

## **Public Information Meetings Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

### **Minnesota to Iowa 345 kV Transmission Line Project**

PUC Docket Nos. ET6675/CN-12-1053 and ET6676/TL-12-1337

April 22-24, 2014



## **Agenda**

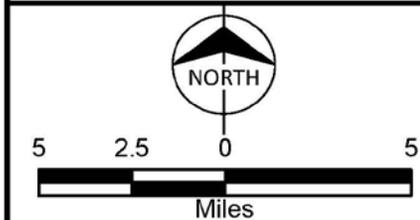
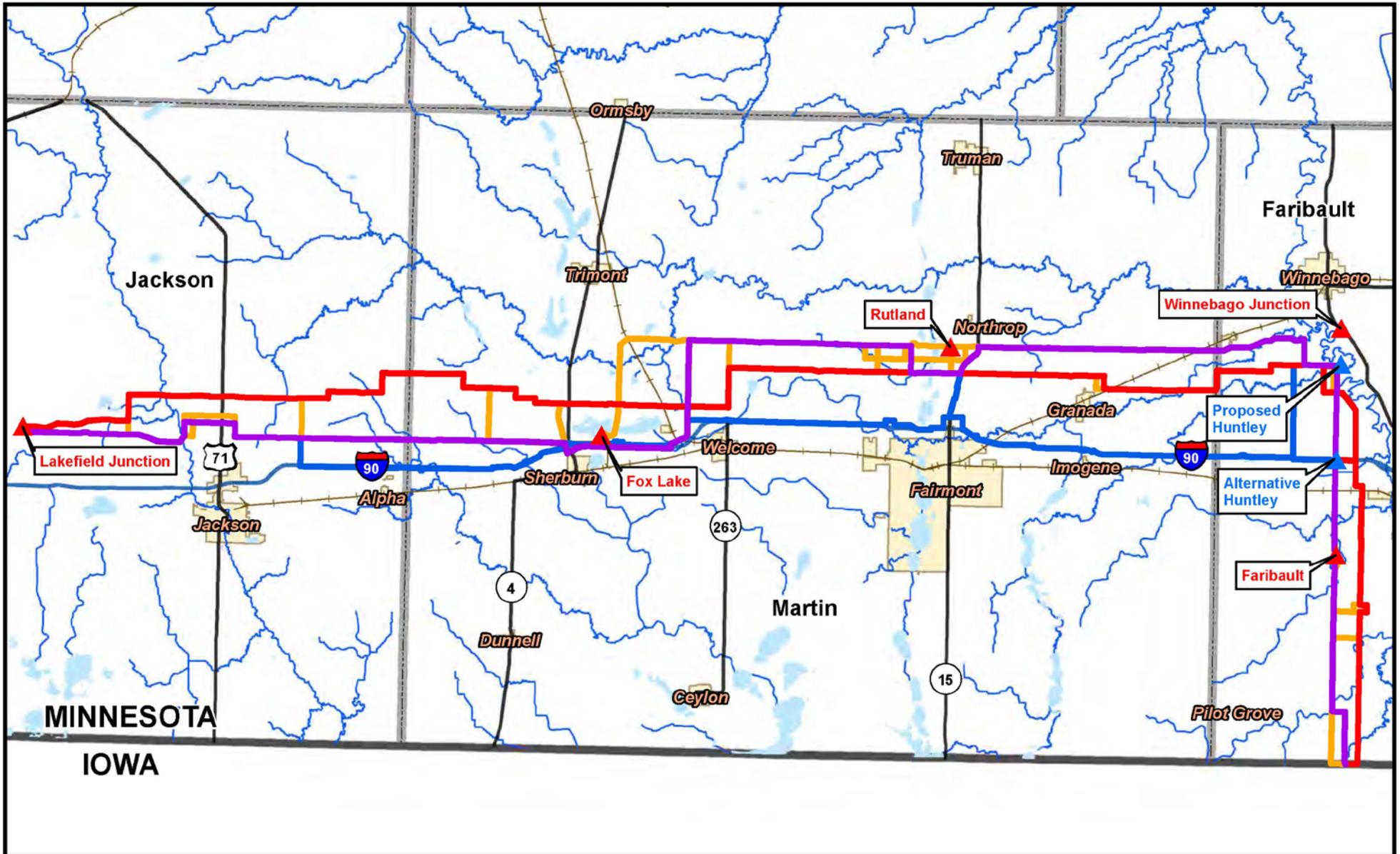
- 1) Introductions / Materials
- 2) Proposed Project
- 3) State Permitting Process
- 4) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- 5) Using the Draft EIS
- 6) Comments

