Appendix P

Cultural Resources Report

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August 11, 2014

Julie Ann Smith PhD
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

RE: Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (DOE/EIS-0499)
Multiple Counties, Minnesota
SHPO Number: 2013-2759

Dear Dr. Smith.

On 8 July 2014, our office received notification regarding the initiation of the process of environmental analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) which will culminate in preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Great Northern Transmission Line, which is proposed to be constructed from Roseau County to Itasca County in Minnesota.

While our office often participates in project environmental review under NEPA, it is typically coordinated, or concurrent with consultation pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Officer by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and implementing federal regulations at 36 CFR 800. We request that you provide clarification regarding the DOE's anticipated plan for compliance with Section 106 in coordination with NEPA, as outlined in 36 CFR 800.8.

Your letter indicates that the St. Paul District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be a cooperating agency for this proposed project. They have not yet initiated consultation with our office on this undertaking.

We look forward to continuing consultation on this important project. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter. I can be reached at 651-259-3456 or sarah.beimers@mnhs.org.

Sincerely,

Sarah J. Beimers

Sarah J. Beimers, Manager
Government Programs and Compliance

cc: Tamara Cameron, St. Paul District, USACE
Jamie Loichinger, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

Minnesota Historical Society, 345 Kellogg Boulevard West, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102
651-259-3000 • 888-727-8386 • www.mnhs.org

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

November 19, 2014

Mr. Stephen Elliot
State Historic Preservation Officer
Minnesota Historical Society
345 Kellogg Boulevard West
St. Paul, MN 55102-1906

SUBJECT: Initiation Request for Section 106 Consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) for the proposed *Great Northern Transmission Line Project* (DOE/EIS-0499)

Dear Mr. Elliot:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE or the Department) is in the process of preparing its draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project in Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Koochiching, and Itasca Counties in northern Minnesota. DOE is preparing its draft EIS pursuant to its obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate environmental impacts of providing a Presidential permit to Minnesota Power for the construction, operation, maintenance, and connection of the portion of the transmission line within the United States. The proposed DOE federal action is the potential grant of a Presidential permit for the international border crossing requested by Minnesota Power as part of its proposal. This action has been determined by DOE to be an undertaking that has potential to cause adverse effects on historic properties per the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's (ACHP's) NHPA implementing regulations at 36 CFR §800.3(a).

The Department is coordinating its compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA with its review under NEPA according to the process set out in 36 CFR §800.3(b). Per standing policy, DOE will explicitly solicit information from the public (via the NEPA process) regarding cultural and historic resources through its Notice of Availability of its draft EIS when published in the *Federal Register*. DOE will also make cultural resources reports and information publicly available on the GNTL project EIS website, as appropriate.

In this letter DOE provides you with a summary of the actions that the Department is taking to comply with Section 106 of the NHPA, including project background, efforts to identify historic properties potentially affected by the proposed GNTL project to date, a preliminary list of potentially affected historic properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Properties (NRHP), potential consulting parties. This letter also discusses DOE's initial proposal for direct and indirect Areas of Potential Effect (APEs) to be used in the Department's proposed phased approach to identification and evaluation of historic resources under Section 106. Furthermore, DOE is sending this letter as its official request for initiation of Section 106 consultation under NHPA with the Minnesota State

Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and would appreciate your written reply within 30-days or as soon as possible.

Background

As you are aware, DOE sent a NEPA review information letter to your office on July 10, 2014, indicating that Minnesota Power applied to DOE for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an approximately 220-mile, overhead, single-circuit 500 kV AC transmission line between the Minnesota - Manitoba border crossing northwest of Roseau, Minnesota, and terminating at the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation near Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Minnesota Power's proposal also includes associated substation facilities and transmission system modifications at the Blackberry Substation site, and construction of a new 500 kV Series Compensation Station (a structure which will house the 500 kV series capacitor banks necessary for reliable operation and performance of the proposed transmission line). A new Blackberry 500 kV Substation would be required for the proposed Project and would be constructed adjacent to and east of the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation. The proposed GNTL project would carry hydropower generated by facilities operated by Manitoba Hydro, a Canadian electric utility.

DOE is a federal joint lead agency with the Minnesota Department of Commerce – Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DOC-EERA) acting as state joint lead agency per 40 CFR 1501.5(b) in the preparation of the subject EIS. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District (USACE), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, will be cooperating agencies to DOE and DOC-EERA in the preparation of this EIS.

DOE is the lead federal agency for purposes of compliance with Section 106, in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.2(a)(2), and will address the potential effects of the above identified NEPA cooperating agencies' (namely USACE's) proposed actions on historic and archaeological resources.

DOE documented a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS in the *Federal Register* on June 27, 2014 (79 FR 36493), with an open public scoping period which ended on August 15, 2014. The NOI specifically indicated that cultural and historic resources are being analyzed as part of the federal environmental review. While the proposed federal action (and undertaking) is the potential grant of a Presidential permit by DOE for the international border crossing, the proposed construction, operation, maintenance, and connection of the portion of the transmission line within the United States is a connected action to DOE's proposed action under NEPA. DOE is therefore analyzing the potential environmental impacts from the proposed federal action and the connected action in the EIS. For the purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA, DOE is considering the potential for adverse effects to cultural and historic properties for the proposed border crossing and entire length of the proposed transmission line.

Consulting Parties

In accordance with 36 CFR §800.2, DOE has identified potential consulting parties, including ACHP, SHPO, THPOs, the Applicant, local government representatives, other Native American entities, local historical societies, heritage preservation commissions, state

agencies, sites and museums, state-wide groups, national groups, and private individuals with a for the purposes of Section 106 consultation under NHPA. A list of consulting parties identified by DOE is enclosed with this letter for your review and input (*see enclosed Draft List of GNTL Section 106 Consulting Parties)*. DOE requests that you and your staff provide the Department with feedback regarding any other potential Section 106 consulting parties for the GNTL project that may not have yet been identified or that should be included in this list of potential consulting parties. Your office's assistance in this matter at this time is greatly appreciated.

Tribal Outreach and Consultation

As proposed, the GNTL project does not directly involve tribal reservation lands or require a right-of-way grant or special use grant from tribes, however, the proposal is located in an area that was inhabited by numerous American Indians before Euro-American settlement. As a result the proposal has the potential to impact tribes with current or historic interest in the project area.

In accordance with its responsibilities under Section 106, NEPA, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (16 U.S.C. 1996), the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (16 U.S.C. 470aa-mm), the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (25 U.S.C. 3001, et. seq.), Executive Order 13175 *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*, (November 6, 2000), and DOE's "American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal Government Policy," as set forth in DOE Order 1230.2 (October 2000), DOE initiated government-to-government consultation with tribes potentially affected by the proposed GNTL project via letter dated June 27, 2014. As a part of this effort, DOE held government-to-government tribal consultation meetings on July 15, 2014, in Red Lake, Minnesota, and on July 22, 2014, in Deer River, Minnesota. The purpose of these initial consultation meetings was to gain the opinions of tribes regarding the cultural values that tribes ascribe to the area and its resources, as well as to identify opinions of tribes that no longer live in the area.

A list of federally recognized American Indians and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) contacted by DOE as a part of these activities is provided in the attached *Draft List of GNTL Section 106 Consulting Parties*. DOE's government-to-government consultation activities with these tribes and THPOs are on-going.

Identification Efforts to Date

The proposed undertaking has the potential to affect historic properties either listed in, or eligible for, inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. An initial cultural resources survey (i.e., desktop literature review) was performed by Minnesota Power as part of the GNTL project Presidential permit application to DOE. This survey considered a study area extending 1-mile on each side of the proposed GNTL Project's right-of-way (ROW) centerline, with preliminary potential direct effects analysis based on an anticipated 200-foot-wide ROW within 1000-3000 foot Route Alternatives.

The initial cultural resources survey study area encompassed two Route Alternatives and four (4) Segment Options. The Route Alternatives are the Blue Route and the Orange Routes. Segment Options include the Segment Option C1, Segment Option C2, Segment Option J1, and Segment Option J2 (*see enclosed Cultural Resources Study).*

As a part of this effort, your office responded to historic resources data (e.g., GIS shape files) requests by Minnesota Power in March 2013, July 2013, August 2013, and November 2013. Your office also provided input to Minnesota Power regarding the proposed GNTL project and suggestions for archaeological survey via a letter dated August 14, 2013.

An initial study of the NHRP listed or eligible properties found that one of the properties identified within 1-mile of the Blue Route is listed on the NRHP, however, four properties, all railroad or mining properties, are considered eligible for NRHP listing: the Great Northern Railway Gunn Line (IC-IRT-009), one segment of the Duluth, Missabi and Northern Railway (IC-IRT-010), the Holman Mine Stripping and Lean Ore Dump (IC-IRT-012), and the Brown Number 2 Mine Stripping Dump (IC-IRT-013).

The study also found that no properties identified within 1-mile of the Orange Route are listed on the NRHP, however, four properties, all railroad or mining properties, are considered eligible for NRHP listing: the Great Northern Railway Gunn Line (IC-IRT-009), one segment of the Duluth, Missabe and Northern Railway (IC-IRT-010), the Holman Mine Stripping and Lean Ore Dump (IC-IRT-012), and the Brown Number 2 Mine Stripping Dump (IC-IRT-013).

For the Segment Options C1, C2, and J1, this study indicated that there are no NRHP listed or eligible properties within the CR Study Area. While none of the properties identified within the Segment Option J2 CR Study Area are listed on the NRHP, two architectural properties within the CR Study Area have been evaluated as eligible for listing on the NRHP: two segments of Minnesota Highway 38 (IC-BFT-017 and IC-EFC- 015).

The GNTL Presidential permit application, including associated maps, drawings, and initial cultural resources study, can also be viewed or downloaded in its entirety from the DOE Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE) program Web site at: http://energy.gov/oe/downloads/application-presidential-permit-oe-docket-no-pp-398-great-northern-transmission-line. However, I have attached "Appendix G- Cultural Resources Study" submitted as part of Minnesota Power's Presidential permit application to this letter for your use and review.

In addition to efforts by Minnesota Power to identify historic resources potentially affected by the proposed GNTL project, DOE held eight NEPA public scoping meetings during its 45-day public scoping comment period from July 16 – July 24, 2014 (*see enclosed GNTL Regional Map)*. The meetings held in the towns of Roseau, Baudette, Littlefork, International Falls, Kelliher, Bigfork, and Grand Rapids, Minnesota. DOE received four comments related to potential impacts from construction on historic resources along the proposed transmission routes, including such resources as the Conservation Corps Camp 53 site, historic logging sites, and Big Fork River historic and cultural areas. The *Great Northern Transmission Line Scoping Summary Report* (November 2014) is available on the DOE GNTL EIS Web site at: http://www.greatnortherneis.org/Files/ScopingSummaryReportNOV2014.pdf. Due to its overall size, a hardcopy of this report will be provided to you upon request in follow up to this letter.

Scope of Future Identification Efforts under Section 106–Area of Potential Effect (APE)

As mentioned above, the anticipated ROW for the proposed GNTL project is 200-foot-wide alignment located within a 1000-3000 foot-wide route alternative. In order to begin your consideration of DOE's scope of identification efforts under Section 106 of the NHPA, the Department proposes a direct APE of the maximum width of a route alternative, an area of approximately 1000-3000 feet wide for each proposed Route Alternative. Using this as an initial point for scope of identification efforts (e.g., Phase 1A survey efforts) would allow for flexibility in siting of the final alignment within the approved route alternative. Once the final alignment is determined by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, DOE would propose a direct APE as the 200-foot wide alignment for detailed identification and evaluation efforts. The direct APE for identifying terrestrial historic properties and below grade archeological resources would include those areas outside of the ROW that may be impacted by construction, access roads, material and equipment storage areas, or any other physical disturbances necessary during construction of the project.

At this time, DOE would also like SHPO to contemplate the extent of an indirect APE for assessing the potential for adverse visual effects of the proposed GNTL project on terrestrial historic properties. The Department typically proposes an indirect APE for overhead transmission lines of this size and complexity to be approximately one-mile on either side of the center line (will vary with topography) of the proposed right-of-way once the final alignment is established. DOE looks forward to future discussions with you and other consulting parties about these proposed direct and indirect APEs for the GNTL project, and understands that no final direct and indirect APE determinations may be made at this time.

DOE Identification of Historic Properties – Programmatic Agreement (PA)

Because DOE is currently considering alternatives under NEPA for the proposed GNTL project that are large linear tracts of land encompassed in Minnesota Power's proposed Blue and Orange Route Alternatives and four Route Segment Options (C1, C2, J1, and J2), DOE has determined that a phased approach for Section 106 identification and evaluation efforts in accordance with the process set forth in 36 CFR §800.4(b)(2) is appropriate. The Department therefore proposes the execution of a programmatic agreement (PA) pursuant to 36 CFR §800.14(b) to properly defer final identification and evaluation of historic properties. A programmatic agreement for the GNTL project would delineate the process by which the likely presence of historic properties within the APE for each alternative under consideration through background research, consultation, and appropriate level of field investigation is performed, while taking into consideration the magnitude of the undertaking and its likely effects, and the views of SHPO, THPO(s) and any other consulting.

DOE has attached a preliminary draft PA for the GNTL project to this letter for your review and consideration. This preliminary draft PA is offered as a starting point for Section 106 consultation discussions with SHPO and consulting parties in considering DOE's proposed phased approach to identification and evaluation of historic and cultural properties potentially affected by the proposed GNTL project (*see enclosed Preliminary Draft PA).*

In close, DOE currently seeks your concurrence on initiating its Section 106 consultation process for the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line project. DOE also seeks any

information or suggestions that your office may have with regard to potential consulting parties or tribes that are included in the attached consulting parties list, or if you have additional information that should considered at this time. Please provide your Section 106 initiation concurrence and any material information that you may have in writing so that it may be added to the administrative record to evidence DOE's compliance with Section 106 consultation responsibilities.

I very much look forward to working with you and your staff in the near future and appreciate your assistance in this effort. I will be traveling on GNTL project business to St. Paul from December 2-4, 2014, and would like to have an opportunity to introduce myself in person to you and your staff. I hope there will be time in your schedule and staff resources for this meeting to occur, and will be in contact with your staff via email and/or phone in an effort to schedule such an opportunity if possible.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at any time at Juliea.Smith@hq.doe.gov or (202) 586-7668.

Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from NEPA Scoping Summary Report)
- Cultural Resources Study (Appendix G from DOE Presidential permit application)
- Draft List GNTL Section 106 Consulting Parties
- Preliminary Draft PA

Cc: Charlene Dwin Vaughn, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

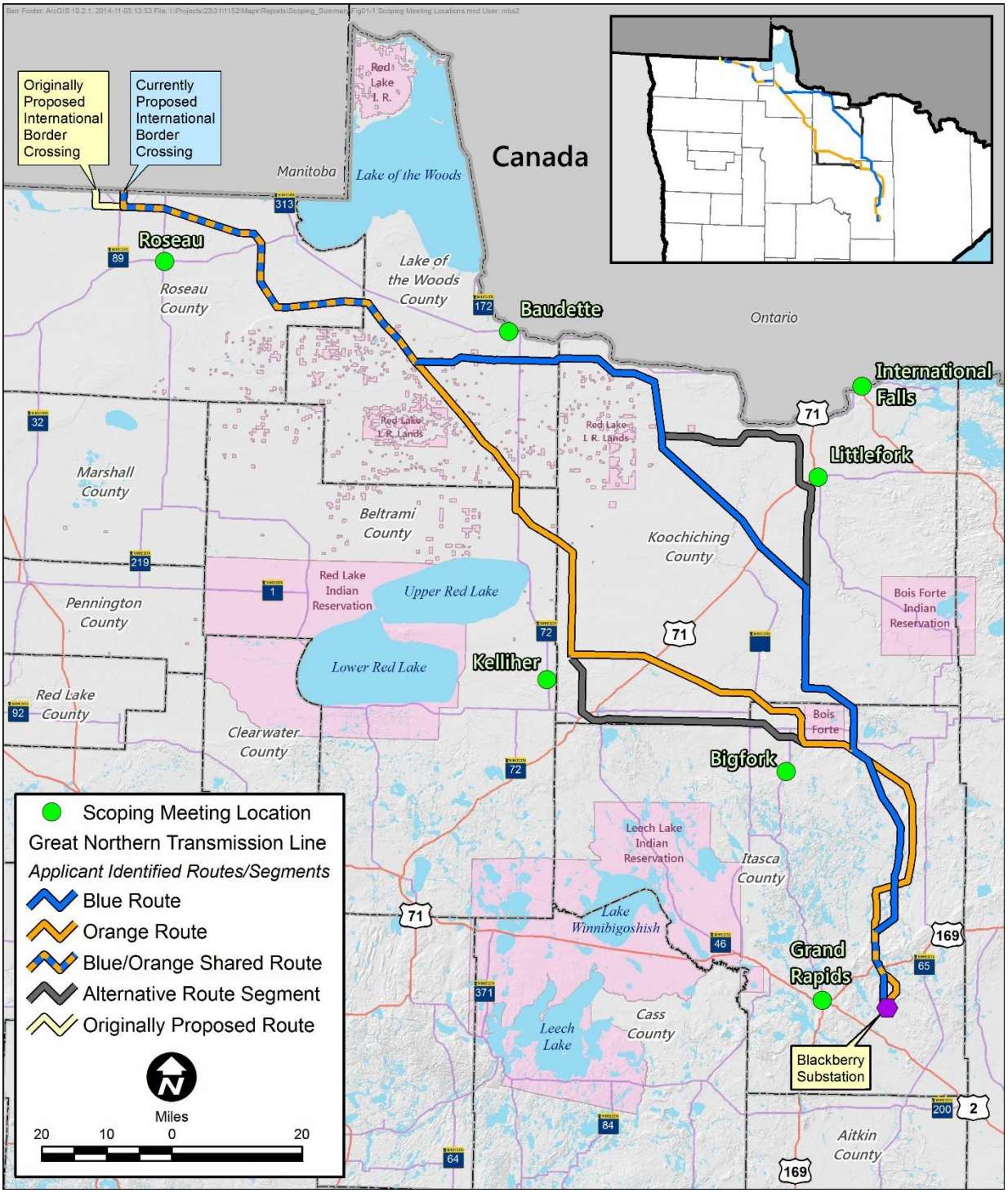

Figure 1-1 Project Regional Map

List of Great Northern Transmission Line Project
Section 106 Consulting Parties

Federal Agencies

- Department of Energy *(Lead Section 106 Federal Agency*)
- US Army Corps of Engineers – St. Paul District/Bemidji Field Office
- US Fish and Wildlife Service – Twin Cities Ecological Field Office (Region 3)
- US Environmental Protection Agency (Region 5)
- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

National Groups/Entities (not Federal agencies)

- National Trust for Historic Preservation

State Agencies

- Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office
- Minnesota Department of Commerce – Energy Environmental Review and Analysis

Statewide Groups/Entities (not State agencies)

- Preservation Alliance of Minnesota

Representatives of Local Governments

Beltrami County

- Territory of Upper Red Lake
- Township of Waskish (Chairman)

Itasca County

- City of Effie (Mayor)
- City of Taconite (Mayor)
- Township of Ardenhurst (Township Supervisor)
- Township of Balsam (Township Supervisor)
- Township of Bigfork (Township Supervisor)
- Township of Carpenter (Township Supervisor B)
- Territory of Effie
- Township of Grattan (Township Supervisor)
- Township of Greenway (Township Supervisor)
- Township of Iron Range
- Township of Lawrence (Supervisor A)
- Township of Liberty
- Territory of Little Sand Lake
- Township of Nashwauk (Supervisor B)
- Township of Nore (Supervisor A)
- Territory of Northeast Itasca
- Township of Pomroy (Supervisor A)
- Township of Trout Lake (Supervisor)

Koochiching County

- City of Northome (Mayor)
- Territory of East Koochiching
- Territory of Northome

Koochiching County (continued)

- Territory of Northwest Koochiching
- Territory of Rainy Lake
- Territory of South Koochiching

Lake of the Woods County

- Territory of Beltrami Forest
- Territory of Rainy River

Roseau County

- Township of Cedarbend (Township Chairman)
- Township of Dieter (Township Chairman)
- Township of Jadis (Township Chairman)
- Township of Lake (Township Chairman)
- Territory of North Roseau
- Township of Pohlitz (Township Chairman)
- Territory of Southeast Roseau

