



January 11, 2011

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING and U.S. MAIL

Dr. Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
350 Metro Square Building
121 Seventh Place East
St. Paul, MN 55101

**Re: Application for Approval of Route Permit Amendment, Spans 89-93, 95-97,
and 122-124**

***In the Matter of the Application for a Route Permit for the Monticello to St.
Cloud 345 kV Transmission Line Project
MPUC Docket No.: ET-2, E002/TL-09-246***

Dear Dr. Haar:

Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation, and Great River Energy, a Minnesota cooperative corporation, ("Permittees") request that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") approve a route permit amendment for the Monticello to St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission Line Project ("Project") pursuant to Minnesota Rule 7850.4900. Specifically, Permittees request that the route width be expanded in three areas in response to concerns raised by affected landowners. Permittees believe a route permit amendment to the Route Permit is appropriate because the proposed route width expansions between poles 89-93, 95-97, and 122-124 will result in comparable overall impacts relative to the factors in Minnesota Rule 7850.4100 as does the route identified in the Route Permit for the Project.

Procedural History

On July 12, 2010, the Commission issued a Route Permit for the Project identifying both a permitted route and an anticipated alignment for the Project. Shortly thereafter, Permittees initiated right-of-way discussions with landowners.

On November 5, 2010, Permittees submitted a Plan and Profile compliance filing for poles 77-101. Permittees also requested route width expansions for three areas: poles 89-93, poles 95-97 and 122-124.

On December 2, 2010, the Commission declined to approve the route width expansions and advised that Permittees could make a request for a Route Permit amendment.

Accordingly, Permittees now request an amendment to the Route Permit for three route width modifications. A diagram of the proposed alignment between 89-93 is attached as **Attachment 1**, between poles 95-97 is attached as **Attachment 2**, and between 122-124 is attached as **Attachment 3**.

Discussion

A route permit amendment may be granted to amend any conditions in a route permit. Minn. R. 7850.4900, Subp. 1. Permittees requesting a route permit amendment must submit an application for the route permit amendment. Minn. R. 7850.4900, subp. 2. After receiving the application, the Commission is authorized to approve a route permit amendment after providing “at least a 10-day period for interested persons to submit comments on the application or request the matter be brought to the [C]ommission for consideration.” Minn. R. 7850.4900, Subp. 2.

Poles 89, 93, 95, 97, 122, and 124 are all located within the approved route and are along, or deviate only slightly from, the alignment anticipated in the Route Permit issued by the Commission. Poles 90, 91, 92, 96, and 123 and the spans connecting these poles to each applicable adjacent pole are not located within the approved route and require expansion of the route width.

Permittees request that the Route Permit be amended to authorize the following three alignment changes outside the designated route:

- An alteration in the alignment between poles 89-93 that places structures 91 and 92 outside the approved route and shifts the alignment approximately 400 feet to the east, at its greatest distance, from the alignment that was identified in the Route Permit and approximately 270 feet east of the permitted route’s centerline.
- An alteration in the alignment between poles 95-97 that shifts the alignment 375 feet to the west of the alignment that was anticipated in the Route Permit and approximately 80 feet west of the permitted route. The alteration places structure 96, which is a double pole design at this location, 57 feet west of the route approved by the Commission at its closest point and 101 feet west of the route approved by the Commission at its furthest point, placing the line closer to Interstate 94.
- An alteration in the alignment between poles 122-124 that places structure 123, which is a double pole design at this location, outside the route permitted by the Commission. The pole placed the greatest distance outside the permitted route will be located less than 50 feet to the south of the route permitted by the Commission.

All three alignment changes were approved by the affected landowners, are contained within property owned by the requestor(s), and result in comparable overall impacts relative to the factors in Minnesota Rule 7850.4100 as does the permitted route.

Dr. Burl W. Haar

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Conclusion

For the reasons set forth above, Permittees request that the Commission grant an amendment to the Route Permit for the locations described above for the Project and authorize construction along the proposed alignment shown on the enclosed Attachments 1-3.

Thank you, and please contact me with any questions at darrin.f.lahr@xcelenergy.com or (763) 493-1808.

