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

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

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

WO# 54331 & 75711

Dear Ms. Joyal:

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 DNR Rare Features map indicates there are no recorded features of interest in the vicinity of the project area. Also, the DNR Public Waters Inventory (PWI) maps indicate that the new and upgraded lines should not affect any public waterbodies. A PWI map and rare features map are enclosed for your review.

Great River Energy is requesting concurrence with its interpretation that the project will not impact any state natural resources in the vicinity of both proposed phases of the project. 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,

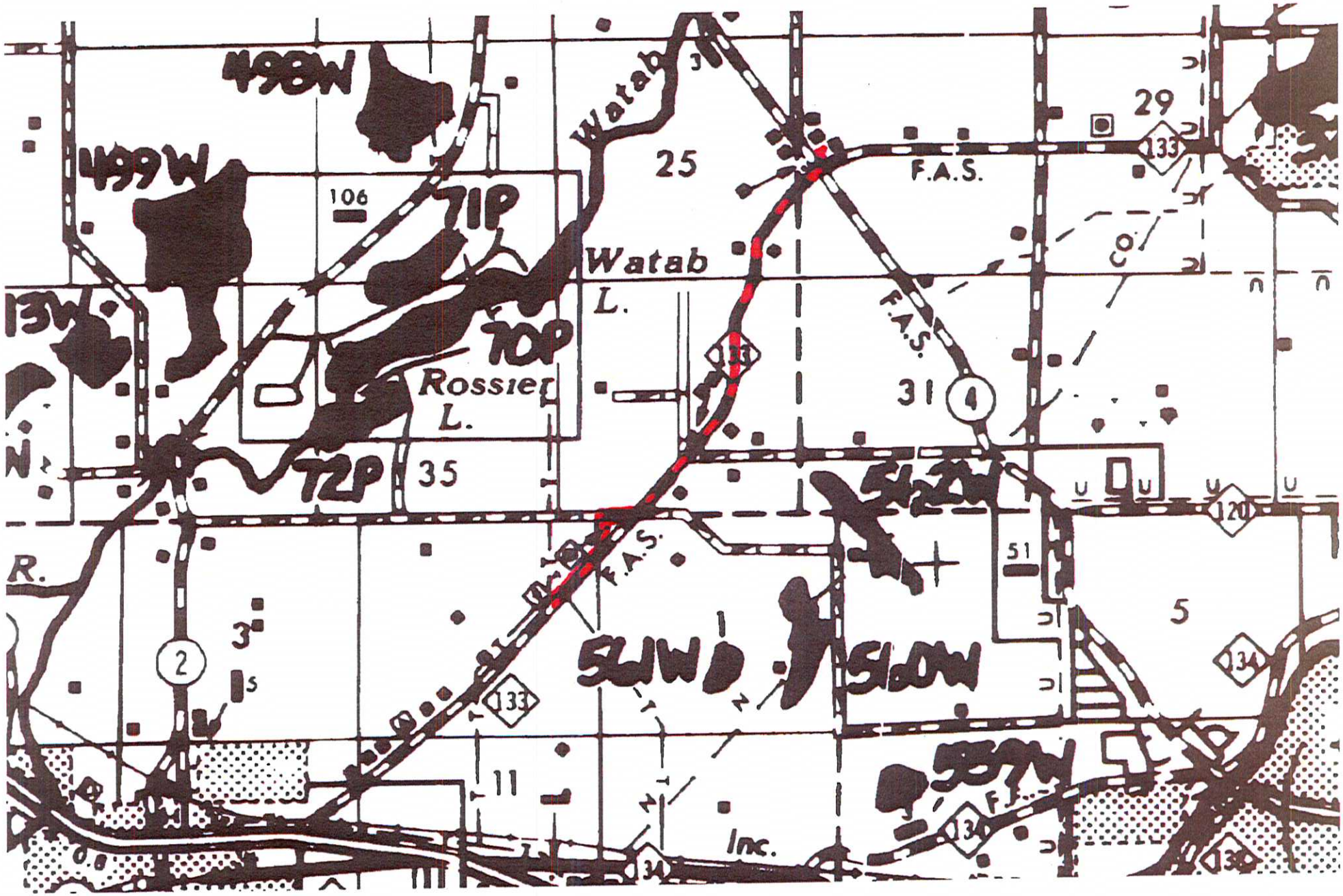
GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Marsha Parlow

Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Analyst

Enclosures

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



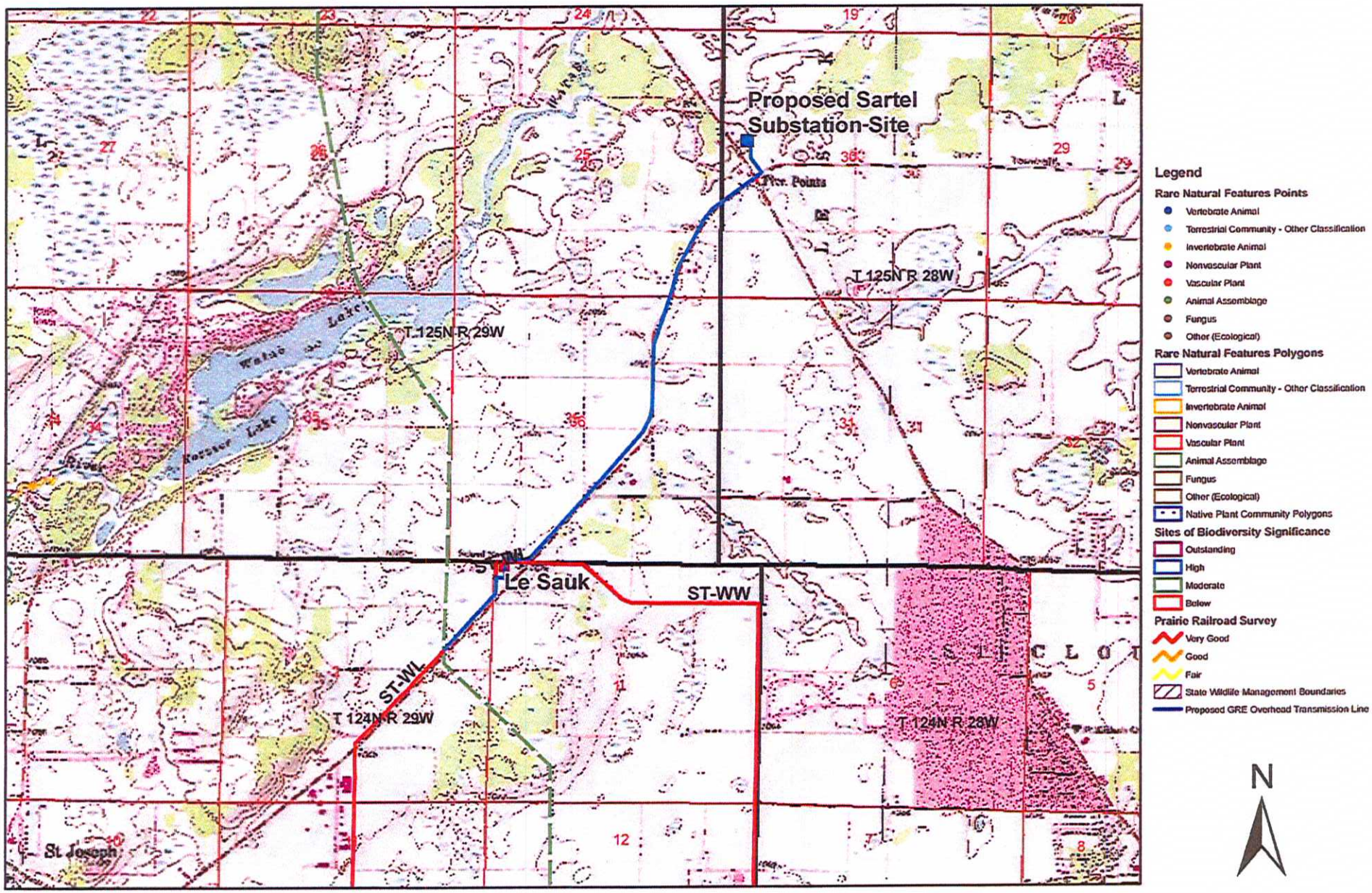
498W
499W
13W
106
71P
70P
72P
Watab
Watab
L.
Rossier
L.
25
29
133
F.A.S.
F.A.S.
F.A.S.
31
4
35
51
5
120
134
133
2
3
11
Inc.
R.

Rare Features in the Vicinity of the Sartell Distribution Substation and 115 kV Transmission Tap Line

Township T124/125 R28/29

Section 25-27, 34-36, 29-32, 1-3, 5-6

Stearns



Feb 20, 2009

Rare Features from the MN DNR Natural Heritage Data Set 10-27-2007

1:24k Digital Raster Graphic from the MN DNR WMS Image Service

Sartell Substation 115 kV Line Tap and LeSauk Substation Upgrade

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

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

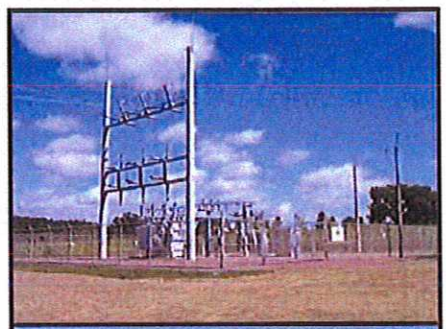
Touchstone Energy®
The power of human connections

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

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.

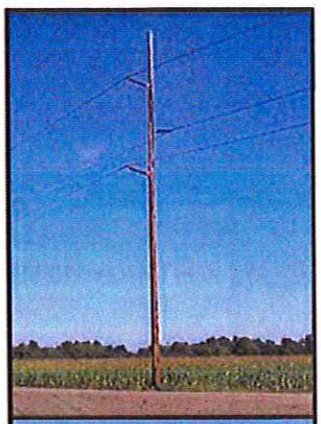
To address these needs, Great River Energy proposes to increase the voltage capacity of the existing LeSauk distribution substation (requiring the construction of approximately 0.4 miles of 115 kV transmission line), and to construct approximately two miles of 115 kV transmission line to serve a new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



Typical 115 kV Single-Pole Structure

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.

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

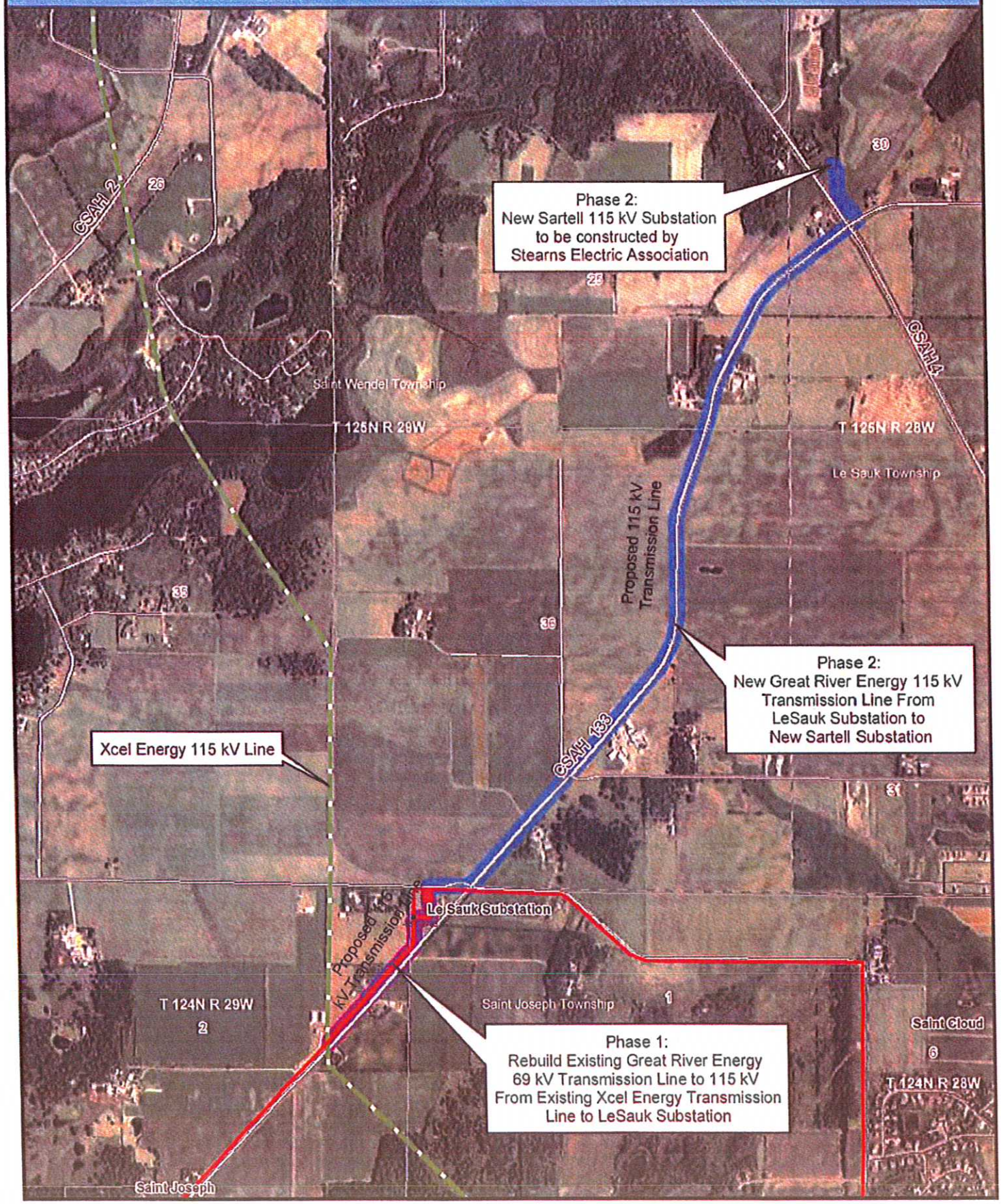
Contacts

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
Le Sauk Substation
CSAH 2
CSAH 4
CSAH 133
Saint Wendel Township
T 125N R 29W
T 125N R 28W
Le Sauk Township
T 124N R 29W
Saint Joseph Township
Saint Cloud
T 124N R 28W
Saint Joseph
26
30
25
35
36
31
2
1
6

Parlow, Marsha GRE/MG

From: Lisa Joyal [Lisa.Joyal@dnr.state.mn.us]
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2009 3:41 PM
To: Parlow, Marsha GRE/MG
Subject: Sartell Distribution Substation and 115 kV Transmission Tap Line

Marsha,

Thank you for notifying us of the route change. I concur with your assessment that there are no known occurrences of rare features in the vicinity of the proposed project. The reference number for this correspondence is ERDB #20090264-1b. 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
www.mndnr.gov/eco