



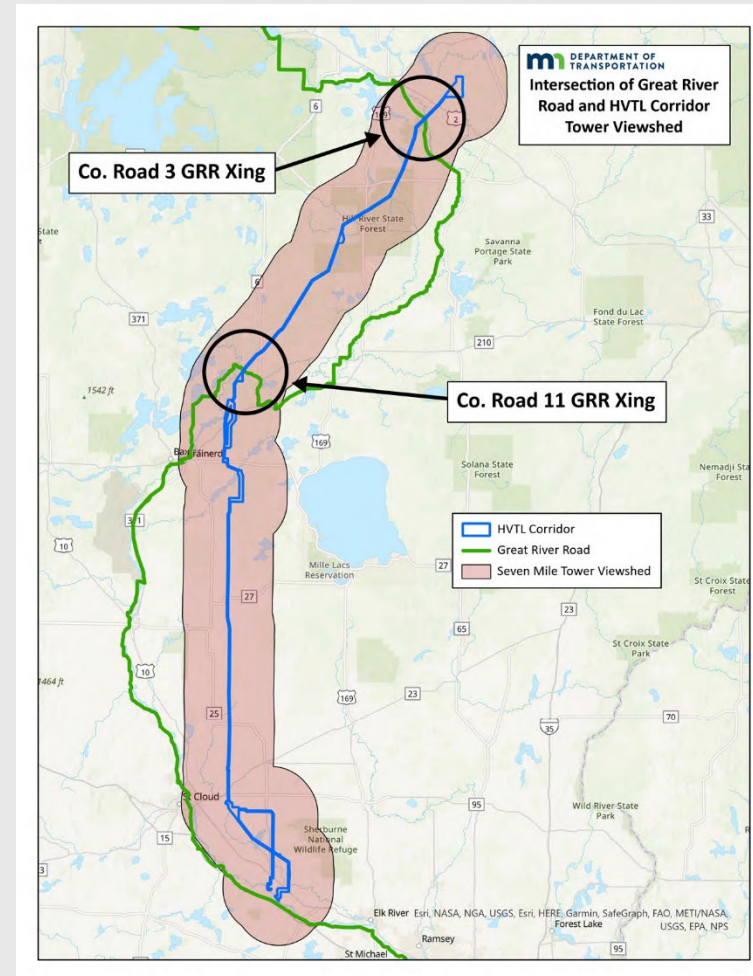
# Great River Energy/Minnesota Power Northland Reliability Project

Marni Karnowski | Director, Office of Environmental Stewardship

August 17, 2023

# Project Overview – The Five W's

- **Who?**
  - Great River Energy and Minnesota Power (Applicants)
- **What?**
  - Construction of 140 miles of new 345 kV transmission line & replacement of 40 miles 230 and 345 kV transmission lines
- **Why?**
  - Increase reliability of regional voltage, improve system strength, and provide local sources of power delivery
- **When?**
  - Construction planned to start 2025, in service by 2030
- **Where?**
  - North-central Minnesota