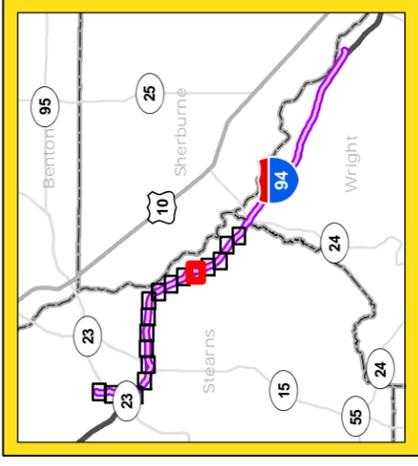
Sincerely,



Darrin Lahr
Supervisor, Siting and Land Rights
Xcel Energy
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Enclosures

cc: w/enclosures:
David Birkholz, Minnesota Department of Commerce Office of Energy Security
Anderson Trucking Service, Inc.
Levimo, LLC
Brian and Sheela Gross
Gregory Voigt



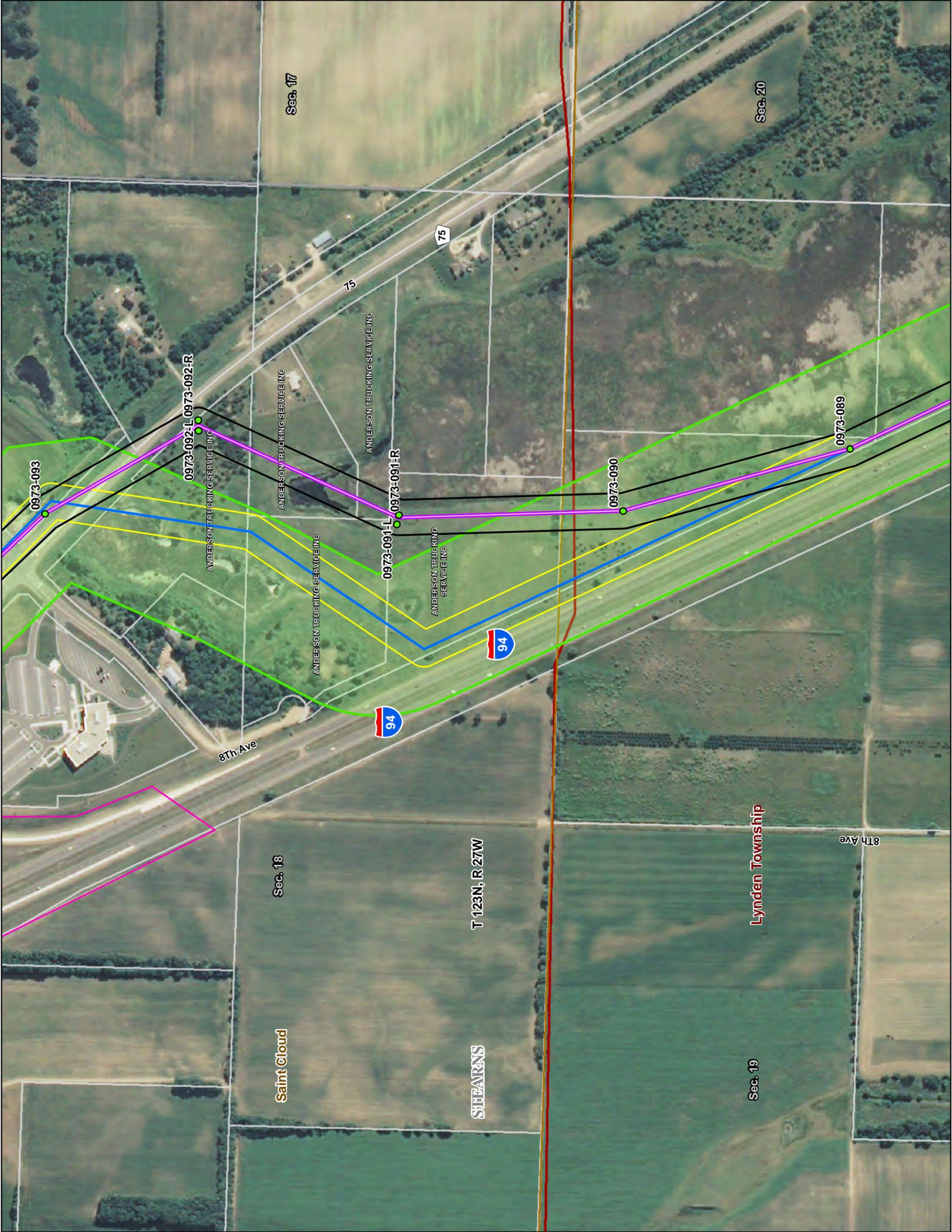
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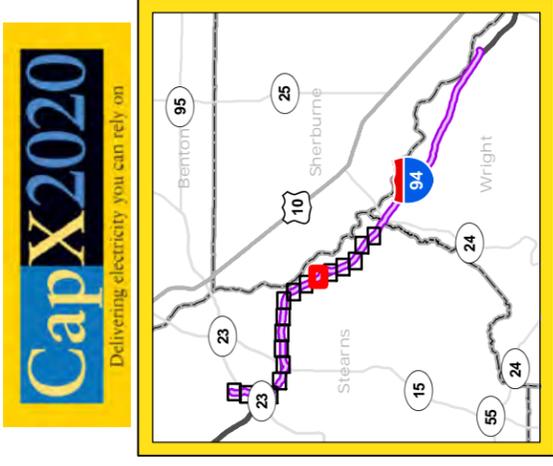
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 - P&P Alignment
 - P&P Right-of-Way
 - PUC RP Anticipated Alignment
 - PUC RP Anticipated Right-of-way
 - PUC Approved Route
 - Quarry Substation Site
 - Municipal Boundary
 - Township Boundary
 - Section Boundary
 - Parcel Boundary
 - Existing Substation
- Existing Transmission Line**
- 345 kV
 - 230 kV
 - 115 kV
 - 69 kV



