# APPENDIX E Correspondence with Regulatory Agencies and Stakeholders

# **PUBLIC**

# PROJECT INTRODUCTION NOTIFICATION

Agency	Department/District/Division	Contact Name	Address	Email	Intro Letter Sent
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	St. Paul District - Regulatory and Permits	Matthew Groshek	332 Minnesota St., Ste. E1500 St. Paul, MN 55101	Matthew.M.Groshek@usac e.army.mil	<i>Unique letter</i> Primary addressee
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Natural Resources Conservation Service, Waconia Field Office	Christopher Schmidt	219 E Frontage Road Waconia, MN 55387-1862	chris.schmidt@usda.gov	Primary addressee
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Minnesota Ecological Services Field Office	Shauna Marquardt	3815 American Blvd. East Bloomington, MN 55425	Shauna_Marquardt@fws.g ov	<i>Unique letter</i> Primary addressee
Federal Aviation Administration	Obstruction Evaluation Technician	Marla Duchatellier	10101 Hillwood Parkway Fort Worth, TX 76177	Marla.Duchatellier@faa.go v	Primary addressee (R. Kiser replaced with M. Duchatellier)
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Jaylen Strong	1500 Bois Forte Road Tower, MN 55790	jaylen.strong@boisforte- nsn.gov	Primary addressee
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Evan Schroeder	1720 Big Lake Road Cloquet, MN 55720	EvanSchroeder@FDLREZ. COM	Primary addressee
Grand Portage Band of Ojibwe	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Rob Hull	PO Box 428 Grand Portage, MN 55605	thpo@grandportage.com	Primary addressee
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Gina Lemon	190 Sailstar Drive NE Cass Lake, MN 56633	gina.lemon@llojibwe.net	Primary addressee
Lower Sioux Indian Community	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Cheyanne St. John	39527 Res.Hwy. 1 Morton, MN 56270	cheyanne.stjohn@lowersio ux.com	Primary addressee
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Mike Wilson	43408 Oodena Drive Onamia, MN 56359	mike.wilson@millelacsban d.com	Primary addressee
Prairie Island Indian Community	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Noah White	5636 Sturgeon Lake Road Welch, MN 55089	noah.white@piic.org	Primary addressee
Red Lake Nation	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Kade Ferris	15484 Migizi Drive Red Lake, MN 56671	kade.ferris@redlakenation. org	Primary addressee
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Leonard Wabasha	2330 Sioux Trail NW Prior Lake, MN 55372	leonard.wabasha@shakope edakota.org	Primary addressee
Upper Sioux Community	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Samantha Odegard	PO Box 147, 5722 Travers Lane Granite Falls, MN 56241	samanthao@uppersiouxco mmunity-nsn.gov	Primary addressee
White Earth Nation	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Jaime Arsenault	PO Box 418 White Earth, MN 56591- 0418	Jaime.Arsenault@whiteeart h-nsn.gov	Primary addressee

## Table E-1. Recipients Sent and Copied on the Project Introduction Notification Letter

Agency	Department/District/Division	Contact Name	Address	Email	Intro Letter Sent
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	Ag Marketing & Development	Stephan Roos	625 Robert Street North St. Paul, MN 55155-2538	stephan.roos@state.mn.us	Primary addressee
Minnesota Department of Health	Environmental Health Division - Metro, Planner	Abby Shea	625 Robert Street N, PO Box 64975 St Paul, MN 55164	abby.shea@state.mn.us	Primary addressee
Minnesota Department of Health	Environmental Health Division - Metro, Hydrologist	Anneka Munsell	625 Robert Street N, PO Box 64975 St Paul, MN 55164	anneka.munsell@state.mn. us	Copied on letter to A Shea (Minnesota Department of Health)
Minnesota Department of Health	Environmental Health Division - Surface Water Protection Program	Dereck Richter	625 Robert Street N, PO Box 64975 St Paul, MN 55164	dereck.richter@state.mn.us	Copied on letter to A Shea (Minnesota Department of Health)
Minnesota Department of Health	Environmental Health Division - Surface Water Protection Program	Danielle Nielsen	625 Robert Street N, PO Box 64975 St Paul, MN 55164	danielle.nielsen@state.mn. us	Copied on letter to A Shea (Minnesota Department of Health)
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Environmental Review Coordinator	Kate Fairman	500 Lafayette Rd., Box 25 St. Paul, MN 55155	kate.fairman@state.mn.us	Unique letter Primary addressee (C. Warzecha replaced with K Fairman), combined letter with M. Collins (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources)
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Lands & Minerals Region 3 - Central Minnesota	Joe Rokala	1200 Warner Road St. Paul, MN 55106	joe.rokala@state.mn.us	Copied on letter to C. Warzecha and M. Collins (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources)
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Ecological and Water Resources - Environmental Review Program	Melissa Collins	1200 Warner Road St. Paul, MN 55106	melissa.collins@state.mn.u s	Unique letter Primary addressee, combined letter with C. Warzecha (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources)
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Land Management	Stacy Kotch Egstad	395 John Ireland Blvd, Mailstop 678 St. Paul, MN 55155	stacy.kotch@state.mn.us	Primary addressee
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council	Section 106 / MN Cultural Resources Review	Melissa Cerda	161 St. Anthony Ave, Ste. 919 St. Paul, MN 55103	melissa.cerda@state.mn.us	Primary addressee

Agency	Department/District/Division	Contact Name	Address	Email	Intro Letter Sent
Office of the State Archaeologist	Section 106 / MN Cultural Resources Review	Amanda Gronhovd	328 W. Kellogg Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55102	Amanda.Gronhovd@state. mn.us	Primary addressee
Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources	Wetland Conservation Act	Alyssa Core	520 Lafayette Rd N St. Paul, MN 55155	alyssa.core@state.mn.us	Copied on letters to K Larson (Carver County Water Management Organization) and Permitting Department (Minnehaha Creek Watershed District)
Carver County	Public Works Department	Whitney Schroeder	11360 Highway 212, Suite 1 Cologne, MN 55322	wschroeder@co.carver.mn. us	Primary addressee
Carver County	Public Works Department	Luke Schwarz	11360 Highway 212, Suite 1 Cologne, MN 55322	lschwarz@co.carver.mn.us	Copied on letter to W. Schroeder (Carver County PWD)
Carver County	Public Works Department	Darin Mielke	11360 Highway 212, Suite 1 Cologne, MN 55322	dmielke@co.carver.mn.us	Copied on letter to W. Schroeder (Carver County PWD)
Carver County	Planning & Zoning, Land Use	Jason Mielke	600 E. 4th Street Chaska, MN 55318	landmanagement@co.carve r.mn.us	Primary addressee
Carver County Water Management Organization	Wetland Conservation Act LGU - Dahlgren Township /Laketown Township	Kristen Larson	600 East Fourth Street Chaska, MN 55318	klarson@co.carver.mn.us	Primary addressee
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District	Wetland Conservation Act LGU - Laketown Township - Option 1 outside of WD boundaries	Permitting Department	15320 Minnetonka Blvd. Minnetonka, MN 55345	permitting@minnehahacree k.org	<i>Unique letter</i> Primary addressee
City of Victoria	City of Victoria Community Development Department	Brian McCann	1670 Stieger Lake Lane, PO Box 36 Victoria MN 55386	bmccann@ci.victoria.mn.us	Primary addressee
Southwest Trails	Carver County Snowmobile Trails	Jim Struble	3237 Gladstone Ln. Mound, MN 55364	swtrailsmn@gmail.com	Primary addressee

**Standard Introduction Letter** 



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

April 19, 2024

[Name] [Agency] [Address] [City, State, Zipcode] [Email address]

## Subject: Great River Energy Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project Laketown and Dahlgren Townships, Carver County, Minnesota

Dear :

Great River Energy is proposing to construct approximately 4.3 miles of new double-circuit, 115-kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line (HVTL) within Laketown and Dahlgren Townships in Carver County, Minnesota (the Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project, or Project). As part of the Project, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative would construct a new distribution substation at the northwest corner of the intersection of County Road 10 and Laketown Road. Great River Energy and Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative are planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in the summer of 2024. Construction would begin in fall 2027 and energization would occur in summer 2028.

The enclosed Project Fact Sheet provides additional information on the Project, including a map of the Project area. The map shows three transmission line route options initially considered by Great River Energy. Based on discussions with local stakeholders, along with an environmental and constructability review, Great River Energy intends to move forward with Option 1 as the Proposed Alignment.

The Project will primarily use single direct-embedded, 70- to 95-foot-tall steel poles placed 300 to 450 feet apart. Some specialty poles will be required for larger angles. Final design will determine the span distances and need for specialty poles. Construction will occur within a 100-foot-wide right-of-way (ROW) easement that Great River Energy will obtain to operate the transmission line. The 100-foot-wide ROW easement is centered on the Proposed Alignment (or 50 feet on either side of the transmission line).

Robert Kiser April 19, 2024 Page 2

Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project. Please contact me at 763-445-5979 or <u>MSwenson@GREnergy.com</u> should you need additional information.

Sincerely,

**GREAT RIVER ENERGY** 

Mal Q Som

Michael Swenson Transmission Permitting Specialist

Encl: Project Fact Sheet



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



Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative 125 Minnesota Valley Electric Drive Jordan, MN 55352-0125 952-492-2313 mvec.net

# Laketown 115-kV transmission line project

Great River Energy, wholesale power provider to Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative, proposes to build approximately 3 to 5 miles of 115-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission lines within Laketown and Dahlgren Townships in Carver County. A route permit must be issued by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) before construction can begin.

## **Overview**

Great River Energy is planning to construct a new 115-kV double-circuit transmission line to power a new distribution substation being built by Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative at the northwest corner of the intersection of Carver County Road 10 and Laketown Road (see map on back). Great River Energy reviewed three potential routes for the new transmission line as depicted on the map. Based on discussions with local stakeholders, along with an environmental and constructability review, Great River Energy intends to move forward with Option 1 as the preferred route.

Transmission line construction will generally use single directembedded steel poles 70 to 95 feet tall, placed 300 to 450 feet apart. Some specialty poles, including steel on foundation, may be required for larger angles. To provide a safe construction, operation and maintenance area, a 100-footwide right of way, 50 feet each side of the centerline, will need to be maintained to be clear of trees and vegetation.

## Permitting and public involvement

Great River Energy hosted a public open house in January 2024 to share additional project information with landowners, local government officials and other stakeholders to solicit input on the project. Great River Energy will apply for a route permit from the PUC in the summer of 2024. During the route permitting process, all stakeholders will have opportunities to provide input on the project.

## **Schedule**

State permitting	Summer 2024 – Spring 2026
Survey/design	Spring 2026
Easements/ Environmental permits	Summer 2026 – Fall 2027
Transmission line construction	Fall 2027 – Summer 2028
Energization	Summer 2028



Typical 115-kV structures

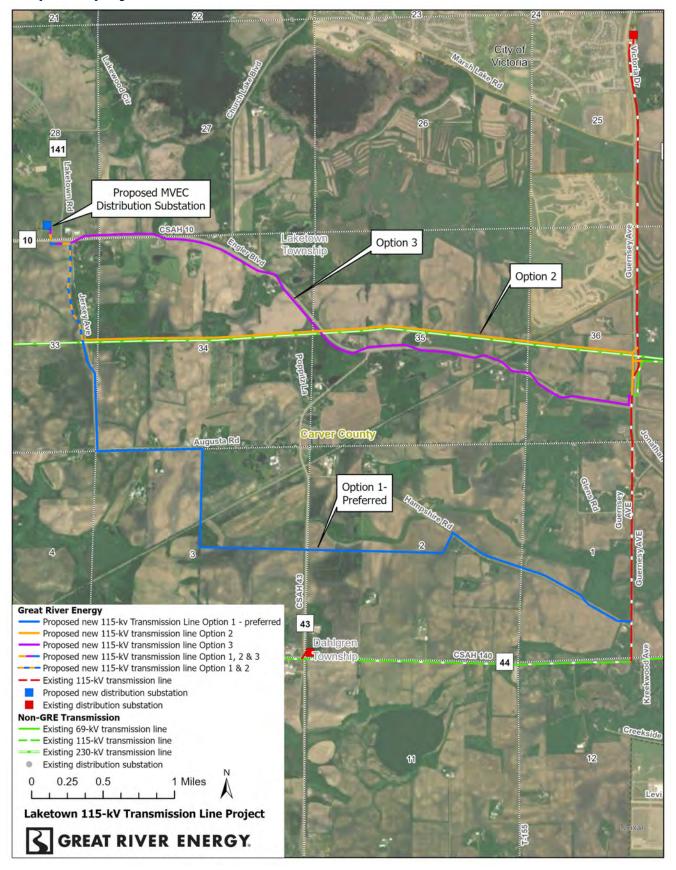
Great River Energy will work with county, state and federal agencies to secure any other required environmental or construction and road crossing permits.

## **Easements**

Once the project has been approved by the PUC, landowners will be contacted to begin the easement acquisition process. Easements will be needed to provide adequate land rights for construction, operation and maintenance of the new line. Landowners will be presented with a copy of the route permit, easement and compensation settlement offer. Information will also be provided on the proposed design and pole locations, along with information on tree removal, construction access, settlement of damages and restoration of the right-of-way.

Quick facts
Length – 3 to 5 miles
Voltage – 115-kV
Structures - 70 to 95 feet tall
Spans - 300 to 450 feet apart
<b>Right of way –</b> Up to 100-foot-wide right of way, 50 feet on each side on the center line
Permits – MN Public Utilities Commission route permit

## **Proposed project**



1/02/2024

## **Great River Energy representatives**

For project updates and information, visit <u>www.greatriverenergy.com/laketown</u> or contact any of the following

Michelle Lommel Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights 763-445-5977 | mlommel@grenergy.com

#### Michael Swenson Transmission Permitting Specialist 763-445-5979 | 952-807-4537 | mswenson@grenergy.com

Unique Introduction Letters

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District - Regulatory and Permits



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

April 19, 2024

Ben Orne U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – St. Paul District 332 Minnesota St., Ste. E1500 St. Paul, MN 55101 usace\_requests\_MN@usace.army.mil Benjamin.G.Orne@usace.army.mil

## Subject: Great River Energy Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project Laketown and Dahlgren Townships, Carver County, Minnesota

Dear Ben Orne:

Great River Energy is proposing to construct approximately 4.3 miles of new double-circuit, 115-kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line (HVTL) within Laketown and Dahlgren Townships in Carver County, Minnesota (the Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project, or Project). As part of the Project, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative would construct a new distribution substation at the northwest corner of the intersection of County Road 10 and Laketown Road. Great River Energy and Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative are planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in the summer of 2024. Construction would begin in fall 2027 and energization would occur in summer 2028.

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Ben Orne April 19, 2024 Page 2

At this time Great River Energy is requesting that a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Project Number and Project Manager be assigned to the Project. Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project. Please contact me at 763-445-5979 or <u>MSwenson@GREnergy.com</u> should you need additional information.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Mal g Ser

Michael Swenson Transmission Permitting Specialist

Encl: Project Fact Sheet



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



Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative 125 Minnesota Valley Electric Drive Jordan, MN 55352-0125 952-492-2313 mvec.net

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Typical 115-kV structures

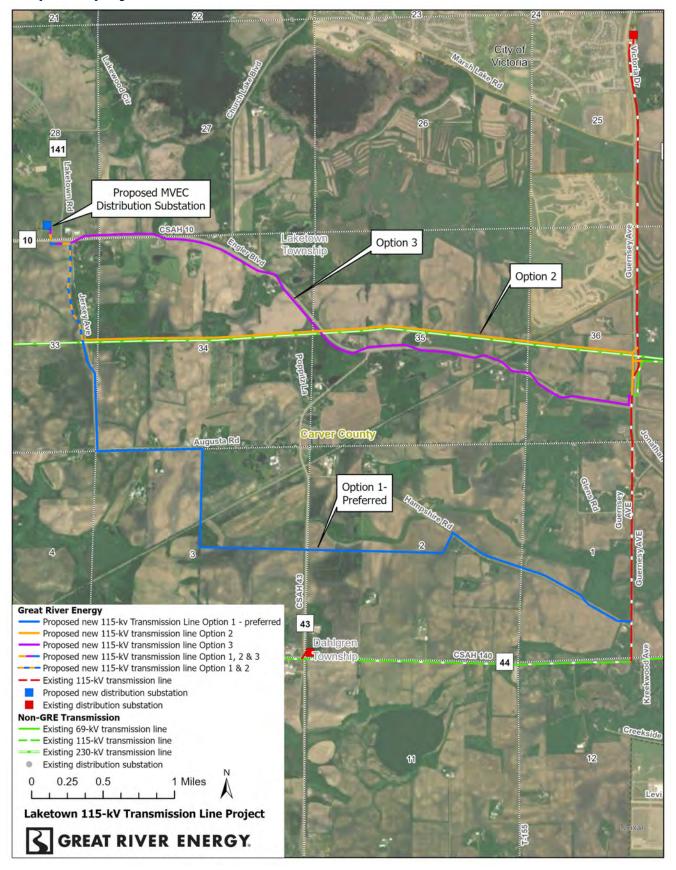
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Quick facts
Length – 3 to 5 miles
Voltage – 115-kV
Structures - 70 to 95 feet tall
Spans - 300 to 450 feet apart
<b>Right of way –</b> Up to 100-foot-wide right of way, 50 feet on each side on the center line
Permits – MN Public Utilities Commission route permit

## **Proposed project**



1/02/2024

## **Great River Energy representatives**

For project updates and information, visit <u>www.greatriverenergy.com/laketown</u> or contact any of the following

Michelle Lommel Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights 763-445-5977 | mlommel@grenergy.com

#### Michael Swenson Transmission Permitting Specialist 763-445-5979 | 952-807-4537 | mswenson@grenergy.com

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



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

April 19, 2024

Shauna Marquardt U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 3815 American Blvd. East Bloomington, MN 55425 Shauna\_Marquardt@fws.gov

## Subject: Great River Energy Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project Laketown and Dahlgren Townships, Carver County, Minnesota

Dear Shauna Marquardt:

Great River Energy is proposing to construct approximately 4.3 miles of new double-circuit, 115-kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line (HVTL) within Laketown and Dahlgren Townships in Carver County, Minnesota (the Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project, or Project). As part of the Project, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative would construct a new distribution substation at the northwest corner of the intersection of County Road 10 and Laketown Road. Great River Energy and Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative are planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in the summer of 2024. Construction would begin in fall 2027 and energization would occur in summer 2028.

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Per past U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) guidance, we understand that USFWS does not provide technical guidance through these initial notification letters. Therefore, Great River Energy will rely on the USFWS' web-based tools for initial technical assistance, including the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system and Determination Keys (Dkeys). We will contact USFWS if further assistance is required following use of these tools.

