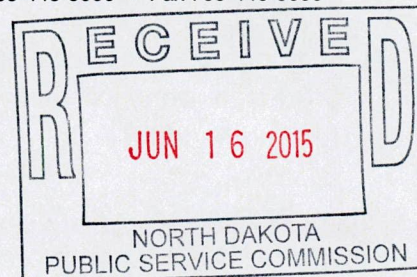




12300 Elm Creek Blvd • Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369-4718 • 763-445-5000 • Fax 763-445-5050

June 16, 2015

Mr. Darrell Nitschke, Executive Director
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480



RE: Prairie Substation to Ramsey Substation 230 KV Transmission Line Rebuild Project
("GD Line Rebuild Project") Segment 2
PSC Case No. PU-11-640
Transmittal of Certification

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

On September 27, 2011, Great River Energy sought a jurisdictional determination from the Public Service Commission (PSC) on the level of permitting required for the rebuild of an existing 230 kV transmission line between the Minnkota Power Cooperative Prairie Substation near Grand Forks, North Dakota and the Great River Energy Ramsey Substation near Devils Lake, North Dakota. This line was built in 1966; therefore Great River Energy does not hold a route permit for this transmission facility. At that time Great River Energy proposed to rebuild the approximately 80 miles of this line in eight segments (see enclosed **Figure 1**) over the course of the following eight years, and indicated that most of the structures would be rebuilt next to the existing structures, likely within the existing right of way (75 feet either side of the centerline), but certainly within 350 feet either side of the centerline.

In a letter of November 28, 2011, the PSC indicated that no siting application for this rebuild project would be required provided no exclusion or avoidance areas are affected and Great River Energy provided the proper certification in writing that such exclusion and avoidance areas would not be affected.

Segment 3 of the Project, deemed to be in greatest need of replacement, was rebuilt in 2012.

In our letter of September 27, 2011, Great River Energy also indicated that there were portions of line in three segments of this eighty mile Project that were of concern to our Transmission Construction and Maintenance Department and where relocation of the line was preferred:

- 1) Segment 7 – Between existing Structures 450 and 458, the structures needed to be protected from ice damage, as they were located in a flooded slough. Line crews recommended a reroute of approximately two miles to the south.

Mr. Darrell Nitschke

June 16, 2015

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- 2) Segment 8 – Between existing Structures 559 and 562, the structures needed to be protected from ice damage, as they were located in a flooded slough. Line crews recommended relocating at least one section at a minimum.

Originally Segments 7 and 8 were to be rebuilt in the latter years of the rebuild Project. However, in 2012, compromised clearances over standing surface water (due to flooded conditions) in Segments 7 and 8 were discovered in the general locations listed above. Great River Energy therefore applied for a Transmission Facility Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit (PU-12-398) to relocate and rebuild the line in these locations (Segment 7, 1.75 miles, Structures 449-460; Segment 8, 2.25 miles, Structures 550-562). The PSC issued the Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to Great River Energy on 12-12-12. These relocations were completed between February 2013 and May 2013. The remainder of Segments 7 and 8 will be rebuilt as originally scheduled in the last years of the rebuild Project.

- 3) Segment 4 – A landowner had requested that Great River Energy relocate the transmission line between existing Structures 276 and 283 to avoid tree stands in the area. Great River Energy met with this landowner and it was mutually agreed that the alignment would remain the same but taller transmission poles would be used in this area. Segment 4 was rebuilt in 2014-2015.

It has been determined that Segment 2 will be the next segment of the Project to be rebuilt. It includes Structures 89 to 145 near Emerado, North Dakota. **Figure 2** (Sheets 1-9) shows the existing structure locations, the proposed structure locations, and the few wetlands near this segment. All of the structures will be rebuilt next to the existing structures (within 10-15 feet) and within the existing right of way (75 feet either side of the centerline). Great River Energy plans to start the rebuild in October 2015 and estimates completion in March 2016.

There is one avoidance area (defined under N.D. Administration Code 69-06-08-02 (2)) where the existing line passes within 500 feet of a rural residence (**Figure 2, Sheet 7**). The buildings within the 500 foot buffer are actually outbuildings, the residence itself is outside the 500 foot buffer. This avoidance area is not affected because the new structure will be installed right beside the existing structure and will not change the existing route alignment through this avoidance area.

Mr. Darrell Nitschke
June 16, 2015
Page 3

In accordance with North Dakota Century Code 49-22-03 3(a)(3), please find enclosed a notarized certification that the rebuild of Segment 2 will not affect any known exclusion or avoidance area, as those terms are defined in N.D.A.C 69-06-08-02(1) and (2), that all project activities will occur within 350 feet either side of the existing transmission line centerline, and that Great River Energy will comply with all applicable conditions and protections in siting laws and rules and commission orders previously issued for any part of the facility.

Please let me know if you need additional information regarding the rebuild of Segment 2 of the Prairie Substation to Ramsey Substation 230 kV "GD" Transmission Line. I can be reached at 763-445-5214, or by email at cschmidt@greenergy.com.

Thank you for your attention to this important transmission line rebuild project.

Respectfully submitted,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Carole L. Schmidt

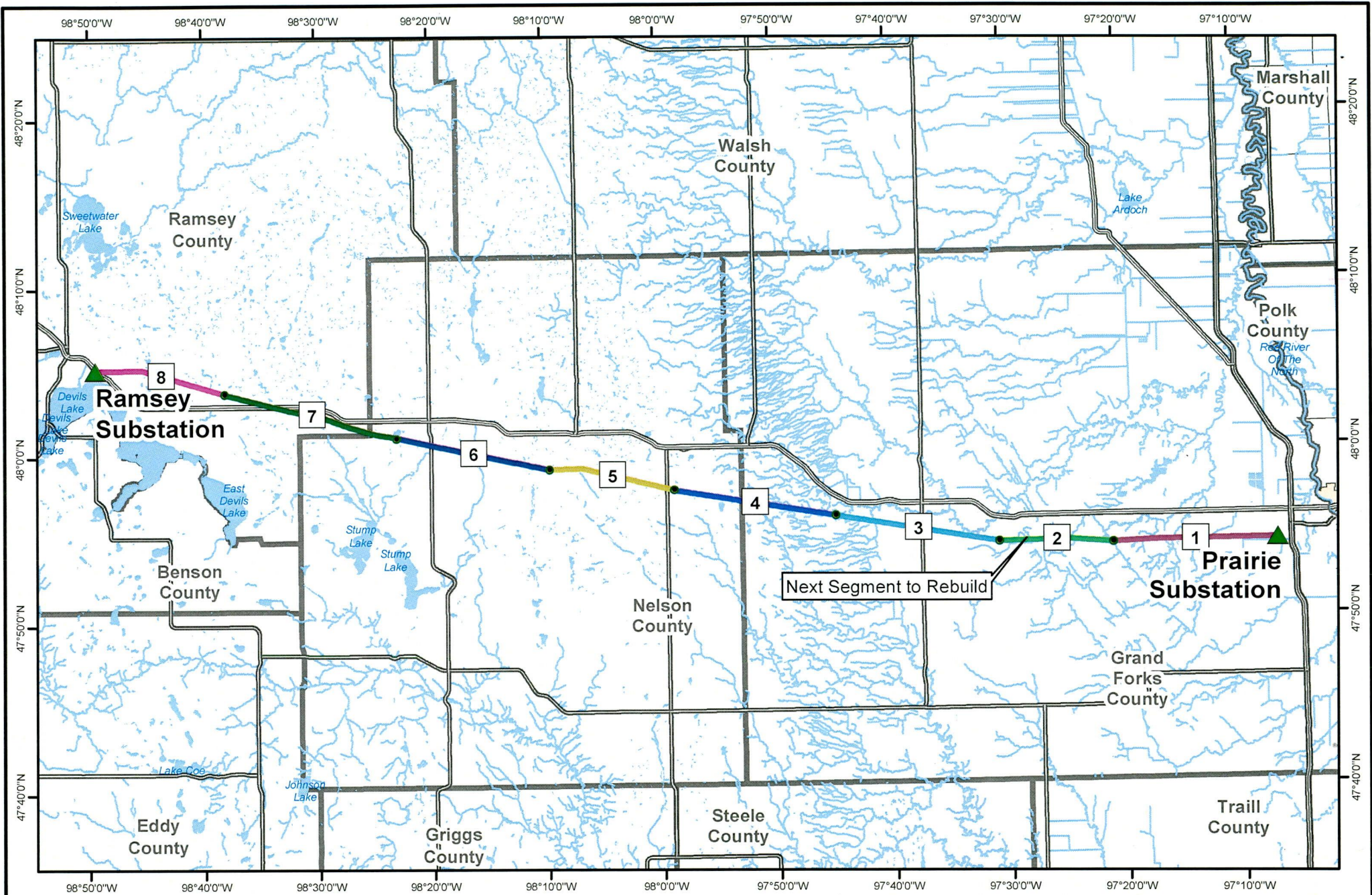
Carole L. Schmidt
Supervisor, Transmission Permitting and Compliance

Enclosures

c: Jerry Lein, ND PSC
Chuck Lukkarila, GRE

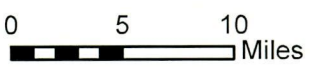
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Great River Energy 230-KV "GD" Line Rebuild Segments from Prairie Substation to Ramsey Substation - Figure 1

- ▲ GRE Electric Facility
- Storm Structures
- GD 230-kV Transmission Line
- Segment 1
- Segment 2
- Segment 3
- Segment 4
- Segment 5
- Segment 6
- Segment 7
- Segment 8



Updated: 6/2/2015

Great River Energy (GRE) and its employees make no warranties, expressed or implied, nor assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, usefulness of information and/or representations regarding the quality, reliability, currency and suitability of this information for any purposes. This map has been produced from various sources. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this map. However, Great River Energy assumes no responsibility for actual or consequential damage incurred as a result of any person's reliance on this information. This information is subject to change at any time without notice.

Geographic Data from MN & ND State GIS Departments & Great River Energy





Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ▲ GRE Electric Facility | GD 230-kV Line | Freshwater Emergent Wetland |
| ● Proposed Structure Location | Proposed Segment 2 Alignment | Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland |
| ● Existing Storm Structure | GRE Trans Line | Freshwater Pond |
| ● Existing Structure | 500 foot buffer around line | Lake |
| N Geographic Data from ND State GIS Departments & Great River Energy | | Riverine |
| Updated: 6/2/2015 | | |

Great River Energy
230-KV "GD" Line
Segment 2 Sheet 01
Figure 2





Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ▲ GRE Electric Facility | GD 230-kV Line | Freshwater Emergent Wetland |
| ● Proposed Structure Location | Proposed Segment 2 Alignment | Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland |
| ● Existing Storm Structure | GRE Trans Line | Freshwater Pond |
| ● Existing Structure | 500 foot buffer around line | Lake |
| N Geographic Data from ND State GIS Departments & Great River Energy | | Riverine |
| Updated: 6/2/2015 | | |

Great River Energy
230-KV "GD" Line
Segment 2 Sheet 02
Figure 2





Source: DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ▲ GRE Electric Facility | GD 230-kV Line | Freshwater Emergent Wetland |
| ● Proposed Structure Location | Proposed Segment 2 Alignment | Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland |
| ● Existing Storm Structure | GRE Trans Line | Freshwater Pond |
| ● Existing Structure | 500 foot buffer around line | Lake |
| N Geographic Data from ND State GIS Departments & Great River Energy | | Riverine |
| Updated: 6/2/2015 | | |

Great River Energy
 230-KV "GD" Line
 Segment 2 Sheet 03
 Figure 2
 0 400
 Feet





Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ▲ GRE Electric Facility | GD 230-kV Line | Freshwater Emergent Wetland |
| ● Proposed Structure Location | Proposed Segment 2 Alignment | Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland |
| ● Existing Storm Structure | GRE Trans Line | Freshwater Pond |
| ● Existing Structure | 500 foot buffer around line | Lake |
| N Geographic Data from ND State GIS Departments & Great River Energy | | Riverine |

Updated: 6/2/2015

Great River Energy
230-KV "GD" Line
Segment 2 Sheet 04
Figure 2



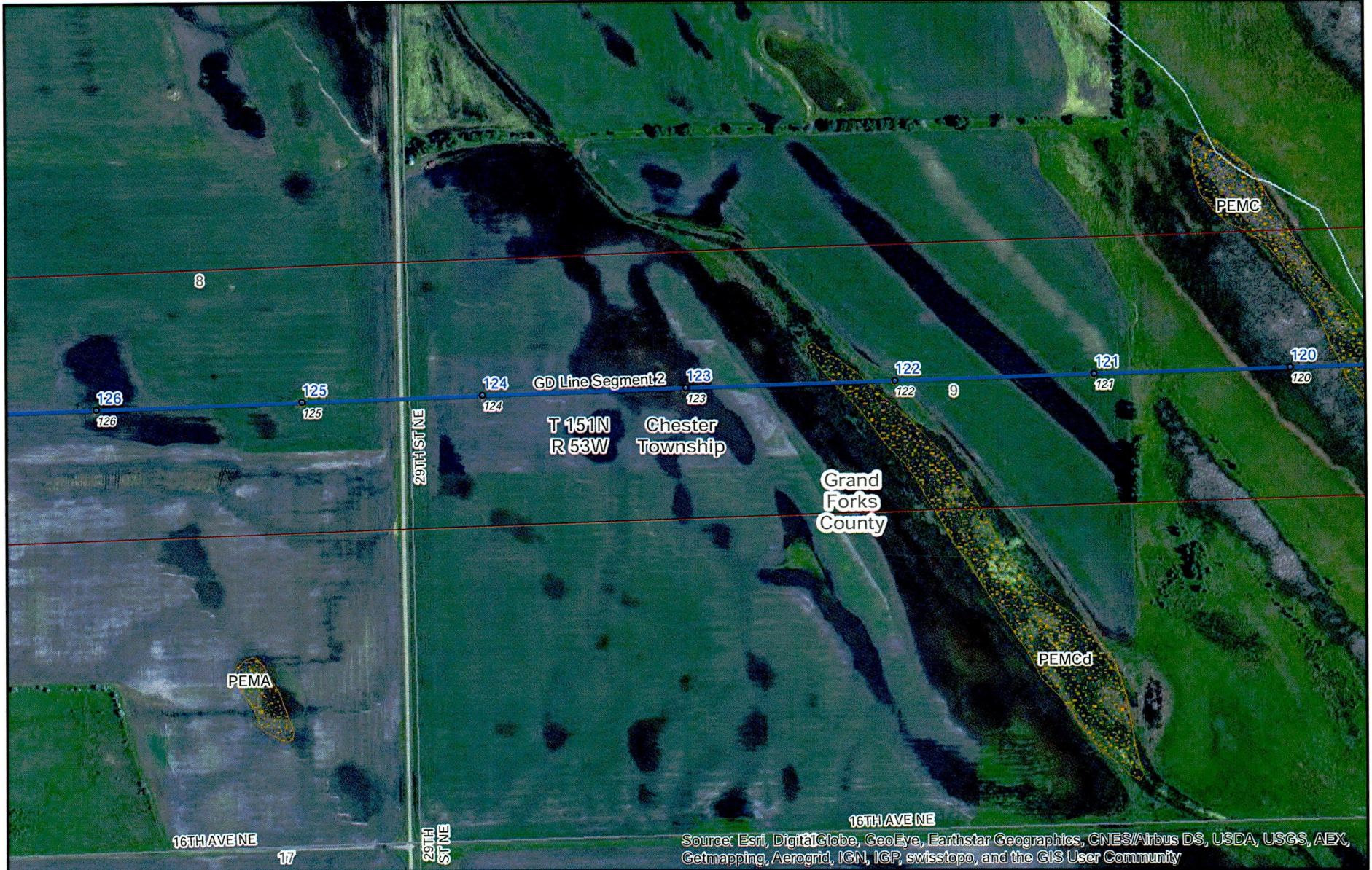


Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, Swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

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|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ▲ GRE Electric Facility | GD 230-kV Line | ■ Freshwater Emergent Wetland |
| ● Proposed Structure Location | — Proposed Segment 2 Alignment | ■ Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland |
| ● Existing Storm Structure | — GRE Trans Line | ■ Freshwater Pond |
| ● Existing Structure | □ 500 foot buffer around line | ■ Lake |
| N Geographic Data from ND State GIS Departments & Great River Energy | | ■ Riverine |
| Updated: 6/2/2015 | | |

Great River Energy
230-KV "GD" Line
Segment 2 Sheet 05
Figure 2





Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ▲ GRE Electric Facility | GD 230-kV Line | ▨ Freshwater Emergent Wetland |
| ● Proposed Structure Location | — Proposed Segment 2 Alignment | ▨ Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland |
| ● Existing Storm Structure | — GRE Trans Line | ▨ Freshwater Pond |
| ● Existing Structure | ▭ 500 foot buffer around line | ▨ Lake |
| N Geographic Data from ND State GIS Departments & Great River Energy | | ▨ Riverine |
| Updated: 6/2/2015 | | |

Great River Energy
 230-KV "GD" Line
 Segment 2 Sheet 06
 Figure 2





Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

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|--|--|--|
| ▲ GRE Electric Facility | GD 230-kV Line | [Orange pattern] Freshwater Emergent Wetland |
| ● Proposed Structure Location | [Blue line] Proposed Segment 2 Alignment | [Pink pattern] Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland |
| ● Existing Storm Structure | [Red line] GRE Trans Line | [Yellow pattern] Freshwater Pond |
| ● Existing Structure | [White line] 500 foot buffer around line | [Blue pattern] Lake |
| N Geographic Data from ND State GIS Departments & Great River Energy | | [Red pattern] Riverine |
| Updated: 6/2/2015 | | |

Great River Energy
 230-KV "GD" Line
 Segment 2 Sheet 07
 Figure 2





- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ▲ GRE Electric Facility | GD 230-kV Line | ▨ Freshwater Emergent Wetland |
| ● Proposed Structure Location | — Proposed Segment 2 Alignment | ▨ Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland |
| ● Existing Storm Structure | — GRE Trans Line | ▨ Freshwater Pond |
| ● Existing Structure | □ 500 foot buffer around line | ▨ Lake |
| N Geographic Data from ND State GIS Departments & Great River Energy | | ▨ Riverine |
| Updated: 6/2/2015 | | |

Great River Energy
 230-KV "GD" Line
 Segment 2 Sheet 08
 Figure 2





Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

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|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ▲ GRE Electric Facility | GD 230-kV Line | Freshwater Emergent Wetland |
| ● Proposed Structure Location | Proposed Segment 2 Alignment | Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland |
| ● Existing Storm Structure | GRE Trans Line | Freshwater Pond |
| ● Existing Structure | 500 foot buffer around line | Lake |
| N Geographic Data from ND State GIS Departments & Great River Energy | | Riverine |
| Updated: 6/2/2015 | | |

97°30'0"W
 Great River Energy
 230-KV "GD" Line
 Segment 2 Sheet 09
 Figure 2



CERTIFICATION OF APPLICANT PURSUANT TO N.D. CENTURY CODE 49-22-03(3)

(a)(3)

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

PSC Case No. PU-11-640

I, William R. Kaul, Vice President, a duly authorized agent of Great River Energy that has authority to bind the company in these matters, do hereby certify under oath:

1. That the rebuild activities in Segment 2 of Great River Energy's "GD Line" will not affect any known exclusion or avoidance area as defined under the N.D. Administration Code 69-06-08-02 (1) and (2).
2. That all project activities will occur within 350 feet either side of the existing transmission line centerline.
3. That Great River Energy will comply with all applicable conditions and protections in applicable North Dakota siting laws and rules and commission orders previously issued for any part of the facility.

Dated at Maple Grove, Minnesota this 16th day of June, 2015.



William R. Kaul
Vice President
Transmission Division

This instrument was acknowledged before me this 16th day of June, 2015, by William R. Kaul on behalf of Great River Energy.

Sign: Theresa M Hoaglund
Print: Theresa M Hoaglund
My Commission Expires: 1/31/2020