**Monticello - St. Cloud
 Final and Permitted
 Alignment Comparison**

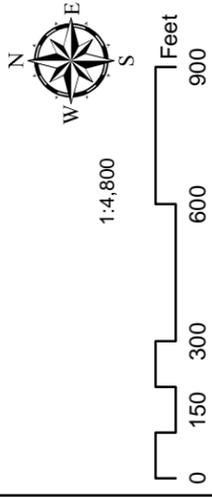
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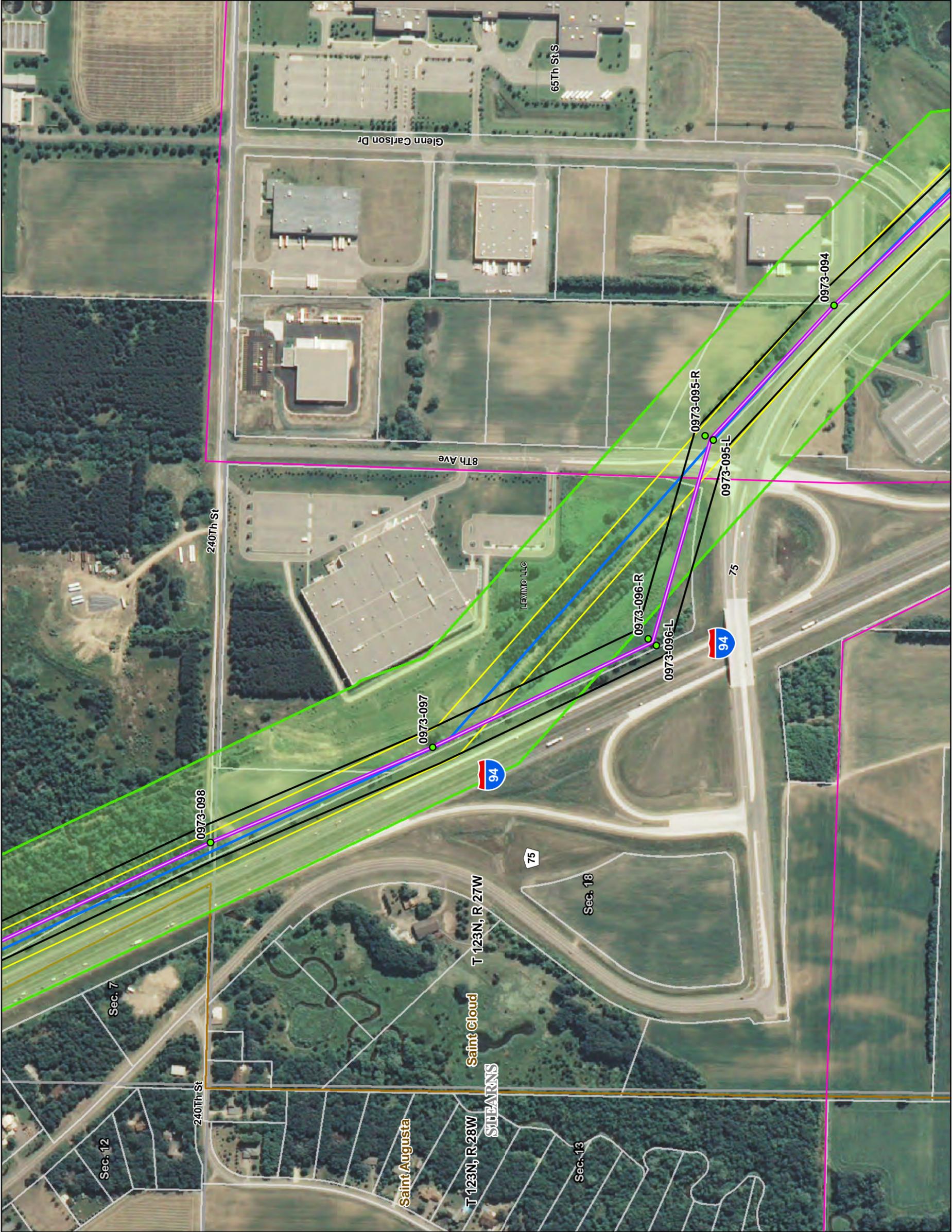
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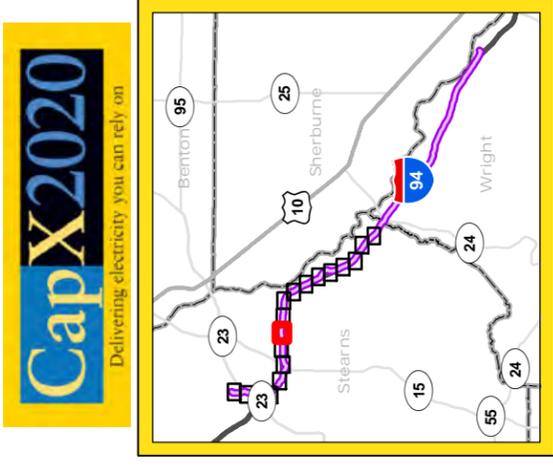