## Introductions / Materials

- Introductions
  - Department of Commerce
  - ITC Midwest
- Materials
  - Presentation
  - Comment Form
  - Meeting Notice
  - Mailing List Sign Up

## Proposed Project

- Approximately 73 miles of new 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line
- Associated Facilities
  - Expand the Lakefield Junction substation
  - Construct a new Huntley substation
  - Relocate existing 161 and 69 kV lines
  - Remove the Winnebago Junction substation



- Route A
- Route B
- I-90 Route Alternatives
- Route Variations
- ▲ Existing Substation
- ▲ Proposed Substation



ITC Midwest  
Minnesota to Iowa 345 kV  
Transmission Line Project

Routing Options in Draft  
Environmental Impact Statement



Typical 345 kV/161 kV  
Double Circuit Structure

- Height: 130-190 feet
- Span: 700-1000 feet
- Right-of-way: 200 feet

## State Permitting Process

- Project Requires a Certificate of Need (CN) and Route Permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
- CN Process (Minn. Rules 7849) and Route Permit Process (Minn. Rules 7850)
- Commission Gets Assistance from State Agencies



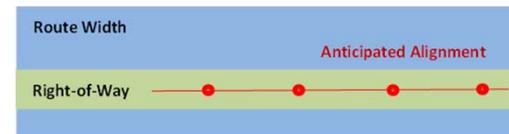
MINNESOTA  
**OAH**  
OFFICE OF  
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

### State Permitting Process - CN

- Is this Project Needed or is a Different Project More Appropriate for the State of Minnesota?
  - Size
  - Type
  - Timing

### State Permitting Process - Route Permit

- If this Project is Needed, Where Should it be Located and How Should it be Constructed?
- Routing Factors in Minn. Rules 7850
  - Human Settlements, Public Health and Safety
  - Land-based Economies, Natural Environment
  - Use of Existing Rights-of-Way



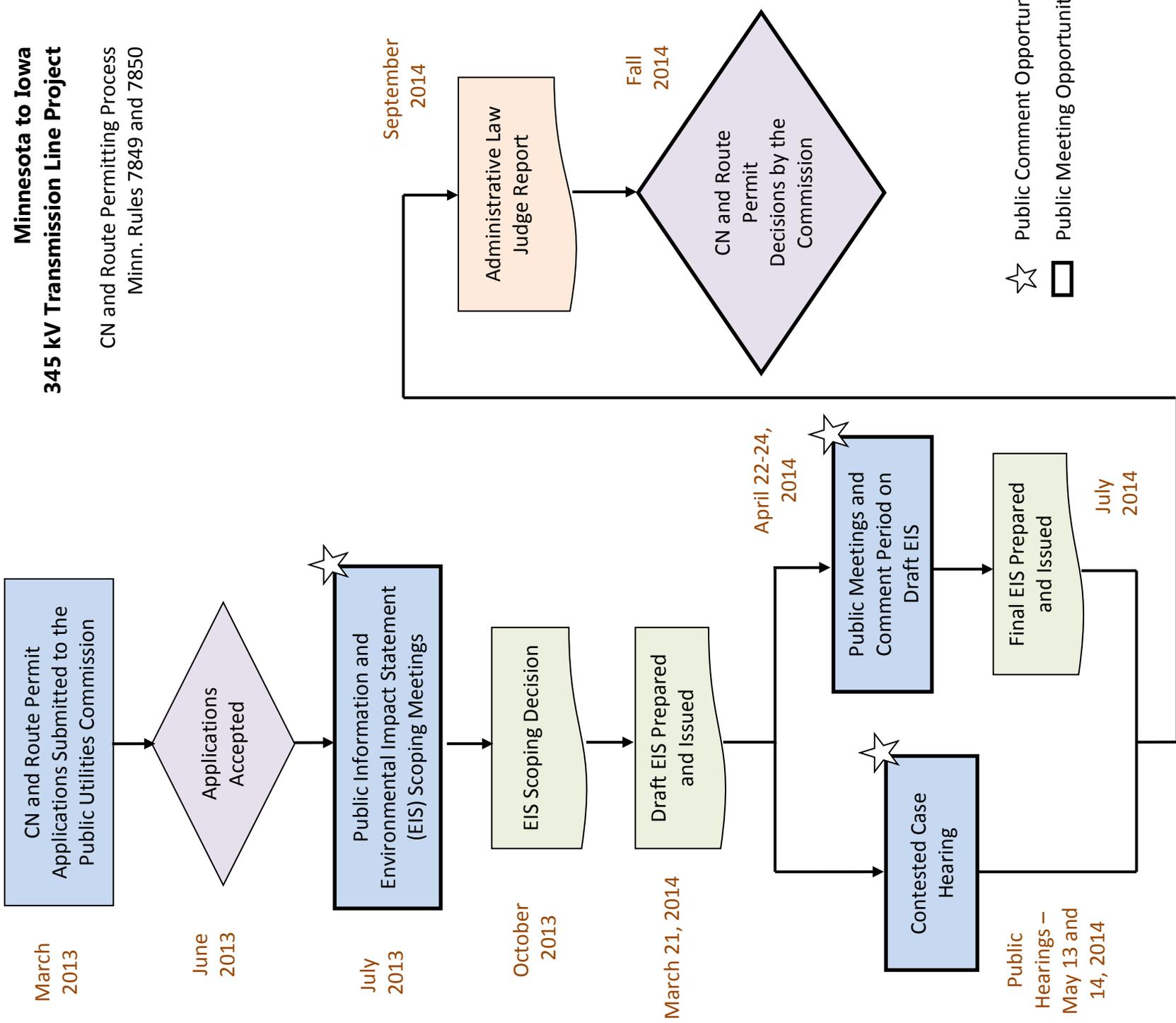
## **Minnesota Rule 7850.4100 Factors Considered by the Commission For Transmission Line Route Permits**

