

**STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**ROUTE PERMIT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION  
LINE AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES**

**MORRISON COUNTY**

**ISSUED TO  
GREAT RIVER ENERGY & MINNESOTA POWER  
PUC DOCKET NO. ET2, E015/TL-13-33:**

In accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850, this route permit is hereby issued to:

**GREAT RIVER ENERGY & MINNESOTA POWER**

Great River Energy (GRE) and Minnesota Power (MP) are authorized by this route permit to construct approximately 3.8 miles of new 115 kV transmission line between Minnesota Power's Little Falls Substation and Crow Wing Power's Little Falls Distribution Substation, to modify the Minnesota Power Little Falls Substation to accommodate the new 115 kV transmission line and to expand and modify the Crow Wing Power Little Falls Substation in Morrison County, Minnesota to accommodate the new 115 kV transmission line.

The transmission line and associated facilities shall be built within the route identified in this permit, as portrayed on the official route maps, and in compliance with the all other conditions specified in this permit.

Approved and adopted this 26th day of March, 2012

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

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Burl W. Haar,  
Executive Secretary



## CONTENTS

1	ROUTE PERMIT.....	4
2	PROJECT DESCRIPTION.....	4
2.1	Project Location .....	4
2.2	Associated Facilities and Substations .....	4
2.3	Structures and Conductors .....	5
3	DESIGNATED ROUTE.....	6
3.1	Route Width and Alignment .....	6
3.2	Right-of-Way Placement.....	7
3.3	Right-of-Way Width .....	7
4	GENERAL CONDITIONS .....	8
4.1	Plan and Profile .....	8
4.2	Construction Practices.....	8
4.2.1	Field Representative.....	8
4.2.2	Local Governments .....	8
4.2.3	Cleanup.....	9
4.2.4	Noise.....	9
4.2.5	Vegetation Removal in the Right-of-Way .....	9
4.2.6	Aesthetics .....	9
4.2.7	Erosion Control .....	10
4.2.8	Wetlands and Water Resources.....	10
4.2.9	Temporary Work Space .....	11
4.2.10	Restoration .....	11
4.2.11	Notice of Permit .....	11
4.3	Periodic Status Reports .....	11
4.4	Complaint Procedures .....	12
4.5	Notification to Landowners.....	12
4.6	Completion of Construction.....	12
4.6.1	Notification to Commission .....	12
4.6.2	As-Builts.....	12
4.6.3	GPS Data .....	12
4.7	Electrical Performance Standards. ....	12
4.7.1	Grounding.....	12
4.7.2	Electric Field .....	13
4.7.3	Interference with Communication Devices.....	13
4.8	Other Requirements.....	13

4.8.1	Applicable Codes .....	13
4.8.2	Other Permits.....	13
4.8.3	Pre-emption .....	13
4.8.4	Delay in Construction.....	14
4.9	Archeological and Historic Resources .....	14
4.10	Avian Mitigation.....	14
5	SPECIAL CONDITIONS.....	14
5.1	Yorek Property .....	14
5.2	Swan Flight Diverters.....	15
5.3	Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan.....	15
5.4	Blanding's Turtles.....	15
6	PERMIT AMENDMENT.....	15
7	TRANSFER OF PERMIT .....	15
8	REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF THE PERMIT .....	16

**ATTACHMENTS**

Complaint Handling Procedures for High-Voltage Transmission Lines

Permit Compliance Filings

Compliance Filing Procedures for Permitted Energy Facilities

**ROUTE MAPS**

Overview Route

HVTL Route Aerial Maps

## 1 ROUTE PERMIT

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) hereby issues this route permit to Great River Energy and Minnesota Power (Permittees) pursuant to Minnesota Statute 216E.03 and Minnesota Rules 7850. This permit authorizes the Permittees to construct approximately 3.8 miles of new 115 kV transmission line and associated facilities in Morrison County, Minnesota and as identified in the attached route permit maps, hereby incorporated into this document.

## 2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Permittees are authorized to construct a project comprising construction of a new 115 kV transmission line and associated facilities described as:

- Construction of approximately 3.8 miles of new 115 kV transmission line between the Minnesota Power Little Falls Substation and the Crow Wing Power Little Falls Substation.
- Modifications to the Minnesota Power Little Falls Substation to accommodate the new 115 kV transmission line.
- Modifications to and expansion of the Crow Wing Power Little Falls Substation to accommodate the new 115 kV transmission line.

This project will result in a new 115 kV line between the Minnesota Power Little Falls Substation and the Crow Wing Power Little Falls Substation and modifications to the Minnesota Power Little Falls Substation and modifications and expansion of the Crow Wing Power Little Falls Substation to accommodate the new 115 kV transmission line.

### 2.1 Project Location

The Little Falls 115 kV Transmission Project will be located southeast of Little Falls in Little Falls Township in Morrison County, Minnesota.

Route	County	Township Name	Township	Range	Sections
Proposed Route	Morrison	Little Falls	40N	30W	18
Proposed Route	Morrison	Little Falls	40N	31W	13, 14

### 2.2 Associated Facilities and Substations

The project includes modifications to the Minnesota Power Little Falls Substation and modifications to and an expansion of the Crow Wing Power Little Falls Substation to accommodate the new 115 kV transmission line.

### Minnesota Power Little Falls Substation

Minnesota Power will modify the Minnesota Power Little Falls Substation to add:

- A new 115 kV breaker.
- Disconnect Switches.
- Station class surge arresters.

The modifications to the Minnesota Power Little Falls Substation will be installed within the existing fenced area of the substation, not expansion of the fenced area will be required.

### Crow Wing Power Little Falls Substation

Crow Wing Power currently owns and operates the 34.5 kV Little Falls Distribution Substation on the southeast corner of the intersection of Minnesota Highway 27 and 195<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The substation would be expanded approximately 50 feet to the south to add:

- A new 115 - 12.5 kV transformer.
- Two-way 115 kV transmission line switch with an interrupting device.
- 115 kV High side terminal structure.
- Circuit switcher protection device.

## **2.3 Structures and Conductors**

The primary structure or tangent structures the Permittees shall use for the project is a single-circuit wood post structures with horizontal posts. The tangent structures will be approximately 60 feet to 85 feet in height with an average span of 300 feet to 400 feet between structures.

Structures along 133<sup>rd</sup> Street/County Road 256 and 195<sup>th</sup> Avenue would be designed to carry distribution lines under the transmission line using wood post structures and underbuilt with the existing distribution lines using distribution crossarms. The structures would be approximately 70 feet to 85 feet in height with an average span of 250 feet to 300 feet between structures.