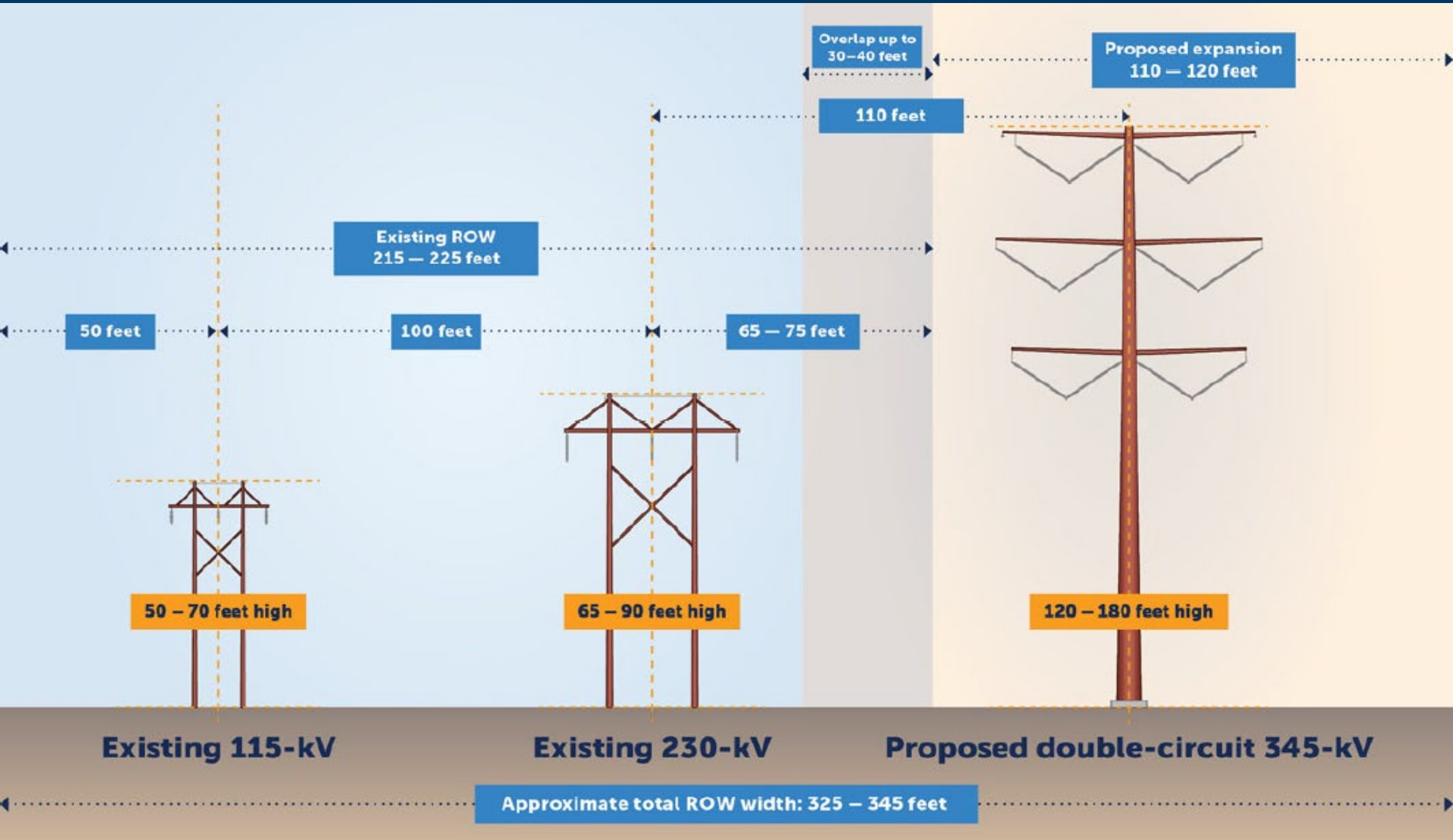


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# Pertinent Project Details

- **Pole Height and Spacing**
  - **Exact pole locations TBD, per discussions with applicant will be outside of road rights-of-way**
  - **~ 120 - 180 feet high**
  - **Poles to be spaced ~900 – 1,000 feet apart**
- **Two Crossings of Great River Road**
  - **County Road 3 (Itasca Co.) and County Road 11 (Crow Wing Co.)**
  - **Project would be collocated/parallel with existing powerlines at crossings**

# Typical ROW configuration (Co-located)

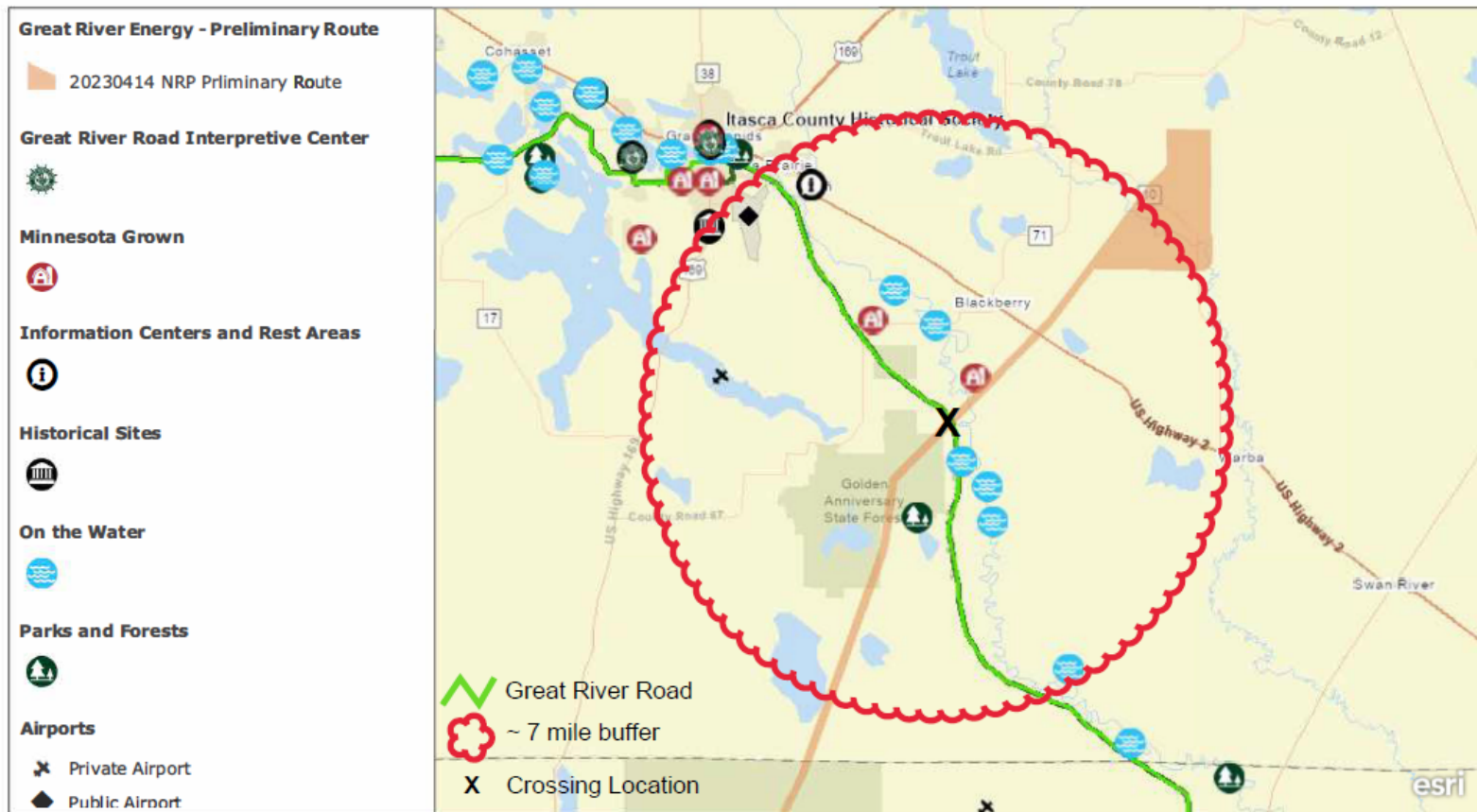


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# Great River Road (GRR) Project Details

- **No plans to locate poles within road ROW at GRR crossings**
- **New poles will be considerably taller than existing**
- **Adjacent forested areas will likely need to be cleared for the new line (widened corridor)**
- **Applicant has met/consulted with MnDOT and several other local, state, and federal agencies**
- **Applicant filed its Route Permit and Certificate of Need Application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) in August 2023 (Docket TL 22-415/CN 22-416)**

## Great River Energy - Northland Reliability Project County Road 3 (GRR) Summary



### Features located within 7 mile buffer of proposed Great River Road crossing:

- \* 3 public water access points on Mississippi River
- \* 2 water trail campsites on Mississippi River
- \* 2 Minnesota Grown Farms (Lavalier's Berry Patch and Orchard and Wegner's Tree Farm)
- \* 1 airport (Grand Rapids/Itasca)
- \* 1 rest area (La Prairie River Rest on US 2)
- \* 1 State Forest (Golden Anniversary)
- \* 1 crossing of Mississippi River Trail (same crossing as Great River Road)

# County Road 3 (Itasca County)

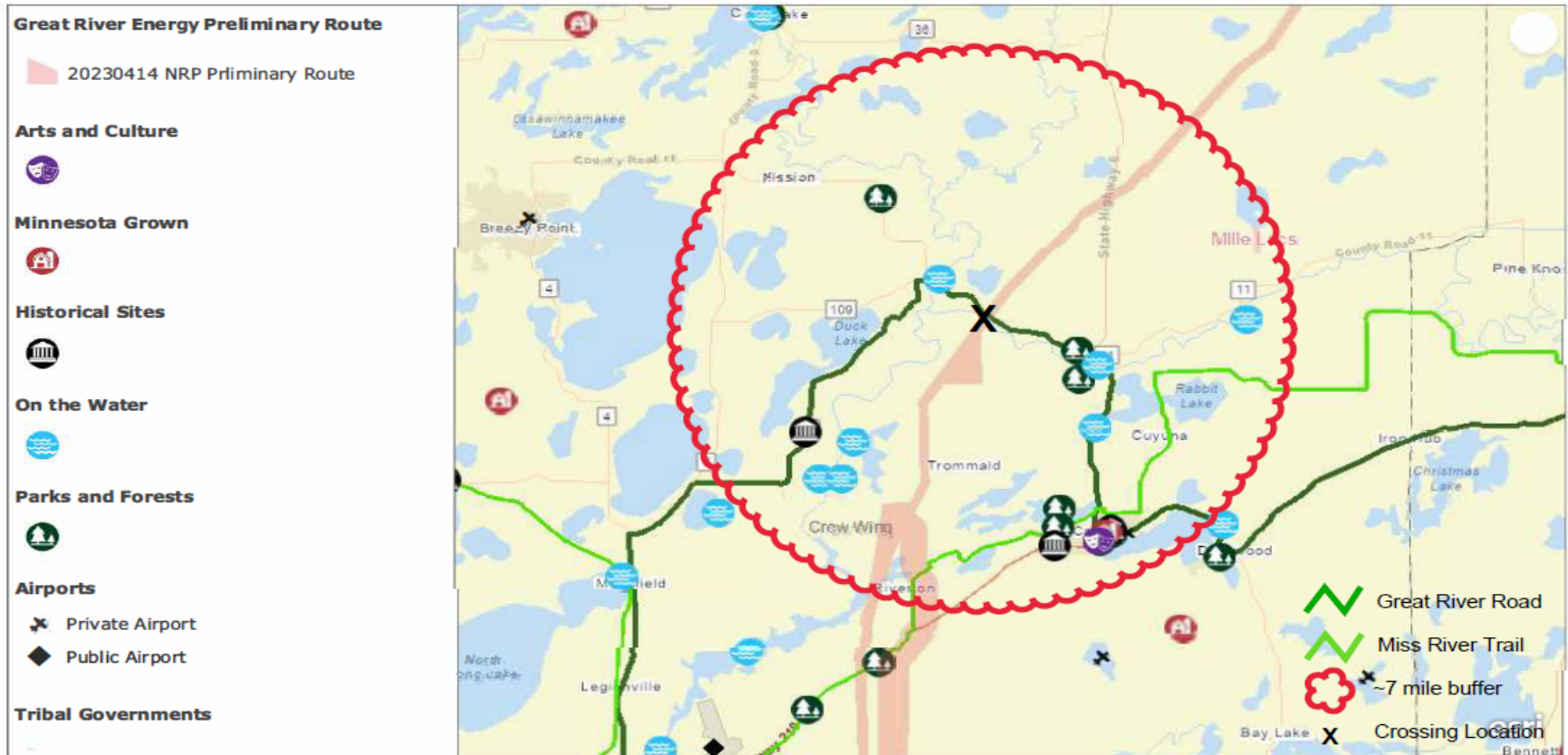
- Streetview Imagery (view NE)

- Streetview Imagery (view SW)



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## Great River Energy - Northland Reliability Project County Road 11 (GRR) Crossing



**Features located within 7 mile buffer of proposed Great River Road crossing:**

- \* 1 Arts and Culture feature (The Serpent of Serpent Lake - public art installation in Crosby)
- \* 1 Minnesota Grown feature (Cuyuna Range Farmers Market - Crosby)
- \* 5 Public Water Access sites
- \* 2 Water Trail Campsites
- \* 1 State Forest (Crow Wing) and 1 Memorial Forest (Fools Lake)
- \* 1 County Park and 1 County Campground
- \* 2 City Parks (in Crosby)
- \* 1 State Recreational Area
- \* 1 Airport (Cuyuna Regional Medical Center)
- \* 1 Tribal Government (Mille Lacs - small parcel ~ 6 miles to east)
- \* Mississippi River Trail (crossed by route south of GRR, also located east of GRR)



# County Road 11 (Crow Wing County)

- Streetview Imagery (view NE)



- Streetview Imagery (view SW)



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# Next Steps and Recommendations

- **Opportunity for agency/public input during scoping and formal public comments periods during MPUC process**
  - **MnDOT's Office of Environmental Stewardship, Districts, and other units may comment on public record.**
  - **MnDOT's permitting staff will review/issue permits for crossings closer to construction.**
- **Applicant may initiate direct consultation with MPRC**
- **Recommend MPRC provide comments to Applicants directly or through MPUC**
  - **Minimize tree removal**
  - **Require photo/visual simulations at crossing locations**
  - **Restore disturbed areas with native/shrubby vegetation**
  - **Set poles back as far away from road as practical.**

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# Comments or Questions?

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