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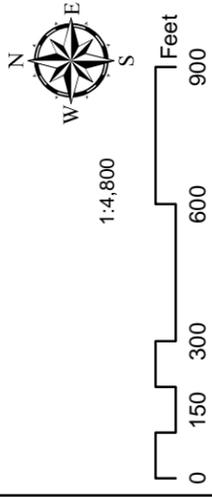
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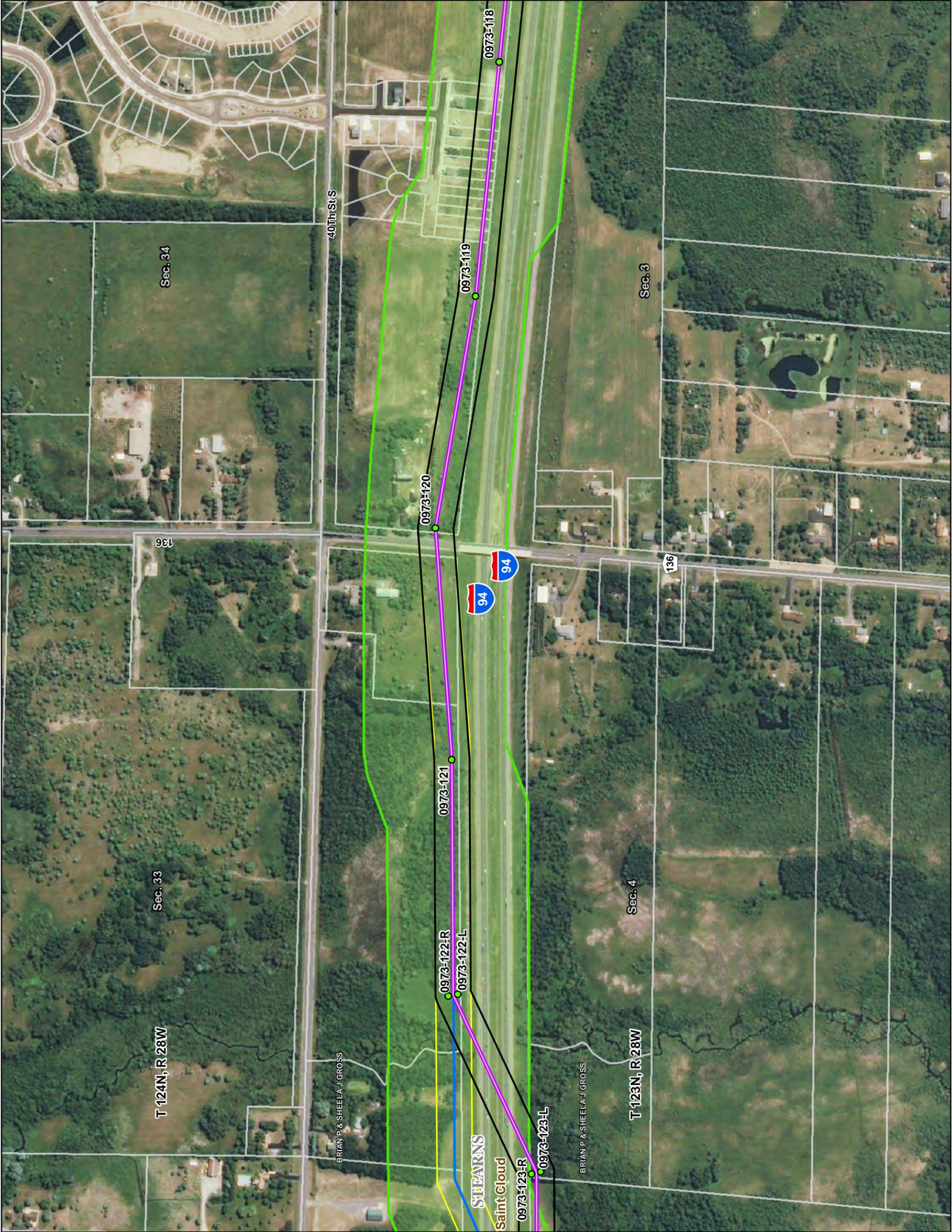
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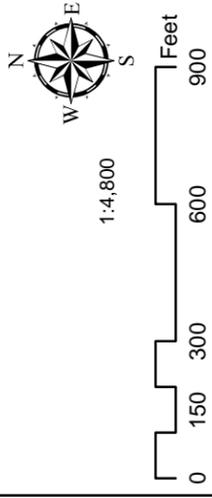
