



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Grand Forks, ND 58201-3312  
Phone 701.795.4000  
[www.minnkota.com](http://www.minnkota.com)

May 10, 2022

Steve Kahl  
Executive Director  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 East Boulevard; Department 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Re: Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. –Walle Substation Project

Dear Mr. Kahl:

Due to the increased load demands and the need for improved system reliability in southern Grand Forks, ND, Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota) determined a new substation is needed. The new substation will be named the Walle substation. It will tap from our existing Prairie-Winger 230 kV High Voltage Transmission Line (HVTL) as shown on accompanying attachments. The existing HVTL was completed in 1970.

The Walle substation is proposed to be built within the existing Corridor (as defined by North Dakota Century Code 49-22-03(3)(a)(1)(c)), beneath Minnkota's existing Prairie to Winger 230 kV high voltage transmission line (HVTL) and sourced via a tap from that HVTL. A transformer system will be used to step down the voltage to 69 kV in order to re-connect to our existing 69 kV HVTL. About 550 feet of new 69 kV HVTL will proceed from our parcel east to connect to our existing 69 kV HVTL. Please see the attached figure providing location details for this proposed project.

Once construction is complete, maintenance of the substation would consist of periodic inspections conducted by an inspector walking or riding on a four-wheel ATV. After construction, vegetation would be controlled according to Minnkota's vegetation management program.

#### **Impact Assessment Summary:**

- Historic Properties and Cultural Resources – No Historic Properties Affected (see information below and attachments)
  - A Class 1 Historical\Architectural Survey was performed in September, 2021 with the results combined into the report dated December, 2021 (attachments). The results of this review indicated that none of the previously recorded cultural resources or previous studies within the one-mile radius Area of Potential Effect (APE) lied within 2,000 feet of the proposed project. Since this is a new substation, Minnkota requested performance of a Class III field survey as well.
  - A Class III Intensive Cultural Resource Inventory was performed by Juniper on October 15<sup>th</sup> and November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Due to not encountering any new or previously recorded cultural resources within the inventory block, Juniper recommended a finding of No Historic Properties Affected for the proposed undertaking (attached Juniper report, Dec., 2021).

- On 03-28-22, Minnkota submitted the findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the ND State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). On March 31, 2022, the ND SHPO issued their letter of concurrence with No Historic Properties Affected (attached).
- Threatened and Endangered Species – The proposed project will have no effect on listed species (see following information & attachments).
  - Listed as Threatened, the Northern Long-Eared Bat (NLEB) was mentioned as possibly occurring in the general proposed Project area. The IPAC reporting (2-9-22) confirmed there was no known Critical Habitat in the proposed Project ROW. The IPAC documentation is included in the appropriate attachment section.
  - Also listed as Threatened was the Red knot (bird) which could occur in the general project area. The IPAC reporting confirmed there was no known Critical Habitat in the proposed Project ROW. There is also no lacustrine or fluvial bank habitats in the proposed project area. The IPAC documentation is included in the appropriate attachment section.
  - Listed as Endangered, the Whooping Crane was mentioned as possibly occurring in the general proposed Project area during migratory travel. The IPAC reporting (2-9-22) confirmed there was no known Critical Habitat in the proposed Project area. The IPAC documentation is included in the appropriate attachment section.
  - In accordance with the ND Century Code (69-06-08-02), Beaver Creek Environmental a subcontractor to Barr Engineering, on behalf of Minnkota assessed the proposed project area to address potential impacts associated with areas critical to the life stages of listed species, and whether other rare or unique species and their respective habitats would be impacted by this proposed project. Conclusions stated that the proposed project would not present impacts to listed species. In addition, the proposed project would not result in irreversible impacts to unique or rare habitats. Please see the attached Natural Resources Inventory report (dated April 18, 2022, Beaver Creek Environmental).
- Floodplain Management – The proposed project lies within a mapped Zone X area (see attachments).
- Wetlands Protection – The proposed project will not impact wetlands (see attachments).
- Formerly Classified Lands – The proposed project will not impact Formerly Classified Lands (see attachments).
- Contamination and Toxic Substances - The proposed project will result in no impacts involving contamination or Toxic Substances (see attachments).
- Coastal Resources – Not applicable
- Air Quality – The proposed project will have no permanent impact on air quality (see attachments).
- Water Quality - The proposed project will result in no impacts to water quality (see attachments).
- Violation of Federal or State Permits - The proposed project will result in no violations of applicable Federal or State Permits.

Environmental Justice - The proposed project will result in no impacts associated with Environmental Justice – (see attachments).

This submittal is in accordance with the North Dakota Century Code 49-22-03(3)(a)(1)(c), (2), and (3)(c), . Also, in accordance with North Dakota Century Code 49-22-03, enclosed please find a notarized certification, in accordance with North Dakota Century Code 49-22-03(a)(4).

In addition to the certification, location maps and the design specifications for the new substation is also enclosed. Please contact me at [tjohnson@minnkota.com](mailto:tjohnson@minnkota.com) or 701-799-1729 if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

*Terry Johnson*

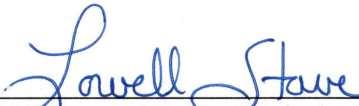
Terry Johnson  
Environmental Engineer III

CERTIFICATION OF APPLICANT PURSUANT  
TO N.D. CENTURY CODE 49-22-03(3)(a)(4)  
MINNKOTA POWER COOPERATIVE, INC.

I, Lowell Stave, a duly authorized agent of Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota) that has authority to bind the company in these matters, do hereby certify under oath:

1. That the construction of the Walle substation, as described herein, will not affect any known exclusion or avoidance area as defined under the N.D. Administrative Code 69-06-08-02 (1) and (2).
2. That the construction of the Walle substation is intended to improve load demand and system reliability needs of Minnkota's service area.
3. That Minnkota will comply with all applicable conditions and protections in applicable North Dakota siting laws and rules and commission orders that may apply.

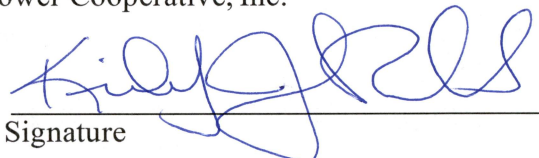
Dated at Grand Forks, North Dakota this day of May 5, 2022.