Where angles in the line are required it is anticipated that guyed angle structures using anchors and support cables will be the primary type of structure used. Where guying is not practicable, direct embedded laminated wood poles or steel poles on drilled pier concrete foundations will be utilized.

For the cross-country portion of the Project between the Minnesota Power Little Falls Substation and 180<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Permittees shall use either H-frame structures, with heights of approximately 60 feet to 80 feet and spans of approximately 300 to 400 feet, or Single Pole Braced Post Delta Configuration structures with heights of approximately 60 feet to 85 feet and spans of 400 to 600 feet.

Transmission structures will have three single conductor phase wires. To protect from lightning strikes one shield wire would be used on single pole structures and two shield wires would be used on H-frame structures; at least one of the shield wires will be 0.528 optical ground wire.

It is anticipated that the phase wires will be 795 thousand circular mil aluminum conductor steel reinforced (ACSR) comprised of seven steel core strands surrounded by 26 outer aluminum strands.

The transmission line shall be equipped with protective devices to safeguard the public if an accident occurs.

The transmission line shall be designed to meet or exceed local and state codes, the National Electric Safety Code (NESC), and North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) requirements. This includes standards relating to clearances to ground, clearance to crossing utilities, clearance to buildings, strength of materials, clearances over roadways, right-of-way widths, and permit requirements.

### **3 DESIGNATED ROUTE**

The approved route is shown on the route maps attached to this permit and further designated as follows:

The 115 kV line exits the east side of the Minnesota Power Little Falls Substation and continues east approximately 0.8 miles cross-country, before turning south for approximately 0.5 miles along (the east side of) 180<sup>th</sup> Avenue. When the route reaches County Road 256/133<sup>rd</sup> Street, the route turns east, following County Road 256/133<sup>rd</sup> Street for approximately 1.5 miles before turning north along 195<sup>th</sup> Avenue for approximately 1.0 mile to the Crow Wing Power Little Falls Substation.

#### **3.1 Route Width and Alignment**

The designated route width will be 300 feet for the entire length of the Route. For the portion of the route between the Minnesota Power Little Falls Substation and 180<sup>th</sup> Avenue, the route is centered on the alignment of the east/west portion of Minnesota Power Line 46 continuing eastward to 180<sup>th</sup> Avenue. From 180<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the Crow Wing Power Little Falls Substation, the route is centered on the center line of 180<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 133<sup>rd</sup> Street/County Road 256, and 195<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

This width will provide the Permittees with flexibility for minor adjustments of the specific alignment or right-of-way to accommodate landowner requests and unforeseen conditions. The final alignment (i.e., permanent and maintained rights-of-way) will be located within this designated route unless otherwise authorized below.

The designated route identifies an alignment that minimizes the overall potential impacts to the factors identified in Minnesota Rule 7850.4100 and which was evaluated in the environmental

review and permitting process. Consequently, this permit anticipates that the actual right-of-way will generally conform to the alignment shown in the attached maps, unless changes are requested by individual landowners, unforeseen conditions are encountered, or are otherwise provided for by this permit.

Any alignment modifications within this designated route shall be located so as to have comparable overall impacts relative to the factors in Minnesota Rule 7850.4100 as does the alignment identified in this permit, and shall be specifically identified and documented in and approved as part of the Plan and Profile submitted pursuant to Section 4.1 of this permit.

Route width variations outside the designated route may be allowed for the Permittees to overcome potential site specific constraints. These constraints may arise from any of the following:

- 1) Unforeseen circumstances encountered during the detailed engineering and design process.
- 2) Federal or state agency requirements.
- 3) Existing infrastructure within the transmission line route, including but not limited to roadways, railroads, natural gas and liquid pipelines, high voltage electric transmission lines, or sewer and water lines.
- 4) Planned infrastructure improvements identified by state agencies and local government units (LGUs) and made part of the evidentiary record during the record for this permit.

Any alignment modifications arising from these site specific constraints that would result in right-of-way placement outside the designated route shall be located so as to have comparable overall impacts relative to the factors in Minnesota Rule 7850.4100 as does the alignment identified in this permit and shall also be specifically identified and documented in and approved as part of the plan and profile submitted pursuant to Section 4.1 of this permit.

### **3.2 Right-of-Way Placement**

Where the transmission line route parallels existing highway and other road rights-of-way, the transmission line right-of-way shall occupy and utilize the existing right-of-way to the maximum extent possible, consistent with the criteria in Minnesota Rule 7850.4100, the other requirements of this permit, and for highways under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT), Mn/DOT rules, policies, and procedures for accommodating utilities in trunk highway rights-of-way.

### **3.3 Right-of-Way Width**

The 115 kV transmission line will be built primarily with single pole structures, which will require a 100-foot right-of-way, 50 feet on each side of the transmission line centerline. For cross-country portions of the route using H-frame structures or single pole braced post structures the right-of-way shall be up to 120 feet, or 60 feet each side of the transmission line centerline.

## **4 GENERAL CONDITIONS**

The Permittees shall comply with the following general conditions during construction of the transmission line and associated facilities and the life of this permit.

### **4.1 Plan and Profile**

At least thirty (30) days before right-of-way preparation for construction begins on any segment or portion of the project, the Permittees shall provide the Commission with a plan and profile of the right-of-way and the specifications and drawings for right-of-way preparation, construction, transmission structure specifications and locations, and restoration for the transmission line. The documentation shall include maps depicting the plan and profile including the right-of-way, alignment, and structures in relation to the route and alignment approved per the permit.

The Permittees may not commence construction until the thirty (30) days has expired or until the Commission has advised the Permittees in writing that it has completed its review of the documents and determined that the planned construction is consistent with this permit. If the Permittees intend to make any significant changes in the plan and profile or the specifications and drawings after submission to the Commission, the Permittees shall notify the Commission at least five (5) days before implementing the changes. No changes shall be made that would be in violation of any of the terms of this permit.

### **4.2 Construction Practices**

The Permittees shall follow those specific construction practices and material specifications described in the GRE/MP application to the Commission for a route permit, dated June 16, 2011, and as described in the environmental assessment and Findings of Fact, unless this permit establishes a different requirement, in which case this permit shall prevail.

