

Appendix F

LGU Notice Letter

July 23, 2014

Clearwater County
213 Main Ave North, Dept 206
Bagley, MN 56621

Attn: Daniel Hecht

**Re: Notice of Proposed Clearbrook - Clearbrook West 115 kilovolt transmission line
Clearwater County, MN
Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.**

Gentlemen:

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. ("Minnkota ") is planning to build a new 5.3-mile long, 115 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission project in Leon and Pine Lake Townships of Clearwater County, Minnesota. The proposed Project is needed to serve a single industrial load in the Clearbrook, Minnesota area. Minnkota Power's proposed route is shown on the attached Figure 1. The project is referred to as the Clearbrook - Clearbrook West 115 kV project.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you notice of Minnkota's plan to obtain a route permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ("MPUC"), and request your comments. The state route permit preempts local land use control per Minnesota Statute § 216E.10. This notice is also required under Minnesota Statute § 216E.03, subd. 3a and 3b to allow each local unit of government within the proposed route area the opportunity to meet with Minnkota to discuss the project prior to filing the state route permit application.

Project Description

As shown in Figure 1, the proposed project will start in Leon Township by tapping an existing 115 kV line via construction of a 1-way line switch and the proposed project will end in Pine Lake Township at a new 115/41.6 kV substation. However, the tap will likely be moved approximately 300 feet in the future to a nearby existing 115 kV substation that is scheduled to have a new 115 kV ring-bus addition. The new 115/41.6 kV distribution substation will have a 20 mega volt ampere (MVA) transformer; a 115 kV disconnect, fusing and circuit breaker; a low side bus, metering equipment, station service, and a disconnect. The 115 kV transmission line will be constructed within a 100-foot wide right-of-way and the new substation will have a 100-foot by 100-foot footprint.

From its starting point in Leon Township, the proposed transmission line extends west, following existing roadway right-of-way along County Road 74 for approximately three miles before turning north to follow existing roadway right-of-way along 149th Avenue for approximately one

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Permitting Requirements

The proposed 115 kV transmission line meets the definition of a High Voltage Transmission Line (“HVTL”) under Minn. Rules Chapter 7850.1000, subp. 9. A route permit is required for the Project, for which Minnkota will apply.

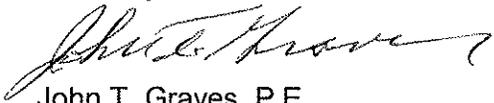
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Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216E.03, subd. 3b, you may request a pre-application consultation meeting regarding the proposed Project within 30 days of receiving this notice. Please review this information and provide any comments, questions, or concerns you may have regarding the proposed project, or notify me if you would like to request a pre-application consultation meeting.

I can be reached by email at jgraves@minnkota.com or by phone at (701) 795-4221. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



John T. Graves, P.E.
Environmental Manager
Minnkota Power Cooperative

Enclosure: Figure 1

Cc: Jay Bushy, Minnkota
Louise Segroves, Barr Engineering

July 23, 2014

Pine Lake Township
15614 500th St.
Gonvick, MN 56644

Attn: Paul Buer

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Clearwater County, MN
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Minnkota Power Cooperative

Enclosure: Figure 1

Cc: Jay Bushy, Minnkota
Louise Segroves, Barr Engineering

July 23, 2014

Pine Lake Township
47807 E. Pine Lake Rd.
Gonvick, MN 56644

Attn: Richard Aos

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Enclosure: Figure 1

Cc: Jay Bushy, Minnkota
Louise Segroves, Barr Engineering

July 23, 2014

Leon Township
19837 500th St.
Clearbrook, MN 56634

Attn: Lori Larson

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Enclosure: Figure 1

Cc: Jay Bushy, Minnkota
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July 23, 2014

Leon Township
49209 189th Ave.
Clearbrook, MN 56634

Attn: James Aakre

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July 23, 2014

City of Gonvick
140 Cedar St.
Gonvick, MN 56644

Attn: Dan Sundquist

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July 23, 2014

City of Clearbrook
PO Box 62
Clearbrook, MN 56634

Attn: George Postier

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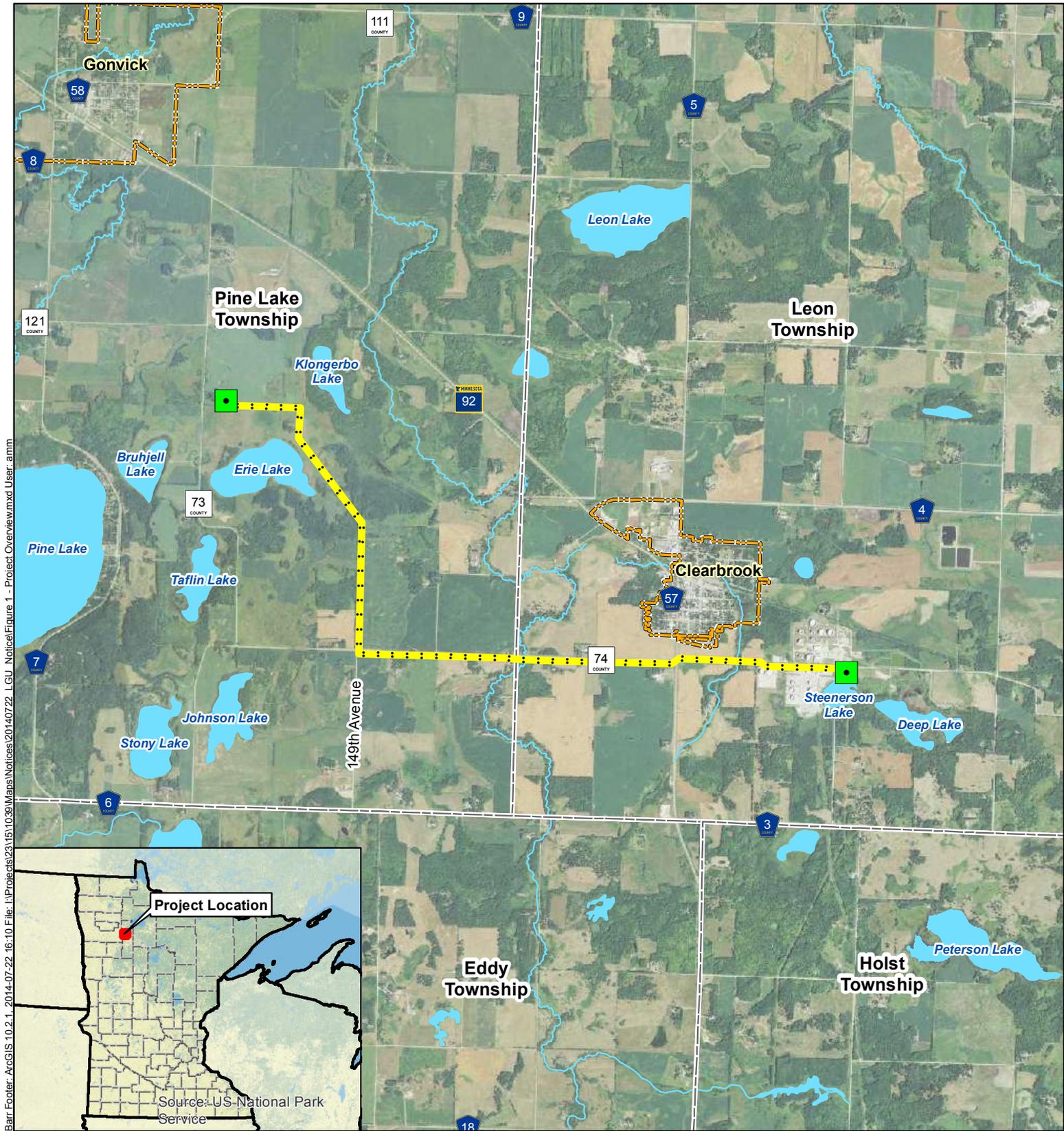
Sincerely,