  
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Lowell Stave, VP Transmission & COO

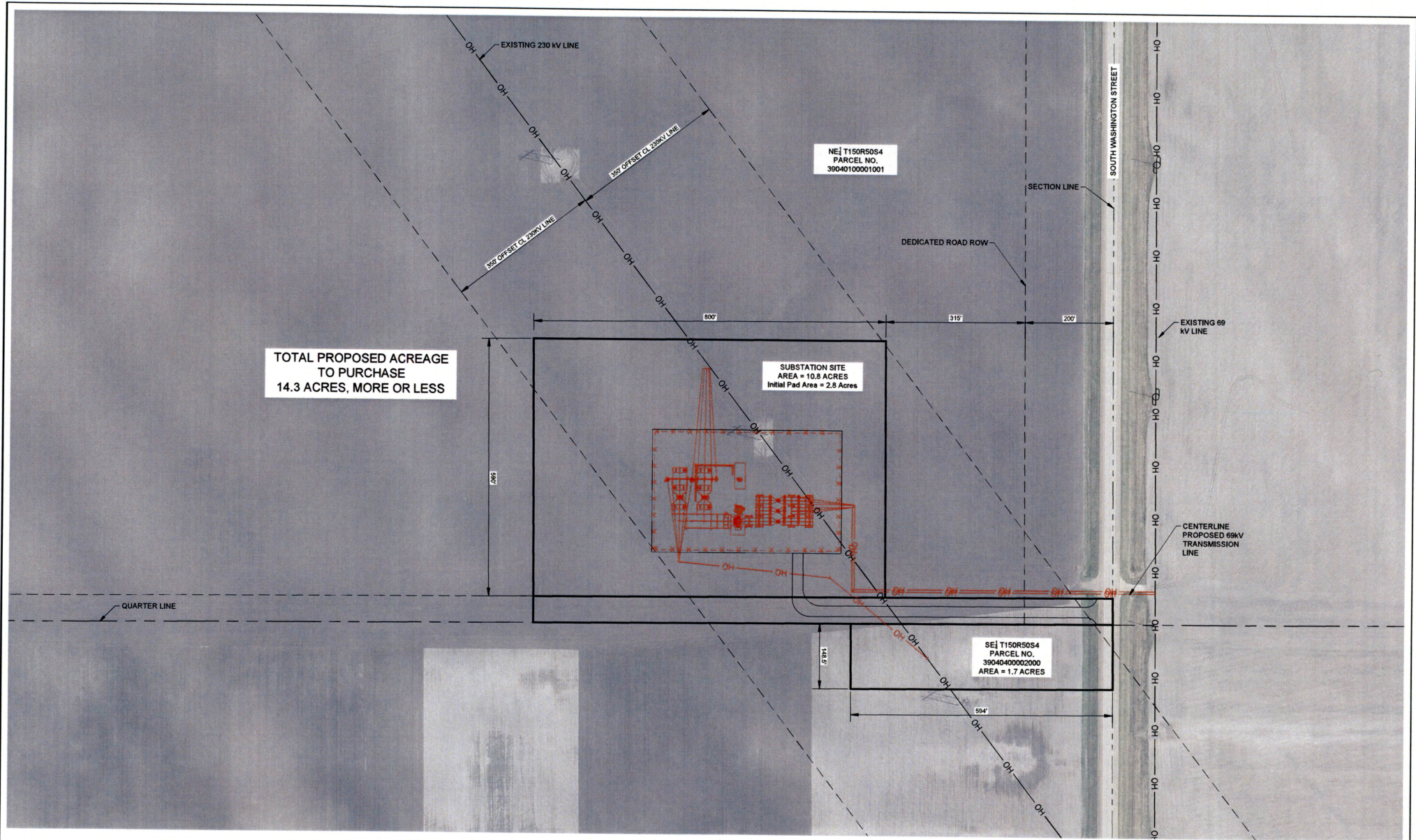
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
COUNTY OF GRAND FORKS

This instrument was acknowledged before me this 5 day of May, 2022 by Lowell Stave, VP Transmission & COO on behalf of Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.

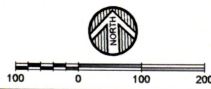
Notary Public  
**KIMBERLY JOHNSON RUSTAD**  
Notary Public  
State of North Dakota  
My Commission Expires Oct. 9, 2022

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

**PROJECT MAP**



PRELIMINARY



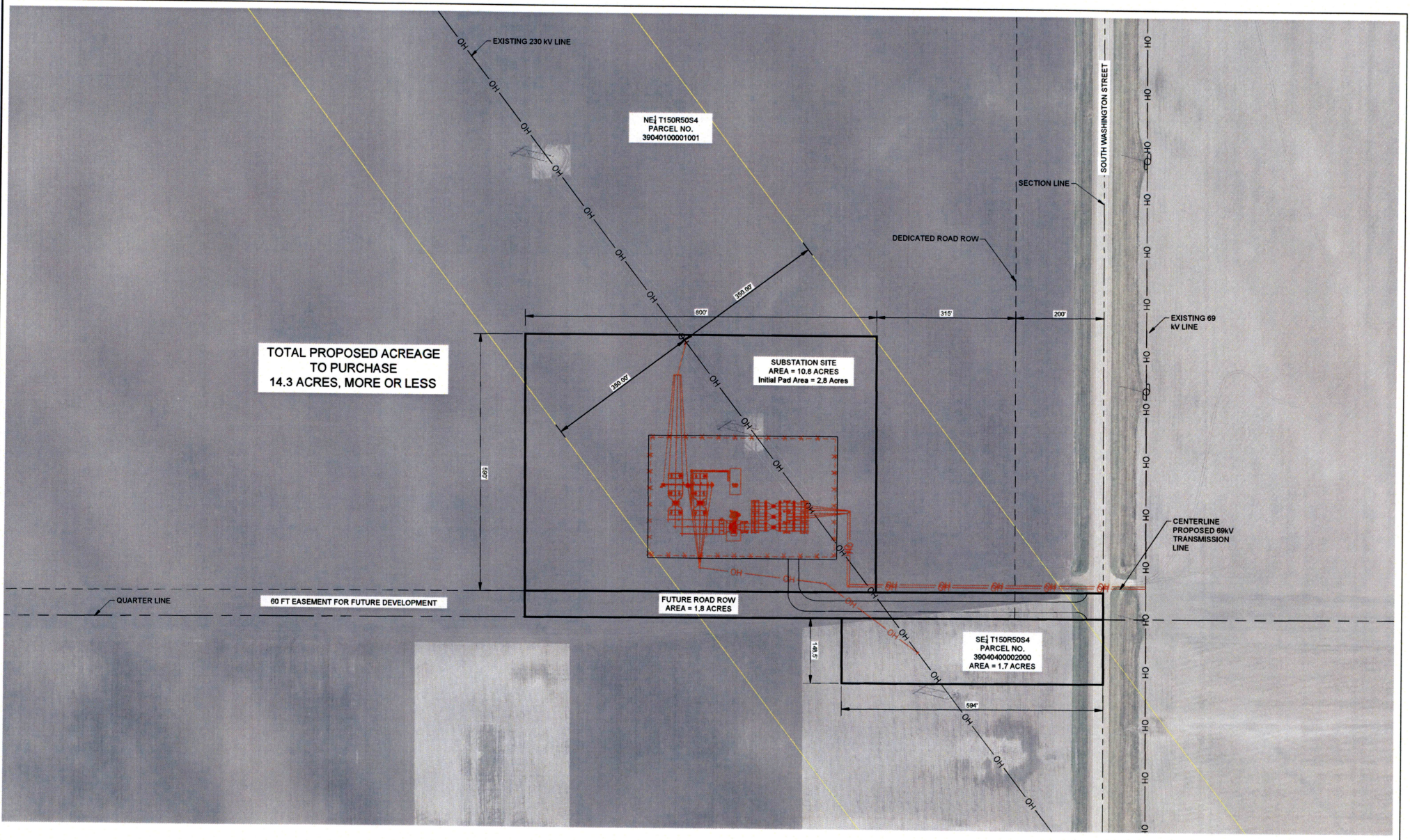
DATE	PROJECT #	WO #	REVISIONS	BY	WO #

DRAWN RDB  
DATE 1-7-2022  
APPROVED  
PROJECT #  
BY  
WO #

**WALLE SUBSTATION**  
SITE EXHIBIT B  
GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA

**Minnesota Power**  
COOPERATIVE

SCALE DWG.NO.  
SHEET 1 OF 1



PRELIMINARY



DATE	PROJECT #	WO #	REVISIONS	BY	WO #

DRAWN RDB		<b>WALLE SUBSTATION</b> SITE EXHIBIT B GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA
DATE 1-7-2022		
PROJECT #		
BY		
DWG. NO.		SCALE
		SHEET 1 OF 1

