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §580.033 relating to the publication of mortgage foreclosure notices: The newspaper's known office of issue is located in Stearns County. The newspaper complies with the conditions described in §580.033, subd. 1, clause (1) or (2). If the newspaper's known office of issue is located in a county adjoining the county where the mortgaged premises or some part of the mortgaged premises described in the notice are located, a substantial portion of the newspaper's circulation is in the latter county.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAITH NOT.

Bruce Schneekloth

Subscribed and sworn to me before this 4th day
of FEBRUARY, 2022.



Janelle M. Schneekloth
Notary Public

Calendar

Is your event listed? Send your information to: Newsleader Calendar, 1622 11th Ave. SE., St. Cloud, MN 56304., e-mail it to news@thenewsleaders.com. Most events are listed at no cost. Those events are typically free or of minimal charge for people to attend. Some events, which have paid advertising in the Newsleaders, are also listed in the calendar and may charge more.

Saturday, Feb. 5

Diabetes Prevention Program, free workshop, meets in-person and on zoom, Whitney Senior Center, 1527 Northway Drive, St. Cloud. Workshop dates include: 9-10 a.m. Saturdays, Feb. 5-May 21; 9-10 a.m. Tuesdays, April 12-July 26; and 11:15-12:15 p.m. Thursdays, May 5-Aug. 18. This program is designed for people with pre-diabetes. 320-650-3082, whitneyseniorcenter@ci.stcloud.mn.us.

Open Shopday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Bruno Press, 154 Fifth Ave. SE, St. Joseph, enter through the garage. Shop, print a thing, have a snack, learn something new!

Monday, Feb. 7

Blood Drive, 1-7 p.m., sponsored by Avon Women of Today and American Red Cross, Avon Community Church, 204 Avon Ave. N. For information or to make an appointment to donate, call 1-800-733-2767 or sign up online at redcrossblood.org with sponsor code:

Cancer: Thriving & Surviving, 1:30-4 p.m. This free workshop meets via zoom each Monday from Feb. 7-March 21. 320-650-3082, whitneyseniorcenter@ci.stcloud.mn.us.

St. Joseph City Council, 6 p.m., Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E.

St. Joseph Women of Today, 6:30 p.m., St. Joseph Fire Hall, 323 Fourth Ave. NE. Join other women to do

charitable projects and have fun social events.

Tuesday, Feb. 8

St. Joseph Food Shelf, 1-3 p.m., 18 Birch St. E, St. Joseph. Visit Facebook page for schedule changes and updates.

Wednesday, Feb. 9

St. Cloud Schools Board of Education Agenda Planning Committee, 8 a.m., District 742 Administration Office, 1201 S. Second St., Waite Park.

Men's Health Series, this

free workshop meets in-person and via zoom from 9-10 a.m. Wednesdays, Feb. 9, March 9, April 6, May 11 and June 8. For more information contact 320-650-3082 or email whitneyseniorcenter@ci.stcloud.mn.us. Whitney Senior Center, 1527 Northway Dr, St. Cloud.

Walk With Ease, this free workshop meets in-person from 10-11 a.m., Wednesdays through Feb. 23, Whitney Senior Center, 1527 Northway Drive, St. Cloud. 320-650-3082, email whitneyseniorcenter@ci.stcloud.mn.us.

St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce, noon-1 p.m., St. Joseph Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E. stjosephchamber.com.

"Voter Suppression," presented by the St. Cloud Area League of Women Voters. 1 p.m. via Zoom. For more information visit www.lwvsca.org.

St Joseph Y2K Lions Club,

6:30 p.m., St. Joseph Community Fire Hall, 323 Fourth Ave NE.

Thursday, Feb. 10

Health Coaches for Hypertension Control, free workshop, meets 1-2:30 p.m. Thursdays through April 7 via Zoom or in-person, Whitney Senior Center, 1527

Calendar • page 6

BEST OF HAWAII FOUR-ISLAND TOUR

12 days, departs year-round

FROM \$2,549 \$2,299*

1-855-447-9589
promo code N7017

* Prices are per person based on double occupancy plus \$299 in taxes & fees. Single supplement and seasonal surcharges may apply. Add-on airfare available. Offers apply to new bookings only, made by 3/31/22. Other terms & conditions may apply. Ask your Travel Consultant for details.

Earn Extra Income

Volunteer in your community as a paid volunteer! Lutheran Social Service of MN is seeking volunteers to provide companionships to older adults. Volunteers of the program qualify for small hourly tax-free stipends and transportation reimbursement.

Please contact Janel at 320.241.5173 or Janel.Heinen@lssmn.org for more information and to make an impact in your community!!

AmeriCorps Seniors Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota

KRAMER FINANCIAL
INVESTING WITH A PLAN

James Kramer III Honored as one of LPL Financial's Top Financial Advisors

James Kramer III, an independent LPL Financial advisor at Kramer Financial in St. Cloud, was recently recognized for his inclusion in the LPL Patriot's Club. This elite award is presented to less than 9% of the firm's more than 17,000 financial advisors nationwide.

"On behalf of LPL, I congratulate James on reaching this milestone in his professional career," said Angela Xavier, LPL executive vice president, Independent Advisor Services. "Business owners, American investors and industries at large faced extraordinary challenges throughout 2020. In the advisor-mediated financial advice market, investors showed how much value they place on a trusting relationship with a financial advisor. We applaud James for his commitment to clients and resiliency as a business owner, and we are inspired by his dedication to making a meaningful impact in the lives of his clients. It is an honor to support James and we wish him and his entire team continued success."

Kramer is affiliated with LPL Financial, the nation's largest independent broker-dealer and a leader in the retail financial advice market. LPL provides the resources, tools and technology that support advisors in their work to enrich their clients' financial lives.

James Kramer III, MBA, CFP®
1260 32nd Avenue North
St. Cloud, MN 56303
320-233-8256 • kramerfinancial.org

We Handle Garbage Electronics Televisions Appliances Buying all metals!

FOR ALL THINGS CLEAN UP

320-845-2747
Conveniently located next to I-94

ALBANY RECYCLING CENTER

NOTICE

Please join us for an **OPEN HOUSE** to learn about an important electric power line project being proposed by Great River Energy in St. Joseph

THURSDAY, FEB. 17, 2022
4 - 6 p.m.
St. Joseph Community Fire Station
323 4th Ave NE
St. Joseph, MN 56374

No formal presentation will be given. Attendees are encouraged to come anytime during the hours indicated.

GREAT RIVER ENERGY invites you to attend a public open house meeting regarding a proposed 3.2-mile, 115-kV rebuild of an overhead transmission line. The purpose of this transmission project is to rebuild an existing 69-kV transmission line to 115-kV. Over the last decade, Great River Energy has been upgrading the St. Joseph area to a more reliable 115-kV transmission system. This project will complete the area upgrade and loop the 115-kV system. This project will benefit people and businesses in the area by:

- Ensuring continuing reliable service to customers in the future
- Improving electric reliability by adding a second electric source at the substation

If you have questions, please contact:
Dale Aukee
Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Blvd.
Maple Grove, MN 55369
612-840-4019 | daukee@greenergy.com

Project updates can be found at greatriverenergy.com/stjosephupgrade

Your feedback is important to us. We encourage you to attend the open house to have your questions answered and provide any comments you may have.

PROPOSED PROJECT

GREAT RIVER ENERGY
www.greatriverenergy.com

Appendix E

**Correspondence with
Agencies and Tribes**

**State Historic
Preservation Office
SHPO**



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

November 11, 2020

ST-WS Line 115-kV Upgrades
WO #207335

Ms. Sarah Beimers
Environmental Review
State Historic Preservation Office
50 Sherburne Ave., Suite 203
St. Paul, MN 55155

SUBJECT: Proposed ST-WS 115-kV transmission line and substation upgrades
Stearns County, Minnesota
T124N, R29W, Sections 1 and 12

Dear Ms. Beimers:

Great River Energy is proposing to convert approximately 3.2 miles of 69-kilovolt (kV) transmission line to 115 kV located in St. Joseph Township and the City of St. Joseph, Stearns County, Minnesota. The proposed project is to use the existing 69-kV transmission line right of way to complete the area upgrade and loop the 115-kV system.

Westwood conducted a Phase IA Cultural Resources Assessment (see attached) in October 2020 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 additional 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, December 11, 2020. If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact me at mparlow@GREnergy.com or 763-445-5215.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Marsha Parlow'.

Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Specialist

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

MP:jh:S:\Trans\Capital Projects\207333 Westwood 1 115 kV conversion\207335 ST-WS Line Re\Permitting & Compl\ST-WS Upgrade MHS ltr.docx



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



ST-WS Transmission Line Rebuild and Substation Upgrades

Great River Energy, wholesale electric supplier to Stearns Electric Association, is proposing to rebuild 3.2 miles of its “ST-WS” 69-kV (69,000 volt) transmission line increasing the voltage to 115 kV. The proposal also includes modifying two substations to accept the higher voltage. Over the last decade, Great River Energy has been upgrading the St. Joseph area to a more reliable 115-kV transmission system. This project will complete the area upgrade and loop the 115-kV system.

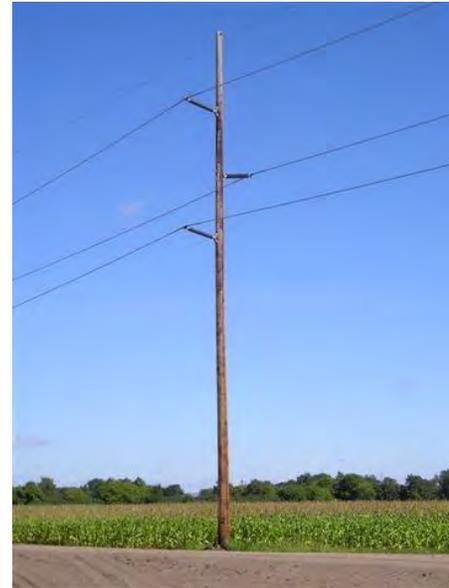
Rebuild overview

Great River Energy’s proposed rebuild will overtake the existing 69-kV transmission line beginning at Great River Energy’s West St. Cloud Substation on Ridgewood Road in St. Joseph. The existing 69-kV transmission line (see map on back) will be rebuilt to 115-kV.

The 115-kV rebuild exits the West St. Cloud Substation, runs east on the south side of Ridgewood Road until it crosses north to the Stearns Electric Association’s Westwood Substation. The 115-kV line continues east for approximately 1,200 feet then north for approximately 1.4 miles to Mullen Road where it turns west following the 69-kV transmission line to the intersection of County Highway 133 and Mullen Road. Here the line will terminate at a new 3-way switch pole interconnecting with an existing 115-kV transmission line.

Upgrades at both substations include new transformers and electrical apparatus to accept the higher voltage. The West St. Cloud Substation fence will expand 15-to 20-feet west to provide space.

Transmission line construction will generally consist of single wood poles 75-to 85-feet tall, placed 350 to 400 feet apart. Directional changes or angles will require guy wires and anchors to stabilize poles. Some specialty poles may be required. Steel poles if necessary, will be on a concrete foundation.



Typical 115-kV wood single circuit structure

To provide a safe construction, operation and maintenance area, a 100-foot-wide right of way, 50-feet each side of the centerline, will be cleared of trees and vegetation.

Permits and easements

Great River Energy will apply for a conditional use permit (CUP) from the City of St. Joseph. This project is applicable under Minnesota Statute 216E.05 Subd. 2(3) for local review. Great River Energy will work with state and federal agencies to secure any required permits.

Landowners along the proposed transmission line rebuild will be contacted to discuss the project, tree removal, an easement amendment and compensation. An amended easement will be requested to provide the additional rights needed to upgrade to a 115-kV transmission line.