John T. Graves, P.E.
Environmental Manager
Minnkota Power Cooperative

Enclosure: Figure 1

Cc: Jay Bushy, Minnkota
Louise Segroves, Barr Engineering



Barr Footer: ArcGIS 10.2.1, 2014-07-22 16:10 File: I:\Projects\23151\1039\Maps\notices\20140722_LGU_Notice\Figure 1 - Project Overview.mxd User: ammm

Image Source: 2013 Farm Service Agency

- Approximate Substation Location
- Proposed Clearbrook 115 kV
- Municipal Boundary
- Township Boundary
- PWI Watercourse
- PWI Basin

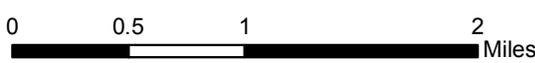


Figure 1

PROJECT OVERVIEW
 Proposed Clearbrook West
 115 kV HVTL Project
 Minnkota Power
 Clearwater County, MN

Appendix G

Agency Correspondence

October 20, 2014

Jamie Schrenzel
Principal Planner, Environmental Review Unit Principal Planner, Environmental Review Unit
MN DNR
500 Lafayette Road Box 25
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Notice of Proposed Clearbrook - Clearbrook West 115 kilovolt transmission line
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Dear Ms. Jamie Schrenzel:

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The purpose of this letter is to provide you notice of Minnkota Power's plan to obtain a route permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ("MPUC") for the proposed project. This letter is also intended as a request for any comments you may have regarding the project or information that your agency would like to provide relative to the project area. Minnkota Power plans to submit a Route Permit Application (RPA) to the MPUC before the end of this month. Comments or information that you are able to provide in response to this letter will be used in the preparation of the RPA as well as in the preparation of an Environmental Report for the Rural Utilities Service.

Project Description

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From its starting point in Leon Township, the proposed HVTL extends west, following existing roadway ROW and an existing distribution line along County Road 74 for approximately three miles before turning north to follow existing roadway ROW along 149th Avenue for approximately one mile. Where 149th Avenue terminates, the proposed HVTL would extend northwest along a new right-of-way for approximately one mile before turning west to connect to the proposed Substation Location. Where the proposed Project parallels County Road 74, existing low-voltage distribution lines will be removed and

buried by Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative. No structures will be located in wetlands. Additionally, all spans that cross wetlands will have bird flight diverters installed.

Permitting Requirements

The proposed 115 kV transmission line meets the definition of a High Voltage Transmission Line ("HVTL") under Minn. Rules Chapter 7850.1000, subp. 9. A route permit is required for the Project, for which Minnkota Power will apply.

A Certificate of Need ("CON") is not required for the Project because it is not classified as a large energy facility ("LEF") under Minn. Stat. §§ 216B.243 and 216B.2421, subd. 2(3). While the Project is a HVTL with a capacity of 100 kV or more, it is not more than 10 miles long and it does not cross a state line. Therefore, Minnkota Power does not need a CON for this Project.

The route permit proceeding will determine where the proposed facilities will be located. As part of the permitting process, the MPUC considers input from the applicant utility, interested stakeholders, local government units, state and federal agencies, and landowners who may be affected. Minnkota plans to submit an application for a route permit for the Project to the MPUC within one month. Additional environmental review will occur during the routing process. The routing process will consider environmental, land use, and other potential routing impacts, and provide the opportunity for the public to comment.

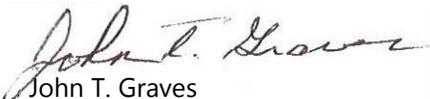
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State-listed Species

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS) database was queried in July 2014 in order to obtain information on rare and unique natural resources within one mile of the Project area. According to the NHIS database, there are no listed species within one mile of the Project area.

