Appendix R

Natural Heritage Information System, USFWS Species List, Cultural Resources Figures, Phase IA Cultural Resources Literature Review, and Additional Tribal Correspondence

Natural Heritage Information System

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Formal Natural Heritage Review - Cover Page

See next page for results of review. A draft watermark means the project details have not been finalized and the results are not official.

Project Name: Northland Reliability Project

Project Proposer: HDR Engineering

Project Type: Utilities, Transmission (electric, cable, phone)

Project Type Activities: Tree Removal;Wetland impacts (e.g., discharge, runoff, sedimentation, fill, excavation);Other

TRS: T0 R0 S0, T136 R26 S10, T136 R26 S11, T136 R26 S15, T136 R26 S16, T136 R26 S17, T136 R26 S19, T136 R26 S2, T136 R26 S20, T136 R26 S21, T136 R26 S29, T136 R26 S3 +

County(s): Aitkin, Benton, Crow Wing, Itasca, Morrison, Sherburne

DNR Admin Region(s): Central, Northeast

Reason Requested: PUC Site or Route Application

Project Description: Great River Energy and Minnesota Power are developing the Northland Reliability Project (NRP). NRP is a new double-circuit 345kV transmission line from ...

Existing Land Uses: Existing land use of the project site consists of a majority of Deciduous Forest-Areas in the northern half of the project, and Cultivated Crops and Pasture/Hay ...

Landcover / Habitat Impacted: There is minimal potential for the displacement of wildlife and loss of habitat from construction of the proposed Project. Wildlife that inhabit natural ...

Waterbodies Affected: Hydrologic features located within the proposed Project Route, include wetlands, lakes, rivers and floodplains. The proposed Project Route lies within ...

Groundwater Resources Affected: The Applicants do not anticipate impacts to groundwater in the Project area. Structure foundations will generally range from 25 feet to 60 feet in depth. ...

Previous Natural Heritage Review: No

Previous Habitat Assessments / Surveys: No

SUMMARY OF AUTOMATED RESULTS

Category	Results	Response By Category
Project Details	No Comments	No Further Review Required
Ecologically Significant Area	Needs Further Review	Potential RNC - Will Require Consultation MBS Sites - Recommendations Local Conservation Value - Comment NPCs - Recommendations Old Growth Forests - Recommendations Lakes - Recommendations

Category	Results	Response By Category
State-Listed Endangered or Threatened Species	Needs Further Review	State-protected Species in Vicinity
State-Listed Species of Special Concern	Comments	Recommendations
Federally Listed Species	Needs Further Review	NLEB - Recommendations Visit IPaC for Federal Review NLEB - Needs Further Review

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

May 12, 2023

Project Name: Northland Reliability Project
Project Proposer: HDR Engineering
Project Type: Utilities, Transmission (electric, cable, phone)
Project ID: MCE #2023-00324

AUTOMATED RESULTS: FURTHER REVIEW IS NEEDED
As requested, the above project has undergone an automated review for potential impacts to rare features. Based on this review, one or more rare features may be impacted by the proposed project and further review by the Natural Heritage Review Team is needed. You will receive a separate notification email when the review process is complete and the Natural Heritage Review letter has been posted.

Please refer to the table on the cover page of this report for a summary of potential impacts to rare features. For additional information or planning purposes, use the Explore Page in Minnesota Conservation Explorer to view the potentially impacted rare features or to create a Conservation Planning Report for the proposed project.

If you have additional information to help resolve the potential impacts listed in the summary results, please attach related project documentation in the Edit Details tab of the Project page. Relevant information includes, but is not limited to, additional project details, completed habitat assessments, or survey results. This additional information will be considered during the project review.

Northland Reliability Project
Aerial Imagery With Locator Map

N
W E
S

0 5 10 20 30 40 Miles

Project Boundary

Project Type: Utilities, Transmission (electric, cable, phone)

Project Size (acres): 32,552.76

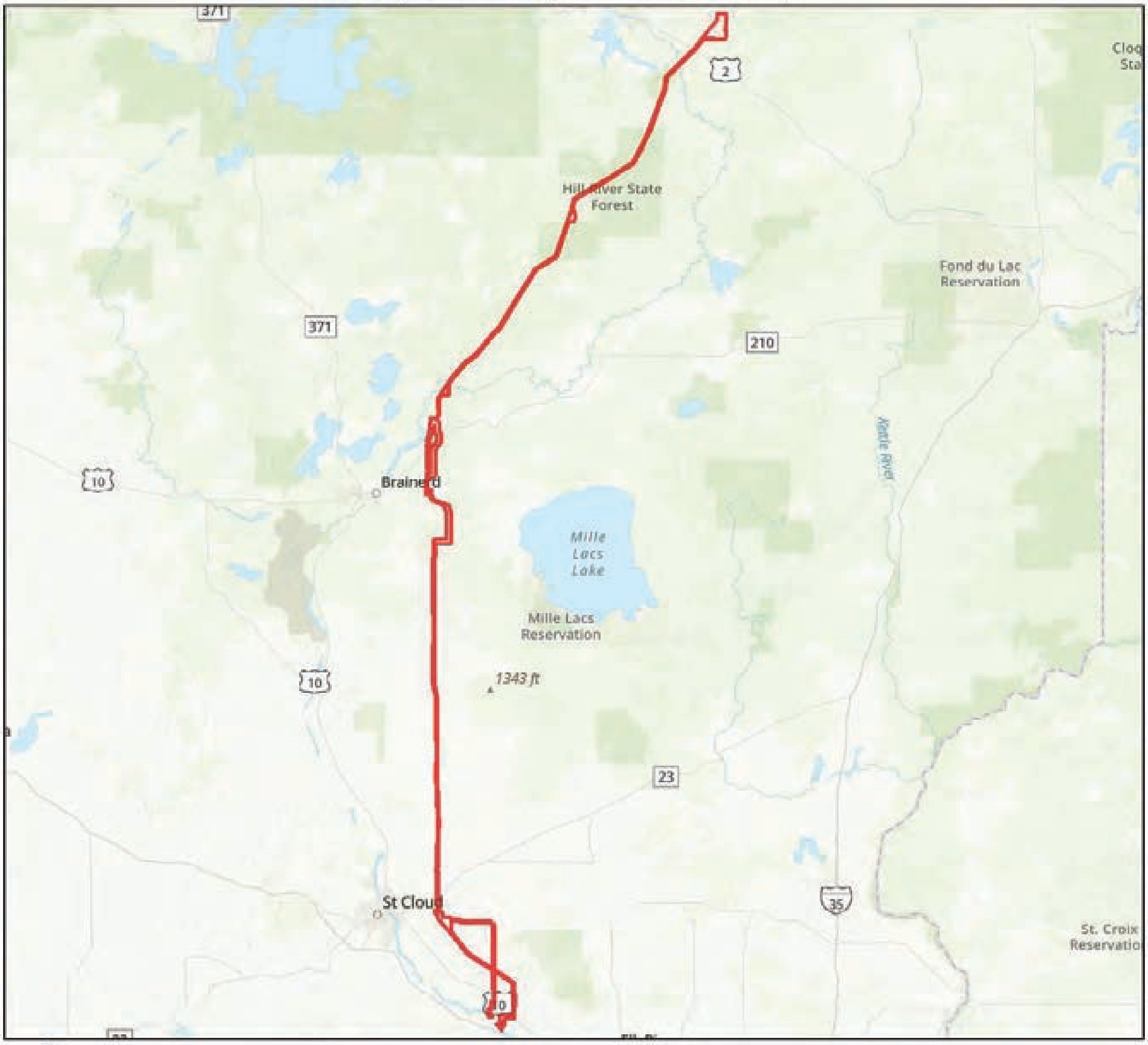
County(s): Aitkin, Benton, Crow Wing, Itasca +

TRS: T0 R0 S0, T136 R26 S10, T136 R26 S11, T136 R26 S15, T136 R26 S16 +

Earthstar Geographics
Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, NPS
Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA

Northland Reliability Project

USA Topo Basemap With Locator Map



N
W E
S

0 5 10 20 30 40 Miles

Project Boundary

Project Type: Utilities, Transmission (electric, cable, phone)

Project Size (acres): 32,552.76

County(s): Aitkin, Benton, Crow Wing, Itasca +

TRS: T0 R0 S0, T136 R26 S10, T136 R26 S11, T136 R26 S15, T136 R26 S16 +

Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, NPS
Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA
Esri, USGS

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Division of Ecological & Water Resources
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025

June 30, 2023
Correspondence # MCE 2023-00324

Katie Lueth
HDR Engineering

RE: Natural Heritage Review of the proposed Northland Reliability Project,
Aitkin, Benton, Crow Wing, Itasca, Morrison, and Sherburne Counties

Dear Katie Lueth,

As requested, the Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System has been reviewed to determine if the proposed project has the potential to impact any rare species or other significant natural features. Based on the project details provided with the request, the following rare features may be impacted by the proposed project:

Ecologically Significant Areas

- The proposed project passes through many sites identified by the Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) as Sites of Biodiversity Significance, including much of the northern half of the project area. Several Sites along the proposed route are ranked *Outstanding* or *High*. Sites of Biodiversity Significance have varying levels of native biodiversity and are ranked based on the relative significance of this biodiversity at a statewide level. Factors taken into account during the ranking process include the number of rare species documented within the site, the quality of the native plant communities in the site, the size of the site, and the context of the site within the landscape. The project boundary includes or is adjacent to 38 mapped native plant communities (nearly all are within MBS Sites) , including 12 native plant community classes/types that are or may be rare (Conservation Status Rank of S1 through S3; some native plant communities may need to be further classified to determine rarity):
    - FPn73a: Alder – (Red Currant – Meadow-Rue) Swamp, S3 - Vulnerable to Extirpation,
    - FDc34: Central Dry-Mesic Pine-Hardwood Forest, S2 or S3 – Imperiled or Vulnerable to Extirpation,
    - Ups14a: Dry Barrens Oak Savanna (Southern), S1 or S1S2 – Critically Imperiled or Critically Imperiled/Imperiled
    - Ups14b: Dry Sand – Gravel Oak Savanna (Southern), S1S2 - Critically Imperiled/Imperiled,

- FPn63: Northern Cedar Swamp, S3 or S4 - Vulnerable to Extirpation or Apparently Secure,
- MRn83: Northern Mixed Cattail Marsh, S2 - Imperiled,
- MHn47: Northern Rich Mesic Hardwood Forest, S3 - Vulnerable to Extirpation,
- MHn44: Northern Wet-Mesic Boreal Hardwood-Conifer Forest, S2 or S3 or not rare - Imperiled or Vulnerable to Extirpation or not rare,
- WFn53: Northern Wet Cedar Forest, S3 or S4 - Vulnerable to Extirpation or Apparently Secure,
- FDc34a: Red Pine – White Pine Forest, S2 - Imperiled,
- FDs37: Southern Dry-Mesic Oak (Maple) Woodland, S3 or S4 - Vulnerable to Extirpation or Apparently Secure,
- FPs63a: Tamarack Swamp (Southern), S2S3 - Imperiled/Vulnerable to Extirpation.

There is an area that is a candidate for Old Growth designation by the DNR that overlaps the proposed project in T52N R26W Section 31 in Hill River State Forest. Old-growth forests are natural forests that have developed over a long period of time, generally at least 120 years, without experiencing severe, stand-replacing disturbances such as fires, windstorms, or logging. Old-growth forests are a unique, nearly vanished piece of Minnesota's history and ecology; less than 4% of Minnesota's old-growth forests remain.

To protect these ecologically significant areas, we recommend that native plant communities ranked S1-S3, MBS Sites ranked *Outstanding* or *High*, and the candidate for Old Grow designation be treated as avoidance areas and disturbance in or near all Sites be minimized. Actions to minimize disturbance may include, but are not limited to, the following recommendations:

- Confine construction activities to the existing, maintained rights-of-way,
- As much as possible, operate within already-disturbed areas,
- Retain a buffer between proposed activities and the MBS Site,
- Minimize vehicular disturbance in the area (allow only vehicles necessary for the proposed work),
- Do not park equipment or stockpile supplies in the area,
- Do not place spoil within MBS Sites or other sensitive areas,
- Inspect and clean all equipment prior to bringing it to the site to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species,
- If possible, conduct the work under frozen ground conditions,
- Use effective erosion prevention and sediment control measures,
- Revegetate disturbed soil with native species suitable to the local habitat as soon after construction as possible, and
- Use only weed-free mulches, topsoils, and seed mixes. Of particular concern is birdsfoot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and crown vetch (*Coronilla varia*), two invasive species that are

sold commercially and are problematic in prairies and disturbed open areas, such as roadsides.

When working in wetlands, additional recommendations include

- Work in watercourses should be conducted during low flow whenever possible,
- Wetland basins, lake beds, and stream/riverbeds should be restored to preconstruction contours. The work should not promote wetland drainage,
- Appropriate erosion control measures, such as fabric, straw bales, mulch, and silt fences should be used to prevent sedimentation of adjacent wetlands, lakes, or watercourses.

MBS Sites of Biodiversity Significance and DNR Native Plant Communities can be viewed using the Minnesota Conservation Explorer or their GIS shapefiles can be downloaded from the MN Geospatial Commons. Please contact the NH Review Team if you need assistance accessing the data. Reference the MBS Site Biodiversity Significance and Native Plant Community websites for information on interpreting the data.

- If the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) is applicable to this project, please note that wetlands with a Conservation Status Rank of S1-S3 (listed above) or wetlands within *High* or *Outstanding* MBS Sites of Biodiversity Significance may qualify as "rare natural communities" under this Act. Minnesota Rules, part 8420.0515, subpart 3 states that a wetland replacement plan for activities that modify a rare natural community must be denied if the local government unit determines the proposed activities will permanently adversely affect the natural community. If the proposed project includes a wetland replacement plan under WCA, please contact your DNR Regional Ecologist for further evaluation. For technical guidance on Rare Natural Communities, please visit WCA Program Guidance and Information.