Schedule

Notifications	Fall 2020
County CUP	Fall 2020
Easements/ Environmental permits	Winter/Spring 2021
Transmission line construction	Fall 2021

Quick facts

Length – **3.2 miles**

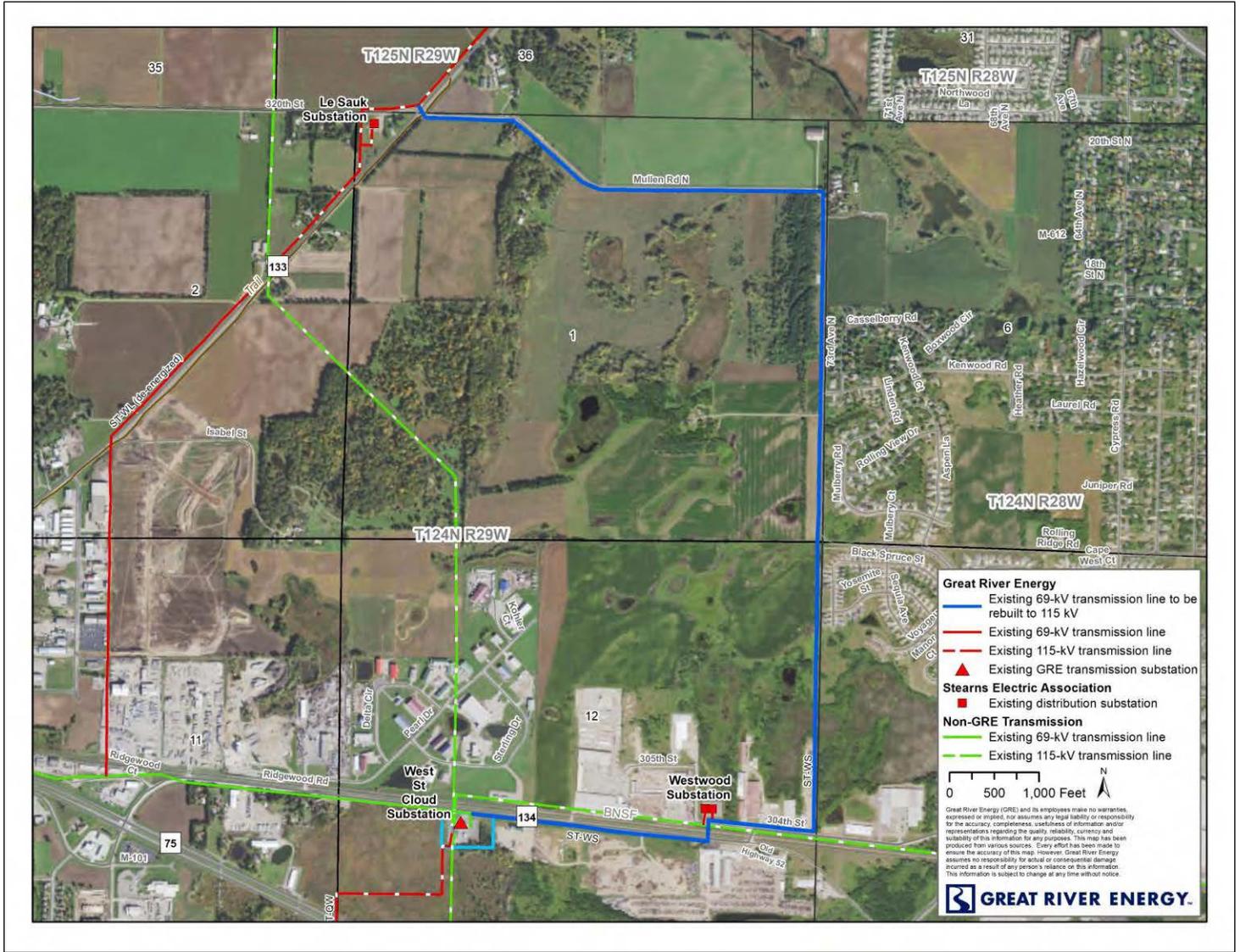
Voltage – **115 kV**

Structures – **Wood poles possible steel**

Spans – **350 to 400 feet apart**

Right of way – **100-foot-wide right of way; 50 feet on each side of the centerline.**

Proposed project



Great River Energy representatives

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

Dale Aukee, Senior Field Representative
 Land Rights
 612-840-4019 | daukee@greenergy.com

Marsha Parlow, Transmission Permitting Specialist
 Transmission Permitting
 612-345-1212 | mparlow@greenergy.com

About Great River Energy

Great River Energy is a not-for-profit wholesale electric power cooperative that provides electricity to 28 member-owner distribution cooperatives. Together, our systems provide power to approximately two-thirds of Minnesota geographically and parts of Wisconsin, serving 700,000 families, farms and businesses.

November 6, 2020

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

Re: Phase Ia Cultural Resource Assessment for the ST-WS Transmission Line Rebuild and Substation Upgrade Stearns County, Minnesota
File: R0030087.00

Dear Ms. Parlow:

Westwood Professional Services (Westwood) was contacted in October 2020 by Great River Energy to conduct a Phase IA Cultural Resources Assessment in support of the proposed ST-WS Transmission Line Rebuild and Substation Upgrade (Project) in Stearns County, Minnesota.

Project Description

Great River Energy is proposing to rebuild an existing 69-kV electric transmission line to a 115-kV line in the City of St. Joseph, MN. The Project is the completion of a 115-kV upgrade being done to increase the reliability of the transmission system in the St. Joseph area.

The proposed 3.2-mile transmission line rebuild will begin at Great River Energy's West St. Cloud Substation on Ridgewood Road in St. Joseph. The transmission line route will run east on the south side of Ridgewood Road until it crosses north to the Stearns Electric Association's Westwood Substation. It will continue east for another 1,200 feet before turning north for approximately 1.4 miles to Mullen Road where it will turn west to the intersection of County Highway 133 and Mullen Road. It will terminate here at a new 3-way switch pole (Exhibit 1).

Transmission line construction will use single wood poles 75 to 85 feet above ground, placed 350 to 400 feet apart. Some specialty poles may be needed. Directional changes or angles will require guy wires and anchors to stabilize poles. To provide a safe construction, operation and maintenance area, a 100-foot-wide right of way, 50 feet each side of the centerline, will be cleared of trees and vegetation.

Project Location

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

County	Township	Range	Project Sections	Buffer Sections
Stearns	124N	28W		6, 7, 18,
Stearns	124N	29W	1, 12	2, 11, 13, 14
Stearns	125N	28W		31, 32
Stearns	124N	29W		35, 36

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.

Westwood 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 1-mile radius around the substation and transmission line route was established. Westwood 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. On October 29, 2020, Westwood Cultural Resource Specialist Dean Sather examined site files maintained by the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) and the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Previously Recorded Archaeological Resources

No previously documented archaeological sites are located within the proposed transmission reroute Study Area. The proposed Project will have no effect on known inventoried archaeological sites.

Previously Recorded Standing Historic Structures

A review of a database search supplied by the MN SHPO indicates that six historic/architectural resources are located within one mile of the proposed route. Two of the resources are eligible for listing on the NRHP with the remaining resources evaluated. The eligible resources include the Rassier farmstead (SHPO Inventory # SN-SJC-091) which is located approximately one mile from the proposed transmission rebuild; and the Great Northern Railroad: Collegeville Segment (SHPO # SN-SJT-001) which is located adjacent to the proposed transmission rebuild. One resource in the SHPO database has incorrect location information; Bridge No. 90706 (SHPO # SN-SCT-002) stands over the Elk River, which does not run through the Project area or buffer. The bridge number was not identified in the MnDOT bridge inventory database, and its location could not be verified.

Table 2: Previously Recorded Historic/Architectural Resources

SHPO No.	Name	Address	NRHP Eligibility	Project/Buffer
SN-SCT-002	Bridge No. 90706	Township Road over the Elk River	Unevaluated	Buffer (incorrect info in database)
SN-STC-006	Farmstead	2197 19 th Ave. S Sartell	Unevaluated	Buffer
SN-SCC-1671	House	32285 CSAH 4 St. Cloud	Unevaluated	Buffer
SN-SJC-091	Rassier Farmstead	29748 16 th Ave. SE St. Joseph	Eligible	Buffer
SN-SJC-099	Land for Future USARC	88 th Ave & Minnesota St St. Joseph	Unevaluated	Buffer
SN-SJT-001	Great Northern Railroad: Collegeville Segment	Undetermined Location	Eligible	Project

Inventory No. = designation applied by SHPO; Name = unofficial name or resource type as listed on inventory form; Address = location as listed on inventory form, verified in GIS if possible; NRHP Eligibility = eligibility or listing status in the NRHP; Project/Buffer = location within in project area or one-mile buffer.

Conclusions

Westwood 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 additional cultural resource survey is needed. The Rassier Farmstead (SN-SCT-002) is located nearly a mile from the Project, and the rebuild will not affect the resource. The existing transmission facility currently occupies easement immediately adjacent to the NRHP-eligible Collegeville segment of the Great Northern Railroad (SN-SJT-001). The railroad will not be physically altered by the rebuild, and the proposed changes will perpetuate the existing conditions. The railroad will not be negatively impacted and its eligibility will not be effected by the proposed rebuild. Westwood recommends that if construction plans are altered to 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.

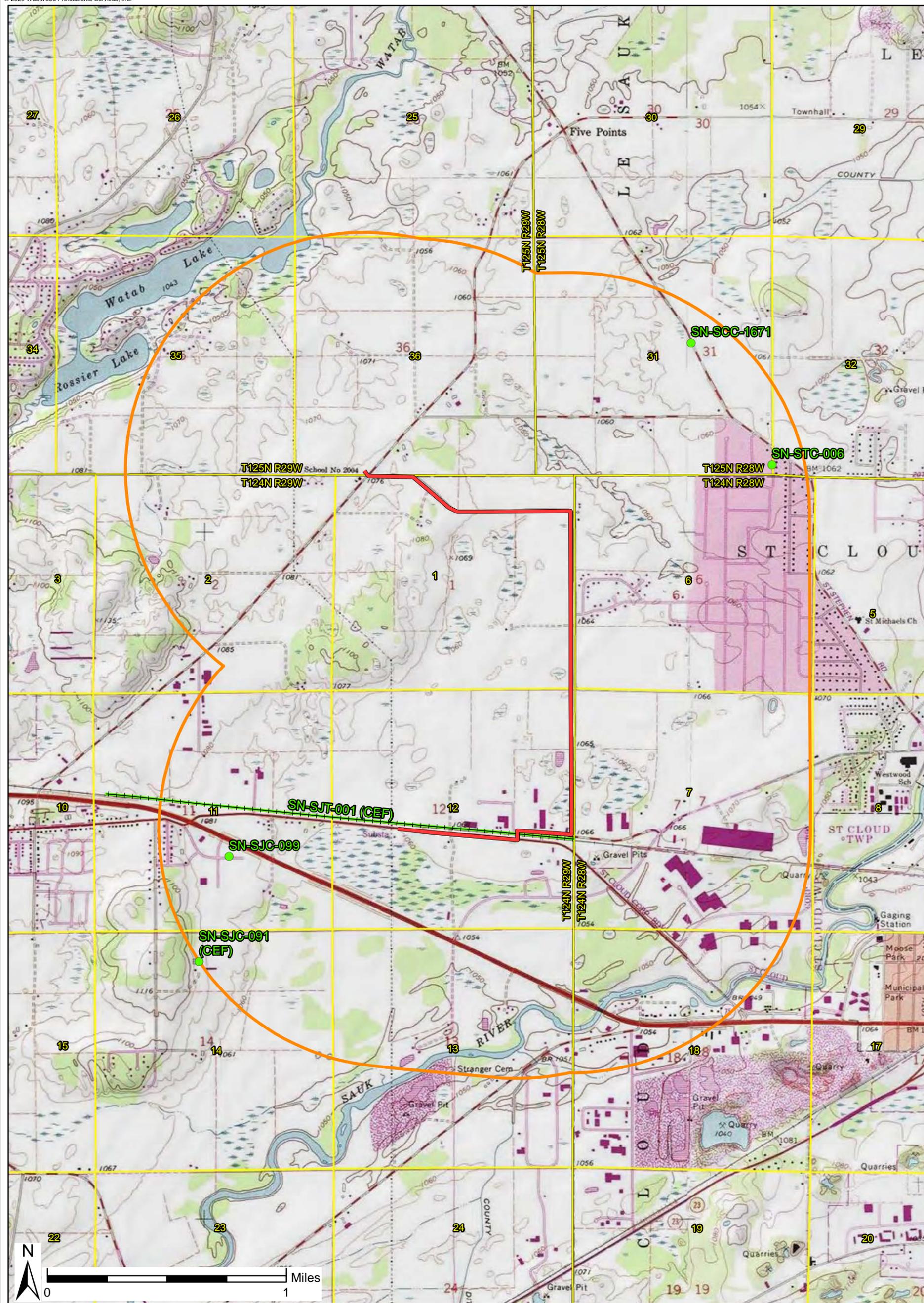
Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

WESTWOOD PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



Dean T. Sather, MA, RPA
Power Delivery Permitting Lead



Data Source(s): Westwood (2020); ESRI USGS Topo Basemap (Accessed 2020).

