APPENDIX C

AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE

Letters to Agencies

GREAT RIVER
ENERGY

17845 East Highway 10 • PO Box 800 • Elk River Minnesota 55330-0800 • 763-441-3121 • Fax 763-241-2366

1 August 2007

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

RE: Proposed Richmond to Farming 115 kV Transmission Line Upgrade
Stearns County, Minnesota

Dear Ms. Joyal:

Great River Energy (GRE) is in the process of preparing an environmental report for a six-mile transmission line rebuild project near Richmond in Stearns County, Minnesota. Existing and future electric load growth in this area has raised concerns that the existing 69 kV system would become overloaded under emergency outage conditions in the western St. Cloud area of GRE's transmission system.

GRE presently operates a 69 kV transmission line that extends from Richmond to Stearns Electric Association's (SEA) Farming distribution substation located six miles north of Richmond and also directly feeds SEA's Big Fish distribution substation. GRE is proposing to rebuild this 69 kV line with a heavier conductor size, which would remove the line overload concerns, boost the reliability of the transmission line, and better serve the existing and future load growth in the area.

Due to anticipated future transmission system upgrades from 69 kV to 115 kV in the greater St. Cloud area, this rebuild project will be permitted, designed and built to 115 kV standards, but will initially operate at 69 kV until the adjoining transmission systems are upgraded to 115 kV. The new line will be constructed with single wood poles that will be 60-75 feet in height. The spacing between the new poles will be approximately 350 feet.

The project is located in Sections 24, 25, 36, T124N, R31W; and Sections 1, 12 and 13, T123N, R31W, and it will generally follow the same route as the existing 69 kV transmission line. A project description/site map is enclosed for your information.

GRE is requesting information on the possible effects of the proposed project on wetlands, threatened and endangered species, and other important state natural resources that occur in the project area.

The transmission line will span one DNR public water (tributary to School Lake – see enclosed PWI map). GRE will apply to the DNR Division of Lands and Minerals for a license to cross that water. The enclosed Rare Features Maps indicate that the line passes through the western edge of an area populated with Marbled Godwit (Limosa fedoa), a species of special concern. However, GRE believes the transmission line is far enough away from Sand Lake that these shorebirds will not be affected by the rebuild.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Friday, August 31, 2007. If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact me at (763) 241-2272. If you wish to respond by e-mail, my address is cschmidt@grenergy.com. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

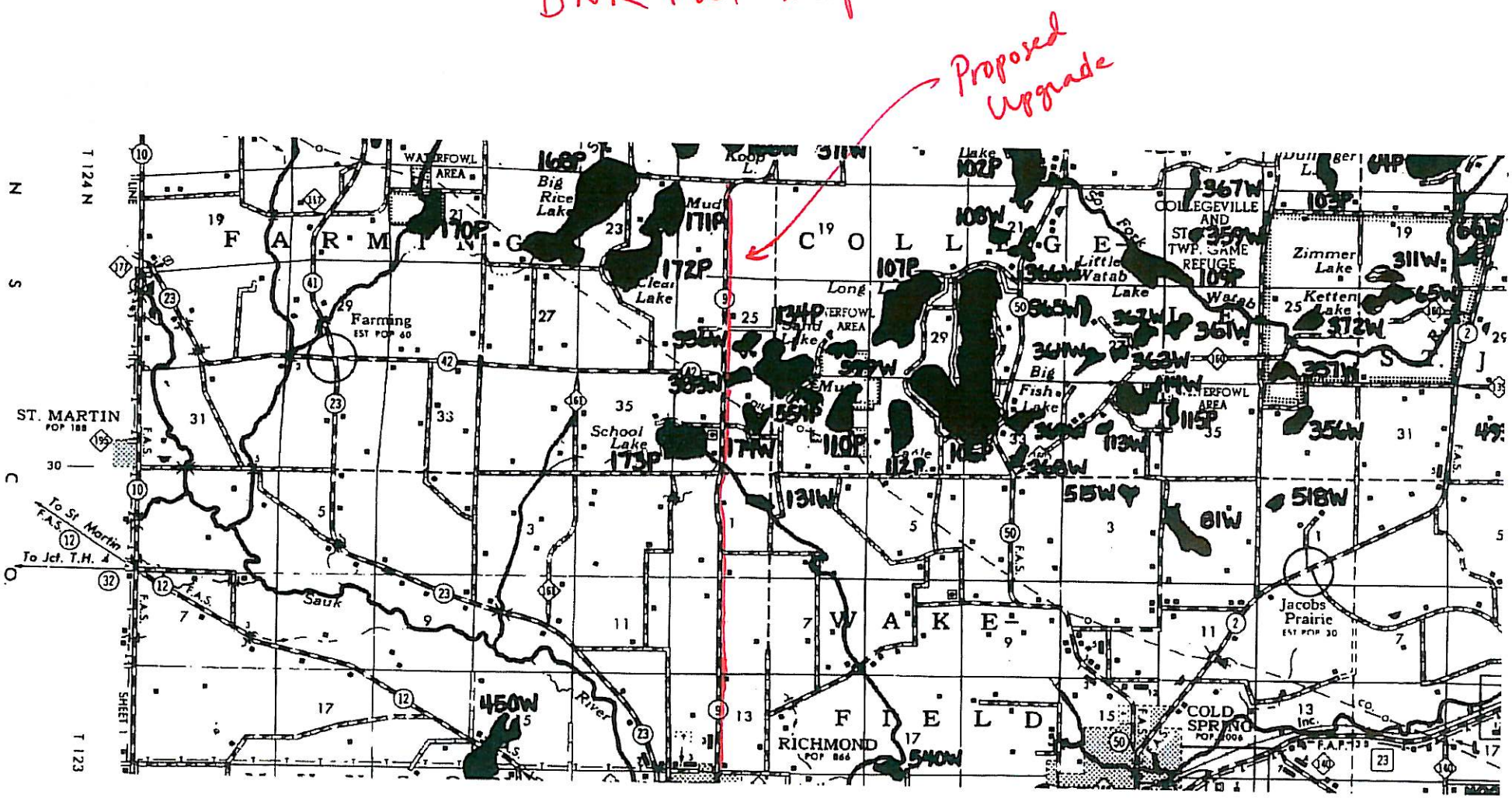
Carole L. Schmidt

Carole L. Schmidt
Supervisor, Transmission Permitting and Compliance

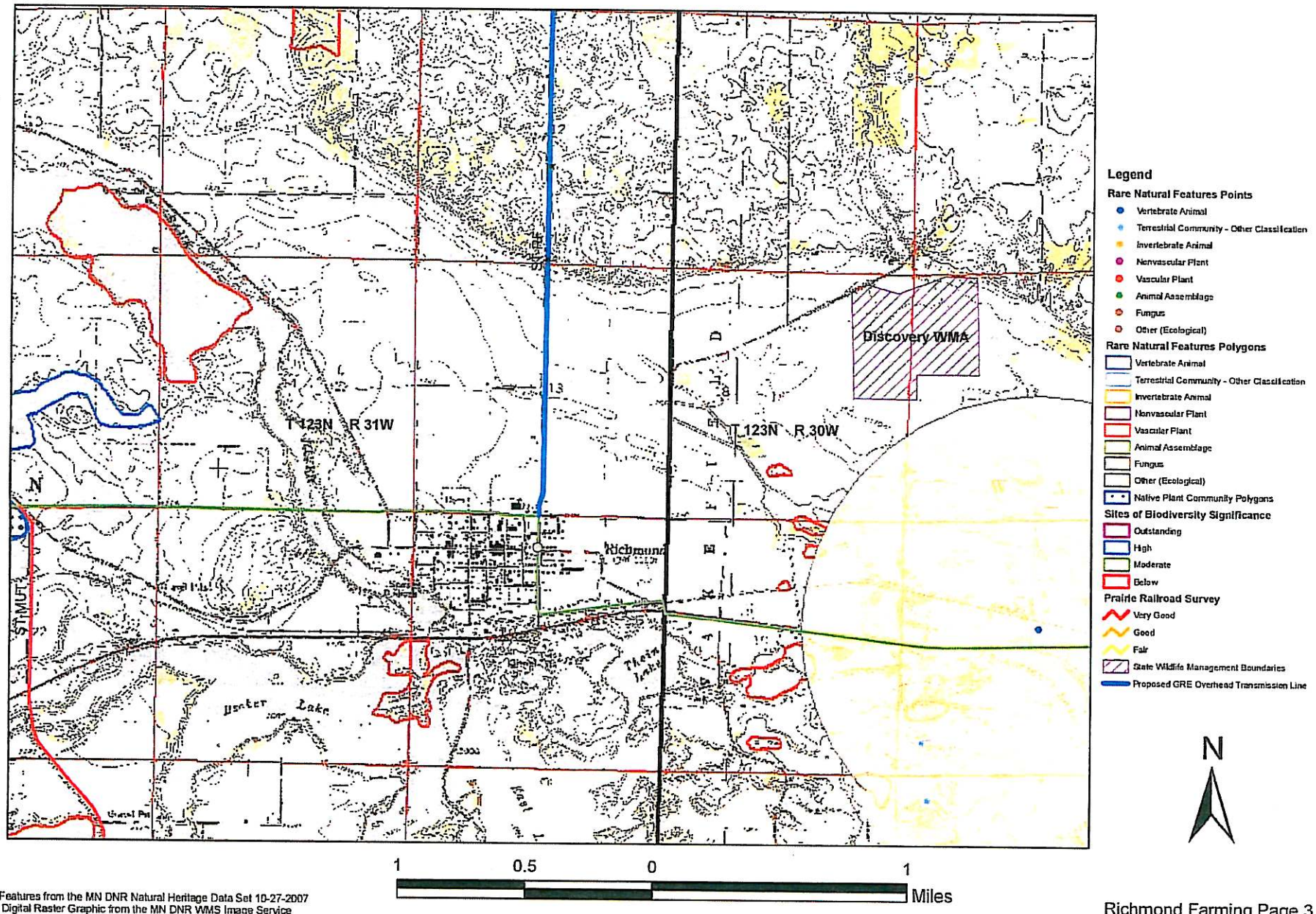
Enclosures

h:\cschmidt\Richmond-Farming\RFDNR

DNR PWI Map

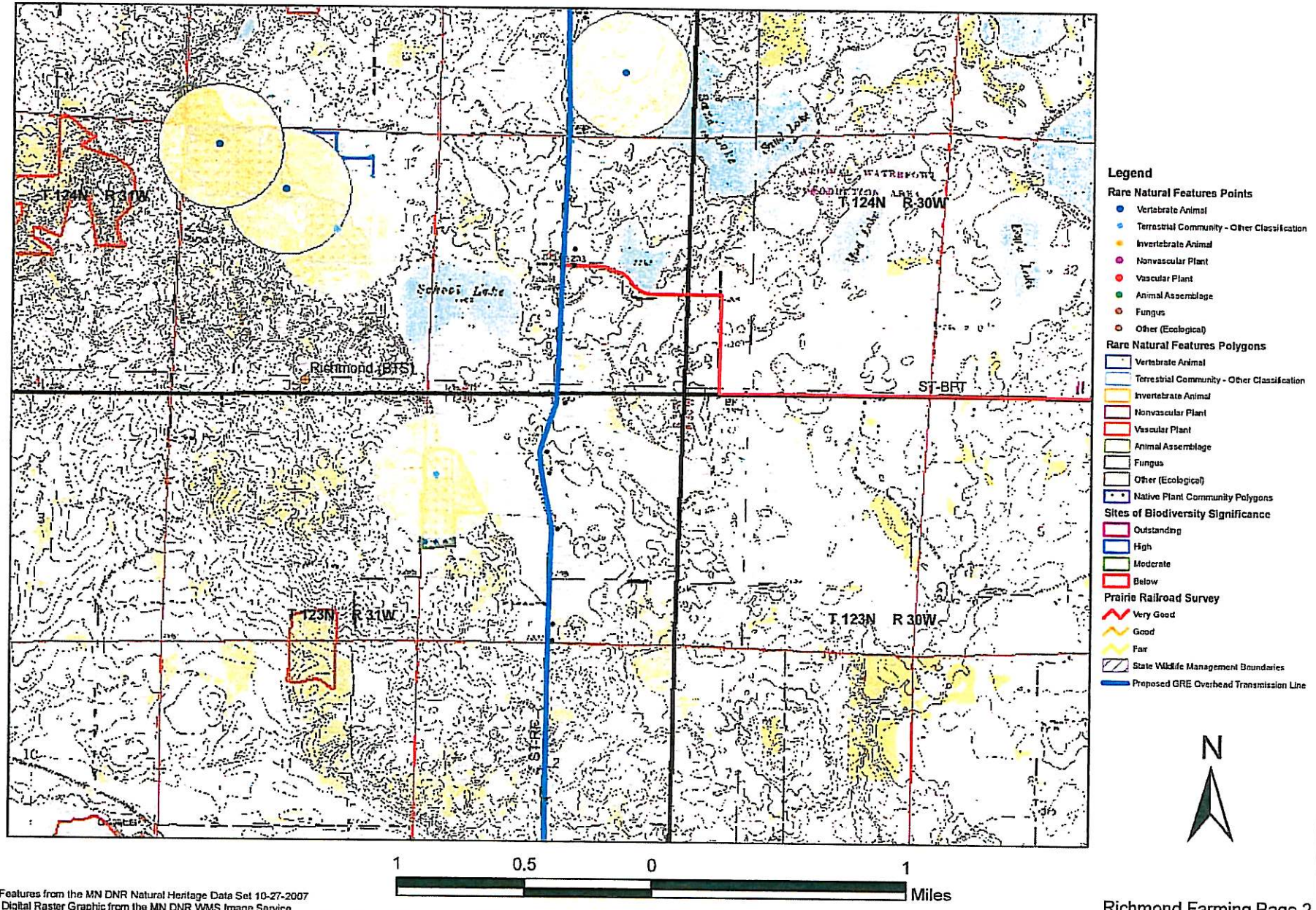

Proposed Upgrade
FARMING
COLLEGE
WAKEFIELD