- Several Lakes of Biological Significance may be impacted by the proposed project. Lakes of Biological Significance are high quality lakes based on the aquatic plant, fish, bird, or amphibian communities present within the lake. To be included in this layer, a lake only needs to meet the criteria for one of these four community types. The lake is assigned a biological significance of *Outstanding*, *High*, or *Moderate* based on the community with the highest quality. These are, with their ranks,

  - Split Hand Lake (Itasca County) – *Outstanding*,
  - Little Rabbit (Crow Wing County) – *Moderate*,
  - Mud Lake (Crow Wing County) – *Outstanding*,
  - Upper South Long (Crow Wing County) – *Outstanding*.

  Given the ecological significance of these lakes, disturbance should be minimized during construction, operation, and maintenance activities. Actions to avoid or minimize disturbance include, but are not limited to, the following recommendations:

- Avoid lakebed disturbance / span waterbodies,
- Avoid the removal of shoreline vegetation,
- Implement stringent/redundant erosion prevention and sediment control practices,
- Prevent the spread of invasive species,
- Use only herbicides approved for application within shoreline/riparian areas,
- Minimize use of fertilizer.

State-listed Species

- Many state-listed threatened and endangered plant species have been found near the proposed project boundary and this project may impact potential habitat. Minnesota's Endangered Species Statute (*Minnesota Statutes*, section 84.0895) and associated Rules (*Minnesota Rules*, part 6212.1800 to 6212.2300 and 6134) prohibit the take of threatened or endangered species without a permit. In order to demonstrate avoidance of state-protected species, **a qualified surveyor needs to conduct a habitat assessment within the proposed project boundary for each of the species listed below.** The goal of this habitat assessment is to identify potential locations where threatened and endangered species may occur to help formulate an avoidance plan. If avoidance of habitat is not feasible, botanical surveys will be needed.

  - Seaside three-awn (*Aristida tuberculosa*) – Threatened
  - Narrow triangle moonwort (*Botrychium angustisegmentum*) – Threatened
  - Upswept moonwort (*Botrychium oscendens*) – Endangered
  - Slender moonwort (*Batrychium campestre* var. *lineare*) – Endangered
  - Spatulate moonwort (*Botrychium spathulatum*) – Endangered
  - Cuckoo flower (*Cardamine pratensis*) – Threatened
  - Beach heather (*Hudsonia tomentosa*) – Threatened
  - Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*) – Endangered
  - Tubercled rein orchid (*Platanthera flava* var. *herbiola*) – Threatened
  - Bog bluegrass (*Poa paludigena*) – Threatened
  - Blunt-lobed grapefern (*Sceptridium oneidense*) – Threatened
  - Purple-flowered bladderwort (*Utricularia purpurea*) – Endangered

  In addition to potential habitat, there are known occurrences of rare plant species in the proposed project boundary. **Known occurences of state-listed threatened or endangered plants must be resurveyed to determine current extent within the project boundary and within any potential alternative disturbance areas. If avoidance of state-protected species is not feasible, the project proposer will need to apply for a permit to take.** Species of special concern are also rare and an important component of Minnesota's natural heritage; we strongly encourage project alternatives that avoid or minimize impacts to known occurrences of these species as well. Known occurrences of rare species, organized by state-listing and listed with approximate locations, are

- *Threatened*
  - Cuckoo flower (*Cardamine pratensis*) – T52N R25W Section 10,
  - Bog bluegrass (*Poa paludigena*) – T51N R26W Section 31
- *Species of special concern*
  - Barren strawberry (*Waldstenia fragarioides*) – T55N R23W Section 19. This small plant grows in a variety of upland northern forests in Minnesota. It is found most often where there are small openings or relatively open tree canopies in a forested setting. This species tolerates some disturbance but significant change from things like clearcutting, road building, development, and aggressive invasive species are threats.

- Blanding's turtles (*Emydoidea blandingii*), a state-listed threatened species, have been documented in the vicinity of the proposed project in Sherburne, Benton, Crow Wing, and Morrison Counties. Blanding's turtles use upland areas up to and over a mile distant from wetlands, waterbodies, and watercourses. Uplands are used for nesting, basking, periods of dormancy, and traveling between wetlands. Factors believed to contribute to the decline of this species include collisions with vehicles, wetland drainage and degradation, and the development of upland habitat. Any added mortality can be detrimental to populations of Blanding's turtles, as these turtles have a low reproduction rate that depends upon a high survival rate to maintain population levels.

  This project has the potential to impact this rare turtle through direct fatalities and habitat disturbance/destruction due to excavation, fill, and other construction activities associated with the project. **Given the project details and the potential for a take of a Blanding's turtle, an avoidance plan is required.**

  We do not have a template for avoidance plans. The plan needs to:
  - Provide a description of the project activities and construction methods,
  - Identify measures that will be taken to avoid take and minimize disturbance to the species, and
  - Include a map of disturbance areas.

  Measures to avoid or minimize disturbance include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - Avoidance of suitable habitat,
  - Timing the impacts to avoid incidental take,
  - The recommendations listed in the Blanding's turtle fact sheet,
  - Training for construction crew.

  Please submit the completed avoidance plan to the NH Review Team (Reports.NHIS@state.mn.us).

- The loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), a state-listed endangered bird, has been documented in the vicinity of the project site in Sherburne and Benton Counties. Loggerhead shrikes use grasslands that contain short grass and scattered perching sites such as hedgerows, shrubs, or small trees. They can be found in native prairie, pastures, shelterbelts, old fields or orchards, cemeteries, grassy roadsides, and farmyards. **Given the potential for this species to be found in the vicinity of the project, tree and shrub removal is required to be avoided during the breeding season, April through July, in Sherburne and Benton Counties.** If you cannot avoid tree removal during loggerhead shrike breeding period, a qualified surveyor needs to conduct a survey for active nests before any trees or shrubs will be removed.

- Several state-listed animals of special concern (refer to HDR's License Agreement 2022-034) have been documented in the vicinity and may be impacted by the proposed project if suitable habitat exists within the project boundary. In particular, the following known occurrences of state-listed species of special concern have been documented within the project boundary:

    - Red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) – T52N R25W Section 21. This species requires large, contiguous forest tracts interspersed with wetlands. We recommend, to the extent possible, the retention of forest cover to help maintain habitat connectivity to other forest tracts in the area. Check any trees scheduled to be removed from April through July for active nests. If feasible, disturbance near active nests should be avoided during the critical nesting time, April and May. Please contact the Regional Nongame Specialist if any nests are discovered.

    - Least darter (*Etheostoma microperca*) – Little Blackhoof Lake, T46N R29W Section 17. This species prefers clear, low velocity lakes and streams with an abundance of submerged vegetation such as eelgrass, Canadian elodea, pondweed, and muskgrass. As this species is intolerant of environmental degradation, especially turbidity and siltation, it is important that effective erosion and sediment control practices be implemented and maintained for the duration of the project.

    - Four-toed salamander (*Hemidactylium scutatum*) – T52N R25W Sections 15-16. Four-toed salamanders are typically found in small, isolated colonies. Adults generally inhabit mature hardwood forests associated with wetland depressions or small streams. They find shelter in the forest floor under leaf litter, woody debris, rocks, and moss. Females lay eggs in sphagnum moss hummocks, in shallow wetlands, or stream-side pools where hatchlings move into the water after emerging from the egg. The greatest threat to four-toed salamanders is loss and degradation of upland forest habitat and the loss of wetlands, which are used as nesting sites. Please see the "Forest Management Guidelines for the Protection of Four-toed and Spotted Salamander Populations" for recommendations to minimize adverse impacts to these rare species. Although these

guidelines were written for DNR Forestry staff, we strongly encourage you to consider adopting relevant measures for this project.

- Creek heelsplitter (*Lasmigona compressa*) – Elk River in T36N R30W Section 23, and T37N R30W Sections 26, 35, and Sand Creek, T55N R23W Section 32. Mussels are particularly vulnerable to deterioration in water quality, especially increased siltation. As such, it is important effective erosion prevention and sediment control practices be implemented and maintained throughout the duration of the project.

- A jumping spider (*Pelegrina arizonensis*) – T34N R29W Section 24. This species prefers the seed heads of prairie flowers common to fire-dependent plant communities such as dry prairies and savannas. Avoiding dry prairie and savanna will preserve potential habitat for this species.

- Gophersnake (*Pituophis catenifer*) – T35N R29W Sections 25, 36. These snakes prefer grassy areas with sandy and gravel soils. Given the presence of these rare snakes, the DNR recommends that the use of erosion control mesh, if any, be limited to wildlife-friendly materials. Construction and maintenance crews working in the area should be advised that if they encounter any snakes, the snakes should not be disturbed.

State-listed Species Survey Process

- Visit the Natural Heritage Review website for additional information regarding this process, survey guidance, and other related information. Surveys must follow the standards contained in the Rare Species Survey Process. The lists of approved DNR Animal and Plant Surveyors are attached to your project in the Minneosta Conservation Explorer (MCE). Project planning should take into account that the survey needs to be conducted during the appropriate time of the year, which may be limited.

- Please visit the DNR Rare Species Guide for more information on the habitat use of the species mentioned above and recommended measures to avoid or minimize impacts. For further assistance with these species, please contact the appropriate DNR Regional Nongame Specialist or Regional Ecologist.

Federally Protected Species

- The northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*), and big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*), all state-listed as a species of special concern, have been documented in the vicinity of the proposed project. During the winter these species hibernate in caves and mines. During the active season (approximately April-November) they roost underneath bark, in cavities, or in crevices of both live and dead trees; and in human structures such as buildings and bridges. Activities that may impact these species include, but are not limited to, wind farm operation, any disturbance to hibernacula, and destruction/degradation of habitat.

Tree removal can negatively impact bats by destroying roosting habitat, especially during the pup rearing season when females are forming maternity roosting colonies and the pups are not able to fly. To minimize impacts to these species, the DNR recommends that tree removal be avoided from June 1 through August 15.

The northern long-eared bat is also federally listed as endangered. To ensure compliance with federal law, please conduct a federal regulatory review using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's online Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) tool. Please note that all projects, regardless of whether there is a federal nexus, are subject to federal take prohibitions. The IPaC review will determine if take is reasonably certain to occur and, if not, will generate an automated letter. Please see USFWS Northern Long-eared Bat for additional information.

- To ensure compliance with federal law for other species, conduct a federal regulatory review using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) online Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) tool.

Environmental Review and Permitting

- We understand that the planning for this project was not finalized when this Natural Heritage Review was conducted. This review was done only based on information available at this time. To ensure compliance with state law, another Natural Heritage Review should be conducted when alternate routes, access roads, and staging areas are identified. Please use the Clone Project option within MCE.

- Please include a copy of this letter and the MCE-generated Final Project Report in any state or local license or permit application. The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Route Permit Application should address potential impacts to the above rare features, and identify avoidance or mitigation measures that will be implemented. Please note that measures to avoid or minimize disturbance to the above rare features may be included as restrictions or conditions in any required permits or licenses.

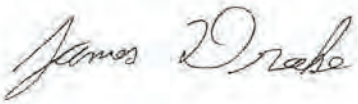
The Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS), a collection of databases that contains information about Minnesota's rare natural features, is maintained by the Division of Ecological and Water Resources, Department of Natural Resources. The NHIS is continually updated as new information becomes available, and is the most complete source of data on Minnesota's rare or otherwise significant species, native plant communities, and other natural features. However, the NHIS is not an exhaustive inventory and thus does not represent all of the occurrences of rare features within the state. Therefore, ecologically significant features for which we have no records may exist within the project area. If additional information becomes available regarding rare features in the vicinity of the project, further review may be necessary.

For environmental review purposes, the results of this Natural Heritage Review are valid for one year; the results are only valid for the project location and project description provided with the request. If project details change or the project has not occurred within one year, please resubmit the project for review within one year of initiating project activities.

The Natural Heritage Review does not constitute project approval by the Department of Natural Resources. Instead, it identifies issues regarding known occurrences of rare features and potential impacts to these rare features. For information on the environmental review process or other natural resource concerns, you may contact your DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist.

Thank you for consulting us on this matter and for your interest in preserving Minnesota's rare natural resources.

Sincerely,



James Drake
Natural Heritage Review Specialist
James.F.Drake@state.mn.us

Cc: Melissa Collins, Jessica Parson, Jennie Skancke, Amanda Weise, Mark White, Cynthia Warzecha

USFWS Species List

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office
3815 American Blvd East
Bloomington, MN 55425-1659
Phone: (952) 858-0793 Fax: (952) 646-2873

In Reply Refer To: May 12, 2023
Project Code: 2023-0081569
Project Name: Northland Reliability Project

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

To Whom It May Concern:

This response has been generated by the Information, Planning, and Conservation (IPaC) system to provide information on natural resources that could be affected by your project. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) provides this response under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543), the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 *et seq.*).

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

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

Consultation Technical Assistance
Please refer to refer to our Section 7 website for guidance and technical assistance, including step-by-step instructions for making effects determinations for each species that might be present and for specific guidance on the following types of projects: projects in developed areas, HUD, CDBG, EDA, USDA Rural Development projects, pipelines, buried utilities, telecommunications, and requests for a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) from FEMA.