Applicant

- Minnesota Power

Local Historic Societies/Agencies

- Beltrami County Historical Society (President)
- Itasca County Historical Society (Executive Director)
- Koochiching Museums/Koochiching County Historical Society (Executive Director)
- Lake of the Woods County Historical Society (Executive Director)
- Roseau County Historical Society (Director)
- Saum School Museum
- Warroad Historical Society/Heritage Center (President)
- Northeast Minnesota Historical Center Collections (UMD Archivist/Special Collections Curator)
- Iron Range Research Center (IRRC) (Archivist)

Tribal Groups

- The Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission
- Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes
- The Midwest Treaty Network
- Native American Fish & Wildlife Society

Individuals/Presidential permit Intervenors (non-NEPA) per the DOE Presidential permit regulations at 10 CFR Part 250

- Curtis Erickson
- Richard Libby
- Carol Overland
- Robert Oveson

Federally Recognized American Indian Tribes/THPOs contacted by DOE

A.T. Rusty	Stafne	Chairperson	Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation
Darrell "Curley"	Youpee	Cultural Resources Department Director	Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation
Edith	Leoso	THPO	Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians
Mike	Wiggins	Chairperson	Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians
Rosemary	Berens	THPO	Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians
Kevin	Leecy	Chairperson	Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians
Dave	Larson		Bois Forte Tribal Government-Nett Lake
Kevin	Keckler	Chairperson	Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
Steve	Vance	THPO	Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
Duane	Big Eagle Sr.	Chairperson	Crow Creek Sioux Tribe of the Crow Creek Reservation
Anthony	Rider	President	Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota
James	Weston	THPO	Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota
Sean	Copeland		Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
LeRoy	Defoe	THPO	Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Karen	Diver	Chairperson	Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Melissa	Cook	THPO	Forest County Potawatomi Community WI
Harold	Frank	Chairperson	Forest County Potawatomi Community WI
Victoria	Raske	THPO	Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Kenneth	Meshiguad	Chairperson	Hannahville Indian Community Michigan
Warren	Schwartz Jr.	President	Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Michigan
Louis	Taylor	Chairperson	Lac Courte Orilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin
Thomas	Maulson	President	Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of the Lac du Flambe
Melinda	Young	THPO	Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of the Lac du Flambe
James	Williams Jr.	Chairperson	Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians Michigan
Gina	Lemon	THPO (acting)	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
Aurthur	LaRose	Chairperson	Leech Lake Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe MN

Federally Recognized American Indian Tribes/THPOs contacted by DOE

Carri	Jones	Chairwoman	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
Robbie M.	Howe-Bebeau	Representative	Leech Lake Reservation
Arthur	Rose	Chairman	Leech Lake Reservation
Steve	White	Representative	Leech Lake Reservation
Eugene	Whitebird	Representative	Leech Lake Reservation
Michael	Jandreau	Chairperson	Lower Brule Sioux Tribe of the Lower Brule Reservation
Anthony	Morse	THPO	Lower Sioux Indian Community MN
Denny	Prescott	President	Lower Sioux Indian Community MN
Natalie	Weyaus	THPO	Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe MN
Melanie	Benjamin	Chief Executive	Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe MN
Norman	Deschampe	President	Minnesota Chippewa Tribe MN
Wilmer	Mesteth	THPO	Oglala Sioux Tribal Council of the Pine Ridge Reservation
John	Yellow Bird-Steele	President	Oglala Sioux Tribal Council of the Pine Ridge Reservation
Audrey	Bennett	NAGPA	Prairie Island Indian Community in the State of Minnesota
Whitney	White	Cultural Resource Representative	Prairie Island Indian Community in the State of Minnesota
Victoria	Winfrey	President	Prairie Island Indian Community in the State of Minnesota
Larry	Balber	THPO	Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians WI
Kathryn	Beauleiu	NAGPRA	Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians Minnesota
Floyd	Jourdain	Chairperson	Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians Minnesota
Rodney	Bordeaux	President	Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Indian Reservation
Russell	Eagle Bear	THPO	Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Indian Reservation
Richard	Thomas	THPO	Santee Sioux of Nebraska
Roger	Trudell	Chairman/ Leader	Santee Sioux of Nebraska
Stanely	Crooks	Chairperson	Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community MN
Diane	Desrosier	THPO	Sisseton- Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation
Robert	Shepherd	Chairperson	Sisseton- Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation
Garland	McGeshick	Chairperson	Sokaogon Chippewa Community WI
Myra	Pearson	Chairperson	Spirit Lake Tribe North Dakota

Federally Recognized American Indian Tribes/THPOs contacted by DOE

Darrell	Smith	Cultural Resource Program Manager	Spirit Lake Tribe North Dakota
Waste'Win	Young	THPO	Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Charles	Murphy	Chairperson	Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Elgin	Crows Breast	THPO	Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation
Tex "Red Tipped Arrow""""	Hall	Chairman	Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation
Kade	Ferris	THPO	Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa
Merle	St. Clair	Chairperson	Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa
Kevin	Jensvold	Chairperson	Upper Sioux Community of Minnesota
Marlow	LaBatte	THPO	Upper Sioux Community of Minnesota
Dennis	Gill		Wahpekute Band of Dakota
Tom	McCauley	THPO	White Earth Band of MN Chippewa Tribe MN
Erma	Vizenor	Chairperson	White Earth Band of MN Chippewa Tribe MN
Lana	Gravatt	THPO	Yankton Sioux Tribe

Phase Ia Cultural Resources Investigations for the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line, Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Koochiching, and Itasca Counties, Minnesota

Submitted to
Louise Segroves
Barr Engineering
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Prepared by
Amanda Gronhovd, MS, RPA
10,000 Lakes Archaeology, Inc.
South St. Paul, Minnesota

March 26, 2015

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Introduction

10,000 Lakes Archaeology, Inc. (10,000 Lakes) conducted Phase Ia background research for the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line in February and March 2015. The project extends from the United States - Canada border in Roseau County to east of Grand Rapids, Itasca County, Minnesota. The proposed project extends through Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Koochiching, and Itasca Counties. The project area was examined for recorded archaeological or historic sites and areas with a moderate to high potential for containing unrecorded archaeological sites. The archaeological and historic site files and maps were examined at the Minnesota Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, and Office of the State Archaeologist.

Cultural History

The Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has developed several historic contexts for the state of Minnesota and the Upper Midwest. These contexts examine Minnesota's recent (historic) and distant (precontact) past and are based on decades of archaeological and historic research. They are designed to help generally describe and interpret the history of the state and give basic insight into the prevailing theories pertaining to the precontact and historic communities existing in specific locations and at discrete points of time.

The cultural histories focusing solely on American Indian communities are divided into three major traditions: Paleoindian, Archaic, and Woodland. These traditions are defined on the basis of significant changes in how American Indian communities lived. The cultural histories that integrate American Indian and Euroamerican history are generally divided into the Contact and Post-Contact Periods. These contexts range from the first contact between Europeans and American Indians during European exploration in the region, through Euroamerican settlement of traditionally American Indian lands.

Paleoindian Tradition (12,000 to 8,000 Before Present [B.P.])

The Paleoindian Tradition refers to the period of time at the close of the Pleistocene and into the Holocene when American Indian communities were small, mobile, and focused on hunting. Archaeological evidence from Paleoindian sites throughout the central United States and Canada indicates that these communities hunted a limited number of large animals in a variety of environmental settings. As the Pleistocene ended and the Holocene began, the megafauna (e.g., mammoth) gradually died out. This caused the Paleoindian people to shift their focus to primarily hunting the largest remaining species, bison. In addition to bison, it is likely that gathering wild plant foods and hunting smaller animals also contributed significantly to the diet of the Paleoindian people.

The distinctive stone tools made by the Paleoindians included large lanceolate projectile points, which changed through time (Figure 1). The projectile points that were made by the early Paleoindians are often fluted, meaning a channel was created from the base

running up the middle of the point (see Clovis and Folsom in Figure 3), as opposed to those made later which were not (see Plainview in Figure 4). Because Paleoindian communities were very small and nomadic, archaeologists have found only sparse, scattered evidence of the Paleoindian people.

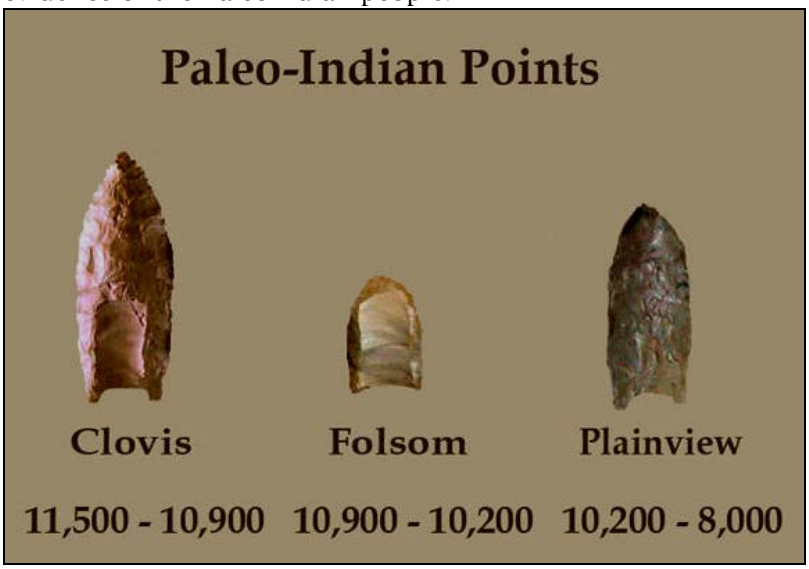

Figure 1. Paleoindian projectile points (Eddins n.d.).

Archaic Tradition (8,000 to 2,800 B.P.)

Shifts in diet and settlement patterns define the transition to the Archaic Tradition. During this period, archaeological evidence suggests that native people were adapting to environmental changes by using more diverse plant and animal resources, and creating and using a broader range of tools including new projectile point forms, atlatls (spear thrower that allowed spears to be thrown farther and with more force), copper tools and ground and pecked stone tools. Although some research suggests that community size increased during the Archaic period, other archaeological evidence counters that assumption, suggesting that community sizes remained small and that day-to-day activities took place at a series of seasonal camps (Anfinson 1987; 1997).

During this period, Archaic people began developing regional differences within their material culture. In Minnesota, this variation appears to have been tied to the natural environment, specifically the plant communities. These variations focused on the "Plains Archaic" in the western prairies, "Eastern Archaic" in the deciduous forest, "Lake-Forest Archaic" in the transitional zone between the deciduous and boreal forest areas, and the "Shield Archaic" in the boreal forest areas of the northeast. As with Paleoindian sites, Archaic sites are relatively small and ephemeral.

Woodland Tradition (2,800 B.P. to European Contact)

Throughout the Midwest, the Woodland Tradition is generally divided into three periods: Early, Middle and Late; however, Anfinson (1987) has suggested that a division into Initial and Terminal periods might be more appropriate in Minnesota. Archaeological research indicates that in many ways, life for communities during the Woodland Tradition remained similar to those of the Archaic period, with a dependence upon a diverse, seasonal resource base of plants and animals (Anfinson 1987:222; Johnson 1988). The transition to the Initial Woodland Tradition occurred when American Indians began manufacturing ceramic vessels, using bows and arrows, constructing earthen burial mounds, and cultivating and harvesting select plant species. The adoption of ceramics by the Woodland American Indians might have caused significant changes in many aspects of this culture, the foremost being subsistence strategies (Boszhardt et al. 1986:258) (Figure 2).

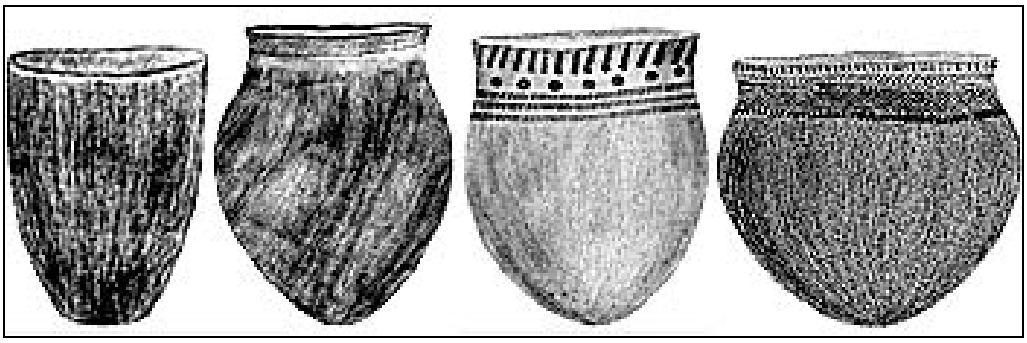

Figure 2. Woodland ceramic pots (MVAC n.d.).

Populations began to grow, marking the transition into the Late or Terminal Woodland period. Settlement patterns shift to larger, more permanent villages typically located near rivers. One possible reason for this is that toward the end of Woodland Period, American Indians became increasingly efficient in how they acquired food. The subsistence strategies of these people incorporated hunting and gathering with limited agriculture focusing on specific plants. Ceramic vessels differed from previous types in form and decoration. Woodland period communities were situated in locations that ranged from focusing on a specific resource to general environments capable of sustaining a large community for a long time.

Site types assigned to the Woodland Tradition throughout the region range from cemeteries and small, limited use sites to extensive village and habitation sites.

Contact/Postcontact Period (1630 to Present)

This period generally refers to the span of time extending from the first European explorations until intensive Euroamerican settlement of the region. Minnesota's historical period began in 1673 when French explorers Marquette and Joliet discovered the upper portion of the Mississippi River. Ten years later, Catholic Missionary Father Louis

Hennepin returned to France to write the first book about Minnesota, *Description de la Louisiane*, telling his story of exploring Minnesota and of being held captive by the Dakota Indians (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Father Hennepin at St. Anthony Falls (Minnesota Historical Society 1903)

The territory containing modern-day Minnesota was claimed by Spain, France, Great Britain, and eventually the United States. Lieutenant Zebulon Montgomery Pike led the first United States expedition through Minnesota in 1805. Fort St. Anthony (later Ft. Snelling) was completed between 1819 and 1824, and in 1836, the Wisconsin Territory, including a portion of Minnesota, was formed. Minnesota became a territory in 1849 and achieved statehood on May 11, 1858. The fur trade drove much of the European exploration and settlement in Minnesota through the mid-1800s.

As white settlers came to Minnesota, the state's economy and numerous industries began developing. One of the earliest industries to peak in Minnesota was the lumber industry (Figure 4). The extensive white pine forests of northern Minnesota brought industrialists, capital, and settlers to the state. Lumbering peaked between 1899 and 1905 and eventually the loggers moved out of Minnesota as the forests were obliterated.

Figure 4. Logging at St. Anthony Falls (Minnesota Historical Society 1870).

Agriculture, specifically wheat farming, was also a key industry in Minnesota. The huge wheat farms in central western and southern Minnesota caused mills to spring up along waterways across the state. The most notable milling center was Minneapolis, which ultimately dominated the world in wheat and flour processing until the 1930s.

In addition to lumber and milling, Minnesota was also a leader in iron mining. Looking at the industries and economy of northeastern Minnesota today, one might have difficulty imagining the area prior to the iron ore industry. Mining and the iron industry created the towns, built the roads, and brought the people to the heavily wooded and remote northeastern Minnesota of the late 19th century. Iron ore shipments were sent from Michigan's Upper Peninsula nearly three decades earlier, but once the Minnesota iron lodes were discovered, the state quickly established a dominant position atop the iron ore production hierarchy.

Associated archaeological and historic site types categorized in the Contact/Postcontact Period include standing structures as well as archaeological sites.

Recorded Cultural Resources in the Vicinity of the Proposed Project

During the background research, *10,000 Lakes* examined the Minnesota Archaeological Site Files at the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) and SHPO, and Minnesota Architectural History Site Files at SHPO. This research revealed that 34 archaeological sites

have been recorded within one mile of the proposed project, nine of which are within 1,000 feet or less of the project centerline (Table 1). Five (21KCo, 21ROaa, 21ROao, 21Rod, and 21ROs) are in or adjacent to the project corridor.

Table 1. Archaeological sites located within 1 mile of the proposed project area.

Distance from EIS Align. (FEET)	**Label**	**Site Type**	**Site description**
3511.7	21IC0092	Precontact	Lithic scatter
3044.8	21IC0093	Precontact	Lithic scatter
948.5	21IC0095	Precontact	Utilized flake
2052.5	21IC0096	Precontact	Lithic scatter
3875.7	21IC0099	Precontact	Single artifact
4926.1	21IC0274	Precontact	
1124.7	21ICaju	Historic	Logging camp
4691.2	21KC0062	Precontact	Lithic scatter
1936.1	21KC0072	Precontact	Single artifact
341.5	21KCc	Precontact	Possible mounds
0.0	21KCo	Precontact	Artifact scatter
3924.7	21RO0002	Precontact	Lithic scatter
1675.2	21RO0004	Precontact	Artifact scatter, cemetery
5133.0	21RO0005	Precontact	
1382.6	21RO0006	Precontact	Points and hammerstone
2588.2	21RO0014	Precontact	Cord-marked ceramics, artifact scatter, Cemetery
4946.5	21RO0016	Precontact	Lithic scatter, structural ruin
1092.3	21RO0018	Precontact	Lithics, hammerstone, fire cracked rock
2042.1	21RO0021	Precontact	Artifact scatter
4015.4	21RO0024	Precontact	Lithic scatter
2674.9	21RO0025	Precontact	Artifact scatter, cemetery
4525.1	21RO0031	Historic	
3256.4	21RO0032	Historic	
578.1	21RO0033	Historic	Homestead ca 1910-1940s
0.0	21ROaa	Precontact	Artifact scatter
1351.4	21ROaf	Precontact	Cemetery
0.0	21ROao		
0.0	21ROd	Precontact	Toothed spear point and small copper point
3883.4	21ROh	Precontact	
3905.2	21ROm	Precontact	Fishing spear and adze

1289.3	21ROo	Precontact	Single artifact
0.0	21ROs	Precontact - Archaic (4-6,000 years old)	Adze and *Bison ocidentallis*
770.2	21ROu	Precontact	Projectile points and ceramics
1157.6	FS8	Precontact	Projectile point

In addition to the recorded archaeological sites, 72 historic resources have been recorded within one mile of the proposed project area, 11 of which are within 1,000 feet of the proposed project area (Table 1).

Table 2. Historic sites located within 1 mile of the proposed project area.

