APPENDIX A

AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE

GREAT RIVER
ENERGY®

17845 East Highway 10 • P.O. Box 800 • Elk River, Minnesota 55330-0800 • 763-441-3121 • Fax 763-241-2366

15 June 2006

Dr. Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Notice of Intent by Great River Energy to Submit a Route Permit Application under the Alternative Permitting Process

Dear Dr. Haar:

Pursuant to Minn. Rules pt. 4400.2000 Subp.2, this letter serves as notice that Great River Energy intends to submit a Route Permit Application for the Wilson Lake 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Modifications Project in Crow Wing County, Minnesota under the Alternative Permitting processes of Minn. Rules pts. 4400.2000 to 4400.2750.

The Route Permit Application will be submitted simultaneously with the Certificate of Need Application for the project. It is anticipated that the applications will be submitted to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in July 2006.

Please give me a call at 763-241-2272 if you have any questions regarding this notice.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Carole L. Schmidt

Carole L. Schmidt
Environmental Scientist

c: Dale Aukee, GRE

h:\cschmidt\Wilson Lake\PUCnotltr

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1 March 2006

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

RE: Wilson Lake 115 kV Transmission Project

Dear Mr. Groehler:

Great River Energy (GRE) is currently gathering data to be used in preparation of several regulatory applications necessary to obtain approvals and permits for the construction of the proposed Wilson Lake 115 kV Transmission Project in Crow Wing County. The project is needed to meet the growing electrical needs of the area. GRE intends to seek a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission).

The proposed project includes:

- Approximately 12 miles of new overhead 115 kV transmission line in Oak Lawn, Nokay Lake, and Bay Lake townships, Minnesota.
- Modifications at the Mud Lake 115 kV Substation in Oak Lawn Township, MN to accommodate the termination of the new line.
- Expansion of Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative's Wilson Lake Substation in Bay Lake Township to include a new 115/69 kV substation.

GRE has identified a preferred route for the project (see enclosed fact sheet and map), but is evaluating transmission alternatives within the project area (area outlined in orange on the map).

GRE is requesting information on the possible effects of the proposed project on airports or airstrips in the project area. The structures will be 60-75 feet above ground. GRE is aware of a VOR located in Section 29, Nokay Lake Township, and has been in contact with Regina Sabitini of FAA regarding requirements related to VORs.

Your input on the project will assist GRE, our environmental consultant (Houston Engineering), and the Commission in their review of the project.

GRE would appreciate a response to this request by Friday, March 31, 2006. If you require further information or have questions regarding this matter, please feel free to call me at 763-241-2272. If you wish to respond by e-mail, my address is cschmidt@grenergy.com. Thank you for your attention to this important project.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Carole L. Schmidt

Carole L. Schmidt
Environmental Scientist

Enclosure: Fact Sheet/Project Location Map

cc: Bart Schultz, Houston Engineering

h:\cschmidt\Mud Lake-Wilson Lake\WLMNDO

Schmidt, Carole GRE/ER

From: Jim Groehler [Jim.Groehler@dot.state.mn.us]
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2006 11:00 AM
To: Schmidt, Carole GRE/ER
Subject: RE: Proposed Wilson Lake Project near Mille Lacs

Sorry for the delay in getting this response back to you. The original request got lost in my in box. In reviewing the proposed transmission line, it appears it will be in the proximity to a new runway that are building at the Brainerd Lakes Regional Airport. This runway approach will have an instrument approach. It appears that the west edge of the transmission line will end before it enters the approach area. If you have not done so already, I would check with the Brainerd Airport, Steve Sievek is the Airport Manager and his phone number is (218) 825-2166, to see if the line would inter with the approaches for their airport.

>>> "Schmidt, Carole GRE/ER" <cschmidt@grenergy.com> 5/2/2006 8:05 AM
>>> >>>
Hi Jim - I am looking for a response from you guys regarding GRE's proposed the Wilson Lake 115 kV project near Mille Lacs and can't seem to locate one. The letter was sent to you on March 1, 2006. It seems to me that you responded, but I am not sure. I am juggling so many projects at the moment that it's hard to keep track. Could you check for me? Thanks a lot, Jim. Carole

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1 March 2006

Ms. Britta L. Bloomberg
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Minnesota Historical Society
345 Kellogg Blvd. West
St. Paul, MN 55102-1906

RE: Wilson Lake 115 kV Transmission Project

Dear Ms. Bloomberg:

Great River Energy (GRE) is currently gathering data to be used in preparation of several regulatory applications (including an environmental report for RUS) necessary to obtain approvals and permits for the construction of the proposed Wilson Lake 115 kV Transmission Project in Crow Wing County. The project is needed to meet the growing electrical needs of the area. GRE intends to seek a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission).

The proposed project includes:

- Approximately 12 miles of new overhead 115 kV transmission line in Oak Lawn, Nokay Lake, and Bay Lake townships, Minnesota.
- Modifications at the Mud Lake 115 kV Substation in Oak Lawn Township, MN to accommodate the termination of the new line.
- Expansion of Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative's Wilson Lake Substation in Bay Lake Township to include a new 115/69 kV substation.

GRE has identified a preferred route for the project (see enclosed fact sheet and map), but is evaluating transmission alternatives within the project area (area outlined in orange on the map).

GRE is requesting information on the possible effects of the proposed project on historic properties in the project area. Your input on the project will assist GRE, our environmental consultant (Houston Engineering), the RUS, and the Commission in their review of the project.

GRE would appreciate a response to this request by Friday, March 31, 2006. If you require further information or have questions regarding this matter, please feel free to call me at 763-241-2272. If you wish to respond by e-mail, my address is cschmidt@grenergy.com. Thank you for your attention to this important project.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Carole L. Schmidt

Carole L. Schmidt
Environmental Scientist

Enclosure: Fact Sheet/Project Location Map

cc: Bart Schultz, Houston Engineering

h:\cschmidt\Mud Lake-Wilson Lake\WLMHS

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

State Historic Preservation Office

RECEIVED APR 1 0 2006

April 7, 2006

Ms. Carole Schmidt
Great River Energy
PO Box 800
Elk River, MN 55330-0800

Re: Wilson Lake 115 kV Transmission Project
Crow Wing County
SHPO Number: 2006-1450

Dear Ms. Schmidt:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the above project. It has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Officer by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (36CFR800).

The archaeologist position in our office is temporarily vacant. Our compliance staff has completed an initial review of this proposal, and has identified some archaeological potential in the project area. We would recommend that you either 1) complete an archaeological survey of the project area, based on our preliminary review, or 2) obtain a survey assessment of the need for survey from a qualified archaeologist, and let us know their recommendation.

Contact us at 651-296-5462 with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kelly Gragg-Johnson

Dennis A. Gimmestad
Government Programs & Compliance Officer

Rothaus Consulting, LLC
1965 W. Highview Dr.
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
320-251-6682
richard.rothaus@gmail.com

19 July 2006

Wilson Lake 115 kV Project
Cultural Resources Evaluation (First Stage)
Letter Report prepared for Houston Engineering, Inc.

1. Project Description:

The 12 mile transmission line runs from the Mud Lake Substation in Oak Lawn Township to the Wilson Lake Substation on Bay Lake Township (Map 1). The corridor parallels current transmission lines from the Mud Lake substation and along Highway 18, although the exact placement of the corridor has not yet been determined. Single wood poles spaced at an average span of 250-300 feet will be used, with additional pole types, guys, and anchors utilized as necessary at points where the line direction changes. Substations will be contained within existing substation footprints. Ground disturbance will be limited to pole, guy and anchor installations. Approximately 250-300 poles will be installed. Approximately 190 poles will be located in areas suitable for archaeological testing.

2. Project Setting:

This corridor is located NW of Garrison in close proximity to Mille Lacs lake. The western side of Mille Lacs Lake contains some of the highest density of prehistoric, contact, and post-contact archaeological sites in the state of Minnesota. The area has been studied by archaeologists for nearly 100 years, so there is a substantial body of literature to assist current archaeological settings.

Analysis of exiting data and ground-truthing indicate that approximately 3 miles of the corridor lie in wetland areas that cannot be investigated using standard archaeological survey techniques (Maps 2 and 3). Visual inspection of the area indicates a high probability that substantial portion of the corridor will be placed in disturbed soils, although this will have to be verified through soil probes or shovel testing.

3. Known Archaeological Sites:

Ten previously identified archaeological sites are within 2 miles of the proposed corridor (Maps 2 and 3). Four of these sites may contain burial mounds.

21CWao	The age of this prehistoric site is unknown. The site consists of a single grooved stone axe and several mound-like contours that Birk (1979) describes as appearing natural. Birk also states that the mound-like features might have been recorded as mounds by Brower (1900) on the basis of an interview.
21CW0010	The site consists of burial mounds, habitation site and enclosure. A minimum of 19 mounds have been mapped at the site.
21CW0075	The age of this prehistoric site is unknown. Site based on private collection of Gordon Whitman.
21CW0076	This multi-component site consists of several historic Garrison homestead cellar depressions and a prehistoric lithic scatter.
21CW0077	This site is named the Nader Site and is identified as an early/late Woodland/Blackduck habitation site.
21CW0078	This site is named the Bock Site. The age is unknown and based on the private collection of Herman Bock.
21CW0079	This site is named the Butternut Lake Site and is described as a building outline with four small depressions. Cultural affiliation was not determined.
21CW0080	This site is described as being extensive. It is multi-component, consisting of historic and prehistoric materials. Prehistoric cultural affiliation is Archaic to Woodland with possible burial mounds. Historic affiliation is considered to be early 1900s.
21CW0211	The site consists of burial mounds and habitation site. Site is East of area of Map 2 and 3.
21CW0212	Several mounds, some linear, were noted to exist somewhere within the NE quarter of section 30 by Wilford in 1939. By 1957 many had been destroyed by potting and the construction of a small resort (Wilford). The site was field checked by Mike Budak and Mary Graves in 1978 but they were unable to locate any of the mounds described by Wilford. The status of the mounds remains unknown. Site is East of area of Map 2 and 3.

No habitation is noted in the project area on the 1858-1859 Original Land Survey of Minnesota. Highway 18 was an established road by 1878 (Andreas, A. T., 1874. *An Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Minnesota*).

4. Archaeological Probability:

The entire corridor lies in an area of high archaeological potential for prehistoric and historic archaeological sites. Additionally, the 7 miles of the corridor that runs between existing lakes has extremely high prehistoric archaeological potential. Lake levels in prehistoric times may have been higher, increasing the likelihood of archeological sites along the corridor.

The corridor area should thus be investigated with appropriate techniques.

5. Proposed Archaeological Survey:

The total corridor length is 12 miles and the entire area has strong archaeological potential, but 3 of these miles are in wet areas that cannot be tested using standard archaeological techniques. Thus 9 miles of the corridor will need to be surveyed, 7 miles of which are in areas of very high archaeological potential. Visual inspection of the corridor suggests that much of the area has already been substantially disturbed by previous construction (including road construction).

Because the poles are so widely spaced, and because portions of the area may have been previously disturbed, a three-step method is suggested. Each pole location, and any other location where there may be ground disturbance, will be individually tested.

Please note that for this survey methodology to be successful, the contracting agency must provide the archaeologists with precise pole locations to be tested. Results will be valid only for tested locations, not the entire corridor (i.e. if pole locations are changed, additional testing may be necessary).

Survey method:

1) Visual inspection. If area is wetland and untestable, stop. Otherwise step 2.

2) Soil probe. Manual soil probe to assess landform, assess soil integrity, and to check for buried soil horizons. If soil integrity or buried horizons are indicated, go to step 3.

3) Shovel tests. Standard shovel test techniques to assess landform, assess soil integrity, check for buried soil horizons, and test for presence of archaeological materials

Preliminary analysis of GIS data indicates that approximately 130 soil probes and 95 shovel tests will need to be made. These numbers may change pending results of field examinations.

If Archaeological materials are found:

1)Conduct up to 4 more shovel tests in immediate vicinity to locate site boundaries and/or find alternate pole locations.

2)If human remains are encountered, all ground disturbing investigations in proximity will stop, and contact will be made with a)Client, b)Law enforcement, c)Office of the State Archaeologist, d)Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, and e)the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

3)Consult with client about possible alternate pole locations or need for expanded archaeological investigation beyond this survey scope of work.

Buried Features and Burials Warning: These standard archaeological survey techniques cannot always detect buried features (e.g. pits, graves). Moreover, mound and non-mound prehistoric burials are abundant along the west side of Mille Lacs Lake. Inadvertent discoveries (especially burials) can still be encountered in areas determined by the archaeologists to have been disturbed. There have been several incidents in this region of human remains being recovered from fill from burial mounds that had been previously

