

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA

COUNTY OF HENNEPIN

)
) ss.

RE: Great River Energy and Xcel Energy's
Application for a Route Permit – Brookings
County to Hampton 345 kV Transmission
Project

MPUC Docket No. ET2/TL-08-1474

I, Krista Benjamin, being first duly sworn on oath, deposes and states that on the 30th day of December, 2009, the following were mailed by United States first class mail, postage prepaid thereon, to the parties on the attached Service List:

Notice of New Route Alignment Proposal near Le Sueur for the Brookings County to
Hampton 345 kV Transmission Project

Krista Benjamin

SWORN TO BEFORE ME this
30th day of December, 2009.

Victoria Ely
NOTARY PUBLIC



VICTORIA ELY
NOTARY PUBLIC - MINNESOTA

My Commission Expires Jan. 31, 2010

Service List for New Route Alignment near Le Sueur

Name	Address	Address 2	City	State	Zip
ADAMS,MARION	183 FOREST PRAIRIE RD		LE SUEUR	MN	56058
BAULEKE,WAYNE L & JOANN	400 MYRICK ST		LE SUEUR	MN	56058
BIMEDA INC	291 FOREST PRAIRIE RD		LE SUEUR	MN	56058
DAHN,EDWARD L & JUDITH ANN	7733 COUNTY RD 65 NE		DEER RIVER	MN	56636
EASTERLUND PROPERTIES LLC	7539 XERXES AVE S		RICHFIELD	MN	55423
EDBLUM,THOMAS	323 MYRICK ST		LE SUEUR	MN	56058
HENNEN,DAVID J & FRANCES	307 MYRICK ST		LE SUEUR	MN	56058
KATZENMEYER,MARK W	450 MYRICK ST		LE SUEUR	MN	56058
LE SUEUR,CITY OF		PO BOX 176	LE SUEUR	MN	56058
LIND,JARED & RETA	29401 320 TH ST		LE SUEUR	MN	56058
PAPER TRUST	25750 JOHNSON MEMORIAL DR		BELLE PLAINE	MN	56011
PREUHS,RICHARD C		PO BOX 187	EAGLE RIVER	WI	54521
WITT,GARY R & SUSAN	29439 320TH ST		LE SUEUR	MN	56058
MICHELS, GLEN E. & MARY M.	29779 ST THOMAS RD		LE SUEUR	MN	56059



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December 30, 2009

RE: NOTICE OF ALTERNATIVE ROUTE ALIGNMENT POTENTIALLY AFFECTING YOUR PROPERTY

Dear Landowner:

Great River Energy, a Minnesota cooperative corporation, and Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (collectively, the Applicants), on behalf of themselves and other CapX2020 utilities, filed an application for a Route Permit with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) on December 29, 2008 for the Brookings County-Hampton 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line project (Project). In the application, two routes, a Preferred Route and an Alternate Route, were proposed and landowners adjacent to these routes received mailed notice of the application.

Throughout the routing process, we have continued to meet with the public, affected stakeholders, and state and federal agencies to provide information and obtain input on possible alignment proposals. Recent meetings and discussions with some agencies have resulted in areas where new potential alignments for the 345-kV transmission line project are proposed, one of which may involve a portion of your property. In light of these discussions, these alternatives are now being reviewed as possible alignments in the Route Permit Proceeding by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

Based on landowner parcel lists maintained by the affected county, it has been determined that a portion of your land is within a new route alignment alternative (see attached map). Overview maps of the Project are also enclosed.

Project Location

The proposed project includes approximately 240 miles of 345-kV transmission line as follows:

- 210 miles of 345-kV transmission line between the existing Brookings County Substation near White, South Dakota and a new Hampton Substation in Dakota County, Minnesota.
- An approximately 25-mile 345-kV transmission line from the existing Lyon County Substation near Marshall to a new Hazel Creek Substation southwest of Granite Falls, and an approximately 5-mile, 345-kV transmission line from the Hazel Creek Substation to the existing Minnesota Valley Substation. The Lyon County-Hazel Creek-Minnesota Valley segments will replace the existing Lyon County-Minnesota Valley 115-kV line.

The new proposed alignment alternative that may affect your property follows the north side of the U.S. Highway 169 corridor across the Minnesota River. Approximately 900 feet west of the State Highway 112 exit ramp, the proposed centerline heads southeast crossing U.S. Highway 169. After crossing U.S. 169, the route turns slightly, but remains in the southeast direction for 0.2 miles (approximately 1,250 feet), crossing State Highway 112 and into Mayo Park in the City of Le Sueur. The route continues through Mayo Park, turning east at Forest Prairie Road (County Road 28), paralleling the north side of the road a distance of approximately 0.27 miles (approximately 1,425 feet). The route then crosses Forest Prairie Road, turning in the southeast direction for 1,250 feet, crossing through a woodland bluff area and farm field line for approximately 4,275 feet. The route then follows Myrick Street for 0.4 miles (approximately 2,080 feet), where it heads directly east for 0.3 mile (approximately 1,900 feet) along a field line and narrow woodland, crossing an MCBS moderate biodiversity area, connecting with the Applicants' Modified Preferred route on 320th Street..

Once the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission makes a decision on the location or alignment of the transmission line, the Applicants will negotiate easements with landowners for all required right-of-way. There may be circumstances where Applicants will be required to exercise the right of eminent domain to acquire easements for the Project in accordance with their authority under State law pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 117.

Summary of Process to Date

Certificate of Need Process

The Project is one of three 345-kV transmission lines proposed by Capx2020, a joint initiative of 11 transmission-owning utilities in Minnesota and the surrounding region. The initiative is designed to expand the electricity infrastructure to ensure continued reliable service, meet the growth in electricity demand and support renewable energy expansion. The CapX2020 utilities include cooperatives, investor-owned and municipal utilities.

A Certificate of Need from the Commission is required for the project, and was granted by the Commission in May 2009 (MN PUC Docket No. ET-2/E-002/CN-06-1115) for the three 345-kV projects.

Route Permit Process

A Route Permit from the Commission is required before the Project can be constructed. The Power Plant Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E) and implementing rules in Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850 establish the requirements for submitting and processing a Route Permit application. The statutes and rules also establish notice requirements for various stages of the process.

The Route Permit application is being considered under the full permitting process in Minnesota Statute 216E.03 and Minnesota Rules parts 7850.1700 to 7850.2700. The Commission has accepted the Route Permit application as complete and make a decision on the route according to Minnesota Statutes Section 216E.03, subdivision 9 and Minnesota Rule 7850.2700, Subpart 1. The Project has been referred to Administrative Law Judge Richard Luis of the Office of Administrative Hearings. Judge

Luis has managed public hearings, including presiding over submission of testimony and exhibits and other procedural issues.

Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

In March and April of 2009, the Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security (OES) held public meetings to provide information and seek public comment on the scope of the EIS that OES is preparing for the Project. The EIS Scoping Decision is published on the PUC web site at

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/documents/19860/08-1474%20FINAL%20EIS%20SCOPE%20063009.pdf> .

The EIS examines the land use and environmental issues associated with the routes proposed by the utilities and other route alternatives. A draft EIS was published in October 2009. The OES then held public meetings on the draft EIS in November, 2009. A final EIS is expected to be issued at the end of January, 2010.

Public Hearings on the Route Permit Application

Public and evidentiary hearings were held throughout the project area in November and December, 2009. **Written comments on the project can still be submitted to Judge Luis through January 29, 2010.** Comments can be sent to:

Office of Administrative Hearings
Attn: Judge Richard Luis
PO Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55164

Via email at: capx.oah@state.mn.us

Via fax to: 651-361-7936

Comments must be received by 4:30 pm on January 29, 2010 to be included in the record.

Please include the docket number of the Project on all correspondence:
Brookings Transmission Line Project: Docket No. 08-1474.

Based on public input and review of the record, Judge Luis will make a recommendation to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (the Commission) on the location of the Project route. The Commission will make a final decision on the Route Permit Application, including which route to follow. That decision is expected in late Spring 2010.

The Project Contact List

If you wish to receive written notice of project milestones regarding the environmental review process, including notice of the availability of the final EIS, please sign up for the Project Contact List at <http://energyfacilities.puc.stat.mn.us/>.

Additional information is available on the CapX2020 web site at www.capx2020.com, and you can also contact the CapX2020 utilities at:

CapX2020
Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Blvd.
Maple Grove, MN 55369
1-888-473-2279
brookingsinfo@CapX2020.com

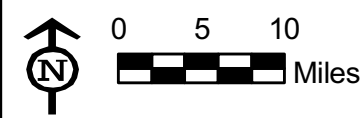
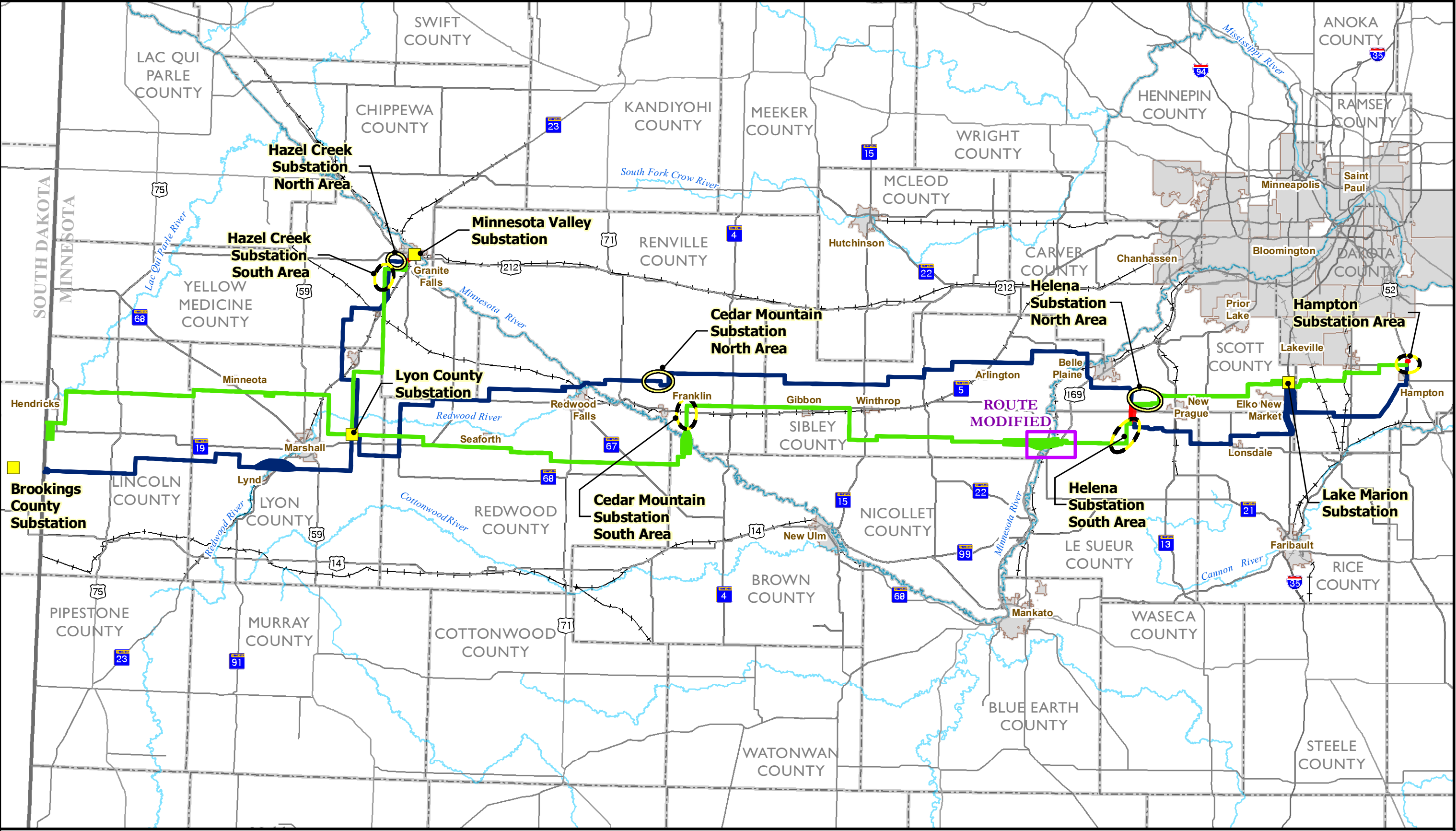
Regards,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Leshner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Dan Leshner
Routing Team Lead
CapX2020

Map Document: (\\mspe-gis-file\gisproj\GRE\64620\map_docs\mxdpublic_and_newsletters\newsletters\2009_Dec\map_11x17_L_overview_all_highlight_Myrick.mxd) 12/29/2009 - 11:29:48 AM

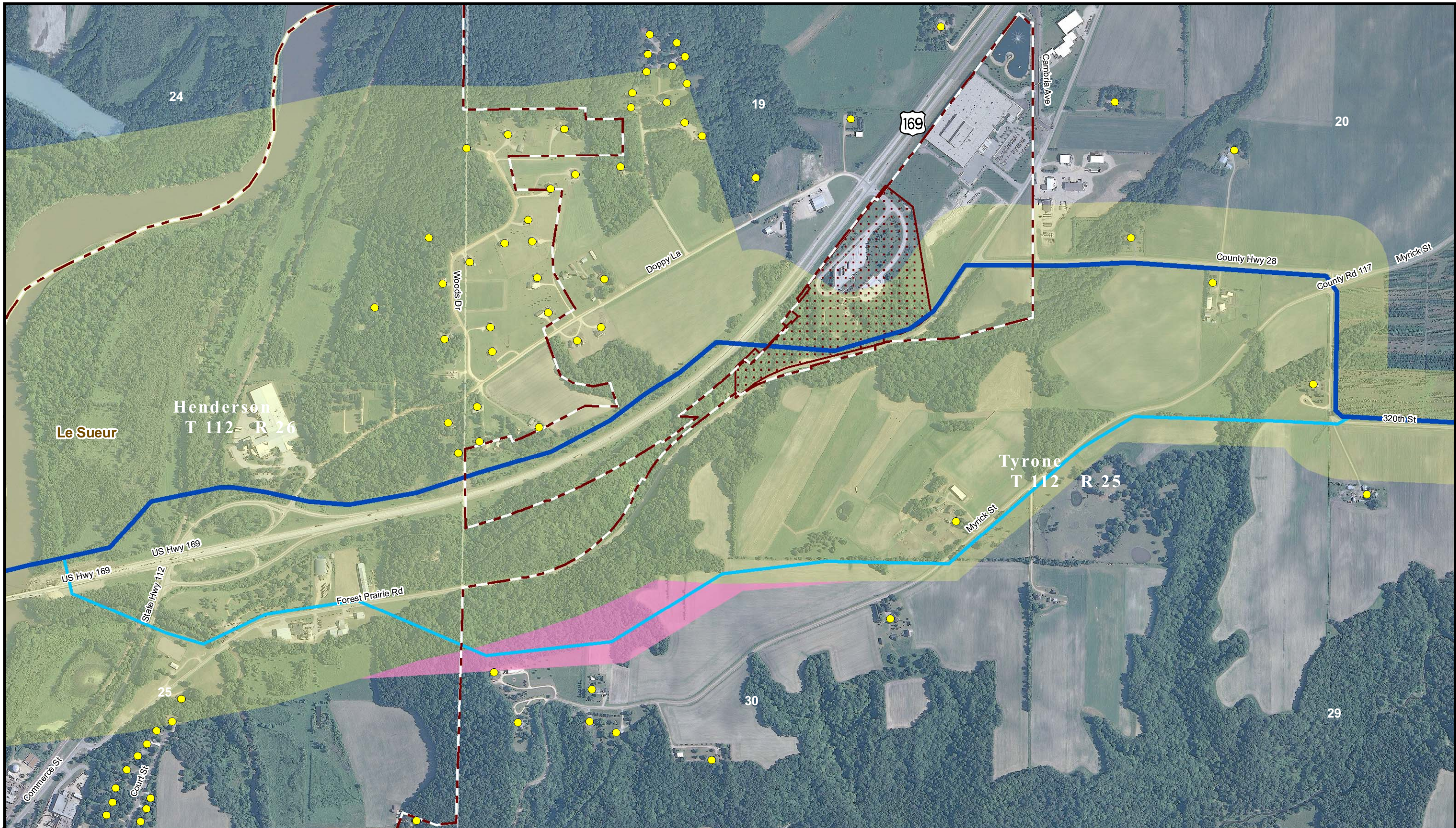


- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Project Substations | Modified Preferred |
| Preferred Substation Area | Both Preferred and Alternate |
| Alternate Substation Area | Alternate |

Overview Map
Route Modification Location

Brookings County - Hampton
345 kV Transmission Line

Map Document: (\\mspe-gis-file\gisproj\GRE64620\map_docs\mxd\public_and_newsletters\newsletter\routes\2009_Dec\map_11x17L_MyrickSt_alignment.mxd)
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0 500 1,000 Feet

- Modified Proposed Centerline
- Modified Preferred Route
- Myrick Street Alignment Alternative
- Route Modification Post Route Permit Application

- MnDOT Rest Area
- City
- Residence

Myrick Street Alignment Alternative
Le Sueur County, MN

Brookings County - Hampton
345 kV Transmission Line