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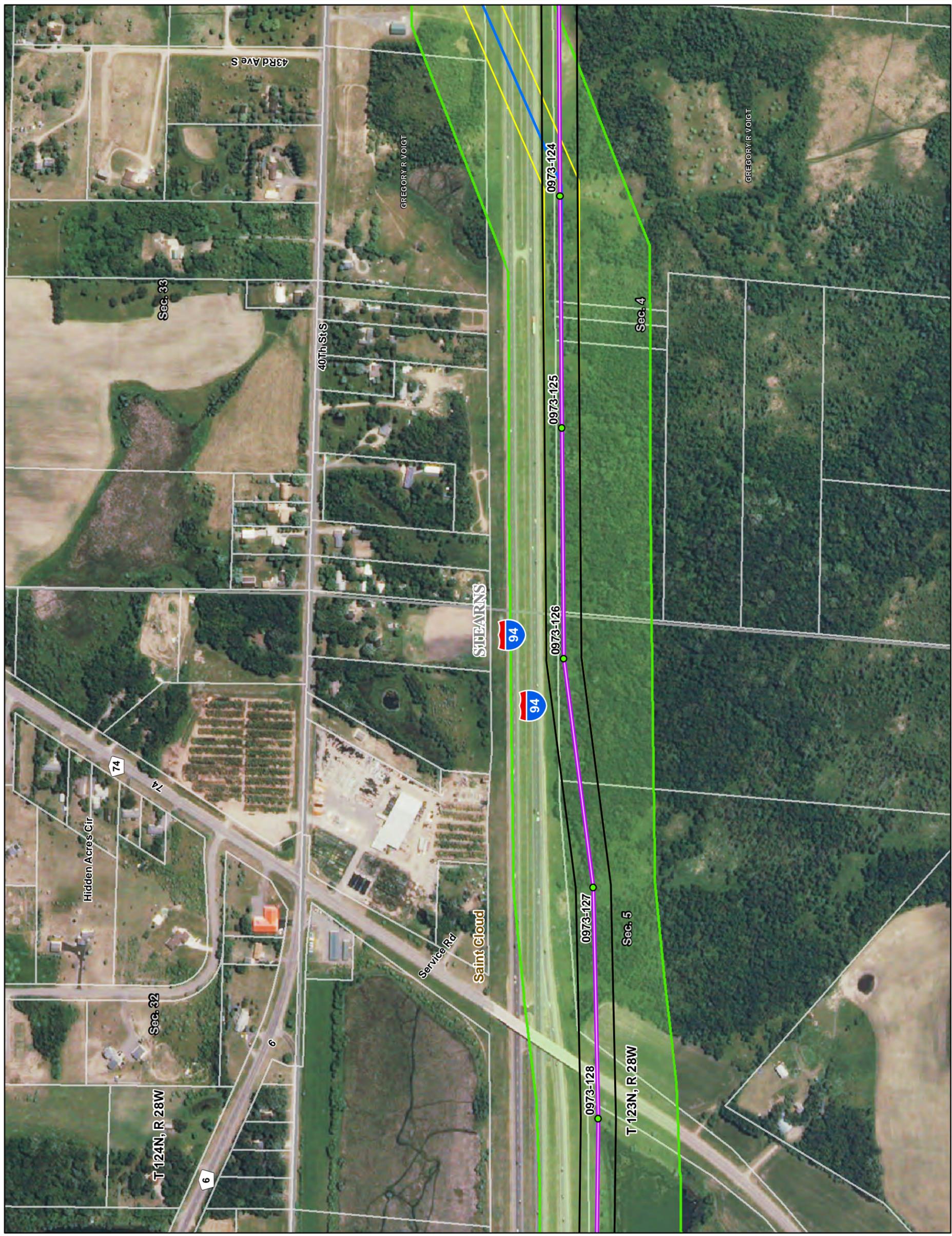
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**In the Matter of the Xcel Energy and Great
River Energy Application to the Minnesota
Public Utilities Commission for a Route
Permit for the Monticello to St. Cloud 345 kV
Transmission Line Project**