Shauna Marquardt April 19, 2024 Page 2

Please contact me at 763-445-5979 or <u>MSwenson@GREnergy.com</u> should you need additional information.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Mal Q Som

Michael Swenson Transmission Permitting Specialist

Encl: Project Fact Sheet



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## Permitting and public involvement

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Typical 115-kV structures

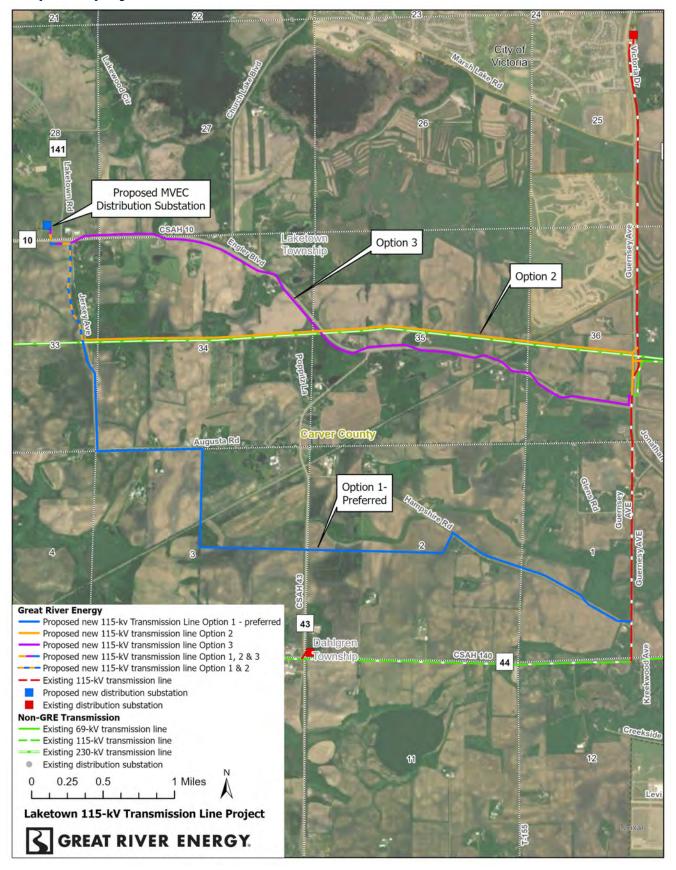
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Quick facts
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Voltage – 115-kV
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## **Proposed project**



1/02/2024

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#### Michael Swenson Transmission Permitting Specialist 763-445-5979 | 952-807-4537 | mswenson@grenergy.com

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources



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

April 19, 2024

Melissa Collins Minnesota Department of Natural Resources 1200 Warner Road St. Paul, MN 55106 melissa.collins@state.mn.us

Cynthia Warzecha Minnesota Department of Natural Resources 500 Lafayette Rd., Box 25 St. Paul, MN 55155 Cynthia.Warzecha@state.mn.us

## Subject: Great River Energy Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project Laketown and Dahlgren Townships, Carver County, Minnesota

Dear Melissa Collins and Cynthia Warzecha:

Great River Energy is proposing to construct approximately 4.3 miles of new double-circuit, 115-kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line (HVTL) within Laketown and Dahlgren Townships in Carver County, Minnesota (the Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project, or Project). As part of the Project, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative would construct a new distribution substation at the northwest corner of the intersection of County Road 10 and Laketown Road. Great River Energy and Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative are planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in the summer of 2024. Construction would begin in fall 2027 and energization would occur in summer 2028.

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The Project will primarily use single direct-embedded, 70- to 95-foot-tall steel poles placed 300 to 450 feet apart. Some specialty poles will be required for larger angles. Final design will determine the span distances and need for specialty poles. Construction will occur within a 100-foot-wide right-of-way (ROW) easement that Great River Energy will obtain to operate the transmission line. The 100-foot-wide

Melissa Collins and Cynthia Warzecha April 19, 2024 Page 2

ROW easement is centered on the Proposed Alignment (or 50 feet on either side of the transmission line).

Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project. Please contact me at 763-445-5979 or MSwenson@GREnergy.com should you need additional information.

Sincerely,

**GREAT RIVER ENERGY** 

Mal Q Som

Michael Swenson Transmission Permitting Specialist

Encl: Project Fact Sheet

CC: Joe Rokala, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources



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



Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative 125 Minnesota Valley Electric Drive Jordan, MN 55352-0125 952-492-2313 mvec.net

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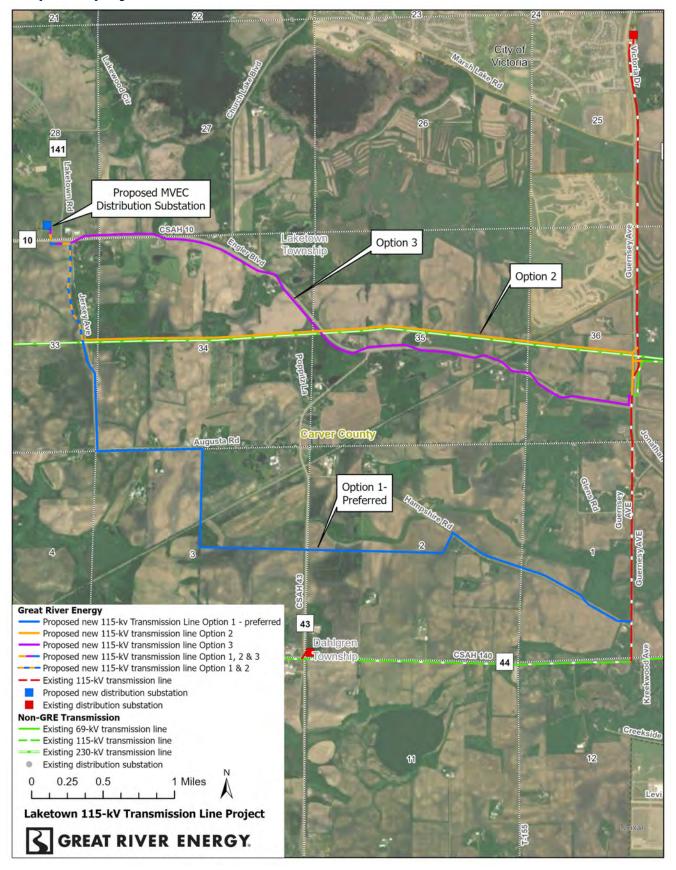
Great River Energy will work with county, state and federal agencies to secure any other required environmental or construction and road crossing permits.

## **Easements**

Once the project has been approved by the PUC, landowners will be contacted to begin the easement acquisition process. Easements will be needed to provide adequate land rights for construction, operation and maintenance of the new line. Landowners will be presented with a copy of the route permit, easement and compensation settlement offer. Information will also be provided on the proposed design and pole locations, along with information on tree removal, construction access, settlement of damages and restoration of the right-of-way.

Quick facts
Length – 3 to 5 miles
Voltage – 115-kV
Structures - 70 to 95 feet tall
Spans - 300 to 450 feet apart
<b>Right of way –</b> Up to 100-foot-wide right of way, 50 feet on each side on the center line
Permits – MN Public Utilities Commission route permit

## **Proposed project**



1/02/2024

## **Great River Energy representatives**

For project updates and information, visit <u>www.greatriverenergy.com/laketown</u> or contact any of the following

Michelle Lommel Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights 763-445-5977 | mlommel@grenergy.com

#### Michael Swenson Transmission Permitting Specialist 763-445-5979 | 952-807-4537 | mswenson@grenergy.com

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District



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

April 19, 2024

Permitting Department Minnehaha Creek Watershed District 15320 Minnetonka Blvd. Minnetonka, MN 55345 permitting@minnehahacreek.org

## Subject: Great River Energy Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project Laketown and Dahlgren Townships, Carver County, Minnesota

To Permitting Department:

Great River Energy is proposing to construct approximately 4.3 miles of new double-circuit, 115-kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line (HVTL) within Laketown and Dahlgren Townships in Carver County, Minnesota (the Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project, or Project). As part of the Project, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative would construct a new distribution substation at the northwest corner of the intersection of County Road 10 and Laketown Road. Great River Energy and Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative are planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in the summer of 2024. Construction would begin in fall 2027 and energization would occur in summer 2028.

The enclosed Project Fact Sheet provides additional information on the Project, including a map of the Project area. The map shows three transmission line route options initially considered by Great River Energy. Based on discussions with local stakeholders, along with an environmental and constructability review, Great River Energy intends to move forward with Option 1 as the Proposed Alignment. Note that Option 1 does not presently cross the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District boundaries; however, Option 3, another route once considered by Great River Energy, does cross the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District boundaries along County Highway 10.

The Project will primarily use single direct-embedded, 70- to 95-foot-tall steel poles placed 300 to 450 feet apart. Some specialty poles will be required for larger angles. Final design will determine the span distances and need for specialty poles. Construction will occur within a 100-foot-wide right-of-way (ROW) easement that Great River Energy will obtain to operate the transmission line. The 100-foot-wide ROW easement is centered on the Proposed Alignment (or 50 feet on either side of the transmission line).

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District- Permitting Department April 19, 2024 Page 2

Please contact me at 763-445-5979 or <u>MSwenson@GREnergy.com</u> should you need additional information regarding the Project.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Mal Q Som

Michael Swenson Transmission Permitting Specialist

Encl: Project Fact Sheet

CC: Alyssa Core, Board of Water and Soil Resources



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



Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative 125 Minnesota Valley Electric Drive Jordan, MN 55352-0125 952-492-2313 mvec.net

# Laketown 115-kV transmission line project

Great River Energy, wholesale power provider to Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative, proposes to build approximately 3 to 5 miles of 115-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission lines within Laketown and Dahlgren Townships in Carver County. A route permit must be issued by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) before construction can begin.

## **Overview**

Great River Energy is planning to construct a new 115-kV double-circuit transmission line to power a new distribution substation being built by Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative at the northwest corner of the intersection of Carver County Road 10 and Laketown Road (see map on back). Great River Energy reviewed three potential routes for the new transmission line as depicted on the map. Based on discussions with local stakeholders, along with an environmental and constructability review, Great River Energy intends to move forward with Option 1 as the preferred route.

Transmission line construction will generally use single directembedded steel poles 70 to 95 feet tall, placed 300 to 450 feet apart. Some specialty poles, including steel on foundation, may be required for larger angles. To provide a safe construction, operation and maintenance area, a 100-footwide right of way, 50 feet each side of the centerline, will need to be maintained to be clear of trees and vegetation.

## Permitting and public involvement

Great River Energy hosted a public open house in January 2024 to share additional project information with landowners, local government officials and other stakeholders to solicit input on the project. Great River Energy will apply for a route permit from the PUC in the summer of 2024. During the route permitting process, all stakeholders will have opportunities to provide input on the project.

## **Schedule**

State permitting	Summer 2024 – Spring 2026
Survey/design	Spring 2026
Easements/ Environmental permits	Summer 2026 – Fall 2027
Transmission line construction	Fall 2027 – Summer 2028
Energization	Summer 2028



Typical 115-kV structures

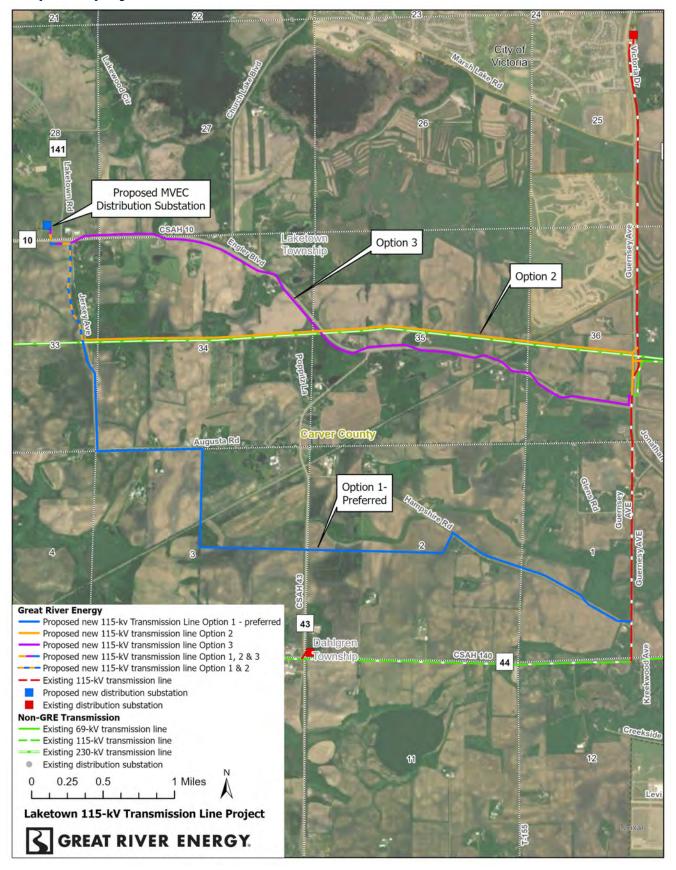
Great River Energy will work with county, state and federal agencies to secure any other required environmental or construction and road crossing permits.

## **Easements**

Once the project has been approved by the PUC, landowners will be contacted to begin the easement acquisition process. Easements will be needed to provide adequate land rights for construction, operation and maintenance of the new line. Landowners will be presented with a copy of the route permit, easement and compensation settlement offer. Information will also be provided on the proposed design and pole locations, along with information on tree removal, construction access, settlement of damages and restoration of the right-of-way.

Quick facts
Length – 3 to 5 miles
Voltage – 115-kV
Structures - 70 to 95 feet tall
Spans - 300 to 450 feet apart
<b>Right of way –</b> Up to 100-foot-wide right of way, 50 feet on each side on the center line
Permits – MN Public Utilities Commission route permit

## **Proposed project**



1/02/2024

## **Great River Energy representatives**

For project updates and information, visit <u>www.greatriverenergy.com/laketown</u> or contact any of the following

Michelle Lommel Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights 763-445-5977 | mlommel@grenergy.com

#### Michael Swenson Transmission Permitting Specialist 763-445-5979 | 952-807-4537 | mswenson@grenergy.com

# ADDITIONAL AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District - Regulatory and Permits

From:	USACE_Requests_MN <usace_requests_mn@usace.army.mil></usace_requests_mn@usace.army.mil>
Sent:	Monday, April 22, 2024 2:19 PM
То:	Britta Bergland
Cc:	Swenson, Michael GRE-MG; Groshek, Matthew M CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA);
	alyssa.core@state.mn.us; klarson@co.carver.mn.us; permitting@minnehahacreek.org
Subject:	EXTERNAL: MVP-2024-00483-MMG (Great River Energy - Laketown 115kV Transmission Line Project)
	ACK
Attachments:	2024-00483-MMG 20240422 ACK.pdf

## **CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Attached please find the subject document(s). If you have any questions, please contact the project manager indicated in the letter. Thanks,

Erik Madaus Office Automation Assistant US Army Corps of Engineers, Saint Paul District Saint Paul MN, 55101 Office: 651-290-5357 <u>erik.a.madaus@usace.army.mil</u>



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

04/22/2024

Regulatory File No. MVP-2024-00483-MMG

## THIS IS NOT A PERMIT

Britta Bergland Merjent, Inc. 1 Main Street SE, Suite 300 Minneapolis, MN 55414

To Britta Bergland:

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

File Number: MVP-2024-00483-MMG

Applicant: Michael Swenson

Project Name: Great River Energy - Laketown 115kV Transmission Line Project

Project Location: Section 3 of Township 115 N, Range 24 W, Carver County, Minnesota (Latitude: 44.8063200364951; Longitude: -93.6802214143113)

Received Date: 04/19/2024

Project Manager: Matthew Groshek (651) 290-5732 Matthew.M.Groshek@usace.army.mil

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

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

Thank you.

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

Cc: Carver County WCA LGU, BWSR Rep

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



### United States Department of the Interior

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



In Reply Refer To: Project Code: 2024-0064903 Project Name: Laketown\_Waconia

03/19/2024 16:23:50 UTC

# 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 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 IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

#### **Consultation Technical Assistance**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **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  $\geq 3$  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 humanmade 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 <u>unsuitable</u> habitat include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Whooping Crane

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

#### **Other Trust Resources and Activities**

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

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

Project code: 2024-0064903

mortality of migratory birds whenever possible and we encourage implementation of <u>recommendations that</u> <u>minimize potential impacts to migratory birds</u>. 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 <u>voluntary guidelines for minimizing impacts</u>.

*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 <u>guidelines</u> 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 <u>Wind Energy Guidelines</u>. In addition, please refer to the Service's <u>Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance</u>, 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

<u>Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Endangered Resources Review Homepage</u> Email: <u>Review.NHIS@state.mn.us</u>

#### Wisconsin

<u>Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - Endangered Resources Review Homepage</u> Email: <u>DNRERReview@wi.gov</u>

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

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
- Bald & Golden Eagles
- Migratory Birds
- Wetlands

## **OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST**

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

This species list is provided by:

### Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office

3815 American Blvd East Bloomington, MN 55425-1659 (952) 858-0793

### **PROJECT SUMMARY**

Project Code:2024-0064903Project Name:Laketown\_WaconiaProject Type:Transmission Line - New Constr - Above GroundProject Description:Transmission LineProject Location:Vertice - New Constr - Above Ground

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <u>https://www.google.com/maps/@44.80668635,-93.69904066412836,14z</u>



Counties: Carver County, Minnesota

### **ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES**

There is a total of 5 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 Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, 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. <u>NOAA Fisheries</u>, 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: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045</u>	Endangered	
Tricolored Bat <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>	Proposed	
No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515</u>	Endangered	
BIRDS NAME	STATUS	
<ul> <li>Whooping Crane Grus americana</li> <li>Population: U.S.A. (AL, AR, CO, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NC, NM, OH, SC, TN, UT, VA, WI, WV, western half of WY)</li> <li>No critical habitat has been designated for this species.</li> <li>Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758</u></li> </ul>	Experimental Population, Non- Essential	
INSECTS NAME	STATUS	
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</u>	Candidate	
Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Bombus affinis No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9383</u> General project design guidelines: <u>https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/OFEYUXGIZBFN5E2F6K6XP5BSSI/documents/</u>	Endangered	

### **CRITICAL HABITATS**

generated/5967.pdf

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

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

## USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the <u>National Wildlife Refuge</u> system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS OR FISH HATCHERIES WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

## **BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES**

Bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act<sup>1</sup> and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act<sup>2</sup>.

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to bald or golden eagles, or their habitats<sup>3</sup>, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the <u>"Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles"</u>.

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

There are likely bald eagles present in your project area. For additional information on bald eagles, refer to <u>Bald Eagle Nesting and Sensitivity to Human Activity</u>

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

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle Haliaeetus leucocephalus 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. <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626</u>	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31
Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</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/1680	Breeds elsewhere

### **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 <u>"Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles"</u>, specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

### **Probability of Presence** (

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

### Breeding Season (=)

Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

### Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

### No Data (–)

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

		probability of pr	resence 📕 bre	eding season	survey effort — no data
SPECIES	JAN FEB MAR	APR MAY JU	UN JUL	AUG SEP	OCT NOV DEC
Bald Eagle Non-BCC Vulnerable	100 040 1111	<u> 1111   1111  </u>			INTE ITTE INTE
Golden Eagle Non-BCC Vulnerable	++-++++++	++++ +++++ ++	-+++	++++ ++++	++++ ++++

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <u>https://www.fws.gov/library/</u> <u>collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds</u>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds <u>https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/</u> <u>documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf</u>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <u>https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action</u>

## **MIGRATORY BIRDS**

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act<sup>1</sup> and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act<sup>2</sup>.

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats<sup>3</sup> should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the <u>"Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles"</u>.