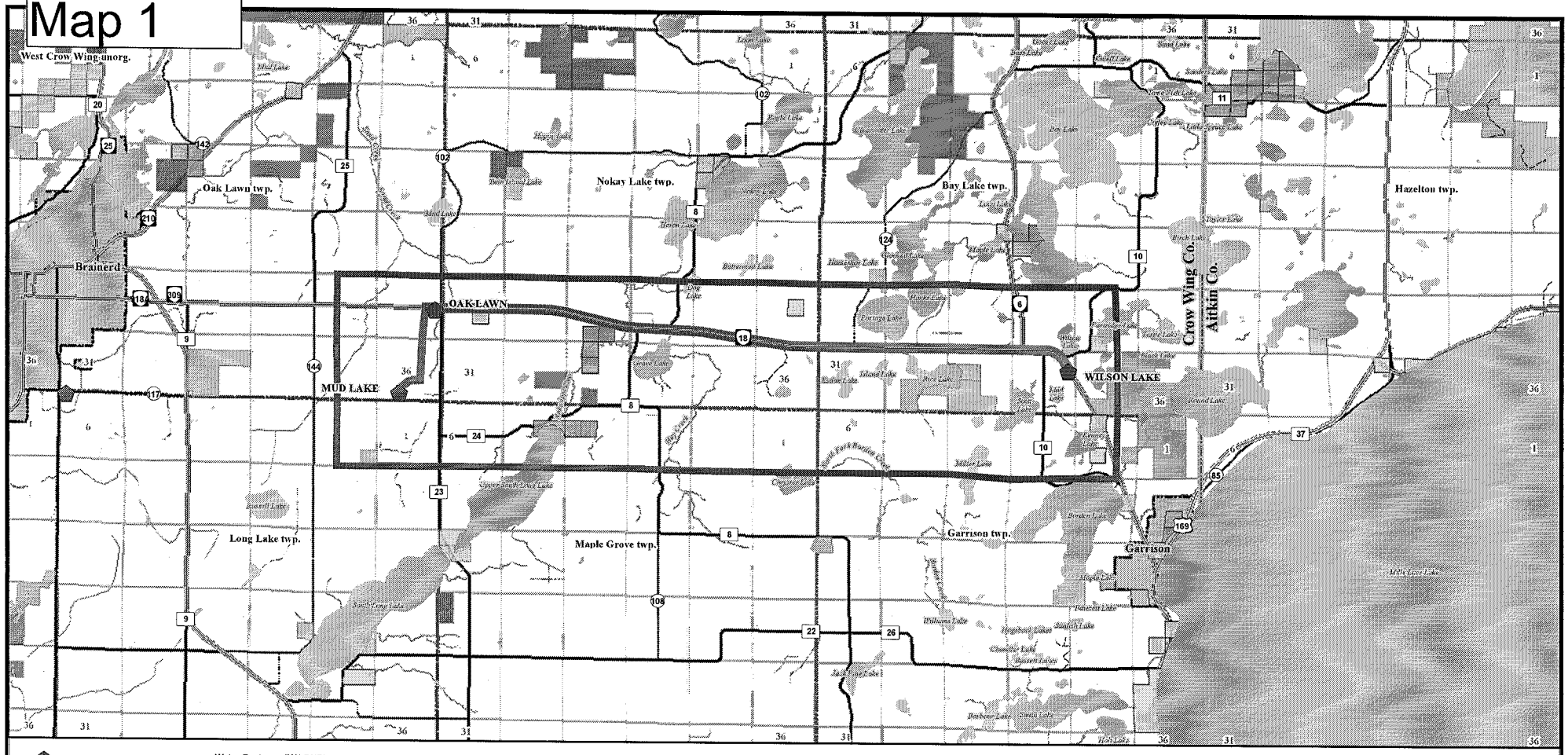
destroyed or disturbed. The archaeological survey proposed here represents a good faith effort to deal with this issue, but an *Inadvertent Discovery Protocol* should be developed and distributed to construction crews. A brief (20 minute) training for field crews by a professional archaeologist is recommended.

Respectfully yours,

Richard M. Rothaus, PhD

Attachments: SHPO letter, Transmission Line Description

Map 1



GRE Substation
Project Area
Proposed Transmission Corridor
Municipality
County Boundary
Civil Township
Section Line

Water Features (MN DNR)
River
Stream or Drainage Ditch (Perennial)
Stream or Drainage Ditch (Intermittent)
Lake or Pond
Island

Roads (MN DOT)
US Highway
MN State Highway
County State-aid Highway
County Road
State Forest Road

Land Ownership
Federal Lands
Major Private Lands
Miscellaneous State Lands
State Land Ownership - Fisheries Land Administration
State Land Ownership - Trails & Waterways Land Administration
State Wildlife Management Area Boundaries

Disclaimer: Houston Engineering, Inc. does not guarantee this data to be free from errors or inaccuracies and disclaims any responsibility or liability for interpretations or decisions based on this data. Any errors found should be reported to the original data source provider.

Data Source: MN DNR & MN DOT. Project Area and Proposed Transmission Corridor shapefiles provided by United Services Group - Great River Energy.

N W E S

i 0.5 0 1 2 3 Miles

1 inch equals 1.5 miles

Great River Energy - Wilson Lake Transmission Line

GREAT RIVER ENERGY®
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

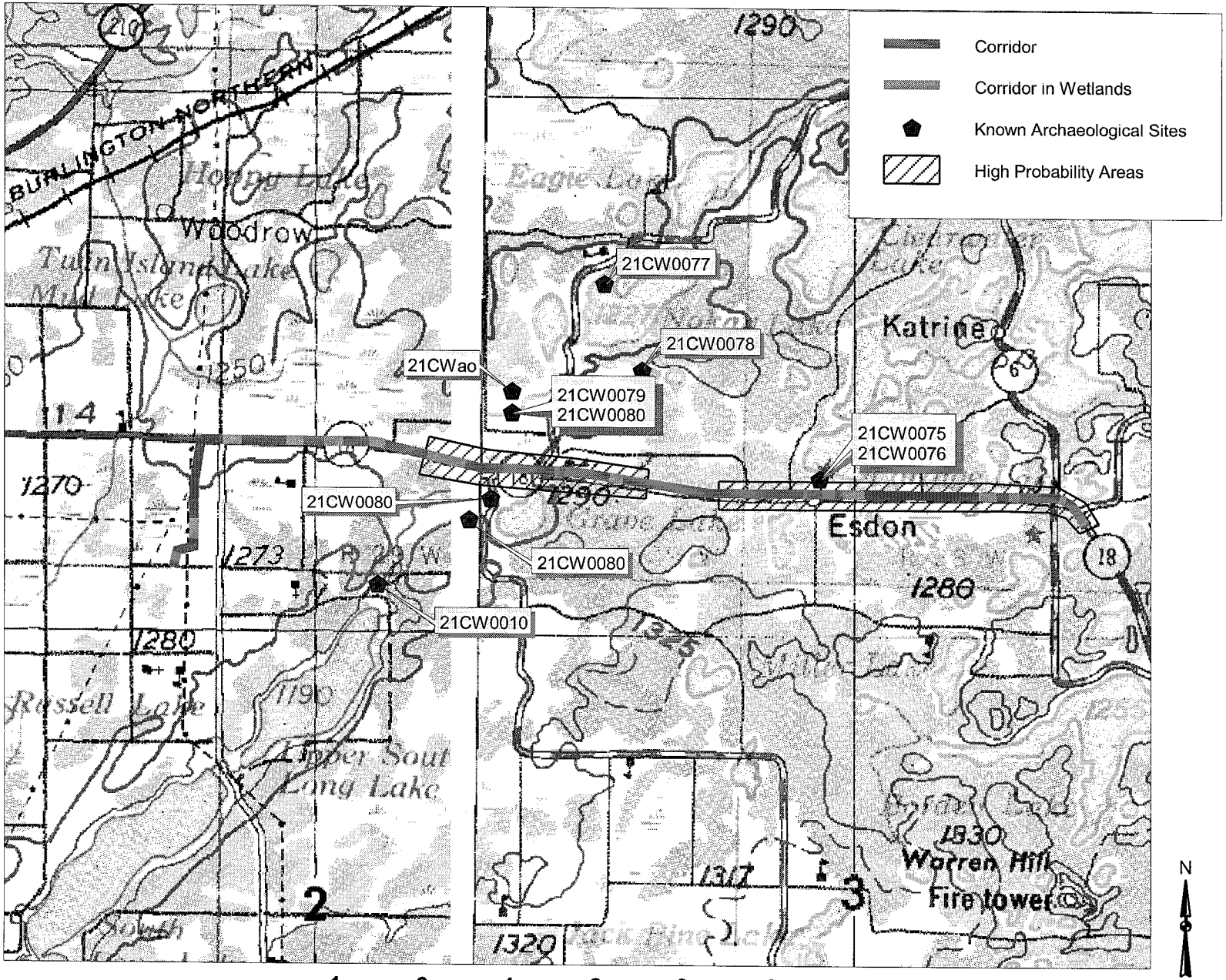
Project Corridor Map

Scale:	Drawn by:	Checked by:	Project No.	Date:	Sheet:
AS SHOWN	CLS		5001-000	03/09/06	

Houston Engineering, Inc.
Leave Nothing to Chance™
10900 73rd Avenue North, Suite 106
Maple Grove, MN 55369-5400
Bus: (763) 493-4522 Fax: (763) 493-5572
www.houstonengineeringinc.com

Map 2

Wilson Lake 115 kV Project
Crow Wing County, Minnesota



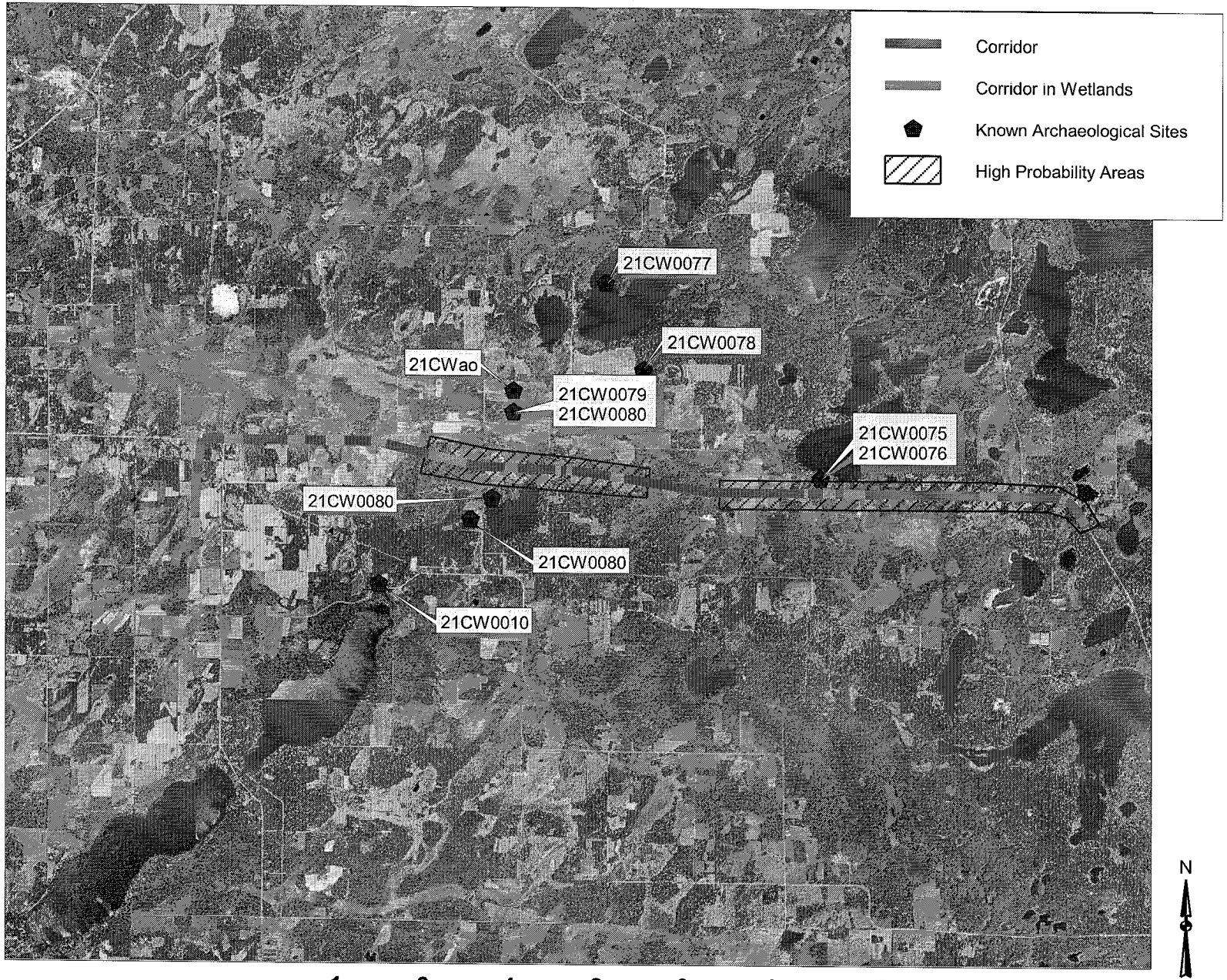
Data Source: MN DNR, MN SHPO, USGS

1 0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

20 June 2006
Richard Rothaus

Map 3

Wilson Lake 115 kV Project
Crow Wing County, Minnesota



Data Source: MN DNR, MN SHPO, USGS

1 0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

20 June 2006
Richard Rothaus

MHS- SHPO

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

State Historic Preservation Office

RECEIVED APR 1 0 2006

April 7, 2006

Ms. Carole Schmidt
Great River Energy
PO Box 800
Elk River, MN 55330-0800

Re: Wilson Lake 115 kV Transmission Project
Crow Wing County
SHPO Number: 2006-1450

Dear Ms. Schmidt:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the above project. It has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Officer by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (36CFR800).

The archaeologist position in our office is temporarily vacant. Our compliance staff has completed an initial review of this proposal, and has identified some archaeological potential in the project area. We would recommend that you either 1) complete an archaeological survey of the project area, based on our preliminary review, or 2) obtain a survey assessment of the need for survey from a qualified archaeologist, and let us know their recommendation.

Contact us at 651-296-5462 with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kelly Gragg-Johnson

Dennis A. Gimmestad
Government Programs & Compliance Officer

Wilson Lake 115 kV Project

GREAT RIVER ENERGY
17845 East Hwy 10
P.O. Box 800
Elk River, MN 55330-0800
1-800-442-3013
www.greatriverenergy.com

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections

Project Need and Goal
Great River Energy (GRE), power supplier to 28 Minnesota electric cooperatives, is proposing to construct a new 115,000 volt (115 kV) transmission line in Crow Wing County. The new transmission line is needed to meet increasing demand due to rapid growth in the Lake Mille Lacs area, and to correct inadequate voltages during peak demand periods. The new line will be approximately 12 miles in length and will connect a 115 kV source located at the Mud Lake Substation in Oak Lawn Township to the Wilson Lake Substation in Bay Lake Township (see map on back)

Permitting
A Certificate of Need (CON) from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) is required for this project. GRE's CON application will contain sufficient information to allow the Commission to determine the need for the requested facilities

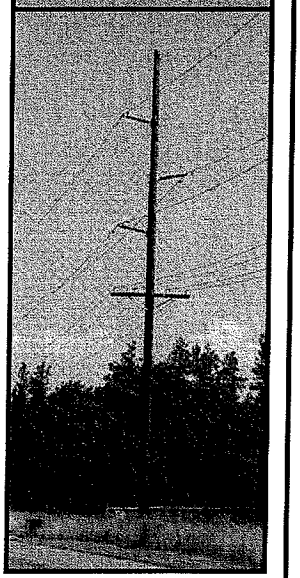
A Route Permit from the Commission will also be required. GRE's Route Permit application will propose the route shown in blue on the map. This proposed route and alternative routes (most likely located within the area outlined in orange on the map) will be evaluated during the route permitting process

During the CON and Route Permitting process, the Commission will hold public hearings to gather public input, comments and alternative suggestions and an Environmental Assessment will be prepared for the project. The CON and Route Permit will be the only permitting required for the project

Route
GRE's proposed route will exit the Mud Lake Substation and run to the east side of GRE's existing 230 kV transmission line (see map). The line will then turn north paralleling the 230 kV line, 70 feet east of its centerline, to Minnesota Highway 18. The line then turns east along Highway 18 to the Wilson Lake Substation. Proximity to homes, existing utilities, environmental concerns and Minnesota Department of Transportation needs may dictate on which side of Highway 18 the line is constructed

Transmission Line and Substations
Single wood poles with horizontal post insulators will be used for most of the route (see photo). A change in the line's direction will require guy wires and anchors to counter the angle. Where guys and anchors are not practicable, a laminated wood pole or a steel pole on a foundation may be used. Each pole will carry four wires; three electrical and one for lightning protection. Along Minnesota Highway 18, GRE will partner with Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative and Crow Wing Power to co-locate transmission and distribution circuits on the same poles where practical (reducing the number of existing distribution poles). Pole heights will average 60-75 feet above ground with an average span of 250-300 feet between poles. Longer spans will be used where possible.

