Appendix B

Advisory Task Force Report

Management
Analysis
& Development

Minnesota Department of Commerce

Essar Steel 230 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Project Advisory Task Force Report

PUC Docket No. E-280/TL-09-512

October 20, 2009

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Introduction

On June 1, 2009, Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission (the Applicant) and Minnesota Power (Co-applicant) submitted a route permit application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) to construct four 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines and two 230 kV substations (project). The purpose for the project is to supply reliable electric power to a single source entity – Essar Steel Minnesota. Essar Steel has obtained state approvals to reactivate the former Butler Taconite mine by developing new facilities, including a taconite pellet plant and steel production plant. The existing Shannon, Boswell and Blackberry Substations are the proposed power source connections for the project. The proposed project with its four routes would require approximately 37 miles of new transmission lines. The applicants have identified four route study areas: 1) Shannon end of 94 line to Essar Steel Plant Substation, 2) Boswell end of 94 line to Essar Mine substation, 3) Blackberry substation to Essar Steel plant substation, and 4) Essar mine substation to Essar Steel plant substation. For each study area, the applicant has proposed one preferred route and one alternate route (See Appendix A for a map of the proposed applicant routes).

On June 29, 2009, the Commission authorized the Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security (OES) to establish and charge, as appropriate, an advisory task force (ATF) to assist OES staff in determining the scope of the environmental impact statement (EIS) to be prepared for the proposed project. The Essar Steel ATF was charged with: (1) reviewing the route permit application, (2) identifying specific impacts and issues of local concern to be assessed in the EIS, and (3) identifying potential alternative transmission line routes and substation locations to be assessed in the EIS (See Appendix B).

On July 24, 2009, the OES appointed ten persons to the Essar Steel ATF (See Appendix C).

Methodology

The Essar Steel ATF met three times – August 12, September 2, and September 23, 2009. The task force, through a facilitated process, discussed the proposed project and the charge given to the task force. Task force meetings were open to the public, and additional people attended to listen to the discussion.

The first task of the ATF was to determine the impacts and issues that should be evaluated in the EIS for the project. This task was the focus for the first meeting. Task force members, through small and large group discussions, identified impacts and issues. Additionally, task force members submitted “homework” identifying specific impacts and issues that would be important to consider for the project.

At the second meeting, task force member reviewed and prioritized the impacts and issues identified at the first meeting. Task force members were asked to vote as to which impacts and issues were most important. Following this prioritization, task force members took up the second part of their charge – identifying alternative routes and substation locations. Task force members

broke into small "brainstorming" groups and identified alternative routes, route segments, and substation locations. The small groups then reported back to the entire task force.

At the third meeting, the task force reviewed the alternatives identified at the second meeting and discussed pros and cons of each alternative including the applicants' proposed routes. Clarifications, corrections, and variations within a route were discussed. The task force then discussed if there was strong support for one or several route(s), route segment(s), or substation locations, such that the task force wanted to indicate a preference or recommendation

The task force's work was captured in meeting notes recorded on flip charts by the meeting facilitator. Meeting notes and supporting materials for all meetings are available online: http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/resource.html?Id=24626

Impacts and Issues to Evaluate

Task force members identified impacts and issues by responding to the following question: "What land use planning or other impacts and issues need to be considered in the evaluation of proposed transmission line routes?" The task force identified and prioritized eight impacts and issues to be evaluated in the EIS (See Appendix D).

Top priority impacts and issues to consider were:

- Impact on real property
- Potential health and safety issues

Second priority impacts and issues to consider were:

- Route impact
- Potential environmental impacts

Other important impact and issues to consider were:

- Potential economic impacts
- Issues and impact on future mining
- Recreation
- Cultural impacts

Identification and Review of Transmission Line Routes, Alternative Routes, and Route Segments

The task force identified three alternative route segments for consideration in the EIS. Maps for these segments are included in the appendices. The task force reviewed the alternatives generated by the ATF and the applicant's proposed routes, and identified pros and cons for each. Pros and cons for each alternative (keyed to map names where appropriate), as well as task force discussion, are noted here:

Applicant Route 1

Pros

- Shortest route
- Easiest route in that it is a straight line
- Fewer number of residents impacted and home farther away from route
- Crosses more corporate land and less residential land
- Less impact on wetlands

[Note: ATF members noted that having the transmission line impact or go through wetlands may be a better option or pro because the better, more stable ground for development and use is the "high ground." Impact on wetlands, however, is still an issue for the EIS to review.]

Cons

- One home in 150 feet of route

Applicant Route 1A

Pros

- Farther from Highway 65 and the home along it
- Route looks to be in a more desolate area; away from farm land, uses vacant land

Cons

- Longer route
- More area is disturbed because of longer route
- Greater impact on wetlands (may also be a pro)
- Impacts more forest and agriculture land

Applicant Route 2

Pros

- Follows existing power line
- Goes through a more remote location
- Impacts one-half of the acres that Applicant Route 2A impacts
- Impacts 21 fewer acres of agriculture land

- Impacts fewer acres of Blandin conservation easement acres

Cons

- Route is close to Reilly Lake (or O'Reilly Lake)

Applicant Route 2A

Pros

- Shorter distance
- Lower route cost for project
- Impacts fewer forest acres
- Impacts fewer future mining activities
- Impacts six fewer structures

Cons

- Close to Big Sucker Lake
- New land used for a majority of the route
- Crosses more roadways
- New intrusion into forest conservation easement area

Applicant Route 3

Pros

- Uses existing corridor
- Shorter distance
- Two fewer transmission structures
- Crosses iron formation at a mined-out area
- Uses a greater percentage of existing right-of-way
- From City of Pengilly on, the route is on old mine or mine dumping land

Cons

- Viewshed from Pengilly would be impacted
- Close to Swan Lake, Pengilly, and Nashwauk
- Crosses more roadways

Applicant Route 3A

Pros

- Impacts 12 fewer homes

Cons

- More of route does not follow existing corridors, new land impacted
- Impacts more private land
- Shares a corridor with Applicant Route 2
- Goes through Trout Lake Township

Applicant Route 4

Pros

- Whole route is on Essar Steel property
- Does not impact wetlands and homes
- Follows existing right-of-way to a greater percentage

Cons – none identified

Applicant Route 4A

Pros – none identified

Cons

- Goes between Big Sucker Lake and Little Sucker Lake
- Five residents impacted, density is 1.06
- Impacts viewshed of five residents
- Route places transmission line in wetland

