Appendix E
Agency Correspondences

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JETx Appendix E Table of Contents

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JETx Jamestown to Ellendale

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Documentation of available correspondence is included following this log.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)				
March 22, 2023	Letter and Email[1]	Applicants[2]	BLM	Introduction letter and request for comments.
September 7, 2023	Letter and Email[1]	Applicants	BLM	Second request for input and meeting request letter.
September 14, 2023	Email	BLM	Applicants	BLM responded to the September 2023 RFI stating that they had no resource concerns or impacted BLM lands, but that other federal lands and agencies may be impacted.

1 Indicates documentation that was a part of one of the mass March or September agency mailings.

2 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Scott Haight
District Manager- Eastern MT/Dakotas District Office
BLM
111 Garryowen Rd
Miles City, MT 59301

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Haight,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

Currently, OTP and Montana-Dakota are in the preliminary planning stages of the Project, which include high-level planning, initial public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and preliminary design. These preliminary planning stages will provide important input into the identification of preliminary routes and the eventual selection of a final route for the Project. The attached map shows the current study area being assessed for preliminary routes. Public outreach with landowners and interested parties including public meetings are being planned to occur in June 2023.

We are soliciting your review of the preliminary Project area in order to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the final route. We are particularly interested in any property located within or adjacent to the study area which your agency may own or have an interest in. We would also appreciate being made aware of any proposed developments your agency may be contemplating in the study area under consideration for the Project in addition to any information that might assist us in our siting analysis and studies. To help us identify potential resource issues in the corridor analysis, please provide us with any information pertaining to the JETx project by April 22, 2023. Written or email responses should be sent to:

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we will reach out to schedule stakeholder meetings as well as plan for additional outreach as a route is developed and refined.

If further information is desired regarding the proposed Project, please contact either myself (218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com) or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc. (701-353-6139 or Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com).

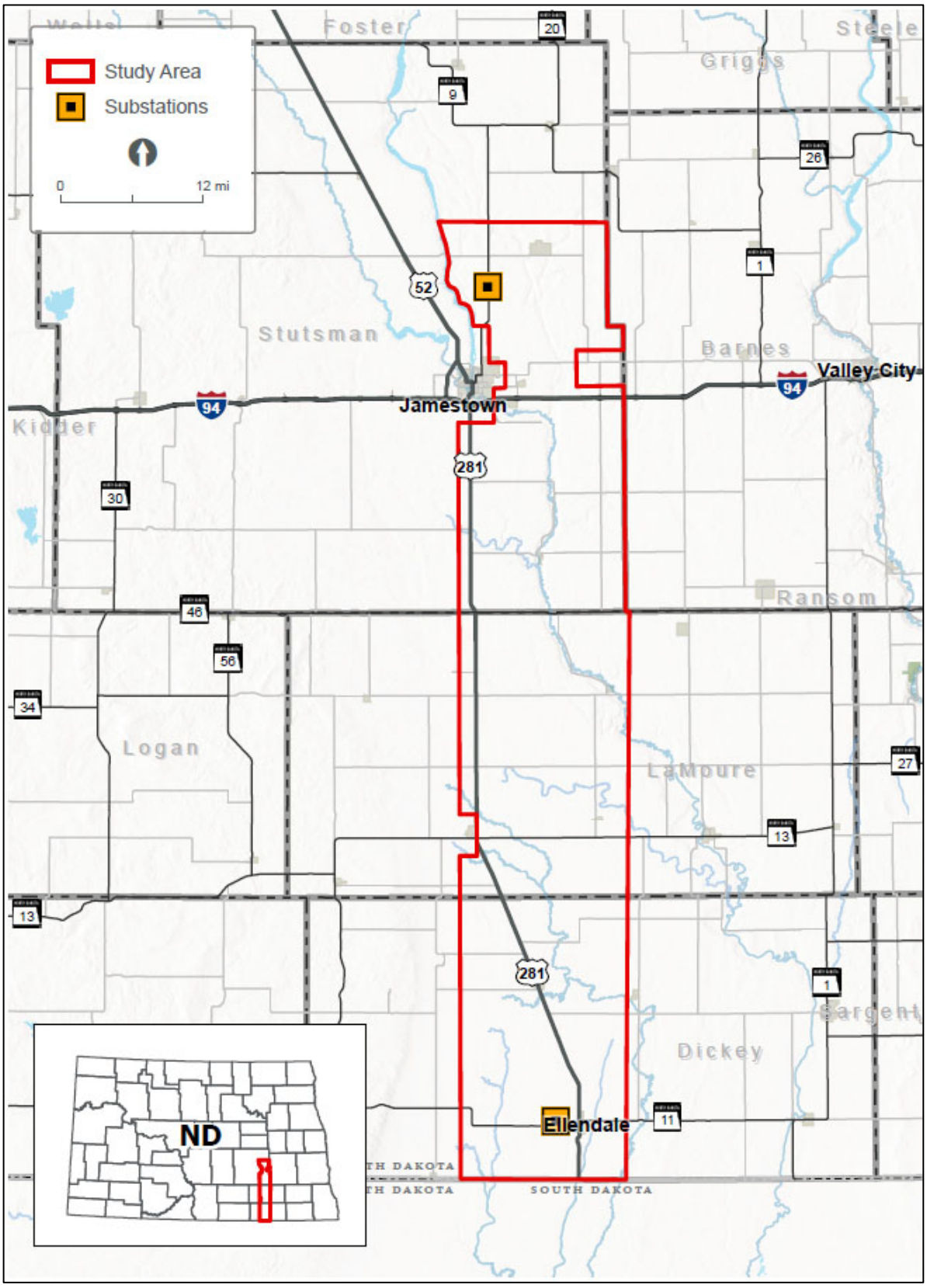
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Scott Haight
District Manager- Eastern MT/Dakotas District Office, Bureau of Land Management
111 Garryowen Rd
Miles City, MT 59301

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Scott Haight,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (the Project). The Project would be in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect Otter Tail Power's existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota's existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified by the Regional Transmission Organization in the Upper Midwest[1] needed to maintain electric system reliability, increase resilience to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion and increase access to low cost energy throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025. At this early stage of the Project, it is anticipated that Section 106 compliance would be needed for a United State Corps of Engineers Section 404 wetland permit and Section 10 river crossing permit for an overhead crossing of the James River.

Currently, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota are in the planning stages of the Project, which include public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and initial design. These preliminary planning stages provide important input into the identification of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. The attached map shows the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. These corridors are subject to change as we continue public outreach with landowners and other interested parties. Environmental field surveys are currently anticipated to start late this year and be completed in 2024.

We are requesting your review of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the preferred route. We appreciate and value your input in our attempt to avoid or minimize impacts. To help us identify potential concerns in our corridor analysis, we request that any information pertaining to the Project be provided by October 12, 2023, if possible, to:

[1] The Regional Transmission Organization in this area of the Upper Midwest is the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). See more information at www.misoenergy.org.

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
701-353-6139

We will be hosting public meetings at three locations along the Project in September. The meetings will be held on consecutive days September 12 - 14 from 3 - 6 p.m. each day at the three locations listed below. In addition to our public meetings, we are also extending you an invitation if you would prefer to meet individually. If you are interested in an individual meeting outside of our public meetings, our contact information follows below and we would welcome the opportunity to share more information about the Project, answer your questions and take your feedback.

Ellendale	**Jamestown**	**Edgeley**
September 12, 2023	September 13, 2023	September 14, 2023
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	3:00 – 6:00 pm	3:00 – 6:00 pm
American Legion Post #137 79 Main St. Ellendale, ND 58436	Bunker Hill Club House 1520 3rd St. SE Jamestown, ND 58401	Hakuna Matata 101 Industrial Park Road. Edgeley, ND 58433

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the Project progresses, we are planning to have additional consultations with agencies, other jurisdictions, and landowners as we develop and refine a preferred route.

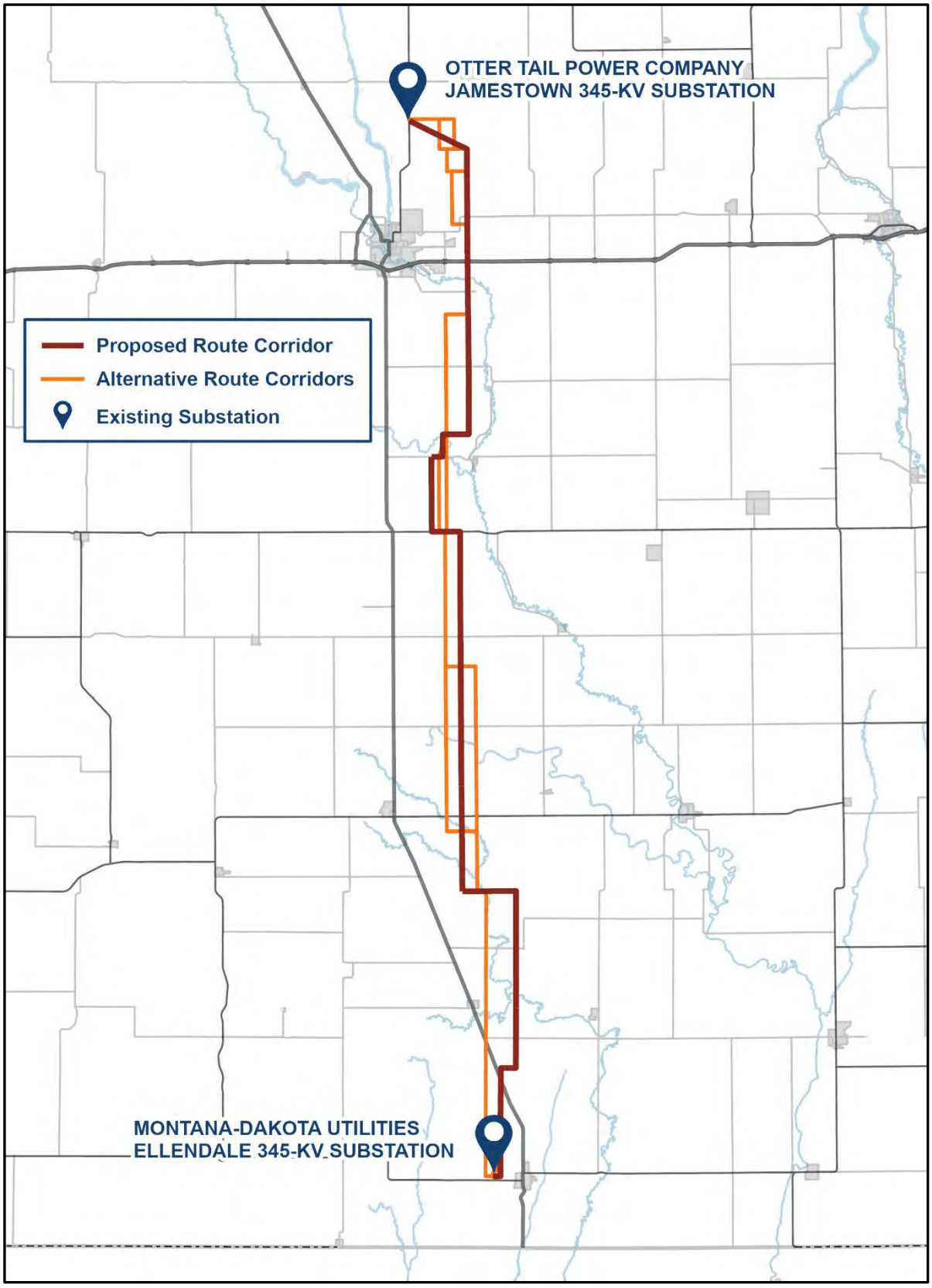
If you desire further information regarding the proposed Project, please contact me at 218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc., at 701-353-6139 or jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com. In addition, further information about the Project can also be found on our website at www.JamestowntoEllendale.com.

Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

From: McKenzie, Chelsie J
To: Hanley, Jennifer
Subject: Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project
Date: Thursday, September 14, 2023 4:16:37 PM

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

Jennifer,

Upon review of the proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties, North Dakota the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has no resource concerns regarding the proposal, at this time. It does not appear to involve BLM land, but it could potentially impact other Federal Lands, in which those agencies may wish to respond.

Thank you

Chelsie McKenzie
Realty Specialist
Bureau of Land Management
North Dakota Field Office
99 23rd Avenue West, Suite A
Dickinson, ND 58601
Office: 701-227-7702
Cell: 701-502-1271

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

Documentation of available correspondence is included following this log.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)				
March 22, 2023	Letter	Applicants[1]	FAA	Introduction letter and request for comments.
September 7, 2023	Letter	Applicants	FAA	Second request for input and meeting request letter.

1 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Dave Anderson - Assistant Manager
FAA
2301 University Dr - Bldg 23B
Bismarck, ND 58504

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Anderson,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

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We are soliciting your review of the preliminary Project area in order to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the final route. We are particularly interested in any property located within or adjacent to the study area which your agency may own or have an interest in. We would also appreciate being made aware of any proposed developments your agency may be contemplating in the study area under consideration for the Project in addition to any information that might assist us in our siting analysis and studies. To help us identify potential resource issues in the corridor analysis, please provide us with any information pertaining to the JETx project by April 22, 2023. Written or email responses should be sent to:

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we will reach out to schedule stakeholder meetings as well as plan for additional outreach as a route is developed and refined.

If further information is desired regarding the proposed Project, please contact either myself (218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com) or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc. (701-353-6139 or Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com).

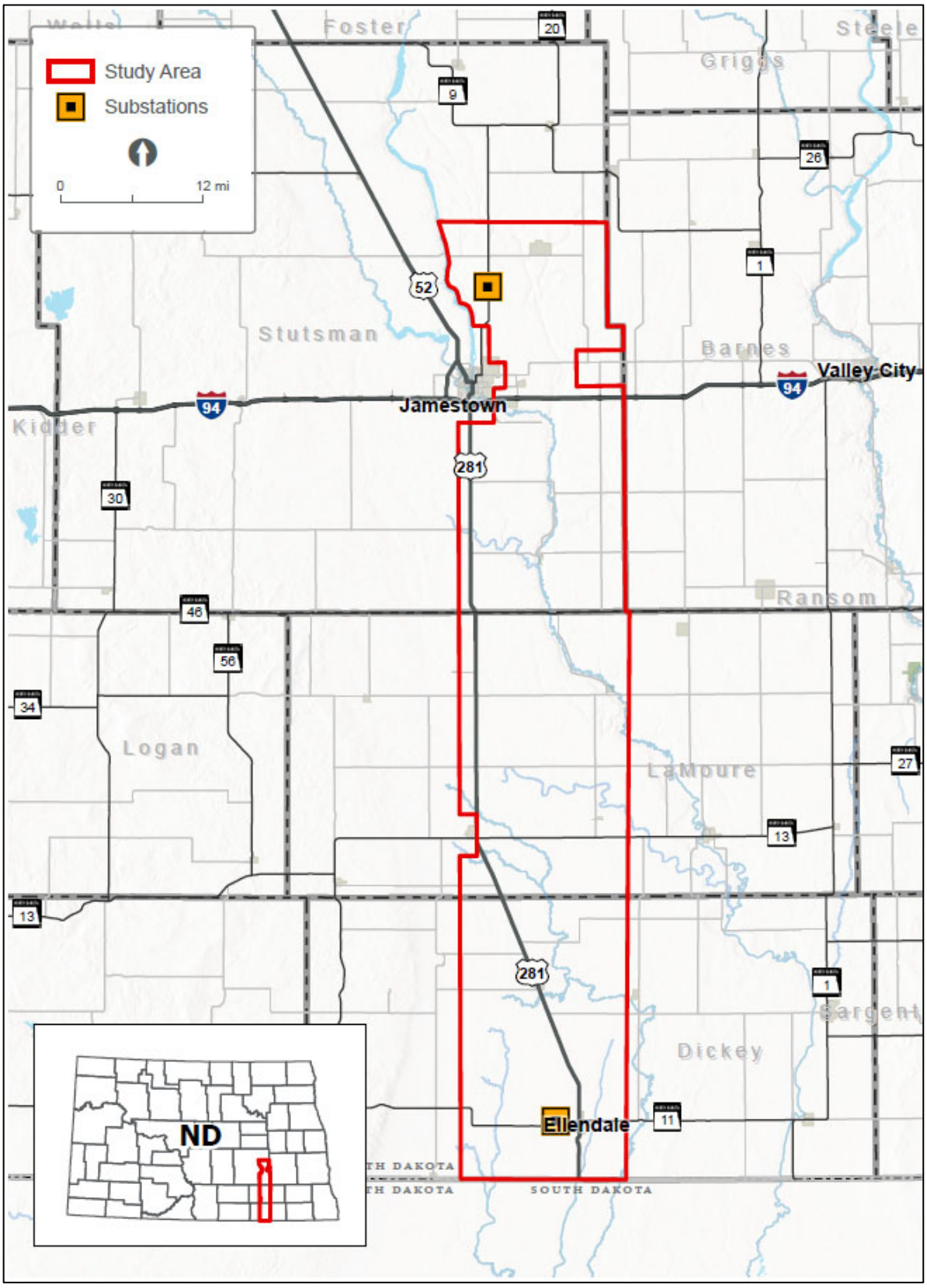
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Dave Anderson
Assistant Manager, FAA
2301 University Dr, Bldg 23B
Bismarck, ND 58504

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Dave Anderson,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (the Project). The Project would be in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect Otter Tail Power's existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota's existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified by the Regional Transmission Organization in the Upper Midwest[1] needed to maintain electric system reliability, increase resilience to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion and increase access to low cost energy throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025. At this early stage of the Project, it is anticipated that Section 106 compliance would be needed for a United State Corps of Engineers Section 404 wetland permit and Section 10 river crossing permit for an overhead crossing of the James River.

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HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
701-353-6139

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September 12, 2023	September 13, 2023	September 14, 2023
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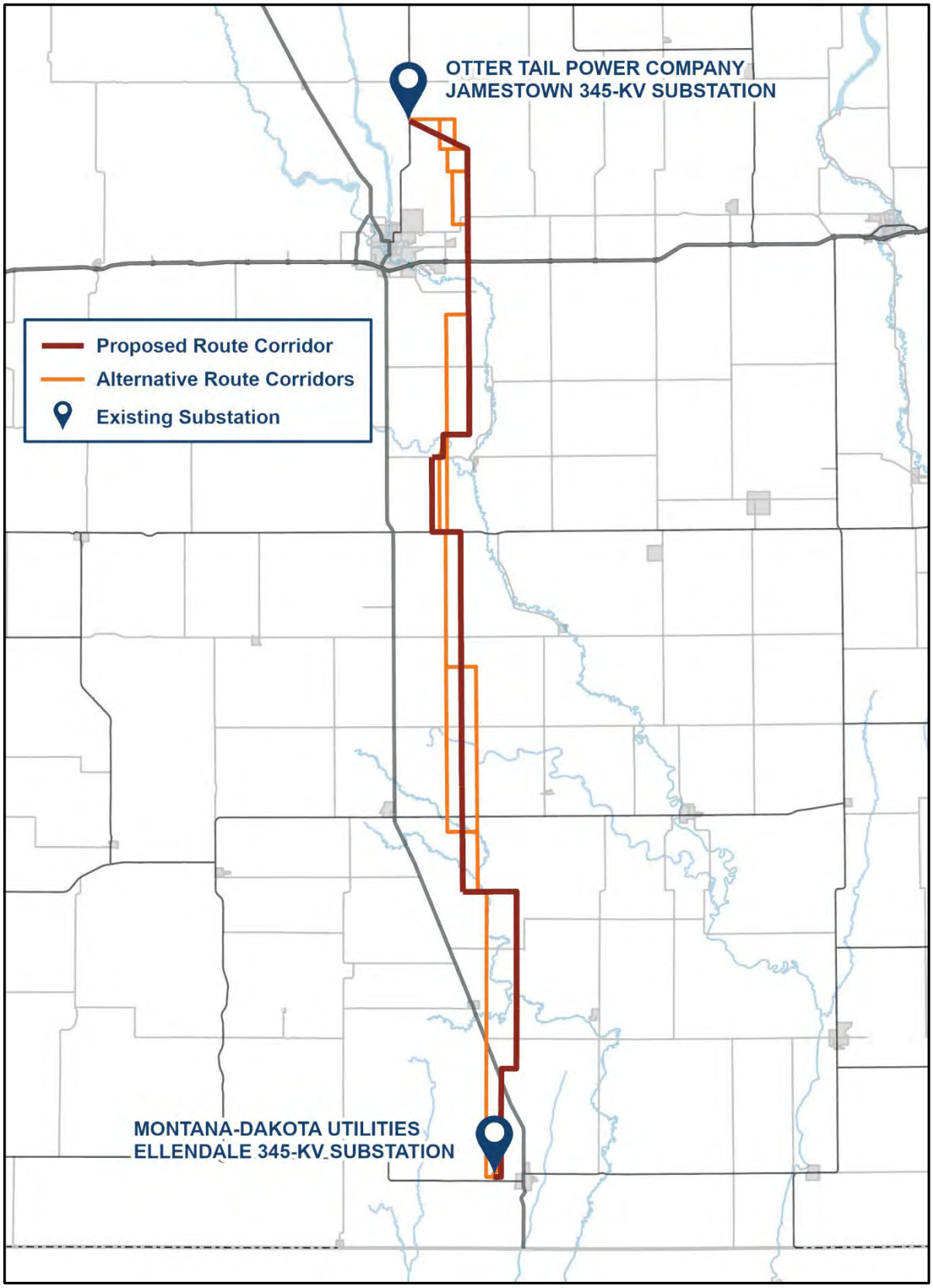
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Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
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Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

JETx Jamestown to Ellendale

Federal Highway Administration (FHA)

Documentation of available correspondence is included following this log.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
Federal Highway Administration (FHA)				
March 22, 2023	Letter	Applicants[1]	FHA	Introduction letter and request for comments.
September 7, 2023	Letter	Applicants	FHA	Second request for input and meeting request letter.

1 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Lee Potter
Division Administrator (ND Division)
Federal Highway Administration
4503 Coleman St - Suite 205
Bismarck, ND 58503

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Potter,

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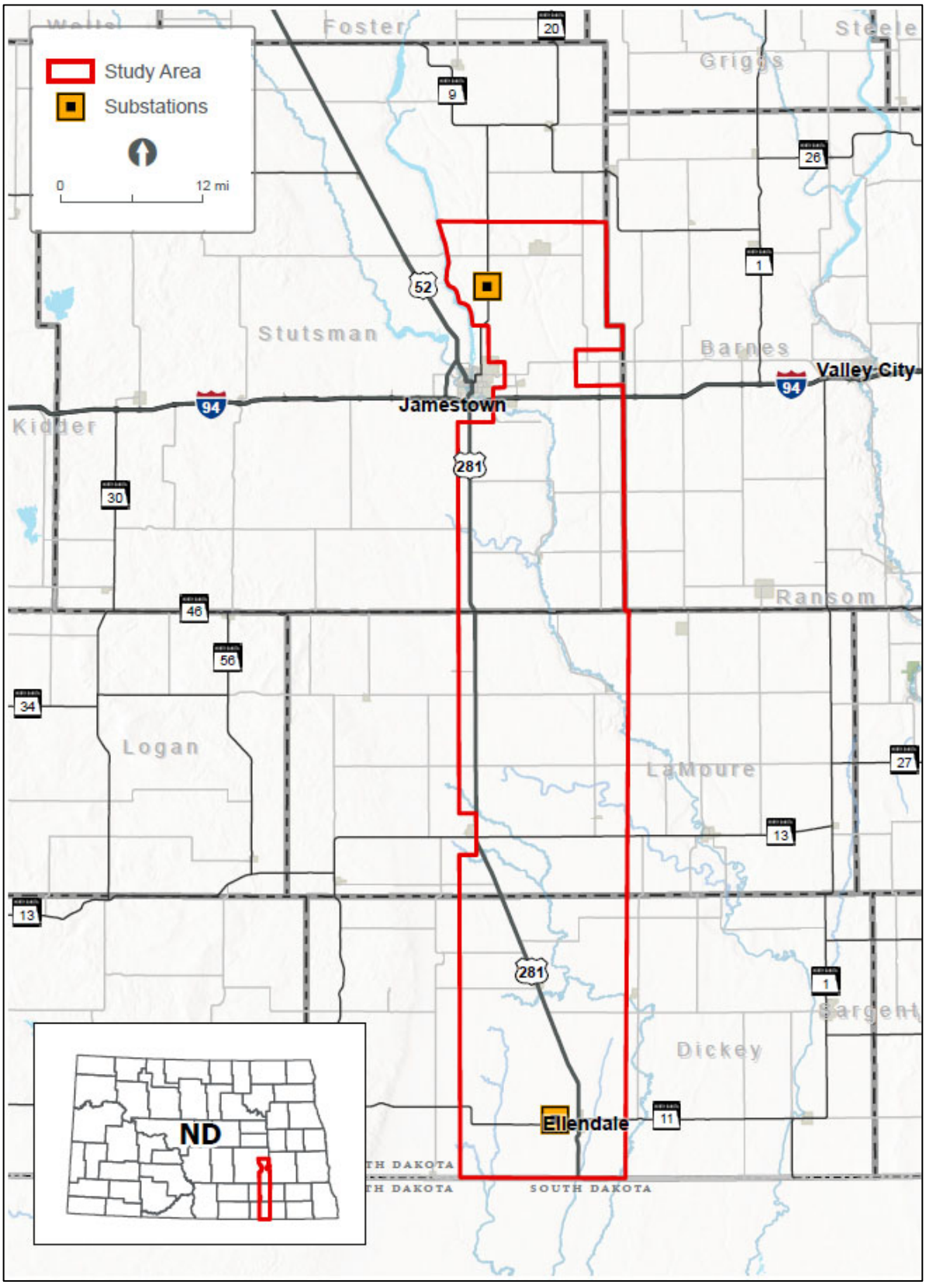
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Lee Potter
Division Administrator (ND Division), Federal Highway Administration
4503 Coleman St, Suite 205
Bismarck, ND 58503

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Lee Potter,

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Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
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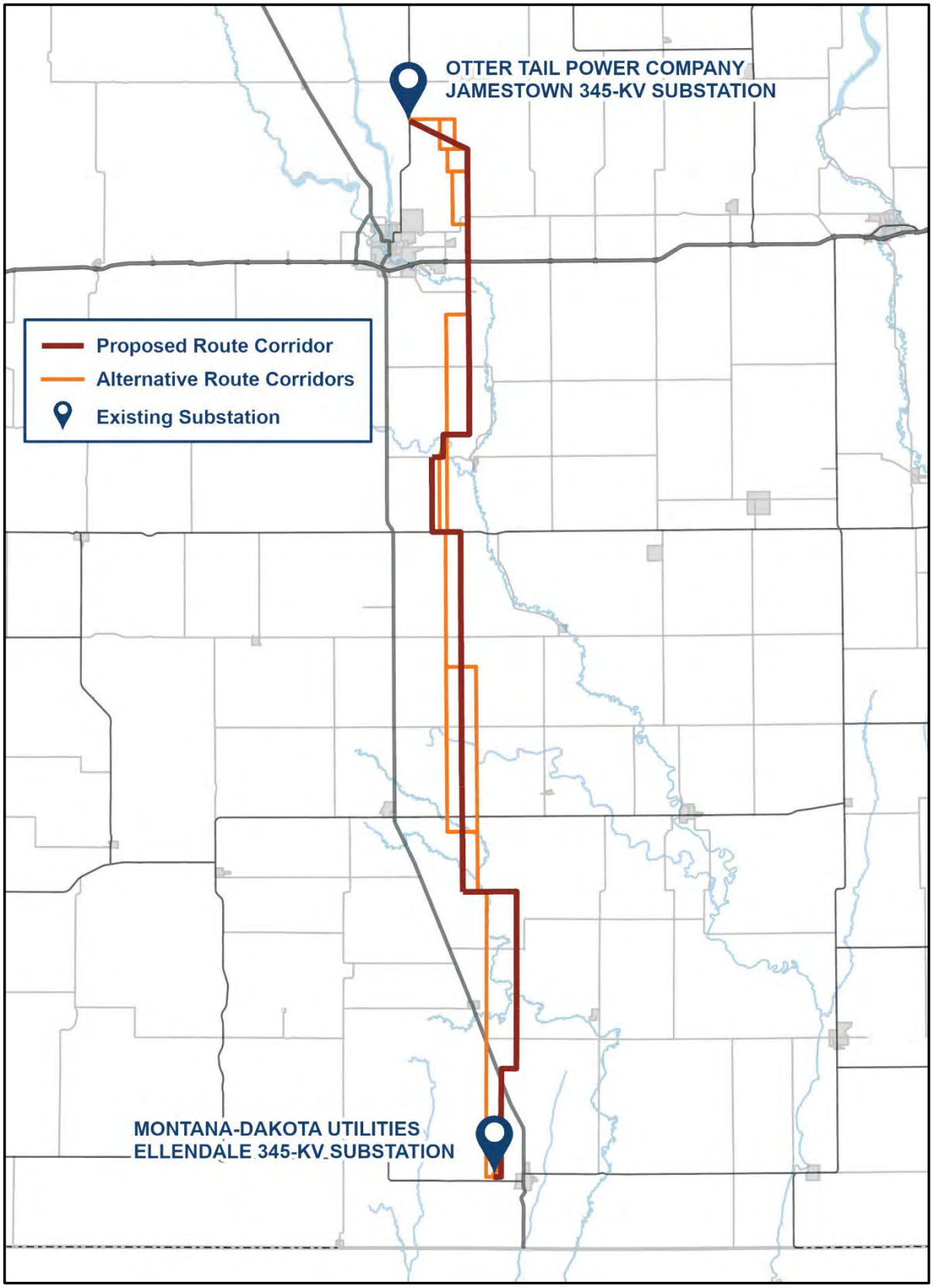
If you desire further information regarding the proposed Project, please contact me at 218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc., at 701-353-6139 or jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com. In addition, further information about the Project can also be found on our website at www.JamestowntoEllendale.com.

Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
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Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

Grand Forks Air Force Base

Documentation of available correspondence is included following this log.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
Grand Forks Air Force Base (AFB)				
March 22, 2023	Letter	Applicants[1]	Grand Forks AFB	Introduction letter and request for comments.
September 7, 2023	Letter	Applicants	Grand Forks AFB	Second request for input and meeting request letter.

1 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Less Canarr
Deputy Base Civil Engineer
Grand Forks Air Force Base
525 Tuskegee Airmen Blvd
Grand Forks AFB, ND 58205-6434

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Canarr,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

Currently, OTP and Montana-Dakota are in the preliminary planning stages of the Project, which include high-level planning, initial public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and preliminary design. These preliminary planning stages will provide important input into the identification of preliminary routes and the eventual selection of a final route for the Project. The attached map shows the current study area being assessed for preliminary routes. Public outreach with landowners and interested parties including public meetings are being planned to occur in June 2023.

We are soliciting your review of the preliminary Project area in order to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the final route. We are particularly interested in any property located within or adjacent to the study area which your agency may own or have an interest in. We would also appreciate being made aware of any proposed developments your agency may be contemplating in the study area under consideration for the Project in addition to any information that might assist us in our siting analysis and studies. To help us identify potential resource issues in the corridor analysis, please provide us with any information pertaining to the JETx project by April 22, 2023. Written or email responses should be sent to:

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we will reach out to schedule stakeholder meetings as well as plan for additional outreach as a route is developed and refined.

If further information is desired regarding the proposed Project, please contact either myself (218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com) or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc. (701-353-6139 or Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com).

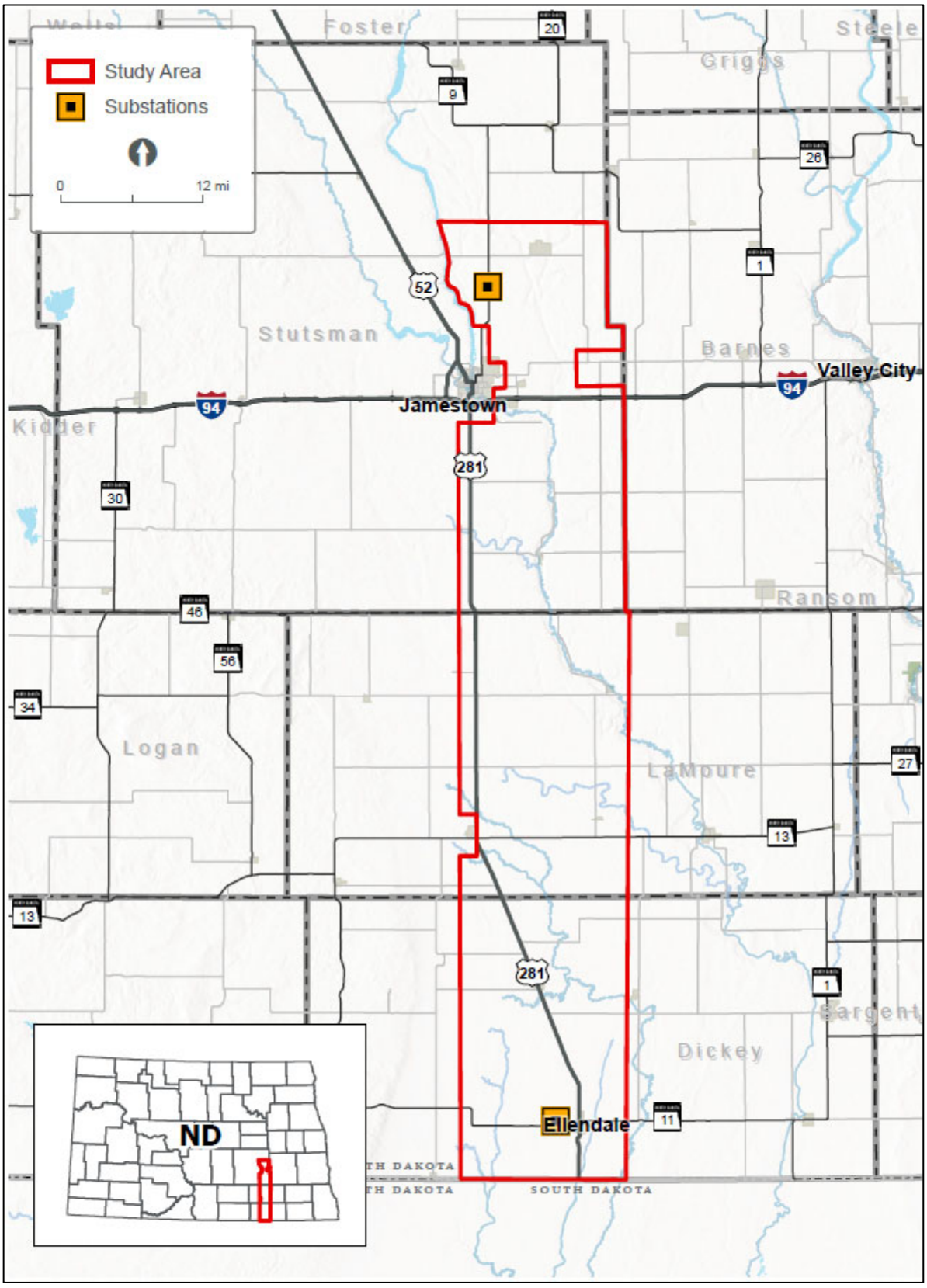
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Les Canarr
Deputy Base Civil Engineer , Grand Forks Air Force Base
525 Tuskegee Airmen Blvd
Grand Forks AFB, ND 58205-6434

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Les Canarr,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (the Project). The Project would be in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect Otter Tail Power's existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota's existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified by the Regional Transmission Organization in the Upper Midwest[1] needed to maintain electric system reliability, increase resilience to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion and increase access to low cost energy throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025. At this early stage of the Project, it is anticipated that Section 106 compliance would be needed for a United State Corps of Engineers Section 404 wetland permit and Section 10 river crossing permit for an overhead crossing of the James River.

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We are requesting your review of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the preferred route. We appreciate and value your input in our attempt to avoid or minimize impacts. To help us identify potential concerns in our corridor analysis, we request that any information pertaining to the Project be provided by October 12, 2023, if possible, to:

[1] The Regional Transmission Organization in this area of the Upper Midwest is the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). See more information at www.misoenergy.org.

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
701-353-6139

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Ellendale	**Jamestown**	**Edgeley**
September 12, 2023	September 13, 2023	September 14, 2023
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	3:00 – 6:00 pm	3:00 – 6:00 pm
American Legion Post #137 79 Main St. Ellendale, ND 58436	Bunker Hill Club House 1520 3rd St. SE Jamestown, ND 58401	Hakuna Matata 101 Industrial Park Road. Edgeley, ND 58433

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the Project progresses, we are planning to have additional consultations with agencies, other jurisdictions, and landowners as we develop and refine a preferred route.

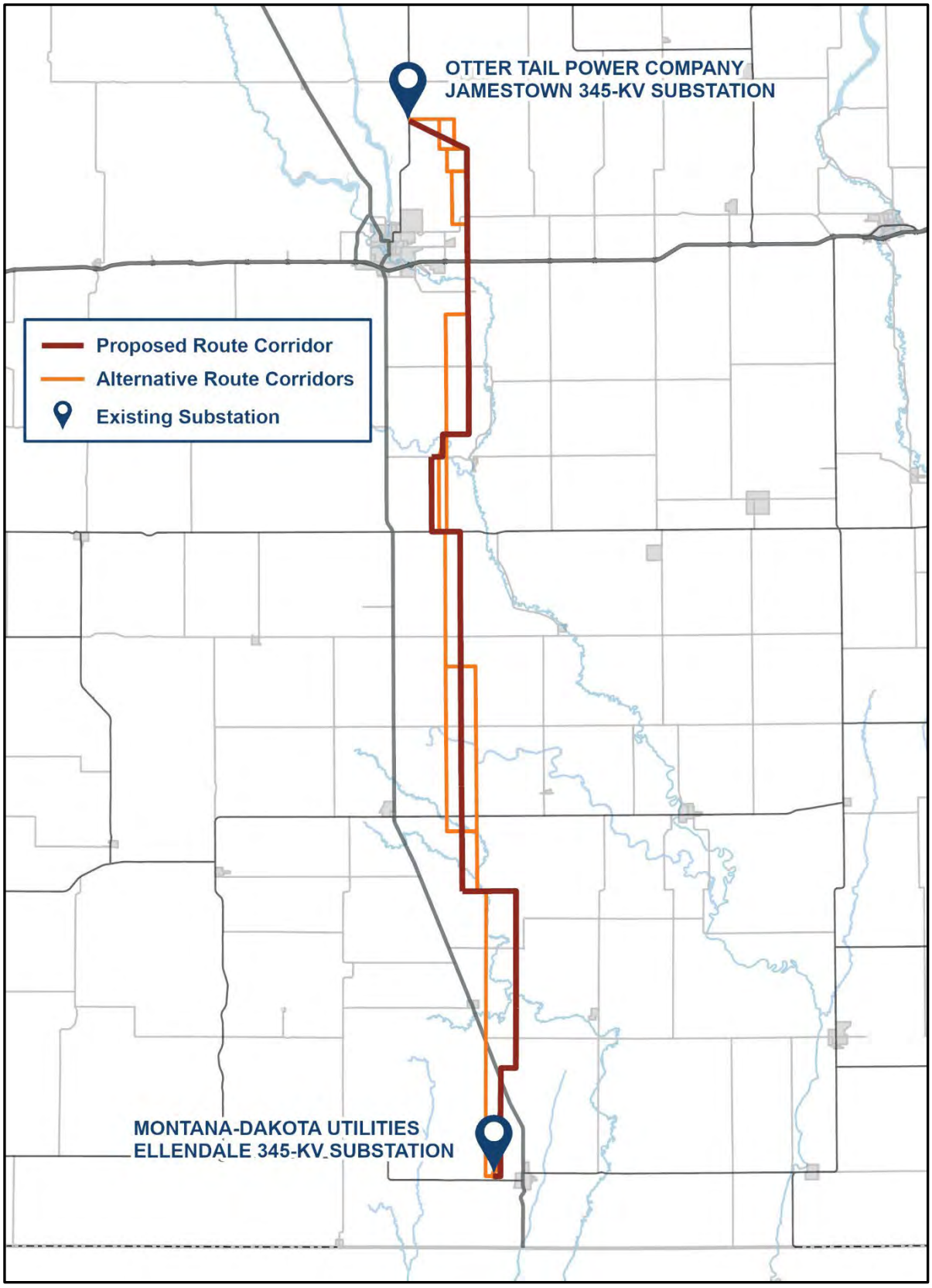
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

MAIASC

Documentation of available correspondence is included following this log.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse (MAIASC) coordinated within the Department of Defense				
March 23, 2023	Letter and Email[1]	MAIASC	Applicants[2]	MAIASC responded to the March 2023 RFI requesting information on the types of structure and structure heights.
March 23, 2023	Email	Applicants	MAIASC	Requested information was provided.
March 23, 2023	Email	Applicants	MAIASC	A correction to previous information was provided.
April 20, 2023	Email	MAIASC	Applicants	MAIASC responded that an informal review of the Project as proposed, would have only minimal impact on military operations in the area.
September 7, 2023	Letter and Email[1]	Applicants	MAIASC	Second request for input and meeting request letter.

1 Indicates documentation that was a part of one of the mass March or September agency mailings.

2 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Steven Sample
Executive Director
Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse
3400 Defense Pentagon - RM 5C646
Washington, DC 20301-3400

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Sample,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

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We are soliciting your review of the preliminary Project area in order to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the final route. We are particularly interested in any property located within or adjacent to the study area which your agency may own or have an interest in. We would also appreciate being made aware of any proposed developments your agency may be contemplating in the study area under consideration for the Project in addition to any information that might assist us in our siting analysis and studies. To help us identify potential resource issues in the corridor analysis, please provide us with any information pertaining to the JETx project by April 22, 2023. Written or email responses should be sent to:

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we will reach out to schedule stakeholder meetings as well as plan for additional outreach as a route is developed and refined.

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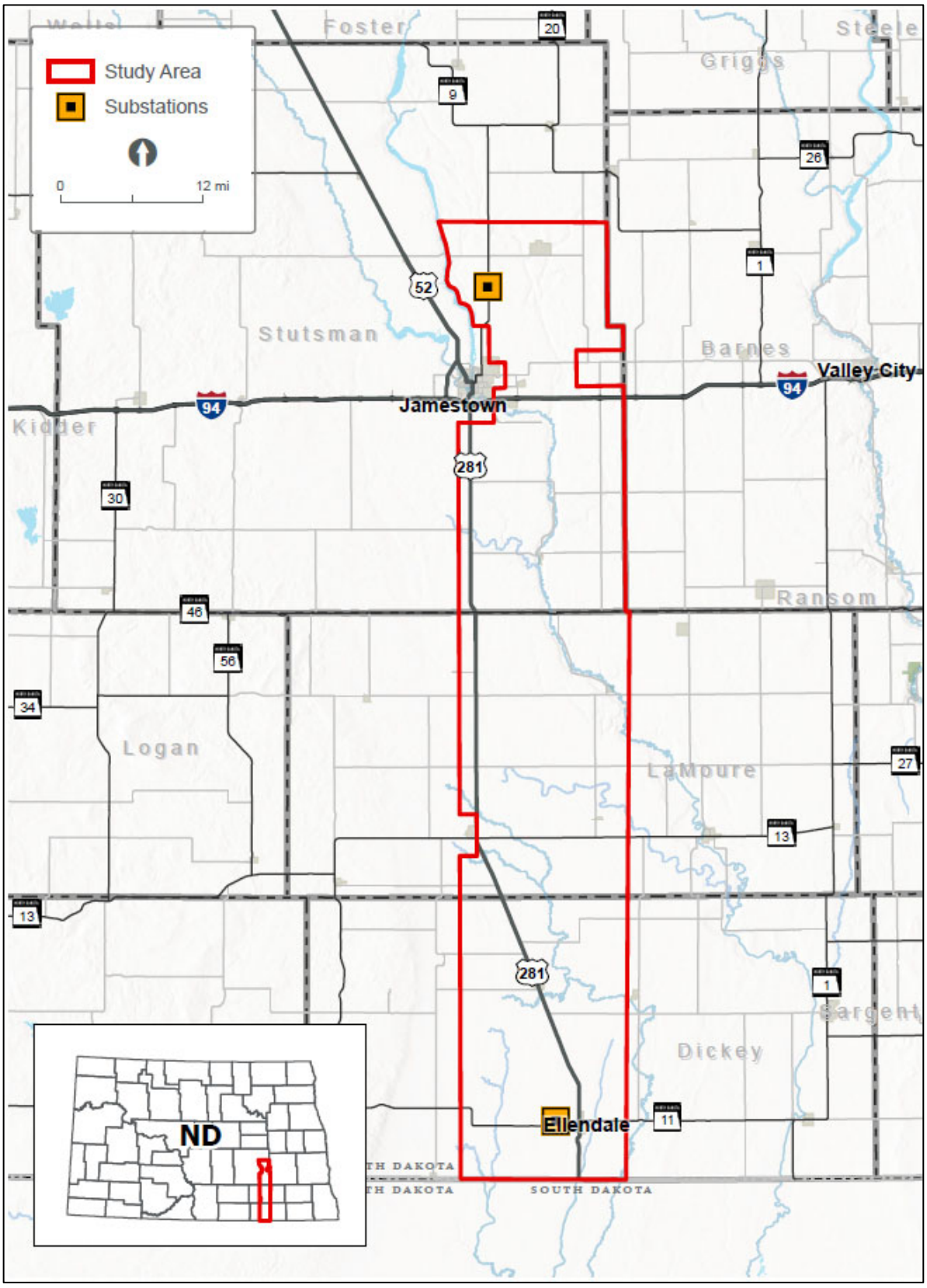
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



From: Carlson, Michaela <Michaela.Carlson@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 4:08 PM
To: OSD Pentagon OUSD A-S Mailbox ASD EIE-RP-SC <osd.pentagon.ousd-a-s.mbx.asd-eie-rp-sc@mail.mil>
Cc: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Subject: Military Aviation & Installation_03222023_ Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Good afternoon,

HDR is assisting Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company to develop and construct an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. We are requesting comments on the attached information. Please respond by April 22, 2023. Thank you!

Michaela Carlson
Environmental Scientist

HDR
101 S. Phillips Ave. Suite 401
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
D 605-782-8131 **M** 605-553-4841
Michaela.Carlson@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: OSD Pentagon OUSD A-S Mailbox ASD EIE-RP-SC <osd.pentagon.ousd-a-s.mbx.asd-eie-rp-sc@mail.mil>
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 8:24 AM
To: Carlson, Michaela <Michaela.Carlson@hdrinc.com>; OSD Pentagon OUSD A-S Mailbox ASD EIE-RP-SC <osd.pentagon.ousd-a-s.mbx.asd-eie-rp-sc@mail.mil>
Cc: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Subject: RE: Military Aviation & Installation_03222023_ Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Good morning Ms. Carlson,

Your Informal Review request for the Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx) has been received. We will begin processing the request shortly.

Can you please provide the following:

- Type of Structures (wood, concrete, steel):
- Structure Heights (or maximum height):

Thank you for the opportunity to review your project.

Very Respectfully,

The Clearinghouse
Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Sustainment)
Email: osd.pentagon.ousd-a-s.mbx.asd-eie-rp-sc@mail.mil

From: Hanley, Jennifer
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 3:26 PM
To: 'OSD Pentagon OUSD A-S Mailbox ASD EIE-RP-SC' <osd.pentagon.ousd-a-s.mbx.asd-eie-rp-sc@mail.mil>
Cc: Weiers, Jason <jweiers@otpco.com>; Carlson, Michaela <Michaela.Carlson@hdrinc.com>
Subject: RE: Military Aviation & Installation_03222023_ Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Good afternoon,

- Type of Structures (wood, concrete, steel): Steel
- Structure Heights (or maximum height): Typical height is 150 ft and the maximum height is 160 ft

Please let me know if you have any other questions.

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From:	Hanley, Jennifer
To:	OSD Pentagon OUSD A-S Mailbox ASD EIE-RP-SC
Cc:	Weiers, Jason; Carlson, Michaela
Subject:	RE: Military Aviation & Installation_03222023_ Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)
Date:	Thursday, March 23, 2023 3:01:22 PM
Importance:	High

I need to make a correction to the information below.

The structure height for the typical Tangent structure will range from 100 feet to 180 ft, with the average being 150 feet. The maximum structure height would therefore be **180 feet**.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks!
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Townes, Daniel W CTR OSD OUSD A-S (USA)
To: Carlson, Michaela
Cc: Beard, Robbin E CIV OSD OUSD A-S (USA); Hanley, Jennifer
Subject: Response Letter for the Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project
Date: Thursday, April 20, 2023 2:26:38 PM
Attachments: Response Letter for the Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project.msg

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

PUBLIC DOCUMENT – NOT PUBLIC (OR PRIVILEGED) DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
3400 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3400

ENERGY, INSTALLATIONS
AND ENVIRONMENT

April 17, 2023

Michaela Carlson
HDR, Inc.
101 S. Phillips Ave. Suite 401
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Dear Ms. Carlson,

As requested, the Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse coordinated within the Department of Defense (DoD) an informal review of the Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project. The results of our review indicated that the transmission line project, located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota, as proposed, will have minimal impact on military operations conducted in the area.

Please note that this informal review by the DoD Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse does not constitute an action under 49 United States Code Section 44718 and that the DoD is not bound by the conclusion arrived at under this informal review. To expedite our review in the Obstruction Evaluation Airport Airspace Analysis (OE/AAA) process, please add the project number 2023-03-T-DEV-39 in the comments section of the filing. If you have any questions, please contact me at robbin.e.beard.civ@mail.mil.

Sincerely,

Robbin Beard
Deputy Director
Military Aviation and Installation
Assurance Siting Clearinghouse

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Steven Sample
Executive Director, Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse
3400 Defense Pentagon, RM 5C646
Washington, DC 20301-3400

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Steven Sample,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (the Project). The Project would be in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect Otter Tail Power's existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota's existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified by the Regional Transmission Organization in the Upper Midwest[1] needed to maintain electric system reliability, increase resilience to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion and increase access to low cost energy throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025. At this early stage of the Project, it is anticipated that Section 106 compliance would be needed for a United State Corps of Engineers Section 404 wetland permit and Section 10 river crossing permit for an overhead crossing of the James River.

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[1] The Regional Transmission Organization in this area of the Upper Midwest is the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). See more information at www.misoenergy.org.

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
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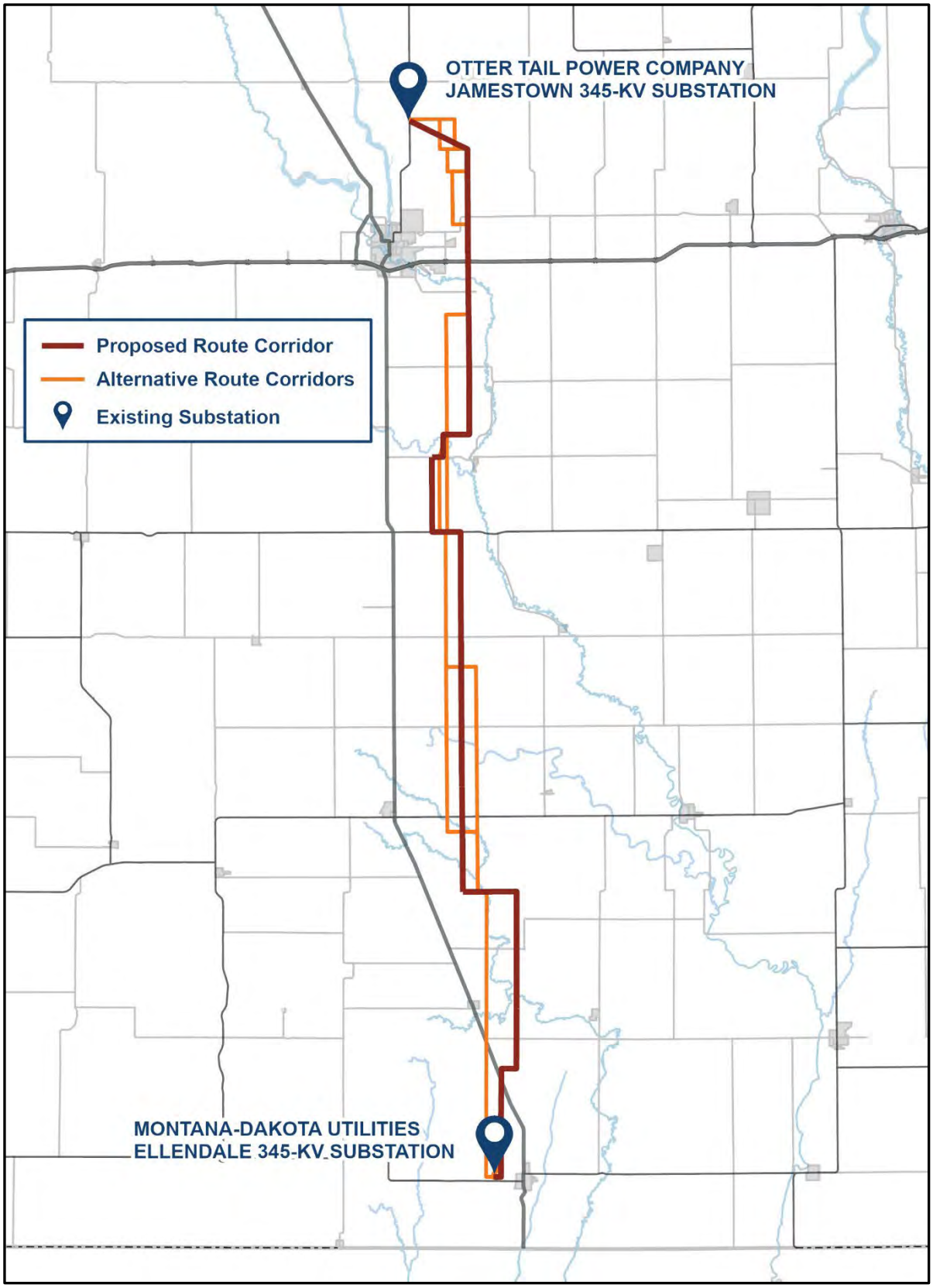
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Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

Minot Air Force Base/20th Air Force 91st Missile Wing

Documentation of available correspondence is included following this log.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
Minot Air Force Base/20th Air Force 91st Missile Wing				
March 22, 2023	Letter	Applicants[1]	Minot Air Force Base/20th Air Force 91st Missile Wing	Introduction letter and request for comments.
September 7, 2023	Letter	Applicants	Minot Air Force Base/20th Air Force 91st Missile Wing	Second request for input and meeting request letter.

1 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Daniel Lewis, P.E.
Chief Missile Engineering
Minot Air Force Base/20th Air Force 91st Missile Wing
445 Peacekeeper Place
Minot AFB, ND 58705

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Lewis,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

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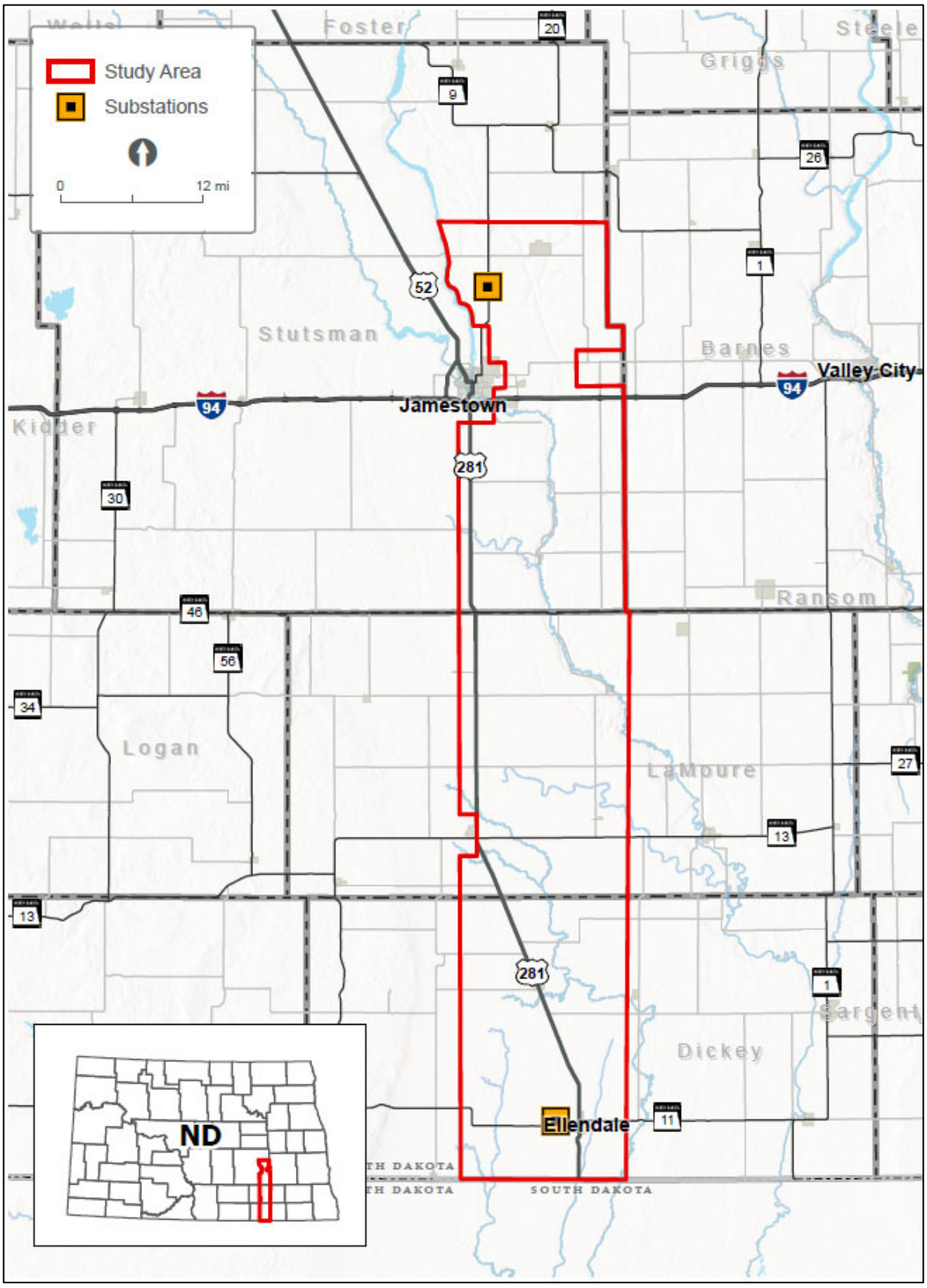
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Daniel Lewis, P.E.
Chief Missile Engineering, Minot Air Force Base/20th Air Force 91st Missile Wing
445 Peacekeeper Place
Minot AFB, ND 58705

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

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HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
701-353-6139

We will be hosting public meetings at three locations along the Project in September. The meetings will be held on consecutive days September 12 - 14 from 3 - 6 p.m. each day at the three locations listed below. In addition to our public meetings, we are also extending you an invitation if you would prefer to meet individually. If you are interested in an individual meeting outside of our public meetings, our contact information follows below and we would welcome the opportunity to share more information about the Project, answer your questions and take your feedback.

Ellendale	**Jamestown**	**Edgeley**
September 12, 2023	September 13, 2023	September 14, 2023
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	3:00 – 6:00 pm	3:00 – 6:00 pm
American Legion Post #137 79 Main St. Ellendale, ND 58436	Bunker Hill Club House 1520 3rd St. SE Jamestown, ND 58401	Hakuna Matata 101 Industrial Park Road. Edgeley, ND 58433

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the Project progresses, we are planning to have additional consultations with agencies, other jurisdictions, and landowners as we develop and refine a preferred route.

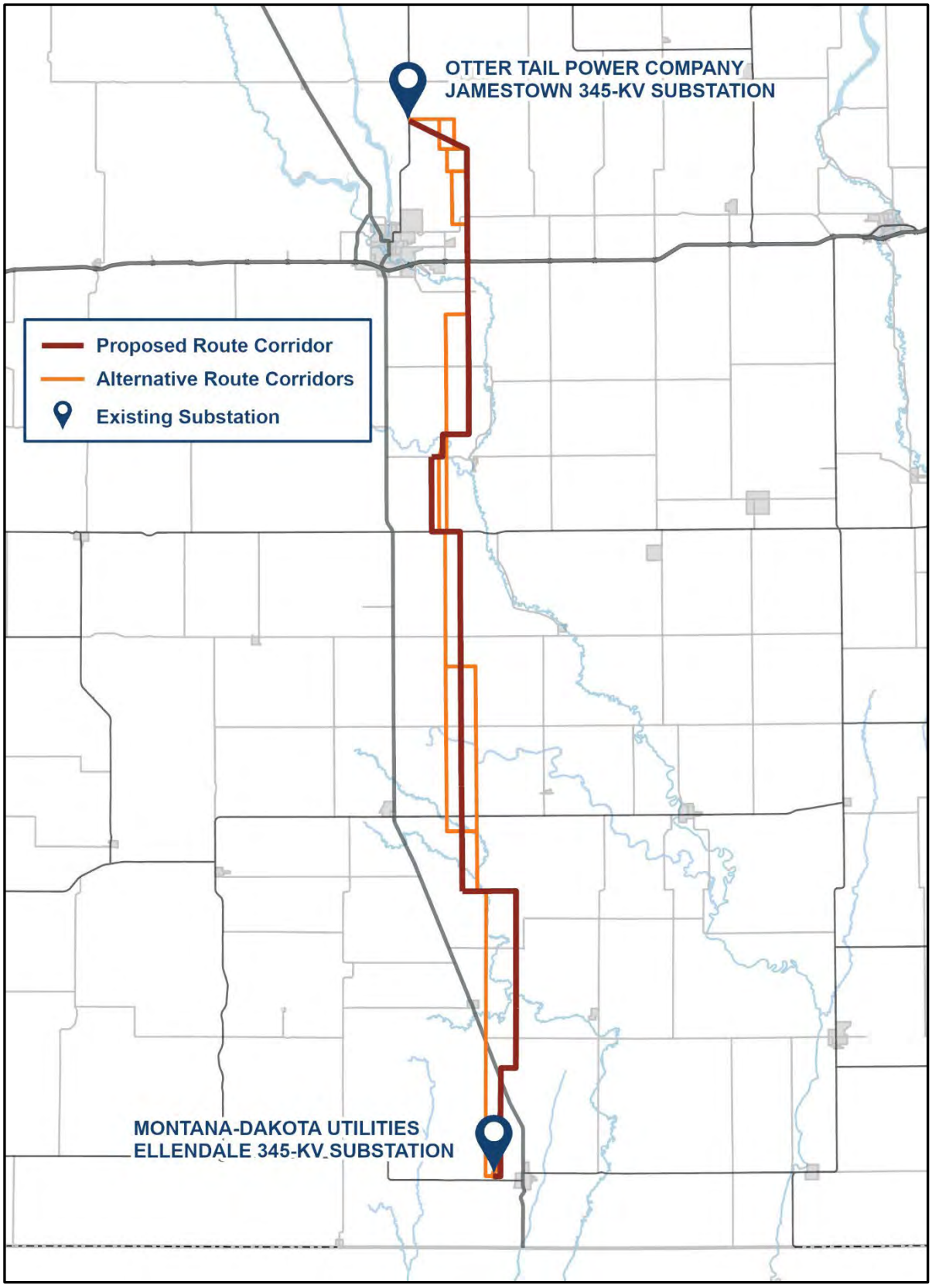
If you desire further information regarding the proposed Project, please contact me at 218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc., at 701-353-6139 or jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com. In addition, further information about the Project can also be found on our website at www.JamestowntoEllendale.com.

Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

JETx Jamestown to Ellendale

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of available correspondence is included following this log.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)				
March 22, 2023	Letter	Applicants[1]	NRCS	Introduction letter and request for comments.
September 7, 2023	Letter	Applicants	NRCS	Second request for input and meeting request letter.

1 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Richard Webb
Acting State Conservationist
ND USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Federal Building, Room 270
220 East Rosser Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58502

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Webb,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

Currently, OTP and Montana-Dakota are in the preliminary planning stages of the Project, which include high-level planning, initial public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and preliminary design. These preliminary planning stages will provide important input into the identification of preliminary routes and the eventual selection of a final route for the Project. The attached map shows the current study area being assessed for preliminary routes. Public outreach with landowners and interested parties including public meetings are being planned to occur in June 2023.

We are soliciting your review of the preliminary Project area in order to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the final route. We are particularly interested in any property located within or adjacent to the study area which your agency may own or have an interest in. We would also appreciate being made aware of any proposed developments your agency may be contemplating in the study area under consideration for the Project in addition to any information that might assist us in our siting analysis and studies. To help us identify potential resource issues in the corridor analysis, please provide us with any information pertaining to the JETx project by April 22, 2023. Written or email responses should be sent to:

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we will reach out to schedule stakeholder meetings as well as plan for additional outreach as a route is developed and refined.

If further information is desired regarding the proposed Project, please contact either myself (218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com) or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc. (701-353-6139 or Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com).

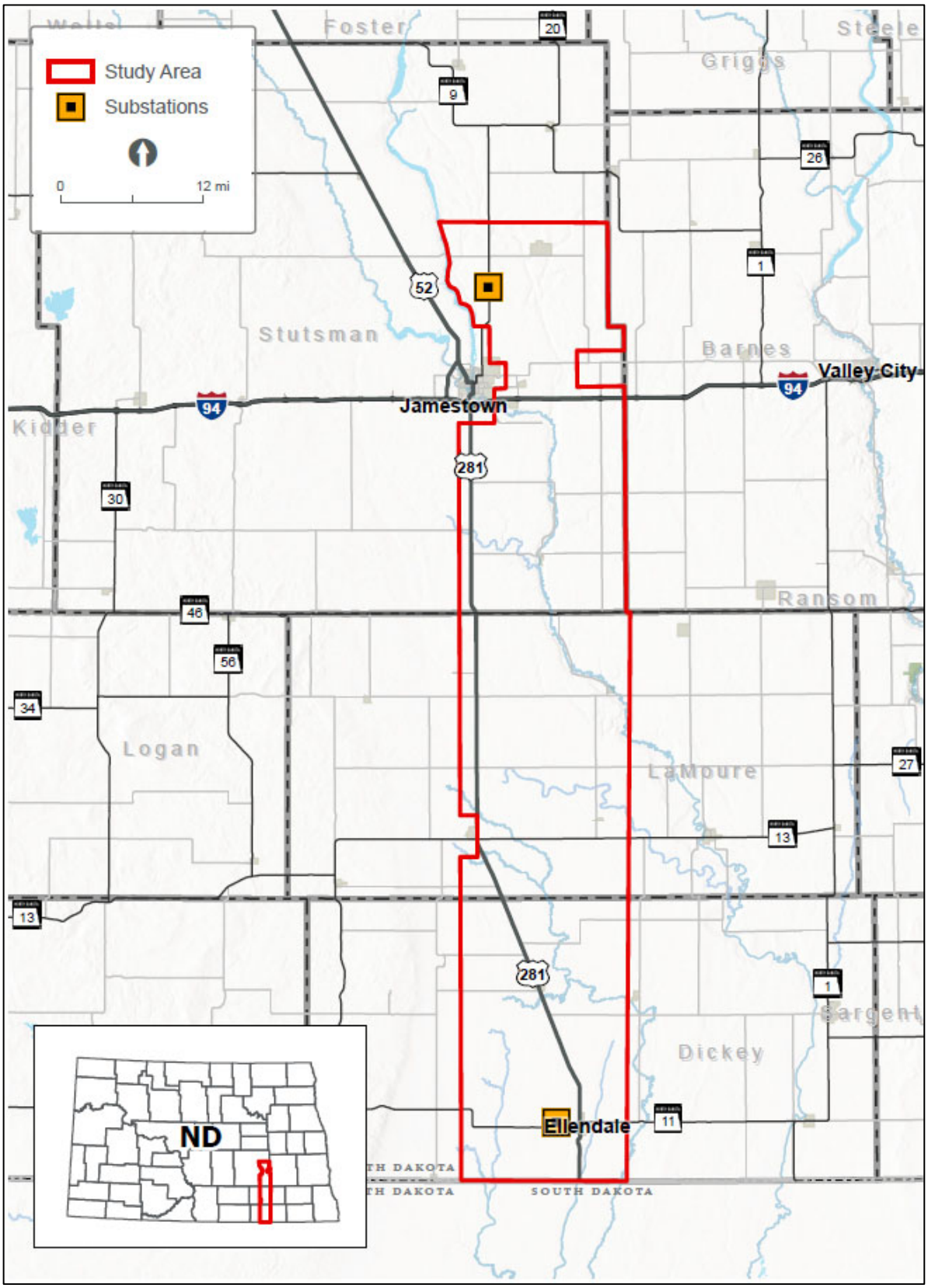
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Dan Hovland
State Conservationist, ND USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
220 East Rosser Avenue, Federal Building, Room 270
Bismarck, ND 58502

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Dan Hovland,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (the Project). The Project would be in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect Otter Tail Power's existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota's existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified by the Regional Transmission Organization in the Upper Midwest[1] needed to maintain electric system reliability, increase resilience to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion and increase access to low cost energy throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025. At this early stage of the Project, it is anticipated that Section 106 compliance would be needed for a United State Corps of Engineers Section 404 wetland permit and Section 10 river crossing permit for an overhead crossing of the James River.

Currently, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota are in the planning stages of the Project, which include public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and initial design. These preliminary planning stages provide important input into the identification of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. The attached map shows the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. These corridors are subject to change as we continue public outreach with landowners and other interested parties. Environmental field surveys are currently anticipated to start late this year and be completed in 2024.

We are requesting your review of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the preferred route. We appreciate and value your input in our attempt to avoid or minimize impacts. To help us identify potential concerns in our corridor analysis, we request that any information pertaining to the Project be provided by October 12, 2023, if possible, to:

[1] The Regional Transmission Organization in this area of the Upper Midwest is the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). See more information at www.misoenergy.org.

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
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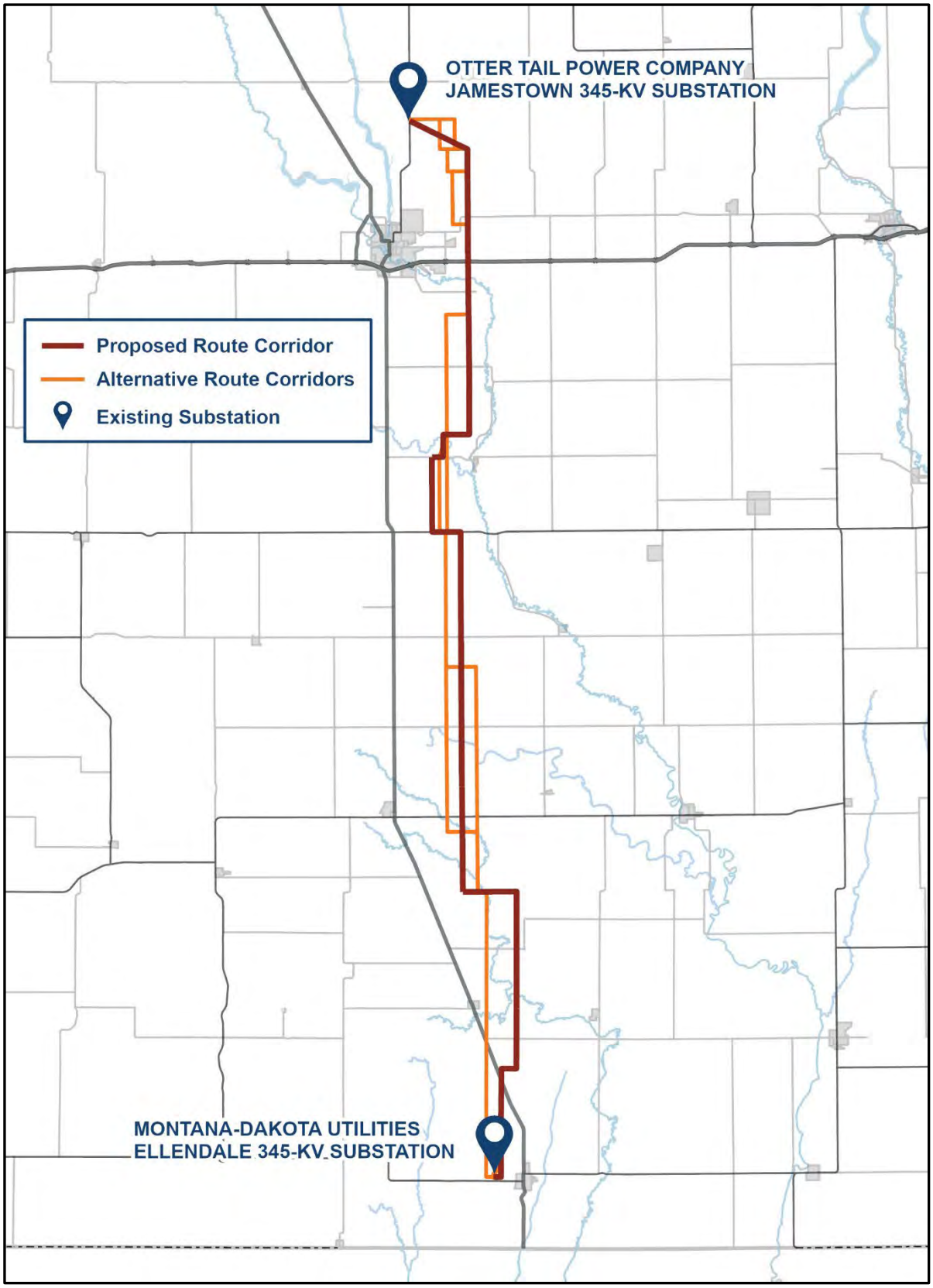
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JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

U.S. Department of Defense

Documentation of available correspondence is included following this log.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
U.S. Department of Defense				
March 22, 2023	Letter	Applicants[1]	U.S. Department of Defense	Introduction letter and request for comments.
September 7, 2023	Letter	Applicants	U.S. Department of Defense	Second request for input and meeting request letter.

1 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Lloyd J. Austin, III
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Austin, III,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

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We are soliciting your review of the preliminary Project area in order to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the final route. We are particularly interested in any property located within or adjacent to the study area which your agency may own or have an interest in. We would also appreciate being made aware of any proposed developments your agency may be contemplating in the study area under consideration for the Project in addition to any information that might assist us in our siting analysis and studies. To help us identify potential resource issues in the corridor analysis, please provide us with any information pertaining to the JETx project by April 22, 2023. Written or email responses should be sent to:

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we will reach out to schedule stakeholder meetings as well as plan for additional outreach as a route is developed and refined.

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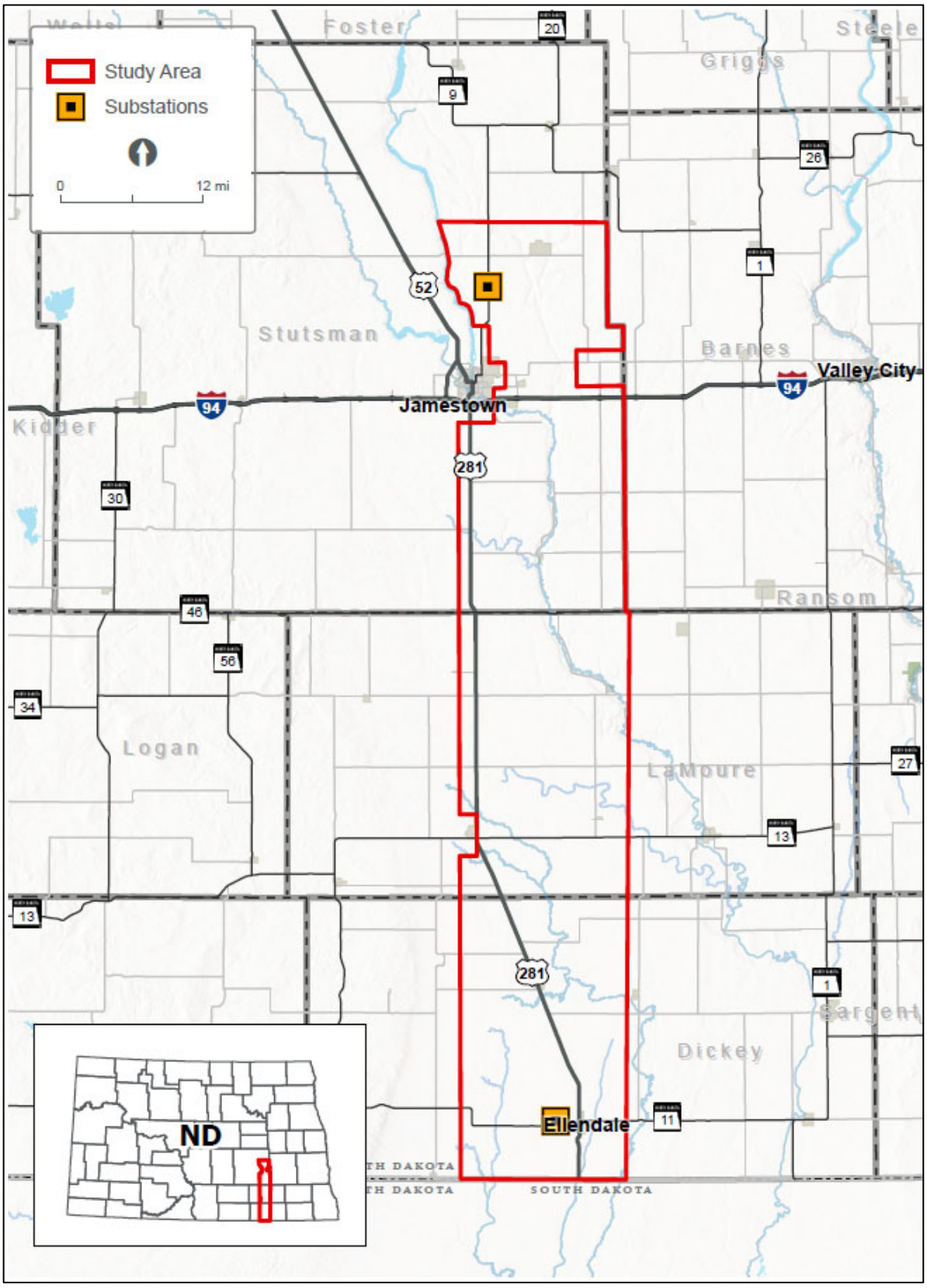
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

The Honorable Lloyd J. Austin, III
Secretary of Defense, U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

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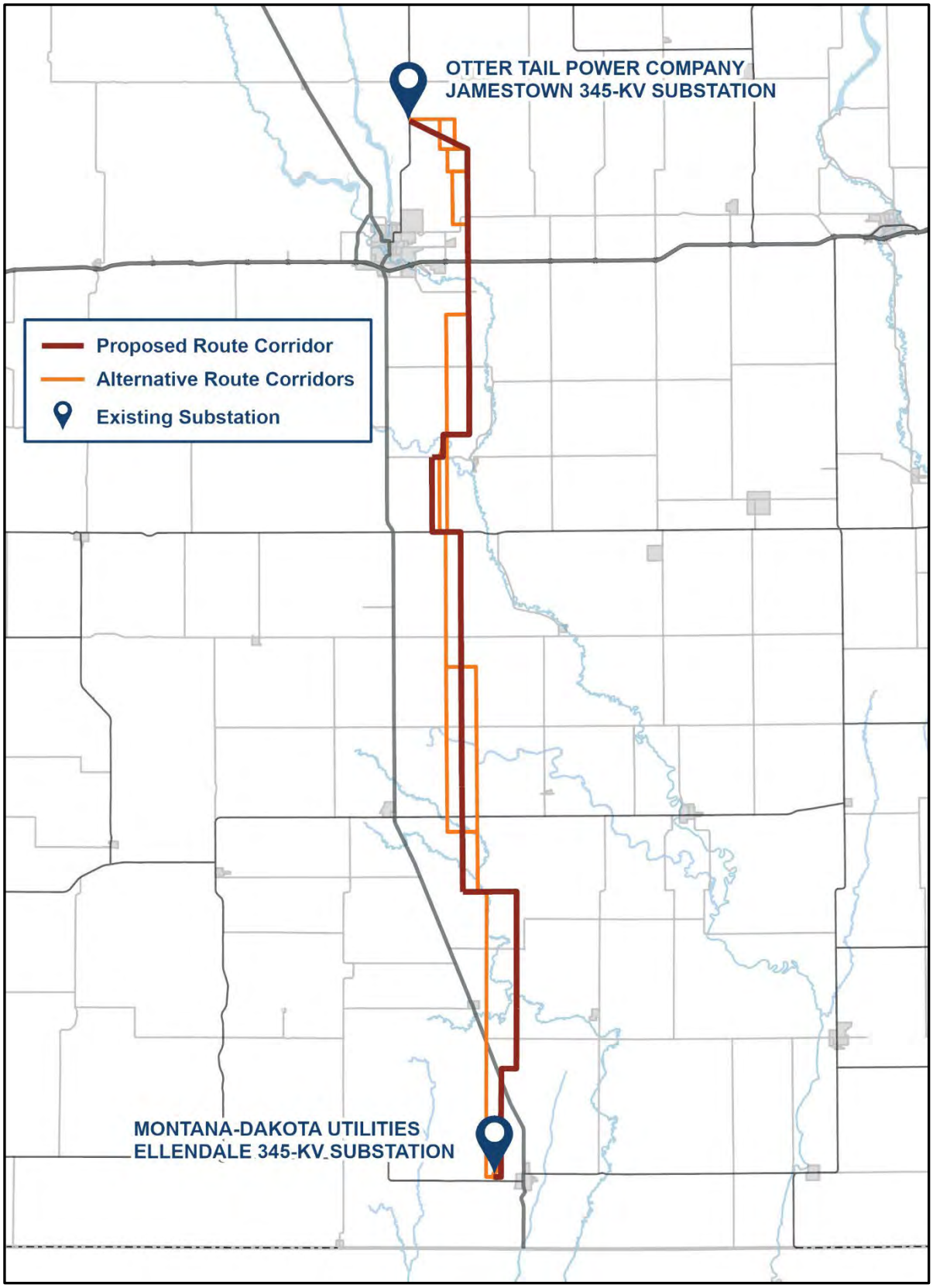
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Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

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JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)

Documentation of available correspondence is included following this log.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)				
March 22, 2023	Letter and Email[1]	Applicants[2]	USBR	Introduction letter and request for comments.
June 14, 2023	Email	USBR	Applicants	BOR responded to the March 2023 RFI with the location of BOR land parcels in the area and provided information on relevant restrictions and permissions. They also noted and provided recommendations regarding cultural and historical concerns.
June 26, 2023	Email	Applicants	USBR	Flood easement information was requested from USBR.
June 28, 2023	Email	USBR	Applicants	BOR provided maps showing flood easement areas relevant to the Project area.
September 7, 2023	Letter and Email[1]	Applicants	USBR	Second request for input and meeting request letter.

1 Indicates documentation that was a part of one of the mass March or September agency mailings.
2 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Scott Hettinger
Chief, Resources Management
U.S. Dept of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation
304 E Broadway Ave - RM 110
Bismarck, ND 58501

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Hettinger,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

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Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

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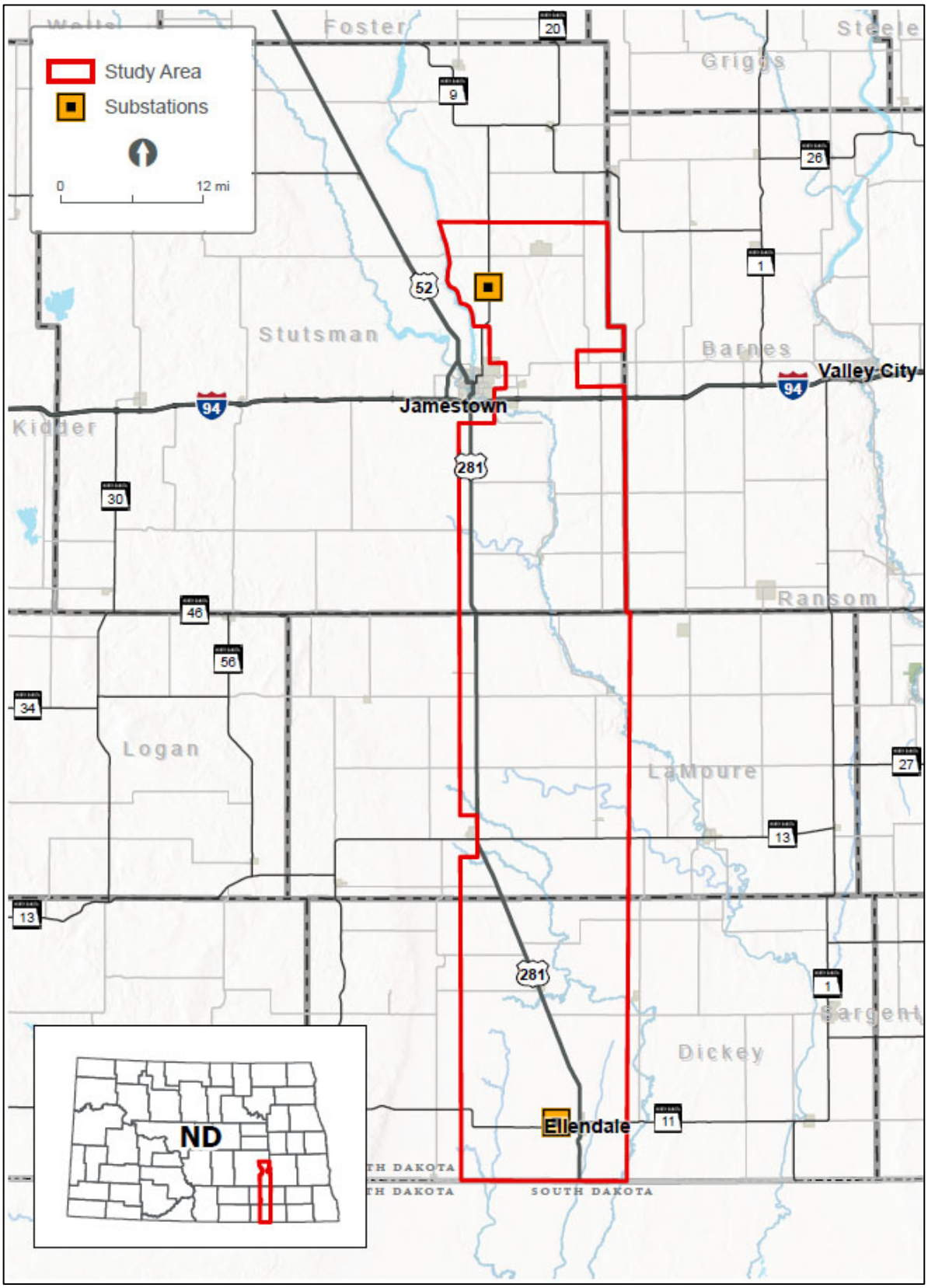
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



From: Brown, Angela K
To: Hanley, Jennifer
Subject: Otter Trail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (MDU) Request for Comment Regarding the JETx Project in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties, North Dakota
Date: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 3:42:04 PM
Attachments: image001.png
JETx Project - Reclamation Comment.pdf

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

Good Afternoon Ms. Hanley,

Attached is the following signed letter, "Otter Trail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (MDU) Request for Comment Regarding the JETx Project in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties, North Dakota."

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Ashley Persinger, Environmental Coordinator, at (701) 221-1282 or at APersinger@usbr.gov.

Thank you,

Angela K. Brown
Secretary
Dakotas Area Office
304 E Broadway Ave
Bismarck, ND 58501
Ph: (701) 221-1251
abrown@usbr.gov

BOR_Logo

PUBLIC DOCUMENT – NOT PUBLIC (OR PRIVILEGED) DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Dakotas Area Office
304 East Broadway Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58501

IN REPLY REFER TO:

DK-5000
2.2.4.23

Ms. Jennifer Hanley
Lead Environmental Consultant
HDR, Inc.
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Subject: Otter Trail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (MDU) Request for Comment Regarding the JETx Project in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties, North Dakota

Dear Ms. Hanley:

On behalf of the Dakotas Area Manager, Joseph E. Hall, this acknowledges receipt of your March 22, 2023, scoping letter. Your proposed action includes, but is not limited to, the development, construction, and co-ownership of an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown to Ellendale, North Dakota.

Reclamation has identified that there are two Reclamation land parcels in the form of flood easements near or within the proposed project area. One parcel is located in Section 24, Township (T) 140 North (N), Range (R) 64 West (W), and the other parcel is located in Section 9, Township (T) 139 North (N), Range (R) 63 West (W). No permanent structures shall be built on Reclamation flood easement land and a Letter of Consent (LOC) is needed from Reclamation if the project will cross the aforementioned easements. Please contact Mr. Jacob Hall, Natural Resource Specialist, at (701) 390-7282 or at JMHall@usbr.gov to request an LOC for the Project and for more information regarding the location of the flood easements.

The proposed project area will not impact any cultural resources on Reclamation lands around, and including, the Jamestown Dam. However, there is one Reclamation owned parcel in Section 9, Township (T) 139 North (N), Range (R) 63 West (W) that contains a cultural resource that is protected under the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. §300101, et seq.) and other cultural resource laws. Reclamation recommends the area be avoided to prevent any adverse impacts to the resource. Reclamation's Area Archaeologist, Mr. Matthew Cox, is available at (701) 221-1265 or at MACox@usbr.gov if you have any questions.

Reclamation's records also indicate that there are multiple cultural resources located on private lands within the proposed project area. There are significant cultural sites in Section 30, T138N, R62W, and Sections 14, 25, and 36, T137N, R63W. Reclamation recommends contacting Dr. Andrew Clark at the State Historical Society of North Dakota to ensure proper compliance with North Dakota Century Code for the protection of archaeological resources. His contact information is listed below.

Andrew Clark, PhD
Director/Deputy SHPO
Archaeology and Historic Preservation
State Historical Society of North Dakota
612 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505-0830
(701) 328-3574
andrewclark@nd.gov

Direct questions regarding environmental or cultural resources to Ms. Ashley Persinger, Environmental Coordinator, at (701) 221-1282 or at APersinger@usbr.gov. Thank you in advance for the opportunity to comment and providing the required information. If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

Sincerely,

ASHLEY PERSINGER Digitally signed by ASHLEY PERSINGER
Date: 2023.06.12 08:17:08 -05'00'

Ashley Persinger
Environmental Coordinator

From: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2023 4:43 PM
To: Hall, Jacob M <jmhall@usbr.gov>
Cc: Peterson, Monica <monica.peterson@hdrinc.com>; Hellman, Joshua <Joshua.Hellman@hdrinc.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Jamestown to Ellendale 345kV Transmission Line

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Mr. Hall,

We received the attached response from your office on 6/14/2023. Would you be able to share the specific flood easement information with us so we can add them to our web map as exclusion areas?

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
Environmental Project Manager

HDR
51 North Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
D 701.353.6139
jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Hall, Jacob M
To: Hanley, Jennifer
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Jamestown to Ellendale 345kV Transmission Line
Date: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 2:29:50 PM
Attachments: BOR_flood_easements_21st_Street_SE.pdf
BOR_flood_easements_24th_Street_SE.pdf
BOR_flood_easements_28th_Street_SE.pdf
Jamestown_study_area_north_of_dam.pdf

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

Mrs. Hanley,

Thank you for reaching out, and I have a few maps that were provided by our GIS team that show the flood easements in relation to the proposed project area. There are four maps in total and I will attach them to this email.
Three of the maps will show a closer view of the possible conflict areas and another map will show an overall view of the flood easements near the proposed project area. The flood easements are represented by the purple bordered areas and the JETx project area is represented by the yellow bordered area. There are also labels for the flood easement contract number and landowner. I apologize for the lack of a key to the maps, if there are any issues with understanding them please let me know.

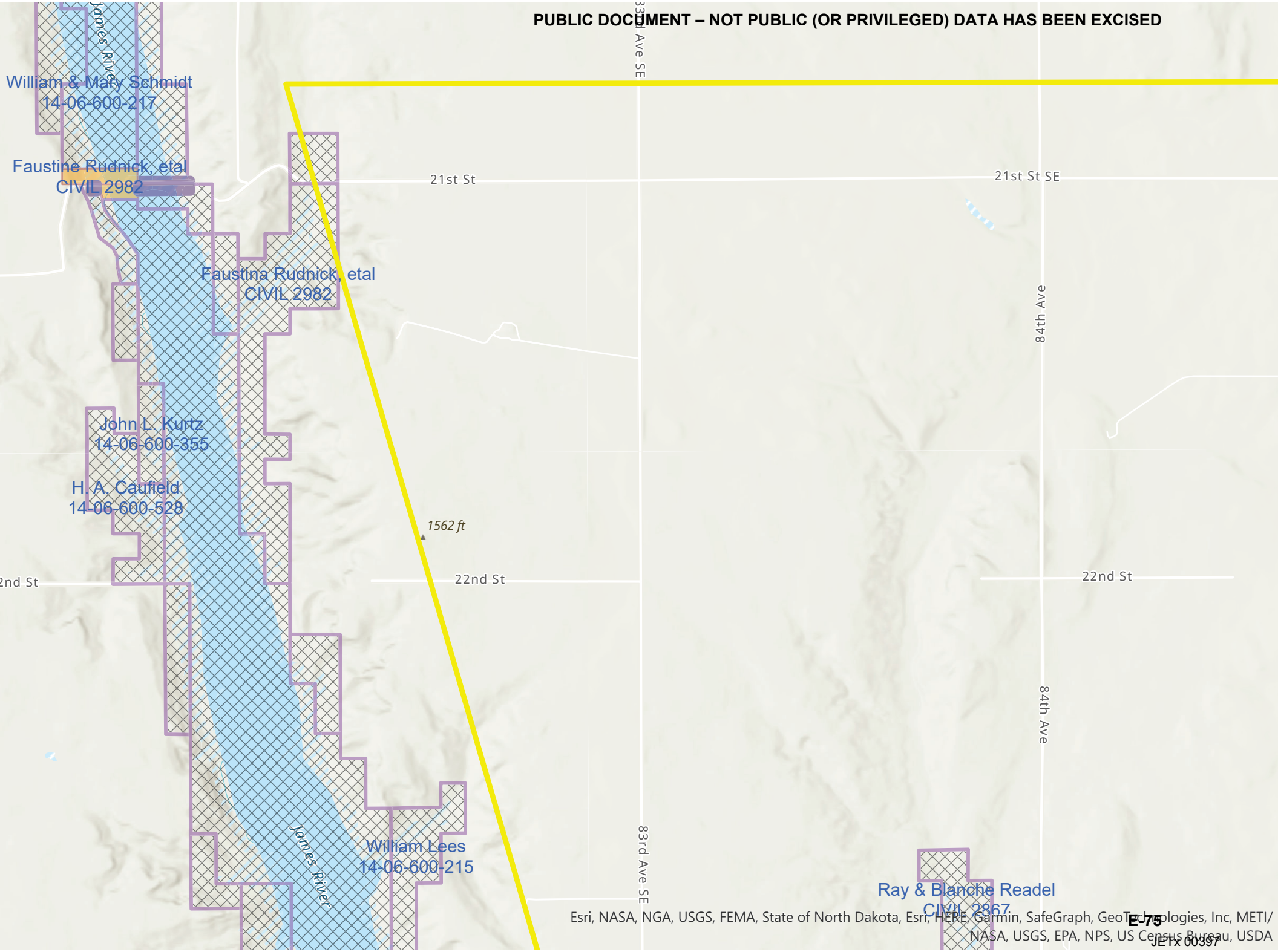
If the maps will not suffice, I can pull the original easement files or work with our GIS team to provide data for the area.

Thank you,

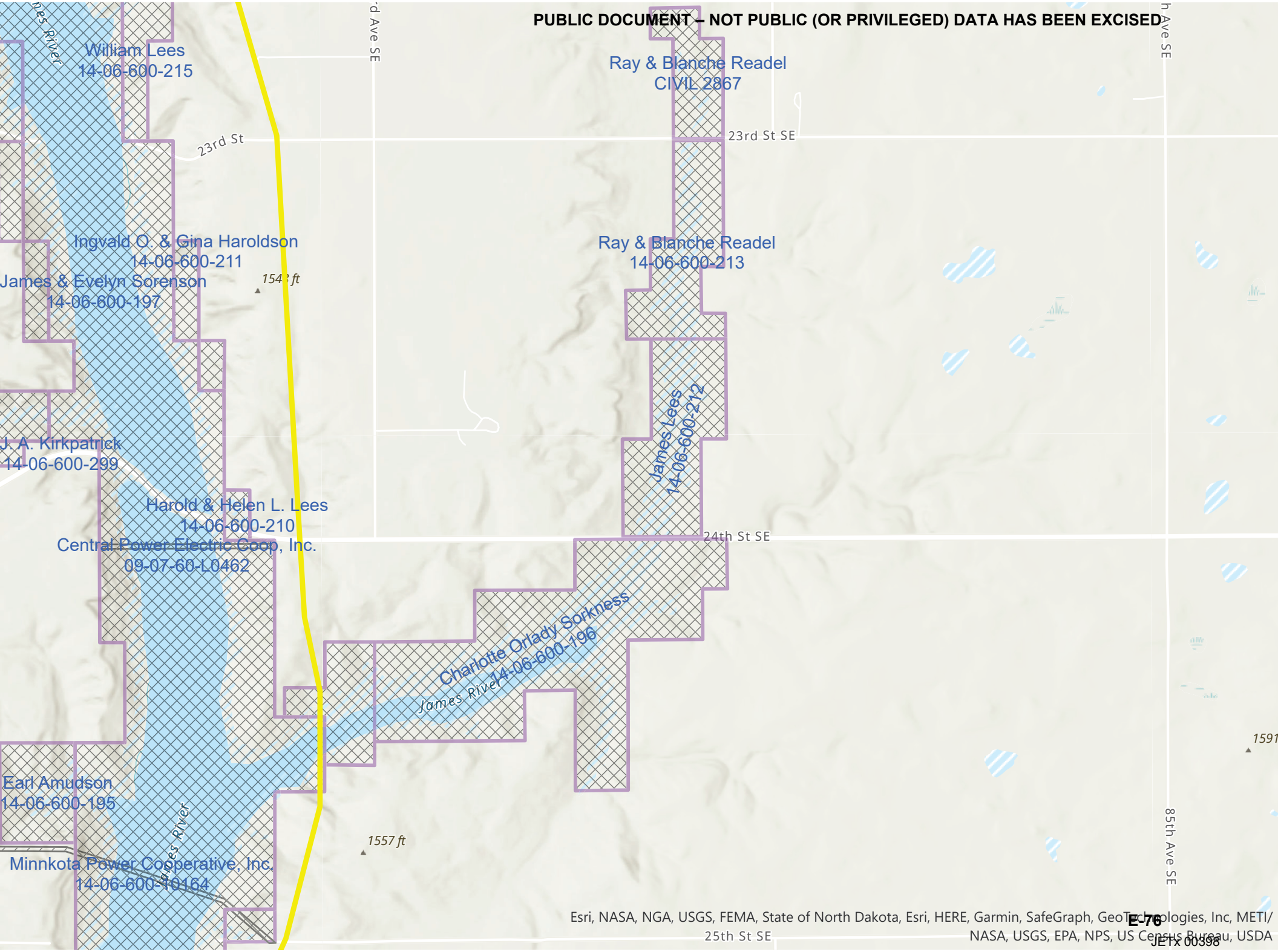
Jake

Jacob Hall
Natural Resource Specialist
Bureau of Reclamation - Dakotas Area Office
304 E Broadway Ave
Bismarck, ND 58501
701-390-7282

PUBLIC DOCUMENT – NOT PUBLIC (OR PRIVILEGED) DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED



PUBLIC DOCUMENT – NOT PUBLIC (OR PRIVILEGED) DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED



Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA, State of North Dakota, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/
NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Scott Hettinger
Chief, Resources Management, U.S. Dept of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation
304 E Broadway Ave, RM 110
Bismarck, ND 58501

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Scott Hettinger,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (the Project). The Project would be in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect Otter Tail Power's existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota's existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified by the Regional Transmission Organization in the Upper Midwest[1] needed to maintain electric system reliability, increase resilience to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion and increase access to low cost energy throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025. At this early stage of the Project, it is anticipated that Section 106 compliance would be needed for a United State Corps of Engineers Section 404 wetland permit and Section 10 river crossing permit for an overhead crossing of the James River.

Currently, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota are in the planning stages of the Project, which include public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and initial design. These preliminary planning stages provide important input into the identification of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. The attached map shows the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. These corridors are subject to change as we continue public outreach with landowners and other interested parties. Environmental field surveys are currently anticipated to start late this year and be completed in 2024.

We are requesting your review of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the preferred route. We appreciate and value your input in our attempt to avoid or minimize impacts. To help us identify potential concerns in our corridor analysis, we request that any information pertaining to the Project be provided by October 12, 2023, if possible, to:

[1] The Regional Transmission Organization in this area of the Upper Midwest is the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). See more information at www.misoenergy.org.

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
701-353-6139

We will be hosting public meetings at three locations along the Project in September. The meetings will be held on consecutive days September 12 - 14 from 3 - 6 p.m. each day at the three locations listed below. In addition to our public meetings, we are also extending you an invitation if you would prefer to meet individually. If you are interested in an individual meeting outside of our public meetings, our contact information follows below and we would welcome the opportunity to share more information about the Project, answer your questions and take your feedback.

Ellendale	**Jamestown**	**Edgeley**
September 12, 2023	September 13, 2023	September 14, 2023
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	3:00 – 6:00 pm	3:00 – 6:00 pm
American Legion Post #137 79 Main St. Ellendale, ND 58436	Bunker Hill Club House 1520 3rd St. SE Jamestown, ND 58401	Hakuna Matata 101 Industrial Park Road. Edgeley, ND 58433

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the Project progresses, we are planning to have additional consultations with agencies, other jurisdictions, and landowners as we develop and refine a preferred route.

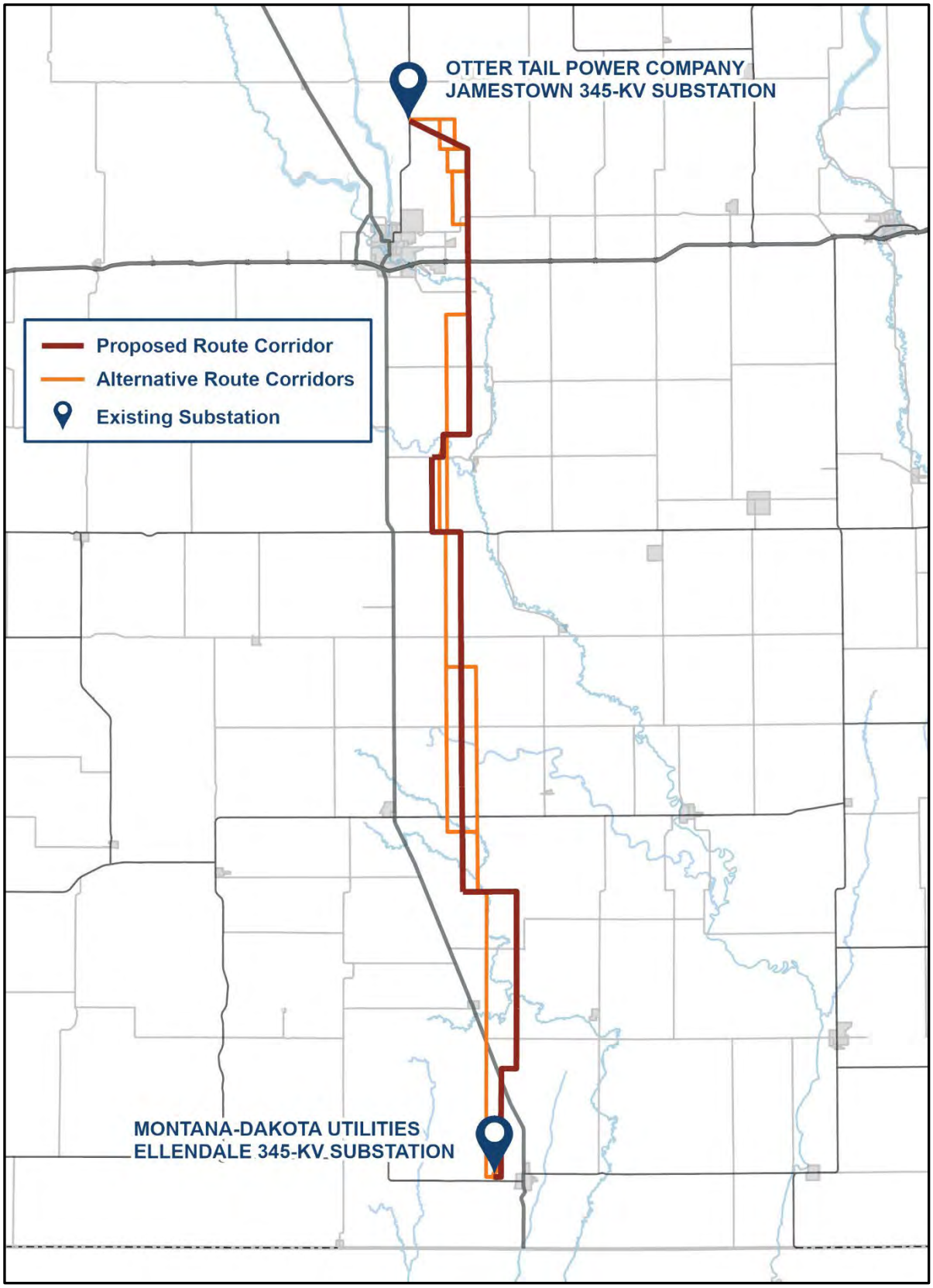
If you desire further information regarding the proposed Project, please contact me at 218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc., at 701-353-6139 or jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com. In addition, further information about the Project can also be found on our website at www.JamestowntoEllendale.com.

Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

JETx Jamestown to Ellendale

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

Documentation of available correspondence is included following this log.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)				
March 22, 2023	Letter and Email[1]	Applicants[2]	USACE	Introduction letter and request for comments.
April 12, 2023	Email	USACE	Applicants	USACE responded to the March 2023 RFI recommending coordination with USACE for Section 404 and Nationwide Permit 57.
April 12, 2023	Email	Applicants	USACE	Applicants inquired if Section 10 permit would be administered out of the USACE office.
April 12, 2023	Email	USACE	Applicants	USACE confirmed that the Section 10 application would be handled by their USACE office for the James River crossing in ND.
September 7, 2023	Letter and Email[1]	Applicants	USACE	Second request for input and meeting request letter.
September 29, 2023	Meeting			Representatives from USACE met with Applicants to discuss the areas that would have federal triggers and estimated impacts to the James River, as well as wetland survey impacts.
October 2, 2023	Email	Applicants	USACE	Applicants provided a meeting summary of the meeting on September 29, 2023.
October 27, 2023	Email	Applicants	USACE	Height clearance requirements over the James River were requested.
October 27, 2023	Email	USACE	Applicants	USACE responded with minimal clearance requirements for different voltages.
January 19, 2024	Email	Applicants	USACE	A desktop Aquatic Resources Delineation Report and request for Jurisdictional Determination were submitted to USACE.
January 19, 2024	Email	USACE	Applicants	USACE responded, confirming a project manager would soon be assigned.
February 2, 2024	Email	Applicants	USACE	Applicants inquired whether a USACE project manager had been assigned.
February 5, 2024	Email	USACE	Applicants	USACE conveyed the assignment of a project manager.
February 6, 2024	Email	Applicants	USACE	Applicants acknowledged assignment of the project manager.
February 6, 2024	Email	USACE	Applicants	USACE provided an update on the Jurisdictional Determination process and requested additional information.
February 12, 2024	Email	Applicants	USACE	USACE was provided with information requested on February 12, 2023.
February 13, 2024	Email	Applicants	USACE	USACE was provided with additional updated information.

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
February 13, 2024	Email	USACE	Applicants	USACE acknowledged updated information to be provided.
February 14, 2024	Email	Applicants	USACE	Applicants clarified the updated data supplied.
February 14, 2024	Email	USACE	Applicants	USACE confirmed clarification.
February 27, 2024	Email	Applicants	USACE	Applicants requested updates.
February 28, 2024	Email	USACE	Applicants	USACE confirmed no new updates.
April 18, 2024	Meeting			Meeting regarding Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination and Field Delineation Survey Plan and Section 10 and 404 processes.
April 24, 2024	Email	Applicants	USACE	Applicants provided the revised Field Delineation Survey Plan and provided the meeting summary for April 18, 2024.
April 25, 2024	Email	USACE	Applicants	USACE emailed concurrence with survey plan approach.
May 29, 2024	Email	USACE	Applicants	USACE requested aquatic resources shapefiles.
May 30, 2024	Email	Applicants	USACE	Applicants stated plan to provide updated files.
July 3, 2024	Email	USACE	Applicants	USACE requested clarification of resources shown on table and maps.
July 8, 2024	Email	Applicants	USACE	Applicants clarified that there had been modifications, and that updated data would be provided.
July 9, 2024	Email	USACE	Applicants	USACE acknowledged update and confirmed availability.
July 11, 2024	Email	Applicants	USACE	Applicants provided updated files and update on field delineation status.
July 15, 2024	Meeting			Meeting coordinating wetland delineation and USACE review.
July 18, 2024	Email	Applicants	USACE	Applicants provided a meeting summary.
August 12, 2024	Email	Applicants	USACE	Applicants requested updated on jurisdictional determination.
August 14, 2024	Email	USACE	Applicants	USACE provided anticipated timeline and requested clarification on aquatic resources that were evaluated.
August 14, 2024	Email	Applicants	USACE	Applicants provided update on timeline and requested to schedule a meeting.
September 4, 2024	Meeting			Meeting coordinating with USACE.
September 5, 2024	Email and Letter	USACE	Applicants	USACE provided preliminary jurisdictional determination and letter for the project.
September 13, 2024	Email	Applicants	USACE	Applicants provided meeting summary and thanks USACE for the Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination.
December 11, 2024	Email	Applicants	USACE	Applicants sent the Aquatic Resources Delineation Report link to USACE.
January 9, 2025	Email	Applicants	USACE	Applicants provided a project update and discussed next steps.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
January 17, 2025	Email	USACE	Applicants	USACE provided preliminary jurisdictional determination and letter for the project.
January 30, 2025	Meeting			Meeting to discuss project update, Aquatic Resources Report and future permitting.
February 04, 2025	Email	Applicants	USACE	Applicants provided the meeting summary for January 30, 2025.

1 Indicates documentation that was a part of one of the mass March or September agency mailings.

2 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Benjamin Soiseth
Chief, North Dakota Section
USACE North Dakota Regulatory Office
3319 University Drive
Bismarck, ND 58504

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Soiseth,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

Currently, OTP and Montana-Dakota are in the preliminary planning stages of the Project, which include high-level planning, initial public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and preliminary design. These preliminary planning stages will provide important input into the identification of preliminary routes and the eventual selection of a final route for the Project. The attached map shows the current study area being assessed for preliminary routes. Public outreach with landowners and interested parties including public meetings are being planned to occur in June 2023.

We are soliciting your review of the preliminary Project area in order to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the final route. We are particularly interested in any property located within or adjacent to the study area which your agency may own or have an interest in. We would also appreciate being made aware of any proposed developments your agency may be contemplating in the study area under consideration for the Project in addition to any information that might assist us in our siting analysis and studies. To help us identify potential resource issues in the corridor analysis, please provide us with any information pertaining to the JETx project by April 22, 2023. Written or email responses should be sent to:

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we will reach out to schedule stakeholder meetings as well as plan for additional outreach as a route is developed and refined.

If further information is desired regarding the proposed Project, please contact either myself (218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com) or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc. (701-353-6139 or Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com).

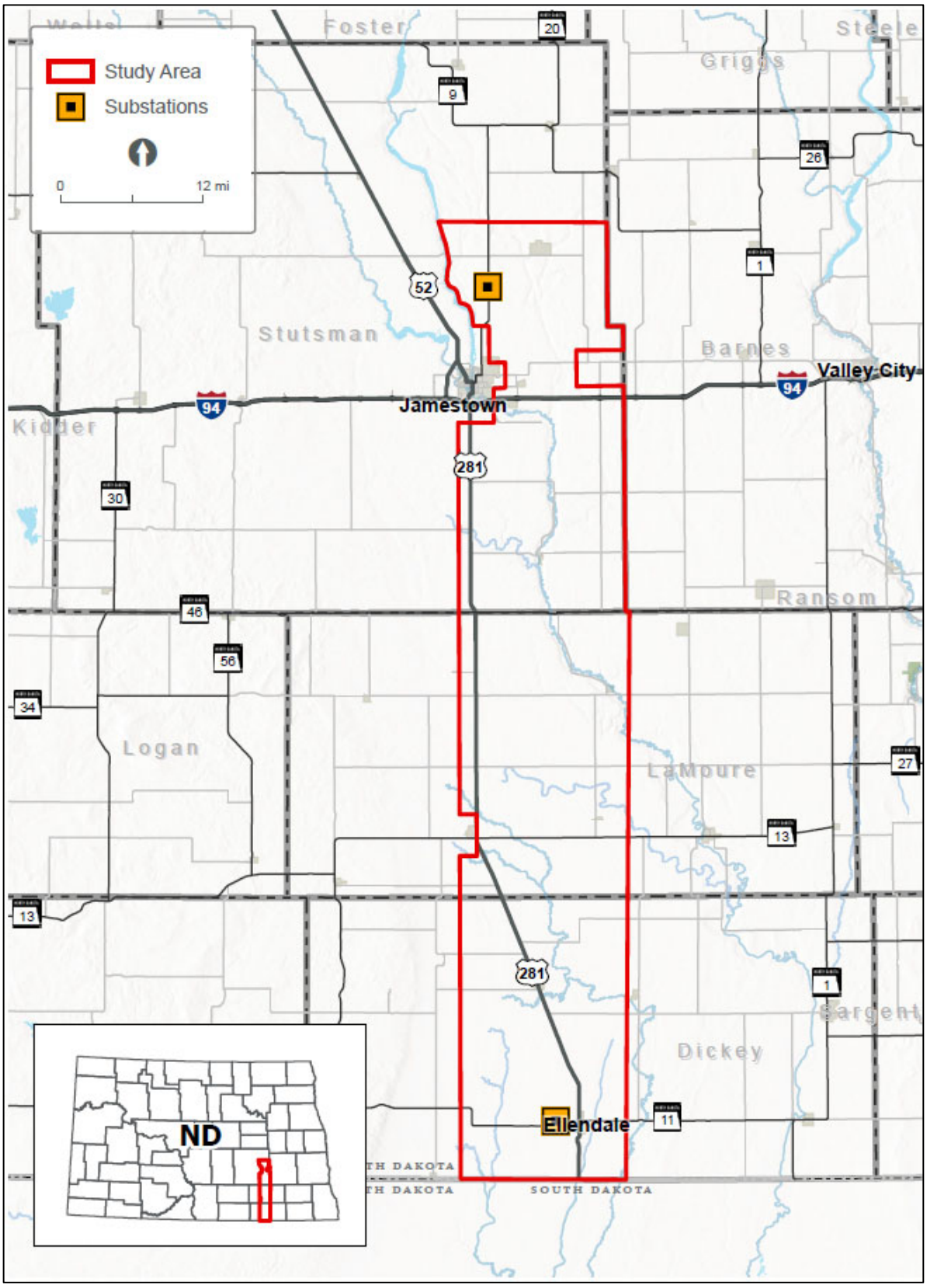
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



From: Swanberg, Samantha N CIV (USA) <Samantha.N.Swanberg@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 9:34 AM
To: Hanley, Jennifer <jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com>
Cc: Nygard, Jeremy S CIV USARMY CENWO (USA) <Jeremy.S.Nygard@usace.army.mil>; Carlson, Michaela <michaela.carlson@hdrinc.com>
Subject: SOV - HDR- MDU-OTC - Jamestown to Ellendale 345 kV Transmission Line project

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

Ms. Hanley,

Our office has reviewed the information regarding the proposed Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota utilities Company to develop and construct an approximately 95-mile 345 kV transmission line from Jamestown to Ellendale, ND (JETx) project and determined that a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit may be required. Please see attached letter, blank application form, and Nationwide permit 57 fact sheet.

Thanks,

Sam Swanberg
Regulatory Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
North Dakota Regulatory Office
3319 University Drive
Bismarck, ND 58504
(701)255-0015 (office)

From: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 10:20 AM
To: Swanberg, Samantha N CIV (USA) <Samantha.N.Swanberg@usace.army.mil>
Cc: Nygard, Jeremy S CIV USARMY CENWO (USA) <Jeremy.S.Nygard@usace.army.mil>; Carlson, Michaela <Michaela.Carlson@hdrinc.com>; Weiers, Jason <jweiers@otpco.com>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: SOV - HDR- MDU-OTC - Jamestown to Ellendale 345 kV Transmission Line project

Thank you Sam!

We will also be crossing the James River, will the the Section 10 permit application be administered out of your office?

If the USACE has time, we'd love to sit down and discuss the project with the assigned USACE personnel. At a minimum a pre-application meeting would be great, but even earlier communication as we are going through the routing exercise would be helpful.

Let me know your thoughts. We could either meet with the USACE in Bismarck or out near the project to look at the James River crossing area.

Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

From: Swanberg, Samantha N CIV (USA) <Samantha.N.Swanberg@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 12:41 PM
To: Hanley, Jennifer
Cc: Soiseth, Benjamin N CIV USARMY CENWO (USA); Carlson, Michaela; Weiers, Jason
Subject: RE: SOV - HDR- MDU-OTC - Jamestown to Ellendale 345 kV Transmission Line project

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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

Hello Jennifer,

Yes, our office would handle the Section 10 application for the James River crossing in ND.

We can certainly set up a pre-application meeting. We could start with a virtual meeting (Teams, Webex) or you are more than welcome to meet at our Bismarck office.

My supervisor Benjamin Soiseth (CC'ed on this email) would be part of the meeting and we may have a few others from our office join. Please let us know a few dates/timeframes that would work for you, and we can go from there.

Thanks,
Sam

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Benjamin Soiseth
Chief, North Dakota Section, USACE North Dakota Regulatory Office
3319 University Drive
Bismarck, ND 58504

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Benjamin Soiseth,

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HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
701-353-6139

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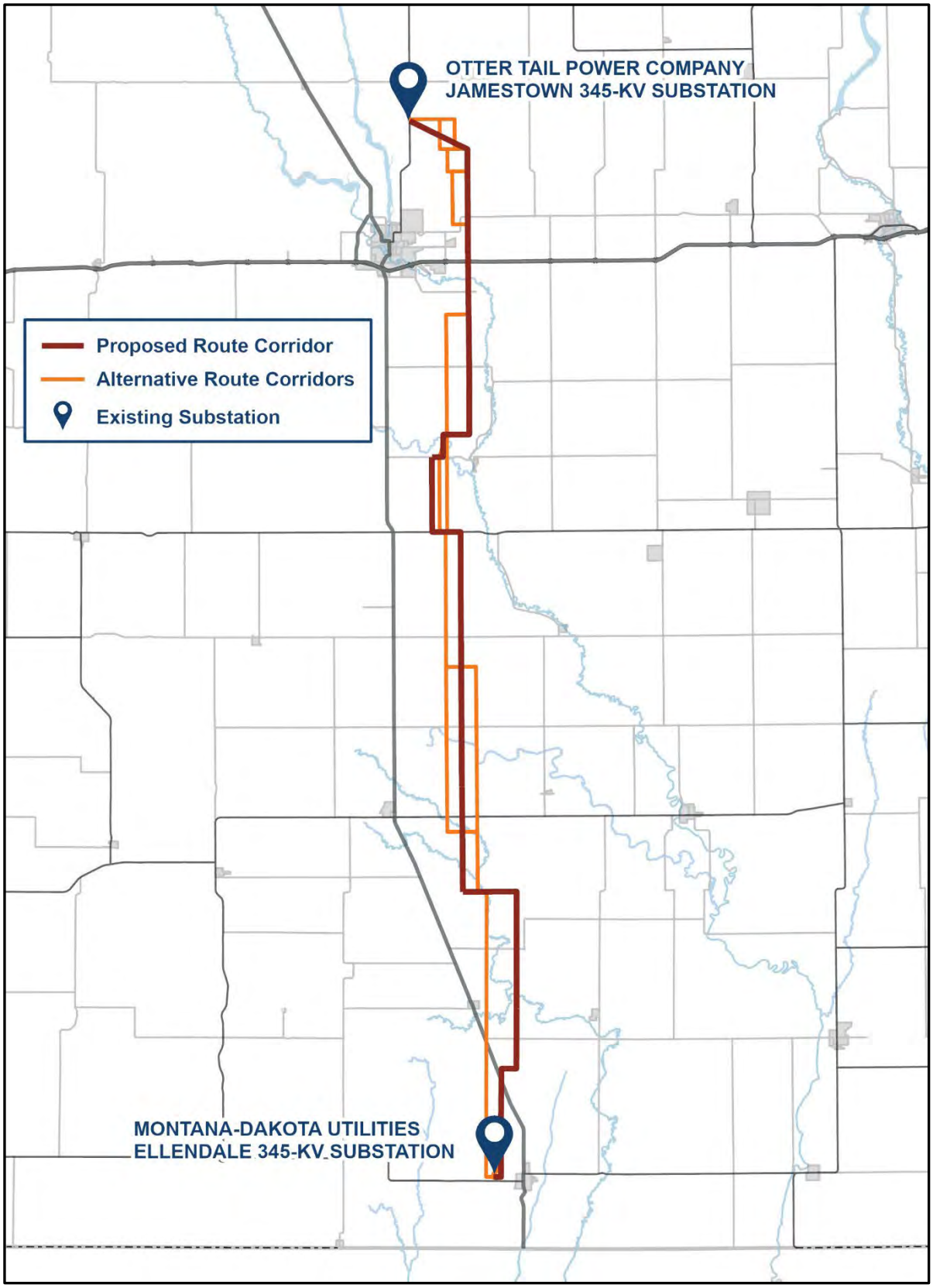
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

Meeting Summary

Project:	OTP/MDU JETx 345 kV Transmission Line
Subject:	JETx Biweekly Environmental Meeting Summary
Date:	Friday, September 29, 2023
Location:	Virtual

Attendees:

☒Andy McDonald (MDU)	☒Swanberg, Sam (USACE)	☒Peterson, Monica (HDR)
☒Voth, Jaden (MDU)	☒ Hanley, Jen (HDR)	☒Brazeal, Alex (HDR)
☒Scheidecker, Kevin (OTP)	☒ Fricke Robinson, Tina (HDR)	
☒Soiseth, Ben (USACE)		

Project Overview:

- Current route is a half mile corridor that will narrow down to 150' easement. Dark blue line on map is preferred route. NWI was turned on during map overview. Noted there are some areas of unbroken grasslands which may be Dakota skipper habitat but that our route avoids as much as possible.
- James River crossing.
- Area near the Ellendale substation contains several USFWS easements. Most of those are pre-1976 easements and we have those wetland boundaries. We are working with the USFWS to get the remaining boundaries for their post-1976 wetlands.
- Ben asked if there is federal funding. Jen indicated there is not and that federal triggers are generally with the river crossing, jurisdictional wetlands, etc. She's anticipating we can stay within nationwide permit level. Noted that if we only look at the permanent impacts, they did the math and the impact of the 10' foundation for each pole, impact from that was 2 acres if every pole was in a wetland. Small permanent impact. Access is unknown at this time but matting would be used if necessary. For temporary impacts, they would implement BMPs (drive in winter or implement matting to reduce impacts).
- Timing: aiming for have PSC submittal around this time next year with construction after the route permit has an approved order (late 2025 or early 2026). Plan to have line energized by June 2028.
- Currently have right of entry for approximately 25% of the line. If we have permission for certain areas that are more critical, we'll try to do this year, otherwise the rest will be next spring. One of those areas is the James River crossing.

- Discussed crossing – no poles/foundations would go into river; river would be spanned.

- Ben noted APE would be where the permit is required. APE may be entire route if there is scattered placement throughout. If all we have for JD wetlands is this crossing, it would be restricted to this crossing.

Wetland Survey Methods:

- HDR Asked if desktop over winter would work for a preliminary JD request – Ben noted a thorough desktop would be sufficient (NWI, soils, historic aerials, etc.) If USFWS has those easement boundaries, we can use those in the desktop.

- Section 10 would not be submitted prior to the PSC application unless USACE prefers that. Ben noted he couldn't answer that but could check on timing.

- Current NWP permits expire in March 14, 2026. Typically start reissuance process a year before. We should be ok for this project with timing. As long as you are under contract to construct prior to construction, you have a year grace period to get work done.

- Jen asked if they had anything they would recommend from their side on process. Ben noted he does not – really depends on placement of poles. Jen asked if there are certain points of the process where USACE would want us to touch base with them. Ben indicated we could check-in once we've narrowed down where the potential wetland impacts actually are. That will be important for the Section 106 consultation and USACE APE. Ben would love it if we are able to reduce to just that crossing. Jen noted we are hoping to avoid the other areas as much as we can.

- Jen indicated we will have a route report that we can provide USACE if they are interested that documents how we reduced our route down from the wide corridor to the 150' easement. It would be written for the entire route but would be available if it would help. Also noted that we are talking with tribes to help narrow down the routes. Sisseston Wahpeton-Oyate requested to be involved in part of the surveys.

    - For the cultural resource survey, we'll want to be identifying the APE for the USACE and any high potential areas. SHPO indicated there is a high potential for burial mounds along the James River in Stutsman County, so we're doing a Class I/II to ID high potential areas.
    - Ben indicated there is talk about removing Appendix C, which is USACE's 106 implementation regs. Ben is unsure of that status, but the intent is to become more aligned with the 800 regs. In the past, the Corps has had a fairly narrow permit area. Removing Appendix C could broaden the view of what is the APE. At this point, it's speculation. Could require new rules (2-2.5 year process). Jen asked if Ben knew if there is potential those changes could federalize the entire

line – Ben indicated he wasn't sure. Likely not since there is no federal funding. Andy asked if it applied to all NWPS or just certain ones and Ben confirmed that would be all of their projects. HDR will monitor.

- Alex discussed two-step verification and if that would be acceptable. Ben noted it would be fine. Alex noted we'd use the desktop to inform, then do some ground-truthing, then we would do the full survey as needed. Ben indicated especially to document streams and if they are ephemeral, intermittent, or perennial. Alex noted we would include photo documentation and include notes of dominant plant species. Ben noted if there's not a clear boundary based on vegetation, we should include sampling.
    - Ben indicated if farmed wetlands no longer retain wetland criteria, we can note during the delineation they are no longer wetland areas.

- Ben noted an approved JD for this project would depend on impacts but would take 3-4 months. Jen asked if we needed to get approved JD or if we could just do preliminary until we narrowed down on impacts. USACE can do preliminary JD on the office delineation. The approved JD can be done as part of the application process.

- Sam Swanberg will be the contract for the project.

- Jen will pass on the most recent mailing that was sent – USACE's letter came back undeliverable. Ben noted they had a mailbox issue so that might have been it. Jen will email it to Ben. Sent 09/29/2023.

From: Hanley, Jennifer
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 12:52 PM
To: Soiseth, Benjamin N CIV USARMY CENWO (USA); Swanberg, Samantha N CIV (USA); Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Brazeal, Alex; Peterson, Monica
Cc: Thoma, Mark; McDonald, Andy; Voth, Jaden; Robinson, Tina Fricke
Subject: Jamestown to Ellendale 345 kV Transmission Line USACE Coordination Meeting Summary 20230929
Attachments: 20230929_USACE_Meeting Summary.pdf

All,

Please find the summary of our 9/29/2023 meeting attached.

If you have any comments or amendments, please let me know.

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
Environmental Project Manager

HDR
51 North Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
D 701.353.6139
jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Friday, October 27, 2023 11:19 AM
To: Soiseth, Benjamin N CIV USARMY CENWO (USA) <Benjamin.N.Soiseth@usace.army.mil>; Swanberg, Samantha N CIV USARMY USACE (USA) <Samantha.N.Swanberg@usace.army.mil>
Cc: Scheidecker, Kevin J. <kscheidecker@otpco.com>; Peterson, Monica <monica.peterson@hdrinc.com>; Tracy, Darel <Darel.tracy@powereng.com>; Britz, Jordan <Jordan.britz@powereng.com>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Jamestown to Ellendale 345 kV Transmission Line USACE James River Clearance Requirements

Good morning Ben/Sam,

What are the height clearance requirements over the James River (Section 10 waterway)?

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Soiseth, Benjamin N CIV USARMY CENWO (USA) <Benjamin.N.Soiseth@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Friday, October 27, 2023 11:23 AM
To: Hanley, Jennifer; Swanberg, Samantha N CIV USARMY USACE (USA)
Cc: Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Peterson, Monica; Tracy, Darel; Britz, Jordan
Subject: RE: Jamestown to Ellendale 345 kV Transmission Line USACE James River Clearance Requirements

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

Hello Jen,

We have height clearances in regulation for power transmission lines over navigable waters. These clearances are based on voltage. Please see the excerpt and table from regulation below.

(2) The following minimum clearances are required for aerial electric power transmission lines crossing navigable waters of the United States. These clearances are related to the clearances over the navigable channel provided by existing fixed bridges, or the clearances which would be required by the U.S. Coast Guard for new fixed bridges, in the vicinity of the proposed power line crossing. The clearances are based on the low point of the line under conditions which produce the greatest sag, taking into consideration temperature, load, wind, length or span, and type of supports as outlined in the National Electrical Safety Code.

Nominal system voltage, kV	Minimum additional clearance (feet) above clearance required for bridges
115 and below	20
138	22
161	24
230	26
350	30
500	35
700	42
750–765	45

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Thank you,

Ben

Benjamin Soiseth

Chief, North Dakota Section
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
North Dakota Regulatory Office
3319 University Drive
Bismarck, ND 58504
701-255-0015 ext. 2001

From: Hanley, Jennifer
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2024 10:23 AM
To: CENWO-OD-RND@usace.army.mil
Cc: Thoma, Mark; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; McDonald, Andy; Voth, Jaden; Brazeal, Alex; Robinson, Tina Fricke; Peterson, Monica; Flege, Adam
Subject: Jamestown to Ellendale 345 kV Transmission Line (JETx) Desktop Aquatic Resources Delineation_ 20240119

Jeremy,

Please find the link to the JETx desktop aquatic resources delineation report and request for jurisdictional determination below. In a pre-application meeting between HDR Engineering, Inc (HDR), Otter Tail Power Company, Montana Dakota Utilities, and USACE on September 29, 2023, it was determined the Project could follow a two-step process to identify aquatic resource boundaries within the Project Area, including a preliminary desktop delineation for the Project Area as a whole and then field delineations for any potentially affected jurisdictional resources. I've also included the summary of the September 29, 2023 meeting in the folder.

20240119_OTP_MDU_JETx_345kV_Desktop Aquatic Resources Delineation

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
Environmental Project Manager

HDR
51 North Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
D 701.353.6139
jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: CENWO-OD-RND <cenwo-od-rnd@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2024 10:53 AM
To: Hanley, Jennifer
Cc: Thoma, Mark; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; McDonald, Andy; Voth, Jaden; Brazeal, Alex; Robinson, Tina Fricke; Peterson, Monica; Flege, Adam
Subject: RE: Jamestown to Ellendale 345 kV Transmission Line (JETx) Desktop Aquatic Resources Delineation_ 20240119

Thanks Jennifer. A project manager will be assigned soon.

v/r

Jeremy Nygard
Regulatory Program Assistant
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
North Dakota Regulatory Office
3319 University Drive
Bismarck, ND 58504
701-255-0015 ext. 2006

The North Dakota Regulatory office prefers that all submissions are sent electronically to the following email address: CENWO-OD-RND@usace.army.mil instead of a hard copy by mail. Please split large attachments (>25 MB) into multiple emails if needed.

From: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 3:59 PM
To: CENWO-OD-RND <cenwo-od-rnd@usace.army.mil>
Cc: Thoma, Mark <mthoma@otpco.com>; Scheidecker, Kevin J. <kscheidecker@otpco.com>; McDonald, Andy <andy.mcdonald@mdu.com>; Voth, Jaden <jaden.voth@mdu.com>; Brazeal, Alex <Alex.Brazeal@hdrinc.com>; Robinson, Tina Fricke <Tina.Robinson@hdrinc.com>; Peterson, Monica <monica.peterson@hdrinc.com>; Flege, Adam <Adam.Flege@hdrinc.com>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Jamestown to Ellendale 345 kV Transmission Line (JETx) Desktop Aquatic Resources Delineation_20240119

Good afternoon Jeremy,

I'm following up on our JETx Desktop Aquatic Resources Delineation. Has a project manager been assigned to this project yet? We'd love to set up a meeting to discuss any questions the USACE may have and to discuss a timeline so we can develop a survey plan for this spring.

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: CENWO-OD-RND <cenwo-od-rnd@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 12:37 PM
To: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Cc: Thoma, Mark <mthoma@otpco.com>; Scheidecker, Kevin J. <kscheidecker@otpco.com>; McDonald, Andy <andy.mcdonald@mdu.com>; Voth, Jaden <jaden.voth@mdu.com>; Brazeal, Alex <Alex.Brazeal@hdrinc.com>; Robinson, Tina Fricke <Tina.Robinson@hdrinc.com>; Peterson, Monica <monica.peterson@hdrinc.com>; Flege, Adam <Adam.Flege@hdrinc.com>; Swanberg, Samantha N CIV USARMY USACE (USA) <Samantha.N.Swanberg@usace.army.mil>
Subject: RE: Jamestown to Ellendale 345 kV Transmission Line (JETx) Desktop Aquatic Resources Delineation_20240119

Hi Jennifer,

Sam Swanberg has been assigned as the project manager for your project (Corps project # NWO-2023-00465-BIS). She can be contacted at 701-255-0015 ext 2002 and is cc'd on this email.

v/r

Jeremy Nygard
Regulatory Program Assistant
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
North Dakota Regulatory Office
3319 University Drive
Bismarck, ND 58504
701-255-0015 ext. 2006

The North Dakota Regulatory office prefers that all submissions are sent electronically to the following email address: CENWO-OD-RND@usace.army.mil instead of a hard copy by mail. Please split large attachments (>25 MB) into multiple emails if needed.

From: Hanley, Jennifer
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 8:01 AM
To: CENWO-OD-RND
Cc: Thoma, Mark; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; McDonald, Andy; Voth, Jaden; Brazeal, Alex; Robinson, Tina Fricke; Peterson, Monica; Flege, Adam; Swanberg, Samantha N CIV USARMY USACE (USA)
Subject: RE: Jamestown to Ellendale 345 kV Transmission Line (JETx) Desktop Aquatic Resources Delineation_ 20240119

Thank you Jeremy!

Sam, please let me know if you have any questions as you review the desktop aquatic resources delineation and preliminary JD request. We can set up a meeting if you want to talk through anything in the submittal. Do you have an estimated time frame for review?

Thanks and looking forward to working with you!
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Swanberg, Samantha N CIV USARMY USACE (USA) <Samantha.N.Swanberg@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 9:07 AM
To: Hanley, Jennifer
Cc: Thoma, Mark; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; McDonald, Andy; Voth, Jaden; Brazeal, Alex; Robinson, Tina Fricke; Peterson, Monica; Flege, Adam
Subject: RE: Jamestown to Ellendale 345 kV Transmission Line (JETx) Desktop Aquatic Resources Delineation_20240119
Attachments: AqResources_uploadsheet.xlsx

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

Hi Jennifer,
I have not had a chance to look at the request you submitted. PJDs do get through quicker than AJDs, as AJDs need to be coordinated with EPA. Permits are higher priority than JDs. So I do not have a timeline for your right now.

JDs submitted with more than 25 aquatic resources do require a spreadsheet to be submitted with the request, I have attached an excel file you can add the project information to, fill out the green columns and ignore the gray columns. I have an example shown under the first line. Just email it back to me. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thanks,
Sam

From: Hanley, Jennifer
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024 7:09 AM
To: Swanberg, Samantha N CIV USARMY USACE (USA)
Cc: Thoma, Mark; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; McDonald, Andy; Voth, Jaden; Brazeal, Alex; Robinson, Tina Fricke; Peterson, Monica; Flege, Adam
Subject: RE: Jamestown to Ellendale 345 kV Transmission Line (JETx) Desktop Aquatic Resources Delineation_20240119
Attachments: AqResources_uploadsheet_20240209.xlsx

Sam,

Please find the table attached. Let me know If you have any questions or need any additional information.

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

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*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Hanley, Jennifer
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 7:34 AM
To: 'Swanberg, Samantha N CIV USARMY USACE (USA)'
Cc: Brazeal, Alex
Subject: RE: Jamestown to Ellendale 345 kV Transmission Line (JETx) Desktop Aquatic Resources Delineation_20240119
Attachments: 20240213_JETx_W_OW_Report Table_V2.pdf

Sam,

In working to update the excel table that you provided with aquatic resource information from our desktop delineation, the project team discovered an error in the .pdf report table of the same information. This was caused by formatting issues when converting the table from excel>word>.pdf. We have identified and corrected the errors which showed incorrect Cowardin classifications and acreages associated to some of the aquatic resources in our delineation. Please see the attached .pdf table of aquatic resources for your reference.

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

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51 North Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
D 701.353.6139
jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Swanberg, Samantha N CIV USARMY USACE (USA) <Samantha.N.Swanberg@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 3:01 PM
To: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Cc: Brazeal, Alex <Alex.Brazeal@hdrinc.com>
Subject: RE: Jamestown to Ellendale 345 kV Transmission Line (JETx) Desktop Aquatic Resources Delineation_20240119

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Thanks for letting me know. I will wait for the updated excel table.

From: Brazeal, Alex <Alex.Brazeal@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 8:25 AM

To: Swanberg, Samantha N CIV USARMY USACE (USA) <Samantha.N.Swanberg@usace.army.mil>; Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Jamestown to Ellendale 345 kV Transmission Line (JETx) Desktop Aquatic Resources Delineation_20240119

Hi Sam,

The error that we discovered was in the .pdf report table. The .pdf file that Jen sent yesterday is to replace that for the delineation report. The data in that .pdf table matches what we sent you in the excel file and is accurate. So, you can move forward with your review using the excel table that we provided. Please let us know if you have any issues with that table or come up with any questions.

Thank you!

From: Swanberg, Samantha N CIV USARMY USACE (USA) <Samantha.N.Swanberg@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 12:02 PM
To: Brazeal, Alex <Alex.Brazeal@hdrinc.com>; Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Subject: RE: Jamestown to Ellendale 345 kV Transmission Line (JETx) Desktop Aquatic Resources Delineation_20240119

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

Hi,
Okay, I must have read the email incorrectly, thanks for clarifying!

From: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 1:44 PM
To: Swanberg, Samantha N CIV USARMY USACE (USA) <Samantha.N.Swanberg@usace.army.mil>; Brazeal, Alex <Alex.Brazeal@hdrinc.com>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Jamestown to Ellendale 345 kV Transmission Line (JETx) Desktop Aquatic Resources Delineation_20240119

Good afternoon Sam!

I'm just checking in on the JETx review. Do you have any updates that I can share with the team?

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

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*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Swanberg, Samantha N CIV USARMY USACE (USA) <Samantha.N.Swanberg@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 9:54 AM
To: Hanley, Jennifer
Cc: Brazeal, Alex
Subject: RE: Jamestown to Ellendale 345 kV Transmission Line (JETx) Desktop Aquatic Resources Delineation_20240119

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

Hi Jennifer,
I have had a chance to review this request. JDs are secondary to permit applications.

Thanks,
Sam

Meeting Summary

Project:	OTP/MDU JETx 345 kV Transmission Line
Subject:	USACE Coordination Meeting
Date:	Thursday, April 18, 2024
Location:	Virtual

Attendees:

☒Langston, Todd (OTP)	☒Hanley, Jen (HDR)	☒Soiseth, Ben (USACE)
☒ Scheidecker, Kevin (OTP)	☒Flege, Adam (HDR)	☒Swanberg, Sam (USACE)
☒ Thoma, Mark (OTP)	☒Brazeal, Alex (HDR)	
☒McDonald, Andy (MDU)	☒Voth, Jaden (MDU)	

1. **Introductions**

2. **Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination and Field Delineation Survey Plan**
   a. HDR/OTP sent a request for more than 800 features for preliminary JD. The desktop delineation submitted to the USACE as a 500-ft buffer. The proposed right of way is 150 feet.
   b. Soiseth asked if the PSC requires field survey prior to PSC application submittal. Hanley indicated that the Project counsel, Crowley Fleck, has indicated that the Project should have as much field work done as possible prior to submittal.
   c. HDR/OTP/MDU will discuss a revised survey plan to minimize the effort of the USACE for preliminary jurisdictional determination. **See end of summary for revised field delineation survey plan.**
   d. Discussed that a Nationwide permit is worst case scenario. Average foundation size is 12-ft diameter and would be a permanent impact. Other impacts would be temporary (pulling and tensioning sites, laydown yards, temporary access roads, etc.)
      i. Matting does not count as a loss
      ii. Threshold for qualifying for a Nationwide 404 permit – ½ acre loss per project. Work in each aquatic feature identified as a WOTUS is considered a single project.
      iii. Will include permanent impacts and temporary impacts
      iv. USACE will permit the permanent impacts to WOTUS

3. **Section 10 James River Crossing**
   a. Landownership transfer at James River has held up right of entry
   b. HDR summarized the cultural resources survey plan that will commence in the coming weeks.
   c. Soiseth – surveys are being done too early and done for entire corridor and federal action not determined yet. And done in anticipation of 404/10 permitting. Prior to a permit application, any Cultural Resources Survey is simply a Survey Area. After permit

application is submitted, USACE can define an Area of Potential Effect for the Section 10 permit crossing

d. The APE will likely be from the structure north of the James River to the structure south of the James River for the width of the right of way
e. The project team is currently coordinating with SHPO but not in federal Section 106. Goal is to cover enough area that when finalized crossing is determined, we have enough survey for USACE.
f. The Section 10 application should reference the full cultural survey to SHPO and identifying James River crossing
    i. The cultural report for the USACE APE will be sent to USACE, then USACE transfers to SHPO. USACE defines their APE.

4. <u>Timing of Section 404/10 permitting</u>

a. Submit PSC application – likely 1 year for approval
b. During the PSC 1 year review and approval, will prepare other state and local permits
c. Start of construction – early 2026 for foundations
d. Goal to have Corps permits in hand prior to start of construction
e. USACE likely to see permit application from project team within 1 to 1.5 years
    i. USACE assumes 60-day permit review/approval timeline

Action items:

Action Items	Owner	Status
Revise Field Delineation Survey plan	HDR/OTP/MDU	Complete – see below
Narrow water features in PJD request to where project work may be located	HDR	
USACE to review desktop delineation	USACE	Not yet started

Revised Field Delineation Survey Plan

1) Review the desktop delineated wetlands in relation to the project work areas (permanent structures and temporary work areas, access roads)
2) Field delineate wetlands near structure locations and temporary work areas, access roads (NOT the entire 500-foot corridor)
3) Field delineate US Fish & Wildlife Service post-1976 wetland easements for avoidance measures

From: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 3:33 PM
To: Scheidecker, Kevin J. <kscheidecker@otpco.com>; Thoma, Mark <mthoma@otpco.com>; McDonald, Andy <andy.mcdonald@mdu.com>; Voth, Jaden <jaden.voth@mdu.com>; Peterson, Monica <monica.peterson@hdrinc.com>; Brazeal, Alex <Alex.Brazeal@hdrinc.com>; Flege, Adam <Adam.Flege@hdrinc.com>; Soiseth, Benjamin N CIV USARMY CENWO (USA) <Benjamin.N.Soiseth@usace.army.mil>; Swanberg, Samantha N CIV USARMY USACE (USA) <Samantha.N.Swanberg@usace.army.mil>
Cc: Weiers, Jason <jweiers@otpco.com>; Langston, Todd <tlangston@otpco.com>; Brunette, Isabelle R. <ibrunette@otpco.com>; Huck, Chelsea <Chelsea.Huck@hdrinc.com>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] JETx 345 kV Transmission Line (JETx) USACE Meeting Summary_20240418

Ben and Sam,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us last week. Our meeting summary is attached. We are working on reducing the shapefiles and spreadsheet to only include the desktop delineated wetlands in the proposed 150 ft ROW for the Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination and I will be sending those soon. Hopefully that will lighten the load on your end.

The following is our revised our field delineation survey plan:

Revised Field Delineation Survey Plan

1. Review the desktop delineated wetlands in relation to the project work areas (permanent structures and temporary work areas, access roads)
2. Field delineate wetlands near structure locations and temporary work areas, access roads (NOT the entire 500-foot corridor)
3. Field delineate US Fish & Wildlife Service post-1976 wetland easements for avoidance measures

We would appreciate **comments on or concurrence with** this plan so we can hit the ground running when we start field work in the next few weeks.

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
Senior Environmental Project Manager

HDR
51 North Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
D 701.353.6139
jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From:	Soiseth, Benjamin N CIV USARMY CENWO (USA)
To:	Hanley, Jennifer; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Thoma, Mark; McDonald, Andy; Voth, Jaden; Peterson, Monica; Brazeal, Alex; Flege, Adam; Swanberg, Samantha N CIV USARMY USACE (USA)
Cc:	Weiers, Jason; Langston, Todd; Brunette, Isabelle R.; Huck, Chelsea
Subject:	RE: JETx 345 kV Transmission Line (JETx) USACE Meeting Summary_20240418
Date:	Thursday, April 25, 2024 1:34:07 PM

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

Hi Jen,

We do not have any additional comments on the survey plan and concur with the approach.

Thank you,

Ben

From: Swanberg, Samantha N CIV USARMY USACE (USA) <Samantha.N.Swanberg@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2024 1:27 PM
To: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>; Brazeal, Alex <Alex.Brazeal@hdrinc.com>
Subject: RE: JETx 345 kV Transmission Line (JETx) USACE Meeting Summary_20240418

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

Hello,
I was wondering if I could get the JETx 345 kV Transmission Line (JETx) shapefiles/KMZ for the aquatic resources or at least an updated project area shapefile? I believe I only have the project buffer line, and I am not sure if anything has been updated/changed from that.

Thanks,
Sam

From: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2024 8:18 AM
To: Swanberg, Samantha N CIV USARMY USACE (USA) <Samantha.N.Swanberg@usace.army.mil>; Brazeal, Alex <Alex.Brazeal@hdrinc.com>
Cc: Flege, Adam <Adam.Flege@hdrinc.com>; Hellman, Joshua <Joshua.Hellman@hdrinc.com>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: JETx 345 kV Transmission Line (JETx) USACE Meeting Summary_20240418

Good morning Sam,

Alex is on PTO this week. I know he was cleaning up the files but he has been in the field the past month. We'll work to get these to you when he gets back.

Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Swanberg, Samantha N CIV USARMY USACE (USA) <Samantha.N.Swanberg@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Wednesday, July 3, 2024 11:59 AM
To: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>; Brazeal, Alex <Alex.Brazeal@hdrinc.com>
Cc: Flege, Adam <Adam.Flege@hdrinc.com>; Hellman, Joshua <Joshua.Hellman@hdrinc.com>
Subject: RE: JETx 345 kV Transmission Line (JETx) USACE Meeting Summary_20240418; NWO-2023-00465-BIS

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

Alex,
I have a few quick questions for you.

For aquatic resources W-99 and W-411, they are shown on the table, but I don't see them on the maps and the acreage is zero, do they exist within the project area? Please confirm. I am having trouble seeing where the lines are for W-373 and W-150 and immediately adjacent wetlands, just want to verify these sources are not overlapping (double counting acreage). There are a few locations where the water source is split between other water and wetland, so I was just wondering about a few of those and just a general overview of your process for why you picked that location for the split (ex: W-58, OW-05b).

Thanks,
Sam

From: Brazeal, Alex <Alex.Brazeal@hdrinc.com>

Sent: Monday, July 8, 2024 9:31 AM
To: Swanberg, Samantha N CIV USARMY USACE (USA) <Samantha.N.Swanberg@usace.army.mil>; Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Cc: Flege, Adam <Adam.Flege@hdrinc.com>; Hellman, Joshua <Joshua.Hellman@hdrinc.com>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: JETx 345 kV Transmission Line (JETx) USACE Meeting Summary_20240418; NWO-2023-00465-BIS

Hi Sam,

Thank you for working through our project in your review. I am working with our GIS specialist on updating the wetland table and shapefile. Recently, the project has eliminated some of the previously considered alternative routes as well as some route shifts in other areas. So, some of the wetlands you are asking about below are no longer being evaluated (e.g. W-99 and W-411).

I should be able to get you an updated table and shapefile today (07/08), however, I wanted to make sure that you wouldn't be spinning your wheels reviewing any aquatic resources which may not need to be evaluated for this project. I am happy to hop on a call to discuss and I have great availability today and tomorrow.

Thank you!

Alex T. Brazeal
C 701.934.7830

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: Swanberg, Samantha N CIV USARMY USACE (USA) <Samantha.N.Swanberg@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Tuesday, July 9, 2024 8:28 AM
To: Brazeal, Alex <Alex.Brazeal@hdrinc.com>; Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Cc: Flege, Adam <Adam.Flege@hdrinc.com>; Hellman, Joshua <Joshua.Hellman@hdrinc.com>
Subject: RE: JETx 345 kV Transmission Line (JETx) USACE Meeting Summary_20240418; NWO-2023-00465-BIS

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

Hi Alex,
Thanks for the update. I will await the updated files and I do have available this week for a call but I won't be in the office very much, I will be teleworking (due to a foot injury, and no AC in the office) so it would likely have to be a teams call or something like that.

Thanks,
Sam

From: Brazeal, Alex
To: Swanberg, Samantha N CIV USARMY USACE (USA); Hanley, Jennifer
Cc: Flege, Adam; Hellman, Joshua
Subject: RE: JETx 345 kV Transmission Line (JETx) USACE Meeting Summary_20240418; NWO-2023-00465-BIS
Date: Thursday, July 11, 2024 8:58:41 AM
Attachments: AqResources_uploadsheet_20240711.xlsx
JETx_Wetlands_OW_20240709.kmz
JETx_Wetlands_OW_20240709.zip

Hi Sam,

I apologize for the delay in getting these updated files to you. Please review the attached table and spatial files and let me know if there are any immediate issues that you may spot.

Field delineations are still ongoing. We really appreciate the time that you are taking to review these PJD request ahead of us concluding the fieldwork. Please let me know if you have any questions or if there is anything else that I can provide to aid in your determinations.

Thank you!

Alex T. Brazeal
C 701.934.7830

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Meeting Summary

Project:	OTP/MDU JETx 345 kV Transmission Line
Subject:	USACE Coordination Meeting
Date:	Monday, July 15, 2024
Location:	Virtual

Attendees:

☒ Scheidecker, Kevin (OTP)	☒Hanley, Jen (HDR)	☒Soiseth, Ben (USACE)
	☒Hellman, Josh (HDR)	☒Swanberg, Sam (USACE)
	☒Brazeal, Alex (HDR)	

1. **Schedule**
   Applicants plan on submitting the Route Permit Application to ND PSC at the end of August. The applicants are working through reroutes due to landowner request. We need to get right of entry in order to get the field delineations complete. We are aiming for approximately 70% of easements in hand prior to PSC submittal.

2. **Discussion of plan**
   a. We developed a plan for wetland delineation and discussed with the USACE. We have been doing the rapid two step verification on the resources that there will be no impacts. For the sites that we anticipate impact, we are doing full delineation. We may need to go back into the field for full delineation if structure location changes and resource would be impacted.
   b. We have areas that have not been desktop or field delineated.
   c. Most helpful way to proceed with the USACE – they do not want to look at things twice. They do not need to look at resources if they are not being impacted.
   d. We should look at resources in the ROW. USACE has data in the current route.
   e. Are the aquatic sources you just sent over (requested) for the areas of potential impacts (from poles) or is it just showing everything the line could cross? It shows everything. And the ROW corridor. For example, going from W-213 to W-223 it appears to miss OW-18. This is a reroute area and OW-18 is now outside.
   f. Will do a desktop for areas that we have not currently field delineation.
   g. Reroutes should be complete this week and we can include those in the desktop delineation to make it as complete as we can make it today.
   h. USACE does do early coordination but they typically give generic responses to the PSC application.
   i. Are we giving the USACE what they need to complete the PJD? We propose that we pause USACE's review until 7/17. We will prioritize the route that is set and will give direction on what needs to be review. We can clear up alternative routes and pair down the route. We will send an updated shapefile.

Action items:

Action Items	Owner	Status
HDR will desktop delineate the reroutes and will resubmit the shapefiles for review	HDR – Brazeal	In progress

From:	Hanley, Jennifer
To:	Brazeal, Alex; Swanberg, Samantha N CIV (USA)
Cc:	Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Hellman, Joshua; Soiseth, Benjamin N CIV USARMY CENWO (USA); Huck, Chelsea
Subject:	JETx USACE PJD Update Meeting Summary_20240715
Date:	Thursday, July 18, 2024 1:44:24 PM
Attachments:	20240715_JETx_USACE_Coordination Meeting Summary.pdf

All,

Please find a summary of our meeting attached. If you have any comments or edits let me know. Alex is working to get the revised data to you either later today or tomorrow.

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

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*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Monday, August 12, 2024 6:12 PM
To: Swanberg, Samantha N CIV USARMY USACE (USA) <Samantha.N.Swanberg@usace.army.mil>
Cc: Flege, Adam <Adam.Flege@hdrinc.com>; Scheidecker, Kevin J. <kscheidecker@otpco.com>; Brazeal, Alex <Alex.Brazeal@hdrinc.com>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] JETx Transmission Line Project - PJD Request Data Update

Sam,

We have a number of things we are tracking as we get closer to submitting our route permit with the ND Public Service Commission and I am doing follow ups to help us determine if we need to adjust our target date.

My first question is, do you have everything you need from us for the PJD? Alex sent the revised files over on 7/23/2024 and I want to make sure you have what you need.

My second question is, do you have an estimate of time for the PJD response? Any estimate would be appreciated, even if it is a best guess!

Thank you,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Swanberg, Samantha N CIV USARMY USACE (USA) <Samantha.N.Swanberg@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2024 2:59 PM
To: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Cc: Flege, Adam <Adam.Flege@hdrinc.com>; Scheidecker, Kevin J. <kscheidecker@otpco.com>; Brazeal, Alex <Alex.Brazeal@hdrinc.com>
Subject: RE: JETx Transmission Line Project - PJD Request Data Update; NWO-2023-465

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

Hi Jen,
I have gone through most of the information for your PJD and should have the PJD to you within a couple of weeks, but I do have a few additional questions.

Alex - Thanks for sending over wetland and route files.

Please see my questions below.

For W-574, A-OW-29, I believe the area should connect and there is no upland between the sources. See screenshot (highlighted area). Let me know if you have different or any other information.

The area south of W-566 and north of FD-ab-034, appears there may be some aquatic resources that were not identified, please let me know if you checked this area or if my files are missing something. See screenshot (highlighted area).

And did you check these locations for aquatic resources?
46.242614, -98.576958
46.506325, -98.631239
46.524353, -98.631192
47.011117 -98.614136

Any questions please let me know.

Thanks,
Sam

From: Hanley, Jennifer
To: Swanberg, Samantha N CIV USARMY USACE (USA)
Cc: Flege, Adam; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Brazeal, Alex; Peterson, Monica
Subject: RE: JETx Transmission Line Project - PJD Request Data Update; NWO-2023-465
Date: Wednesday, August 14, 2024 2:06:00 PM

Thanks Sam…Alex is out there now so we'll have him look at the questions below as soon as he can.

It looks like we are going to be delaying our permit application filing until early October. Would you and Ben have time for a status update meeting with us before we file? We want to make sure we have everything you will need to see in our application and answer any questions you may have. If you have some available times, we will get something on your calendar.

Thanks!
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

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*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

Meeting Summary

Project:	OTP/MDU JETx 345 kV Transmission Line
Subject:	USACE Coordination Meeting
Date:	Wednesday, September 04, 2024
Location:	Virtual

Attendees:			
	☒ Scheidecker, Kevin (OTP)	☒Hanley, Jen (HDR)	☒Peterson, Monica (HDR)
	☐ Thoma, Mark (OTP)	☒Flege, Adam (HDR)	☒Swanberg, Sam (USACE)
	☒ McDonald, Andy (MDU)	☒Brazeal, Alex (HDR)	☒Soiseth, Ben (USACE)

1. **Project Update**
   Applicants plan on submitting the Route Permit Application to ND PSC in October. We need to get right of entry in order to get the field delineations complete. We are aiming for approximately 70% of easements in hand prior to PSC submittal. We are also working on field surveying the remaining areas we have right to enter. We anticipate the PSC process to take about a year with construction starting in 2026. We will be submitting a Section 404/Section 10 permit in the future.

2. **Field Survey Update**
   HDR sent some updated items earlier this week. Still need some ROE (a little over 6 miles of ROE left that we can delineate). We collected ordinary highwater at James River and Beaver Creek.

   Pre-1976 USFWS easement that is north of Ellendale overlap some of Alex's sources. For these, we are trying to prevent any permanent impacts to USFWS easements. We are avoiding so we do not need to include in the PJD request. Include the easements but color code them differently (sent in shapefiles). Swanberg has what she needs but will request additional information if she needs it.

3. **PJD Status Update**
   PJD is close. Sam needs to send files to the database person to upload.

4. **Summary**
   It does not matter USACE if we have a combo of field and office delineations for the PSC application. We will continue to work with the USACE as the structure locations and the James River crossing are finalized for Section 404/Section 10 permitting. If wetlands are avoided or are determined to not be jurisdictional,

From: Swanberg, Samantha N CIV USARMY USACE (USA)
To: Thoma, Mark
Cc: Hanley, Jennifer
Subject: JETx Transmission line project - PJD - NWO-2023-00465-BIS
Date: Thursday, September 5, 2024 2:00:45 PM
Attachments: NWO-2023-00465-BIS_PJD-form.pdf
NWO-2023-465_PJD_Letter_20240905.pdf

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Hello,
Please see the attached preliminary jurisdictional determination form and letter for the Jamestown to Ellendale Transmission line project. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Sam Swanberg
Regulatory Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
North Dakota Regulatory Office
3319 University Drive
Bismarck, ND 58504
(701)255-0015 (office)

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
NORTH DAKOTA REGULATORY OFFICE
3319 UNIVERSITY DRIVE
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58504-7565

September 5, 2024

NWO-2023-00465-BIS

Otter Tail Power Company
Attn: Mr. Mark Thoma
215 South Cascade Street
Fergus Falls, Minnesota 56538

Dear Mr. Thoma:

This is in reference to your request for a jurisdictional determination (JD) for Otter Tail Power Company (OTP)/Montana-Dakota Utilities Company; Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx). The project site is located just north of Jamestown and will run northwest of Ellendale, Latitude 47.0287°, Longitude -98.6791°, Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota.

The enclosed preliminary JD is our written indication that waters in your project area may be jurisdictional WOUS. Such waters will be treated as jurisdictional WOUS for purposes of computation of impacts and compensatory mitigation requirements. If you concur with the findings of the enclosed preliminary JD, please sign it and return it to the letterhead address. If you believe the preliminary JD is inaccurate, you may request this office complete an approved JD prior to your commencement of any work in a WOUS. Completion of an approved JD may require a field delineation and coordination with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Omaha District, North Dakota Regulatory Office is committed to providing quality and timely service to our customers. In an effort to improve customer service, please take a moment to complete our Customer Service Survey found on our website at https://regulatory.ops.usace.army.mil/customer-service-survey/. If you do not have Internet access, you may call and request a paper copy of the survey that you can complete and return to us by mail or fax.

Please refer to identification number NWO-2023-00465-BIS in any correspondence concerning this project. If you have any questions, please contact Sam Swanberg by email at samantha.n.swanberg@usace.army.mil, or telephone at 701-255-0015 ext. 2002.

Sincerely,



Sam Swanberg
Project Manager

Enclosure – PJD Form

cc: Jennifer Hanley, HDR

From: Hanley, Jennifer
To: Swanberg, Samantha N CIV (USA); Soiseth, Benjamin N CIV USARMY CENWO (USA)
Cc: Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Huck, Chelsea; Peterson, Monica; Brazeal, Alex; McDonald, Andy; Voth, Jaden; Thoma, Mark
Subject: JETx USACE Meeting Summary_20240715
Date: Friday, September 13, 2024 3:47:05 PM
Attachments: 20240904_JETx_USACE_Coordination Meeting Summary.pdf

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All,

Please find a summary of our meeting attached. If you have any comments or edits let me know. Thank you for the PJD!

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

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*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

PUBLIC DOCUMENT – NOT PUBLIC (OR PRIVILEGED) DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED

Outlook

NWO-2023-00465-BIS | JETx Transmission Line Aquatic Resources Delineation Report

From Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Date Wed 12/11/2024 9:56 AM
To cenwo-od-rnd <cenwo-od-rnd@usace.army.mil>; samantha.n.swanberg <samantha.n.swanberg@usace.army.mil>
Cc Brazeal, Alex <Alex.Brazeal@hdrinc.com>; Peterson, Monica <Monica.Peterson@hdrinc.com>; Scheidecker, Kevin J. <kscheidecker@otpco.com>; Thoma, Mark <mthoma@otpco.com>; Voth, Jaden <jaden.voth@mdu.com>; McDonald, Andy <andy.mcdonald@mdu.com>; Langston, Todd <tlangston@otpco.com>; Weiers, Jason <jweiers@otpco.com>

1 attachment (103 KB)
USACE_Field_Delineation_Cover Letter_OTP_20241211.pdf;

Sam,

Please find the Aquatic Resources Delineation Report, data table and cover letter for the Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project in the file sharing link below. I've also attached the cover letter to this email.

Please let me know if you have any issues accessing the files.

20241211_USACE Submittal_JETx Aquatic Resources Delineation Report

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
Senior Environmental Project Manager

HDR
51 North Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
D 701.353.6139
jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

December 11, 2024

Samantha Swanberg
USACE – North Dakota Regulatory Office
3319 University Drive
Bismarck, ND 58504

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (MDU) jointly, (Owners) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own a new 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line (Project). The Project will run from an existing substation north of Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing substation northwest of Ellendale, North Dakota.

A request for preliminary jurisdictional determination (PJD) was submitted to the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) North Dakota regulatory office in January of 2024 and the PJD was received from the USACE in August 2024.

The field aquatic resources delineation was completed between May and September 2024. The delineation resulted in the identification and mapping of a total of 368 aquatic resources, covering approximately 200.1acres. Three hundred twenty-five wetlands, totaling 165.7acres, were identified and mapped. Forty-three other waters were also mapped, with the James River and associated tributaries making up the majority of other waters identified during the delineation.

We respectfully submit this field aquatic resources delineation report for your review and request a pre-application meeting with your office. Additionally, there are 14 aquatic resources which were delineated in the field and have not been reviewed for a jurisdictional determination.

This information is being submitted to the USACE in anticipation of a nationwide permit (NWP 57) under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and a Section 10 permit under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. We request a jurisdictional determination on the 14 aquatic resources not yet reviewed in preparation for permit submittal.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me directly at 701-353-6139 or jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hanley

Jennifer Hanley, PE
Senior Environmental Project Manager
HDR Engineering, Inc.

Enclosures

From: Hanley, Jennifer
To: samantha.n.swanberg
Cc: Brazeal, Alex; Peterson, Monica; Scheidecker, Kevin J.
Subject: NWO-2023-00465-BIS | JETx Transmission Line Aquatic Resources Delineation Report and JETx Status Update
Date: Thursday, January 9, 2025 12:52:12 PM

Sam,

I wanted to follow up to make sure you got everything you needed from Alex and also to give you a project update.

We are planning to file our Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit Application with the ND Public Service Commission in early February and would like to incorporate any USACE feedback into our application if possible. Thank you for agreeing to meet with us to go over any remaining concerns or requests prior to the filing. We would like to schedule something virtually between 1/21 and 1/31 if that would work for USACE.

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: samantha.n.swanberg
To: Thoma, Mark
Cc: Hanley, Jennifer; Brazeal, Alex
Subject: JETx Transmission line project - PJD - NWO-2023-00465-BIS
Date: Friday, January 17, 2025 11:58:42 AM
Attachments: NWO-2023-465_PJD_Letter_20250117.pdf
NWO-2023-00465-BIS_PJD_Summary_Form_20250117.docx.pdf

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

Hello,
Please see the attached preliminary jurisdictional determination form and letter for the Jamestown to Ellendale Transmission line project; NWO-2023-00465-BIS. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Sam Swanberg
Regulatory Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
North Dakota Regulatory Office
3319 University Drive
Bismarck, ND 58504
(701)255-0015 (office)
(701)989-6398 (direct)

Meeting Summary

Project:	OTP/MDU JETx 345 kV Transmission Line
Subject:	USACE Coordination Meeting
Date:	Thursday, January 30, 2025
Location:	Virtual

Attendees:			
	☒ Scheidecker, Kevin (OTP)	☒Hanley, Jen (HDR)	☒Peterson, Monica (HDR)
	☒ Thoma, Mark (OTP)	☒Brazeal, Alex (HDR)	☒Swanberg, Sam (USACE)
	☒ Langston, Todd (OTP)	☒Brazeal, Alex (HDR)	☒Erhardt, Toni (USACE)
	☒ McDonald, Andy (MDU)		

1. **Project Update**

   Applicants plan on submitting the Route Permit Application to ND PSC in February. Applicants discussed October at our last meeting but had to delay submission. Applicants are aiming for approximately 70% of easements in hand prior to PSC submittal. Applicants are currently at 66%. Applicants did a combination of field delineation and desktop delineation for aquatic resources and threatened and endangered species suitable habitat in consultation with the USACE and with USFWS. Applicants are finalizing the Cultural Resources Inventory . The inventory calls it a survey corridor not APE, in previous meetings Soiseth said USACE would consider the APE at the James River crossing from structure to structure on either side of the river and the ROW width. Applicants will work with USACE to provide what is needed for Section 106. Applicants still have areas that will require cultural survey once Applicants get the right to enter those properties. Cultural survey has been done at the James River. Applicants have an option for easement on the east side of the river and are still working with the landowner on the west side. Applicants anticipate the PSC process to take about a year with construction starting in 2026. Applicants would like to discuss with USACE submitting a Section 404/Section 10 permit.

2. **Aquatic Resources Report**
   a. USACE is ok with desktop delineation but will want structure locations to confirm resources near them. No additional field delineation is needed.
   b. PJD was issued by USACE for the original request by the applicants. A second PJD was issued recently for re-routes that have occurred. If applicants have further route shifts, another PJD can be requested if so desired.

3. **Future Permitting**
   a. Identify all impacts for the PCN – a cumulative assessment is required for the Section 10 permit process.
   b. NWPs expire in March of 2026 – USACE is not sure what is going to happen
      i. If a reroute happens, they cannot modify the NWP and the USACE would have to reissue it

   ii. Be confident that our route is solid so USACE does not have to keep reissuing (may not have to re-evaluate everything but would need to look at the new change)
   iii. If construction does not commence until after March 2026, the permit would not be valid. In the past, if construction commenced prior to that date, applicants typically received a one-year grace period.

c. NWP 57
   i. Will need to show all of the crossings of JD wetlands for USACE cumulative impact assessment.
   ii. Temporary impacts will include access roads, PT sites
   iii. Permanent impacts will include the structure footprint in JD wetlands and will not include wetlands that are spanned.

d. Section 10
   i. Will look at safety based on the height of the conductor above the water body. Goal is to keep the river navigable - USACE does not think that will be an issue with a HVTL
   ii. Elevation of conductor – does it meet standard
   iii. Goal for USACE approval/issuance of the permit is 60 days

From:	Hanley, Jennifer
To:	samantha.n.swanberg; Erhardt, Toni R CIV USARMY CENWO (USA)
Cc:	McDonald, Andy; Voth, Jaden; Thoma, Mark; Weiers, Jason; Langston, Todd; Soiseth, Benjamin N CIV USARMY CENWO (USA); Kim, A-In; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Brazeal, Alex; Peterson, Monica; Huck, Chelsea
Subject:	JETx USACE Aquatic Resources Delineation Report and Project Status Update Meeting Summary_20250130
Date:	Tuesday, February 4, 2025 4:45:11 PM
Attachments:	20250130_JETx_USACE_Coordination Meeting Summary.pdf

Sam/Toni,

Thank you again for taking the time to meet with us to discuss the JETx aquatic resources delineation and future USACE permitting. I've attached the meeting summary. Please let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
Senior Environmental Project Manager

HDR
51 North Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
D 701.353.6139
jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Documentation of available correspondence is included following this log.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA)				
March 22, 2023	Letter and Email[1]	Applicants[2]	USDA FSA	Introduction letter and request for comments.
September 7, 2023	Letter and Email[1]	Applicants	USDA FSA	Second request for input and meeting request letter.
September 12, 2023	Email	USDA FSA	Applicants	FSA responded to the September 2023 RFI and requested shapefiles.
September 14, 2023	Email	Applicants	USDA FSA	Applicants provided shapefiles.
November 27, 2023	Email	Applicants	USDA FSA	Applicants requested update and easement information.
November 27, 2023	Email	USDA FSA	Applicants	FSA responded and indicated that FSA did not have easements associated with the Project but did have Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts that would need to be considered, including a formal process to make a request for use of CRP acres.
November 27, 2023	Email	Applicants	USDA FSA	Applicants confirmed response.
February 28, 2024	Email	USDA FSA	Applicants	FSA requested an update on the route.
February 28, 2024	Email	Applicants	USDA FSA	Applicants provided an update on the Project route and requested easement information.

1 Indicates documentation that was a part of one of the mass March or September agency mailings.

2 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Marcy Svenningsen
State Executive Director
USDA - Farm Service Agency
1025 28th St S
Fargo, ND 58103

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Ms. Svenningsen,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

Currently, OTP and Montana-Dakota are in the preliminary planning stages of the Project, which include high-level planning, initial public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and preliminary design. These preliminary planning stages will provide important input into the identification of preliminary routes and the eventual selection of a final route for the Project. The attached map shows the current study area being assessed for preliminary routes. Public outreach with landowners and interested parties including public meetings are being planned to occur in June 2023.

We are soliciting your review of the preliminary Project area in order to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the final route. We are particularly interested in any property located within or adjacent to the study area which your agency may own or have an interest in. We would also appreciate being made aware of any proposed developments your agency may be contemplating in the study area under consideration for the Project in addition to any information that might assist us in our siting analysis and studies. To help us identify potential resource issues in the corridor analysis, please provide us with any information pertaining to the JETx project by April 22, 2023. Written or email responses should be sent to:

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we will reach out to schedule stakeholder meetings as well as plan for additional outreach as a route is developed and refined.

If further information is desired regarding the proposed Project, please contact either myself (218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com) or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc. (701-353-6139 or Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com).

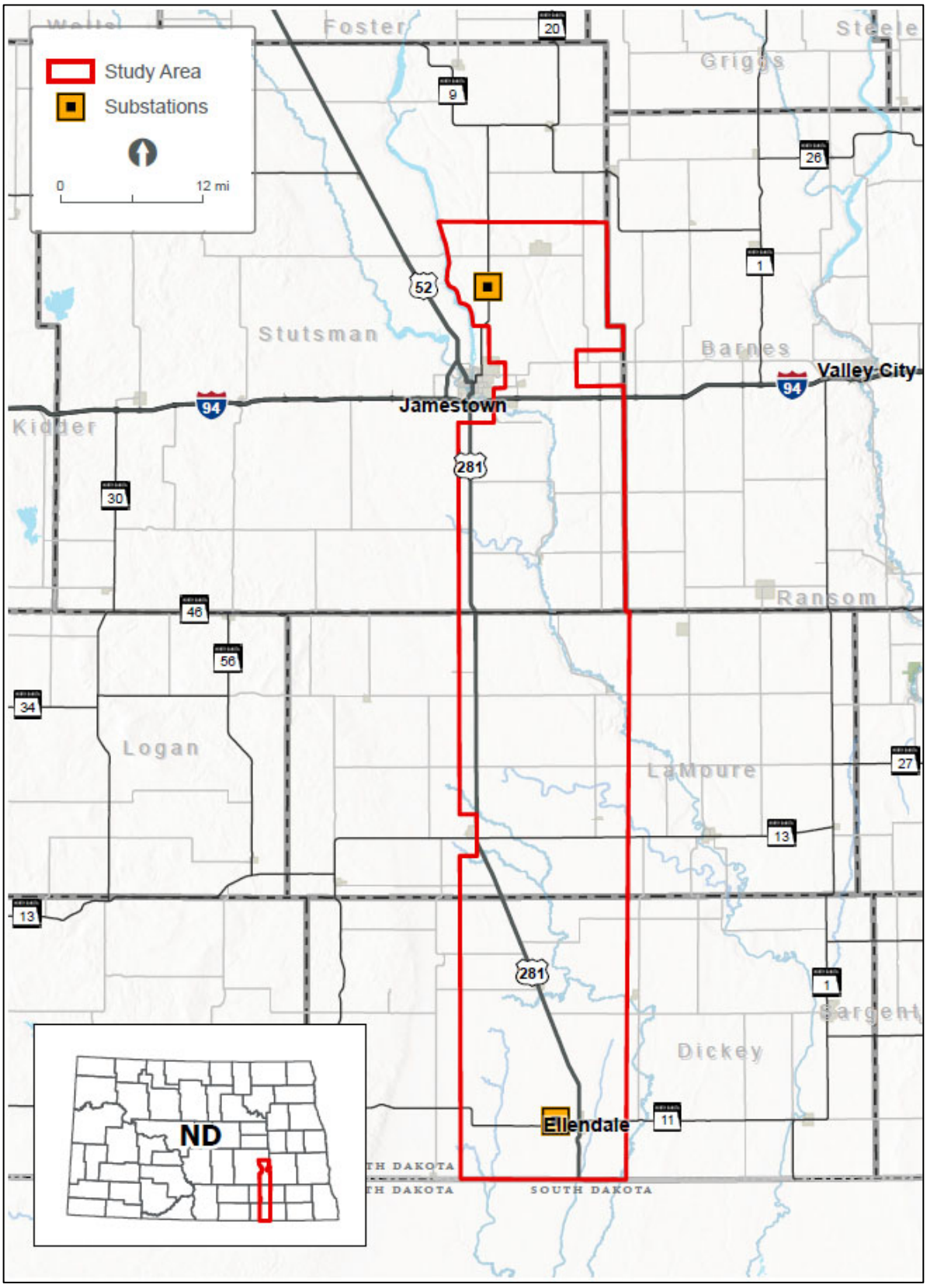
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Daryl Monette
County Executive Director (Dickey)
USDA - Farm Service Agency
PO Box 340
Ellendale, ND 58436

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Monette,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

Currently, OTP and Montana-Dakota are in the preliminary planning stages of the Project, which include high-level planning, initial public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and preliminary design. These preliminary planning stages will provide important input into the identification of preliminary routes and the eventual selection of a final route for the Project. The attached map shows the current study area being assessed for preliminary routes. Public outreach with landowners and interested parties including public meetings are being planned to occur in June 2023.

We are soliciting your review of the preliminary Project area in order to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the final route. We are particularly interested in any property located within or adjacent to the study area which your agency may own or have an interest in. We would also appreciate being made aware of any proposed developments your agency may be contemplating in the study area under consideration for the Project in addition to any information that might assist us in our siting analysis and studies. To help us identify potential resource issues in the corridor analysis, please provide us with any information pertaining to the JETx project by April 22, 2023. Written or email responses should be sent to:

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we will reach out to schedule stakeholder meetings as well as plan for additional outreach as a route is developed and refined.

If further information is desired regarding the proposed Project, please contact either myself (218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com) or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc. (701-353-6139 or Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com).

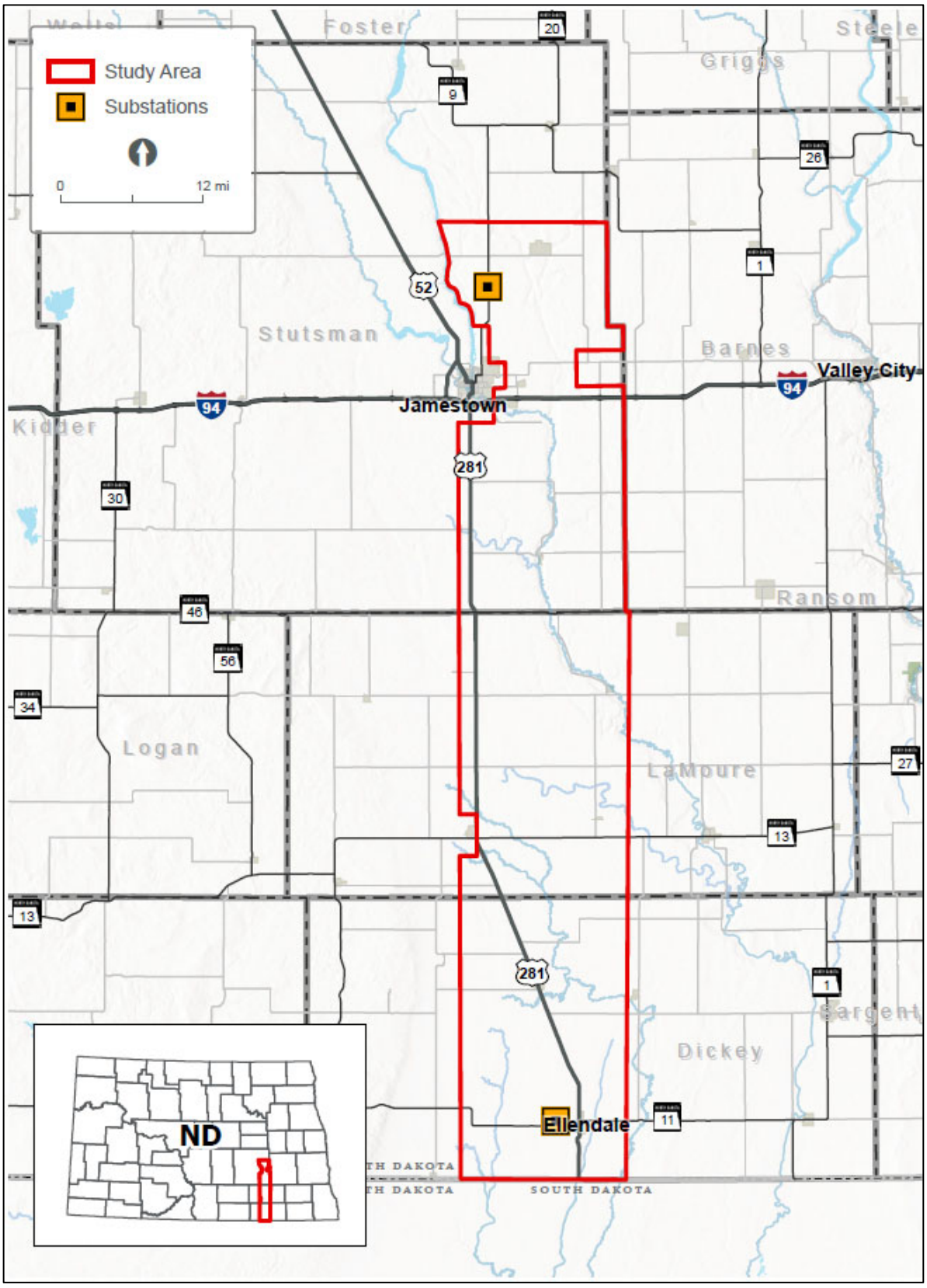
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Dennis Holen
County Executive Director (LaMoure)
USDA - Farm Service Agency
PO BOX 125
La Moure, ND 57458

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Holen,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

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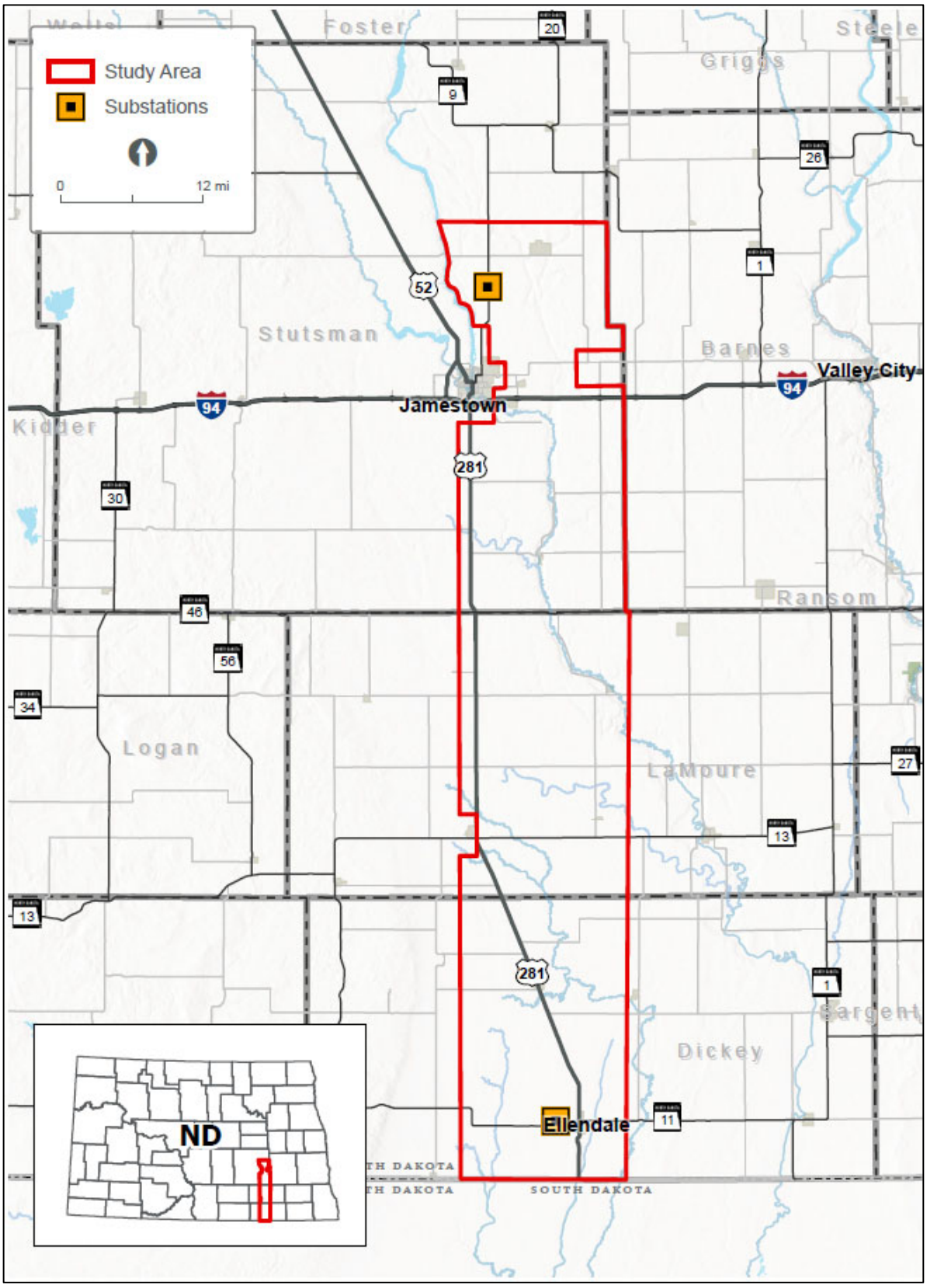
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Christa Kron
Acting County Executive Director (Stutsman)
USDA - Farm Service Agency
1301 Business Loop E
Jamestown, ND 57401

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Ms. Kron,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

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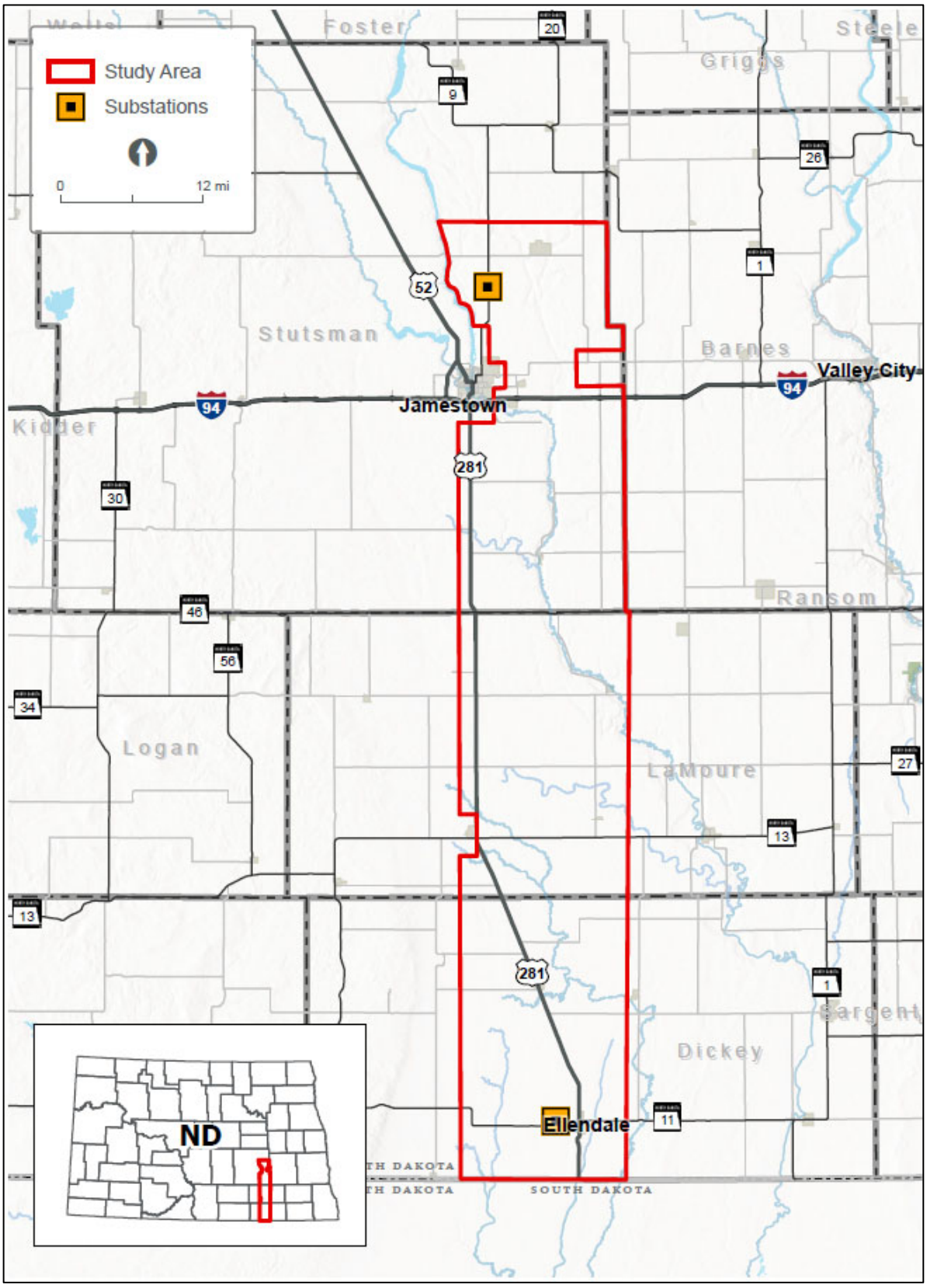
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Marcy Svenningsen
State Executive Director, USDA - Farm Service Agency
1025 28th St S
Fargo, ND 58103

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Marcy Svenningsen,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (the Project). The Project would be in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect Otter Tail Power's existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota's existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified by the Regional Transmission Organization in the Upper Midwest[1] needed to maintain electric system reliability, increase resilience to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion and increase access to low cost energy throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025. At this early stage of the Project, it is anticipated that Section 106 compliance would be needed for a United State Corps of Engineers Section 404 wetland permit and Section 10 river crossing permit for an overhead crossing of the James River.

Currently, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota are in the planning stages of the Project, which include public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and initial design. These preliminary planning stages provide important input into the identification of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. The attached map shows the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. These corridors are subject to change as we continue public outreach with landowners and other interested parties. Environmental field surveys are currently anticipated to start late this year and be completed in 2024.

We are requesting your review of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the preferred route. We appreciate and value your input in our attempt to avoid or minimize impacts. To help us identify potential concerns in our corridor analysis, we request that any information pertaining to the Project be provided by October 12, 2023, if possible, to:

[1] The Regional Transmission Organization in this area of the Upper Midwest is the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). See more information at www.misoenergy.org.

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
701-353-6139

We will be hosting public meetings at three locations along the Project in September. The meetings will be held on consecutive days September 12 - 14 from 3 - 6 p.m. each day at the three locations listed below. In addition to our public meetings, we are also extending you an invitation if you would prefer to meet individually. If you are interested in an individual meeting outside of our public meetings, our contact information follows below and we would welcome the opportunity to share more information about the Project, answer your questions and take your feedback.

Ellendale	**Jamestown**	**Edgeley**
September 12, 2023	September 13, 2023	September 14, 2023
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	3:00 – 6:00 pm	3:00 – 6:00 pm
American Legion Post #137 79 Main St. Ellendale, ND 58436	Bunker Hill Club House 1520 3rd St. SE Jamestown, ND 58401	Hakuna Matata 101 Industrial Park Road. Edgeley, ND 58433

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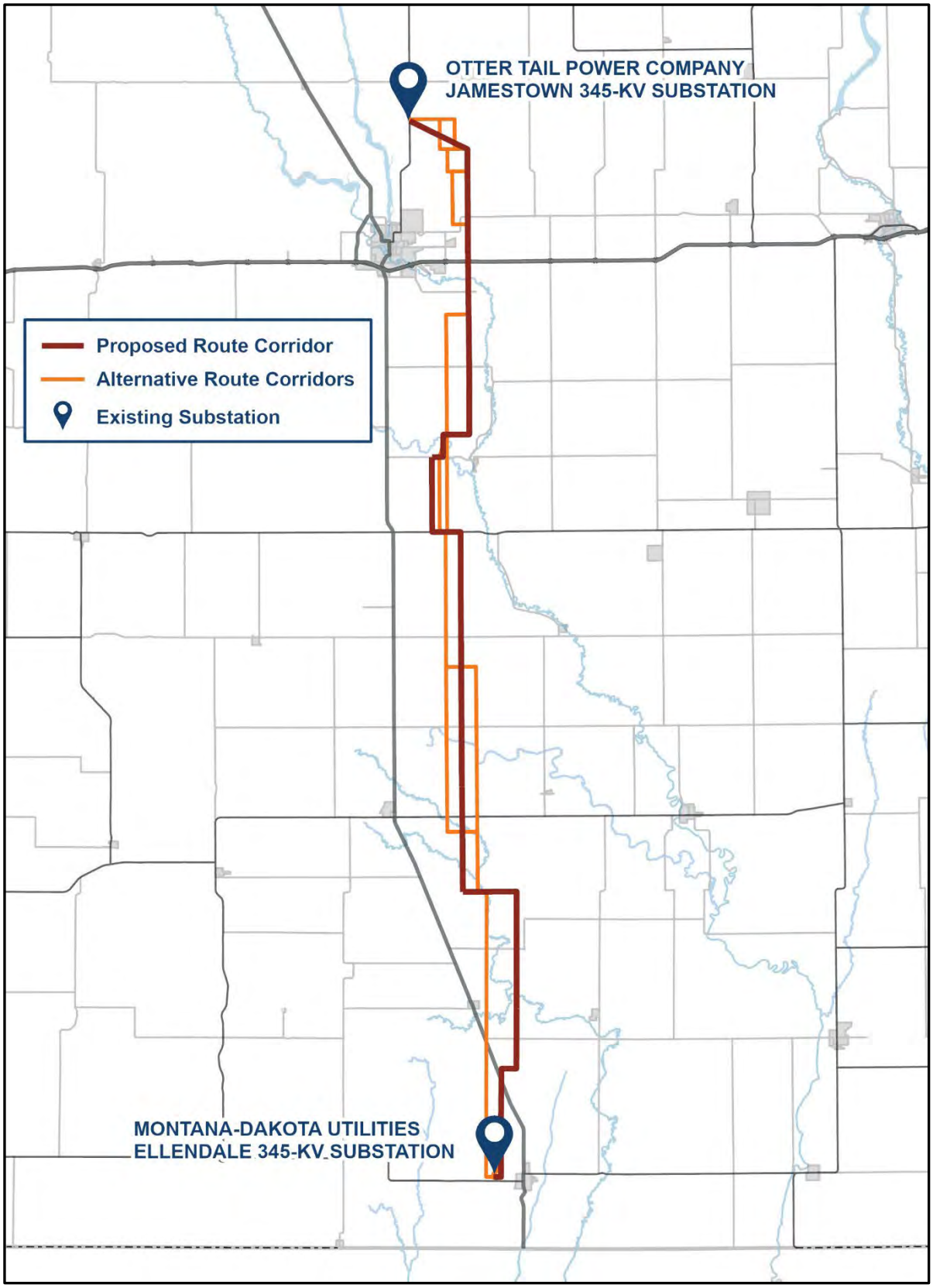
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Daryl Monette
County Executive Director (Dickey), USDA - Farm Service Agency
PO Box 340
Ellendale, ND 58436

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Daryl Monette,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (the Project). The Project would be in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect Otter Tail Power's existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota's existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified by the Regional Transmission Organization in the Upper Midwest[1] needed to maintain electric system reliability, increase resilience to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion and increase access to low cost energy throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025. At this early stage of the Project, it is anticipated that Section 106 compliance would be needed for a United State Corps of Engineers Section 404 wetland permit and Section 10 river crossing permit for an overhead crossing of the James River.

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Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
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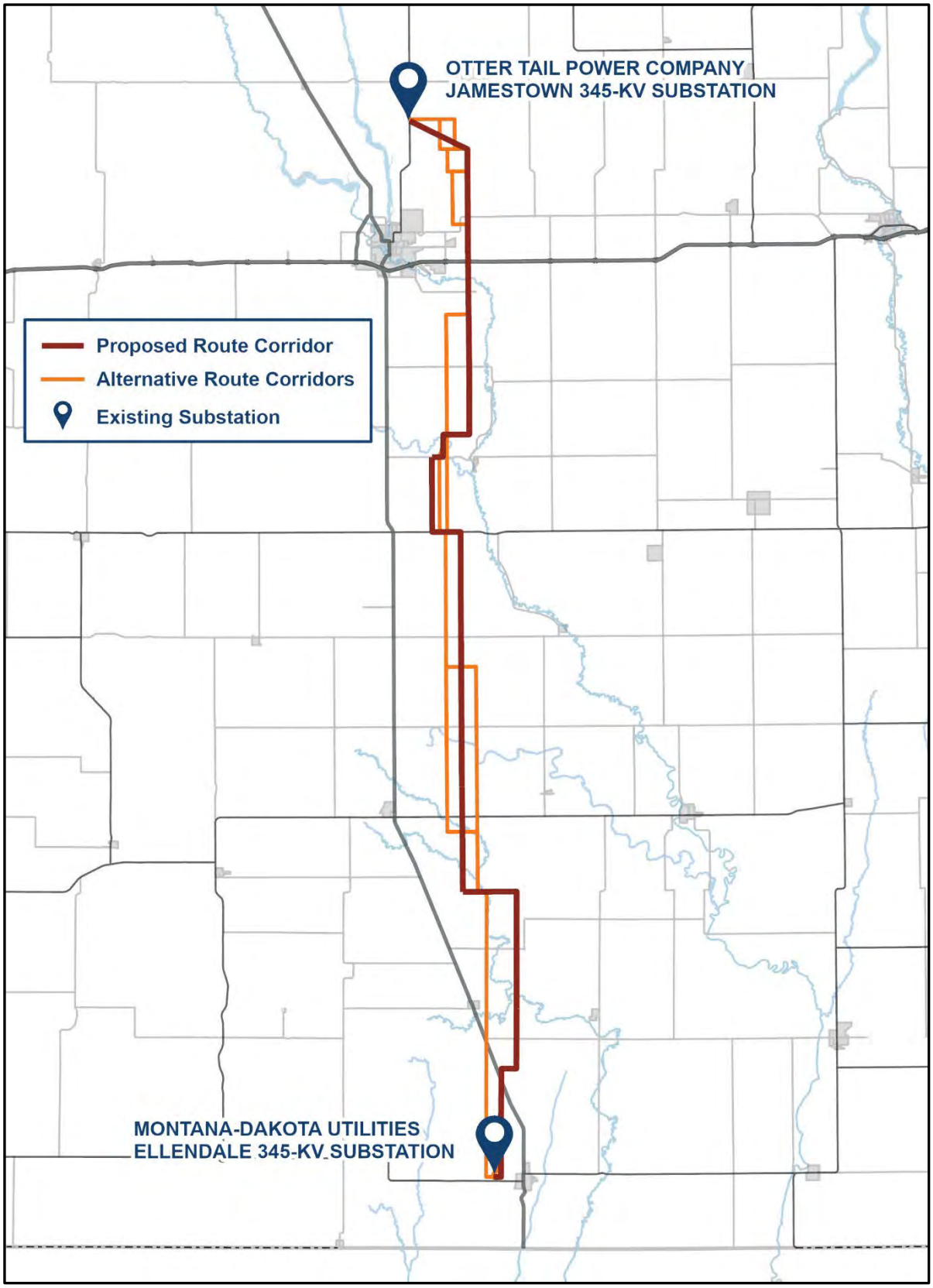
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Dennis Holen
County Executive Director (LaMoure), USDA - Farm Service Agency
PO BOX 125
La Moure, ND 57458

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Dennis Holen,

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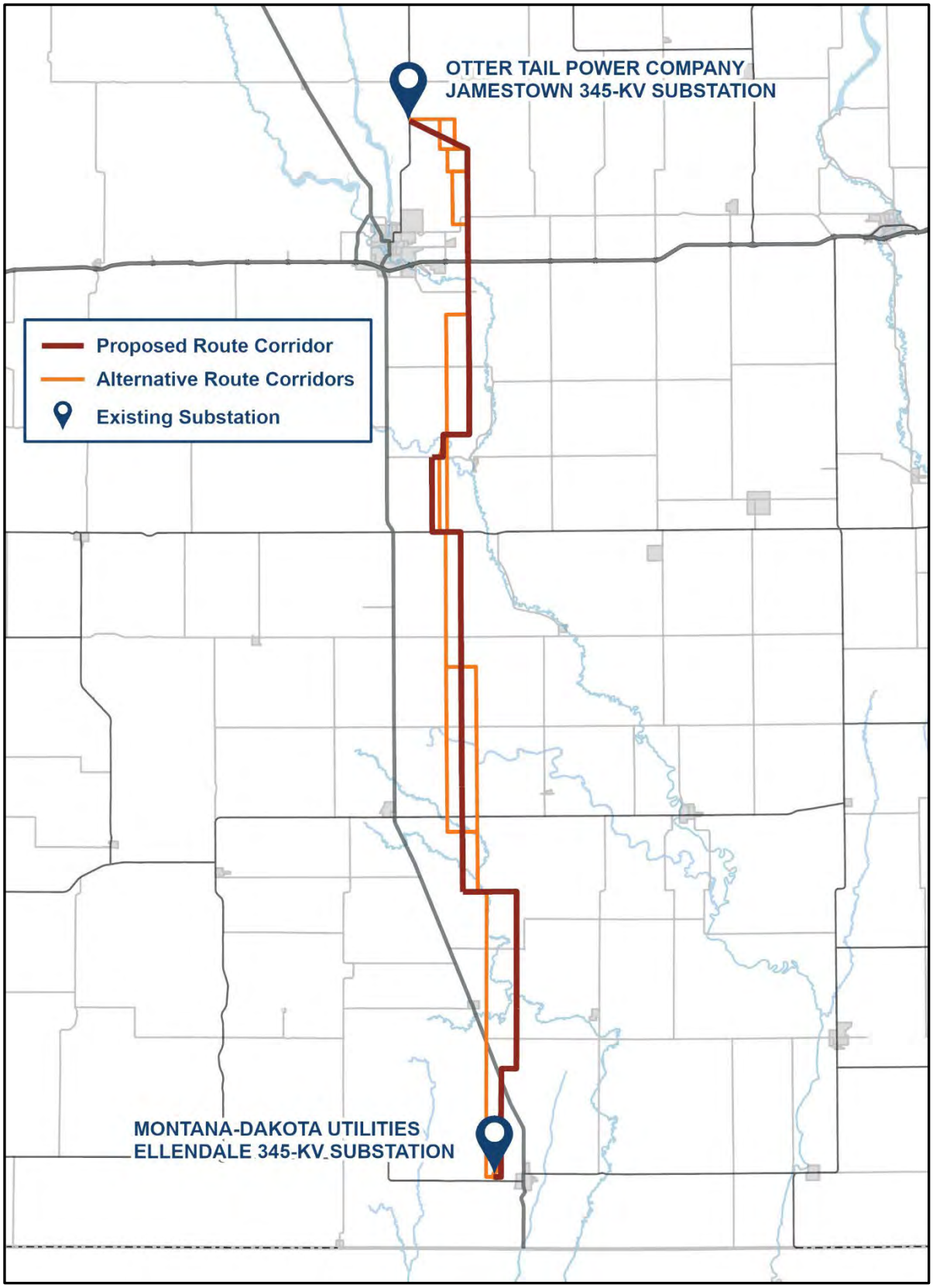
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ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Christa Kron
Acting County Executive Director (Stutsman), USDA - Farm Service Agency
1301 Business Loop E
Jamestown, ND 57401

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

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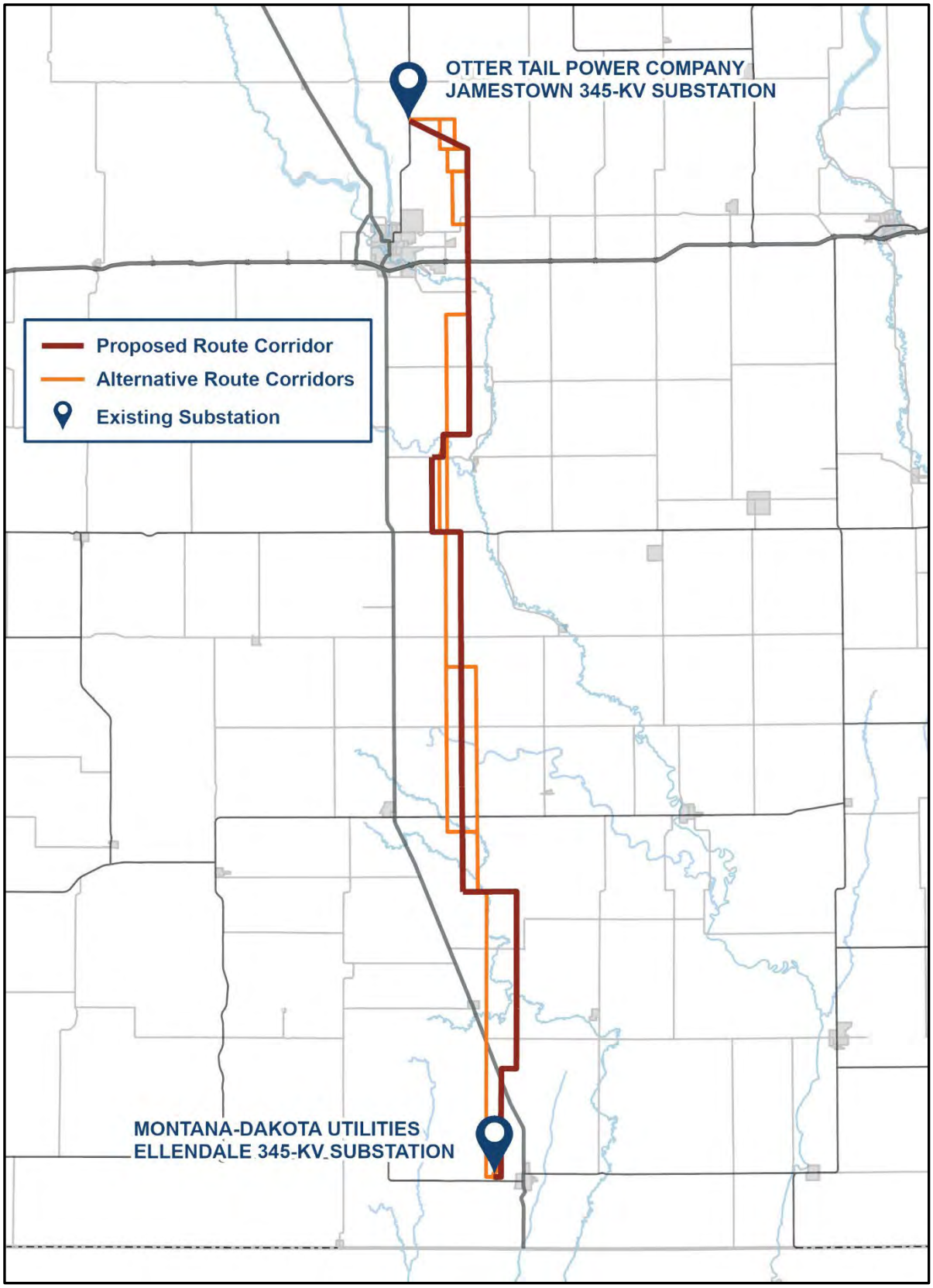
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


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JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

From: Holen, Dennis - FPAC-FSA, ND <dennis.holen@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 9:26 AM
To: Weiers, Jason <jweiers@otpco.com>; Hanley, Jennifer <jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com>
Subject: Jamestown to Ellendale Line Shapefile

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

Good morning.

Is there a GIS shapefile available for the proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project?

Dennis Holen
LaMoure and Dickey Co
Farm Service Agency
County Executive Director
701.883.5268

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 9:57 AM

To: Holen, Dennis - FPAC-FSA, ND <dennis.holen@usda.gov>; Weiers, Jason <jweiers@otpco.com>
Subject: RE: Jamestown to Ellendale Line Shapefile

Dennis,

Attached you will find the shapefiles for our proposed route and route alternatives. We are currently evaluating a ½ mile route corridor and alternative route alternative corridors as we try to narrow down to the 150 ft easement that would be needed. Any information you can provide will help us as we continue to route the transmission line. Please let me know if you have any issues with the attached files.

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Hanley, Jennifer <jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2023 11:46 AM
To: Holen, Dennis - FPAC-FSA, ND <dennis.holen@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Jamestown to Ellendale Line Shapefile

Good morning Dennis,

I wanted to follow up on our information exchange. Have you had an opportunity to review the shapefiles sent? Do you have any easement information that you can share with us?

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Holen, Dennis - FPAC-FSA, ND <dennis.holen@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2023 12:42 PM
To: Hanley, Jennifer <jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com>
Subject: RE: Jamestown to Ellendale Line Shapefile

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

Good afternoon, Jen,

I did review the shapefile, thank you. I shared it with our State Office and they identified 127 current CRP contracts in the path of the preferred plan and 214 in the alternate plan in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey counties. I will find out if this information can be shared with you.

FSA does not have easements on any land associated with the proposed project, however, we do have Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts that could be impacted. The CRP is a long term, mutli-year contract that requires maintenance of existing grass or tree cover.

The CRP has procedure for producers to request public use of the CRP acres. This allows the CRP contract to continue on land temporarily being used by public utilities for installing, among other things, cable or telephone poles. It is a formal process that requires each producer to make a request to the local County Committee for review. I'm working with the State Office to see if there is a way to simplify the process and do a blanket public use approval.

I will let you know what I find out.

Dennis

From: Hanley, Jennifer
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2023 11:44 AM
To: Holen, Dennis - FPAC-FSA, ND
Subject: RE: Jamestown to Ellendale Line Shapefile

Thank you Dennis!

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Holen, Dennis - FPAC-FSA, ND <dennis.holen@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 1:36 PM
To: Hanley, Jennifer <jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com>
Subject: FW: Jamestown to Ellendale Line Shapefile

You don't often get email from dennis.holen@usda.gov. Learn why this is important

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

Jennifer,

Has the route finalized and is there an update shapefile?

Dennis Holen
County Executive Director
701.883.5268

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender

From: Hanley, Jennifer
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 1:35 PM
To: Holen, Dennis - FPAC-FSA, ND
Cc: Flege, Adam; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Peterson, Monica
Subject: 20240228_USDA FSA_ Jamestown to Ellendale Line Shapefile
Attachments: JETx_Route_Buffer500ft_20240227.zip

Dennis,

We are getting closer but we still do not have a finalized route. We are in the process of working with landowners. We are currently looking at a 500-ft wide corridor to do our field surveys this spring/summer. Would you be able to provide us with any information on easements or CRP that could affect our routing on the attached corridor? If there is, what is the process we will need to follow.

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

JETx Jamestown to Ellendale

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Documentation of available correspondence is included following this log.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)				
February 23, 2023	Email	Applicants[1]	USFWS	Applicants asked for shapefiles for existing USFWS easements.
March 2, 2023	Email	USFWS	Applicants	USFWS supplied the shapefiles.
March 2, 2023	Email	Applicants	USFWS	Applicants acknowledged receipt and requested a meeting.
March 22, 2023	Letter and Email[2]	Applicants	USFWS	Applicants requested comments on Project information.
April 14, 2023	Telephone call	Applicants	USFWS	Record of phone call regarding avoidance of wetland easements.
April 14, 2023	Email	USFWS	Applicants	USFWS sent spatial files of USFWS interests along the Project study corridor.
April 14, 2023	Email	USFWS	Internal USFWS	USFWS advised on Project, including Stutsman County.
April 14, 2023	Email	Applicants	Applicants	Update on speaking with USFWS Wetland Management District (WMD) managers and future planning.
April 14, 2023	Telephone call	Applicants	USFWS	Applicants coordination with WMD managers.
April 14, 2023	Email	USFWS	Applicants	USFWS supplying data and information regarding Project.
May 17, 2023	Meeting			Meeting discussing the Project and USFWS interests.
May 19, 2023	Email	Applicants	USFWS	Applicants provided Meeting Summary.
June 13, 2023	Meeting[3]			No Documentation.
June 30, 2023	Email	Applicants	Applicants	Internal email regarding no flowage or transfer easements.
July 5, 2023	Email	Applicants	Applicants	Internal email regarding USFWS easements.
July 11, 2023	Email	Applicants	USFWS	Request for additional information on easements.
August 10, 2023	Email	Applicants	USFWS	Discussion of 3 parcels near Project route that are “Transfer” easements.
August 18, 2023	Email	USFWS	Applicants	Provided shapefiles of areas within the transfer boundary.
September 7, 2023	Letter and Email[2]	Applicants	USFWS	Second request for input and meeting request letter.
September 8, 2023	Email	Applicants	USFWS	Provided shapefiles and maps and coordinated future meeting.
September 12, 2023	Meeting			Meeting minutes of the Applicants/USFWS field visit.
September 20, 2023	Email	Applicants	USFWS	Applicants expressed appreciation of cooperation.

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
September 20, 2023	Email	Applicants	USFWS	Applicants provided Project status and shapefiles.
September 20, 2023	Email	Applicants	USFWS	Applicants provided notes from the field visit on September 12, 2023, for USFWS review.
September 21, 2023	Email	USFWS	Applicants	USFWS responded to notes that habitat was not present for species of concern in the current Project alignment.
September 27, 2023	Email	Applicants	USFWS	Applicants requested pre-1976 easements data containing wetland boundaries.
September 28, 2023	Email	USFWS	Applicants	USFWS supplied the requested pre-1976 easement data and information.
January 22, 2024	Email	Applicants	USFWS	Provided Distribution of Habitat Evaluation and Field Survey Plan and Reporting memo and requested concurrence.
February 2, 2024	Email	Applicants	USFWS	Applicants inquired on response to the Habitat Evaluation and Field Survey Plan.
February 7, 2024	Email	USFWS	Applicants	USFWS identified a species of concern to add to the Habitat Evaluation and Field Survey Plan but agreed that habitat survey plan was sufficient.
July 8, 2024	Telephone call	Applicants	USFWS	Applicants spoke with managers of Chase Lake National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)/WMD and Kulm WMD and got clarification that USFWS easements in the corridor are all wetland easements. Applicants also agreed to send Project information to the new USFWS Chase Lake manager.
July 19, 2024	Email	Applicants	USFWS	Applicants provided updated shapefile of the proposed route.
August 14, 2024	Email	Applicants	USFWS	Applicants requested a meeting to update USFWS on the project.
August 23, 2024	Email	USFWS	Applicants	USFWS requested clarification on meeting needs and time.
August 23, 2024	Email	Applicants	USFWS	Applicants provided clarification.
August 29, 2024	Email	USFWS	Applicants	USFWS provided potential meeting times.
August 29, 2024	Email	Applicants	USFWS	Applicants thanked USFWS.
September 4, 2024	Meeting			Meeting to provide project update and coordination.
September 13, 2024	Email	Applicants	USFWS	Applicants provided meeting summary.
December 2, 2024	Email	Applicants	USFWS	Applicants provided update of the shapefiles.
December 3, 2024	Email	USFWS	Applicants	Wayne Henderson advised of his retirement.
December 3, 2024	Email	Applicants	USFWS	Applicants acknowledged retirement of Wayne Henderson and reached out to his replacement, Krista Lundgren with an updated proposed transmission route.
December 5, 2024	Email	USFWS	Applicants	USFWS addition of one wetland to the shapefile route.
December 5, 2024	Email	Applicants	USFWS	Applicants acknowledgement of USFWS easement addition.

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
December 12, 2024	Email	Applicants	USFWS	Applicants sent the Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat Evaluation to USFWS.
December 12, 2024	Email	USFWS	Applicants	USFWS S. Jones has moved to the Michigan office and is no longer a point of contact.
December 18, 2024	Email	Applicants	USFWS	Applicants requested confirmation of receipt of habitat report.
December 18, 2024	Email	USFWS	Applicants	USFWS confirmed receipt of report.
January 2, 2025	Email	Applicants	USFWS	Applicants requested update regarding wetland easements in the project area.
January 3, 2025	Email	USFWS	Applicants	USFWS provided update and offered to meet.
January 8, 2025	Email	Applicants	USFWS	Applicants requested a meeting to review any concerns or requests regarding the habitat report.
January 22, 2025	Meeting			Meeting to provide project updates and discuss survey report.
January 24, 2025	Email	Applicants	USFWS	Applicants requested information regarding work in a wetland easement.
January 27, 2025	Email	Applicants	USFWS	Applicants provided meeting summary and updated shapefiles.
January 30, 2025	Email	Applicants	USFWS	Applicants requested an update.
January 30, 2025	Email	USFWS	Applicants	USFWS provided update on timeline for review.
January 30, 2025	Email	Applicants	USFWS	Applicants thanked USFWS.
January 31, 2025	Email	USFWS	Applicants	USFWS provided information on wetlands in the work area and offered to meet to discuss.
February 12, 2025	Email	Applicants	USFWS	Applicants provided a kmz for potential temporary laydown yard and plan sheet with buffer around wetlands. Applicants requested spatial data for the wetlands and asked if the current buffer was sufficient.
February 14, 2025	Email	USFWS	Applicants	USFWS confirmed no impacts to wetlands, and no permitting is required at this time. USFWS also provided the FWS Easement contract boundaries.
February 17, 2025	Email	Applicants	USFWS	Applicants requested shapefiles.
February 18, 2025	Email	USFWS	Applicants	USFWS provided the files.
February 18, 2025	Email	Applicants	USFWS	Applicants requested a meeting between USFWS, Applicants and members of the applicant team.
February 19, 2025	Email	Applicants	USFWS	Applicants asked what the minimum wetland buffer is required by USFWS.
February 19, 2025	Email	USFWS	Applicants	USFWS response to buffer question.
March 11, 2025	Telephone Call[3]	Applicants	USFWS	Applicants spoke with USFWS about timing of project response letter.
March 11, 2025	Email	Applicants	Applicants	Applicants provided summary of phone call with USFWS to Applicants.
March 20, 2025	Meeting			Meeting to provide project updates and discuss USFWS wetland easements.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
March 24, 2025	Email	Applicants	USFWS and Applicants	Applicants provided meeting minutes and shapefiles.
April 3, 2025	Email	USFWS	Applicants	USFWS Kulm WMD provided shapefiles of protected wetlands along the project.
April 4, 2025	Email	USFWS	Applicants	USFWS Chase Lake WMD provided shapefiles of protected wetlands along the project.
April 8, 2025	Letter, email	USFWS	Applicants	USFWS letter addressing the Project overall.

1 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.
2 Indicates documentation that was a part of one of the mass March or September agency mailings.
3 Indicates no documentation is included.

From: Carson, Melissa <Melissa.Carson@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2023 2:10 PM
To: Henderson, Wayne <wayne_henderson@fws.gov>; Hourt, Jacob S <jacob_hourt@fws.gov>
Cc: Robinson, Tina Fricke <Tina.Robinson@hdrinc.com>; Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Proposed Corridor Project

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hello,
HDR is working on the behalf of a confidential client on the routing and permitting of a proposed corridor project that runs through Stutsman, Logan, and Dickey Counties and is located in the Chase Lake WMD and the Kulm WMD districts. I am writing to request, that USFWS provide us with shapefiles for existing USFWS easements so that we can plan for any impacts that may occur to USFWS easements along the preliminary route. If we are unable to acquire the shapefiles of the easements in the area would you please provide the tract pdf's and easement documents to compare to our proposed route. The study corridor is in the zip file that is attached.

If you have any questions on the Project or our request please contact me at melissa.carson@hdrinc.com or (701)557-9756.

Thank you,

Melissa Carson
Environmental Scientist

HDR
3231 Greensboro Drive, Suite 200 Bismarck, ND 58503-5413
D 701.557.9756
melissa.carson@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: Henderson, Wayne <wayne_henderson@fws.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 9:14 AM
To: Carson, Melissa; Hourt, Jacob S
Cc: Robinson, Tina Fricke; Hanley, Jennifer
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: Proposed Corridor Project
Attachments: HDR_Request.zip

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

Melissa,

Here is the info you requested. Once you make the decision on the route please let us know. I ask this because we are currently acquiring more easement in that area. And so we can also make sure that no protected wetlands or grassland impact. Please call with any question.

Thanks

Wayne Henderson
Wetland District Manager
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Kulm Wetland Management District
701-647-2866

From: Hanley, Jennifer
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 9:26 AM
To: Henderson, Wayne; Carson, Melissa; Hourt, Jacob S
Cc: Robinson, Tina Fricke
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Proposed Corridor Project

Thank you Wayne!

We'd like to coordinate with you throughout this project. We are currently preparing stakeholder letters that would be going out hopefully in March. Would it be possible to set up either a call or an in person meeting with you and your staff to discuss the project and develop a plan if there are unavoidable impacts to your easements? Our goal is to avoid but if it isn't possible, we'll need to understand the permitting and NEPA implications.

Looking forward to working with you!
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Carlson, Michaela <Michaela.Carlson@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 3:28 PM
To: Henderson, Wayne <wayne_henderson@fws.gov>
Cc: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>; Weiers, Jason <jweiers@otpco.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] USFWS Kulm WMD_03222023_ Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Good afternoon,

HDR is assisting Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company to develop and construct an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. We are requesting comments on the attached information. Please respond by April 22, 2023. Thank you!

Michaela Carlson
Environmental Scientist

HDR
101 S. Phillips Ave. Suite 401
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
D 605-782-8131 **M** 605-553-4841
Michaela.Carlson@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Wayne Henderson
Wetland District Manager
USFWS Kulm Wetland Management District
P.O. Box E
Kulm, ND 58456

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Henderson,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

Currently, OTP and Montana-Dakota are in the preliminary planning stages of the Project, which include high-level planning, initial public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and preliminary design. These preliminary planning stages will provide important input into the identification of preliminary routes and the eventual selection of a final route for the Project. The attached map shows the current study area being assessed for preliminary routes. Public outreach with landowners and interested parties including public meetings are being planned to occur in June 2023.

We are soliciting your review of the preliminary Project area in order to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the final route. We are particularly interested in any property located within or adjacent to the study area which your agency may own or have an interest in. We would also appreciate being made aware of any proposed developments your agency may be contemplating in the study area under consideration for the Project in addition to any information that might assist us in our siting analysis and studies. To help us identify potential resource issues in the corridor analysis, please provide us with any information pertaining to the JETx project by April 22, 2023. Written or email responses should be sent to:

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we will reach out to schedule stakeholder meetings as well as plan for additional outreach as a route is developed and refined.

If further information is desired regarding the proposed Project, please contact either myself (218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com) or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc. (701-353-6139 or Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com).

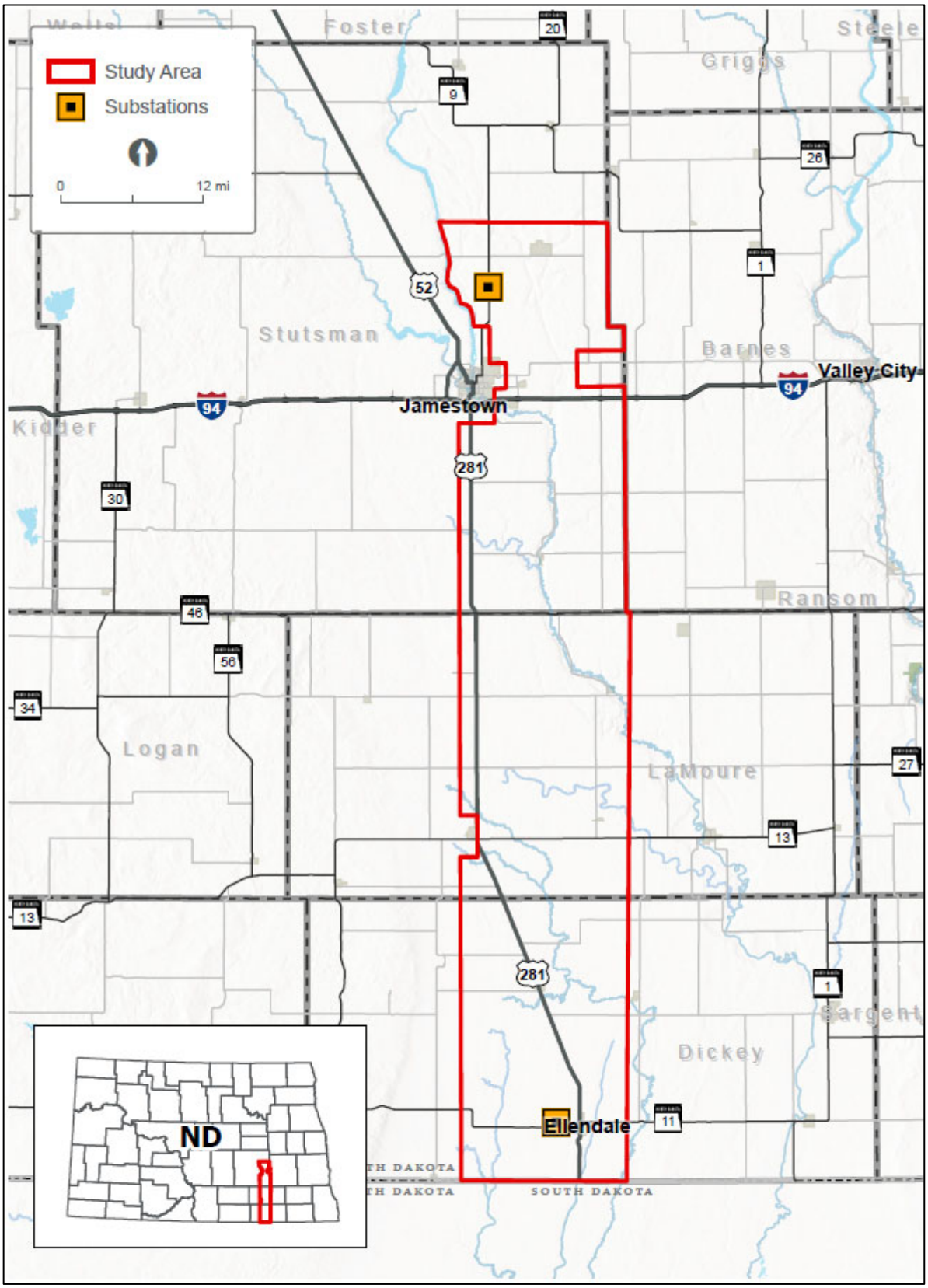
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Drew Becker
ND Ecological Services Supervisor
USFWS - North Dakota Ecological Services Field Office
3425 Miriam Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58501

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Becker,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

Currently, OTP and Montana-Dakota are in the preliminary planning stages of the Project, which include high-level planning, initial public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and preliminary design. These preliminary planning stages will provide important input into the identification of preliminary routes and the eventual selection of a final route for the Project. The attached map shows the current study area being assessed for preliminary routes. Public outreach with landowners and interested parties including public meetings are being planned to occur in June 2023.

We are soliciting your review of the preliminary Project area in order to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the final route. We are particularly interested in any property located within or adjacent to the study area which your agency may own or have an interest in. We would also appreciate being made aware of any proposed developments your agency may be contemplating in the study area under consideration for the Project in addition to any information that might assist us in our siting analysis and studies. To help us identify potential resource issues in the corridor analysis, please provide us with any information pertaining to the JETx project by April 22, 2023. Written or email responses should be sent to:

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we will reach out to schedule stakeholder meetings as well as plan for additional outreach as a route is developed and refined.

If further information is desired regarding the proposed Project, please contact either myself (218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com) or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc. (701-353-6139 or Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com).

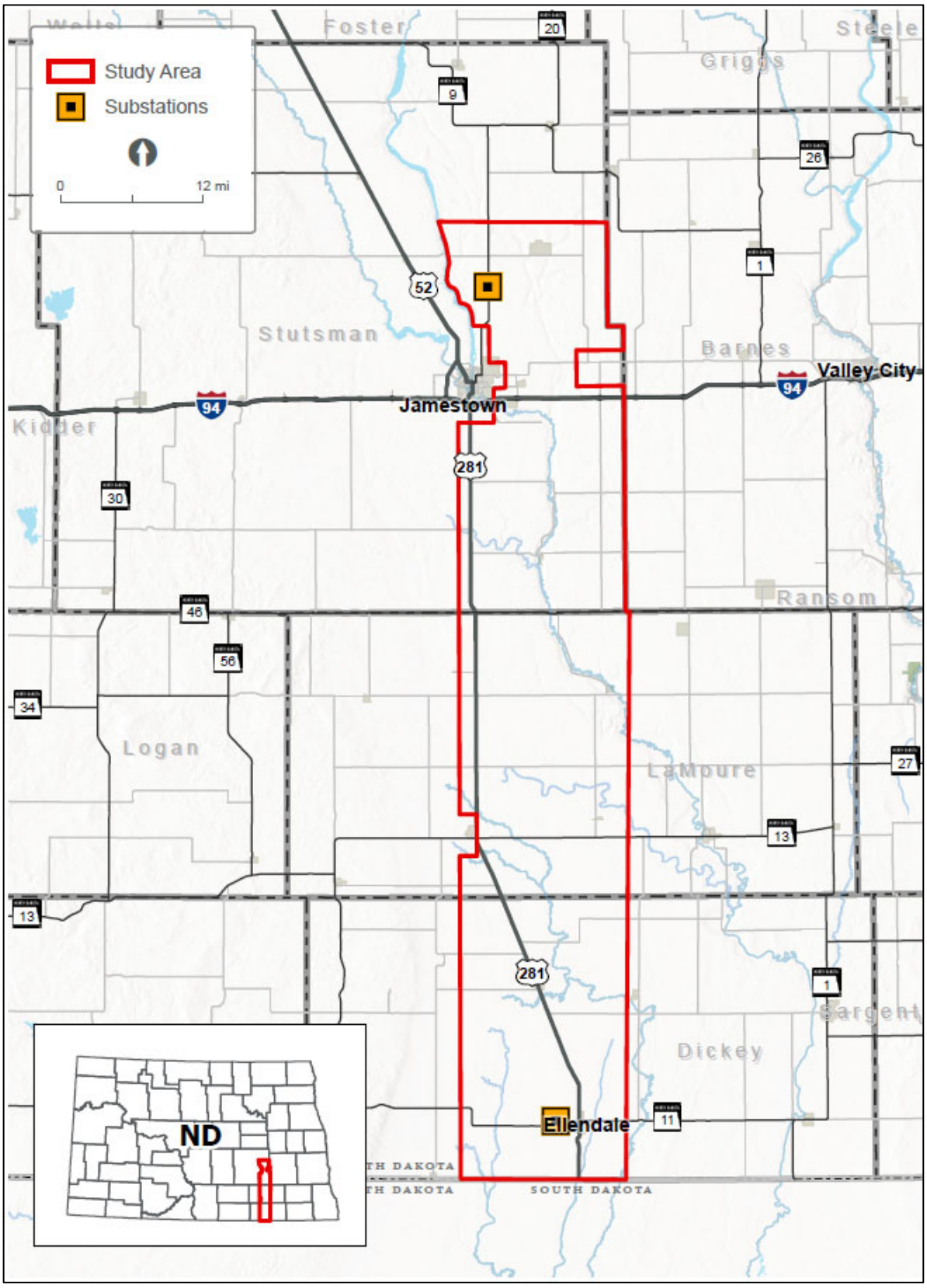
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



Telephone Record

Date:	Friday, April 14, 2023		
Project:	JETx	Project No:	10362433
Call to:	Jake Hourt, USFWS Chase Lake WMD Manger	Phone No:	701-752-4218 ext. 1
Call from:	Jen Hanley, HDR	Phone No:	701-353-6139
Subject:	JETx USFWS Chase Lake WMD Coordination		

Discussion, Agreement, and/or Action:

USFWS – Chase Lake Jake Hourt

Jake sent shapefiles for the USFWS Chase Lake WMD. The shapefiles include their fee title lands and their easements.

Discussed the project and preliminary timeline. Let him know about the upcoming public meetings and windshield survey.

Would like to avoid NEPA if possible. Most of the easements are wetland easements. Any work in the actual wetland basins would trigger NEPA. Any work on USFWS fee lands would trigger NEPA. There are approximately 6 waterfowl production areas that are fee title lands.

Jake would make time to meet about the project when we are out in the area during the windshield survey. Would like me to call him about a week out and set up a time. If he can't be available, someone for the WMD would be.

Actions Items:

- Will send a shapefile of the most current study area boundary
- Add a reminder to calendar to reach out the week of May 7 for a meeting time

From: Hourt, Jacob S <jacob_hourt@fws.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2023 9:36 AM
To: Carlson, Michaela
Cc: Hanley, Jennifer; Weiers, Jason; Halko, Paul; Henderson, Wayne
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] USFWS Kulm WMD_03222023_ Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)
Attachments: Outlook-vmrxfprw; HDR_Study_Corridor_USFWS_Interests.zip

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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

Hello Michaela,

I am the contact for the Chase Lake Wetland Management District portion of this project (Stutsman Co.) Please see the attached spatial files that depict USFWS interests along the project study corridor. Included are Wetland/Grassland easements as well as Fee Title Waterfowl Production Areas. Avoidance of all USFWS interests is preferred. If that is not possible, please contact us directly to discuss options. We are regularly acquiring new easements so please reach out as the project progresses.

Thank you,

Jake Hourt
Refuge Manager
Chase Lake NWR/WMD
5924 19th St. SE
Woodworth, ND 58496
Office: (701) 752-4218 Ext. 1
Cell: (701)-269-0239

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

From: Henderson, Wayne <wayne_henderson@fws.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2023 9:47 AM
To: Hourt, Jacob S <jacob_hourt@fws.gov>; Halko, Paul <paul_halko@fws.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] USFWS Kulm WMD_03222023_ Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Jacob/Paul,

Want to make sure you are aware of this project, it includes a portion of Stutsman County.

Wayne Henderson
Wetland District Manager
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Kulm Wetland Management District
701-647-2866

From: Hanley, Jennifer
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2023 11:05 AM
To: Langston, Todd; Weiers, Jason
Cc: Peterson, Monica; Flege, Adam; Robinson, Tina Fricke; Storey, Catherine
Subject: JETx USFWS Kulm and Chase Lake Wetland Management District Telephone Records 20230414
Attachments: 20230414_USFWS_KulmWMD_Henderson_Telephone Record.pdf; 20230414 _USFWS_ChaseLakeWMD_Hourt_Telephone Record.pdf

I spoke with both the USFWS WMD managers today. They both would appreciate the collaborative approach so if and when we trigger NEPA we are all on the same page and have been communicating frequently.

Both will make the time to meet when we are out there in May (or really any time we'd like to meet with them). They can meet together or separately.

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
Environmental Project Manager

HDR
51 North Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
D 701.353.6139
jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

Telephone Record

Date:	Friday, April 14, 2023		
Project:	JETx	Project No:	10362433
Call to:	Wayne Henderson, USFWS Kulm WMD Manger	Phone No:	701-647-2866
Call from:	Jen Hanley, HDR	Phone No:	701-353-6139
Subject:	JETx USFWS Kulm WMD Coordination		

Discussion, Agreement, and/or Action:

USFWS – Kulm Wayne Henderson

Would like to avoid NEPA if possible. Most of the easements are wetland easements. Any work in the actual wetland basins would trigger NEPA. Any work on USFWS fee lands would trigger NEPA.

USFWS Ecological Services in Bismarck will answer questions about any required species surveys.

Wayne said he and Jake Hourt (Chase Lake WMD – Stutsman County) would make time to meet about the project when we are out in the area during the windshield survey. Would like me to call him about a week out and set up a time. He will rearrange his schedule if he needs to.

Actions Items:

- Wayne asked me to send a shapefile of the most current study area boundary.
- Add a reminder to calendar to reach out the week of May 7 for a meeting time
- Call Jake Hourt, Refuge Manager, Chase Lake WMD

From: Toso, Luke B <luke_toso@fws.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2023 1:22 PM
To: Hanley, Jennifer
Cc: Weiers, Jason
Subject: JETx USFWS Data and Information
Attachments: Buffers_Timing_Recommendation_Final _20230414.pdf; Predicted Dakota Skipper Occurence Map for North Dakota v.2022.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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

Thank you for your request for initial comment on the JETx transmission line (or Project) proposed by Ottertail Power/Montana-Dakota in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties. Based on our initial review of the project, there are a few items to consider during the initial design phase of the project.

- Our standard buffer and timing document is attached, describing our general recommendations for trust resources that may be present in the vicinity of the Project.
- For compliance with the Endangered Species Act, please consider using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) database (http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac). The database provides guidance to help determine if endangered species may be present within the action area, and if the project and associated actions may affect listed species. The North Dakota Ecological Services webpage (https://www.fws.gov/office/north-dakota-ecological-services/library) contains step-by-step guidance for navigating IPaC and determination keys that you may choose to use.
    - Suitable habitat for the Dakota skipper may be present along the project alignment. To help determine where habitat may be present, we developed a Dakota skipper habitat suitability model may be useful during the planning phases of the project. The model uses known occupancy survey points, combined with ecological indicators, to create a probability of occurrence for the Dakota skipper. An example figure is also attached, showing the habitat extents across North Dakota. The model is available for download here: https://ecos.fws.gov/ServCat/Reference/Profile/152748.
- USFWS easement wetlands and grasslands may be present in the project alignment. GIS data of easement layers is available for download here: https://ecos.fws.gov/ServCat/Reference/Profile/149821For. However, please contact the Wetland Management District (WMD) contacts below for the most up to date and precise boundaries:
    - Eastern ND WMD Complex: Dave Azure, (701) 285-3341, dave_azure@fws.gov
    - Central ND WMD Complex (also covers south and west): Todd Luke, (701) 442-5474 todd_luke@fws.gov
- To understand the distribution of bald and golden eagles along the project alignment, which are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA), we recommend contacting the North Dakota Game and Fish Department for historic locations of bald eagles in the vicinity of the project.
    - Sandra Johnson, Conservation Biologist, sajohnson@nd.gov

Please let me know if you have any questions on the information provided, or there's anything else I can do to assist with planning your project.

Thank you,

Luke

Luke Toso
Fish & Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
3425 Miriam Avenue
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501
720-793-6797
luke_toso@fws.gov

Meeting Summary

Project:	OTP/MDU JETx 345 kV Transmission Line
Subject:	JETx USFWS Meeting Summary
Date:	Wednesday, May 17, 2023
Location:	Virtual

Attendees:	☒Thoma, Mark (OT)	☒Hanley, Jen (HDR)
	☒Weiers, Jason (OTP)	☒Storey, Cathy (HDR)
	☒McDonald, Andy (MDU)	☒Richardson, Wayne (USFWS – Kulm WMD)
		☒Hourt, Jake (USFWS – Chase Lake WMD)

Otter Tail Power Company, Montana Dakota Utilities, HDR and the United States Fish & Wildlife Service met at the Otter Tail Power Jamestown Service Center at 9am on May 17, 2023.

OTP gave a short presentation on the proposed project. The presentation identified why the project is being proposed, where the study area is located, and general timeline.

USFWS confirmed that on the USFWS wetland easement lands, only the wetland is protected. Work can occur outside of the wetland boundary and no NEPA or permitting is triggered for USFWS. Impacts on fee title land, grassland easements, and within a protected wetland boundary, NEPA would be triggered. One single wetland impact would federalize the entire project for NEPA. Property can be spanned without triggering NEPA/permits. Structure placement is what matters.

Wetland boundaries are set on the pre-1976 USFWS easements. Wetland boundaries could change on the post-1976 boundaries. USFWS will send the pre-1976 easements near the Ellendale Substation.

Avoidance is preferred. Acreage exchange has been available in the past but is not favorable with the UFSWS solicitor. If easement exchange is possible, it would start with finding a drained wetland within the same property and if not available, outside the property. This may not be an option.

USFWS indicated that they had a newer unbroken grasslands data layer they could share.

Discussion was had on the field surveys that USFWS would require. The project team was referred to the USFWS Ecological Services office in Bismarck.

USFWS would look to the project to add bird diverters on USFWS fee title land and larger wetland spans.

USFWS said they have been working with wind developers in the area, i.e., Dakota Thunder Wind Farm.

Action Items:

Action Item	Date	Responsible
Split USFWS shapefiles up by secondary types. Turn fee title, grassland easements, and wetland boundaries red in AGOL map	5/31/2023	HDR - Hellman
Send updated unbroken grasslands data layer to HDR	5/26/2023	USFWS - Hourt
Send pre-1976 wetland boundaries near the Ellendale Substation	Completed	
Invite agencies and tribes to public open houses	6/1/2023	HDR - Levos
Set up meeting with USFWS Ecological Services	6/1/2023	HDR - Hanley

From: Hanley, Jennifer
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2023 1:01 PM
To: Weiers, Jason; wayne_henderson@fws.gov; Hourt, Jacob S
Cc: Langston, Todd; Thoma, Mark; McDonald, Andy; Storey, Catherine; Kutz, Alisha
Subject: JETx USFWS 5/17/2023 Meeting Summary
Attachments: 20230517_USFWS_Meeting Summary.pdf

All,

Please find my meeting summary attached. If you have any comments or corrections let me know.

Thanks and have a great weekend!

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
Environmental Project Manager

HDR
51 North Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
D 701.353.6139
jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2023 3:47 PM
To: Peterson, Monica <monica.peterson@hdrinc.com>
Cc: Hellman, Joshua <Joshua.Hellman@hdrinc.com>
Subject: RE: JETx Transmission Line Follow Up

Monica,

I just spoke with Wayne Henderson, USFWS Wetland Management District for Kulm, and he does not believe he has an flowage or transfer easements in his district. He also said the N/A could be listed on the Fee Title properties because there would be no secondary easement type (they are owned outright). He said if we have a specific one we'd like him to look into, we can send him a screen shot of the easement and he'll dig further for us.

Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Hellman, Joshua <Joshua.Hellman@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 5, 2023 1:55 PM
To: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>; Peterson, Monica <monica.peterson@hdrinc.com>
Subject: RE: JETx Transmission Line Follow Up

Jen,

We found 13 easements within the study area listed as Transfer or N/A that we think we should get some more information on for permitting and what the impacts will be if we cross them.
Attached is the list of Transfer and N/A easements that are in our refined Study Area. (There are more easements that are in the shaded black refinement areas that we did not include.) Below is a screenshot of those 13 total selected easements.

Could you please pass these along to Wayne to get more information about these easements?
We do not have any Flowage easements in our Study Area.

Thanks!



Josh
Hellman D
605.782.8112

hdrinc.com/
follow-us

From: Hanley, Jennifer
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 12:50 PM
To: wayne_henderson@fws.gov
Cc: Peterson, Monica; Hellman, Joshua; Flege, Adam
Subject: JETx Transmission Line Follow Up
Attachments: 20230705_FWS_Flowage_Transfer_NA_Easements.csv

Wayne,

We have identified the easements we need some additional information on. Please see attached and below. These were listed as either Transfer or N/A.

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

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*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

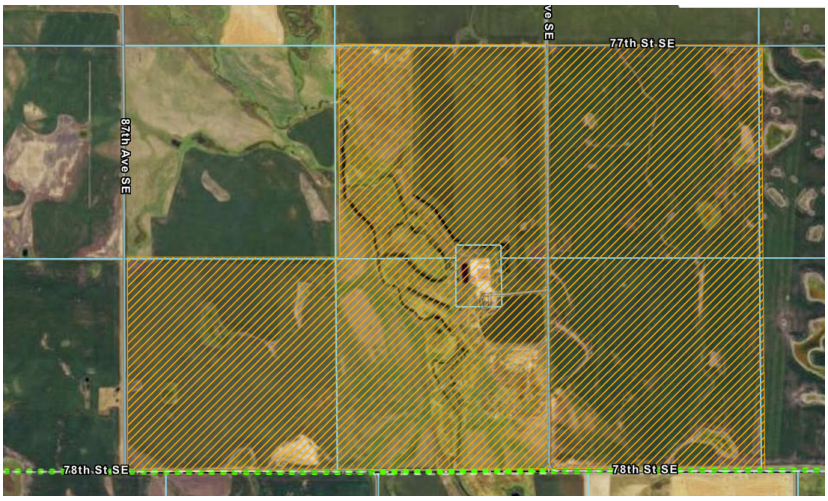
From: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2023 12:43 PM
To: Henderson, Wayne <wayne_henderson@fws.gov>
Cc: Flege, Adam <Adam.Flege@hdrinc.com>; Peterson, Monica <monica.peterson@hdrinc.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] JETx USFWS Easement Question

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Wayne,

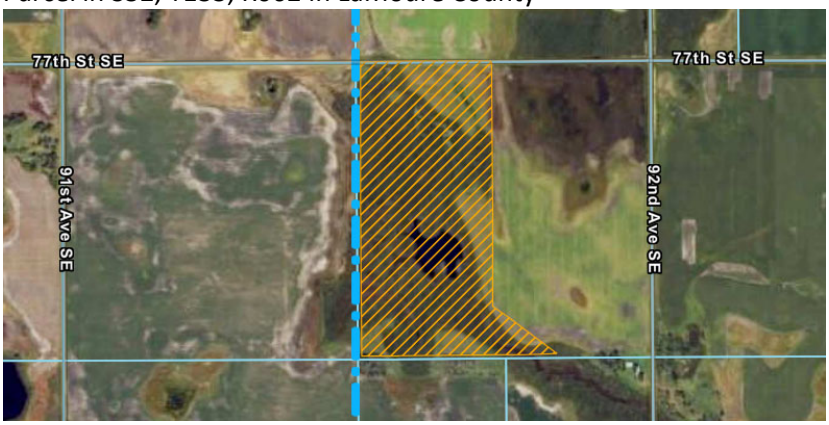
There are 3 parcels that our route skirts that are currently showing as USFWS “Transfer” easements and their name indicates they are Waterfowl Production Areas. Would these areas trigger NEPA if we had poles placed within the easement? See below for information on those 3 easements.

1. Parcels in S34 T133 R063 and S35 T133 R063



ORGNAME	LAMOURE COUNTY WATERFOWL PRODUCTION AREA
ORGCODE	62630
IFWS	530
LIT	WLM
INTTYPE1	E
INTTYPE2	Transfer
TRACTNO	20C
INTIDNO	530.20C
RELICODE	S1
COMMENTS	FSA Easement
FWSREGION	6
IntReg	5
ACQUISITIO	1/25/1995, 5:00 PM
CostCenter	FF06REKM00

2. Parcel in S32, T133, R062 in LaMoure County



ORGNAME	LAMOURE COUNTY WATERFOWL PRODUCTION AREA
ORGCODE	62630
IFWS	530
LIT	WLM
INTTYPE1	E
INTTYPE2	Transfer
TRACTNO	12C
INTIDNO	530.12C
RELICODE	S1
COMMENTS	FSA Easement
FWSREGION	6

IntReg	5
ACQUISITIO	12/29/1993, 5:00 PM
CostCenter	FF06REKM00

3. Parcels in S26 T135 R064 and S27 T135 R064 in LaMoure County



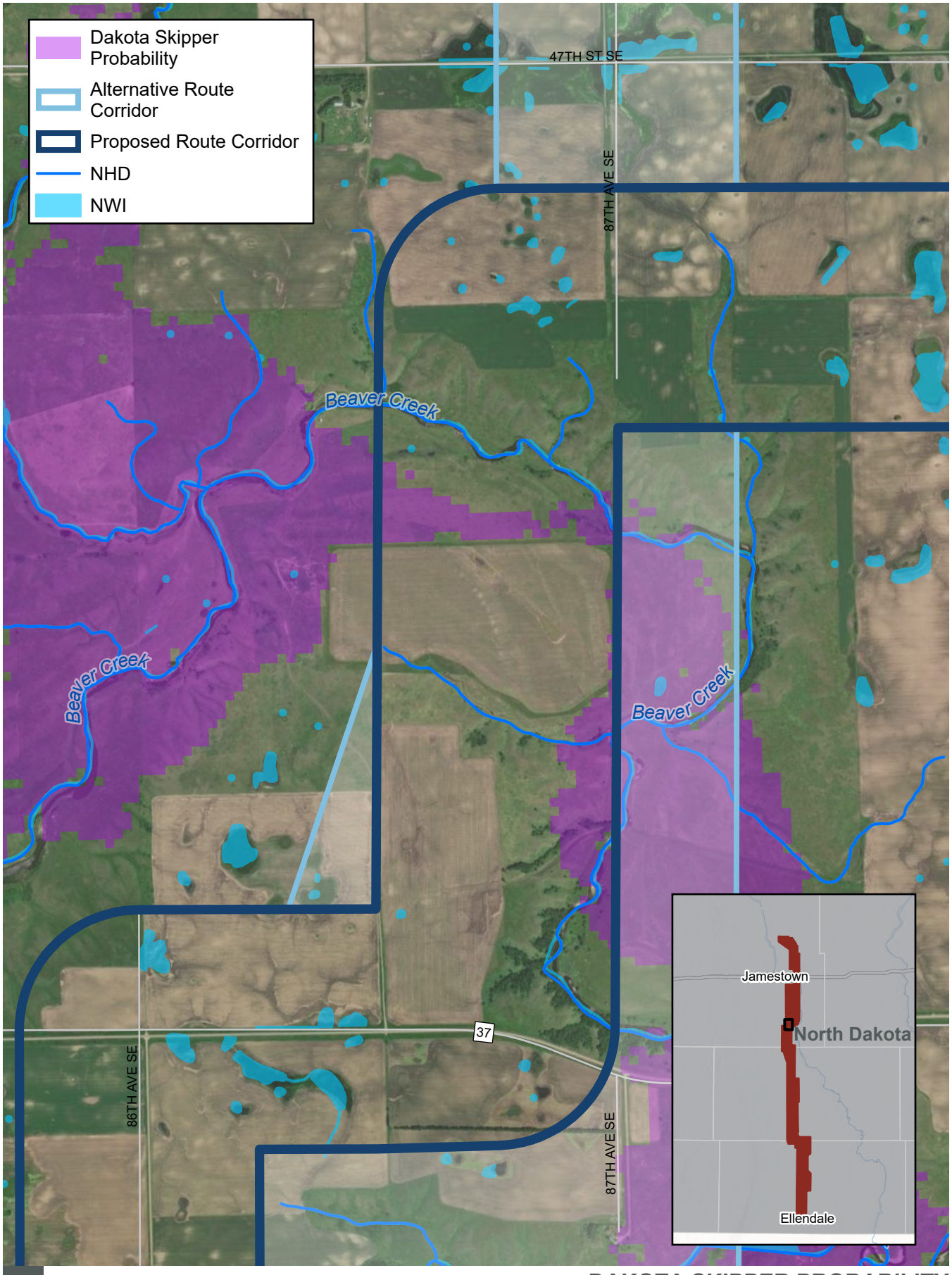
ORGNAME	LAMOURE COUNTY WATERFOWL PRODUCTION AREA
ORGCODE	62630
IFWS	530
LIT	WLM
INTTYPE1	E
INTTYPE2	Transfer
TRACTNO	15C
INTIDNO	530.15C
RELICODE	S1
COMMENTS	FSA Easement
RSL_TYPE	FSA
FWSREGION	6
IntReg	5
ACQUISITIO	9/11/1991, 6:00 PM
CostCenter	FF06REKM00

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
Environmental Project Manager

HDR
51 North Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
D 701.353.6139
jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

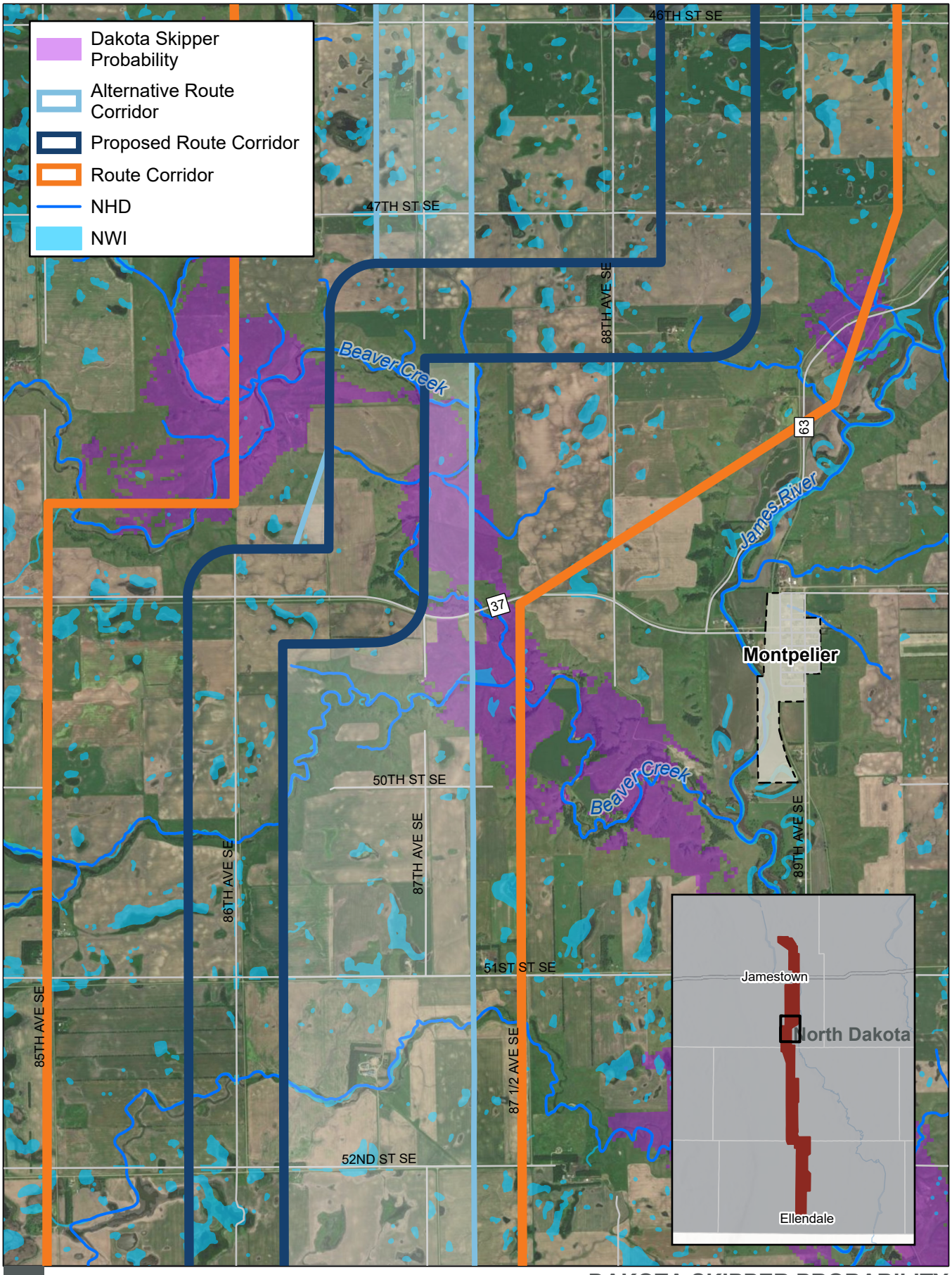
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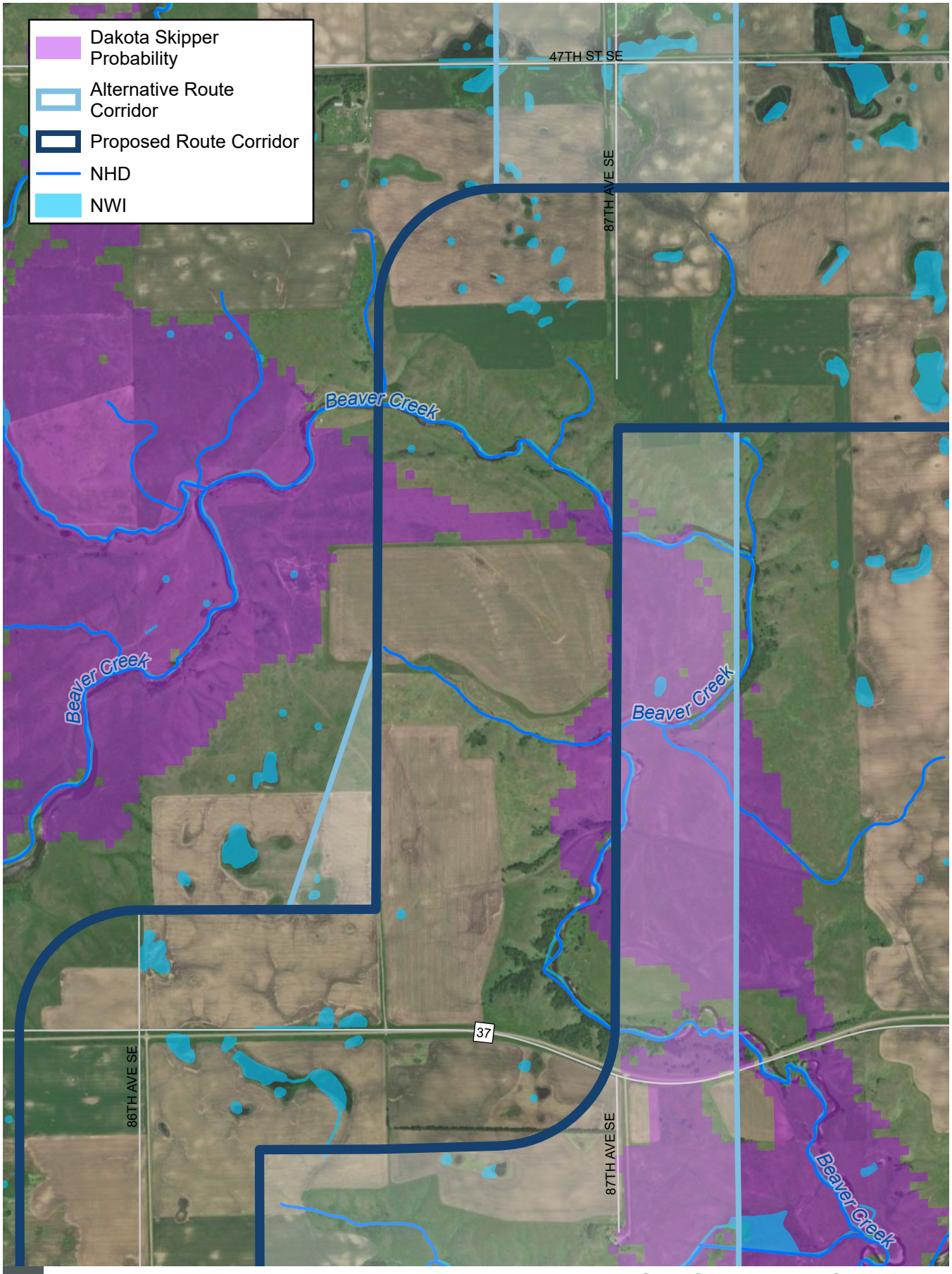


0 2,000 Feet

DAKOTA SKIPPER PROBABILITY



DAKOTA SKIPPER PROBABILITY



0 2,000 Feet

DAKOTA SKIPPER PROBABILITY

From: Henderson, Wayne <wayne_henderson@fws.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 18, 2023 9:43 AM
To: Hanley, Jennifer
Cc: Flege, Adam; Peterson, Monica
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] JETx USFWS Easement Question
Attachments: Transfer_protect_areas.zip

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

Jennifer,

Attached are the shapefiles show the areas that are protect within that transfer boundary. As long as you you stay out of those areas NEPA is no triggered. Please call with any questions.

Thanks

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Wayne Henderson
Wetland District Manager, USFWS Kulm Wetland Management District
P.O. Box E
Kulm, ND 58456

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Wayne Henderson,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (the Project). The Project would be in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect Otter Tail Power's existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota's existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified by the Regional Transmission Organization in the Upper Midwest[1] needed to maintain electric system reliability, increase resilience to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion and increase access to low cost energy throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025. At this early stage of the Project, it is anticipated that Section 106 compliance would be needed for a United State Corps of Engineers Section 404 wetland permit and Section 10 river crossing permit for an overhead crossing of the James River.

Currently, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota are in the planning stages of the Project, which include public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and initial design. These preliminary planning stages provide important input into the identification of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. The attached map shows the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. These corridors are subject to change as we continue public outreach with landowners and other interested parties. Environmental field surveys are currently anticipated to start late this year and be completed in 2024.

We are requesting your review of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the preferred route. We appreciate and value your input in our attempt to avoid or minimize impacts. To help us identify potential concerns in our corridor analysis, we request that any information pertaining to the Project be provided by October 12, 2023, if possible, to:

[1] The Regional Transmission Organization in this area of the Upper Midwest is the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). See more information at www.misoenergy.org.

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
701-353-6139

We will be hosting public meetings at three locations along the Project in September. The meetings will be held on consecutive days September 12 - 14 from 3 - 6 p.m. each day at the three locations listed below. In addition to our public meetings, we are also extending you an invitation if you would prefer to meet individually. If you are interested in an individual meeting outside of our public meetings, our contact information follows below and we would welcome the opportunity to share more information about the Project, answer your questions and take your feedback.

Ellendale	**Jamestown**	**Edgeley**
September 12, 2023	September 13, 2023	September 14, 2023
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	3:00 – 6:00 pm	3:00 – 6:00 pm
American Legion Post #137 79 Main St. Ellendale, ND 58436	Bunker Hill Club House 1520 3rd St. SE Jamestown, ND 58401	Hakuna Matata 101 Industrial Park Road. Edgeley, ND 58433

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the Project progresses, we are planning to have additional consultations with agencies, other jurisdictions, and landowners as we develop and refine a preferred route.

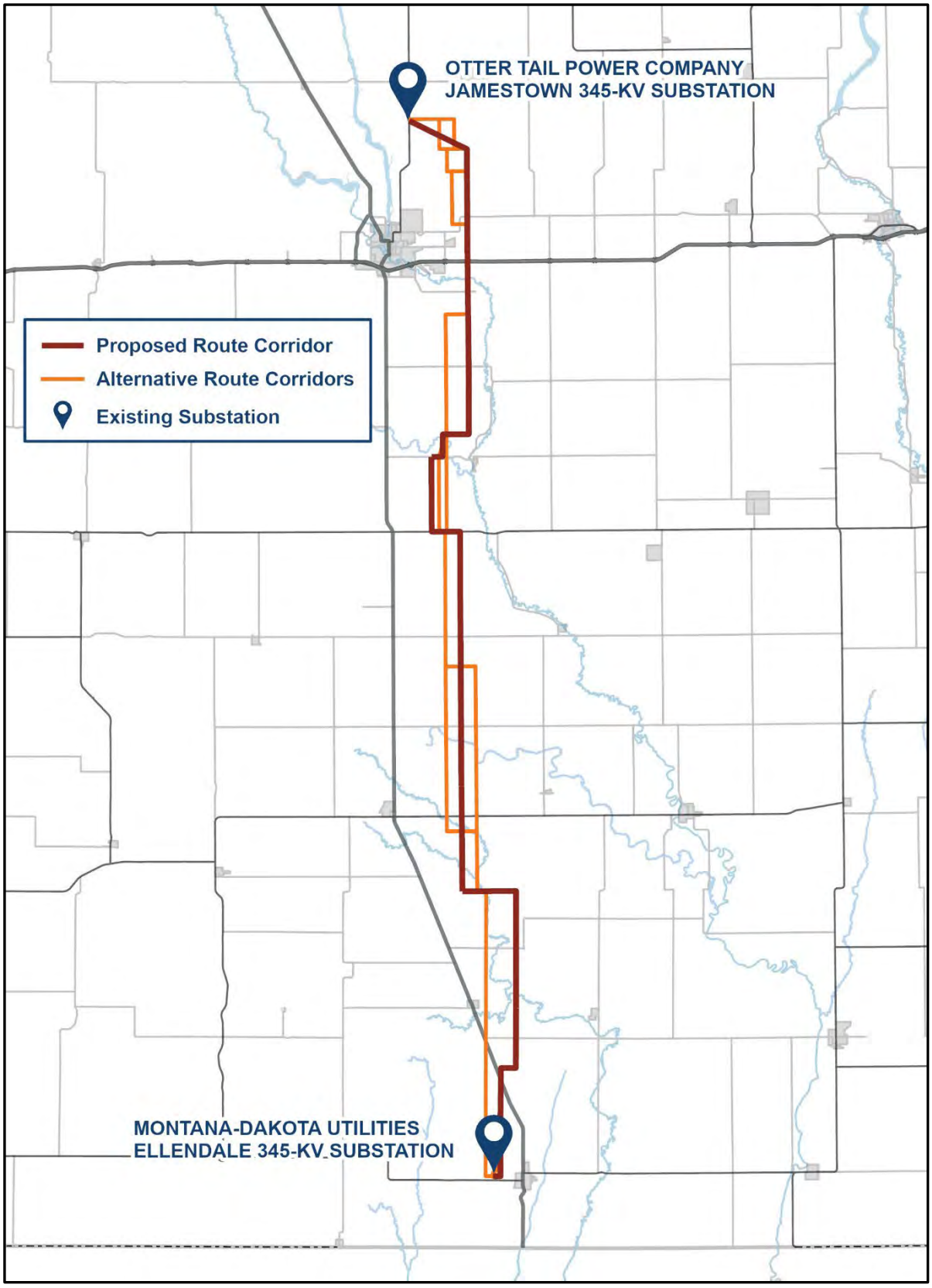
If you desire further information regarding the proposed Project, please contact me at 218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc., at 701-353-6139 or jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com. In addition, further information about the Project can also be found on our website at www.JamestowntoEllendale.com.

Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

From: Hanley, Jennifer
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2023 2:41 PM
To: Toso, Luke B
Cc: Peterson, Monica; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Thoma, Mark; McDonald, Andy; Voth, Jaden
Subject: JETx Tuesday, Sept 12 USFWS Site Visit Information
Attachments: Montpelier Environmental Map Detail Inset Export.pdf; Montpelier Environmental Map Export.pdf; 20230907_Dakota_Skipper_Habitat_Probability.zip; Montpelier Environmental Map Detail Export.pdf

Luke,

As we discussed, attached are some maps and shapefiles that we are interested in looking at. Our plan is to meet at the Fairfield in at 9am and then go to the site. I believe you have my cell phone number but if not it is 651-271-5262.

Call me on Monday if you have any questions. We are looking forward to our discussion.

Have a great weekend!
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

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Meeting Minutes

Project:	JETx
Subject:	USFWS Field Visit
Date:	Tuesday, September 12, 2023
Location:	Field Site Visit, approximately 3 miles NW of Montpelier on Cumberland property
Attendees:	Luke Toso, USFWS Seth Jones, USFWS Jason Weiers, OTP Jen Hanley, HDR Monica Peterson, HDR Rodney Naze, Tenant
	Attendees Column 2 (Tab to add more rows)

- 9:00am: USFWS, OTP and HDR met at lobby of Fairview Inn in Jamestown, ND
- Jen Hanley contacted the tenant, Rodney Naze, who farms the land near Montpelier that the team wanted to review with USFWS because of the potential Dakota Skipper habitat in the area.
- 9:30am: Team met with the tenant, Rodney Naze, and followed him to his pasture.
- USFWS, OTP and HDR reviewed where the proposed corridor passes through the area and identified areas to avoid (hillsides) and where there were no concerns for pole placement (crowns of hilltops). Pole placement and route areas were discussed, and no concerns were noted from USFWS for the area as long as ground disturbances avoided hillsides and the Beaver Creek valley. Tops of hills were verified to be ok; OTP and HDR noted that the hilltops were preferred as well for engineering and constructability.
- Tenant voiced preference to have the line avoid his undisturbed pastureland.

From: Scheidecker, Kevin J. <kscheidecker@otpco.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 12:04 PM
To: Luke_toso@fws.gov
Cc: Peterson, Monica <Monica.Peterson@hdrinc.com>; Hanley, Jennifer <jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com>
Subject: JETx Project Meeting

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Luke,

My apologies for missing the meeting with you and your biologist last week at the Montpelier site. I had jury duty here in Fergus Falls and had been looking forward to conferring with you in the field. We appreciate your willingness to meet with all of us as we feel it allows for a much smoother and productive planning process when we engage agencies, the public and other stakeholders early on in the process. I hope we get an opportunity to meet in the future and I look forward to working with you.

Kevin Scheidecker
Senior Environmental Specialist
Environmental Services
Direct: 218-739-8773
kscheidecker@otpco.com

From: Scheidecker, Kevin J. <kscheidecker@otpco.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 2:28 PM
To: jacob_hourt@fws.gov
Cc: Peterson, Monica; Hanley, Jennifer
Subject: JETx Transmission Project
Attachments: 20230915_Preferred_Route.zip; 20230915_Route_Alternatives.zip

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Dear Jake,

My apologies for leaving you out of the loop on the planning stages of our new transmission line from Jamestown to Ellendale. A number of us met last week with Luke Toso at a site near Montpelier to take a look at some critical habitat areas and then Wayne Henderson attended our Edgeley open house where we talked about USFWS easements. He did mention that USFWS lands/easements in Stutsman County would be handled through your office at Chase Lake. Our goal is to avoid all USFWS easement wetlands and any other lands such as WPA's. I've attached some shape files showing our primary route and some route alternative if it helps you see what we are planning. The route is being adjusted regularly taking into consideration landowner comments and areas of avoidance/exclusion.

Please let us know if you have any questions. We are working closely with Montana-Dakota Utilities, who is our partner on this project as well as HDR who is our consultant working on the routing, permitting and environmental issues. You may have spoken with folks from HDR.

Hope to meet soon.

Kevin Scheidecker
Senior Environmental Specialist
Environmental Services
Direct: 218-739-8773
kscheidecker@otpco.com

From: Hanley, Jennifer <jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 3:06 PM
To: Scheidecker, Kevin J. <kscheidecker@otpco.com>; Toso, Luke B <luke_toso@fws.gov>
Cc: Peterson, Monica <monica.peterson@hdrinc.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: JETx Project Meeting

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Luke,

I've attached our notes from the field visit. Please let us know if there is anything you'd want added or amended.

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Toso, Luke B <luke_toso@fws.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 9:39 AM
To: Hanley, Jennifer; Scheidecker, Kevin J.
Cc: Peterson, Monica; Jones, Seth A
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: JETx Project Meeting
Attachments: USFWS-JETx-CumberlandFieldVisit-Notes_20230912.docx

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Good morning Jen-

Thanks for taking those notes! Looks good to me, though I'd like to offer just a little more detail on our thought process. The two hilltops we looked at didn't have all the requisite species to support the Dakota skipper, mainly because the habitat lacked flowers like purple coneflower (*Echincea angustifolia),* and the western hill in particular had significant encroachment form woody species. These factors combined to indicate the area was generally unsuitable. If the alignment were to shift, and the new route crossed hilltops that did contain both requisite bunchgrasses and flowers, we would recommend avoidance if possible.

Thanks!

Luke

Luke Toso
North Dakota Ecological Services Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Cell: 720-793-6797
Office Mailbox: NDFieldOffice@fws.gov

From: Scheidecker, Kevin J. <kscheidecker@otpco.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2023 9:59 AM
To: Henderson, Wayne <wayne_henderson@fws.gov>; Hourt, Jacob S <jacob_hourt@fws.gov>
Cc: Hanley, Jennifer <jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com>; Peterson, Monica <Monica.Peterson@hdrinc.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] USFWS Wetland Easements

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Good Morning,

I wanted to follow up on a discussion we had with Wayne during the week we had our public open houses for the JETx Project. We are making plans for the survey work we need to do for our routing of the transmission project. Delineations of the wetlands on USFWS easements are quite important so we can avoid any impacts to those wetlands. Wayne mentioned we could get copies of the data containing wetland boundaries on the pre-1976 easements. This would help us a great deal so I wanted to reach out to confirm that we can get those sometime soon to assist with our survey efforts. I think it would be best to send it to Jen with HDR as they would be working with the data.

I appreciate your time and assistance. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Kevin Scheidecker
Senior Environmental Specialist
Environmental Services
Direct: 218-739-8773
kscheidecker@otpco.com

From: Hourt, Jacob S <jacob_hourt@fws.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2023 10:11 AM
To: Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Henderson, Wayne
Cc: Hanley, Jennifer; Peterson, Monica
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] USFWS Wetland Easements
Attachments: Outlook-omreijkz; JETx_Stutsman_FWS_Pre76_Wetlands_09.28.23.zip

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

Hi Kevin,

Thank you for reaching out. We appreciate Otter Tail's commitment to avoiding Service interests and the proactive approach to this project through HDR. I have attached .shp files of our pre 1976 easement basins that fall within ½ mile of the most recent routes you have identified. As it sounds like you are aware, these data do not contain the post 1976 easement wetland boundaries. Please see the data sent prior for the easement parcel boundaries. We can work with you to flag the post 1976 wetland boundaries as the project progresses. Alternatively, we can approve the delineations completed by HDR as Jennifer proposed previously. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Jake Hourt
Refuge Manager
Chase Lake NWR/WMD
5924 19th St. SE
Woodworth, ND 58496
Office: (701) 752-4218 Ext. 1
Cell: (701)-269-0239

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

From: Hanley, Jennifer
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2024 11:45 AM
To: Jones, Seth A; Toso, Luke B
Cc: Flege, Adam; Robinson, Tina Fricke; Weiers, Jason; Langston, Todd; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Thoma, Mark; McDonald, Andy; Voth, Jaden; Peterson, Monica; Brazeal, Alex
Subject: JETx USFWS Meeting Summary_20240122
Attachments: JETx_Habitat-Eval-and-Survey-Plan_20240122.pdf

Luke/Seth,

Please find the JETx Species-specific Habitat Evaluation and Field Survey Plan and Reporting memo attached for your concurrence.

If you have any questions or want to discuss further, please let me know.

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
Environmental Project Manager

HDR
51 North Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
D 701.353.6139
jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 3:56 PM
To: Jones, Seth A <seth_jones@fws.gov>; Toso, Luke B <luke_toso@fws.gov>
Cc: Flege, Adam <Adam.Flege@hdrinc.com>; Robinson, Tina Fricke <Tina.Robinson@hdrinc.com>; Weiers, Jason <jweiers@otpco.com>; Langston, Todd <tlangston@otpco.com>; Scheidecker, Kevin J. <kscheidecker@otpco.com>; Thoma, Mark <mthoma@otpco.com>; McDonald, Andy <andy.mcdonald@mdu.com>; Voth, Jaden <jaden.voth@mdu.com>; Peterson, Monica <monica.peterson@hdrinc.com>; Brazeal, Alex <Alex.Brazeal@hdrinc.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: JETx USFWS Meeting Summary_20240122

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Luke/Seth,

Have you had an opportunity to review our plan. If you have any questions or comments, let me know! Otherwise we are looking for your concurrence on what we propose to do out on JETx this spring.

Thanks and have a great weekend!
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

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*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Jones, Seth A <seth_jones@fws.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 9:41 AM
To: Hanley, Jennifer
Cc: Toso, Luke B
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: JETx USFWS Meeting Summary_20240122

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Hi Jen,

Sorry for the late response as I have been at conferences and trainings the last few weeks. The habitat survey plan looks good from our perspective. I know we did not mention this is our last discussion but the only other thing I can think to potentially address for habitat surveys would be the regal fritillary. As you may know the species is currently under review for listing. We do not yet have indication of whether it will be listed or when the listing would take place if it is deemed warranted for listing but it is likely to occur in the area of the project. This would be more of a proactive and precautionary approach. The choice to include it in your survey plan is ultimately up to you and your team but I thought I would at least provide you with the information to allow you to make that choice.

The regal fritillary is more of a generalist when it comes to habitat during its adult life stage so habitat surveys already planned for the monarch would be sufficient with the addition of the documentation of violet species during those surveys as violets are necessary for regal fritillary egg laying and larvae feeding.

As mentioned the decision to include it is up to you and your team. If you do decide to include the species please let us know, but either way we believe the habitat survey plan is sufficient to address the habitat of listed species within the project area. If you have any questions about this information or want to discuss the topic further please let me know.

Best regards,

Seth A. Jones
Fish & Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
3425 Miriam Avenue
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501
Office: 701-355-8508
FWS Cell: 701-319-6284
seth_jones@fws.gov

Telephone Record

Date:	Monday, July 08, 2024		
Project:	Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV (JETx)		
Call to:	Jennifer Jewett, USFWS Chase Lake NWR/WMD and Wayne Henderson, USFWS Kulm WMD	Phone No:	701-752-4218 ext 1 701-647-2866
Call from:	Monica Peterson, HDR		
Subject:	USFWS Easement Metadata Clarification		

Discussion, Agreement, and/or Action:

Monica Peterson, Environmental Scientist with HDR Engineering, contacted Jennifer Jewett and Wayne Henderson of USFWS on Monday, June 8th, 2024 to clarify information in the USFWS easement metadata as provided to HDR for routing and siting of the JETx Project.

Both Jennifer and Wayne confirmed that the easements that state “wetland easement” in the INTTYP2 metadata are wetland easements despite the ORGNAME metadata stating “Waterfowl Production Area” in the name. Only if INTTYP2 has “fee” in the name are they waterfowl production areas. They both stated it was a common misunderstanding and were glad to clarify.

While Monica spoke with Jennifer Jewett, she stated that the previous contact the project team had with Chase Lake district office was Jake Hourt. Jennifer informed Monica that Jake was no longer with USFWS. Monica asked if Jennifer would need more information on the project including shapefiles and she concurred and would be appreciative if that information could be provided. Her email address is Jennifer_Jewett@fws.gov.

From: Scheidecker, Kevin J.
To: Henderson, Wayne; Jennifer_Jewett@fws.gov
Cc: Peterson, Monica; McDonald, Andy; Voth, Jaden; Thoma, Mark; Huck, Chelsea; Langston, Todd; Weiers, Jason; Hanley, Jennifer
Subject: JETx Shapefiles for USFWS Wetland Management Districts
Date: Friday, July 19, 2024 2:42:34 PM
Attachments: Outlook-hs3g3ibd.png
JETx_Proposed_Route_Alignment_20240719.zip

You don't often get email from kscheidecker@otpco.com. Learn why this is important

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Jennifer and Wayne,

We are getting closer to submitting the ND Public Service Commission Route Permit Application for the Jamestown to Ellendale 345 kV transmission line project. Attached is the proposed route as of today. We will be working to site any transmission structures outside of USFWS wetland easements.

We would be available to discuss the proposed route at any time if you would like.

Thanks,

Kevin Scheidecker
Senior Environmental Specialist
Environmental Services
Direct: 218-739-8773
kscheidecker@otpco.com

From:	Hanley, Jennifer
To:	Toso, Luke B; Jones, Seth A
Cc:	Brazeal, Alex; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Flege, Adam; Peterson, Monica; McDonald, Andy; Voth, Jaden; Huck, Chelsea
Subject:	JETx Status Update and Meeting Request_USFWS
Date:	Wednesday, August 14, 2024 12:50:41 PM

Good afternoon Luke/Seth,

I hope your summer has been going well. It started, I blinked and now we are preparing for back to school!

We are continuing to work on collecting field data and wrap up numerous items on the Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project. We are currently in the field collecting the last of the potential habitat surveys on property that we have right to enter.

Would you have time available either next week or the following week to discuss the following:

- We can provide a summary of our findings where we were able to survey (we have our draft report nearly ready and can hopefully get it to you prior to our meeting)
- Plan for survey on areas where we are still trying to get right of entry
- Mitigation plan for any temporary/permanent impacts to potential habitat

If you could provide me with some times that you are available over the next two weeks, I'll put something on our calendars.

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
Senior Environmental Project Manager

HDR
51 North Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
D 701.353.6139
jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Jones, Seth A
To: Hanley, Jennifer; Toso, Luke B
Cc: Brazeal, Alex; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Flege, Adam; Peterson, Monica; McDonald, Andy; Voth, Jaden; Huck, Chelsea
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] JETx Status Update and Meeting Request_USFWS
Date: Friday, August 23, 2024 10:32:22 AM

You don't often get email from seth_jones@fws.gov. Learn why this is important

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

Hey Jen,

Sorry for the late response, I have been out of the office most of the last two weeks. I think it would be pretty tough to find a time on our schedule next week but maybe the week after would be better. How long are you thinking we will need for the meeting as that will help me look through our schedules for appropriate time slots?

Thanks,

Seth A. Jones
Fish & Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
3425 Miriam Avenue
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501
Office: 701-355-8508
FWS Cell: 701-319-6284
seth_jones@fws.gov

From: Hanley, Jennifer
To: Jones, Seth A; Toso, Luke B
Cc: Brazeal, Alex; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Flege, Adam; Peterson, Monica; McDonald, Andy; Voth, Jaden; Huck, Chelsea
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] JETx Status Update and Meeting Request_USFWS
Date: Friday, August 23, 2024 10:36:46 AM

Thanks for the response Seth, it is definitely a busy time of year!

We can push out two weeks. We would be looking for 0.5-1 hr.

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Jones, Seth A <seth_jones@fws.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2024 9:31 AM
To: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Cc: Brazeal, Alex <Alex.Brazeal@hdrinc.com>; Toso, Luke B <luke_toso@fws.gov>; Scheidecker, Kevin J. <kscheidecker@otpco.com>; Flege, Adam <Adam.Flege@hdrinc.com>; Peterson, Monica <monica.peterson@hdrinc.com>; McDonald, Andy <andy.mcdonald@mdu.com>; Voth, Jaden <jaden.voth@mdu.com>; Huck, Chelsea <Chelsea.Huck@hdrinc.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] JETx Status Update and Meeting Request_USFWS

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

Jen,

It looks like the only times that align for us both next week are Wednesday, 9/4, 8am-9am or 12pm-2pm and Friday, 9/6, 8am-10am. Let us know if you have availability during any of those time frames.

Thanks,

Seth A. Jones
Fish & Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
3425 Miriam Avenue
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501
Office: 701-355-8508
FWS Cell: 701-319-6284
seth_jones@fws.gov

From: Hanley, Jennifer
To: Jones, Seth A
Cc: Brazeal, Alex; Toso, Luke B; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Flege, Adam; Peterson, Monica; McDonald, Andy; Voth, Jaden; Huck, Chelsea
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] JETx Status Update and Meeting Request_USFWS
Date: Thursday, August 29, 2024 8:59:29 AM

Thank you Seth!

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

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Meeting Summary

Project:	JETx
Subject:	USFWS Coordination
Date:	Wednesday, September 04, 2024
Location:	Virtual

Attendees:
Luke Toso, USFWS
Seth Jones, USFWS
Mark Thoma, OTP
Kevin Scheidecker, OTP
Andy McDonald, MDU
Jen Hanley, HDR
Monica Peterson, HDR
Alex Brazeal, HDR
Adam Flege, HDR

1. Introductions

2. Project status update

    - Project environmental surveys are nearing completion on the parcels we have right to enter. We are working on the reporting for field surveys. The line has been routed and pending any changes due to landowner negotiations, we have a route to submit to the PSC. We anticipate filing the PSC application in October.

3. Survey status update

    - We are nearing the end of where we have ROE. Six additional miles outside of native grasslands. Do not anticipate any surprises in the remainder of ROE areas.
    - 42 areas of suitable DASK habitat (areas where we may be close to the 250 meter buffer during the flight season - can get closer outside the flight season)
    - X acres suitable NLEB habitat
    - 13 areas of suitable Monarch
    - Sevenmile Coulee
        - Microsited on the east side of the coulee in more disturbed grasses
    - James River crossing
        - Areas where we can look to avoid
    - Beaver Creek
4. Piping Plover/Rufa Red Knot
    - No suitable habitat
5. Whooping Crane
    - Potentially suitable stop over habitat

6. USFWS will work with us on the buffer. Want to consider avoiding all reproductive (suitable – where species can go through it entire life cycle) habitat and dispersal habitat.

7. Report submittal timeline

    - T&E report will be sent in the next few weeks
    - PSC application plan is to submit in early October

8. Mitigation

    - DASK – avoid delineated reproductive habitat for construction activities not only during the flight season. Can drive near the habitat.
    - Whooping Crane Corridor – would like to mark the whole line but will accept key areas with good rational (2018 Neimuth model)
    - NELB – cut during off season, avoidance is the best during the active season, have conversation with USFWS if cutting needs to happen during the active season

9. Dakota Skipper - If a structure would be put into broken grasslands. If there is no survey, assume Take and would need to go through Section 10 of the ESA. Would take a long time to issue the permit (HCP), would need to do NEPA, tribal consultation. Avoid take, direct impact to reproductive habitat. Can do occupancy surveys to determine presence/absence surveys (June/July).
    - A year and a half process to go through Section 10
    - PSC application and USFWS process
        - If a structure is in an isolated habitat – minimal impact, can work through, can be in lock step with PSC
        - Contiguous habitat might take longer, does not see stopping the PSC process
        - USFWS does not see any major contiguous habitat in this area
            - One pole on the edge could make the argument that it is insignificant
        - Can a project move forward with an HCP review, USFWS will look into construction and whether it could move forward
10. Unsurveyed areas
    - Will look at the landscape, site specific, field perspective in native habitats
    - If report has unsurveyed areas, USFWS will look at it from a desktop perspective
        - Include a desktop perspective of the unsurveyed areas – here is what we looked at and how we evaluated it (not ag lands). Clearly identify what was field surveyed and desktop evaluated.
11. Regal Fritillary
    - Final rule August 2025

- Not protected but proposed, there will be guidance on how to look at species from USFWS

From: Hanley, Jennifer
To: Jones, Seth A; Toso, Luke B
Cc: Flege, Adam; Thoma, Mark; Brazeal, Alex; Peterson, Monica; McDonald, Andy; Voth, Jaden; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Huck, Chelsea
Subject: JETx USFWS Coordination Meeting Summary 20240904
Date: Friday, September 13, 2024 3:51:20 PM
Attachments: 20240904_USFWS-JETx-Meeting Summary.pdf

Seth/Luke,

Thanks for meeting with us last week. The meeting summary is attached. Please let me know if you have an edits or comments.

Have a nice weekend,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
Senior Environmental Project Manager

HDR
51 North Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
D 701.353.6139
jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Hanley, Jennifer <jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2024 10:34 AM
To: Henderson, Wayne <wayne_henderson@fws.gov>; Jennifer_Jewett@fws.gov
Cc: Peterson, Monica <monica.peterson@hdrinc.com>; McDonald, Andy <andy.mcdonald@mdu.com>; Voth, Jaden <jaden.voth@mdu.com>; Thoma, Mark <mthoma@otpco.com>; Langston, Todd <tlangston@otpco.com>; Weiers, Jason <jweiers@otpco.com>; Scheidecker, Kevin J. <kscheidecker@otpco.com>
Subject: JETx Shapefiles for USFWS Wetland Management Districts_20241202

Wayne/Jennifer,

We wanted to provide you with an update since our last set of shapefiles for the Jamestown to Ellendale 345 kV transmission line were sent in July. We have recently received approval of the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) from the North Dakota Public Service Commission (ND PSC). The next step in the process is for our team to submit a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit application which will show the ND PSC where we propose to build the transmission line. The attached files identify the route that we are planning to include in our permit application. There is a wider area just north of the James River where we are still working out details. Our preliminary design places transmission structures outside of USFWS protected wetlands.

Please review the attached information and let us know if any new easements have been obtained by USFWS since the last sent of information was shared with us. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in more detail, we are available to come and meet with you. It has been awhile since we've last touched base and we have not yet met Jennifer!

Thanks for your continued collaboration on this project.

Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

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Outlook

Re: [EXTERNAL] JETx Shapefiles for USFWS Wetland Management Districts_20241202

From Henderson, Wayne <wayne_henderson@fws.gov>
Date Tue 12/3/2024 1:30 PM
To Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Cc Peterson, Monica <Monica.Peterson@hdrinc.com>; McDonald, Andy <andy.mcdonald@mdu.com>; Voth, Jaden <jaden.voth@mdu.com>; Thoma, Mark <mthoma@otpco.com>; Langston, Todd <tlangston@otpco.com>; Weiers, Jason <jweiers@otpco.com>; Scheidecker, Kevin J. <kscheidecker@otpco.com>

You don't often get email from wayne_henderson@fws.gov. Learn why this is important

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Jennifer,

I am retiring at the end of the year and will be on leave until then. The contract for the Kulm Wetland Management District will be Krista Lundgren. she can be reached at Krista_Lundgren@fws.gov or 701-647-2866.

Thanks

Wayne A. Henderson
Wetland District Manager
Kulm Wetland Management District
701-647-2866

Outlook

FW: JETx Shapefiles for USFWS Wetland Management Districts_20241202

From Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Date Tue 12/3/2024 2:00 PM
To krista_lundgren@fws.gov <krista_lundgren@fws.gov>
Cc Peterson, Monica <Monica.Peterson@hdrinc.com>; McDonald, Andy <andy.mcdonald@mdu.com>; Voth, Jaden <jaden.voth@mdu.com>; Thoma, Mark <mthoma@otpco.com>; Langston, Todd <tlangston@otpco.com>; Weiers, Jason <jweiers@otpco.com>; Scheidecker, Kevin J. <kscheidecker@otpco.com>; Henderson, Wayne <wayne_henderson@fws.gov>

2 attachments (75 KB)
JETx_Route_ROW_FlexArea_20241202.kmz; JETx_Route_ROW_FlexArea_20241202.zip;

Good afternoon Krista,

We have been working with Wayne Henderson on routing the Jamestown to Ellendale 345 kV transmission line and he just let me know that he is retiring. Attached you will find our proposed route as of 12/2/24. We have received wetland easements from Wayne in the past. We are not placing any transmission structures in a protected wetland but we will have some wetland easements crossed by the project.

Have any new easements been secured in the project area in the past 12 months?

Since you may be new to our project, would you like to meet with us to get an overview of the project and our current status and timeline?

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

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*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Lundgren, Krista <Krista_Lundgren@fws.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 5, 2024 8:42 AM
To: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Cc: Peterson, Monica <monica.peterson@hdrinc.com>; McDonald, Andy <andy.mcdonald@mdu.com>; Voth, Jaden <jaden.voth@mdu.com>; Thoma, Mark <mthoma@otpco.com>; Langston, Todd <tlangston@otpco.com>; Weiers, Jason <jweiers@otpco.com>; Scheidecker, Kevin J. <kscheidecker@otpco.com>; Henderson, Wayne <wayne_henderson@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: JETx Shapefiles for USFWS Wetland Management Districts_20241202

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Jen,

Thank you for reaching out to me directly. I have reviewed the most recent route you shared, and I have one additional wetland easement from this past year to add to what we originally shared. I have attached that shapefile.

I am grateful for your offer to meet and get up-to-speed on the project. Since you are planning to avoid all protected wetland basins, I may have a fairly limited role. I will plan to get additional information from Wayne in the coming weeks, and I will reach back out to you about a meeting.

Please keep me in the loop and let me know if you have any questions,

Krista Lundgren (she/her)

Wildlife Refuge Specialist
Kulm Wetland Management District
One 1st Street SW | P.O. Box E
Kulm, North Dakota 58456
701-647-2866 | 701-830-0138 (cell)
www.fws.gov/refuge/kulm-wetland-management-district/
krista_lundgren@fws.gov

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

Outlook

RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: JETx Shapefiles for USFWS Wetland Management Districts_20241202

From Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Date Thu 12/5/2024 9:58 AM
To Lundgren, Krista <Krista_Lundgren@fws.gov>
Cc Peterson, Monica <Monica.Peterson@hdrinc.com>; McDonald, Andy <andy.mcdonald@mdu.com>; Voth, Jaden <jaden.voth@mdu.com>; Thoma, Mark <mthoma@otpco.com>; Langston, Todd <tlangston@otpco.com>; Weiers, Jason <jweiers@otpco.com>; Scheidecker, Kevin J. <kscheidecker@otpco.com>; Henderson, Wayne <wayne_henderson@fws.gov>

Thank you Krista!

We'll get this easement added to our project data and check our structure locations in this area.

I'll also check in with Chase Lake WMD and get back to you about potential meeting times.

Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2024 2:47 PM
To: Jones, Seth A <seth_jones@fws.gov>; Toso, Luke B <luke_toso@fws.gov>
Cc: Scheidecker, Kevin J. <kscheidecker@otpco.com>; Thoma, Mark <mthoma@otpco.com>; McDonald, Andy <andy.mcdonald@mdu.com>; Voth, Jaden <jaden.voth@mdu.com>; Weiers, Jason <jweiers@otpco.com>; Langston, Todd <tlangston@otpco.com>; Brazeal, Alex <Alex.Brazeal@hdrinc.com>; Peterson, Monica <monica.peterson@hdrinc.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] JETx Transmission Line USFWS Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat Evaluation Report

Seth/Luke,

Please find attached a cover letter and our Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat Evaluation Report for the Jamestown to Ellendale 345 kV transmission line project (JETx). As discussed our report is a combination of field survey and desktop evaluation where we did not have right of entry.

Please reach out if you have any questions or comments and we look forward to discussing the report with you once you've had a chance to review.

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
Senior Environmental Project Manager

HDR
51 North Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
D 701.353.6139
jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Jones, Seth A <seth_jones@fws.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2024 2:56 PM
To: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Cc: Toso, Luke B <luke_toso@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] JETx Transmission Line USFWS Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat Evaluation Report

Hi Jen,

I actually moved over to our Michigan Field Office recently so I will no longer be the point of contact for this project. I am sure Luke will let you know whether he or someone else in the ND office will take point on Project from here. I hope project planning is going well and it was great working with you on this.

Best regards,
Seth Jones

From: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2024 8:50 AM
To: Toso, Luke B <luke_toso@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] JETx Follow Up

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Good morning Luke!

I just want to touch base to make sure you got the Habitat Report that I sent for JETx last week. Seth emailed me to let me know that he is now in Michigan. Is there anyone else you'd like me to include?

Happy holidays!
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
Senior Environmental Project Manager

HDR
51 North Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
D 701.353.6139
jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Toso, Luke B <luke_toso@fws.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2024 4:08 PM
To: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] JETx Follow Up

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

Thanks for following up Jen! I got the report and in the que for assignment. Will circle back with you soon if we have any comments on the report. Thanks!

Luke

Luke Toso

Deputy Field Supervisor

North Dakota Ecological Services

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Cell: 720-793-6797

From: Hanley, Jennifer
To: Jennifer_Jewett@fws.gov
Cc: Peterson, Monica; Scheidecker, Kevin J.
Subject: FW: JETx Shapefiles for USFWS Wetland Management Districts_20241202
Date: Thursday, January 2, 2025 2:17:55 PM
Attachments: image001.png
JETx_Route_ROW_FlexArea_20241202.kmz
JETx_Route_ROW_FlexArea_20241202.zip

Jennifer,

I'm pulling this back to the top of your inbox. I had reached out about a month ago to share some routing information with you and to see if USFWS has obtained any new wetland easements in the project area in Stutsman County. Would you be able to take a look and let me know if we have anything new that we need to avoid?

We'd also like to take the time to meet with you and Krista Lundgren (Kulm) to discuss the project and answer any questions you may have. Would you have availability later in the month?

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Jewett, Jennifer
To: Hanley, Jennifer
Cc: Peterson, Monica; Scheidecker, Kevin J.
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: JETx Shapefiles for USFWS Wetland Management Districts_20241202
Date: Friday, January 3, 2025 9:49:09 AM
Attachments: image001.png
Outlook-4tzi5kyq.png
Outlook-km22zqqj.png

You don't often get email from jennifer_jewett@fws.gov. Learn why this is important

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Good Morning,

Thanks for checking in. Our staff looked at the most recent shapefile and it currently does not intersect any current or in process easements at this time. It does however skirt the boundary of some easements.

I have some availability to meet the wee of the 13th or the week of the 27th. Thanks.

Jennifer Jewett, Wildlife Refuge Specialist

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Refuge System
Chase Lake Wetland Mgmt. District & Refuge
5924 19th St SE, Woodworth, ND 58496
Office: (701) 752-4218, ext 2
Cell: (701) 339-2335

From: Hanley, Jennifer
To: Toso, Luke B
Cc: Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Peterson, Monica
Subject: JETx Follow Up
Date: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 10:45:46 AM

Luke,

I hope you and your team had a great holiday! I am following up on the JETx habitat report. We are hoping to file with the PSC in early February and would like to incorporate any feedback into our application. Also, we'd like the opportunity to meet with you/your new assigned staff virtually to go over any remaining concerns or requests prior to the filing. We could get something scheduled sometime between 1/21-1/31. Let me know what looks available on your end.

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

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*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

Meeting Summary

Project:	JETx
Subject:	USFWS Coordination
Date:	Wednesday, January 22, 2025
Location:	Virtual

Attendees:

Luke Toso, USFWS
Jessica Johnson, USFWS

Mark Thoma, OTP
Kevin Scheidecker, OTP
A-In Kim, OTP

Andy McDonald, MDU
Jaden Voth, MDU

Jen Hanley, HDR
Monica Peterson, HDR
Alex Brazeal, HDR

1. Introductions

2. Project status update

   - Last met in September while the team was still working on ROE. Team still does not have ROE for 100% of the route. Survey was completed where ROE was granted, and desktop assessments were completed for the remaining portion of the line
   - Currently, cultural reporting is in progress and the target filing date of the application is 2/14/2025
   - T&E Habitat Survey Report was submitted for USFWS review in December

3. Survey Report Discussion
   - USFWS Comments on Report
     - Luke Toso's asked if the Project Team would like their comment response letter prior to the submission of the route permit application to the PSC.
     - The Team responded if there are no surprises and USFWS needs the time to develop them, waiting until after filing for their comments is fine. However, team would like to know if there are any specific comments that they should be aware of.
     - USFWS will work towards providing a letter with formal comments but based on conversation of the anticipated filing date, it will be after the filing that the comments are submitted.
   - Report addresses a survey area, the route and right-of-way that will be in the application is 150 feet wide. The route may have a few micro-shifts as the application proceeds, but as those shifts occur, the same strategy of avoiding impacts to T&E habitat will be adhered to.

- Alex Brazeal (HDR) recapped the results numbers of the survey for NLEB, Dakota Skipper, Monarch, Whooping Crane, Rufa red knot, and Piping Plover.
- The grouped reviewed the area around structures 140-141 that showed DASK habitat suitability from desktop data that did not get a field survey yet. Team did what they could to microsite outside of the polygon feature of potential skipper habitat but it does skirt the edge of the polygon.
- Habitat is in the corridor but direct effects have been avoided with micrositing and spanning.
- Approximately 20% of route still has no Right of Entry.
- Whooping Crane
  - Two methods were used- probability model and decile model
  - Relied more on the decile model and paired it with a near analysis for the report (Deciles 1-4 with near analysis)
  - Desktop that relied on unbroken grasslands and habitat probability layers
- Line marking plan will be developed that will be backed by analysis. Explain exception areas. Will be developed prior to construction.
- Route Permit Application changes the recommendations that were in the habitat report from “should” to “will” and BMPs are identified.

Action Item:

- HDR to Send most current shapefiles

From: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 1:02 PM
To: Lundgren, Krista <Krista_Lundgren@fws.gov>
Cc: Peterson, Monica <monica.peterson@hdrinc.com>; Scheidecker, Kevin J. <kscheidecker@otpco.com>; jordan.britz@powereng.com; zach.merrick@powereng.com
Subject: JETx USFWS Easement Provided December 2024 Question

Krista,

We have added the new easement data provided last month, 12/5/2024, to our maps and would like to discuss a wetland within that easement that we've identified through field delineations conducted in 2024. We have delineated a wetland approximately 25 feet south of where we are looking to construct tower 204 (see attached map and the .kmz). This structure will be an angle structure so it will be larger than our typical structure (appx 10 feet in diameter) and, because of its angle, it will require additional temporary work space around it for wire stringing support. Based on aerial imagery, the wetland near this structure currently is and has been farmed in wet and dry years. We are emailing to inquire about using equipment over the wetland boundaries while it is either dry or frozen, along with matting, to mitigate any potential temporary impacts. We would not be looking to do ground disturbance.

What steps would we need to take?

I would be available for a call to discuss this area and can pull our engineers in if you'd like to talk through what work would look like.

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

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*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 12:10 PM
To: Toso, Luke B <luke_toso@fws.gov>; Johnson, Jessica N <jessica_n_johnson@fws.gov>
Cc: McDonald, Andy <andy.mcdonald@mdu.com>; Thoma, Mark <mthoma@otpco.com>; Kim, A-In <akim@otpco.com>; Voth, Jaden <jaden.voth@mdu.com>; Brazeal, Alex <Alex.Brazeal@hdrinc.com>; Scheidecker, Kevin J. <kscheidecker@otpco.com>; Peterson, Monica <monica.peterson@hdrinc.com>; Langston, Todd <tlangston@otpco.com>; Weiers, Jason <jweiers@otpco.com>
Subject: JETx USFWS T&E Habitat Report Follow Up Meeting Summary_20250122

Luke/Jessica,

Thank you again for taking the time to meet with us and for engaging in the Jamestown to Ellendale transmission line project.

Please find our meeting summary from our meeting.

We've also included shapefiles of the 150-ft right of way we will be proposing to the PSC, the centerline of the route and proposed structure locations. We are continuing to engage with landowners and the information in this shapefile may change until we get all land rights secured, we are approximately 65% secured.

If you have any questions or comments, please let me know.

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
Senior Environmental Project Manager

HDR
51 North Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
D 701.353.6139
jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Hanley, Jennifer
To: Lundgren, Krista
Cc: Peterson, Monica; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Britz, Jordan; Merrick, Zach
Subject: RE: JETx USFWS Easement Provided December 2024 Question
Date: Thursday, January 30, 2025 12:39:50 PM
Attachments: USFWS_Wetlands.pdf
JETx_USFWS_STR_204_400kV_DC_Xing.kmz

Good afternoon Krista,

I am pulling this to the top of your inbox. Have you had an opportunity to review this area? Let me know if you'd like to get on a call to talk through any of it.

Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

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*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Lundgren, Krista <Krista_Lundgren@fws.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2025 2:30 PM
To: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Cc: Peterson, Monica <monica.peterson@hdrinc.com>; Scheidecker, Kevin J. <kscheidecker@otpco.com>; Britz, Jordan <Jordan.britz@powereng.com>; Merrick, Zach <zach.merrick@powereng.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: JETx USFWS Easement Provided December 2024 Question

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Hi Jen,

I have not taken a look at this yet. I will pull it up tomorrow or Monday and get back to you.

Krista Lundgren

Wildlife Refuge Specialist
Kulm Wetland Management District
One 1st Street SW | P.O. Box E
Kulm, North Dakota 58456
701-647-2866 | 701-830-0138 (cell)
www.fws.gov/refuge/kulm-wetland-management-district/

From: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2025 4:03 PM
To: Lundgren, Krista <Krista_Lundgren@fws.gov>
Cc: Peterson, Monica <monica.peterson@hdrinc.com>; Scheidecker, Kevin J. <kscheidecker@otpco.com>; Britz, Jordan <Jordan.britz@powereng.com>; Merrick, Zach <zach.merrick@powereng.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: JETx USFWS Easement Provided December 2024 Question

Thank you!

We'll check in next week.

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Lundgren, Krista
To: Hanley, Jennifer
Cc: Peterson, Monica; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Britz, Jordan; Merrick, Zach
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: JETx USFWS Easement Provided December 2024 Question
Date: Friday, January 31, 2025 1:11:42 PM
Attachments: image001.png
Outlook-hozyo2ms.png
Tower204_LA520X,1_ScreenCapture.JPG
Tower204_LA520X,1_ScreenCapture_NAIP2022.JPG

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Jennifer,

Thank you so much for the .kmz file. I've attached screenshots I took. For this particular FWS easement, the areas in bolder blue are the *approximate* locations and shapes of the protected wetland areas. I've numbered 4 of them that are near your work area for convenience in referencing them.

These wetland easements restrict "draining, causing or permitting the draining by construction of ditches, or by any means, direct or indirect, whether through the transfer of appurtenant water rights or otherwise, of any surface waters in or appurtenant to these wetland areas delineated on Exhibit A; ...filling, causing or permitting the filling in with earth or any other material or leveling, causing or permitting the leveling of any part or portion of said delineated wetland areas; and ... burning, causing or permitting the burning of any wetland vegetation on any part or portion of said delineated wetland areas."

Here are my initial comments and questions.

1. It appears that the wetland delineated on your ground surveys (25' south of the tower) may not be a wetland that is covered by the USFWS easement.
2. Wetland #3 is a protected wetland basin in the "work area" from the file you shared.
3. The easement conveyance does not restrict traversing through or in wetland boundaries—especially when they are dry or frozen. The care you are talking about exercising regarding wetland easement ground disturbance is appreciated. When an activity is not restricted, no permit is necessary from my office.
4. Will there be a chance of any dirt or fill placed in any of the USFWS protected wetland areas or any sort of temporary pumping or water removal? This could include for tower site 203 or any anchors that could be placed in a protected

wetland area.

Now that I've taken a look at the project area, I'm available if you have any follow-up questions. I will also make myself available to visit the site if there are any questions about FWS wetland locations.

Krista Lundgren

Wildlife Refuge Specialist
Kulm Wetland Management District
One 1st Street SW | P.O. Box E
Kulm, North Dakota 58456
701-647-2866 | 701-830-0138 (cell)
www.fws.gov/refuge/kulm-wetland-management-district/



From: Peterson, Monica
To: Jewett, Jennifer
Cc: Hanley, Jennifer; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Britz, Jordan
Subject: JETx - Wetland Easement Area for Potential Laydown Yard
Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 2:58:00 PM
Attachments: Laydown Yard #1.kmz
ESMT_USF&W WATEROWL MGMT DOC 1199191.pdf
JETx Northern Laydown Yard_250203.pdf

Hi Jennifer,
The JETx project team is currently reviewing areas for laydown yards. We are looking at the area show in the attached .kmz as a potential temporary laydown yard in Stutsman County, just south of Spiritwood. In communications with the landowner they provided the attached easement document showing there is a wetland easement on this property. Based on the maps in the easement and aerial imagery, the engineering team has drafted the also attached plan sheet with a 50' buffer around those identified wetlands.

We were wondering if you either had spatial data for the wetlands on that easement that we can update the our maps with or, do our is the attached sufficient for avoiding protected wetlands on that easement? Let us know if there are any concerns for moving this laydown yard forward with you and your team. Thanks,

Monica Peterson
Environmental Project Manager

HDR
1670 Broadway, Suite 3400
Denver, CO 80202-4824
M 515.451.1460
Monica.Peterson@hdrinc.com

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From: Jewett, Jennifer <Jennifer_Jewett@fws.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2025 1:44 PM
To: Peterson, Monica
Cc: Hanley, Jennifer; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Britz, Jordan
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] JETx - Wetland Easement Area for Potential Laydown Yard
Attachments: Stuts 656X, 1-4 Contract.pdf; Stuts 656X, 1-4 Maps.pdf; S656X,1-4 protected basins.lyrx

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Good Afternoon,

Thank you for the included attachments and information regarding the Potential Laydown Yard plan. I have attached the easement contract and maps as well, along with a shapefile of the protected wetland basins for this particular easement.

Based on the JETx Northern Laydown Yard schematic diagram, the plans as shown in this document indicate no impact to protected U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) wetland basins as long as silt buffer fence is wholly maintained throughout the life of laydown yard. Any draining or filling of protected wetland basins in or near the laydown yard, and as indicated on easement contract maps, would put the easement contract out of compliance, as well as the landowner.

No permitting by the FWS is required for this project at this time. However, if any plans change, please communicate with us to review new plans to verify FWS protected wetland basin impacts.

In addition, I will share (or re-share) FWS public open data link show all FWS easement contract boundaries currently published. The FWS Easement acquisition program is ongoing and new easements are always being added. I recommend in addition to using this open data site, to always reach out to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff to verify project impacts to FWS easements, and to request any information regarding individual protected wetland basins.

https://gis-fws.opendata.arcgis.com/



US Fish and Wildlife Service Open Data

Welcome to the FWS Open Data Portal. This site will be the source for all our Authoritative and Publicly shared content. Our hope is to provide data and information to assist with conservation nationwide.

gis-fws.opendata.arcgis.com

Thank you very much for you proactiveness regarding continued protection of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conservation easements. Look forward to working with you throughout this project.

Jennifer Jewett, Wildlife Refuge Specialist

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Refuge System
Chase Lake Wetland Mgmt. District & Refuge
5924 19th St SE, Woodworth, ND 58496
Office: (701) 752-4218, ext 2
Cell: (701) 339-2335



From: Peterson, Monica <Monica.Peterson@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2025 8:38 AM
To: Jewett, Jennifer <Jennifer_Jewett@fws.gov>
Cc: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>; Scheidecker, Kevin J. <kscheidecker@otpco.com>; Britz, Jordan <Jordan.britz@powereng.com>; Hellman, Joshua <Joshua.Hellman@hdrinc.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] JETx - Wetland Easement Area for Potential Laydown Yard

Good Morning Jennifer,
Unfortunately the .lyrx file doesn't contain data on it, only the symbology. Do you have shapefiles or kmz's you can provide at all with location data?

Monica Peterson
M 515-451-1460

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From: Jewett, Jennifer <Jennifer_Jewett@fws.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2025 8:16 AM
To: Peterson, Monica
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] JETx - Wetland Easement Area for Potential Laydown Yard
Attachments: 656X,1-4 protected basins.zip

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Jennifer Jewett, Wildlife Refuge Specialist

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Refuge System
Chase Lake Wetland Mgmt. District & Refuge
5924 19th St SE, Woodworth, ND 58496
Office: (701) 752-4218, ext 2
Cell: (701) 339-2335



From: Hanley, Jennifer
To: Lundgren, Krista; Jennifer_Jewett@fws.gov
Cc: Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Langston, Todd; Weiers, Jason; Peterson, Monica
Subject: JETx USFWS Wetland Management District Meeting
Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2025 2:41:25 PM

Krista/Jennifer,

Thank you both for continuing to engage with the Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line projects. If you are available, some members of our Otter Tail Power Company/Montana Dakota Utilities team would like to offer some time in March to come meet with you in person/virtually to discuss the project and introduce you to our project team. We can give you a status update of the route permit application that is being submitted to the ND Public Service Commission and we can hear from you the things that are important for you to engage in as this project goes through permitting and ultimately construction.

We have the following days available between 10am-2pm to meet at the Otter Tail Power Customer Service Center in Jamestown (or one of your locations if it is easier for you):

- Tuesday, March 18
- Thursday, March 20
- Friday, March 21

We could assume an hour meeting time during the 10am-2pm window.

Please let me know if any of these days work and we will get something scheduled.

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
Senior Environmental Project Manager

HDR
51 North Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
D 701.353.6139
jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Hanley, Jennifer
To: Jewett, Jennifer; Peterson, Monica
Cc: Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Britz, Jordan
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] JETx - Wetland Easement Area for Potential Laydown Yard
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 10:01:02 AM

Jennifer,

Is there a minimum buffer that USFWS requires around the protected wetlands? We drew them in at 50ft but also want to make sure we can maximize useable space while protecting the wetland.

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

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*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Jewett, Jennifer <Jennifer_Jewett@fws.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 11:32 AM
To: Hanley, Jennifer; Peterson, Monica
Cc: Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Britz, Jordan
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] JETx - Wetland Easement Area for Potential Laydown Yard

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There is no minimum buffer that applies to all U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service protected wetlands. The minimum buffer would vary for each situation. A site visit can be completed to decide if the buffer can be reduced at all.

Jennifer Jewett, Wildlife Refuge Specialist

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Refuge System
Chase Lake Wetland Mgmt. District & Refuge
5924 19th St SE, Woodworth, ND 58496
Office: (701) 752-4218, ext 2
Cell: (701) 339-2335



From: Hanley, Jennifer
To: Jennifer_Jewett@fws.gov; Lundgren, Krista
Cc: McDonald, Andy; Voth, Jaden; Weiers, Jason; Langston, Todd; Peterson, Monica; Thoma, Mark; Brazeal, Alex; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Burke, Kevin
Subject: JETx USFWS WMD Project Update and Coordination Meeting Summary_20250320
Date: Monday, March 24, 2025 12:19:08 PM
Attachments: JETx_Proposed_Structures.zip
JETx_Proposed_Route.zip
JETx_Corridor.zip
JETx_150ft_ROW.zip
Delineated_Wetlands_USFWS_Wetlands.zip
20250320_USFWS-WMD-Project-Update-JETx.pdf

Jennifer/Krista,

Thank you again for meeting with us last Wednesday. I've attached the meeting summary (with presentation) and the shapefiles of our proposed route as of today, the delineated wetland boundaries (desktop/field) on USFWS easements, and the preliminary structure locations. Please remember that the structure location is considered preliminary as we still have approximately 33% of the right of way to secure.

If you have the post-1976 boundaries or any new easements that you could share, that would be helpful.

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
Senior Environmental Project Manager

HDR
51 North Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
D 701.353.6139
jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

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*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

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JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

Jamestown to Ellendale

345-kV Transmission Line

OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY

MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
A Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.

Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO)

Long Range Transmission Plan

MISO has approved 18 new transmission projects throughout the Midwest in Tranche 1 that are needed in 2030 to ensure a **reliable** and **resilient** transmission system in the future.

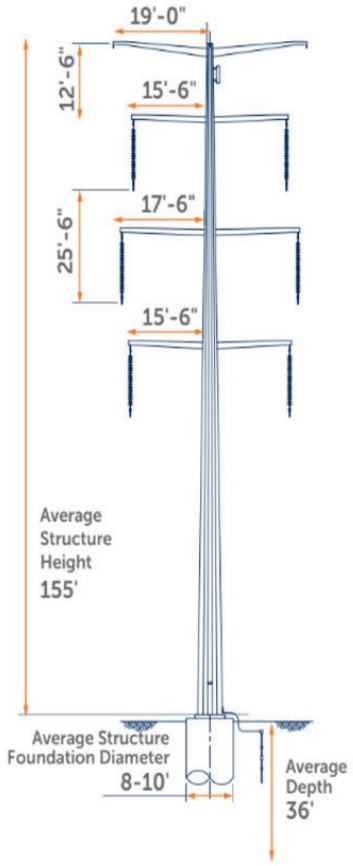


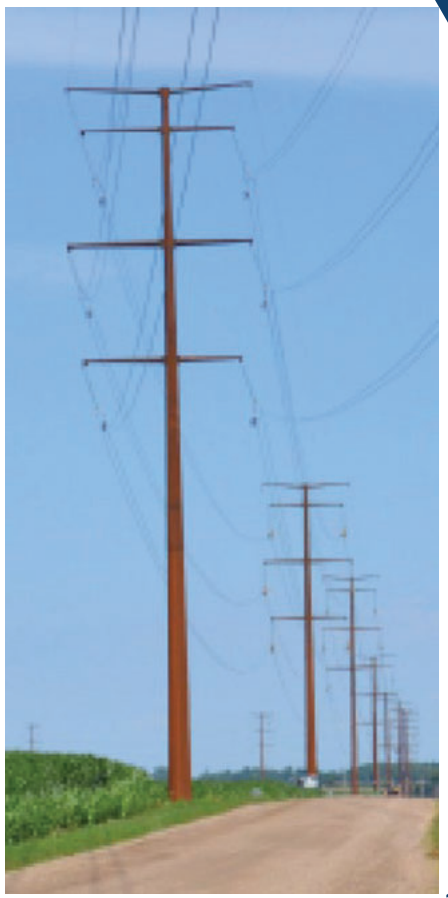
Project Component	Ownership
Jamestown Substation	OTP
Jamestown - Ellendale 345 kV Line	OTP, MDU
Ellendale Substation	MDU
Maple River Substation	OTP
Twin Brooks Substation	OTP, MDU

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

Project Details

- Approximately 92 miles long
- Anticipated Typical Structure
  - **Double circuit capable**
    - One circuit installed initially
  - **Self –Supporting Steel monopole**
    - No guy wires
  - **Self-weathering Corten Steel**
  - **Concrete foundations**
    - Diameter: 7’ to 14’ (8’-10’ Average)
    - Depth: 25’ to 80’ (36’ Average)
  - **Structure Height**
    - Above ground: 120’ to 180’ (Average 155’)
  - **Structure Distance apart**
  - 4-6 Structures per mile (1,050’ average)





JETx Jamestown to Ellendale

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Environmental Surveying

- Wetland Delineations
  - A combination of desktop and field delineations were completed in 2024.
  - USACE has completed a jurisdictional determination.
  - USFWS has provided wetland easements/boundaries.
  - All USFWS wetland easement impacts are being avoided.

- T&E Species Habitat
  - A combination of desktop and field delineations for NLEB, DASK, and Whooping Crane suitable habitat were completed in 2024
  - Structures were sited to avoid reproductive habitat for DASK
  - Tree removal will be done outside of the summer roosting period for NLEB
  - Line marking plan will be developed in prime locations for WC stopover areas

- Migratory Nesting Birds
  - Will be completed during active construction during the nesting period
  - Temporary impacts to migratory birds will be limited to construction activities
  - Construction activities will not commence within a minimum buffer around the active nest

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

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Environmental Surveying

- Eagle Stick Nests
  - 1st survey completed in 2023 with 2nd survey to be done prior to construction
  - No significant impacts to eagle and large stick nests are anticipated due to corridor siting
- Sharp-tailed Grouse Leks
  - 1st survey completed in 2024 with 2nd survey to be done prior to construction
  - Permanent and temporary impacts to grasslands suitable for STG nesting habitat will be minimal
  - Seasonal construction restrictions will be put in place during active lekking times
- Cultural Resources
  - Class I and III surveys completed for route corridor including LIDAR analysis
  - Field surveying was done in 2024 with the assistance of Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribe
  - Cultural resources will be avoided
  - All sites will have a buffer placed around them and Tribal monitors will be used during construction

JETx Jamestown to Ellendale

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Construction Overview

The construction process will include:

1. Survey and staking
2. Temporary access roads
3. Foundation excavation and installation;
4. Structure setting
5. Conductor stringing and clipping
6. Restoration and reseeding.



Surveying



Temporary Access



Foundation Drilling & Pouring



Structure Setting



Conductor Stringing



Restoration

JETx Jamestown to Ellendale

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JETx Preliminary Project Timeline

2023: 1st Half
- Define Study Area
- Develop Corridors
- Public Meeting #1
- Landowner Outreach

2024: 1st Half
- Start Securing Land Rights
- Submitted CPCN to ND PSC

2025: 1st Half
- Public Hearing(s)

2026 1st Half
- Start Construction

1st Half	2nd Half	1st Half	2nd Half	1st Half	2nd Half	1st Half	2nd Half	1st Half	2nd Half	1st Half	2nd Half
2023		2024		2025		2026		2027		2028	

2023: 2nd Half
- Develop Routes
- Public Meeting #2
- Landowner Outreach
- Identify Preferred Route
- Surveys

2025: 1st Half
- Route Permit Submit to ND PSC

2026: 1st Half
- Receive ND Route Permit

2028: 2nd Half
- Finish Construction
- Energization
- Restoration



We Are Here!

JETx Jamestown to Ellendale

Current and Next Steps

- Currently conducting geotechnical work at each proposed structure location
- Plan to submit route permit application to Public Service Commission in Q2 of 2025
- Continue working to obtain ROE/Easement Options/Easements
- Working on detailed design and identifying temporary construction work spaces (laydown yards, access roads, etc)

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

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Jamestown to Ellendale

Questions?

Resources:

Website: www.JamestowntoEllendale.com

Email: connect@jamestowntoellendale.com

Hotline: (888) 794-6243

From:	Hanley, Jennifer
To:	Jennifer_Jewett@fws.gov; Lundgren, Krista
Cc:	McDonald, Andy; Voth, Jaden; Weiers, Jason; Langston, Todd; Peterson, Monica; Thoma, Mark; Brazeal, Alex; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Burke, Kevin
Subject:	JETx USFWS WMD Project Update and Coordination Meeting Summary_20250320
Date:	Monday, March 24, 2025 12:19:08 PM
Attachments:	JETx_Proposed_Structures.zip JETx_Proposed_Route.zip JETx_Corridor.zip JETx_150ft_ROW.zip Delineated_Wetlands_USFWS_Wetlands.zip 20250320_USFWS-WMD-Project-Update-JETx.pdf

Jennifer/Krista,

Thank you again for meeting with us last Wednesday. I've attached the meeting summary (with presentation) and the shapefiles of our proposed route as of today, the delineated wetland boundaries (desktop/field) on USFWS easements, and the preliminary structure locations. Please remember that the structure location is considered preliminary as we still have approximately 33% of the right of way to secure.

If you have the post-1976 boundaries or any new easements that you could share, that would be helpful.

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
Senior Environmental Project Manager

HDR
51 North Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
D 701.353.6139
jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Lundgren, Krista
To: Hanley, Jennifer
Cc: Jewett, Jennifer; McDonald, Andy; Voth, Jaden; Weiers, Jason; Langston, Todd; Peterson, Monica; Thoma, Mark; Brazeal, Alex; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Burke, Kevin
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] JETx USFWS WMD Project Update and Coordination Meeting Summary_20250320
Date: Thursday, April 3, 2025 1:48:40 PM
Attachments: Outlook-o0iqztfd.png
20250403_USFWS_wetlands_Kulm.zip

You don't often get email from krista_lundgren@fws.gov. Learn why this is important

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

Jennifer,

Thank you for providing the most recent JETx plans. Please find a shapefile with easement tract boundaries and protected wetland areas for LaMoure and Dickey counties along the current route.

These shapefiles are projected in NAD 83 UTM Zone 14N. They can be symbolized using the "Pre76" attribute heading.
The YES, pre-76 shapes can be treated more closely like delineations for the purposes of the easement.
The NO, are wetlands that were purchased under updated contract language that allows for the shape and size of the wetland to increase/expand as the wetland expands.
Please be aware that both of these types of polygons frequently have "shift" errors where they do not align appropriately with the actual wetland.

I took a desktop review of the proposed structures in relation to the USFWS wetlands. While there are a few structures near wetlands, I was pleased to find that the JETx-delineated wetlands did an excellent job of capturing the current/expanded size where there are USFWS post-76 wetland protections.

At this time, I did not see any obvious conflicts with proposed structure placements. I'll be in touch to review as your routes are finalized, as we need to visit about cable-pulling areas around structures, or if you have questions or would like to meet on-site at any point.

Looking forward to the continued collaboration,

Krista Lundgren
Acting Station Manager

Kulm Wetland Management District
One 1st Street SW | P.O. Box E
Kulm, North Dakota 58456
701-647-2866 | 701-830-0138 (cell)
www.fws.gov/refuge/kulm-wetland-management-district/

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

From: Jewett, Jennifer
To: Lundgren, Krista; Hanley, Jennifer
Cc: McDonald, Andy; Voth, Jaden; Weiers, Jason; Langston, Todd; Peterson, Monica; Thoma, Mark; Brazeal, Alex; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Burke, Kevin
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] JETx USFWS WMD Project Update and Coordination Meeting Summary_20250320
Date: Friday, April 4, 2025 2:01:55 PM
Attachments: Outlook-o0iqztfd.png
image.png
Outlook-dcxaiiox.png
Outlook-fv2af1d1.png
April 4 2025 protected boundaries.shp.zip

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

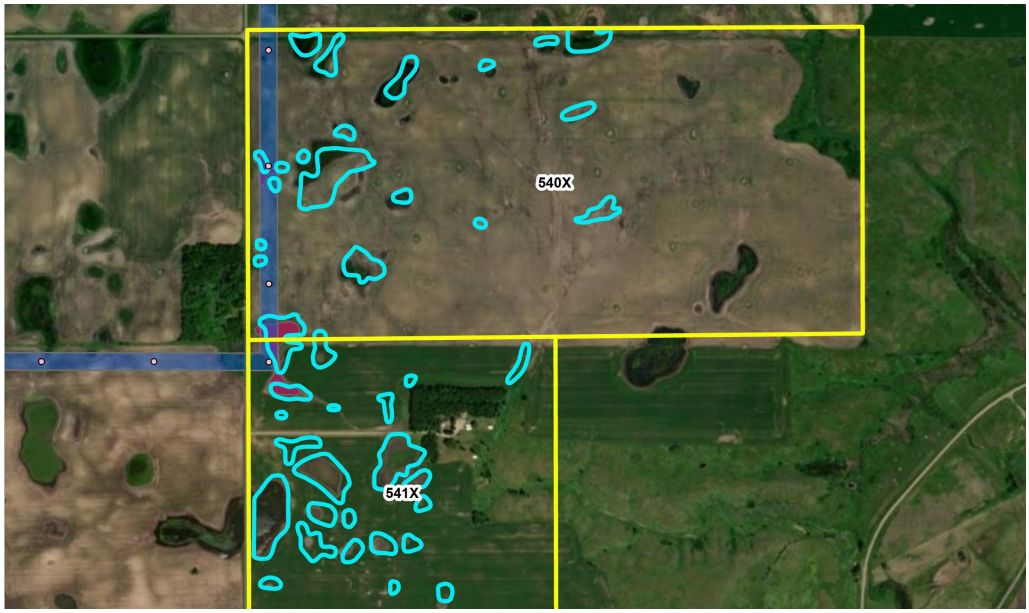
Good afternoon and happy Friday!

Attached you will find a clipped version of our easement wetland and tract boundaries with a ½ mile intersect applied for both of our pre and post 76 wetlands in Stutsman county.

I also had the proposed route reviewed with any in progress easement evaluations we have going on that may be signed up soon.

At this time, I had only one concern: The current route and pole placement look to potentially impact two easement tracts in Stutsman county - 540X and 541X, located in the NW and SW quarters of section 35, T138, R63. Below is a screen shot of this area as well to demonstrate what I am seeing.

Thank you again for being communicative and willing to share shapefiles to collaborate on this project. Look forward to continuing to work together!



Jennifer Jewett, Wildlife Refuge Specialist

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Refuge System
Chase Lake Wetland Mgmt. District & Refuge
5924 19th St SE, Woodworth, ND 58496
Office: (701) 752-4218, ext 2
Cell: (701) 339-2335



IT'S OKAY TO
ASK FOR HELP
1-833-690-0210
peersupport@fws.gov

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
North Dakota Ecological Services
3425 Miriam Avenue
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501

IN REPLY REFER TO:2025-JETX

April 8, 2025

Ms. Jennifer Hanley
Senior Environmental Project Manager
HDR Engineering, Inc.
51 North Broadway Suite 550
Fargo, North Dakota 58102

Dear Ms. Hanley:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed JETx transmission line in Stutsman, Lamoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota. The proposed Project, jointly proposed by Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Companies), would involve the construction and operation of an approximately 95 mile long 345-kilovolt (kV) line transmission line between Jamestown, ND and Ellendale, ND. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) recognizes there is no federal nexus associated with the proposed Project and would be under the jurisdiction of the ND Public Service Commission (PSC). The Service offers the following comments which are discretionary for you to implement in accordance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq*.) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) (16 U.S.C. 668-668d, 54 Stat. 250).

There are five federally listed species, and one proposed species, with the potential to occur within the Project corridor: the endangered northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), the endangered whooping crane (*Grus americana*) the threatened piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), the threatened Dakota skipper (*Hesperia dacotae*), and the threatened rufa red knot (*Calidris conutus rufus*), and the proposed monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). Through early coordination with the Service, the Companies have adhered to our field survey protocols and conducted an additional analysis focused on whooping crane stopover habitat. Effects to listed threatened and endangered species appear to have been minimized through Project design and incorporating our discretionary recommendations. Future coordination on final siting and line marking would ensure adverse effects are avoided.

The Service acknowledges that project proponents planning proposed transmission lines that do not have a federal nexus and are situated within the migratory corridor for the whooping crane may have questions and concerns regarding compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA). A primary focus of these concerns is the potential for collisions with whooping cranes during their migration. The Companies have demonstrated a commitment to environmental stewardship by collaborating with the Service to protect federally protected species, particularly the whooping crane, by volunteering to mark the proposed Project to reduce collision risks for whooping cranes near suitable habitat. Based on the information presented, the geographic

context of the Project as related to the whooping crane migratory corridor, and conservations measure commitments, the FWS does not expect this Project will result in the incidental take of ESA-listed fish or wildlife under Section 9 of the ESA.

We recommend that the Companies continue to maintain their commitment to avoiding suitable habitats as they finalize project routes. Additionally, it is crucial to implement the marking of power lines near whooping crane habitats to further decrease the risks of collisions and electrocutions. By following these recommendations, the Companies can contribute to the conservation of the whooping crane and ensure compliance with federal protection measures.

The FWS appreciates the opportunity to work with the Companies and the ND Public Service Commission on our shared conservation goals. Should you have any questions regarding these comments, please have your staff contact Jessica Johnson at (701) 355-8507 or at the letterhead address or contact me at (720)-793-6797.

Sincerely,

Luke Toso
Acting Field Supervisor
North and South Dakota Ecological Services

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

Documentation of available correspondence is included following this log.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)				
March 22, 2023	Letter	Applicants[1]	USGS	Introduction letter and request for comments.
September 7, 2023	Letter	Applicants	USGS	Second request for input and meeting request letter.

1 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Joel Galloway
Supervisor, Water Resources Division
U.S. Geological Survey
812 E. Interstate Ave
Bismarck, ND 58501

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Galloway,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

Currently, OTP and Montana-Dakota are in the preliminary planning stages of the Project, which include high-level planning, initial public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and preliminary design. These preliminary planning stages will provide important input into the identification of preliminary routes and the eventual selection of a final route for the Project. The attached map shows the current study area being assessed for preliminary routes. Public outreach with landowners and interested parties including public meetings are being planned to occur in June 2023.

We are soliciting your review of the preliminary Project area in order to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the final route. We are particularly interested in any property located within or adjacent to the study area which your agency may own or have an interest in. We would also appreciate being made aware of any proposed developments your agency may be contemplating in the study area under consideration for the Project in addition to any information that might assist us in our siting analysis and studies. To help us identify potential resource issues in the corridor analysis, please provide us with any information pertaining to the JETx project by April 22, 2023. Written or email responses should be sent to:

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we will reach out to schedule stakeholder meetings as well as plan for additional outreach as a route is developed and refined.

If further information is desired regarding the proposed Project, please contact either myself (218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com) or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc. (701-353-6139 or Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com).

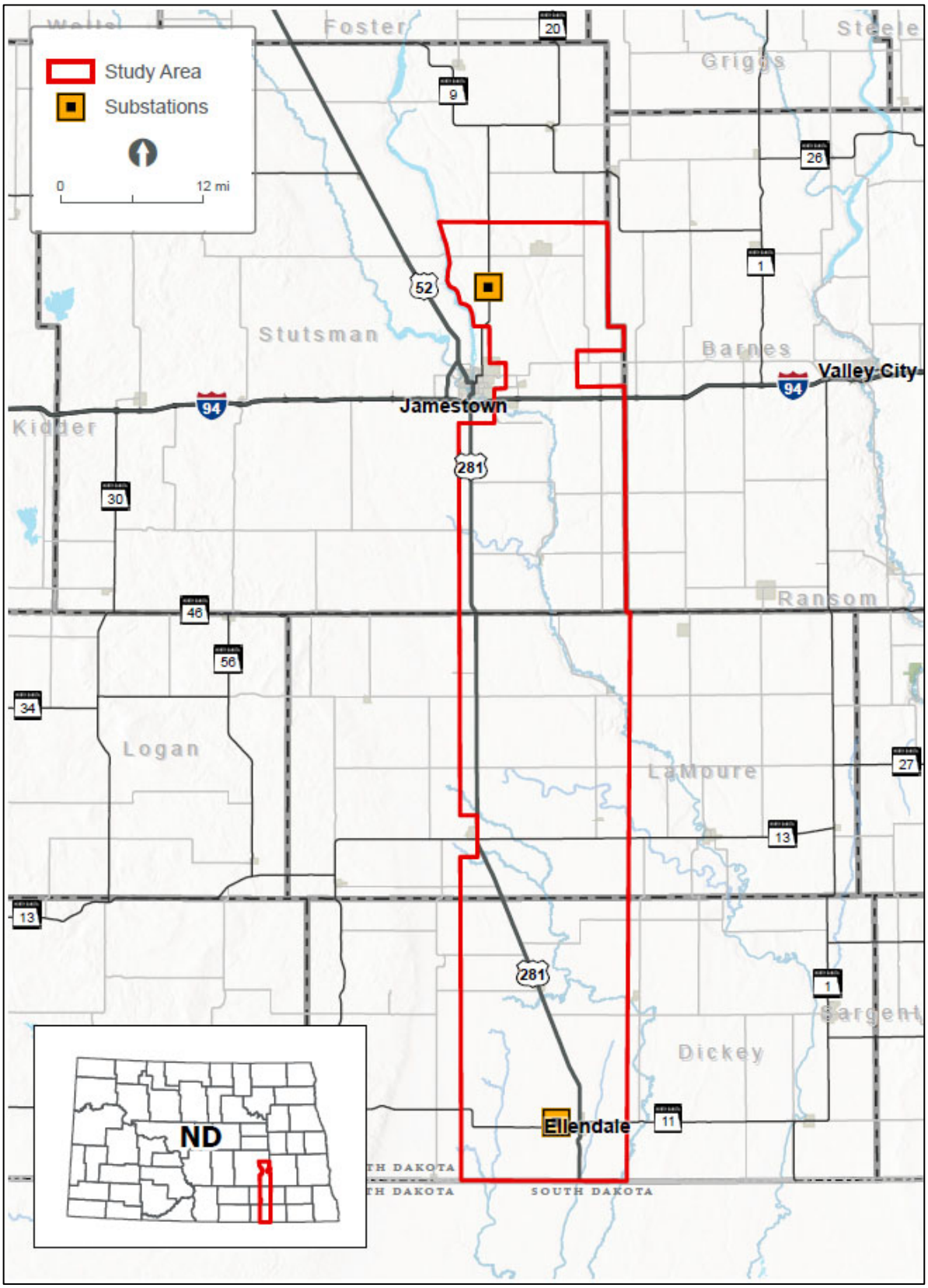
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Joel Galloway
Supervisor, Water Resources Division, U.S. Geological Survey
812 E. Interstate Ave
Bismarck, ND 58501

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Joel Galloway,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (the Project). The Project would be in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect Otter Tail Power's existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota's existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified by the Regional Transmission Organization in the Upper Midwest[1] needed to maintain electric system reliability, increase resilience to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion and increase access to low cost energy throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025. At this early stage of the Project, it is anticipated that Section 106 compliance would be needed for a United State Corps of Engineers Section 404 wetland permit and Section 10 river crossing permit for an overhead crossing of the James River.

Currently, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota are in the planning stages of the Project, which include public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and initial design. These preliminary planning stages provide important input into the identification of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. The attached map shows the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. These corridors are subject to change as we continue public outreach with landowners and other interested parties. Environmental field surveys are currently anticipated to start late this year and be completed in 2024.

We are requesting your review of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the preferred route. We appreciate and value your input in our attempt to avoid or minimize impacts. To help us identify potential concerns in our corridor analysis, we request that any information pertaining to the Project be provided by October 12, 2023, if possible, to:

[1] The Regional Transmission Organization in this area of the Upper Midwest is the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). See more information at www.misoenergy.org.

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
701-353-6139

We will be hosting public meetings at three locations along the Project in September. The meetings will be held on consecutive days September 12 - 14 from 3 - 6 p.m. each day at the three locations listed below. In addition to our public meetings, we are also extending you an invitation if you would prefer to meet individually. If you are interested in an individual meeting outside of our public meetings, our contact information follows below and we would welcome the opportunity to share more information about the Project, answer your questions and take your feedback.

Ellendale	**Jamestown**	**Edgeley**
September 12, 2023	September 13, 2023	September 14, 2023
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	3:00 – 6:00 pm	3:00 – 6:00 pm
American Legion Post #137 79 Main St. Ellendale, ND 58436	Bunker Hill Club House 1520 3rd St. SE Jamestown, ND 58401	Hakuna Matata 101 Industrial Park Road. Edgeley, ND 58433

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the Project progresses, we are planning to have additional consultations with agencies, other jurisdictions, and landowners as we develop and refine a preferred route.

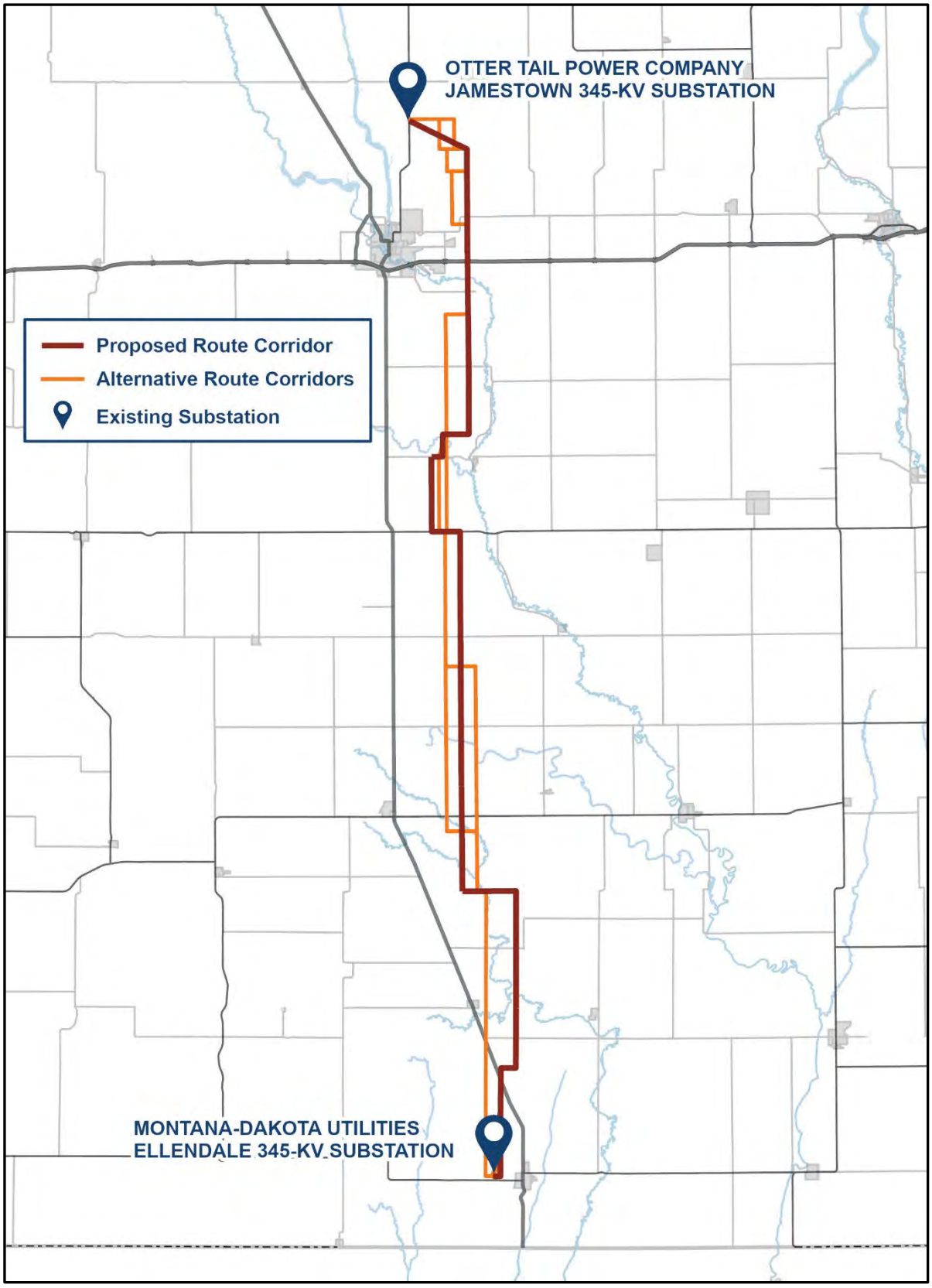
If you desire further information regarding the proposed Project, please contact me at 218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc., at 701-353-6139 or jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com. In addition, further information about the Project can also be found on our website at www.JamestowntoEllendale.com.

Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

JETx Jamestown to Ellendale

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA)

Documentation of available correspondence is included following this log.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
Western Area Power Administration (WAPA)				
March 22, 2023	Letter and Email[1]	Applicants[2]	WAPA	Introduction letter and request for comments.
March 23, 2023	Email	WAPA	Applicants	WAPA responded to the March 2023 RFI and noted that there would be multiple points where the Project would cross WAPA infrastructure and would require a written crossing agreement.
September 7, 2023	Letter and Email[1]	Applicants	WAPA	Second request for input and meeting request letter.
October 11, 2023	Email	WAPA	Applicants	Provided a Draft Letter Agreement for Planning and Engineering to Applicants for review.
January 16, 2024	Email	Applicants	WAPA	Requested line information and asked for when WAPA would provide the crossing agreement to sign.
January 16, 2024	Email	WAPA	Applicants	Provided a status update and provided a revised Draft Letter Agreement for Planning and Engineering to Applicants for review.
March 8, 2024	Email	WAPA	Applicants	WAPA notified Applicants that the Letter Agreement for Planning and Engineering was ready to be signed and the invoice was also ready. WAPA also requested names and email addresses for the people signing the document.
March 8, 2024	Email	Applicants	WAPA	Applicants provided names and email addresses, as requested.

1 Indicates documentation that was a part of one of the mass March or September agency mailings.

2 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.

From: Carlson, Michaela <Michaela.Carlson@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 3:30 PM
To: Kress, Marc <Kress@WAPA.GOV>
Cc: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>; Weiers, Jason <jweiers@otpco.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] WAPA_03222023_ Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Good afternoon,

HDR is assisting Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company to develop and construct an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. We are requesting comments on the attached information. Please respond by April 22, 2023. Thank you!

Michaela Carlson
Environmental Scientist

HDR
101 S. Phillips Ave. Suite 401
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
D 605-782-8131 **M** 605-553-4841
Michaela.Carlson@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Marc Kress
ND Maintenance Manager
Western Area Power Administration
P.O. Box 1173
Bismarck, ND 58502-1173

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Kress,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

Currently, OTP and Montana-Dakota are in the preliminary planning stages of the Project, which include high-level planning, initial public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and preliminary design. These preliminary planning stages will provide important input into the identification of preliminary routes and the eventual selection of a final route for the Project. The attached map shows the current study area being assessed for preliminary routes. Public outreach with landowners and interested parties including public meetings are being planned to occur in June 2023.

We are soliciting your review of the preliminary Project area in order to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the final route. We are particularly interested in any property located within or adjacent to the study area which your agency may own or have an interest in. We would also appreciate being made aware of any proposed developments your agency may be contemplating in the study area under consideration for the Project in addition to any information that might assist us in our siting analysis and studies. To help us identify potential resource issues in the corridor analysis, please provide us with any information pertaining to the JETx project by April 22, 2023. Written or email responses should be sent to:

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we will reach out to schedule stakeholder meetings as well as plan for additional outreach as a route is developed and refined.

If further information is desired regarding the proposed Project, please contact either myself (218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com) or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc. (701-353-6139 or Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com).

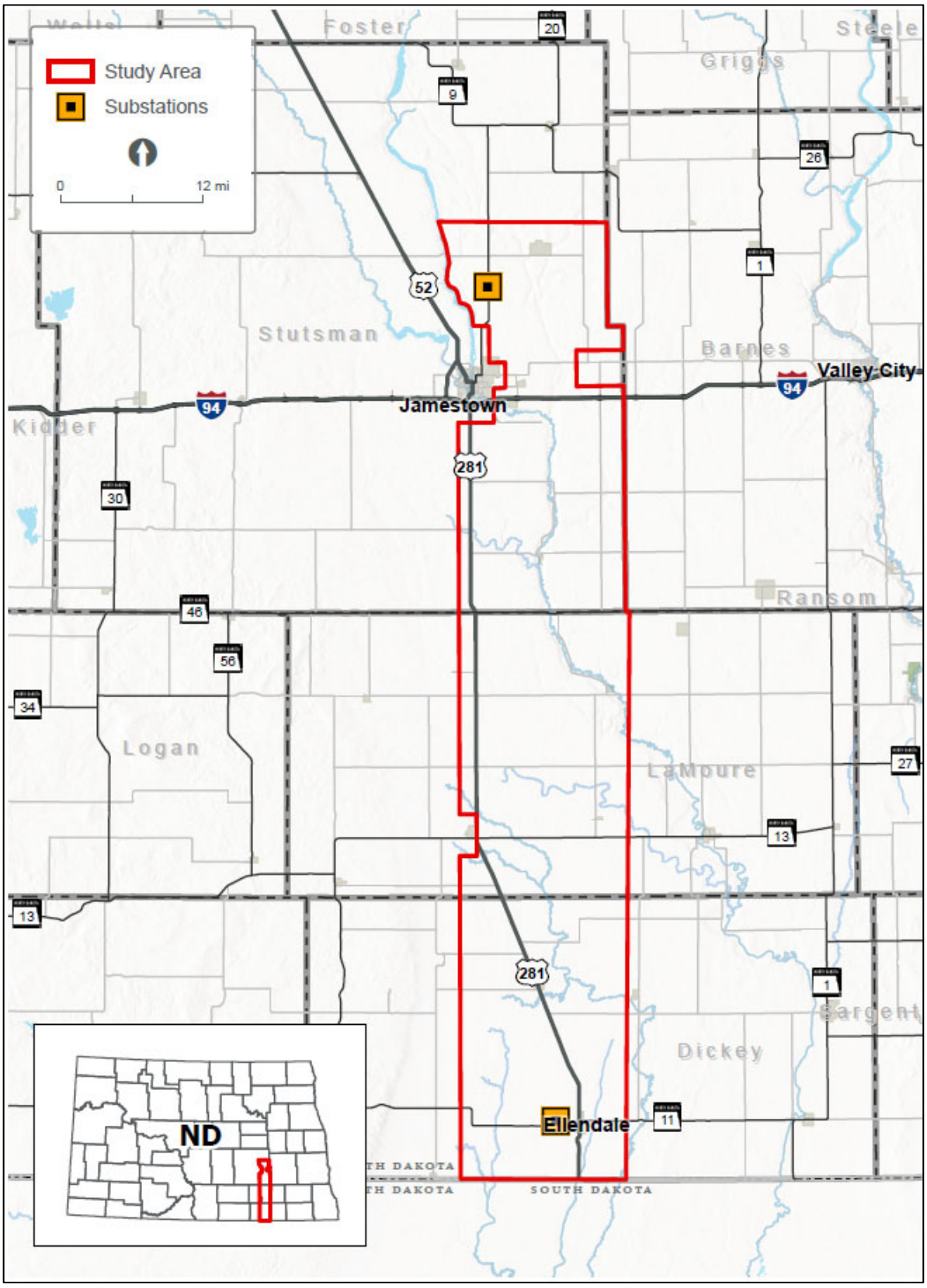
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



From: Olsen, Levi <LOlsen@WAPA.GOV>
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 10:57 AM
To: Carlson, Michaela <Michaela.Carlson@hdrinc.com>
Cc: Kress, Marc <Kress@WAPA.GOV>; Seely, Bradley <Seely@WAPA.GOV>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] WAPA_03222023_ Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

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

Michaela,
Thank you for letting WAPA know about your future project. A quick review of the provided project study indicates there will be numerous point in which the proposed transmission line will cross WAPA's transmission lines. In each instance, we'll need to come together with a written crossing agreement along with a P&P of each crossing. WAPA would prepare the agreement. HDR (with the help of Otter Tail and MDU) could provide the P&Ps to attach to each crossing agreement.
We'll review the project study provided further and follow up with you.
Feel free to call or email me if you have any questions or wish to further discuss.

Levi Olsen | Realty Specialist
Western Area Power Administration
Upper Great Plains Region |
(M) 605.354.9020 | *lolsen@wapa.gov*



Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Marc Kress
ND Maintenance Manager, Western Area Power Administration
P.O. Box 1173
Bismarck, ND 58502-1173

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Marc Kress,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (the Project). The Project would be in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect Otter Tail Power's existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota's existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified by the Regional Transmission Organization in the Upper Midwest[1] needed to maintain electric system reliability, increase resilience to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion and increase access to low cost energy throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025. At this early stage of the Project, it is anticipated that Section 106 compliance would be needed for a United State Corps of Engineers Section 404 wetland permit and Section 10 river crossing permit for an overhead crossing of the James River.

Currently, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota are in the planning stages of the Project, which include public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and initial design. These preliminary planning stages provide important input into the identification of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. The attached map shows the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. These corridors are subject to change as we continue public outreach with landowners and other interested parties. Environmental field surveys are currently anticipated to start late this year and be completed in 2024.

We are requesting your review of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the preferred route. We appreciate and value your input in our attempt to avoid or minimize impacts. To help us identify potential concerns in our corridor analysis, we request that any information pertaining to the Project be provided by October 12, 2023, if possible, to:

[1] The Regional Transmission Organization in this area of the Upper Midwest is the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). See more information at www.misoenergy.org.

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
701-353-6139

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Ellendale	**Jamestown**	**Edgeley**
September 12, 2023	September 13, 2023	September 14, 2023
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	3:00 – 6:00 pm	3:00 – 6:00 pm
American Legion Post #137 79 Main St. Ellendale, ND 58436	Bunker Hill Club House 1520 3rd St. SE Jamestown, ND 58401	Hakuna Matata 101 Industrial Park Road. Edgeley, ND 58433

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the Project progresses, we are planning to have additional consultations with agencies, other jurisdictions, and landowners as we develop and refine a preferred route.

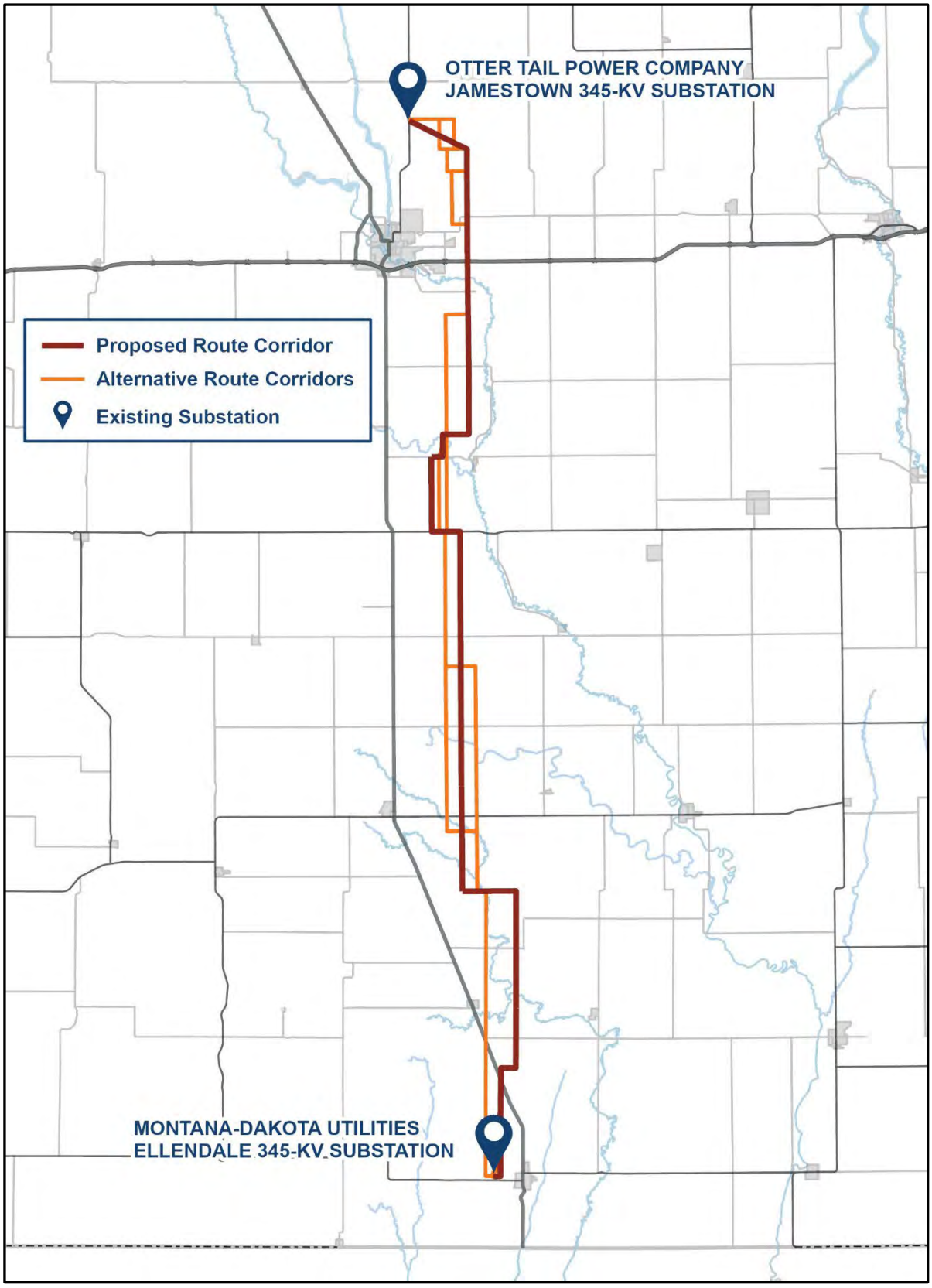
If you desire further information regarding the proposed Project, please contact me at 218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc., at 701-353-6139 or jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com. In addition, further information about the Project can also be found on our website at www.JamestowntoEllendale.com.

Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

From: Thomas, Marsha <MThomas@WAPA.GOV>
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 1:28 PM
To: Rein, Theron R <trein@otpco.com>
Cc: Noel, David <Noel@WAPA.GOV>
Subject: DRAFT-CN 23-UGPR-172 Otter Tail Crossing LA for Planning and Engineering

This is an EXTERNAL email. DO NOT open attachments or click links in suspicious email.

Theron,

Please find attached a **DRAFT** Letter Agreement for Planning and Engineering for the new OTPC line that will cross 6 WAPA transmission lines. Please review this **DRAFT** and respond back with any suggested edits. Please respond back to me with an approval or your suggested edits by 10/17/2023.

Should you have questions, please reach out to David or myself.

Thank you

Marsha

Marsha Thomas | Public Utility Specialist

Western Area Power Administration | UGPR | Huron

(O) 605.353.2715 | **Cell 605.354.8417** mthomas@wapa.gov



From: Rein, Theron R <trein@otpco.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 7:44 AM
To: Noel, David <Noel@WAPA.GOV>; Thomas, Marsha <MThomas@WAPA.GOV>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: DRAFT-CN 23-UGPR-172 Otter Tail Crossing LA for Planning and Engineering

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: Before you click a link or open an attachment… STOP and THINK. Forward any suspicious e-mail to spam@wapa.gov, or call WITCC at (720) 962-7111.

David,

Thanks for looking through and catching the additional line. Would you be able to send me all the line information similar to the initial request?

Marsha,

Do you know when we can expect to see the crossing agreement back to sign and make payment?

Thanks!

Theron

Theron Rein

Manager, Transmission Design & Maintenance

System Infrastructure & Reliability

218-739-8896

Cell: 218-731-1878

otpco.com

From: Thomas, Marsha <MThomas@WAPA.GOV>
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 8:36 AM
To: Rein, Theron R <trein@otpco.com>; Noel, David <Noel@WAPA.GOV>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: DRAFT-CN 23-UGPR-172 Otter Tail Crossing LA for Planning and Engineering

This is an EXTERNAL email. DO NOT open attachments or click links in suspicious email.

Theron,

It will be a couple weeks yet. It has to go thru a routing process on this end.

I will send a DRAFT to you one more time for your approval, with a couple minor tweaks. Hope to get that to you this week yet. David will need to approve it as well, so I will send to him at the same time, then once you both approve, I can drop it into routing.

Marsha

From: Thomas, Marsha <MThomas@WAPA.GOV>
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2024 6:45 AM
To: Rein, Theron R <trein@otpco.com>
Subject: Names and Emails for Signature-OTP Letter Agreement

This is an EXTERNAL email. DO NOT open attachments or click links in suspicious email.

Theron,

Hello. I just got the invoice, I am ready to drop this in DocuSign for signature. I need two names and emails, one for the person signing, and the other for the person attesting.

Thanks

Marsha

Marsha Thomas | Public Utility Specialist

Western Area Power Administration | UGPR | Huron

(O) 605.353.2715 | **Cell 605.354.8417** mthomas@wapa.gov



From: Rein, Theron R <trein@otpco.com>
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2024 8:18 AM
To: Thomas, Marsha <MThomas@WAPA.GOV>
Cc: Weiers, Jason <jweiers@otpco.com>
Subject: RE: Names and Emails for Signature-OTP Letter Agreement

Good morning Marsha,

Below are the names and email addresses requested.

Signing

JoAnn Thompson

jthompson@otpco.com

Attesting

Mary-Alice Williams

mwilliams@otpco.com

Thanks,

Theron

Theron Rein

Manager, Transmission Design & Maintenance

System Infrastructure & Reliability

Office: 218-739-8896

Cell: 218-731-1878

otpco.com

Job Service of North Dakota

Documentation of available correspondence is included following this log.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
Job Service of North Dakota				
March 22, 2023	Letter	Applicants[1]	Job Service of North Dakota	Introduction letter and request for comments.
September 7, 2023	Letter	Applicants	Job Service of North Dakota	Second request for input and meeting request letter.

1 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Pat Bertagnolli
Executive Director
Job Service of ND
PO Box 5507
Bismarck, ND 58506-5507

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Bertagnolli,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

Currently, OTP and Montana-Dakota are in the preliminary planning stages of the Project, which include high-level planning, initial public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and preliminary design. These preliminary planning stages will provide important input into the identification of preliminary routes and the eventual selection of a final route for the Project. The attached map shows the current study area being assessed for preliminary routes. Public outreach with landowners and interested parties including public meetings are being planned to occur in June 2023.

We are soliciting your review of the preliminary Project area in order to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the final route. We are particularly interested in any property located within or adjacent to the study area which your agency may own or have an interest in. We would also appreciate being made aware of any proposed developments your agency may be contemplating in the study area under consideration for the Project in addition to any information that might assist us in our siting analysis and studies. To help us identify potential resource issues in the corridor analysis, please provide us with any information pertaining to the JETx project by April 22, 2023. Written or email responses should be sent to:

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we will reach out to schedule stakeholder meetings as well as plan for additional outreach as a route is developed and refined.

If further information is desired regarding the proposed Project, please contact either myself (218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com) or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc. (701-353-6139 or Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com).

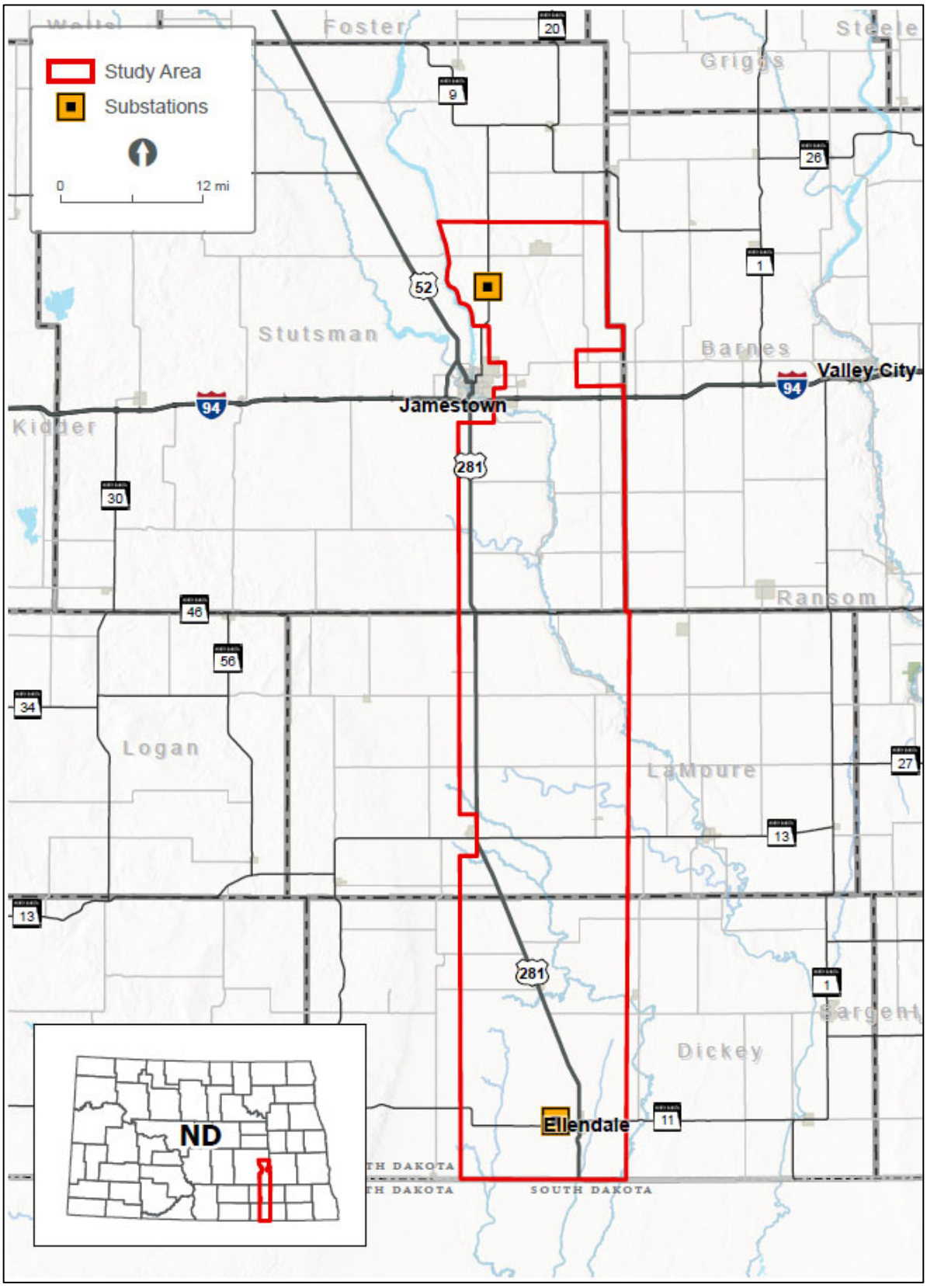
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Pat Bertagnolli
Executive Director, Job Service of ND
PO Box 5507
Bismarck, ND 58506-5507

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Pat Bertagnolli,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (the Project). The Project would be in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect Otter Tail Power's existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota's existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified by the Regional Transmission Organization in the Upper Midwest[1] needed to maintain electric system reliability, increase resilience to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion and increase access to low cost energy throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025. At this early stage of the Project, it is anticipated that Section 106 compliance would be needed for a United State Corps of Engineers Section 404 wetland permit and Section 10 river crossing permit for an overhead crossing of the James River.

Currently, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota are in the planning stages of the Project, which include public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and initial design. These preliminary planning stages provide important input into the identification of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. The attached map shows the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. These corridors are subject to change as we continue public outreach with landowners and other interested parties. Environmental field surveys are currently anticipated to start late this year and be completed in 2024.

We are requesting your review of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the preferred route. We appreciate and value your input in our attempt to avoid or minimize impacts. To help us identify potential concerns in our corridor analysis, we request that any information pertaining to the Project be provided by October 12, 2023, if possible, to:

[1] The Regional Transmission Organization in this area of the Upper Midwest is the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). See more information at www.misoenergy.org.

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
701-353-6139

We will be hosting public meetings at three locations along the Project in September. The meetings will be held on consecutive days September 12 - 14 from 3 - 6 p.m. each day at the three locations listed below. In addition to our public meetings, we are also extending you an invitation if you would prefer to meet individually. If you are interested in an individual meeting outside of our public meetings, our contact information follows below and we would welcome the opportunity to share more information about the Project, answer your questions and take your feedback.

Ellendale	**Jamestown**	**Edgeley**
September 12, 2023	September 13, 2023	September 14, 2023
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	3:00 – 6:00 pm	3:00 – 6:00 pm
American Legion Post #137 79 Main St. Ellendale, ND 58436	Bunker Hill Club House 1520 3rd St. SE Jamestown, ND 58401	Hakuna Matata 101 Industrial Park Road. Edgeley, ND 58433

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the Project progresses, we are planning to have additional consultations with agencies, other jurisdictions, and landowners as we develop and refine a preferred route.

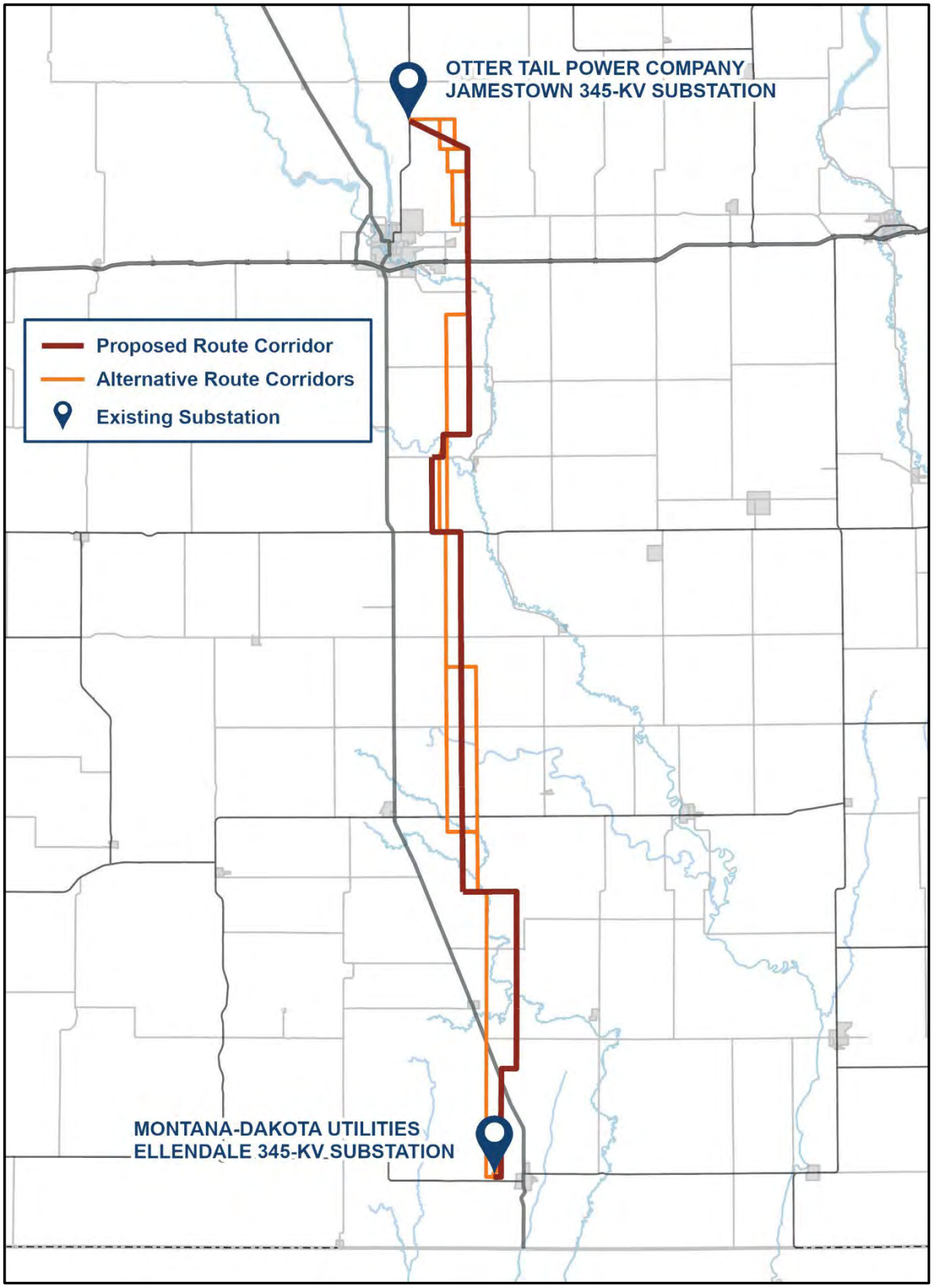
If you desire further information regarding the proposed Project, please contact me at 218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc., at 701-353-6139 or jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com. In addition, further information about the Project can also be found on our website at www.JamestowntoEllendale.com.

Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

North Dakota Aeronautics Commission (NDAERO)

Documentation of available correspondence is included following this log.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
North Dakota Aeronautics Commission (NDAERO)				
March 23, 2023	Letter and Email[1]	Applicants[2]	NDAERO	Introduction letter and request for comments.
March 24, 2023	Email	NDAERO	Applicants	NDAERO responded to the March 2023 RFI and identified 3 airports nearby and advised the Project to follow FAA evaluation and contact airports.
September 7, 2023	Letter and Email[1]	Applicants	NDAERO	Second request for input and meeting request letter.

1 Indicates documentation that was a part of one of the mass March or September agency mailings.
2 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.

From: Carlson, Michaela <Michaela.Carlson@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 9:12 AM
To: Wanner, Kyle C. <kcwanner@nd.gov>
Cc: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>; Weiers, Jason <jweiers@otpco.com>
Subject: ND Aeronautics Comm_03222023_ Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Good morning,

HDR is assisting Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company to develop and construct an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. We are requesting comments on the attached information. Please respond by April 22, 2023. Thank you!

Michaela Carlson
Environmental Scientist

HDR
101 S. Phillips Ave. Suite 401
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
D 605-782-8131 **M** 605-553-4841
Michaela.Carlson@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

March 22, 2023

Kyle Wanner
Director
ND Aeronautics Commission
PO Box 5020
Bismarck, ND 58502

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Wanner,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

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HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we will reach out to schedule stakeholder meetings as well as plan for additional outreach as a route is developed and refined.

If further information is desired regarding the proposed Project, please contact either myself (218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com) or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc. (701-353-6139 or Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com).

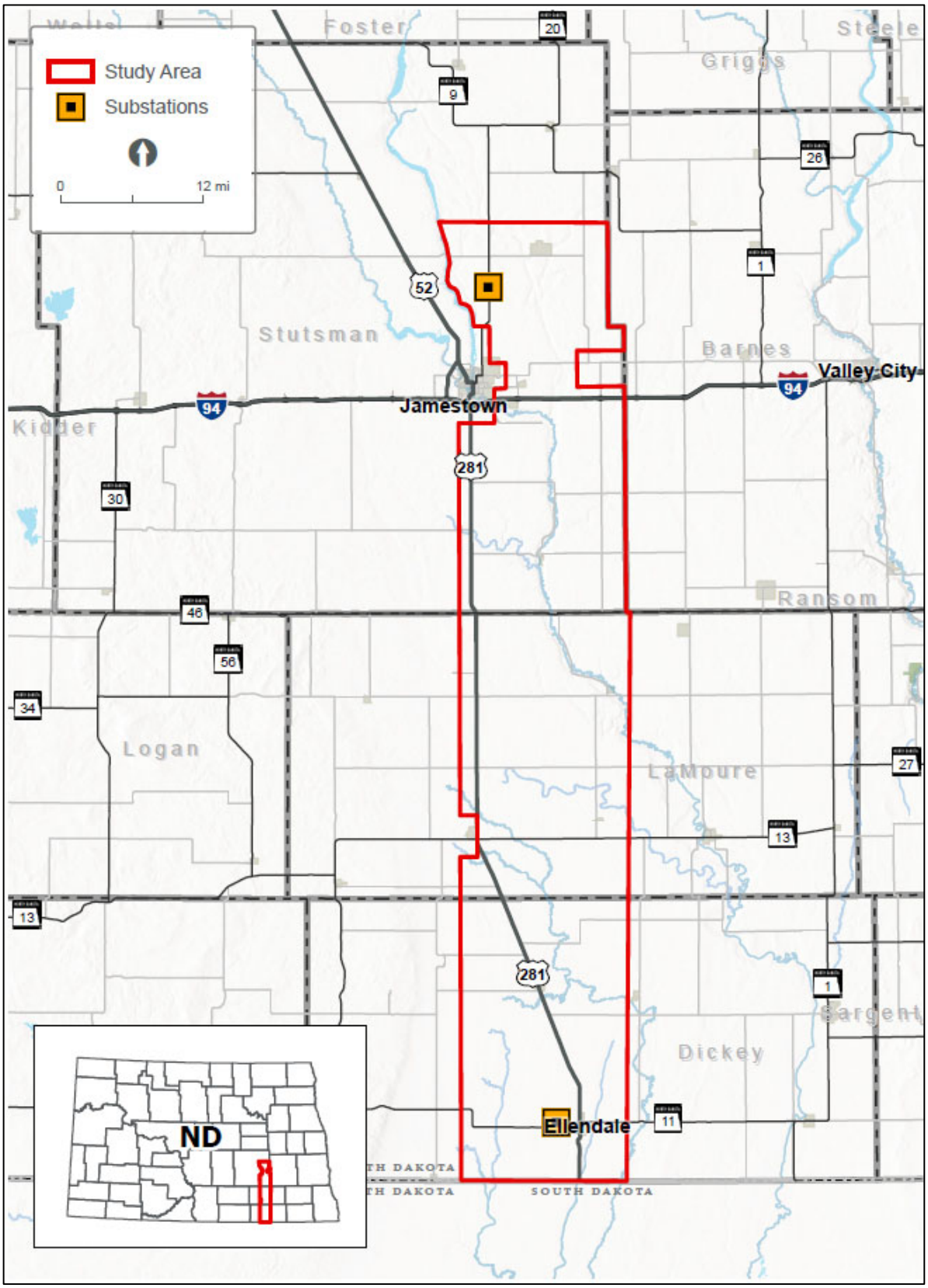
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



From: Dillin, Adam <adillin@nd.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 9:00 AM
To: Hanley, Jennifer
Cc: Katie Hemmer (jmsairport@daktel.com); Justin Fredenburg (jkfred@drtel.net); Kyle Glynn (kyleglynn3@gmail.com); Wanner, Kyle C.; Erwin, Grant
Subject: ND Aeronautics comment on JETx project
Attachments: Airports & JETx Study Area.jpg

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

Good morning,

The North Dakota Aeronautics Commission is always pleased to see infrastructure projects that help improve the quality of life for the citizens in our communities and help our businesses to thrive.

Our agency's highest priority is the safety of the flying public and the efficient operation of our airports. A primary aviation-related concern during the construction of any transmission line project is ensuring that lines and related structures are not placed where they may pose an obstruction, and therefore a collision or navigation hazard, for aircraft using our airports. Taking a look at the map provided in your company's letter, it appears that three public airports lie in or immediately adjacent to the project's study area: Jamestown Regional Airport, Edgeley Municipal Airport, and Ellendale Municipal Airport. It is possible that these airports could be affected by the project depending on its ultimate route.

As plans for the transmission line project are developed, please ensure that each of these airports is taken into consideration and any potential impacts to their airspace and aircraft traffic are carefully avoided. Please make sure to follow Federal Aviation Administration obstruction evaluation procedures and I encourage you to reach out to the airports for their input if you have not done so already. Our agency is happy to assist should you have any questions, and the FAA's Airport District Office in Bismarck is also an excellent resource. Should you need contact information for the airports or FAA ADO, please let us know and we can provide it.

We wish you success with the project.

Best regards,

Adam Dillin, CM, ACE, IACE
Airport Planner
North Dakota Aeronautics Commission
Tel: (701) 328-9657 Email: adillin@nd.gov Website: https://aero.nd.gov

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Kyle Wanner
Director, ND Aeronautics Commission
PO Box 5020
Bismarck, ND 58502

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Kyle Wanner,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (the Project). The Project would be in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect Otter Tail Power's existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota's existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified by the Regional Transmission Organization in the Upper Midwest[1] needed to maintain electric system reliability, increase resilience to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion and increase access to low cost energy throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025. At this early stage of the Project, it is anticipated that Section 106 compliance would be needed for a United State Corps of Engineers Section 404 wetland permit and Section 10 river crossing permit for an overhead crossing of the James River.

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HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
701-353-6139

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September 12, 2023	September 13, 2023	September 14, 2023
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	3:00 – 6:00 pm	3:00 – 6:00 pm
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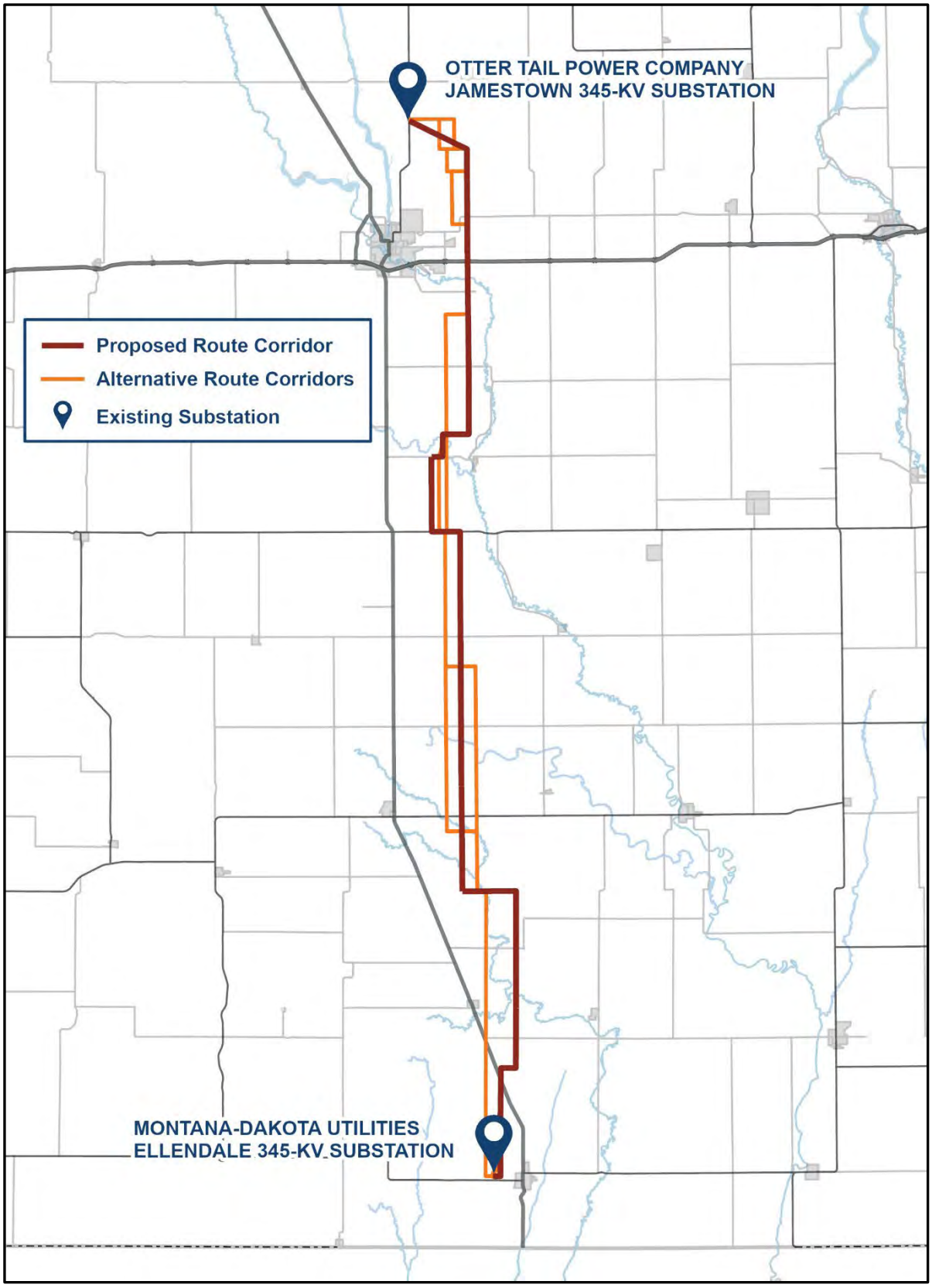
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


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JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
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JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

North Dakota Attorney General's Office

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1 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Drew Wrigley
Attorney General
ND Attorney General's Office
600 E. Boulevard Ave - Dept 125
Bismarck, ND 58505

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Wrigley,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

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HDR, Inc.
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Fargo, ND 58102

Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we will reach out to schedule stakeholder meetings as well as plan for additional outreach as a route is developed and refined.

If further information is desired regarding the proposed Project, please contact either myself (218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com) or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc. (701-353-6139 or Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com).

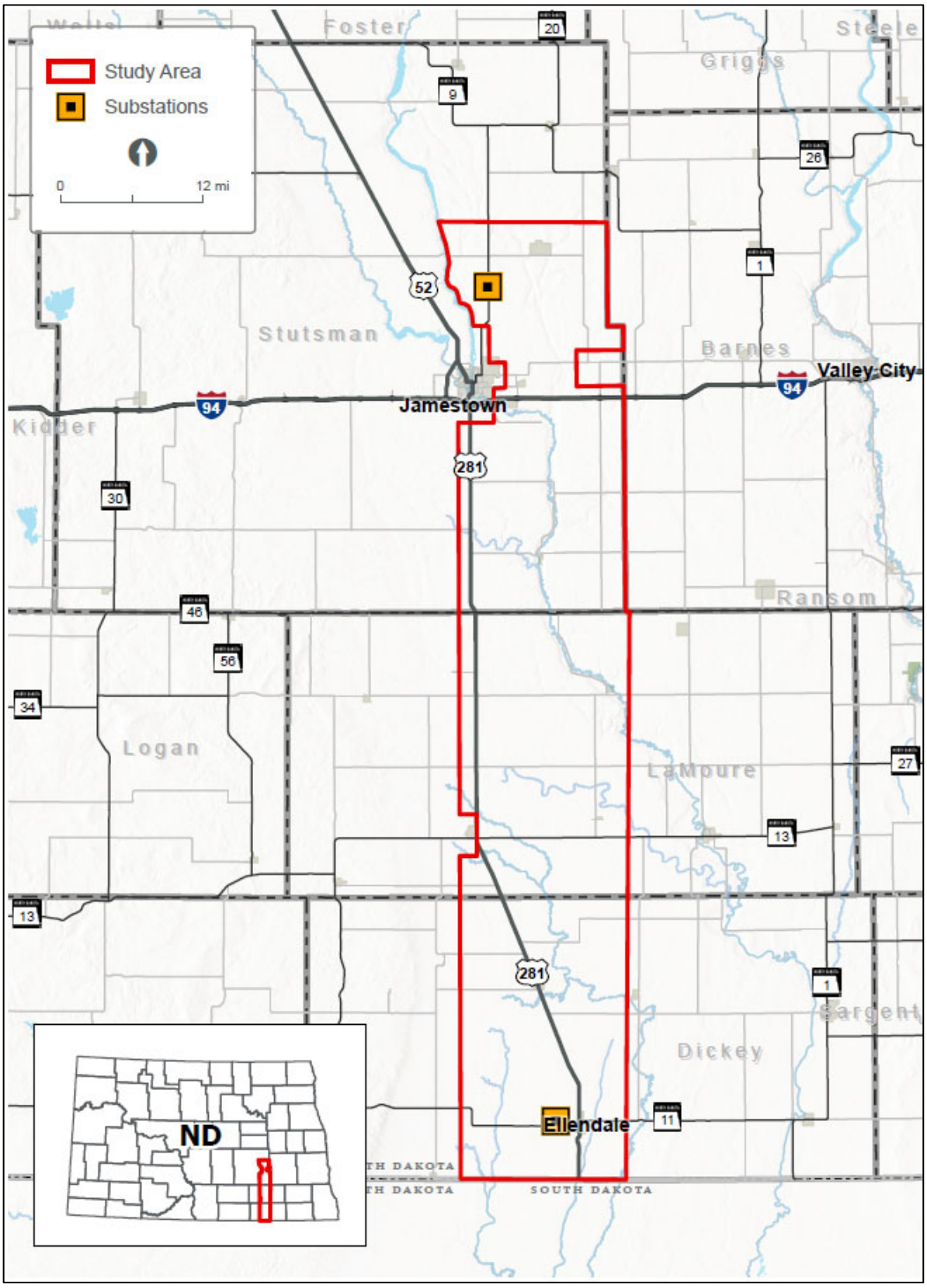
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

The Honorable Drew Wrigley
Attorney General, ND Attorney General's Office
600 E. Boulevard Ave, Dept 125
Bismarck, ND 58505

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Honorable Drew Wrigley,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (the Project). The Project would be in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect Otter Tail Power's existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota's existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified by the Regional Transmission Organization in the Upper Midwest[1] needed to maintain electric system reliability, increase resilience to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion and increase access to low cost energy throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025. At this early stage of the Project, it is anticipated that Section 106 compliance would be needed for a United State Corps of Engineers Section 404 wetland permit and Section 10 river crossing permit for an overhead crossing of the James River.

Currently, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota are in the planning stages of the Project, which include public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and initial design. These preliminary planning stages provide important input into the identification of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. The attached map shows the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. These corridors are subject to change as we continue public outreach with landowners and other interested parties. Environmental field surveys are currently anticipated to start late this year and be completed in 2024.

We are requesting your review of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the preferred route. We appreciate and value your input in our attempt to avoid or minimize impacts. To help us identify potential concerns in our corridor analysis, we request that any information pertaining to the Project be provided by October 12, 2023, if possible, to:

[1] The Regional Transmission Organization in this area of the Upper Midwest is the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). See more information at www.misoenergy.org.

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
701-353-6139

We will be hosting public meetings at three locations along the Project in September. The meetings will be held on consecutive days September 12 - 14 from 3 - 6 p.m. each day at the three locations listed below. In addition to our public meetings, we are also extending you an invitation if you would prefer to meet individually. If you are interested in an individual meeting outside of our public meetings, our contact information follows below and we would welcome the opportunity to share more information about the Project, answer your questions and take your feedback.

Ellendale	**Jamestown**	**Edgeley**
September 12, 2023	September 13, 2023	September 14, 2023
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	3:00 – 6:00 pm	3:00 – 6:00 pm
American Legion Post #137 79 Main St. Ellendale, ND 58436	Bunker Hill Club House 1520 3rd St. SE Jamestown, ND 58401	Hakuna Matata 101 Industrial Park Road. Edgeley, ND 58433

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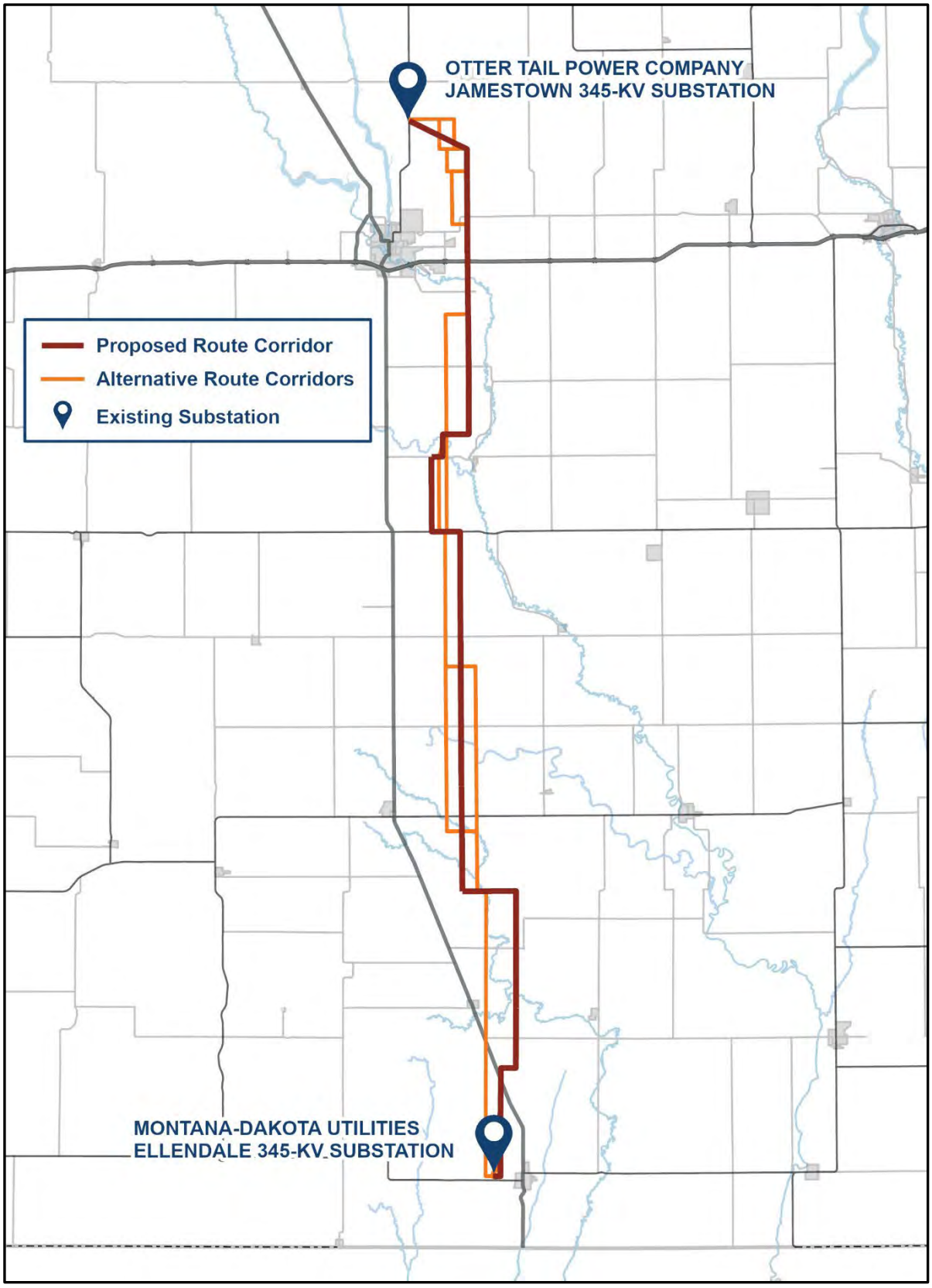
If you desire further information regarding the proposed Project, please contact me at 218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc., at 701-353-6139 or jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com. In addition, further information about the Project can also be found on our website at www.JamestowntoEllendale.com.

Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

North Dakota Career and Technical Education

Documentation of available correspondence is included following this log.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
North Dakota Career and Technical Education				
March 22, 2023	Letter	Applicants[1]	North Dakota Career and Technical Education	Introduction letter and request for comments.
September 7, 2023	Letter	Applicants	North Dakota Career and Technical Education	Second request for input and meeting request letter.

1 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Wayde Sick
Director and Executive Officer
ND Career and Technical Education
600 E. Boulevard Ave - 15th Floor
Bismarck, ND 58505

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Sick,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

Currently, OTP and Montana-Dakota are in the preliminary planning stages of the Project, which include high-level planning, initial public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and preliminary design. These preliminary planning stages will provide important input into the identification of preliminary routes and the eventual selection of a final route for the Project. The attached map shows the current study area being assessed for preliminary routes. Public outreach with landowners and interested parties including public meetings are being planned to occur in June 2023.

We are soliciting your review of the preliminary Project area in order to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the final route. We are particularly interested in any property located within or adjacent to the study area which your agency may own or have an interest in. We would also appreciate being made aware of any proposed developments your agency may be contemplating in the study area under consideration for the Project in addition to any information that might assist us in our siting analysis and studies. To help us identify potential resource issues in the corridor analysis, please provide us with any information pertaining to the JETx project by April 22, 2023. Written or email responses should be sent to:

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we will reach out to schedule stakeholder meetings as well as plan for additional outreach as a route is developed and refined.

If further information is desired regarding the proposed Project, please contact either myself (218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com) or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc. (701-353-6139 or Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com).

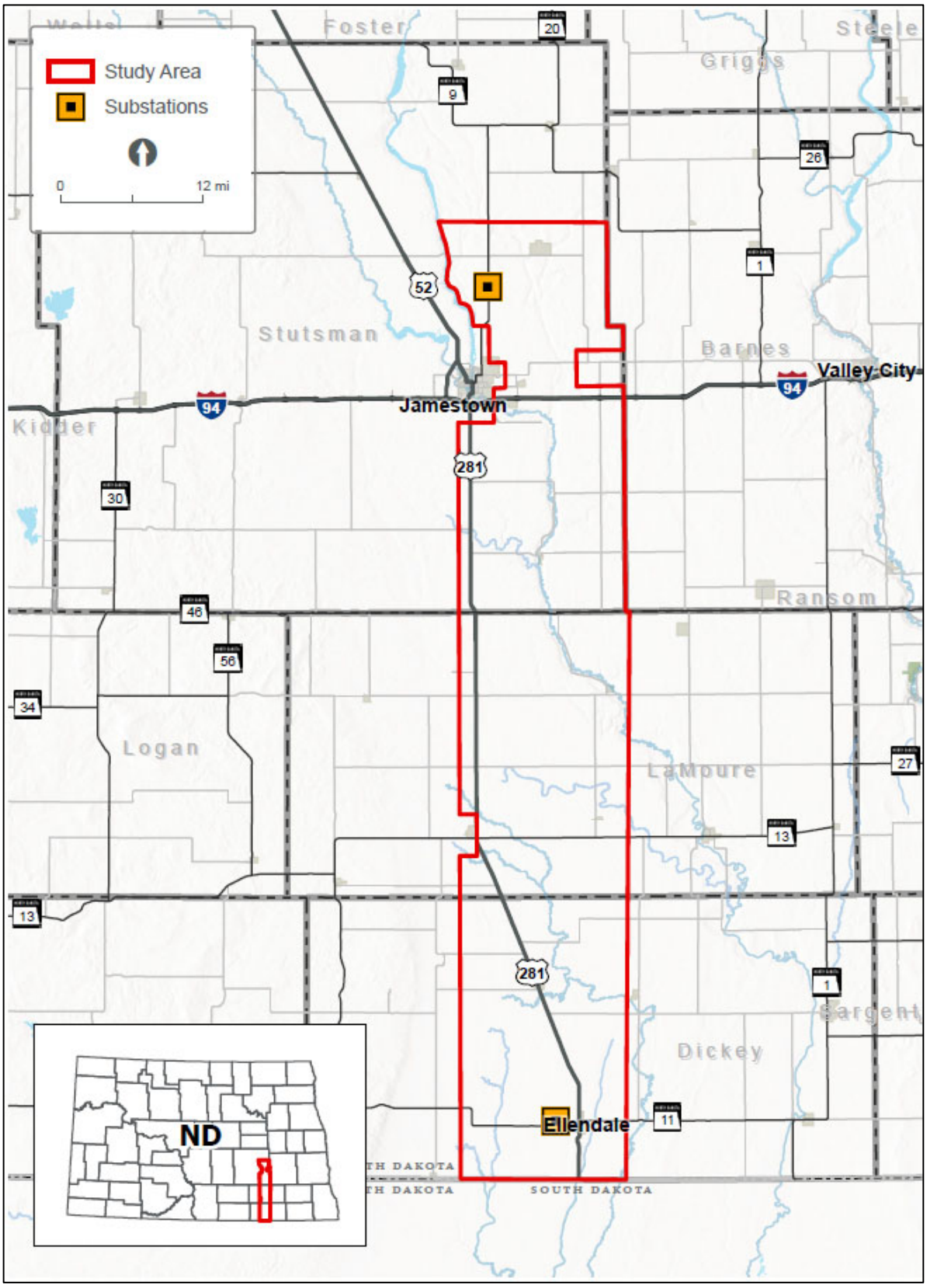
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Wayde Sick
Director and Executive Officer, ND Career and Technical Education
600 E. Boulevard Ave, 15th Floor
Bismarck, ND 58505

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

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HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
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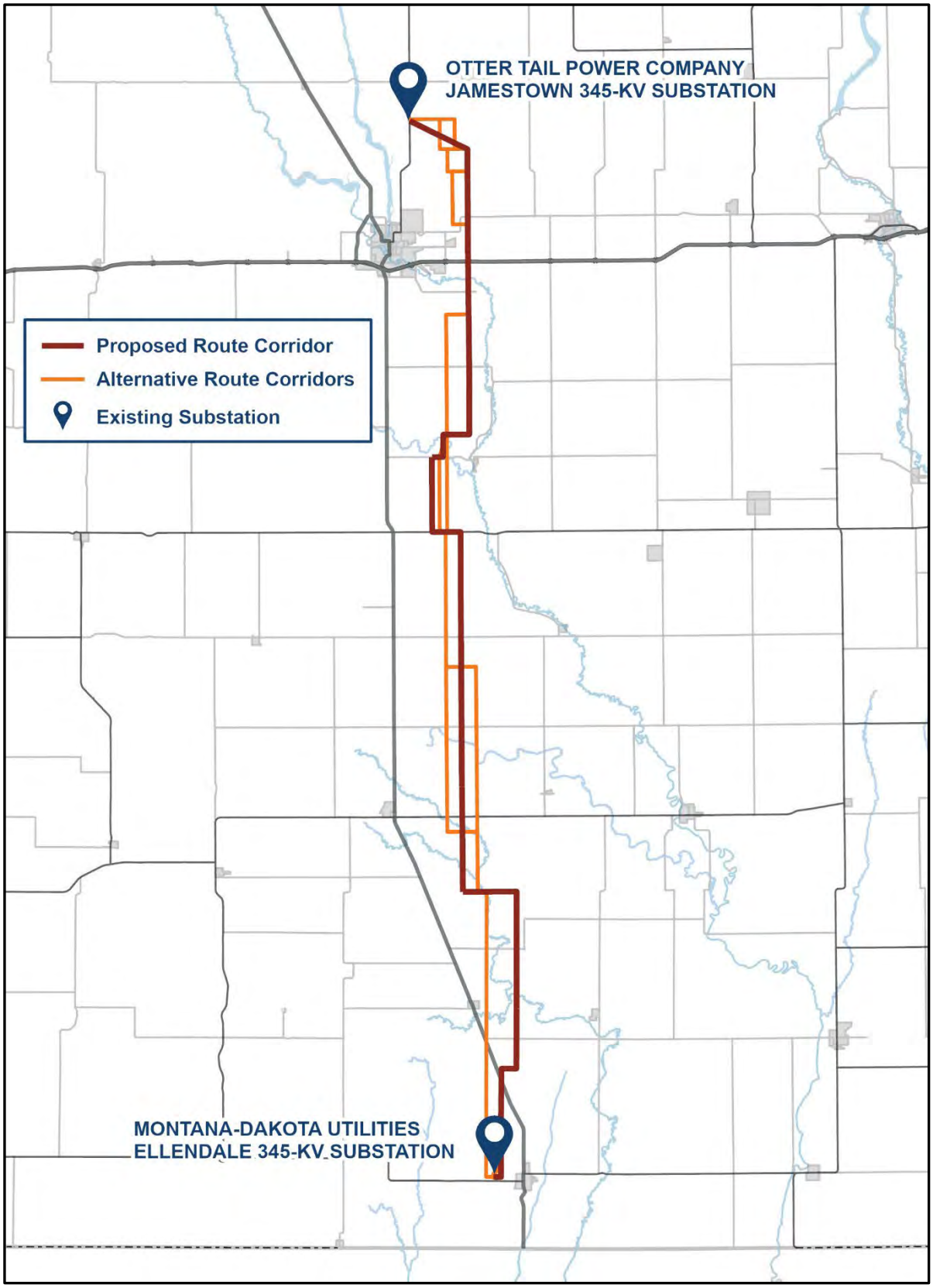
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

North Dakota Department of Agriculture

Documentation of available correspondence is included following this log.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
North Dakota Department of Agriculture				
March 22, 2023	Letter	Applicants[1]	North Dakota Department of Agriculture	Introduction letter and request for comments.
September 7, 2023	Letter	Applicants	North Dakota Department of Agriculture	Second request for input and meeting request letter.

1 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Mary Podoll
State Conservationist
ND Department of Agriculture
PO Box 1458
Bismarck, ND 58502

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Ms. Podoll,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

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Fargo, ND 58102

Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

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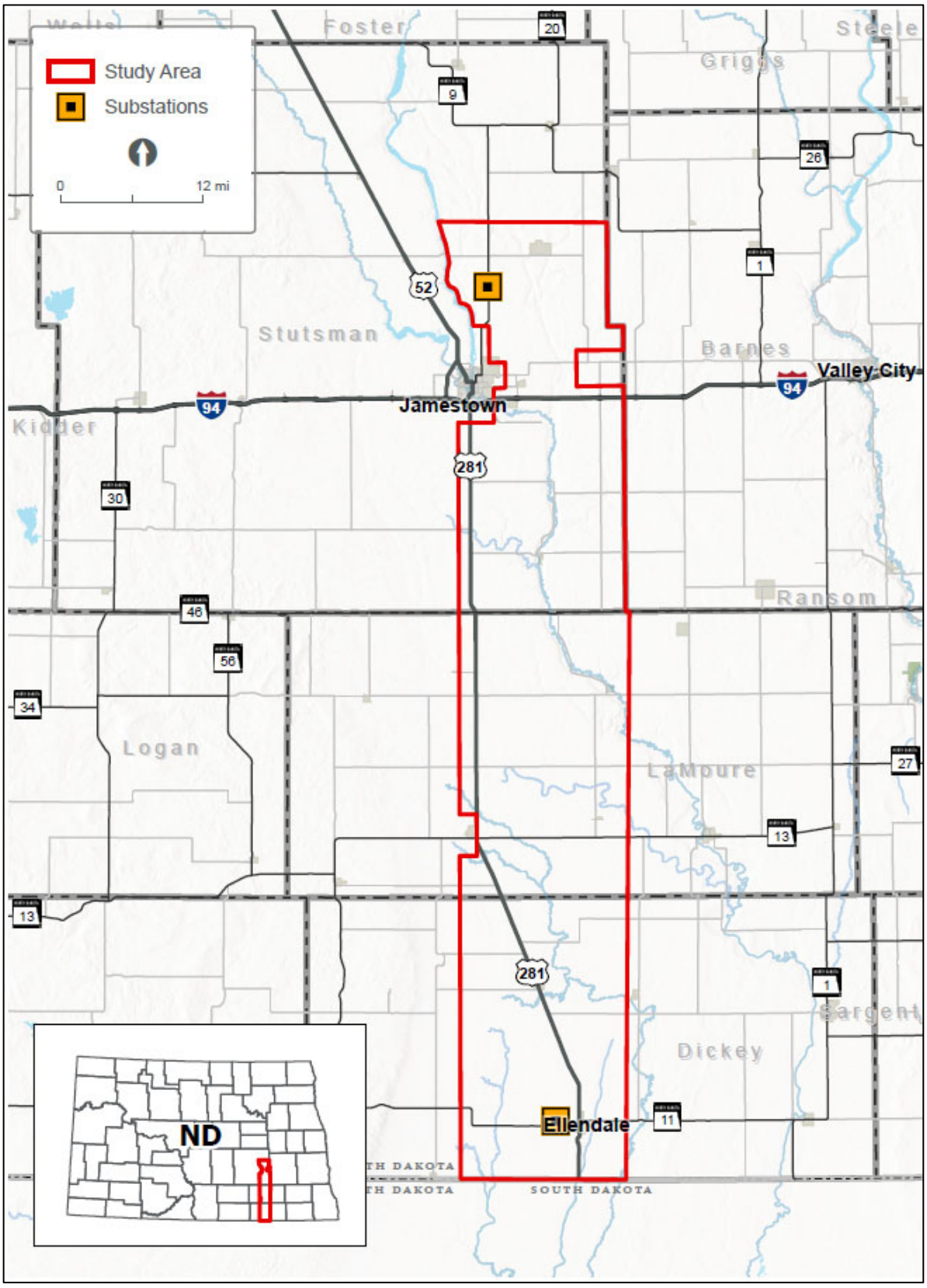
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Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Mary Podoll
State Conservationist, ND Department of Agriculture
PO Box 1458
Bismarck, ND 58502

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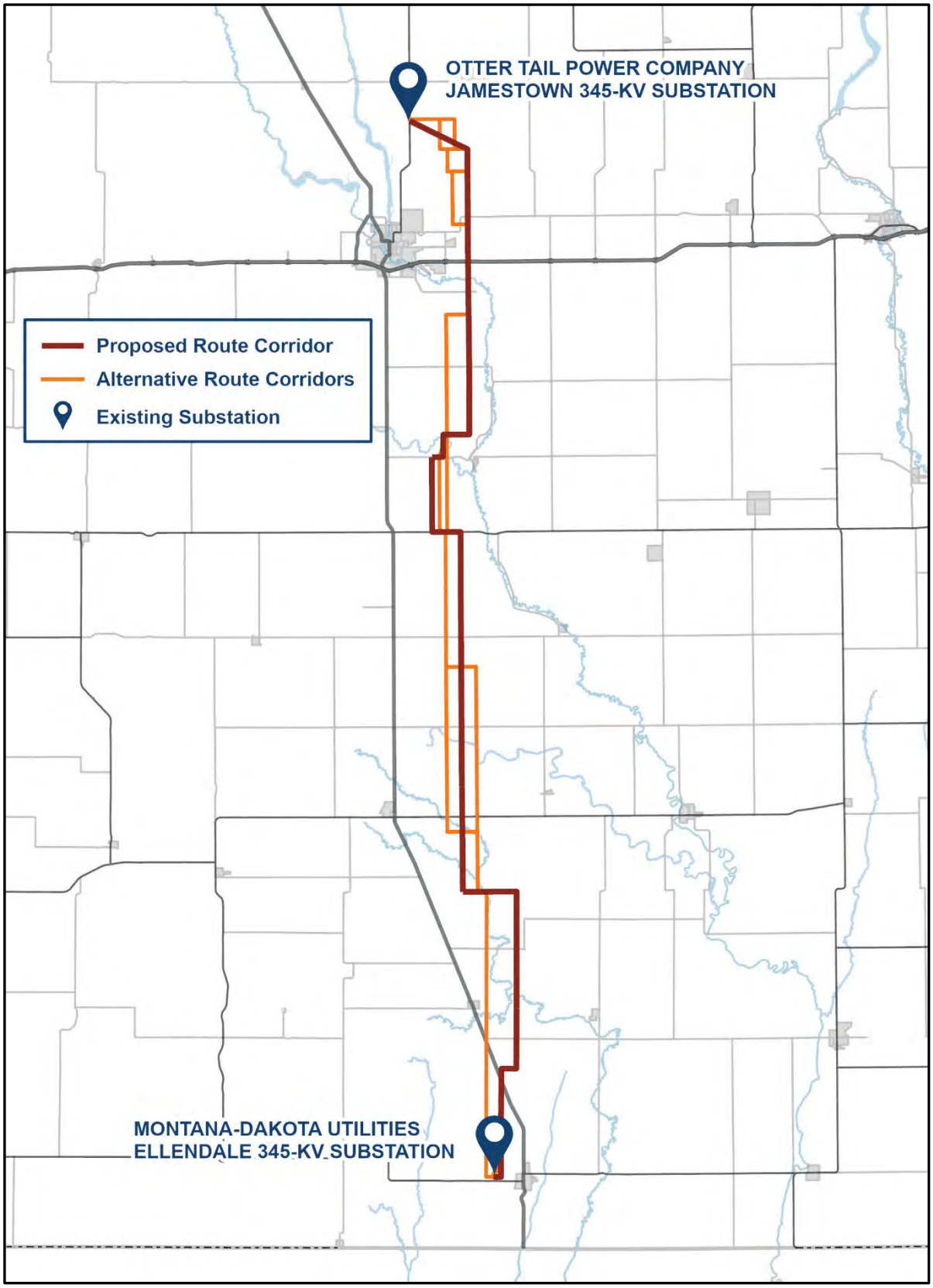
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


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JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

North Dakota Department of Commerce (NDDOC)

Documentation of available correspondence is included following this log.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
North Dakota Department of Commerce (NDDOC)				
March 23, 2023	Letter and Email[1]	Applicants[2]	NDDOC	Introduction letter and request for comments.
March 23, 2023	Email	NDDOC	Applicants	NDDOC responded to the March 2023 RFI and added additional representatives to the email.
March 23, 2023	Email	NDDOC	Applicants	NDDOC confirmed receipt of the March 2023 RFI and requested initial attachments to be re-sent.
May 24, 2023	Joint Meeting			Meeting with NDDOC and North Dakota Transmission Authority (NDTA) providing an overview of the Project and to answer questions.
September 7, 2023	Letter and Email[1]	Applicants	NDDOC	Second request for input and meeting request letter.
September 18, 2023	Email	NDDOC	Applicants	NDDOC responded to the September 2023 RFI that they had no concerns with the Project.

1 Indicates documentation that was a part of one of the mass March or September agency mailings.

2 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.

From: Carlson, Michaela <Michaela.Carlson@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 9:16 AM

To: Teigen, Joshua L. <jlteigen@nd.gov>
Cc: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>; Weiers, Jason <jweiers@otpco.com>
Subject: ND Dept of Commerce_03222023_ Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

You don't often get email from michaela.carlson@hdrinc.com. Learn why this is important

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

Good morning,

HDR is assisting Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company to develop and construct an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. We are requesting comments on the attached information. Please respond by April 22, 2023. Thank you!

Michaela Carlson
Environmental Scientist

HDR
101 S. Phillips Ave. Suite 401
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
D 605-782-8131 **M** 605-553-4841
Michaela.Carlson@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Josh Teigen
Comissioner
ND Department of Commerce
1600 E. Century Ave - Ste 6
Bismarck, ND 58503

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Teigen,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

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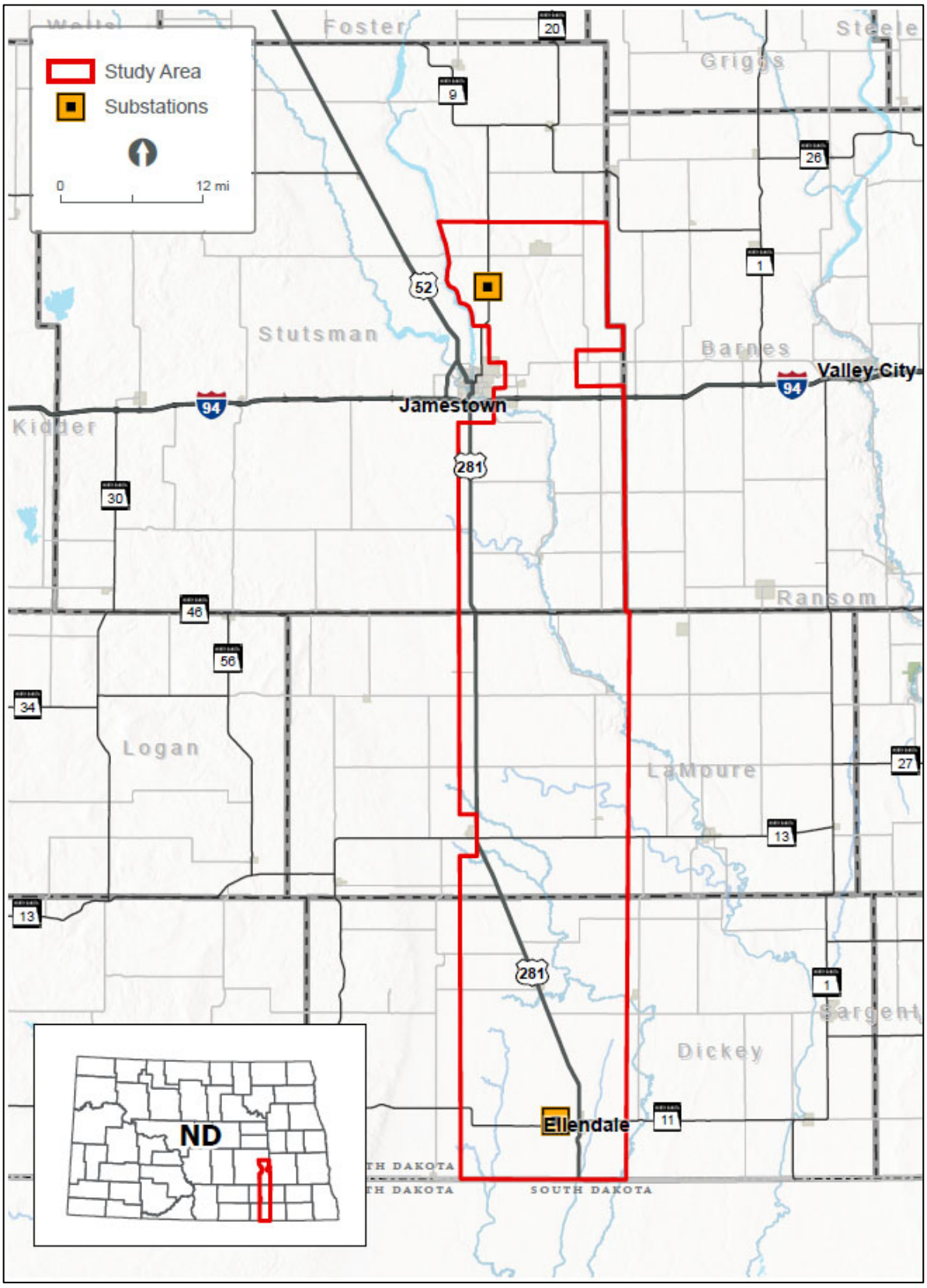
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



From: Teigen, Joshua L. <jlteigen@nd.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 12:14 PM
To: Carlson, Michaela <Michaela.Carlson@hdrinc.com>
Cc: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>; Weiers, Jason <jweiers@otpco.com>; Garman, Rich W. <rgarman@nd.gov>; Oakland, Tom J. <thomas.oakland@nd.gov>
Subject: RE: ND Dept of Commerce_03222023_ Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Thank you Michaela,

I am adding Rich and Tom from my team who will be best suited to comment on this proposal.

Regards,
Josh

From: Oakland, Tom J. <thomas.oakland@nd.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 2:25 PM
To: Teigen, Joshua L.; Carlson, Michaela
Cc: Hanley, Jennifer; Weiers, Jason; Garman, Rich W.
Subject: RE: ND Dept of Commerce_03222023_ Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

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

Michaela,
We would love to help and look into this. Could you provide the attachments from the initial email to Rich and me? Thanks.

Tom Oakland
Energy and Economic Coordination Office Manager

701-319-0161 • thomas.oakland@nd.gov • www.nd.gov

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1600 E. Century Ave., Suite 2 PO Box 2057 • Bismarck, ND 58503

Meeting Summary

Project:	OTP/MDU JETx 345 kV Transmission Line
Subject:	JETx ND Transmission Authority (NDTA) and ND Department of Commerce (NDDOC) Meeting Summary
Date:	Wednesday, May 24, 2023
Location:	Virtual

Attendees:

☒Langston, Todd (OTP)	☒Hanley, Jen (HDR)
☒Weiers, Jason (OTP)	☒Vigessa, Claire (NDTA)
☒Frank, Rob (MDU)	☒Weeda, John (NDTA)
	☒Oakland, Tom (ND DOC)

Otter Tail Power Company, Montana Dakota Utilities, HDR, NDTA and ND DOC virtually met at 3pm on May 24, 2023.

OTP gave a short presentation on the proposed Jamestown – Ellendale 345 kV transmission project. The presentation identified why the project is being proposed, where the study area is located, and general timeline.

OTP also gave a quick summary of content included in the MTEP21 report for the Jamestown – Ellendale 345 kV Project and the Big Stone South – Alexandria – Cassie's Crossing (now called "Big Oaks") 345 kV Project. The group looked at the Indicative Roadmap for Future 1 and Future 3. Future 3 included HVDC ties throughout the region. In MISO's Future 3 indicative roadmap, JETx is envisioned to be a collection point for a future HVDC terminal near Edgeley/Ellendale. Power from the 345kV would be put on the future HVDC line that would terminate further south and east to help deliver power throughout MISO.

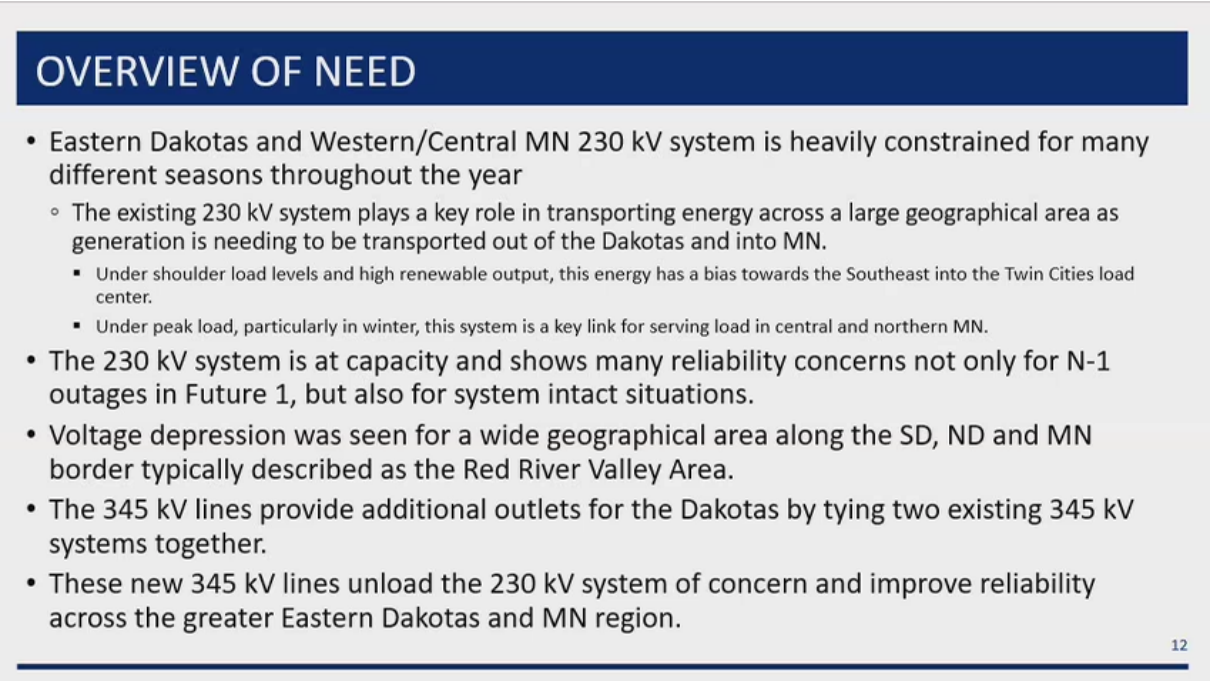
Much of the project study area land is tied up in wind options. Based on feedback received so far through county and township meetings, OTP and MDU understand that NextEra and Invenergy are actively pursuing wind development within the study area.

There are currently no substations planned by MISO between Jamestown/Ellendale. That might change prior to JETx construction depending on the upcoming studies that will be performed as part of the MISO interconnection process.

The NDTA does not plan to attend the public meetings but would like to be kept up-to-date on the status of the project and who the project contacts are. Jason Weiers of OTP indicated that he can be the first point of contact for questions related to the JETx project.

LRTP #1 and #2 will help with capacity and congestion and provide more opportunity for generation development in North Dakota. OTP may do an export study to identify the potential benefits to North Dakota based generation. John Weeda indicated that OTP could maybe work with NDTA as they have requested their consultant to update their recent export study with the LRTP Tranche 1 projects.

Local benefits of the project include:



Action Items:

Action Item	Date	Responsible
Send overview presentation and meeting summary to meeting participants	5/25/2023	HDR - Hanley

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Josh Teigen
Comissioner, ND Department of Commerce
1600 E. Century Ave., Suite 6
Bismarck, ND 58503

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Josh Teigen,

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[1] The Regional Transmission Organization in this area of the Upper Midwest is the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). See more information at www.misoenergy.org.

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
701-353-6139

We will be hosting public meetings at three locations along the Project in September. The meetings will be held on consecutive days September 12 - 14 from 3 - 6 p.m. each day at the three locations listed below. In addition to our public meetings, we are also extending you an invitation if you would prefer to meet individually. If you are interested in an individual meeting outside of our public meetings, our contact information follows below and we would welcome the opportunity to share more information about the Project, answer your questions and take your feedback.

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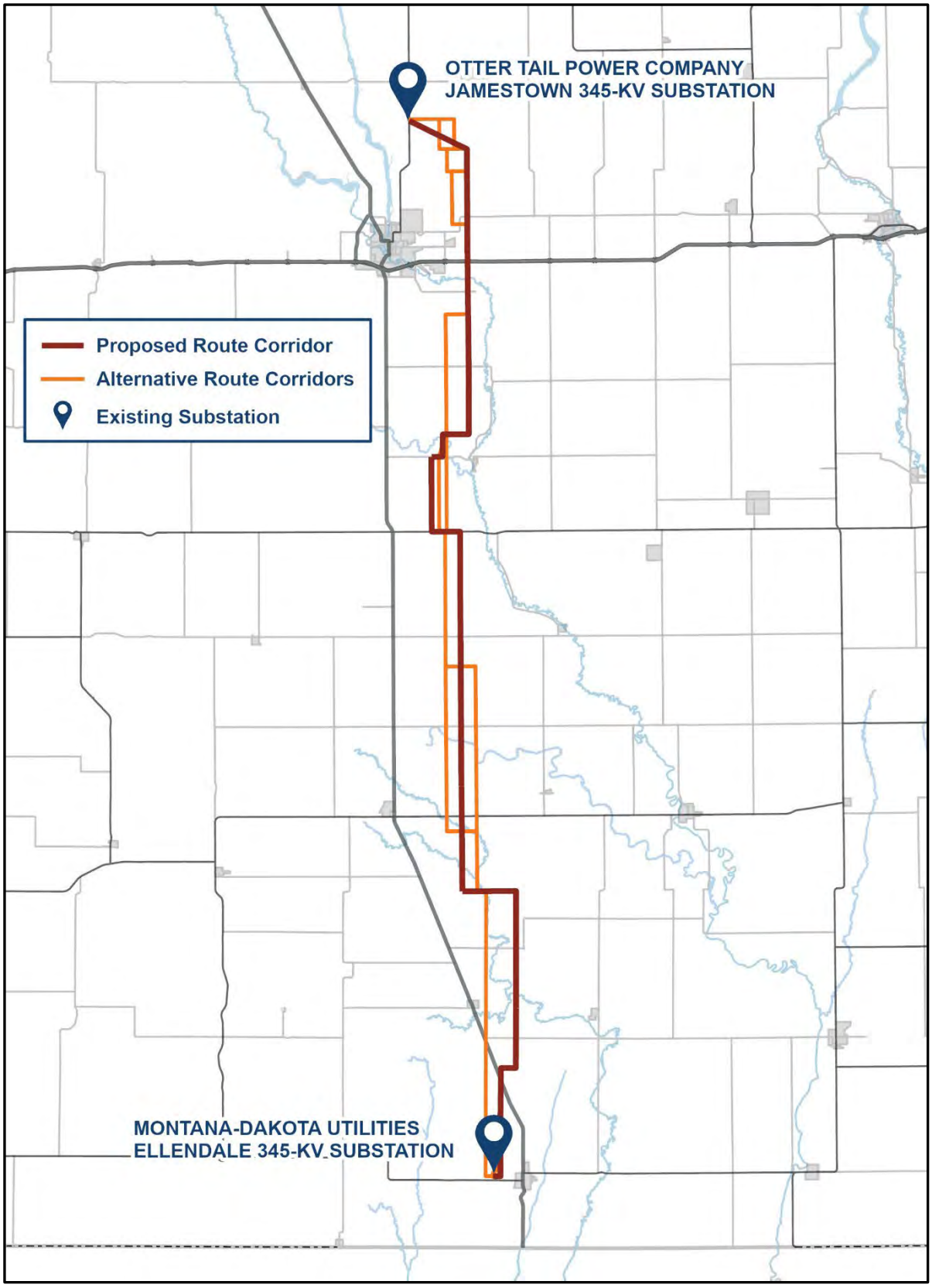
If you desire further information regarding the proposed Project, please contact me at 218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc., at 701-353-6139 or jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com. In addition, further information about the Project can also be found on our website at www.JamestowntoEllendale.com.

Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Thomas Oakland
Energy & Economic Coordination Office Manager, ND Department of Commerce
1602 E. Century Ave., Suite 6
Bismarck, ND 58503

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Thomas Oakland,

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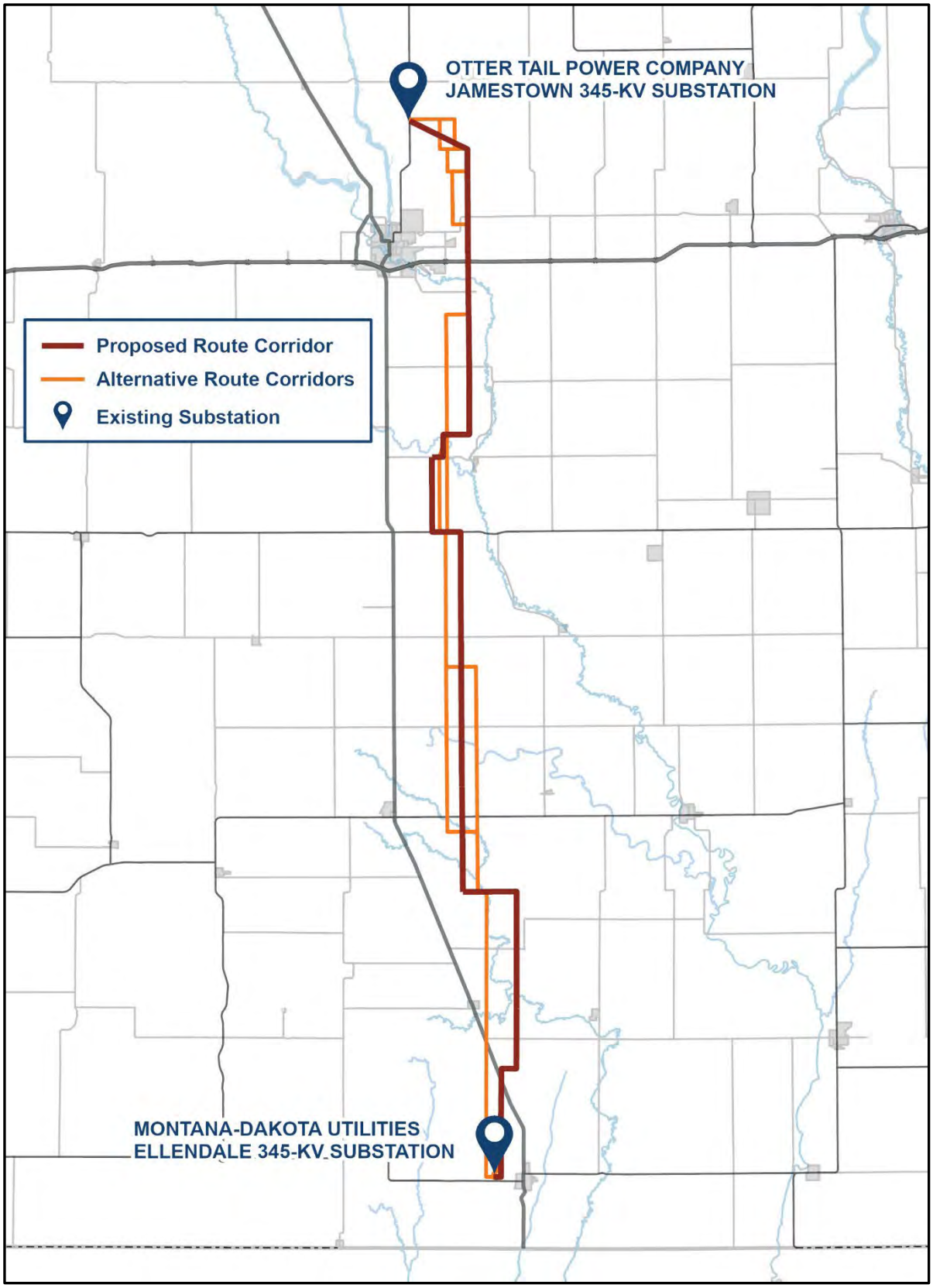
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


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JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

From: Heick, Tammy A. <theick@nd.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 12:10 PM
To: Hanley, Jennifer
Subject: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and MontanaDakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

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

Jennifer,

On behalf of Commerce, thank you for reaching out. Commissioner Josh Teigen and Tom Oakland reviewed the proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project and Commerce has no concerns with this project.

Tammy Heick
Executive Assistant
Commissioner & COO/Deputy Commissioner

701.328.5305 • theick@nd.gov • www.commerce.nd.gov

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WATFORD CITY | OCTOBER 24–25
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JETx Jamestown to Ellendale

North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality

Documentation of available correspondence is included following this log.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality				
March 22, 2023	Letter	Applicants[1]	North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality	Introduction letter and request for comments.
September 7, 2023	Letter	Applicants	North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality	Second request for input and meeting request letter.

1 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

David Glatt
Director
ND Department of Environmental Quality
4201 Normandy St
Bismarck, ND 58503

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Glatt,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

Currently, OTP and Montana-Dakota are in the preliminary planning stages of the Project, which include high-level planning, initial public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and preliminary design. These preliminary planning stages will provide important input into the identification of preliminary routes and the eventual selection of a final route for the Project. The attached map shows the current study area being assessed for preliminary routes. Public outreach with landowners and interested parties including public meetings are being planned to occur in June 2023.

We are soliciting your review of the preliminary Project area in order to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the final route. We are particularly interested in any property located within or adjacent to the study area which your agency may own or have an interest in. We would also appreciate being made aware of any proposed developments your agency may be contemplating in the study area under consideration for the Project in addition to any information that might assist us in our siting analysis and studies. To help us identify potential resource issues in the corridor analysis, please provide us with any information pertaining to the JETx project by April 22, 2023. Written or email responses should be sent to:

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we will reach out to schedule stakeholder meetings as well as plan for additional outreach as a route is developed and refined.

If further information is desired regarding the proposed Project, please contact either myself (218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com) or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc. (701-353-6139 or Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com).

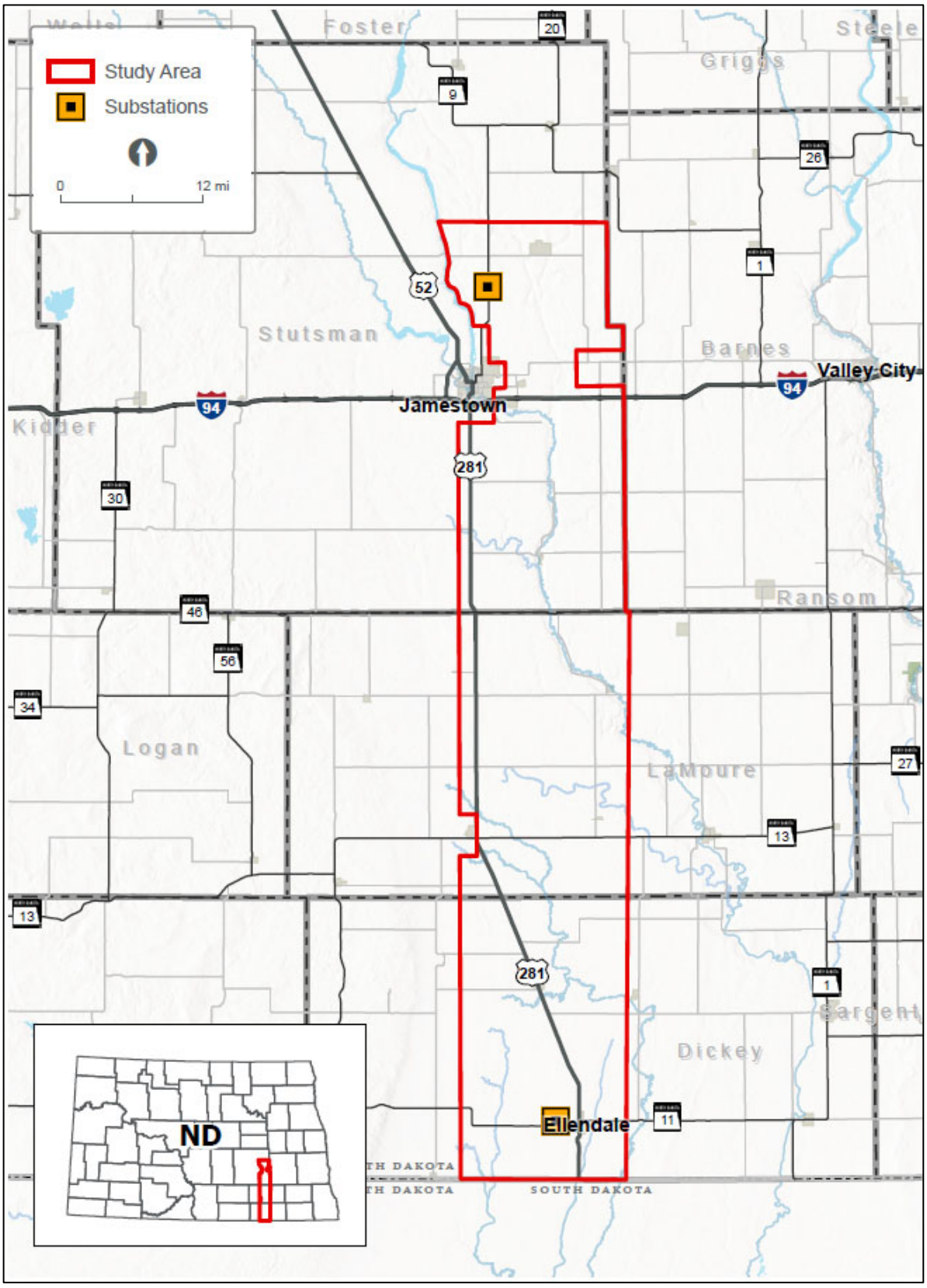
Sincerely,

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Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

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Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

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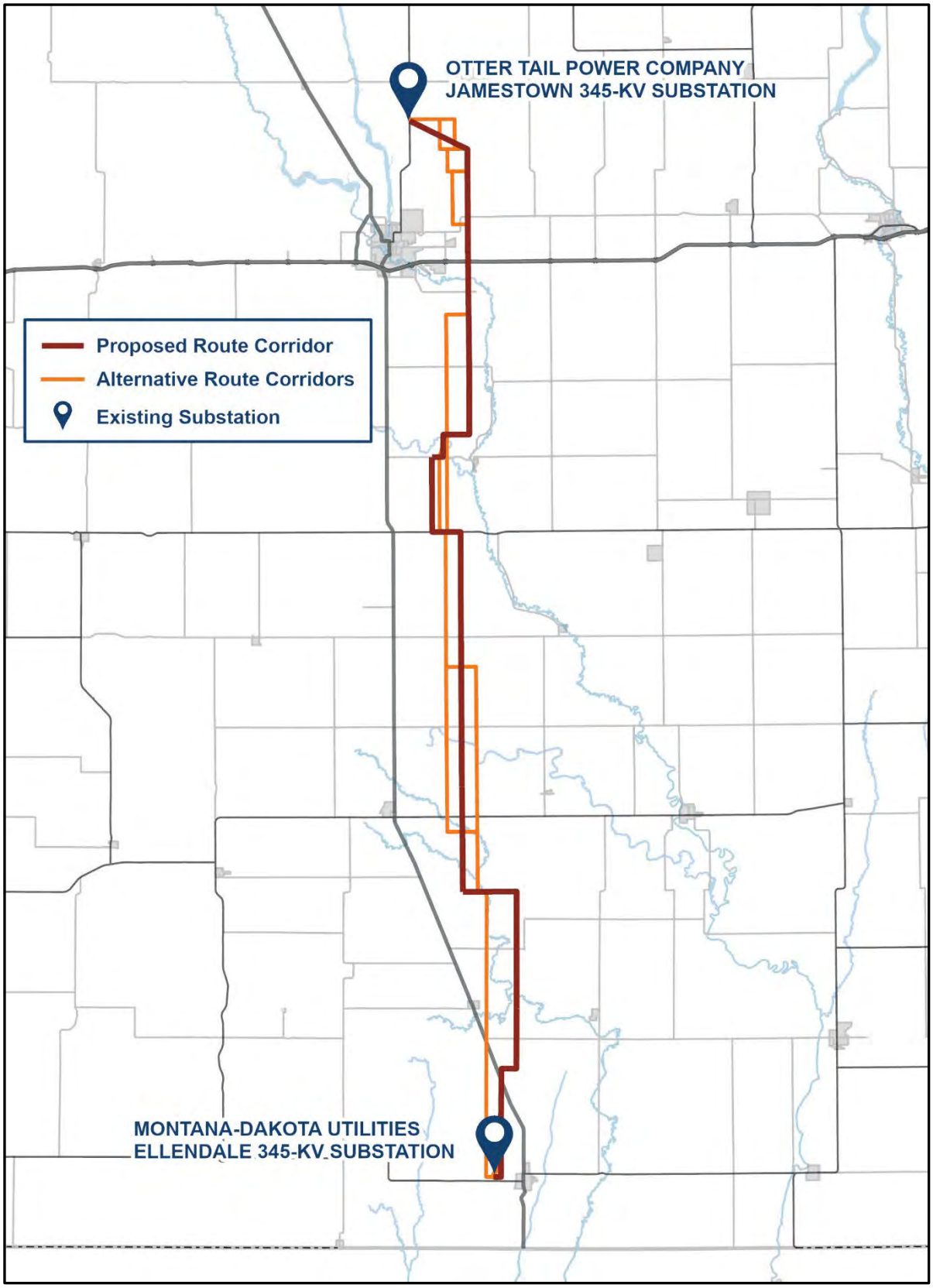
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North Dakota Department of Health

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Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Nizar Wahbi
ND State Health Officer
ND Department of Health
600 E. Boulevard Ave - Dept 325
Bismarck, ND 58505-0250

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

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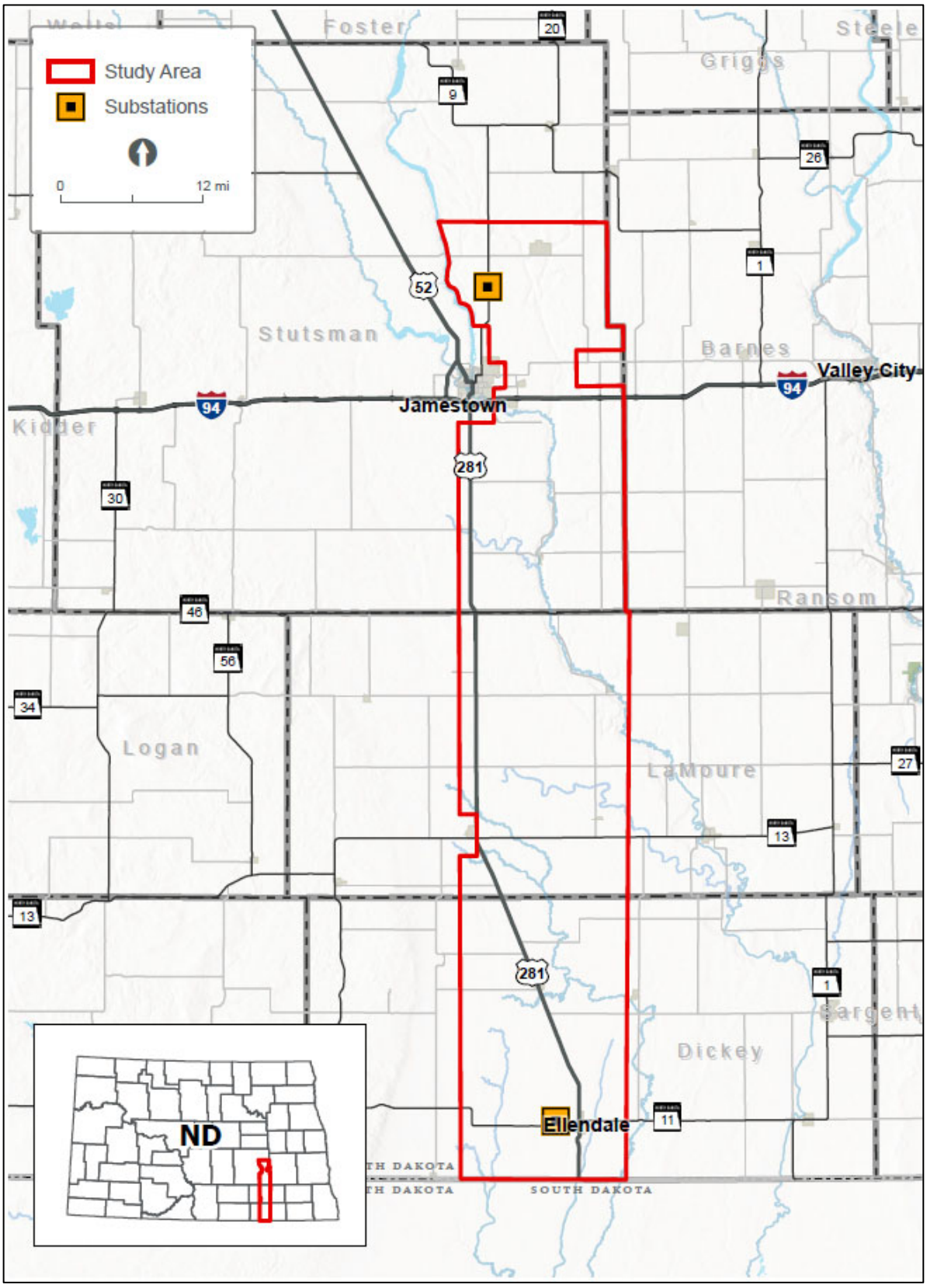
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Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

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Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

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American Legion Post #137 79 Main St. Ellendale, ND 58436	Bunker Hill Club House 1520 3rd St. SE Jamestown, ND 58401	Hakuna Matata 101 Industrial Park Road. Edgeley, ND 58433

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the Project progresses, we are planning to have additional consultations with agencies, other jurisdictions, and landowners as we develop and refine a preferred route.

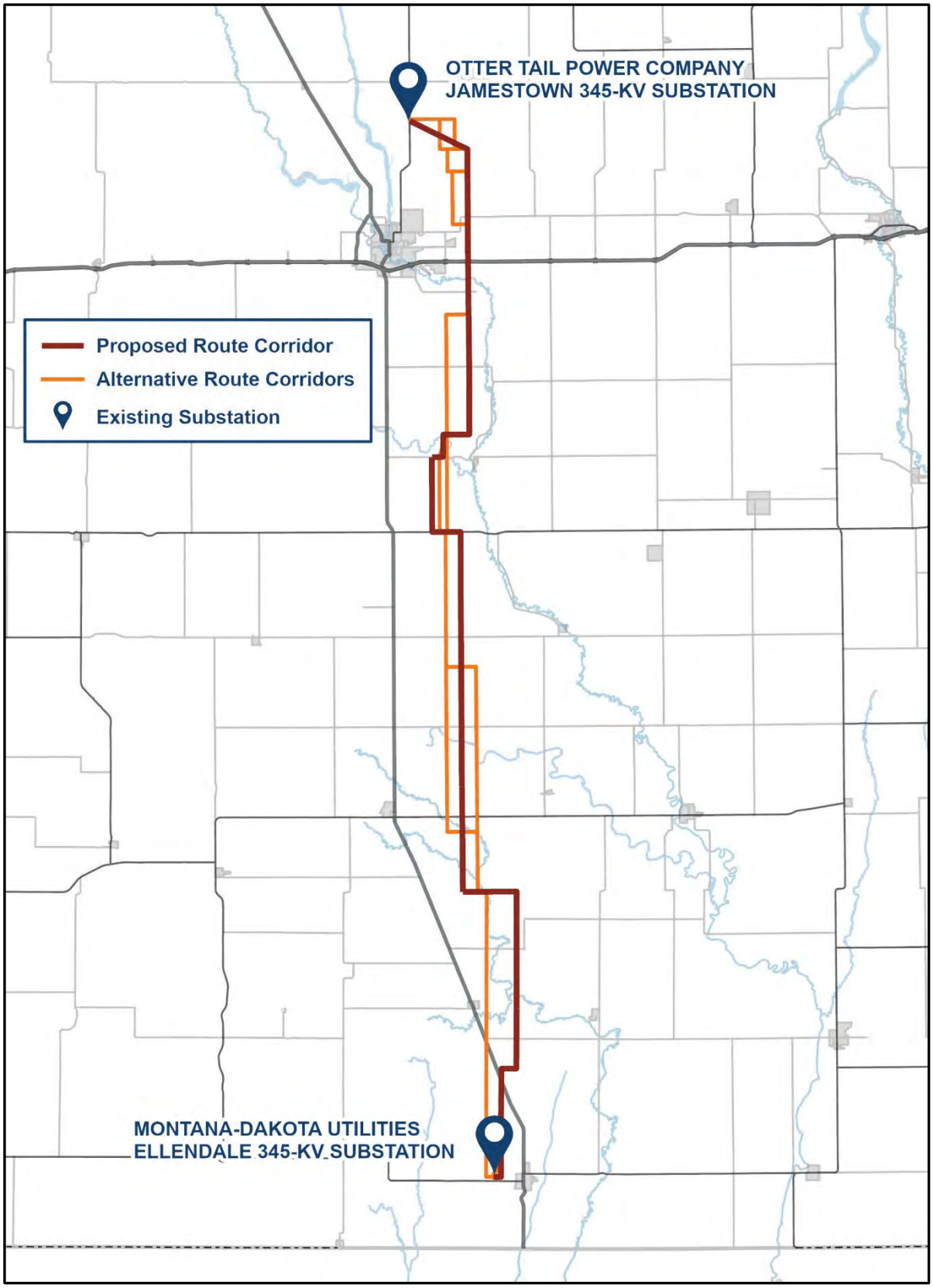
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

JETx Jamestown to Ellendale

North Dakota Department of Transportation

Documentation of available correspondence is included following this log.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
North Dakota Department of Transportation				
March 22, 2023	Letter	Applicants[1]	North Dakota Department of Transportation	Introduction letter and request for comments.
September 7, 2023	Letter	Applicants	North Dakota Department of Transportation	Second request for input and meeting request letter.

1 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Ron Henke
Director
North Dakota Department of Transportation
608 E. Boulevard Ave
Bismarck, ND 58505

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Henke,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

Currently, OTP and Montana-Dakota are in the preliminary planning stages of the Project, which include high-level planning, initial public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and preliminary design. These preliminary planning stages will provide important input into the identification of preliminary routes and the eventual selection of a final route for the Project. The attached map shows the current study area being assessed for preliminary routes. Public outreach with landowners and interested parties including public meetings are being planned to occur in June 2023.

We are soliciting your review of the preliminary Project area in order to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the final route. We are particularly interested in any property located within or adjacent to the study area which your agency may own or have an interest in. We would also appreciate being made aware of any proposed developments your agency may be contemplating in the study area under consideration for the Project in addition to any information that might assist us in our siting analysis and studies. To help us identify potential resource issues in the corridor analysis, please provide us with any information pertaining to the JETx project by April 22, 2023. Written or email responses should be sent to:

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we will reach out to schedule stakeholder meetings as well as plan for additional outreach as a route is developed and refined.

If further information is desired regarding the proposed Project, please contact either myself (218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com) or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc. (701-353-6139 or Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com).

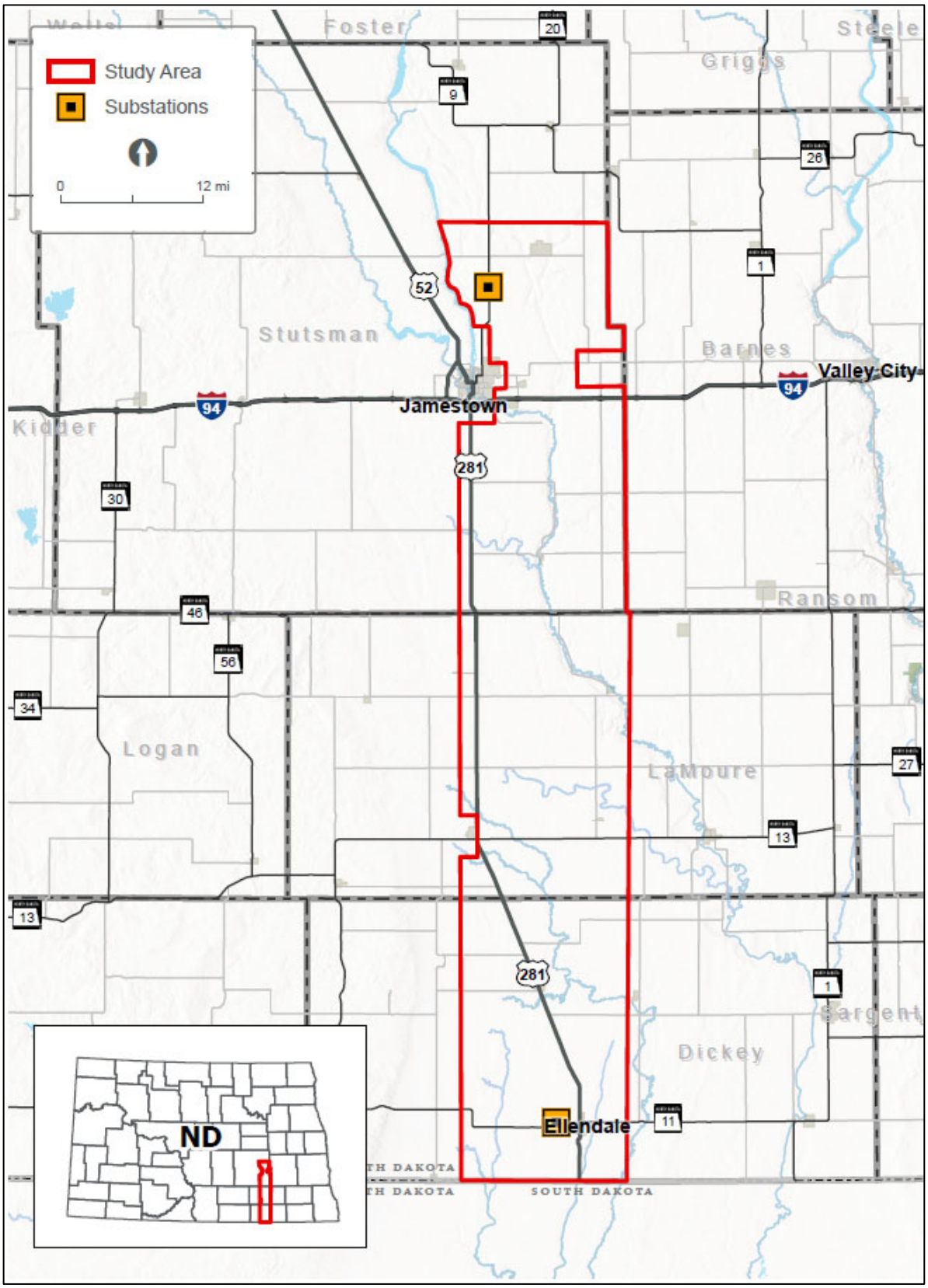
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Jay Praska
District Engineer
NDDOT - Valley City District Office
1524 Eighth Avenue SW
Valley City, ND 58072

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Praska,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

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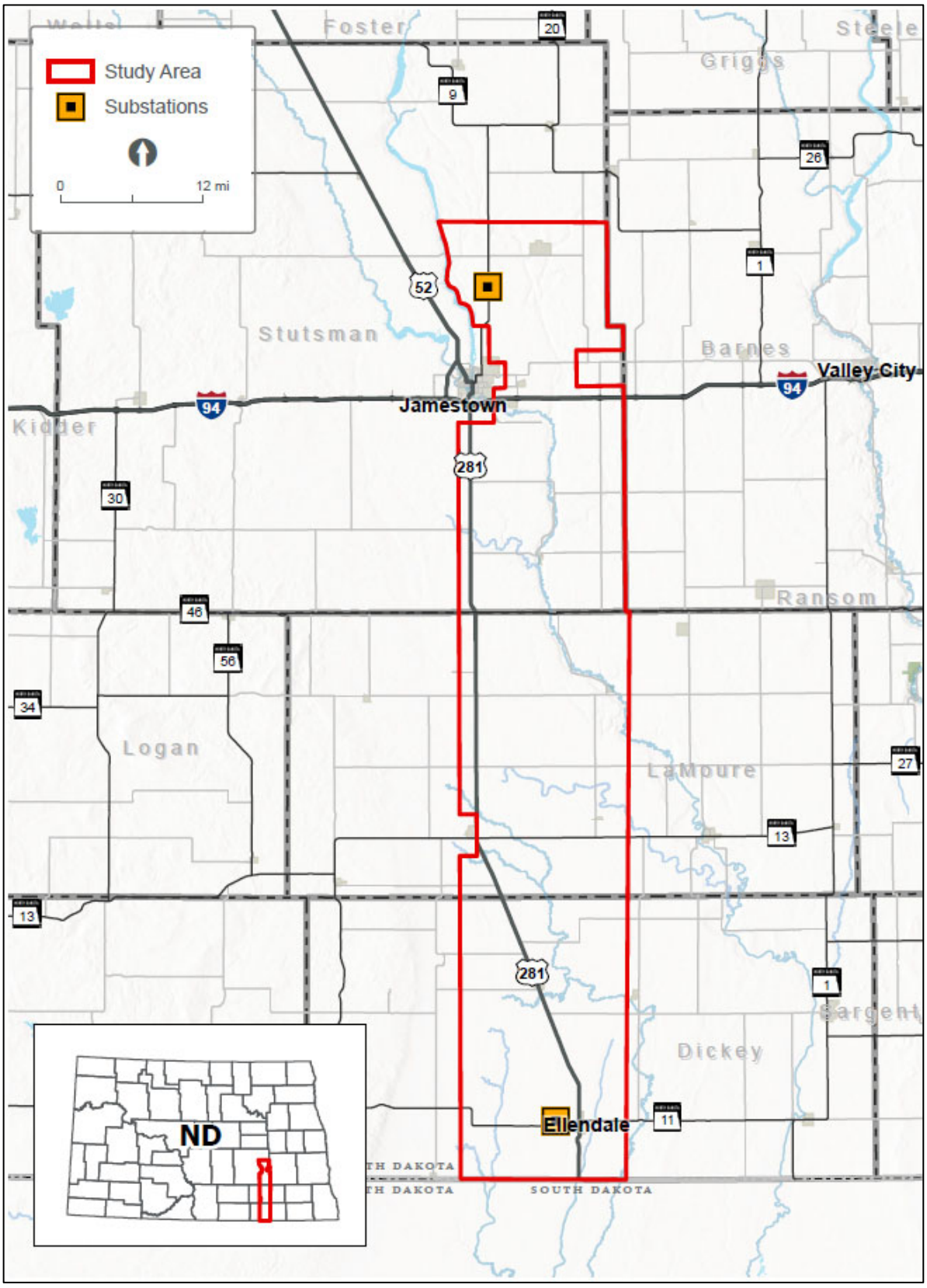
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Ron Henke
Director, North Dakota Department of Transportation
608 E. Boulevard Ave
Bismarck, ND 58505

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Ron Henke,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (the Project). The Project would be in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect Otter Tail Power's existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota's existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified by the Regional Transmission Organization in the Upper Midwest[1] needed to maintain electric system reliability, increase resilience to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion and increase access to low cost energy throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025. At this early stage of the Project, it is anticipated that Section 106 compliance would be needed for a United State Corps of Engineers Section 404 wetland permit and Section 10 river crossing permit for an overhead crossing of the James River.

Currently, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota are in the planning stages of the Project, which include public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and initial design. These preliminary planning stages provide important input into the identification of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. The attached map shows the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. These corridors are subject to change as we continue public outreach with landowners and other interested parties. Environmental field surveys are currently anticipated to start late this year and be completed in 2024.

We are requesting your review of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the preferred route. We appreciate and value your input in our attempt to avoid or minimize impacts. To help us identify potential concerns in our corridor analysis, we request that any information pertaining to the Project be provided by October 12, 2023, if possible, to:

[1] The Regional Transmission Organization in this area of the Upper Midwest is the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). See more information at www.misoenergy.org.

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
701-353-6139

We will be hosting public meetings at three locations along the Project in September. The meetings will be held on consecutive days September 12 - 14 from 3 - 6 p.m. each day at the three locations listed below. In addition to our public meetings, we are also extending you an invitation if you would prefer to meet individually. If you are interested in an individual meeting outside of our public meetings, our contact information follows below and we would welcome the opportunity to share more information about the Project, answer your questions and take your feedback.

Ellendale	**Jamestown**	**Edgeley**
September 12, 2023	September 13, 2023	September 14, 2023
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	3:00 – 6:00 pm	3:00 – 6:00 pm
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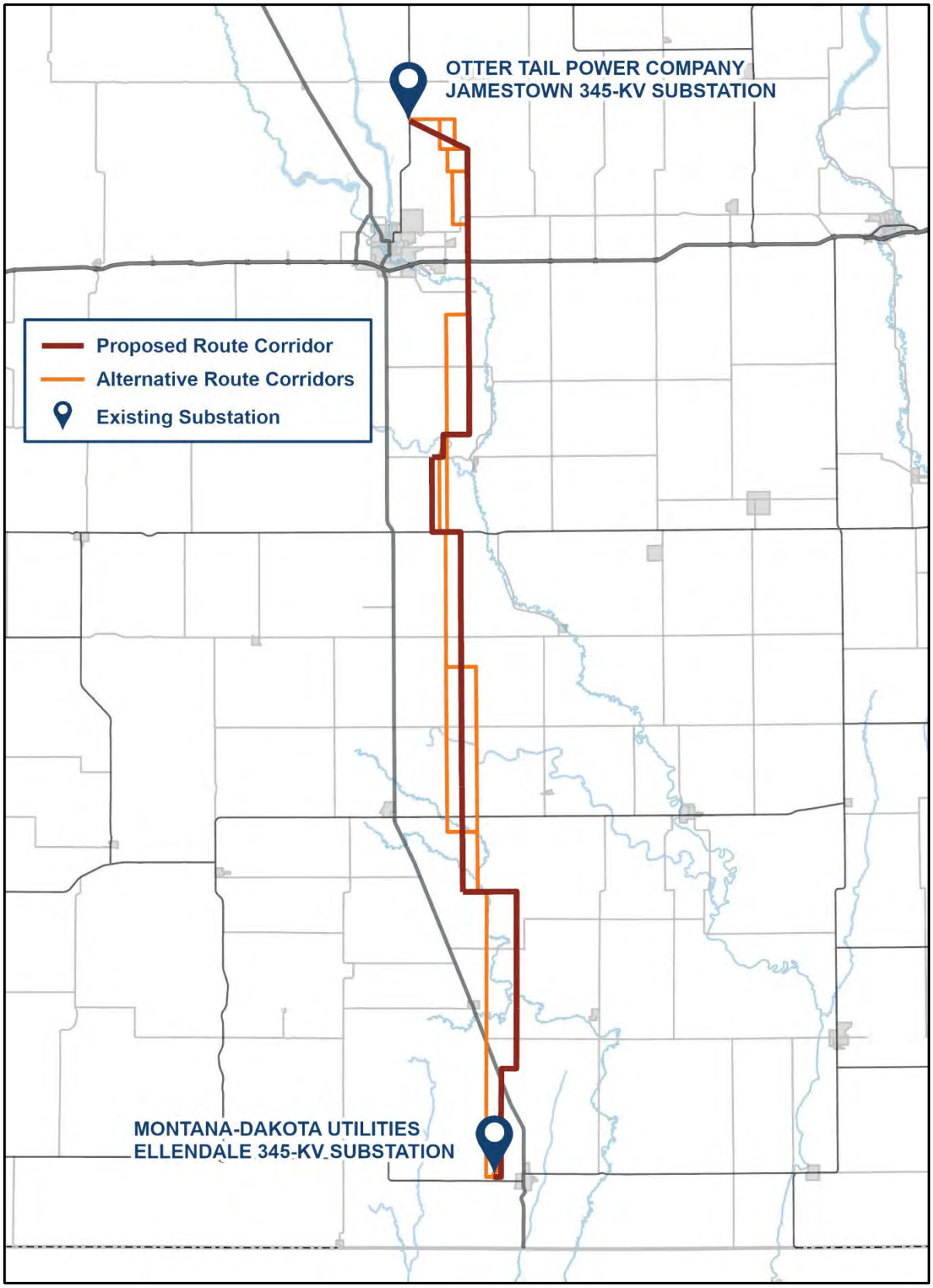
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Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


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JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
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Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Jay Praska
District Engineer, NDDOT - Valley City District Office
1524 Eighth Avenue SW
Valley City, ND 58072

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

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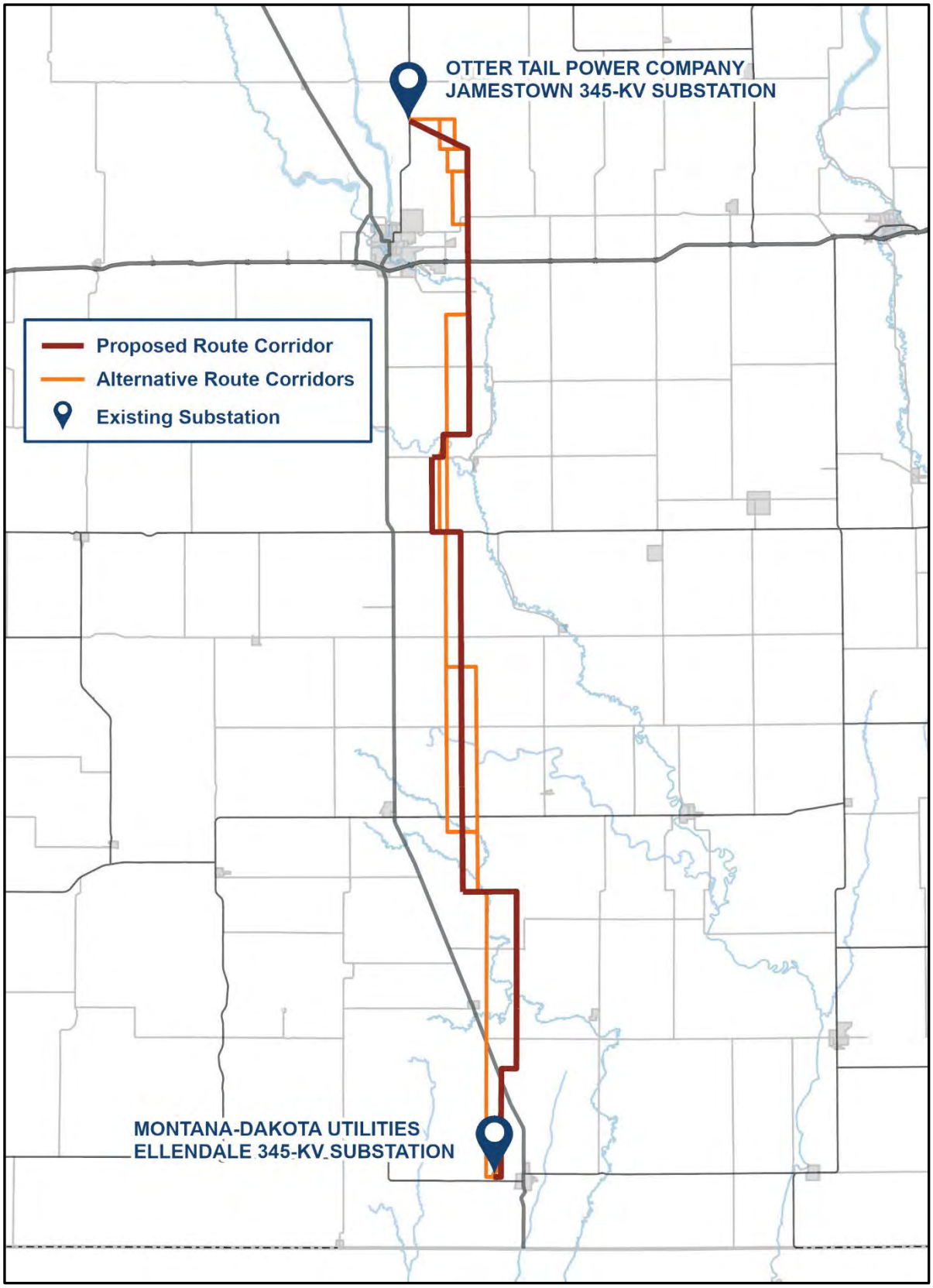
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Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


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JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
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MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
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JETx Jamestown to Ellendale

North Dakota Department of Trust Lands (NDDTL)

Documentation of available correspondence is included following this log.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
North Dakota Department of Trust Lands (NDDTL)				
March 23, 2023	Letter and Email[1]	Applicants[2]	NDDTL	Introduction letter and request for comments.
March 24, 2023	Email	NDDTL	Applicants	NDDTL responded and provided a summary of the NDDTL right-of-way (ROW) application process and survey requirements.
September 7, 2023	Letter and Email[1]	Applicants	NDDTL	Second request for input and meeting request letter.
August 22, 2024	Email	Applicants	HDDTL	Applicants requested confirmation that an easement was not required.
August 29, 2024	Email	NDDTL	Applicants	NDDTL confirmed that a special permit was not required for Mineral Lands and requested continued updated.

1 Indicates documentation that was a part of one of the mass March or September agency mailings.

2 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Joseph Heringer
Land Comissioner
ND Department of Trust Lands
1707 N 9th St
Bismarck, ND 58501

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Heringer,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

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HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

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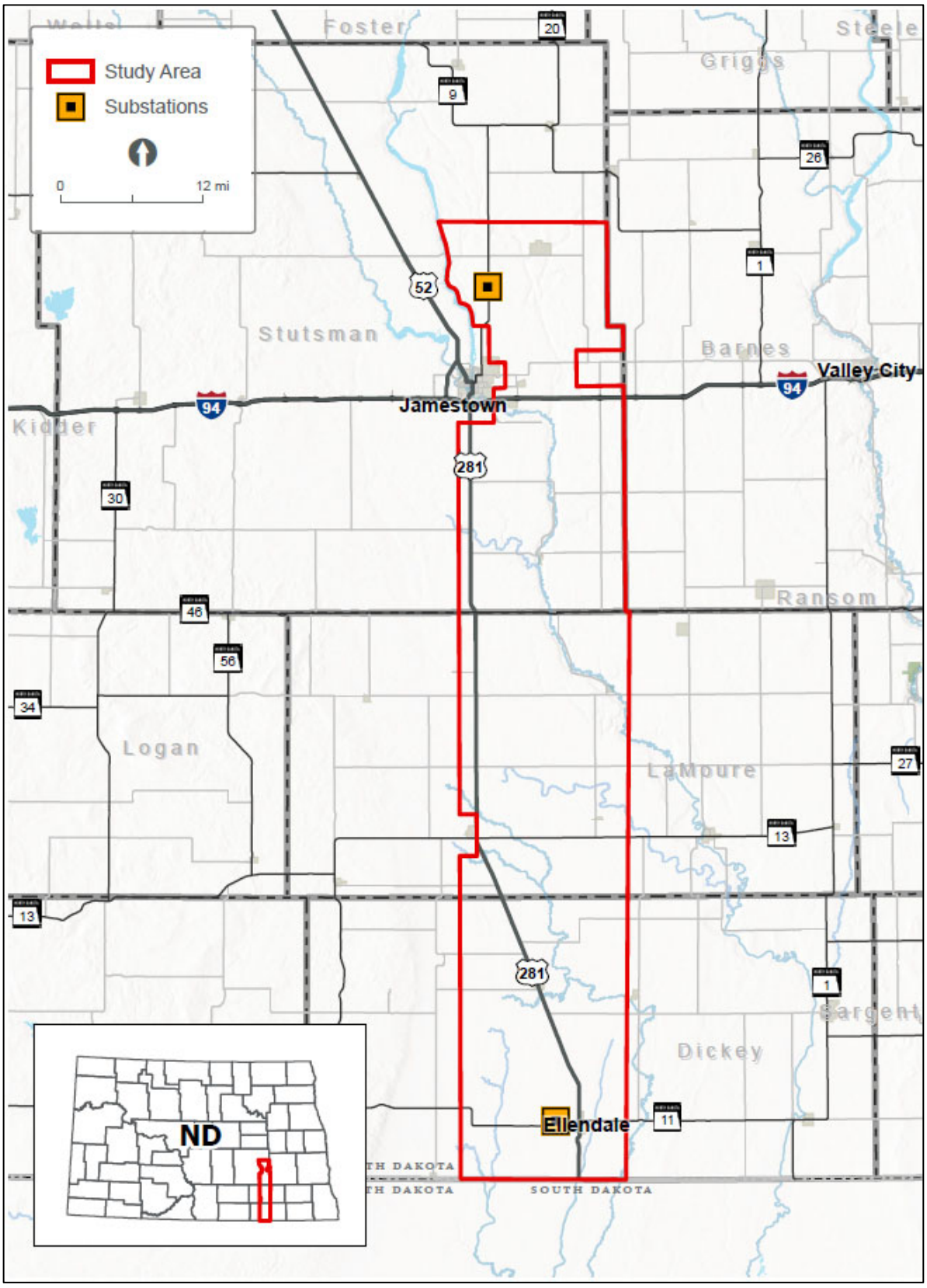
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



From: Spangelo, Kayla M. <kspangelo@nd.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 8:18 AM
To: Carlson, Michaela; Hanley, Jennifer; Weiers, Jason
Cc: -Info-DTL General Inquiries
Subject: RE: ND Dept of Trust Lands_03222023_ Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)
Attachments: SURVEY GUIDELINES (11-1-2021).pdf; ND Dept of Trust Lands_RFI_20230322.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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

Hello,

Below is information in response to the attached received email/letter.

NDDTL Surface Tract Reference Map:
https://nddtl.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=5b8dc240ef11463080923b00682bd408

NDDTL Right of way (ROW) webpage: https://www.land.nd.gov/rightsofway

NDDTL ROW Application link (will be different in the future but should still be located on the ROW webpage):
https://www.land.nd.gov/SurfaceROW/RowApplicationForm

Below is the NDDTL Right of Way process and some general information, please forward the below steps and attached survey guidelines, as applicable. NDDTL does have siting requirements and onsite reviews must be held prior to finalizing proposed routes across NDDTL managed surface tracts.

An application is deemed filed and complete when the department receives an application form, the application fee, and any supplemental information requested by the department (which can vary depending on the project type, tract, etc). A list of a few of the most common items was included below for examples.

Request & Acquisition Steps:
1. Submit **ROW Application** (link to application on NDDTL website: www.land.nd.gov)
   (review each part of the application for further project information requested, be as detailed as possible)
2. Submit **proposed route map**
3. DTL Preliminary Review
4. Receive DTL project specific ROW tracking number email requesting any clarification, additional information/items (see #5), and application fee or notice of project denial/modification requests
5. Submit **application fee** and any **additional requested information**
   (ie, unit development plans, gravel testing results if DTL requested testing, Certificate of Insurance, SPCC plan, appraisal, other received permits/concurrence documents, proof of financial standing, etc)
6. Meet for **onsite review** (if applicable) to review proposed location with DTL, project coordinator, and survey crew
7. Submit **surveys** for review (if applicable)

(REVIEW FOR FURTHER SURVEY REQUIREMENTS: Survey Guidelines for Survey/Engineering Companies, attached)

8. Submit **consideration payment** after DTL survey acceptance
9. DTL Final Review and Approval/Signature by Commissioner

In reviewing an application for an encumbrance, the following may be considered:

1. Financial benefit to the trusts;
2. Availability of alternate encumbrance site or route;
3. The least environmentally damaging site or route regardless of property ownership;
4. Physical stability of the landscape;
5. Other potential future uses for the trust lands, including urban development;
6. Potential mineral and other material development, including oil, gas, coal, construction aggregate, sodium sulfate, chemical substances, metallic ore, or uranium ore;
7. Feasibility for reclamation;
8. Maintenance of existing wetlands and waterflows;
9. Any cultural, historical, archeological, and paleontological resources;
10. Habitat for federally listed threatened and endangered species;
11. Location of the proposed route or site in relation to section lines, quarter section lines, and corridors;
12. Potential liability to the trusts;
13. Applicant's past encumbrances on trust lands;
14. Applicant's financial stability; and
15. Any other information relevant to the application which would assist in the determination

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Kayla Spangelo
Natural Resources Professional - Rights of Ways

701.328.1916 • kspangelo@nd.gov • land.nd.gov • 1707 N 9th St • Bismarck, ND 58501

NORTH Dakota | Trust Lands
Be Legendary.

PUBLIC DOCUMENT – NOT PUBLIC (OR PRIVILEGED) DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED

NORTH Dakota | Trust Lands
Be Legendary.™

SURVEY WORK REQUIREMENTS

Survey work on North Dakota School Trust Land requires the following:

1. An online application from the company (Grantee) (or the survey/engineering company on behalf of the company) for each proposed project and,
2. An active "Planning and Preconstruction Survey" permit must be held by the survey/engineering company completing survey work. Please see below for more information.

To obtain a Planning and Preconstruction Survey Permit, the survey/engineering company must:

1. Submit an online application requesting a Planning and Preconstruction Survey permit
2. Submit the application fee and permit consideration.

The permit is valid only for the personnel of the survey/engineering company that obtained the permit and has a five-year term. When the permit expires, a new permit must be obtained.

- The applicant requesting a right of way must consult with NDDTL for proper siting of the proposed project prior to survey commencement. This step saves time, effort, and money for those involved.

- It is the applicant's responsibility to accurately locate any existing infrastructure that the proposed route(s) parallel or intersect
    - If the applicant fails to accurately locate existing infrastructure and a problem occurs during construction, the applicant must cease construction and immediately contact NDDTL to report; the applicant will be responsible for any additional surveys or fees that arise.

PUBLIC DOCUMENT – NOT PUBLIC (OR PRIVILEGED) DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED

NORTH Dakota | Trust Lands
Be Legendary.™

SURVEY PLAT GUIDELINES

All Surveys:

- Completed at survey grade
- Signed and dated by a ND registered certified land surveyor
- Contain a legal description (county, township, range, section, quarter section)
- Drawn to scale and contain a scale and compass
- Tie all POB/POT to found corners

Required File Types:

- PDF: Survey plats
  - Font size must be greater than 10 point
  - Any shading used must be reproducible
- Microsoft Word: Survey narratives
- ESRI compatible shapefile / KML file
  - (Projection data must be in NAD 1983 State Plane North Dakota South FIPS 3302 Feet)

Centerline Surveys:

- Easement Widths:
  - 33 feet permanent (16.5 feet on either side of the centerline)
  - 17 feet temporary work space on the working side
- Detailed view or callouts that depict the location(s) of each type of line in relation to the centerline where that type of line is to be built (ie, if the single centerline has two size/material pipelines or if the centerline is for multiple pipelines); it may be necessary to depict and describe each segment separately.
- Bore segments, requested additional temporary workspace, construction access routes, and above ground appurtenances (if applicable)
  - (Appurtenances must be located within the permanent easement width; include metes and bounds description tied to the centerline survey)
- Near prominent features such as existing lines, roads, well pads, drainages/wetlands, trees, fences, archaeological sites, etc.
- Latitude and longitudes of P.I.'s, angles/bearings, and distances between P.I.'s, etc.
- Footage/acreage per quarter section on the plat (it is helpful to place a P.I. on each quarter section crossed)
- Total footage/acreage in the narrative

Road and/or Temporary Workspace Surveys:

- Depict the width & length for each permanent area(s) and temporary area(s) requested
  - Anything outside of the statute granted 33-foot area must be acquired via easement or temporary construction/slope permit and depicted and described in a survey.
- Depict the access points/approaches to be constructed for tract access (one per section quarter)
- Depict near prominent features such as existing utility lines, roads, well pads, drainages/wetlands, trees, fences, archaeological sites, etc.
- Footage(s)/acreage(s) for each permanent and temporary area(s) per quarter section on the plat
- Total footage(s)/acreage(s) for each permanent and temporary area(s) in the narrative
- If a centerline description is used: latitude and longitudes of P.I.'s, angles/bearings, and distances between P.I.'s, etc.

Off-Lease Activity Surveys:

- Well plat packages for each well bore proposed for the location that shows the name of the well, surface and bottom hole locations of each well, and spacing unit to be produced by each well bore (*must match NDIC information)
- Metes & Bounds of the fenced area
- Topsoil location and measurements
- Centerline of any associated roads (see information above for centerline and/or road surveys)
- Footage(s)/acreage(s) for each permanent and temporary area(s) per quarter section per each part of the project on the plat

On-Lease Activity Surveys:

- Well plat packages for each well bore proposed for the location that shows the name of the well, surface and bottom hole locations of each well, and spacing unit to be produced by each well bore (*must match NDIC information)
- Metes & Bounds of the fenced area
- Topsoil location and measurements
- Centerline of any associated roads and flowlines (see information above for centerline surveys)
- Footage(s)/acreage(s) for each permanent and temporary area(s) per quarter section per each part of the project on the plat

** This document is meant only as a guide. Additional items may be required.*
If you feel that your project does not fit any of the above items, please contact DTL for guidance.

From: Lee, Kelsey <Kelsey.Lee@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 22, 2024 11:34 AM
To: Spangelo, Kayla M. <kspangelo@nd.gov>
Subject: ND Dept of Trust Lands_03222023_ Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

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

Good morning Kayla,

I just left you a voicemail message but will also follow up with an email.

HDR is assisting Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company to develop and construct an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. We are crossing roughly 10 parcels that are identified as **Mineral Trust lands** (attached for reference). I would assume that we wouldn't need a permit to go over these lands since our easement would only be over the owner's surface rights? I just wanted to confirm that we don't need to do any permitting when going over mineral trust lands.

Thank you!

Kelsey Lee
Real Estate Services Agent

HDR
51 N. Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
D 701.353.6135 **M** 701.541.5254
kelsey.lee@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: Spangelo, Kayla M. <kspangelo@nd.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 22, 2024 11:56 AM
To: Suelzle, Chris <csuelzle@nd.gov>; Spencer, Lynn <lyspencer@nd.gov>; Parent, Amanda <aparent@nd.gov>
Cc: Stegmiller, Joseph H. <jstegmiller@nd.gov>; Laber, Shauna I. <slaber@otpco.com>; Lee, Kelsey <Kelsey.Lee@hdrinc.com>
Subject: FW: ND Dept of Trust Lands_03222023_ Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Hello Minerals Division,

Can someone respond to Kelsey and Shauna please?

Thank you!

Kayla Spangelo

From:	Suelzle, Chris
To:	Spangelo, Kayla M.; Spencer, Lynn; Parent, Amanda
Cc:	Stegmiller, Joseph H.; Laber, Shauna I.; Lee, Kelsey
Subject:	RE: ND Dept of Trust Lands_03222023_ Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)
Date:	Thursday, August 29, 2024 1:05:30 PM
Attachments:	image001.png

You don't often get email from csuelzle@nd.gov. Learn why this is important

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

Hello Kelsey and Shauna,

For this type of project we would not require a special permit for minerals. Currently this is not an area where we have minerals production but in the future there could be future development. If that happens we would look forward to working with you to mitigate any potential problems. We would however request that you keep us informed of the project and send whatever information you can about the entirety of the project, including but not limited construction designs and dates, and possible mining restrictions during and after construction.

Thank you for contacting us and please let us know if you have any further questions.

Chris Suelzle
Minerals Director
ND Department of Trust Lands
csuelzle@nd.gov



Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Joseph Heringer
Land Comissioner, ND Department of Trust Lands
1707 N 9th St
Bismarck, ND 58501

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Joseph Heringer,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (the Project). The Project would be in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect Otter Tail Power's existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota's existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified by the Regional Transmission Organization in the Upper Midwest[1] needed to maintain electric system reliability, increase resilience to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion and increase access to low cost energy throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025. At this early stage of the Project, it is anticipated that Section 106 compliance would be needed for a United State Corps of Engineers Section 404 wetland permit and Section 10 river crossing permit for an overhead crossing of the James River.

Currently, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota are in the planning stages of the Project, which include public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and initial design. These preliminary planning stages provide important input into the identification of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. The attached map shows the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. These corridors are subject to change as we continue public outreach with landowners and other interested parties. Environmental field surveys are currently anticipated to start late this year and be completed in 2024.

We are requesting your review of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the preferred route. We appreciate and value your input in our attempt to avoid or minimize impacts. To help us identify potential concerns in our corridor analysis, we request that any information pertaining to the Project be provided by October 12, 2023, if possible, to:

[1] The Regional Transmission Organization in this area of the Upper Midwest is the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). See more information at www.misoenergy.org.

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
701-353-6139

We will be hosting public meetings at three locations along the Project in September. The meetings will be held on consecutive days September 12 - 14 from 3 - 6 p.m. each day at the three locations listed below. In addition to our public meetings, we are also extending you an invitation if you would prefer to meet individually. If you are interested in an individual meeting outside of our public meetings, our contact information follows below and we would welcome the opportunity to share more information about the Project, answer your questions and take your feedback.

Ellendale	**Jamestown**	**Edgeley**
September 12, 2023	September 13, 2023	September 14, 2023
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	3:00 – 6:00 pm	3:00 – 6:00 pm
American Legion Post #137 79 Main St. Ellendale, ND 58436	Bunker Hill Club House 1520 3rd St. SE Jamestown, ND 58401	Hakuna Matata 101 Industrial Park Road. Edgeley, ND 58433

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the Project progresses, we are planning to have additional consultations with agencies, other jurisdictions, and landowners as we develop and refine a preferred route.

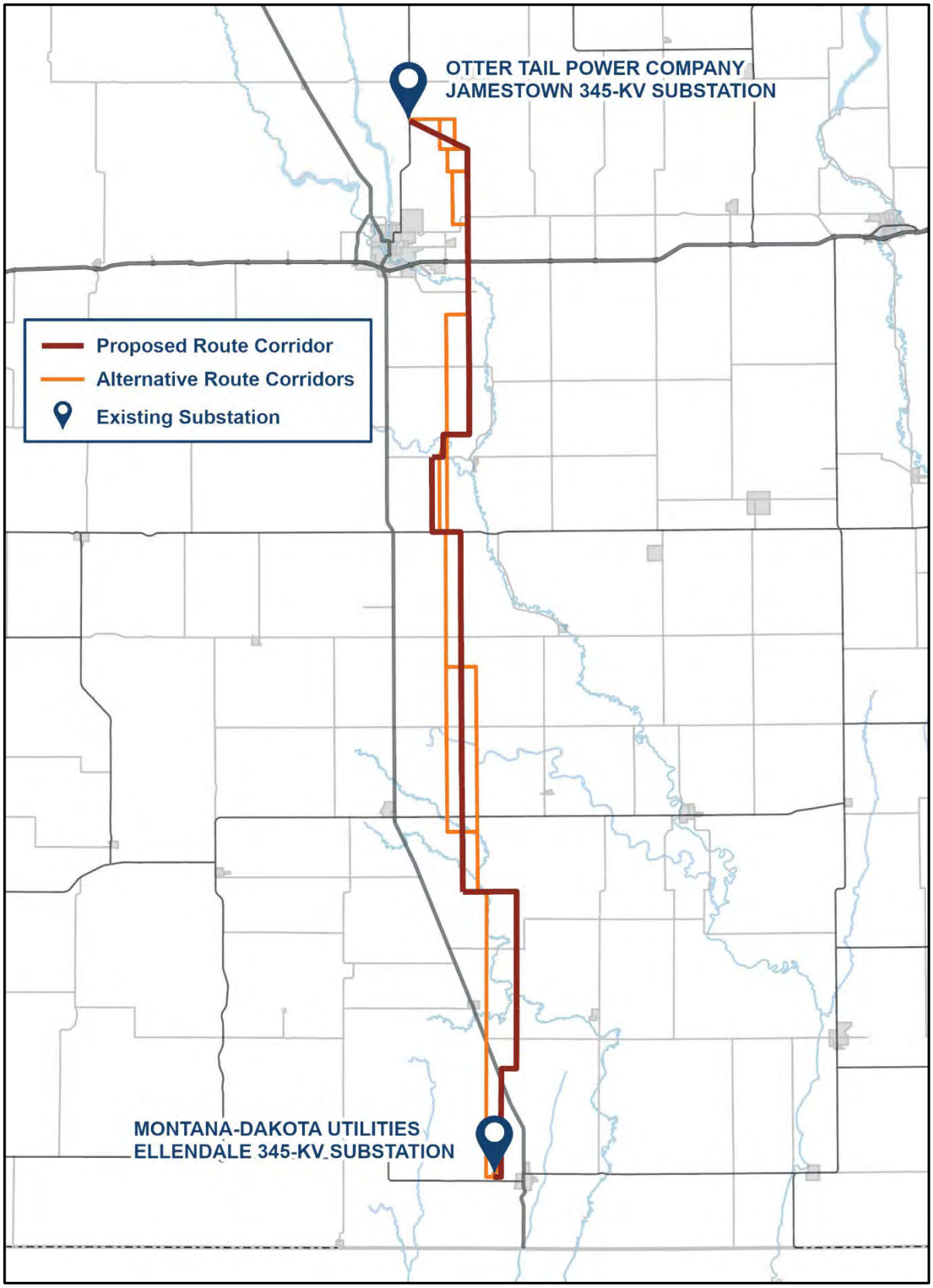
If you desire further information regarding the proposed Project, please contact me at 218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc., at 701-353-6139 or jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com. In addition, further information about the Project can also be found on our website at www.JamestowntoEllendale.com.

Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

North Dakota Department of Water Resources (NDDWR)/ North Dakota State Water Board

Documentation of available correspondence is included following this log.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
North Dakota Department of Water Resources (NDDWR) / North Dakota State Water Board[1]				
March 23, 2023	Letter and Email[2]	Applicants[3]	NDDWR	Introduction letter and request for comments.
April 20, 2023	Letter	NDDWR	Applicants	NDDWR responded and identified a Federal Emergency Management Agency National Flood Insurance Program regulatory floodplain in the Project area and that the James River is considered Navigable and, therefore, sovereign to North Dakota and provided the application to construct a project within Sovereign Lands. They also indicated that NDDWR was required to be notified of impacts to water resources. Their initial review indicated that the Project would not require a water appropriation permit but that one would be required if surface or groundwater would be diverted for the Project. Additionally, they noted that any impact to a monitoring well would need to be coordinated with NDDWR.
September 7, 2023	Letter and Email[2]	Applicants	NDDWR	Second request for input and meeting request letter.

1 The NDDWR is formerly known as the "State Water Commission". The agency's name was changed in 2021. Within NDAC 69-06-01-05, NDDWR is still referred to as the State Water Commission, however, the current name is used here.
2 Indicates documentation that was a part of one of the mass March or September agency mailings.
3 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Andrea Travnicek
Director
ND State Water Commission
1200 Memorial Hwy - Dept 770
Bismarck, ND 58504

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Ms. Travnicek,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

Currently, OTP and Montana-Dakota are in the preliminary planning stages of the Project, which include high-level planning, initial public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and preliminary design. These preliminary planning stages will provide important input into the identification of preliminary routes and the eventual selection of a final route for the Project. The attached map shows the current study area being assessed for preliminary routes. Public outreach with landowners and interested parties including public meetings are being planned to occur in June 2023.

We are soliciting your review of the preliminary Project area in order to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the final route. We are particularly interested in any property located within or adjacent to the study area which your agency may own or have an interest in. We would also appreciate being made aware of any proposed developments your agency may be contemplating in the study area under consideration for the Project in addition to any information that might assist us in our siting analysis and studies. To help us identify potential resource issues in the corridor analysis, please provide us with any information pertaining to the JETx project by April 22, 2023. Written or email responses should be sent to:

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we will reach out to schedule stakeholder meetings as well as plan for additional outreach as a route is developed and refined.

If further information is desired regarding the proposed Project, please contact either myself (218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com) or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc. (701-353-6139 or Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com).

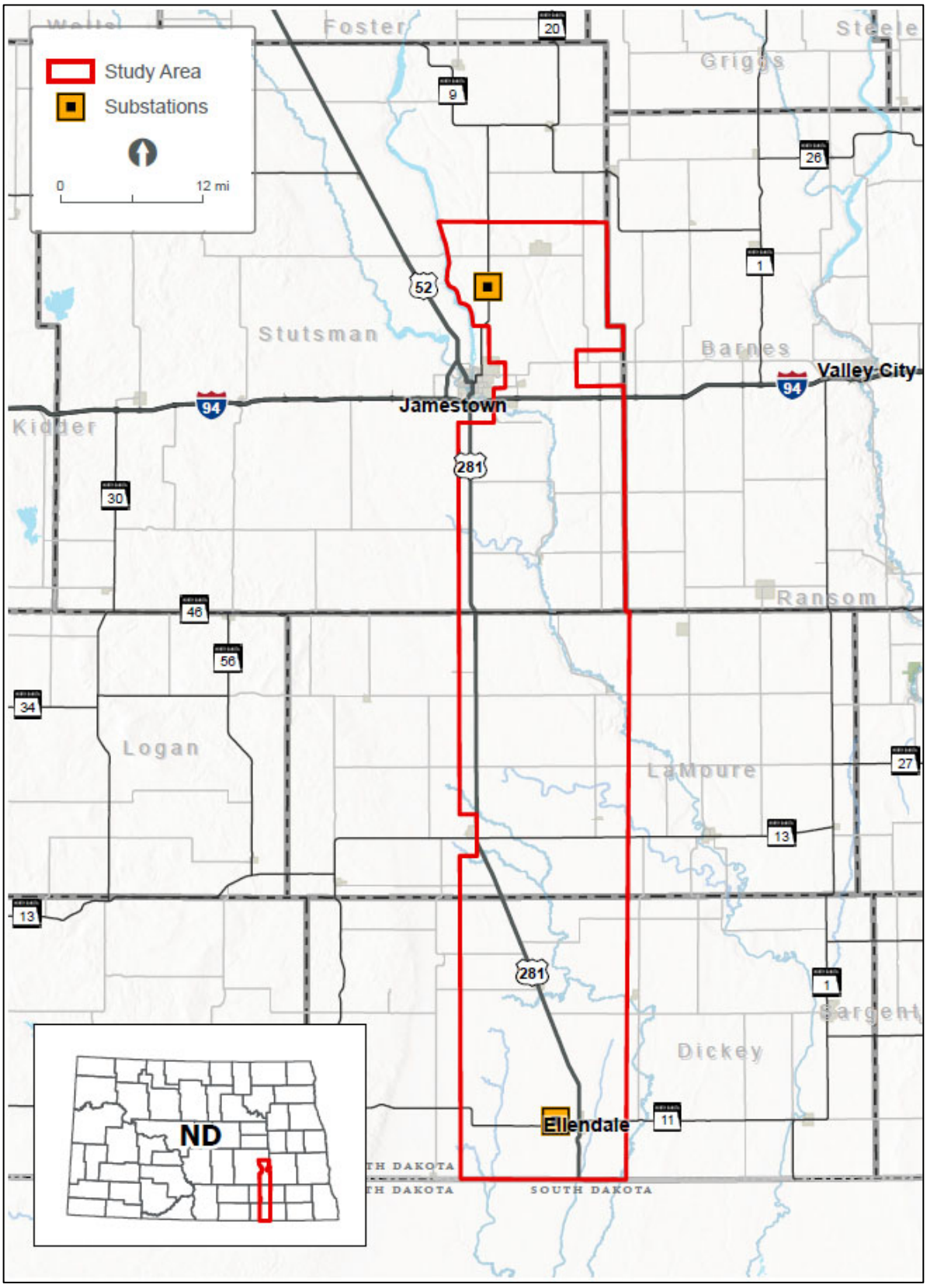
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



From: Martin, Dawn A. <damartin@nd.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 12:31 PM
To: Hanley, Jennifer
Subject: Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)
Attachments: Jennifer Hanley JETx - signed response.pdf; sfn_61408_authorized_sovereign_lands[1].pdf

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Dawn Martin
Administrative Assistant

701.328.4989(d) • 701.328.3696 (f) • damartin@nd.gov • www.dwr.nd.gov

NORTH Dakota | Water Resources
Be Legendary.

701.328.2750 • dwr@nd.gov • 1200 Memorial Highway • Bismarck, ND 58504

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NORTH Dakota | Water Resources
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April 20, 2023

Jennifer Hanley
HDR, Inc.
51 N Broadway, STE 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Dear Ms. Hanley:

This is in response to your request for a review of the environmental impacts associated the Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx).

The proposed project has been reviewed by Department of Water Resources, and the following comments are provided:

- There is a FEMA National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulatory floodplain identified or mapped on current effective FIRM's where this proposed project is to take place. Impacted areas are designated to be in NFIP Zone AE. Also, there are preliminary FIRM's containing a floodplain where this proposed project is to take place. The State of North Dakota has no formal NFIP permitting authority. All NFIP permitting decisions are considered by impacted NFIP participating communities, which is the community with zoning authority for the area in question. Please work directly with the local floodplain administrator of the zoning authority impacted to achieve NFIP and community compliance.

- The James River is considered navigable and therefore sovereign to the State of North Dakota. Any project which falls below, under or over the navigable water bodies in North Dakota requires authorization from the State Engineer. If any of the project impacts the Ordinary High-Water Mark of the Red River, an application will need to be submitted. The application process requires the completion of the attached permit application, submittal of a map, and simple diagram of what the project may involve. There is no fee for the permit, and we recommend about 90 days for processing. The permit lasts for the life of the project including repairs within the original footprint. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Tia Jones at tiajones@nd.gov or Jerry Heiser at gheiser@nd.gov.

- The Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Water Resource Districts are responsible for regulating drainage and water management in North Dakota. The DWR is also responsible for regulating the construction and modification of any dike, levee, or other device capable of obstructing or diverting more than 50 acre-feet of water. Consequently, the DWR requests to be notified regarding a proposed project's impacts, if any, to water resources, such as watercourses (i.e. streams or rivers), agricultural drains, and wetlands (i.e. ponds, sloughs, lakes, or any series thereof), and dikes, levees, and other water control devices, as any alterations, modifications, improvements, or impacts to those may require a drainage permit(s) or a construction permit(s) from the DWR.

- Initial review indicates the project does not require a conditional or temporary permit for water appropriation. However, if surface water or groundwater will be diverted for construction of the project, a water permit will be required per North Dakota Century Code § 61-04-02. Please consult with the Department of Water Resources Water Appropriation Division if you have any questions at 701-328-2754 or appropinfo@nd.gov.

- The Department of Water Resources maintains a network of observation wells across the state for monitoring the water levels and quality in glacial and bedrock aquifers. These wells are often installed in road and highway rights-of-way to limit inconvenience to the adjacent landowners. Department of Water Resources observation wells have a yellow protective casing extending between 1 and 3 feet above ground surface, and their locations are marked with a stake. If an observation well is encountered during project activities and must be removed, please contact the Water Appropriation Division. The Department of Water Resources hopes to keep all observation wells, but otherwise will ensure the well is properly abandoned.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide review comments. Should you have further questions, please contact me at 701-328-4970 or stevebest@nd.gov.

Sincerely,

Steven Best
Planner III

SB:dm/1570

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AUTHORIZATION TO CONSTRUCT A PROJECT WITHIN SOVEREIGN LANDS OF NORTH DAKOTA

OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER
REGULATORY DIVISION
SFN 61408 (10/2019)

No. S
(OSE USE ONLY)

Project Number **1625**

This application must be submitted to the North Dakota Office of the State Engineer by **mail to 900 E Boulevard Ave, Dept. 770, Bismarck, ND 58505-0850, by fax to (701) 328-3696, or by email to sovereignlands@nd.gov.** To be complete, this application must include the additional information listed in the instructions on page 3.

If you need any assistance, please contact the Regulatory Division at (701) 328-2752.

OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER USE ONLY

****** Additional Sheets May Be Attached If Necessary. ******

Project Will Be Located In Which Water Resource District?

LOCATION DESCRIPTION TO THE NEAREST 40-ACRE TRACT

¼	¼	Section	Township	Range

Is This Application For Modification Of An Existing Project? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If So, What Year Was Project Constructed?

By Whom?

Proposed Project Involves

- ☐ Bank Stabilization
- ☐ Boat Ramp
- ☐ Bridge Construction
- ☐ Fish And Wildlife
- ☐ Geotechnical Work
- ☐ Levee/Dike Or Dam
- ☐ Other, Explain _____
- ☐ Pipeline Crossing
- ☐ Recreation
- ☐ Utility Line Crossing
- ☐ Vegetation Control
- ☐ Water Outfall
- ☐ Waste Lagoon
- ☐ Temporary Water Intake
- ☐ Perennial Water Intake
- ☐ Permanent Water Intake Structure
- ☐ Dredge, Volume _____
- ☐ Fill, Volume _____

If Proposed Project Involves A Standard Dock (see Supplemental Measurements Sheet For Standard Docks)

Standard Dock Dimension Shape

A	B	C	D

About Water Body

Water Body On Which Project Will Be Located

Purpose

Project Description

Contractor (if known)

Anticipated Construction Start Date	Completion Date

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APPLICANT'S CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, am applying for authorization as required under North Dakota Century Code (N.D.C.C.) ch. 61-33 from the Office of the State Engineer. I understand that I must comply with N.D.C.C. ch. 61-33 and North Dakota Administrative Code ch. 89-10-01, and that I must adhere to any conditions required by the State Engineer. I acknowledge that my project is accurately described and depicted in this application as I intend to construct it. My signature below acknowledges that I have read and agree to these statements.

PROJECT OWNER

Name of Project Owner			
Address	City	State	ZIP Code
Home Telephone Number	Cell Number		
Email Address			
Signature of Project Owner or Applicant			Date

IF DIFFERENT FROM PROJECT OWNER

Name of Applicant			
Address	City	State	ZIP Code
Home Telephone Number	Cell Number		
Email Address			

Signature of Project Owner or Applicant	Date

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING AN AUTHORIZATION TO CONSTRUCT A PROJECT WITHIN SOVEREIGN LANDS OF NORTH DAKOTA UNDER NORTH DAKOTA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE § 89-10-01-04

A person seeking to construct a project within Sovereign Lands of North Dakota requires authorization from the State Engineer before construction or operation of the project. "Sovereign Lands" means those areas, including the beds and islands, lying within the ordinary high water mark of navigable lake and streams.[1] (N.D.C.C. § 61-33-01). The "ordinary high water mark" is that line on navigable waters below which the action of the water prevents the growth of vegetation, or to restrict its growth to predominantly wetland species.

To be complete, the application must include all information listed below:

1. A completed "Application to Construct a Project within Sovereign Lands of North Dakota" form.
2. A detailed map or drawing of the projects location on an aerial photo.
    i. Size of map must be 8 ½ by 11 inches,
    ii. Map shall have a north arrow and approximate scale, and
    iii. Map shall indicate the proposed work on the drawing.
3. If applying for the installation of a standard dock in which the total length of the dock over the surface of the water does exceed twenty-five feet on a river and fifty feet on a lake, please include measurements requested on "Supplemental Measurements Sheet for Standard Docks".
4. If applying for the installation of a standard dock in which the total length of the dock over the surface of the water does not exceed twenty-five feet AND is located on the Missouri River between the Oliver and Morton County line and Lake Oahe wildlife management area, the project only requires registration with the State Engineer. Please complete the "Registration for Placement of a Dock Under 25 Feet-Long on Specified Waters" form (SFN 61441).
5. If applying for the installation or modification (including change in transported liquid) of a pipeline which transports crude oil, natural gas liquids, or any other hazardous liquid, as determined by the State Engineer, the Applicant must first conduct a scour analysis specific to the proposed crossing for project design purposes.[2]
6. If applying for the installation of riprap or other bank stabilizations, please include a cross sectional drawing of the proposed work which includes the existing and proposed grade and the present location of the water surface.

Further Sovereign Land Permit Guidance:

1. A permit would be required if any portion of the project would occur within, under, or over a navigable water of North Dakota.
2. A permit would be required if any portion of the project would occur below the ordinary high water mark.
3. The permit applicant is responsible for obtaining any other local, state, or federal permits or permissions that may be necessary prior to construction of a project on Sovereign Land.
4. There is no fee administered for a Sovereign Land Permit.
5. Please allow at least 90 days for Sovereign Land Permit processing.
6. Please notify the Office of the State Engineer of project completion at *sovereignlands@nd.gov.*
7. Unless specified, there is no expiration date on an obtained Sovereign Land Permit.

---

[1] North Dakota's Navigable Waters as of 2018: Missouri River, James River, Sheyenne River, Pembina River, Mouse River, Red River of the North, Bois De Sioux, Knife River, Heart River, Cannonball River, Yellowstone River, Devils Lake, Lake Metigoshe, Painted Woods Lake, Sweetwater Lake, Upper Des Lacs Lake, and Long Lake(Bottineau County). List subject to change.

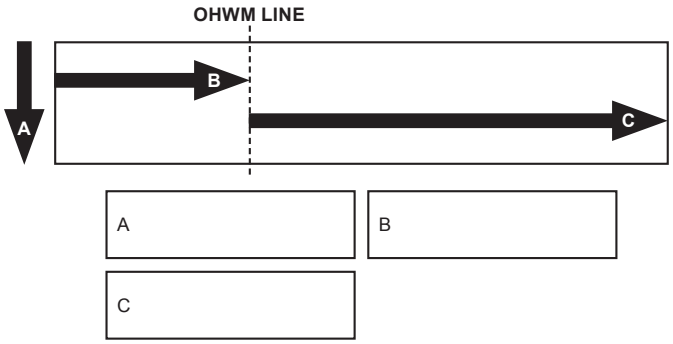
[2] The minimum depth-of-burial for pipelines transporting crude oil, natural gas liquids, or any other hazardous liquid as determined by the state engineer must be total calculated scour plus four feet from the bed of the river to top-of-pipe for pipelines crossing the state's navigable rivers. (N.D.C.C. ch.61-63).

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SUPPLEMENTAL MEASUREMENT SHEET FOR STANDARD DOCKS

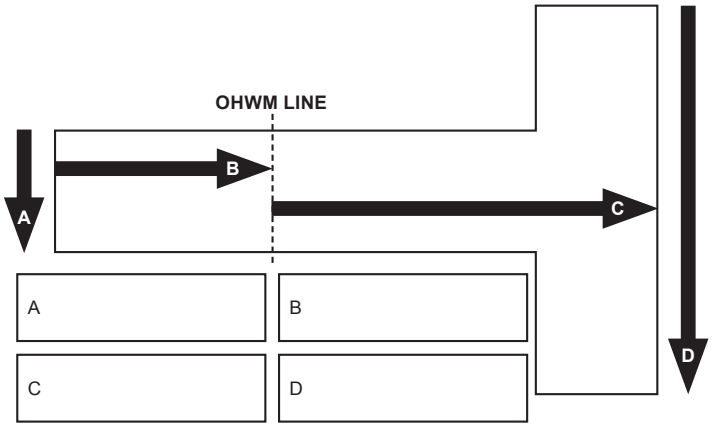
OHWM = Ordinary High Water Mark

1. STRAIGHT DOCK DIMENSIONS (feet)



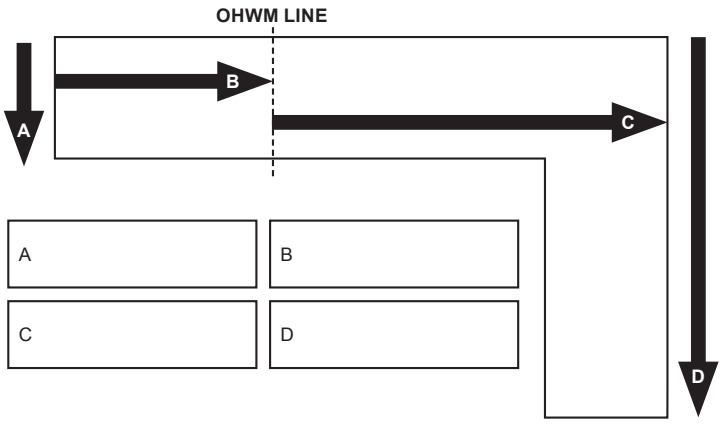
A	B
C	

2. T-SHAPE DOCK DIMENSIONS (feet)



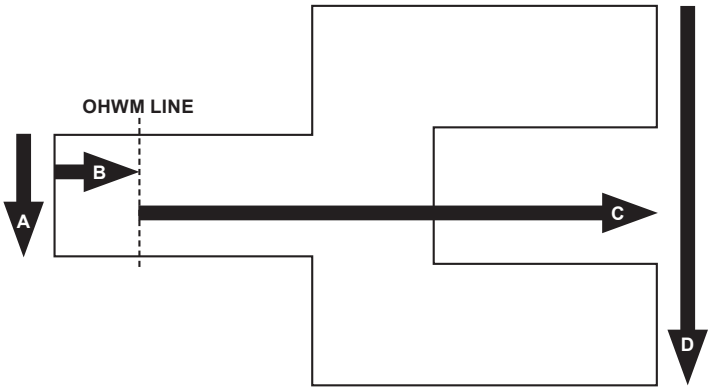
A	B
C	D

3. L-SHAPE DOCK DIMENSIONS (feet)



A	B
C	D

4. Y-SHAPE DOCK DIMENSIONS (feet)



A	B
C	D

5. OTHER DOCK SIZE AND DIMENSIONS (feet)

DRAW IMAGE HERE ALONG WITH OHWM LINE

A	B
C	D

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STANDARD DOCK CONDITIONS

The following standard conditions will be included on all docks requiring a sovereign land permit.

1. Total length of the dock over the surface of the water **does** exceed twenty-five feet on a river and fifty feet on a lake. Please include measurements requested on "Supplemental Measurement Sheet for Standard Docks";
2. The dock is owned and operated by the riparian owner or the riparian owner's lessee for the riparian owners or lessee's personal use;
3. The dock is used only for embarkation, debarkation, moorage of boats, water intakes, or recreation;
4. The is no unreasonable interference with navigation or access to an adjacent riparian land owners property,
5. The dock is connected to a point above the ordinary high watermark by a boardwalk that does not exceed twenty-five (7.6 meters) in length, and is removed from below the ordinary high watermark each fall, and
6. Upon abandonment, the grantee restores the bank as closely as practicable to its original condition.

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Andrea Travnicek
Director, ND State Water Commission
1200 Memorial Hwy, Dept 770
Bismarck, ND 58504

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Andrea Travnicek,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (the Project). The Project would be in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect Otter Tail Power's existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota's existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified by the Regional Transmission Organization in the Upper Midwest[1] needed to maintain electric system reliability, increase resilience to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion and increase access to low cost energy throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025. At this early stage of the Project, it is anticipated that Section 106 compliance would be needed for a United State Corps of Engineers Section 404 wetland permit and Section 10 river crossing permit for an overhead crossing of the James River.

Currently, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota are in the planning stages of the Project, which include public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and initial design. These preliminary planning stages provide important input into the identification of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. The attached map shows the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. These corridors are subject to change as we continue public outreach with landowners and other interested parties. Environmental field surveys are currently anticipated to start late this year and be completed in 2024.

We are requesting your review of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the preferred route. We appreciate and value your input in our attempt to avoid or minimize impacts. To help us identify potential concerns in our corridor analysis, we request that any information pertaining to the Project be provided by October 12, 2023, if possible, to:

[1] The Regional Transmission Organization in this area of the Upper Midwest is the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). See more information at www.misoenergy.org.

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
701-353-6139

We will be hosting public meetings at three locations along the Project in September. The meetings will be held on consecutive days September 12 - 14 from 3 - 6 p.m. each day at the three locations listed below. In addition to our public meetings, we are also extending you an invitation if you would prefer to meet individually. If you are interested in an individual meeting outside of our public meetings, our contact information follows below and we would welcome the opportunity to share more information about the Project, answer your questions and take your feedback.

Ellendale	**Jamestown**	**Edgeley**
September 12, 2023	September 13, 2023	September 14, 2023
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	3:00 – 6:00 pm	3:00 – 6:00 pm
American Legion Post #137 79 Main St. Ellendale, ND 58436	Bunker Hill Club House 1520 3rd St. SE Jamestown, ND 58401	Hakuna Matata 101 Industrial Park Road. Edgeley, ND 58433

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the Project progresses, we are planning to have additional consultations with agencies, other jurisdictions, and landowners as we develop and refine a preferred route.

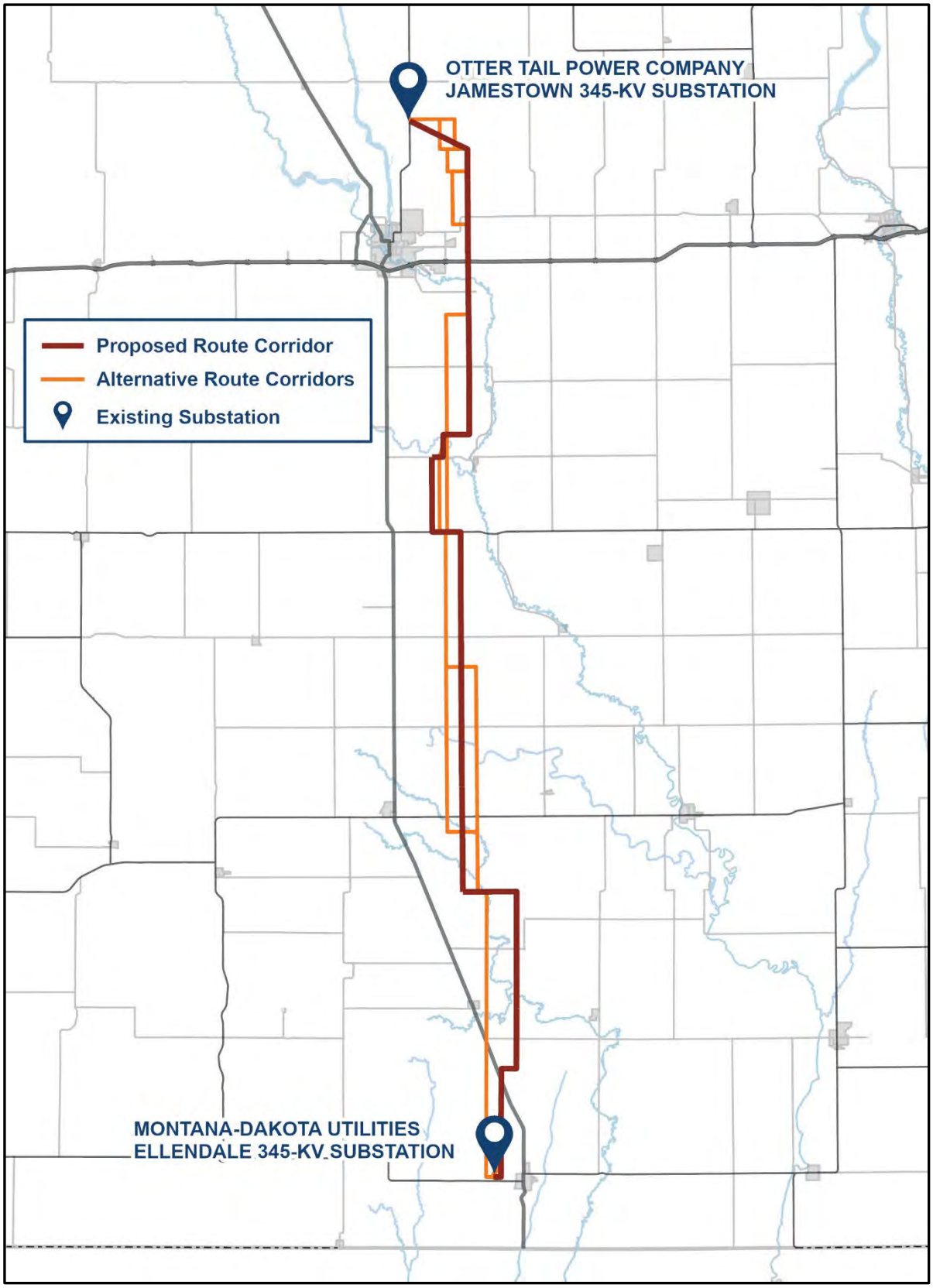
If you desire further information regarding the proposed Project, please contact me at 218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc., at 701-353-6139 or jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com. In addition, further information about the Project can also be found on our website at www.JamestowntoEllendale.com.

Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

North Dakota Energy Infrastructure & Impact Office

Documentation of available correspondence is included following this log.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
North Dakota Energy Infrastructure & Impact Office				
March 22, 2023	Letter	Applicants[1]	North Dakota Energy Infrastructure & Impact Office	Introduction letter and request for comments.
September 7, 2023	Letter	Applicants	North Dakota Energy Infrastructure & Impact Office	Second request for input and meeting request letter.

1 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Rick Owings
Grant Administrator
ND Energy Infrastrucutre & Impact Office
1707 N 9th St
Bismarck, ND 58501

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Owings,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

Currently, OTP and Montana-Dakota are in the preliminary planning stages of the Project, which include high-level planning, initial public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and preliminary design. These preliminary planning stages will provide important input into the identification of preliminary routes and the eventual selection of a final route for the Project. The attached map shows the current study area being assessed for preliminary routes. Public outreach with landowners and interested parties including public meetings are being planned to occur in June 2023.

We are soliciting your review of the preliminary Project area in order to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the final route. We are particularly interested in any property located within or adjacent to the study area which your agency may own or have an interest in. We would also appreciate being made aware of any proposed developments your agency may be contemplating in the study area under consideration for the Project in addition to any information that might assist us in our siting analysis and studies. To help us identify potential resource issues in the corridor analysis, please provide us with any information pertaining to the JETx project by April 22, 2023. Written or email responses should be sent to:

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we will reach out to schedule stakeholder meetings as well as plan for additional outreach as a route is developed and refined.

If further information is desired regarding the proposed Project, please contact either myself (218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com) or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc. (701-353-6139 or Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com).

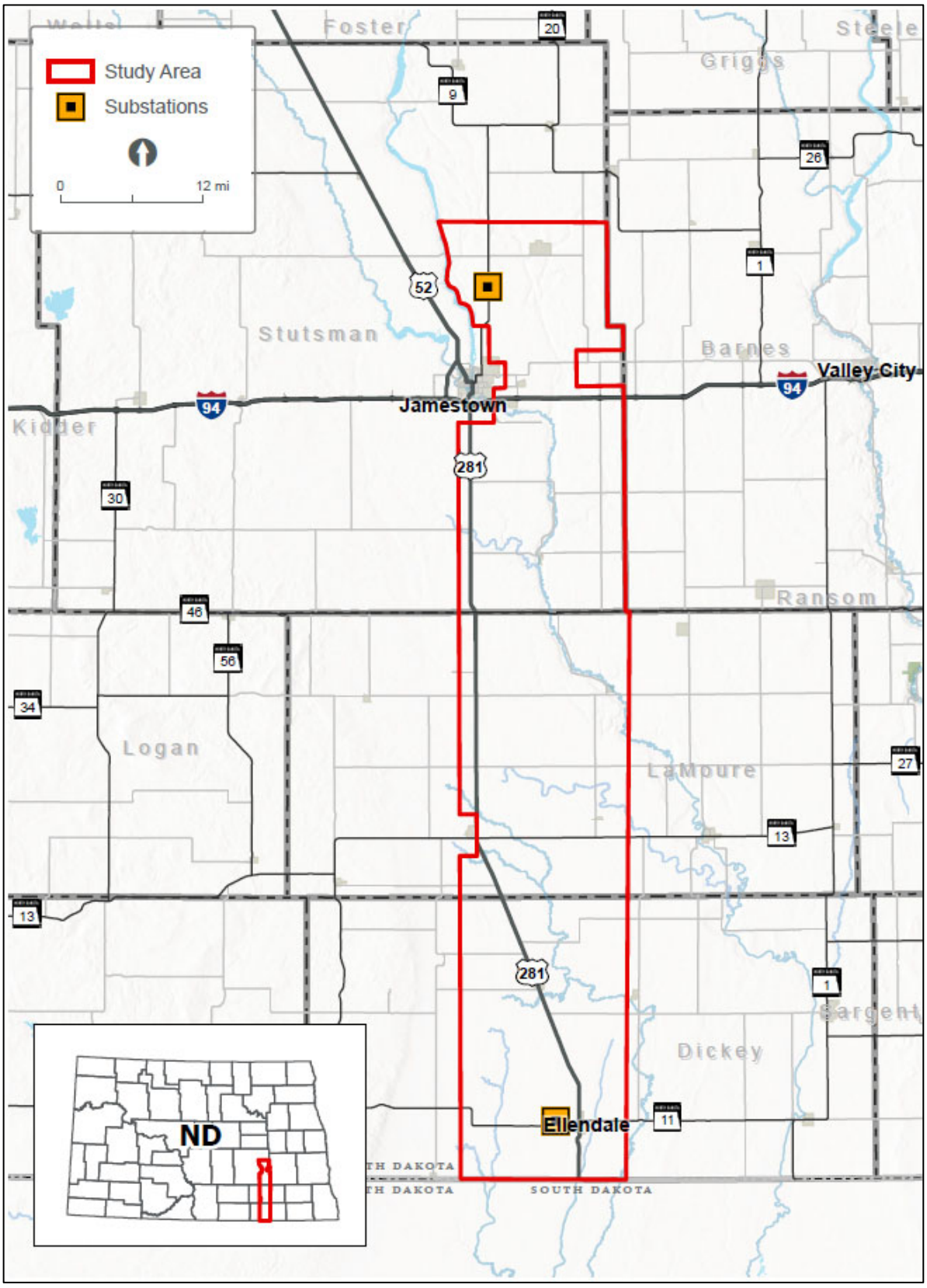
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Rick Owings
Grant Administrator, ND Energy Infrastrucutre & Impact Office
1707 N 9th St
Bismarck, ND 58501

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Rick Owings,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (the Project). The Project would be in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect Otter Tail Power's existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota's existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified by the Regional Transmission Organization in the Upper Midwest[1] needed to maintain electric system reliability, increase resilience to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion and increase access to low cost energy throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025. At this early stage of the Project, it is anticipated that Section 106 compliance would be needed for a United State Corps of Engineers Section 404 wetland permit and Section 10 river crossing permit for an overhead crossing of the James River.

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HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
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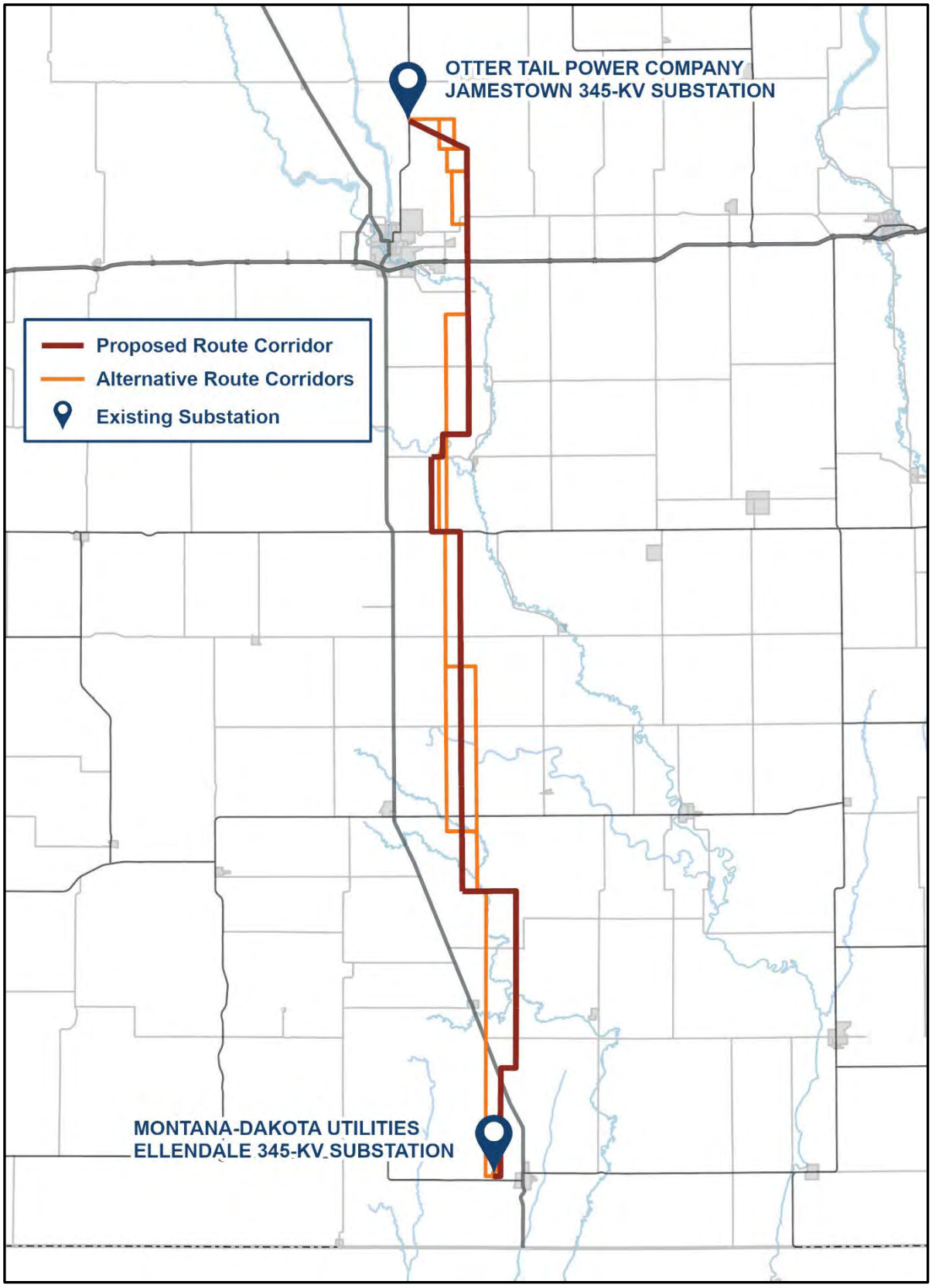
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
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JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

North Dakota Forest Service

Documentation of available correspondence is included following this log.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
North Dakota Forest Service				
March 22, 2023	Letter	Applicants[1]	North Dakota Forest Service	Introduction letter and request for comments.
September 7, 2023	Letter	Applicants	North Dakota Forest Service	Second request for input and meeting request letter.

1 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Tom Claeys
State Forester
ND Forest Service
307 1st St East
Bottineau, ND 58318-1100

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Claeys,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

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We are soliciting your review of the preliminary Project area in order to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the final route. We are particularly interested in any property located within or adjacent to the study area which your agency may own or have an interest in. We would also appreciate being made aware of any proposed developments your agency may be contemplating in the study area under consideration for the Project in addition to any information that might assist us in our siting analysis and studies. To help us identify potential resource issues in the corridor analysis, please provide us with any information pertaining to the JETx project by April 22, 2023. Written or email responses should be sent to:

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Attn: Jennifer Hanley
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Fargo, ND 58102

Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

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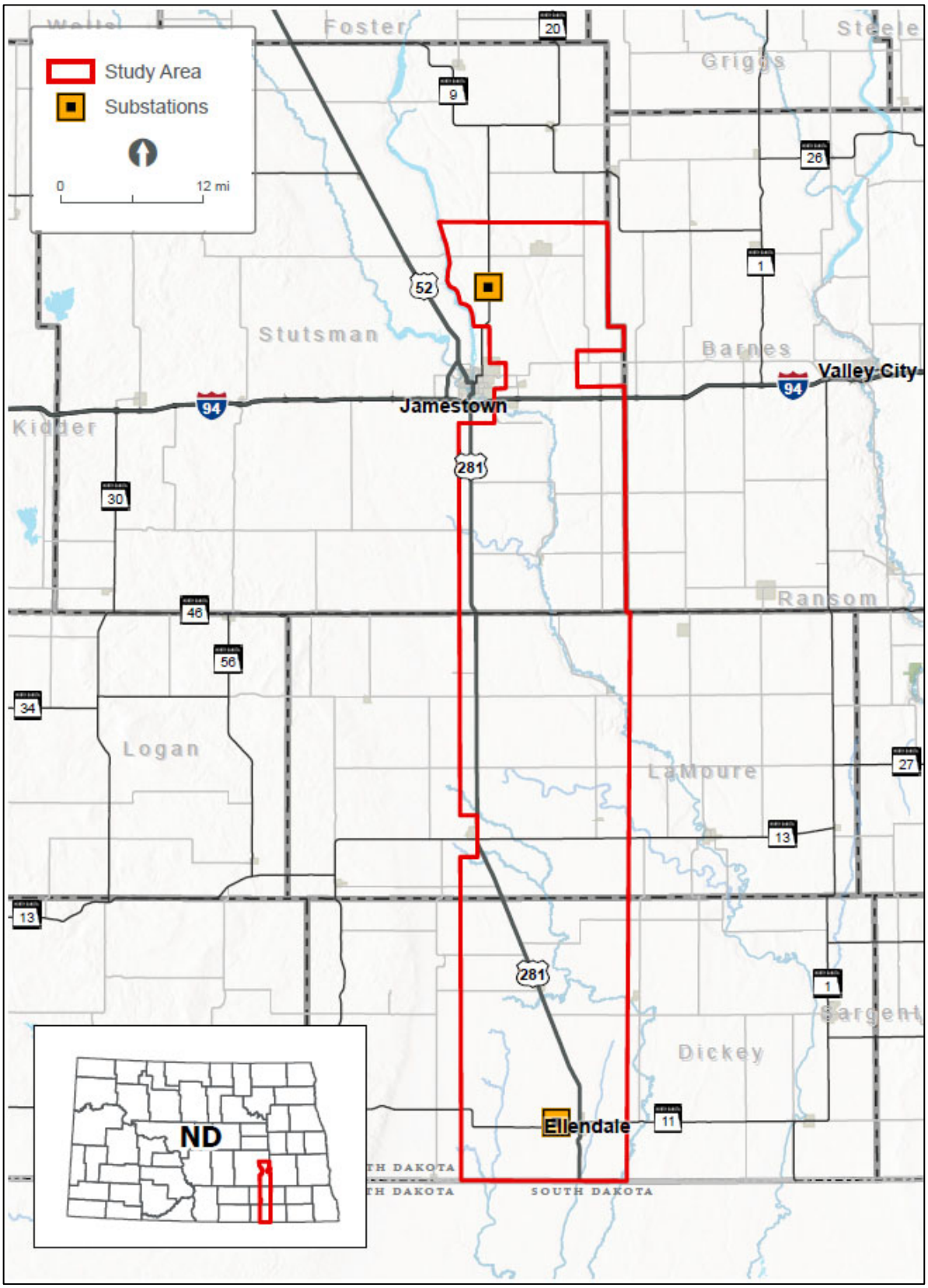
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

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State Forester, ND Forest Service
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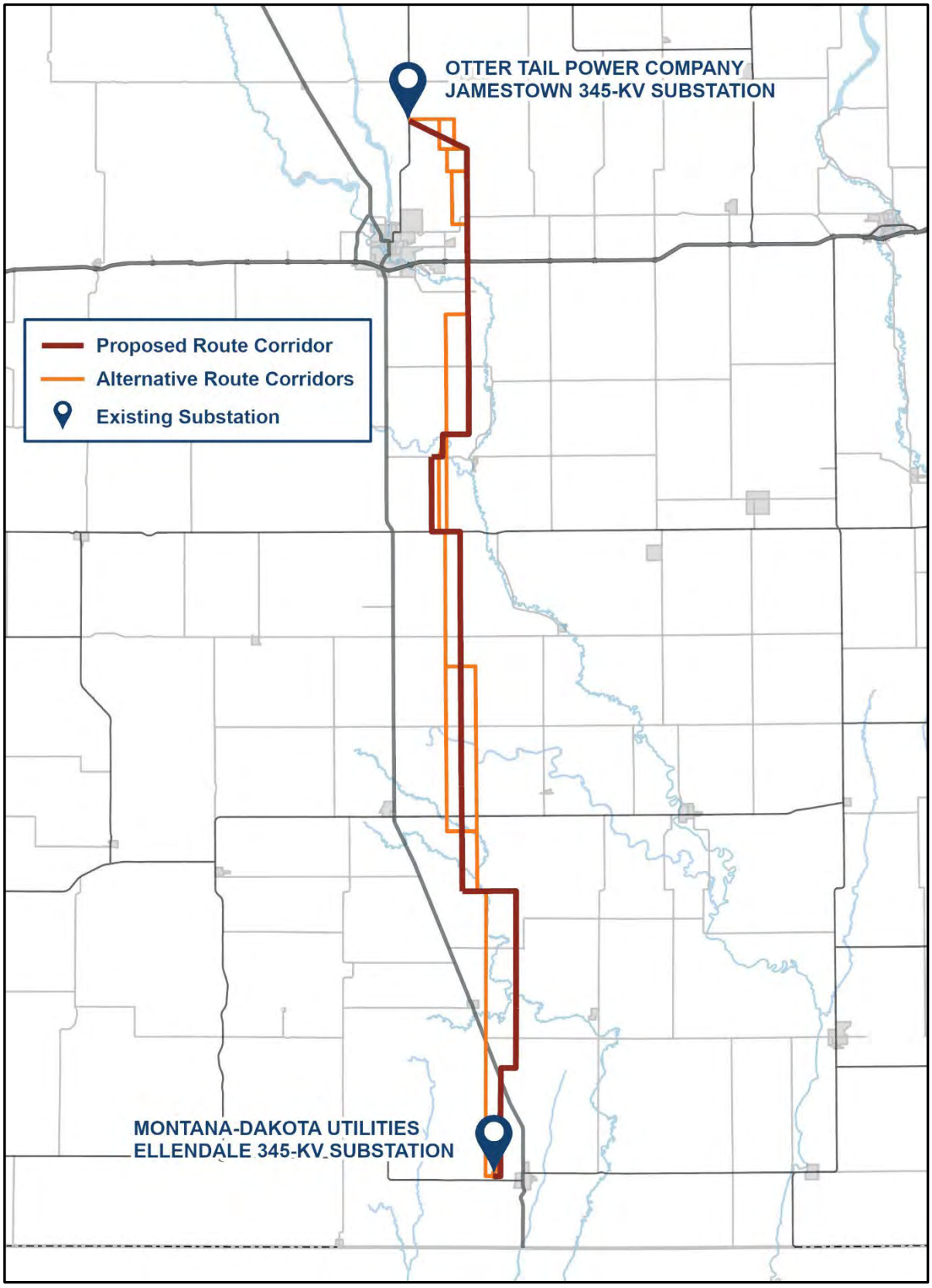
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
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Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

JETx Jamestown to Ellendale

North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDGFD)

Documentation of available correspondence is included following this log.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDGFD)				
March 23, 2023	Letter and Email[1]	Applicants[2]	NDGFD	Introduction letter and request for comments.
April 14, 2023	Email	NDGFD	Applicants	NDGFD responded to the March 2023 RFI and identified a primary concern of impacts to native prairie and wooded draws. Additionally, NDGFD indicated that fisheries, waterways, wetlands, and Wildlife Management Areas could be impacted, and that Special Use Permits may be required. Raptor surveys would be recommended at 1/2-mile construction buffers. If these steps are taken, NDGFD stated the Project would not be expected to have significant adverse effects.
September 7, 2023	Letter and Email[1]	Applicants	NDGFD	Second request for input and meeting request letter.
January 17, 2024	Email	Applicants	NDGFD	Applicants updated NDGFD on historic eagle nest surveys and inquired what format NDGFD would like data in.
January 18, 2024	Email	NDGFD	Applicants	NDGFD responded with what information was required.
January 22, 2024	Email	Applicants	NDGFD	Applicants provided shapefiles from the stick nest survey conducted in May 2023.
February 8, 2024	Email	Applicants	NDGFD	Applicants reached out to NDGFD to confirm receipt of stick nest survey data.
February 14, 2024	Email	NDGFD	Applicants	NDGFD responded acknowledging receipt of data and adding additional personnel for coordination.
February 27, 2024	Meeting			Meeting discussing species-specific survey plan, map review, and further questions for NDGFD.
February 28, 2024	Email	Applicants	NDGFD	Applicants provided requested shapefiles to NDGFD along with February 27, 2024, Meeting Minutes and presentation.
February 28, 2024	Email	NDGFD	Applicants	Administrative notice that zip files cannot be received by NDGFD.
February 28, 2024	Email	NDGFD	Applicants	NDGFD requested unzipped shapefiles.
February 28, 2024	Email	Applicants	NDGFD	Applicants provided unzipped shapefiles.
March 5, 2024	Email	Applicants	NDGFD	Applicants inquired if unzipped shapefiles were received and if there were any concerns.
March 11, 2024	Email	Applicants	NDGFD	Applicants inquired on Project area lek survey needs.
March 12, 2024	Email	NDGFD	Applicants	NDGFD provided an update through email that they were still working through determining the needed level of effort for Lek surveys.

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
March 12, 2024	Email	Applicants	NDGFD	Applicants acknowledged and provided recommended survey protocol.
March 13, 2024	Email	NDGFD	Applicants	NDGFD recommended 1-mile buffers for lek surveys.
March 14, 2024	Email	NDGFD	Applicants	NDGFD provided additional information on buffering of grassland blocks, minimum parcel size, and survey recommendations.
March 14, 2024	Email	Applicants	NDGFD	Applicants requested a phone call to discuss survey area.
March 18, 2024	Email	Applicants	NDGFD	Applicants requested an updated grassland layer.
March 21, 2024	Email	Applicants	NDGFD	Applicants requested a phone call for follow-up questions.
March 25, 2024	Email	NDGFD	Applicants	NDGFD provided availability for a follow-up phone call.
March 26, 2024	Meeting			Meeting discussing lek survey needs.
March 27, 2024	Email	Applicants	NDGFD	Applicants provided tentative lek survey schedule and memo regarding sharp-tailed grouse and lek survey plan and reporting.
April 1, 2024	Email	Applicants	NDGFD	Applicants requested NDGFD concurrence with lek survey plan.
April 1, 2024	Email	NDGFD	Applicants	NDGFD provided concurrence with survey plan.
April 1, 2024	Email	Applicants	NDGFD	Applicants responded with appreciation of concurrence.
April 1, 2024	Email	NDGFD	Applicants	NDGFD provided additional concurrence of survey plan.
April 1, 2024	Email	Applicants	NDGFD	Applicants responded with appreciation of concurrence.
June 14, 2024	Email	Applicants	NDGFD	Applicants notified NDGFD that lek surveys were complete.
August 14, 2024	Email	Applicants	NDGFD	Applicants request to schedule and meeting and answer any questions regarding lek surveys.
August 14, 2024	Email and Phone Call	Applicants	NDGFD	Applicants recapped phone discussion regarding Save the Lakes Easements and requested clarification on the impacts of that easement on construction.
August 14, 2024	Email	Applicants	NDGFD	Applicants provided OneDrive folder containing shapefiles.
August 15, 2024	Email	NDGFD	Applicants	NDGFD provided dates for a meeting regarding lek surveys.
August 15, 2024	Email	NDGFD	Applicants	NDGFD responded to proposed route and identified proximal and crossed easement. USFWS stated they do not think construction would negatively impact stream quality and would consider approving a variance for construction if the area was reclaimed to agency standards.
August 15, 2024	Email	Applicants	NDGFD	Applicants thanked NDGFD for response.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
August 15, 2024	Email	NDGFD	Applicants	NDGFD provided additional easement as an attachment.
August 15, 2024	Email	Applicants	NDGFD	Applicants thanked NDGFD for response.
August 16, 2024	Email	Applicants	NDGFD	Applicants requested shapefiles for the easements.
August 16, 2024	Email	NDGFD	Applicants	NDGFD provided shapefiles.
August 16, 2024	Email	Applicants	NDGFD	Applicants thanked NDGFD for response.
August 23, 2024	Email	Applicants	NDGFD	Applicants requested clarification on the variance process.
August 27, 2024	Meeting			Meeting discussing project updates and Lek surveys.
September 3, 2024	Email	NDGFD	Applicants	NDGFD provided clarification on the variance process.
September 11, 2024	Email	Applicants	NDGFD	Applicants provided meeting summary and information requested by NDGFD.
September 11, 2024	Email	Applicants	NDGFD	Applicants provided attachments with different extension.
September 18, 2024	Email	NDGFD	Applicants	NDGFD confirmed receipt of shapefiles.
October 3, 2024	Meeting			Meeting discussing project updates and results of field surveys.
July 14, 2025	Email	Applicants	NDGFD	Applicants notified NDGFD that they are preparing to submit the permit application and requested a response from NDGFD on lek survey performed in 2024.
July 18, 2025	Email	Applicants	NDGFD	Applicants followed up with NDGFD for any additional responses on the project prior to permit application submittal.
July 21, 2025	Email	NDGFD	Applicants	NDGFD responded stating that they have lingering concerns with leks, and recommended adding bird perch deterrents on vertical structures.
July 23, 2025	Email	Applicants	NDGFD	Applicants provided NDGFD with the .zap files of proposed route and lek locations. Applicants also listed the mitigation that has been included in the application.

1 Indicates documentation that was a part of one of the mass March or September agency mailings.

2 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Steve Dyke
Supervisor
ND Game & Fish Department
100 Bismarck Expressway
Bismarck, ND 58501

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Dyke,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

Currently, OTP and Montana-Dakota are in the preliminary planning stages of the Project, which include high-level planning, initial public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and preliminary design. These preliminary planning stages will provide important input into the identification of preliminary routes and the eventual selection of a final route for the Project. The attached map shows the current study area being assessed for preliminary routes. Public outreach with landowners and interested parties including public meetings are being planned to occur in June 2023.

We are soliciting your review of the preliminary Project area in order to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the final route. We are particularly interested in any property located within or adjacent to the study area which your agency may own or have an interest in. We would also appreciate being made aware of any proposed developments your agency may be contemplating in the study area under consideration for the Project in addition to any information that might assist us in our siting analysis and studies. To help us identify potential resource issues in the corridor analysis, please provide us with any information pertaining to the JETx project by April 22, 2023. Written or email responses should be sent to:

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we will reach out to schedule stakeholder meetings as well as plan for additional outreach as a route is developed and refined.

If further information is desired regarding the proposed Project, please contact either myself (218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com) or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc. (701-353-6139 or Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com).

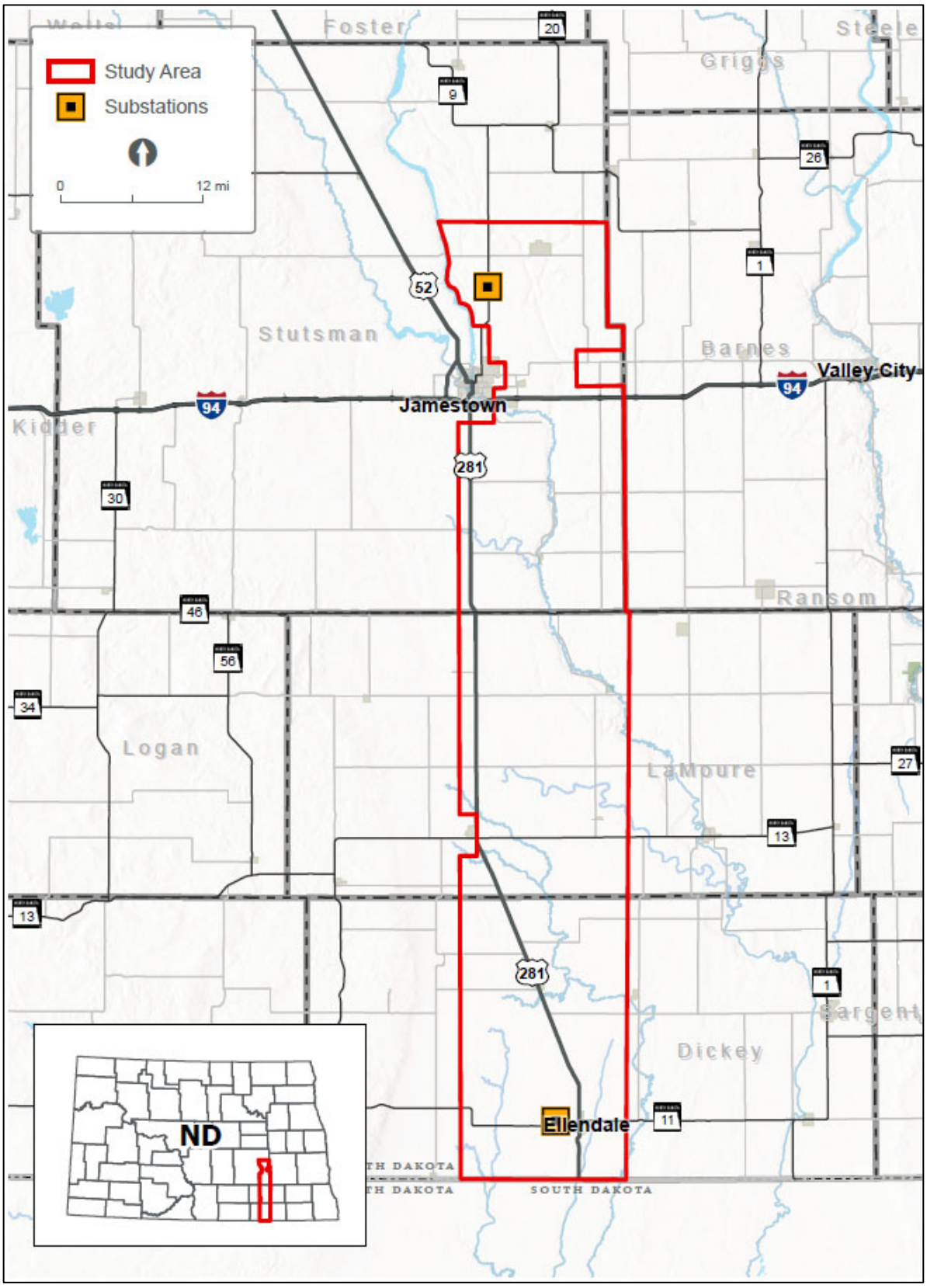
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



From: Schumacher, John D. <jdschumacher@nd.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2023 12:29 PM
To: Hanley, Jennifer
Subject: RE: NDGFD_03232023_ Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)
Attachments: NDGFD_RFI_20230322.pdf

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Jennifer Hanley
HDR, Inc.

RE: Jamestown to Ellendale (JETx) 345-kV Transmission Line Project

Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kV transmission line that would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale, North Dakota. The North Dakota Game and Fish Department has reviewed this project for wildlife concerns.

A primary concern is the possible disturbance of native prairie and wooded draws associated with construction of the transmission line and associated access roads. Avoidance of native prairie areas reduces impacts to a number of grassland species including many of the species of conservation priority. We ask that work within these areas be avoided to the extent possible, every effort be made to prevent destruction of woody vegetation, and disturbed areas be reclaimed to pre-project conditions.

The project route crosses a number of Classified fisheries including the James River and Cottonwood Creek. We recommend that overhead lines be marked when placed over perennial streams or sited in close proximity to large wetland complexes to minimize possible avian impacts. The publication "Reducing Avian Collisions with Power Lines: the State of the Art in 2012" provides a range of management options which can be used to reduce avian losses.

The National Wetland Inventory indicates a variety of wetlands within the proposed project corridor. Steps should be taken to protect any wetlands that cannot be avoided, no alterations should be made to existing drainage patterns, and above-ground appurtenances should not be placed in wetland areas. Unavoidable destruction or degradation of wetland acres should be mitigated in kind.

The Department manages the Bluestem Prairie Wildlife Management Area located in Section 12SE & Section 13E½, T130N, R63W. A special use permit could be required if this project would impact these lands. Mr. Brian Kietzman, Wildlife Resource Management Supervisor, can be contacted at 701-253-6480 for additional information on permit requirements.

Aerial surveys should be conducted for raptor nests before construction begins. We recommend that a ½-mile construction buffer be implemented around active eagle nest sites (known occupied within the past 5 years). Ms. Sandra Johnson, Conservation Biologist, may be contacted at 701-328-6327 for additional information on golden eagle nest sites in the state.

We do not believe this project will have significant adverse effects on wildlife or wildlife habitat, including species of conservation priority, provided these recommendations are implemented where appropriate.

J.D. Schumacher
Resource Biologist

(701) 3 8-6321 • jdschumacher@nd.gov • gf.nd.gov

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Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Bruce Kreft
Supervisor, ND Game & Fish Department
100 Bismarck Expressway
Bismarck, ND 58501

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Bruce Kreft,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (the Project). The Project would be in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect Otter Tail Power's existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota's existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified by the Regional Transmission Organization in the Upper Midwest[1] needed to maintain electric system reliability, increase resilience to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion and increase access to low cost energy throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025. At this early stage of the Project, it is anticipated that Section 106 compliance would be needed for a United State Corps of Engineers Section 404 wetland permit and Section 10 river crossing permit for an overhead crossing of the James River.

Currently, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota are in the planning stages of the Project, which include public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and initial design. These preliminary planning stages provide important input into the identification of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. The attached map shows the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. These corridors are subject to change as we continue public outreach with landowners and other interested parties. Environmental field surveys are currently anticipated to start late this year and be completed in 2024.

We are requesting your review of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the preferred route. We appreciate and value your input in our attempt to avoid or minimize impacts. To help us identify potential concerns in our corridor analysis, we request that any information pertaining to the Project be provided by October 12, 2023, if possible, to:

[1] The Regional Transmission Organization in this area of the Upper Midwest is the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). See more information at www.misoenergy.org.

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
701-353-6139

We will be hosting public meetings at three locations along the Project in September. The meetings will be held on consecutive days September 12 - 14 from 3 - 6 p.m. each day at the three locations listed below. In addition to our public meetings, we are also extending you an invitation if you would prefer to meet individually. If you are interested in an individual meeting outside of our public meetings, our contact information follows below and we would welcome the opportunity to share more information about the Project, answer your questions and take your feedback.

Ellendale	**Jamestown**	**Edgeley**
September 12, 2023	September 13, 2023	September 14, 2023
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	3:00 – 6:00 pm	3:00 – 6:00 pm
American Legion Post #137 79 Main St. Ellendale, ND 58436	Bunker Hill Club House 1520 3rd St. SE Jamestown, ND 58401	Hakuna Matata 101 Industrial Park Road. Edgeley, ND 58433

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the Project progresses, we are planning to have additional consultations with agencies, other jurisdictions, and landowners as we develop and refine a preferred route.

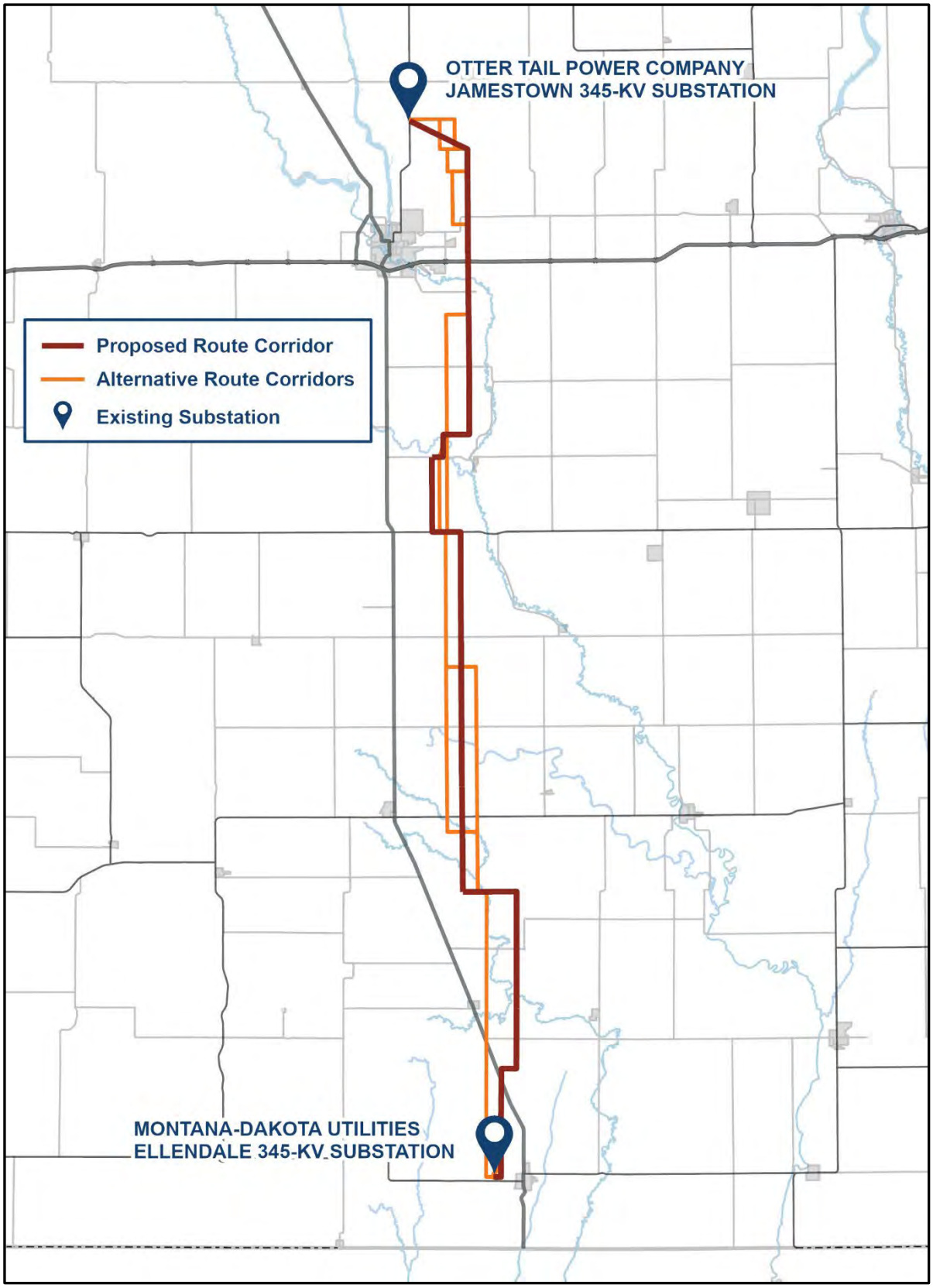
If you desire further information regarding the proposed Project, please contact me at 218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc., at 701-353-6139 or jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com. In addition, further information about the Project can also be found on our website at www.JamestowntoEllendale.com.

Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

From: Brazeal, Alex <Alex.Brazeal@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 8:19 AM
To: Johnson, Sandra K. <sajohnson@nd.gov>
Subject: Eagle Nest Location Data Update

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

Hello Sandy,

Earlier this year, an environmental scientist made a request of historic eagle nest locations for a large transmission line project. I am looking to close this loop of coordination by providing you with our data from field surveys.

Can you please tell me what level/type of data you would like for this? I imagine a spatial file package, zipped? Would you also need an associated table with species information, or is the attribute table from GIS sufficient?

Thank you,

Alex T. Brazeal
Wildlife Biologist - Environmental Scientist
HDR
3231 Greensboro Drive, Suite 200
Bismarck, ND 58503
C 701.934.7830
D 701.557.9731
alex.brazeal@hdrinc.com
hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: Johnson, Sandra K. <sajohnson@nd.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2024 7:31 AM
To: Brazeal, Alex <Alex.Brazeal@hdrinc.com>
Subject: RE: Eagle Nest Location Data Update

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

Hi Alex,

Yes, the attribute table is sufficient, as long as it identifies the species, date observed and status (e.g. inactive nest, active, destroyed, etc.). Do not zip the file, our email system will remove zip files. You can either send it not zipped or change the extension to .piz.
Thanks!
Sandy

Sandra Johnson
Conservation Biologist

(701) 328-6382 • sajohnson@nd.gov • gf.nd.gov



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From: Brazeal, Alex <Alex.Brazeal@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2024 10:37 AM
To: Johnson, Sandra K. <sajohnson@nd.gov>
Cc: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>; Peterson, Monica <monica.peterson@hdrinc.com>
Subject: RE: Eagle Nest Location Data Update

Hi Sandy,

Please find the attached shapefiles from our stick nest survey conducted last spring (May 2023). Please let me know if you have any issues with the files, or need any additional information for this data share agreement. The attribute table should include species, date, and nest status for the 2023 nesting season.

Thank you!

From: Hanley, Jennifer
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 10:18 AM
To: Johnson, Sandra K.
Cc: Peterson, Monica; Scheidecker, Kevin J.
Subject: Jamestown to Ellendale 345 kV Transmission Line ND G&F Coordination

Good morning Sandy,

We've recently sent you the data from the 2023 eagle stick nest survey date we collected this project area. As we continue to route this project, we'd like to engage with ND Game & Fish to provide updates on the project and our routing, and to let you know about our environmental field survey plan for this spring/summer. Would you be the contact person for our coordination? We could set up a meeting to talk through where we are with this project. Let me know if there are some dates/times that would work for ND Game & Fish.

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Johnson, Sandra K. <sajohnson@nd.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 7:28 AM
To: Hanley, Jennifer; Mueller, Elisha K.
Cc: Peterson, Monica; Scheidecker, Kevin J.
Subject: RE: Jamestown to Ellendale 345 kV Transmission Line ND G&F Coordination

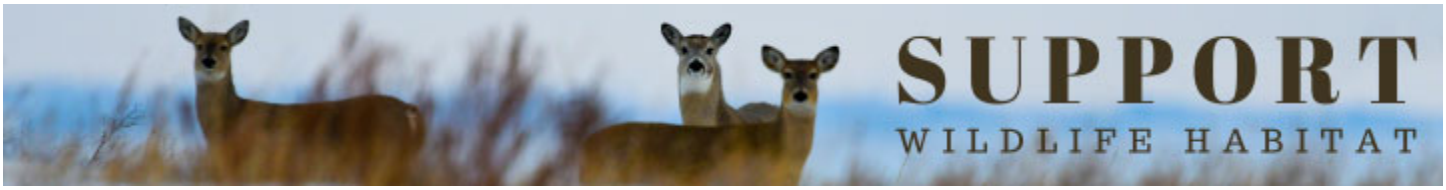
You don't often get email from sajohnson@nd.gov. Learn why this is important

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

Hi Jennifer,
Sorry for the delayed response, I was at a meeting last week and traveling this week for work as well. I am including Conservation Biologist Elisha Mueller on this email. Please contact her to schedule a coordination meeting.
Thanks again for sharing the eagle data!
Sandy

Sandra Johnson
Conservation Biologist

(701) 328-6382 • sajohnson@nd.gov • gf.nd.gov



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Meeting Minutes

Project:	JETx
Subject:	JETx ND Game & Fish Coordination
Date:	Tuesday, February 27, 2024
Location:	Virtual
Attendees:	Kevin Scheidecker (OTP) Jason Weiers (OTP) Andy McDonald (MDU) Jaden Voth (MDU) Monica Peterson (HDR) Alex Brazeal (HDR) Jen Hanley (HDR) Elisha Mueller (NDGF)

- Introductions
    - To-date the Project team has conducted stick nest surveys and has provided the survey result information to North Dakota Game and Fish (NDGF). They have also been in coordination with SHPO, USFWS, and USACE.
    - **Action Item**: HDR to send NDGF shapefiles of route/route alternatives
    - Jason Weiers ran through project summary and timeline.
- Species-specific survey plan:
    - A Species-Specific Survey and Reporting Plan was submitted to USFWS and included the northern long-eared bat, Dakota skipper, monarch butterfly, piping plover, Rufa red knot, whooping crane, bald and golden eagles, and migratory birds
    - Whooping cranes/Piping plover – The Project is outside of the Whooping crane migratory corridor and no critical habitat was identified within the Project Area for Piping plover. During wetland delineation field surveys, HDR will take notes on habitat characteristics and document incidental observations and if suitable habitat for those species is present.
    - Dakota Skipper/Monarch– HDR has done desktop habitat mapping. As the Project was routed one of the goals was to avoid unbroken grasslands and potential skipper habitat. During field surveys, HDR will identify and document any suitable habitat, dispersal habitat, and unsuitable habitat. This spatial information can likely help to inform Sharp-tail grouse lek/nesting habitat.
    - Leks – NDGF does not have any Lek census blocks in the area (closer to Streeter, ND). If there is grassland that goes through the project boundary, NDGF would recommend surveys. However, Elisha will want to speak internally before committing to survey needs. The spatial data will help with that determination.
    - NDGF is mostly concerned with unbroken grasslands and native habitats and their main recommendation is to avoid impacts to them. If we avoid, no surveys are needed. NDGF will take a supporting role to USFWS.

- Map review.
    - **Action Item:** NDGF unbroken grassland data layer – Elisha will check if there is anything newer than 2014
    - Potential Dakota skipper habitat – data layer will be field verified
    - Discussion of the Sevenmile Coulee and James River Crossing. NDGF would like to take a look at the area internally and will give the Project team feedback after their review.
        - At first glance there are no big concerns, but Elisha will verify with subject matter experts.
    - Environmental Mitigation Fund
        - From a planning perspective it would be helpful for the regulated community to understand the scoring process.
        - Is there a planning tool? BMPs for wind energy development are on NDGF website and includes an impact analysis tool. This tool may be helpful for transmission planning. How the structures impact the habitat are analyzed in the steps outlined. There are two documents for that: wind guidelines and offsets. It is an apples to oranges comparison for transmission vs wind.
        - Will look at the direct impact vs indirect impact. May request an offset of acres if we have direct impacts.
    - Is there a predictive model available for project planning and avoidance? Not as accurate for ND and NDGF does not recommend relying on it.
    - If the opportunity occurs, NDGF would entertain going in the field to look more closely at the Sevenmile Coulee with the Project team and USFWS.
    - Any time we have topsoil removal in native prairie, NDGF would consider that a permanent impact. Using matting or not disturbing topsoil and reclamation plan with a native seed mix will be helpful. Have a good weed management plan.
- Questions for ND Game & Fish:
    - If we need to survey, do we concentrate on larger blocks of unbroken grasslands? Depends on what is in surrounding areas. In the past, unbroken grassland parcels of 80 acres or larger were focused for lek survey.

From: Hanley, Jennifer
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 11:42 AM
To: Mueller, Elisha K.
Cc: Robinson, Tina Fricke; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Peterson, Monica; Brazeal, Alex; Weiers, Jason; Langston, Todd; McDonald, Andy; Voth, Jaden; Flege, Adam; Thoma, Mark
Subject: JETx 345kV Transmission Line Coordination Meeting with NDG&F_Meeting Summary and Proposed Project Boundary_20240227
Attachments: JETx_Route_Buffers_500ft_20240227.kmz; JETx_Route_Buffer500ft_20240227.zip; 20240227_NDGF Coordindation Meeting Summary.pdf

Elisha,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us yesterday! I've attached a meeting summary that includes the presentation that Jason went through and both shapefiles and a .kmz of the 500 foot route corridors that we are looking at.

As we discussed yesterday, you were going to check to see if there is a more updated version of the 2014 NDGF unbroken grasslands data layers and you were going to discuss the attached corridors with your colleagues and if there are any Leks census blocks that cause NDGF to recommend Lek surveys.

Thank you for the collaboration. We look forward to working with NDGF as we develop this project!

Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
Environmental Project Manager

HDR
51 North Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
D 701.353.6139
jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

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*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

Jamestown to Ellendale

345-kV Transmission Line

OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY

MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
A Subsidiary of MDU Resources Group, Inc.
In the Community to Serve®

Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO)

Long Range Transmission Plan

MISO has approved 18 new transmission projects throughout the Midwest that are needed to ensure a **reliable** and **resilient** transmission system in the future.



Project Component	Ownership
Jamestown Substation	OTP
Jamestown-Ellendale 345 kV Line	OTP, MDU
Ellendale Substation	MDU
Maple River Substation	OTP
Twin Brooks Substation	OTP, MDU

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

Project Benefits

Otter Tail Power Company and **Montana-Dakota Utilities** are proposing a new 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Otter Tail Power's existing Jamestown Substation and Montana-Dakota Utilities' existing Ellendale Substation.

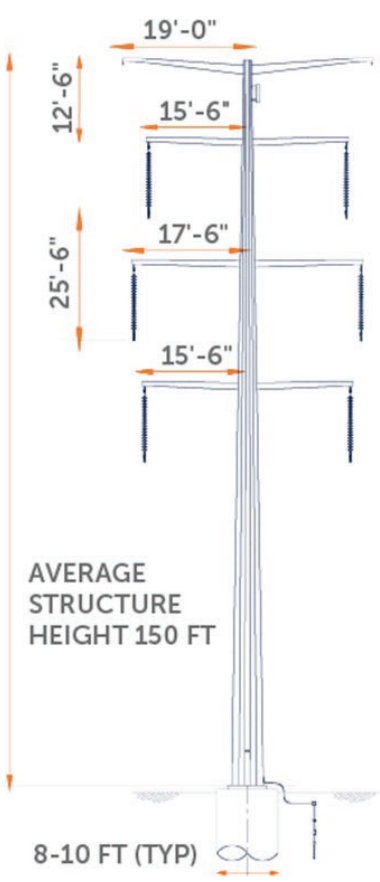
The project will benefit the region by helping to:

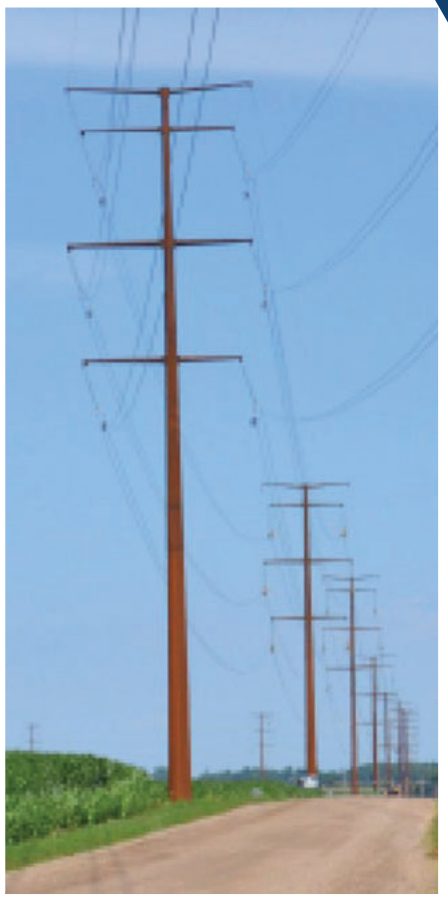
- Ensure electric reliability
- Increase resiliency to extreme weather conditions
- Reduce transmission congestion
- Increase access to low-cost energy

JETx Jamestown to Ellendale

Project Details

- Approximately 95 miles long
- Anticipated Typical Structure
  - Double circuit capable
    - One circuit installed initially
  - Steel monopole
  - Self-weathering
  - Self-supporting
  - Concrete foundations
  - 150’ in height
  - 4-6 Structures per mile (average)





JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

Regulatory Process

State Permit	Applicants	Permitting Lead	Anticipated Filing Date	Estimated In-Service Date
ND Certificate of Public Convenience & Necessity	OTP, MDU	OTP	Q1 2024	Q4 2028
ND Certificate of Corridor Compatibility & Route Permit	OTP, MDU	OTP	Q3 2024	

- We'll also obtain environmental permitting and approvals from appropriate **federal, state, and local agencies** once we've identified a final route (and prior to construction).
- We will also coordinate construction activities with **local government units** and other **stakeholders**.

JETx Jamestown to Ellendale

Preliminary Project Timeline

2023: 1st Half
- Define Study Area
- Develop Corridors
- Public Meeting #1
- Landowner Outreach

2024: 1st Half
- **Start Securing Land Rights**

2025: 2nd Half
- Receive ND Route Permit



2023: 2nd Half
- Develop Routes
- Public Meeting #2
- Landowner Outreach
- Identify Preferred Route
- Surveys

2024: 2nd Half
- Route Permit Submitted to ND PSC
- Public Hearing(s)

2025: 2nd Half/2026 1st Half
- Start Construction

2028: 2nd Half
- Finish Construction
- Energization
- Restoration

JETx Jamestown to Ellendale

PUBLIC DOCUMENT – NOT PUBLIC (OR PRIVILEGED) DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED

Routing Process

Criteria set forth by North Dakota statute guides our routing process.

To route a project, we consider:

- Stakeholder input.
- Opportunities like existing transmission lines, highways, roads, property and field lines.
- Constraints like residences, agricultural considerations, airports, conservation areas, parks and railroads.
- Engineering, environmental and construction requirements.



JETx Jamestown to Ellendale

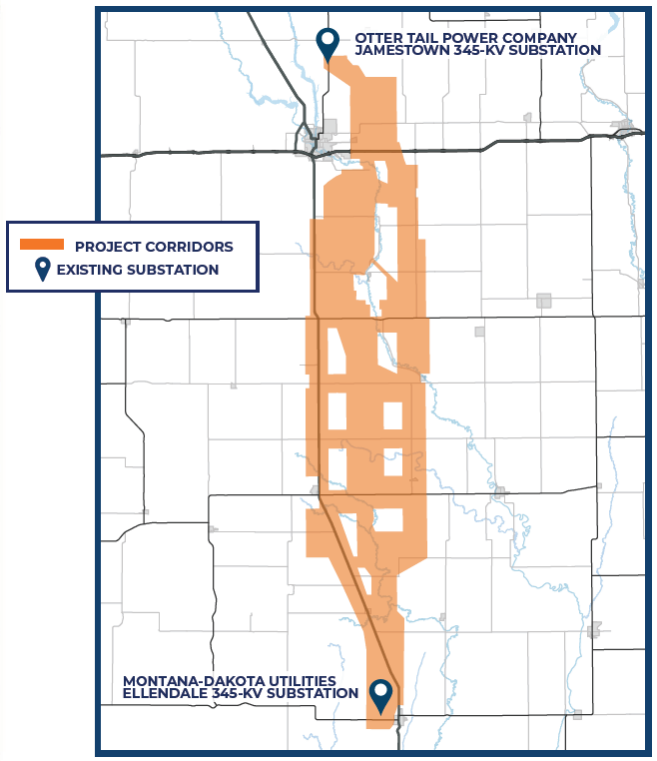
Past Line Routing Efforts

Outreach began with initial conversations in May 2023 and will continue throughout project.

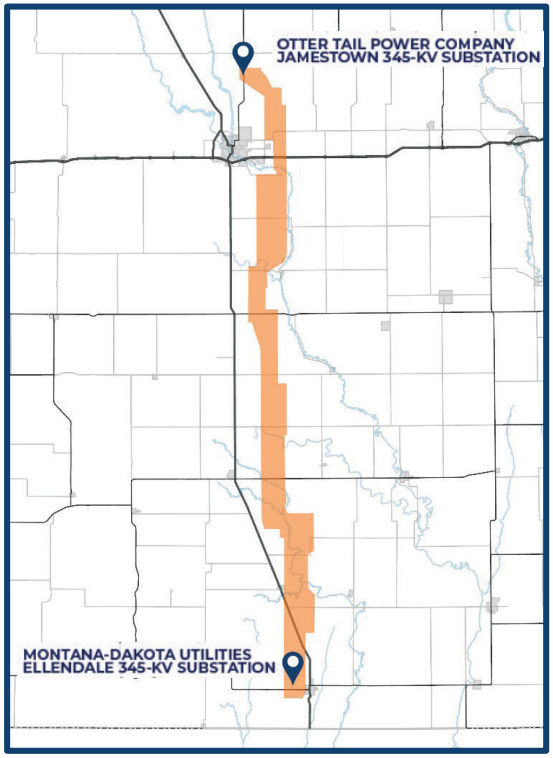
Study Area



Initial Corridors



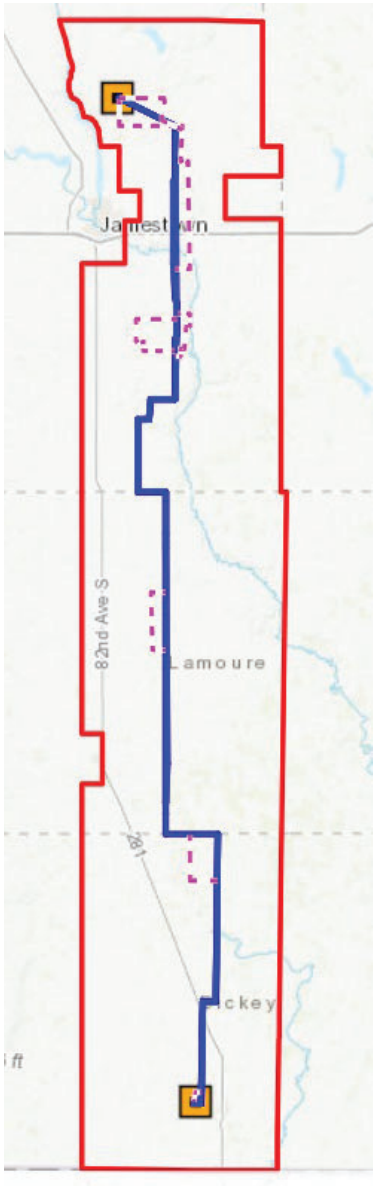
Proposed Corridor



Current Line Routing Efforts

Outreach continues with landowners to secure Right-of-Entry (ROE)

- +/- 231 Landowners
- +/- 469 Parcels
- +/- 30% Denied ROE
  - Don't like proposed route
  - Not interested in the line
  - Property under option for renewable project
  - Waiting for the neighbor
- Several Reroutes being evaluated
- Continue working with landowners



JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

Resources:

Website: www.JamestowntoEllendale.com

Email: connect@JamestowntoEllendale.com

Hotline: (888) 794-6243

Questions?

From: -Adm-IT Email <email@nd.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 12:42 PM
To: Mueller, Elisha K. <ekmueller@nd.gov>
Subject: Notification: JETx 345kV Transmission Line Coordination Meeting with NDG&F_Meeting Summary and Proposed Project Boundary_20240227

A message sent to you was rejected because it contained a ZIP file. ZIP files are not allowed from external senders per NDIT's Email Service Level Agreement (https://www.ndit.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/email-service-level-agreement.pdf). The email and attachment are not recoverable. It is recommended that you request the document(s) be sent unzipped or you can use the Secure File Transfer System (https://intranetapps.nd.gov/itd/filetransfer/login.htm) to invite the sender to upload the file. Please contact your IT support staff or the NDIT Service Desk with any concerns. You can submit an incident ticket by phone at 701-328-4470.
Message details:

Sender: Hanley, Jennifer Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com
Subject: JETx 345kV Transmission Line Coordination Meeting with NDG&F_Meeting Summary and Proposed Project Boundary_20240227
Date sent: 2/28/2024 6:42:09 PM (UTC)

From: Mueller, Elisha K. <ekmueller@nd.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 1:07 PM
To: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Subject: FW: Notification: JETx 345kV Transmission Line Coordination Meeting with NDG&F_Meeting Summary and Proposed Project Boundary_20240227

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Hi Jennifer,

We are unable to received zipped files, can you please resend the files unzipped? Thank you!

Elisha

From: Hanley, Jennifer
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 1:18 PM
To: Mueller, Elisha K. <ekmueller@nd.gov>
Subject: RE: Notification: JETx 345kV Transmission Line Coordination Meeting with NDG&F_Meeting Summary and Proposed Project Boundary_20240227

Let me know if you have any issues with these!

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Hanley, Jennifer
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 7:23 AM
To: Mueller, Elisha K.
Cc: Brazeal, Alex; Peterson, Monica; Flege, Adam
Subject: RE: Notification: JETx 345kV Transmission Line Coordination Meeting with NDG&F_Meeting Summary and Proposed Project Boundary_20240227

Good morning Elisha,

Did the shapefiles work ok for you? Have you and your peers had the chance to review our area to determine if we have any potential concerns?

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Hanley, Jennifer
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2024 12:25 PM
To: Mueller, Elisha K.
Cc: Brazeal, Alex; Peterson, Monica; Flege, Adam
Subject: RE: Notification: JETx 345kV Transmission Line Coordination Meeting with NDG&F_Meeting Summary and Proposed Project Boundary_20240227

Good afternoon Elisha,

Sorry to pester, I'm hoping ND G&F has been able to take a look at the project area for any lek survey needs. The survey window is coming up quickly and we would need get our logistics arranged and compare what ND G&F needs versus where we have right of entry. Do you have any updates you could share?

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Mueller, Elisha K. <ekmueller@nd.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 5:07 PM
To: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Subject: RE: Notification: JETx 345kV Transmission Line Coordination Meeting with NDG&F_Meeting Summary and Proposed Project Boundary_20240227

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Hi Jen,

I am so sorry for the delay on this. I am talking to Jesse Kolar, our upland game biologist, about recommendations. We want to make sure that we understand the risk of the project to grouse, so we do recommend some survey effort be done. However, we are still working through what sort of effort would be best for the area, the amount of grassland, disturbance level, etc. I am hoping to get back to you soon with a more thorough soon… perhaps in a day or two. But wanted to let you know I wasn't just ignoring your email!

Elisha

From: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 5:27 PM
To: Mueller, Elisha K. <ekmueller@nd.gov>
Subject: RE: Notification: JETx 345kV Transmission Line Coordination Meeting with NDG&F_Meeting Summary and Proposed Project Boundary_20240227

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Thanks for the update! Sorry if I'm pestering….we just want to make sure we can get the survey in this year if we are doing one.

> Our recommended survey protocol can be found in our Wind BMPs document:
> https://gf.nd.gov/sites/default/files/publications/wind-energy-development-bmp.pdf

We will get these areas mapped and would be interested in a follow up call to ask any remaining questions and to confirm our survey plan.

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

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*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Mueller, Elisha K. <ekmueller@nd.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 5:42 PM
To: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Subject: RE: Notification: JETx 345kV Transmission Line Coordination Meeting with NDG&F_Meeting Summary and Proposed Project Boundary_20240227

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Hi Jennifer,

No apologies needed. I understand that the survey season is right around the corner!

After speaking with Jesse, we decided its best to stick with the recommendation of buffering grassland blocks with a 1mile buffer and surveying those areas. Its important to know if we are disturbing any nesting habitat, and grouse will nest up to 2 miles away from a lek. So the 1 mile buffer might not catch them all, but will likely catch the majority of the leks that might be utilizing the grassland patches, even the smaller ones, along this corridor.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or if you would like to set up a call with us to chat more about this.
Elisha

From: Mueller, Elisha K. <ekmueller@nd.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2024 3:10 PM
To: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Cc: Brazeal, Alex <Alex.Brazeal@hdrinc.com>; Robinson, Tina Fricke <Tina.Robinson@hdrinc.com>; Peterson, Monica <monica.peterson@hdrinc.com>; Flege, Adam <Adam.Flege@hdrinc.com>; Scheidecker, Kevin J. <kscheidecker@otpco.com>; Thoma, Mark <mthoma@otpco.com>
Subject: RE: Notification: JETx 345kV Transmission Line Coordination Meeting with NDG&F_Meeting Summary and Proposed Project Boundary_20240227

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My answers are below. Let me know if there is anything I can clear up further.

Elisha

From: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2024 8:57 AM
To: Mueller, Elisha K. <ekmueller@nd.gov>
Cc: Brazeal, Alex <Alex.Brazeal@hdrinc.com>; Robinson, Tina Fricke <Tina.Robinson@hdrinc.com>; Peterson, Monica <monica.peterson@hdrinc.com>; Flege, Adam <Adam.Flege@hdrinc.com>; Scheidecker, Kevin J. <kscheidecker@otpco.com>; Thoma, Mark <mthoma@otpco.com>

Subject: RE: Notification: JETx 345kV Transmission Line Coordination Meeting with NDG&F_Meeting Summary and Proposed Project Boundary_20240227

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Elisha,

We have a few follow up questions.

1. Are we buffering only UNBROKEN grassland blocks? Or any parcels that are identified under NLCD as grassland/hay/pasture?
   All grass, both unbroken and broken, that is being impacted due to development, would be included. This is because both types are important nesting habitat, and the goal of the surveys is to understand if we are impacting nesting habitat that grouse might be utilizing in the area, not necessarily the leks themselves.
2. Is there any minimum parcel size? (In the past when we have done similar survey, a minimum parcel size of 80 ac was used)
   This is something we have, and continue, to discuss; however, our current recommendations do not have a minimum parcel size. We would be happy to discuss this, however, if after you generate your grassland maps and find a large percent is under the 80 acres. We can schedule a call with our upland game biologist to discuss further at that time if that makes sense to you all.
3. Any preference from NDGF on aerial survey vs. ground-based survey of these areas?
   Our recommended survey protocol can be found in our Wind BMPs document:
   https://gf.nd.gov/sites/default/files/publications/wind-energy-development-bmp.pdf

From: Hanley, Jennifer
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2024 3:33 PM
To: Mueller, Elisha K. <ekmueller@nd.gov>
Cc: Brazeal, Alex <Alex.Brazeal@hdrinc.com>; Robinson, Tina Fricke <Tina.Robinson@hdrinc.com>; Peterson, Monica <monica.peterson@hdrinc.com>; Flege, Adam <Adam.Flege@hdrinc.com>; Scheidecker, Kevin J. <kscheidecker@otpco.com>; Thoma, Mark <mthoma@otpco.com>
Subject: RE: Notification: JETx 345kV Transmission Line Coordination Meeting with NDG&F_Meeting Summary and Proposed Project Boundary_20240227

Elisha,

Could we have another call to go over your responses below with additional ND G&F staff available for questions? We were under the impression that wind energy was an apple to oranges comparison of transmission line and this recommendation would be a much larger effort in survey. We would like to talk through the recommendations you are making.

Please let me know when you and others are available within the next week and I will get something set up!

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

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*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Brazeal, Alex
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 1:53 PM
To: Mueller, Elisha K.; Hanley, Jennifer
Cc: Robinson, Tina Fricke; Peterson, Monica; Flege, Adam; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Thoma, Mark
Subject: RE: Notification: JETx 345kV Transmission Line Coordination Meeting with NDG&F_Meeting Summary and Proposed Project Boundary_20240227

Hi Elisha,

In planning lek survey efforts, we have been using the USFWS grassland layer. The NDGFD Grassland dataset, available on the ND GISHUB, is a raster GIS service layer and does not support processing the data in GIS tools. Is the data available as a raster, shapefile or in a GDB you could send as a copy we could clip for our project limits?

Can you please provide a grasslands layer? I believe the version on ND GISHUB is from 2014, so if a newer version is available, that would be great! If not, we would like to have the full shapefile from the 2014 version in order to put together survey effort maps.

If you have any questions on this request, please don't hesitate to contact me here or on my cell number below.

Thank you,

From: Hanley, Jennifer
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 7:31 AM
To: Mueller, Elisha K.
Cc: Brazeal, Alex; Robinson, Tina Fricke; Peterson, Monica; Flege, Adam; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Thoma, Mark
Subject: RE: Notification: JETx 345kV Transmission Line Coordination Meeting with NDG&F_Meeting Summary and Proposed Project Boundary_20240227

Good morning Elisha,

Would you and Jesse Kolar be available for a meeting to answer any follow up questions?

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

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*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Mueller, Elisha K. <ekmueller@nd.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 7:36 AM
To: Hanley, Jennifer
Cc: Brazeal, Alex; Robinson, Tina Fricke; Peterson, Monica; Flege, Adam; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Thoma, Mark; Kolar, Jesse L.
Subject: RE: Notification: JETx 345kV Transmission Line Coordination Meeting with NDG&F_Meeting Summary and Proposed Project Boundary_20240227

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My apologies for the delayed response, last week kept me quite busy with the SWAP update. We are available all Tuesday and Thursday afternoon and Wednesday between 2-4. Let me know if any of those times work.

Meeting Minutes

Project:	JETx
Subject:	JETX ND Game & Fish Lek Survey Discussion
Date:	Tuesday, March 26, 2024
Location:	Virtual Teams Meeting
Attendees:	Elisha Mueller (NDGF) Jesse Kolar (NDGF) Kevin Scheidecker (OTP) Mark Thoma (OTP) Andy McDonald (MDU) Jaden Voth (MDU) Jen Hanley (HDR) Alex Brazeal (HDR) Monica Peterson (HDR)

- Introductions
- Desktop analysis of grasslands
    - Updated layers from Sandy Johnson
    - Review of the 1-mile buffer either side of line with the grassland data layers
- Survey plan review and concurrence
    - Sharp-tailed grouse lek survey plan was included in the meeting invite. In summary: Using NDGF spatial data, HDR identified the grasslands within a 1-mile buffer each side of the project. Between now and May 15th the survey methodologies will include surveying prior to sunrise and for 2 hours after on public roads and, where granted, private roads with listening stops at potential habitat areas. If leks are observed, they will be recorded.
    - Two surveys planned: now during routing and siting and next year prior to construction.
    - Private land access denied note: It is not worth hiking into if access is not granted as it would disturb the grouse lek anyways and HDR should skip those areas.
        - In the report, it should be noted that there was no access. If it's a small area, NDGF can take an educated guess but if it's a large swath of the land they'll want to make sure to note that.
        - HDR will document where they all go including their stop locations
- Minimum parcel size of contiguous grasslands
    - The largest one is 42 acres and is made of a bunch of smaller contiguous grasslands pieces
    - Per NDGF, some of the grassland data may have been digitized poorly
    - A parcel of 20-30 acres that is isolated could be skipped but if there is a patchwork that's interconnected at all it should be considered.
    - In reviewing it, if the grassland is obviously not potential sharp-tailed breeding habitat (i.e., a field ditch, mowed farm yard), team can note that. It is hard to determine entirely based on size of polygon however.
- Next Steps
    - ACTION ITEM: HDR will provide an update survey plan based on this meeting

- ACTION ITEM: Team would ask NDGF provide concurrence on the revised survey plan so it can be documented properly.

From: Hanley, Jennifer
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 7:24 AM
To: Mueller, Elisha K.; Kolar, Jesse L.
Cc: Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Thoma, Mark; McDonald, Andy; Voth, Jaden; Peterson, Monica; Brazeal, Alex; Flege, Adam; Langston, Todd; Weiers, Jason
Subject: JETx NDGF Lek Survey Meeting Summary and Survey Plan_20240327
Attachments: JETx_STGR_Survey-Plan_20240327.pdf; 20240324_JETx-NDGF Lek Survey Meeting Summary.pdf

Elisha/Jesse,

Thank you again for taking the time to meet with us yesterday. Attached you will find a summary of our meeting and our updated Lek survey plan. We would appreciate your concurrence with the plan.

Our team plans to get out to the corridor next week Wednesday to scout for potential listening stops for the first morning of survey, planned for Thursday, April 4.

Below is the tentative lek survey schedule:

Round 1: April 4-8

Round 2: April 17-22

Round 3: May 1-6

Please let us know if you have any questions!
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
Senior Environmental Project Manager

HDR
51 North Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
D 701.353.6139
jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Hanley, Jennifer
Sent: Monday, April 1, 2024 7:14 AM
To: Mueller, Elisha K.; Kolar, Jesse L.
Cc: Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Thoma, Mark; McDonald, Andy; Voth, Jaden; Peterson, Monica; Brazeal, Alex; Flege, Adam; Langston, Todd; Weiers, Jason
Subject: RE: JETx NDGF Lek Survey Meeting Summary and Survey Plan_20240327
Attachments: JETx_STGR_Survey-Plan_20240327.pdf

Elisha,

We are planning to start surveys this week. Have you had an opportunity to review the revised Lek survey plan sent on 3/27/2024? If so, does NDGF concur with the plan?

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

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*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Mueller, Elisha K. <ekmueller@nd.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 1, 2024 10:26 AM
To: Hanley, Jennifer; Kolar, Jesse L.
Cc: Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Thoma, Mark; McDonald, Andy; Voth, Jaden; Peterson, Monica; Brazeal, Alex; Flege, Adam; Langston, Todd; Weiers, Jason
Subject: RE: JETx NDGF Lek Survey Meeting Summary and Survey Plan_20240327

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Hi Jen,

Apologies for the delay, we had some time off for the holiday. Everything looks good to me. Jesse may be out surveying this morning, so he might need until the afternoon to speak up if he has any concerns. I doubt he will though, so if you don't hear anything by this afternoon, you are all set.

Thanks for checking in.

Elisha

From: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Monday, April 1, 2024 10:37 AM
To: Mueller, Elisha K. <ekmueller@nd.gov>; Kolar, Jesse L. <jlkolar@nd.gov>
Cc: Scheidecker, Kevin J. <kscheidecker@otpco.com>; Thoma, Mark <mthoma@otpco.com>; McDonald, Andy <andy.mcdonald@mdu.com>; Voth, Jaden <jaden.voth@mdu.com>; Peterson, Monica <monica.peterson@hdrinc.com>; Brazeal, Alex <Alex.Brazeal@hdrinc.com>; Flege, Adam <Adam.Flege@hdrinc.com>; Langston, Todd <tlangston@otpco.com>; Weiers, Jason <jweiers@otpco.com>
Subject: RE: JETx NDGF Lek Survey Meeting Summary and Survey Plan_20240327

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Thank you Elisha!

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

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*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Kolar, Jesse L.
To: Hanley, Jennifer; Mueller, Elisha K.
Cc: Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Thoma, Mark; McDonald, Andy; Voth, Jaden; Peterson, Monica; Brazeal, Alex; Flege, Adam; Langston, Todd; Weiers, Jason
Subject: Re: JETx NDGF Lek Survey Meeting Summary and Survey Plan_20240327
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 2:24:17 PM

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I read through those and that looks good to me also. Thanks for sending that out for review!

Jesse

From: Hanley, Jennifer
To: Kolar, Jesse L.; Mueller, Elisha K.
Cc: Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Thoma, Mark; McDonald, Andy; Voth, Jaden; Peterson, Monica; Brazeal, Alex; Flege, Adam; Langston, Todd; Weiers, Jason
Subject: RE: JETx NDGF Lek Survey Meeting Summary and Survey Plan_20240327
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 2:33:00 PM

Thank you Jesse

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

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*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Hanley, Jennifer
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2024 2:00 PM
To: Mueller, Elisha K. <ekmueller@nd.gov>; Kolar, Jesse L. <jlkolar@nd.gov>
Cc: Scheidecker, Kevin J. <kscheidecker@otpco.com>; Thoma, Mark <mthoma@otpco.com>; McDonald, Andy <andy.mcdonald@mdu.com>; Voth, Jaden <jaden.voth@mdu.com>; Peterson, Monica <monica.peterson@hdrinc.com>; Brazeal, Alex <Alex.Brazeal@hdrinc.com>; Flege, Adam <Adam.Flege@hdrinc.com>; Langston, Todd <tlangston@otpco.com>; Weiers, Jason <jweiers@otpco.com>; Huck, Chelsea <Chelsea.Huck@hdrinc.com>
Subject: JETx NDGF Lek Survey Results_20240614

Elisha,

We have completed the 2024 Lek Survey for the Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project. Please review the attached memo and let us know if you would like to discuss the results.

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139
hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From:	Hanley, Jennifer
To:	Mueller, Elisha K.; Kolar, Jesse L.
Cc:	Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Thoma, Mark; McDonald, Andy; Voth, Jaden; Peterson, Monica; Brazeal, Alex; Flege, Adam; Langston, Todd; Weiers, Jason; Huck, Chelsea
Subject:	RE: JETx NDGF Lek Survey Results_20240614
Date:	Wednesday, August 14, 2024 12:54:28 PM

Good afternoon Elisha,

I wanted to follow up on our submittal of the Lek Survey memo we prepared for the Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project.

Did you have any questions for us?

We would love to take some time to meet and give you an update on our ND PSC permit application and to discuss our mitigation strategies with you prior to our filing. Would you have time to meet with us sometime next week or the following?

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Hanley, Jennifer
To: sgangl@nd.gov
Cc: Peterson, Monica; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Huck, Chelsea; Flege, Adam
Subject: JETx NDGF Save the Lakes Easement and Other Easement Information
Date: Wednesday, August 14, 2024 3:08:25 PM
Attachments: LAM01-1070_1080 Jordahl.pdf
JETx_150ft_ROW.zip
JETx_Proposed_Route.zip

Scott,

Thank you for calling me back this afternoon! Attached are the easement our landowner provided and shapefiles for our proposed route and the associated 150 ft right of way for the Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line.

To recap what we discussed, we have a landowner that is willing to work with us to place a transmission line structure on his property but he just provided us the attached Save our Lakes easement. The area in the easement is over the Maple River in T133N, R63W, north ½ of Section 28.

Does the easement restrict the placement of a transmission line pole in the easement area?

Also, would you (or someone else from NDGF) be able to look at the attached shapefiles and see if there are any other easements we need to be concerned about.

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
Senior Environmental Project Manager

HDR
51 North Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
D 701.353.6139
jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2024 4:13 PM
To: Gangl, Scott <sgangl@nd.gov>
Cc: Peterson, Monica <monica.peterson@hdrinc.com>; Scheidecker, Kevin J. <kscheidecker@otpco.com>; Huck, Chelsea <Chelsea.Huck@hdrinc.com>; Flege, Adam <Adam.Flege@hdrinc.com>
Subject: RE: JETx NDGF Save the Lakes Easement and Other Easement Information

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Scott,

My email to you was rejected due to the zip files.

I have placed them on in OneDrive: JETx Shapefiles for NDGF_20240814

See a recap of our conversation below.

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

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*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Mueller, Elisha K.
To: Hanley, Jennifer; Kolar, Jesse L.
Cc: Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Thoma, Mark; McDonald, Andy; Voth, Jaden; Peterson, Monica; Brazeal, Alex; Flege, Adam; Langston, Todd; Weiers, Jason; Huck, Chelsea
Subject: RE: JETx NDGF Lek Survey Results_20240614
Date: Thursday, August 15, 2024 8:06:31 AM

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Hi Jennifer,

Sorry for the delay, this is quite a busy time of year with field work. I have availability the 27th, 28th, and the 30th.

Looking forward to meeting and discussing this further.
Elisha

From: Gangl, Scott
To: Hanley, Jennifer
Cc: Peterson, Monica; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Huck, Chelsea; Flege, Adam
Subject: RE: JETx NDGF Save the Lakes Easement and Other Easement Information
Date: Thursday, August 15, 2024 1:31:51 PM
Attachments: image002.png
image003.png
image001.png
image005.png
image006.png
image007.png
image008.png
image009.png
image010.png

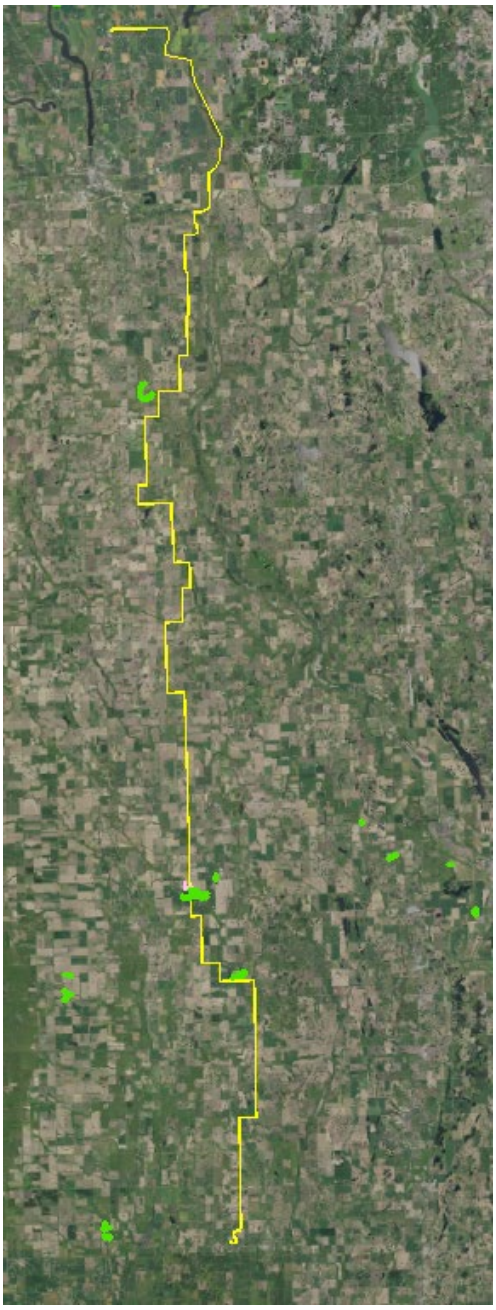
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Hi Jen,
I was able to review your route and compare it to our easements in the area. The proposed route will be proximal to four easement areas, but only two of those will be crossed by the line if it's built on that route. One of the easement crossings will be Jeff Jordahl's, and the other is the half-section immediately south of Jeff's on Loren and Laverne Nelson's (T133 N R63W S28 S1/2). That easement would have the same terms as the Jordahl easement.

In doing some checking I found that you are correct, the easement restricts building structures on the property without our permission. These easements were intended to provide buffers around waters for water quality purposes, and we feel that the concrete base and tower that you described would not have an adverse impact on stream water quality. Thus, we would be willing to consider granting a variance allowing construction with some stipulations that the area disturbed during construction be reclaimed to our standards. We'd be happy to work with you on this as planning and work progresses.

FYI, all of these easements, including the Jordahl easement, have been recorded with their respective county (see the recording documentation on the easement that you sent me), so they should have turned up in a parcel search at the county.





Thanks,
Scott

Scott Gangl
Fisheries Management Section Leader

(701) 328-6662 • sgangl@nd.gov • gf.nd.gov

-



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From: Hanley, Jennifer
To: Gangl, Scott
Cc: Peterson, Monica; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Huck, Chelsea; Flege, Adam
Subject: RE: JETx NDGF Save the Lakes Easement and Other Easement Information
Date: Thursday, August 15, 2024 1:56:41 PM
Attachments: image002.png
image011.png
image013.png
image014.png
image015.png
image016.png
image017.png
image018.png
image019.png

Scott,

Thank you for getting back to me so quickly and being willing to work with us! I will get this information passed on to our land staff and make sure we are getting the easement information for the Nelson property.

We will also discuss with engineering and we'll get back to you as we make decisions about the structure location.

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

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*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Gangl, Scott <sgangl@nd.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2024 3:00 PM
To: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Cc: Peterson, Monica <monica.peterson@hdrinc.com>; Scheidecker, Kevin J. <kscheidecker@otpco.com>; Huck, Chelsea <Chelsea.Huck@hdrinc.com>; Flege, Adam <Adam.Flege@hdrinc.com>
Subject: RE: JETx NDGF Save the Lakes Easement and Other Easement Information

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I'm sorry, I should have sent this along with the other message. Here is the Nelson easement. It covers a much narrower stream, so the likelihood of a tower being placed in the easement area is probably very low.

Scott

From: Hanley, Jennifer
To: Gangl, Scott
Cc: Peterson, Monica; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Huck, Chelsea; Flege, Adam
Subject: RE: JETx NDGF Save the Lakes Easement and Other Easement Information
Date: Thursday, August 15, 2024 2:20:41 PM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image004.png
image005.png
image006.png
image007.png
image008.png
image009.png
image010.png

Thank you for sending this over! We'll get it added to our maps and sent to our ROW agents.

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Hanley, Jennifer
To: Gangl, Scott
Cc: Peterson, Monica; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Huck, Chelsea; Flege, Adam; Hellman, Joshua
Subject: RE: JETx NDGF Save the Lakes Easement and Other Easement Information
Date: Friday, August 16, 2024 7:18:13 AM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image004.png
image005.png
image006.png
image007.png
image008.png
image009.png
image010.png

Scott,

Would it be possible for us to get the shapefiles for the Jordahl and Nelson easements? We could digitize the snip you sent but it might not be as accurate.

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Gangl, Scott
To: Hanley, Jennifer
Cc: Peterson, Monica; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Huck, Chelsea; Flege, Adam; Hellman, Joshua
Subject: RE: JETx NDGF Save the Lakes Easement and Other Easement Information
Date: Friday, August 16, 2024 10:22:09 AM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image004.png
image005.png
image006.png
image007.png
image008.png
image009.png
image010.png
soleasement.prj
soleasement.sbn
soleasement.sbx
soleasement.shp
soleasement.shp.xml
soleasement.shx
soleasement.cpg
soleasement.dbf

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Hi Jen,
Here is a set of shapefiles for the SOL easements in the vicinity of the route.

I'm not a GIS whiz, so let me know if they don't work and we'll try again.

Thanks,
Scott

From: Hanley, Jennifer
To: Gangl, Scott
Cc: Peterson, Monica; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Huck, Chelsea; Flege, Adam; Hellman, Joshua
Subject: RE: JETx NDGF Save the Lakes Easement and Other Easement Information
Date: Friday, August 16, 2024 10:23:04 AM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image004.png
image005.png
image006.png
image007.png
image008.png
image009.png
image010.png

Thank you!

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Peterson, Monica
To: Gangl, Scott; Hanley, Jennifer
Cc: Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Huck, Chelsea; Flege, Adam; Hellman, Joshua
Subject: RE: JETx NDGF Save the Lakes Easement and Other Easement Information
Date: Friday, August 23, 2024 10:41:45 AM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image004.png
image005.png
image006.png
image007.png
image008.png
image009.png
image010.png

Hi Scott,
I am jumping in to help Jen out – the shapefiles worked so thank you. Could you please outline what the variance process would be for us to have a transmission line structure in an SOL easement, approximate timeline, and if applicable, costs?

Monica Peterson
M 515-451-1460

hdrinc.com/follow-us

Meeting Minutes

Project:	JETx
Subject:	JETX ND Game & Fish Lek Survey Discussion
Date:	Tuesday, August 27, 2024
Location:	Virtual Teams Meeting
Attendees:	Elisha Mueller (NDGF) Kevin Scheidecker (OTP) Jaden Voth (MDU) Jen Hanley (HDR) Alex Brazeal (HDR) Monica Peterson (HDR)

- Introductions

- Project Update
  - Working with landowners to put forth the route that considers environmental, engineering and landowners. This has resulted in shifts in the alignment. Built our survey around our alternate routes within our buffered area.
- LEK Survey Follow Up
  - Have not shifted outside of our buffered area.
  - ACTION ITEM: Distance from centerline to 6 LEKs, where the disturbance is going to be, is there going to be permanent impact to native habitat throughout (long term impact to native habitat – no permanent impact due to access roads, currently structures and substation expansions only)
  - Vertical structures within 1 mile of the lek – recommend raptor deterrents (no space for raptors to perch no flight deterrents)
  - Avoid native habitat, mitigate with replacement
  - Definition of permanent is any unbroken prairie (tilling, grading) If it needs to be reseeded, it is considered permanent
  - For LEKs in disturbed areas (cropland not unbroken), NDGF looks at protecting nesting habitat it can be planted grass
  - Seven-mile coulee East Side – it is introduced grass not native grassland – we may still be in the 1 – mile buffer
  - More interested in saving the nesting habitat then the LEK itself
  - NDGF makes recommendations only, they do not have regulatory authority
- Mitigation Plan
  - NDGF would make recommendations but is not a permitting agency
  - Mitigation – recommendation only; would typically be a 1:1 replacement
  - More interested in saving the nesting habitat then the LEK itself
- Next Steps
  - ACTION ITEM: Send:
    - distance from centerline/nearest structure to 6 LEKs, where the disturbance is going to be

- permanent impact to native habitat throughout
- shapefile of the route (not including structures as those may shift)
- data source for unbroken grasslands

From: Gangl, Scott
To: Peterson, Monica; Hanley, Jennifer
Cc: Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Huck, Chelsea; Flege, Adam; Hellman, Joshua
Subject: RE: JETx NDGF Save the Lakes Easement and Other Easement Information
Date: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 12:23:12 PM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image004.png
image005.png
image006.png
image007.png
image008.png
image009.png
image010.png

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Hi Monica,
When Jen and I spoke on the phone, she indicated that there's still some uncertainty over whether the towers would span the parcel under easement or if it will be necessary to build on the easement. Once you have the route and tower structure locations finalized, if a tower needs to be built on the easement you could notify us in writing of your plans. Please include the location of the tower, the size of area to be disturbed by the construction, the expected time and duration of construction, and the reclamation plan for the disturbed area. We would like the reclaimed area to be restored to its pre-construction condition, which I'm sure is also part of your negotiation with the landowner.

We would issue a document/letter granting permission to build on the easement, and keep a copy on file for future reference. Pretty straightforward, and shouldn't cost anything.

Hope this helps, let me know if you have any more questions.

Thanks,
Scott

From: Hanley, Jennifer
To: Mueller, Elisha K.
Cc: Kolar, Jesse L.; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Peterson, Monica; Brazeal, Alex; Flege, Adam; Huck, Chelsea
Subject: JETx NDGF Meeting Summary and Follow up Information_20240827
Date: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 11:22:24 AM
Attachments: JETx_150ft_ROW.zip
JETx_Proposed_Route.zip
20240827JETx-NDGF Lek Survey Meeting Summary.pdf

Elisha,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us on 8/27/2024.

Attached and below is the follow up information that was requested.

Distance from Leks (starting at the northern most lek to the southern most lek)

Report_ID	Distance in Miles
Lek-01	0.403
Lek-02	0.424
Lek-03	0.525
Lek-04	1.068
Lek-05	1.284
Lek-06	0.656

The data source of the unbroken grasslands for our impact calculations is the ND Game & Fish data from 2022 that you provided to us. We are currently showing approximately 0.19 acre of permanent impact to unbroken grasslands.

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
Senior Environmental Project Manager

HDR
51 North Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
D 701.353.6139
jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Hanley, Jennifer
To: Mueller, Elisha K.
Cc: Kolar, Jesse L.; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Peterson, Monica; Brazeal, Alex; Flege, Adam; Huck, Chelsea
Subject: RE: JETx NDGF Meeting Summary and Follow up Information_20240827
Date: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 11:23:34 AM
Attachments: JETx_150ft_ROW (2).zap
JETx_150ft_ROW.zap

Elisha,

The email I sent kicked back to me I think because of the .zip files. I changed the extension to .zap. Let me know if this didn't work.

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

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*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Mueller, Elisha K. <ekmueller@nd.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 4:31 PM
To: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Subject: RE: JETx NDGF Meeting Summary and Follow up Information_20240827

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Hi Jennifer,

Sorry for the delay on this. I was able to rename the files & get it to work... Thank you for providing the lek information as well! I will connect with Jesse and let you know as soon as possible if we have any further comments or concerns.

Elisha

Meeting Summary

Project:	OTP/MDU JETx 345 kV Transmission Line
Subject:	JETx Biweekly Environmental Meeting Agenda
Date:	Thursday, October 03, 2024
Location:	Virtual
Attendees:	☒Peterson, Monica (HDR) ☒Gangl, Scott (NDGF)
	☒Hanley, Jen (HDR) ☒Britz, Jordan (POWER) ☒Merrick, Zach (POWER)

1. Timeline
    a. Approval time for the variance would minimal (less than a week)
    b. Timing for request would be when we have the locations set (landowner easement signed)
    c. No timeline for the variance – it will be for project as a whole

2. Concerns
    a. Temp construction impacts (150 ft x 200 ft long for temp workspaces)
        i. Mitigation
            1. Use of mats (mats typically would be placed for approximately 1 month)
            2. Reseed if necessary - NRCS or landowner approved seeding
    b. Not concerned about the tower locations
    c. Want buffers to be maintained between tilled areas and the stream

3. Variance Request Needs:
    a. location of the tower
    b. the size of area to be disturbed by the construction
    c. the expected time and duration of construction
    d. Show matting or efforts we are taking to minimize disturbances
    e. the reclamation plan for the disturbed area
        i. To be restored to its pre-construction condition

4. Letter/document granting permission
5. Construction timeline
    a. Start in 2026
    b. Would expect to be in this area in 2027
    c. Energization end of 2028

From: Hanley, Jennifer
Sent: Monday, July 14, 2025 3:04 PM
To: Mueller, Elisha K.
Cc: Peterson, Monica; Ward, Hayley; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; McDonald, Andy; Kolar, Jesse L.
Subject: RE: JETx NDGF Meeting Summary and Follow up Information_20240827

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good afternoon Elisha,

We are preparing to file the Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line route permit application to the ND PSC within the next few weeks. We are going through our correspondence one final time and see that we did not get a response from ND Game & Fish on our lek survey performed in 2024 (see last correspondence below). Do you have a response in your files that I am missing in mine? If not, could NDGF provide a response?

Let me know if I need to resend you any information.

Thank you,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Hanley, Jennifer
Sent: Friday, July 18, 2025 8:33 AM
To: Mueller, Elisha K.
Cc: Peterson, Monica; Ward, Hayley; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; McDonald, Andy; Kolar, Jesse L.
Subject: RE: JETx NDGF Meeting Summary and Follow up Information_20240827

Good morning Elisha,

I'm pulling this back to the top of your inbox. We are starting to finalize our permit application and want to check again if NDGF has any additional response for the Jamestown to Ellendale 345 kV transmission line project for us to include. Please let me know if you need me to resend information to you.

Thank you,

Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Mueller, Elisha K. <ekmueller@nd.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 21, 2025 9:40 AM
To: Hanley, Jennifer
Cc: Peterson, Monica; Ward, Hayley; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; McDonald, Andy; Kolar, Jesse L.
Subject: RE: JETx NDGF Meeting Summary and Follow up Information_20240827

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Hi Jennifer,

Apologies, I have been traveling and out in the field. I searched through my email this morning and found a message stuck in my outbox. It looks like it never sent. ---

Hi Jennifer

Jesse and I were finally able to go through the data you provided us. Thank you for the information and keeping us informed along this process. We appreciate that most of this line is in an area that poses lower risk to wildlife and wildlife habitat and are encouraged by the minimization efforts, as well as the survey efforts undergone thus far.

With that said, however, we do have some lingering concerns, specifically with leks 2 & 3 (I believe, though I can't say for certain as I do not have the spatial data of the leks and I am not positive which are which). This is one of the largest chunks of grassland along the corridor, and the location of the line along this parcel will likely lead to impacts to both leks, which are 0.424 and 0.525 miles away respectively. We recommend considering adding bird perch deterrents on vertical structures within a 1-mile radius of those 2 leks specifically. This will likely lead to the greatest conservation value for the birds, beyond timing restrictions.

Thanks again and let me know if you have any questions!

Elisha

From: Hanley, Jennifer
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2025 1:37 PM
To: Mueller, Elisha K.
Cc: Peterson, Monica; Ward, Hayley; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; McDonald, Andy; Kolar, Jesse L.; Weiers, Jason
Subject: RE: JETx NDGF Meeting Summary and Follow up Information_20240827
Attachments: LEK_Survey_Observations.zap; JETx_Proposed_Route_20250723.zap

Elisha,

Thank you for your response. I've attached a spatial file of the lek locations and also with the most up to date proposed route. My original email to you kicked back to me because of the .zip files. I have changed the to .zap, please change the file extension back to .zip and let me know that they work. With route shifts since we provided the distance data below, Leks 1-3 are closer to the proposed route.

We will continue to work with you as we develop a plan for mitigation. Here is what we have included in the application that we plan to file in the near future.

- Additional Lek surveys will be conducted in the spring prior to the start of an active construction year
- Seasonal construction restriction dates and hours will be determined in coordination with NDGFD
- The Applicants will continue to coordinate with NDGFD on use of perch deterrents as applicable

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

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JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

North Dakota Geological Survey (NDGS)

Documentation of available correspondence is included following this log.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
North Dakota Geological Survey (NDGS)				
March 23, 2023	Letter and Email[1]	Applicants[2]	NDGS	Introduction letter and request for comments.
March 23, 2023	Email	NDGS	Applicants	NDGS responded to the March 2023 RFI about a few localized landslide areas to be noted, but that no other concerns were indicated at that time.
August 30, 2023	Email	NDGS	Applicants	NDGS had a follow-up message regarding recent research by NDGS on the susceptibility of the national power grid to space weather phenomena.
September 7, 2023	Letter and Email[1]	Applicants	NDGS	Second request for input and meeting request letter.
September 27, 2024	Email	Applicants	NDGS	Applicants inquiry regarding the landslide area.
September 27, 2024	Email	NDGS	Applicants	NDGS response that the landslide area is dormant.

1 Indicates documentation that was a part of one of the mass March or September agency mailings.
2 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Edward Murphy
State Geologist
ND Geological Survey
600 E. Blvd Ave
Bismarck, ND 58505

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Murphy,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

Currently, OTP and Montana-Dakota are in the preliminary planning stages of the Project, which include high-level planning, initial public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and preliminary design. These preliminary planning stages will provide important input into the identification of preliminary routes and the eventual selection of a final route for the Project. The attached map shows the current study area being assessed for preliminary routes. Public outreach with landowners and interested parties including public meetings are being planned to occur in June 2023.

We are soliciting your review of the preliminary Project area in order to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the final route. We are particularly interested in any property located within or adjacent to the study area which your agency may own or have an interest in. We would also appreciate being made aware of any proposed developments your agency may be contemplating in the study area under consideration for the Project in addition to any information that might assist us in our siting analysis and studies. To help us identify potential resource issues in the corridor analysis, please provide us with any information pertaining to the JETx project by April 22, 2023. Written or email responses should be sent to:

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we will reach out to schedule stakeholder meetings as well as plan for additional outreach as a route is developed and refined.

If further information is desired regarding the proposed Project, please contact either myself (218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com) or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc. (701-353-6139 or Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com).

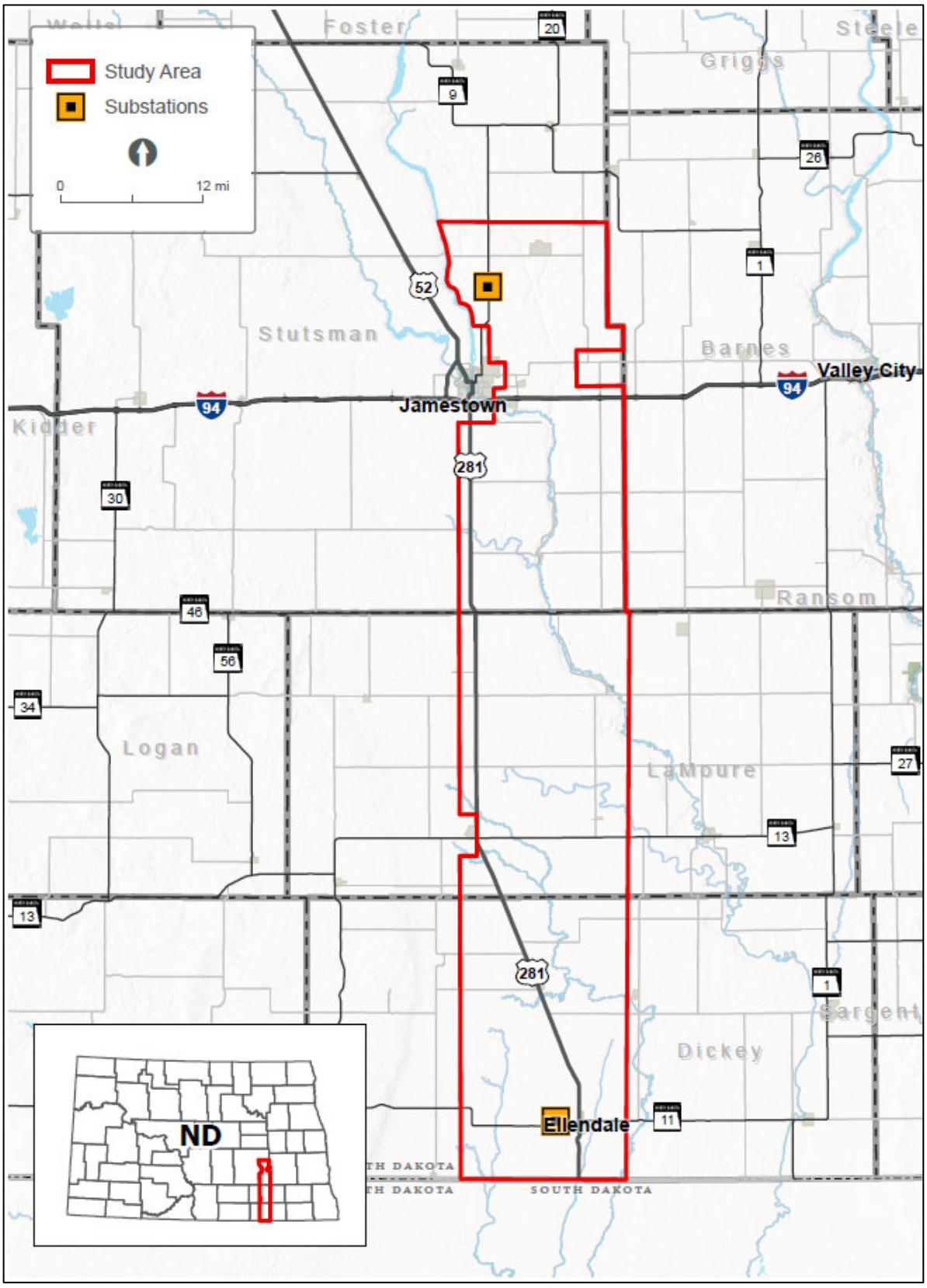
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



From: Anderson, Fred J. <fjanderson@nd.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 1:56 PM
To: Hanley, Jennifer
Subject: N.D. Geological Survey: Comments on the proposed JETx Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project

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Hello Jennifer-

The NDGS appreciates the opportunity to review and provide comments on this project. Based on our review we would note the following:

- The proposed project area is in the glaciated portion of North Dakota where the resultant topography and underlying geology in this area does not generally lend itself to the formation of landslide areas or other geologic hazards of this nature.

- There were a few localized landslide areas mapped along Beaver Creek and vicinity just west of Montpelier, North Dakota in the northern portion of the project area to be noted: Montpelier_NW_24K_l.pdf (nd.gov)

Our landslide maps and data products can be found on our website and are free to download for a full review of the project area in your planning work: https://www.dmr.nd.gov/ndgs/landslides/

We would not note any other hazards or concerns of a geologic nature at this time for this project area.

Please feel free to contact our offices at any time with 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

NORTH Dakota | Mineral Resources
Be Legendary.

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

From: Anderson, Fred J. <fjanderson@nd.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 30, 2023 1:42 PM
To: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Subject: FW: N.D. Geological Survey: Comments on the proposed JETx Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project

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Hello Jennifer-

This is a follow-up message regarding the proposed JETx line project.

We recently penned an article that highlighted some relatively recent research that was done by the U.S. Geological Survey regarding susceptibility of the national power grid to space weather phenomena.

In short, it was shown that eastern North Dakota (and western Minnesota) has a higher susceptibility to the effects of space weather due to the geologic conditions that are found there.

With regards to increasing the resiliency of the electrical transmission grid in North Dakota, I thought that this article would provide some interesting additional background information for the project area:

https://www.dmr.nd.gov/ndgs/documents/newsletter/2023Summer/Recent_Geophysical_Research_Identifies_North_Dakota_Electrical_Transmission_Grid_At_Risk_From_Potential_Geomagnetic_Storms_-_July_2023.pdf

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

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Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Edward Murphy
State Geologist, ND Geological Survey
600 E. Boulevard Ave
Bismarck, ND 58505

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Edward Murphy,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (the Project). The Project would be in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect Otter Tail Power's existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota's existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified by the Regional Transmission Organization in the Upper Midwest[1] needed to maintain electric system reliability, increase resilience to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion and increase access to low cost energy throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025. At this early stage of the Project, it is anticipated that Section 106 compliance would be needed for a United State Corps of Engineers Section 404 wetland permit and Section 10 river crossing permit for an overhead crossing of the James River.

Currently, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota are in the planning stages of the Project, which include public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and initial design. These preliminary planning stages provide important input into the identification of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. The attached map shows the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. These corridors are subject to change as we continue public outreach with landowners and other interested parties. Environmental field surveys are currently anticipated to start late this year and be completed in 2024.

We are requesting your review of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the preferred route. We appreciate and value your input in our attempt to avoid or minimize impacts. To help us identify potential concerns in our corridor analysis, we request that any information pertaining to the Project be provided by October 12, 2023, if possible, to:

[1] The Regional Transmission Organization in this area of the Upper Midwest is the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). See more information at www.misoenergy.org.

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
701-353-6139

We will be hosting public meetings at three locations along the Project in September. The meetings will be held on consecutive days September 12 - 14 from 3 - 6 p.m. each day at the three locations listed below. In addition to our public meetings, we are also extending you an invitation if you would prefer to meet individually. If you are interested in an individual meeting outside of our public meetings, our contact information follows below and we would welcome the opportunity to share more information about the Project, answer your questions and take your feedback.

Ellendale	**Jamestown**	**Edgeley**
September 12, 2023	September 13, 2023	September 14, 2023
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	3:00 – 6:00 pm	3:00 – 6:00 pm
American Legion Post #137 79 Main St. Ellendale, ND 58436	Bunker Hill Club House 1520 3rd St. SE Jamestown, ND 58401	Hakuna Matata 101 Industrial Park Road. Edgeley, ND 58433

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the Project progresses, we are planning to have additional consultations with agencies, other jurisdictions, and landowners as we develop and refine a preferred route.

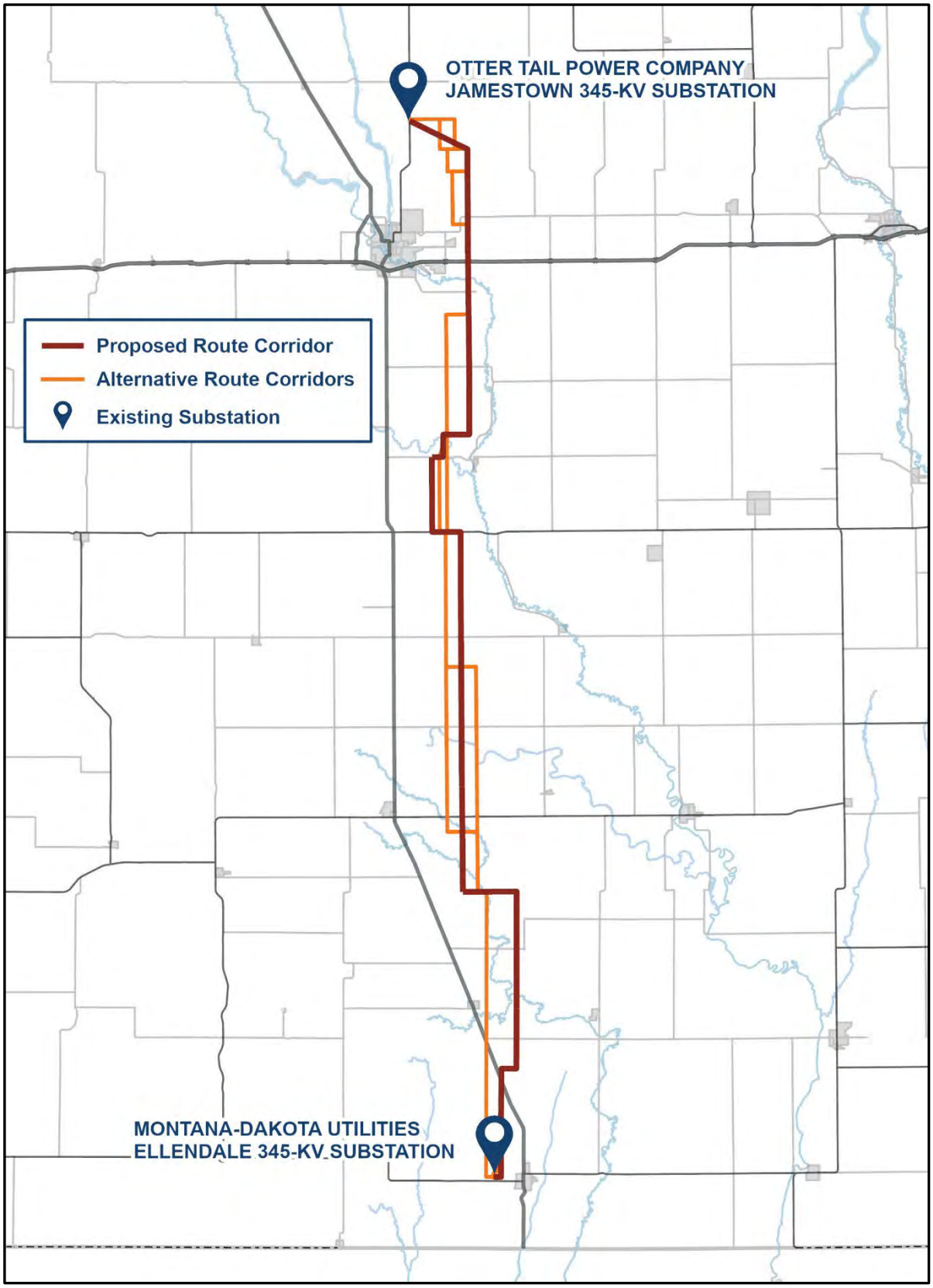
If you desire further information regarding the proposed Project, please contact me at 218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc., at 701-353-6139 or jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com. In addition, further information about the Project can also be found on our website at www.JamestowntoEllendale.com.

Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

From: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2024 13:28
To: Anderson, Fred J. <fjanderson@nd.gov>
Cc: Peterson, Monica <monica.peterson@hdrinc.com>
Subject: RE: N.D. Geological Survey: Comments on the proposed JETx Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project

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Fred,

Thank you for the conversation this afternoon. We have an historic landslide area in T139N, R63W, Section 12 just southwest of Jamestown north of the James River. The route we are currently looking at would cross over the very east edge of the mapped area. We would not locate any structures within the boundary but would span the eastern edge.

Could you give us any additional information on this mapped area and if there is any concern with the JETx project spanning it?



Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

Outlook

RE: N.D. Geological Survey: Comments on the proposed JETx Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project

From Anderson, Fred J. <fjanderson@nd.gov>
Date Wed 11/27/2024 3:33 PM
To Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>

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

Jennifer-

This landslide area is an ancient slide area associated with glacial meltwater flowing down the James River valley.

We would consider this slide area to be dormant with little likelihood of reactivation.

It should however be considered as an avoidance area for the potential location of any structures unless properly characterized through geotechnical evaluation.

Spanning this area would not be anticipated to be problematic for overhead lines.

Regards,

Fred J. Anderson
Geologist

701.328.8000 (O) . fjanderson@nd.gov . www.dmr.nd.gov

NORTH Dakota | Mineral Resources
Be Legendary.™

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

North Dakota Health & Human Services

Documentation of available correspondence is included following this log.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
North Dakota Health & Human Services				
March 22, 2023	Letter	Applicants[1]	North Dakota Health & Human Services	Introduction letter and request for comments.
September 7, 2023	Letter	Applicants	North Dakota Health & Human Services	Second request for input and meeting request letter.

1 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Chris Jones
Commissioner
ND Health & Human Services
601 E. Boulevard Ave
Bismarck, ND 58505-0250

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Jones,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

Currently, OTP and Montana-Dakota are in the preliminary planning stages of the Project, which include high-level planning, initial public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and preliminary design. These preliminary planning stages will provide important input into the identification of preliminary routes and the eventual selection of a final route for the Project. The attached map shows the current study area being assessed for preliminary routes. Public outreach with landowners and interested parties including public meetings are being planned to occur in June 2023.

We are soliciting your review of the preliminary Project area in order to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the final route. We are particularly interested in any property located within or adjacent to the study area which your agency may own or have an interest in. We would also appreciate being made aware of any proposed developments your agency may be contemplating in the study area under consideration for the Project in addition to any information that might assist us in our siting analysis and studies. To help us identify potential resource issues in the corridor analysis, please provide us with any information pertaining to the JETx project by April 22, 2023. Written or email responses should be sent to:

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we will reach out to schedule stakeholder meetings as well as plan for additional outreach as a route is developed and refined.

If further information is desired regarding the proposed Project, please contact either myself (218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com) or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc. (701-353-6139 or Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com).

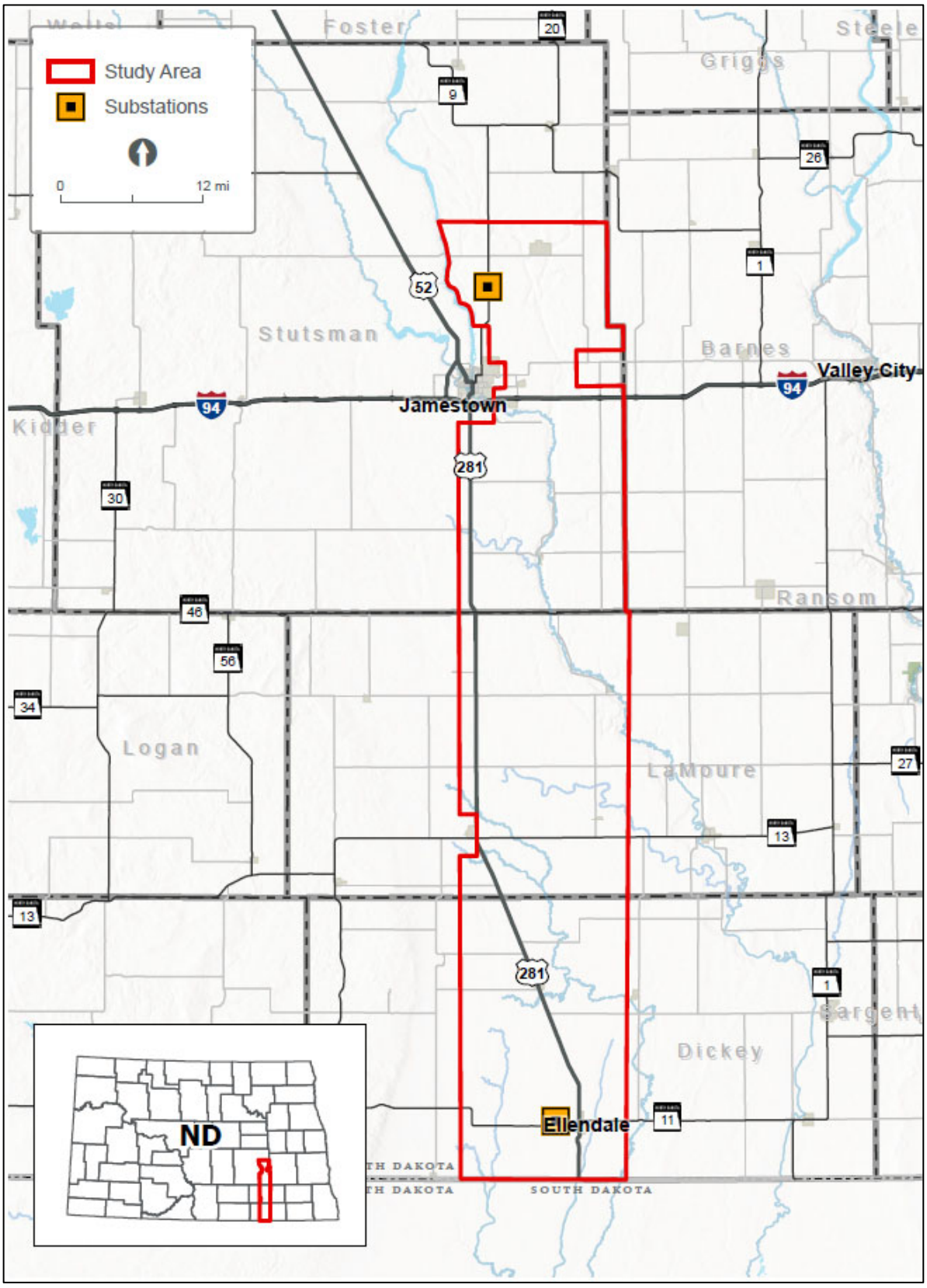
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Chris Jones
Commissioner, ND Health & Human Services
601 E. Boulevard Ave
Bismarck, ND 58505-0250

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Chris Jones,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (the Project). The Project would be in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect Otter Tail Power's existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota's existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified by the Regional Transmission Organization in the Upper Midwest[1] needed to maintain electric system reliability, increase resilience to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion and increase access to low cost energy throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025. At this early stage of the Project, it is anticipated that Section 106 compliance would be needed for a United State Corps of Engineers Section 404 wetland permit and Section 10 river crossing permit for an overhead crossing of the James River.

Currently, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota are in the planning stages of the Project, which include public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and initial design. These preliminary planning stages provide important input into the identification of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. The attached map shows the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. These corridors are subject to change as we continue public outreach with landowners and other interested parties. Environmental field surveys are currently anticipated to start late this year and be completed in 2024.

We are requesting your review of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the preferred route. We appreciate and value your input in our attempt to avoid or minimize impacts. To help us identify potential concerns in our corridor analysis, we request that any information pertaining to the Project be provided by October 12, 2023, if possible, to:

[1] The Regional Transmission Organization in this area of the Upper Midwest is the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). See more information at www.misoenergy.org.

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
701-353-6139

We will be hosting public meetings at three locations along the Project in September. The meetings will be held on consecutive days September 12 - 14 from 3 - 6 p.m. each day at the three locations listed below. In addition to our public meetings, we are also extending you an invitation if you would prefer to meet individually. If you are interested in an individual meeting outside of our public meetings, our contact information follows below and we would welcome the opportunity to share more information about the Project, answer your questions and take your feedback.

Ellendale	**Jamestown**	**Edgeley**
September 12, 2023	September 13, 2023	September 14, 2023
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	3:00 – 6:00 pm	3:00 – 6:00 pm
American Legion Post #137 79 Main St. Ellendale, ND 58436	Bunker Hill Club House 1520 3rd St. SE Jamestown, ND 58401	Hakuna Matata 101 Industrial Park Road. Edgeley, ND 58433

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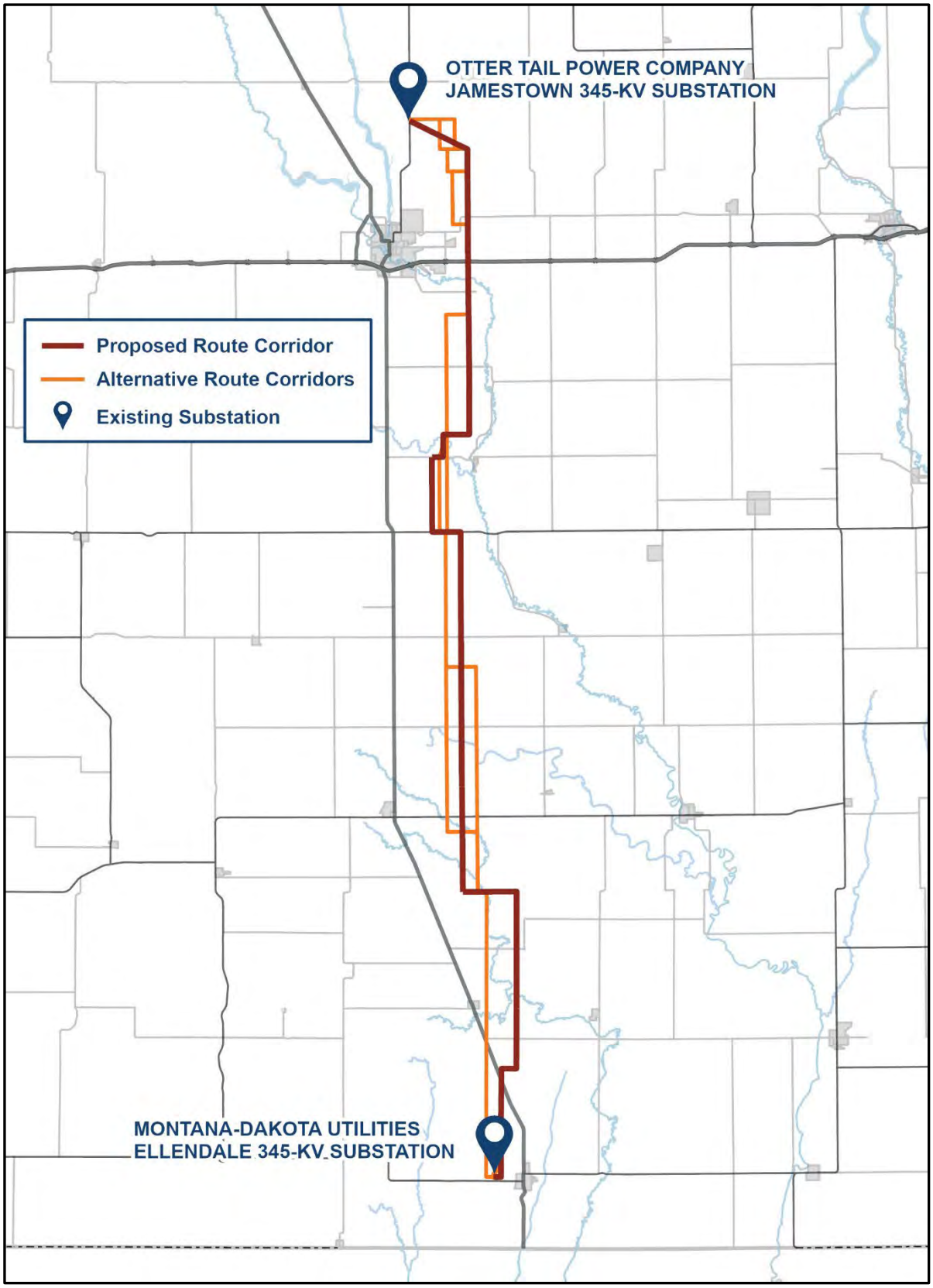
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission

Documentation of available correspondence is included following this log.

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North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission				
March 22, 2023	Letter	Applicants[1]	North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission	Introduction letter and request for comments.
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1 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Nathan Davis
Executive Director
ND Indian Affairs Commission
1st Floor, Judicial Wing, Rm 117
600 E. Boulevard Ave
Bismarck, ND 58505

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Davis,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

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HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

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If further information is desired regarding the proposed Project, please contact either myself (218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com) or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc. (701-353-6139 or Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com).

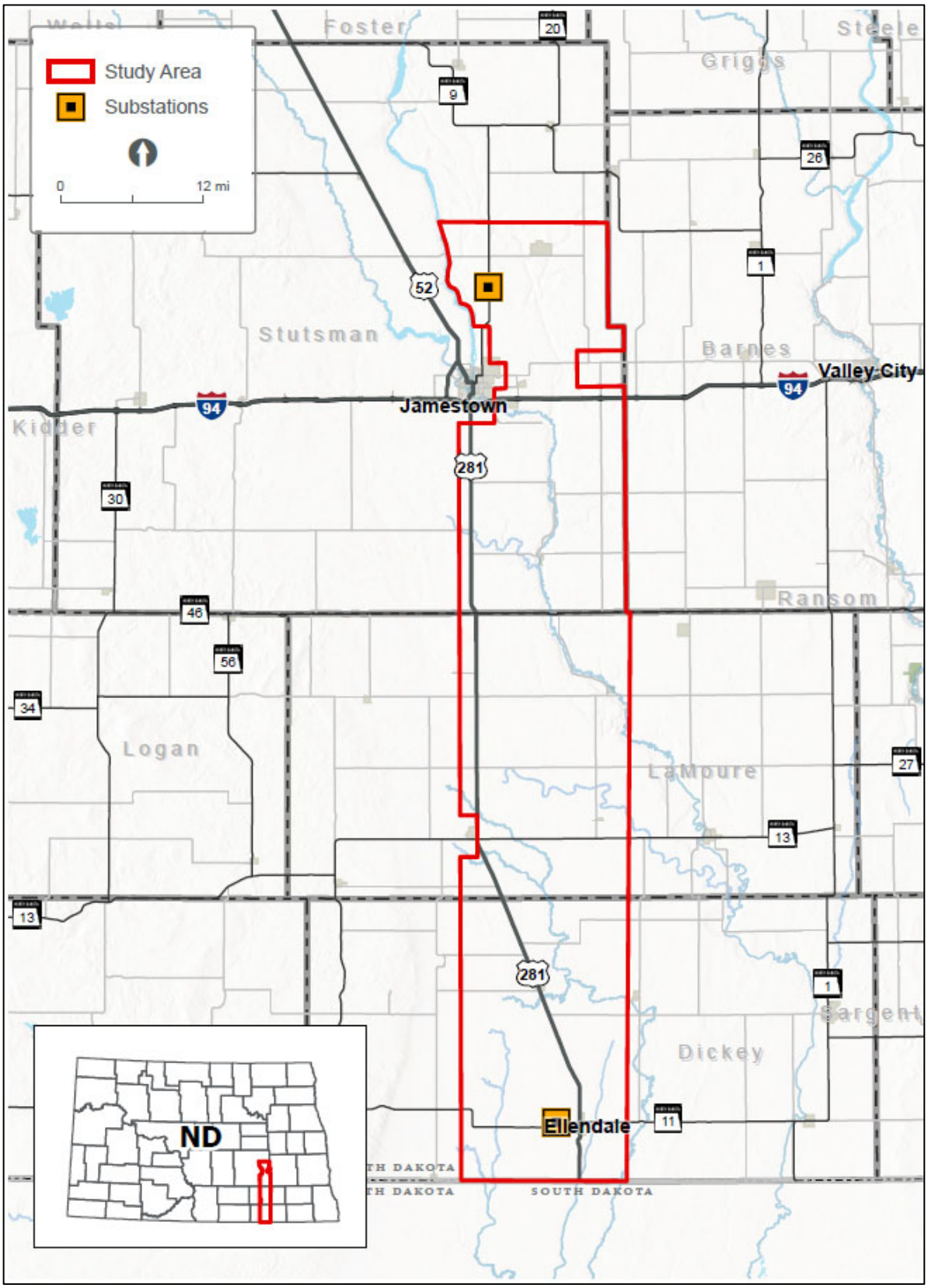
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Nathan Davis
Executive Director, ND Indian Affairs Commission
600 E Boulevard Ave, 1st Floor, Judicial Wing, Rm 117
Bismarck, ND 58505

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Nathan Davis,

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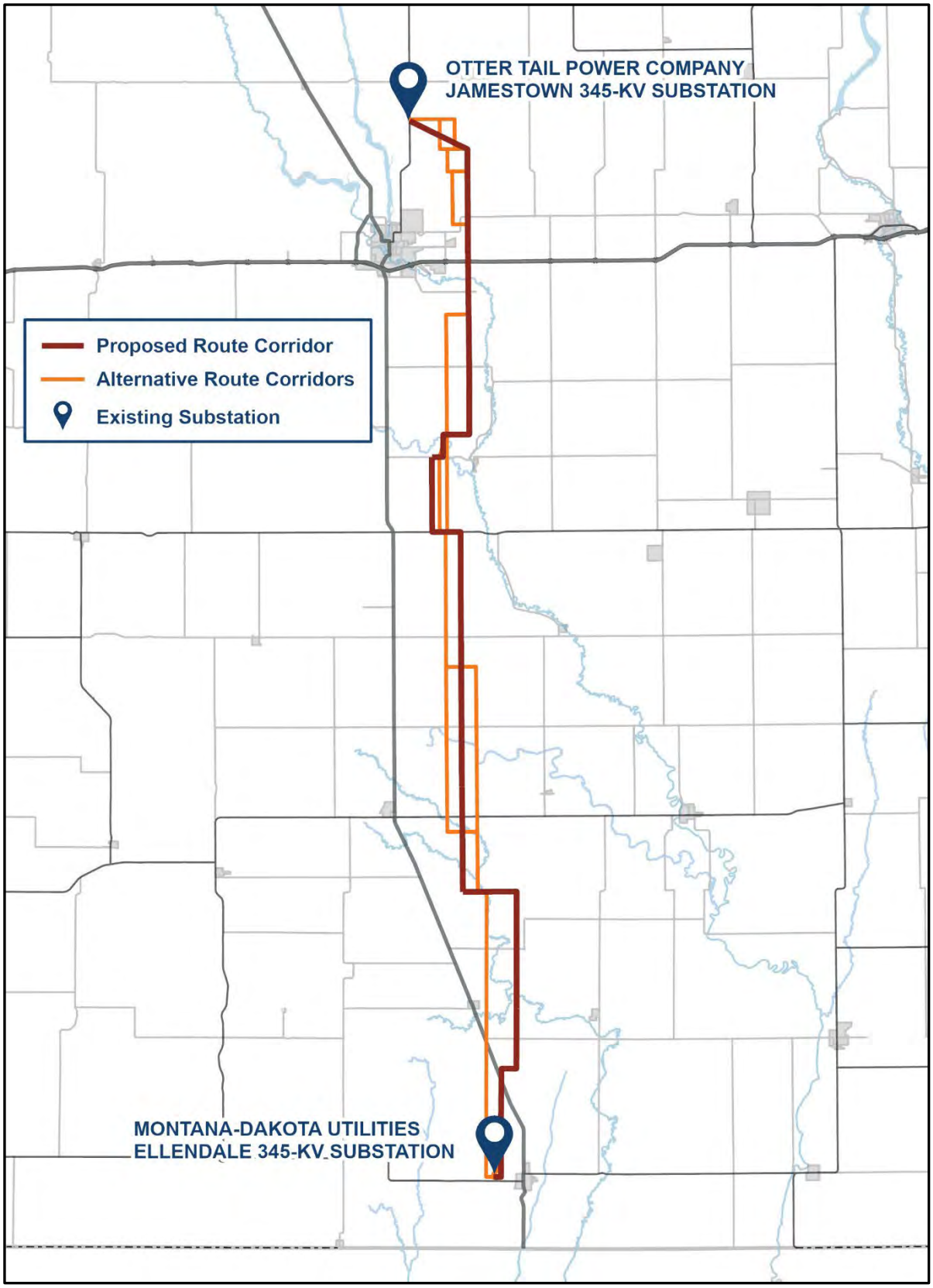
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JETx
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North Dakota Industrial Commission

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Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Doug Goehring
Agriculture Commissioner
ND Industrial Commission
600 E. Boulevard Ave - Dept 602
Bismarck, ND 58505

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Goehring,

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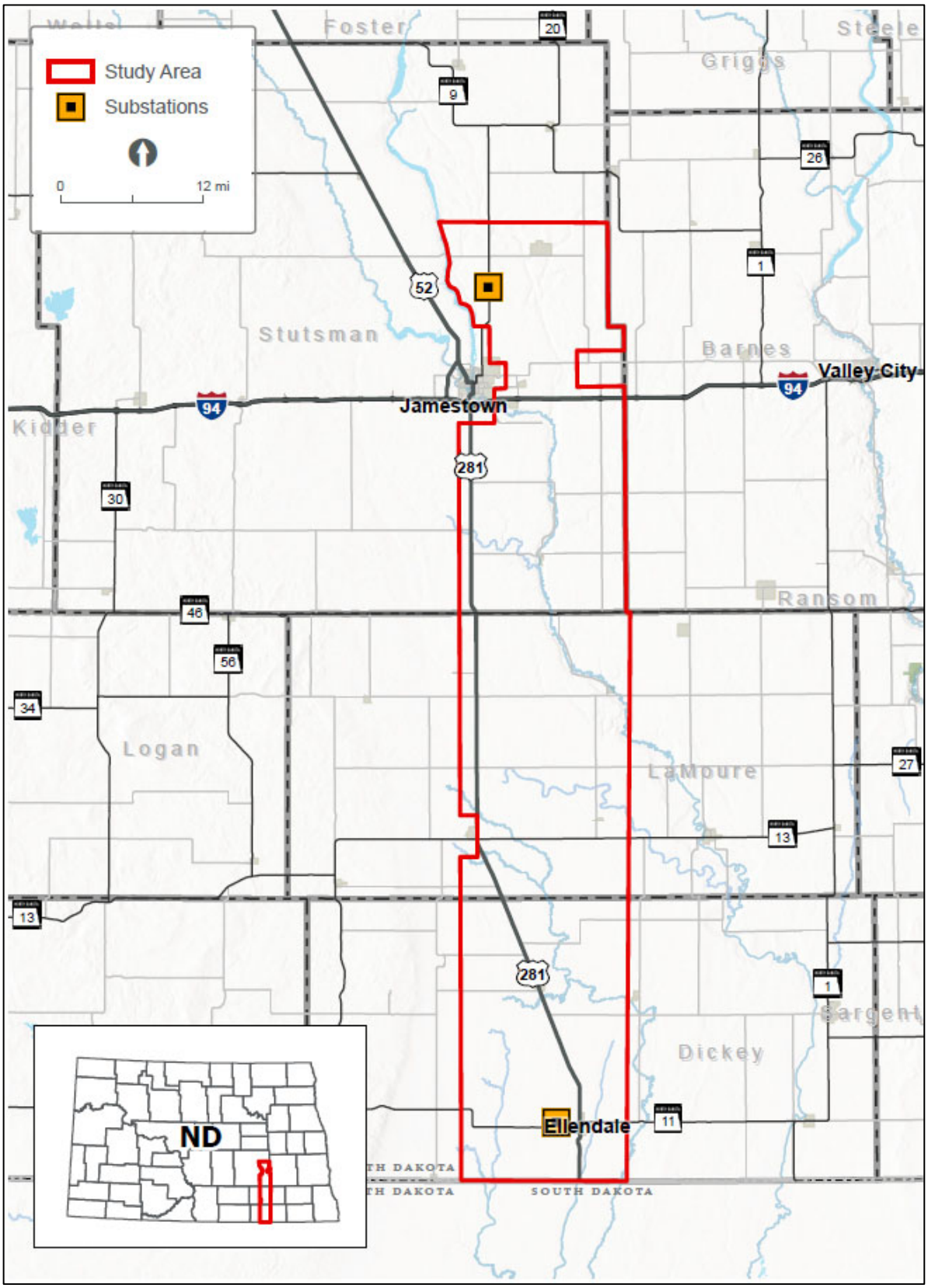
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Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

The Honorable Doug Goehring
Agriculture Commissioner, ND Industrial Commission
600 E. Boulevard Ave, Dept 602
Bismarck, ND 58505

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

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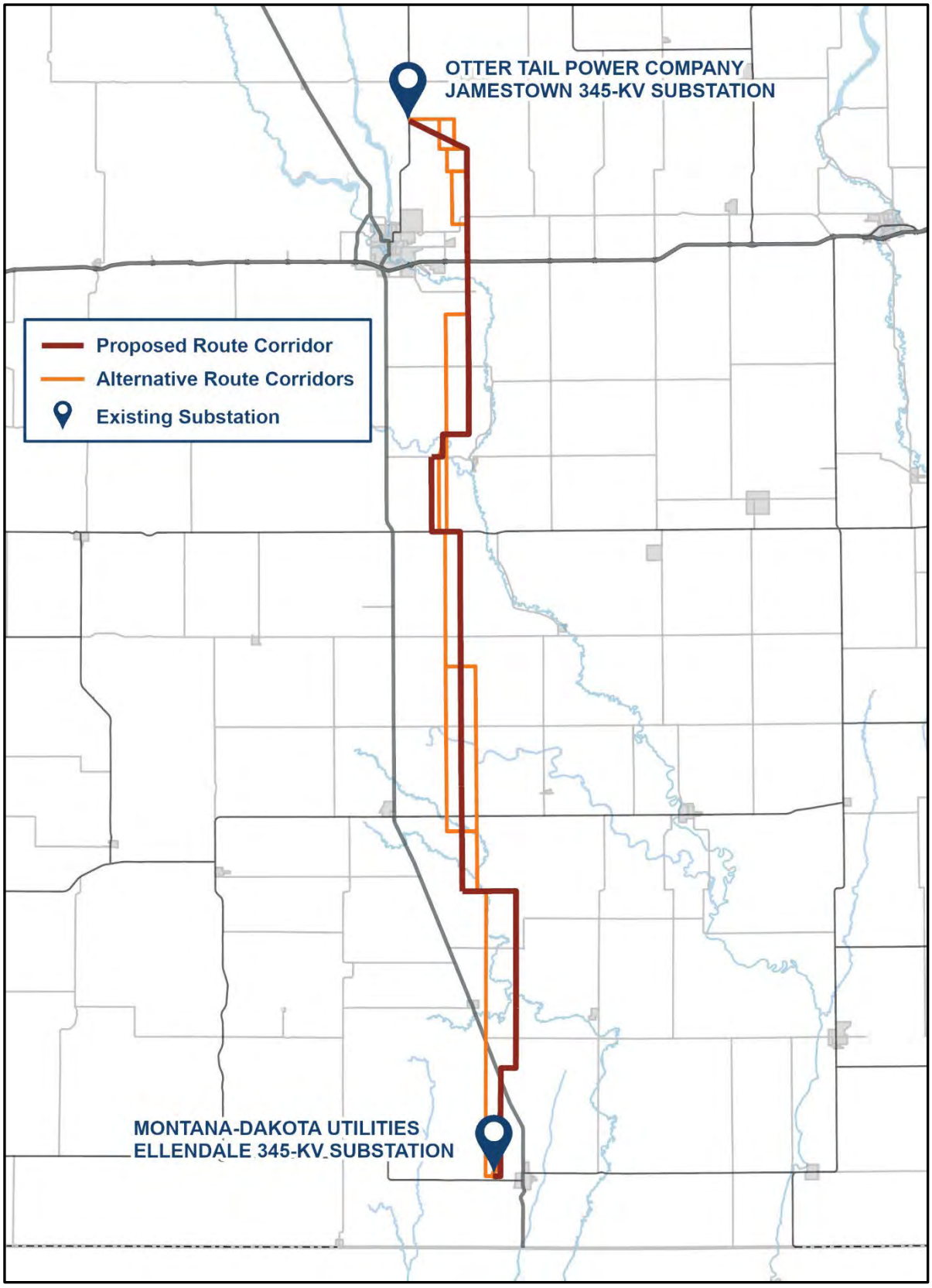
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Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

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North Dakota Labor and Human Rights

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Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Nathan Svihovec
Commissioner of Labor
ND Labor and Human Rights
600 E. Boulevard Ave - Dept 406
Bismarck, ND 58505

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Svihovec,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

Currently, OTP and Montana-Dakota are in the preliminary planning stages of the Project, which include high-level planning, initial public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and preliminary design. These preliminary planning stages will provide important input into the identification of preliminary routes and the eventual selection of a final route for the Project. The attached map shows the current study area being assessed for preliminary routes. Public outreach with landowners and interested parties including public meetings are being planned to occur in June 2023.

We are soliciting your review of the preliminary Project area in order to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the final route. We are particularly interested in any property located within or adjacent to the study area which your agency may own or have an interest in. We would also appreciate being made aware of any proposed developments your agency may be contemplating in the study area under consideration for the Project in addition to any information that might assist us in our siting analysis and studies. To help us identify potential resource issues in the corridor analysis, please provide us with any information pertaining to the JETx project by April 22, 2023. Written or email responses should be sent to:

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we will reach out to schedule stakeholder meetings as well as plan for additional outreach as a route is developed and refined.

If further information is desired regarding the proposed Project, please contact either myself (218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com) or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc. (701-353-6139 or Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com).

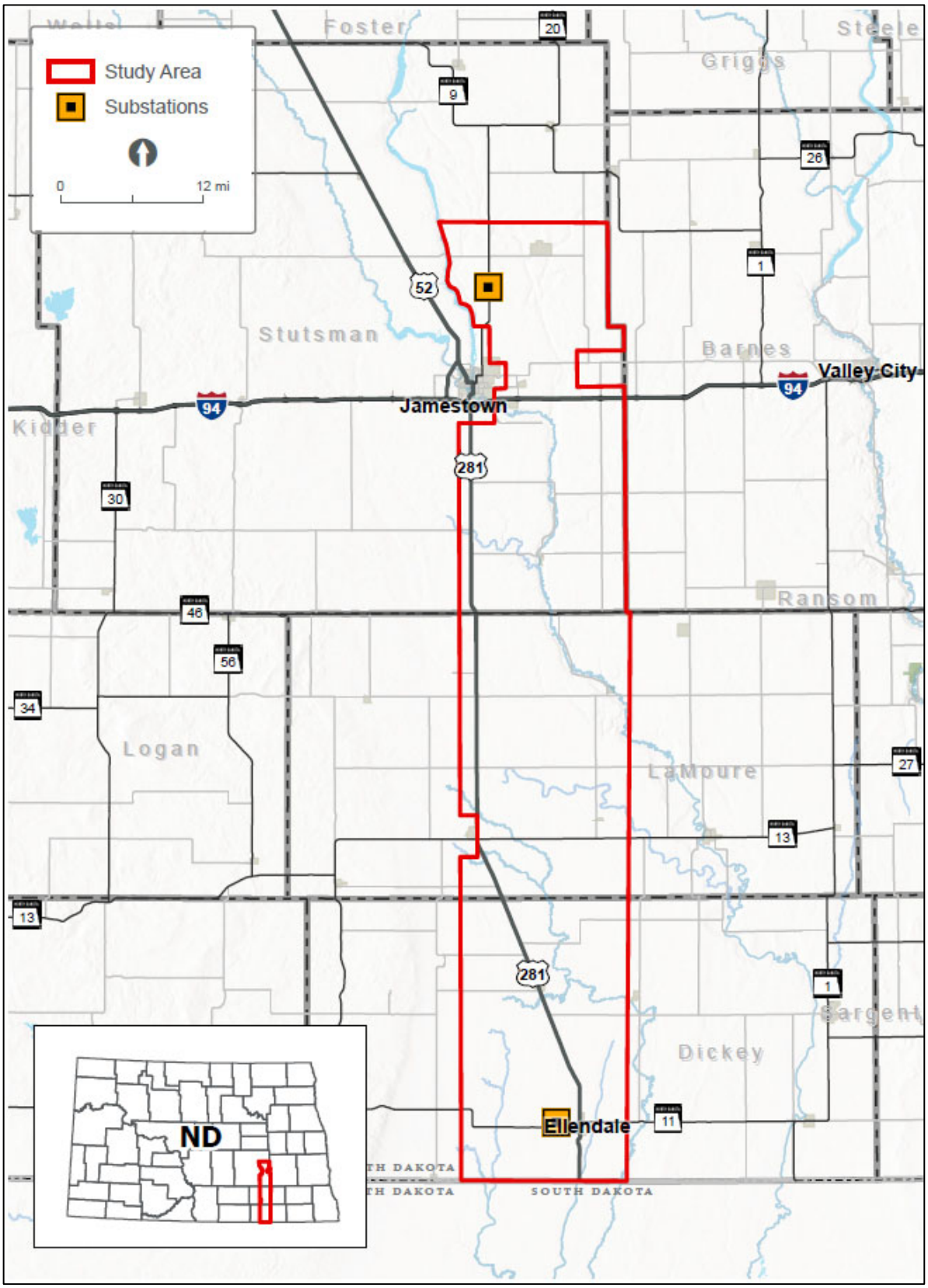
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Nathan Svihovec
Commissioner of Labor, ND Labor and Human Rights
600 E. Boulevard Ave, Dept 406
Bismarck, ND 58505

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Nathan Svihovec,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (the Project). The Project would be in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect Otter Tail Power's existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota's existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified by the Regional Transmission Organization in the Upper Midwest[1] needed to maintain electric system reliability, increase resilience to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion and increase access to low cost energy throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025. At this early stage of the Project, it is anticipated that Section 106 compliance would be needed for a United State Corps of Engineers Section 404 wetland permit and Section 10 river crossing permit for an overhead crossing of the James River.

Currently, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota are in the planning stages of the Project, which include public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and initial design. These preliminary planning stages provide important input into the identification of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. The attached map shows the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. These corridors are subject to change as we continue public outreach with landowners and other interested parties. Environmental field surveys are currently anticipated to start late this year and be completed in 2024.

We are requesting your review of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the preferred route. We appreciate and value your input in our attempt to avoid or minimize impacts. To help us identify potential concerns in our corridor analysis, we request that any information pertaining to the Project be provided by October 12, 2023, if possible, to:

[1] The Regional Transmission Organization in this area of the Upper Midwest is the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). See more information at www.misoenergy.org.

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
701-353-6139

We will be hosting public meetings at three locations along the Project in September. The meetings will be held on consecutive days September 12 - 14 from 3 - 6 p.m. each day at the three locations listed below. In addition to our public meetings, we are also extending you an invitation if you would prefer to meet individually. If you are interested in an individual meeting outside of our public meetings, our contact information follows below and we would welcome the opportunity to share more information about the Project, answer your questions and take your feedback.

Ellendale	**Jamestown**	**Edgeley**
September 12, 2023	September 13, 2023	September 14, 2023
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	3:00 – 6:00 pm	3:00 – 6:00 pm
American Legion Post #137 79 Main St. Ellendale, ND 58436	Bunker Hill Club House 1520 3rd St. SE Jamestown, ND 58401	Hakuna Matata 101 Industrial Park Road. Edgeley, ND 58433

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the Project progresses, we are planning to have additional consultations with agencies, other jurisdictions, and landowners as we develop and refine a preferred route.

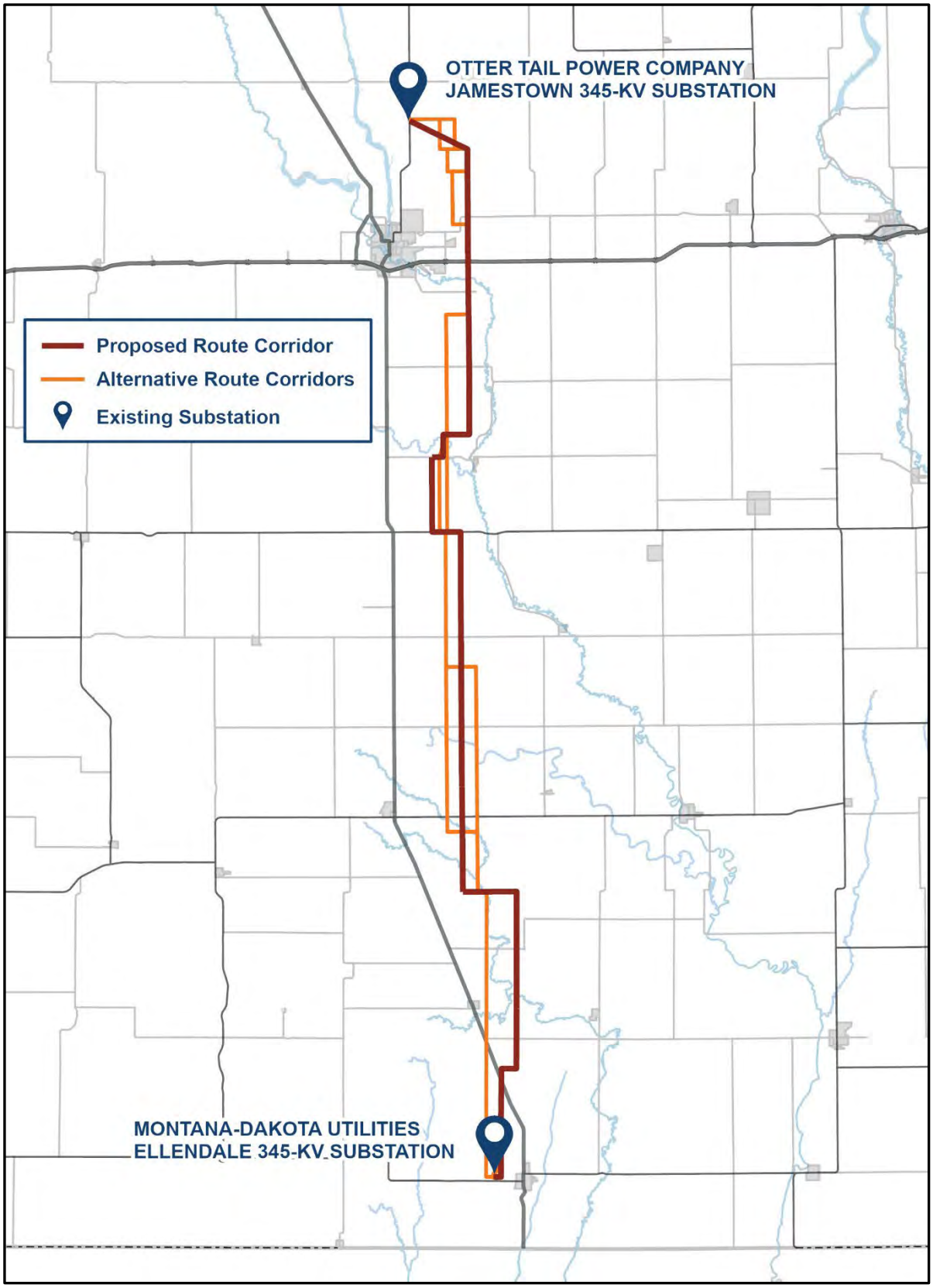
If you desire further information regarding the proposed Project, please contact me at 218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc., at 701-353-6139 or jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com. In addition, further information about the Project can also be found on our website at www.JamestowntoEllendale.com.

Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD)

Documentation of available correspondence is included following this log.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD)				
March 23, 2023	Letter and Email[1]	Applicants[2]	NDPRD	Introduction letter and request for comments.
March 27, 2023	Email	NDPRD	Applicants	NDPRD responded to the RFI and requested a shapefile of the Project area.
March 29, 2023	Email	Applicants	NDPRD and Applicants	Applicants acknowledgement of NDPRD response and forward to Applicants to provide information.
March 29, 2023	Email	Applicants	NDPRD	Applicants provided a shapefile of the Project area.
March 29, 2023	Email	Applicants	NDPRD	Applicants provided shapefile in a different format.
March 30, 2023	Email	NDPRD	Applicants	NDPRD acknowledged receipt of the shapefile.
April 26, 2023	Email	NDPRD	Applicants	NDPRD responded with a list and figure of Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in the area to be avoided.
September 7, 2023	Letter and Email[1]	Applicants	NDPRD	Second request for input and meeting request letter.
September 18, 2023	Email	NDPRD	Applicants	NDPRD request for updated shapefile.
September 18, 2023	Email	Applicants	NDPRD	Applicants provided an updated study area shapefile.
October 17, 2023	Email	NDPRD	Applicants	NDPRD responded that the Project did not appear to affect NDPRD properties o but did identify properties protected under Section 6(f) of the LWCF in the area.

1 Indicates documentation that was a part of one of the mass March or September agency mailings.

2 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Cody Schulz
Director
ND Parks & Recreation Department
1600 E. Century Ave. - Suite 3
Bismarck, ND 58503

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Schulz,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

Currently, OTP and Montana-Dakota are in the preliminary planning stages of the Project, which include high-level planning, initial public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and preliminary design. These preliminary planning stages will provide important input into the identification of preliminary routes and the eventual selection of a final route for the Project. The attached map shows the current study area being assessed for preliminary routes. Public outreach with landowners and interested parties including public meetings are being planned to occur in June 2023.

We are soliciting your review of the preliminary Project area in order to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the final route. We are particularly interested in any property located within or adjacent to the study area which your agency may own or have an interest in. We would also appreciate being made aware of any proposed developments your agency may be contemplating in the study area under consideration for the Project in addition to any information that might assist us in our siting analysis and studies. To help us identify potential resource issues in the corridor analysis, please provide us with any information pertaining to the JETx project by April 22, 2023. Written or email responses should be sent to:

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we will reach out to schedule stakeholder meetings as well as plan for additional outreach as a route is developed and refined.

If further information is desired regarding the proposed Project, please contact either myself (218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com) or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc. (701-353-6139 or Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com).

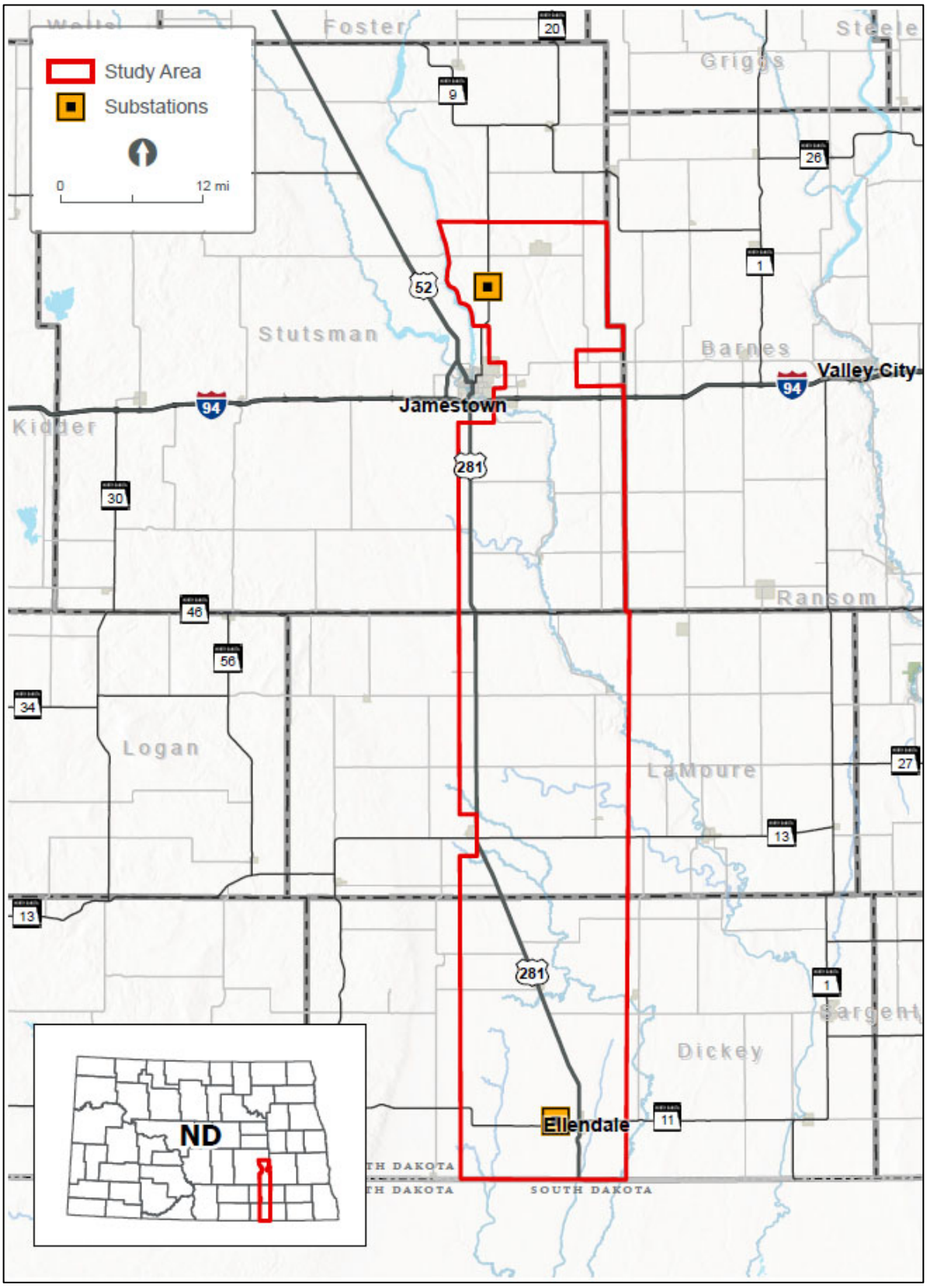
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



From: Dirk, Christine <cdirk@nd.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2023 10:38 AM
To: Weiers, Jason <JWeiers@otpco.com>
Subject: JETx study area

This is an EXTERNAL email. DO NOT open attachments or click links in suspicious email.

Hello,

I received the request for information for the Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line (JETx) project. Is there a GIS layer of the project area? If so, could you send me a shapefile or geodatabase layer? Thank you.

Christine Dirk
GIS Specialist

701.328.5368 • parkrec.nd.gov

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From: Weiers, Jason <JWeiers@otpco.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 9:00 AM
To: Dirk, Christine <cdirk@nd.gov>
Cc: Hanley, Jennifer <jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com>
Subject: RE: JETx study area

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

Christine,

Thank you for your response! I am copying Jennifer Hanley from HDR, Inc., our lead environmental consultant for the JETx project, to respond to your request. I do believe we have a shapefile of the notice area that she will be able to share with you.

To the extent that you would like any further details about the project, please feel free to get in touch with me or Jennifer and we would be glad to answer any questions or provide any additional information! After you get a chance to look closer into the details of the notice area, don't hesitate to let us know if you have specific comments about any constraints or concerns for the land contained within the notice area.

I wanted to also let you know that we are planning to hold public open houses in June along the notice area that will be advertised in local newspapers that will include more details about the dates, locations and times of these upcoming meetings.

Thanks again for the outreach and we look forward to working with you through the development of the JETx project!

Sincerely,

Jason

Jason Weiers, P.E.
Manager, Transmission Project Development
Otter Tail Power Company
(218)739-8311

From: Hanley, Jennifer
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 12:06 PM
To: Weiers, Jason <JWeiers@otpco.com>; Dirk, Christine <cdirk@nd.gov>
Subject: RE: JETx study area

Good afternoon Christine,

Please find a .zip file of our study area shapefiles. Let me know if you need anything else.

Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 12:11 PM
To: Weiers, Jason <JWeiers@otpco.com>; Dirk, Christine <cdirk@nd.gov>
Subject: RE: JETx study area

You don't often get email from jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com. Learn why this is important

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

Christine,

Your email server rejected the .zip file. I have renamed to .piz. Please rename to .zip and it should work. If you run into issues, let me know and I'll put it on a SharePoint.

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Dirk, Christine <cdirk@nd.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 8:02 AM
To: Hanley, Jennifer; Weiers, Jason
Subject: RE: JETx study area

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

Hi,

The .piz worked. Thank you.

Chris

From: Duttenhefner, Kathleen G. <kgduttenhefner@nd.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 1:13 PM
To: Hanley, Jennifer
Subject: Jetx- MDU and Ottertail Jamestown to Ellendale Transmission Line
Attachments: HDR_JETx_MDU_Transmission)Line_Jamesrtow_Eleendale_CL_KD_Responce_Letter_DL4.28.23.pdf; JETX_MDU_CO_OTTERTAIL_POWER_COMPANY_JAMESTOWN_TO_ELLENDALE_345-KV_TRANSMISSION_LINE_PROJECT_DL4.22.23_LWCF.pdf; JETX_MDU_CO_OTTERTAIL_POWER_COMPANY_JAMESTOWN_TO_ELLENDALE_345-KV_TRANSMISSION_LINE_PROJECT_DL4.22.23_MAP.pdf; JETX_MDU_CO_OTTERTAIL_POWER_COMPANY_JAMESTOWN_TO_ELLENDALE_345-KV_TRANSMISSION_LINE_PROJECT_DL4.22.23_HERITAGE.pdf

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

Re: Jetx- MDU and Ottertail Jamestown to Ellendale Transmission Line

North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department's Environmental Review Response letter is attached.

Kathy Duttenhefner

Natural Resources Division Chief

701.328.5370 • 701.220.3377 • parkrec.nd.gov

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PUBLIC DOCUMENT – NOT PUBLIC (OR PRIVILEGED) DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED

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April 26, 2023

Jennifer Hanley
HDR, Inc.
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Re: Jetx- MDU and Ottertail Jamestown to Ellendale Transmission Line

Dear Jennifer,

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) has reviewed the above-proposed transmission line from Jamestown to Ellendale, North Dakota.

NDPRD's scope of authority and expertise covers properties that NDPRD owns, leases, or manages; properties protected under Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF); rare plants; and ecological communities established through the Natural Heritage Program.

The project does not appear to affect properties NDPRD owns, leases, or manages.

The project may affect properties protected under Section 6(f) of the LWCF.

Several LWCF projects have been identified near the proposed project's vicinity**.**

Land and Water Conservation Fund Projects

Project Name	Project Number
Ellendale Golf Course	38-00867
Ellendale Grandstand Renovation	38-01342
Ellendale Park Improvements	38-01113
Ellendale Pool Replacement	38-01064
Ellendale Tennis Courts	38-00161
Monango Park Improvements	38-00976
Montpelier Recreation Complex	38-00906
Stutsman County Boat Docks	38-00114

Properties that have received funding from the LWCF program have a designated 6(f) property boundary that carries restrictions on modifications to the property, including but not limited to utilities or any divesture of land. Attached is a map identifying the approximate location. For additional information regarding LWCF properties, don't hesitate to contact Char Langehaug, ND Parks and Recreations Department's Grants Coordinator, at cbinstock@nd.gov or 701-328-5364.

604 E Boulevard Ave Dept. 750 | Bismarck, ND 58505

PHONE: 701-328-5357 | FAX: 701-328-5363 | EMAIL: parkrec@nd.gov | WEBSITE: www.parkrec.nd.gov

PUBLIC DOCUMENT – NOT PUBLIC (OR PRIVILEGED) DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED

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A North Dakota Natural Heritage biological conservation database query determines if any current or historical plant or animal species of concern or other significant ecological communities are known to occur within an approximate one-mile radius of the project area. Based on this review, no known plant and animal species of concern or significant ecological communities are documented within or immediately adjacent to the project site.

We appreciate your commitment to rare plant, animal, and ecological community conservation, management, and inter-agency cooperation. For additional information, contact Natural Resources Division Chief Kathy Duttenhefner at 701-328-5370, 701-220-3377 (cell), or kgduttenhefner@nd.gov.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed project.

Sincerely,

Kathy Duttenhefner

Kathy Duttenhefner, Chief Natural Resources Division

604 E Boulevard Ave Dept. 750 | Bismarck, ND 58505

PHONE: 701-328-5357 | FAX: 701-328-5363 | EMAIL: parkrec@nd.gov | WEBSITE: www.parkrec.nd.gov

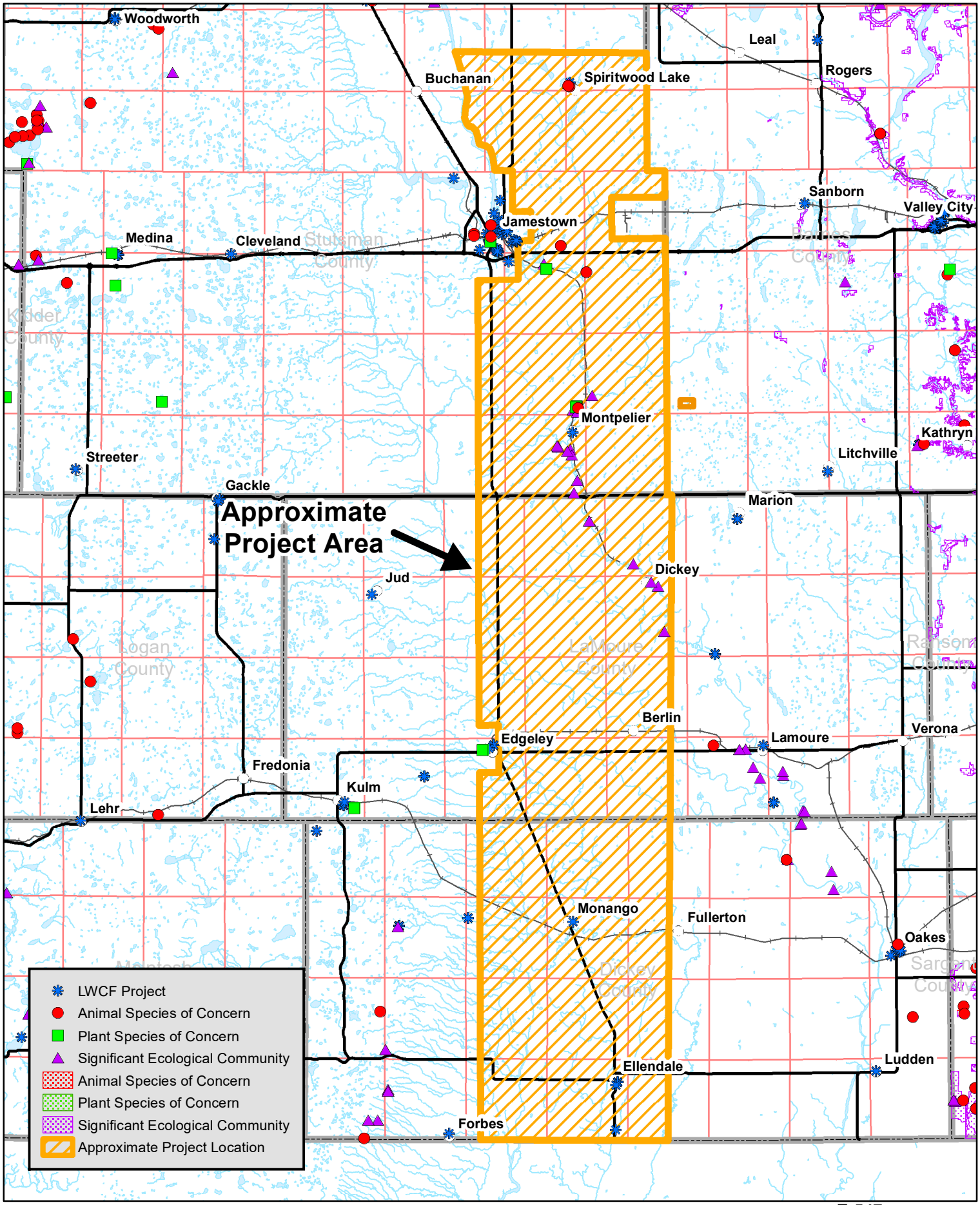
Land and Water Conservation Fund Projects

Project Name	**Project Number**
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Monango Park Improvements	38-00976
Montpelier Recreation Complex	38-00906
Stutsman County Boat Docks	38-00114

PUBLIC DOCUMENT – NOT PUBLIC OR PRIVILEGED DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED

North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department

North Dakota Natural Heritage Inventory



NORTH Dakota Be Legendary. | Parks & Recreation

State Scientific Name	State Common Name	State Rank	Global Rank	Federal Status	Township Range Section	County	Last Observation	Estimated Representation Accuracy	Precision
Ammodramus leconteii	Le Conte's Sparrow	SU	G4		138N063W - 36	Stutsman	1987-06-24		S
Calamagrostis stricta - carex sartwellii - c. praegracilis wet meadow	Brackish Wet Meadow	S2S3	GNR		138N063W - 36	Stutsman	1987-08-13		S
Carex aquatilis - carex spp. wetland	Water Sedge Rich Fen	S1	GNR		136N062W - 33; 136N062W - 32	LaMoure	1987-06-04		S
Carex aquatilis - carex spp. wetland	Water Sedge Rich Fen	S1	GNR		137N063W - 25	Stutsman	1987-06-04		S
Carex aquatilis - carex spp. wetland	Water Sedge Rich Fen	S1	GNR		139N063W - 04; 139N063W - 03	Stutsman	1987-06-24		S
Carex rostrata - c. lacustris - (c. vesicaria) wetland	Sedge Meadow	S2S3	GNR		135N062W - 03	LaMoure	1987-10-01		S
Carex rostrata - c. lacustris - (c. vesicaria) wetland	Sedge Meadow	S2S3	GNR		137N063W - 15	Stutsman	1989-09-12		S
Carex spp. - triglochin maritima - eleocharis pauciflora fen	Calcareous Fen	S1	GNR		138N063W - 36; 138N063W - 35	Stutsman	1993-06-30		S
Eleocharis pauciflora	Few-flowered Spikerush	S3	G5		138N063W - 36	Stutsman	1987-06-17		S
Epilobium coloratum	Purple-leaved Willowherb	S3	G5		139N063W - 10; 139N063W - 16; 140N063W - 33; 139N063W - 02; 139N063W - 08; 139N063W - 05; 139N063W - 11; 140N063W - 34; 139N063W - 09; 139N063W - 03; 139N063W - 14; 139N063W - 04; 139N063W - 15	Stutsman	1971-08-26		M
First order stream		S1	GNR		137N063W - 14	Stutsman	1987-06-04		S
First order stream		S1	GNR		138N063W - 36	Stutsman	1987-06-24		S
Fraxinus pennsylvanica - (ulmus americana) - acer negundo forest	Green Ash-elm-boxelder Floodplain Forest	S1S2	GNR		135N062W - 03	LaMoure	1987-06-24		S
Fraxinus pennsylvanica - (ulmus americana) - acer negundo forest	Green Ash-elm-boxelder Floodplain Forest	S1S2	GNR		135N062W - 26	LaMoure	1987-06-04		S
Fraxinus pennsylvanica - (ulmus americana) - acer negundo forest	Green Ash-elm-boxelder Floodplain Forest	S1S2	GNR		136N063W - 11	LaMoure	1987-06-04		S
Fraxinus pennsylvanica - (ulmus americana) - acer negundo forest	Green Ash-elm-boxelder Floodplain Forest	S1S2	GNR		137N063W - 14	Stutsman	1987-06-04		S
Gavia immer	Common Loon	S4	G5		142N062W - 31; 141N062W - 21; 142N062W - 29; 141N062W - 11; 141N062W - 20; 142N062W - 19; 142N063W - 23; 141N062W - 10; 142N062W - 30; 142N063W - 13; 142N062W - 27; 141N063W - 01; 142N062W - 17; 142N063W - 25; 141N062W - 30; 141N063W - 26; 142N063W - 15	Stutsman	1961-06-18		G
Hesperia dacotae	Dakota Skipper	S2	G2	LT	138N063W - 36	Stutsman	1997	Medium	S
Liparis loeselii	Loesel's Twayblade	S2	G5		138N063W - 36	Stutsman	1987-06-24		S

State Scientific Name	State Common Name	State Rank	Global Rank	Federal Status	Township Range Section	County	Last Observation	Estimated Representation Accuracy	Precision
Mimus polyglottos	Northern Mockingbird	SU	G5		139N062W - 02; 139N062W - 16; 140N063W - 24; 140N063W - 13; 140N062W - 32; 139N063W - 25; 139N063W - 08; 139N063W - 14; 140N062W - 28; 140N062W - 19; 139N063W - 01; 139N062W - 27; 139N062W - 04; 139N062W - 18; 140N063W - 22; 140N062W - 34; 139N062W - 28	Stutsman	1972-06-04		G
Notropis anogenus	Pugnose Shiner	S1	G3		142N062W - 31; 142N063W - 36; 142N063W - 25; 142N062W - 32; 141N063W - 02; 141N062W - 05; 142N062W - 29; 141N063W - 01; 141N062W - 06; 142N062W - 30; 142N063W - 35	Stutsman	1964-04-24		M
Passerina caerulea	Blue Grosbeak	SU	G5		140N063W - 35; 139N063W - 08; 139N063W - 14; 140N063W - 31; 140N063W - 23; 140N064W - 13; 140N062W - 33; 139N063W - 07; 139N063W - 13; 139N062W - 18; 140N062W - 29; 140N063W - 19; 140N062W - 34; 139N063W - 06; 140N062W - 21; 139N064W - 13; 140N063W - 29	Stutsman	1966-06-27		G
Permanent open water		S2	GNR		142N062W - 31	Stutsman	1977		S
Quercus macrocarpa/prunus virginiana northern ravine woodland	Bur Oak Upland Woodland	S3	GNR		137N063W - 15	Stutsman	1989-09-12		S
Rhynchospora capillacea	Hair Beakrush	S2	G4		138N063W - 36	Stutsman	1987-06-17		S
River-creek		S1	GNR		137N063W - 14; 137N063W - 24; 137N063W - 13; 137N063W - 23	Stutsman	1982-08-19		S
River-creek		S1	GNR		137N063W - 15	Stutsman	1989-09-12		S
Schizachyrium scoparium - bouteloua curtipendula - stipa spartea prairie	Dry Mesic Tallgrass Prairie	S1	GNR		137N063W - 36	Stutsman	1987-06-04		S
Schizachyrium scoparium - bouteloua curtipendula - stipa spartea prairie	Dry Mesic Tallgrass Prairie	S1	GNR		138N063W - 36	Stutsman	1987-06-13		S
Spartina pectinata - calamagrostis stricta - carex spp. herbaceous vegetation	Wet Prairie	S2S3	GNR		138N062W - 30	Stutsman	1987-06-24		S
Spiranthes cernua	Nodding Ladies'-tresses	S1	G5		138N063W - 36	Stutsman	1987-08-13		S
Utricularia minor	Lesser Bladderwort	S2	G5		138N063W - 36	Stutsman	1987-06-04		S

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Cody Schulz
Director, ND Parks & Recreation Department
1600 E. Century Ave., Suite 3
Bismarck, ND 58503

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Cody Schulz,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (the Project). The Project would be in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect Otter Tail Power's existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota's existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified by the Regional Transmission Organization in the Upper Midwest[1] needed to maintain electric system reliability, increase resilience to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion and increase access to low cost energy throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025. At this early stage of the Project, it is anticipated that Section 106 compliance would be needed for a United State Corps of Engineers Section 404 wetland permit and Section 10 river crossing permit for an overhead crossing of the James River.

Currently, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota are in the planning stages of the Project, which include public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and initial design. These preliminary planning stages provide important input into the identification of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. The attached map shows the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. These corridors are subject to change as we continue public outreach with landowners and other interested parties. Environmental field surveys are currently anticipated to start late this year and be completed in 2024.

We are requesting your review of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the preferred route. We appreciate and value your input in our attempt to avoid or minimize impacts. To help us identify potential concerns in our corridor analysis, we request that any information pertaining to the Project be provided by October 12, 2023, if possible, to:

[1] The Regional Transmission Organization in this area of the Upper Midwest is the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). See more information at www.misoenergy.org.

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
701-353-6139

We will be hosting public meetings at three locations along the Project in September. The meetings will be held on consecutive days September 12 - 14 from 3 - 6 p.m. each day at the three locations listed below. In addition to our public meetings, we are also extending you an invitation if you would prefer to meet individually. If you are interested in an individual meeting outside of our public meetings, our contact information follows below and we would welcome the opportunity to share more information about the Project, answer your questions and take your feedback.

Ellendale	**Jamestown**	**Edgeley**
September 12, 2023	September 13, 2023	September 14, 2023
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	3:00 – 6:00 pm	3:00 – 6:00 pm
American Legion Post #137 79 Main St. Ellendale, ND 58436	Bunker Hill Club House 1520 3rd St. SE Jamestown, ND 58401	Hakuna Matata 101 Industrial Park Road. Edgeley, ND 58433

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the Project progresses, we are planning to have additional consultations with agencies, other jurisdictions, and landowners as we develop and refine a preferred route.

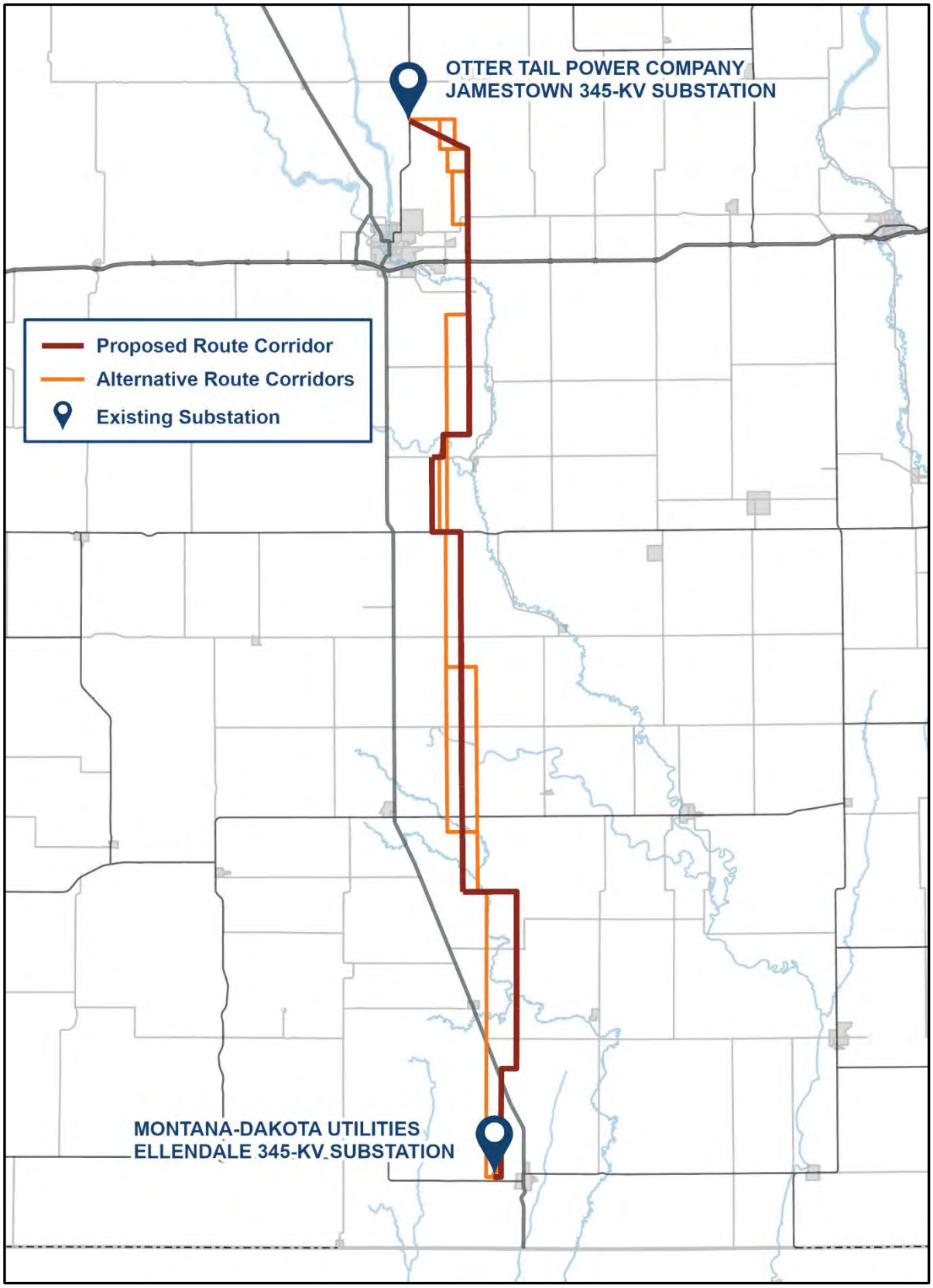
If you desire further information regarding the proposed Project, please contact me at 218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc., at 701-353-6139 or jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com. In addition, further information about the Project can also be found on our website at www.JamestowntoEllendale.com.

Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

From: Hanley, Jennifer
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 12:25 PM
To: Dirk, Christine
Subject: RE: Jetx project area
Attachments: 20230915_Alternative_Routes_HalfMile_Buffer.zip; 20230915_Proposed_Route_HalfMile_Buffer.zip

Christine,

We have narrowed the study area down to ½ mile route corridors (we have a proposed route corridor and alternative route corridor).

Please let me know if you have any issues with these files.

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Dirk, Christine <cdirk@nd.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 12:32 PM
To: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Subject: Jetx project area

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

Hello Jennifer,

I am working on our review for the Jamestown to Ellendale transmission line project. You sent me a shapefile of the project boundary back in March. Is the boundary the same? If not, could you send me a shapefile or feature class of the new boundary? Thank you.

Chris

Christine Dirk
GIS Specialist

701.328.5368 • parkrec.nd.gov

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From: Duttenhefner, Kathleen G. <kgduttenhefner@nd.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 9:07 AM
To: Hanley, Jennifer
Subject: Re: Jetx- MDU and Ottertail Jamestown to Ellendale Transmission Line
Attachments: HDR_JETx_MDU_Transmission_Line_Jamestown_Ellendale_CL_KD_Responce_Letter_DL10.12.2023.pdf; JETX_OTTER_TAIL_POWER_COMPANY_MDU_CO_JAMESTOWN_ELLENDALE_345-KV_TRANSMISSION_LINE_PROJECT_DL10.12.23_HERITAGE.pdf; JETX_OTTER_TAIL_POWER_COMPANY_MDU_CO_JAMESTOWN_ELLENDALE_345-KV_TRANSMISSION_LINE_PROJECT_DL10.12.23_LWCF.p.pdf; JETX_OTTER_TAIL_POWER_COMPANY_MDU_CO_JAMESTOWN_ELLENDALE_345-KV_TRANSMISSION_LINE_PROJECT_DL10.12.23_MAP.pdf

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

Re: Jetx- MDU and Ottertail Jamestown to Ellendale Transmission Line

North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department's Environmental Review Response letter is attached.

Kathy Duttenhefner

Natural Resources Division Chief

701.328.5370 • 701.220.3377 • parkrec.nd.gov

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NORTH Dakota | Parks & Recreation
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October 17, 2023

Jennifer Hanley
HDR, Inc.
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Re: Jetx- MDU and Ottertail Jamestown to Ellendale Transmission Line

Dear Jennifer,

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) has reviewed the above-proposed transmission line from Jamestown to Ellendale, North Dakota.

NDPRD's scope of authority and expertise covers properties that NDPRD owns, leases, or manages; properties protected under Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF); rare plants; and ecological communities established through the Natural Heritage Program.

The project does not appear to affect properties NDPRD owns, leases, or manages.

The projects may affect properties protected under Section 6(f) of the LWCF.

Several LWCF projects have been identified near the proposed project's vicinity**.** Attached is a map identifying the approximate locations. Properties that have received funding from the LWCF program have a designated 6(f) property boundary that carries restrictions on modifications to the property, including but not limited to utilities or any divesture of land. For additional information regarding LWCF properties, don't hesitate to contact Char Langehaug, ND Parks and Recreation Department's Grants Coordinator, at clangehaug@nd.gov or 701-328-5364.

A North Dakota Natural Heritage biological conservation database query determines if any current or historical plant or animal species of concern or other significant ecological communities are known to occur within an approximate one-mile radius of the project area. Based on this review, several plant and animal species of concern or significant ecological communities are documented within or immediately adjacent to the project site. Attached is a map identifying the approximate locations.

We appreciate your commitment to rare plant, animal, and ecological community conservation, management, and inter-agency cooperation. For additional information, contact Natural Resources Division Chief Kathy Duttenhefner at 701-328-5370, 701-220-3377 (cell), or kgduttenhefner@nd.gov.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed project.

Sincerely,

Kathy Duttenhefner

Kathy Duttenhefner, Chief Natural Resources Division

604 E Boulevard Ave Dept. 750 | Bismarck, ND 58505

PHONE: 701-328-5357 | FAX: 701-328-5363 | EMAIL: parkrec@nd.gov | WEBSITE: www.parkrec.nd.gov

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North Dakota Natural Heritage Inventory

Rare Animal and Plant Species and Significant Ecological Communities

State Scientific Name	State Common Name	State Rank	Global Rank	Federal Status	Township Range Section	County	Last Observation	Estimated Representation Accuracy	Precision
Ammodramus leconteii	Le Conte's Sparrow	SU	G4		138N063W - 36	Stutsman	1987-06-24		S
Calamagrostis stricta - carex sartwellii - c. praegracilis wet meadow	Brackish Wet Meadow	S2S3	GNR		138N063W - 36	Stutsman	1987-08-13		S
Carex rostrata - c. lacustris - (c. vesicaria) wetland	Sedge Meadow	S2S3	GNR		137N063W - 15	Stutsman	1989-09-12		S
Carex spp. - triglochin maritima - eleocharis pauciflora fen	Calcareous Fen	S1	GNR		138N063W - 36; 138N063W - 35	Stutsman	1993-06-30		S
Eleocharis pauciflora	Few-flowered Spikerush	S3	G5		138N063W - 36	Stutsman	1987-06-17		S
First order stream		S1	GNR		138N063W - 36	Stutsman	1987-06-24		S
Hesperia dacotae	Dakota Skipper	S2	G2	LT	138N063W - 36	Stutsman	1997	Medium	S
Liparis loeselii	Loesel's Twayblade	S2	G5		138N063W - 36	Stutsman	1987-06-24		S
Passerina caerulea	Blue Grosbeak	SU	G5		140N063W - 35; 139N063W - 08; 139N063W - 14; 140N063W - 31; 140N063W - 23; 140N064W - 13; 140N062W - 33; 139N063W - 07; 139N063W - 13; 139N062W - 18; 140N062W - 29; 140N063W - 19; 140N062W - 34; 139N063W - 06; 140N062W - 21; 139N064W - 13; 140N063W - 29	Stutsman	1966-06-27		G
Quercus macrocarpa/prunus virginiana northern ravine woodland	Bur Oak Upland Woodland	S3	GNR		137N063W - 15	Stutsman	1989-09-12		S
Rhynchospora capillacea	Hair Beakrush	S2	G4		138N063W - 36	Stutsman	1987-06-17		S
River-creek		S1	GNR		137N063W - 15	Stutsman	1989-09-12		S
Schizachyrium scoparium - bouteloua curtipendula - stipa spartea prairie	Dry Mesic Tallgrass Prairie	S1	GNR		138N063W - 36	Stutsman	1987-06-13		S
Schizachyrium scoparium - bouteloua curtipendula - stipa spartea prairie	Dry Mesic Tallgrass Prairie	S1	GNR		137N063W - 36	Stutsman	1987-06-04		S
Spiranthes cernua	Nodding Ladies'-tresses	S1	G5		138N063W - 36	Stutsman	1987-08-13		S
Utricularia minor	Lesser Bladderwort	S2	G5		138N063W - 36	Stutsman	1987-06-04		S

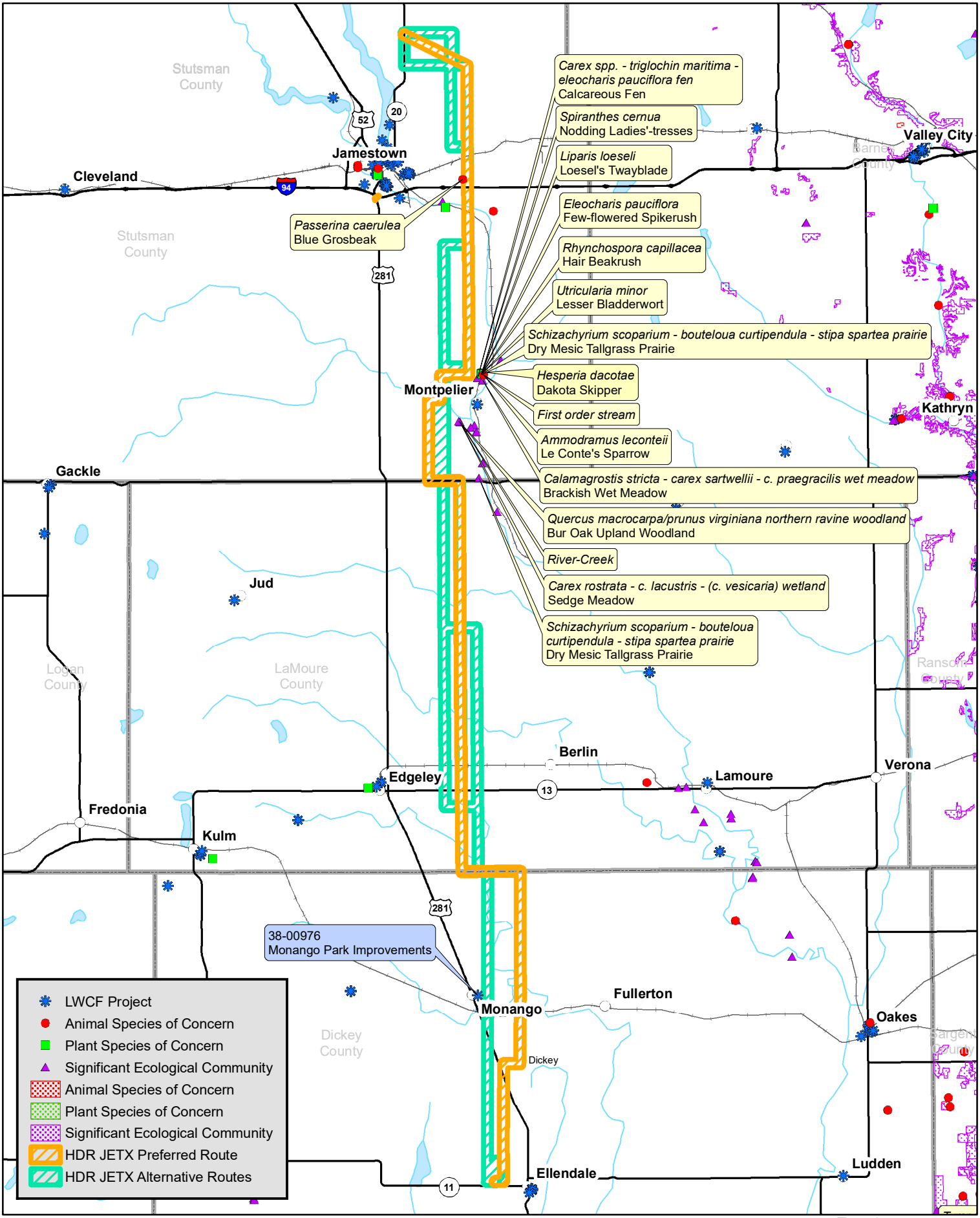
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Land and Water Conservation Fund Projects

Project Name	Project Number
Monango Park Improvements	38-00976

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North Dakota Natural Heritage Inventory



NORTH Dakota Parks & Recreation

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

North Dakota Pipeline Authority

Documentation of available correspondence is included following this log.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
North Dakota Pipeline Authority				
March 22, 2023	Letter	Applicants[1]	North Dakota Pipeline Authority	Introduction letter and request for comments.
September 7, 2023	Letter	Applicants	North Dakota Pipeline Authority	Second request for input and meeting request letter.

1 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Justin Kringstad
Executive Director
ND Pipeline Authority
600 E. Boulevard Ave - Dept 405
Bismarck, ND 58505-0841

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Kringstad,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

Currently, OTP and Montana-Dakota are in the preliminary planning stages of the Project, which include high-level planning, initial public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and preliminary design. These preliminary planning stages will provide important input into the identification of preliminary routes and the eventual selection of a final route for the Project. The attached map shows the current study area being assessed for preliminary routes. Public outreach with landowners and interested parties including public meetings are being planned to occur in June 2023.

We are soliciting your review of the preliminary Project area in order to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the final route. We are particularly interested in any property located within or adjacent to the study area which your agency may own or have an interest in. We would also appreciate being made aware of any proposed developments your agency may be contemplating in the study area under consideration for the Project in addition to any information that might assist us in our siting analysis and studies. To help us identify potential resource issues in the corridor analysis, please provide us with any information pertaining to the JETx project by April 22, 2023. Written or email responses should be sent to:

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we will reach out to schedule stakeholder meetings as well as plan for additional outreach as a route is developed and refined.

If further information is desired regarding the proposed Project, please contact either myself (218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com) or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc. (701-353-6139 or Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com).

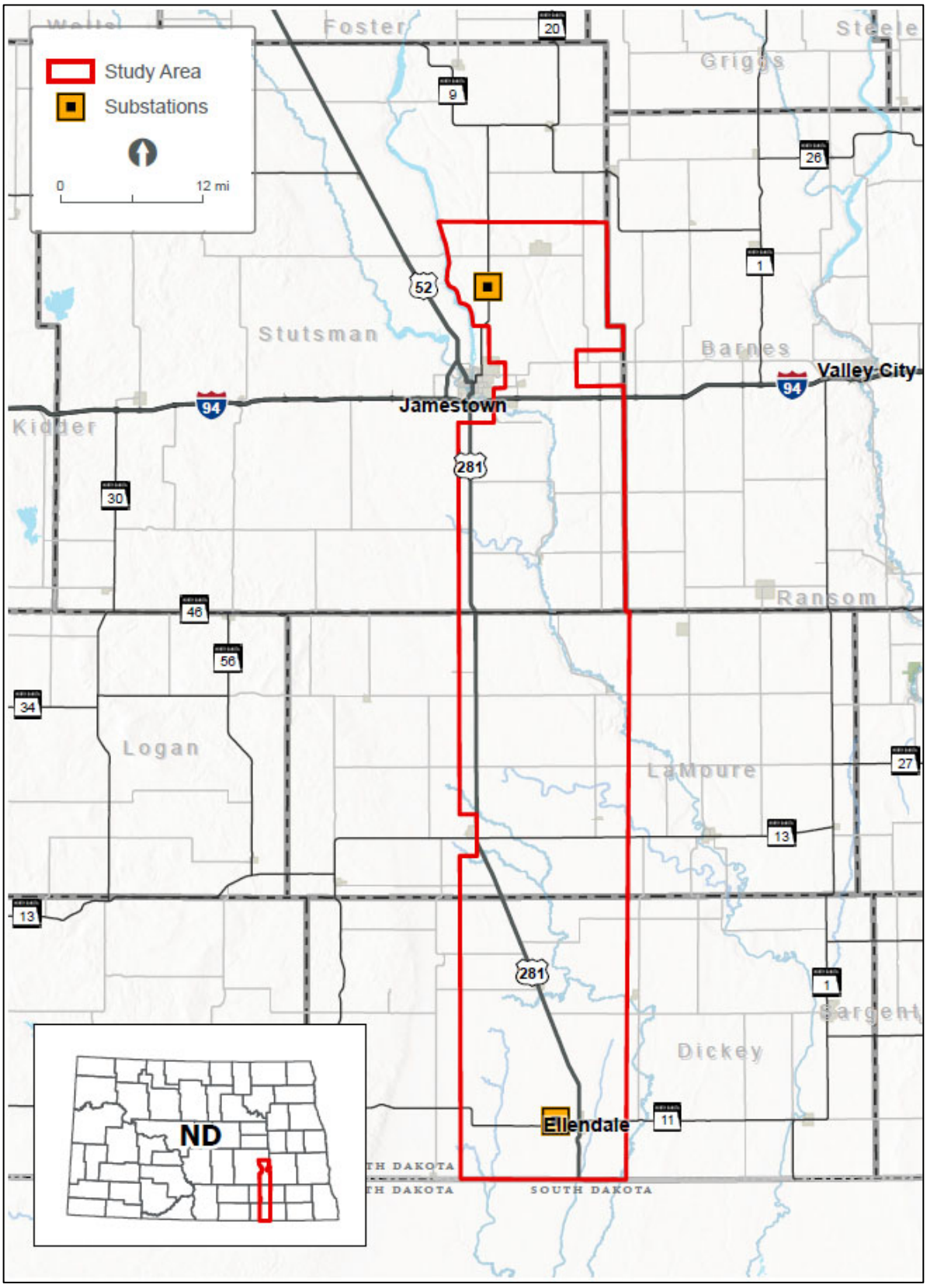
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Justin Kringstad
Executive Director, ND Pipeline Authority
600 E. Boulevard Ave, Dept 405
Bismarck, ND 58505-0841

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HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
701-353-6139

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September 12, 2023	September 13, 2023	September 14, 2023
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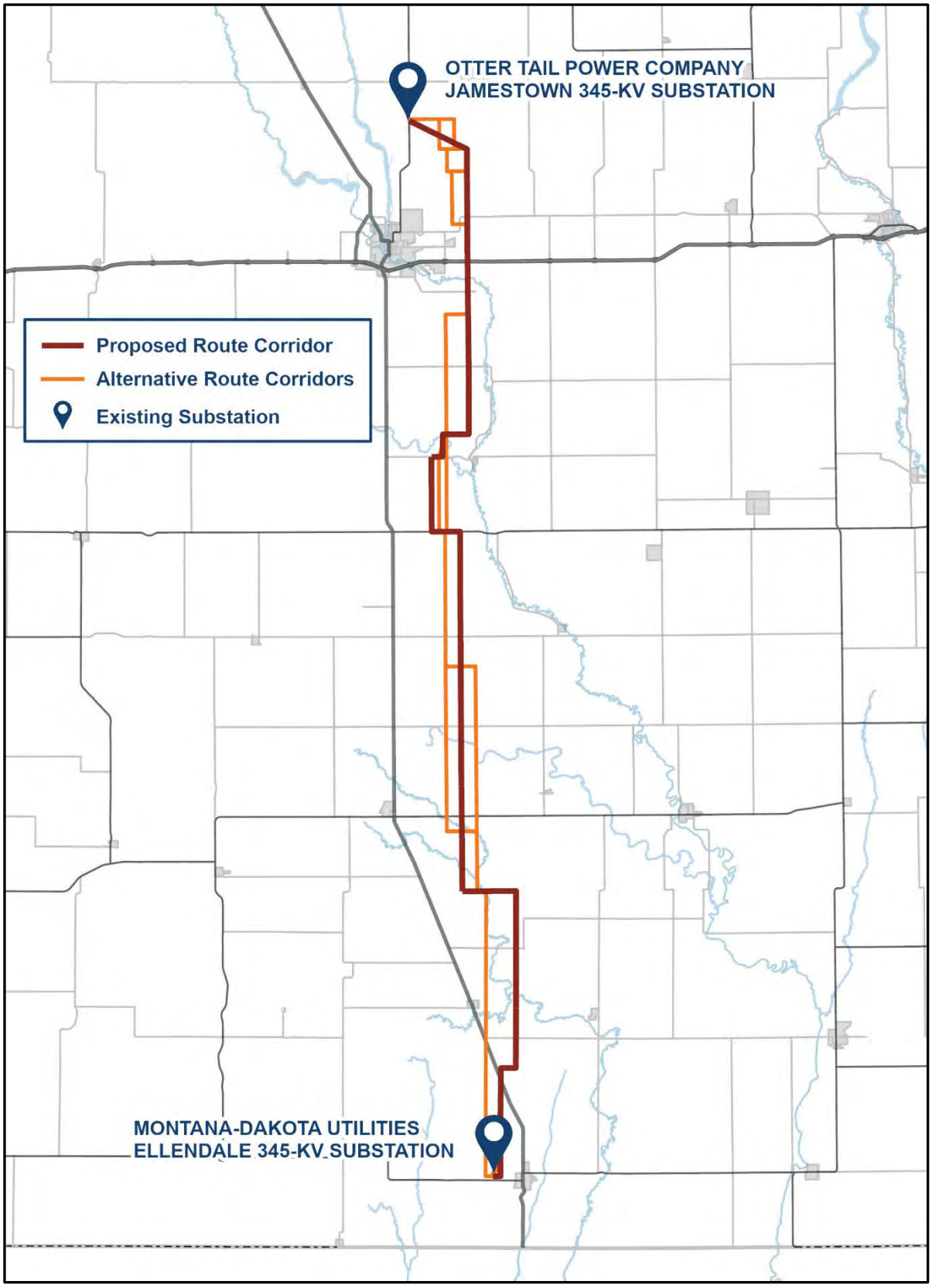
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

JETx Jamestown to Ellendale

North Dakota Transmission Authority (NDTA)

Documentation of available correspondence is included following this log.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
North Dakota Transmission Authority (NDTA)				
March 23, 2023	Letter and Email[1]	Applicants[2]	NDTA	Introduction letter and request for comments.
April 25, 2023	Email	NDTA	Applicants	NDTA directed Applicants to appropriate department personnel.
April 25, 2023	Email	Applicants	NDTA	Applicants acknowledged department contact.
April 25, 2023	Email	NDTA	Applicants	NDTA acknowledged receiving Applicants letter.
May 2, 2023	Email	Applicants	NDTA	Applicants arranging a meeting with NDTA.
May 24, 2023	Joint Meeting			Meeting with NDDOC and NDTA provided an overview of the Project, discussed current wind development projects in the area, and that there are not currently plans for substations between Jamestown and Ellendale, but that may change.
September 7, 2023	Letter and Email[1]	Applicants	NDTA	Second request for input and meeting request letter.

1 Indicates documentation that was a part of one of the mass March or September agency mailings.

2 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

John Weeda
Director
ND Transmission Authority
600 E. Boulevard Ave - Dept 405
Bismarck, ND 58505-0840

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Weeda,

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HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we will reach out to schedule stakeholder meetings as well as plan for additional outreach as a route is developed and refined.

If further information is desired regarding the proposed Project, please contact either myself (218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com) or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc. (701-353-6139 or Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com).

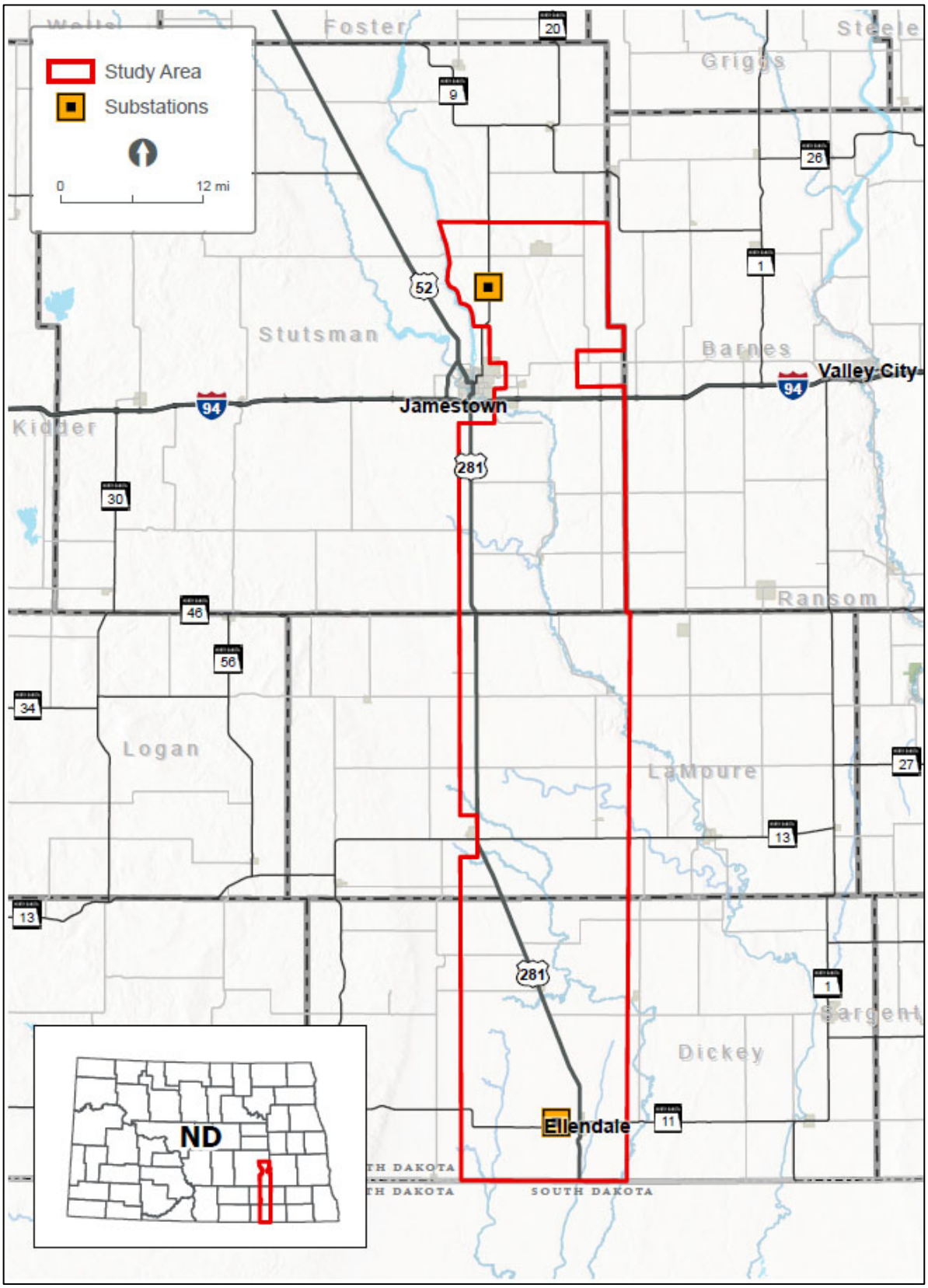
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



From: Oakland, Tom J. <thomas.oakland@nd.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 9:28 AM
To: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Cc: john.weeda <john.weeda@ndtransmissionauthority.com>
Subject: NDTA For Comments on JetX

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

Jennifer,
I spoke with John Weeda, Director of the ND Transmission Authority about your request for comments for JetX. He would be happy to provide comments from their department. I have cc'd him on this email for your information.

Tom Oakland
Energy and Economic Coordination Office Manager

701-319-0161 • thomas.oakland@nd.gov • www.nd.gov

NORTH Dakota | Commerce
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1600 E. Century Ave., Suite 2 PO Box 2057 • Bismarck, ND 58503

From: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 9:58 AM

To: Oakland, Tom J. <thomas.oakland@nd.gov>
Cc: John Weeda <john.weeda@ndtransmissionauthority.com>
Subject: RE: NDTA For Comments on JetX

Thank you Tom!

John, I have you on my list of contacts that we reached out to. I apologize if you didn't receive the letter. Please let me know if you have any questions!

Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: John Weeda <john.weeda@ndtransmissionauthority.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 1:53 PM
To: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>; Oakland, Tom J. <thomas.oakland@nd.gov>
Subject: RE: NDTA For Comments on JetX

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

Jennifer,
I realized after the conversation that Tom that we did indeed receive your letter. The deputy director of NDTA and I had talked about it. I just have not gotten used to the branding for the project has so was thinking of other things.

I am not sure how much we can add, but I do think it would be good to have a conversation someday about whether there is a vision beyond the line itself. These days a corridor can bring other opportunities. I is an area that seriously needs additional capacity.

John Weeda

From: Hanley, Jennifer
Sent: Tuesday, May 2, 2023 2:50 PM
To: John Weeda; Oakland, Tom J.
Cc: Weiers, Jason
Subject: RE: NDTA For Comments on JetX

John,

Our project team (Otter Tail Power, Montana Dakota Utilities and HDR) would love the opportunity to give you and your team a brief overview of the project, the benefits of the project and the future vision for the corridor. Would you be available for a Teams meeting during any of the following times:

- May 24: any time in the afternoon
- May 25: 3 – 5 PM
- May 26: 1 – 2 PM

Let me know if any of these times work for you and I'll send a calendar invite.

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

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*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

Meeting Summary

Project:	OTP/MDU JETx 345 kV Transmission Line
Subject:	JETx ND Transmission Authority (NDTA) and ND Department of Commerce (NDDOC) Meeting Summary
Date:	Wednesday, May 24, 2023
Location:	Virtual

Attendees:

☒Langston, Todd (OTP)	☒Hanley, Jen (HDR)
☒Weiers, Jason (OTP)	☒Vigessa, Claire (NDTA)
☒Frank, Rob (MDU)	☒Weeda, John (NDTA)
	☒Oakland, Tom (ND DOC)

Otter Tail Power Company, Montana Dakota Utilities, HDR, NDTA and ND DOC virtually met at 3pm on May 24, 2023.

OTP gave a short presentation on the proposed Jamestown – Ellendale 345 kV transmission project. The presentation identified why the project is being proposed, where the study area is located, and general timeline.

OTP also gave a quick summary of content included in the MTEP21 report for the Jamestown – Ellendale 345 kV Project and the Big Stone South – Alexandria – Cassie's Crossing (now called "Big Oaks") 345 kV Project. The group looked at the Indicative Roadmap for Future 1 and Future 3. Future 3 included HVDC ties throughout the region. In MISO's Future 3 indicative roadmap, JETx is envisioned to be a collection point for a future HVDC terminal near Edgeley/Ellendale. Power from the 345kV would be put on the future HVDC line that would terminate further south and east to help deliver power throughout MISO.

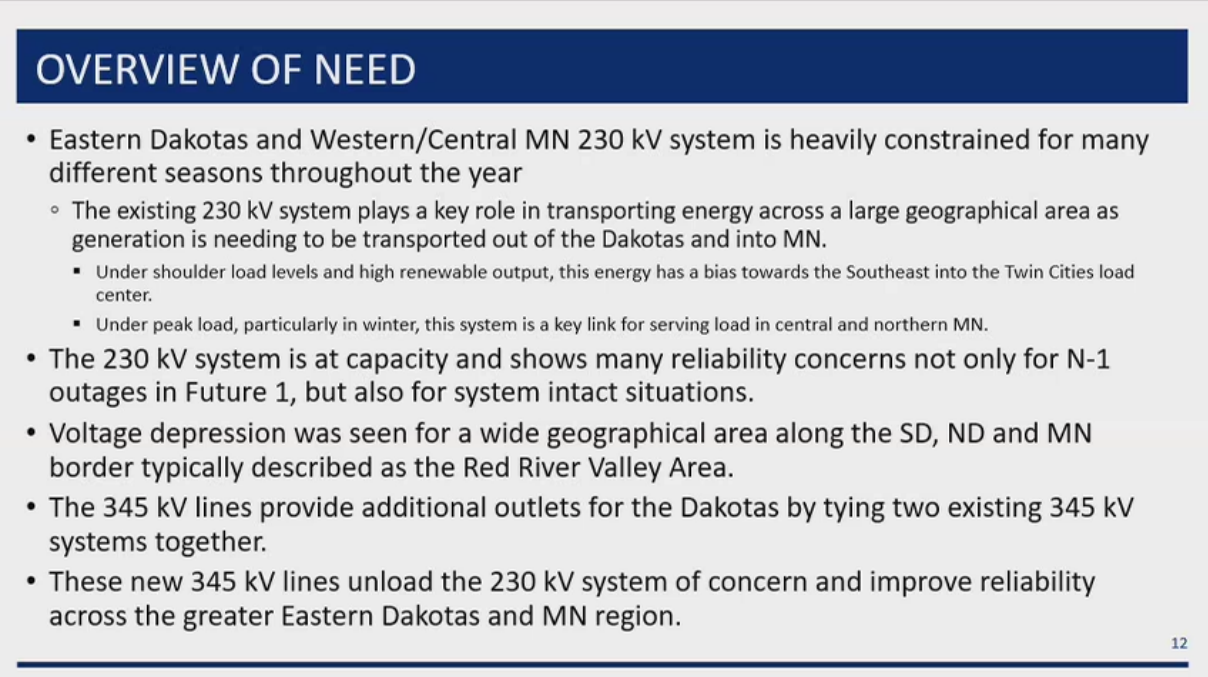
Much of the project study area land is tied up in wind options. Based on feedback received so far through county and township meetings, OTP and MDU understand that NextEra and Invenergy are actively pursuing wind development within the study area.

There are currently no substations planned by MISO between Jamestown/Ellendale. That might change prior to JETx construction depending on the upcoming studies that will be performed as part of the MISO interconnection process.

The NDTA does not plan to attend the public meetings but would like to be kept up-to-date on the status of the project and who the project contacts are. Jason Weiers of OTP indicated that he can be the first point of contact for questions related to the JETx project.

LRTP #1 and #2 will help with capacity and congestion and provide more opportunity for generation development in North Dakota. OTP may do an export study to identify the potential benefits to North Dakota based generation. John Weeda indicated that OTP could maybe work with NDTA as they have requested their consultant to update their recent export study with the LRTP Tranche 1 projects.

Local benefits of the project include:



Action Items:

Action Item	Date	Responsible
Send overview presentation and meeting summary to meeting participants	5/25/2023	HDR - Hanley

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JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

Jamestown to Ellendale

345-kV Transmission Line

OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY

MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
A Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.

Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO)

Long Range Transmission Plan

MISO has approved 18 new transmission projects throughout the Midwest that are needed in 2030 to ensure a **reliable** and **resilient** transmission system in the future with an estimated cost of $10.3 Billion.



Project Component	Ownership	Est. Cost ($M)
Jamestown Substation	OTP	$16
Jamestown - Ellendale 345 kV Line	OTP, MDU	$380
Ellendale Substation	MDU	$10
Maple River Substation	OTP	$22
Twin Brooks Substation	OTP, MDU	$12

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

Benefits

- Improve **reliability** by strengthening the regional transmission system.
- Reduce **congestion** on the existing transmission system.
  - Currently there is more generation than the system can transport, resulting in the need to reduce generation output.
- Increase **resiliency** to better withstand major weather events.

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

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Project Details

- Approximately 90 miles long
- Anticipated Typical Structure
  - Double circuit capable
  - Steel monopole
  - Self-supporting
  - Concrete foundations
  - 150’ in height
  - 4-6 Structures per mile (average)



JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

Regulatory Process

State Permit	Applicants	Permitting Lead	Anticipated Filing Date	Anticipated In-Service Date
ND Certificate of Public Convenience & Necessity	OTP, MDU	OTP	Q3 2023	Q4 2028
ND Certificate of Corridor Compatibility & Route Permit	OTP, MDU	OTP	Q2 2024	

- We'll also obtain environmental permitting and approvals from appropriate **federal, state, and local agencies** once we've identified a final route (and prior to construction).
- We will also coordinate construction activities with **local government units** and other **stakeholders.**

JETx Jamestown to Ellendale

Preliminary Project Timeline

2023: 1st Half
- Define Study Area
- Develop Corridors
- Public Meeting #1
- Landowner Outreach

2024: 1st Half
- CCC/Route Permit Submitted to ND PSC

2025: 1st Half
- Receive ND Route Permit



2023: 2nd Half
- Develop Routes
- Public Meeting #2
- Landowner Outreach
- Surveys
- Identify Proposed Route
- CPCN Submitted to ND PSC

2024: 2nd Half
- Public Hearing

2025: 2nd Half
- Start Construction

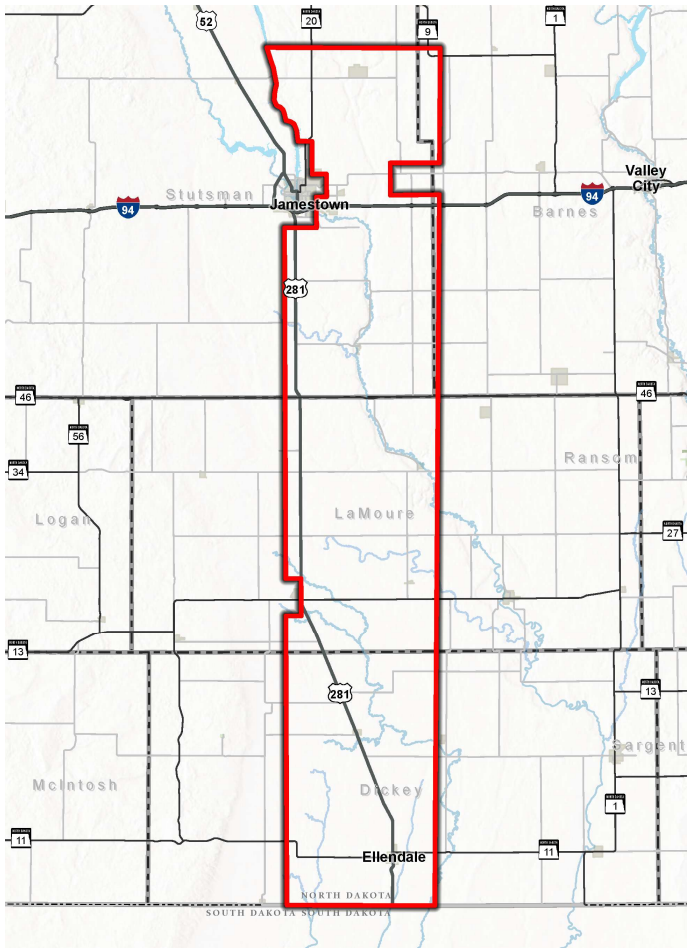
2028: 2nd Half
- Finish Construction
- Energization
- Restoration

JETx Jamestown to Ellendale

Notification Area

Outreach will begin with initial conversations in May/June with:

- Landowners
- State Agencies
- Federal Agencies
- County & Township Officials
- Municipality Officials
- City Officials
- Tribes
- Other stakeholders



JETx Jamestown to Ellendale

Routing Process

Criteria set forth by North Dakota statute guides our routing process.

To route a project, we consider:

- Stakeholder input.
- Opportunities like existing transmission lines, highways, roads, and property and field lines.
- Constraints like residences, agricultural considerations, airports, conservation areas, parks, and railroads.
- Engineering, environmental and construction requirements.



JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

Opportunities to Engage

We'll hold Public Meetings to share initial project details, corridors and answer questions at the following dates and locations from 4 – 7 PM:

- June 13 in Ellendale (Opera House)
- June 14 in Edgeley (Hakuna Matata)
- June 15 in Jamestown (Bunker Hill Club House)

<u>Coming Soon:</u>

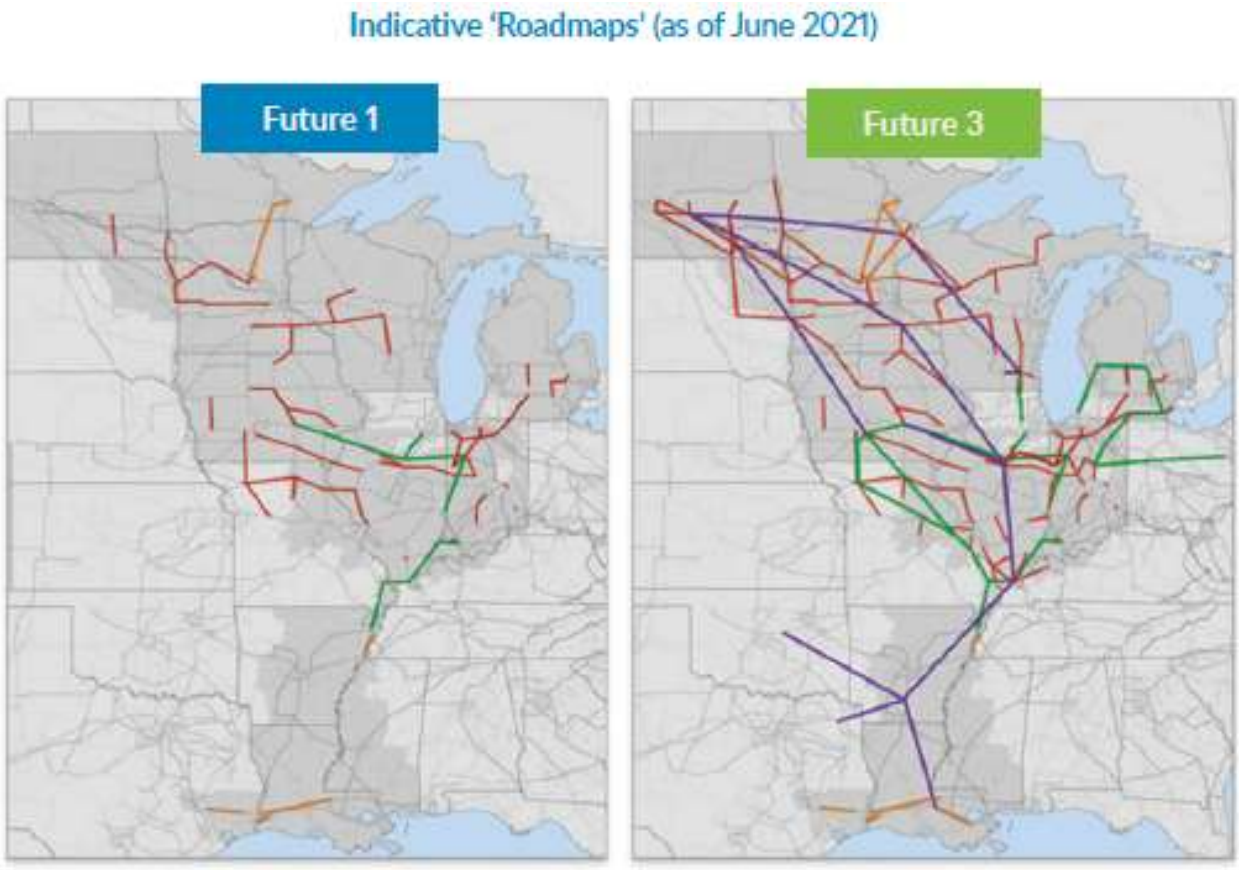
Website: www.JamestowntoEllendale.com
Email: connect@JamestowntoEllendale.com
Hotline: (888) 794-6243

JETx Jamestown to Ellendale

MISO's Tranche 1 Roadmap (published during June 2021)

See page 12 of MTEP21 Addendum LRTP Tranche 1 Executive Summary at: https://cdn.misoenergy.org/MTEP21%20LRTP%20Tranche%201%20Portfolio626133.zip

JETx Jamestown to Ellendale



Indicative 'Cost to Achieve' ($billion)*	Future 1	Future 3
New Generation/Resources	+/- 135	+/- 430
New Transmission Solutions	+/- 30	+/- 100
Total New Investment	+/- 165	+/- 530

* Initial 'indicative' investment cost estimates expressed in 2020 dollars; generation additions thru 2039 are 121 GW in Future 1, 330 GW in Future 3; generation costs from EGEAS modeling; transmission solutions cost from MISO transmission cost estimating tools.

Voltage Level (kV)
- 345
- 500
- 765
- DC Line

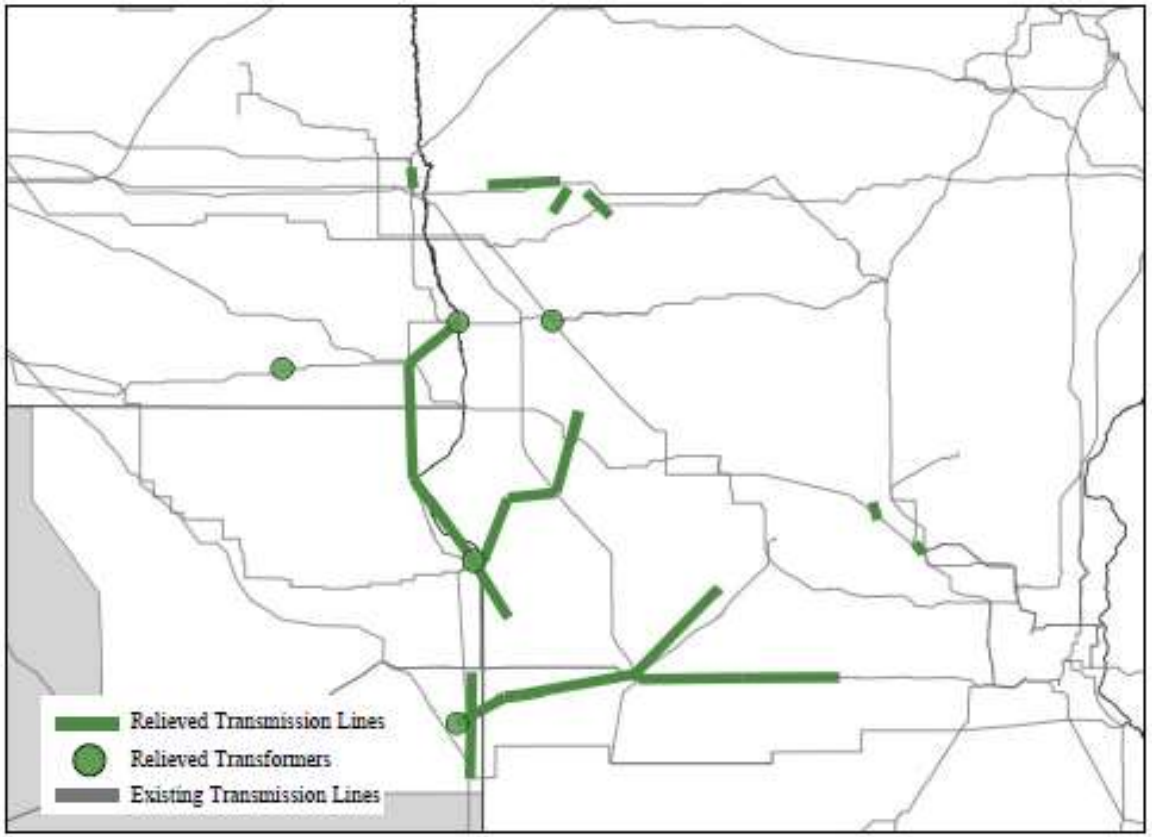
Overview of Need

- Eastern Dakotas and Western/Central MN 230 kV system is heavily constrained for many different seasons throughout the year
  - The existing 230 kV system plays a key role in transporting energy across a large geographical area as generation is needing to be transported out of the Dakotas and into MN.
    - Under shoulder load levels and high renewable output, this energy has a bias towards the Southeast into the Twin Cities load center.
    - Under peak load, particularly in winter, this system is a key link for serving load in central and northern MN.
- The 230 kV system is at capacity and shows many reliability concerns not only for N-1 outages in Future 1, but also for system intact situations.
- Voltage depression was seen for a wide geographical area along the SD, ND and MN border typically described as the Red River Valley Area.
- The 345 kV lines provide additional outlets for the Dakotas by tying two existing 345 kV systems together.
- These new 345 kV lines unload the 230 kV system of concern and improve reliability across the greater Eastern Dakotas and MN region.

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

Reliability Issues Addressed (1)

- The JETx and BSSABO projects address many thermal and voltage issues for Western MN and the Eastern Dakotas.
  - The 230 kV system from Ellendale and Big Stone South to Fergus Falls is relieved for all N-1 and N-1-1 outages.
    - Green lines depict transmission lines and green circles depict transformers which no longer have overloads



JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

Reliability Issues Addressed (2)

Loading Violations Addressed:

- 40 transmission elements experiencing up to 214% loading during N-1 outages were relieved by JETx and BSSABO
- 70 transmission elements experiencing up to 209% loading during N-1-1 outages were relieved by JETx and BSSABO

	N-1 (P1, P2, P4, P5, P7)		N-1-1 (P3, P6)	
	Count Elements	Max % Loading Pre-Project	Count Elements	Max % Loading Pre-Project
All	40	214	70	209
230 kV Lines	18	157	25	153

*A transmission element was considered 'relieved' if its worst pre-project loading was greater than 95% of its monitored Emergency Rating , its worst post-project loading was less than 100% of its monitored Emergency Rating, and the worst loading decreased by greater than 5% following the addition of JETx and BSSABO

JETx Jamestown to Ellendale

Voltage Violations Addressed:

- 97 transmission substations experiencing voltages as low as 80% of nominal during N-1 outages were relieved by JETx and BSSABO
- 91 transmission substations experiencing voltages as low as 81% of nominal during N-1-1 outages were relieved by JETx and BSSABO

	N-1 (P1, P2, P4, P5, P7)		N-1-1 (P3, P6)	
	Count Elements	Minimum p.u. voltage Pre-Project	Count Elements	Minimum p.u. voltage Pre-Project
All	97	0.80	91	0.81
345 & 230 kV Buses	23	0.80	30	0.81

JETx

Jamestown to Ellendale

Questions?

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

John Weeda
Director, ND Transmission Authority
600 E. Boulevard Ave, Dept 405
Bismarck, ND 58505-0840

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear John Weeda,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (the Project). The Project would be in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect Otter Tail Power's existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota's existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified by the Regional Transmission Organization in the Upper Midwest[1] needed to maintain electric system reliability, increase resilience to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion and increase access to low cost energy throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025. At this early stage of the Project, it is anticipated that Section 106 compliance would be needed for a United State Corps of Engineers Section 404 wetland permit and Section 10 river crossing permit for an overhead crossing of the James River.

Currently, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota are in the planning stages of the Project, which include public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and initial design. These preliminary planning stages provide important input into the identification of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. The attached map shows the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors. These corridors are subject to change as we continue public outreach with landowners and other interested parties. Environmental field surveys are currently anticipated to start late this year and be completed in 2024.

We are requesting your review of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the preferred route. We appreciate and value your input in our attempt to avoid or minimize impacts. To help us identify potential concerns in our corridor analysis, we request that any information pertaining to the Project be provided by October 12, 2023, if possible, to:

[1] The Regional Transmission Organization in this area of the Upper Midwest is the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). See more information at www.misoenergy.org.

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
701-353-6139

We will be hosting public meetings at three locations along the Project in September. The meetings will be held on consecutive days September 12 - 14 from 3 - 6 p.m. each day at the three locations listed below. In addition to our public meetings, we are also extending you an invitation if you would prefer to meet individually. If you are interested in an individual meeting outside of our public meetings, our contact information follows below and we would welcome the opportunity to share more information about the Project, answer your questions and take your feedback.

Ellendale	**Jamestown**	**Edgeley**
September 12, 2023	September 13, 2023	September 14, 2023
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	3:00 – 6:00 pm	3:00 – 6:00 pm
American Legion Post #137 79 Main St. Ellendale, ND 58436	Bunker Hill Club House 1520 3rd St. SE Jamestown, ND 58401	Hakuna Matata 101 Industrial Park Road. Edgeley, ND 58433

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the Project progresses, we are planning to have additional consultations with agencies, other jurisdictions, and landowners as we develop and refine a preferred route.

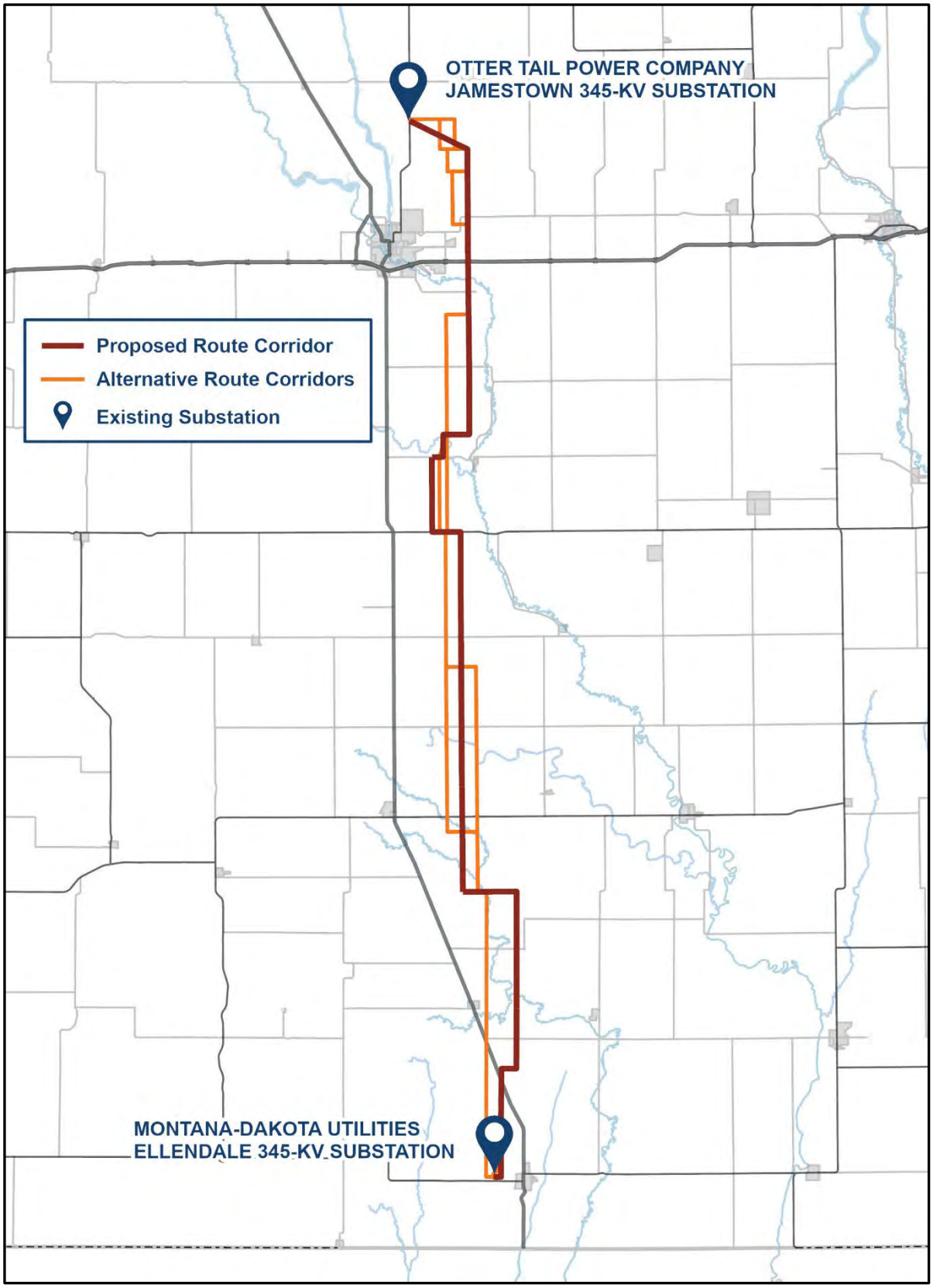
If you desire further information regarding the proposed Project, please contact me at 218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc., at 701-353-6139 or jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com. In addition, further information about the Project can also be found on our website at www.JamestowntoEllendale.com.

Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

JETx Jamestown to Ellendale

State Historic Society of North Dakota (SHSND)/ North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office (NDSHPO)

Documentation of notable correspondence is included following this log.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHSND)/ND State Historic Preservation Office (NDSHPO)				
March 22, 2023	Letter and Email[1]	Applicants[2]	NDSHPO	Introduction letter and request for comments.
April 12, 2023	Email	NDSHPO	Applicants	NDSHPO responded to the March 2023 RFI and concurred with the need for a Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of the Area of Potential Effect.
September 7, 2023	Letter and Email[1]	Applicants	NDSHPO	Second request for input and meeting request letter.
September 14, 2023	Email	Applicants	NDSHPO	Applicants provided requested shapefiles.
September 14, 2023	Email	NDSHPO	Applicants	NDSHPO confirmed receipt of shapefiles.
September 21, 2023	Meeting			Discussion on Class I/III Cultural Resources survey needs.
October 23, 2023	Meeting			Meeting to discuss Class I Analysis.
February 28, 2024	Email	Applicants	NDSHPO	Applicants submitted the Class I Review to NDSHPO.
February 28, 2024	Email	NDSHPO	Applicants	NDSHPO acknowledged receipt of the Class I Review.
April 2, 2024	Letter	NDSHPO	Applicants	NDSHPO provided review of Class I and direction for Class III.
May 2, 2024	Meeting			Class I/III Cultural Resource Inventory Pre-Field Meeting.
May 6, 2024	Email	Applicants	NDSHPO	Applicants provided Class I/III Cultural Resource Inventory Pre-Field Meeting Summary.
September 9, 2024	Meeting			Meeting discussing the Class III survey status.
September 10, 2024	Email	NDSHPO	Applicants	NDSHPO thanked Applicants for the meeting and provided follow-up details.
September 11, 2024	Email	Applicants	NDSHPO	Applicants provided meeting summary and updated GIS data.
October 9, 2024	Email	NDSHPO	Applicants	NDSHPO requested additional information.
October 11, 2024	Email	Applicants	NDSHPO	Applicants provided information.
October 15, 2024	Email	Applicants	NDSHPO	Applicants provided additional details to NDSHPO.
December 10, 2024	Meeting			Meeting with Applicants and NDSHPO regarding timeline.
March 21, 2025	Email	NDSHPO	Applicants	NDSHPO provided comments on Class III.
April 18, 2025	Email	Applicants	NDSHPO	Applicants provided a revised Class III report and comment response table with NDSHPO comments addressed.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
May 9, 2025	Letter	Applicants	Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, NDSHPO	Letter confirming alignment around mitigation measures for cultural heritage sites including monitoring. Letter also thanked Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate for their help and involvement in conducting field surveys.
May 16, 2025	Letter	NDSHPO	Applicants	NDSHPO emailed a letter response to the Class III report requesting further clarification/information.
May 20, 2025	Letter	NDSHPO	Applicants	NDSHPO emailed a letter response to the Class III report requesting further clarification/information.
June 19, 2025	Meeting			Meeting with Applicants and NDSHPO regarding the Class III Cultural Resources Inventory.
July 29, 2025	Letter	Applicants	NDSHPO	Applicants provided Class III Volume 2 to NDSHPO for their review.

1 Indicates documentation that was a part of one of the mass March or September agency mailings.
2 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.
3 Redactions made to public copy.

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 22, 2023

Bill Peterson
Director
State Historical Society of North Dakota
612 East Boulevard Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58505

Re: Request for Information for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Mr. Peterson,

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (referred to as the Project or JETx). The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey Counties, North Dakota and would connect the existing 345-kV substation at Jamestown, North Dakota to an existing 345-kV substation at Ellendale. The Project is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified in the Upper Midwest that is needed to provide additional transmission capacity, mitigate current capacity issues and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. OTP and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the summer 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026.

Currently, OTP and Montana-Dakota are in the preliminary planning stages of the Project, which include high-level planning, initial public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and preliminary design. These preliminary planning stages will provide important input into the identification of preliminary routes and the eventual selection of a final route for the Project. The attached map shows the current study area being assessed for preliminary routes. Public outreach with landowners and interested parties including public meetings are being planned to occur in June 2023.

We are soliciting your review of the preliminary Project area in order to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the final route. We are particularly interested in any property located within or adjacent to the study area which your agency may own or have an interest in. We would also appreciate being made aware of any proposed developments your agency may be contemplating in the study area under consideration for the Project in addition to any information that might assist us in our siting analysis and studies. To help us identify potential resource issues in the corridor analysis, please provide us with any information pertaining to the JETx project by April 22, 2023. Written or email responses should be sent to:

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we will reach out to schedule stakeholder meetings as well as plan for additional outreach as a route is developed and refined.

If further information is desired regarding the proposed Project, please contact either myself (218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com) or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc. (701-353-6139 or Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com).

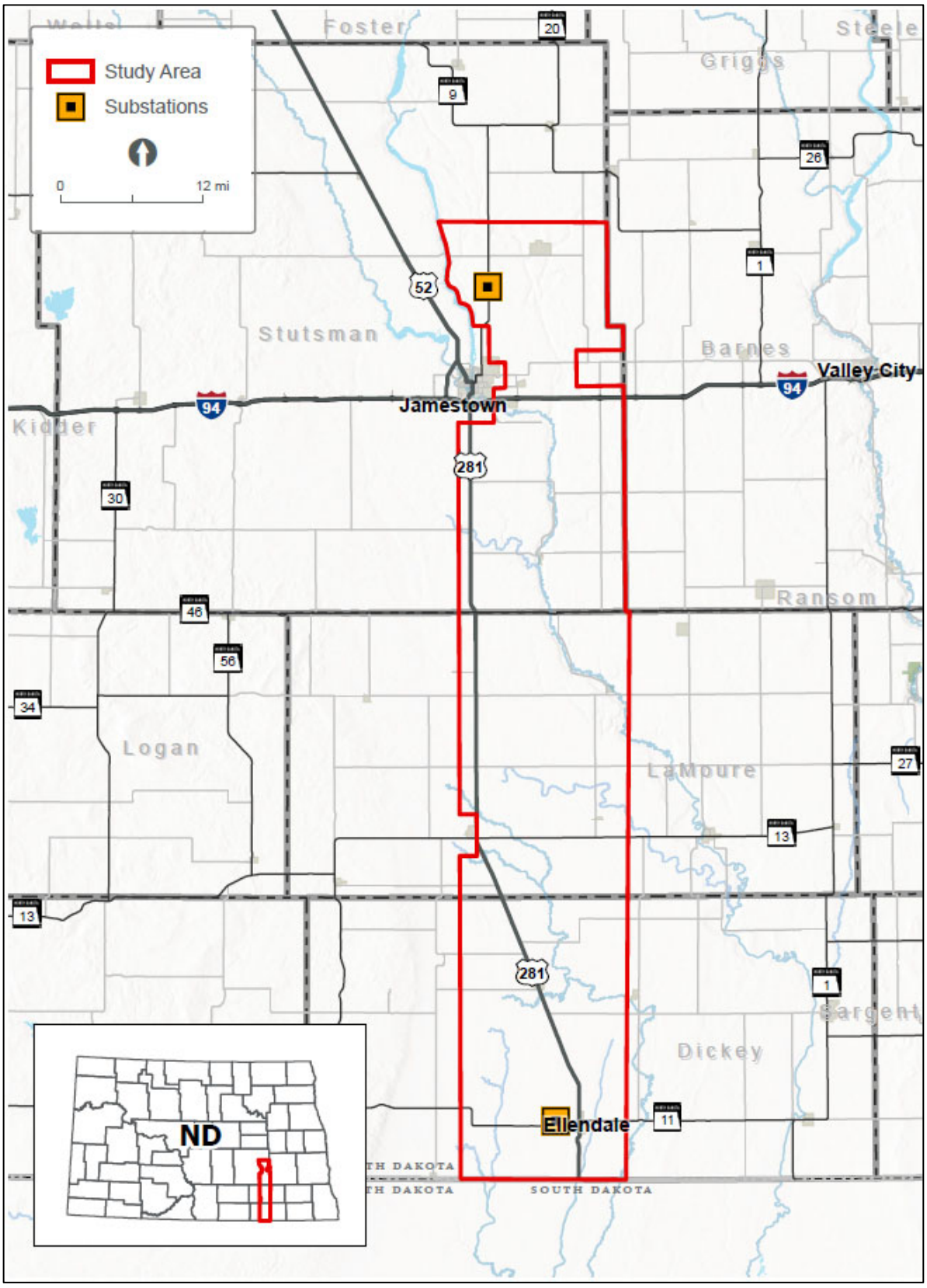
Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Study Area

Figure 1 – Project Study Area



PUBLIC DOCUMENT – NOT PUBLIC (OR PRIVILEGED) DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED

April 12, 2023

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

ND SHPO Ref.: 23-5567 Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Jennifer,

We reviewed ND SHPO Ref.: 23-5567 Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx) and we concur with the need for a Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of the APE and look forward to reading the report.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions please contact Lisa Steckler, Historic Preservation Specialist at (701) 328-3577, e-mail lsteckler@nd.gov

Sincerely,

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

23-5567

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Bill Peterson
Director, State Historical Society of North Dakota
612 East Boulevard Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58505

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Ellendale	**Jamestown**	**Edgeley**
September 12, 2023	September 13, 2023	September 14, 2023
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	3:00 – 6:00 pm	3:00 – 6:00 pm
American Legion Post #137 79 Main St. Ellendale, ND 58436	Bunker Hill Club House 1520 3rd St. SE Jamestown, ND 58401	Hakuna Matata 101 Industrial Park Road. Edgeley, ND 58433

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the Project progresses, we are planning to have additional consultations with agencies, other jurisdictions, and landowners as we develop and refine a preferred route.

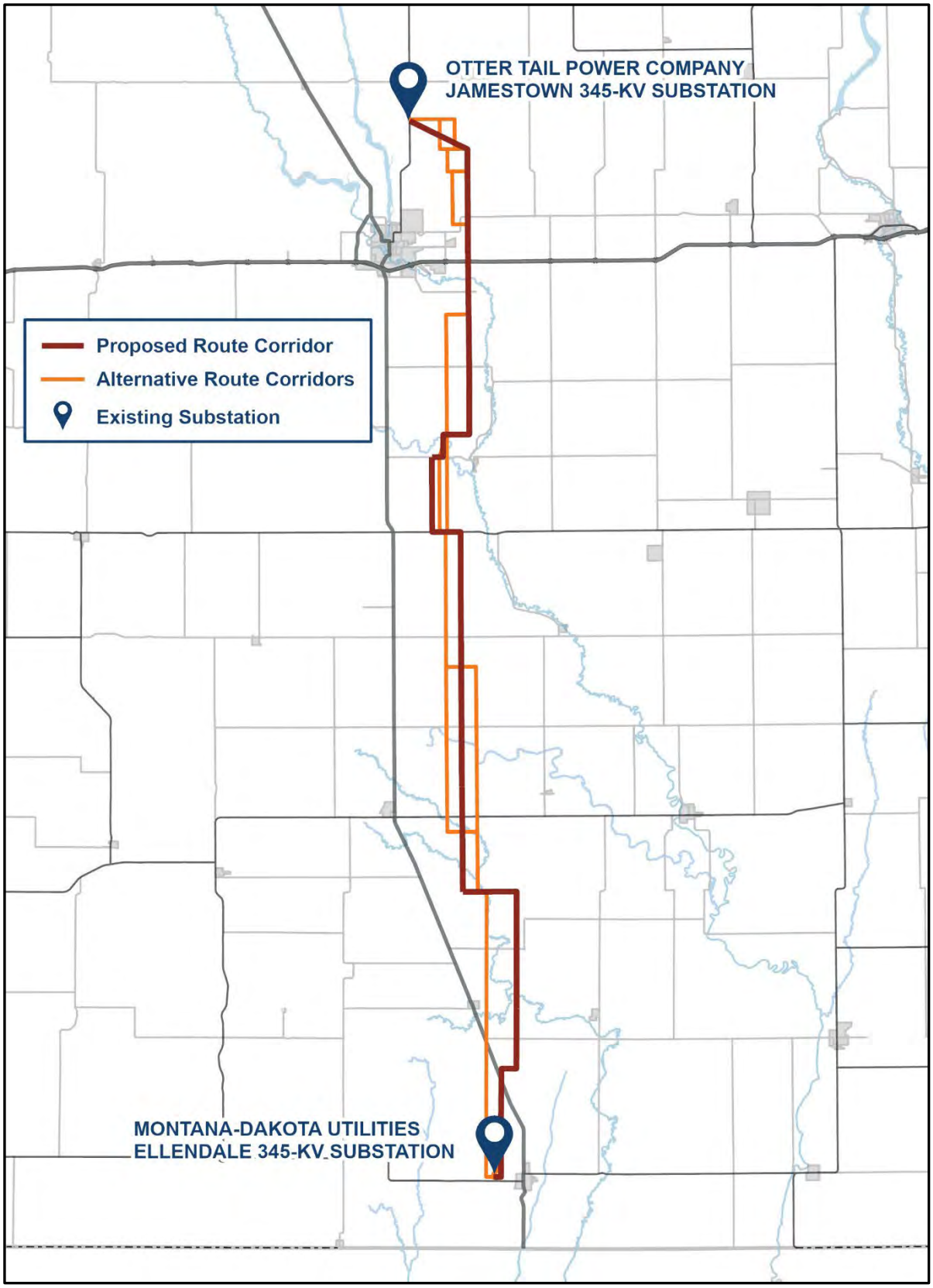
If you desire further information regarding the proposed Project, please contact me at 218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc., at 701-353-6139 or jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com. In addition, further information about the Project can also be found on our website at www.JamestowntoEllendale.com.

Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

From: Hanley, Jennifer
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 10:12 AM
To: mmpatton@nd.gov
Cc: Scheidecker, Kevin J. <kscheidecker@otpco.com>; Bring, Jennifer <Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com>; Thoma, Mark <mthoma@otpco.com>; Voth, Jaden <jaden.voth@mdu.com>; McDonald, Andy <andy.mcdonald@mdu.com>
Subject: JETx Transmission Line Route Corridor and Route Corridor Alternatives SHPO Coordination

Margi,

Thanks again for discussing the JETx project with me earlier this week. As we discussed, we are working on developing our field plan for a Class III survey this fall. We anticipate we will not need to survey the entire area in the attached shapefiles. The federal nexus on the project is a Section 10 river crossing at the James River for the USACE and potentially a Section 404 wetland permit that we anticipate to be a Nationwide Permit.

Please let me know when you would be available next week to meet.

Thank you,

Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
Environmental Project Manager

HDR
51 North Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
D 701.353.6139
jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Patton, Margaret M. <mmpatton@nd.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 9:28 AM
To: Hanley, Jennifer
Cc: Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Bring, Jennifer; Thoma, Mark; Voth, Jaden; McDonald, Andy
Subject: RE: JETx Transmission Line Route Corridor and Route Corridor Alternatives SHPO Coordination

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

Hi Jennier -

Thanks! I was able to load the shapefiles. I will share with our staff here and see about their meeting availabilities for next week.

Margie

Margaret (Margie) Patton, PhD
Research Archaeologist
Archaeology & Historic Preservation/SHPO
State Historical Society of North Dakota
612 E Boulevard Ave
Bismarck ND 58505
701 328 3576

HISTORY FOR everyone.

Meeting Minutes

Project:	JetX Transmission Line
Subject:	Class I/III Cultural Resource Survey Needs
Date:	Thursday, September 21, 2023
Location:	Teams Meeting

Attendees:		
	Mark Thoma – Otter Tail	Tina Fricke Robinson -HDR
	Kevin Scheidecker – Otter Tail	John Morrison - Juniper
	Jen Hanley – HDR PM	Andy Clark – SHPO
	Monica Peterson - HDR	Margie Patton – SHPO
	Jenny Bring – HDR	Lorna Meidinger – SHPO

1) **Introductions**
2) **Project background**
   a) Jen noted shapefiles have been provided to SHPO.
   b) Agency letters were sent early in the process. In the past 6-7 months, a proposed route and route alternatives were identified (0.5-mile corridor)
   c) Two components related to cultural resources for this project:
      i) Federal nexus
         (1) USACE – Section 404 and 10 permitting
            (a) HDR noted the area has primarily prairie pothole-type wetlands and it is assumed most wetlands would not be ~~not~~ under USACE's jurisdiction
            (b) Section 10 permitting is unavoidable due to James River crossing
         (2) USFWS – Wetland Easements
            (a) The team is working to avoid wetland easements.
      ii) ND PSC route permit
   d) **Tribal Involvement:** Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate has expressed interest in participating in the project.
   e) **USACE Involvement:** Andy asked about USACE engagement so far. An initial outreach letter was sent earlier and a follow-up letter was sent two weeks ago. USACE preferred to defer engaging more formally until the location of the river crossing was known. Andy clarified that discussions in this meeting would be preliminary, since determination of the APE would be up to the lead agency (USACE), in consultation with SHPO.
   f) Construction methods:
      i) Jen shared a graphic of the proposed pole construction. Structures would be steel monopoles typically 150' high, with a span of 1,200 ft on average. The easement would be 150' wide. Conductor wire would be on one side of the pole with shield wires. The poles would have a concrete foundation of 10' in diameter, so the anticipated permanent impact is associated with the foundation and the pole gets bolted down to the foundation.

Foundation depths are unknown at this time but would be confirmed once soil borings are done in the spring.

3) **Communication**: Margie will be primary point of contact for SHPO.
4) **SHPO Concerns:**
   a) Potential Burials
      i) Stutsman County, notably along the James River, has a high density for burial mounds. Andy noted encountering burials triggers an additional set of laws dealing with burials (NDCC 23-06-27 relates to finding unmarked burials and will need to be considered in planning). SHPO's primary concern would be avoiding burials during construction.
      ii) Construction access roads, emergency access and on-going maintenance roads/access should be considered in our determination of the areas to be reviewed.
      iii) SHPO did an initial review which identified 132 sites coded as mounds located within the current 0.5 mile route corridor. A low amount of the corridor has been surveyed, mostly focused on road crossings.
5) **LiDAR Review:**
   a) LiDAR can assist in identifying burial mounds, but are less effective in ag land, so will need to be supplemented by field verification.
   b) Jen noted additional LiDAR will be collected as part of the survey but the schedule is not currently known. Discussed publicly available LiDAR info through QGIS and relief maps.
6) **Field Survey discussion/Class I Discussion:**
   a) Andy noted the more survey is completed, the more information is available to make determinations. SHPO's largest area of concern is the north segment where the line parallels the James River and then turns to the east. John noted the first stretch where the line turns and goes south, paralleling the James River, is about 19 miles.
   b) SHPO would like the preliminary information provided by Juniper to be expanded to include LiDAR interpretation and other sources to supplement the Class I report. John clarified that his information included a brief review of the LiDAR data, but not to the level of detail being discussed. Initial information was very preliminary to help provide data and to start the planning process.
   c) SHPO's concern is finding a comfort level in justifying areas where field survey is not completed to make sure the project avoids burials. If a more detailed Class I is completed, that could provide more justification to reduce field survey. All parties agreed the goal is to collect all the data needed for PSC and USACE to complete the project without redoing efforts later in the process.
   d) Andy asked if the corridor is anticipated to be refined from the 0.5-mile corridor. Jen indicated it is anticipated to be narrowed to a 150 foot right of way and that route adjustments may occur.
   e) Discussed options for field survey:
      i) field survey north segment paralleling the James River this fall.
      ii) Look at sampling areas in the southern side ("low-hanging fruit") to rule out areas, assuming that the full Class III would be next year.
         (1) If the 2nd option is done, areas of focus would include other tributaries/streams associated with the James River. Andy noted SHPO is emphasizing farmsteads more than in the past and would like more documentation on potentially historic farmsteads.

f) Juniper/HDR will put further thought into a potential strategy for fall survey areas. Juniper will work with HDR on a scope of work for field work and also expanding the Class I report efforts to include additional review using LiDAR and other sources.
g) Margie clarified the 'southern segment' would be the part of the corridor south of 32LM264/south of T135 R63, Section 9, where the route moves further from the river.

Action Items:

- John to expand on the preliminary information provided in Class I to incorporate more LiDAR review, etc.
- Juniper/HDR will consider a sampling strategy for fall survey and if advanced, send to Margie. Will work on a spring sampling strategy/survey this spring.
- HDR will discuss APE with USACE
- HDR will send meeting summary
- SHPO will work with John to get fieldwork initiated as soon as possible if it is determined to survey specific areas this fall
- A follow-up meeting will be coordinated.
- Jen and John will coordinate on scope/fee for John's efforts

JETx Cultural Resources Class I Analysis Meeting 10/23/2023 9am

John Morrison (Juniper), Andrew Mueller, Jenny Bring, Kevin Gilmore, Jen Hanley (HDR)

Intros

SHPO wants a good solid rationale on why we didn't survey the entire corridor. Good quality data to rule out certain data.

We are at a ½ mile corridor today, we will get to a 150 ft corridor. Call it a Route Corridor Study area.

ND Department of Water Resources – LiDAR available

Concerned with earthworks and mounds – in non-typical areas.

Examples of LiDAR examples from ND SHPO.

Survey grade data bogs the tool down.

Look at the older aerial photos for historic period farmsteads, how they have been altered (historic period resources)

Deliverables:

- Shapefiles
- Report documenting the areas we recommend for survey and the areas we could eliminate from survey (sensitivity model for the corridor) and proposed field strategies for each sensitivity
- Due – End of 2023

Actions:

- John will send Relief Visualization Toolbox link to Jen – Complete
- Jen will send the ND LiDAR Dissemination MapService, Shapefiles for the Class I, Table John prepared, get Andy linked to the web map, Project information - Complete

From: Mueller, Andrew
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 3:49 PM
To: andrewclark@nd.gov
Cc: mmpatton@nd.gov; lbmeidinger@nd.gov; lsteckler@nd.gov; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Thoma, Mark; McDonald, Andy; Voth, Jaden; Bring, Jennifer; Peterson, Monica; Flege, Adam; John G. Morrison; Weiers, Jason; Langston, Todd
Subject: JetX Class I review

Dear Dr. Clark,

I am submitting a Class I review for the Jamestown to Ellendale transmission line project on behalf of Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. Due to the size of the document I am sending a link to a one drive folder containing the report and associated supporting documents. Please let me know if you have any questions, or have difficulty accessing the folder.

JetX_Class_I

Sincerely,

Andrew Mueller, PhD, RPA
Archaeologist

HDR
369 Inverness Parkway, Suite 325
Englewood, CO 80112
D 303-643-6713 **M** 720-346-5124
andrew.mueller@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

PUBLIC DOCUMENT – NOT PUBLIC (OR PRIVILEGED) DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED

April 2, 2024

Andrew Mueller
HDR, Inc.
369 Inverness Parkway, Suite 325
Englewood, CO 80112

ND SHPO Ref.: 23-5567 Jamestown to Ellendale Transmission Lines (JETx) in portions of Dickey, LaMoure, and Stutsman Counties, North Dakota

Dear Andrew,

We reviewed the Class I information submitted for ND SHPO Ref.: 23-5567 Jamestown to Ellendale Transmission Lines (JETx) in portions of Dickey, LaMoure, and Stutsman Counties, North Dakota**.**

We recommend a Class III for the areas of project recommended by the Class I Review report from HDR by Andrew Mueller et al., to include:

1. Areas that contain unidentified lidar anomalies.
2. Areas of terraces and floodplains at all major drainage crossings.

The Class III should provide interpretations for all the unidentified anomalies within the Class III survey areas. Any anomalies that are non-sites (as defined on ND SHPO Guidelines page 20) do not need to be recorded but should be referenced in the report with photos. A table summarizing the lidar interpretations and field results should also be included.

The Class III should also include the completion of site leads for the historical farmsteads (over 50 years of age as identified by aerial photographs) identified during the Class I Review that fall outside the Class III survey areas (please note a historic age farmstead in T130N R63W Section 22 that was inadvertently not included). Any historical farmsteads that are within the Class III survey area should be fully recorded. If the project changes to cross any of the historical farmstead site leads, additional fieldwork may be needed.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office, we would be happy to discuss this project with you.

23-5567

North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum
612 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505-0830

701.328.2666
histsoc@nd.gov

history.nd.gov
statemuseum.nd.gov

PUBLIC DOCUMENT – NOT PUBLIC (OR PRIVILEGED) DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project and we look forward to reading the report. Please include the ND SHPO Reference number listed above in any future correspondence for this project. If you have any questions please contact Margie Patton, Research Archaeologist at (701) 328-3576 or mmpatton@nd.gov.

Sincerely,

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

Meeting Summary

Project:	JetX Transmission Line
Subject:	Class I/III Cultural Resource Inventory Pre-Field Meeting
Date:	Thursday, May 02, 2024
Location:	Teams Meeting

Attendees:		
	Kevin Scheidecker – Otter Tail	John Morrison – Juniper
	Jen Hanley – HDR PM	Jaden Voth - MDU
	Monica Peterson – HDR	Andy Clark – SHPO
	Andy McDonald - HDR	Margie Patton – SHPO

1) **Introductions**

2) **Survey Plan**

a) Survey
   i) First couple of weeks will be the Class III of the proposed route and route alternatives. Will be utilizing the LiDAR anomalies that were identified in the desktop analysis in the Corridor and immediately adjacent.
   ii) Will have known spatial information on tablets in the field that will have the ability to collect new data in the field.
   iii) HDR is almost pencils down on the route they are including in the PSC application
   iv) Juniper will start field surveys on the southern end of the Project Route where there are no re-routes being proposed to give time in the northern portion to secure land rights.
   v) ACTION ITEM: HDR to provide updated shapefiles of the proposed route when it is finalized

b) Reporting
   i) Report will note areas where survey permission has been denied.
      (1) SHPO can do addendums to the reports which is fine, same with if additional survey is required and things change beyond the initial report.
   ii) Preliminary pole locations are available and Juniper will note that while they're reviewing the project area if a pole needs to be shifted to avoid impacting a known site. SHPO is willing to discuss treatments and mitigation before the final report comes out to ensure there are no surprises.
   iii) For non-anomalies from ones IDd in the field from LiDAR will be noted in the report on why it is a non-anomaly
   iv) Justifications for isolated finds. Subsurface considerations and strong information on why it is not a site will be critical.
      (1) Juniper has a lot of experience in the area and will make sure they are recorded correctly, notably in the James River area

c) Sisseton-Wahpeton will be joining Juniper and HDR in the field
   i) Juniper expects they will mostly be using archaeological form vs cultural forms

3) **Survey Timelines:**

- PSC application is planned for late August 2024.
- Survey will start 5/6/2024 and will take approximately 30 days
- Anticipate report to SHPO middle to late July 2024

4) **USACE and Section 10 review**
   i) HDR met with USACE two weeks ago
      (1) Nothing is being called an Area of Potential Effect (APE) yet
      (2) USACE wants to proceed with calling this a survey area and when it's time to start permitting they will go from there with an APE

From:	Hanley, Jennifer
To:	John G. Morrison; Patton, Margaret M.; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Thoma, Mark; McDonald, Andy; Voth, Jaden; Flege, Adam
Cc:	Peterson, Monica; Langston, Todd; Huck, Chelsea
Subject:	JETx SHPO Pre-field Inventory Kickoff Meeting Summary_20240502
Date:	Monday, May 6, 2024 7:14:12 AM
Attachments:	20240502__JetX_SHPO Pre-Field Meeting_Summary.pdf

All,

Please find the summary of our pre-field meeting attached. Please let me know if you have any comments or edits.

Thanks,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
Senior Environmental Project Manager

HDR
51 North Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
D 701.353.6139
jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

Meeting Summary

Project:	JetX Transmission Line
Subject:	Class I/III Cultural Resource Inventory Pre-Field Meeting
Date:	Monday, September 09, 2024
Location:	Teams Meeting

Attendees:

Kevin Scheidecker – Otter Tail
Jen Hanley – HDR PM
Monica Peterson – HDR
Andy McDonald – MDU
Todd Langston – Otter Tail
John Morrison – Juniper
Jaden Voth - MDU
Mark Thoma – Otter Tail
Adam Flege – HDR
John Morrison - Juniper

1. Introduction

2. Project Update

    a. The project team has been working with landowners along the proposed route to obtain both survey permission and options/easements for the route. This has led to some reroutes since we last met with SHPO. We have erred on the side of completing survey for the reroute areas unless it is clearly disturbed. The project schedule for the PSC application has been delayed. The original target submittal for the Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit was late August. We are now targeting early October but that might also be delayed.

3. Class III Survey Discussion

    a. Summary of survey to date

        Both sides of Sevenmile Coulee, have done reroutes 59 miles have been inventory, in the corridor 81 sites will be avoided. Some sites will not be in the final alignment but will be recorded with SHPO.

        LIDAR anomalies – 28 fall within 500ft corridor or directly adjacent. Most were unidentified or rockpile. Have recorded one that was a potential mound (not a typical shape) and is now included in the 81 sites. Most anomalies were field piles.

        Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate have participated in all the surveys.

        33 farmsteads in the Class I, of those 4 end up in the inventory corridor. Had all access to record all 4. Of the remaining 29, we had access to 12 farmsteads, with 17 that we do

not have access to. If we don't have access, could do site leads but there is a concern about landowner concern.

Meeting on Thursday for revisit to the Ellendale. Asked if Langston could attend.

Errored on the side of surveying more of the corridor if a reroute was in an area not in the original Class I recommendations, using the criteria presented in the Class I document.

b. Discuss remaining areas to survey

    i. Parcels with right to enter schedule

        1. We have approximately 3.5 miles left with ROE – SWO is available week of 9/16 (booked for 7 continuous days). Survey will be complete 9/16-9/25)

    ii. Parcels without right to enter

        1. We have approximately 4.4 miles that would remain – we would plan to survey the remaining survey prior to the start of construction

c. Report timeline

    i. Class III Inventory Report – anticipated end of November

    ii. SHPO – report and all parts of it confirmed (30-day response)

        1. Hard copy (asked to not submit hard copy until final)

        2. Digital copy

        3. Shapefiles

    iii. If SHPO has comments they could request revisions

        1. Make revisions

        2. Second 30-day review

4. Open Discussion

    a. No other items

Action Items:

- HDR to send SHPO shapefiles
- Patton Discuss with Andy Clark the farmsteads that we do not have access
- Patton to check if Todd Langston could be present at Thursday meeting near Ellendale
- Patton to check with Andy Clark if we could submit hard copy after initial review
- Patton will discuss with Lorna Meidinger for the PSC and the remaining 4.4 miles to survey

From: Patton, Margaret M. <mmpatton@nd.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2024 9:37 AM
To: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Cc: Clark, Andrew <andrewclark@nd.gov>; Meidinger, Lorna B. <lbmeidinger@nd.gov>
Subject: 23-5567 JETx Meeting 9/9/2024

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

Hi Jen –

Thank you for the update on the project yesterday – its very helpful to know the status of the project. I had a chance to brief Andy and here are some follow-up details from our JETx meeting yesterday:

Ellendale site follow-up visit: For the follow-up meeting on Thursday with the Intertribal Reinterment Committee, a representative from Ottertail is welcome to join. I think Todd Langston from Ottertail was available to attend? We'd like to keep the revisit group small as the focus is on the Intertribal Reinterment Committee determining next steps. Andy Clark and Tim Reed will be there, and the current plan is for meeting at 11 AM.

Farmsteads without access: Typically for farmsteads without access permission for projects, we have the CRM company do a 'site lead' which is a short version of the site form completed with public information (historic aerials, GLO documents, etc.) based on what is visible from the road/public area. As the sites should be considered for any project impacts, there needs to be information recorded to do that assessment. John mentioned some concerns with doing the site leads due to owner issues – if you could send a proposal/ideas for how to deal with these sites we can work out a plan together.

Survey area without access (~4.4 Miles): We can review the Class III report with everything surveyed (including the 3.5 miles planned in the next few weeks). The additional ~4.4 miles can be an addendum report once that cultural work is completed.

Report Submittal: Andy has approved the exception to submit the digital copy and GIS files of the report for review without a hard copy. After report approval, we will need a hard copy and all associated digital files before we can complete the concurrence letter. Once the report is approved, we will send a letter for report acceptance with a note about needing the hard copy report within a week after report acceptance. We cannot send the concurrence letter until all we receive the accepted report hard copy, digital copy, and GIS files and any outstanding site forms.

Timeline: We look forward to reviewing the Class III report in late November. I've let Lorna Meidinger know about the goal to submit the PSC application in early October.

USACE: As we discussed, the USACE portion of the project will come separately at later date. We will give it a separate SHPO Ref number when we get it from USACE to keep tracking organized and link it with the main review, SHPO Ref 23-5567. The concurrence letter to USACE will only address the USACE portion of the project.

We look forward to receiving the revised route GIS data. Again, thank you for keeping us updated on this project - please let us know if you ever want to chat!

Thanks!

Margie

Margaret (Margie) Patton, PhD
Research Archaeologist
Archaeology & Historic Preservation/SHPO
State Historical Society of North Dakota
612 E Boulevard Ave
Bismarck ND 58505
701 328 3576

Please send New project review requests to: SHSCulturalReview@nd.gov

HISTORY FOR everyone.

From:	Hanley, Jennifer
To:	Patton, Margaret M.
Cc:	Clark, Andrew; Meidinger, Lorna B.; Scheidecker, Kevin J.; Thoma, Mark; John G. Morrison; McDonald, Andy; Voth, Jaden; Langston, Todd; Weiers, Jason; Peterson, Monica; Huck, Chelsea
Subject:	RE: 23-5567 JETx Meeting 9/9/2024
Date:	Wednesday, September 11, 2024 5:03:23 PM
Attachments:	20240909__JetX_SHPO Coordination Meeting.pdf JETx_150ft_ROW_20240906.zip

All,

Please find the meeting summary attached. Margie, thank you for all the information below. That covers all the action items!

I've included the shapefiles for the 150 ft corridor that we are intending to propose to the ND PSC. As we discussed in the meeting, there are areas that have changed since our discussion prior to field work. Juniper has survey most of the reroute areas.

Juniper and SWO will be back out on site next week to collect the remaining areas we have agreed to survey and have right to enter. John and Todd Langston from Otter Tail Power Company will be in Ellendale tomorrow morning for the onsite meeting if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: Patton, Margaret M. <mmpatton@nd.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 11:32 AM
To: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Subject: RE: 23-5567 JETx Meeting 9/9/2024

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

Hi Jen –

We are looking at the revised route – thanks for sending it! I think I remember you and/or John Morrison mentioning that Juniper did some survey work on some of the reroutes? Can you tell me where or am I misremembering? A list of Township Range and sections would work, I can link it up with the current route shapefile and update our project info.

Thanks!

Margie

Margaret (Margie) Patton, PhD
Research Archaeologist
Archaeology & Historic Preservation/SHPO
State Historical Society of North Dakota
612 E Boulevard Ave
Bismarck ND 58505
701 328 3576

Please send New project review requests to: SHSCulturalReview@nd.gov



From: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Friday, October 11, 2024 10:45 AM
To: Patton, Margaret M. <mmpatton@nd.gov>
Cc: John G. Morrison <j.morrison@juniperenvironmental.com>; Scheidecker, Kevin J. <kscheidecker@otpco.com>; Peterson, Monica <monica.peterson@hdrinc.com>; Huck, Chelsea <Chelsea.Huck@hdrinc.com>
Subject: RE: 23-5567 JETx Meeting 9/9/2024

[WARNING: MESSAGE WAS SENT FROM OUTSIDE YOUR ORGANIZATION. Please verify identity of sender before following links or replying]

Margie,

Thank you for the discussion! To close the loop on the question below, you were wondering if we had surveyed the areas that were rerouted. We have field surveyed reroute areas. John, if there were any reroute areas that we determined very low probability and did not survey, please chime in.

Also John, Margie is hoping you could send a list of the section, township, ranges of where the field survey has been completed. SHPO wants to not make any additional work but make sure that if there were any red flag areas that have not been surveyed they can point those out for discussion.

Thanks!
Jen

Jennifer Hanley, PE*
D 701.353.6139

hdrinc.com/follow-us

*MN, ND, SD, MT and TX

From: John G. Morrison
To: Hanley, Jennifer; Patton, Margaret M.
Subject: RE: 23-5567 JETx Meeting 9/9/2024
Date: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 7:13:17 PM
Attachments: ND_SHPO_CRI_III_Sections.cpg
ND_SHPO_CRI_III_Sections.dbf
ND_SHPO_CRI_III_Sections.prj
ND_SHPO_CRI_III_Sections.sbn
ND_SHPO_CRI_III_Sections.sbx
ND_SHPO_CRI_III_Sections.shp
ND_SHPO_CRI_III_Sections.shx

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

Good evening,

Here are the sections crossed by the 500’ wide inventory corridor.

John G. Morrison
Juniper, LLC
315 East Broadway Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58501
Cell: 701-400-3575

JuniperLogo_Horiz_small-adjusted

JETx SHPO Meeting – 12/10/2024, 3:30 pm

SHPO – Andy Clark, Lorna Meidinger, Andrew Robinson, Margy Patton
MDU – Andy McDonald, Jaden Voth
OTP – Mark Thoma, Kevin Scheidecker
HDR – Jen Hanley, Jenny Bring
Juniper – John Morrison

Objective – discuss Jamestown to Ellendale timeline and possible solutions for the PSC timing

Jen: Summarized where we are with PUC - 95% surveyed with Sisseton present. Still some areas that have not been surveyed due to lack of ROE. Some reroutes since submittal of Class I, due to landowner requests or found cultural resources

John: 4,176 acres of survey: 180 new sites identified during survey, 90 sites in the corridor – 95% are stone feature sites

Jen: Have been focusing on avoidance – example: by Ellendale Substation moved to the other side of the Coulee due to density of sites. Have acquired 63% of voluntary easements acquired. All structures are outside of site areas, one is within historic rail bed but site has been destroyed – John recommended as not eligible.

Andy: Determination of state significance is different from federal significance – discuss before report is submitted.

John: Everything that has been identified is being avoided, the RR bed is the only one within the site area. Some structures are within a 100-ft avoidance buffer – can make commitments to further consultation re: access. Still developing access plans – once that is set, then will be provided to SHPO (one area reviewed with multiple sites – looking for access routes, John: looked at larger area to cover that for access options).

Jen: Approach is to maintain buffers of sites, matting for access roads – don't plan to cut any of those in. Access from structure to structure – if we don't need to clear, we won't. Impact estimates in RPA are conservative – assuming clearing for the entire ROW.

Andrew: Reporting – for those where the structures are in the avoidance buffer, good to include plan re: how it's avoided – more detail re: access, etc. Recommend summary table of sites with the distance to the structures/line – eligibility, how it's been avoided, distance, etc.

Jen: Confirmed no federal funding. Only federal involved is Section 10 River Crossing at James River, NWP from USACE, USFWS easements along corridor – structures within some easements outside of the protected wetlands. USACE – have JD on most wetlands, 14 that are still in review (reroutes); not federalizing the entire project – focused on cultural resources for the James River crossing, likely similar consultation with USFWS

Schedule and Timing

Jen: PSC in late November just approved CPCN – Lorna thought PSC had denied the CPCN, should get the updated documentation. Had originally hoped to submit permit application in August – delayed because of reroutes, working with landowners, CPCN delayed. Now targeting the end of January for submittal.

Request – submit to SHPO shapefile of structure locations and identified sites, potential for interim review with conditions pending full survey report. Lorna indicated that is likely not going to work for their review. Because they haven't seen the report, can't tell the PSC that they've seen it for approval.

Only fieldwork remaining to be completed would happen for the lack of ROE. Full report is 90% of the corridor that had ROE and identified for survey. Jen: approval from PSC would not be until late next year (2025). Lorna: no way to respond with approval without the report to review. Andy: With previous conditional approvals, the conditions aren't followed through on, hence the concern.

John: All of the site forms for those within the corridor would be submitted before Christmas
Lorna: PSC will send SHPO a notice of a public hearing, then a window for comment.

Jen: Application – all go-bys vary re: level of review/survey needed

1) completeness approval (3 months check) – unsure is SHPO approval letter needed for this
2) final approval (hearing) – typically 3-6 months after submittal

Lorna: Can provide status update letter – summarizing what consultation has happened to date. Since only 10% of the survey area not covered, PSC will make determination if good faith effort and provide conditional approval.

Andrew: Mapping and summary of sites might be helpful in the report review
Lorna/Andy: SHPO needs – site forms and report before they could complete a review. After all the sites forms are submitted, if there are questions re: impacts, avoidance methods, etc. could set up a meeting to talk through before the report is finalized. SHPO has 2 steps of review: site forms vs. project reviews. Site forms need to be submitted and finalized before report review

Andy: In submittal letter, summarize the details of what's relevant to the consultation in the final report. 30-day review comment period for Section 106 reviews, target timeline for state review;
Site forms – typically reviewed within 1-2 weeks of submittal.

Andrew: Recommend incorporating as much detail re: impacts in areas of site density to include in the report – want the site forms for review to inform identifying areas within questions. Indirect aspects – want to see all site information to understand full scope of potential impacts.
Andy: suggested an update meeting as site forms are reviewed

Next Steps

1) Get all site forms in – submit in batches, get all of the ones in the corridor before the holidays, followed by those outside of the corridor; make revisions and resubmit, as needed
2) In mid-January, meet again and get a status letter; PSC application – provide
3) Get report in ASAP for SHPO review – supplemental filing to SHPO and PSC

OTP/MDU/HDR team to work together to summarize past and future milestones/deadlines to inform the status letter. Provide draft for SHPO review/finalizing.

Laydown yards are not permitting through PSC application – those are set up with individual landowners.

Scheduling next meeting – Jan 22 from 1:30-3:30 pm; Andy – starting January 7th, his schedule could change due to state legislature.

From: John G. Morrison
Sent: Saturday, February 22, 2025 8:51 AM
To: -Info-Historical Society Cultural Review
Cc: Hanley, Jennifer
Subject: Report Submittal for ND SHPO Ref.: 23-5567 Jamestown to Ellendale Transmission Line (JETx)

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

Good morning,

We have uploaded the digital files for the report *Jamestown to Ellendale (JETx) 345kV Transmission Line: Class III Cultural Resource Inventory, Dickey, LaMoure, and Stutsman Counties, North Dakota*, including a cover letter for the project.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks,

John G. Morrison
Juniper, LLC
315 East Broadway Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58501
Cell: 701-400-3575

PUBLIC DOCUMENT – NOT PUBLIC (OR PRIVILEGED) DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED

March 21, 2025

John Morrison
Juniper Environmental Consultants
315 E Broadway Ave
Bismarck, ND 58501

SHSND Ref: 23-5567 Montana Dakota Utilities Jamestown to Ellendale Transmission Line (JETx) in portions of Dickey, LaMoure, and Stutsman Counties, North Dakota

Dear John,

We received the report for SHSND Ref: 23-5567, titled "Jamestown to Ellendale (JETx) 345kV Transmission Line, Class III Cultural Resource Inventory, Dickey, LaMoure, and Stutsman Counties, North Dakota" from Juniper Environmental Consulting report by John Morrison et al. and find we need more information. Please address the attached comments and we will be happy to review the report again.

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).

Thank you for the opportunity to review this report and we look forward to receiving an updated version. If you have any questions, please contact Andrew Robinson, State Archaeologist at 701-328-3575 or andrewrobinson@nd.gov or Margaret Patton, Research Archaeologist at 701-328-3576 or mmpatton@nd.gov.

Sincerely,

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

23-5567

From: John G. Morrison <j.morrison@juniperenvironmental.com>
Sent: Friday, April 18, 2025 1:33 PM
To: Patton, Margaret M. <mmpatton@nd.gov>
Cc: Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>; Meidinger, Lorna B. <lbmeidinger@nd.gov>; Clark, Andrew <andrewclark@nd.gov>; Robinson, Andrew J. <andrewrobinson@nd.gov>
Subject: RE: Report Submittal for ND SHPO Ref.: 23-5567 Jamestown to Ellendale Transmission Line (JETx)

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

Good afternoon Margie,

We have uploaded a revised version of the report along with a table addressing the comments in the report for your review to the .mft site.

Once report is accepted, we will produce a hard copy of the report for your office.

Thanks,

John G. Morrison
Juniper, LLC
315 East Broadway Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58501
Cell: 701-400-3575

JuniperLogo_Horiz_small-adjusted

Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate
ATTN: Dianne Desrosiers, THPO
PO Box 907
Agency Village, SD 57262

RE: Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Ms. Desrosiers,

On behalf of Otter Tail Power company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities, Co. (Montana-Dakota), I would like to express our appreciation for the successful collaboration between the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate (SWO) team and our Project teams. Your willingness to work closely with us has been instrumental in the planning and development of the JETx line route.

As we are moving closer to submittal of our Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit application to the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC), we are committed to avoidance of cultural resources, adhering to recommendations from SWO, and documenting the plan for tribal monitoring of the cultural heritage sites that have been identified along the proposed transmission Project Corridor.

The project will avoid resources that were identified by SWO and Juniper, LLC. The following are the recommendations the project team would follow during construction to uphold this commitment:

- Tribal monitoring for construction occurring within the PSC approved Project Corridor that is within 200 feet of a documented cultural heritage site.
- In areas where construction occurs within 100 feet of a cultural heritage site, in consultation with SWO additional monitoring or other measures, such as flagging or fencing, will be provided.

If you agree with the recommendations outlined above, please acknowledge by signing this letter or responding by email. We will incorporate the recommendations into the Monitoring Plan for the project.

We look forward to continuing this strong relationship. Thank you for your partnership with this important grid resiliency project.

Dianne Desrosiers - THPO 5/9/25

Dianne Desrosiers
THPO

Todd Langston
JETx Project

PUBLIC DOCUMENT – NOT PUBLIC (OR PRIVILEGED) DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED

May 16, 2025

John Morrison
Juniper Environmental Consultants
315 E Broadway Ave
Bismarck, ND 58501

SHSND Ref: 23-5567 Montana Dakota Utilities Jamestown to Ellendale Transmission Line (JETx) in portions of Dickey, LaMoure, and Stutsman Counties, North Dakota

Dear John,

We received the report for SHSND Ref: 23-5567, titled "Jamestown to Ellendale (JETx) 345kV Transmission Line, Class III Cultural Resource Inventory, Dickey, LaMoure, and Stutsman Counties, North Dakota – Volume 1" from Juniper Environmental Consulting report by John Morrison et al. and find we need more information.

For consistency with the monitoring plan with Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, please update the report to include any cultural resources within 200 feet of construction areas. After the report is updated, we will review it for content and clarity.

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).

Thank you for the opportunity to review this report and we look forward to receiving an updated version. If you have any questions, please contact Andrew Robinson, State Archaeologist at 701-328-3575 or andrewrobinson@nd.gov or Margaret Patton, Research Archaeologist at 701-328-3576 or mmpatton@nd.gov.

Sincerely,

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

23-5567

PUBLIC DOCUMENT – NOT PUBLIC (OR PRIVILEGED) DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED

May 20, 2025

John Morrison
Juniper Environmental Consultants
315 E Broadway Ave
Bismarck, ND 58501

SHSND Ref: 23-5567 Montana Dakota Utilities Jamestown to Ellendale Transmission Line (JETx) in portions of Dickey, LaMoure, and Stutsman Counties, North Dakota

Dear John,

We reviewed the report for SHSND Ref: 23-5567, titled "Jamestown to Ellendale (JETx) 345kV Transmission Line, Class III Cultural Resource Inventory, Dickey, LaMoure, and Stutsman Counties, North Dakota – Volume 1" from Juniper Environmental Consulting report by John Morrison et al. and find we need more information. Please address the attached comments and we will be happy to review the report again.

As a reminder, a third-party contractor may be utilized for guidance, however formal avoidance measures are done in consultation with SHSND and tribes.

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).

Thank you for the opportunity to review this report and we look forward to receiving an updated version. If you have any questions, please contact Andrew Robinson, State Archaeologist at 701-328-3575 or andrewrobinson@nd.gov or Margaret Patton, Research Archaeologist at 701-328-3576 or mmpatton@nd.gov.

Sincerely,

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

23-5567

July 29, 2025
Cultural Resources Review Team
State Historical Society of ND
612 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

RE: Submittal of the Updated Volume 1 Report and Newly Prepared Volume 2 Report for a Class III Inventory for the Jamestown to Ellendale (JETx) 345kV Transmission Line (SHSND Ref: 23-5567)

Dear Team,

HDR Engineering, Inc. (HDR) is pleased to submit a digital copy of our report: *Jamestown to Ellendale: Class III Cultural Resource Inventory, Dickey, LaMoure, and Stutsman Counties, North Dakota* on behalf of Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. Digital copies of the associated project files have also been posted to the SHSND mft site. Because of the size of the reports, hard copies will be submitted once the reports are reviewed and accepted by your staff.

The following materials are included with this submittal:

- The updated report *Jamestown to Ellendale (JETx) 345kVTransmission Line, Class II Cultural Resource Inventory, Dickey, Lamoure, and Stutsman Counties, North Dakota – Volume 1*.
    - This report addresses comments received from SHPO in a letter dated May 20, 2025.
- A table outlining the comments received from SHPO in the May 20, 2025 letter and defining responses to each comment and/or how they have been addressed in the Volume 1 report.
- A new report for your review: *Jamestown to Ellendale (JETx) 345kV Transmission Line, Class III Cultural Resource Inventory, Dickey, LaMoure, and Stutsman Counties, North Dakota – Volume 2.*
    - This report addresses three Project Corridor reroutes and provides updates to cultural resources within the updated Inventory Corridor and associated management recommendations.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 701-353-6139 or jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hanley

Jennifer Hanley
Project Manager
HDR

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

Tribal Correspondences

Documentation of available correspondence is included following this log.

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Nation				
March 31, 2023	Letter and Email[1]	Applicants[2]	Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Nation	Introduction letter and request for comments
June 27, 2023	Meeting with Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate[3]			Applicants provided a presentation of the Project to Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Nation and anticipated cultural surveys were discussed.
September 7, 2023	Letter and Email[1]	Applicants	Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Nation	Second request for input and meeting request letter
May 9, 2025	Letter from Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate	Applicants, NDSHPO	Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Nation	Letter confirming alignment around mitigation measures for cultural heritage sites including monitoring. Letter also thanked Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate for their help and involvement in conducting field surveys.
Other Tribal correspondences				
March 31, 2023	Letter and Email[1]	Applicants[2]	• Apache Tribe of Oklahoma • Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of the Cheyenne River Reservation, South Dakota • Crow Creek Sioux Tribe of the Crow Creek Reservation, South Dakota • Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana • Lower Brule Sioux Tribe of the Lower Brule Reservation, South Dakota • Lower Sioux Indian Community • Mandan, Hidatsa, & Arikara Nation (Three Affiliated Tribes) • Oglala Sioux Tribe • Prairie Island Indian Community • Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Indian Reservation, South Dakota • Santee Sioux Nation, Nebraska	Introduction letter and request for comments was sent to 15 Tribes – Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Nation is included above

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
			• Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Nation [included above] • Spirit Lake Nation • Standing Rock Sioux Tribe • Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians	
September 7, 2023	Letter and Email[1]	Applicants	• Apache Tribe of Oklahoma • Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of the Cheyenne River Reservation, South Dakota • Crow Creek Sioux Tribe of the Crow Creek Reservation, South Dakota • Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana • Lower Brule Sioux Tribe of the Lower Brule Reservation, South Dakota • Lower Sioux Indian Community • Mandan, Hidatsa, & Arikara Nation (Three Affiliated Tribes) • Oglala Sioux Tribe • Prairie Island Indian Community • Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Indian Reservation, South Dakota • Santee Sioux Nation, Nebraska • Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Nation [included above] • Spirit Lake Nation • Standing Rock Sioux Tribe • Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians	Second request for input and meeting request letter was sent to 15 Tribes – Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Nation is included above

1 Indicates documentation that was a part of one of the mass March or September agency mailings.
2 Applicants include the project owners, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities, as well as their consultants.
3 Redactions made to public copy.

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 31, 2023

J. Garret Renville
Chairman
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Nation
12554 Bia Highway 711
Agency Village, SD 57262

Re: Request for input for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear J. Garret Renville,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line (the Project) from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect the existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to an existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified as needed in the Upper Midwest to increase transmission system capability, mitigate current capacity issues, and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in mid-2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026. At this early stage, it is unknown if Section 106 compliance may be needed.

Currently, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota are in the preliminary planning stages, which include high-level planning, initial public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and initial design. These preliminary planning stages will provide important input into the identification of potential routes and the eventual selection of a final route for the Project. The attached map shows the current study area being assessed for preliminary routes. We're planning public outreach with landowners and interested parties, including public meetings, in June 2023. Cultural field surveys are currently anticipated to be underway later this year.

We are requesting your review of the preliminary Project area to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the final route. We appreciate and value your input in order for us to avoid or minimize impacts to tribally significant resources, if they are present. To help us identify potential tribal resources in the study area, we request that any information pertaining to the Project be provided by April 30, 2023, if possible, to:

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we plan for consultations with agencies and other jurisdictions as we develop and refine a route. There will be additional opportunities for input throughout the North Dakota Public Service Commission permitting process.

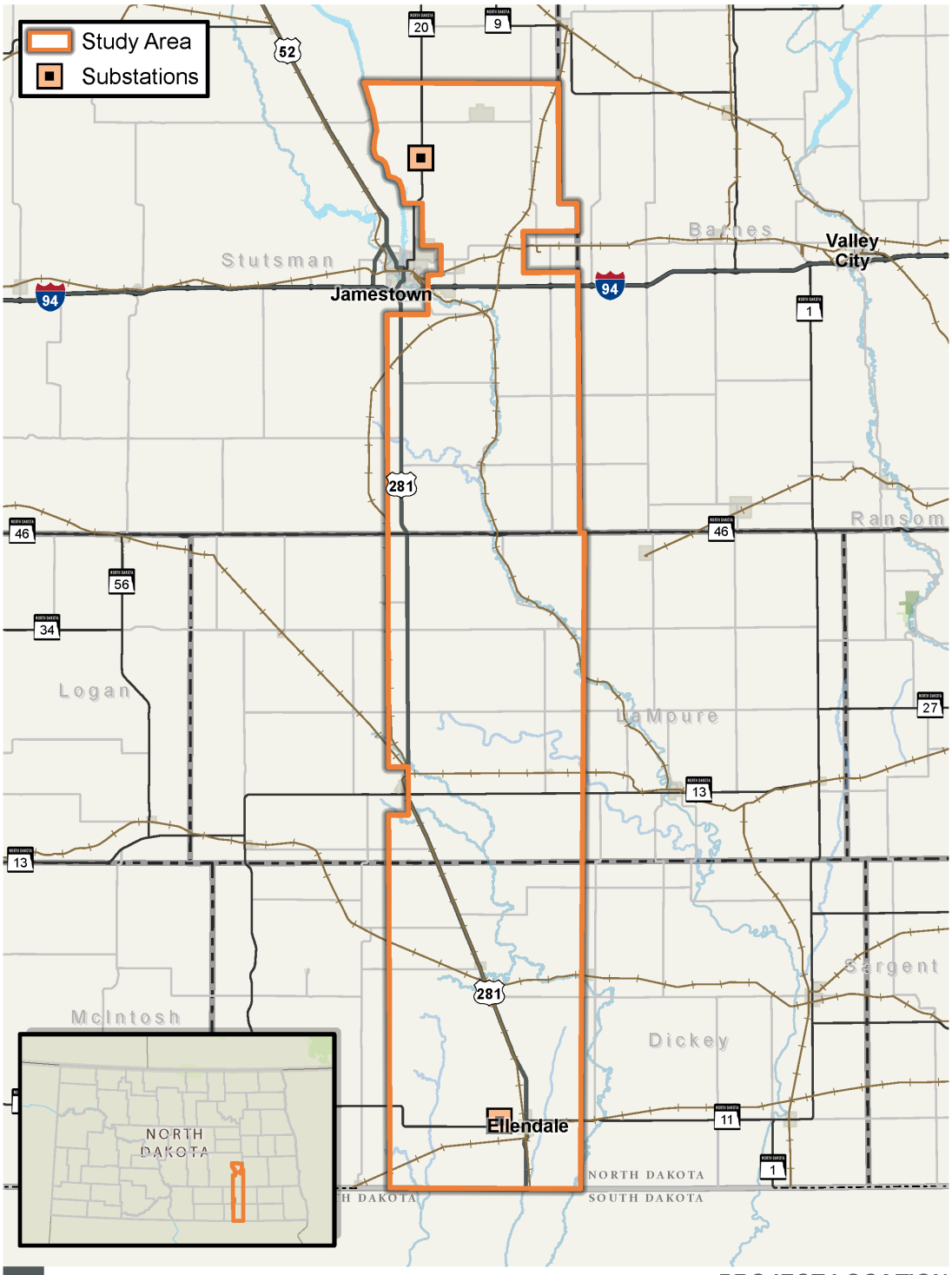
If you desire further information regarding the proposed Project, please contact me at 218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc., at 701-353-6139 or jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com.

Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location



PROJECT LOCATION

Figure 1

JETX TRANSMISSION LINE | JAMESTOWN TO ELLENDALE

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 31, 2023

Dianne Desrosiers
THPO
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Nation
12554 Bia Highway 711
Agency Village, SD 57262

Re: Request for input for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Dianne Desrosiers,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line (the Project) from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect the existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to an existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified as needed in the Upper Midwest to increase transmission system capability, mitigate current capacity issues, and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in mid-2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026. At this early stage, it is unknown if Section 106 compliance may be needed.

Currently, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota are in the preliminary planning stages, which include high-level planning, initial public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and initial design. These preliminary planning stages will provide important input into the identification of potential routes and the eventual selection of a final route for the Project. The attached map shows the current study area being assessed for preliminary routes. We're planning public outreach with landowners and interested parties, including public meetings, in June 2023. Cultural field surveys are currently anticipated to be underway later this year.

We are requesting your review of the preliminary Project area to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the final route. We appreciate and value your input in order for us to avoid or minimize impacts to tribally significant resources, if they are present. To help us identify potential tribal resources in the study area, we request that any information pertaining to the Project be provided by April 30, 2023, if possible, to:

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we plan for consultations with agencies and other jurisdictions as we develop and refine a route. There will be additional opportunities for input throughout the North Dakota Public Service Commission permitting process.

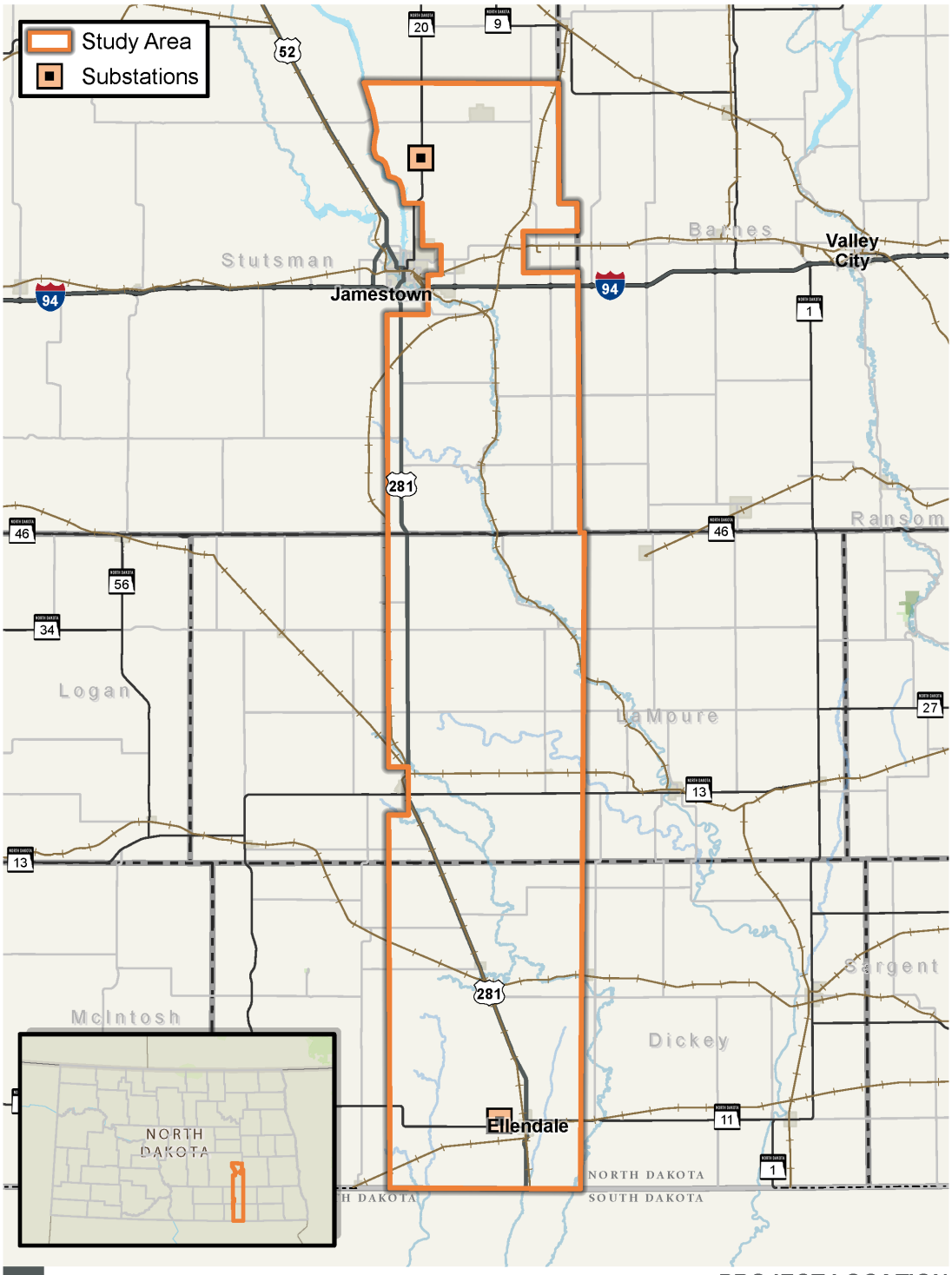
If you desire further information regarding the proposed Project, please contact me at 218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc., at 701-353-6139 or jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com.

Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location



PROJECT LOCATION

Figure 1

JETX TRANSMISSION LINE | JAMESTOWN TO ELLENDALE

Meeting Summary

Project:	OTP/MDU JETx 345 kV Transmission Line and OTP/MRES BSSA 345 kV Transmission Line
Subject:	JETx and BSSA Meeting Summary
Date:	Tuesday, June 27, 2023
Location:	Virtual

Attendees:

☒Dianne Desrosiers (Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate THPO)

☒Weiers, Jason (OTP)

☒Langston, Todd (OTP)

☒Jennifer Bring (HDR)

☒Hanley, Jen (HDR)

☒Brenda Levos (HDR)

☒Laura Koski (HDR)

Introductions

Presentations on JETx and BSSA/ABO.

Have any other tribes reached out? Shakopee, Mille Lacs have reached out on BSSA.

What are the federal permits? JETx USACE Section 10, WAPA crossing We want to start this conversation early before the permitting process. This is informal engagement. We will start formal engagement when we get further into the projects.

Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate would rather consult on a separate level then the general public. Do not want to be put in an uncomfortable position. We will facilitate more meetings like this as the project progresses. We will use BSSE as a model.

They are hoping to be involved with the cultural resources reviews. JETx surveys would likely start this fall. We will continue to engage. Project surveys wouldn't run concurrently. They would like to be involved with both. Concerned with winter weather.

Surveys done in MN after route is defined. We would do investigation in areas of greatest concern/pinch points early. Latter half of 2024.

SHPO requirements in MN – SHPO is familiar with the process. The SHPO review informs process for the RPA. The PUC stipulations would include continued consultation with SHPO and Section 106 requirements needed. We would define in a plan a survey strategy that articulates approach for pinch points, critical area, additional consultation that adheres to cultural resources laws that apply. Sisseton would like to see the least impact. The broader routes allow flexibility to adjust if needed.

Presentations will be sent after meeting.

Areas around [redacted] are important to Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate.

Will coordinate for future surveys.

Dianne will meet with Wayne Cloud, her field coordinator, and look at the maps.

If we have shapefiles that they can look at (proposed JETx corridors and BSSA study area) that would be helpful. Will send shapefiles to Dianne and Wayne.

Avoidance is important.

Action Items:

1. Send presentations to Dianne Desrosiers and Wayne Cloud
2. Send JETx corridor and BSSA study area shapefiles to Dianne Desrosiers and Wayne Cloud

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

J. Garret Renville, Chairman
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Nation
12554 Bia Highway 711
Agency Village, SD 57262

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear J. Garret Renville,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (the Project). The Project would be in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect Otter Tail Power's existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota's existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified by the Regional Transmission Organization in the Upper Midwest[1] needed to maintain electric system reliability, increase resilience to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion and increase access to low-cost energy throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025. At this early stage of the Project, it is anticipated that Section 106 compliance would be needed for a United State Army Corps of Engineers Section 10 river crossing permit for an overhead crossing of the James River.

Currently, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota are in the planning stages of the Project, which include public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and initial design. These preliminary planning stages provide important input into the identification of the preferred corridor and route corridor alternatives. The attached map shows the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors for the Project. These corridors are subject to change as we continue public outreach with landowners and other interested parties. Environmental field surveys are currently anticipated to start late this year and be completed in 2024.

We are requesting your review of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the preferred route. We appreciate and value your input in our attempt to avoid or minimize impacts to tribally significant resources if they are present. To help us identify potential tribal resources in the corridor analysis, we request that any information pertaining to the Project be provided by October 12, 2023, if possible, to:

[1] The Regional Transmission Organization in this area of the Upper Midwest is the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). See more information at www.misoenergy.org.

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
701-353-6139

We will be hosting public meetings at three locations along the Project in September. These public meetings will be held on consecutive days on September 12 - 14 from 3-6 p.m. each day at the three locations listed below. In addition to our public meetings, we are also extending you an invitation if you would prefer to meet individually. If you are interested in an individual meeting outside of our public meetings, our contact information follows below and we would welcome the opportunity to share more information about the Project, answer your questions and take your feedback.

Ellendale	**Jamestown**	**Edgeley**
September 12, 2023	September 13, 2023	September 14, 2023
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	3:00 – 6:00 pm	3:00 – 6:00 pm
American Legion Post #137 79 Main St. Ellendale, ND 58436	Bunker Hill Club House 1520 3rd St. SE Jamestown, ND 58401	Hakuna Matata 101 Industrial Park Road. Edgeley, ND 58433

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the Project progresses, we are planning to have consultations with agencies, other jurisdictions, and landowners as we develop and refine a preferred route.

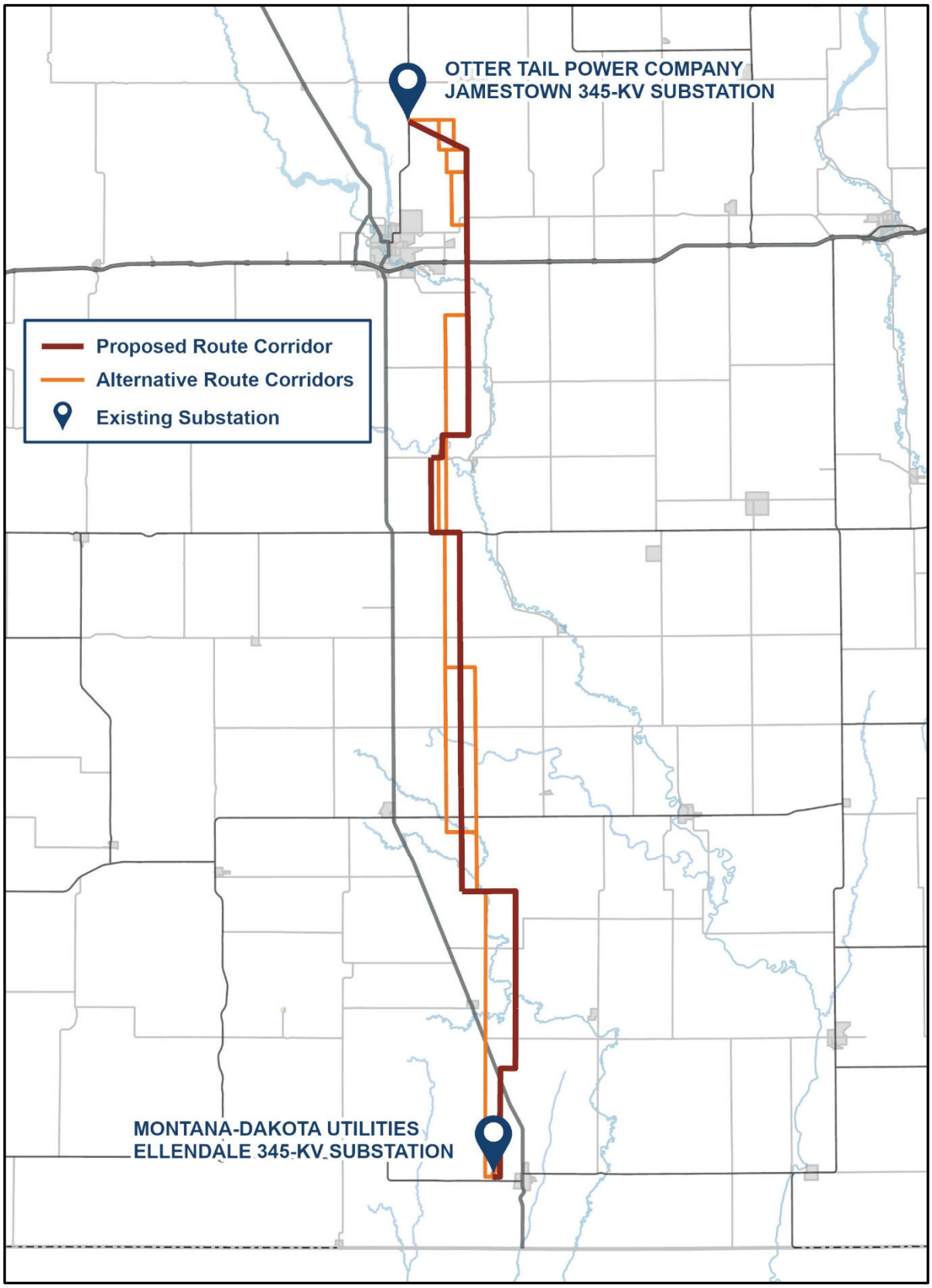
If you desire further information regarding the proposed Project, please contact me at 218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc., at 701-353-6139 or jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com. In addition, further information about the Project can also be found on our website at www.JamestowntoEllendale.com.

Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development
Otter Tail Power Company

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Dianne Desrosiers, THPO
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Nation
12554 Bia Highway 711
Agency Village, SD 57262

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Dianne Desrosiers,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (the Project). The Project would be in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect Otter Tail Power's existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota's existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified by the Regional Transmission Organization in the Upper Midwest[1] needed to maintain electric system reliability, increase resilience to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion and increase access to low-cost energy throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025. At this early stage of the Project, it is anticipated that Section 106 compliance would be needed for a United State Army Corps of Engineers Section 10 river crossing permit for an overhead crossing of the James River.

Currently, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota are in the planning stages of the Project, which include public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and initial design. These preliminary planning stages provide important input into the identification of the preferred corridor and route corridor alternatives. The attached map shows the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors for the Project. These corridors are subject to change as we continue public outreach with landowners and other interested parties. Environmental field surveys are currently anticipated to start late this year and be completed in 2024.

We are requesting your review of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the preferred route. We appreciate and value your input in our attempt to avoid or minimize impacts to tribally significant resources if they are present. To help us identify potential tribal resources in the corridor analysis, we request that any information pertaining to the Project be provided by October 12, 2023, if possible, to:

[1] The Regional Transmission Organization in this area of the Upper Midwest is the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). See more information at www.misoenergy.org.

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
701-353-6139

We will be hosting public meetings at three locations along the Project in September. These public meetings will be held on consecutive days on September 12 - 14 from 3-6 p.m. each day at the three locations listed below. In addition to our public meetings, we are also extending you an invitation if you would prefer to meet individually. If you are interested in an individual meeting outside of our public meetings, our contact information follows below and we would welcome the opportunity to share more information about the Project, answer your questions and take your feedback.

Ellendale	**Jamestown**	**Edgeley**
September 12, 2023	September 13, 2023	September 14, 2023
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	3:00 – 6:00 pm	3:00 – 6:00 pm
American Legion Post #137 79 Main St. Ellendale, ND 58436	Bunker Hill Club House 1520 3rd St. SE Jamestown, ND 58401	Hakuna Matata 101 Industrial Park Road. Edgeley, ND 58433

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the Project progresses, we are planning to have consultations with agencies, other jurisdictions, and landowners as we develop and refine a preferred route.

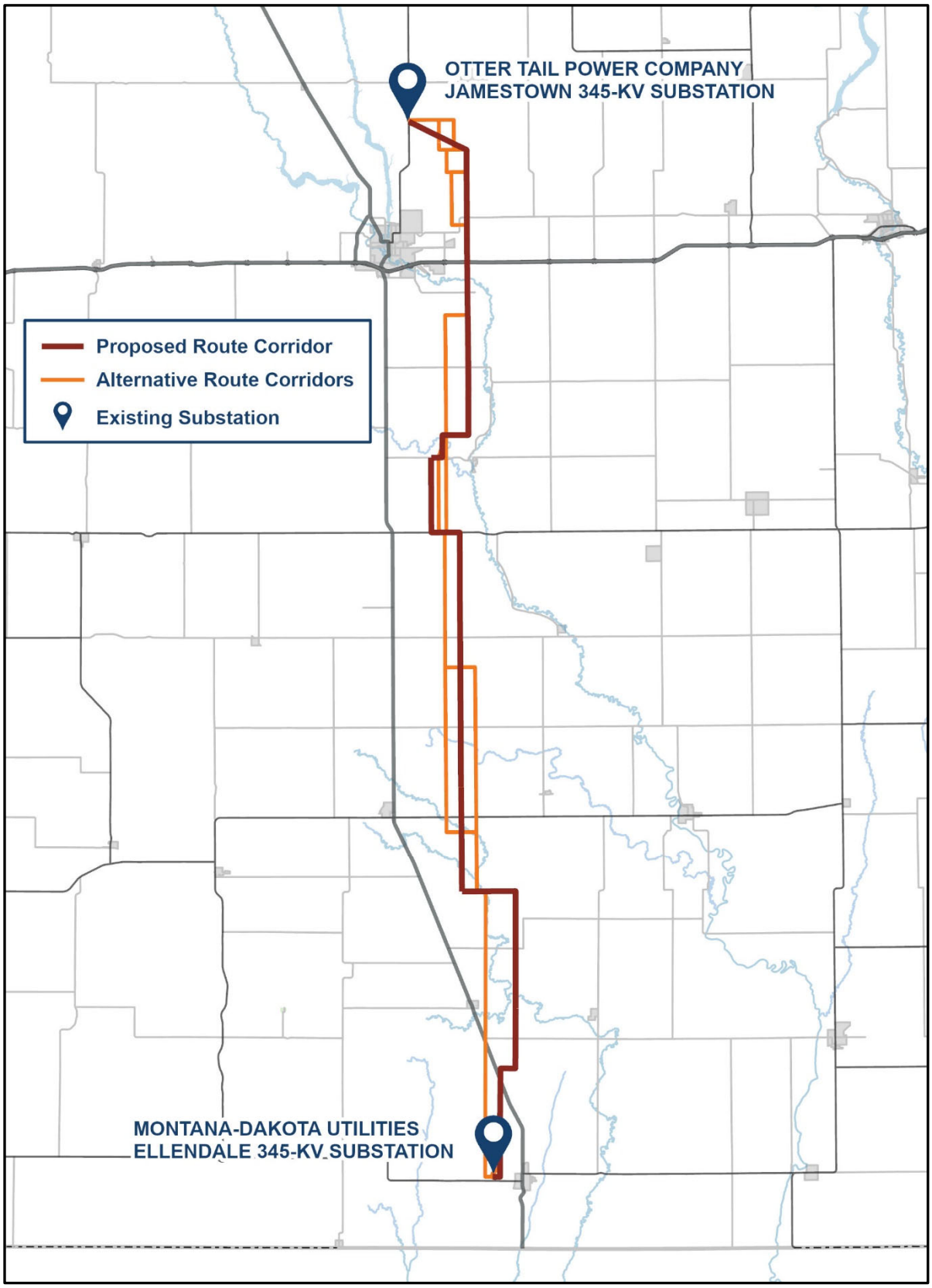
If you desire further information regarding the proposed Project, please contact me at 218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc., at 701-353-6139 or jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com. In addition, further information about the Project can also be found on our website at www.JamestowntoEllendale.com.

Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development
Otter Tail Power Company

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate
ATTN: Dianne Desrosiers, THPO
PO Box 907
Agency Village, SD 57262

RE: Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV Transmission Line Project (JETx)

Dear Ms. Desrosiers,

On behalf of Otter Tail Power company (OTP) and Montana-Dakota Utilities, Co. (Montana-Dakota), I would like to express our appreciation for the successful collaboration between the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate (SWO) team and our Project teams. Your willingness to work closely with us has been instrumental in the planning and development of the JETx line route.

As we are moving closer to submittal of our Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit application to the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC), we are committed to avoidance of cultural resources, adhering to recommendations from SWO, and documenting the plan for tribal monitoring of the cultural heritage sites that have been identified along the proposed transmission Project Corridor.

The project will avoid resources that were identified by SWO and Juniper, LLC. The following are the recommendations the project team would follow during construction to uphold this commitment:

- Tribal monitoring for construction occurring within the PSC approved Project Corridor that is within 200 feet of a documented cultural heritage site.
- In areas where construction occurs within 100 feet of a cultural heritage site, in consultation with SWO additional monitoring or other measures, such as flagging or fencing, will be provided.

If you agree with the recommendations outlined above, please acknowledge by signing this letter or responding by email. We will incorporate the recommendations into the Monitoring Plan for the project.

We look forward to continuing this strong relationship. Thank you for your partnership with this important grid resiliency project.

Dianne Desrosiers - THPO 5/9/25

Dianne Desrosiers
THPO

Todd Langston
JETx Project

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 31, 2023

Durell Cooper
Chairman
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
PO Box 1330
Anadarko, OK 73005

Re: Request for input for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Durell Cooper,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line (the Project) from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect the existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to an existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified as needed in the Upper Midwest to increase transmission system capability, mitigate current capacity issues, and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in mid-2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026. At this early stage, it is unknown if Section 106 compliance may be needed.

Currently, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota are in the preliminary planning stages, which include high-level planning, initial public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and initial design. These preliminary planning stages will provide important input into the identification of potential routes and the eventual selection of a final route for the Project. The attached map shows the current study area being assessed for preliminary routes. We're planning public outreach with landowners and interested parties, including public meetings, in June 2023. Cultural field surveys are currently anticipated to be underway later this year.

We are requesting your review of the preliminary Project area to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the final route. We appreciate and value your input in order for us to avoid or minimize impacts to tribally significant resources, if they are present. To help us identify potential tribal resources in the study area, we request that any information pertaining to the Project be provided by April 30, 2023, if possible, to:

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we plan for consultations with agencies and other jurisdictions as we develop and refine a route. There will be additional opportunities for input throughout the North Dakota Public Service Commission permitting process.

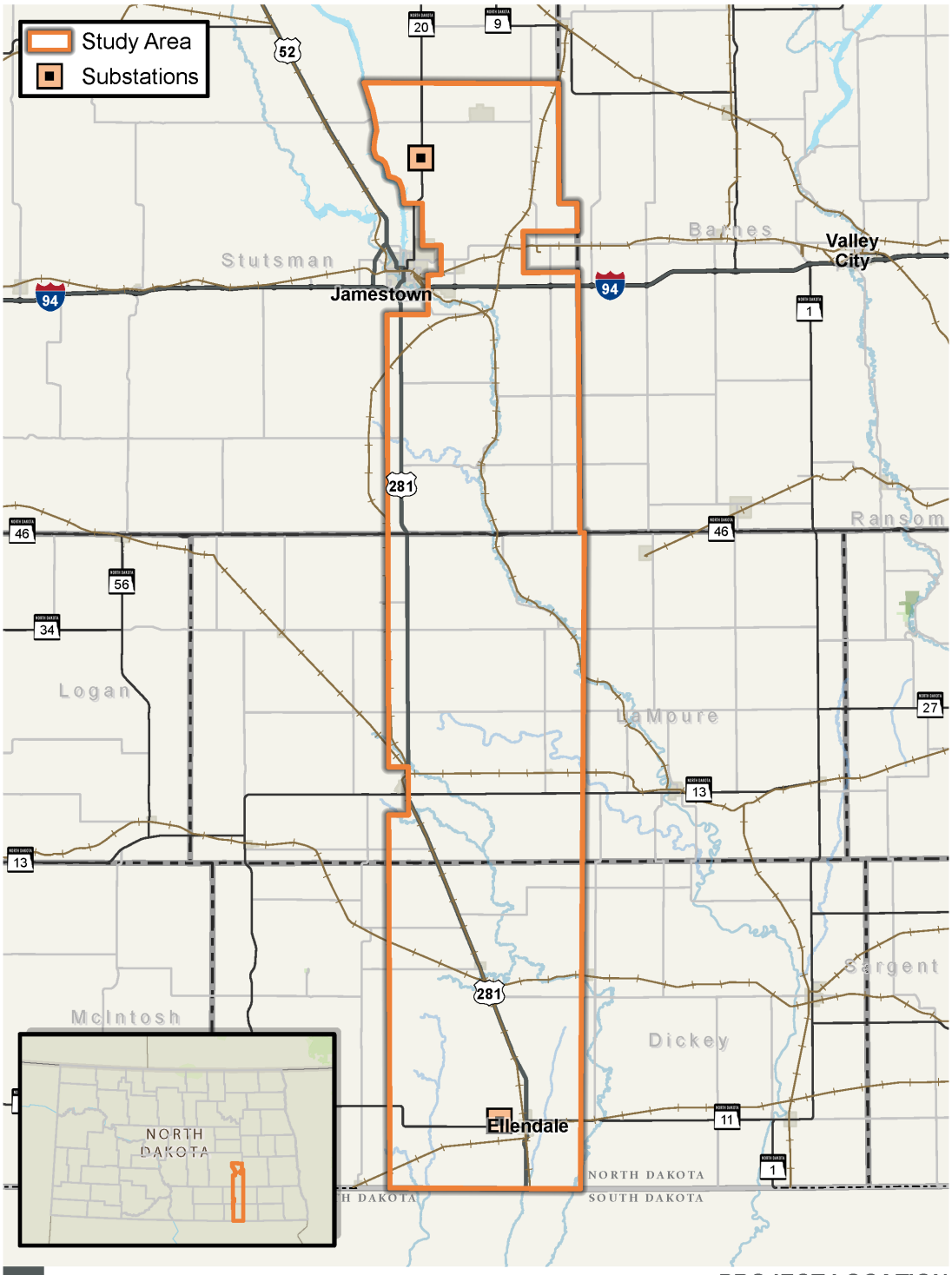
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location



PROJECT LOCATION

Figure 1

JETX TRANSMISSION LINE | JAMESTOWN TO ELLENDALE

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 31, 2023

Ryman LeBeau
Chairman
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of the Cheyenne River Reservation, South Dakota
98 S. Willow St., PO Box 590
Eagle Butte, SD 57625-0590

Re: Request for input for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Ryman LeBeau,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line (the Project) from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect the existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to an existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified as needed in the Upper Midwest to increase transmission system capability, mitigate current capacity issues, and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in mid-2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026. At this early stage, it is unknown if Section 106 compliance may be needed.

Currently, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota are in the preliminary planning stages, which include high-level planning, initial public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and initial design. These preliminary planning stages will provide important input into the identification of potential routes and the eventual selection of a final route for the Project. The attached map shows the current study area being assessed for preliminary routes. We're planning public outreach with landowners and interested parties, including public meetings, in June 2023. Cultural field surveys are currently anticipated to be underway later this year.

We are requesting your review of the preliminary Project area to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the final route. We appreciate and value your input in order for us to avoid or minimize impacts to tribally significant resources, if they are present. To help us identify potential tribal resources in the study area, we request that any information pertaining to the Project be provided by April 30, 2023, if possible, to:

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we plan for consultations with agencies and other jurisdictions as we develop and refine a route. There will be additional opportunities for input throughout the North Dakota Public Service Commission permitting process.

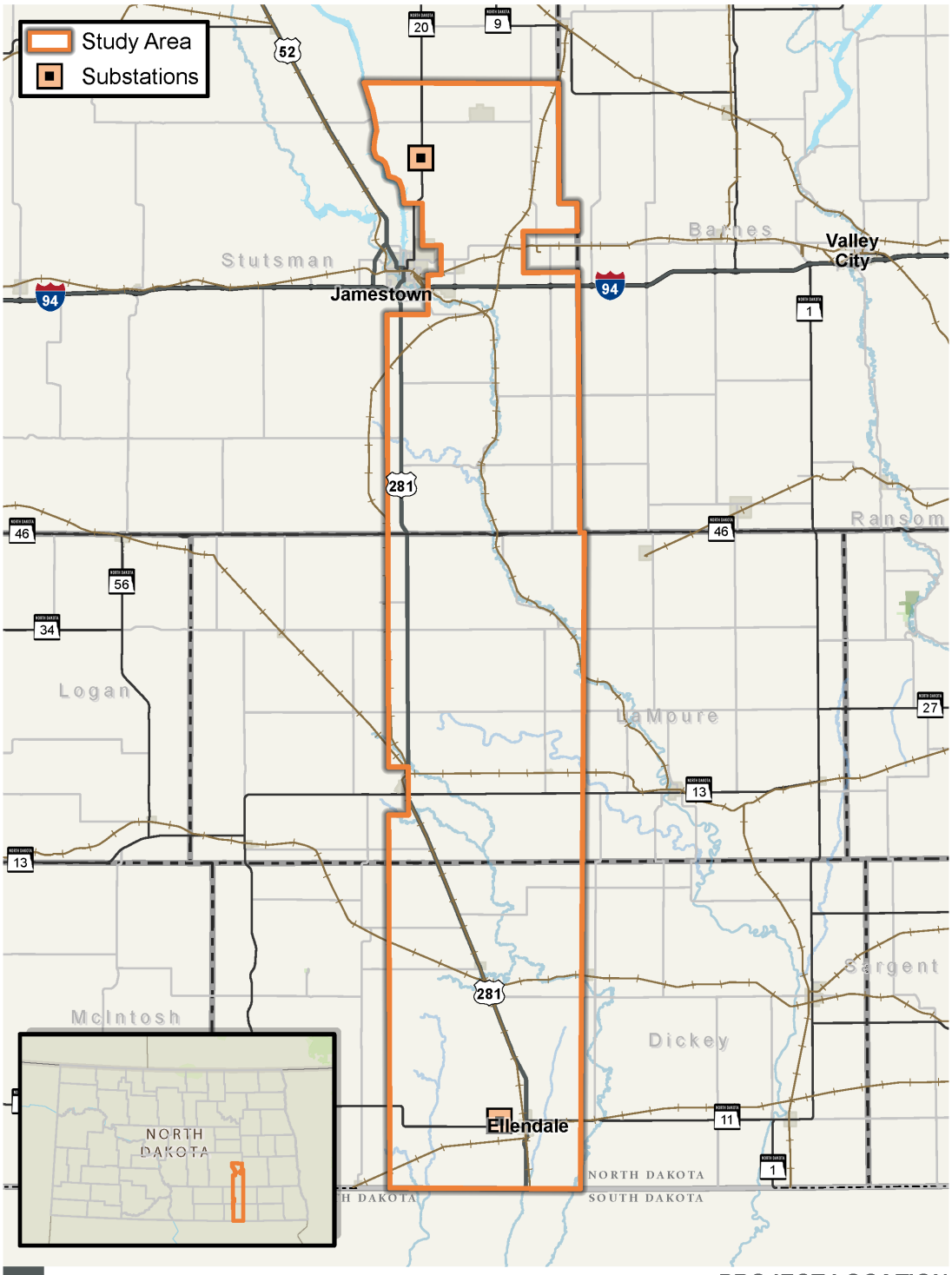
If you desire further information regarding the proposed Project, please contact me at 218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc., at 701-353-6139 or jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com.

Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location



PROJECT LOCATION

Figure 1

JETX TRANSMISSION LINE | JAMESTOWN TO ELLENDALE

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 31, 2023

Steven Vance
THPO
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of the Cheyenne River Reservation, South Dakota
98 S. Willow St., PO Box 590
Eagle Butte, SD 57625

Re: Request for input for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Steven Vance,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line (the Project) from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect the existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to an existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified as needed in the Upper Midwest to increase transmission system capability, mitigate current capacity issues, and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in mid-2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026. At this early stage, it is unknown if Section 106 compliance may be needed.

Currently, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota are in the preliminary planning stages, which include high-level planning, initial public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and initial design. These preliminary planning stages will provide important input into the identification of potential routes and the eventual selection of a final route for the Project. The attached map shows the current study area being assessed for preliminary routes. We're planning public outreach with landowners and interested parties, including public meetings, in June 2023. Cultural field surveys are currently anticipated to be underway later this year.

We are requesting your review of the preliminary Project area to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the final route. We appreciate and value your input in order for us to avoid or minimize impacts to tribally significant resources, if they are present. To help us identify potential tribal resources in the study area, we request that any information pertaining to the Project be provided by April 30, 2023, if possible, to:

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we plan for consultations with agencies and other jurisdictions as we develop and refine a route. There will be additional opportunities for input throughout the North Dakota Public Service Commission permitting process.

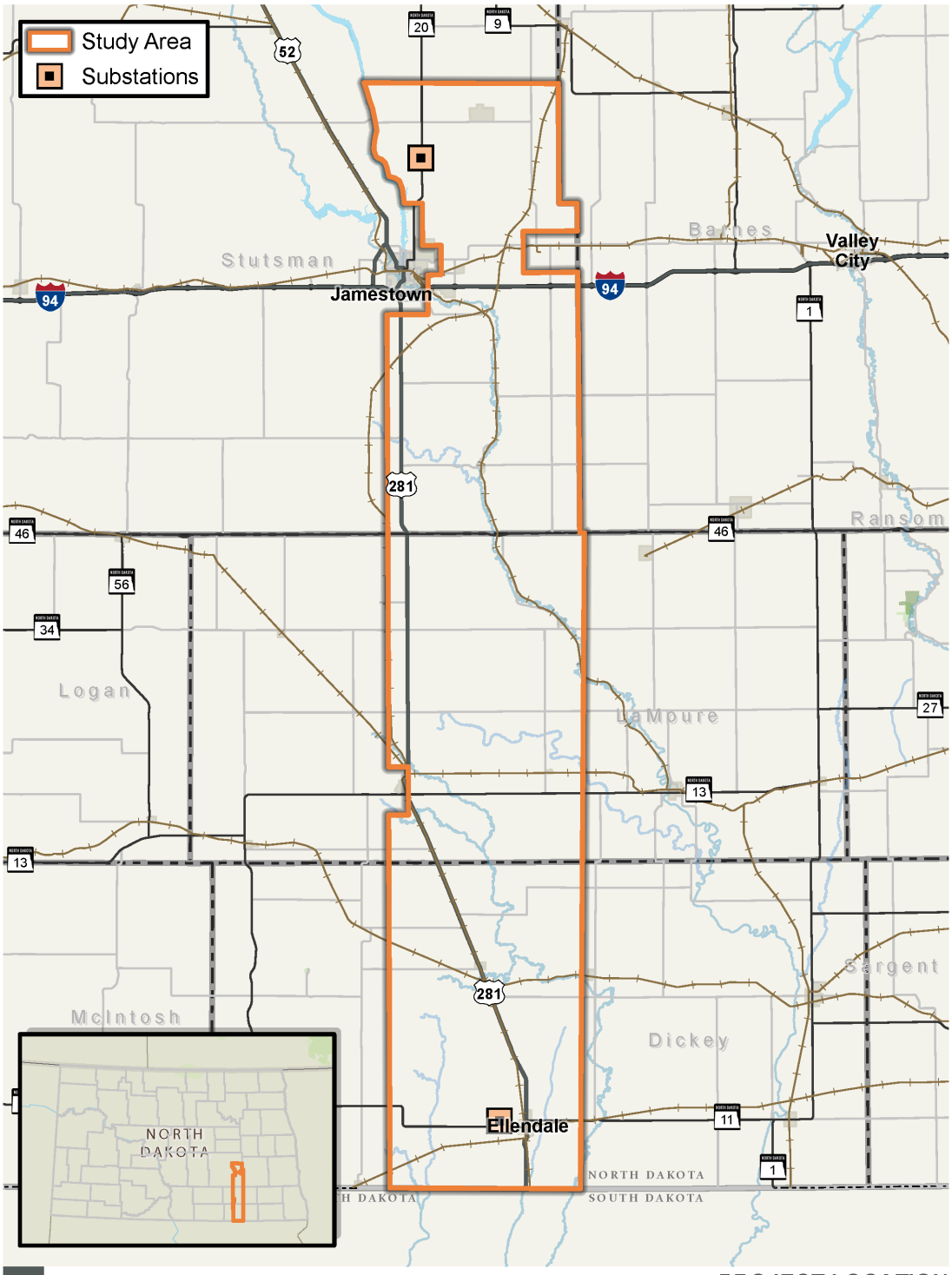
If you desire further information regarding the proposed Project, please contact me at 218-739-8311 or jweiers@otpco.com or our lead environmental consultant, Jennifer Hanley of HDR, Inc., at 701-353-6139 or jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com.

Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location



PROJECT LOCATION

Figure 1

JETX TRANSMISSION LINE | JAMESTOWN TO ELLENDALE

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 31, 2023

Peter Lengkeek
Chairman
Crow Creek Sioux Tribe of the Crow Creek Reservation, South Dakota
PO Box 50
Fort Thompson, SD 57339-0050

Re: Request for input for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Peter Lengkeek,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line (the Project) from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect the existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to an existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified as needed in the Upper Midwest to increase transmission system capability, mitigate current capacity issues, and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in mid-2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026. At this early stage, it is unknown if Section 106 compliance may be needed.

Currently, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota are in the preliminary planning stages, which include high-level planning, initial public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and initial design. These preliminary planning stages will provide important input into the identification of potential routes and the eventual selection of a final route for the Project. The attached map shows the current study area being assessed for preliminary routes. We're planning public outreach with landowners and interested parties, including public meetings, in June 2023. Cultural field surveys are currently anticipated to be underway later this year.

We are requesting your review of the preliminary Project area to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the final route. We appreciate and value your input in order for us to avoid or minimize impacts to tribally significant resources, if they are present. To help us identify potential tribal resources in the study area, we request that any information pertaining to the Project be provided by April 30, 2023, if possible, to:

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

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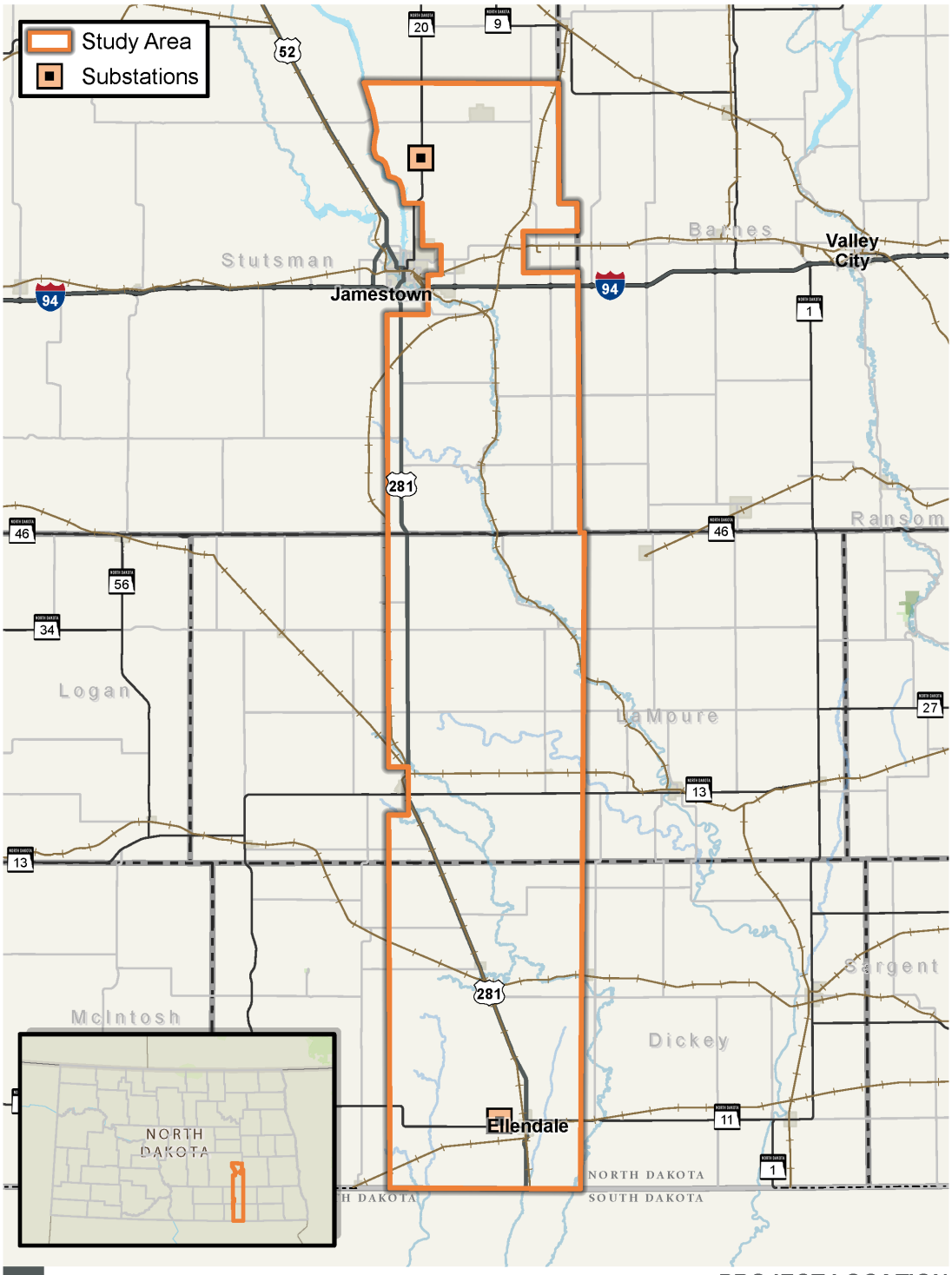
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location



PROJECT LOCATION

Figure 1

JETX TRANSMISSION LINE | JAMESTOWN TO ELLENDALE

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 31, 2023

Merle Marks
THPO
Crow Creek Sioux Tribe of the Crow Creek Reservation, South Dakota
PO Box 50
Fort Thompson, SD 57339

Re: Request for input for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Merle Marks,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line (the Project) from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect the existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to an existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified as needed in the Upper Midwest to increase transmission system capability, mitigate current capacity issues, and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in mid-2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026. At this early stage, it is unknown if Section 106 compliance may be needed.

Currently, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota are in the preliminary planning stages, which include high-level planning, initial public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and initial design. These preliminary planning stages will provide important input into the identification of potential routes and the eventual selection of a final route for the Project. The attached map shows the current study area being assessed for preliminary routes. We're planning public outreach with landowners and interested parties, including public meetings, in June 2023. Cultural field surveys are currently anticipated to be underway later this year.

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Attn: Jennifer Hanley
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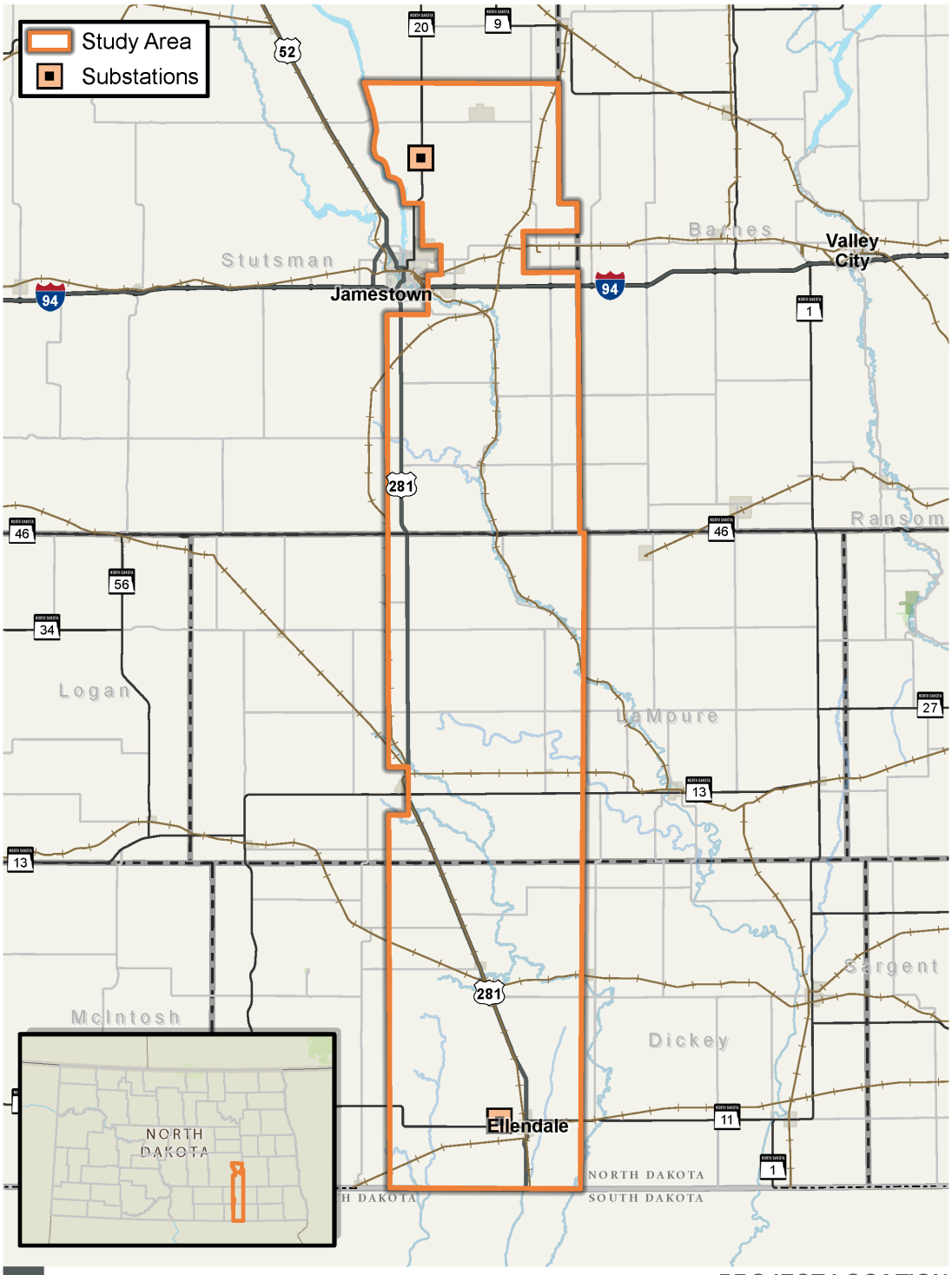
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location



PROJECT LOCATION

Figure 1

JETX TRANSMISSION LINE | JAMESTOWN TO ELLENDALE

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 31, 2023

Jeffery Stiffarm
President
Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana
656 Agency Main Street
Harlem, MT 59526-9455

Re: Request for input for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Jeffery Stiffarm,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line (the Project) from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect the existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to an existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified as needed in the Upper Midwest to increase transmission system capability, mitigate current capacity issues, and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in mid-2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026. At this early stage, it is unknown if Section 106 compliance may be needed.

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HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

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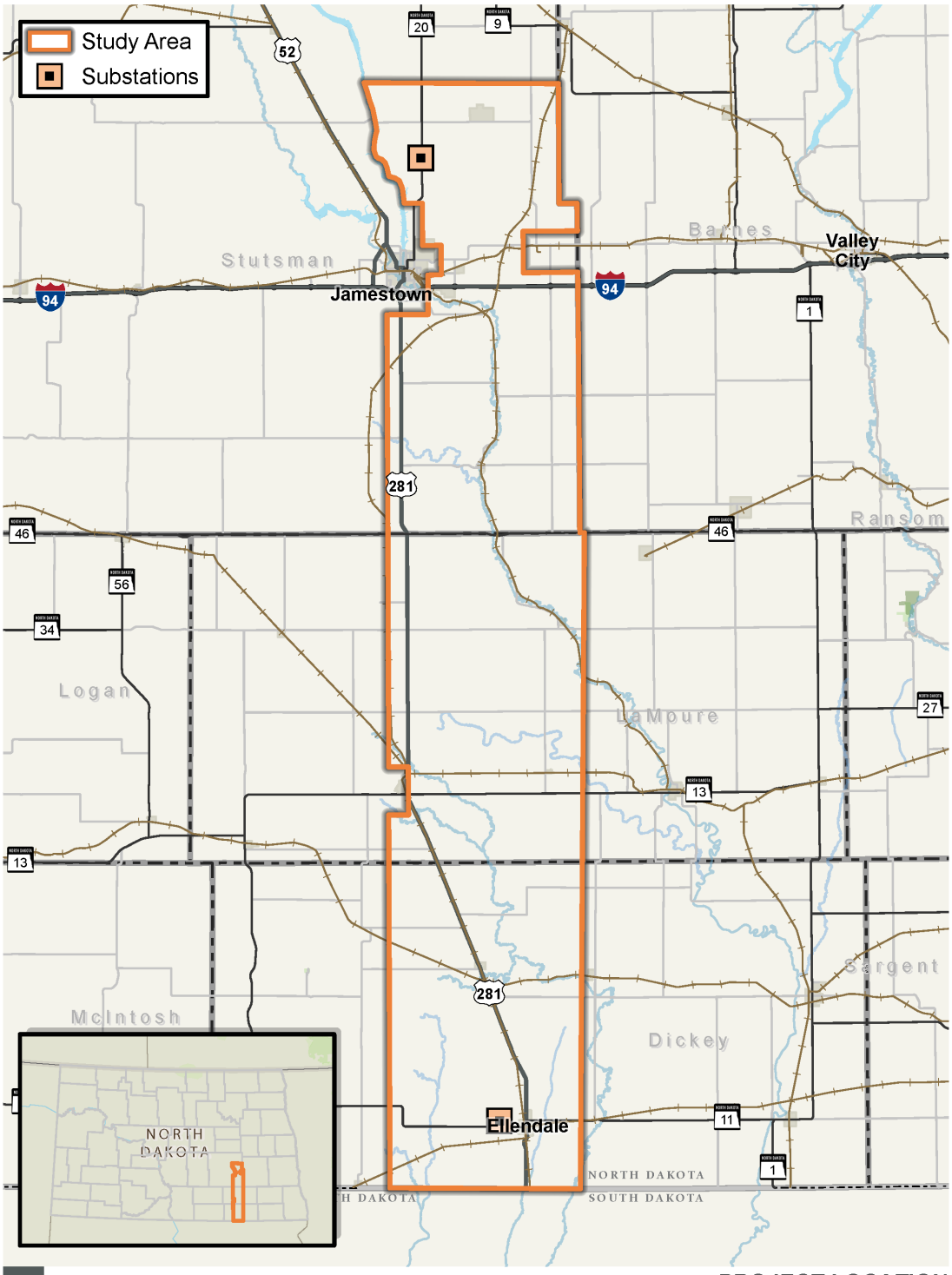
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location



PROJECT LOCATION

Figure 1

JETX TRANSMISSION LINE | JAMESTOWN TO ELLENDALE

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 31, 2023

Michael Blackwolf
THPO
Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana
656 Agency Main Street
Harlem, MT 59526-9455

Re: Request for input for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Michael Blackwolf,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line (the Project) from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect the existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to an existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified as needed in the Upper Midwest to increase transmission system capability, mitigate current capacity issues, and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in mid-2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026. At this early stage, it is unknown if Section 106 compliance may be needed.

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HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

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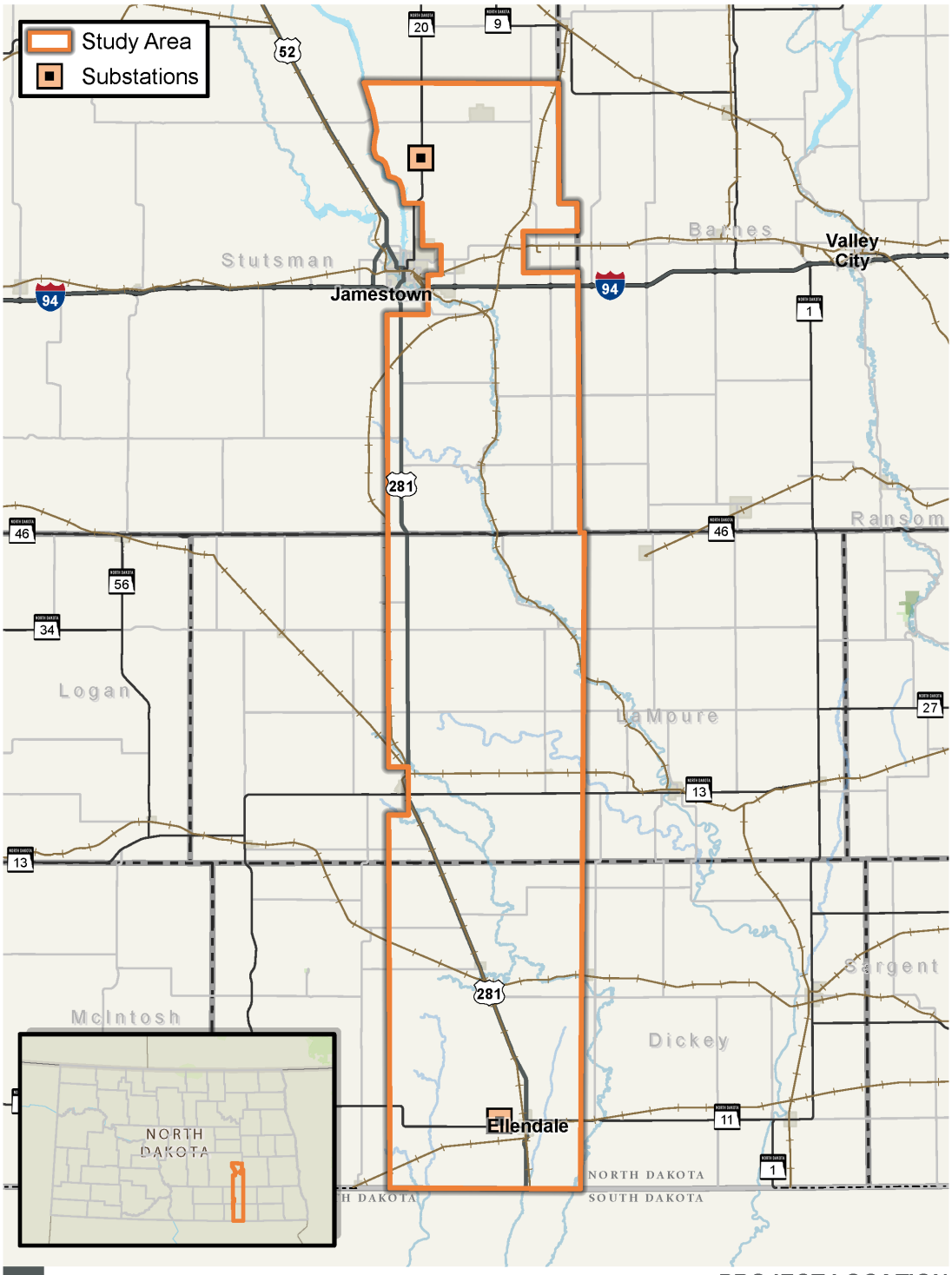
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location



PROJECT LOCATION

Figure 1

JETX TRANSMISSION LINE | JAMESTOWN TO ELLENDALE

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 31, 2023

Clyde Estes
Chairman
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe of the Lower Brule Reservation, South Dakota
187 Oyate Circle
Lower Brule, SD 57548-8500

Re: Request for input for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Clyde Estes,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line (the Project) from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect the existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to an existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified as needed in the Upper Midwest to increase transmission system capability, mitigate current capacity issues, and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in mid-2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026. At this early stage, it is unknown if Section 106 compliance may be needed.

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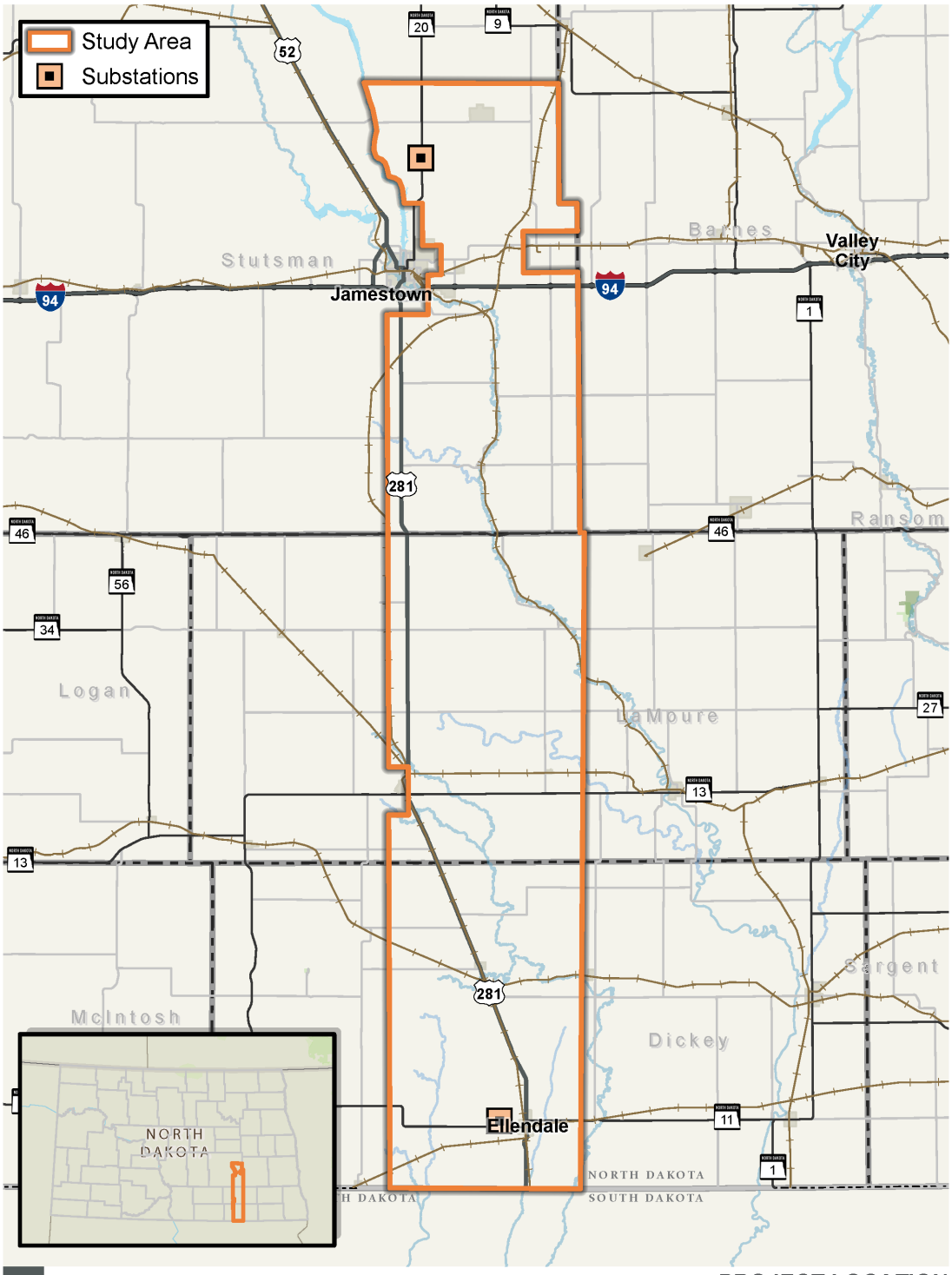
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location



PROJECT LOCATION

Figure 1

JETX TRANSMISSION LINE | JAMESTOWN TO ELLENDALE

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 31, 2023

Boyd Gourneau
Director - Cultural Resources and Public Information
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe of the Lower Brule Reservation, South Dakota
187 Oyate Circle
Lower Brule, SD 57548-8500

Re: Request for input for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Boyd Gourneau,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line (the Project) from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect the existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to an existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified as needed in the Upper Midwest to increase transmission system capability, mitigate current capacity issues, and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in mid-2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026. At this early stage, it is unknown if Section 106 compliance may be needed.

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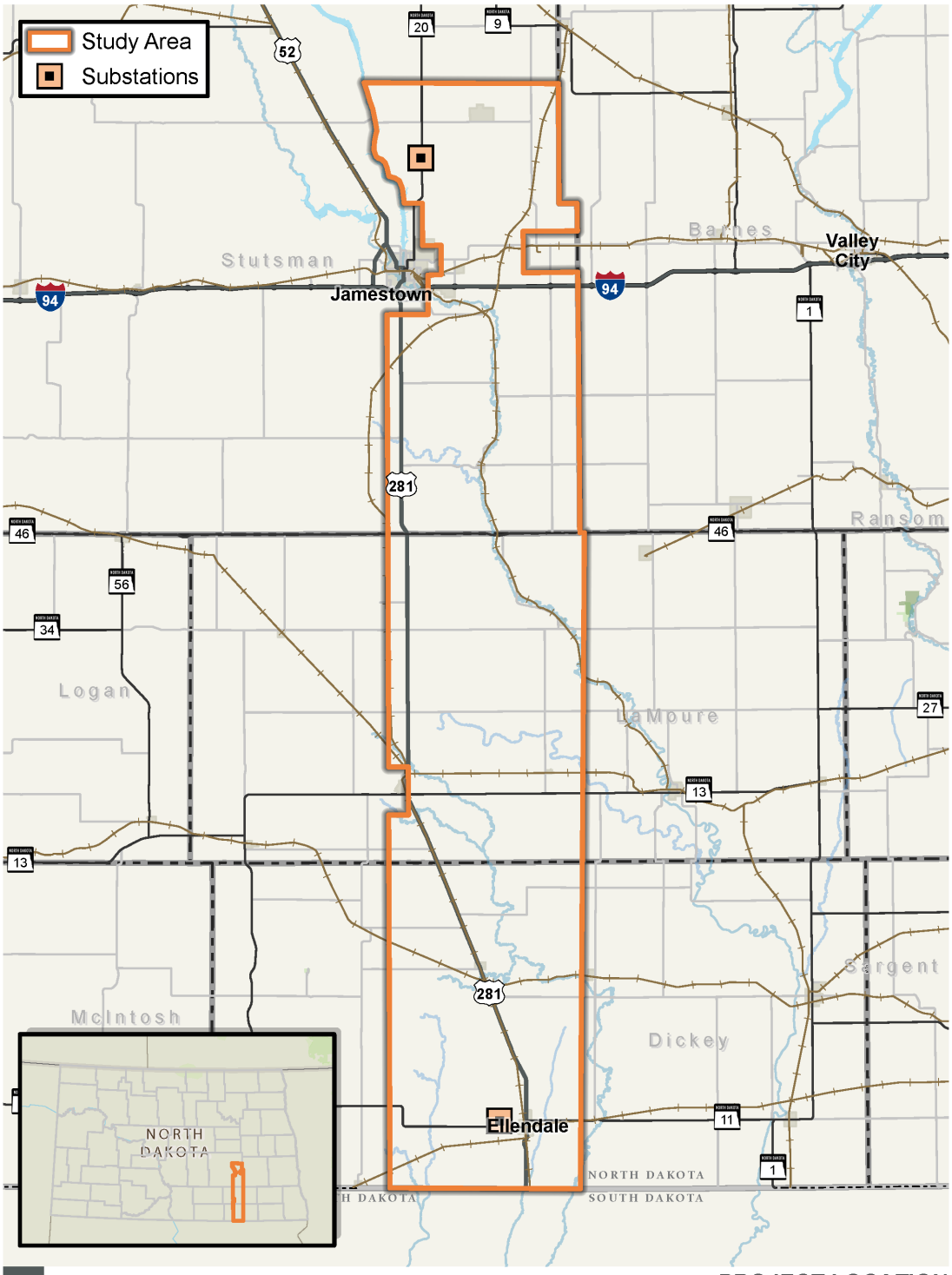
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location



PROJECT LOCATION

Figure 1

JETX TRANSMISSION LINE | JAMESTOWN TO ELLENDALE

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

March 31, 2023

Robert Larsen
President
Lower Sioux Indian Community
PO Box 308
Morton, MN 56269

Re: Request for input for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Robert Larsen,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line (the Project) from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect the existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to an existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified as needed in the Upper Midwest to increase transmission system capability, mitigate current capacity issues, and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in mid-2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026. At this early stage, it is unknown if Section 106 compliance may be needed.

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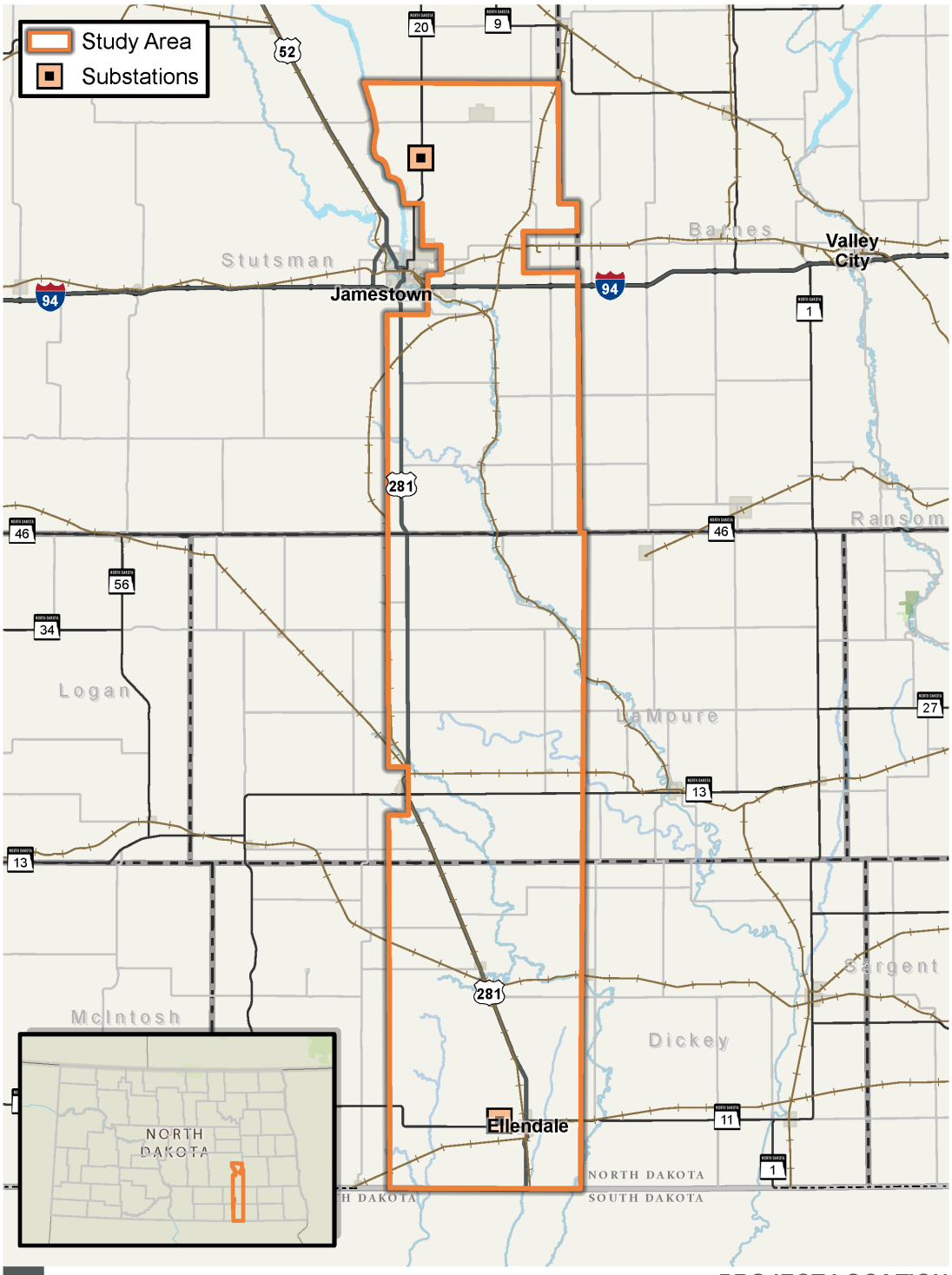
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location



PROJECT LOCATION

Figure 1

JETX TRANSMISSION LINE | JAMESTOWN TO ELLENDALE

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 31, 2023

Cheyanne St. John
THPO
Lower Sioux Indian Community
PO Box 308
Morton, MN 56270

Re: Request for input for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Cheyanne St. John,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line (the Project) from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect the existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to an existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified as needed in the Upper Midwest to increase transmission system capability, mitigate current capacity issues, and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in mid-2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026. At this early stage, it is unknown if Section 106 compliance may be needed.

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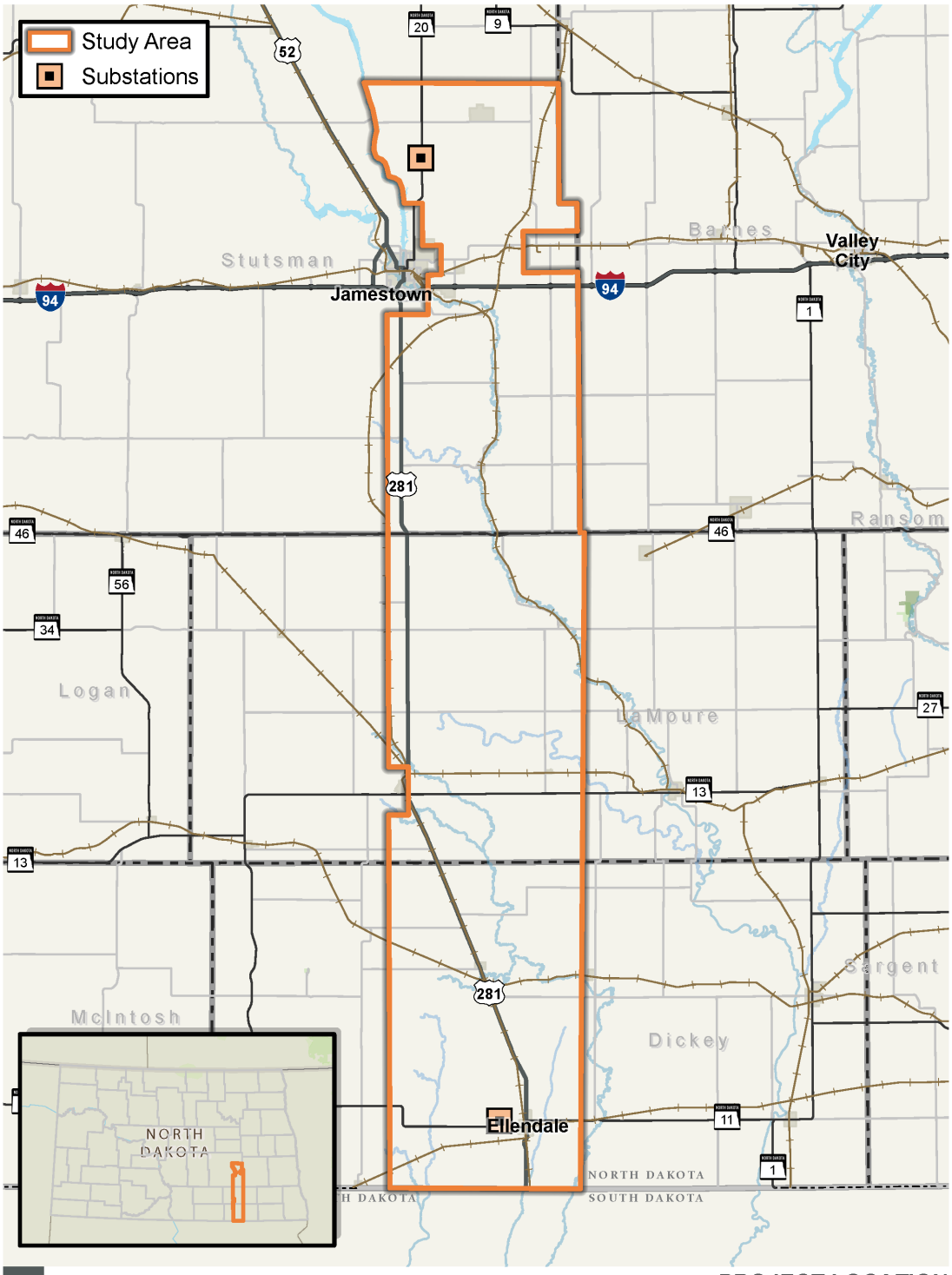
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Sincerely,

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Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location



PROJECT LOCATION

Figure 1

JETX TRANSMISSION LINE | JAMESTOWN TO ELLENDALE

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 31, 2023

Mark Fox
Chairperson
Mandan, Hidatsa, & Arikara Nation (Three Affiliated Tribes)
404 Frontage Road
New Town, ND 58763-9404

Re: Request for input for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Mark Fox,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line (the Project) from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect the existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to an existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified as needed in the Upper Midwest to increase transmission system capability, mitigate current capacity issues, and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in mid-2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026. At this early stage, it is unknown if Section 106 compliance may be needed.

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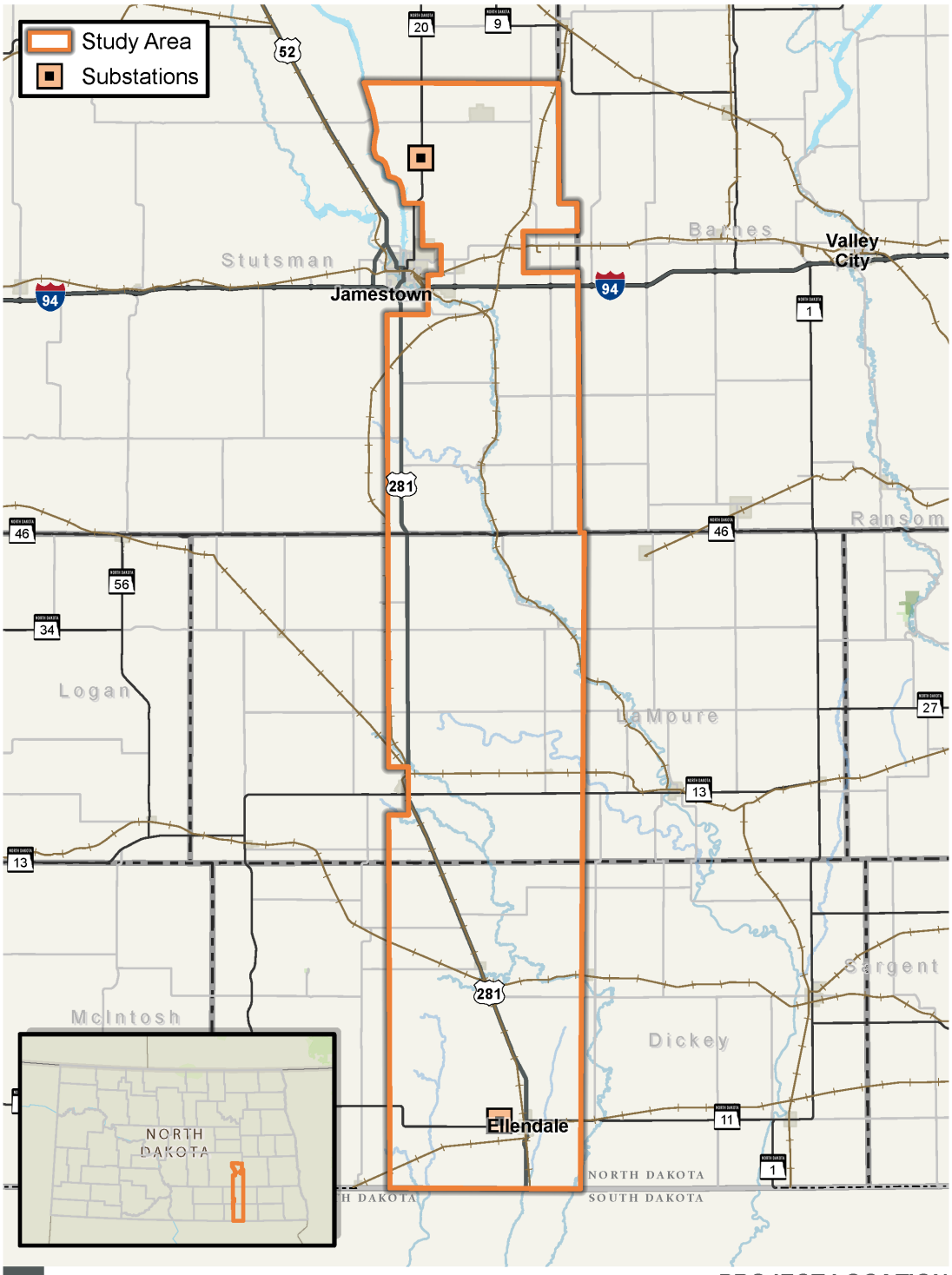
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location



PROJECT LOCATION

Figure 1

JETX TRANSMISSION LINE | JAMESTOWN TO ELLENDALE

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 31, 2023

Allan Demaray
THPO/Director
Mandan, Hidatsa, & Arikara Nation (Three Affiliated Tribes)
404 Frontage Road
New Town, ND 58763

Re: Request for input for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Allan Demaray,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line (the Project) from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect the existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to an existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified as needed in the Upper Midwest to increase transmission system capability, mitigate current capacity issues, and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in mid-2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026. At this early stage, it is unknown if Section 106 compliance may be needed.

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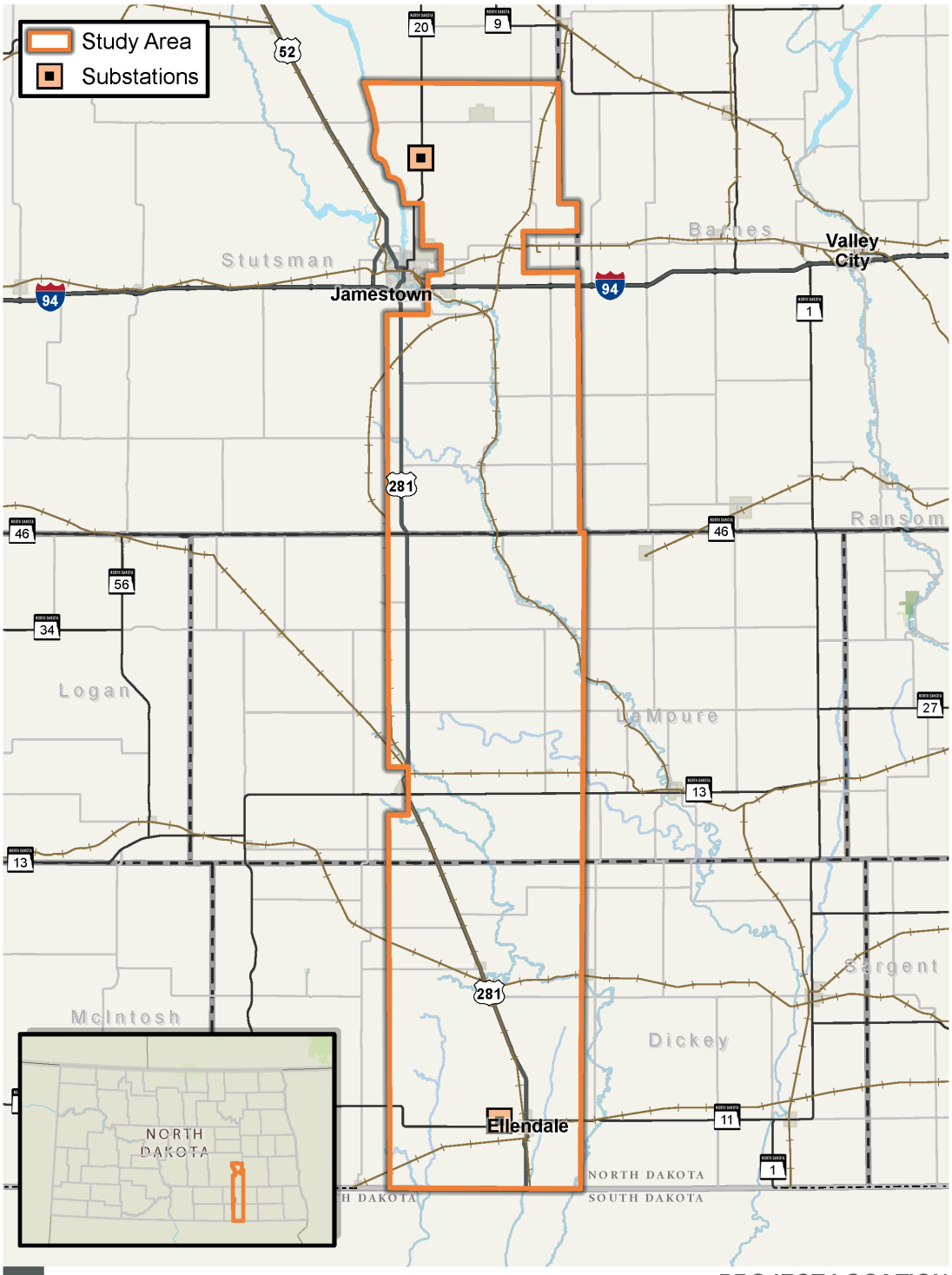
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Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location



PROJECT LOCATION

Figure 1

JETX TRANSMISSION LINE | JAMESTOWN TO ELLENDALE

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 31, 2023

Frank Star Comes Out
President
Oglala Sioux Tribe
107 West Main Street, PO Box 2070
Pine Ridge, SD 57770-2070

Re: Request for input for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Frank Star Comes Out,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line (the Project) from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect the existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to an existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified as needed in the Upper Midwest to increase transmission system capability, mitigate current capacity issues, and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in mid-2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026. At this early stage, it is unknown if Section 106 compliance may be needed.

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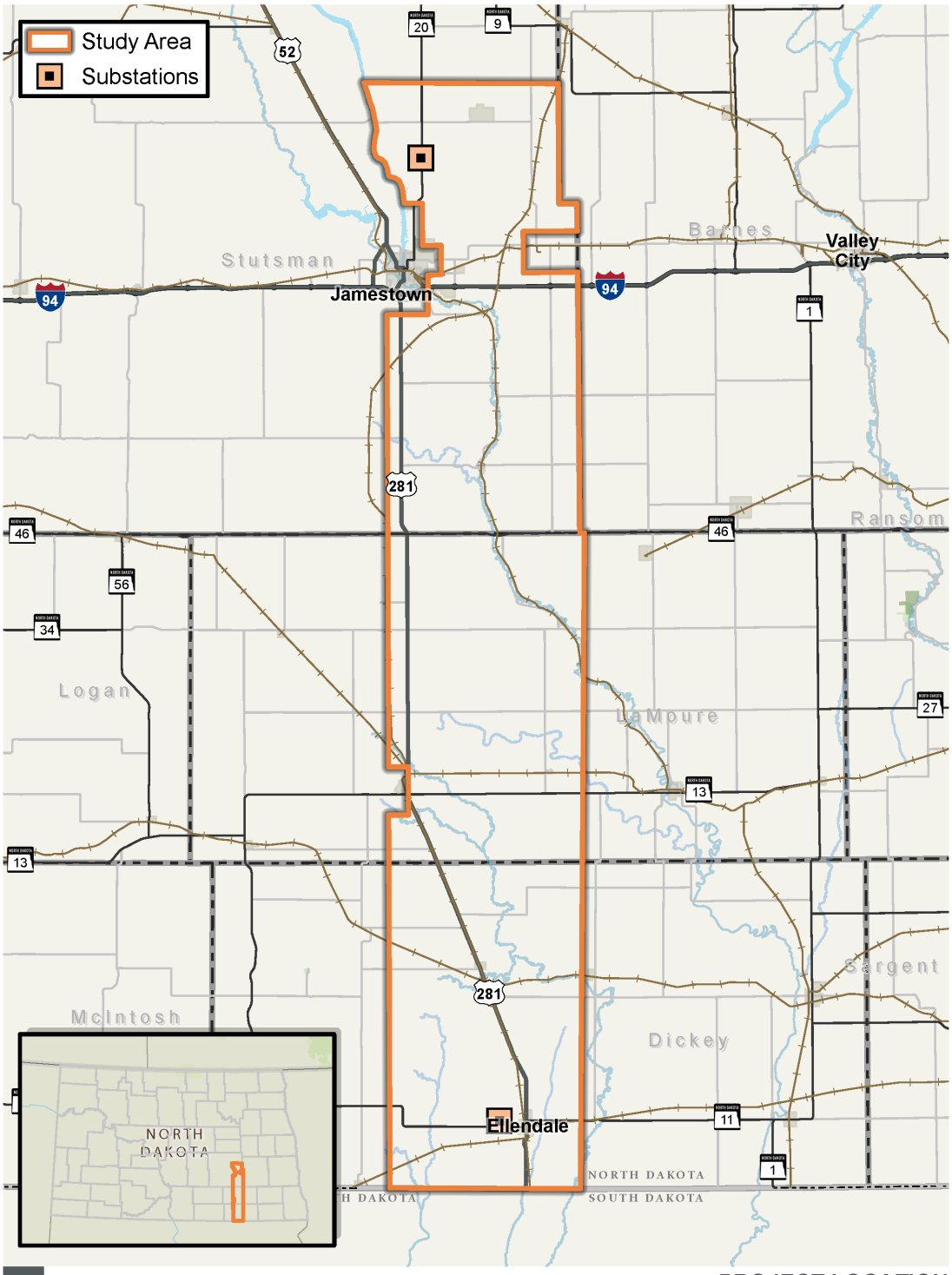
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Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location



PROJECT LOCATION

Figure 1

JETX TRANSMISSION LINE | JAMESTOWN TO ELLENDALE

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 31, 2023

Thomas Brings
THPO
Oglala Sioux Tribe
107 West Main Street, PO Box 2070
Pine Ridge, SD 57770-2070

Re: Request for input for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Thomas Brings,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line (the Project) from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect the existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to an existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified as needed in the Upper Midwest to increase transmission system capability, mitigate current capacity issues, and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in mid-2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026. At this early stage, it is unknown if Section 106 compliance may be needed.

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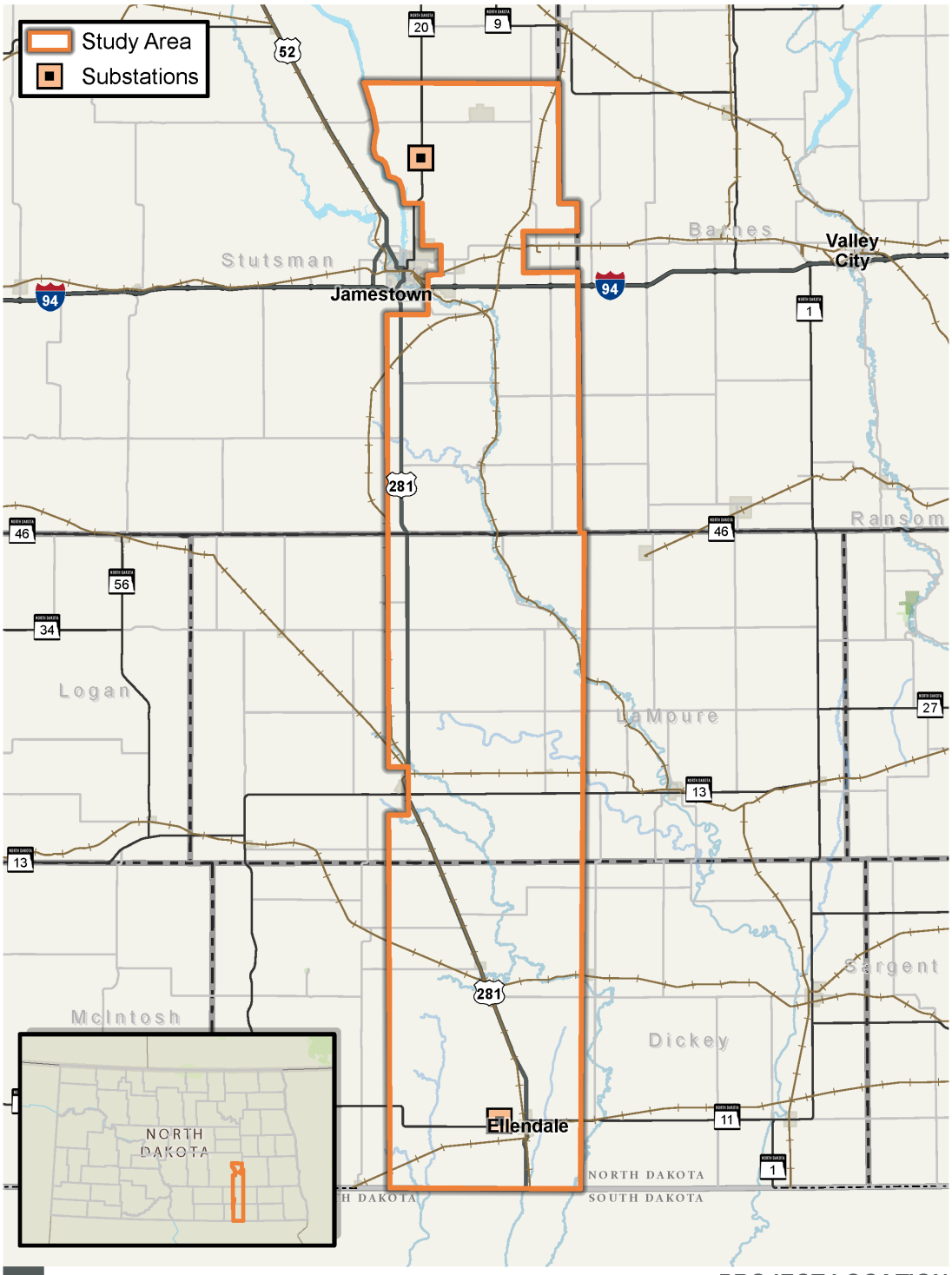
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location



PROJECT LOCATION

Figure 1

JETX TRANSMISSION LINE | JAMESTOWN TO ELLENDALE

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 31, 2023

Johnny Johnson
President
Prairie Island Indian Community
5636 Sturgeon Lake Road
Welch, MN 55088

Re: Request for input for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Johnny Johnson,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line (the Project) from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect the existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to an existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified as needed in the Upper Midwest to increase transmission system capability, mitigate current capacity issues, and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in mid-2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026. At this early stage, it is unknown if Section 106 compliance may be needed.

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HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we plan for consultations with agencies and other jurisdictions as we develop and refine a route. There will be additional opportunities for input throughout the North Dakota Public Service Commission permitting process.

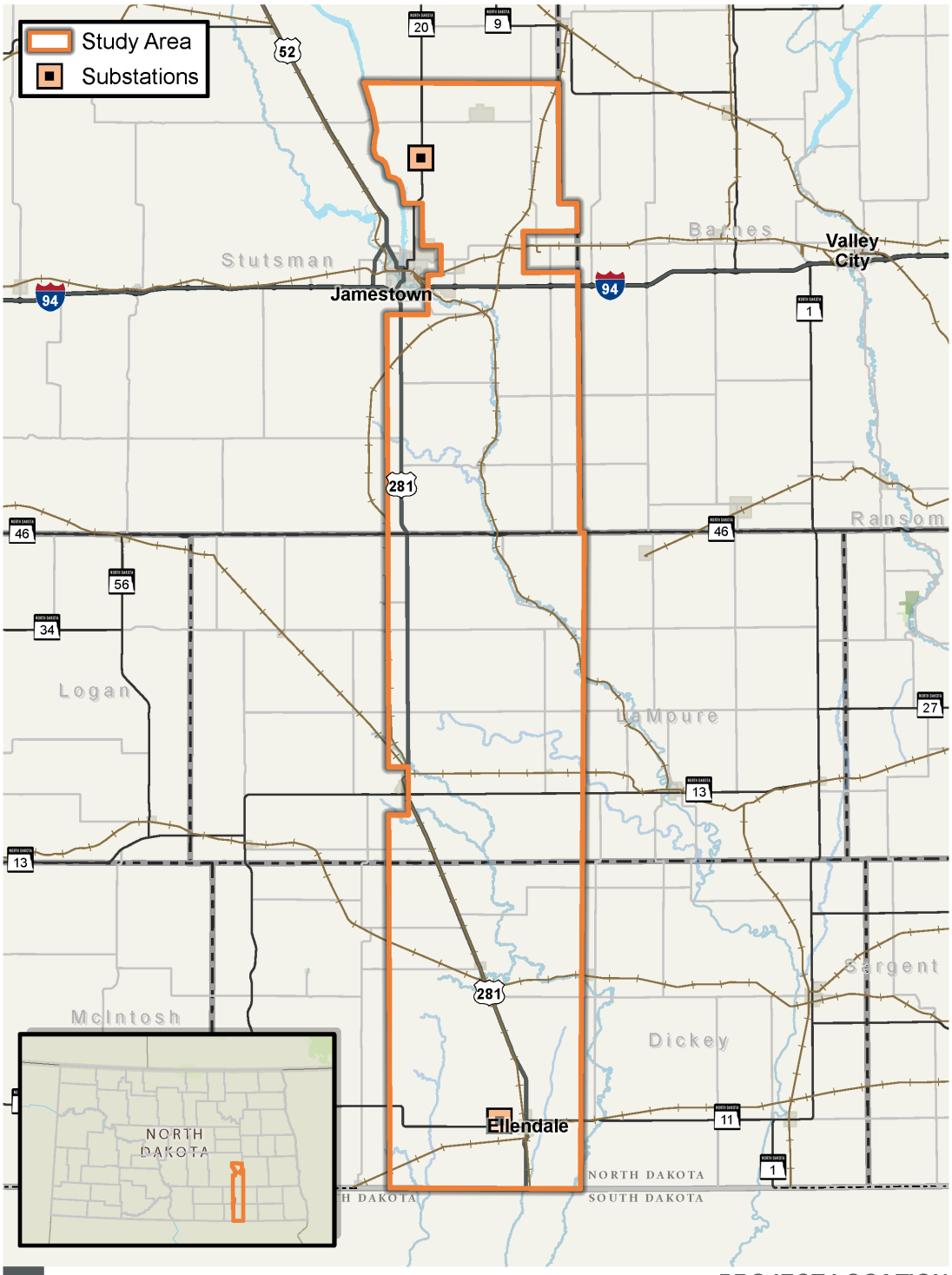
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location



PROJECT LOCATION

Figure 1

JETX TRANSMISSION LINE | JAMESTOWN TO ELLENDALE

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 31, 2023

Noah White
THPO
Prairie Island Indian Community
5636 Sturgeon Lake Road
Welch, MN 55089

Re: Request for input for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Noah White,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line (the Project) from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect the existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to an existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified as needed in the Upper Midwest to increase transmission system capability, mitigate current capacity issues, and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in mid-2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026. At this early stage, it is unknown if Section 106 compliance may be needed.

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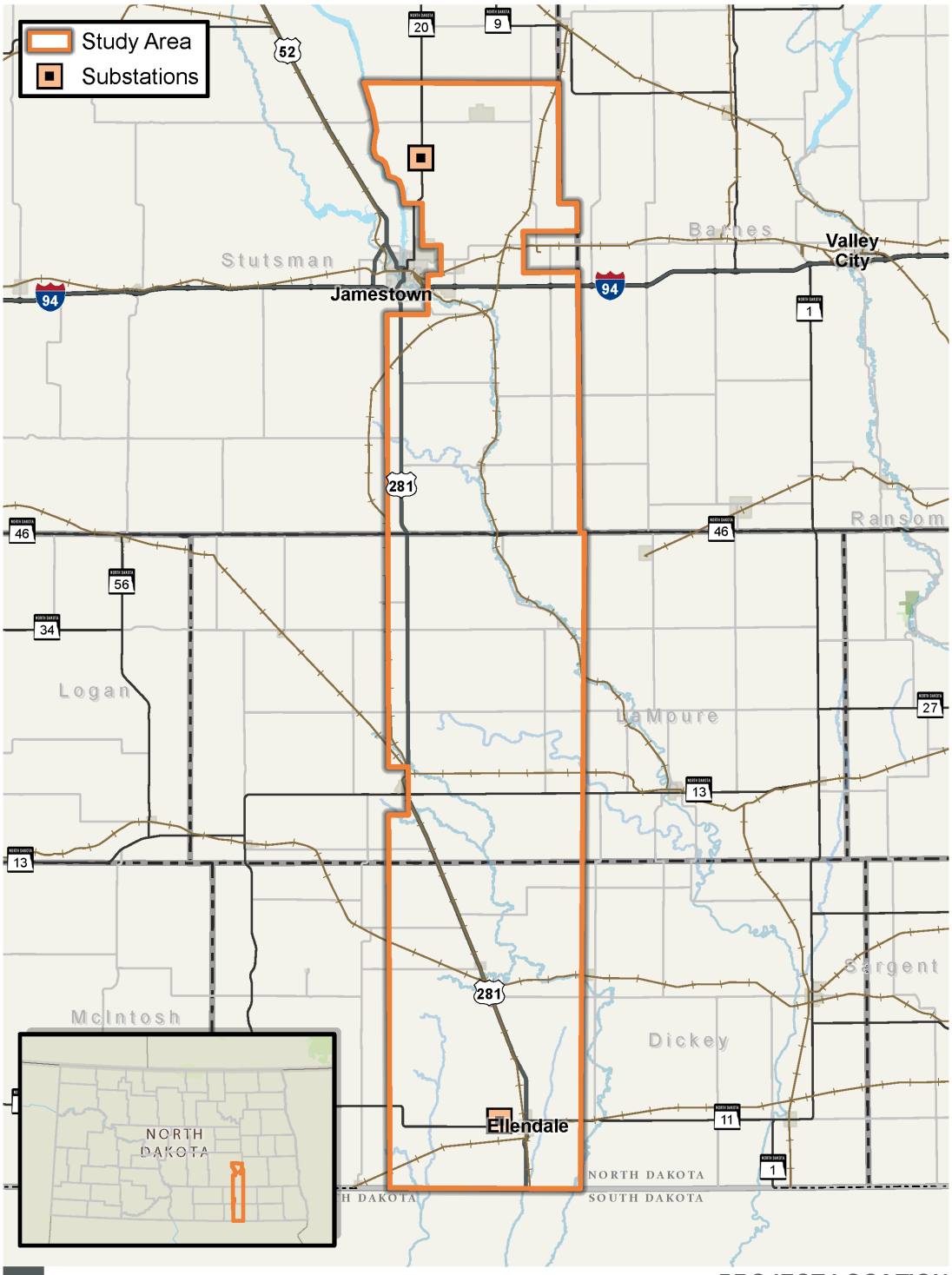
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location



PROJECT LOCATION

Figure 1

JETX TRANSMISSION LINE | JAMESTOWN TO ELLENDALE

JETx
Jamestown to Ellendale

March 31, 2023

Scott Herman
President
Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Indian Reservation, South Dakota
11th Legion Ave, PO BOX 430
Rosebud, SD 57570

Re: Request for input for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Scott Herman,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line (the Project) from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect the existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to an existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified as needed in the Upper Midwest to increase transmission system capability, mitigate current capacity issues, and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in mid-2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026. At this early stage, it is unknown if Section 106 compliance may be needed.

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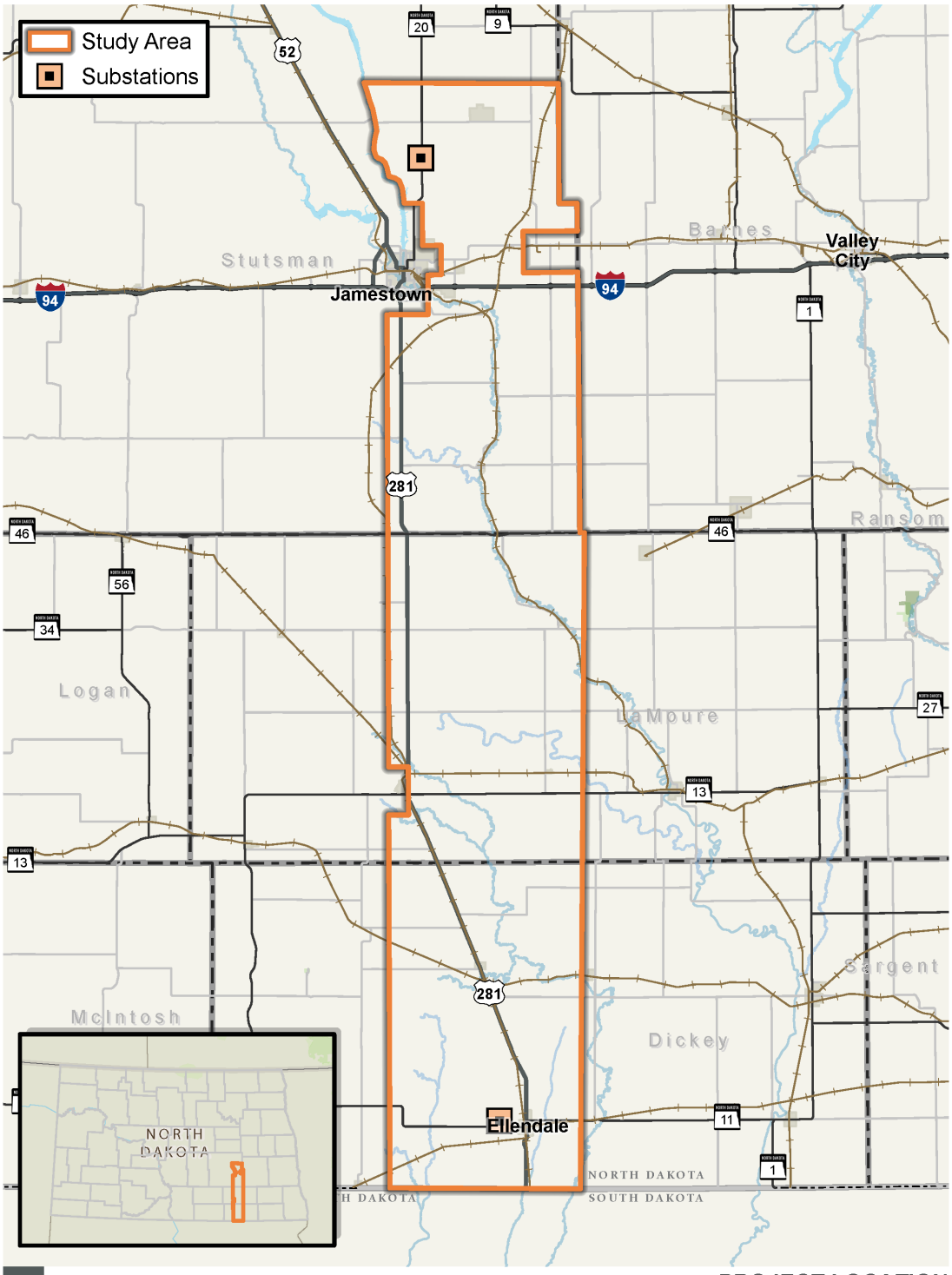
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location



PROJECT LOCATION

Figure 1

JETX TRANSMISSION LINE | JAMESTOWN TO ELLENDALE

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 31, 2023

Russell Eagle Bear
THPO
Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Indian Reservation, South Dakota
PO Box 658
Rosebud, SD 57570-0658

Re: Request for input for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Russell Eagle Bear,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line (the Project) from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect the existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to an existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified as needed in the Upper Midwest to increase transmission system capability, mitigate current capacity issues, and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in mid-2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026. At this early stage, it is unknown if Section 106 compliance may be needed.

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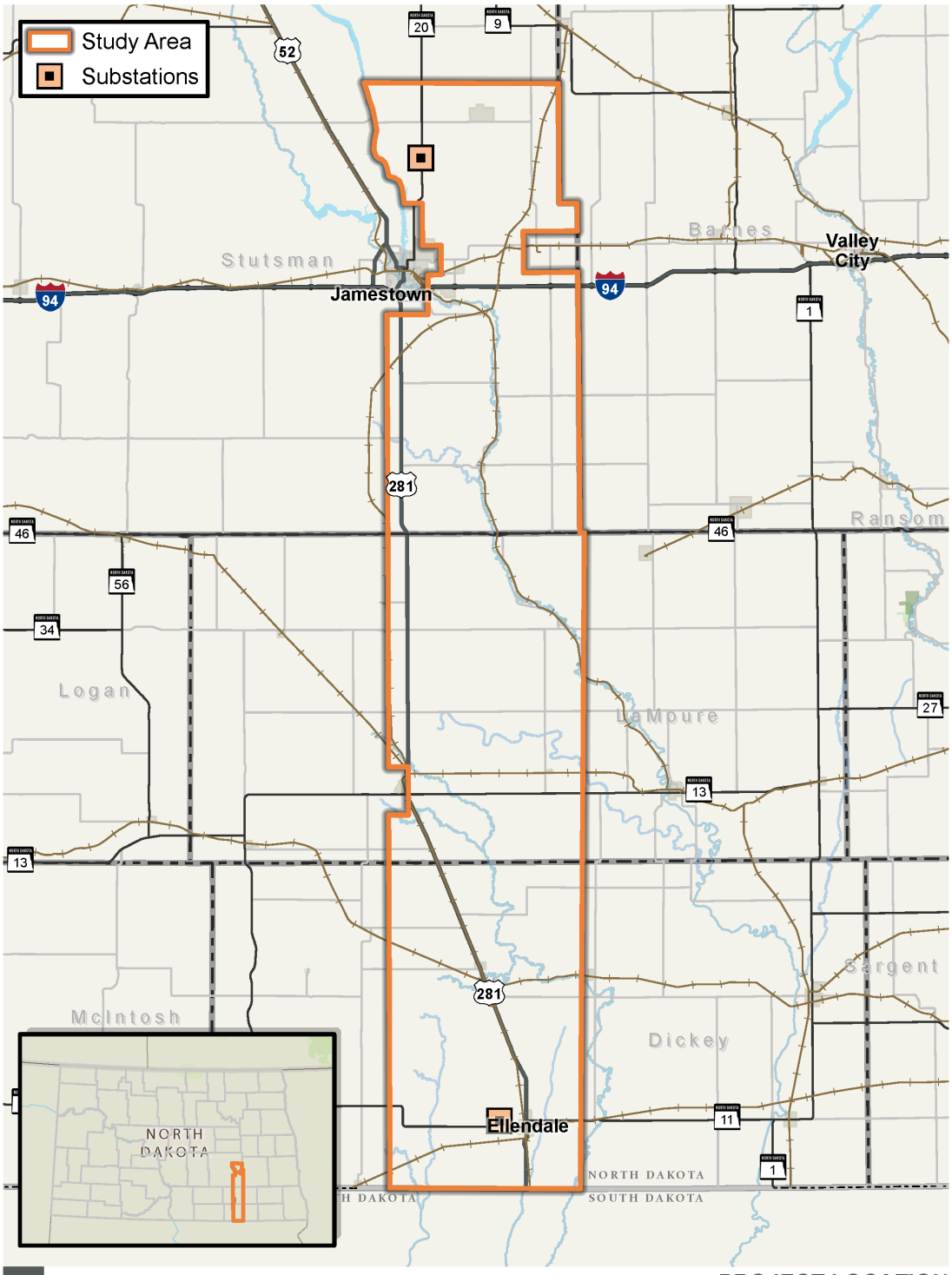
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location



PROJECT LOCATION

Figure 1

JETX TRANSMISSION LINE | JAMESTOWN TO ELLENDALE

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 31, 2023

Roger Trudell
Chairperson
Santee Sioux Nation, Nebraska
108 Spirit Lake Ave. W
Niobrara, NE 68760

Re: Request for input for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Roger Trudell,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line (the Project) from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect the existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to an existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified as needed in the Upper Midwest to increase transmission system capability, mitigate current capacity issues, and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in mid-2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026. At this early stage, it is unknown if Section 106 compliance may be needed.

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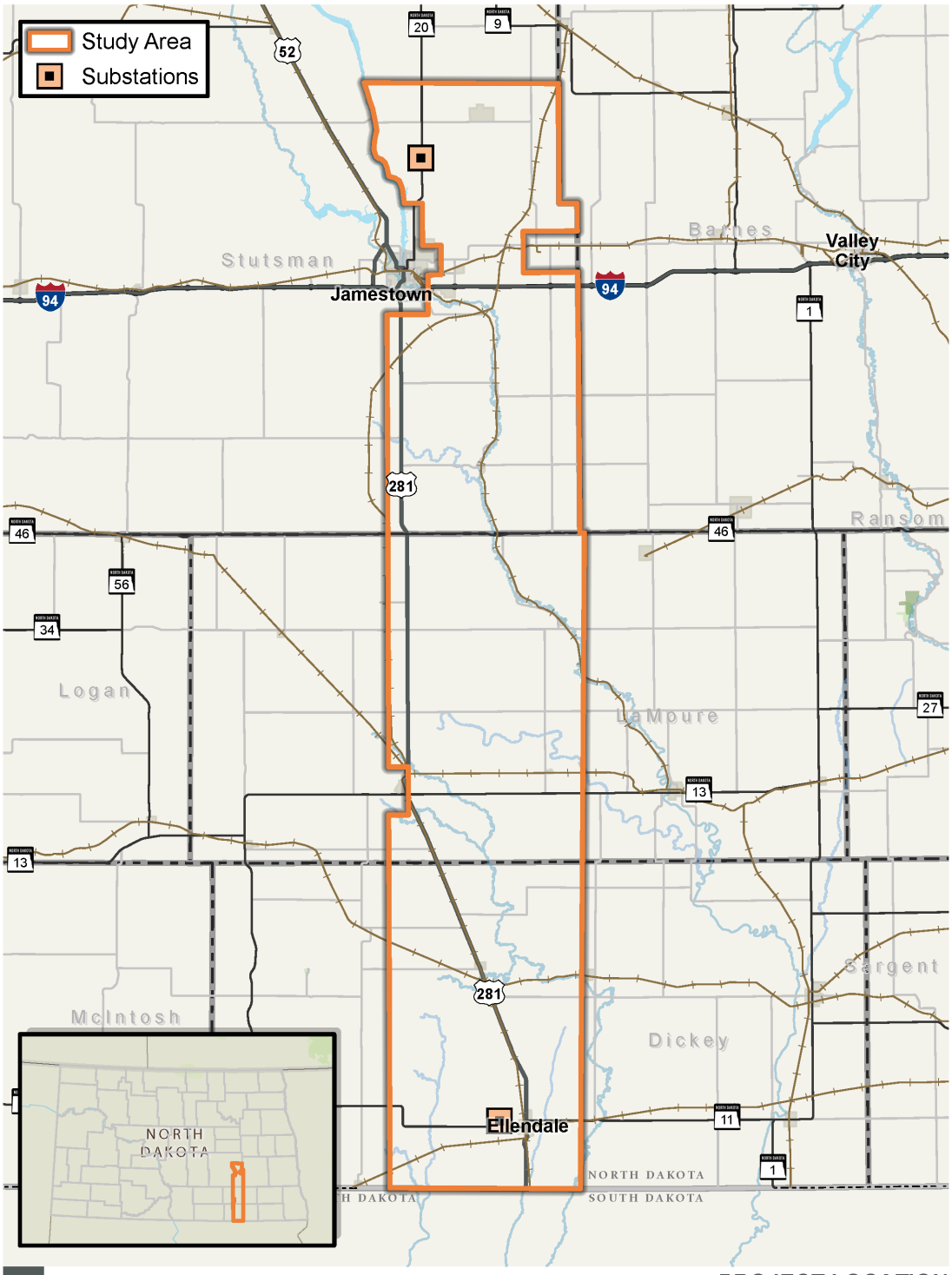
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Sincerely,

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Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location



PROJECT LOCATION

Figure 1

JETX TRANSMISSION LINE | JAMESTOWN TO ELLENDALE

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 31, 2023

Misty Frazier
THPO
Santee Sioux Nation, Nebraska
425 Frazier Ave. N., Suite 2
Niobrara, NE 68760-7207

Re: Request for input for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Misty Frazier,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line (the Project) from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect the existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to an existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified as needed in the Upper Midwest to increase transmission system capability, mitigate current capacity issues, and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in mid-2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026. At this early stage, it is unknown if Section 106 compliance may be needed.

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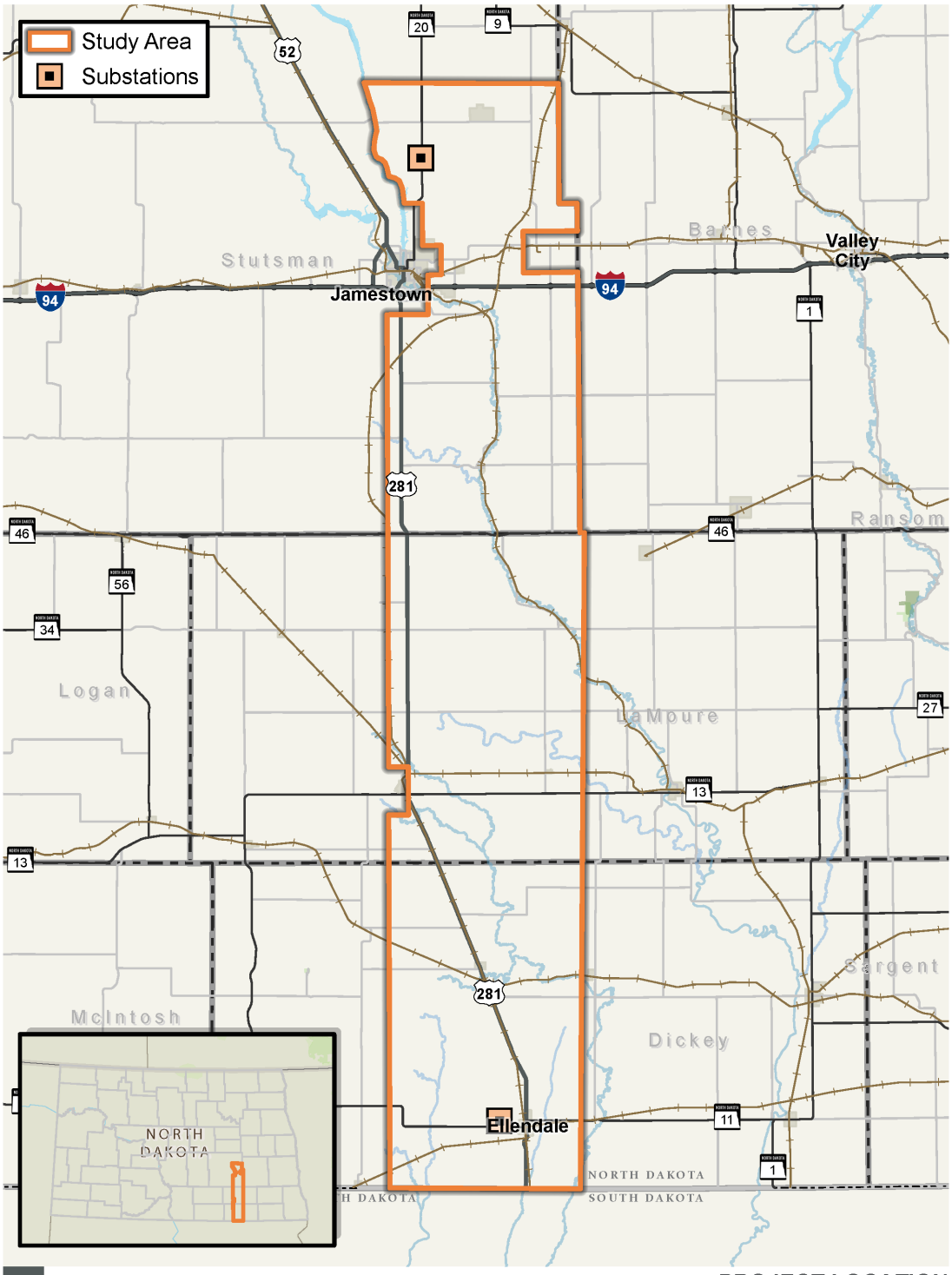
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location



PROJECT LOCATION

Figure 1

JETX TRANSMISSION LINE | JAMESTOWN TO ELLENDALE

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 31, 2023

Douglas Yankton
Chairperson
Spirit Lake Nation
PO Box 359
Fort Totten, ND 58335

Re: Request for input for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Douglas Yankton,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line (the Project) from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect the existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to an existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified as needed in the Upper Midwest to increase transmission system capability, mitigate current capacity issues, and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in mid-2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026. At this early stage, it is unknown if Section 106 compliance may be needed.

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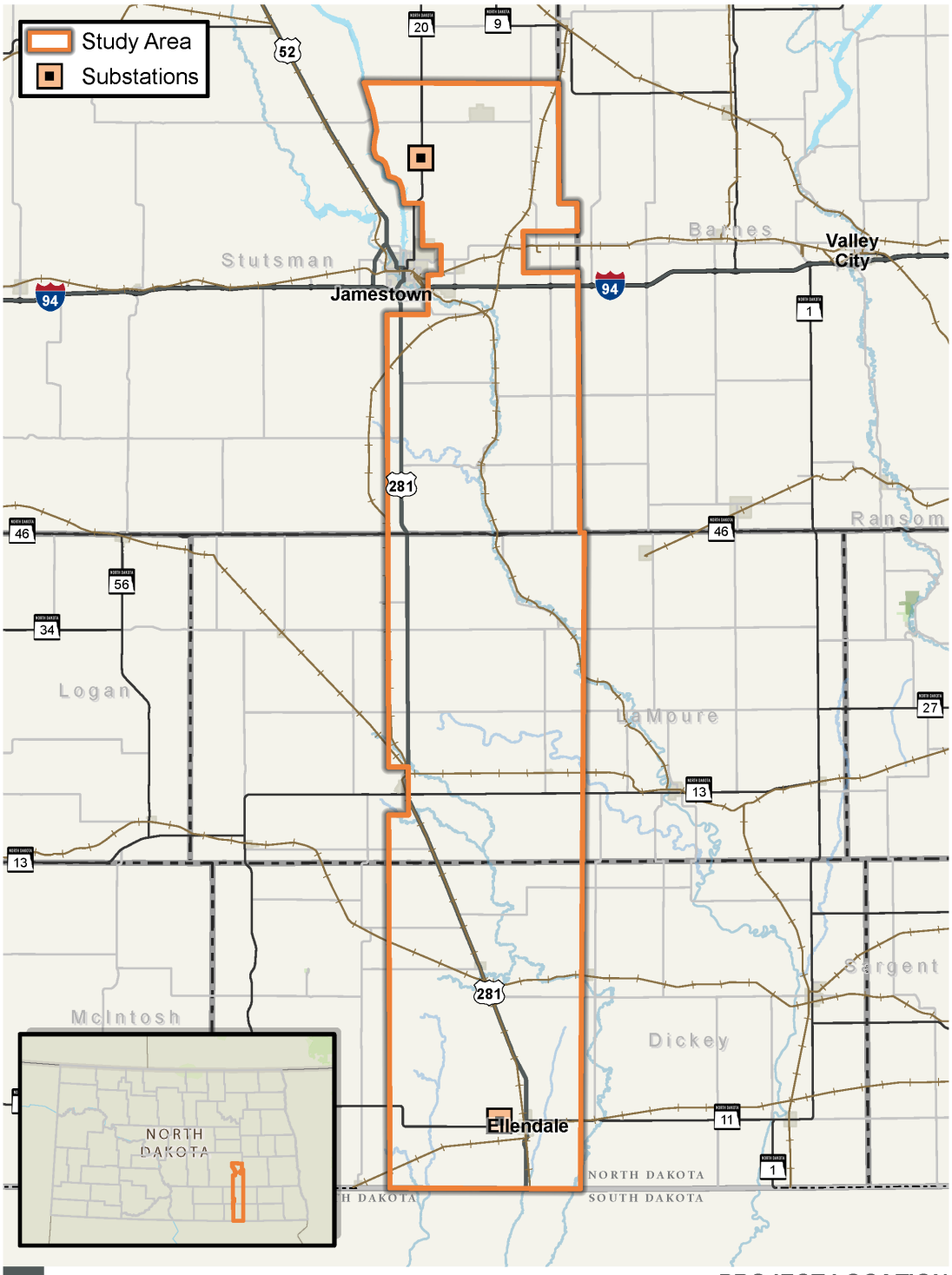
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Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location



PROJECT LOCATION

Figure 1

JETX TRANSMISSION LINE | JAMESTOWN TO ELLENDALE

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 31, 2023

Kenneth Graywater, Jr.
THPO
Spirit Lake Nation
PO Box 198
Fort Totten, ND 58335

Re: Request for input for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Kenneth Graywater, Jr.,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line (the Project) from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect the existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to an existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified as needed in the Upper Midwest to increase transmission system capability, mitigate current capacity issues, and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in mid-2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026. At this early stage, it is unknown if Section 106 compliance may be needed.

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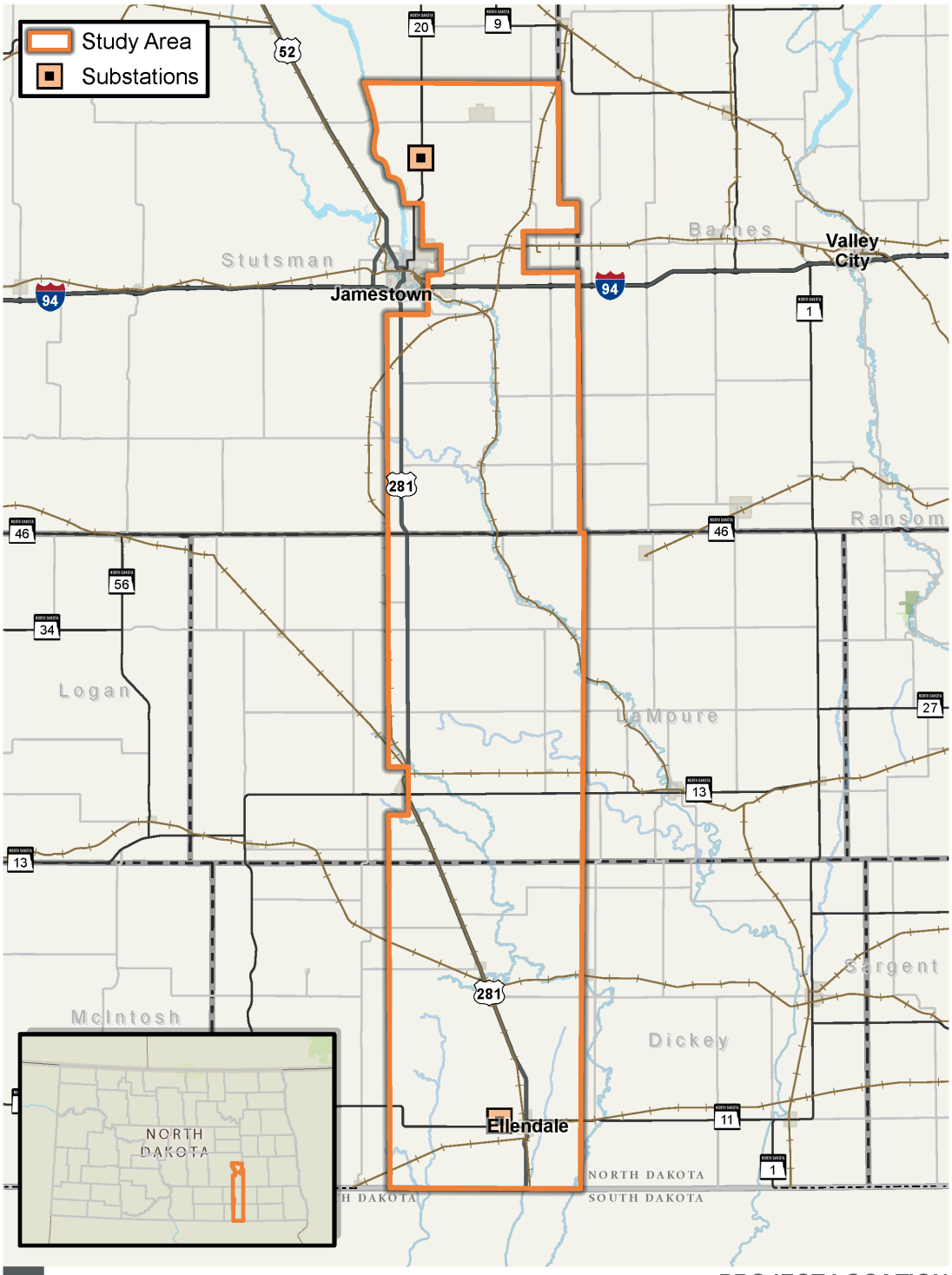
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Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location



PROJECT LOCATION

Figure 1

JETX TRANSMISSION LINE | JAMESTOWN TO ELLENDALE

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 31, 2023

Janet Alkire
Chairwoman
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
1 Standing Rock Ave
Fort Yates, ND 58538

Re: Request for input for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Janet Alkire,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line (the Project) from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect the existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to an existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified as needed in the Upper Midwest to increase transmission system capability, mitigate current capacity issues, and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in mid-2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026. At this early stage, it is unknown if Section 106 compliance may be needed.

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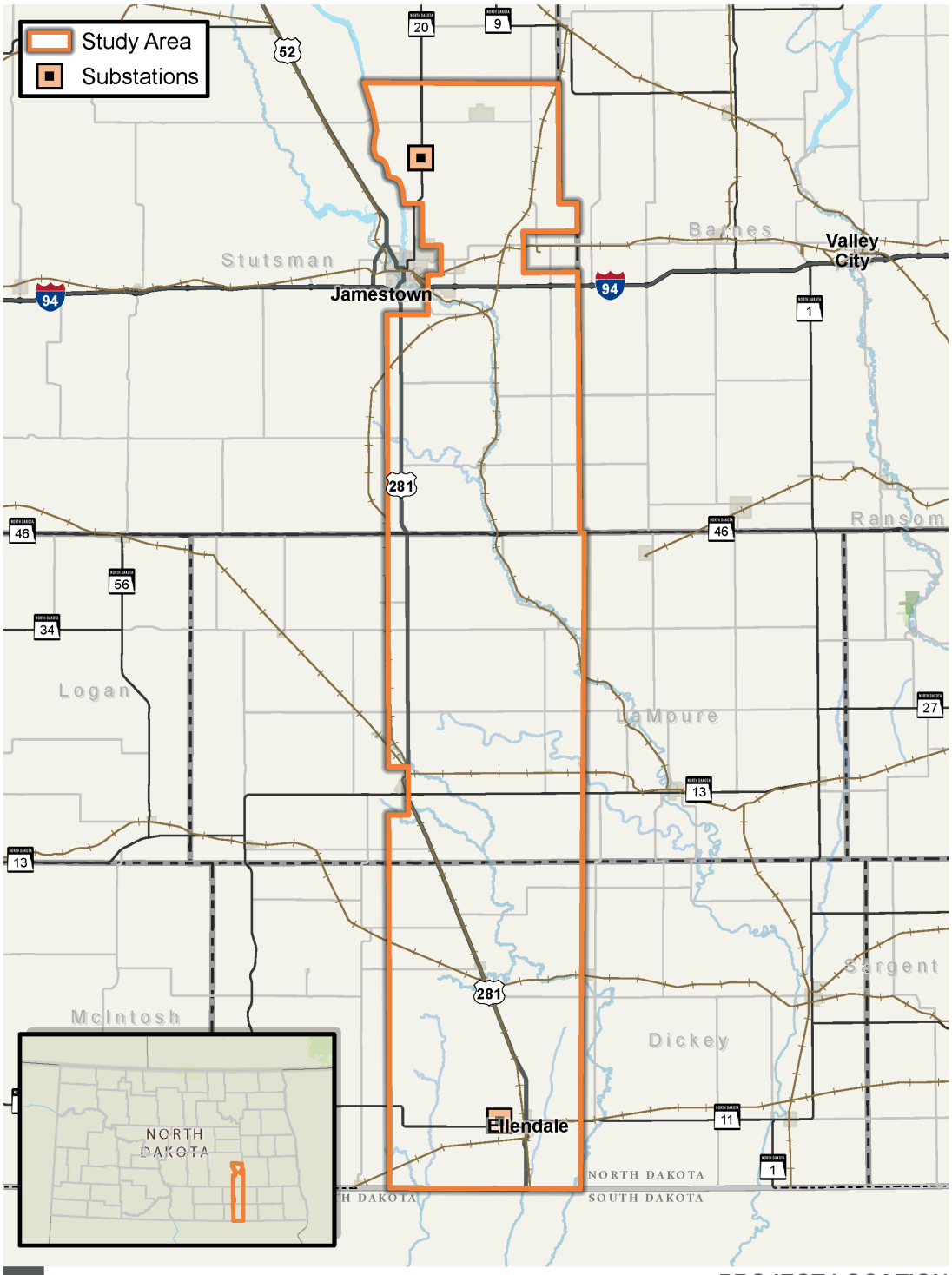
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Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location



PROJECT LOCATION

Figure 1

JETX TRANSMISSION LINE | JAMESTOWN TO ELLENDALE

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 31, 2023

Jon Eagle
THPO
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
PO Box D
Fort Yates, ND 58538

Re: Request for input for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Jon Eagle,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line (the Project) from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect the existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to an existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified as needed in the Upper Midwest to increase transmission system capability, mitigate current capacity issues, and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in mid-2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026. At this early stage, it is unknown if Section 106 compliance may be needed.

Currently, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota are in the preliminary planning stages, which include high-level planning, initial public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and initial design. These preliminary planning stages will provide important input into the identification of potential routes and the eventual selection of a final route for the Project. The attached map shows the current study area being assessed for preliminary routes. We're planning public outreach with landowners and interested parties, including public meetings, in June 2023. Cultural field surveys are currently anticipated to be underway later this year.

We are requesting your review of the preliminary Project area to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the final route. We appreciate and value your input in order for us to avoid or minimize impacts to tribally significant resources, if they are present. To help us identify potential tribal resources in the study area, we request that any information pertaining to the Project be provided by April 30, 2023, if possible, to:

HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com

Future opportunities for input will also be available. As the project progresses, we plan for consultations with agencies and other jurisdictions as we develop and refine a route. There will be additional opportunities for input throughout the North Dakota Public Service Commission permitting process.

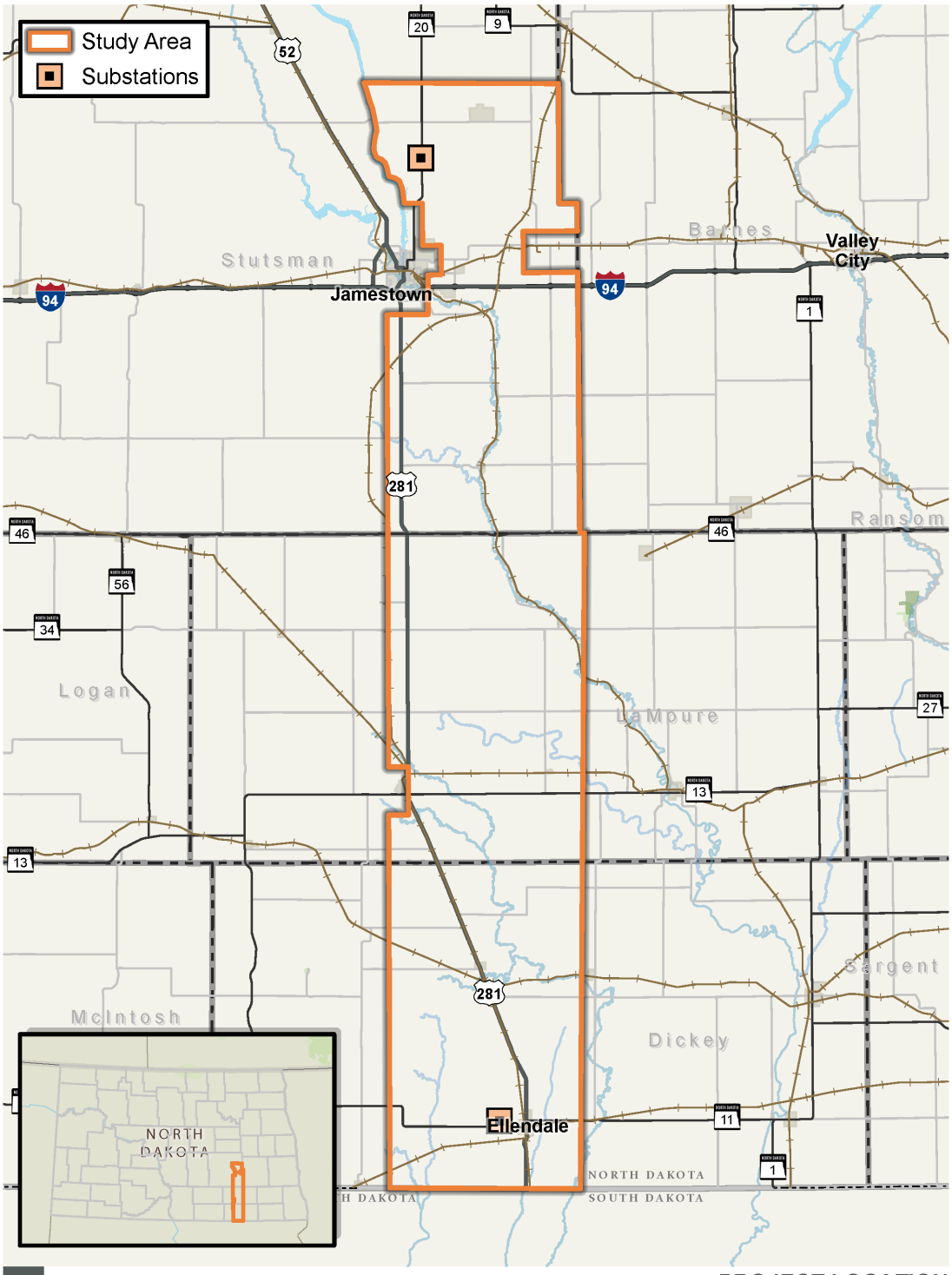
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location



PROJECT LOCATION

Figure 1

JETX TRANSMISSION LINE | JAMESTOWN TO ELLENDALE

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 31, 2023

Jamie Azure
Chairman
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians
4180 Highway 281
Belcourt, ND 58316

Re: Request for input for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Jamie Azure,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line (the Project) from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect the existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to an existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified as needed in the Upper Midwest to increase transmission system capability, mitigate current capacity issues, and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in mid-2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026. At this early stage, it is unknown if Section 106 compliance may be needed.

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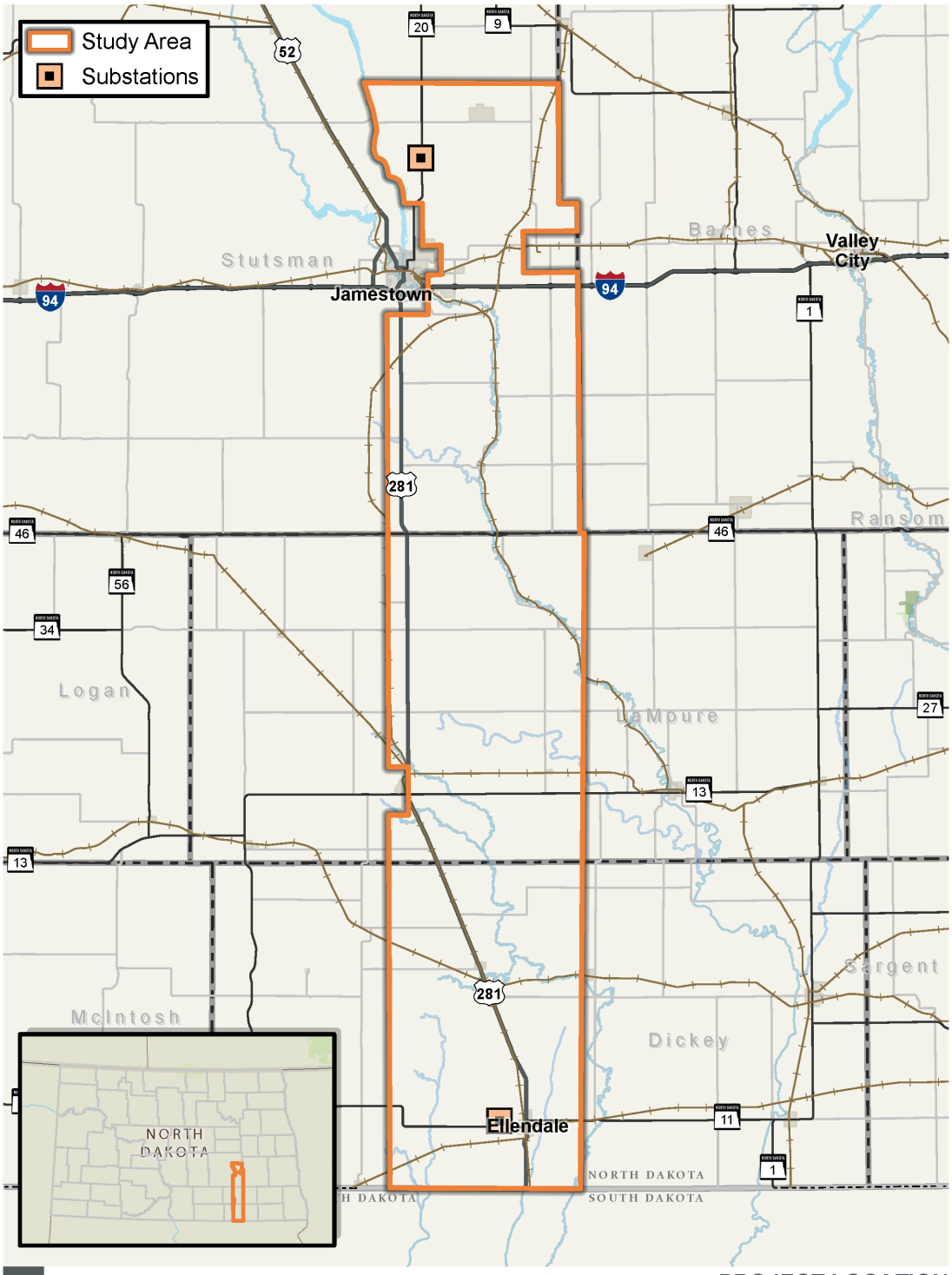
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location



PROJECT LOCATION

Figure 1

JETX TRANSMISSION LINE | JAMESTOWN TO ELLENDALE

Jamestown to Ellendale

March 31, 2023

Jeffery Desjarlais, Jr.
THPO/Program Director
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians
PO Box 900
Belcourt, ND 58316

Re: Request for input for the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Jeffery Desjarlais, Jr.,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line (the Project) from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota. The Project would be located in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect the existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to an existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified as needed in the Upper Midwest to increase transmission system capability, mitigate current capacity issues, and improve electric system reliability throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in mid-2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026. At this early stage, it is unknown if Section 106 compliance may be needed.

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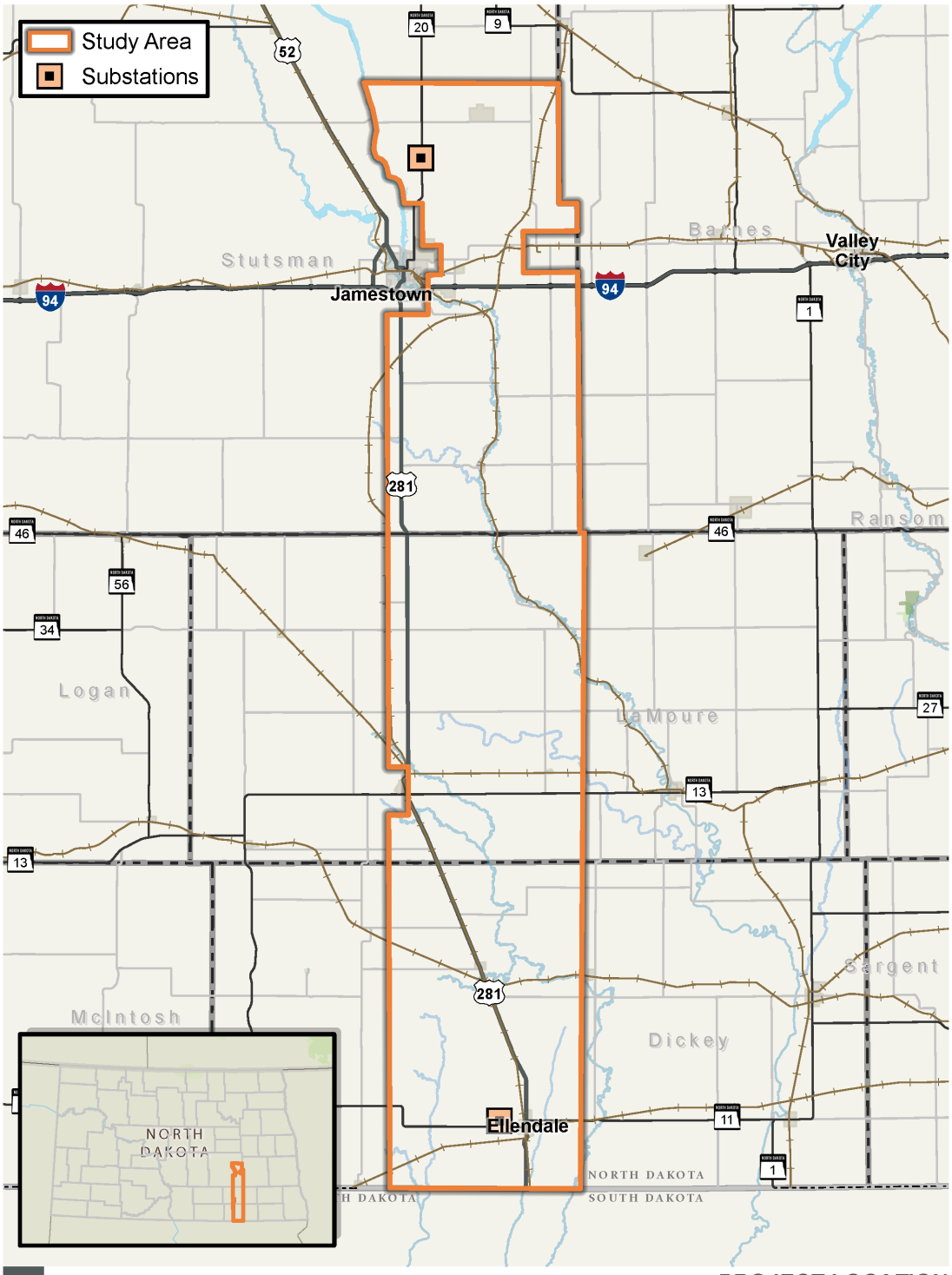
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location



PROJECT LOCATION

Figure 1

JETX TRANSMISSION LINE | JAMESTOWN TO ELLENDALE

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Durell Cooper, Chairman
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
PO Box 1330
Anadarko, OK 73005

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Durell Cooper,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (the Project). The Project would be in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect Otter Tail Power's existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota's existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified by the Regional Transmission Organization in the Upper Midwest[1] needed to maintain electric system reliability, increase resilience to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion and increase access to low-cost energy throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025. At this early stage of the Project, it is anticipated that Section 106 compliance would be needed for a United State Army Corps of Engineers Section 10 river crossing permit for an overhead crossing of the James River.

Currently, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota are in the planning stages of the Project, which include public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and initial design. These preliminary planning stages provide important input into the identification of the preferred corridor and route corridor alternatives. The attached map shows the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors for the Project. These corridors are subject to change as we continue public outreach with landowners and other interested parties. Environmental field surveys are currently anticipated to start late this year and be completed in 2024.

We are requesting your review of the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors to help identify opportunities and constraints as we move towards defining the preferred route. We appreciate and value your input in our attempt to avoid or minimize impacts to tribally significant resources if they are present. To help us identify potential tribal resources in the corridor analysis, we request that any information pertaining to the Project be provided by October 12, 2023, if possible, to:

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HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
701-353-6139

We will be hosting public meetings at three locations along the Project in September. These public meetings will be held on consecutive days on September 12 - 14 from 3-6 p.m. each day at the three locations listed below. In addition to our public meetings, we are also extending you an invitation if you would prefer to meet individually. If you are interested in an individual meeting outside of our public meetings, our contact information follows below and we would welcome the opportunity to share more information about the Project, answer your questions and take your feedback.

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September 12, 2023	September 13, 2023	September 14, 2023
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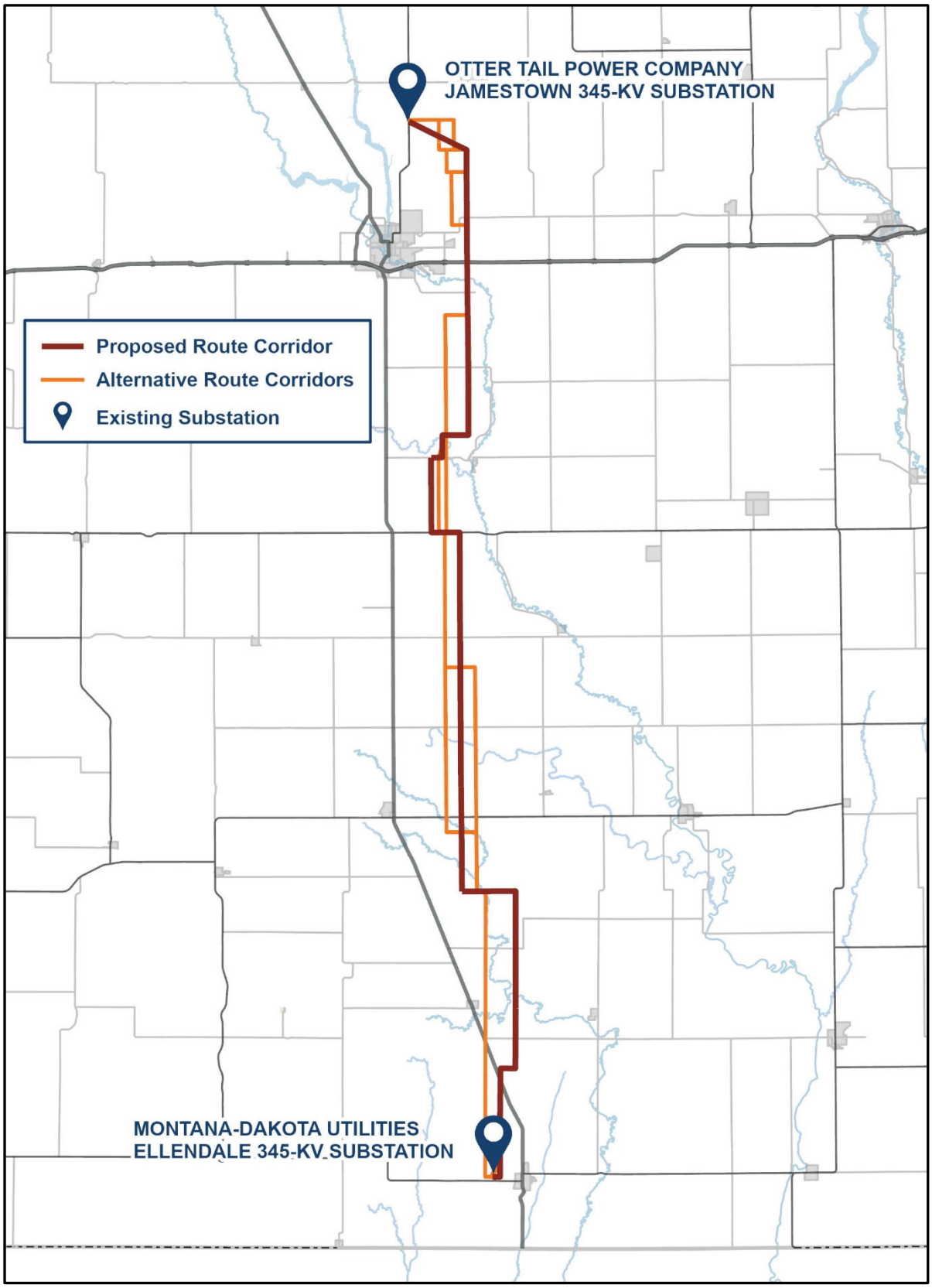
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development
Otter Tail Power Company

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Ryman LeBeau, Chairman
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of the Cheyenne River Reservation, South Dakota
98 S. Willow St.
PO Box 590
Eagle Butte, SD 57625-0590

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Ryman LeBeau,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (the Project). The Project would be in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect Otter Tail Power's existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota's existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified by the Regional Transmission Organization in the Upper Midwest[1] needed to maintain electric system reliability, increase resilience to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion and increase access to low-cost energy throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025. At this early stage of the Project, it is anticipated that Section 106 compliance would be needed for a United State Army Corps of Engineers Section 10 river crossing permit for an overhead crossing of the James River.

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Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
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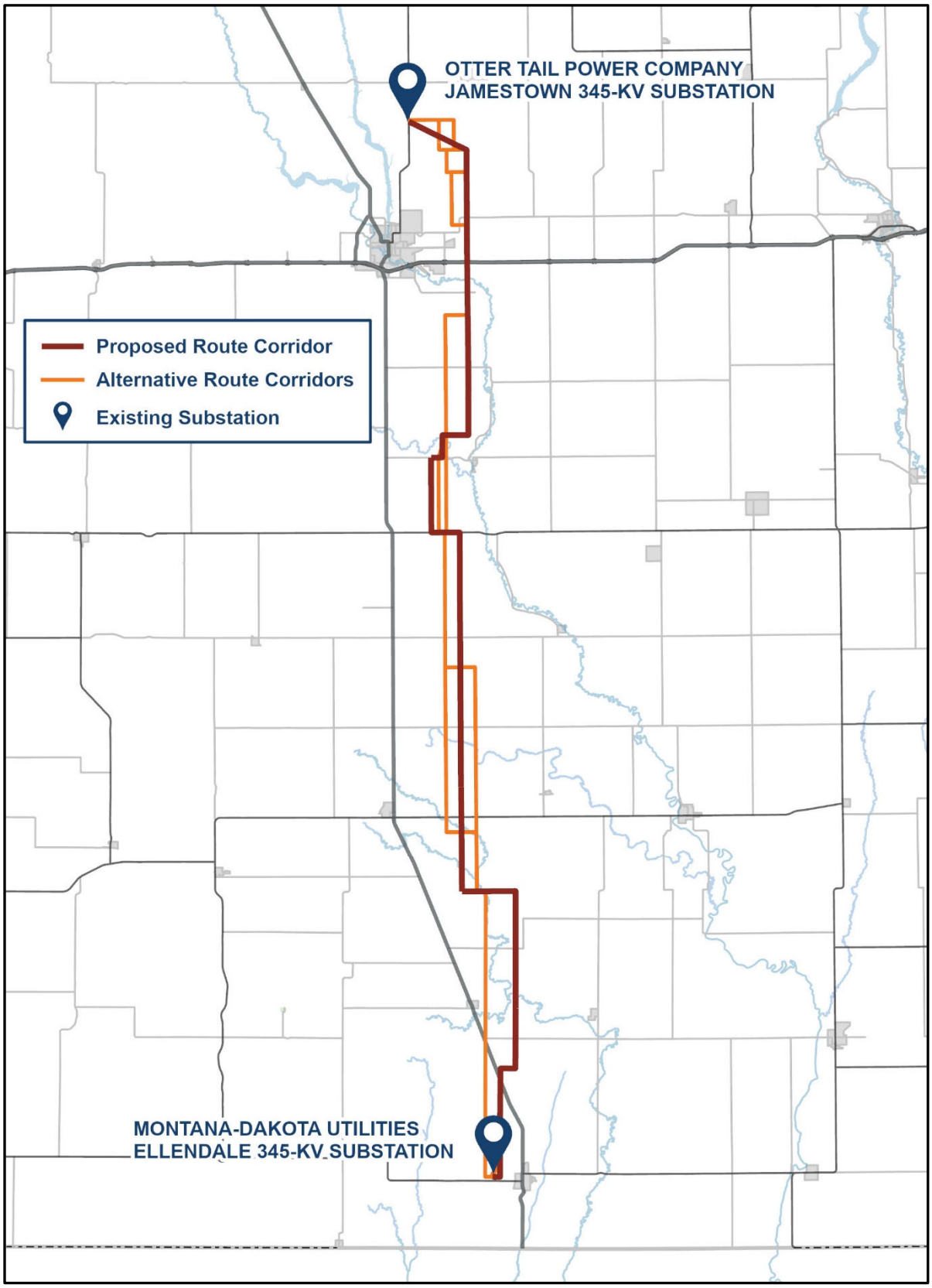
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development
Otter Tail Power Company

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Steven Vance, THPO
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of the Cheyenne River Reservation, South Dakota
98 S. Willow St.
PO Box 590
Eagle Butte, SD 57625

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Steven Vance,

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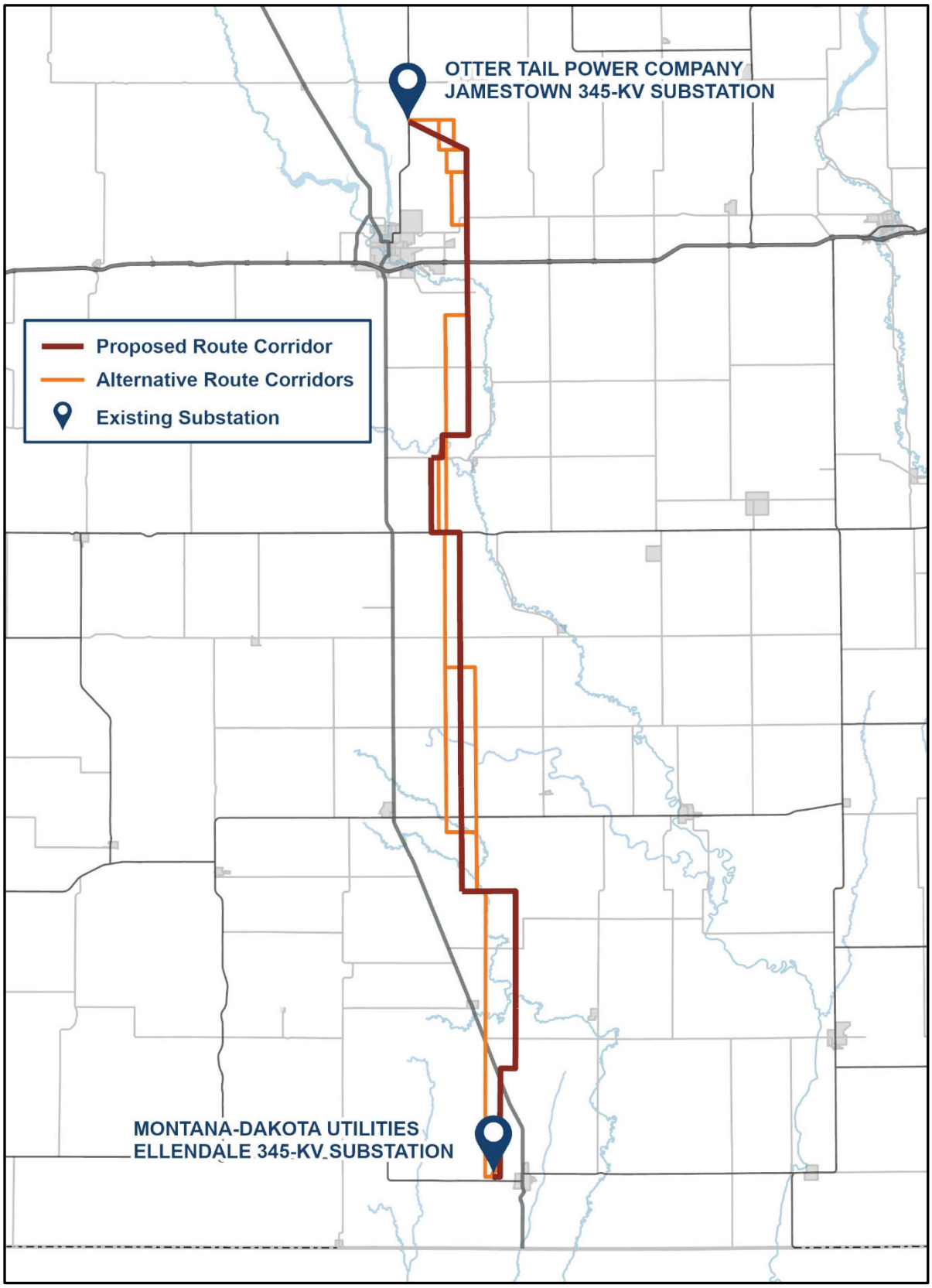
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Jason Weiers
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Otter Tail Power Company

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


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Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Peter Lengkeek, Chairman
Crow Creek Sioux Tribe of the Crow Creek Reservation, South Dakota
PO Box 50
Fort Thompson, SD 57339-0050

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Peter Lengkeek,

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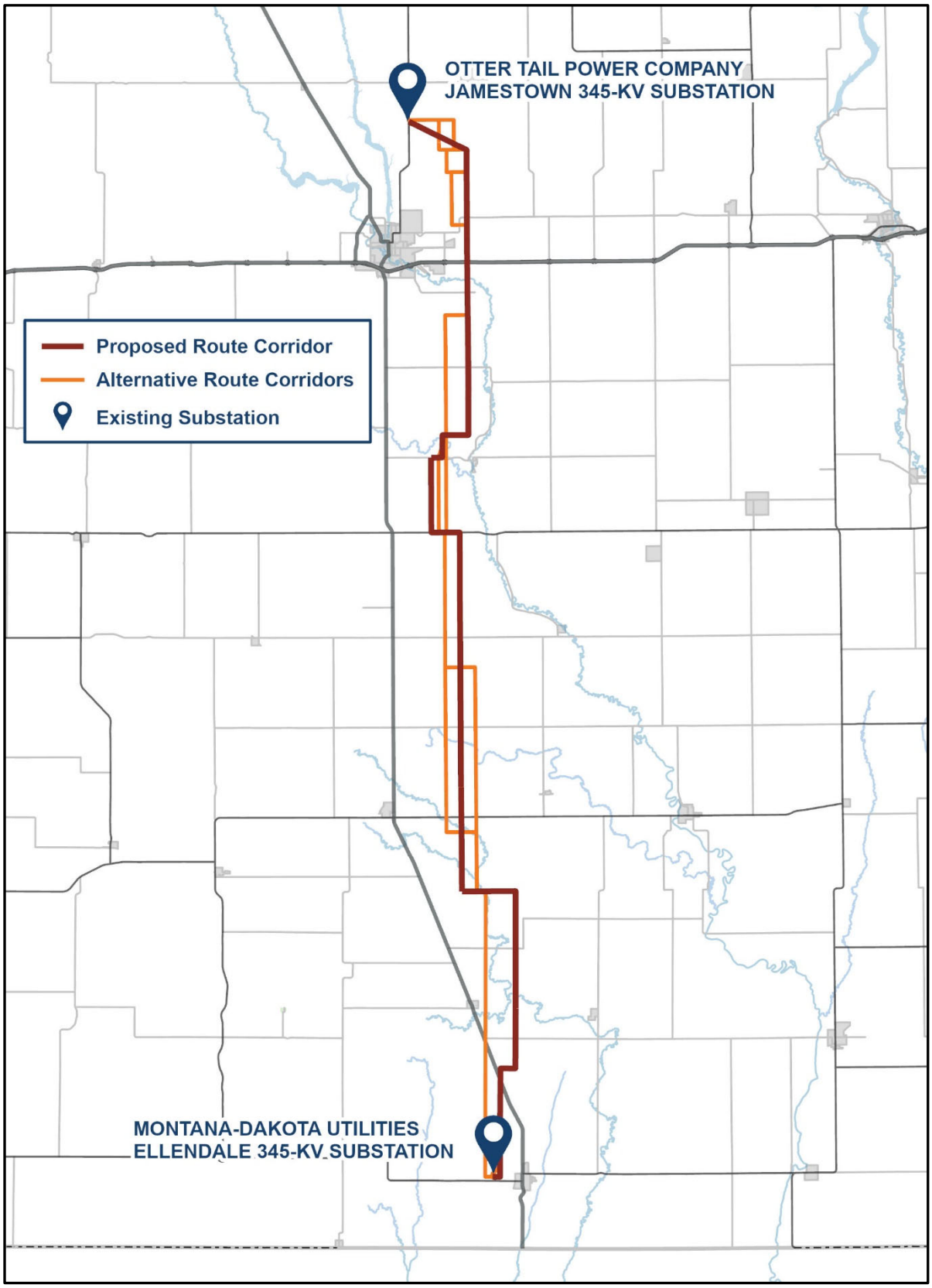
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development
Otter Tail Power Company

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


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ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Merle Marks, THPO
Crow Creek Sioux Tribe of the Crow Creek Reservation, South Dakota
PO Box 50
Fort Thompson, SD 57339

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Merle Marks,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (the Project). The Project would be in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect Otter Tail Power's existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota's existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified by the Regional Transmission Organization in the Upper Midwest[1] needed to maintain electric system reliability, increase resilience to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion and increase access to low-cost energy throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025. At this early stage of the Project, it is anticipated that Section 106 compliance would be needed for a United State Army Corps of Engineers Section 10 river crossing permit for an overhead crossing of the James River.

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HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
701-353-6139

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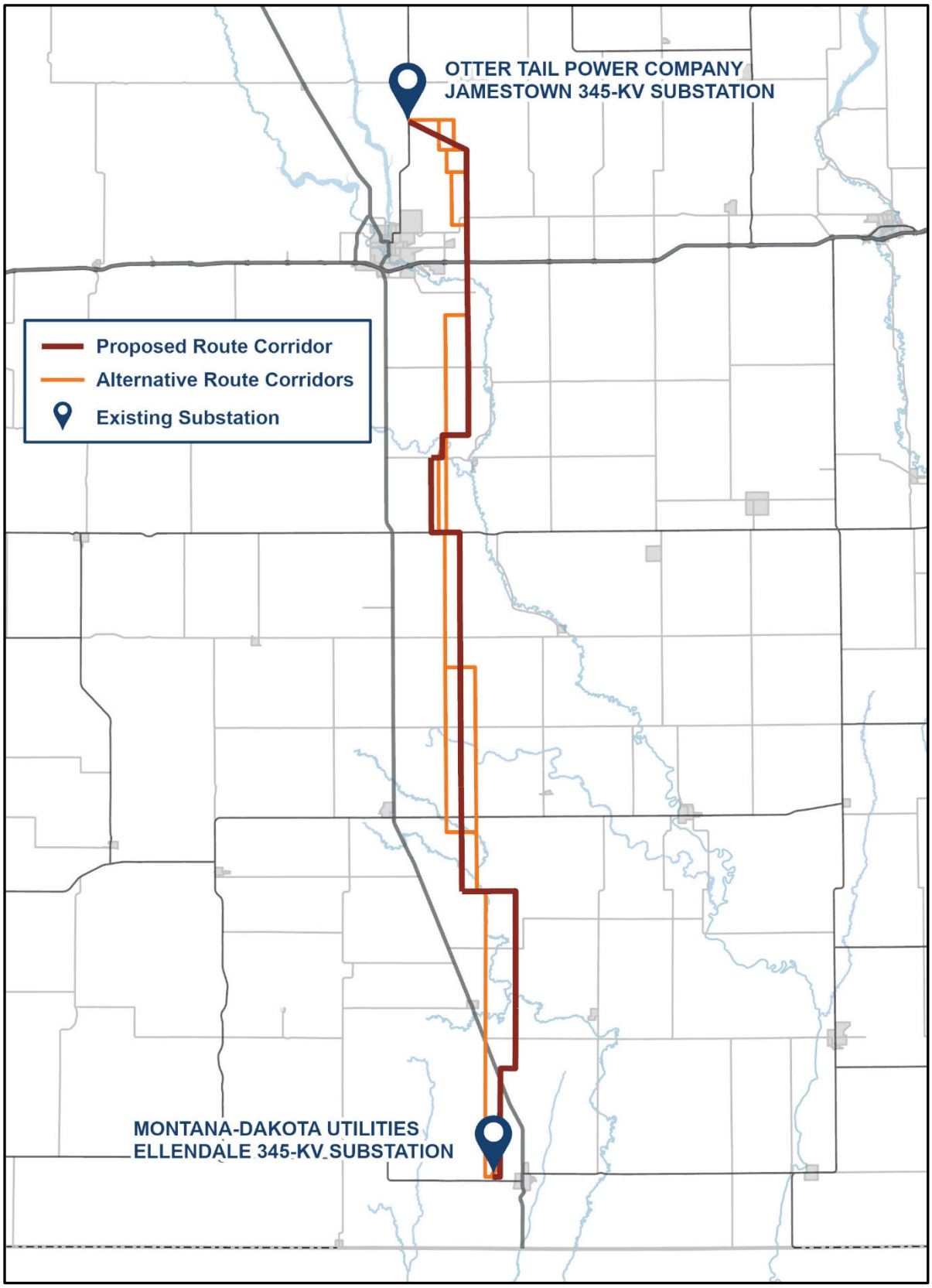
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development
Otter Tail Power Company

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Jeffery Stiffarm, President
Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana
656 Agency Main Street
Harlem, MT 59526-9455

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Jeffery Stiffarm,

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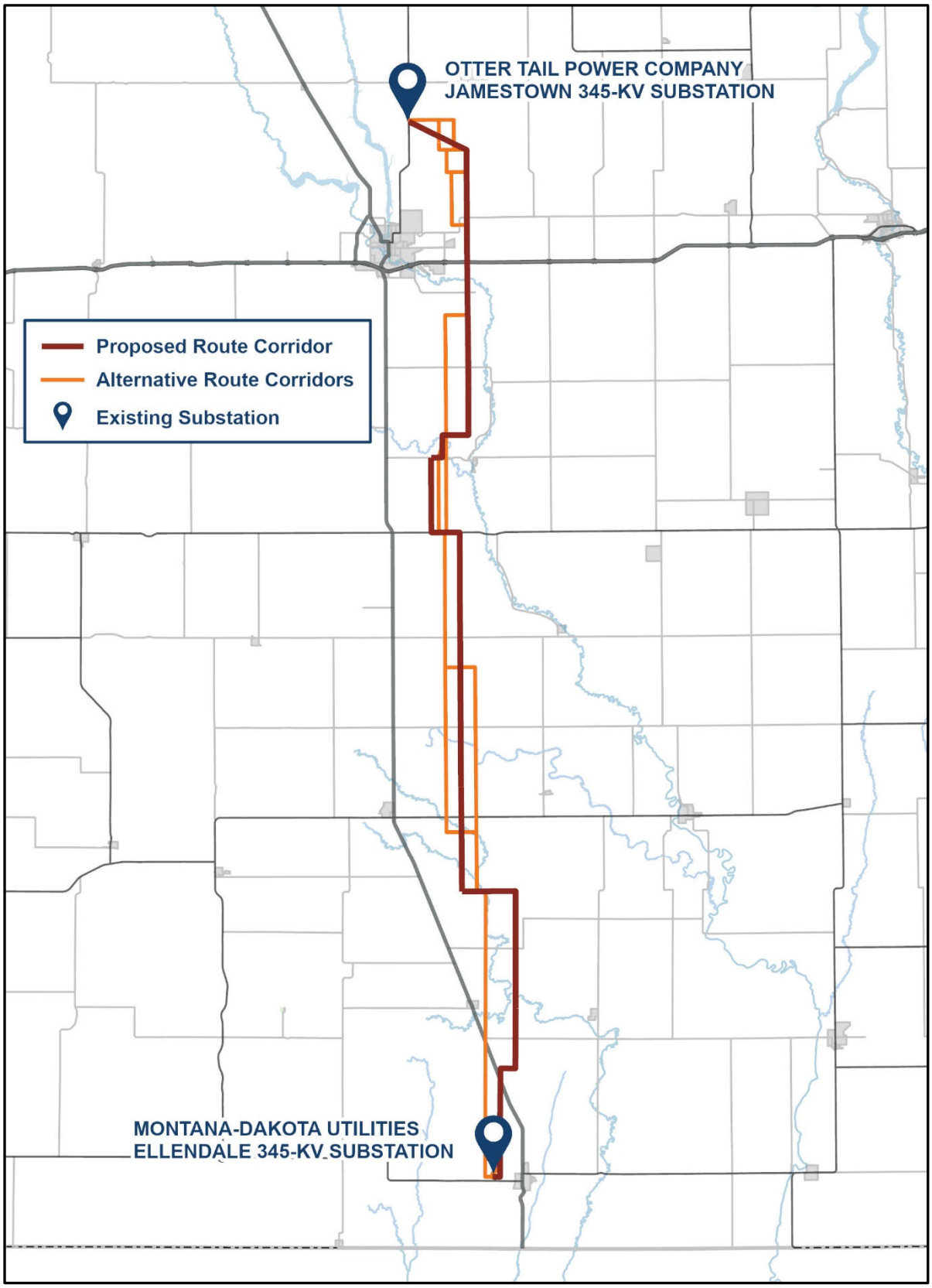
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development
Otter Tail Power Company

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


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JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Michael Blackwolf, THPO
Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana
656 Agency Main Street
Harlem, MT 59526-9455

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Michael Blackwolf,

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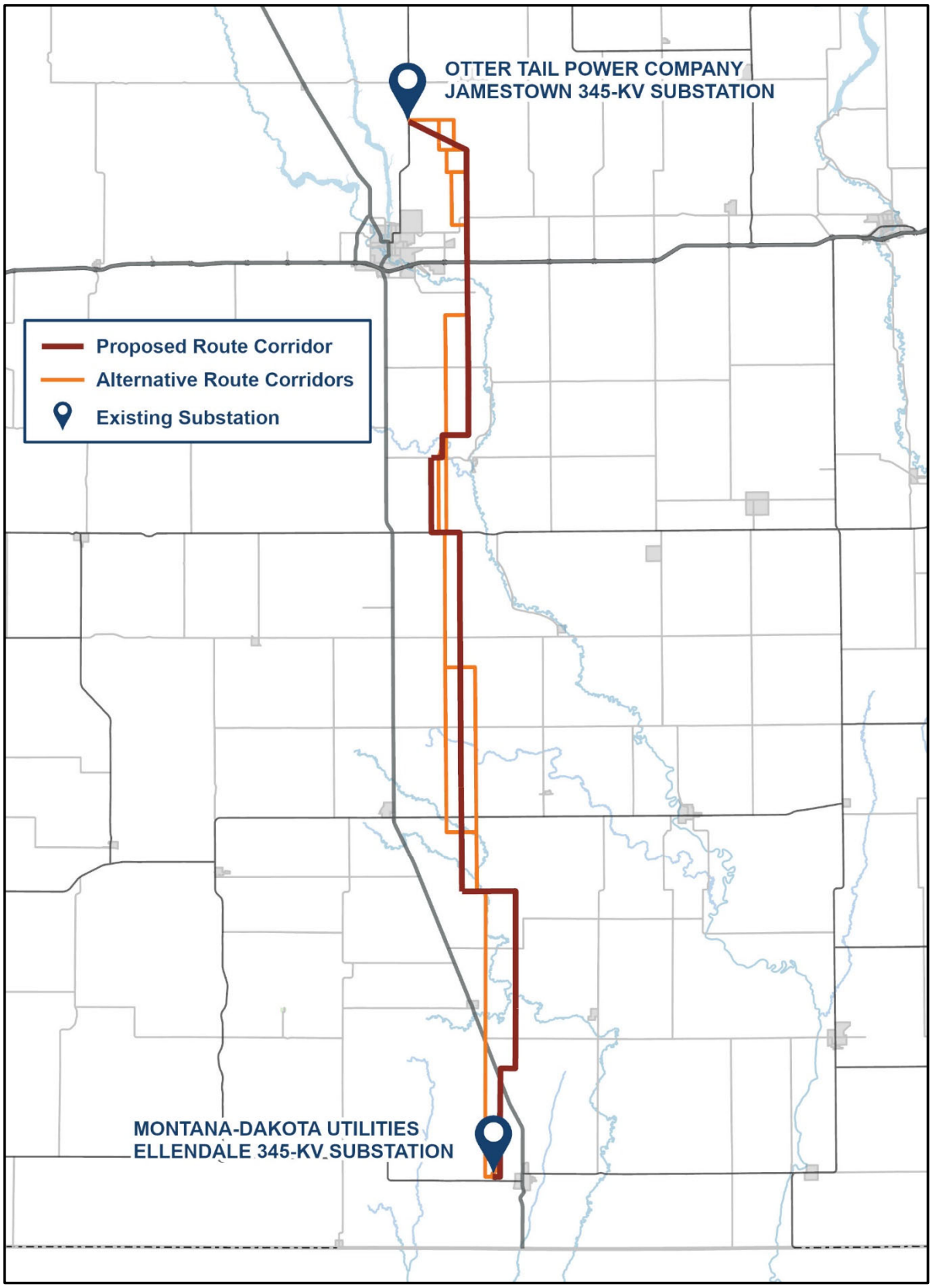
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development
Otter Tail Power Company

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


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JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Clyde Estes, Chairman
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe of the Lower Brule Reservation, South Dakota
187 Oyate Circle
Lower Brule, SD 57548-8500

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Clyde Estes,

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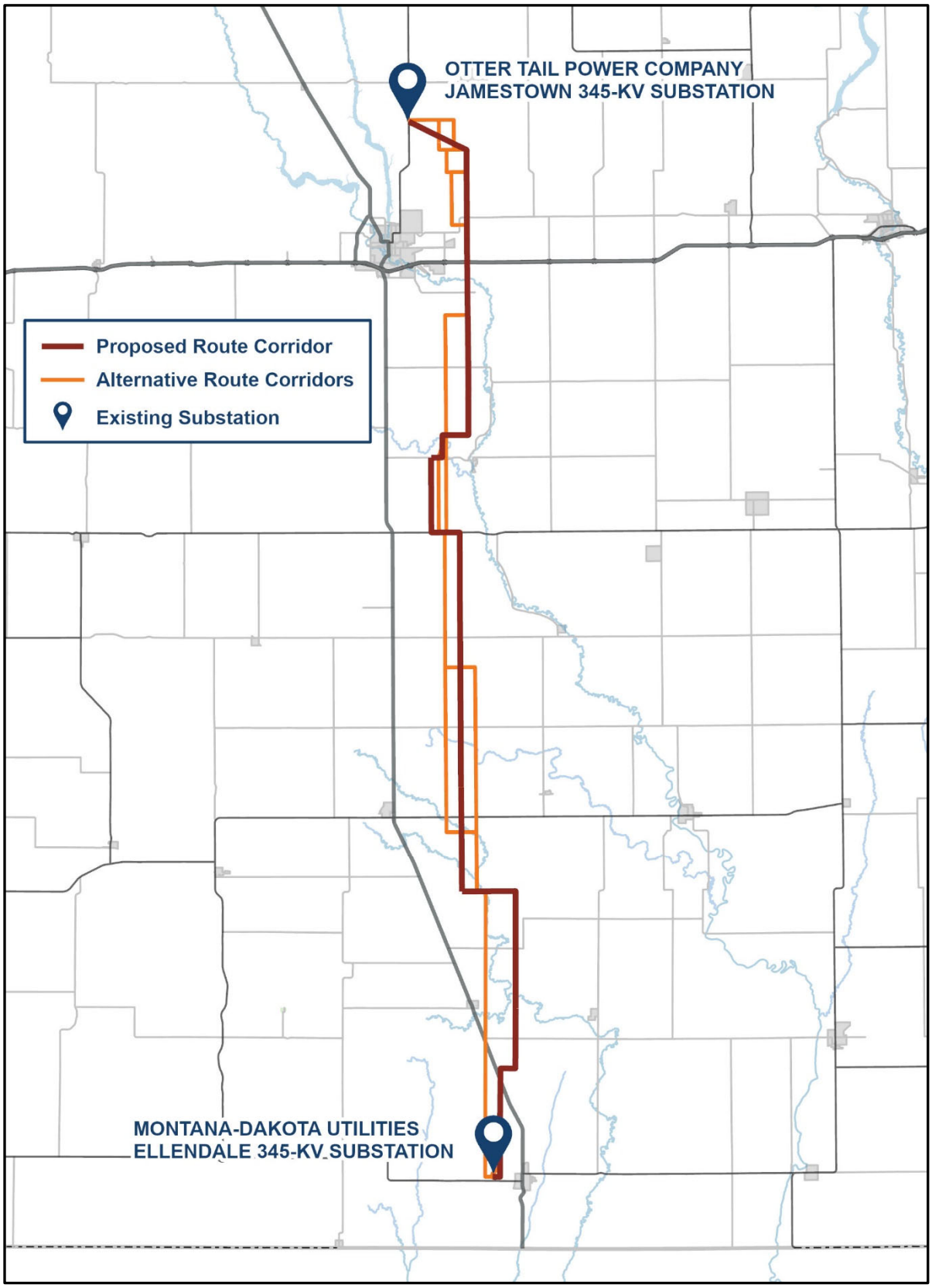
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Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development
Otter Tail Power Company

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


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JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Boyd Gourneau, Director - Cultural Resources and Public Information
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe of the Lower Brule Reservation, South Dakota
187 Oyate Circle
Lower Brule, SD 57548-8500

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Boyd Gourneau,

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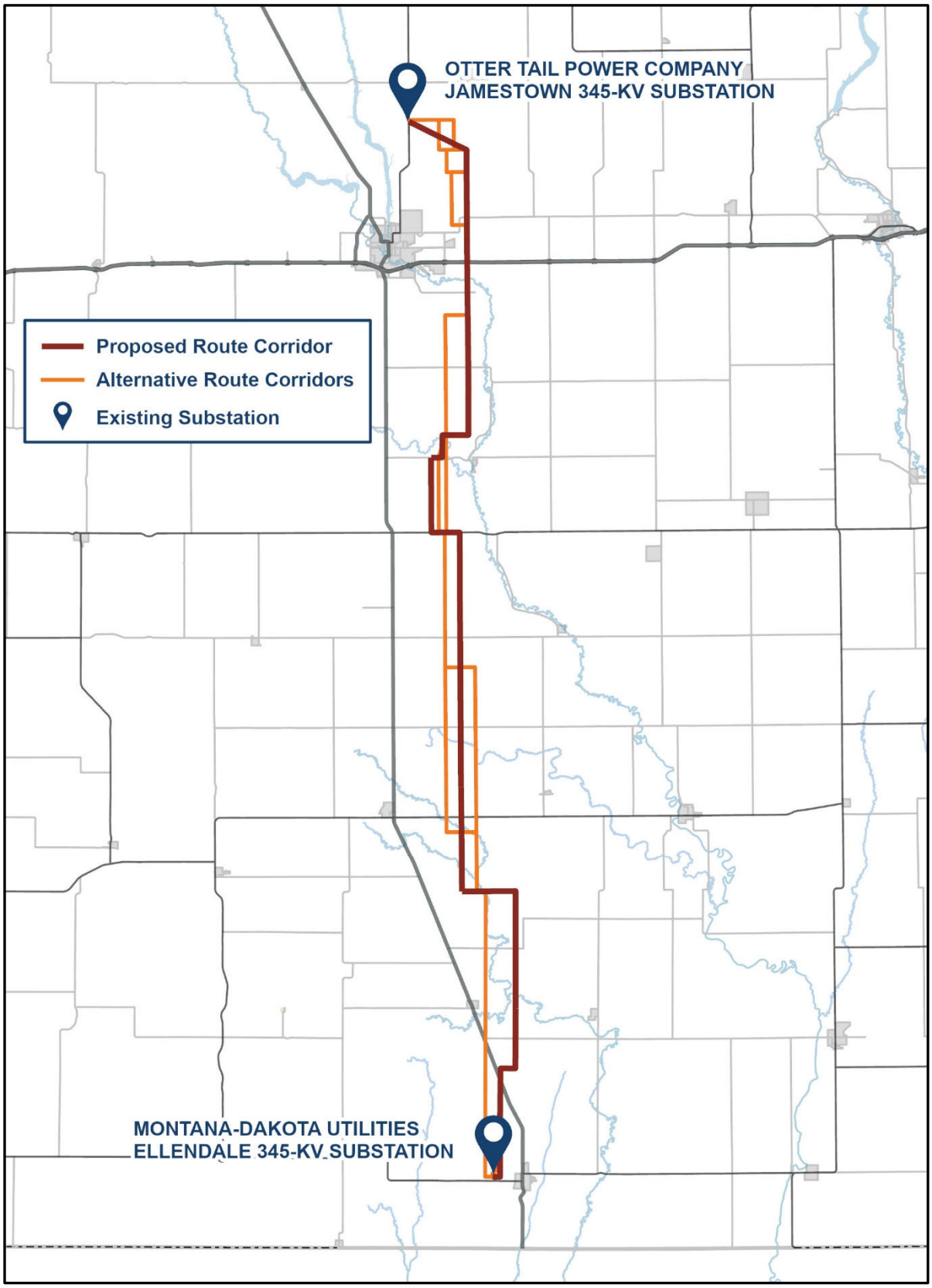
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Otter Tail Power Company

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ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Robert Larsen, President
Lower Sioux Indian Community
PO Box 308
Morton, MN 56269

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

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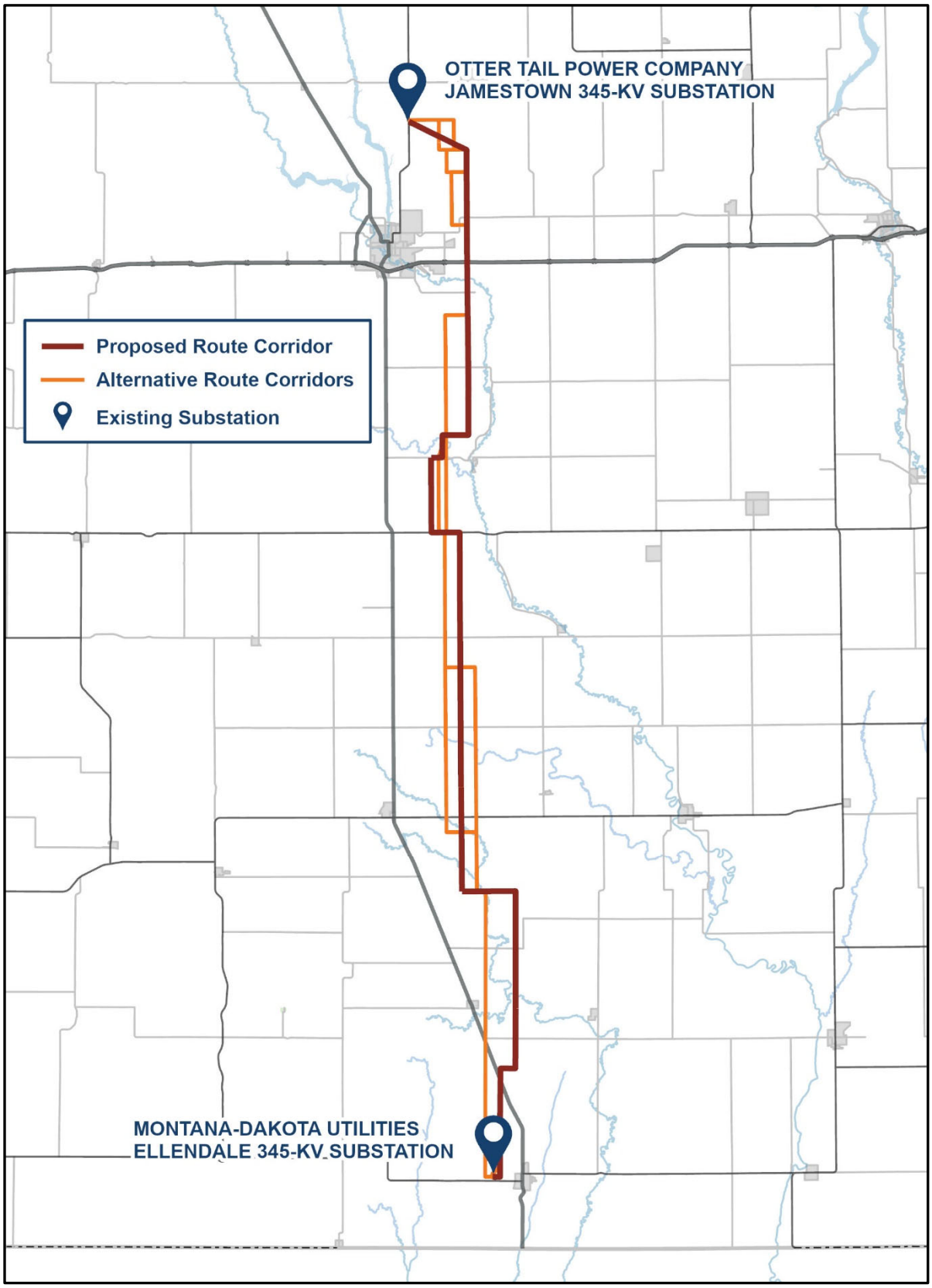
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Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Cheyanne St. John, THPO
Lower Sioux Indian Community
PO Box 308
Morton, MN 56270

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Cheyanne St. John,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (the Project). The Project would be in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect Otter Tail Power's existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota's existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified by the Regional Transmission Organization in the Upper Midwest[1] needed to maintain electric system reliability, increase resilience to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion and increase access to low-cost energy throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025. At this early stage of the Project, it is anticipated that Section 106 compliance would be needed for a United State Army Corps of Engineers Section 10 river crossing permit for an overhead crossing of the James River.

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HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
701-353-6139

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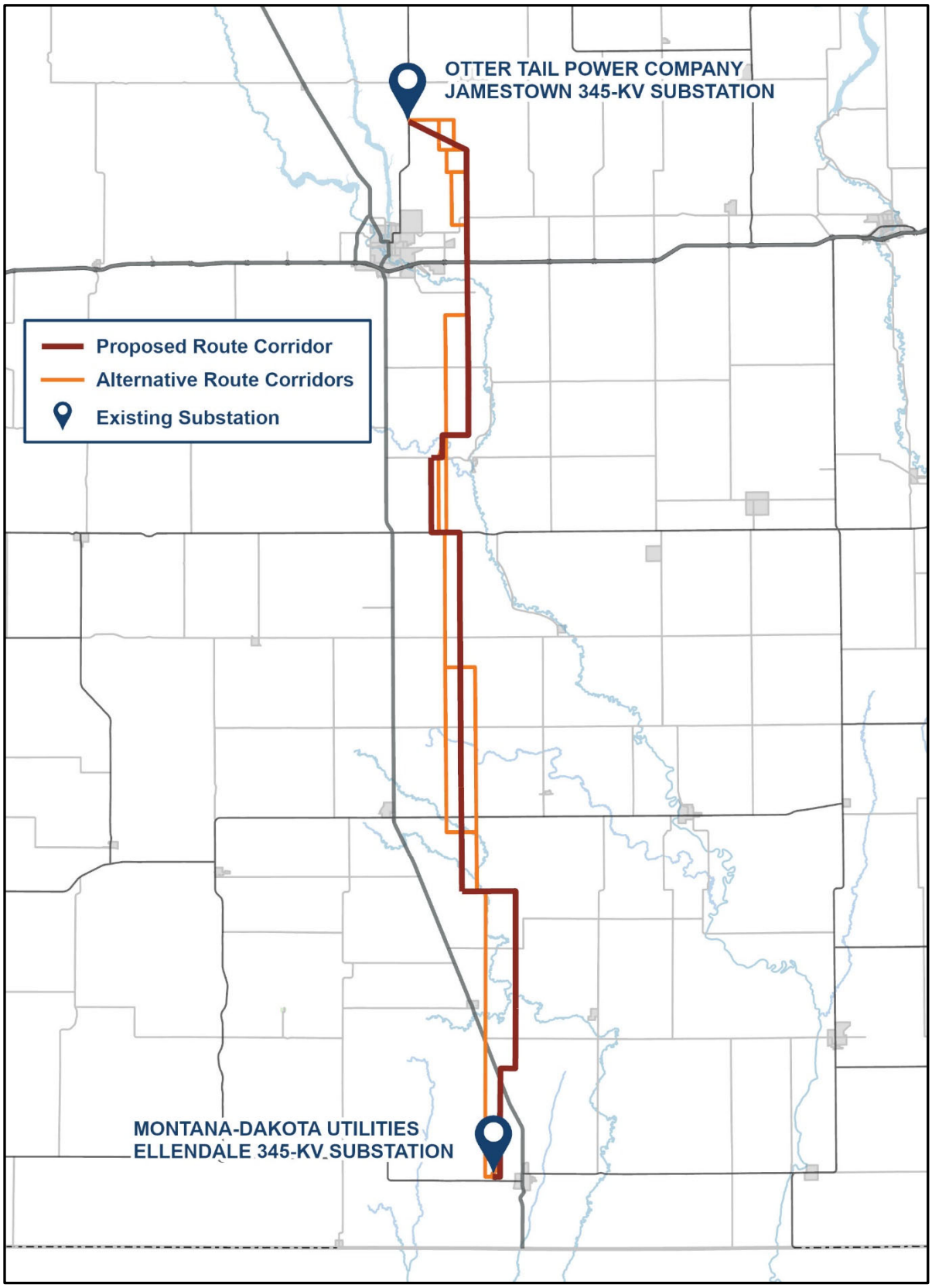
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development
Otter Tail Power Company

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Mark Fox, Chairperson
Mandan, Hidatsa, & Arikara Nation (Three Affiliated Tribes)
404 Frontage Road
New Town, ND 58763-9404

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Mark Fox,

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Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
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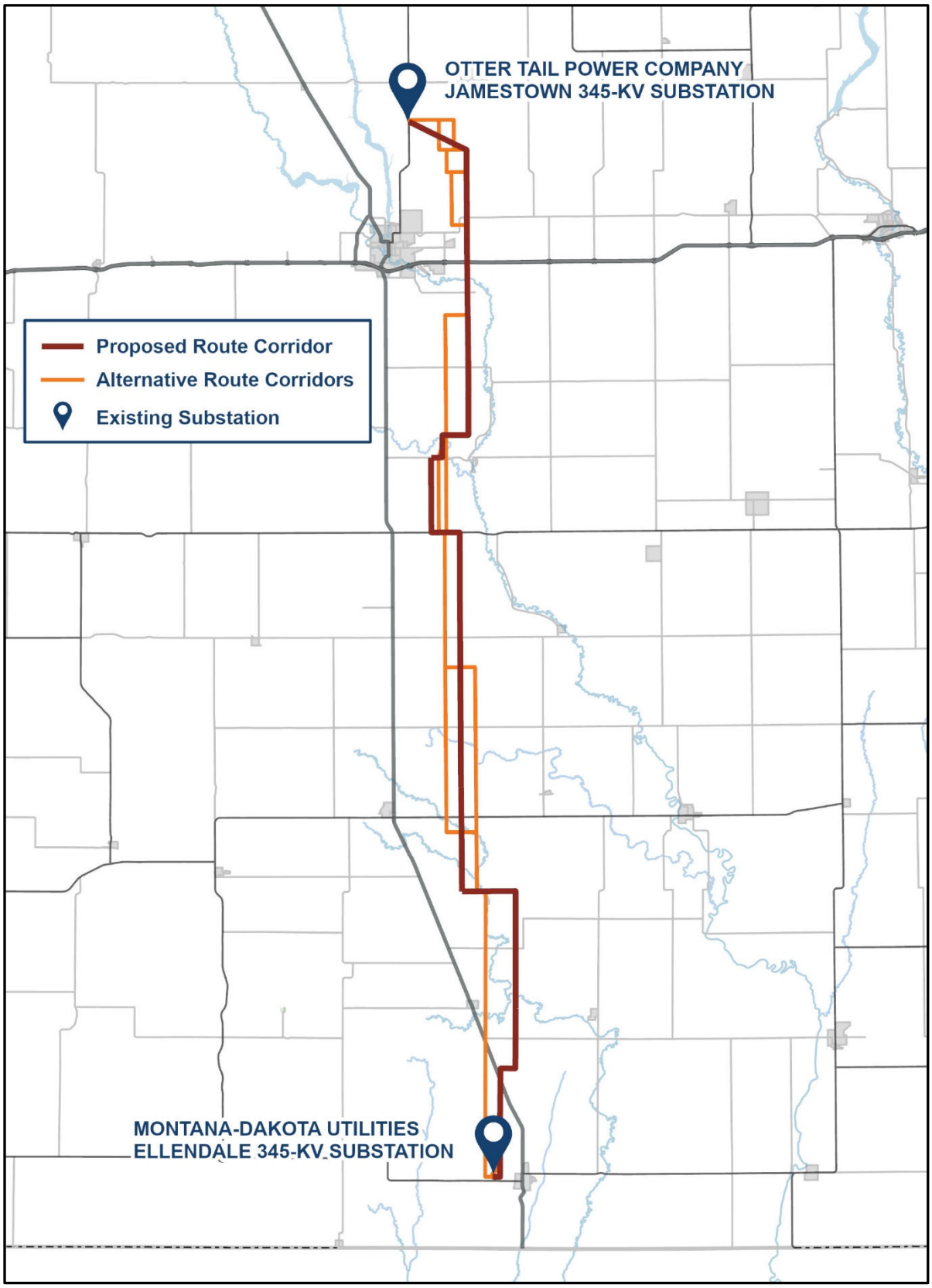
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development
Otter Tail Power Company

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Allan Demaray, THPO/Director
Mandan, Hidatsa, & Arikara Nation (Three Affiliated Tribes)
404 Frontage Road
New Town, ND 58763

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Allan Demaray,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (the Project). The Project would be in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect Otter Tail Power's existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota's existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified by the Regional Transmission Organization in the Upper Midwest[1] needed to maintain electric system reliability, increase resilience to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion and increase access to low-cost energy throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025. At this early stage of the Project, it is anticipated that Section 106 compliance would be needed for a United State Army Corps of Engineers Section 10 river crossing permit for an overhead crossing of the James River.

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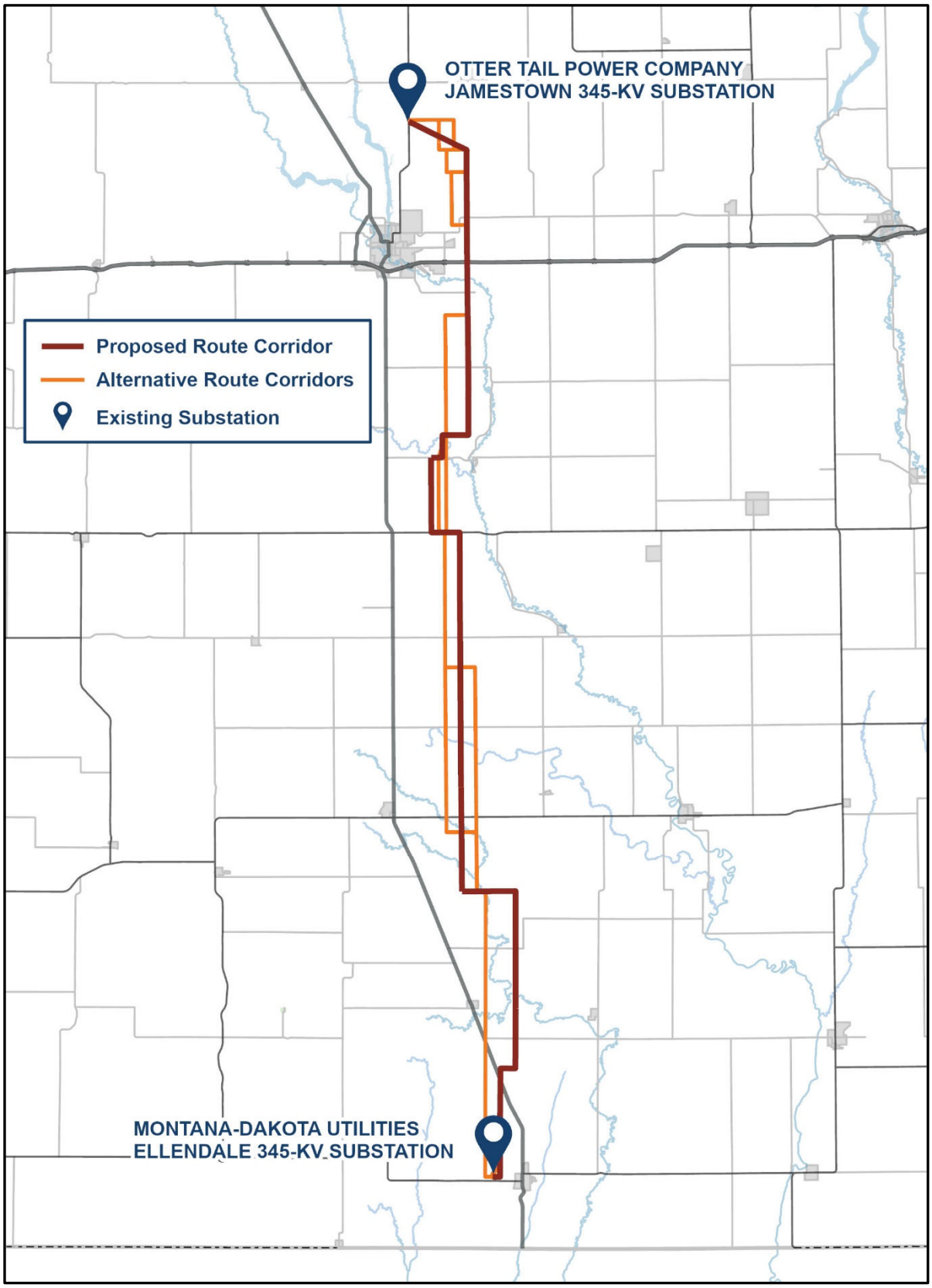
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development
Otter Tail Power Company

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Frank Star Comes Out, President
Oglala Sioux Tribe
107 West Main Street
PO Box 2070
Pine Ridge, SD 57770-2070

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Frank Star Comes Out,

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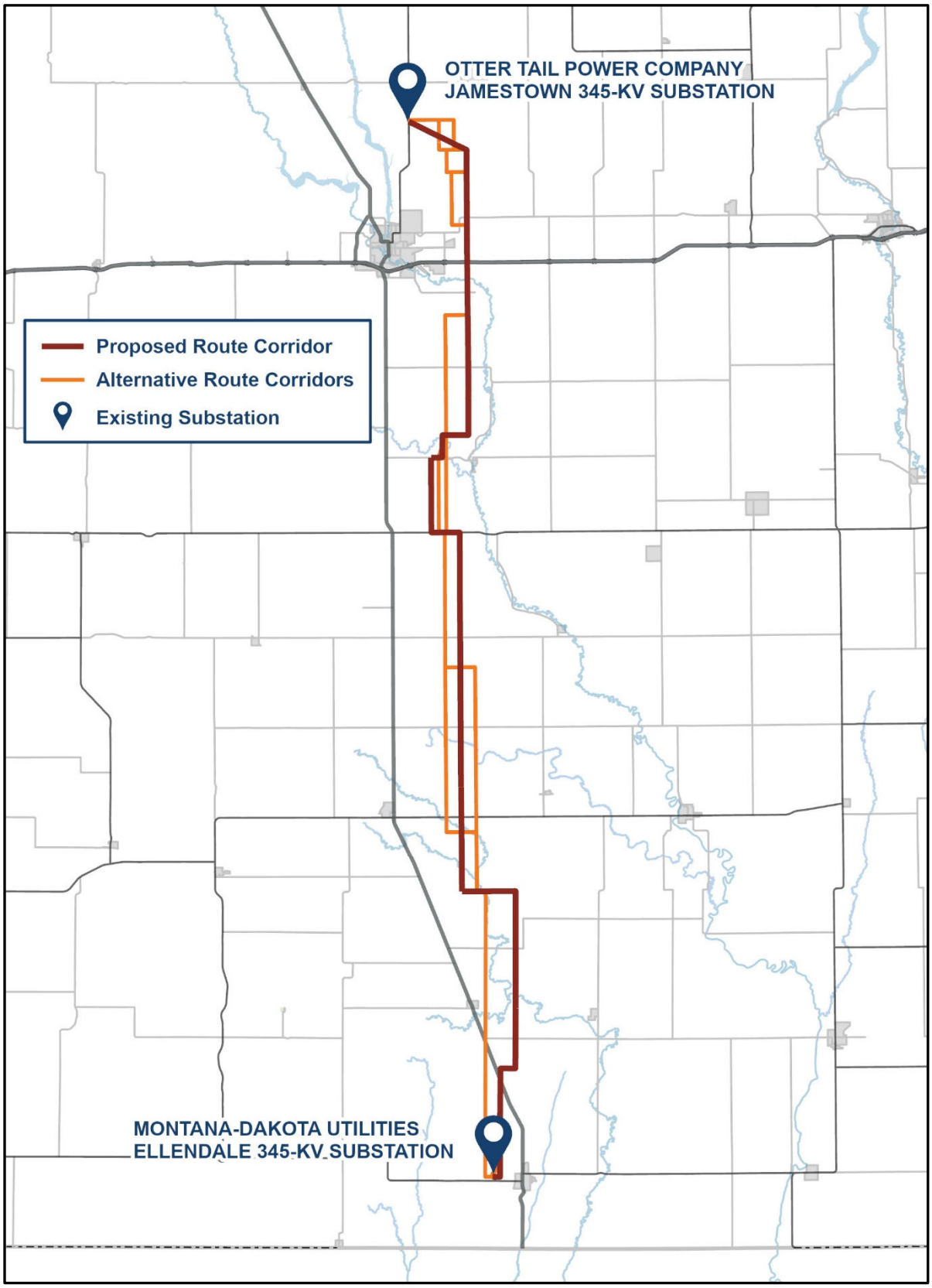
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Manager, Transmission Project Development
Otter Tail Power Company

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JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Thomas Brings, THPO
Oglala Sioux Tribe
107 West Main Street
PO Box 2070
Pine Ridge, SD 57770-2070

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

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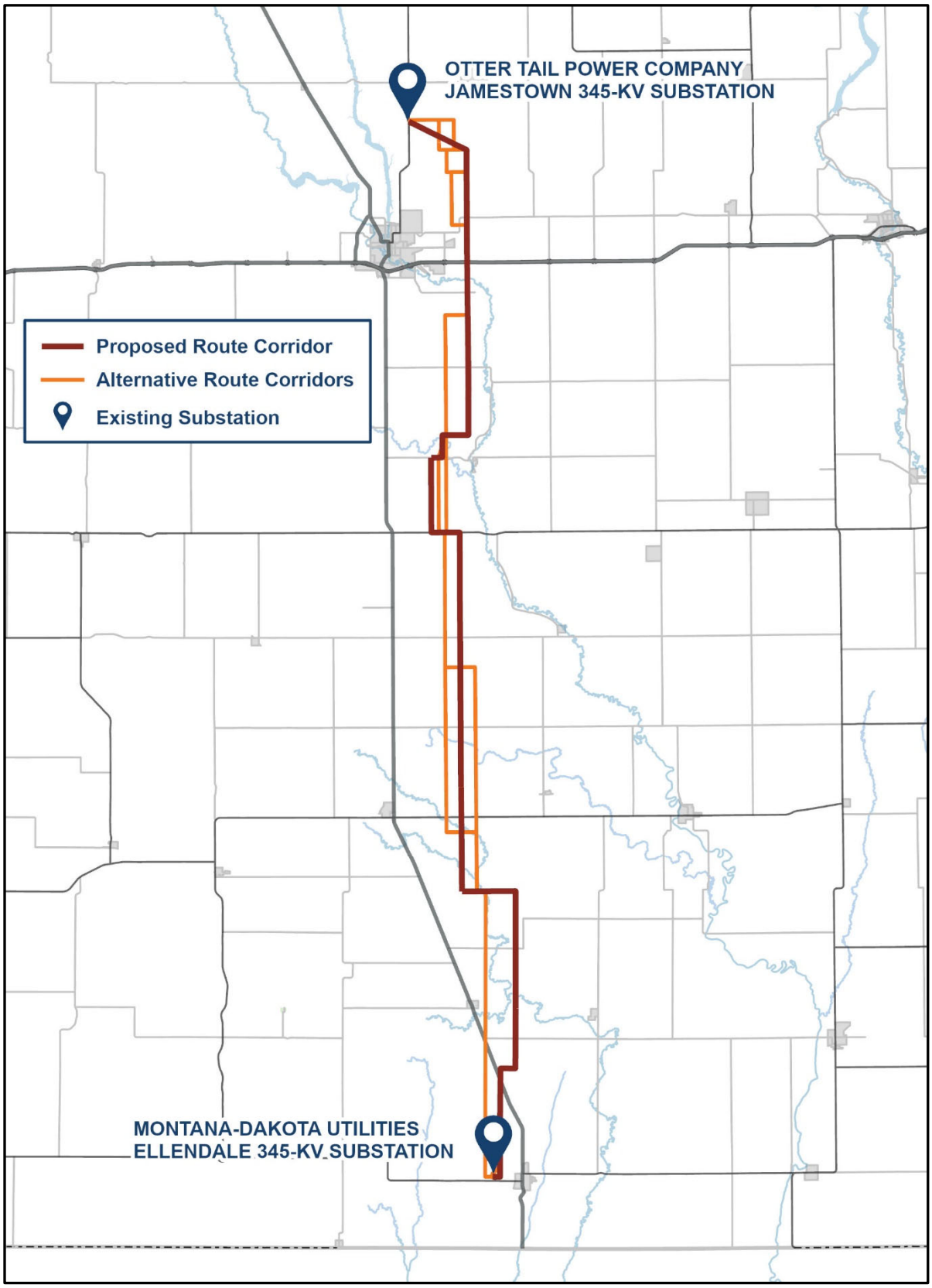
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Otter Tail Power Company

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ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Johnny Johnson, President
Prairie Island Indian Community
5636 Sturgeon Lake Road
Welch, MN 55088

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

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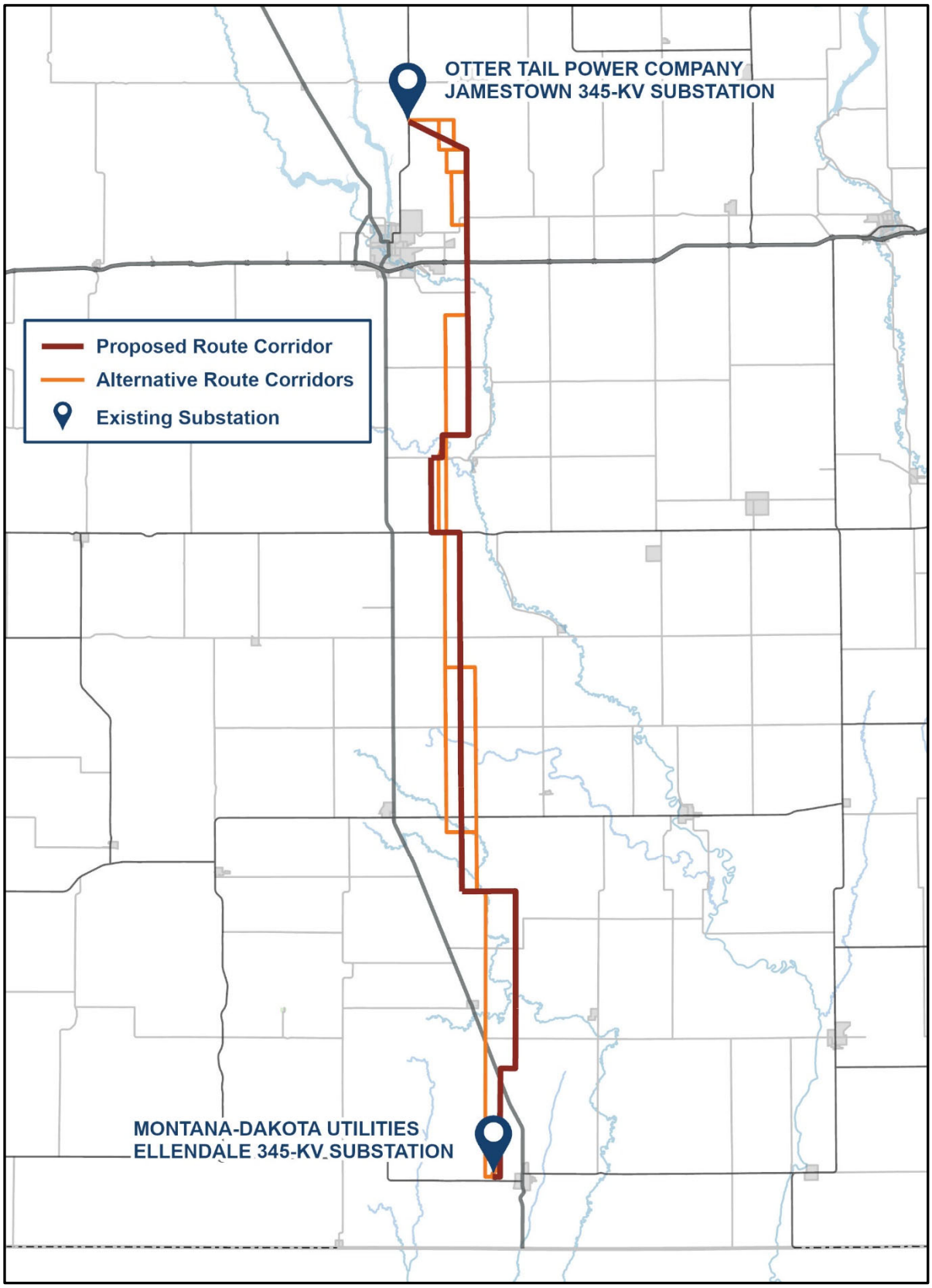
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Jason Weiers
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Otter Tail Power Company

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Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Noah White, THPO
Prairie Island Indian Community
5636 Sturgeon Lake Road
Welch, MN 55089

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Noah White,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (the Project). The Project would be in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect Otter Tail Power's existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota's existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified by the Regional Transmission Organization in the Upper Midwest[1] needed to maintain electric system reliability, increase resilience to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion and increase access to low-cost energy throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025. At this early stage of the Project, it is anticipated that Section 106 compliance would be needed for a United State Army Corps of Engineers Section 10 river crossing permit for an overhead crossing of the James River.

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HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
701-353-6139

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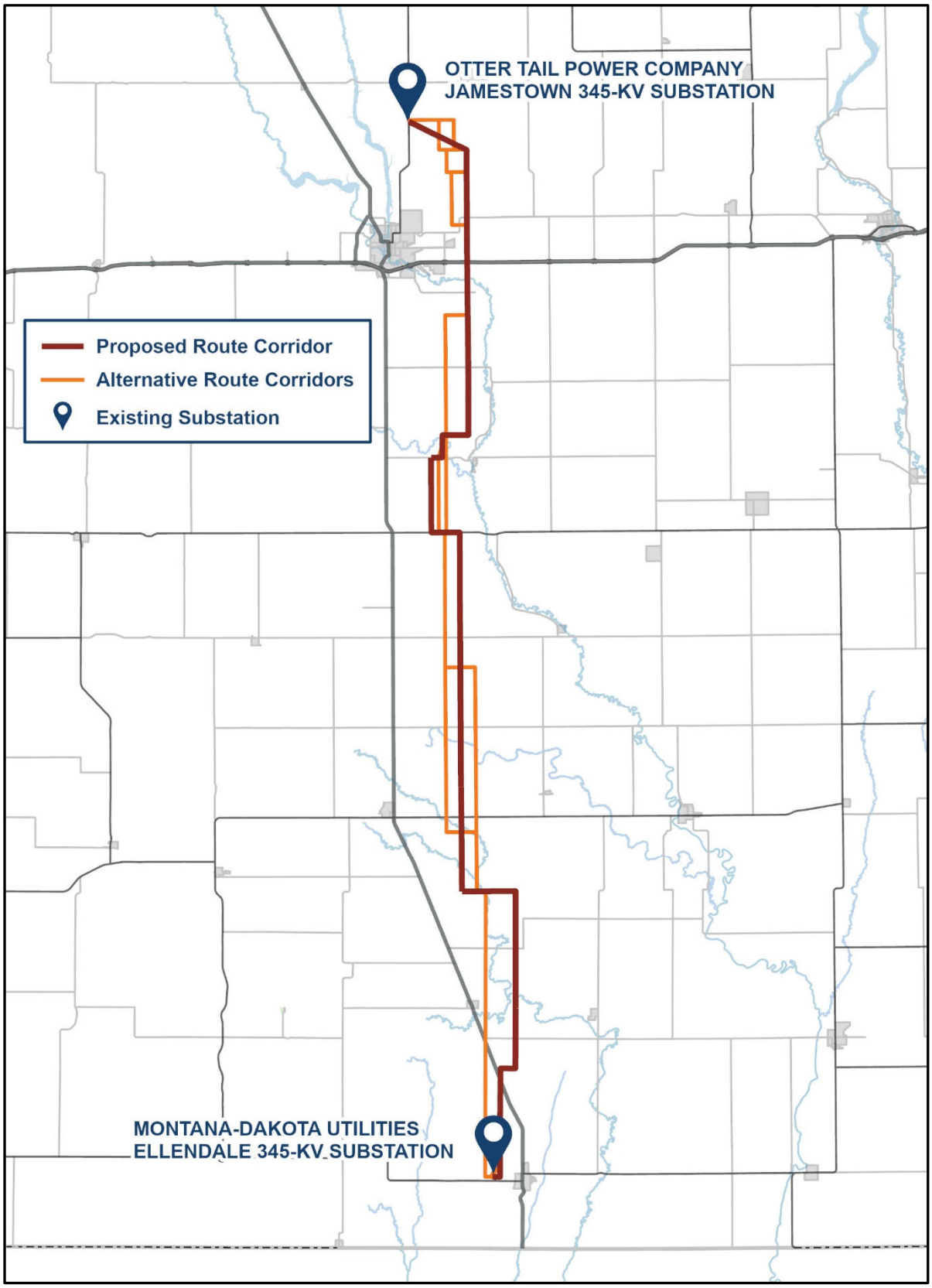
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development
Otter Tail Power Company

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Scott Herman, President
Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Indian Reservation, South Dakota
11th Legion Ave
PO BOX 430
Rosebud, SD 57570

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Scott Herman,

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Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
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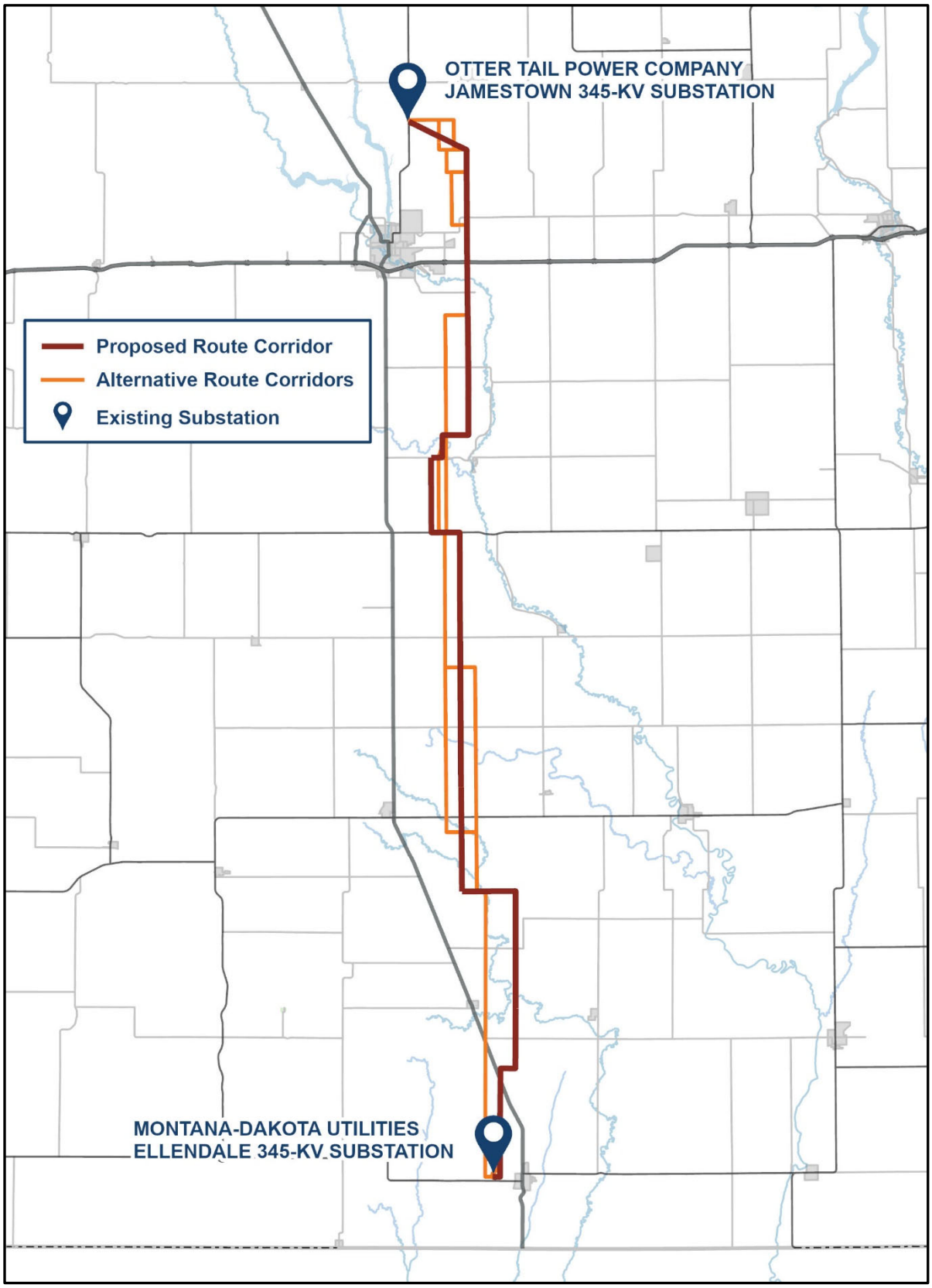
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development
Otter Tail Power Company

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Russell Eagle Bear, THPO
Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Indian Reservation, South Dakota
PO Box 658
Rosebud, SD 57570-0658

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Russell Eagle Bear,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (the Project). The Project would be in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect Otter Tail Power's existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota's existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified by the Regional Transmission Organization in the Upper Midwest[1] needed to maintain electric system reliability, increase resilience to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion and increase access to low-cost energy throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025. At this early stage of the Project, it is anticipated that Section 106 compliance would be needed for a United State Army Corps of Engineers Section 10 river crossing permit for an overhead crossing of the James River.

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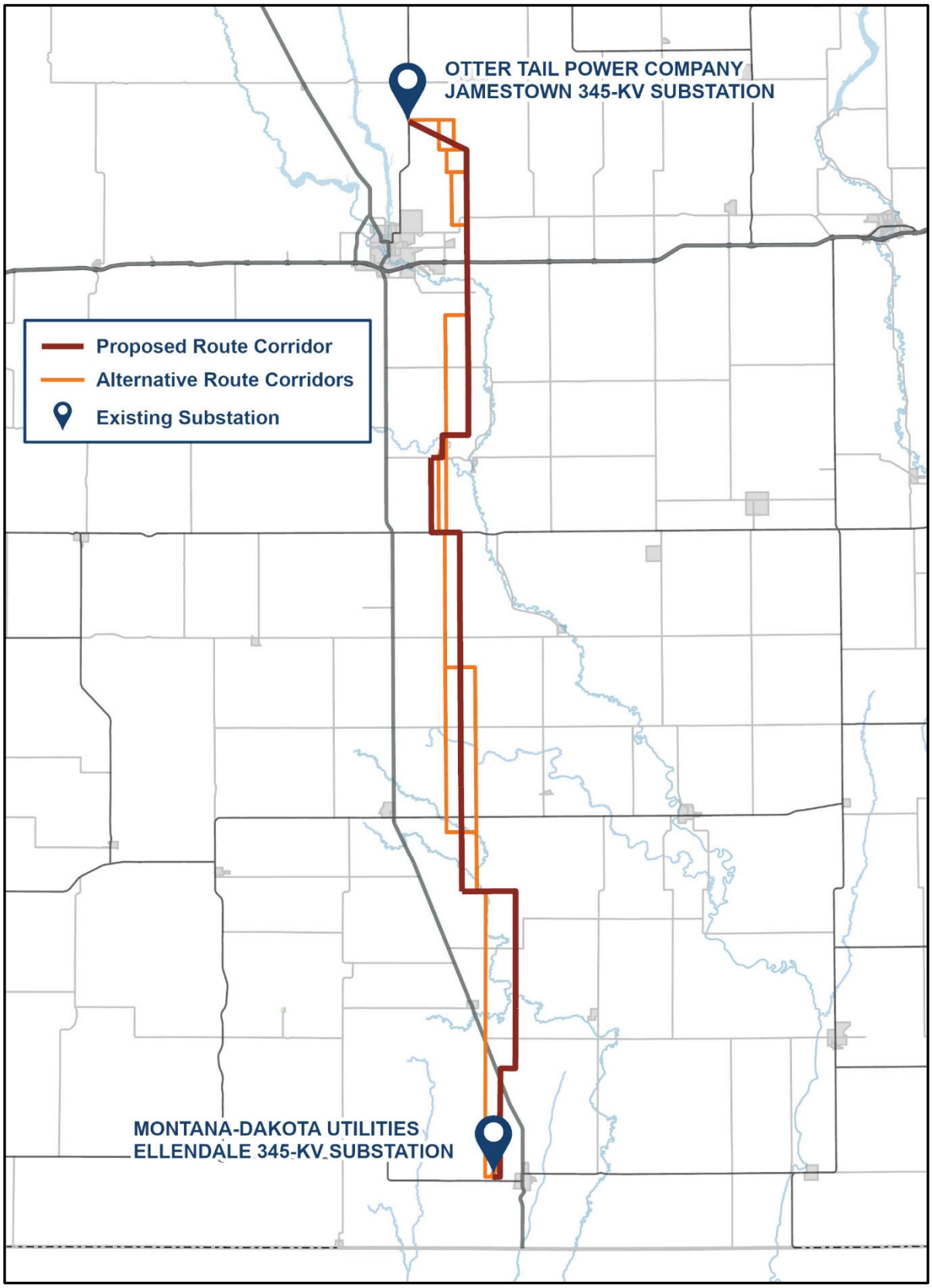
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development
Otter Tail Power Company

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Roger Trudell, Chairperson
Santee Sioux Nation, Nebraska
108 Spirit Lake Ave. W
Niobrara, NE 68760

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Roger Trudell,

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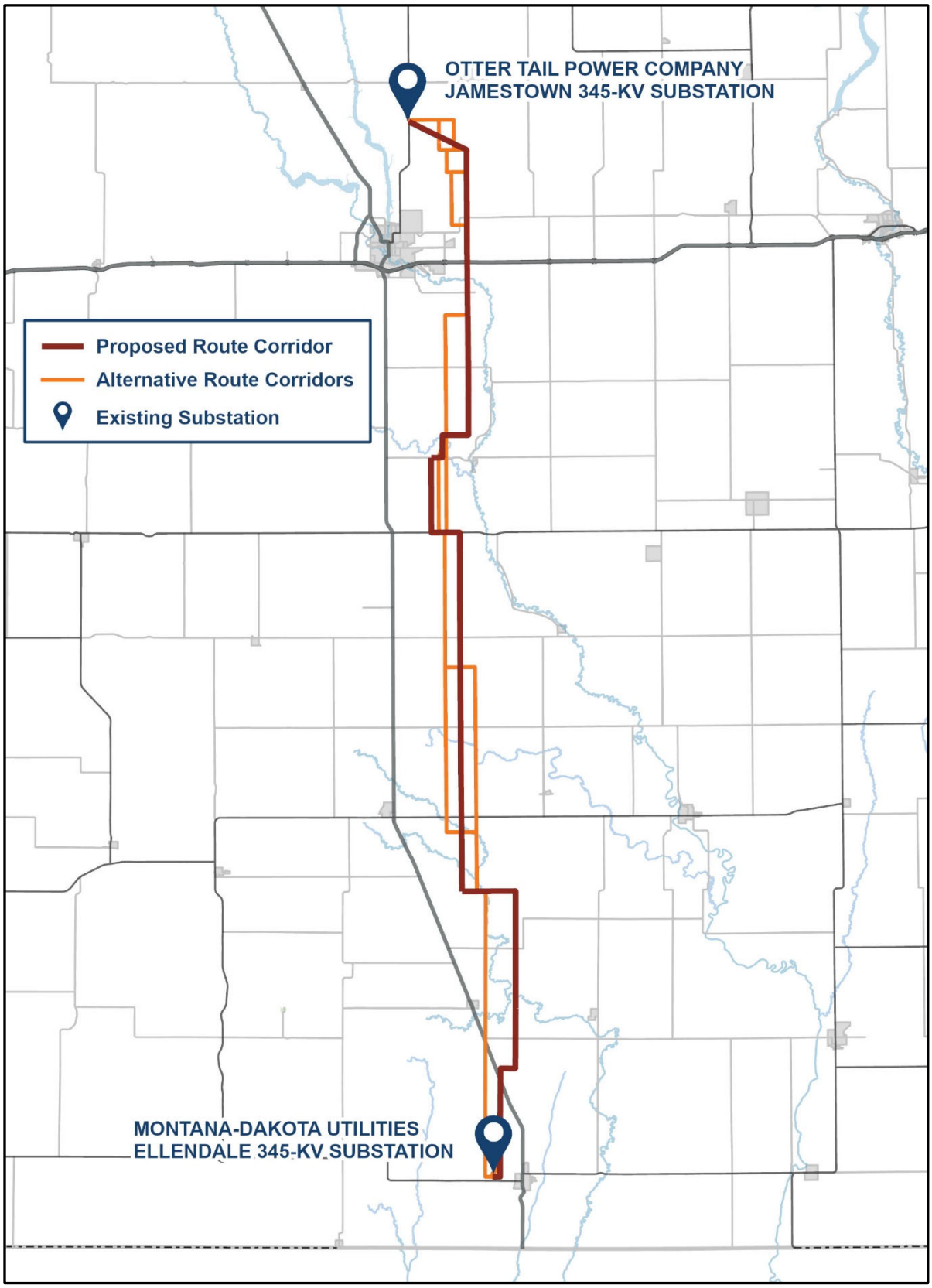
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development
Otter Tail Power Company

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


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JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Misty Frazier, THPO
Santee Sioux Nation, Nebraska
425 Frazier Ave. N.
Suite 2
Niobrara, NE 68760-7207

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Misty Frazier,

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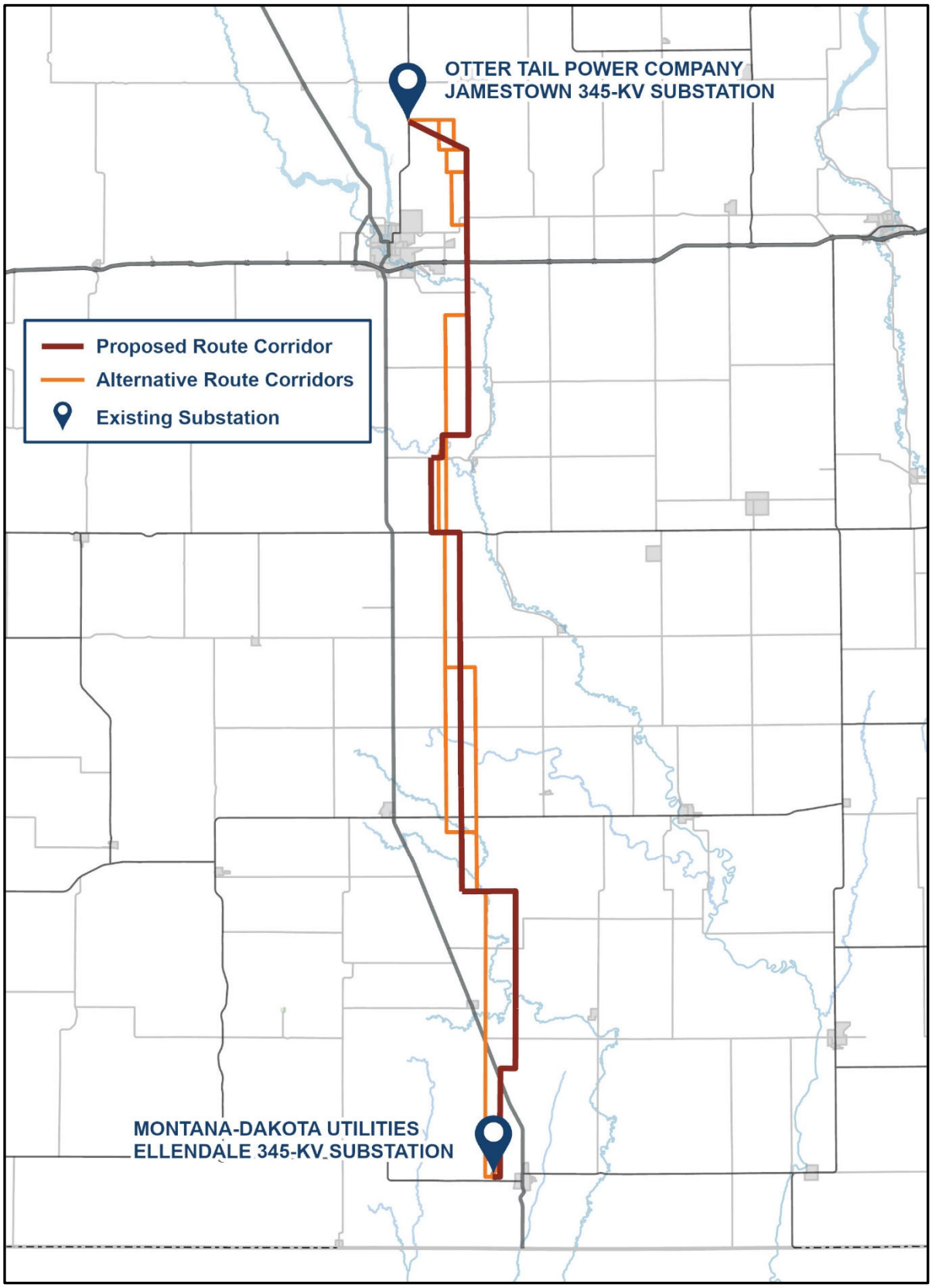
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Manager, Transmission Project Development
Otter Tail Power Company

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


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Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Lonna Jackson-Street, Chairperson
Spirit Lake Nation
PO Box 359
Fort Totten, ND 58335

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Lonna Jackson-Street,

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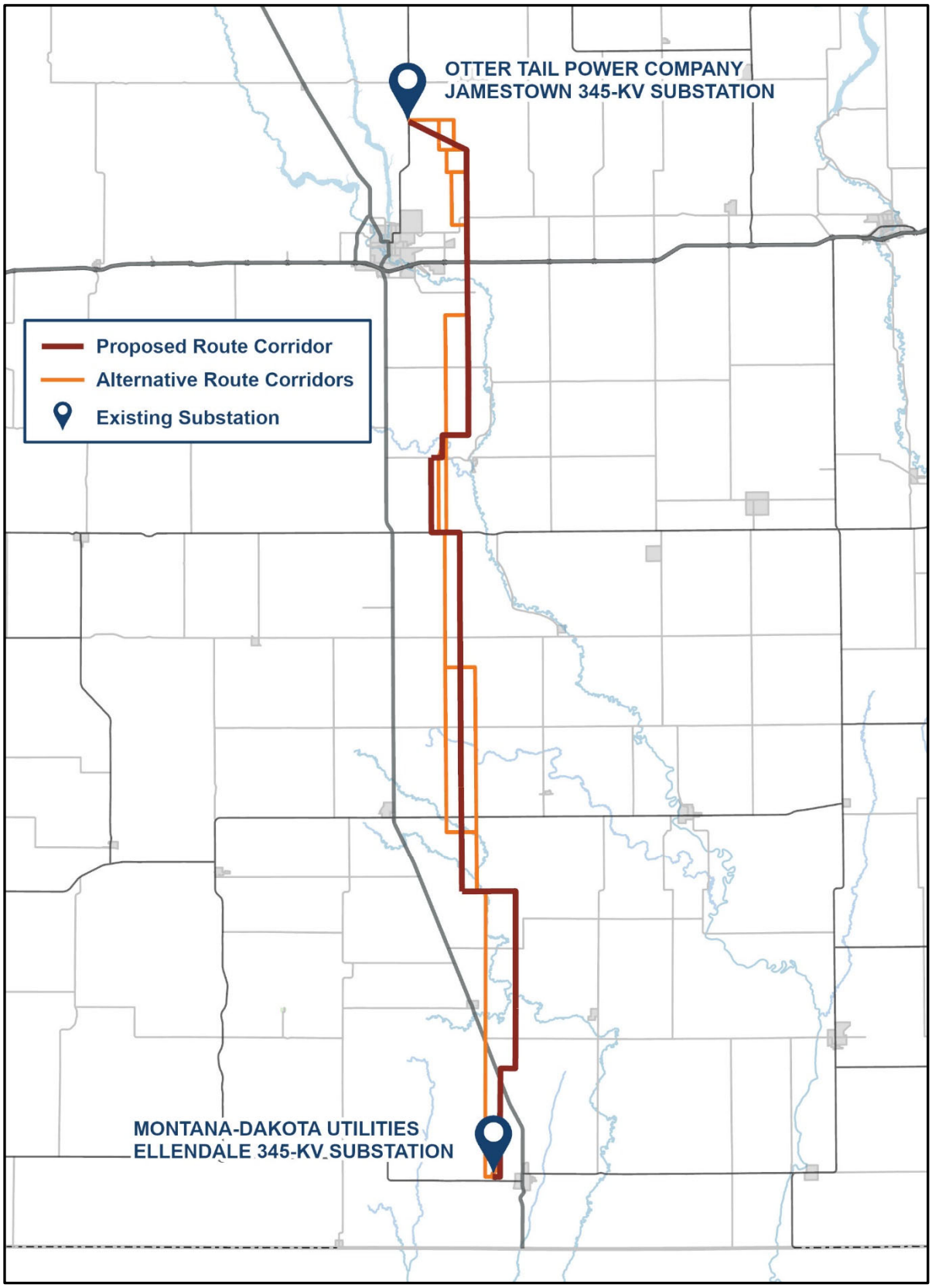
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Jason Weiers
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Otter Tail Power Company

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Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Kenneth Graywater, Jr., THPO
Spirit Lake Nation
PO Box 198
Fort Totten, ND 58335

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Kenneth Graywater, Jr.,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Jamestown, North Dakota, to Ellendale, North Dakota (the Project). The Project would be in Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties and would connect Otter Tail Power's existing 345-kV Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota's existing 345-kV Ellendale substation. This is one of eighteen new transmission projects identified by the Regional Transmission Organization in the Upper Midwest[1] needed to maintain electric system reliability, increase resilience to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion and increase access to low-cost energy throughout the region. Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota plan to submit a joint siting application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in the second half of 2024 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025. At this early stage of the Project, it is anticipated that Section 106 compliance would be needed for a United State Army Corps of Engineers Section 10 river crossing permit for an overhead crossing of the James River.

Currently, Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota are in the planning stages of the Project, which include public involvement, right-of-way support, permit planning, and initial design. These preliminary planning stages provide important input into the identification of the preferred corridor and route corridor alternatives. The attached map shows the proposed route corridor and alternative route corridors for the Project. These corridors are subject to change as we continue public outreach with landowners and other interested parties. Environmental field surveys are currently anticipated to start late this year and be completed in 2024.

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HDR, Inc.
Attn: Jennifer Hanley
51 N Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102
Jennifer.hanley@hdrinc.com
701-353-6139

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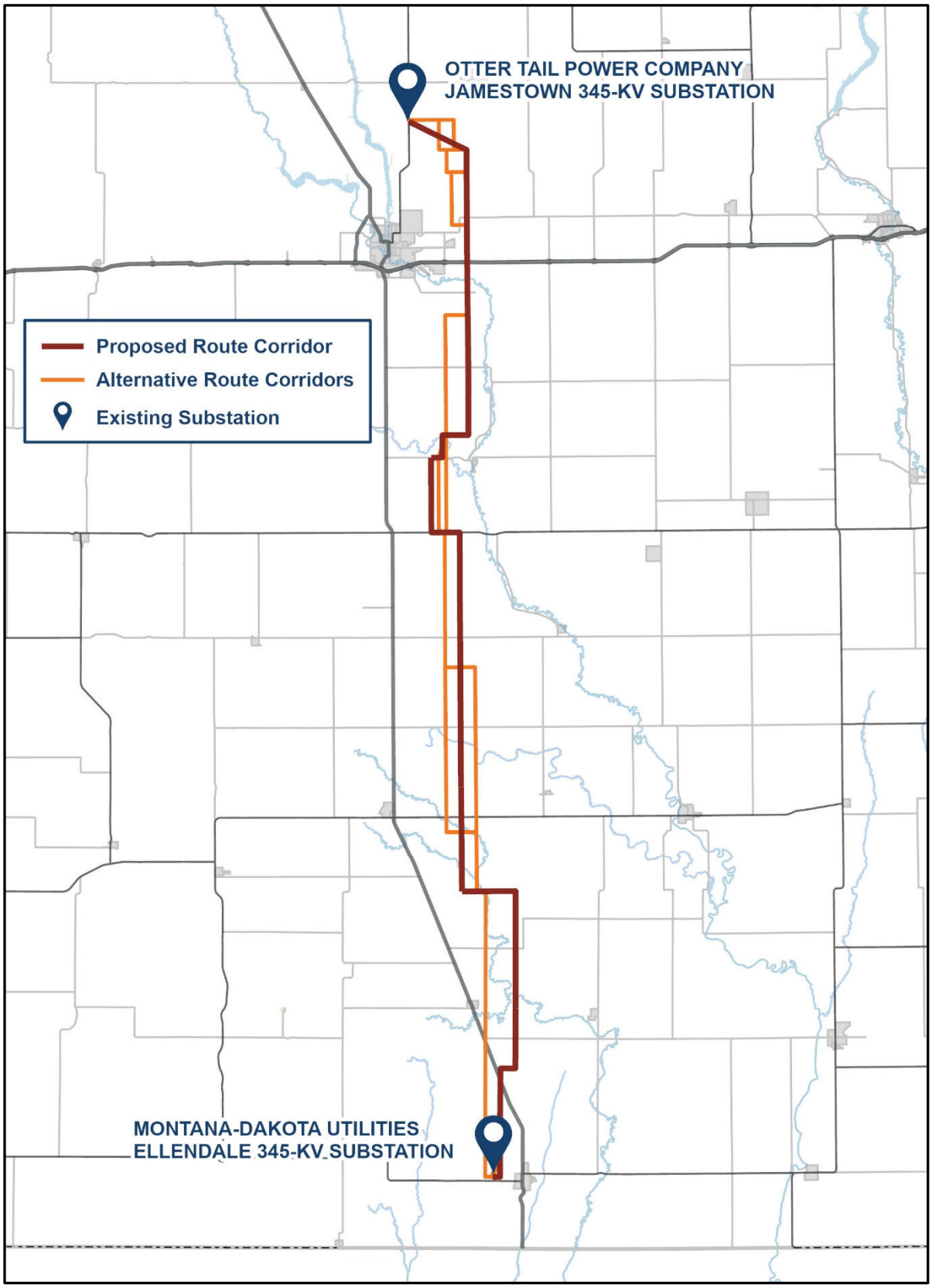
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development
Otter Tail Power Company

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Janet Alkire, Chairwoman
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
1 Standing Rock Ave
Fort Yates, ND 58538

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Janet Alkire,

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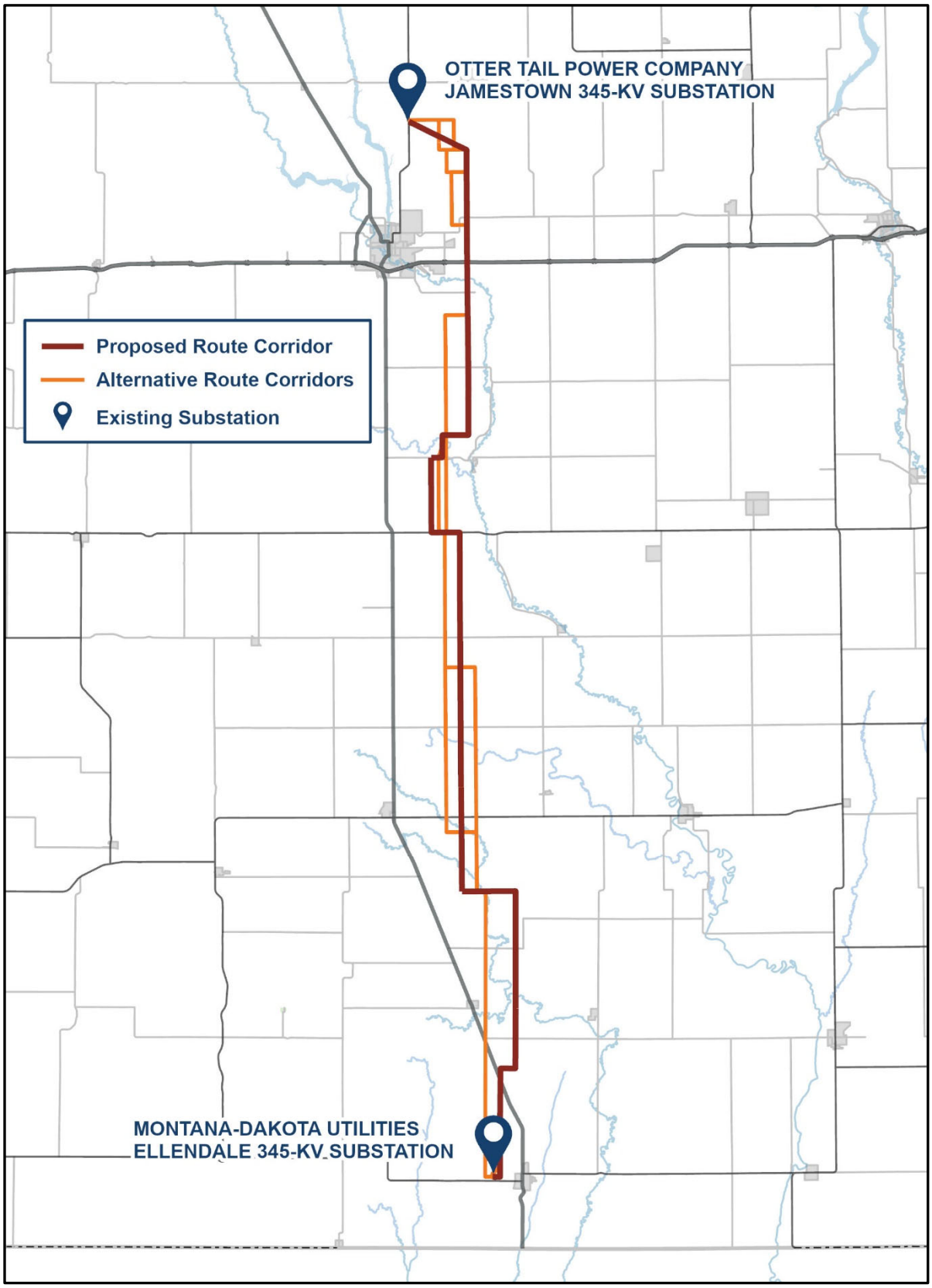
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Sincerely,

Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development
Otter Tail Power Company

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Jon Eagle, THPO
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
PO Box D
Fort Yates, ND 58538

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Jon Eagle,

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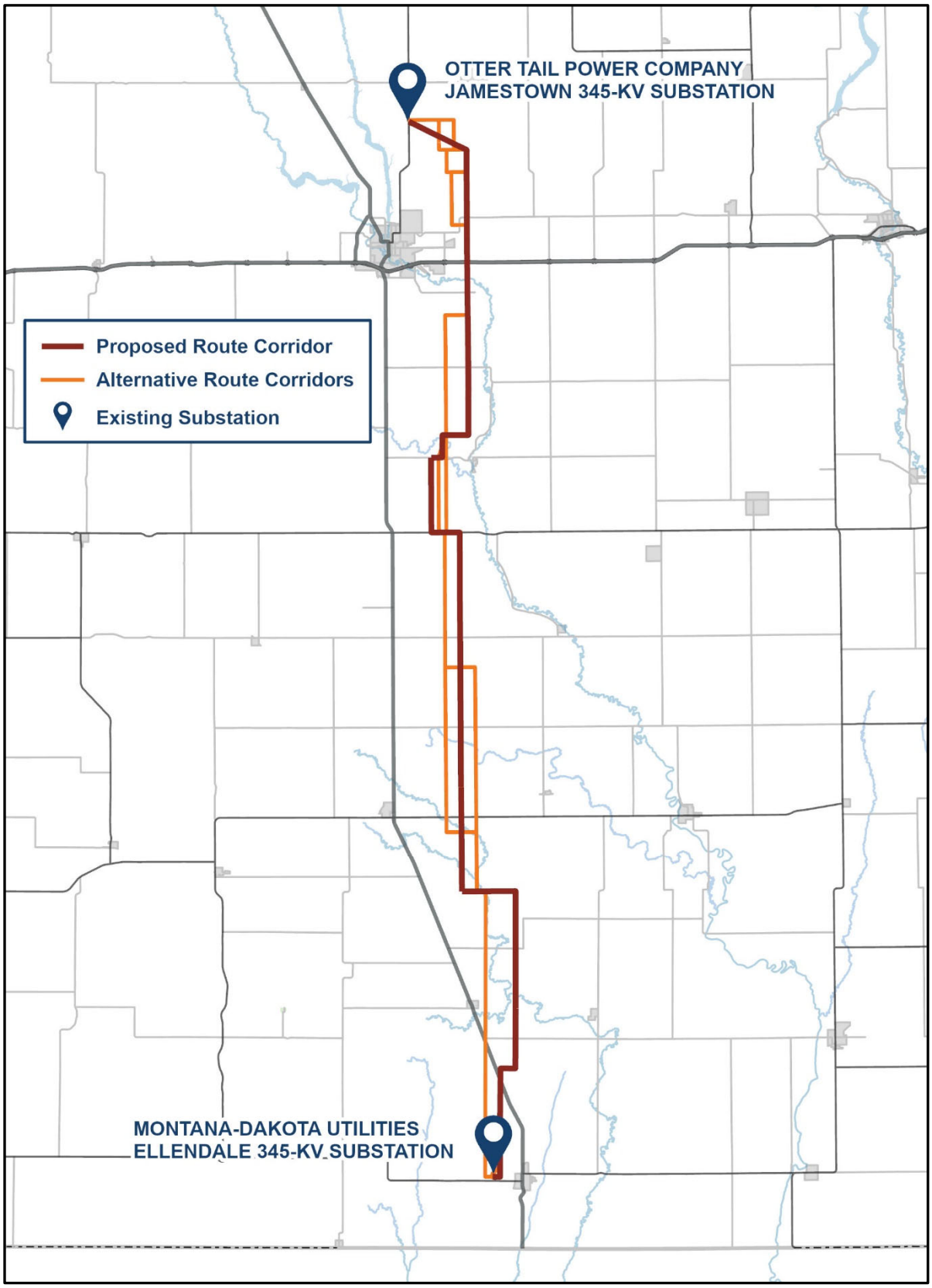
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Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development
Otter Tail Power Company

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


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JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Jamie Azure, Chairman
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians
4180 Highway 281
Belcourt, ND 58316

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Jamie Azure,

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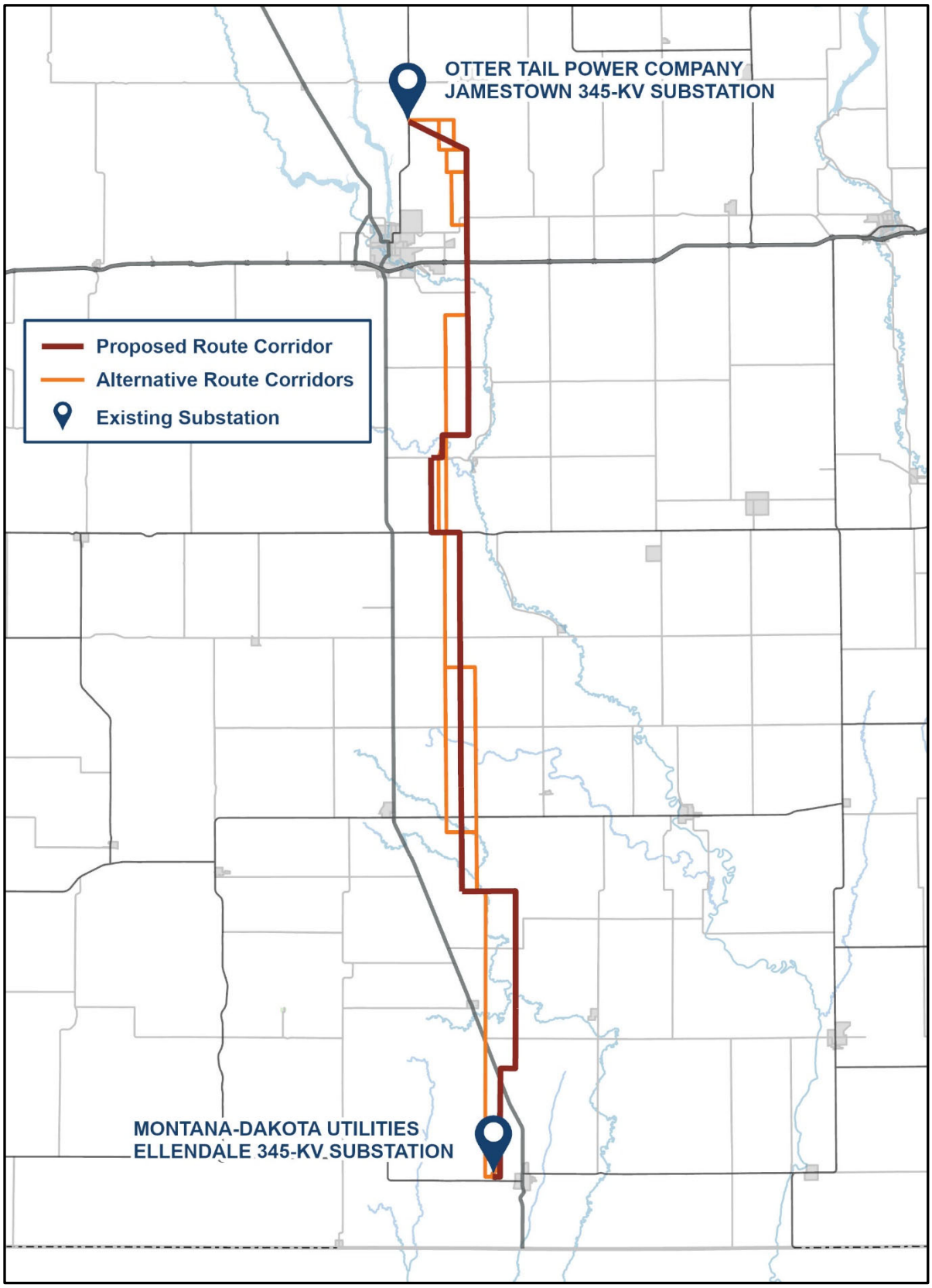
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Jason J Weiers

Jason Weiers
Manager, Transmission Project Development
Otter Tail Power Company

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Project Location


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Proposed Route Corridor
Alternative Route Corridors
Existing Substation
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES
ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION

Jamestown to Ellendale

September 7, 2023

Jeffery Desjarlais, Jr., THPO/Program Director
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians
PO Box 900
Belcourt, ND 58316

Re: Request for Input and Meetings for the Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposed Jamestown to Ellendale 345-kV transmission line project

Dear Jeffery Desjarlais, Jr.,

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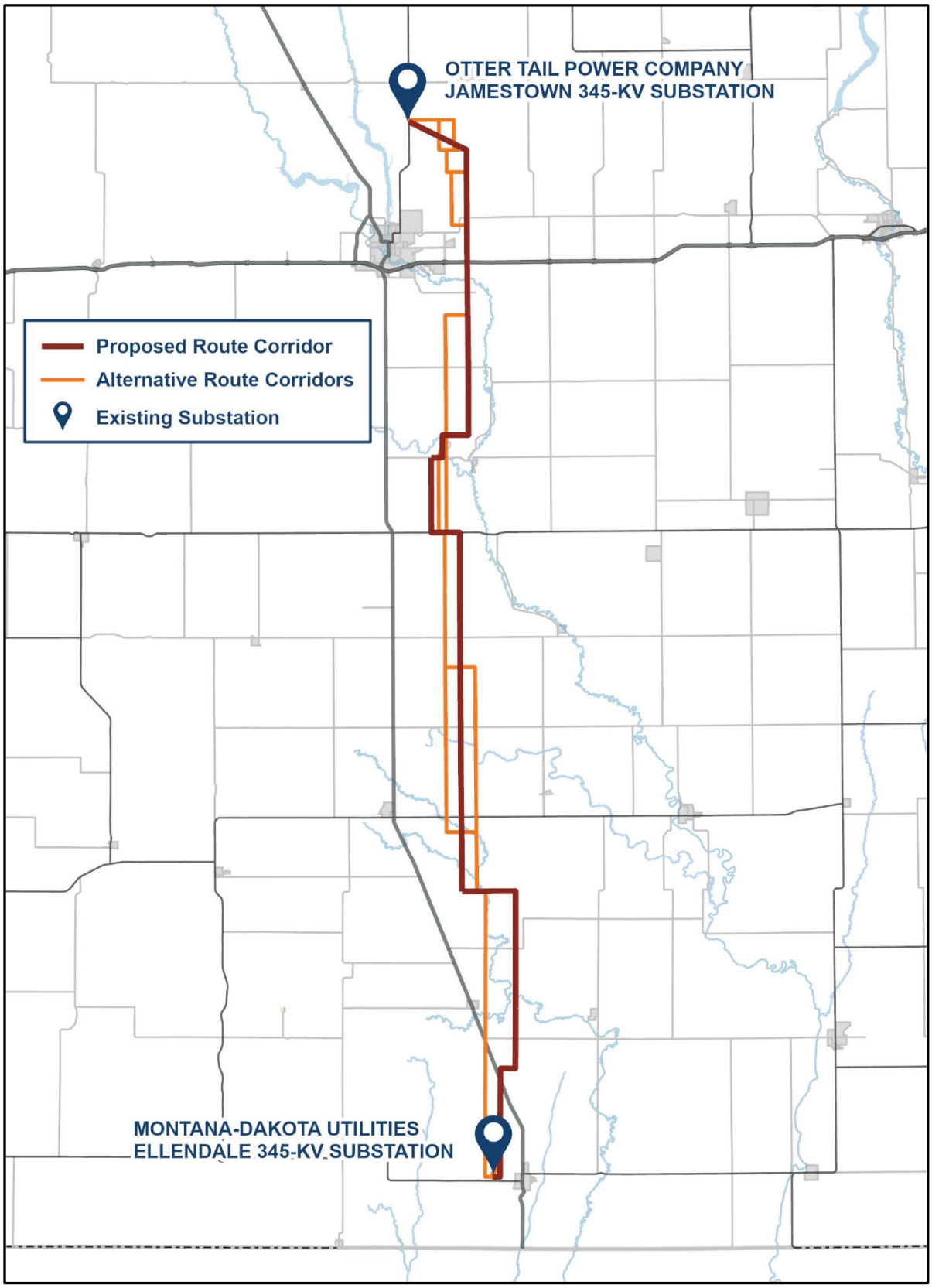
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