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

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

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle Haliaeetus leucocephalus 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 Coccyzus erythropthalmus 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
Bobolink Dolichonyx oryzivorus This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9454</u>	Breeds May 20 to Jul 31
Canada Warbler <i>Cardellina canadensis</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9643</u>	Breeds May 20 to Aug 10
Chimney Swift Chaetura pelagica This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9406</u>	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25
Eastern Whip-poor-will Antrostomus vociferus This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10678</u>	Breeds May 1 to Aug 20

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NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Golden Eagle Aquila chrysaetos 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/1680	Breeds elsewhere
Golden-winged Warbler Vermivora chrysoptera This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8745</u>	Breeds May 1 to Jul 20
Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679</u>	Breeds elsewhere
Long-eared Owl asio otus This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3631</u>	Breeds Mar 1 to Jul 15
Pectoral Sandpiper <i>Calidris melanotos</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9561</u>	Breeds elsewhere
Red-headed Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9398</u>	Breeds May 10 to Sep 10
Rusty Blackbird <i>Euphagus carolinus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9478</u>	Breeds elsewhere
Wood Thrush Hylocichla mustelina This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9431</u>	Breeds May 10 to Aug 31

### **PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY**

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read <u>"Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles"</u>, specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

### **Probability of Presence** (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

### Breeding Season (=)

Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

### Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

### No Data (-)

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

		-	probability o	f presence	breeding sea	ason survey o	effort — no	o data
SPECIES Bald Eagle Non-BCC Vulnerable	JAN FEB	MAR AP	R MAY	JUN JUL	AUG S	SEP OCT		EC
Black-billed Cuckoo BCC Rangewide (CON)	+++++++	+++++++++	·┼┼ ┿ <mark>╪┼</mark> ┼	<b>₩</b> ┼┼┼ ┼┼ <u></u>	+ + <b>0</b> ] +	<b>₽</b> ┼┼┼ ┼┼┼┼	++++ +-	+++
Bobolink BCC Rangewide (CON)	++++ +++	++ +++++ ++	++ •1		▋ +++₩ -	++++ ++++	++++ +-	+++
Canada Warbler BCC Rangewide (CON)	++++++++	++ +++++ ++	-++ <b>##  </b>	++++	+ 11	▋▋▋┼┼┼┼┼	++++ +-	+++
Chimney Swift BCC Rangewide (CON)	++++ +++	+++ <mark>+++</mark> ++	++ +===		1 1111	▋▋▋┼┼┼┼┼	++++ +-	+++
Eastern Whip-poor- will BCC Rangewide (CON)	+++++++	++ ++++ ++	-+1 <mark>+11</mark> +	+++	+ ++++-	++++	+++++	
Golden Eagle Non-BCC Vulnerable	+++++++	++ +#+# ++	.++ ++++	****	-+ ++++ -	++++	+++++	
Golden-winged Warbler BCC Rangewide (CON)	+++++++	++++++++++	·++ <mark>₿₿</mark> ₦₦	++++	▋┼║┃┃	▋▋▋₡╶┼┼┼┼	++++ +-	+++

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Lesser Yellowlegs BCC Rangewide (CON)	++++	++++	++++	<b>•</b> ###	<b>#</b> ##+	++++	++11		++++	++++	++++	++++
Long-eared Owl BCC Rangewide (CON)	++++	++++	┼┼╋┼		++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	+++++	+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +	++++
Pectoral Sandpiper BCC Rangewide (CON)	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	+++	1+++	++++	++   +	++++	++++
Red-headed Woodpecker BCC Rangewide (CON)	++++	++++	++++	++++	<mark>∳‡</mark> ‡∔	┼╋┼┼	++++	++++	<b>  </b>  +	++++	++++	++++
SPECIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Rusty Blackbird BCC - BCR	++++	++#+		<b>**</b>	++++	++++	++++	++++	++#+			++++
Wood Thrush BCC Rangewide (CON)	++++	++++	++++	++++	<b>+  +</b>	#+#+	111+	┼┼┼┨	+++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++	++++	++++	++++

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <u>https://www.fws.gov/library/</u> <u>collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds</u>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds <u>https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/</u> <u>documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf</u>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <u>https://www.fws.gov/</u> media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occurproject-action

## WETLANDS

Impacts to <u>NWI wetlands</u> and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local <u>U.S. Army Corps of</u> <u>Engineers District</u>.

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

FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND

- PEM1C
- PEM1Fd

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- PEM1Af
- PEM1Cd
- PEM1F
- PEM1Ad
- PEM1A

### FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND

• PFO1A

RIVERINE

- R4SBC
- R2UBFx
- R5UBH

FRESHWATER POND

- PUBHx
- PABH
- PUBF

### **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

- Agency:Merjent Inc.Name:Mandy BohnenblustAddress:1 Main St SE, Suite 300
- City: Minneapolis
- State: MN
- Zip: 55414
- Email mandy.bohnenblust@merjent.com
- Phone: 6127463677



### United States Department of the Interior

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



In Reply Refer To: Project code: 2024-0064903 Project Name: Laketown\_Waconia 05/17/2024 14:38:58 UTC

Federal Nexus: yes Federal Action Agency (if applicable): Army Corps of Engineers

Subject: Technical assistance for 'Laketown\_Waconia'

Dear Mandy Bohnenblust:

This letter records your determination using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on May 17, 2024, for 'Laketown\_Waconia' (here forward, Project). This project has been assigned Project Code 2024-0064903 and all future correspondence should clearly reference this number. **Please carefully review this letter. Your Endangered Species Act (Act) requirements are not complete.** 

### **Ensuring Accurate Determinations When Using IPaC**

The Service developed the IPaC system and associated species' determination keys in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and based on a standing analysis. All information submitted by the Project proponent into IPaC must accurately represent the full scope and details of the Project.

Failure to accurately represent or implement the Project as detailed in IPaC or the Northern Long-eared Bat Rangewide Determination Key (Dkey), invalidates this letter. *Answers to certain questions in the DKey commit the project proponent to implementation of conservation measures that must be followed for the ESA determination to remain valid.* 

### **Determination for the Northern Long-Eared Bat**

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

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05/17/2024 14:38:58 UTC

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

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

- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Candidate
- Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Bombus affinis Endangered
- Tricolored Bat *Perimyotis subflavus* Proposed Endangered
- Whooping Crane *Grus americana* Experimental Population, Non-Essential

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

### Next Step

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

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

- 1. Log into IPaC using an agency email account and click on My Projects, click "Search by record locator" to find this Project using **722-140333607**. (Alternatively, the originator of the project in IPaC can add the agency representative to the project by using the Add Member button on the project home page.)
- 2. Review the answers to the Northern Long-eared Bat Range-wide Determination Key to ensure that they are accurate.
- 3. Click on Review/Finalize to convert the 'not likely to adversely affect' consistency letter to a concurrence letter. Download the concurrence letter for your files if needed.

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

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If you have any questions regarding this letter or need further assistance, please contact the Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office and reference Project Code 2024-0064903 associated with this Project.

Project code: 2024-0064903

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### **Action Description**

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

### 1. Name

Laketown\_Waconia

### 2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Laketown\_Waconia':

Transmission Line

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <u>https://www.google.com/maps/@44.80668635,-93.69904066412836,14z</u>



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## **DETERMINATION KEY RESULT**

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

### **QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW**

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

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

No

2. The action area does not overlap with an area for which U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service currently has data to support the presumption that the northern long-eared bat is present. Are you aware of other data that indicates that northern long-eared bats (NLEB) are likely to be present in the action area?

Bat occurrence data may include identification of NLEBs in hibernacula, capture of NLEBs, tracking of NLEBs to roost trees, or confirmed NLEB acoustic detections. Data on captures, roost tree use, and acoustic detections should post-date the year when whitenose syndrome was detected in the relevant state. With this question, we are looking for data that, for some reason, may have not yet been made available to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

No

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

Note: For federal actions, answer 'yes' if the construction or operation of wind power facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for a federal agency action (federal permit, funding, etc.). No

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

Yes

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

No

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

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

No

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

No

- 8. Is the lead federal action agency the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)? *No*
- 9. Have you determined that your proposed action will have no effect on the northern longeared bat? Remember to consider the <u>effects of any activities</u> that would not occur but for the proposed action.

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

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

No

10. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.5 miles of a known northern long-eared bat hibernaculum?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

Automatically answered No

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

No

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

No

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

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

Yes

- 14. Will the action cause effects to a bridge? *No*
- 15. Will the action result in effects to a culvert or tunnel?

No

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

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

No

17. Does the action involve removal, modification, or maintenance of a human-made structure (barn, house, or other building) known or suspected to contain roosting bats?*No* 

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18. Will the action directly or indirectly cause construction of one or more new roads that are open to the public?

**Note:** The answer may be yes when a publicly accessible road either (1) is constructed as part of the proposed action or (2) would not occur but for the proposed action (i.e., the road construction is facilitated by the proposed action but is not an explicit component of the project).

No

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

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

No

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

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

No

- 21. Will the proposed action involve the creation of a new water-borne contaminant source (e.g., leachate pond pits containing chemicals that are not NSF/ANSI 60 compliant)? *No*
- 22. Will the proposed action involve the creation of a new point source discharge from a facility other than a water treatment plant or storm water system?

No

23. Will the action include drilling or blasting?

No

- 24. Will the action involve military training (e.g., smoke operations, obscurant operations, exploding munitions, artillery fire, range use, helicopter or fixed wing aircraft use)? *No*
- 25. Will the proposed action involve the use of herbicide or other pesticides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides)?

No

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

Note: Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat can be found at: https://www.fws.gov/media/northern-long-eared-bat-assisted-determination-key-selected-definitions No

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

Note: Additional information defining suitable roosting habitat for the northern long-eared bat can be found at: https://www.fws.gov/media/northern-long-eared-bat-assisted-determination-key-selected-definitions No

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

Yes

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

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

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

No

- 31. Are any of the trees proposed for cutting or other means of knocking down, bringing down, topping, or trimming suitable for northern long-eared bat roosting (i.e., live trees and/or snags  $\geq$ 3 inches dbh that have exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices, and/or cavities)? Yes
- 32. [Semantic] Does your project intersect a known sensitive area for the northern long-eared bat?

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

Automatically answered No

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

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

No

IPaC Record Locator: 722-140333607

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### **PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE**

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

5

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

5

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

5

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

No

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

5

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

0

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

Yes

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

No

Project code: 2024-0064903

IPaC Record Locator: 722-140333607

05/17/2024 14:38:58 UTC

### **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

- Agency:Merjent Inc.Name:Mandy BohnenblustAddress:1 Main St SE, Suite 300City:MinneapolisState:MN
- Zip: 55414
- Email mandy.bohnenblust@merjent.com
- Phone: 6127463677

### LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Agency: Army Corps of Engineers

Federal Aviation Administration

From:	Kiser, Robert K-CTR (FAA) <robert.k-ctr.kiser@faa.gov></robert.k-ctr.kiser@faa.gov>
Sent:	Monday, April 22, 2024 6:27 AM
То:	Duchatellier, Marla (FAA)
Cc:	Britta Bergland
Subject:	EXTERNAL: FW: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project
Attachments:	GRE_Laketown_FAA_Intro_Letter_Final_20240419.pdf

#### **CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Good morning, Britta,

I no longer work the state of MN as one of my states. The technician duties are now being performed by Marla Duchatellier. I have forwarded this email to her along with all the attachments. Please reach out to Marla with any questions going forward.

Have a great week.

With Kind Regards, I Am,

Robby Kiser

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

#### Level III Technician for the states of North Carolina, South Carolina and Rhode Island

"Email is the fastest way to reach me"

From: Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 11:32 AM
To: Kiser, Robert K-CTR (FAA) <Robert.K-CTR.Kiser@faa.gov>
Subject: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

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Dear Robert Kiser,

Great River Energy is proposing to construct approximately 4.3 miles of new double-circuit, 115-kilovolt high voltage transmission line within Laketown and Dahlgren Townships in Carver County, Minnesota (the Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project, or Project). As part of the Project, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative would

construct a new distribution substation at the northwest corner of the intersection of County Road 10 and Laketown Road. More information on the Project, along with a Project map, is available in the attached letter and fact sheet.

Great River Energy and Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative are planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in the summer of 2024. Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project. Please reach out to Michael Swenson with Great River Energy at 763-445-5979 or <u>MSwenson@GREnergy.com</u> with questions, written comments, or a request for a meeting.

Thank you –

Britta Bergland [on behalf of Michael Swenson, Great River Energy]

Britta Bergland 612.746.3673 direct 612.472.0329 mobile britta.bergland@merjent.com



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Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

From:	Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <mswenson@grenergy.com></mswenson@grenergy.com>
Sent:	Friday, May 3, 2024 12:01 PM
То:	Britta Bergland
Subject:	EXTERNAL: Fwd: thpo # 24-206
Attachments:	24-206-NCRI, Carver Co., MN 5-2-24.pdf

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Michael Swenson Transmission Permitting Specialist Great River Energy Direct: 763-445-5979 | Cell: 952-807-4537 mswenson@grenergy.com

From: Anita Cloud <anita.cloud@llojibwe.net>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2024 11:59:22 AM
To: Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <mswenson@GREnergy.com>
Cc: Gina Lemon <gina.lemon@llojibwe.net>
Subject: thpo # 24-206

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Respectfully,

Have a good day...

### Aníta M Cloud

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribal Historic Preservation Assistant 190 Sailstar Drive NE Cass Lake, MN 56633 anita.cloud@llojibwe.net

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May 2, 2024

### LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE

**Tribal Historic Preservation Office** Gina M Lemon, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Anita M Cloud, Tribal Historic Preservation Assistant

Via Internet

Great River Energy Attn: Michael Swenson, Transmission Permitting Specialist 12300 Elm Creek Boulevard Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369-4718

### RE: Great River Energy; Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project.

Great River Energy is proposing to construct approximately 4.3 miles of new double-circuit, 115-kilovilt (kV) high voltage transmission line (HVTL) within Laketown & Dahlgren Townships. As part of the project, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative would construct a new distribution substation at the northwest corner of the intersection of County Road 10 and Laketown Road.

Carver County, MN

### LL THPO No. 24-206-NCRI

Dear Michael Swenson,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced project. This has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given to the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended in 1992, and the Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (38CFR800).

I have reviewed the documentation. After careful consideration of our records, I have determined that the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe does not have any recorded <u>historic properties</u>, within this area. \*\* This does not mean there are not any cultural resources present, at this time. \*\*

Should any human remains or suspected human remains be encountered, all work shall cease and the following personnel should be notified immediately: County Sheriff's Office, Office of the State Archaeologist, and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe along with other interested parties.

Please note the above determination does not "exempt" future projects from Section 106 review. In the event of any other tribe notifying you of an issue or us (LLBO) of concerns for this specific project, we may reenter into the consultation process.

You may contact me at (218) 335-2940 if you have questions regarding our review of this project. Please refer to the LL-THPO Number as stated above in all correspondence with this project

Respectfully submitted,

Gína M Lemon

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

From:	Leonard Wabasha (TO) <leonard.wabasha@shakopeedakota.org></leonard.wabasha@shakopeedakota.org>		
Sent:	Friday, April 19, 2024 1:16 PM		
То:	Britta Bergland		
Cc:	Swenson, Michael GRE-MG		
Subject:	EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project		

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### 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: Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 12:55 PM
To: Leonard Wabasha (TO) <leonard.wabasha@shakopeedakota.org>
Cc: Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <mswenson@GREnergy.com>
Subject: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

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

Dear Leonard Wabasha,

Great River Energy is proposing to construct approximately 4.3 miles of new double-circuit, 115-kilovolt high voltage transmission line within Laketown and Dahlgren Townships in Carver County, Minnesota (the Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project, or Project). As part of the Project, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative would construct a new distribution substation at the northwest corner of the intersection of County Road 10 and Laketown Road. More information on the Project, along with a Project map, is available in the attached letter and fact sheet.

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Britta Bergland 612.746.3673 direct 612.472.0329 mobile britta.bergland@merjent.com



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From:	Britta Bergland	
Sent:	Friday, April 19, 2024 1:47 PM	
То:	Leonard Wabasha (TO)	
Cc:	Swenson, Michael GRE-MG	
Subject:	RE: EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project	
Attachments:	GRE_Laketown_Cultural_Phase IA_20240314.pdf	

Good afternoon!

We submitted the attached to SHPO on March 14, 2024, and have not yet received a response. Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

Thank you,

Britta

## Britta Bergland

612.746.3673 direct 612.472.0329 mobile britta.bergland@merjent.com



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

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

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Thank you -

Britta Bergland [on behalf of Michael Swenson, Great River Energy]

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March 14, 2024

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

Re: Great River Energy Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project Phase IA Cultural Resources Assessment

Dear Ms. Beimers:

This letter presents the results of a file search completed in support of the Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project (Project) in Carver County, Minnesota. Great River Energy proposes to build a new 115-kilovolt (kV) double-circuit transmission line to power a new Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative (Minnesota Valley) distribution substation at the northwest corner of the intersection of Carver County Road 10 and Laketown Road in Carver County, Minnesota. To assist with Project planning, Merjent, Inc. (Merjent) prepared this letter which includes the results of a file search and recommendations.

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

| County | Township | Range | Sections       |
|--------|----------|-------|----------------|
| Carver | 115N     | 24W   | 1, 2, 3, 4, 12 |
| Carver | 116N     | 24W   | 27, 28, 33, 34 |

The Project route is collocated with existing roads for approximately 2.4 miles and with existing overhead distribution lines for approximately 1.0 mile. Great River Energy will likely seek to locate the new transmission line in the distribution right-of-way in this area.

## **REGULATORY FRAMEWORK**

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

The Minnesota Field Archaeology Act (Minn. Stat § 138.32-138.42) establishes the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA); requires licenses to engage in archaeology on nonfederal public land; establishes ownership, custody, and use of objects and data recovered during survey; and requires state agencies to submit development plans to the OSA, Minnesota State Historic

Page 2 of 5

Preservation Office (SHPO), and the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council for review when there are known or suspected archaeological sites in the area.

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

## Literature Review

On November 27, 2023, Merjent retrieved cultural resources site information (archaeological sites and historic structures) and on January 16, 2024, retrieved previous survey files from the SHPO. Merjent Cultural Resource Specialists reviewed archaeological site files on the OSA online portal, as well as the General Land Office (GLO) maps and available historical aerial photography accessed online through the OSA Portal<sup>1</sup>. Enclosed Figures 1 and 2 show the features discussed below identified during this review.

## **BACKGROUND RESEARCH RESULTS**

## **Previously Recorded Archaeological Resources**

According to the OSA and SHPO files, there are three sites within the Study Area that also intersect the Project route. Two sites are alpha sites (21CRm and 21CRd), meaning that they were identified by historic documentation and have not been verified in the field by a professional archaeologist. Due to the imprecise locational information of these sites, alpha site boundaries are likely larger than they would be if the site were physically located.

## [NONPUBLIC DATA BEGINS HERE...

- Site 21CR0087 (**Construction**) is described as a small lithic scatter consisting of two grey chert flakes. According to the site form, the precise location is unknown. Additionally, the site is located in an agricultural field that has been maintained as such since the site's first identification in 1977. Due to this, there is a potential for the flakes to have been moved by agricultural machinery.
- <u>Site 21CRd</u> ( ) is described as a

According to a historic aerial photograph from 1937, this station is located of the Project route<sup>2</sup> along the present Twin Cities and Western Railroad (historically the Chicago Milwaukee Saint Paul and Pacific Railroad), which is crossed by the Project.

• Site 21CRm ( ) is described as a , a small town inhabited in the 1800s. According to historic maps,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> OSA Portal. 2023. <u>https://osa.gisdata.mn.gov/OSAportal. Accessed January 11, 2024.</u>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> OSA Portal. 2023. <u>https://osa.gisdata.mn.gov/OSAportal. Accessed January 11, 2024.</u>

Page 3 of 5

It minimally intersects the Project route on the **sector**. An existing overhead Minnesota Valley distribution line crosses the site at the southerly edge<sup>3</sup>.

| Site Number/Name | Site Type      | Location (TRS) | NRHP Status |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| 21CR0087         | Lithic Scatter |                | Unevaluated |
| 21CRd            |                |                | Unevaluated |
| 21CRm            |                |                | Unevaluated |

## Previously Recorded Archaeological Surveys

No previous archaeological surveys were located within the Study Area.

## Previously Recorded Standing Historic Buildings and Structures

Fifteen historic buildings and structures are located within the Study Area, four of which overlap the Project Area. Three structures share the same location because it is an overlapping section of three railways. These railways were all constructed and operated by the Chicago Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway Company/Chicago Milwaukee St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company. These three routes consist of the Southern Minnesota Division Main Line (XX-RRD-CSP029) constructed in 1866, the Hastings and Dakota Division Mainline (XX-RRD-CSP010) constructed in 1872, and the Hastings and Dakota Division Benton Cutoff (XX-RRD-CSP011) constructed in 1880. XX-RRD-CSP010 and XX-RRD-CSP011 are considered potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP, and XX-RRD-CSP029 was determined not eligible by SHPO on September 10, 2021. The remaining building (CR-LKT-062) is a farmhouse constructed in 1887 which has not been evaluated for listing on the NRHP.

| Property<br>Number/Name | Property<br>Category | Location (TRS) | NRHP Status  |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------|--------------|
| CR-LKT-062              | Building             |                | Unevaluated  |
| XX-RRD-CSP010           | Structure            |                | Eligible     |
| XX-RRD-CSP011           | Structure            |                | Eligible     |
| XX-RRD-CSP029           | Structure            |                | Not Eligible |

The remaining eleven historic buildings and structures will not be impacted due to distance from the Project. The remaining buildings and structures include six farmsteads (CR-CKC-633, CR-LKT-022, CR-LKT-023, CR-LKT-024, CR-LKT-054, CR-LKT-055), five farmhouses (CR-DHL-024, CR-LKT-067, CR-LKT-068, CR-LKT-069), and one bridge (CR-DHL-019). Poles supporting existing Minnesota Valley distribution lines and Great River Energy transmission lines are visible from portions of Guernsey Avenue/Highway 11, Hampshire Road, Jersey Avenue, Augusta Road, and Highway 43. These distribution lines are approximately 0.1- to 0.5-mile from the Project. Where the new 115-kV line is collocated with existing distribution lines, Great River Energy is exploring the possibility of installing the new line in existing right-of-way and including the distribution lines on the new structures. Because the Project is collocated with existing utility and road rights-of-way near these structures, it will not result in an appreciable change in viewshed.

#### ...NONPUBLIC DATA ENDS HERE]

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Historical Maps of Minnesota <u>https://alabamamaps.ua.edu/</u>



#### **General Land Office and Aerial Photo Review**

Merjent reviewed nineteenth-century GLO maps and notes on file with the Bureau of Land Management<sup>4</sup>. The GLO map of the Project Area illustrated conditions in 1870 as being prairie, with many lakes and wetlands and connecting streams and rivers. An unnamed trail is present south of Augusta and north of Hampshire Road. The trail does not intersect the Project route. Aerial photographs from 1937 show that roads and the railroad have been constructed and farms have been established, with agricultural fields dominating the landscape. There is no trace of the GLO trail on historic aerials; by 1937 it had been superseded by roads and agricultural fields. Subsequent historic and modern aerial photographs show that the landscape of the Project area has remained largely the same since that time, with roads being the main addition to the area.

### SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Three archaeological sites and fifteen historic buildings and structures were identified within the Study Area. There is potential for Historic-period sites within the Project Area because the area has been inhabited at least since the 1930s; however, given that the Project is an overhead transmission line proposed partially within already disturbed rights-of-way, there is a low potential for intact historic sites. Mn Model4 indicates that the Project's Area of Potential Effect has a low site potential, and although no survey has occurred in the areas impacted by the Project, the larger general area has been well surveyed. The Project area could contain precontact sites given its location near several water sources. Given that the Project is located in an area with several existing overhead distribution lines and will be constructed along and within areas of previous disturbance such as existing rights-of-way and agricultural fields, Merjent recommends no survey required ahead of Project construction.

If human remains are encountered during construction activities, all ground disturbing activity must cease, and local law enforcement must be notified per Minn. Stat § 307.08. GRE will also develop an Unanticipated Discoveries Plan for the Project.

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

Sincerely, Merjent, Inc.

Lacy Lepisto Cultural Resource Specialist

Enclosed: Figure 1 Topographic Map (*Contains Confidential and Privileged Information*) Figure 2 Aerial Map (*Contains Confidential and Privileged Information*)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records. 2024. https://glorecords.blm.gov/



Page 5 of 5

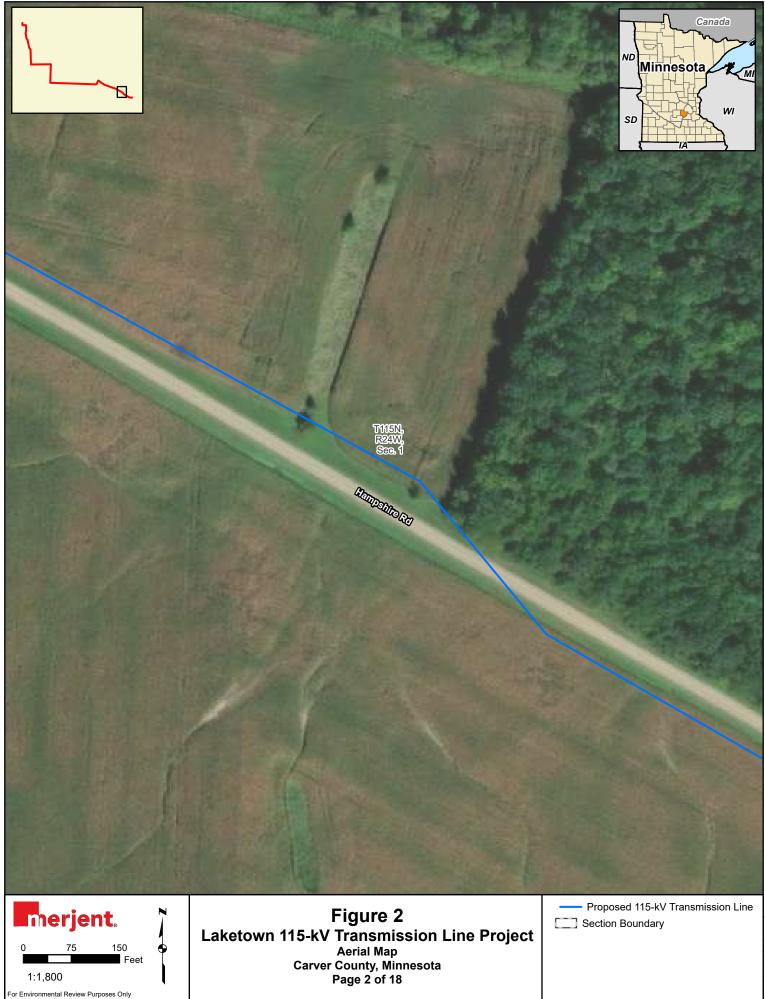
cc: Michael Swenson, Great River Energy Britta Bergland, Merjent Bill Harding, Merjent



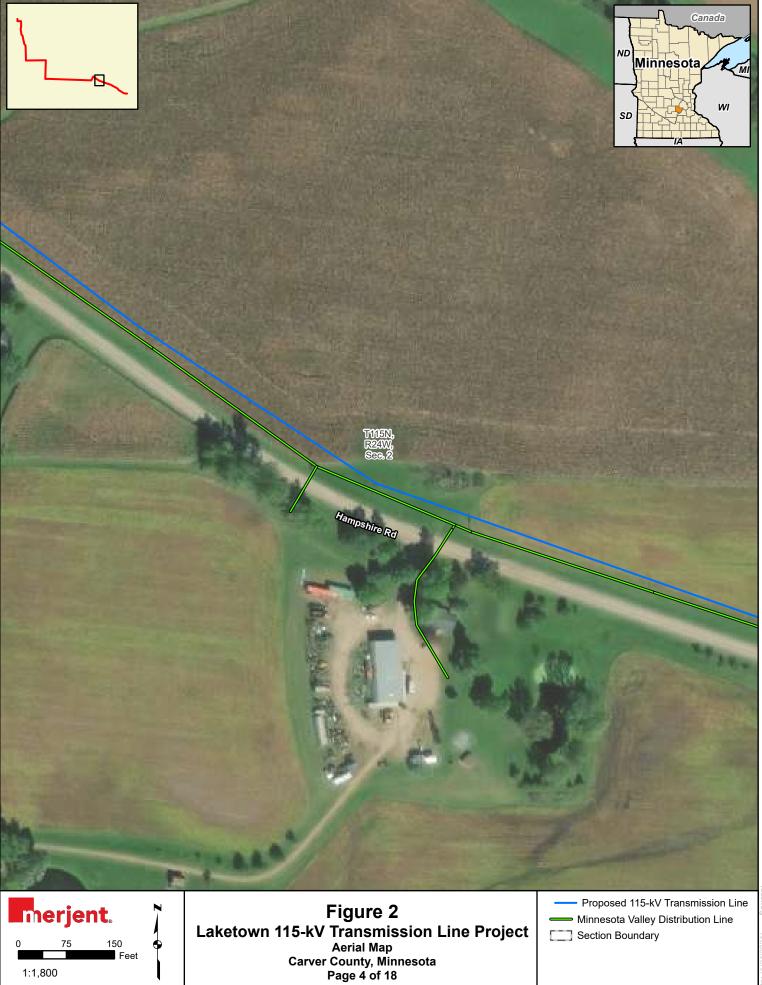
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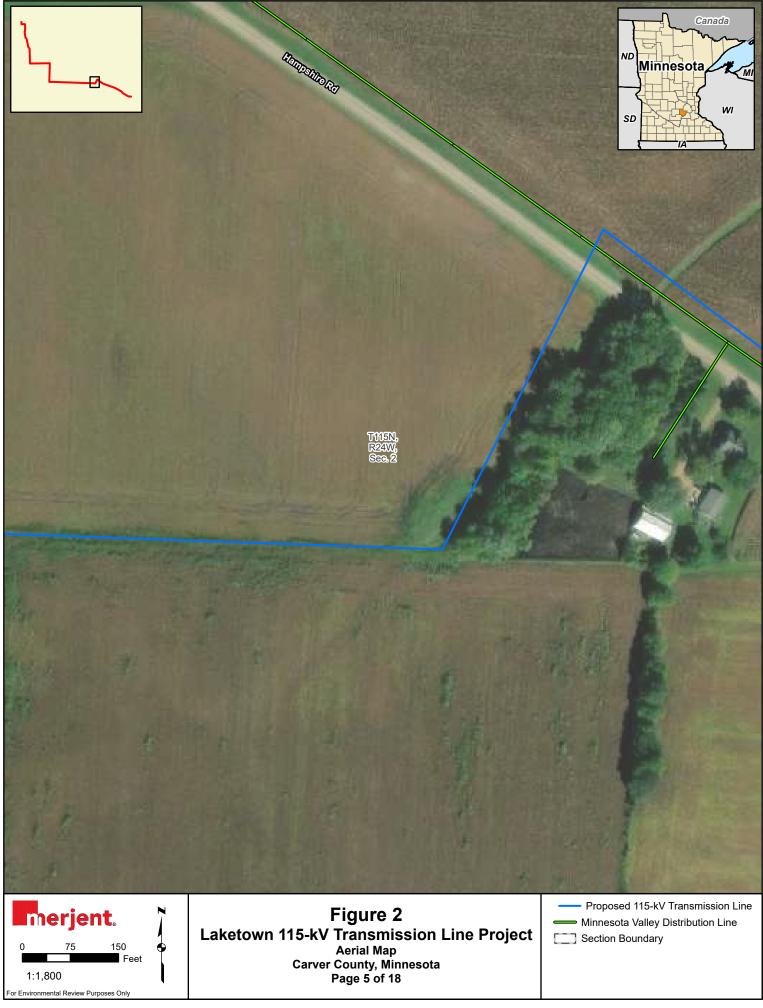


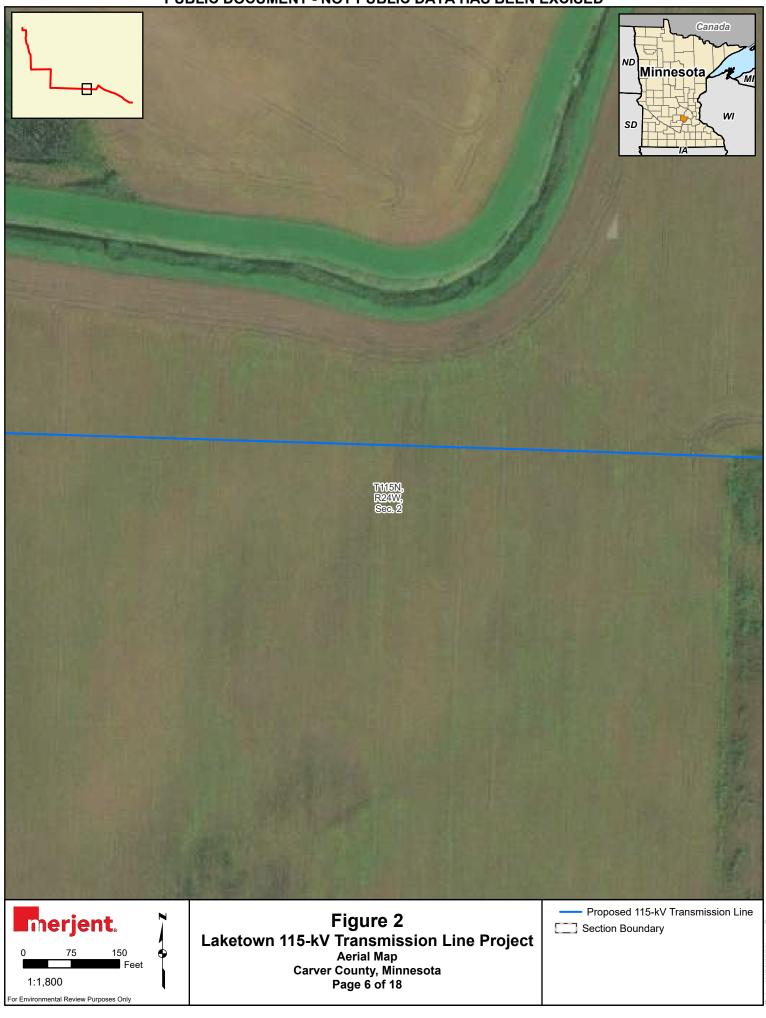


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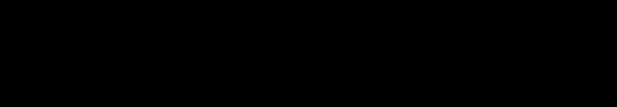


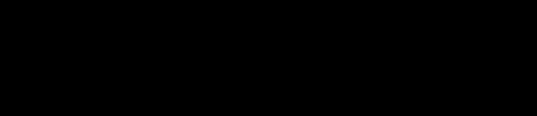
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| From:    | Leonard Wabasha (TO) <leonard.wabasha@shakopeedakota.org></leonard.wabasha@shakopeedakota.org> |  |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Sent:    | Friday, April 19, 2024 1:59 PM                                                                 |  |
| То:      | Britta Bergland                                                                                |  |
| Cc:      | Swenson, Michael GRE-MG                                                                        |  |
| Subject: | RE: EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project               |  |

Thank you, I've heard there are changes taking place at the SHPO, but whatever you send to the SHPO you send to the THPO, after all they are equivalents!

After seeing this information and seeing there are no recorded burials or significant sites I have no concerns... Thank you again and Have a Great Day!



## LEONARD WABASHA

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

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Thank you,

Britta

**Britta Bergland** 612.746.3673 direct 612.472.0329 mobile britta.bergland@merjent.com



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## 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: Britta Bergland <<u>britta.bergland@merjent.com</u>>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 12:55 PM
To: Leonard Wabasha (TO) <<u>leonard.wabasha@shakopeedakota.org</u>>
Cc: Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <<u>mswenson@GREnergy.com</u>>
Subject: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

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Dear Leonard Wabasha,

Great River Energy is proposing to construct approximately 4.3 miles of new double-circuit, 115-kilovolt high voltage transmission line within Laketown and Dahlgren Townships in Carver County, Minnesota (the Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project, or Project). As part of the Project, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative would construct a new distribution substation at the northwest corner of the intersection of County Road 10 and Laketown Road. More information on the Project, along with a Project map, is available in the attached letter and fact sheet.

Great River Energy and Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative are planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in the summer of 2024. Great River Energy would appreciate any

comments that you may have on the Project. Please reach out to Michael Swenson with Great River Energy at 763-445-5979 or MSwenson@GREnergy.com with questions, written comments, or a request for a meeting.

Thank you -

Britta Bergland [on behalf of Michael Swenson, Great River Energy]

## **Britta Bergland**

612.746.3673 direct 612.472.0329 mobile britta.bergland@merjent.com



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

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Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

# DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# 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: Laketown

Project Proposer: Great River Energy

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

Project Type Activities: Tree Removal; Wetland impacts (e.g., dewatering, tiling, drainage, discharge,

excavation, fill, runoff, sedimentation, changes in hydrology)

**TRS:** T115 R24 S1, T115 R24 S12, T115 R24 S2, T115 R24 S3, T115 R24 S4, T116 R24 S27, T116 R24 S28, T116 R24 S33, T116 R24 S34

County(s): Carver

DNR Admin Region(s): Central

Reason Requested: PUC Site or Route Application

Project Description: Transmission line development. Construction methods, timing, TBD

**Existing Land Uses:** Ag, rural, road right of way.

Landcover / Habitat Impacted: Agricultural, forested areas, road rights of way

Waterbodies Affected: TBD - should be spanned

Groundwater Resources Affected: TBD

Previous Natural Heritage Review: No

Previous Habitat Assessments / Surveys: No

# SUMMARY OF AUTOMATED RESULTS

| Category                                         | Results     | Response By Category                |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| Project Details                                  | Comments    | Tree Removal - Recommendations      |
| Ecologically Significant Area                    | Comments    | Protected Wetlands: Calcareous Fens |
| State-Listed Endangered or<br>Threatened Species | No Comments | No Further Review Required          |
| State-Listed Species of Special<br>Concern       | Comments    | Recommendations                     |
| Federally Listed Species                         | Comments    | RPBB High Potential Zone            |

# DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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

November 27, 2023

Project ID: MCE #2023-00902

Mandy Bohnenblust Merjent, Inc. 1 Main Street SE, Suite 300 Minneapolis, MN 55414

RE: Automated Natural Heritage Review of the proposed Laketown See Cover Page for location and project details.

Dear Mandy Bohnenblust,

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 endangered northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), can be found throughout Minnesota. During the active season (approximately April-November) bats roost underneath bark, in cavities, or in crevices of both live and dead trees. 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 from June 1 through August 15.

## 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 activities within the fen, activities that affect surface water flows (e.g., stormwater flow/runoff, erosion), or activities that affect groundwater hydrology (e.g., groundwater pumping, contamination, or discharge). For more information regarding calcareous fens, please see the <u>Calcareous Fen Fact Sheet</u>. To minimize stormwater impacts, please refer to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's <u>General Principles for Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control</u> in the Minnesota Stormwater Manual. Please note that calcareous fens are "Special Waters"

and a <u>buffer zone</u> 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<br>Group   | Common Name  | Scientific Name       | Water Regime |                                                       | Federal<br>Status |
|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Vertebrate<br>Animal | Least Darter | Etheostoma microperca |              | Littoral Zone of Lake,<br>Small Rivers and<br>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 <u>DNR Rare Species Guide</u> 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 <u>DNR Regional Nongame Specialist</u> or <u>Regional Ecologist</u>. Species-specific comments, if any, appear below.