ATF Alternative Route Segment 1 – to Applicants Route 3A (Blue line on Appendix E map)

Pros

- Shorter than Applicant's Route 3A
- Avoids private lands to the west of 3A
- Puts the route through wetlands rather than highlands

Cons

- Impacts wetlands and brush lands
- Crosses existing and proposed gas lines
- One more line (power and gas) cutting through a single piece of property

ATF Alternative Route Segment 2 – to Applicants Route 3A, slightly further east of previous AFT Segment 1 (Purple line on Appendix E map)

Pros

- Goes farther east and misses all homes
- Shorter than Applicants Route 3A
- Avoids private lands to the west of 3A
- Puts the route through wetlands rather than highlands

Cons

- Impacts wetlands and brush lands
- Crosses existing and proposed gas lines
- One more line (power and gas) cutting through a single piece of property

ATF Alternative Route Segment 3 – to Applicants Route 1A (Red line on Appendix E map)

Pros

- Moves route away from a future building site, site already has water and sewer
- Shorter route

Cons – none identified

Line Alignment in Identified Routes

The charge of the ATF was to review and identify alternatives to transmission line routes, the broad pathway a transmission line may take. The "alignment" or specific area inside the route that a transmission line would actually use was not a charge for this ATF but the members discussed such options and asked that their comments be included so they would not be lost. The following comments correspond to noted areas identified in Appendices E through G.

Appendix E – Alternative Alignments developed by ATF to Routes 3 and 3A

- ATF Group 2 alignment in Route 3 (red dot line) – do not widen corridor along Highway 70 to avoid homes; instead double-hang lines on single pole.

Appendix F – Alternative Alignments developed by ATF to Routes 1 and 1A

- ATF Group 2 alignment in Route 1 (Blue dot line) – go into lowland, then Blandin land to avoid home
- ATF Group 3 alignment in Route 1 (Green dot line – avoid private home not on map (this is the same home as identified by Group 2 above)

Appendix G – Alternative Alignments developed by ATF to Routes 2 and 2A

- ATF Group 2 alignment in Route 2 (Blue dot line) – use property line on east side of right-of-way, off private land
- ATF Group 3 alignment in Route 2 (Green dot line) – use double lines or lines moved to south (south of Island Lake)

Conclusions

1. **Study all of the alternative line route segments identified by the task force.** A good amount of effort and thought went into the creation of the task force's alternative transmission line route segments. The task force could not find consensus around a particular route segment, or recommend a particular alternative. Thus, the task force recommends that all alternatives be carried forward in the EIS process with the pros and cons identified by the task force.

2. **All impacts and issues identified by the task force are important.** The impacts and issues identified by the task force are all important and should be evaluated in the EIS. The prioritization of impacts and issues performed by the task force may be helpful in guiding OES staff in the development of the EIS, but is not intended to diminish the importance of all impacts and issues raised and discussed by the task force.

Appendices

A – Map of Applicant Proposed Routes

B – Advisory Task Force Charge

C – Notice of Appointment

D – Impacts and Issues Table

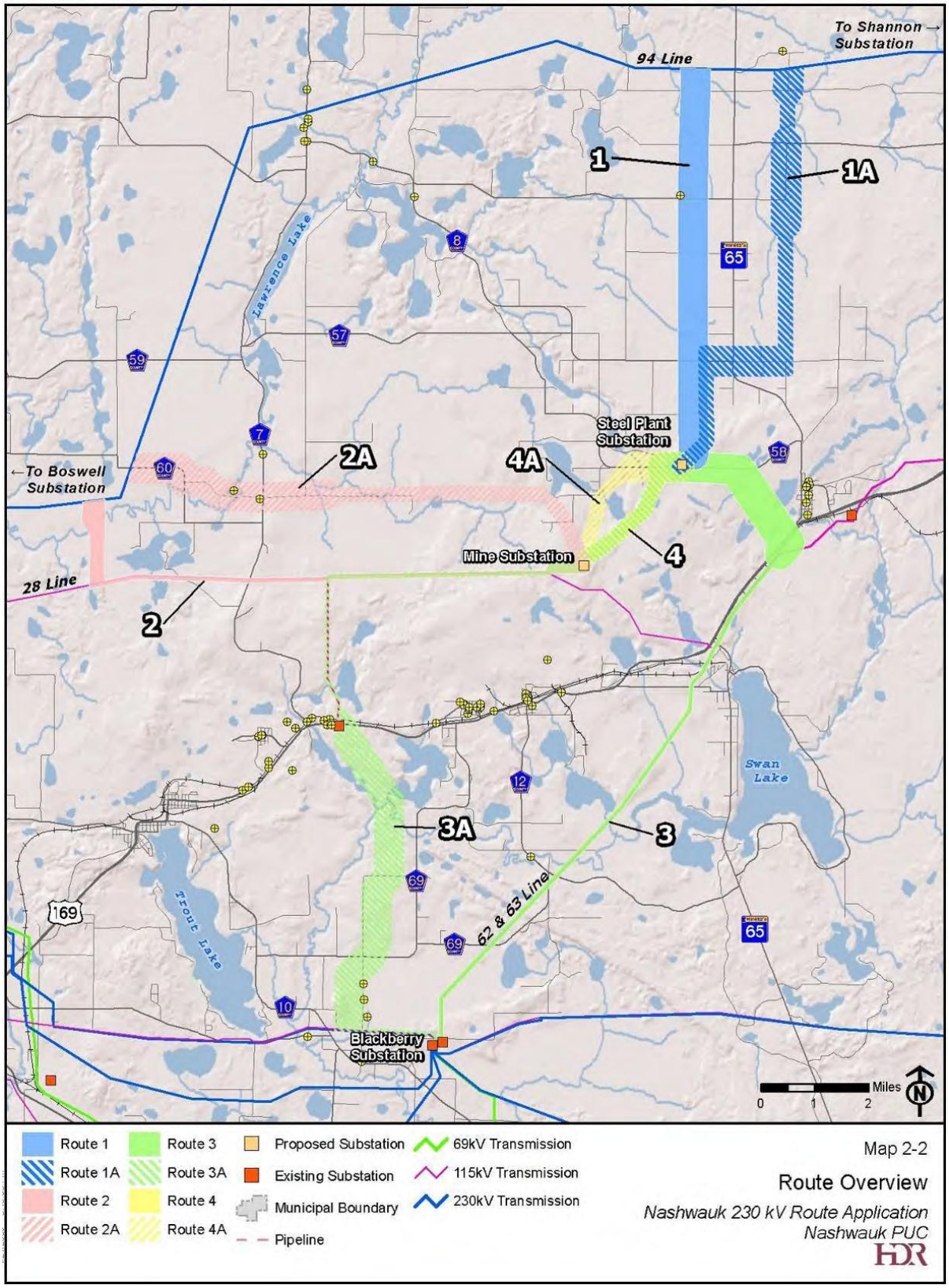
E – Map of Alternative Alignment developed by ATF to Routes 3 and 3A