If additional information is needed or desired regarding the proposed transmission line project, please contact me by email at jgraves@minnkota.com or by phone at (701) 795-4221. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,


John T. Graves
Environmental Manager

Enclosure: Figure 1

NameFirst	NameLast	Title	Organization	Address	Address2	City	State	Zip
James	Aakre	Chairman	Leon Township	49209 189th Ave.		Clearbrook	MN	56634
Richard	Aos	Clerk	Pine Lake Township	47807 E Pine Lake Rd.		Gonvick	MN	56644
Paul	Buer	Chairman	Pine Lake Township	15614 500th St.		Gonvick	MN	56644
Peter	Buesseler	EWR NW Regional Manager	DNR Division of Ecological and Water Resources	2115 Birchmont Beach Road NE		Bemidji	MN	56601
Tamara	Cameron	Chief, Regulatory Branch	US Army Corps of Engineers-St. Paul District	180 5th St. E.	Suite 700	Saint Paul	MN	55101
Craig	Collison	District 2 Engineer	MnDOT	3920 Highway 2 W.		Bemidji	MN	56601
John	Gunvalson	SWCD Supervisors Member, District 4	Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District	312 Main Ave. N.	Suite 3	Bagley	MN	56621
Daniel	Hecht	Environmental Services Official	Clearwater County	213 Main Ave. N. Dept 206		Bagley	MN	56621
Lori	Larson	Clerk	Leon Township	19837 500th St.		Clearbrook	MN	56634
TJ	Melcher	District 2 Public Affairs Coordinator	MnDOT	3920 Highway 2 W.		Bemidji	MN	56601
Barbara	Mitchell Howard	Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer	Minnesota SHPO	345 Kellogg Blvd W.		St. Paul	MN	55102-1903
George	Postier	Mayor	City of Clearbrook	PO Box 62		Clearbrook	MN	56634
Kathy	Rasch	District Manager	Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District	312 Main Ave. N.	Suite 3	Bagley	MN	56621
Kari	Roepke	NRCS District Conservationist	Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District	312 Main Ave. N.	Suite 3	Bagley	MN	56621
Paul	Rydeen	SWCD Supervisors Secretary, District 3	Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District	312 Main Ave. N.	Suite 3	Bagley	MN	56621
Jamie	Schrenzel	Principal Planner, Environmental Review Unit	MN DNR	500 Lafayette Road	Box 25	St. Paul	MN	55155
Tony	Sullins	Field Supervisor	USFWS	4101 American Blvd. E		Bloomington	MN	55425
Dan	Sundquist	Mayor	City of Gonvick	140 Cedar St.		Gonvick	MN	56644
Jim	Zeigler	Regional Manager	MPCA Northwest Region Office	714 Lake Ave.	Suite 220	Detroit Lakes	MN	56501

October 20, 2014

«NameFirst» «NameLast»
«Title»
«Organization»
«Address» «Address2»
«City», «State» «Zip»

**Re: Notice of Proposed Clearbrook - Clearbrook West 115 kilovolt transmission line
Clearwater County, MN
Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.**

Dear «NameFirst» «NameLast»:

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. ("Minnkota Power") is planning to build a new 5.3-mile long, 115 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line and a new 115/4.16 kV substation. The proposed project will start in Leon Township by tapping an existing 115 kV line via construction of a 1-way switch and the proposed project will end in Pine Lake Township at the new 115/4.16 kV substation (Figure 1). The proposed project is needed to serve a single industrial load in the Clearbrook, Minnesota area.

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buried by Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative. No structures will be located in wetlands. Additionally, all spans that cross wetlands will have bird flight diverters installed.

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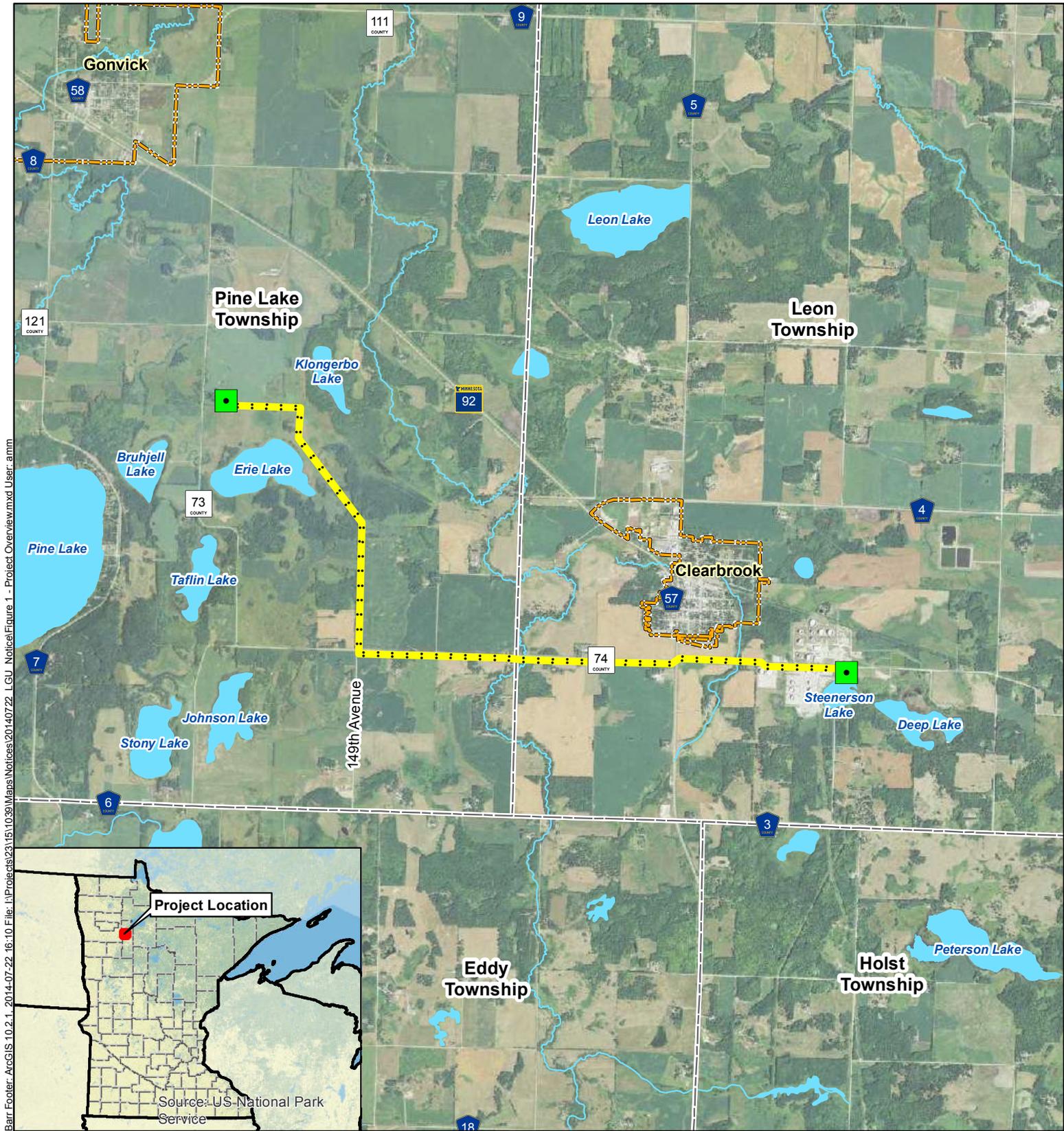
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Sincerely,