ST-WS Transmission Line Rebuild

Stearns County, Minnesota

Legend

- Project Location (69kv T-Line)
- Historic Resource
- Linear Historic Resource
- 1-Mile Buffer
- Township Boundary
- Section Boundary

Cultural Resources in Vicinity of Project Location

Westwood

Toll Free (888) 937-5150 westwoodps.com
Westwood Professional Services, Inc.



December 16, 2020

Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Specialist
Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Blvd
Maple Grove, MN 5536-4718

RE: Proposed ST-WS 115 kV transmission line and substation upgrades
T124 R29 S1 & S22, St. Joseph Twp., Stearns County
SHPO Number: 2021-0445

Dear Ms. Parlow:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the above project. Information received on November 17, 2020 has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Office by the Minnesota Historic Sites Act (Minn. Stat. 138.666).

Based on our review of the project information, we conclude 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 Kelly Gragg-Johnson in our Environmental Review Program at kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us if you have any questions regarding our review of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Sarah J. Beimers'.

Sarah J. Beimers
Environmental Review Program Manager

MINNESOTA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

50 Sherburne Avenue ■ Administration Building 203 ■ Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155 ■ 651-201-3287

mn.gov/admin/shpo ■ mnshpo@state.mn.us

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TRIBES

From: [LaGue, Lorna \(COMM\)](#)
To: [MacAlister, Jamie \(COMM\)](#); [Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG](#)
Subject: RE: Tribal Nations Outreach for the GRE 115 kV Transmission line
Date: Friday, June 24, 2022 8:49:21 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

This email was sent by an external sender. Opening attachments or clicking links from untrusted sources may cause damage to you and Great River Energy.

Ok, here is the list of THPO's that I have.

I will warn you that I have been in the process of verifying this information and have not quite completed that, so if you run into a "bounce back email" or something, just let me know and I will help get it corrected.

Please feel free to reach out to me if there is anything I can help with,
Lorna

Bois Forte	Strong	Jaylen	jaylen.strong@boisforte-nsn.gov	218-757-3261
Fond du Lac	Hoppe	Jill	jillhoppe@fdlrez.com	218-879-4593
Grand Portage	Gagnon	Mary Ann	maryanng@grandportage.com	218-475-2277
Leech Lake	Amy	Burnette	amy.burnette@llojibwe.net	218-335-8200
Lower Sioux	St. John	Cheyenne	cheyanne.stjohn@lowersioux.com	507-697-6185
Mille Lacs	Kemper	Terry	terry.kemper@millelacsband.com	320-532-7424
Prairie Island	White	Noah	noah.white@piic.org	651-267-4087
Red Lake	Ferris	Kade	kade.ferris@redlakenation.org	218-679-3341
Shakopee	Wabasha	Leonard	leonard.wabasha@shakopeedakota.org	952-445-8900
Upper Sioux	Odegard	Samantha	samanthao@uppersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov	320-564-6372
White Earth	Arsenault	Jaime	jaime.arsenault@whiteearth-nsn.gov	218-983-3285

From: [Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG](#)
To: leonard.wabasha@shakopeedakota.org
Subject: Upgrade 69-kV transmission line to 115-kV: GRE ST-WS Line
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 1:58:00 PM
Attachments: [Shakopee Mdewakanton Outreach GRE ST-WS 115-kV transmission line.pdf](#)
[ST-WS rebuild fact sheet final 3.21.22.pdf](#)

Leonard Wabasha,

Please see attached documents regarding a transmission line upgrade project that Great River Energy is planning near St. Joseph, MN.

Contact me with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Mark Strohfus

Transmission Permitting, Project Manager

Great River Energy

12300 Elm Creek Boulevard

Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718

Tel: 763-445-5210 | Cell: 612-961-9820

MStrohfus@GREnergy.com

**This is the typical email sent to the
eleven tribes provided by Lorna LaGue.**

From: [Leonard Wabasha \(TO\)](#)
To: [Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG](#)
Cc: [Goetsch, Dylan \(MIAC\)](#); [Cerde, Melissa \(MIAC\)](#)
Subject: RE: Upgrade 69-kV transmission line to 115-kV: GRE ST-WS Line
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 3:19:43 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

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Thanks for the info Mark,

The phase 1A mentioned (see below) is what I would usually ask for but since both SHPO and Westwood came to the same conclusion I am okay with the proposed project, other tribes may not, so it is important that you contact them...

"Westwood conducted a Phase IA Cultural Resources Assessment (see attached) in October 2020 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 additional cultural resources survey is needed." A project description/map is included for your review. The proposed line is marked in blue.



LEONARD WABASHA

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

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

From: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfu@GREnergy.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 2:29 PM
To: Leonard Wabasha (TO) <leonard.wabasha@shakopeedakota.org>
Subject: RE: Upgrade 69-kV transmission line to 115-kV: GRE ST-WS Line

This message came from **outside the organization**. Do Not click on links, open attachments or respond unless you know the content is safe.

Leonard,

Good question, I should have thought to include those documents, which I've now attached.

Do you think the other 10 tribes will be interested in seeing these documents? It's not clear to me which tribes may have interests in this area.

Thank You,
Mark

From: Leonard Wabasha (TO) <leonard.wabasha@shakopeedakota.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 2:06 PM
To: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfu@GREnergy.com>
Subject: RE: Upgrade 69-kV transmission line to 115-kV: GRE ST-WS Line

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Are there any archaeological reports available for viewing?



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

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

From: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfu@GREnergy.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 1:59 PM
To: Leonard Wabasha (TO) <leonard.wabasha@shakopeedakota.org>
Subject: Upgrade 69-kV transmission line to 115-kV: GRE ST-WS Line

This message came from **outside the organization**. Do Not click on links, open attachments or respond unless you know the content is safe.

Leonard Wabasha,

Please see attached documents regarding a transmission line upgrade project that Great River Energy is planning near St. Joseph, MN.

Contact me with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Mark Strohfus

Transmission Permitting, Project Manager

Great River Energy

12300 Elm Creek Boulevard

Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718

Tel: 763-445-5210 | Cell: 612-961-9820

MStrohfu@GREnergy.com

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~~~~~

The information contained in this message is confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, dissemination or copying of this information is prohibited.