# Federally Listed Species

• The area of interest overlaps with a U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Rusty Patched Bumble Bee High Potential Zone. The rusty patched bumble bee (Bombus affinis) is federally listed as endangered and is likely to be present in suitable habitat within High Potential Zones. From April through October this species uses underground nests in upland grasslands, shrublands, and forest edges, and forages where nectar and pollen are available. From October through April the species overwinters under tree litter in upland forests and woodlands. The rusty patched bumble bee may be impacted by a variety of land management activities including, but not limited to, prescribed fire, treeremoval, having, grazing, herbicide use, pesticide use, land-clearing, soil disturbance or compaction, or use of non-native bees. If applicable, the DNR recommends reseeding disturbed soils with native species of grasses and forbs using BWSR Seed Mixes or MnDOT Seed Mixes. 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. Please note that all projects, regardless of whether there is a federal nexus, are subject to federal take prohibitions. The IPaC review will determine if prohibited take is likely to occur and, if not, will generate an automated letter. The USFWS RPBB guidance provides guidance on avoiding impacts to rusty patched bumble bee and a key for determining if actions are likely to affect the species; the determination key can be found in the appendix.

# PUBLIC DOCUMENT - NOT PUBLIC DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED Laketown MCE #: 2023-00902 Page 4 of 6

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

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

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

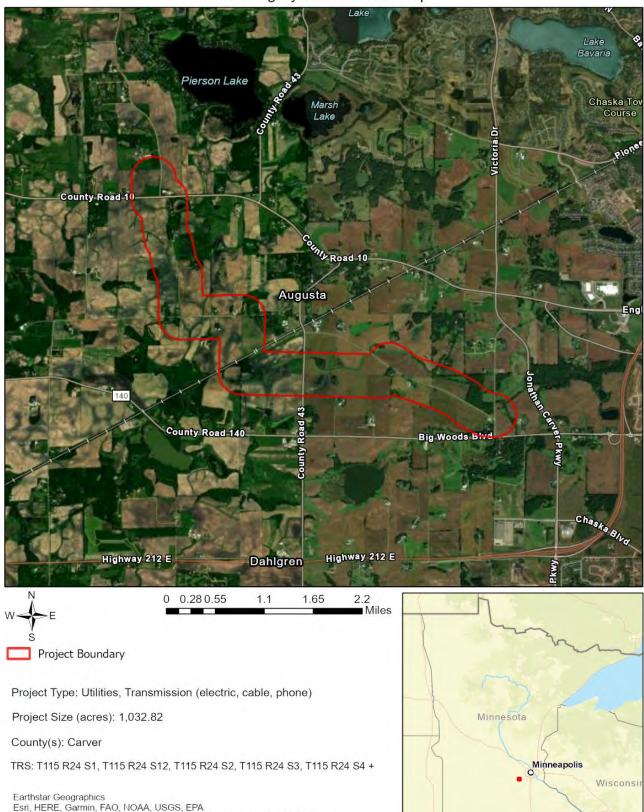
Thank you for consulting us on this matter, and for your interest in preserving Minnesota's rare natural resources.

Sincerely,

Jim Drake Jim Drake

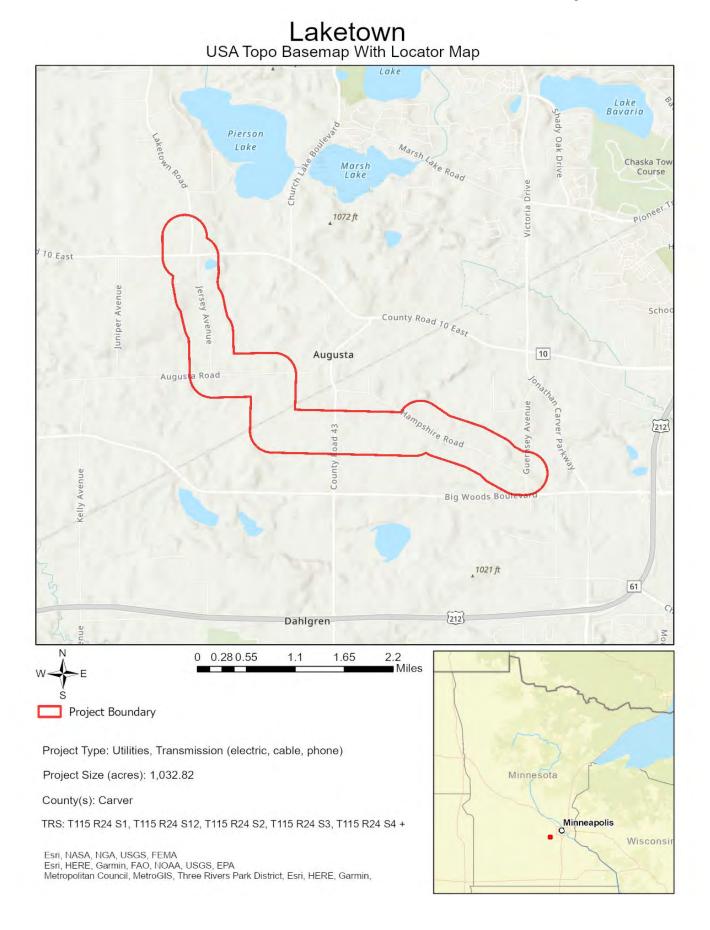
Natural Heritage Review Specialist James.F.Drake@state.mn.us

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



Metropolitan Council, MetroGIS, Three Rivers Park District, Esri, HERE, Garmin,

Laketown Aerial Imagery With Locator Map



| From:        | Collins, Melissa (DNR) <melissa.collins@state.mn.us></melissa.collins@state.mn.us>        |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sent:        | Monday, May 13, 2024 4:26 PM                                                              |
| То:          | Britta Bergland                                                                           |
| Cc:          | Swenson, Michael GRE-MG; Rokala, Joe A (DNR); Fairman, Kate (DNR); Plank, Catherine (DNR) |
| Subject:     | EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project              |
| Attachments: | GRE_Laketown_MDNR_Intro_Letter_Final_20240419.pdf                                         |

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## Hi Britta,

Thank you for reaching out to the DNR for early coordination. We always appreciate the opportunity to weigh in on potential natural resource impacts as early in the planning stages as possible. I reviewed the project information that you sent regarding the Laketown 115 - kV Transmission Line Project located in Carver County. We have no major comments or concerns regarding the proposed route options.

Option 2 route would cross Public Water Wetland (10020400), and would require a DNR Public Waters Work Permit, which can be applied for through the <u>Minnesota DNR Permitting and Reporting System</u> (MPARS). Please be aware that part of our permit review process will require an alternative analysis that examines why other less impactful routes that wouldn't require impacts to a public water wetland were not used.

A DNR Water Appropriation Permit is required if the water pumped exceeds 10,000 gallons in a day, and/or one million gallons in one year. The DNR General Permit for Temporary Appropriation, with its lower permit application fee and reduced time for review, may be used for the dewatering if the dewatering volume is less than 50 million gallons and the time of the appropriation is less than one year. A DNR Water Appropriations Permit can also be applied for using MPARS.

It appears that portions of Option 1 would be located within the shoreland of public watercourses, Unnamed Creek (M-055-020-001) and Unnamed Creek (M-055-020-001), both tributaries of Chaska Creek. Please refer to local shoreland ordinances for any rules or restrictions that would apply to this alternative. Option 1 would also require a DNR license to cross a public watercourse.

We appreciated that the proposed route options have minimal natural resource impacts and/or follow existing routes and roads. Please be aware that the project area is within a *High Potential Zone* for the federally-endangered, rusty-patched bumble bee. Therefore, we recommend initiating coordination with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the Information for Planning and Consultation <u>website</u>.

Please note that Cynthia Warzecha has retired, and Kate Fairman is covering her role until a new DNR energy planner can be hired. Please cc Kate on all communication for this project and let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

# Melissa Collins Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist | Ecological and Water Resources Pronouns: She/her/hers

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

1200 Warner Road St. Paul, MN 55106 Phone: 651-259-5755 Email: <u>melissa.collins@state.mn.us</u> <u>mndnr.gov</u>

M DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



From: Warzecha, Cynthia (DNR) <cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 2:45 PM
To: Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>; Collins, Melissa (DNR) <Melissa.Collins@state.mn.us>
Cc: Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <mswenson@GREnergy.com>; Rokala, Joe A (DNR) <joe.rokala@state.mn.us>
Subject: RE: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

#### Hi Britta,

We have received your early coordination request for GRE's Laketown Transmission Line Project. Please coordinate with Melissa Collins, the Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist in the DNR's Central Region, for early coordination. Melissa may need shapefiles to facilitate her review. Due to staffing changes, your primary contact after the route permit application has been submitted is currently unknown.

Best regards,

Cynthia Warzecha Energy Projects Planner

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources 500 Lafayette Road St. Paul, MN 55155 Phone: 651-259-5078 Email: <u>cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us</u>





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

Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 11:58 AM

To: Collins, Melissa (DNR) <<u>Melissa.Collins@state.mn.us</u>>; Warzecha, Cynthia (DNR) <<u>cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us</u>> Cc: Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <<u>mswenson@GREnergy.com</u>>; Rokala, Joe A (DNR) <<u>joe.rokala@state.mn.us</u>> Subject: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

This message may be from an external email source. Do not select links or open attachments unless verified. Report all suspicious emails to Minnesota IT Services Security Operations Center. Dear Melissa Collins and Cynthia Warzecha,

Great River Energy is proposing to construct approximately 4.3 miles of new double-circuit, 115-kilovolt high voltage transmission line within Laketown and Dahlgren Townships in Carver County, Minnesota (the Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project, or Project). As part of the Project, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative would construct a new distribution substation at the northwest corner of the intersection of County Road 10 and Laketown Road. More information on the Project, along with a Project map, is available in the attached letter and fact sheet.

Great River Energy and Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative are planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in the summer of 2024. Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project. Please reach out to Michael Swenson with Great River Energy at 763-445-5979 or <u>MSwenson@GREnergy.com</u> with questions, written comments, or a request for a meeting.

Thank you –

Britta Bergland [on behalf of Michael Swenson, Great River Energy]

# Britta Bergland

612.746.3673 direct 612.472.0329 mobile <u>britta.bergland@merjent.com</u>



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Minnesota Department of Health

| From:        | Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <mswenson@grenergy.com></mswenson@grenergy.com>  |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sent:        | Friday, April 19, 2024 4:34 PM                                           |
| То:          | Britta Bergland                                                          |
| Subject:     | EXTERNAL: Fwd: Great River Energy - Laketown HVTL Project - MDH Comments |
| Attachments: | MDH-GRE Laketown HVTL Comments.pdf                                       |

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Michael Swenson, CMWP Transmission Permitting Specialist Great River Energy Direct: 763-445-5979 | Cell: 952-807-4537 mswenson@grenergy.com

From: Shea, Abby (She/Her/Hers) (MDH) <Abby.Shea@state.mn.us>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 4:28:15 PM
To: Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <mswenson@GREnergy.com>
Cc: Munsell, Anneka (She/Her/Hers) (MDH) <Anneka.Munsell@state.mn.us>; Wettlaufer, Mark (MDH)
<mark.wettlaufer@state.mn.us>; Richter, Dereck (He/Him/His) (MDH) <dereck.richter@state.mn.us>; Nielsen, Danielle
(MDH) <Danielle.Nielsen@state.mn.us>
Subject: Great River Energy - Laketown HVTL Project - MDH Comments

# 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.

Good afternoon,

Please find attached comments from the Minnesota Department of Health's Source Water Protection Unit regarding the proposed high voltage transmission line project in Carver County, MN.

Sincerely,

Abby Shea Principal Planner, Metro District | Source Water Protection Unit

Minnesota Department of Health Office: 651-201-4386 | Mobile: 651-396-0018



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# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Protecting, Maintaining and Improving the Health of All Minnesotans

April 19, 2024

Michael Swenson, Transmission Permitting Specialist Great River Energy 12300 Elm Creek Boulevard Maple Grove, MN 55369 <u>MSwenson@GREnergy.com</u>

# RE: Written Comments for Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project, Laketown and Dahlgren Townships, Carver County, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Swenson,

This letter is in response to your notification on April 19, 2024, regarding Great River Energy's proposal to construct approximately 4.3 miles of new double-circuit, 115-kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line within Laketown and Dahlgren Townships in Carver County, Minnesota. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has reviewed the information that was submitted with the notification for potential impacts on the groundwater and drinking water resources that serve the area and support its public health.

Potential impacts of the proposed project include groundwater contamination in the event of a spill and limiting well owners' access to properly maintain and seal wells. In order to ensure that access to clean and sufficient water is available, MDH proposing the following methods to mitigate potential impacts from this project:

- Contact information (name, address, phone number) for all well owners with wells located within 200' of the future line should be identified and cataloged with the well location, for use in the event of a spill or release of hazardous substance. This list of wells should include identification of wells that are not included in the Minnesota Well Index (<u>https://health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/mwi/index.html</u>) and should also be provided to <u>Anneka.Munsell@state.mn.us</u>.
- Drill rigs with masts are typically required to service or seal abandoned wells. The presence of active powerlines near a well can make it difficult or impossible to safely complete this necessary work. The proposed transmission line should be located far enough away from existing wells that safe and legal access for service or sealing with a drill rig is not impacted when the line is active at the maximum proposed voltage. Alternatively, accommodation should be made to well owners to provide an alternative

source of water of similar chemistry and supply, as well as sealing of the existing well in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 103I.301 prior to energizing the transmission line to protect the aquifer.

Thank you for your consideration regarding these proposed mitigation methods. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (651) 201-4386 or <u>abby.shea@state.mn.us</u>. You may also contact the metro area Source Water Protection Hydrologist, Anneka Munsell, at (651) 259-5733 or <u>Anneka.Munsell@state.mn.us</u>.

Sincerely,

Abby Shea, Principal Planner Minnesota Department of Health Source Water Protection Unit PO Box 64975 St. Paul, MN 55164-0975 www.health.state.mn.us

CC: Anneka Munsell, MDH Source Water Protection Unit Mark Wettlaufer, MDH Source Water Protection Unit Dereck Richter, MDH Source Water Protection Unit Danielle Nielsen, MDH Source Water Protection Unit

Minnesota Department of Transportation

| From:    | Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us></stacy.kotch@state.mn.us> |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sent:    | Friday, April 26, 2024 10:49 AM                                               |
| То:      | Swenson, Michael GRE-MG                                                       |
| Cc:      | Britta Bergland                                                               |
| Subject: | EXTERNAL: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project      |

# CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Good Morning Michael,

MnDOT has reviewed the information provided regarding the above-mentioned Project and offers the following preliminary comments.

As currently shown, the proposed Project does not look to directly intersect with MnDOT rights-of-way. If the Project scope should change to include MnDOT areas of interest, please utilize the helpful links below to begin early coordination with myself and any affected MnDOT Metro District permitting, planning and environmental staff.

Large Energy Facility Project Guidance - MnDOT (state.mn.us) MnDOT Transmission Line Guidelines MnDOT Environmental Requirements Policy and Guidance - Utility Agreements & Permits - MnDOT (state.mn.us) Permit Information and Forms - Utility Agreements & Permits - MnDOT (state.mn.us) Minnesota Rail Viewer Application (MnRail) (arcgis.com) – for the TCWR rail crossing

Thank you for your early outreach. Please contact me with any questions.

Regards,

Stacy Kotch Egstad Utility Routing & Siting Coordinator | Office of Land Management Minnesota Department of Transportation 395 John Ireland Blvd Mailstop 678 St. Paul, MN. 55155 651-358-0786 mndot.gov/



Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office

| From:        | Lacy Lepisto                                           |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Sent:        | Thursday, March 14, 2024 8:48 AM                       |
| То:          | ENReviewSHPO@state.mn.us                               |
| Cc:          | Britta Bergland; Bill Harding; Swenson, Michael GRE-MG |
| Subject:     | Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project Submittal    |
| Attachments: | GRE_Laketown_Cultural_Phase IA_20240314.pdf            |

Hello,

I have attached the Phase IA letter report of the abovementioned project for your review.

Respectfully,

# Lacy Lepisto (Smith) (she/her) 319.759.3261 mobile

319.759.3261 mobile lacy.smith@merjent.com



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



p 612.746.3660 • f 612.746.3679 • www.merjent.com

March 14, 2024

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

Re: Great River Energy Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project Phase IA Cultural Resources Assessment

Dear Ms. Beimers:

This letter presents the results of a file search completed in support of the Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project (Project) in Carver County, Minnesota. Great River Energy proposes to build a new 115-kilovolt (kV) double-circuit transmission line to power a new Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative (Minnesota Valley) distribution substation at the northwest corner of the intersection of Carver County Road 10 and Laketown Road in Carver County, Minnesota. To assist with Project planning, Merjent, Inc. (Merjent) prepared this letter which includes the results of a file search and recommendations.

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

| County | Township | Range | Sections       |
|--------|----------|-------|----------------|
| Carver | 115N     | 24W   | 1, 2, 3, 4, 12 |
| Carver | 116N     | 24W   | 27, 28, 33, 34 |

The Project route is collocated with existing roads for approximately 2.4 miles and with existing overhead distribution lines for approximately 1.0 mile. Great River Energy will likely seek to locate the new transmission line in the distribution right-of-way in this area.

# **REGULATORY FRAMEWORK**

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

The Minnesota Field Archaeology Act (Minn. Stat § 138.32-138.42) establishes the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA); requires licenses to engage in archaeology on nonfederal public land; establishes ownership, custody, and use of objects and data recovered during survey; and requires state agencies to submit development plans to the OSA, Minnesota State Historic

Page 2 of 5

Preservation Office (SHPO), and the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council for review when there are known or suspected archaeological sites in the area.

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

## Literature Review

On November 27, 2023, Merjent retrieved cultural resources site information (archaeological sites and historic structures) and on January 16, 2024, retrieved previous survey files from the SHPO. Merjent Cultural Resource Specialists reviewed archaeological site files on the OSA online portal, as well as the General Land Office (GLO) maps and available historical aerial photography accessed online through the OSA Portal<sup>1</sup>. Enclosed Figures 1 and 2 show the features discussed below identified during this review.

# BACKGROUND RESEARCH RESULTS

## Previously Recorded Archaeological Resources

According to the OSA and SHPO files, there are three sites within the Study Area that also intersect the Project route. Two sites are alpha sites (21CRm and 21CRd), meaning that they were identified by historic documentation and have not been verified in the field by a professional archaeologist. Due to the imprecise locational information of these sites, alpha site boundaries are likely larger than they would be if the site were physically located.

## [NONPUBLIC DATA BEGINS HERE...

- Site 21CR0087 (**Construction**) is described as a small lithic scatter consisting of two grey chert flakes. According to the site form, the precise location is unknown. Additionally, the site is located in an agricultural field that has been maintained as such since the site's first identification in 1977. Due to this, there is a potential for the flakes to have been moved by agricultural machinery.
- <u>Site 21CRd</u> ( ) is described as a

According to a historic aerial photograph from 1937, this station is located of the Project route<sup>2</sup> along the present Twin Cities and Western Railroad (historically the Chicago Milwaukee Saint Paul and Pacific Railroad), which is crossed by the Project.

• Site 21CRm ( ) is described as a , a small town inhabited in the 1800s. According to historic maps,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> OSA Portal. 2023. <u>https://osa.gisdata.mn.gov/OSAportal. Accessed January 11, 2024.</u>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> OSA Portal. 2023. <u>https://osa.gisdata.mn.gov/OSAportal. Accessed January 11, 2024.</u>

Page 3 of 5

It minimally intersects the Project route on the **sector**. An existing overhead Minnesota Valley distribution line crosses the site at the southerly edge<sup>3</sup>.

| Site Number/Name | Site Type      | Location (TRS) | NRHP Status |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| 21CR0087         | Lithic Scatter |                | Unevaluated |
| 21CRd            |                |                | Unevaluated |
| 21CRm            |                |                | Unevaluated |

## Previously Recorded Archaeological Surveys

No previous archaeological surveys were located within the Study Area.

