# APPENDIX C

Agency Correspondence

**Minnesota Department of Transportation**

**Office of Aeronautics**
Mail Stop 410
222 East Plato Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55107-1618

Phone: 651/234-7200
Fax: 651/234-7261

May 20, 2009

651 234-7247

Ms. Carole L. Schmidt, Supervisor
Transmission Permitting and Compliance
Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369-4718

Subject: **Proposed Yankee Doodle – Pilot Knob 115kV Transmission Upgrades**
**Dakota County, Minnesota**

Dear Ms. Schmidt:

We have reviewed your proposal for the Great River Energy Yankee Doodle – Pilot Knob 115kV Transmission Upgrades project in Egan, Minnesota. We do not anticipate any effect on publicly-owned airports; therefore the Office of Aeronautics has no objection to the proposed project.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call me.

Sincerely,

Gene R. Scott

Gene R. Scott, P.E.
Regional Airport Engineer
gene.scott@dot.state.mn.us

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ST. PAUL DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
SIBLEY SQUARE AT MEARS PARK
190 FIFTH STREET EAST, SUITE 401
ST. PAUL MINNESOTA 55101-1638

RECEIVED JUN 1 1 2009

JUN 1 0 2009

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF
Operations
Regulatory (2009-02375-EMN)

Ms. Carole Schmidt
Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369

Mr. Timothy Rogers
Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

Dear Ms. Schmidt and Mr. Rogers:

We have reviewed information about the Great River Energy/Xcel Energy project to upgrade three existing transmission lines in the City of Eagan described below:

1) Upgrade approximately 1 mile of existing 115kV single circuit transmission lines to a double circuit line from the Yankee Doodle Substation south to Wescott Road.

2) Upgrade approximately 1.5 miles of existing single circuit 115kV transmission lines to a double circuit line from the Pilot Knob Substation to the intersection with Xcel Energy's 0703 line approximately ¼ mile east of Lexington Avenue.

3) Upgrade approximately 0.5 mile of an existing 69 kV transmission line (0703 line) to a single circuit 115kV line from ¼ mile east of Lexington Avenue north to the Eagan Substation.

This work will involve crossing two unnamed wetlands and a DNR public water (140W). The proposed transmission line crossings will span these waterbodies. The project sites are located in Sections 14, 26 and 27, T. 27N, R. 23W, Dakota County, Minnesota.

The work proposed at the location stated is not within the regulatory jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers. No work will be done in a navigable water of the United States, and no dredged or fill material, including that associated with mechanical land clearing, will be discharged in any water of the United States, including wetlands. Therefore, a Department of the Army permit is not required to do this work.

This letter is valid only for the project referenced above. If any change in design, location, or purpose is contemplated, contact this office to avoid doing work that may be in violation of Federal law. PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS CONFIRMATION LETTER DOES NOT ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR STATE, LOCAL, OR OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS, SUCH AS THOSE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES OR COUNTY.

The decision regarding this action is based on information found in the administrative record which documents the District's decision-making process, the basis for the decision, and the final decision.

If you have any questions, contact Eric Norton in our St. Paul District office at (651) 290-5358. In any correspondence or inquiries, please refer to the Regulatory number shown above.

Sincerely,

Eric Norton

for Tamara E. Cameron
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Copy furnished to:
Ms. Janell Miersch, MDNR

## Schmidt, Carole GRE/MG

**From:** Lisa Joyal [Lisa.Joyal@dnr.state.mn.us]
**ent:** Tuesday, June 09, 2009 11:44 AM
**ro:** Schmidt, Carole GRE/MG
**Subject:** Yankee Doodle to Pilot Knob 115 kV Transmission Upgrades

I have reviewed your 15 May 2009 letter regarding the potential for the above project to impact rare features. I concur with your assessment that the project will not negatively impact any known occurrences of rare features.

The reference number for this correspondence is ERDB #20090888. Thank you for consulting us on this matter, and for your interest in preserving Minnesota's rare natural resources.

Sincerely,

Lisa

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Lisa Joyal
Endangered Species Environmental Review Coordinator
NHIS Data Distribution Coordinator
Division of Ecological Resources
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25
St. Paul, MN 55155

phone: 651-259-5109
fax: 651-296-1811
lisa.joyal@dnr.state.mn.us
ww.mndnr.gov/eco
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

## Schmidt, Carole GRE/MG

**From:** Nick_Rowse@fws.gov
**Sent:** Friday, June 19, 2009 3:02 PM
**To:** Schmidt, Carole GRE/MG
**Subject:** Re: Yankee Doodle - Pilot Knob 115 kV System Upgrades Project

Ms. Carole L. Schmidt
Supervisor, Transmitting Permitting & Compliance
Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Blvd.
Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718

Dear Carole,

Our records indicate there are no federally listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat within the action area of the proposed project. If project plans change, additional information on listed or proposed species becomes available, or new species are listed that may be affected by the project, consultation should be reinitiated. This concludes section 7 consultation for proposed construction at the above location. Thank you for your cooperation in meeting our joint responsibilities under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. If you have any further endangered species questions, please contact me at (612) 725-3548 x2210.

Sincerely,

Nick Rowse
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Twin Cities ES Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4101 American Blvd. E.
Bloomington, MN 55425-1665
612-725-3548

**"Schmidt, Carole GRE/MG" <cschmidt@GREnergy.com>**

06/19/2009 01:44 PM

To "'nick_rowse@fws.gov'" <nick_rowse@fws.gov>
cc
Subject Yankee Doodle - Pilot Knob 115 kV System Upgrades Project

Hi Nick – Great River Energy and Xcel Energy are seeking concurrence with our assessment that the Prairie bush-clover is not likely to be found in the Yankee Doodle – Pilot Knob project area, as described in our letter of May 15, 2009. Thanks a lot – Carole Schmidt

GREAT RIVER ENERGY®
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Xcel Energy℠

15 May 2009

Mr. Gene Scott
Minnesota Department of Transportation
Office of Aeronautics
222 E. Plato Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55107-1618

RE: Yankee Doodle – Pilot Knob 115 kV Transmission Upgrades
Dakota County

Dear Mr. Scott:

Great River Energy, power supplier to Dakota Electric Association (DEA), and Xcel Energy have determined that a portion of the transmission system serving the City of Eagan service area requires upgrading to reliably serve growing electrical loads. The utilities are therefore proposing several 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission upgrades within the City of Eagan, Dakota County, Minnesota, as described below.

The three components of the project, all of which involve the upgrade of existing infrastructure, are described briefly below and on the enclosed fact sheet/map.

**Great River Energy**

Great River Energy will rebuild approximately one mile of Xcel Energy's existing single circuit, 115 kV transmission line (currently operated at 69 kV) to a double circuit, 115 kV line from the Yankee Doodle Substation south to Wescott Road. Xcel Energy will own the poles and one circuit that will operate at 115 kV and Great River Energy will own the other circuit that will operate at 69 kV to restore the 69 kV loop feed to the Wescott Park Distribution Substation. This part of the project will be completed first, in fall 2009.

**Xcel Energy**

Xcel Energy will construct a 115 kV line from the Pilot Knob Substation to the Eagan Substation (in 2010) by:

- Upgrading approximately 1.5 miles of existing single circuit, 115 kV transmission line (5525 line) to double circuit, 115 kV line from the Pilot Knob Substation to the intersection with Xcel Energy's 0703 line approximately ¼ mile east of Lexington Ave.

- Upgrading approximately ½ mile of Xcel Energy's existing single circuit, 69 kV transmission line (0703 line) to single circuit, 115 kV line from the previously described intersection north to the Eagan Substation.

The upgraded transmission lines will be constructed using steel poles approximately 70-80 feet tall, and construction will be accomplished within the existing easements.

**Substations**

The project will also include a new exit at DEA's Yankee Doodle Substation, rebuild of DEA's Eagan Substation from 69 kV to 115 kV, minor modifications to Xcel Energy's Lone Oak Substation, and a new 115 kV breaker at Great River Energy's Pilot Knob Substation.

Great River Energy and Xcel Energy are requesting information on the possible effects of the project on airports or airstrips in the area.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Friday, June 12, 2009.

If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact Carole Schmidt at (763) 445-5214 or cschmidt@grenergy.com; or Tim Rogers at Timothy.G.Rogers@xcelenergy.com or (612) 330-1955.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Carole L. Schmidt

Carole L. Schmidt
Supervisor, Transmission
Permitting and Compliance

XCEL ENERGY

Timothy G. Rogers

Timothy G. Rogers
Supervisor, Siting and Permitting

Enclosure

s:\legal\environmental\transmission\projects\ Yankee Doodle to Pilot Knob\Yankee-Pilot KnobMnDOT

# Yankee Doodle – Pilot Knob 115 kV System Upgrades

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

**GREAT RIVER ENERGY**
**12300 Elm Creek Boulevard**
**Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718**
**1-888-521-0130**
**www.greatriverenergy.com**

Xcel Energy℠

**XCEL ENERGY**
**414 Nicollet Mall**
**Minneapolis, MN 55401**
**612-330-5893**
**www.xcelenergy.com**

**Project Need**
Great River Energy (GRE), power supplier to Dakota Electric Association (DEA), and Northern States Power, doing business as Xcel Energy, have determined that the transmission system serving the City of Eagan service area requires upgrading to reliably serve growing electrical loads.

A number of facilities in the area between Yankee Doodle Road and Diffley Road will be upgraded to uniformly operate at 115 kV, including segments of transmission line from the Yankee Doodle Substation south, through the Eagan Substation, to the Pilot Knob Substation.

**Proposed Project**
The project will be constructed in two phases (see map on back):

1) Great River Energy will rebuild approximately one mile of Xcel Energy's existing single circuit, 115 kV transmission line (currently operated at 69 kV) to a double circuit, 115 kV line (Figure 1) from the Yankee Doodle Substation south to Wescott Road. Xcel Energy will own the poles and one circuit that will operate at 115 kV and Great River Energy will own the other circuit that will operate at 69 kV to restore the 69 kV loop feed to the Wescott Park Distribution Substation.

2) Xcel Energy will construct a 115 kV line from the Pilot Knob Substation to the Eagan Substation by:

- Upgrading approximately 1.5 miles of Xcel Energy's existing single circuit, 115 kV transmission (5525) line to double circuit, 115 kV line (Figure 1) from the Pilot Knob Substation to the intersection with Xcel Energy's 0703 line approximately ¼ mile east of Lexington Ave.

- Upgrading approximately ½ mile of Xcel Energy's existing single circuit, 69 kV transmission (0703) line to single circuit, 115 kV line (Figure 2) from the previously described intersection north to the Eagan Substation.

The upgraded transmission lines will be constructed using steel poles approximately 70 – 80 feet tall and construction will be accomplished within the existing easements. The project will also include a new exit at DEA's Yankee Doodle Substation, rebuild of DEA's Eagan Substation from 69 kV to 115 kV, minor modifications to Xcel Energy's Lone Oak Substation, and a new 115 kV breaker at GRE's Pilot Knob Substation.

***Figure 1***
***Typical 115 kV Double Circuit Structure***

***Figure 2***
***Typical 115 kV Single Circuit Structure***

**Schedule**

Permitting/Right-of-Way Acquisition----------Summer 2009
Line Construction----------Fall/Winter 2009
Line Energization----------Spring 2010

**Contacts**

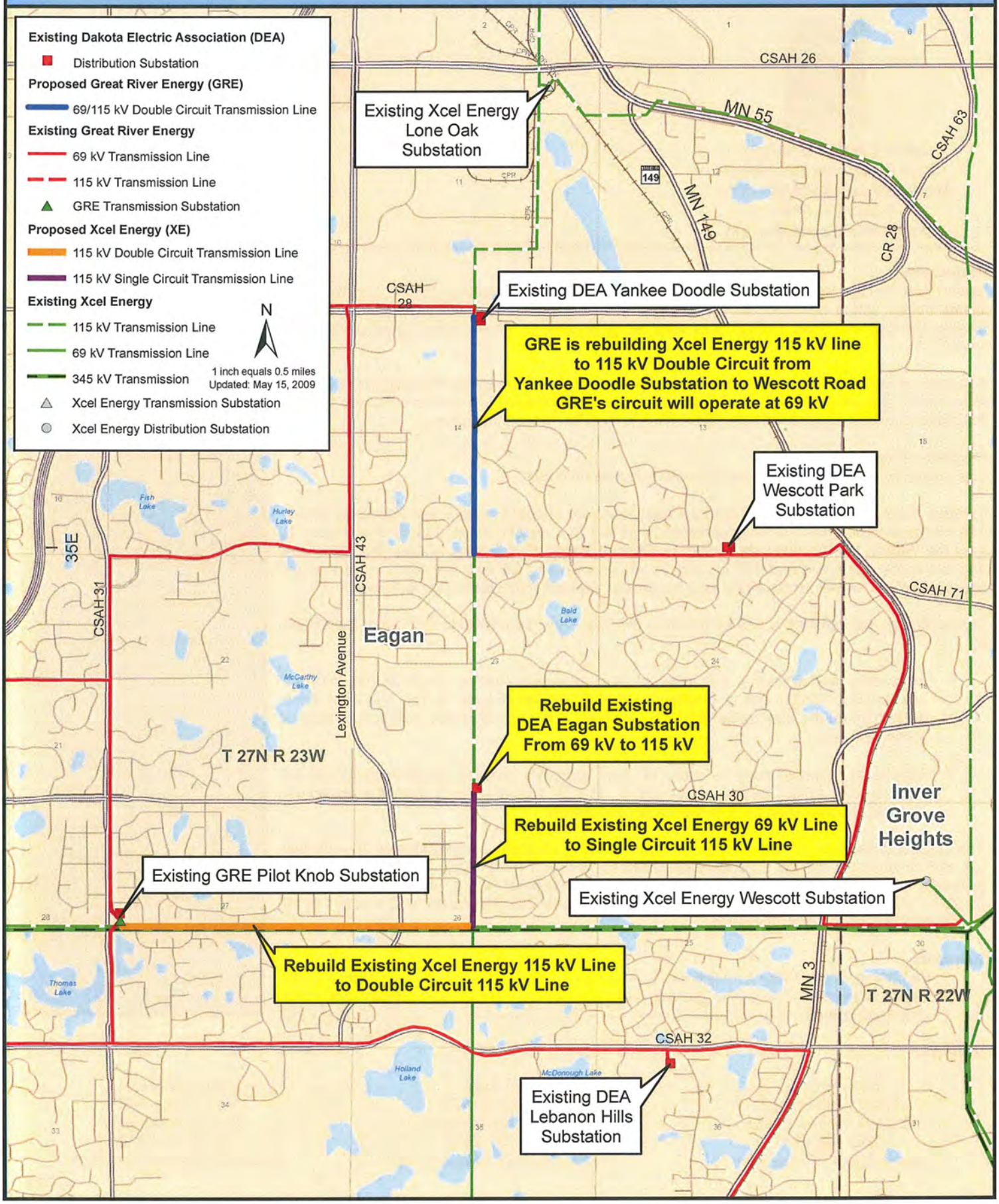
Peter Schaub
Great River Energy
Sr. Field Representative
(763) 445-5976
pschaub@GREnergy.com

Tim Lisson
Xcel Energy-NSP
Sr. Land Rights Agent
(715) 737-2513
timothy.j.lisson@xcelenergy.com

Eugene Kotz II
Xcel Energy-NSP
Sr. Project Manager
(612) 330-5625
eugene.kotz@xcelenergy.com

5/15/2009

# PROJECT MAP



Existing Dakota Electric Association (DEA)
Distribution Substation
Proposed Great River Energy (GRE)
69/115 kV Double Circuit Transmission Line
Existing Great River Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
115 kV Transmission Line
GRE Transmission Substation
Proposed Xcel Energy (XE)
115 kV Double Circuit Transmission Line
115 kV Single Circuit Transmission Line
Existing Xcel Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
69 kV Transmission Line
345 kV Transmission
Xcel Energy Transmission Substation
Xcel Energy Distribution Substation
N
1 inch equals 0.5 miles
Updated: May 15, 2009
Existing Xcel Energy Lone Oak Substation
CSAH 26
MN 55
CSAH 63
MN 149
CR 28
CSAH 28
Existing DEA Yankee Doodle Substation
GRE is rebuilding Xcel Energy 115 kV line to 115 kV Double Circuit from Yankee Doodle Substation to Wescott Road GRE's circuit will operate at 69 kV
Existing DEA Wescott Park Substation
35E
CSAH 31
CSAH 43
Lexington Avenue
Eagan
CSAH 71
Bald Lake
McCarthy Lake
Fish Lake
Hurley Lake
T 27N R 23W
Rebuild Existing DEA Eagan Substation From 69 kV to 115 kV
CSAH 30
Inver Grove Heights
Rebuild Existing Xcel Energy 69 kV Line to Single Circuit 115 kV Line
Existing GRE Pilot Knob Substation
Existing Xcel Energy Wescott Substation
Rebuild Existing Xcel Energy 115 kV Line to Double Circuit 115 kV Line
Thomas Lake
MN 3
T 27N R 22W
CSAH 32
Holland Lake
McDonough Lake
Existing DEA Lebanon Hills Substation

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Xcel Energy℠

15 May 2009

Mr. Eric Norton
Department of the Army
Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District
190 Fifth Street East, Suite 401
St. Paul, MN 55101-1638

RE: Yankee Doodle – Pilot Knob 115 kV Transmission Upgrades
Dakota County

Dear Mr. Norton:

Great River Energy, power supplier to Dakota Electric Association (DEA), and Xcel Energy have determined that a portion of the transmission system serving the City of Eagan service area requires upgrading to reliably serve growing electrical loads. The utilities are therefore proposing several 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission upgrades within the City of Eagan, Dakota County, Minnesota, as described below.

The three components of the project, all of which involve the upgrade of existing infrastructure, are described briefly below and on the enclosed fact sheet/map.

**Great River Energy**

Great River Energy will rebuild approximately one mile of Xcel Energy's existing single circuit, 115 kV transmission line (currently operated at 69 kV) to a double circuit, 115 kV line from the Yankee Doodle Substation south to Wescott Road. Xcel Energy will own the poles one circuit that will operate at 115 kV and Great River Energy will own the other circuit that will operate at 69 kV to restore the 69 kV loop feed to the Wescott Park Distribution Substation. This part of the project will be completed first, in fall 2009.

**Xcel Energy**

Xcel Energy will construct a 115 kV line from the Pilot Knob Substation to the Eagan Substation (in 2010) by:

- Upgrading approximately 1.5 miles of existing single circuit, 115 kV transmission line (5525 line) to double circuit, 115 kV line from the Pilot Knob Substation to the intersection with Xcel Energy's 0703 line approximately ¼ mile east of Lexington Ave.

- Upgrading approximately ½ mile of Xcel Energy's existing single circuit, 69 kV transmission line (0703 line) to single circuit, 115 kV line from the previously described intersection north to the Eagan Substation.

The upgraded transmission lines will be constructed using steel poles approximately 70-80 feet tall, and construction will be accomplished within the existing easements.

**Substations**

The project will also include a new exit at DEA's Yankee Doodle Substation, rebuild of DEA's Eagan Substation from 69 kV to 115 kV, minor modifications to Xcel Energy's Lone Oak Substation, and a new 115 kV breaker at Great River Energy's Pilot Knob Substation.

Great River Energy and Xcel Energy are requesting information on the possible effects of the proposed project on floodplains, wetlands, and other important natural resources that occur in the project area. The Great River Energy portion of the project will span one freshwater pond, one freshwater emergent wetland, and one DNR public water (in Section 14, T27N, R23 W - see enclosed maps). Great River Energy will apply to the DNR Division of Lands and Minerals for a license to cross the public water. The Xcel Energy portion of the project will not affect any DNR public waters or NWI wetlands.

Because the lines will span all water/wetland features, Great River Energy and Xcel Energy believe that there will be no impacts to resources over which the Corps of Engineers has jurisdiction.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Friday, June 12, 2009. If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact Carole Schmidt at (763) 445-5214 or cschmidt@grenergy.com; or Tim Rogers at Timothy.G.Rogers@xcelenergy.com or (612) 330-1955.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Carole L. Schmidt

Carole L. Schmidt
Supervisor, Transmission
Permitting and Compliance

XCEL ENERGY

Timothy G. Rogers

Timothy G. Rogers
Supervisor, Siting and Permitting

Enclosures

s:\legal\environmental\transmission\projects\ Yankee Doodle to Pilot Knob\Yankee-Pilot KnobCOE

# Yankee Doodle – Pilot Knob 115 kV System Upgrades

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

**GREAT RIVER ENERGY**
**12300 Elm Creek Boulevard**
**Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718**
**1-888-521-0130**
**www.greatriverenergy.com**

Xcel Energy℠

**XCEL ENERGY**
**414 Nicollet Mall**
**Minneapolis, MN 55401**
**612-330-5893**
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**Project Need**
Great River Energy (GRE), power supplier to Dakota Electric Association (DEA), and Northern States Power, doing business as Xcel Energy, have determined that the transmission system serving the City of Eagan service area requires upgrading to reliably serve growing electrical loads.

A number of facilities in the area between Yankee Doodle Road and Diffley Road will be upgraded to uniformly operate at 115 kV, including segments of transmission line from the Yankee Doodle Substation south, through the Eagan Substation, to the Pilot Knob Substation.

**Proposed Project**
The project will be constructed in two phases (see map on back):

1) Great River Energy will rebuild approximately one mile of Xcel Energy's existing single circuit, 115 kV transmission line (currently operated at 69 kV) to a double circuit, 115 kV line (Figure 1) from the Yankee Doodle Substation south to Wescott Road. Xcel Energy will own the poles and one circuit that will operate at 115 kV and Great River Energy will own the other circuit that will operate at 69 kV to restore the 69 kV loop feed to the Wescott Park Distribution Substation.

2) Xcel Energy will construct a 115 kV line from the Pilot Knob Substation to the Eagan Substation by:

- Upgrading approximately 1.5 miles of Xcel Energy's existing single circuit, 115 kV transmission (5525) line to double circuit, 115 kV line (Figure 1) from the Pilot Knob Substation to the intersection with Xcel Energy's 0703 line approximately ¼ mile east of Lexington Ave.

- Upgrading approximately ½ mile of Xcel Energy's existing single circuit, 69 kV transmission (0703) line to single circuit, 115 kV line (Figure 2) from the previously described intersection north to the Eagan Substation.

The upgraded transmission lines will be constructed using steel poles approximately 70 – 80 feet tall and construction will be accomplished within the existing easements. The project will also include a new exit at DEA's Yankee Doodle Substation, rebuild of DEA's Eagan Substation from 69 kV to 115 kV, minor modifications to Xcel Energy's Lone Oak Substation, and a new 115 kV breaker at GRE's Pilot Knob Substation.

***Figure 1***
***Typical 115 kV Double Circuit Structure***

***Figure 2***
***Typical 115 kV Single Circuit Structure***

**Schedule**

Permitting/Right-of-Way Acquisition----------Summer 2009
Line Construction----------Fall/Winter 2009
Line Energization----------Spring 2010

**Contacts**

Peter Schaub
Great River Energy
Sr. Field Representative
(763) 445-5976
pschaub@GREnergy.com

Tim Lisson
Xcel Energy-NSP
Sr. Land Rights Agent
(715) 737-2513
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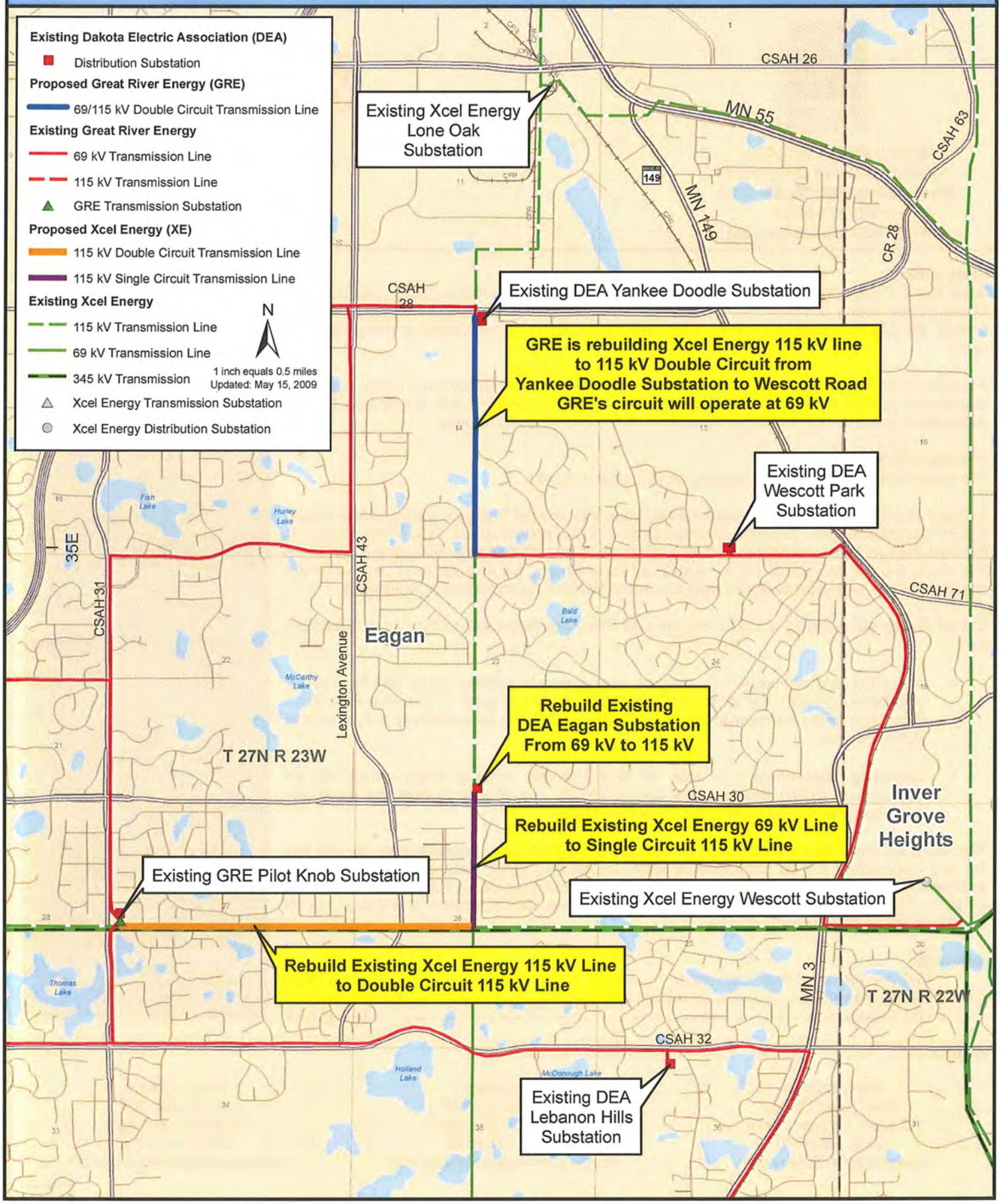
Eugene Kotz II
Xcel Energy-NSP
Sr. Project Manager
(612) 330-5625
eugene.kotz@xcelenergy.com

5/15/2009

# PROJECT MAP


Existing Dakota Electric Association (DEA)
Distribution Substation
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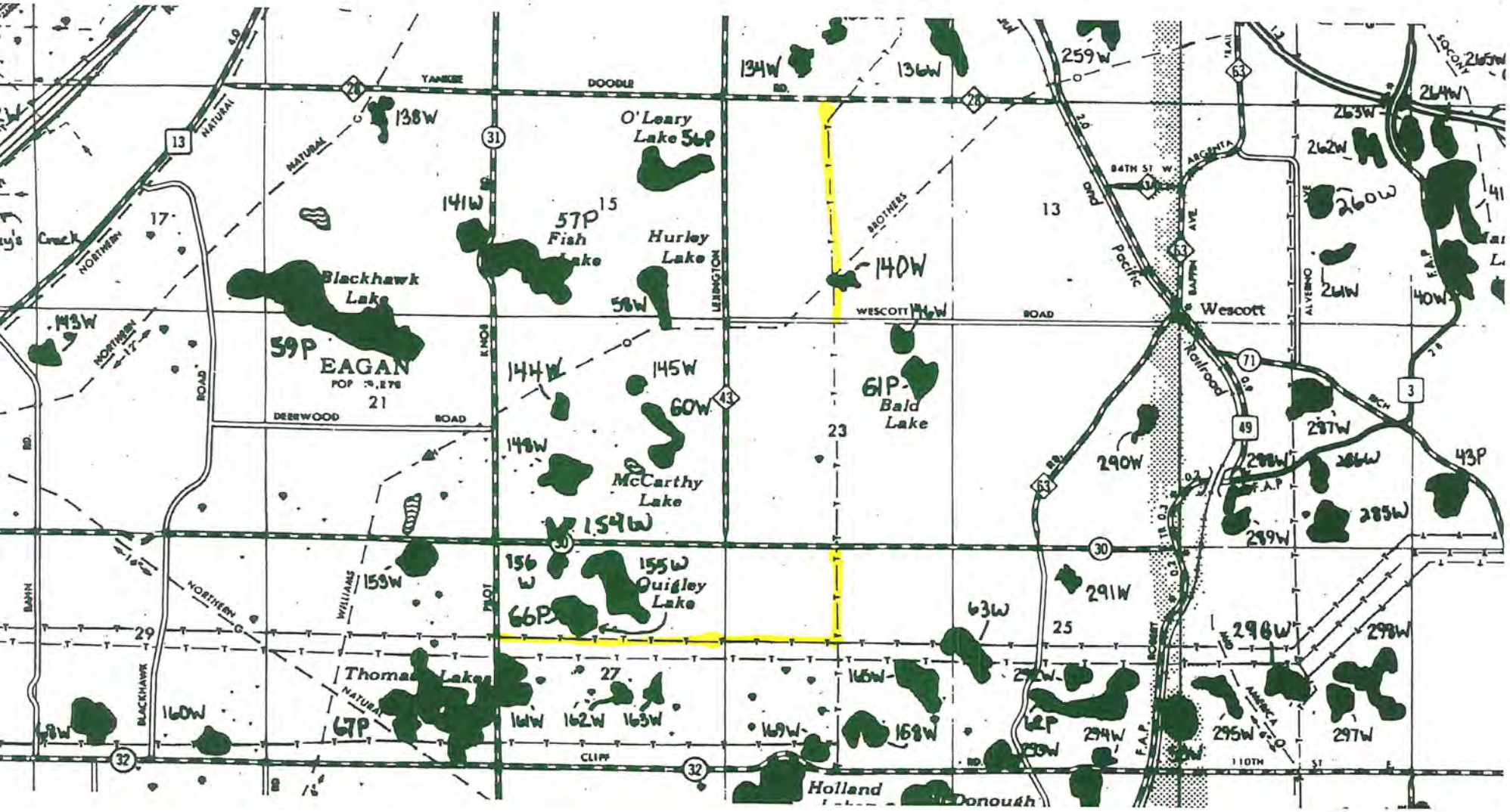
69/115 kV Double Circuit Transmission Line
Existing Great River Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
115 kV Transmission Line
GRE Transmission Substation
Proposed Xcel Energy (XE)
115 kV Double Circuit Transmission Line
115 kV Single Circuit Transmission Line
Existing Xcel Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
69 kV Transmission Line
345 kV Transmission
Xcel Energy Transmission Substation
Xcel Energy Distribution Substation
N
1 inch equals 0.5 miles
Updated: May 15, 2009
Existing Xcel Energy Lone Oak Substation
Existing DEA Yankee Doodle Substation
GRE is rebuilding Xcel Energy 115 kV line to 115 kV Double Circuit from Yankee Doodle Substation to Wescott Road GRE's circuit will operate at 69 kV
Existing DEA Wescott Park Substation
Rebuild Existing DEA Eagan Substation From 69 kV to 115 kV
Rebuild Existing Xcel Energy 69 kV Line to Single Circuit 115 kV Line
Existing GRE Pilot Knob Substation
Existing Xcel Energy Wescott Substation
Rebuild Existing Xcel Energy 115 kV Line to Double Circuit 115 kV Line
Existing DEA Lebanon Hills Substation
CSAH 26
MN 55
CSAH 63
MN 149
CR 28
CSAH 28
CSAH 43
CSAH 71
35E
CSAH 31
Eagan
Lexington Avenue
T 27N R 23W
CSAH 30
Inver Grove Heights
MN 3
T 27N R 22W
CSAH 32
Fish Lake
Hurley Lake
Bald Lake
McCarthy Lake
Thomas Lake
Holland Lake
McDonough Lake

DNR Public Waters Map



NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
Freshwater Pond
Lake
Riverine
69/115 kV Double Circuit Transmission Line
115 kV Double Circuit Transmission Line
115 kV Single Circuit Transmission Line

NWI Wetlands data from U.S Fish & Wildlife Service
2008 Digital Orthorectified Images from U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency

**Yankee Doodle To Pilot Knob**
**115 kV Transmission Line**
**Map 1 of 2**

N
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NWI Wetlands

- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Riverine
- 69/115 kV Double Circuit Transmission Line
- 115 kV Double Circuit Transmission Line
- 115 kV Single Circuit Transmission Line

NWI Wetlands data from U.S Fish & Wildlife Service
2008 Digital Orthorectified Images from U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency

**Yankee Doodle To Pilot Knob**
**115 kV Transmission Line**
**Map 2 of 2**

N

1:12,000

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GREAT RIVER ENERGY®
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Xcel Energy℠

15 May 2009

Ms. Lisa Joyal
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Yankee Doodle – Pilot Knob 115 kV Transmission Upgrades
Dakota County

Dear Ms. Joyal:

Great River Energy, power supplier to Dakota Electric Association (DEA), and Xcel Energy have determined that a portion of the transmission system serving the City of Eagan service area requires upgrading to reliably serve growing electrical loads. The utilities are therefore proposing several 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission upgrades within the City of Eagan, Dakota County, Minnesota, as described below.

The three components of the project, all of which involve the upgrade of existing infrastructure, are described briefly below and on the enclosed fact sheet/map.

**Great River Energy**

Great River Energy will rebuild approximately one mile of Xcel Energy's existing single circuit, 115 kV transmission line (currently operated at 69 kV) to a double circuit, 115 kV line from the Yankee Doodle Substation south to Wescott Road. Xcel Energy will own the poles and one circuit that will operate at 115 kV and Great River Energy will own the other circuit that will operate at 69 kV to restore the 69 kV loop feed to the Wescott Park Distribution Substation. This part of the project will be completed first, in fall 2009.

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**Substations**

The project will also include a new exit at DEA's Yankee Doodle Substation, rebuild of DEA's Eagan Substation from 69 kV to 115 kV, minor modifications to Xcel Energy's Lone Oak Substation, and a new 115 kV breaker at Great River Energy's Pilot Knob Substation.

The Great River Energy portion of the project will span one DNR public water (140W - see enclosed map). Great River Energy will apply to the DNR Division of Lands and Minerals for a license to cross that water.

There is one rare feature (mesic prairie, see enclosed map) in the vicinity of the project. However, given the location of the prairie relative to the project, the utilities believe that there will be no impacts from construction of the project.

Great River Energy and Xcel Energy are requesting concurrence with this assessment and any information on the possible effects of the proposed project on other important natural resources that occur in the project area. We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Friday, June 12, 2009. If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact Carole Schmidt at (763) 445-5214, cschmidt@grenergy.com; or Tim Rogers at (612) 330-1955, Timothy.G.Rogers@xcelenergy.com. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Carole L. Schmidt

Carole L. Schmidt
Supervisor, Transmission
Permitting and Compliance

XCEL ENERGY

Timothy G. Rogers

Timothy G. Rogers
Supervisor, Siting and Permitting

Enclosures

s:\legal\environmental\transmission\projects\ Yankee Doodle to Pilot Knob\Yankee-Pilot KnobDNR

# Yankee Doodle – Pilot Knob 115 kV System Upgrades

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12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
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**Project Need**

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**Proposed Project**

The project will be constructed in two phases (see map on back):

1) Great River Energy will rebuild approximately one mile of Xcel Energy's existing single circuit, 115 kV transmission line (currently operated at 69 kV) to a double circuit, 115 kV line (Figure 1) from the Yankee Doodle Substation south to Wescott Road. Xcel Energy will own the poles and one circuit that will operate at 115 kV and Great River Energy will own the other circuit that will operate at 69 kV to restore the 69 kV loop feed to the Wescott Park Distribution Substation.

2) Xcel Energy will construct a 115 kV line from the Pilot Knob Substation to the Eagan Substation by:

- Upgrading approximately 1.5 miles of Xcel Energy's existing single circuit, 115 kV transmission (5525) line to double circuit, 115 kV line (Figure 1) from the Pilot Knob Substation to the intersection with Xcel Energy's 0703 line approximately ¼ mile east of Lexington Ave.
- Upgrading approximately ½ mile of Xcel Energy's existing single circuit, 69 kV transmission (0703) line to single circuit, 115 kV line (Figure 2) from the previously described intersection north to the Eagan Substation.

The upgraded transmission lines will be constructed using steel poles approximately 70 – 80 feet tall and construction will be accomplished within the existing easements. The project will also include a new exit at DEA's Yankee Doodle Substation, rebuild of DEA's Eagan Substation from 69 kV to 115 kV, minor modifications to Xcel Energy's Lone Oak Substation, and a new 115 kV breaker at GRE's Pilot Knob Substation.

*Figure 1*
*Typical 115 kV Double Circuit Structure*

*Figure 2*
*Typical 115 kV Single Circuit Structure*

**Schedule**

Permitting/Right-of-Way Acquisition----------Summer 2009
Line Construction----------Fall/Winter 2009
Line Energization----------Spring 2010

**Contacts**

Peter Schaub
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Sr. Project Manager
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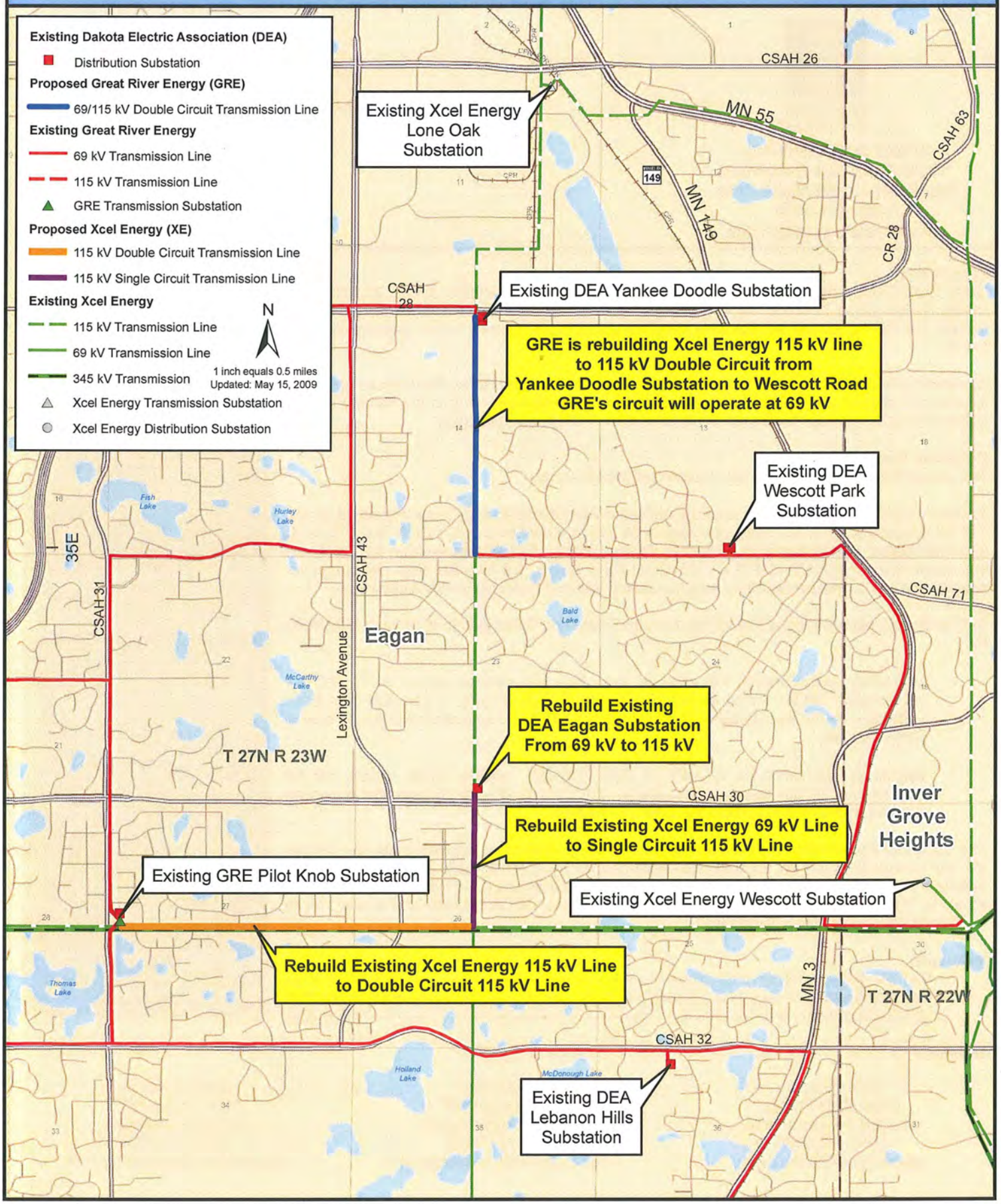
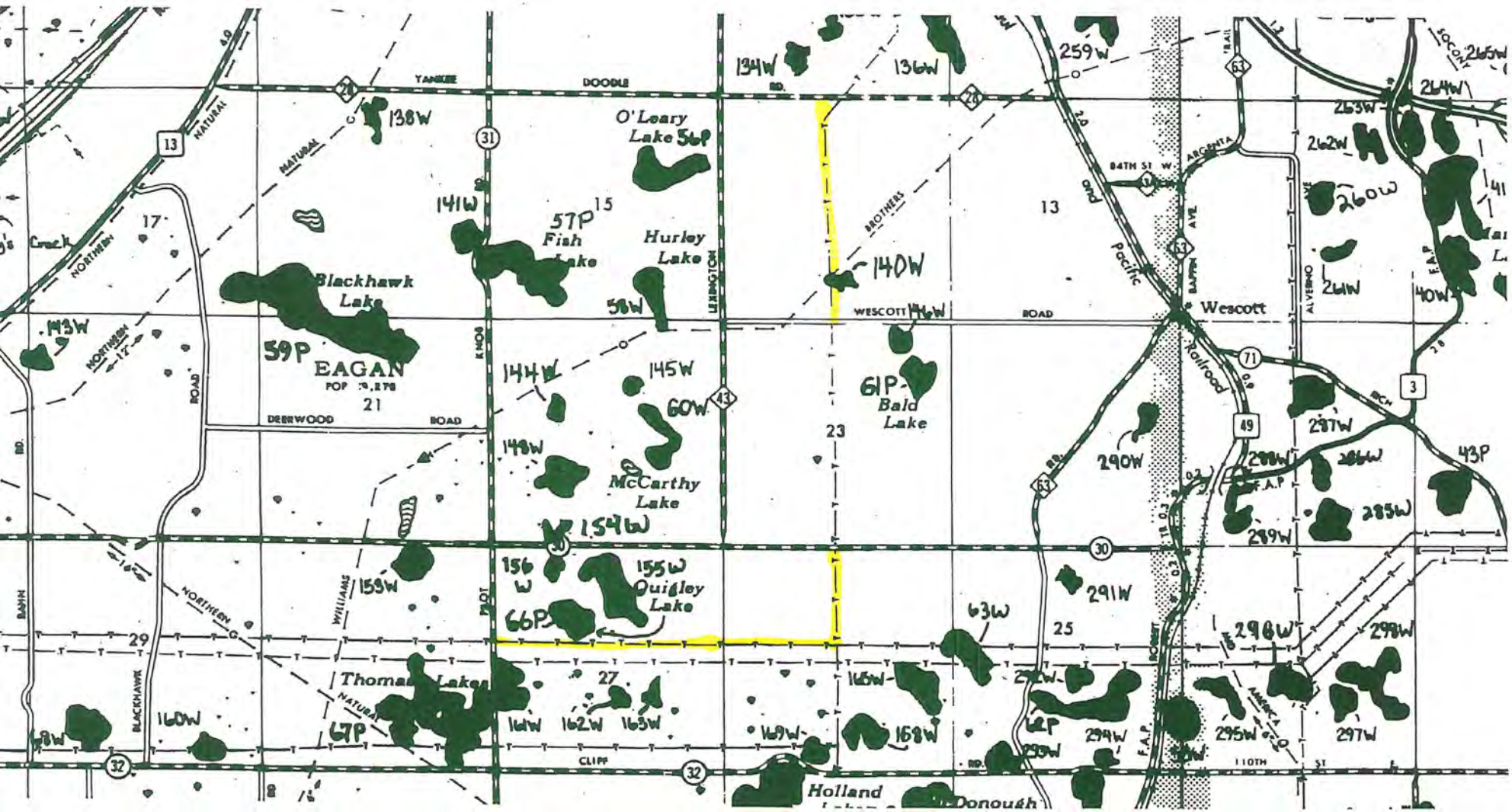
5/15/2009

# PROJECT MAP



Existing Dakota Electric Association (DEA)
Distribution Substation
Proposed Great River Energy (GRE)
69/115 kV Double Circuit Transmission Line
Existing Great River Energy
69 kV Transmission Line
115 kV Transmission Line
GRE Transmission Substation
Proposed Xcel Energy (XE)
115 kV Double Circuit Transmission Line
115 kV Single Circuit Transmission Line
Existing Xcel Energy
115 kV Transmission Line
69 kV Transmission Line
345 kV Transmission
Xcel Energy Transmission Substation
Xcel Energy Distribution Substation
N
1 inch equals 0.5 miles
Updated: May 15, 2009
Existing Xcel Energy Lone Oak Substation
CSAH 26
MN 55
CSAH 63
MN 149
CR 28
CSAH 28
Existing DEA Yankee Doodle Substation
GRE is rebuilding Xcel Energy 115 kV line to 115 kV Double Circuit from Yankee Doodle Substation to Wescott Road GRE's circuit will operate at 69 kV
Existing DEA Wescott Park Substation
35E
CSAH 31
CSAH 43
CSAH 71
Eagan
Lexington Avenue
Bald Lake
McCarthy Lake
Fish Lake
Hurley Lake
Rebuild Existing DEA Eagan Substation From 69 kV to 115 kV
T 27N R 23W
CSAH 30
Inver Grove Heights
Rebuild Existing Xcel Energy 69 kV Line to Single Circuit 115 kV Line
Existing GRE Pilot Knob Substation
Existing Xcel Energy Wescott Substation
Rebuild Existing Xcel Energy 115 kV Line to Double Circuit 115 kV Line
Thomas Lake
MN 3
T 27N R 22W
CSAH 32
Holland Lake
McDonough Lake
Existing DEA Lebanon Hills Substation

DNR Public Waters Map



GREAT RIVER ENERGY®
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Xcel Energy℠

15 May 2009

Mr. Nick Rowse, Habitat Conservation Biologist
United States Department of the Interior
Twin Cities Field Office
4101 East 80th Street
Bloomington, MN 55425-1665

RE: Yankee Doodle – Pilot Knob 115 kV Transmission Upgrades
Dakota County

Dear Mr. Rowse:

Great River Energy, power supplier to Dakota Electric Association (DEA), and Xcel Energy have determined that a portion of the transmission system serving the City of Eagan service area requires upgrading to reliably serve growing electrical loads. The utilities are therefore proposing several 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission upgrades within the City of Eagan, Dakota County, Minnesota, as described below.

The three components of the project, all of which involve the upgrade of existing infrastructure, are described briefly below and on the enclosed fact sheet/map.

**Great River Energy**

Great River Energy will rebuild approximately one mile of Xcel Energy's existing single circuit, 115 kV transmission line (currently operated at 69 kV) to a double circuit, 115 kV line from the Yankee Doodle Substation south to Wescott Road. Xcel Energy will own the poles and one circuit that will operate at 115 kV and Great River Energy will own the other circuit that will operate at 69 kV to restore the 69 kV loop feed to the Wescott Park Distribution Substation. This part of the project will be completed first, in fall 2009.

**Xcel Energy**

Xcel Energy will construct a 115 kV line from the Pilot Knob Substation to the Eagan Substation (in 2010) by:

- Upgrading approximately 1.5 miles of existing single circuit, 115 kV transmission line (5525 line) to double circuit, 115 kV line from the Pilot Knob Substation to the intersection with Xcel Energy's 0703 line approximately ¼ mile east of Lexington Ave.

- Upgrading approximately ½ mile of Xcel Energy's existing single circuit, 69 kV transmission line (0703 line) to single circuit, 115 kV line from the previously described intersection north to the Eagan Substation.

The upgraded transmission lines will be constructed using steel poles approximately 70-80 feet tall, and construction will be accomplished within the existing easements.

**Substations**

The project will also include a new exit at DEA's Yankee Doodle Substation, rebuild of DEA's Eagan Substation from 69 kV to 115 kV, minor modifications to Xcel Energy's Lone Oak Substation, and a new 115 kV breaker at Great River Energy's Pilot Knob Substation.

The Fish and Wildlife Service website indicates there are two species of interest in Dakota County, Minnesota; the Higgins eye pearlymussel and Prairie bush-clover. The Higgins eye pearlymussel is an endangered species that occurs in the Mississippi River and therefore would not be impacted by this project. The Prairie bush-clover is a threatened species that is unlikely to be found along the disturbed corridors in which the transmission upgrades will take place.

Great River Energy and Xcel Energy are requesting concurrence with this assessment that there will be no adverse effects from the proposed project on any listed or proposed threatened or endangered species and designated or proposed critical habitat that may be present in the project area.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Friday, June 12, 2009. If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact Carole Schmidt at (763) 445-5214 or cschmidt@grenergy.com; or Tim Rogers at Timothy.G.Rogers@xcelenergy.com or (612) 330-1955.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Carole L. Schmidt

Carole L. Schmidt
Supervisor, Transmission
Permitting and Compliance

XCEL ENERGY

Timothy G. Rogers

Timothy G. Rogers
Supervisor, Siting and Permitting

Enclosure

s:\legal\environmental\transmission\projects\ Yankee Doodle to Pilot Knob\Yankee-Pilot KnobFWS

# Yankee Doodle – Pilot Knob 115 kV System Upgrades

GREAT RIVER ENERGY
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718
1-888-521-0130
www.greatriverenergy.com

XCEL ENERGY
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401
612-330-5893
www.xcelenergy.com

**Project Need**

Great River Energy (GRE), power supplier to Dakota Electric Association (DEA), and Northern States Power, doing business as Xcel Energy, have determined that the transmission system serving the City of Eagan service area requires upgrading to reliably serve growing electrical loads.

A number of facilities in the area between Yankee Doodle Road and Diffley Road will be upgraded to uniformly operate at 115 kV, including segments of transmission line from the Yankee Doodle Substation south, through the Eagan Substation, to the Pilot Knob Substation.

**Proposed Project**

The project will be constructed in two phases (see map on back):

1) Great River Energy will rebuild approximately one mile of Xcel Energy's existing single circuit, 115 kV transmission line (currently operated at 69 kV) to a double circuit, 115 kV line (Figure 1) from the Yankee Doodle Substation south to Wescott Road. Xcel Energy will own the poles and one circuit that will operate at 115 kV and Great River Energy will own the other circuit that will operate at 69 kV to restore the 69 kV loop feed to the Wescott Park Distribution Substation.

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5/15/2009

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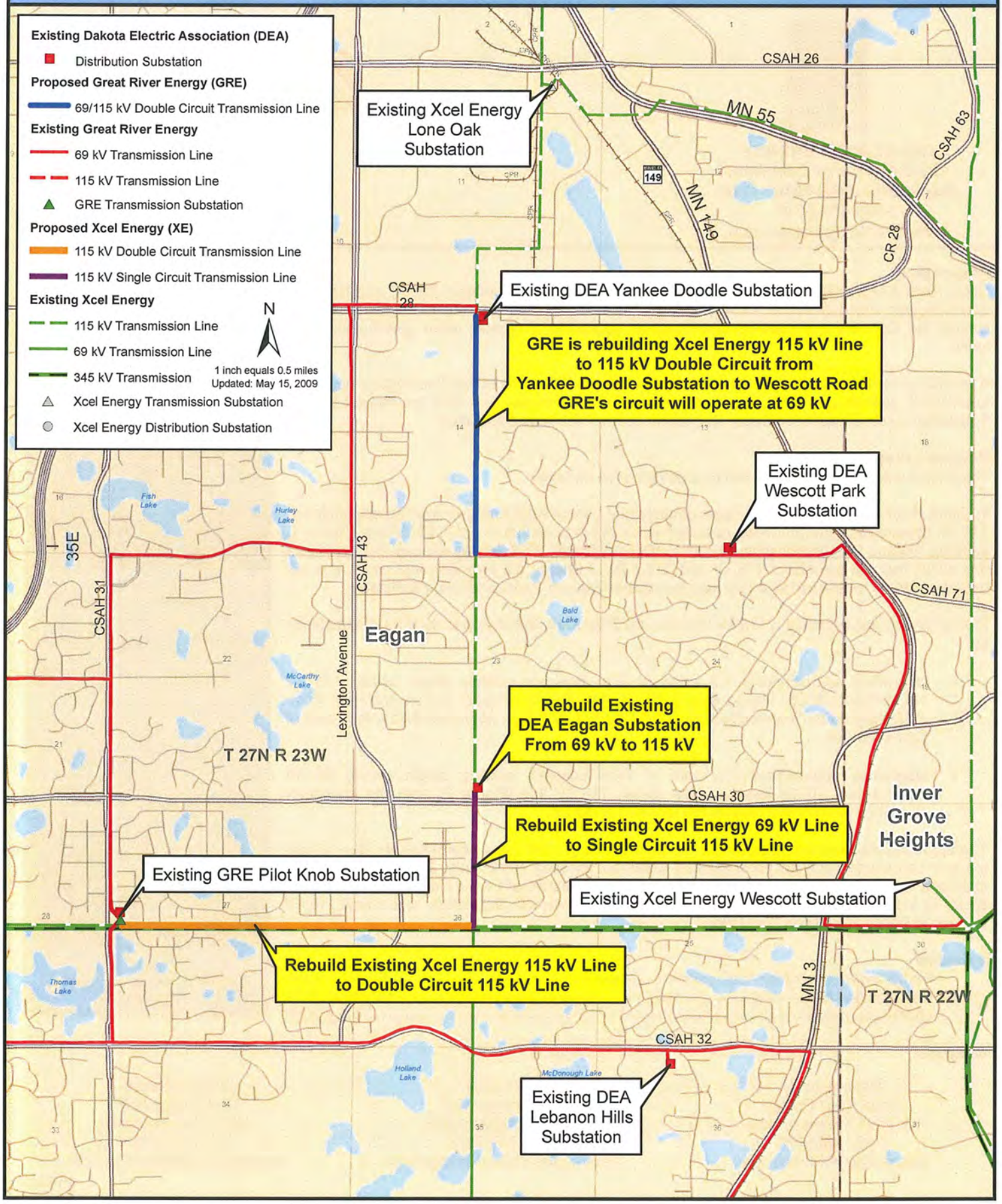
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McDonough Lake