If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender and delete the message from your system. Thank you!

~~~~~

From: [Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG](#)
To: jaylen.strong@boisforte-nsn.gov; jillhoppe@fdlrez.com; maryannq@grandportage.com; amy.burnette@llojibwe.net; cheyanne.stjohn@lowersioux.com; terry.kemper@millelacsband.com; noah.white@piic.org; kade.ferris@redlakenation.org; samanthao@uppersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov; jaime.arsenault@whiteearth-nsn.gov
Cc: [Leonard Wabasha \(TO\)](#); [Goetsch, Dylan \(MIAC\)](#); [Cerde, Melissa \(MIAC\)](#)
Subject: Upgrade 69-kV transmission line to 115-kV: GRE ST-WS Line
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 5:07:00 PM
Attachments: [SHPO Response 12-16-2020 \(1\).pdf](#)
[ST-WS upgrade MHS ltr \(1\).pdf](#)
[ST-WS Rebuild Westwood Letter Report Final \(1\).pdf](#)

All,

Mr. Wabasha requested any archeologic reports and suggested I share them with all the tribal representatives and MICA. Accordingly, see attached.

Again, please contact me with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Mark Strohfus

Transmission Permitting, Project Manager

Great River Energy

12300 Elm Creek Boulevard

Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718

Tel: 763-445-5210 | Cell: 612-961-9820

MStrohfus@GREnergy.com

**Department of Natural
Resources
(DNR)**

From: [Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG](#)
To: Review.NHIS@state.mn.us
Subject: FW: NHIS request for Proposed ST-WS Rebuild and Convert to 115-kV Project
Date: Thursday, October 07, 2021 4:23:00 PM
Attachments: [ST-WS rebuild fact sheet.pdf](#)
[ProposedTline.zip](#)
[WestwoodConversion_RareFeatures.pdf](#)
[ST-WS conversion nhis_data_request 2021.pdf](#)
[ST-WS Conversion Cover Letter.pdf](#)

My apologies, I did not attach the cover letter on the previous email.

Marsha Parlow

Transmission Permitting Specialist

Great River Energy

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

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

From: Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG
Sent: Thursday, October 7, 2021 4:17 PM
To: 'Review.NHIS@state.mn.us' <Review.NHIS@state.mn.us>
Subject: NHIS request for Proposed ST-WS Rebuild and Convert to 115-kV Project

Hello,

Please find attached the NHIS Request and supporting information for the proposed rebuild and conversion of approximately 3.2 miles of an existing 69-kV line and its associated facilities to 115-kV. Great River Energy plans to submit a route permit application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

The proposed project would stay along the existing centerline; however, the right of way would increase from 70 to 100 feet in width (50 feet on either side of centerline). The West St. Cloud Substation involves an expansion of the footprint (approximately 8,000 square feet) to accommodate the new equipment and the Westwood Substation equipment upgraded to the higher voltage.

Our initial research shows that no rare features would be impacted by the project. My contact information is below for any questions regarding the project.

Sincerely,

Marsha Parlow

Transmission Permitting Specialist

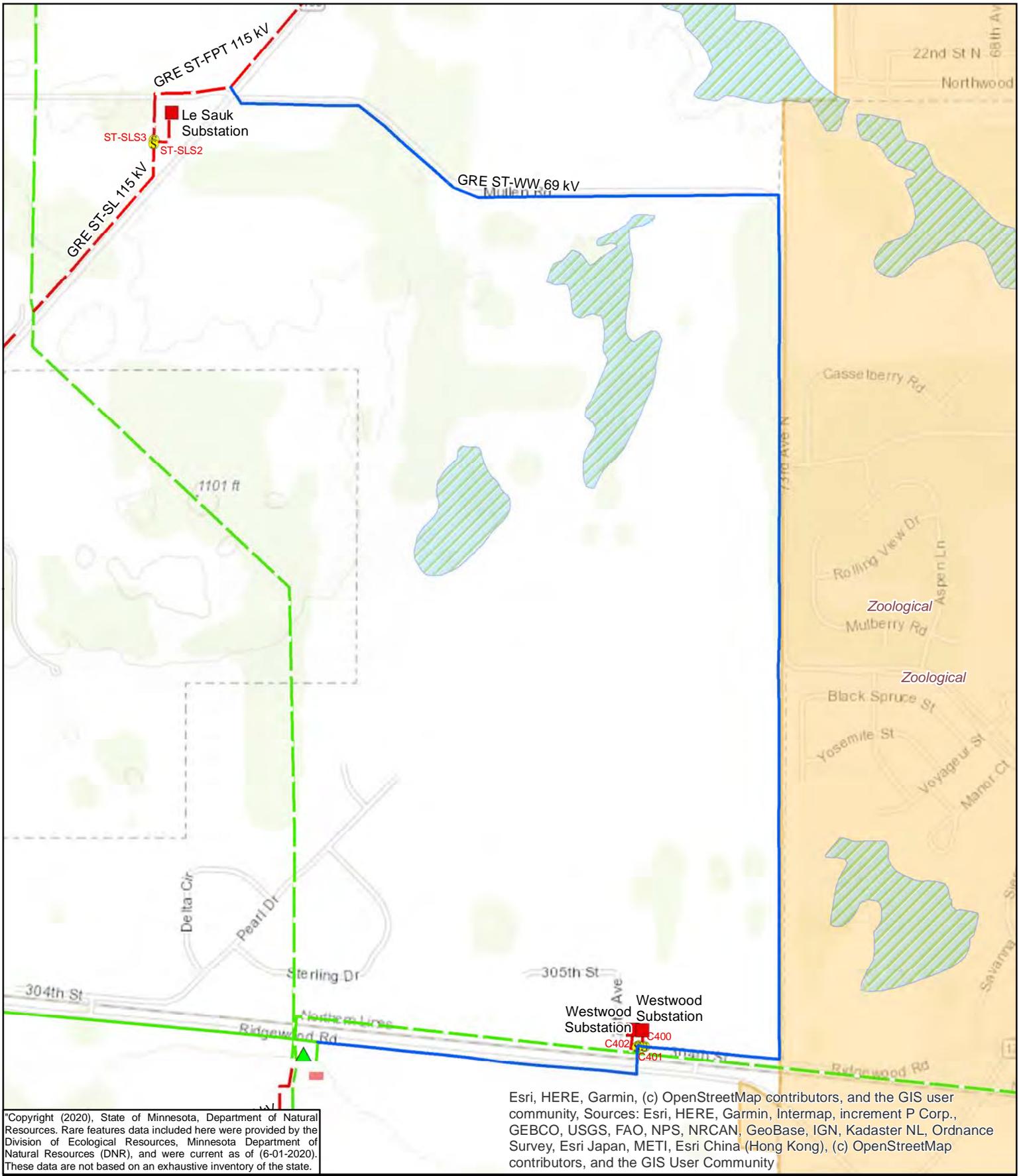
Great River Energy

12300 Elm Creek Boulevard

Maple Grove, MN 55369

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

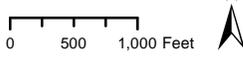
WWW.GreatRiverEnergy.com



Copyright (2020). State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources. Rare features data included here were provided by the Division of Ecological Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and were current as of (6-01-2020). These data are not based on an exhaustive inventory of the state.

Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community, Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Great River Energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Existing 69-kV transmission line to be rebuilt to 115 kV ▲ Existing transmission substation ■ Existing distribution substation — Existing 69-kV transmission line - - - Existing 115-kV transmission line ■ Sub expansion | <p>Non-GRE Transmission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Existing 69-kV transmission line - - - Existing 115-kV transmission line <p>Rare Natural Feature (NHIS)</p> <p>Protection Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special Concern <p>PWI Lakes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PWI Wetland |
|--|--|



Westwood
115- kV Transmission Conversion
Rare Features

GREAT RIVER ENERGY™

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

NO STAPLES
PLEASE



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

Agency/Company Great River Energy

Mailing Address 12300 Elm Creek Blvd Maple Grove MN 55369

(Street) (City) (State) (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) _____
- 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 / MBS Status	County	Township #	Range #	Section(s) (please list all sections)	For Agency Use: TRS Confirmed <input type="checkbox"/>
	Stearns	124	29	1, 12	
	Stearns	125	29	36	

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

Project Name: Proposed ST-WS 115-kV transmission line - Rebuild and Convert

Project Proposer: Great River Energy

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

Disturbance would be demolition of existing transmission line and construction of new transmission line on the same centerline. The right of way would expand from 75 to 100 feet in width. This would involve additional tree removal.

Also, the the West St. Cloud Substation is proposed to expand approximately 120-feet x 66-feet of the current fence line to the southeast. However, the Westwood Substation footprint would remain the same.

Describe the existing land use of the project site. What types of land cover / habitat will be impacted by the proposed project? Existing 69-kV transmission facilities proposed for conversion to 115-kV. Roadsides, farm fields, industrial lots and emergent wetland are in the project area. Whitney Underwing Moth and Rusty Patched-Bumble Bee habitat are east of the project.

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).

Wetlands scattered along right-of-way and next to substation property.

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

None expected. Substation expansion will have permanent stormwater controls/BMPs

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)?

NA

To your knowledge, have any native plant community or rare species surveys been conducted within the site? If so, please list: None to our knowledge.

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

None expected.

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

[Online version of the form](#)

Revised March 2, 2012



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: Proposed ST-WS 115-kV transmission line and substation upgrades

Project Proposer: Great River Energy

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

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

TRS: T124 R28 S6, T124 R28 S7, T124 R29 S1, T124 R29 S12, T125 R29 S36

County(s): Stearns

DNR Admin Region(s): Central

Reason Requested: PUC Site or Route Application

Project Description: Rebuild and upgrade the existing ST-WS 69kV overhead transmission line to 115kV.

Existing Land Uses: Light industry, commercial and residential

Landcover / Habitat Impacted: Commercial and agricultural

Waterbodies Affected: None

Groundwater Resources Affected: None - Project will only entail imbedding new transmission structures approximately 15 feet into the ground.

Previous Natural Heritage Review: No

Previous Habitat Assessments / Surveys: No

SUMMARY OF AUTOMATED RESULTS

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



April 28, 2022

Project Name: Proposed ST-WS 115-kV transmission line and substation upgrades

Project Proposer: Great River Energy

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

Project ID: MCE #2022-00287

DRAFT SUBMISSION - NOT VALID FOR OFFICIAL USE - PRELIMINARY RESULTS

This document does not meet the requirements of a Natural Heritage Review and may NOT be used to meet the requirements for permitting, licensing, formal environmental review, etc. This document is based on draft project details and is for planning purposes within your organization only.

To receive an official Natural Heritage Review letter, please click on the Edit Details tab, make any needed changes to the project details, change Project Submission to Final, and Click on Save.

PRELIMINARY COMMENTS - FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY

As requested, the above project has been reviewed for potential effects to rare features. Based on this review, the following rare features may be adversely affected by the proposed project:

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.

Ecologically Significant Area