John T. Graves
Environmental Manager

Enclosure: Figure 1



Bar Footer: ArcGIS 10.2.1, 2014-07-22 16:10 File: I:\Projects\23151\1039\Maps\notices\20140722_LGU_Notice\Figure 1 - Project Overview.mxd User: ammm

Image Source: 2013 Farm Service Agency

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- Proposed Clearbrook 115 kV
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- Township Boundary
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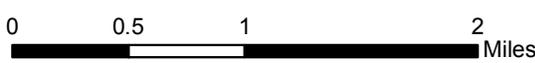


Figure 1

PROJECT OVERVIEW
 Proposed Clearbrook West
 115 kV HVTL Project
 Minnkota Power
 Clearwater County, MN

October 20, 2014

Jamie Schrenzel
Principal Planner, Environmental Review Unit Principal Planner, Environmental Review Unit
MN DNR
500 Lafayette Road Box 25
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Notice of Proposed Clearbrook - Clearbrook West 115 kilovolt transmission line
Clearwater County, MN
Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.

Dear Ms. Jamie Schrenzel:

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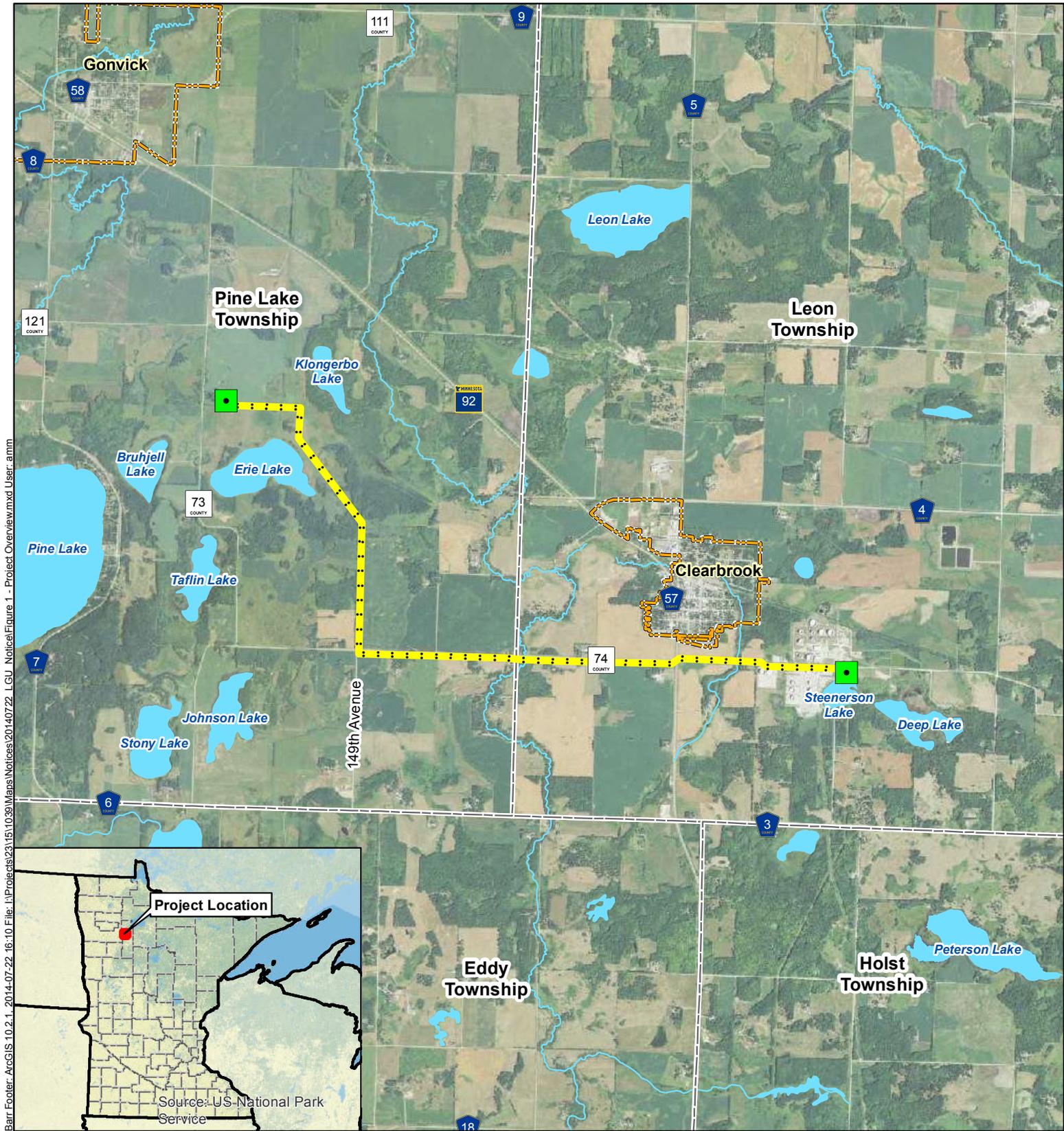
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Sincerely,



John T. Graves
Environmental Manager

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Image Source: 2013 Farm Service Agency

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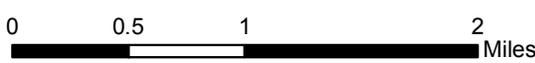


Figure 1

PROJECT OVERVIEW
 Proposed Clearbrook West
 115 kV HVTL Project
 Minnkota Power
 Clearwater County, MN

October 20, 2014

Tony Sullins
Field Supervisor
USFWS
4101 American Blvd. E
Bloomington, MN 55425

Re: Notice of Proposed Clearbrook - Clearbrook West 115 kilovolt transmission line
Clearwater County, MN
Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.

