

August 22, 2011

Dr. Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Application of Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency for Minor Alteration in Fergus Falls to Henning 230 kV Transmission Line

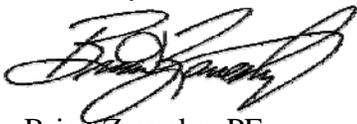
Dear Dr. Haar,

Attached please find the Application of Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (WMMPA) for a Minor Alteration in Transmission Line. This Application is being filed pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 216E.16 and Minnesota Rules 7850.4800.

WMMPA proposes to reroute a short section of the Fergus Falls to Henning 230 kV line in the general vicinity of the Norway Lake near Underwood, Minnesota. The rising water level of the lake has caused damage to the structures and limits access to perform maintenance and repairs. The reroute would remove the line from the lake. The affected landowners have been contacted and are agreeable to allow easements for the proposed route.

Please call me at 605-330-6986 with any questions regarding this filing. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Brian Zavesky, PE
Senior Transmission Engineer, Missouri River Energy Services
As agent for Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency

Enclosure

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
BEFORE THE
MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Ellen Anderson		Chair
David C. Boyd		Commissioner
J. Dennis O'Brien		Commissioner
Phyllis A. Reha		Commissioner
Betsy Wergin		Commissioner

<p><i>In the Matter of the Fergus Falls to Henning Transmission Line Reroute Request for Minor Alteration Authorization</i></p>		<p>Docket No. _____</p> <p>APPLICATION OF WESTERN MINNESOTA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY FOR A MINOR ALTERATION IN TRANSMISSION LINE</p>
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Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (Western Minnesota) submits this Application for a Minor Alteration in Transmission Line to address changing conditions that have resulted in six structures on the Fergus Falls to Henning 230 kV transmission line being surrounded by water. The proposed minor alteration will relocate affected structures to a distance further from the expanding Norway Lake.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project components subject to the Public Utility Commission minor alteration determination consists of the following.

Fergus Falls to Henning 230 kV Transmission Line Reroute: The currently permitted Fergus Falls to Henning 230 kV transmission line is owned by Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency. The segment of the transmission line that is the subject of this minor alteration is located in portions of Sections 20 and 29, Township 133 North, Range 41 West in Otter Tail County, Minnesota (**Figure 1: Project Location Map**). The transmission line was originally constructed as an H-frame 115kV line in 1954, and was upgraded to a 230 kV line in 1968. The segment that is the subject of this minor alteration spans from transmission line (TL) Structure #70 to just beyond TL Structure #78, representing a length of approximately 0.70 mile (**Figure 2: Existing Structure Locations**). The new alignment will head east from TL Structure #73 for approximately 0.41 mile; then northeast for 0.36 miles; and finally northwest towards the existing transmission line for approximately 0.33 miles. The new alignment will connect to the existing transmission line between TL Structure #78 and TL Structure #79 (**Figure 3: Proposed Structure Locations**).

The reroute corridor consists primarily of agricultural land uses, comprised of loamy and clay loam soils (Exhibit 1 – Soil Information). The majority of the soils within the project corridor are considered Prime Farmland, and several areas are considered to be a Farmland of Statewide Importance (Exhibit 2: Farmland Classification). One wetland exists within the new alignment, which appears to be hydrologically connected to Norway Lake.

PROJECT NEED

The line rebuild to the Fergus Falls to Henning 230 kV transmission line in the vicinity of Norway Lake is due to the changing conditions that have occurred to the Lake in the recent past. Rising lake levels has resulted in six (6) structures being surrounded by water. The rising water also limits access to these six structures for maintenance and repairs. As a result, the only time these poles are accessible for maintenance or repairs is when the ice is of sufficient thickness to enable maintenance crews to access the area. The water/ice poses another challenge for Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency during the winter that is shift ice that can shear-off a pole.

In summary, Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency is requesting a minor alteration to the Fergus Falls to Henning 230 kV transmission line due to the limited access for maintenance and repair to portions of the line because of high lake levels; and because of the continued exposure to ice damage during the winter months.