- One or more calcareous fens have been documented in the vicinity of the proposed project. A calcareous fen is a rare and distinctive peat-accumulating wetland that is legally protected in Minnesota. Many of the unique characteristics of calcareous fens result from the upwelling of groundwater through calcareous substrates. Because of this dependence on groundwater hydrology, calcareous fens can be affected by nearby activities or even those several miles away. Calcareous fens are fragile and may be impacted by stormwater runoff, any activity within the fen, or any activity that affects groundwater hydrology including groundwater pumping, contamination, or discharge). For more information regarding calcareous fens, please see the [Calcareous Fen Fact Sheet](#). To minimize stormwater impacts, please refer to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's [General Principles for Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control](#) in the Minnesota Stormwater Manual. Please note that calcareous fens are "Special Waters" and a [buffer zone](#) may be required.

Depending on the distance to the calcareous fen(s), additional guidance may be provided below if

you indicated that potential project activities include wetland impacts or groundwater impacts. If you did not correctly identify wetland or groundwater impacts as part of your project, this impact analysis may be incorrect.

State-Listed Endangered or Threatened Species

No state-listed endangered or threatened species have been documented in the vicinity of the project.

State-Listed Species of Special Concern

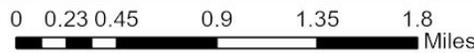
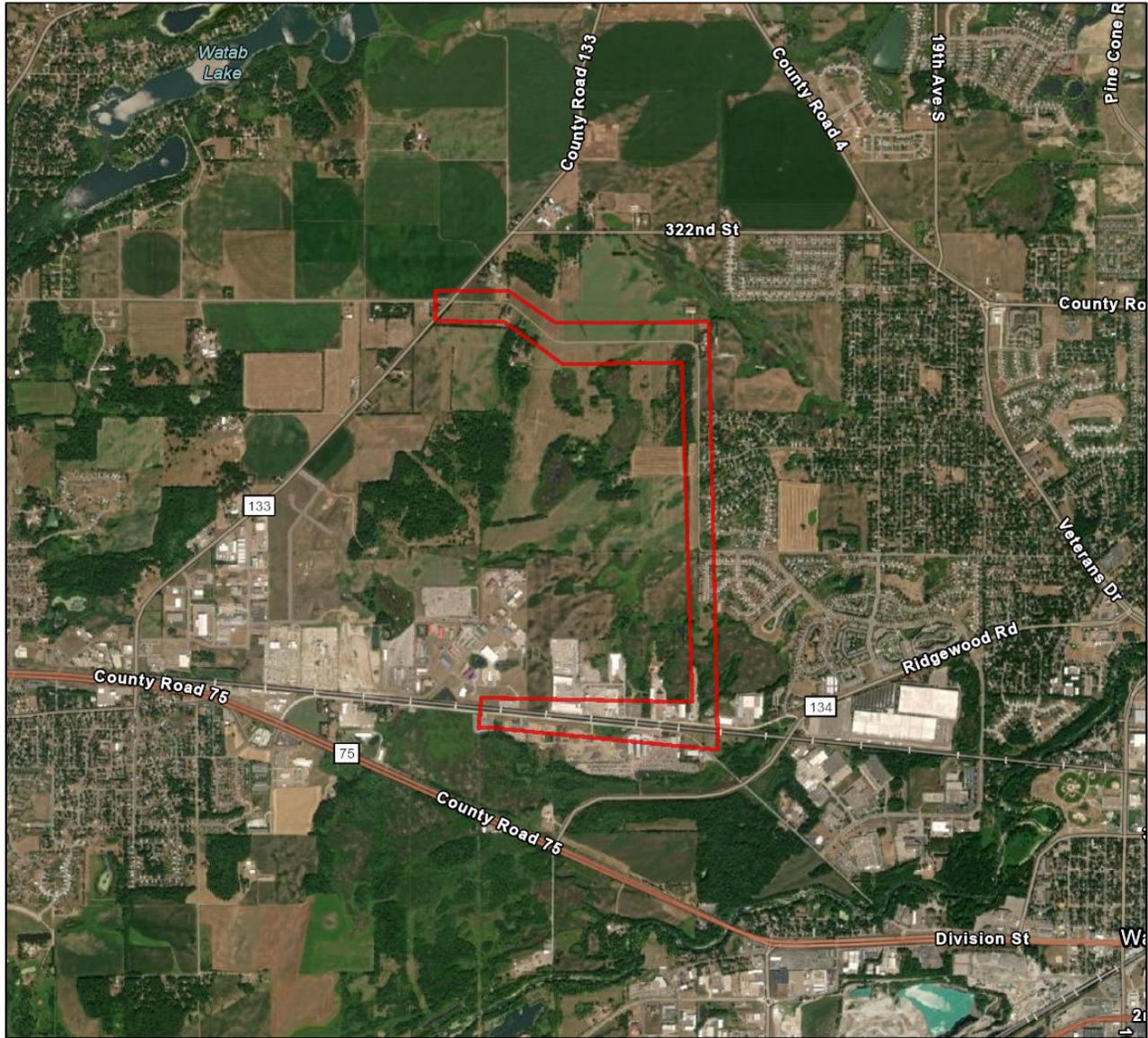
Taxonomic Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Water Regime	Habitat	Federal Status
Invertebrate Animal	Black Sandshell	Ligumia recta		Large Rivers, Medium Rivers and Streams	

- The above table identifies state-listed species of special concern that have been documented in the vicinity of your project. If suitable habitat for any of these species occurs within your project footprint or activity impact area, the project may negatively impact those species. To avoid impacting state-listed species of special concern, the DNR recommends modifying the location of project activities to avoid suitable habitat or modifying the timing of project activities to avoid the presence of the species. Please visit the [DNR Rare Species Guide](#) for more information on the habitat use of these species and recommended measures to avoid or minimize impacts. For further assistance, please contact the appropriate [DNR Regional Nongame Specialist](#) or [Regional Ecologist](#). Species-specific comments, if any, appear below.

Federally Listed Species

The Natural Heritage Information System does not contain any records for federally listed species within one mile of the proposed project. However, to ensure compliance with federal law, please conduct a federal regulatory review using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's online [Information for Planning and Consultation \(IPaC\) tool](#).

Proposed ST-WS 115-kV transmission line and substation upgrade Aerial Imagery With Locator Map



Project Boundary

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

Project Size (acres): 224.95

County(s): Stearns

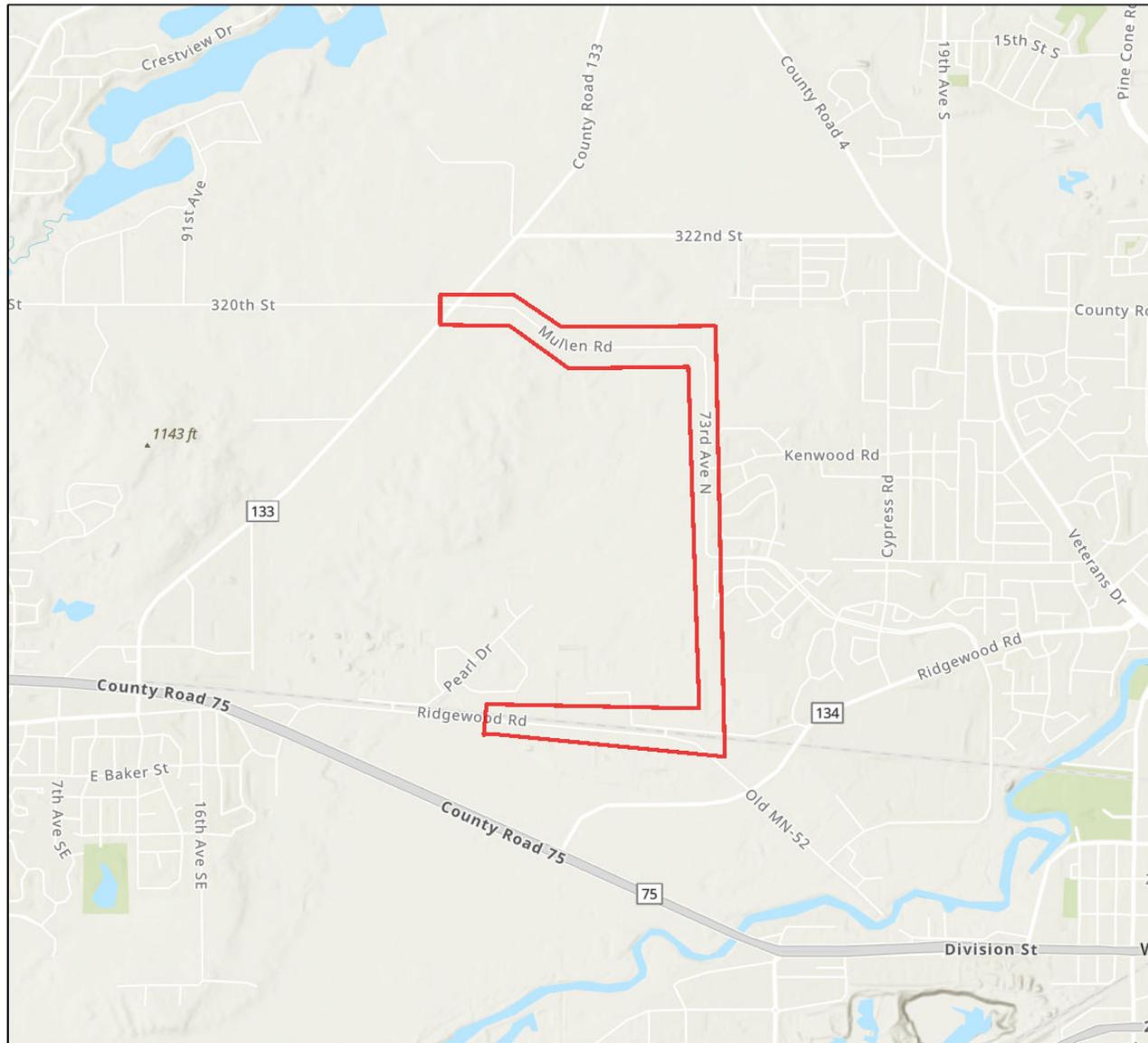
TRS: T124 R28 S6, T124 R28 S7, T124 R29 S1, T124 R29 S12, T125 R29 S36

Earthstar Geographics
Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS,
EPA, NPS, USDA



Proposed ST-WS 115-kV transmission line and substation upgr

USA Topo Basemap With Locator Map



Project Boundary

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

Project Size (acres): 224.95

County(s): Stearns

TRS: T124 R28 S6, T124 R28 S7, T124 R29 S1, T124 R29 S12, T125 R29 S36

Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA
Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS,
EPA, NPS, USDA



From: [Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG](#)
To: cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us
Subject: St. Joseph MN - 69-kV transmission upgrade
Date: Monday, August 01, 2022 10:19:00 AM
Attachments: [ST-WS rebuild fact sheet final 3.21.22 \(1\).pdf](#)

Cynthia,

Great River Energy is planning to upgrade its existing ~3.2-mile 69-kV transmission line in St. Joseph, MN. Attached is a Fact Sheet on the project.

I've conducted a Draft project review through the MN Conservation Explorer online system. Once the PUC issues a permit defining the route, I will submit a Final project review.

I would appreciate any comments you have on the project.

We will be submitting a final Route Permit Application to the PUC the week of August 22, 2022.

Please contact me with any comments or questions.

Sincerely,

Mark Strohfus

Transmission Permitting, Project Manager

Great River Energy

12300 Elm Creek Boulevard

Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718

Tel: 763-445-5210 | Cell: 612-961-9820

MStrohfus@GREnergy.com

From: [Warzecha, Cynthia \(DNR\)](#)
To: [Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG](#)
Cc: [Collins, Melissa \(DNR\)](#)
Subject: RE: St. Joseph MN - 69-kV transmission upgrade
Date: Monday, August 01, 2022 11:10:47 AM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

This email was sent by an external sender. Opening attachments or clicking links from untrusted sources may cause damage to you and Great River Energy.

Mark,

Thank you for reaching out regarding the proposed 115 kV transmission line project in St. Joseph, Minnesota. I have forwarded your request to Melissa Collins, the Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist in the DNR's Central Region. Melissa will be your DNR contact until GRE submits its route permit application to the PUC. Thereafter, I will be your primary contact.

Thanks again!

Cynthia

Cynthia Warzecha

Energy Projects Planner

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road

St. Paul, MN 55155

Phone: 651-259-5078

Email: cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us



From: Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfu@GREnergy.com>
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 10:19 AM
To: Warzecha, Cynthia (DNR) <cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us>
Subject: St. Joseph MN - 69-kV transmission upgrade

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Cynthia,

Great River Energy is planning to upgrade its existing ~3.2-mile 69-kV transmission line in St. Joseph, MN. Attached is a Fact Sheet on the project.

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Sincerely,

Mark Strohfus

Transmission Permitting, Project Manager

Great River Energy

12300 Elm Creek Boulevard

Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718

Tel: 763-445-5210 | Cell: 612-961-9820

MStrohfus@GREnergy.com

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**United States
Fish and Wildlife Services
(USFWS)**

Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG

From: Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 4:26 PM
To: Dawn Marsh (dawn_marsh@fws.gov)
Subject: Proposed ST-SW 115-kV transmission line and substation upgrades
Attachments: ST-WS rebuild fact sheet.pdf; ST-WS Upgrades FWS ltr.pdf

Dear Ms. Marsh,

Please find attached for your review, the proposed ST-WS 115-kV transmission line conversion/upgrade project located in Stearns County. 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

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

October 21, 2020

ST-WS Line 115-kV Upgrades
WO #207335

Ms. Dawn S. Marsh, Fish and Wildlife Biologist
United States Department of the Interior
Twin Cities Field Office
4101 American Boulevard East
Bloomington, MN 55425-1665

SUBJECT: Proposed ST-WS 115-kV Transmission Line and Substation Upgrades
Stearns County, Minnesota
T124N, R29W, Sections 1 and 12

Dear Ms. Marsh:

Great River Energy is proposing to convert approximately 3.2 miles of 69-kilovolt (kV) transmission line to 115-kV located in St. Joseph Township and the City of St. Joseph, Stearns County, Minnesota. The proposed project is to use the existing 69-kV transmission line right of way to complete the area upgrade and loop the 115-kV system.

The Fish and Wildlife Service website (<http://www.fws.gov/Midwest/Endangered/LISTS/minnesotacy.html>) indicates that the Northern Long Eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) and Dwarf trout lily (*Erythronium propullans*) are listed on the threatened and endangered list for Stearns 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 Wednesday, November 18, 2020. If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact me at mparlow@GREnergy.com or 763-445-5215.

Sincerely,
GREAT RIVER ENERGY

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Marsha Parlow'.

Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Specialist

Attachments: Fact Sheet/Project Map

S:\Trans\Cap Proj\207333 Westwood 1 115 kV conversion\207335 ST-WS Line Re\Permitting & Compl\ST-WS Upgrade FWSltr.docx



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



ST-WS Transmission Line Rebuild and Substation Upgrades

Great River Energy, wholesale electric supplier to Stearns Electric Association, is proposing to rebuild 3.2 miles of its “ST-WS” 69-kV (69,000 volt) transmission line increasing the voltage to 115 kV. The proposal also includes modifying two substations to accept the higher voltage. Over the last decade, Great River Energy has been upgrading the St. Joseph area to a more reliable 115-kV transmission system. This project will complete the area upgrade and loop the 115-kV system.