Typical New 115 kV Transmission Structures with Underbuild Typical Height 70' Above Ground Representative Photo



The Wilson Lake Substation will be rebuilt at its current location to accommodate a 115/69 kV stepdown transformer along with the existing distribution equipment. The Mud Lake Substation will require only minor physical changes.

Schedule
GRE will hold a public information meeting on the project in the spring of 2006. Notice for this meeting will be published in area newspapers, and a letter will be sent to all the landowners and local and county governments within the general route corridor. GRE intends to jointly file the CON and Route Permit applications in June 2006.

Once the applications have been accepted as complete by the Commission, a Commission employee will be designated to facilitate citizen participation in the hearing process. All subsequent hearings and notifications will come directly from the Commission.

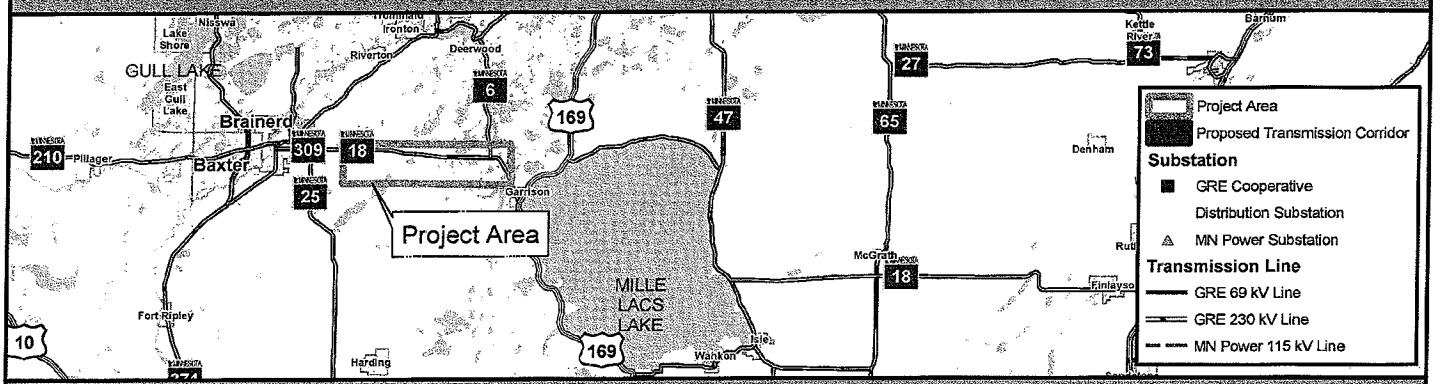
Easement acquisition and subsequent construction activities will commence after the permitting process is complete

Contact

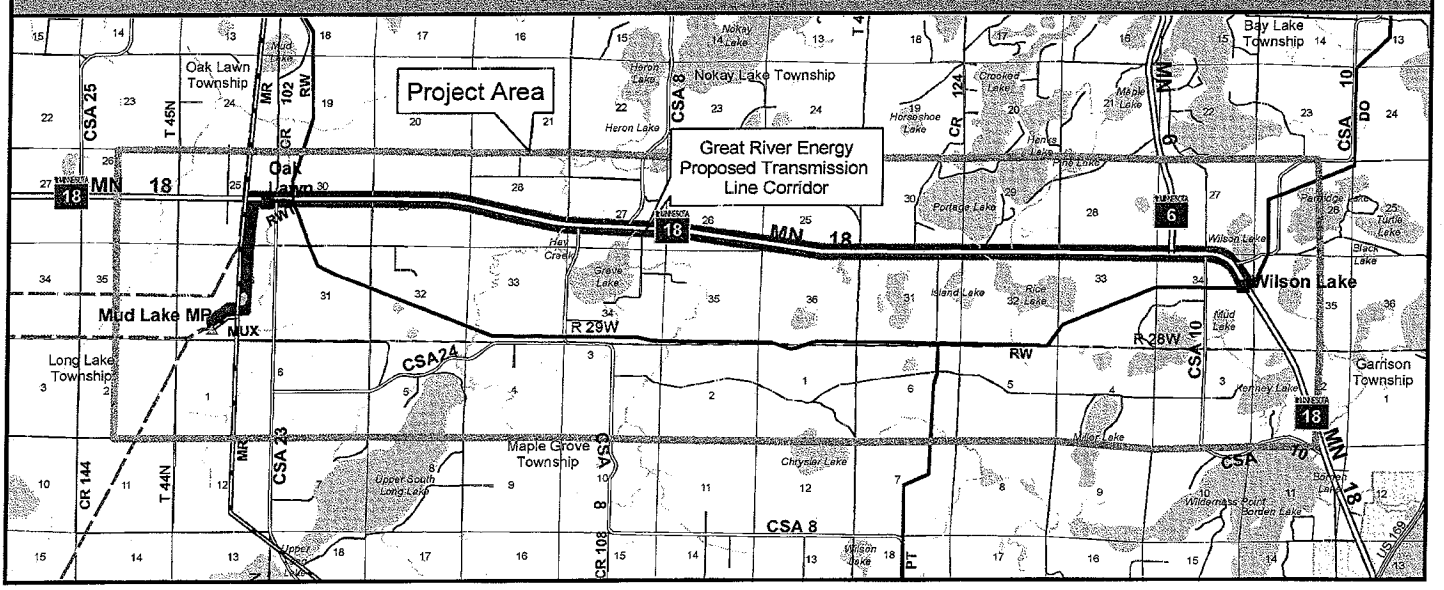
Dale Aukee
Field Representative
Great River Energy
763-241-2229
daukee@grenergy.com

Date last revised: 5/2/2006

PROJECT MAP



PROJECT DETAIL MAP



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1 March 2006

Mr. Leo Grabowski
US Army Corps of Engineers
10867 East Gull Lake Drive NW
Brainerd, MN 56401-9051

RE: Wilson Lake 115 kV Transmission Project

Dear Mr. Grabowski:

Great River Energy (GRE) is currently gathering data to be used in preparation of several regulatory applications necessary to obtain approvals and permits for the construction of the proposed Wilson Lake 115 kV Transmission Project in Crow Wing County. The project is needed to meet the growing electrical needs of the area. GRE intends to seek a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission).

The proposed project includes:

- Approximately 12 miles of new overhead 115 kV transmission line in Oak Lawn, Nokay Lake, and Bay Lake townships, Minnesota.
- Modifications at the Mud Lake 115 kV Substation in Oak Lawn Township, MN to accommodate the termination of the new line.
- Expansion of Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative's Wilson Lake Substation in Bay Lake Township to include a new 115/69 kV substation.

GRE has identified a preferred route for the project (see enclosed fact sheet and map), but is evaluating transmission alternatives within the project area (area outlined in orange on the map).

GRE is requesting information on the possible effects of the proposed project on floodplains, wetlands, and other important natural resources that occur in the project area. Your input on the project will assist GRE, our environmental consultant (Houston Engineering), and the Commission in their review of the project.

GRE would appreciate a response to this request by Friday, March 31, 2006. If you require further information or have questions regarding this matter, please feel free to call me at 763-241-2272. If you wish to respond by e-mail, my address is cschmidt@grenergy.com. Thank you for your attention to this important project.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Carole L. Schmidt

Carole L. Schmidt
Environmental Scientist

Enclosure: Fact Sheet/Project Location Map

cc: Bart Schultz, Houston Engineering

h:\cschmidt\Mud Lake-Wilson Lake\WLDOA

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ST. PAUL DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS CENTRE
190 FIFTH STREET EAST
ST. PAUL, MN 55101-1638

RECEIVED MAR 3 1 2006

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

March 28, 2006

Operations
Regulatory (2006-1103)

Ms. Carole Schmidt
Great River Energy
17845 East Hwy.10
Box 800
Elk River, Minnesota 55330-0800

Dear Ms. Schmidt:

We have reviewed the information about your Wilson Lake Transmission Project located in Crow Wing County, Minnesota. You requested our comments on the proposed project with respect to floodplain/wetlands. This response is limited to our regulatory jurisdiction and permitting requirements.

The project would need a Department of the Army (DOA) permit, under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, if the work involves a discharge of dredged or fill material into any water of the United States, including most wetlands (mechanized landclearing is often considered a discharge). However, minor discharges associated with overhead utility line installations are often authorized by existing General Permits.

The project would need a DOA permit, under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, if the work involves a navigable water of the United States. Our review indicates that no navigable waters are within the project area. The Mississippi River and Mille Lacs Lake are the nearest navigable waters to the project area.

If the project would include any temporary placement of excavated or fill material into a waterbody or wetland, the applicant may also need authorization for that work.

Applications for permit may be addressed to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch, 10867 East Gull Lake Dr. NW, Brainerd, Minnesota 56401. If you have any questions, contact Leo Grabowski in our Brainerd office at (218) 829-8402. In any correspondence or inquiries, please refer to the Regulatory number shown above.

Sincerely,

Leo Grabowski

for Robert J. Whiting
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Printed on Recycled Paper

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1 March 2006

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

RE: Wilson Lake 115 kV Transmission Project

Dear Ms. Hoffmann:

Great River Energy (GRE) is currently gathering data to be used in preparation of several regulatory applications necessary to obtain approvals and permits for the construction of the proposed Wilson Lake 115 kV Transmission Project in Crow Wing County. The project is needed to meet the growing electrical needs of the area. GRE intends to seek a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission).

The proposed project includes:

- Approximately 12 miles of new overhead 115 kV transmission line in Oak Lawn, Nokay Lake, and Bay Lake townships, Minnesota.
- Modifications at the Mud Lake 115 kV Substation in Oak Lawn Township, MN to accommodate the termination of the new line.
- Expansion of Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative's Wilson Lake Substation in Bay Lake Township to include a new 115/69 kV substation.

GRE has identified a preferred route for the project (see enclosed fact sheet and map), but is evaluating transmission alternatives within the project area (area outlined in orange on the map).

The proposed project will cross several DNR Public Waters. GRE will apply to the DNR Division of Lands and Minerals for a license to cross those waters.

Although the Minnesota Natural Heritage database (2002) was reviewed and the preferred route does not cross any Sensitive Areas, GRE would like the Minnesota DNR to comment on potential effects of the proposed 115 kV

transmission project and to identify federally- and state-listed threatened or endangered species and rare natural features in the project area. A Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System Data Request Form is enclosed.

Your input on the project will assist GRE, our environmental consultant (Houston Engineering), and the Commission in their review of the project.

GRE would appreciate a response to this request by Friday, March 31, 2006. If you require further information or have questions regarding this matter, please feel free to call me at 763-241-2272. If you wish to respond by e-mail, my address is cschmidt@grenergy.com. Thank you for your attention to this important project.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Carole L. Schmidt

Carole L. Schmidt
Environmental Scientist

Enclosures:
Fact Sheet/Project Location Map
NHIS Data Request Form

cc: Bart Schultz, Houston Engineering

h:\cschmidt\Mud Lake-Wilson Lake\WLDNRherltr

Please do not staple
request documents

For Agency Use Only:
Received _____ Due _____ RUSH
Related ES# _____
Search Radius _____mi. ER/All EOs _____
Map'd ____ C / NoC Let ____ Inv ____ Log out ____

MINNESOTA NATURAL HERITAGE INFORMATION SYSTEM DATA REQUEST FORM

DATE OF REQUEST 3/1/06

WHO IS REQUESTING THE INFORMATION?

Name and Title Carole L. Schmidt Environmental Scientist

Agency/Company Great River Energy

Address 17845 E. Highway 10 Elk River MN 55330
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

Phone 763-241-2272 FAX 763-241-6072 e-mail cschmidt@grenergy.com

THIS INFORMATION IS BEING REQUESTED ON BEHALF OF (if applicable): _____

WHAT INFORMATION DO YOU NEED?

____ Printouts of known occurrences of federally and state listed plants and animals; native plant communities; and aggregation sites such as bat hibernacula, colonial waterbird nesting sites, and prairie chicken booming grounds.

✓ Information listed above, plus geological features and state rare species with no legal status.

____ Other (specify): _____

Frequent applicants: Check here if you DO NOT need a copy of the field-by-field explanation of the printouts: ____

WHERE IS THE AREA OF INTEREST? 1) **ENCLOSE A MAP** showing detailed boundaries of the project area (topographic maps or aerial photos are preferred). 2) If a GIS shapefile of the project area is available, please provide a copy projected in UTM Zone 15, NAD83).

For Agency Use Only:

REGION

PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING REQUIRED PROJECT INFORMATION

County	Twnshp#	Range#	Section(s) (and half-section, quarter-section, etc., if known)	
Crow Wing	T 44 N	30W	1	Crow Wing T44N R28W 3-6
Crow Wing	T 45 N	30W	25, 36	Crow Wing T45N R28W 27-34
Crow Wing	T 44 N	29W	1-6	
Crow Wing	T 45 N	29W	25-36	

Project Name Wilson Lake 115 KV Project

Project Proposer Great River Energy

Detailed Project Description (attach additional sheets if necessary)

New 12 mile 115 KV transmission line, modifications to two existing substations- see attached fact sheet

Past Land-Use of Project Site rural residential, agriculture

(OVER)

HOW WILL THE INFORMATION BE USED? Describe the planned use of the information, including in what form and detail you wish to publish this information, if any. The information will be used in preparation of regulatory applications (Certificate of Need and Route Permit) and to get recommendations from the DNR.