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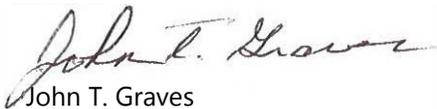
As Minnkota will be seeking funding for this project from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an Environmental Report will be prepared to fulfill National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements.

Federally-listed Species

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) State and County Distribution list for Clearwater County, Minnesota, received in July of 2014, Clearwater County is within the overall range of the Canada lynx (*Lynx Canadensis*; federally threatened). Due to the industrial nature of the Project area and the lack of desirable Canada lynx habitat (dense forest), the proposed Project will have *no effect* on the Canada lynx.

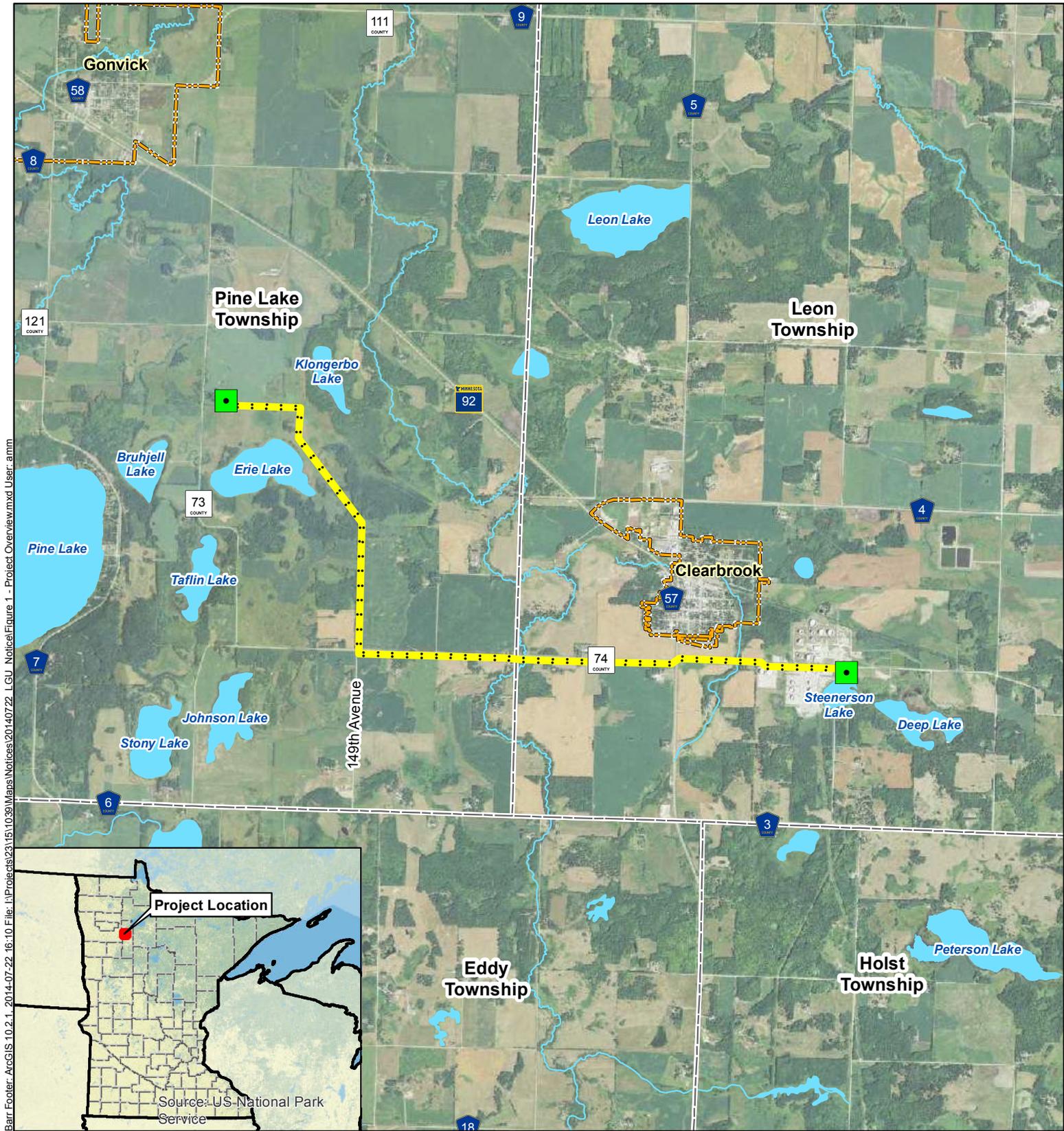
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Sincerely,



John T. Graves
Environmental Manager

Enclosure: Figure 1



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Image Source: 2013 Farm Service Agency

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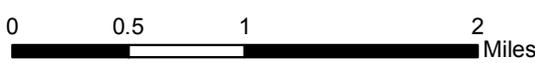


Figure 1

PROJECT OVERVIEW
 Proposed Clearbrook West
 115 kV HVTL Project
 Minnkota Power
 Clearwater County, MN



Clearwater County Environmental Services

213 Main Ave N Dept. 206
Bagley, MN 56621-8304
www.co.clearwater.mn.us

Phone: 218/694-6183
Fax: 218/694-6244

October 22, 2014

Attn: John T. Graves, Environmental Manager
Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.
1822 Mill Road
PO Box 13200
Grand Forks, ND 58203

RE: Proposed Clearbrook – Clearbrook West 115 KV transmission line

Dear Mr. Graves:

I have received your letter of October 20 which was to provide notice of Minnkota's proposed transmission line project within Clearwater County, referenced above. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this project.

Clearwater County enforces land use regulations only within shoreland areas, pursuant to Minnesota DNR's Shoreland Management program, so my comments only pertain to portions of the project that lie within shoreland areas, defined as land located within 1,000 feet of a lake and/or 300 feet of a river or stream. The County does not enforce any land use regulation that might pertain to this transmission line project outside of shoreland areas.

