

APPENDIX L

MAPLE RIVER – CUYUNA 345 KV
TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

AGENCY COORDINATION AND COMMENTS

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- 6/9/2025 Email, S. Kotch Egstad, Minnesota Department of Transportation
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- 10/16/2025 Letter, O. Baird, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- 10/16/2025 Letter, L. Langerud, Audubon Township

General Federal and State Agency Distribution List

Agency	Name	Title	Address	Email
Federal Aviation Administration	Marta Duchatellier	Air Traffic Technician	6020 28th Ave S, Ste. 201 Minneapolis, MN 55450	Marta.Duchatellier@faa.gov
Federal Aviation Administration	Ashley Wilson	Air Traffic Specialist	6020 28th Ave S, Ste. 102 Minneapolis, MN 55450	ashley.m.wilson@faa.gov
Federal Aviation Administration	Lindsay Terry	Manager	6020 28th Ave S, Ste. 102 Minneapolis, MN 55450	lindsay.terry@faa.gov
Federal Aviation Administration	Jacob Martin	Assistant Manager	6020 28th Ave S, Ste. 201 Minneapolis, MN 55450	jacob.martin@faa.gov
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Jeremy Kinney			Jeremy.M.Kinney@usace.army.mil
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Troy Daniell	Minnesota State Conservationist	375 Jackson St St. Paul, MN 55101	kristine.a.kust@usda.gov
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Joseph Brennan	State Soil Scientist	375 Jackson St St. Paul, MN 55101	joseph.brennan@usda.gov
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Robert Guetter	District Conservationist		Robert.Guetter@usda.gov
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Jody Peek	District Conservationist	603 North Central Ave, Suite 100 Park Rapids, MN 56470	jody.peek@usda.gov
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Josh Hanson	District Conservationist		joshua.hanson@usda.gov
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Candi Fuller	District Conservationist	1889 E Hwy 2 Grand Rapids, MN 55744	candi.fuller@usda.gov
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Allison Praet	District Conservationist	4850 Miller Trunk Hwy Duluth, MN 55811	allison.praet@usda.gov
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	Thom Petersen	Commissioner	625 Robert St N St. Paul, MN 55155	Thom.Petersen@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	Stephan Roos	Planner	625 Robert St N St. Paul, MN 55155	stephan.roos@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Health	Nick Budde	Hydrologist	P.O. Box 64975 St. Paul, MN 55164	nicholas.budde@state.mn.us

Agency	Name	Title	Address	Email
Minnesota Department of Health	Dereck Richter	Principal Planner	P.O. Box 64975 St. Paul, MN 55164	dereck.richter@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Health	Danielle Luzinski	Statewide Surface Water Hydrologist	P.O. Box 64975 St. Paul, MN 55164	danielle.luzinski@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Joe Pignato	Land Management Office Director	395 John Ireland Blvd Mailstop 630 St. Paul, MN 55155	joseph.pignato@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Stacy Kotch Egstad	Utility Routing and Siting Coordinator	395 John Ireland Blvd Mailstop 630 St. Paul, MN 55155	stacy.kotch@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Matt Meyer	Hydrologist	1123 Mesaba Ave Duluth, MN 55811	matthew.m.meyer@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Tom Lee	Hydrologist	1123 Mesaba Ave Duluth, MN 55811	thomas.lee@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Shane Gries	Right of Way Permits	1123 Mesaba Ave Duluth, MN 55811	shane.gries@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Rich Munsch	Right of Way Permits	7694 Industrial Park Rd Baxter, MN 56425-8096	richard.munsch@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Jeremy Mollner	Right of Way Permits	7694 Industrial Park Rd Baxter, MN 56425-8096	jeremy.mollner@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Jon Keranen	Right of Way Permits	3725 12th St North St. Cloud, MN 56303-2130	jonathan.keranen@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Keith Peterson	Right of Way Permits	3725 12th St North St. Cloud, MN 56303-2130	keith.peterson@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Terry Condon	Right of Way Permits	3920 Hwy 2 West Bemidji, MN 56601	terry.condon@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Tom Johnson	Right of Way Permits	3920 Hwy 2 West Bemidji, MN 56601	thomas.d.johnson@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	John Gildersleeve	Right of Way Permits	1000 Hwy 10 West Detroit Lakes, MN 56501	john.gildersleeve@state.mn.us

Agency	Name	Title	Address	Email
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Daryn Minske	Right of Way Permits	1000 Hwy 10 West Detroit Lakes, MN 56501	Daryn.minske@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Shane Bakken	Right of Way Permits	1000 Hwy 10 West Detroit Lakes, MN 56501	Shane.bakken@state.mn.us
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council	Shannon Geshick	Executive Director	161 St. Anthony Ave, Ste. 919 St. Paul, MN 55103	shannon.geshick@state.mn.us
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council	George Goggleye Jr.	Cultural Resources Manager	161 St. Anthony Ave, Ste. 919 St. Paul, MN 55103	george.goggleye@state.mn.us
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council	Lilly Geraghty	Cultural Resources Manager	161 St. Anthony Ave, Ste. 919 St. Paul, MN 55103	lilly.geraghty@state.mn.us
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council	Isaac Weston	Cultural Resources Manager	161 St. Anthony Ave, Ste. 919 St. Paul, MN 55103	isaac.weston@state.mn.us
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	Jim Dexter	Environmental Review Specialist	520 Lafayette Rd, Box 25 St. Paul, MN 55155	James.Dexter@state.mn.us
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	Kirsten Barta	Regional General Permits Manager, Environmental Review Specialist	520 Lafayette Rd, Box 25 St. Paul, MN 55155	kirsten.barta@state.mn.us
Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office	Leslie Coburn	Manager, Environmental Review Specialist	50 Sherburne Ave, Suite 203 St. Paul, MN 55155	leslie.coburn@state.mn.us
Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office	Kelly Gragg-Johnson	Environmental Review Specialist	50 Sherburne Ave, Suite 203 St. Paul, MN 55155	kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us
Office of the State Archaeologist	Amanda Gronhovid	MN State Archaeologist	328 W Kellogg Blvd St. Paul, MN 55102	Amanda.Gronhovid@state.mn.us
Public Utilities Commission	Bret Eknes	Supervisor	121 7th Place E, Suite 350 St. Paul, MN 55101	Bret.Eknes@state.mn.us



30 West Superior Street Blvd
Duluth, MN 55802

218.864.6059
www.mnpower.com

215 S. Cascade Street
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

218.739.8200
www.otpc.com

12300 Elm Creek
Maple Grove, MN 55369

763.445.5000
www.greatriverenergy.com

June 9, 2025

VIA Email

Name
Agency
Title
Address
Address

**Re: Maple River – Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project
MPUC Docket No. E015, ET2, E017/CN-25-109**

Dear Name:

On February 7, 2025, Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Great River Energy (collectively, the “Applicants”) submitted a Notice of Intent to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) to construct the Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Project (also the “Project” or “MR-C Project”).

On December 12, 2024, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (“MISO”), a federally registered planning authority, approved its Long-Range Transmission Planning (“LRTP”) Tranche 2.1 portfolio of projects as part of MISO’s 2024 Transmission Expansion Plan (“MTEP24”). The LRTP Tranche 2.1 portfolio is made up of 24 projects, including project no. 20, the MR-C Project. The Project involves construction of a new, approximately 160-mile-long, single-circuit 345 kV transmission line on double-circuit capable structures from Minnesota Power’s Cuyuna Substation near Riverton, Minnesota to Otter Tail Power Company’s Maple River Substation near Fargo, North Dakota. Approximately 95% of the Project will be in Minnesota. A map of the Project Study Area is enclosed.

The MR-C Project, as part of the LRTP Tranche 2.1 portfolio, is needed to support the reliability of the regional transmission system, particularly in northwestern and central Minnesota and eastern North Dakota; to provide additional transmission capacity and regional transfer capability to reliably integrate new renewable generation; meet growing electrical demand; and strengthen the regional transmission grid.

Two approvals must be obtained from the Commission before high voltage transmission lines and associated facilities like the proposed Project can be built in Minnesota: a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit. The Applicants plan to submit an application for a Certificate of Need in accordance with Minnesota Statute § 216I to the Commission in February 2026. The Route Permit application submittal is planned for the third quarter of 2026. Ahead of this process, the Applicants are initiating stakeholder, agency, tribal, and public outreach through mailings, meetings, and open houses. At this stage in Project development, the Applicants wish to make you aware of the proposed Project and to gather any information that you might wish to share that will help us

identify potential route options or routing constraints. We appreciate your assistance as we evaluate siting and routing information and work through the Commission's approval process.

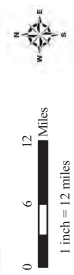
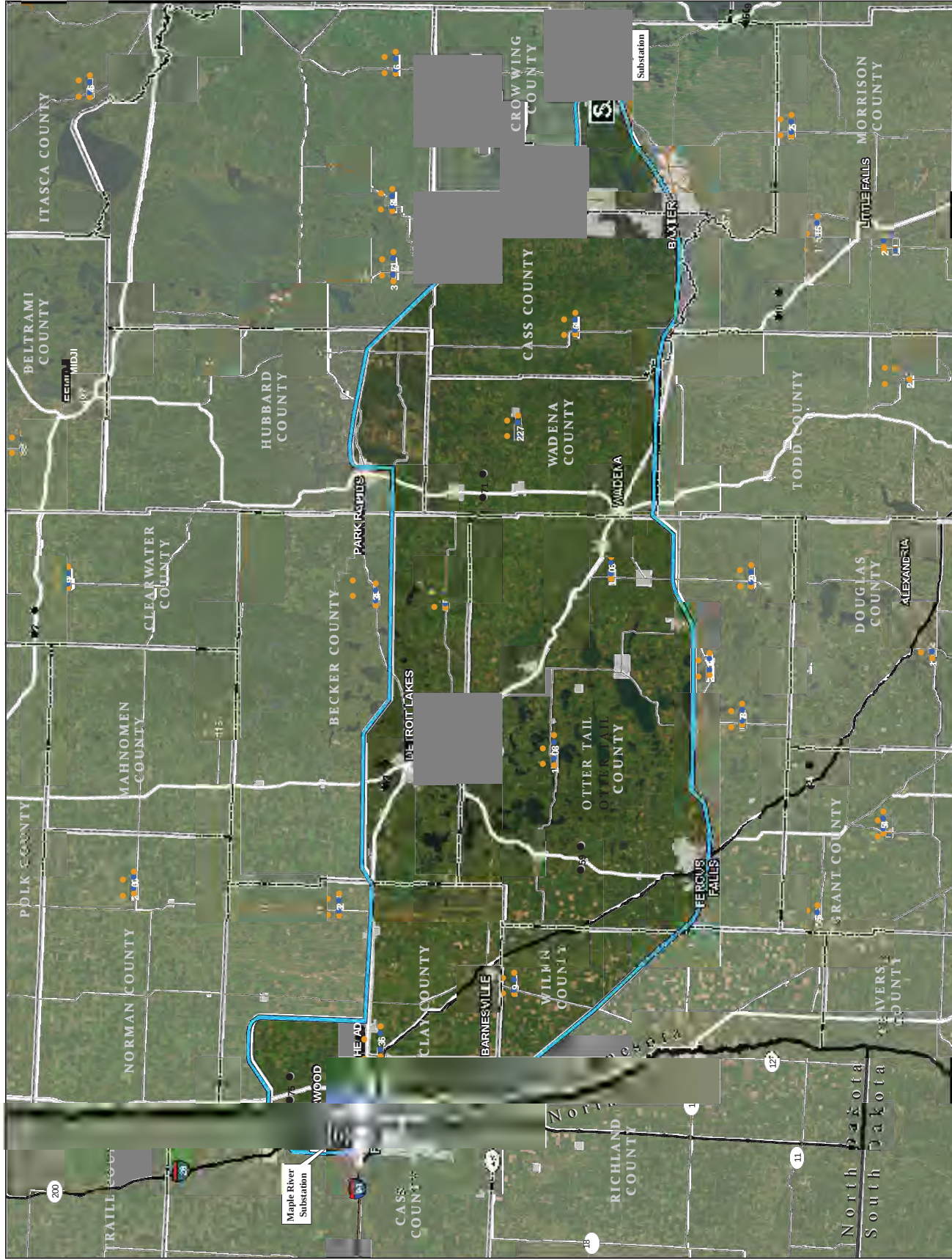
Please let me know if you have information that the Applicants should consider in evaluating and developing potential routes for the Project. If you would like to request a meeting, please contact me at (218) 576-9213 or djanke@mnpower.com. I am happy to discuss any questions that you may have about the Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Drew Janke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Drew Janke
Project Manager – Environmental
Minnesota Power

Enclosure: Project Study Area Map



- Project Substation
- Project Study Area
- City Boundary
- County Boundary
- State Boundary

Maple River to Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Line Project

Project Study Area



For Environmental Review Purposes Only

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Distribution List

Agency	Name	Title	Address	Email
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Ben Bergey	Regional Director	2115 Birchmont Beach Rd NE Bemidji, MN 56601	Ben.Bergey@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Grant Wilson	Regional Director	1200 Warner Rd St. Paul, MN 55106	Grant.Wilson@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Kate Fairman	Environmental Review Operations Lead	500 Lafayette Rd St. Paul, MN 55155	kate.fairman@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Becky Horton	EIS Project Manager	500 Lafayette Rd St. Paul, MN 55155	becky.horton@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Diane Johnson	Realty Specialist, Utility License Crossing	2115 Birchmont Beach Rd, NE Bemidji, MN 56601	diane.johnson@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Jessica Parson	NE Region Ecologist	1201 E Hwy 2 Grand Rapids, MN 55744	jessica.parson@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Patty Thielen	NE Region Director	1601 Minnesota Dr Brainerd, MN 56401	patty.thielen@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Brianna Speldrich	Hydrologist	525 Lake Ave. S, Suite 415 Duluth, MN 55802	Brianna.Speldrich@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Molly Barrett	Natural Heritage Review Specialist	500 Lafayette Rd St. Paul, MN 55155	Molly.Barrett@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Jim Drake	Natural Heritage Review Specialist	500 Lafayette Rd St. Paul, MN 55155	jim.drake@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Chuck Carpenter	Northeast Regional Manager	1201 E Hwy 2 Grand Rapids, MN 55744	Charles.Carpenter@state.mn.us



30 West Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802
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www.mnpower.com

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June 9, 2025

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June 9, 2025

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On behalf of the Applicants, Merjent will submit a formal Natural Heritage Review Request through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' ("DNR") Minnesota Conservation Explorer ("MCE"). The Applicants look forward to working with the DNR to minimize potential impacts to state-protected species.

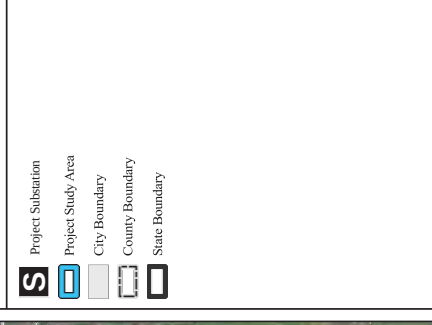
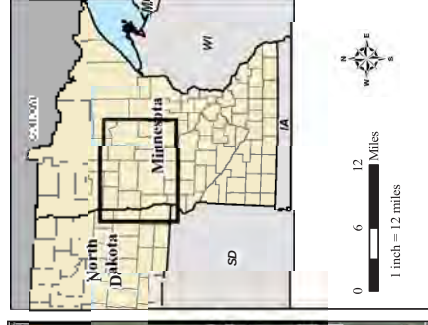
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Drew Janke
Project Manager – Environmental
Minnesota Power

Enclosure: Project Study Area Map



**Maple River to Cayuna 345 kV
Transmission Line Project**

Project Study Area

transmission group
AN ALLETE COMPANY

OTTER TAIL
POWER COMPANY

GREAT RIVER
ENERGY

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Distribution List

Agency	Name	Title	Address	Email
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Robert Tawes	Field Supervisor	3815 American Blvd E Bloomington, MN 55425	robert_tawes@fws.gov
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	To Whom It May Concern		3815 American Blvd E Bloomington, MN 55425	permitsr3mb@fws.gov



30 West Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802
218.864.6059
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Fergus Falls, MN 56537
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Maple River – Cuyuna Certificate of Need Application

30 West Superior Street | Duluth, Minnesota 55802-2093 | 218-722-2625 | www.mnpower.com | Docket No. E015, ET2, E017/CN-25-109

Appendix L

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The Applicants will review the Project using the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's ("USFWS") Information for Planning and Consultation ("IPaC") tool and will evaluate the Project using Determination Keys ("D-Keys") available at the time. In the event that the available D-Keys are not applicable to the Project, the Applicants will coordinate with the USFWS Twin Cities Field Office.

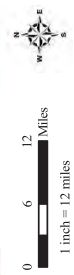
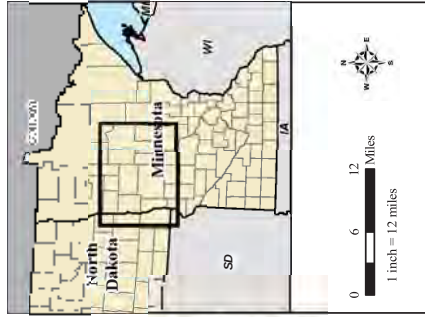
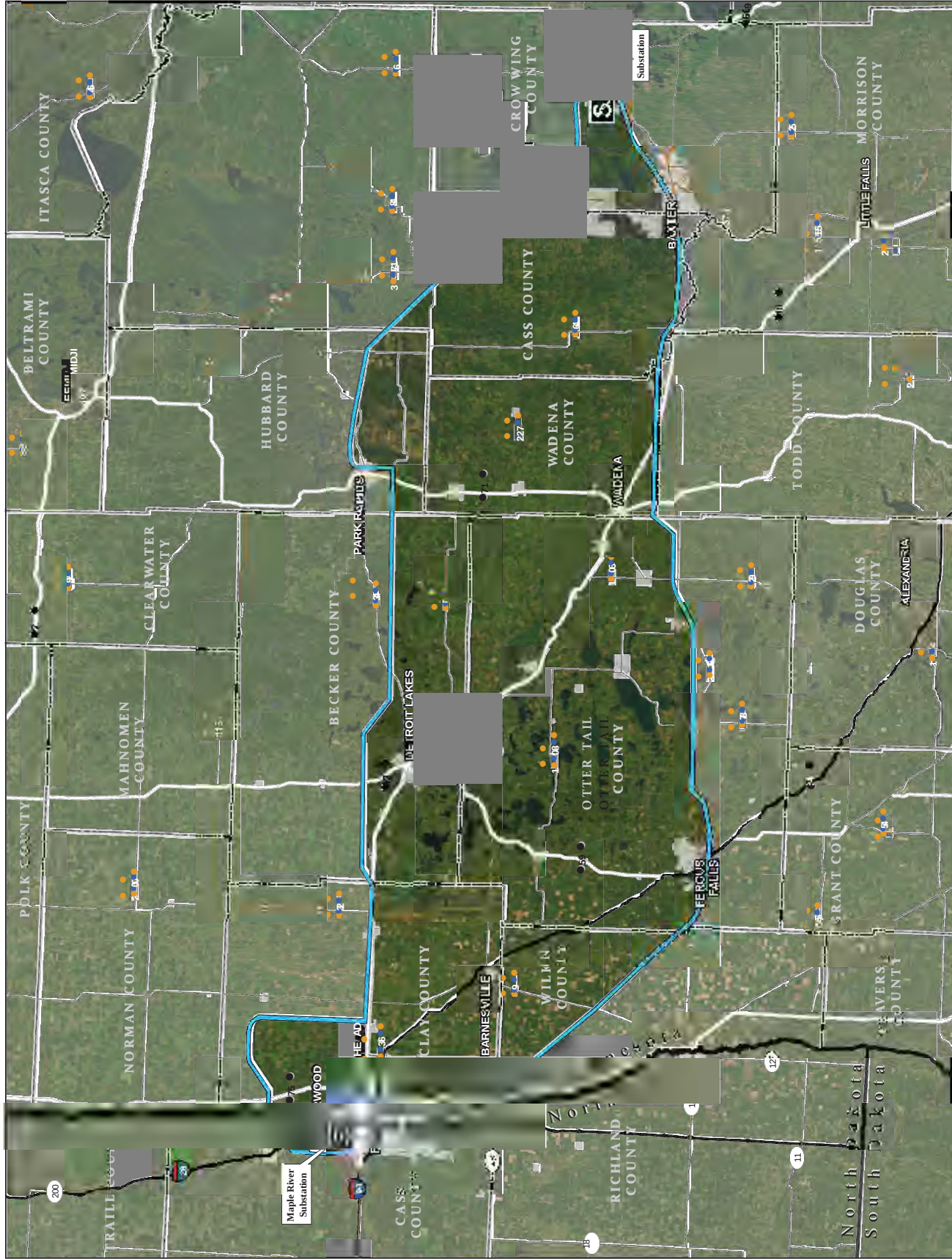
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Drew Janke
Project Manager – Environmental
Minnesota Power

Enclosure: Project Study Area Map



- Project Substation
- Project Study Area
- City Boundary
- County Boundary
- State Boundary

Maple River to Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Line Project

Project Study Area



For Environmental Review Purposes Only

Local Government Distribution List

Agency	Name	Title	Address	Email
Alliance Township	Jerald L Butenhoff	Mayor		Alliancetownship@yahoo.com
Ansel Township	Linda Kuschel	Chairman	26666 Co Highway 67 Henning, MN 56551	tnlkuschel@gmail.com
Audubon/Burlington/Erie/Silverleaf Township	Wesley Hegna	Clerk	6557 25th Ave SW Pequot Lakes, MN 56472	assessorwes@gmail.com
Aurdal Township	Doug Green	Mayor		degreen03@gmail.com
Badoura Township	Theora Goodrich	Clerk	19121 County Road 12 Ironton, MN 56455	tdgoodrich@mac.com
Becker County	Richard Vareberg	Chairman	20929 250TH ST Fergus Falls, MN 56537	richard.vareberg@co.becker.mn.us
Becker County	Erica Jepson	Chairperson	44170 450th Avenue Perham, MN 56573	erica.jepson@co.becker.mn.us
Becker County	Barry Nelson	Clerk	33100 150th Avenue Elizabeth, MN 56533	bknelso@co.becker.mn.us
Becker County	Phil Hansen	Clerk	PO Box 767 Pine River, MN 56474	phil.hansen@co.becker.mn.us
Becker County	David Meyer	Mayor	112 W Washington Ave Fergus Falls, MN 56537	david.meyer@co.becker.mn.us
Becker Township	Mary Fitcher	District 5 Commissioner	12972 Co Hwy 11 Audubon, MN 56511	becker.townshipclerk@yahoo.com
Bull Moose Township	Grace Salie	Clerk	7831 80th St SW Staples, MN 56479	backus1943@gmail.com
Bungo Township	Linda Neumann	Chairman	23450 Hidden Lake Ln Fergus Falls, MN 56537	bungotownship@gmail.com
Buse Township	Tyler Armstrong	Clerk	5834 112th St SW Pillager, MN 56473	Tylerrarmstrong3103@gmail.com

Agency	Name	Title	Address	Email
Byron Township	Becki Rassler	District 3 Commissioner	417 Jefferson Str S Courthouse Board Rm Wadena, MN 56482	byrontwpcassco@outlook.com
Candor Township	Bradley Syltie	Chairman	30355 Wing Trl Vergas, MN 56587	chair@candortownship.org
Carlisle Township	Joel Piekarski	Clerk	13013 Blackberry Dr Nevis, MN 56467	joelpiekarski@prtcl.com
Cass County	Robert Kangas	Chairman	52597 383RD ST New York Mills, MN 56567	bob.kangas@casscountymn.gov
Cass County	Rusty Lilyquist	Chairperson	37375 110TH AVE Rothsay, MN 56579	rusty.lilyquist@casscountymn.gov
Cass County	Scott Bruns	Clerk	PO BOX 66 Bluffton, MN 56518	scott.brunns@casscountymn.gov
Cass County	Rick Haaland	District 2 Commissioner	24496 Hazel Wood Dr. Park Rapids, MN 56470	rick.haaland@casscountymn.gov
Cass County	Neal Gaalswyk	Mayor		neal.gaalswyk@casscountymn.gov
City of Barnesville	Jason Rick	Clerk	35458 Butternut Point Road Pequot Lakes, MN 56472	mayor@barnesvillemn.com
City of Battle Lake		District 1 Commissioner	45227 N Little Pine Rd Perham, MN 56573	cityclerk@battlelakemn.org
City of Baxter	Darrel Olson	Chairman	25710 320th Avenue Underwood, MN 56586	dolson@baxtermn.gov
City of Bluffton	Connie Stelzer	Mayor		cityofbluffton@arvig.net
City of Brainerd	Dave Badeaux	Mayor		dbadeaux@ci.brainerd.mn.us
City of Comstock		Mayor	213 Minnesota Ave W Sebek MN, 56477	comstockccc@aol.com
City of Crosby	Diane Cash	District 1 Commissioner	18602 Estate Dr Park Rapids, MN 56470	diane.cash@cityofcrosby.com
City of Deer Creek	Troy Beiswenger	District 5 Commissioner		fanofthesioux@msn.com

Agency	Name	Title	Address	Email
City of Dent	Karen E Johnson	Clerk	12502 210th ST Fergus Falls, MN 56537	kej52915@gmail.com
City of Detroit Lakes	Matt Brenk	Chairman	48242 215TH AVE PELICAN RAPIDS, MN 56572	mbrenk@cityofdetroitlakes.com
City of Dilworth		Clerk	43340 230TH ST HENNING, MN 56551	cityhall@ci.dilworth.mn.us
City of Dilworth	Chad Olson	District 2 Commissioner	1203 Roosevelt Ave Detroit Lakes, MN 56501	Chad.Olson@ci.dilworth.mn.us
City of East Gull Lake	Laura Christensen	Clerk	PO Box 333 Brainerd, MN 56401	laura@eastgulllake.us
City of Elizabeth	Angela Peterson	Clerk	420 190th St S Hawley, MN 56549	elizabeth.city@outlook.com
City of Erhard	Sarah Ehlers	District 5 Commissioner	834 7th St S Breckenridge, MN 56520	erhardcity@prtcl.com
City of Fergus Falls	Anthony Hicks	Mayor		anthony.hicks@fergusfallsmn.gov
City of Frazee	Mike Sharp	Chairman	23971 275TH AVE Fergus Falls, MN 56537	mikesharp607@gmail.com
City of Glyndon	Joe Olson	Mayor		jolson@glyndonmn.com
City of Hawley	Sean Mork	District 1 Commissioner	4450 310th Ave Campbell, MN 56522	smork@ci.hawley.mn.us
City of Henning		District 1 Commissioner	14312 460th Ave Frazee, MN 56544	henngov@arvig.net
City of Ironton	Joshua Jacobson	District 2 Commissioner		joshjacobsen@cityofironton.org
City of Jenkins	Andrew Rudlang	Mayor		krista.okerman@cityofjenkins.com
City of Lake Park	Sarah Mikkelsen	Chairman	50849 Co Highway 8 Perham, MN 56573	smikkelsen@lakeparkmn.com
City of Lake Shore	Laura Fussy	Clerk	5509 State 87 SW Backus, MN 56435	lfussy@cityoflakeshore.com

Agency	Name	Title	Address	Email
City of Menahga	Jody Bjornson	Chairman	26937 Co Highway 22 Erhard, MN 56534	jbjornson@cityofmenahga.com
City of Moorhead	Shelly Carlson	Chairman	5408 157th St S Glyndon, MN 56541	shelly.carlson@cityofmoorhead.com
City of New York Mills	Latham Hetland	District 5 Commissioner		lathamhetland01@gmail.com
City of Nisswa	Jennifer Carnahan	Assessor	915 LAKE AVE DETROIT LAKES, MN 56501	jcarnahan@cityofnisswa.gov
City of Ottertail		Chairman	29142 Co Hwy 27 Fergus Falls, MN 56537	otcity@arvig.net
City of Park Rapids	Pat Mikesch	Chairman	32256 Cty Hwy 21 Rothsay, MN 56579	mayor@ci.park-rapids.mn.us
City of Pelican Rapids		Mayor		citypr@loretel.net
City of Pequot Lakes		Chairman	14391 430th Street Pelican Rapids, MN 56572	Info@pequotlakes.com
City of Perham	Timothy Meehl	Chairman	10847 200th St S Barnesville, MN 56514	tmeehl@cityofperham.com
City of Pillager	Adam Sparrow	Clerk	12956 24th Ave SW Pillager, MN 56473	adamsparrow@cityofpillager.com
City of Pine River	Tamara Hansen	Mayor	PO box 410 Nisswa, MN 56468	mayor@cityofpineriver.org
City of Richville	Terry Lee	District 3 Commissioner		tigutterguy@outlook.com
City of Riverton		Chairman	10449 140 Ave S Barnesville MN 56514-9129	riverton@centurylink.net
City of Rothsay	Shane Balken	Chairman	293 110th Ave N Moorhead MN 56560	shane.balken@rothsay.org
City of Sebeka	David A. Anderson	Clerk	PO Box 523 Pequot Lakes, MN 56472	cosmayordavid@gmail.com

Agency	Name	Title	Address	Email
City of Staples	Ron Murray	Mayor	115 2nd Street NE Menahga, MN 56464	rmurray@ci.staples.mn.us
City of Underwood	Judy Everett	Mayor	36 3rd Street SE Glyndon, MN 56547	clerk@ci.underwood.mn.us
City of Vergas	Dwight Lundgren	Chairman	24479 120th AVE Fergus Falls, MN 56537	dlundgren@cityofvergas.com
City of Verndale	Tara Erkenbrack	District 3 Commissioner	1282 230th Ave Barnesville, MN 56514	t2erckenbrack@yahoo.com
City of Wadena	George Deiss	District 5 Commissioner	415 Jefferson St S Courthouse Board Rm Wadena, MN 56482	gdeiss@wadena.org
Clay County	Ezra Baer	Chairman	50527 COUNTY HWY 51 Frazee, MN 56544	ezra.baer@claycountymn.gov
Clay County	Paul Krabbenhoft	Clerk	120 Main Street S. Underwood, MN 56586	paul.krabbenhoft@claycountymn.gov
Clay County	David Ebinger	District 2 Commissioner		David.ebinger@claycountymn.gov
Clay County	Jenny Mongeau	District 2 Commissioner	809 13th Street N Breckenridge MN 56520	Jenny.Mongeau@claycountymn.gov
Clay County	Kevin Campbell	Mayor		Kevin.Campbell@claycountymn.gov
Compton Township	Maryann Line	Chairman	11046 57th Ave N Glyndon, MN 56547	mary11951@yahoo.com
Corliss Township	Gerald Wanderi	Clerk	PO BOX 126 Dent, MN 56528	supervisor1@corlisstowship.com
Cormorant/Runeberg/Toad Lake/Green Valley Township	Lisa Marshall	Clerk	4508 108th St SW Pillager, MN 56473	LMAssessor@outlook.com
Crow Wing County	Jon Lubke	Clerk	2435 48th Ave SW Pine River, MN 56474	Jon.Lubke@crowwing.gov
Crow Wing County	Paul Koering	Clerk	26016 State Highway 6 Crosby, MN 56441	Paul.Koering@crowwing.gov

Agency	Name	Title	Address	Email
Crow Wing County	Steve Barrows	Clerk	2080 25th St SW Pine River, MN 56474	Steve.Barrows@crowwing.gov
Crow Wing County	Rosemary Franzen	District 3 Commissioner	19713 CO HWY 39 Underwood, MN 56586	Rosemary.Franzen@crowwing.gov
Crow Wing County	Jamie Lee	District 4 Commissioner		Jamie.Lee@crowwing.gov
Crow Wing Lake Township	Brian Ford	Mayor	P.O. Box H 28 W. Centennial 84 Dr. New York Mills, MN 56567	cwltclerk@outlook.com
Dane Prairie Township	Benjamin M. Thompson	Administrator	10790 Gull Point Rd East Gull Lake, MN 56401	thompsonliverstock@live.com
Deer Creek Township	Michael Harder	Clerk	8583 Interlachen Road Lake Shore, MN 56468	mharder63@yahoo.com
Deerfield Township	Megan Young	Clerk	62571 240th Street Hewitt, MN 56453	deerfieldmn@outlook.com
Detroit/Lake View Township	Jared Suihkonen	Chairman	17821 370th Street Erhard, MN 56534	jared.suihkonen@co.becker.mn.us
Dunn Township	David L. Johnson	Clerk	PO Box 10 Nisswa, MN 56468	BarDfarm1@gmail.com
Elizabeth Township	Jared Swiontek	Clerk	3288 84th Ave SW Sebeka, MN 56477	lcmwiontek@yahoo.com
Elkton Township	Mark Carr	Clerk	4146 52nd Ave SW Pine River, MN 56474	elktontownship@gmail.com
Elmwood Township	Todd Schuler	Assessor	15288 490th Ave Menahga, MN 56464	elmwoodtownship@outlook.com
Erhards Grove Township	Lee Backstrom	Clerk	PO Box 873 Pelican Rapids, MN 56572	backstromlee@gmail.com
Everts Township	Rezin Everts	Clerk	23977 COUNTY ROAD 4 NISSWA, MN 56468	rezineverts@gmail.com

Agency	Name	Title	Address	Email
Fairview Township	Katie Eastman	Assessor	915 Lake Ave Detroit Lakes, MN 56501	fairviewtownship@msn.com
Fergus Falls Township	Barbara Zempel	Chairman	13308 110 Ave S Sabin, MN 56580	barb@zempelauction.com
Friberg Township	Greg Kugler	Clerk	10999 75th Ave SW Motley, MN 56466	kuglerrepair@yahoo.com
Girard Township	Debbie Irmen	Clerk	58884 330TH ST Wadena, MN 56482	girardtwsh@gmail.com
Gorman Township	Jon Swyter	Mayor		jkswyter@gmail.com
Hawley Township	Denise Graunke	Clerk	4379 40th Ave S Moorhead MN 56560	hawleytownshipclerk@gmail.com
Height of Land Township	Luke Johnson	Clerk	1839 Co 41 NW Backus, MN 56435	luke.johnson@co.becker.mn.us
Henning Township	Alan Haugdahl	Clerk	52780 State Highway 210 Henning, MN 56551	henningtwp.chair@gmail.com
Henrietta Township	Russell Johnsrud	Chairman	52899 330th Street New York Mills, MN 56567	henriettasvr2@arvig.net
Hobart Township	Russ Berstler	Mayor	PO Box 387 Frazee, MN 56544	Hobarttownship@arvig.net
Homestead Township	Scott G. Koennicke	District 2 Commissioner	416 Jefferson St S Courthouse Board Rm Wadena, MN 56482	scottjen@arvig.net
Hubbard County	Ted Van Kempen	Chairman	49398 Leaf River Loop Henning, MN 56551	ted.vankempen@co.hubbard.mn.us
Hubbard County	David De La	District 1 Commissioner	Maplewood Drive E Gull Lake, MN 56401	david.delahunt@co.hubbard.mn.us
Hubbard County	Tom Krueger	District 1 Commissioner		tom.krueger@co.hubbard.mn.us
Hubbard County	Charlene Christenson	District 2 Commissioner	418 Jefferson St S Courthouse Board Rm Wadena, MN 56482	char.christenson@co.hubbard.mn.us

Agency	Name	Title	Address	Email
Hubbard County	Steve Keranen	District 4 Commissioner	25544 Hillview Road Nevis, MN 56467	steven.keranen@co.hubbard.mn.us
Ideal Township	Craig Wallace	District 1 Commissioner		info@idealtownship.com
Inman Township	Melany Doll	District 3 Commissioner	24921 N Melissa Dr Detroit Lakes, MN 56501	inmantownship@yahoo.com
Irondale Township	Angela Fort	Chairman	38849 265th Street Battle Lake, MN 56515	irondaletownship2@gmail.com
Jenkins Township	Jim Olsen	District 4 Commissioner	19458 US Hwy 59 Detroit Lakes, MN 56501	chefifo@gmail.com
Kragnes Township	Jeremy Clark	District 4 Commissioner	702 Oak St Breckenridge, MN 56520	kragnestownship@outlook.com
Lake Edward Township	Loni Burnard	District 5 Commissioner	P.O. Box 781 Cass Lake, MN 56633	Lakeedwardtnshp@gmail.com
Leaf Lake Township	Paul Friedrich	District 4 Commissioner	12166 595th Ave Parkers Prairie, MN 56361-4820	leaflakechairman@gmail.com
Loon Lake Township	Tim Murphy	Chairman	41691 Cty Hwy 53 New York Mills, MN 56567	murphytrm@gmail.com
Maple Township	Alisha Alderson	District 2 Commissioner	3921 40th Ave SW Pine River, MN 56474	maple.township@tds.net
May Township	Bianca Wyffels	Mayor	122 6th Street NE Staples, MN 56479	clerk@maytwp.com
McKinley Township	Stephanie Burns	District 1 Commissioner	415 Jefferson St S Courthouse Board Rm Wadena, MN 56482	mckinleytwp@gmail.com
Moland Township	Justin Magnuson	District 4 Commissioner		molandtownship@outlook.com
Moorhead Township	Matt Raisl	Clerk	37893 470th St Frazee, MN 56544	moorhead.township.clerk@gmail.com
Newton Township	Chris Roberts	Chair	16196 County Road 6 Park Rapids, MN 56470	newtontownship@ymail.com

Agency	Name	Title	Address	Email
Norwegian Grove Township	Jeff Holt	District 3 Commissioner	1394 County 7 Longville, MN 56655-3192	jjholt@hotmial.com
Oak Lawn Township	Deborah Borg	Clerk	PO Box 96 Erhard, MN 56534	oaklawntwp@gmail.com
Oak Valley Township	Leah Januszewski	Clerk/Treasurer	PO Box 239 Lake Park, MN 56554	oakvalley.township@gmail.com
Oakport Township	Tim Brendemuhl	District 4 Commissioner	P.O. Box 1059 Walker, MN 56484	oakporttownship@yahoo.com
Orwell Township	David Kriesel-Knoll	Chairman	52073 430th Street New York Mills, MN 56567	suburban1951@hotmail.com
Oscar Township	Jason Grunewald	Mayor		grunewaldja@gmail.com
Otter Tail County	Sean Sullivan	Chairperson	21662 Minnesota 64 Akeley, MN 56433	ssullivan@ottertailcounty.gov
Otter Tail County	Wayne Johnson	Clerk	8561 16th St SW Backus, MN 56435	wjohnson@ottertailcounty.gov
Otter Tail County	Dan Bucholz	District 5 Commissioner	1003 North Vine Street Fergus Falls, MN 56537	dbucholz@ottertailcounty.gov
Otter Tail County	Kurt Mortenson	Mayor		kmortenson@ottertailcounty.gov
Otter Tail County	Robert (Bob) Lahman	Mayor	403 Center Ave Moorhead, MN 56561-0779	rlahman@ottertailcounty.gov
Pelican Township	Linda Benson	District 3 Commissioner		pelicantownship@gmail.com
Pelican Township	Llyod Nelson	District 4 Commissioner	25544 Hillview Road Nevis, MN 56467	lloyd@pelicanottertailmn.gov
Perham Township	Barb Felt	Clerk	7800 60th St SW Staples, MN 56479	supervisor1@perhamtownship.com
Pine Lake Township	Robert (Bob) Sieling	Mayor		bsieling@arvig.net
Pine River Township	Barbara Wagner	Mayor	PO Box 156 Verndale, MN 56481	clerkprtownship@gmail.com

Agency	Name	Title	Address	Email
Poplar Township	Susan Peet	District 5 Commissioner	22091 County 118 Laporte, MN 56461	poplarclerk@outlook.com
Riverton Township	Jakob Pender	Mayor		rivertontownship@gmail.com
Skree Township	Jeffrey Pender	Township Chair	28933 State 87 Nevis, MN 56467	skreetownship@outlook.com
Sverdrup Township	Dan Stenolen	Chairman	8463 2 St N Moorhead MN 56560	dan@underwoodwoodworking.com
Sylvan Township	Jenna Ruggles	Clerk	1646 Cherokee Trl SW Pequot Lakes, MN 56472	clerk@sylvantwp.com
Trondhjem Township	Chris Watterrud	Mayor		rnkrnk700@gmail.com
Wadena County	Bill Stearns	Chairman	8314 80th Ave S Sabin, MN 56580	bill.stearns@wcmn.us
Wadena County	Murlyn Kreklau	Chairman	17336 CO Highway 1 Fergus Falls, MN 56537	Murlyn.Kreklau@wcmn.us
Wadena County	Ron Noon	District 2 Commissioner	38992 183rd Ave Pelican Rapids, MN 56572	ron.noon@wcmn.us
Wadena County	Jon Kangas	District 3 Commissioner	12621 Bethel Trl Nevis, MN 56467	jon.kangas@wcmn.us
Wadena County	Mike Weyer	Mayor		Mike.Weyer@wcmn.us
Walden Township	Kim Norman	Assessor		waldentownshipclerk@gmail.com
White Oak Township	Shelly Nelson	Chairperson	15855 17th St S PO Box 39 Comstock, MN 56525	whiteoaksupervisor@gmail.com
Wilkin County	Eric Klindt	District 1 Commissioner	4638 Main Street Pequot Lakes, MN 56472	eklindt@wilkincounty.gov
Wilkin County	Jonathan Green	District 2 Commissioner	PO Box 386 Battle Lake, MN 56515	jgreen@wilkincounty.gov
Wilkin County	Jon Braton Sr.	District 3 Commissioner	16663 MAIN ST RIVERTON MN 56455	jbraton@wilkincounty.gov

Agency	Name	Title	Address	Email
Wilkin County	Rick Busko	District 4 Commissioner	612 Front Street Henning, MN 56551	rbusko@wilkincounty.gov
Wilkin County	Dennis Larson	District 5 Commissioner	1st Avenue SE Dilworth, MN 56529	dlarson@wilkincounty.gov
Wilson Township	Lainey Peterson	Clerk	PO Box 245 - 239 Hwy 78 N. Ottertail, MN 56571	wtpemailclerk@gmail.com
Wolford Township	Kimberly Marquart	Clerk	PO Box 350 Pelican Rapids, MN 56572 - 0350	wolfordclerk@castle-web.com



30 West Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802
218.864.6059
www.mnpower.com

215 S. Cascade Street
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
218.739.8200
www.otpc.com

12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, MN 55369
763.445.5000
www.greatriverenergy.com

June 9, 2025

Agency
Title
Address
Address

**Re: Maple River – Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project
MPUC Docket No. E015, ET2, E017/CN-25-109**

To Whom it May Concern:

On February 7, 2025, Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Great River Energy (collectively, the “Applicants”) submitted a Notice of Intent to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) to construct the Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Project (also the “Project” or “MR-C Project”).

On December 12, 2024, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (“MISO”), a federally registered planning authority, approved its Long-Range Transmission Planning (“LRTP”) Tranche 2.1 portfolio of projects as part of MISO’s 2024 Transmission Expansion Plan (“MTEP24”). The LRTP Tranche 2.1 portfolio is made up of 24 projects, including project no. 20, the MR-C Project. The Project involves construction of a new, approximately 160-mile-long, single-circuit 345 kV transmission line on double-circuit capable structures from Minnesota Power’s Cuyuna Substation near Riverton, Minnesota to Otter Tail Power Company’s Maple River Substation near Fargo, North Dakota. Approximately 95% of the Project will be in Minnesota. A map of the Project Study Area is enclosed.

The MR-C Project, as part of the LRTP Tranche 2.1 portfolio, is needed to support the reliability of the regional transmission system, particularly in northwestern and central Minnesota and eastern North Dakota; to provide additional transmission capacity and regional transfer capability to reliably integrate new renewable generation; meet growing electrical demand; and strengthen the regional transmission grid.

Two approvals must be obtained from the Commission before high voltage transmission lines and associated facilities like the proposed Project can be built in Minnesota: a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit. The Applicants plan to submit an application for a Certificate of Need in accordance with Minnesota Statute § 216I to the Commission in February 2026. The Route Permit application submittal is planned for the third quarter of 2026.

June 9, 2025

Page 2

Ahead of this process, the Applicants are initiating stakeholder, agency, tribal, and public outreach regarding the Project through letters, meetings, and open houses. At this stage in the development of the Project, we want to make you aware of the Project and ask you to provide any information that you believe would be helpful as we identify potential routes for the proposed transmission line. This information could be regarding potential route options or potential constraints. We appreciate your assistance as we evaluate siting and routing information and work through the Commission's approval process.

Please let me know if you have information that the Applicants should consider in evaluating and developing potential routes for the Project. If you would like to request a meeting, please contact me at (218) 576-9213 or djanke@mnpower.com. I am happy to discuss any questions that you may have about the Project.

Please distribute this information to other officials as needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Drew Janke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Drew Janke
Project Manager – Environmental
Minnesota Power

Enclosure: Project Study Area Map

Local Government Distribution List – Hard Copy

Agency	Name	Title	Address
Akron Township	Brian Marquardt	Chairman	2876 County Rd 16 Rothsay, MN 56579
Aldrich Township	Mike Tuinstra	Chairman	19960 150th St Verndale, MN 56481
Andrea Township	Brent Torkelson	Chairman	2851 290th Ave Foxhome, MN 56543
Atherton Township	Bruce Nelson	Chairman	2606 0140th St Barnesville, MN 56514
Audubon Township	Luke Langerud	Chairperson	20597 177th St Audubon, MN 56511
Barnesville Township	Frank Schindler	Chairman	17807 150 St S Barnesville, MN 56514
Blueberry Township	Jayne Pickar	Clerk	PO Box 348 Menahga, MN 56464
Blueberry Township	Jim Kangas	Chairman	12830 378th St Menahga, MN 56464
Burlington Township	Richard Billett	Chairperson	11597 Frazee Rd Frazee, MN 56544
Center Township	Coralea Borden	Clerk	13110 Borden Road Merrifield, MN 56465
City of Audubon	Meghan Eastman	Clerk	357 4th Street, PO Box 263 Audubon, MN 56511
Clay County	Jerald L Butenhoff	Chairman	10449 140 Ave S Barnesville, MN 56514-9129
Compton Township	Larry Richter	Chairman	32071 633RD AVE Wadena, MN 56482
Cormorant Township	Steve Sorenson	Chairperson	10194 Sherbrooke Beach Ln Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

Agency	Name	Title	Address
Crow Wing Lake Township	Jaclyn Michlin	Chair	13013 Blackberry Dr Nevis, MN 56467
Deerhorn Township	Jay Nord	Chairman	1833 130th St Wolverton, MN 56594
Detroit Township	Kevin Olson	Chairperson	20549 230th Ave Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
Egdon Township	Steve Rodke	Chairman	5419 Hwy 32 S Hawley, MN 56549
Erie Township	Neal Sundet	Chairperson	20146 Co Hwy 29 Rochert, MN 56578
Evergreen Township	Todd Holmer	Chairperson	42985 120th St Frazee, MN 56544
Flowing Township	Richard E Menholt	Chairman	13035 Hwy 9 N Felton, MN 56536
Georgetown Township	John Lee	Chairman	17027 20th St N Georgetown MN 56546
Girard Township	Alvin Pedersen	Chairman	27944 422ND AVE. Battle Lake, MN 56515
Glyndon Township	Fred Kuehl	Chairman	8903 28th Ave S Glyndon, MN 56547
Green Valley Township	Aaron Skaro	Chairperson	56469 170th St Menahga, MN 56464
Hawley Township	Daren Tangen	Chairman	2994 220th St S Hawley, MN 56549
Height of Land Township	Craig Hall	Chairperson	37895 SW Height of Land Dr Rochert, MN 56578
Hobart Township	Larry Hoffman	Chairman	35430 Freedom Flyer Trail Vergas, MN 56587

Agency	Name	Title	Address
Holy Cross Township	Tim Leiseth	Chairman	12630 40th St S Moorhead, MN 56560
Humboldt Township	Darrel Thomas	Chairman	602 13 St NE Barnesville, MN 56514
Huntersville Township	Dorothy Kennelly	Chairperson	23269 380th St Menahga, MN 56464
Inman Township	Michael Greenwood	Chairman	56250 260th Street Deer Creek, MN 56527
Kragnes Township	Jeff Richards	Clerk	12397 5th St N Moorhead, MN 56560
Kurtz Township	James C Nelson	Chairman	4567 70th Ave S Moorhead, MN 56560
Lake Eunice Township	Jason Rosing	Chairperson	17925 Eilertson Lake Rd Audubon, MN 56511
Lake Park Township	Tyler Bjerke	Chairperson	16557 Co Hwy 1 Lake Park, MN 56554
Lake View Township	Brian Saunders	Chairperson	24766 S Melissa Dr Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
Manston Township	Shawn Norman	Chairman	2510 200th St Rothsay, MN 56579
Meadows Township	Caleb Christenson	Chairman	2361 250th Ave Rothsay, MN 56579
Mitchell Townships	Terry Czichotzki	Chairman	1665 220th St Barnesville, MN 56514
Moland Township	Christian Klonowski	Clerk	7552 70th Ave N Glyndon, MN 56547
Moorhead Township	Kevin Martin	Chairman	4532 40 Ave S Moorhead, MN 56560

Agency	Name	Title	Address
Morken Township	Paul Loegering	Chairman	8438 100th Ave N Felton, MN 56536
Newton Township	Kayla Ellenson	Clerk	50743 State Highway 210 Henning, MN 56551
Oak Valley Township	Ryan Januszewski	Chairman	62571 240th Street Hewitt, MN 56453
Orwell Township	Mark Davenport	Chairman	11202 210th Street Fergus Falls, MN 56537
Parke Township	Colin Melby	Chairman	7316 250 St S Hawley, MN 56549
Pelican Township	Lance Haugrud	Chairman	45780 180th Avenue Pelican Rapids, MN 56572
Prairie View Townships	Robert Hovland	Chairman	1483 320th Ave Rothsay, MN 56579
Runeberg Township	Philip Ylitalo	Chairperson	54759 110th St Menahga, MN 56464
Scambler Township	Nancy Hebert	Chairperson	48990 205th Avenue Pelican Rapids, MN 56572
Shell River Township	Joseph Johnson	Chairperson	36582 179th Ave. Menahga, MN 56464
Silver Leaf Township	Jeremy Mitchell	Chairperson	38378 Co Rd 150 Frazee, MN 56544
Spruce Grove Township	Arlen Huwe	Chairperson	47219 St Hwy 87 Frazee, MN 56544
Tanberg Townships	Marvin Peterson	Chairman	3321 210th St Rothsay, MN 56579
Tansem Township	Chris Seifert	Chairman	14634 260th St S Hawley, MN 56549

Agency	Name	Title	Address
Thomastown Township	Troy Barrett	Chairperson	13008 241st Ave Staples, MN 56479
Toad Lake Township	Randy Wurst	Chairperson	42002 115th St Frazee, MN 56544
Todd Township	Jim Schauer	Chairman	804 Crocus Hill Street E. Park Rapids, MN 56470
Viding Township	Brad Pake	Chairman	6434 150 Ave N Fulton, MN 56536
Wadena Township	Mark Wohlert	Chairperson	11648 110th Street Wadena, MN 56482
Wolf Lake City	Becky Lake	Clerk	PO Box 5 Wolf Lake, MN 56593
Wolf Lake Township	Harry Aho	Chairperson	47782 186th St Frazee, MN 56544
Wolverton Township	Michael Byars	Chairman	1200 160th Ave Wolverton, MN 56594



30 West Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802
218.864.6059
www.mnpower.com

215 S. Cascade Street
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
218.739.8200
www.otpc.com

12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, MN 55369
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June 9, 2025

Agency
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**Re: Maple River – Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project
MPUC Docket No. E015, ET2, E017/CN-25-109**

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June 9, 2025

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Please distribute this information to other officials as needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Drew Janke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Drew Janke
Project Manager – Environmental
Minnesota Power

Enclosure: Project Study Area Map

From: [Dan Flo](#)
To: [Adrian Lund](#); [BarDfarm1@gmail.com](#)
Cc: [mbunny41@yahoo.com](#); [BarDfarm1@gmail.com](#); [dunntreasurer@arvig.net](#); [tingy2@hotmail.com](#); [Drew Janke \(MP\)](#); [Tristen Joens](#)
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: Re: Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project
Date: Monday, July 28, 2025 4:05:29 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Hi Adrian and thank you for the response. The MR-C Project is currently in the early stages of development and we have identified a Study Area that we are evaluating for potential routing opportunities. We are currently requesting feedback from local, state, and federal agencies regarding the Study Area and are planning a number of open houses to facilitate additional feedback from the public. We will keep you updated as we begin detailed routing.

The MR-C Project's website includes more information that you might find helpful, including a mapping tool that shows routing opportunities based on existing transmission lines and a virtual open house presentation that includes potential structure designs. At this time, the project does not anticipate any additional connections besides the Maple River and Cuyuna Substations.

<https://mrctransmissionproject.com/>

We look forward to any comments you have throughout the routing and permitting process.

Sincerely,

Dan Flo
Minneapolis
612.812.0069 mobile
dan.flo@merjent.com



From: Adrian Lund <a.aug.lund@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 4:03 PM
To: Dan Flo <dan.flo@merjent.com>; BarDfarm1@gmail.com
Cc: mbunny41@yahoo.com; BarDfarm1@gmail.com; dunntreasurer@arvig.net; tingy2@hotmail.com; Drew Janke (MP) <djanke@mnpower.com>; Tristen Joens <tristen.joens@galileoaz.com>
Subject: EXTERNAL: Re: Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Hi Dan,

As a layperson can you help me understand what this structure would look like? A few years ago I watched a transmission system be installed along the I-94 corridor in our area. Is this what it would look like or larger or smaller than that system.

Also, regarding your graphic, are all areas inside the highlighted area equally likely to contain the best path or is there a way to mark higher and lower probability areas.

Finally, is there any other connections that happen on this circuit or is it an isolated end to end connection?

Thanks

Adrian Lund

Dunn Township Supervisor

Otter Tail Co

Adrian

From: Dan Flo <dan.flo@merjent.com>

Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 2:43:02 PM

To: BarDfarm1@gmail.com <BarDfarm1@gmail.com>

Cc: mbunny41@yahoo.com <mbunny41@yahoo.com>; a.aug.lund@gmail.com <a.aug.lund@gmail.com>; bardfarm1@gmail.com <bardfarm1@gmail.com>; dunntreasurer@arvig.net <dunntreasurer@arvig.net>; tingy2@hotmail.com <tingy2@hotmail.com>; Drew Janke (MP) <djanke@mnpower.com>; Tristen Joens <tristen.joens@galileoaz.com>

Subject: Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project

David L. Johnson:

Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Great River Energy (collectively, the “Applicants”) are proposing to construct approximately 160 miles of new single-circuit 345 kV transmission line on double-circuit capable structures from Minnesota Power’s Cuyuna Substation near Riverton, Minnesota to Otter Tail Power Company’s Maple River Substation near Fargo, North Dakota. Approximately 95% of the transmission line will be in Minnesota. This project is referred to as the Maple River – Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project (also the “Project” or “MR-C Project”). Minnesota Power plans to submit applications for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit for the Project to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for approval.

The attached letter provides additional information on the Project. Minnesota Power would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project. Please contact Drew Janke at (218) 576-9213 or djanke@mnpower.com should you need additional information.

Regards,

Dan Flo on behalf of
Drew Janke
Project Manager – Environmental
Minnesota Power

Dan Flo
Minneapolis
612.812.0069 mobile
dan.flo@merjent.com



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www.otpc.com

12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, MN 55369
763.445.5000
www.greatriverenergy.com

June 9, 2025

Agency
Title
Address
Address

**Re: Maple River – Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project
MPUC Docket No. E015, ET2, E017/CN-25-109**

To Whom it May Concern:

On February 7, 2025, Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Great River Energy (collectively, the “Applicants”) submitted a Notice of Intent to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) to construct the Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Project (also the “Project” or “MR-C Project”).

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The MR-C Project, as part of the LRTP Tranche 2.1 portfolio, is needed to support the reliability of the regional transmission system, particularly in northwestern and central Minnesota and eastern North Dakota; to provide additional transmission capacity and regional transfer capability to reliably integrate new renewable generation; meet growing electrical demand; and strengthen the regional transmission grid.

Two approvals must be obtained from the Commission before high voltage transmission lines and associated facilities like the proposed Project can be built in Minnesota: a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit. The Applicants plan to submit an application for a Certificate of Need in accordance with Minnesota Statute § 216I to the Commission in February 2026. The Route Permit application submittal is planned for the third quarter of 2026.

June 9, 2025

Page 2

Ahead of this process, the Applicants are initiating stakeholder, agency, tribal, and public outreach regarding the Project through letters, meetings, and open houses. At this stage in the development of the Project, we want to make you aware of the Project and ask you to provide any information that you believe would be helpful as we identify potential routes for the proposed transmission line. This information could be regarding potential route options or potential constraints. We appreciate your assistance as we evaluate siting and routing information and work through the Commission's approval process.

Please let me know if you have information that the Applicants should consider in evaluating and developing potential routes for the Project. If you would like to request a meeting, please contact me at (218) 576-9213 or djanke@mnpower.com. I am happy to discuss any questions that you may have about the Project.

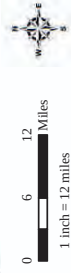
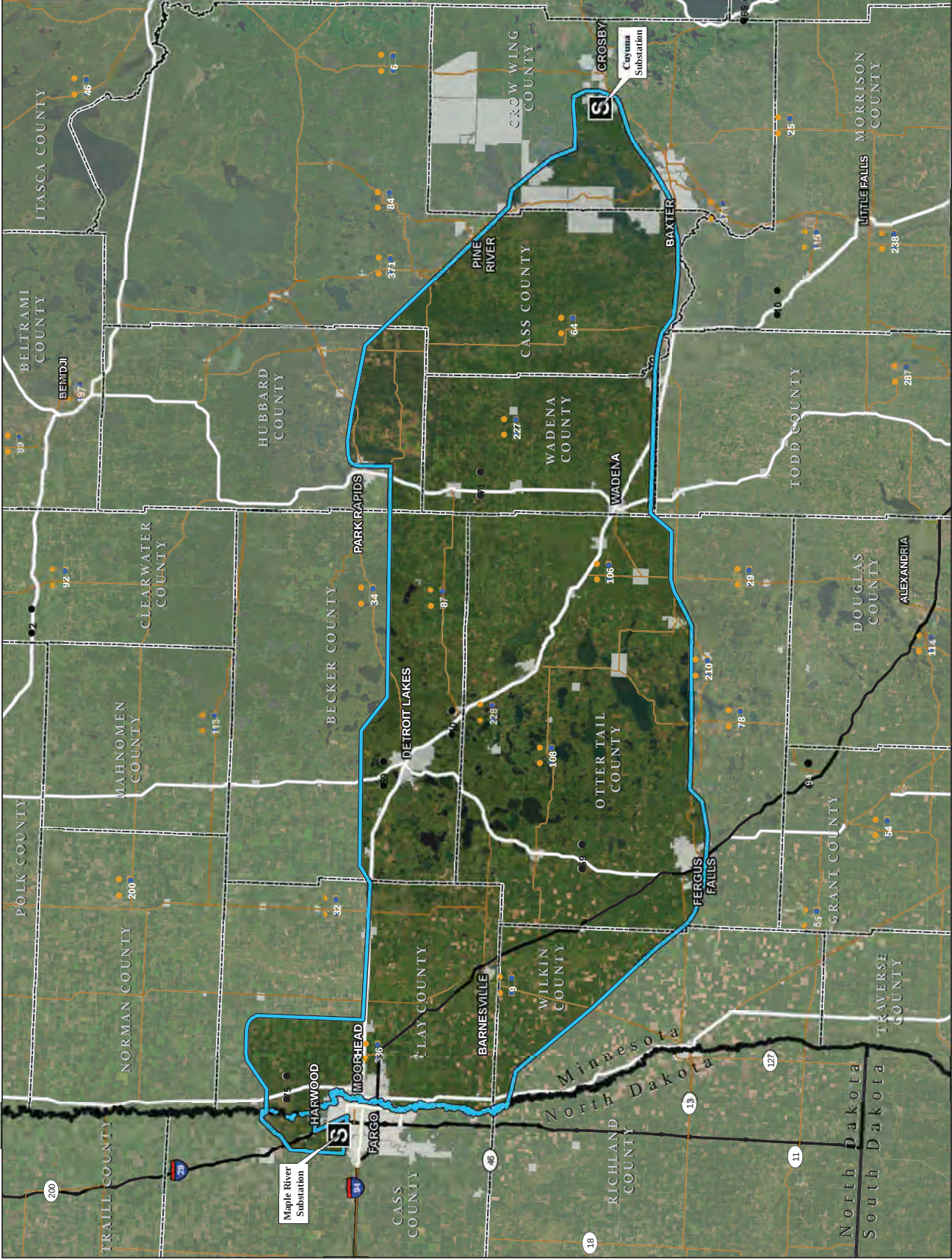
Please distribute this information to other officials as needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Drew Janke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Drew Janke
Project Manager – Environmental
Minnesota Power

Enclosure: Project Study Area Map



- Project Substation
- Project Study Area
- City Boundary
- County Boundary
- State Boundary

Maple River to Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Line Project

Project Study Area



For Environmental Review Purposes Only

From: [Fairman, Kate \(DNR\)](#)
To: [Dan Flo](#)
Cc: [Bump, Samantha \(DNR\)](#); [Martin.Donovan](#)
Subject: EXTERNAL: Re: Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project
Date: Monday, June 9, 2025 3:00:12 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Hello Dan,

For future notifications regarding energy projects in Minnesota subject to PUC permitting, please provide them directly to the following staff:

Samantha Bump for route permits, including transmission lines and pipelines;

Martin Donovan for site permits, including solar, wind and battery facilities.

Both are cc'd on this email for your convenience.

Thank you,

Kate Fairman

From: Dan Flo <dan.flo@merjent.com>

Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 9:35 AM

To: Fairman, Kate (DNR) <kate.fairman@state.mn.us>

Cc: Bergey, Ben (DNR) <Ben.Bergey@state.mn.us>; Shelly.patten@state.mn.us <Shelly.patten@state.mn.us>; Wilson, Grant (DNR) <grant.wilson@state.mn.us>; Horton, Becky (DNR) <becky.horton@state.mn.us>; Johnson, Diane X (DCT) <Diane.Johnson@state.mn.us>; Parson, Jessica (DNR) <jessica.parson@state.mn.us>; Thielen, Patty A (DNR) <patty.thielen@state.mn.us>; Speldrich, Bri (DNR) <Brianna.Speldrich@state.mn.us>; Barrett, Molly (She/Her/Hers) (DNR) <Molly.Barrett@state.mn.us>; jim.drake@state.mn.us <jim.drake@state.mn.us>; Carpenter, Charles (DNR) <charles.carpenter@state.mn.us>; Drew Janke (MP) <djanke@mnpower.com>; Tristen Joens <tristen.joens@galileoaz.com>; Mandy Bohnenblust <mandy.bohnenblust@merjent.com>

Subject: Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project

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Kate Fairman:

Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Great River Energy (collectively, the “Applicants”) are proposing to construct approximately 160 miles of new single-circuit 345 kV transmission line on double-circuit capable structures from Minnesota Power’s Cuyuna Substation near Riverton,

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Regards,

Dan Flo on behalf of
Drew Janke
Project Manager – Environmental
Minnesota Power

Dan Flo
Minneapolis
612.812.0069 mobile
dan.flo@merjent.com



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218.739.8200
www.otpc.com

12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, MN 55369
763.445.5000
www.greatriverenergy.com

June 9, 2025

VIA Email

**Re: Maple River – Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project
MPUC Docket No. E015, ET2, E017/CN-25-109**

To Whom It May Concern:

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Maple River – Cuyuna Certificate of Need Application

30 West Superior Street | Duluth, Minnesota 55802-2093 | 218-722-2625 | www.mnpower.com | Docket No. E015, ET2, E017/CN-25-109

Appendix L

Page 48 of 156

June 9, 2025

Page 2

The Applicants will review the Project using the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's ("USFWS") Information for Planning and Consultation ("IPaC") tool and will evaluate the Project using Determination Keys ("D-Keys") available at the time. In the event that the available D-Keys are not applicable to the Project, the Applicants will coordinate with the USFWS Twin Cities Field Office.

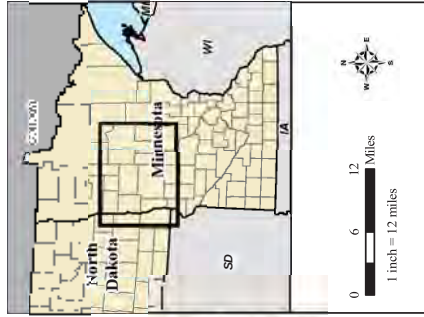
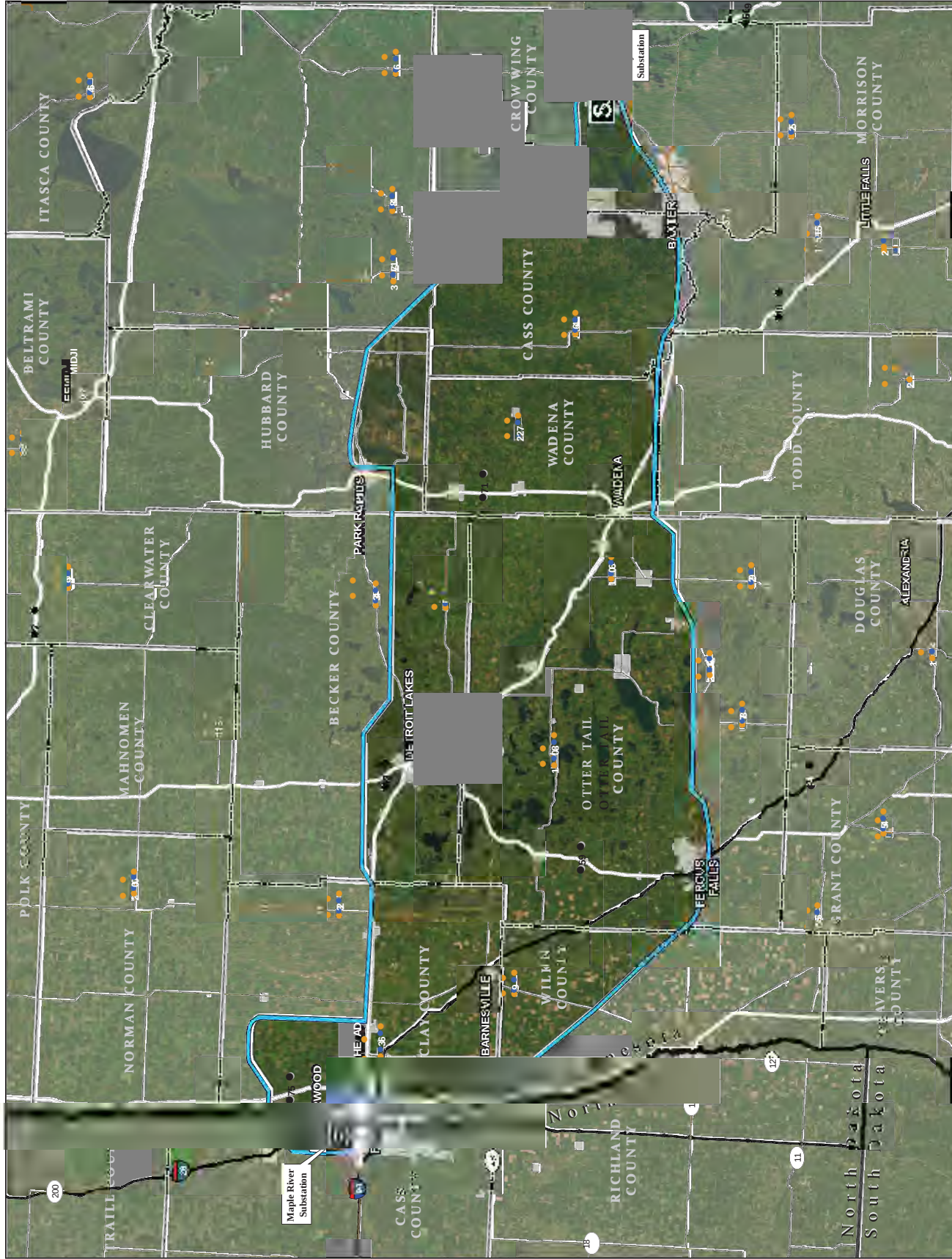
Please let me know if you have information that the Applicants should consider in evaluating and developing potential routes for the Project. If you would like to request a meeting, please contact me at (218) 576-9213 or djanke@mnpower.com. I am happy to discuss any questions that you may have about the Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Drew Janke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Drew Janke
Project Manager – Environmental
Minnesota Power

Enclosure: Project Study Area Map



- Project Substation
- Project Study Area
- City Boundary
- County Boundary
- State Boundary

Maple River to Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Line Project

Project Study Area



For Environmental Review Purposes Only

From: [Kotch Egstad, Stacy \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Dan Flo](#); [Drew Janke \(MP\)](#)
Cc: [Meyer, Matthew \(DOT\)](#); [Lee, Thomas \(DOT\)](#); [Gries, Shane \(DOT\)](#); [Munsch, Richard \(DOT\)](#); [Mollner, Jeremy \(DOT\)](#); [Keranen, Jonathan \(DOT\)](#); [Peterson, Keith \(DOT\)](#); [Condon, Terry \(He/Him/His\) \(DOT\)](#); [Johnson, Thomas D \(DOT\)](#); [Gildersleeve, John \(DOT\)](#); [Minske, Daryn \(DOT\)](#); [Bakken, Shane \(DOT\)](#); [Tristen Joens](#); [Pignato, Joseph \(DOT\)](#); [Hogan, Karissa \(She/Her/Hers\) \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: RE: Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project
Date: Monday, June 9, 2025 9:00:59 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Drew and Dan,

Thank you for initiating early consultation on the proposed Maple River – Cuyuna 345kV Transmission Project.

At this time, the study area is too broad to offer certain specifics on anticipated trunk highway impacts. For your research and planning purposes, I've attached several links below regarding MnDOT future projects and planning, MnDOT utility permitting, and guidance on expectations around early project coordination and review.

[Construction Projects, Plans, and Studies on Minnesota Highways - MnDOT](#) (searchable by MnDOT district)

[State Transportation Improvement Program - MnDOT](#)

[10-Year Capital Highway Investment Plan - MnDOT](#)

[Utility Agreements and Permits - MnDOT](#)

[Large Energy Facility Project Guidance - MnDOT](#)

Once the Project Study Area has narrowed and potential impacts to MnDOT areas of interest become clearer, MnDOT invites you and your team to host a project introduction meeting with applicable agency staff. Ideally, this meeting would occur at least 3 months prior to submitting any applications to the PUC in order to complete MnDOT's Utility Early Notification Memo (ENM) process.

Meeting topics may include:

1. Scope of work
2. Project timeline
3. Available
 - a. GIS/Non-GIS mapping (shapefiles/.kmz files)
 - b. Pole typicals
 - c. Workspace typicals
4. Anticipated effects on the state trunk highway system
 - a. Extent of ROW sharing (desired/anticipated)

- b. Access
- c. Method(s) of construction
- 5. Other state/federal agency coordination to-date
- 6. An overview of MnDOT's early coordination expectations (Utility ENM process) – by MnDOT staff

Please use me as your point of contact for all subsequential project coordination throughout these planning stages and the PUC permitting process.

Please reach out to schedule a meeting or should you have any questions on the information provided.

Regards,

Stacy Kotch Egstad

Utility Routing & Siting Coordinator | Office of Land Management

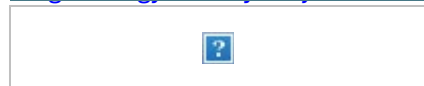
Minnesota Department of Transportation

395 John Ireland Blvd Mailstop 678

St. Paul, MN. 55155

651-358-0786

[Large Energy Facility Project Guidance - MnDOT \(state.mn.us\)](#)



From: Dan Flo <dan.flo@merjent.com>

Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 9:41 AM

To: Pignato, Joseph (DOT) <joseph.pignato@state.mn.us>

Cc: Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>; Meyer, Matthew (DOT) <matthew.m.meyer@state.mn.us>; Lee, Thomas (DOT) <Thomas.Lee@state.mn.us>; Gries, Shane (DOT) <shane.gries@state.mn.us>; Munsch, Richard (DOT) <richard.munsch@state.mn.us>; Mollner, Jeremy (DOT) <jeremy.mollner@state.mn.us>; Keranen, Jonathan (DOT) <jonathan.keranen@state.mn.us>; Peterson, Keith (DOT) <keith.peterson@state.mn.us>; Condon, Terry (He/Him/His) (DOT) <terry.condon@state.mn.us>; Johnson, Thomas D (DOT) <thomas.d.johnson@state.mn.us>; Gildersleeve, John (DOT) <john.gildersleeve@state.mn.us>; Minske, Daryn (DOT) <daryn.minske@state.mn.us>; Bakken, Shane (DOT) <Shane.Bakken@state.mn.us>; Drew Janke (MP) <djanke@mnpower.com>; Tristen Joens <tristen.joens@galileoaz.com>

Subject: Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project

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Joe Pignato:

Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Great River Energy (collectively, the “Applicants”) are proposing to construct approximately 160 miles of new single-circuit 345 kV transmission line on double-circuit capable structures from Minnesota Power’s Cuyuna Substation near Riverton, Minnesota to Otter Tail Power Company’s Maple River Substation near Fargo, North Dakota. Approximately 95% of the transmission line will be in Minnesota. This project is referred to as the Maple River – Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project (also the “Project” or “MR-C Project”). Minnesota Power plans to submit applications for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit for the Project to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for approval.

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Regards,
Dan Flo on behalf of
Drew Janke
Project Manager – Environmental
Minnesota Power

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Maple Grove, MN 55369

763.445.5000
www.greatriverenergy.com

June 9, 2025

VIA Email

Joe Pignato
Minnesota Department of Transportation
Land Management Office Director
395 John Ireland Blvd
Mailstop 630
St. Paul, MN 55155

**Re: Maple River – Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project
MPUC Docket No. E015, ET2, E017/CN-25-109**

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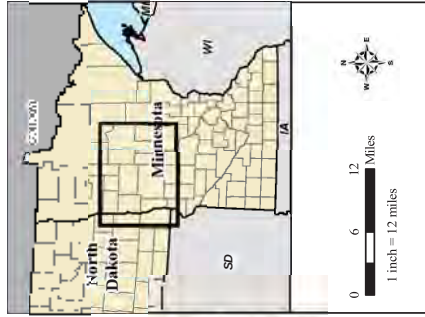
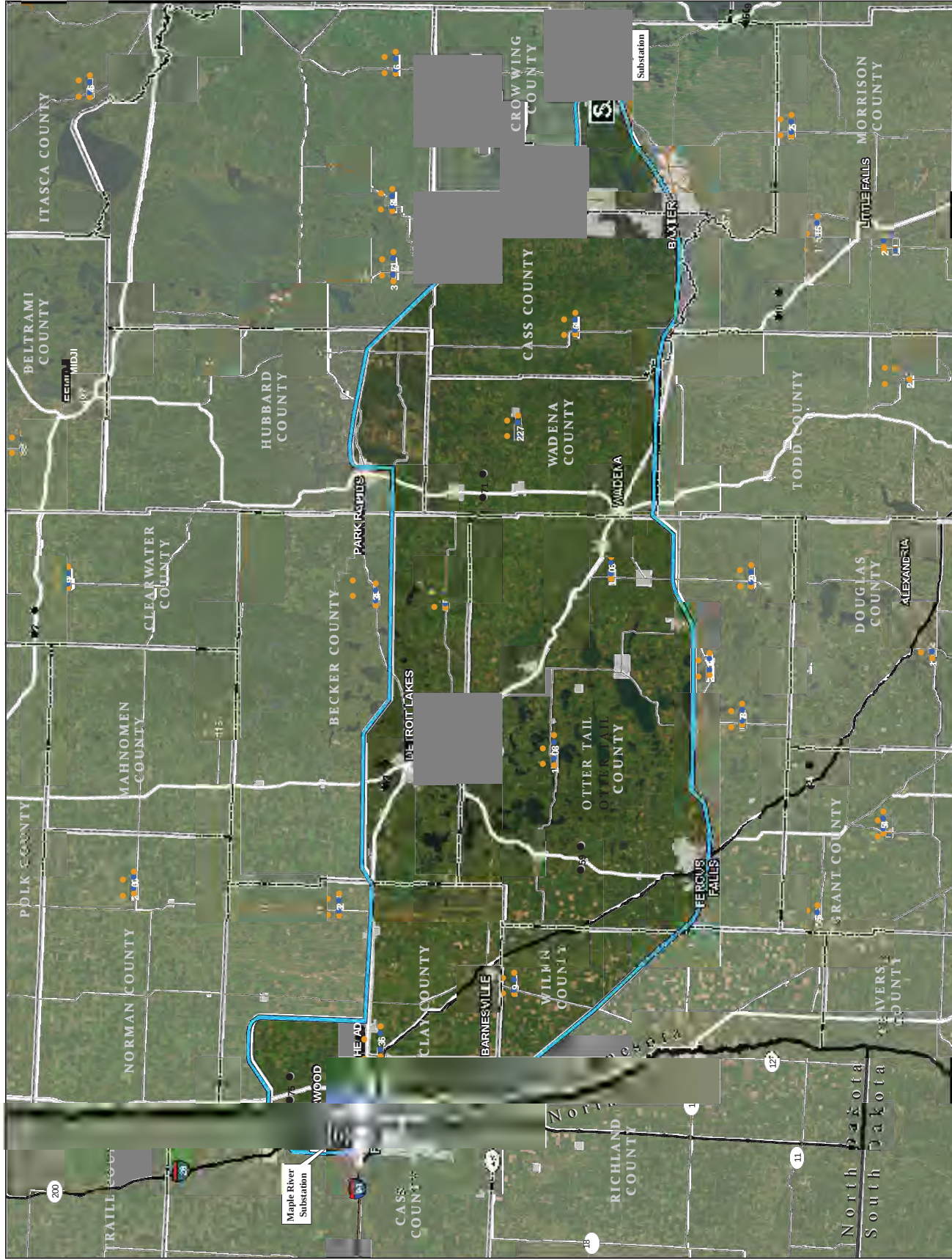
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Sincerely,

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Drew Janke
Project Manager – Environmental
Minnesota Power

Enclosure: Project Study Area Map



Legend

- Project Substation
- Project Study Area
- City Boundary
- County Boundary
- State Boundary

Maple River to Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Line Project

Project Study Area

MINNESOTA POWER
AN ALLETE COMPANY

OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

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From: [Drew Janke \(MP\)](#)
To: [Robert Kangas](#)
Cc: [Dan Flo](#); [Tristen Joens](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL MAIL] Re: Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project
Date: Thursday, June 19, 2025 2:29:02 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi Robert,

Thank you for your response. It has been noted for the project record.

Regards,
Drew

Drew Janke
Environmental Compliance Specialist II
Minnesota Power | ALLETE, Inc.
30 West Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802

O: 218-355-3569
C: 218-576-9213

From: Robert Kangas <bob.kangas@casscountymn.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 6:45 PM
To: Dan Flo <dan.flo@merjent.com>
Cc: Drew Janke (MP) <djanke@mnpower.com>; Dan Flo <dan.flo@merjent.com>; Tristen Joens <tristen.joens@galileoaz.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL MAIL] Re: Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project

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this project is needed and the sooner it gets done the better for us all in the future.

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From: Dan Flo
Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 10:29:40 AM
To: Robert Kangas
Cc: Drew Janke (MP) ; Dan Flo ; Tristen Joens
Subject: Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project

Robert Kangas:

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Regards,

Dan Flo on behalf of

Drew Janke

Project Manager – Environmental

Minnesota Power

Dan Flo

Minneapolis

612.812.0069 mobile

dan.flo@merjent.com



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From: [Dan Flo](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Cc: [Drew Janke \(MP\)](#); [Tristen Joens](#)
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: RE: Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project
Date: Monday, July 28, 2025 3:58:26 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

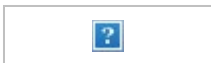
Hi Jenna, thank you for the response. The MR-C Project is currently in the early stages of development and we have identified a Study Area that we are evaluating for potential routing opportunities. We are currently requesting feedback from local, state, and federal agencies regarding the Study Area and are planning a number of open houses to facilitate additional feedback from the public. We will keep you updated as we begin detailed routing.

At this time, we don't know whether the project will cross close to Sylvan. We anticipate having a proposed route in mid-2026. This transmission line is not related to the solar farm you mentioned.

We look forward to any comments you have throughout the routing and permitting process.

Sincerely,

Dan Flo
Minneapolis
612.812.0069 mobile
dan.flo@merjent.com



From: Clerk <clerk@sylvantwp.com>
Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 3:58 PM
To: Dan Flo <dan.flo@merjent.com>
Cc: Drew Janke (MP) <djanke@mnpower.com>; Tristen Joens <tristen.joens@galileoaz.com>
Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Is this project going to run though Sylvan or is the solar farm in Sylvan incorporated into it? I am just wondering if there is anything you need from my Board or if this is just information for them?

Thanks,

Jenna Ruggles
Sylvan Township

From: Dan Flo <dan.flo@merjent.com>
Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 10:21 AM
To: Clerk <clerk@sylvantwp.com>
Cc: Drew Janke (MP) <djanke@mnpower.com>; Tristen Joens <tristen.joens@galileoaz.com>
Subject: Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project

Jenna Ruggles:

Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Great River Energy (collectively, the “Applicants”) are proposing to construct approximately 160 miles of new single-circuit 345 kV transmission line on double-circuit capable structures from Minnesota Power’s Cuyuna Substation near Riverton, Minnesota to Otter Tail Power Company’s Maple River Substation near Fargo, North Dakota. Approximately 95% of the transmission line will be in Minnesota. This project is referred to as the Maple River – Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project (also the “Project” or “MR-C Project”). Minnesota Power plans to submit applications for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit for the Project to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for approval.

The attached letter provides additional information on the Project. Minnesota Power would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project. Please contact Drew Janke at (218) 576-9213 or djanke@mnpower.com should you need additional information.

Regards,

Dan Flo on behalf of

Drew Janke

Project Manager – Environmental

Minnesota Power

Dan Flo

Minneapolis

612.812.0069 mobile
dan.flo@merjent.com



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From: [Shelly Carlson](#)
To: [Dan Flo](#)
Cc: [Drew Janke \(MP\)](#); [Tristen Joens](#); [Dan Mahli](#); [Travis Schmidt](#); [Bob Zimmerman](#); [Tom Trowbridge](#)
Subject: Re: Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project
Date: Monday, June 9, 2025 9:36:20 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thank you for this information. I have looped in the Moorhead City Manager, the Director of Moorhead Public Service, and the Moorhead City Engineers for their awareness.

We will get back to you with any questions or concerns we may have. Additionally, the letter mentions public outreach meetings. What is the date, time and location of the one scheduled in Moorhead?

Shelly Carlson
Mayor
City of Moorhead
500 Center Ave
Moorhead, MN 56560
shelly.carlson@moorheadmn.gov
www.CityofMoorhead.com
Phone: 218-299-5307

Please contact Tara Nielsen, Executive Assistant to the Mayor and City Manager, to schedule meetings and appointments. Tara.Nielsen@moorheadmn.gov or 218-299-5303

www.MakeMoorheadHome.com

From: Dan Flo <dan.flo@merjent.com>
Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 10:42 AM
To: Shelly Carlson <shelly.carlson@moorheadmn.gov>
Cc: Drew Janke (MP) <djanke@mnpower.com>; Tristen Joens <tristen.joens@galileoaz.com>
Subject: Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project

You don't often get email from dan.flo@merjent.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Shelly Carlson:

Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Great River Energy (collectively, the “Applicants”) are proposing to construct approximately 160 miles of new single-circuit 345 kV transmission line on double-circuit capable structures from Minnesota Power’s Cuyuna Substation near Riverton, Minnesota to Otter Tail Power Company’s Maple River Substation near Fargo, North Dakota. Approximately 95% of the transmission line will be in Minnesota. This project is referred to as the Maple River – Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project (also the “Project” or “MR-C Project”). Minnesota Power plans to submit applications for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit for the Project to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for approval.

The attached letter provides additional information on the Project. Minnesota Power would

appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project. Please contact Drew Janke at (218) 576-9213 or djanke@mnpower.com should you need additional information.

Regards,

Dan Flo on behalf of
Drew Janke
Project Manager – Environmental
Minnesota Power

Dan Flo
Minneapolis
612.812.0069 mobile
dan.flo@merjent.com



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From: [Petersen, Thom \(MDA\)](#)
To: [Dan Flo](#)
Cc: [Roos, Stephan \(MDA\)](#); [Drew Janke \(MP\)](#); [Tristen Joens](#)
Subject: RE: Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project
Date: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 4:09:10 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Received, thank-you.

Thom Petersen, Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Thom.Petersen@state.mn.us
651-201-6219 (O)
612-749-5179 (W)

From: Dan Flo <dan.flo@merjent.com>
Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 10:00 AM
To: Petersen, Thom (MDA) <thom.petersen@state.mn.us>
Cc: Roos, Stephan (MDA) <stephan.roos@state.mn.us>; Drew Janke (MP) <djanke@mnpower.com>; Tristen Joens <tristen.joens@galileoaz.com>
Subject: Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project

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Thom Petersen:

Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Great River Energy (collectively, the “Applicants”) are proposing to construct approximately 160 miles of new single-circuit 345 kV transmission line on double-circuit capable structures from Minnesota Power’s Cuyuna Substation near Riverton, Minnesota to Otter Tail Power Company’s Maple River Substation near Fargo, North Dakota. Approximately 95% of the transmission line will be in Minnesota. This project is referred to as the Maple River – Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project (also the “Project” or “MR-C Project”). Minnesota Power plans to submit applications for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit for the Project to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for approval.

The attached letter provides additional information on the Project. Minnesota Power would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project. Please contact Drew Janke at (218) 576-9213 or djanke@mnpower.com should you need additional information.

Regards,
Dan Flo on behalf of
Drew Janke
Project Manager – Environmental
Minnesota Power

Dan Flo
Minneapolis
612.812.0069 mobile
dan.flo@merjent.com



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From: [Dan Flo](#)
To: [Debbie Lynn](#)
Cc: [Drew Janke \(MP\)](#); [Tristen Joens](#)
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: Re: Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project
Date: Monday, July 28, 2025 4:08:25 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Hi Debbie and thank you for the response. The MR-C Project's website includes more information that you and the township board might find helpful, including a mapping tool that shows routing opportunities based on existing transmission lines and a virtual open house presentation that includes potential structure designs.

<https://mrctransmissionproject.com/>

We look forward to any comments you have throughout the routing and permitting process.

Sincerely,

Dan Flo
Minneapolis
612.812.0069 mobile
dan.flo@merjent.com



From: Debbie Lynn <girardtwsh@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 9:14 AM
To: Dan Flo <dan.flo@merjent.com>
Subject: EXTERNAL: Re: Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Greetings Dan,

Thank you for sending the information on the Maple River-Cuyuna Transmission project. I will make sure the Girard Township Board of Supervisors see the information at the next meeting, scheduled Tuesday, June 17. Should they have any questions or concerns, I will let you know.

Regards,
Debbie Irmen
Girard Township Clerk
218-770-0776
girardtwsh@gmail.com

On Mon, Jun 9, 2025 at 2:42 PM Dan Flo <dan.flo@merjent.com> wrote:

Debbie Irmen:

Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Great River Energy (collectively, the “Applicants”) are proposing to construct approximately 160 miles of new single-circuit 345 kV transmission line on double-circuit capable structures from Minnesota Power’s Cuyuna Substation near Riverton, Minnesota to Otter Tail Power Company’s Maple River Substation near Fargo, North Dakota. Approximately 95% of the transmission line will be in Minnesota. This project is referred to as the Maple River – Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project (also the “Project” or “MR-C Project”). Minnesota Power plans to submit applications for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit for the Project to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for approval.

The attached letter provides additional information on the Project. Minnesota Power would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project. Please contact Drew Janke at (218) 576-9213 or djanke@mnpower.com should you need additional information.

Regards,

Dan Flo on behalf of
Drew Janke
Project Manager – Environmental
Minnesota Power

Dan Flo
Minneapolis
612.812.0069 mobile
dan.flo@merjent.com



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From: [Dan Flo](#)
To: [Roos, Stephan \(MDA\)](#)
Cc: [Drew Janke \(MP\)](#); [Tristen Joens](#); [Petersen, Thom \(MDA\)](#)
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: RE: Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project
Date: Wednesday, June 11, 2025 7:57:54 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[250609_MRC_Transmission_Project_Letter_TPetersen.pdf](#)

Good morning Steve – attached please find the project introduction letter for the MR-C Transmission Project. We look forward to any comments from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

Best,

Dan Flo
Minneapolis
612.812.0069 mobile
dan.flo@merjent.com



From: Roos, Stephan (MDA) <stephan.roos@state.mn.us>
Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2025 9:05 AM
To: Dan Flo <dan.flo@merjent.com>
Cc: Drew Janke (MP) <djanke@mnpower.com>; Tristen Joens <tristen.joens@galileoaz.com>; Petersen, Thom (MDA) <thom.petersen@state.mn.us>
Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Hi Dan,
I'm the person at MDA that tracks energy projects before the PUC. Commissioner Petersen forwarded your message to me but the attachment didn't come through. Would you please send it to me directly?
Thanks,
Steve

Steve Roos
Environmental Planner
Agricultural Marketing and Development Division
625 Robert Street North
Saint Paul, MN 55155-2538

O: 651-201-6631

C: 612-968-7208



From: Petersen, Thom (MDA) <thom.petersen@state.mn.us>

Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 6:09 AM

To: Dan Flo <dan.flo@merjent.com>

Cc: Roos, Stephan (MDA) <stephan.roos@state.mn.us>; Drew Janke (MP) <djanke@mnpower.com>;
Tristen Joens <tristen.joens@galileoaz.com>

Subject: RE: Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project

Received, thank-you.

Thom Petersen, Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Thom.Petersen@state.mn.us

651-201-6219 (O)

612-749-5179 (W)

From: Dan Flo <dan.flo@merjent.com>

Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 10:00 AM

To: Petersen, Thom (MDA) <thom.petersen@state.mn.us>

Cc: Roos, Stephan (MDA) <stephan.roos@state.mn.us>; Drew Janke (MP) <djanke@mnpower.com>;
Tristen Joens <tristen.joens@galileoaz.com>

Subject: Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project

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Thom Petersen:

Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Great River Energy (collectively, the

“Applicants”) are proposing to construct approximately 160 miles of new single-circuit 345 kV transmission line on double-circuit capable structures from Minnesota Power’s Cuyuna Substation near Riverton, Minnesota to Otter Tail Power Company’s Maple River Substation near Fargo, North Dakota. Approximately 95% of the transmission line will be in Minnesota. This project is referred to as the Maple River – Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project (also the “Project” or “MR-C Project”). Minnesota Power plans to submit applications for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit for the Project to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for approval.

The attached letter provides additional information on the Project. Minnesota Power would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project. Please contact Drew Janke at (218) 576-9213 or djanke@mnpower.com should you need additional information.

Regards,
Dan Flo on behalf of
Drew Janke
Project Manager – Environmental
Minnesota Power

Dan Flo
Minneapolis
612.812.0069 mobile
dan.flo@merjent.com



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30 West Superior Street Blvd
Duluth, MN 55802

218.864.6059
www.mnpower.com

215 S. Cascade Street
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

218.739.8200
www.otpc.com

12300 Elm Creek
Maple Grove, MN 55369

763.445.5000
www.greatriverenergy.com

June 9, 2025

VIA Email

Thom Petersen
Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Commissioner
625 Robert St N
St. Paul, MN 55155

**Re: Maple River – Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project
MPUC Docket No. E015, ET2, E017/CN-25-109**

Dear Thom Petersen:

On February 7, 2025, Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Great River Energy (collectively, the “Applicants”) submitted a Notice of Intent to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) to construct the Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Project (also the “Project” or “MR-C Project”).

On December 12, 2024, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (“MISO”), a federally registered planning authority, approved its Long-Range Transmission Planning (“LRTP”) Tranche 2.1 portfolio of projects as part of MISO’s 2024 Transmission Expansion Plan (“MTEP24”). The LRTP Tranche 2.1 portfolio is made up of 24 projects, including project no. 20, the MR-C Project. The Project involves construction of a new, approximately 160-mile-long, single-circuit 345 kV transmission line on double-circuit capable structures from Minnesota Power’s Cuyuna Substation near Riverton, Minnesota to Otter Tail Power Company’s Maple River Substation near Fargo, North Dakota. Approximately 95% of the Project will be in Minnesota. A map of the Project Study Area is enclosed.

The MR-C Project, as part of the LRTP Tranche 2.1 portfolio, is needed to support the reliability of the regional transmission system, particularly in northwestern and central Minnesota and eastern North Dakota; to provide additional transmission capacity and regional transfer capability to reliably integrate new renewable generation; meet growing electrical demand; and strengthen the regional transmission grid.

Two approvals must be obtained from the Commission before high voltage transmission lines and associated facilities like the proposed Project can be built in Minnesota: a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit. The Applicants plan to submit an application for a Certificate of Need in accordance with Minnesota Statute § 216I to the Commission in February 2026. The Route Permit application submittal is planned for the third quarter of 2026. Ahead of this process, the Applicants are initiating stakeholder, agency, tribal, and public outreach through mailings, meetings, and open houses. At this stage in Project development, the Applicants wish to make you aware of the proposed Project and to gather any information that you might wish to share that will help us

identify potential route options or routing constraints. We appreciate your assistance as we evaluate siting and routing information and work through the Commission's approval process.

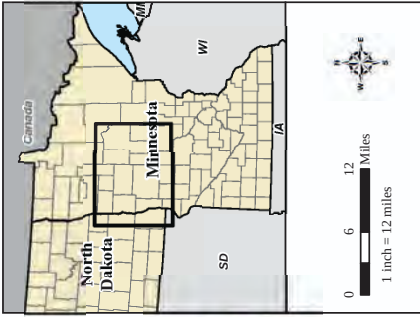
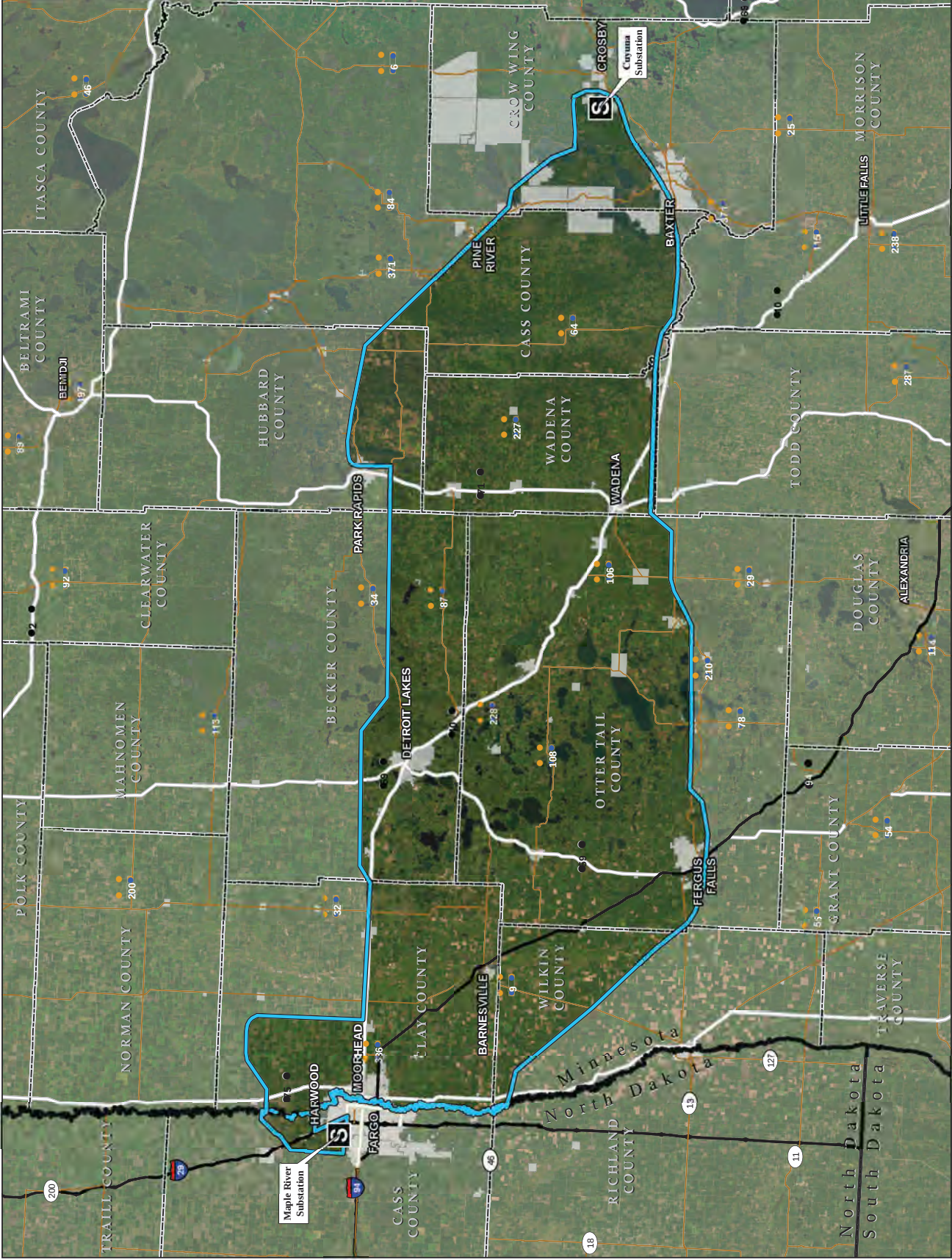
Please let me know if you have information that the Applicants should consider in evaluating and developing potential routes for the Project. If you would like to request a meeting, please contact me at (218) 576-9213 or djanke@mnpower.com. I am happy to discuss any questions that you may have about the Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Drew Janke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Drew" and last name "Janke" clearly distinguishable.

Drew Janke
Project Manager – Environmental
Minnesota Power

Enclosure: Project Study Area Map



Legend

- Project Substation
- Project Study Area
- City Boundary
- County Boundary
- State Boundary

Maple River to Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Line Project

Project Study Area

AN ALLETE COMPANY

OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Source: (04/20/2022) Source: Z:\GIS\MapInfo\Public\PowerMap\Maple_River_Cuyuna_345_kV_Transmission_Line\MapInfo\Legend.aprx

For Environmental Review Purposes Only

From: [Drew Janke \(MP\)](#)
To: otcity@arvig.net
Cc: [Dan Flo](#); [Mandy Bohnenblust](#); [Karen Overcash](#); [Tristen Joens](#)
Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: [EXTERNAL MAIL] City of Ottetail Indian Mounds
Date: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 1:29:46 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Good afternoon Amanda,

Thank you for sharing! We'll make sure this is considered during the ongoing route development process.

In the meantime, please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or additional information.

Thank you,
Drew

Drew Janke
Environmental Compliance Specialist II
Minnesota Power | ALLETE, Inc.
30 West Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802

O: 218-355-3569
C: 218-576-9213

From: otcity@arvig.net <otcity@arvig.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 8:57 AM
To: Drew Janke (MP) <djanke@mnpower.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL MAIL] City of Ottetail Indian Mounds

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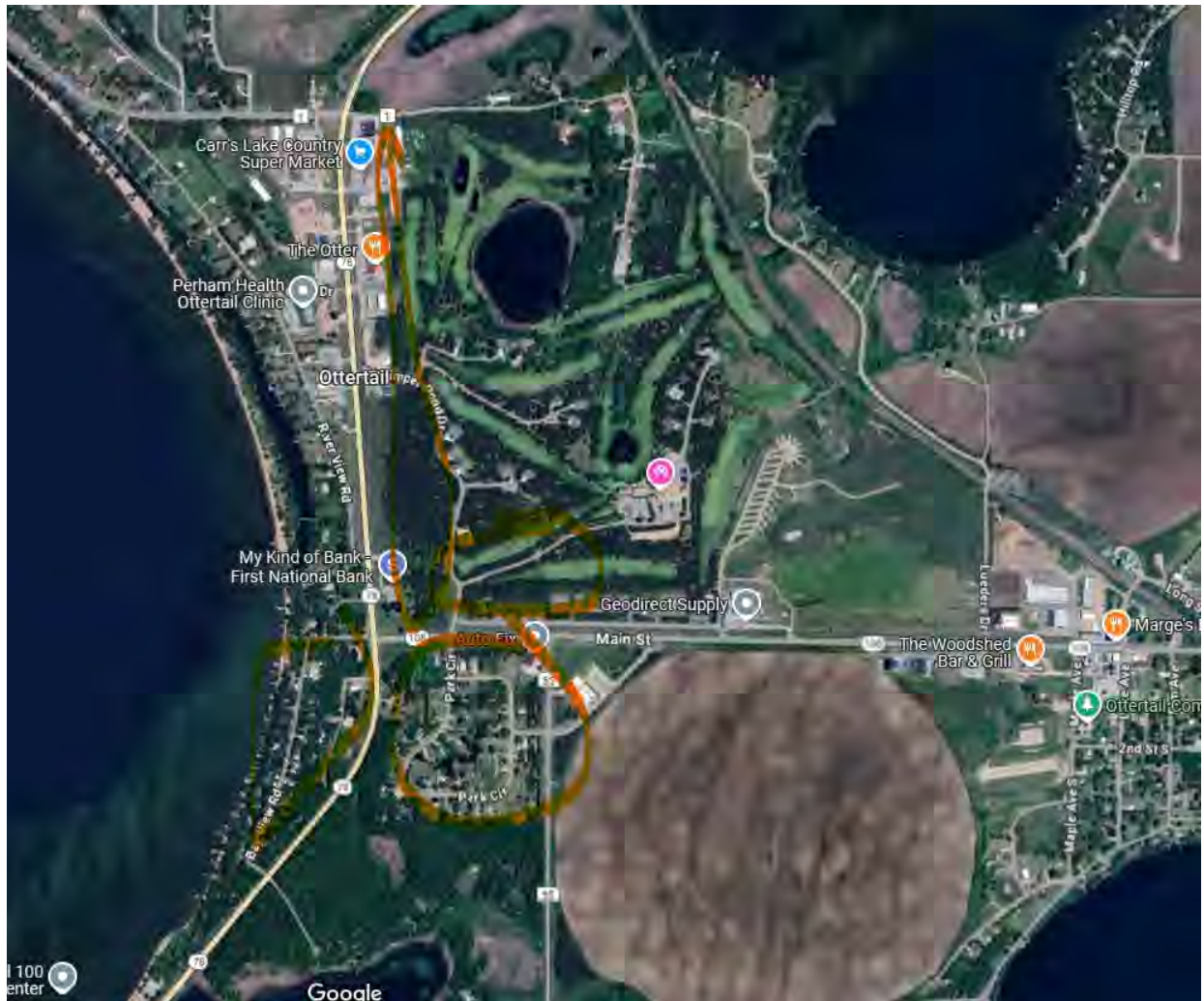
Don't let cyber threats cloud our summer! Remember not to click links, download attachments, or reply with personal information unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

God Morning Drew, I am the city clerk for Ottetail. I received your letter and wanted to make you aware of mounds that are present in the city of Ottetail. I am sure you are aware of them already, but want to share a few older maps the city has of their locations. Hope this helps in the location of your transmission project.

Sincerely, Amanda

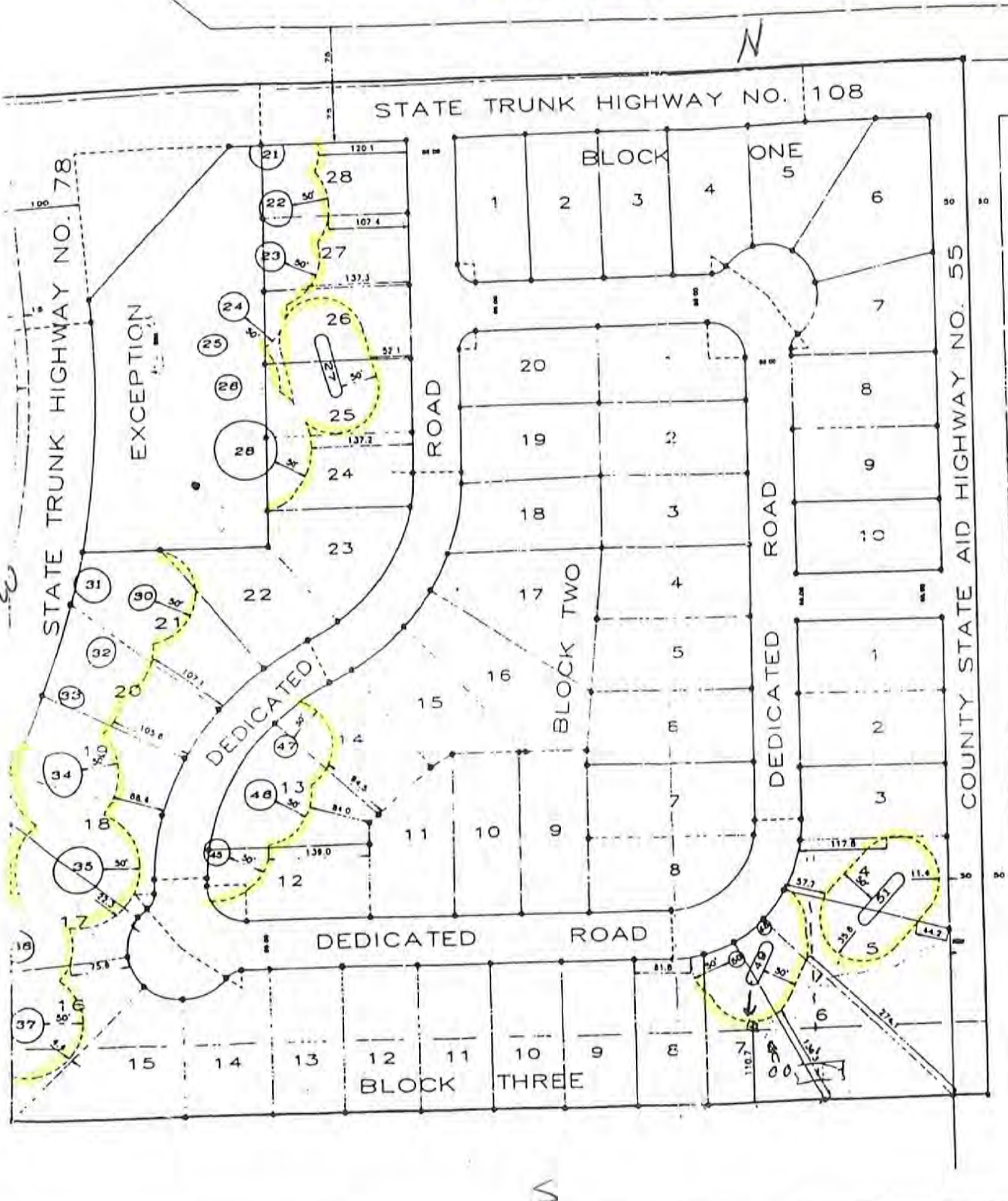
[Amanda Thorson](#)
Clerk-Treasurer

218-367-2250
City of Ottertail
239 Hwy 78 N – PO Box 245
Ottertail, MN 56571
clerkotcity@arvig.net



OTC RESIDENTIAL PA

INDIAN BURIAL MOUNDS LOCATION MAP



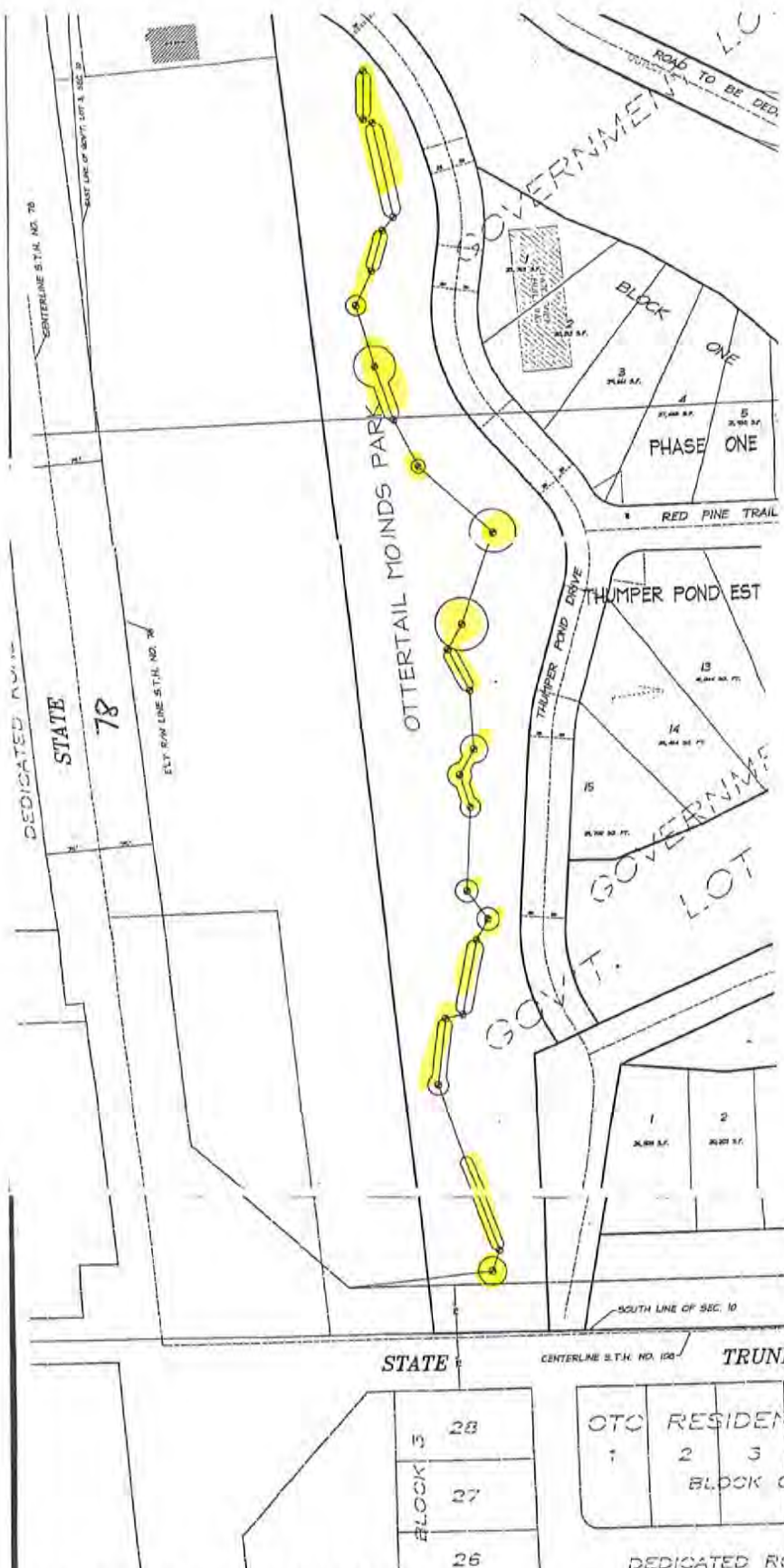
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DULUTH
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ST. PAU.
(612) 29



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Duluth, MN 55802
218.864.6059
www.mnpower.com

215 S. Cascade Street
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
218.739.8200
www.otpc.com

12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, MN 55369
763.445.5000
www.greatriverenergy.com

June 9, 2025

VIA Email

City of Ottertail
PO Box 245 - 239 Hwy 78 N. Ottertail, MN 56571

**Re: Maple River – Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project
MPUC Docket No. E015, ET2, E017/CN-25-109**

To Whom it May Concern:

On February 7, 2025, Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Great River Energy (collectively, the “Applicants”) submitted a Notice of Intent to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) to construct the Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Project (also the “Project” or “MR-C Project”).

On December 12, 2024, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (“MISO”), a federally registered planning authority, approved its Long-Range Transmission Planning (“LRTP”) Tranche 2.1 portfolio of projects as part of MISO’s 2024 Transmission Expansion Plan (“MTEP24”). The LRTP Tranche 2.1 portfolio is made up of 24 projects, including project no. 20, the MR-C Project. The Project involves construction of a new, approximately 160-mile-long, single-circuit 345 kV transmission line on double-circuit capable structures from Minnesota Power’s Cuyuna Substation near Riverton, Minnesota to Otter Tail Power Company’s Maple River Substation near Fargo, North Dakota. Approximately 95% of the Project will be in Minnesota. A map of the Project Study Area is enclosed.

The MR-C Project, as part of the LRTP Tranche 2.1 portfolio, is needed to support the reliability of the regional transmission system, particularly in northwestern and central Minnesota and eastern North Dakota; to provide additional transmission capacity and regional transfer capability to reliably integrate new renewable generation; meet growing electrical demand; and strengthen the regional transmission grid.

Two approvals must be obtained from the Commission before high voltage transmission lines and associated facilities like the proposed Project can be built in Minnesota: a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit. The Applicants plan to submit an application for a Certificate of Need in accordance with Minnesota Statute § 216I to the Commission in February 2026. The Route Permit application submittal is planned for the third quarter of 2026.

Ahead of this process, the Applicants are initiating stakeholder, agency, tribal, and public outreach regarding the Project through letters, meetings, and open houses. At this stage in the development of the Project, we want to make you aware of the Project and ask you to provide any

June 9, 2025

Page 2

information that you believe would be helpful as we identify potential routes for the proposed transmission line. This information could be regarding potential route options or potential constraints. We appreciate your assistance as we evaluate siting and routing information and work through the Commission's approval process.

Please let me know if you have information that the Applicants should consider in evaluating and developing potential routes for the Project. If you would like to request a meeting, please contact me at (218) 576-9213 or djanke@mnpower.com. I am happy to discuss any questions that you may have about the Project.

Please distribute this information to other officials as needed.

Sincerely,



Drew Janke
Project Manager – Environmental
Minnesota Power

Enclosure: Project Study Area Map

From: [Dan Flo](#)
To: [Kathi Budke](#)
Cc: [Drew Janke \(MP\)](#); [Tristen Joens](#)
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: Re: Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project
Date: Monday, August 25, 2025 9:02:08 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Hi Kathi,

Thank you for reaching out regarding the Maple River-Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project. The MR-C Project is currently in the early stages of development and we are evaluating for potential routing opportunities. We are currently requesting feedback from local, state, and federal agencies regarding the Study Area and are planning a number of open houses to facilitate additional feedback from the public. We will keep you updated as we begin detailed routing. Please check out the Project's website for more updates: <https://mrctransmissionproject.com/>. The website includes a mapping tool that shows routing opportunities in relation to specific properties.

The project will be holding another round of open houses from October 20th to the 23rd, at which time there will be more detail to share regarding potential route options. Announcements for the open house schedule will be sent out around the end of September or first week of October.

If you have additional questions, feel free to reach out directly to Drew Janke, Minnesota Power's project manager, at (218) 576-9213 or djanke@mnpower.com.

Sincerely,

Dan Flo
Senior Project Manager

612.924.3982 direct
612.812.0069 mobile
dan.flo@merjent.com



1 Main Street SE, Suite 300
Minneapolis, MN 55414
612.746.3660 main
www.merjent.com

From: Kathi Budke <fribergtownship@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 5, 2025 1:09 PM
To: Dan Flo <dan.flo@merjent.com>
Subject: EXTERNAL: Re: Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Good Afternoon Dan:

Please keep the township informed on future decisions regarding the route of transmission line.

Thank you,
Kathi Budke, clerk
Friberg Township/Otter Tail County

On Mon, Jun 9, 2025 at 2:46 PM Dan Flo <dan.flo@merjent.com> wrote:

Greg Kugler:

Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Great River Energy (collectively, the “Applicants”) are proposing to construct approximately 160 miles of new single-circuit 345 kV transmission line on double-circuit capable structures from Minnesota Power’s Cuyuna Substation near Riverton, Minnesota to Otter Tail Power Company’s Maple River Substation near Fargo, North Dakota. Approximately 95% of the transmission line will be in Minnesota. This project is referred to as the Maple River – Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project (also the “Project” or “MR-C Project”). Minnesota Power plans to submit applications for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit for the Project to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for approval.

The attached letter provides additional information on the Project. Minnesota Power would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project. Please contact Drew Janke at (218) 576-9213 or djanke@mnpower.com should you need additional information.

Regards,

Dan Flo on behalf of
Drew Janke
Project Manager – Environmental
Minnesota Power

Dan Flo

Minneapolis

612.812.0069 mobile

dan.flo@merjent.com



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From: [Mandy Bohnenblust](#)
To: [Baird, Owen \(DNR\)](#); [Parson, Jessica \(DNR\)](#)
Cc: [Drew Janke \(MP\)](#); [Dan Flo](#)
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: RE: MR-C Transmission Line - Follow up to DNR Meeting
Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 8:10:14 AM
Attachments: [MRC_Notice_Plan_Area.zip](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Hi Owen,

Thank you for this response and the links to the data. We have reviewed those sources as part of the routing process and look forward to receiving additional information as it becomes available. Based on desktop analysis and stakeholder feedback, we are focusing on routing opportunities as shown in the attached zip file, which is a smaller area than what we have previously provided. Please let me know of any questions or comments.

Thank you,
Mandy

Mandy Bohnenblust
612.746.3677 direct
612.816.2097 mobile
mandy.bohnenblust@merjent.com



1 Main Street SE, Suite 300
Minneapolis, MN 55414
612.746.3660 main
www.merjent.com

From: Baird, Owen (DNR) <owen.baird@state.mn.us>
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 11:17 AM
To: Mandy Bohnenblust <mandy.bohnenblust@merjent.com>; Parson, Jessica (DNR) <jessica.parson@state.mn.us>
Cc: Drew Janke (MP) <djanke@mnpower.com>; Dan Flo <dan.flo@merjent.com>
Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: MR-C Transmission Line - Follow up to DNR Meeting

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Hi Mandy,

We are collecting comments from various DNR divisions regarding the lands and significant resources along the potential routes and will provide them to you soon.

The one publicly available lands layer that indicates federal aid for acquisition is the WMA layer: <https://gisdata.mn.gov/dataset/bdry-dnr-wildlife-mgmt-areas-pub>.

Also, State Mineral Leases: <https://gisdata.mn.gov/dataset/plan-state-minleases>; however, there are other mineral resource potential areas and aggregate resources that are not included in this dataset.

Additional layers that may assist in planning are found on the Minnesota Geospatial Commons <https://gisdata.mn.gov/organization/us-mn-state-dnr>.

Owen Baird

Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist | Ecological and Water Resources

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Phone: 218-580-0381

owen.baird@state.mn.us

mndnr.gov



From: Mandy Bohnenblust <mandy.bohnenblust@merjent.com>

Sent: Friday, September 19, 2025 12:11 PM

To: Parson, Jessica (DNR) <jessica.parson@state.mn.us>; Baird, Owen (DNR) <owen.baird@state.mn.us>

Cc: Drew Janke (MP) <djanke@mnpower.com>; Dan Flo <dan.flo@merjent.com>

Subject: RE: MR-C Transmission Line - Follow up to DNR Meeting

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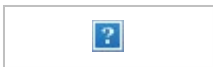
Hi Jessica and Owen,

I hope you are both doing well! I wanted to take a minute to follow up on my email below. If you have data sources for mineral lease land, LAWCON, or Pittman-Robertson Act land that you can share, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks, and have a wonderful weekend!

Mandy

Mandy Bohnenblust
612.746.3677 direct
612.816.2097 mobile
mandy.bohnenblust@merjent.com



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Minneapolis, MN 55414
612.746.3660 main
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From: Mandy Bohnenblust
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2025 11:18 AM
To: Parson, Jessica (DNR) <jessica.parson@state.mn.us>; Baird, Owen (DNR) <owen.baird@state.mn.us>
Cc: Drew Janke (MP) <djanke@mnpower.com>; Dan Flo <dan.flo@merjent.com>
Subject: MR-C Transmission Line - Follow up to DNR Meeting

Jessica and Owen,

Thank you again for the great conversation yesterday regarding the proposed MR-C transmission line project. As requested, attached is a shapefile showing possible routing opportunities. This information was shared yesterday via the PowerPoint and is available on the MR-C website. As you review, please feel free to reach out with any comments or feedback.

Also, as discussed, the data sources below may be helpful for us to review and evaluate at this early stage of the routing process. We understand some data sets may be harder to track down, but appreciate anything you can provide.

- DNR mineral lease land
- LAWCON land
- Pittman-Robertson Act land

Thanks again for the conversation. We look forward to the continued conversations with the DNR as the project moves forward.

Mandy

Mandy Bohnenblust
612.746.3677 direct
612.816.2097 mobile
mandy.bohnenblust@merjent.com



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From: [Josh Stevenson](#)
To: [Tristen Joens](#)
Cc: [Mark Gossman](#)
Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: Maple River to Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Line Project Meeting Request
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 8:43:48 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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Good morning, Tristen,

Thank you for the information. It appears the route for this project has not been selected.

Please work with our Land Commissioner, Mark Gossman, regarding our easement policy if you are interested in a route that crosses Cass County public lands. If it is determined that an easement is needed from Cass County, we will need approval from the Board of Commissioners. This would be the time to provide information and answer questions from the Board. I don't think you are ready to address the Cass County Board of Commissioners at this time.

Are you planning to have public input meetings regarding this project?

Let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Joshua Stevenson
Cass County Administrator
303 Minnesota Avenue W | PO Box 3000
Walker, MN 56484
Phone: 218-547-7204 | Fax: 218-547-7455
Cell Phone: 218-536-1000
josh.stevenson@casscountymn.gov

From: Tristen Joens <tristen.joens@merjent.com>
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 5:08 PM
To: Josh Stevenson <josh.stevenson@casscountymn.gov>
Subject: Maple River to Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Line Project Meeting Request

Hi Josh,

I spoke to you a few weeks ago about requesting a meeting with the county and Minnesota Power for the Maple River to Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Line Project. You requested some background information and indicated that a Board of Commissioners Meeting may not be the most appropriate meeting format.

I have attached the Maple River to Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Line Project presentation. Please let me know how you would like me to proceed.

Thank you,

Tristen Joens
Galileo Division
480.674.5304 direct
623.217.4965 mobile
tristen.joens@merjent.com



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From: [Mark Gossman](#)
To: [Tristen Joens](#)
Subject: EXTERNAL: FW: Maple River to Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Line Project Meeting Request
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 12:54:25 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[250929 County Meeting Presentation.pdf](#)
[LM-1 Easements \(1\).pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Tristen:

As discussed on the phone today I am providing you with our procedure on easements. In summary, if the utility easement is chosen to cross Cass County ownership,

- a centerline description is need with a legal description and the acres impacted.
- An annual payment of 5% of the land value of the acres impacted.
- MN power, Great River Energy, and Ottertail Power have utility easements in place that range from 100 feet wide to 200 feet wide.

Sincerely,

Mark Gossman
Land Commissioner
Cass County Land Department
218 Washburn Ave E.
P.O. Box 25
Backus MN 56435
218-947-7501 Office
Mark.Gossman@casscountymn.gov

-

-

From: Josh Stevenson <josh.stevenson@casscountymn.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 7:29 AM
To: Mark Gossman <mark.gossman@casscountymn.gov>
Subject: FW: Maple River to Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Line Project Meeting Request

FYI... See attached...

From: Tristen Joens <tristen.joens@merjent.com>
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 5:08 PM
To: Josh Stevenson <josh.stevenson@casscountymn.gov>
Subject: Maple River to Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Line Project Meeting Request

Hi Josh,

I spoke to you a few weeks ago about requesting a meeting with the county and Minnesota Power for the Maple River to Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Line Project. You requested some background information and indicated that a Board of Commissioners Meeting may not be the most appropriate meeting format.

I have attached the Maple River to Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Line Project presentation. Please let me know how you would like me to proceed.

Thank you,

Tristen Joens
Galileo Division
480.674.5304 direct
623.217.4965 mobile
tristen.joens@merjent.com



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CCLD: LM-1	Easements in TSM	
Version: 2	Revision Date: February 17, 2022	Page 1 of 4
<i>Printed copy may not be current. Check website to ensure this is most current version.</i>		

Procedure Contents

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2. Easement procedure checklist.....	2
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6. Checklist for Easement Procedure.....	4

Purpose and Scope

To establish procedure for executing easements across County administered lands.

Definitions

Easement	State law allows counties to grant easements to parties that require access across County land to use their property or for utility corridors. Easements are conditional and may be revoked. Payments for easements may be one-time or annual. Cass County may grant access across its lands under authority conferred by Minnesota State Statute Chapter 282.04, Tax Forfeited Lands Subd. 4. Easements.
-----------------	---

1. Easement request and review

- 1) Person(s) seeking an easement is to present written request to the Land Commissioner, including the following information:
 - Map showing the approximate location of the requested easement.
 - Statement of intended use.
 - All options for a proposed easement must be reviewed to assure the most logical route is selected.
 - Requesting an easement across county managed land to avoid private, U.S. forest Service or State land is not a valid reason for seeking an easement.
- 2) The written request will be reviewed by the Land Commissioner, who will insure the following:
 - Taxes on any all property in Cass County owned by the requesting party must be paid in full prior to consideration of an easement request.

CCLD: LM-1	Easements in TSM	
Version: 2	Revision Date: February 17, 2022	Page 2 of 4
<i>Printed copy may not be current. Check website to ensure this is most current version.</i>		

- If the individual or company requesting an easement across county managed land has property that will provide access to presently landlocked or winter only access county lands, a reciprocal easement must be offered prior to consideration of easement request.
 - There are no reasonable alternatives to obtain access to the individual's or private entity's property
 - Exercising the easement will not cause significant adverse environmental or natural resource management impacts
- 3) If the easement requires new road construction, the Land Commissioner shall consult with the Township on the easement request. Easements on existing roads or trails do not require Township consultation.
 - 4) The requester shall provide a certificate of survey from a Minnesota registered land survey which includes a legal description and sketch of the easement area. The easement area shall be calculated in acres to determine the easement fee.
 - The Cost of the survey and the recording of the survey is the sole responsibility of the Grantee.
 - 5) All easements shall be charged for on a per acre basis at the **appraised value** per acre plus any timber or other value on the land; however, no easement shall be granted for less than the minimum charge of \$500.
 - 6) All rates and conditions are subject to revision as determined by the County Board and no provisions herein described are intended to supersede the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 282.04, Subd. 4.
 - 7) The above provisions shall not be mandatory for other governmental subdivisions or public agencies.
 - 8) Enter easement information into TSM (See OM-6 for procedure).

2. Easement procedure checklist

- 1) Land Commissioner will complete Easement Procedure Checklist to guide and document each easement process. (See checklist on page 4)

3. Agreement form

- 1) Easement will be formalized using current easement agreement (see Land Commissioner).

4. Transfer of Easement

- 1) Easement rights may be transferred upon written request, a copy of the purchase agreement and payment of a \$500 transfer fee
- 2) Easement transfers require approval from the County Board.

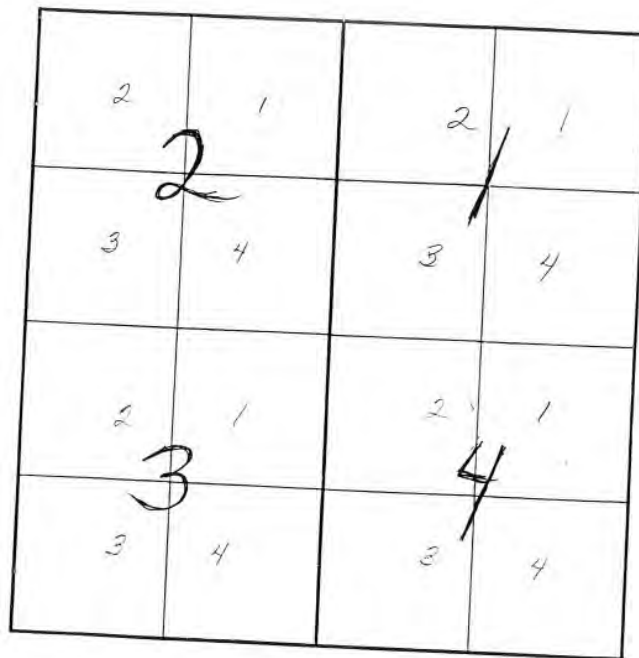
CCLD: LM-1	Easements in TSM	
Version: 2	Revision Date: February 17, 2022	Page 3 of 4
<i>Printed copy may not be current. Check website to ensure this is most current version.</i>		

5. Creating an Easement Number for Easement File

- 1) XX-XX-XXX-XX-XX
- 2) First 2 number are the last 2 digits of the year the easement was issued
- 3) Next 2 numbers are the section the easement is located
- 4) Next 3 numbers are the township the easement is located
- 5) Next 2 numbers are the range the easement is located
- 6) Last 2 numbers are using the graph below depending on the legal description

Example: 93-21-140-29-02

93= 1993/ 21=Section/ 140=Township/ 29=Range/ 02=NW1/4



CCLD: LM-1	Easements in TSM	
Version: 2	Revision Date: February 17, 2022	Page 4 of 4
<i>Printed copy may not be current. Check website to ensure this is most current version.</i>		

Easement Procedure Checklist

Easement requested by: _____

Type of Easement: ____ Road ____ Utility

Date Completed	Action
	Land Commissioner receives written request for easement with name or names precisely printed or typed as the requester wishes to have it appear on the easement document.
	Create easement number.
	Print out of aerial photograph showing location of proposed easement and property ownerships.
	Scanned color copy of plat book showing proposed easement in red ink.
	Check possibilities of reciprocal easements for access to county land. Identify all lands owned by requester in Cass County.
	Check that taxes have been paid on all land owned in Cass County by requester.
	Resource Manager makes written recommendation.
	Receipt of Certificate of Survey from registered land surveyor.
	Appraised value to determine cost of easement.
	Inform requesting party of easement cost.
	Payment received from requester.
	Easement signed and notarized by Land Commissioner and Auditor/Treasurer.
	Easement mailed to requester.
	Ensure file is established and contains all appropriate information.
	Give file to appropriate person to enter in the TSM database (see OM-6)



Maple River – Cuyuna MR-C TRANSMISSION PROJECT

Drew Janke
Minnesota Power
Environmental Compliance
Specialist II

Agenda

- Introductions
- Project Update
- Discussion

About the Project



Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Great River Energy are proposing to construct an approximately 160-mile-long, single-circuit 345 kV transmission line on double-circuit capable structures from Minnesota Power's Cuyuna Substation near Riverton, Minnesota to Otter Tail Power Company's Maple River Substation in eastern North Dakota.

Project Need



Enhance the reliability of the regional transmission system as the way we produce and use electricity changes



Increase transmission system capacity to reliably deliver energy from where it's produced to where it's used



Meet growing electrical demand and enhance resiliency during extreme weather events

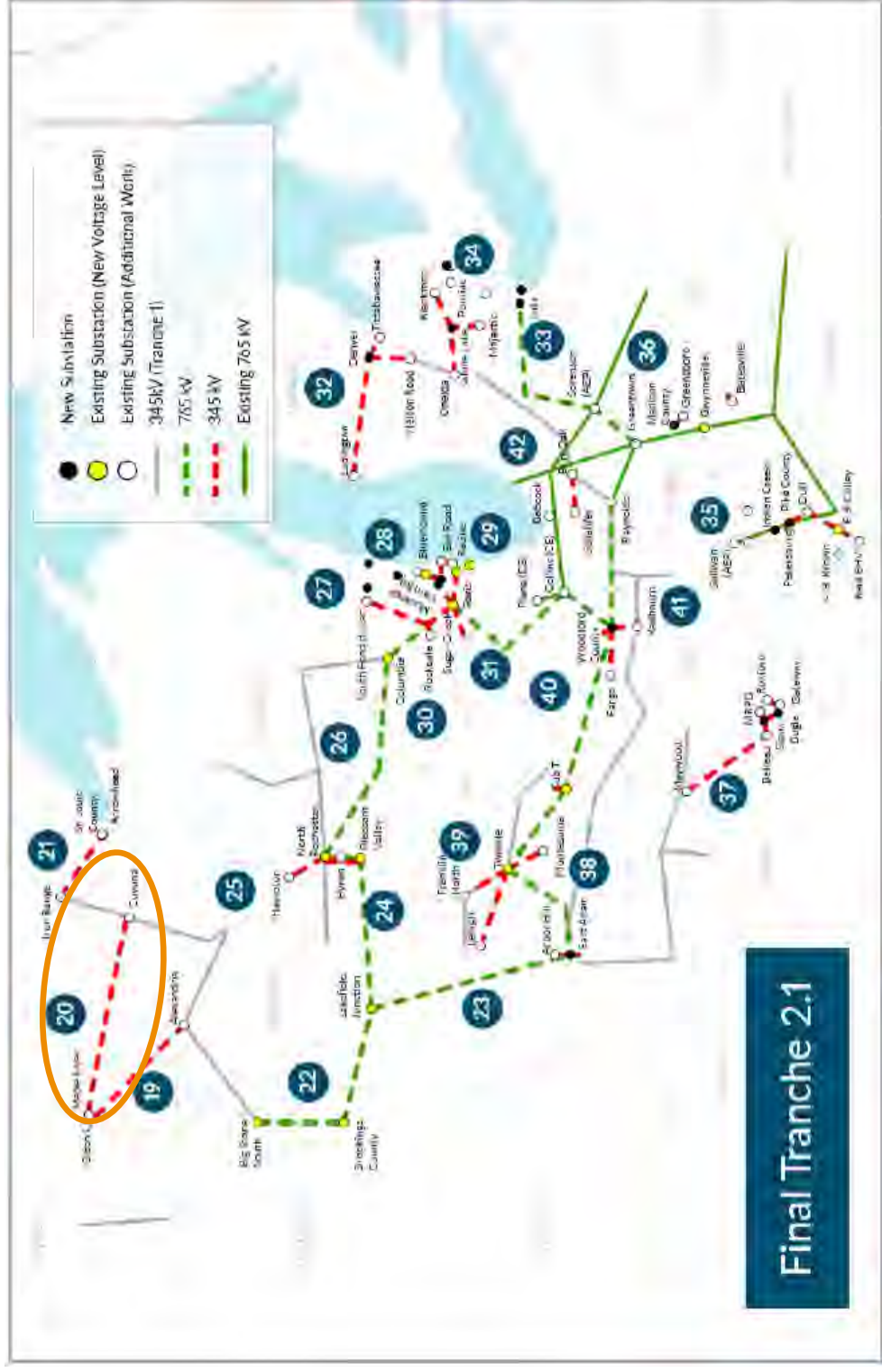


Enable cost-effective regional energy transfers supporting economical grid operations

The Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), the regional grid operator, approved this project (#20) as part of a regional plan

Learn more at

misoenergy.org



Project Components

Construction of approximately 160 miles of new single-circuit 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line, built on double-circuit capable structures, and following existing transmission line corridors when possible

Upgrade of the existing Maple River Substation, located near Fargo, ND, and the Cuyuna Substation, located near Riverton, MN, plus modifications of some existing transmission line corridors, where needed, to bring this project into service

Project Timeline

2026-2028



2025

Stakeholder engagement and routing

Permitting, engineering, environmental surveys, ROW acquisition, and public engagement



2029-2032

Construction

2033

Anticipated in-service



Initial Study Area with Routing Opportunities based on Existing Transmission Lines – June 2025



Initial Study Area with Routing Opportunities based on Existing Transmission Lines



What We've Heard

- Adjacent to proposed or existing projects
- Existing transmission lines on property
- Public lands
- Population proximity
- Cultural Resources

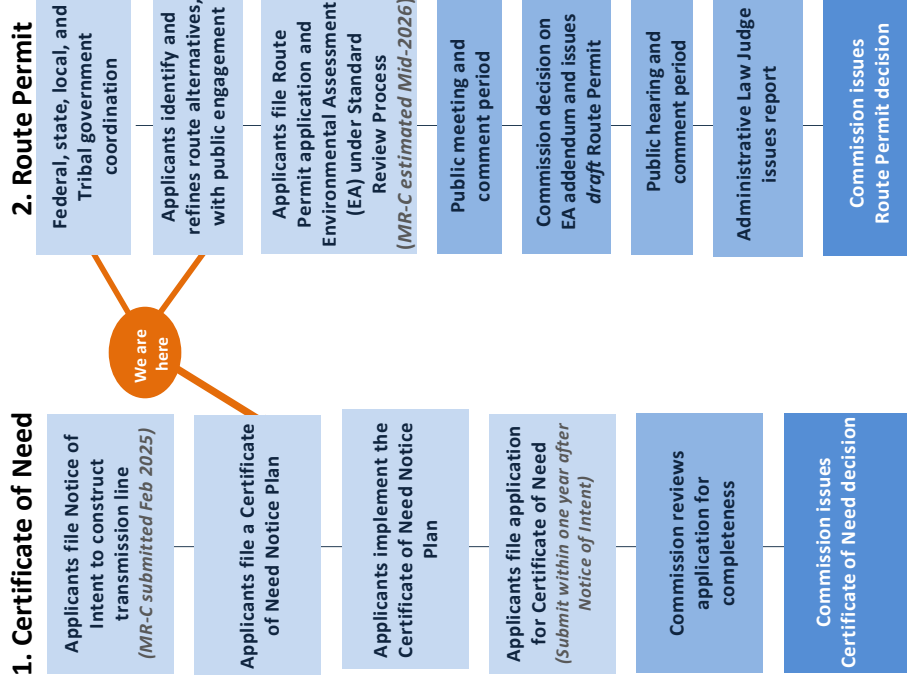
CON Notice Area with Preliminary Routes



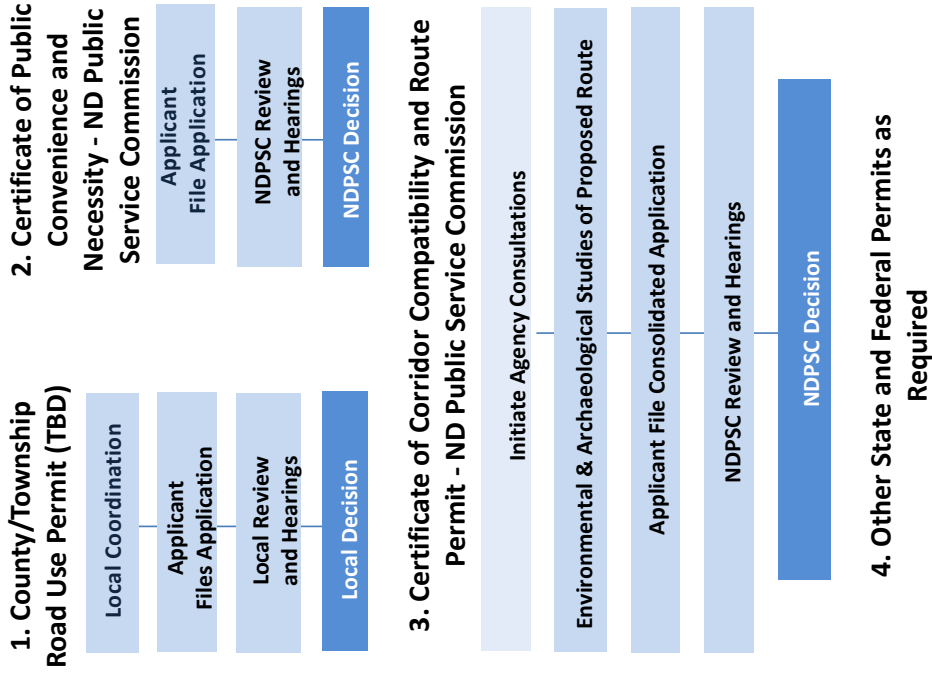
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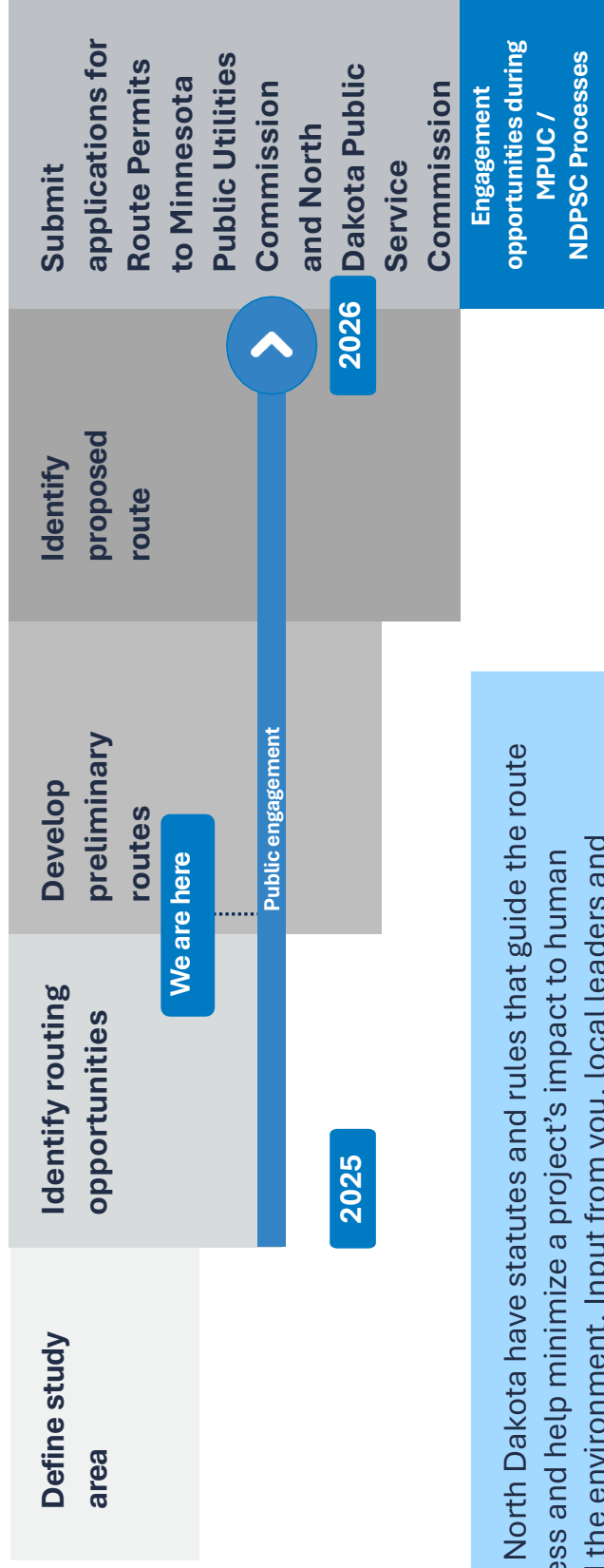
Minnesota Permitting Process



North Dakota Permitting Process



Routing Process & Input Opportunities



Minnesota and North Dakota have statutes and rules that guide the route selection process and help minimize a project's impact to human settlement and the environment. Input from you, local leaders and agencies as well as our own expertise is critical as we develop and finalize a route.

Routing Process Considerations

The routing process is a combination of routing criteria found in Minnesota and North Dakota statutes and regulations, engineering requirements, constructability needs, and cost considerations. To route a project, we consider:

- Opportunities
- Constraints
- Engineering and construction considerations
- Public input

Anticipated Studies

Field surveys allow the Project team to verify or collect new information to help minimize impacts for construction of the transmission line. Studies may include:

- Geotechnical
- Cultural resources
- Wetland and waterbodies
- Invasive species
- Protected species
- Raptor nests



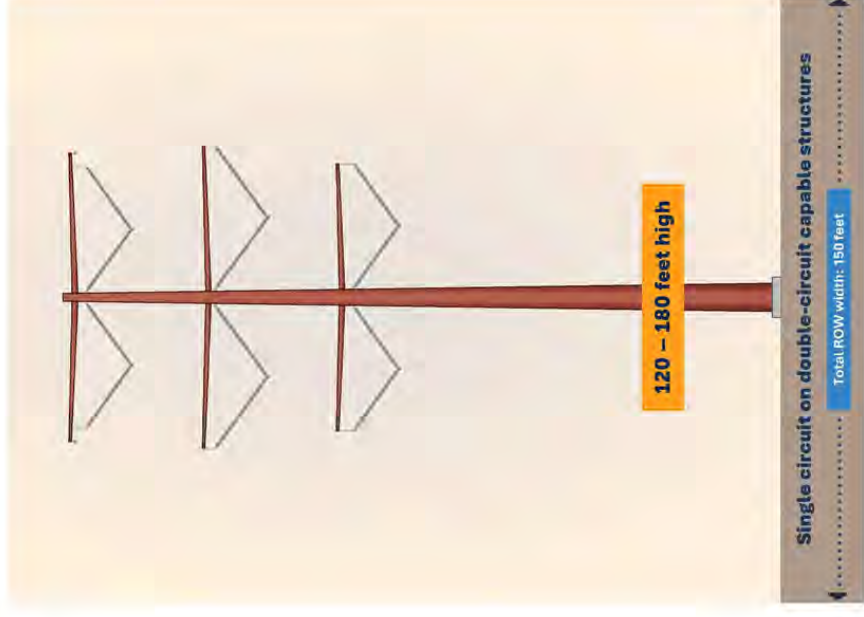
Cypripedium reginae

Typical Design

Structure type factors:

- Land use/land cover
- Topography
- Water/wetlands
- Soil types

Right-of-Way (ROW) Typical Construction

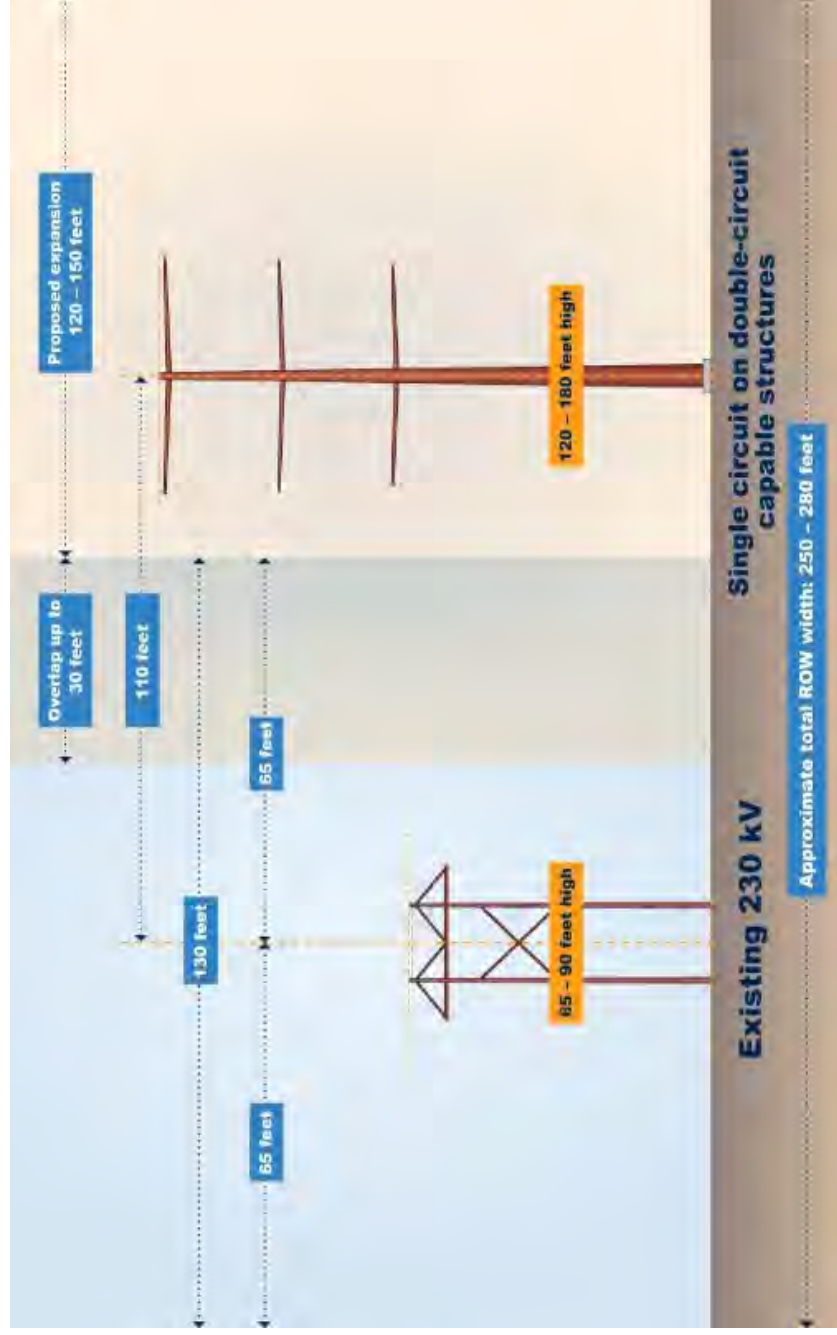


Minimum right-of-way: 150 feet

Avg structures per mile: 5 to 7

Typical height: 120 to 180 feet

Typical Design for Colocation



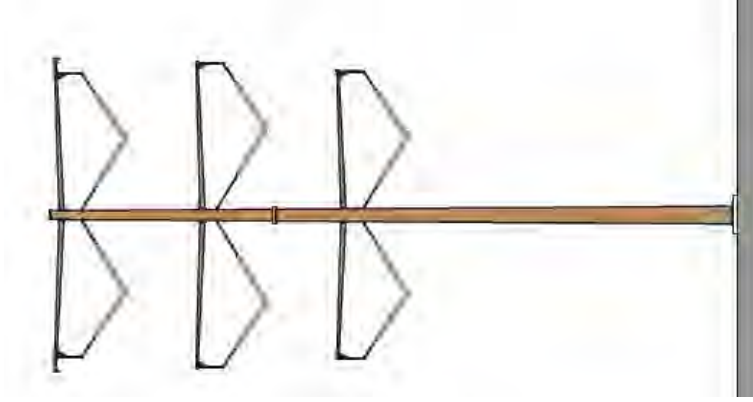
Minimum right-of-way: 250 feet

Avg structures per mile: 5 to 7

Typical height: 120 to 180 feet

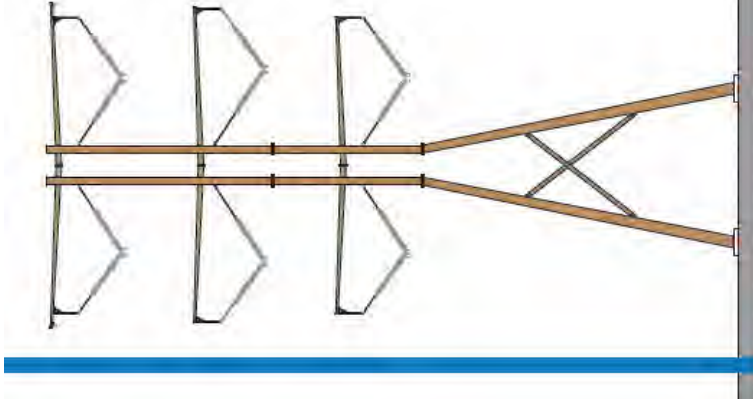
Potential Structure Design Concepts

Tubular Monopole

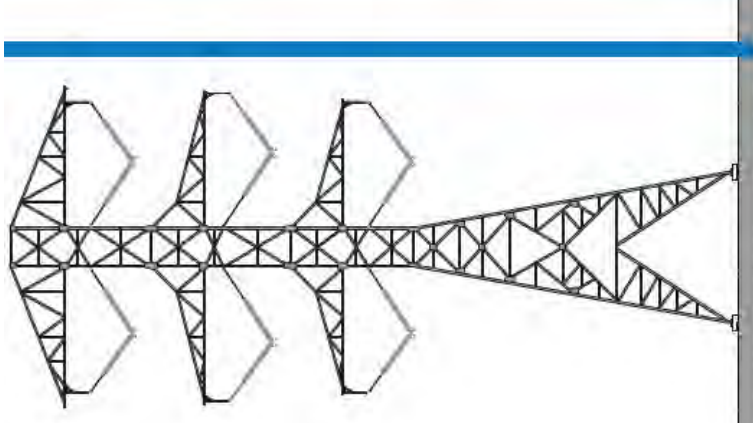


Preferred Design

Tubular Lattice Tower

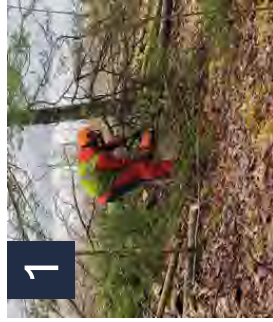


Lattice Tower

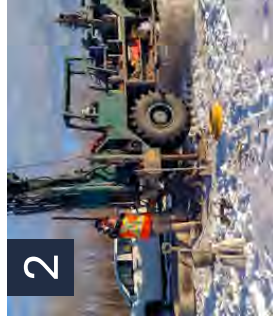


Site-Specific Alternatives

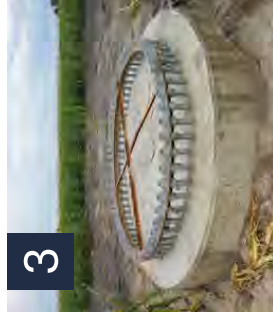
Typical Preconstruction and Construction Activities



1 Initial surveying, right-of-way clearing and access routes

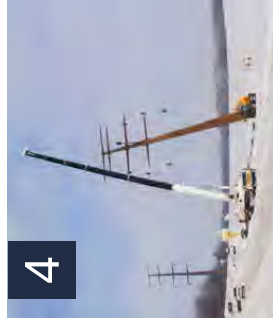


2 Structure staking, surveying and soils investigations as needed

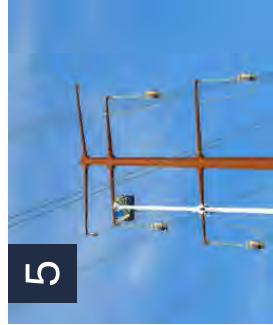


3 Foundation installation

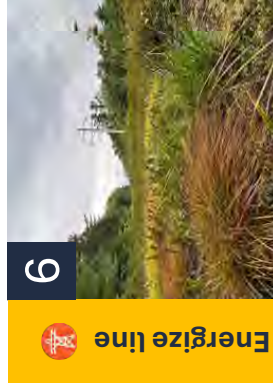
Foundation type may vary depending on structure



4 Assemble and set structures

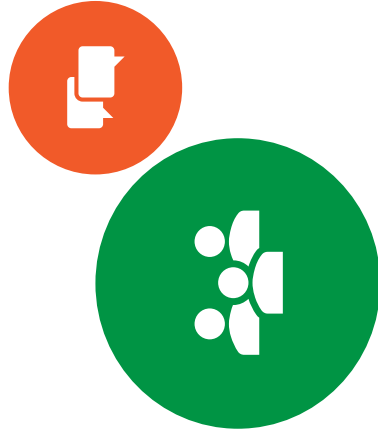


5 Wire installation



6 Cleanup and restoration

Community Engagement



- Website launched in June 2025
- First Round of Open houses in June 2025
- In-person and virtual engagement opportunities
- Second round of open houses planned for October 2025
- Engagement through the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission permitting process

Communicating our path forward

Ongoing communication with stakeholders and landowners throughout all phases of the project.

Questions?

From: [Dan Flo](#)
To: [Tristen Joens](#); [Karen Overcash](#)
Cc: [Mandy Bohnenblust](#); [Drew Janke \(MP\)](#)
Subject: FW: EXTERNAL: RE: Maple River – Cuyuna (MR-C) Transmission Project - October Open Houses
Date: Monday, October 13, 2025 3:02:43 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Response for tracking...

Dan Flo
Minneapolis
612.812.0069 mobile
dan.flo@merjent.com



From: Petersen, Thom (MDA) <thom.petersen@state.mn.us>
Sent: Saturday, October 11, 2025 9:03 AM
To: Dan Flo <dan.flo@merjent.com>
Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: Maple River – Cuyuna (MR-C) Transmission Project - October Open Houses

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Thank you for sending.

From: Dan Flo <dan.flo@merjent.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 11:13 AM
Cc: Drew Janke (MP) <djanke@mnpower.com>; Tristen Joens <tristen.joens@merjent.com>
Subject: Maple River – Cuyuna (MR-C) Transmission Project - October Open Houses

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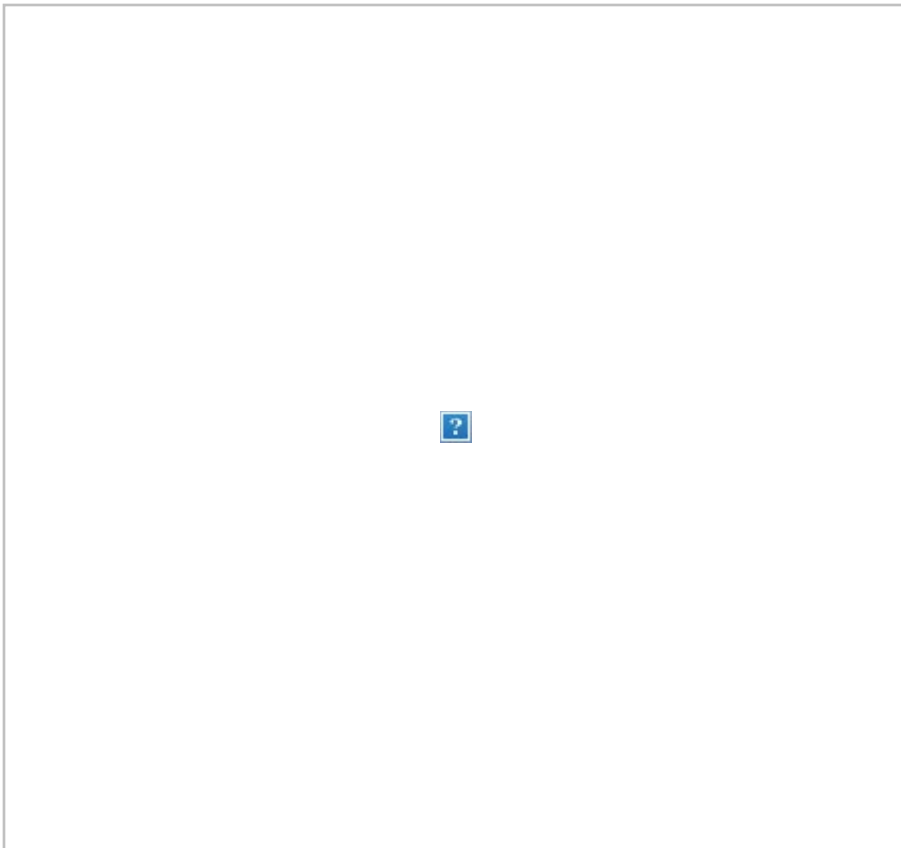
Good morning,

Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Great River Energy are hosting a second round of open houses to seek input on the Maple River – Cuyuna (MR-C) Transmission Project's preliminary routes. The proposed MR-C Transmission Project is an approximately 160-mile-long, single-circuit 345 kV transmission line on double-circuit-capable structures from Minnesota Power's Cuyuna Substation near Riverton,

Minnesota to Otter Tail Power Company's Maple River Substation near Fargo, North Dakota.

Based on community input gathered during the first round of public open houses in June 2025 and through coordination with federal, state, local, and Tribal governments, Minnesota Power refined the initial study area by identifying routing opportunities based on existing transmission lines and developed several preliminary routes. Stakeholder comments included feedback on routing and impacts to aesthetics, groundwater, landowner's property interests, cultural resources, and environmental resources. Please find a map of the preliminary routes attached to this email.

We invite you to attend any of the open houses; the schedule is as follows:



These meetings are open to the public and will give local community members and landowners an opportunity to learn about the project, ask questions, and provide input.

If you have questions about the Project or the Open Houses, please contact Drew Janke at (218) 576-9213 or djanke@mnpower.com.

Regards,

Dan Flo on behalf of
Drew Janke

Dan Flo
Senior Project Manager
612.924.3982 direct
612.812.0069 mobile
dan.flo@merjent.com



1 Main Street SE, Suite 300
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612.746.3660 main
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From: [Tanner Schmidt](#)
To: [Kurt Lysne](#); [Dan Flo](#)
Cc: [Drew Janke \(MP\)](#); [Steingaard, Craig L.](#); [Tristen Joens](#)
Subject: RE: Maple River - Cuyuna Project, ditch and drain shapefiles
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 2:27:38 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

Hello All – Please see linked OneDrive folder below for Cass County Legal Drain shapefile.

 [CassCountyDrains_20251022](#)

Let me know if there are any questions.

Thanks,

Tanner Schmidt
GIS Analyst



Direct 701.551.1065
[925 10th Avenue East, West Fargo, ND 58078](#)
[www.mooreengineeringinc.com](#)
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From: Kurt Lysne <kurt.lysne@mooreengineeringinc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 10:41 AM
To: Dan Flo <dan.flo@merjent.com>; Tanner Schmidt <Tanner.Schmidt@mooreengineeringinc.com>
Cc: Drew Janke (MP) <djanke@mnpower.com>; Steingaard, Craig L. <csteingaard@otpc.com>; Tristen Joens <tristen.joens@merjent.com>
Subject: RE: Maple River - Cuyuna Project, ditch and drain shapefiles

Hi Dan,

Yes, it was nice visiting with you and the project team on Monday evening. After talking with Craig, it sounds like a likely corridor is parallel to the existing transmission line until crossing the Red River. I drew the existing alignment below in yellow. It looks like potential permitting needs would be Drain 45, Drain 40, and Drain 9, depending on final alignment of course.

I've added Tanner Schmidt to this email. Tanner, could you please send the Cass County Legal Drain shapefile to this group?



Thanks,
Kurt

Kurt Lysne, PE*, CFM

Market Leader / Senior Engineer

*Licensed in ND & MN





Mobile 218.205.3324 | Direct 701.499.5856
[925 10th Avenue East, West Fargo, ND 58078](#)
www.mooreengineeringinc.com
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From: Dan Flo <dan.flo@merjent.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 8:34 AM
To: Kurt Lysne <kurt.lysne@mooreengineeringinc.com>
Cc: Drew Janke (MP) <djanke@mnpower.com>; Steingaard, Craig L. <csteingaard@otpc.com>; Tristen Joens <tristen.joens@merjent.com>
Subject: RE: Maple River - Cuyuna Project, ditch and drain shapefiles

Hi Kurt, it was good to catch up with you on Monday, thanks for stopping by the open house in Dilworth. We would greatly appreciate receiving GIS files that you can provide for regulated ditches and drains in the counties crossed by the Project's Preliminary Routes. We'll add those to our database for use during ongoing project routing and future permitting.

Best,

Dan

Dan Flo
Senior Project Manager
612.924.3982 direct
612.812.0069 mobile
dan.flo@merjent.com



1 Main Street SE, Suite 300
Minneapolis, MN 55414
612.746.3660 main
www.merjent.com

From: Kurt Lysne <kurt.lysne@mooreengineeringinc.com>
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 6:54 PM
To: Dan Flo <dan.flo@merjent.com>
Subject: EXTERNAL: Send shapefiles

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From: Dan Flo
To: Hahn, Robert (FAA)
Cc: Drew Janke (MP); Tristen Joens
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: Maple River - Cuyuna (MR-C) Transmission Project - FAA Submittal Info
Date: Tuesday, December 9, 2025 9:28:14 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hi Robert and thanks for the detailed information. The MR-C Project is still early in the planning process, although we do expect to have a Preferred Route in early 2026 and a Proposed Route in summer, 2026. Minnesota Power's engineering team is working with outside consultants to identify potential airport safety zones and will design the route and transmission structures in compliance with FAA and other regulations. We appreciate your guidance and will use the Obstruction Evaluation / Airport Airspace Analysis tool as the Project's routing and planning process reaches that stage.

Best,

Dan

Dan Flo
Minneapolis
612.812.0069 mobile
dan.flo@merjent.com



From: Hahn, Robert (FAA) <Robert.Hahn@faa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 9:06 AM
To: Dan Flo <dan.flo@merjent.com>
Cc: Drew Janke (MP) <djanke@mnpower.com>; Tristen Joens <tristen.joens@merjent.com>
Subject: EXTERNAL: Maple River - Cuyuna (MR-C) Transmission Project - FAA Submittal Info

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Dan,

Please electronically submit tower locations to the FAA's public OE/AAA system at the below site:

[Obstruction Evaluation / Airport Airspace Analysis \(OE3A\)](#)

Note: wait to submit till after the gov't shutdown though

Not all are required to be submitted w/ the notification surface being:

§ 77.9 Construction or alteration requiring notice.

(a) Any construction or alteration that is more than 200 ft. AGL at its site.

(b) Any construction or alteration that exceeds an imaginary surface extending outward and upward at any of the following slopes:

(1) 100 to 1 for a horizontal distance of 20,000 ft. from the nearest point of the nearest runway of each airport described in [paragraph \(d\)](#) of this section with its longest runway more than 3,200 ft. in actual length, excluding heliports.

(2) 50 to 1 for a horizontal distance of 10,000 ft. from the nearest point of the nearest runway of each airport described in [paragraph \(d\)](#) of this section with its longest runway no more than 3,200 ft. in actual length, excluding heliports.

(3) 25 to 1 for a horizontal distance of 5,000 ft. from the nearest point of the nearest landing and takeoff area of each heliport described in [paragraph \(d\)](#) of this section.

Below is from the Sky Vector Aeronautical Chart along the proposed route:





Thanks,

Robert Hahn
FAA - Dakota-Minnesota ADO
6020 28th Ave S
Suite 102
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2700
W 612-253-4639
E-mail: Robert.Hahn@faa.gov

From: Dan Flo <dan.flo@merjent.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 11:13 AM
Cc: Drew Janke (MP) <djanke@minnpower.com>; Tristen Joens <tristen.joens@merjent.com>
Subject: Maple River – Cuyuna (MR-C) Transmission Project - October Open Houses

Some people who received this message don't often get email from dan.flo@merjent.com. [Learn why this is important](#)
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Good morning,

Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Great River Energy are hosting a second round of open houses to seek input on the Maple River – Cuyuna (MR-C) Transmission Project's preliminary routes. The proposed MR-C Transmission Project is an approximately 160-mile-long, single-circuit 345 kV transmission line on double-circuit-capable structures from Minnesota Power's Cuyuna Substation near Riverton, Minnesota to Otter Tail Power Company's Maple River Substation near Fargo, North Dakota.

Based on community input gathered during the first round of public open houses in June 2025 and through coordination with federal, state, local, and Tribal governments, Minnesota Power refined the initial study area by identifying routing opportunities based on existing transmission lines and developed several preliminary routes. Stakeholder comments included feedback on routing and impacts to aesthetics, groundwater, landowner's property interests, cultural resources, and environmental resources. Please find a map of the preliminary routes attached to this email.

We invite you to attend any of the open houses; the schedule is as follows:

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025 12:00-2:00PM Harwood Community Center 210 Freedland Dr Harwood, ND 58042	MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025 5:30-7:30PM TAK Music Venue 1710 Center Ave W Dulworth, MN 55328
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2025 12:00-2:00PM Barnesville Event Center 101 Second St. SE Barnesville, MN 56514	TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2025 5:30-7:30PM Historic Holmes Theatre 608 Summit Ave Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2025 12:00-2:00PM MN State Central Lakes College, Staples Location C168 1850 Airport Road Staples, MN 56479	WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2025 5:30-7:30PM Hubbard Community Center 12141 County 6 Park Rapids, MN 56470
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2025 12:00-2:00PM The Lodge at Brainerd Lakes 4967 Lake Forest Rd Baxter, MN 56425	THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2025 5:30-7:30PM Pelican Lakes Conservation Club and Community Center 8922 Thorne Dr Breezy Point, MN 56472

These meetings are open to the public and will give local community members and landowners an opportunity to learn about the project, ask questions, and provide input.

If you have questions about the Project or the Open Houses, please contact Drew Janke at (218) 576-9213 or djanke@minnpower.com.

Regards,

Dan Flo on behalf of
Drew Janke

Dan Flo
Senior Project Manager
612.924.9982 direct
612.812.0069 mobile
dan.flo@merjent.com



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Minnesota Power
Maple River - Cuyuna Transmission Project
Record of Conversation Template

Date of contact: <i>Month Day, Year @ Time</i>	10-31-2025 @ 10:30
Minnesota Power Staff Present: <i>Name(s) and role(s)</i>	Drew Janke – Permitting & Environmental Lead
Type of contact: <i>In-person meeting/virtual meeting/phone call; Location if in person</i>	Phone Call
Name(s) of individual(s) or group(s): <i>Name, organization, role, and contact information for each individual/group outside of Minnesota Power</i>	Allie Polsfuss – Breezy Point City Administrator 
Brief description of topics discussed, including any decision points, action items, or follow-up needed	Drew provided a high-level overview of the project, including the need for the project, structure types/heights, MPUC permitting process and timeline, constraints factored, plan for third round of open houses in March/April 2026 and project website. FOLLOW UP: Allie requested to be added to email update list.
Follow-up assigned to:	Merjent

From: [Drew Janke \(MP\)](#)
To: [Luzinski, Danielle \(MDH\)](#); [Dan Flo](#)
Cc: [Budde, Nick \(MDH\)](#); [Pickman, Luke \(MDH\)](#); [Woodside, John \(MDH\)](#); [Tristen Joens](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL MAIL] RE: Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project
Date: Thursday, June 19, 2025 2:10:32 PM
Attachments: [image008.png](#)

Hi Danielle,

Thank you for your letter. The MR-C Project is in the early stages of development and we have identified a Study Area that we are evaluating for potential routing opportunities. We will continue to seek feedback from local, state, and federal agencies and tribal officials regarding potential Project routes and will be holding a number of open houses to facilitate additional feedback from the public. We will consider the recommendations in your letter as we evaluate public input and begin detailed routing.

We look forward to working with you throughout the routing/permitting process.

Thank you,
Drew

Drew Janke

Environmental Compliance Specialist II
Minnesota Power | ALLETE, Inc.
30 West Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802

O: 218-355-3569
C: 218-576-9213

From: Luzinski, Danielle (MDH) <Danielle.Luzinski@state.mn.us>
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 9:29 AM
To: Drew Janke (MP) <djanke@mnpower.com>; Dan Flo <dan.flo@merjent.com>
Cc: Budde, Nick (MDH) <nicholas.budde@state.mn.us>; Pickman, Luke (MDH) <luke.pickman@state.mn.us>; Woodside, John (MDH) <john.woodside@state.mn.us>; Tristen Joens <tristen.joens@galileoaz.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL MAIL] RE: Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project

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Good morning Drew,

Thank you for providing MDH the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed MR-C Project. Attached you will find our letter of recommendations. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any of the other MDH staff Cc'd on this email if you have any additional questions.

Also, I do want to note that Chris Parthun has retired as of June 2nd, and his position is currently vacant. Once his position has been filled, our [Source Water Protection webpage](#) will be updated with the most current contact information.

Thank you,

Danielle Luzinski, PE

Hydrologist | Source Water Protection

Minnesota Department of Health

Environmental Health Division

Office: 651-201-5011



From: Dan Flo <dan.flo@merjent.com>

Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 9:50 AM

To: Parthun, Chris (MDH) <chris.parthun@state.mn.us>

Cc: Budde, Nick (MDH) <nicholas.budde@state.mn.us>; Richter, Dereck (He/Him/His) (MDH) <dereck.richter@state.mn.us>; Luzinski, Danielle (MDH) <Danielle.Luzinski@state.mn.us>; Drew Janke (MP) <djanke@mnpower.com>; Tristen Joens <tristen.joens@galileoaz.com>

Subject: Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project

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Christopher Parthun:

Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Great River Energy (collectively, the “Applicants”) are proposing to construct approximately 160 miles of new single-circuit 345 kV transmission line on double-circuit capable structures from Minnesota Power’s Cuyuna Substation near Riverton, Minnesota to Otter Tail Power Company’s Maple River Substation near Fargo, North Dakota. Approximately 95% of the transmission line will be in Minnesota. This project is referred to as the Maple River – Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project (also the “Project” or “MR-C Project”). Minnesota Power plans to submit applications for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit for the Project to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for approval.

The attached letter provides additional information on the Project. Minnesota Power would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project. Please contact Drew Janke at (218) 576-9213 or djanke@mnpower.com should you need additional information.

Regards,
Dan Flo on behalf of
Drew Janke
Project Manager – Environmental
Minnesota Power

Dan Flo
Minneapolis
612.812.0069 mobile
dan.flo@merjent.com



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June 10, 2025

Drew Janke
Project Manager – Environmental
Minnesota Power
30 West Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802
djanke@mnpower.com

**RE: Written Comments for Maple River – Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project
MPUC Docket No. E015, ET2, E017/CN-25-109**

Dear Mr. Janke,

This letter is in response to your notification on June 9, 2025, regarding Minnesota Power's proposal to construct a 160-mile-long, single-circuit 345 kV transmission line on double-circuit capable structures from Minnesota Power's Cuyuna Substation near Riverton, Minnesota to Otter Tail Power Company's Maple River Substation near Fargo, North Dakota. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has reviewed the information that was submitted with the notification for potential impacts on the groundwater and drinking water resources that serve the area and support its public health.

Potential impacts of the proposed project include groundwater contamination in the event of a spill and limiting well owners' access to properly maintain and seal wells. In order to ensure that access to clean and sufficient water is available, MDH proposing the following methods to mitigate potential impacts from this project:

- Review MDH's Source Water Protection Web Map Viewer (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/mapviewer.html>) to identify locations of Drinking Water Supply Management Areas (DWSMA) that may overlap the Project area.
 - The following webpage contains links to these geospatial data files available for download: Reports and Geospatial Data Source Water Protection <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/maps/index.htm#geospatial>). Geospatial data files for Emergency Response Areas (ERA) within DWSMAs and for public well locations are not available online. You can

use the [Data Request Form](#) linked on the *Reports and Geospatial Data* webpage referenced above to request these locations.

- o Additional guidance on determining the suitability for infiltration within DWSMAs is available here: [Stormwater and wellhead protection - Minnesota Stormwater Manual](#) ([https://stormwater.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/Stormwater and wellhead protection](https://stormwater.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/Stormwater_and_wellhead_protection)).
- o The locations of many non-public drinking water wells can be found in the following database: [Minnesota Well Index \(MWI\)](#) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/mwi/index.html>). Please note that missing information does not guarantee there is not a well on a property.
- Contact information (name, address, phone number) for all well owners with wells located within 200 feet of the future line should be identified and cataloged with the well location for use in the event of a spill or release of hazardous substance. This list of wells may include identification of wells that are not included in the Minnesota Well Index, and any newly located wells can be sent to the [District Hydrologists](#), Nick Budde at Nicholas.Budde@state.mn.us or Luke Pickman (Luke.Pickman@state.mn.us).
- Drill rigs with masts are typically required to service or seal abandoned wells. The presence of active powerlines near a well can make it difficult or impossible to safely complete this necessary work. The proposed transmission line should be located far enough away from existing wells that safe and legal access for service or sealing with a drill rig is not impacted when the line is active at the maximum proposed voltage. Alternatively, accommodation should be made to well owners to provide an alternative source of water of similar chemistry and supply, as well as sealing of the existing well in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 103I.301 prior to energizing the transmission line to protect the aquifer.
- MDH would also like you to consider impacts to nearby surface waters during the construction phase as impaired runoff can negatively impact surface water quality and infiltrate into the groundwater. Properly maintained erosion and sediment control measures are critical to ensuring protected water quality. There are two communities that source their drinking water from a surface waterbody within your proposed project area: Moorhead and Fergus Falls.

Thank you for your consideration regarding these proposed mitigation methods. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Danielle.Luzinski@state.mn.us or (651) 201-5011. You may also contact the [District Hydrologists](#): Nick Budde at Nicholas.Budde@state.mn.us or (651) 201-4596, and Luke Pickman at Luke.Pickman@state.mn.us or (651) 201-4678.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danielle Luzinski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Danielle" and last name "Luzinski" clearly legible.

Danielle Luzinski, PE
Statewide Surface Water Hydrologist
Minnesota Department of Health
Source Water Protection Unit
PO Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
www.health.state.mn.us

CC: Nick Budde, SWP District Hydrologist
Luke Pickman, SWP District Hydrologist
John Woodside, SWP Hydrologist Supervisor

From: [Dan Flo](#)
To: [GraggJohnson, Kelly \(ADM\)](#)
Cc: [Drew Janke \(MP\)](#); [Mandy Bohnenblust](#); [Tristen Joens](#)
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: SHPO No 2025-1313 Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project
Date: Thursday, July 17, 2025 9:47:27 AM
Attachments: [2025-1313.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Thank you Kelly. The MR-C Project appreciates the SHPO's comments and will continue to provide updates and seek feedback throughout the MN PUC Certificate of Need and Route Permit process.

Best Regards,

Dan

Dan Flo
Minneapolis
612.812.0069 mobile
dan.flo@merjent.com



From: GraggJohnson, Kelly (ADM) <kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us>
Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2025 10:44 AM
To: Dan Flo <dan.flo@merjent.com>
Subject: EXTERNAL: SHPO No 2025-1313 Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project

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Here is the SHPO comment letter for this project.

Thanks,

Kelly



Kelly Gragg-Johnson (she/her/hers) | **Environmental Review Specialist**

50 Sherburne Avenue, Suite 203

Saint Paul, MN 55155

(651) 201-3285 | kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us

-

From: Dan Flo <dan.flo@merjent.com>
Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 9:45 AM
To: Gronhovid, Amanda (She/Her/Hers) (ADM) <amanda.gronhovid@state.mn.us>
Cc: Coburn, Leslie (ADM) <leslie.coburn@state.mn.us>; GraggJohnson, Kelly (ADM) <kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us>; Drew Janke (MP) <djanke@mnpower.com>; Tristen Joens <tristen.joens@galileoaz.com>
Subject: Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project

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Amanda Gronhovid:

Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Great River Energy (collectively, the “Applicants”) are proposing to construct approximately 160 miles of new single-circuit 345 kV transmission line on double-circuit capable structures from Minnesota Power’s Cuyuna Substation near Riverton, Minnesota to Otter Tail Power Company’s Maple River Substation near Fargo, North Dakota. Approximately 95% of the transmission line will be in Minnesota. This project is referred to as the Maple River – Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project (also the “Project” or “MR-C Project”). Minnesota Power plans to submit applications for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit for the Project to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for approval.

The attached letter provides additional information on the Project. Minnesota Power would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project. Please contact Drew Janke at (218) 576-9213 or djanke@mnpower.com should you need additional information.

Regards,
Dan Flo on behalf of
Drew Janke
Project Manager – Environmental
Minnesota Power

Dan Flo
Minneapolis
612.812.0069 mobile
dan.flo@merjent.com



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July 17, 2025

Drew Janke
Project Manager – Environmental
Minnesota Power
djanke@mnpower.com

RE: Maple River – Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Line Project
Construction of a new 160-mile-long, single-circuit 345 kV transmission line on double-circuit capable structures from Minnesota Power's Cuyuna Substation near Riverton, Minnesota to Otter Tail Power Company's Maple River Substation near Fargo, North Dakota.
Multiple Counties, Minnesota
SHPO Number: 2025-1313

Dear Drew Janke:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced project. We understand that this project will require a Minnesota Public Utilities Commission route permit. Therefore, the submitted information has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Office by the Minnesota Historic Sites Act (138.665-666). If this project will be located on non-federal public land, the project will also be subject to review under the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act (138.40).

Due to the nature and location of the proposed project, we recommend that a Phase I archaeological survey be completed. The survey must meet the requirements of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Identification and Evaluation and should include an evaluation of National Register eligibility for any properties that are identified. For a list of consultants who have expressed an interest in undertaking such surveys, please visit the website preservationdirectory.mnhs.org, and select "Archaeologists" in the "Specialties" box.

Because there is no federal nexus for this project, a Phase I reconnaissance level architectural history survey is not required. However, the project should take into account the introduction of visual, atmospheric, or audible elements that may have an effect on any above ground designated historic properties. Designated historic properties are those properties that are listed in the National or State Register of Historic Places, or properties that are included in the State Historic Sites Network.

The resulting cultural resources report should include a map with clearly marked project areas in relation to any identified cultural resources (architectural properties and archaeological sites). The report should discuss ways in which the Project will avoid impacting, both directly and indirectly, any cultural resources that are identified.

MINNESOTA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

50 Sherburne Avenue ■ Administration Building 203 ■ Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155 ■ 651-201-3287
mn.gov/admin/shpo ■ mnshpo@state.mn.us

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND SERVICE PROVIDER

Maple River – Cuyuna Certificate of Need Application
Docket No. E015,ET2,E017/CN-25-109

Appendix L
Page 137 of 156

Please note that this comment letter does not address the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36 CFR § 800. If this project is considered for federal financial assistance, or requires a federal permit or license, then review and consultation with our office will need to be initiated by the lead federal agency in order to define an appropriate area of potential effects for the federal undertaking as well as the necessary historic property identification and evaluation efforts required for a federal review. Be advised that comments and recommendations provided by our office for this state-level review may differ from findings and determinations made by the federal agency as part of review and consultation under Section 106.

If you have any questions regarding our review of this project, please feel free to contact me at 651-201-3285 or kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,

Kelly Gragg-Johnson

Kelly Gragg-Johnson
Environmental Review Specialist

From: O'Brien, Katie E <katie_obrien@fws.gov>

Sent: Monday, August 4, 2025 12:25 PM

To: Drew Janke (MP) <djanke@mnpower.com>; Dan Flo <dan.flo@merjent.com>

Cc: Tawes, Robert <robert_tawes@fws.gov>; Powers, Neil <neil_powers@fws.gov>; Frohling, Ryan <ryan_frohling@fws.gov>; Sundseth, Kent KS <kent_sundseth@fws.gov>; Bump, Samantha (DNR) <samantha.bump@state.mn.us>; Martin.Donovan <Martin.Donovan@state.mn.us>; Henning-Randa, Bridget (DNR) <Bridget.Henning-Randa@state.mn.us>; Parson, Jessica (DNR) <jessica.parson@state.mn.us>; Davis, Richard (COMM) <richard.davis@state.mn.us>; andrew_horton <andrew_horton@fws.gov>

Subject: EXTERNAL: USFWS Early Coordination and Comments on Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kV (MR-C) Transmission Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Dear Drew:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the materials you have shared with the USFWS MN-WI Ecological Services Field Office. Our early comments on the proposed MR-C Project can be found in the attached letter. We look forward to working with you on ways to avoid and minimize impacts to wildlife. Please contact Field Office Supervisor, Rob Tawes (Robert_tawes@fws.gov), or me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you,
Katie

Katie O'Brien
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Midwest Region
katie_obrien@fws.gov | 612.413.4873
[Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services](#)



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services

Minnesota-Wisconsin Field Office

3815 American Boulevard East

Bloomington, Minnesota 55425-1665

Phone: (612) 240-6343



August 1, 2025

Mr. Drew Janke
Minnesota Power
30 West Superior St.
Duluth, MN 55802

Dear Mr. Janke:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and offer early comments on the Maple River – Cuyuna 345 kV Project (MR-C Project). Our comments are provided in accordance with the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544) (ESA), Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712) (MBTA), and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d).

- Please consult with our Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system (<https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/>) as you progress through the planning phases for the most up-to-date species list, determination keys, and conservation measures. Species that are either federally protected or proposed for protection may occur in the project area.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) manages numerous units of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) within the proposed route alternatives of the MR-C project area (i.e., Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District, Fergus Falls Wetland Management District, Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuge, Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge and Wetland Management District). In addition to National Wildlife Refuges, FWS manages Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) which include fee title lands (WPAs) and conservation easement interest lands (habitat, wetland, and Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) easements). Conservation easements are lands where FWS has worked with landowners to purchase and permanently protect upland and/or wetland habitat on private property to provide benefits to migratory bird populations.

A map of FWS land interests can be accessed at [FWS NWRS NFH Experience](#). These lands are managed through the National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act (16 USC 668 dd), and proposed uses of these lands cannot be allowed unless they are compatible (Compatibility Policy 603 FW2) with the purposes for which the unit was established. Our goal is to work with you to identify route alternatives that completely avoid or minimize impacts to federal interest lands managed by the FWS. We recommend that you coordinate route alternatives with FWS Project Leaders responsible for administering

NWRS lands within the geographic area of the project. Individual contact information is listed below the signature line of this letter.

- The MR-C Project Area occurs within a sensitive area for migratory birds (i.e., the following Important Bird Areas (IBAs) – Bluestem Prairie-Buffalo River IBA, Camp Ripley-Pillsbury-Lake Alexander IBA, Rothsay Prairie IBA, as well as the aforementioned FWS lands). We recommend consulting with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s eBird database (<https://ebird.org/home>) and Birdcast website (<https://birdcast.info>) for more robust and real-time data on bird occurrence and timing/composition/estimated altitude of bird migration throughout the MR-C Project Area. While incidental take is not prohibited under the MBTA, we believe that siting and design concessions could avoid or minimize impacts of the project to migratory birds. We have attached a list of best management practices to this letter.
- If the MR-C Project may impact bald or golden eagles, we would encourage you to obtain an eagle take permit. Eagle take permits are voluntary, and Minnesota Power must assess its own risk of impacts to eagles.
 - The most up-to-date information on the permitting process (including eligibility requirements for general and specific permits) can be found on the Eagle Incidental Take Permits for Powerlines webpage (<https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management/power-line-permits>).
 - Additional information on permit application procedures can be found on the FWS ePermits site for “Specific” (https://fwsepermits.servicenowservices.com/fws?id=fws_kb_view&sys_id=0ab430cedbb042900a66e46b139619e6) and “General” (https://fwsepermits.servicenowservices.com/fws?id=fws_kb_view&sys_id=63943c8edbb042900a66e46b13961966) eagle incidental take permits from powerline activities.
- We recommend siting the MR-C Project such that it minimizes habitat fragmentation by adhering to existing developed Rights-of-Way (ROW) to the greatest extent possible.
- We recommend preservation and enhancement of native plant communities, especially for re-vegetation of areas disturbed within new and existing ROW, to ensure on-going protection of native plant communities and pollinator species:
 - For temporary and permanent habitat restoration/abatement, use only native and local (when possible) seed and plant stock. Pollinator-favored plants can be found on this list: <https://www.fws.gov/media/plants-favored-rusty-patched-bumble-bee>.
 - Consider creating vehicle wash stations prior to entering sensitive habitat areas to prevent accidental introduction of non-native plants.
 - Because pollinators are dependent on flowering plants for nutrients and energy, especially in the summer, we recommend mowing at a rate or height that does not reduce a significant number of flowering plants for foraging pollinators (for

additional recommendations, please review this document:
<https://www.fws.gov/media/conservation-management-technical-assistance-rusty-patched-bumble-bee>).

- o If possible, we recommend that any mowing or ground disturbance during construction or maintenance not take place until after the native plant communities have stopped flowering.

Please do not hesitate to contact Katie O'Brien at katie_obrien@fws.gov with the Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office should you have any questions or concerns. We appreciate your early coordination efforts. We believe, through continued discussion, that we can help develop wildlife focused measures to protect federal trust resources while meeting the MR-C Project's energy production objectives. We look forward to this continued collaboration.

Sincerely,

Robert Tawes
Field Supervisor

FWS Project Leaders:

- Neil Powers, Project Leader, Fergus Falls Wetland Management District; neil_powers@fws.gov, 218/736-0627
- Ryan Frohling, Project Leader, Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District/Hamden Slough NWR; ryan_frohling@fws.gov, 218/849-1467
- Kent Sundseth, Project Leader, Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge and Wetland Management District; kent_sundseth@fws.gov, 218/849-9868

cc: Samantha Bump, Martin Donovan, Bridget Henning-Randa, Jessica Parsons (MN DNR)
Rich Davis (MN PUC)
Andrew Horton (USFWS)

Attachment A: Optional Best Management Practices to Avoid or Minimize Impacts to Migratory Birds

- If the MR-C Project will include tree-clearing activities, we request that you evaluate and disclose impacts to all forest-dwelling species of federal interest and include associated conservation measures to minimize risk, impacts, and adverse effects.
 - We recommend limiting forest clearing activities to occur outside of the migratory bird nesting season (March 1 – August 31) and summer occupancy period for Northern Long-eared Bat (April 15 – September 30). If clearing must be completed within the bat occupancy season, we recommend surveys be conducted to avoid or minimize take of federally protected species.
- We recommend development of an Avian Protection Plan to reduce avian risk of electrocution, collision, and death, as well as bird-caused power outages. We recommend inclusion of the following guidelines from the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee:
 - To ensure adequate clearance, design structures should, at a minimum, provide at least 60 inches of horizontal separation between energized conductors and/or energized conductors and grounded hardware and 48-60 inches of vertical separation.
 - Avoid siting lines in areas where birds concentrate (i.e., wetlands, stream crossings, historic staging areas, roosts, and nesting colonies).
 - Install visibility enhancement devices (e.g., marker spheres, spirals, suspended devices, bird diverters) placed in varying configurations, depending on the line design and location; large diameter wire may also increase line visibility.
 - If a “problem pole” is identified (i.e., documented avian collision, electrocution, problem nest material, or high risk of avian mortality), we recommend retrofitting the pole by 1) covering jumper wires, conductors, and equipment; 2) discouraging perching in unsafe areas (e.g., perch guards); 3) reframing; 4) replacing a structure; or 5) providing safe alternatives for perching and nesting (e.g., nesting platforms).
 - When collisions cannot be reduced by another method such as line marking or managing surrounding lands, the configuration of an existing line can sometimes be changed to minimize collisions. Options for changes might include: 1) lowering the height of the lines (e.g., below the tree line); 2) changing the wire diameter; 3) bundling wires; 4) using spacers to improve visibility; 5) rearranging wire configuration (e.g., converting from vertical to horizontal); 6) changing the structure type to increase its visibility; or 7) decreasing span length (e.g., by adding a pole mid-span).
 - Consider construction, placement, and monitoring of nest boxes for cavity-nesting

species (e.g., bluebirds, swallows, chickadees, wrens) to enhance avian populations, as well as bats and flying squirrels.

- We recommend limiting any increase in lighting of native habitats during the avian breeding season through the following actions:
 - To the maximum extent practicable, limit construction activities to the time between dawn and dusk to avoid illumination of adjacent habitat areas.
 - If construction activity time restrictions are not possible, use down shielding or directional lighting to avoid light trespass into wildlife habitat. To the maximum extent possible, while allowing for public safety, low intensity lighting should be used.
 - Eliminate the use of steady burning lights on tall structures (e.g., greater than 200 feet in height).

From: [Mandy Bohnenblust](#)
To: [Baird, Owen \(DNR\)](#); [Drew Janke \(MP\)](#); [Dan Flo](#)
Cc: [Parson, Jessica \(DNR\)](#); [Bump, Samantha \(DNR\)](#); [Musiak, Sophia \(DNR\)](#)
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: MR-C HVTL MNDNR Comments
Date: Friday, October 31, 2025 7:30:40 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Hi Owen,

Thank you for providing these detailed early coordination comments. The Notice Plan Area shapefile we sent on October 7th does avoid Glendalough State Park. The Cuyuna Recreation Area is within the Notice Plan Area; however, the proposed alignment will avoid it.

We have the publicly available data for calcareous fens, SOBs, NPCs, WMAs, and AMAs and will continue to incorporate the DNR's recommendations in the routing process. Do you have a shapefile of the mineral potential and aggregate resources that we could use for planning purposes?

The project will submit a request through MCE to help inform the route selection and to understand requirements and recommendations to avoid impacts to state-sensitive resources. We appreciate the information regarding northern long-eared bat roost trees and will coordinate/support consultation with USFWS as necessary.

As we move forward with the routing process, we would appreciate the opportunity to provide you all with updates and to receive additional feedback. We're planning to meet with representatives from Lands & Minerals in the next month or so and would like to meet with you again in early 2026 as the Project gets closer to a potential proposed route.

Thanks,

Mandy Bohnenblust
612.746.3677 direct
612.816.2097 mobile
mandy.bohnenblust@merjent.com



1 Main Street SE, Suite 300
Minneapolis, MN 55414
612.746.3660 main
www.merjent.com

From: Baird, Owen (DNR) <owen.baird@state.mn.us>

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 3:09 PM

To: Drew Janke (MP) <djanke@mnpower.com>; Dan Flo <dan.flo@merjent.com>; Mandy Bohnenblust <mandy.bohnenblust@merjent.com>

Cc: Parson, Jessica (DNR) <jessica.parson@state.mn.us>; Bump, Samantha (DNR) <samantha.bump@state.mn.us>; Musiak, Sophia (DNR) <Sophia.Musiak@state.mn.us>

Subject: EXTERNAL: MR-C HVTL MNDNR Comments

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Drew Janke,

Please find attached Minnesota DNR early coordination comments on the Maple River – Cuyuna 345 kV HVTL Project. Note that this review covers the larger number of route options provided this summer, and we acknowledge that the potential routes have been refined since then. We will provide additional review and comments as route options are refined. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Owen

Owen Baird

Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist | Ecological and Water Resources

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Phone: 218-580-0381

owen.baird@state.mn.us

mndnr.gov



**Ecological and Water Resources
2115 Birchmont Beach Rd NE
Bemidji, MN 56601**

October 16, 2025

Drew Janke
Minnesota Power
30 West Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802
djanke@mnpower.com

Comments on Maple River – Cuyuna 345 kV HVTL Project

Greetings Drew Janke,

Thank you for engaging with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) in early coordination during the development of the Maple River – Cuyuna 345 kV High Voltage Transmission Line Project. We appreciate your commitment to identifying a route that minimizes impacts on natural resources. We submit the following comments for your consideration as you further develop and evaluate route options. Please note that these comments are not fully comprehensive but focus on areas of significant resource concerns. We will offer additional specific guidance as route options are refined.

Areas with Significant Resource Concerns

State Parks and Recreation Areas

Glendalough State Park in Otter Tail County has had an existing transmission line and corresponding right-of-way since the park's inception. Expanding the easement and installing larger towers will add to the detrimental effects that the park is experiencing, as outlined below:

- Glendalough was developed to provide a more primitive experience than other state parks, with cart-in and canoe-in camping and the state's first Heritage Fishery. Both the existing transmission lines and, even more so, the proposed line are at odds with that experience. The existing line passes through the center of the park's picnic area.
- Glendalough has significant cultural resources, including a burial mound that the existing route has already impacted. Additional cultural sites are likely present within the park.
- Glendalough has a small amount of native prairie and large amounts of high-quality restored prairie. Both the construction of the structures and the widening of the ROW increase the potential for invasive

species. Parks and Trails staff have already taken over much of the maintenance of the ROW for Otter Tail Power to minimize the risk of invasive species. The transmission lines also present a hazard with prescribed burns used to manage the prairie. The existing lines pass through the center of Glendalough's 9 acres of native prairie.

- There are rare Native Plant Communities along much of the existing power line corridor within the park, and several old-growth oak trees are at the edge of the current easement and would be lost if the ROW were expanded. The existing transmission lines pass through a high-quality wetland and cross a creek popular for kayaking, canoeing, and tubing.
- Glendalough currently hosts about 120,000 visitors a year. This project would be unpopular locally but also generate a great deal of concern statewide. Due to a limited land base between the park's lakes, we do not see any alternative routes through the park.

MN DNR also recommends avoiding the Cuyuna State Recreation Area in Crow Wing County due to significant recreational, historic, and natural resources present within the Recreation Area. The installation of additional utility corridors within the recreation area would impact trails and user groups.

Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas

Minnesota's Scientific and Natural Areas (SNA) are established for the purpose of preserving, protecting, and managing lands or waters possessing inherent natural values, sites of scientific value, habitats of rare or endangered species of plants and animals. Activities that could harm the resources in an SNA are generally prohibited.

- Bluestem Prairie SNA (Clay Co.) and Richard M. and Mathilde Rice Elliot SNA (Wilkin Co.) – These units are areas of Outstanding Biodiversity Significance. These SNA is set back from the existing transmission line. ROW expansion beyond existing disturbed lands should be avoided in these areas.
- Badoura Jack Pine Woodland SNA (Hubbard Co.) – There is an existing transmission line through the SNA, however, expansion of the ROW within the SNA would be restricted.

Calcareous Fens

Calcareous fens are rare and distinctive peat-accumulating wetlands. They depend on a constant supply of upwelling groundwater rich in calcium and other minerals. Calcareous fens are protected by Minnesota Statute 103G.223 and Minnesota Administrative Rule 8420.0935 which require that calcareous fens must not be impacted or otherwise altered or degraded, wholly or partially, by any action. Because of this dependence on groundwater hydrology, calcareous fens can be affected by activity up to several miles away. As project plans are further developed, we recommend continued consultation with MN DNR to review potential impacts to groundwater and calcareous fens.

Other Considerations

Habitat fragmentation is one of the largest threats to wildlife. We encourage prioritizing the avoidance of natural areas that would require vegetation and tree removal or ground disturbance in shoreland, prairies, and wetlands. If recommended avoidance areas cannot feasibly be avoided, please consult with us on methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Some ways to mitigate impacts include limiting the amount of new utility corridors as much as possible and consolidating new and existing infrastructure to reduce the amount of additional ROW along existing corridors. DNR encourages the implementation of these mitigation strategies, particularly in ecologically sensitive areas.

Minnesota Biological Survey Sites of Biodiversity Significance

Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) has identified one or more Sites of Biodiversity Significance within or adjacent to the project. Sites of Biodiversity Significance have varying levels of native biodiversity and are ranked based on the relative significance of this biodiversity at a statewide level. Factors taken into account during the ranking process include the number of rare species documented within the site, the quality of the native plant communities in the site, the size of the site, and the context of the site within the landscape. A site's biodiversity significance rank is based on the presence of rare species populations, the size and condition of native plant communities, and the site's landscape context. If a site of biodiversity significance cannot be avoided, the ranking system should be used to guide route selection.

- *Outstanding* – sites contain the best occurrence of the rarest species, the most outstanding examples of the rarest native plant communities, and/or the largest, most ecologically intact or functional landscapes.
- *High* – sites contain very good quality occurrences of the rarest species, high-quality examples of rare native plant communities, and/or important functional landscapes
- *Moderate* – sites contain occurrences of rare species, moderately disturbed native plant communities, and/or landscapes that have strong potential for recovery of native plant communities and characteristic ecological processes.
- *Below* – sites lack occurrences of rare species and natural features or do not meet MBS standards for outstanding, high, or moderate rank. These sites may include areas of conservation value at the local level, such as habitat for native plants and animals, corridors for animal movement, buffers surrounding higher-quality natural areas, areas with high potential for restoration of native habitat, or open space.

DNR Native Plant Communities

DNR Native Plant Communities (NPCs) have been documented within the vicinity of the proposed project. A native plant community is a group of native plants that interact with each other and with their environment in ways not greatly altered by modern human activity or by introduced organisms. Native plant communities are classified and described by considering vegetation, hydrology, landforms, soils, and natural disturbance regimes. DNR NPC types are given a Conservation Status Rank that reflects the relative rarity and endangerment of the community type in Minnesota. Conservation Status Ranks range from S1 (critically imperiled) to S5 (secure,

common, widespread, and abundant); NPCs with a Conservation Status Rank of S1 through S3 are considered rare in Minnesota. The DNR recommends avoidance of rare NPCs (ranked S1-S3).

MN DNR Managed Areas

There are several Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) within or adjacent to the route corridors. WMAs should be avoided to preserve the site's ecological integrity and ensure the continuation of management and recreational activities, such as hunting, prescribed fire, and nature viewing. Many WMAs have Federal Aid interests. State Aquatic Management Areas (AMAs) are also located within or near potential routes, usually on aquatic resources. Like WMAs, some AMAs also have Federal Aid interests. Note that Bucks Mill Pond AMA near Detroit Lakes is used for fish rearing. Several Designated Trout Streams are near the potential routes, see listing in the Appendix.

The north and east portions of potential routes include several State Forests, including the Foothills State Forest, Badoura State Forest, and Huntersville State Forest. Routes should avoid State Forests to limit impact to forest management, timber production, and diverse public recreation. Designated old-growth forest stands are found within some of the State Forests and should be avoided. State Forest lands usually do not have Federal acquisition funding.

Mineral Potential and Aggregate Resources

Aggregate resources on state-administered lands - Parcels with moderate or high aggregate (sand and gravel) potential would need to be addressed and discussed for the final route. MN DNR requests that these resources not be encumbered or that they would need compensation if they must be encumbered. Parcels with high aggregate potential include a few small state parcels north and east of Detroit Lakes in Becker Co, a parcel north of Staples, and a parcel in the Foothills State Forest in Cass County, and one parcel in Wilkin Co. Moderate aggregate potential areas include The Crow Wing WMA/Huntersville State Forest in Hubbard and Wadena counties, Foothills and Pillsbury State Forests in Cass County, the Cuyuna Recreation Area in Crow Wing Co., some smaller parcels near Barnesville in Wilkin and Clay counties, and some parcels around Detroit Lakes.

Mineral potential - Areas with mineral potential will require a more detailed review and discussion about which parcels may be affected by the final route. Areas with mineral potential include much of the possible routes in Clay and Becker counties, the route from around Pillager in Cass County to the Cuyuna area, and some smaller sections of routes in Cass and Hubbard counties.

Endangered or Threatened Species

A Natural Heritage Review Request must be submitted for the project through the [Minnesota Conservation Explorer](#) to ensure compliance with state law and to receive formal guidance on endangered, threatened, and species of special concern. The presence of Species in Greatest Conservation Need that are not state-protected or federally listed will also inform route placement recommendations and should be incorporated into route evaluation and selection.

The eastern portion of the proposed routes (Cass and Crow Wing counties) is near waterbodies and upland areas where Blanding's turtles, a state-threatened species, have been documented. Route planning should consider wetland impacts in these areas. Corridor expansion that eliminates or disturbs wetland habitat should be avoided where feasible. Activities that impact wetland habitats or associated upland nesting areas could require additional avoidance and mitigation plans to prevent impacts to Blanding's turtles.

Northern long-eared bat (Federally endangered) roost trees have been identified in Sections T138 R31 S10 & S11. Route planning will need to avoid roost tree locations. Additional Northern long-eared bat guidance will be provided through consultation with the USFWS.

Licenses, Permits, Approvals

Where the utility line crosses public waters or DNR-administered land, a [Utility Crossing License](#) from the MN DNR Division of Lands and Minerals is required. Please note that if there are state lands with federal interests or funding restrictions, the process for review and approval can take additional time, and may impact routing or require alternatives to be considered. Additionally, a [Public Waters Work Permit](#) may be required for activities that affect public waters. A [Water Appropriations Permit](#) is required if the water use exceeds 10,000 gallons in a day, or one million gallons in one year.

WMAs, MBS sites, and DNR native plant community locations, and other resource information can be viewed through the [Minnesota Conservation Explorer](#) or downloaded via the [MN Geospatial Commons](#). If avoidance of these high-value natural resource areas is not feasible, please work with MN DNR staff on measures to minimize and mitigate impacts. Habitat preservation should be prioritized on and near public lands and waters, including wildlife management areas, state parks, and SNAs.

Sincerely,



Owen Baird
Northwest Regional Environmental Assessment
Ecologist



Jessica Parson
Northeast Regional Environmental Assessment
Ecologist

CC: Dan Flo, Merjent
Mandy Bohnenblust, Merjent
Samantha Bump, MN DNR Energy Planner

Equal Opportunity Employer

APPENDIX: Maple River – Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project: significant features within 3-mile potential routing options corridors.

Becker County

- **WMA**
 - o Lowe WMA
 - o Frank WMA
 - o Boyer Lake WMA
 - o Schultz Lake WMA
 - o Lunde WMA
 - o Stenseth WMA
 - o Bruce J. Schwartz WMA
- **AMA**
 - o Hungry Lake AMA
 - o Ida Island AMA
 - o Little Cormorant Lake AMA
 - o Toad River AMA
 - o Bucks Mill AMA
 - o Little Cormorant Lake AMA
 - o Little Toad Lake AMA
 - o Marshall Lake AMA
 - o Red Eye River FMA
 - o Bucks Mill AMA
 - o Sucker Creek AMA
 - o Long Lake AMA
 - o Red Eye River FMA
 - o Melissa Lake AMA
 - o Dead Horse Creek AMA
 - o Little Floyd Lake AMA
 - o Maud Lake AMA
 - o Hungry Lake AMA
 - o Sucker Creek AMA
 - o Floyd Lake AMA
 - o Bucks Mill AMA
 - o Maud Lake AMA
- **Calcareous Fen** (none in the potential route, but very close)
 - o Hamden 36
 - o Anderson WPA
- **Major Public Waters**
 - o Toad River
 - o Otter Tail River
 - o Pelican River
 - o Kettle River
 - o Lake Melissa
 - o Big Cormorant Lake
 - o Little Cormorant Lake
 - o Wolf Lake
- **Trout Streams**
 - o Dead Horse Creek
 - o Sucker Creek
 - o Toad River
 - o Unnamed Creek (Over 90)
- **MN Prairie Conservation Plan**
 - o Prairie Plan Core: Wauburn

Cass County

- **WMA**
 - o Pillager Ricer Bed WMA
- **Major Public Waters**
 - o Pine River
 - o Gull River
 - o Sylvan Lake
- **Trout Streams**
 - o Farnham Creek
 - o Cedar Creek
 - o Dabill Creek
 - o Pine River
- **State Forests**
 - o Foot Hills State Forest
 - o Pillsbury State Forest

Clay County

- **WMA**
 - o Hawley WMA
- **SNA**
 - o Bluestem Prairie SNA
- **Calcareous Fen**
 - o Haugtvedt WPA South Unit
- **Major Public Waters**
 - o Buffalo River
 - o Stony Creek
 - o Whisky Creek
- **Prairie Bank Easement**
 - o Rogers NPB

Crow Wing County

- **WMA**
 - o Lowell WMA
 - o Mission Lake WMA
- **AMA**
 - o White Sand Lake AMA
 - o Gilbert Lake AMA
 - o Bertha Moody AMA
 - o Pelican Lake AMA
 - o Cuyuna Country AMA
 - o Edward Lake FMA
 - o Little Pelican Lake AMA
 - o North Long Lake AMA
 - o North Long Lake AMA
- **Major Public Waters**
 - o Mississippi River
 - o Upper Cullen Lake
 - o Pelican Lake
 - o Rabbit River
 - o North Long Lake
 - o Ironton Creek
 - o Lake Edward
- **State Trails**
 - o Paul Bunyan State Trail
- **State Parks/Rec Areas**
 - o Cuyuna Country State Rec Area
- **Old Growth Forest**

- o 3 Designated Old Growth Forests
- **State Forest**
 - o Crow Wing State Forests

Hubbard County

- **WMA**
 - o Lowe WMA
 - o Crow Wing Chain WMA
- **SNA**
 - o Badoura Jack Pine Woodland
- **AMA**
 - o Sixth Crow Wing AMA
 - o Fifth Crow Wing AMA
 - o Straight River AMA
 - o First Crow Wing AMA
- **Major Public Waters**
 - o Shell River
 - o First, Second, Third, Fifth and Sixth Crow Wing Lake
 - o Crow Wing River
 - o Badoura Bog
 - o Long Lake
- **Trout Streams**
 - o Wallingford Brook
 - o Hellcamp Creek
 - o Muckey Creek
 - o Straight River
- **State Forests**
 - o Badoura State Forest
 - o Huntersville State Forest
- **Old Growth Forest**
 - o 2 designated Old Growth Forests

Otter Tail County

- **WMA**
 - o Haarstick WMA
 - o Scambler WMA
 - o Fergus Falls WMA
- **AMA**
 - o Lake Seven AMA
 - o Little Pelican Lake AMA
 - o Leek/Towbridge Lake AMA
 - o Pelican Lake FMA
 - o Brandberg Creek AMA
 - o Franklin Lake AMA
 - o Lake Six AMA
 - o Jewett Lake AMA
 - o North Turtle Lake AMA
 - o Fish Lake AMA
- **Calcareous Fens**
 - o Henning 18
 - o Haugtvedt WPA South Unit
- **Major Public Waters**
 - o South Buffalo Creek
 - o Pelican River
 - o Otter Tail River
- **Trout Streams**
 - o Brandberg Creek
 - o Pelican Lake
 - o Willow Creek
 - o West Battle Lake
 - o Rush Lake Creek
 - o Otter Tail River

- Pelican River
- **State Trail**
 - Central Lakes State Trail
- **State Park**
 - Glendalough State Park
- **MN Prairie Conservation Plan**
 - Rothsay Prairie - Lake Christina
 - Blanket Flower Prairie
 - Agassiz Beach Ridges

Wadena County

- **Major Public Waters**
 - Crow Wing River
 - Shell River
 - Blueberry River
 - Kettle River
 - Wing River
 - Partridge River
 - Lower Twin
 - Blueberry Lake
- **Trout Streams**
 - Union Creek
 - Hay Creek
- **State Forest**
 - Huntersville State Forest

Wilkin County

- **WMA**
 - Manston Marsh WMA
 - Akron WMA
 - Rothsay WMA: Rothsay Swamp Unit
 - Rothsay WMA: Akron Unit 4 (touches the corner)
- **SNA**
 - Richard M and Mathilda Rice Elliot
- **Calcareous Fens**
 - Town Hall Prairies
 - Anna Gronseth Prairie - Akron 10
 - Rothsay WMA - Akron 4
 - Rothsay Prairie Tanberg 16
 - Rothsay Prairie Tanberg 9
 - Rothsay Prairie - Prairie View 33
- **Major Public Water**
 - Buffalo River
- **MN Prairie Conservation Plan**
 - Blanket Flower Prairie
 - Agassiz Beach Ridges
 - Rothsay
 - Agassiz Beach Ridges - Rothsay Prairie
 - ABR - Rothsay Prairie - Big Stone Moraine
- **Prairie Bank Easement**
 - Atherton 5-1 NPB
 - More in between the route options

AUDUBON TOWNSHIP

CHAIRMAN: LUKE LANGERUD
CLERK: MISSE PASKEY TREASURER: JAY MEACHAM
SUPERVISORS: PETE ANDERSON & JAKE HEIN

To Whom It May Concern:

Subject: **Formal Opposition to Proposed High-Voltage Transmission Line Installation**

On behalf of the residents of Audubon Township, we are writing to formally express our strong opposition to the proposed installation of a high-voltage transmission line through our township. As Township Supervisor's, it is both our responsibility and obligation to give voice to the concerns of our constituents. Concerns that are grounded in real, measurable risks to our environment, agricultural economy, public safety, and long-term community wellbeing.

First and foremost, the environmental implications of this project are of great concern. The proposed transmission line threatens the delicate balance of our local ecosystems. Not least of which would be one of the nation's premier ornithological wonders, the Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuge which resides in our township and draws birding enthusiasts from all over the region to our township. Our region supports diverse populations of birds, many of which are migratory species whose paths would be disrupted or endangered by the proposed overhead power lines. Scientific research clearly indicates that large transmission structures pose a significant collision risk and have lasting impacts on habitat quality.

The agricultural impact cannot be overstated. Our township is home to numerous family-owned farms whose viability depends on uninterrupted land use, soil health, and animal wellbeing. The presence of high-voltage infrastructure introduces electromagnetic fields (EMFs), which have been linked to behavioral and reproductive concerns in livestock, particularly cattle. Beyond that, the physical footprint of the towers and the maintenance corridors will remove productive acreage from operation, disrupt drainage systems, and reduce property values for farmers and residents alike.

Our community is also gravely concerned about public safety. High-voltage transmission lines carry inherent risks, including the potential for fire ignition, long-term exposure to EMFs, and increased vulnerability during extreme weather events. Emergency access, aerial spraying, and local road infrastructure could all be negatively affected by this project.

Economically, the proposed installation offers little benefit to our township while placing the burden of risk squarely on the shoulders of local landowners. Property devaluation, potential damage to existing farm infrastructure, and disruption to rural tourism and small business growth are just a few of the anticipated consequences. This project would fundamentally alter the character of our rural landscape and undermine decades of work done to preserve the integrity and prosperity of our farming community.

In conclusion, the proposed high-voltage transmission line does not serve the best interests of Audubon Township or its people. We strongly urge the relevant authorities and decision-makers to consider alternative routes or technologies that minimize the impact on rural communities. We request that this letter of opposition be entered into the official public record for all hearings and reviews related to the proposed transmission line.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our community's concerns.

Respectfully,
Audubon Township Board

APPENDIX M

MAPLE RIVER – CUYUNA 345 KV
TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

PUBLIC OUTREACH MATERIALS

INDEX

June 2025 Open Houses

- June 2025 Open House Posters
- June 2025 Open House Postcard
- June 2025 General Project Fact Sheet
- June 2025 ROW Process Fact Sheet
- June 2025 Open House Tabletop Map Set
- June 2025 Open House Invitation Email to Agencies
- June 2025 Open House Invitation Email to Tribal Nations
- June 2025 Virtual Meeting Presentation
- June 2025 Press Release
- June 2025 Social Media Post
- June 2025 Comment Form

October 2025 Open Houses

- October 2025 Open House Posters
- October 2025 Open House Postcard
- October 2025 General Project Fact Sheet
- October 2025 ROW Process Fact Sheet
- October 2025 Open House Tabletop Map Set
- October 2025 Open House Invitation Email to Agencies
- October 2025 Open House Invitation Email to Tribal Nations
- October 2025 Virtual Meeting Presentation
- October 2025 Social Media Post
- October 2025 Comment Form

Maple River-Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project

Project Need



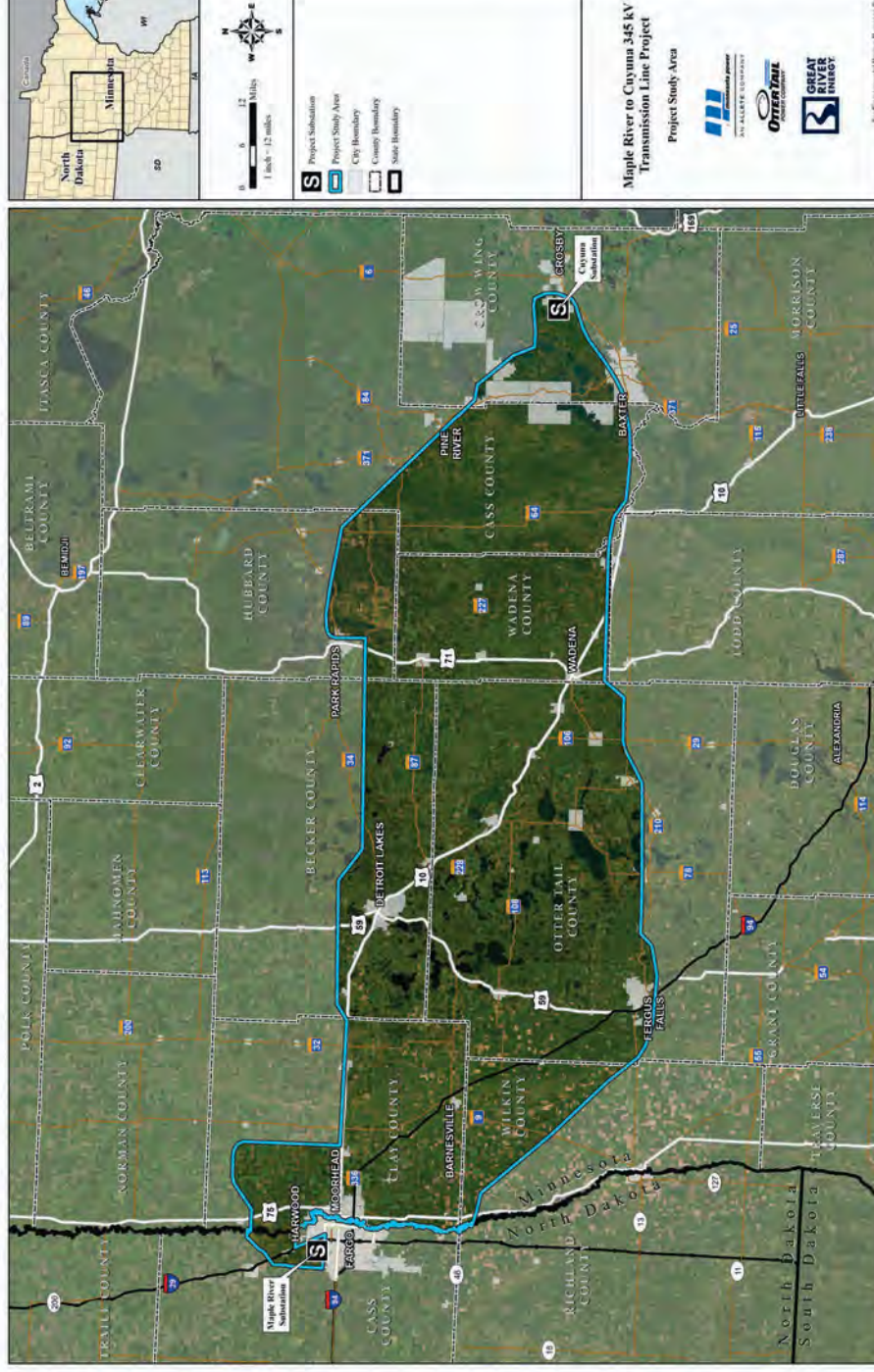
- Enhance the reliability of the regional transmission system as the way we produce and use electricity changes
- Increase transmission system capacity to reliably deliver energy from where it's produced to where it's used
- Meet growing electrical demand and enhance resiliency during extreme weather events
- Enable cost-effective regional energy transfers supporting economical grid operations



Tranche 2.1 Portfolio



Project Study Area

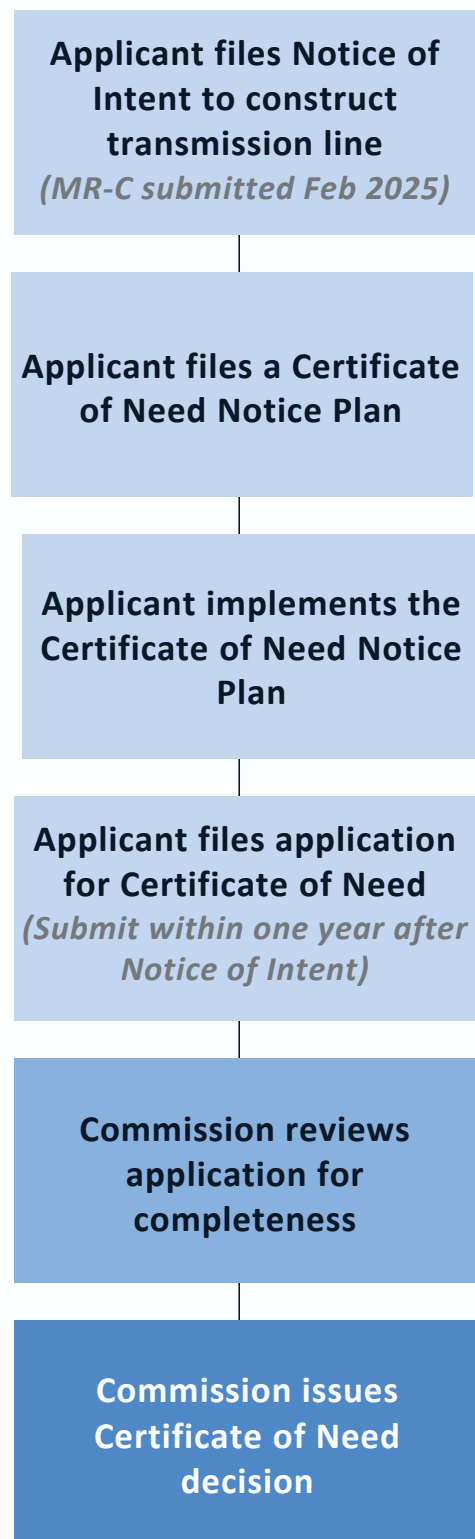


What Constraints Should We Be Aware Of?

Agricultural uses, including organic farms
Airports/air navigation facilities
Cemeteries
Communication towers
Conservation areas
Cultural/archaeological resources
Floodplains
Lakes/ponds/rivers/streams/wetlands
Levees/dams
Mines/quarries
Pipelines
Potentially contaminated sites
Railroads
Religious facilities
Residences
Scenic highways
Schools
Sensitive plant/animal species
State/regional/local parks and trails
Wells

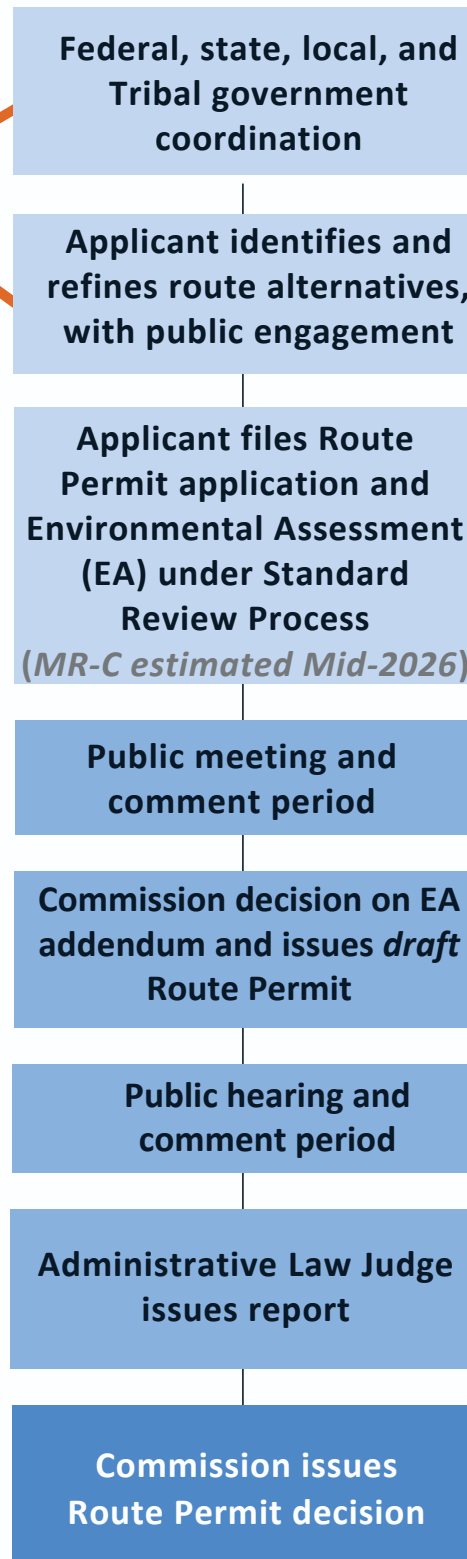
Minnesota Permitting Process

1. Certificate of Need



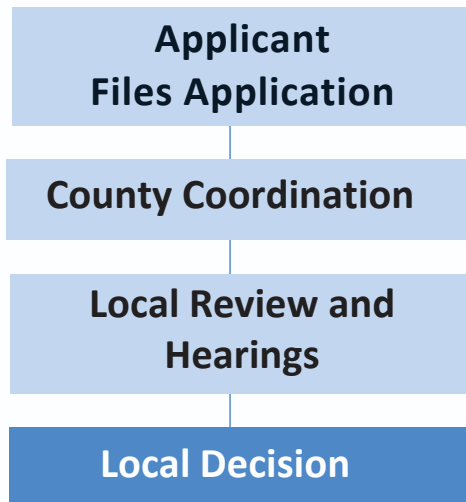
We are here

2. Route Permit

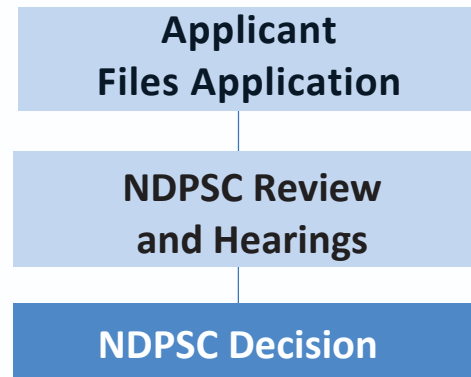


North Dakota Permitting Process

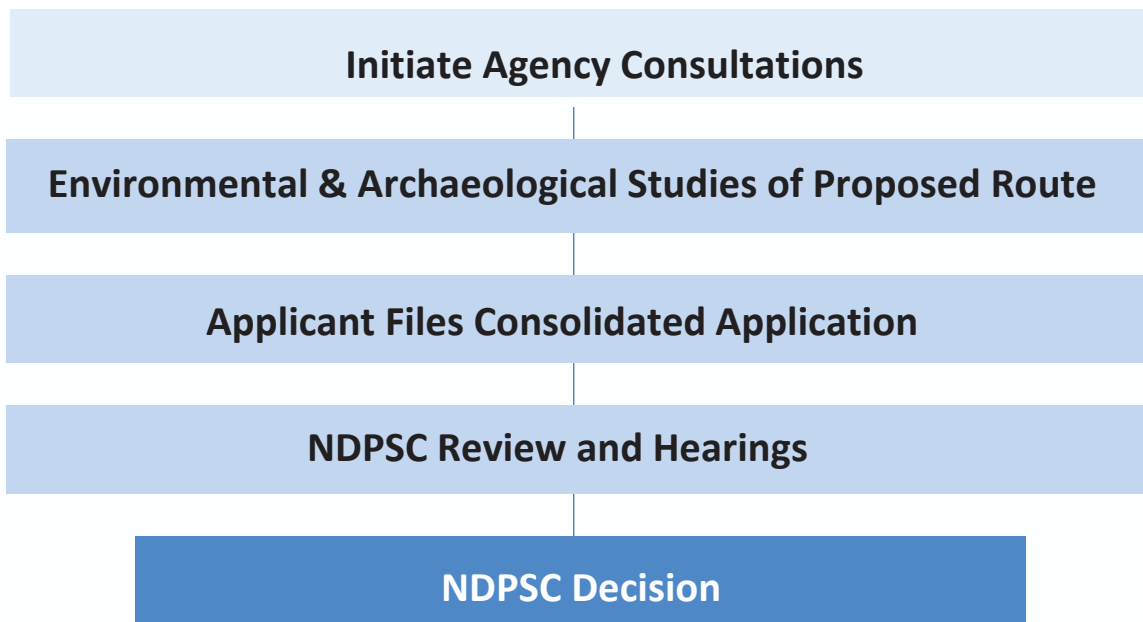
1. County/Township Land Use Permit



2. Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity - ND Public Service Commission



3. Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit - ND Public Service Commission



4. Other State and Federal Permits as Required

Project Timeline

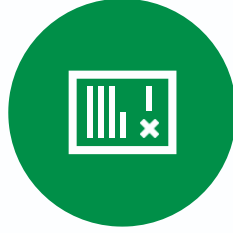
2026-2028

Permitting, engineering,
environmental surveys,
ROW acquisition, and
public engagement



2025

Stakeholder
engagement and
routing



2029-2032

Construction



2033

In-service



345 kV Transmission Line Right-of-Way Acquisition

What is a right-of-way?

A right-of-way, or ROW, is a strip of land used for a specific purpose such as the construction, operation and maintenance of a road or transmission line. Right-of-way is typically secured as an easement on a property.

What is an easement?

An agreement between the utility and the landowner allowing the utility the right to construct, operate and maintain a transmission line and other associated infrastructure on a property.

Our right-of-way acquisition process:

Project representatives will hold individual meetings with affected landowners to discuss right-of-way needs.



Landowners are contacted to begin right-of-way acquisition process.



An easement is presented to a landowner. An offer based on fair market value is presented.



We work closely with the landowner to resolve concerns and reach an agreement. An easement is recorded.



The utilities construct, operate and maintain the transmission line within the right-of-way.

Additional right-of-way needs may include:

- Construction staging areas
- Substation expansions
- Temporary access roads

Construction

Typical preconstruction and construction activities



- ▲ Initial surveying, right-of-way clearing and access routes



- ▲ Structure staking, surveying and soils investigations as needed

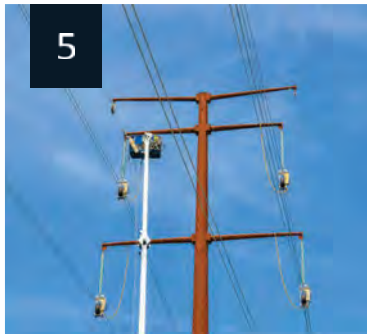


- ▲ Foundation installation

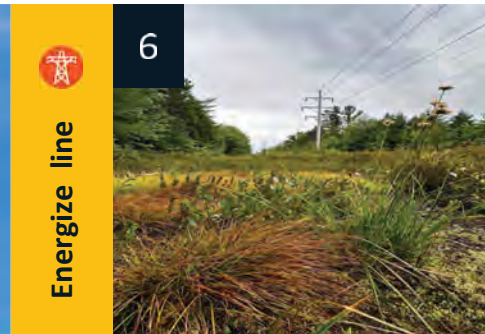
Foundation type may vary depending on structure



- ▲ Assemble and set structures



- ▲ Wire installation

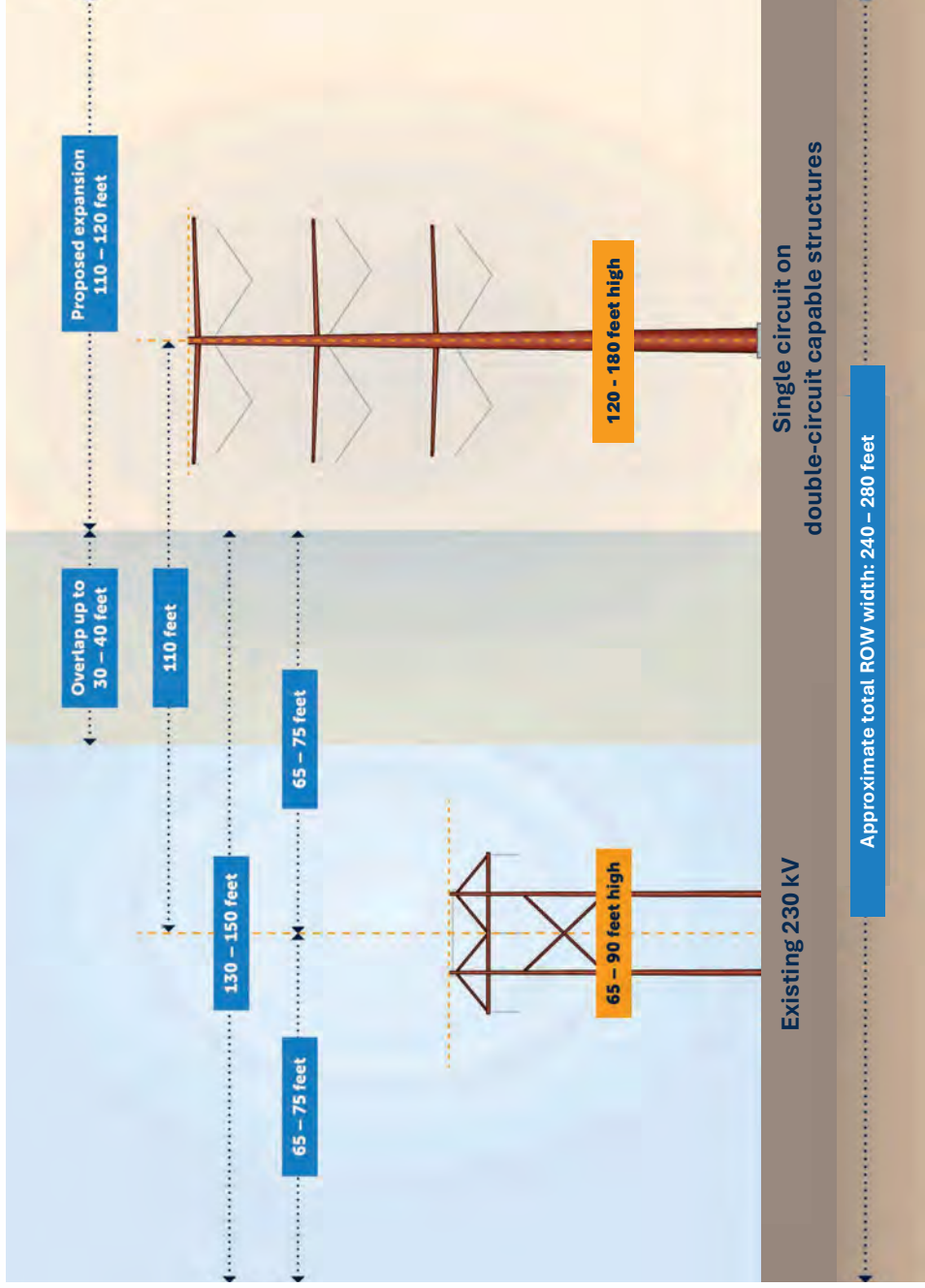


- ▲ Cleanup and restoration

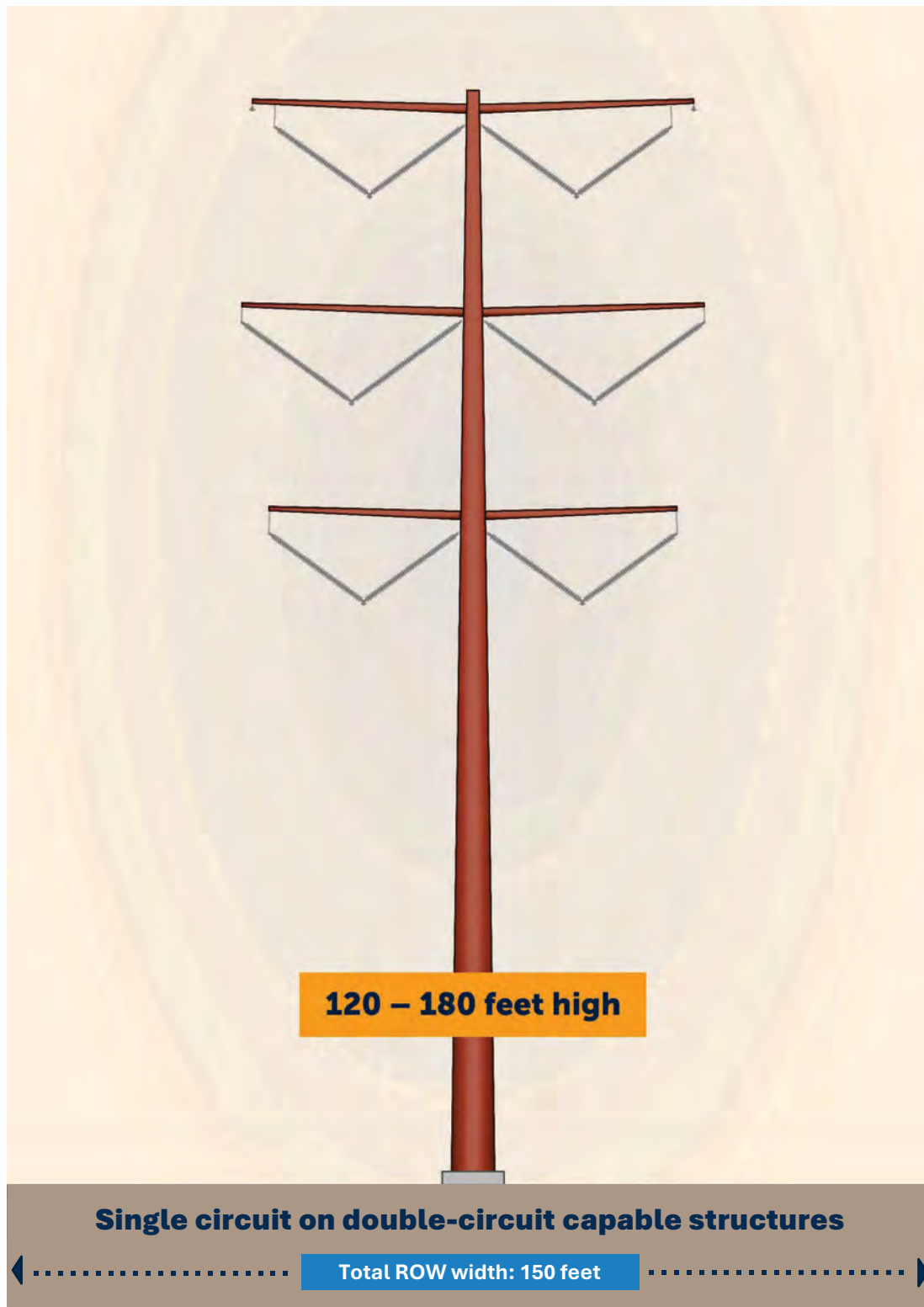
Typical preconstruction survey types:

- Field surveys
- Wildlife and plant surveys
- Archaeological surveys
- Wetland and stream surveys
- Soil surveys

Right-of-Way (ROW) Typical Construction



Right-of-Way (ROW) Typical Construction



Environmental Surveys

Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power, and Great River Energy will conduct a variety of studies and surveys during different phases of project development. These field surveys allow the project team to verify or collect new information to help minimize impacts for construction of the transmission line.

Permission will be requested to allow survey teams access to private property to conduct required field surveys. More detailed information will be provided to property owners in advance of teams conducting surveys on private property.



Possible surveys include the following, which may vary by location:

- Geotechnical
- Biological resources
- Cultural resources
- Wetland and waterbodies
- Invasive species
- Protected species
- Raptor nests

Maple River – Cuyuna
345 kV Transmission Project
OPEN HOUSES

MONDAY, JUNE 23, 1:00-3:00PM

Glyndon Community Center
212 Partridge Avenue SE
Glyndon, MN 56547

MONDAY, JUNE 23, 6:00-8:00PM

Harwood Community Center
210 Freedland Dr
Harwood, ND 58042

TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 1:00-3:00PM

Bigwood Event Center
925 Western Ave
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 6:00-8:00PM

Barnesville Event Center
102 Front Street North
Barnesville, MN 56514

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 12:00-2:00PM

MN State Community and Technical
College- Detroit Lakes Campus
900 Highway 34 E
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 5:00-7:00PM

Maslowski Wellness & Research
Center
17 5th St SW
Wadena, MN 56482

THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 1:00-3:00PM

Park Rapids American Legion Otto
Hendricks on Post 212
900 East 1st Street
Park Rapids, MN 56470

THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 6:00-8:00PM

Pine River-Backus Public High
School 401 Murray Ave
Pine River, MN 56474

MONDAY, JUNE 30, 1:00-3:00PM

The Lodge at Brainerd Lakes
6967 Lake Forest Rd
Baxter, MN 56425

MONDAY, JUNE 30, 6:00-8:00PM

Taconite Canteen & Event Center
240 Curtis Ave
Ironton, MN 56455



Project overview

Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Great River Energy (collectively the Applicants) are proposing to construct an approximately 160-mile-long, single-circuit 345 kV transmission line on double-circuit structures from Minnesota Power's Cuyuna Substation near Riverton, Minnesota to Otter Tail Power Company's Maple River Substation in eastern North Dakota.

The Maple River – Cuyuna (MR-C) Transmission Project is one in a portfolio of transmission projects approved by the regional grid operator, Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), in its 2024 Long-Range Transmission Planning portfolio. As a part of this larger portfolio, the MR-C Transmission Project will:



Enhance the reliability of the regional transmission system as the way we produce and use electricity changes



Increase transmission system capacity to reliably deliver energy from where it's produced to where it's used



Meet growing electrical demand and enhance resiliency during extreme weather events



Enable cost-effective regional energy transfers supporting economical grid operations

Schedule

2025

Stakeholder engagement and routing

2026-2028

Permitting, engineering, environmental surveys, ROW acquisition, and public engagement

2029-2032

Construction

2033

Anticipated in-service

**The schedule is subject to change.*

Regulatory process

Approximately 95% of the Project is in Minnesota and subject to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) regulatory process. In February 2025, the Applicants filed a notice of intent (NOI) with the MPUC to apply for a Certificate of Need from the State of Minnesota. Under current state regulations, the Applicants have 12 months from the date of the NOI to file the Certificate of Need application. The Applicants anticipate applying to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a Route Permit during the third quarter of 2026. Other state and federal permits will also be required depending on the final route and project design.

The remaining 5% of the Project is in North Dakota and subject to the North Dakota Public Service Commission (NDPSC) regulatory process, as well as local permitting. This process includes obtaining a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit from the NDPSC and a county/township land use permit. Other state and federal permits may also be required. The Project anticipates filing these applications with the NDPSC in 2026 to 2027.

Public involvement

Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Great River Energy will continue to gather information from the public to support the development of potential routes for the Project. There will also be additional opportunities for any interested parties to ask questions and provide comments during the permitting process.

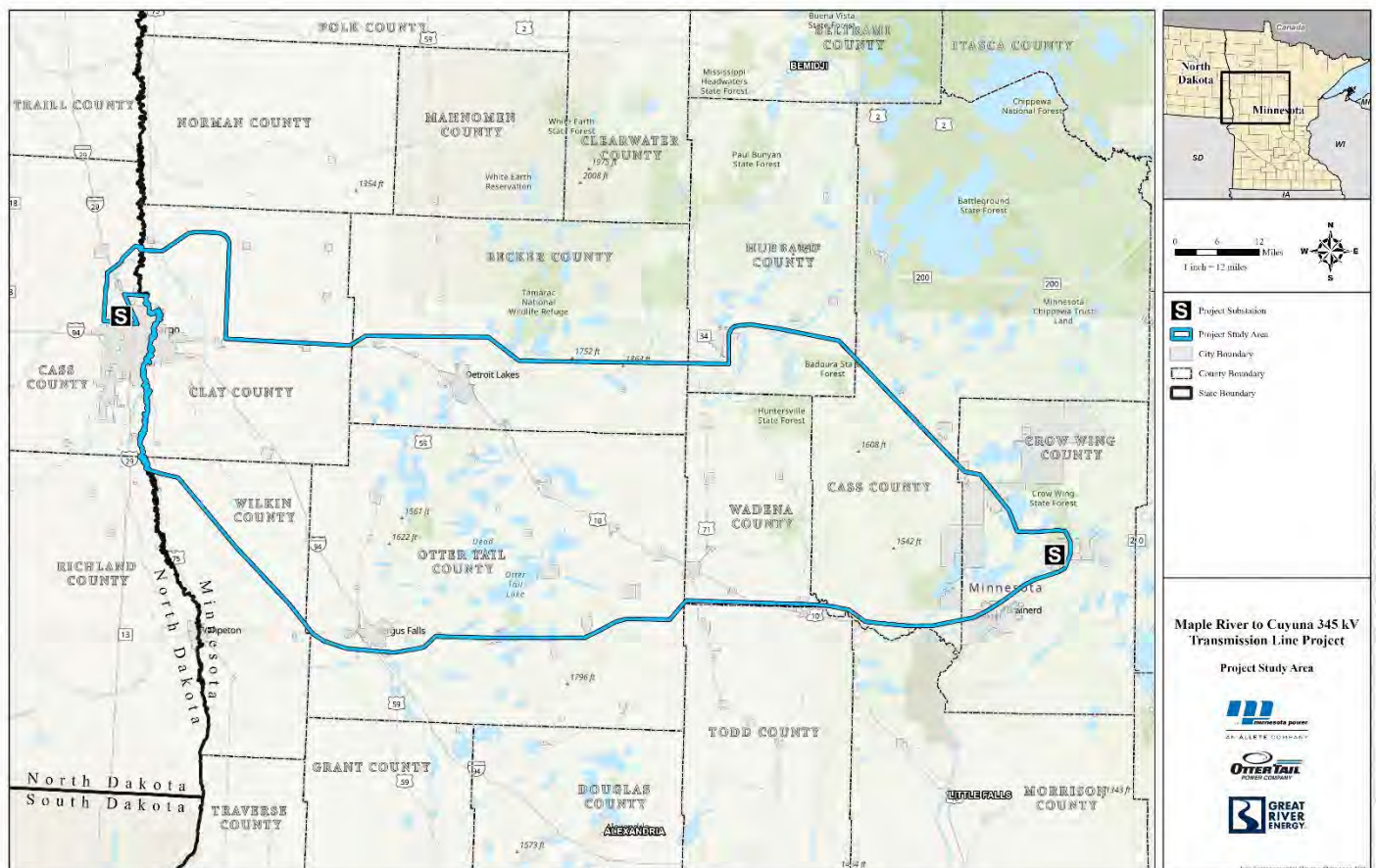
Connect with us

Stay up to date on the project by signing up for email updates or talking to a Project team member.

Website: MRCTransmissionProject.com **Email:** connect@MRCTransmissionProject.com

Phone: 1-888-419-5670

MR-C Transmission Project Study Area



Right-of-Way (ROW) Process

ROW easements allow for the safe construction, operation, and maintenance of linear infrastructure projects including transmission lines. Our team will work closely with landowners during the ROW process to introduce the project and ourselves, answer questions and solicit input, and negotiate and acquire necessary land rights.

Project representatives will contact affected landowners and hold individual meetings to discuss the ROW process, including the need for temporary right-of-entry access, negotiation and acquisition of temporary and permanent land rights, and the restoration and damage process.

1 Right-of-entry for temporary access (2026–2027)

Project representatives will reach out to impacted landowners to request temporary access to a portion of their property. This temporary access is granted through a right-of-entry agreement allowing Project team members to conduct surveys and studies to inform the routing process.

2 Easements (2026–2028)

As the route is defined, impacted landowners will be contacted to begin the ROW negotiation and easement acquisition process. An offer package will be presented to landowners based on fair market value. Our goal is to work closely with landowners to resolve concerns and reach a voluntary agreement. The easement agreement is recorded with the County Recorder.

3 Construction (2029–2032)

Project owners will construct the transmission line within the ROW while maintaining ongoing communications with landowners. Temporary roads may be needed during construction.

4 Restoration (2029–2033)

After construction, damages to crops and property will be settled through reimbursement or restoration. Project owners are responsible for maintaining the easement area.

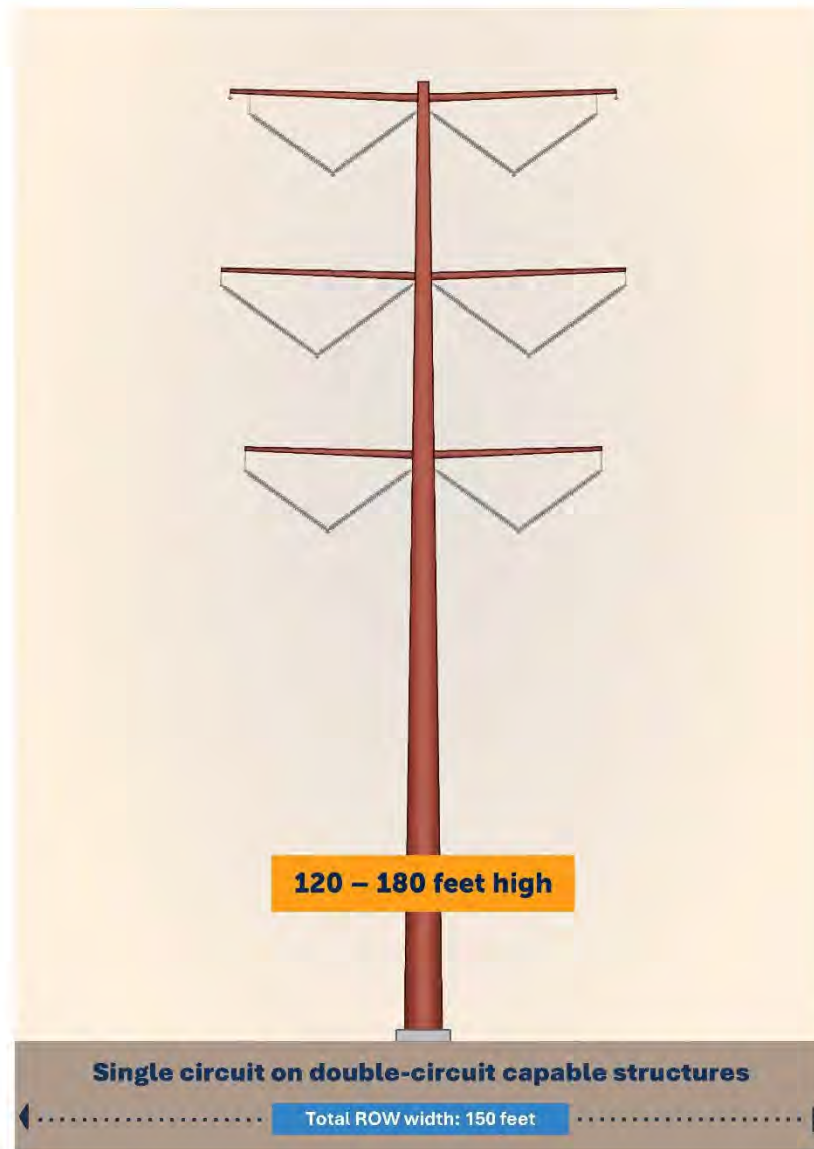
Can this Project share ROW with an existing line?

There may be opportunities to overlap the Project ROW with an existing transmission line corridor. We estimate up to 30 to 40 feet of ROW may be shared between the existing structure and the new structure depending on engineering, construction and topography.

How large of an easement is needed for the Project?

The typical width of the ROW will be a minimum of 150 feet (75 feet on each side of a transmission line). It is sometimes necessary to secure additional permanent ROW at angles or areas where specialty structures are used. It could also be necessary to secure temporary areas next to the permanent ROW for stringing and construction access. The Project team will design the route to maximize the distance of the transmission structures from homes and businesses.

Right-of-Way (ROW) Typical Construction



Connect with us

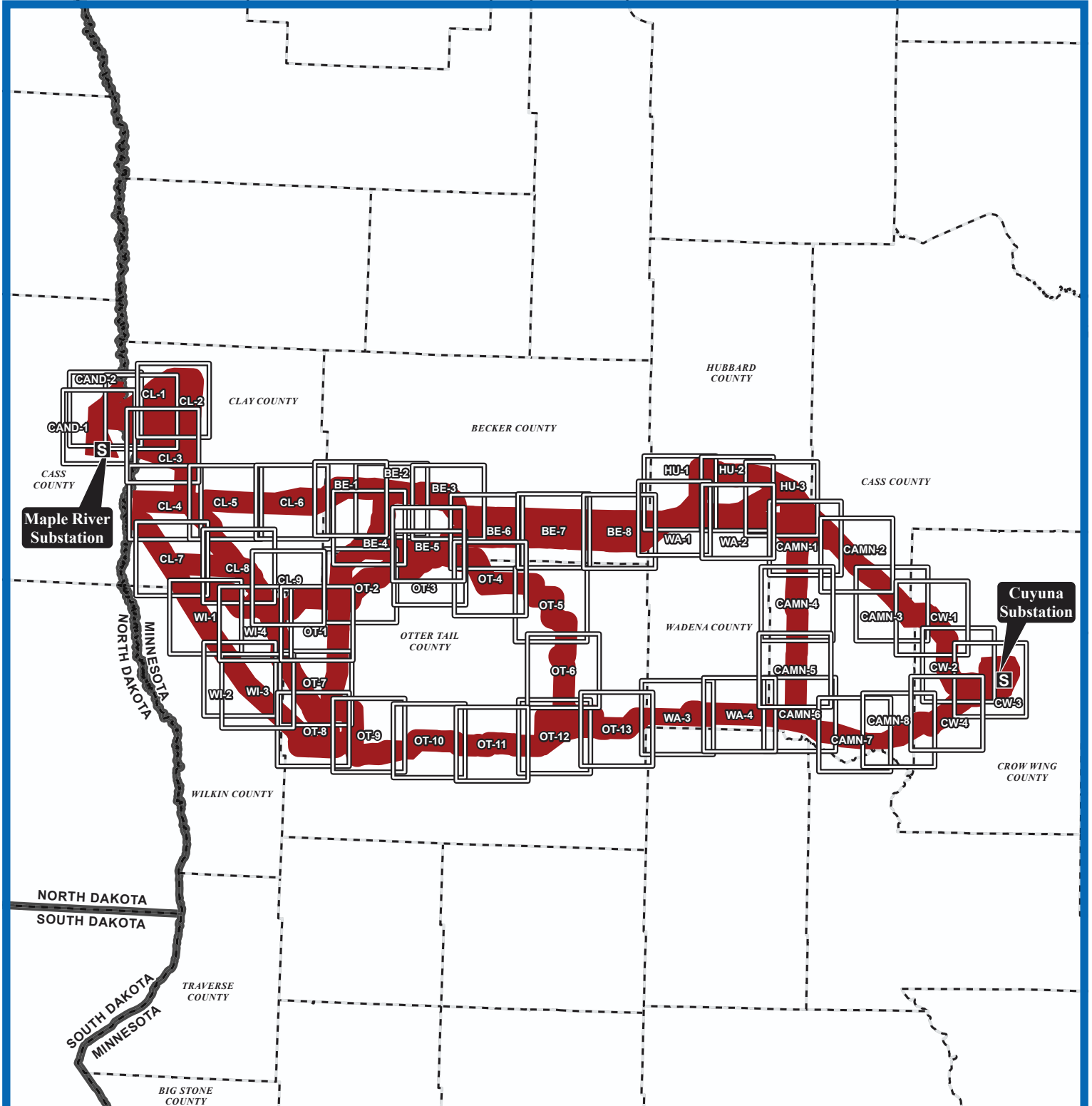
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Website: mrctransmissionproject.com

Email: connect@mrctransmissionproject.com

Phone: 1-888-419-5670

MAPLE RIVER TO CUYUNA HVTL PROJECT - OPEN HOUSE



OVERVIEW

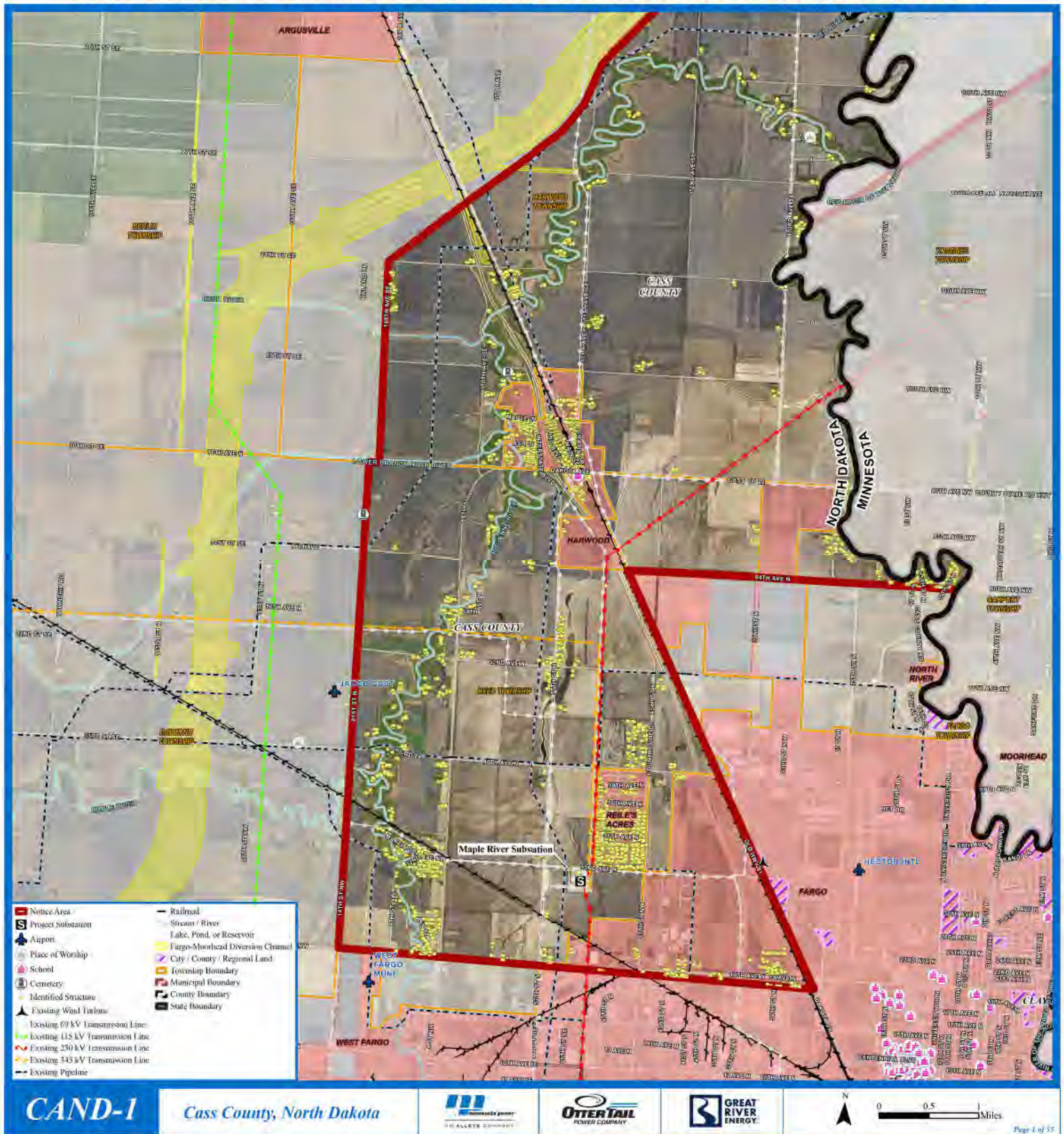
- Map Page
- Project Substation
- Notice Area
- State Boundary
- County Boundary



0 7.5 15 Miles

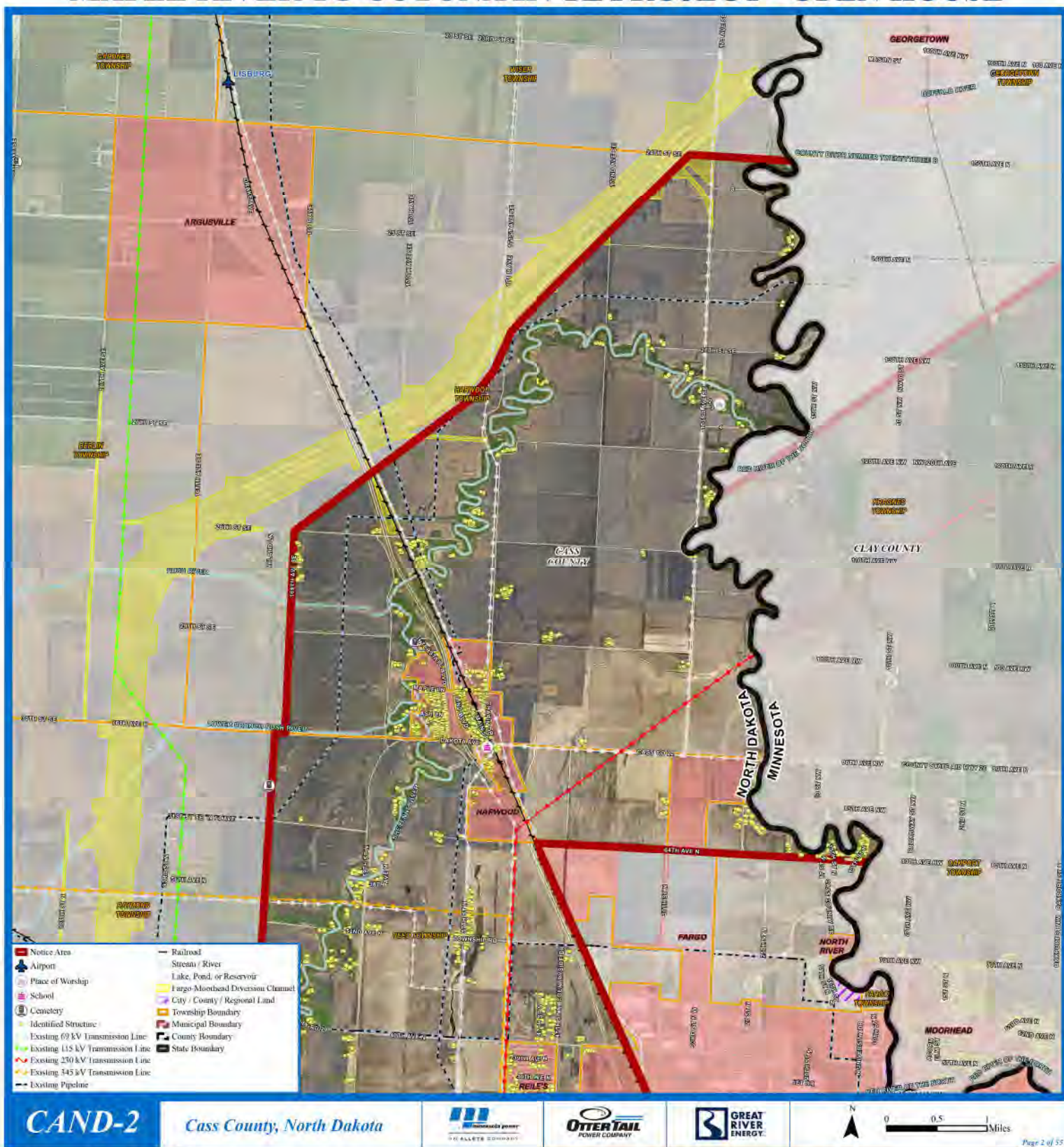
For Environmental Review Purposes Only

MAPLE RIVER TO CUYUNA HVTL PROJECT - OPEN HOUSE

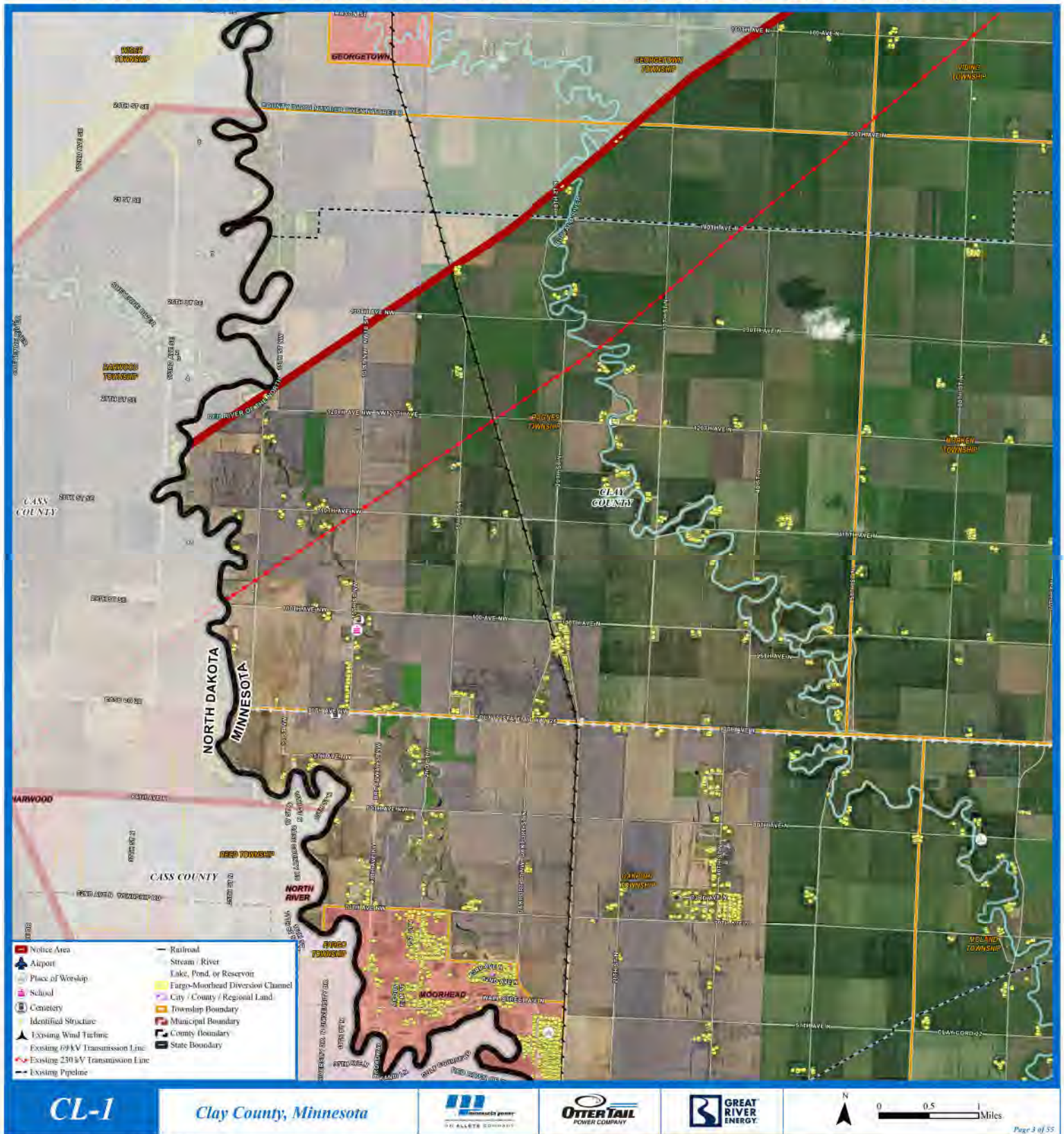


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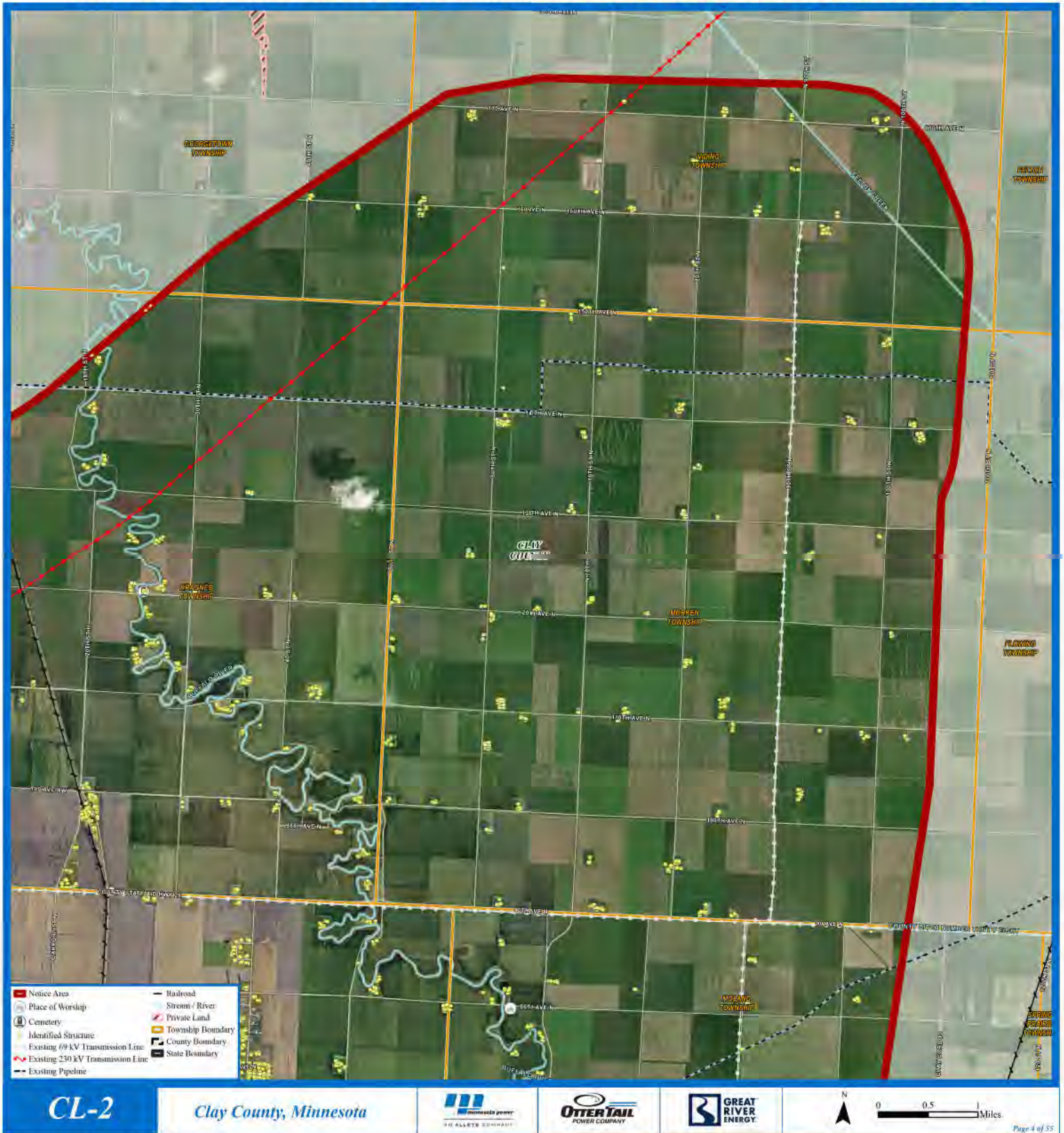


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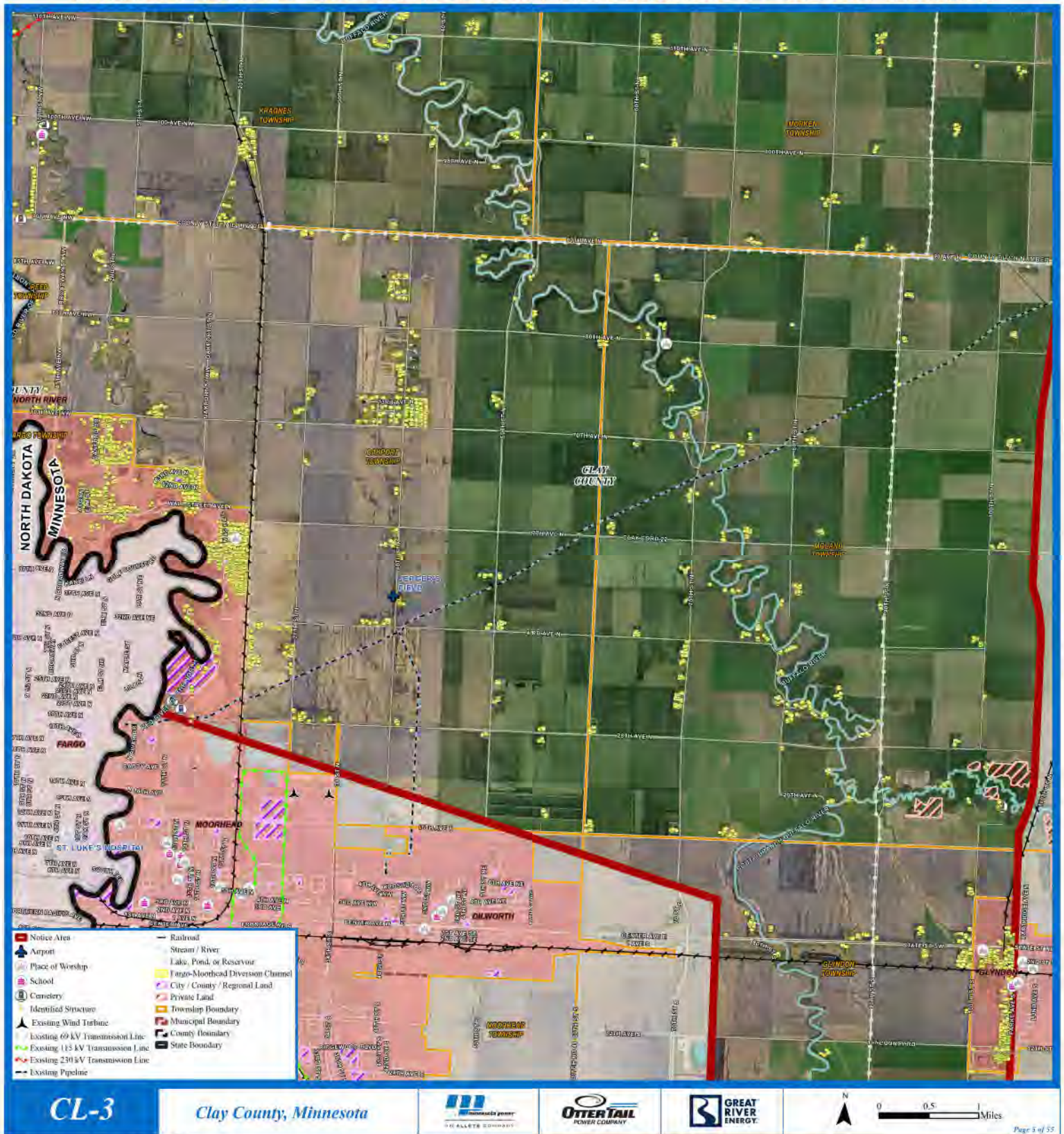


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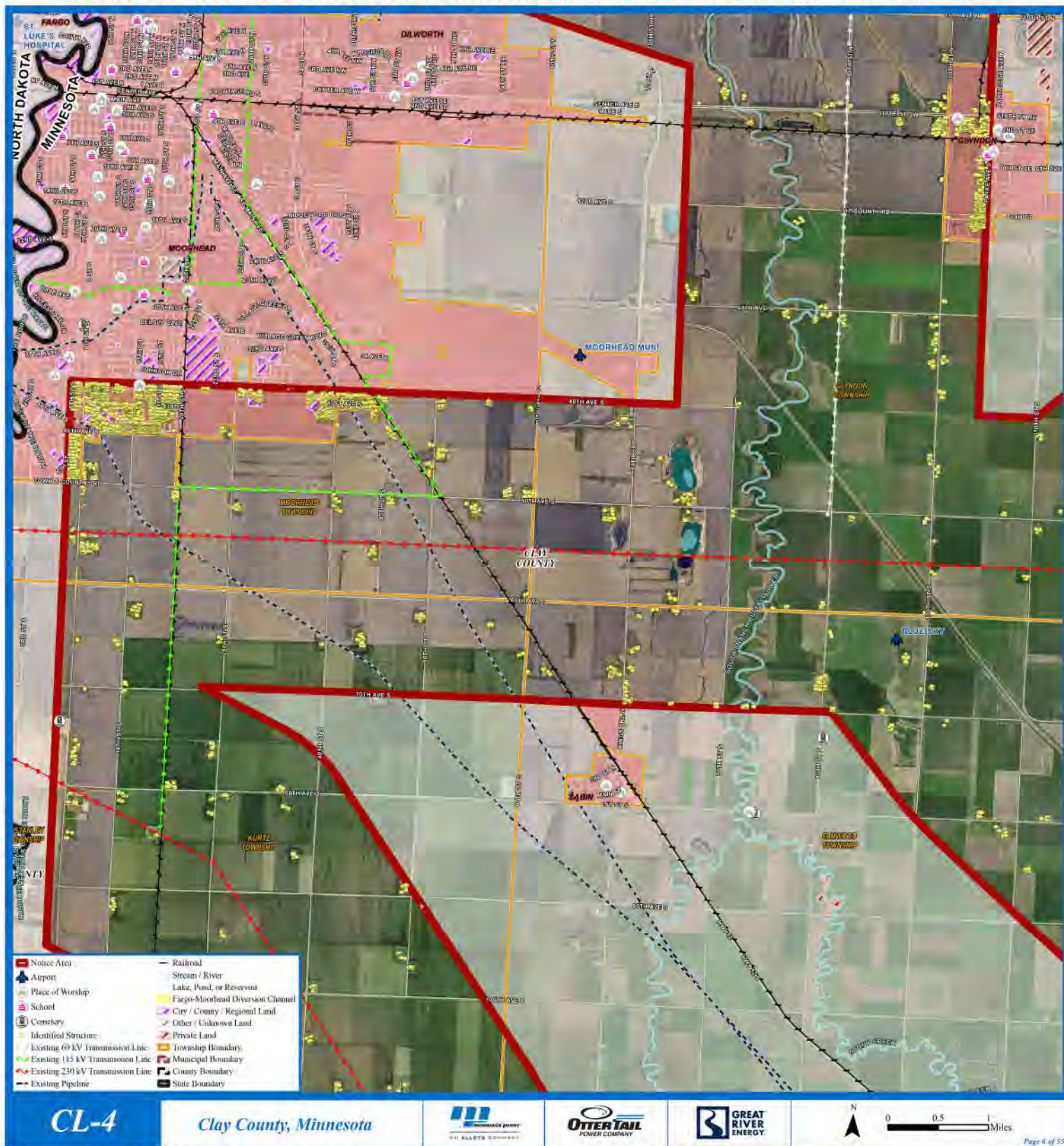


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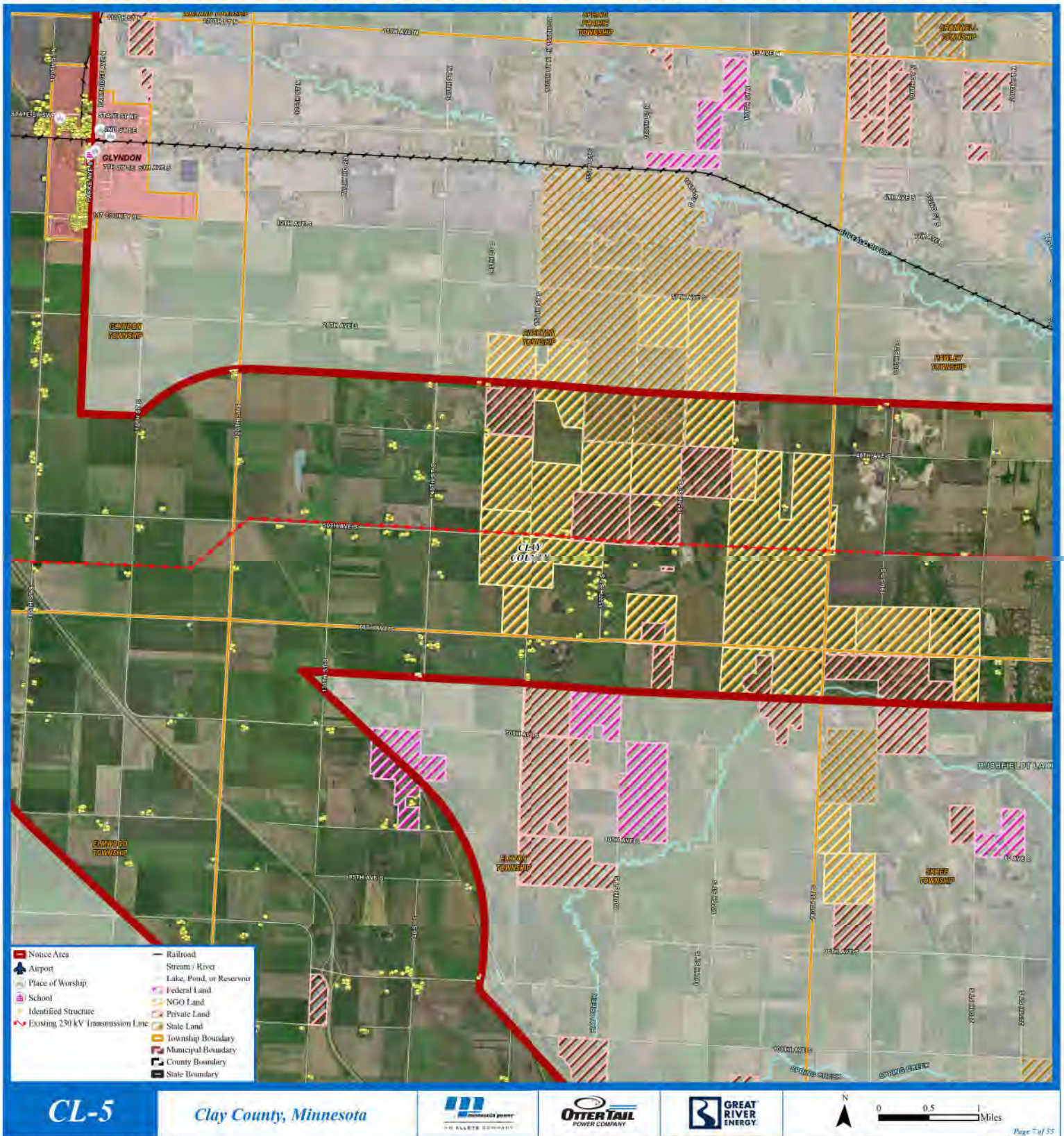


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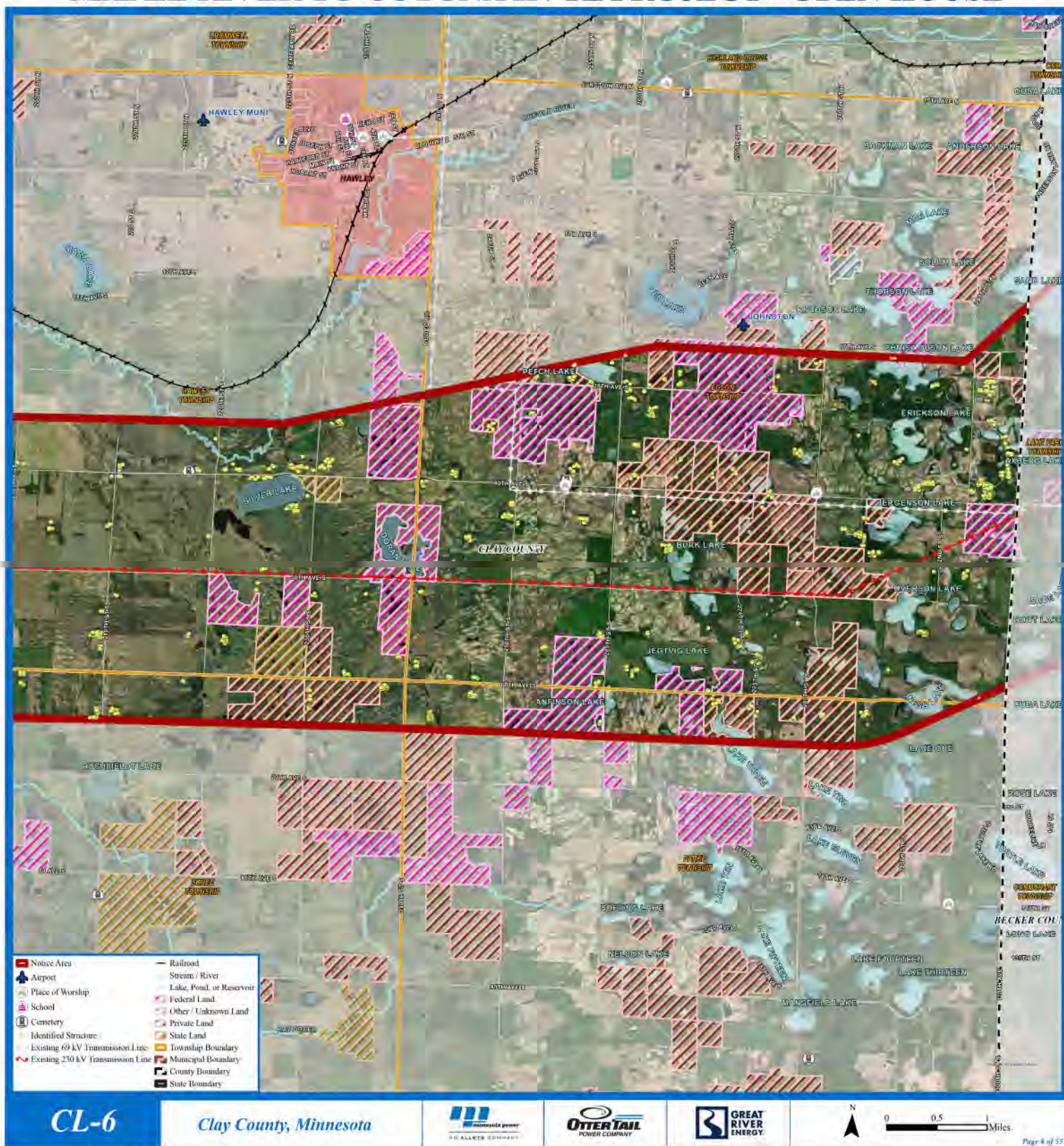


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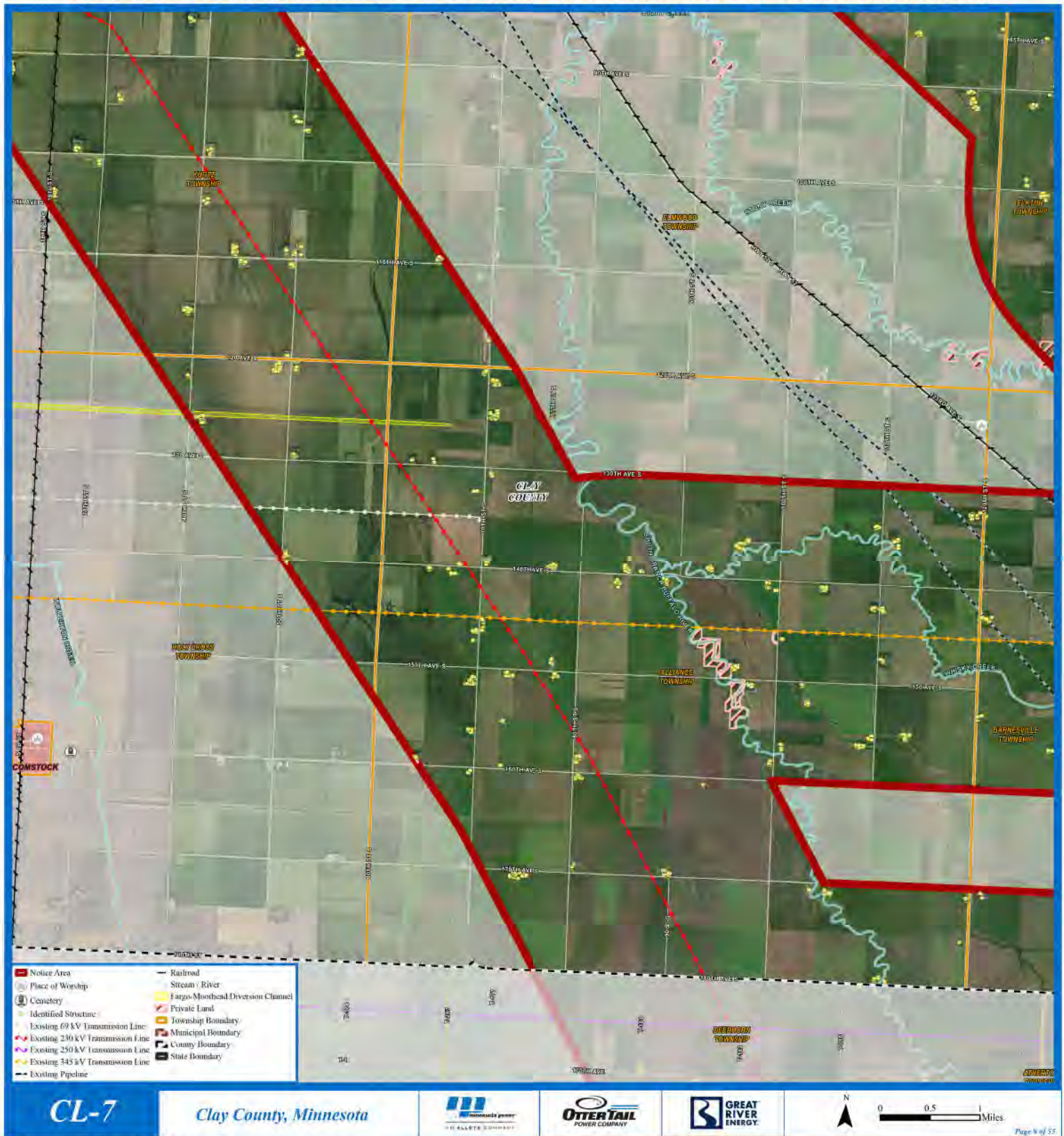


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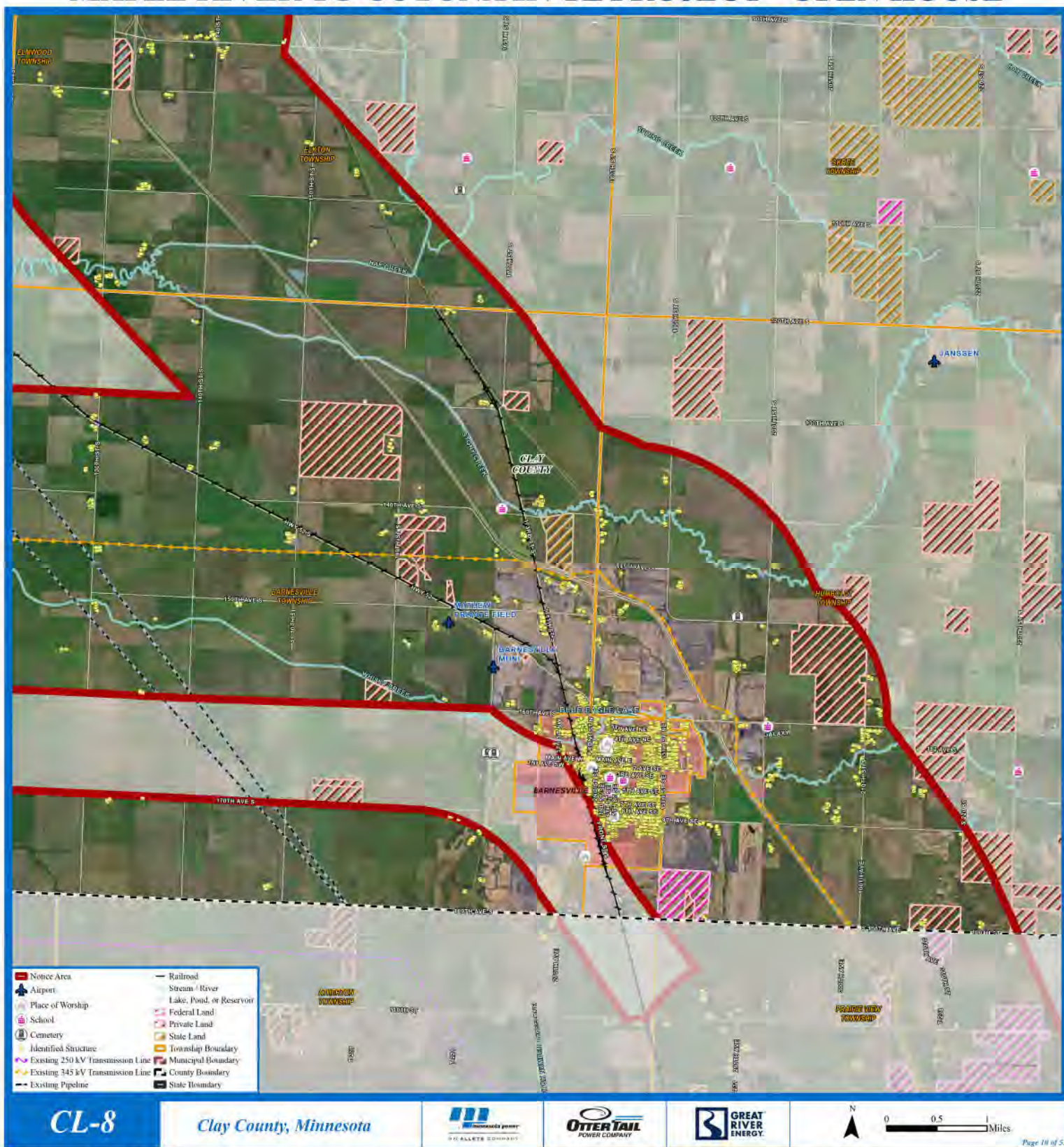


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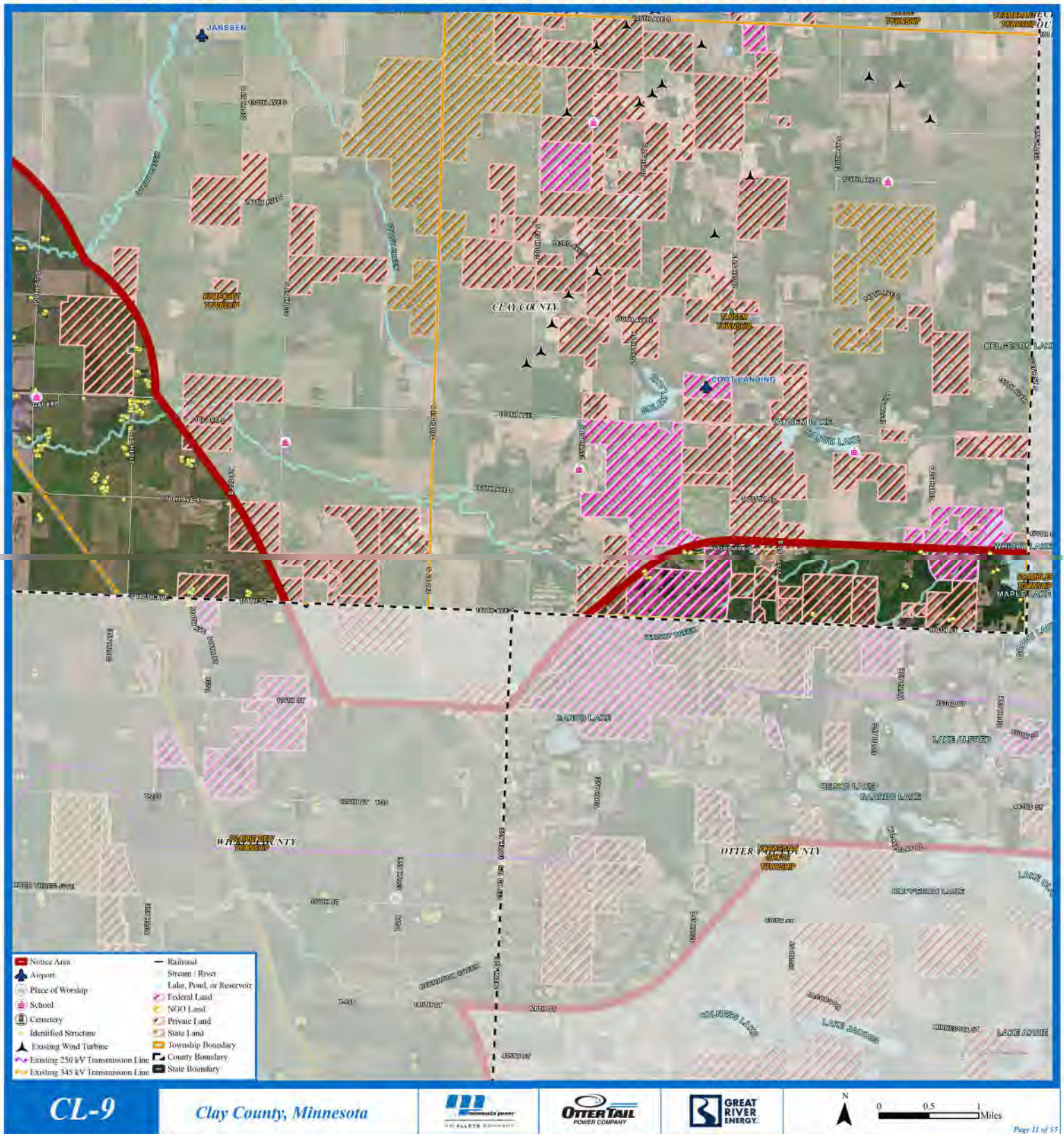


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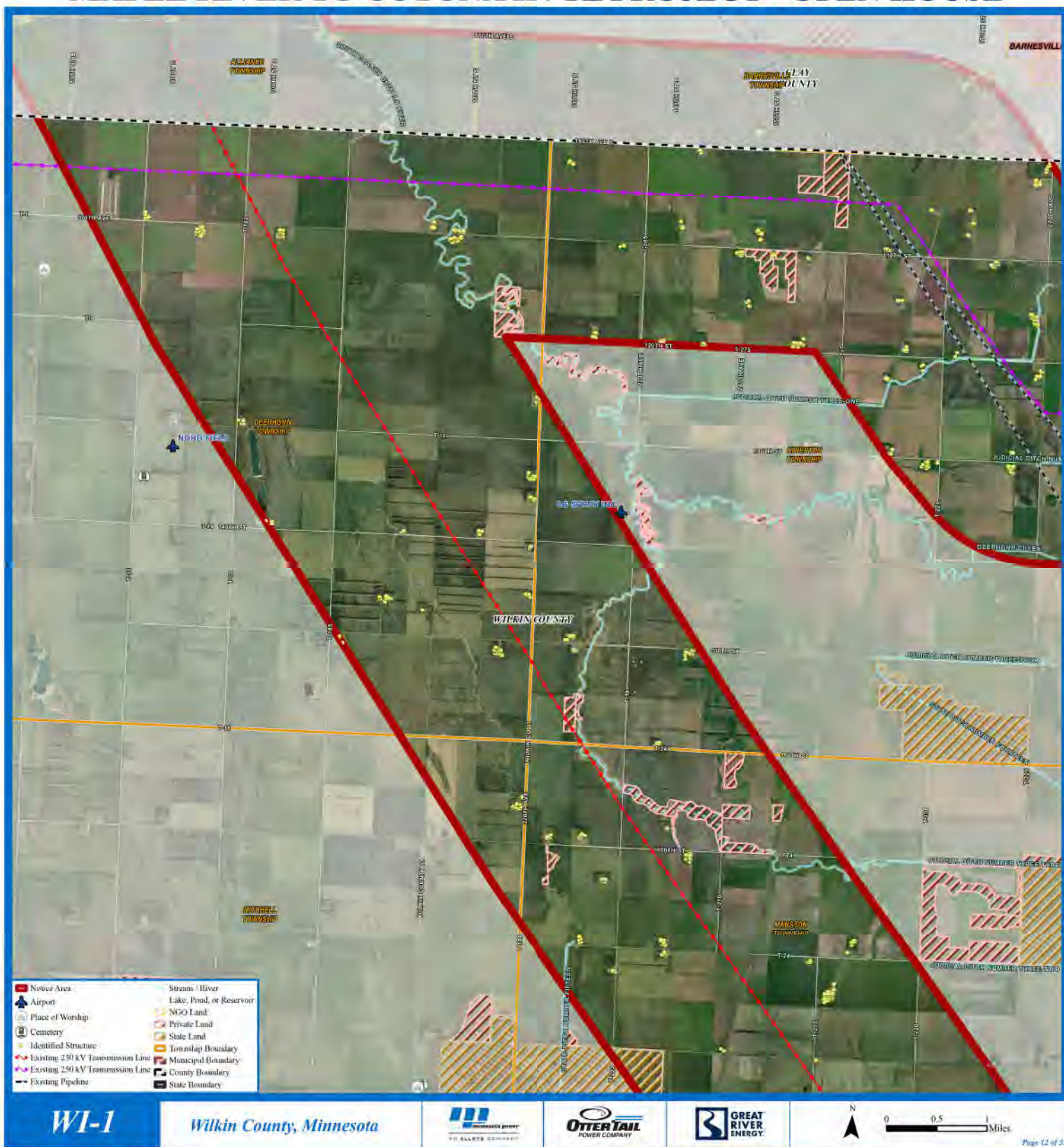


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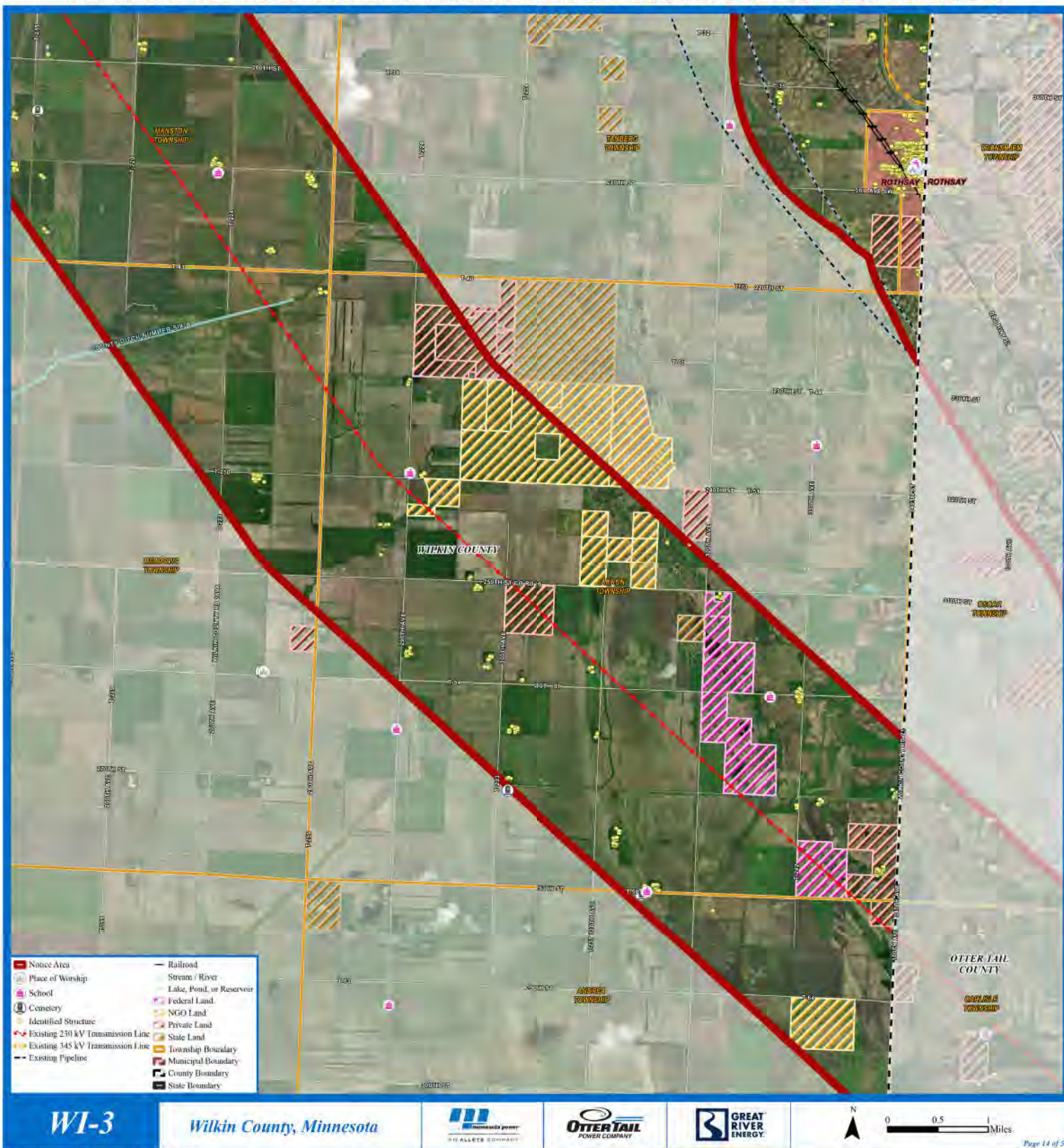


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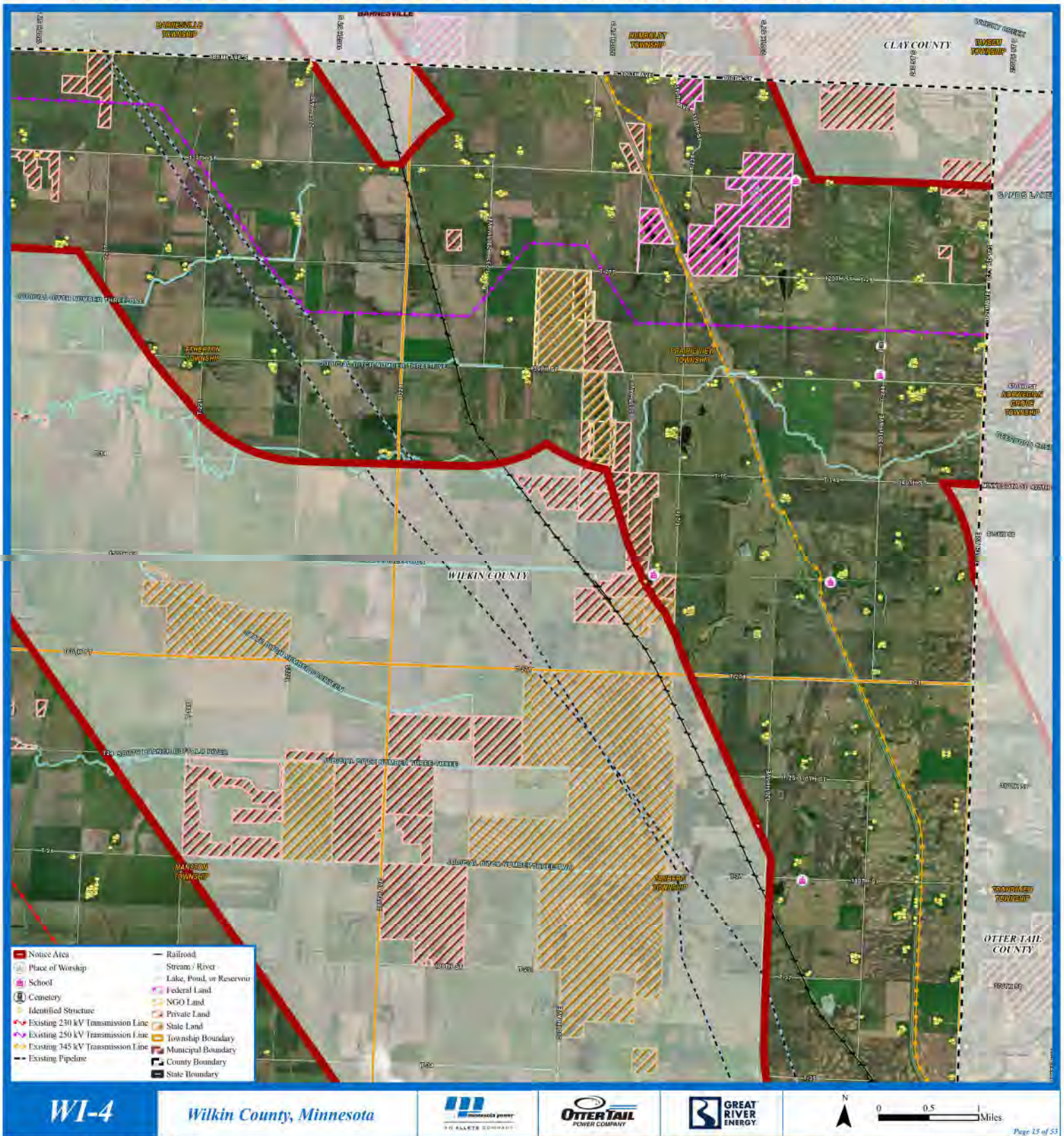
MAPLE RIVER TO CUYUNA HVTL PROJECT - OPEN HOUSE



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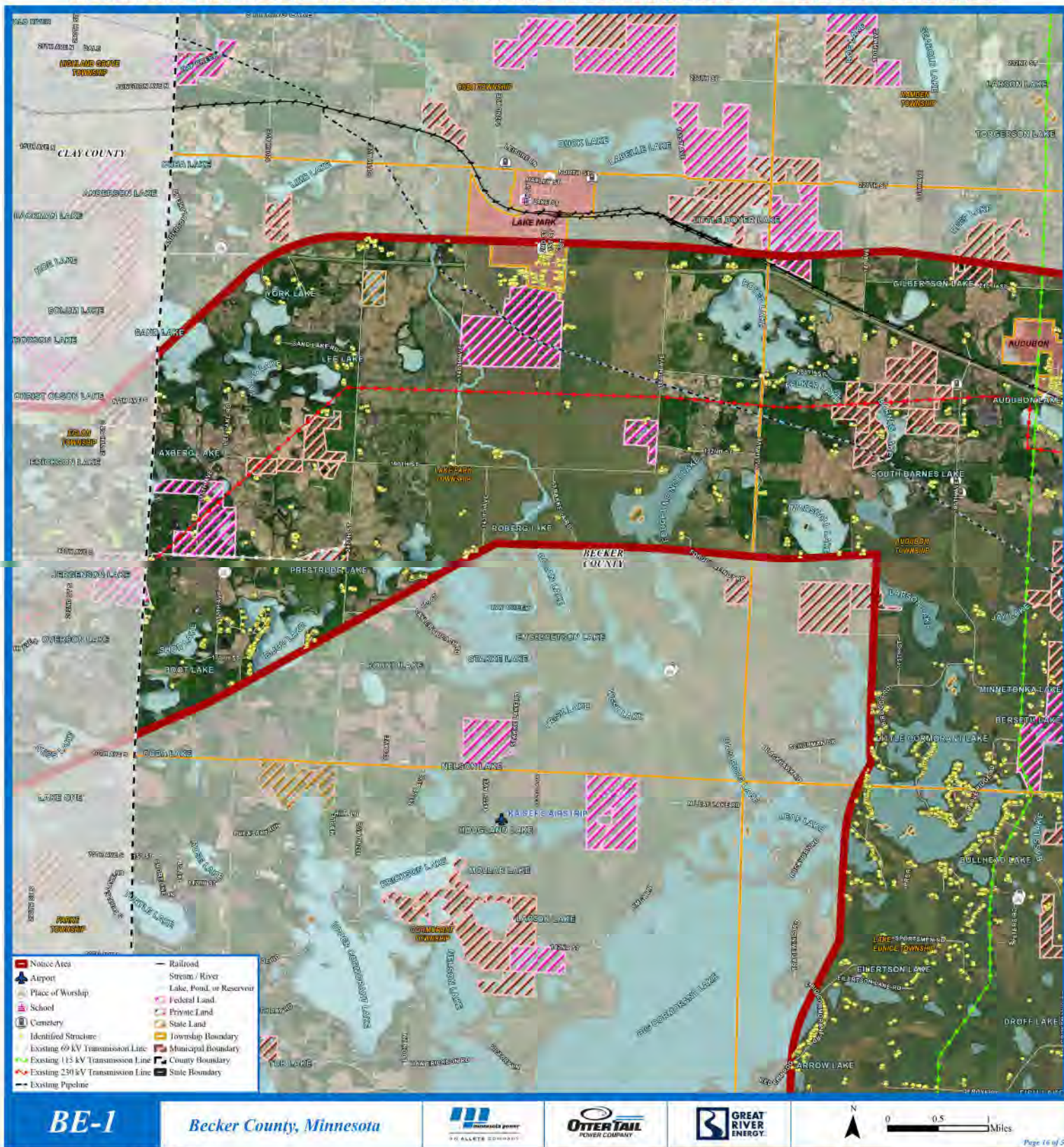


MAPLE RIVER TO CUYUNA HVTL PROJECT - OPEN HOUSE



For Environmental Review Purposes Only

MAPLE RIVER TO CUYUNA HVTL PROJECT - OPEN HOUSE



For Environmental Review Purposes Only

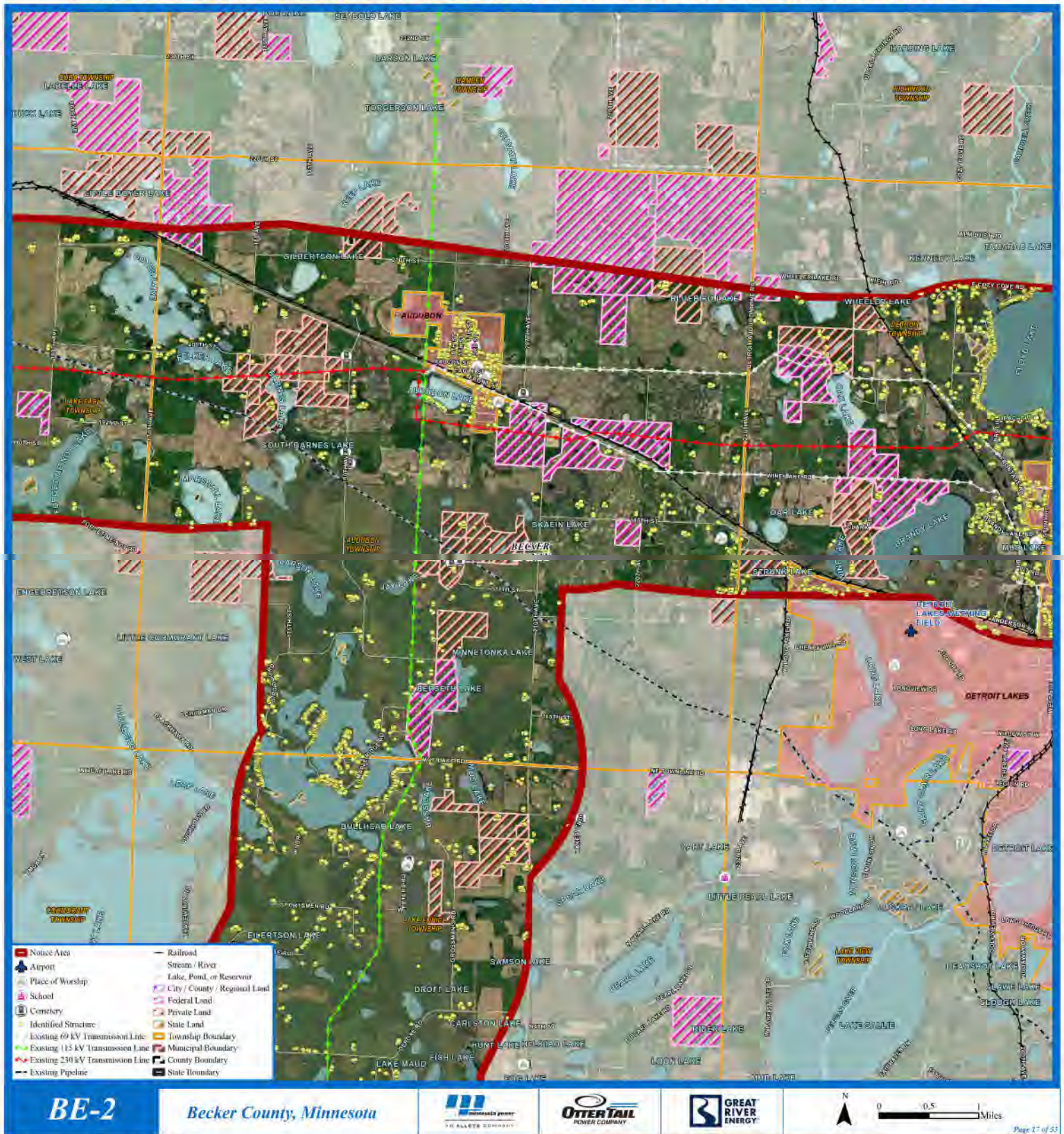
Maple River – Cuyuna Certificate of Need Application

Docket No. E015,ET2,E017/CN-25-109

Appendix M

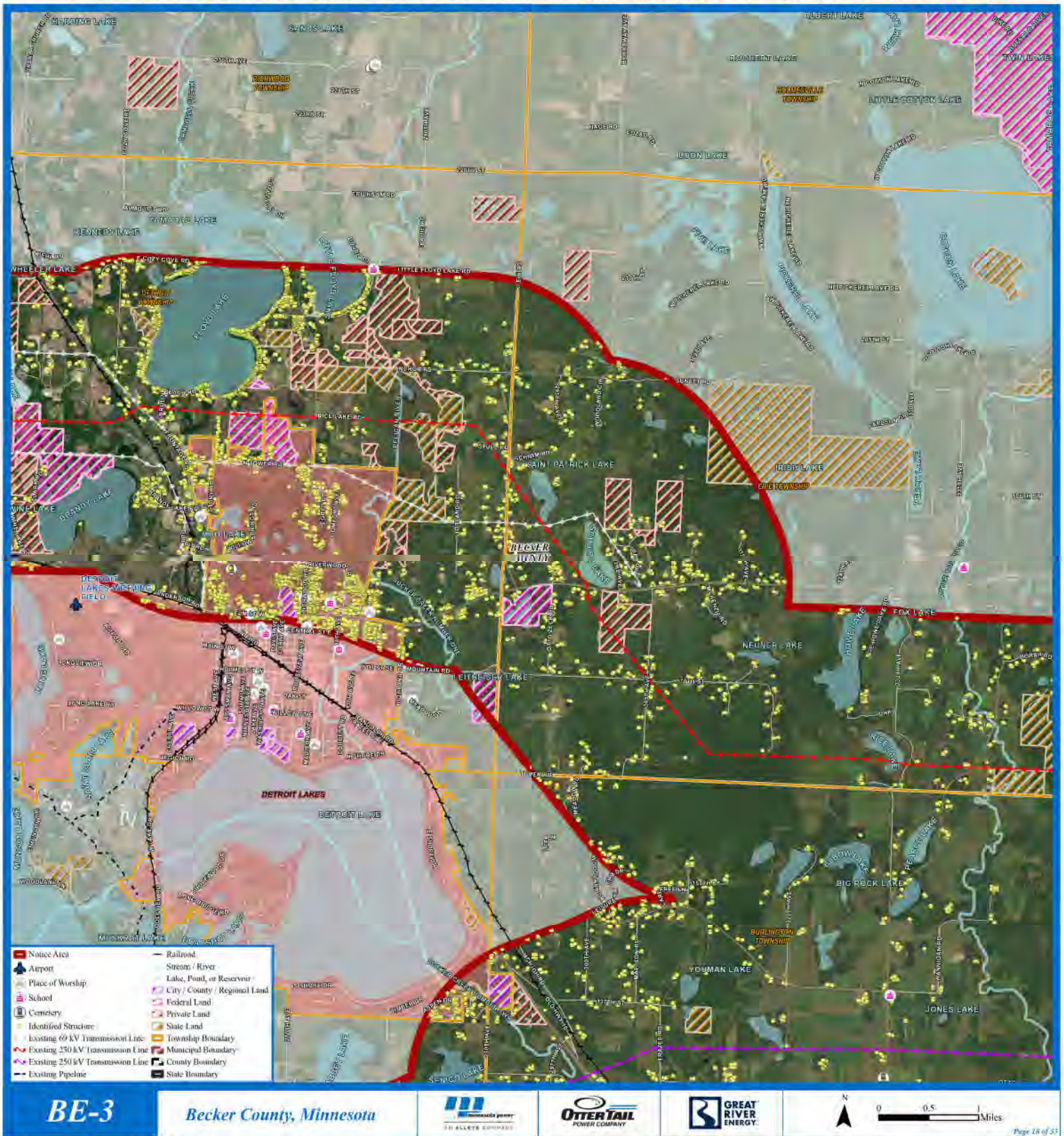
Page 38 of 260

MAPLE RIVER TO CUYUNA HVTL PROJECT - OPEN HOUSE



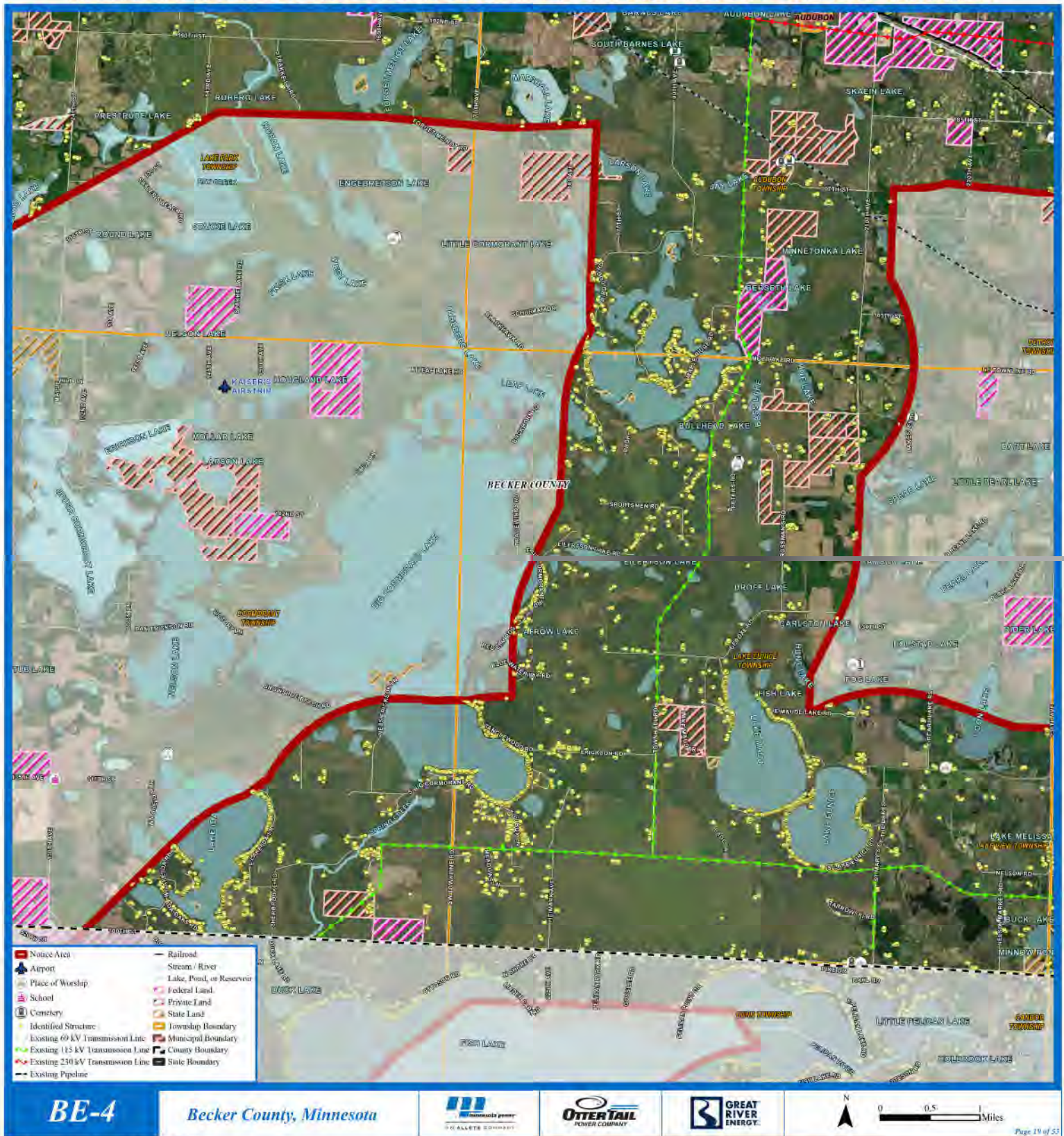
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For Environmental Review Purposes Only

MAPLE RIVER TO CUYUNA HVTL PROJECT - OPEN HOUSE



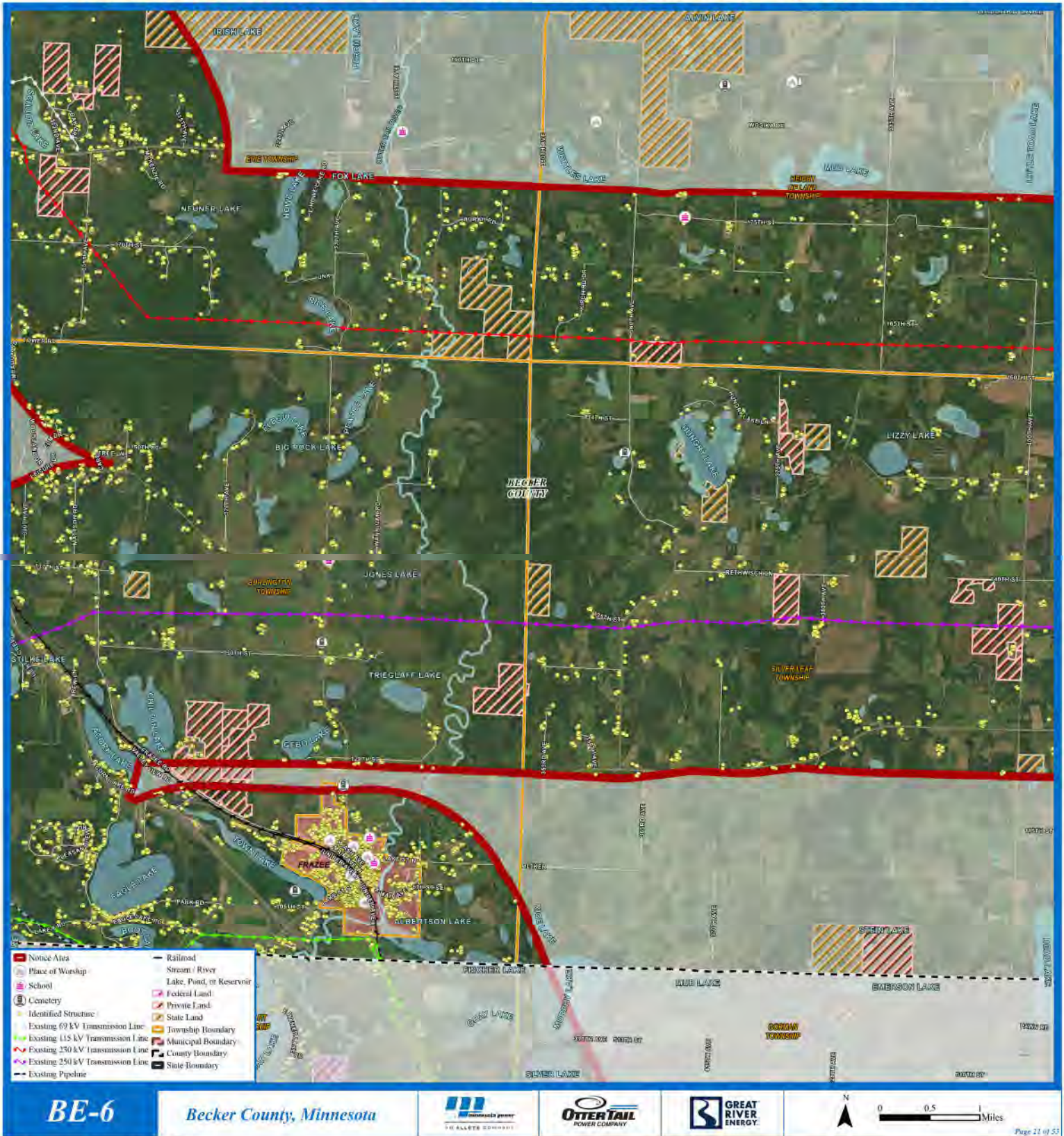
Legend:

- Notice Area
- Place of Worship
- School
- Cemetery
- Identified Structure
- Existing 69 kV Transmission Line
- Existing 115 kV Transmission Line
- Existing 230 kV Transmission Line
- Existing 250 kV Transmission Line
- Existing Pipeline
- Railroad
- Stream / River
- Lake, Pond, or Reservoir
- City / County / Regional Land
- Federal Land
- Private Land
- State Land
- Township Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- County Boundary
- State Boundary

A horizontal scale bar with markings at 0, 0.5, and 1. The word "Miles" is written at the right end of the bar.

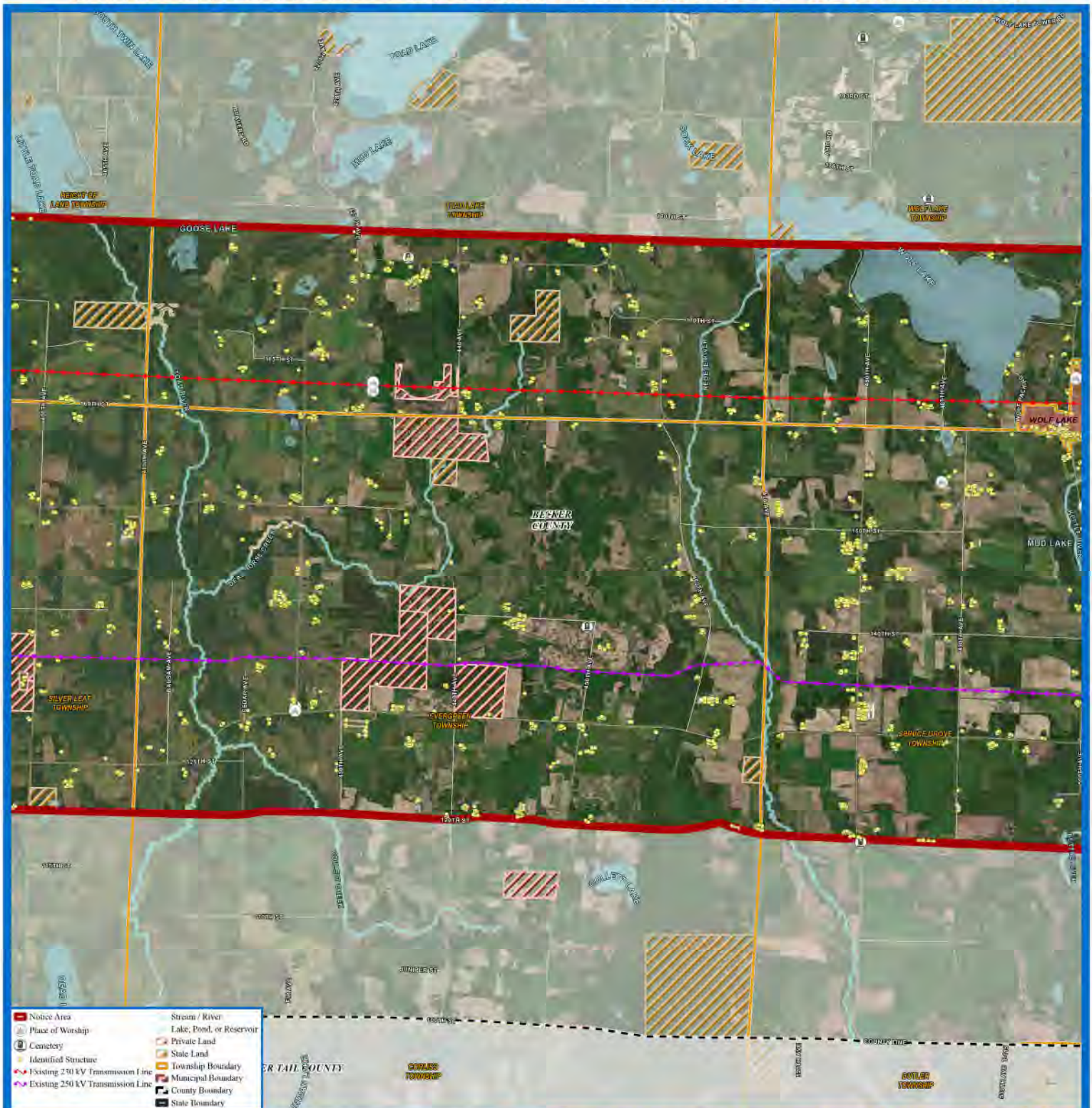
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MAPLE RIVER TO CUYUNA HVTL PROJECT - OPEN HOUSE



For Environmental Review Purposes Only

MAPLE RIVER TO CUYUNA HVTL PROJECT - OPEN HOUSE



BE-7

Becker County, Minnesota

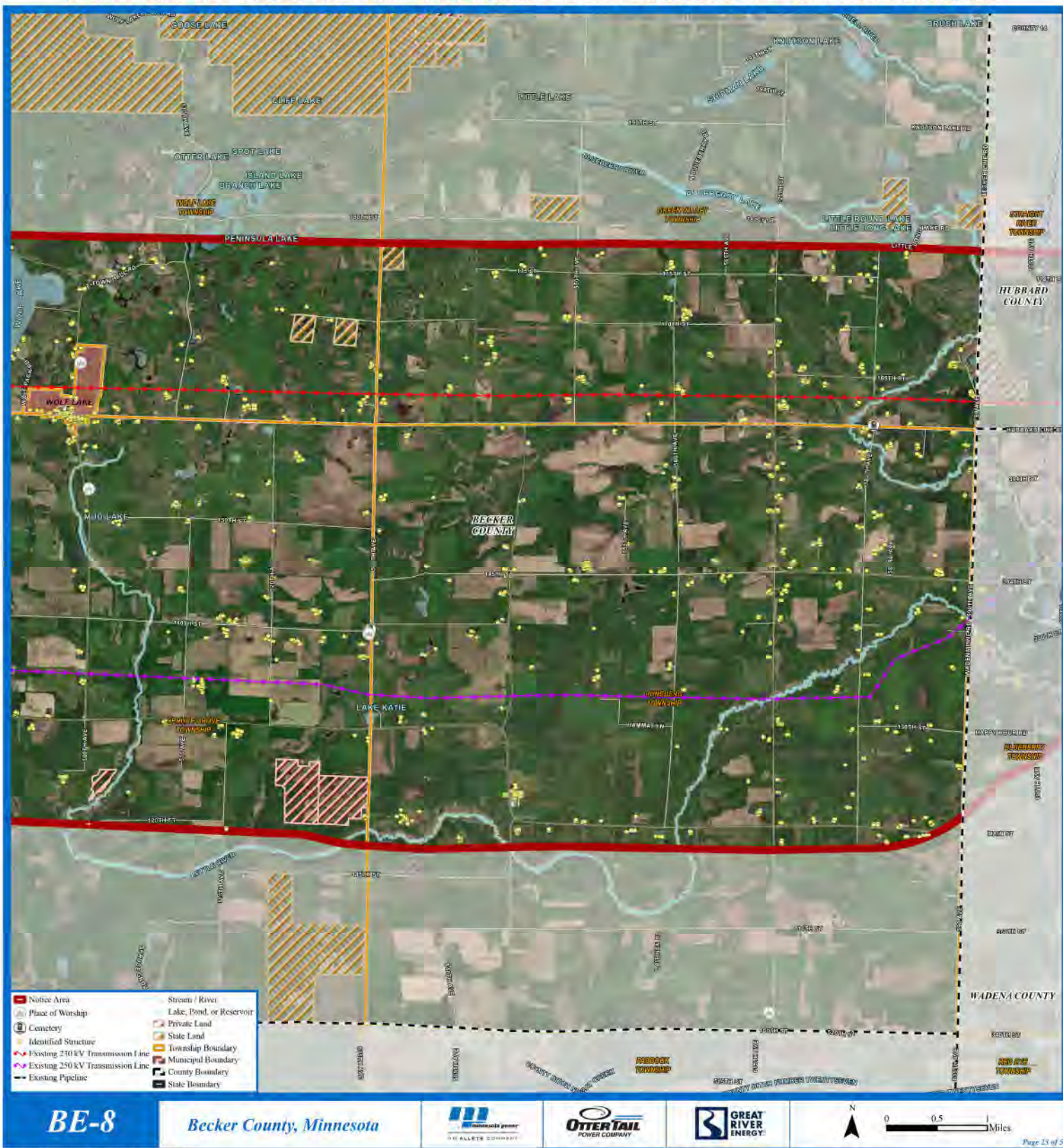


0 0.5 1 Miles

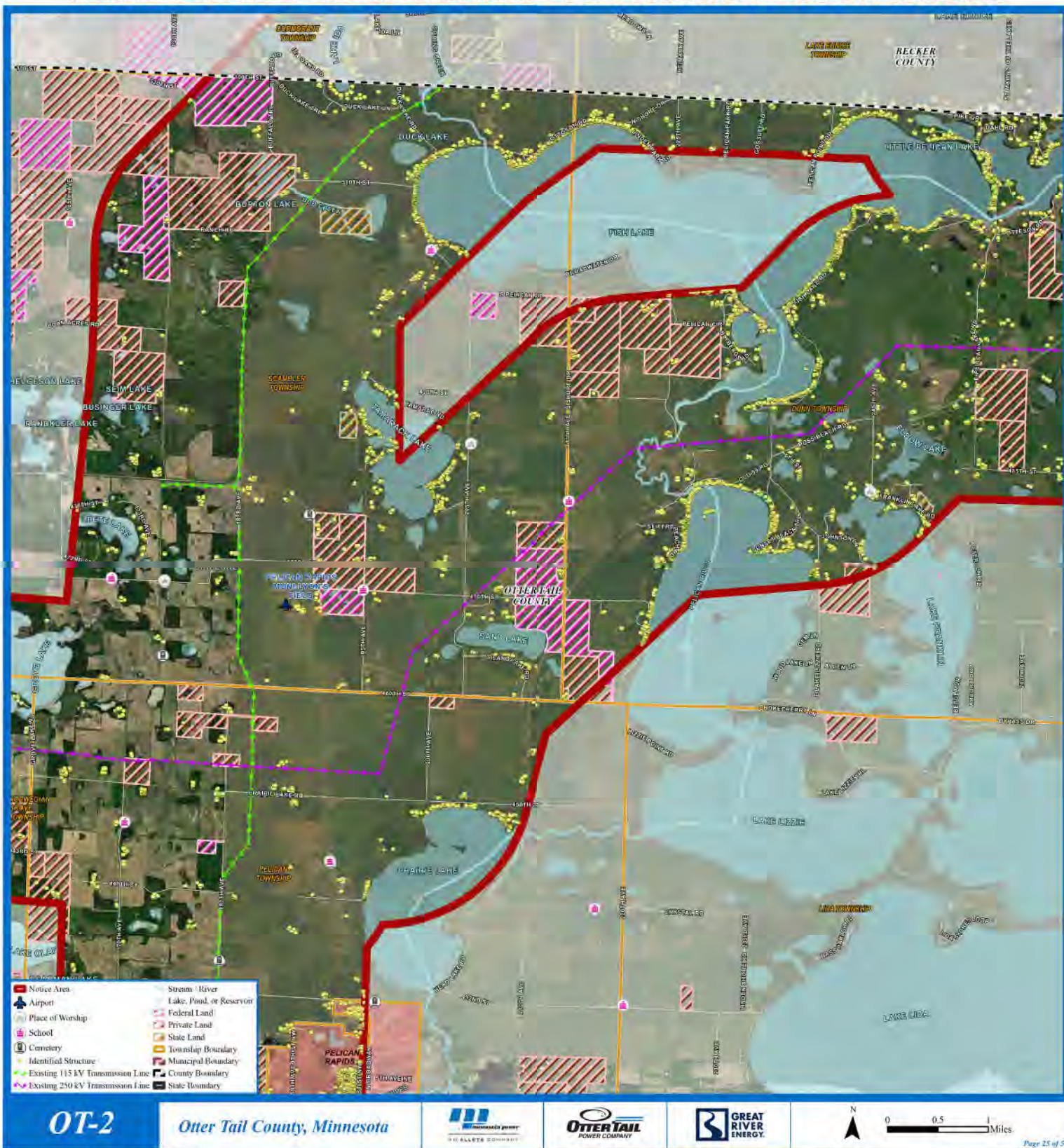
Page 22 of 53

For Environmental Review Purposes Only

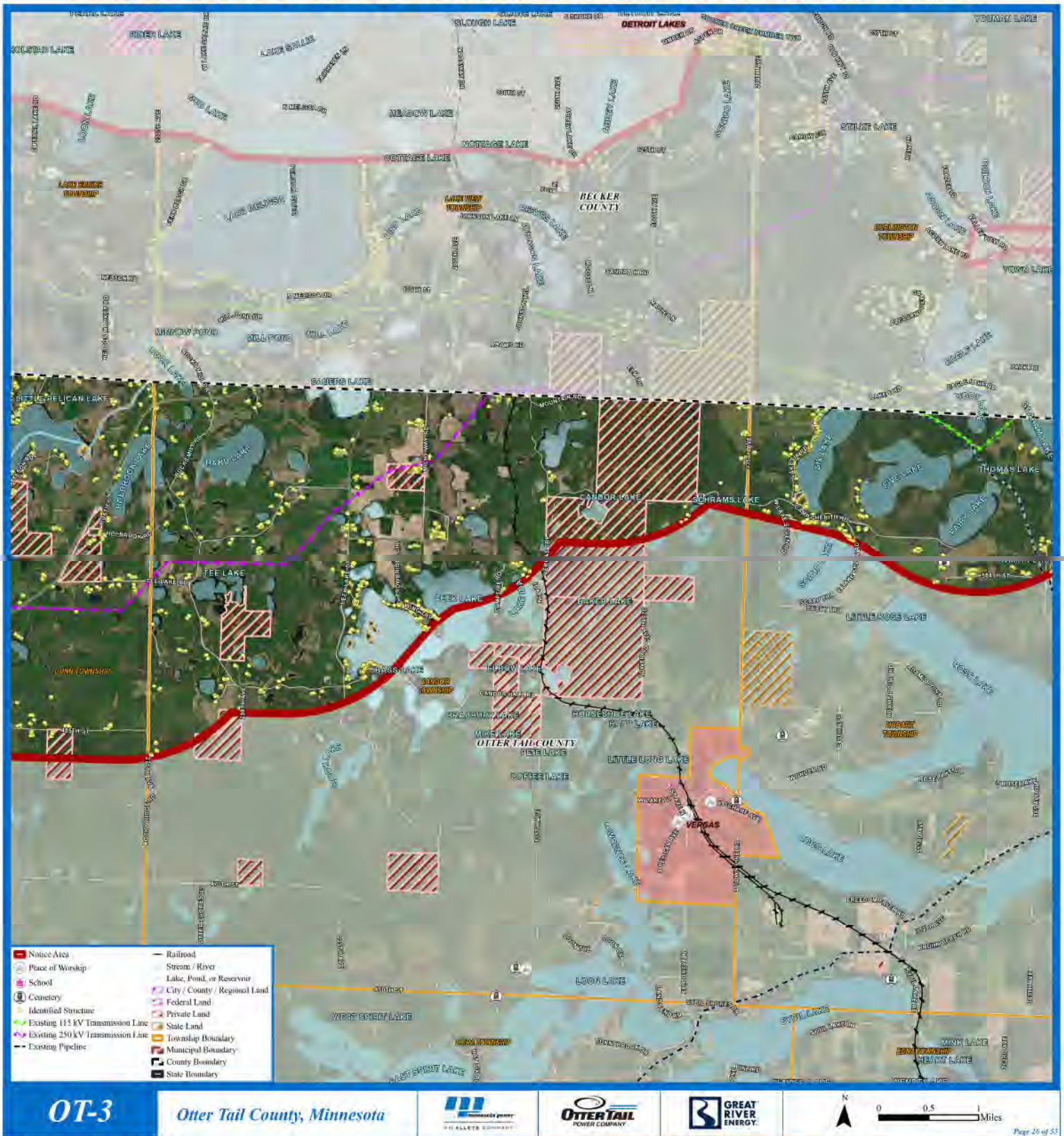
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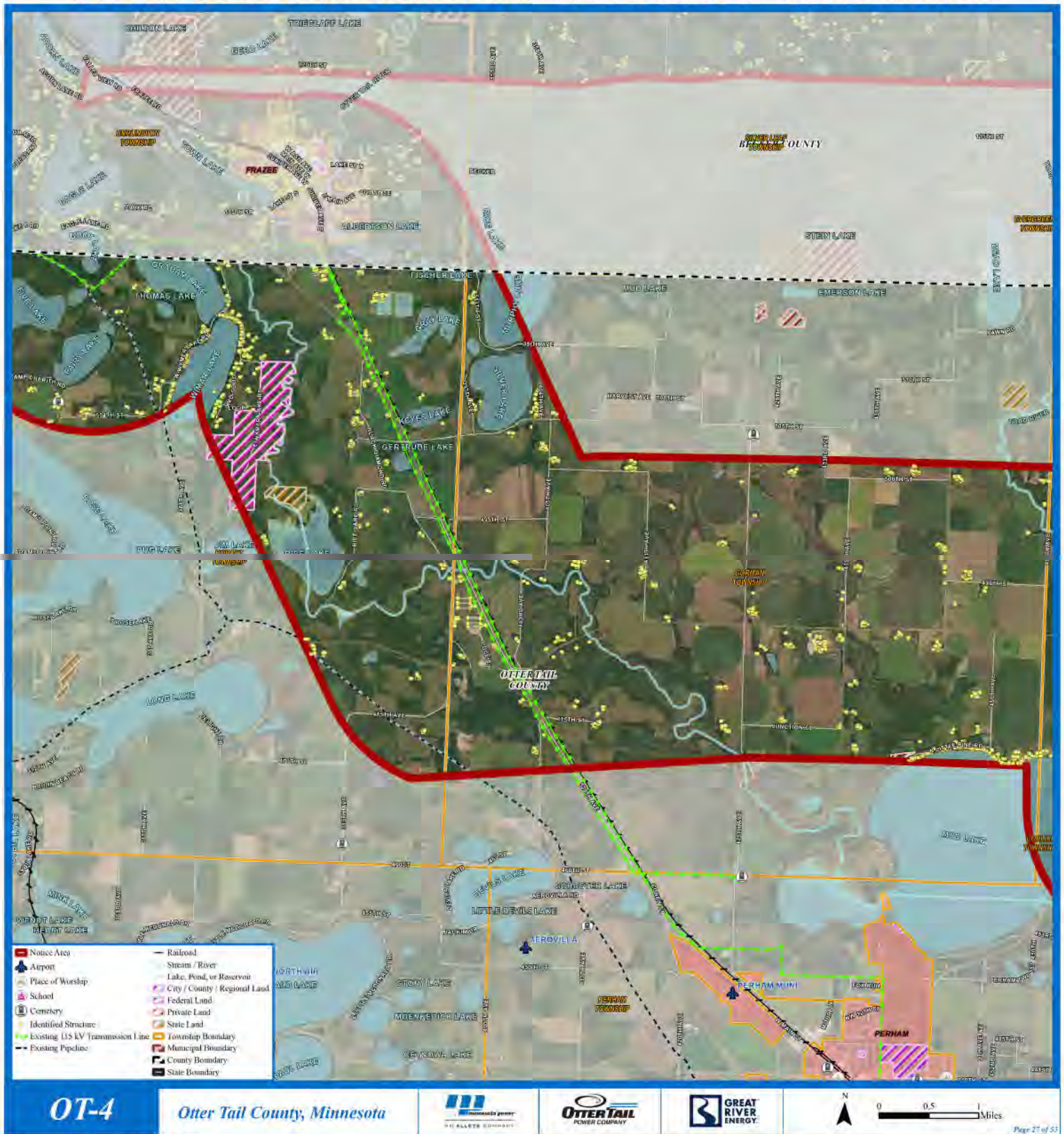


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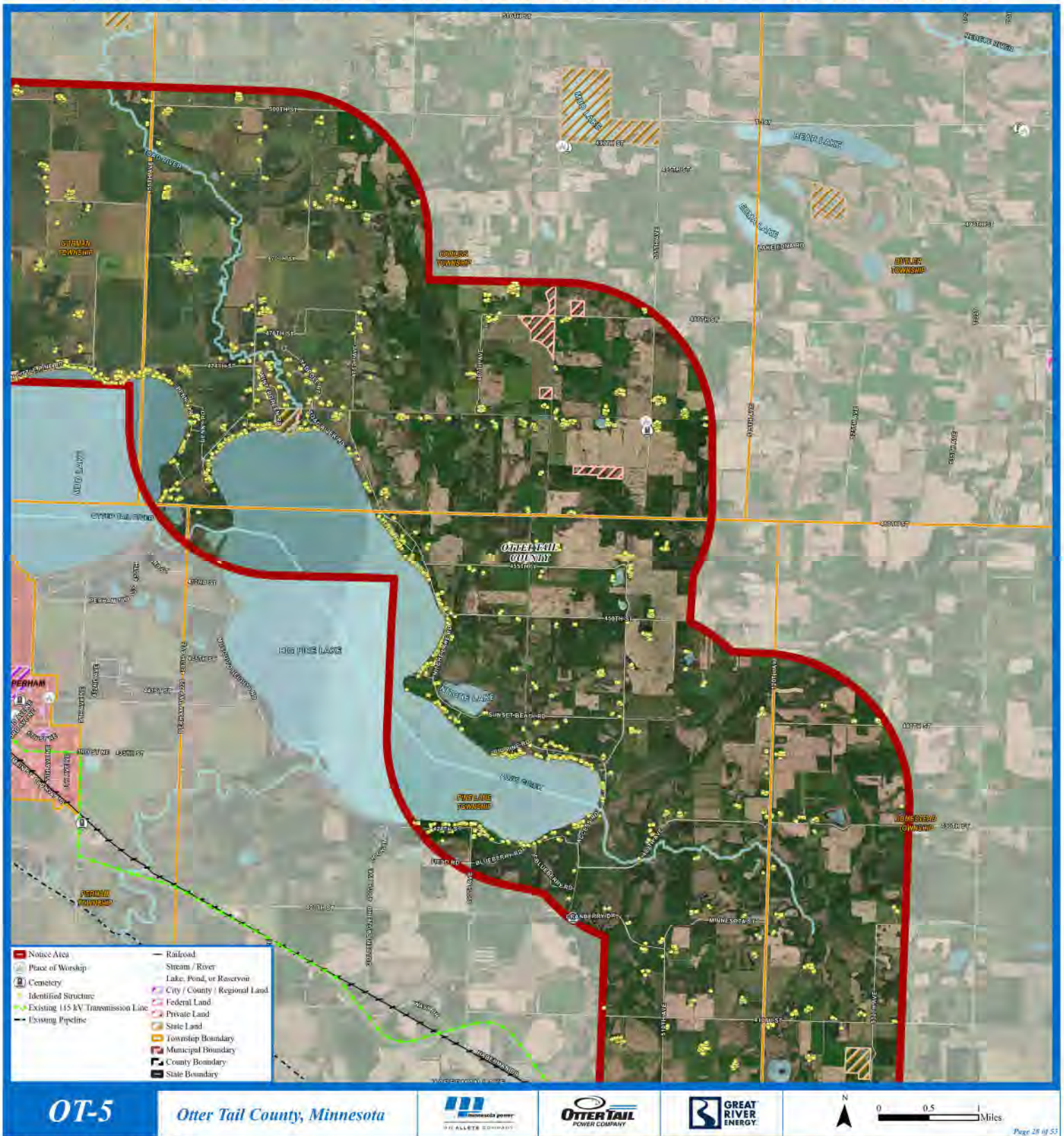
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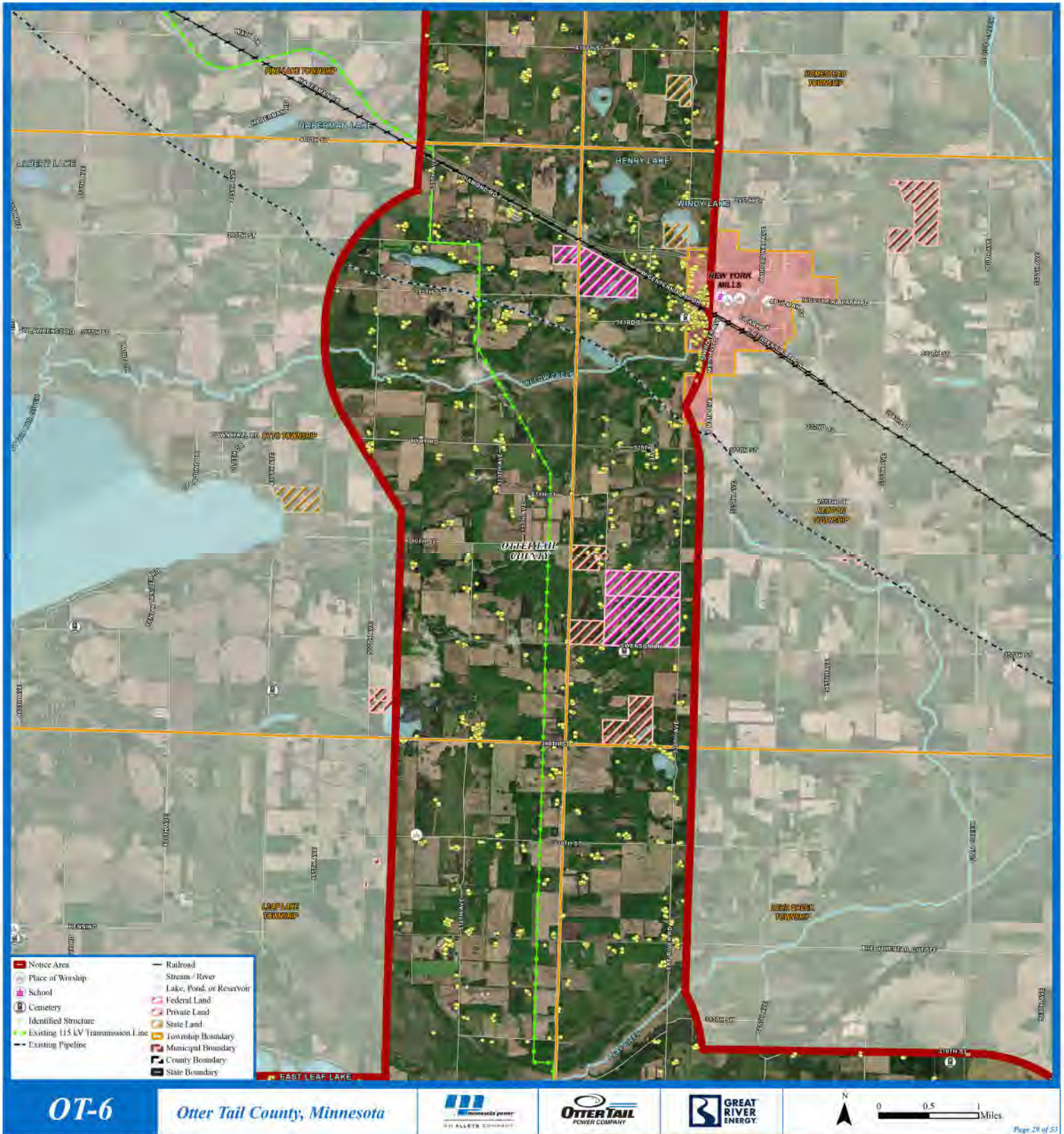


For Environmental Review Purposes Only

MAPLE RIVER TO CUYUNA HVTL PROJECT - OPEN HOUSE

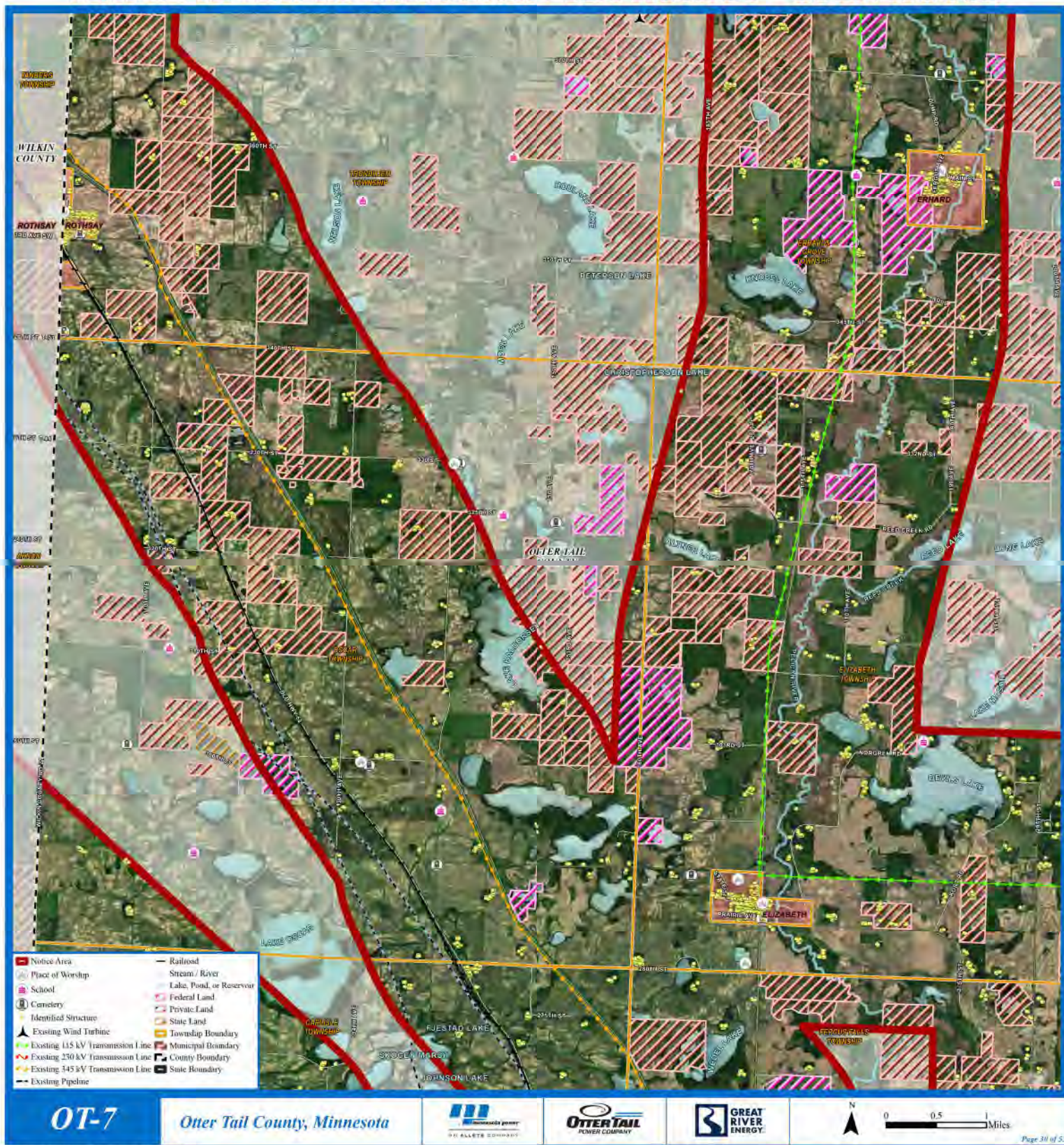


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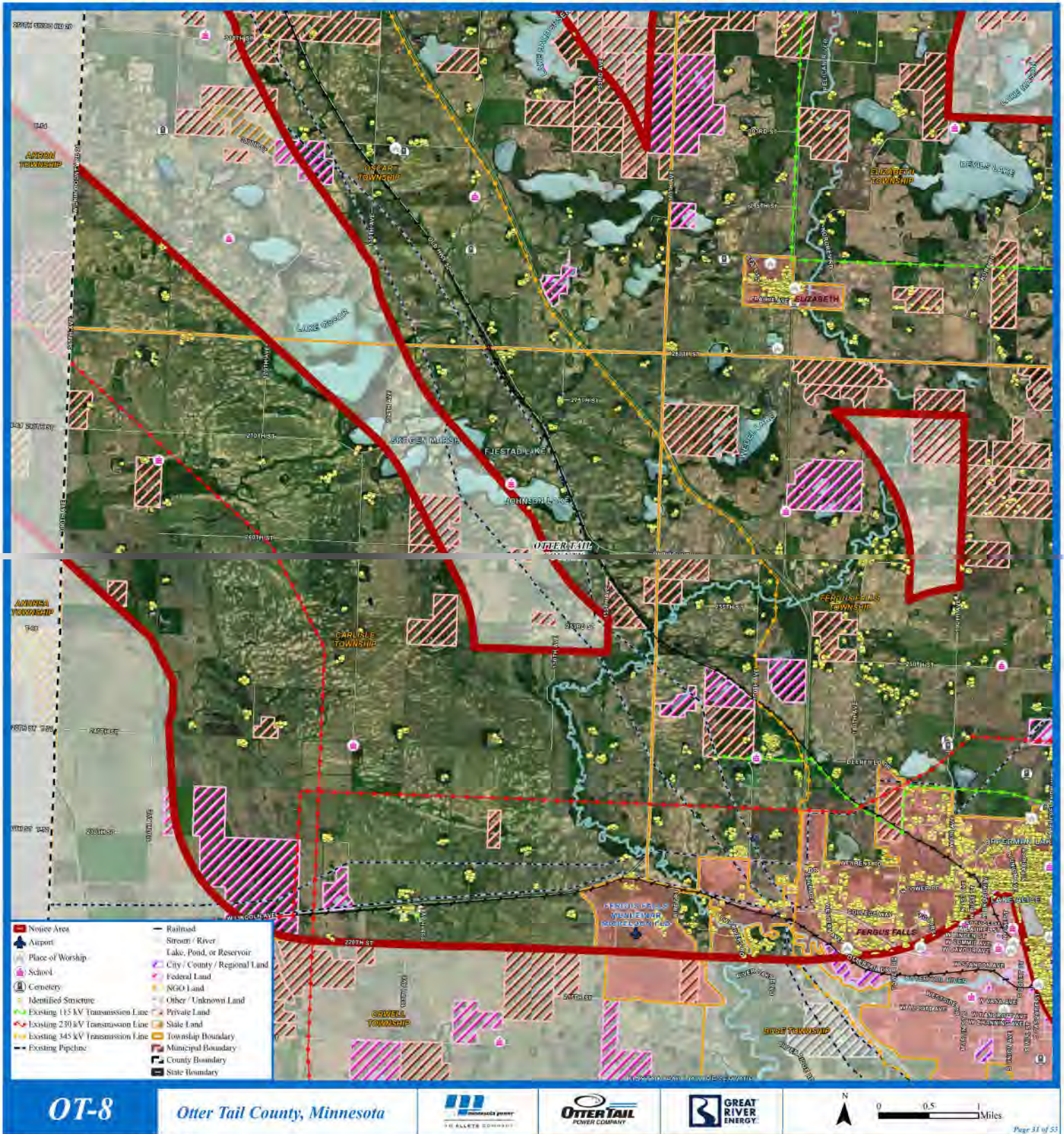


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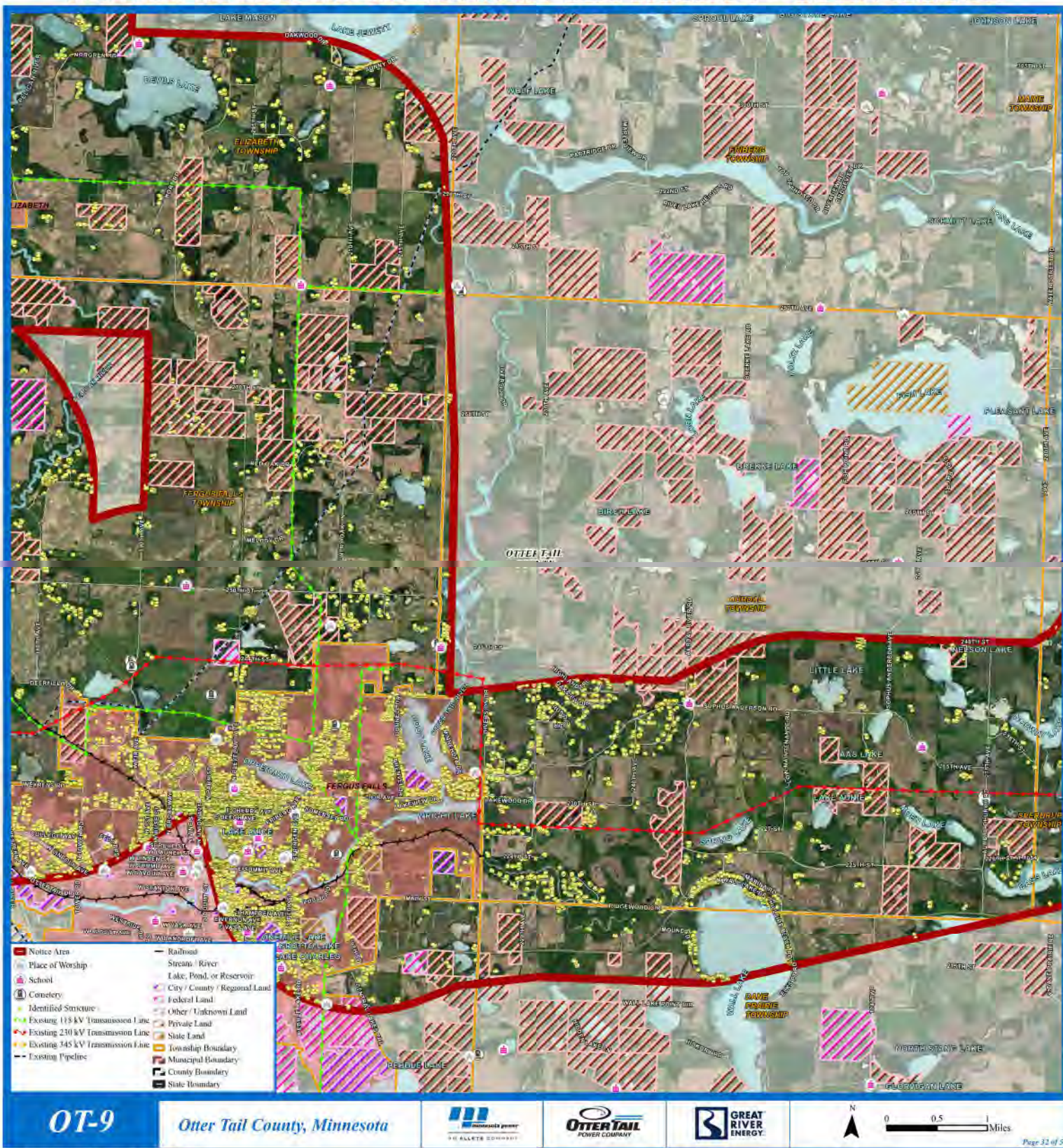


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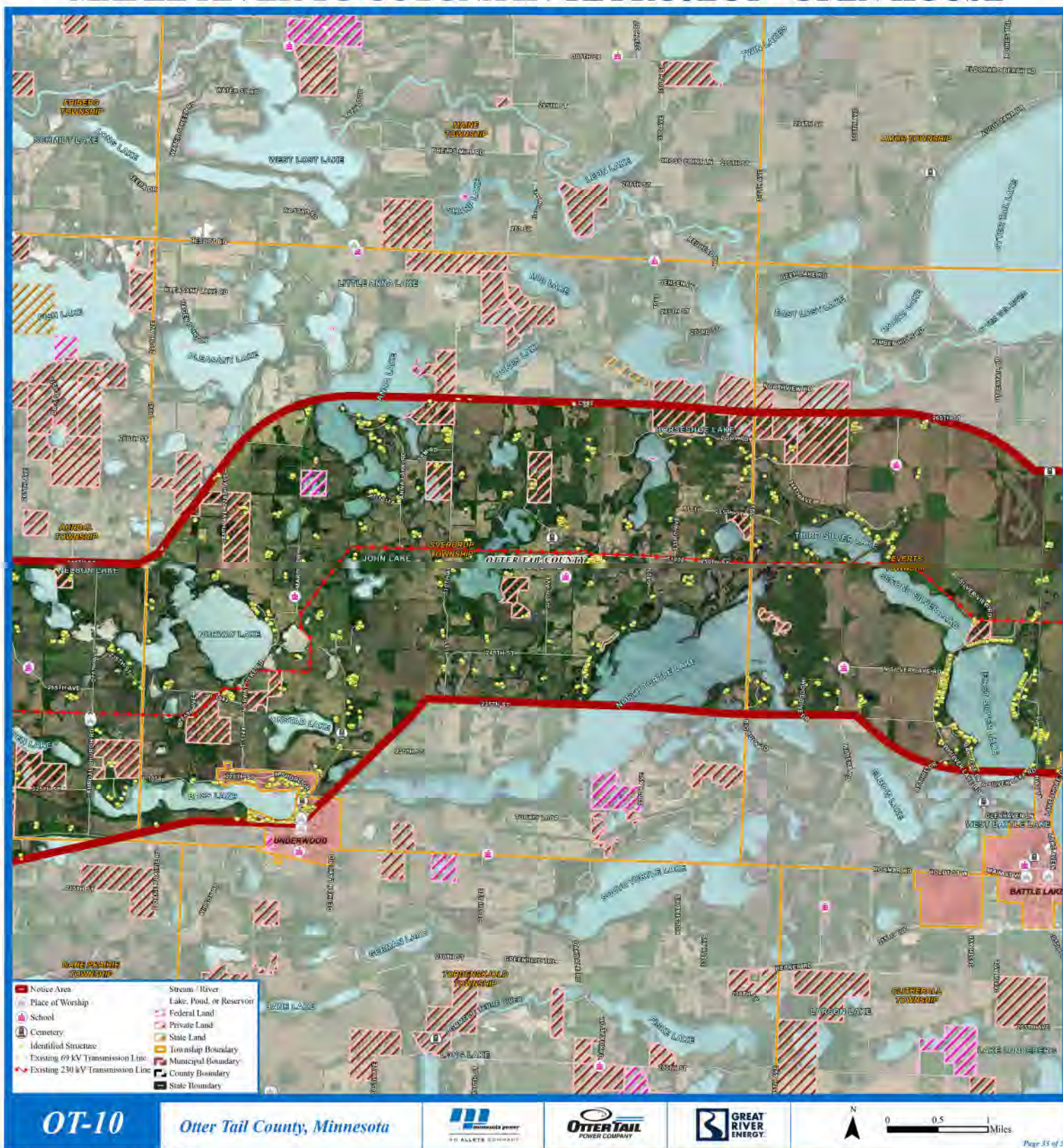


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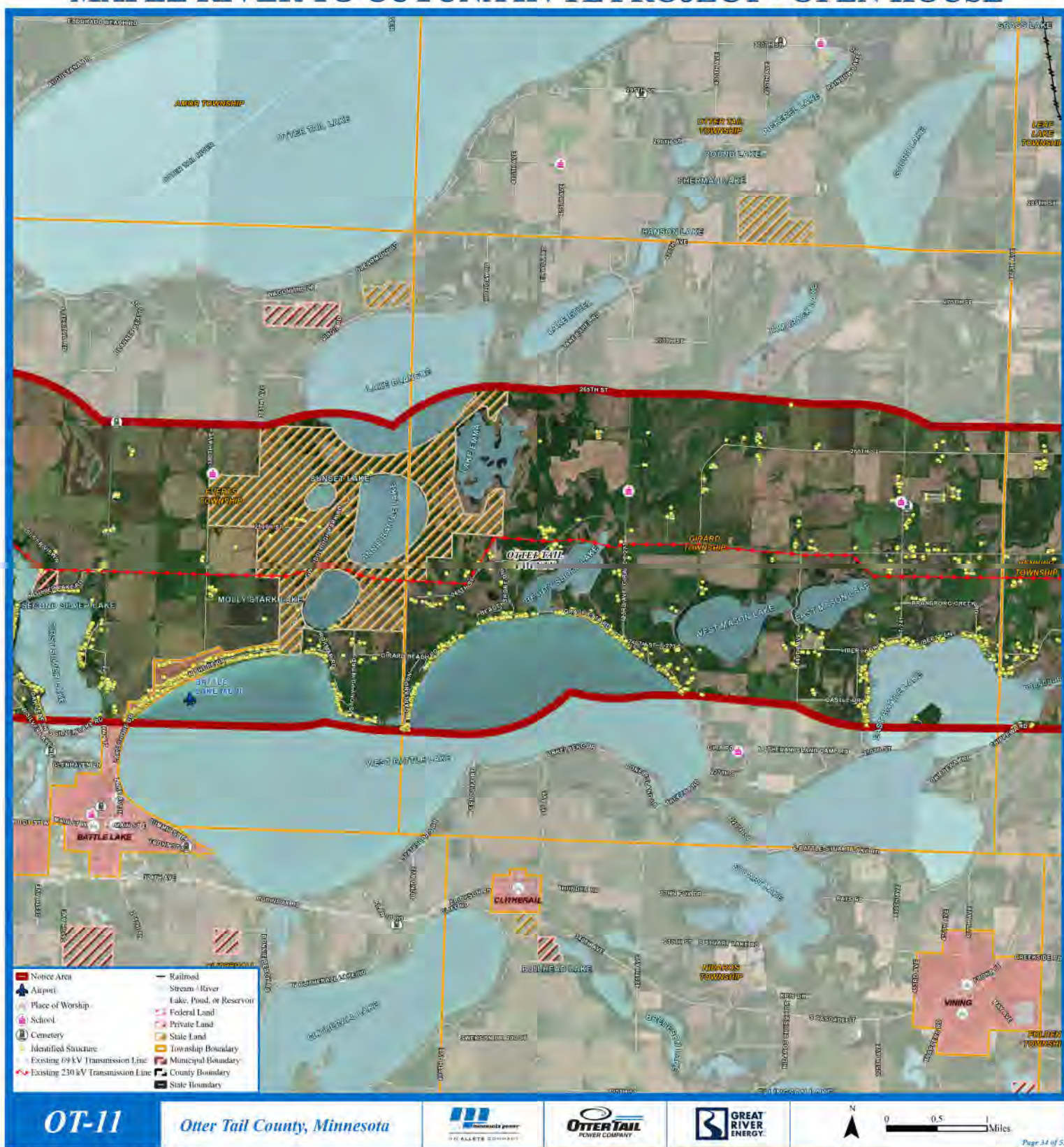
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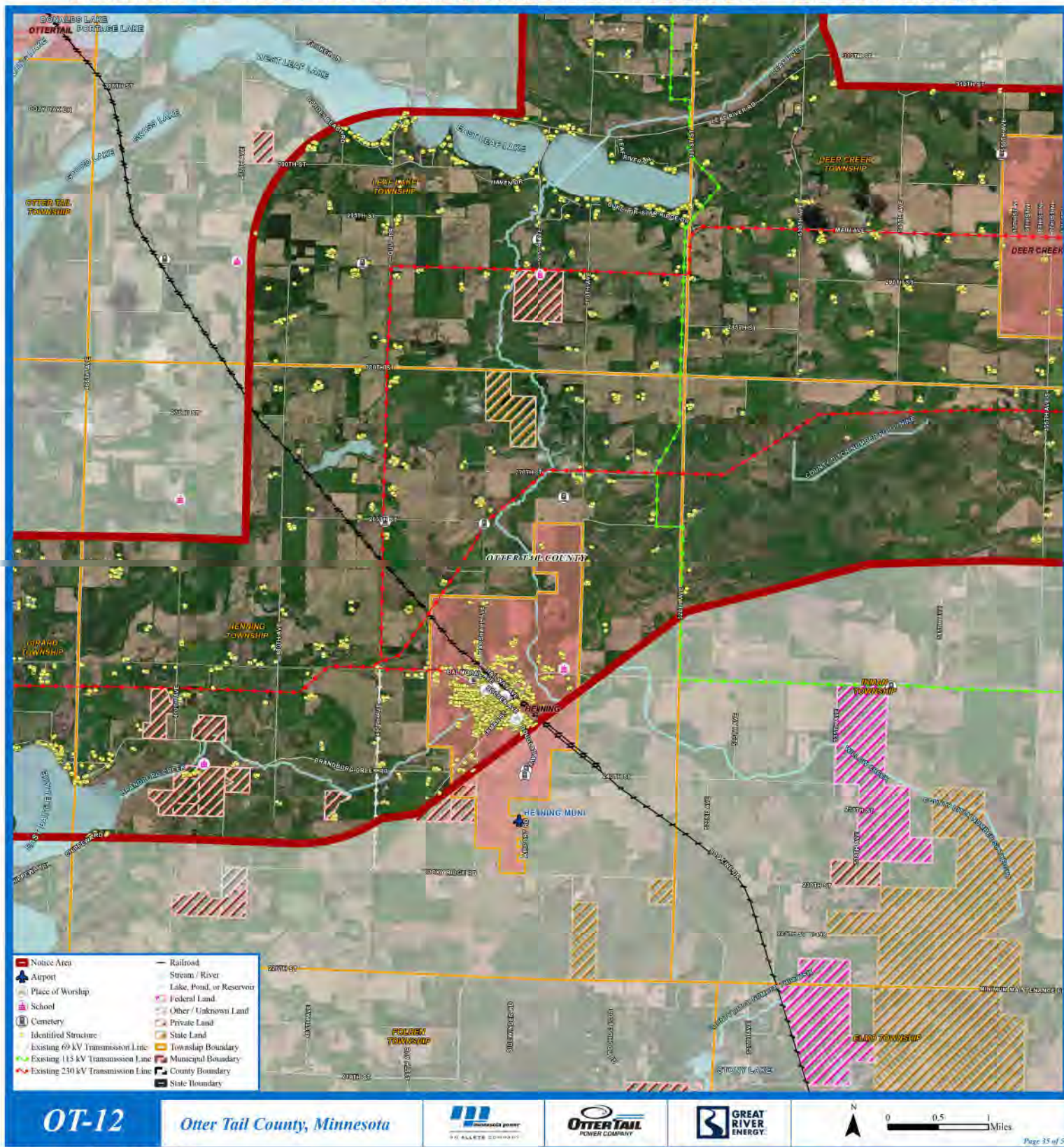
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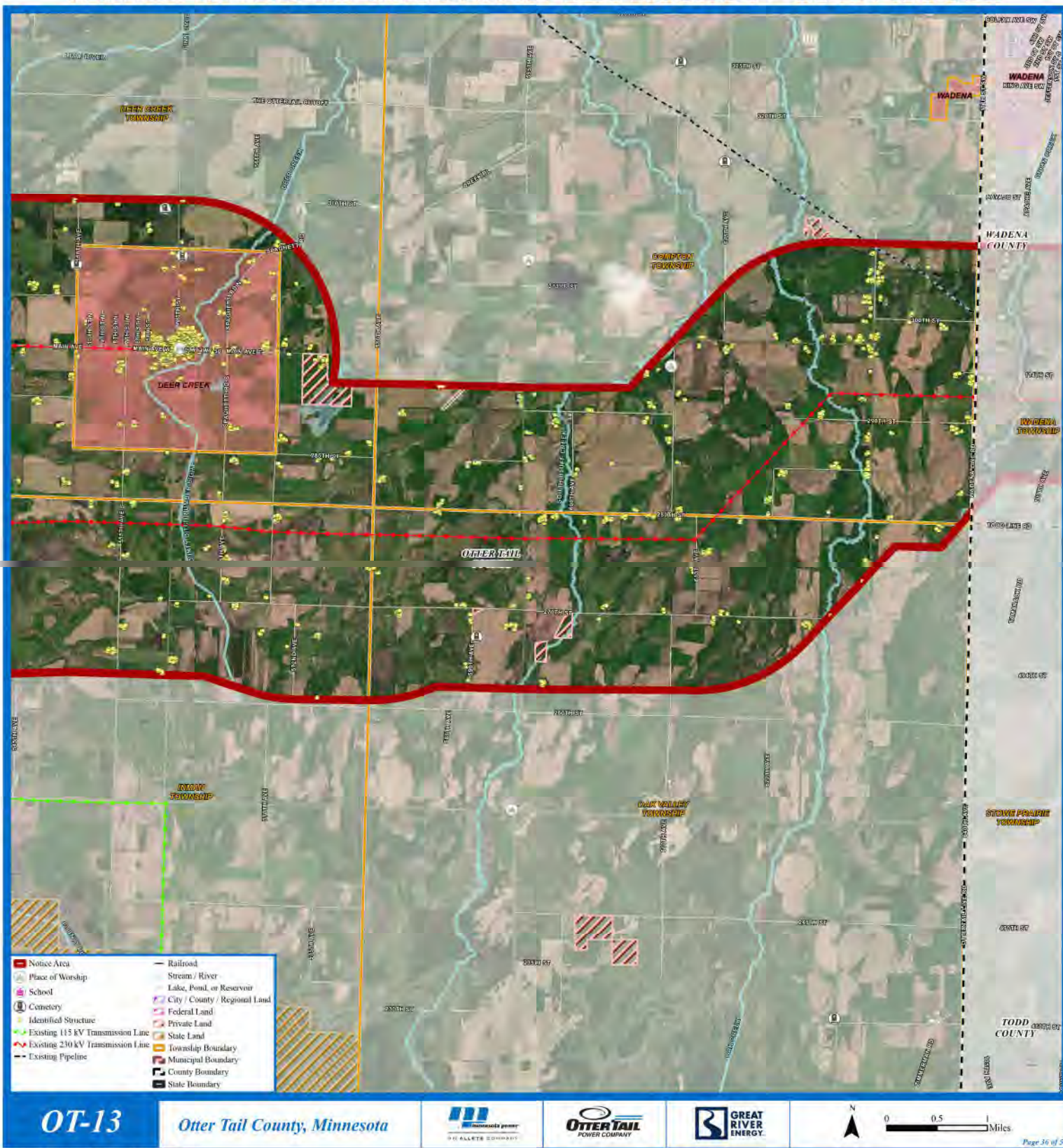
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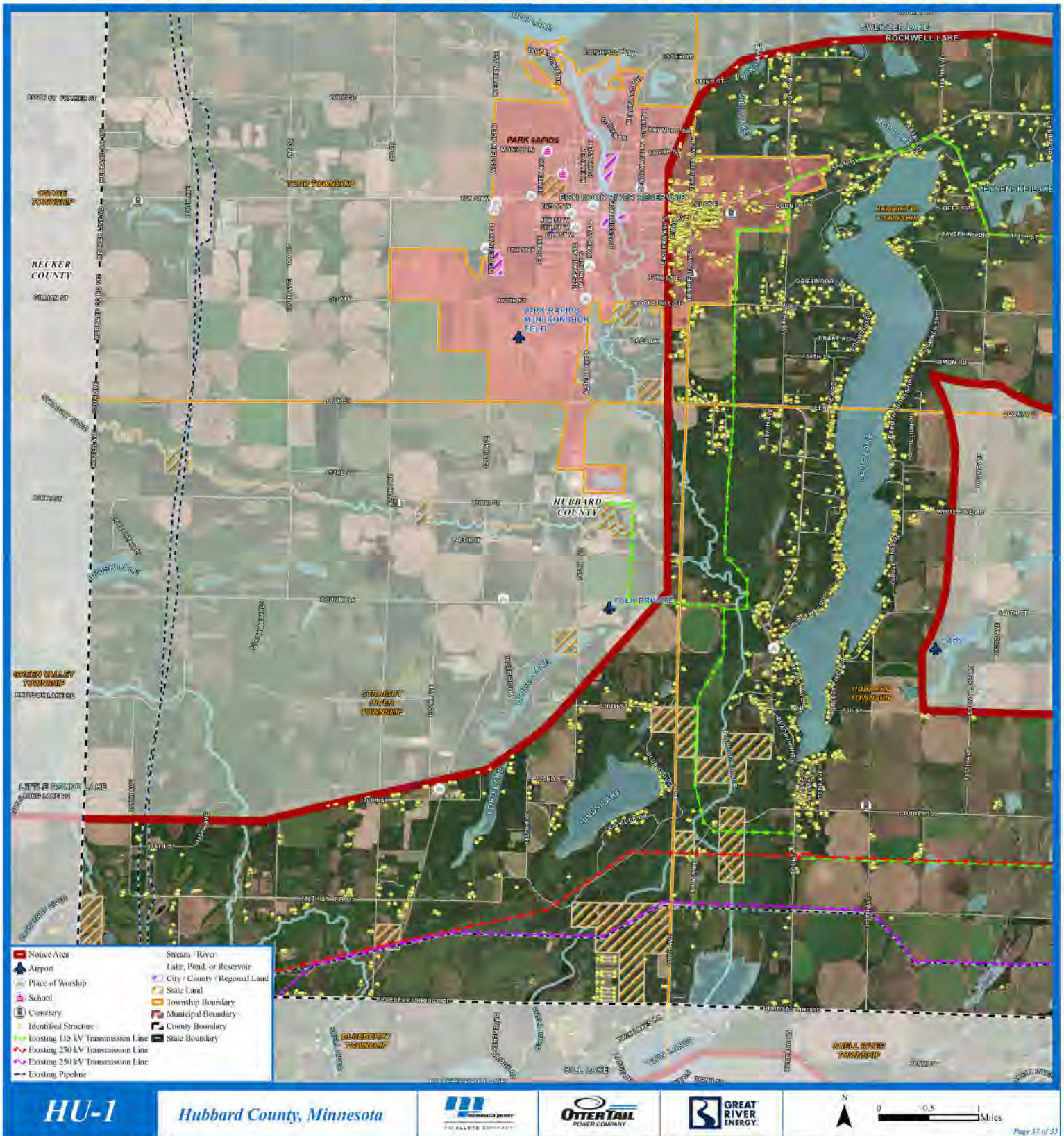
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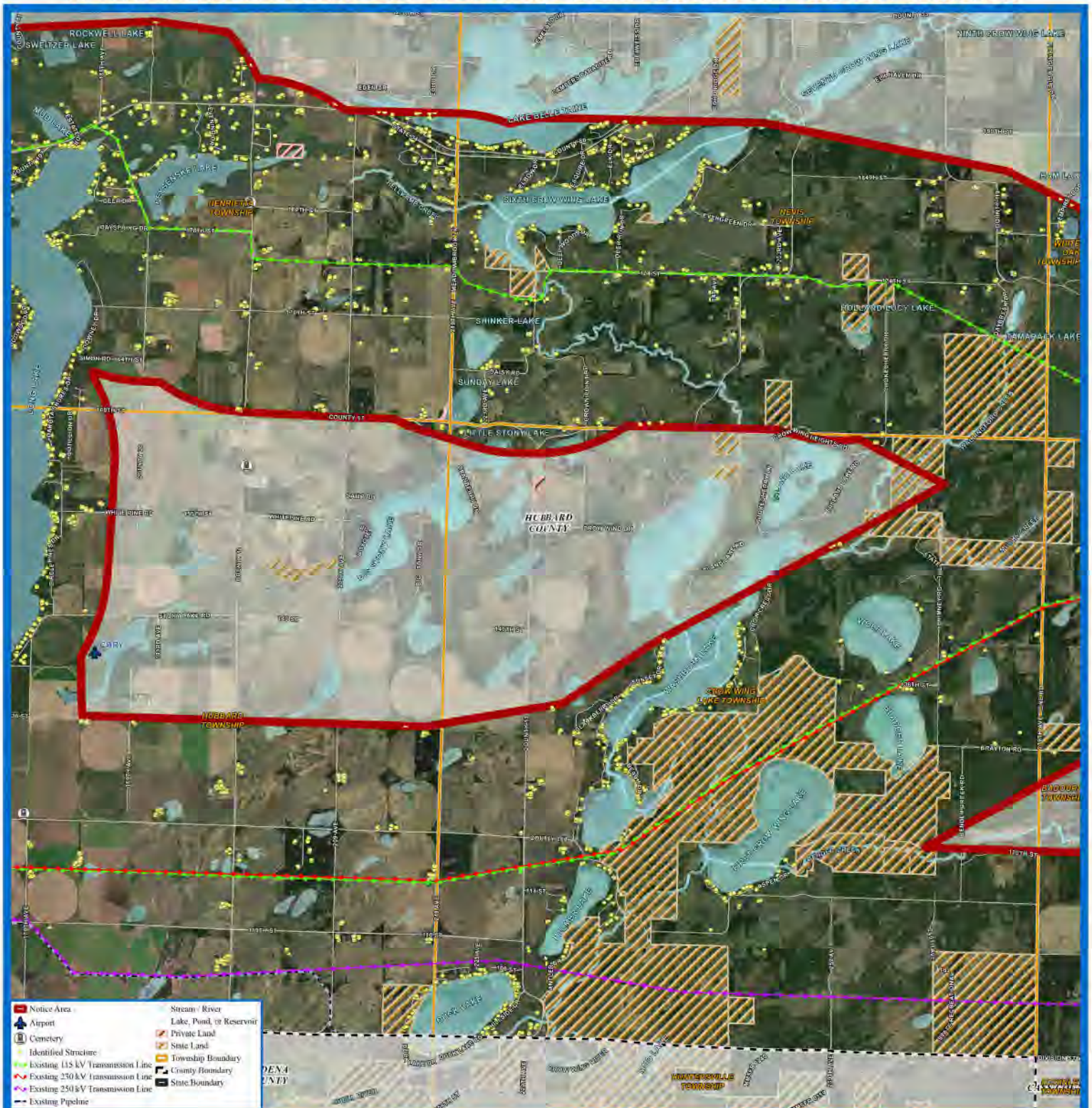


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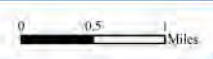
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MAPLE RIVER TO CUYUNA HVTL PROJECT - OPEN HOUSE



HU-2

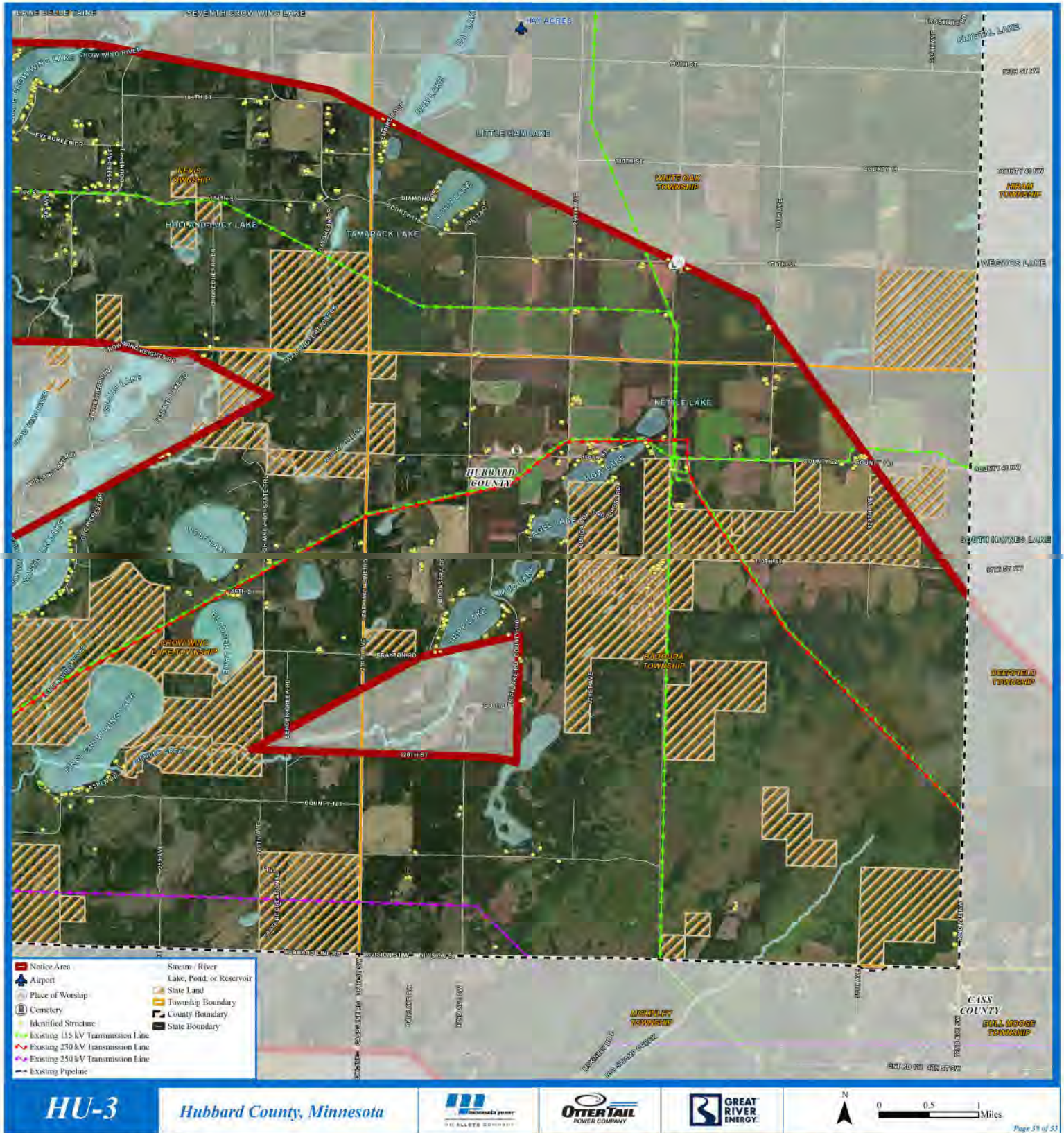
Hubbard County, Minnesota



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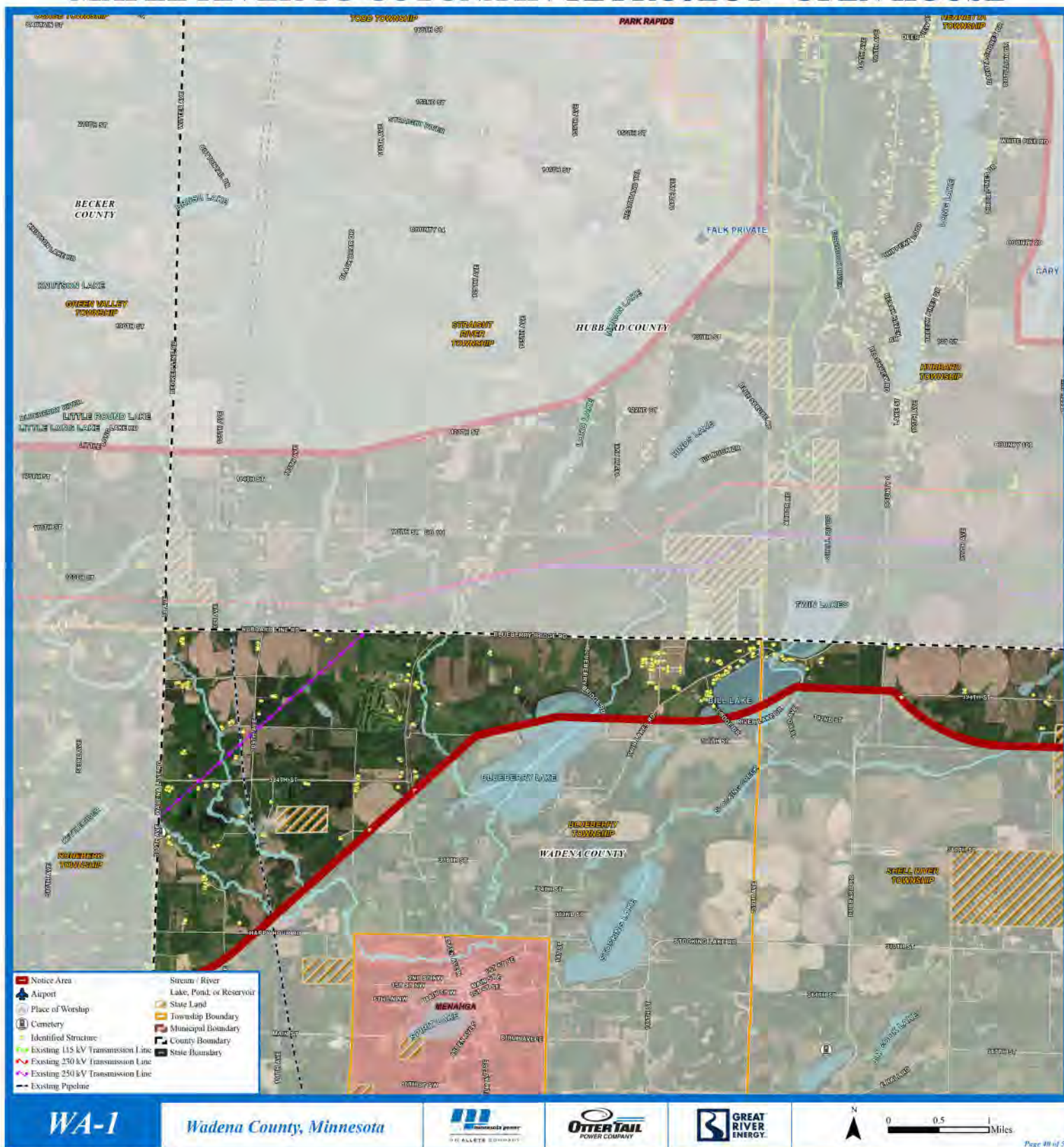
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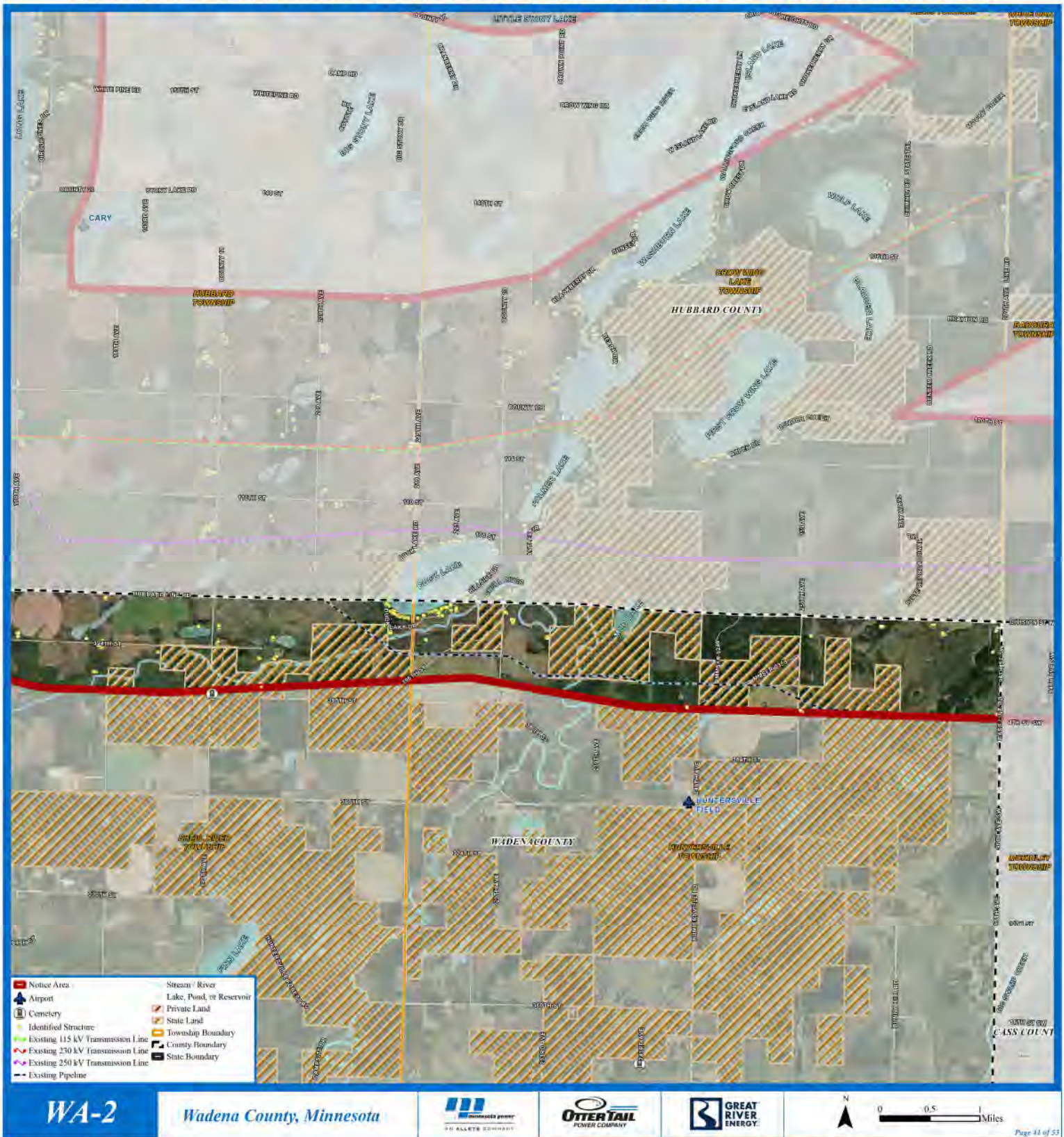


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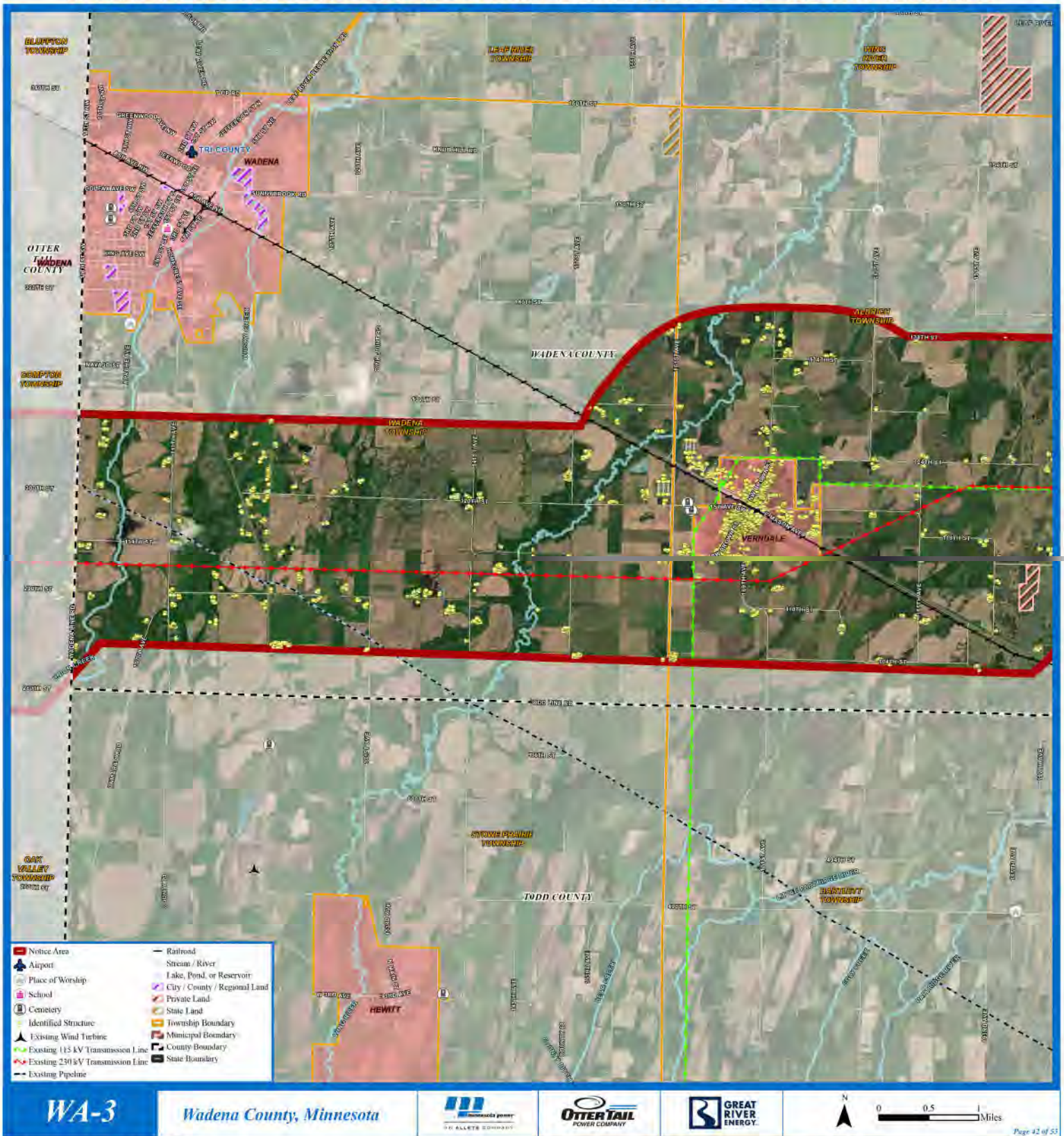


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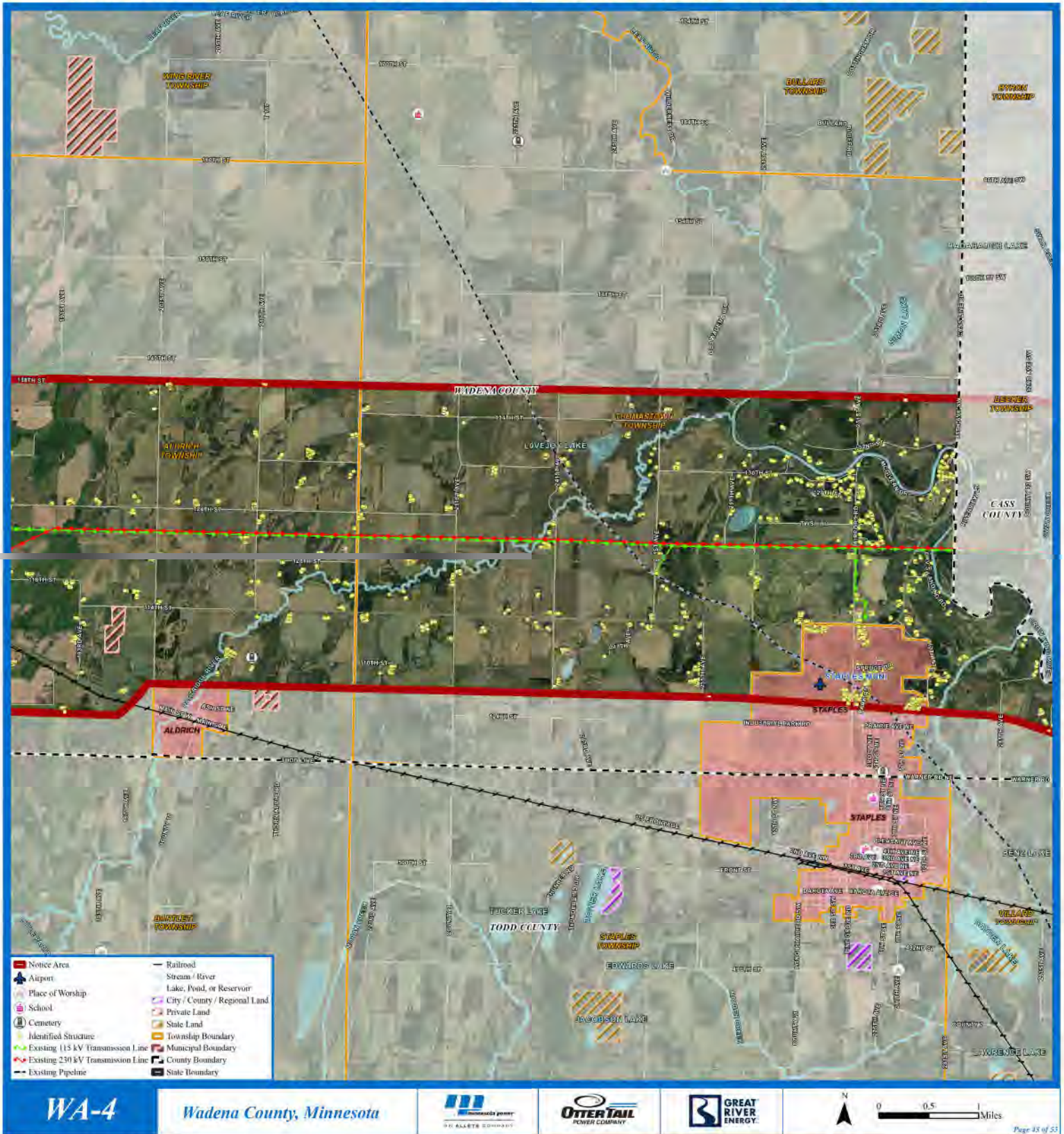
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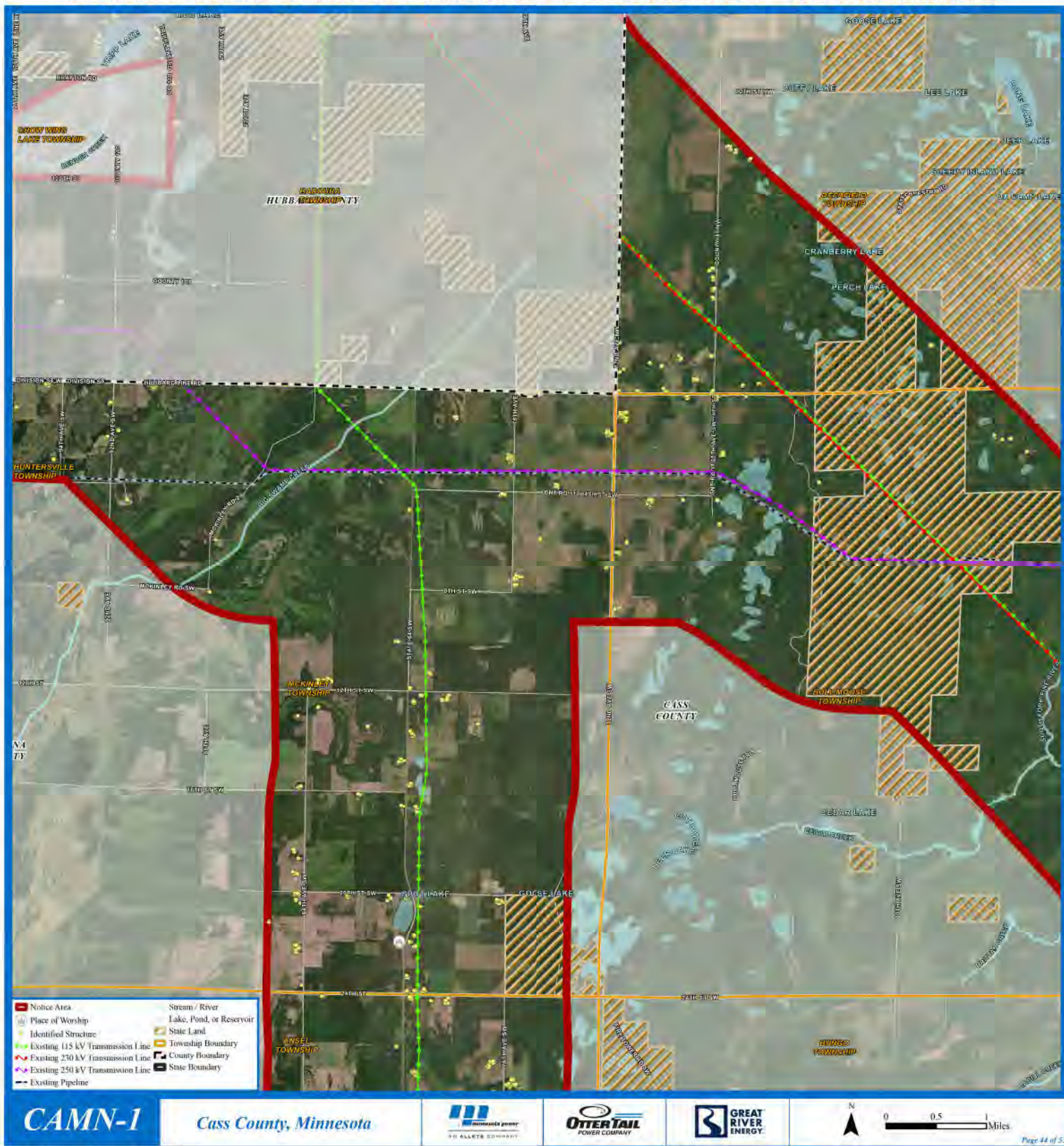
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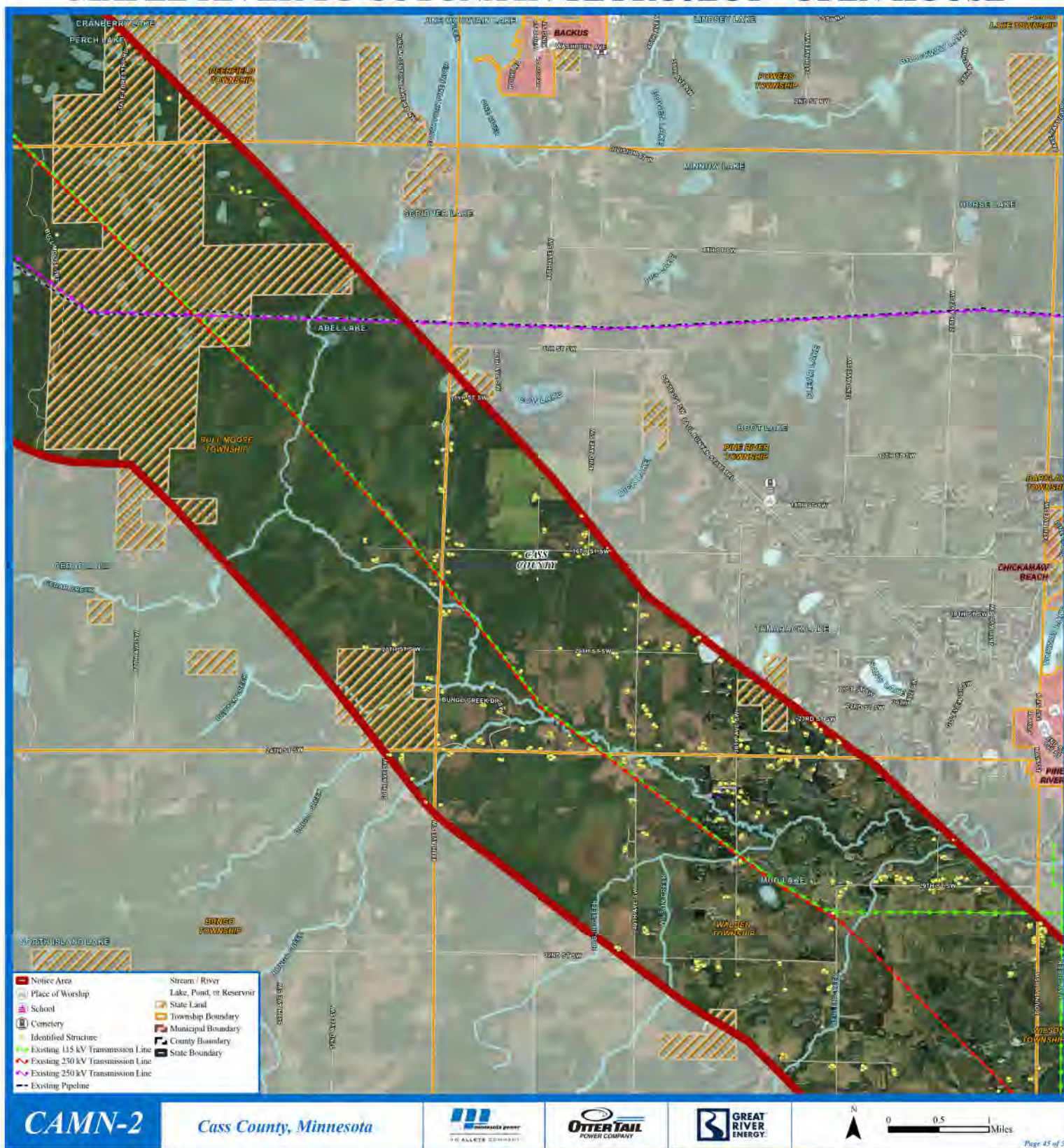


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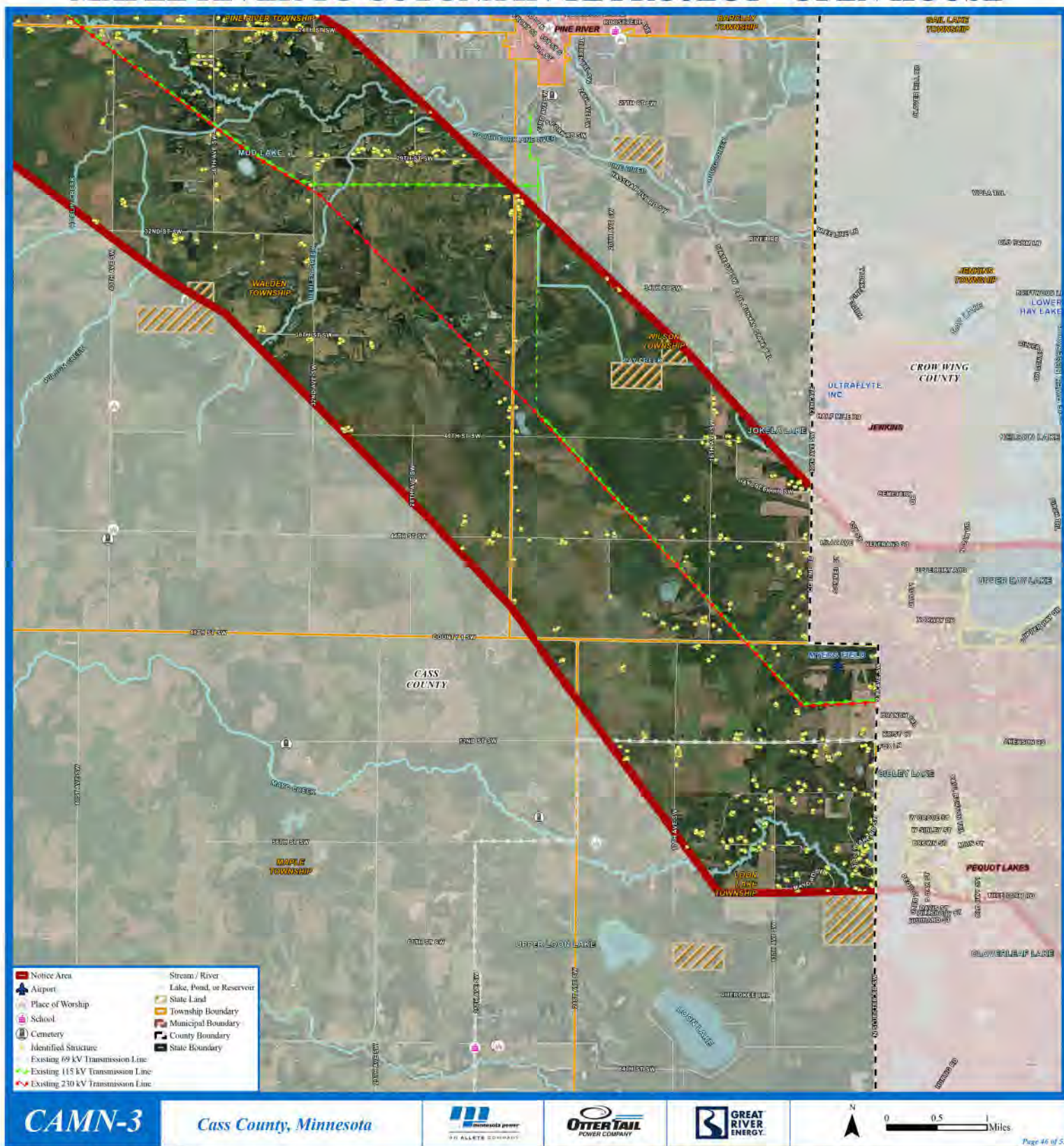
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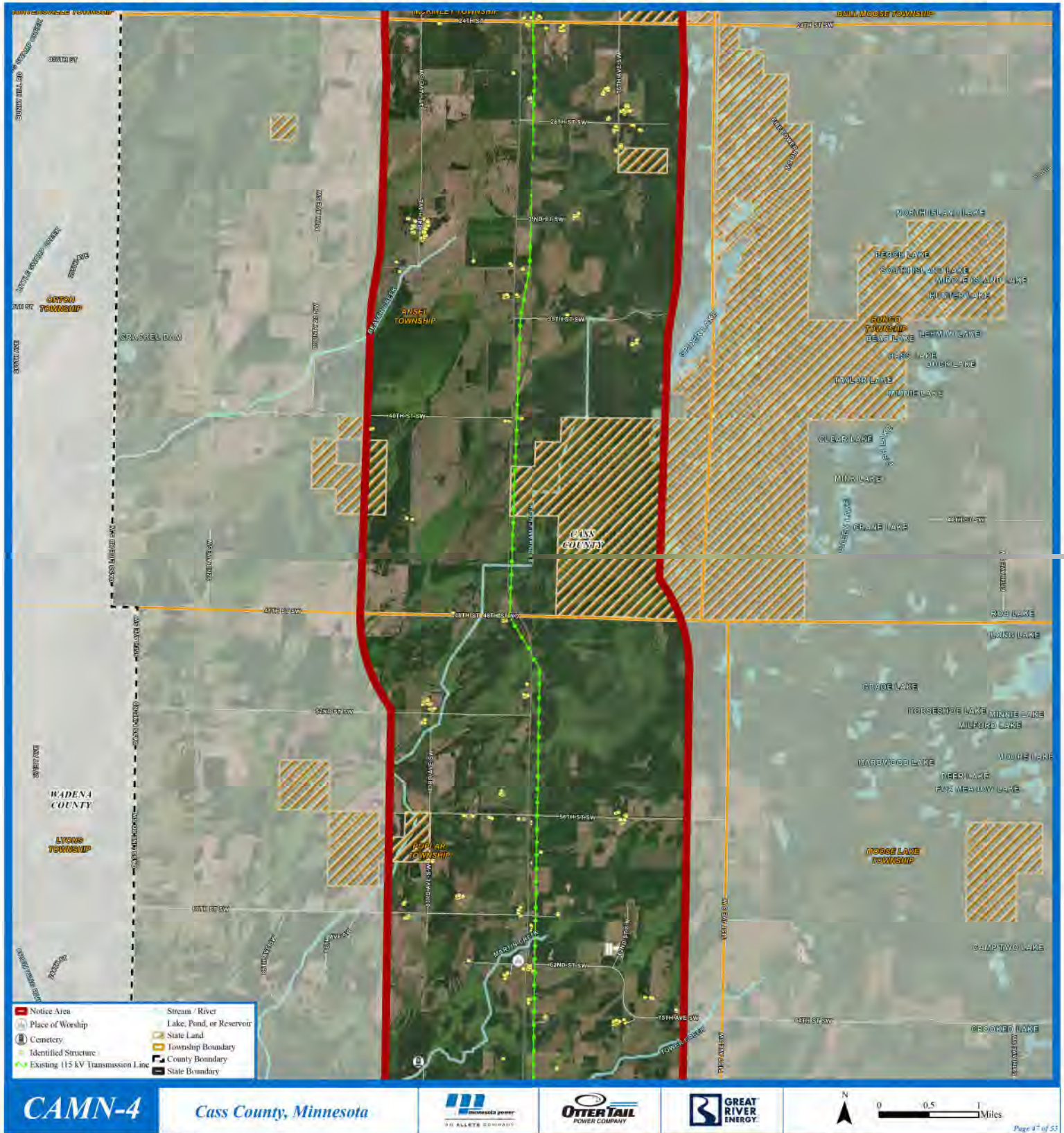
MAPLE RIVER TO CUYUNA HVTL PROJECT - OPEN HOUSE



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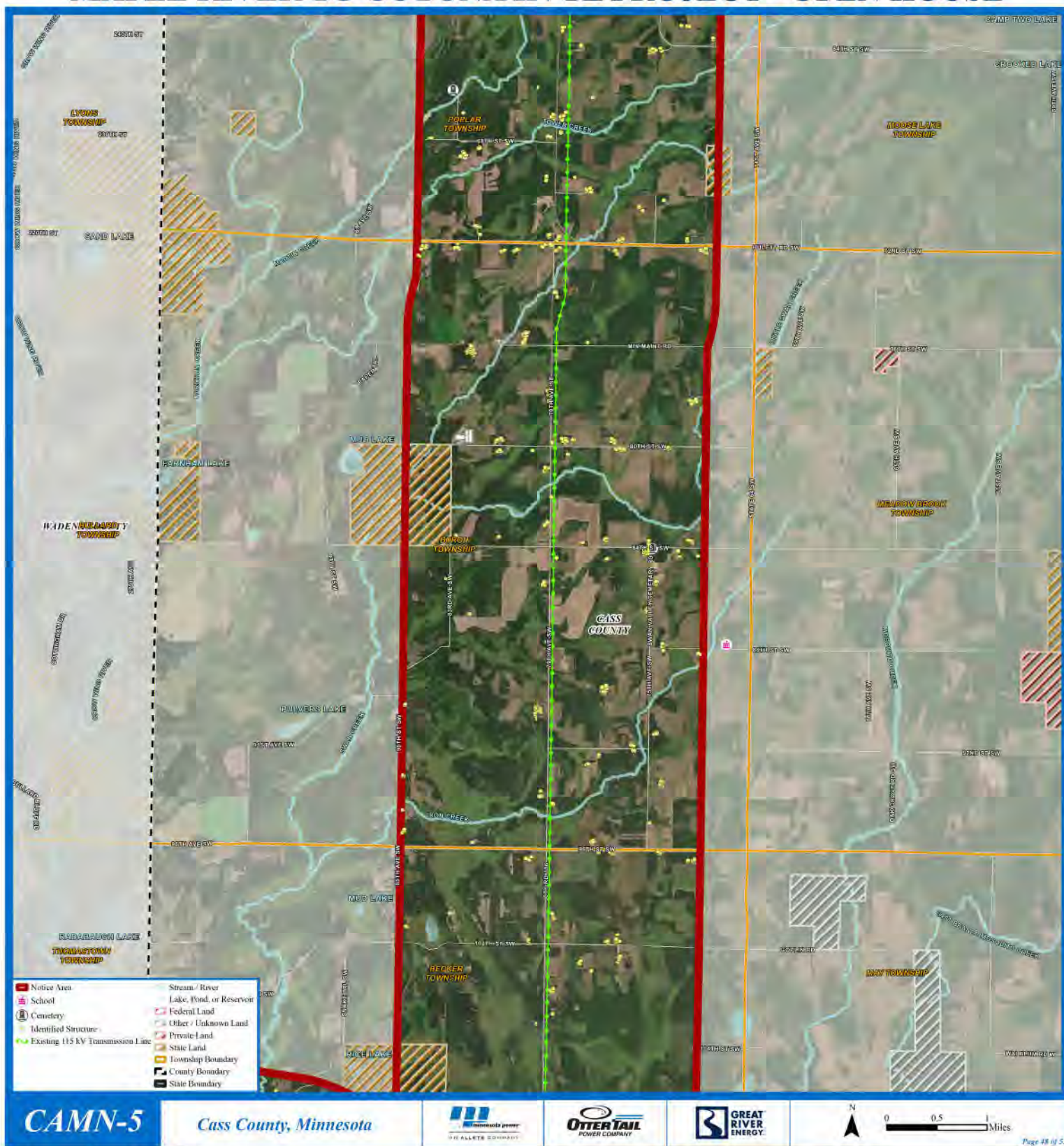


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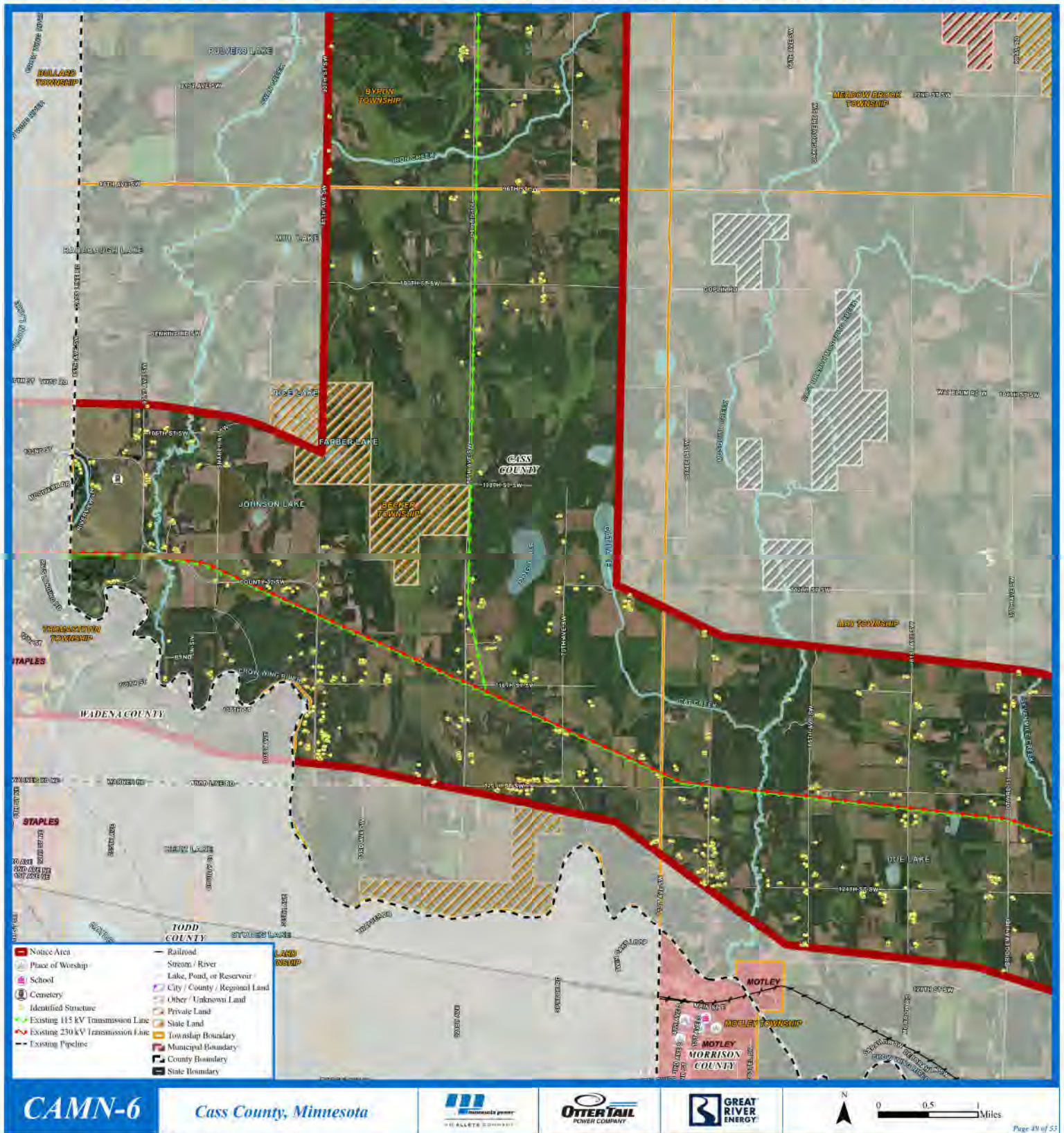


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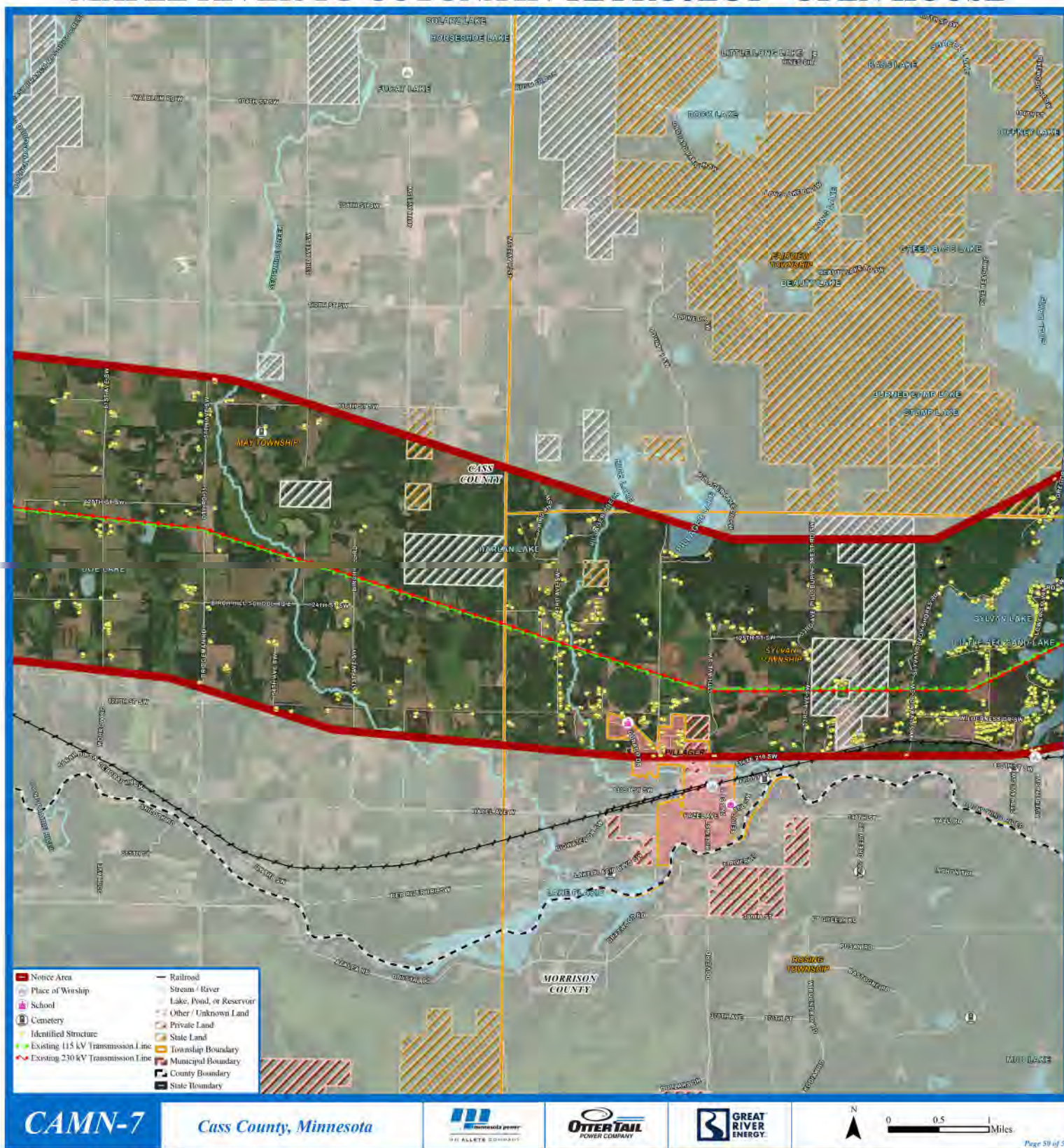


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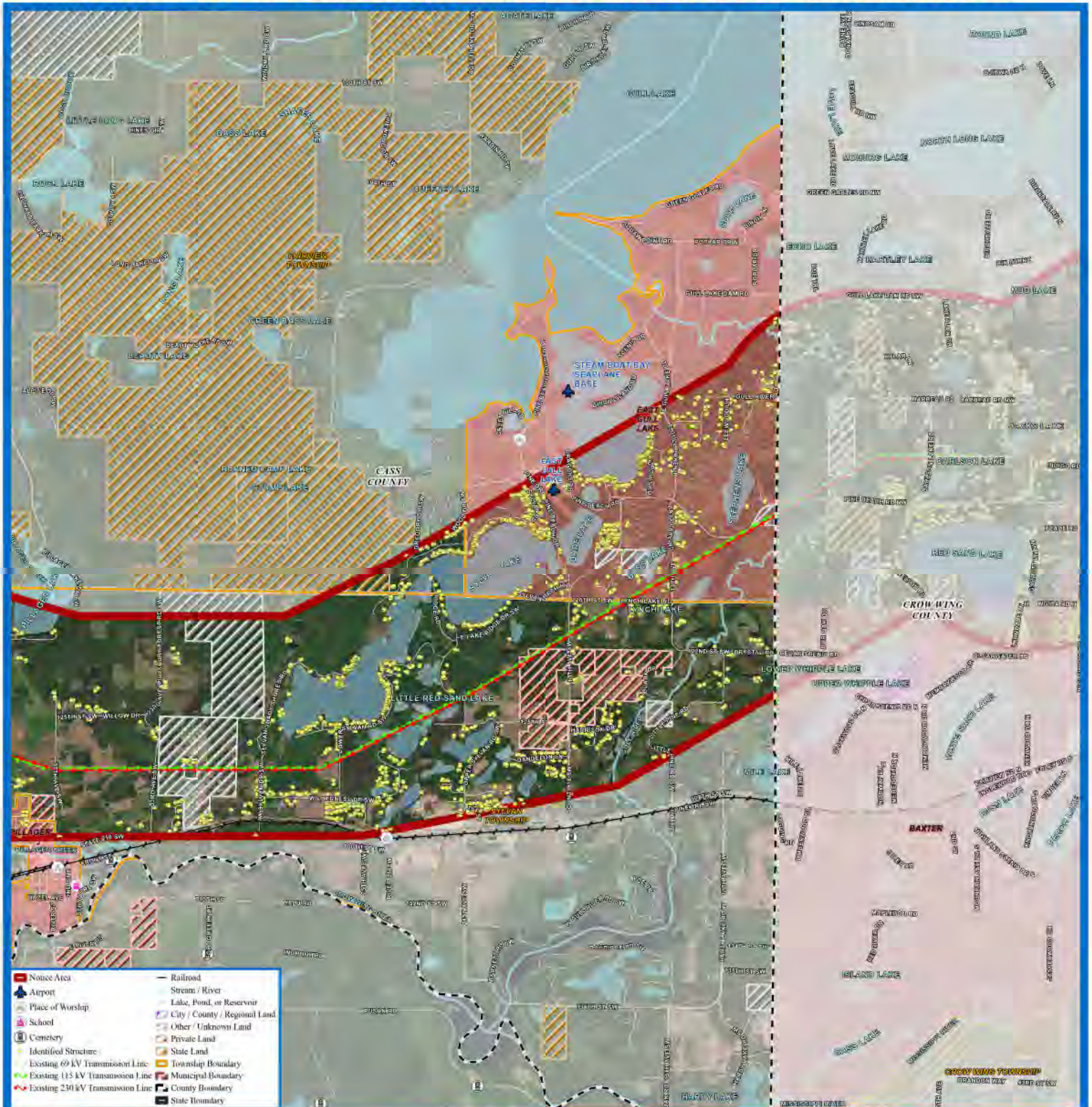


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MAPLE RIVER TO CUYUNA HVTL PROJECT - OPEN HOUSE



MAPLE RIVER TO CUYUNA HVTL PROJECT - OPEN HOUSE



CAMN-8

Cass County, Minnesota

Minnesota power
D. A. ALBERT SCHMIDT

OTTERTAIL
POWER COMPANY

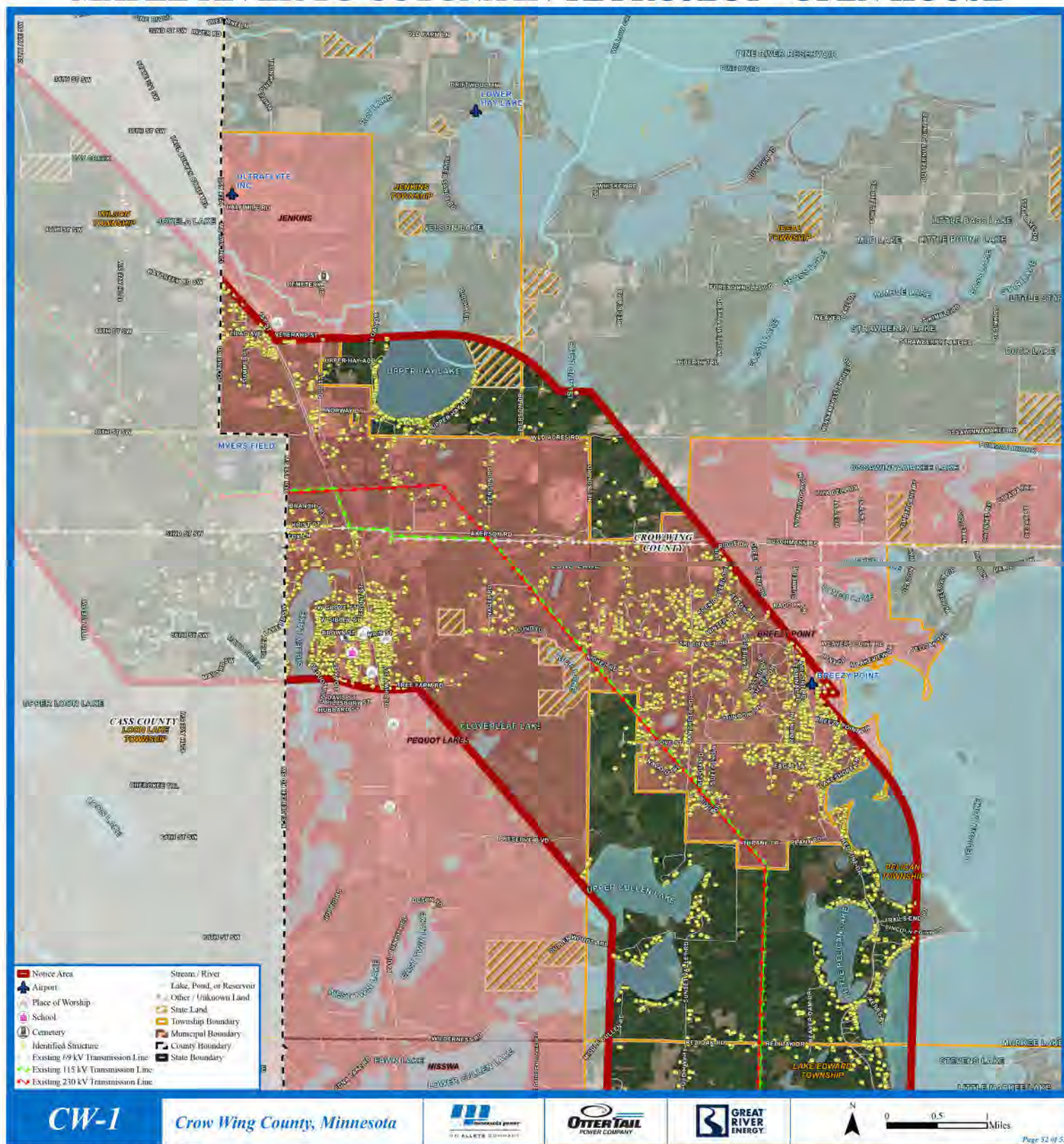
GREAT RIVER
ENERGY

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0 0.5 1 Miles

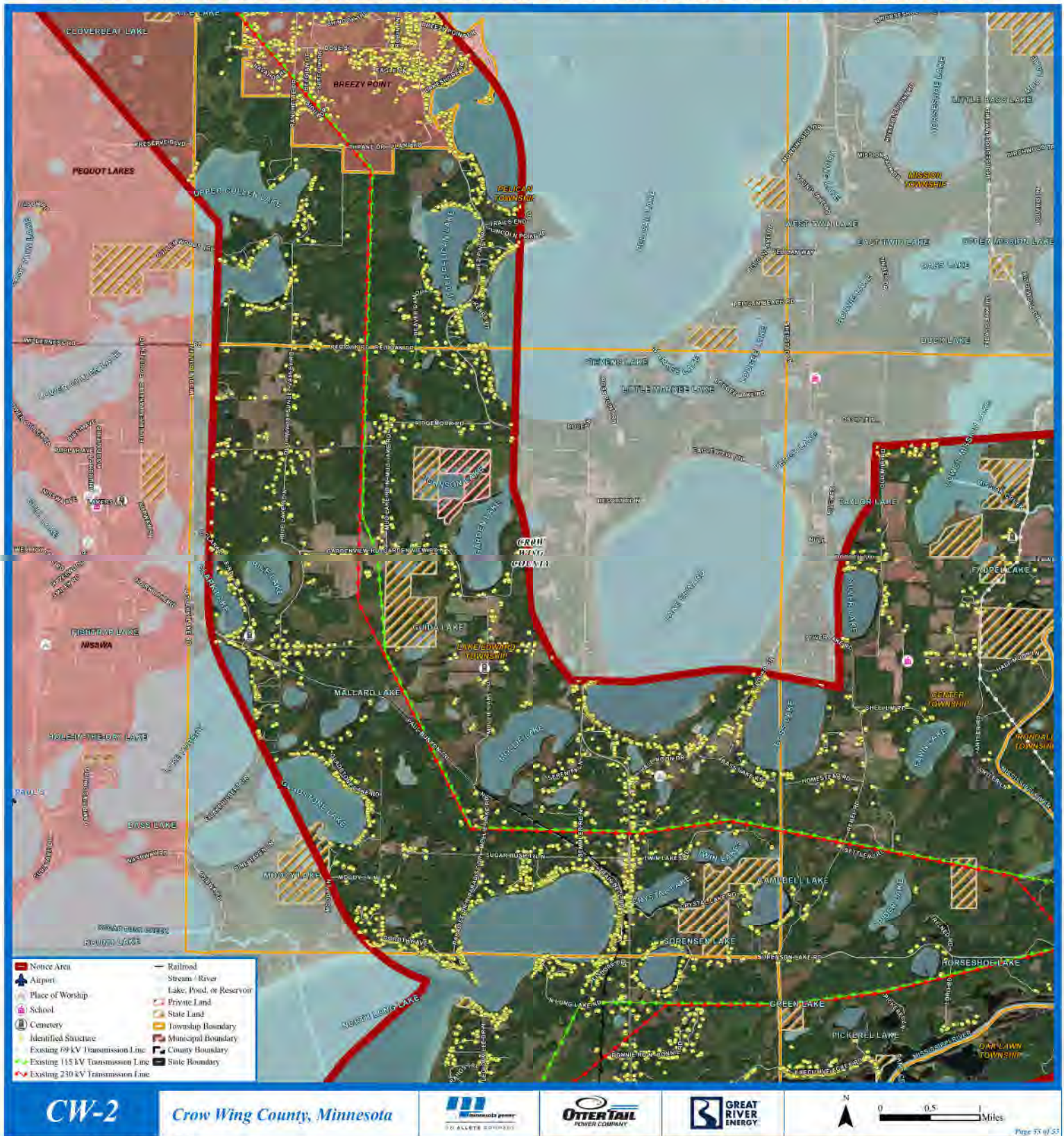
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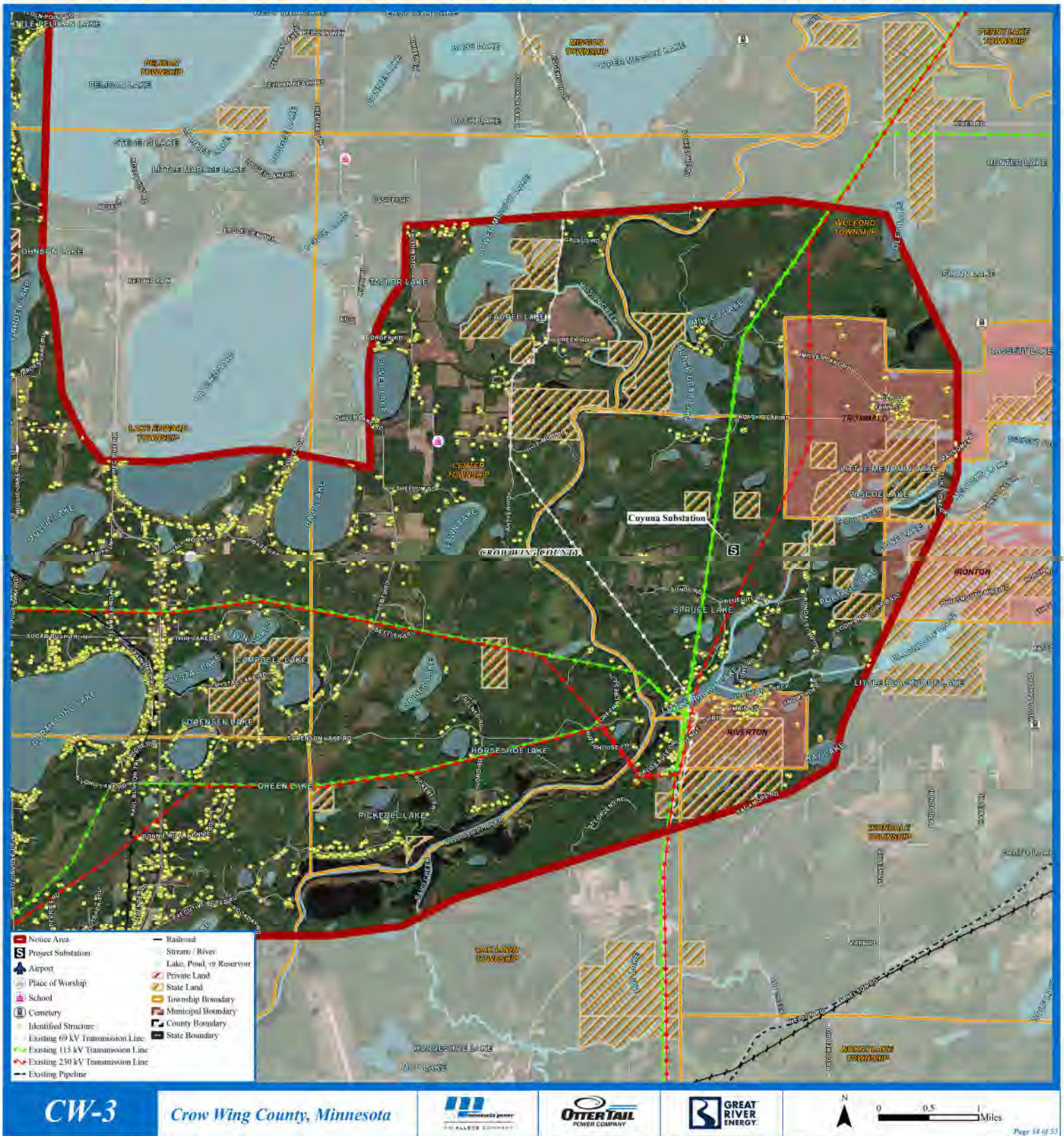
MAPLE RIVER TO CUYUNA HVTL PROJECT - OPEN HOUSE



MAPLE RIVER TO CUYUNA HVTL PROJECT - OPEN HOUSE

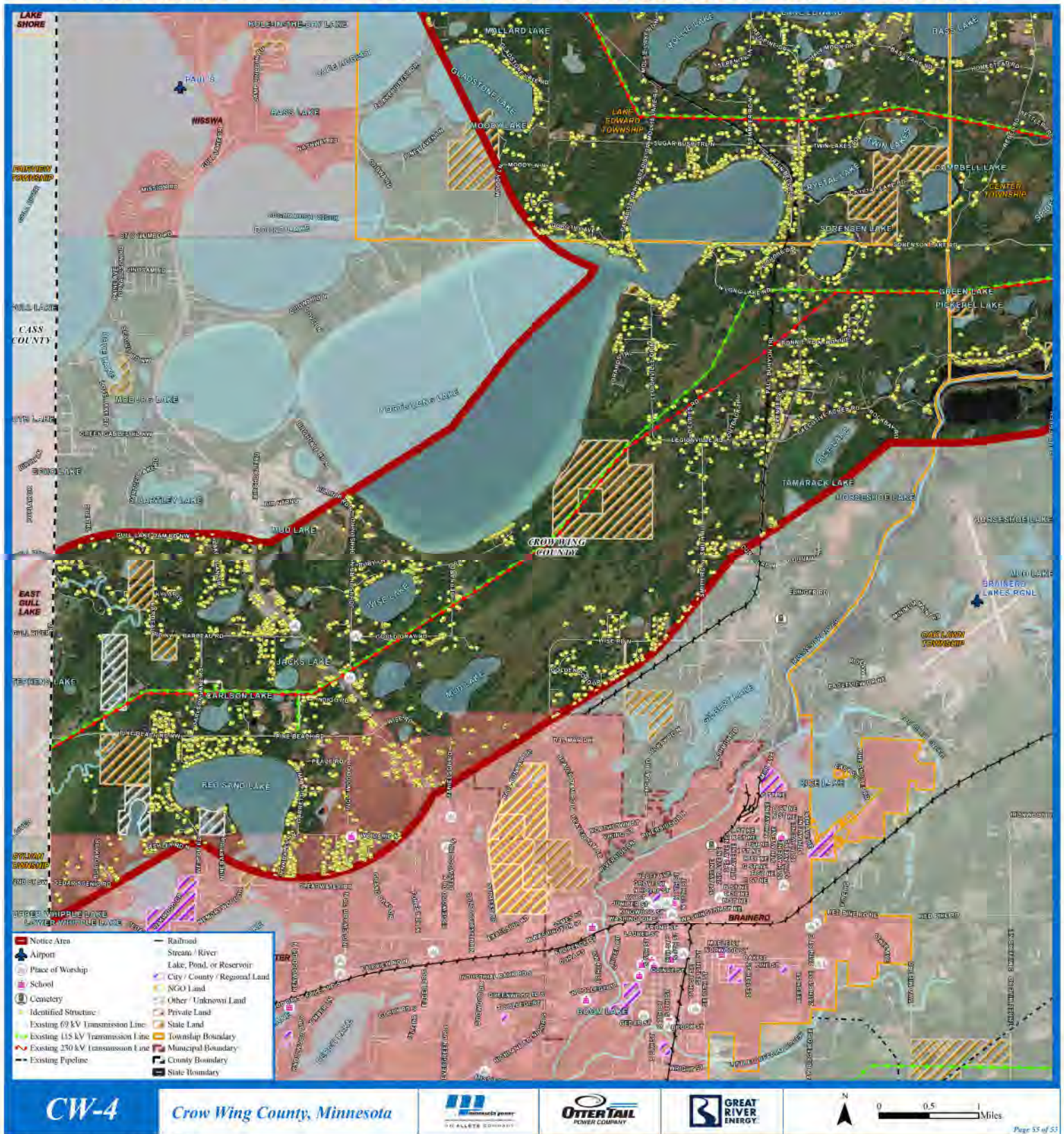


MAPLE RIVER TO CUYUNA HVTL PROJECT - OPEN HOUSE



For Environmental Review Purposes Only

MAPLE RIVER TO CUYUNA HVTL PROJECT - OPEN HOUSE



From: [Dan Flo](#)
Cc: [Drew Janke \(MP\)](#); [Tristen Joens](#)
Subject: Open House Invitation for Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project
Date: Monday, June 16, 2025 2:17:34 PM
Attachments:

Good afternoon,

Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Great River Energy are hosting Open Houses to introduce the Maple River – Cuyuna (MR-C) Transmission Project. The proposed MR-C Transmission Project is an approximately 160-mile-long, single-circuit 345 kV transmission line on double-circuit structures from Minnesota Power’s Cuyuna Substation near Riverton, Minnesota to Otter Tail Power Company’s Maple River Substation near Fargo, North Dakota.

We invite you to attend any of the Open Houses; the schedule is as follows:

MONDAY, JUNE 23, 1:00-3:00PM Glyndon Community Center 212 Partridge Avenue SE Glyndon, MN 56547	MONDAY, JUNE 23, 6:00-8:00PM Harwood Community Center 210 Freedland Dr Harwood, ND 58042
TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 1:00-3:00PM Bigwood Event Center 925 Western Ave Fergus Falls, MN 56537	TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 6:00-8:00PM Barnesville Event Center 102 Front Street North Barnesville, MN 56514
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 12:00-2:00PM MN State Community and Technical College- Detroit Lakes Campus 900 Highway 34 E Detroit Lakes, MN 56501	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 5:00-7:00PM Maslowski Wellness & Research Center 17 5th St SW Wadena, MN 56482
THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 1:00-3:00PM Park Rapids American Legion Otto Hendricks on Post 212 900 East 1st Street Park Rapids, MN 56470	THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 6:00-8:00PM Pine River-Backus Public High School 401 Murray Ave Pine River, MN 56474
MONDAY, JUNE 30, 1:00-3:00PM The Lodge at Brainerd Lakes 6967 Lake Forest Rd Baxter, MN 56425	MONDAY, JUNE 30, 6:00-8:00PM Taconite Canteen & Event Center 240 Curtis Ave Ironton, MN 56455

These meetings are open to the public and will give local community members and landowners an opportunity to learn about the project, ask questions, and provide input for potential project routes.

If you have questions about the Project or the Open Houses, please contact Drew Janke at (218) 576-9213 or djanke@mnpower.com.

Regards,

Dan Flo on behalf of

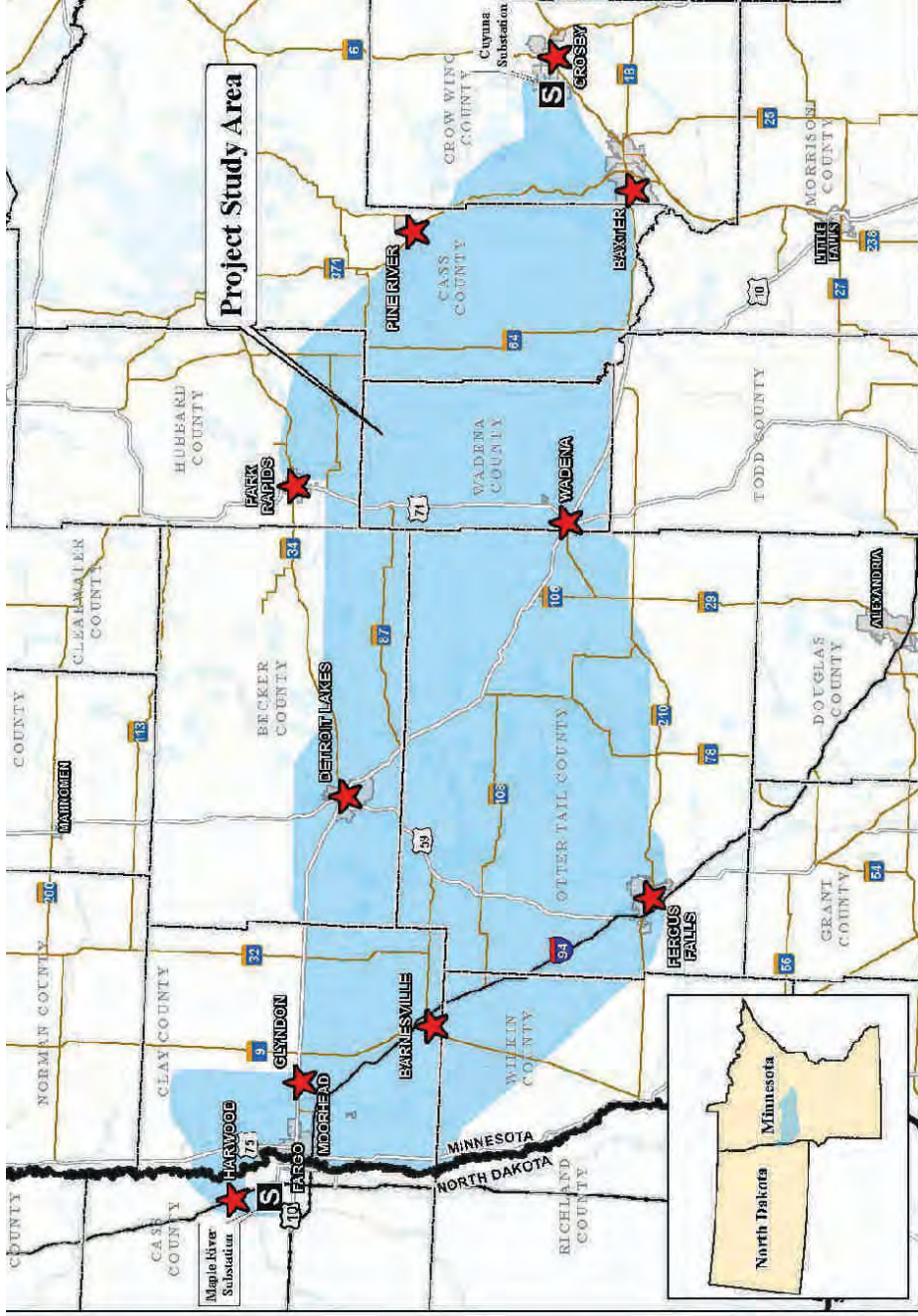
Drew Janke

-

Dan Flo
Minneapolis
612.812.0069 mobile
dan.flo@merjent.com



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**open house format, no formal presentations.*

Please join us at one of these open houses to learn more about the proposed MR-C Transmission Project and provide comments on potential routes within the Study Area. *

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Organization	Contact Name	Position	Email
Federal Aviation Administration	Marla Duchatellier	Air Traffic Technician	Marla.Duchatellier@faa.gov
Federal Aviation Administration	Ashley Wilson	Air Traffic Specialist	ashley.m.wilson@faa.gov
Federal Aviation Administration	Lindsay Terry	Manager	lindsay.terry@faa.gov
Federal Aviation Administration	Jacob Martin	Assistant Manager	jacob.martin@faa.gov
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Jeremy Kinney		Jeremy.M.Kinney@usace.army.mil
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Troy Daniell	Minnesota State Conservationist	kristine.a.kust@usda.gov
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Joseph Brennan	State Soil Scientist	joseph.brennan@usda.gov
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Robert Guetter	District Conservationist - CST Leader	Robert.Guetter@usda.gov
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Jody Peek	District Conservationist	jody.peek@usda.gov
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Josh Hanson	District Conservationist	joshua.hanson@usda.gov
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Candi Fuller	District Conservationist	candi.fuller@usda.gov
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Allison Praet	District Conservationist	allison.praet@usda.gov
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Robert Tawes	Field Supervisor	robert_tawes@fws.gov
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service			permitsr3mb@fws.gov
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	Thom Petersen	Commissioner	Thom.Petersen@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	Stephan Roos	Planner	stephan.roos@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Health	Christopher Parthun	Principal Planner	chris.parthun@state.mn.us

Minnesota Department of Health	Nick Budde	Hydrologist	nicholas.budde@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Health	Dereck Richter	Principal Planner	dereck.richter@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Health	Danielle Luzinski	Statewide Surface Water Hydrologist	danielle.luzinski@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Ben Bergey	Regional Director	
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Shelly Patten	Regional Director	Shelly.patten@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Grant Wilson	Regional Director	Grant.wilson@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Kate Fairman	Environmental Review Operations Lead	kate.fairman@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Becky Horton	EIS Project Manager	becky.horton@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Diane Johnson	Realty Specialist, Utility License Crossing	diane.johnson@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Jessica Parson	NE Region Ecologist	jessica.parson@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Patty Thielen	NE Region Director	patty.thielen@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Brianna Speldrich	Hydrologist	Brianna.Speldrich@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Molly Barrett	Natural Heritage Review Specialist	Molly.Barrett@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Jim Drake	Natural Heritage Review Specialist	jim.drake@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Chuck Carpenter	Northeast Regional Manager	Charles.Carpenter@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Joe Pignato	Land Management Office Director	joseph.pignato@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Stacy Kotch Egstad	Utility Routing and Siting Coordinator	stacy.kotch@state.mn.us

Minnesota Department of Transportation	Matt Meyer	Hydrologist	matthew.m.meyer@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Tom Lee	Hydrologist	thomas.lee@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Shane Gries	Right of Way Permits	shane.gries@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Rich Munsch	Right of Way Permits	richard.munsch@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Jeremy Mollner	Right of Way Permits	jeremy.mollner@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Jon Keranen	Right of Way Permits	jonathan.keranen@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Keith Peterson	Right of Way Permits	keith.peterson@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Terry Condon	Right of Way Permits	terry.condon@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Tom Johnson	Right of Way Permits	thomas.d.johnson@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	John Gildersleeve	Right of Way Permits	john.gildersleeve@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Daryn Minske	Right of Way Permits	Daryn.minske@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Shane Bakken	Right of Way Permits	Shane.bakken@state.mn.us
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council	Shannon Geshick	Executive Director	shannon.geshick@state.mn.us
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council	George Goggleye Jr.	Cultural Resources Manager	george.goggleye@state.mn.us
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council	Lilly Geraghty	Cultural Resources Manager	lilly.geraghty@state.mn.us
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council	Isaac Weston	Cultural Resources Manager	isaac.weston@state.mn.us
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	Jim Dexter	Environmental Review Specialist	James.Dexter@state.mn.us

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	Kirsten Barta	Regional General Permits	kirsten.barta@state.mn.us
Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office	Leslie Coburn	Manager, Environmental Review Speciali	leslie.coburn@state.mn.us
Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office	Kelly Gragg-Johnson	Environmental Review Specialist	kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us
Office of the State Archaeologist	Amanda Gronhovid	MN State Archaeologist	Amanda.Gronhovid@state.mn.us
Public Utilities Commission	Bret Eknes	Supervisor	Bret.Eknes@state.mn.us
Becker County	Richard Vareberg	District 4 Commissioner	richard.vareberg@co.becker.mn.us
Becker County	David Meyer	District 2 Commissioner	david.meyer@co.becker.mn.us
Becker County	Erica Jepson	District 1 Commissioner	erica.jepson@co.becker.mn.us
Becker County	Phil Hansen	District 3 Commissioner	phil.hansen@co.becker.mn.us
Becker County	Barry Nelson	District 5 Commissioner	bknelso@co.becker.mn.us
City of Detroit Lakes	Loren Tolkkinen, SLL Inc. (C	Assessor	lorent@wcta.net
City of Detroit Lakes	Kelcey Klemm	Adminstrator	kklemm@cityofdetroitlakes.com
City of Detroit Lakes	Kari Tyson	Clerk	ktyson@cityofdetroitlakes.com
City of Detroit Lakes	Matt Brenk	Mayor	mbrenk@cityofdetroitlakes.com
City of Detroit Lakes	Shaun Carlson	Alderman First Ward (Public Safety)	scarlson@cityofdetroitlakes.com
City of Detroit Lakes	Ron Zeman	Alderman First Ward	rzeman@cityofdetroitlakes.com
City of Detroit Lakes	Mike Stearns	Alderman Second Ward	mstearns@cityofdetroitlakes.com
City of Detroit Lakes	Wendy Spry	Alderman Second Ward	wspry@cityofdetroitlakes.com
City of Detroit Lakes	Aaron Dallmann	Alderman Third Ward	adallmann@cityofdetroitlakes.com
City of Detroit Lakes	Matt Boeke	Alderman Third Ward	mboeke@cityofdetroitlakes.com
City of Detroit Lakes	Craig Caulfield	Alderman at Large	ccaufield@cityofdetroitlakes.com
City of Detroit Lakes	Jaimie Deraney	Alderman at Large	jderaney@cityofdetroitlakes.com
City of Detroit Lakes	Jackie Buboltz	Alderman at Large	jbuboltz@cityofdetroitlakes.com
City of Frazee	Jared Suihkonen (County)	Assessor	jered.suuhkonen@co.becker.mn.us
City of Frazee	Stephanie Poegel	Adminstrator	cityadmin@frazee.city.com
City of Frazee	Mike Sharp	Mayor	mikesharp607@gmail.com
City of Lake Park	Sarah Mikkelsen	Clerk	smikkelsen@lakeparkmn.com
City of Lake Park	Sarah Mikkelsen	Treasurer	smikkelsen@lakeparkmn.com
Audubon Township	Wesley Hegna	Assessor	assessorwes@gmail.com

Burlington Township	Wesley Hegna	Assessor	assessorwes@gmail.com
Cormorant Township	Lisa Marschall	Assessor	LMAssessor@outlook.com
Detroit Township	Jared Suihkonen (County)	Assessor	jared.suihkonen@co.becker.mn.us
Erie Township	Wesley Hegna	Assessor	assessorwes@gmail.com
Green Valley Township	Lisa Marschall	Assessor	LMAssessor@outlook.com
Height of Land Township	Luke Johnson (County)	Assessor	luke.johnson@co.becker.mn.us
Lake View Township	Jared Suihkonen (County)	Assessor	jared.suihkonen@co.becker.mn.us
Runeberg Township	Lisa Marschall	Assessor	LMAssessor@outlook.com
Silver Leaf Township	Wesley Hegna	Assessor	assessorwes@gmail.com
Toad Lake Township	Lisa Marschall	Assessor	LMAssessor@outlook.com
Cass County	Neal Gaalswyk	District 1 Commissioner	neal.gaalswyk@casscountymn.gov
Cass County	Robert Kangas	District 2 Commissioner	bob.kangas@casscountymn.gov
Cass County	Rusty Lilyquist	District 3 Commissioner	rusty.lilyquist@casscountymn.gov
Cass County	Scott Bruns	District 4 Commissioner	scott.bruns@casscountymn.gov
Cass County	Rick Haaland	District 5 Commissioner	rick.haaland@casscountymn.gov
City of Pine River	Tamara Hansen	Mayor	mayor@cityofpineriver.org
City of Fargo	Tim Mahoney	Mayor	tmahoney@fargond.gov
City of Fargo	Arlette Preston	Deputy Mayor/Commissioner	Apreston@fargond.gov
City of Fargo	Dave Piepkorn	Commissioner	dpiepkorn@fargond.gov
City of Fargo	John Strand	Commissioner	Jstrand@fargond.gov
City of Fargo	Denise Kolpack	Commissioner	dpiepkorn@fargond.gov
City of East Gull Lake	Laura Christensen	Administrator	laura@eastgulllake.us
City of Lake Shore	Laura Fussy	Clerk	lfussy@cityoflakeshore.com

City of Pillager	Lori Blumke	Clerk	loriblumke@cityofpillager.com
City of Pillager	Adam Sparrow	Mayor	adamsparrow@cityofpillager.com
City of Pillager	H. Robert Freelove	Council	robfreelove@cityofpillager.com
City of Pillager	Joe Klein	Council	joeklein@cityofpillager.com
City of Pillager	Wade Mortenson	Council	wademortenson@cityofpillager.com
City of Pillager	Leroy Smith	Council	leroysmith@cityofpillager.com
Ansel Township	Linda Kuschel	Clerk	tnlkuschel@gmail.com
Becker Township	Mary Fitcher	Clerk	becker.townshipclerk@yahoo.com
Bull Moose Township	Grace Salie	Clerk	backus1943@gmail.com
Bungo Township	Linda Neumann	Clerk	bungotownship@gmail.com
Byron Township	Becki Rassler	Clerk	byrontwpcassco@outlook.com
Deerfield Township	Megan Young	Clerk	deerfieldmn@outlook.com
Fairview Township	Katie Eastman	Clerk	fairviewtownship@msn.com
Loon Lake Township	Tim Murphy	Clerk	murphytrm@gmail.com
Maple Township	Alisha Alderson	Clerk	maple.township@tds.net
May Township	Bianca Wyffels	Clerk	clerk@maytwtp.com
McKinley Township	Stephanie Burns	Clerk	mckinleytwtp@gmail.com
Pine River Township	Barbara Wagner	Clerk	clerkprtownship@gmail.com

Poplar Township	Susan Peet	Clerk	poplarclerk@outlook.com
Sylvan Township	Jenna Ruggles	Clerk	clerk@sylvantwp.com
Walden Township	Kim Norman	Clerk	waldentownshipclerk@gmail.com
Wilson Township	Lainey Peterson	Clerk	wtpemailclerk@gmail.com
Clay County	Paul Krabbenhoft	District 1 Commissioner	paul.krabbenhoft@claycountymn.gov
Clay County	Ezra Baer	District 2 Commissioner	ezra.baer@claycountymn.gov
Clay County	Jenny Mongeau	District 3 Commissioner	Jenny.Mongeau@claycountymn.gov
Clay County	Kevin Campbell	District 4 Commissioner	Kevin.Campbell@claycountymn.gov
Clay County	David Ebinger	District 5 Commissioner	David.ebinger@claycountymn.gov
City of Barnesville	Jason Rick	Mayor	mayor@barnesvillemn.com
City of Barnesville	Dawn Stuvland	Council	stuvlandward1@barnesvillemn.com
City of Barnesville	Scott Bauer	Council	bauerward1@barnesvillemn.com
City of Barnesville	Don Goedtke	Council	goedtkeward2@barnesvillemn.com
City of Barnesville	Alyssa Bergman	Council	bergmanward2@barnesvillemn.com
City of Barnesville	Brad Field	Council	fieldward3@barnesvillemn.com
City of Barnesville	Tonya Stokka	Council	stokkaward3@barnesvillemn.com
City of Comstock			comstockcc@aol.com
City of Dilworth			cityhall@ci.dilworth.mn.us

City of Dilworth	Chad Olson	Mayor	Chad.Olson@ci.dilworth.mn.us
City of Dilworth	Julie Nash	Council	Julie.nash@ci.dilworth.mn.us
City of Dilworth	Dave Steichen	Council	amber.borah@ci.dilworth.mn.us
City of Dilworth	Kevin Peterson	Council	kevin.peterson@ci.dilworth.mn.us
City of Glyndon	Joe Olson	Mayor	jolson@glyndonmn.com
City of Glyndon	Bryant DeVries	Council	bdevries@glyndonmn.com
City of Glyndon	Shonna Severson	Council	sseverson@glyndonmn.com
City of Glyndon	Patrick McCoy	Council	pmccoy@glyndonmn.com
City of Glyndon	Steven Ring	Council	sring@glyndonmn.com
City of Hawley	Sean Mork	Mayor	smork@ci.hawley.mn.us
City of Hawley	David Asleson	Council	dasleson@ci.hawley.mn.us
City of Hawley	Brad Eldred	Council	beldred@ci.hawley.mn.us
City of Hawley	Stacey Riedberger	Council	sriedberger@ci.hawley.mn.us
City of Hawley	Marc Ness	Council	mness@ci.hawley.mn.us
City of Moorhead	Shelly Carlson	Mayor	shelly.carlson@cityofmoorhead.com
City of Moorhead	Ryan Nelson	Council Member	nt/mayor-city-council/my-council-members/contact-council-member-nelson
City of Moorhead	Nicole Mattson	Council Member	mayor-city-council/my-council-members/contact-council-member-mattson
City of Moorhead	Emily Moore	Council Member	mayor-city-council/my-council-members/contact-council-member-moore

Elmwood Township	Lori Pender	Supervisor	elmwoodtownship@outlook.com
Elmwood Township	Judy Hansen	Clerk	elmwoodtownship@outlook.com
Hawley Township	Denise Graunke	Clerk	hawleytownshipclerk@gmail.com
Kragnes Township	Jeremy Clark	Chairman	kragnestownship@outlook.com
Moland Township	Justin Magnuson	Chairman	molandtownship@outlook.com
Moorhead Township	Matt Raisl	Clerk	moorhead.township.clerk@gmail.com
Oakport Township	Tim Brendemuhl	Chairman	oakporttownship@yahoo.com
Oakport Township	Kurt Skjerven	Supervisor	oakporttownship@yahoo.com
Oakport Township	Jerry Gee	Supervisor	oakporttownship@yahoo.com
Oakport Township	Leah Skjerven	Clerk	oakporttownship@yahoo.com
Riverton Township	Jakob Pender '28	Chairman	rivertontownship@gmail.com
Riverton Township	Lee Alm '27	Supervisor	rivertontownship@gmail.com
Riverton Township	Philip Swan '26	Supervisor	rivertontownship@gmail.com
Riverton Township	Jill Toms '26	Clerk	rivertontownship@gmail.com
Skree Township	Jeffrey Pender '27	Chairman	skreetownship@outlook.com
Skree Township	Randy Bjornson '26	Supervisor	skreetownship@outlook.com
Skree Township	Paul Austin '28	Supervisor	skreetownship@outlook.com
Skree Township	Dawn Shulstad '26	Clerk	skreetownship@outlook.com

Crow Wing County	Paul Koering	District 1 Commissioner	Paul.Koering@crowwing.gov
Crow Wing County	Jon Lubke	District 2 Commissioner	Jon.Lubke@crowwing.gov
Crow Wing County	Steve Barrows	District 3 Commissioner	Steve.Barrows@crowwing.gov
Crow Wing County	Rosemary Franzen	District 4 Commissioner	Rosemary.Franzen@crowwing.gov
Crow Wing County	Jamie Lee	District 5 Commissioner	Jamie.Lee@crowwing.gov
City of Baxter	Darrel Olson	Mayor	dolson@baxtermn.gov
City of Crosby	Diane Cash	Mayor	diane.cash@cityofcrosby.com
City of Crosby	Jim Traylor	Council Member	jim.traylor@cityofcrosby.com
City of Crosby	Paul Heglund	Council Member	paul.heglund@cityofcrosby.com
City of Crosby	Shawn Jarvela	Council Member	shawn.jarvela@cityofcrosby.com
City of Crosby	Vern Lewis	Council Member	vern.lewis@cityofcrosby.com
City of Brainerd	Dave Badeaux	Mayor	dbadeaux@ci.brainerd.mn.us
City of Brainerd	Tad Erickson	Ward 1 Committee Member	terickson@ci.brainerd.mn.us
City of Brainerd	Kevin Yeager	Committee Member	kyeager@ci.brainerd.mn.us
City of Brainerd	Jeff Czczok	Ward 3 Committee Member	jcczczok@ci.brainerd.mn.us
City of Brainerd	Mike O'Day	President of Council	moday@ci.brainerd.mn.us
City of Brainerd	Gabe Johnson	Committee Member	gjohnson@ci.brainerd.mn.us
City of Brainerd	Kevin H. Stunek	Committee Member	kstunek@ci.brainerd.mn.us

City of Brainerd	Kelly Bevans	Committee Member	kbevans@ci.brainerd.mn.us
City of Breezy Point			
City of Ironton		City Clerk	clerk@cityofironton.org
City of Ironton	Joshua Jacobson	Mayor	joshjacobson@cityofironton.org
City of Ironton	Shawn Hamdorf	Council Member	shamdorf@hotmail.com
City of Ironton	Dean French	Council Member	bfrench1222@gmail.com
City of Ironton	Eric Heglund	Council Member	hopper@crosbyironton.net
City of Ironton	Matthew Bugnacki	Council Member	matthewbugnacki@cityofironton.org
City of Jenkins	Andrew Rudlang	Mayor	krista.okerman@cityofjenkins.com
City of Jenkins	Jerimey Flategraff (Mayor P	Council Member	krista.okerman@cityofjenkins.com
City of Jenkins	Roman Siltman	Council Member	krista.okerman@cityofjenkins.com
City of Jenkins	Ryan Barnett	Council Member	krista.okerman@cityofjenkins.com
City of Jenkins	Jory Carlson	Council Member	krista.okerman@cityofjenkins.com
City of Nisswa	Jennifer Carnahan	Mayor	jcarnahan@cityofnisswa.gov
City of Nisswa	Mark Froehle	Council Member	mfroehle@cityofnisswa.gov
City of Nisswa	Joseph Hall	Council Member	jhall@cityofnisswa.gov
City of Nisswa	Bruce London	Council Member	blondon@cityofnisswa.gov
City of Nisswa	Jesse Zahn	Council Member	jzahn@cityofnisswa.gov

City of Pequot Lakes				Info@pequotlakes.com
City of Riverton				riverton@centurylink.net
Ideal Township		Craig Wallace	Clerk	info@idealtownship.com
Ideal Township		David Peterson	Supervisor	dave.peterson@idealtownship.com
Ideal Township		John Bilek	Supervisor	john.bilek@idealtownship.com
Ideal Township		Ronald Ommen	Supervisor	ron.ommen@idealtownship.com
Irondale Township		Angela Fort	Clerk	irondaletownship2@gmail.com
Jenkins Township		Jim Olsen	Clerk	cheffo@gmail.com
Lake Edward Township		Loni Burnard	Clerk	Lakeedwardtownshp@gmail.com
Oak Lawn Township		Deborah Borg	Clerk	oaklawntwp@gmail.com
Pelican Township		Linda Benson	Clerk	pelicantownship@gmail.com
Wolford Township		Kimberly Marquart,	Clerk	wolfordclerk@castle-web.com
Hubbard County		David De La	District 1 Commissioner	david.delahunt@co.hubbard.mn.us
Hubbard County		Charlene Christenson	District 2 Commissioner	char.christenson@co.hubbard.mn.us
Hubbard County		Tom Krueger	District 3 Commissioner	tom.krueger@co.hubbard.mn.us
Hubbard County		Steve Keranen	District 4 Commissioner	steven.keranen@co.hubbard.mn.us
Badoura Township		Tim Scouton	Clerk	Badouraclerk@Gmail.com
Badoura Township		David Andress	Supervisor	docandress@arvig.net

Badoura Township	Theora Goodrich	Township Chair	tdgoodrich@mac.com
Crow Wing Lake Township	Brian Ford	Clerk	cwltclerk@outlook.com
Crow Wing Lake Township	Darin Katzenmeyer	Assessor	dwkatzenmeyer@gmail.com
Henrietta Township	Russell Johnsrud	Chair	henriettasvr2@arvig.net
Henrietta Township	Perry Melbo	Member	henriettasvr1@arvig.net
Henrietta Township	Gary Nasser	Member	henriettasvr3@arvig.net
Henrietta Township	Tina Melott	Treasurer	henriettatreasurer@arvig.net
Henrietta Township	Ann Lempola	Clerk	henriettatown@unitelc.com
Henrietta Township	Duane Goeden	Vice Chair	henriettasvr4@arvig.net
White Oak Township	Shelly Nelson	Chairperson	whiteoaksupervisor@gmail.com
White Oak Township	DeeAnn Hayes	Supervisor	whiteoaksupervisor2@gmail.com
White Oak Township	Michael Bates	Supervisor	mbateswota@gmail.com
White Oak Township	Jeff Lindstrom	Clerk	whiteoakclerk1@gmail.com
White Oak Township	Marlys Lehn	Treasurer	maron@arvig.net
City of Park Rapids	Pat Mikes	Mayor	mayor@ci.park-rapids.mn.us
City of Park Rapids	Liz Stone	Council Member	liz.stone@ci.park-rapids.mn.us
City of Park Rapids	Joe Christensen	Council Member	joe.christensen@ci.park-rapids.mn.us
City of Park Rapids	Tim Little	Council Member	tim.little@ci.park-rapids.mn.us

City of Park Rapids	Jeremy Engholm	Council Member	jeremy.engholm@ci.park-rapids.mn.us
Hubbard County	Ted Van Kempen	District 5 Commissioner	ted.vankempen@co.hubbard.mn.us
Otter Tail County	Dan Bucholz	District 1 Commissioner	dbucholz@ottertailcounty.gov
Otter Tail County	Wayne Johnson	District 2 Commissioner	wjohnson@ottertailcounty.gov
Otter Tail County	Kurt Mortenson	District 3 Commissioner	kmortenson@ottertailcounty.gov
Otter Tail County	Robert (Bob) Lahman	District 4 Commissioner	rlahman@ottertailcounty.gov
Otter Tail County	Sean Sullivan	District 5 Commissioner	ssullivan@ottertailcounty.gov
City of Battle Lake			cityclerk@battlerekern.org
City of Bluffton	Connie Stelzer	Clerk	cityofbluffton@arvig.net
City of Deer Creek	TROY BEISWENGER	Mayor	fanofthesiouxs@msn.com
City of Deer Creek	ROBERT B. LUND	Council	boblund247@gmail.com
City of Deer Creek	JAYME GEORGE	Council	jayme_george@hotmail.com
City of Dent	Karen E Johnson	Clerk	kej52915@gmail.com
City of Elizabeth	Angela Peterson	Clerk	elizabeth.city@outlook.com
City of Erhard	Sarah Ehlers	Clerk	erhardcity@prtcl.com
City of Erhard	Rich Bratlien	Council	rgbrat@prtcl.com
City of Erhard	Chad Ravenscraft	Council	cravenscraft@gmail.com
City of Erhard	Marty Dee Carlson	Council	marty1carlson@gmail.com

City of Fergus Falls	Anthony Hicks	Mayor	anthony.hicks@fergusfallsmn.gov
City of Henning			henngov@arvig.net
City of New York Mills	Latham Hetland	Mayor	lathamhetland01@gmail.com
City of New York Mills	Jerald Nesland	Council	jrnesland@gmail.com
City of New York Mills	Eric Hammond	Council	eric.hammondnym@gmail.com
City of New York Mills	Richard Grotheer	Council	richard.grotheer.nym@gmail.com
City of New York Mills	Marsha Maki	Council	marshamaki@gmail.com
City of Ottertail			otcity@arvig.net
City of Pelican Rapids			citypr@loretel.net
City of Perham	Timothy Meehl	Mayor	tmeehl@cityofperham.com
City of Perham	Fred Lehmkuhl	Council	flehmkuhl@cityofperham.com
City of Perham	Brad Schmidt	Council	bschmidt@cityofperham.com
City of Perham	Brien Meyer	Council	bmeyer@cityofperham.com
City of Perham	Tim Fresonke	Council	tfresonke@cityofperham.com
City of Perham	Jonathan Smith	City Manager	jsmith@cityofperham.com
City of Richville	Terry Lee	Mayor	tlgutterguy@outlook.com
City of Richville	Leslie Lee	Clerk	cityofrichville.mn@gmail.com
City of Rothsay	Shane Balken	Mayor	shane.balken@rothsay.org

City of Rothsay	Nathan Ziegler	Council	seat4@rothsay.org
City of Rothsay	Daryl Schleeter	Council	daryl.schleeter@rothsay.org
City of Rothsay	Heather Weber	Council	heather.weber@rothsay.org
City of Rothsay	Matthew Balken	Council	matthew.balken@rothsay.org
City of Underwood	Judy Everett	Clerk	clerk@ci.underwood.mn.us
City of Vergas	Dwight Lundgren	Mayor	dlundgren@cityofvergas.com
City of Vergas	Paul Pinke	Council	ppinke@cityofvergas.com
City of Vergas	Dean Haarstick	Council	dhaarstick@cityofvergas.com
City of Vergas	James Stenger	Council	jstenger@cityofvergas.com
City of Vergas	Bruce Albright	Council	balbright@cityofvergas.com
City of Wadena	George Deiss	Mayor	gdeiss@wadena.org
City of Wadena	Wade Miller	Acting Mayor	wmiller@wadena.org
City of Wadena	Duke Harrison	Council Member	dharrison@wadena.org
City of Wadena	Mark Lunde	Council Member	mlunde@wadena.org
City of Wadena	Mac Nelson	Council Member	mnelson@wadena.org
Aurdal Township	Doug Green	Chairman	degreen03@gmail.com
Aurdal Township	Kevin Brennan	Supervisor	kevinjbrennan71@gmail.com
Aurdal Township	Warren Zuehlisdorff	Treasurer	zdorff@icloud.com

Aurdal Township	Jeff Stanislawski	Clerk	JeffStanislawski@yahoo.com
Aurdal Township	Judy Everett	Deputy Clerk	judy.everett@yahoo.com
Buse Township	Tyler Armstrong	Chairman	Tylerarmstrong3103@gmail.com
Buse Township	Brad LaPorte	Supervisor	bwelding@prtcl.com
Buse Township	Frank Haataja	Supervisor	haataja@live.com
Buse Township	Joel Anderson	Treasurer	hemostat1976@gmail.com
Buse Township	Andrea Loomer	Clerk	amloomer@icloud.com
Candor Township	Bradley Syltie	Chairman	chair@candortownship.org
Candor Township	Lowell Bradbury	Supervisor	1980.brad.l@gmail.com
Candor Township	Bruce Moe	Supervisor	bs.moe@hotmail.com
Candor Township	Ryan Hansen	Treasurer	Hansen007@gmail.com
Candor Township	Sharon Sauer	Clerk	clerk@candortownship.org
Carlisle Township	Joel Piekarski	Chairman	joelpiekarski@prtcl.com
Carlisle Township	Daniel Jennen	Supervisor	ultimatesharpeneing@hotmail.com
Carlisle Township	Zachary Fjestad	Supervisor	zacharyfjestad@gmail.com
Carlisle Township	Sharlene Schmidt	Treasurer	sdschmidt84@gmail.com
Carlisle Township	Peter Fjestad	Clerk	pfjestad@prtcl.com
Compton Township	James Goeden	Supervisor	goedendairy@hotmail.com

Compton Township	Marlin Martin	Supervisor	marlin.martin2930@gmail.com
Compton Township	Miriam Decock	Treasurer	miriamdecock@icloud.com
Compton Township	Maryann Line	Clerk	maryl1951@yahoo.com
Corliss Township	Gerald Wanderi	Chairman	supervisor1@corlisstownship.com
Corliss Township	Allen Lubitz	Supervisor	supervisor2@corlisstownship.com
Corliss Township	Vance Bachmann	Supervisor	supervisor3@corlisstownship.com
Corliss Township	Glenda Wientjes	Treasurer	treasurer@corlisstownship.com
Corliss Township	Treva Mayfield	Clerk	clerk@corlisstownship.com
Dane Prairie Township	Benjamin M. Thompson	Chairman	thompsonlivestock@live.com
Dane Prairie Township	John H. Mark	Supervisor	markfarms@hotmail.com
Dane Prairie Township	Michael Tinjum	Supervisor	Mike.tinjum@gmail.com
Dane Prairie Township	Kim Mark	Treasurer	Markcountry@outlook.com
Dane Prairie Township	Bonnie J. Mark	Clerk	bjmark@prtcl.com
Deer Creek Township	Michael Harder	Chairman	mharder63@yahoo.com
Deer Creek Township	William Grieger	Supervisor	will.grieger@gmail.com
Deer Creek Township	Jeremy Sweere	Supervisor	jeremysweere@icloud.com
Deer Creek Township	Cheri Kopveiler	Treasurer	ckopveiler@yahoo.com
Deer Creek Township	Cheri Tumberg	Clerk	ctumberg@gmail.com

Dunn Township	David L. Johnson	Chairman	BarDfarm1@gmail.com
Dunn Township	Mary Nyquist	Vice Chair	mbunny41@yahoo.com
Dunn Township	Adrian Lund	Supervisor	a.aug.lund@gmail.com
Dunn Township	Duane Seifert	Supervisor	bardfarm1@gmail.com
Dunn Township	Susan Pepelnjak	Treasurer	dunntreasurer@arvig.net
Dunn Township	Sandra Tingelstad	Clerk	tingy2@hotmail.com
Elizabeth Township	Jared Swiontek	Chairman	lcmswiontek@yahoo.com
Elizabeth Township	Kurt Kort	Supervisor	kurt.kort72@gmail.com
Elizabeth Township	Edwin Carlson	Supervisor	gmrac@hotmail.com
Elizabeth Township	Kathryn Wahlgren	Treasurer	wahlybug@gmail.com
Elizabeth Township	Diana Briesse	Clerk	dianabriesse@rocketmail.com
Elizabeth Township	Barbara Melkert	Deputy Clerk	ebmelk@prtcl.com
Erhards Grove Township	Lee Backstrom	Chairman	backstromlee@gmail.com
Erhards Grove Township	Ted Tollefson	Supervisor	tedandarlinda@gmail.com
Erhards Grove Township	Joan Fouquette	Treasurer	joaniefouquette@hotmail.com
Erhards Grove Township	Rebecca Ouren	Clerk	ourenbsj@prtcl.com
Everts Township	Rezin Everts	Chairman	rezineverts@gmail.com
Everts Township	Sean Kruschke	Supervisor	skruschko@gmail.com

Everts Township	Al Lundquist	Supervisor	allenlundquist@gmail.com
Everts Township	Roland Mann	Clerk	rhuntrfish@gmail.com
Everts Township	Tom Macheledt	Treasurer	swanny@arvig.net
Fergus Falls Township	Barbara Zempel	Chairman	barb@zempelauction.com
Fergus Falls Township	Roland Braud	Supervisor	dianebraud3@gmail.com
Fergus Falls Township	Ken Garrahan	Clerk	ken.garrahan@gmail.com
Fergus Falls Township	Stephanie Wolden	Treasurer	sjbrummond@yahoo.com
Friberg Township	Greg Kugler	Chairman	kuglerrepair@yahoo.com
Friberg Township	Steve Marty	Supervisor	fribergtownship@gmail.com
Friberg Township	Kathi Budke	Clerk	fribergtownship@gmail.com
Friberg Township	Cyndi Abbott	Treasurer	fribergtownship@gmail.com
Girard Township	Debbie Irmen	Clerk	girardtwsh@gmail.com
Gorman Township	Jon Swyter	Chairman	ikswyter@gmail.com
Gorman Township	Marlin Flatau	Supervisor	marlinflatau@gmail.com
Gorman Township	Ron Galbrecht	Treasurer	rongalbrecht@gmail.com
Gorman Township	August Ziegler	Clerk	gormantownship@gmail.com
Henning Township	Alan Haugdahl	Chairman	henningtwp.chair@gmail.com
Henning Township	Jeffery Arndt	Supervisor	henningtwp.supervisor2@gmail.com

Henning Township	Robert Trosdahl	Supervisor	henningtwp.supervisor1@gmail.com
Henning Township	Lois Buermann	Treasurer	henningtwp.treasurer@gmail.com
Henning Township	Karen Steve	Clerk	henningtwp.clerk@gmail.com
Hobart Township	Russ Berstler	Clerk	Hobarttownship@arvig.net
Homestead Township	Scott G. Koennicke	Chairman	scottjen@arvig.net
Homestead Township	Steve Bohne	Supervisor	stevebohne69@gmail.com
Homestead Township	Randy Kaskitalo	Supervisor	rkeskitalo@arvig.net
Homestead Township	Corrine Meech	Treasurer	corrinemeech@gmail.com
Homestead Township	Jason Cooley	Clerk	jasonandjoycooley@gmail.com
Inman Township	Melany Doll	Clerk	inmantownship@yahoo.com
Leaf Lake Township	Paul Friedrich	Chairman	leaflakechairman@gmail.com
Leaf Lake Township	Peter Bakka	Supervisor	leaflakesupervisor1@gmail.com
Leaf Lake Township	Jeff Wiebe	Supervisor	leaflakesupervisor2@gmail.com
Leaf Lake Township	Matt Thorson	Treasurer	leaflaketreasurer@gmail.com
Leaf Lake Township	Dawn Lueders	Clerk	leaflakeclerk@gmail.com
Newton Township	Chris Roberts	Chairman	newtontownship@ymail.com
Norwegian Grove Township	Jeff Holt	Chairman	jjholt dairy@hotmail.com
Norwegian Grove Township	Larry B Hovland	Supervisor	lbhovland@outlook.com

Norwegian Grove Township	Eric Nelson	Supervisor	ericconst75@gmail.com
Norwegian Grove Township	Jane Knorr	Clerk	knorrjane@gmail.com
Norwegian Grove Township	Mary Bongers	Treasurer	mabongers@hotmail.com
Oak Valley Township	Eugene Roller	Supervisor	eugenroller@hotmail.com
Oak Valley Township	Carol Guse	Treasurer	cguse@arvig.net
Oak Valley Township	Leah Januszewski	Clerk	oakvalley.township@gmail.com
Orwell Township	John Dummer	Supervisor	jdummer@mdf.coop
Orwell Township	Troy Hauge	Supervisor	troy.hauge71@gmail.com
Orwell Township	Jennifer Dummer	Treasurer	jenniferdummer16@gmail.com
Orwell Township	David Kriesel-Knoll	Clerk	suburban1951@hotmail.com
Oscar Township	Jason Grunewald	Chairman	grunewalja@gmail.com
Oscar Township	John Haarstad	Supervisor	haarstad44@gmail.com
Oscar Township	Mike Metzger	Clerk	mmetzger@mdf.coop
Oscar Township	Danielle Grunewald	Treasurer	DanielleGrunewald7@gmail.com
Oscar Township	Jen Sletten	Supervisor	otsletten@gmail.com
Pelican Township	Mitchell Egge	Vice Chair	mitchell.egge@icloud.com
Pelican Township	Brady Ballard	Supervisor	bradyballard@yahoo.com
Pelican Township	Llyod Nelson	Clerk	llloyd@pelicanottertailmn.gov

Pelican Township	Shiela Johnson	Treasurer	sheila.j@pelicanottertailmn.gov
Perham Township	Barb Felt	Chairperson	supervisor1@perhamtownship.com
Perham Township	Les Kundo	Supervisor	supervisor2@perhamtownship.com
Perham Township	Duane Altstadt	Supervisor	supervisor3@perhamtownship.com
Perham Township	Shane Miller	Treasurer	treasurer@perhamtownship.com
Perham Township	Marie Ashland	Clerk	clerk@perhamtownship.com
Pine Lake Township	Pete Snortum	Supervisor	psnortum@yahoo.com
Pine Lake Township	Robert (Bob) Stieling	Chairman	bsieling@arvig.net
Pine Lake Township	Alan Starzl	Supervisor	alstarzl1@gmail.com
Pine Lake Township	Susan Schmid	Clerk	shmidSusan54@gmail.com
Scambler Township	Dee Dee Stephenson	Clerk	dstephenson@loretel.net
Sverdrup Township	Dan Stenoiien	Chairman	dan@underwoodwoodworking.com
Sverdrup Township	Dan Pederson	Supervisor	daniel_pederson@hotmail.com
Sverdrup Township	Chad Gronner	Supervisor	cgronner@underwood.k12.mn.us
Sverdrup Township	MarKean Martelle	Clerk	bsquilts@hotmail.com
Sverdrup Township	Vivki Severson	Treasurer	bvit@prtcl.com
Trondhjem Township	Chris Watterrud	Chairperson	rnkrnk700@gmail.com
Trondhjem Township	Cary Danielson	Vice Chair	ckdanielson@rtelnet.net

Trondhjem Township	Marshall Ohe	Supervisor	marshohe@gmail.com
Trondhjem Township	Gary A Johnson	Treasurer	trondhjemtownship@outlook.com
Trondhjem Township	Maggie Lindsay	Clerk	trondhjemtownship@outlook.com
Wadena County	Ron Noon	District 1 Commissioner	ron.noon@wcmn.us
Wadena County	Mike Weyer	District 2 Commissioner	Mike.Weyer@wcmn.us
Wadena County	Bill Stearns	District 3 Commissioner	bill.stearns@wcmn.us
Wadena County	Murlyn Kreklau	District 4 Commissioner	Murlyn.Kreklau@wcmn.us
Wadena County	Jon Kangas	District 5 Commissioner	jon.kangas@wcmn.us
City of Menahga	Jody Bjornson	Mayor	jbjornson@cityofmenahga.com
City of Menahga	Mike Netland	Council Member	mnetland@cityofmenahga.com
City of Menahga	Keith Waaraniemi	Council Member	kwaaraniemi@cityofmenahga.com
City of Menahga	Durwin Tomperi	Council Member	dtomperi@cityofmenahga.com
City of Menahga	Bill Hodge	Council Member	whodge@cityofmenahga.com
City of Sebeka	David A. Anderson	Mayor	cosmayordavid@gmail.com
City of Sebeka	Michael Lillquist	Deputy Mayor	cosmlillquist@gmail.com
City of Sebeka	Joshua Connor	Council Member	cosjconnor@gmail.com
City of Sebeka	Michael Grewing	Council Member	cosmgrewing@gmail.com
City of Sebeka	Rebecca Palmer	Council Member	cosrpalmer@gmail.com

City of Staples	Ron Murray	Mayor	rmurray@ci.staples.mn.us
City of Staples	Doug Case	Council Member	dcase@ci.staples.mn.us
City of Staples	Roy Miles	Council Member	rmiles@ci.staples.mn.us
City of Staples	Mary Theurer	Council Member	mtheurer@ci.staples.mn.us
City of Staples	John Jewison	Council Member	jjewison@ci.staples.mn.us
City of Staples	Mary Jo Goff	Council Member	mgoff@ci.staples.mn.us
City of Staples	Blake Gerard	Council Member	bgerard@ci.staples.mn.us
City of Verndale	Tara Erkenbrack	Mayor	t2erckenbrack@yahoo.com
City of Verndale	Ardith Carr	Council Member	ardith.carr.cm@gmail.com
City of Verndale	Daryl Jacobsen	Council Member	dtjrkj@yahoo.com
City of Verndale	Jim Runyan	Council Member	jim.runyan.cm@gmail.com
City of Verndale	Brad Cottrell	Council Member	cottrellbc@yahoo.com
City of Wadena	George Deiss	Mayor	gdeiss@wadena.org
City of Wadena	Wade Miller	Acting Mayor	wmiller@wadena.org
City of Wadena	Duke Harrison	Council Member	dharrison@wadena.org
City of Wadena	Mark Lunde	Council Member	mlunde@wadena.org
City of Wadena	Mac Nelson	Council Member	mnelson@wadena.org
Wilkin County	Eric Klindt	District 1 County Commissioner	eklindt@wilkincounty.gov

Wilkin County	Jonathan Green	District 2 County Commissioner	jgreen@wilkincounty.gov	
Wilkin County	Jon Braton Sr.	District 3 County Commissioner	jbraton@wilkincounty.gov	
Wilkin County	Rick Busko	District 4 County Commissioner	rbusko@wilkincounty.gov	
Wilkin County	Dennis Larson	District 5 County Commissioner	dlarson@wilkincounty.gov	
Harwood Township	Daniel Palmer	Chairman	dpalmer@nd.gov	
Harwood Township	Doug Warnecke	Clerk, Zoning, Flood Plain	dwiwdakota@earthlink.net	
Pleasant Township	Nicole Bice	Clerk	pleasanttowship@aol.com	
Reed Township	Greg Geston	Supervisor	sup3@reedtwp.org	
Reed Township	Margaret Lonski	Clerk	clerk@reedtwp.org	
Stanley Township	Tonya Becker Bolton	Supervisor	tonyabeckerbolton@gmail.com	
Stanley Township	Kevin Biffert	Supervisor	kevin.biffert@gmail.com	
Stanley Township	Max Cossette	Supervisor	maximillion.cossette@gmail.com	
Stanley Township	Todd Ellig	Chairman	ESETTER@Prodigy.net	
Stanley Township	Alex Mastalir	Deputy Treasurer	Alex_Mastalir@yahoo.com	
Stanley Township	Tyler Sand	Deputy Clerk	tylersand@gmail.com	

From: [Dan Flo](#)
Cc: [Drew Janke \(MP\)](#); [Tristen Joens](#)
Subject: Open House Invitation for Maple River - Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project
Date: Friday, June 13, 2025 3:01:52 PM
Attachments:

Good afternoon,

Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Great River Energy are hosting Open Houses to introduce the Maple River – Cuyuna (MR-C) Transmission Project. The proposed MR-C Transmission Project is an approximately 160-mile-long, single-circuit 345 kV transmission line on double-circuit structures from Minnesota Power’s Cuyuna Substation near Riverton, Minnesota to Otter Tail Power Company’s Maple River Substation near Fargo, North Dakota.

We invite you to attend any of the Open Houses; the schedule is as follows:

MONDAY, JUNE 23, 1:00-3:00PM Glyndon Community Center 212 Partridge Avenue SE Glyndon, MN 56547	MONDAY, JUNE 23, 6:00-8:00PM Harwood Community Center 210 Freedland Dr Harwood, ND 58042
TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 1:00-3:00PM Bigwood Event Center 925 Western Ave Fergus Falls, MN 56537	TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 6:00-8:00PM Barnesville Event Center 102 Front Street North Barnesville, MN 56514
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 12:00-2:00PM MN State Community and Technical College- Detroit Lakes Campus 900 Highway 34 E Detroit Lakes, MN 56501	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 5:00-7:00PM Maslowski Wellness & Research Center 17 5th St SW Wadena, MN 56482
THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 1:00-3:00PM Park Rapids American Legion Otto Hendricks on Post 212 900 East 1st Street Park Rapids, MN 56470	THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 6:00-8:00PM Pine River-Backus Public High School 401 Murray Ave Pine River, MN 56474
MONDAY, JUNE 30, 1:00-3:00PM The Lodge at Brainerd Lakes 6967 Lake Forest Rd Baxter, MN 56425	MONDAY, JUNE 30, 6:00-8:00PM Taconite Canteen & Event Center 240 Curtis Ave Ironton, MN 56455

These meetings are open to the public and will give local community members and landowners an opportunity to learn about the project, ask questions, and provide input for potential project routes.

If you have questions about the Project or the Open Houses, please contact Drew Janke at (218) 576-9213 or djanke@mnpower.com.

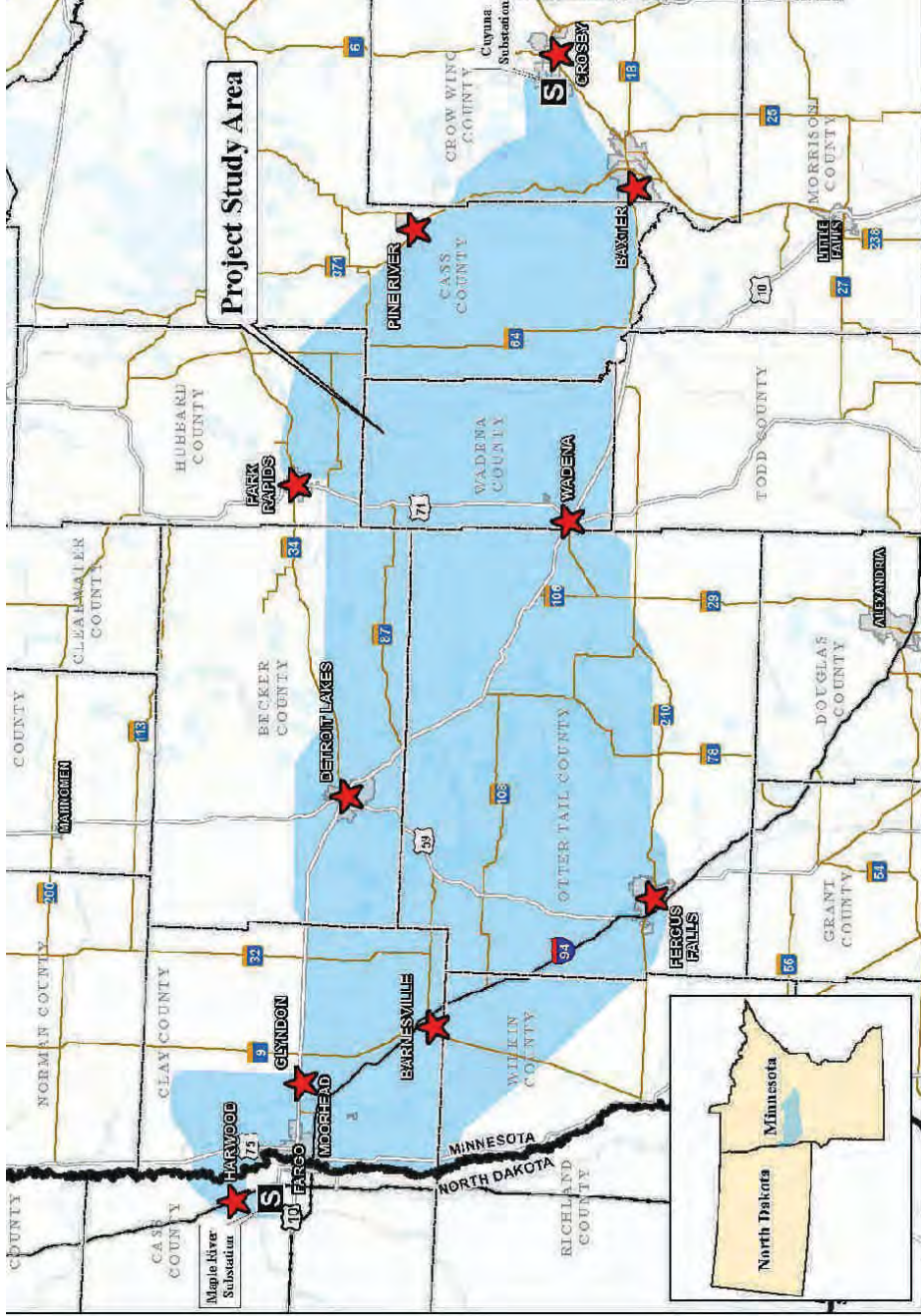
Regards,

Dan Flo on behalf of
Drew Janke

Dan Flo
Minneapolis
612.812.0069 mobile
dan.flo@merjent.com



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**open house format, no formal presentations.*

Minnesota Power

30 W. Superior St.
Duluth, MN 55802

1 * 1 *****AUTO**SCH 5-DIGIT 85225

NAME

ADDRESS

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Please join us at one of these open houses to learn more about the proposed MR-C Transmission Project and provide comments on potential routes within the Study Area. *

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Jurisdiction	Tribal Government	Contact Name	Position	Email
Tribal	1854 Treaty Authority	Sonny Myers		smyers@1854treatyauthority.org
Tribal	Bois Forte Band of Chippewa	Cathy Chavers	Left office on 1/31/25- Vacant Position	cchavers@boisforte-nsn.gov
Tribal	Bois Forte Band of Chippewa	Amy Mason		amy.mason@boisforte-nsn.gov
Tribal	Bois Forte Band of Chippewa	Perry Drift		pdrift@boisforte-nsn.gov
Tribal	Bois Forte Band of Chippewa	Shane Drift	Vice-Chairperson	sdrift@boisforte-nsn.gov
Tribal	Bois Forte Band of Chippewa	Miranda Lilya	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	miliya@boisforte-nsn.gov
Tribal	Bois Forte Band of Chippewa	Robert Moyer, Jr.		rmoyer@boisforte-nsn.gov
Tribal	Bois Forte Band of Chippewa	Tara Geshick		tara.geshick@boisforte-nsn.gov
Tribal	Bois Forte Band of Chippewa	Jaylen Strong	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	jaylen.strong@boisforte-nsn.gov
Tribal	Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Robert Abramowski		robertabramowski@fdlband.org
Tribal	Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Seth Bichler		robabramowski5@gmail.com
Tribal	Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Scott Buchanan		sethbichler@fdlrez.com
Tribal	Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Caleb Dunlap		scottbuchanan@fdlrez.com
Tribal	Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Wally Dupuis		calebdunlap@fdlband.org
Tribal	Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Earl Otis		wallydupuis@fdlband.org
Tribal	Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Bruce Savage	Chairman	earlotis@fdlband.org
Tribal	Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Bill Thompson		brucesavage@fdlband.org
Tribal	Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Ian Young		billthompson@fdlrez.com
Tribal	Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Brad Blacketter		ianyoun@fdlband.org
Tribal	Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Evan Schroeder	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	bradblacketter@fdlband.org
Tribal	Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Bobby Deschampe	Chairman	evanschroeder@fdlrez.com
Tribal	Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	April McCormick		robertdeschampe@grandportage.com
Tribal	Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Toby Stephens		april@grandportage.com
Tribal	Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Agatha Armstrong		tobys@grandportage.com
Tribal	Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Krishna Woerheide		agathaa@grandportage.com
Tribal	Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Marie Spry		kwoerheide@grandportage.com
Tribal	Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Rob Hull	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	mariespry@grandportage.com
Tribal	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	Mike Chosa		thpo@grandportage.com
Tribal	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	Kyle Fairbanks		mike.chosa@llojibwe.net
Tribal	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	Gov Relations		kyle.fairbanks@llojibwe.net
Tribal	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	LeRoy Staples		govt.relations@llojibwe.net
Tribal	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	Eugene Strowbridge		leroy.fairbanks@llojibwe.net
Tribal	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	Steve White		eugene.strowbridge@llojibwe.net
Tribal	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	Leonard Fineday		steve.white@llojibwe.net
Tribal	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	Brandy Toft		leonard.fineday@llojibwe.net
Tribal	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	Faron Jackson, Sr.	Chairman	brandy.toft@llojibwe.net
Tribal	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	Ashley Harrison	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	faron.jackson@llojibwe.net
Tribal	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	Gina Lemon	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	ashley.harrison@llojibwe.net
Tribal	Lower Sioux Indian Community	Deb Dirlam		gina.lemon@llojibwe.net
Tribal	Lower Sioux Indian Community	Robert L Larsen	President	deb.dirlam@lowersioux.com
Tribal	Lower Sioux Indian Community			robert.larsen@lowersioux.com

Tribal	Lower Sioux Indian Community	Robert Prescott	Vice-President	bob.prescott@lowersioux.com
Tribal	Lower Sioux Indian Community	Tyler Prescott		tyler.prescott@lowersioux.com
Tribal	Lower Sioux Indian Community	Miranda Sam		miranda.sam@lowersioux.com
Tribal	Lower Sioux Indian Community	Nizhoni Smith		nizhoni.smith@lowersioux.com
Tribal	Lower Sioux Indian Community	Jospeh O'Brien		joey.obrien@lowersioux.com
Tribal	Lower Sioux Indian Community	Kristi Schoen		kristi.schoen@lowersioux.com
Tribal	Lower Sioux Indian Community	Cheyenne St. John	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	cheyanne.stjohn@lowersioux.com
Tribal	Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Carolyn Beaulieu		carolyn.beaulieu@millelacsband.com
Tribal	Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Sheldon Boyd		sheldon.boyd@millelacsband.com
Tribal	Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Harry Davis		harry.davis@millelacsband.com
Tribal	Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Jamie Edwards		jamie.edwards@millelacsband.com
Tribal	Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Shena Matrious		shena.matrious@millelacsband.com
Tribal	Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Wendy Merrill		wendy.merrill@millelacsband.com
Tribal	Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Virgil Wind	Chief Executive	virgil.wind@millelacsband.com
Tribal	Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Kelly Applegate		kelly.applegate@millelacsband.com
Tribal	Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Charles Lippert		charlie.lippert@millelacsband.com
Tribal	Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Mike Wilson	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	mike.wilson@millelacsband.com
Tribal	Minnesota Chippewa Tribe	Joel Smith		jsmith@mncippewatribe.org
Tribal	Prairie Island Indian Community	Constance Campbell		tori.campbell@piic.org
Tribal	Prairie Island Indian Community	Michael Childs, Jr.		michael.childsjr@piic.org
Tribal	Prairie Island Indian Community	Blake Johnson		blake.johnson@piic.org
Tribal	Prairie Island Indian Community	Grant Johnson	President	grant.johnson@piic.org
Tribal	Prairie Island Indian Community	Jody Johnson		jody.johnson@piic.org
Tribal	Prairie Island Indian Community	Ronald Johnson	Vice-President	ron.johnson@piic.org
Tribal	Prairie Island Indian Community	Valentina Mgeni		valentina.mgeni@piic.org
Tribal	Prairie Island Indian Community	Jessie Seim		jessie.seim@piic.org
Tribal	Prairie Island Indian Community	Heather Westra		heather.westra@piic.org
Tribal	Prairie Island Indian Community	Noah White	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	noah.white@piic.org
Tribal	Red Lake Nation	Jason Defoe		jasondefoe@redlakenation.org
Tribal	Red Lake Nation	Vernelle Lussier		vernelle.lussier@redlakenation.org
Tribal	Red Lake Nation	Joe Plumer		joe.plumer@redlakenation.org
Tribal	Red Lake Nation	Samuel Strong		sam.strong@redlakenation.org
Tribal	Red Lake Nation	Darrell Seki, Sr.	Chairman	dseki@redlakenation.org
Tribal	Red Lake Nation	Kade Ferris	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	kade.ferris@redlakenation.org
Tribal	Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community	Steve Albrecht		steve.albrecht@shakopeedakota.org
Tribal	Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community	Cole W. Miller	Chairman	cole.miller@shakopeedakota.org
Tribal	Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community	Bill Rudnicki		bill.rudnicki@shakopeedakota.org
Tribal	Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community	Leonard Wabasha	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	leonard.wabasha@shakopeedakota.org
Tribal	Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community	Joe Bathel		irbathe17@yahoo.com
Tribal	Upper Sioux Community	Jeremy Hamilton		jhamilton@upper Siouxcommunity-nsn.gov

Tribal	Upper Sioux Community	Kevin Jensvold	Chairman	kevinj@upperpiouscommunity-nsn.gov
Tribal	Upper Sioux Community	Samantha Odegard	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	samanthao@upperpiouscommunity-nsn.gov
Tribal	Upper Sioux Community	Adam Savariego		adams@upperpiouscommunity-nsn.gov
Tribal	Upper Sioux Community	Camille Tanhoff		kamp@upperpiouscommunity-nsn.gov
Tribal	Upper Sioux Community	Caralyn Trutna	Vice Chair	carrie@upperpiouscommunity-nsn.gov
Tribal	White Earth Nation	Laura Erickson		laura.erickson@whiteearth-nsn.gov
Tribal	White Earth Nation	Henry Fox		henry.fox@whiteearth-nsn.gov
Tribal	White Earth Nation	Christie Haverkamp		christie.haverkamp@whiteearth-nsn.gov
Tribal	White Earth Nation	Mike Laroque		mike.laroque@whiteearth-nsn.gov
Tribal	White Earth Nation	Nate Mathews		nathan.mathews@whiteearth-nsn.gov
Tribal	White Earth Nation	Jacob McArthur		jacob.mcarthur@whiteearth-nsn.gov
Tribal	White Earth Nation	Mike Smith		icecrackingswamp@gmail.com
Tribal	White Earth Nation	Eugene Sommers		eugene.sommers@whiteearth-nsn.gov
Tribal	White Earth Nation	Joe Tonihka		joe.tonihka@whiteearth-nsn.gov
Tribal	White Earth Nation	Michael Fairbanks	Chairman	michael.fairbanks@whiteearth-nsn.gov
Tribal	White Earth Nation	Laurie York		laurie.york@whiteearth-nsn.gov
Tribal	White Earth Nation	Jaime Arsenault	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	jaime.arsenault@whiteearth-nsn.gov
Tribal	Minnesota Department of Commerce	Chase Christopher	Tribal Liaison	chase.christopherson@state.mn.us

Maple River – Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project



MRCTransmissionProject.com |



Virtual Open House

Thank you for joining us online today. We greatly appreciate your input in helping us as we identify preliminary routes for the Project. On the following slides you'll learn more about the project, review maps, and have the opportunity to provide input about the initial study area.

Who We Are

Minnesota Power provides electric service within a 26,000-square-mile area in northeastern Minnesota, supporting comfort, security and quality of life for 150,000 customers, 15 municipalities and some of the largest industrial customers in the United States.



Otter Tail Power Company is an investor-owned electric utility that provides electricity to approximately 133,700 customers in 422 communities across 70,000 square miles in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota.



Great River Energy is a not-for-profit wholesale electric power cooperative and provides reliable, cleaner electricity while maintaining affordable rates for 1.7 million people



About the Project

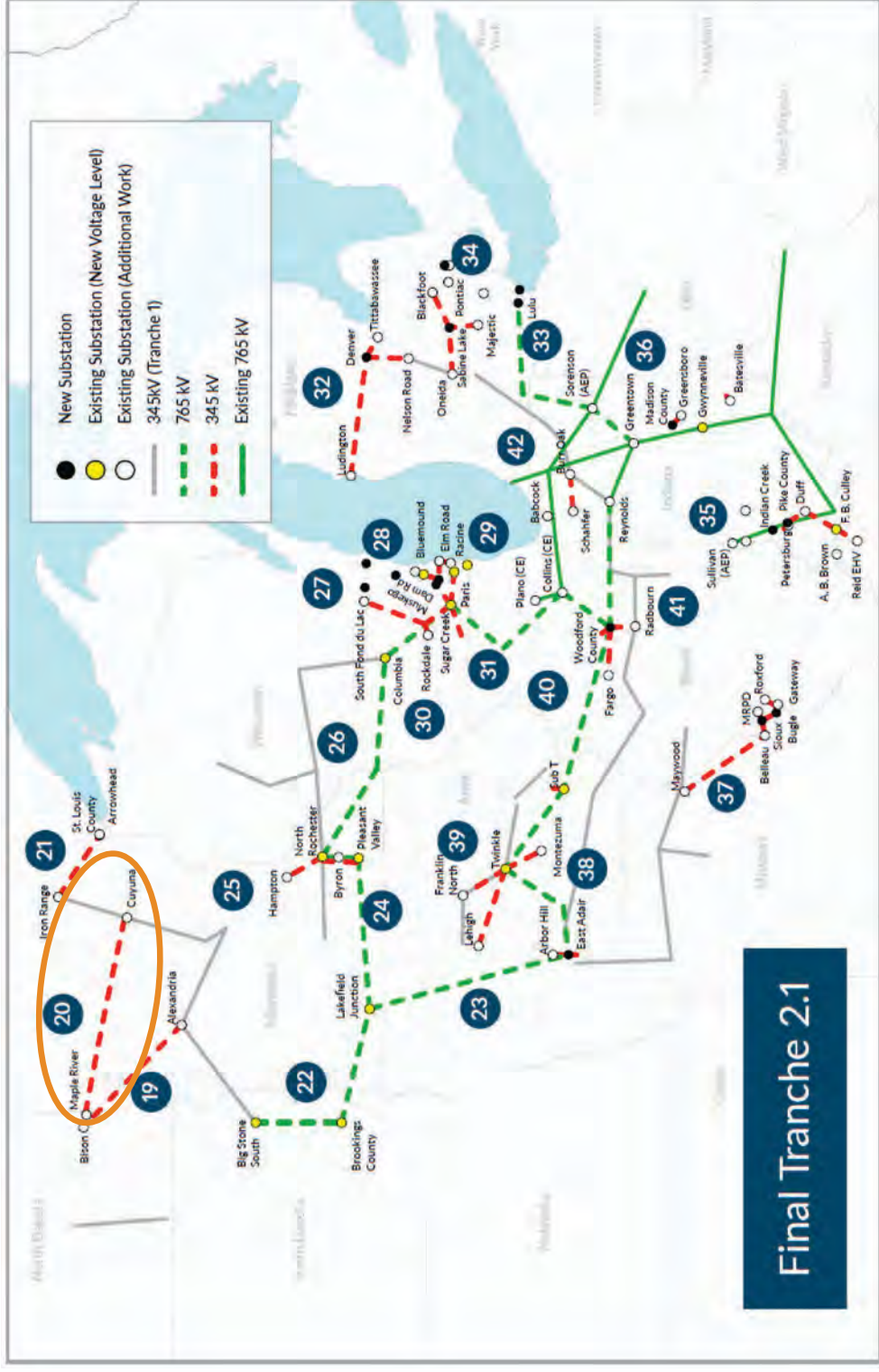


Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Great River Energy are proposing to construct an approximately 160-mile-long, single-circuit 345 kV transmission line on double-circuit capable structures from Minnesota Power's Cuyuna Substation near Riverton, Minnesota to Otter Tail Power Company's Maple River Substation in eastern North Dakota.

The Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), the regional grid operator, approved this project (#20) as part of a regional plan

Learn more at

misoenergy.org



Project Need



Enhance the reliability of the regional transmission system as the way we produce and use electricity changes



Increase transmission system capacity to reliably deliver energy from where it's produced to where it's used



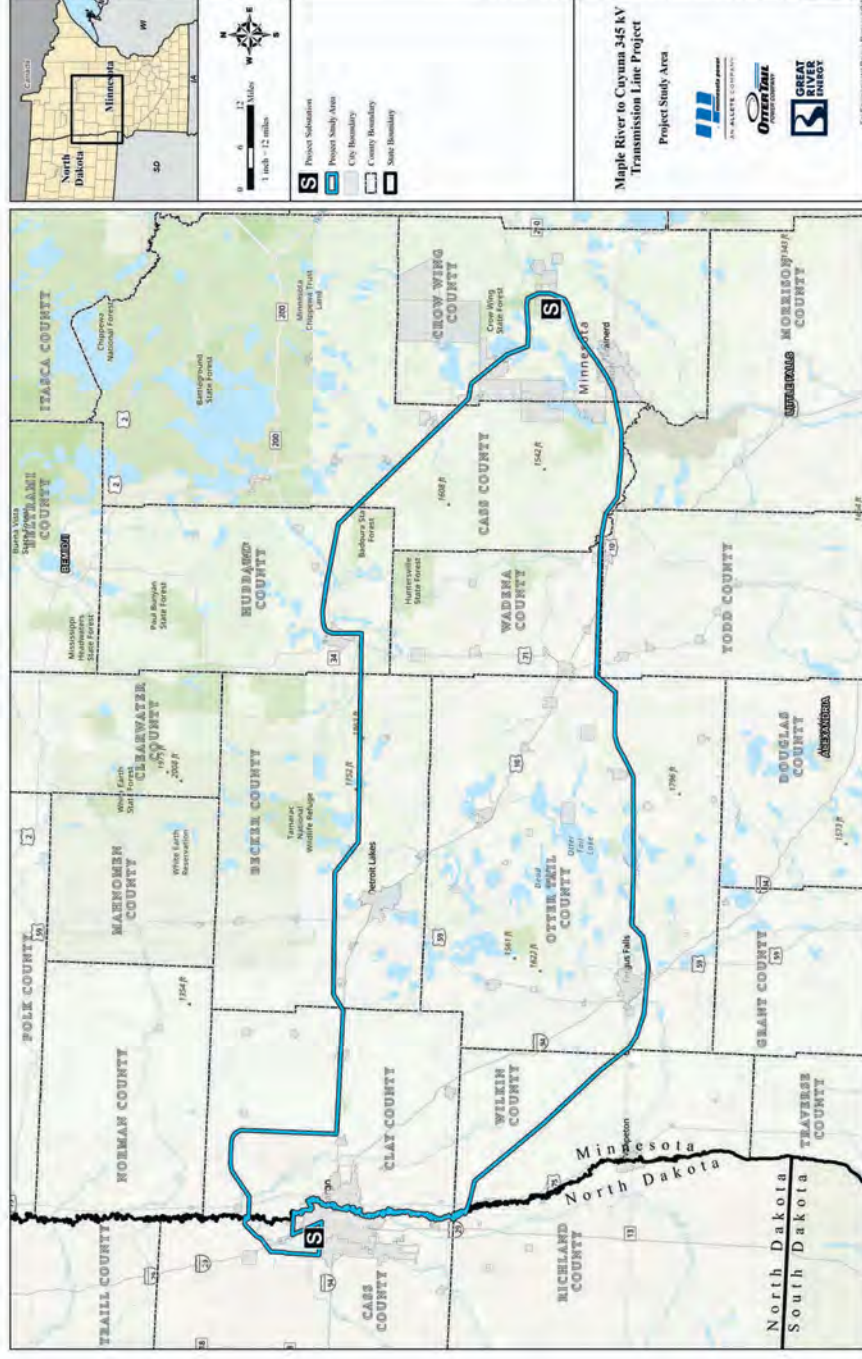
Meet growing electrical demand and enhance resiliency during extreme weather events



Enable cost-effective regional energy transfers supporting economical grid operations

Project Study Area

The Project Study Area will be evaluated for potential routing opportunities based on stakeholder feedback



Project Components

Construction of approximately 160 miles of new single-circuit 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line, built on double-circuit capable structures, and utilizing existing transmission line corridors to greatest extent reasonable

Upgrade of the existing Maple River Substation, located near Fargo, ND, and the Cuyuna Substation, located near Riverton, MN and modifications of some existing transmission line corridors, where needed, to bring this project into service

Project Timeline

2026-2028



2025

Stakeholder engagement and routing

Permitting, engineering, environmental surveys, ROW acquisition, and public engagement



2029-2032

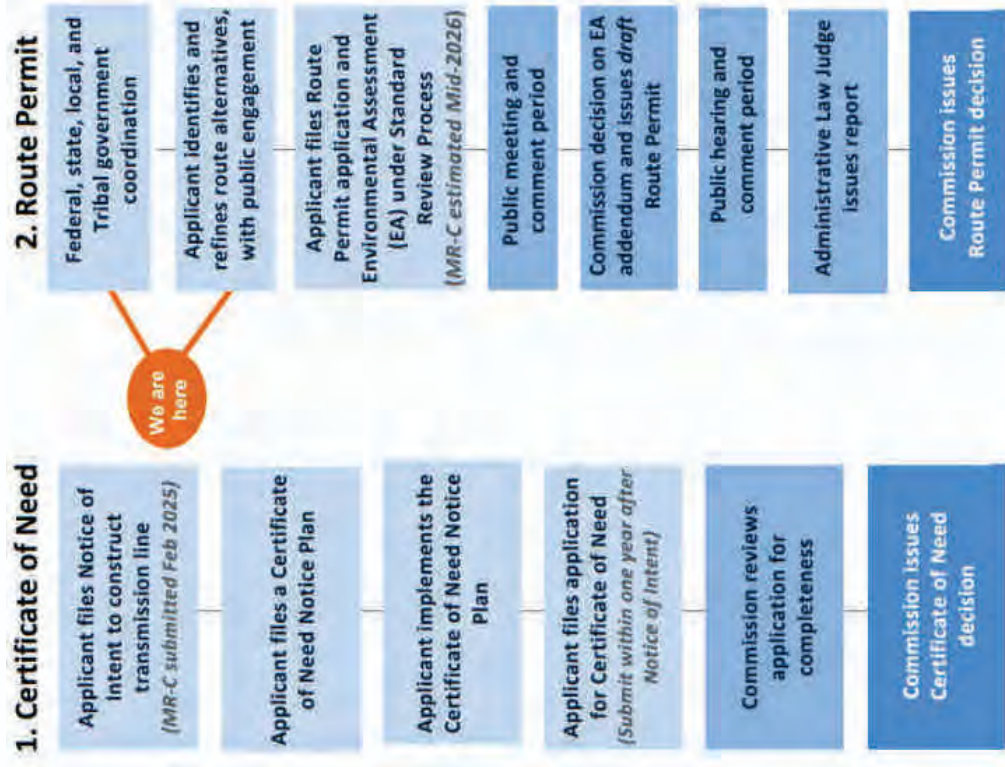
Construction

2033

Anticipated in-service



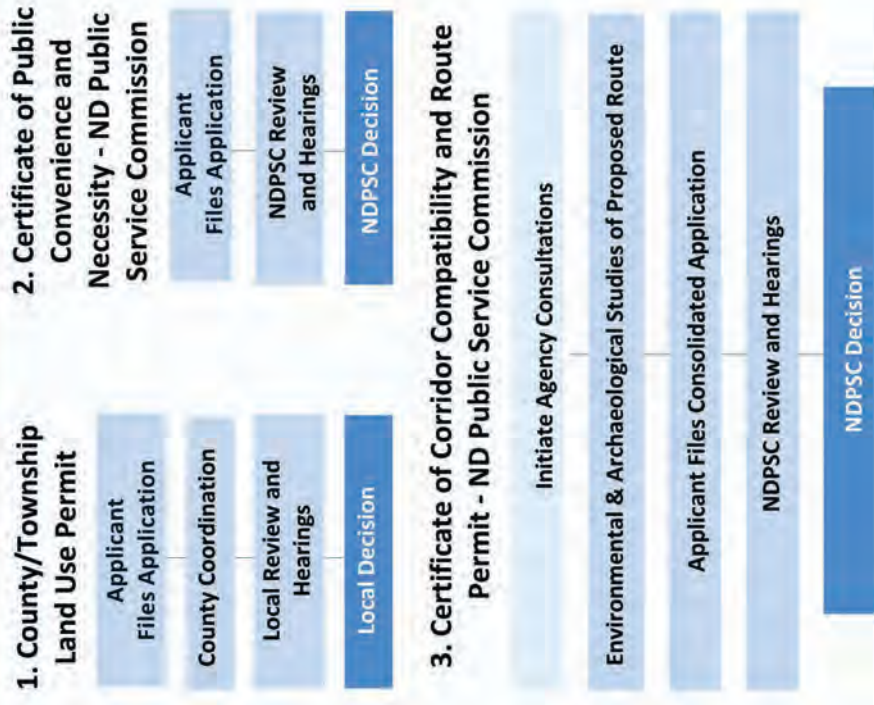
Minnesota Permitting Process



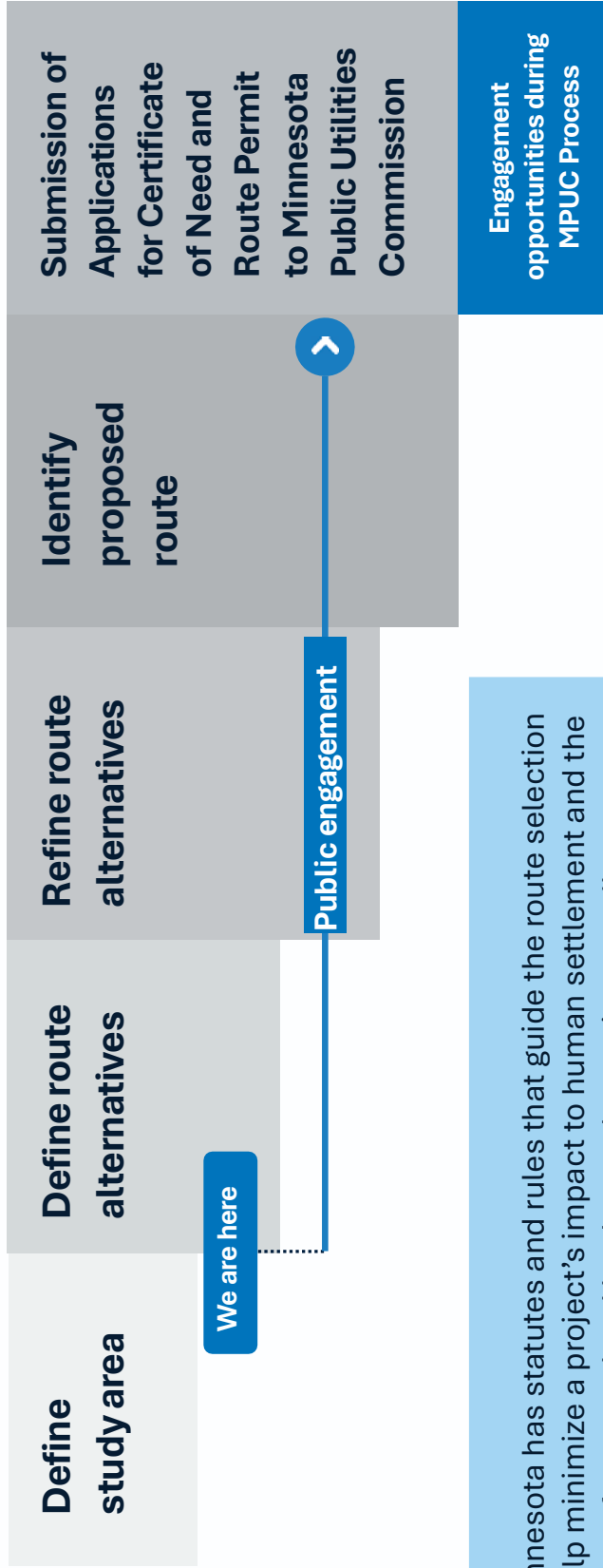
North Dakota Permitting Process



North Dakota Permitting Process



Minnesota Routing Process & Input Opportunities



The state of Minnesota has statutes and rules that guide the route selection process and help minimize a project's impact to human settlement and the environment. Input from you, local leaders and agencies as well as our own expertise is critical as we develop and finalize a route.

Routing Process Considerations

The criteria for route development are set by Minnesota and North Dakota statute and guides our routing process. To route a project, we consider:

- Opportunities
- Constraints
- Engineering and construction considerations

Anticipated Studies

Field surveys allow the Project team to verify or collect new information to help minimize impacts for construction of the transmission line. Studies may include:

- Geotechnical
- Biological
- Cultural resources
- Wetland and waterbodies
- Invasive species
- Protected species
- Raptor nests



345 kV Transmission Line Right-of-Way

What is a right-of-way?

A right-of-way, or ROW, is a strip of land used for a specific purpose such as the construction, operation and maintenance of a road or transmission line. A right-of-way is typically secured as an easement on a property.

What is an easement?

An agreement between the utility and the landowner allowing the utility the right to construct, operate and maintain a transmission line and other associated infrastructure on a property.

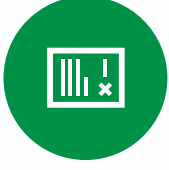
Our Right-of-Way Acquisition Process



When there is a proposed route, landowners are contacted to begin the ROW acquisition process.



An easement is presented to a landowner. An offer based on fair market value is presented.



We work closely with the landowner to resolve concerns and reach an agreement. An easement is recorded.



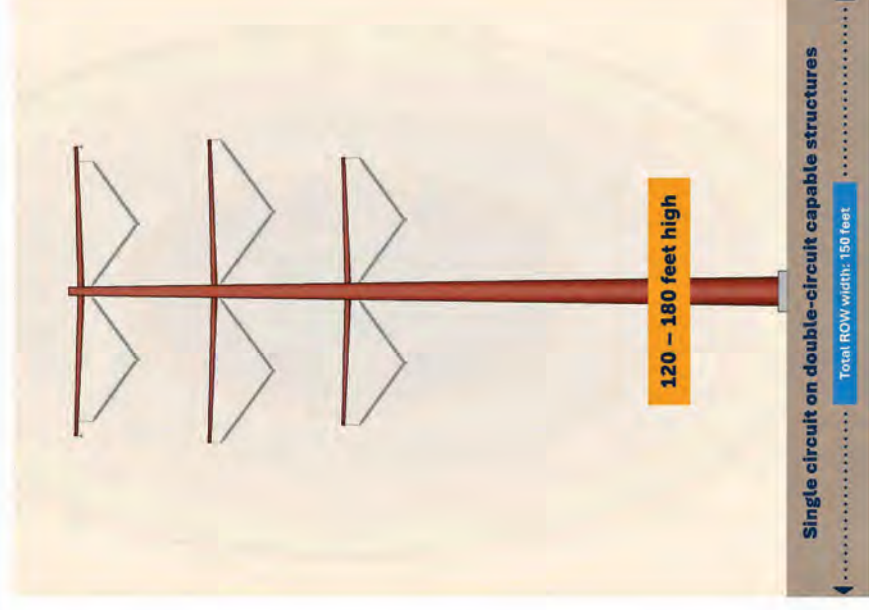
The Project owners construct, operate, and maintain the transmission line within the ROW.

Typical Design

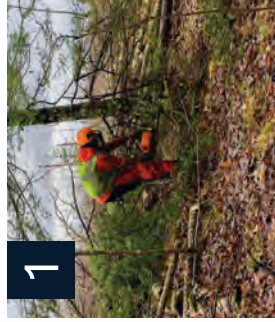
Structure type factors:

- Land use/land cover
- Topography
- Water/wetlands
- Soil types

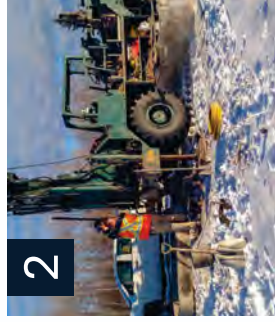
Right-of-Way (ROW) Typical Construction



Typical Preconstruction and Construction Activities



1 Initial surveying, right-of-way clearing and access routes

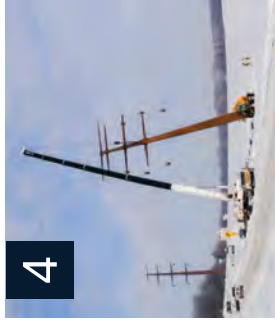


2 Structure staking, surveying and soils investigations as needed

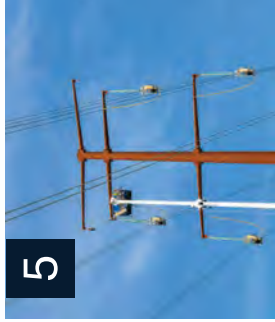


3 Foundation installation

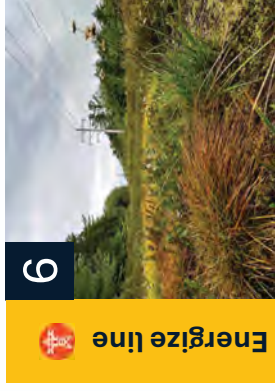
Foundation type may vary depending on structure



4 Assemble and set structures



5 Wire installation



6 Cleanup and restoration

Connect with Us!



- Email the project team:
connect@MRCTransmissionProject.com
- Call the project hotline: **1-888-419-5670**
- Sign up to receive project updates or submit a comment: **MRCTransmissionProject.com/contact-us**

You can also sign up to receive updates from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

Visit **edockets.state.mn.us/documents** and enter the docket number:

- Certificate of Need docket number 25-109

Thank you!



For Release: June 20, 2025

Contact: Amy Rutledge
Director - Corporate Communications
Minnesota Power/ALLETE
218-723-7400
arutledge@mnpower.com

Public invited to learn about new 345-kV transmission line to support grid reliability and regional growth

Duluth, Minn. — Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Great River Energy will host a series of open houses this month where members of the public can learn about the proposed Maple River – Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project, known as the MR-C Transmission Project.

The proposed project is a new, approximately 160-mile-long, single-circuit 345-kV transmission line on double-circuit capable structures from Minnesota Power's Cuyuna Substation near Riverton, Minnesota, to Otter Tail Power Company's Maple River Substation near Fargo, North Dakota. Approximately 95% of the project will be in Minnesota.

The MR-C Transmission Project is one in a portfolio of transmission projects approved by the regional grid operator, Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), in its 2024 Long-Range Transmission Planning portfolio. As a part of this larger portfolio, the MR-C Transmission Project will:

- Enhance the reliability of the regional transmission system as the way we produce and use electricity changes.
- Increase transmission system capacity to reliably deliver energy from where it's produced to where it's used.
- Meet growing electrical demand and enhance resiliency during extreme weather events.
- Enable cost-effective regional energy transfers supporting economical grid operations.

The open houses are an opportunity for the public to learn more about the project, ask questions, and provide valuable input to determine the best possible route for the project. Project displays and detailed maps will be available for review, and project team members will be on hand to answer questions.

Here is the open house schedule:

Monday, June 23	Tuesday, June 24	Wednesday, June 25
1:00-3:00 PM Glyndon Community Center 212 Partridge Avenue SE Glyndon, MN 56547 6:00-8:00 PM Harwood Community Center 210 Freedland Dr Harwood, ND 58042	1:00-3:00 PM Big Wood Event Center 925 Western Ave Fergus Falls, MN 56537 6:00-8:00 PM Barnesville Event Center 102 Front Street North Barnesville, MN 56514	Noon-2:00 PM MN State Community and Technical College- Detroit Lakes Campus 900 Highway 34 E Detroit Lakes, MN 56501 5:00-7:00 PM Maslowski Wellness & Research Center 17 5th St SW Wadena, MN 56482
Thursday, June 26	Monday, June 30	
1:00-3:00 PM Park Rapids American Legion Otto Hendricks on Post 212 900 East 1st Street Park Rapids, MN 56470 6:00-8:00 PM Pine River-Backus Public High School 401 Murray Ave Pine River, MN 56474	1:00-3:00 PM The Lodge at Brainerd Lakes 6967 Lake Forest Rd Baxter, MN 56425 6:00-8:00 PM Taconite Canteen & Event Center 240 Curtis Ave Ironton, MN 56455	

More information about the project and a map of the initial study area will be available at mrctransmissionproject.com. To ask a question, leave a comment, or be added to the project mailing list, send an email to connect@MRCTransmissionProject.com or call the project hotline at 1-888-419-5670.

Minnesota Power provides electric service within a 26,000-square-mile area in northeastern Minnesota, supporting comfort, security and quality of life for 150,000 customers, 14 municipalities and some of the largest industrial customers in the United States. More information can be found at www.mnpower.com.

ALLETE, Inc. is an energy company headquartered in Duluth, Minnesota. In addition to its electric utilities, Minnesota Power and Superior Water, Light and Power of Wisconsin, ALLETE owns ALLETE Clean Energy, based in Duluth; BNI Energy in Bismarck, N.D.; and New Energy Equity, headquartered in Annapolis, Maryland; and has an 8% equity interest in the American Transmission Co. More information about ALLETE is available at www.allete.com.

Minnesota Power calculates and reports carbon emissions based on the GHG Protocol. Details in ALLETE's [Corporate Sustainability Report](#).

The statements contained in this release and statements that ALLETE may make orally in connection with this release that are not historical facts, are forward-looking statements. Actual results may differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties and investors are directed to the risks discussed in documents filed by ALLETE with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Minnesota Power an ALLETE Company's Post



Minnesota Power an ALLETE Company

June 19 · 🌐

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Minnesota Power, [Otter Tail Power Company](#), and [Great River Energy](#) are hosting open houses next week to introduce the Maple River – Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project.

What is the proposed MR-C Project? It's an approximately 160-mile-long transmission line from Minnesota Power's Cuyuna Substation near Riverton, Minnesota, to Otter Tail Power Company's Maple River Substation near Fargo, North Dakota.

These meetings are open to the public and will give community members and landowners an opportunity to learn about the project, ask questions, and provide input for potential routes.

Please join us!

Maple River – Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project OPEN HOUSES

MONDAY, JUNE 23, 1:00-3:00PM

Glyndon Community Center
212 Partridge Avenue SE
Glyndon, MN 56547

MONDAY, JUNE 23, 6:00-8:00PM

Harwood Community Center
210 Freedland Dr
Harwood, ND 58042

TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 1:00-3:00PM

Big Wood Event Center
925 Western Ave
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 6:00-8:00PM

Barnesville Event Center
102 Front Street North
Barnesville, MN 56514

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 12:00-2:00PM

MN State Community and Technical
College- Detroit Lakes Campus
900 Highway 34 E
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 5:00-7:00PM

Maslowski Wellness & Research
Center
17 5th St SW
Wadena, MN 56482

THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 1:00-3:00PM

Park Rapids American Legion Otto
Hendricks on Post 212
900 East 1st Street
Park Rapids, MN 56470

THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 6:00-8:00PM

Pine River-Backus Public High
School 401 Murray Ave
Pine River, MN 56474

MONDAY, JUNE 30, 1:00-3:00PM

The Lodge at Brainerd Lakes

6967 Lake Forest Rd

Baxter, MN 56425

MONDAY, JUNE 30, 6:00-8:00PM

Taconite Canteen & Event Center

240 Curtis Ave

Ironton, MN 56455



108

16 comments 29 shares

Like

Comment

Share



Maple River-Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project

Project Need

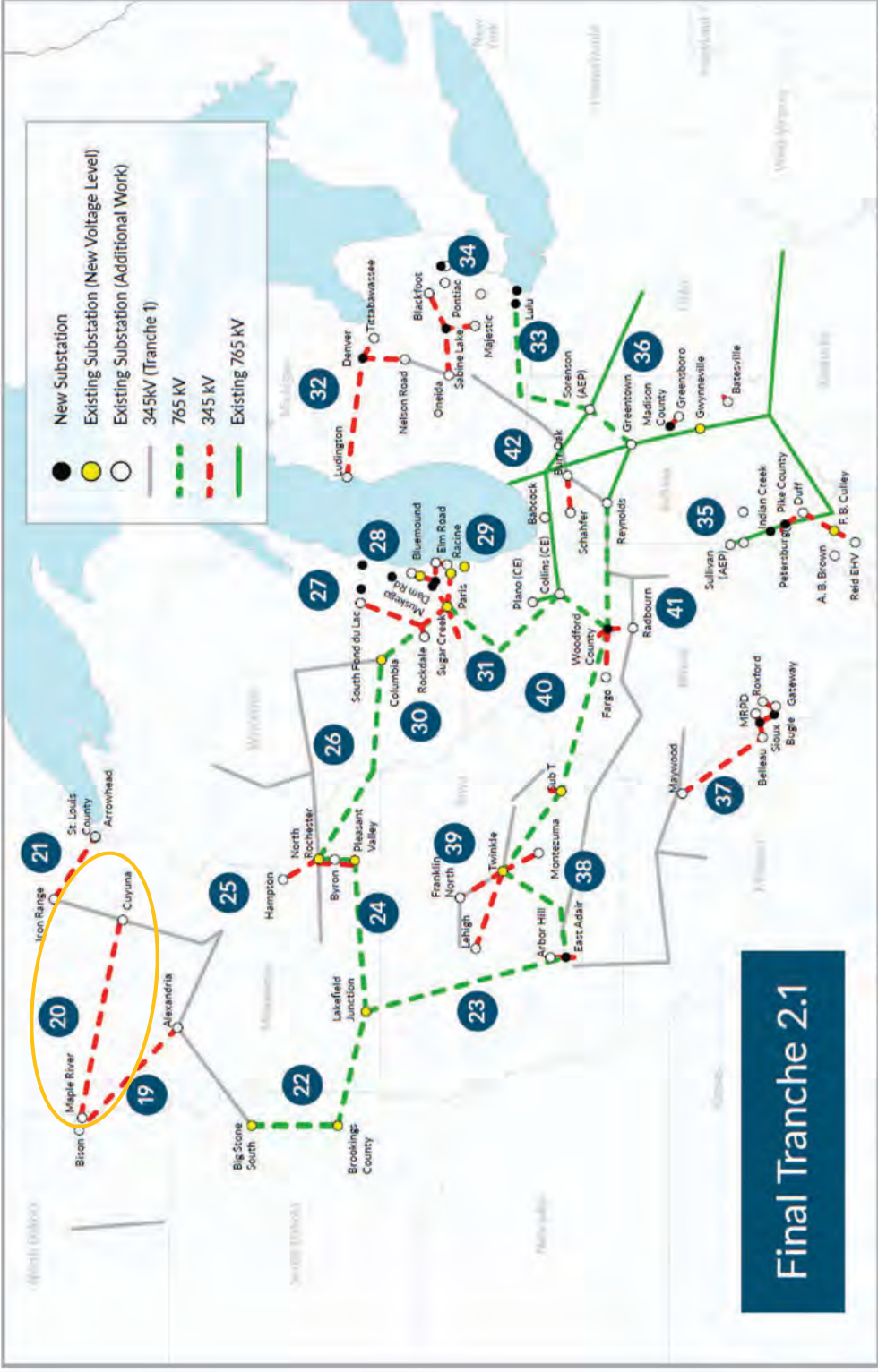


- Enhance the reliability of the regional transmission system as the way we produce and use electricity changes
- Increase transmission system capacity to reliably deliver energy from where it's produced to where it's used
- Meet growing electrical demand and enhance resiliency during extreme weather events
- Enable cost-effective regional energy transfers supporting economical grid operations



Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO)

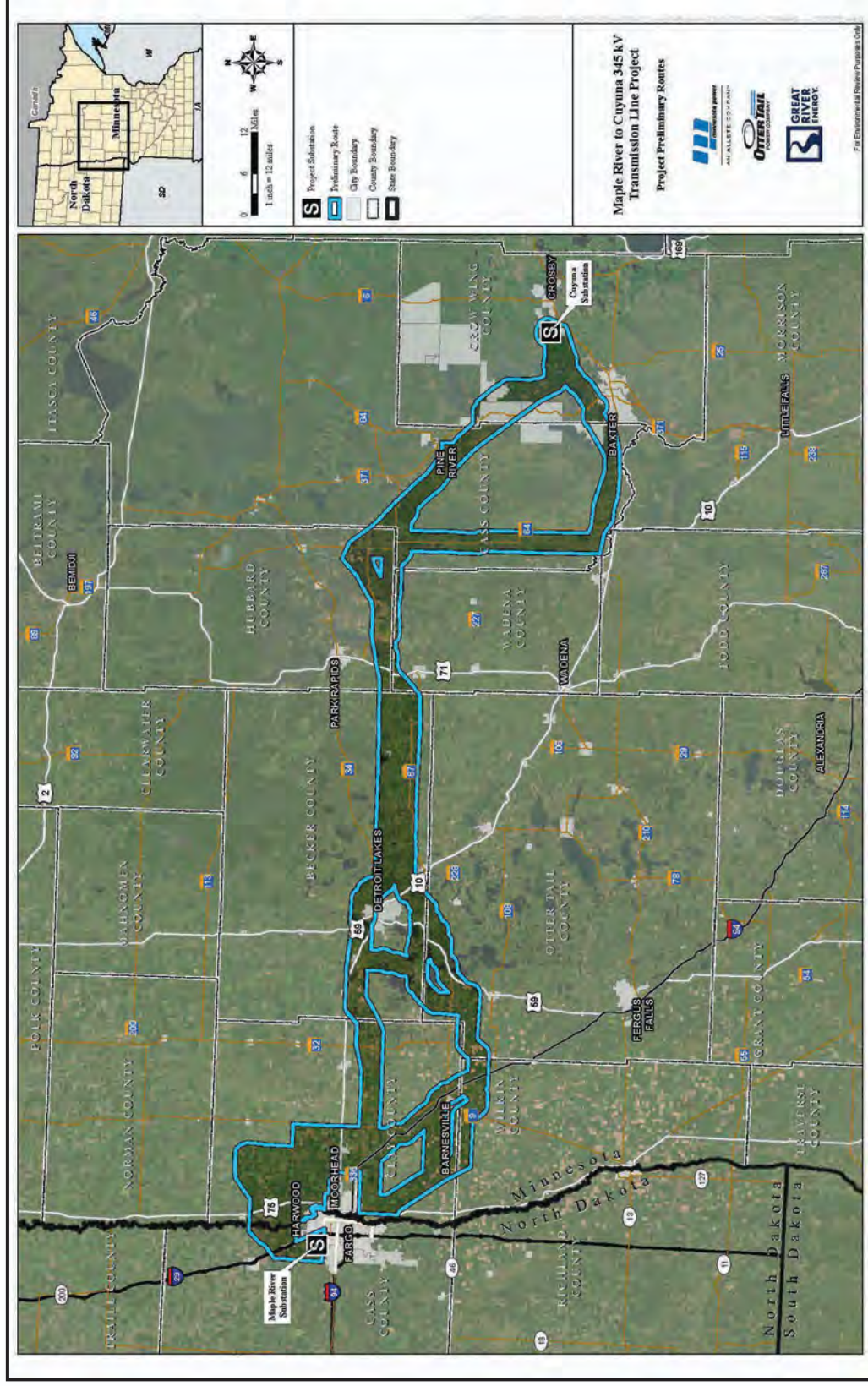
Tranche 2.1 Portfolio



Final Tranche 2.1



Preliminary Routes

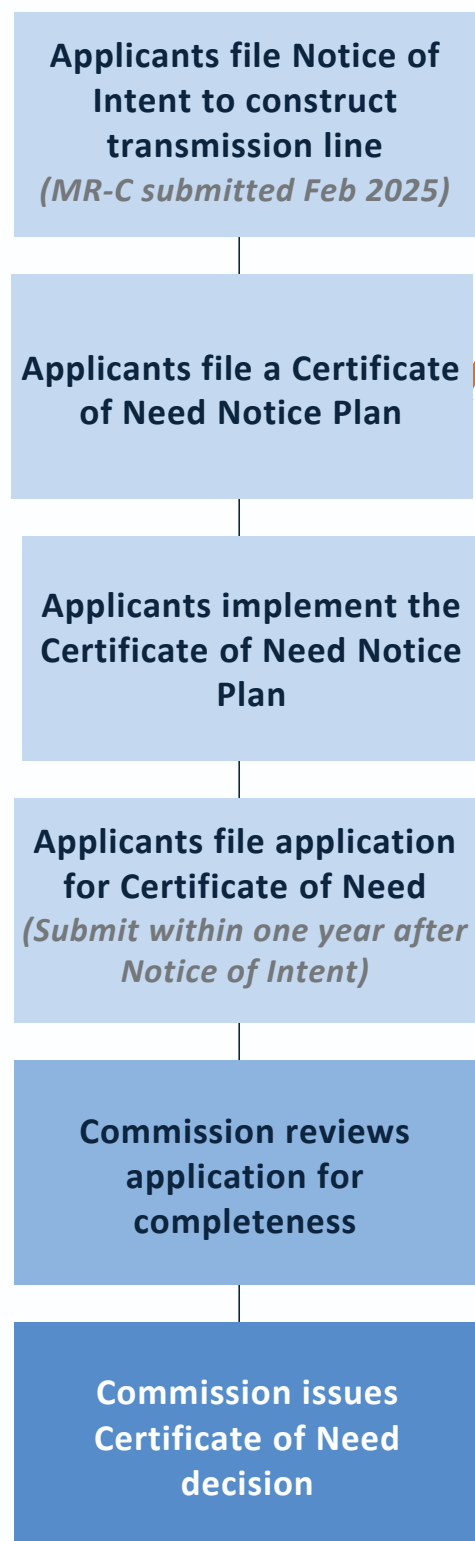


What Constraints Should We Be Aware Of?

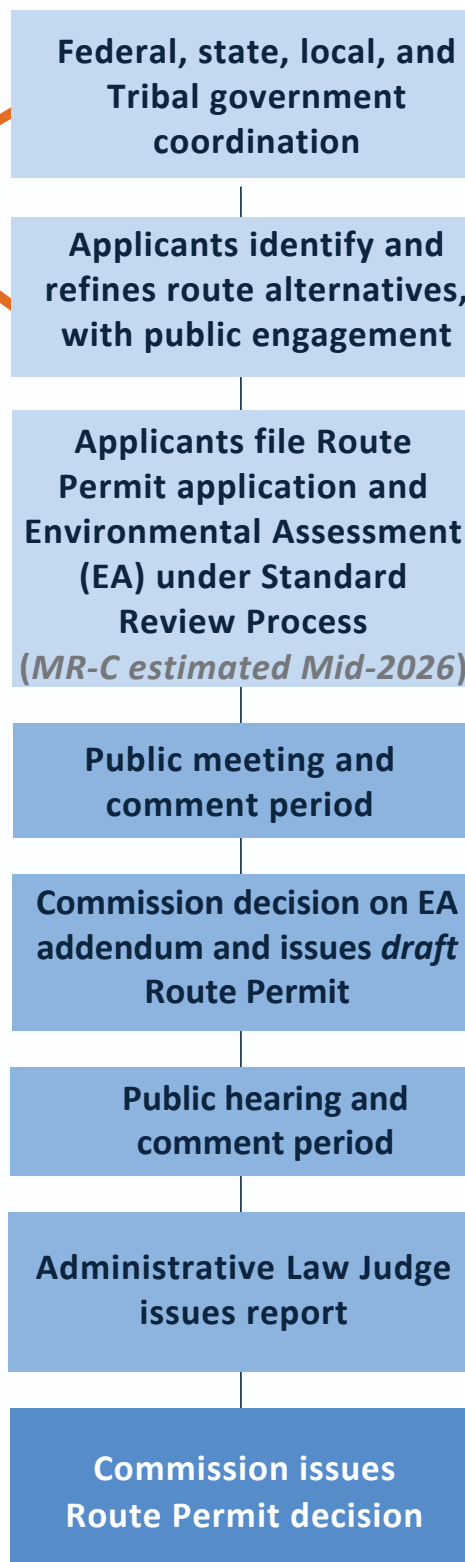
Agricultural uses, including organic farms
Airports/air navigation facilities
Cemeteries
Communication towers
Conservation areas
Cultural/archaeological resources
Floodplains
Lakes/ponds/rivers/streams/wetlands
Levees/dams
Mines/quarries
Pipelines
Potentially contaminated sites
Railroads
Religious facilities
Residences
Scenic highways
Schools
Sensitive plant/animal species
State/regional/local parks and trails
Wells

Minnesota Permitting Process

1. Certificate of Need



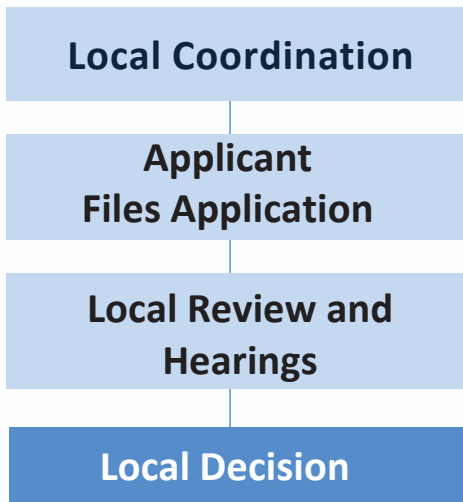
2. Route Permit



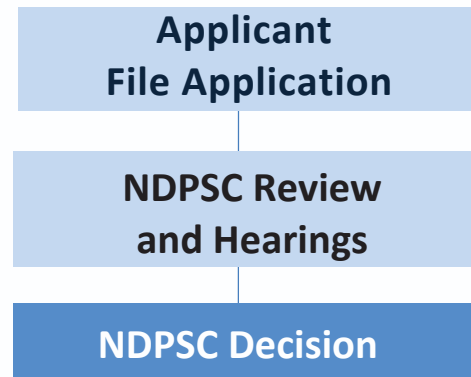
We are here

North Dakota Permitting Process

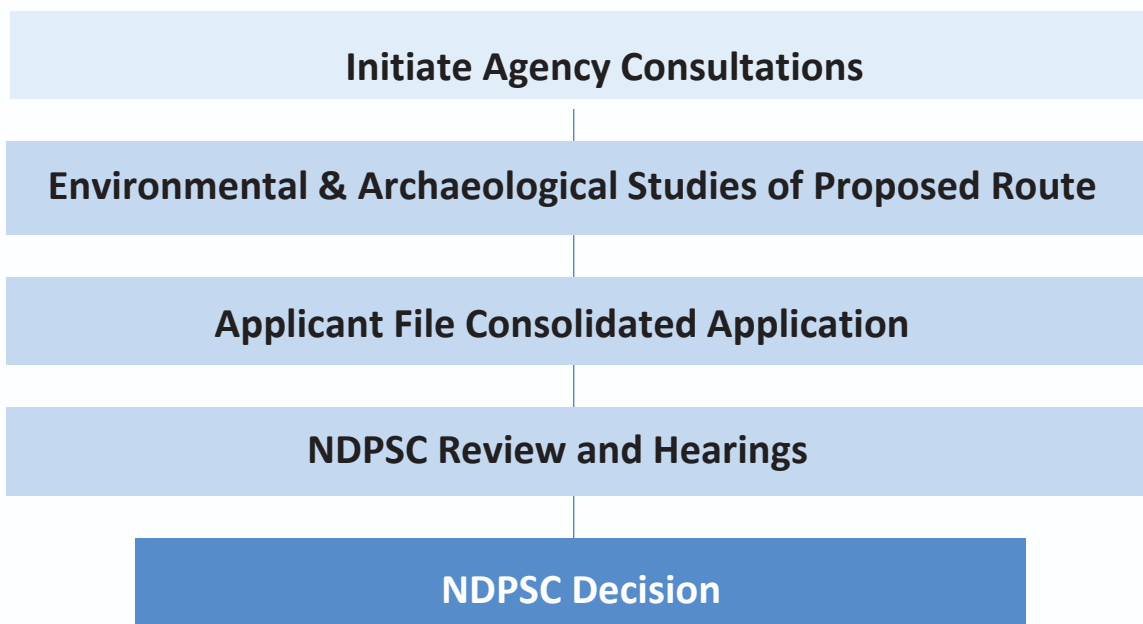
1. County/Township Road Use Permit (TBD)



2. Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity - ND Public Service Commission

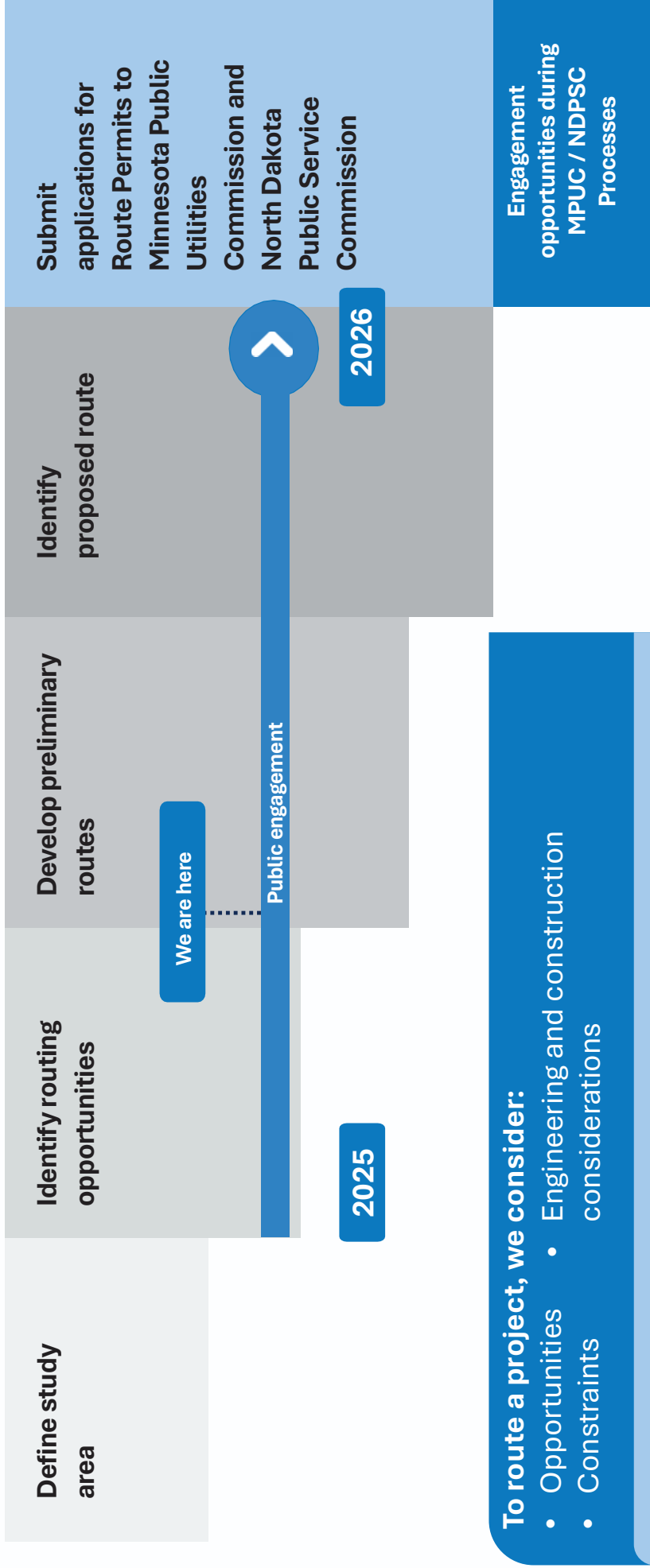


3. Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit - ND Public Service Commission



4. Other State and Federal Permits as Required

Our Routing Process



To route a project, we consider:

- Opportunities
- Constraints
- Engineering and construction considerations

Your input matters

We need your help to identify opportunities and constraints



Project Timeline

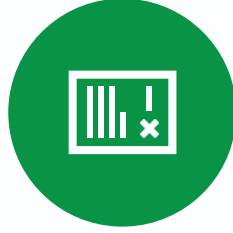
2026-2028

Permitting, engineering,
environmental surveys,
ROW acquisition, and
public engagement



2025

Stakeholder
engagement and
routing



2029-2032

Construction



2033

In-service



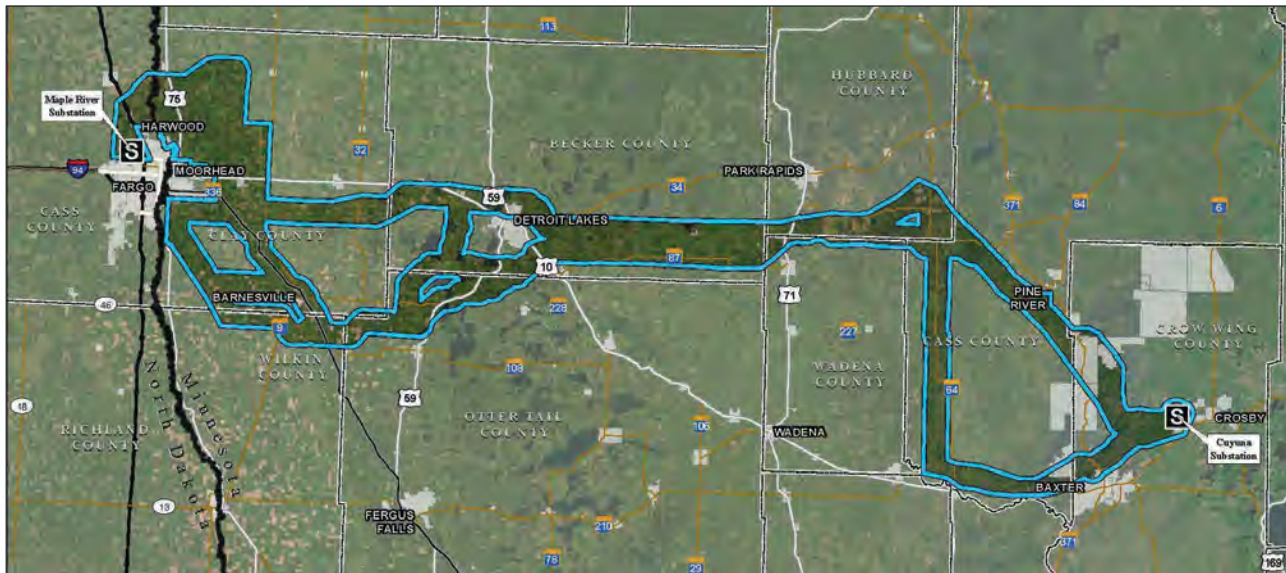
Your Input Matters

- Adjacent to proposed or existing projects
- Existing transmission lines on property
- Public lands
- Population proximity
- Cultural resources

Initial Study Area with Routing Opportunities based on Existing Transmission Lines – June 2025



Preliminary Routes – October 2025



345 kV Transmission Line Right-of-Way Acquisition

What is a right-of-way?

A right-of-way, or ROW, is a strip of land used for a specific purpose such as the construction, operation and maintenance of a road or transmission line. Right-of-way is typically secured as an easement on a property.

What is an easement?

An ownership interest in real property allowing the utility the right to construct, operate and maintain a transmission line and other associated infrastructure on a property.

Our right-of-way acquisition process:

Project representatives will hold individual meetings with affected landowners to discuss right-of-way needs.



Landowners are contacted to begin right-of-way acquisition process.



An easement is presented to a landowner. An offer based on fair market value is presented.



We work closely with the landowner to resolve concerns and reach an agreement. An easement is recorded.



The utilities construct, operate and maintain the transmission line within the right-of-way.

Additional right-of-way needs may include:

- Construction staging areas
- Substation expansions
- Temporary access roads

Construction

Typical preconstruction and construction activities



- ▲ Initial surveying, right-of-way clearing and access routes



- ▲ Structure staking, surveying and soils investigations as needed

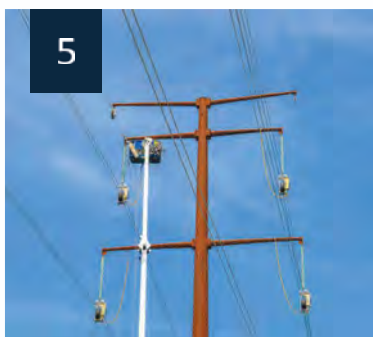


- ▲ Foundation installation

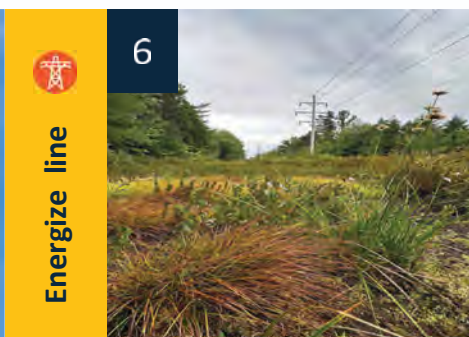
Foundation type may vary depending on structure



- ▲ Assemble and set structures



- ▲ Wire installation

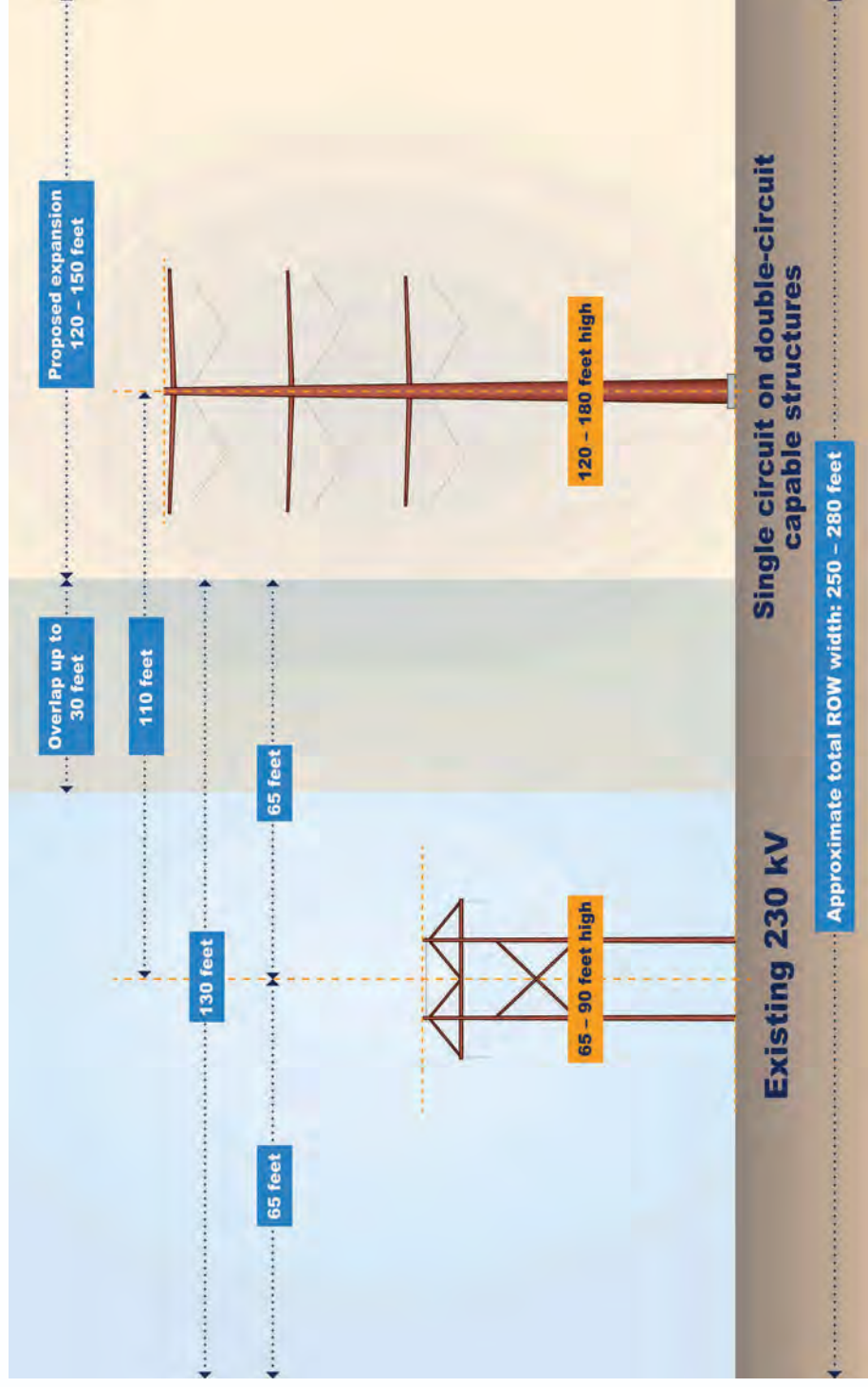


- ▲ Cleanup and restoration

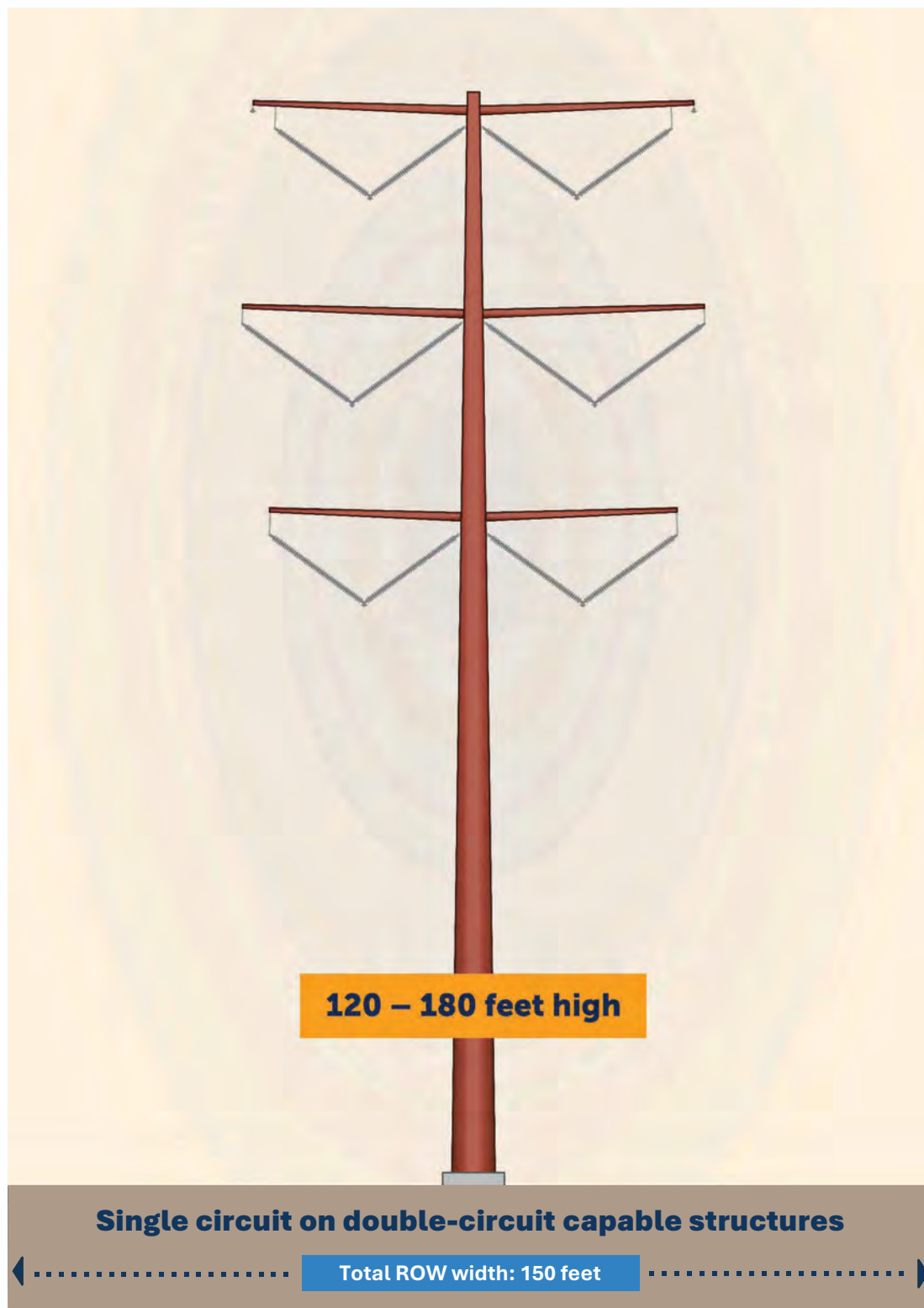
Typical preconstruction survey types:

- Field surveys
- Wildlife and plant surveys
- Archaeological surveys
- Wetland and stream surveys
- Soil surveys

Right-of-Way (ROW) Typical Construction



Right-of-Way (ROW) Typical Construction



Environmental Surveys

Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power, and Great River Energy will conduct a variety of studies and surveys during different phases of project development. These field surveys allow the project team to verify or collect new information to help minimize impacts for construction of the transmission line.

Permission will be requested to allow survey teams access to private property to conduct required field surveys. More detailed information will be provided to property owners in advance of teams conducting surveys on private property.



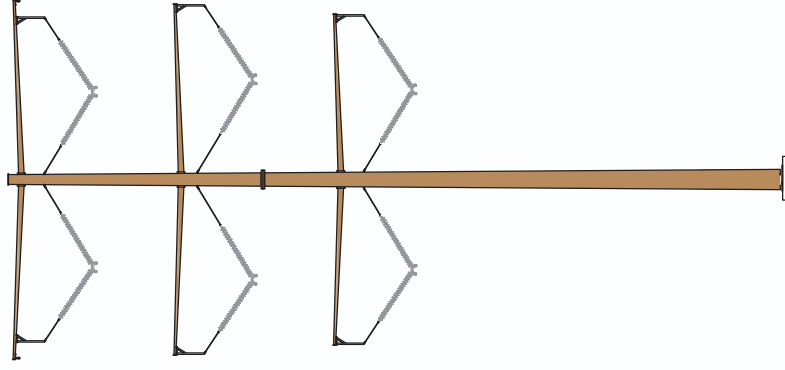
Cypripedium arietinum

Possible surveys include the following, which may vary by location:

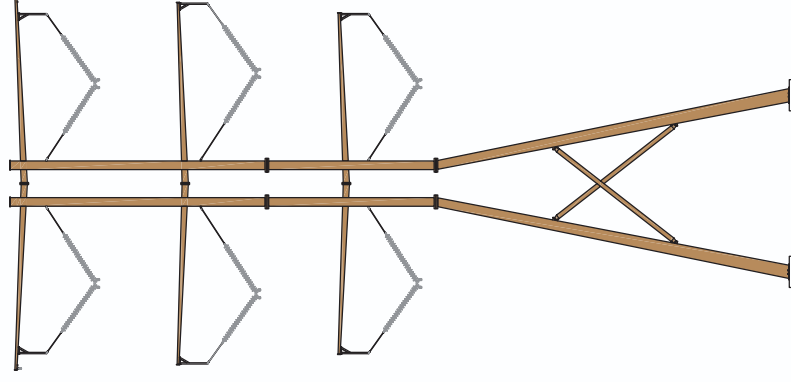
- Geotechnical
- Cultural resources
- Wetland and waterbodies
- Invasive species
- Protected species
- Raptor nests

Potential Structure Design Concepts

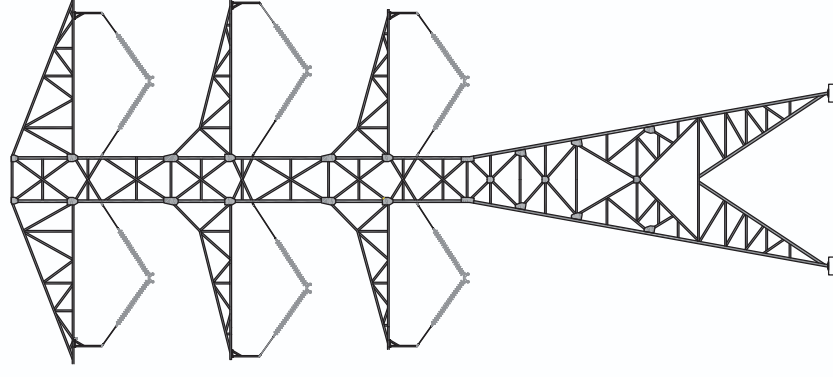
Tubular Monopole



Tubular Lattice Tower



Lattice Tower



Preferred Design

Site-Specific Alternatives

Maple River – Cuyuna
345 kV Transmission Project
OPEN HOUSES

Please join us at one of the following open houses to learn more about the proposed MR-C Transmission Project and provide comments on the preliminary routes.*

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025
12:00-2:00PM

Harwood Community Center
210 Freedland Dr
Harwood, ND 58042

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025
5:30-7:30PM

TAK Music Venue
1710 Center Ave W
Dilworth, MN 56529

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2025
12:00-2:00PM

Barnesville Event Center
101 Second St. SE
Barnesville, MN 56514

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2025
5:30-7:30PM

Historic Holmes Theatre
806 Summit Ave
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2025
12:00-2:00PM

MN State Central Lakes College,
Staples Location C168
1830 Airport Road
Staples, MN 56479

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2025
5:30-7:30PM

Hubbard Community Center
12141 County 6
Park Rapids, MN 56470

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2025
12:00-2:00PM

The Lodge at Brainerd Lakes
6967 Lake Forest Rd
Baxter, MN 56425

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2025
5:30-7:30PM

Pelican Lakes Conservation Club and
Community Center
8922 Thrane Dr
Breezy Point, MN 56472

***open house format, no formal presentations.**

For more information, visit the project website at: <https://mrctransmissionproject.com>





Minnesota Power

30 W. Superior St.
Duluth, MN 55802

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY ST ZIP



Project overview

Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Great River Energy (collectively the Applicants) are proposing to construct an approximately 160-mile-long, single-circuit 345 kV transmission line on double-circuit structures from Minnesota Power's Cuyuna Substation near Riverton, Minnesota, to Otter Tail Power Company's Maple River Substation in eastern North Dakota.

The Maple River – Cuyuna (MR-C) Transmission Project is one in a portfolio of transmission projects approved by the regional grid operator, Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), in its 2024 Long-Range Transmission Planning portfolio. As a part of this larger portfolio, the MR-C Transmission Project will:



Enhance the reliability of the regional transmission system as the way we produce and use electricity changes



Increase transmission system capacity to reliably deliver energy from where it's produced to where it's used



Meet growing electrical demand and enhance resiliency during extreme weather events



Enable cost-effective regional energy transfers supporting economical grid operations

Schedule

2025

Stakeholder engagement and routing

2026-2028

Permitting, engineering, environmental surveys, ROW acquisition, and public engagement

2029-2032

Construction

2033

Anticipated in-service

**The schedule is subject to change.*

Regulatory process

Approximately 95% of the Project is in Minnesota and subject to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) regulatory process. In February 2025, the Applicants filed a notice of intent (NOI) with the MPUC to apply for a Certificate of Need from the State of Minnesota. Under current state regulations, the Applicants have 12 months from the date of the NOI to file the Certificate of Need application. The Applicants anticipate applying to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a Route Permit in the second half of 2026. Other state and federal permits will also be required depending on the final route and project design.

The remaining 5% of the Project is in North Dakota and subject to the North Dakota Public Service Commission (NDPSC) regulatory process. This process includes obtaining a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit from the NDPSC. Other state and federal permits may also be required. The Project anticipates filing these applications with the NDPSC on a similar schedule as the MPUC filings.

Public involvement

Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Great River Energy will continue to gather information from the public to support the development of potential routes for the Project. There will also be additional opportunities for any interested parties to ask questions and provide comments during the permitting process.

Connect with us

Stay up to date on the project by signing up for email updates or talking to a Project team member.

Website: MRCTransmissionProject.com **Email:** connect@MRCTransmissionProject.com

Phone: 1-888-419-5670

MR-C Transmission Project Preliminary Routes



Right-of-Way (ROW) Process

ROW easements allow for the safe construction, operation, and maintenance of linear infrastructure projects including transmission lines. Our team will work closely with landowners during the ROW process to introduce the project and ourselves, answer questions and solicit input, and negotiate and acquire necessary land rights.

Project representatives will contact affected landowners and hold individual meetings to discuss the ROW process, including the need for temporary right-of-entry access, negotiation and acquisition of temporary and permanent land rights, and the restoration and damage process.

1 Right-of-entry for temporary access (2026–2027)

Project representatives will reach out to impacted landowners to request temporary access to a portion of their property. This temporary access is granted through a right-of-entry agreement allowing Project team members to conduct surveys and studies to inform the routing process.

2 Easements (2026–2028)

As the route is defined, impacted landowners will be contacted to begin the ROW negotiation and easement acquisition process. An offer package will be presented to landowners based on fair market value. Our goal is to work closely with landowners to resolve concerns and reach a voluntary agreement. The easement agreement is recorded with the County Recorder.

3 Construction (2029–2032)

Project owners will construct the transmission line within the ROW while maintaining ongoing communications with landowners. Temporary roads may be needed during construction.

4 Restoration (2029–2033)

After construction, damages to crops and property will be settled through reimbursement or restoration. Project owners are responsible for maintaining the easement area.

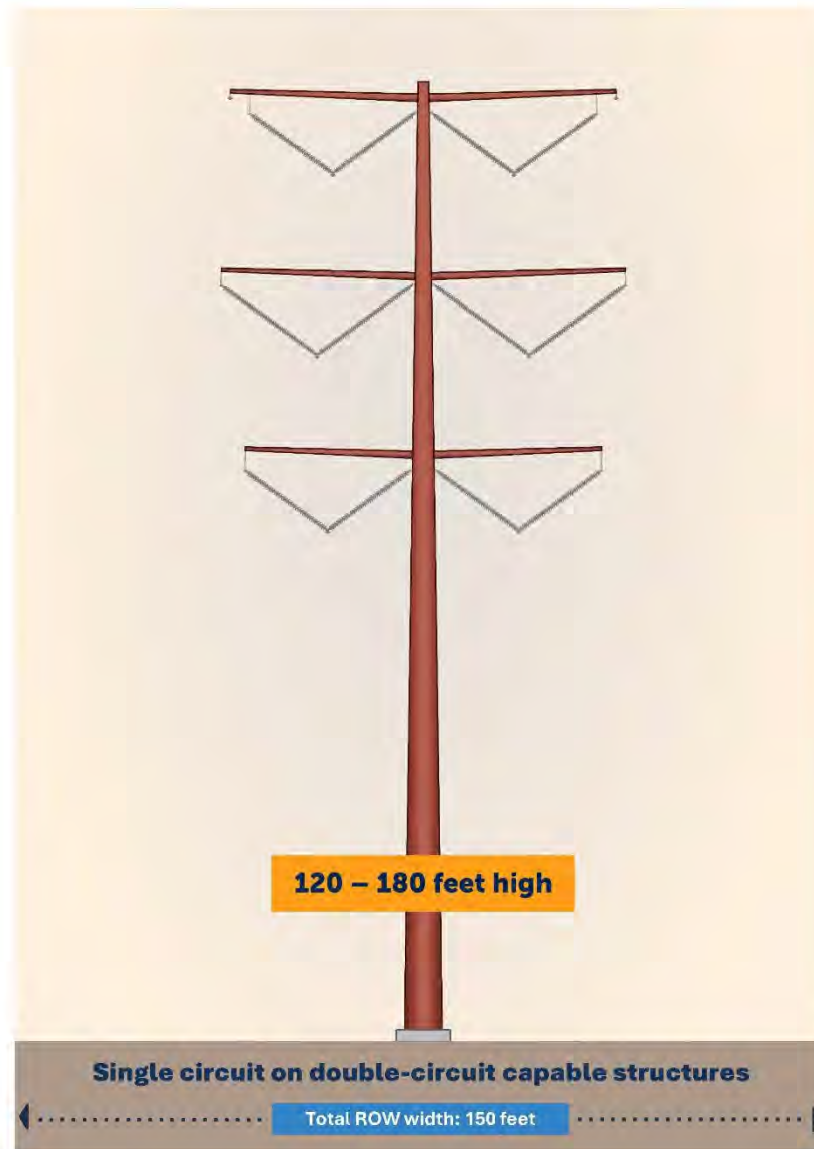
Can this Project share ROW with an existing line?

There may be opportunities to overlap the Project ROW with an existing transmission line corridor. We estimate up to 30 to 40 feet of ROW may be shared between the existing structure and the new structure depending on engineering, construction and topography.

How large of an easement is needed for the Project?

The typical width of the ROW will be a minimum of 150 feet (75 feet on each side of a transmission line). It is sometimes necessary to secure additional permanent ROW at angles or areas where specialty structures are used. It could also be necessary to secure temporary areas next to the permanent ROW for stringing and construction access. The Project team will design the route to maximize the distance of the transmission structures from homes and businesses.

Right-of-Way (ROW) Typical Construction



Connect with us

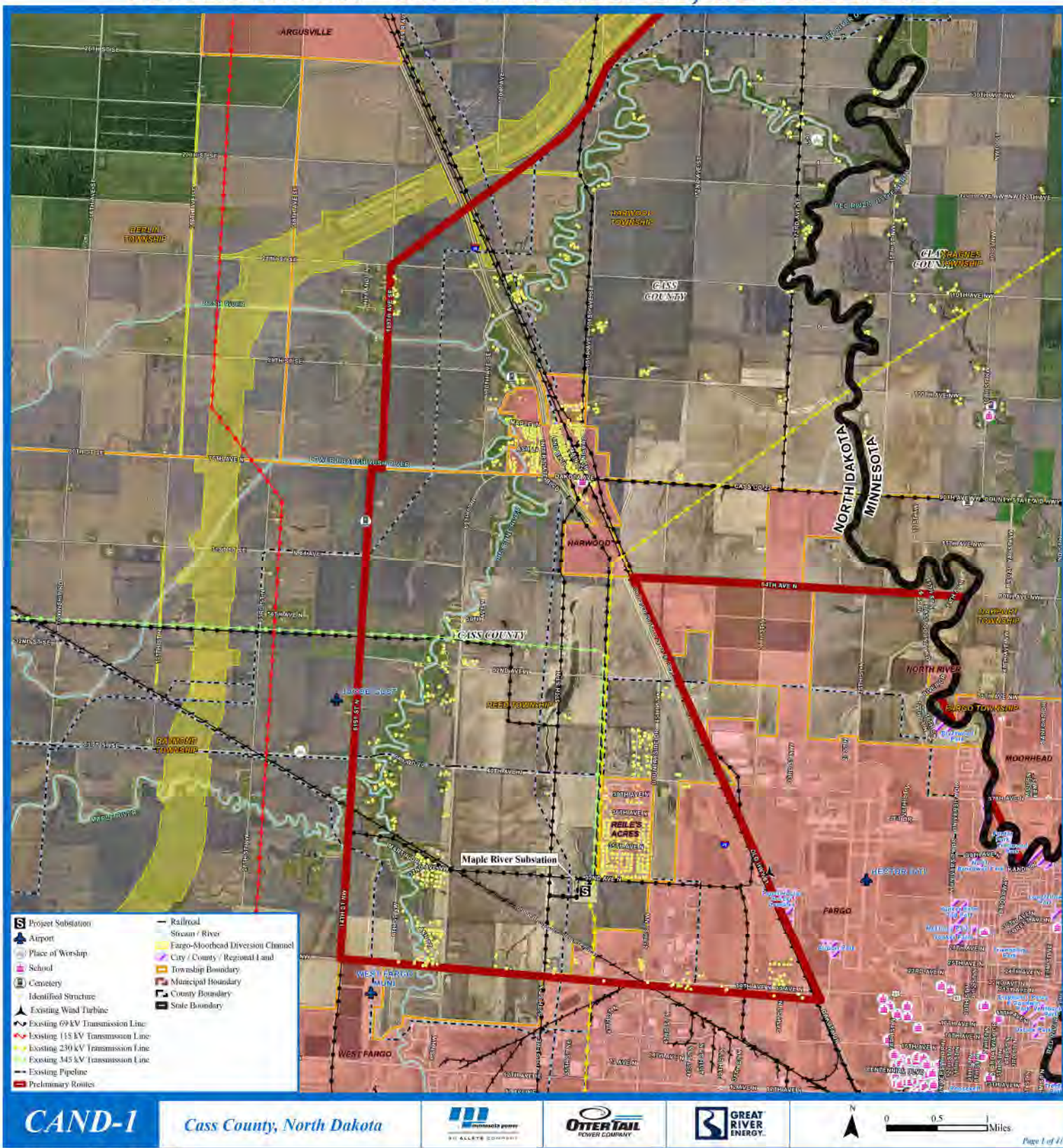
Stay up to date on the project by signing up for email updates or talking to a project team member.

Website: mrctransmissionproject.com

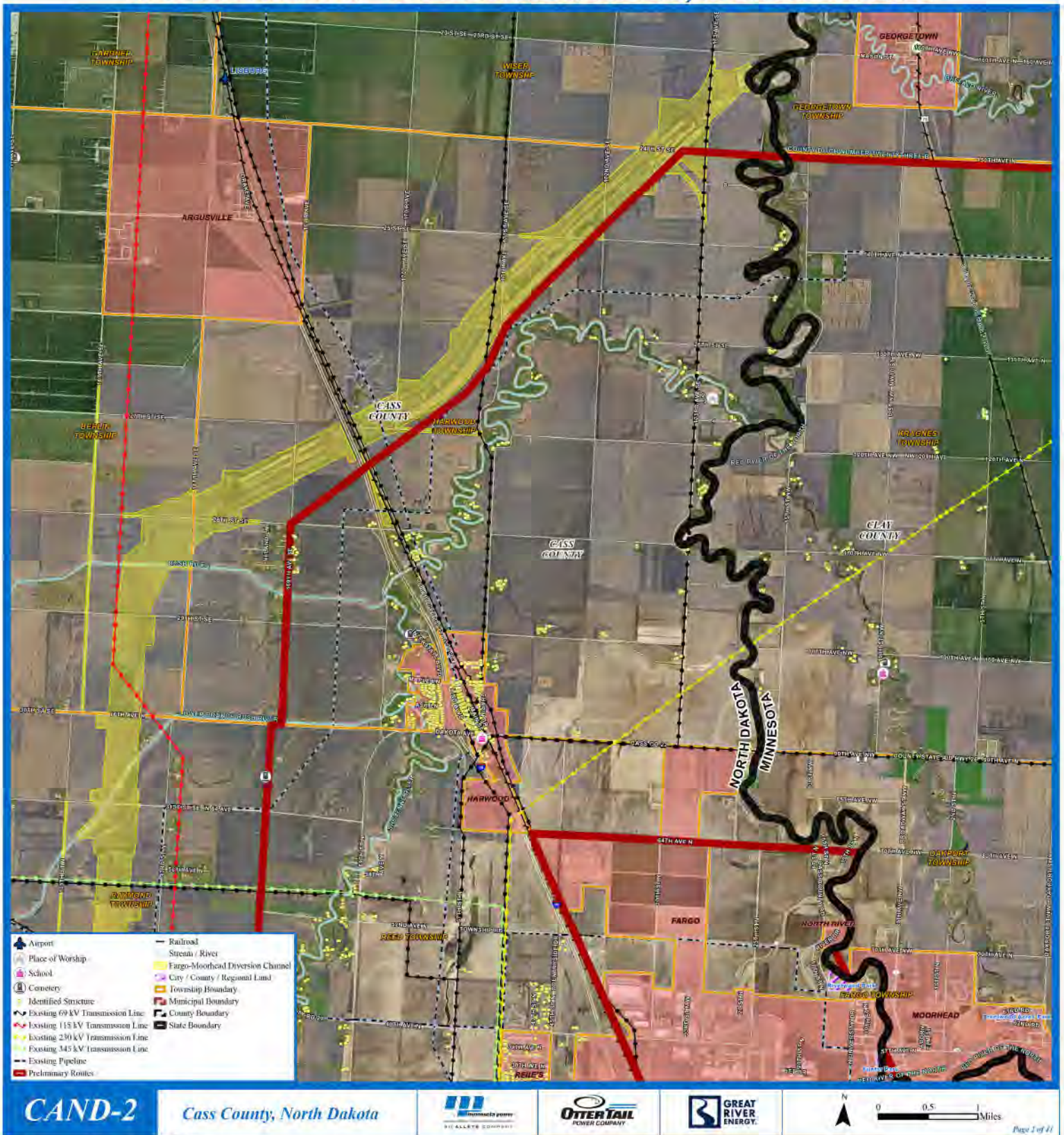
Email: connect@mrctransmissionproject.com

Phone: 1-888-419-5670

MAPLE RIVER – CUYUNA PROJECT, OCTOBER 2025

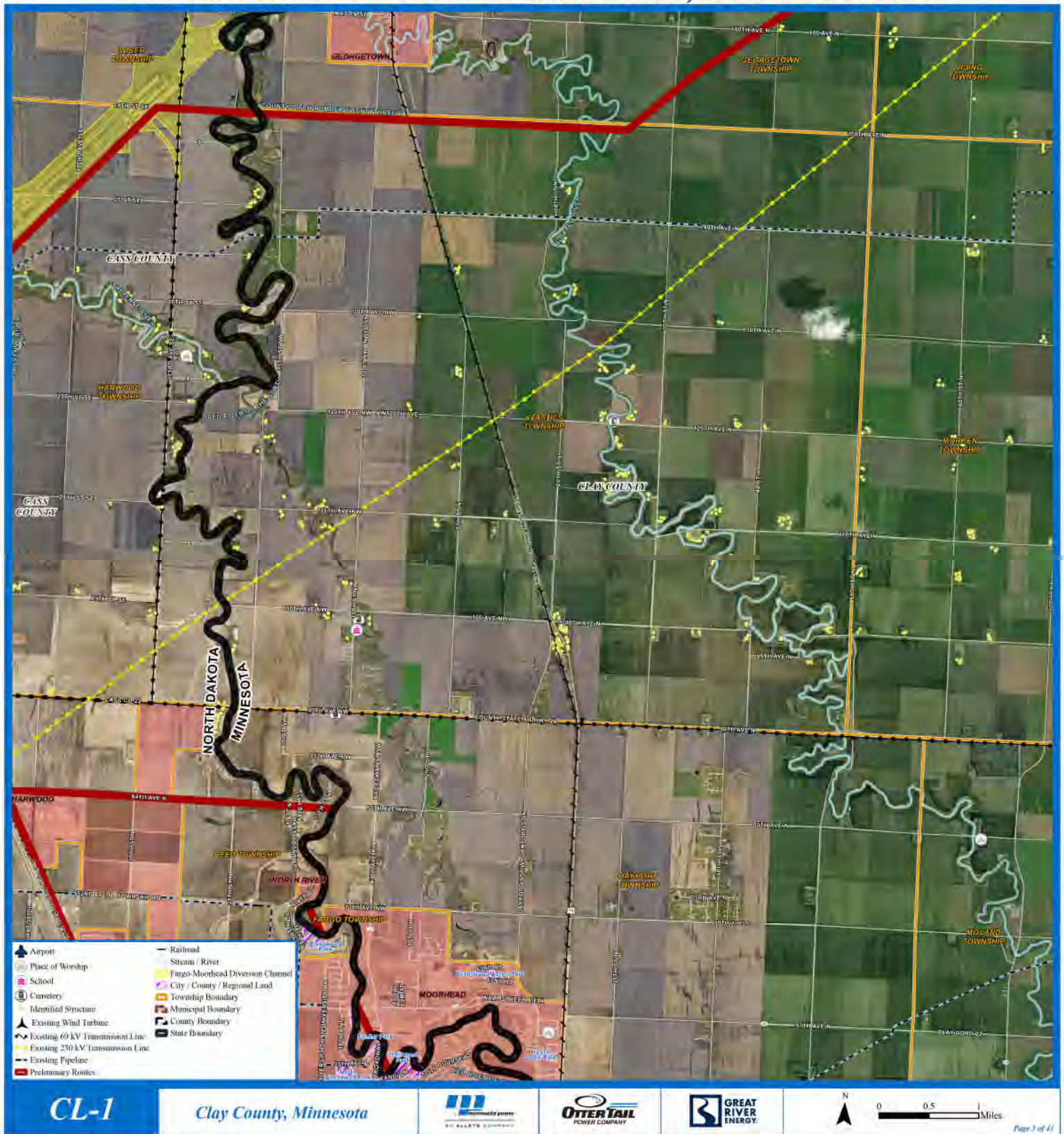


MAPLE RIVER – CUYUNA PROJECT, OCTOBER 2025



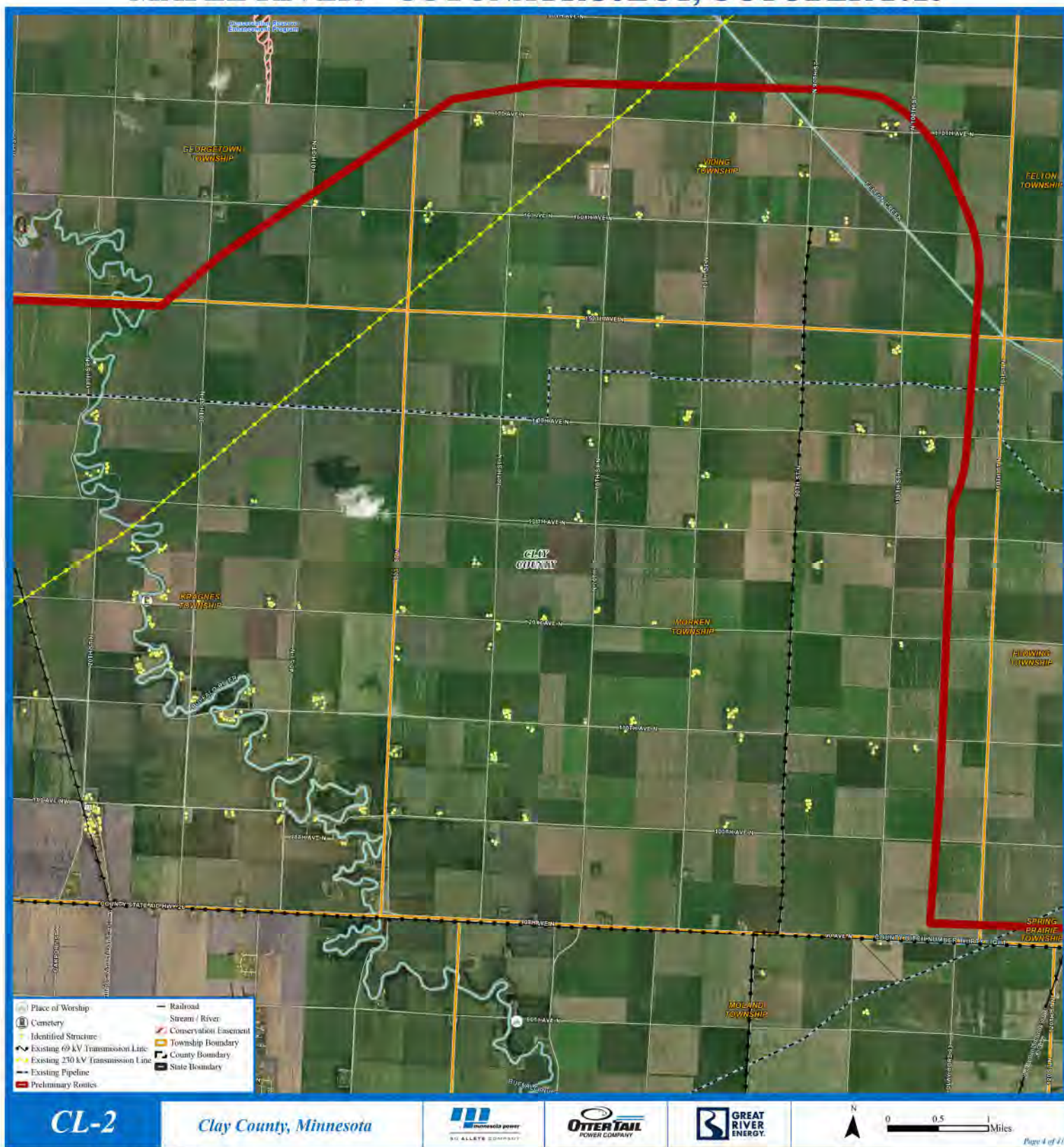
For Environmental Review Purposes Only

MAPLE RIVER – CUYUNA PROJECT, OCTOBER 2025

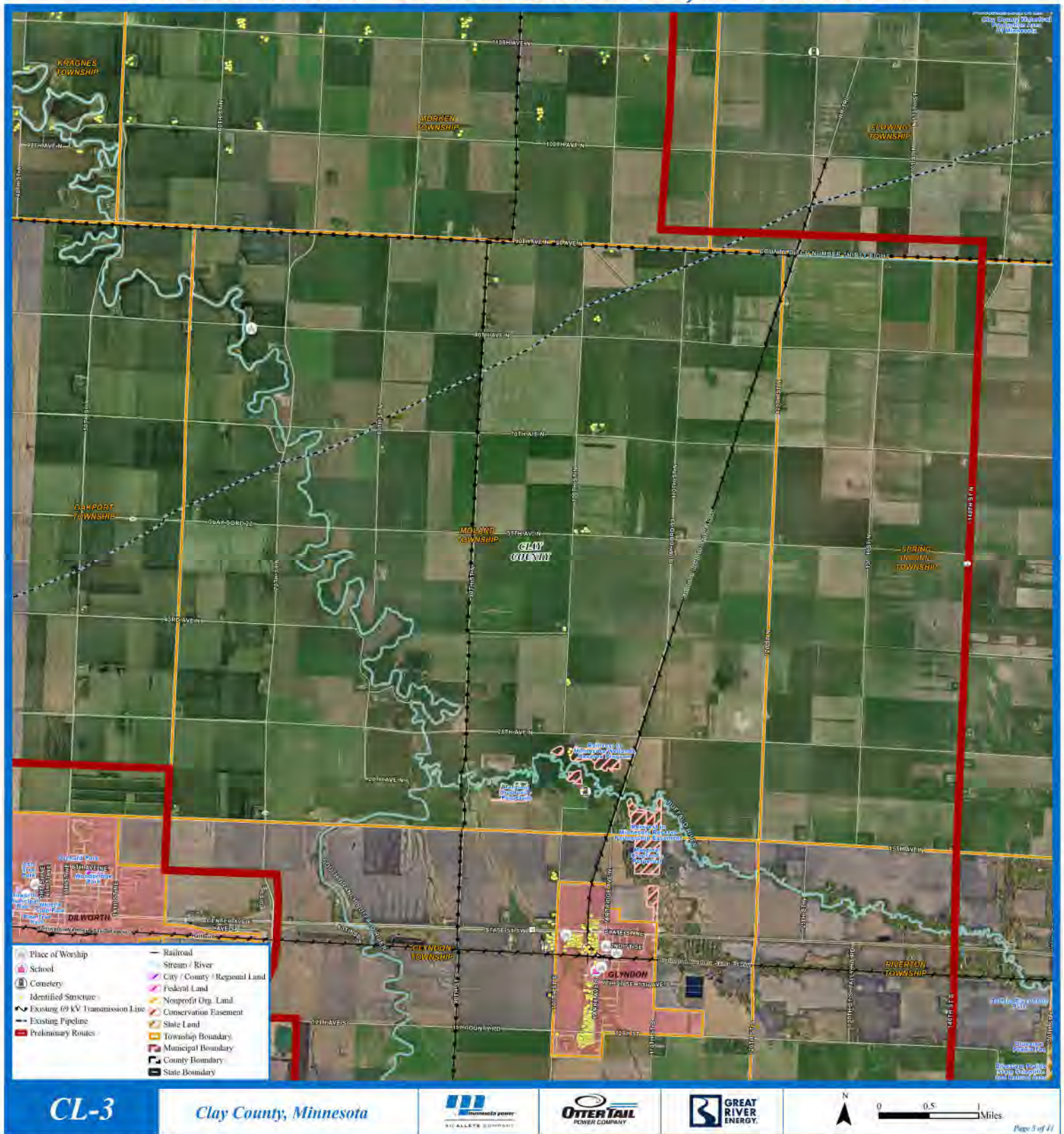


For Environmental Review Purposes Only

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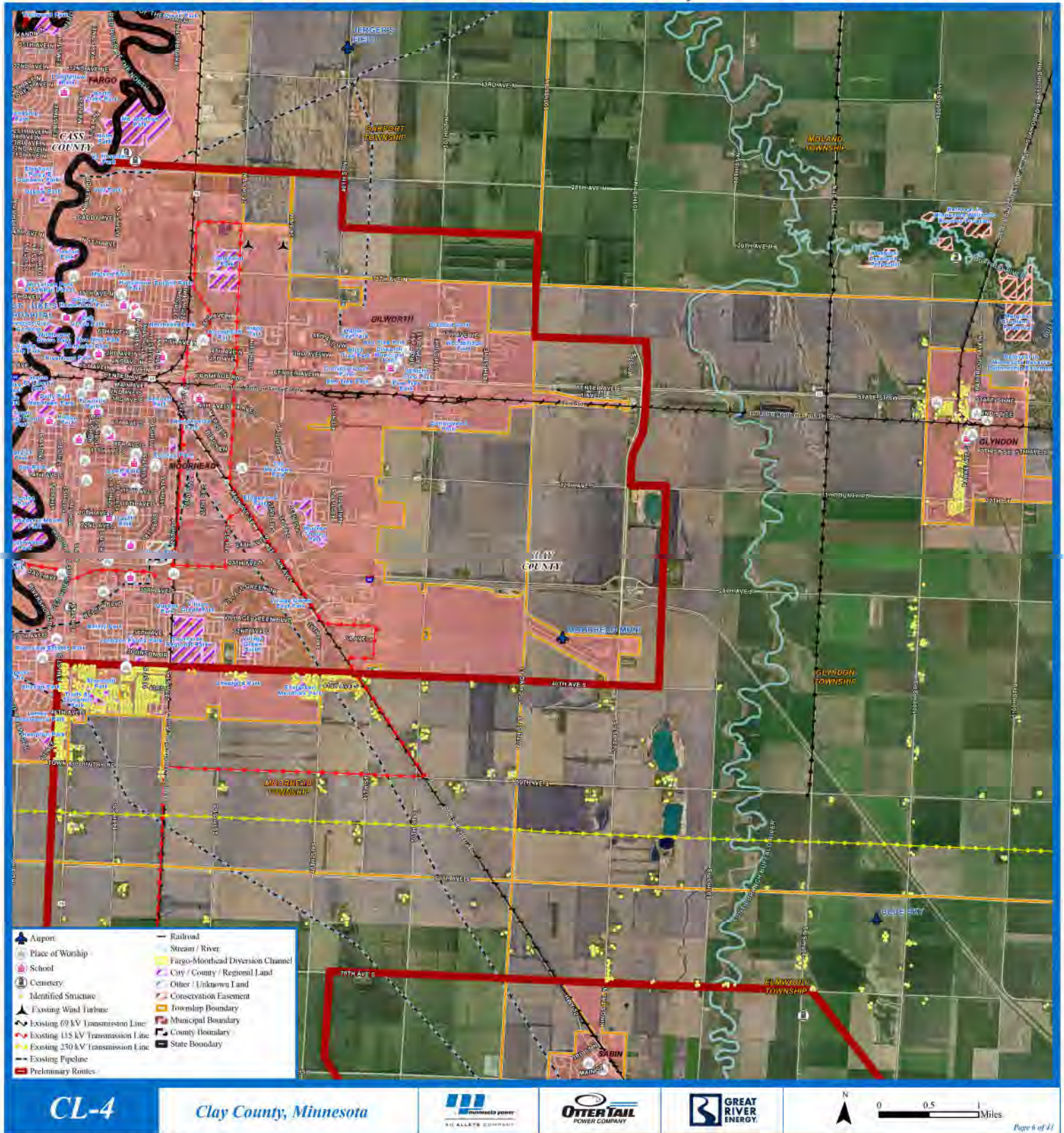


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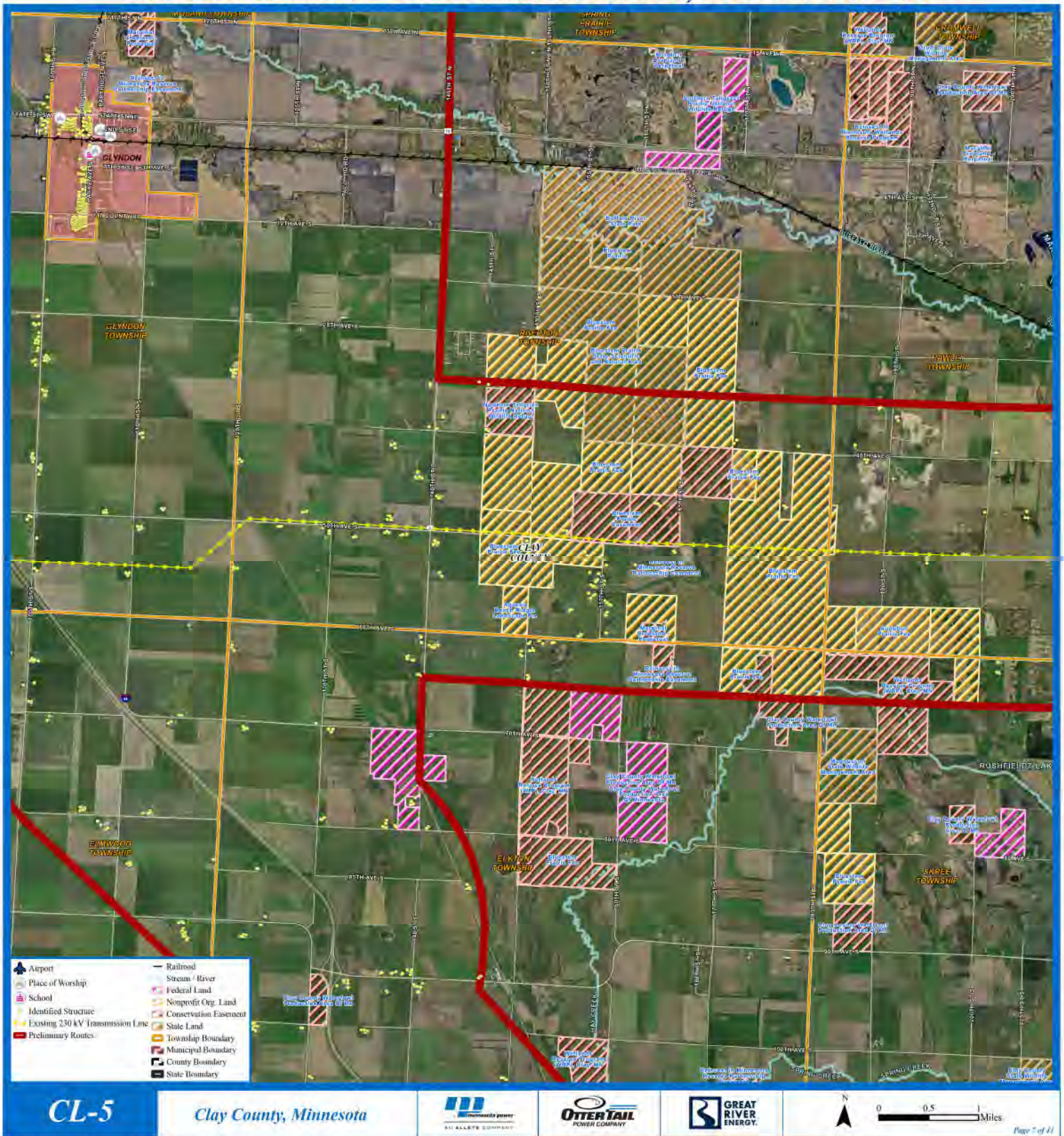
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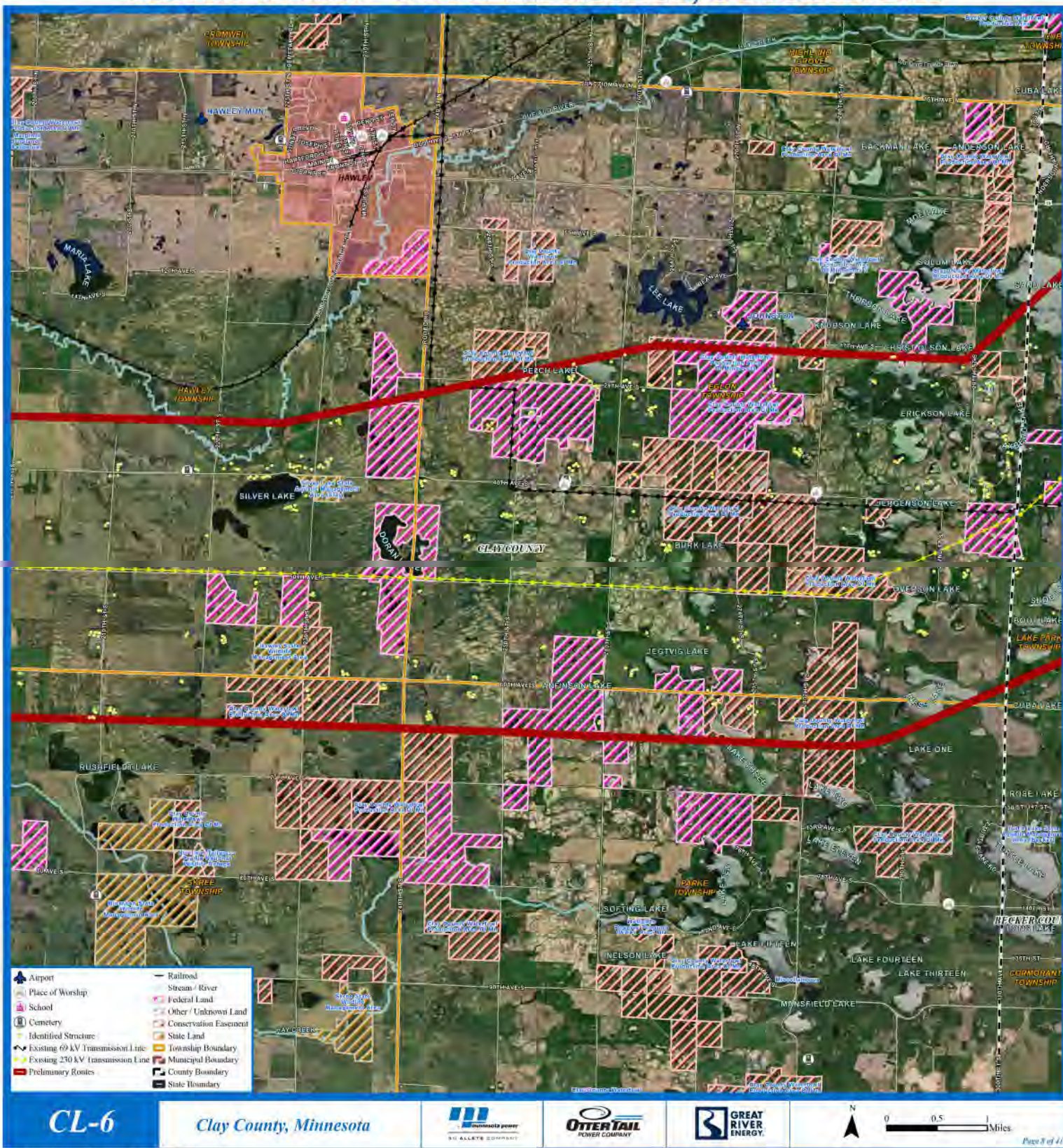
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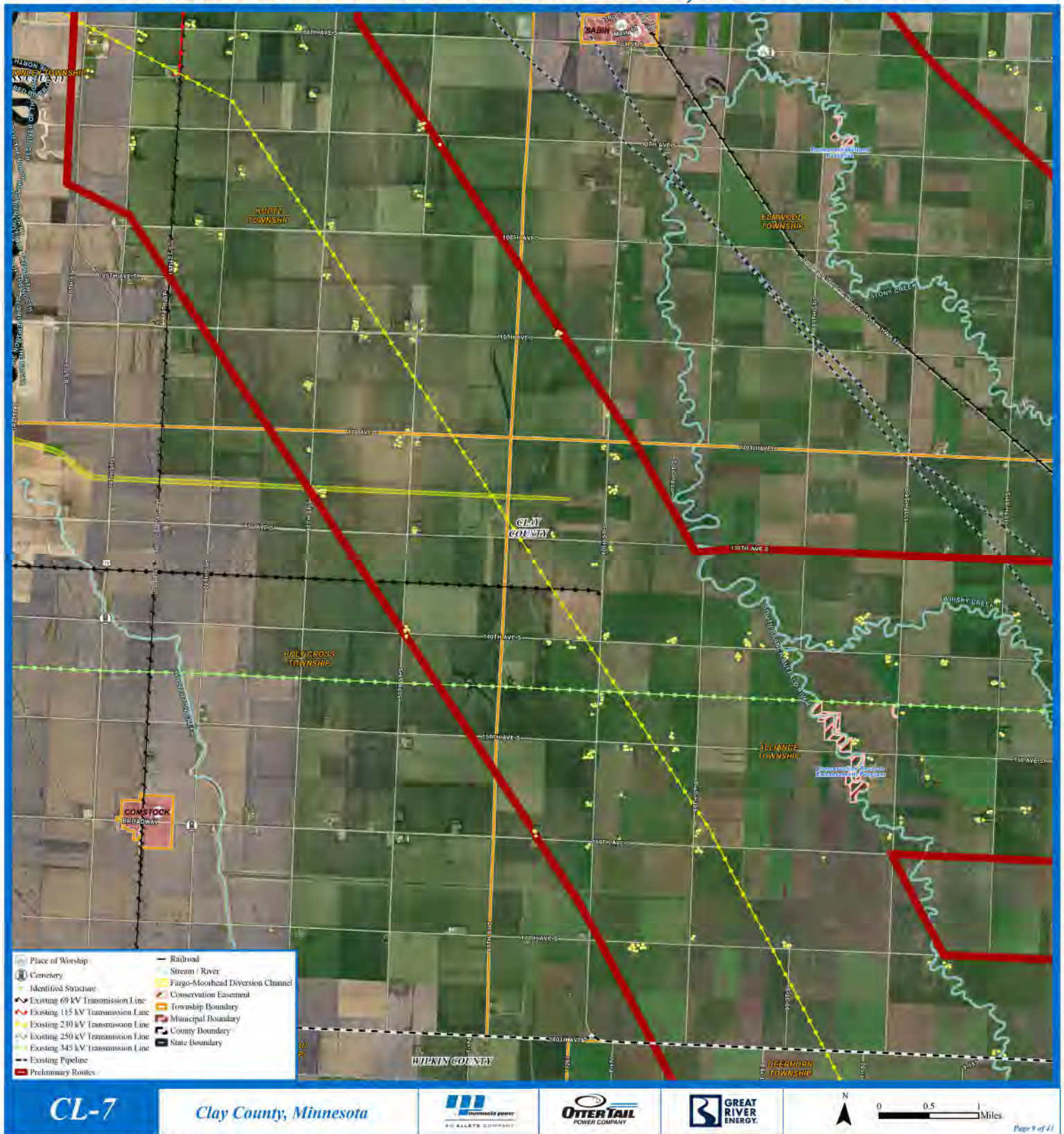


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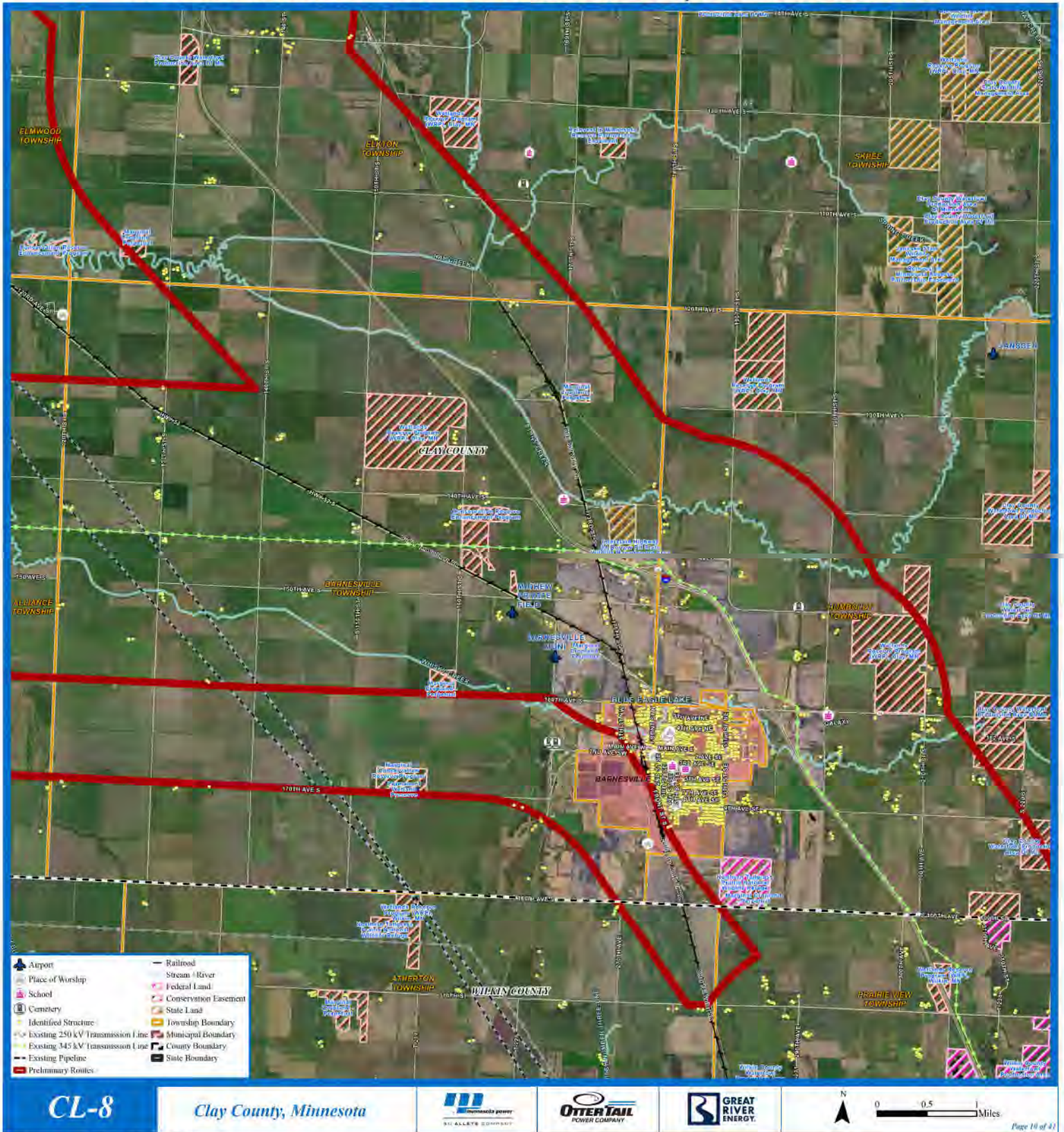


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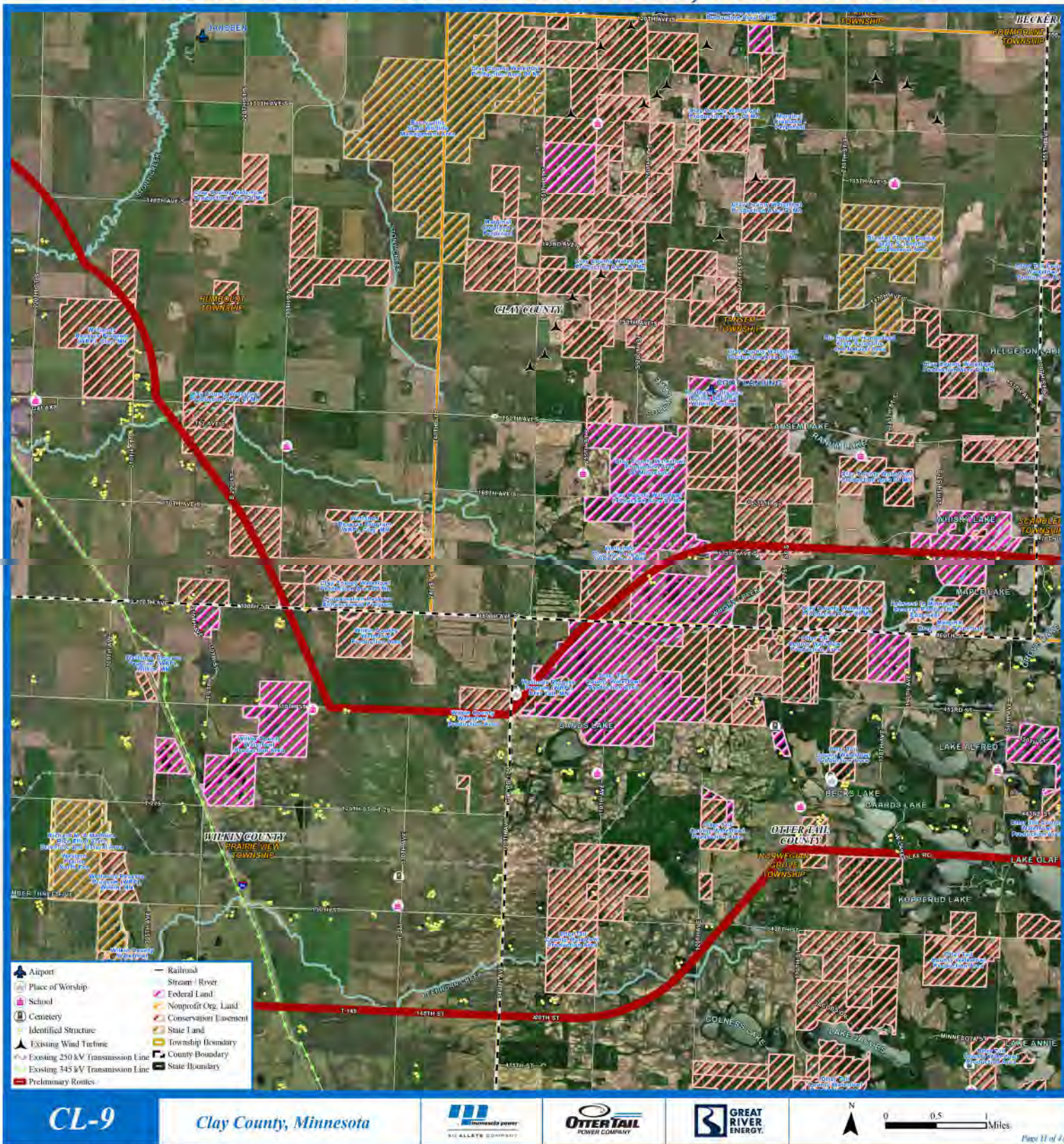
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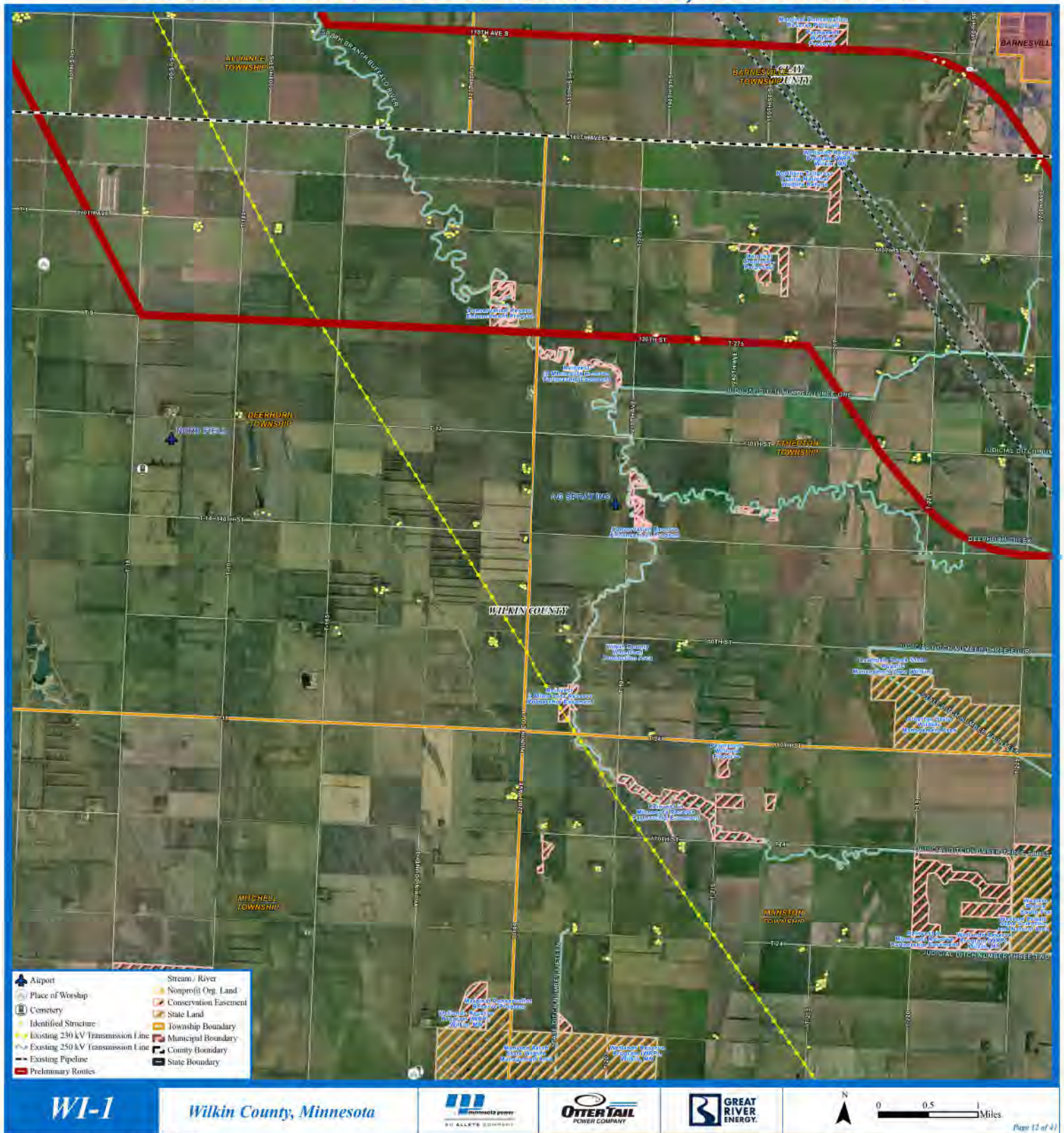


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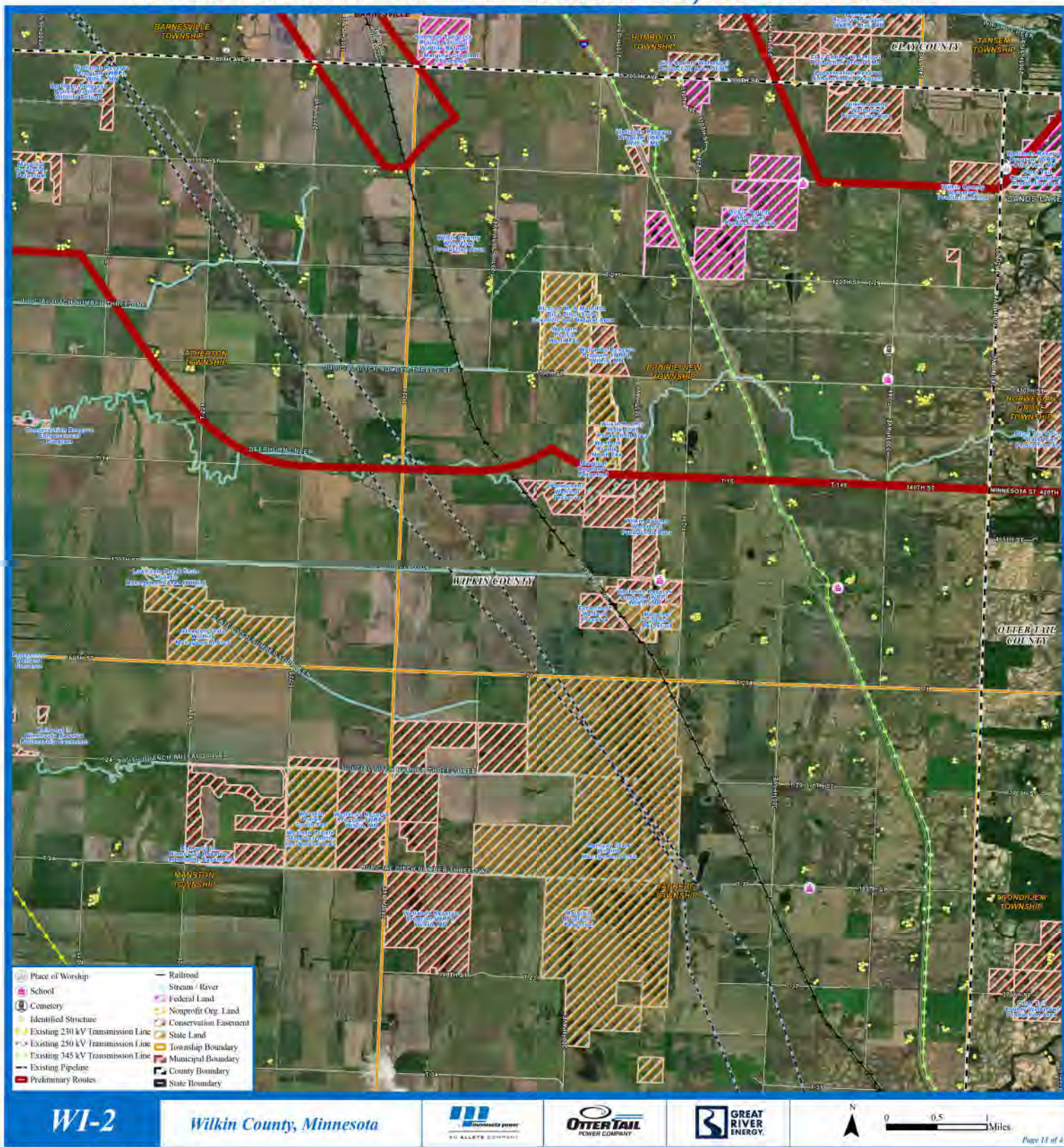


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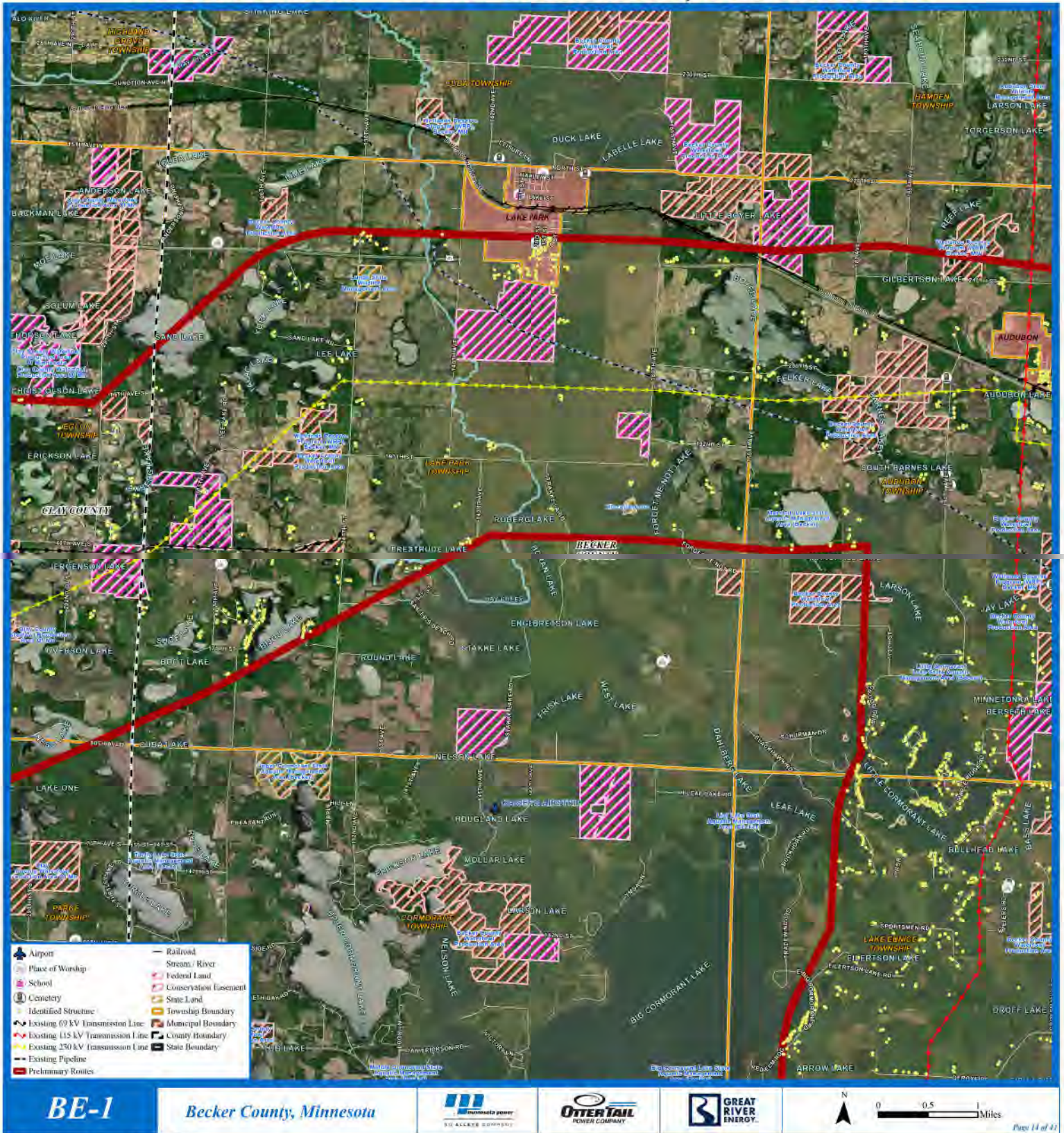


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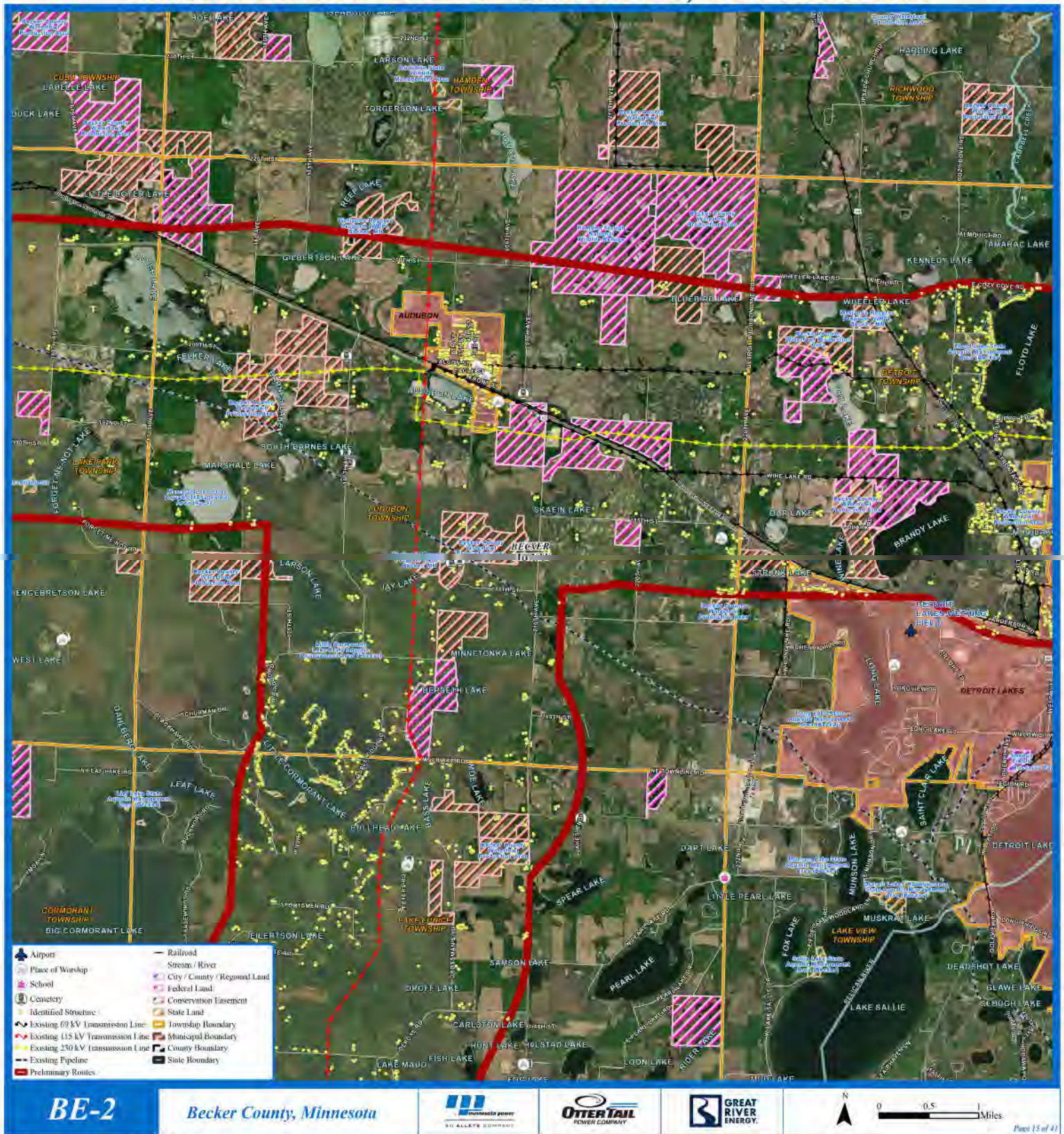


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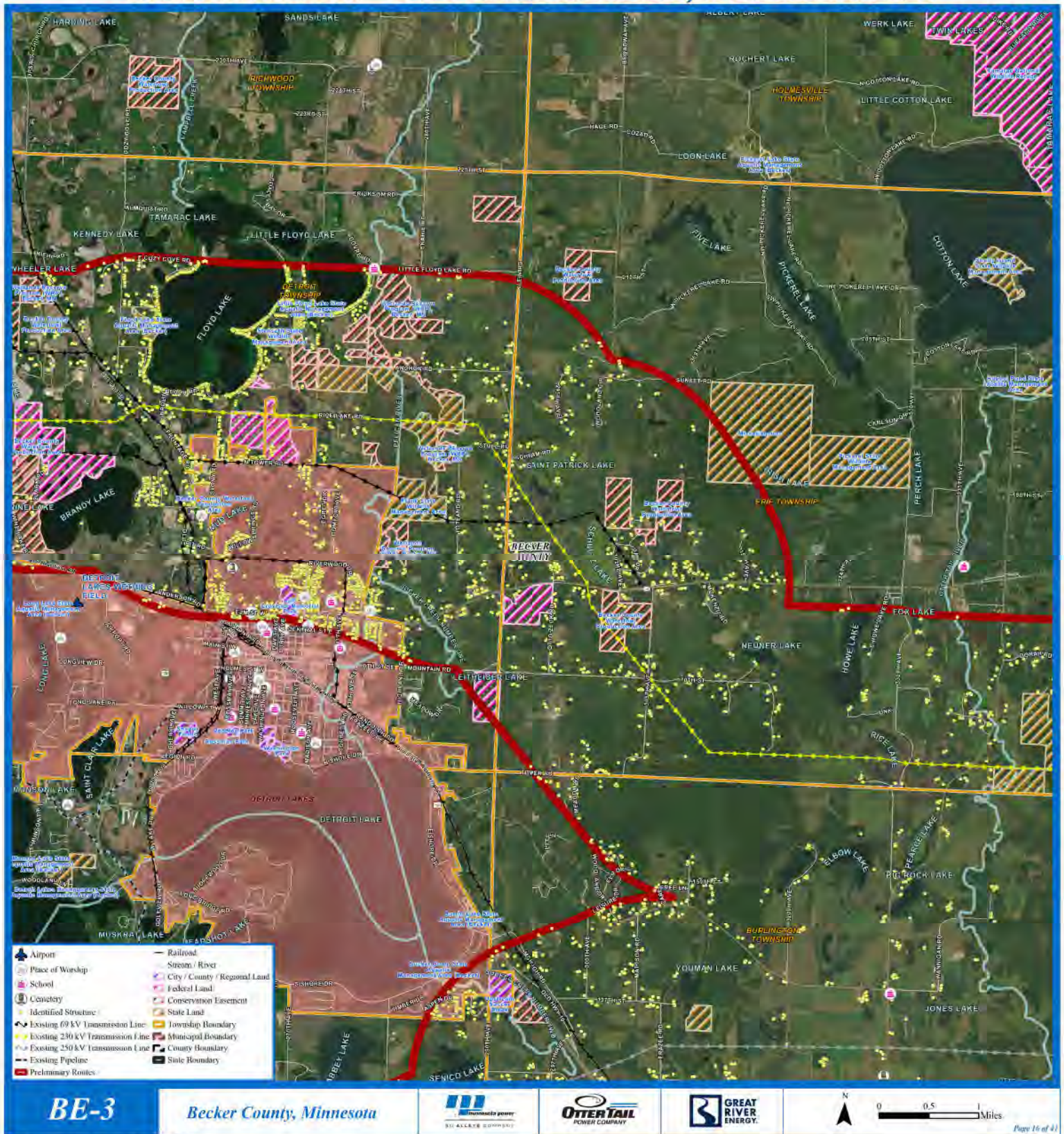
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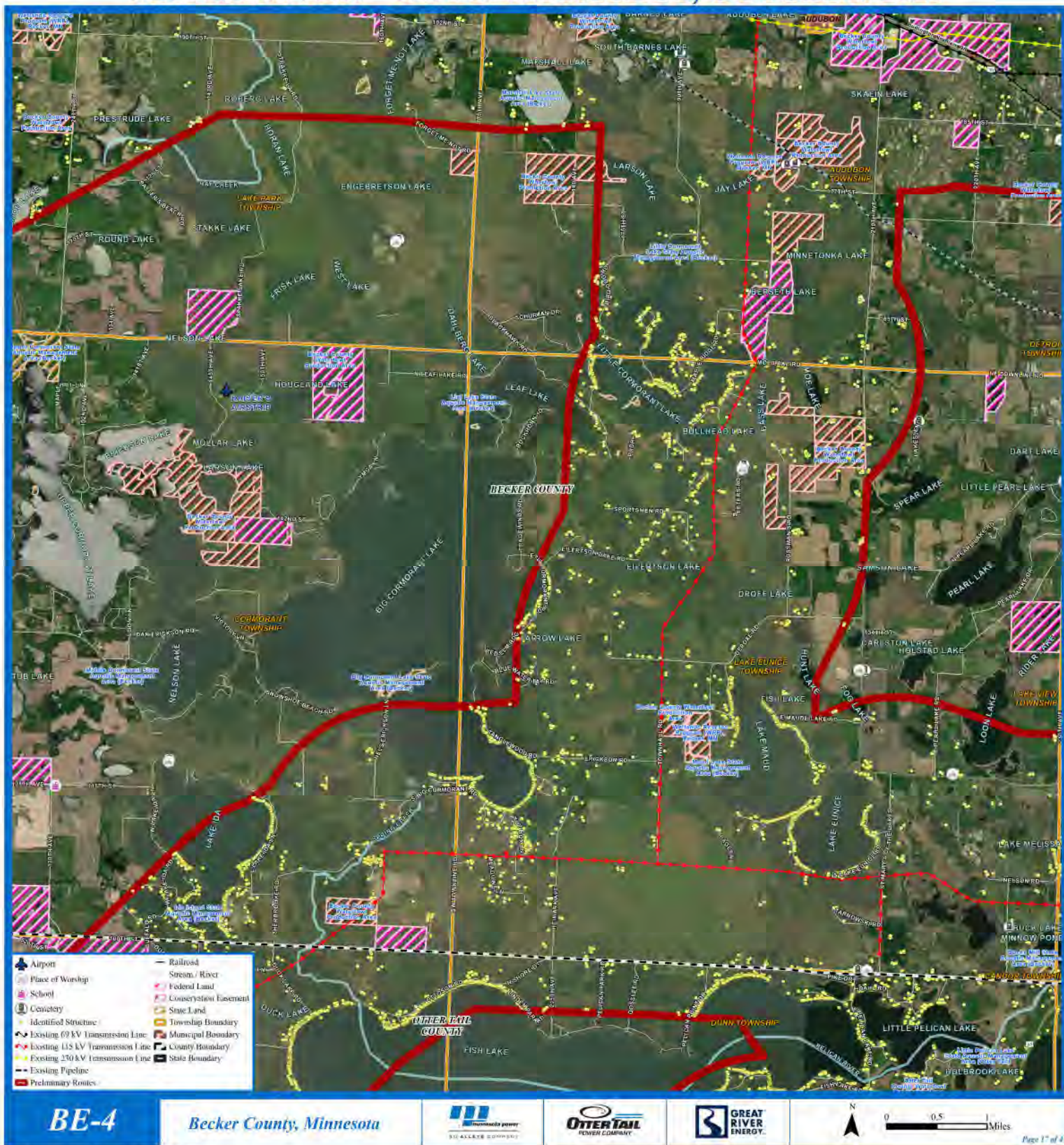
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MAPLE RIVER – CUYUNA PROJECT, OCTOBER 2025

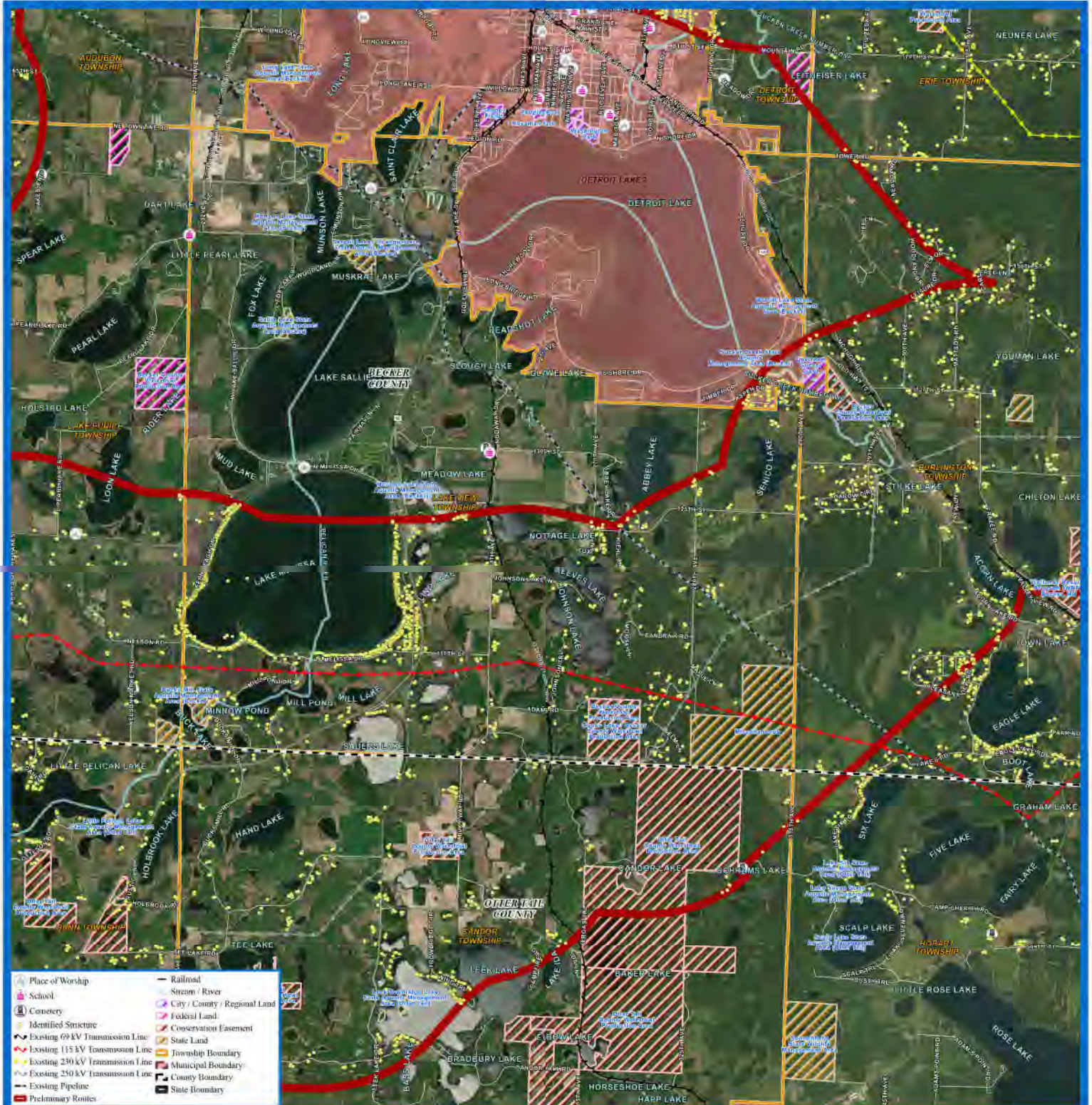


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MAPLE RIVER – CUYUNA PROJECT, OCTOBER 2025



MAPLE RIVER – CUYUNA PROJECT, OCTOBER 2025



BE-5

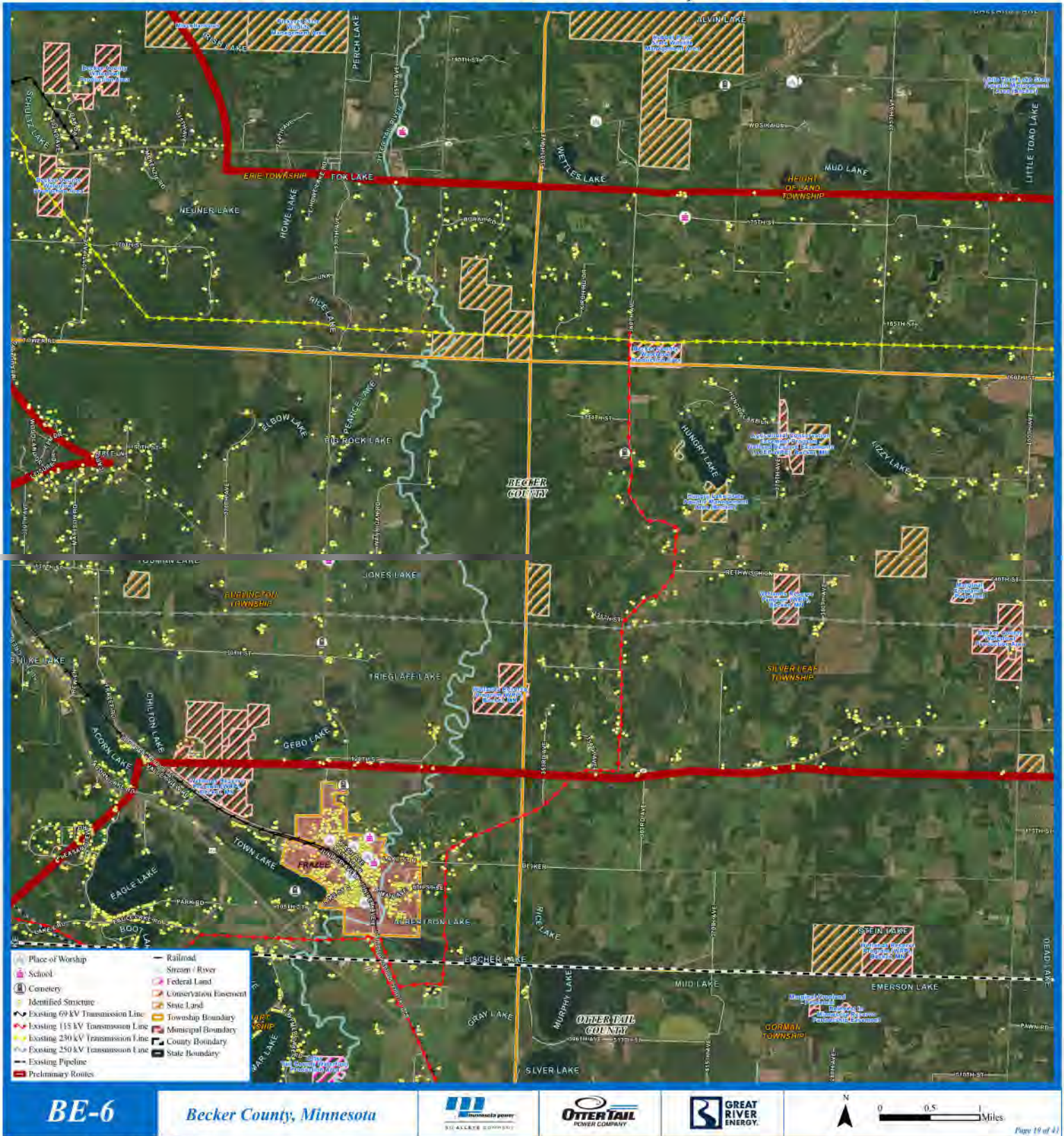
Becker County, Minnesota



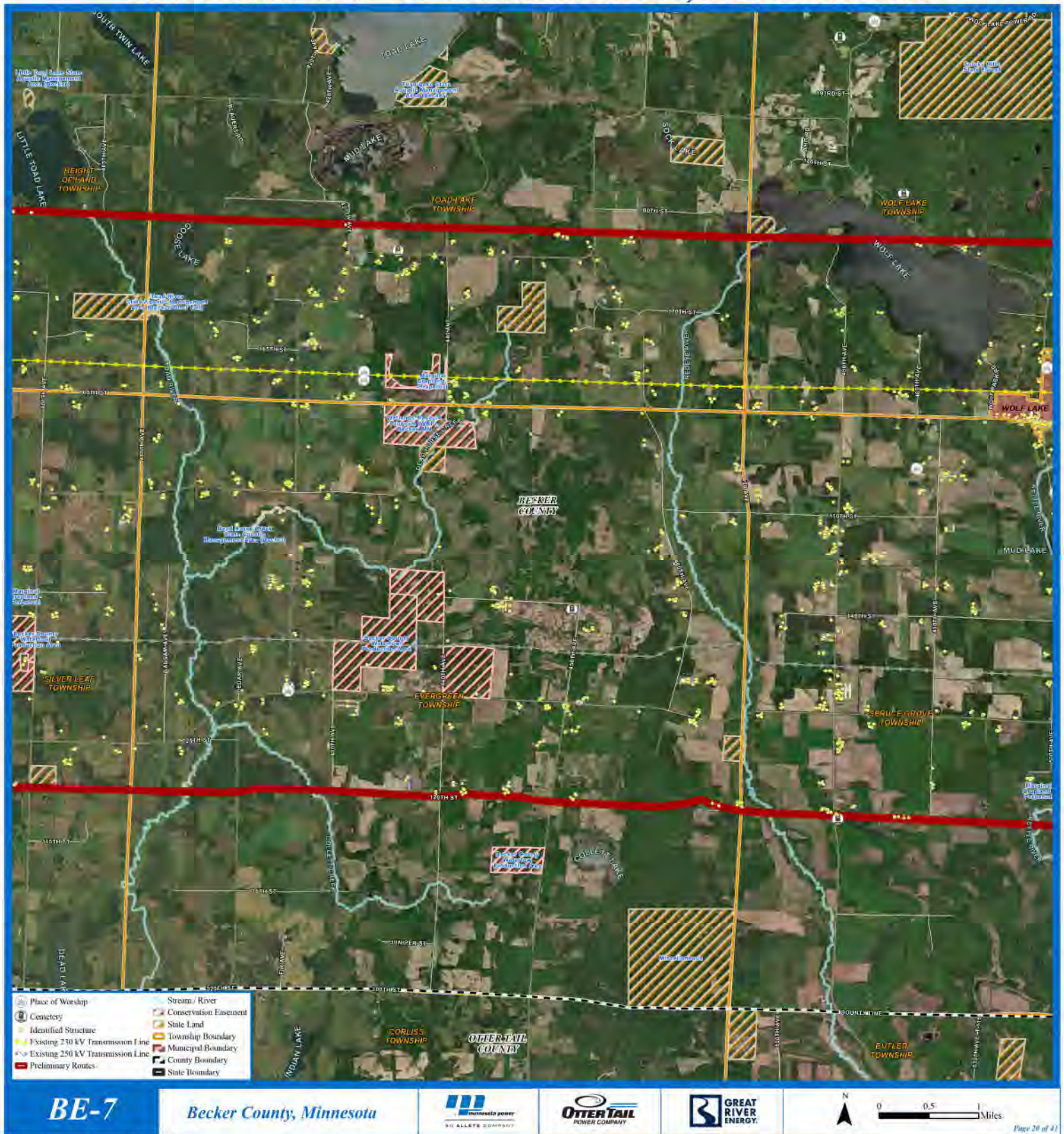
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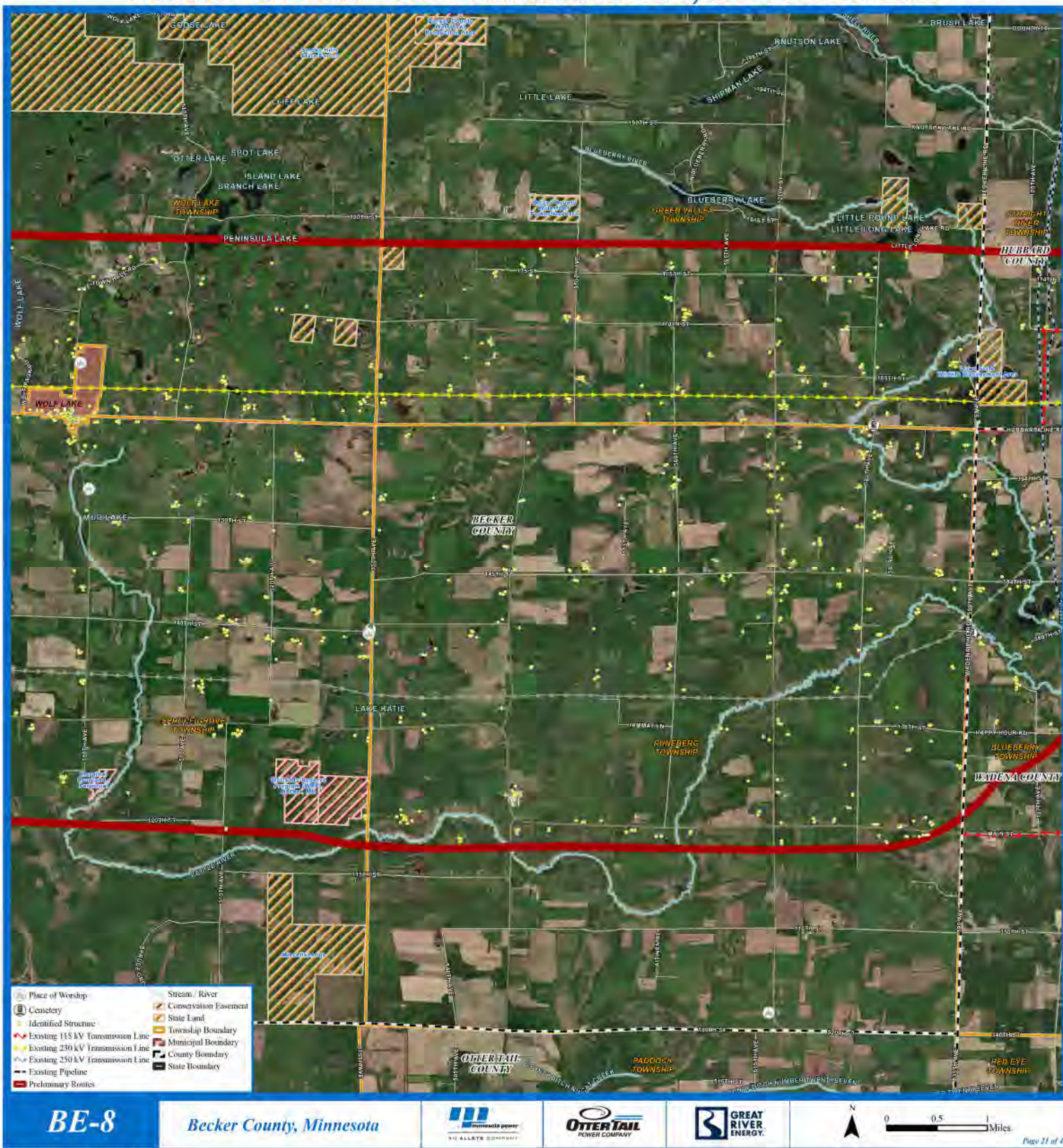


MAPLE RIVER – CUYUNA PROJECT, OCTOBER 2025

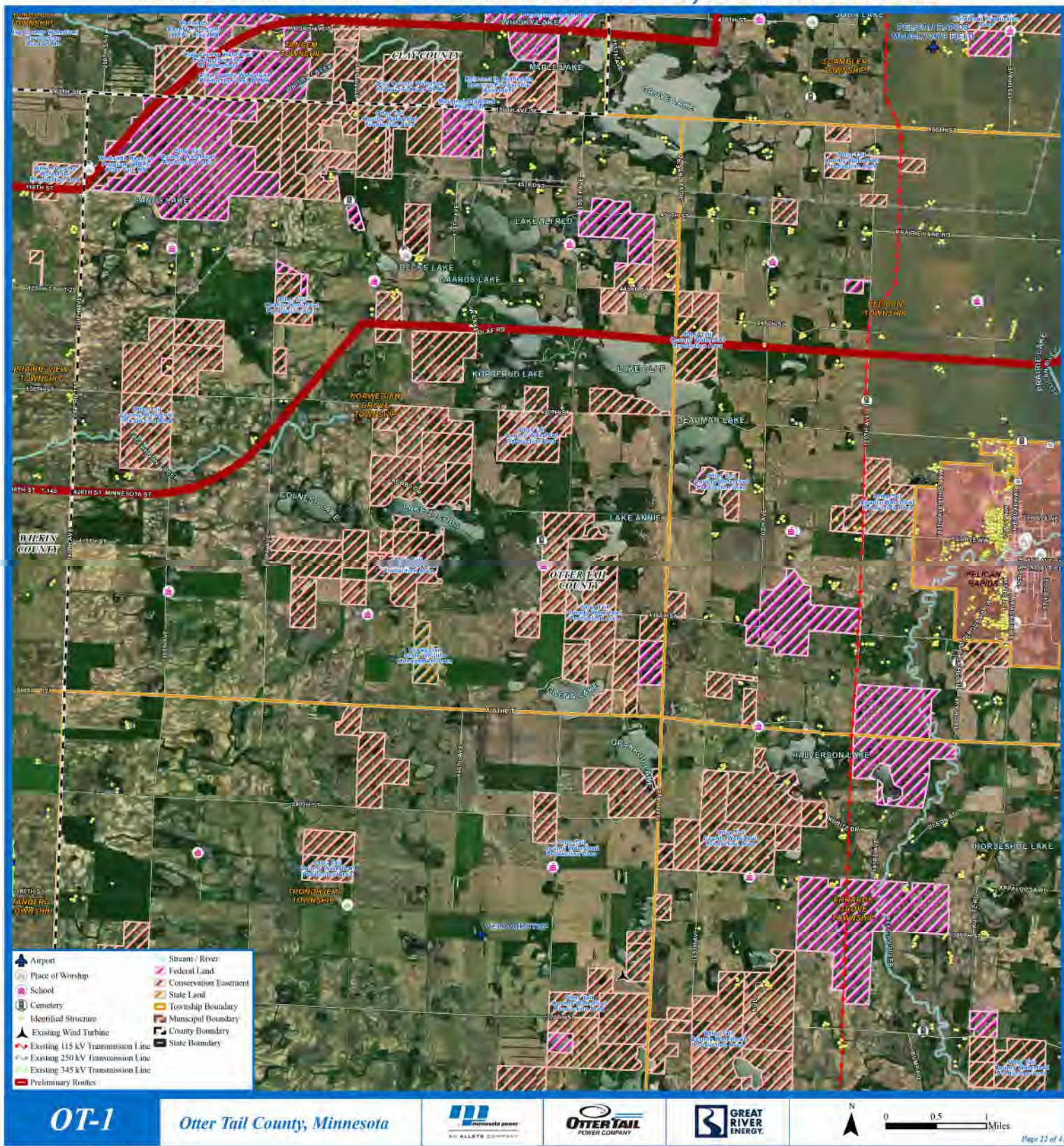


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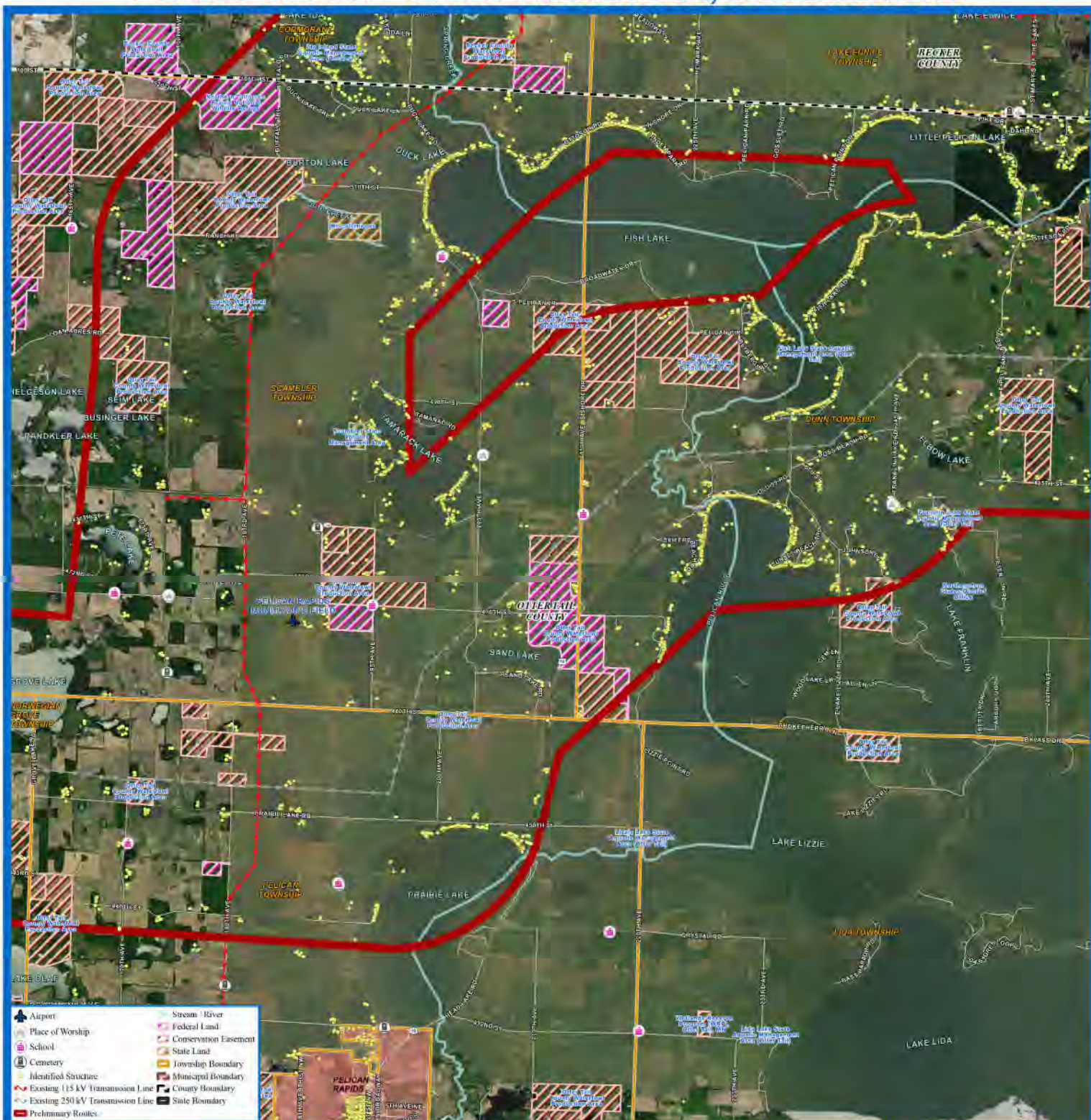
MAPLE RIVER – CUYUNA PROJECT, OCTOBER 2025



MAPLE RIVER – CUYUNA PROJECT, OCTOBER 2025



MAPLE RIVER – CUYUNA PROJECT, OCTOBER 2025



OT-2

Otter Tail County, Minnesota



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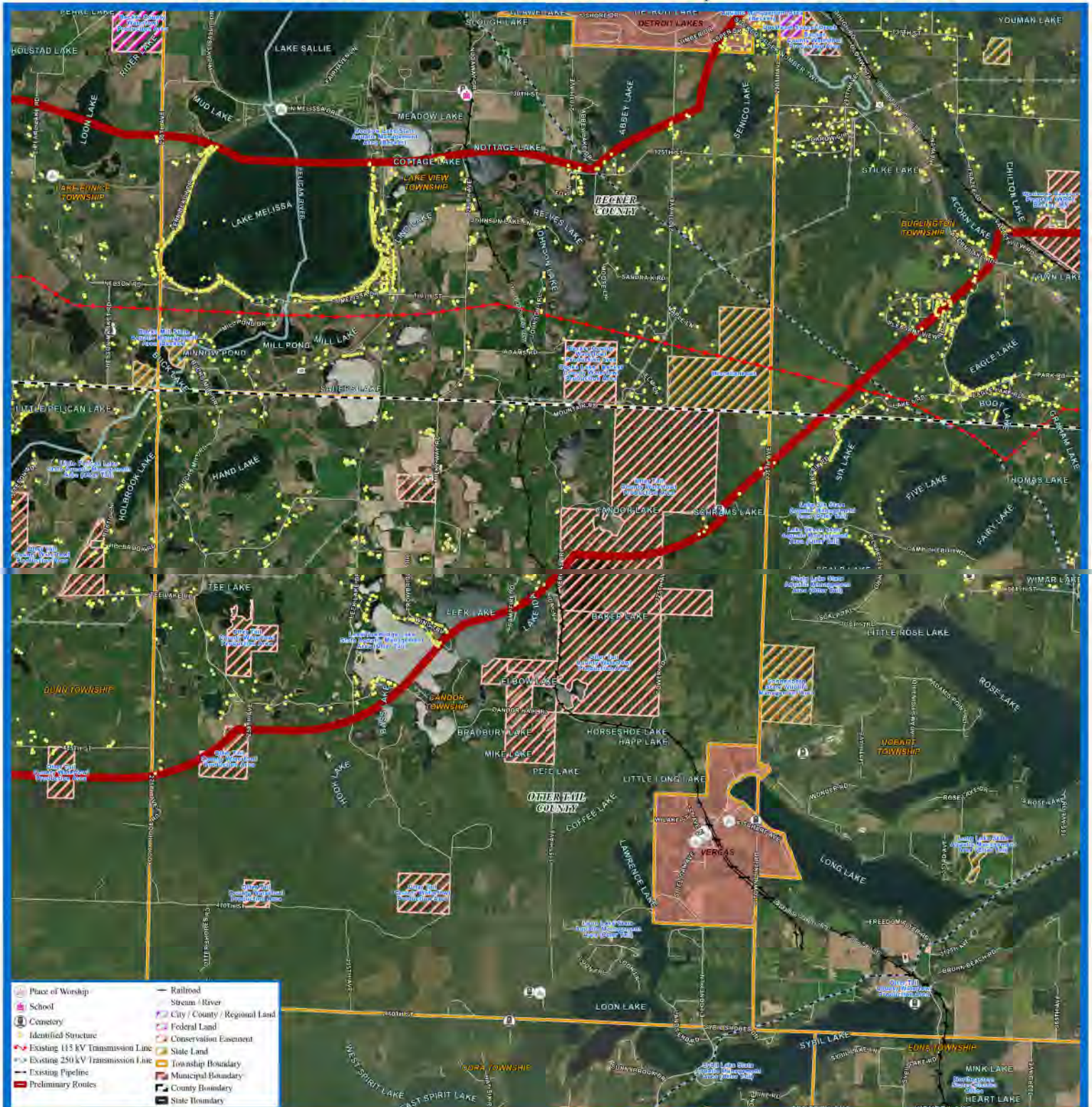
Maple River – Cuyuna Certificate of Need Application

Docket No. E015,ET2,E017/CN-25-109

Appendix M

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MAPLE RIVER – CUYUNA PROJECT, OCTOBER 2025



OT-3

Oter Tail County, Minnesota

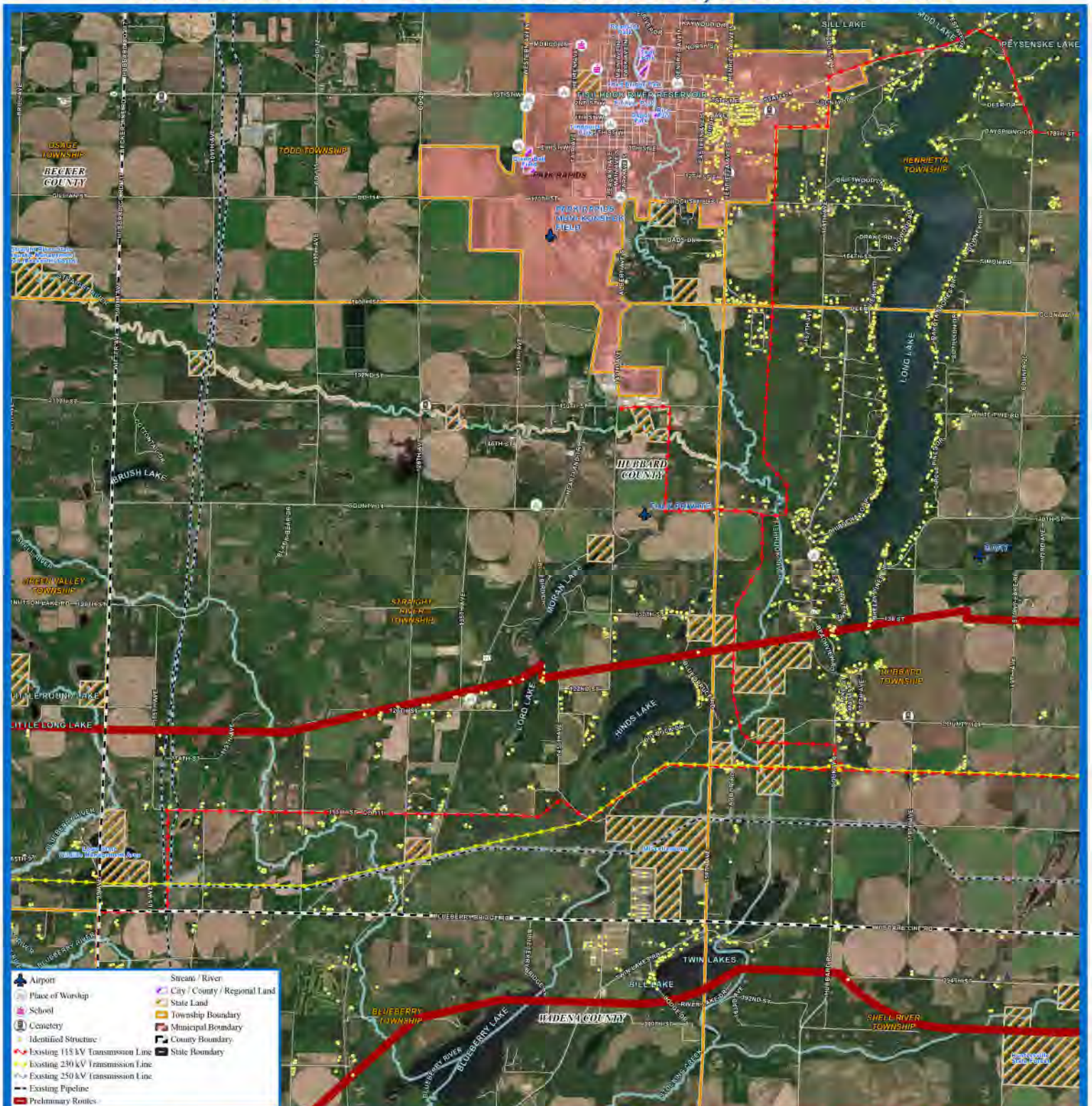


0 0.5 Miles

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MAPLE RIVER – CUYUNA PROJECT, OCTOBER 2025



HU-1

Hubbard County, Minnesota

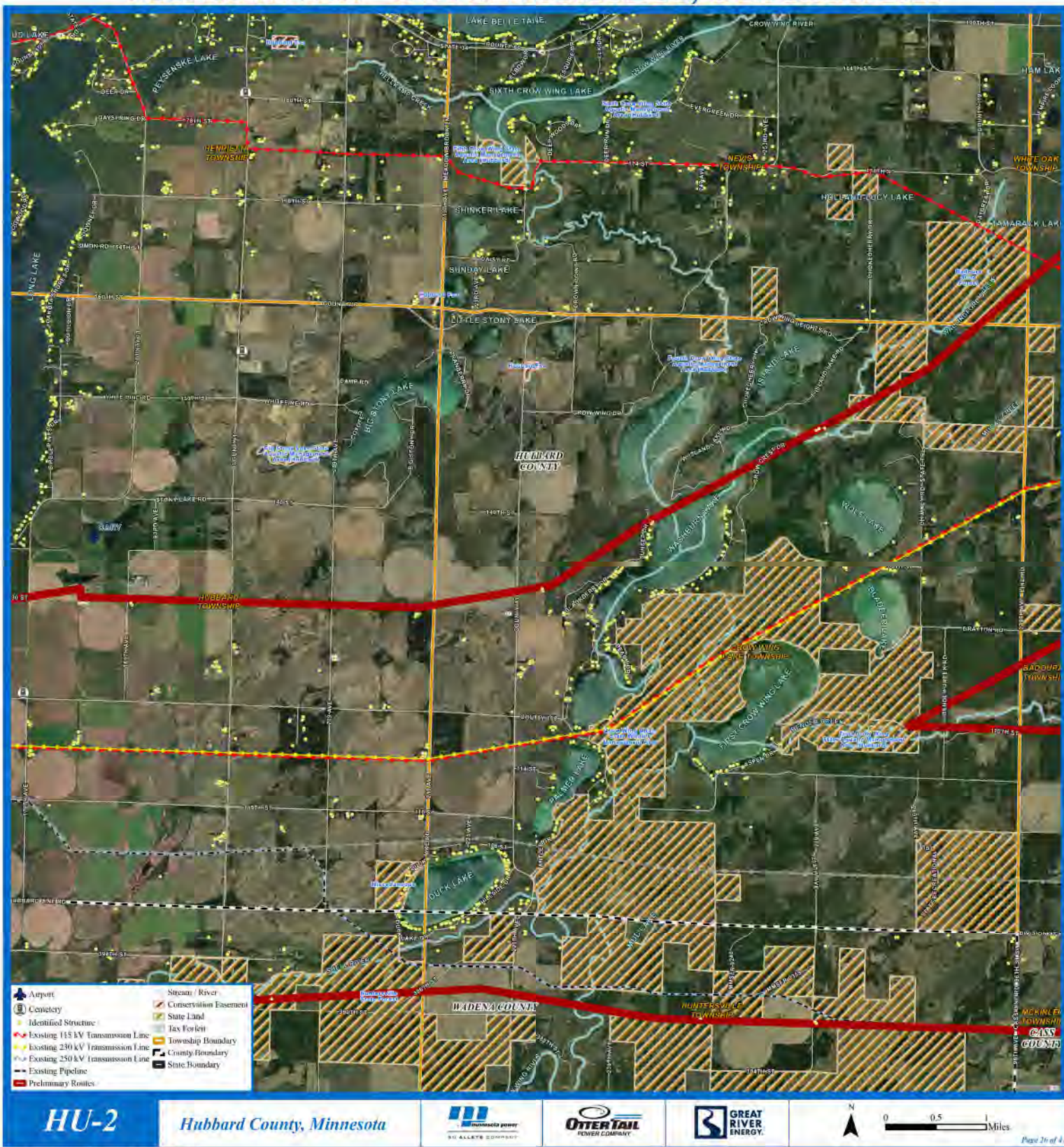


0 0.5 1 Miles

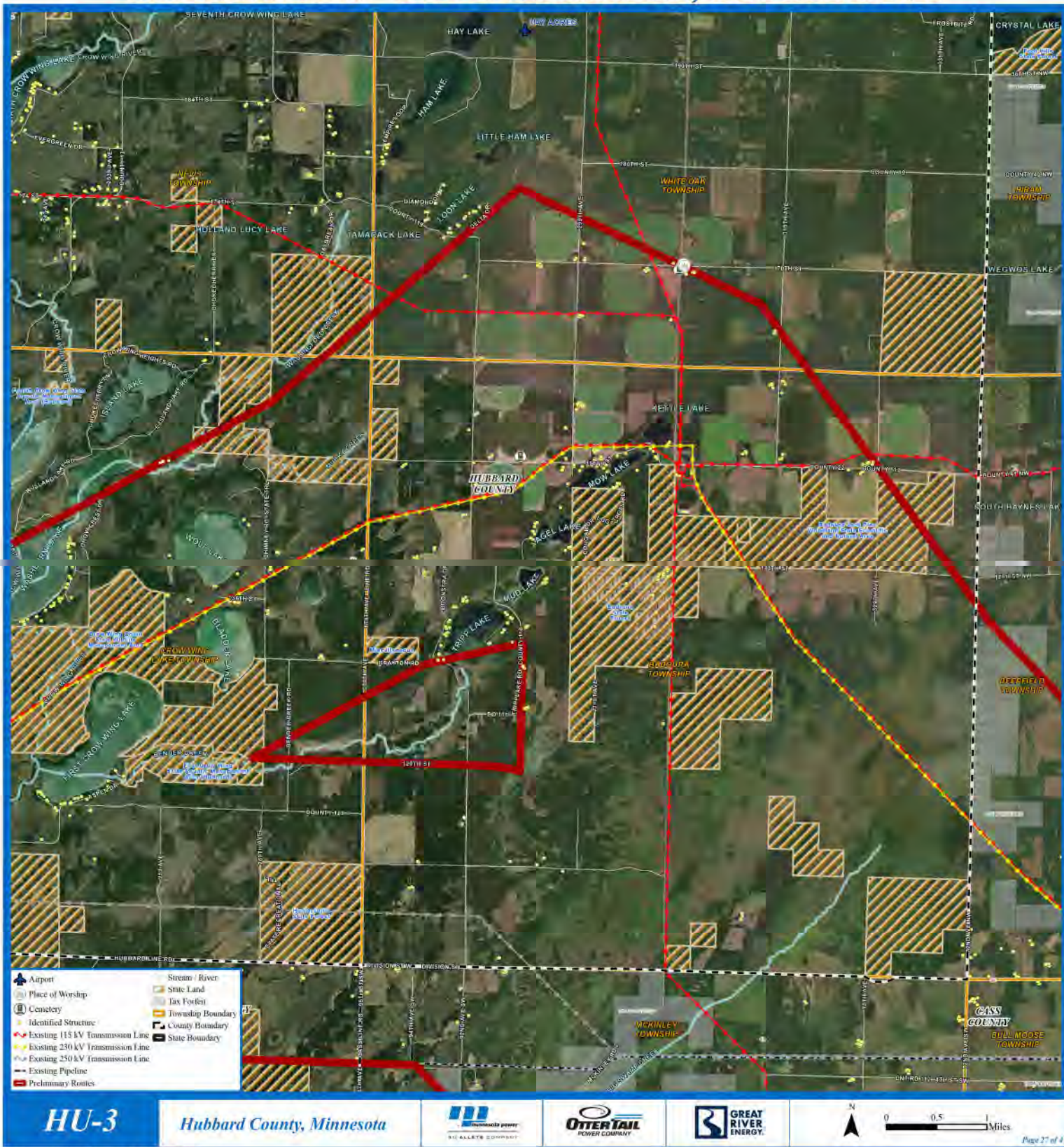
Page 25 of 41

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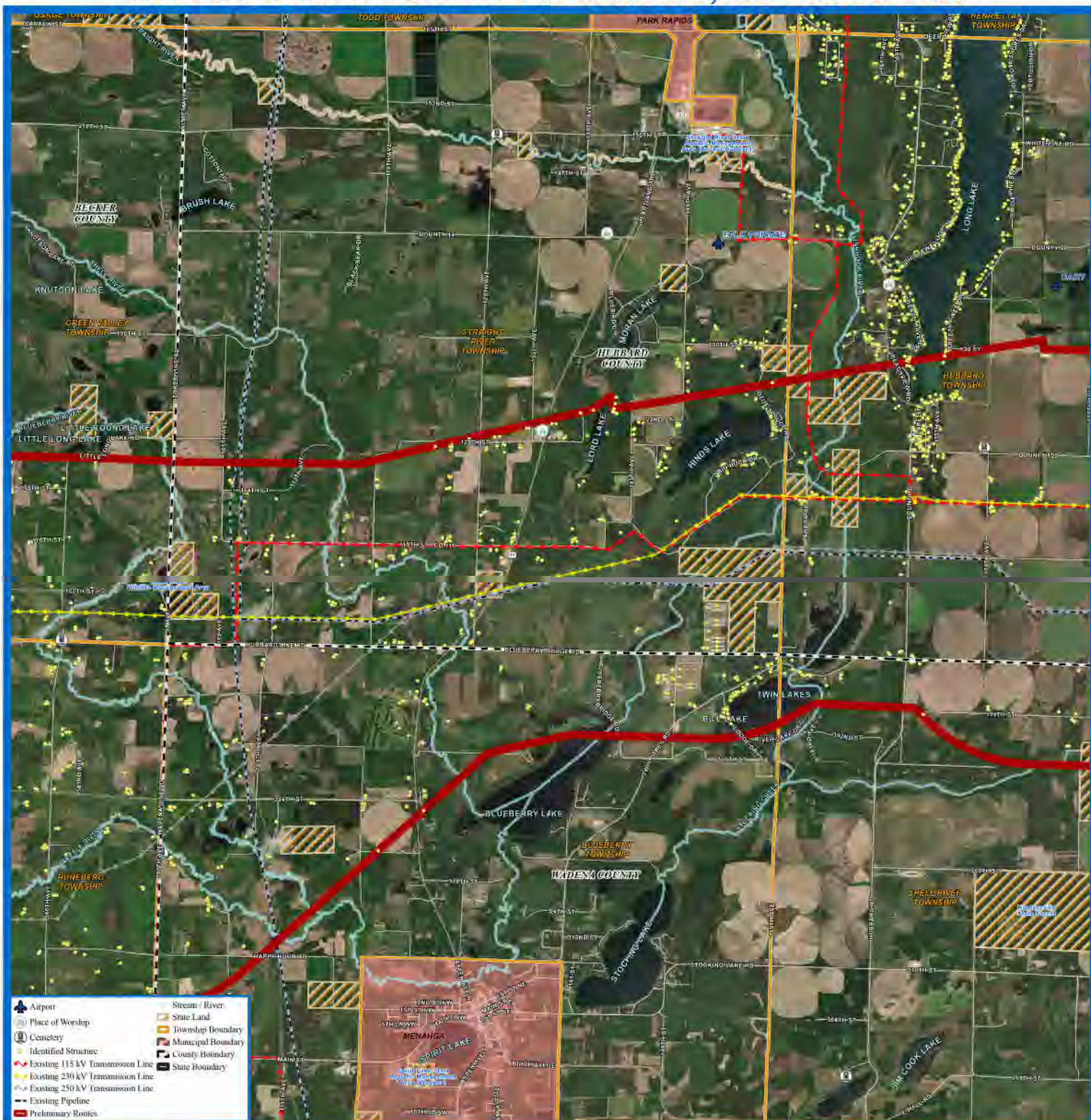
MAPLE RIVER – CUYUNA PROJECT, OCTOBER 2025



MAPLE RIVER – CUYUNA PROJECT, OCTOBER 2025



MAPLE RIVER – CUYUNA PROJECT, OCTOBER 2025



WA-1

Wadena County, Minnesota



0 0.5 1 Miles

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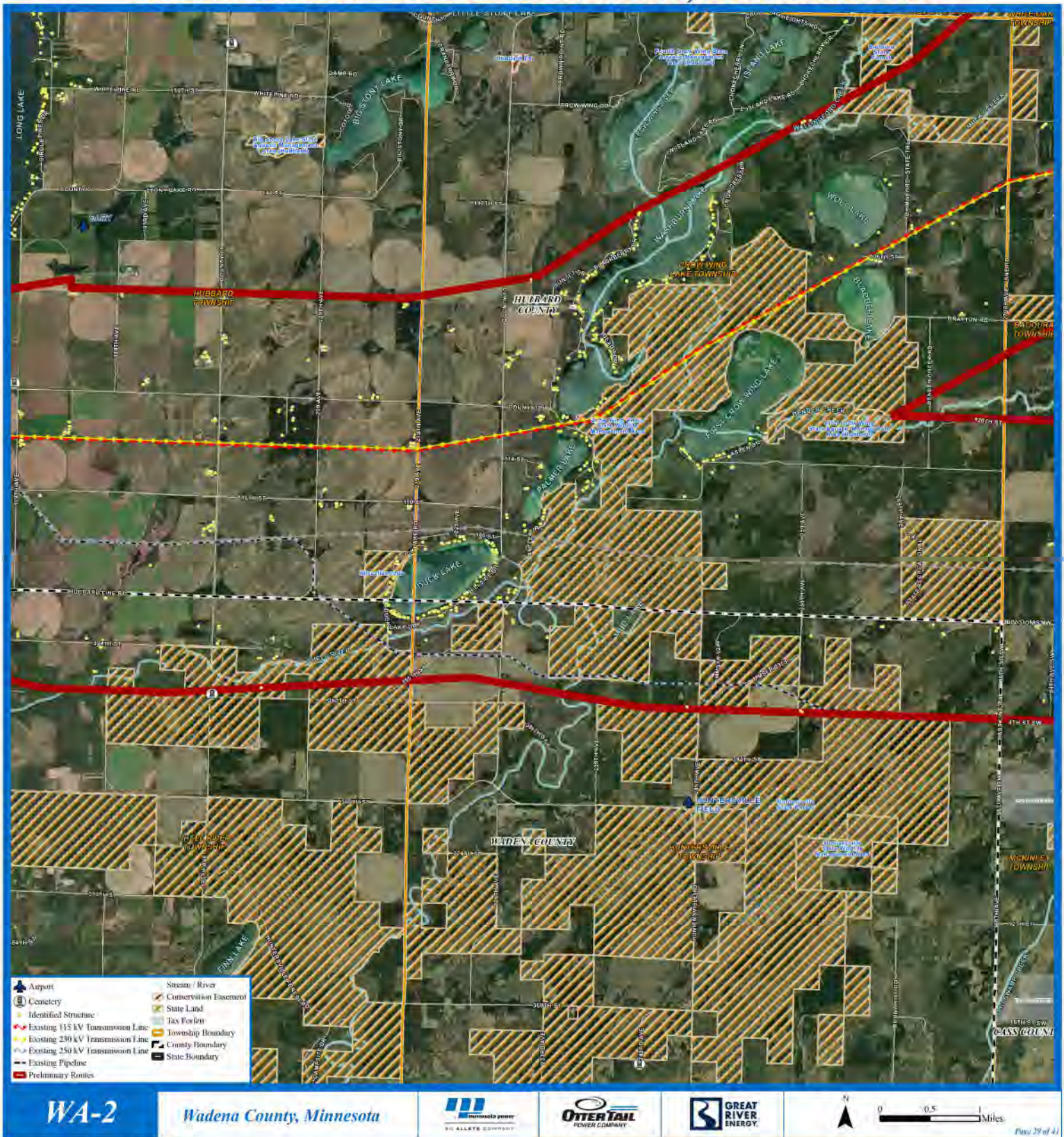
Maple River – Cuyuna Certificate of Need Application

Docket No. E015,ET2,E017/CN-25-109

Appendix M

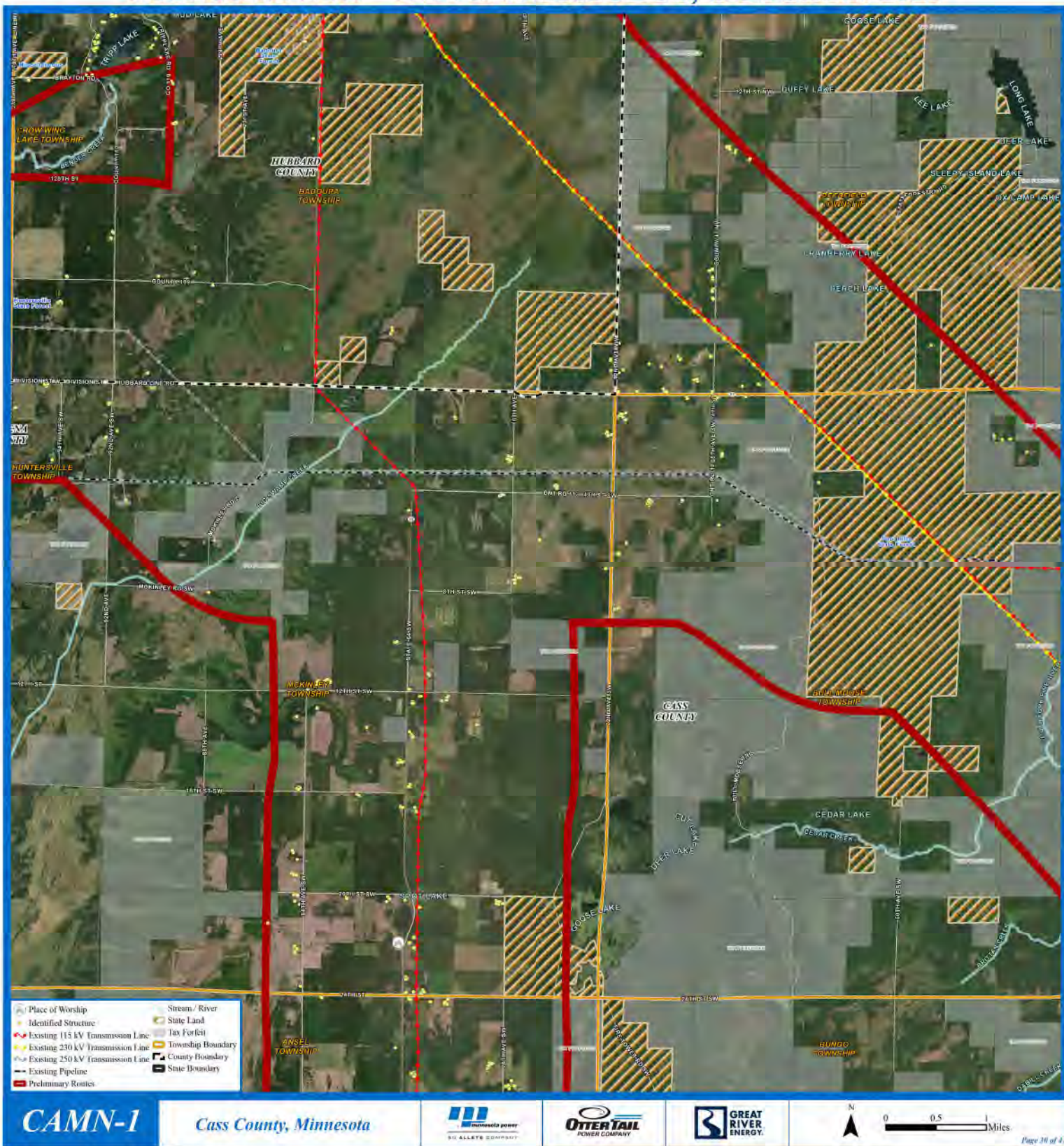
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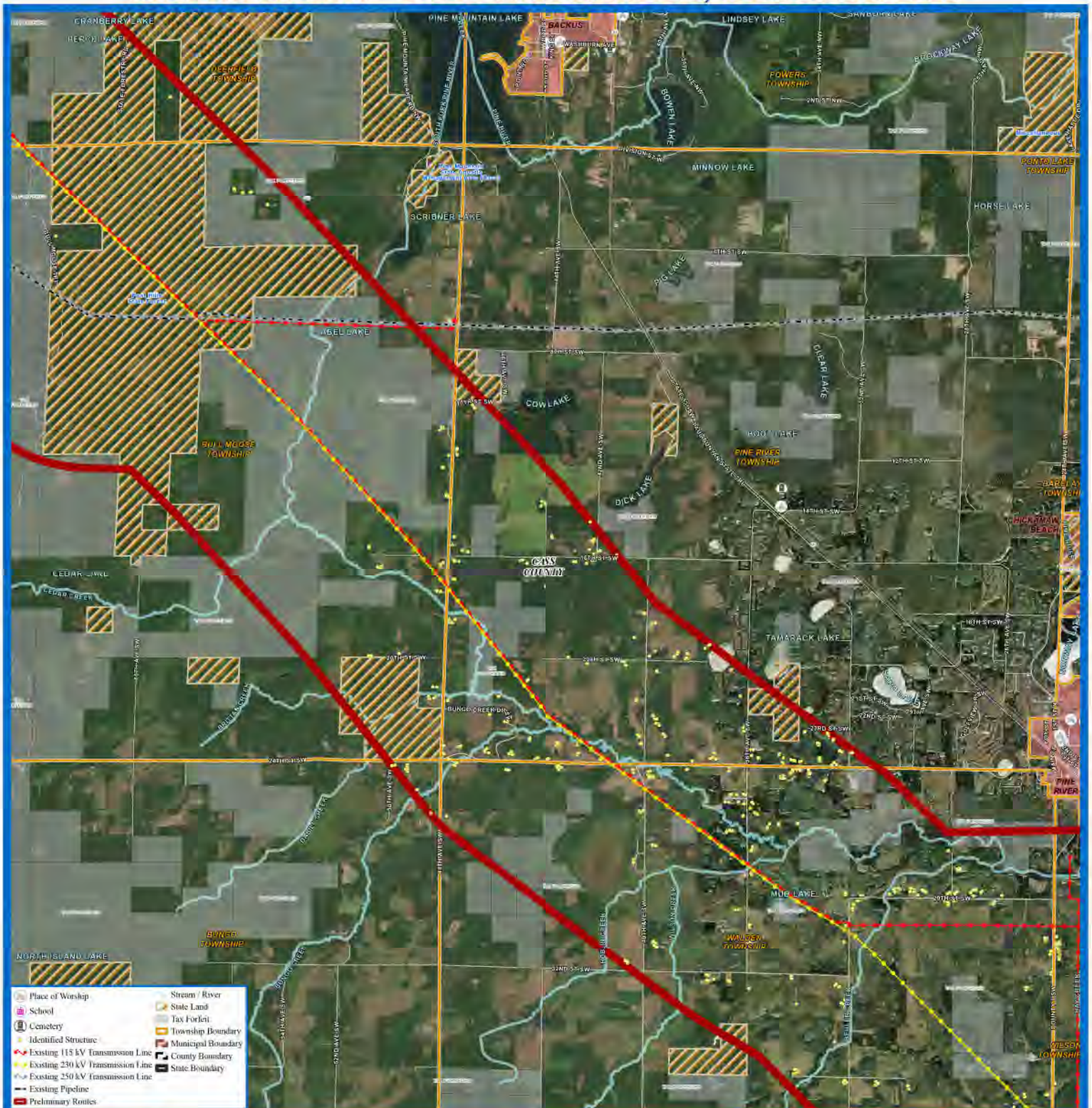


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CAMN-2

Cass County, Minnesota

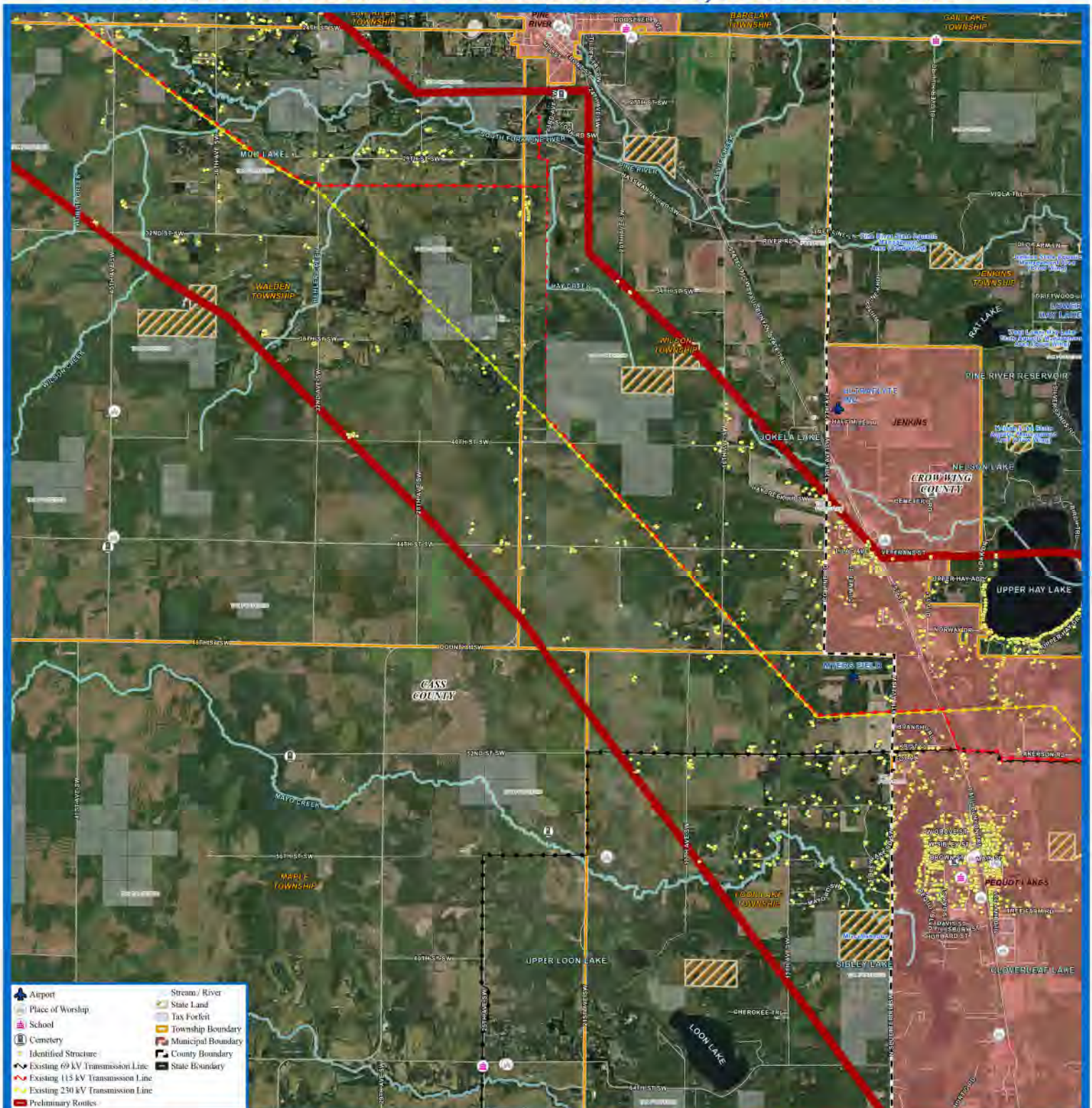


0 0.5 1 Miles

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CAMN-3

Cass County, Minnesota

Minnesota power
St. Albans Company

OTTER TAIL
POWER COMPANY

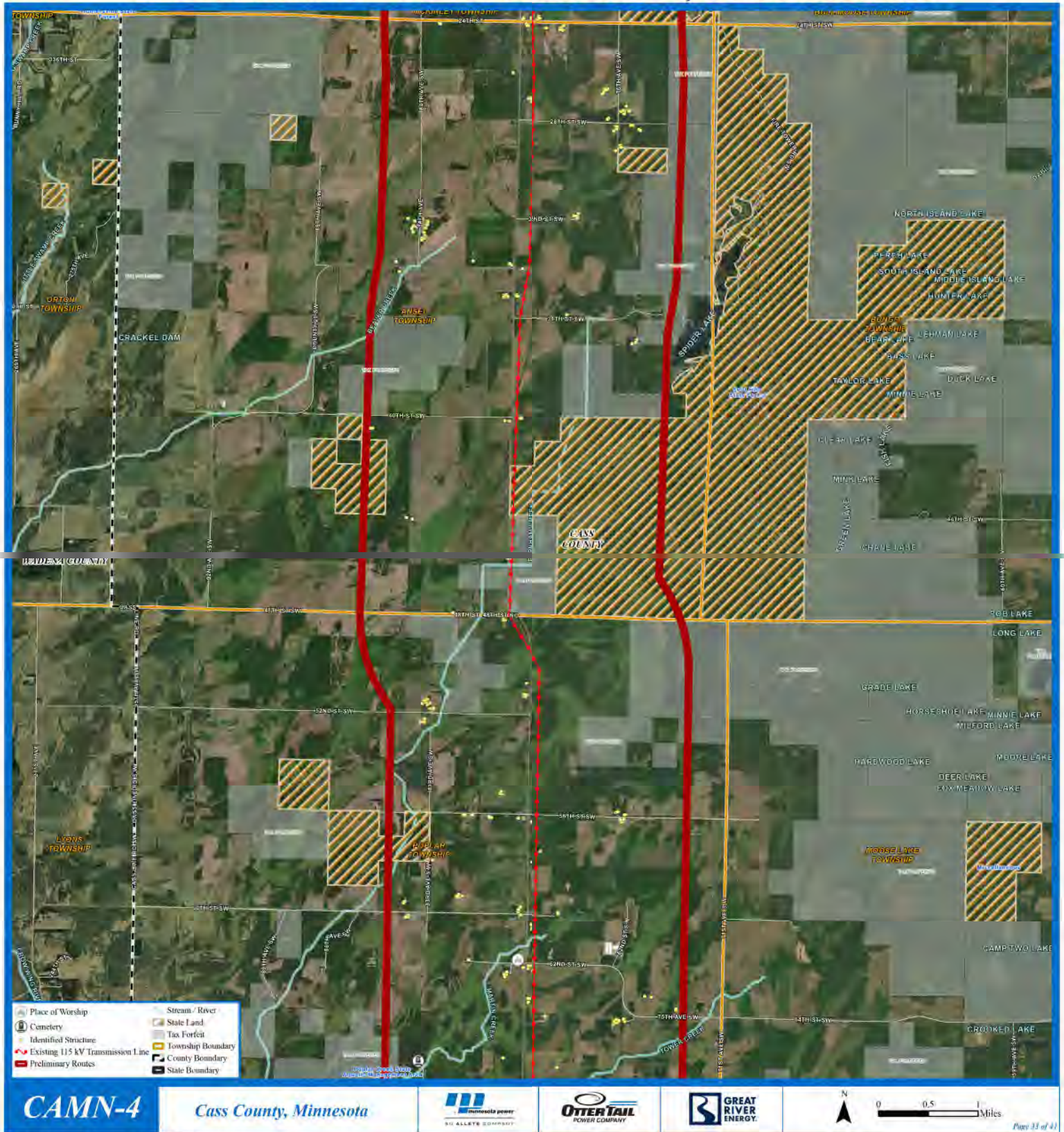
GREAT RIVER
ENERGY

0 0.5 1 Miles

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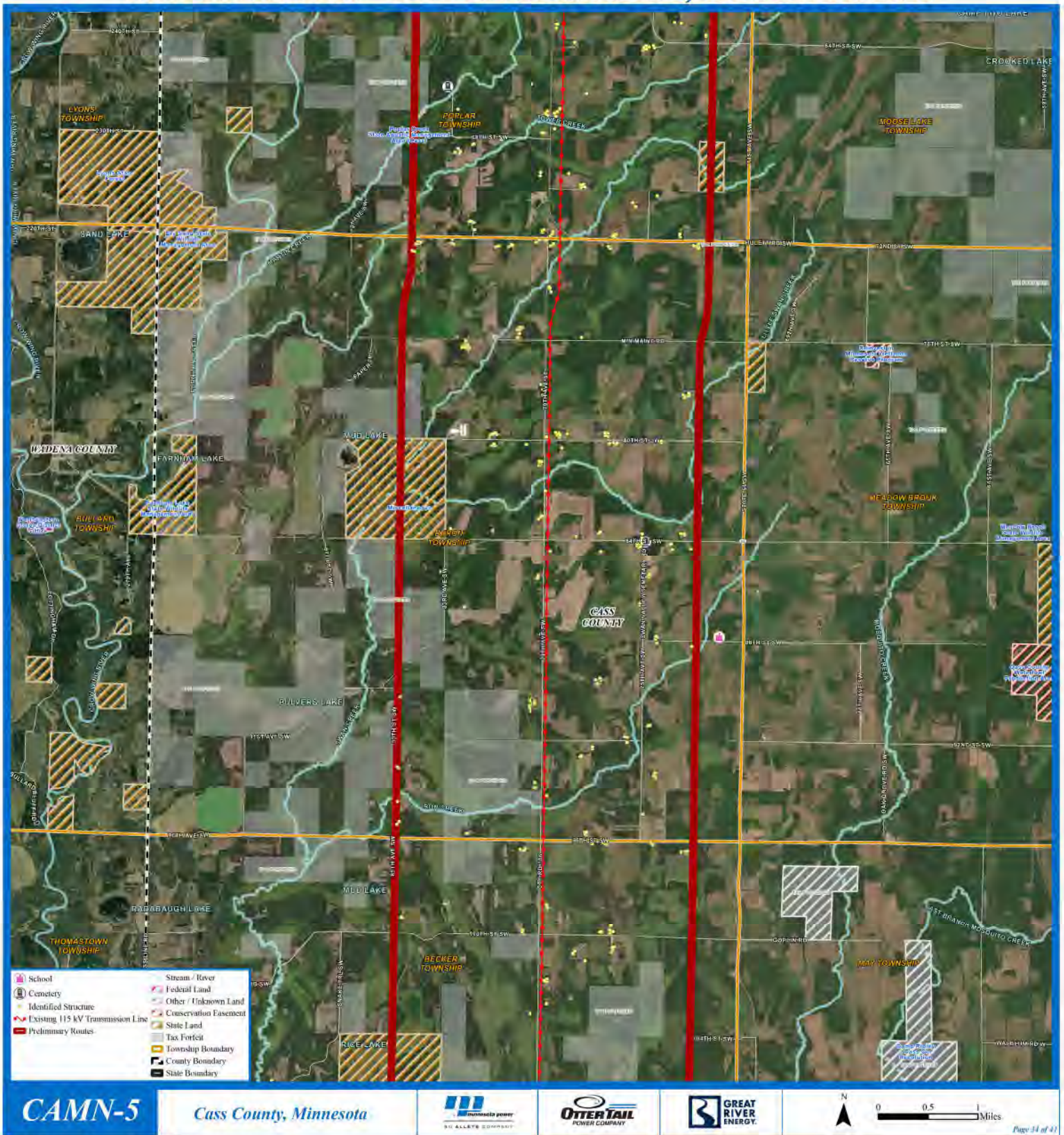
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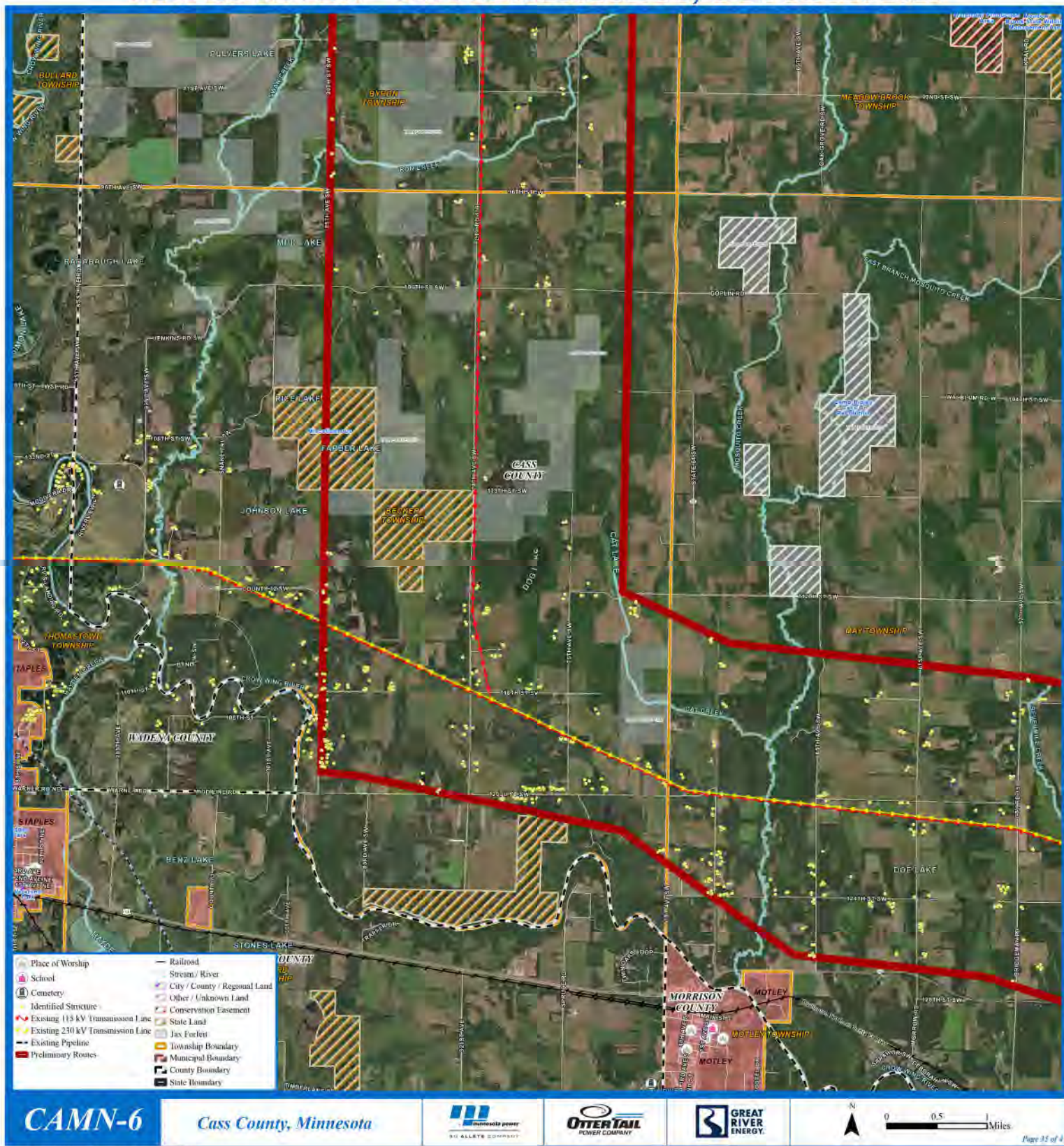
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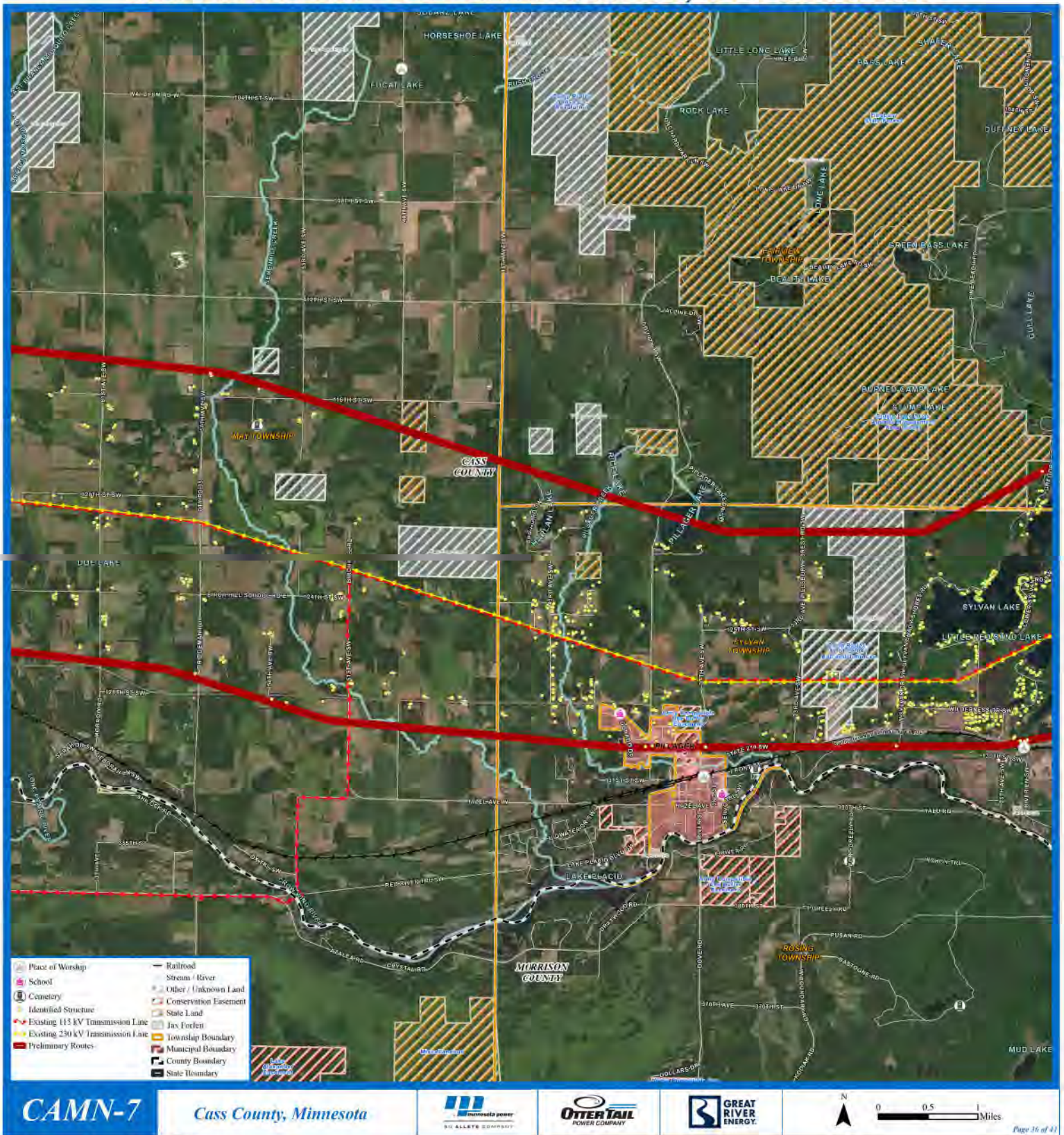


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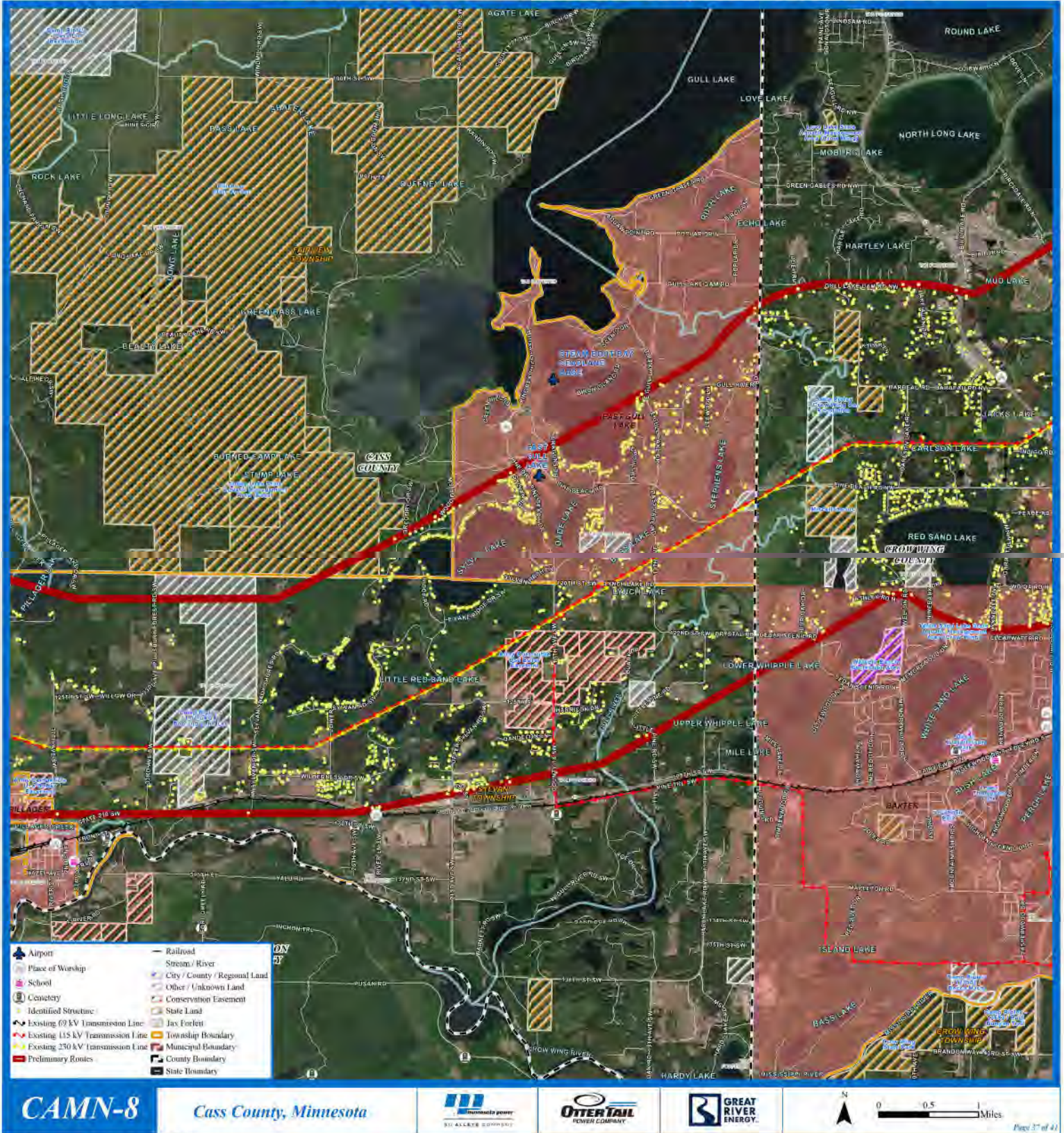


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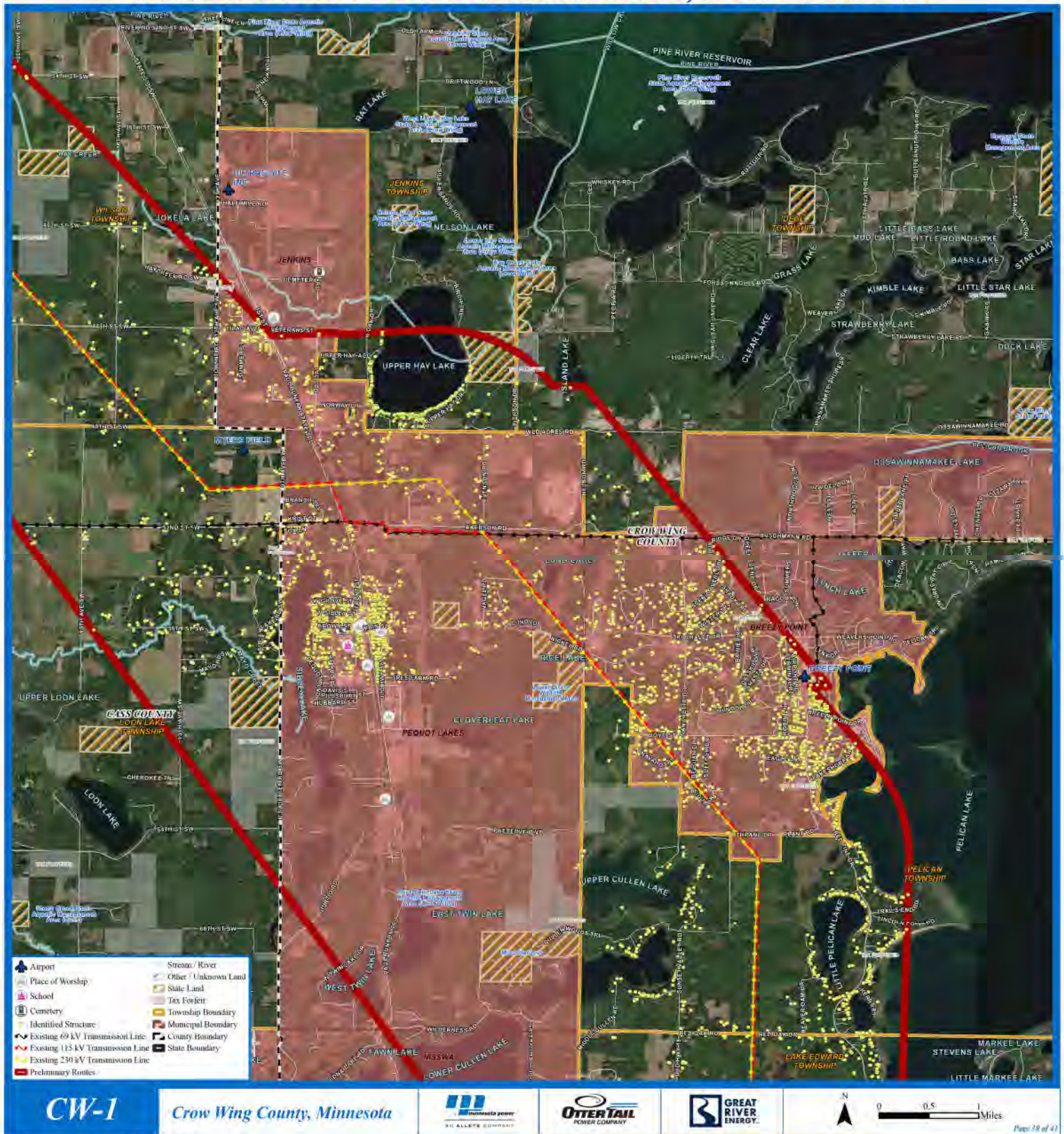
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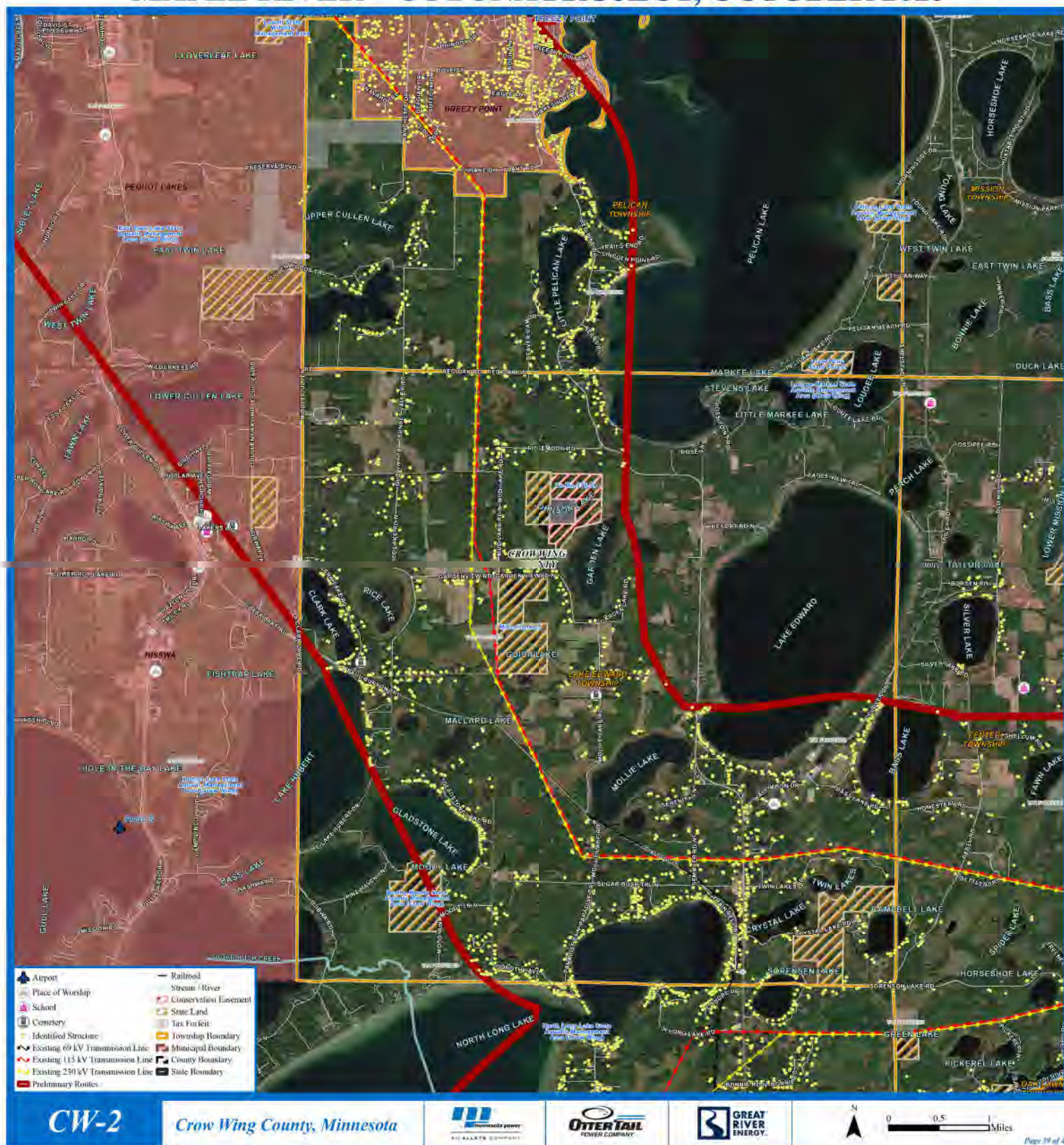
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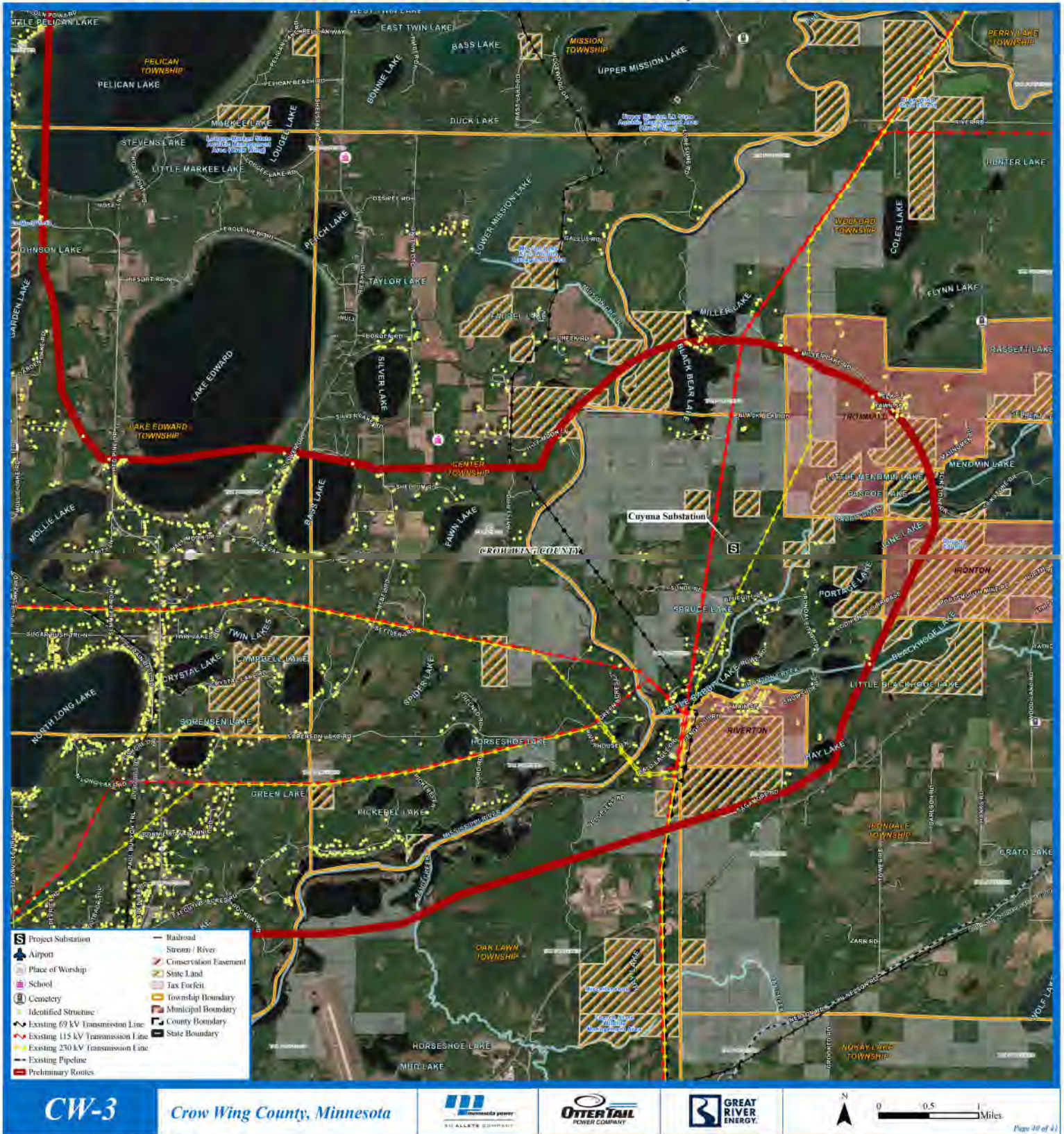


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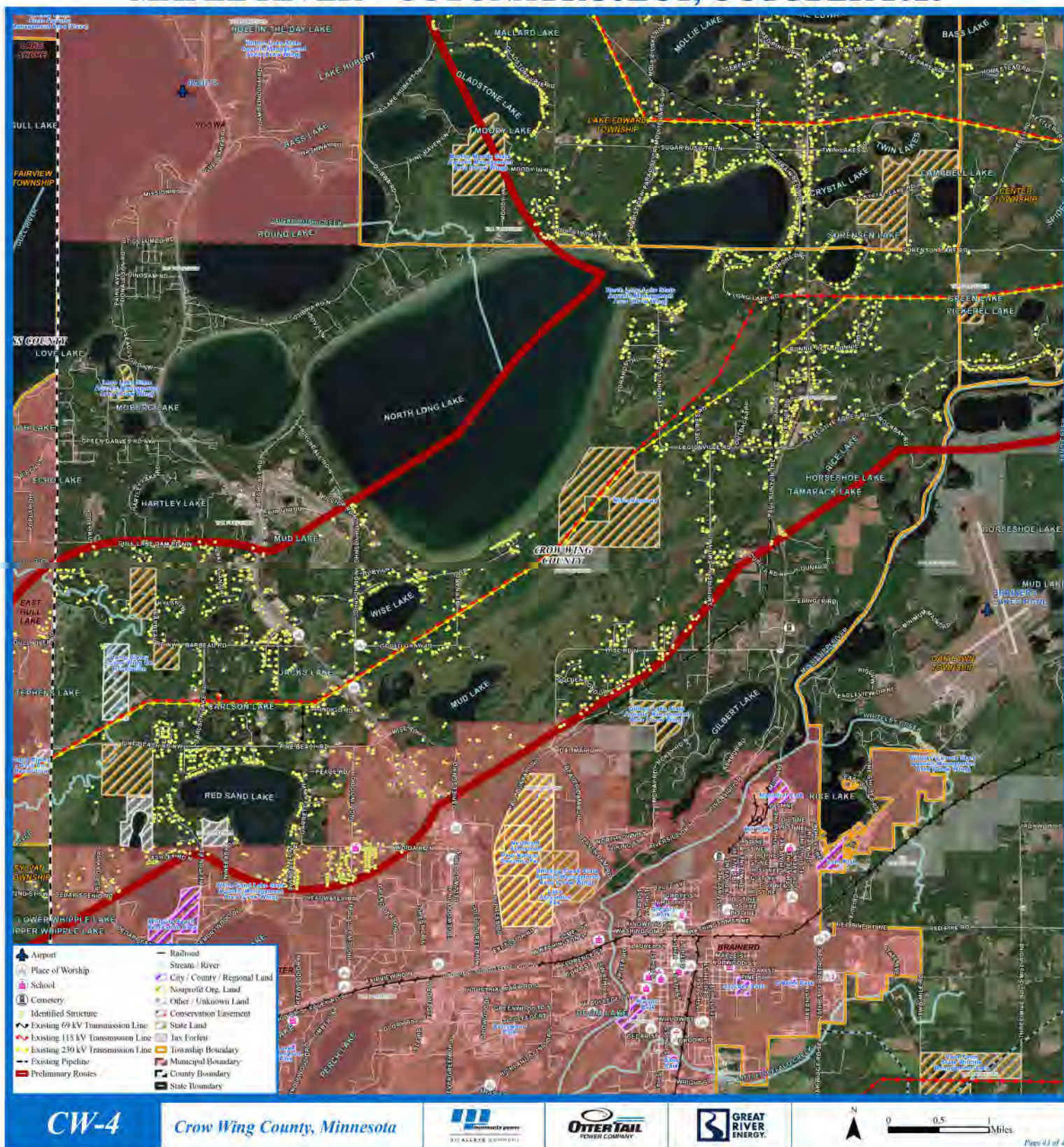


MAPLE RIVER – CUYUNA PROJECT, OCTOBER 2025



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MAPLE RIVER – CUYUNA PROJECT, OCTOBER 2025



From: [Dan Flo](#)
Cc: [Drew Janke \(MP\)](#); [Tristen Joens](#)
Subject: Maple River – Cuyuna (MR-C) Transmission Project - October Open Houses
Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 9:12:56 AM
Attachments:

Good morning,

Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Great River Energy are hosting a second round of open houses to seek input on the Maple River – Cuyuna (MR-C) Transmission Project's preliminary routes. The proposed MR-C Transmission Project is an approximately 160-mile-long, single-circuit 345 kV transmission line on double-circuit-capable structures from Minnesota Power's Cuyuna Substation near Riverton, Minnesota to Otter Tail Power Company's Maple River Substation near Fargo, North Dakota.

Based on community input gathered during the first round of public open houses in June 2025 and through coordination with federal, state, local, and Tribal governments, Minnesota Power refined the initial study area by identifying routing opportunities based on existing transmission lines and developed several preliminary routes. Stakeholder comments included feedback on routing and impacts to aesthetics, groundwater, landowner's property interests, cultural resources, and environmental resources. Please find a map of the preliminary routes attached to this email.

We invite you to attend any of the open houses; the schedule is as follows:

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025 12:00-2:00PM Harwood Community Center 210 Freedland Dr Harwood, ND 58042	MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025 5:30-7:30PM TAK Music Venue 1710 Center Ave W Dilworth, MN 56529
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2025 12:00-2:00PM Barnesville Event Center 101 Second St. SE Barnesville, MN 56514	TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2025 5:30-7:30PM Historic Holmes Theatre 806 Summit Ave Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2025 12:00-2:00PM MN State Central Lakes College, Staples Location C168 1830 Airport Road Staples, MN 56479	WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2025 5:30-7:30PM Hubbard Community Center 12141 County 6 Park Rapids, MN 56470
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2025 12:00-2:00PM The Lodge at Brainerd Lakes 6967 Lake Forest Rd Baxter, MN 56425	THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2025 5:30-7:30PM Pelican Lakes Conservation Club and Community Center 8922 Thrane Dr Breezy Point, MN 56472

These meetings are open to the public and will give local community members and landowners an opportunity to learn about the project, ask questions, and provide input.

If you have questions about the Project or the Open Houses, please contact Drew Janke at (218) 576-9213 or djanke@mnpower.com.

Regards,

Dan Flo on behalf of
Drew Janke

Dan Flo
Senior Project Manager
612.924.3982 direct
612.812.0069 mobile
dan.flo@merjent.com



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Organization	Contact Name	Position	Email
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Matt Meyer	Hydrologist	matthew.m.meyer@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Tom Lee	Hydrologist	thomas.lee@state.mn.us
Alliance Township	Jerald L Butenhoff	Chairman	Alliancetownship@yahoo.com
Ansel Township	Linda Kuschel	Clerk	lnlkuschel@gmail.com
Audubon Township	Wesley Hegna	Assessor	assessorwes@gmail.com
Badoura Township	Tim Scouton	Clerk	Badouraclerk@gmail.com
Badoura Township	David Andress	Supervisor	docandress@anvig.net
Badoura Township	Theora Goodrich	Township Chair	tdgoodrich@mac.com
Becker Township	Mary Fitcher	Clerk	becker_townshipclerk@yahoo.com
Bull Moose Township	Grace Salie	Clerk	backus1943@gmail.com
Bungo Township	Linda Neumann	Clerk	bungotownship@gmail.com
Burlington Township	Wesley Hegna	Assessor	assessorwes@gmail.com
Byron Township	Becki Rassler	Clerk	byrontwpcassco@outlook.com
Candor Township	Bradley Syltie	Chairman	chair@candortownship.org
Candor Township	Lowell Bradbury	Supervisor	1980.brad.l@gmail.com
Candor Township	Bruce Moe	Supervisor	bs.moe@hotmail.com
Candor Township	Ryan Hansen	Treasurer	Hansen007@gmail.com
Candor Township	Sharon Sauer	Clerk	clerk@candortownship.org
Cormorant Township	Lisa Marshall	Assessor	LMAssessor@outlook.com
Crow Wing Lake Township	Brian Ford	Clerk	cwlctclerk@outlook.com
Crow Wing Lake Township	Darin Katzenmeyer	Assessor	dwkatzenmeyer@gmail.com

Detroit Township	Jared Suihkonen (County)	Assessor	jared.suihkonen@co.becker.mn.us
Dunn Township	David L. Johnson	Chairman	BarDfarm1@gmail.com
Dunn Township	Mary Nyquist	Vice Chair	mbunny41@yahoo.com
Dunn Township	Adrian Lund	Supervisor	a.aug.lund@gmail.com
Dunn Township	Duane Seifert	Supervisor	barfarm1@gmail.com
Dunn Township	Susan Pepelnjak	Treasurer	dunntreasurer@arvig.net
Dunn Township	Sandra Tingelstad	Clerk	tingy2@hotmail.com
Egdon Township	Tara Anderson	Clerk	eglonclerk@gmail.com
Elkton Township	Mark Carr	Chairman	elktontownship@gmail.com
Elkton Township	David Heng	Supervisor	elktontownship@gmail.com
Elkton Township	Scott Wright	Supervisor	elktontownship@gmail.com
Elkton Township	Laura Johnson	Clerk	elktontownship@gmail.com
Elmwood Township	Todd Schuler	Chairman	elmwoodtownship@outlook.com
Elmwood Township	Darryl Johnk	Supervisor	elmwoodtownship@outlook.com
Elmwood Township	Lori Pender	Supervisor	elmwoodtownship@outlook.com
Elmwood Township	Judy Hansen	Clerk	elmwoodtownship@outlook.com
Fairview Township	Katie Eastman	Clerk	fairviewtownship@msn.com
Green Valley Township	Lisa Marschall	Assessor	LMassessor@outlook.com
Hawley Township	Denise Graunke	Clerk	hawleytownshipclerk@gmail.com
Height of Land Township	Luke Johnson (County)	Assessor	luke.johnson@co.becker.mn.us
Hobart Township	Russ Berstler	Clerk	Hobarttownship@arvig.net
Hubbard Township	Loren Tolkkinen	Local Assessor Contact	lorent@wcta.net

Hubbard Township	Kim Thompson	Treasurer	kimlang13@yahoo.com
Hubbard Township	Laura Kujawa	Clerk	lkujawa@hotmail.com
Ideal Township	Craig Wallace	Clerk	info@idealtownship.com
Ideal Township	David Peterson	Supervisor	dave.peterson@idealtownship.com
Ideal Township	John Bilek	Supervisor	john.bilek@idealtownship.com
Ideal Township	Ronald Ommen	Supervisor	ron.ommen@idealtownship.com
Irondale Township	Angela Fort	Clerk	irondaletownship2@gmail.com
Jenkins Township	Jim Olsen	Clerk	cheffo@gmail.com
Kragnes Township	Jeremy Clark	Chairman	kragnestownship@outlook.com
Lake Edward Township	Loni Burnard	Clerk	Lakeedwardtwshp@gmail.com
Maple Township	Alisha Alderson	Clerk	maple.township@tds.net
May Township	Bianca Wyffels	Clerk	clerk@maytwp.com
McKinley Township	Stephanie Burns	Clerk	mckinleytwp@gmail.com
Moland Township	Justin Magnuson	Chairman	molandtownship@outlook.com
Moorhead Township	Matt Raisl	Clerk	moorhead.township.clerk@gmail.com
Nevis Township	Loren Tolkkinen	Local Assessor Contact	lorent@wcta.net
Nevis Township	Pat Hrubes	Clerk	nevistownship@outlook.com
Nevis Township	Tom E Walz	Chair	northwoodstommy@gmail.com
Nevis Township	Mike Spry	Supervisor	mspryshome@gmail.com
Nevis Township	Karl (Trig) Trygve	Supervisor	trigg@hotmail.com
Nevis Township	Kathy Edwards	Treasurer	nevistownshiptreas@hotmail.com
Norwegian Grove Township	Jeff Holt	Chairman	jjholt dairy@hotmail.com
Norwegian Grove Township	Larry B Hovland	Supervisor	lbhovland@outlook.com

Nonwegian Grove Township	Eric Nelson	Supervisor	ericconst75@gmail.com
Nonwegian Grove Township	Jane Knorr	Clerk	knorrjane@gmail.com
Nonwegian Grove Township	Mary Bongers	Treasurer	mabongers@hotmail.com
Oak Lawn Township	Deborah Borg	Clerk	oaklawntwp@gmail.com
Oak Lawn Township	Steve Stroschein	Supervisor	stevestroschein@yahoo.com
Oakport Township	Tim Brendemuhl	Chairman	oakporttownship@yahoo.com
Oakport Township	Kurt Skjerven	Supervisor	oakporttownship@yahoo.com
Oakport Township	Jerry Gee	Supervisor	oakporttownship@yahoo.com
Oakport Township	Leah Skjerven	Clerk	oakporttownship@yahoo.com
Pelican Township - Crow Wing	Jody Wallin	Clerk	pelicantownship@gmail.com
Pelican Township – Otter Tail County	Mitchell Egge	Vice Chair	mittchell.egge@icloud.com
Pelican Township – Otter Tail County	Brady Ballard	Supervisor	bradyballard@yahoo.com
Pelican Township – Otter Tail County	Llyod Nelson	Clerk	lloyd@pelicanottertailmn.gov
Pelican Township – Otter Tail County	Shiela Johnson	Treasurer	sheila@pelicanottertailmn.gov
Pine River Township	Barbara Wagner	Clerk	clerkprtownship@gmail.com
Poplar Township	Susan Peet	Clerk	poplarclerk@outlook.com
Riverton Township	Jakob Pender '28	Chairman	rivertontownship@gmail.com
Riverton Township	Lee Alm '27	Supervisor	rivertontownship@gmail.com
Riverton Township	Philip Swan '26	Supervisor	rivertontownship@gmail.com
Riverton Township	Jill Toms '26	Clerk	rivertontownship@gmail.com
Runeberg Township	Lisa Marschall	Assessor	LMassessor@outlook.com
Scambler Township	Nancy Hebert	Chairperson	scamblertrwp@loretel.net

Scambler Township	Dee Dee Stephenson	Clerk	dstephenson@loretel.net
Silver Leaf Township	Wesley Hegna	Assessor	assessorwes@gmail.com
Skree Township	Jeffrey Pender	Chairman	skreetownship@outlook.com
Skree Township	Randy Bjornson	Supervisor	skreetownship@outlook.com
Skree Township	Paul Austin	Supervisor	skreetownship@outlook.com
Skree Township	Dawn Shulstad	Clerk	skreetownship@outlook.com
Straight River Township	Connie Ball	Clerk	straightrivertownshipclerk@gmail.com
Straight River Township	Jill Thompson	Treasurer	straightrivertownshiptreasurer@gmail.com
Straight River Township	Chad Mathison	Chair	straightriversuper3@outlook.com
Straight River Township	John Hockett	Vice Chair	straightriversuper2@gmail.com
Sylvan Township	Jenna Ruggles	Clerk	clerk@sylvantwp.com
Toad Lake Township	Lisa Marshall	Assessor	LMassessor@outlook.com
Walden Township	Kim Norman	Clerk	waldentownshipclerk@gmail.com
White Oak Township	Shelly Nelson	Chairperson	whiteoaksupervisor@gmail.com
White Oak Township	DeeAnn Hayes	Supervisor	whiteoaksupervisor2@gmail.com
White Oak Township	Michael Bates	Supervisor	mbateswota@gmail.com
White Oak Township	Jeff Lindstrom	Clerk	whiteoakclerk1@gmail.com
White Oak Township	Maryls Lehn	Treasurer	maron@arvig.net
Wolford Township	Kimberly Marquart,	Clerk	wolfordclerk@castle-web.com
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Kent Sundseth	Project Leader	kent_sundseth@fws.gov
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Chuck Carpenter	Northeast Regional Manager	Charles.Carpenter@state.mn.us
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Benjamin Orne	Project Manager	benjamin.g.orne@usace.army.mil

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	Kirsten Barta	Regional General Permits	kirsten.barta@state.mn.us
Office of the State Archaeologist	Amanda Gronhovi	MN State Archaeologist	Amanda.Gronhovi@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Joe Pignato	Land Management Office Director	joseph.pignato@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Stacy Kotch Egstad	Utility Routing and Siting Coordinator	stacy.kotch@state.mn.us
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Josh Hanson	District Conservationist	joshua.hanson@usda.gov
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Troy Daniell	Minnesota State Conservationist	kristine.a.kust@usda.gov
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Joseph Brennan	State Soil Scientist	joseph.brennan@usda.gov
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Jody Peek	District Conservationist	jody.peek@usda.gov
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Robert Guetter	District Conservationist - CST Leader	Robert.Guetter@usda.gov
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Candi Fuller	District Conservationist	candi.fuller@usda.gov
City of Moorhead	Travis Schmidt	Director of Moorhead Public Service	tschmidt@mpsutility.com
City of Moorhead	Tom Trowbridge	Moorhead City Engineers	tom.trowbridge@moorheadmn.gov
City of Moorhead	Dan Mahli	Moorhead City Manager	danmahli@moorheadmn.gov
City of Moorhead	Bob Zimmerman	Moorhead City Engineers	bob.zimmerman@moorheadmn.gov
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Molly Barrett	Natural Heritage Review Specialist	Molly.Barrett@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Jim Drake	Natural Heritage Review Specialist	James.F.Drake@state.mn.us
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Robert Tawes	Field Office Supervisor	robert_tawes@fws.gov
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Katie O'Brien	Endangered Species Biologist	katie_obrien@fws.gov
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service			migratorybirdpermits@fws.gov

Federal Aviation Administration	Lindsay Terry	Manager	lindsay.terry@faa.gov
Federal Aviation Administration	Jacob Martin	nn	jacob.martin@faa.gov
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Diane Johnson	Realty Specialist, Utility License Crossing	diane.johnson@state.mn.us
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Neil Powers	Project Leader	neil_powers@fws.gov
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Kate Fairman	Environmental Review Operations Lead	kate.fairman@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Becky Horton	EIS Project Manager	becky.horton@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Health	Dereck Richter	Principal Planner Statewide	dereck.richter@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Health	Danielle Luzinski	Statewide Surface Water Hydrologist	danielle.luzinski@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Health	Nick Budde	Hydrologist, Northeast District	nicholas.budde@state.mn.us
Public Utilities Commission	Bret Eknes	Supervisor	Bret.Eknes@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - POC	Owen Baird	Northwest Region 1 Environmental Assessment Ecologist	owen.baird@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - POC	Jessica Parson	Northeast Region 2 Ecologist	jessica.parson@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Patty Thielen	NE Region Director	patty.thielen@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Samantha Bump	Energy Review Planner	Samantha.Bump@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Brianna Speldrich	Hydrologist	Brianna.Speldrich@state.mn.us
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Kaitlyn Miller	Easement Program Manager	kaitlyn.miller@usda.gov
Minnesota Department of Transportation	John Gildersleeve	Right of Way Permits, District 4	john.gildersleeve@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Daryn Minske	Right of Way Permits, District 4	Daryn.minske@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Shane Bakken	Right of Way Permits, District 4	Shane.bakken@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Jon Keranen	Right of Way Permits, District 3B	jonathan.keranen@state.mn.us

Minnesota Department of Transportation	Keith Peterson		Right of Way Permits, District 3B	keith.peterson@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Rich Munsch		Right of Way Permits, District 3A	richard.munsch@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Jeremy Mollner		Right of Way Permits, District 3A	jeremy.mollner@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Shane Gries		Right of Way Permits, District 1	shane.gries@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Terry Condon		Right of Way Permits	terry.condon@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Tom Johnson		Right of Way Permits, District 2	thomas.d.johnson@state.mn.us
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Ryan Frohling		Project Leader	ryan_frohling@fws.gov
Becker County	Carrie Smith		County Administrator	carrie.smith@co.becker.mn.us
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	Jim Dexter		Environmental Review Specialist	James.Dexter@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	Thom Petersen		Commissioner	Thom.Petersen@state.mn.us
City of Audubon	Zakery Beckner		Vice Mayor	councilmember1@cityofaudubonmn.gov
City of Audubon	Melissa Hiemenz		Safety Committee Liaison	councilmember3@cityofaudubonmn.gov
City of Audubon	Kevin Hamernik		Water and Sewer Liason	councilmember2@cityofaudubonmn.gov
City of Audubon	Tyler Lende		Mayor	mayor@cityofaudubonmn.gov
City of Barnesville	Jason Rick		Mayor	mayor@barnesvillemn.com
City of Barnesville	Dawn Stuvland		Council	stuvlandward1@barnesvillemn.com
City of Barnesville	Scott Bauer		Council	bauerward1@barnesvillemn.com
City of Barnesville	Don Goedtke		Council	goedtkeward2@barnesvillemn.com
City of Barnesville	Alyssa Bergman		Council	bergmanward2@barnesvillemn.com
City of Barnesville	Brad Field		Council	fieldward3@barnesvillemn.com
City of Barnesville	Tonya Stokka		Council	stokkaward3@barnesvillemn.com
City of Baxter	Darrel Olson		Mayor	dolson@baxtermn.gov

City of Brainerd	Dave Badeaux	Mayor	dbadeaux@ci.brainerd.mn.us
City of Brainerd	Tad Erickson	Ward 1 Committee Member	terickson@ci.brainerd.mn.us
City of Brainerd	Kevin Yeager	Committee Member	kyeager@ci.brainerd.mn.us
City of Brainerd	Jeff Czczok	Ward 3 Committee Member	jczczok@ci.brainerd.mn.us
City of Brainerd	Mike O'Day	President of Council	moday@ci.brainerd.mn.us
City of Brainerd	Gabe Johnson	Ward 4 Committee Member	gjohnson@ci.brainerd.mn.us
City of Brainerd	Kevin H. Stunek	Committee Member	kstunek@ci.brainerd.mn.us
City of Brainerd	Kelly Bevans	Committee Member	kbevans@ci.brainerd.mn.us
City of Breezy Point	Allie Polsfuss	City Administrator	apolisfuss@cityofbreezypointmn.us
City of Detroit Lakes	Loren Tolkkinen, SLL Inc. (Commercial)	Assessor	lorent@wcta.net
City of Detroit Lakes	Kelcey Klemm	Adminstrator	kklemm@cityofdetroitlakes.com
City of Detroit Lakes	Kari Tyson	Clerk	ktyson@cityofdetroitlakes.com
City of Detroit Lakes	Matt Brenk	Mayor	mbrenk@cityofdetroitlakes.com
City of Detroit Lakes	Shaun Carlson	Alderman First Ward (Public Safety)	scarlson@cityofdetroitlakes.com
City of Detroit Lakes	Ron Zeman	Alderman First Ward	rzeman@cityofdetroitlakes.com
City of Detroit Lakes	Mike Stearns	Alderman Second Ward	mstearns@cityofdetroitlakes.com
City of Detroit Lakes	Wendy Spry	Alderman Second Ward	wspry@cityofdetroitlakes.com
City of Detroit Lakes	Aaron Dallmann	Alderman Third Ward	adallmann@cityofdetroitlakes.com
City of Detroit Lakes	Matt Boeke	Alderman Third Ward	mboeke@cityofdetroitlakes.com
City of Detroit Lakes	Craig Caulfield	Alderman at Large	ccauffield@cityofdetroitlakes.com

City of Detroit Lakes	Jaimie Deraney	Alderman at Large	ideraney@cityofdetroitlakes.com
City of Detroit Lakes	Jackie Buboltz	Alderman at Large	jbuboltz@cityofdetroitlakes.com
City of Dilworth	Chad Olson	Mayor	cityhall@ci.dilworth.mn.us
City of Dilworth	Chad Olson	Mayor	Chad.Olson@ci.dilworth.mn.us
City of Dilworth	Julie Nash	Council	Julie.nash@ci.dilworth.mn.us
City of Dilworth	Dave Steichen	Council	amber.borah@ci.dilworth.mn.us
City of Dilworth	Kevin Peterson	Council	kevin.peterson@ci.dilworth.mn.us
City of East Gull Lake	Laura Christensen	Administrator	laura@eastgulllake.us
City of Frazee	Jared Suihkonen (County)	Assessor	jared.suihkonen@co.becker.mn.us
City of Frazee	Stephanie Poegel	Adminstrator	cityadmin@frazeecity.com
City of Frazee	Mike Sharp	Mayor	mikesharp607@gmail.com
City of Glyndon	Joe Olson	Mayor	jolson@glyndonmn.com
City of Glyndon	Bryant DeVries	Council	bdevries@glyndonmn.com
City of Glyndon	Shonna Severson	Council	ssseverson@glyndonmn.com
City of Glyndon	Patrick McCoy	Council	pmccoy@glyndonmn.com
City of Glyndon	Steven Ring	Council	sring@glyndonmn.com
City of Ironton	Emma Pratt	City Clerk	clerk@cityofironton.org
City of Ironton	Joshua Jacobson	Mayor	joshjacobson@cityofironton.org
City of Ironton	Shawn Hamdorf	Council Member	shamdorf@hotmail.com
City of Ironton	Dean French	Council Member	bfrench1222@gmail.com
City of Ironton	Eric Heglund	Council Member	hopper@crosbyironton.net
City of Ironton	Matthew Bugnacki	Council Member	matthewbugnacki@cityofironton.org

City of Jenkins	Cassandra Delougherty	City Clerk	cassandra.delougherty@cityofjenkins.com
City of Lake Park	Sarah Mikkelsen	Clerk	smikkelsen@lakeparkmn.com
City of Lake Park	Sarah Mikkelsen	Treasurer	smikkelsen@lakeparkmn.com
City of Moorhead	Shelly Carlson	Mayor	shelly.carlson@cityofmoorhead.com
City of Nisssa	Jennifer Carnahan	Mayor	jarnahan@cityofnissswa.gov
City of Nisssa	Mark Froehle	Council Member	mfroehle@cityofnissswa.gov
City of Nisssa	Joseph Hall	Council Member	jhall@cityofnissswa.gov
City of Nisssa	Bruce London	Council Member	blondon@cityofnissswa.gov
City of Nisssa	Jesse Zahn	Council Member	jzahn@cityofnissswa.gov
City of Pequot Lakes	Tyler Gardner	Mayor	mayor@pequotlakes-mn.gov
City of Pequot Lakes	Pete Clement	Council Member	pclement@pequotlakes-mn.gov
City of Pequot Lakes	Laura Larson	Council Member	llarson@pequotlakes-mn.gov
City of Pequot Lakes	Scott Pederson	Council Member	spederson@pequotlakes-mn.gov
City of Pequot Lakes	Dan Ronning	Council Member	dronning@pequotlakes-mn.gov
City of Pillager	Lori Blumke	Clerk	loriblumke@cityofpillager.com
City of Pillager	Adam Sparrow	Mayor	adamsparrow@cityofpillager.com
City of Pillager	H. Robert Freelove	Council	robfreelove@cityofpillager.com
City of Pillager	Joe Klein	Council	joeklein@cityofpillager.com
City of Pillager	Wade Mortenson	Council	wademortenson@cityofpillager.com
City of Pillager	Leroy Smith	Council	leroysmith@cityofpillager.com
City of Riverton	David C. Peterson	Mayor	riverton@centurylink.net

City of Riverton	Pamela Dobson	Council Member	riverton@centurylink.net
City of Sabin	Bob Dablow,	Mayor	bob.dablow@cityofsabin.com
City of Sabin	Tom Berglind	Vice Mayor	tom.berglind@cityofsabin.com
City of Sabin	Wendy Otte	Council Member	wendy.otte@cityofsabin.com
City of Sabin	Tyler Spriggs	Council Member	tyler.spriggs@cityofsabin.com
City of Sabin	Lloyd Helgeson	Council Member	lloyd.helgeson@cityofsabin.com
City of Sabin	Drew Schwan	Council Member	drew.schwan@cityofsabin.com
City of Trommald	Mona R. Geske	Clerk	lostin50s@mlcwb.net
Becker County	Richard Vareberg	District 4 Commissioner	richard.vareberg@co.becker.mn.us
Becker County	David Meyer	District 2 Commissioner	david.meyer@co.becker.mn.us
Becker County	Erica Jepson	District 1 Commissioner	erica.jepson@co.becker.mn.us
Becker County	Phil Hansen	District 3 Commissioner	phil.hansen@co.becker.mn.us
Becker County	Barry Nelson	District 5 Commissioner	bknelso@co.becker.mn.us
Cass County	Neal Gaalswyk	District 1 Commissioner	neal.gaalswyk@casscountymn.gov
Cass County	Robert Kangas	District 2 Commissioner	bob.kangas@casscountymn.gov
Cass County	Rusty Lilyquist	District 3 Commissioner	rusty.lilyquist@casscountymn.gov
Cass County	Scott Bruns	District 4 Commissioner	scott.brunns@casscountymn.gov
Cass County	Rick Haaland	District 5 Commissioner	rick.haaland@casscountymn.gov
Clay County	Paul Krabbenhoft	District 1 Commissioner	paul.krabbenhoft@claycountymn.gov
Clay County	Ezra Baer	District 2 Commissioner	ezra.baer@claycountymn.gov
Clay County	Jenny Mongeau	District 3 Commissioner	Jenny.Mongeau@claycountymn.gov
Clay County	Kevin Campbell	District 4 Commissioner	Kevin.Campbell@claycountymn.gov

Clay County	David Ebinger	District 5 Commissioner	David.ebinger@claycountymn.gov
Crow Wing County	Paul Koering	District 1 Commissioner	Paul.Koering@crowwing.gov
Crow Wing County	Jon Lubke	District 2 Commissioner	Jon.Lubke@crowwing.gov
Crow Wing County	Steve Barrows	District 3 Commissioner	Steve.Barrows@crowwing.gov
Crow Wing County	Rosemary Franzen	District 4 Commissioner	Rosemary.Franzen@crowwing.gov
Crow Wing County	Jamie Lee	District 5 Commissioner	Jamie.Lee@crowwing.gov
Hubbard County	David De La	District 1 Commissioner	david.delahunt@co.hubbard.mn.us
Hubbard County	Charlene Christenson	District 2 Commissioner	char.christenson@co.hubbard.mn.us
Hubbard County	Tom Krueger	District 3 Commissioner	tom.krueger@co.hubbard.mn.us
Hubbard County	Steve Keranen	District 4 Commissioner	steven.keranen@co.hubbard.mn.us
Hubbard County	Ted Van Kempen	District 5 Commissioner	ted.vankempen@co.hubbard.mn.us
Otter Tail County	Dan Bucholz	District 1 Commissioner	dbucholz@ottertailcounty.gov
Otter Tail County	Wayne Johnson	District 2 Commissioner	wjohnson@ottertailcounty.gov
Otter Tail County	Kurt Mortenson	District 3 Commissioner	kmortenson@ottertailcounty.gov
Otter Tail County	Robert (Bob) Lahman	District 4 Commissioner	rlahman@ottertailcounty.gov
Otter Tail County	Sean Sullivan	District 5 Commissioner	ssullivan@ottertailcounty.gov
Wadena County	Ron Noon	District 1 Commissioner	ron.noon@wccmn.us
Wadena County	Bill Stearns	District 3 Commissioner	bill.stearns@wccmn.us
Wadena County	Murlyn Kreklau	District 4 Commissioner	Murlyn.Kreklau@wccmn.us
Wadena County	Jon Kangas	District 5 Commissioner	jon.kangas@wccmn.us
Wadena County	Mike Weyer	District 2 Commissioner	Mike.Weyer@wccmn.us
Wilkin County	Eric Klindt	District 1 County Commissioner	eklindt@wilkincounty.gov

Wilkin County	Jonathan Green	District 2 County Commissioner	jgreen@wilkincounty.gov
Wilkin County	Jon Braton Sr.	District 3 County Commissioner	jbraton@wilkincounty.gov
Wilkin County	Rick Busko	District 4 County Commissioner	rbusko@wilkincounty.gov
Wilkin County	Dennis Larson	District 5 County Commissioner	dlarson@wilkincounty.gov
Federal Aviation Administration	Marla Duchatellier	Air Traffic Technician	Marla.Duchatellier@faa.gov
Federal Aviation Administration	Ashley Wilson	Air Traffic Specialist	ashley.m.wilson@faa.gov
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	Stephan Roos	Planner	stephan.roos@state.mn.us
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Jeremy Kinney	Project Manager	Jeremy.M.Kinney@usace.army.mil
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Alisha Haken	Assistant Refuge Manager	alisha_haken@fws.gov
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources	Karti Swenson	Conservation Easement Specialist Lead	karli.swenson@state.mn.us
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources	Rachel Mueller	Executive Support	rachel.l.mueller@state.mn.us
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources	Rita Weaver	Chief Engineer	rita.weaver@state.mn.us
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources	Barb Peichel	Clean Water Specialist	barbara.peichel@state.mn.us
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources	Dusty Van Thuyne	Easement Programs Coordinator	dusty.vanthuyne@state.mn.us
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources	Song Vang	Office and Administrative Specialist	song.vang@state.mn.us
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources	Ken Powell	Wetland Conservation Act Operations Supervisor	ken.powell@state.mn.us
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources	Michelle Jordan	Board Conservationist	michelle.jordan@state.mn.us
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources	John Jaschke	Executive Director	john.jaschke@state.mn.us
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources	Mary Juhl	Communications Coordinator	mary.juhl@state.mn.us
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources	Brittany Polzin	Easement Acquisition Specialist Senior	brittany.polzin@state.mn.us
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources	Eric Forward	Easement Acquisition Specialist	eric.forward@state.mn.us
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources	Suzanne Rhees	Special Projects Coordinator	suzanne.rhees@state.mn.us

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources	Ben Carlson	Mitigation Program Coordinator	ben.carlson@state.mn.us
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources	Chad Hildebrand	Buffer and Soil Loss Specialist	chad.hildebrand@state.mn.us
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources	Alyssa Core	Wetland Specialist	alyssa.core@state.mn.us
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources	Dan Shaw	Senior Ecologist/Vegetation Specialist	dan.shaw@state.mn.us
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources	Solimar Garcia Barger	Mitigation Program Assistant	solimar.garcia.barger@state.mn.us
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources	Travis Germundson	Appeals and Regulatory Compliance Coordinator	travis.germundson@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	Ryan Galbreath	State Resource Conservationist	ryan.galbreath@usda.gov
Minnesota Department of Health	John Woodside	Hydrologist Supervisor, Source Water Protection Unit	john.woodside@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Health	Luke Pickman	Hydrologist, Northwest District	luke.pickman@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Joseph Henderson	Lands & Minerals Director	joseph.henderson@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Cheryl Kelley-Dobie	Lands & Minerals Assistant Director	cheryl.kelley-dobie@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Michael Liljegen	Lands & Minerals Assistant Director	michael.liljegen@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Ted Anderson	Lands & Minerals Assistant Director	ted.anderson@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	Karissa Hogan	Documents and Utility Permits Coordinator	Karissa.Hogan@state.mn.us
Minnesota House of Representatives	Jim Joy	Representative, District 4B	rep.jim.joy@house.mn.gov
Minnesota House of Representatives	Heather Keeler	Representative, District 4A	rep.heather.keeler@house.mn.gov
Minnesota House of Representatives	Josh Heintzeman	Representative, District 6B	rep.josh.heintzeman@house.mn.gov
Minnesota House of Representatives	Krista Knudsen	Representative, District 5A	rep.krista.knudsen@house.mn.gov
Minnesota House of Representatives	Mike Wiener	Representative, District 5B	rep.mike.wiener@house.mn.gov
Minnesota House of Representatives	Jeff Backer	Representative, District 9A	rep.jeff.backer@house.mn.gov

Minnesota House of Representatives	Tom Murphy		Representative, District 9B	rep.tom.murphy@house.mn.gov
Minnesota House of Representatives	Ben Davis		Representative, District 6A	rep.ben.davis@house.mn.gov
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council	Shannon Geshick		Executive Director	shannon.geshick@state.mn.us
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council	George Goggleye Jr.		Cultural Resources Manager	george.goggleye@state.mn.us
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council	Lilly Geraghty		Cultural Resources Manager	lilly.geraghty@state.mn.us
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council	Isaac Weston		Cultural Resources Manager	isaac.weston@state.mn.us
Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office	Leslie Coburn		Manager, Environmental Review Specialist	leslie.coburn@state.mn.us
Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office	Kelly Gragg-Johnson		Environmental Review Specialist	kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us
Minnesota State Senate	Paul Utke		State Senator, District 5	sen.paul.utke@mnsenate.gov
Becker County	Kyle Vareberg		Planning and Zoning Department	zoninggroup@co.becker.mn.us
Becker County	Lee Brekke		Assessors Department	lee.brekke@co.becker.mn.us
Clay County	Jill Murray		Assessors Department	assessor@claycountymn.gov
Clay County	Matt Jacobson		Planning Director	planning@claycountymn.gov
Clay County	Stephen Larson		County Administrator	Steve.Larson@claycountymn.gov
Cass County	Josh Stevenson		County Administrator	josh.stevenson@casscountymn.gov
Cass County	Mark Peterson		Assessors Department	mark.peterson@casscountymn.gov
Crow Wing County	Jory Danielson		Administrative Services Director	Jory.Danielson@crowwing.gov
Crow Wing County	Gary Griffin		Lands Services Director	gary.griffin@crowwing.gov
Crow Wing County	Sandra Brueland		Property Assessor Supervisor	sandra.brueland@crowwing.gov
Hubbard County	Jeff Cadwell		County Administrator	jeff.cadwell@co.hubbard.mn.us
Hubbard County	Cory Kimball		Lands Commissioner	cory.kimball@co.hubbard.mn.us
Otter Tail County	Heather Jacobson		Assessor	assessor@ottertailcounty.gov

Otter Tail County	Nick Leonard	Deputy County Administrator	nleonard@ottertailcounty.gov
Otter Tail County	Lynne Penke Valdes	Deputy County Administrator	lpenskevaldes@ottertailcounty.gov
Otter Tail County	Christopher LeClair	Land & Resource Management Director	land@ottertailcounty.gov
Wadena County	Jennifer Westrum	Interim County Administrator	jennifer.westrum@wcmn.us
Wadena County	Deana Malone	Planning and Zoning Department	deana.malone@wcmn.us
Wadena County	Jason Jorgensen	Assessor	jason.jorgensen@wcmn.us
Wilkin County	Michelle Snobl	Assessor	assessor@wilkincounty.gov
Wilkin County	Stephanie Sandbakken	County Administrator	ssandbakken@wilkincounty.gov
Wilkin County	Breanna Koval	Director of Environmental Services	bkoval@wilkincounty.gov

From: [Dan Flo](#)
Cc: [Drew Janke \(MP\)](#); [Tristen Joens](#)
Subject: Maple River – Cuyuna (MR-C) Transmission Project - October Open Houses
Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 9:10:01 AM
Attachments:

Good morning,

Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Great River Energy are hosting a second round of open houses to seek input on the Maple River – Cuyuna (MR-C) Transmission Project's preliminary routes. The proposed MR-C Transmission Project is an approximately 160-mile-long, single-circuit 345 kV transmission line on double-circuit-capable structures from Minnesota Power's Cuyuna Substation near Riverton, Minnesota to Otter Tail Power Company's Maple River Substation near Fargo, North Dakota.

Based on community input gathered during the first round of public open houses in June 2025 and through coordination with federal, state, local, and Tribal governments, Minnesota Power refined the initial study area by identifying routing opportunities based on existing transmission lines and developed several preliminary routes. Stakeholder comments included feedback on routing and impacts to aesthetics, groundwater, landowner's property interests, cultural resources, and environmental resources. Please find a map of the preliminary routes attached to this email.

We invite you to attend any of the open houses; the schedule is as follows:

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025 12:00-2:00PM Harwood Community Center 210 Freedland Dr Harwood, ND 58042	MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025 5:30-7:30PM TAK Music Venue 1710 Center Ave W Dilworth, MN 56529
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2025 12:00-2:00PM Barnesville Event Center 101 Second St. SE Barnesville, MN 56514	TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2025 5:30-7:30PM Historic Holmes Theatre 806 Summit Ave Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2025 12:00-2:00PM MN State Central Lakes College, Staples Location C168 1830 Airport Road Staples, MN 56479	WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2025 5:30-7:30PM Hubbard Community Center 12141 County 6 Park Rapids, MN 56470
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2025 12:00-2:00PM The Lodge at Brainerd Lakes 6967 Lake Forest Rd Baxter, MN 56425	THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2025 5:30-7:30PM Pelican Lakes Conservation Club and Community Center 8922 Thrane Dr Breezy Point, MN 56472

These meetings are open to the public and will give local community members and landowners an opportunity to learn about the project, ask questions, and provide input.

If you have questions about the Project or the Open Houses, please contact Drew Janke at (218) 576-9213 or djanke@mnpower.com.

Regards,

Dan Flo on behalf of
Drew Janke

Dan Flo
Senior Project Manager
612.924.3982 direct
612.812.0069 mobile
dan.flo@merjent.com



1 Main Street SE, Suite 300
Minneapolis, MN 55414
612.746.3660 main



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Tribal Government	Contact Name	Position	Email
1854 Treaty Authority	Sonny Myers	Executive Director	smyers@1854treatyauthority.org
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa	Carlos Hernandez	Chairperson	carloshernandez@boisfortensn.gov
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa	Amy Mason		amy.mason@boisfortensn.gov
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa	Perry Drift		pdrift@boisforte-nsn.gov
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa	Shane Drift	District I Representative	sdrift@boisforte-nsn.gov
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa	Miranda Liliya	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	miliya@boisforte-nsn.gov
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa	Robert Moyer, Jr.	District II Representative	rmoyer@boisforte-nsn.gov
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa	Tara Geshick	Secretary/Treasurer	tara.geshick@boisfortensn.gov
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa	Jaylen Strong	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	jaylen.strong@boisfortensn.gov
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Scott Buchanan		scottbuchanan@fdlrez.com
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Caleb Dunlap		calebdunlap@fdlband.org
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Wally Dupuis		wallydupuis@fdlband.org
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Earl Otis		earlotis@fdlband.org
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Bruce Savage	Chairperson	brucesavage@fdlband.org
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Bill Thompson		billthompson@fdlrez.com
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Ian Young		ianyong@fdlband.org

Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Brad Blacketter			bradblacketter@fdlband.org
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Evan Schroeder		Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	evanschroeder@fdlrez.com
Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Bobby Deschampe		Chairperson	robertdeschampe@grandportage.com
Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	April McCormick			aprilm@grandportage.com
Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Toby Stephens			tobys@grandportage.com
Grand Portage Bank of Lake Superior Chippewa	Agatha Armstrong			agathaa@grandportage.com
Grand Portage Bank of Lake Superior Chippewa	Krishna Woerheide			kwoerheide@grandportage.com
Grand Portage Bank of Lake Superior Chippewa	Marie Spry			mariespry@grandportage.com
Grand Portage Bank of Lake Superior Chippewa	Rob Hull		Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	thpo@grandportage.com
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	Mike Chosa			mike.chosa@llojibwe.net
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	Kyle Fairbanks		District I Representative	kyle.fairbanks@llojibwe.net
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	Gov Relations			govt.relations@llojibwe.net
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	LeRoy Staples Fairbanks III		District III Representative	leroy.fairbanks@llojibwe.net
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	Steve White		District II Representative	steve.white@llojibwe.net
Leech Lake Bank of Ojibwe	Leonard Fineday		Secreatary/Treasurer	leonard.fineday@llojibwe.net
Leech Lake Bank of Ojibwe	Brandy Toft			brandy.toft@llojibwe.net
Leech Lake Bank of Ojibwe	Faron Jackson, Sr.		Chairman	faron.jackson@llojibwe.net
Leech Lake Bank of Ojibwe	Ashley Harrison		Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	ashley.harrison@llojibwe.net
Leech Lake Bank of Ojibwe	Gina Lemon		Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	gina.lemon@llojibwe.net
Lower Sioux Indian Community	Deb Dirlam			deb.dirlam@lowersiou.com

Lower Sioux Indian Community	Robert L Larsen	President	robert.larsen@lowersioux.co m
Lower Sioux Indian Community	Robert Prescott		bob.prescott@lowersioux.co m
Lower Sioux Indian Community	Tyler Prescott		tyler.prescott@lowersioux.co m
Lower Sioux Indian Community	Miranda Sam		miranda.sam@lowersioux.co m
Lower Sioux Indian Community	Nizhoni Smith		nizhoni.smith@lowersioux.co m
Lower Sioux Indian Community	Jospeh O'Brien		joey.obrien@lowersioux.com
Lower Sioux Indian Community	Kristi Schoen		kristi.schoen@lowersioux.com
Lower Sioux Indian Community	Cheyenne St. John	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	cheyanne.stjohn@lowersioux. com
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Carolyn Beaulieu	District I Representative	carolyn.beaulieu@millelacsba nd.com
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Sheldon Boyd	Secreatary/Treasurer	sheldon.boyd@millelacsband. com
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Harry Davis	District III Representative	harry.davis@millelacsband.co m
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Jamie Edwards	Sr. Advisor of Intergovernmental Affairs	jamie.edwards@millelacsband .com
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Shena Matrious	Director of Government Affairs	shena.matrious@millelacsban d.com
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Wendy Merrill	District II Representative	wendy.merrill@millelacsband. com
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Virgil Wind	Chief Executive	virgil.wind@millelacsband.co m
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Kelly Applegate	Commissioner of Natural Resources	kelly.applegate@millelacsban d.com
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Charles Lippert	Air Quality Specialist	charlie.lippert@millelacsband. com

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Mike Wilson	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	mike.wilson@millelacsband.com
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe	Joel Smith		jsmith@mnchippewatribe.org
Prairie Island Indian Community	Constance Campbell		tori.campbell@piic.org
Prairie Island Indian Community	Michael Childs, Jr.		michael.childsjr@piic.org
Prairie Island Indian Community	Blake Johnson		blake.johnson@piic.org
Prairie Island Indian Community	Grant Johnson		grant.johnson@piic.org
Prairie Island Indian Community	Jody Johnson		jody.johnson@piic.org
Prairie Island Indian Community	Ronald Johnson		ron.johnson@piic.org
Prairie Island Indian Community	Valentina Mgeni		valentina.mgeni@piic.org
Prairie Island Indian Community	Jessie Seim		jessie.seim@piic.org
Prairie Island Indian Community	Heather Westra		heather.westra@piic.org
Prairie Island Indian Community	Noah White	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	noah.white@piic.org
Red Lake Nation	Jason Defoe		jasondefoe@redlakenation.org
Red Lake Nation	Vernelle Lussier		vernelle.lussier@redlakenation.org
Red Lake Nation	Joe Plumer		joe.plumer@redlakenation.org
Red Lake Nation	Samuel Strong		sam.strong@redlakenation.org
Red Lake Nation	Darrell Seki, Sr.		dseki@redlakenation.org
Red Lake Nation	Kade Ferris	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	kade.ferris@redlakenation.org
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community	Steve Albrecht		steve.albrecht@shakopeedakota.org
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community	Cole W. Miller	Business Council Chairman	cole.miller@shakopeedakota.org
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community	Debra Flute		Debra.Flute@shakopeedakota.org
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community	Phil Brodeen		phil@brodeenpaulson.com

Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community	Bill Rudnicki	Tribal Administrator	bill.rudnicki@shakopeedakota.org
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community	Leonard Wabasha	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	leonard.wabasha@shakopeedakota.org
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community	Joe Bathel		jrbathel7@yahoo.com
Upper Sioux Community	Jeremy Hamilton	Board Member	jhamilton@upperpersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov
Upper Sioux Community	Kevin Jensvold	Chairman	kevinj@upperpersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov
Upper Sioux Community	Drew Brockman	Tribal Secretary	dbrockman@upperpersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov
Upper Sioux Community	Camille Tanhoff	Tribal Treasurer	kamip@upperpersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov
Upper Sioux Community	Caralyn Trutna	Vice Chair	carrie@upperpersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov
Upper Sioux Community	Samantha Odegaard	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	samanthao@upperpersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov
White Earth Nation	Laura Erickson		laura.erickson@whiteearth-nsn.gov
White Earth Nation	Henry Fox		henry.fox@whiteearth-nsn.gov
White Earth Nation	Christie Haverkamp		christie.haverkamp@whiteearth-nsn.gov
White Earth Nation	Mike Laroque		mike.laroque@whiteearth-nsn.gov
White Earth Nation	Nate Mathews		nathan.mathews@whiteearth-nsn.gov
White Earth Nation	Jacob McArthur		jacob.mcarthur@whiteearth-nsn.gov

White Earth Nation	Mike Smith		icecrackingswamp@gmail.com
White Earth Nation	Eugene Sommers		eugene.sommers@whiteearth-nsn.gov
White Earth Nation	Joe Tonihka		joe.tonihka@whiteearth-nsn.gov
White Earth Nation	Michael Fairbanks	Chairperson	michael.fairbanks@whiteearth-nsn.gov
White Earth Nation	Laurie York		laurie.york@whiteearth-nsn.gov
White Earth Nation	Jaime Arsenault	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	jaime.arsenault@whiteearth-nsn.gov
Minnesota Department of Commerce	Chase Christopher	Tribal Liaison	chase.christopherson@state.mn.us

Maple River – Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project



MRCTransmissionProject.com |



Virtual Open House

Thank you for joining us online today. We greatly appreciate your input in helping us as we identify preliminary routes for the Project. On the following slides you'll learn more about the Project, review maps, and have the opportunity to provide input about the preliminary routes.

Who We Are

Minnesota Power provides electric service within a 26,000-square-mile area in northeastern Minnesota, supporting comfort, security and quality of life for 150,000 customers, 14 municipalities and some of the largest industrial customers in the United States.



Otter Tail Power Company is an investor-owned electric utility that provides electricity to approximately 133,700 customers in 422 communities across 70,000 square miles in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota.



Great River Energy is a not-for-profit wholesale electric power cooperative and provides reliable, cleaner electricity while maintaining affordable rates for 1.7 million people



About the Project

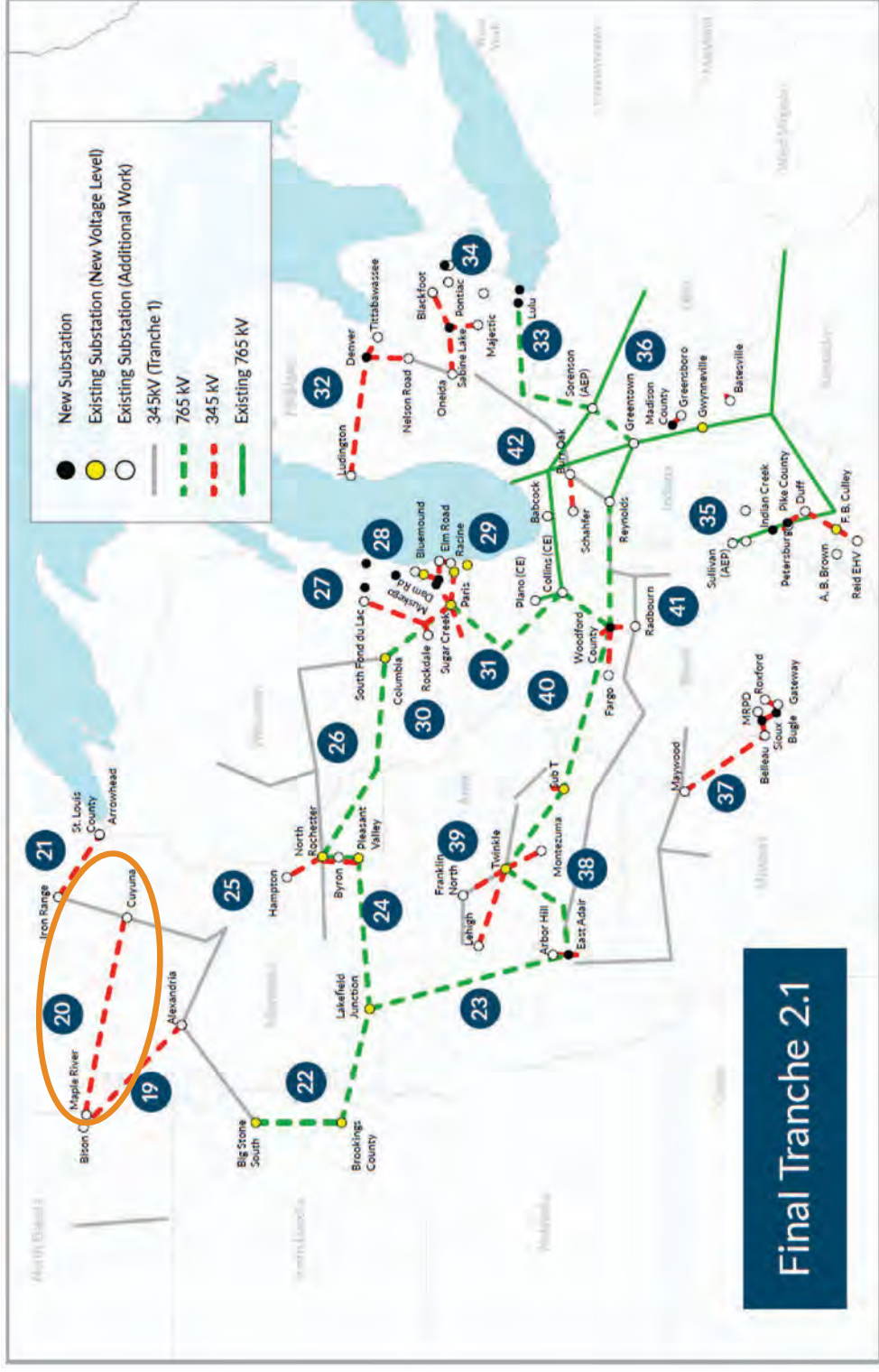


Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Great River Energy are proposing to construct an approximately 160-mile-long, single-circuit 345 kV transmission line on double-circuit capable structures from Minnesota Power's Cuyuna Substation near Riverton, Minnesota to Otter Tail Power Company's Maple River Substation in eastern North Dakota.

The Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), the regional grid operator, approved this project (#20) as part of a regional plan

Learn more at

misoenergy.org



Project Need



Enhance the reliability of the regional transmission system as the way we produce and use electricity changes



Increase transmission system capacity to reliably deliver energy from where it's produced to where it's used



Meet growing electrical demand and enhance resiliency during extreme weather events



Enable cost-effective regional energy transfers supporting economical grid operations

Project Components

Construction of approximately 160 miles of new single-circuit 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line, built on double-circuit capable structures, and utilizing existing transmission line corridors to greatest extent reasonable

Upgrade of the existing Maple River Substation, located near Fargo, ND, and the Cuyuna Substation, located near Riverton, MN and modifications of some existing transmission line corridors, where needed, to bring this project into service

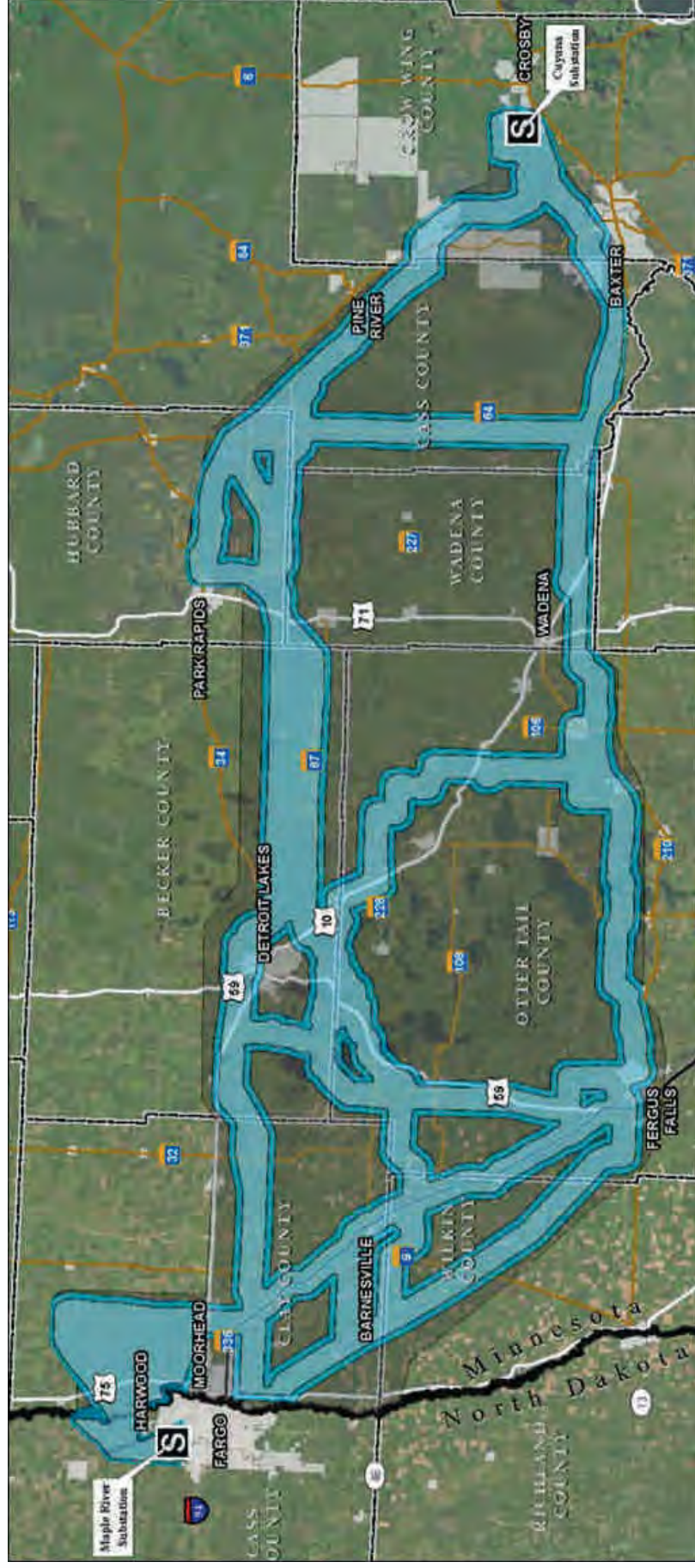
Where We've Been

- Website launched in June 2025
- Open houses in June 2025

Invited agencies, Tribal Nations, and more than 38,000 landowners in the initial Project Study Area: Becker, Cass, Clay, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Otter Tail, Wadena and Wilkin Counties, Minnesota; and Cass County, North Dakota

- Agency meetings: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Received, recorded, and responded to stakeholder feedback

Initial Study Area with Routing Opportunities based on Existing Transmission Lines – June 2025



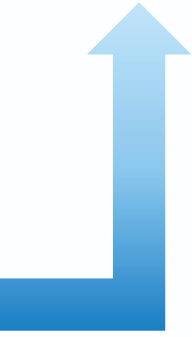
Initial Study Area with Routing Opportunities based on Existing Transmission Lines



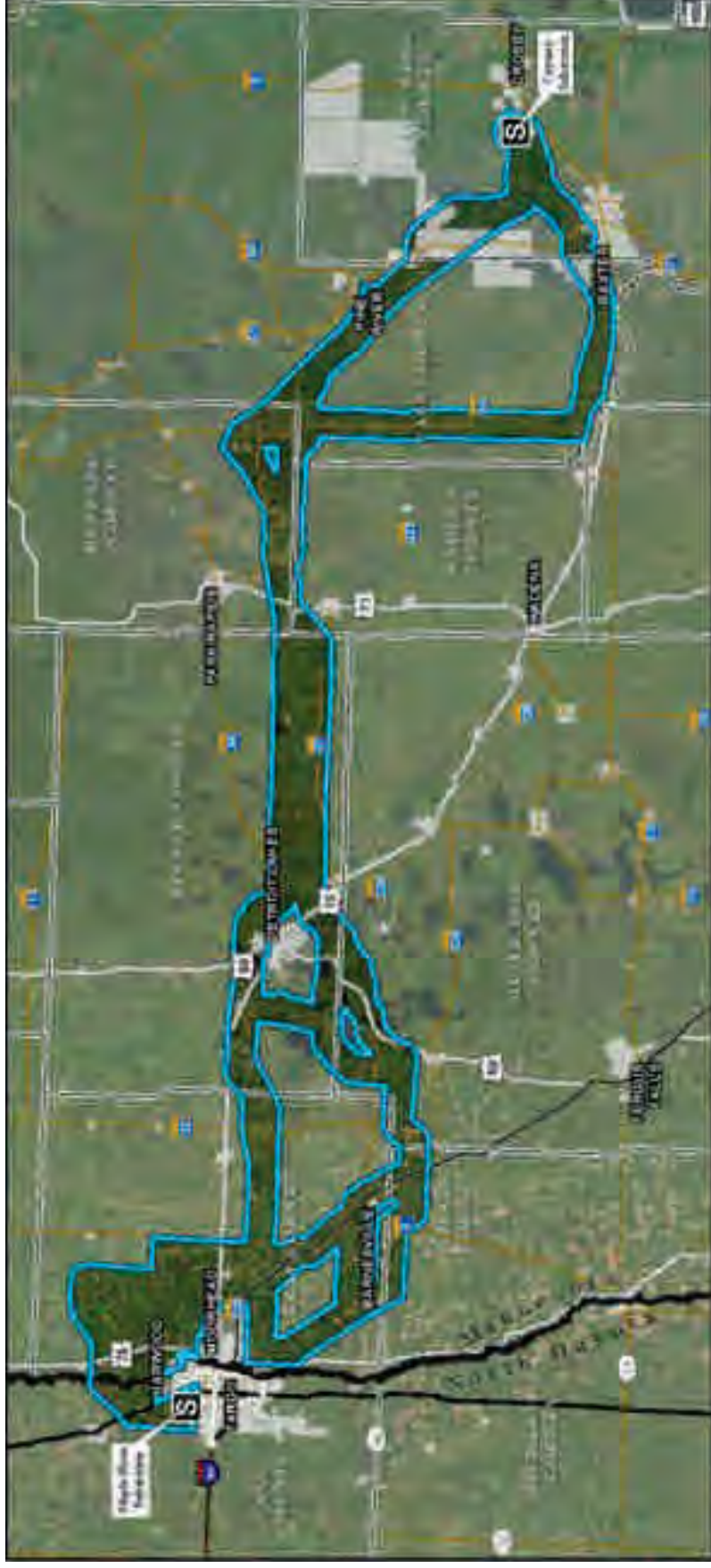
What We've Heard

- Adjacent to proposed or existing projects
- Existing transmission lines on property
- Public lands
- Population proximity
- Cultural Resources

CON Notice Area with Preliminary Routes



Project Preliminary Routes – October 2025



The Preliminary Routes will be evaluated and refined into a preferred route based on stakeholder feedback and engineering and construction considerations

Project Timeline

2026-2028



2025

Stakeholder engagement and routing

Permitting, engineering, environmental surveys, ROW acquisition, and public engagement



2029-2032

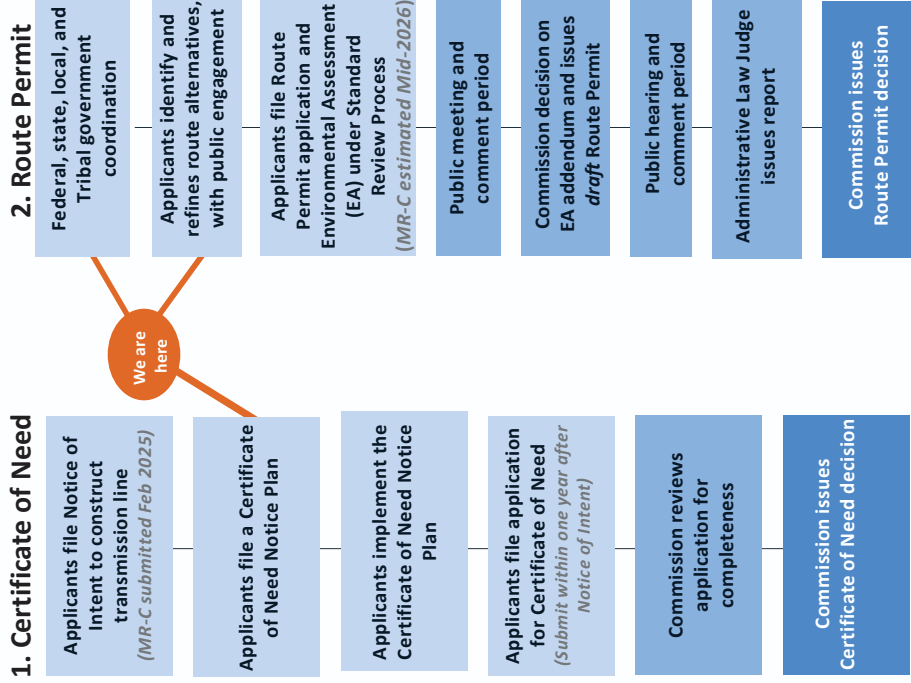
Construction

2033

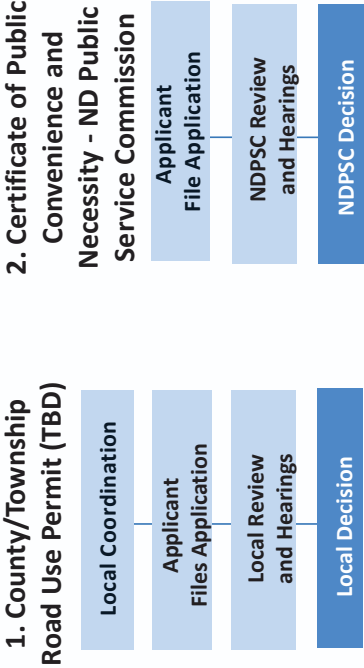
Anticipated in-service



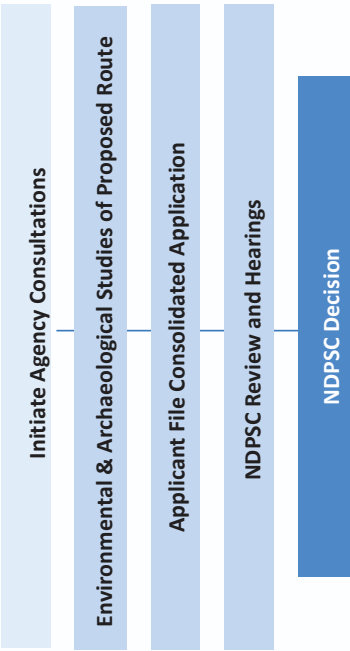
Minnesota Permitting Process



North Dakota Permitting Process



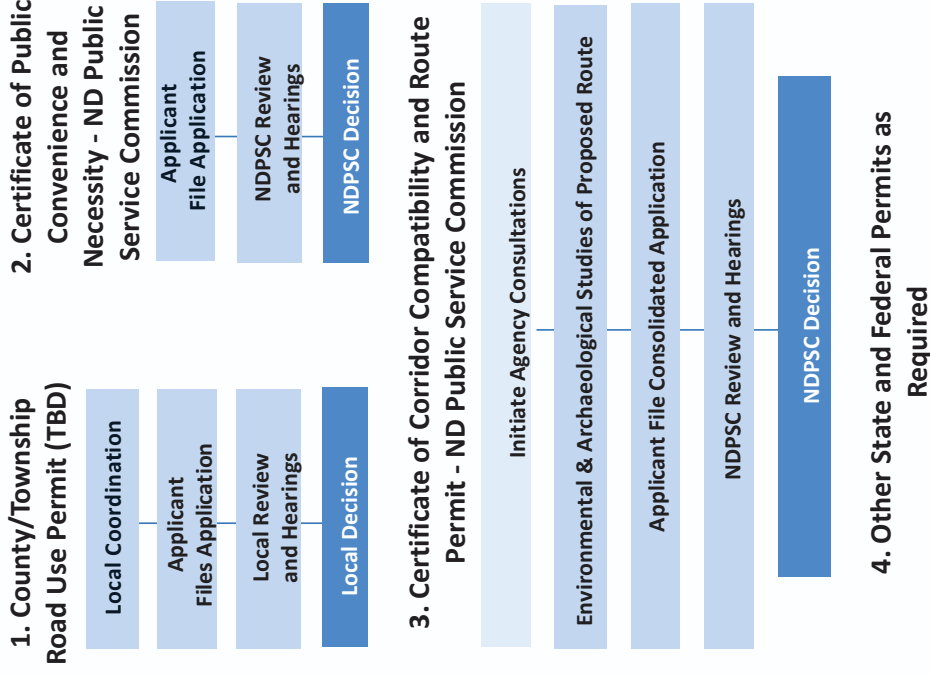
3. Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit - ND Public Service Commission



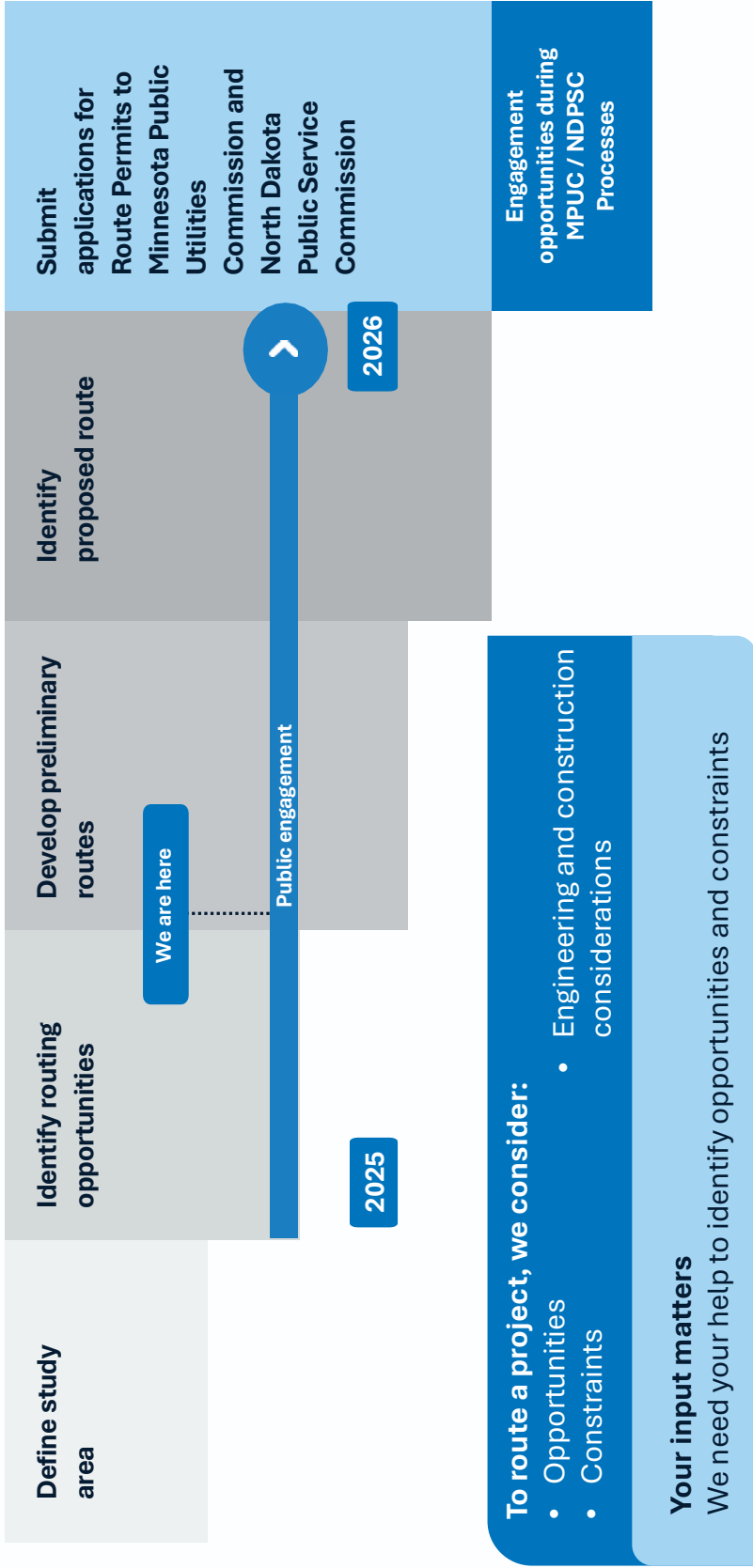
4. Other State and Federal Permits as Required



North Dakota Permitting Process



Our Routing Process



Routing Process Considerations

The routing process is a combination of routing criteria found in Minnesota and North Dakota statutes and regulations, engineering requirements, constructability needs, and cost considerations. To route a project, we consider:

- Opportunities
- Constraints
- Engineering and construction considerations
- Public input

Anticipated Studies

Field surveys allow the Project team to verify or collect new information to help minimize impacts for construction of the transmission line. Studies may include:

- Geotechnical
- Cultural resources
- Wetland and waterbodies
- Invasive species
- Protected species
- Raptor nests



Cypripedium reginae

345 kV Transmission Line Right-of-Way

What is a right-of-way?

A right-of-way, or ROW, is a strip of land used for a specific purpose such as the construction, operation and maintenance of a road or transmission line. A right-of-way is typically secured as an easement on a property.

What is an easement?

An agreement between the utility and the landowner allowing the utility the right to construct, operate and maintain a transmission line and other associated infrastructure on a property.

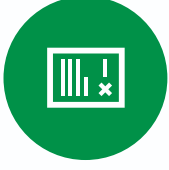
Our Right-of-Way Acquisition Process



When there is a proposed route, landowners are contacted to begin the ROW acquisition process.



An easement is presented to a landowner. An offer based on fair market value is presented.



We work closely with the landowner to resolve concerns and reach an agreement. An easement is recorded.



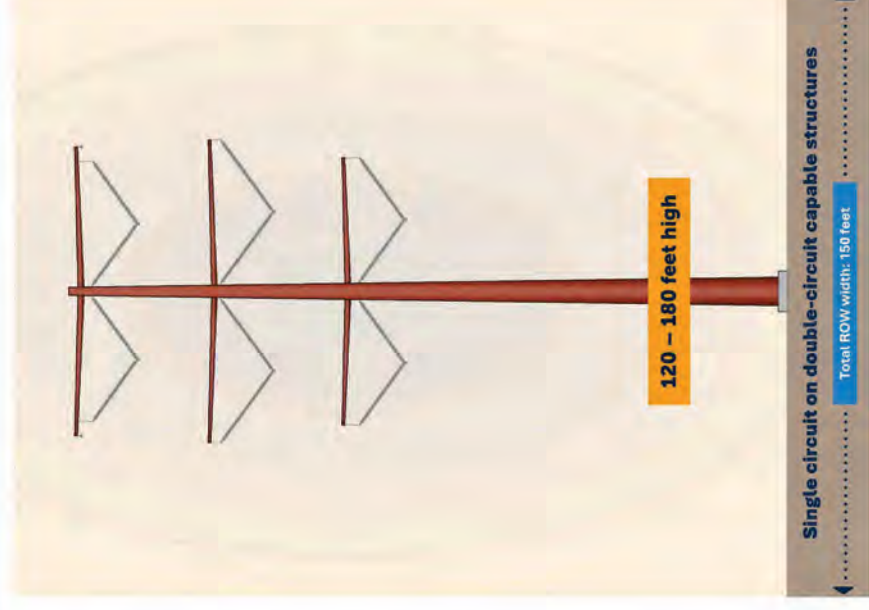
The Project owners construct, operate, and maintain the transmission line within the ROW.

Typical Design

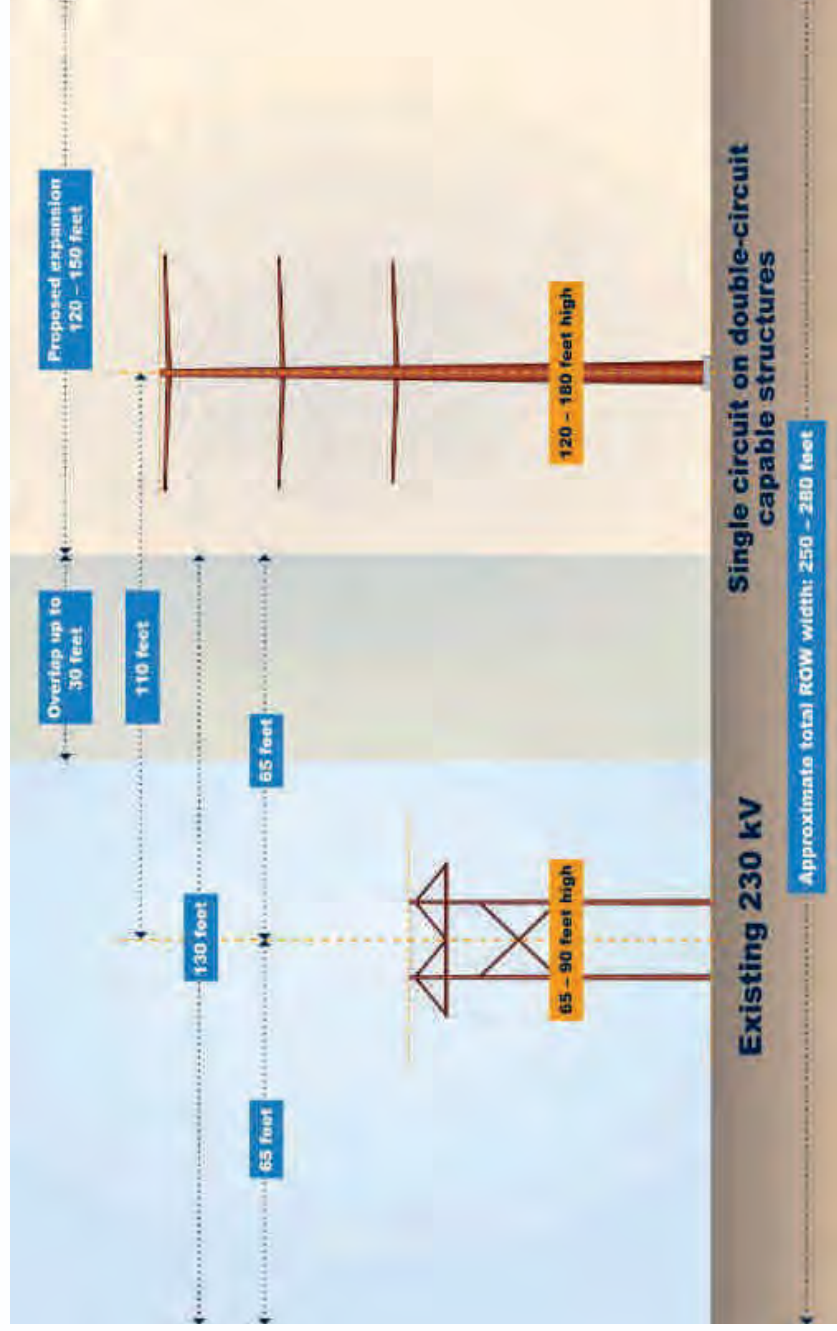
Structure type factors:

- Land use/land cover
- Topography
- Water/wetlands
- Soil types

Right-of-Way (ROW) Typical Construction



Typical Design for Colocation



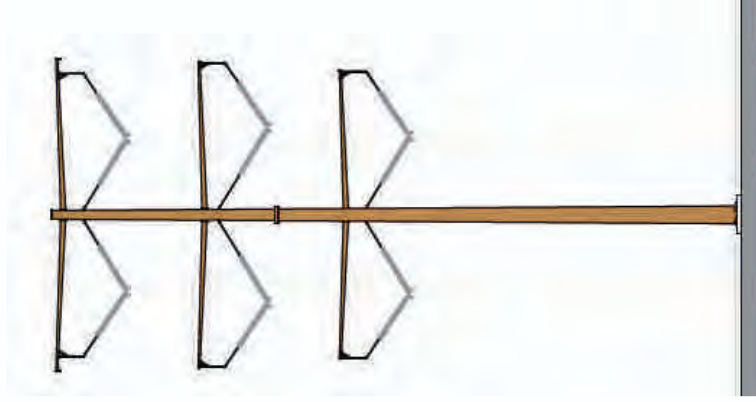
Minimum right-of-way: 250 feet

Avg structures per mile: 5 to 7

Typical height: 120 to 180 feet

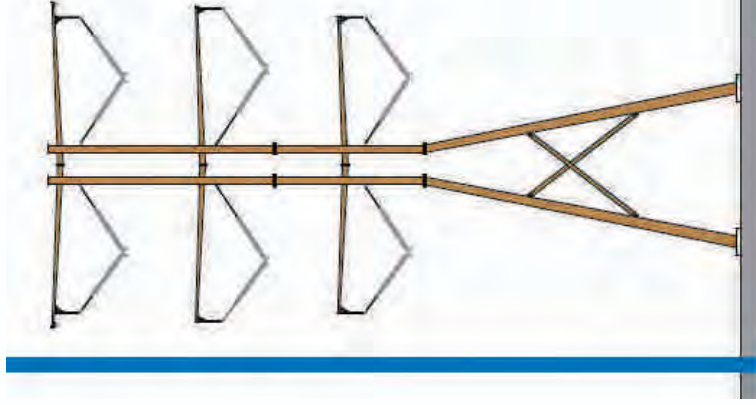
Potential Structure Design Concepts

Tubular Monopole

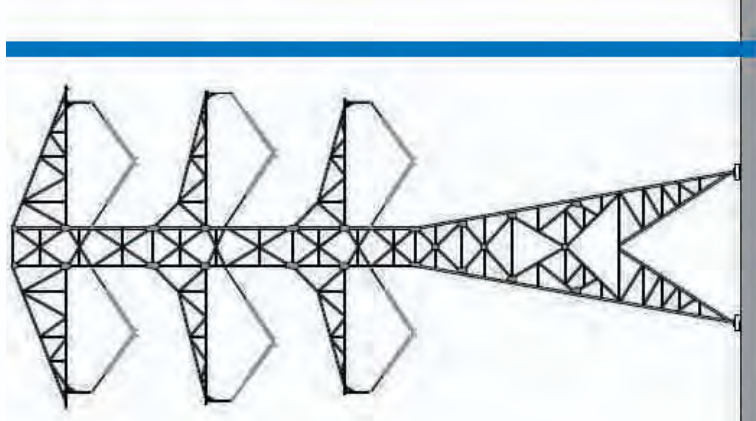


Preferred Design

Tubular Lattice Tower

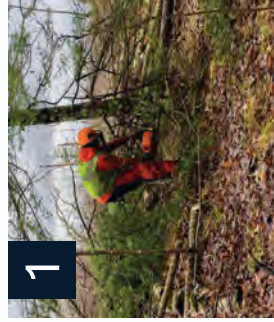


Lattice Tower

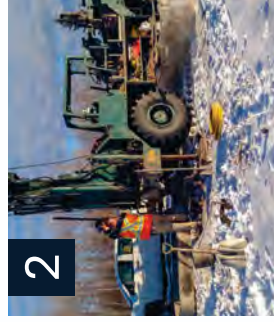


Site-Specific Alternatives

Typical Preconstruction and Construction Activities



1 Initial surveying, right-of-way clearing and access routes

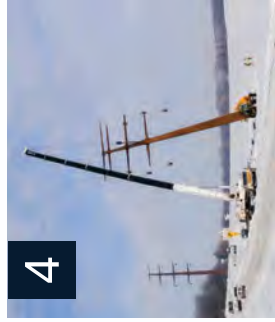


2 Structure staking, surveying and soils investigations as needed

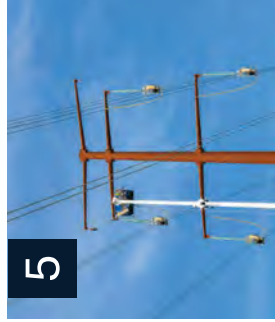


3 Foundation installation

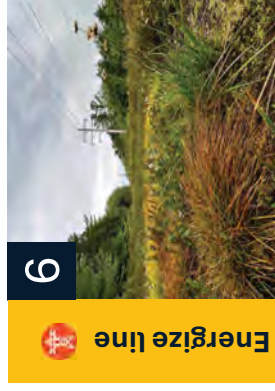
Foundation type may vary depending on structure



4 Assemble and set structures



5 Wire installation



6 Cleanup and restoration

Connect with Us!



- Email the project team:
connect@MRCTransmissionProject.com
- Call the project hotline: **1-888-419-5670**
- Sign up to receive project updates or submit a comment: **MRCTransmissionProject.com/contact-us**

You can also sign up to receive updates from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

Visit **edockets.state.mn.us/documents** and enter the docket number:

- Certificate of Need docket number 25-109

Thank you!

Minnesota Power an ALLETE Company's Post



Minnesota Power an ALLETE Company

October 2 · 🌐

...

Minnesota Power, [Otter Tail Power Company](#), and [Great River Energy](#) will host a second round of open houses in October. Community members and landowners can ask questions and provide feedback on preliminary routes for the Maple River – Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Project.

The MR-C Project is a new transmission line that will run about 160 miles from Minnesota Power's Cuyuna Substation near Riverton, Minnesota, to Otter Tail Power's Maple River Substation near Fargo, North Dakota.

This second round of public open houses will help identify the proposed route that will be in the route permit applications submitted to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2026.

The open house schedule is below. Project displays and detailed maps will be available for review, and project team members will be on hand to answer questions.

For more information and to view a map of the preliminary routes, visit <https://ow.ly/WN7o50X5Eul>.

To ask a question, leave a comment, or be added to the project mailing list, email connect@mrctransmissionproject.com or call the project hotline at 1-888-419-5670.



MRCTRANSMISSIONPROJECT.COM

MR-C Transmission Project – A Minnesota Power Project

To maintain a reliable, resilient and flexible grid for customers and communities, Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Great River Energy are investing in transmission infrastructure. The MR-C Transmission Project is an important part of supporting and strengthening the grid as the demand...

👍 15

Maple River – Cuyuna Certificate of Need Application
Docket No. E015,ET2,E017/CN-25-109

6 shares

👍 Like

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Appendix M
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