#### **4.2.1 Field Representative**

At least fourteen (14) days prior to commencing construction, the Permittees shall advise the Commission in writing of the person or persons designated to be the field representative for the Permittees with the responsibility to oversee compliance with the conditions of this permit during construction.

The field representative's address, phone number, email, and emergency phone number shall be provided to the Commission and shall be made available to affected landowners, residents, public officials and other interested persons. The Permittees may change the field representative at any time upon written notice to the Commission.

#### **4.2.2 Local Governments**

During construction, the permittee shall minimize any disruption to public services or public utilities. To the extent disruptions to public services occur, these would be temporary and the permittee will work to restore service promptly.

Where any impacts to utilities have the potential to occur, permittee will work with both landowners and local agencies to determine the most appropriate transmission structure placement.

The Permittees shall cooperate with county and city road authorities to develop appropriate signage and traffic management during construction.

#### 4.2.3 Cleanup

All waste and scrap that is the product of construction shall be removed from the area and properly disposed of upon completion of each task. Personal litter, including bottles, cans, and paper from construction activities shall be removed on a daily basis.

#### 4.2.4 Noise

Construction and routine maintenance activities shall be limited to daytime working hours, as defined in Minnesota Rule 7030.0200, to ensure nighttime noise level standards will not be exceeded.

#### 4.2.5 Vegetation Removal in the Right-of-Way

The Permittees shall minimize the number of trees to be removed in selecting the right-of-way specifically preserving to the maximum extent practicable windbreaks, shelterbelts, living snow fences and vegetation in areas such as trail crossings, where vegetative screening may minimize aesthetic impacts, to the extent that such actions do not violate sound engineering principles or system reliability criteria.

Tall tree species located within the transmission line right-of-way that endanger the safe and reliable operation of the transmission facility will be removed.

In many cases certain low and slow growing species that do not exceed a mature height of 15 feet can be planted in the right-of-way to blend the difference between the right-of-way and adjacent wooded areas, to the extent that the low growing vegetation that will not pose a threat to the transmission facility or impede construction.

#### 4.2.6 Aesthetics

The Permittees shall consider input pertaining to visual impacts from landowners or land management agencies prior to final location of structures, rights-of-way, and other areas with the potential for visual disturbance. Care shall be used to preserve the natural landscape, minimize tree removal and prevent any unnecessary destruction of the natural surroundings in the vicinity of the project during construction and maintenance. Structures shall be placed at the reasonable distance, consistent with sound engineering principles and system reliability criteria, from intersecting roads, highway, or trail crossings and could cross roads to minimize or avoid impacts.

#### 4.2.7 Erosion Control

The Permittees shall follow standard erosion control measures outlined in Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) guidance and best management practices regarding sediment control practice during construction include protecting storm drain inlets, use of silt fences, protecting exposed soil, immediately stabilizing restored soil, controlling temporary soil stockpiles, and controlling vehicle tracking.

The Permittees shall implement reasonable measures to minimize runoff during construction and shall promptly plant or seed, erect sediment control fences (e.g. biorolls, sandbags, and silt fences), apply mulch (e.g. hay or straw) on exposed soils, and/or use erosion control blankets and turf reinforcement mats to provide structural stability to bare surfaces and slopes.

When utilizing seed to establish temporary and permanent vegetative cover on exposed soil, the Permittees shall select specific site characteristic seed, certified to be free of noxious weeds.

Contours shall be graded as required so that all surfaces drain naturally, blend with the natural terrain, and are left in a condition that will facilitate re-vegetation, provide for proper drainage, and prevent erosion. All areas disturbed during construction of the facilities shall be returned to their pre-construction condition.

Where larger areas of one acre or more are disturbed or other areas designated by the MPCA, the Permittees shall prepare the required Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)/State Disposal System (SDS) construction stormwater permit from the MPCA.

#### 4.2.8 Wetlands and Water Resources

Structures shall be located to span watercourses, wetlands, and floodplains to the extent practicable and consistent with sound engineering principles. Minimal grading of areas around pole locations may be required to accommodate construction vehicles and equipment.

The Permittees shall endeavor to access wetlands and riparian areas using the shortest route possible in order to minimize travel through wetland areas and prevent unnecessary impacts wherever possible.

Construction in wetlands and riparian areas shall be scheduled during frozen ground conditions, when practicable. When construction during winter is not possible, construction mats (wooden mats or a composite mat system) shall be used to protect wetland vegetation. All-terrain construction vehicles designed to minimize soil impact in damp areas may also be used.

No staging or stringing set up areas shall be placed within or adjacent to wetlands or water resources, as practicable. The structures shall be assembled on upland areas before they are brought to the site for installation.

Soil excavated from the wetlands and riparian areas shall be contained and not placed back into the wetland or riparian area. The Permittees shall also utilize erosion control methods identified in Section 4.2.7 (Erosion Control), as warranted. Areas disturbed by construction activities shall be restored to pre-construction conditions (soil horizons, contours, vegetation, etc.).

#### 4.2.9 Temporary Work Space

The Permittees shall limit temporary easements to special construction access needs and additional staging or lay-down areas required outside of the authorized right-of-way. Space shall be selected to limit the removal and impacts to vegetation.

Temporary lay down areas outside of the authorized transmission line right-of-way will be obtained from affected landowners through rental agreements and are not provided for in this permit.

Temporary driveways may be constructed between the roadway and the structures to minimize impact by using the shortest route possible. Construction mats may also be used to minimize impacts on access paths and construction areas.

#### 4.2.10 Restoration

The Permittees shall restore the right-of-way, temporary work spaces, access roads, abandoned right-of-way, and other public or private lands affected by construction of the transmission line. Practices to restore areas impacted by construction and maintenance activities are also described in Section 4.2.7 of this permit.

Restoration within the right-of-way must be compatible with the safe operation, maintenance, and inspection of the transmission line.

Within 60 days after completion of all restoration activities, the Permittees shall advise the Commission in writing of the completion of such activities. The Permittees shall compensate landowners for any yard/landscape, crop, soil compaction, drain tile, or other damages that may occur during construction.

#### 4.2.11 Notice of Permit

The Permittees shall inform all employees, contractors, and other persons involved in the transmission line construction of the terms and conditions of this permit.

### **4.3 Periodic Status Reports**

The Permittees shall report to the Commission on progress regarding finalization of the route, design of structures, and construction of the transmission line. The Permittees need not report more frequently than monthly.

#### **4.4 Complaint Procedures**

Prior to the start of construction, the Permittees shall submit to the Commission the procedures that will be used to receive and respond to complaints. The procedures shall be in accordance with the requirements set forth in the complaint procedures attached to this permit.