## Previously Recorded Standing Historic Buildings and Structures

Fifteen historic buildings and structures are located within the Study Area, four of which overlap the Project Area. Three structures share the same location because it is an overlapping section of three railways. These railways were all constructed and operated by the Chicago Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway Company/Chicago Milwaukee St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company. These three routes consist of the Southern Minnesota Division Main Line (XX-RRD-CSP029) constructed in 1866, the Hastings and Dakota Division Mainline (XX-RRD-CSP010) constructed in 1872, and the Hastings and Dakota Division Benton Cutoff (XX-RRD-CSP011) constructed in 1880. XX-RRD-CSP010 and XX-RRD-CSP011 are considered potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP, and XX-RRD-CSP029 was determined not eligible by SHPO on September 10, 2021. The remaining building (CR-LKT-062) is a farmhouse constructed in 1887 which has not been evaluated for listing on the NRHP.

| Property<br>Number/Name | Property<br>Category | Location (TRS) | NRHP Status  |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------|--------------|
| CR-LKT-062              | Building             |                | Unevaluated  |
| XX-RRD-CSP010           | Structure            |                | Eligible     |
| XX-RRD-CSP011           | Structure            |                | Eligible     |
| XX-RRD-CSP029           | Structure            |                | Not Eligible |

The remaining eleven historic buildings and structures will not be impacted due to distance from the Project. The remaining buildings and structures include six farmsteads (CR-CKC-633, CR-LKT-022, CR-LKT-023, CR-LKT-024, CR-LKT-054, CR-LKT-055), five farmhouses (CR-DHL-024, CR-LKT-067, CR-LKT-068, CR-LKT-069), and one bridge (CR-DHL-019). Poles supporting existing Minnesota Valley distribution lines and Great River Energy transmission lines are visible from portions of Guernsey Avenue/Highway 11, Hampshire Road, Jersey Avenue, Augusta Road, and Highway 43. These distribution lines are approximately 0.1- to 0.5-mile from the Project. Where the new 115-kV line is collocated with existing distribution lines, Great River Energy is exploring the possibility of installing the new line in existing right-of-way and including the distribution lines on the new structures. Because the Project is collocated with existing utility and road rights-of-way near these structures, it will not result in an appreciable change in viewshed.

#### ...NONPUBLIC DATA ENDS HERE]

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Historical Maps of Minnesota <u>https://alabamamaps.ua.edu/</u>



#### **General Land Office and Aerial Photo Review**

Merjent reviewed nineteenth-century GLO maps and notes on file with the Bureau of Land Management<sup>4</sup>. The GLO map of the Project Area illustrated conditions in 1870 as being prairie, with many lakes and wetlands and connecting streams and rivers. An unnamed trail is present south of Augusta and north of Hampshire Road. The trail does not intersect the Project route. Aerial photographs from 1937 show that roads and the railroad have been constructed and farms have been established, with agricultural fields dominating the landscape. There is no trace of the GLO trail on historic aerials; by 1937 it had been superseded by roads and agricultural fields. Subsequent historic and modern aerial photographs show that the landscape of the Project area has remained largely the same since that time, with roads being the main addition to the area.

#### SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Three archaeological sites and fifteen historic buildings and structures were identified within the Study Area. There is potential for Historic-period sites within the Project Area because the area has been inhabited at least since the 1930s; however, given that the Project is an overhead transmission line proposed partially within already disturbed rights-of-way, there is a low potential for intact historic sites. Mn Model4 indicates that the Project's Area of Potential Effect has a low site potential, and although no survey has occurred in the areas impacted by the Project, the larger general area has been well surveyed. The Project area could contain precontact sites given its location near several water sources. Given that the Project is located in an area with several existing overhead distribution lines and will be constructed along and within areas of previous disturbance such as existing rights-of-way and agricultural fields, Merjent recommends no survey required ahead of Project construction.

If human remains are encountered during construction activities, all ground disturbing activity must cease, and local law enforcement must be notified per Minn. Stat § 307.08. GRE will also develop an Unanticipated Discoveries Plan for the Project.

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

Sincerely, Merjent, Inc.

Lacy Lepisto Cultural Resource Specialist

Enclosed: Figure 1 Topographic Map (*Contains Confidential and Privileged Information*) Figure 2 Aerial Map (*Contains Confidential and Privileged Information*)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records. 2024. https://glorecords.blm.gov/



Page 5 of 5

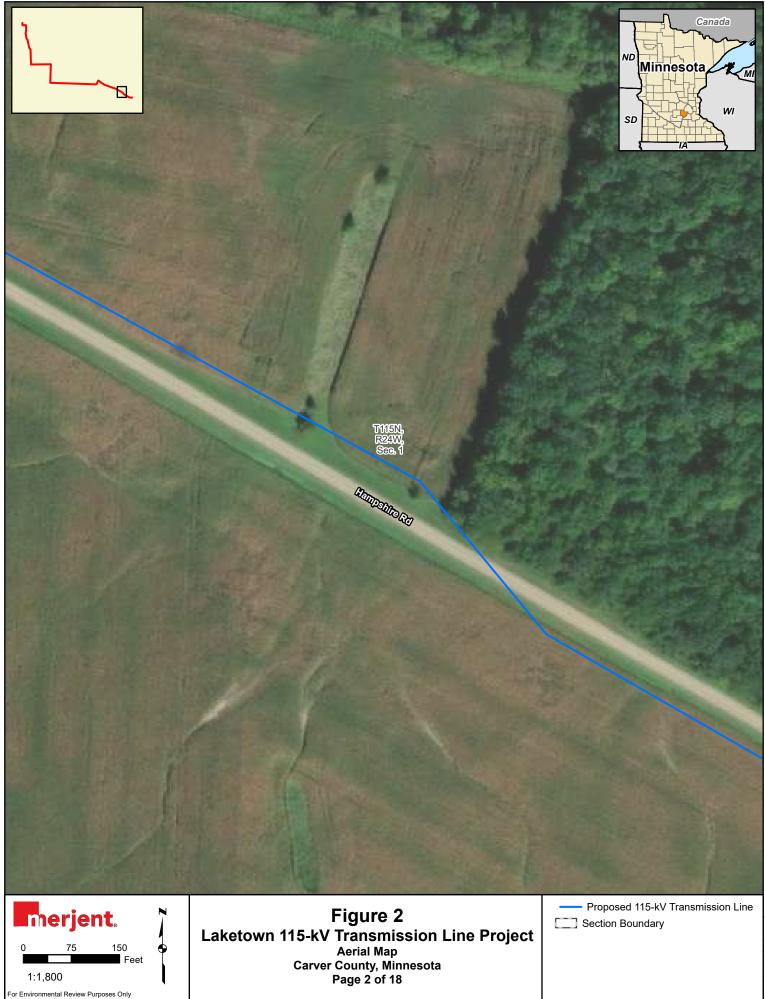
cc: Michael Swenson, Great River Energy Britta Bergland, Merjent Bill Harding, Merjent



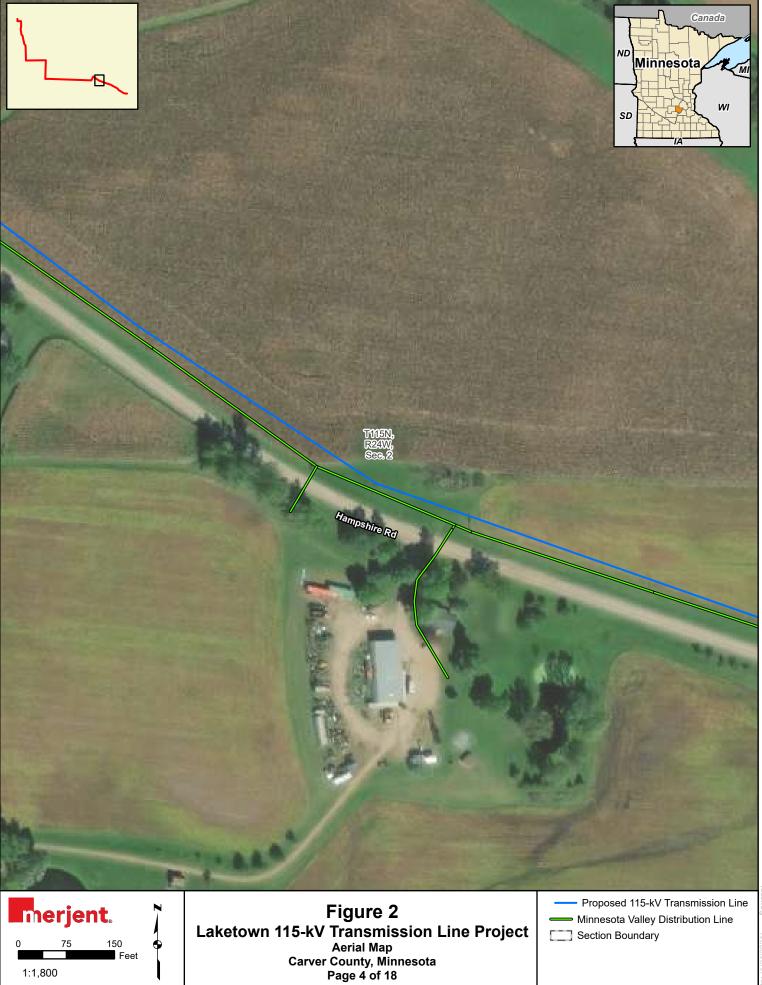
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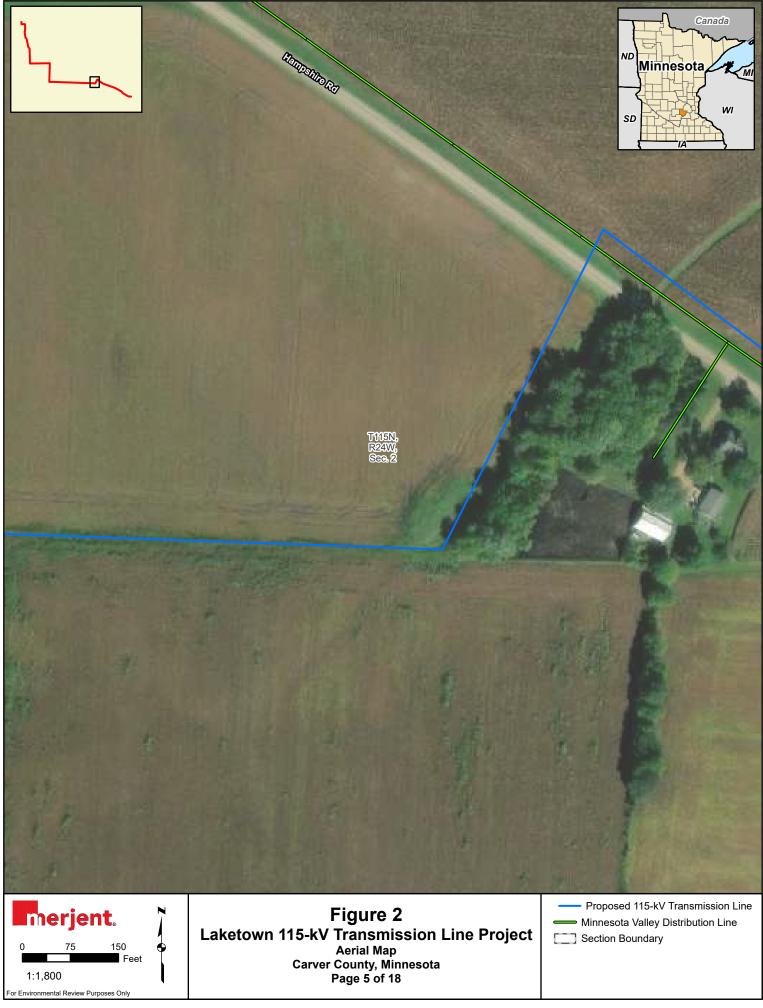


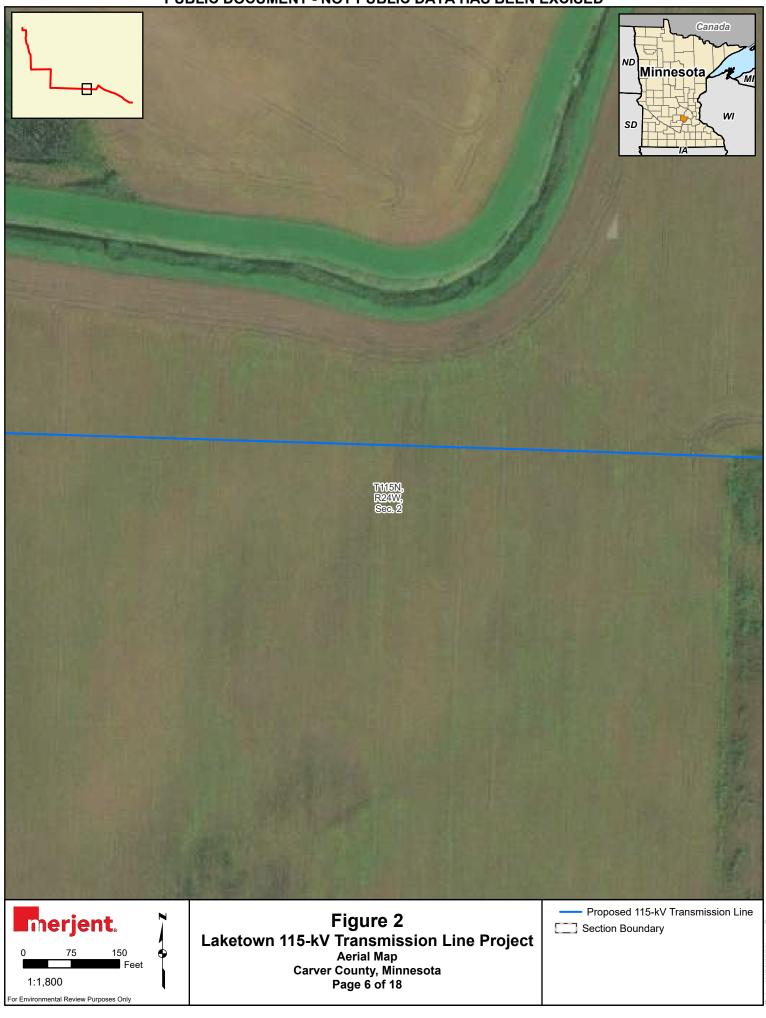


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or Environmental Review Purposes Only

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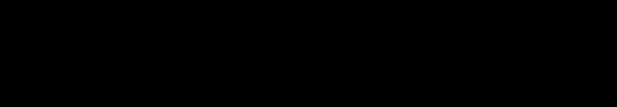


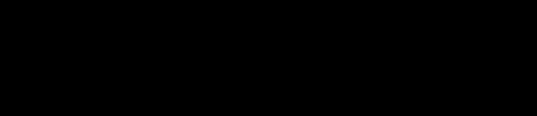
PUBLIC DOCUMENT - NOT PUBLIC DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED





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From:Lacy LepistoSent:Wednesday, May 15, 2024 8:37 AMTo:Bill Harding; Britta Bergland; Swenson, Michael GRE-MGSubject:Fw: EXTERNAL: SHPO No 2024-1298 Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project SubmittalAttachments:2024-1298.pdf

From: GraggJohnson, Kelly (ADM) <kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2024 6:12 PM
To: Lacy Lepisto <lacy.lepisto@merjent.com>
Subject: EXTERNAL: SHPO No 2024-1298 Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project Submittal

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Lacy – Here is the SHPO comment letter for this project. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Kelly



Kelly Gragg-Johnson (she/her/hers) | Environmental Review Program Specialist 50 Sherburne Avenue, Suite 203 Saint Paul, MN 55155 (651) 201-3285 | kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us

Please reference this <u>SHPO Environmental Review Program Update</u> regarding current project review timelines and staffing changes for the Environmental Review Program.

From: Lacy Lepisto <lacy.lepisto@merjent.com>

Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2024 8:48 AM

To: MN\_ADM\_ENV Review SHPO <ENReviewSHPO@state.mn.us>

Cc: Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>; Bill Harding <bill.harding@merjent.com>; Swenson, Michael GRE-

#### MG <mswenson@GREnergy.com> Subject: Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project Submittal

You don't often get email from lacy.lepisto@merjent.com. Learn why this is important

This message may be from an external email source. Do not select links or open attachments unless verified. Report all suspicious emails to Minnesota IT Services Security Operations Center.

Hello,

I have attached the Phase IA letter report of the abovementioned project for your review.

Respectfully,

Lacy Lepisto (Smith) (she/her) 319.759.3261 mobile lacy.smith@merjent.com



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

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May 14, 2024

Lacy Lepisto Cultural Resource Specialist Merjent 1 Main Street SE, Suite 300 Minneapolis, MN 55414

RE: Great River Energy Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project Carver County SHPO No 2024-1298

Dear Lacy Lepisto:

Thank you for consulting with our office on the above-referenced project. It has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Office by the Minnesota Historic Sites Act (Minn. Stat. 138.665-666) and the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act (Minn. Stat. 138.40).

According to your March 14, 2024 submittal, Great River Energy is proposing to construct a new 115 kV double-circuit transmission line to power a new Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative distribution station in Carver County. We have reviewed the *Phase Ia Cultural Resources Assessment* (March 14, 2024, Merjent) that was prepared for this project. We do not agree with your assessment that an archaeological survey is not necessary for this project. Rather, due to the nature and location of the proposed project, we recommend that a Phase I archaeological survey be completed. The survey must meet the requirements of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Identification and Evaluation and should include an evaluation of National Register eligibility for any properties that are identified.

We will reconsider the need for survey if the project area can be documented as previously surveyed or disturbed. Any previous survey work must meet contemporary standards. **Note:** plowed areas and right-of-way are not automatically considered disturbed. Archaeological sites can remain intact beneath the plow zone and in undisturbed portions of the right-of-way.

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 feel free to contact me with any general questions regarding our comments. I can be reached at 651-201-3285 or <u>kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us</u>. For questions regarding archaeology, please contact Lucy Harrington, Environmental Review Archaeologist, at (651) 201-3283 or <u>lucy.harrington@state.mn.us</u>.

Sincerely,

Kelly Gragg-Johnson

Kelly Gragg-Johnson Environmental Review Program Specialist

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

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND SERVICE PROVIDER

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District

| From:    | Permitting <permitting@minnehahacreek.org></permitting@minnehahacreek.org>                |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sent:    | Friday, April 19, 2024 1:29 PM                                                            |
| То:      | Britta Bergland                                                                           |
| Subject: | EXTERNAL: Automatic reply: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project |

#### **CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Thank you for your email. A member of our permitting team will reach out to you shortly. If you would like to submit a permit application, please visit our online permitting portal (<u>here</u>). Our current rules can be found on our website (<u>here</u>), along with our proposed rule revisions (<u>here</u>). Our rule revisions have been adopted by the Board and will go into effect on **April 29th**. Any permits submitted before that will be reviewed under our current rules.

For urgent inquiries or further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us directly at 952-641-4532.

If you have already been communicating with someone, please reach out directly to them.

Veronica Sannes - vsannes@minnehahacreek.org or 952-641-4580

Trey Jonas - tjonas@minnehahacreek.org or 952-641-4521

Maggie Menden - mmenden@minnehahacreek.org or 952-641-4586

For urgent inquiries or further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us directly at 952-641-4532.

#### **Office Hours:**

M-Th: 8-4:30

F: Office closed to the public, staff available via email

15320 Minnetonka Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55345

**Carver County** 

| From:        | Whitney Schroeder <wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us></wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us>             |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sent:        | Friday, February 2, 2024 3:46 PM                                                        |
| То:          | Lommel, Michelle GRE-MG                                                                 |
| Cc:          | Swenson, Michael GRE-MG; MPruess; Lukkarila, Charles GRE-MG; Green, Joe COOP-MVEC; Luke |
|              | Schwarz; Darin Mielke                                                                   |
| Subject:     | RE: GRE's Laketown project/Carver Co Hwy 10                                             |
| Attachments: | GRE Laketown Project CSAH 10_County Comments_02022024.pdf                               |

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. Hi Michelle,

Please see attached for County comments on the proposed transmission alignment options. Please let us know if you need anything else.

Thanks,

Whitney Schroeder, PE, PTOE | Traffic Engineer Carver County Public Works 11360 Highway 212, Suite 1, Cologne, MN 55322 O: 952.466.5208 | M: 952.254.6918 Email: <u>wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us</u> Web: <u>www.co.carver.mn.us</u>

From: Lommel, Michelle GRE-MG <<u>mlommel@GREnergy.com</u>>
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 9:47 AM
To: Luke Schwarz <<u>lschwarz@co.carver.mn.us</u>>; Darin Mielke <<u>dmielke@co.carver.mn.us</u>>
Cc: Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <<u>mswenson@GREnergy.com</u>>; Pruess, Molly GRE-MG <<u>MPruess@GREnergy.com</u>>; Lukkarila, Charles GRE-MG <<u>chuckl@GREnergy.com</u>>; Green, Joe COOP-MVEC <<u>joeg@mvec.net</u>>
Subject: GRE's Laketown project/Carver Co Hwy 10

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Darin and Luke,

Thanks again for your time to discuss the future Co Hwy 10 expansion and alignment. Our project fact sheet is attached.

If you can provide written comment to GRE so we are aware of the scope and schedule of the County's project, along with any comments on GRE's proposed route options, that would be helpful. Also, if we can get a .kmz or similar file that we could import into our GIS of the concept alignment, we'll better understand how complicated this route option would be.

Let us know if you have any questions or need additional information.

#### Michelle Lommel

Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights

#### **Great River Energy**

12300 Elm Creek Blvd. Maple Grove MN 55369-4718 direct: 763-445-5977 / fax: 763-445-6777 cell: 612-309-6839 / toll-free: 1-888-521-0130 ext. 5977 www.greatriverenergy.com

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CC:

Carver County Public Works 11360 Highway 212, Suite 1 Cologne, MN55322

February 2, 2024

Michelle Lommel Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights 763-445-5977

Delivered via email: Michelle Lommel, <u>mlommel@GREnergy.com</u>

Michael Swenson mswenson@GREnergy.com

Molly Pruess <u>MPruess@GREnergy.com</u>

Charles Lukkarila chuckl@GREnergy.com

Joe Green joeg@mvec.com

Re: Great River **Energy's** (GRE) Laketown Project – Comments on Proposed 115-kv Transmission Line Alignment

The purpose of this letter is to document the comments of Carver County Public Works (the County) on GRE's proposed 115-kv transmission line alignment options. Listed below are comments and information, as requested from GRE, regarding the future roadway project scope and schedule .

- 1. Proposed 115-kv transmission line alignment, received 2/2/24:
  - a. Option 3 is not recommended by the County due its location along County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 10 where the County has major reconstruction involving realignment planned within five to ten years following the transmission line's installation.
  - b. Options 1 or 2 would be preferred; however, Option 2 would still require close coordination with the County's future CSAH 10 realignment project.
  - c. Option 1 appears to have the least impact on County roadways.
- 2. CSAH 10 roadway realignment project:
  - a. The County is in the process of developing the preliminary scope, alignment, and schedule. Those will be shared with GRE once that information is available.

These are the County's comments at this time. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact the staff noted below:

| Whitney Schroeder          | Luke Schwarz               | Darin Mielke                    |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Traffic Engineer           | Engineering Manager        | Assistant Public Works Director |
| Carver County Public Works | Carver County Public Works | Carver County Public Works      |
| 952.466.5208               | 320.766.0156               | 952.466.5222                    |
| wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us | wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us | dmielke@co.carver.mn.us         |

## **CARVER COUNTY**

| From:        | Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <mswenson@grenergy.com></mswenson@grenergy.com> |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sent:        | Monday, February 19, 2024 10:52 AM                                      |
| То:          | Britta Bergland                                                         |
| Subject:     | EXTERNAL: FW: GRE's Laketown project/Carver Co Hwy 10                   |
| Attachments: | 117142_gm_west.dwg                                                      |

#### **CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of Merjent.

CSAH 10 alignment is attached.

Michael Swenson, CMWP Transmission Permitting Specialist Great River Energy Direct: 763-445-5979 | Cell: 952-807-4537 mswenson@grenergy.com

From: Luke Schwarz <lschwarz@co.carver.mn.us>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024 12:24 PM
To: Whitney Schroeder <wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us>; Lommel, Michelle GRE-MG <mlommel@GREnergy.com>
Cc: Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <mswenson@GREnergy.com>; Pruess, Molly GRE-MG <MPruess@GREnergy.com>;
Lukkarila, Charles GRE-MG <chuckl@GREnergy.com>; Green, Joe COOP-MVEC <joeg@mvec.net>; Darin Mielke
<dmielke@co.carver.mn.us>
Subject: Re: GRE's Laketown project/Carver Co Hwy 10

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.

Please see the attached geometrics file for the area in question. Turns out this was not designed with an alignment, but the geometrics should get you on the right path.

Thanks,

#### Luke Schwarz PE

**Engineering Manager** 

**Carver County Public Works** 

Mobile: 320.766.0156

From: Whitney Schroeder <<u>wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us</u>>

Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 3:45 PM

To: <u>mlommel@GREnergy.com</u> <<u>mlommel@GREnergy.com</u>>

Cc: <u>mswenson@GREnergy.com</u> <<u>mswenson@GREnergy.com</u>>; <u>MPruess@GREnergy.com</u> <<u>MPruess@GREnergy.com</u>>;

<u>chuckl@GREnergy.com</u> <<u>chuckl@GREnergy.com</u>>; joeg@mvec.net <<u>joeg@mvec.net</u>>; Luke Schwarz <<u>lschwarz@co.carver.mn.us</u>>; Darin Mielke <<u>dmielke@co.carver.mn.us</u>> **Subject:** RE: GRE's Laketown project/Carver Co Hwy 10

Hi Michelle,

Please see attached for County comments on the proposed transmission alignment options. Please let us know if you need anything else.

Thanks,

Whitney Schroeder, PE, PTOE | Traffic Engineer Carver County Public Works 11360 Highway 212, Suite 1, Cologne, MN 55322 O: 952.466.5208 | M: 952.254.6918 Email: <u>wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us</u> Web: <u>www.co.carver.mn.us</u>

From: Lommel, Michelle GRE-MG <<u>mlommel@GREnergy.com</u>>
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 9:47 AM
To: Luke Schwarz <<u>lschwarz@co.carver.mn.us</u>>; Darin Mielke <<u>dmielke@co.carver.mn.us</u>>
Cc: Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <<u>mswenson@GREnergy.com</u>>; Pruess, Molly GRE-MG <<u>MPruess@GREnergy.com</u>>; Lukkarila, Charles GRE-MG <<u>chuckl@GREnergy.com</u>>; Green, Joe COOP-MVEC <<u>joeg@mvec.net</u>>
Subject: GRE's Laketown project/Carver Co Hwy 10

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Darin and Luke,

Thanks again for your time to discuss the future Co Hwy 10 expansion and alignment. Our project fact sheet is attached.

If you can provide written comment to GRE so we are aware of the scope and schedule of the County's project, along with any comments on GRE's proposed route options, that would be helpful. Also, if we can get a .kmz or similar file that we could import into our GIS of the concept alignment, we'll better understand how complicated this route option would be.

Let us know if you have any questions or need additional information.

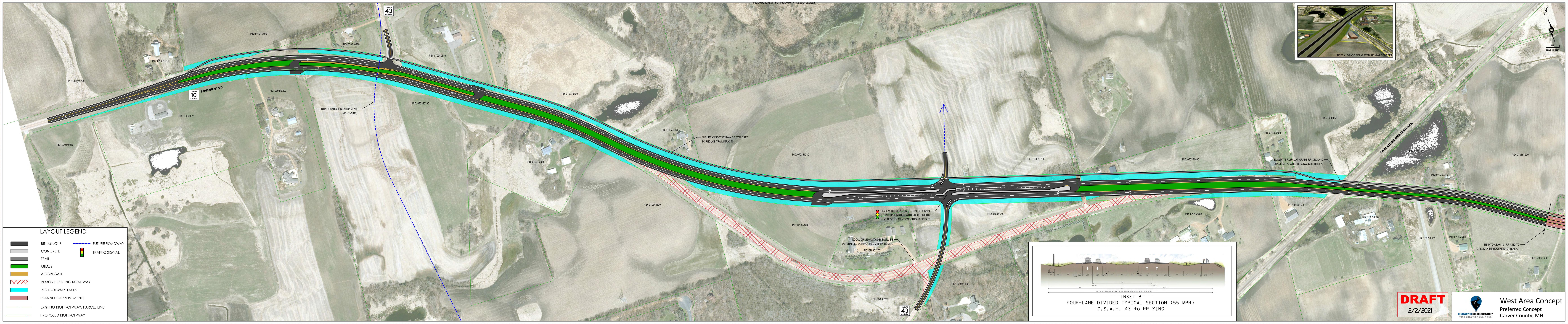
**Michelle Lommel** Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights

#### **Great River Energy**

12300 Elm Creek Blvd. Maple Grove MN 55369-4718 direct: 763-445-5977 / fax: 763-445-6777 cell: 612-309-6839 / toll-free: 1-888-521-0130 ext. 5977 www.greatriverenergy.com

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| From:        | Whitney Schroeder <wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us></wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us>  |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sent:        | Wednesday, May 8, 2024 3:16 PM                                               |
| То:          | Britta Bergland; Swenson, Michael GRE-MG                                     |
| Cc:          | Darin Mielke                                                                 |
| Subject:     | EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project |
| Attachments: | GRE Laketown Project CSAH 10_County Comments_05082024.pdf                    |

#### CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

#### Britta and Michael,

Please see attached for the County's comments on the proposed Laketown 115-kv Transmission Line Project. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Whitney Schroeder, PE, PTOE | Traffic Engineer Carver County Public Works 11360 Highway 212, Suite 1, Cologne, MN 55322 O: 952.466.5208 | M: 952.254.6918 Email: <u>wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us</u> Web: <u>www.co.carver.mn.us</u>

From: Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 10:13 AM
To: Whitney Schroeder <wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us>
Cc: Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <mswenson@GREnergy.com>; Luke Schwarz <lschwarz@co.carver.mn.us>; Darin Mielke
<dmielke@co.carver.mn.us>
Subject: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Whitney Schroeder,

Great River Energy is proposing to construct approximately 4.3 miles of new double-circuit, 115-kilovolt high voltage transmission line within Laketown and Dahlgren Townships in Carver County, Minnesota (the Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project, or Project). As part of the Project, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative would construct a new distribution substation at the northwest corner of the intersection of County Road 10 and Laketown Road. More information on the Project, along with a Project map, is available in the attached letter and fact sheet.

Great River Energy and Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative are planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in the summer of 2024. Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project. Please reach out to Michael Swenson with Great River Energy at 763-445-5979 or <u>MSwenson@GREnergy.com</u> with questions, written comments, or a request for a meeting.

Thank you –

Britta Bergland [on behalf of Michael Swenson, Great River Energy]

**Britta Bergland** 612.746.3673 direct 612.472.0329 mobile britta.bergland@merjent.com



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

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Carver County Public Works 11360 Highway 212, Suite 1 Cologne, MN 55322

May 8, 2024

Michael Swenson Transmission Permitting Specialist 763-445-5979

Delivered via email: Michael Swenson <u>mswenson@GREnergy.com</u>

CC: Britta Bergland britta.bergland@merjent.com

Re: Great River **Energy's (GRE)** Laketown Project – Comments on Proposed 115-kv Transmission Line Project

The purpose of this letter is to document the comments of Carver County Public Works (the County) on GRE's proposed 115-kv transmission line project and fact sheet received on 4/19/24. See below:

- 1. The proposed Option 1 alignment is consistent with County's preference based on the previous review memo dated 2/2/24 and appears to have the least impact on County roadways. The County approves Great River Energy's intent to move forward with Option 1 as the preferred route.
  - a. Option 3 is not recommended due to realignment of CSAH 10 in 5-10 years.
- 2. Once Great River Energy finalizes the preferred alignment, the County would like to review future pole locations to minimize conflicts with future roadway alignments.
- 3. The setback and site grading associated with the proposed substation will need to meet future needs per the County's 2040 Comprehensive Plan for this corridor, which consists of a rural fourlane highway with a trail on the north side. This results in a total future ROW width of 200-220 feet according to the Comprehensive Plan.
- 4. For future CSAH 10 alignment information please refer to the Highway 10 Corridor Study improvement concept layout titled, "Highway 10 Western Subarea West".

These are the County's comments at this time. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact Whitney Schroeder at <u>wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us</u>.

Whitney Schroeder, PE, PTOE Traffic Engineer Carver County Public Works 952-466-5208

# **CARVER COUNTY**

| From:    | Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <mswenson@grenergy.com></mswenson@grenergy.com>      |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sent:    | Thursday, May 9, 2024 9:37 AM                                                |
| То:      | Whitney Schroeder; Britta Bergland                                           |
| Cc:      | Darin Mielke                                                                 |
| Subject: | EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project |

#### **CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Whitney,

Can you provide additional information as to the future setback from CSAH 10 the county would need regarding the substation grading and potential pole placements to cross CSAH 10 near Laketown Road, a shapefile or just an estimate on potential setback from the existing road centerline.

- Mike

Michael Swenson, CMWP Transmission Permitting Specialist Great River Energy Direct: 763-445-5979 | Cell: 952-807-4537 mswenson@grenergy.com

From: Whitney Schroeder <wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us>
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 3:16 PM
To: Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>; Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <mswenson@GREnergy.com>
Cc: Darin Mielke <dmielke@co.carver.mn.us>
Subject: RE: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

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. Britta and Michael,

Please see attached for the County's comments on the proposed Laketown 115-kv Transmission Line Project. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Whitney Schroeder, PE, PTOE | Traffic Engineer Carver County Public Works 11360 Highway 212, Suite 1, Cologne, MN 55322 O: 952.466.5208 | M: 952.254.6918 Email: <u>wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us</u> Web: <u>www.co.carver.mn.us</u>

From: Britta Bergland <<u>britta.bergland@merjent.com</u>>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 10:13 AM
To: Whitney Schroeder <<u>wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us</u>>
Cc: Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <<u>mswenson@GREnergy.com</u>>; Luke Schwarz <<u>lschwarz@co.carver.mn.us</u>>; Darin Mielke
<<u>dmielke@co.carver.mn.us</u>>
Subject: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Whitney Schroeder,

Great River Energy is proposing to construct approximately 4.3 miles of new double-circuit, 115-kilovolt high voltage transmission line within Laketown and Dahlgren Townships in Carver County, Minnesota (the Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project, or Project). As part of the Project, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative would construct a new distribution substation at the northwest corner of the intersection of County Road 10 and Laketown Road. More information on the Project, along with a Project map, is available in the attached letter and fact sheet.

Great River Energy and Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative are planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in the summer of 2024. Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project. Please reach out to Michael Swenson with Great River Energy at 763-445-5979 or <u>MSwenson@GREnergy.com</u> with questions, written comments, or a request for a meeting.

Thank you –

Britta Bergland [on behalf of Michael Swenson, Great River Energy]

**Britta Bergland** 612.746.3673 direct 612.472.0329 mobile britta.bergland@merjent.com



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

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| From:        | Whitney Schroeder <wschroeder@carvercountymn.gov></wschroeder@carvercountymn.gov> |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sent:        | Monday, May 13, 2024 12:23 PM                                                     |
| То:          | Swenson, Michael GRE-MG; Britta Bergland                                          |
| Cc:          | Darin Mielke                                                                      |
| Subject:     | EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project      |
| Attachments: | Pages from Final_Carver County 2040 C.pdf                                         |

#### CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Mike,

My apologies, my previous email had an outdated graphic attached. Please use this one instead for reference.

Thanks,

Whitney Schroeder, PE, PTOE | Traffic Engineer Carver County Public Works 11360 Highway 212, Suite 1, Cologne, MN 55322 O: 952.466.5208 | M: 952.254.6918 Email: <u>wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us</u> Web: <u>www.co.carver.mn.us</u>

From: Whitney Schroeder
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2024 11:04 AM
To: Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <mswenson@GREnergy.com>; Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>
Cc: Darin Mielke <dmielke@carvercountymn.gov>
Subject: RE: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

Hi Mike,

Attached is the 4-lane rural highway graphic from the Comp Plan for you to use as a reference. The required 200' right of way would be centered on the existing highway's centerline.

Hope this helps! Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Thanks,

Whitney Schroeder, PE, PTOE | Traffic Engineer Carver County Public Works 11360 Highway 212, Suite 1, Cologne, MN 55322 O: 952.466.5208 | M: 952.254.6918 Email: <u>wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us</u> Web: <u>www.co.carver.mn.us</u>

From: Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <<u>mswenson@GREnergy.com</u>>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2024 9:37 AM
To: Whitney Schroeder <<u>wschroeder@carvercountymn.gov</u>>; Britta Bergland <<u>britta.bergland@merjent.com</u>>
Cc: Darin Mielke <<u>dmielke@carvercountymn.gov</u>>
Subject: RE: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

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- Mike

Michael Swenson, CMWP Transmission Permitting Specialist Great River Energy Direct: 763-445-5979 | Cell: 952-807-4537 mswenson@grenergy.com

From: Whitney Schroeder <<u>wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us</u>>
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 3:16 PM
To: Britta Bergland <<u>britta.bergland@merjent.com</u>>; Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <<u>mswenson@GREnergy.com</u>>
Cc: Darin Mielke <<u>dmielke@co.carver.mn.us</u>>
Subject: RE: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

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Please see attached for the County's comments on the proposed Laketown 115-kv Transmission Line Project. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Whitney Schroeder, PE, PTOE | Traffic Engineer Carver County Public Works 11360 Highway 212, Suite 1, Cologne, MN 55322 O: 952.466.5208 | M: 952.254.6918 Email: <u>wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us</u> Web: <u>www.co.carver.mn.us</u>

From: Britta Bergland <<u>britta.bergland@merjent.com</u>>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 10:13 AM
To: Whitney Schroeder <<u>wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us</u>>
Cc: Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <<u>mswenson@GREnergy.com</u>>; Luke Schwarz <<u>lschwarz@co.carver.mn.us</u>>; Darin Mielke
<<u>dmielke@co.carver.mn.us</u>>
Subject: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

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Dear Whitney Schroeder,

Great River Energy is proposing to construct approximately 4.3 miles of new double-circuit, 115-kilovolt high voltage transmission line within Laketown and Dahlgren Townships in Carver County, Minnesota (the Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project, or Project). As part of the Project, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative would construct a new distribution substation at the northwest corner of the intersection of County Road 10 and Laketown Road. More information on the Project, along with a Project map, is available in the attached letter and fact sheet.

Great River Energy and Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative are planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in the summer of 2024. Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project. Please reach out to Michael Swenson with Great River Energy at 763-445-5979 or <u>MSwenson@GREnergy.com</u> with questions, written comments, or a request for a meeting.