Distance from EIS Align. (FEET)	**Inventory #**	**Site Name**	**Address**
4850.3	IC-BAL-007	Conservative Mennonite Ch	NE corner Mn. Hwy. 7 & Co. Rd. 333
1790.1	IC-BAL-009	Spur Station	NE corner Mn. Hwy. 7 & Mn. Hwy. 8
2019.1	IC-BAL-010	T.J.'s Family Restaurant	1259 Scenic Hwy.
1309.3	IC-BAL-011	Alvar and Norma Hupila Hs	1281 Scenic Hwy.
630.6	IC-BAL-012	Balsam School	1290 Scenic Hwy.
106.8	IC-BAL-013	Balsam Bible Chapel	1300 Scenic Hwy.
2208.8	IC-BAL-014	Bersons Markat	off Mn. Hwy. 7
2944.0	IC-BAL-015	Robert E. Bergstrom Hs	1350 Scenic Hwy.
3237.0	IC-BAL-016	Kevin & Cynthia Malmquist Hs	102 Issac Lake Lane N.
4305.2	IC-BAL-022	Donna E. Wodahl Hs	1388 Scenic Hwy.
1615.5	IC-BAL-024	Bridge No. 7419	CR 336 over Prairie River
4478.5	IC-BAL-025	Bridge No. 7000	CSAH 8 over Prairie River
3515.1	IC-BEA-008	Hansen Log Hs	off Mn. Hwy. 65
3495.8	IC-BEA-009	Anderson Log Hs	off Mn. Hwy. 65
4511.6	IC-CAR-008	Bridge 88223	State .1 mi W of CR 541
594.3	IC-CAR-009	Deer Creek Dam	Deer Creek, northern Itasca County
1611.2	IC-EFC-006	storage shed	xxx Mn. Hwy. 38
5108.3	IC-EFC-007	Mn/DOT Service Building	xxx Mn. Hwy. 38
4422.0	IC-EFC-016	William Anderson Hs	xxx Mn. Hwy. 38
3614.8	IC-EFC-017	House	xxx Mn. Hwy. 38
4611.9	IC-IRT-008	Holman Mine Line to the Trout Lake Washing Plant	

2746.6	IC-IRT-009	Great Northern Railway Nashwauk-Gunn Line	
1557.5	IC-IRT-010	Duluth, Missabe & Northern Railway Alborn Branch Line	
4784.4	IC-IRT-013	Brown No. 2 Mine Stripping Dump	
2031.8	IC-IRT-016	Rhude Media Plant	xxxx TH 169
2178.9	IC-IRT-017	House	6670 US 169
1903.1	IC-IRT-018	House	6708 US 169
3850.2	IC-IRT-027	DM&N/DM&IR Railroad Corridor to Arcturus Mine	
2976.5	IC-IRT-029	Arcturus Mine Stripping Dump	
737.4	IC-IRT-030	DM&N/DM&IR Corridor to Arcturus Concentrator	
578.5	IC-IRT-031	Arcturus Mine Gravel Pit	
2775.9	IC-IRT-032	Arcturus Mine Lean Ore Dump	
3916.4	IC-IRT-033	Arcturus Mine Stripping Dump	
1616.8	IC-IRT-034	House	6730 US Hwy 169
639.5	IC-IRT-035	House	6826 US Hwy 169
3133.1	IC-IRT-037	Holman-Cliffs Mine Pit	
632.0	IC-IRT-038	Holman-Cliffs Mine	
4607.9	IC-IRT-039	Holman-Cliffs Stripping Dump	
4842.6	IC-IRT-039	Holman-Cliffs Stripping Dump	
4875.0	IC-IRT-041	Cleveland-Cliffs Concentrator Plant Site	
2114.7	IC-NWT-003	Bridge No. 88159	CSAH 8 over unnamed stream
3384.8	IC-TCC-005	Bridge No. L3811	CSAH 7 under BN Inc
2351.0	IC-TLT-004	Abandoned Log Hs & Barn	off Co. Hwy. 70
2464.9	IC-TLT-005	Jacob Edward Johnson Farmstead	off Co. Hwy. 70
2063.7	IC-TLT-009	Finnish Log Barn & Building	off Co. Hwy. 10
3847.6	IC-TLT-010	Trout Lake Apostolic Lutheran Ch	off Co. Hwy. 10
3933.4	IC-TLT-011	School & Teacherage	off Co. Hwy. 10
3621.5	IC-UOG-013	log barn	off Co. Rd. 445
3574.0	IC-UOG-043	Old Fredheim Lutheran Ch (moved)	Co. Rd. 42
3730.8	IC-UOG-044	Gunderson Homestead Cabin	off Co. Rd. 42
2924.7	IC-UOG-045	Winans Log Barn	off Co. Rd. 42
2500.4	IC-UOG-046	Kinn Farmhouse	off Co. Rd. 42

177.4	IC-UOG-074	Joyce Dahlberg Farmstead	xxx Mn. Hwy. 38
712.7	IC-UOG-075	Donna Gillespie Hs	xxx Mn. Hwy. 38
4010.3	IC-UOG-086	Bridge No. 7073	carries unpaved CSAH 42 over Bigfork River 4 M NE of Bigfork
3278.7	KC-UOG-031	Flowing Well	off U.S. Hwy. 71
4988.2	KC-UOG-035	Lumber Camp	of Co. Rd. 54
342.6	KC-UOG-070	Bridge No. 3570	carries CH 18 over East Fork of Rapid River
3163.2	LW-UOG-038	school	off Co. Hwy. 14
4663.3	RO-CDR-001	Cedarbend Surveyors Cabin	off Co. Hwy. 12
1181.7	RO-DET-002	town hall	off Mn. Hwy. 18
3938.7	RO-JAD-002	Bridge No. L9057	TR 142 over unnamed ditch
3945.1	RO-LAO-001	log building	off Mn. Hwy. 11
3881.5	RO-LAO-002	log building	off Mn. Hwy. 11
3954.5	RO-LAO-003	log building	off Mn. Hwy. 11
4653.9	RO-LAO-005	Bridge No. 3741	TR 26 over unnamed stream
4310.0	RO-LAO-007	Bridge No. 3743	TR 26 over unnamed stream
4283.5	RO-LAO-008	Bridge No. 3744	TR 26 over unnamed stream
381.4	RO-ROC-018	Roseau Land Port of Entry	41967 Hwy 310
5192.7	RO-RSC-001	school	xxx Main St.
3169.6	RO-UOG-002	Clear River (ghost town)	off Co. Hwy. 5
3273.9	RO-UOG-004	Clear River Forestry Office	off Co. Hwy. 5

Evaluations, Conclusions, and Recommendations

The Phase Ia background research revealed that 35 archaeological sites and 72 historic sites are recorded within one mile of the proposed project. Ten of these archaeological sites are located within 1,000 feet of the proposed project and six are either adjacent to or within the proposed project corridor. In addition to the recorded sites, this research defined areas with a high potential for unrecorded archaeological sites along the proposed corridor.

High potential areas are defined by considering many factors such as proximity to water and topography. Archaeological sites are more likely to be found near water (including historic or precontact water bodies), on prominent topographic features, and near recorded archaeological sites; however these are not the only locations archaeological sites could be located. In a wet setting such as the current project area, county ditches, and intermittent or seasonally flowing streams were not considered indicators for high potential archaeological areas.

Areas with low potential for archaeological sites include wetlands and areas with slopes over 20%. In order to delineate wetlands across this rather wet landscape, the National Wetlands Inventory for the region was used to help determine areas with low potential (MnDNR 2015). Areas mapped as wetlands were generally excluded as having high potential unless other factors were present, such as large rivers, prominent landforms, or stream confluences.

For historic structures, the Area of Potential Effect (APE) includes those areas within or adjacent to the proposed project as well as those areas visible from the proposed project area. Historic resources are investigated by conducting archival research as well as an on-site examination of the historic properties. Sources examined during property-specific archival research might include local and county histories, plat maps, insurance maps, and historic photographs.

Phase I archaeological survey methods typically involve pedestrian survey in areas where over 25% of the ground surface is visible (e.g. agricultural fields) in transects at five to 15-meter (m) intervals, as appropriate. In areas where less than 25% of the ground surface is visible, or where buried archaeological sites have a high probability of existing, archaeologists excavate shovel tests. These excavations measure 30 to 40 centimeters in diameter and are placed at 15-m intervals within areas of moderate and high potential, as appropriate. Soil is screened through ¼-inch mesh hardware cloth to determine if cultural materials are present.

Based on the results of the background research and mapping, it appears as though the proposed project area has 123 areas with a high to moderate potential for archaeological sites totaling approximately 59 miles of corridor (Appendix 1).

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1870 *Logging near St. Anthony Falls, Minneapolis*. Minnesota Historical Society Archives Photograph Collection. Location no. MH5.9 MP4.33 r94. Negative no. 9371-A.

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Appendix A: Maps

Maps move from the northwest end to the south/southeast.

- EIS Alignment depicted in red
- High potential areas depicted in yellow
- Historic sites depicted as blue dots
- Archaeological sites depicted as green polygons
- Archaeological points depicted as red flags

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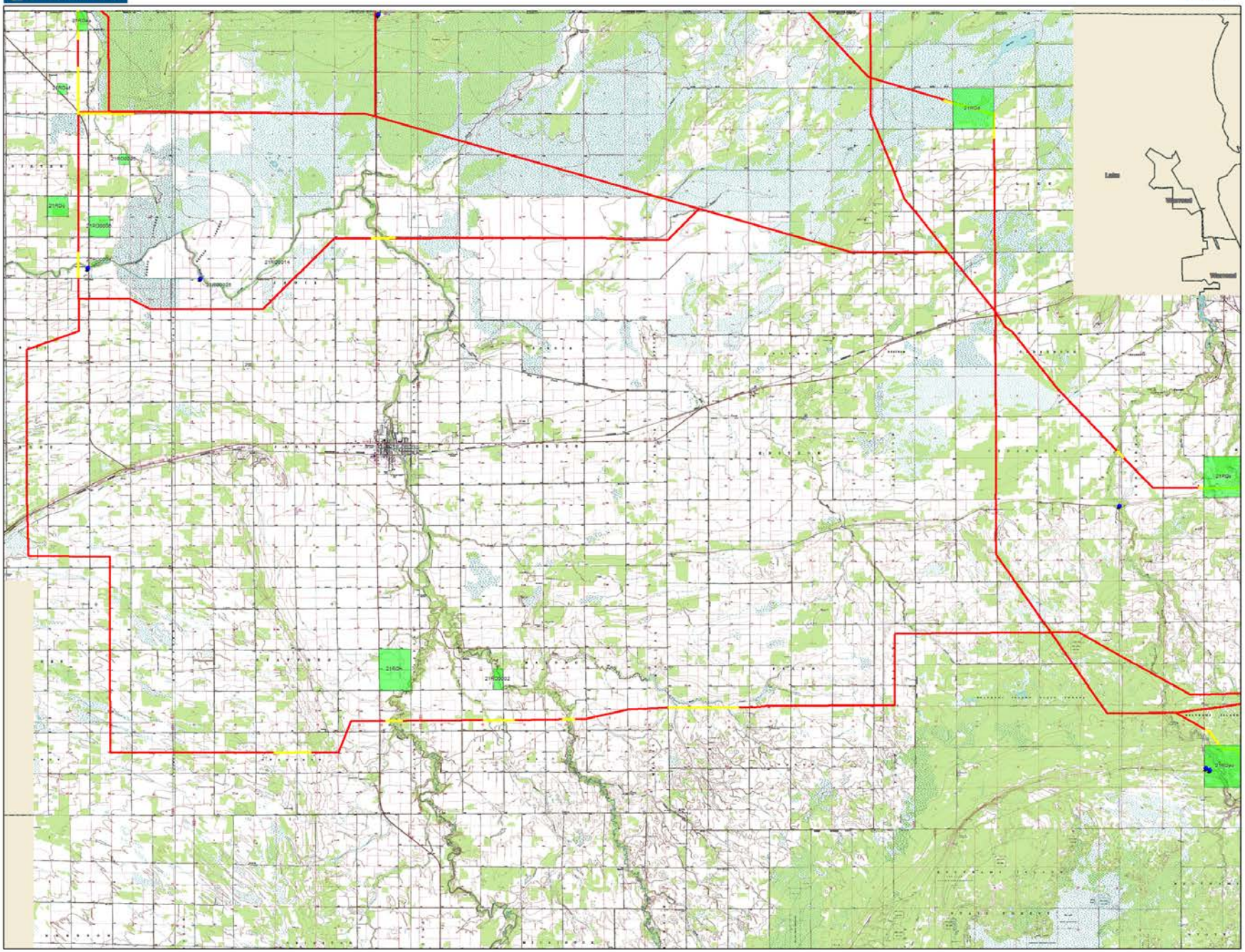

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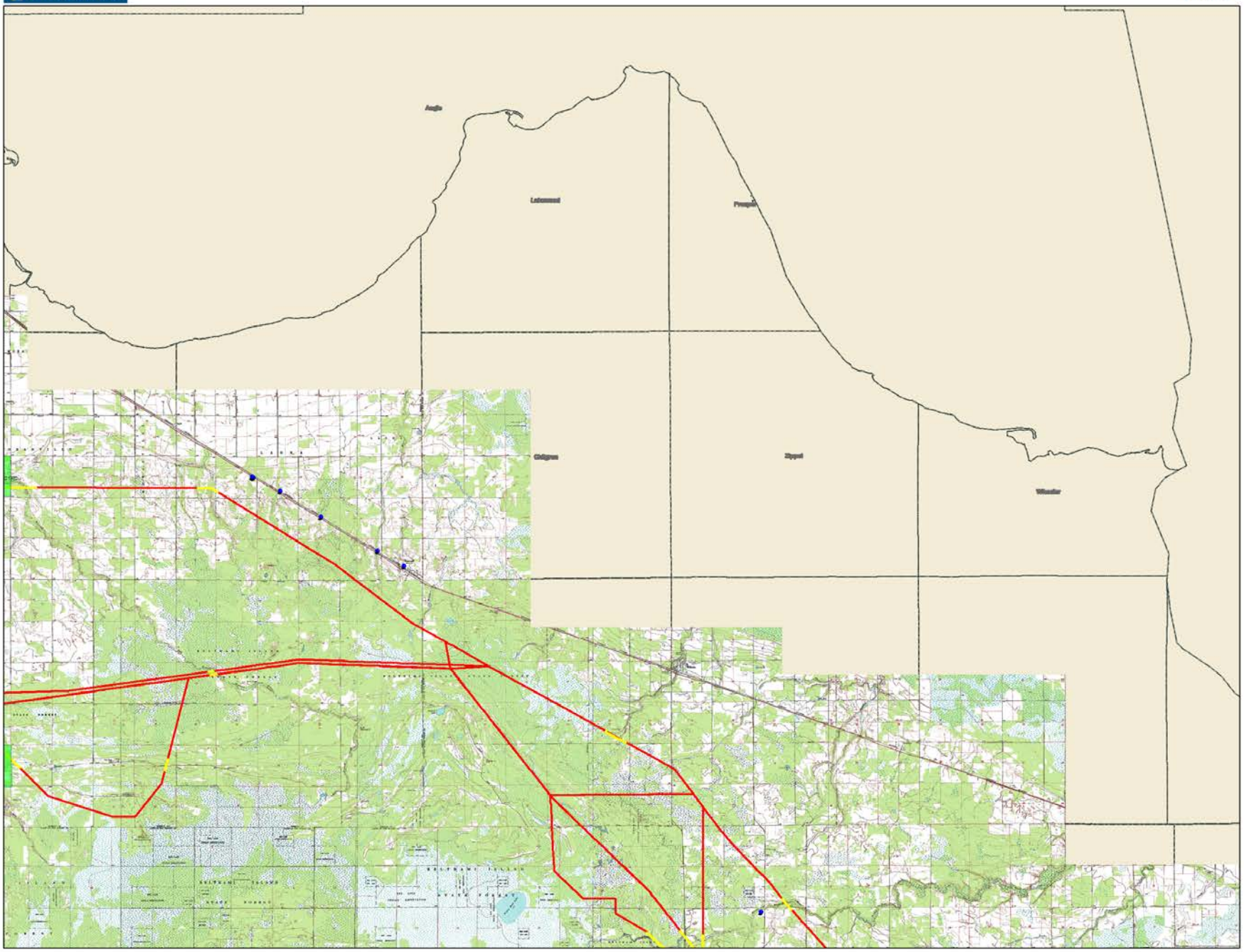

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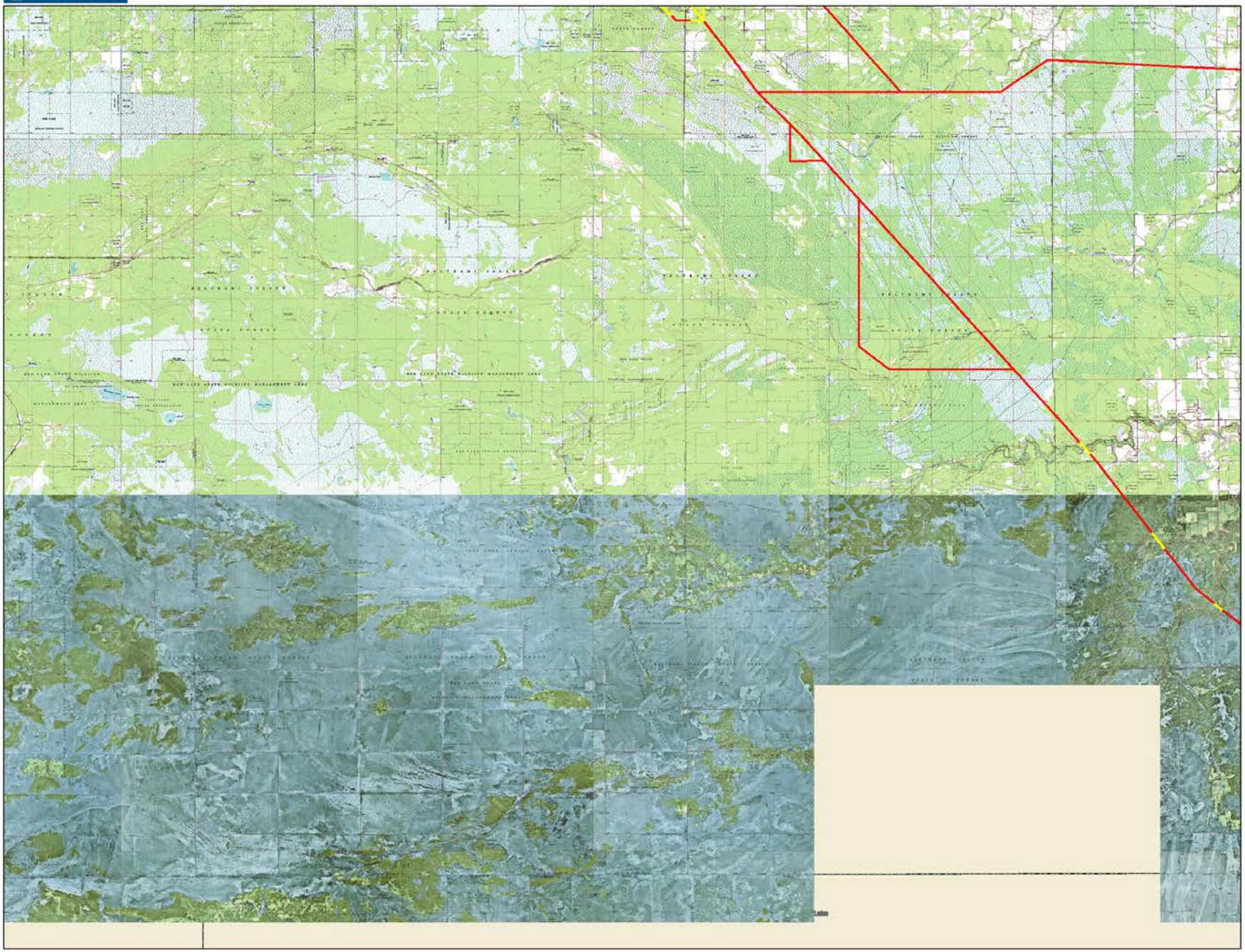

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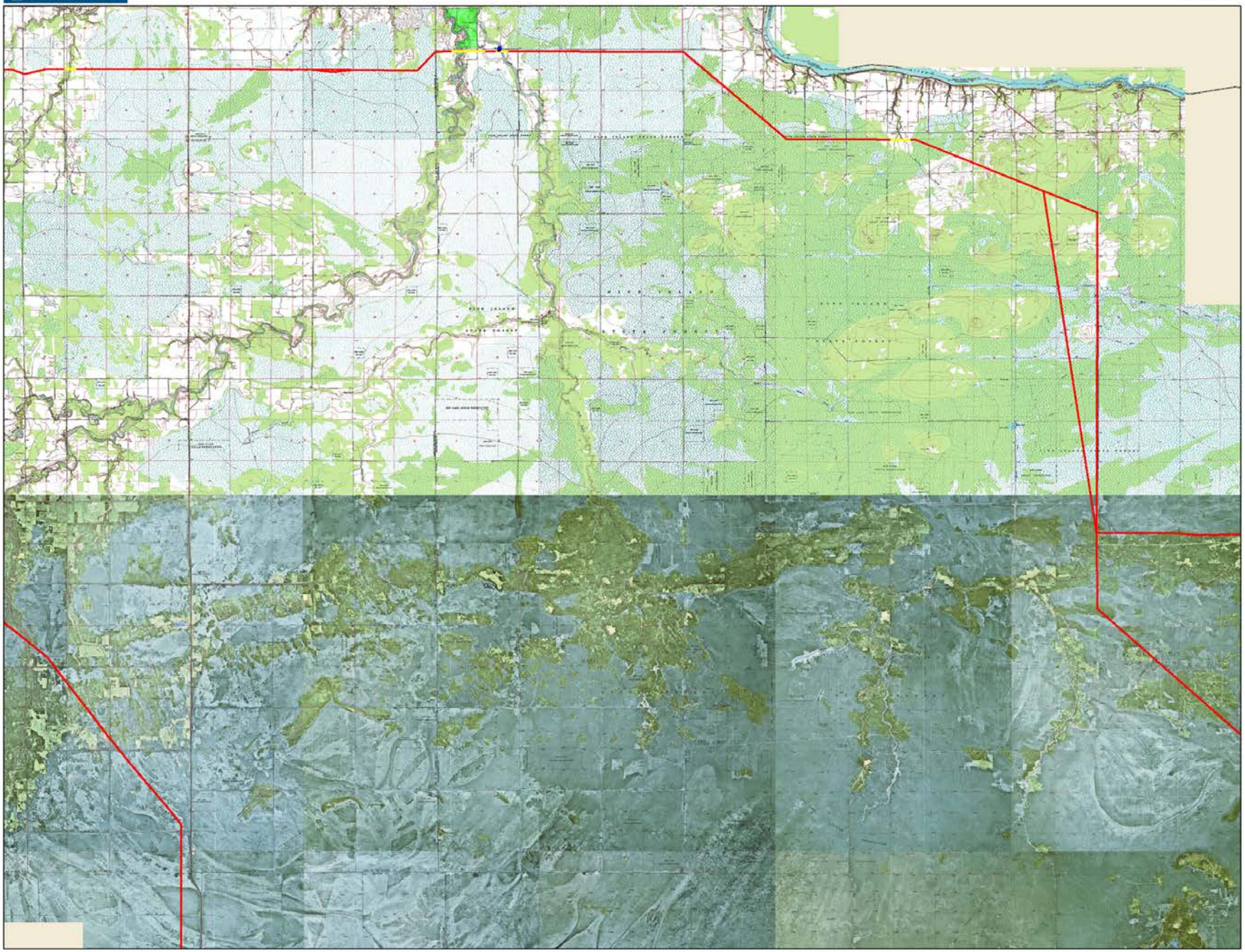