#### **4.5 Notification to Landowners**

The Permittees shall provide all affected landowners with a copy of this permit and the complaints procedures at the time of the first contact with the landowners after issuance of this permit. At the time of first contact, the Permittees shall also provide all affected landowners with a copy of the *Landowner Guide to Easements* publication provided by the Department of Commerce.

The Permittees shall contact landowners prior to entering the property or conducting maintenance along the route. The Permittees shall avoid construction and maintenance practices, particularly the use of fertilizer, herbicides or other pesticides, that are inconsistent with the landowner's or tenant's use of the land (See also, Section 4.2.5).

The Permittees shall work with landowners to locate the high-voltage transmission line to minimize the loss of agricultural land, forest, and wetlands, and to avoid homes and farmsteads.

#### **4.6 Completion of Construction**

##### 4.6.1 Notification to Commission

At least three days before the line is to be placed into service, the Permittees shall notify the Commission of the date on which the line will be placed into service and the date on which construction was complete.

##### 4.6.2 As-Builts

Within 60 days after completion of construction, the Permittees shall submit copies of all the final as-built plans and specifications developed during the project.

##### 4.6.3 GPS Data

Within 60 days after completion of construction, the Permittees shall submit to the Commission, in the format requested by the Commission, geo-spatial information (ArcGIS compatible map files, GPS coordinates, associated database of characteristics, etc.) for all structures associated with the transmission line, each switch, and each substation connected.

#### **4.7 Electrical Performance Standards.**

##### 4.7.1 Grounding

The Permittees shall design, construct, and operate the transmission line in a manner that the maximum induced steady-state short-circuit current shall be limited to five

milliamperes (mA), root mean square (rms) alternating current between the ground and any non-stationary object within the right-of-way, including but not limited to large motor vehicles and agricultural equipment. All fixed metallic objects on or off the right-of-way, except electric fences that parallel or cross the right-of-way, shall be grounded to the extent necessary to limit the induced short-circuit current between ground and the object so as not to exceed one mA rms under steady state conditions of the transmission line and to comply with the ground fault conditions specified in the NESC. The Permittees shall address and rectify any induced current problems that arise during transmission line operation.

#### 4.7.2 Electric Field

The transmission line shall be designed, constructed, and operated in such a manner that the electric field measured one meter above ground level immediately below the transmission line shall not exceed 8.0 kV/m rms.

#### 4.7.3 Interference with Communication Devices

If interference with radio or television, satellite, wireless internet, GPS-based agriculture navigation systems or other communication devices is caused by the presence or operation of the transmission line, the Permittees shall take whatever action is prudently feasible to restore or provide reception equivalent to reception levels in the immediate area just prior to the construction of the line.

### 4.8 Other Requirements.

#### 4.8.1 Applicable Codes

The Permittees shall comply with applicable requirements of the NESC including clearances to ground, clearance to crossing utilities, clearance to buildings, right-of-way widths, erecting power poles, and stringing of transmission line conductors. The transmission line facility shall also meet the NERC reliability standards.

#### 4.8.2 Other Permits

The Permittees shall comply with all applicable state rules and statutes. The Permittees shall obtain all required local, state and federal permits for the project and comply with the conditions of these permits. A list of the required permits is included in the route permit application and the environmental assessment. The Permittees shall submit a copy of such permits to the Commission upon request.

#### 4.8.3 Pre-emption

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 216E.10, subdivisions 1 and 2, this route permit shall be the sole route approval required to be obtained by the Permittees and this permit shall supersede and preempt all zoning, building, or land use rules, regulations, or ordinances promulgated by regional, county, local and special purpose government.

#### 4.8.4 Delay in Construction

If the Permittees have not commenced construction or improvement of the route within four years after the date of issuance of this permit, the Commission shall consider suspension of the permit in accordance with Minnesota Rule 7850.4700.

#### **4.9 Archeological and Historic Resources**

If any previously unrecorded archaeological sites are discovered during construction of the project, the Permittees shall immediately stop work at the site and shall mark and preserve the site(s) and notify the Commission and the SHPO of the discovery. The Commission and the SHPO shall have three (3) working days from the time the agency is notified to conduct an inspection of the site if either agency chooses to do so. On the fourth day after notification, the Permittees may begin work on the site unless the SHPO has directed that work shall cease. In such event, work shall not continue until the SHPO determines that construction can proceed.

If human remains are encountered during construction, the Permittees shall immediately halt construction at that location and promptly notify local law enforcement authorities and the State Archaeologist. Construction at the human remains location shall not proceed until authorized by local law enforcement authorities or the State Archaeologist.

If any federal funding, permit, or license is involved or required, the Permittees shall notify the SHPO as soon as possible in the planning process to coordinate section 106 (36 C.F.R. part 800) review.

Prior to construction, construction workers shall be trained about the need to avoid cultural properties, how to identify cultural properties, and procedures to follow if undocumented cultural properties, including gravesites, are found during construction.

#### **4.10 Avian Mitigation**

The Permittees' standard transmission design shall incorporate adequate spacing of conductor(s) and grounding devices in accordance with Avian Power Line Interaction Committee standards to eliminate the risk of electrocution to raptors with larger wingspans that may simultaneously come in contact with a conductor and grounding devices.

### **5 SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

The Permittees shall provide a report to the Commission as part of the plan and profile submission that describes the actions taken and mitigative measures developed regarding the project and the following Special Conditions.

#### **5.1 Yorek Property**

For portions of the route between the Minnesota Power Little Falls Substation and 185<sup>th</sup> Avenue the Permittees shall work with the landowner to minimize tree-clearing and to minimize the number of structures to be located on the portion of the property under cultivation.

## **5.2 Swan Flight Diverters**

The Permittees shall install Swan Flight Diverters (SFDs) at intervals of 25 feet along the approved route, as shown in the maps attached to this permit.

## **5.3 Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan**

The Permittees shall develop a Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan prior to construction using stormwater management and best management practices guidance available from MPCA and shall submit the Plan to the Commission at least fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of construction. This Plan shall specify the use of wildlife friendly erosion mesh if soil stabilization is necessary. This Plan may be the same as the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) submitted to the PCA as part of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit application.

