

APPENDIX B

NOTICES/AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE

Public Meeting
Thursday, March 30, 2006
7:00 pm to 8:30 pm
Straight River Township Hall

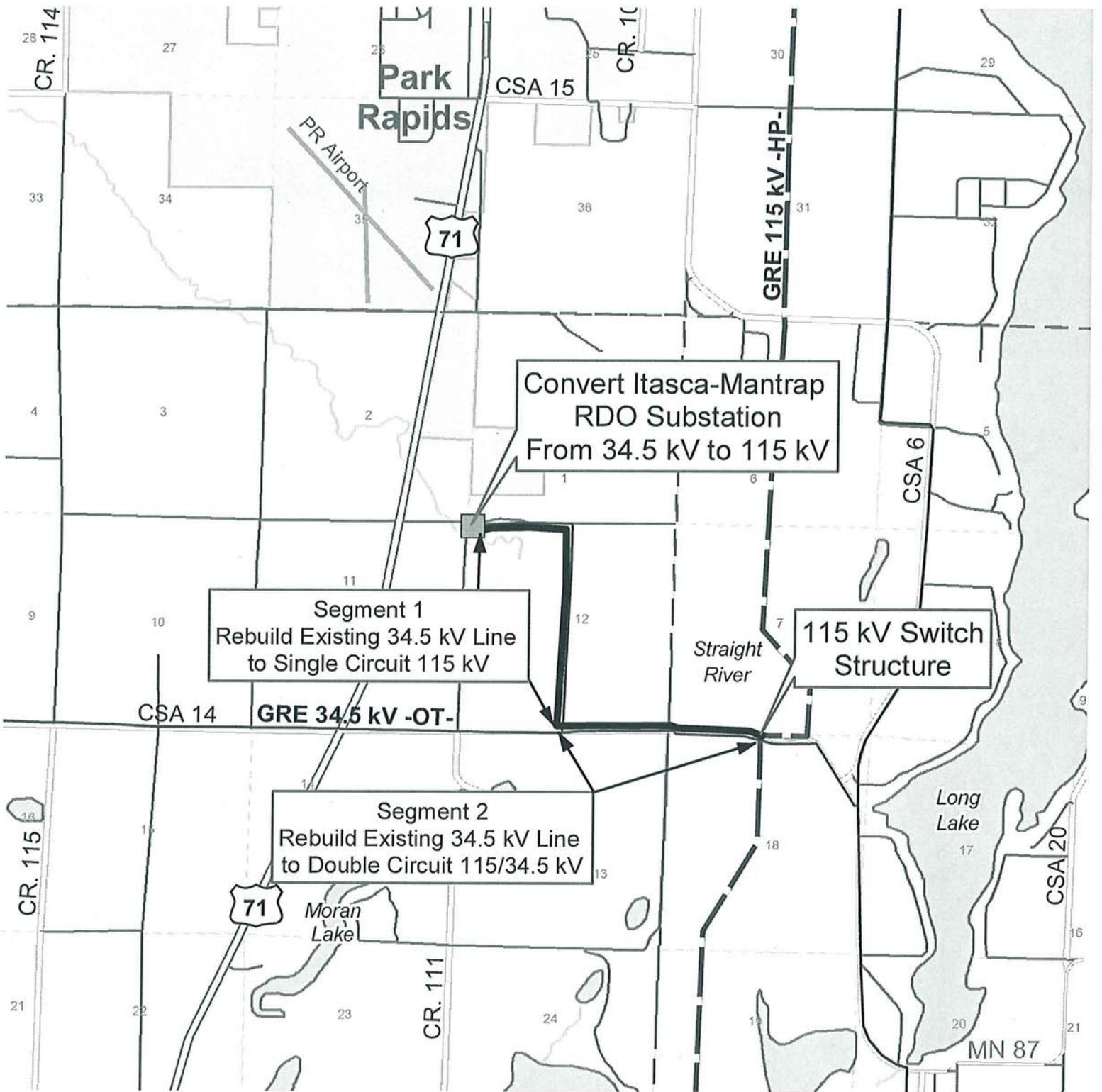
Great River Energy (GRE) and Itasca-Mantrap's (I-M)
RDO Substation and Transmission Line Project

In order to meet increased electrical demands and insure the reliable delivery of electric capacity to the customers of Itasca-Mantrap Co-op (I-M) in the Park Rapids area, it will be necessary to upgrade the voltage at the I-M RDO Substation from 34.5 kV to 115 kV. The Great River Energy transmission line that presently feeds this substation will also be upgraded from 34.5 kV to 115 kV.

Itasca-Mantrap Coop will convert the existing transformer at the RDO Substation from the present voltage of 34.5 kV to 115 kV. GRE will convert and upgrade the existing transmission line from 34.5 kV to 115 kV. A portion of this new transmission line will involve a one-mile segment of double circuit 115/34.5 line (see the map below).

Great River Energy will hold an informal public meeting to solicit public input in developing the Environmental Assessment for the project. The meeting is also open to all persons having an interest in the project. The meeting will be held on Thursday, March 30th 2006 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Straight River Township Hall.

If you cannot attend this meeting, but would like to receive additional information, please call Eric Quale at Itasca-Mantrap at 218-732-0695 or Gary Ostrom at 763-241-2377 or 1-800-442-3013 ext. 2377.



RECEIVED

MAR 08 2006

LAND RIGHTS

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the town board of Straight River, Hubbard County, Minnesota, received a request from Great River Energy to issue a resolution to work on a substation upgrade and rebuild existing lines for RDO Company and residents

WHEREAS, the township of Straight River assumes no liability for stray voltages or any other damages

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Straight River town board, Hubbard County, Minnesota, that the town board hereby poses no objection to Great River Energy to go forth with their plans to upgrade substation and rebuild existing lines.

Adopted this 6 day of March 2006.

Howard Warmbold Howard Warmbold, Chairman

Janice Falk Janice Falk, Clerk



Minnesota Department of Transportation

Office of Aeronautics
Mail Stop 410
222 East Plato Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55107-1618

Phone: 651/296-8202
Phone: 651/297-1600
Fax: 651/297-5643
Fax: 651/296-1828

November 15, 2005

(651) 296-8150

Carole L. Schmidt, Environmental Scientist
Great River Energy
17845 E. Highway 10
PO Box 800
Elk River, MN 55330-0800

RECEIVED NOV 16 2005

Subject: Park Rapids Municipal Airport
Proposed RDO Substation and Transmission Line Upgrade

Dear Ms. Schmidt:

We have reviewed the proposal submitted with your letter of November 10, 2005, for the rebuilding of the substation and the powerlines in the approach to Runway End 31 at the Park Rapids Municipal Airport. The location of the substation and the lines would not appear to interfere with the operations at the airport. They would also conform to the use restrictions of the land and the proposed structure heights would not penetrate any of the height limitation surfaces as identified in the airport zoning ordinance. Our office does not have any objection to the proposed improvements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'James D. Groehler'.

James D. Groehler, P.E.
Regional Airport Engineer



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

December 12, 2005

Ms. Carole Schmidt
Great River Energy
PO Box 800
Elk River, MN 55330-0800

RE: Proposed RDO Substation and Transmission Line Upgrade
T139 R35 S12 & T139 R34 S7, Hubbard County
SHPO Number: 2006-0608

Dear Ms. Schmidt:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the above project. It has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Officer by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (36CFR800).

Based on available information, we conclude that **no properties** eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places will be affected by the above project.

Please contact Dennis Gimmestad at (651) 296-5462 if you have any questions regarding our review of this project.

Sincerely,

Britta L. Bloomberg
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Schmidt, Carole GRE/ER

From: Sarah Hoffmann [sarah.hoffmann@dnr.state.mn.us]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2005 9:36 AM
To: Schmidt, Carole GRE/ER
Cc: Matthew Langan
Subject: Itasca-Mantrap Substation and Transmission Line Upgrade

Ms. Schmidt,

I have reviewed the letter and maps you sent regarding the RDO substation and transmission line upgrade project in Hubbard County. We do not have any concern with the project from an endangered species or native plant community perspective.

Thank you for consulting us on this matter.

Sarah D. Hoffmann
Endangered Species Environmental Review Coordinator
NHIS Data Distribution Coordinator
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Natural Heritage & Nongame Research Program
500 Lafayette Rd., Box 25
St. Paul, MN 55155
Phone: 651/259-5107 (NEW PHONE NUMBER)
Fax: 651/296-1811
Email: sarah.hoffmann@dnr.state.mn.us



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ST. PAUL DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS CENTRE
190 FIFTH STREET EAST
ST. PAUL MN 55101-1638

March 1, 2006

RECEIVED MAR 03 2006

REPLY TO
ATTENTION

Operations
Regulatory (2006-1012-WAB)

Ms. Carole Schmidt
Great River Energy
PO Box 800
Elk River, Minnesota 55330-0800

Dear Ms. Schmidt:

We have received your letter dated November 10, 2005, requesting comments for an electrical upgrade project near Park Rapids. The project includes an upgrade to an existing substation and approximately 2.5 miles of electrical lines. The letter provides general location and project information. As a result, the Corps of Engineers provides the following general information concerning our regulatory program that may apply to the proposed project.

If the proposal involves deposition of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including discharges associated with mechanical land clearing, it may be subject to the Corps of Engineers' jurisdiction under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA Section 404). Waters of the United States include navigable waters, their tributaries, and adjacent wetlands (33 CFR § 328.3). CWA Section 301(a) prohibits discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, unless the work has been authorized by a Department of the Army permit under Section 404. Information about the Corps permitting process can be obtained online at <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/regulatory>.

The Corps' evaluation of a Section 404 permit application involves multiple analyses, including (1) evaluating the proposal's impacts in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (33 CFR part 325), (2) determining whether the proposal is contrary to the public interest (33 CFR § 320.4), and (3) in the case of a Section 404 permit, determining whether the proposal complies with the Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines (Guidelines) (40 CFR part 230).

If the proposal requires a Section 404 permit application, the Guidelines specifically require that "no discharge of dredged or fill material shall be permitted if there is a practicable alternative to the proposed discharge which would have less adverse impact on the aquatic ecosystem, so long as the alternative does not have other significant adverse environmental consequences" (40 CFR § 230.10(a)).

If an application for a Corps permit has not yet been submitted, the project proposer may request a pre-application consultation meeting with the Corps to obtain information regarding the data, studies or other information that will be necessary for the permit evaluation process. A pre-application consultation meeting is strongly recommended if the proposal has substantial impacts to waters of the United States, or if it is a large or controversial project.

For further information or to request a pre-application consultation meeting, please contact Bill Baer at 218-829-2711, the Corps' project manager for the County in which this proposal is located.

Sincerely,

William Baer
for

Robert J. Whiting
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Schmidt, Carole GRE/ER

From: Paul_Burke@fws.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2006 8:41 AM
To: Schmidt, Carole GRE/ER
Subject: RE: RDO project



RDOFWS.doc (34
KB)



RDOFactsheet11.4.
2005.pdf (240...

Dear Ms. Schmidt:

We have reviewed the information included with your November 10, 2005, transmittal, and we concur with your determination that the proposed upgrade of substation and transmission facilities in Hubbard County, Minnesota, will have no effect on federally-listed threatened and endangered species. This precludes further action as required under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. If new information becomes available that indicates that listed species may be affected, consultation must be reinitiated. Thank you, Paul J. Burke Biologist USFWS -- Twin Cities -ES Minnesota

"Schmidt, Carole
GRE/ER"
<cschmidt@GREnerg
y.com>

03/01/2006 08:25
AM

<Paul_Burke@fws.gov>

RE: RDO project

To

cc

Subject

Hi Paul - I was looking in my project file on the RDO project in Hubbard County and I do not seem to have a response from you. A letter on the project was sent to you on November 10, 2005. If you could just reply with an e-mail, that would be great. Thanks - Carole

(See attached file: RDOFWS.doc) (See attached file:
RDOFactsheet11.4.2005.pdf)

This message was scanned by U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Region 3 by Symantec Anti-Virus. Warning: Although we have taken reasonable precautions to ensure no viruses are present in this email, we cannot accept responsibility for any loss



Natural Resources Conservation Service

212 ½ West 2nd St
Park Rapids, MN 56470-1507
Phone: (218) 732-9723 ext. 3
FAX: (218) 732-3994

The Natural Resources Conservation Service
works hand-in-hand with the American people
to conserve natural resources on private lands.

March 8, 2006

Carole L. Schmidt, Environmental Scientist
17845 East Highway 10
P.O. Box 800
Elk River, MN 55330

Dear Ms Schmidt:

In reply to your letter dated November 10th 2005, concerning the proposed electrical upgrade project near Park Rapids, the areas depicted on your maps do include prime and/or Statewide Important Farmlands.

In our estimation, your construction plans and methods would have little or no effect on the prime and statewide important farmlands within or along the proposed routes.

Please refer to a copy of Public Law 97-98, and a copy of the AD-1006 form. You may wish to become familiar with these items as they pertain to the Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981.

A concern we feel you should be aware of, is the potential of soil erosion on construction sites. Care should be exercised during re-construction to minimize the potential of soil erosion.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to call me at (218) 732-9723 ext. 110.

Sincerely,

Russell D Johnson, District Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Park Rapids, MN 56470

Prime and other Important Farmlands

Hubbard County, Minnesota

Map symbol	Map unit name	Farmland classification
133B	Dalbo silt loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
167A	Baudette silt loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
267B	Snellman sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
709B	Lengby fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
820B	Potatolake very fine sandy loam, 1 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
1164	Zerkel loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
1272B	Sol fine sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
1294	Nary fine sandy loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
1319B	Rockwood sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, stony	All areas are prime farmland
1320B	Blowers sandy loam, 1 to 5 percent slopes, stony	All areas are prime farmland
1332B	Rockwood fine sandy loam, morainic, 3 to 8 percent slopes, stony	All areas are prime farmland
1336	Blowers fine sandy loam, morainic, 1 to 3 percent slopes, stony	All areas are prime farmland
1447	Beltrami very fine sandy loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
1460B	Nebish very fine sandy loam, moderately wet, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
82B	Redeye loamy sand, 1 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
82C	Redeye loamy sand, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
133C	Dalbo silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
139B	Huntersville loamy fine sand, 1 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
170	Blomford loamy fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
406A	Dorset sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
488	Becida fine sandy loam, morainic, 0 to 2 percent slopes, stony	Farmland of statewide importance
567A	Verndale sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
709C	Lengby fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
731A	Sanburn loamy sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
744B	Debs-Akeley complex, 1 to 8 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
775B	Sugarbush-Two Inlets complex, 1 to 8 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
778B	Dorset-Corliss complex, 1 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
820C	Potatolake very fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
831C	Akeley-Debs complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
844B	Sanburn-Graycalm complex, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
1126B	Verndale-Nymore complex, 1 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
1127A	Bootlake-Graycalm complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
1127B	Bootlake-Graycalm complex, 2 to 8 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
1319C	Rockwood sandy loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, stony	Farmland of statewide importance
1332C	Rockwood fine sandy loam, morainic, 8 to 15 percent slopes, stony	Farmland of statewide importance
1334	Huntersville loamy sand, 1 to 3 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
1421B	Rockwood-Two Inlets, morainic, complex, 3 to 8 percent slopes, stony	Farmland of statewide importance
1438B	Braham loamy fine sand, moderately wet, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
1440B	Redeye loamy sand, morainic, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
1440C	Redeye loamy sand, morainic, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
1444	Wurtsmith loamy sand, map 22-30, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
1460C	Nebish very fine sandy loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
1956	Staples loamy sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
147	Spooner silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
346	Talmoon loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
672	Wilosippi loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
1200	Egglake loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
1321	Paddock-Becida complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes, stony	Prime farmland if drained

Prime and other Important Farmlands

This table lists the map units in the survey area that are considered important farmlands. Important farmlands consist of prime farmland, unique farmland, and farmland of statewide or local importance. This list does not constitute a recommendation for a particular land use.

In an effort to identify the extent and location of important farmlands, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, in cooperation with other interested Federal, State, and local government organizations, has inventoried land that can be used for the production of the Nation's food supply.

"Prime farmland" is of major importance in meeting the Nation's short- and long-range needs for food and fiber. Because the supply of high-quality farmland is limited, the U.S. Department of Agriculture recognizes that responsible levels of government, as well as individuals, should encourage and facilitate the wise use of our Nation's prime farmland.

Prime farmland, as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and is available for these uses. It could be cultivated land, pastureland, forestland, or other land, but it is not urban or built-up land or water areas. The soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply are those needed for the soil to economically produce sustained high yields of crops when proper management, including water management, and acceptable farming methods are applied. In general, prime farmland has an adequate and dependable supply of moisture from precipitation or irrigation, a favorable temperature and growing season, acceptable acidity or alkalinity, an acceptable salt and sodium content, and few or no rocks. The water supply is dependable and of adequate quality. Prime farmland is permeable to water and air. It is not excessively erodible or saturated with water for long periods, and it either is not frequently flooded during the growing season or is protected from flooding. Slope ranges mainly from 0 to 6 percent. More detailed information about the criteria for prime farmland is available at the local office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

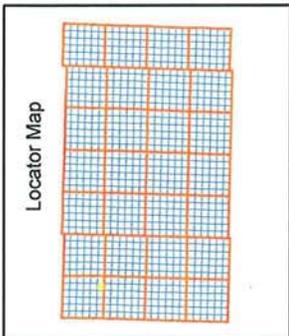
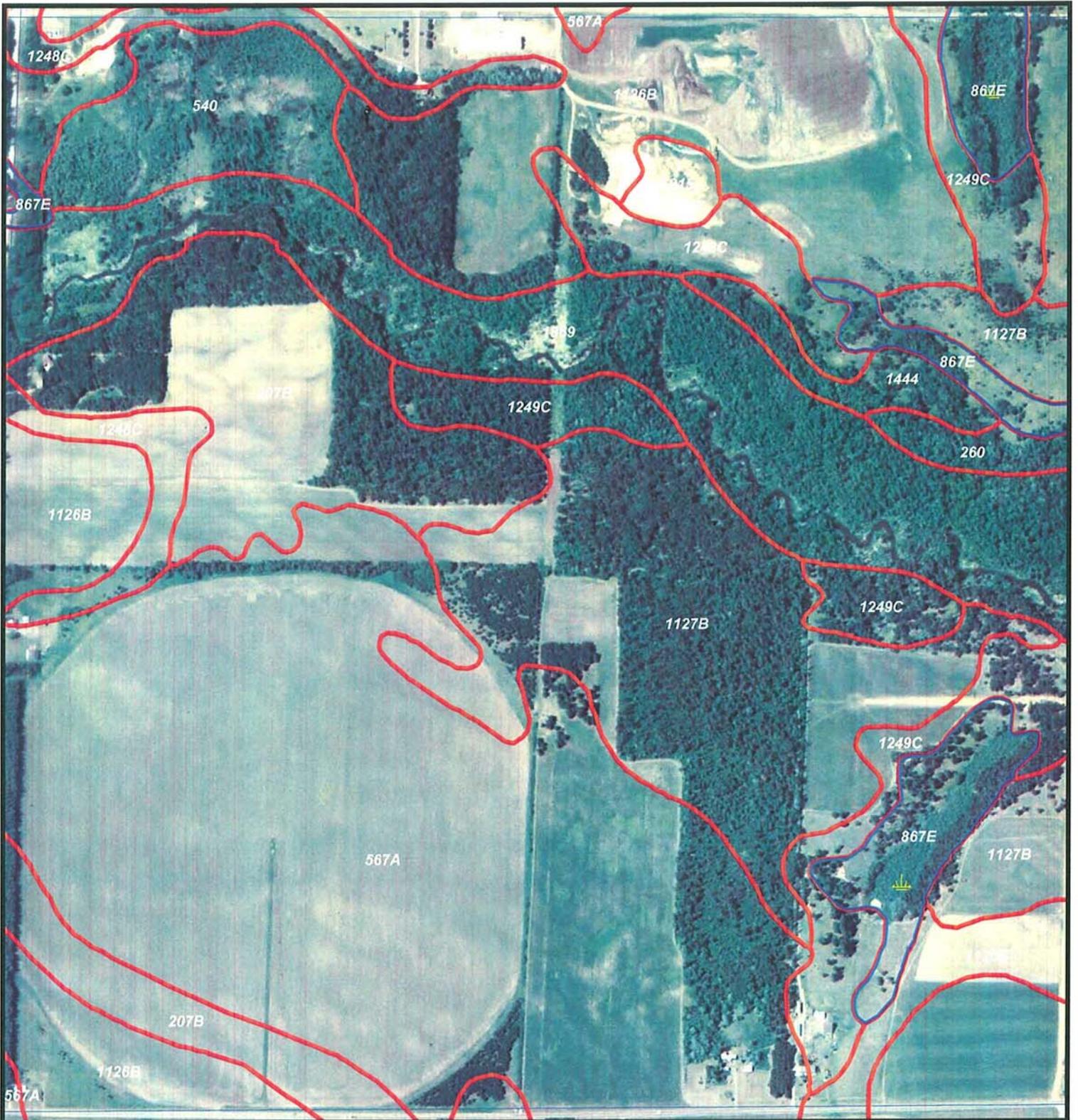
For some of the soils identified in the table as prime farmland, measures that overcome a hazard or limitation, such as flooding, wetness, and droughtiness, are needed. Onsite evaluation is needed to determine whether or not the hazard or limitation has been overcome by corrective measures.

A recent trend in land use in some areas has been the loss of some prime farmland to industrial and urban uses. The loss of prime farmland to other uses puts pressure on marginal lands, which generally are more erodible, droughty, and less productive and cannot be easily cultivated.

"Unique farmland" is land other than prime farmland that is used for the production of specific high-value food and fiber crops, such as citrus, tree nuts, olives, cranberries, and other fruits and vegetables. It has the special combination of soil quality, growing season, moisture supply, temperature, humidity, air drainage, elevation, and aspect needed for the soil to economically produce sustainable high yields of these crops when properly managed. The water supply is dependable and of adequate quality. Nearness to markets is an additional consideration. Unique farmland is not based on national criteria. It commonly is in areas where there is a special microclimate, such as the wine country in California.

In some areas, land that does not meet the criteria for prime or unique farmland is considered to be "farmland of statewide importance" for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. The criteria for defining and delineating farmland of statewide importance are determined by the appropriate State agencies. Generally, this land includes areas of soils that nearly meet the requirements for prime farmland and that economically produce high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. Some areas may produce as high a yield as prime farmland if conditions are favorable. Farmland of statewide importance may include tracts of land that have been designated for agriculture by State law.

In some areas that are not identified as having national or statewide importance, land is considered to be "farmland of local importance" for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. This farmland is identified by the appropriate local agencies. Farmland of local importance may include tracts of land that have been designated for agriculture by local ordinance.



The United States Department of Agriculture
 Natural Resources Conservation Service

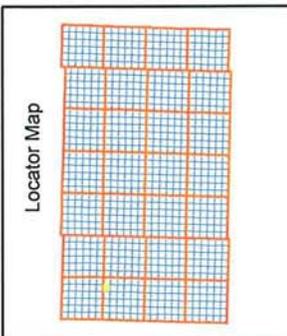
**Hubbard County
 Soils Map**
 Straight River --- T139 R35 S12

Mar 08, 2006
 1:7,920

	HEL Soils	featsym		Gravel Pit
	NHEL Soils			Marsh
	PHEL Soils			Sandspot
	Section Lines			Well drained



Maps are for graphical purposes only.
 They do not represent a legal survey.



The United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Hubbard County
 Soils Map**
 Hubbard --- T139 R34 S7

Mar 08, 2006
 1:7,920

	HEL Soils	featsym		Gravel Pit
	NHEL Soils			Marsh
	PHEL Soils			Sandspot
	Section Lines			Well drained



Maps are for graphical purposes only.
 They do not represent a legal survey.

567A-Verndale sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes

Composition

Verndale soil and similar soils: About 90 percent
Inclusions: About 10 percent

Setting

Landform: Outwash plains
Position on the landform: Flats

Component Description

Surface layer texture: Sandy loam
Drainage class: Somewhat excessively drained
Dominant parent material: Loamy mantle over sandy outwash
Water table depth: Greater than 6 feet
Available water capacity to 60 inches or root-limiting layer: About 5.5 inches
Organic matter content of the surface layer: About 2 to 4 percent (Moderate)

A typical soil series description with range in characteristics for each named component of this map unit is included, in alphabetical order, in this section.

Inclusions

- The moderately well drained Duelm soils are in swales
- The excessively drained Nymore soils are in similar landscape positions and have less clay in the subsoil
- Soils that have loamy underlying material

Interpretive Groups

Land capability classification: 3s
Windbreak suitability group: 7

867E-Graycalm-Menahga complex, 15 to 30 percent slopes

Composition

Graycalm soil and similar soils: About 50 percent
Menahga soil and similar soils: About 40 percent
Inclusions: About 10 percent

Setting

Landform: Outwash plains
Position on the landform:
 Graycalm - back slopes
 Menahga - summits and shoulders

Component Description

Graycalm

Surface layer texture: Loamy sand
Drainage class: Somewhat excessively drained
Dominant parent material: Sandy glacial drift
Water table depth: Greater than 6 feet
Available water capacity to 60 inches or root-limiting layer: About 3.8 inches
Organic matter content of the surface layer: About 0.5 to 2 percent (Low or moderately low)

Menahga

Surface layer texture: Loamy sand
Drainage class: Excessively drained
Dominant parent material: Sandy glacial outwash sediments
Water table depth: Greater than 6 feet
Available water capacity to 60 inches or root-limiting layer: About 3.7 inches
Organic matter content of the surface layer: About 0.5 to 2 percent (Low or moderately low)

A typical soil series description with range in characteristics for each named soil component of this map unit is included, in alphabetical order, in this section.

Inclusions

- The moderately well drained Wurtsmith soils are on foot slopes
- The poorly drained Roscommon soils are in swales
- Soils that have more clay in the subsoil
- Soils that have more than 15 percent gravel

Interpretive Groups

Land capability classification:

 Graycalm - 6s

 Menahga - 7s

Woodland ordination symbol:

 Graycalm - 7R

 Menahga - 6R

Windbreak suitability group: 7

1248C-Nymore-Verndale complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes

Composition

Nymore soil and similar soils: About 55 percent
Verndale soil and similar soils: About 35 percent
Inclusions: About 10 percent

Setting

Landform: Outwash plains
Position on the landform:
 Nymore - summits and shoulders
 Verndale - back slopes

Component Description

Nymore

Surface layer texture: Loamy sand
Drainage class: Excessively drained
Dominant parent material: Sandy glacial outwash
Water table depth: Greater than 6 feet
Available water capacity to 60 inches or root-limiting layer: About 3.5 inches
Organic matter content of the surface layer: About 1 to 3 percent
(Moderately low or moderate)

Verndale

Surface layer texture: Sandy loam
Drainage class: Somewhat excessively drained
Dominant parent material: Loamy mantle over sandy outwash
Water table depth: Greater than 6 feet
Available water capacity to 60 inches or root-limiting layer: About 5.5 inches
Organic matter content of the surface layer: About 2 to 4 percent
(Moderate)

A typical soil series description with range in characteristics for each named component of this map unit is included, in alphabetical order, in this section.

Inclusions

- The moderately well drained Duelm soils are in swales

Interpretive Groups

Land capability classification:
 Nymore - 6s
 Verndale - 4e
Woodland ordination symbol: Nymore - 6S
Windbreak suitability group: 7

1249C-Graycalm-Bootlake complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes

Composition

Graycalm soil and similar soils: About 55 percent
Bootlake soil and similar soils: About 35 percent
Inclusions: About 10 percent

Setting

Landform: Outwash plains
Position on the landform:
Graycalm - shoulders and back slopes
Bootlake - summits and foot slopes

Component Description

Graycalm

Surface layer texture: Loamy sand
Drainage class: Somewhat excessively drained
Dominant parent material: Sandy glacial drift
Water table depth: Greater than 6 feet
Available water capacity to 60 inches or root-limiting layer: About 3.8 inches
Organic matter content of the surface layer: About 0.5 to 2 percent
(Low or moderately low)

Bootlake

Surface layer texture: Sandy loam
Drainage class: Well drained
Dominant parent material: Loamy mantle over sandy outwash sediments
Water table depth: Greater than 6 feet
Available water capacity to 60 inches or root-limiting layer: About 3.7 inches
Organic matter content of the surface layer: About 1 to 2 percent
(Moderately low)

A typical soil series description with range in characteristics for each named component of this map unit is included, in alphabetical order, in this section.

Inclusions

- The moderately well drained Wurtsmith soils are on foot slopes
- The poorly drained Roscommon soils are on toe slopes

Interpretive Groups

Land capability classification:

Graycalm - 6s
Bootlake - 4e

Woodland ordination symbol:

Graycalm - 7A
Bootlake - 6A

Windbreak suitability group:

Graycalm - 7
Bootlake - 6G

1126B-Verndale-Nymore complex, 1 to 6 percent slopes

Composition

Verndale soil and similar soils: About 60 percent
Nymore soil and similar soils: About 30 percent
Inclusions: About 10 percent

Setting

Landform: Outwash plains

Position on the landform:

Verndale - back slopes

Nymore - summits and shoulders

Component Description

Verndale

Surface layer texture: Sandy loam

Drainage class: Somewhat excessively drained

Dominant parent material: Loamy mantle over sandy outwash

Water table depth: Greater than 6 feet

Available water capacity to 60 inches or root-limiting layer: About 5.5 inches

Organic matter content of the surface layer: About 2 to 4 percent (Moderate)

Nymore

Surface layer texture: Loamy sand

Drainage class: Excessively drained

Dominant parent material: Sandy glacial outwash

Water table depth: Greater than 6 feet

Available water capacity to 60 inches or root-limiting layer: About 3.5 inches

Organic matter content of the surface layer: About 1 to 3 percent (Moderately low or moderate)

A typical soil series description with range in characteristics for each named component of this map unit is included, in alphabetical order, in this section.

Inclusions

- The moderately well drained Duelm soils are in swales and have less clay in the subsoil
- Soils that have more than 15 percent gravel

Interpretive Groups

Land capability classification:

Verndale - 3s

Nymore - 4s

Woodland ordination symbol: Nymore - 6S

Windbreak suitability group: 7

1127B-Bootlake-Graycalm complex, 2 to 8 percent slopes

Composition

Bootlake soil and similar soils: About 60 percent
Graycalm soil and similar soils: About 30 percent
Inclusions: About 10 percent

Setting

Landform: Outwash plains

Position on the landform:

Bootlake - summits and foot slopes

Graycalm - back slopes and shoulders

Component Description

Bootlake

Surface layer texture: Sandy loam

Drainage class: Well drained

Dominant parent material: Loamy mantle over sandy outwash sediments

Water table depth: Greater than 6 feet

Available water capacity to 60 inches or root-limiting layer: About 3.7 inches

Organic matter content of the surface layer: About 1 to 2 percent
(Moderately low)

Graycalm

Surface layer texture: Loamy sand

Drainage class: Somewhat excessively drained

Dominant parent material: Sandy glacial drift

Water table depth: Greater than 6 feet

Available water capacity to 60 inches or root-limiting layer: About 3.8 inches

Organic matter content of the surface layer: About 0.5 to 2 percent
(Low or moderately low)

A typical soil series description with range in characteristics for each named component of this map unit is included, in alphabetical order, in this section.

Inclusions

- The moderately well drained Wurtsmith soils are on foot slopes
- The poorly drained Roscommon soils are in swales
- Soils that have more than 15 percent gravel

Interpretive Groups

Land capability classification:

Bootlake - 3s

Graycalm - 4s

Woodland ordination symbol:

Bootlake - 6A

Graycalm - 7A

Windbreak suitability group:

Bootlake - 6G

Graycalm - 7

1969-Evart-Isan complex, 0 to 1 percent slopes, channeled

Composition

Evart soil and similar soils: About 60 percent
Isan soil and similar soils: About 25 percent
Inclusions: About 15 percent

Setting

Landform: Floodplains

Position on the landform:

Evart - channel scars and depressions
Isan - flats

Component Description

Evart

Surface layer texture: Loam

Drainage class: Very poorly drained

Dominant parent material: Sandy alluvium

Flooding: Frequent

Water table depth: +1.0 to 1.0 foot

Available water capacity to 60 inches or root-limiting layer: About 5.9 inches

Organic matter content of the surface layer: About 1 to 6 percent
(Moderately low to high)

Isan

Surface layer texture: Sandy loam

Drainage class: Poorly drained

Dominant parent material: Sandy glacial outwash

Flooding: None

Water table depth: 0.5 to 1.5 feet

Available water capacity to 60 inches or root-limiting layer: About 4.5 inches

Organic matter content of the surface layer: About 3 to 10 percent
(Moderate to very high)

A typical soil series description with range in characteristics for each named component of this map unit is included, in alphabetical order, in this section.

Inclusions

- The moderately well drained Duelm soils are on rises
- The very poorly drained Nidaros soils are in similar landscape positions and have 16 to 51 inches of organic deposits over loamy and sandy sediments

Interpretive Groups

Land capability classification:

Evart - 7w

Isan - 4w

Woodland ordination symbol: Evart - 7W

Windbreak suitability group: 10

207C-Nymore loamy sand, 6 to 12 percent slopes

Composition

Nymore soil and similar soils: About 90 percent
Inclusions: About 10 percent

Setting

Landform: Outwash plains
Position on the landform: Summits and shoulders

Component Description

Surface layer texture: Loamy sand
Drainage class: Excessively drained
Dominant parent material: Sandy glacial outwash
Water table depth: Greater than 6 feet
Available water capacity to 60 inches or root-limiting layer: About 3.5 inches
Organic matter content of the surface layer: About 1 to 3 percent (Moderately low or moderate)

A typical soil series description with range in characteristics for each named component of this map unit is included, in alphabetical order, in this section.

Inclusions

- The somewhat excessively drained Verndale soils are on back slopes have thicker surface layers and more clay in the subsoil
- The moderately well drained Duelm soils are in swales

Interpretive Groups

Land capability classification: 6s
Woodland ordination symbol: 6S
Windbreak suitability group: 7

260-Duelm loamy sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes

Composition

Duelm soil and similar soils: About 80 percent
Inclusions: About 20 percent

Setting

Landform: Outwash plains
Position on the landform: Swales

Component Description

Surface layer texture: Loamy sand
Drainage class: Moderately well drained
Dominant parent material: Sandy outwash
Water table depth: 2.5 to 3.5 feet
Available water capacity to 60 inches or root-limiting layer: About 4.1 inches
Organic matter content of the surface layer: About 2 to 6 percent (Moderate or high)

A typical soil series description with range in characteristics for each named component of this map unit is included, in alphabetical order, in this section.

Inclusions

- The excessively drained Nymore soils are on knolls and back slopes
- The somewhat excessively drained Verndale soils are on flats and slight rises
- The very poorly drained Isan, depressional soils are in depressions
- The poorly drained Isan soils are on toe slopes
- Soils that have more clay in the subsoil

Interpretive Groups

Land capability classification: 4s
Woodland ordination symbol: 6W
Windbreak suitability group: 1



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17845 East Highway 10 • P.O. Box 800 • Elk River, Minnesota 55330-0800 • 763-441-3121 • Fax 763-241-2366
10 November 2005

Mr. Jim Groehler
Office of Aeronautics
Minnesota Department of Transportation
222 E. Plato Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55107-1618

RE: Proposed RDO Substation and Transmission Line Upgrade
Hubbard County, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Groehler:

Itasca-Mantrap Cooperative Electrical Association (Itasca-Mantrap) and its power supplier, Great River Energy (GRE), are proposing an electrical upgrade project near Park Rapids in Hubbard County, Minnesota. The project is needed to address voltage deficiencies and reliability concerns in the area.

Itasca-Mantrap will convert the voltage at its existing RDO Substation from 34.5 kilovolts (kV) to 115 kV. GRE will convert and upgrade approximately 2.5 miles of an existing GRE transmission line from 34.5 kV to 115 kV. One mile of this transmission line upgrade will be a double circuit 115/34.5 kV line.

The RDO Substation is located in Section 12, T139N, R35W. The GRE transmission line is located in Section 12, T139N, R35W and Section 7, T139N, R34W.

GRE is conducting an environmental review (and an environmental report for the Rural Utilities Service) for this project, and we request information on the possible effects of the proposed project on airports or airstrips in the project area. The Park Rapids Municipal Airport is approximately one mile northwest of the RDO Substation and 1-3 miles northwest of the transmission line. The structures will be 65-85 feet above ground. A project description/site map is enclosed for your information.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Monday, December 12, 2005. If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact me at (763) 241-2272. If you wish to respond by e-mail, my address is cschmidt@greenergy.com. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Carole L. Schmidt
Environmental Scientist

Enclosure



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10 November 2005

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

RE: Proposed RDO Substation and Transmission Line Upgrade
Hubbard County, Minnesota

Dear Ms. Bloomberg:

Itasca-Mantrap Cooperative Electrical Association (Itasca-Mantrap) and its power supplier, Great River Energy (GRE), are proposing an electrical upgrade project near Park Rapids in Hubbard County, Minnesota. The project is needed to address voltage deficiencies and reliability concerns in the area.

Itasca-Mantrap will convert the voltage at its existing RDO Substation from 34.5 kilovolts (kV) to 115 kV. GRE will convert and upgrade approximately 2.5 miles of an existing GRE transmission line from 34.5 kV to 115 kV. One mile of this transmission line upgrade will be a double circuit 115/34.5 kV line.

The RDO Substation is located in Section 12, T139N, R35W. The GRE transmission line is located in Section 12, T139N, R35W and Section 7, T139N, R34W.

GRE is conducting an environmental review (and an environmental report for the Rural Utilities Service) for this project, and we request information on the possible effects of the proposed project on historic properties in the project area. A project description/site map is enclosed for your information.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Monday, December 12, 2005. If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact me at (763) 241-2272. If you wish to respond by e-mail, my address is cschmidt@greenergy.com. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Carole L. Schmidt
Environmental Scientist

Enclosure

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www.GreatRiverEnergy.com

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10 November 2005

Ms. Sarah Hoffmann
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Proposed RDO Substation and Transmission Line Upgrade
Hubbard County, Minnesota

Dear Ms. Hoffmann:

Itasca-Mantrap Cooperative Electrical Association (Itasca-Mantrap) and its power supplier, Great River Energy (GRE), are proposing an electrical upgrade project near Park Rapids in Hubbard County, Minnesota. The project is needed to address voltage deficiencies and reliability concerns in the area.

Itasca-Mantrap will convert the voltage at its existing RDO Substation from 34.5 kilovolts (kV) to 115 kV. GRE will convert and upgrade approximately 2.5 miles of an existing GRE transmission line from 34.5 kV to 115 kV. One mile of this transmission line upgrade will be a double circuit 115/34.5 kV line. The RDO Substation is located in Section 12, T139N, R35W. The GRE transmission line is located in Section 12, T139N, R35W and Section 7, T139N, R34W.

GRE is conducting an environmental review (and an environmental report for the Rural Utilities Service) for this project, and we request information on the possible effects of the proposed project on wetlands, threatened and endangered species, and other important state natural resources that occur in the project area. A project description/site map is enclosed for your information.

The existing transmission line crosses the Straight River in Section 12. GRE will apply to the DNR Division of Lands and Minerals for a license to cross that water. A review of the Minnesota Natural Heritage Program database indicates that the only Sensitive Area in the vicinity of the proposed project (along Fish Hook River in Section 6, T139N, R34W) is over a mile from the closest point of the transmission line (see attached maps).

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Monday, December 12, 2005. If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact me at (763) 241-2272. If you wish to respond by e-mail, my address is cschmidt@greenergy.com. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

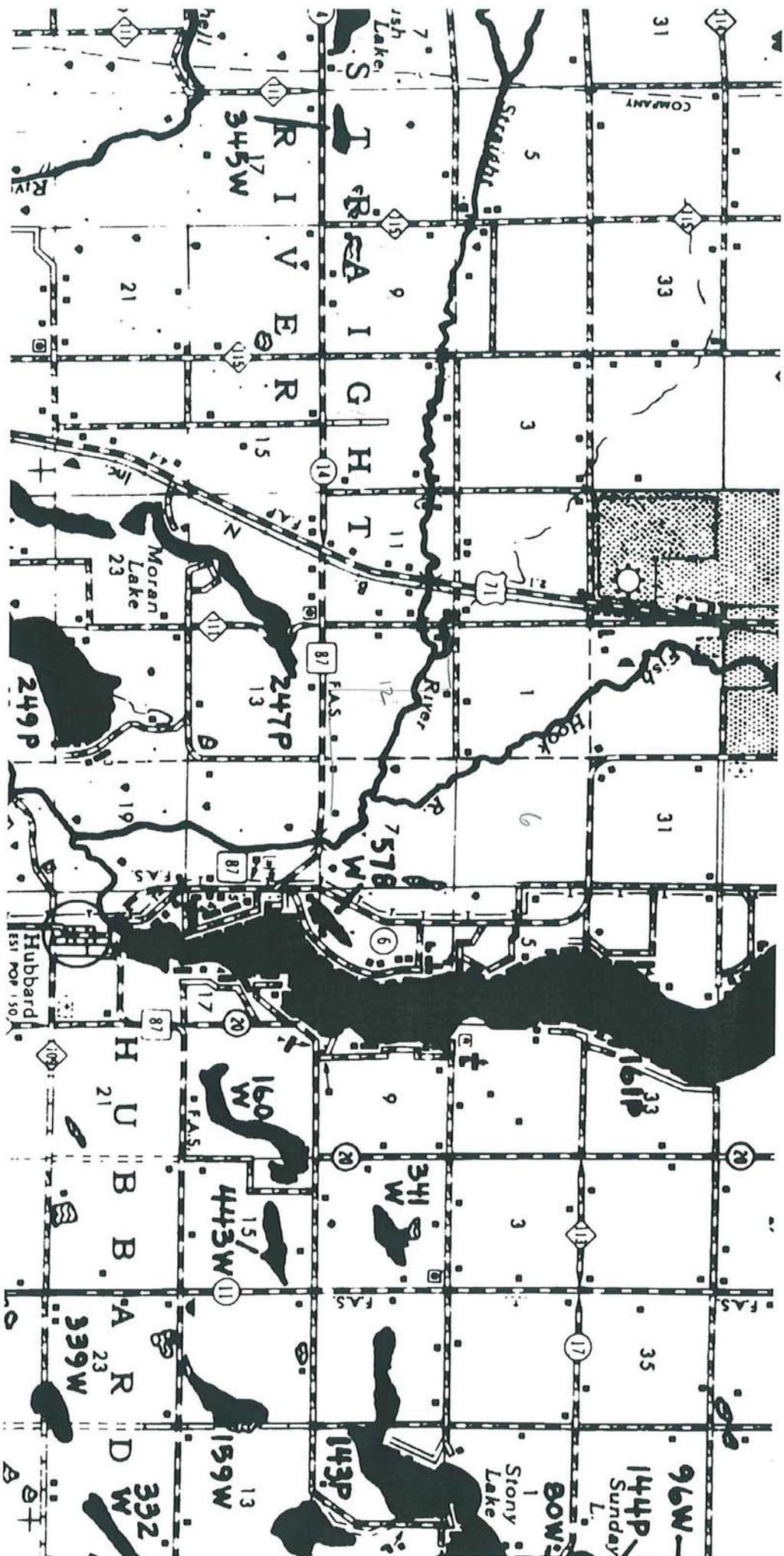
Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Carole L. Schmidt
Environmental Scientist

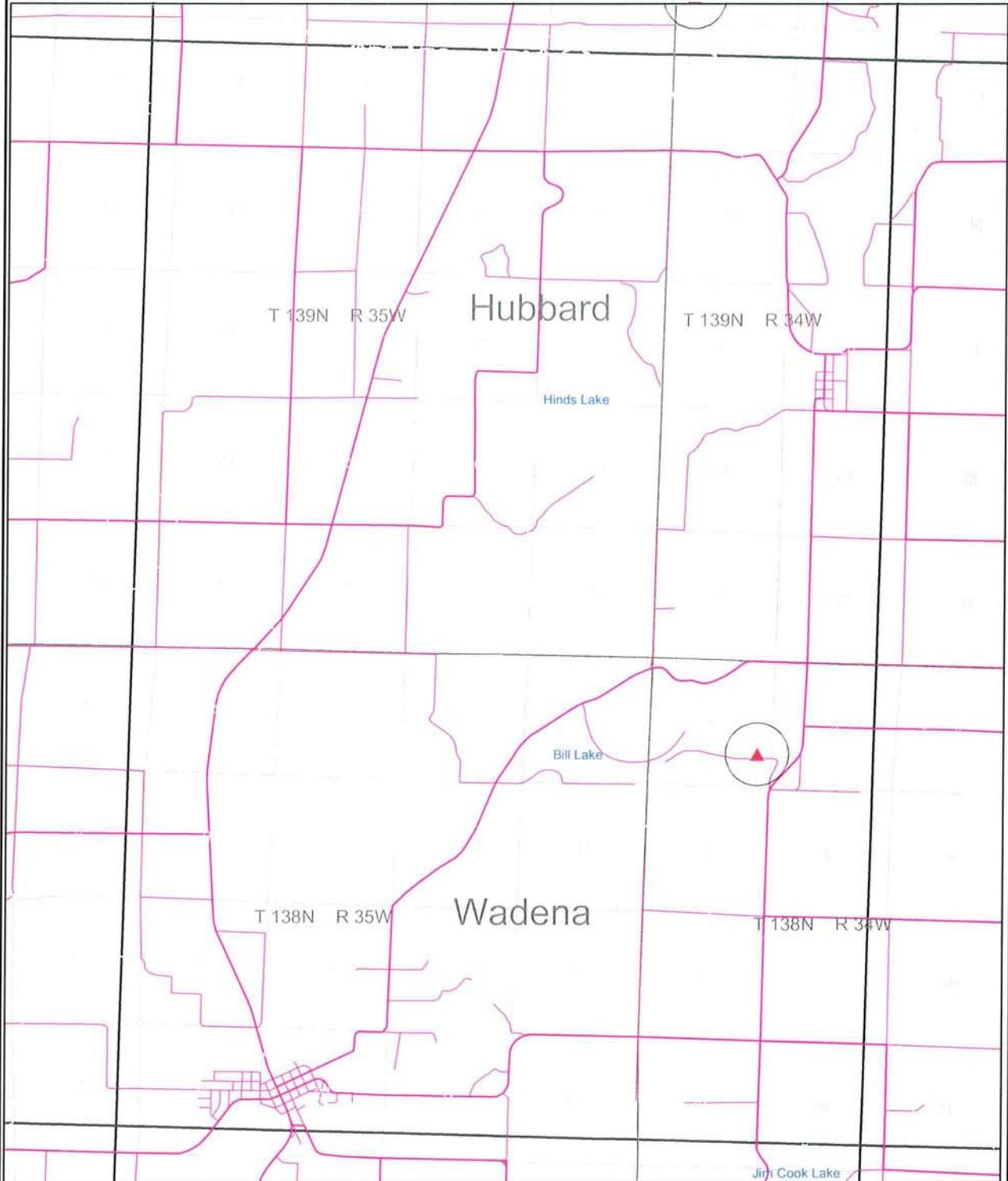
Enclosures

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Sensitive Areas

Menahga 1:24,000 U.S.G.S. Quadrangle (DNR Code = K09d)
Includes portions of Hubbard and Wadena Counties



North arrow
1:48,000
0 Miles
1
Map created December 5, 2002.



- Center of Highly Sensitive Areas
- Center of Sensitive Plant Areas
- Center of Sensitive Animal Areas
- ▼ Center of Significant Native Plant Community Areas
non-Minnesota County Biological Survey Counties Only
- Significant Native Plant Communities
Identified by the Minnesota County Biological Survey
- Buffer Designating Sensitive Areas
- Significant Railroad Prairie Right-of-Way Areas

- Water bodies
- County boundaries
- Township lines
- Section lines
- Quadrangle border
- Major Roads
- Other Roads
- Railroads

United Services Group
United Services Group
GIS Department
17845 East Highway 10
Elk River, MN 55330-0341
(763) 241-3766
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10 November 2005

Mr. Leo Grabowski
US Army Corps of Engineers
10867 East Gull Lake Drive NW
Brainerd, MN 56401-9051

RE: Proposed RDO Substation and Transmission Line Upgrade
Hubbard County, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Grabowski:

Itasca-Mantrap Cooperative Electrical Association (Itasca-Mantrap) and its power supplier, Great River Energy (GRE), are proposing an electrical upgrade project near Park Rapids in Hubbard County, Minnesota. The project is needed to address voltage deficiencies and reliability concerns in the area.

Itasca-Mantrap will convert the voltage at its existing RDO Substation from 34.5 kilovolts (kV) to 115 kV. GRE will convert and upgrade approximately 2.5 miles of an existing GRE transmission line from 34.5 kV to 115 kV. One mile of this transmission line upgrade will be a double circuit 115/34.5 kV line.

The RDO Substation is located in Section 12, T139N, R35W. The GRE transmission line is located in Section 12, T139N, R35W and Section 7, T139N, R34W.

GRE is conducting an environmental review (and an environmental report for the Rural Utilities Service) for this project, and we request information on the possible effects of the proposed project on floodplains, wetlands, and other important natural resources that occur in the project area. A project description/site map is enclosed for your information.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Monday, December 12, 2005. If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact me at (763) 241-2272. If you wish to respond by e-mail, my address is cschmidt@greenergy.com. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Carole L. Schmidt
Environmental Scientist

Enclosure

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10 November 2005

Mr. Paul Burke, Habitat Conservation Biologist
United States Department of the Interior
Twin Cities Field Office
4101 East 80th Street
Bloomington, MN 55425-1665

RE: Proposed RDO Substation and Transmission Line Upgrade
Hubbard County, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Burke:

Itasca-Mantrap Cooperative Electrical Association (Itasca-Mantrap) and its power supplier, Great River Energy (GRE), are proposing an electrical upgrade project near Park Rapids in Hubbard County, Minnesota. The project is needed to address voltage deficiencies and reliability concerns in the area.

Itasca-Mantrap will convert the voltage at its existing RDO Substation from 34.5 kilovolts (kV) to 115 kV. GRE will convert and upgrade approximately 2.5 miles of an existing GRE transmission line from 34.5 kV to 115 kV. One mile of this transmission line upgrade will be a double circuit 115/34.5 kV line.

The RDO Substation is located in Section 12, T139N, R35W. The GRE transmission line is located in Section 12, T139N, R35W and Section 7, T139N, R34W.

GRE is conducting an environmental review (and an environmental report for the Rural Utilities Service) for this project, and we request information on the possible effects of the proposed project on any listed or proposed threatened or endangered species and designated or proposed critical habitat that may be present in the project area. The proposed project does not represent a "major construction activity" as defined in 50 CFR 402.02.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Monday, December 12, 2005. If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact me at (763) 241-2272. If you wish to respond by e-mail, my address is cschmidt@greenergy.com. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Carole L. Schmidt
Environmental Scientist

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10 November 2005

Mr. Russell Johnsrud
District Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Park Rapids Field Office
212 ½ West 2nd Street
Park Rapids, MN 56470-1507

RE: Proposed RDO Substation and Transmission Line Upgrade
Hubbard County, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Johnsrud:

Itasca-Mantrap Cooperative Electrical Association (Itasca-Mantrap) and its power supplier, Great River Energy (GRE), are proposing an electrical upgrade project near Park Rapids in Hubbard County, Minnesota. The project is needed to address voltage deficiencies and reliability concerns in the area.

Itasca-Mantrap will convert the voltage at its existing RDO Substation from 34.5 kilovolts (kV) to 115 kV. GRE will convert and upgrade approximately 2.5 miles of an existing GRE transmission line from 34.5 kV to 115 kV. One mile of this transmission line upgrade will be a double circuit 115/34.5 kV line.

The RDO Substation is located in Section 12, T139N, R35W. The GRE transmission line is located in Section 12, T139N, R35W and Section 7, T139N, R34W.

GRE is conducting an environmental review (and an environmental report for the Rural Utilities Service) for this project, and we request information on the possible effects of the proposed project on important or prime farmlands in the project area. Because the project is a modification of existing facilities, there will be little impact to soil resources in the area. A project description/site map is enclosed for your information.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Monday, December 12, 2005. If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact me at (763) 241-2272. If you wish to respond by e-mail, my address is cschmidt@greenergy.com. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Carole L. Schmidt
Environmental Scientist

Enclosure

RDO Sub and Transmission Line Upgrade



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ITASCA-MANTRAP COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC ASSN.
16930 County Road 6, P.O. Box 192
Park Rapids, MN 56470
1-218-732-3377
www.itasca-mantrap.com

Project Need

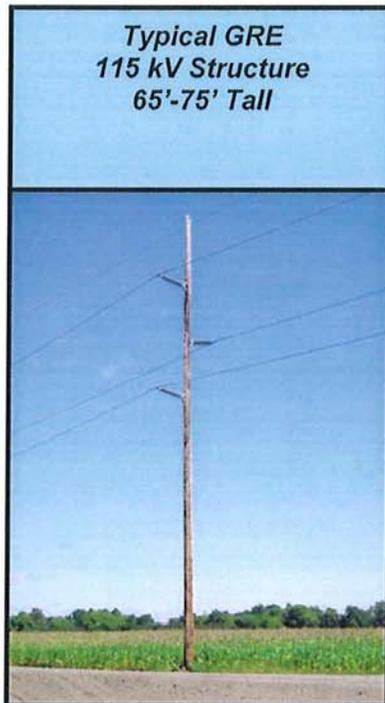
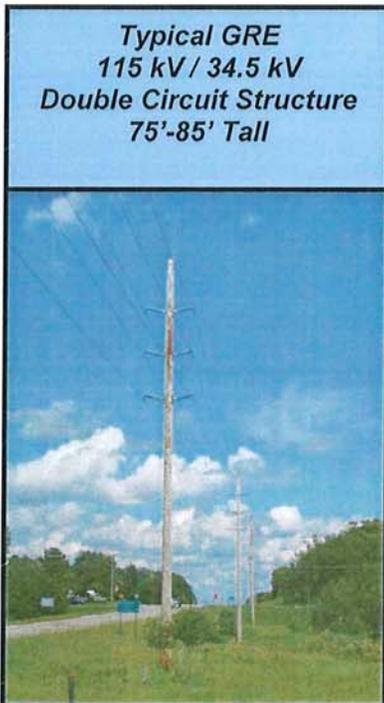
Voltage deficiencies and reliability concerns require a voltage upgrade at Itasca-Mantrap Cooperative Electric Association's (Itasca-Mantrap) RDO Substation located near Park Rapids, Minnesota. In response to these concerns, Itasca-Mantrap and its power supplier, Great River Energy (GRE), will make improvements to the RDO Substation and the transmission line serving this substation.

Planned Project

Itasca-Mantrap will convert the existing transformer at the RDO Substation from the present voltage of 34.5 kV to 115 kV. GRE will convert and upgrade an existing transmission line from 34.5 kV to 115 kV. A portion of this new transmission line will involve a one-mile segment of double circuit 115/34.5-kV line (see route map on back).

Structures

The poles for the new transmission line will be primarily single wood pole structures. The typical height of the structures will range from 65 ft to 85 ft depending upon terrain and line design. A switch structure will be added at the intersection of the proposed line and the existing transmission line (see diagrams).



Schedule

Public Meetings.....	4 th Quarter 2005 & 1 st Quarter 2006
Permitting.....	1 st & 2 nd Quarter 2006
Construction.....	3 rd & 4 th Quarter 2006

Contact

Ken Tretbar
Itasca-Mantrap Cooperative
218-732-3377

Gary Ostrom
Great River Energy
763-241-2377 Fax 763-241-6177
1-800-442-3013, ext. 2377 toll free