APPENDIX A

Applicant's Notice Letter to Commission of Intent to Use Alternative Permitting Process

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October 10, 2012

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

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

Re: Notification of Intent to File Route Permit Application Under the Alternative Permitting Process for the Proposed Minnesota Power 39 Line Project – St. Louis County, Minnesota

Dear Dr. Haar:

In accordance with Minn. Rules 7850.2800, subp. 2, Minnesota Power hereby notifies the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) of its intent to submit an application for a route permit for the 39 Line Project (Project) pursuant to the alternative permitting procedures in Minn. Rules 7850.2800 to 7850.3900.

The proposed Project includes constructing a new, approximately 2.8-mile-long, 115 kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line from Minnesota Power's existing 39 Line in the City of Eveleth to Minnesota Power's existing 37 Line northwest of the City of Leonidas. Minnesota Power would also, at the request of United Taconite, remove its existing 39 Line that runs through United Taconite's north pit. The Project is needed to allow the existing line to be removed without degrading the area's high voltage transmission system.

Minnesota Power plans to file the application by October 30, 2012 and will work with the MPUC and Department of Commerce staff to address any questions and/or comments in order to expedite the application's acceptance and completion of the environmental assessment.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact myself or Dan McCourtney at (218) 355-3515 or by email at dmccourtney@allete.com.