F – Map of Alternative Alignment developed by ATF to Routes 1 and 1A

G – Map of Alternative Alignment developed by ATF to Routes 2 and 2A

Appendix A

Map 2-2: Route Overview



Appendix B

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

David Boyd	Chair
J. Dennis O'Brien	Commissioner
Phyllis Reha	Commissioner
Thomas Pugh	Commissioner
Betsy Wergin	Commissioner

Bryan Adams
Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission
301 Central Avenue
Nashwauk, Minnesota 55769

SERVICE DATE: June 29, 2009

DOCKET NO. E-280/TL-09-512

In the Matter of the Application for a HVTL Route Permit for the Essar Steel Transmission Project.

The above entitled matter has been considered by the Commission and the following disposition made:

Accepted the HVTL Route permit application submitted by NPUC/MP for the Essar Steel Transmission project as complete and authorize OES EFP staff to initiate the full review process under Minnesota Rules Chapter 7849.

Authorized the OES EFP staff to name a public advisor in this case.

Authorized OES EFP staff to establish an advisory task force with the proposed structure and charge for the task force.

Referred the NPUC/MP Essar Steel HVTL Route Permit Docket E2802/TL-09-512 to the Office of Administrative Hearings for conduct of the Minn. R. 1405 contested case hearing.

The Commission agrees with and adopts the recommendations of the Office of Energy Security which are attached and hereby incorporated in the Order.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

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office of energy security
Minnesota Department of Commerce

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MINNESOTA OFFICE OF ENERGY SECURITY ENERGY FACILITY PERMITTING STAFF

DOCKET NO. E280/TL-09-512

Meeting Date: June 25, 2009.....Agenda Item # 4

Company: Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission/Minnesota Power

Docket No. PUC Docket Number: E280/TL-09-512
In the Matter of the Application for a HVTL Route Permit for the Essar Steel Transmission Project.

Issue(s): Should the Commission accept or reject the application as substantially complete? If accepted, should the Commission authorize the Department to appoint a public advisor and an advisory task force?

DOC Staff: William Cole Storm.....651-296-9535

Relevant Documents (in Commission Packet).

- NPUC's HVTL Route Permit Application.....June 1, 2009.

The enclosed materials are work papers of the Department of Commerce (Department) Office of Energy Security (OES) Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff. They are intended for use by the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) and are based on information already in the record unless otherwise noted.

This document can be made available in alternative formats; i.e. large print or audio tape by calling (651) 201-2202 (Voice) or 1-800-627-3529 (TTY relay service).

Documents Attached.

1. Site map illustrating the four study areas in which the routes will be located.
2. Site map illustrating applicant's preferred and alternative routes.
3. OES proposed charge and structure for an advisory task force.

(Note: Relevant documents and additional information can be found on eDockets (ET2/GS-07-715) or the PUC Energy Facilities Permitting website

http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19981)

Statement of the Issue

Should the Commission accept or reject the application as substantially complete under the Review Process of the Power Plant Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes 216E.001 to 216E.18)? If accepted, should the Commission authorize the OES to appoint a public advisor and an advisory task force?

If the application is rejected, the Commission must advise the applicant of the deficiencies in the application.

Introduction and Background

On June 1, 2009, Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission (NPUC) and Minnesota Power (MP) submitted a high voltage transmission line (HVTL) Route Permit application to the Commission for the proposed Essar Steel Transmission Project.

Minnesota Statutes Section 216E.03, subd. 2, provides that no person may construct a high voltage transmission line without a route permit from the Commission. An HVTL is defined as a transmission line of 100 kV or more and greater than 1,500 feet in length in Minnesota Statutes Section 216E.01, subd. 4. The proposed transmission lines are HVTLs and therefore a route permit is required prior to construction. The application was submitted pursuant to the provisions of the Full Permitting Process outlined in Minnesota Rules 7849.5200 to 7849.5340.

Minnesota Statute 216B.243, subdivision 2, states that no Large Energy Facility shall be sited or constructed in Minnesota without issuance of a certificate of need by the Commission. The Essar Steel Transmission project meets the definition of a Large Energy Facility under Minn. Stat. 216B.2421, subd. 2. However, the applicant has stated that the proposed project meets the exemption criteria for construction of a high voltage transmission line that serves the demand of a single customer at a single location (Minn. Stat. § 216B.243, subd. 8, item 2). The single customer for this proposed project would be Essar Steel Minnesota (ESM). All four proposed 230 kV transmission lines would terminate at the two proposed 230 kV substations located at the ESM site. Therefore, if the Commission concurs with this position, a Certificate of Need would not be required for the proposed project.

Project Description
NPUC and MP propose to construct four 230 kV transmission lines and two 230 kV substations. The purpose of the project is to supply reliable electric power to a single source entity - Essar Steel Minnesota (ESM). ESM has obtained state approvals to reactivate the former Butler Taconite mine by developing new facilities, including a taconite pellet plant and steel production plant. The Essar taconite pellet facility is expected to commence initial operation by early 2011, with initial steel plant operation planned for early 2014, at which time the projected demand would be approximately 300 megawatts. Although not committed to, ESM has site approvals for a second steel slab melt line, which would increase the ESM facilities' total electric power requirements to approximately 500-550 megawatts if constructed and at full operation.

The four routes would require approximately 37 miles of new transmission lines (**Attachments 1 and 2**).

Study Area 1 – Shannon end of 94 Line to Essar Steel Plant Substation
Study Area 1 is bordered by MP's 230 kV Boswell to Shannon 94 Line (94 Line) to the north and the Steel property to the south. The east boundary is two miles east of Minnesota Trunk Highway (TH) 65 and the west boundary is two miles west of TH 65. The proposed transmission line would cross over rugged northern Minnesota forestland. TH 65 and a number of county and secondary roads cross the study area; no other major linear infrastructure (transmission lines, pipelines or railroads) are present. The transmission line routes within this study area would be approximately eight miles long.

Study Area 2 – Boswell end of 94 Line to Essar Mine Substation
Study Area 2 is bordered by the 94 Line on the north and west. The southern border is MP's 115 kV Boswell to Nashwauk 28 Line (28 Line) and the eastern border is the ESM property. The proposed transmission line would cross over rugged northern Minnesota forestland. There are a number of county and secondary roads within the study area. The 28 Line is the only other infrastructure right-of-way present. The transmission line routes within this study area would be approximately 10 miles long.

Study Area 3 – Blackberry Substation to Essar Steel Plant Substation
Study Area 3 is bordered by the City of Nashwauk on the northeast, 28 Line on the north and CSAH 10 to the west. The Blackberry Substation is located at the southern border and MP's115 kV 62 and 63 Lines are located on the eastern border. The proposed transmission line would cross over rugged northern Minnesota forestland. U.S. Highway 169 travels east/west within the study area. There are a number of county and secondary roads, transmission lines, and gas pipelines within this study area. The transmission line routes within this study area would be approximately 15-18 miles long.

Study Area 4 – Essar Mine Substation to Essar Steel Plant Substation
Study Area 4 is located entirely within ESM property and would connect the two new substations. The ESM plant utility right-of-way, including a new railroad and several secondary roads are located within the study area. The transmission line routes within this study area would be approximately three miles long.

Essar Mine Substation
The Essar Mine Substation would occupy approximately 1.4 acres of land. This substation would be on the western side of the ESM property. The substation would be connected to the 94 Line, via Route 2 or 2A, and would also be connected to the Essar Steel Plant Substation via Route 4 or 4A.

Essar Steel Plant Substation
The Essar Steel Plant Substation would occupy 4.5 acres of land. This substation would be located on the northern portion of the ESM property. The substation would be connected to the Shannon end of the 94 Line, the Blackberry Substation, and the Essar Mine Substation.

State Regulatory Process and Procedures

Route permit applications must provide specific information about the proposed project including, but not limited to, applicant information, route description, environmental impacts, alternatives, and mitigation measures (Minn. R. 7849.5220). The Commission may accept an application as complete, reject an application and require additional information to be submitted, or accept an application as complete upon filing of supplemental information (Minn. R. 7849.5230).

The review process begins with the determination by the Commission that the application is complete. The Commission has one year to reach a final decision on the route permit application from the date the application is determined to be complete. The Commission may extend this limit for up to three months for just cause or upon agreement of the applicant (Minn. R. 7849.5340).

Environmental Review
Applications for high voltage transmission line route permits are subject to environmental review, which is conducted by EFP staff under Minn. R. 7849.5200. The staff will provide notice and conduct public information and scoping meetings to solicit public comments on the scope of the environmental impact statement (EIS). The Director of the Office of Energy Security (OES) will determine the scope of the EIS. An EIS is a written document that describes the human and environmental impacts of a proposed project (and selected alternative routes) and methods to mitigate such impacts. The public has the opportunity to comment on the scope of the EIS and the draft EIS through public comment periods and at OES sponsored information meetings.

The draft EIS will be completed and made available prior to the public hearing.

Hearing Process
Applications for high voltage transmission line route permits under the full permitting process require a public contested-case hearing upon completion of the draft EIS pursuant to Minn. R. 7849.5330. A portion of the hearing must be held in the counties where the proposed project would be located.

The hearing for the docket (Docket E002/TL-09-512) must be conducted by the OAH pursuant to Minn. R.1405, contested case hearings. However, since the hearings must follow release of the draft EIS, the date for hearings cannot be set until the OES completes the EIS scoping process and determines the schedule for completion of the EIS. The Commission can refer the docket to the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) for hearing at this time, with the understanding that the OES will work with the OAH to establish a schedule once the EIS scoping process is complete.

Public Advisor
Upon acceptance of an application for a site or route permit, the Commission must designate a staff person to act as the public advisor on the project (Minnesota Rule 7849.5250). The public advisor is someone who is available to answer questions from the public about the permitting process. In this role, the public advisor may not act as an advocate on behalf of any person.

The Commission can authorize the OES to name a staff member from the EFP staff as the public advisor or assign a Commission staff member.

Advisory Task Force
The Commission may appoint an advisory task force (Minnesota Statute 216E.08). An advisory task force must, at a minimum, include representatives of local governmental units in the affected area. A task force can be charged with identifying additional routes or specific impacts to be evaluated in the EIS and terminates when the OES Director issues an EIS scoping decision.

The Commission is not required to assign an advisory task force for every project. However, in the event that the Commission does not name a task force, the rules allow a citizen to request appointment of a task force (Minnesota Rule 7849.5580). The Commission would then need to determine at its next meeting if a task force should be appointed or not.

The decision whether to appoint an advisory task force does not need to be made at the time of accepting the application; however, it should be made as soon as practicable to ensure its charge can be completed prior to the EIS scoping decision by the OES Director.

OES EFP Staff Analysis and Comments

OES EFP staff conducted a completeness review of the NPUC/MP Essar Steel HVTL Route permit application and concludes that the Application meets the content requirements of Minnesota Rule 7849.5220 and is complete. Application acceptance allows staff to initiate and conduct the public participation and environmental review process.

Advisory Task Force
In analyzing the merits of establishing an Advisory Task Force for the project, EFP staff considered four project characteristics: size, complexity, known or anticipated controversy and sensitive resources.

> **Project Size.** The Essar Steel HVTL project is a moderate length transmission line when compared to the majority of the HVTL applications that come before the Commission; the length would total approximately 37 miles.

Complexity. While the setting for the project is the Minnesota north country, where the population impacts are expected to be lower, residential property does center around county highways and roads. Many of these are the same linear features one considers when routing HVTL in an attempt to minimize the proliferation of new ROWs. Additionally, there are numerous high value natural resources (i.e., wetlands, lakes, forest, minerals, etc.) in the study areas to be evaluated.

Known/Anticipated Controversy. OES staff anticipates a high level of public interest with this project, based on a review of the comments received during NPUC/MP's February 11, 2009, "open house" meeting. Approximately 130 persons attended that meeting.

Sensitive Resource. As stated previously, the four study areas do contain a mixture of high value natural resources (i.e., wetlands, lakes, forest, minerals, etc.); local knowledge would be valuable in identifying features and issues important to the region.