TURN-AROUND TIME

Requests generally take 3 weeks from date of receipt to process, and are processed in the order received. Rush requests are processed in 2 weeks or less.

FEES

For-profit organizations, including consultants working for governmental agencies, are charged a fee for this service. In addition, a fee may be charged for large requests from any source. A surcharge (currently $50) is applied for rush orders; if this is a rush order, please check the blank below. Fees subject to change. A fee schedule is available upon request. Please do not include payment with your request; an invoice will be sent to you.

_____ **Rush**

"The information supplied above is complete and accurate. I understand that material supplied to me from the Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System is copyrighted and that I am not permitted to reproduce or publish any of this copyrighted material without prior written permission from the Minnesota DNR. Further, if permission to publish is given, I understand that I must credit the Minnesota Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as the source of the material."

Signature Carole L Schmidt

Mail or email completed forms to:		For further information call:
Endangered Species Environmental Review Coordinator Sarah.hoffmann@dnr.state.mn.us	*(for project reviews)* e.g. EAWs	(651) 259-5107 or 259-5109
or Assistant Database Manager Sharron.nelson@dnr.state.mn.us	*(for general requests)*	(651) 259-5123
at Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program Minnesota Department of Natural Resources 500 Lafayette Road, Box 25 St. Paul, Minnesota 55155		

Or FAX completed forms to: (651) 296-1811

Additional information about the Natural Heritage & Nongame Research Program is available at http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ecological_services/nhnrp/index.html

For Agency Use Only:

EO's requiring comment _____

Sources contacted	Topic	Response

Response Summary _____

_____

_____

_____ Responder _____

Revised 10/05

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program, Box 25
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-40__

Phone: (651) 259-5107 Fax: (651) 296-1811 E-mail: sarah.hoffmann@dnr.state.mn.us

RECEIVED MAR 2 4 2006

March 21, 2006

Ms. Carole Schmidt
Great River Energy
17845 East Highway 10
Elk River, MN 55330

Re: Request for Natural Heritage information for vicinity of proposed Wilson Lake 115 kV Transmission Project, Crow Wing County

NHNRP Contact #: ERDB 20060705

Township (N)	Range (W)	Section(s)
44	30	1
45	30	25, 36
44	29	1-6
45	29	25-36
44	28	3-6
45	28	27-34

Dear Ms. Schmidt,

The Minnesota Natural Heritage database has been reviewed to determine if any rare plant or animal species or other significant natural features are known to occur within an approximate one-mile radius of the area indicated on the map enclosed with your information request. Based on this review, there are 32 known occurrences of rare species or native plant communities in the area searched. Current workloads prevent us from providing detailed comments at this time about which rare features may be impacted by your project. To avoid delaying your project planning and to assist you in evaluating whether your project might impact rare features, we are providing printouts of known locations of rare features in the vicinity of your project, and a fact sheet that provides guidance on determining whether your project might negatively affect one of these rare features. If you have specific questions regarding whether a particular activity might impact a rare feature, please contact me.

The Natural Heritage database is maintained by the Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program, a unit within the Division of Ecological Services, Department of Natural Resources. It 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. Its purpose is to foster better understanding and protection of these features.

Because our information is not based on a comprehensive inventory, there may be rare or otherwise significant natural features in the state that are not represented in the database. A county-by-county survey of rare natural features is now underway, and has been completed for Crow Wing County. Our information about native plant communities is, therefore, quite thorough for that county. However, because survey work for rare plants and animals is less exhaustive, and because there has not been an on-site survey of all areas of the county, ecologically significant features for which we have no records may exist on the project area.

The enclosed results of the database search are provided in two formats: index and full record. To control the release of locational information, which might result in the damage or destruction of a rare element, both printout formats are copyrighted.

The index provides rare feature locations only to the nearest section, and may be reprinted, unaltered, in an Environmental Assessment Worksheet, municipal natural resource plan, or report compiled by your company for the project listed above. If you wish to reproduce the index for any other purpose, please contact me to request written permission. **The full-record printout includes more detailed locational information, and is for your personal use only. If you wish to reprint the full-record printouts for any purpose, please contact me to request written permission.**

Please be aware that review by the Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program focuses only on *rare natural features*. It does not constitute review or approval by the Department of Natural Resources as a whole. If you require further information on the environmental review process for other natural resource-related issues, you may contact your Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist, Dave Holmbeck, at (218) 327-4317.

An invoice in the amount of $104.09 will be mailed to you under separate cover within several weeks of the date of this letter. You are being billed for map and database search and staff scientist review. Thank you for consulting us on this matter, and for your interest in preserving Minnesota's rare natural resources.

Sincerely,

Susa Joyal

FOR Sarah D. Hoffmann
Endangered Species Environmental Review Coordinator

encl: Database search results
Rare Feature Database Print-Outs: An Explanation of Fields
Fact sheet: Reviewing Development Projects

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TWP	RNG	PRIMARY SECTION	FED STATUS	MN STATUS	S RANK	ELEMENT and OCCURRENCE NUMBER	MANAGED AREA
T044N	R28W	04		SPC		BUTEO LINEATUS (RED-SHOULDERED HAWK) #300	
T044N	R28W	06		SPC		BUTEO LINEATUS (RED-SHOULDERED HAWK) #298	
T044N	R28W	08		SPC		BUTEO LINEATUS (RED-SHOULDERED HAWK) #234	
T044N	R28W	08		SPC		BUTEO LINEATUS (RED-SHOULDERED HAWK) #299	
T044N	R28W	08		SPC		BUTEO LINEATUS (RED-SHOULDERED HAWK) #369	
T044N	R28W	09		SPC		BUTEO LINEATUS (RED-SHOULDERED HAWK) #370	
T044N	R28W	09		SPC		BUTEO LINEATUS (RED-SHOULDERED HAWK) #371	
T044N	R28W	09		SPC		DENDROICA CERULEA (CERULEAN WARBLER) #155	RUTH SPENCE MEMORIAL COUNTY FOREST
T044N	R28W	10		SPC		BUTEO LINEATUS (RED-SHOULDERED HAWK) #289	
T044N	R28W	10		SPC		BUTEO LINEATUS (RED-SHOULDERED HAWK) #372	
T044N	R29W	01		SPC		BUTEO LINEATUS (RED-SHOULDERED HAWK) #302	
T044N	R29W	12		SPC		BUTEO LINEATUS (RED-SHOULDERED HAWK) #301	
T045N	R28W	19		SPC		NAJAS GRACILLIMA (SLENDER NAIAD) #46	
T045N	R28W	19		NON		UTRICULARIA GIBBA (HUMPED BLADDERWORT) #36	
T045N	R28W	20		SPC		ACIPENSER FULVESCENS (LAKE STURGEON) #78	
T045N	R28W	21		SPC		BUTEO LINEATUS (RED-SHOULDERED HAWK) #386	
T045N	R28W	23		SPC		BUTEO LINEATUS (RED-SHOULDERED HAWK) #388	
T045N	R28W	26		NON		MYRIOPHYLLUM TENELLUM (LEAFLESS WATER MILFOIL) #67	
T045N	R28W	26		SPC		NAJAS GRACILLIMA (SLENDER NAIAD) #65	
T045N	R28W	26		SPC		NAJAS GRACILLIMA (SLENDER NAIAD) #66	
T045N	R28W	26		END		POTAMOGETON BICUPULATUS (SNAILSEED PONDWEED) #6	
T045N	R28W	26		SPC		POTAMOGETON VASEYI (VASEY'S PONDWEED) #30	
T045N	R28W	26		SPC		POTAMOGETON VASEYI (VASEY'S PONDWEED) #36	
T045N	R28W	26		NON		UTRICULARIA GIBBA (HUMPED BLADDERWORT) #79	
T045N	R28W	29				COLONIAL WATERBIRD NESTING SITE #931	
T045N	R28W	31	LT	SPC		HALIAEETUS LEUCOCEPHALUS (BALD EAGLE) #1462	
T045N	R28W	32	LT	SPC		HALIAEETUS LEUCOCEPHALUS (BALD EAGLE) #1122	HESITATION WMA
T045N	R28W	34		NON		ELEOCHARIS ROBBINSII (ROBBIN'S SPIKE-RUSH) #4	
T045N	R28W	34		NON		MYRIOPHYLLUM TENELLUM (LEAFLESS WATER MILFOIL) #91	
T045N	R28W	34		SPC		NAJAS GRACILLIMA (SLENDER NAIAD) #107	
T045N	R28W	34		SPC		POTAMOGETON VASEYI (VASEY'S PONDWEED) #64	
T045N	R28W	34		NON		UTRICULARIA GIBBA (HUMPED BLADDERWORT) #103	

RECORDS PRINTED = 32

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T044N R28W SESW04 CROW WING COUNTY, MN
Element: BUTEO LINEATUS (RED-SHOULDERED HAWK) #300
State Status: SPECIAL CONCERN
EO Size: EO Rank: Current Status: Intended Status:
Site: GARRISON 4
Ownership: Owner unknown
Managed Area(s): not managed or no record
Source: WOIZESCHKE,K.(DNR)
INFERRED BREEDING. VOCAL RESPONSE TO PLAYBACK DURING SYSTEMATIC SURVEY

Last Observed Date: 16 May 1996
Quad Map: GRAVE LAKE (M14C)
Latitude: 46 19' 3" Long: 93 53' 18"
Precision: within 0.25 mile, confirmed
Voucher: Verification: inferred breeding

DNR Region: 3
Wildlife Area: 301
Forestry District: 311

T044N R28W SENE06 CROW WING COUNTY, MN
Element: BUTEO LINEATUS (RED-SHOULDERED HAWK) #298
State Status: SPECIAL CONCERN
EO Size: EO Rank: Current Status: Intended Status:
Site: GARRISON 6
Ownership: Owner unknown
Managed Area(s): not managed or no record
Source: WOIZESCHKE,K.(DNR)
BREEDING SEASON OBSERVATION. IMMATURE HAWK APPROACHED SOUND OF PLAYBACK DURING SURVEY, WITHOUT VOCALIZATION.

Last Observed Date: 13 May 1996
Quad Map: GRAVE LAKE (M14C)
Latitude: 46 19' 33" Long: 93 55' 2"
Precision: within 0.25 mile, confirmed
Voucher: Verification: sight or sound rec.

DNR Region: 3
Wildlife Area: 301
Forestry District: 311

T044N R28W SENE08 CROW WING COUNTY, MN
Element: BUTEO LINEATUS (RED-SHOULDERED HAWK) #234
State Status: SPECIAL CONCERN
EO Size: EO Rank: Current Status: Intended Status:
Site: GARRISON 8
Ownership: Owner unknown
Managed Area(s): not managed or no record
Source: WOIZESCHKE,K. & LENNING,B. (DNR)
1996: POSITIVE NESTING. PAIR OF BIRDS OBSERVED NESTING IN K. WOIZESCHKE'S BACKYARD. ALSO NESTED IN SAME TREE IN 1995. UNKNOWN NUMBER OF YOUNG. 1999: INFERRED BREEDING. VOCAL RESPONSE TO PLAYBACK DURING SYSTEMATIC SURVEY.

Last Observed Date: 15 April 1999
Quad Map: GRAVE LAKE (M14C)
Latitude: 46 18' 38" Long: 93 53' 47"
Precision: within 0.25 mile, confirmed
Voucher: Verification: reclassed

DNR Region: 3
Wildlife Area: 301
Forestry District: 311

T044N R28W NWNW08 CROW WING COUNTY, MN
Element: BUTEO LINEATUS (RED-SHOULDERED HAWK) #299
State Status: SPECIAL CONCERN
EO Size: EO Rank: Current Status: Intended Status:
Site: GARRISON 8
Ownership: Owner unknown
Managed Area(s): not managed or no record
Source: WOIZESCHKE,K.(DNR)
BREEDING SEASON OBSERVATION. BIRD OBSERVED SOARING OVER BOG NEAR LAKE.

Last Observed Date: 13 May 1996
Quad Map: GRAVE LAKE (M14C)
Latitude: 46 18' 49" Long: 93 54' 43"
Precision: within 0.25 mile, confirmed
Voucher: Verification: sight or sound rec.

DNR Region: 3
Wildlife Area: 301
Forestry District: 311

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T044N R28W SESE08 CROW WING COUNTY, MN
Element: BUTEO LINEATUS (RED-SHOULDERED HAWK) #369
State Status: SPECIAL CONCERN
EO Size: EO Rank: Current Status: Intended Status:
Site: GARRISON 8
Ownership: Owner unknown
Managed Area(s): not managed or no record
Source: WOIZESCHKE,K.(DNR) & HALDENWANGER,L.
INFERRED BREEDING. VOCAL RESPONSE TO PLAYBACK DURING SYSTEMATIC SURVEY.

Last Observed Date: 13 April 1998
Quad Map: GRAVE LAKE (M14C)
Latitude: 46 18' 7" Long: 93 53' 57"
Precision: within 0.25 mile, confirmed
Voucher: Verification: inferred breeding

DNR Region: 3
Wildlife Area: 301
Forestry District: 311

T044N R28W SENE09 CROW WING COUNTY, MN
Element: BUTEO LINEATUS (RED-SHOULDERED HAWK) #370
State Status: SPECIAL CONCERN
EO Size: EO Rank: Current Status: Intended Status:
Site: GARRISON 9
Ownership: Owner unknown
Managed Area(s): not managed or no record
Source: WOIZESCHKE,K.& SIMON,T.(DNR)
INFERRED BREEDING. FLYING RESPONSE TO PLAYBACK DURING SYSTEMATIC SURVEY.

Last Observed Date: 16 May 1996
Quad Map: GRAVE LAKE (M14C)
Latitude: 46 18' 38" Long: 93 52' 33"
Precision: within 0.25 mile, confirmed
Voucher: Verification: inferred breeding

DNR Region: 3
Wildlife Area: 301
Forestry District: 311

T044N R28W SWSW09 CROW WING COUNTY, MN
Element: BUTEO LINEATUS (RED-SHOULDERED HAWK) #371
State Status: SPECIAL CONCERN
EO Size: EO Rank: Current Status: Intended Status:
Site: GARRISON 9
Ownership: Owner unknown
Managed Area(s): not managed or no record
Source: WOIZESCHKE,K. & LENNING,B.(DNR)
INFERRED BREEDING. 1997: FLYING RESPONSE TO PLAYBACK DURING SYSTEMATIC SURVEY. 1999: VOCAL RESPONSE TO PLAYBACK DURING SYSTEMATIC SURVEY IN NWNW16.