Yours truly,

David R. Moeller

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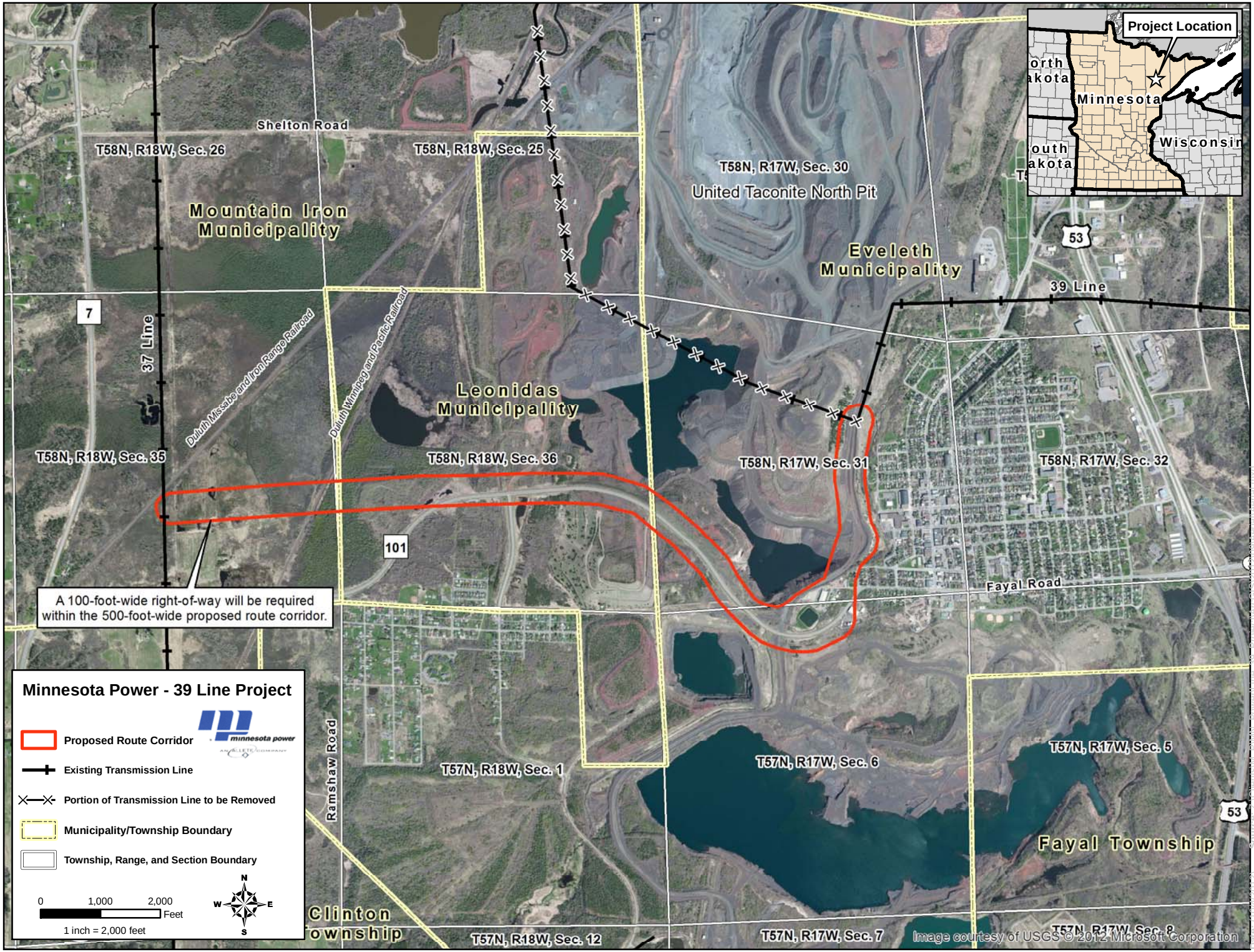
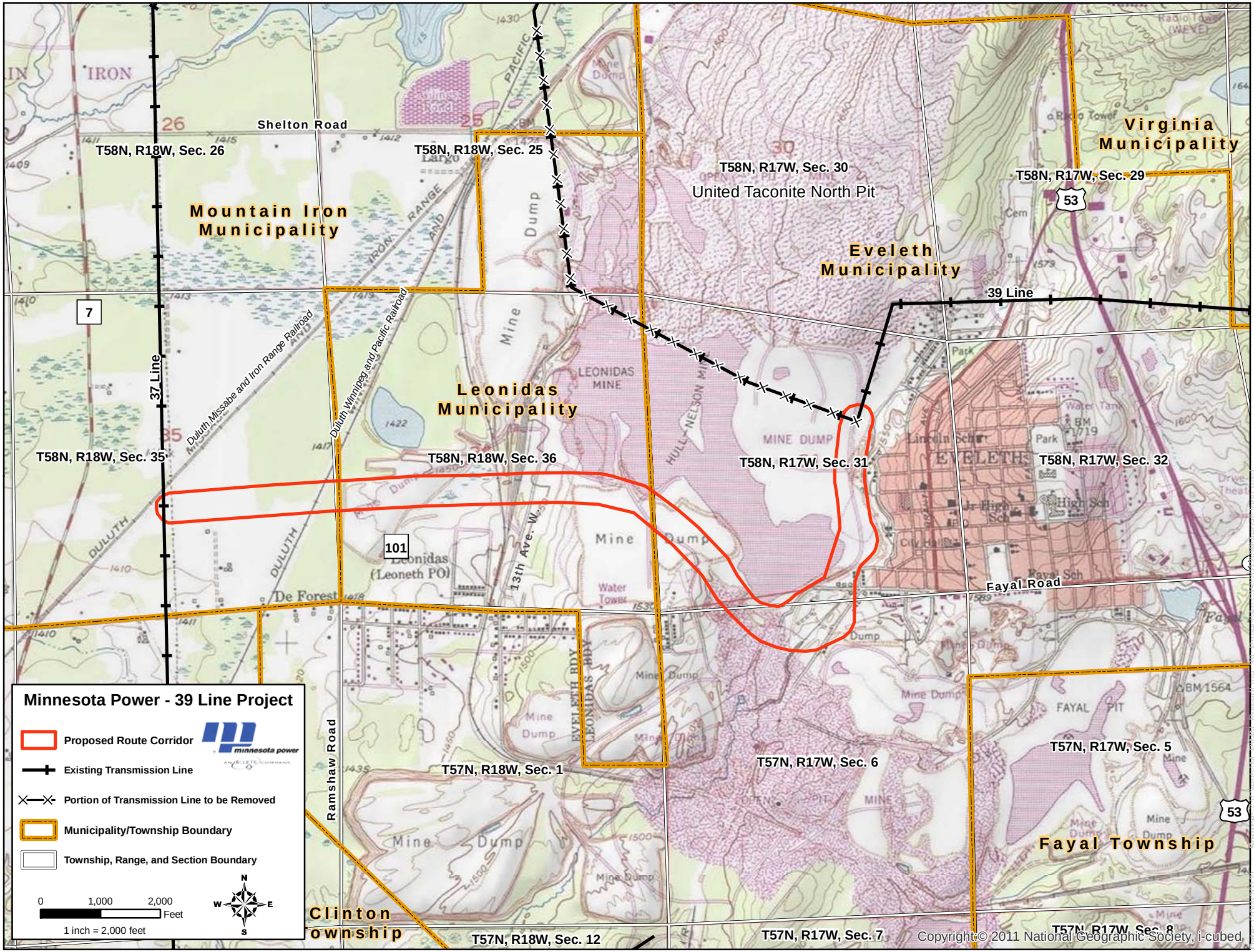
Attachment USGS topographic map and aerial photo-based map of Project area

c: Dan McCourtney


Minnesota Power - 39 Line Project
Proposed Route Corridor
Existing Transmission Line
Portion of Transmission Line to be Removed
Municipality/Township Boundary
Township, Range, and Section Boundary
0 1,000 2,000 Feet
1 inch = 2,000 feet
N
S
E
W
Project Location
Minnesota
Wisconsin
Shelton Road
T58N, R18W, Sec. 26
T58N, R18W, Sec. 25
T58N, R17W, Sec. 30
United Taconite North Pit
Mountain Iron Municipality
Eveleth Municipality
53
39 Line
7
37 Line
Duluth Missabe and Iron Range Railroad
Duluth Winnipeg and Pacific Railroad
Leonidas Municipality
T58N, R18W, Sec. 35
T58N, R18W, Sec. 36
T58N, R17W, Sec. 31
T58N, R17W, Sec. 32
101
A 100-foot-wide right-of-way will be required within the 500-foot-wide proposed route corridor.
Fayal Road
Ramshaw Road
T57N, R18W, Sec. 1
T57N, R17W, Sec. 6
T57N, R17W, Sec. 5
Fayal Township
Clinton Township
T57N, R18W, Sec. 12
T57N, R17W, Sec. 7
T57N, R17W, Sec. 8
Image courtesy of USGS © 2012 Microsoft Corporation



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