GREAT RIVER
ENERGY®

12300 Elm Creek Boulevard • Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369-4718 • 763-445-5000 • Fax 763-445-5050 • www.GreatRiverEnergy.com

24 February 2009

Mr. Tom Hingsberger
US Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District, Attn: OP-R
190 Fifth Street East, Suite 401
St. Paul, MN 55101-1638

RE: Revision on Proposed Substation and Transmission Line Construction
Stearns County, Minnesota
T125N, R28W, Section 30
T125N, R29W, Sections 25 & 36
T124N, R29W, Sections 1 & 2

WO# 54331 & 75711

Dear Mr. Hingsberger:

Last November, I sent you a letter on changes to the Sartell/Le Sauk Project proposed by Great River Energy. Upon further review, we made more changes in the location of the route for Phase 1. The proposed line is marked in purple (Phase 1) and blue (Phase 2) on the enclosed fact sheet to identify the two phases of the project described below.

- Phase 1: Increase the voltage capacity of the existing Le Sauk distribution substation (owned by Stearns Electric Association), which requires upgrade of a 69 KV line to 115 kV (0.4 mile) in Sections 1 & 2, T124N, R29W. This upgraded line will tap an existing Xcel Energy transmission line to the south of the substation and is proposed to be built in 2009.

- Phase 2: Construct approximately two miles of new 115 kV transmission line to serve a new distribution substation that will be constructed by Stearns Electric Association. This line will be located in Section 30, T125N, R28W and Sections 25 & 36, T125N, R29W in Stearns County, Minnesota. This part of the project is proposed to be built in 2010.

There are no waterbodies or wetlands in the vicinity of the project that will be affected by the upgraded or new transmission lines (see enclosed map).

A detailed map of the location of the Sartell Substation (Phase 2) is included for your review. It appears that there is enough room to construct the substation to the northeast of the small wetland; however, Stearns Electric Association will work with the USACE during design of the substation and will acquire any necessary USACE permits.

Great River Energy is requesting concurrence with its interpretation that no wetlands in the vicinity of the project will be impacted by the Phase 1 and 2 transmission lines. We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Friday, 27 March 2009. If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact me at (763) 445-5215. If you wish to respond by e-mail, my address is mparlow@grenergy.com. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Marsha Parlow

Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Analyst

Enclosures

S:\Member Services\Environmental\Transmission\Projects\54331 Sartell\LeSauk-Sartell ACE.doc

Proposed LeSauk and Sartell 115 kV Transmission Lines
Proposed 115 kV Conversion of LeSauk Distribution Substation
Proposed Sartell 115 kV Distribution Substation

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Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718
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STEARNS ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
900 East Kraft Drive PO Box 40
Melrose, MN 56352-0040
1-800-962-0655
www.stearnselectric.org

Project Need

Rapid continuous residential and commercial development in LeSauk Township and the cities of Sartell, Waite Park, St. Joseph and St. Cloud has led to increasing loads on the existing electric distribution system operated by Stearns Electric Association. Despite recent economic slowdown, there is strong evidence that customer demand for electricity will continue to grow at a rapid rate in this area.

To address these needs, Great River Energy proposes to increase the voltage capacity of the existing LeSauk distribution substation (requiring the construction of approximately 0.4 miles of 115 kV transmission line), and to construct approximately two miles of 115 kV transmission line to serve a new distribution substation that will be constructed by Stearns Electric Association.

Typical Distribution Substation

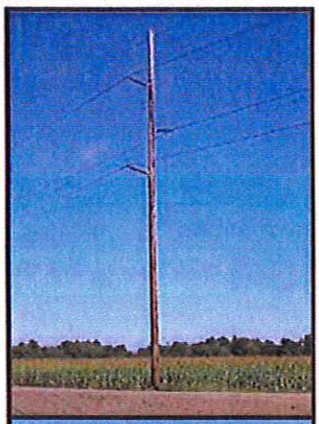
Proposed Facilities

This project consists of two related construction phases:

Phase 1: Great River Energy will convert the existing LeSauk Substation from 69 kV to 115 kV. The substation conversion also includes reconstructing an approximately 0.4 mile segment of existing 69 kV transmission line and increasing the voltage to 115 kV. The reconstructed 115 kV transmission line will connect to an existing Xcel Energy transmission line on the north side of County Road 133 in St. Joseph Township (see project map on back). The reconstructed 115 kV transmission line will extend northeasterly along the north side of County Road 133 to the existing LeSauk distribution substation located in the southwest corner of Stearns County Road 133 and 320th Street. This 115 kV transmission line and substation conversion will relieve electric loading issues on the West St. Cloud Substation and relieve low voltage problems in the surrounding electric transmission system.

Phase 2: Stearns Electric Association will construct a new Sartell 115 kV distribution substation on three acres located in the northeast corner of Stearns County Roads 133 and 4. The new substation will serve the electric load created by present and future residential and commercial growth in the City of Sartell and surrounding areas.

Great River Energy will construct a two mile segment of 115 kV transmission line (that will generally follow Stearns County Road 133) from the existing LeSauk Substation to the new Sartell Substation. The new transmission line poles will generally be 70-75 feet tall (see photos of typical 115 kV transmission line poles and a typical 115 kV substation). As part of this project, an existing Stearns Electric Association three-phase distribution line located along Stearns County Road 133 will be buried.



Typical 115 kV Single-Pole Structure

This project will be permitted locally through Stearns County in accordance with State Permitting Rules.

Schedule		
	Public Meetings	Spring/Summer 2009
	Local Permitting Phases I and II	Spring/Summer 2009
	Easement Acquisition Phase I	Spring 2009
	Construction Phase I	Fall 2009
	Easement Acquisition Phase II	Spring/Summer 2010
	Construction Phase II	Fall 2010
	Energization Phase II	Winter 2010