In determining whether to issue a route permit for a high voltage transmission line, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission shall consider the following:

- A. Effects on human settlement, including, but not limited to displacement, noise, aesthetics, cultural values, recreation and public services;
- B. Effects on public health and safety;
- C. Effects on land-based economics, including, but not limited to, agriculture, forestry, tourism, and mining;
- D. Effects on archaeological and historic resources;
- E. Effects on the natural environment, including effect on air and water quality resources and flora and fauna;
- F. Effects on rare and unique natural resources;
- G. Application of design options that maximize energy efficiencies, mitigate adverse environmental effects, and could accommodate expansion of transmission or generating capacity;
- H. Use or paralleling of existing right-of-way, survey lines, natural division lines, and agricultural field boundaries;
- I. Use of existing large electric power generating plant sites;
- J. Use of existing transportation, pipeline, and electrical transmission systems or rights-of-way;
- K. Electrical systems reliability;
- L. Costs of constructing, operating, and maintaining the facility which are dependent on design and route;
- M. Adverse human and natural environmental effects which cannot be avoided; and
- N. Irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources.

# Minnesota to Iowa 345 kV Transmission Line Project

CN and Route Permitting Process  
Minn. Rules 7849 and 7850



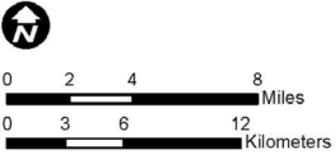
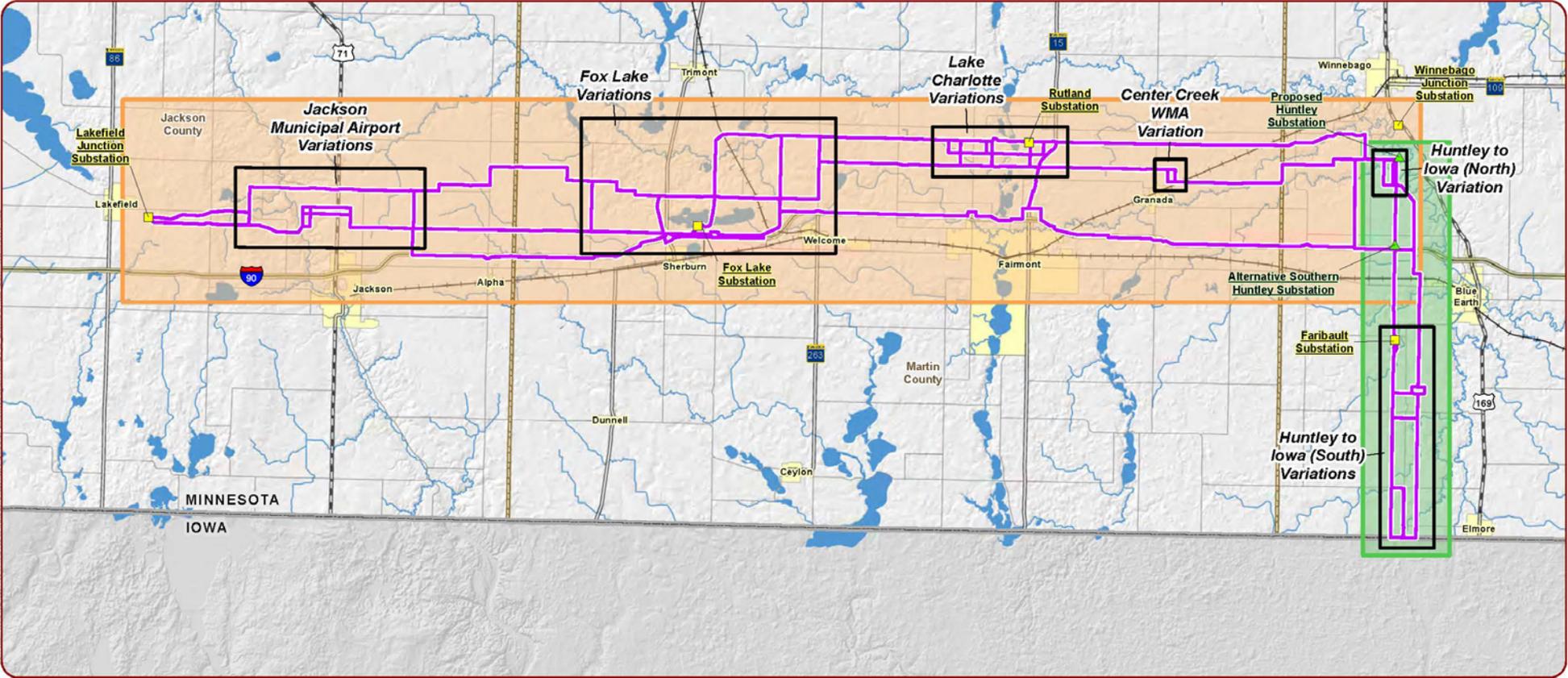
☆ Public Comment Opportunity  
□ Public Meeting Opportunity