**ATTACHMENT: THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES**

**Threatened & Endangered Species Evaluation Table**  
**Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.**  
**Walle Substation**  
**May 18, 2022**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	Critical Habitat Present	Critical Habitat	Description of Suitable Habitat (cite source(s)*)	Proposed Finding of Effect	Explain Reasoning for Proposed Determination (cite source **)
Northern Long-eared bat	Myotis septemtrionalis	Threatened	No		Hibernates in caves and mines - swarming in surrounding wooded areas in autumn. Roosts and forages in upland forests during spring and summer.	No Effect	<a href="https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/index.html">https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/index.html</a> - No Critical Habitat was noted to be present. Also, work on this project does not include tree clearing.



## United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
North Dakota Ecological Services Field Office  
3425 Miriam Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58501-7926  
Phone: (701) 250-4481 Fax: (701) 355-8513  
[http://www.fws.gov/northdakotafieldoffice/endspecies/  
endangered\\_species.htm](http://www.fws.gov/northdakotafieldoffice/endspecies/endangered_species.htm)

In Reply Refer To:  
Project Code: 2022-0033329  
Project Name: Walle Substation

April 19, 2022

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

### To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF>

**Migratory Birds:** In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts see <https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations.php>.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures see <https://www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/threats-to-birds.php>.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit <https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/executive-orders/e0-13186.php>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of

this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
  - USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
  - Wetlands
-

## **Official Species List**

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

**North Dakota Ecological Services Field Office**

3425 Miriam Avenue

Bismarck, ND 58501-7926

(701) 250-4481

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## Project Summary

Project Code: 2022-0033329

Event Code: None

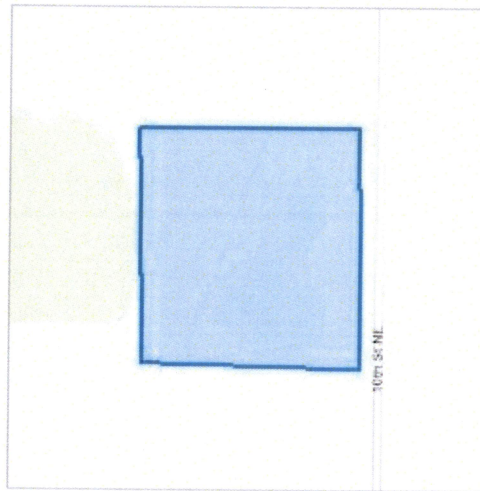
Project Name: Walle Substation

Project Type: Transmission Line - New Constr - Above Ground

Project Description: Proposed construction of new substation tapped into from existing high voltage transmission line

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@47.840151649999996,-97.04748839669415,14z>



Counties: Grand Forks County, North Dakota

## Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 2 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

- 
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

### Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045</a>	Threatened

### Insects

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</a>	Candidate

### Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

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## **USFWS National Wildlife Refuge Lands And Fish Hatcheries**

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS OR FISH HATCHERIES WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

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## **Wetlands**

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

THERE ARE NO WETLANDS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

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## **IPaC User Contact Information**

Agency: Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.

Name: Terry Johnson

Address: 5301 32nd Ave. S.

City: Grand Forks

State: ND

Zip: 58201

Email: [tjohnson@minnkota.com](mailto:tjohnson@minnkota.com)

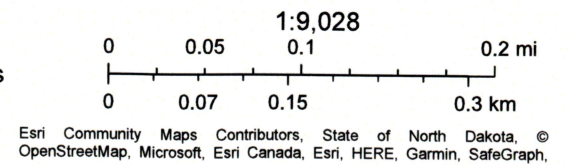
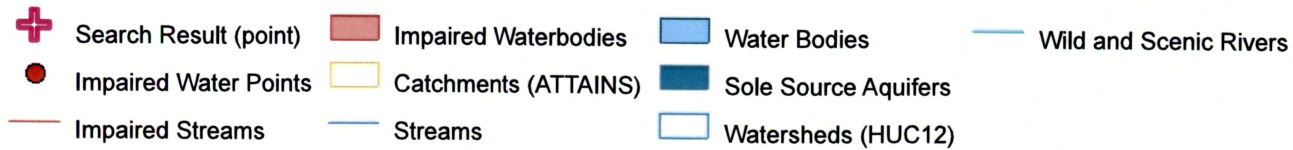
Phone: 7017991729

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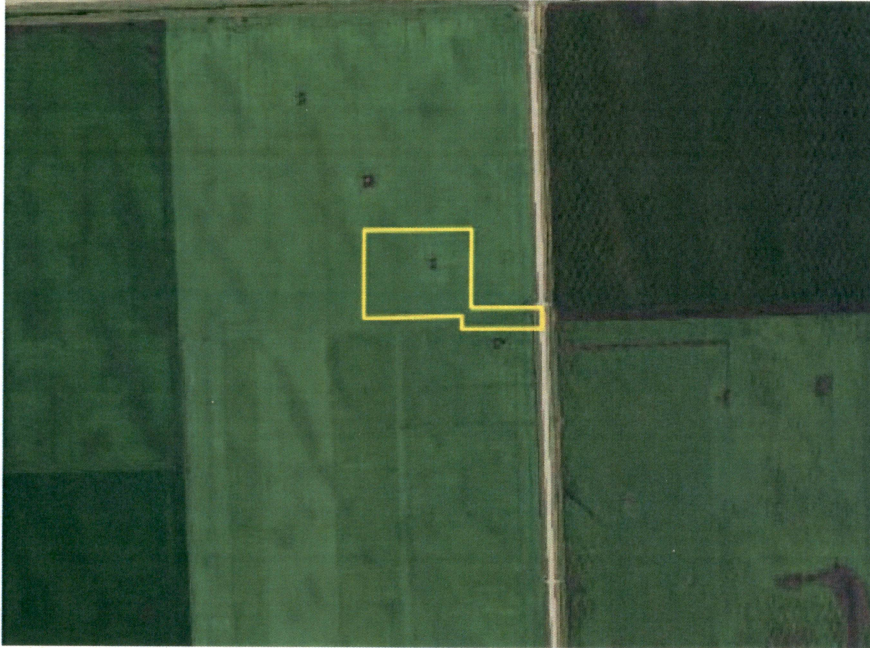
# Walle Critical Habitat mapping



April 14, 2022



**MINNKOTA WALLE SUBSTATION PROJECT  
Natural Resources Inventory Report**



*Prepared For:*  
**Barr Engineering Co.**

*On Behalf of:*  
**Minnkota Power Cooperative**



**Beaver Creek**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL**

1632 Capitol Way | Bismarck, ND 58501 | PH [701] 575.0731 | FX [701] 663.5589

[www.bcenv.org](http://www.bcenv.org) | mail: [ltoso@bcenv.org](mailto:ltoso@bcenv.org)

## Executive Summary

Minnkota Power Cooperative (Minnkota) is proposing the Walle Substation Project (or Project), a new electrical substation (1) mile south of Grand Forks in Grand Forks County, North Dakota. As part of the project permitting, the North Dakota Public Service Commission (NDPSC) requested that Minnkota provide documentation showing how the Project would comply with exclusion and avoidance areas. This report has been prepared to document compliance with North Dakota Century Code 69-06-08-02 Exclusion area D areas critical to the life stages of threatened or endangered animal or plant species and; Exclusion area E areas where animal or plant species that are unique or rare to this state would be irreversibly damaged.

The Project would occur on flat agricultural land that lacks habitat for threatened or endangered plant or animal species. Native habitats are also not present in the broader surrounding area, as this entire region is dominated by agricultural crop land. Since native habitat is not present in the immediate Project area or surrounding vicinity, impacts to threatened, endangered, unique, or rare animal or plant species are not anticipated as a result of the Project.

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## Exhibits

- Exhibit 1. Vicinity Map
- Exhibit 2. Overview Map

## Introduction

Minnkota Power Cooperative (Minnkota), is proposing the Walle Substation Project (Project) one (1) mile south of Grand Forks in Grand Forks County, North Dakota. The Project would be in Section 4, Township 150 North, Range 150 East. The Project area is defined as a 14.3 acre area where construction activities may occur.

The North Dakota Public Service Commission (NDPSC), the regulatory authority over the Project, requested that Minnkota provide “written reports of field surveys for exclusion and avoidance areas within 700ft wide corridor in areas of planned construction activities”. Exclusion and avoidance areas are documented in ND Century Code 69-06-08-02 Transmission Facility Corridor and Route Criteria. On behalf of Minnkota, Barr Engineering contracted Beaver Creek to complete natural resources assessment for the Project to ensure compliance with applicable avoidance and exclusion areas. This report has been prepared to document compliance with ND Century Code 69-06-08-02 exclusion criteria:

- D.) Areas critical to the life stages of threatened or endangered animal or plant species and;
- E.) Areas where animal or plant species that are unique or rare to this state would be irreversibly damaged

## Methods

### Desktop Review

A desktop review was conducted to evaluate potential resources in the Project vicinity and to determine if a field survey would be needed. Two levels of analysis were conducted: the Project area and the analysis area, 1 mile buffer surrounding the proposed Project. This 1-mile radius was used as a conservative estimate to determine the extent of natural resources near the Project. Statewide aerial photography, US Geological Survey (USGS) Topographic Maps, and land ownership data were reviewed to determine current and historic land use. A list of federally threatened, endangered, candidate and proposed resources was obtained for Grand Forks County from the USFWS Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) application (USFWS 2022 (Table 1)).

**Table 1. Federally Listed, Proposed, and Candidate Resources with the Action Area**

Species/Critical Habitat	Status	Habitat Description and Range in North Dakota
Northern Long-Eared Bat ( <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> )	T	Forested habitats, emergent wetlands, agricultural fields, old fields, pastures.
Monarch Butterfly ( <i>Danaus plexippus</i> )	C	Use milkweed ( <i>Asclepias</i> spp.) as obligate host plant for larvae. Adults require a diversity of blooming nectar sources during breeding and migration.

<sup>1</sup> Status Codes: E=federally listed endangered; T=federally listed threatened; P= federally proposed for listing; C= federal candidate for listing; and CH=designated critical habitat

## Results

The Project area would be within the Glacial Lake Agassiz Basin, which is dominated by flat p agricultural farmland. The Project area is consistent with the broader ecoregion, as historic aerial images show the Project area is dominated by agricultural land. The analysis area, or 1-mile radius surrounding the Project, was also completely dominated by agricultural land or human developments. No native habitats were present in the Project area or broader analysis area. The closest native habitat that could harbor native plants or wildlife would be next to the Red River which is just over two (2) miles east of the Project area.

## Discussion

Since the Project would be on agricultural crop land, and since no native habitats were present in the surrounding area, a desktop review was deemed sufficient to determine if the Project is in compliance with NDPSC exclusion and avoidance criteria. A field review would be recommended if impacts could occur to native habitats, such as grassland habitat, but this was not the case for the proposed Project.

### **D.) Areas critical to the life stages of threatened or endangered animal or plant species**

#### **Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)**

The northern long-eared bat has been considered for listing primarily because of white nose syndrome (WNS), an infectious fungus that is responsible for severe population declines (80 FR 17974). In North Dakota, this species is typically known to roost in trees greater than 3 inches in diameter at breast height that have exfoliated bark, cracks, crevices, and/or cavities. Trees with these characteristics are not present in the Project area. The nearest potential habitat would be the riparian corridor along the Red River, which is 2 miles east of the Project. Since potential habitat is not present in the Project area or broader analysis area, no direct, indirect or cumulative effects would occur to the northern long-eared bat as a result of construction of the Project. The Project would have no effect to the northern long-eared bat.

#### **Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)**

The monarch butterfly uses milkweed as an obligate host plant for larval development, with adults using a variety of floral resources (85 FR 81813). Therefore, suitable habitat for this species would be considered present if milkweed was available nearby other floral resources. Since the Project area and surrounding analysis area would be entirely agricultural crop land that lacks floral resources, habitat for this species is not present. Therefore, no direct, indirect, or cumulative effects would occur to the monarch butterfly as a result of construction of the Project. The Project would have no effect to the monarch butterfly.

### **Threatened and Endangered Species Impacts Summary**

Since the Project would be on agricultural cropland, impacts to threatened or endangered species would not occur since habitat is not present for these species. Therefore, since habitat is not present and impacts would not occur, the Project would be in compliance with NDPSC citing rules regarding endangered and threatened species.

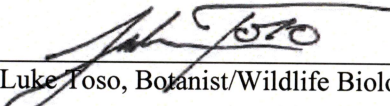
### **E.) Areas where animal or plant species that are unique or rare to this state would be irreversibly damaged**

Since the Project would be in agricultural cropland, Project impacts would not cause irreversible damage to rare or unique habitat since these resources are not present and therefore, the Project would be in compliance with NDPSC citing rules.

## Conclusion

The proposed Project would occur be on agricultural cropland. No impacts are anticipated to threatened or endangered species or their habitat since habitat is not present. The Project would also not result in irreversible impacts to unique or rare habitats since the entire Project area and surroundings is agricultural crop fields. Based on these findings, the proposed Project is in compliance with NDPSC citing rules.

I certify this report was prepared by me or under my direct supervision. Please contact me directly with questions or comments on this report at [ltoso@bcenv.org](mailto:ltoso@bcenv.org) or (701) 575-0731.

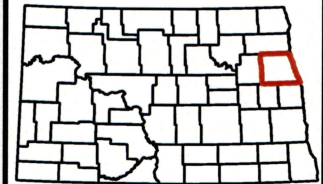
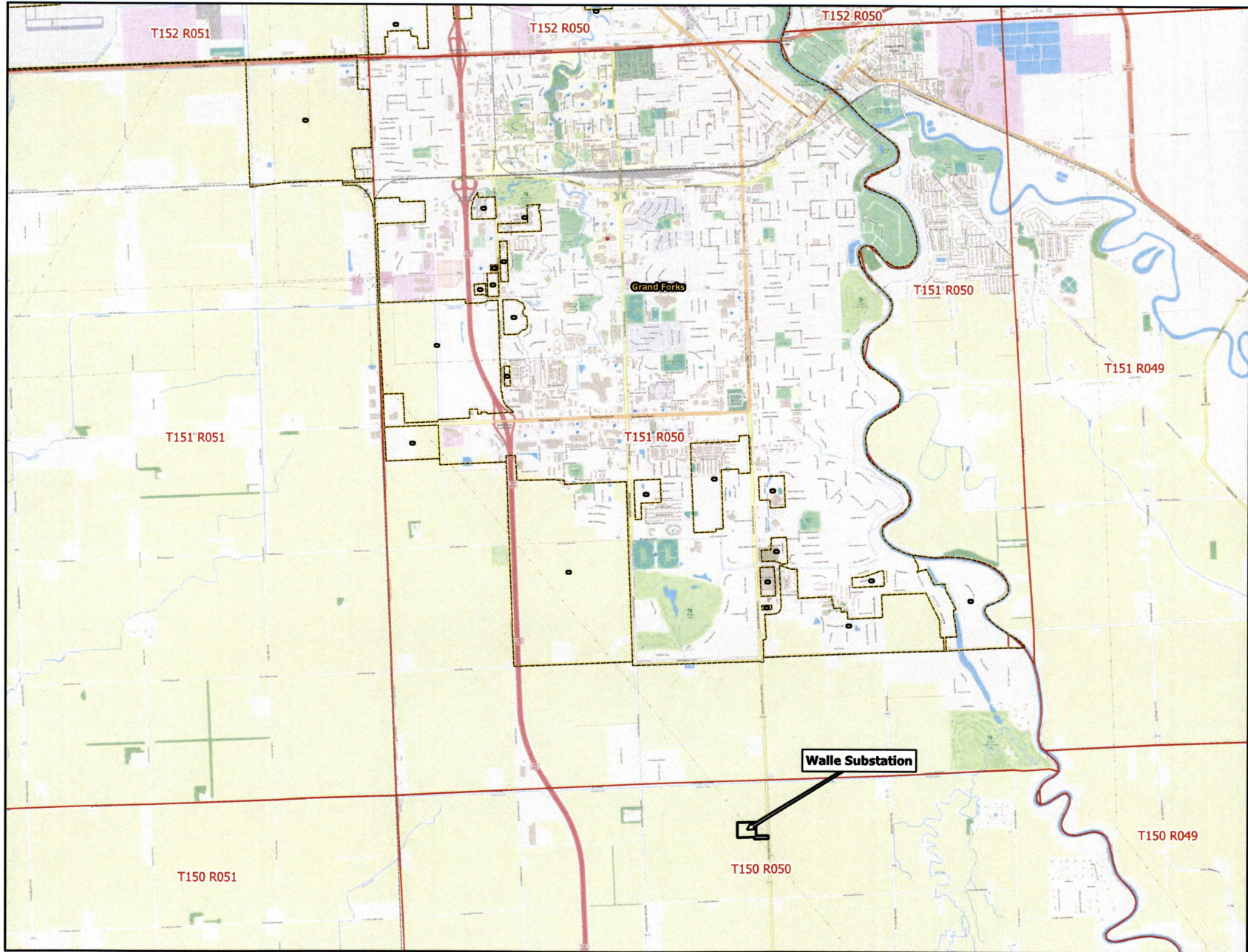
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Luke Toso, Botanist/Wildlife Biologist

April 18, 2022  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date




## References Cited

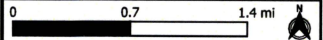
- Armbruster, M. J. 1990. Characterization of habitat used by whooping cranes during migration. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service., Biol. Rep. 90(4). 16pp.
- Bryce, S.A., Omernik, J.M., Pater, D.A., Ulmer, M., Schaar, J., Freeouf, J., Johnson, R., Kuck, P., and Azevedo, S.H., 1996, Ecoregions of North Dakota and South Dakota, (color poster with map, descriptive text, summary tables, and photographs): Reston, Virginia, U.S. Geological Survey (map scale 1:1,500,000).
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- North Dakota Game and Fish (NDGF). 2021. Habitat Types: Mixed-Grass Prairie (Missouri Coteau). Available online at: <https://gf.nd.gov/wildlife/habitats/habitats>. Accessed October 2021.
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## **Exhibits**



Grand Forks County, North Dakota

-  Survey Area
-  City Boundary
-  Townships



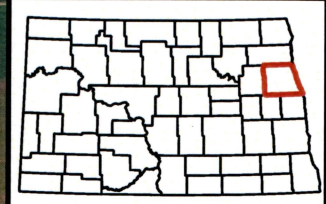
Drawn by: AGoblirsch  
 Map Date: 2022-04-20 12:22:27  
 Project Name: Walle Substation  
 Background Imagery: OSM Standard



VICINITY MAP

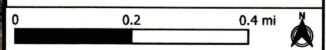
Walle Substation  
 Minnkota Power Cooperative

Exhibit 1



**Grand Forks County, North Dakota**

- 1 Mile Analysis Area
- Survey Area
- Sections



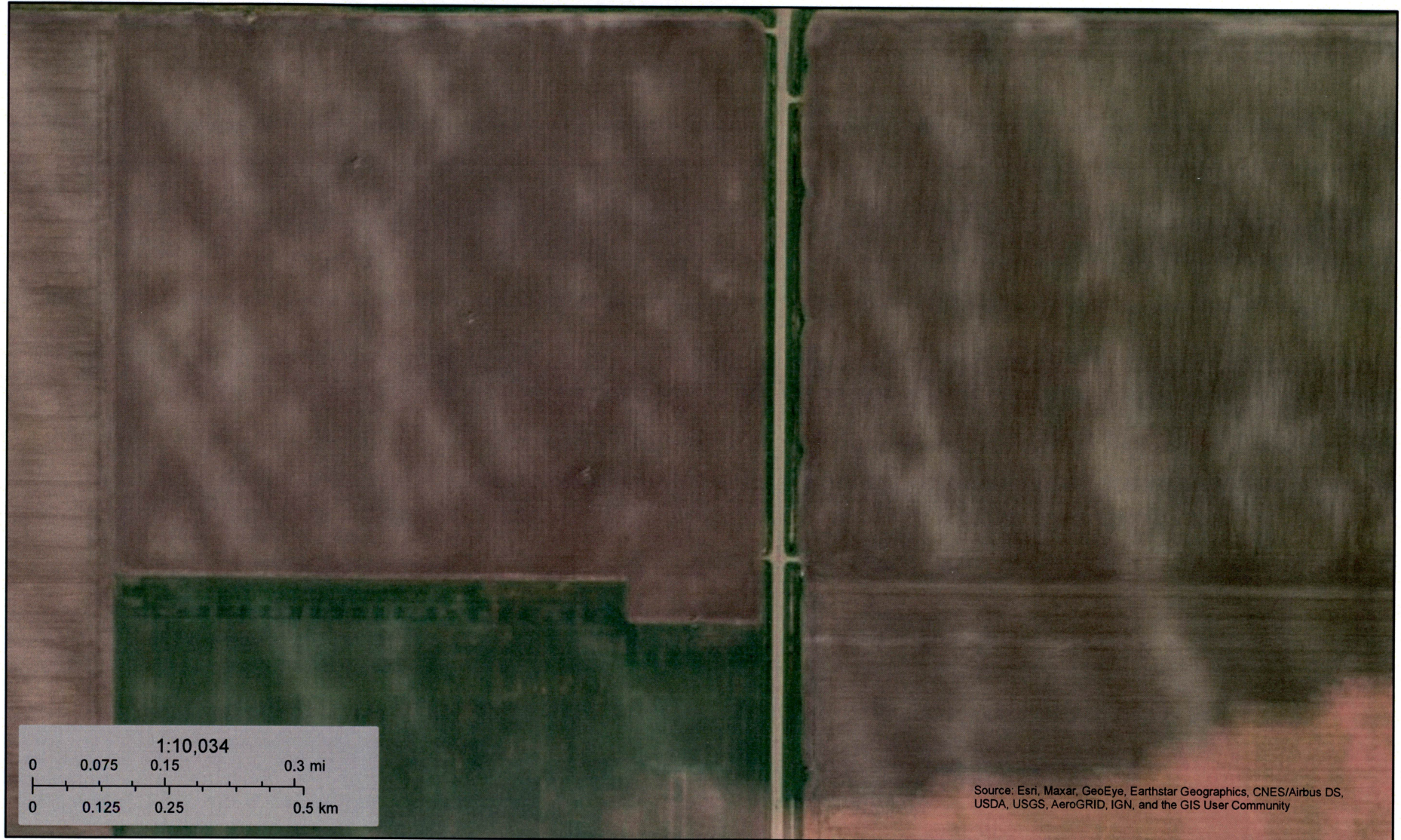
Drawn by: AGoblirsch  
 Map Date: 2022-04-20 12:23:53  
 Project Name: Walle Substation  
 Background Imagery: 2021 Aerial Imagery (NAIP)



**OVERVIEW MAP**  
  
**Walle Substation**  
**Minnkota Power Cooperative**

**Exhibit 2**



**ATTACHMENT: WETLANDS PROTECTION**






Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

April 14, 2022

**Wetlands**

-  Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
-  Estuarine and Marine Wetland

-  Freshwater Emergent Wetland
-  Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
-  Freshwater Pond

-  Lake
-  Other
-  Riverine

This map is for general reference only. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is not responsible for the accuracy or currentness of the base data shown on this map. All wetlands related data should be used in accordance with the layer metadata found on the Wetlands Mapper web site.

**ATTACHMENT: FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT**

# National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette



97°3'12"W 47°50'36"N



0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet 1:6,000  
 Basemap: USGS National Map: Orthoimagery: Data refreshed October, 2020

## Legend

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE)<br/><i>Zone A, V, A99</i></li> <li> With BFE or Depth <i>Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR</i></li> <li> Regulatory Floodway</li> </ul>  |
| <b>OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile <i>Zone X</i></li> <li> Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard <i>Zone X</i></li> <li> Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee. See Notes, <i>Zone X</i></li> <li> Area with Flood Risk due to Levee <i>Zone D</i></li> </ul> |
| <b>OTHER AREAS</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> NO SCREEN Area of Minimal Flood Hazard <i>Zone X</i></li> <li> Effective LOMRs</li> <li> Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard <i>Zone D</i></li> </ul>   |
| <b>GENERAL STRUCTURES</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer</li> <li> Levee, Dike, or Floodwall</li> </ul>   |
| <b>OTHER FEATURES</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>20.2</b> Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance Water Surface Elevation</li> <li> Coastal Transect</li> <li> Base Flood Elevation Line (BFE)</li> <li> Limit of Study</li> <li> Jurisdiction Boundary</li> <li> Coastal Transect Baseline</li> <li> Profile Baseline</li> <li> Hydrographic Feature</li> </ul>   |
| <b>MAP PANELS</b>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Digital Data Available</li> <li> No Digital Data Available</li> <li> Unmapped</li> </ul>  |
- The pin displayed on the map is an approximate point selected by the user and does not represent an authoritative property location.

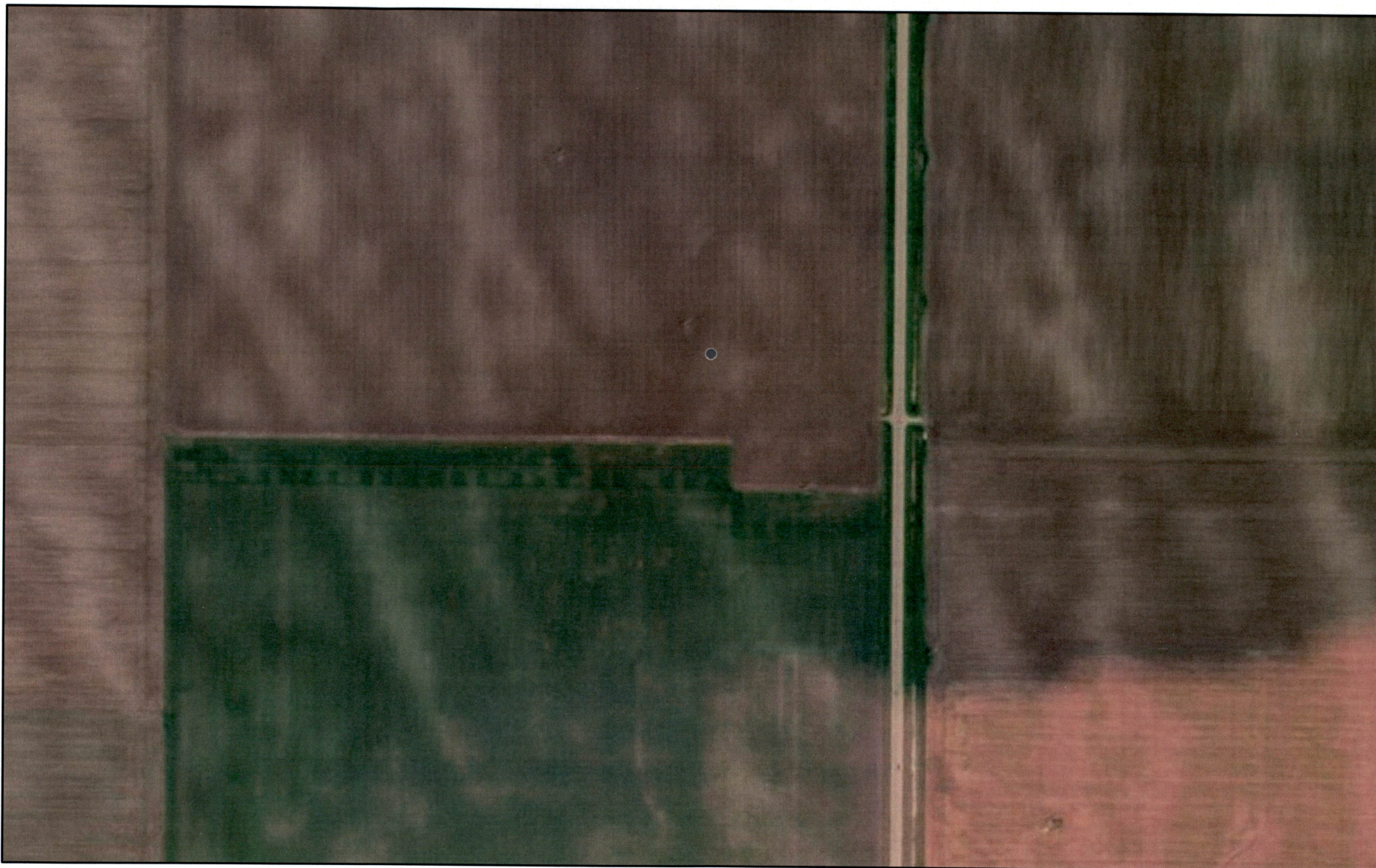
This map complies with FEMA's standards for the use of digital flood maps if it is not void as described below. The basemap shown complies with FEMA's basemap accuracy standards

The flood hazard information is derived directly from the authoritative NFHL web services provided by FEMA. This map was exported on 4/14/2022 at 2:53 PM and does not reflect changes or amendments subsequent to this date and time. The NFHL and effective information may change or become superseded by new data over time.

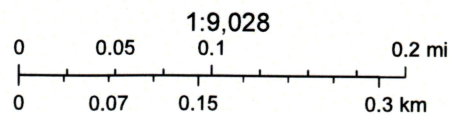
This map image is void if the one or more of the following map elements do not appear: basemap imagery, flood zone labels, legend, scale bar, map creation date, community identifiers, FIRM panel number, and FIRM effective date. Map images for unmapped and unmodernized areas cannot be used for regulatory purposes.

**ATTACHMENT: FORMALLY CLASSIFIED LANDS**

# Wilderness Map for Walle



4/14/2022, 2:10:19 PM



Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community, Esri, HERE,

Web AppBuilder for ArcGIS  
Maxar | Esri, HERE, Garmin, GeoTechnologies, Inc. |

**ATTACHMENT: PRIME FARMLAND**

## Terry Johnson

---

**From:** Terry Johnson  
**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2022 3:54 PM  
**To:** 'Sieler, Steve (CTR) - NRCS, Bismarck, ND'  
**Cc:** Bott, Wade - NRCS, Bismarck, ND  
**Subject:** RE: Minnkota's Walle Substation Project AD-1006 Farmland Conversion Impact Rating  
**Attachments:** Walle Substation\_Final AD1006.pdf

Please find attached the completed AD1006 form for our Walle substation project as requested. Please let me know if you have questions.

---

**From:** Sieler, Steve (CTR) - NRCS, Bismarck, ND <steve.sieler@usda.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2022 1:10 PM  
**To:** Terry Johnson <tjohnson@minnkota.com>  
**Cc:** Bott, Wade - NRCS, Bismarck, ND <wade.bott@usda.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Minnkota's Walle Substation Project AD-1006 Farmland Conversion Impact Rating

**CAUTION: This message originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

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Terry,

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has completed Parts II, IV and V of the AD-1006 Farmland Conversion Impact Rating (see attached) for the Walle Substation in Grand Forks County, North Dakota. Please complete Part VI, Site Assessment Criteria and Part VII. I have attached instructions for completing Part VI.

Upon completion of the AD-1006 Farmland Conversion Impact Rating, NRCS requests a copy for year-end reporting purposes. If you have questions on Parts VI or VII, please contact me via email or Wade Bott via email at [wade.bott@usda.nrcs](mailto:wade.bott@usda.nrcs) or phone 701-530-2022.

Steven Sieler  
Soil Scientist  
Assisting NRCS/  
New Solution - ACES

---

**From:** Terry Johnson <[tjohnson@minnkota.com](mailto:tjohnson@minnkota.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2022 8:23 AM  
**To:** Sieler, Steve (CTR) - NRCS, Bismarck, ND <[steve.sieler@usda.gov](mailto:steve.sieler@usda.gov)>; Bott, Wade - NRCS, Bismarck, ND <[wade.bott@usda.gov](mailto:wade.bott@usda.gov)>  
**Subject:** [External Email]Minnkota's Walle Substation Project

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[External Email]

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Please send any concerns or suspicious messages to: [Spam.Abuse@usda.gov](mailto:Spam.Abuse@usda.gov)

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Please find attached our initially completed AD-1006 to begin the farmland impact rating process for the project indicated above.

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**FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING**

<b>PART I</b> (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Date Of Land Evaluation Request <b>4-14-2022</b>			
Name of Project <b>Walle Substation</b>		Federal Agency Involved <b>RUS</b>			
Proposed Land Use <b>Substation</b>		County and State <b>Grand Forks, North Dakota</b>			
<b>PART II</b> (To be completed by NRCS)		Date Request Received By NRCS <b>4-18-2022</b>		Person Completing Form: <b>Steven Sieler</b>	
Does the site contain Prime, Unique, Statewide or Local Important Farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - do not complete additional parts of this form)		YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Acres Irrigated <b>NA</b>	Average Farm Size <b>898</b>
Major Crop(s) <b>Soy Beans, Corn, Potatoes</b>	Farmable Land In Govt. Jurisdiction Acres: <b>NA</b> %	Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: <b>NA</b> %			
Name of Land Evaluation System Used <b>LESA</b>	Name of State or Local Site Assessment System <b>LESA</b>	Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS <b>4-18-2022</b>			
<b>PART III</b> (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Alternative Site Rating			
		Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly		<b>10.8</b>			
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly		<b>3.5</b>			
C. Total Acres In Site		<b>14.3</b>			
<b>PART IV</b> (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information					
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland		<b>14.3</b>			
B. Total Acres Statewide Important or Local Important Farmland		<b>-</b>			
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted		<b>.001</b>			
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value		<b>25</b>			
<b>PART V</b> (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion Relative Value of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)		<b>89.9</b>			
<b>PART VI</b> (To be completed by Federal Agency) Site Assessment Criteria (Criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5 b. For Corridor project use form NRCS-CPA-106)		Maximum Points	Site A	Site B	Site C
1. Area In Non-urban Use		(15)	<b>13</b>		
2. Perimeter In Non-urban Use		(10)	<b>10</b>		
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed		(20)	<b>20</b>		
4. Protection Provided By State and Local Government		(20)	<b>10</b>		
5. Distance From Urban Built-up Area		(15)	<b>6</b>		
6. Distance To Urban Support Services		(15)	<b>0</b>		
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average		(10)	<b>10</b>		
8. Creation Of Non-farmable Farmland		(10)	<b>0</b>		
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services		(5)	<b>5</b>		
10. On-Farm Investments		(20)	<b>0</b>		
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services		(10)	<b>0</b>		
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use		(10)	<b>0</b>		
TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS		160	<b>74</b>		
<b>PART VII</b> (To be completed by Federal Agency)					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)		100	<b>89.9</b>		
Total Site Assessment (From Part VI above or local site assessment)		160	<b>74</b>		
<b>TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)</b>		260	<b>163.9</b>		
Site Selected: <b>A</b>		Date Of Selection <b>4-18-2022</b>		Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
Reason For Selection: <b>Only viable alternative selected due to attempts to procure purchase agreements with additional landowners</b>					
Name of Federal agency representative completing this form: <b>Terry Johnson</b>					Date: <b>4-18-22</b>

(See Instructions on reverse side)

Form AD-1006 (03-02)

## STEPS IN THE PROCESSING THE FARMLAND AND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FORM

- Step 1 - Federal agencies (or Federally funded projects) involved in proposed projects that may convert farmland, as defined in the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) to nonagricultural uses, will initially complete Parts I and III of the form. For Corridor type projects, the Federal agency shall use form NRCS-CPA-106 in place of form AD-1006. The Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) process may also be accessed by visiting the FPPA website, <http://fppa.nrcs.usda.gov/lesa/>.
- Step 2 - Originator (Federal Agency) will send one original copy of the form together with appropriate scaled maps indicating location(s) of project site(s), to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) local Field Office or USDA Service Center and retain a copy for their files. (NRCS has offices in most counties in the U.S. The USDA Office Information Locator may be found at [http://offices.usda.gov/scripts/ndISAPI.dll/oip\\_public/USA\\_map](http://offices.usda.gov/scripts/ndISAPI.dll/oip_public/USA_map), or the offices can usually be found in the Phone Book under U.S. Government, Department of Agriculture. A list of field offices is available from the NRCS State Conservationist and State Office in each State.)
- Step 3 - NRCS will, within 10 working days after receipt of the completed form, make a determination as to whether the site(s) of the proposed project contains prime, unique, statewide or local important farmland. (When a site visit or land evaluation system design is needed, NRCS will respond within 30 working days.
- Step 4 - For sites where farmland covered by the FPPA will be converted by the proposed project, NRCS will complete Parts II, IV and V of the form.
- Step 5 - NRCS will return the original copy of the form to the Federal agency involved in the project, and retain a file copy for NRCS records.
- Step 6 - The Federal agency involved in the proposed project will complete Parts VI and VII of the form and return the form with the final selected site to the servicing NRCS office.
- Step 7 - The Federal agency providing financial or technical assistance to the proposed project will make a determination as to whether the proposed conversion is consistent with the FPPA.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FORM

*(For Federal Agency)*

**Part I:** When completing the "County and State" questions, list all the local governments that are responsible for local land use controls where site(s) are to be evaluated.

**Part III:** When completing item B (Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly), include the following:

1. Acres not being directly converted but that would no longer be capable of being farmed after the conversion, because the conversion would restrict access to them or other major change in the ability to use the land for agriculture.
2. Acres planned to receive services from an infrastructure project as indicated in the project justification (e.g. highways, utilities planned build out capacity) that will cause a direct conversion.

**Part VI:** Do not complete Part VI using the standard format if a State or Local site assessment is used. With local and NRCS assistance, use the local Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA).

1. Assign the maximum points for each site assessment criterion as shown in § 658.5(b) of CFR. In cases of corridor-type project such as transportation, power line and flood control, criteria #5 and #6 will not apply and will, be weighted zero, however, criterion #8 will be weighed a maximum of 25 points and criterion #11 a maximum of 25 points.
2. Federal agencies may assign relative weights among the 12 site assessment criteria other than those shown on the FPPA rule after submitting individual agency FPPA policy for review and comment to NRCS. In all cases where other weights are assigned, relative adjustments must be made to maintain the maximum total points at 160. For project sites where the total points equal or exceed 160, consider alternative actions, as appropriate, that could reduce adverse impacts (e.g. Alternative Sites, Modifications or Mitigation).

**Part VII:** In computing the "Total Site Assessment Points" where a State or local site assessment is used and the total maximum number of points is other than 160, convert the site assessment points to a base of 160.

Example: if the Site Assessment maximum is 200 points, and the alternative Site "A" is rated 180 points:

$$\frac{\text{Total points assigned Site A}}{\text{Maximum points possible}} = \frac{180}{200} \times 160 = 144 \text{ points for Site A}$$

For assistance in completing this form or FPPA process, contact the local NRCS Field Office or USDA Service Center.







NRCS employees, consult the FPPA Manual and/or policy for additional instructions to complete the AD-1006 form.

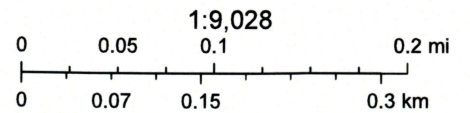
**ATTACHMENT: WATER RESOURCES**

# Walle Waters mapping



April 14, 2022

- |   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
|  Search Result (point) |  Impaired Waterbodies |  Water Bodies         |  Wild and Scenic Rivers |
|  Impaired Water Points |  Catchments (ATAINS)  |  Sole Source Aquifers |  |
|  Impaired Streams      |  Streams              |  Watersheds (HUC12)   |  |



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**ATTACHMENT: COASTAL RESOURCES**

**NOT APPLICABLE**

**ATTACHMENT: CORAL REEFS PROTECTED AQUATIC  
HABITATS**

**NOT APPLICABLE**

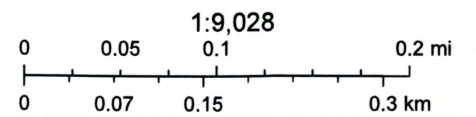
**ATTACHMENT: AIR QUALITY**

# Walle Non-attainment area mapping



April 14, 2022

 Search Result (point)



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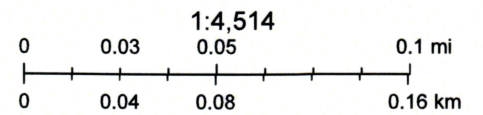
**ATTACHMENT: SITE CONTAMINATION AND HAZARDOUS  
WASTE**

# Walle EPA Mapping



April 14, 2022

 Search Result (point)



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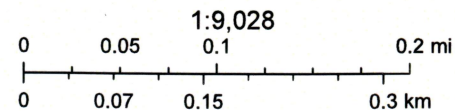
**ATTACHMENT: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

# Walle EJ Map



April 14, 2022

Particulate Matter 2.5	2017 Diesel Particulate Matter	2017 Air Toxics Respiratory HI	Lead Paint	RMP Facility Proximity
Less than 50%ile	Less than 50%ile	Less than 50%ile	Less than 50%ile	Less than 50%ile
Ozone	2017 Air Toxics Cancer Risk	Traffic Proximity	Superfund Proximity	Hazardous Waste Proximity
Less than 50%ile	Less than 50%ile	50-60%ile	50-60%ile	Less than 50%ile



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