Based on the analysis above, OES staff concludes that an advisory task force is warranted in this case. OES staff has attached a proposed charge and structure for the advisory task force.

Commission Decision Options

A. Application Acceptance

1. Accept the HVTL Route permit application submitted by NPUC/MP for the Essar Steel Transmission project as complete and authorize OES EFP staff to initiate the full review process under Minnesota Rules Chapter 7849.
2. Reject the HVTL Route permit application as incomplete and issue an order indicating the specific deficiencies to be remedied before the Application can be accepted.
3. Find the Application complete upon the submission of supplementary information.
4. Make another decision deemed more appropriate.

B. Public Advisor

1. Authorize the OES EFP staff to name a public advisor in this case.
2. Appoint a Commission staff person as public advisor.
3. Make another decision deemed more appropriate.

C. Advisory Task Force

1. Authorize OES EFP staff to establish an advisory task force with the proposed structure and charge for the task force.
2. Take no action on an advisory task force at this time.
3. Determine that an advisory task force is not necessary.
4. Make another decision deemed more appropriate.

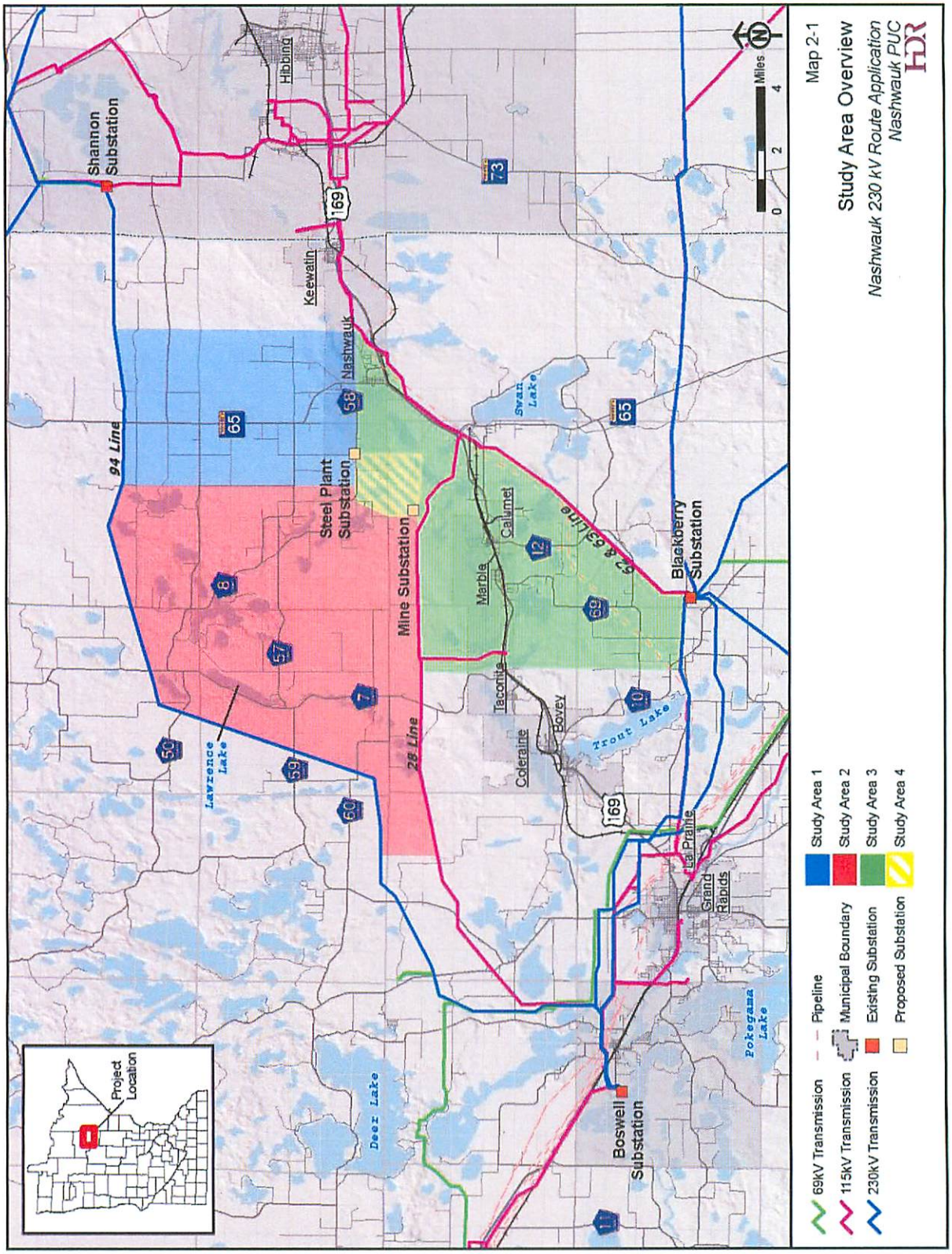
D. Public Hearing

1. Refer the NPUC/MP Essar Steel HVTL Route Permit Docket E2802/TL-09-512 to the Office of Administrative Hearings for conduct of the Minn. R. 1405 contested case hearing.
2. Make another decision deemed more appropriate.