## State Permitting Process - Schedule

Permitting Process Step	Anticipated Date	Actual Date
Certificate of Need and Route Permit Applications Filed		March 2013
Applications Accepted as Complete		June 2013
Public Information & Scoping Meetings		July 16-18, 2013
Scoping Decision		October 14, 2013
Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Issued		March 21, 2014
Public Information Meetings on Draft EIS		April 22-24, 2014
Public Hearings	May 13-14, 2014	
Final EIS Issued	July 2014	
Administrative Law Judge's Report	September 2014	
Commission Meeting to Consider Certificate of Need and Route Permit	Fall 2014	

## Draft EIS - Contents

- Informed Decision-Making: Meet the Goals of the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act
- Common Set of Facts
- Does Not Advocate
- Human and Environmental Impacts, and Possible Mitigation Measures
  - How Project is Constructed
  - Where Project is Located – Route, Route Alternatives and Route Variations
- Relative Merits of Routing Options



- ~ Routing Options Evaluated in EIS
- Existing Substation
- ▲ Potential New Substation
- Segment 1: Lakefield to Huntley
- Segment 2: Huntley to Iowa Border
- Route Variation Area
- Municipal Boundary
- County Boundary
- State Boundary

Map 3-9

Locations of Route Variation Areas  
 Minnesota-Iowa 345 kV  
 Transmission Project  
 ITC Midwest LLC

## Draft EIS - Contents

- Routes, Route Alternatives and Route Variations
  - Human Settlements – Noise, Aesthetics, Property Values, Public Services, Airports
  - Public Health and Safety
  - Land-based Economies
  - Archaeological and Historic Resources
  - Natural Environment – Water Resources, Wetlands, Plants, Animals
  - Rare and Unique Natural Resources
  - Use of Existing Rights-of-Way
  - Costs