## **5.4 Blanding's Turtles**

The Permittees shall follow measures and recommendations for avoiding and minimizing impacts to Blanding's turtle populations as outlined in the *Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Division of Ecological Resources Environmental Review Fact Sheet Series for Blanding's Turtle* ([http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/natural\\_resources/animals/reptiles\\_amphibians/turtles/blandingsturtle/factsheet.pdf](http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/natural_resources/animals/reptiles_amphibians/turtles/blandingsturtle/factsheet.pdf)). Construction and maintenance personnel shall be made aware of the Blanding's turtle and their habitat during pre-construction meetings.

## **6 PERMIT AMENDMENT**

The permit may be amended at any time by the Commission. Any person may request an amendment of the conditions of this permit by submitting a request to the Commission in writing describing the amendment sought and the reasons for the amendment. The Commission will mail notice of receipt of the request to the Permittees. The Commission may amend the conditions after affording the Permittees and interested persons such process as is required.

## **7 TRANSFER OF PERMIT**

The Permittees may request at any time that the Commission transfer this permit to another person or entity. The Permittees shall provide the name and description of the person or entity to whom the permit is requested to be transferred, the reasons for the transfer, a description of the facilities affected, and the proposed effective date of the transfer.

The person to whom the permit is to be transferred shall provide the Commission with such information as the Commission shall require to determine whether the new permittee can comply with the conditions of the permit. The Commission may authorize transfer of the permit after affording the Permittees, the new permittee, and interested persons such process as is required.

## **8 REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF THE PERMIT**

The Commission may initiate action to revoke or suspend this permit at any time. The Commission shall act in accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Rule 7850.5100 to revoke or suspend the permit.

**MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
COMPLIANCE FILING PROCEDURE  
FOR PERMITTED ENERGY FACILITIES**

**1. Purpose**

To establish a uniform and timely method of submitting information required by the Commission energy facility permits.

**2. Scope and Applicability**

This procedure encompasses all compliance filings required by permit.

**3. Definitions**

Compliance Filing – A sending (filing) of information to the Commission, where the information is required by a Commission site or route permit.

**4. Responsibilities**

- A) The Permittees shall eFile all compliance filings with Dr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary, Public Utilities Commission, through the Department of Commerce (DOC) eDocket system. The system is located on the DOC website: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/home.jsp>

General instructions are provided on the website. Permittees must register on the website to eFile documents.

- B) All filings must have a cover sheet that includes:
- 1) Date
  - 2) Name of submitter / Permittees
  - 3) Type of Permit (Site or Route)
  - 4) Project Location
  - 5) Project Docket Number
  - 6) Permit Section Under Which the Filing is Made
  - 7) Short Description of the Filing

Filings that are graphic intensive (e.g., maps, plan and profile) must, in addition to being eFiled, be submitted as paper copies and on CD. Copies and CDs should be sent to: 1) Dr. Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN, 55101-2147, and 2) Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting, 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN, 55101-2198.

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## PERMIT COMPLIANCE FILINGS<sup>1</sup>

**PERMITTEES:** Great River Energy/Minnesota Power  
**PERMIT TYPE:** HVTL Route Permit  
**PROJECT LOCATION:** Morrison County  
**PUC DOCKET NUMBER:** ET2, E015/TL-11-318

<b>Filing Number</b>	<b>Permit Section</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
<b>1</b>	4.1	Plan and profile of right-of-way	30 days before ROW preparation or construction
<b>2</b>	4.2.1	Contact information for field representative	14 days prior to construction
<b>3</b>	4.2.10	Restoration Complete	60 days after completion of all restoration activities
<b>4</b>	4.3	Periodic Status Reports	monthly
<b>5</b>	4.4	Complaint Procedures	Prior to start of construction
<b>6</b>	Paragraph F of Complaint Handling Procedures	Complaint Reports	By the 15 <sup>th</sup> of each month
<b>7</b>	4.5	Notification to landowners	
<b>8</b>	4.6.1	Notice of completion and date of placement in service	Three days prior to energizing
<b>9</b>	4.6.2	Provide As-built plans and specifications	Within 60 days after completion of construction
<b>10</b>	4.6.3	GPS information	Within 60 days after completion of construction
<b>11</b>	4.9	Notification of previously unrecorded archaeological sites	As needed

<sup>1</sup> This compilation of permit compliance filings is provided for the convenience of the permittees and the PUC. However, it is not a substitute for the permit; the language of the permit controls.

<b>12</b>	5.1	Documentation of landowner agreement	30 days before ROW preparation or construction
<b>13</b>	5.2	Swan Flight Diverters	30 days before ROW preparation or construction
<b>14</b>	5.3	Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan	30 days before ROW preparation or construction

**MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
COMPLAINT HANDLING PROCEDURES FOR  
HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES**

**A. Purpose:**

To establish a uniform and timely method of reporting complaints received by the Permittees concerning Permit conditions for site preparation, construction, cleanup and restoration, operation and resolution of such complaints.

**B. Scope:**

This document describes Complaint reporting procedures and frequency.

**C. Applicability:**

The procedures shall be used for all complaints received by the Permittees and all complaints received by the Commission under Minn. Rule 7829.1500 or 7829.1700 relevant to this Permit.

**D. Definitions:**

Complaint: A verbal or written statement presented to the Permittees by a person expressing dissatisfaction or concern regarding site preparation, cleanup or restoration or other HVTL and associated facilities route permit conditions. Complaints do not include requests, inquiries, questions or general comments.

Substantial Complaint: A written Complaint alleging a violation of a specific Route Permit condition that, if substantiated, could result in Permit modification or suspension pursuant to the applicable regulations.

Unresolved Complaint: A Complaint which, despite the good faith efforts of the Permittees and a person(s), remains to both or one of the parties unresolved or unsatisfactorily resolved.

Person: An individual, partnership, joint venture, private or public corporation, association, firm, public service company, cooperative, political subdivision, municipal corporation, government agency, public utility district, or any other entity, public or private, however organized.

**E. Complaint Documentation and Processing:**

1. The Permittees shall document all Complaints by maintaining a record of all applicable information concerning the Complaint, including the following:

- a. Name of complainant, address, phone number, and e-mail address.
  - b. Precise property description or parcel number.
  - c. Name of Permittees representative receiving Complaint and date of receipt.
  - d. Nature of Complaint and the applicable Route Permit conditions(s).
  - e. Activities undertaken to resolve the Complaint.
  - f. Final disposition of the Complaint.
2. The Permittees shall designate an individual to summarize Complaints for substantial to the Commission. This person's name, phone number and e-mail address shall accompany all complaint submittals.
3. A Person presenting the Complaint should to the extent possible, include the following information in their communications:
  - a. Name, address, phone number, and e-mail address.
  - b. Date
  - c. Tract or parcel
  - d. Whether the complaint relates to (1) a Route Permit matter, (2) a HVTL and associated facility issue, or (3) a compliance issue.