Thank you –

Britta Bergland [on behalf of Michael Swenson, Great River Energy]

## Britta Bergland

612.746.3673 direct 612.472.0329 mobile britta.bergland@merjent.com

## merjent

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4-LANE RURAL - MIDBLOCK

From:Jason Mielke <jmielke@co.carver.mn.us>Sent:Monday, April 29, 2024 8:40 AMTo:Britta BerglandCc:Swenson, Michael GRE-MGSubject:EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

#### CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Britta, Michael,

Would you happen to have any substation detail you could share with us (land Management and the WMO)? Unsure if any WMO requirements for the substation and wetland impacts are covered by the PUC process or the LGU gets involved so want to check on that.

Thank you. Jason

Jason Mielke Carver County Land Use Manager D: 952-361-1817 | O: 952-361-1820 www.carvercountymn.gov

Carver County Public Services Division Land Management Department Government Center, Admin Bldg 600 East 4th Street Chaska, MN 55318-2101

From: Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 10:08 AM
To: Land Management <LandManagement@co.carver.mn.us>
Cc: Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <mswenson@GREnergy.com>
Subject: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Jason Mielke,

Great River Energy is proposing to construct approximately 4.3 miles of new double-circuit, 115-kilovolt high voltage transmission line within Laketown and Dahlgren Townships in Carver County, Minnesota (the Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project, or Project). As part of the Project, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative would construct a new distribution substation at the northwest corner of the intersection of County Road 10 and Laketown Road. More information on the Project, along with a Project map, is available in the attached letter and fact sheet.

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comments that you may have on the Project. Please reach out to Michael Swenson with Great River Energy at 763-445-5979 or <u>MSwenson@GREnergy.com</u> with questions, written comments, or a request for a meeting.

Thank you –

Britta Bergland [on behalf of Michael Swenson, Great River Energy]

Britta Bergland 612.746.3673 direct 612.472.0329 mobile britta.bergland@merjent.com



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| From:        | Jason Mielke <jmielke@co.carver.mn.us></jmielke@co.carver.mn.us>             |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sent:        | Tuesday, April 30, 2024 11:42 AM                                             |
| То:          | Swenson, Michael GRE-MG                                                      |
| Cc:          | Britta Bergland; Paul Moline; Kristen Larson; Chad Braun                     |
| Subject:     | EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project |
| Attachments: | GRE_Laketown_Carver Co Land Management_Intro_Letter_Final_20240419.pdf       |

#### CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

#### Good morning, Michael,

•

Based on my previous conversations with MVEC Representatives and the Great Rivers Energy Team, it is my understanding this project (transmission line and distribution substation) fall under the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) permitting authority. Just for clarification purposes, your informational project outline states, "Great River Energy will work with county, state and federal agencies to secure any other required environmental or construction and road crossing permits."

- What are some permitting examples here?
  - And based on the PUC approval, is the substation portion of the project exempt from:
    - Local conditional use permit process?
    - State Building Code?
- The substation access would be permitted through the Carver County Public Works Department.
  - o Chad Braun, Transportation Engineering Specialist <u>cbraun@co.carver.mn.us</u>

If the entire project follows the PUC permitting authority and exempts the local land use authority, the Carver County Land Management Department has no additional comments.

I'm also including the **following comments** from our Carver County Water Management Organization (CCWMO) pertaining to water management and permitting. Questions pertaining to the CCWMO's review process or authority should be directed to Paul Moline <u>pmoline@co.carver.mn.us</u> or Kristen Larson <u>klarson@co.carver.mn.us</u>

- Work will require an **erosion and sediment control permit** if the total disturbed area is greater than 1 acre or if any amount of disturbance is located within a sensitive area.
- Work will require a **combined ESC and stormwater permit** if the **substation site** total new impervious is greater than 1 acre or if 10,000 square feet of impervious surface is located within a sensitive area.
- Sensitive areas are defined as areas that are within 50 feet of and drain to one or more of the following resources: DNR protected waters, watercourses, designated floodplain, bluffs and bluff tops, wellhead protection areas, delineated wetland boundaries or other areas displaying wetland characteristics (hydric soils, hydrophytic vegetation, hydrology).
- Additional information on ESC, stormwater, and wetland permitting can be found on the County's website here: <u>https://www.carvercountymn.gov/departments/public-services/planning-water-management/water-management/permits</u>
- **Temporary or permanent impacts to wetlands** requires permitting under the Wetland Conservation Act. Carver County acts at the WCA LGU for all townships in the county.
- Please provide a **location map**, **site plan**, and **summary information** on the total new impervious and total disturbed area for the proposed project so county staff can assist with determining permit needs.

Thank you for allowing questions and comments.

Jason Mielke Carver County Land Use Manager D: 952-361-1817 | O: 952-361-1820 www.carvercountymn.gov

Carver County Public Services Division Land Management Department Government Center, Admin Bldg 600 East 4th Street Chaska, MN 55318-2101

From: Britta Bergland <britta.bergland@merjent.com>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 10:08 AM
To: Land Management <LandManagement@co.carver.mn.us>
Cc: Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <mswenson@GREnergy.com>
Subject: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Jason Mielke,

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Thank you -

Britta Bergland [on behalf of Michael Swenson, Great River Energy]

**Britta Bergland** 612.746.3673 direct 612.472.0329 mobile britta.bergland@merjent.com

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| From:        | Swenson, Michael GRE-MG                                                      |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| To:          | Jason Mielke                                                                 |
| Cc:          | Britta Bergland; Paul Moline; Kristen Larson; Chad Braun                     |
| Subject:     | EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project |
| Date:        | Monday, June 10, 2024 2:55:23 PM                                             |
| Attachments: | image001.png                                                                 |

## CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

#### Jason,

The PUC's permitting authority to supersede/preempt local permitting is defined in Minn. Stat. § 216E.10. In part this states that the route permit "shall supersede and preempt all zoning, building, or land use rules, regulations, or ordinances promulgated by regional, county, local and special purpose government." (Link to the statute - <u>https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/216E.10</u>). This preemption does not include state or federal permits required for construction. Examples of permits that may be required includes but is not limited to:

- Wetland Conservation Act Permitting (which is administered by local government but is state law)
- DNR utility crossing licenses
- DNR public water works permits
- MN DOT crossing permits
- NPDES/SDS permitting
- Federal Clean Water Act permitting

The issuance of a route permit would preempt local conditional use permitting and building permits. Additionally, local stormwater requirements would be preempted by the route permit. Notwithstanding, the County as a local shareholder and regulatory authority, is highly encouraged to participate and provide comment on routing and siting at public hearings and throughout the entire permitting process to inform the PUC of local permitting and design requirements.

Regarding wetland conservation act permitting, the transmission line would be looking to utilize the federal permits exemption for utilities. As the project progresses, we will be developing additional resources to document compliance with all conditions of the exemption. My understanding from previous projects is the federal utilities exemption does not apply to substation facilities. MVEC will be coordinating with CCWMO if wetland conservation act permitting is required for the substation. We'll provide additional design information to the county as the project progresses.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions or comments.

• Mike

Michael Swenson, CMWP Transmission Permitting Specialist Great River Energy Direct: 763-445-5979 | Cell: 952-807-4537 mswenson@grenergy.com

From: Jason Mielke <jmielke@co.carver.mn.us>

Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 11:41:36 AM

To: Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <<u>mswenson@GREnergy.com</u>>

**Cc:** Britta Bergland <<u>britta.bergland@merjent.com</u>>; Paul Moline <<u>PMoline@co.carver.mn.us</u>>; Kristen Larson <<u>klarson@co.carver.mn.us</u>>; Chad Braun <<u>cbraun@co.carver.mn.us</u>> **Subject:** RE: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

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. Good morning, Michael,

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  - Chad Braun, Transportation Engineering Specialist <u>cbraun@co.carver.mn.us</u>

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displaying wetland characteristics (hydric soils, hydrophytic vegetation, hydrology).

- Additional information on ESC, stormwater, and wetland permitting can be found on the County's website here: <u>https://www.carvercountymn.gov/departments/public-</u> <u>services/planning-water-management/water-management/permits</u>
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- Please provide a **location map**, **site plan**, and **summary information** on the total new impervious and total disturbed area for the proposed project so county staff can assist with determining permit needs.

Thank you for allowing questions and comments.

#### Jason Mielke Carver County Land Use Manager D: 952-361-1817 | O: 952-361-1820 www.carvercountymn.gov

Carver County Public Services Division Land Management Department Government Center, Admin Bldg 600 East 4th Street Chaska, MN 55318-2101

From: Britta Bergland <<u>britta.bergland@merjent.com</u>>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 10:08 AM
To: Land Management <<u>LandManagement@co.carver.mn.us</u>>
Cc: Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <<u>mswenson@GREnergy.com</u>>
Subject: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

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Dear Jason Mielke,

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written comments, or a request for a meeting.

Thank you –

Britta Bergland [on behalf of Michael Swenson, Great River Energy]

#### Britta Bergland

612.746.3673 direct 612.472.0329 mobile britta.bergland@merjent.com

## merjent.

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| From:        | Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <mswenson@grenergy.com></mswenson@grenergy.com> |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sent:        | Tuesday, February 27, 2024 8:57 AM                                      |
| То:          | Britta Bergland; Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG                                  |
| Subject:     | EXTERNAL: FW: Laketown Transmission Line                                |
| Attachments: | Laketown GRE Response Letter.docx                                       |

#### CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Comment letter from the City of Victoria on Laketown is attached.

Michael Swenson, CMWP Transmission Permitting Specialist Great River Energy Direct: 763-445-5979 | Cell: 952-807-4537 mswenson@grenergy.com

From: Brian McCann <bmccann@ci.victoria.mn.us>
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 8:53 AM
To: Lommel, Michelle GRE-MG <mlommel@GREnergy.com>; Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <mswenson@GREnergy.com>
Cc: Cara Geheren <Cara.Geheren@focusengineeringinc.com>; Jenn Brewington <jbrewington@ci.victoria.mn.us>
Subject: RE: Laketown Transmission Line

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Good morning Michelle and Michael,

Thank you for meeting with Cara, Jenn, and I last week. As discussed, we've prepared a response letter regarding the proposed Laketown transmission line. Please see the attached letter and let me know if you have any questions or need anything else from us.

Sincerely,

Brian McCann City of Victoria | City Planner <u>1670 Stieger Lake Lane, PO Box 36 | Victoria, MN 55386</u> P: <u>952-443-4223</u> E: <u>bmccann@ci.victoria.mn.us</u> *Learn more at <u>www.ci.victoria.mn.us</u>* 

From: Brian McCann
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 9:23 AM
To: Lommel, Michelle GRE-MG <<u>mlommel@GREnergy.com</u>>
Subject: RE: Laketown Transmission Line

Hi Michelle,

Thank you for all the information, I really appreciate it. I don't have any other questions at this time. We just wanted to make it known our future plans and potential impacts from Option 2. Hope the open houses went well yesterday, and I apologize again that I wasn't able to attend.

Have a great day,

Brian McCann City of Victoria | City Planner <u>1670 Stieger Lake Lane, PO Box 36 | Victoria, MN 55386</u> P: <u>952-443-4223</u> E: <u>bmccann@ci.victoria.mn.us</u> *Learn more at <u>www.ci.victoria.mn.us</u>* 

From: Lommel, Michelle GRE-MG <<u>mlommel@GREnergy.com</u>>
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2024 4:55 PM
To: Brian McCann <<u>bmccann@ci.victoria.mn.us</u>>
Subject: RE: Laketown Transmission Line

You don't often get email from mlommel@grenergy.com. Learn why this is important

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Hi Brian,

Appreciate you reaching out about the project. We won't have a definitive decision soon, although as of now, the route labeled as Option 1 has some preference for us based on our initial analysis, although all routes are being considered at this time. All input will be an important consideration, and we will do further research on the annexation agreement, although we are aware of some of the future development in that area. All the comments and numerous other factors will be taken into consideration in making our decision on one route to apply for.

Municipalities, Townships and Carver County certainly have an equal chance to provide comments. And once the route permit process begins with the Department of Commerce, there will be multiple opportunities to provide comment which will become part of the record. The Public Utilities Commission will be the permitting authority.

The easement that is needed for this line is 100' wide total (50' on each side of the transmission centerline) and if we were to follow the Xcel line on option 2, it sounds like we would need to be offset from their centerline by 80', so the potential corridor may be a little narrower than you expected.

Since it may be a bit before we have a route chosen, do you want to get back to me with any additional comments or concerns that the City has? And I can follow-up with you on generally how the meeting went if you would like?

Thank you,

**Michelle Lommel** Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights

#### **Great River Energy**

12300 Elm Creek Blvd. Maple Grove MN 55369-4718 direct: 763-445-5977 / fax: 763-445-6777 cell: 612-309-6839 / toll-free: 1-888-521-0130 ext. 5977 www.greatriverenergy.com

From: Brian McCann <<u>bmccann@ci.victoria.mn.us</u>> Sent: Monday, January 22, 2024 3:03 PM To: Lommel, Michelle GRE-MG <<u>mlommel@GREnergy.com</u>> Subject: Laketown Transmission Line

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. Good afternoon Michelle,

The City of Victoria received a copy of your notice in the mail regarding the open houses for a new transmission line through Laketown Township. Is it possible to relay your findings from the open houses tomorrow? Additionally, is there any consideration given to municipalities and their preferred option?

The reason I ask is because Option 2 lays within land that will eventually become Victoria through an annexation agreement with the Township, and this area is anticipated for commercial and industrial development in the near future. If Option 2 is chosen, will the line be adjacent to the existing line, and thus would essentially have a 200' wide easement? This may deter development in an area that the City of Victoria has envisioned for future commercial growth for awhile.

Thank you for your time and I apologize I'm unable to attend the open houses tomorrow. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Brian McCann City of Victoria | City Planner <u>1670 Stieger Lake Lane, PO Box 36 | Victoria, MN 55386</u> P: <u>952-443-4223</u> E: <u>bmccann@ci.victoria.mn.us</u> *Learn more at <u>www.ci.victoria.mn.us</u>* 

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Victoria, MN Est. 1915

February 26, 2024

Great River Energy Attn: Michelle Lommel 12300 Elm Creek Blvd Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718

RE: Laketown Transmission Line

Dear Michelle Lommel,

Thank you for meeting with staff members of the City of Victoria to discuss the proposed transmission line within Laketown Township. As you are now aware, several properties within the proposed transmission path are within future annexation areas that will become part of the City of Victoria (see Ultimate City Boundary map).

The City has the most concern with "Option 2" that was presented, which would run directly adjacent to the existing Xcel Energy power line. Many of the properties within the pathway titled "Option 2" reside within the future commercial and flex-employment growth areas for the city. These properties have been highly anticipated for the last few decades to become the commercial hub for the city. An additional power line and easement adjacent to the existing Xcel Energy power line and easement would severely prohibit development of this highly-anticipated growth area.

As we've discussed, I've overlaid the total potential easement width over the future land use map of the area to visualize the potential impact. The city desperately needs future commercial development to accommodate our growing community, and "Option 2" would severely impact long-awaited development.

Thank you again for the opportunity to meet and discuss the challenges of "Option 2" and we sincerely hope you consider these impacts when deciding the power line transmission route through Laketown Township.

Sincerely,

Brian McCann City Planner, Community Development Department, City of Victoria 952-443-4223, <u>bmccann@ci.victoria.mn.us</u>

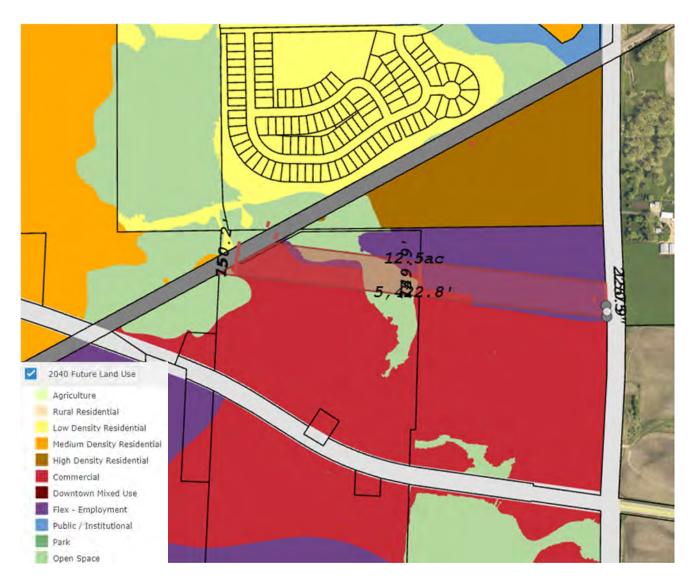
CC: Jenn Brewington, Community & Economic Development Director, City of Victoria Cara Geheren, City Engineer, Focus Engineering, Inc.

City of Lakes and Parks

1670 Stieger Lake Lane, P.O. Box 36 Victoria, MN 55386 (952) 443-4210 www.ci.victoria.mn.us

Victoria, MN Est. 1915

"Option 2" Easement and Impacts to Future Commercial/Flex-Employment Areas



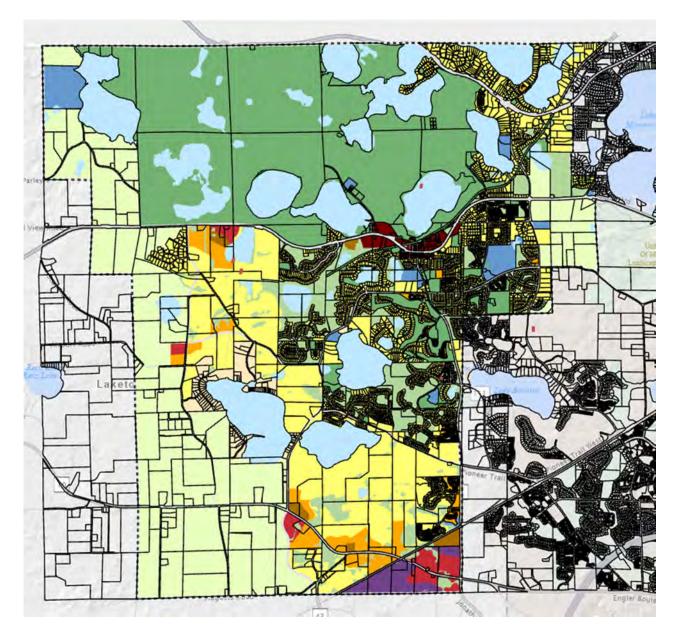
The assumed easement measurements extend 75 feet south and 150 feet north of the existing centerline of the Xcel Energy power line, resulting in an easement width of 225 feet, The total acreage encumbered by easement would be approximately 12.5 acres of anticipated commercial and flex-employment land.

City of Lakes and Parks

1670 Stieger Lake Lane, P.O. Box 36 Victoria, MN 55386 (952) 443-4210 www.ci.victoria.mn.us

Victoria, MN Est. 1915

### **<u>Ultimate City Boundary</u>**



City of Lakes and Parks

1670 Stieger Lake Lane, P.O. Box 36 Victoria, MN 55386 (952) 443-4210 www.ci.victoria.mn.us Laketown Township

From: Clerk Treasurer <<u>Info@laketownmn.gov</u>>
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2024 12:52 PM
To: Joe Green <<u>joeg@mvec.net</u>>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Laketown Township

This message originated from outside your organization

Good afternoon Joe,

Would you be available to provide an overview at a future board meeting regarding the expansion project impacting Laketown Township? and anything in the ROW of Augusta Road as we maintain that townline road.

Monday, July 8th is a 3:00p meeting if that works for you.

Also, if there are any distribution lists we could be added to for updates along the way, we would appreciate it.

Thank you!

--

Office of the Clerk Laketown Township 9530 Laketown Rd Chaska, MN 55318 Office: 952.442.5278 Website: www.LaketownTownship.info

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