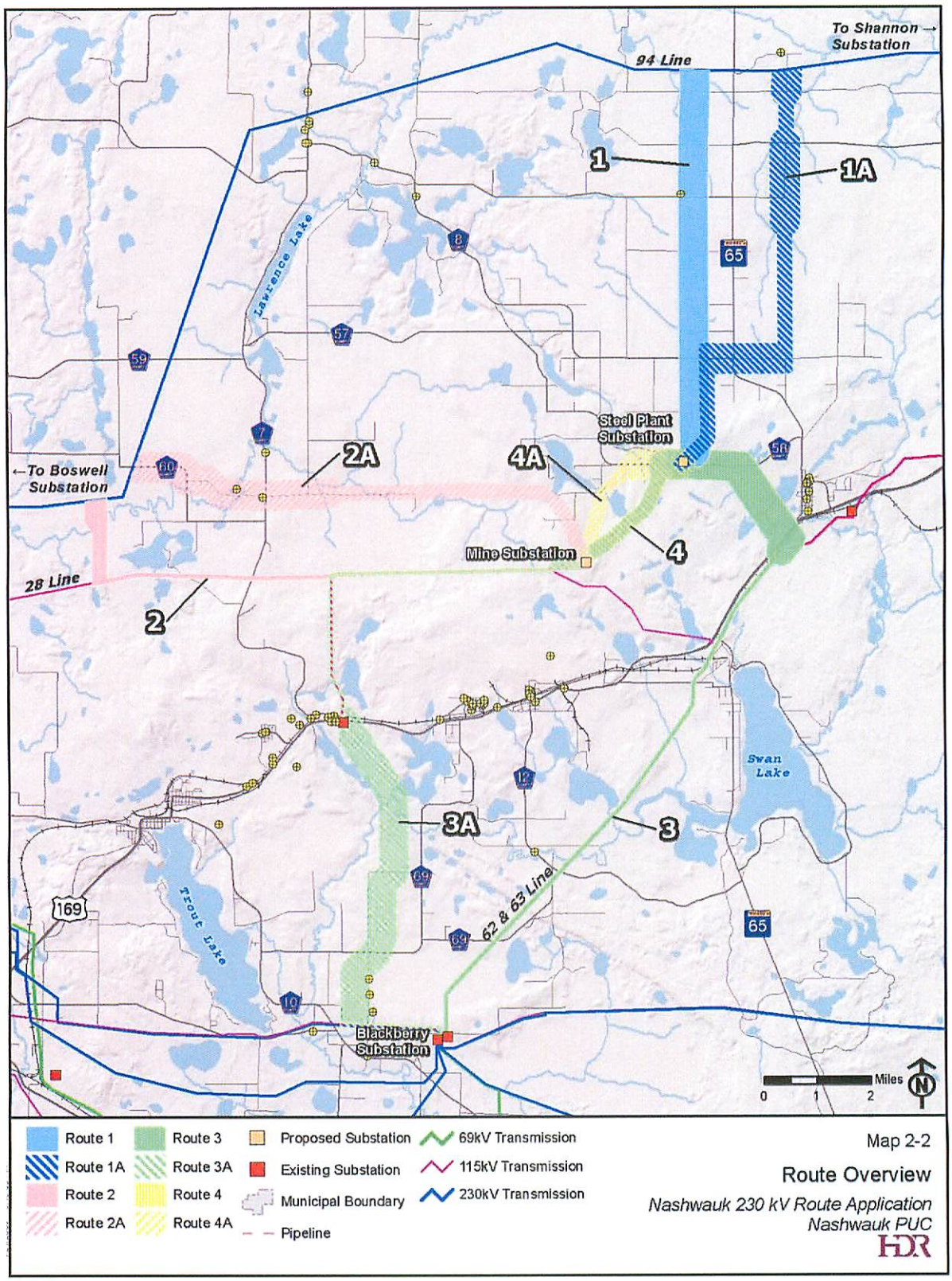
EFP Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends Options A-1, B-1, C-1 and D-1.

Map 2-1: Study Area Overview



Map 2-2: Route Overview



ADVISORY TASK FORCE

PROPOSED STRUCTURE & CHARGE

NASHWAUK PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

MINNESOTA POWER

ESSAR STEEL TRANSMISSION PROJECT

PUC DOCKET #E280/TL-09-512

June 25, 2009

Prepared by the Staff of the

office of energy security

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INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

The OES EFP staff has developed a proposed structure and charge for an advisory task force to assist the Department in the scoping of the environmental review for the Essar Steel Transmission Line Project.

The statutes and rules governing the review of Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission (NPUC) and Minnesota Power's (MP) Application for a high voltage transmission line (HVTL) Route Permit for the Essar Steel HVTL project (PUC Docket E280/TL-09-512) contain provisions for the establishment of an Advisory Task Force; these provisions can be found in Minn. Stat. 216E.08 and Minn. Rule 7849.5270, respectively.

For dockets undergoing review in accordance with the Power Plant Siting Act (Minn.Rule 7849.5270 and Minn. Stat. 216E.08, subdivision 1), the Commission has the authority to appoint a citizen advisory task force, determine its charge and size, and appoint its members.

The ATF may be comprised of as many persons as may be designated by the Commission, but shall include at least one representative from each of the following: Regional Development Commissions, counties and municipal corporations and one town board member from each county in which a site is proposed to be located.

The Commission must specify in writing the charge to the ATF upon appointment. The charge shall include the identification of additional routes or particular impacts to be evaluated in the environmental impact statement.

The ATF expires upon completion of its charge, release of the Scoping Decision, or a date specified by the Commission, whichever occurs first. This termination language was added to Minn. Stat. 216E.08 during the 2001 legislative session (Chapter 212, article 7, section 18, 19).

STRUCTURE

The intent of the legislation in assuring that members of regional and local governments have a seat on the ATF is to ensure that conflicts with, or issues relative to regional and local planning are identified for consideration. The advisory task force members will be solicited from the following local governmental bodies:

- Arrowhead Regional Development Commission
- Itasca County
- City of Taconite
- City of Mable
- City of Calumet
- City of Nashwauk
- Trout Lake Township
- Greenway Township
- Nashwauk Township
- Lawrence Township
- Iron Range Township
- Balsam Township
- Lone Pine Township

The Task Force will be comprised of no more than 13 members.

CHARGE

The Advisory Task Force members will assist the OES EFP staff in developing the scope of environmental review for the EIS being prepared for the Essar Steel HVTL project currently before the Commission (PUC Docket E280/TL-09-512).

Tasks relating to development of the scope of the environmental review will include:

1. Familiarize the membership of the ATF with the proposed project by reviewing the HVTL Route Permit application;
2. Review the Draft Scoping Document produced by the OES EFP staff;
3. Develop potential route or route segment alternatives, and
4. Develop specific impacts and issues of local concern that should be assessed in the EIS by adding detail to the Draft Scoping Document.

The Task Force will expire upon completing the above charge or upon designation by the Director of the OES of Scoping Decision, whichever occurs first.

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
)SS
COUNTY OF RAMSEY)

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

I, Robin Benson, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

That on the 29th day of June, 2009 she served the attached

ORDER.

