



NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD ON MINOR ALTERATION APPLICATION

Issued: April 12, 2016

In the Matter of the Route Permit Application by Great River Energy and Minnesota Power for a 115 kV Transmission Line near Menahga, Minnesota – Request for Minor Alteration

PUC Docket Number: ET2, E015/TL-14-797

Comment Period: Comment period closes Tuesday, April 26, 2016, at 4:30 p.m.

Comments received after the comment period closes may not be considered.

Topics Open for Comment:

- Does GRE's request meet the definition of a minor alteration under Minnesota Rules 7850.4800?
- Should the Commission approve GRE's minor alteration request?
- If the minor alteration is approved, should any conditions be required?

Project Background: On March 14, 2016, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission issued a high-voltage transmission line route permit for the Menahga Area 115 kV Transmission Line Project authorizing Great River Energy and Minnesota Power to construct and operate approximately 22.5 miles of 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line and the construction of three associated substations along a specified route in Hubbard, Wadena, and Becker counties.

On March 31, 2016, Great River Energy applied to the Commission for two minor alterations to the approved transmission line route. The minor alterations require approval for two route/segment modifications to the Permitted Route in the Blueberry Substation to Red Eye Substation segment in Wadena County to address landowners concerns as shown in **Exhibit A**.

Minor Alteration 1: Reroute the transmission line segment between the points where it joins the pipeline corridor and intersection of 350th St. with 119th Ave to instead follow the existing 34.5 kV corridor east to 119th Ave and then run south following the 119th Ave until it meets with the permitted route starting at 350th St and 119th Ave as shown in **Exhibit B**.

Minor Alteration 2: Along the original 119th Avenue alignment between 350th Street and County State Aid Highway 13, the transmission line comes within approximately 275 feet of a home in Section 4, T137N, R35W. During the January 28, 2016 meeting during which the Commission orally approved the Certificate of Need and Route Permit, the Commission directed Great River Energy to work with this landowner on the alignment near the house to minimize impacts. The landowner has requested that the alignment be modified as shown in **Exhibit C**.

Submit Public Comments: Visit mn.gov/puc, select *Speak Up!*, find this docket, and add your comments to the discussion.

If you wish to include an exhibit, map or other attachment, please send your comments via U.S. Mail to: Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101. Please include the Commission's docket number (14-797) in all communications.

Filing Requirements: Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are required to file documents using the Commission's electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants and interested persons are also encouraged to use eFiling: mn.gov/puc, select *eFiling*, and follow the prompts.

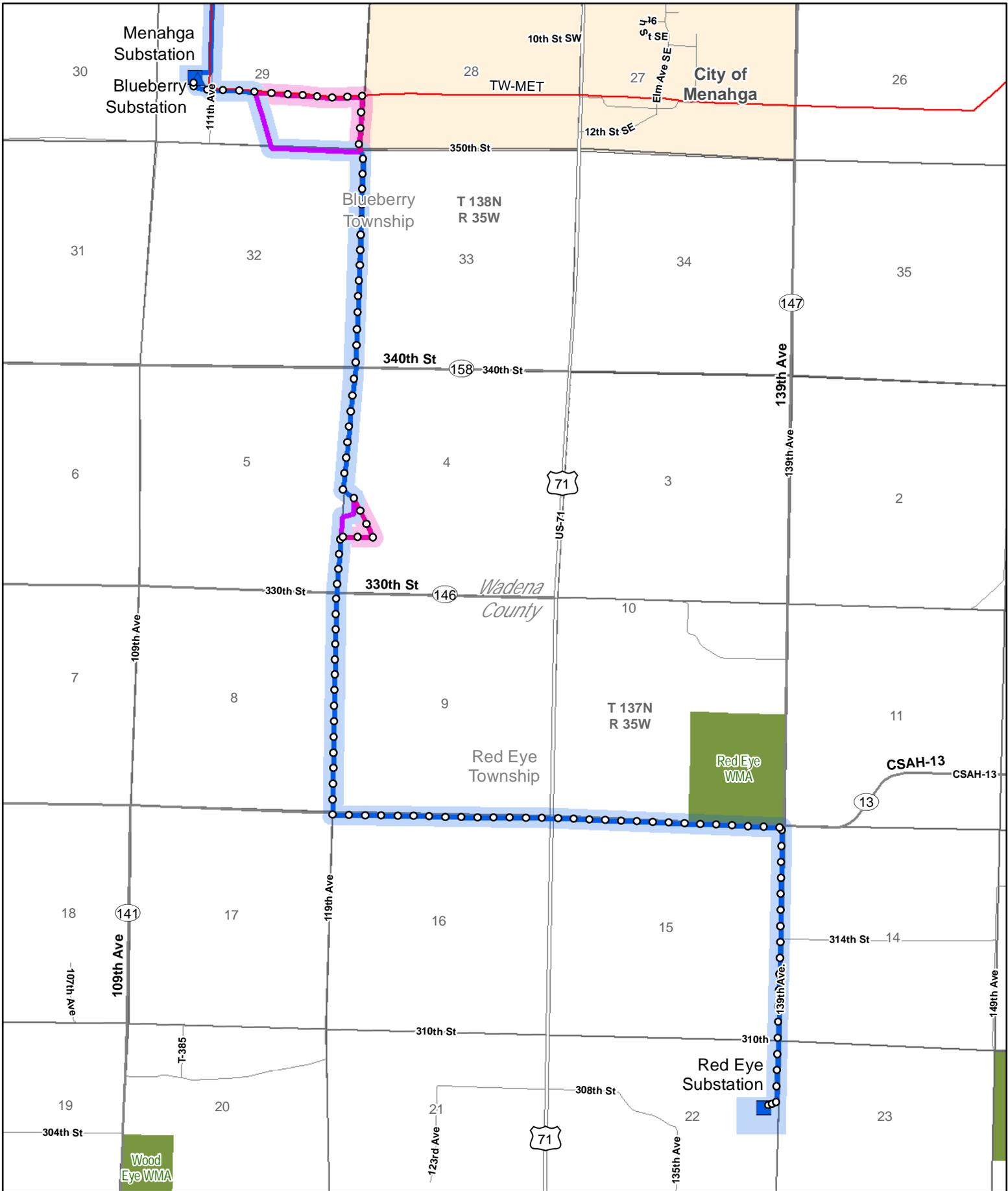
Full Case Record: All documents filed in this docket are available at: mn.gov/puc, select *eDockets*, enter the year (14) and the docket number (797), select *Search*.

Subscribe to the Docket: Receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter: mn.gov/puc, select *Subscribe*, and follow the prompts.

Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure? Contact Cezar Panait of the Commission staff at 651-201-2207 or Cezar.Panait@state.mn.us.

Change your mailing preferences: Email docketing.puc@state.mn.us or call 651-201-2204.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (e.g., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with hearing loss or speech disabilities may call us through their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.



- Great River Energy**
- Anticipated alignment 115 kV transmission line
 - Original alignment
 - Proposed minor alteration alignment
 - Structure location
 - ▲ Proposed transmission substation

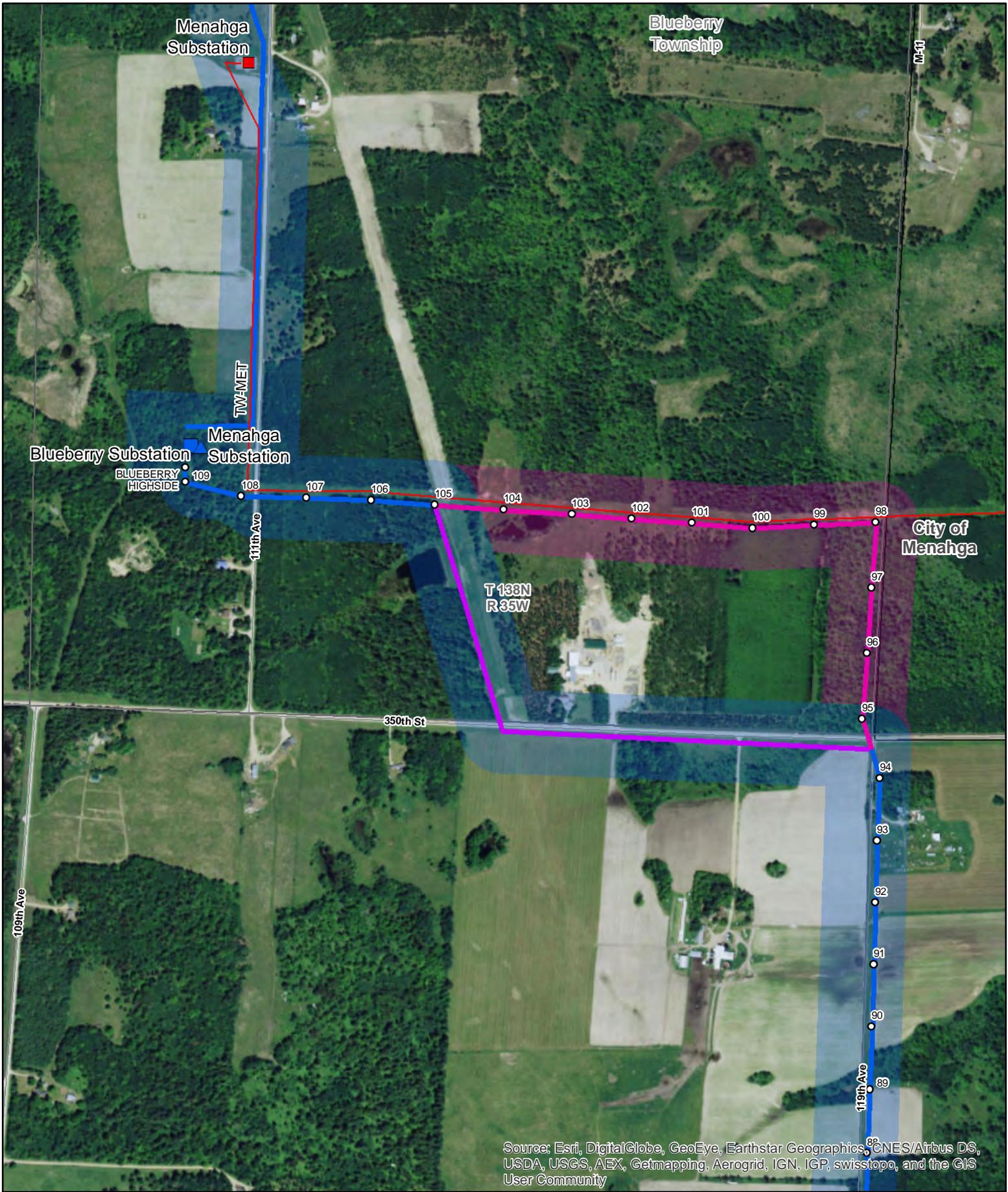
- Todd-Wadena**
- Permitted route (500 feet)
 - Alteration route (500 feet)
 - Proposed distribution substation
- GIS Data sources include:
 MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.
 Aerial Imagery from ESRI web service

0 500 Feet




Updated: 3/25/2016

**Menahga Area
 115 kV Project
 Route Permit
 Minor Alterations
 Exhibit A**



Great River Energy

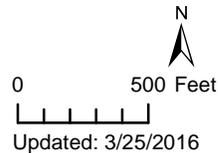
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Permitted route (500 feet)

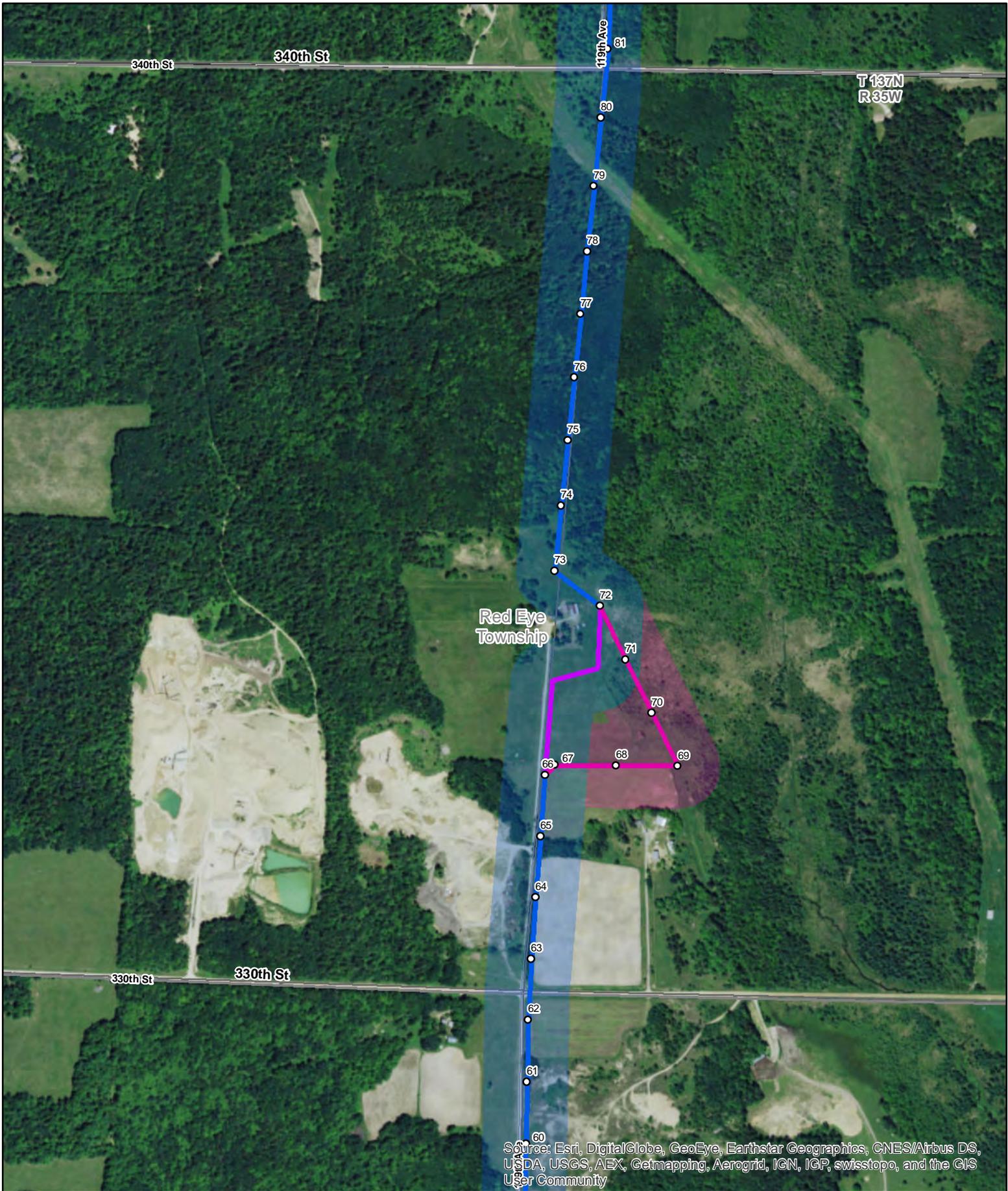
Alteration route (500 feet)

Todd-Wadena

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**Menahga Area
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 Exhibit B**

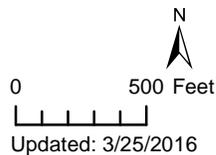


Great River Energy

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**Menahga Area
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 Exhibit C**