**F. Reporting Requirements:**

The Permittees shall report all complaints to the Commission according to the following schedule:

**Immediate Reports:** All substantial complaints shall be reported to the Commission the same day received, or on the following working day for complaints received after working hours. Such reports are to be directed to HVTL Permit Compliance, 1-800-657-3794, or by e-mail to: [DOC.energypermitcompliance@state.mn.us](mailto:DOC.energypermitcompliance@state.mn.us), or. Voice messages are acceptable.

**Monthly Reports:** By the 15th of each month, a summary of all complaints, including substantial complaints received or resolved during the preceding month, shall be Filed to Dr. Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary, Public Utilities Commission, using the Minnesota Department of Commerce eDocket system (see eFiling instructions attached to this permit).

If no Complaints were received during the preceding month, the Permittees shall submit (eFile) a summary indicating that no complaints were received.

**G. Complaints Received by the Commission or DOC:**

Complaints received directly by the Commission from aggrieved persons regarding site preparation, construction, cleanup, restoration, operation and maintenance shall be promptly sent to the Permittees.

**H. Commission Process for Unresolved Complaints:**

**Initial Screening:** Commission staff shall perform an initial evaluation of unresolved Complaints submitted to the Commission. Complaints raising substantial HVTL Route Permit issues shall be processed and resolved by the Commission. Staff shall notify Permittees and appropriate person(s) if it determines that the Complaint is a Substantial Complaint. With respect to such Complaints, each party shall submit a written summary of its position to the Commission no later than ten days after receipt of the Staff notification. Staff shall present Briefing Papers to the Commission, which shall resolve the Complaint within twenty days of submission of the Briefing Papers.

**I. Permittees Contacts for Complaints:**

**Mailing Address:** Complaints filed by mail shall be sent to:

**ATTN:** Ms. Michelle Lommel  
Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights  
Great River Energy  
12300 Elm Creek Blvd.,  
Maple Grove, MN 55369

**Tel:** (763) 445-5977

**Email:** [mlommel@GREnergy.com](mailto:mlommel@GREnergy.com)

**Mailing Address:** Complaints filed by mail shall be sent to:

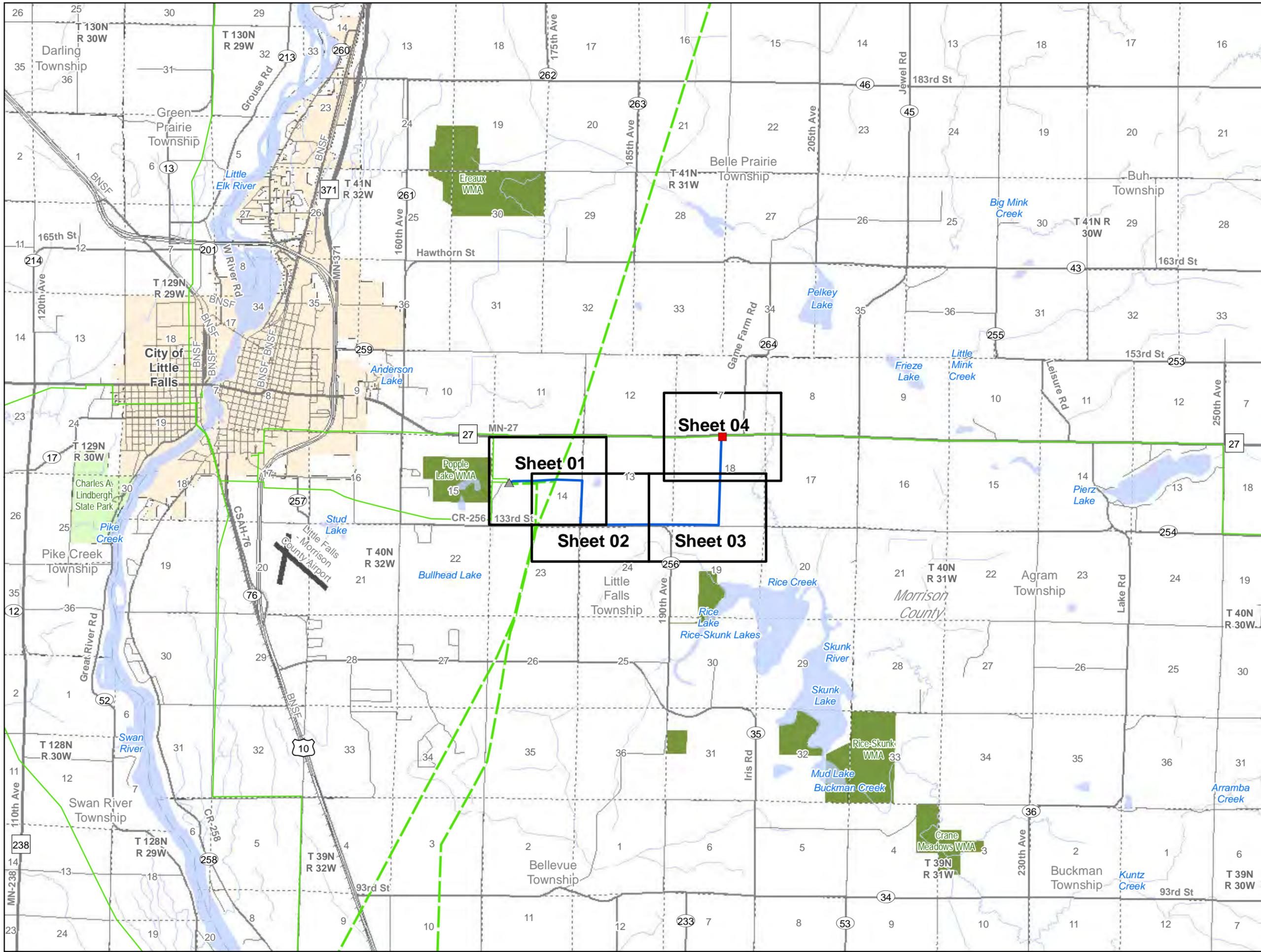
**ATTN:** Mr. Dan McCourtney  
Environmental Compliance Specialist II  
Minnesota Power  
30 West Superior Street  
Duluth, MN 55802