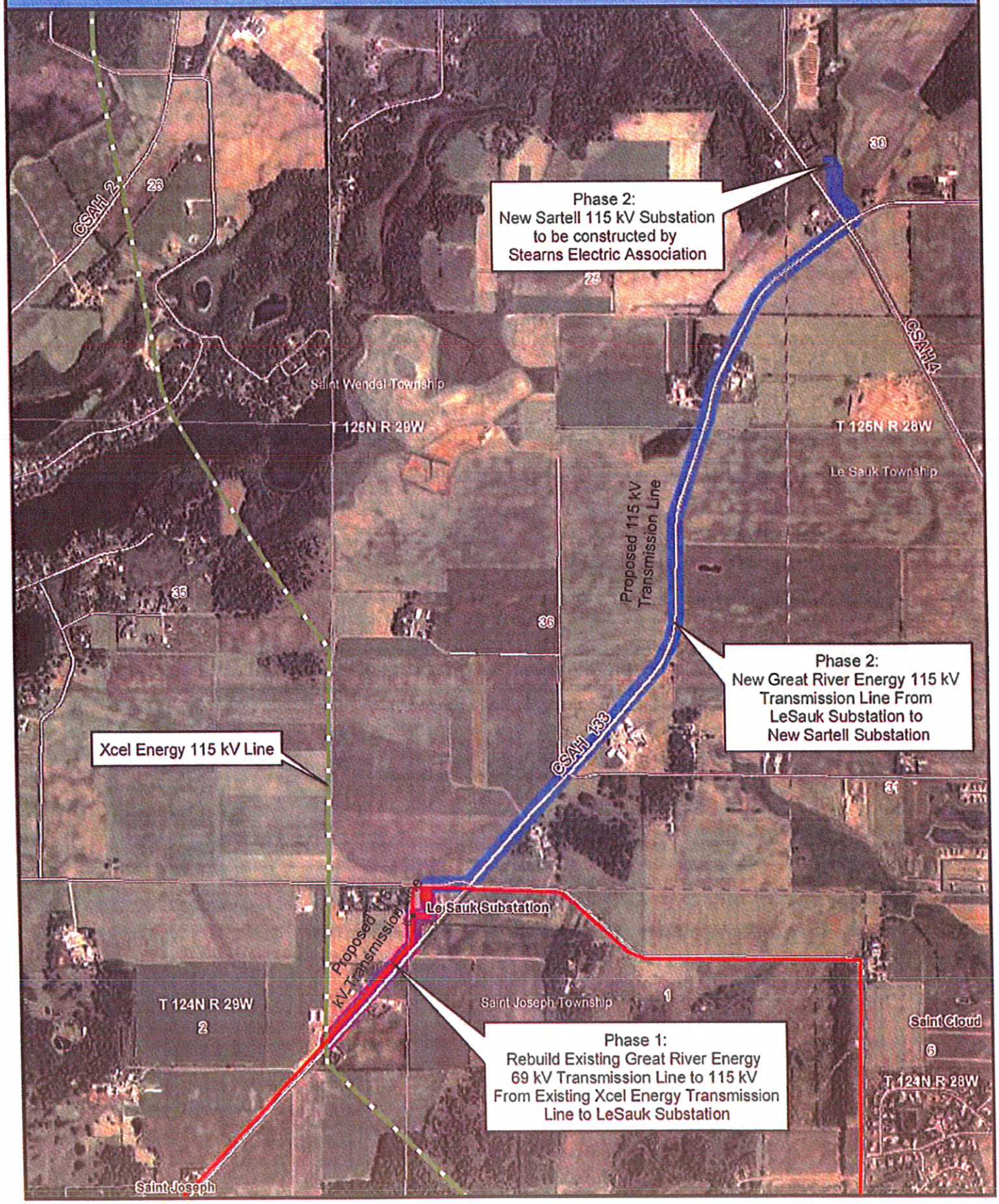
Contacts

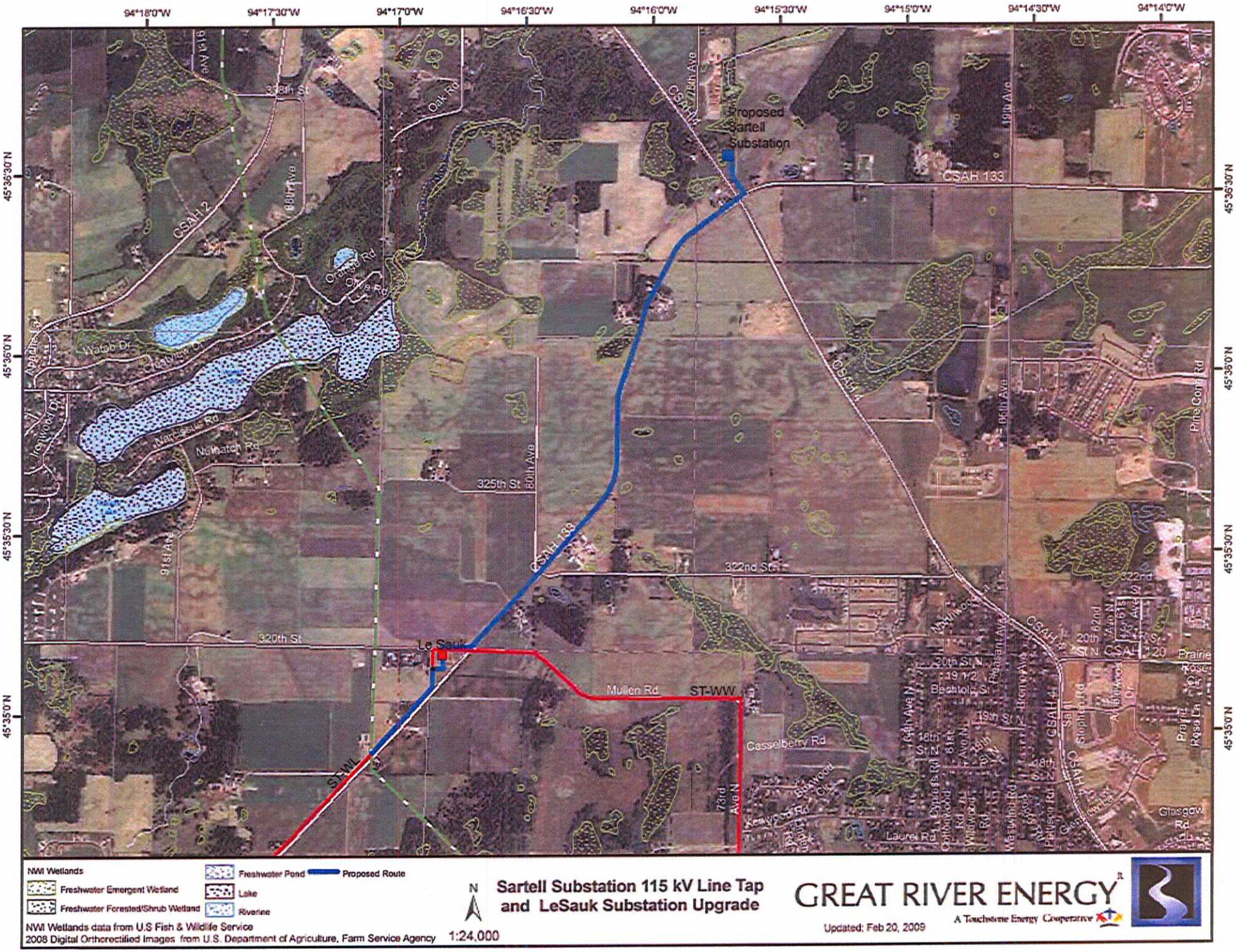
Rick Heuring
Great River Energy
1-888-521-0130, #5979
Direct Dial 763-445-5979
rheuring@grenergy.com

Tim Weir
Stearns Electric Association
1-800-962-0655
Direct Dial 320-256-1604
tweir@stearnselectric.org

2/19/2009

PROJECT MAP


Phase 2:
New Sartell 115 kV Substation
to be constructed by
Stearns Electric Association
Phase 2:
New Great River Energy 115 kV
Transmission Line From
LeSauk Substation to
New Sartell Substation
Xcel Energy 115 kV Line
Phase 1:
Rebuild Existing Great River Energy
69 kV Transmission Line to 115 kV
From Existing Xcel Energy Transmission
Line to LeSauk Substation
Proposed 115 kV
Transmission Line
Proposed 69 kV Transmission Line
Le Sauk Substation
CSAH 2
CSAH 4
CSAH 133
Saint Wendel Township
T 125N R 29W
T 125N R 28W
Le Sauk Township
Saint Joseph Township
T 124N R 29W
T 124N R 28W
Saint Cloud
Saint Joseph
26
25
30
35
36
31
1
2
6



NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
Freshwater Pond
Lake
Riverine
Proposed Route

N

Sartell Substation 115 kV Line Tap and LeSauk Substation Upgrade

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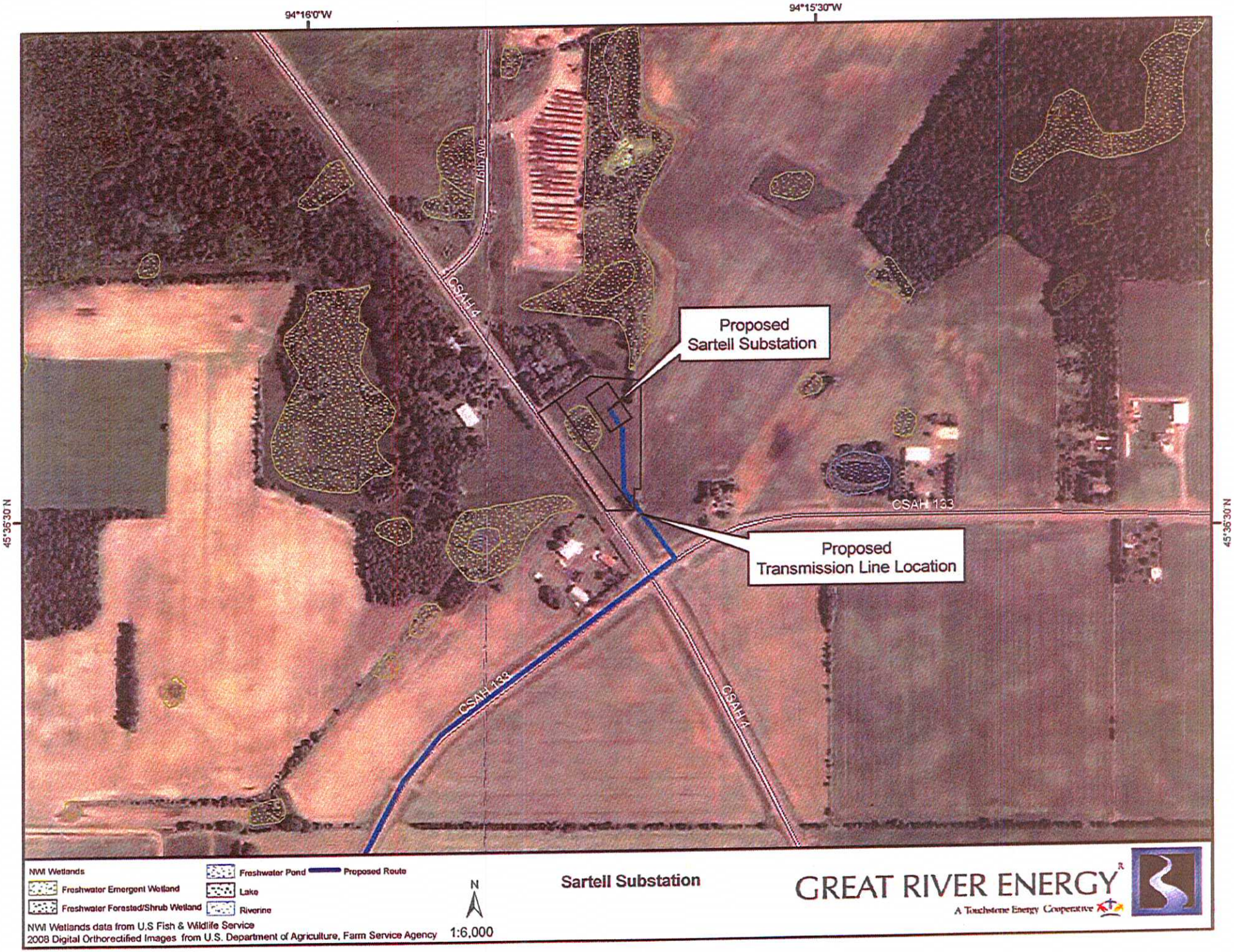
Updated: Feb 20, 2009


94°16'0"W
94°15'30"W
45°36'30" N
45°36'30" N
75th Ave
CSAH 4
CSAH 133
CSAH 133
CSAH 4
Proposed
Sartell Substation
Proposed
Transmission Line Location
NWI Wetlands
Freshwater Emergent Wetland
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
Freshwater Pond
Lake
Riverine
Proposed Route
NWI Wetlands data from U.S Fish & Wildlife Service
2008 Digital Orthorectified Images from U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency
N
1:6,000
Sartell Substation
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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 MAR 1 0 2009

MAR 0 9 2009

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF
Operations
Regulatory (2008-05591-TJH)

Ms. Marsha Parlow
Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369

Dear Ms. Marsha Parlow:

We have reviewed information about Great River Energy's changes to the Sarell/Le Sauk substation and transmission line construction. The project site is in: Section 30, Township 125 N., Range 28W.; Sections 25 & 36. Township 125 N., Range 29W.; Sections 1 & 2, Township 125 N., Range 28W, Stearns County, Minnesota, as shown on attached, 2008-005591-TJH: page 1 of 1.

The new work proposed at the location stated is not within the regulatory jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers. No permanent 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.

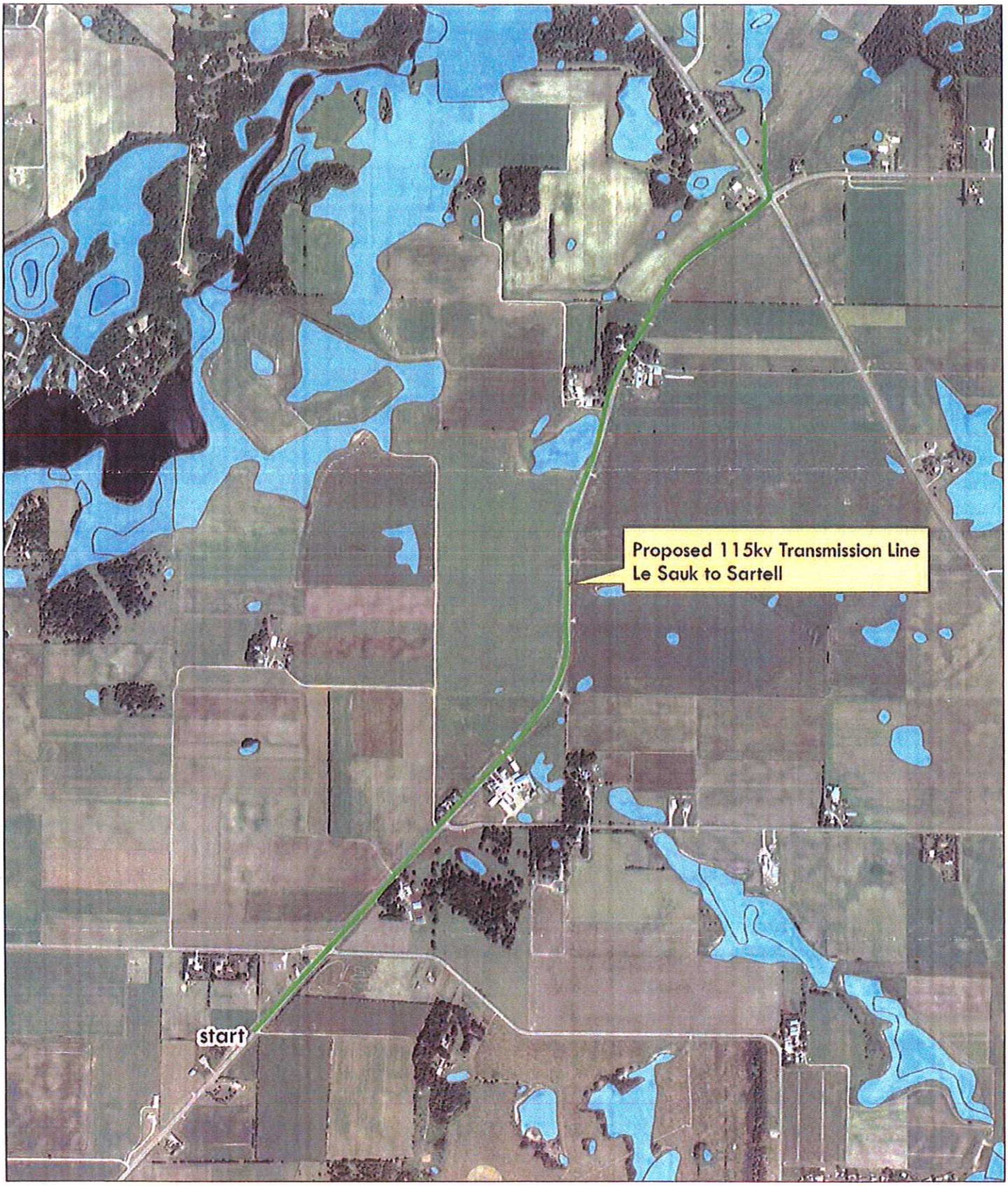
If you have any questions, contact Tom Hingsberger in our St. Paul office at (651) 290-5367. In any correspondence or inquiries, please refer to the Regulatory number shown above.