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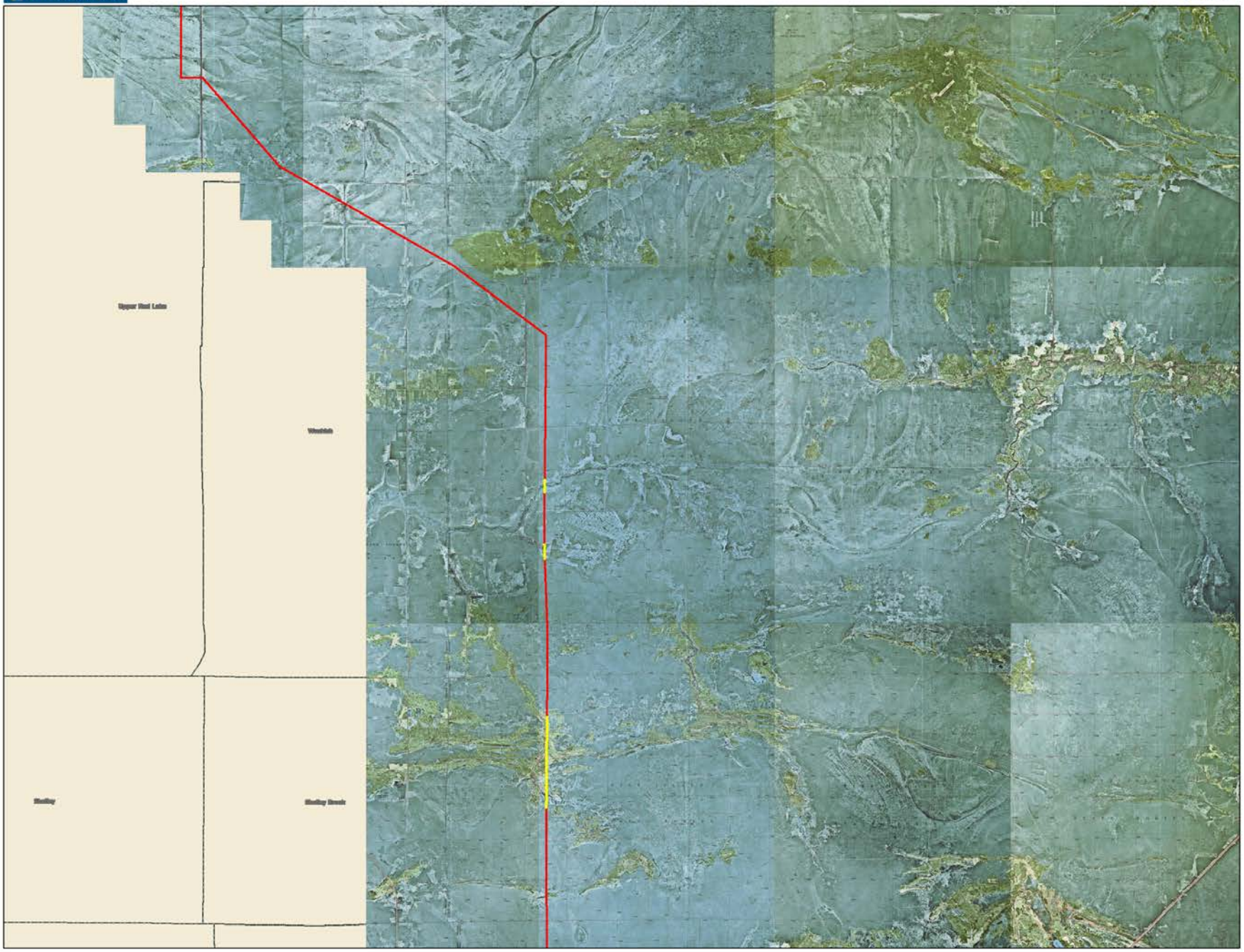

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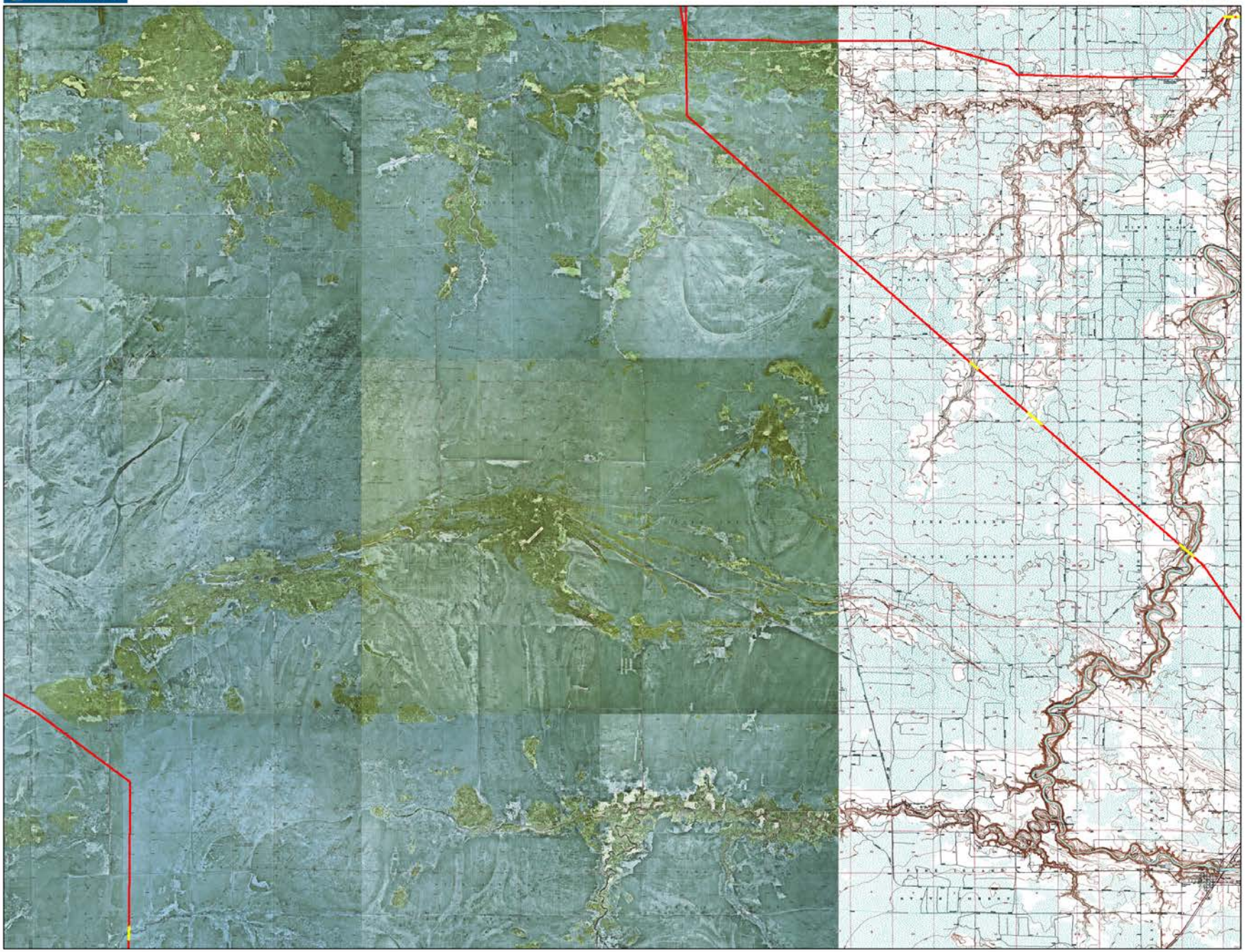

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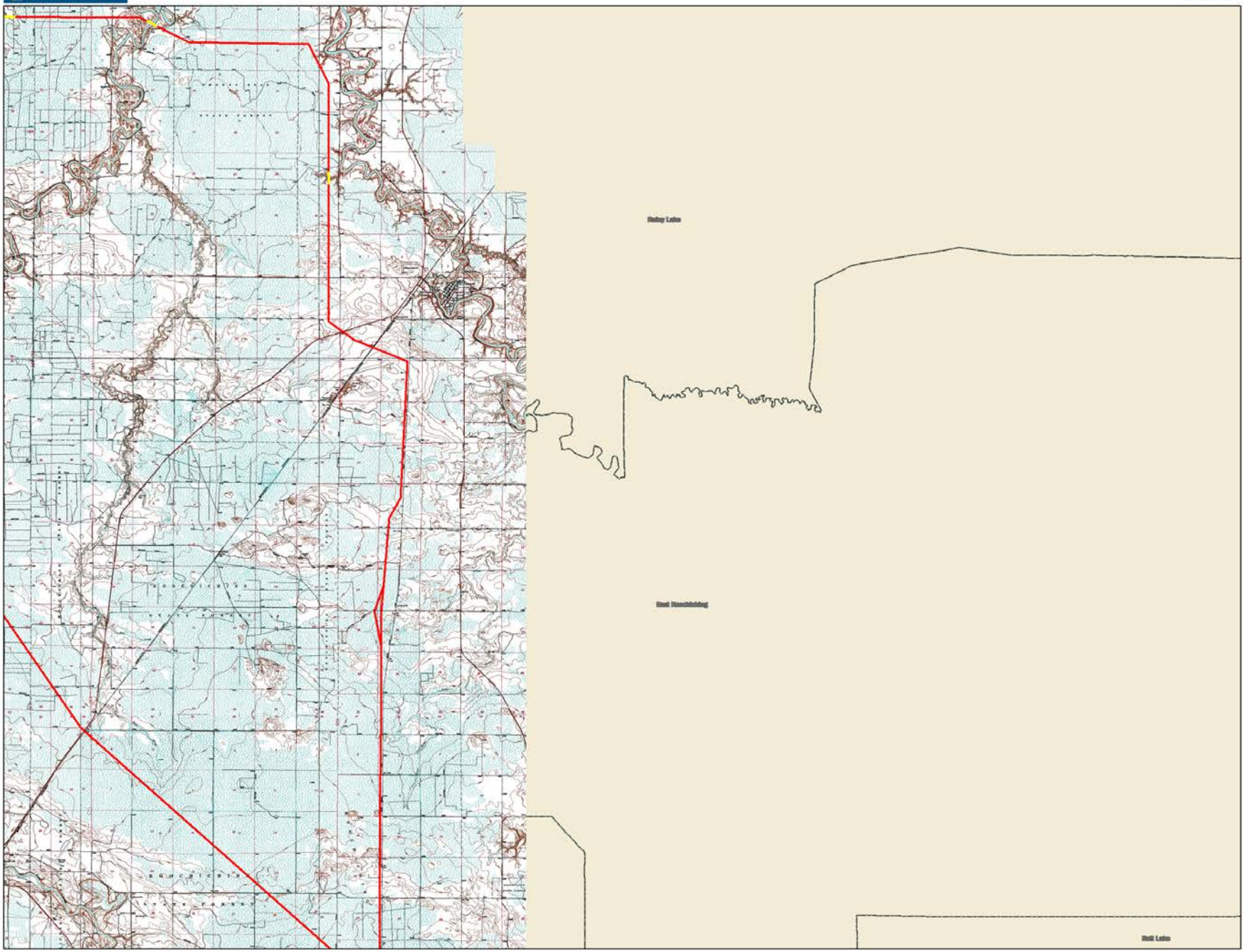

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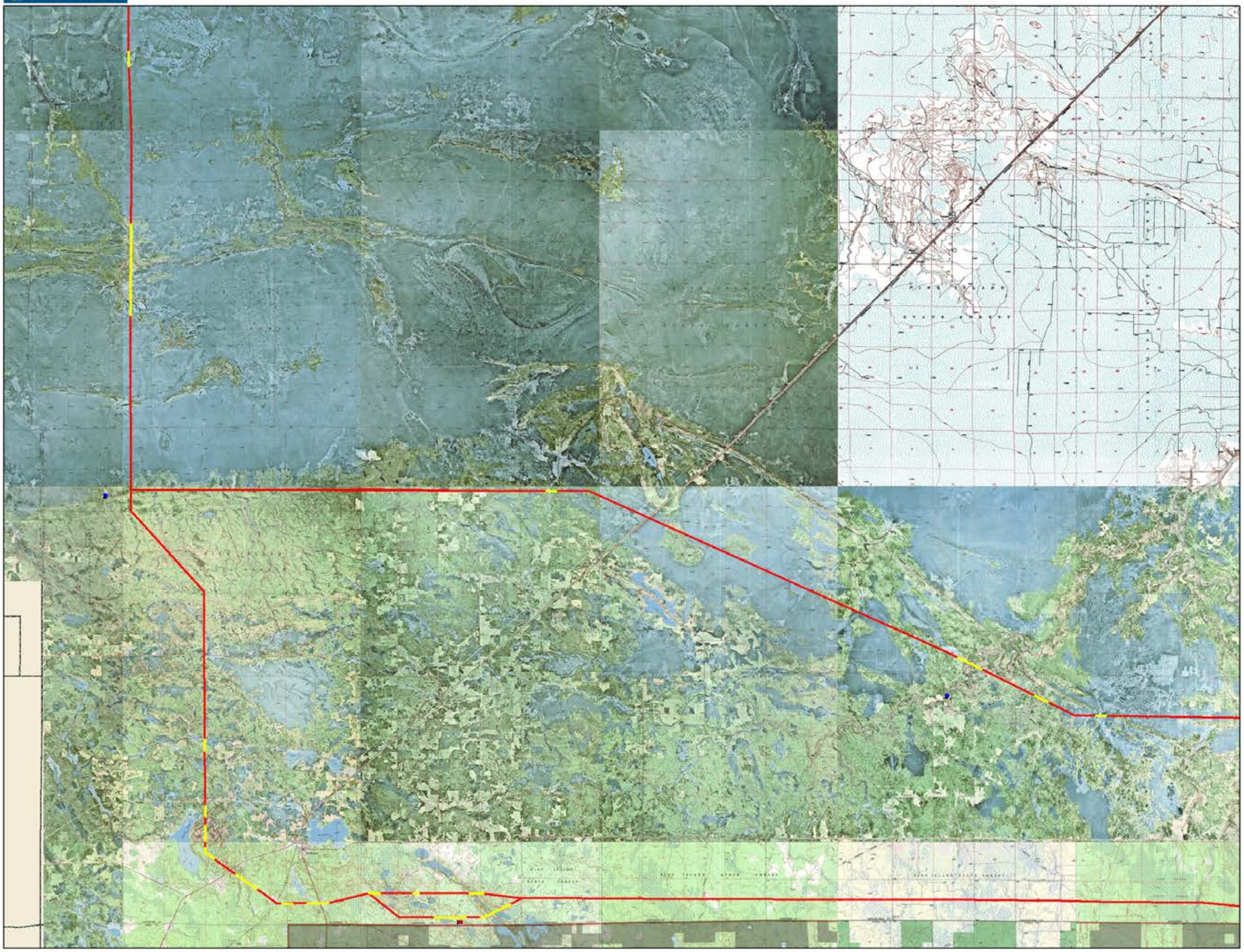

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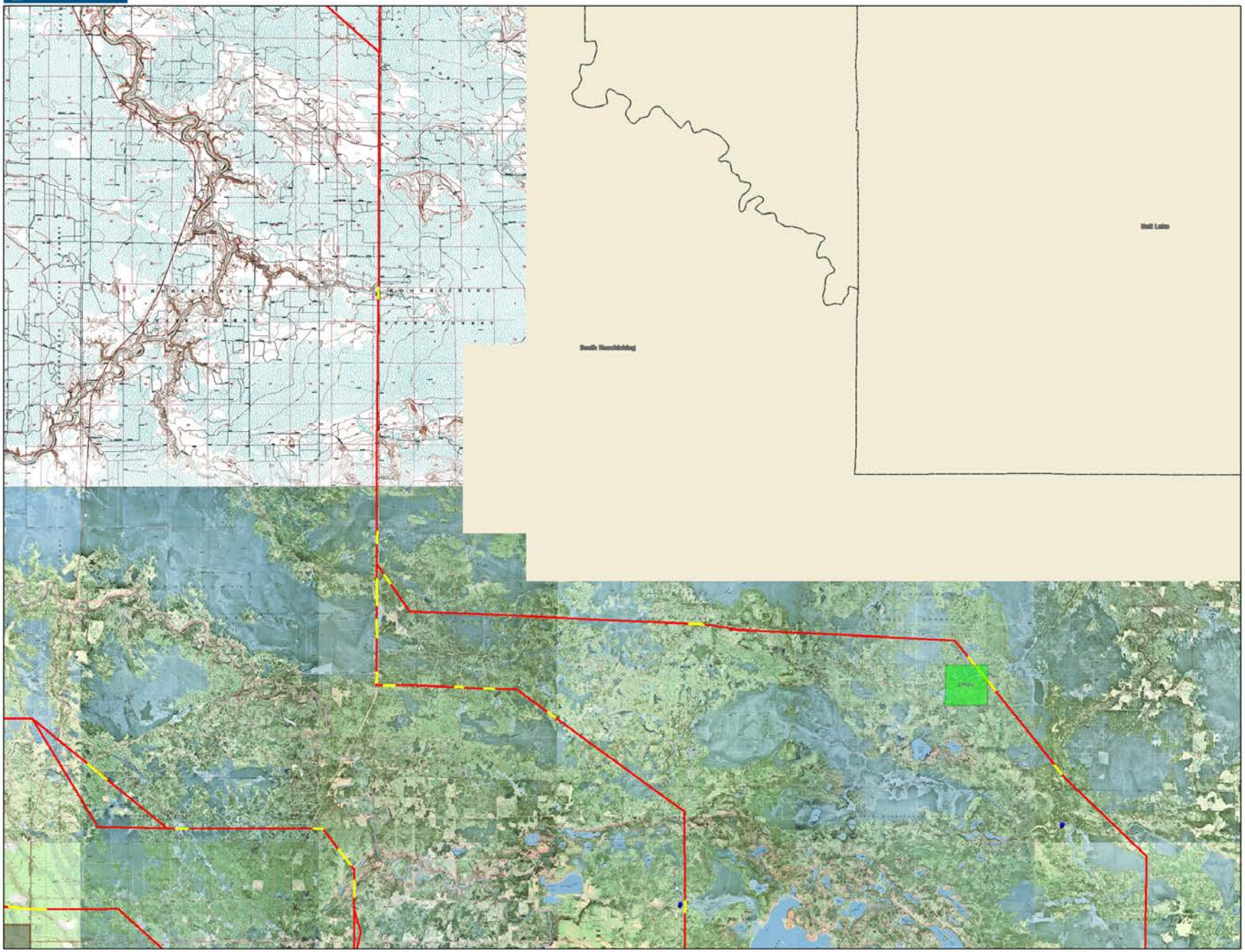

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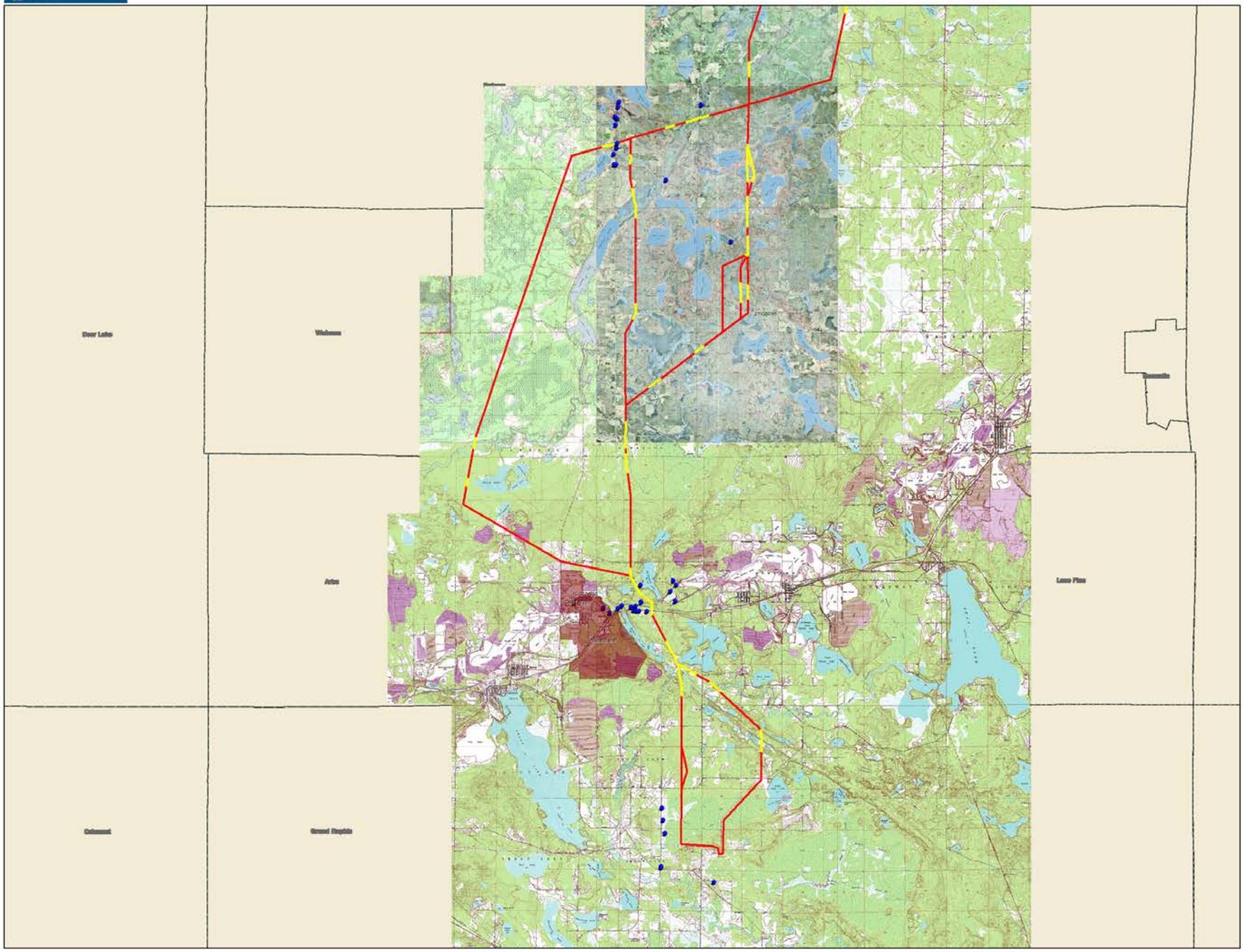

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STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

December 30, 2014

Ms. Julie Ann Smith
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Deliver and Energy Reliability
US Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

RE: Great Northern Transmission Line project (DOE/EIS -0499)
Multiple Counties, Minnesota
SHPO Number: 2013-2759

Dear Ms. Smith:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above project. Information received in our office on 1 December 2014 has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Officer by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and implementing federal regulations at 36 CFR 800.

Per 36 CFR 800.3, we concur with the Department of Energy's (DOE) determination that the proposed Federal action, issuance of a Presidential permit for the international border crossing of the Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL), constitutes and undertaking with the potential to cause effects on historic properties. Your agency has indicated that, for purposes of Section 106, the undertaking includes the border crossing and the entire length of the 220-mile overhead transmission line project, which is proposed to be constructed between the Minnesota-Manitoba international border northwest of Roseau in Roseau County to the existing Blackberry Substation near Grand Rapids in Itasca County. We appreciate the clarification provided in your November 19th letter which indicates that the Department of Energy will assume the role of lead federal agency in completing the Section 106 review.

Thank you for providing a summary of your agency's plan for public participation in the Section 106 process for this undertaking. It is our understanding that you will coordinate this with the process set forth under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Regarding your initial identification of potential consulting parties in the Section 106 process, we feel that the list you have provided thus far is comprehensive and sufficient. We suggest that your agency also consider the following two (2) state entities:

- Office of the State Archaeologist, Minnesota Department of Administration
- Minnesota Indian Affair's Council

Due to the consideration of several alternatives for the transmission line route and the extent of the linear corridor, we agree with your agency's proposal to develop and execute a programmatic agreement (PA) for this undertaking, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.14(b) and in consultation with our office and other consulting parties.

We have taken into consideration your agency's initial proposal for determining the areas of potential effect (APE) for both direct and indirect effects as provided in your November 19th letter. We look forward to continuing consultation on this matter as the APE will need to be determined prior to execution of a programmatic agreement.

Please feel free to contact me at 651-259-3456 or sarah.beimers@mnhs.org if you have any questions or concerns regarding our comment letter.

Sincerely,

Sarah J. Beimers

Sarah J. Beimers, Manager
Government Programs and Compliance

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 14, 2015

Mags Rheude
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Twin Cities Ecological Field Office (Region 3)
4101 American Boulevard East
Bloomington, MN 55425

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Mags Rheude,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Twin Cities Ecological Field Office (Region 3) is aware that the Department of Energy (DOE) is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties." The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

The DOE is meeting its obligations under the NHPA concurrently with the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Minnesota Power is also seeking authorizations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – St. Paul District (USACE), a cooperating agency to DOE in the preparation of the above mentioned EIS. DOE is acting as the lead federal agency for purposes of compliance with Section 106 for the NEPA cooperating agencies (per 36 CFR § 800.2(a)(2)).

As you are aware, Minnesota Power applied to DOE for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an approximately 220-mile, overhead, single-circuit 500 kV AC transmission line between the Minnesota - Manitoba border crossing northwest of Roseau, Minnesota, and terminating at the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation near Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Minnesota Power's proposal also includes associated substation facilities and transmission system modifications at the Blackberry Substation site, and construction of a new 500 kV Series Compensation Station (a structure which will house the 500 kV series capacitor banks necessary for reliable operation and performance of the proposed transmission line). A new Blackberry 500 kV Substation would be required for the proposed Project and would be constructed adjacent to and east of the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation.

For more information on DOE's NEPA review and preparation of the EIS, please visit the DOE GNTL EIS website at http://www.GreatNorthernEIS.org. Future information from the DOE, relevant to the Section 106 consultation (once underway), will also be posted to this website.

Under Section 106, the DOE must identify and consider the potential effects of its actions on historic properties through a collaborative framework (consultation) to identify historic properties potentially affected by the proposed project, assess its effects, and seek ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate any adverse effects to historic properties (36 CFR §800.1(a)). In addition to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), federally recognized Indian tribes, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), Section 106 consulting parties may include certain individuals and organizations with a demonstrated interest in the undertaking due to the nature of their legal or economic relation to the

undertaking or affected properties, or their concern with the undertaking's effects on historic properties (36 CFR §800.2).

DOE would like to obtain information from you about historic properties, including those of cultural importance to your agency, in or near the project area, and also to provide you an opportunity to identify your concerns about such properties, including the identification of potential mitigation measures. Your assistance in the identification and evaluation of historic properties will provide us the opportunity to resolve any adverse effects this undertaking may have on these properties. If available, we would welcome any information on the location and importance of archaeological sites, historic structures, and any other localities of interest to you that are known to occur in or near the proposed project area.

If you would like to participate in the Section 106 consultation process, please confirm within 30 calendar days of the date of this letter, by sending a letter accepting this invitation to act as a Section 106 consulting party for the proposed GNTL project that identifies a primary point of contact for your agency, either as an attachment to an email at Juliea.Smith@hq.doe.gov, or by postal mail to 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20585. If no response is received within the time specified, the DOE will remove your agency from the Section 106 consulting party list for this project.

If you have questions regarding the DOE's on-going review of the proposed GNTL project, or your participation as a Section 106 consulting party, please contact me at any time at the above email address or (202) 586-7668.

Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 14, 2015

Jaime Loichinger
Office of Federal Agency Programs
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 803
Old Post Office Building
Washington, DC 20004

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Jaime Loichinger,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the Office of Federal Agency Programs, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation is aware that the Department of Energy (DOE) is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties." The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

The DOE is meeting its obligations under the NHPA concurrently with the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Minnesota Power is also seeking authorizations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – St. Paul District (USACE), a cooperating agency to DOE in the preparation of the above mentioned EIS. DOE is acting as the lead federal agency for purposes of compliance with Section 106 for the NEPA cooperating agencies (per 36 CFR § 800.2(a)(2)).

As you are aware, Minnesota Power applied to DOE for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an approximately 220-mile, overhead, single-circuit 500 kV AC transmission line between the Minnesota - Manitoba border crossing northwest of Roseau, Minnesota, and terminating at the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation near Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Minnesota Power's proposal also includes associated substation facilities and transmission system modifications at the Blackberry Substation site, and construction of a new 500 kV Series Compensation Station (a structure which will house the 500 kV series capacitor banks necessary for reliable operation and performance of the proposed transmission line). A new Blackberry 500 kV Substation would be required for the proposed Project and would be constructed adjacent to and east of the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation.

For more information on DOE's NEPA review and preparation of the EIS, please visit the DOE GNTL EIS website at http://www.GreatNorthernEIS.org. Future information from the DOE, relevant to the Section 106 consultation (once underway), will also be posted to this website.

Under Section 106, the DOE must identify and consider the potential effects of its actions on historic properties through a collaborative framework (consultation) to identify historic properties potentially affected by the proposed project, assess its effects, and seek ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate any adverse effects to historic properties (36 CFR §800.1(a)). In addition to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), federally recognized Indian tribes, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), Section 106 consulting parties may include certain individuals and organizations with a

demonstrated interest in the undertaking due to the nature of their legal or economic relation to the undertaking or affected properties, or their concern with the undertaking's effects on historic properties (36 CFR §800.2).

DOE would like to obtain information from you about historic properties, including those of cultural importance to your organization and its members, in or near the project area, and also to provide you an opportunity to identify your concerns about such properties, including the identification of potential mitigation measures. Your assistance in the identification and evaluation of historic properties will provide us the opportunity to resolve any adverse effects this undertaking may have on these properties. If available, we would welcome any information on the location and importance of archaeological sites, historic structures, and any other localities of interest to you that are known to occur in or near the proposed project area.

If you would like to participate in the Section 106 consultation process as a Section 106 consulting party, please confirm within 30 calendar days of the date of this letter, by sending a letter accepting this invitation that identifies a primary point of contact for your agency, either as an attachment to an email at Juliea.Smith@hq.doe.gov, or by postal mail to 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20585. If no response is received within the time specified, the DOE will remove your agency from the Section 106 consulting party list for this project.

If you have questions regarding the DOE's on-going review of the proposed GNTL project, or your participation as a Section 106 consulting party, please contact me at any time at the above email address or (202) 586-7668.

Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 14, 2015

Stephen Elliott
Minnesota Historical Society
345 Kellogg Boulevard West
St. Paul, MN 55102-1903

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Stephen Elliott,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the Minnesota Historical Society is aware that the Department of Energy (DOE) is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties." The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

The DOE is meeting its obligations under the NHPA concurrently with the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Minnesota Power is also seeking authorizations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – St. Paul District (USACE), a cooperating agency to DOE in the preparation of the above mentioned EIS. DOE is acting as the lead federal agency for purposes of compliance with Section 106 for the NEPA cooperating agencies (per 36 CFR § 800.2(a)(2)).

As you are aware, Minnesota Power applied to DOE for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an approximately 220-mile, overhead, single-circuit 500 kV AC transmission line between the Minnesota - Manitoba border crossing northwest of Roseau, Minnesota, and terminating at the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation near Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Minnesota Power's proposal also includes associated substation facilities and transmission system modifications at the Blackberry Substation site, and construction of a new 500 kV Series Compensation Station (a structure which will house the 500 kV series capacitor banks necessary for reliable operation and performance of the proposed transmission line). A new Blackberry 500 kV Substation would be required for the proposed Project and would be constructed adjacent to and east of the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation.

For more information on DOE's NEPA review and preparation of the EIS, please visit the DOE GNTL EIS website at http://www.GreatNorthernEIS.org. Future information from the DOE, relevant to the Section 106 consultation (once underway), will also be posted to this website.

Under Section 106, the DOE must identify and consider the potential effects of its actions on historic properties through a collaborative framework (consultation) to identify historic properties potentially affected by the proposed project, assess its effects, and seek ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate any adverse effects to historic properties (36 CFR §800.1(a)). In addition to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), federally recognized Indian tribes, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), Section 106 consulting parties may include certain individuals and organizations with a demonstrated interest in the undertaking due to the nature of their legal or economic relation to the

undertaking or affected properties, or their concern with the undertaking's effects on historic properties (36 CFR §800.2).

DOE would like to obtain information from you about historic properties, including those of cultural importance to your organization and its members, in or near the project area, and also to provide you an opportunity to identify your concerns about such properties, including the identification of potential mitigation measures. Your assistance in the identification and evaluation of historic properties will provide us the opportunity to resolve any adverse effects this undertaking may have on these properties. If available, we would welcome any information on the location and importance of archaeological sites, historic structures, and any other localities of interest to you that are known to occur in or near the proposed project area.

If you would like to participate in the Section 106 consultation process as a Section 106 consulting party, please confirm within 30 calendar days of the date of this letter, by sending a letter accepting this invitation that identifies a primary point of contact for your agency, either as an attachment to an email at Juliea.Smith@hq.doe.gov, or by postal mail to 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20585. If no response is received within the time specified, the DOE will remove your agency from the Section 106 consulting party list for this project.

If you have questions regarding the DOE's on-going review of the proposed GNTL project, or your participation as a Section 106 consulting party, please contact me at any time at the above email address or (202) 586-7668.

Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Minnesota Archaeological Society
Fort Snelling History Center
Ft. Snelling, MN 55111-4061

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Sir or Madam,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the Minnesota Archaeological Society is aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

The DOE is meeting its obligations under the NHPA concurrently with the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). DOE is a federal joint lead agency with the Minnesota Department of Commerce – Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DOC-EERA) acting as state joint lead agency per 40 CFR 1501.5(b) in the preparation of the subject EIS. Minnesota Power is also seeking authorizations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – St. Paul District (USACE), a cooperating agency to DOE in the preparation of the above mentioned EIS. DOE is also acting as the lead federal agency for purposes of compliance with Section 106 for the NEPA cooperating agencies (per 36 CFR § 800.2(a)(2)).

Minnesota Power applied to DOE for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an approximately 220-mile, overhead, single-circuit 500 kV AC transmission line between the Minnesota - Manitoba border crossing northwest of Roseau, Minnesota, and terminating at the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation near Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Minnesota Power's proposal also includes associated substation facilities and transmission system modifications at the Blackberry Substation site, and construction of a new 500 kV Series Compensation Station (a structure which will house the 500 kV series capacitor banks necessary for reliable operation and performance of the proposed transmission line). A new Blackberry 500 kV Substation would be required for the proposed Project and would be constructed adjacent to and east of the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation. The proposed GNTL project would carry hydropower generated by facilities operated by Manitoba Hydro, a Canadian electric utility.

DOE documented a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS in the *Federal Register* on June 27, 2014 (79 FR 36493), with an open public scoping period which ended on August 15, 2014. As a part of its scoping efforts, DOE held eight NEPA public scoping meetings from July 16 – July 24, 2014 (*see enclosed GNTL Regional Map)*. For more information on DOE's NEPA review and preparation of the EIS, please visit the DOE GNTL EIS website at http://www.GreatNorthernEIS.org. The GNTL Presidential permit application (including an initial cultural resources study), NOI and the

Great Northern Transmission Line Scoping Summary Report (November 2014), can be viewed on this website.

Under Section 106, the DOE must identify and consider the potential effects of its actions on historic properties through a collaborative framework (consultation) to identify historic properties potentially affected by the proposed project, assess its effects, and seek ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate any adverse effects to historic properties (36 CFR §800.1(a)). In addition to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), federally recognized Indian tribes, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), Section 106 consulting parties may include certain individuals and organizations with a demonstrated interest in the undertaking due to the nature of their legal or economic relation to the undertaking or affected properties, or their concern with the undertaking's effects on historic properties (36 CFR §800.2).

The DOE would like to obtain information from you about historic properties, including those of cultural importance to your organization and its members, in or near the project area, and also to provide you an opportunity to identify your concerns about such properties, including the identification of potential mitigation measures. Your assistance in the identification and evaluation of historic properties will provide us the opportunity to resolve any adverse effects this undertaking may have on these properties. If available, we would welcome any information on the location and importance of archaeological sites, historic structures, and any other localities of interest to you that are known to occur in or near the proposed project area.

If you would like to participate in the Section 106 consultation process, please confirm within 30 calendar days of the date of this letter, by sending a letter accepting this invitation to act as a Section 106 consulting party for the proposed GNTL project, either as an attachment to an email at Juliea.Smith@hq.doe.gov, or by postal mail to 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20585. Please also include information for a primary point of contact for your organization (as applicable) in your acceptance letter. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at any time at the above email address or (202) 586-7668.

Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Kay Mack
Beltrami County Administrator
County Administration Building
701 Minnesota Ave. NW Suite 200
Bemidjii, MN 56601

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Kay Mack,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the Beltrami County Administrator is aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

The DOE is meeting its obligations under the NHPA concurrently with the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). DOE is a federal joint lead agency with the Minnesota Department of Commerce – Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DOC-EERA) acting as state joint lead agency per 40 CFR 1501.5(b) in the preparation of the subject EIS. Minnesota Power is also seeking authorizations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – St. Paul District (USACE), a cooperating agency to DOE in the preparation of the above mentioned EIS. DOE is also acting as the lead federal agency for purposes of compliance with Section 106 for the NEPA cooperating agencies (per 36 CFR § 800.2(a)(2)).

Minnesota Power applied to DOE for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an approximately 220-mile, overhead, single-circuit 500 kV AC transmission line between the Minnesota - Manitoba border crossing northwest of Roseau, Minnesota, and terminating at the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation near Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Minnesota Power's proposal also includes associated substation facilities and transmission system modifications at the Blackberry Substation site, and construction of a new 500 kV Series Compensation Station (a structure which will house the 500 kV series capacitor banks necessary for reliable operation and performance of the proposed transmission line). A new Blackberry 500 kV Substation would be required for the proposed Project and would be constructed adjacent to and east of the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation. The proposed GNTL project would carry hydropower generated by facilities operated by Manitoba Hydro, a Canadian electric utility.

DOE documented a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS in the *Federal Register* on June 27, 2014 (79 FR 36493), with an open public scoping period which ended on August 15, 2014. As a part of its scoping efforts, DOE held eight NEPA public scoping meetings from July 16 – July 24, 2014 (*see enclosed GNTL Regional Map)*. For more information on DOE's NEPA review and preparation of the EIS, please visit the DOE GNTL EIS website at http://www.GreatNorthernEIS.org. The

GNTL Presidential permit application (including an initial cultural resources study), NOI and the *Great Northern Transmission Line Scoping Summary Report* (November 2014), can be viewed on this website.

Under Section 106, the DOE must identify and consider the potential effects of its actions on historic properties through a collaborative framework (consultation) to identify historic properties potentially affected by the proposed project, assess its effects, and seek ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate any adverse effects to historic properties (36 CFR §800.1(a)). In addition to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), federally recognized Indian tribes, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), Section 106 consulting parties may include certain individuals and organizations with a demonstrated interest in the undertaking due to the nature of their legal or economic relation to the undertaking or affected properties, or their concern with the undertaking's effects on historic properties (36 CFR §800.2).

The DOE would like to obtain information from you about historic properties, including those of cultural importance to your organization and its members, in or near the project area, and also to provide you an opportunity to identify your concerns about such properties, including the identification of potential mitigation measures. Your assistance in the identification and evaluation of historic properties will provide us the opportunity to resolve any adverse effects this undertaking may have on these properties. If available, we would welcome any information on the location and importance of archaeological sites, historic structures, and any other localities of interest to you that are known to occur in or near the proposed project area.

If you would like to participate in the Section 106 consultation process, please confirm within 30 calendar days of the date of this letter, by sending a letter accepting this invitation to act as a Section 106 consulting party for the proposed GNTL project, either as an attachment to an email at Juliea.Smith@hq.doe.gov, or by postal mail to 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20585. Please also include information for a primary point of contact for your organization (as applicable) in your acceptance letter. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at any time at the above email address or (202) 586-7668.

Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Raymond Berger
Waskish Town Board
56090 Waskish Road NE
Washish, MN 56685

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Raymond Berger,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the Waskish Town Board is aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

The DOE is meeting its obligations under the NHPA concurrently with the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). DOE is a federal joint lead agency with the Minnesota Department of Commerce – Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DOC-EERA) acting as state joint lead agency per 40 CFR 1501.5(b) in the preparation of the subject EIS. Minnesota Power is also seeking authorizations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – St. Paul District (USACE), a cooperating agency to DOE in the preparation of the above mentioned EIS. DOE is also acting as the lead federal agency for purposes of compliance with Section 106 for the NEPA cooperating agencies (per 36 CFR § 800.2(a)(2)).

Minnesota Power applied to DOE for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an approximately 220-mile, overhead, single-circuit 500 kV AC transmission line between the Minnesota - Manitoba border crossing northwest of Roseau, Minnesota, and terminating at the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation near Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Minnesota Power's proposal also includes associated substation facilities and transmission system modifications at the Blackberry Substation site, and construction of a new 500 kV Series Compensation Station (a structure which will house the 500 kV series capacitor banks necessary for reliable operation and performance of the proposed transmission line). A new Blackberry 500 kV Substation would be required for the proposed Project and would be constructed adjacent to and east of the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation. The proposed GNTL project would carry hydropower generated by facilities operated by Manitoba Hydro, a Canadian electric utility.

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Great Northern Transmission Line Scoping Summary Report (November 2014), can be viewed on this website.

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The DOE would like to obtain information from you about historic properties, including those of cultural importance to your organization and its members, in or near the project area, and also to provide you an opportunity to identify your concerns about such properties, including the identification of potential mitigation measures. Your assistance in the identification and evaluation of historic properties will provide us the opportunity to resolve any adverse effects this undertaking may have on these properties. If available, we would welcome any information on the location and importance of archaeological sites, historic structures, and any other localities of interest to you that are known to occur in or near the proposed project area.

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Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Trish Klein
Itasca County Administrator
Administrative Service Office
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Trish Klein,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the Itasca County Administrator is aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

The DOE is meeting its obligations under the NHPA concurrently with the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). DOE is a federal joint lead agency with the Minnesota Department of Commerce – Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DOC-EERA) acting as state joint lead agency per 40 CFR 1501.5(b) in the preparation of the subject EIS. Minnesota Power is also seeking authorizations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – St. Paul District (USACE), a cooperating agency to DOE in the preparation of the above mentioned EIS. DOE is also acting as the lead federal agency for purposes of compliance with Section 106 for the NEPA cooperating agencies (per 36 CFR § 800.2(a)(2)).

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Under Section 106, the DOE must identify and consider the potential effects of its actions on historic properties through a collaborative framework (consultation) to identify historic properties potentially affected by the proposed project, assess its effects, and seek ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate any adverse effects to historic properties (36 CFR §800.1(a)). In addition to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), federally recognized Indian tribes, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), Section 106 consulting parties may include certain individuals and organizations with a demonstrated interest in the undertaking due to the nature of their legal or economic relation to the undertaking or affected properties, or their concern with the undertaking's effects on historic properties (36 CFR §800.2).

The DOE would like to obtain information from you about historic properties, including those of cultural importance to your organization and its members, in or near the project area, and also to provide you an opportunity to identify your concerns about such properties, including the identification of potential mitigation measures. Your assistance in the identification and evaluation of historic properties will provide us the opportunity to resolve any adverse effects this undertaking may have on these properties. If available, we would welcome any information on the location and importance of archaeological sites, historic structures, and any other localities of interest to you that are known to occur in or near the proposed project area.

If you would like to participate in the Section 106 consultation process, please confirm within 30 calendar days of the date of this letter, by sending a letter accepting this invitation to act as a Section 106 consulting party for the proposed GNTL project, either as an attachment to an email at Juliea.Smith@hq.doe.gov, or by postal mail to 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20585. Please also include information for a primary point of contact for your organization (as applicable) in your acceptance letter. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at any time at the above email address or (202) 586-7668.

Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Matt David
City of Effie
Effie Town Office
PO Box 129
Effie, MN 56639

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Matt David,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the City of Effie is aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

The DOE is meeting its obligations under the NHPA concurrently with the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). DOE is a federal joint lead agency with the Minnesota Department of Commerce – Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DOC-EERA) acting as state joint lead agency per 40 CFR 1501.5(b) in the preparation of the subject EIS. Minnesota Power is also seeking authorizations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – St. Paul District (USACE), a cooperating agency to DOE in the preparation of the above mentioned EIS. DOE is also acting as the lead federal agency for purposes of compliance with Section 106 for the NEPA cooperating agencies (per 36 CFR § 800.2(a)(2)).

Minnesota Power applied to DOE for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an approximately 220-mile, overhead, single-circuit 500 kV AC transmission line between the Minnesota - Manitoba border crossing northwest of Roseau, Minnesota, and terminating at the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation near Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Minnesota Power's proposal also includes associated substation facilities and transmission system modifications at the Blackberry Substation site, and construction of a new 500 kV Series Compensation Station (a structure which will house the 500 kV series capacitor banks necessary for reliable operation and performance of the proposed transmission line). A new Blackberry 500 kV Substation would be required for the proposed Project and would be constructed adjacent to and east of the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation. The proposed GNTL project would carry hydropower generated by facilities operated by Manitoba Hydro, a Canadian electric utility.

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Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Mike Troumbly
City of Taconite
Taconite Town Office
PO Box 137
Taconite, MN 55786

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Mike Troumbly,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the City of Taconite is aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

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Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

G. Andy Martin
Township of Ardenhurst
64185 Moose Bay Trail
Northome, MN 56661

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear G. Andy Martin,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the Township of Ardenhurst is aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

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Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

John Kannas
Township of Balsam
40874 County Road 336
Bovey, MN 55709

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear John Kannas,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the Township of Balsam is aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

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Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Justin Root
Township of Bigfork
100 South State Highway 38
Bigfork, MN 56628

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Justin Root,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the Township of Bigfork is aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

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Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
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U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Bruce Scofield
Township of Carpenter
11032 Scofield Road
Togo, MN 55723

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Bruce Scofield,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the Township of Carpenter is aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

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Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Sir or Madam,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the is aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

The DOE is meeting its obligations under the NHPA concurrently with the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). DOE is a federal joint lead agency with the Minnesota Department of Commerce – Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DOC-EERA) acting as state joint lead agency per 40 CFR 1501.5(b) in the preparation of the subject EIS. Minnesota Power is also seeking authorizations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – St. Paul District (USACE), a cooperating agency to DOE in the preparation of the above mentioned EIS. DOE is also acting as the lead federal agency for purposes of compliance with Section 106 for the NEPA cooperating agencies (per 36 CFR § 800.2(a)(2)).

Minnesota Power applied to DOE for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an approximately 220-mile, overhead, single-circuit 500 kV AC transmission line between the Minnesota - Manitoba border crossing northwest of Roseau, Minnesota, and terminating at the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation near Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Minnesota Power's proposal also includes associated substation facilities and transmission system modifications at the Blackberry Substation site, and construction of a new 500 kV Series Compensation Station (a structure which will house the 500 kV series capacitor banks necessary for reliable operation and performance of the proposed transmission line). A new Blackberry 500 kV Substation would be required for the proposed Project and would be constructed adjacent to and east of the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation. The proposed GNTL project would carry hydropower generated by facilities operated by Manitoba Hydro, a Canadian electric utility.

DOE documented a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS in the *Federal Register* on June 27, 2014 (79 FR 36493), with an open public scoping period which ended on August 15, 2014. As a part of its scoping efforts, DOE held eight NEPA public scoping meetings from July 16 – July 24, 2014 (*see enclosed GNTL Regional Map)*. For more information on DOE's NEPA review and preparation of the EIS, please visit the DOE GNTL EIS website at http://www.GreatNorthernEIS.org. The GNTL Presidential permit application (including an initial cultural resources study), NOI and the *Great Northern Transmission Line Scoping Summary Report* (November 2014), can be viewed on this website.

Under Section 106, the DOE must identify and consider the potential effects of its actions on historic properties through a collaborative framework (consultation) to identify historic properties potentially affected by the proposed project, assess its effects, and seek ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate any adverse effects to historic properties (36 CFR §800.1(a)). In addition to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), federally recognized Indian tribes, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), Section 106 consulting parties may include certain individuals and organizations with a demonstrated interest in the undertaking due to the nature of their legal or economic relation to the undertaking or affected properties, or their concern with the undertaking's effects on historic properties (36 CFR §800.2).

The DOE would like to obtain information from you about historic properties, including those of cultural importance to your organization and its members, in or near the project area, and also to provide you an opportunity to identify your concerns about such properties, including the identification of potential mitigation measures. Your assistance in the identification and evaluation of historic properties will provide us the opportunity to resolve any adverse effects this undertaking may have on these properties. If available, we would welcome any information on the location and importance of archaeological sites, historic structures, and any other localities of interest to you that are known to occur in or near the proposed project area.

If you would like to participate in the Section 106 consultation process, please confirm within 30 calendar days of the date of this letter, by sending a letter accepting this invitation to act as a Section 106 consulting party for the proposed GNTL project, either as an attachment to an email at Juliea.Smith@hq.doe.gov, or by postal mail to 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20585. Please also include information for a primary point of contact for your organization (as applicable) in your acceptance letter. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at any time at the above email address or (202) 586-7668.

Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

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Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Ted Winkelman
Township of Grattan
57124 County Road 31
Northome, MN 56661

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Ted Winkelman,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the Township of Grattan is aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

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Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
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Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Nicholas Matanich
Township of Greenway
PO Box 824
Calumet, MN 55716

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Nicholas Matanich,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the Township of Greenway is aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

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Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Township of Iron Range
33607 Scenic Hwy
Bovie, MN 55709

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Sir or Madam,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the Township of Iron Range is aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

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Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Frank Olson
Township of Lawrence
24867 County Road 57
Bovey, MN 55709

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Frank Olson,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the Township of Lawrence is aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

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Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Richard Curtis
Chairman, Township of Liberty
4315 Henry Lane NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Mr. Curtis,

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Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Little Sand Lake Association
P.O. Box 22262
St. Paul, MN 55122

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

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Minnesota Power applied to DOE for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an approximately 220-mile, overhead, single-circuit 500 kV AC transmission line between the Minnesota - Manitoba border crossing northwest of Roseau, Minnesota, and terminating at the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation near Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Minnesota Power's proposal also includes associated substation facilities and transmission system modifications at the Blackberry Substation site, and construction of a new 500 kV Series Compensation Station (a structure which will house the 500 kV series capacitor banks necessary for reliable operation and performance of the proposed transmission line). A new Blackberry 500 kV Substation would be required for the proposed Project and would be constructed adjacent to and east of the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation. The proposed GNTL project would carry hydropower generated by facilities operated by Manitoba Hydro, a Canadian electric utility.

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Great Northern Transmission Line Scoping Summary Report (November 2014), can be viewed on this website.

Under Section 106, the DOE must identify and consider the potential effects of its actions on historic properties through a collaborative framework (consultation) to identify historic properties potentially affected by the proposed project, assess its effects, and seek ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate any adverse effects to historic properties (36 CFR §800.1(a)). In addition to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), federally recognized Indian tribes, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), Section 106 consulting parties may include certain individuals and organizations with a demonstrated interest in the undertaking due to the nature of their legal or economic relation to the undertaking or affected properties, or their concern with the undertaking's effects on historic properties (36 CFR §800.2).

The DOE would like to obtain information from you about historic properties, including those of cultural importance to your organization and its members, in or near the project area, and also to provide you an opportunity to identify your concerns about such properties, including the identification of potential mitigation measures. Your assistance in the identification and evaluation of historic properties will provide us the opportunity to resolve any adverse effects this undertaking may have on these properties. If available, we would welcome any information on the location and importance of archaeological sites, historic structures, and any other localities of interest to you that are known to occur in or near the proposed project area.

If you would like to participate in the Section 106 consultation process, please confirm within 30 calendar days of the date of this letter, by sending a letter accepting this invitation to act as a Section 106 consulting party for the proposed GNTL project, either as an attachment to an email at Juliea.Smith@hq.doe.gov, or by postal mail to 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20585. Please also include information for a primary point of contact for your organization (as applicable) in your acceptance letter. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at any time at the above email address or (202) 586-7668.

Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Jeffery Ekholm
Township of Nashwauk
36666 Pleasantview Road
Nashwauk, MN 55769

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Jeffery Ekholm,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the Township of Nashwauk is aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

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Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Daniel Grundmeier
Township of Nore
64065 US Highway 71
Blackduck, MN 56630

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Daniel Grundmeier,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the Township of Nore is aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

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Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Sir or Madam,

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Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Rick Ferguson
Township of Pomroy
53176 County Road 31
Northome, MN 56661

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Rick Ferguson,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the Township of Pomroy is aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

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Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Pamela Perry
Township of Trout Lake
26439 Birch Drive
Bovey, MN 55709

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Pamela Perry,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the Township of Trout Lake is aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

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National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Teresa Briggs
Koochiching County Administration
Koochiching County Courthouse
715 4th Street
International Falls, MN 56649

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Teresa Briggs,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the Koochiching County is aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

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Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
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Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Larry Salmonson
City of Northome
Northome City Hall
12068 Main Street
Northome, MN 56661

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Larry Salmonson,

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Under Section 106, the DOE must identify and consider the potential effects of its actions on historic properties through a collaborative framework (consultation) to identify historic properties potentially affected by the proposed project, assess its effects, and seek ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate any adverse effects to historic properties (36 CFR §800.1(a)). In addition to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), federally recognized Indian tribes, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), Section 106 consulting parties may include certain individuals and organizations with a demonstrated interest in the undertaking due to the nature of their legal or economic relation to the undertaking or affected properties, or their concern with the undertaking's effects on historic properties (36 CFR §800.2).

The DOE would like to obtain information from you about historic properties, including those of cultural importance to your organization and its members, in or near the project area, and also to provide you an opportunity to identify your concerns about such properties, including the identification of potential mitigation measures. Your assistance in the identification and evaluation of historic properties will provide us the opportunity to resolve any adverse effects this undertaking may have on these properties. If available, we would welcome any information on the location and importance of archaeological sites, historic structures, and any other localities of interest to you that are known to occur in or near the proposed project area.

If you would like to participate in the Section 106 consultation process, please confirm within 30 calendar days of the date of this letter, by sending a letter accepting this invitation to act as a Section 106 consulting party for the proposed GNTL project, either as an attachment to an email at Juliea.Smith@hq.doe.gov, or by postal mail to 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20585. Please also include information for a primary point of contact for your organization (as applicable) in your acceptance letter. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at any time at the above email address or (202) 586-7668.

Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Patricia Beckel
Lake of the Woods County Board of Commissioners
Lake of the Woods County Government Center
206 8th Avenue SE
Baudette, MN 56623

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Patricia Beckel,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the Lake of the Woods County Board of Commissioners is aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

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Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
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U.S. Department of Energy

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- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

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Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

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Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Glenda Phillipe
Roseau County Board of Commissioners
Roseau County Courthouse
606 5th Avenue SW
Roseau, MN 56751

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Glenda Phillipe,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the Roseau County Board of Commissioners is aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

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Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Warren Lovejoy
Township of Cedarbend
28925 530th Avenue
Warroad, MN 56763

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Warren Lovejoy,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the Township of Cedarbend is aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

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Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Warren Stoe
Township of Dieter
28459 370th Street
Roseau, MN 56751

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Warren Stoe,

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If you would like to participate in the Section 106 consultation process, please confirm within 30 calendar days of the date of this letter, by sending a letter accepting this invitation to act as a Section 106 consulting party for the proposed GNTL project, either as an attachment to an email at Juliea.Smith@hq.doe.gov, or by postal mail to 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20585. Please also include information for a primary point of contact for your organization (as applicable) in your acceptance letter. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at any time at the above email address or (202) 586-7668.

Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Greg Halvorson
Township of Jadis
33911 State Highway 310
Roseau, MN 56751

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Greg Halvorson,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the Township of Jadis is aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

The DOE is meeting its obligations under the NHPA concurrently with the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). DOE is a federal joint lead agency with the Minnesota Department of Commerce – Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DOC-EERA) acting as state joint lead agency per 40 CFR 1501.5(b) in the preparation of the subject EIS. Minnesota Power is also seeking authorizations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – St. Paul District (USACE), a cooperating agency to DOE in the preparation of the above mentioned EIS. DOE is also acting as the lead federal agency for purposes of compliance with Section 106 for the NEPA cooperating agencies (per 36 CFR § 800.2(a)(2)).

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Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Greg Boynton
Township of Lake
56264 County Road 137
Warroad, MN 56763

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Greg Boynton,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the Township of Lake is aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

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Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Rose Ann Lee
Township of Pohlitz
25489 County Road 10
Badger, MN 56714

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Rose Ann Lee,

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Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

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Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Jim Atkinson
Minnesota Power
30 West Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Jim Atkinson,

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us as the project proponent as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

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The DOE would like to obtain information from you about historic properties, including those of cultural importance to your organization and its members, in or near the project area, and also to provide you an opportunity to identify your concerns about such properties, including the identification of potential mitigation measures. Your assistance in the identification and evaluation of historic properties will provide us the opportunity to resolve any adverse effects this undertaking may have on these properties. If available, we would welcome any information on the location and importance of archaeological sites, historic structures, and any other localities of interest to you that are known to occur in or near the proposed project area.

If you would like to participate in the Section 106 consultation process, please confirm within 30 calendar days of the date of this letter, by sending a letter accepting this invitation to act as a Section 106 consulting party for the proposed GNTL project, either as an attachment to an email at Juliea.Smith@hq.doe.gov, or by postal mail to 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20585. Please also include information for a primary point of contact for your organization (as applicable) in your acceptance letter. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at any time at the above email address or (202) 586-7668.

Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Annamarie Hill
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (St. Paul Office)
161 Saint Anthony Ave., Suite 919
St. Paul, MN 55103

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Annamarie Hill,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (St. Paul Office) is aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

The DOE is meeting its obligations under the NHPA concurrently with the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). DOE is a federal joint lead agency with the Minnesota Department of Commerce – Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DOC-EERA) acting as state joint lead agency per 40 CFR 1501.5(b) in the preparation of the subject EIS. Minnesota Power is also seeking authorizations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – St. Paul District (USACE), a cooperating agency to DOE in the preparation of the above mentioned EIS. DOE is also acting as the lead federal agency for purposes of compliance with Section 106 for the NEPA cooperating agencies (per 36 CFR § 800.2(a)(2)).

Minnesota Power applied to DOE for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an approximately 220-mile, overhead, single-circuit 500 kV AC transmission line between the Minnesota - Manitoba border crossing northwest of Roseau, Minnesota, and terminating at the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation near Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Minnesota Power's proposal also includes associated substation facilities and transmission system modifications at the Blackberry Substation site, and construction of a new 500 kV Series Compensation Station (a structure which will house the 500 kV series capacitor banks necessary for reliable operation and performance of the proposed transmission line). A new Blackberry 500 kV Substation would be required for the proposed Project and would be constructed adjacent to and east of the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation. The proposed GNTL project would carry hydropower generated by facilities operated by Manitoba Hydro, a Canadian electric utility.

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Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Jim Jones
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (Bemidji Office)
3801 Bemidji Avenue NW, Suite 5
Bemidji, MN 56601

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Jim Jones,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (Bemidji Office) is aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

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Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Linda Lemmer
Beltrami County Administrator
130 Minnesota Avenue SW
Bemidjii, MN 56601

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Linda Lemmer,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that Beltrami County is aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

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Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Lilah Crowe
Itasca County Historical Society
201 North Pokegama Avenue
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Lilah Crowe,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the Itasca County Historical Society is aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

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Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Edgar Oerichbauer
Koochiching County Historical Society
214 6th Avenue
International Falls, MN 56649

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Edgar Oerichbauer,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the Koochiching County Historical Society is aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

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Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Marlys Hearst
Lake of the Woods County Historical Society
206 8th Avenue SE, Suite 150
119 8th Avenue SE
Baudette, MN 56623

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Marlys Hearst,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the Lake of the Woods County Historical Society is aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

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The DOE would like to obtain information from you about historic properties, including those of cultural importance to your organization and its members, in or near the project area, and also to provide you an opportunity to identify your concerns about such properties, including the identification of potential mitigation measures. Your assistance in the identification and evaluation of historic properties will provide us the opportunity to resolve any adverse effects this undertaking may have on these properties. If available, we would welcome any information on the location and importance of archaeological sites, historic structures, and any other localities of interest to you that are known to occur in or near the proposed project area.