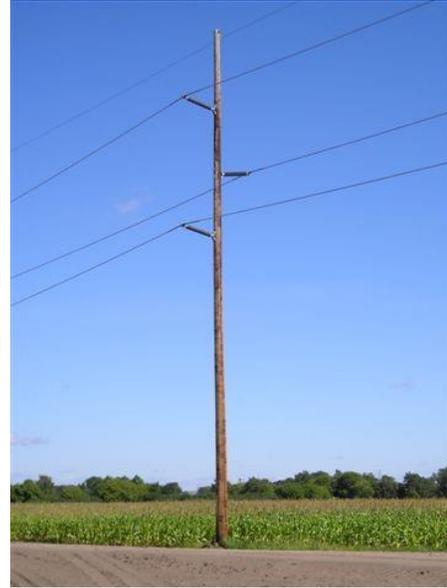
Rebuild overview

Great River Energy’s proposed rebuild will overtake the existing 69-kV transmission line beginning at Great River Energy’s West St. Cloud Substation on Ridgewood Road in St. Joseph. The existing 69-kV transmission line (see map on back) will be rebuilt to 115-kV.

The 115-kV rebuild exits the West St. Cloud Substation, runs east on the south side of Ridgewood Road until it crosses north to the Stearns Electric Association’s Westwood Substation. The 115-kV line continues east for approximately 1,200 feet then north for approximately 1.4 miles to Mullen Road where it turns west following the 69-kV transmission line to the intersection of County Highway 133 and Mullen Road. Here the line will terminate at a new 3-way switch pole interconnecting with an existing 115-kV transmission line.

Upgrades at both substations include new transformers and electrical apparatus to accept the higher voltage. The West St. Cloud Substation fence will expand 15-to 20-feet west to provide space.

Transmission line construction will generally consist of single wood poles 75-to 85-feet tall, placed 350 to 400 feet apart. Directional changes or angles will require guy wires and anchors to stabilize poles. Some specialty poles may be required. Steel poles if necessary, will be on a concrete foundation.



Typical 115-kV wood single circuit structure

To provide a safe construction, operation and maintenance area, a 100-foot-wide right of way, 50-feet each side of the centerline, will be cleared of trees and vegetation.

Permits and easements

Great River Energy will apply for a conditional use permit (CUP) from the City of St. Joseph. This project is applicable under Minnesota Statue 216E.05 Subd. 2(3) for local review. Great River Energy will work with state and federal agencies to secure any required permits.

Landowners along the proposed transmission line rebuild will be contacted to discuss the project, tree removal, an easement amendment and compensation. An amended easement will be requested to provide the additional rights needed to upgrade to a 115-kV transmission line.

Schedule

Notifications	Fall 2020
County CUP	Fall 2020
Easements/ Environmental permits	Winter/Spring 2021
Transmission line construction	Fall 2021

Quick facts

Length – **3.2 miles**

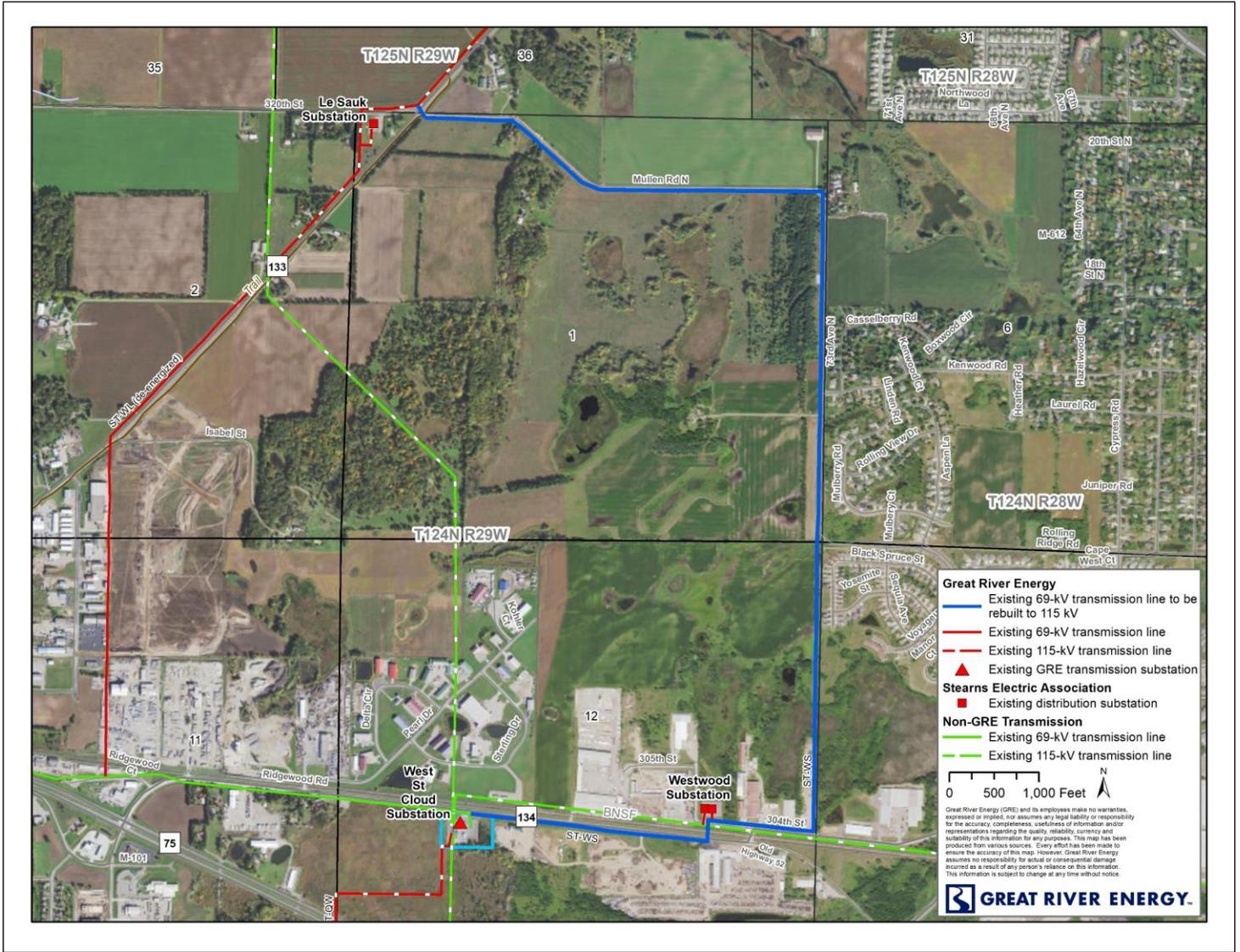
Voltage – **115 kV**

Structures – **Wood poles possible steel**

Spans – **350 to 400 feet apart**

Right of way – **100-foot-wide right of way; 50 feet on each side of the centerline.**

Proposed project



Great River Energy representatives

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

Dale Aukey, Senior Field Representative
 Land Rights
 612-840-4019 | daukey@greenergy.com

Marsha Parlow, Transmission Permitting Specialist
 Transmission Permitting
 612-345-1212 | mparlow@greenergy.com

About Great River Energy

Great River Energy is a not-for-profit wholesale electric power cooperative that provides electricity to 28 member-owner distribution cooperatives. Together, our systems provide power to approximately two-thirds of Minnesota geographically and parts of Wisconsin, serving 700,000 families, farms and businesses.

From: Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020 1:31 PM
To: Simpkins, Darin <Darin_Simpkins@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Proposed ST-SW 115-kV transmission line and substation upgrades

Hi Darin,

Thank you for the information. I will follow what you have listed below and inform my counterparts at Great River Energy too.

Sincerely,

Marsha Parlow

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

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

From: Simpkins, Darin <Darin_Simpkins@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020 1:26 PM
To: Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG <mparlow@GREnergy.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Proposed ST-SW 115-kV transmission line and substation upgrades

This email was sent by an external sender. Opening attachments or clicking links from untrusted sources may cause damage to you and Great River Energy.

Hello Marsha -

We received the below inquiry from your office.

Because of workload, US Fish and Wildlife Service is no longer able to provide general species lists and need people to first go to IPaC before requesting informal consultation. With IPaC you should generate an Official Species List to make their own determinations of potential

impacts before reaching out to us. It's likely that many of these inquiries will result in No Effect determinations and will not require review by our office. In addition, changes in office staff and workload has resulted in the necessity of directing partners to our online assisted determination key (aka d-key) instead of using the streamlined consultation form that was part of the 2016 rangewide programmatic BO for the 4(d) rule. Please read below for further guidance.

Request for species lists or early consultation/technical assistance - IPaC:

You can obtain information on federally listed species that could occur in your project area through our Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system (<https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>). Through IPaC, you will be able to enter geographic and activity details for your project to generate an Official Species List that provides a list of federally listed species and designated critical habitat that may be impacted by your project. The species list will also include any species proposed for listing and any areas proposed as critical habitat that overlap with the project area. The Official Species List provided through IPaC is considered a technical assistance tool intended to be used by the project proponent to determine whether project activities could impact federal trust resources and, therefore, require further consultation with the Service.

The species list includes links to species-specific project-design guidelines and survey guidelines to help you determine whether your project may affect the species and, if so, how to avoid or minimize those effects. After reviewing species list and applicable links, if you determine that further consultation is required with the Service (i.e., your project “May Affect” listed species or critical habitat), please contact our office for further assistance. If you do not have a designated POC, or are unable to determine the appropriate POC, please contact Assistant Field Supervisor Shauna Marquardt (shauna_marquardt@fws.gov) to be directed to the appropriate staff lead.

Please note: if you determine your activities will have No Effect on listed or proposed species or to designated or proposed critical habitat, you are not required to submit any materials to the Service. Instead, we recommend that you document the rationale for any No Effect determination in your internal project files.

Streamlined Consultation - Please use online assisted determination key:

Changes in office staff and workload has resulted in the necessity of directing partners to our online assisted determination key (aka d-key) instead of using the streamlined consultation form that was part of the 2016 rangewide programmatic BO for the 4(d) rule. The d-key can be used to help determine if prohibited take might occur and, if not, to generate an automated verification letter. No further review by us is necessary. Our Field Offices were advised to direct project proponents to the online d-key in lieu of the forms as we are transitioning away from using the pdf forms for workload management purposes.

You'll find the information you need at the links below.

[NLEB Section 7 consultation](#)

[Key to the NLEB 4\(d\) rule for federal actions that may affect](#)

[Instructions for the NLEB 4\(d\) assisted d-key](#)

From: Marquardt, Shauna R <Shauna_Marquardt@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020 1:20 PM
To: mparlow@GREnergy.com <mparlow@GREnergy.com>
Cc: Simpkins, Darin <Darin_Simpkins@fws.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Proposed ST-SW 115-kV transmission line and substation upgrades

Hi Marsha,

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Minnesota-Wisconsin Field Office received your inquiry. Please send future requests for assistance directly to me and I will assign to our staff; the reviewing biologist for transmission projects is likely to be different from project to project based on the potentially affected species and workload. Darin Simpkins will assist you with this project.

Shauna Marquardt (she/her/hers)
Assistant Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office
573-239-3293

From: Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG <mparlow@GREnergy.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 4:25 PM
To: Marsh, Dawn S <dawn_marsh@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed ST-SW 115-kV transmission line and substation upgrades

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

Dear Ms. Marsh,
Please find attached for your review, the proposed ST-SW 115-kV transmission line conversion/upgrade project located in Stearns County. 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

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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
 Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office
 4101 American Blvd E
 Bloomington, MN 55425-1665
 Phone: (952) 252-0092 Fax: (952) 646-2873

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/section7/s7process/step1.html>



In Reply Refer To:

November 03, 2021

Consultation Code: 03E19000-2022-SLI-0449

Event Code: 03E19000-2022-E-01558

Project Name: Proposed ST-WS Line - Rebuild and Convert to 115-kV

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 the Midwest Region [S7 Technical Assistance](#) website for step-by-step instructions for making species determinations and for specific guidance on the following types of projects: projects in developed areas, HUD, CDBG, EDA, pipelines, buried utilities, telecommunications, and requests for a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) from FEMA.

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. An example ["No Effect" document](#) also can be found on the S7 Technical Assistance website.
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](#) through the S7 Technical Assistance 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. An example ["No Effect" document](#) also can be found on the S7 Technical Assistance website.
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 stand of eastern red cedar 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
-

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- 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. An example "[No Effect](#)" [document](#) also can be found on the S7 Technical Assistance website.

If any of the above activities are proposed, please use the northern long-eared bat determination key in IPaC. This tool streamlines consultation under the 2016 rangewide programmatic biological opinion for the 4(d) rule. The key helps to determine if prohibited take might occur and, if not, will generate an automated verification letter. No further review by us is necessary. Please visit the links below for additional information about "may affect" determinations for the northern long-eared bat.

[NLEB Section 7 consultation](#)

[Key to the NLEB 4\(d\) rule for federal actions that may affect](#)

[Instructions for the NLEB 4\(d\) assisted d-key](#)

[Maternity tree and hibernaculum locations by state](#)

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

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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
- Migratory Birds

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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

4101 American Blvd E

Bloomington, MN 55425-1665

(952) 252-0092

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Project Summary

Consultation Code: 03E19000-2022-SLI-0449
Event Code: Some(03E19000-2022-E-01558)
Project Name: Proposed ST-WS Line - Rebuild and Convert to 115-kV
Project Type: TRANSMISSION LINE
Project Description: Located in City of St. Joseph, Minnesota, along Ridgewood Road, Mullen Road and County Highway 133.

Replace existing 3.2 mile 69-kV transmission line with similar wood poles and operate at 115-kV. Increase existing 70-foot right of way width to 100 feet. Expand the southwest corner (approximately 8,000 square feet) of the West St. Cloud Substation to add new equipment. Upgrade Westwood Substation equipment to 115-kV.

Application will be submitted to Minnesota Public Utility Commission for a route permit in early 2022. The construction is tentatively scheduled to start in 2024 and end in 2025.

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@45.57563655,-94.26044379065473,14z>



Counties: Stearns County, Minnesota

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 2 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	Threatened

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.

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
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. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31
Black-billed Cuckoo <i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9399	Breeds May 15 to Oct 10

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 (|)

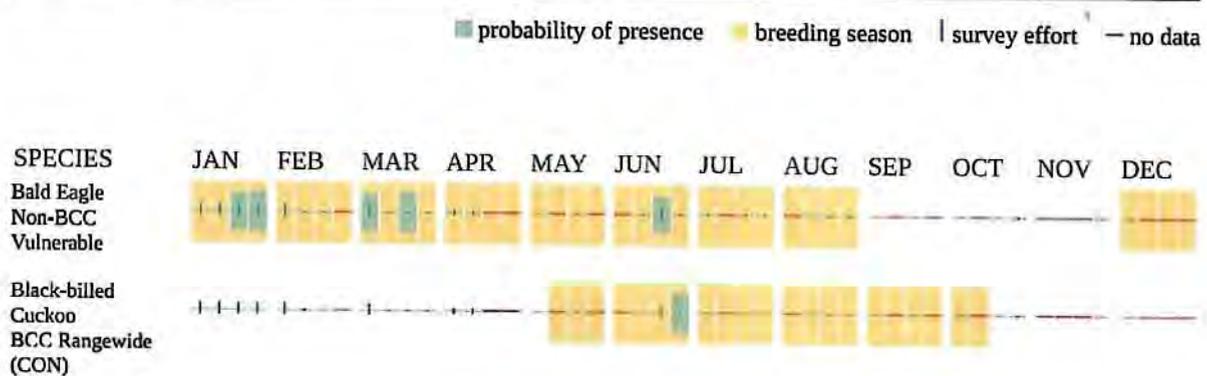
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

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 <http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/birds-of-conservation-concern.php>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/project-assessment-tools-and-guidance/conservation-measures.php>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/management/nationwidestandardconservationmeasures.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 migratory birds potentially occurring 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 [AKN Phenology 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, migrating or present year-round in my project 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 refer to the following resources: [The Cornell Lab of Ornithology All About Birds Bird Guide](#), or (if you are unsuccessful in locating the bird of interest there), the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology Neotropical Birds guide](#). 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.

Appendix F

Environmental Justice Data



EJSCREEN ACS Summary Report



Location: User-specified polygonal location
 Ring (buffer): 0.25-miles radius
 Description: Approx Project Route

Summary of ACS Estimates		2015 - 2019		
Population				717
Population Density (per sq. mile)				607
People of Color Population				107
% People of Color Population				15%
Households				287
Housing Units				288
Housing Units Built Before 1950				10
Per Capita Income				28,660
Land Area (sq. miles) (Source: SF1)				1.18
% Land Area				100%
Water Area (sq. miles) (Source: SF1)				0.00
% Water Area				0%
		2015 - 2019 ACS Estimates	Percent	MOE (±)
Population by Race				
Total		717	100%	517
Population Reporting One Race		708	99%	1,086
White		637	89%	545
Black		45	6%	305
American Indian		0	0%	9
Asian		21	3%	148
Pacific Islander		0	0%	9
Some Other Race		5	1%	70
Population Reporting Two or More Races		9	1%	135
Total Hispanic Population		29	4%	274
Total Non-Hispanic Population		689		
White Alone		611	85%	545
Black Alone		45	6%	305
American Indian Alone		0	0%	9
Non-Hispanic Asian Alone		21	3%	148
Pacific Islander Alone		0	0%	9
Other Race Alone		3	0%	56
Two or More Races Alone		9	1%	135
Population by Sex				
Male		377	53%	299
Female		340	47%	326
Population by Age				
Age 0-4		38	5%	140
Age 0-17		200	28%	268
Age 18+		517	72%	408
Age 65+		81	11%	137

Data Note: Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race.

N/A means not available. **Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2015 - 2019



EJSCREEN ACS Summary Report



Location: User-specified polygonal location
 Ring (buffer): 0.25-miles radius
 Description: Approx Project Route

	2015 - 2019 ACS Estimates	Percent	MOE (±)
Population 25+ by Educational Attainment			
Total	432	100%	292
Less than 9th Grade	23	5%	109
9th - 12th Grade, No Diploma	7	2%	37
High School Graduate	83	19%	187
Some College, No Degree	107	25%	228
Associate Degree	60	14%	156
Bachelor's Degree or more	152	35%	217
Population Age 5+ Years by Ability to Speak English			
Total	680	100%	478
Speak only English	578	85%	511
Non-English at Home ¹⁺²⁺³⁺⁴	101	15%	304
¹ Speak English "very well"	59	9%	285
² Speak English "well"	43	6%	308
³ Speak English "not well"	0	0%	9
⁴ Speak English "not at all"	0	0%	9
³⁺⁴ Speak English "less than well"	0	0%	9
²⁺³⁺⁴ Speak English "less than very well"	43	6%	308
Linguistically Isolated Households*			
Total	13	100%	62
Speak Spanish	0	0%	9
Speak Other Indo-European Languages	0	2%	9
Speak Asian-Pacific Island Languages	1	7%	18
Speak Other Languages	12	92%	61
Households by Household Income			
Household Income Base	287	100%	208
< \$15,000	29	10%	80
\$15,000 - \$25,000	19	7%	114
\$25,000 - \$50,000	55	19%	161
\$50,000 - \$75,000	59	21%	120
\$75,000 +	124	43%	196
Occupied Housing Units by Tenure			
Total	287	100%	208
Owner Occupied	211	73%	141
Renter Occupied	76	27%	176
Employed Population Age 16+ Years			
Total	536	100%	440
In Labor Force	403	75%	432
Civilian Unemployed in Labor Force	12	2%	83
Not In Labor Force	133	25%	167

Data Note: Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of anyrace.

N/A means not available. **Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS)

*Households in which no one 14 and over speaks English "very well" or speaks English only.



EJSCREEN ACS Summary Report



Location: User-specified polygonal location

Ring (buffer): 0.25-miles radius

Description: Approx Project Route

	2015 - 2019 ACS Estimates	Percent	MOE (±)
Population by Language Spoken at Home*			
Total (persons age 5 and above)	N/A	N/A	N/A
English	N/A	N/A	N/A
Spanish	N/A	N/A	N/A
French	N/A	N/A	N/A
French Creole	N/A	N/A	N/A
Italian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Portuguese	N/A	N/A	N/A
German	N/A	N/A	N/A
Yiddish	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other West Germanic	N/A	N/A	N/A
Scandinavian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Greek	N/A	N/A	N/A
Russian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Polish	N/A	N/A	N/A
Serbo-Croatian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Slavic	N/A	N/A	N/A
