

August 25, 2022

VIA E-MAIL AND FEDERAL EXPRESS

Mr. Steven Kahl
Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 E. Boulevard, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Re: Great River Energy
230 kV Transmission Lines – Mercer and McLean Counties
Siting Exclusion Certification
Case No. PU-22-____

Dear Mr. Kahl:

Great River Energy (“GRE”) owns and operates two 230 kilovolt (“kV”) transmission lines that cross the Missouri River along the border between Mercer County, North Dakota and McLean County, North Dakota: (1) the Stanton Station to Voltaire Transmission Line, referred to as the SV Line; and (2) the Coal Creek Station to Stanton Station Transmission Line, referred to as the CS Line. Due to erosion issues on the north side of the bank of the Missouri River, which have the potential to negatively impact the existing structures, GRE is planning to relocate three SV Line and two SC Line structures (“Project”).

Enclosed for filing in connection with the Project are two copies of a Certification Pursuant to North Dakota Century Code § 49-22-03(a)(4), along with Exhibits A and B. Electronic copies of the enclosed documents were filed with the Commission today via e-mail.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Mollie M. Smith
Direct Dial: 612.492.7270
Email: msmith@fredlaw.com

Encls.

cc: Dan Leshar (via e-mail, w/ encls.) 1 PU-22-352 Filed 08/26/2022 Pages: 50
Tosha Barthel (via e-mail, w/ encls.) Certification and documentation relating to N.D.C.C. Section 49-22-03(3)(a)(4) - redacted
Great River Energy
Mollie Smith, Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.

the new structure locations and shifted easements on the SV Line. Additional private easements have been negotiated with the affected landowner(s).

4. The SV line was constructed in the 1966-1967 timeframe, pre-dating the enactment of N.D.C.C. Ch. 49-22 (the “Siting Act”). Since the SV Line was originally constructed prior to April 9, 1975, for purposes of N.D.C.C. § 49-22-03(3)(a)(4), a corridor width of 350 feet on either side of the centerline applies pursuant to N.D.C.C. § 49-22-03(3)(a)(1)(c) (the “SV Corridor”).

5. The CS Line received a Certificate of Site Compatibility for a Transmission Facility Corridor from the Commission on February 28, 1977 (*see* PSC Case No. 9459), and a Route Permit on September 8, 1977 (*see* PSC Case No. 9593). The corridor designated for the CS Line is 10.5 miles wide and is described in Certificate No. 5 (the “CS Corridor”).

6. Attached as **Exhibit A** is a figure showing the current locations of the SV Line and the CS Line (including structure locations) at the Missouri River crossing, the proposed Project’s new locations of the SV Line and CS Line (including structure locations), and the 350-foot-wide SV Line Corridor which overlaps the 10.5-mile-wide CS Line Corridor (collectively, the “Corridors”).

7. The Project’s construction activities will be conducted wholly within the Corridors, and GRE holds all necessary easement rights within the Corridors.

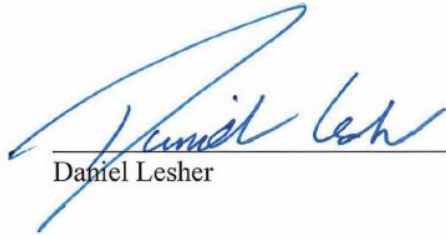
8. In accordance with N.D.C.C. § 49-22-03(3)(a)(4), GRE certifies as follows:

- a. The Project involves upgrading structures and conductor for the SV Line and the CS Line; thus, the proposed construction activities are to improve existing electric transmission facilities.
- b. GRE conducted an environmental analysis of the relevant portion of the Project’s Corridors relative to the Exclusion Areas and Avoidance Areas set

forth in N.D.A.C. §§ 69-06-08-02(1)-(2). A summary of GRE's environmental analysis is attached as **Exhibit B**.


- c. No Exclusion or Avoidance Areas will be impacted by the Project.
- d. One category of Exclusion Area is present within the relevant portion of the Corridors: areas critical to the life stages of threatened or endangered animal or plant species (N.D.A.C. § 69-06-08-02(1)(d)). Specifically, potentially suitable habitat for the piping plover, a federally-listed endangered avian species, was identified within the Corridors at the Missouri River. However, the Project spans the Missouri River and, therefore, the Project avoids the potentially suitable piping plover habitat.
- e. One category of Avoidance Area is present within the relevant portion of the Corridors: areas of recreational significance which are not designated as exclusion areas (N.D.A.C. § 69-06-08-02(2)(i)). The Missouri River is known as a recreation area. However, the Project spans and, therefore, avoids the Missouri River.
- f. With respect to historical resources (N.D.A.C. § 69-06-08-02(1)(a-b) and 69-06-08-02(2)(c)), a field survey was conducted and no known cultural resources occur within the Project workspace or proposed easements.
- g. GRE will comply with all applicable conditions and protections in siting laws and rules. GRE will also comply with the Commission's orders in PSC Case Nos. 9459 and 9593 for the CS Line. The SV Line was constructed prior to the Siting Act; therefore, no prior Commission orders exist that are applicable to that facility.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.



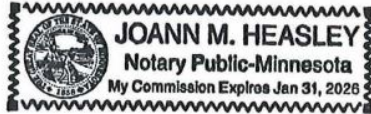
Daniel Lesh

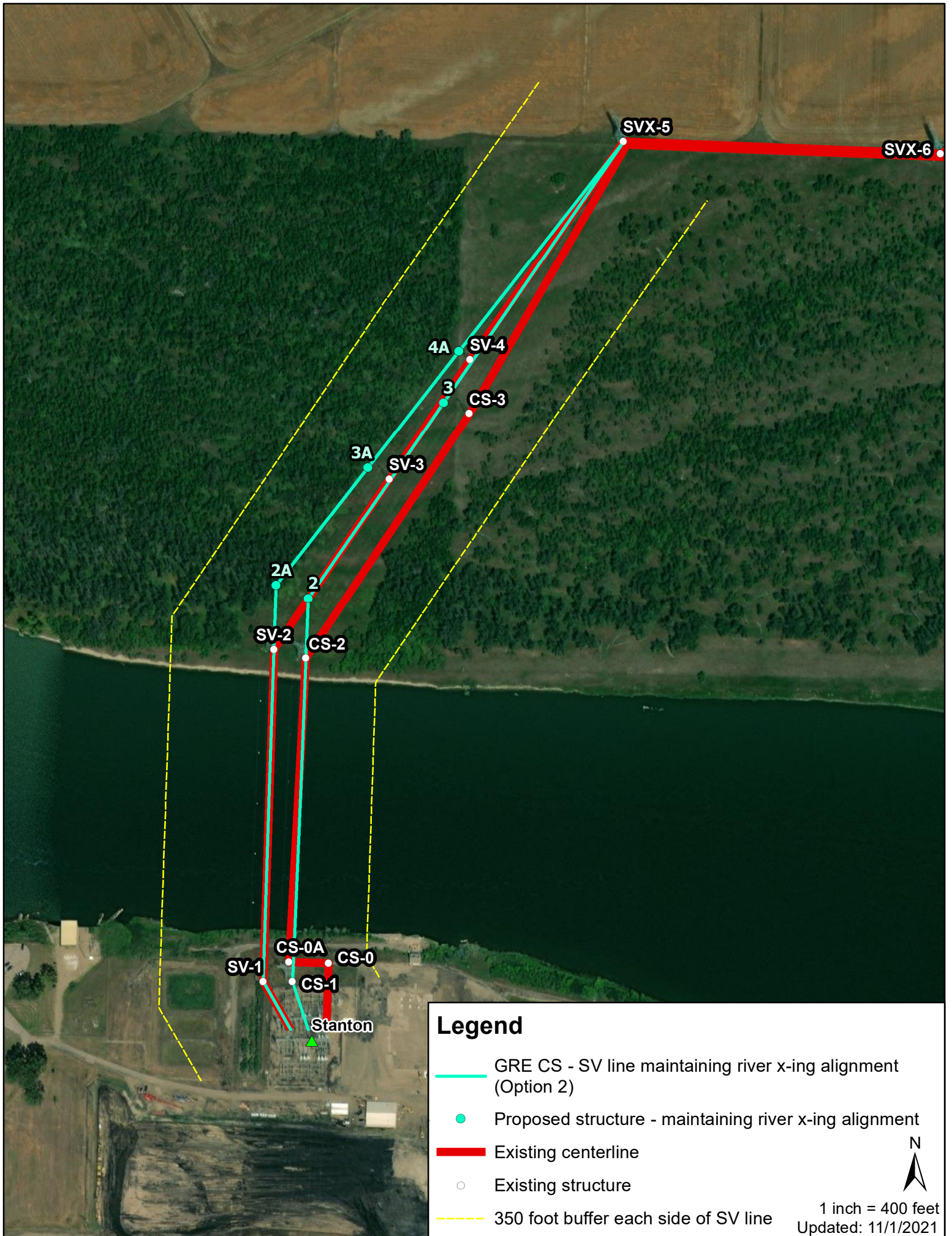
Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 25th day of August, 2022.



Notary Public

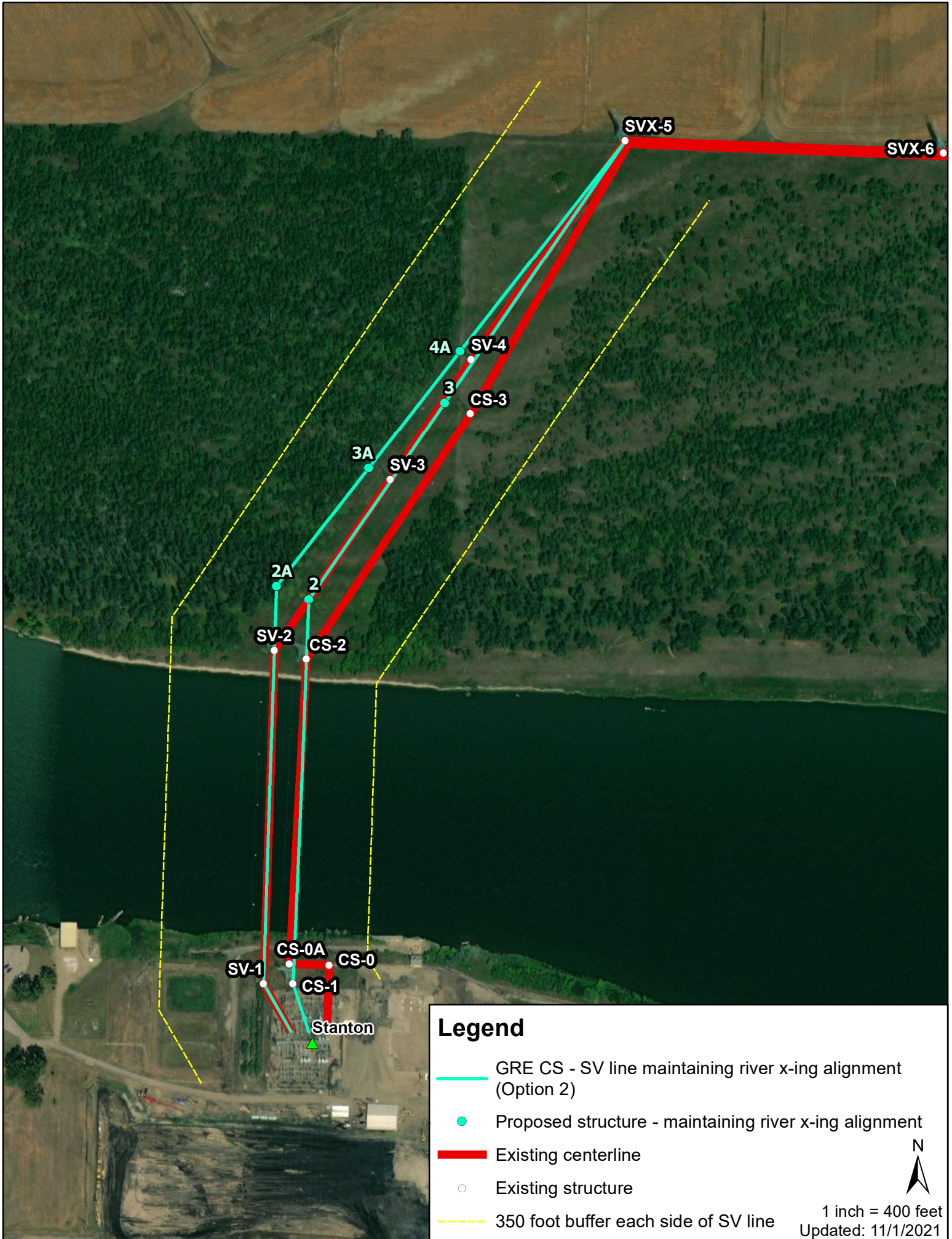
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Legend

- GRE CS - SV line maintaining river x-ing alignment (Option 2)
 - Proposed structure - maintaining river x-ing alignment
 - Existing centerline
 - Existing structure
 - 350 foot buffer each side of SV line
- 1 inch = 400 feet
Updated: 11/1/2021



Legend

- GRE CS - SV line maintaining river x-ing alignment (Option 2)
 - Proposed structure - maintaining river x-ing alignment
 - Existing centerline
 - Existing structure
 - 350 foot buffer each side of SV line
- 1 inch = 400 feet
Updated: 11/1/2021

GREAT RIVER ENERGY



CS & SV Lines Structure Relocation Project

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS FOR NDPSC CERTIFICATION

Prepared by:



August 2022

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Great River Energy (GRE) contracted Merjent, Inc. (Merjent) to assist with environmental review and permitting for GRE's CS and SV Lines Structure Replacement Project (Project). This report summarizes the environmental analysis conducted for inclusion with GRE's North Dakota Public Service Commission (NDPSC) Certification Statement filing.

The Project is proposing to remove and then replace five transmission line structures along GRE's Coal Creek Station to Stanton Station (CS) and Stanton Station to Voltaire (SV) electric transmission lines near the northern bank of the Missouri River in T144N R84W Section 16 in McLean County, North Dakota. As part of the Project, the 230 kV conductor lines crossing over the Missouri River into Mercer County will be replaced along the existing line alignment following installation of the new structures. GRE is in the process of obtaining approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the crossing of the Missouri River, a Section 10 river.

The SV Line was constructed around 1966-1967 and the CS Line was constructed around 1977. Since then, the banks of the Missouri River adjacent to the SV and CS Line structures have been eroding. Due to this erosion and to maintain the integrity of the transmission line, the two steel lattice structures nearest to the northern river bank will be relocated further north to a position that would allow for the alignment across the river to remain the same. To accommodate this shift, while maintaining the river crossing alignment, three additional transmission line structures will be removed and replaced in an alternative location.

To remove the five existing structures and install the five new structures, GRE will use the existing and new transmission line rights-of-way, generally extending from the Missouri River to the SVX-5 transmission line structure (see maps in Appendix A). No in-water work at the river is anticipated as part of the Project.

Construction is anticipated to begin in fall 2022, pending receipt of all required permits. GRE proposes beginning tree clearing within the new right-of-way in September 2022. Piers for the new structures will be poured in October/November 2022 and allowed to cure through December 2022. In March 2023, GRE will return to construct the new H-Frame structures. After the new structures are installed, the old wire and new conductors will be transferred to the new structures using ground equipment and/or drones. The Project is anticipated to be in-service by late April 2023.

1.1 NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Merjent understands that the CS Line received a Certificate of Site Compatibility for a Transmission Facility Corridor (Certificate) from the NDPSC on February 28, 1977 (PSC Case No. 9459), and a Route Permit on September 8, 1977 (PSC Case No. 9593). The corridor designated in the Certificate for the CS Line is 10.5 miles wide. The SV Line was constructed prior to the Siting Act (North Dakota Century Code [NDCC] Ch. 49-22), which went into effect on April 9, 1975; therefore, improvements must follow the certification exclusion requirements under the current NDCC § 49-22-03(3). For purposes of NDCC § 49-22-03(3)(a)(4), a corridor width of 350 feet on either side of the centerline applies pursuant to NDCC § 49-22-03(3)(a)(1)(c), and the Project will modify the transmission line alignment and structures within this Corridor.

2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Merjent conducted an environmental analysis of the Project using field surveys, publicly available data, and agency consultations. A summary of the environmental analysis is provided below.

2.1 NATURAL RESOURCE FIELD SURVEYS

Merjent conducted a wetland and waterbody delineation and habitat assessment survey on May 6, 2021. Surveys were conducted within a 28.2-acre survey area surrounding the transmission line structures on the northern side of the Missouri River. The Project workspace falls entirely within the surveyed area.

Wetland delineations followed methodology from the USACE Wetlands Delineation Manual (Environmental Laboratory, 1987) and the Regional Supplement to the USACE Wetland Delineation Manual: Great Plains Region (Version 2.0) (USACE, 2010). Other waters can include, but are not limited to, streams, ponds, and ditches. No wetlands or other waters were determined to be present within the Project workspace and survey area. The Missouri River was located outside of the survey area and Project workspace.

The field-based habitat assessment was conducted to determine whether suitable habitat for federally threatened and endangered species was present in the Project workspace on the northern side of the Missouri River.

Northern Long-eared Bat

Northern long-eared bats roost either singularly or in colonies underneath bark, in cavities, or in crevices of trees. During the winter, Northern long-eared bats hibernate in caves or mines (USFWS, 2019). Suitable habitat for Northern long-eared bat was identified on the western edge of the Project workspace, in the wooded area within the shifted transmission line right-of way. Incidental take of northern long-eared bats is not prohibited under the 4(d) rule for the species provided project activities are not conducted within 0.25 mile of known hibernacula and do not remove known roost trees or trees within 150 feet of known roosts. No known hibernacula or roost trees are located within these distances, and as such, tree clearing can be conducted at any time under the 4(d) rule.

Piping Plover

Piping plover primary habitat consists of sandy or gravelly beaches and sandbars or alkaline wetlands (USFWS 2002). Piping plover suitable habitat and designated critical habitat is not located within the Project workspace and survey area, but may be present in the vicinity within the Missouri River. Availability of nesting habitat within the Missouri River varies annually based on water levels.

Rufa Red Knot

Rufa red knots are migrants in North Dakota and do not nest in the state. Suitable migratory stopover habitat consists of sandy or gravelly beaches and sandbars or alkaline wetlands. There are no stopover sites consistently used by red knots in North Dakota (NDGFD, 2015), and suitable stopover habitat was not identified in the survey area.

Whooping Crane

Whooping cranes are migrants in North Dakota and do not nest in the state. Migratory stopover habitat includes a variety of croplands with roosting occurring in shallow, freshwater inland wetlands. Suitable stopover habitat was not identified within the survey area.

Dakota Skipper

Primary habitat for Dakota skipper consists of high-quality tallgrass and mixed grass prairie (USFWS, 2021). Dakota skipper habitat was not identified within the survey area.

2.2 SPECIES ASSESSMENT

Merjent, on behalf of GRE, reviewed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website¹ for a list of USFWS Endangered Species Act (ESA) threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species and designated critical habitat that may be impacted by the Project. An official species list from the USFWS North Dakota Ecological Services Field Office is included in Appendix B.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status
<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Northern long-eared bat	Threatened
<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Piping plover	Threatened
<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Piping plover	Designated Critical Habitat
<i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>	Rufa red knot	Threatened
<i>Grus americana</i>	Whooping crane	Endangered
<i>Hesperia dacotae</i>	Dakota skipper	Threatened
<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Monarch butterfly	Candidate ¹

¹ Monarch butterfly is a candidate species and is not currently protected under the ESA.

Impacts related to ground disturbance, tree clearing, wire stringing, and other activities will not cause irreversible damage to the habitat areas associated with protected species listed in Table 1. Designated critical habitat for the piping plover is located outside the ground-disturbing workspace and will not be impacted by Project activities.

In addition, due to the permitted crossing of the Missouri River, a Section 10 river, the USACE is required to review the Project under Section 7 of the ESA, including consulting with the USFWS as necessary regarding the potential for Project impacts to federally listed species.

2.3 CULTURAL RESOURCE FIELD SURVEY

Merjent conducted a Class I and Class III cultural resource inventory in support of the Project to determine impacts relative to archaeological sites. Results of the Class I literature review identified 13 cultural sites within 1 mile of the Project. Eight sites are unevaluated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), three sites are eligible, one site is not eligible

¹ Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC). USFWS website. Available at <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>. Accessed August 2022.

and one site is destroyed. None of these previously identified sites are located within the Project workspace or proposed easements.

The Class III inventory was conducted in March 2021. The effort involved inventory of the transmission line corridor (19.57 acres) on the northern side of the Missouri River where the transmission line structures will be removed and then replaced.

Based on the Class I and Class III investigations, the report recommends that the Project be granted a determination of No Historic Properties Affected. During design of the Project workspace, it was determined that approximately 0.73 acre associated with the new, shifted SV Line easement extends beyond the cultural resource survey corridor. No further survey was recommended as the unsurveyed workspace is adjacent to disturbed right-of-way. The area was intensively surveyed for the Project and the results demonstrate that no archaeological resources are in the vicinity.

On July 12, 2022 and July 20, 2022, the ND SHPO responded to the request for review of the survey report and Project. The ND SHPO responded that the “*Class I and Class I Cultural Resources Inventory for the CS-SV Transmission Line Structure Relocation Project*” report prepared by Merjent was acceptable, and no significant sites are affected in the area (see ND SHPO correspondence in Appendix B). A redacted version of the survey report is included with the ND SHPO correspondence in Appendix B.

In addition, due to the crossing of the Missouri River, a Section 10 river, the Project is being reviewed by the USACE to govern compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (as amended). An electronic copy of the survey report was submitted to USACE on May 5, 2022 with the Project’s application for Section 10 approval.

2.4 NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION EXCLUSION/AVOIDANCE AREA REVIEW

Merjent conducted a review of the North Dakota Administrative Code (NDAC) § 69-06-08-02 Transmission Facility Corridor and Route Criteria for the Project using information collected through desktop/publicly available data² and field surveys. Additionally, where publicly available data was not available or for permitting purposes, Merjent on behalf of GRE consulted with agencies, including USACE, USFWS, ND SHPO, and Minot Air Force Base (U.S. Department of Defense). Under the current NDAC § 69-06-08-02 Transmission Facility Corridor and Route Criteria, amended effective January 1, 2022, the following exclusion and avoidance areas have been analyzed for the portion of the Corridor affected by the Project (Project Area) (see Table 3 below).

² The sources of publicly available geographic information systems (GIS) data utilized for this analysis included the ND GIS Hub, ESRI, EPA, National Park Service, USFWS, NRCS, FEMA, USDOT, USGS, and US Census GIS sources.

TABLE 2

North Dakota Public Service Commission Exclusion and Avoidance Areas for Transmission Facilities

Exclusion/Avoidance Areas	Impacted by the Project	Description
Exclusion Areas (North Dakota Administrative Code, Chapter 69-06-08-02(1), Transmission Facility Corridor & Route Criteria)		
Designated or registered national: parks; memorial parks; historic sites and landmarks; natural landmarks; monuments; and wilderness areas.	No	Based upon publicly available data through ESRI, the ND GIS Hub, and National Park Service, no designated or registered national: parks; memorial parks; historic sites and landmarks; natural landmarks; monuments; and wilderness areas will be impacted by the Project.
Designated or registered state: parks; historic sites; monuments; historical markers; archaeological sites; and nature preserves.	No	Based on publicly available data through the ND GIS Hub, the Project will not impact designated or registered state: parks; historic sites; monuments; historical markers; or nature preserves. Merjent conducted a Class I and Class III cultural resource inventory in support of the Project to determine impacts relative to archaeological sites; no archaeological sites have been identified. In addition, the Project will be reviewed by the USACE under Nationwide Permit 57/Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (Section 10) to govern compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (as amended). Refer to Section 2.3 and Appendix B for SHPO concurrence.
County parks and recreational areas; municipal parks; and parks owned or administered by other governmental subdivisions.	No	Based on ESRI and ND GIS Hub data, no county parks and recreational areas; municipal parks; and parks owned or administered by other governmental subdivisions will be impacted by the Project. In addition, no trail and Private Lands Open to Sportsmen (PLOTS) lands were identified in the Project area.
Areas critical to the life stages of threatened or endangered animal or plant species.	No	Merjent conducted habitat assessment surveys in May 2021 in support of the Project to determine impacts relative to threatened or endangered species. In addition, the Project will be reviewed by the USACE under Nationwide Permit 57/Section 10 to govern compliance with Section 7 of the ESA. Refer to Sections 2.1 and 2.2.
Areas where animal or plant species that are unique or rare to this state would be irreversibly damaged.	No	Merjent conducted habitat assessment surveys in May 2021 in support of the Project to determine impacts relative to threatened or endangered species. In addition, the Project will be reviewed by the USACE under Nationwide Permit 57/Section 10 to govern compliance with Section 7 of the ESA. Refer to Sections 2.1 and 2.2.
Areas within 1,200 feet of the geographic center of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) launch or launch control facility.	No	On November 11, 2021, Merjent, on behalf of GRE, consulted with U.S. Department of Defense (USDOD), Minot Air Base (see Appendix B) who confirmed no DOD assets are in the vicinity of the Project.
Areas within 30 feet on either side of a direct line between ICBM launch or launch control facilities to avoid microwave interference.	No	On November 11, 2021, Merjent, on behalf of GRE, consulted with USDOD, Minot Air Base (see Appendix B) who confirmed no USDOD assets are in the vicinity of the Project.
Avoidance Areas (North Dakota Administrative Code, Chapter 69-06-08-02(2), Transmission Facility Corridor & Route Criteria)		
Designated or registered national: historic districts; wildlife areas; wild, scenic, or recreational rivers; wildlife refuges; and grasslands.	No	Merjent reviewed the USDA Forest Service FS Geodata Clearinghouse; the Missouri River is not a designated wild, scenic or recreation river and no designated wilderness areas are within the Project area. Additionally, based on ND GIS Hub and USFWS data, no USFWS lands or easements, National Wildlife Refuges or National Grasslands are located in the Project area. Based on National Registry of Historic Places data, no historic districts are located in the Project area; the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site and Archaeological/Historic District is approximately 4 miles northwest of the Project.

TABLE 2

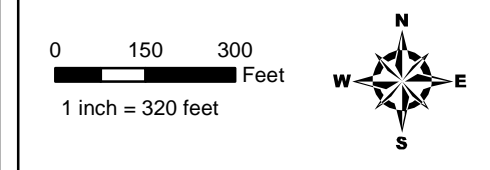
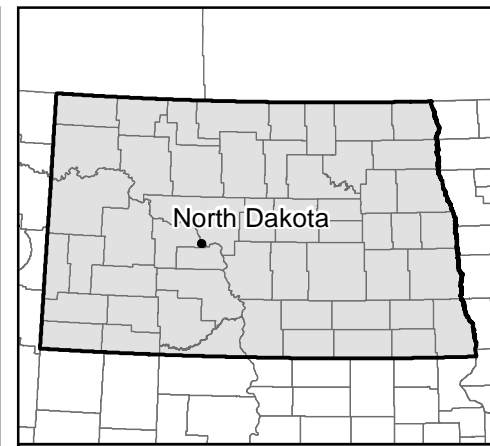
North Dakota Public Service Commission Exclusion and Avoidance Areas for Transmission Facilities








Exclusion/Avoidance Areas	Impacted by the Project	Description
Exclusion Areas (North Dakota Administrative Code, Chapter 69-06-08-02(1), Transmission Facility Corridor & Route Criteria)		
Designated or registered state: wild, scenic, or recreational rivers; game refuges; game management areas; management areas; forests; forest management lands; and grasslands.	No	Based on ND GIS Hub data, no Wildlife Management Areas, Waterfowl Production Areas, state forests, or scenic byways are located in the Project area. In addition, the Project is not located on North Dakota Mineral or School Trust lands. The Project crosses state sovereign lands at the Missouri River, for which GRE has permits for the CS and SV Lines.
Historical resources which are not designated as exclusion areas.	No	Based on publicly available data and field surveys, Merjent has not identified any historical resources which are not designated as exclusion areas in the Project area. Refer to Section 2.3.
Areas that are geologically unstable.	No	Merjent reviewed the North Dakota Geologic Survey's landslide deposit data and abandoned mine data found on the ND GIS Hub; no landslides are located in the Project area. In addition, GRE consulted with NDGS in April 2022 (see Appendix B). No areas that are geologically unstable will be impacted by the Project.
Within 500 feet [152.4 meters] of a residence, school, or place of business. This criterion shall not apply to a water pipeline transmission facility. This avoidance area may be waived by the owner.	No	Based on review of aerial imagery, Higher Ed and K-12 School data found on ND GIS Hub, and hospital and institution data (ESRI), no residences, schools, or places of business are located within 500 feet of the proposed project, except GRE's existing facility which the Project will connect to on the south side of the Missouri River.
Reservoirs and municipal water supplies.	No	Merjent reviewed the Wellhead Protection Areas (Community/Non-Community) data available on the ND GIS Hub in April 2022; no Wellhead Protection Areas located in the Project area.
Irrigated land. This criterion shall not apply to an underground transmission facility.	No	Based on review of aerial imagery, the Project is not located on irrigated land. Per NDCC § 49-22-05.1(2), we understand this criterion is no longer applicable.
Areas of recreational significance which are not designated as exclusion areas.	No	The Missouri River is known as a recreational area; however, the Project spans and, therefore, avoids the Missouri River.

3.0 REFERENCES

- Environmental Laboratory. 1987. Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual. Technical Report Y-87-1. U.S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, Miss.
- NDGFD (North Dakota Game and Fish Department). 2015. North Dakota State Wildlife Action Plan. Available online at: https://gf.nd.gov/sites/default/files/publications/swap-2015_0.pdf. Accessed June 2021.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). 2010. Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Great Plains Region (Version 2.0). Ed. J.S. Wakeley, R.W. Lichvar, and C.V. Noble. ERDC/EL TR-10-1. Vicksburg, MS: U.S. Army Engineer
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2002. Piping Plover Critical Habitat – Unit 11 (North Dakota – Missouri River & Reservoirs). Available online at: <https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/es/species/birds/pipingplover/ndunit11.pdf>. Accessed June 2021.
- USFWS. 2019. Northern Long-Eared Bat Range. Map created November 26, 2019. Available online at: https://www.fws.gov/Midwest/Endangered/mammals/nleb/documents/NLEB_Range_20191126_wForest_8_5x11_layout_v9_1.pdf. Accessed June 2021.
- USFWS. 2021. Species Profile, Dakota Skipper (*Hesperia dacotae*). Environmental Conservation Online System. Available online at: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp0/profile/speciesProfile?spcode=I011>. Accessed June 2021.
- USFWS. 2022. IPaC Information for Planning and Consultation. Available online at: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>. Accessed August 2022.

APPENDIX A
PROJECT MAPS



-  Proposed Structure
-  Existing Structure
-  Proposed Alignment
-  Existing Alignment
-  Access Route
-  Workspace Area
-  County Boundary

Great River Energy

CS & SV Lines Structure Relocation Project

Project Plan View Map

Mercer and McLean Counties, ND

Date: (4/11/2022) Source: Z:\Client\IE-FRG\RE\CS_SV_Line\Permitting\Section10\20220215\GRE_CS_SV_Line_Project_Plan_View_Map.mxd

APPENDIX B
AGENCY CONSULTATIONS

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service IPaC



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

<https://www.fws.gov/office/north-dakota-ecological-services>

In Reply Refer To:

August 11, 2022

Project Code: 2022-0047069

Project Name: CS and SV Structure Relocation Project

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

Project Summary

Project Code: 2022-0047069
Project Name: CS and SV Structure Relocation Project
Project Type: Transmission Line - New Constr - Above Ground
Project Description: Great River Energy (GRE) is proposing to remove and then replace five steel lattice structures along GRE's CS and SV electric transmission lines near the northern bank of the Missouri River in McLean County, North Dakota. As part of the project, the 230 kV conductor lines crossing over the Missouri River, a Section 10 river, will be replaced along the existing line alignment following installation of the new structures. The project is referred to as the CS and SV Lines Structure Replacement Project (Project). No in-water impacts or discharge to wetlands or waterbodies is anticipated as part of the Project, and no temporary or permanent wetland impacts will occur when moving the steel lattice structures.

The SV Line was constructed around 1966-1967 and the CS Line was constructed around 1977. Since then, the banks of the Missouri River adjacent to the SV and CS Line structures have been eroding. Representatives from GRE conducted multiple site visits and performed a detailed records review to collect evidence as to the cause of the erosion. Following review, GRE determined that this location the Missouri River is experiencing a lateral migration of the river channel driven by bank erosion. Due to this erosion and to maintain the integrity of the transmission line, the two steel lattice structures that are nearest to the northern river bank will be relocated further to the north to a position that would allow for the alignment across the river to remain the same. To accommodate this shift, while maintaining the river crossing alignment, three additional transmission line structures will be relocated and replaced.

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@47.30142225,-101.32688329587612,14z>



Counties: McLean and Mercer counties, North Dakota

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 6 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 Fisheries¹, 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: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	Threatened

Birds

NAME	STATUS
Piping Plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i> Population: [Atlantic Coast and Northern Great Plains populations] - Wherever found, except those areas where listed as endangered. There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location overlaps the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039	Threatened
Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus rufa</i> There is proposed critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864	Threatened
Whooping Crane <i>Grus americana</i> Population: Wherever found, except where listed as an experimental population There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758	Endangered

Insects

NAME	STATUS
Dakota Skipper <i>Hesperia dacotae</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1028	Threatened
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate

Critical habitats

There is 1 critical habitat wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction.

NAME	STATUS
Piping Plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i> https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039#crithab	Final

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.

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.

FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND

- [Palustrine](#)

RIVERINE

- [Riverine](#)
-

IPaC User Contact Information

Agency: Merjent, Inc.
Name: Andrea Townsend
Address: 1 SE Main St
Address Line 2: Suite 300
City: Minneapolis
State: MN
Zip: 55414
Email: andrea.sampson@merjent.com
Phone: 6122261331

Lead Agency Contact Information

Lead Agency: Army Corps of Engineers

North Dakota State Historic
Preservation Office



March 24, 2021

Dr. Andrew Clark
Chief Archaeologist
State Historical Society of North Dakota
612 E Boulevard Ave Ste 701
Bismarck, ND 58505

Re: GRE CS and SV Transmission Line Project, McLean County, North Dakota

Dear Dr. Clark:

Great River Energy (GRE) proposes to shift three structures on both the CS and SV transmission lines in T144N, R84W, Section 16 in McLean County, North Dakota. Relocation of the structures is necessary due to the eroding riverbank (Figure 1). Relocating the structures provides a better long-term solution than installing rip rap to stabilize the bank. The structures would shift up to 300 feet. Pending coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the structures immediately north of the Missouri River will either shift straight north to keep the existing alignment over the Missouri River or shift north-northeast within the existing cleared right-of-way (ROW) in a slightly different alignment across the River. The Project will be reviewed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under Section 10 to govern compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (as amended).

Merjent, Inc. (Merjent) conducted a Class I and Class III inventory of the Project. The Project right-of-way consists of a 19.57-acre block located on the north side of the Missouri River east and west of the current transmission line on March 2, 2021 with negative results.

This letter transmits a short format report for negative surveys under 40 acres entitled "*Class I and Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of the CS and Transmission Lines Structure Relocation Project, McLean County, North Dakota*" regarding the inventory.

If, after review of the report you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at bill.harding@merjent.com or via telephone at (612) 643-5253.

Sincerely,

William M. Harding, M.A. RPA

Enclosures: 1

cc: Brie Anderson

REDACTED REPORT

North Dakota Negative Results Cultural Resources Report

Date of Report: March 2021

Project Name/Report Title: Class I and Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of the CS and Transmission Lines Structure Relocation Project, McLean County, North Dakota

Project Proponent/Sponsor: Great River Energy (GRE)

Lead Agency: United States Army Corps of Engineers

Principal Investigator: William M. Harding

Author of Report: Kevin Mieras

Person Performing Fieldwork: Kevin Mieras

Date of Fieldwork: March 2, 2021

Acres/Area Inventoried: 19.57

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute Quadrangle: Stanton SE (1980)

ND Study Unit: Southern Missouri River Study Unit (SMRSU)

Location/Project Description

Great River Energy (GRE) proposes to shift three structures on both the CS and SV transmission lines in McLean County, North Dakota. Relocation of the structures is necessary due to the eroding riverbank (Figure 1). Relocating the structures provides a better long-term solution than installing rip rap to stabilize the bank. The structures would shift up to 300 feet. Pending coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the structures immediately north of the Missouri River will either shift straight north to keep the existing alignment over the Missouri River or shift north-northeast within the existing cleared right-of-way (ROW) in a slightly different alignment across the River. The Project will be reviewed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under Section 10 to govern compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (as amended).

Class III Description

Merjent, Inc. (Merjent) conducted a Class I and Class III inventory of the Project. The Project right-of-way consists of a 19.57-acre block located on the north side of the Missouri River east and west of the current transmission line (Project Area; Figure 3).

Files/Records Search Results

On March 1, 2021, Merjent conducted a Class I Cultural Resources File Search of files maintained at the North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office (ND SHPO). The Project area and 1-mile buffer (Study Area) was searched for previously recorded resources and cultural resource projects (Figure 1).

A total of 12 projects have been previously conducted within the Study Area between 1977 and 2020 (Table 1). The projects were conducted in support of transmission line, mining, waterline, river bank stabilization, transportation, and data recovery projects. Portions of two previously conducted projects (000018 and 0077061) intersect the Project Area.

Manuscript No.	Year	Title	Author(s)
00018	1977	Archaeological and Historic Site Survey of a High Voltage Transmission Facility for Cooperative Power Association and United Power Association, McLean County, North Dakota	Weir, Donald J.
002765	1980	Inventory of Cultural Resources, Glenharold Mine Extension, Mercer and Oliver Counties, North Dakota, Vol. 1.	Swegle, Mark;Wilt, Julia
002974	1980	Class III Intensive Inventory for All Cultural Resources Knife Point I Area, Section 32 Erosion Control Project McLean County North Dakota	Robson, Larry G.
007061	1997	Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of an Expansion of the Proposed Truck Dump Site and Fuel Delivery System Locations in McLean and Mercer Counties, ND	Kinney, W. Jeffrey
008836	2004	NH-1-200 045900 Highway 200A Resurfacing Class III Cultural Resources Inventory	Borchert, Jeani L.
010152	2007	Falkirk: A Cultural Resource Inventory of 20,000 Acres in McLean Co., ND	Boughton, John M. et al.
12254	2011	Zap service area Phase I rural distribution lines 2010 a Class III Cultural Resource Inventory Southwest Water Pipeline project, Mercer and Oliver Counties, ND.	Jackson, Michael A., Lonski, Megan J.; Toom, Dennis L.
14327	2013	National Register Evaluation of Six Dams and Two Irrigation Systems Under the Management and Control of the Bureau of Reclamation in North and South Dakota	Godfrey, Anthony
15300	2014	Sagehorn Village Site 32ME101 2013 Archaeological Test Excavations at the Fort Clark Irrigation District, Mercer County, North Dakota	Jackson, Michael A.; Toom, Dennis L.
016260	2015	Archaeological Mitigation of the Sagehorn Site (32ME101), Mercer County, North Dakota	Cox, Matthew A.
016747	2016	Houston Engineering Inc.'s Knife Riverbank Stabilization: A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory in Mercer County, North Dakota	Stein, Edward
018908	2020	A Class I and Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of SHN 230 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project, Oliver and Mercer Counties, North Dakota	Harding, William M.

A total of 13 resources (including sites and site leads) have been recorded within the Study Area (Table 2). The resources consist of six site leads with no exact locational information, five archaeological sites, one railroad, and one irrigation unit. Eight sites are unevaluated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), three are eligible, one is not eligible, and one is destroyed. No resources occur within the Project Area.

Site Number	Site Type	NRHP Status	Recommendation
32MLX0026	Site Lead – Lewis and Clark Camp	Unevaluated	Avoid
32MLX0028	Site Lead – Lewis and Clark Camp	Unevaluated	Avoid
32MLX0029	Site Lead – Lewis and Clark Camp	Unevaluated	Avoid
32ME00005	Deapolis Earthlodge Village; Dupta; Ruhptare; Upa Burial	Destroyed	No Further Work
32ME00006	Boller	Eligible	Avoid
32ME00007	White Buffalo Robe	Eligible	Avoid
32ME00101	Sagehorn Village	Eligible	Avoid

Site Number	Site Type	NRHP Status	Recommendation
32ME00404	Cultural Material Scatter	Unevaluated	Avoid
32ME02246	Northern Pacific Railroad	Unevaluated	Avoid
32ME02509	Fort Clark Irrigation Unit	Not Eligible	Avoid
32MEX0032	Site Lead – Deapolis Post Office	Unevaluated	Avoid
32MEX0359	Site Lead – Architect	Unevaluated	Avoid
32MEX0360	Site Lead - Architect Historical, Dump; Sanitary landfill; Sewage treatment plant	Unevaluated	Avoid

Merjent reviewed 19th century GLO maps on file with the North Dakota State Water Commission (Figure 2) (NDSWC, 2021). The maps show no structures, roads, or improvements within the Study Area. The GLO survey notes associated with this location were not available through the NDSWC.

Field Methods and Survey Conditions

In accordance with the SHPO guidelines, archaeologists inventoried the survey area using parallel serpentine transects with spacing not exceeding 15 meters. The ground surface was examined for artifacts, features, or other evidence of cultural occupation. Cut banks, eroded surfaces, and other areas with significant exposure were examined intensively throughout the fieldwork. Photographs were taken and global positioning system (GPS) routes and points were recorded. Notes were taken during the inventory and all photographs, GPS and geographic information systems data, and field notes are on file at Merjent's office in Minneapolis, Minnesota. A map of the surveyed area is attached to this report (Figure 3). The survey area was level flood plain. Vegetation consisted of mixed grasses and forbs within the existing transmission corridor which was bordered by a thin strip of cottonwood forest on either margin of the survey area (Photo 1 and Photo 2). Ground surface visibility was generally 30 percent due to vegetation density with occasional eroded patches of up 50 percent.



Photo 1: Overview of the survey area. View to the North.



Photo 2: Overview of the survey area. View to the south.

Results and Recommendations

On March 2, 2021, Merjent inventoried 19.57 acres for the proposed Project. No archaeological resources were observed. It is recommended that the Project be granted a determination of *No Historic Properties Affected* and clearance to proceed as proposed.

Sources Cited

North Dakota State Water Commission (NDSWC). 2021. Survey Map Service. Available online at: <https://survey.swc.nd.gov/>. Accessed March 4, 2021.



July 12, 2022

William M. Harding
Merjent Inc.
1 Main Street SE
Suite 300
Minneapolis, MN 55414

**ND SHPO Ref: 21-5618 CS-SV Transmission Line Structure Relocation in portions of
[T144 NR84W Section 16] McLean County, North Dakota**

Dear William M.,

We received ND SHPO Ref: 21-5618 "Class I and Class III Cultural Resources Inventory for the CS-SV Transmission Line Structure Relocation Project" and find this Merjent Inc. report by Kevin Mieras acceptable. We will add it to our Manuscript Collection. Please note that while a cover letter can be added, you should not otherwise alter our format for negative reports and future reports may be returned for that reason. There no significant sites affected within the surveyed area.

If you have any questions, please contact either Andrew Clark, Chief Archeologist at (701) 328-3574 or andrewclark@nd.gov or Lorna Meidinger, Historic Preservation Specialist at (701) 328-2089 or lbmeidinger@nd.gov.

Sincerely,

for William D. Peterson PhD
State Historic Preservation Officer
(North Dakota)

21-5618

From: [Bill Harding](#)
To: [Meidinger, Lorna B.](#); [Clark, Andrew](#)
Cc: [Maddy Krumwiede](#); tbarthel@GREnergy.com
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: 21-5617 & 21-5618
Date: Tuesday, July 19, 2022 11:34:11 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[GRE CS SV Line Project Survey Area Workspace 20220714.pdf](#)

Hi Lorna and Andy,

Lorna just sent the concurrences for the CS & SV transmission Line Project (SHPO numbers 21-5617 NNS and 21-5618 NNS) last week, but I noticed that I neglected to mention in the initial email that GRE expanded the western portion of the project workspace for stump removal and the line's permanent right-of-way by a sliver that totals 0.73 acres. Because it's a sliver adjacent to the surveyed corridor, and there are no sites in the vicinity, we recommend that GRE has completed a reasonable and good faith effort to identify all cultural resources per 36 CFR 800.4 and that no additional survey is required (see attached map). We'd like to get your thoughts.

Bill Harding, MA

612-643-5253 direct
208-521-7164 mobile
bill.harding@merjent.com



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

From: Meidinger, Lorna B. <lbmeidinger@nd.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 12, 2022 9:03 AM
To: Bill Harding <bill.harding@merjent.com>
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: 21-5617 & 21-5618

Bill,

Attached are the responses for these. Please make note to use our negative report format in the future without alteration.

Lorna Meidinger
Historic Preservation Specialist
State Historical Society of North Dakota
612 E Boulevard Ave
Bismarck, ND 58505
701.328.2089

From: Steckler, Lisa L. <lsteckler@nd.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2022 9:33 AM
To: Meidinger, Lorna B. <lbmeidinger@nd.gov>
Subject: FW: EXTERNAL: 21-5617 & 21-5618

From: Bill Harding <bill.harding@merjent.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2022 9:31 AM
To: Steckler, Lisa L. <lsteckler@nd.gov>
Cc: Maddy Krumwiede <maddy.krumwiede@merjent.com>
Subject: FW: EXTERNAL: 21-5617 & 21-5618

******* CAUTION:** This email originated from an outside source. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know they are safe. *********

Hello Lisa -

Merjent provided the reports referenced in the attached correspondence for the Great River Energy CS & SV Line Project to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for review on May 5, 2021. In speaking with USACE last Friday, June 17, 2022, there are no cultural resources within the USACE jurisdictional area (i.e., Missouri River, a Section 10 river crossing); therefore, they do not intend on consulting with SHPO on this project and related survey reports. The project workspace and the surveyed areas occur in uplands and is jurisdictional to the North Dakota Public Service Commission (NDPSC). To comply with NDPSC requirements, we respectfully request a technical review and comment on the reports from the State Historic Preservation Office which would be included in Great River Energy's filing to the NDPSC.

Respectfully,

Bill Harding, MA

612-643-5253 direct

208-521-7164 mobile

bill.harding@merjent.com

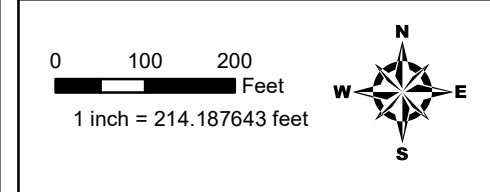
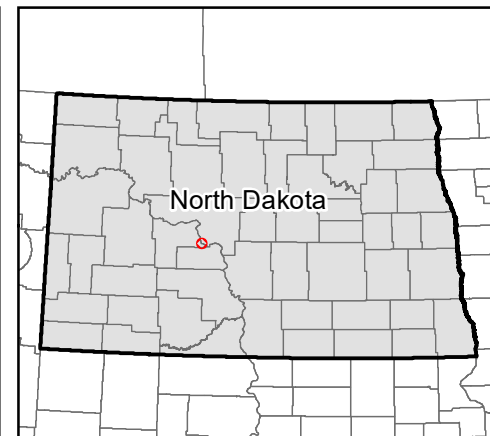
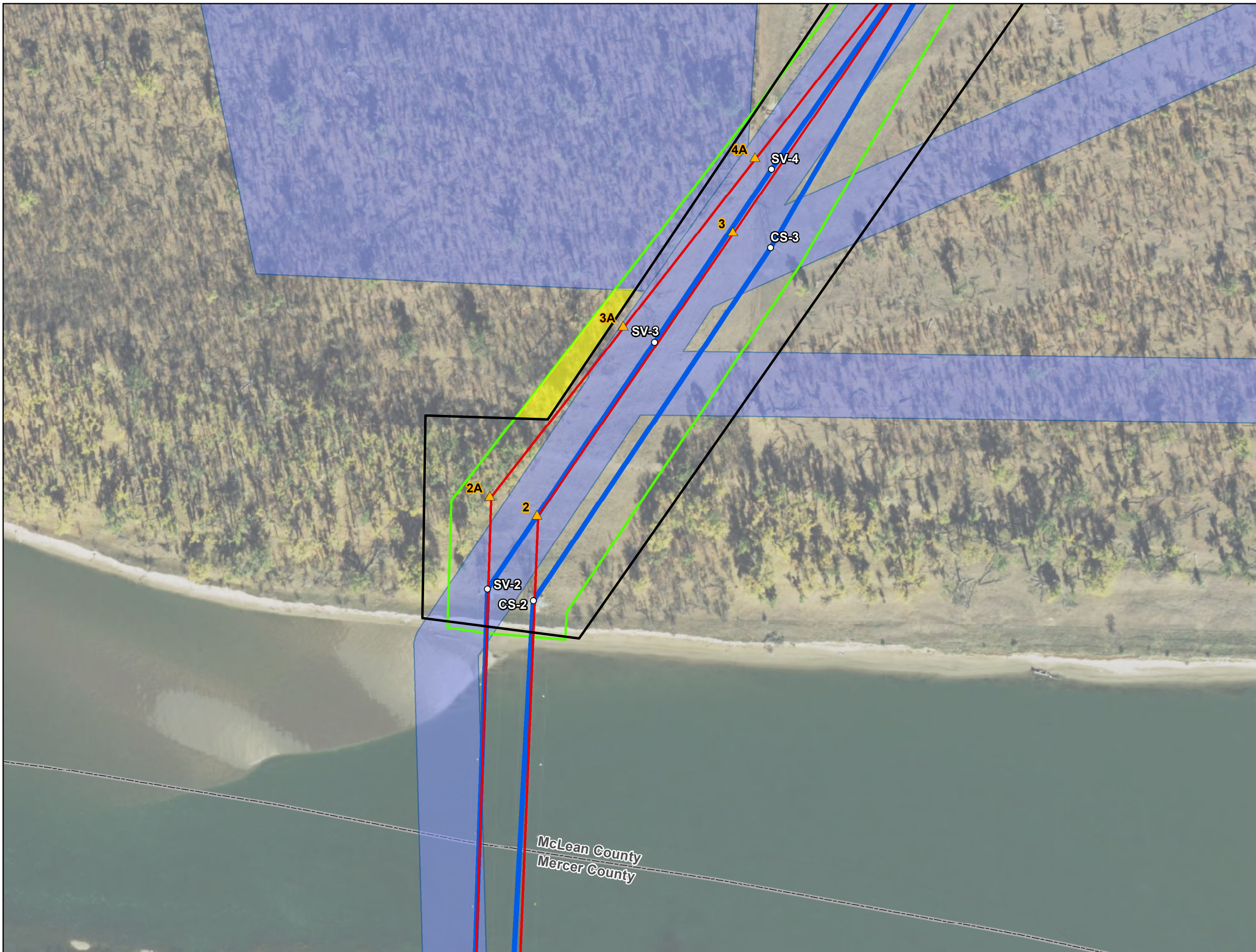


1 Main Street SE, Suite 300

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612.746.3660

www.merjent.com



- ▲ Proposed Structure
- Existing Structure
- Proposed
- Existing
- Workspace
- Survey
- Workspace Outside of Survey Area
- Previous Survey

Figure 1
Great River Energy
CS & SV Lines
Structure Relocation Project

Workspace and Survey Areas
Mercer and McLean Counties, ND

Source: Z:\Clients\IE_FIG\RE\CS_SV_Line\Field_Data\GRE_CS_SV_Line_Project_Survey_Area_Workspace.mxd Date: (7/14/2022)



July 20, 2022

William M. Harding
Merjent Inc.
1 Main Street SE
Suite 300
Minneapolis, MN 55414

ND SHPO Ref: 21-5618 CS-SV Transmission Line Structure Relocation in portions of [T144 NR84W Section 16] McLean County, North Dakota

Dear William,

We reviewed the additional workspace area for ND SHPO Ref: 21-5618 CS-SV Transmission Line Structure Relocation in portions of [T144 NR84W Section 16] McLean County, North Dakota. There are no significant sites in the area.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project under North Dakota cultural resources consultation. This letter does not serve as federal agency consultation or SHPO consultation for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, (36 CFR Part 800), or the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended, (42 U.S.C. §§ 4321- 4347).

If you have any questions, please contact Lorna Meidinger, Historic Preservation Specialist at (701) 328-2089 or lbmeidinger@nd.gov

Sincerely,

for William D. Peterson PhD
Director, State Historical Society of North Dakota

21-5618

North Dakota Geological Survey

From: [Anderson, Fred J.](#)
To: tbarthel@GREnergy.com
Cc: [Maddy Krumwiede](#)
Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy - CS & SV Transmission Line Rebuild Project - NDGS Consultation Request
Date: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 3:00:39 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Hello Ms. Barthel-

The NDGS appreciates the opportunity to review and provide comment on this project.

The project area on the north and south banks of the Missouri River is not known to be in an area that would be geologically unstable as would be for a typical landslide found in the surrounding area and which are noted on the landslide map for the Stanton SE 7.5' Quadrangle.

A close inspection of the NAIP aerial imagery and available LiDAR data for this area show that the banks along the Missouri River, particularly along the southern bank, are experiencing continued erosion. The proposed structure relocations would not be into any new landslide areas.

We have LiDAR maps and data sets available on our website that can be used for additional design review on our website: [North Dakota LiDAR Maps \(nd.gov\)](http://North Dakota LiDAR Maps (nd.gov))

Please feel free to contact us if there are any additional questions or comments.

Regards,

Fred J. Anderson

Geologist, North Dakota Geological Survey

701.328.8000 (Survey Main Office) • 701.328.8037 (Office Direct) • fjanderson@nd.gov • www.dmr.nd.gov/ndgs



701.328.8020 (Front Office) • oilandgasinfo@nd.gov • www.dmr.nd.gov • 600 E Boulevard Ave, Dept. 405 • Bismarck, ND 58505

From: Murphy, Ed C. <emurphy@nd.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2022 3:24 PM
To: Anderson, Fred J. <fjanderson@nd.gov>
Subject: FW: Great River Energy - CS & SV Transmission Line Rebuild Project - NDGS Consultation Request

From: Helms, Lynn D. <lhelms@nd.gov>

Sent: Monday, April 18, 2022 3:13 PM
To: Murphy, Ed C. <emurphy@nd.gov>
Subject: FW: Great River Energy - CS & SV Transmission Line Rebuild Project - NDGS Consultation Request

Ed, please provide for review.

Thanks

Lynn

From: Maddy Krumwiede <maddy.krumwiede@merjent.com>
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2022 2:45 PM
To: Helms, Lynn D. <lhelms@nd.gov>
Cc: Barthel, Toshana GRE-MG <tbarthel@GREnergy.com>
Subject: Great River Energy - CS & SV Transmission Line Rebuild Project - NDGS Consultation Request

******* CAUTION:** This email originated from an outside source. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know they are safe. *********

Good afternoon Mr. Helms,

Great River Energy (GRE) is proposing to remove and then replace five transmission line structures along GRE's CS and SV electric transmission lines near the northern bank of the Missouri River in T144N, R84W, Section 16, McLean County, North Dakota. GRE is proposing to relocate the structures up to 350 feet north from their current location due to the eroding riverbank (see attached figure). As part of the project, the 230 kV conductor lines crossing over the Missouri River will be replaced along the existing line alignment following installation of the new structures.

The Project is under the jurisdiction of the North Dakota Public Service Commission (NDPSC); therefore, GRE is reviewing the project for potential affects to NDPSC exclusion or avoidance areas. GRE respectfully submits a request for project review from the North Dakota Geological Survey regarding areas which are geologically unstable, a NDPSC avoidance area. As part of our desktop review, we did not identify any abandoned mines (North Dakota Geographical Information System Data Portal) nor landslide deposit areas (North Dakota Geological Survey Landslide Maps) within the Project vicinity. The proposed project review area is shown as the 350-foot buffer on the attached map.

We appreciate your assistance with this request and look forward to your timely review and comments on this project. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me or Tosha Barthel of GRE at tbarthel@greenergy.com or (763) 445-5986.

Kind regards,
Maddy Krumwiede

Maddy Krumwiede, PMP

612.924.3973 direct

612.554.7169 mobile

maddy.krumwiede@merjent.com



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U.S. Department of Defense

Maddy Krumwiede

From: MUNOS, CY I GS-11 USAF AFGSC 91 MMXS/MMXSFK <cy.munos@us.af.mil>
Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 2:44 PM
To: Maddy Krumwiede
Cc: Barthel, Toshana GRE-MG
Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy - CS & SV Transmission Line Rebuild Project - DOD Consultation Request

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Maddy,

We have no asset close to the project area. Thanks for the heads up.

Cy Munos
Cable Affairs Officer
Minot AFB ND
701-723-6053

From: Maddy Krumwiede <maddy.krumwiede@merjent.com>
Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 8:57 AM
To: MUNOS, CY I GS-11 USAF AFGSC 91 MMXS/MMXSFK <cy.munos@us.af.mil>
Cc: Barthel, Toshana GRE-MG <tbarthel@GREnergy.com>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Great River Energy - CS & SV Transmission Line Rebuild Project - DOD Consultation Request

Good morning Cy,

Great River Energy (GRE) is proposing to shift two structures on their CS Transmission Line and two structures on their SV Transmission Line in T144N, R84W, Section 16 in McLean County, North Dakota. GRE is proposing to relocate the structures up to 350 feet from their current location due to the eroding riverbank (see attached figure). The Project is under the jurisdiction of the North Dakota Public Service Commission (NDPSC); therefore, GRE is reviewing the project for potential affects to known NDPSC exclusion or avoidance areas. GRE respectfully submits a request for project review from the U.S. Department of Defense, Air Force Cable Affairs regarding areas within 30 feet either side of the direct line between an intercontinental ballistic missiles launch facility and a missile alert or launch control facility (a NDPSC exclusion area). The proposed project review area is shown as the 350-foot buffer on the attached map.

We appreciate your assistance with this request and look forward to your timely review and comments on this project. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me or Tosha Barthel of GRE at tbarthel@greenergy.com or (763) 445-5986.

Kind regards,
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