We recommend running the project (if it qualifies) through our **Minnesota-Wisconsin Federal Endangered Species Determination Key (Minnesota-Wisconsin ("D-key"))**. A demonstration video showing how-to access and use the determination key is available. Please note that the Minnesota-Wisconsin D-key is the third option of 3 available d-keys. D-keys are tools to help Federal agencies and other project proponents determine if their proposed action has the potential to adversely affect federally listed species and designated critical habitat. The Minnesota-Wisconsin D-key includes a structured set of questions that assists a project proponent in determining whether a proposed project qualifies for a certain predetermined consultation outcome for all federally listed species found in Minnesota and Wisconsin (except for the northern long-eared bat- see below), which includes determinations of “no effect” or “may affect, not likely to adversely affect." In each case, the Service has compiled and analyzed the best available information on the species’ biology and the impacts of certain activities to support these determinations.

If your completed d-key output letter shows a "No Effect" (NE) determination for all listed species, print your IPaC output letter for your files to document your compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

For Federal projects with a “Not Likely to Adversely Affect” (NLAA) determination, our concurrence becomes valid if you do not hear otherwise from us after a 30-day review period, as indicated in your letter.

If your d-key output letter indicates additional coordination with the Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office is necessary (i.e., you get a “May Affect” determination), you will be provided additional guidance on contacting the Service to continue ESA coordination outside of the key; ESA compliance cannot be concluded using the key for “May Affect” determinations unless otherwise indicated in your output letter.

Note: Once you obtain your official species list, you are not required to continue in IPaC with d-keys, although in most cases these tools should expedite your review. If you choose to make an effects determination on your own, you may do so. If the project is a Federal Action, you may want to review our section 7 step-by-step instructions before making your determinations.

Using the IPaC Official Species List to Make No Effect and May Affect Determinations for Listed Species

1. If IPaC returns a result of “There are no listed species found within the vicinity of the project,” then project proponents can conclude the proposed activities will have **no effect** on any federally listed species under Service jurisdiction. Concurrence from the Service is not required for **no effect** determinations. No further consultation or coordination is required. Attach this letter to the dated IPaC species list report for your records.
2. If IPaC returns one or more federally listed, proposed, or candidate species as potentially present in the action area of the proposed project – other than bats (see below) – then project proponents must determine if proposed activities will have **no effect** on or **may affect** those species. For assistance in determining if suitable habitat for listed, candidate, or proposed species occurs within your project area or if species may be affected by project activities, you can obtain Life History Information for Listed and Candidate Species on our office website. If no impacts will occur to a species on the IPaC species list (e.g., there is no habitat present in the project area), the appropriate determination is **no effect**. No further consultation or coordination is required. Attach this letter to the dated IPaC species list report for your records.

3. Should you determine that project activities **may affect** any federally listed, please contact our office for further coordination. Letters with requests for consultation or correspondence about your project should include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header. Electronic submission is preferred.

Northern Long-Eared Bats
Northern long-eared bats occur throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin and the information below may help in determining if your project may affect these species.

This species hibernates in caves or mines only during the winter. In Minnesota and Wisconsin, the hibernation season is considered to be November 1 to March 31. During the active season (April 1 to October 31) they roost in forest and woodland habitats. Suitable summer habitat for northern long-eared bats consists of a wide variety of forested/wooded habitats where they roost, forage, and travel and may also include some adjacent and interspersed non-forested habitats such as emergent wetlands and adjacent edges of agricultural fields, old fields and pastures. This includes forests and woodlots containing potential roosts (i.e., live trees and/or snags ≥3 inches dbh for northern long-eared bat that have exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices, and/or hollows), as well as linear features such as fencerows, riparian forests, and other wooded corridors. These wooded areas may be dense or loose aggregates of trees with variable amounts of canopy closure. Individual trees may be considered suitable habitat when they exhibit the characteristics of a potential roost tree and are located within 1,000 feet (305 meters) of forested/wooded habitat. Northern long-eared bats have also been observed roosting in human-made structures, such as buildings, barns, bridges, and bat houses; therefore, these structures should also be considered potential summer habitat and evaluated for use by bats. If your project will impact caves or mines or will involve clearing forest or woodland habitat containing suitable roosting habitat, northern long-eared bats could be affected.

Examples of unsuitable habitat include:

- Individual trees that are greater than 1,000 feet from forested or wooded areas,
- Trees found in highly developed urban areas (e.g., street trees, downtown areas),
- A pure stand of less than 3-inch dbh trees that are not mixed with larger trees, and
- A monoculture stand of shrubby vegetation with no potential roost trees.

If IPaC returns a result that northern long-eared bats are potentially present in the action area of the proposed project, project proponents can conclude the proposed activities **may affect** this species **IF** one or more of the following activities are proposed:

- Clearing or disturbing suitable roosting habitat, as defined above, at any time of year,
- Any activity in or near the entrance to a cave or mine,
- Mining, deep excavation, or underground work within 0.25 miles of a cave or mine,
- Construction of one or more wind turbines, or
- Demolition or reconstruction of human-made structures that are known to be used by bats based on observations of roosting bats, bats emerging at dusk, or guano deposits or stains.

If none of the above activities are proposed, project proponents can conclude the proposed activities will have **no effect** on the northern long-eared bat. Concurrence from the Service is not required for **No**

Effect determinations. No further consultation or coordination is required. Attach this letter to the dated IPaC species list report for your records.

If any of the above activities are proposed, and the northern long-eared bat appears on the user's species list, the federal project user will be directed to either the range-wide northern long-eared bat D-key or the Federal Highways Administration, Federal Railways Administration, and Federal Transit Administration Indiana bat/ Northern long-eared bat D-key, depending on the type of project and federal agency involvement. Similar to the Minnesota-Wisconsin D-key, these d-keys helps to determine if prohibited take might occur and, if not, will generate an automated verification letter.

Please note: On November 30, 2022, the Service published a proposal final rule to reclassify the northern long-eared bat as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. On January 26, 2023, the Service published a 60-day extension for the final reclassification rule in the Federal Register, moving the effective listing date from January 30, 2023, to March 31, 2023. This extension will provide stakeholders and the public time to preview interim guidance and consultation tools before the rule becomes effective. When available, the tools will be available on the Service's northern long-eared bat website (https://www.fws.gov/species/northern-long-eared-bat-myotis-septentrionalis). Once the final rule goes into effect on March 31, 2023, the 4(d) D-key will no longer be available (4(d) rules are not available for federally endangered species) and will be replaced with a new Range-wide NLEB D-key (range-wide d-key). For projects not completed by March 31, 2023, that were previously reviewed under the 4(d) d-key, there may be a need for reinitiation of consultation. For these ongoing projects previously reviewed under the 4(d) d-key that may result in incidental take of the northern long-eared bat, we recommend you review your project using the new range-wide d-key once available. If your project does not comply with the range-wide d-key, it may be eligible for use of the Interim (formal) Consultation framework (framework). The framework is intended to facilitate the transition from the 4(d) rule to typical Section 7 consultation procedures for federally endangered species and will be available only until spring 2024. Again, when available, these tools (new range-wide d-key and framework) will be available on the Service's northern long-eared bat website.

Whooping Crane
Whooping crane is designated as a non-essential experimental population in Wisconsin and consultation under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act is only required if project activities will occur within a National Wildlife Refuge or National Park. If project activities are proposed on lands outside of a National Wildlife Refuge or National Park, then you are not required to consult. For additional information on this designation and consultation requirements, please review "Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of Whooping Cranes in the Eastern United States."

Other Trust Resources and Activities
Bald and Golden Eagles - Although the bald eagle has been removed from the endangered species list, this species and the golden eagle are protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Should bald or golden eagles occur within or near the project area please contact our office for further coordination. For communication and wind energy projects, please refer to additional guidelines below.

Migratory Birds - The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) prohibits the taking, killing, possession, transportation, and importation of migratory birds, their eggs, parts, and nests, except when specifically authorized by the Service. The Service has the responsibility under the MBTA to proactively prevent the

mortality of migratory birds whenever possible and we encourage implementation of recommendations that minimize potential impacts to migratory birds. Such measures include clearing forested habitat outside the nesting season (generally March 1 to August 31) or conducting nest surveys prior to clearing to avoid injury to eggs or nestlings.

Communication Towers - Construction of new communications towers (including radio, television, cellular, and microwave) creates a potentially significant impact on migratory birds, especially some 350 species of night-migrating birds. However, the Service has developed voluntary guidelines for minimizing impacts.

Transmission Lines - Migratory birds, especially large species with long wingspans, heavy bodies, and poor maneuverability can also collide with power lines. In addition, mortality can occur when birds, particularly hawks, eagles, kites, falcons, and owls, attempt to perch on uninsulated or unguarded power poles. To minimize these risks, please refer to guidelines developed by the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee and the Service. Implementation of these measures is especially important along sections of lines adjacent to wetlands or other areas that support large numbers of raptors and migratory birds.

Wind Energy - To minimize impacts to migratory birds and bats, wind energy projects should follow the Service's Wind Energy Guidelines. In addition, please refer to the Service's Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance, which provides guidance for conserving bald and golden eagles in the course of siting, constructing, and operating wind energy facilities.

State Department of Natural Resources Coordination
While it is not required for your Federal section 7 consultation, please note that additional state endangered or threatened species may also have the potential to be impacted. Please contact the Minnesota or Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for information on state listed species that may be present in your proposed project area.

Minnesota
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Endangered Resources Review Homepage
Email: Review.NHIS@state.mn.us

Wisconsin
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - Endangered Resources Review Homepage
Email: DNRERReview@wi.gov

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. Please feel free to contact our office with questions or for additional information.

Attachment(s):

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

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

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

This species list is provided by:

Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office
3815 American Blvd East
Bloomington, MN 55425-1659
(952) 858-0793

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2023-0081569
Project Name: Northland Reliability Project
Project Type: Transmission Line - New Constr - Above Ground
Project Description: Great River Energy and Minnesota Power are developing the Northland Reliability Project (NRP). NRP is a new double-circuit 345kV transmission line from near Grand Rapids, MN (Iron Range Substation) to near St. Cloud, MN (Benton County Substation), about 140 miles long. In addition, there will be two existing transmission lines replaced to double-circuit 345kV transmission lines from near St. Cloud, MN (Benton County Substation) to near Becker, MN (Sherco Substation and Big Oaks Substation). Both replacements are slightly longer than 20 miles each. Construction is planned from 2027-2030 with construction occurring sporadically throughout that time. The project will require up to 150 feet of new right-of-way with placement of structures every 800-1000 feet. The right-of-way will be cleared of tall vegetation and graded if needed, then foundations will be dug and completed. Then stringing will occur, and restoration will occur as negotiated with the landowner. Wetlands areas will be avoided as much as possible. Permanent or temporary access roads may be needed outside of the right-of-way. Majority of the right-of-way will be on private land.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@46.29222335,-94.0101843752759,14z

Counties: Minnesota

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 6 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

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

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

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

---

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

MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Canada Lynx *Lynx canadensis* Population: Wherever Found in Contiguous U.S. There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3652	Threatened
Gray Wolf *Canis lupus* Population: MN There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4488	Threatened
Northern Long-eared Bat *Myotis septentrionalis* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	Endangered
Tricolored Bat *Perimyotis subflavus* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515	Proposed Endangered

BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Whooping Crane *Grus americana* Population: U.S.A. (AL, AR, CO, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NC, NM, OH, SC, TN, UT, VA, WI, WV, western half of WY) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758	Experimental Population, Non-Essential

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus*	Candidate

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743

CRITICAL HABITATS

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

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

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

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

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act[1] and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act[2].

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described below.

---

1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.
3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) list or warrant special attention in your project location. To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this list is generated, see the FAQ below. This is not a list of every bird you may find in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have sighted birds in and around your project area, visit the E-bird data mapping tool (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur off the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found below.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
American Golden-plover *Pluvialis dominica* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds elsewhere
Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3093	Breeds May 15 to Aug 20
Black-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus erythropthalmus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9399	Breeds May 15 to Oct 10
Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 20 to Jul 31
Canada Warbler *Cardellina canadensis* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 20 to Aug 10
Cerulean Warbler *Dendroica cerulea* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2974	Breeds Apr 20 to Jul 20
Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25
Common Tern *Sterna hirundo hirundo* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA	Breeds May 1 to Aug 31
Connecticut Warbler *Oporornis agilis* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Jun 15 to Aug 10
Eastern Whip-poor-will *Antrostomus vociferus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 1 to Aug 20
Evening Grosbeak *Coccothraustes vespertinus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 15 to Aug 10
Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680	Breeds Jan 1 to Aug 31

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8745	Breeds May 1 to Jul 20
Le Conte's Sparrow *Ammodramus leconteii* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Jun 1 to Aug 15
Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679	Breeds elsewhere
Long-eared Owl *asio otus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3631	Breeds Mar 1 to Jul 15
Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3914	Breeds May 20 to Aug 31
Red-headed Woodpecker *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 10 to Sep 10
Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres morinella* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA	Breeds elsewhere
Rusty Blackbird *Euphagus carolinus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA	Breeds elsewhere
Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9480	Breeds elsewhere
Western Grebe *aechmophorus occidentalis* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6743	Breeds Jun 1 to Aug 31
Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 10 to Aug 31

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Yellow Rail *Coturnicops noveboracensis* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9476	Breeds May 15 to Sep 10

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read and understand the FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

Breeding Season (■)