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
PUC Docket No. ET-2,E002/TL-09-246
OAH Docket No. 15-2500-20665-2**

Diane Bailey-Andersen certifies that on the 11th day of January 2011, she filed a true and correct copy of **Applicants' Application for Approval of Route Permit Amendment, Spans 89-93, 95-97, and 122-124**, by posting it on www.edockets.state.mn.us. Said document(s) were also served via U.S. Mail and e-mail as designated on the Official Service List on file with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

/s/ Diane Bailey-Andersen
Diane Bailey-Andersen

Service List Member Information

Electronic Service Member(s)

Last Name	First Name	Email	Company Name	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret
Agrimonti	Lisa	lagrimonti@briggs.com	Briggs And Morgan, P.A.	Electronic Service	No
Anderson	Julia	Julia.Anderson@state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	Electronic Service	Yes
Birkholz	David	David.Birkholz@state.mn.us	Office of Energy Security	Electronic Service	Yes
Church	Kodi	kchurch@briggs.com	Briggs & Morgan	Electronic Service	No
Cupit	Bob	bob.cupit@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	Electronic Service	Yes
Eknas	Bret	bret.eknas@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	Electronic Service	Yes
Ferguson	Sharon	sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	Electronic Service	Yes
Haar	Burl W.	burl.haar@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	Electronic Service	Yes
Hammel	Karen Finstad	Karen.Hammel@state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	Electronic Service	Yes
Krikava	Michael	mkrikava@briggs.com	Briggs And Morgan, P.A.	Electronic Service	No
Lindell	John	agorud.ecf@state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	Electronic Service	Yes
Pile	Deborah	Deborah.Pile@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	Electronic Service	Yes
Shaddix Elling	Janet	jshaddix@janetshaddix.com	Shaddix And Associates	Electronic Service	Yes
Simpser	Zeviel	zsimpser@briggs.com	Briggs and Morgan PA	Electronic Service	No

Paper Service Member(s)

Last Name	First Name	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret
Kaul	Will	Great River Energy	12300 Elm Creek Boulevard, Maple Grove, MN-553694718	Paper Service	No
Lahr	Darrin F.	Xcel Energy	8701 Monticello Lane, Maple Grove, MN-55369	Paper Service	No
Overland	Carol	Legalelectric, Inc.	P.O. Box 176, Red Wing, MN-55066	Paper Service	No
Patel	Priti R.	Xcel Energy	414 Nicollet Mall, MP 800, Minneapolis, MN-55401	Paper Service	No
Poorker	Craig	Great River Energy	12300 Elm Creek Boulevard, Maple Grove, MN-55369	Paper Service	No
Ross McCalib	Laureen	CapX2020/Great River Energy	12300 Elm Creek Boulevard, Maple Grove, MN-553694718	Paper Service	No
Stephenson	Donna	Great River Energy	12300 Elm Creek Boulevard, Maple Grove, MN-55369	Paper Service	No
Thulien Smith	Jennifer	Xcel Energy Services, Inc.	414 Nicollet Mall, 5th Floor, Minneapolis, MN-55401	Paper Service	No