MNPUC Docket Number: E-280/TL-09-512

XX By depositing in the United States Mail at the City of St. Paul, a true and correct copy thereof, properly enveloped with postage prepaid

XX By personal service

XX By inter-office mail

to all persons at the addresses indicated below or on the attached list:

Mike Kaluzniak
Docketing - OES
Julia Anderson - OAG
John Lindell- OAG

Robin Benson

Subscribed and sworn to before me,

a notary public, this 29th day of

June, 2009

Mary Jo Jasicki
Notary Public

MARY JO JASICKI
NOTARY PUBLIC-MINNESOTA
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES
JANUARY 31, 2010

10:
MN PUC

Robert Lindholm
Minnesota Power
30 West Superior Street
Duluth MN 55802

Burl W. Haar
MN Public Utilities Commission
Suite 350
121 7th Place East
St. Paul MN 55101-2147

20:
Dept. of Commerce

Sharon Ferguson
MN Department Of Commerce
Suite 500
85 7th Place East
St. Paul MN 55101-2198

30:
Inter-Office Mail

Julia Anderson
MN Office Of The Attorney General
1400 BRM Tower
445 Minnesota Street
St. Paul MN 55101-2131

Stacy Kotch
Minnesota Department of Transportation
395 John Ireland Blvd.
St. Paul MN 55155

John Lindell
OAG-RUD
900 BRM Tower
445 Minnesota Street
St. Paul MN 55101-2130

40:
Regular Postal Mail

Bryan Adams
Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission
301 Central Avenue
Nashwauk MN 55769

Appendix C

Energy Facility Permitting
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198
1.800.657.3794 / 651.296.4026
FAX 651.297.7891 TTY 651.297.3067
http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us

July 24, 2009

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) Office of Energy Security (OES) has selected the following individuals to serve as members on an Advisory Task Force (ATF) for the NPUC/MP Essar Steel Transmission Line Project. The ATF will assist OES staff in developing the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and in determining specific impacts and issues of local concern that should be assessed in the EIS.

Essar Steel Transmission Line Project - Advisory Task Force

Name	Organization
Karen Burthwick	Itasca County
Pat Henderson	Arrowhead Regional Development Commission
Vacant	City of Taconite
David Lotti	City of Marble
Nick Matanich	City of Calumet
Mary Fragnito	City of Nashwauk
Nick Matanich	Greenway Township
Jeffery Ekholm	Nashwauk Township
Cheryl Bunes	Lawrence Township
Vacant	Iron Range Township
John Kannas	Balsam Township
Vacant	Lone Pine Township
Fred Tanner	Trout Lake Township

The ATF will meet three times, Wednesday, August 12, 2009, Wednesday, September 2, 2009, and Wednesday, September 23, 2009. The meetings will be held in the Taconite Community Center from 2:00 pm to 5:30 pm. The ATF will, through a facilitated process, discuss and make recommendations to the Director of the OES in accordance with its charge. The meetings are open for viewing to the public; however, participation in the discussions is limited to members of the ATF.

The ATF will expire upon completing the above charge or upon designation by the Director of the OES of Scoping Decision, whichever occurs first.

To learn more about the proposed Essar Steel HVTL project, visit the project webpage at:

http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=24526

Questions about the ATF should be directed to Bill Storm (bill.storm@state.mn.us), Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101. Telephone 651.296.9535, facsimile 651.297.7891 (TTY relay service 800.627.3529).

Appendix D

NPUC/MP Essar Steel HVTL Advisory Task Force

Impacts and Issues

August 12, 2009

Future use of land					Other issues		
A. Issues and impact on future mining	**B. Impact on real property**	**C. Potential economic impacts**	**D. Route impact**	**E. Recreation**	**F. Potential health and safety issues**	**G. Potential environmental impacts**	**H. Cultural impacts**
No votes	***Top priority*** ***Nine votes***	***One vote***	***Second priority*** ***Five votes***	***No votes***	***Top priority*** ***Seven votes***	***Second priority*** ***Five votes***	***No votes***
▪ Mine overlay ▪ Routes should not encumber future expansions and future mining ▪ Stay off minable iron reserves. Watch for underground mines	▪ Impact on future development for individual homeowner building ▪ Least impact on homeowners ▪ Homes/personal property ▪ Proximity to homes ▪ Residence – Residences – Municipalities – Roads – Public utilities (sewer/water) – Railroad – Dams – Bridges – Recreation facilities ▪ When considering various powerline routes utilize land of who benefits most: 1) Essar, 2) City of Nashwauk, 3) County, 4) State, 5) National, 6) Major land owners i.e. Potlach, Blandin, 7) other mining concerns, 8) Last private land owner property	▪ Impact to agriculture, forest, and wetlands	▪ Existing corridor versus new ▪ Being flexible on the 130 ft. route within the 3,000 ft. corridor; balance cost and benefit ▪ Shortest route		▪ Health issues – real or fiction? ▪ Emissions – electromagnetic, air quality issues, impact on humans and animals ▪ Safety and health ▪ Safety – visual pollution	▪ Natural elements – Wetlands – Lakes – Creeks – Nesting habitat – Forests – Hedgerows – Animal habitat – Flora – Fauna ▪ Lakes and wetlands: consider flood plains, farms ▪ Impact on water – disturbance of water bodies	▪ Historical or archaeolog-ical sites

Appendix E

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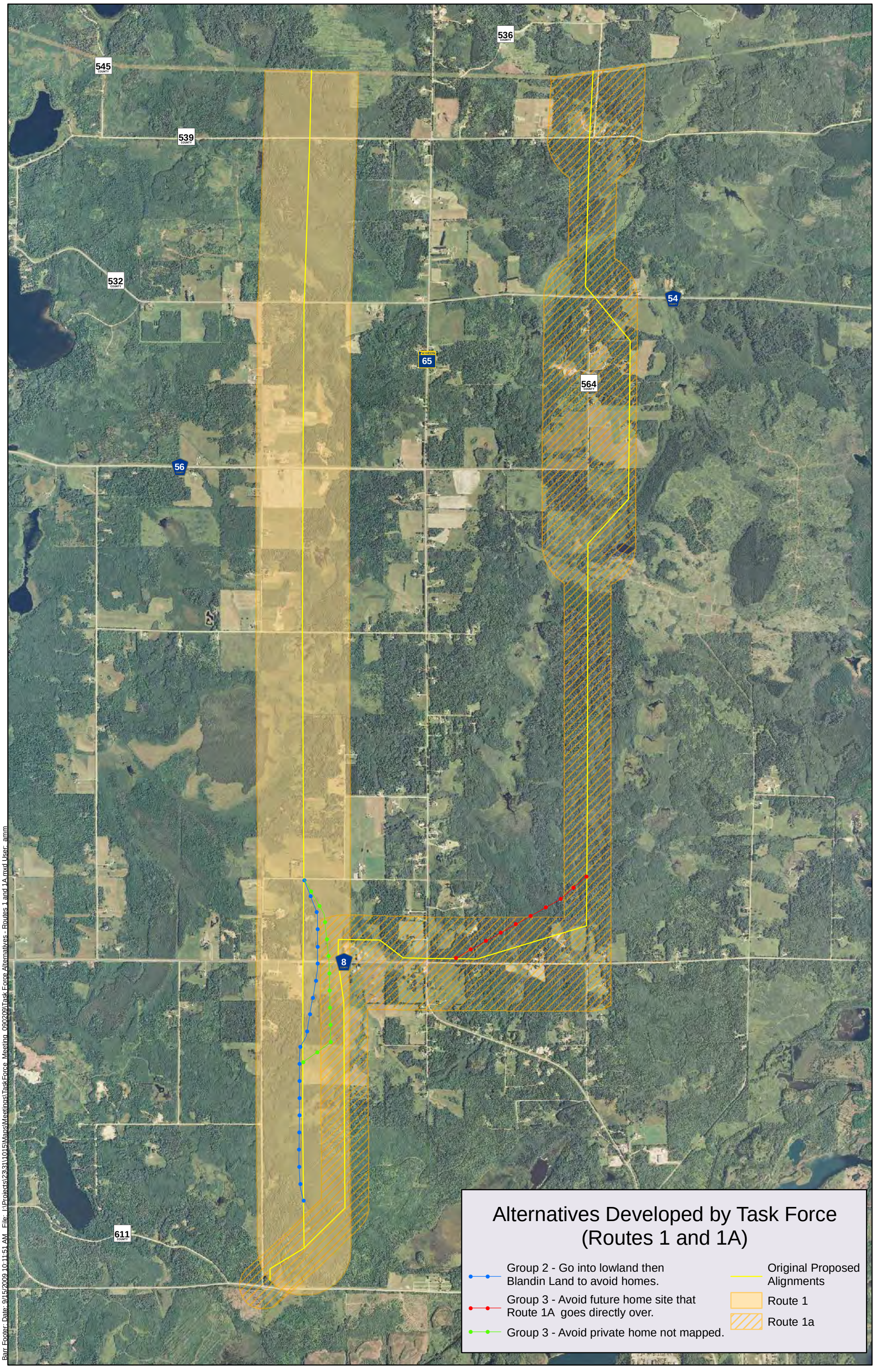
Appendix F



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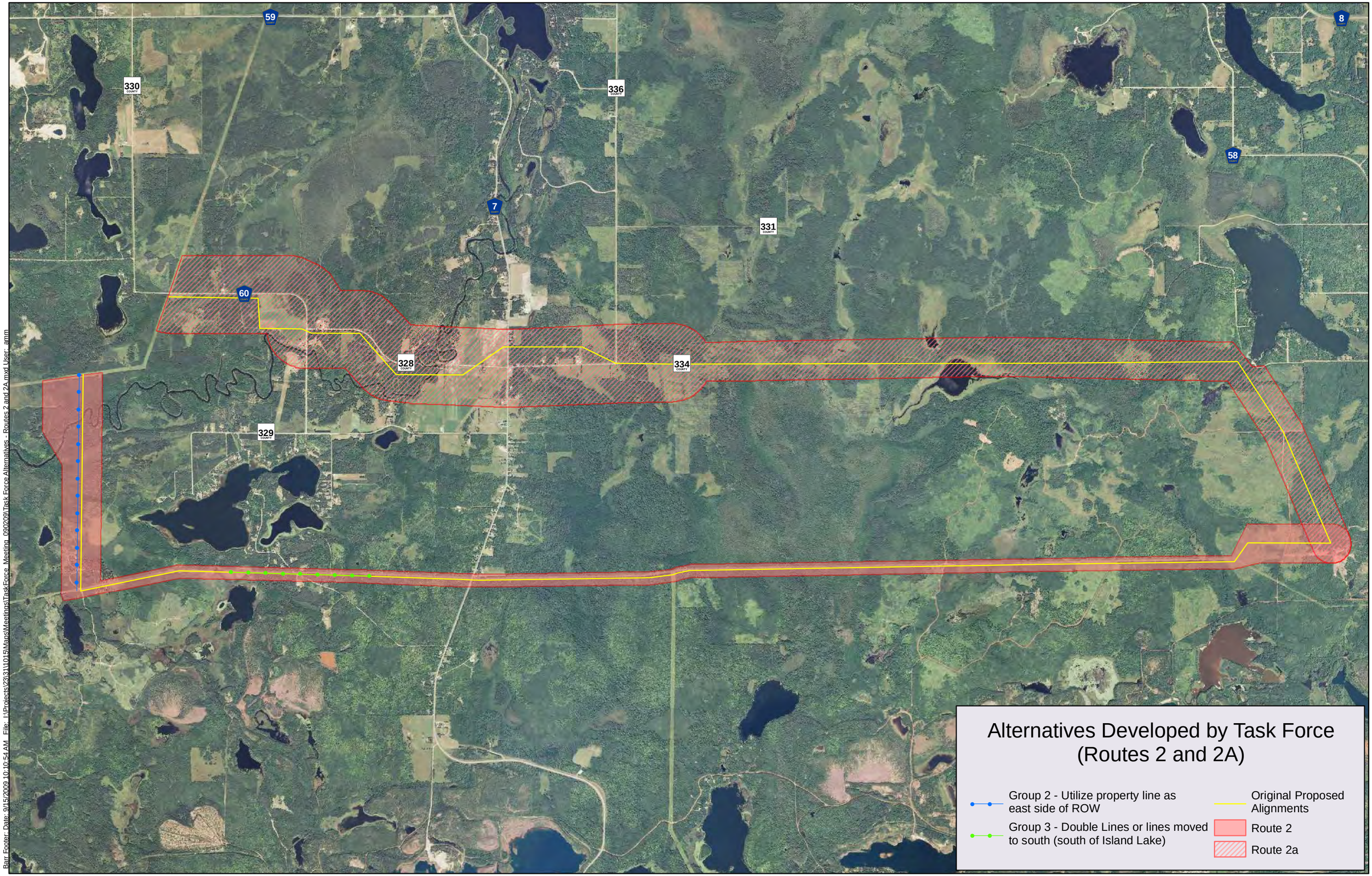
Appendix G



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