RICHMOND
POP 866
Farming
EST POP 60
ST. MARTIN
POP 188
To St. Martin
To Jct. T.H. 4
Sauk River
Big Rice Lake
Clear Lake
Long Lake
School Lake
Fish Lake
Little Watab Lake
Zimmer Lake
Ketten Lake
Jacobs Prairie
EST POP 30
COLD SPRING
POP 4006
COLLEGEVILLE AND ST. TWP. GAME REFUGE
WATERFOWL AREA
T 124 N
T 123
SHEET 1

Rare Features in the Vicinity of the Richmond to Farming Transmission Upgrade
Township T123N R31/30W
Section 10-15,22-27, 7-8,17-20
Stearns County



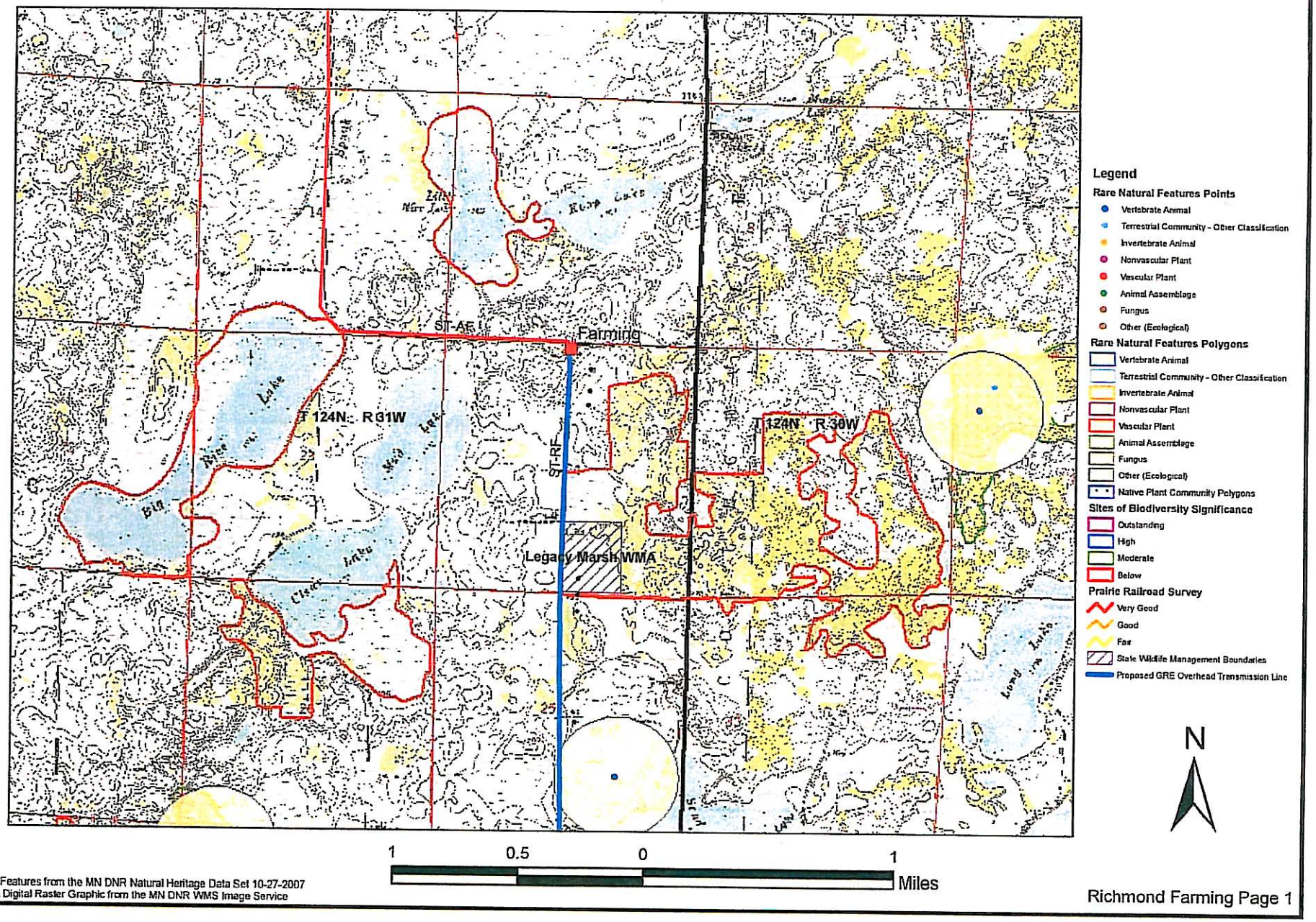
Rare Features from the MN DNR Natural Heritage Data Set 10-27-2007
1:24k Digital Raster Graphic from the MN DNR WMS Image Service

Rare Features in the Vicinity of the Richmond to Farming Transmission Upgrade
Township T124/123N R31/30W
Section 25-38,33-36, 30-31, 1-3,10-12, 6-7
Stearns County



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

Rare Features in the Vicinity of the Richmond to Farming Transmission Upgrade
Township T124N R31/30W
Section 10-15,22-27, 7,18-19,30
Stearns County



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

GREAT RIVER ENERGY®

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1 August 2007

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: Proposed Richmond to Farming 115 kV Transmission Line Upgrade
Stearns County, Minnesota

Dear Mr Rowse:

Great River Energy (GRE) is in the process of preparing an environmental report for a six-mile transmission line rebuild project near Richmond in Stearns County, Minnesota Existing and future electric load growth in this area has raised concerns that the existing 69 kV system would become overloaded under emergency outage conditions in the western St Cloud area of GRE's transmission system.

GRE presently operates a 69 kV transmission line that extends from Richmond to Stearns Electric Association's (SEA) Farming distribution substation located six miles north of Richmond and also directly feeds SEA's Big Fish distribution substation. GRE is proposing to rebuild this 69 kV line with a heavier conductor size, which would remove the line overload concerns, boost the reliability of the transmission line, and better serve the existing and future load growth in the area

Due to anticipated future transmission system upgrades from 69 kV to 115 kV in the greater St. Cloud area, this rebuild project will be permitted, designed and built to 115 kV standards, but will initially operate at 69 kV until the adjoining transmission systems are upgraded to 115 kV.

The project is located in Sections 24, 25, 36, T124N, R31W; and Sections 1, 12 and 13, T123N, R31W, and it will generally follow the same route as the existing 69 kV transmission line. A project description/site map is enclosed for your information.

GRE is requesting information on the possible effects of 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 The proposed project does not represent a "major construction activity" as defined in 50 CFR 402 02

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Friday, August 31, 2007 If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact me at (763) 241-2272 If you wish to respond by e-mail, my address is cschmidt@grenergy.com Thank you for your cooperation and assistance

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Carole L. Schmidt

Carole L. Schmidt
Supervisor, Transmission Permitting and Compliance

Enclosure

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1 August 2007

Ms. Britta L. Bloomberg
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Minnesota Historical Society
345 Kellogg Blvd. West
St Paul, MN 55102-1906

RE: Proposed Richmond to Farming 115 kV Transmission Line Upgrade
Stearns County, Minnesota

Dear Ms. Bloomberg:

Great River Energy (GRE) is in the process of preparing an environmental report for a six-mile transmission line rebuild project near Richmond in Stearns County, Minnesota. Existing and future electric load growth in this area has raised concerns that the existing 69 kV system would become overloaded under emergency outage conditions in the western St Cloud area of GRE's transmission system,

GRE presently operates a 69 kV transmission line that extends from Richmond to Stearns Electric Association's (SEA) Farming distribution substation located six miles north of Richmond and also directly feeds SEA's Big Fish distribution substation GRE is proposing to rebuild this 69 kV line with a heavier conductor size, which would remove the line overload concerns, boost the reliability of the transmission line, and better serve the existing and future load growth in the area

Due to anticipated future transmission system upgrades from 69 kV to 115 kV in the greater St. Cloud area, this rebuild project will be permitted, designed and built to 115 kV standards, but will initially operate at 69 kV until the adjoining transmission systems are upgraded to 115 kV.

The project is located in Sections 24, 25, 36, T124N, R31W; and Sections 1, 12 and 13, T123N, R31W, and it will generally follow the same route as the existing 69 kV transmission line A project description/site map is enclosed for your information.

GRE is requesting information on the possible effects of the proposed project on historic properties in the project area.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Friday, August 31, 2007 If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact me at (763) 241-2272 If you wish to respond by e-mail, my address is cschmidt@grenergy.com Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Carole L. Schmidt

Carole L Schmidt
Supervisor, Transmission Permitting and Compliance

Enclosure

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