## Draft EIS - Availability

- Websites
  - Department of Commerce Project Website: [mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=33080](http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=33080)
  - Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Website: [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us), click on “Search eDockets,” enter the year (“12”) and the docket number (“1053” or “1337”) and select “Search”
- Local Libraries
- Review Copies | CD Copies

## Draft EIS - Information

### ○ Contact Us

Ray Kirsch  
Environmental Review Manager  
651-539-1841  
[raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us](mailto:raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us)

Tracy Smetana  
Public Advisor  
651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782  
[consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us)

### ○ Sign Up for Project Mailing List

- <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities>
- Sign Up Cards

### ○ Subscribe to eDockets

- [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us)  
Click on "Subscribe to a Docket"  
Enter the year ("12") and the docket number ("1053" or "1337")

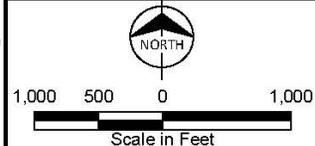
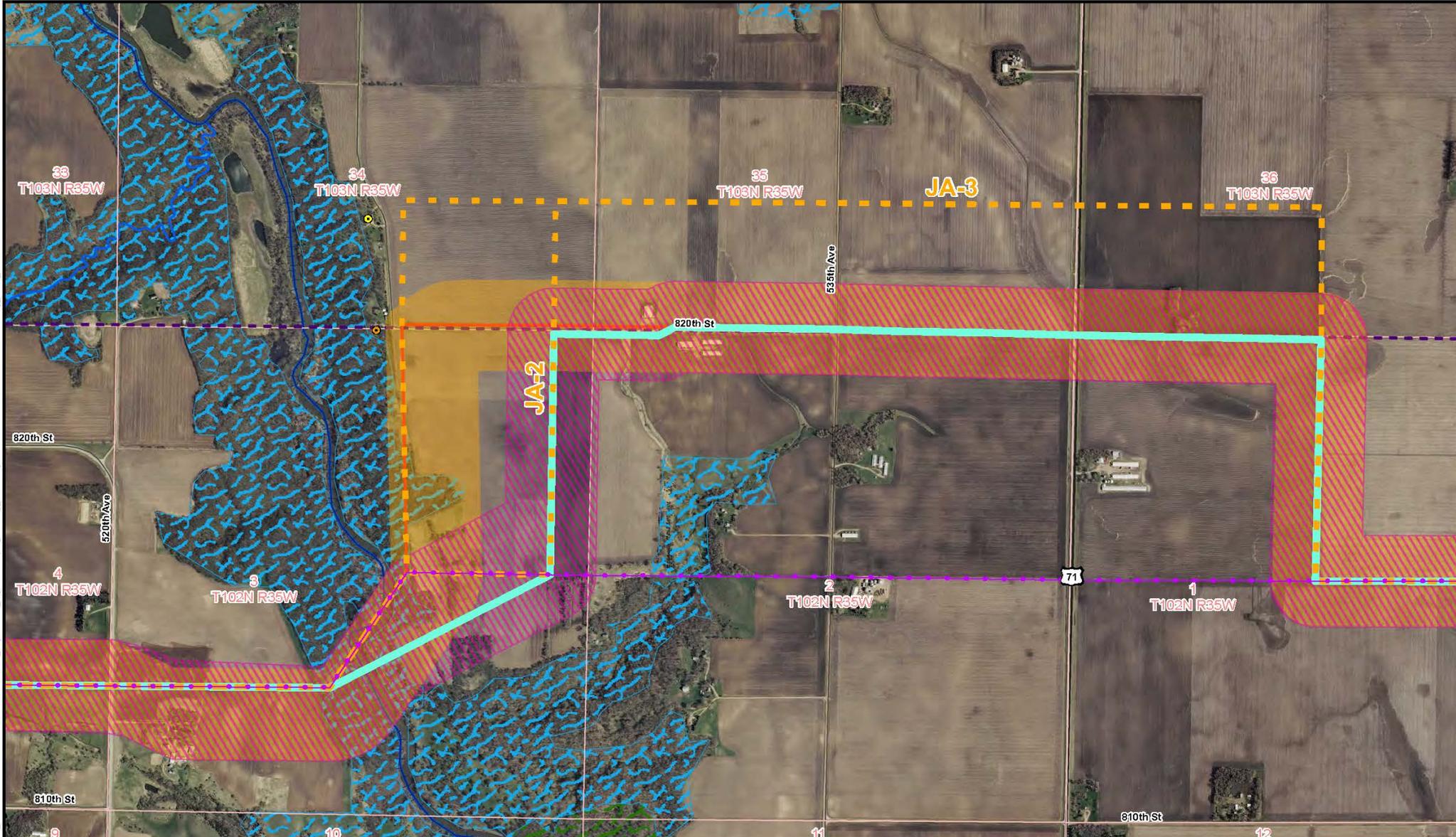
## Using the Draft EIS