ANALYSIS

Minnesota Rule 7850.4800 establishes the standard for determining whether a change in a high voltage transmission line is a minor alteration. The Rule indicates that, “A minor alteration is a change in a high voltage transmission line that does not result in significant changes in the human or environmental impact of the facility.” It further states that, “The requirements of this part apply to those facilities that have been permitted by the PUC and to those facilities that were not permitted by the PUC but meet the definition of a high voltage transmission line under applicable law.”

The proposed realignment of the Fergus Falls to Henning 230 kV transmission line, and partial removal of the existing structures that are surrounded by water, will not result in significant changes or impacts to human health or the environment within the vicinity of the existing line and realignment, and therefore qualifies as a minor alteration.

- Aesthetics impacts will be minimal. The realignment will partially extend along existing road right-of-ways, and across cultivated agricultural land.
- Agricultural impacts will be minimal. A small amount of agricultural land will be removed from production due to the construction of the new poles.
- There will be minimal tree-clearing activities, as the project is mostly within lands that are currently under cultivation practices and existing road right-of-ways.

- There will be minimal tree-clearing activities, as the project is mostly within lands that are currently under cultivation practices and existing road right-of-ways.
- Wetland impacts will be avoided, minimized and mitigated, per state and federal law.
- The Department of Natural Resources has indicated that no Permit to work in a Public Waters will be necessary for the retirement of the existing poles from the old alignment area. The poles will remain within the bed of Norway Lake, but cut to a length of approximately 6 feet and marked. This method will minimize new disturbances to the lake.
- The Department of Natural Resources has no record of endangered species in the project corridor. Waterbird nesting areas are identified within Norway Lake, approximately 0.5-2 miles from the existing alignment area and 0.6-1.3 miles from the realignment area.

NOTICE AND COMMENT REQUIREMENTS

Minnesota Rule 7850.4800 Subpart 2 provides that the Commission shall mail notice of receipt of the application to those persons on the general list and to those persons on the project contact list if such a list exists. The commission shall provide at least a ten day period for interested persons to submit comments on the application or to request the matter be brought to the Commission for consideration.

Pursuant to Minnesota Rule 7829.0700, Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency requests that the following persons be placed on the Commissions official list for this matter:

See Exhibit 3.

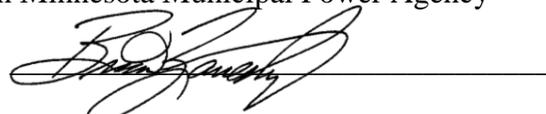
CONCLUSION

Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency respectfully requests that the Commission authorize the segment of the Fergus Falls to Henning 230 kV transmission line realignment as a minor alteration, as provided in Minnesota Rule 7850.4800.

Dated: August 19, 2011

Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency

By:



Brian Zavesky, PE
Senior Transmission Engineer

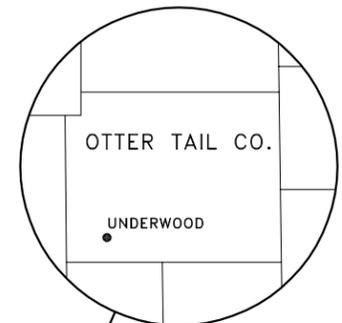
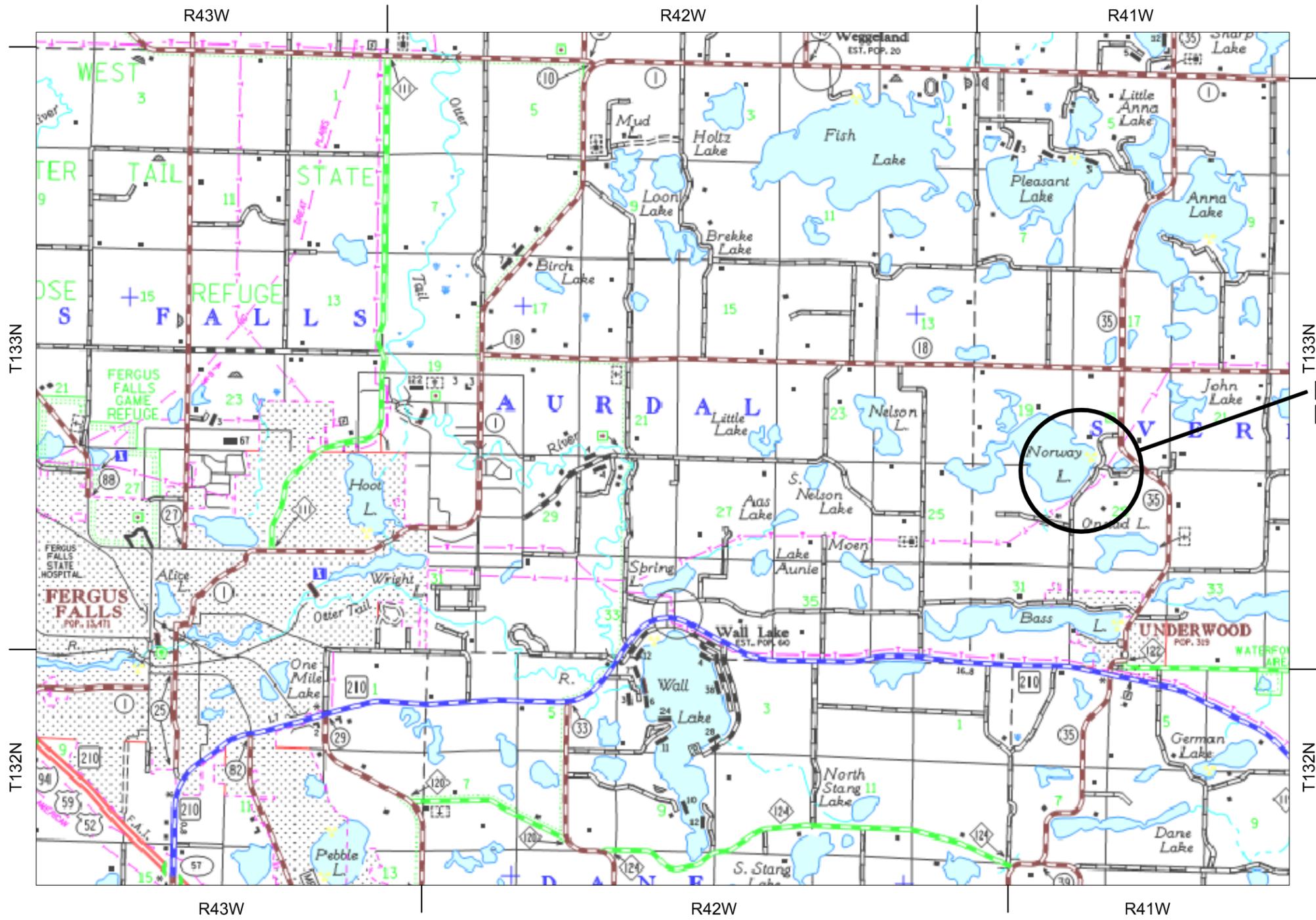
Fergus Falls to Henning 230 kV Reroute

FIGURES

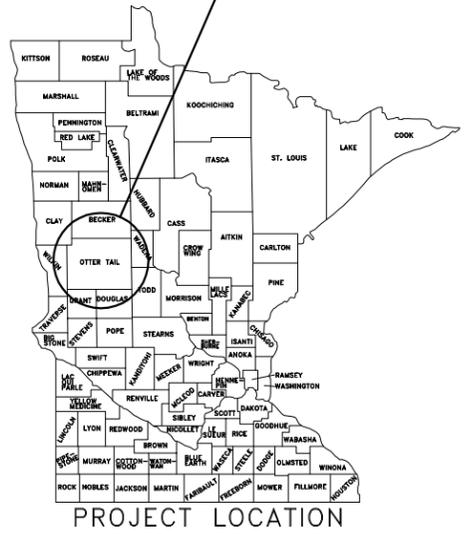
Figure 1: Project Location Map

Figure 2: Existing Structure Locations

Figure 3: Proposed Structure Locations



PROJECT LOCATION



MINNESOTA



PROJECT LOCATION MAP

OTTER TAIL CO., MN.

NO SCALE

YOU ARE RECEIVING THIS DRAWING UNDER THE TERMS OF A CONTRACT AND/OR CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT. THE DRAWING IS THE SOLE PROPERTY OF MISSOURI RIVER ENERGY SERVICES AND WESTERN MINNESOTA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY. ALL RIGHTS IN THE DRAWING ARE RESERVED. THE DRAWING IS CONFIDENTIAL IN NATURE AND CANNOT BE FURTHER DISSEMINATED BY YOU EXCEPT UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE CONTRACT/CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT WITHOUT THE EXPRESS WRITTEN PERMISSION OF MISSOURI RIVER ENERGY SERVICES AND WESTERN MINNESOTA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY.

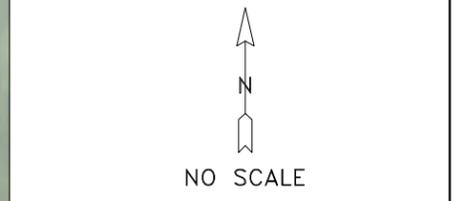
DRAWING TITLE			
FERGUS FALLS--HENNING (NORWAY LAKE REROUTE) PROJECT LOCATION MAP			
DWG. SIZE	DRAWING SCALE	DRAWING DATE	APP'D BY: DRAWN BY:
B	NONE	6-16-11	MBN MBN
DRAWING NUMBER			REV. NO.
Figure 1			0

REV. NO.	REV DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY	APR



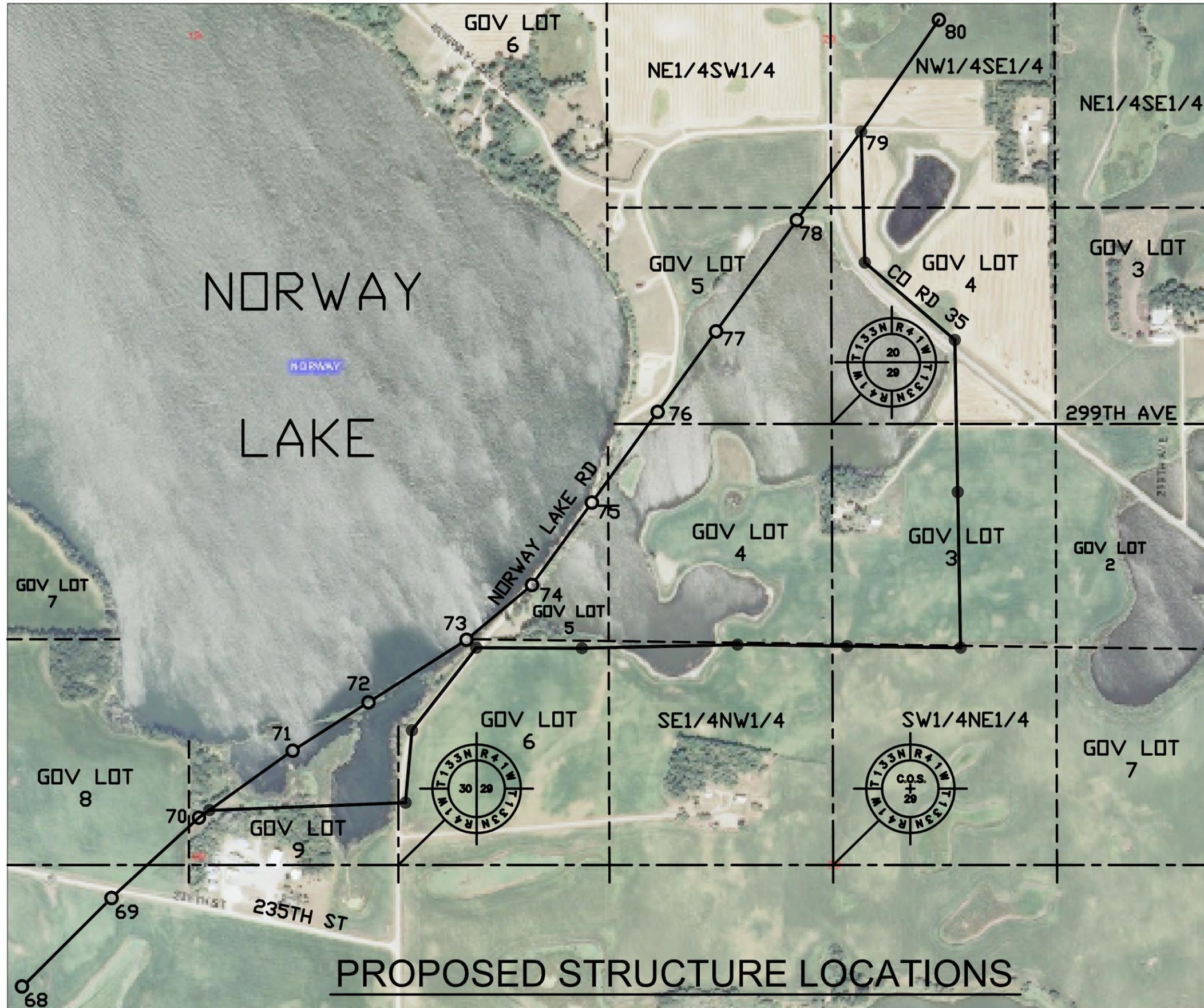
EXISTING STRUCTURE LOCATIONS

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DRAWING TITLE				
FERGUS FALLS-HENNING (NORWAY LAKE REROUTE) EXISTING STR. LOCATIONS				
DWG. SIZE	DRAWING SCALE	DRAWING DATE	APP'D BY:	DRAWN BY:
B	NONE	6-16-11	MBN	MBN
DRAWING NUMBER				REV. NO.
Figure 2				0

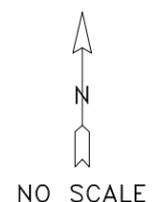
REV NO.	REV DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY	APR



LEGEND

—○— EXISTING

—●— PROPOSED



DRAWING TITLE
 FERGUS FALLS—HENNING
 (NORWAY LAKE REROUTE)
 PROPOSED STR. LOCATIONS

DWG. SIZE	DRAWING SCALE	DRAWING DATE	APP'D BY:	DRAWN BY:
B	NONE	6-16-11	MBN	MBN
DRAWING NUMBER		REV. NO.		

Figure 3

YOU ARE RECEIVING THIS DRAWING UNDER THE TERMS OF A CONTRACT AND/OR CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT. THE DRAWING IS THE SOLE PROPERTY OF MISSOURI RIVER ENERGY SERVICES AND WESTERN MINNESOTA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY. ALL RIGHTS IN THE DRAWING ARE RESERVED. THE DRAWING IS CONFIDENTIAL IN NATURE AND CANNOT BE FURTHER DISSEMINATED BY YOU EXCEPT UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE CONTRACT/CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT WITHOUT THE EXPRESS WRITTEN PERMISSION OF MISSOURI RIVER ENERGY SERVICES AND WESTERN MINNESOTA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY.

REV NO.	REV DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY	APR

Fergus Falls to Henning 230 kV Reroute

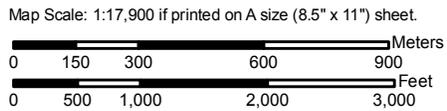
EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: Soils Information

Exhibit 2: Farmland Classifications

Exhibit 3: Mailing List

Exhibit 1
Soil Map—Otter Tail County, Minnesota
(Norway Lake Reroute)



Soil Map—Otter Tail County, Minnesota
(Norway Lake Reroute)

MAP LEGEND

Area of Interest (AOI)

 Area of Interest (AOI)

Soils

 Soil Map Units

Special Point Features

-  Blowout
-  Borrow Pit
-  Clay Spot
-  Closed Depression
-  Gravel Pit
-  Gravelly Spot
-  Landfill
-  Lava Flow
-  Marsh or swamp
-  Mine or Quarry
-  Miscellaneous Water
-  Perennial Water
-  Rock Outcrop
-  Saline Spot
-  Sandy Spot
-  Severely Eroded Spot
-  Sinkhole
-  Slide or Slip
-  Sodic Spot
-  Spoil Area
-  Stony Spot

 Very Stony Spot

 Wet Spot

 Other

Special Line Features

-  Gully
-  Short Steep Slope
-  Other

Political Features

-  Cities
-  PLSS Township and Range
-  PLSS Section

Water Features

-  Oceans
-  Streams and Canals

Transportation

-  Rails
-  Interstate Highways
-  US Routes
-  Major Roads

MAP INFORMATION

Map Scale: 1:17,900 if printed on A size (8.5" × 11") sheet.

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:20,000.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for accurate map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service
Web Soil Survey URL: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>
Coordinate System: UTM Zone 15N NAD83

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: Otter Tail County, Minnesota
Survey Area Data: Version 7, Feb 5, 2010

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: 6/30/2003

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

Map Unit Legend

Otter Tail County, Minnesota (MN111)			
Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
34	Parnell silty clay loam, depressional	18.0	1.3%
168B	Forman clay loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	212.2	15.4%
180	Gonvick loam	67.0	4.9%
184	Hamerly loam	31.6	2.3%
441C	Almora loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	8.2	0.6%
680	Parnell silt loam	12.8	0.9%
710	Friberg-Weetown complex	139.7	10.2%
760C2	Chapett-Sisseton complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	199.2	14.5%
760D2	Chapett-Sisseton complex, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	0.8	0.1%
778C	Dorset-Corliss complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes	2.2	0.2%
915C2	Forman-Buse complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	85.1	6.2%
915D2	Forman-Buse complex, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	8.6	0.6%
1227	Quam, Cathro, and Urness soils, ponded	117.3	8.5%
1232B	Chapett loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	260.2	18.9%
1240	Roliss clay loam	24.0	1.7%
1307	Rushlake sand	5.7	0.4%
1317	Vallers silty clay loam	0.3	0.0%
W	Water	181.2	13.2%
Totals for Area of Interest		1,374.1	100.0%

Farmland Classification—Otter Tail County, Minnesota
(Norway Lake Reroute)

MAP LEGEND

Area of Interest (AOI)

 Area of Interest (AOI)

Soils

 Soil Map Units

Soil Ratings

-  Not prime farmland
-  All areas are prime farmland
-  Prime farmland if drained
-  Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
-  Prime farmland if irrigated
-  Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
-  Prime farmland if irrigated and drained
-  Prime farmland if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season

-  Prime farmland if subsoiled, completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer
-  Prime farmland if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60
-  Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium
-  Farmland of statewide importance
-  Farmland of local importance
-  Farmland of unique importance
-  Not rated or not available

Political Features

-  Cities
-  PLSS Township and Range
-  PLSS Section

Water Features

-  Oceans
-  Streams and Canals

Transportation

-  Rails
-  Interstate Highways
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Farmland Classification

Farmland Classification— Summary by Map Unit — Otter Tail County, Minnesota				
Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
34	Parnell silty clay loam, depressional	Farmland of statewide importance	18.0	1.3%
168B	Forman clay loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland	212.2	15.4%
180	Gonvick loam	All areas are prime farmland	67.0	4.9%
184	Hamerly loam	All areas are prime farmland	31.6	2.3%
441C	Almora loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance	8.2	0.6%
680	Parnell silt loam	Prime farmland if drained	12.8	0.9%
710	Friberg-Weetown complex	Prime farmland if drained	139.7	10.2%
760C2	Chapett-Sisseton complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of statewide importance	199.2	14.5%
760D2	Chapett-Sisseton complex, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland	0.8	0.1%
778C	Dorset-Corliss complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland	2.2	0.2%
915C2	Forman-Buse complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of statewide importance	85.1	6.2%
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W	Water	Not prime farmland	181.2	13.2%
Totals for Area of Interest			1,374.1	100.0%

Description

Farmland classification identifies map units as prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, farmland of local importance, or unique farmland. It identifies the location and extent of the soils that are best suited to food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. NRCS policy and procedures on prime and unique farmlands are published in the "Federal Register," Vol. 43, No. 21, January 31, 1978.

Rating Options

Aggregation Method: No Aggregation Necessary

Tie-break Rule: Lower

Exhibit 3
Mailing List

Scott and Leah Rocholl (1 copy)
218-826-7383
24392 Co Hwy 35
Underwood, MN 56586-9402

Michael and Michelle Johansen (1 copy)
218-826-6673
185 N. Shore Drive
Underwood, MN 56586-9440

Vernon and Janice Johansen (1 copy)
218-826-6673
185 N. Shore Drive
Underwood, MN 56586-9440

MN Department of Agriculture (1 copy)
Becky Balk
625 N Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

MN Department of Commerce (1 copy)
Susan Medhaug
85 Seventh Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101

MN Environmental Quality Board (1 copy)
Environmental Review Program
658 Cedar Street, Room 300
St. Paul, MN 55155

MN Dept .of Health (1 copy)
Environmental Health Division
Policy, Planning & Analysis Unit
625 N. Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

MN Department of Natural Resources (3 copies)
Steve Colvin – Twin Cities Field Office E.S.
Environmental Review Unit
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025

MN Pollution Control Agency (3 copies)
Craig Affeldt, Supervisor
Env Review Unit – 4th Floor
520 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155

MN Dept. of Transportation (3 copies)
Jennie Ross
Mn/DOT Environmental Services
395 John Ireland Blvd., MS 620
St. Paul, MN 55155

Board of Water and Soil Resources (1 copy)
Travis Germundson
520 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155

State Archeologist (1 copy)
Fort Snelling History Center
St. Paul, MN 55111-4061

Technology and Science (2 copies)
Minneapolis Public Library
Attn: Helen Burke
Government Documents, 2nd Floor
300 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401-1992

US Army Corps of Engineers (1 copy)
Tamara Cameron
Regulatory Functions Branch
190 Fifth Street East
St. Paul, MN 55101-1638

US Environmental Protection Agency (1 copy)
Kenneth Westlake
Environmental Planning & Evaluation Unit
77 W. Jackson Blvd. Mailstop B-19J
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

US Fish and Wildlife Service (1 copy)
4101 American Blvd. East
Bloomington, MN 55425-1665

Minnesota Historical Society (1 copy)
345 Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55102

Indian Affairs Council (1 copy)
Jim Jones, Cultural Affairs Director
3801 Bemidji Avenue Suite 5
Bemidji, MN 56601

Ottertail County (2 copies)
Bill Kalar, Land and Resource Director
540 Fir Avenue West
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Norwegian Grove Twp Chairman (1 copy)
Ernest Hovland
40462 150th Avenue
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

Exhibit 3
Mailing List

Pelican Township Supervisor (1 copy)

Paul Restad
16721 440th Street
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

West Ottertail SWCD (1 copy)

Brad Mergens
506 Western Avenue N.
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

West Central Initiative (1 copy)

1000 Western Avenue
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Fergus Falls Public Library (1 copy)

205 E. Hampden
Fergus Falls, MN 56537