On the project location map you sent me, I can see two stream crossings and one lake where work may take place in areas that would be considered shoreland, as follows:

Stream crossing – Section 29/32 Leon Township, just under ½ mi. E of Hwy 92

Stream crossing – Section 30/31 Leon Township, just under 1 mi. W of Hwy 92

Lake – along NE side of Erie Lake in Section 23, Pine Lake Township.

Although there is no language in the shoreland regulations that directly addresses transmission lines, there is language addressing removal of vegetation which I assume will be a part of the project. Specifically, item #1 in Section 901 discusses intensive vegetative clearing and I've cut and pasted the language along with relevant definitions below for your review. If you would like, you may view the ordinance in its entirety on the County's website.

Section 901. Vegetative Alterations

Removal or alteration of vegetation, except for agricultural and forest management uses as regulated by Section 906 and 907 of this Ordinance, is allowed subject to the following standards:

1. Intensive vegetative clearing within the shore and bluff impact zones and on steep slopes is not allowed. Intensive vegetative clearing for forest land conversion to another use outside of these areas is allowed as a conditional use provided an erosion control and sedimentation plan is developed and approved by the Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation district in which the property is located.

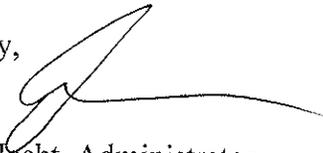
INTENSIVE VEGETATIVE CLEARING. The substantial removal of trees or shrubs in a contiguous patch, strip, row or block.

SHORE IMPACT ZONE. Land located between the ordinary high water level of a public water and a line parallel to it at a setback of 50 percent of the structure setback.

I haven't had any previous experience with transmission line projects with respect to these regulations, but the way I interpret this is the clearing of trees that would generally be associated with transmission line right-of-way would be prohibited in the shore impact zone, which in this case would be 75 feet along Erie Lake and 50 feet at both stream crossings. In effect, a 75 or 50 foot buffer of vegetation, if it exists now, would need to be left along the shoreline at each site.

Obviously this kind of work occurs all over Minnesota when powerlines are constructed, and possibly this conflict with the state shoreland regulations is resolved somehow through the MPUC route permit process. If so, you may disregard this letter and I will assume that is the case. Otherwise, please consider my response and contact me if necessary to work toward some kind of reasonable solution to accommodate both the project and the regulations as best we can.

Sincerely,



Daniel Hecht, Administrator
Environmental Services

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

November 14, 2014

Mr. John T. Graves
Minnkota Power Cooperative
PO Box 13200
Grand Forks, ND 58208-3200

RE: Clearbrook West 115 kV transmission line
T149 R37 S29, 30, 31, 32 & T149 R38 S23, 25, 26, 35, 36, Clearwater County
SHPO Number: 2015-0325

Dear Mr. Graves:

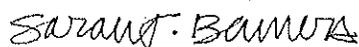
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above project. It is being reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given to the State Historic Preservation Officer by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and implementing federal regulations at 36 CFR 800, and pursuant to the responsibilities given to the Minnesota Historical Society by the Minnesota Historic Sites Act and the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act.

Under 36 CFR 800.4(b-c) it is the federal agency's responsibility to identify and evaluate any historic properties that may be affected by the proposed project. In absence of this information and due to the nature and location of the proposed project, we are unable to complete project review. In order to proceed, we recommend that an archaeological survey be completed meeting the requirements of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Identification and Evaluation. For a list of consultants who have expressed an interest in undertaking such surveys, please visit the website preservationdirectory.mnhs.org, and select "Archaeologists" in the "Search by Specialties" box.

We will reconsider the need for survey if the project area can be documented as previously surveyed or disturbed. Any previous survey work must meet contemporary standards. **Note:** plowed areas and right-of-way are not automatically considered disturbed. Archaeological sites can remain intact beneath the plow zone and in undisturbed portions of the right-of-way.

If you have any questions regarding our review, please contact Kelly Gragg-Johnson at (651) 259-3455.

Sincerely,



Sarah J. Beimers, Manager
Government Programs and Compliance

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

September 4, 2014

Sara Ploetz
Enbridge
North Dakota Pipeline Company
1409 Hammond Avenue, Second Floor
Superior, WI 54880

RE: Sandpiper Pipeline Project
Cass, Kittson, Red Lake and St. Louis Counties
SHPO Number: 2013-1826

Dear Ms. Ploetz:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above project. Information received in our office on 6 August 2014 has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given to the Minnesota Historical Society by the Minnesota Historic Sites Act and the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act.

As requested in your correspondence dated 5 August 2014, David Mather, SHPO National Register Archaeologist has completed a review of the *2013 Minnesota Archaeological Reconnaissance Studies* (April 2014) report as prepared by Commonwealth Cultural Resources Group and Merjent. His comments and recommendations are summarized below.

General Report Comments

Regarding the Phase I survey, the general approach seems appropriate. However, the report says that the survey protocol is described further in the Appendices, but we could not find this information. It appears from the survey maps that some areas identified as needing survey have not yet been surveyed. Your accompanying correspondence states that routing is still being determined, so we assume additional survey reports will be submitted as the routing is finalized and project review progresses. It will be important to somehow track these additional survey areas in relation to results we are reviewing now.

Specific Site Recommendations, by County:

Polk County

21PL91, 21PL106, 21PL103, 21PL104, 21PL93, 21PL99, 21PL95, 21PL94, 21PL101, CCRG603_CAC-03, 21PL100 – We agree that these sites are not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

21PL102 – Phase II evaluation was conducted at this site, with a recommendation that it is potentially eligible, pending a geomorphology study. We believe that the geomorphology study will be useful, but that the current data demonstrates that the site is eligible for listing in the NRHP.

21PL96/97 – Phase II evaluation recommends this site(s) as eligible for listing in the NRHP. We agree.

21PL105 – Phase I conducted with recommendation of Phase II evaluation needed. We agree.

21PL92 – Phase I conducted with recommendation of not eligible. We do not believe that the current data is sufficient to support this recommendation. A Phase II evaluation should be conducted to determine eligibility.

21PL98 – Phase II evaluation conducted with recommendation for additional Phase II. We agree that this would be helpful, but that the current data is sufficient to demonstrate it is eligible for listing in the NRHP.

Red Lake County

21RL31 (Note: Red Lake County is **RL** and not **RE**, please correct the references to this site in the report) We agree that this site is not eligible for listing in the NRHP.

Clearwater County

21CE79, 21CE81, 21CE80, 21CE78, CCRG04_MCT_06, 21CE75, 21CE77, 21CE66 – We agree that these sites are not eligible for listing in the NRHP.

21CE76 – Phase I conducted with recommendation of not eligible. We do not believe that the current data is sufficient to support this recommendation. A Phase II evaluation should be conducted to determine eligibility.

Hubbard County

21HB86, 21HB85 – We agree that these sites are not eligible for listing in the NRHP.

21HB81 – Phase I conducted with recommendation of not eligible. We do not believe that the current data is sufficient to support this recommendation. A Phase II evaluation should be conducted to determine eligibility.

21HB79 – Phase I conducted with recommendation of not eligible. We do not believe that the current data is sufficient to support this recommendation. A Phase II evaluation should be conducted to determine eligibility.

21HB82 – Phase I conducted with recommendation that Phase II evaluation is needed. We agree that this is necessary. It is disappointing, however, that there is so little information about the unusual artifacts observed at this site (daub fragments and charred botanical remains). It is surprising that the

artifacts were not collected, or at least photographed in the field. These are presumably fragile materials, and it seems likely that an opportunity has been lost. It's possible that they will still be there when/if the Phase II evaluation is conducted, but it will be a matter of luck if that's the case. This is an example that calls into question the appropriateness of no-collection archaeological surveys.

21HB84 – Phase I conducted with recommendation that Phase II evaluation is needed. We agree that this is necessary.

21HB89 – Phase I conducted with recommendation that Phase II evaluation is needed. We agree that this is necessary.

21HB87 – Phase I conducted with recommendation that the portion of the site within the survey corridor is apparently not eligible (?). We recommend that a Phase II evaluation be conducted at this site to determine eligibility.

21HB80 – Phase I conducted with recommendation that the portion of the site within the survey corridor is apparently not eligible (?). We recommend that a Phase II evaluation be conducted at this site to determine eligibility.

21HB88 – Phase I conducted with recommendation that Phase II evaluation is needed. We agree that this is necessary.

21HB83 – Phase I conducted with recommendation that Phase II evaluation is needed. We agree that this is necessary.

Cass County

CCRG01_CJY_02 – We agree that this site is not eligible for the NRHP.

21CA755 – Phase I conducted with recommendation that the site is not eligible. We agree, but consultation should occur with the Office of the State Archaeologist regarding potential need for burial authentication.

21CA736 – Phase I conducted with recommendation that Phase II evaluation is needed. We agree that this is necessary.

Aitkin County

21AK125, 21AK126 - We agree that these sites are not eligible for listing in the NRHP.

21AK127- Historic cemetery - Consultation with the Office of the State Archaeologist is needed.

Carlton County

21CL47, 21CL43, 21CL46 - We agree that these sites are not eligible for listing in the NRHP.

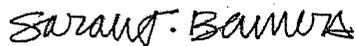
21CL42 – Phase I conducted with recommendation of not eligible. We do not believe that the current data is sufficient to support this recommendation. A Phase II evaluation should be conducted to determine eligibility.

Please note that this comment letter does not address the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36CFR800, Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for the protection of historic properties.

We look forward to continuing consultation with Enbridge and the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, and also with the St. Paul District-U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as this project's environmental review is completed.

Please feel free to contact me at 651-259-3456 or by e-mail at sarah.beimers@mnhs.org if you have any questions or concerns regarding our comments and recommendations.

Sincerely,



Sarah J. Beimers, Manager
Government Programs and Compliance

cc: Scott Elk, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
Brad Johnson, USACE, Regulatory Branch
Michael Madsen, Merjent

John Graves

From: Frisco, Stephen (DOT) <stephen.frisco@state.mn.us>
Sent: Friday, October 31, 2014 1:32 PM
To: John Graves
Cc: Kotch, Stacy (DOT); Collison, Craig (DOT); Zigman, James (DOT)
Subject: Proposed Clearbrook 115 Kv line
Attachments: 4463_001.pdf

John- Thank you for the early notice and the opportunity to comment. With the limited information available it appears as though the crossing may be at skewed angle. MnDOT does prefer perpendicular crossings. We look forward to commenting further during the MPUC routing process.

Sincerely,

Stephen Frisco
Roadway Regulations Supervisor
218-755-6553

From: Kestner, Nathan (DNR) [mailto:nathan.kestner@state.mn.us]
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2015 2:00 PM
To: Terry Johnson
Cc: Walker, Michele (DNR)
Subject: RE: Clearbrook-Clearbrook west 115 kV transmission line project

Terry-

Based on the structure locations depicted on the attached drawing, description of work described in the emails below, and phone conversation dated 6-26-15 and 6-29-15; we do not believe that proposed work will have any detrimental effects on the calcareous fen situated to the south along the northern shore of Steenersen Lake. Should your project change to involve work beyond that described below or include dewatering, please contact DNR Regional Groundwater Specialist Michelle Walker at 218-308-2664.

Thanks for the opportunity to provide this early coordination review.

Nathan Kestner
Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist - Reg 1
MN DNR Division of Ecological & Water Resources, NW Region
2115 Birchmont Beach Rd NE, Bemidji, MN 56601
218-308-2672, 218-755-4066 (fax)
nathan.kestner@state.mn.us

From: Terry Johnson [mailto:tjohnson@minnkota.com]
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2015 2:37 PM
To: Kestner, Nathan (DNR)
Subject: RE: Clearbrook-Clearbrook west 115 kV transmission line project

The direct imbedding depth is designed to be from 10-12 feet below grade. They would be drilled using a digger derrick auger sized for the base of the structure. As of right now, the single pole structures may be of either wood or steel composition. There would be no de-watering. If the water table is encountered with sluffing conditions. A partial casing would simply be inserted prior to backfilling. Please let me know if you have additional questions.

From: Kestner, Nathan (DNR) [mailto:nathan.kestner@state.mn.us]
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2015 2:29 PM
To: Terry Johnson
Subject: RE: Clearbrook-Clearbrook west 115 kV transmission line project

Terry-

Can you provide a description of each structure that will help us to better visualize what they are and what it takes to construct (i.e. are the buildings, power poles, etc.)? Also, please indicate if any dewatering will be needed. Thank you.

Nathan Kestner
Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist - Reg 1
MN DNR Division of Ecological & Water Resources, NW Region
2115 Birchmont Beach Rd NE, Bemidji, MN 56601
218-308-2672, 218-755-4066 (fax)
nathan.kestner@state.mn.us

From: Terry Johnson [<mailto:tjohnson@minnkota.com>]
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2015 12:53 PM
To: Kestner, Nathan (DNR)
Subject: RE: Clearbrook-Clearbrook west 115 kV transmission line project

Nathan, thanks for your help. As we talked about, I am providing you with a map view of that portion of the project to aid your review. The various lines may be a little confusing. I'll try and clear that up some. First of all, here is info from engineering referring to the structure(s) and to scale vs print-out or copy size. Our connection is to an existing OTP 115 kV line at Structure 1. Structure 1 is a switch that OTP is designing and will be constructing for our project. The pdf is set up for 22" x 34" sheet at 100 scale. If it is printed on 11" x 17", it is 200 scale.

Therefore, with structure 1 as well as structures 2 & 3 being on the north side of the road at the locations shown, I hope this helps you in further evaluating this proposed project. Again, please let me know if you have questions.

From: Kestner, Nathan (DNR) [<mailto:nathan.kestner@state.mn.us>]
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2015 10:42 AM
To: Terry Johnson
Cc: Frantz, Kate (DNR)
Subject: RE: Clearbrook-Clearbrook west 115 kV transmission line project

Terry-

Sorry for the lateness of this response. If it is still possible, please include these consideration within the scope of the environmental assessment. I have also attached an early coordination letter provided to Enbridge that generally describes how DNR participate in utility projects and reiterates what I discussed with you this morning.

DNR Early Coordination Comments:

Based on a desktop review, it appears that your project will involve construction in close proximity to a calcareous fen and involve public water crossings.

The calcareous fen mentioned above is located along the north shore of Steenerson Lake near the proposed substation. Calcareous fens are rare and distinctive peat accumulating wetlands which have additional legal protected in Minnesota. Calcareous fens are designated as "outstanding resource value waters" in water quality regulations administered by the MPCA (Minnesota Rules part 7050.0180) and they are given special protection through Minnesota Rules part 8420.1010 - 8240.1060. The Wetlands Conservation Act (WCA), authorized by Minnesota Statutes 103G.223, states that calcareous fens may not be filled, drained, or otherwise degraded, wholly or partially, by any activity, except as provided for in a management plan (i.e. Fen Management Plan [FMP]) approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources.

Many of the unique characteristics of calcareous fens result from the upwelling of groundwater through calcareous substrates. Because of their dependence on delicate groundwater hydrology, calcareous fens can be indirectly affected

by activities several miles away from the fen. **Due to the unique characteristics of these resources and difficulty in approving impacts, DNR recommends that avoidance of impacts to calcareous fens be given high priority. Please contact DNR Regional Groundwater Specialist Michelle Walker at 218-308-2664 for questions about calcareous fens and FMP requirements. To help us further review your project, please provide us a copy of your substation site plan. Based on our review of that plan, we will determine additional requirements .**

Project developers intending to cross over, under, or across any state land or public water with any utility (pipelines, power lines, etc.) need to first secure a DNR license to cross (Minnesota Statue 84.415). Information on how to obtain a License for Utility can be found at http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/permits/utility_crossing/index.html. DNR Division of Lands and Minerals (LAM) coordinates DNR staff license reviews and issues utility licenses to cross public waters and state lands managed by the DNR. Please use the link above or call DNR LAM at 218-308-2627 (northwest region) to identify all requirements.

Many times utility projects require dewatering during construction. A water use (appropriation) permit from DNR Waters is required for all users withdrawing more than 10,000 gallons of water per day or 1 million gallons per year. Additional information about DNR water use permits is available at http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/appropriations/permits.html

I am encouraged to see that bird diverters will be used as a means to minimize avian mortality as a result of collisions. We would ask that diverters be placed on flyways between and across water resources.

Thanks for the opportunity for review and we may have additional input as the EA and route permit application is made available for review.

Nathan Kestner
Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist - Reg 1
MN DNR Division of Ecological & Water Resources, NW Region
2115 Birchmont Beach Rd NE, Bemidji, MN 56601
218-308-2672, 218-755-4066 (fax)
nathan.kestner@state.mn.us

From: Terry Johnson [<mailto:tjohnson@minnkota.com>]
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2015 9:56 AM
To: Kestner, Nathan (DNR)
Subject: Clearbrook-Clearbrook west 115 kV transmission line project

Nathan it was good to talk with you regarding this project. Please find attached for your review as requested our letter submitted to Jamie as we discussed. We would appreciate your review and comment on this as we are on the verge of submitting our draft RPA and EA for the RUS. Please let me know if you have questions.

Terry Johnson
Environmental Engineer
P. 701-795-4293
Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.
tjohnson@minnkota.com

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					DRAWN JPB	CLEARBROOK TO CLEARBROOK WEST	
					DATE 6/26/15	E CONNECTION	
					APPROVED JPB		
					PROJECT # 20667	SCALE 1" = 100'	SHEET 1 OF 1
DATE	PROJECT #	WO #	REVISIONS	BY	WO # 485337	DWG.NO.	



TELEPHONE MEMORANDUM

TO: FILE
FROM: TERRY JOHNSON
SUBJECT: CLEARBROOK-CLEARBROOK WEST LINE PROJECT
DATE: 6-26-15
CC:

Call made to: USFWS Bloomington Office (612)-725-3548; 6-25-15 @ 08:46 AM. Asked for Tony Sullins (field supervisor where our October 20, 2014 letter was sent to). I was informed that Tony was no longer with the Bloomington office and that Lisa Mandell was the person to contact regarding this project. I obtained her e-mail address from the administrative assistance and e-mailed her the letter with map figure that we previously sent at 10:10 AM.

6-26-15 11:22 AM; called for Lisa again and she said she would issue a response as soon as their schedule permitted.