**Tel:** (218) 355-3515

**Email:** [dmccourtney@allete.com](mailto:dmccourtney@allete.com)

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## **HVTL ROUTE MAPS**



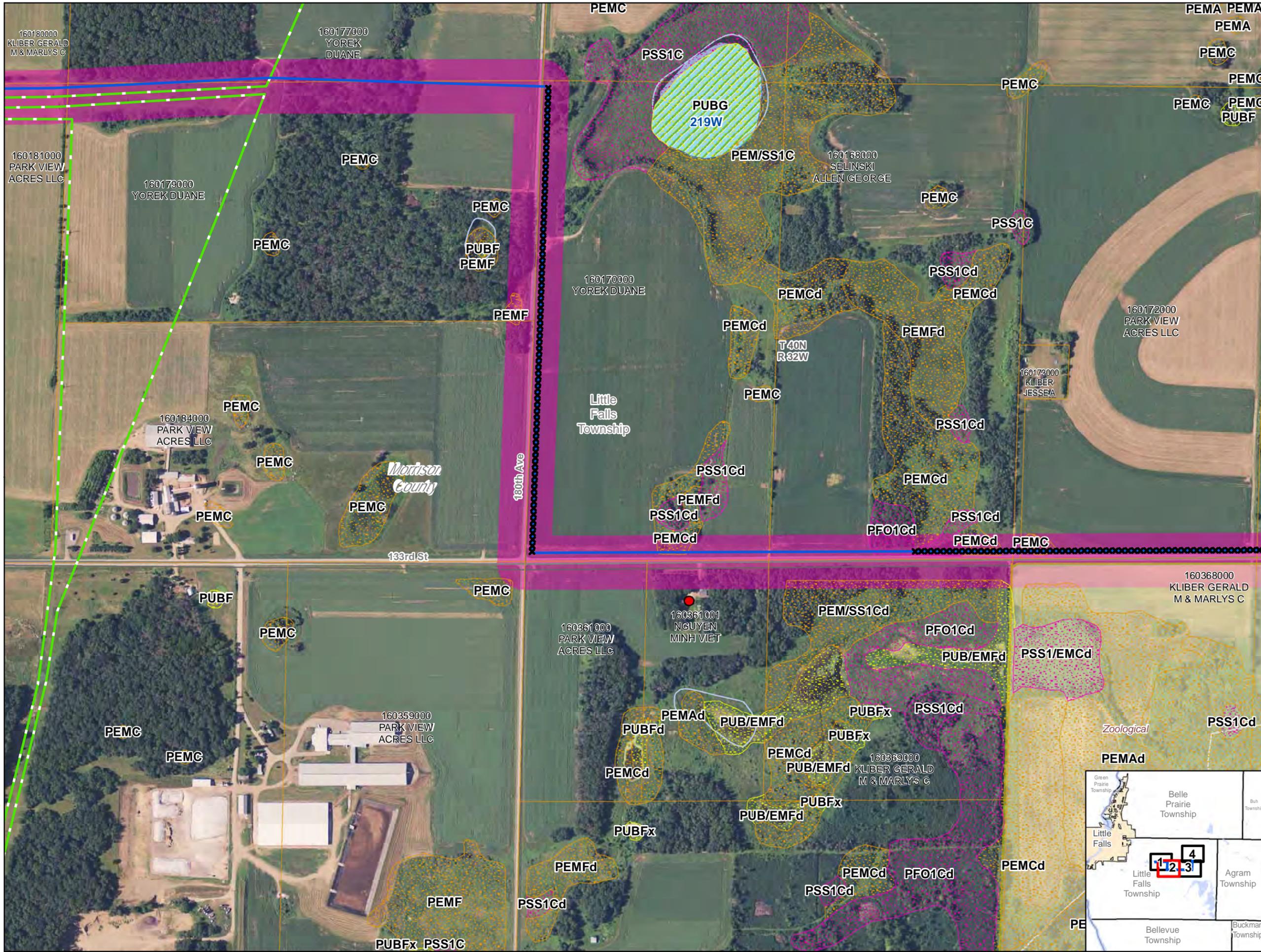
- Anticipated Alignment new
- 115 kV Transmission Line
- Existing Great River Energy
- 34.5 kV Transmission Line
- Existing Crow Wing Power
- Distribution Substation
- Existing Minnesota Power
- Transmission Substation
- 34.5 kV Transmission Line
- 115 kV Transmission Line
- Scientific Natural Areas
- Waterfowl Production Areas
- Wildlife Management Areas
- Sheet Grid

0 1 Miles  
 Scale: 1:6000 (if map image is 14.5" by 10")  
 Data Sources Vary Between MNDOT, MNDNR, MNGEO and Great River Energy.

Map Projection:  
 UTM, NAD83, Zone15, Meters  
 Map Prepared by Great River Energy: 3/8/2012