### ○ Advocating at the Public Hearing

- Need for the Project
- Route Permit
- What Are the Impacts That You are Concerned About? How Could They be Avoided or Mitigated?
  - How the Project is Constructed
  - Where the Project is Located – Route, Alignment

### ○ ITC Midwest's Modified Route A

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- |                                 |                       |                   |                   |                  |                |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Modified Route A                | Existing 69 kV Lines  | Township Sections | PWI Stream        | <b>MBS Sites</b> | Home 0-75ft    |
| Modified Route A Alignment      | Existing 161 kV Lines | State Park or WMA | PWI Water Basin   | Below            | Home 75-150ft  |
| Route Variation                 | Existing 345 kV Lines | State Game Refuge | PWI Water Wetland | Moderate         | Home 150-300ft |
| Route A                         | City                  | WPA               | Impaired Stream   | High             | Home 300-500ft |
| Route A - Application Alignment | Civil Township        | WRP               | Existing Pipeline | Outstanding      |                |



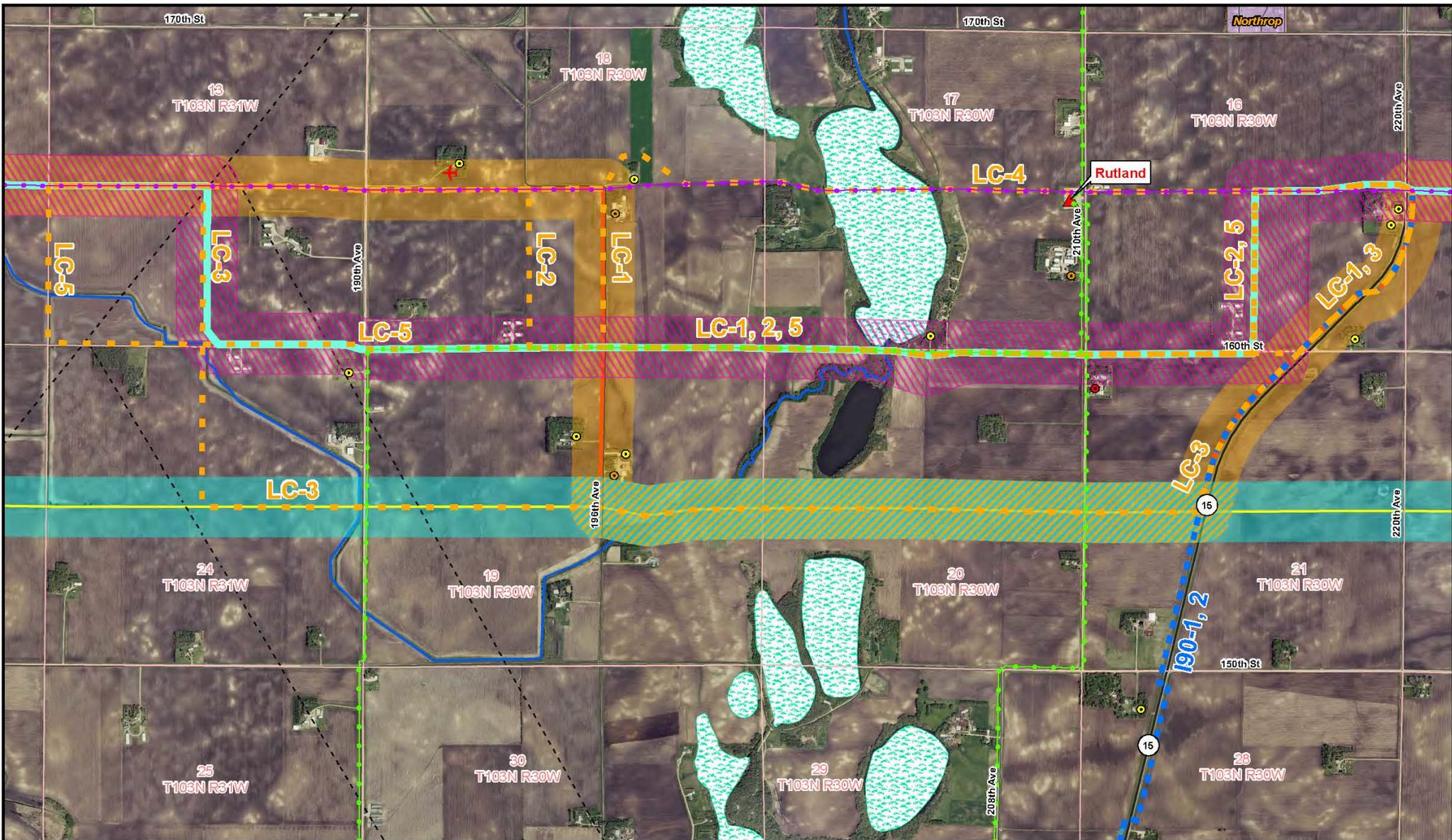
ITC Midwest- Minnesota to Iowa  
345 kV Transmission Line Project