If you would like to participate in the Section 106 consultation process, please confirm within 30 calendar days of the date of this letter, by sending a letter accepting this invitation to act as a Section 106 consulting party for the proposed GNTL project, either as an attachment to an email at Juliea.Smith@hq.doe.gov, or by postal mail to 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20585. Please also include information for a primary point of contact for your organization (as applicable) in your acceptance letter. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at any time at the above email address or (202) 586-7668.

Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Britt Dahl
Roseau County Historical Society
121 Center Street East
Suite 101
Roseau, MN 56751

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Britt Dahl,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the Roseau County Historical Society is aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

The DOE is meeting its obligations under the NHPA concurrently with the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). DOE is a federal joint lead agency with the Minnesota Department of Commerce – Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DOC-EERA) acting as state joint lead agency per 40 CFR 1501.5(b) in the preparation of the subject EIS. Minnesota Power is also seeking authorizations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – St. Paul District (USACE), a cooperating agency to DOE in the preparation of the above mentioned EIS. DOE is also acting as the lead federal agency for purposes of compliance with Section 106 for the NEPA cooperating agencies (per 36 CFR § 800.2(a)(2)).

Minnesota Power applied to DOE for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an approximately 220-mile, overhead, single-circuit 500 kV AC transmission line between the Minnesota - Manitoba border crossing northwest of Roseau, Minnesota, and terminating at the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation near Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Minnesota Power's proposal also includes associated substation facilities and transmission system modifications at the Blackberry Substation site, and construction of a new 500 kV Series Compensation Station (a structure which will house the 500 kV series capacitor banks necessary for reliable operation and performance of the proposed transmission line). A new Blackberry 500 kV Substation would be required for the proposed Project and would be constructed adjacent to and east of the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation. The proposed GNTL project would carry hydropower generated by facilities operated by Manitoba Hydro, a Canadian electric utility.

DOE documented a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS in the *Federal Register* on June 27, 2014 (79 FR 36493), with an open public scoping period which ended on August 15, 2014. As a part of its scoping efforts, DOE held eight NEPA public scoping meetings from July 16 – July 24, 2014 (*see enclosed GNTL Regional Map)*. For more information on DOE's NEPA review and preparation of the EIS, please visit the DOE GNTL EIS website at http://www.GreatNorthernEIS.org. The

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The DOE would like to obtain information from you about historic properties, including those of cultural importance to your organization and its members, in or near the project area, and also to provide you an opportunity to identify your concerns about such properties, including the identification of potential mitigation measures. Your assistance in the identification and evaluation of historic properties will provide us the opportunity to resolve any adverse effects this undertaking may have on these properties. If available, we would welcome any information on the location and importance of archaeological sites, historic structures, and any other localities of interest to you that are known to occur in or near the proposed project area.

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Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Eva Stengal
12956 Twin Oaks Road NE
Saum, MN 56650

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Eva Stengal,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that you are aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

The DOE is meeting its obligations under the NHPA concurrently with the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). DOE is a federal joint lead agency with the Minnesota Department of Commerce – Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DOC-EERA) acting as state joint lead agency per 40 CFR 1501.5(b) in the preparation of the subject EIS. Minnesota Power is also seeking authorizations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – St. Paul District (USACE), a cooperating agency to DOE in the preparation of the above mentioned EIS. DOE is also acting as the lead federal agency for purposes of compliance with Section 106 for the NEPA cooperating agencies (per 36 CFR § 800.2(a)(2)).

Minnesota Power applied to DOE for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an approximately 220-mile, overhead, single-circuit 500 kV AC transmission line between the Minnesota - Manitoba border crossing northwest of Roseau, Minnesota, and terminating at the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation near Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Minnesota Power's proposal also includes associated substation facilities and transmission system modifications at the Blackberry Substation site, and construction of a new 500 kV Series Compensation Station (a structure which will house the 500 kV series capacitor banks necessary for reliable operation and performance of the proposed transmission line). A new Blackberry 500 kV Substation would be required for the proposed Project and would be constructed adjacent to and east of the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation. The proposed GNTL project would carry hydropower generated by facilities operated by Manitoba Hydro, a Canadian electric utility.

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Under Section 106, the DOE must identify and consider the potential effects of its actions on historic properties through a collaborative framework (consultation) to identify historic properties potentially affected by the proposed project, assess its effects, and seek ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate any adverse effects to historic properties (36 CFR §800.1(a)). In addition to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), federally recognized Indian tribes, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), Section 106 consulting parties may include certain individuals and organizations with a demonstrated interest in the undertaking due to the nature of their legal or economic relation to the undertaking or affected properties, or their concern with the undertaking's effects on historic properties (36 CFR §800.2).

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Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Ruth Stukel
202 Miane Avenue NE
Box 688
Warroad, MN 56763

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Ruth Stukel,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that you are aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

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If you would like to participate in the Section 106 consultation process, please confirm within 30 calendar days of the date of this letter, by sending a letter accepting this invitation to act as a Section 106 consulting party for the proposed GNTL project, either as an attachment to an email at Juliea.Smith@hq.doe.gov, or by postal mail to 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20585. Please also include information for a primary point of contact for your organization (as applicable) in your acceptance letter. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at any time at the above email address or (202) 586-7668.

Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Patricia Maus
Archives and Special Collections
University of Minnesota Duluth Library
416 Library Drive
Duluth, MN 55812

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Patricia Maus,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the University of Minnesota Duluth Library is aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

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Minnesota Power applied to DOE for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an approximately 220-mile, overhead, single-circuit 500 kV AC transmission line between the Minnesota - Manitoba border crossing northwest of Roseau, Minnesota, and terminating at the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation near Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Minnesota Power's proposal also includes associated substation facilities and transmission system modifications at the Blackberry Substation site, and construction of a new 500 kV Series Compensation Station (a structure which will house the 500 kV series capacitor banks necessary for reliable operation and performance of the proposed transmission line). A new Blackberry 500 kV Substation would be required for the proposed Project and would be constructed adjacent to and east of the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation. The proposed GNTL project would carry hydropower generated by facilities operated by Manitoba Hydro, a Canadian electric utility.

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Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Christopher Welter
1005 Discovery Drive
Chisholm, MN 55719

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Christopher Welter,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that you are aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

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Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 14, 2015

Bill Storm
Minnesota Department of Commerce
Energy Environmental Review and Analysis
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
Saint Paul, MN 55101

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Bill Storm,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the MN Department of Commerceis aware that the Department of Energy (DOE) is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties." The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

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As you are aware, Minnesota Power applied to DOE for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an approximately 220-mile, overhead, single-circuit 500 kV AC transmission line between the Minnesota - Manitoba border crossing northwest of Roseau, Minnesota, and terminating at the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation near Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Minnesota Power's proposal also includes associated substation facilities and transmission system modifications at the Blackberry Substation site, and construction of a new 500 kV Series Compensation Station (a structure which will house the 500 kV series capacitor banks necessary for reliable operation and performance of the proposed transmission line). A new Blackberry 500 kV Substation would be required for the proposed Project and would be constructed adjacent to and east of the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation.

For more information on DOE's NEPA review and preparation of the EIS, please visit the DOE GNTL EIS website at http://www.GreatNorthernEIS.org. Future information from the DOE, relevant to the Section 106 consultation (once underway), will also be posted to this website.

Under Section 106, the DOE must identify and consider the potential effects of its actions on historic properties through a collaborative framework (consultation) to identify historic properties potentially affected by the proposed project, assess its effects, and seek ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate any adverse effects to historic properties (36 CFR §800.1(a)). In addition to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), federally recognized Indian tribes, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), Section 106 consulting parties may include certain individuals and organizations with a demonstrated interest in the undertaking due to the nature of their legal or economic relation to the

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DOE would like to obtain information from you about historic properties, including those of cultural importance to your agency and its constituents, in or near the project area, and also to provide you an opportunity to identify your concerns about such properties, including the identification of potential mitigation measures. Your assistance in the identification and evaluation of historic properties will provide us the opportunity to resolve any adverse effects this undertaking may have on these properties. If available, we would welcome any information on the location and importance of archaeological sites, historic structures, and any other localities of interest to you that are known to occur in or near the proposed project area.

If you would like to participate in the Section 106 consultation process as a Section 106 consulting party, please confirm within 30 calendar days of the date of this letter, by sending a letter accepting this invitation that identifies a primary point of contact for your agency, either as an attachment to an email at Juliea.Smith@hq.doe.gov, or by postal mail to 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20585. If no response is received within the time specified, the DOE will remove your agency from the Section 106 consulting party list for this project.

If you have questions regarding the DOE's on-going review of the proposed GNTL project, or your participation as a Section 106 consulting party, please contact me at any time at the above email address or (202) 586-7668.

Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Doug Gasek
75 W 5th Street
416 Landmark Center
St. Paul, MN 55102

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Doug Gasek,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that you are aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

The DOE is meeting its obligations under the NHPA concurrently with the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). DOE is a federal joint lead agency with the Minnesota Department of Commerce – Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DOC-EERA) acting as state joint lead agency per 40 CFR 1501.5(b) in the preparation of the subject EIS. Minnesota Power is also seeking authorizations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – St. Paul District (USACE), a cooperating agency to DOE in the preparation of the above mentioned EIS. DOE is also acting as the lead federal agency for purposes of compliance with Section 106 for the NEPA cooperating agencies (per 36 CFR § 800.2(a)(2)).

Minnesota Power applied to DOE for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an approximately 220-mile, overhead, single-circuit 500 kV AC transmission line between the Minnesota - Manitoba border crossing northwest of Roseau, Minnesota, and terminating at the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation near Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Minnesota Power's proposal also includes associated substation facilities and transmission system modifications at the Blackberry Substation site, and construction of a new 500 kV Series Compensation Station (a structure which will house the 500 kV series capacitor banks necessary for reliable operation and performance of the proposed transmission line). A new Blackberry 500 kV Substation would be required for the proposed Project and would be constructed adjacent to and east of the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation. The proposed GNTL project would carry hydropower generated by facilities operated by Manitoba Hydro, a Canadian electric utility.

DOE documented a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS in the *Federal Register* on June 27, 2014 (79 FR 36493), with an open public scoping period which ended on August 15, 2014. As a part of its scoping efforts, DOE held eight NEPA public scoping meetings from July 16 – July 24, 2014 (*see enclosed GNTL Regional Map)*. For more information on DOE's NEPA review and preparation of the EIS, please visit the DOE GNTL EIS website at http://www.GreatNorthernEIS.org. The GNTL Presidential permit application (including an initial cultural resources study), NOI and the

Great Northern Transmission Line Scoping Summary Report (November 2014), can be viewed on this website.

Under Section 106, the DOE must identify and consider the potential effects of its actions on historic properties through a collaborative framework (consultation) to identify historic properties potentially affected by the proposed project, assess its effects, and seek ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate any adverse effects to historic properties (36 CFR §800.1(a)). In addition to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), federally recognized Indian tribes, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), Section 106 consulting parties may include certain individuals and organizations with a demonstrated interest in the undertaking due to the nature of their legal or economic relation to the undertaking or affected properties, or their concern with the undertaking's effects on historic properties (36 CFR §800.2).

The DOE would like to obtain information from you about historic properties, including those of cultural importance to your organization and its members, in or near the project area, and also to provide you an opportunity to identify your concerns about such properties, including the identification of potential mitigation measures. Your assistance in the identification and evaluation of historic properties will provide us the opportunity to resolve any adverse effects this undertaking may have on these properties. If available, we would welcome any information on the location and importance of archaeological sites, historic structures, and any other localities of interest to you that are known to occur in or near the proposed project area.

If you would like to participate in the Section 106 consultation process, please confirm within 30 calendar days of the date of this letter, by sending a letter accepting this invitation to act as a Section 106 consulting party for the proposed GNTL project, either as an attachment to an email at Juliea.Smith@hq.doe.gov, or by postal mail to 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20585. Please also include information for a primary point of contact for your organization (as applicable) in your acceptance letter. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at any time at the above email address or (202) 586-7668.

Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2015

Elizabeth Merritt
National Trust for Historic Preservation
1785 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20036-2117

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Elizabeth Merritt,

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the National Trust for Historic Preservation is aware that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us, as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

The DOE is meeting its obligations under the NHPA concurrently with the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). DOE is a federal joint lead agency with the Minnesota Department of Commerce – Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DOC-EERA) acting as state joint lead agency per 40 CFR 1501.5(b) in the preparation of the subject EIS. Minnesota Power is also seeking authorizations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – St. Paul District (USACE), a cooperating agency to DOE in the preparation of the above mentioned EIS. DOE is also acting as the lead federal agency for purposes of compliance with Section 106 for the NEPA cooperating agencies (per 36 CFR § 800.2(a)(2)).

Minnesota Power applied to DOE for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an approximately 220-mile, overhead, single-circuit 500 kV AC transmission line between the Minnesota - Manitoba border crossing northwest of Roseau, Minnesota, and terminating at the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation near Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Minnesota Power's proposal also includes associated substation facilities and transmission system modifications at the Blackberry Substation site, and construction of a new 500 kV Series Compensation Station (a structure which will house the 500 kV series capacitor banks necessary for reliable operation and performance of the proposed transmission line). A new Blackberry 500 kV Substation would be required for the proposed Project and would be constructed adjacent to and east of the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation. The proposed GNTL project would carry hydropower generated by facilities operated by Manitoba Hydro, a Canadian electric utility.

DOE documented a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS in the *Federal Register* on June 27, 2014 (79 FR 36493), with an open public scoping period which ended on August 15, 2014. As a part of its scoping efforts, DOE held eight NEPA public scoping meetings from July 16 – July 24, 2014 (*see enclosed GNTL Regional Map)*. For more information on DOE's NEPA review and preparation of the EIS, please visit the DOE GNTL EIS website at http://www.GreatNorthernEIS.org. The GNTL Presidential permit application (including an initial cultural resources study), NOI and the

Great Northern Transmission Line Scoping Summary Report (November 2014), can be viewed on this website.

Under Section 106, the DOE must identify and consider the potential effects of its actions on historic properties through a collaborative framework (consultation) to identify historic properties potentially affected by the proposed project, assess its effects, and seek ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate any adverse effects to historic properties (36 CFR §800.1(a)). In addition to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), federally recognized Indian tribes, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), Section 106 consulting parties may include certain individuals and organizations with a demonstrated interest in the undertaking due to the nature of their legal or economic relation to the undertaking or affected properties, or their concern with the undertaking's effects on historic properties (36 CFR §800.2).

The DOE would like to obtain information from you about historic properties, including those of cultural importance to your organization and its members, in or near the project area, and also to provide you an opportunity to identify your concerns about such properties, including the identification of potential mitigation measures. Your assistance in the identification and evaluation of historic properties will provide us the opportunity to resolve any adverse effects this undertaking may have on these properties. If available, we would welcome any information on the location and importance of archaeological sites, historic structures, and any other localities of interest to you that are known to occur in or near the proposed project area.

If you would like to participate in the Section 106 consultation process, please confirm within 30 calendar days of the date of this letter, by sending a letter accepting this invitation to act as a Section 106 consulting party for the proposed GNTL project, either as an attachment to an email at Juliea.Smith@hq.doe.gov, or by postal mail to 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20585. Please also include information for a primary point of contact for your organization (as applicable) in your acceptance letter. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at any time at the above email address or (202) 586-7668.

Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from GNTL Scoping Summary Report)

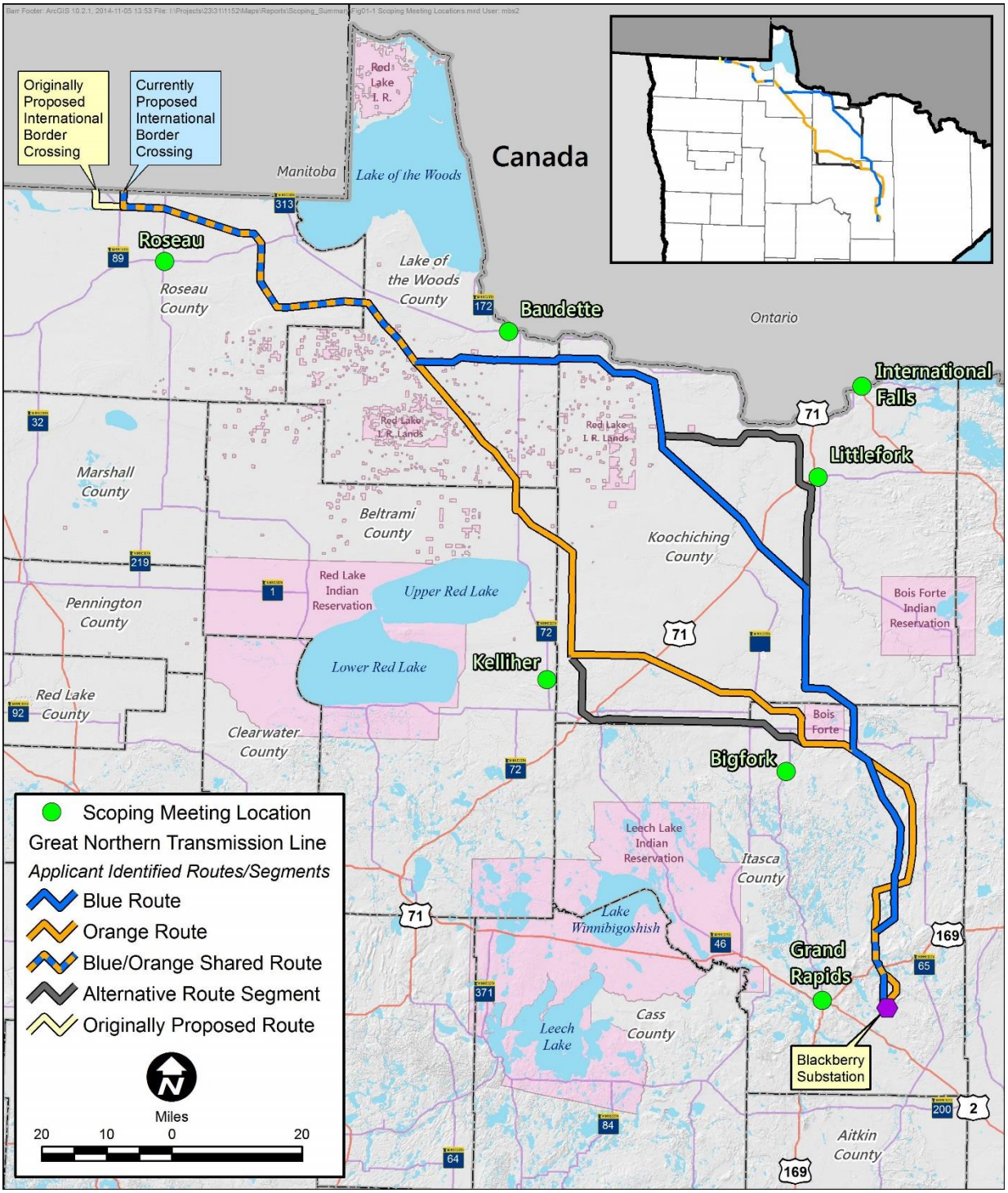

Figure 1-1 Project Regional Map

P-157

Kay L. Mack
BELTRAMI COUNTY
ADMINISTRATOR
701 Minnesota Ave NW, STE 200
Bemidji, MN 56601-3178
Telephone: 218-333-4109
FAX: 218-333-4246

Jan 21, 2015

Julie Ann Smith
NEPA Document Manager

Dear Ms. Smith:

Beltrami County will act as a Section 106 consulting party for the proposed GNTL project. It is only the orange route that would impact a small portion of NE Beltrami County.

The contact person for this would be:

Kay Mack, Administrator
701 Minnesota Ave NW, Ste 200
Bemidji, MN 56601

kay.mack@co.beltrami.mn.us

While I do not think that there will be much historical or cultural impacts to Beltrami County, I do appreciate your including us.

Sincerely,

Kay Mack

Kay L. Mack

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 14, 2015

Jim Atkinson
Minnesota Power
30 West Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802

SUBJECT: Invitation to Consult on the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear Jim Atkinson,

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the DOE is initiating the Section 106 consultation process on the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project to determine any potential adverse effects on historic properties. The DOE invites you to consult with us as the an applicant for a Federal permit as provided for by Section 106 and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR § 800.2(b)(4).

The DOE is meeting its obligations under the NHPA concurrently with the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Because Minnesota Power is seeking authorizations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – St. Paul District (USACE) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, cooperating agencies to DOE in the preparation of the above mentioned EIS, DOE is also acting as the lead federal agency for purposes of compliance with Section 106 for the NEPA cooperating agencies (per 36 CFR § 800.2(a)(2)).

Under Section 106, the DOE must identify and consider the potential effects of its actions on historic properties through a collaborative framework (consultation) to identify historic properties potentially affected by the proposed project, assess its effects, and seek ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate any adverse effects to historic properties (36 CFR §800.1(a)). In addition to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), federally recognized Indian tribes, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), the applicant for Federal assistance, permits licenses or other approvals, Section 106 consulting parties may include certain individuals and organizations with a demonstrated interest in the undertaking due to the nature of their legal or economic relation to the undertaking or affected properties, or their concern with the undertaking's effects on historic properties (36 CFR §800.2). General information about the Section 106 process is available through the ACHP website at www.achp.org.

In order to properly document Minnesota Power's participation in the Section 106 process, please confirm within 30 calendar days of the date of this letter, please send a

letter accepting this invitation to act as a Section 106 consulting party for the proposed GNTL project, either as an attachment to an email at Juliea.Smith@hq.doe.gov, or by postal mail to 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20585. Please also include information for a primary point of contact for Minnesota Power in Section 106 consultations in your acceptance letter.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at any time at the above email address or (202) 586-7668.

Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

30 west superior street / duluth, minnesota 55802-2093 / fax: 218-723-3955 /www.allete.com

David R. Moeller
Senior Attorney
218-723-3963
dmoeller@allete.com

February 3, 2015

VIA E-MAIL and U.S. MAIL
Juliea Smith
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washingston, D.C., 20585

Re: Minnesota Power Acceptance Letter for Section 106 Consultation

Dear Ms. Smith,

Minnesota Power is in receipt of the United States Department of Energy's ("DOE") January 14, 2015 letter inviting Minnesota Power to consult on the Section 106 process for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project. As the applicant, Minnesota Power accepts this invitation and looks forward to continuing the active engagement with DOE and other stakeholders for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project. Please consider Jim Atkinson the primary project contact and myself, David Moeller, the second project contact.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Yours truly,

David R. Moeller

DRM:sr
Cc: Jim Atkinson

Preserving America's Heritage

July 25, 2014

Ms. Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
National Electricity Delivery Division
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Ref: *Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project*
State of Minnesota

Dear Dr. Smith:

On July 14, 2014, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) received notice from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that it intends to develop an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project. As we understand, the project consists of the issuance of a permit to Minnesota Power (applicant) for the construction, operation, maintenance and connection of approximately 220 miles of overhead transmission lines. DOE has sent this notice to the ACHP to ensure that we are aware of the project and invite us to participate in the ongoing environmental analysis.

While we appreciate this notice, it is unclear how it relates to DOE's compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations, "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR Part 800). Since the notice only references compliance with NEPA, we request that DOE clarify its intent to coordinate the NEPA and NHPA reviews. If DOE intends to use the substitution process contained within our regulations at 36 CFR Part 800.8(c), then DOE will need to notify the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) as well as the ACHP of this decision. If DOE intends to coordinate its Section 106 review with its NEPA review, then we request that DOE make the appropriate findings of effect for this undertaking in consultation with the SHPO and other consulting parties. Should DOE make a finding of adverse effect, please notify the ACHP in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.11(e).

To assist DOE in making its decision regarding coordination or substitution of NEPA and NHPA, we refer you to the handbook we jointly published with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) in March 2013. We suggest you consider using the checklist contained within the handbook as it outlines the questions DOE should contemplate when determining how it will best comply with Section 106.

We look forward to receiving DOE's response. If you have any questions about our comments, please contact Ms. Jaime Loichinger at (202) 517-0219 or via email at jloichinger@achp.gov.

Sincerely,

Charlene Dwin Vaughn, AICP
Assistant Director
Office of Federal Agency Programs
Federal Permitting, Licensing and Assistance Section

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

November 22, 2014

Charlene Dwin Vaughn, AICP
Assistant Director, Office of Federal Agency Programs
Federal Permitting, Licensing and Assistance Section
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
401 F Street NW, Suite 308
Washington, D.C. 20001-2637

SUBJECT: Section 106 Consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) for the proposed *Great Northern Transmission Line Project* (DOE/EIS-0499)

Dear Ms. Vaughn:

This letter is in response to your letter of July 25, 2014, to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE or the Department) regarding DOE's compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations, "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR Part 800). The intent of this correspondence is to respond directly to the questions you pose in your letter as well as to update you as to the status of DOE's notification to and request for concurrence for initiation of the Section 106 consultation process with the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). In addition, DOE is providing notification to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) of its intent to utilize a programmatic agreement to properly comply with the requirements of the NHPA implementing regulations identified above.

As you are aware, DOE is in the process of preparing its draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project in Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Koochiching, and Itasca Counties in northern Minnesota. DOE is preparing its draft EIS pursuant to its obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate environmental impacts of providing a Presidential permit to Minnesota Power for the construction, operation, maintenance, and connection of the portion of the transmission line within the United States. The proposed DOE federal action is the potential grant of a Presidential permit for the international border crossing requested by Minnesota Power as part of its proposal. This action has been determined by DOE to be an undertaking that has potential to cause adverse effects on historic properties as defined in implementing regulations at 36 CFR §800.16(y).

The Department is coordinating its compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA with its review under NEPA according to the process set out in 36 CFR §800.3(b). DOE documented a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS in the *Federal Register* on June 27, 2014 (79 FR 36493), which specifically indicated that cultural and historic resources are being analyzed as part of the federal environmental review. Per standing policy, DOE will continue to explicitly solicit information from the public (via the NEPA process) regarding cultural and historic resources through its Notice of Availability of its draft EIS when

published in the *Federal Register*. DOE will also make cultural resources reports and information publicly available on the GNTL project EIS website, as appropriate.

On November 21, 2014, DOE sent a letter to the MN SHPO requesting formal initiation of the Section 106 consultation process for the proposed GNTL project. A copy of that letter is enclosed for your information. If you would also like a copy of the supporting materials referenced in the initiation request letter to MN SHPO, the Department will gladly provide those to you upon request.

Because DOE is currently considering several alternatives under NEPA for the proposed GNTL project that are large linear tracts of land and the resultant complexity of its analysis, DOE has determined that a phased approach for Section 106 identification and evaluation efforts in accordance with the process set forth in 36 CFR §800.4(b)(2) is appropriate. The Department, therefore, proposes the execution of a programmatic agreement (PA) pursuant to 36 CFR §800.14(b) in order to properly defer final identification and evaluation of historic properties under Section 106. A programmatic agreement for the GNTL project would delineate the process by which the likely presence of historic properties within the APE for each alternative under consideration through background research, consultation, with an appropriate level of field investigation to be performed, while taking into consideration the magnitude of the undertaking and its likely effects, and the views of the Council, SHPO, THPO(s), Indian Tribes, and other consulting parties.

In close, DOE appreciates your response to our July 14, 2014, notification letter regarding the Great Northern Transmission Line Project EIS (DOE/EIS-0499) and associated advice contained therein. The Department would appreciate any information, further guidance, and/or concurrence in writing on whether its proposal for a phased approach to identification and evaluation through the execution of a PA is appropriate in this case so that DOE may properly document its compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA in its administrative record.

I very much look forward to working with you and your staff in the future and appreciate your assistance in this effort. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at any time at Juliea.Smith@hq.doe.gov or (202) 586-7668.

Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enc: DOE Section 106 Initiation Request Letter to MN SHPO (November 21, 2014)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

November 21, 2014

Mr. Stephen Elliot
State Historic Preservation Officer
Minnesota Historical Society
345 Kellogg Boulevard West
St. Paul, MN 55102-1906

SUBJECT: Initiation Request for Section 106 Consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) for the proposed *Great Northern Transmission Line Project* (DOE/EIS-0499)

Dear Mr. Elliot:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE or the Department) is in the process of preparing its draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project in Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Koochiching, and Itasca Counties in northern Minnesota. DOE is preparing its draft EIS pursuant to its obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate environmental impacts of providing a Presidential permit to Minnesota Power for the construction, operation, maintenance, and connection of the portion of the transmission line within the United States. The proposed DOE federal action is the potential grant of a Presidential permit for the international border crossing requested by Minnesota Power as part of its proposal. This action has been determined by DOE to be an undertaking that has potential to cause adverse effects on historic properties per the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's (ACHP's) NHPA implementing regulations at 36 CFR §800.3(a).

The Department is coordinating its compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA with its review under NEPA according to the process set out in 36 CFR §800.3(b). Per standing policy, DOE will explicitly solicit information from the public (via the NEPA process) regarding cultural and historic resources through its Notice of Availability of its draft EIS when published in the *Federal Register*. DOE will also make cultural resources reports and information publicly available on the GNTL project EIS website, as appropriate.

In this letter DOE provides you with a summary of the actions that the Department is taking to comply with Section 106 of the NHPA, including project background, efforts to identify historic properties potentially affected by the proposed GNTL project to date, a preliminary list of potentially affected historic properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Properties (NRHP), potential consulting parties. This letter also discusses DOE's initial proposal for direct and indirect Areas of Potential Effect (APEs) to be used in the Department's proposed phased approach to identification and evaluation of historic resources under Section 106. Furthermore, DOE is sending this letter as its official request for initiation of Section 106 consultation under NHPA with the Minnesota State

Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and would appreciate your written reply within 30-days or as soon as possible.

Background

As you are aware, DOE sent a NEPA review information letter to your office on July 10, 2014, indicating that Minnesota Power applied to DOE for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an approximately 220-mile, overhead, single-circuit 500 kV AC transmission line between the Minnesota - Manitoba border crossing northwest of Roseau, Minnesota, and terminating at the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation near Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Minnesota Power's proposal also includes associated substation facilities and transmission system modifications at the Blackberry Substation site, and construction of a new 500 kV Series Compensation Station (a structure which will house the 500 kV series capacitor banks necessary for reliable operation and performance of the proposed transmission line). A new Blackberry 500 kV Substation would be required for the proposed Project and would be constructed adjacent to and east of the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation. The proposed GNTL project would carry hydropower generated by facilities operated by Manitoba Hydro, a Canadian electric utility.

DOE is a federal joint lead agency with the Minnesota Department of Commerce – Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DOC-EERA) acting as state joint lead agency per 40 CFR 1501.5(b) in the preparation of the subject EIS. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District (USACE), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, will be cooperating agencies to DOE and DOC-EERA in the preparation of this EIS.

DOE is the lead federal agency for purposes of compliance with Section 106, in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.2(a)(2), and will address the potential effects of the above identified NEPA cooperating agencies' (namely USACE's) proposed actions on historic and archaeological resources.

DOE documented a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS in the *Federal Register* on June 27, 2014 (79 FR 36493), with an open public scoping period which ended on August 15, 2014. The NOI specifically indicated that cultural and historic resources are being analyzed as part of the federal environmental review. While the proposed federal action (and undertaking) is the potential grant of a Presidential permit by DOE for the international border crossing, the proposed construction, operation, maintenance, and connection of the portion of the transmission line within the United States is a connected action to DOE's proposed action under NEPA. DOE is therefore analyzing the potential environmental impacts from the proposed federal action and the connected action in the EIS. For the purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA, DOE is considering the potential for adverse effects to cultural and historic properties for the proposed border crossing and entire length of the proposed transmission line.

Consulting Parties

In accordance with 36 CFR §800.2, DOE has identified potential consulting parties, including ACHP, SHPO, THPOs, the Applicant, local government representatives, other Native American entities, local historical societies, heritage preservation commissions, state

agencies, sites and museums, state-wide groups, national groups, and private individuals with a for the purposes of Section 106 consultation under NHPA. A list of consulting parties identified by DOE is enclosed with this letter for your review and input (*see enclosed Draft List of GNTL Section 106 Consulting Parties)*. DOE requests that you and your staff provide the Department with feedback regarding any other potential Section 106 consulting parties for the GNTL project that may not have yet been identified or that should be included in this list of potential consulting parties. Your office's assistance in this matter at this time is greatly appreciated.

Tribal Outreach and Consultation

As proposed, the GNTL project does not directly involve tribal reservation lands or require a right-of-way grant or special use grant from tribes, however, the proposal is located in an area that was inhabited by numerous American Indians before Euro-American settlement. As a result the proposal has the potential to impact tribes with current or historic interest in the project area.

In accordance with its responsibilities under Section 106, NEPA, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (16 U.S.C. 1996), the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (16 U.S.C. 470aa-mm), the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (25 U.S.C. 3001, et. seq.), Executive Order 13175 *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*, (November 6, 2000), and DOE's "American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal Government Policy," as set forth in DOE Order 1230.2 (October 2000), DOE initiated government-to-government consultation with tribes potentially affected by the proposed GNTL project via letter dated June 27, 2014. As a part of this effort, DOE held government-to-government tribal consultation meetings on July 15, 2014, in Red Lake, Minnesota, and on July 22, 2014, in Deer River, Minnesota. The purpose of these initial consultation meetings was to gain the opinions of tribes regarding the cultural values that tribes ascribe to the area and its resources, as well as to identify opinions of tribes that no longer live in the area.

A list of federally recognized American Indians and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) contacted by DOE as a part of these activities is provided in the attached *Draft List of GNTL Section 106 Consulting Parties*. DOE's government-to-government consultation activities with these tribes and THPOs are on-going.

Identification Efforts to Date

The proposed undertaking has the potential to affect historic properties either listed in, or eligible for, inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. An initial cultural resources survey (i.e., desktop literature review) was performed by Minnesota Power as part of the GNTL project Presidential permit application to DOE. This survey considered a study area extending 1-mile on each side of the proposed GNTL Project's right-of-way (ROW) centerline, with preliminary potential direct effects analysis based on an anticipated 200-foot-wide ROW within 1000-3000 foot Route Alternatives.

The initial cultural resources survey study area encompassed two Route Alternatives and four (4) Segment Options. The Route Alternatives are the Blue Route and the Orange Routes. Segment Options include the Segment Option C1, Segment Option C2, Segment Option J1, and Segment Option J2 (*see enclosed Cultural Resources Study).*

As a part of this effort, your office responded to historic resources data (e.g., GIS shape files) requests by Minnesota Power in March 2013, July 2013, August 2013, and November 2013. Your office also provided input to Minnesota Power regarding the proposed GNTL project and suggestions for archaeological survey via a letter dated August 14, 2013.

An initial study of the NHRP listed or eligible properties found that one of the properties identified within 1-mile of the Blue Route is listed on the NRHP, however, four properties, all railroad or mining properties, are considered eligible for NRHP listing: the Great Northern Railway Gunn Line (IC-IRT-009), one segment of the Duluth, Missabi and Northern Railway (IC-IRT-010), the Holman Mine Stripping and Lean Ore Dump (IC-IRT-012), and the Brown Number 2 Mine Stripping Dump (IC-IRT-013).

The study also found that no properties identified within 1-mile of the Orange Route are listed on the NRHP, however, four properties, all railroad or mining properties, are considered eligible for NRHP listing: the Great Northern Railway Gunn Line (IC-IRT-009), one segment of the Duluth, Missabe and Northern Railway (IC-IRT-010), the Holman Mine Stripping and Lean Ore Dump (IC-IRT-012), and the Brown Number 2 Mine Stripping Dump (IC-IRT-013).

For the Segment Options C1, C2, and J1, this study indicated that there are no NRHP listed or eligible properties within the CR Study Area. While none of the properties identified within the Segment Option J2 CR Study Area are listed on the NRHP, two architectural properties within the CR Study Area have been evaluated as eligible for listing on the NRHP: two segments of Minnesota Highway 38 (IC-BFT-017 and IC-EFC- 015).

The GNTL Presidential permit application, including associated maps, drawings, and initial cultural resources study, can also be viewed or downloaded in its entirety from the DOE Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE) program Web site at: http://energy.gov/oe/downloads/application-presidential-permit-oe-docket-no-pp-398-great-northern-transmission-line. However, I have attached "Appendix G- Cultural Resources Study" submitted as part of Minnesota Power's Presidential permit application to this letter for your use and review.

In addition to efforts by Minnesota Power to identify historic resources potentially affected by the proposed GNTL project, DOE held eight NEPA public scoping meetings during its 45-day public scoping comment period from July 16 – July 24, 2014 (*see enclosed GNTL Regional Map)*. The meetings held in the towns of Roseau, Baudette, Littlefork, International Falls, Kelliher, Bigfork, and Grand Rapids, Minnesota. DOE received four comments related to potential impacts from construction on historic resources along the proposed transmission routes, including such resources as the Conservation Corps Camp 53 site, historic logging sites, and Big Fork River historic and cultural areas. The *Great Northern Transmission Line Scoping Summary Report* (November 2014) is available on the DOE GNTL EIS Web site at: http://www.greatnortherneis.org/Files/ScopingSummaryReportNOV2014.pdf. Due to its overall size, a hardcopy of this report will be provided to you upon request in follow up to this letter.

Scope of Future Identification Efforts under Section 106–Area of Potential Effect (APE)

As mentioned above, the anticipated ROW for the proposed GNTL project is 200-foot-wide alignment located within a 1000-3000 foot-wide route alternative. In order to begin your consideration of DOE's scope of identification efforts under Section 106 of the NHPA, the Department proposes a direct APE of the maximum width of a route alternative, an area of approximately 1000-3000 feet wide for each proposed Route Alternative. Using this as an initial point for scope of identification efforts (e.g., Phase 1A survey efforts) would allow for flexibility in siting of the final alignment within the approved route alternative. Once the final alignment is determined by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, DOE would propose a direct APE as the 200-foot wide alignment for detailed identification and evaluation efforts. The direct APE for identifying terrestrial historic properties and below grade archeological resources would include those areas outside of the ROW that may be impacted by construction, access roads, material and equipment storage areas, or any other physical disturbances necessary during construction of the project.

At this time, DOE would also like SHPO to contemplate the extent of an indirect APE for assessing the potential for adverse visual effects of the proposed GNTL project on terrestrial historic properties. The Department typically proposes an indirect APE for overhead transmission lines of this size and complexity to be approximately one-mile on either side of the center line (will vary with topography) of the proposed right-of-way once the final alignment is established. DOE looks forward to future discussions with you and other consulting parties about these proposed direct and indirect APEs for the GNTL project, and understands that no final direct and indirect APE determinations may be made at this time.

DOE Identification of Historic Properties – Programmatic Agreement (PA)

Because DOE is currently considering alternatives under NEPA for the proposed GNTL project that are large linear tracts of land encompassed in Minnesota Power's proposed Blue and Orange Route Alternatives and four Route Segment Options (C1, C2, J1, and J2), DOE has determined that a phased approach for Section 106 identification and evaluation efforts in accordance with the process set forth in 36 CFR §800.4(b)(2) is appropriate. The Department therefore proposes the execution of a programmatic agreement (PA) pursuant to 36 CFR §800.14(b) to properly defer final identification and evaluation of historic properties. A programmatic agreement for the GNTL project would delineate the process by which the likely presence of historic properties within the APE for each alternative under consideration through background research, consultation, and appropriate level of field investigation is performed, while taking into consideration the magnitude of the undertaking and its likely effects, and the views of SHPO, THPO(s) and any other consulting.

DOE has attached a preliminary draft PA for the GNTL project to this letter for your review and consideration. This preliminary draft PA is offered as a starting point for Section 106 consultation discussions with SHPO and consulting parties in considering DOE's proposed phased approach to identification and evaluation of historic and cultural properties potentially affected by the proposed GNTL project (*see enclosed Preliminary Draft PA).*

In close, DOE currently seeks your concurrence on initiating its Section 106 consultation process for the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line project. DOE also seeks any

information or suggestions that your office may have with regard to potential consulting parties or tribes that are included in the attached consulting parties list, or if you have additional information that should considered at this time. Please provide your Section 106 initiation concurrence and any material information that you may have in writing so that it may be added to the administrative record to evidence DOE's compliance with Section 106 consultation responsibilities.

I very much look forward to working with you and your staff in the near future and appreciate your assistance in this effort. I will be traveling on GNTL project business to St. Paul from December 2-4, 2014, and would like to have an opportunity to introduce myself in person to you and your staff. I hope there will be time in your schedule and staff resources for this meeting to occur, and will be in contact with your staff via email and/or phone in an effort to schedule such an opportunity if possible.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at any time at Juliea.Smith@hq.doe.gov or (202) 586-7668.

Yours very truly,

Julie Ann Smith, PhD
Principal NEPA Document Manager
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

Enclosed:

- GNTL Project Regional Map (from NEPA Scoping Summary Report)
- Cultural Resources Study (Appendix G from DOE Presidential permit application)
- Draft List GNTL Section 106 Consulting Parties
- Preliminary Draft PA

Cc: Charlene Dwin Vaughn, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation