

APPENDIX A

COMMISSION AND AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE

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GREAT RIVER
ENERGY®

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

12300 Elm Creek Boulevard • Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369-4718 • 763-445-5000 • 763-445-5050

28 January 2010

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 Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850.2800 subpt.2, this letter, filed via e-Filing, serves as notice that Great River Energy intends to submit a Route Permit Application for the Potato Lake 115 kV Substation and Transmission Line Project in Hubbard County, Minnesota under the Alternative Permitting processes of Minnesota Rules Chapters 7850.2800 to 7850.3700.

It is anticipated that the application will be submitted to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in February 2010.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Analyst

c: Deborah Pile, OES
Michelle Lommel, Great River Energy
Steve Lawler, Great River Energy





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12 November 2009

Michael Ferry
Office of Aeronautics
Minnesota Department of Transportation
222 E. Plato Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55107-1618

RE: Proposed Potato Lake Substation and Transmission Line Construction
Hubbard County, Minnesota
T 141 N, R35W, Sections 21, 22, 28, 27, 34, 26, 35 and 36
T 141 N, R34W, Sections 31 and 32
T 140 N, R35W, Sections 2 and 1
T 140 N, R34W, Sections 6 and 5

WO# 73361

Dear Mr. Ferry:

Great River Energy is proposing a 115 kilovolt transmission line project near Potato Lake in Hubbard County, Minnesota. The line is to support a new substation that Itasca-Mantrap Cooperative Electrical Association will be constructing in Section 21 of Arago Township. The new substation is necessary to bring a new energy source closer to increasing load growth, particularly during the heating season, in the lakes area north of Park Rapids.

The transmission line will be constructed with single wood poles that will generally range between 65 and 85 feet in height. Great River Energy is requesting information on the possible effects of the proposed project on airports or airstrips in the project area. A project description is enclosed for your information. The proposed line is marked in blue and an alternative route is also marked in pink.

From my research, I find that the two closest airports to the project is the public airport, Park Rapids Municipal – Konshok Field Airport (4.7 nm SSW) and the private airport, Sky Manor Aero Estates Airport (2.3 nm SSE).

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Friday, 11 December 2009. If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact me at (763) 445-5215. If you wish to respond by e-mail, my address is mparlow@GREnergy.com. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Analyst

Enclosure

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Potato Lake 115 kV Substation and Transmission Line



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



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ITASCA-MANTRAP
16930 County 6, PO Box 192
Park Rapids, MN 56470
218-732-3377
www.itasca-mantrap.com

Project Need

Great River Energy, wholesale power supplier to Itasca-Mantrap Cooperative Electrical Association (Itasca-Mantrap) and 27 other distribution cooperatives in Minnesota and Wisconsin, is planning to construct 7.25 miles of new 115 kV (115,000 volt) overhead electric transmission line to serve a new substation to be built by Itasca-Mantrap. The substation is needed to bring a new energy source closer to increasing load growth (particularly during the heating season) in the region north of Park Rapids. The substation and transmission line will be designed and constructed to operate at 115 kV, but will be operated at 34.5 kV until transmission facilities in the area are converted to 115 kV.

Planned Project

Itasca-Mantrap will construct the new Potato Lake Substation in the southeast corner of the northeast quarter of Section 21 in Arago Township (see map on back). The new transmission line will exit the Potato Lake Substation and head south along Highway 71 for 1.5 miles. It will then turn east along 230th Street for 1.5 miles, turn south along 141st Avenue for 1 mile, then turn east along CSAH 18 for 3.25 miles. The new line will tap an existing Great River Energy transmission line along CSAH 4.

Poles will typically be single-pole structures (see top photo) located two to five feet off of the road rights-of-way on private property. They will generally be 65 to 85 feet in height with 300- to 400-foot spans. Guy wires and anchors and possibly two-pole or steel structures may be required in limited areas as angles or soil conditions dictate. The single circuit transmission lines will carry three energized wires and one non-energized shield wire for lightning protection. In some areas, Itasca-Mantrap's distribution lines may be underbuilt on cross-arms on the transmission line structures (see bottom photo).

After public notification and an open house about the project, Great River Energy will apply to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a Route Permit. Once the project has been approved, Great River Energy will contact landowners and a fair offer of compensation will be presented along with the easement. Great River Energy will acquire a right-of-way easement within the proposed 300- to 500-foot corridor shown on the map on back. If the line is located along existing road rights-of-way, the easement will be approximately 55 feet wide, otherwise it will be 100 feet wide (50 feet on each side of the transmission centerline). The easements will allow the poles to be located on private property, although the majority of the easement area will still be available for use by the landowner for agricultural activities, underground utilities, fencing and access drives.

Project Schedule

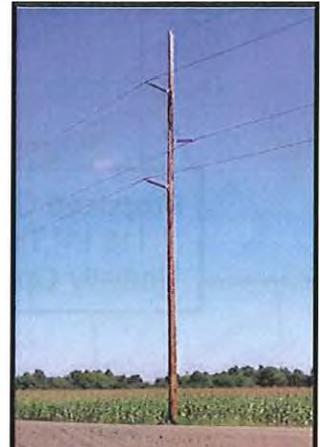
Open House and Public Notifications.....	October 2009
Project Permitting.....	Fall 2009 to Summer 2010
Easement Acquisition.....	Summer/Fall 2010
Construction.....	Fall 2010 to Spring 2011

Contacts

Michelle Lommel
Sr. Field Representative
Great River Energy
763-445-5977 or 1-800-442-3013 ext. 5977
mlommel@grenergy.com

Tony Nelson
Engineering Manager
Itasca-Mantrap Co-op Electric
218-732-0695 or 218-255-1432 (cell)
TNelson@itasca-mantrap.com

Date last revised: 11/10/2009

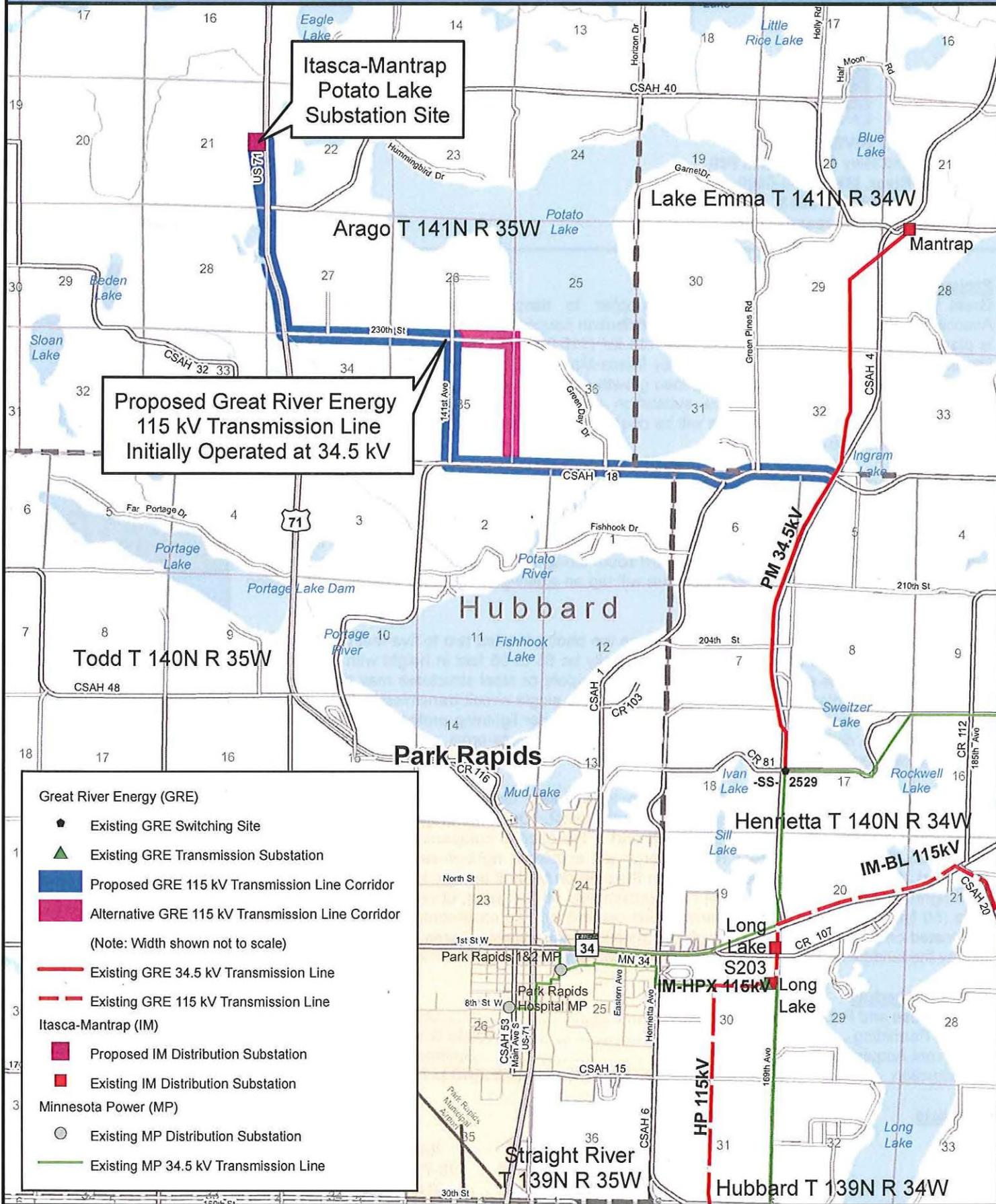


*Typical 115 kV
Wood Single Circuit
Transmission Line
Structure*



*Typical 115 kV Wood
Single Circuit
Transmission Line
Structure with
Distribution Underbuild*

PROPOSED PROJECT



**Itasca-Mantrap
Potato Lake
Substation Site**

**Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
Initially Operated at 34.5 kV**

- Great River Energy (GRE)**
- ◆ Existing GRE Switching Site
 - ▲ Existing GRE Transmission Substation
 - Proposed GRE 115 kV Transmission Line Corridor
 - Alternative GRE 115 kV Transmission Line Corridor
(Note: Width shown not to scale)
 - Existing GRE 34.5 kV Transmission Line
 - - Existing GRE 115 kV Transmission Line
- Itasca-Mantrap (IM)**
- Proposed IM Distribution Substation
 - Existing IM Distribution Substation
- Minnesota Power (MP)**
- Existing MP Distribution Substation
 - Existing MP 34.5 kV Transmission Line

Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG

From: Ferry, Michael (DOT) [Michael.Ferry@state.mn.us]
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2009 4:11 PM
To: Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG
Subject: RE: Potato Lake Project

Hi Marsha, the last sentence of the below email is purely intended to ensure that you self assess your responsibilities as a constructor/owner – this is always the case and just wanted to clarify that the below email did not be imply a waiver of GRE's need to comply with the requirements of the Fed's 7460 (although again the State never has the right to grant such a waiver).

Michael

From: Ferry, Michael (DOT)
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2009 11:33 AM
To: 'Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG'
Cc: Vesely, Kathy (DOT); Sorenson, Deb (DOT)
Subject: RE: Potato Lake Project

Sorry Marsha – we have been busy here, but I have reviewed the project and it does appear far enough out that it would not be an immediate obstruction to landings at the Park Rapids airport. You may still need to file a Federal 7460 for towers, but GRE should be familiar with these requirements.

Michael Ferry, P.E.
Regional Airport Engineer

Minnesota Dept. of Transportation
Office of Aeronautics
222 East Plato Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55107
(651) 234-7243

From: Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG [mailto:mparlow@GREnergy.com]
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2009 11:24 AM
To: Ferry, Michael (DOT)
Subject: Potato Lake Project

Dear Mr. Ferry:

I know your office may be busy but I was wondering if you have had a chance to review our Potato Lake project north of Park Rapids?

For your reference, I attached the letter I sent. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Thanks!

Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Analyst, Environmental Services
Great River Energy
2300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, MN 55369
Direct: 763-445-5215 | Fax: 763-445-5246 | Cell: 612-345-1212

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

NOTICE TO RECIPIENT: The information contained in this message from Great River Energy and any attachments are confidential and intended only for the named recipient(s). If you have received this message in error, you are prohibited from copying, distributing or using the information. Please contact the sender immediately by return email and delete the original message.



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12 November 2009

Mr. Dennis A. Gimmestad
Government Programs & Compliance
Minnesota Historical Society
345 Kellogg Blvd. West
St. Paul, MN 55102-1906

RE: Proposed Potato Lake Substation and Transmission Line Construction
Hubbard County, Minnesota
T 141 N, R35W, Sections 21, 22, 28, 27, 34, 26, 35 and 36
T 141 N, R34W, Sections 31 and 32
T 140 N, R35W, Sections 2 and 1
T 140 N, R34W, Sections 6 and 5

WO# 73361

Dear Mr. Gimmestad:

Great River Energy is proposing a 115 kilovolt transmission line project near Potato Lake in Hubbard County, Minnesota. The line is to support a new substation that Itasca-Mantrap Cooperative Electrical Association will be constructing in Section 21 of Arago Township. The new substation is necessary to bring a new energy source closer to increasing load growth, particularly during the heating season, in the lakes area north of Park Rapids.

Great River Energy is requesting information on the possible effects of the proposed project on cultural and historic properties in the project area. A project description/map is included for your review. The proposed line is marked in blue and an alternative route is marked in pink.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Friday, 11 December 2009. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (763) 445-5215. If you wish to contact me by e-mail, my address is mparlow@grenergy.com.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Analyst

Cc: Britta L. Bloomberg, Minnesota Historical Society

Enclosure

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Potato Lake 115 kV Substation and Transmission Line



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Project Need

Great River Energy, wholesale power supplier to Itasca-Mantrap Cooperative Electrical Association (Itasca-Mantrap) and 27 other distribution cooperatives in Minnesota and Wisconsin, is planning to construct 7.25 miles of new 115 kV (115,000 volt) overhead electric transmission line to serve a new substation to be built by Itasca-Mantrap. The substation is needed to bring a new energy source closer to increasing load growth (particularly during the heating season) in the region north of Park Rapids. The substation and transmission line will be designed and constructed to operate at 115 kV, but will be operated at 34.5 kV until transmission facilities in the area are converted to 115 kV.

Planned Project

Itasca-Mantrap will construct the new Potato Lake Substation in the southeast corner of the northeast quarter of Section 21 in Arago Township (see map on back). The new transmission line will exit the Potato Lake Substation and head south along Highway 71 for 1.5 miles. It will then turn east along 230th Street for 1.5 miles, turn south along 141st Avenue for 1 mile, then turn east along CSAH 18 for 3.25 miles. The new line will tap an existing Great River Energy transmission line along CSAH 4.

Poles will typically be single-pole structures (see top photo) located two to five feet off of the road rights-of-way on private property. They will generally be 65 to 85 feet in height with 300- to 400-foot spans. Guy wires and anchors and possibly two-pole or steel structures may be required in limited areas as angles or soil conditions dictate. The single circuit transmission lines will carry three energized wires and one non-energized shield wire for lightning protection. In some areas, Itasca-Mantrap's distribution lines may be underbuilt on cross-arms on the transmission line structures (see bottom photo).

After public notification and an open house about the project, Great River Energy will apply to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a Route Permit. Once the project has been approved, Great River Energy will contact landowners and a fair offer of compensation will be presented along with the easement. Great River Energy will acquire a right-of-way easement within the proposed 300- to 500-foot corridor shown on the map on back. If the line is located along existing road rights-of-way, the easement will be approximately 55 feet wide, otherwise it will be 100 feet wide (50 feet on each side of the transmission centerline). The easements will allow the poles to be located on private property, although the majority of the easement area will still be available for use by the landowner for agricultural activities, underground utilities, fencing and access drives.

Project Schedule

Open House and Public Notifications.....	October 2009
Project Permitting.....	Fall 2009 to Summer 2010
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Construction.....	Fall 2010 to Spring 2011

Contacts

Michelle Lommel
Sr. Field Representative
Great River Energy
763-445-5977 or 1-800-442-3013 ext. 5977
mlommel@grenergy.com

Tony Nelson
Engineering Manager
Itasca-Mantrap Co-op Electric
218-732-0695 or 218-255-1432 (cell)
TNelson@itasca-mantrap.com

Date last revised: 11/10/2009



*Typical 115 kV
Wood Single Circuit
Transmission Line
Structure*

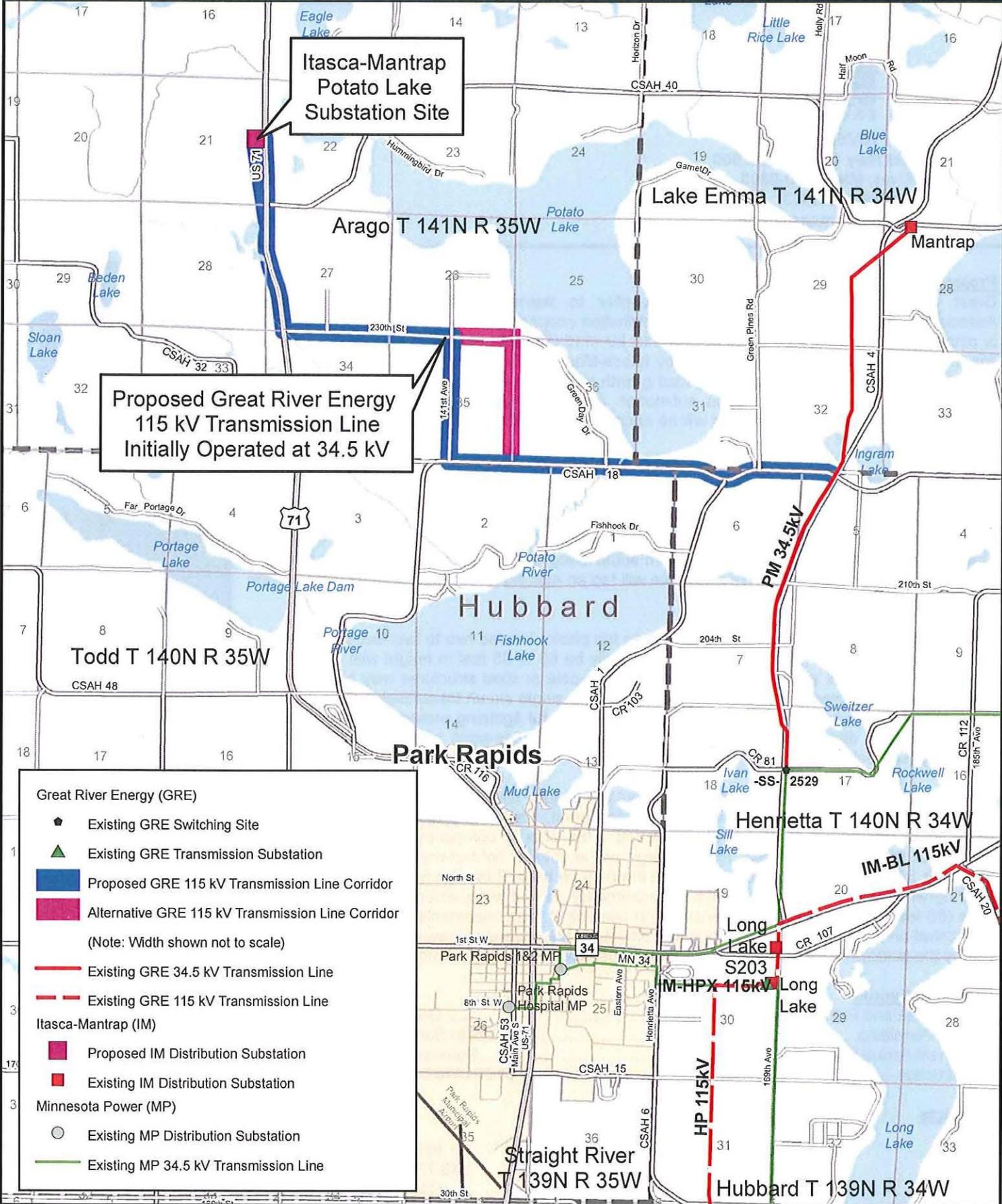


*Typical 115 kV Wood
Single Circuit
Transmission Line
Structure with
Distribution Underbuild*

PROPOSED PROJECT

Itasca-Mantrap
Potato Lake
Substation Site

Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
Initially Operated at 34.5 kV



- Great River Energy (GRE)**
- ◆ Existing GRE Switching Site
 - ▲ Existing GRE Transmission Substation
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 - Alternative GRE 115 kV Transmission Line Corridor
 - (Note: Width shown not to scale)
 - Existing GRE 34.5 kV Transmission Line
 - - - Existing GRE 115 kV Transmission Line
- Itasca-Mantrap (IM)**
- Proposed IM Distribution Substation
 - Existing IM Distribution Substation
- Minnesota Power (MP)**
- Existing MP Distribution Substation
 - Existing MP 34.5 kV Transmission Line

RECEIVED NOV 17 2009



STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

November 16, 2009

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

RE: WO # 73361 IM-MPT Line
Potato Lake 115kV Substation and Transmission Line
Hubbard County
SHPO Number: 2010-0254

Dear Ms. Parlow:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the above project. It has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the Minnesota Historical Society by the Minnesota Historic Sites Act and the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act.

Based on our review of the project information, we conclude that there are no properties listed on the National or State Registers of Historic Places, and no known or suspected archaeological properties in the area that will be affected by this project.

Please note that this comment letter does not address the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36CFR800, Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for the protection of historic properties. If this project is considered for federal assistance, or requires a federal permit or license, it should be submitted to our office with reference to the assisting federal agency.

Please contact our Compliance Section at (651) 259-3455 if you have any questions regarding our review of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Britta L. Bloomberg'.

Britta L. Bloomberg
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer





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October 7, 2009

WO # 73361
IM-MPT Line

Gina Lemon
Heritage Department
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
115 6th St. NW, Ste E
Cass Lake, MN 56633

Subject: Proposed 115 kilovolt (kV) Potato Lake Substation and Transmission Line Project

We are writing to inform you of a 115-kV transmission line project being proposed in your area by Great River Energy and Itasca-Mantrap Cooperative Electric, and to invite you to an open house about the project.

Great River Energy is a generation and transmission cooperative, headquartered in Maple Grove, Minnesota. Great River Energy is the wholesale electric provider to Itasca-Mantrap Cooperative Electric and 27 other distribution cooperatives in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The project being proposed is needed to improve reliability of electric service. It consists of a 7.25-mile long transmission line that will provide the source to Itasca-Mantrap's new Potato Lake Substation. You are being notified because you are the owner of property located within 500 feet of the proposed transmission line route and/or you may be an agency with interest in the project.

Enclosed with this notice, please find a project fact sheet that provides specific information regarding the need for this project, a proposed route map, and the anticipated schedule for permitting, easement acquisition and construction activities. You are encouraged to attend the upcoming open house to learn more and have your questions answered by representatives of Great River Energy and Itasca-Mantrap Cooperative Electric.

Open house

Thursday, October 22nd from 5 p.m. to 7p.m.

Itasca-Mantrap Office, 16930 County Road 6, Park Rapids

(Please enter the building off the north side of the parking lot, by the truck garage.)

You may arrive any time between 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., although there will be a short presentation at 5 p.m. For special accommodation needs or to request an auxiliary aid, please contact the representative indicated below by Monday, October 19th.

Direct Dial (763) 445-5977

E-Mail mlommel@grenergy.com

FAX (763) 445-6777

October 7, 2009
Page Two

Current state law provides opportunities for the public to be heard during the process of approving the final route for the transmission line. The final transmission line route requires approval by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The PUC process for considering and approving a final route will include several local public meetings and hearings to be conducted during late 2009 and into early 2010.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at directly at 763-445-5977 or toll-free at 1-888-521-0130 ext. 5977 or by e-mail at mlommel@greenergy.com. You can learn more about Great River Energy at <http://www.greatriverenergy.com>.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY



Michelle Lommel
Sr. Field Representative

c: Tony Nelson, Itasca-Mantrap Cooperative – w/encl.
Steve Lawler, Great River Energy – w/o encl.
Marsha Parlow, Great River Energy – w/o encl.

Enclosure

ML:jhr:\tlines\PotatoLake\notifications\Open House Ltr_10.22.2009.doc



Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

Original to: Marsha Parlow
Copy to: Michelle Lommel

Arthur "Archie" Larose, Chairman
Michael Bongo, Secretary/Treasurer

District I Representative
Ms. Robbie Howe

District II Representative
Lyman L. Losh

District III Representative
Eugene "Ribs" Whitebird

October 23, 2009

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

RECEIVED
OCT 26 2009
LAND RIGHTS

RE: **Proposed 115 kV Potato Lake Substation and Transmission Line Project**
Arago Township, Hubbard County, Minnesota
LL-THPO Number: 09-216-NCRI

Dear Ms. Lommel:

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

I have reviewed the documentation; after careful consideration of our records, I have determined that the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe does not have any concerns regarding sites of religious or cultural importance in this area.

Should any human remains or suspected human remains be encountered, all work shall cease and the following personnel should be notified immediately in this order: County Sheriff's Office and Office of the State Archaeologist. If any human remains or culturally affiliated objects are inadvertently discovered this will prompt the process to which the Band will become informed.

Please note: The above determination does not "exempt" future projects from Section 106 review. In the event of any other tribe notifying us of concerns for a specific project, we may re-enter into the consultation process.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Gina M. Lemon
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Leech Lake Tribal Historic Preservation Office * Established in 1996

An office within the Division of Resource Management
115 Sixth Street NW, Suite E * Cass Lake, Minnesota 56633
(218) 335-2940 * FAX (218) 335-2974

gilemon@live.com or www.nathpo.org (Active Members since 1998)





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13 November 2009

Mr. Bill Baer
US Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District, Attn: OP-R
190 Fifth Street East, Suite 401
St. Paul, MN 55101-1638

RE: Proposed Potato Lake Substation and Transmission Line Construction
Hubbard County, Minnesota
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Dear Mr. Baer:

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Great River Energy 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. The transmission line will span two DNR public waters. Although there are wetlands in the vicinity of the line (see enclosed map), there will be no dredging and filling and impacts from pole placement will be very minimal. A project description and NWI map has been included for your review. The proposed line is marked in blue and an alternative route is marked in pink.

Great River Energy is requesting concurrence of its interpretation of the possible effects of the new transmission line on wetlands that occur in the project area. We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Friday, 11 December 2009. If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact me at (763) 445-5215. If you wish to respond by e-mail, my address is mparlow@greenergy.com. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Analyst

Enclosures

S:\Member Services\Environmental\Transmission\Projects\73361 Potato Lake\Potato Lake ACE.doc



Potato Lake 115 kV Substation and Transmission Line



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Planned Project

Itasca-Mantrap will construct the new Potato Lake Substation in the southeast corner of the northeast quarter of Section 21 in Arago Township (see map on back). The new transmission line will exit the Potato Lake Substation and head south along Highway 71 for 1.5 miles. It will then turn east along 230th Street for 1.5 miles, turn south along 141st Avenue for 1 mile, then turn east along CSAH 18 for 3.25 miles. The new line will tap an existing Great River Energy transmission line along CSAH 4.

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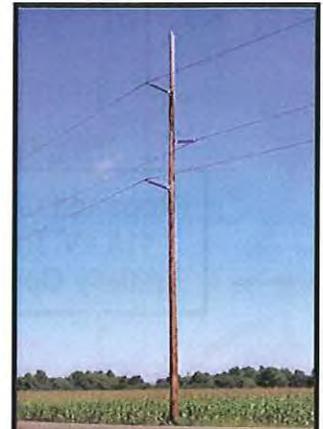
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Engineering Manager
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Date last revised: 11/10/2009



*Typical 115 kV
Wood Single Circuit
Transmission Line
Structure*



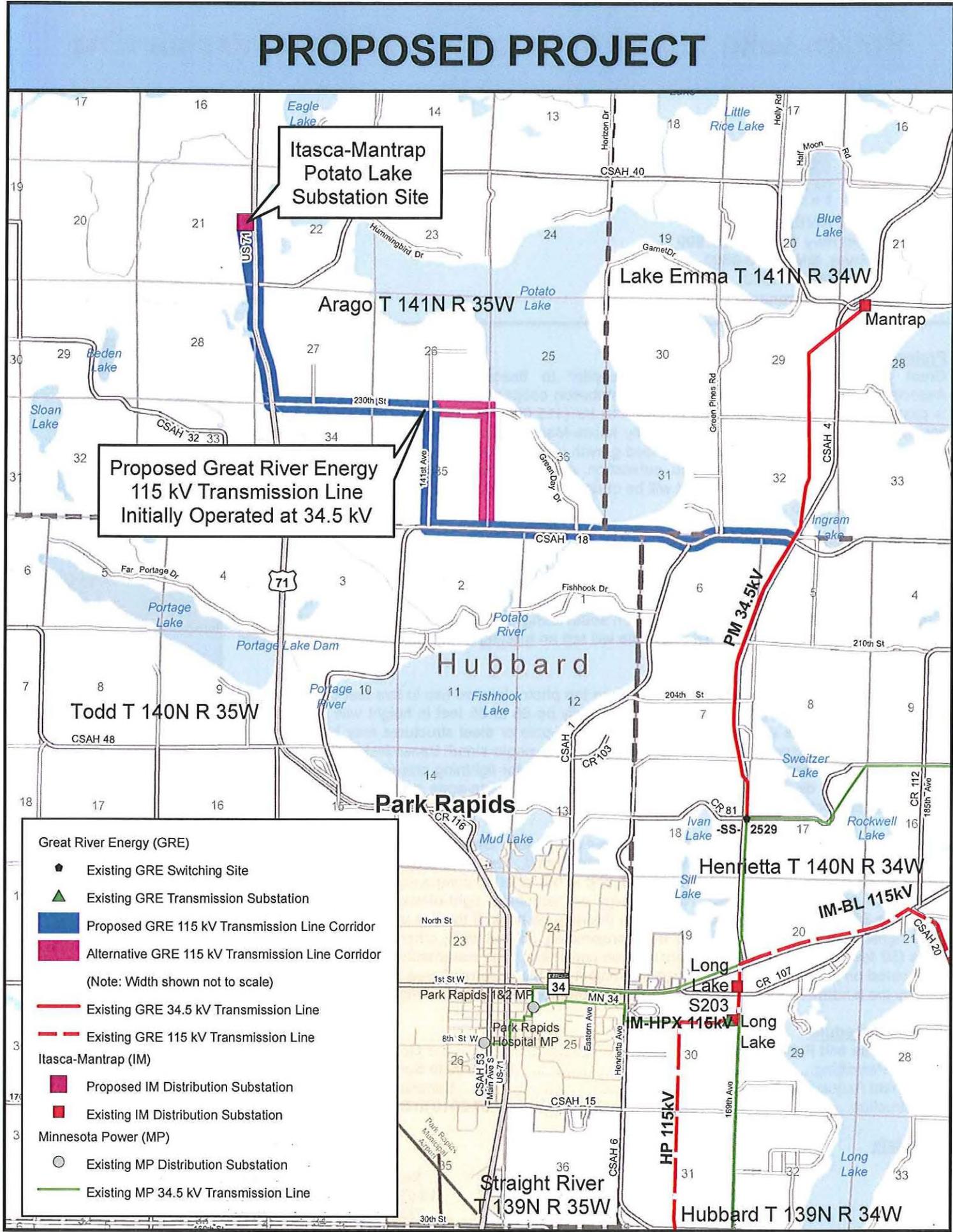
*Typical 115 kV Wood
Single Circuit
Transmission Line
Structure with
Distribution Underbuild*

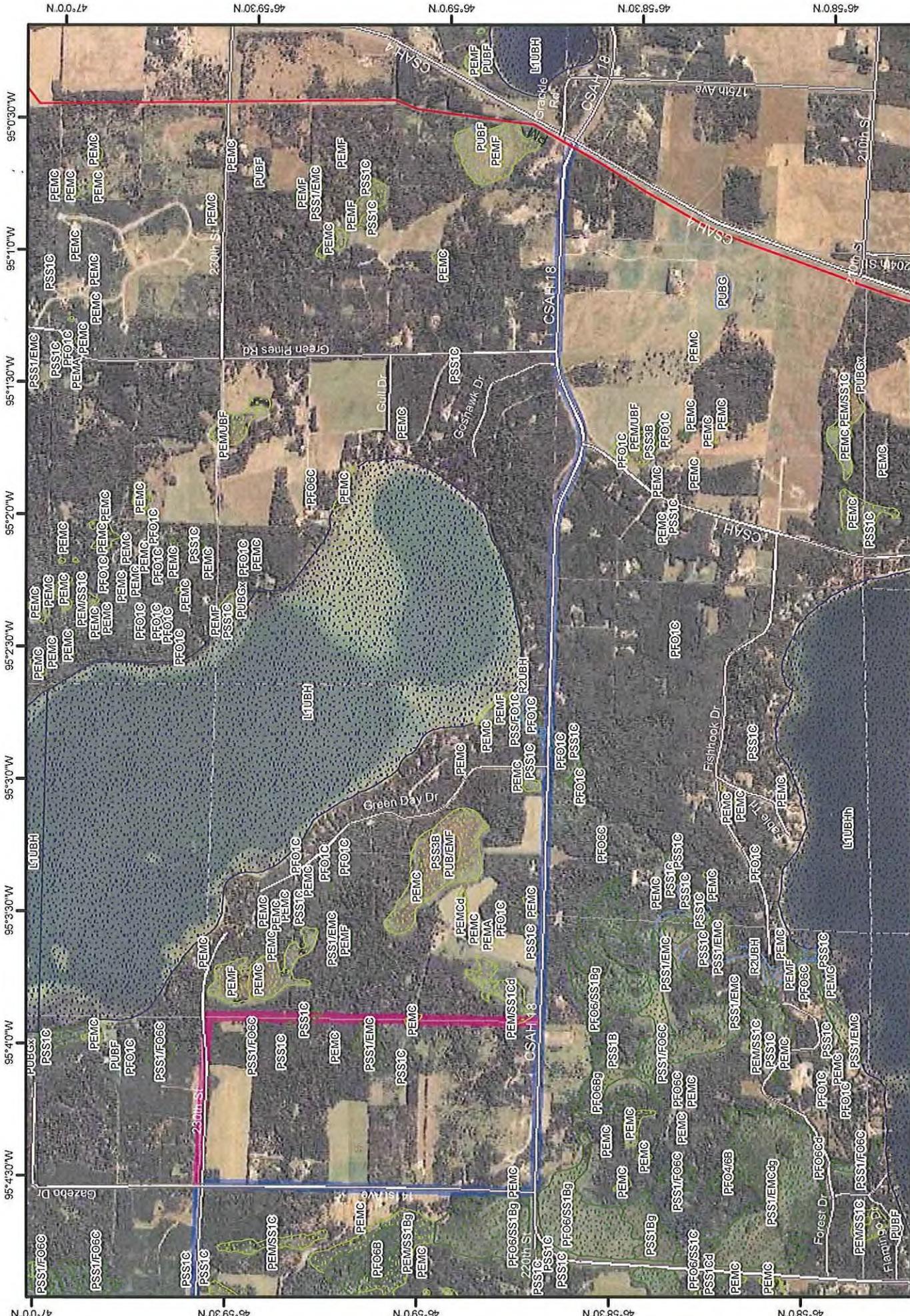
PROPOSED PROJECT

Itasca-Mantrap
Potato Lake
Substation Site

Proposed Great River Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
Initially Operated at 34.5 kV

- Great River Energy (GRE)**
- Existing GRE Switching Site
 - ▲ Existing GRE Transmission Substation
 - █ Proposed GRE 115 kV Transmission Line Corridor
 - █ Alternative GRE 115 kV Transmission Line Corridor
 - (Note: Width shown not to scale)
 - Existing GRE 34.5 kV Transmission Line
 - Existing GRE 115 kV Transmission Line
- Itasca-Mantrap (IM)**
- █ Proposed IM Distribution Substation
 - █ Existing IM Distribution Substation
- Minnesota Power (MP)**
- Existing MP Distribution Substation
 - Existing MP 34.5 kV Transmission Line





GREAT RIVER ENERGY

A Tractone Energy Cooperative

Potato Lake 115 kV Transmission Line and Distribution Substation Map 1 of 2

Proposed Great River Energy 115 kV Transmission Line

Legend:

- Freshwater Pond
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Lake
- Riverine
- Proposed
- Alternative

N

1:24,000

NM Wetlands data from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
2008 Digital Orthorectified Images from U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency