

Issued: July 15, 2015

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCOPING DECISION

**In the Matter of the Application by Great River Energy and Minnesota Power for a
Certificate of Need and Route Permit for the
Motley Area 115 kV Transmission Line Project in
Morrison, Cass, and Todd Counties, Minnesota**

Docket Numbers: ET2, E015/CN-14-853 and ET2, E015/TL-15-204

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) has issued the scoping decision for the environmental assessment to be prepared for the proposed Motley Area 115 kV transmission line project in the Minnesota counties of Morrison, Cass, and Todd.

The environmental assessment (EA) will be prepared by the Department's Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) staff and will address the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives to the project. The scoping decision identifies the alternatives that will be examined in the EA (see attached maps). The decision also identifies alternatives that will not be addressed.

The scoping decision and other relevant documents are available on the Department's website <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=34095> and on the State of Minnesota's eDockets system: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the year "14" and the number "853" or year "15" and the number "204").

The EA is scheduled to be completed in October 2015. A public hearing will be held in the project area after completion of the EA.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact environmental review manager Rich Davis (651-539-1846, richard.davis@state.mn.us) or public advisor Tracy Smetana (651-296-0406, consumer.puc@state.mn.us).

To place your name on the project mailing list, contact docketing.puc@state.mn.us or 651-201-2234 with the docket numbers (14-853 and 15-204), your name, mailing address, and email address. Please indicate how you would like to receive notices – by U.S. mail or email.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-539-1530.

Add breakers to Minnesota Power Dog Lake Substation. Construct one-half mile 115 kV Transmission Line to 115 kV "24" Transmission Line.

Connection Options with Minnesota Power 115 kV "24" Line

West Route Option Proposed Great River Energy 115 kV Overhead Transmission Line

East Route Option Proposed Great River Energy 115 kV Overhead Transmission Line

Existing Crow Wing Power Motley Distribution Substation

Common Route Segment Proposed Great River Energy 115 kV Overhead Transmission Line

Proposed Crow Wing Power Fish Trap Lake Distribution Substation

Proposed Minnesota Pipe Line Fish Trap Pumping Station

Motley Area 115 kV Project
Figure 1-3 Proposed Project

- Great River Energy**
- Blue line: Common Route - Proposed 115 kV Line
 - Pink line: West Route Option - Proposed 115 kV Line
 - Purple line: East Route Option - Proposed 115 kV Line
- Crow Wing Power**
- Blue square: Proposed Distribution Substation
 - Red square: Existing Distribution Substation
- Minnesota Pipe Line**
- Purple square: Proposed Pump Station
 - Black dashed line: Existing Pipeline

- Minnesota Power**
- Orange line: Proposed 115 kV Transmission Line
 - Green line: Existing 230 kV Transmission Line
 - Light green line: Existing 115 kV Transmission Line
 - Dark green line: Existing 34.5 kV Sub-Transmission Line
 - Black triangle: Existing Transmission Substation
 - Black circle: Existing Distribution Substation

GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy.

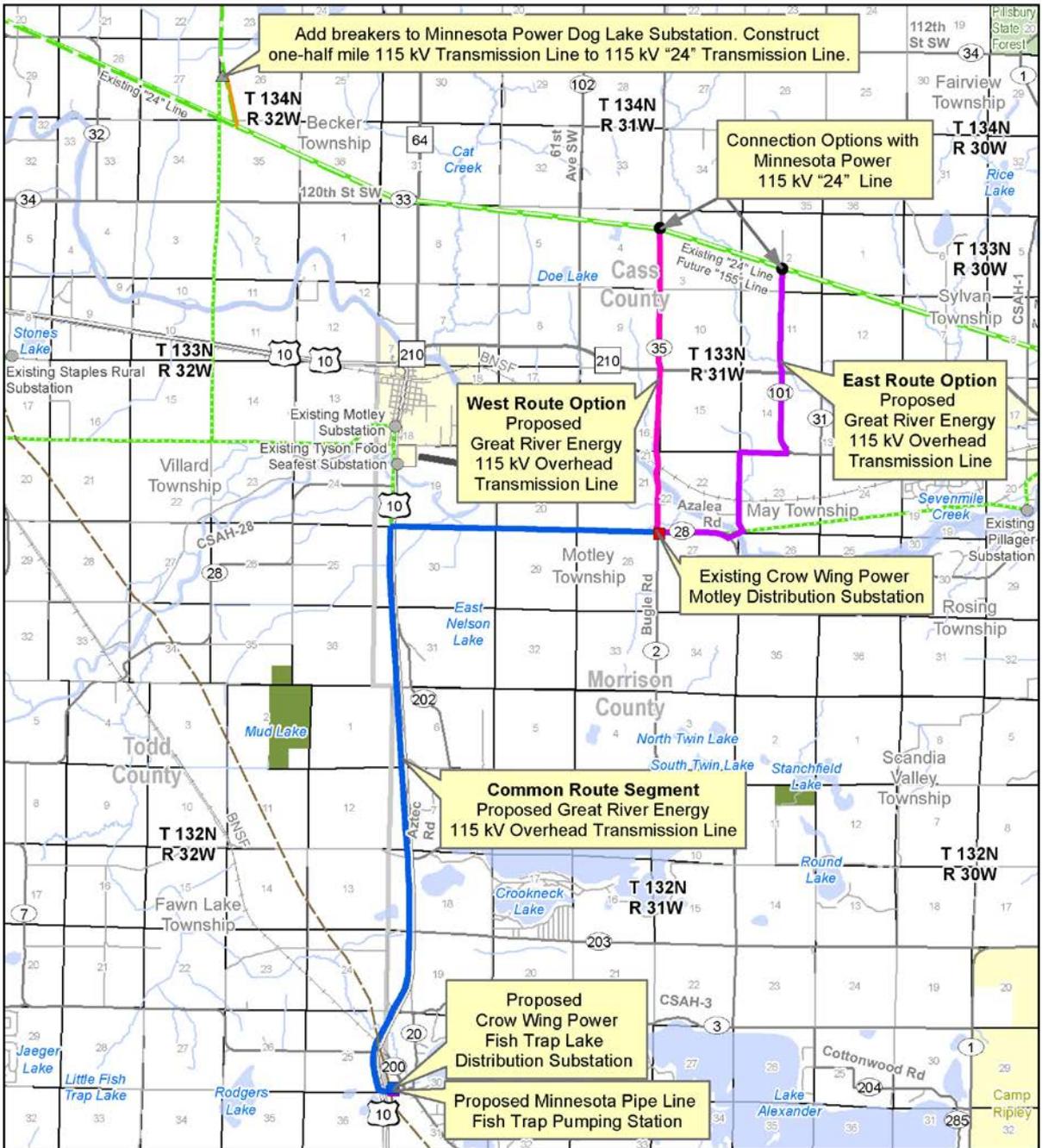