**Little Falls 115 kV Project Overview Map**

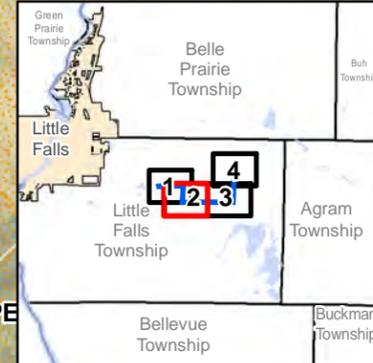


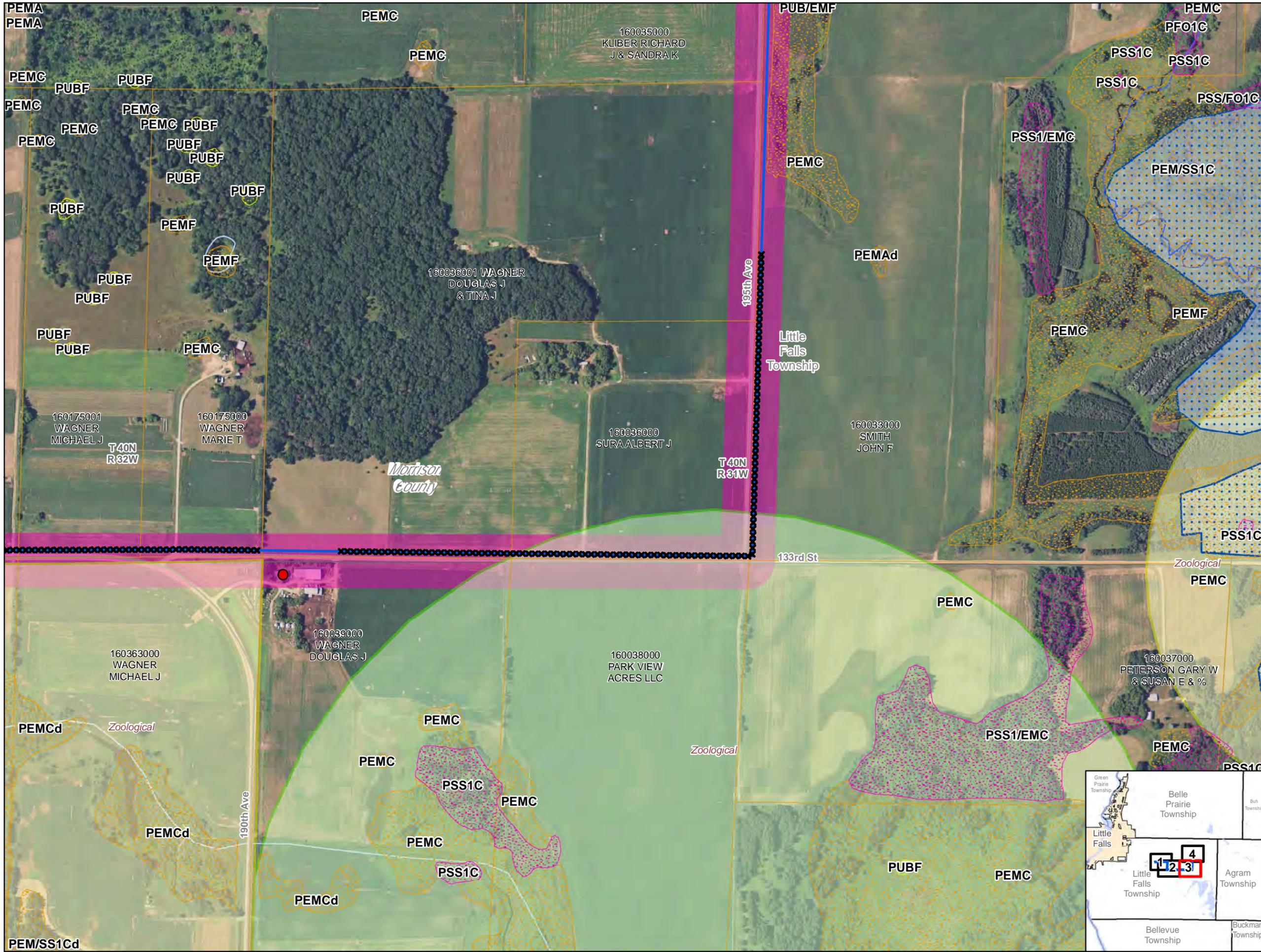


Anticipated Alignment new  
 115 kV Transmission Line  
 Bird Diverters (25 feet apart)  
 Route Permit Area  
 Existing Great River Energy  
 34.5 kV Transmission Line  
 Existing Crow Wing Power  
 Distribution Substation  
 Existing Minnesota Power  
 Transmission Substation  
 34.5 kV Transmission Line  
 115 kV Transmission Line  
 Residential Structure  
 Accessory Structure  
 Parcel Line  
 Scientific Natural Areas  
 Waterfowl Production Areas  
 Wildlife Management Areas  
 MN Native Plant Community  
 Public Water Wetland  
 Public Water Basin  
 Public Watercourse Delineations  
 MN MPCA Impaired Lakes  
 NWI Wetlands  
 Freshwater Emergent Wetland  
 Freshwater Forested/ Shrub Wetland  
 Freshwater Pond  
 Lake  
 Riverine  
 Rare Natural Feature (NHIS)  
 Endangered  
 Special Concern  
 Threatened  
 Not listed  
 Biodiversity Significance  
 Outstanding  
 High  
 Moderate  
 Below

0 250 500 Feet  
 Scale: 1:6000 (if map image is 14.5" by 10")  
 Data Sources Vary Between MNDOT, MNDNR, MNGEO and Great River Energy.  
 2010 Color Orthophotos from Farm Services Administration. Parcel Data from Morrison County GIS.  
 Map Projection: UTM, NAD83, Zone15, Meters  
 Map Prepared by Great River Energy: 3/12/2012  
 "Copyright (2011), State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources. Rare features data included here were provided by the Division of Ecological Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and were current as of (04-19-2011). These data are not based on an exhaustive inventory of the state. The lack of data for any geographic area shall not be construed to mean that no significant features are present."

**Little Falls 115 kV Project  
 Sheet 02**





Anticipated Alignment new

- 115 kV Transmission Line
- Bird Diverters (25 feet apart)
- Route Permit Area
- Existing Great River Energy
- 34.5 kV Transmission Line
- Existing Crow Wing Power
- Distribution Substation
- Existing Minnesota Power
- Transmission Substation
- 34.5 kV Transmission Line
- 115 kV Transmission Line
- Residential Structure
- Accessory Structure
- Parcel Line
- Scientific Natural Areas
- Waterfowl Production Areas
- Wildlife Management Areas
- MN Native Plant Community
- Public Water Wetland
- Public Water Basin
- Public Watercourse Delineations
- MN MPCA Impaired Lakes
- NWI Wetlands
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Riverine
- Rare Natural Feature (NHIS)
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- Not listed
- Biodiversity Significance
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0 250 500 Feet

Scale: 1:6000 (if map image is 14.5" by 10")

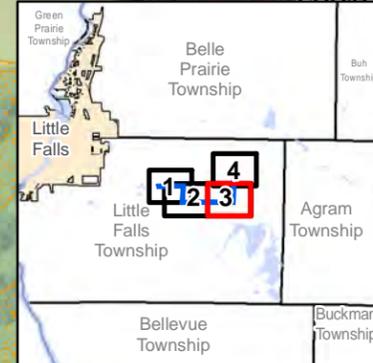
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Map Projection: UTM, NAD83, Zone15, Meters

Map Prepared by Great River Energy: 3/12/2012

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**Little Falls 115 kV Project Sheet 03**





- Anticipated Alignment new
- 115 kV Transmission Line
- Bird Diverters (25 feet apart)
- Route Permit Area
- Existing Great River Energy
- 34.5 kV Transmission Line
- Existing Crow Wing Power
- Distribution Substation
- Existing Minnesota Power
- Transmission Substation
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