Modified Route A & Route Variations  
Des Moines River &  
Jackson Municipal Airport

Source: MN Geo 2011 Aerials; USFWS NWI Wetlands; National Hydrography Dataset; National Flight Data Center; Minnesota DNR; Minnesota Geo GIS; Minnesota DOT; ITC; Barr Engineering, Burns & McDonnell.



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	Existing Substation	Route A - Application Alignment	Existing 161 kV Lines	PWI Stream	Existing Pipeline
	Modified Route A Alignment	Route A	Private Landing Strip	MBS Sites	Home 0-75ft
Modified Route A	Route B - Application Alignment	City	Below	Home 75-150ft	
Route Variation	Route B	Township Sections	Moderate	Home 150-300ft	
Route Alternative	Existing 69 kV Lines	PWI Water Basin	High	Home 300-500ft	

Jackson

Martin

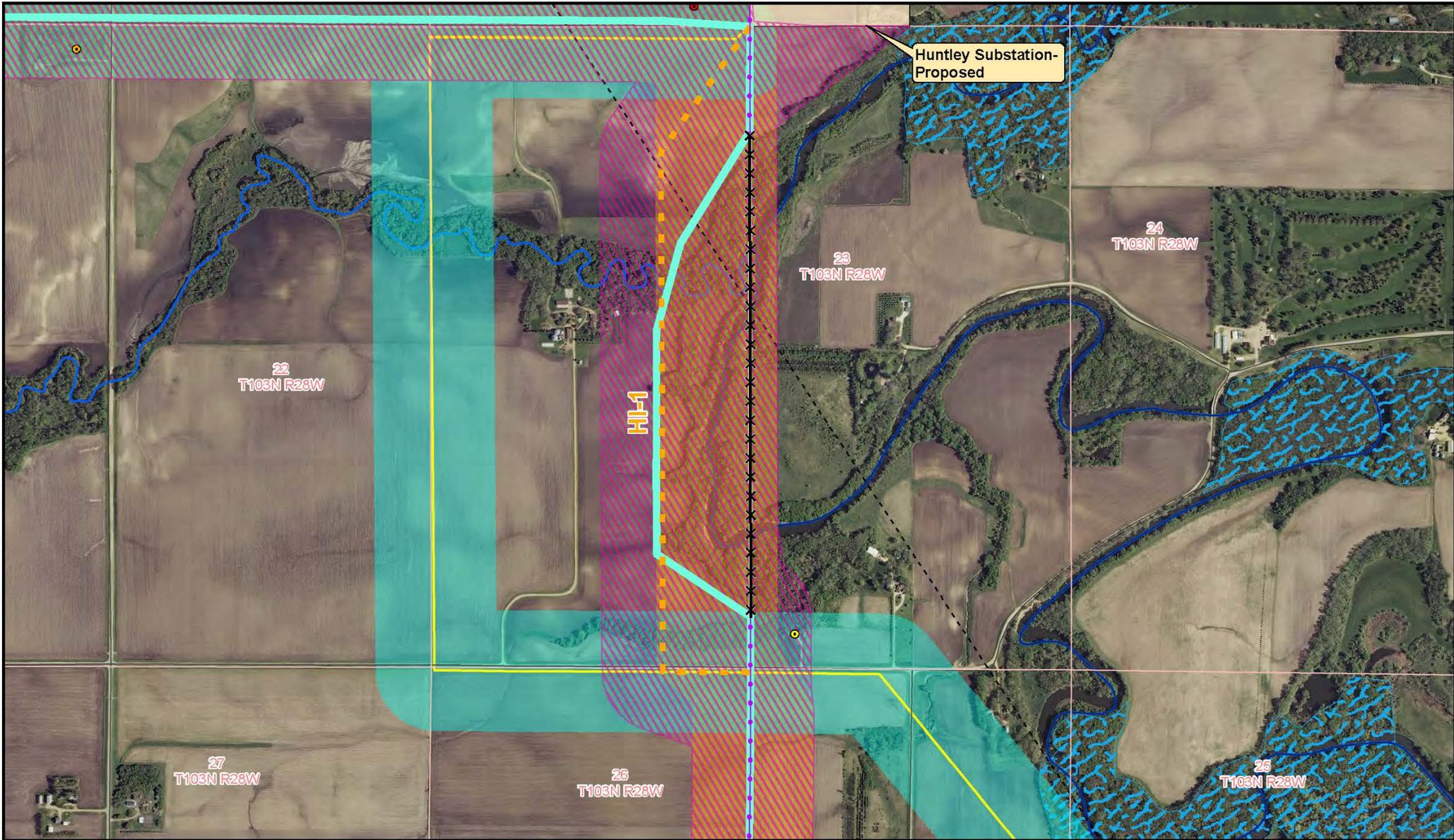
Locator Map

ITC Midwest- Minnesota to Iowa  
345 kV Transmission Line Project

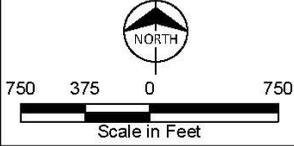
Modified Route A & Route Variations  
Lake Charlotte

Source: MN Geo 2011 Aerials, USFWS NW Wetlands, National Hydrography Dataset, National Flight Data Center, Minnesota DNR, Minnesota Geo GIS, Minnesota DOT, ITC, Barr Engineering, Burns & McDonnell.

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Huntley Substation-Proposed



- |                            |                                 |                    |                   |                  |                   |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Substation                 | Route A - Application Alignment | Line to be Removed | State Game Refuge | <b>MBS Sites</b> | Existing Pipeline |
| Modified Route A Alignment | Route B                         | City               | WRP               | Below            | Home 0-75ft       |
| Modified Route A           | Route B - Application Alignment | Civil Township     | PW Stream         | Moderate         | Home 75-150ft     |
| Route Variation            | Existing 69 kV Lines            | Township Sections  | PW Water Basin    | High             | Home 150-300ft    |
| Route A                    | Existing 161 kV Lines           | State Park or WMA  | PW Water Wetland  | Impaired Stream  | Home 300-500ft    |



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Modified Route A & Route Variations Blue Earth River

Source: MN Geo 2011 Aerials; USFWS NW Wetlands; National Hydrography Dataset; National Flight Data Center; Minnesota DNR; Minnesota Geo GIS; Minnesota DOT; ITC; Barr Engineering; Burns & McDonnell.

## Comments

### Contents of the Draft EIS

- What Needs to be Clarified?
- What's Missing?
- What Needs to be Added Such That the Final EIS is Complete and Accurate?

## Comments

- Verbal Comments at Today's Meeting
- Complete and Submit a Comment Sheet
- Comment On-Line  
<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities>
- Mail, Fax or Email a Comment:  
Ray Kirsch, Environmental Review Manager  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198  
fax: 651-539-0109  
[raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us](mailto:raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us)
- Comment Period Ends: **May 9, 2014**

## Comments

- One Speaker at a Time
- Please Limit Comments to a Few Minutes
- Please State and Spell Your Name for the Court Reporter
- Maintain Respect for Others
- Direct Your Comments / Questions to the Contents of the DEIS