Sincerely,

Tom Hingsberger

for Tamara E. Cameron
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Printed on Recycled Paper



US Army Corps of Engineers
St Paul District

MVP-2008-05591-TJH

LeSauk substation conversion- Stearns County

Sections 1, 2 Township 124N, Range 29W
Sections 25, 36 Township 124N, Range 29W
Section 30 Township 124N, Range 28W

Legend

NWI Wetland

NORTH

0 0.15 0.3 Miles

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24 February 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: Revision on Proposed Substation and Transmission Line Construction
Stearns County, Minnesota
T125N, R28W, Section 30
T125N, R29W, Sections 25 & 36
T124N,,R29W, Sections 1 & 2

WO# 54331 & 75711

Dear Mr. Rowse:

Last October, I sent you a letter on the Sartell Project proposed by Great River Energy. Due to changes in planning, Great River Energy is adjusting the route of the project. The proposed line is marked in purple (Phase 1) and blue (Phase 2) on the enclosed fact sheet to identify the two phases of the project described below.

- Phase 1: Increase the voltage capacity of the existing Le Sauk distribution substation (owned by Stearns Electric Association), which requires upgrade of a 69 KV line to 115 kV (0.4 mile) in Sections 1 & 2, T124N, R29W. This upgraded line will tap an existing Xcel Energy transmission line to the south of the substation and is proposed to be built in 2009.

- Phase 2: Construct approximately two miles of new 115 kV transmission line to serve a new distribution substation that will be constructed by Stearns Electric Association. This line will be located in Section 30, T125N, R28W and Sections 25 & 36, T125N, R29W in Stearns County, Minnesota. This part of the project is proposed to be built in 2010.

The Fish and Wildlife Service website indicates there are no species (proposed or candidate) on the threatened and endangered list in Stearns County, Minnesota. Great River Energy is requesting concurrence or information on the possible effects on any listed or proposed threatened or endangered species and designated or proposed critical habitat that may be present in both proposed phases of the project area.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Friday, 27 March 2009. If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact me at (763) 445-5215. If you wish to respond by e-mail, my address is mparlow@grenergy.com. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Marsha Parlow

Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Analyst

Enclosure

S:\Member Services\Environmental\Transmission\Projects\54331 Sartell\LeSauk-Sartell FWS.doc

Proposed LeSauk and Sartell 115 kV Transmission Lines
Proposed 115 kV Conversion of LeSauk Distribution Substation
Proposed Sartell 115 kV Distribution Substation

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STEARNS ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
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Melrose, MN 56352-0040
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Project Need
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	Easement Acquisition Phase II	Spring/Summer 2010
	Construction Phase II	Fall 2010
	Energization Phase II	Winter 2010

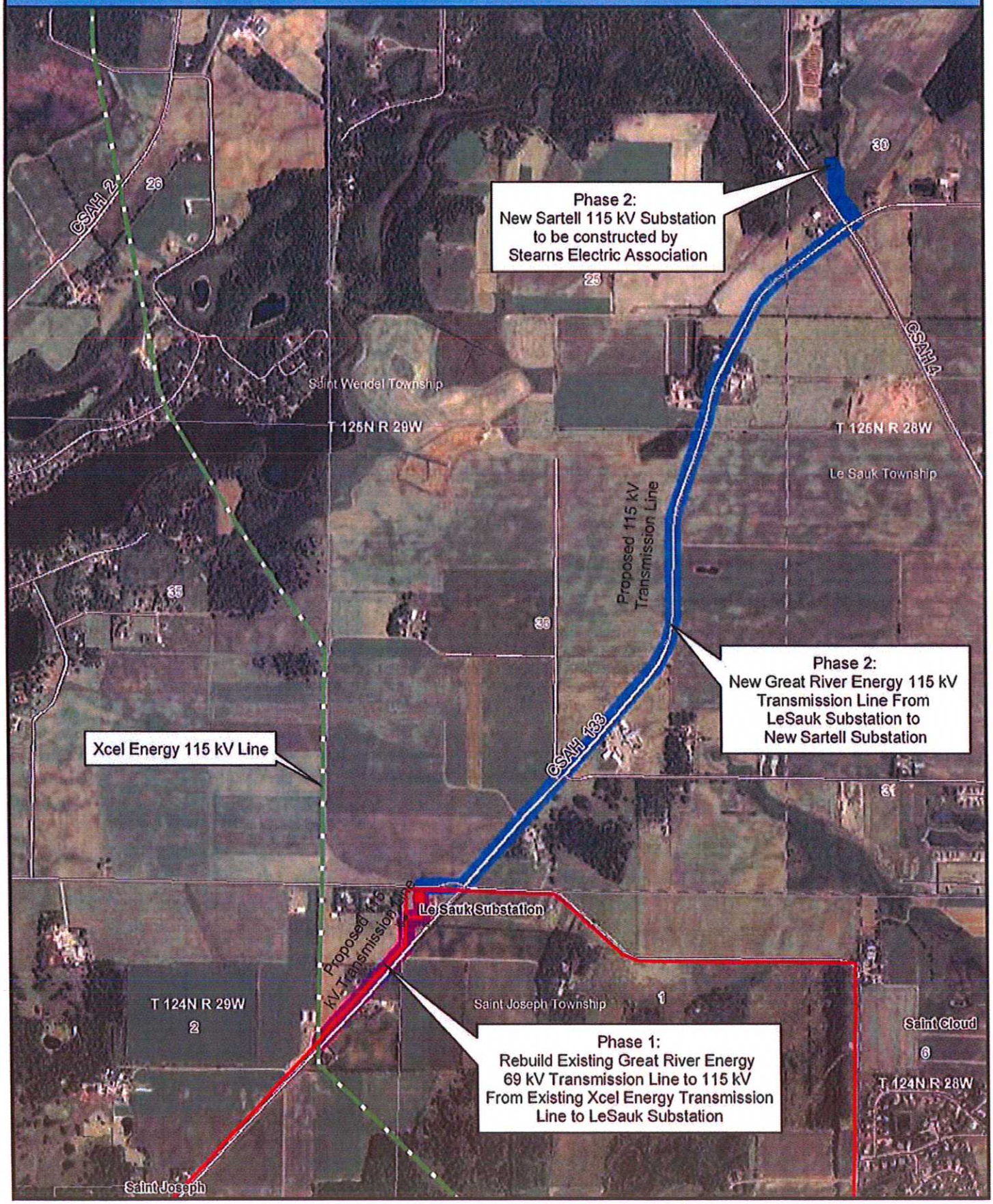
Contacts

Rick Heuring
Great River Energy
1-888-521-0130, #5979
Direct Dial 763-445-5979
rheuring@grenergy.com

Tim Weir
Stearns Electric Association
1-800-962-0655
Direct Dial 320-256-1604
tweir@stearnselectric.org

2/19/2009

PROJECT MAP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T 125N R 28W
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Xcel Energy 115 kV Line
CSAH 133
31
Le Sauk Substation
Proposed 115
kV Transmission Line
T 124N R 29W
2
Saint Joseph Township
1
Saint Cloud
6
T 124N R 28W
Phase 1:
Rebuild Existing Great River Energy
69 kV Transmission Line to 115 kV
From Existing Xcel Energy Transmission
Line to LeSauk Substation
Saint Joseph

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Twin Cities Field Office
4101 American Blvd E.
Bloomington, Minnesota 55425-1665

RECEIVED MAR - 3 2009

MAR - 2 2009

Dear Sir/Madam:

This replies to your attached letter requesting comments from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the National Environmental Policy Act and/or the Fish and Wildlife Service's Mitigation Policy. Due to a shortage of staff and funds, the Service is unable to review and provide written comments on your proposed project. With respect to compliance with the Endangered Species Act, please refer to our Section 7 Technical Assistance webpage (http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered).

In any further correspondence on this matter, please refer to the below FWS Federal Activity Number.

Please note that the City of Bloomington and the Postal Service changed the designation of our address from East 80th Street to American Boulevard East. The rest of our contact information remains the same.

Sincerely,

R. Nicholas Rowe
acting for

Tony Sullins
Field Supervisor

FWS Federal Activity Number

32410-2009-FA-0063
Sartell Project
Revision on Proposed Substation
and Transmission Line Construction
WO# 54331 & 75711