Last Observed Date: 15 April 1999
Quad Map: GRAVE LAKE (M14C)
Latitude: 46 18' 17" Long: 93 53' 37"
Precision: within 0.25 mile, confirmed
Voucher: Verification: inferred breeding

DNR Region: 3
Wildlife Area: 301
Forestry District: 311

T044N R28W NESE09 CROW WING COUNTY, MN
Element: DENDROICA CERULEA (CERULEAN WARBLER) #155
State Status: SPECIAL CONCERN
EO Size: EO Rank: Current Status: Intended Status:
Site: MILLE LACS MORAINE
Ownership: County Forest
Managed Area(s): RUTH SPENCE MEMORIAL COUNTY FOREST
Source: STUCKER,S. AND J.MCKEARNAN (CO BIOL SURVEY 2001)
BREEDING SEASON OBSERVATION. ONE SINGING MALE HEARD AND SEEN. HABITAT WAS NORTHERN HARDWOOD FOREST DOMINATED BY RED OAK AND SUGAR MAPLE.

Last Observed Date: 26 June 2001
Quad Map: GRAVE LAKE (M14C)
Latitude: 46 18' 24" Long: 93 52' 36"
Precision: within 0.25 mile, confirmed
Voucher: Verification: sight or sound rec.

DNR Region: 3
Wildlife Area: 301
Forestry District: 311

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T044N R28W NWSW10 CROW WING COUNTY, MN
Element: BUTEO LINEATUS (RED-SHOULDERED HAWK) #289
State Status: SPECIAL CONCERN
EO Size: EO Rank: Current Status: Intended Status:
Site: GARRISON 10
Ownership: Owner unknown
Managed Area(s): not managed or no record
Source: WOIZESCHKE,K.(DNR)
INFERRED BREEDING. 2 BIRDS RESPONDED TO PLAYBACK. SECOND BIRD AT NENW10.

Last Observed Date: 13 May 1996
Quad Map: GARRISON (M14D)
Latitude: 46 18' 28" Long: 93 52' 9"
Precision: within 0.25 mile, confirmed
Voucher: Verification: inferred breeding

DNR Region: 3
Wildlife Area: 301
Forestry District: 311

T044N R28W NENW10 CROW WING COUNTY, MN
Element: BUTEO LINEATUS (RED-SHOULDERED HAWK) #372
State Status: SPECIAL CONCERN
EO Size: EO Rank: Current Status: Intended Status:
Site: GARRISON 10
Ownership: Owner unknown
Managed Area(s): not managed or no record
Source: WOIZESCHKE,K.& SIMON,T.(DNR)
INFERRED BREEDING. FLYING RESPONSE WITH VOCALIZATION TO PLAYBACK DURING SURVEY.

Last Observed Date: 16 May 1996
Quad Map: GARRISON (M14D)
Latitude: 46 18' 53" Long: 93 52' 1"
Precision: within 0.25 mile, confirmed
Voucher: Verification: inferred breeding

DNR Region: 3
Wildlife Area: 301
Forestry District: 311

T044N R29W NESE01 CROW WING COUNTY, MN
Element: BUTEO LINEATUS (RED-SHOULDERED HAWK) #302
State Status: SPECIAL CONCERN
EO Size: EO Rank: Current Status: Intended Status:
Site: MAPLE GROVE 1
Ownership: Owner unknown
Managed Area(s): not managed or no record
Source: WOIZESCHKE,K.(DNR)
INFERRED BREEDING. 3 BIRDS RESPONDED TO PLAYBACK. LOCATIONS OF OTHER BIRDS: T44N R28W SWSW06 AND T44N R29W NESE01.

Last Observed Date: 13 May 1996
Quad Map: GRAVE LAKE (M14C)
Latitude: 46 19' 12" Long: 93 56' 15"
Precision: within 0.25 mile, confirmed
Voucher: Verification: inferred breeding

DNR Region: 3
Wildlife Area: 301
Forestry District: 311

T044N R29W SENE12 CROW WING COUNTY, MN
Element: BUTEO LINEATUS (RED-SHOULDERED HAWK) #301
State Status: SPECIAL CONCERN
EO Size: EO Rank: Current Status: Intended Status:
Site: MAPLE GROVE 12
Ownership: Owner unknown
Managed Area(s): not managed or no record
Source: WOIZESCHKE,K.(DNR)
INFERRED BREEDING. 2 BIRDS RESPONDED TO PLAYBACK. LOCATION OF SECOND BIRD: T44N R28W SWNW07.

Last Observed Date: 13 May 1996
Quad Map: GRAVE LAKE (M14C)
Latitude: 46 18' 32" Long: 93 56' 19"
Precision: within 0.25 mile, confirmed
Voucher: Verification: inferred breeding

DNR Region: 3
Wildlife Area: 301
Forestry District: 311

T045N R28W SESE19 CROW WING COUNTY, MN
Element: NAJAS GRACILLIMA (SLENDER NAIAD) #46
State Status: SPECIAL CONCERN
EO Size: EO Rank: Current Status: Intended Status:
Site: BAY LAKE 19
Ownership: Owner unknown
Managed Area(s): not managed or no record
Source: MYHRE,K.M.(KMM6212)
LOCATED 13 MILES EAST OF THE TOWN OF BRAINERD. PLANTS OCCUR ALONG THE SOUTHWEST BAY OF CROOKED LAKE. ASSOCIATED WITH UTRICULARIA GIBBA, LEMNA TRISULCA, BRASENIA SCHREBERI, POTAMOGETON AMPLIFOLIUS.

Last Observed Date: 30 August 1995
Quad Map: GRAVE LAKE (M14C)
Latitude: 46 21' 35" Long: 93 54' 59"
Precision: within 0.25 mile, confirmed
Voucher: MIN Verification: verified

DNR Region: 3
Wildlife Area: 301
Forestry District: 311

T045N R28W SESE19 CROW WING COUNTY, MN
Element: UTRICULARIA GIBBA (HUMPED BLADDERWORT) #36
State Status: No Legal Status
EO Size: EO Rank: Current Status: Intended Status:
Site: BAY LAKE 19
Ownership: Owner unknown
Managed Area(s): not managed or no record
Source: MYHRE,K.M.(KMM6213)
LOCATED 13 MILES EAST OF THE TOWN OF BRAINERD. PLANTS OCCUR ALONG THE SOUTHWEST BAY OF CROOKED LAKE. ASSOCIATED WITH NAJAS GRACILLIMA, LEMNA TRISULCA, BRASENIA SCHREBERI, POTAMOGETON AMPLIFOLIUS.

Last Observed Date: 30 August 1995
Quad Map: GRAVE LAKE (M14C)
Latitude: 46 21' 35" Long: 93 54' 59"
Precision: within 0.25 mile, confirmed
Voucher: MIN Verification: verified

DNR Region: 3
Wildlife Area: 301
Forestry District: 311

T045N R28W 20 CROW WING COUNTY, MN
Element: ACIPENSER FULVESCENS (LAKE STURGEON) #78
State Status: SPECIAL CONCERN
EO Size: EO Rank: Current Status: Intended Status:
Site: BAY LAKE 20
Ownership: Owner unknown
Managed Area(s): not managed or no record
Source: EDDY,S. ET AL, FISH FAUNA OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER(1963) MN ACAD. SCIENCE 30:2
1 FISH ILLEGALLY SPEARED IN CROOKED LAKE. NO DATE PROVIDED.

Last Observed Date:
Quad Map: GRAVE LAKE (M14C)
Latitude: 46 22' 7" Long: 93 54' 29"
Precision: within 0.50 mile
Voucher: Verification: sight or sound rec.

DNR Region: 3
Wildlife Area: 301
Forestry District: 311

T045N R28W NENW21 CROW WING COUNTY, MN
Element: BUTEO LINEATUS (RED-SHOULDERED HAWK) #386
State Status: SPECIAL CONCERN
EO Size: EO Rank: Current Status: Intended Status:
Site: BAY LAKE 21
Ownership: Owner unknown
Managed Area(s): not managed or no record
Source: DIEDRICH,K.(DNR)
INFERRED BREEDING. FLYING RESPONSE TO PLAYBACK DURING SYSTEMATIC SURVEY.

Last Observed Date: 19 May 1997
Quad Map: GRAVE LAKE (M14C)
Latitude: 46 22' 15" Long: 93 53' 12"
Precision: within 0.25 mile, confirmed
Voucher: Verification: inferred breeding

DNR Region: 3
Wildlife Area: 301
Forestry District: 311

T045N R28W NWSE23 CROW WING COUNTY, MN
Element: BUTEO LINEATUS (RED-SHOULDERED HAWK) #388
State Status: SPECIAL CONCERN
EO Size: EO Rank: Current Status: Intended Status:
Site: BAY LAKE 23
Ownership: Owner unknown
Managed Area(s): not managed or no record
Source: DIEDRICH,K.(DNR)
Last Observed Date: 13 May 1997
Quad Map: GARRISON (M14D)
Latitude: 46 21' 52" Long: 93 50' 23"
Precision: within 0.25 mile, confirmed
Voucher: Verification: inferred breeding
DNR Region: 3
Wildlife Area: 301
Forestry District: 311
INFERRED BREEDING. 2 BIRDS RESPONDED TO PLAYBACK BY FLYING RESPONSE, ONE IN NESW23 AND OTHER IN NWSE23 DURING SYSTEMATIC SURVEY.

T045N R28W NENE26 CROW WING COUNTY, MN
Element: MYRIOPHYLLUM TENELLUM (LEAFLESS WATER MILFOIL) #67
State Status: No Legal Status
EO Size: EO Rank: Current Status: Intended Status:
Site: BAY LAKE 26
Ownership: Owner unknown
Managed Area(s): not managed or no record
Source: MYHRE,K.M.(KMM6498)
Last Observed Date: 06 August 1996
Quad Map: GARRISON (M14D)
Latitude: 46 21' 22" Long: 93 50' 1"
Precision: within 0.25 mile, confirmed
Voucher: MIN Verification: verified
DNR Region: 3
Wildlife Area: 301
Forestry District: 311
LOCATED 17.5 MILES EAST OF BRAINERD. PLANTS OCCUR ALONG THE NORTHEAST BAY OF PARTRIDGE LAKE. ASSOCIATED WITH POLYGONUM COCCINEUM, NAJAS GRACILLIMA, UTRICULARIA GIBBA, POTAMOGETON VASEYI.

T045N R28W SWSW26 CROW WING COUNTY, MN
Element: NAJAS GRACILLIMA (SLENDER NAIAD) #65
State Status: SPECIAL CONCERN
EO Size: EO Rank: Current Status: Intended Status:
Site: BAY LAKE 26
Ownership: Owner unknown
Managed Area(s): not managed or no record
Source: MYHRE,K.M.(KMM6491)
Last Observed Date: 06 August 1996
Quad Map: GARRISON (M14D)
Latitude: 46 20' 45" Long: 93 51' 6"
Precision: within 0.25 mile, confirmed
Voucher: MIN Verification: verified
DNR Region: 3
Wildlife Area: 301
Forestry District: 311
LOCATED 17 MILES EAST OF THE TOWN OF BRAINERD. PLANTS OCCUR ALONG THE SOUTHEAST BAY OF WILSON LAKE. ASOCIATED WITH POTAMOGETON SPIRILLUS, PONTEDERIA CORDATA, VALLISNERIA AMERICANA, POLYGONUM ACHOREUM.

T045N R28W NENE26 CROW WING COUNTY, MN
Element: NAJAS GRACILLIMA (SLENDER NAIAD) #66
State Status: SPECIAL CONCERN
EO Size: EO Rank: Current Status: Intended Status:
Site: BAY LAKE 26
Ownership: Owner unknown
Managed Area(s): not managed or no record
Source: MYHRE,K.M.(KMM6503)
Last Observed Date: 06 August 1996
Quad Map: GARRISON (M14D)
Latitude: 46 21' 22" Long: 93 50' 1"
Precision: within 0.25 mile, confirmed
Voucher: MIN Verification: verified
DNR Region: 3
Wildlife Area: 301
Forestry District: 311
LOCATED 17.5 MILES EAST OF BRAINERD. PLANTS OCCUR ALONG THE NORTHEAST BAY OF PARTRIDGE LAKE. ASSOCIATED WITH POLYGONUM COCCINEUM, MYRIOPHYLLUM TENELLUM, UTRICULARIA GIBBA, POTAMOGETON VASEYI.

T045N R28W NENE26 CROW WING COUNTY, MN
Element: POTAMOGETON BICUPULATUS (SNAILSEED PONDWEED) #6
State Status: ENDANGERED
EO Size: EO Rank: Current Status: Intended Status:
Site: BAY LAKE 26
Ownership: Owner unknown
Managed Area(s): not managed or no record
Source: MYHRE,K.M.(KMM6505)
Last Observed Date: 06 August 1996
Quad Map: GARRISON (M14D)
Latitude: 46 21' 22" Long: 93 50' 1"
Precision: within 0.25 mile, confirmed
Voucher: MIN Verification: verified
DNR Region: 3
Wildlife Area: 301
Forestry District: 311
LOCATED 17.5 MILES EAST OF BRAINERD. PLANTS OCCUR ALONG THE NORTHEAST BAY OF PARTRIDGE LAKE. ASSOCIATED WITH POLYGONUM COCCINEUM, MYRIOPHYLLUM TENELLUM, NAJAS GRACILLIMA, UTRICULARIA GIBBA, POTAMOGETON VASEYI.

T045N R28W NENE26 CROW WING COUNTY, MN
Element: POTAMOGETON VASEYI (VASEY'S PONDWEED) #30
State Status: SPECIAL CONCERN
EO Size: EO Rank: Current Status: Intended Status:
Site: BAY LAKE 26
Ownership: Owner unknown
Managed Area(s): not managed or no record
Source: MYHRE,K.M.(KMM6506)
Last Observed Date: 06 August 1996
Quad Map: GARRISON (M14D)
Latitude: 46 21' 22" Long: 93 50' 1"
Precision: within 0.25 mile, confirmed
Voucher: MIN Verification: verified
DNR Region: 3
Wildlife Area: 301
Forestry District: 311
LOCATED 17.5 MILES EAST OF BRAINERD. PLANTS OCCUR ALONG THE NORTHEAST BAY OF PARTRIDGE LAKE. ASSOCIATED WITH POLYGONUM COCCINEUM, MYRIOPHYLLUM TENELLUM, NAJAS GRACILLIMA, UTRICULARIA GIBBA.