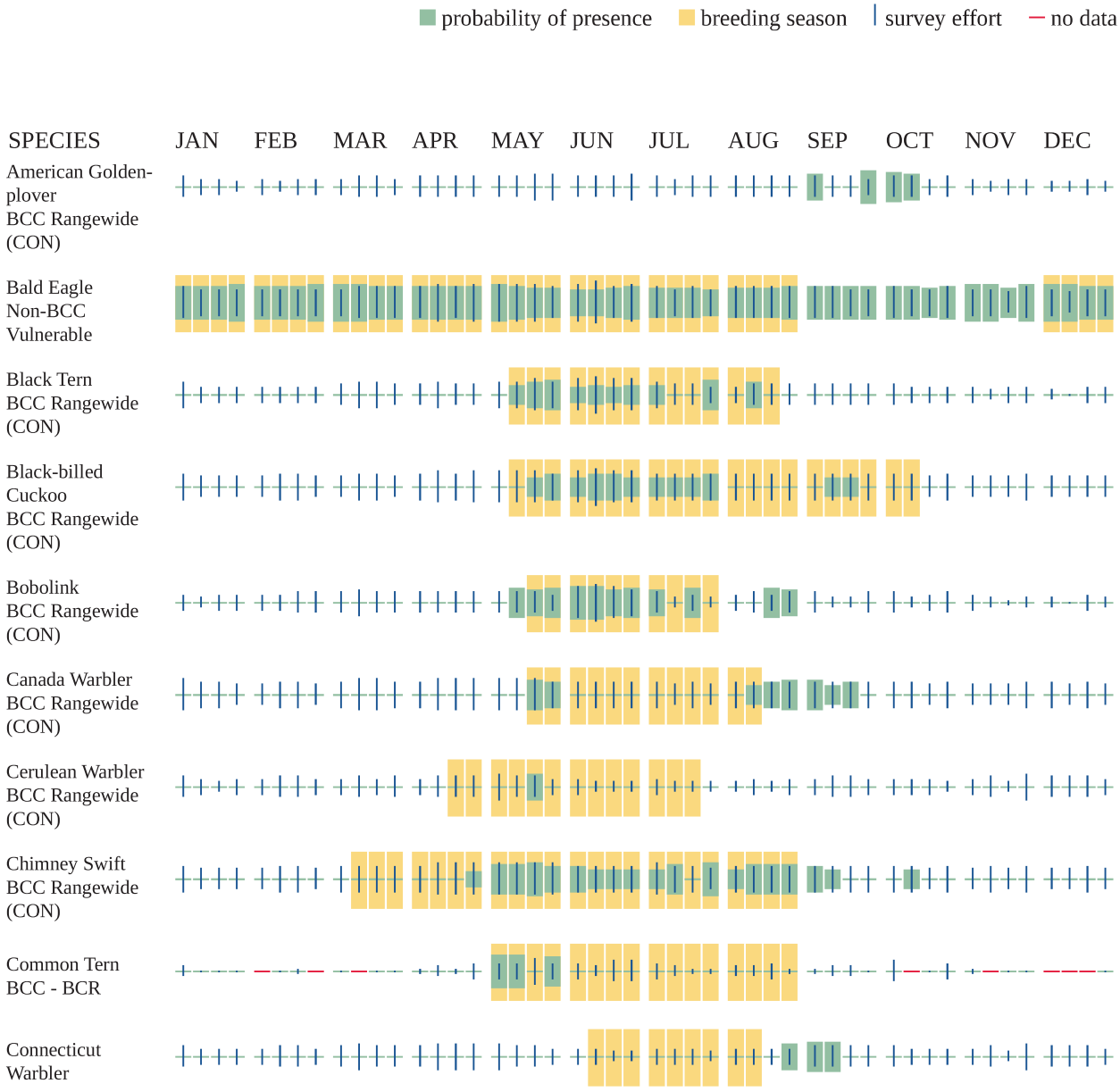
Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort (|)

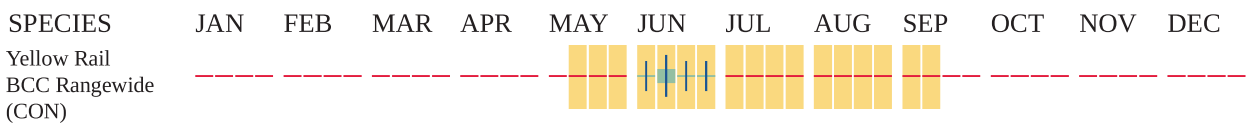
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

No Data (–)
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe
Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.




BCC Rangewide (CON)
Eastern Whip-poor-will BCC Rangewide (CON)
Evening Grosbeak BCC Rangewide (CON)
SPECIES
JAN
FEB
MAR
APR
MAY
JUN
JUL
AUG
SEP
OCT
NOV
DEC
Golden Eagle Non-BCC Vulnerable
Golden-winged Warbler BCC Rangewide (CON)
Le Conte's Sparrow BCC Rangewide (CON)
Lesser Yellowlegs BCC Rangewide (CON)
Long-eared Owl BCC Rangewide (CON)
Olive-sided Flycatcher BCC Rangewide (CON)
Red-headed Woodpecker BCC Rangewide (CON)
Ruddy Turnstone BCC - BCR
Rusty Blackbird BCC - BCR
Short-billed Dowitcher BCC Rangewide (CON)
Western Grebe BCC Rangewide (CON)
Wood Thrush BCC Rangewide (CON)



Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Birds of Conservation Concern https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-birds/species
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf

MIGRATORY BIRDS FAQ

Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

Nationwide Conservation Measures describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. Additional measures or permits may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

What does IPaC use to generate the list of migratory birds that potentially occur in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (Eagle Act requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool.

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). This data is derived from a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets.

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering or migrating in my area?
To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may query your location using the RAIL Tool and look at the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?
Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the Eagle Act requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects
For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the Northeast Ocean Data Portal. The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf project webpage.

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the Diving Bird Study and the nanotag studies or contact Caleb Spiegel or Pam Loring.

What if I have eagles on my list?
If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to obtain a permit to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report
The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated, and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please also look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal bar). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds" at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.

WETLANDS

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

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District.

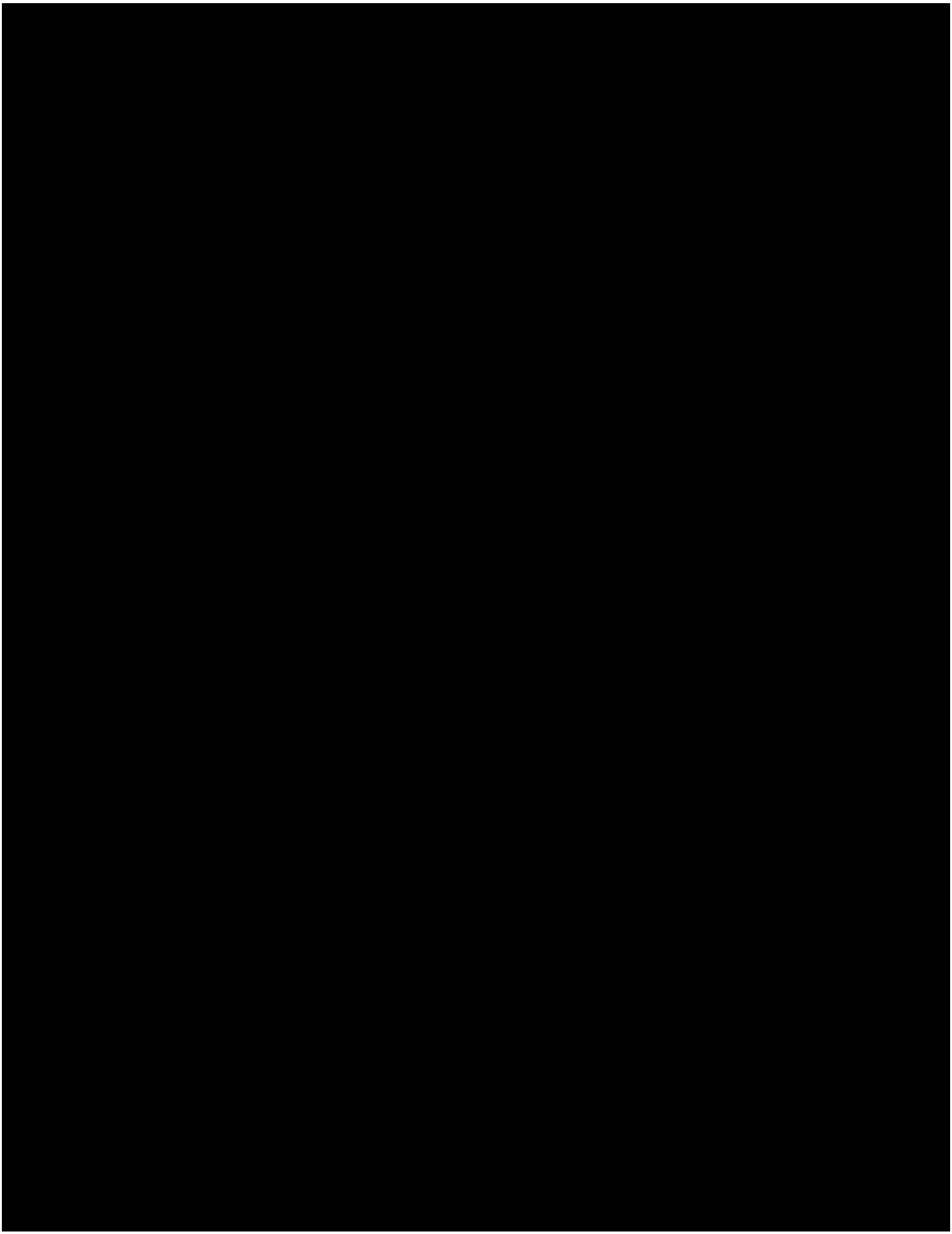
Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

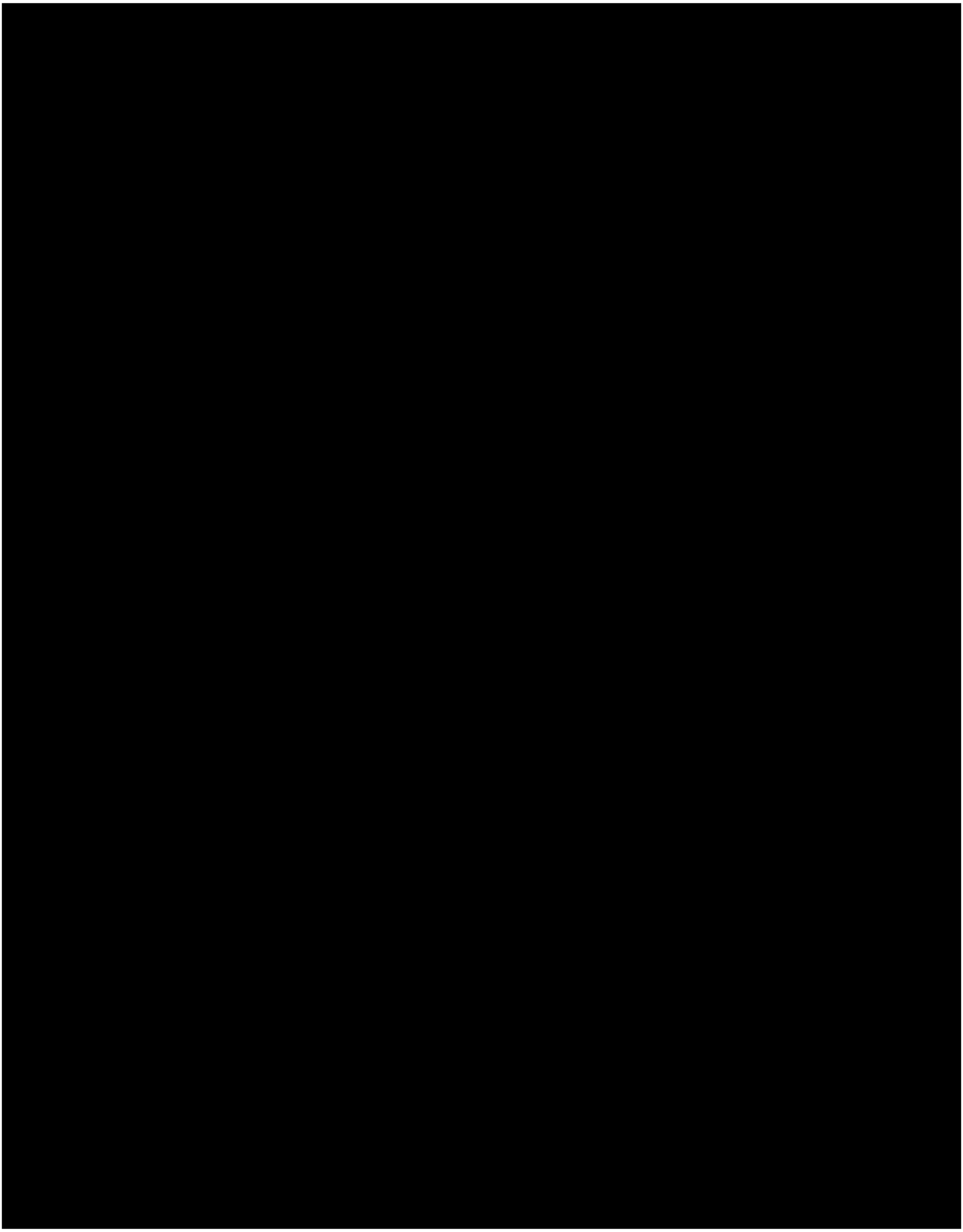
WETLAND INFORMATION WAS NOT AVAILABLE WHEN THIS SPECIES LIST WAS GENERATED. PLEASE VISIT HTTPS://WWW.FWS.GOV/WETLANDS/DATA/MAPPER.HTML OR CONTACT THE FIELD OFFICE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

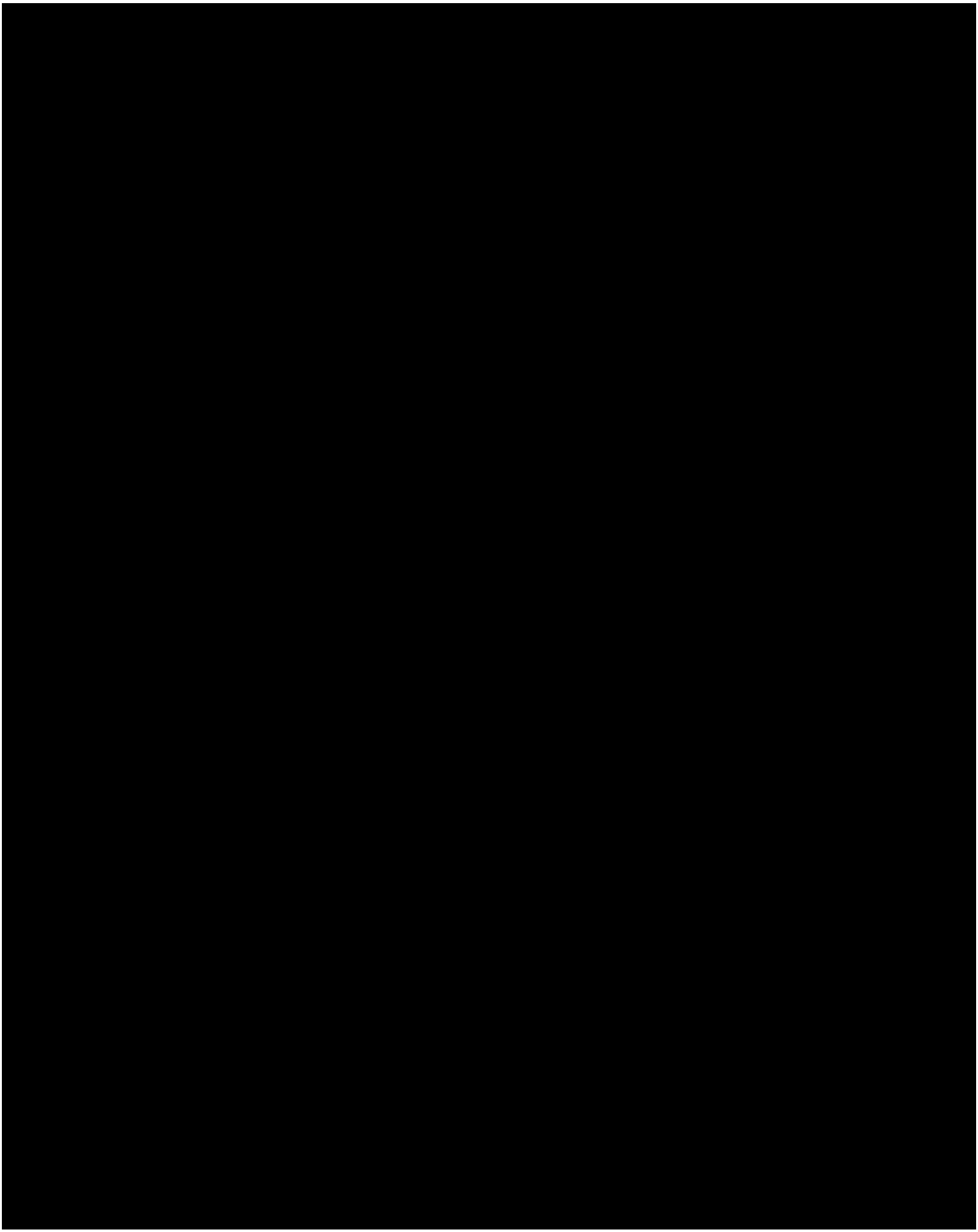
Agency: HDR Engineering
Name: Katie Lueth
Address: 1601 Utica Avenue South, Suite 600
City: St. Louis Park
State: MN
Zip: 55416-3400
Email katie.lueth@hdrinc.com
Phone: 6512146149

[redacted]

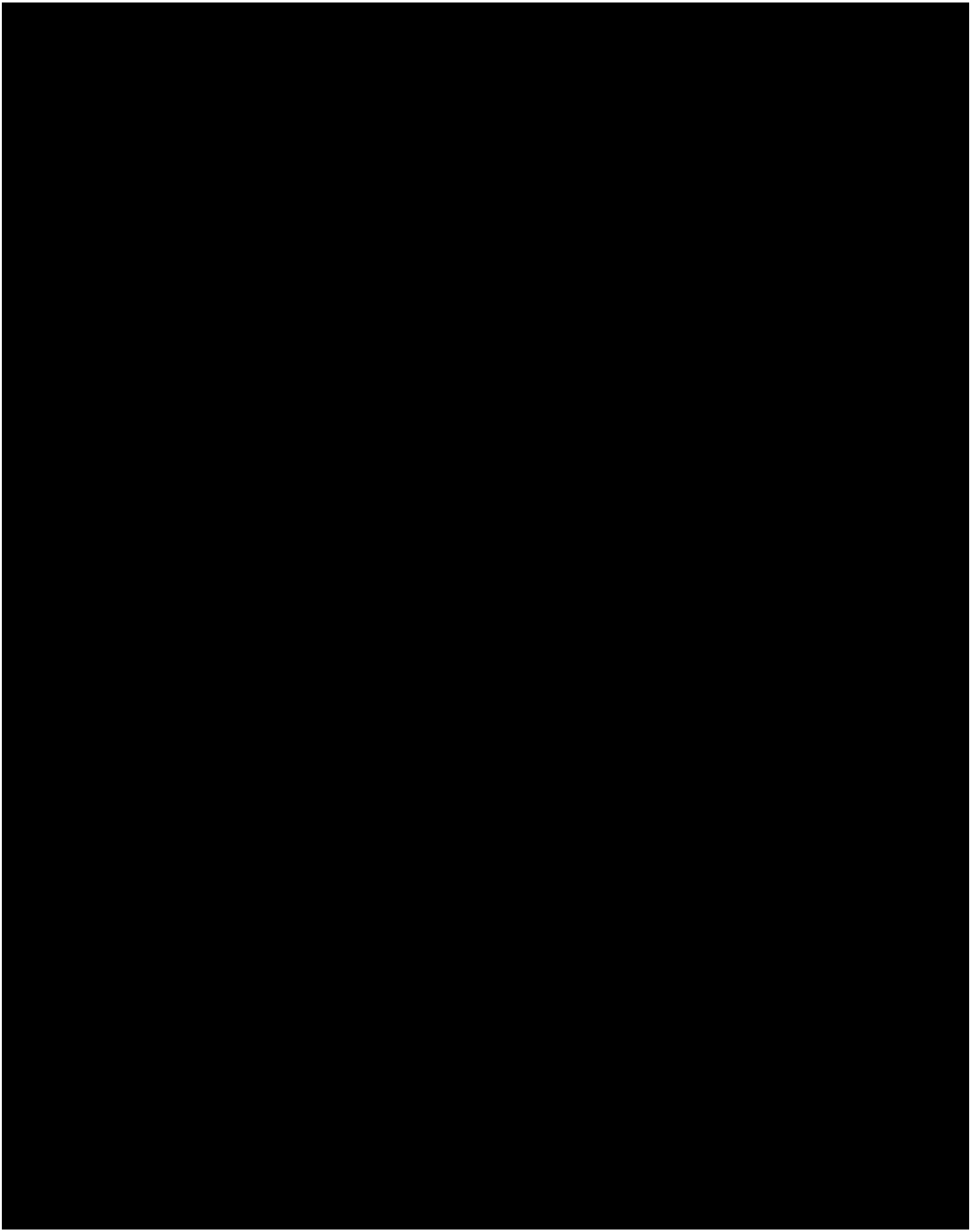




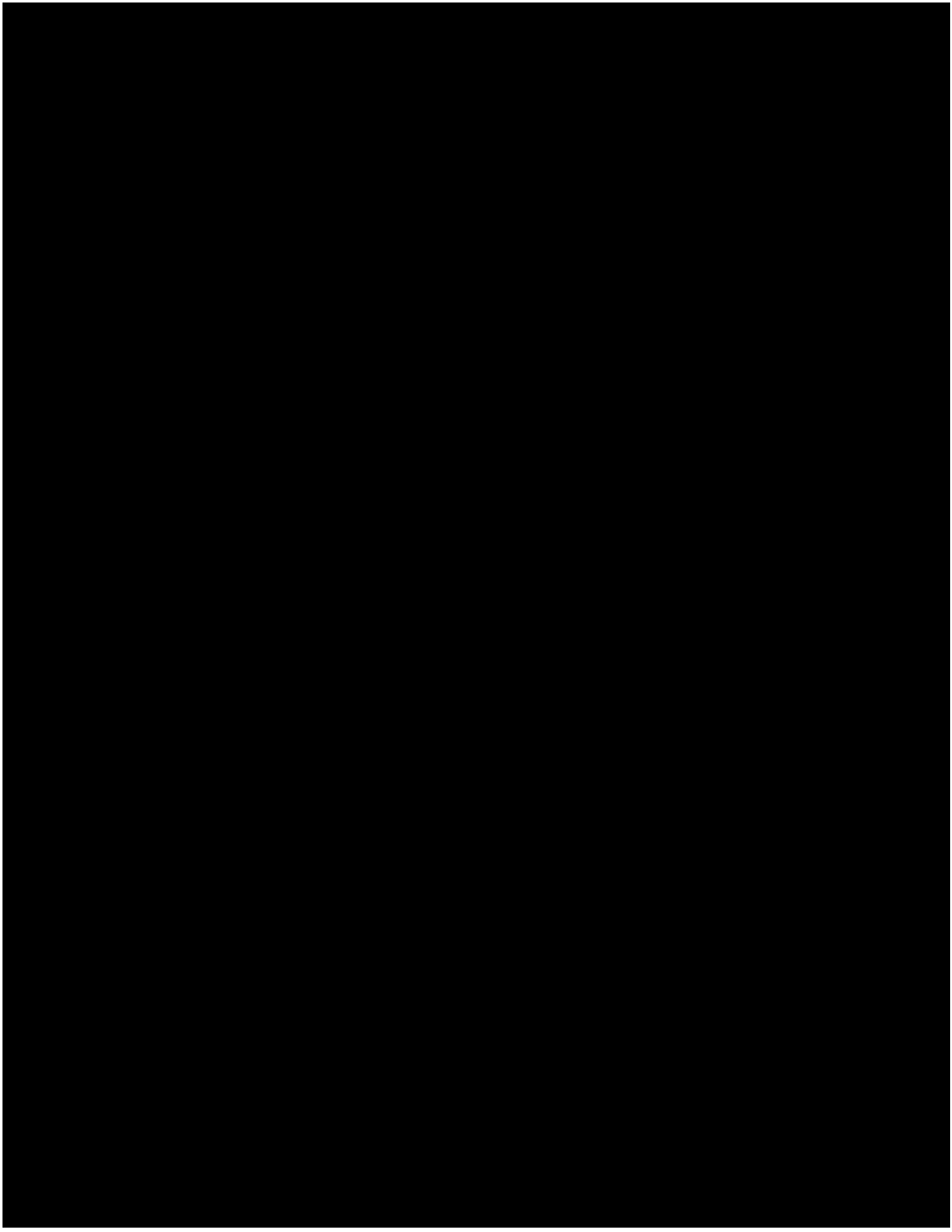
[redacted]

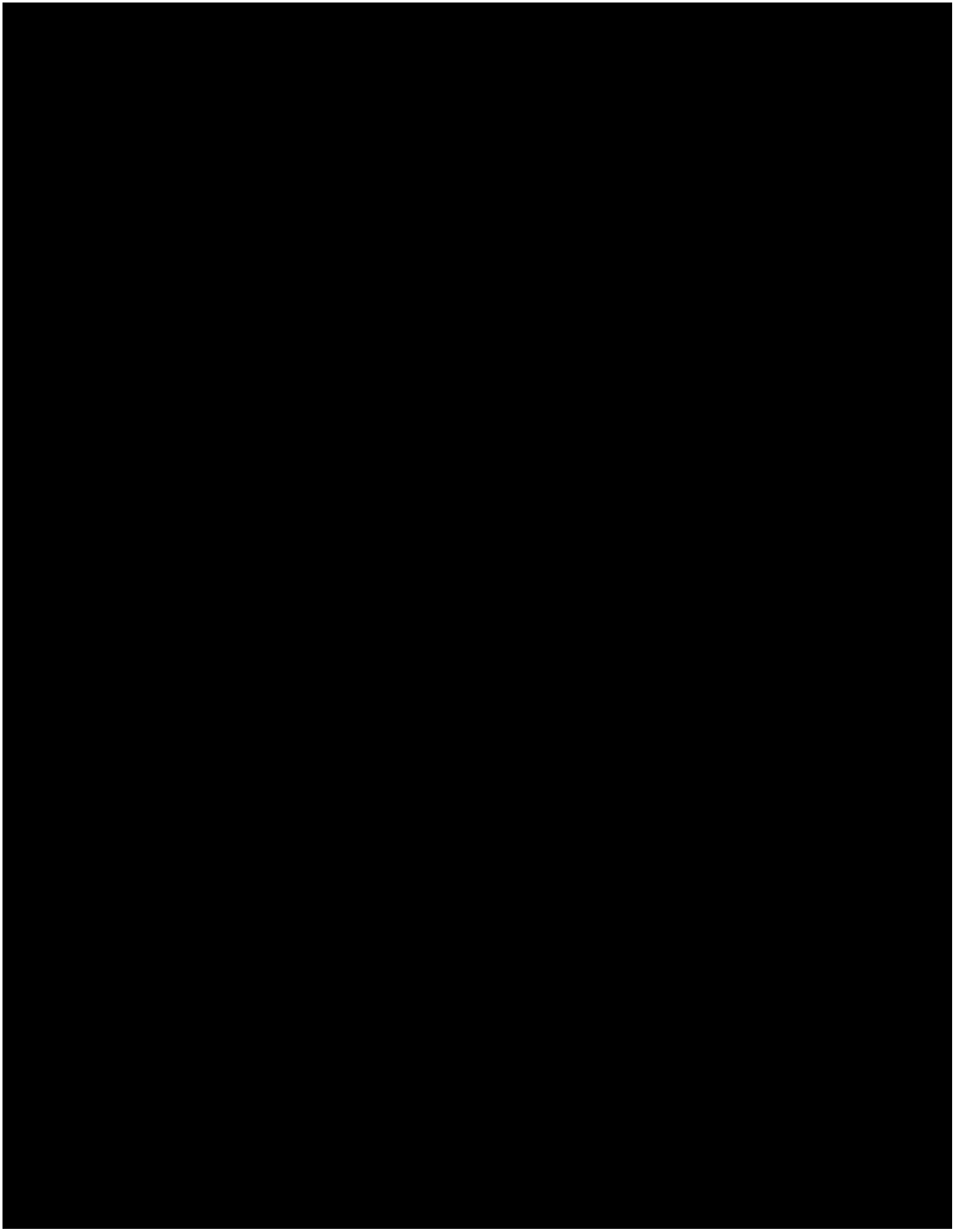


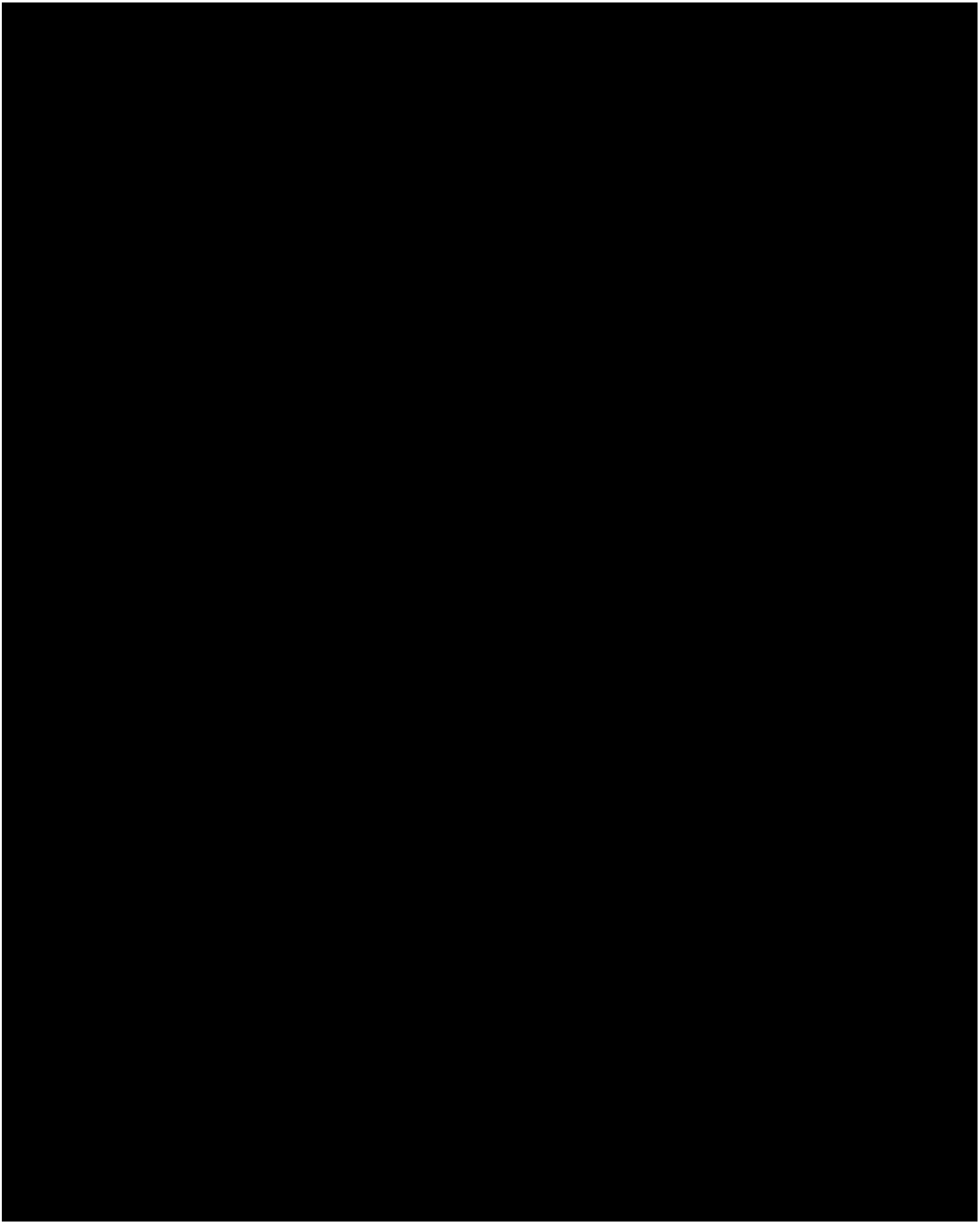
[redacted]

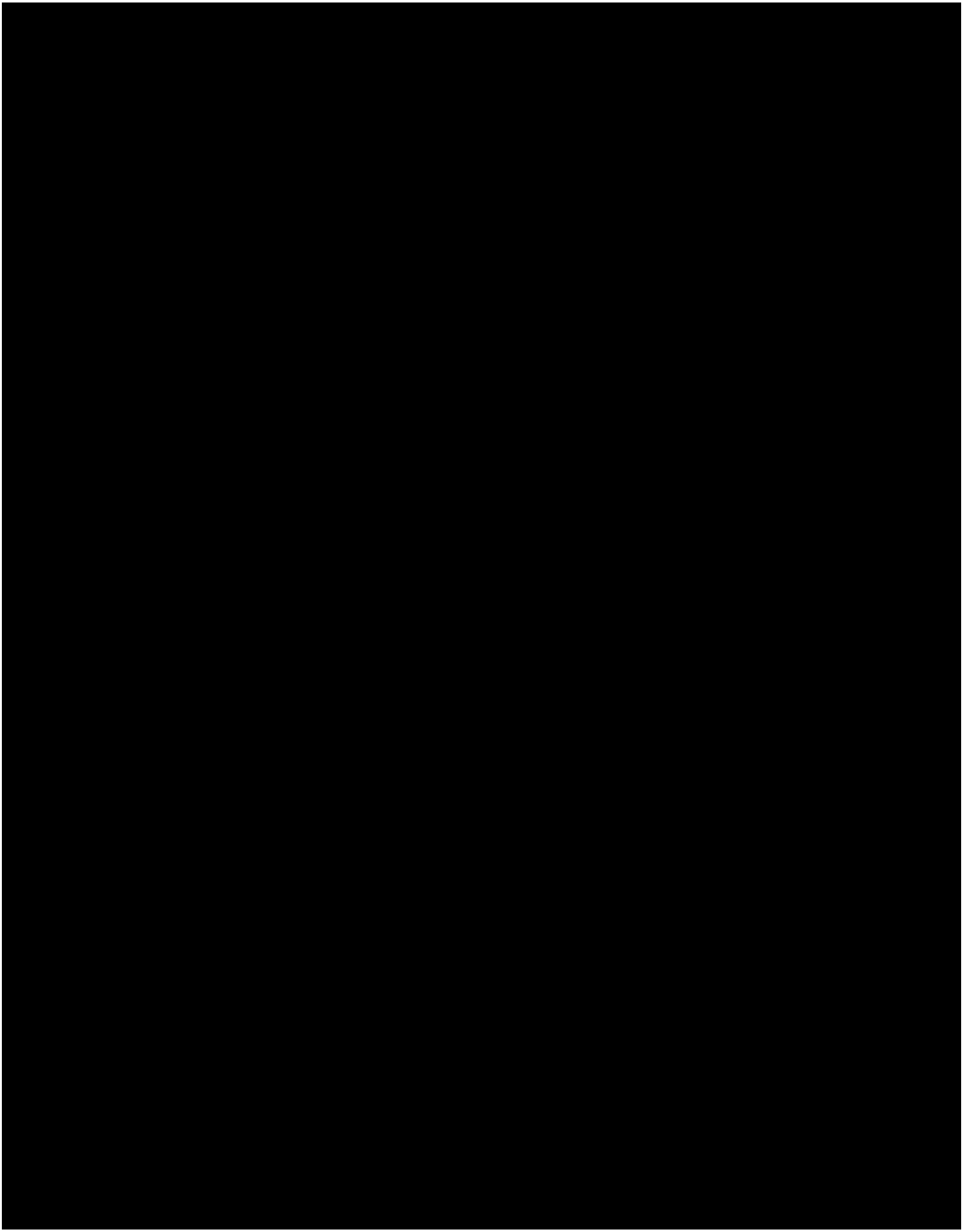


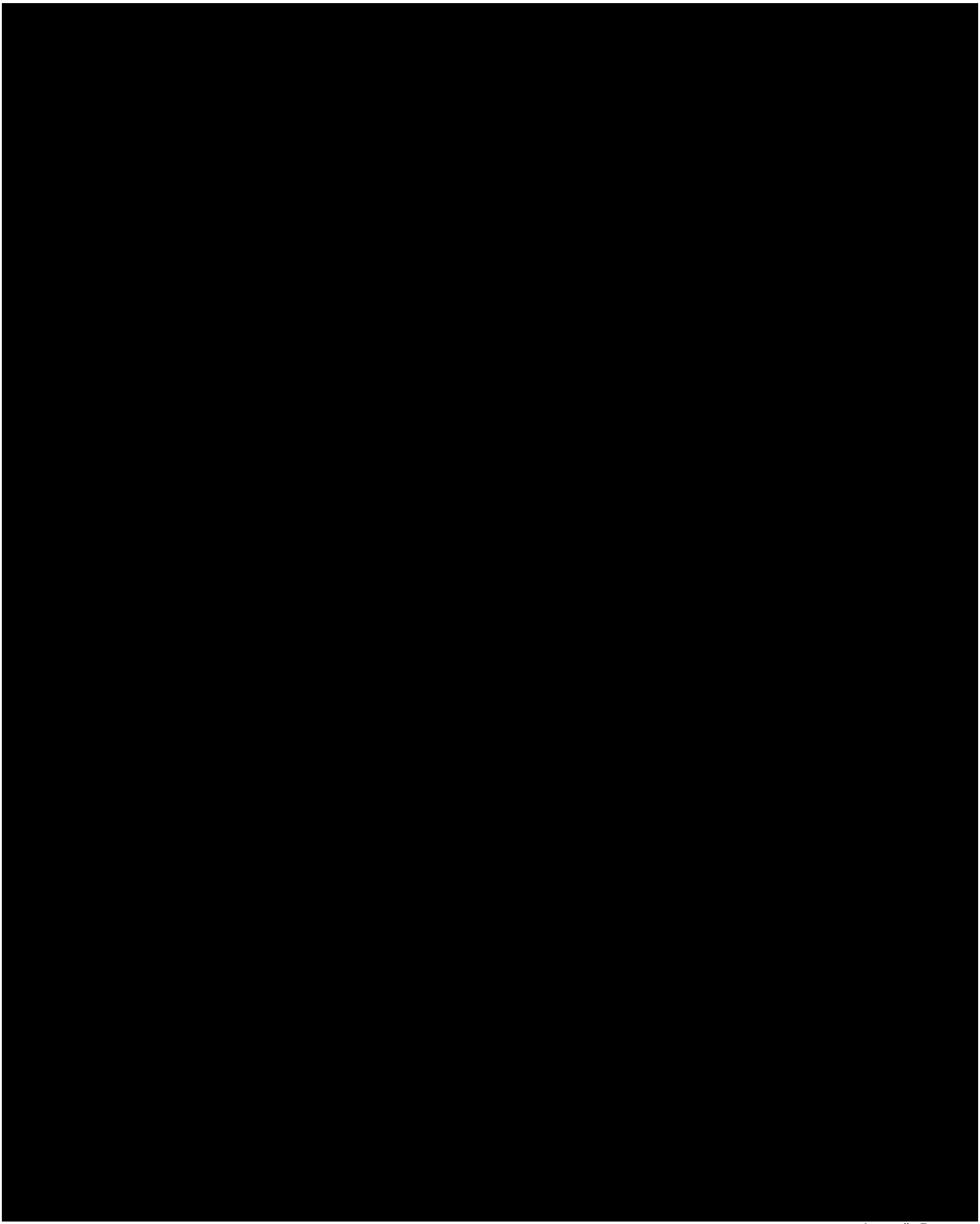
[redacted]