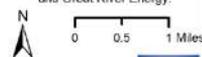
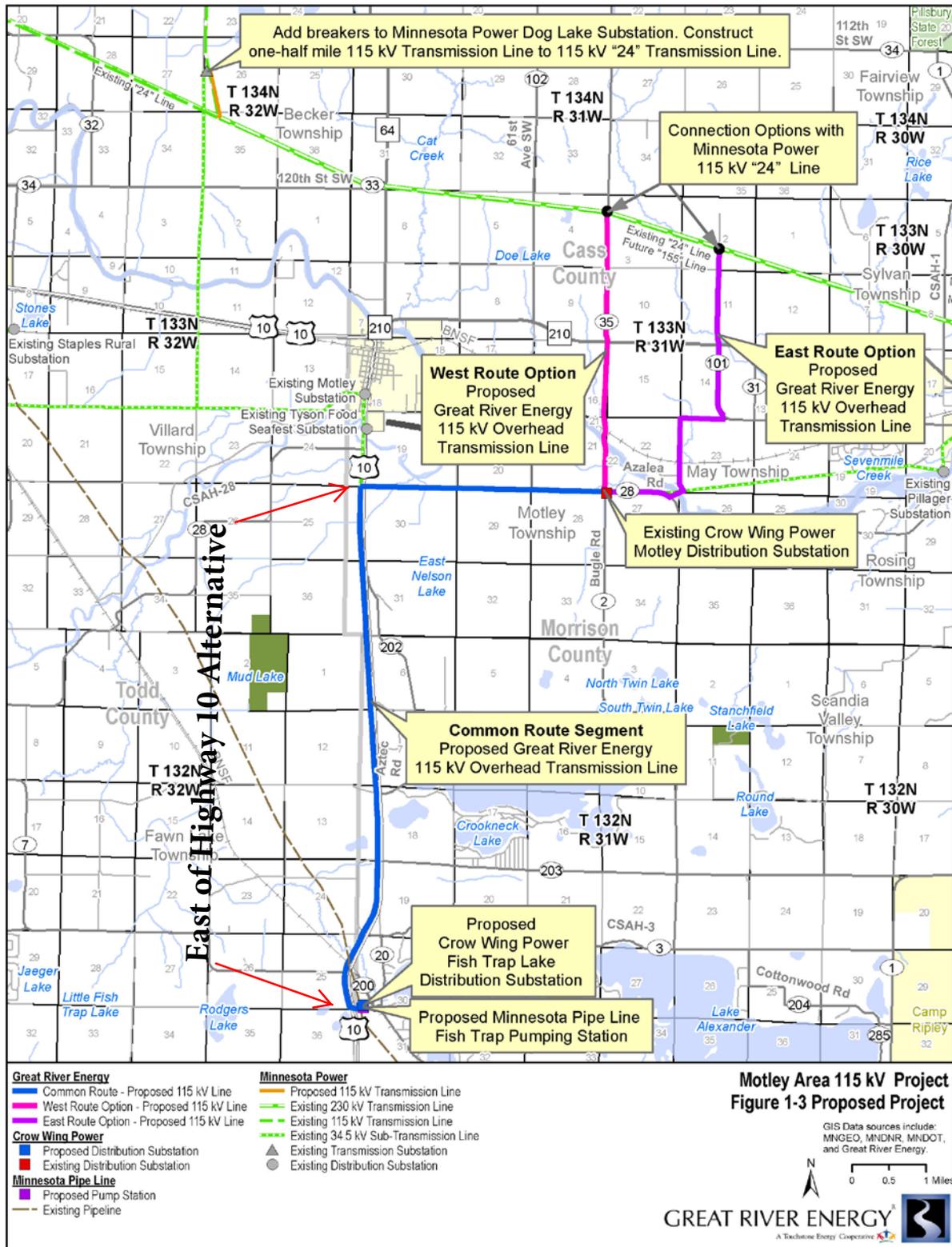
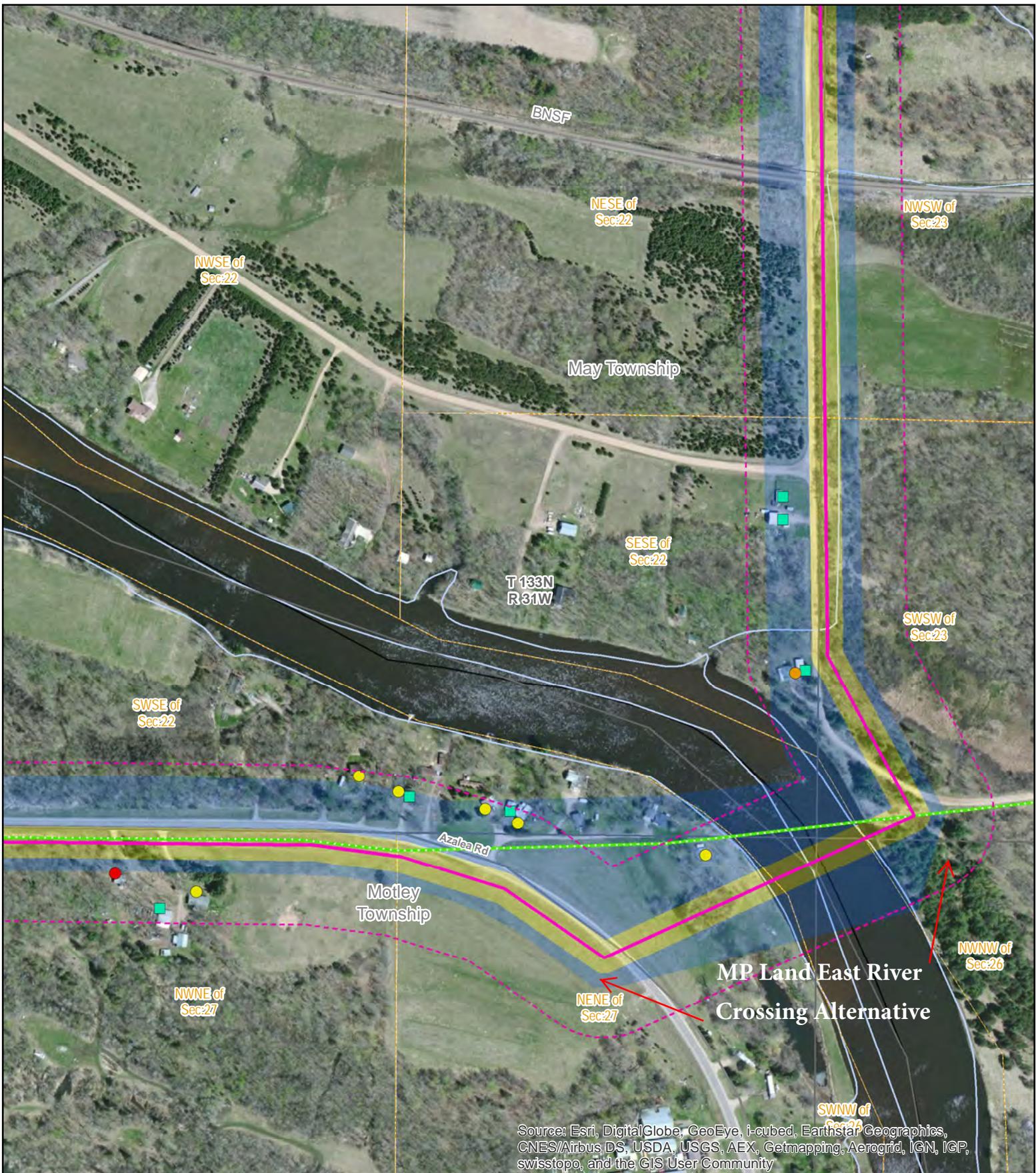


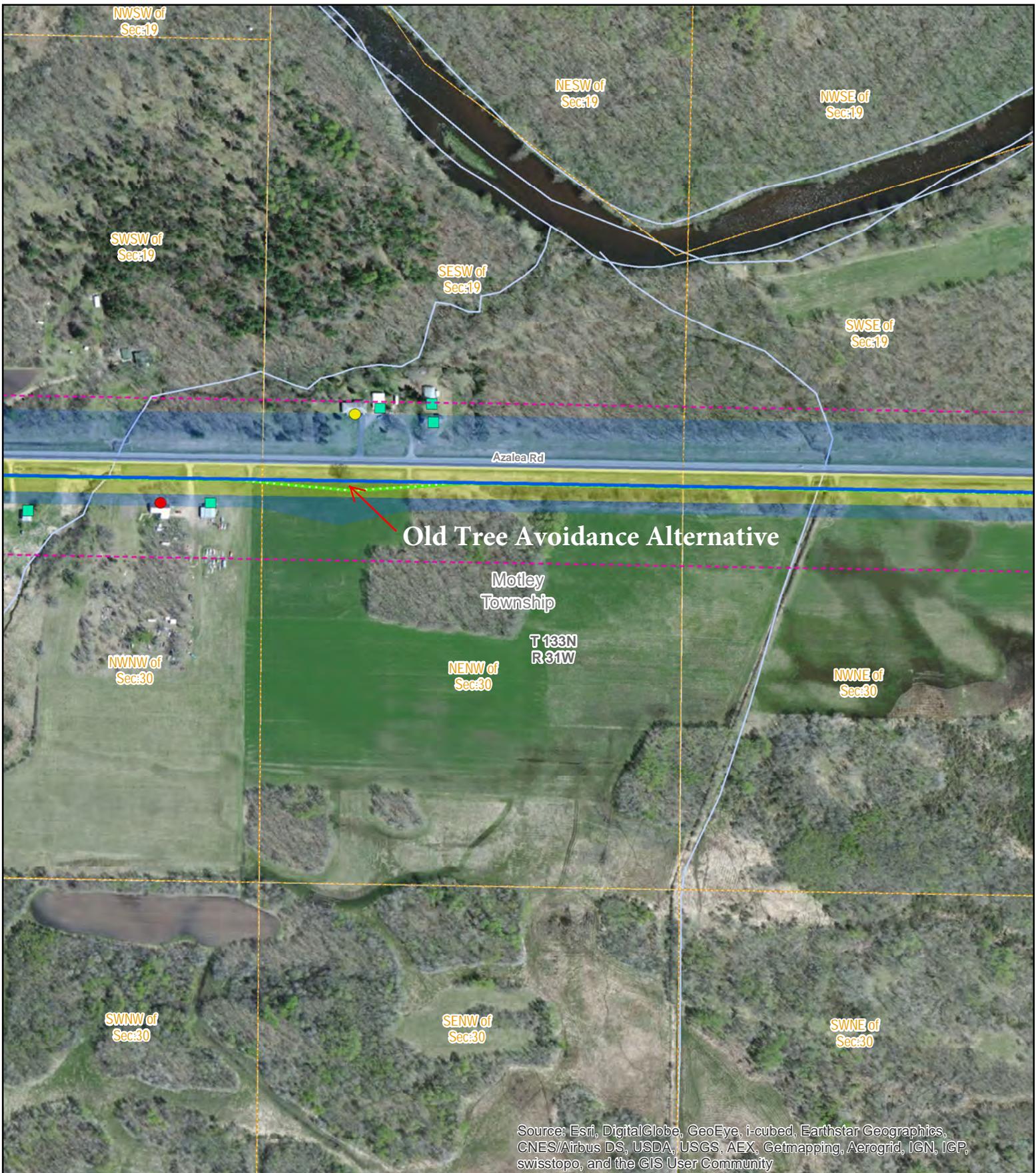
Figure 1-3. Proposed Project





Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

Great River Energy Proposed Route Proposed Easement Area (100' width) Common Route - Proposed 115 kV Line West Route Option - Proposed 115 kV Line East Route Option - Proposed 115 kV Line Existing Transmission Substation Existing Distribution Substation		Minnesota Pipe Line Proposed Pump Station Existing Pipeline Minnesota Power Proposed Route Proposed Substation Expansion Proposed 115 kV Transmission Line Existing 230 kV Transmission Line Existing 115 kV Transmission Line Existing 34.5 kV Sub-Transmission Line		Existing Transmission Substation Existing Distribution Substation Structure Residence 0-50' (0) Residence 50-100' (1) Residence 100-150' (1) Residence 150-250' (6) Commercial / Industrial 50-250' (0) Non-Residential Building 0-250' (6) 250' from Alignment		Motley Area 115 kV Project Appendix F - Detailed Route Maps Map Sheet 14 of 31 East Route Option Map 6 0 50 100 200 Feet GIS Data sources include: MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT, and Great River Energy. GREAT RIVER ENERGY A Touchstone Energy Cooperative	
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