T045N R28W SWSW26 CROW WING COUNTY, MN
Element: POTAMOGETON VASEYI (VASEY'S PONDWEED) #36
State Status: SPECIAL CONCERN
EO Size: EO Rank: Current Status: Intended Status:
Site: BAY LAKE 26
Ownership: Owner unknown
Managed Area(s): not managed or no record
Source: MYHRE,K.M.(KMM6495)
Last Observed Date: 06 August 1996
Quad Map: GARRISON (M14D)
Latitude: 46 20' 45" Long: 93 51' 6"
Precision: within 0.25 mile, confirmed
Voucher: MIN Verification: verified
DNR Region: 3
Wildlife Area: 301
Forestry District: 311
LOCATED 17 MILES EAST OF THE TOWN OF BRAINERD. PLANTS OCCUR ALONG THE SOUTHEAST BAY OF WILSON LAKE. ASSOCIATED WITH NAJAS GRACILLIMA, POTAMOGETON SPIRILLUS, PONTEDERIA CORDATA, VALLISNERIA AMERICANA, POLYGONUM ACHOREUM.

T045N R28W NENE26 CROW WING COUNTY, MN
Element: UTRICULARIA GIBBA (HUMPED BLADDERWORT) #79
State Status: No Legal Status
EO Size: EO Rank: Current Status: Intended Status:
Site: BAY LAKE 26
Ownership: Owner unknown
Managed Area(s): not managed or no record
Source: MYHRE,K.M.(KMM6504)
Last Observed Date: 06 August 1996
Quad Map: GARRISON (M14D)
Latitude: 46 21' 22" Long: 93 50' 1"
Precision: within 0.25 mile, confirmed
Voucher: MIN Verification: verified
DNR Region: 3
Wildlife Area: 301
Forestry District: 311
LOCATED 17.5 MILES EAST OF BRAINERD. PLANTS OCCUR ALONG THE NORTHEAST BAY OF PARTRIDGE LAKE. ASSOCIATED WITH POLYGONUM COCCINEUM, MYRIOPHYLLUM TENELLUM, NAJAS GRACILLIMA, POTAMOGETON VASEYI.

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T045N R28W SESW29 CROW WING COUNTY, MN
Element: COLONIAL WATERBIRD NESTING SITE #931

EO Size: EO Rank: Current Status: Intended Status:
Site: BAY LAKE 29
Ownership: Owner unknown
Managed Area(s): not managed or no record
Source: WIRTANEN,R.
HESITATION WMA. GREAT BLUE HERON.

Last Observed Date: 04 May 1994
Quad Map: GRAVE LAKE (M14C)
Latitude: 46 20' 48" Long: 93 54' 24"
Precision: within 0.25 mile, confirmed
Voucher: Verification: verified

DNR Region: 3
Wildlife Area: 301
Forestry District: 311

T045N R28W SENE31 CROW WING COUNTY, MN
Element: HALIAEETUS LEUCOCEPHALUS (BALD EAGLE) #1462
State Status: SPECIAL CONCERN Federal Status: THREATENED
EO Size: EO Rank: Current Status: Intended Status:
Site: BAY LAKE 31
Ownership: Owner unknown
Managed Area(s): not managed or no record
Source: WOIZESCHKE,K. (DNR)
NESTING AREA. HESITATION WMA/ISLAND LAKE.

Last Observed Date: 2000
Quad Map: GRAVE LAKE (M14C)
Latitude: 46 20' 17" Long: 93 55' 5"
Precision: within 0.25 mile, confirmed
Voucher: CR -031 Verification: verified

DNR Region: 3
Wildlife Area: 301
Forestry District: 311

T045N R28W NESW32 CROW WING COUNTY, MN
Element: HALIAEETUS LEUCOCEPHALUS (BALD EAGLE) #1122
State Status: SPECIAL CONCERN Federal Status: THREATENED
EO Size: EO Rank: Current Status: Intended Status:
Site: HESITATION WMA
Ownership: MN DNR Wildlife (Wildlife Management Area)
Managed Area(s): HESITATION WMA
Source: WOIZESCHKE,K.(DNR)
NESTING AREA. HESITATION WMA. MANAGEMENT PLAN COMPLETED.

Last Observed Date: 1994
Quad Map: GRAVE LAKE (M14C)
Latitude: 46 20' 8" Long: 93 54' 25"
Precision: within 0.25 mile, confirmed
Voucher: CR -031 Verification: verified

DNR Region: 3
Wildlife Area: 301
Forestry District: 311

T045N R28W NWSW34 CROW WING COUNTY, MN
Element: ELEOCHARIS ROBBINSII (ROBBIN'S SPIKE-RUSH) #4
State Status: No Legal Status
EO Size: EO Rank: Current Status: Intended Status:
Site: BAY LAKE 34
Ownership: Owner unknown
Managed Area(s): not managed or no record
Source: MYHRE,K.M.(KMM7893)
SCOTT LAKE. LOCATED 12 MILES SOUTH OF THE TOWN OF DEERWOOD. AREA SURVEYED: NORTH SHORE OF LAKE. ASSOCIATED WITH NAJAS GRACILLIMA, POTAMOGETON VASEYI, UTRICULARIA GIBBA, MYRIOPHYLLUM TENELLUM, ISOETES ECHINOSPORA VAR. BRAUNII. SPECIMEN VERIFIED BY GALEN SMITH.

Last Observed Date: 05 August 1998
Quad Map: GARRISON (M14D)
Latitude: 46 20' 7" Long: 93 52' 12"
Precision: within 0.25 mile, confirmed
Voucher: MIN Verification: verified

DNR Region: 3
Wildlife Area: 301
Forestry District: 311

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T045N R28W NWSW34 CROW WING COUNTY, MN
Element: MYRIOPHYLLUM TENELLUM (LEAFLESS WATER MILFOIL) #91
State Status: No Legal Status
EO Size: EO Rank: Current Status: Intended Status:
Site: BAY LAKE 34
Ownership: Owner unknown
Managed Area(s): not managed or no record
Source: MYHRE,K.M.(KMM7897)
Last Observed Date: 05 August 1998
Quad Map: GARRISON (M14D)
Latitude: 46 20' 7" Long: 93 52' 12"
Precision: within 0.25 mile, confirmed
DNR Region: 3
Wildlife Area: 301
Forestry District: 311
Voucher: MIN Verification: verified
SCOTT LAKE. LOCATED 12 MILES SOUTH OF THE TOWN OF DEERWOOD. AREA SURVEYED: NORTH SHORE OF LAKE. ASSOCIATED WITH NAJAS GRACILLIMA, POTAMOGETON VASEYI, UTRICULARIA GIBBA, ISOETES ECHINOSPORA VAR. BRAUNII.

T045N R28W NWSW34 CROW WING COUNTY, MN
Element: NAJAS GRACILLIMA (SLENDER NAIAD) #107
State Status: SPECIAL CONCERN
EO Size: EO Rank: Current Status: Intended Status:
Site: BAY LAKE 34
Ownership: Owner unknown
Managed Area(s): not managed or no record
Source: MYHRE,K.M.(KMM7895)
Last Observed Date: 05 August 1998
Quad Map: GARRISON (M14D)
Latitude: 46 20' 7" Long: 93 52' 12"
Precision: within 0.25 mile, confirmed
DNR Region: 3
Wildlife Area: 301
Forestry District: 311
Voucher: MIN Verification: verified
SCOTT LAKE. LOCATED 12 MILES SOUTH OF THE TOWN OF DEERWOOD. AREA SURVEYED: NORTH SHORE OF LAKE. ASSOCIATED WITH POTAMOGETON VASEYI, MYRIOPHYLLUM TENELLUM, UTRICULARIA GIBBA, ISOETES ECHINOSPORA VAR. BRAUNII.

T045N R28W NWSW34 CROW WING COUNTY, MN
Element: POTAMOGETON VASEYI (VASEY'S PONDWEED) #64
State Status: SPECIAL CONCERN
EO Size: EO Rank: Current Status: Intended Status:
Site: BAY LAKE 34
Ownership: Owner unknown
Managed Area(s): not managed or no record
Source: MYHRE,K.M.(KMM7896)
Last Observed Date: 05 August 1998
Quad Map: GARRISON (M14D)
Latitude: 46 20' 7" Long: 93 52' 12"
Precision: within 0.25 mile, confirmed
DNR Region: 3
Wildlife Area: 301
Forestry District: 311
Voucher: MIN Verification: verified
SCOTT LAKE. LOCATED 12 MILES SOUTH OF THE TOWN OF DEERWOOD. AREA SURVEYED: NORTH SHORE OF LAKE. ASSOCIATED WITH NAJAS GRACILLIMA, MYRIOPHYLLUM TENELLUM, UTRICULARIA GIBBA, ISOETES ECHINOSPORA VAR. BRAUNII.

T045N R28W NWSW34 CROW WING COUNTY, MN
Element: UTRICULARIA GIBBA (HUMPED BLADDERWORT) #103
State Status: No Legal Status
EO Size: EO Rank: Current Status: Intended Status:
Site: BAY LAKE 33
Ownership: Owner unknown
Managed Area(s): not managed or no record
Source: MYHRE,K.M.(KMM7898)
Last Observed Date: 05 August 1998
Quad Map: GARRISON (M14D)
Latitude: 46 20' 7" Long: 93 52' 12"
Precision: within 0.25 mile, confirmed
DNR Region: 3
Wildlife Area: 301
Forestry District: 311
Voucher: MIN Verification: verified
SCOTT LAKE. LOCATED 12 MILES SOUTH OF THE TOWN OF DEERWOOD. AREA SURVEYED: NORTH SHORE OF LAKE. ASSOCIATED WITH NAJAS GRACILLIMA, POTAMOGETON VASEYI, MYRIOPHYLLUM TENELLUM, ISOETES ECHINOSPORA VAR. BRAUNII.

Rare Features Database Print-outs: An Explanation of Fields

The Rare Features database is part of the Natural Heritage Information System,
and is maintained by the Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program,
a unit within the Division of Ecological Services,
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

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Field Name: [Full (non-abreviated) field name, if different]. Further explanation of field.

-C-

CBS Site: [County Biological Survey site number]. In each county, the numbering system begins with 1.
CLASS: A code which classifies features by broad taxonomic group: NC = natural community; SA = special animal; SP = special plant; GP = geologic process; GT = geologic time; OT = other (e.g. colonial waterbird colonies, bat hibernacula).
Cty: [County]. Minnesota counties (ordered alphabetically) are numbered from 1 (Aitkin) to 87 (Yellow Medicine).
CURRENT STATUS: Present protection status, from 0 (owner is not aware of record) to 9 (dedicated as a Scientific and Natural Area).

-D-

DNR Region: 1=NW, 2=NE, 3=E Central, 4=SW, 5=SE, 6= Minneapolis/St. Paul Metro.
DNR Quad: [DNR Quadrangle code]. DNR-assigned code of the U.S. Geologic Survey topographic map on which the rare feature occurs.

-E-

ELEMENT or Element: See AElement Name (Common Name)@
Element Name (Common Name): The name of the rare feature. For plant and animal species records, this field holds the scientific name, followed by the common name in parentheses; for all other elements (such as plant communities, which have no scientific name) it is solely the element name.
EO RANK: [Element Occurrence Rank]. An evaluation of the quality and condition of natural communities from A (highest) to D (lowest).
EO Size: [Element Occurrence Size]. The size in acres (often estimated) of natural communities.

-F-

FED STATUS: [Federal Status]. Status of species under the Federal Endangered Species Law: LE=endangered, LT=threatened, C=species which have been proposed for federal listing.
Federal Status: See AFED STATUS@
Forestry District: The Minnesota DNR=s Division of Forestry district number.

-G-

GLOBAL RANK: The abundance of an element globally, from G1 (critically imperiled due to extreme rarity on a world-wide basis) to G5 (demonstrably secure, though perhaps rare in parts of its range). Global ranks are determined by the Conservation Science Division of The Nature Conservancy.

-I-

INTENDED STATUS: Desired protection status. See also ACURRENT STATUS.@ If a complete list of protection status codes is needed, please contact the Natural Heritage Program.

-L-

LAST OBSERVED or Last Observed Date or Last Observation: Date of the most recent record of the element at the location.
Latitude: The location at which the occurrence is mapped on Natural Heritage Program maps. NOTE: There are various levels of precision in the original information, but this is not reflected in the latitude/longitude data. For some of the data, particularly historical records, it was not possible to determine exactly where the original observation was made (e.g. "Fort Snelling", or "the south shore of Lake Owasso"). Thus the latitude/longitude reflect the mapped location, and not necessarily the observation location.
Legal: Township, range and section numbers.
Long: [Longitude]. See NOTE under ALatitude@

-M-

MANAGED AREA or Managed Area(s): Name of the federally, state, locally, or privately managed park, forest, preserve, etc., containing the occurrence, if any. If this field is blank, the element probably occurs on private land. If "(STATUTORY BOUNDARY)" occurs after the name of a managed area, the location may be a private inholding within the statutory boundary of a state forest or park.
Map Sym: [Map Symbol].
MN STATUS: [Minnesota Status]. Legal status of plant and animal species under the Minnesota endangered species law:

END=endangered, THR=threatened, SPC=special concern, NON=no legal status, but tracked. This field is blank for natural communities and colonial waterbird nesting sites, which have no legal status in Minnesota, but are tracked by the database.

-N-

NC Rank: [Natural Community Rank].

-O-

Occ #: [Occurrence Number]. The occurrence number, in combination with the element name, uniquely identifies each record.

OCCURRENCE NUMBER: See AOcc #@

OF OCCURS: The number of records existent in the database for each element within the area searched.

Ownership: Indicates whether the site is publicly or privately owned; for publicly owned land, the agency with management responsibility is listed.

-P-

Precision: Precision of locational information of occurrence: C (confirmed) = known within 1/4 mile radius, U (unconfirmed) = known within 1/2 mile, N (non-specific) = known within 1 mile, G (general) = occurs within the general region, X (unmappable)=location is unmappable on USGS topographic quadrangles (often known only to the nearest county), O (obscure/gone)=element no longer exists at the location.

PS: [Primary Section]. The section containing all or the greatest part of the occurrence.

-Q-

Quad Map: See ADNR Quad@

-R-

Rec #: [Record number].

RNG or Rng: [Range number].

-S-

SECTION or Section: [Section number(s)]. Some records are given only to the nearest section (s), but most are given to the nearest quarter-section or quarter-quarter-section (e.g., SWNW32 denotes the SW1/4 of the NW1/4 of section 32). A "0" is used as a place holder when a half-section is specified (e.g., 0N03 refers to the north 1/2 of section 3). When a occurrence crosses section boundaries, both sections are listed, without punctuation (e.g., the NE1/4 of section 19 and NW1/4 of section 20 is displayed as ANE19NW20").

Site: A name which refers to the geographic area within which the occurrence lies. If no name for the area exists (a locally used name, for example), one is assigned by the County Biological Survey or the Natural Heritage Program.

Source: The collector or observer of the rare feature occurrence.

S RANK: [State Rank]. A rank assigned to the natural community type which reflects the known extent and condition of that community in Minnesota. Ranks range from 1 (in greatest need of conservation action in the state) to 5 (secure under present conditions). A "?" following a rank indicates little information is available to rank the community. Communities for which information is especially scarce are given a "U", for Arank undetermined@. The ranks do not represent a legal status. They are used by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to set priorities for research, inventory and conservation planning. The state ranks are updated as inventory information becomes available.

State Status: See AMN STATUS@

-T-

TWP or Twp: [Township number].

-V-

Verification: A reflection of the reliability of the information on which the record is based. The highest level of reliability is "verified," which usually indicates a collection was made or, in the case of bird records, nesting was observed. Plant records based on collections made before 1970 are unverified.

Voucher: The museum or herbarium where specimens are maintained, and the accession number assigned by the repository. In the case of bald eagles, this is the breeding area number.

-W-

Wildlife Area: The Minnesota DNR=s Division of Wildlife administrative number.

Data Security

Locations of some rare features must be treated as sensitive information because widespread knowledge of these locations could result in harm to the rare features. For example, wildflowers such as orchids and economically valuable plants such as ginseng are vulnerable to exploitation by collectors; other species, such as bald eagles, are sensitive to disturbance by observers. For this reason, we prefer that publications not identify the precise locations of vulnerable species. We suggest describing the location only to the nearest section. If this is not acceptable for your purposes, please call and discuss this issue with the Environmental Review Specialist for the Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program at 651/296-7863.

Reviewing Development Projects for Effects on Rare Features

This fact sheet was produced to accompany data from the Natural Heritage Information System regarding rare features (endangered, threatened, and special concern plants and animals; native plant communities; and animal aggregation sites) known to occur in the vicinity of a project location. It is designed to assist you in evaluating the potential effects of a proposed action (project) on rare natural features.

IF RARE FEATURES HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM WITHIN THE PROJECT BOUNDARIES

Rare features that occur within a project's boundaries have a high likelihood of being affected by the project. That likelihood can be further assessed by considering the following:

- *Location of the project in relation to the rare feature occurrence.* Will the project affect the area the rare feature was last known to occupy? If so, it is highly likely there will be a "taking" if the project occurs (see "Taking of Endangered or Threatened Species" below). If the rare feature is federally or state listed as an endangered or threatened species, the project must be modified to avoid the taking, or, if this is not possible or practical, a takings permit must be obtained. Even if the project will not affect the area where the rare feature was last known to occur, a survey is usually advisable to determine the present location and extent of the rare feature on the site (see "Conducting Surveys for Rare Features" below).

- *Habitat.* Will the project affect the species' habitat through removal, degradation, conversion, or fragmentation? Negative impacts on habitat for animal or plant species can decrease or eliminate the population over time, even if individual organisms are not directly killed. For certain plant species (especially annuals) a large percentage of the habitat occupied by individual plants over the span of decades may be unoccupied during any one given year. Therefore, removal of habitat for these plant species can hurt the population. Avoidance or mitigation measures should be considered.

- *Date of record.* Does the rare feature still occur at the site? If the date the rare feature was last observed is less than 20 years ago, it should be assumed to still occur at the site. If habitat has altered dramatically since the last observed date (for example, if the site has been converted from a natural area to row crops), the presence of the rare feature should be considered possible, but not certain. An on-site survey is generally the most definitive way to determine the presence of the species of concern on the site (see "Conducting Surveys for Rare Features" below). If a survey reveals the species still occurs on the site, see "Taking of Endangered or Threatened Species" below.

- *Nature and Timing of Disturbance.* Will the disturbance during construction of the project be temporary (e.g., installing some underground utility lines) or permanent (e.g., building a housing development)? If temporary, see below under "Life History".

- *Life History.* For *temporary* disturbances, the following questions should be considered. What time of year will the disturbance occur, and what is the rare species' situation at that time of year? Many plants are dormant at certain times of the year (usually late fall and winter) and less susceptible to disturbance. Some animals only use certain areas during a portion of the year, and therefore projects can be conducted while the animals are not on the site, provided the project does not alter the habitat so that it is unsuitable for future use by the animal. Is there a time of year that disruption to the animal or plant will be less (e.g., during the non-breeding season for animals or when the ground is frozen for plants)? If so, can the project be completed at that time? If not, see "Taking of Endangered or Threatened Species" below.

Conducting Surveys For Rare Features: Because many rare species are difficult to identify, surveys should be performed by persons with training and experience identifying the species in question. The surveyor should also know the specific habitat of the target species. In addition, many species can only be observed or identified at certain times of the year, so the surveyor must be familiar with the species' life history to know when the species is most likely to be found. A survey that fails to find a species at a site, but which was conducted at the wrong time of year does not provide convincing proof that a species does not exist at the site. Survey results should be submitted to the DNR for review, and should include the date of the survey, background of the surveyor, as well as other details such as the length of time spent searching. The NHNRP Environmental Review Coordinator can be contacted at the address at the end of this document for a list of people who have, in the past, competently conducted surveys for rare features.

"Taking" of Endangered or Threatened Species: If, through the analysis process described above, it is determined that a state endangered or threatened species may be killed or destroyed by a development project, the state Endangered Species Coordinator should be contacted. Destruction of threatened or endangered species is prohibited by state law and rules, except under certain prescribed conditions (Minnesota Statute 84.0895 and associated rules). Questions about the Endangered Species Law and the permitting process should be directed to the state Endangered Species Coordinator at (651) 259-5090. If it is determined that a federally endangered or threatened species may be killed or destroyed by a development project, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should be contacted at (612) 725-3276, ext. 250.

IF RARE FEATURES HAVE BEEN REPORTED OUTSIDE THE PROJECT BOUNDARIES

Rare features that occur in the vicinity of development projects but outside the project boundary can be affected by a project as described below.

- *Plant and Animal Populations*. Records of rare plants and animals in the Natural Heritage Rare Features Database represent observations of individuals from a population. In most cases, the size or the full extent of the population is unknown. If a rare species occurs in the vicinity of the project area and habitat for that species also occurs within the project boundary, it is possible that the species may occur on the project site. If this is the case, see "If Rare Features Have Been Reported From Within the Project Boundaries" above.
- *Hydrologic Patterns*. Changes in the local hydrologic patterns (e.g., amount or quality of surface runoff, appropriations or diversions of surface or ground water) can affect rare species or their habitats. Calcareous fens are particularly sensitive to changes in groundwater resources that occur within their recharge area, which can be quite large. Impacts of hydrologic changes on both on-site and off-site rare features in the vicinity of projects should be evaluated.
- *Invasive Exotics*. Projects that involve land disturbance can result in the deliberate or unintended introduction of invasive exotic (weed) species. Once established in an area, these species can spread into nearby native plant communities, thereby degrading them or making habitat no longer suitable for rare plant and animal species. Only local source native species should be used for revegetation, and equipment should be cleaned to avoid inadvertent spread of invasives.

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1 March 2006

Mr. Paul Burke, Habitat Conservation Biologist
United States Department of the Interior
Twin Cities Field Office
4101 East 80th Street
Bloomington, MN 55425-1665

RE: Wilson Lake 115 kV Transmission Project

Dear Mr. Burke:

Great River Energy (GRE) is currently gathering data to be used in preparation of several regulatory applications necessary to obtain approvals and permits for the construction of the proposed Wilson Lake 115 kV Transmission Project in Crow Wing County. The project is needed to meet the growing electrical needs of the area. GRE intends to seek a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission).

The proposed project includes:

- Approximately 12 miles of new overhead 115 kV transmission line in Oak Lawn, Nokay Lake, and Bay Lake townships, Minnesota.
- Modifications at the Mud Lake 115 kV Substation in Oak Lawn Township, MN to accommodate the termination of the new line.
- Expansion of Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative's Wilson Lake Substation in Bay Lake Township to include a new 115/69 kV substation.

GRE has identified a preferred route for the project (see enclosed fact sheet and map), but is evaluating transmission alternatives within the project area (area outlined in orange on the map).

GRE is requesting information on the possible effects of the proposed project on any listed or proposed threatened or endangered species and designated or proposed critical habitat that may be present in the project area. The proposed project does not represent a "major construction activity" as defined in 50 CFR 402.02. Your input on the project will assist GRE, our environmental consultant (Houston Engineering), and the Commission in their review of the project.

GRE would appreciate a response to this request by Friday, March 31, 2006. If you require further information or have questions regarding this matter, please feel free to call me at 763-241-2272. If you wish to respond by e-mail, my address is cschmidt@grenergy.com. Thank you for your attention to this important project.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Carole L. Schmidt

Carole L. Schmidt
Environmental Scientist

Enclosure: Fact Sheet/Project Location Map

cc: Bart Schultz, Houston Engineering

h:\cschmidt\Mud Lake-Wilson Lake\WLFWS

Schmidt, Carole GRE/ER

From: Paul_Burke@fws.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 03, 2006 6:34 AM
To: Schmidt, Carole GRE/ER
Subject: RE: "Wilson Lake"

Phew! Not the same "Wilson"

I do not know of any significant conflicts at the one in Crow Wing Co. PJB

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1 March 2006

Ms. Mary Reetz
District Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Brainerd Field Office
512 C Street NE
Brainerd, MN 56401-3157

RE: Wilson Lake 115 kV Transmission Project

Dear Ms. Reetz:

Great River Energy (GRE) is currently gathering data to be used in preparation of several regulatory applications necessary to obtain approvals and permits for the construction of the proposed Wilson Lake 115 kV Transmission Project in Crow Wing County. The project is needed to meet the growing electrical needs of the area. GRE intends to seek a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission).

The proposed project includes:

- Approximately 12 miles of new overhead 115 kV transmission line in Oak Lawn, Nokay Lake, and Bay Lake townships, Minnesota.
- Modifications at the Mud Lake 115 kV Substation in Oak Lawn Township, MN to accommodate the termination of the new line.
- Expansion of Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative's Wilson Lake Substation in Bay Lake Township to include a new 115/69 kV substation.

GRE has identified a preferred route for the project (see enclosed fact sheet and map), but is evaluating transmission alternatives within the project area (area outlined in orange on the map).

GRE is requesting information on the possible effects of the proposed project on important or prime farmlands in the project area. Your input on the project will assist GRE, our environmental consultant (Houston Engineering), and the Commission in their review of the project.

GRE would appreciate a response to this request by Friday, March 31, 2006. If you require further information or have questions regarding this matter, please feel free to call me at 763-241-2272. If you wish to respond by e-mail, my address is cschmidt@grenergy.com. Thank you for your attention to this important project.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Carole L. Schmidt

Carole L. Schmidt
Environmental Scientist

Enclosure: Fact Sheet/Project Location Map

cc: Bart Schultz, Houston Engineering

h:\cschmidt\Mud Lake-Wilson Lake\WLNRCS

Schmidt, Carole GRE/ER

From: Lieser, Mike - Fergus Falls, MN [Mike.Lieser@mn.usda.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2006 1:30 PM
To: Schmidt, Carole GRE/ER
Cc: Reetz, Mary - Brainerd, MN
Subject: Wilson Lake 115 kV Transmission Project_Crow Wing Co.

detailed soil survey areas.jpg... crow wing prime and statewide_...

Carole: I was forwarded the cover letter and map information on the above project plans by Mary Jane Reetz, DC in our Field Office in Baxter, MN. You are requesting NRCS's comments regarding project impacts to Prime and/or Statewide Important Farmlands within the roughly planned corridor route.

Based on your information at this point, it appears the project will involve substation construction and/or expansion at several locations. Also new transmission lines will be built. The substation construction sites will require an AD1006 form (Farmland Conversion Impact Rating
Form) be completed in areas where detailed soils information presently exists. I am attaching a scanned index map from our Published Soil Survey for Crow Wing Co. for your reference to determine if this construction will be located within our detailed portion of the mapping that exists. Also the type of power pole support determines whether additional acres of impact will need consideration. Will they be single post? Or are they larger 4-pole base type structures? Where exactly will they be located? I will need this information before I can complete Parts II, IV, and V of the AD1006 for you.

The present broad corridor information you have supplied me with does include areas that have been identified as both Prime and of Statewide Important, so chances are the 1006 will be required for this project.

Our Agency does have a website with Farmland Protection Policy Act Information. It includes a .pdf of the 1006 form plus instructions on completing the parts required by you as agents for the Federal Policy. The link is
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/fppa/index.html

You can download the forms and information as needed.

I am also attaching a .pdf of the listed Prime and/or Statewide Important Farmland units identified for Crow Wing County. Some of these units are mapped within your boxed project area.

Specific locations of impact will need to be determined before the AD1006 can be completed. If you have any questions feel free to get back to me. When locations of impact i.e., substation expansion, are determined and if 4 pole towers are to be used and their locations known, the 1006 form can be started and forwarded to me at the address below for completion of our Agency's portion (Parts II, IV, and V).

Sincerely,

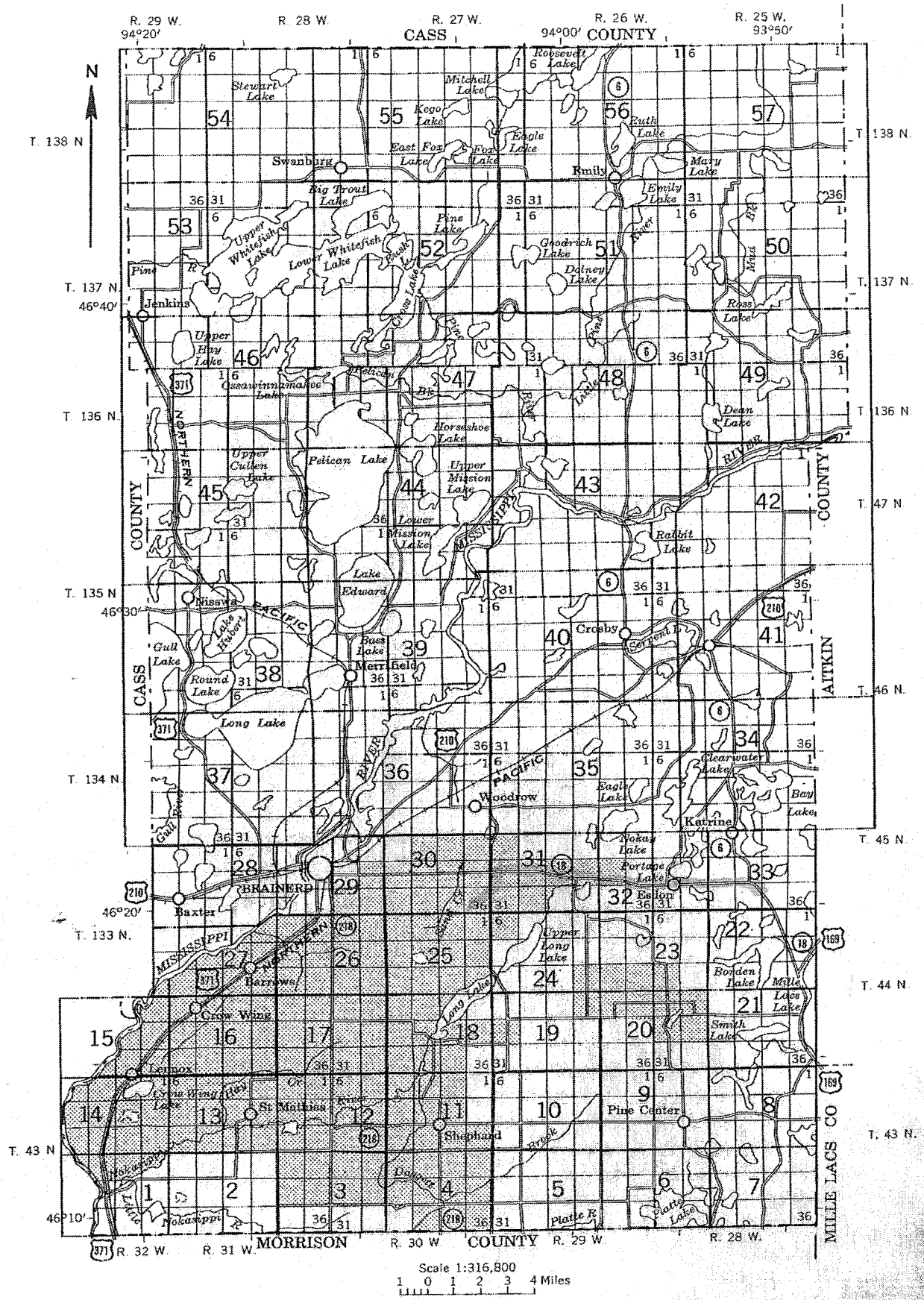
Mike

Mike Lieser
Area Resource Soil Scientist
USDA-NRCS
1004 Frontier Rd.
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
18-736-5445 ext.102
email: mike.lieser@mn.usda.gov

Prime and other Important Farmlands

Crow Wing County, Minnesota

Map symbol	Map unit name	Farmland classification
BbA	Brainerd sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
BbB	Brainerd sandy loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Ha	Halder loam	All areas are prime farmland
HbB	Hibbing silt loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
OnA	Onamia sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Zc	Zim silt loam	All areas are prime farmland
BbC	Brainerd sandy loam, 7 to 13 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
BcB	Brainerd-Chetek complex, 2 to 7 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
BcC	Brainerd-Chetek complex, 7 to 13 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
BuA	Burkhardt sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
BuB	Burkhardt sandy loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
ChA	Chetek sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
ChB	Chetek sandy loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
Lo	Lino loamy sand	Farmland of statewide importance
OnB	Onamia sandy loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
PoA	Pomroy loamy sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
PoB	Pomroy loamy sand, 2 to 7 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
NoA	Nokay sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
NoB	Nokay sandy loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained


R. 29 W.
94°20′
R. 28 W.
R. 27 W.
CASS
94°00′
COUNTY
R. 26 W.
R. 25 W.
93°50′
N
T. 138 N
T. 137 N.
46°40′
T. 136 N.
T. 135 N
46°30′
T. 134 N.
46°20′
T. 133 N.
46°10′
T. 47 N.
T. 46 N.
T. 45 N.
T. 44 N.
T. 43 N.
R. 32 W.
R. 31 W.
MORRISON
R. 30 W
COUNTY
R. 29 W.
R. 28 W.
MILLE LACS CO
AITKIN
COUNTY
CASS
COUNTY
Swanberg
Emily
Jenkins
Nisswa
Merrifield
Crosby
Baxter
BRAINERD
Barrows
Crow Wing
Lexington
St Mathias
Shepard
Pine Center
Woodrow
Katrine
Esko
Stewart Lake
Mitchell Lake
Roosevelt Lake
Kego Lake
Eagle Lake
East Fox Lake
Fox Lake
Ruth Lake
Mary Lake
Emily Lake
Big Trout Lake
Pine Lake
Upper Whitefish Lake
Lower Whitefish Lake
Goodrich Lake
Dalney Lake
Ross Lake
Upper Hay Lake
Ossawinnamakee Lake
Pelican Lake
Horseshoe Lake
Upper Mission Lake
Lower Mission Lake
Dean Lake
Upper Cullen Lake
Rabbit Lake
Lake Edward
Gull Lake
Round Lake
Long Lake
Bass Lake
Clearwater Lake
Eagle Lake
Bay Lake
Nokay Lake
Portage Lake
Upper Long Lake
Borden Lake
Mille Lacs Lake
Smith Lake
Platte Lake
Platte R
Nokasippi
Gull River
Pine River
Crow Wing River
Nokasippi River
Long Lake Brook
Dog River
Big Rice River
Mud River
Big River
Lake Edward
Lake Hubert
Serpent R
Mississippi River
NORTHERN PACIFIC
MISSISSIPPI
Scale 1:316,800
1 0 1 2 3 4 Miles
DETAILED SOIL SURVEY AREAS
RECONNAISSANCE SOIL SURVEY AREAS

From: Schultz, Bart
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2006 12:24 PM
To: 'cwcpz@co.crow-wing.mn.us'
Cc: Scadlock, Sara; Shostal, Christy
Subject: Wilson Lake Project - 115 kV Transmission Line

To Whom It May Concern:

Attached is the Project Corridor & Proposed Transmission Route for the Great River Energy Wilson Lake Project. It appears from the zoning map contained in the Comprehensive Plan adopted in April 2004, that the area for the proposed transmission route is zoned "Green Space".

Please confirm that the area is zoned as indicated, and that the construction of a 115 kV transmission line is a compatible use.

Thank you..... You can contact me at 763-493-4522 if you have any questions regarding this information.

Bart Schultz, P.E.
Project Manager

Barton L. Schultz, Project Manager

Houston Engineering, Inc. | Leave Nothing to Chance™

10900 73rd AVE N, Suite 106
Maple Grove, MN 55369
Phone: 763.493.4522 / Fax: 763.493.5572
Email: bschultz@houstonengineeringinc.com
Website: www.houstonengineeringinc.com

7/26/06

Barton L. Schultz, Project Manager
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Maple Grove, MN 55369
Phone: 763.493.4522 / Fax: 763.493.5572
Email: bschultz@houstonengineeringinc.com
Website: www.houstonengineeringinc.com

-----Original Message-----
From: Sue Maske [mailto:Sue.Maske@co.crow-wing.mn.us]
Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2006 8:09 AM
To: Schultz, Bart
Subject: Wilson Lake Project

Bart

Most of the property that you will be crossing for the transmission line is zoned agricultural, rural residential, & commercial. However I did find that some of the parcels that you may be crossing are zoned residential. Our ordinance does not allow transmission lines across property zoned residential. If you could provide me with an accurate transmission route, I will be able to determine if any of the route crosses residential zoned property.

Sue

APPENDIX B

NAMES OF PROPERTY OWNERS ALONG THE PROPOSED TRANSMISSION LINE ROUTE

NAMES OF PROPERTY OWNERS ALONG THE PROPOSED TRANSMISSION LINE ROUTE

ACORN MILLWORK INC
ALLENSPACH, JERRY A & NOREEN
ALMQUIST, BARBARA & TIMOTHY J
AMIDON III, THOMSON S & SARAH M
ANDERSON, LAWRENCE C
ANDERSON, TERRANCE H & MARY C
AUNE, CLARENCE J & DONNA M
BARCHUS, KENDAL R
BENJAMIN, F DUANE & CAREN M
BENTLEY, WILLIAM L & AMBER
BOCK, GARY
BORDWELL, BETTY ANN (1/4 INT)
BORDWELL, DANNY R
BRAFORD, RICKI C & JODI A
BRITTON, BENNIE R & BEVERLY E
BRITTON, BRIAN R & GAIL M
BRUNSKILL, CONNY
BURGWALD, WILLIAM F & DIANE M
CARDER, RICHARD W & ETHELYN
CARDER, STEVEN R & KAREN K
CARLSON, ROBERT E
CHAMBERLIN, AUDRA ANN & HARVEY J
CHISHOLM, LAVERNE D & JOAN A
CHRISTENSEN, DONALD A & IONE M
CHRISTENSON, STEVEN M & DEANNA L
CONSOLIDATED, TELEPHONE COMPANY
CORNER STORE-N-MORE LLC
CROSS, BILLY & JANELLE
CROW WING COOP POWER & LIGHT
CROW WING, CO-OPERATIVE RURAL TELEP
CUNNINGHAM, ALAN G
DEAN, FREDERICK MICHAEL
DEROSIER, LARRY J & MELODY
DEROSIER, PAMELA J
DEROSIER, ROBERT C & LISA M
DRAHOSH, DOROTHY C
DRAHOSH, GARY
DRAHOSH, GERALD L & GARY A
DUBEAU, CARROLL A
DUFFNEY, TIMOTHY J & COLLEEN
ECK, JAMES A & KAARI M
ELLICKSON, CHERYL
EMMERT, HOWARD G SR & MARY L
FLETCHER, EDWARD & SANDRA
FRAZIER, STANLEY R & ALICE I

GABRICK, DENNIS & JOANN R

GLAD REAL ESTATE LLC
HABERLE, KATHRYN A
HABERLE, WILLIAM E
HALBUR, ERIK A & JENNIFER L AND
HAUGEN, BRYAN K & LAURA A & MICHAE
HERLOFSKY, JAMES T
HEROLD, JOSHUA J & VANESSA K
HILL, MARTIN K
HILLMAN, MARGARET
HOLBROOK, ANGELA M LIFE ESTATE
HOLBROOK, BRUCE L & DIANA
HOLBROOK, EUGENE E & GAYLENE J
HOLBROOK, KELLEY J
HYLAND, MYRON D JR & DEBRA
JOHNSON, ARTHUR, BRADLEY & CATHY A
JOHNSON, JAMES D & CHLOE A
JOHNSON, MARVIN W
JOHNSON, MELVIN A & ELSIE E
JOHNSTON, WALLACE I JR & HOPE
JUKISH, GEORGE M
KAMPA, THOMAS J & SHEILA
KARSTON, JAMES W SR
KING, WILLIAM R & VICKY
KOTLAN, FRANK L
KOTLAN, LELA RAE
KRUGER, DANIEL R
KRUGER, JEAN MARIE
KRUGER-ANDERSON, JUDITH A
LARKIN, STEVEN M & LAURA L
LARSON, JEREMY P
LARSON, LARRY L & DOROTHY
LEASE, JAMES H & BECKY MILLER
LEDOUX, BRAD A & MARCY
LEIBOLD, SUSEN ANN
LEMBECK, WILLIAM O & CATHERINE
LEWANDOWSKI, JOHN B & MARY
LOCKWOOD, LARRY A & JANE M
M & M HORTICULTURE DISPOSAL INC
MCKAY, ROBERT & CAROL &MARY &
RICHA
MILLE LACS ELECTRIC , CO-OP
MINKE, EDWARD J
MINKEL, RICHARD W
MINNESOTA POWER AND LIGHT
MOGENSEN, KEITH B & CAROL
MORGAN, CHERI & ELOISE
MORROW FAMILY TRUST DATED 12/30/75
MUSEUS, LESLIE E & SANDRA
MUSEUS, REID A

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT, LLC
NELSON, DEANNA R
NELSON, GERALD J & JANICE
NELSON, GLENN & CATHERINE
NESSETH, HILLIARD R & LOLIS M
NESSETH, MICHAEL R & JULIE A
NEUMAN, WILLIAM A & JOANNE K
O'KEEFE, DANIEL J
OLSON, KATHLEEN A
PALMER, THOMAS & STEPHANIE
PATRICK, TERRY D & JANE
PERKINS, ALICIA DELRAY
PESSEK, FRED J & NEIDA
PETERSON, ROY L & MELISSA M
PETERSON, SHARON M
POLAND, JEROME D
PRITCHETT, LEROY P & GLORIA M
QUICKSTROM, HAYES O & JOAN E
RADEMACHER, RICHARD R & MARION (LIF
RAHTO, JOHN G & RACHAEL
RAHTO, THOMAS K & MELISSA
RUDIE, JAMES E & SUSAN
SCRUGGS, RICHARD C
SEGLER FAMILY JOINT REV TRUST
SEGLER, LELAND
SEGLER, RAYMOND M & JEAN M LIFE EST
SMIEJA, MARLYS J
SMUDE, LOIS & DALE RADEMACHER AND
STATE OF MINNESOTA DNR-
STROM, LOREN J
SUTTON, JOYCE E
SWARTOUT, GAYLON & SHEILA M
SYVERSON, MARK C & ROSEMARY G
TAX FORFEITED
TOWNSHIP OF NOKAY LAKE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
VILLNOW, SHANE M & MELODIE D
VILLNOW, TROY D & JAYNE M
VOGT, JEFFREY A & DIANE L
VOLK, CHARLES D & PATRICIA A
VOLK, MARTIN S & JOANNE
WARBURG, GERALD T & DOLORES A
WARTA, CINDY D
WATSON, CARL & DELORES E
WATSON, KERWIN
WEIDELL, JOYCE G
WHITE, FREDRICK H & PILAR
WURTZBERGER, ANDREW C & TERRY L
ZUGSCHWERT, MARVIN E & SANDRA