Armenian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Persian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gujarathi	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hindi	N/A	N/A	N/A
Urdu	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Indic	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Indo-European	N/A	N/A	N/A
Chinese	N/A	N/A	N/A
Japanese	N/A	N/A	N/A
Korean	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mon-Khmer, Cambodian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hmong	N/A	N/A	N/A
Thai	N/A	N/A	N/A
Laotian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Vietnamese	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Asian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tagalog	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Pacific Island	N/A	N/A	N/A
Navajo	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Native American	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hungarian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Arabic	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hebrew	N/A	N/A	N/A
African	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other and non-specified	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Non-English	N/A	N/A	N/A

Data Note: Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race.

N/A means not available. **Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2015 - 2019.

*Population by Language Spoken at Home is available at the census tract summary level and up.



EJScreen Report (Version 2.0)



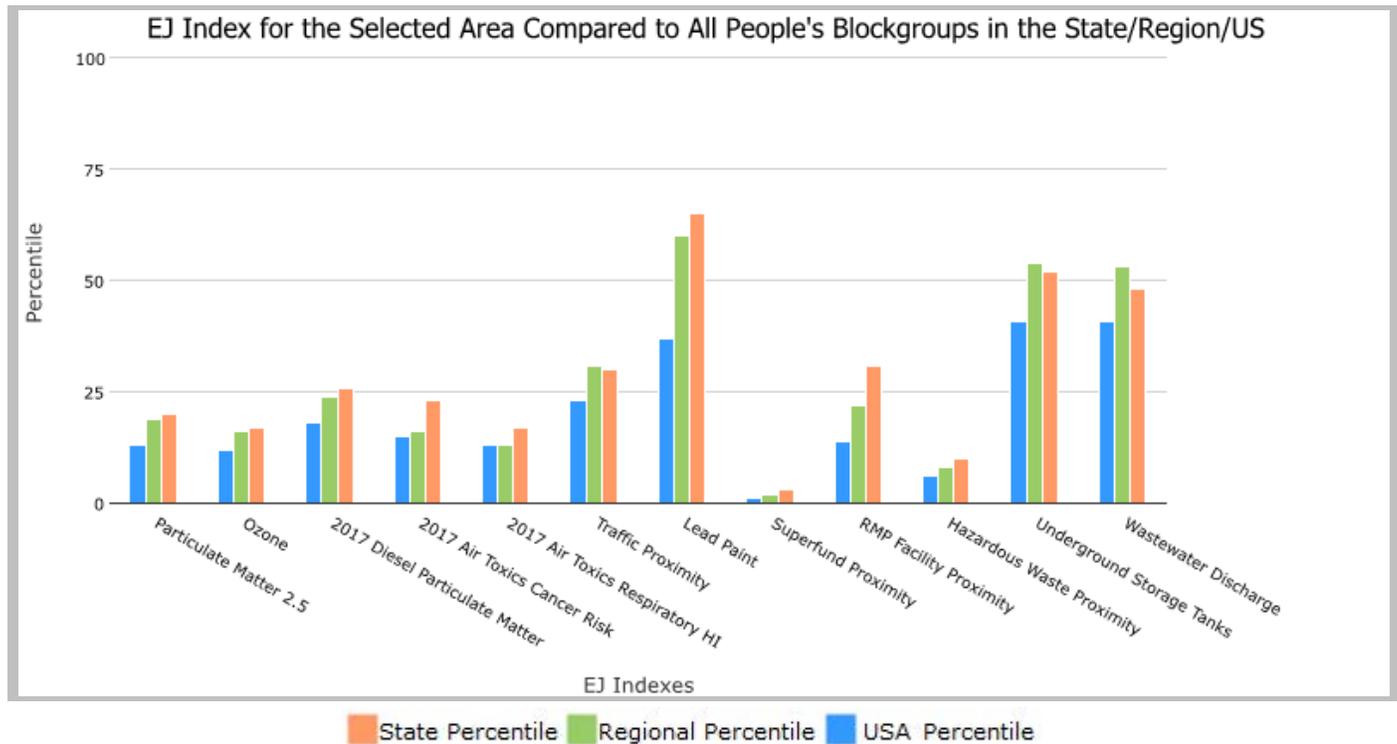
0.25 miles Ring around the Area, MINNESOTA, EPA Region 5

Approximate Population: 717

Input Area (sq. miles): 1.87

Approx Project Route

Selected Variables	State Percentile	EPA Region Percentile	USA Percentile
Environmental Justice Indexes			
EJ Index for Particulate Matter 2.5	20	19	13
EJ Index for Ozone	17	16	12
EJ Index for 2017 Diesel Particulate Matter*	26	24	18
EJ Index for 2017 Air Toxics Cancer Risk*	23	16	15
EJ Index for 2017 Air Toxics Respiratory HI*	17	13	13
EJ Index for Traffic Proximity	30	31	23
EJ Index for Lead Paint	65	60	37
EJ Index for Superfund Proximity	3	2	1
EJ Index for RMP Facility Proximity	31	22	14
EJ Index for Hazardous Waste Proximity	10	8	6
EJ Index for Underground Storage Tanks	52	54	41
EJ Index for Wastewater Discharge	48	53	41



This report shows the values for environmental and demographic indicators and EJSCREEN indexes. It shows environmental and demographic raw data (e.g., the estimated concentration of ozone in the air), and also shows what percentile each raw data value represents. These percentiles provide perspective on how the selected block group or buffer area compares to the entire state, EPA region, or nation. For example, if a given location is at the 95th percentile nationwide, this means that only 5 percent of the US population has a higher block group value than the average person in the location being analyzed. The years for which the data are available, and the methods used, vary across these indicators. Important caveats and uncertainties apply to this screening-level information, so it is essential to understand the limitations on appropriate interpretations and applications of these indicators. Please see EJSCREEN documentation for discussion of these issues before using reports.



EJScreen Report (Version 2.0)

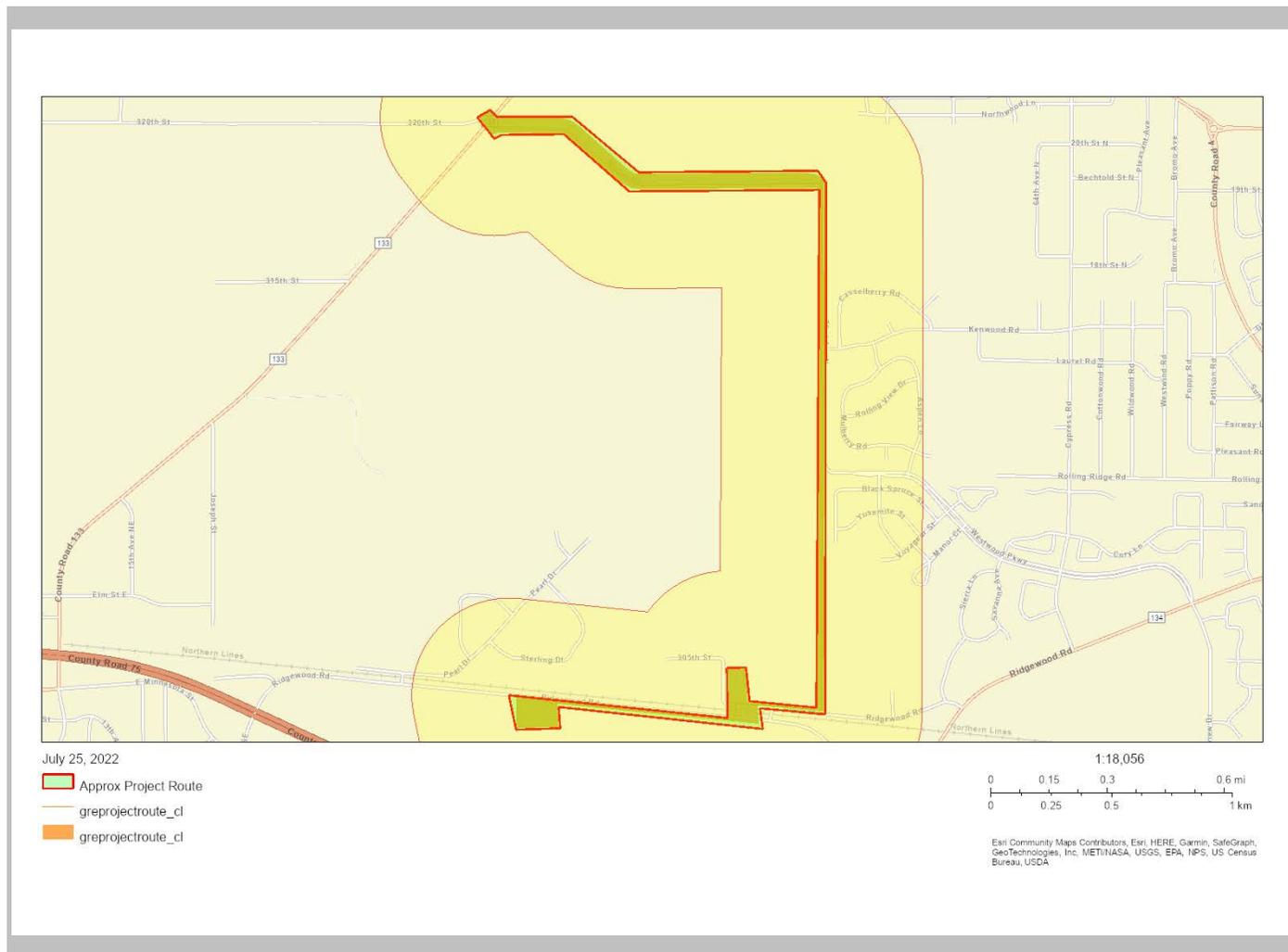


0.25 miles Ring around the Area, MINNESOTA, EPA Region 5

Approximate Population: 717

Input Area (sq. miles): 1.87

Approx Project Route



Sites reporting to EPA	
Superfund NPL	0
Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities (TSDF)	0



EJScreen Report (Version 2.0)



0.25 miles Ring around the Area, MINNESOTA, EPA Region 5

Approximate Population: 717

Input Area (sq. miles): 1.87

Approx Project Route

Selected Variables	Value	State Avg.	%ile in State	EPA Region Avg.	%ile in EPA Region	USA Avg.	%ile in USA
Pollution and Sources							
Particulate Matter 2.5 ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	6.97	7.54	24	8.96	6	8.74	12
Ozone (ppb)	37.6	37.8	34	43.5	5	42.6	19
2017 Diesel Particulate Matter* ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	0.146	0.218	39	0.279	<50th	0.295	<50th
2017 Air Toxics Cancer Risk* (lifetime risk per million)	20	24	56	24	60-70th	29	<50th
2017 Air Toxics Respiratory HI*	0.25	0.29	55	0.3	50-60th	0.36	<50th
Traffic Proximity (daily traffic count/distance to road)	180	470	59	610	43	710	45
Lead Paint (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0.034	0.31	16	0.37	10	0.28	23
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.25	0.18	83	0.13	90	0.13	89
RMP Facility Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.26	0.77	38	0.83	41	0.75	45
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	1.2	1.5	61	1.8	56	2.2	60
Underground Storage Tanks (count/km ²)	0.086	1.8	36	4.8	22	3.9	22
Wastewater Discharge (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)	1.8E-05	0.034	30	9	19	12	21
Socioeconomic Indicators							
Demographic Index	22%	22%	64	28%	53	36%	35
People of Color	15%	20%	54	26%	50	40%	28
Low Income	29%	24%	68	29%	56	31%	52
Unemployment Rate	3%	4%	54	5%	41	5%	36
Linguistically Isolated	4%	2%	81	2%	80	5%	67
Less Than High School Education	7%	7%	64	10%	49	12%	41
Under Age 5	5%	6%	39	6%	46	6%	45
Over Age 64	11%	15%	34	16%	30	16%	35

*Diesel particulate matter, air toxics cancer risk, and air toxics respiratory hazard index are from the EPA's 2017 Air Toxics Data Update, which is the Agency's ongoing, comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the United States. This effort aims to prioritize air toxics, emission sources, and locations of interest for further study. It is important to remember that the air toxics data presented here provide broad estimates of health risks over geographic areas of the country, not definitive risks to specific individuals or locations. Cancer risks and hazard indices from the Air Toxics Data Update are reported to one significant figure and any additional significant figures here are due to rounding. More information on the Air Toxics Data Update can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/haps/air-toxics-data-update>.

For additional information, see: www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice

EJScreen is a screening tool for pre-decisional use only. It can help identify areas that may warrant additional consideration, analysis, or outreach. It does not provide a basis for decision-making, but it may help identify potential areas of EJ concern. Users should keep in mind that screening tools are subject to substantial uncertainty in their demographic and environmental data, particularly when looking at small geographic areas. Important caveats and uncertainties apply to this screening-level information, so it is essential to understand the limitations on appropriate interpretations and applications of these indicators. Please see EJScreen documentation for discussion of these issues before using reports. This screening tool does not provide data on every environmental impact and demographic factor that may be relevant to a particular location. EJScreen outputs should be supplemented with additional information and local knowledge before taking any action to address potential EJ concerns.

Output from US Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool - <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5>



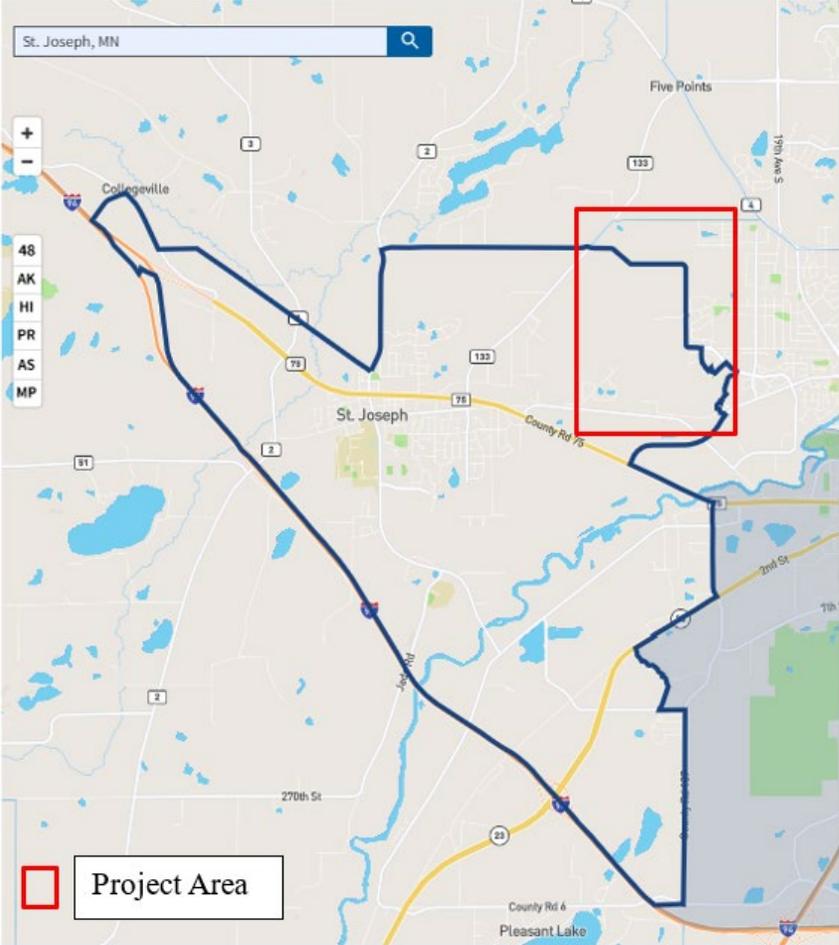
Climate and Economic Justice
Screening Tool BETA

[Explore the map](#) [Methodology & data](#) [About](#) [Contact](#)

Explore the map

Public engagement

Use the map to see communities that are identified as disadvantaged. The map uses publicly-available, nationally-consistent datasets. Learn more about the methodology and datasets that were used to identify disadvantaged communities in the current version of the map on the [Methodology & data](#) page.



Methodology version 0.1

Census tract: 27145011301

County: Stearns County

State: Minnesota

Population: 8,004

Identified as disadvantaged?

No

in 0 categories

Send feedback

Climate change	+
Clean energy and energy efficiency	+
Clean transit	+
Sustainable housing	+
Legacy pollution	+
Clean water and wastewater infrastructure	+
Health burdens	+
Workforce development	+



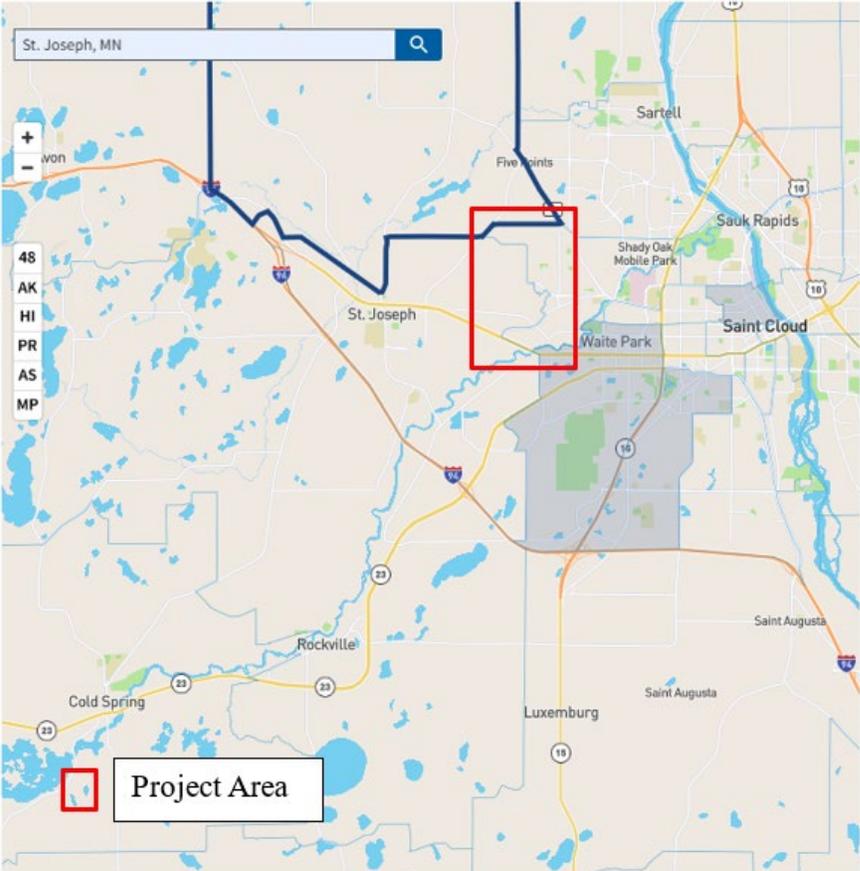
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Methodology version 0.1

Census tract: 27145010200
County: Stearns County
State: Minnesota
Population: 5,891

Identified as disadvantaged?
No
in 0 categories

[Send feedback](#)

Climate change	+
Clean energy and energy efficiency	+
Clean transit	+
Sustainable housing	+
Legacy pollution	+
Clean water and wastewater infrastructure	+
Health burdens	+
Workforce development	+

Explore the map

Public engagement

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St. Joseph, MN

Methodology version 0.1

Census tract: 27145001001
County: Stearns County
State: Minnesota
Population: 8,479

Identified as disadvantaged?
No
in 0 categories

Send feedback

Climate change	+
Clean energy and energy efficiency	+
Clean transit	+
Sustainable housing	+
Legacy pollution	+
Clean water and wastewater infrastructure	+
Health burdens	+
Workforce development	+