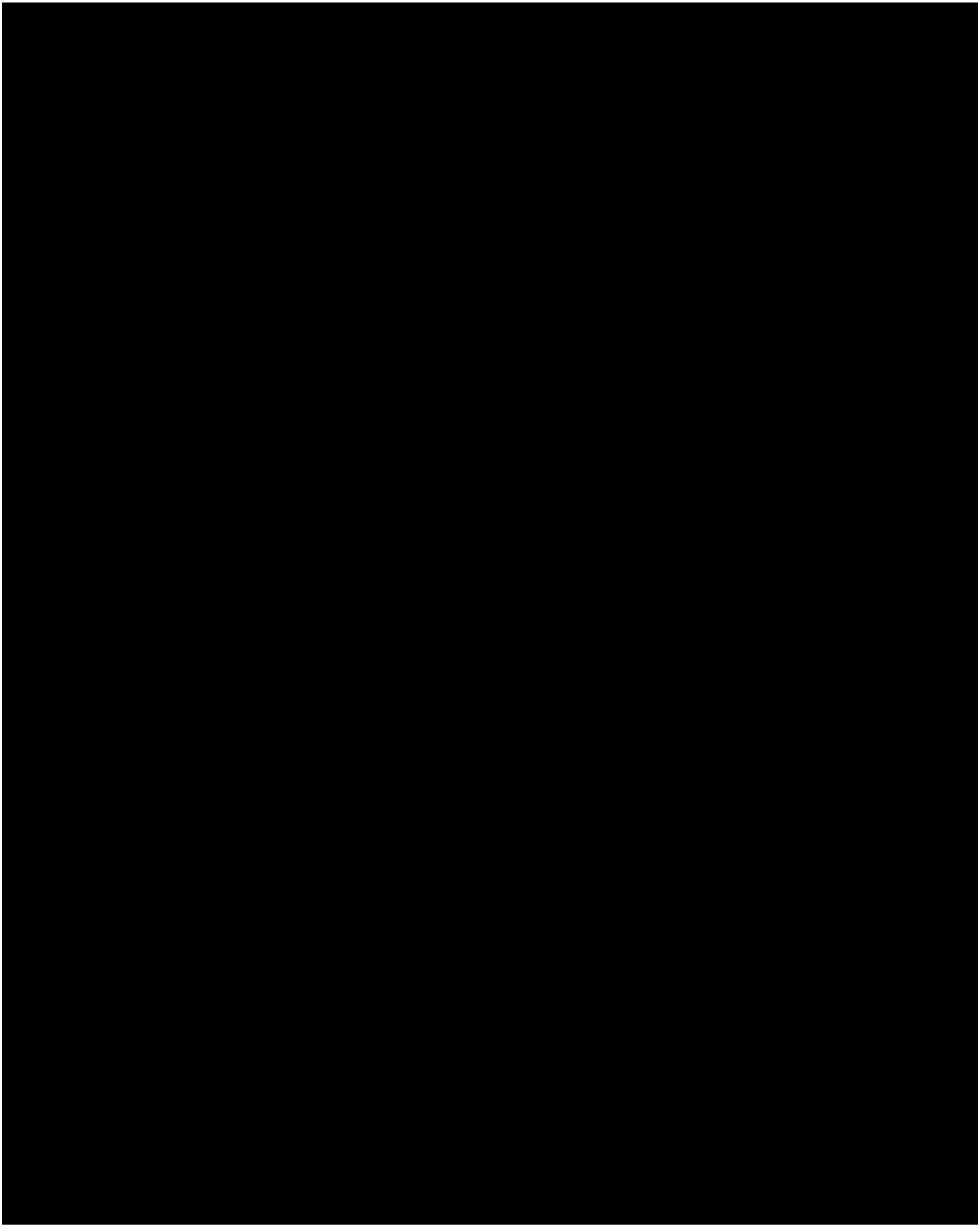


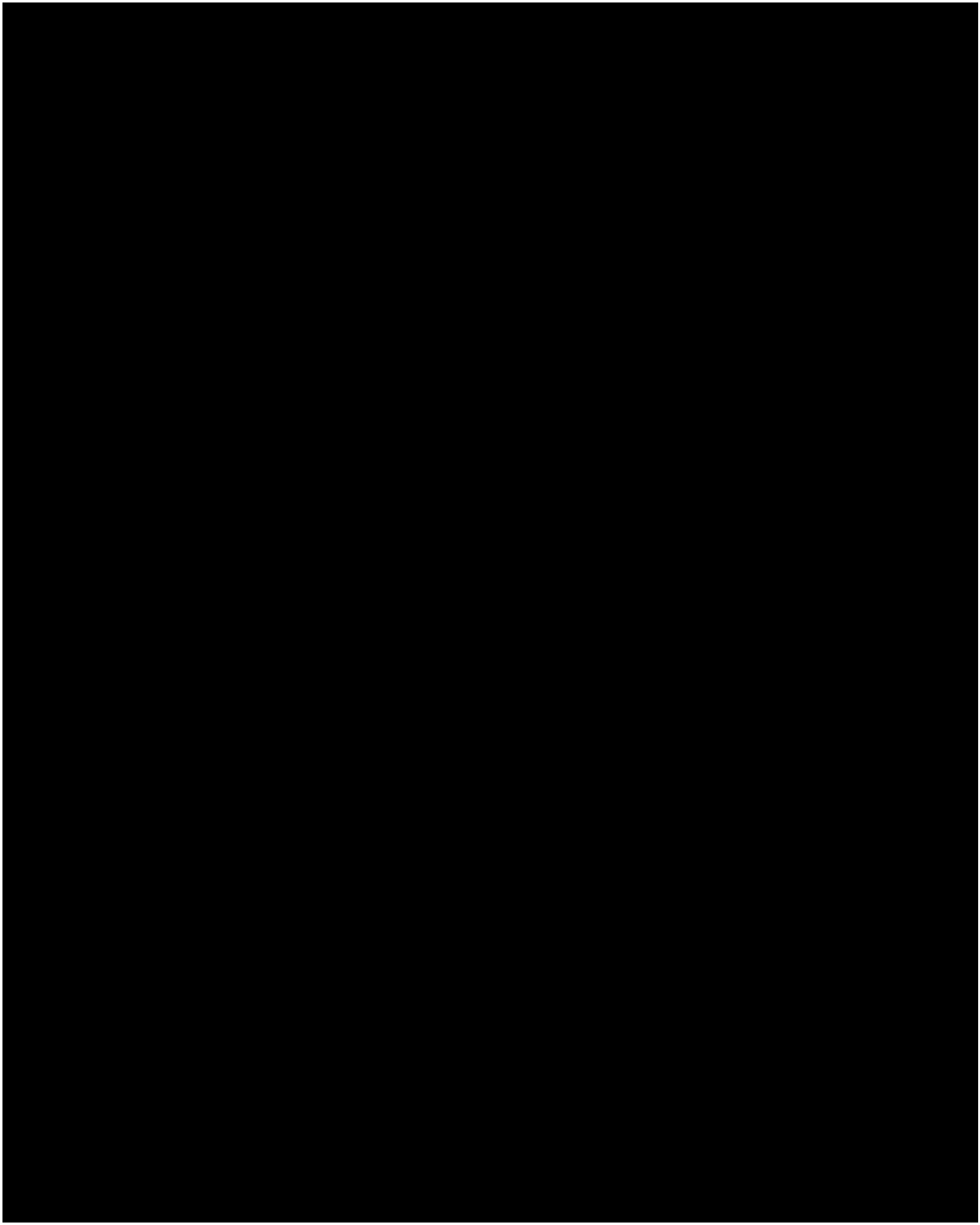


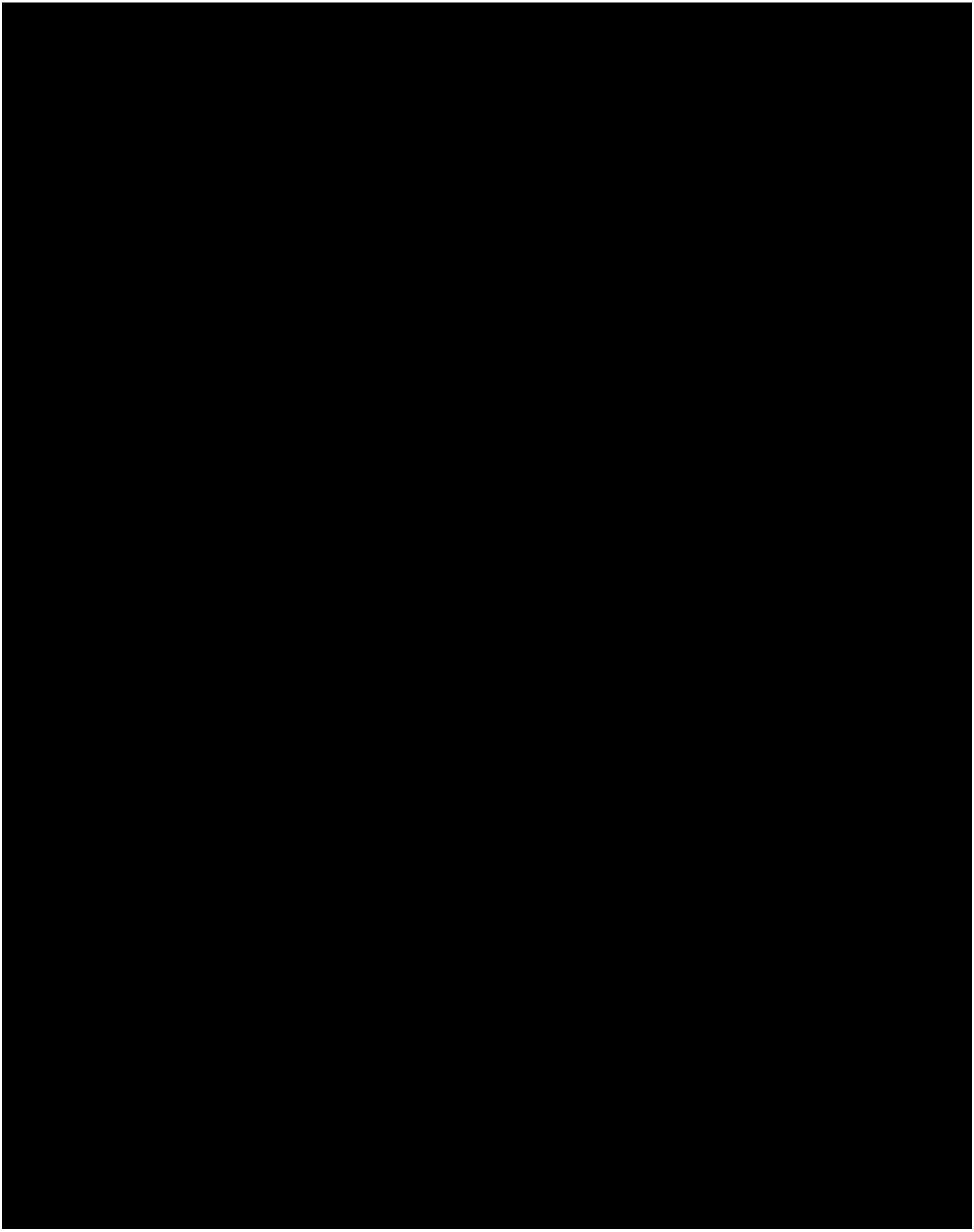






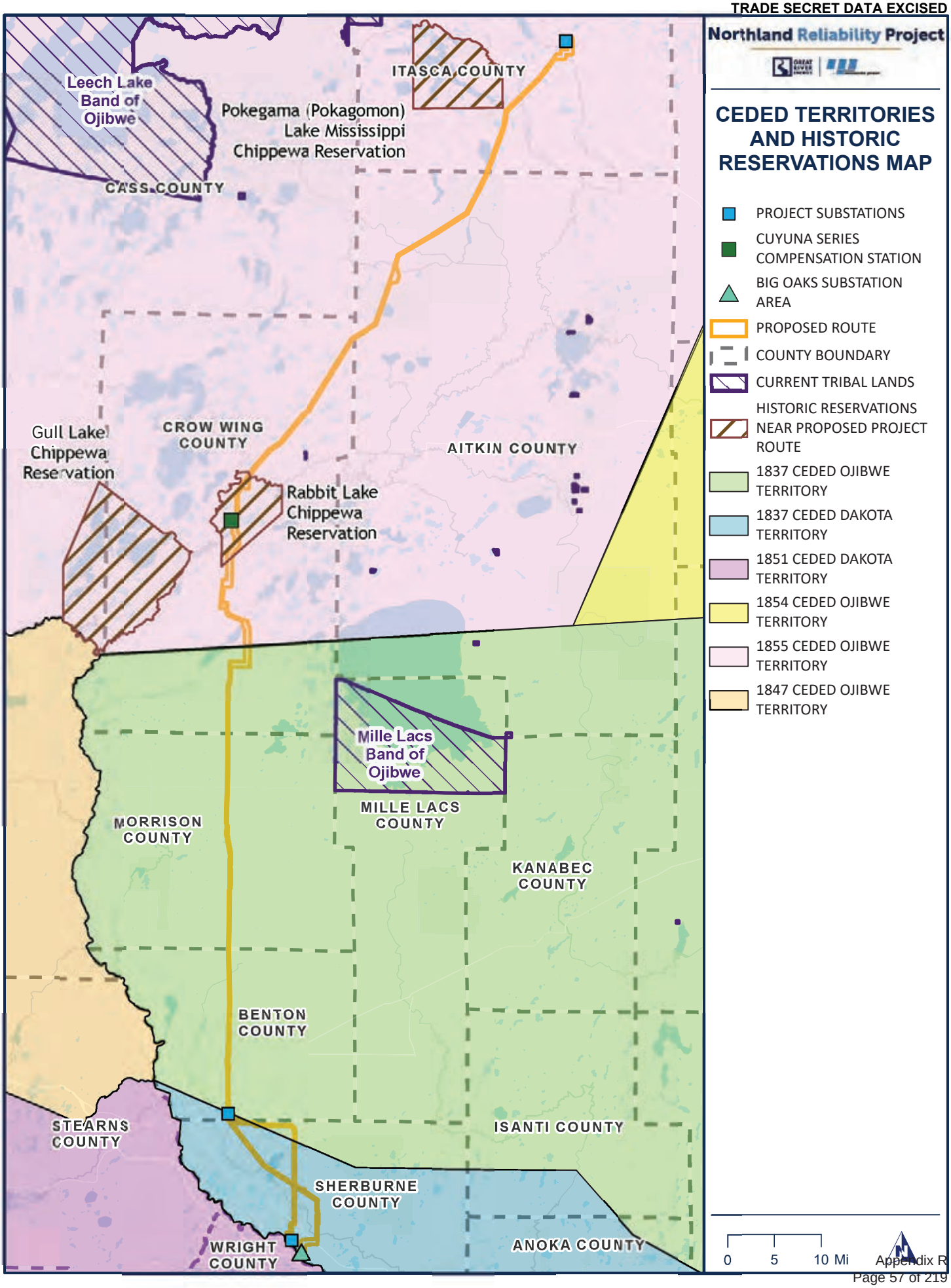


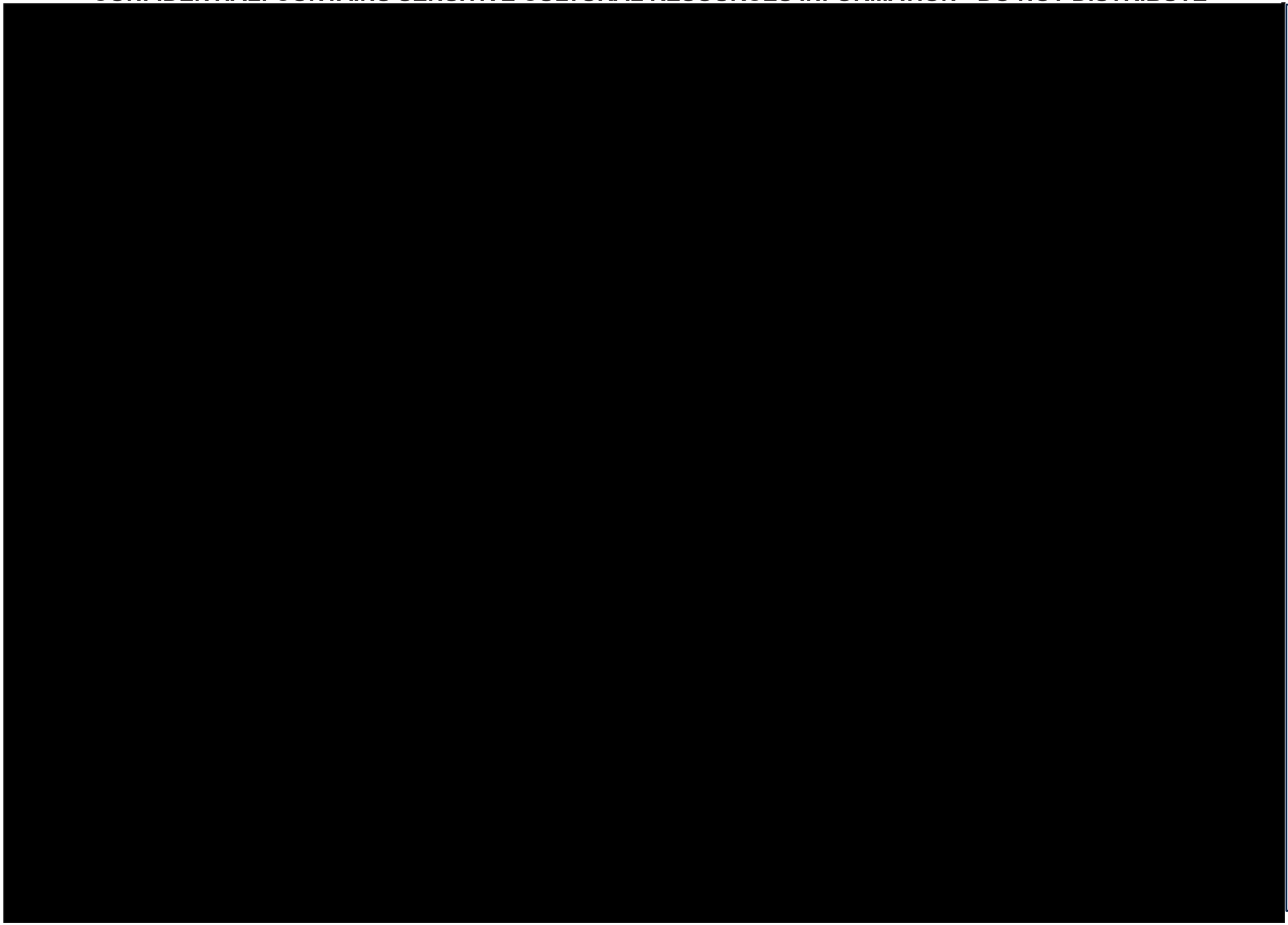




[redacted]

Cultural Resources Figures


Northland Reliability Project
CEDED TERRITORIES AND HISTORIC RESERVATIONS MAP
PROJECT SUBSTATIONS
CUYUNA SERIES COMPENSATION STATION
BIG OAKS SUBSTATION AREA
PROPOSED ROUTE
COUNTY BOUNDARY
CURRENT TRIBAL LANDS
HISTORIC RESERVATIONS NEAR PROPOSED PROJECT ROUTE
1837 CEDED OJIBWE TERRITORY
1837 CEDED DAKOTA TERRITORY
1851 CEDED DAKOTA TERRITORY
1854 CEDED OJIBWE TERRITORY
1855 CEDED OJIBWE TERRITORY
1847 CEDED OJIBWE TERRITORY
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
Pokegama (Pokagomon) Lake Mississippi Chippewa Reservation
ITASCA COUNTY
CASS COUNTY
Gull Lake Chippewa Reservation
CROW WING COUNTY
Rabbit Lake Chippewa Reservation
AITKIN COUNTY
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
MILLE LACS COUNTY
MORRISON COUNTY
KANABEC COUNTY
BENTON COUNTY
STEARNS COUNTY
ISANTI COUNTY
SHERBURNE COUNTY
WRIGHT COUNTY
ANOKA COUNTY
0
5
10 Mi
N



Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 1 OF 37

- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- PROPOSED CENTERLINE
- PROJECT SUBSTATION
- EXISTING SUBSTATIONS
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY

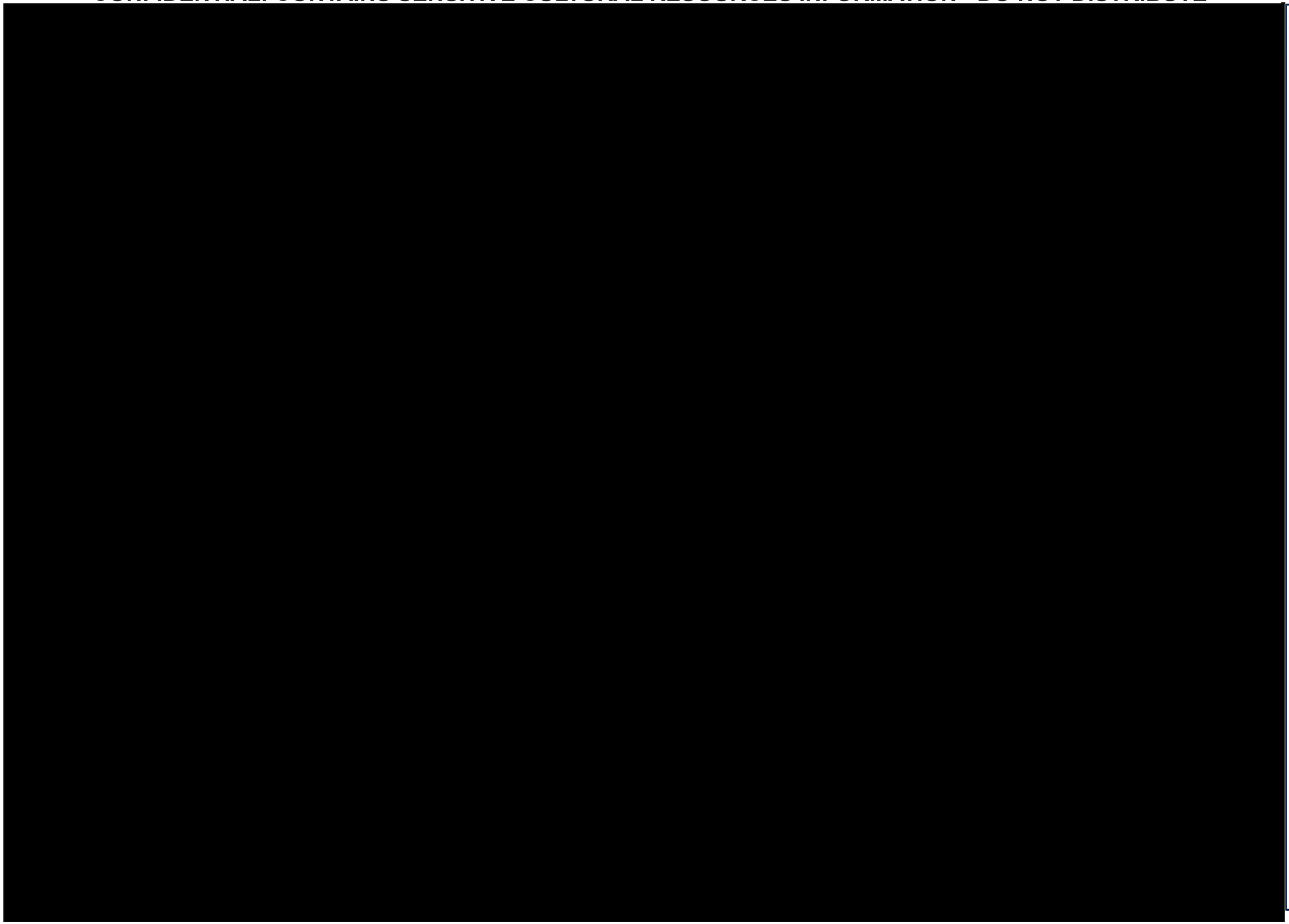
EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 69 KV
- 115 KV
- 230 KV
- 345 KV AND ABOVE
- PIPELINE
- ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE
- UNRECORDED HISTORIC CEMETERY

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft

N



Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 2 OF 37

- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- PROPOSED CENTERLINE
- EXISTING SUBSTATIONS
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY

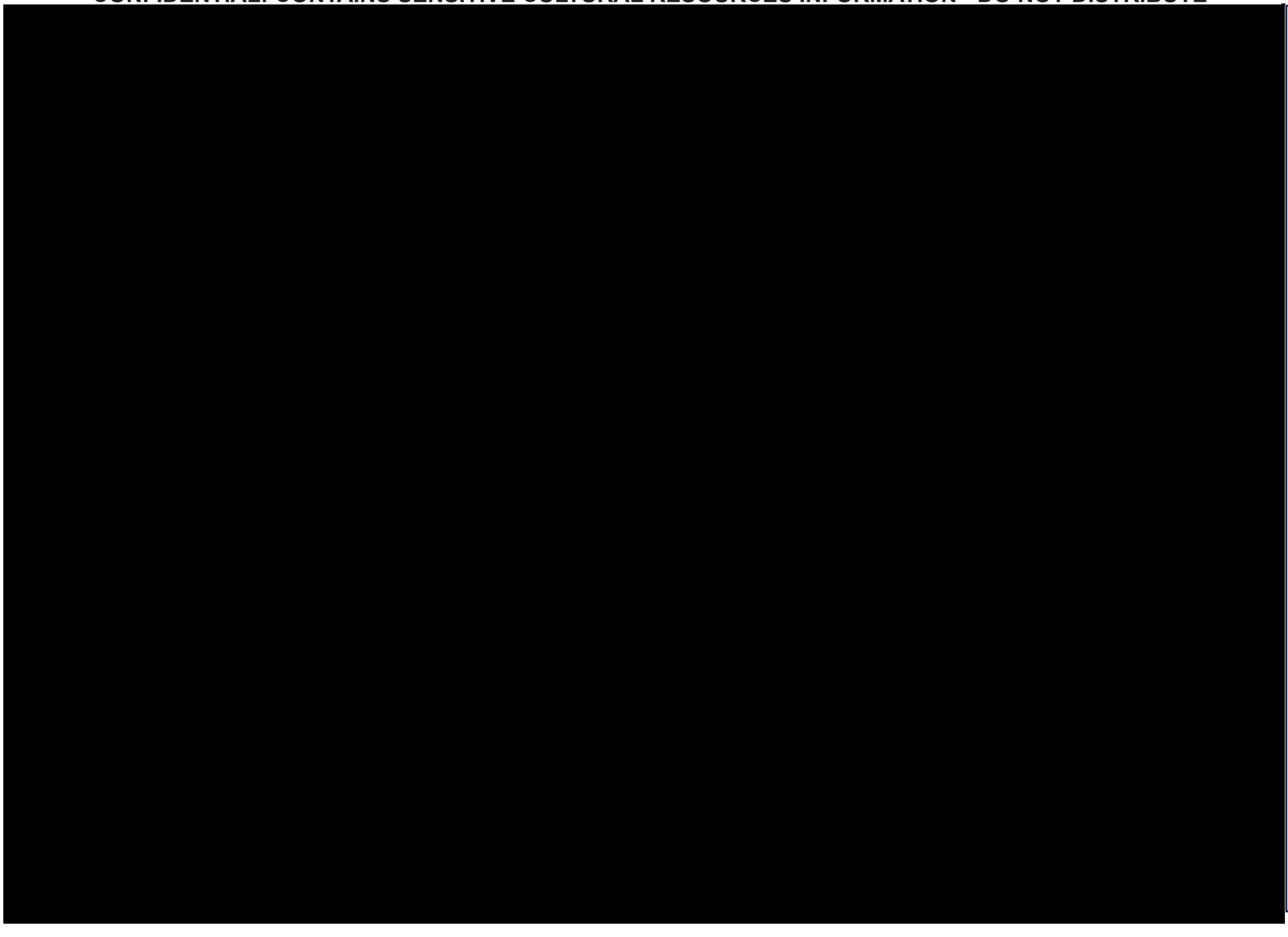
EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 69 KV
- 115 KV
- 230 KV
- PIPELINE
- RAILROAD
- SCENIC BYWAYS
- UNRECORDED HISTORIC CEMETERY

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft

N



Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 3 OF 37

- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- PROPOSED CENTERLINE
- SHIFT 115KV CENTERLINE
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY

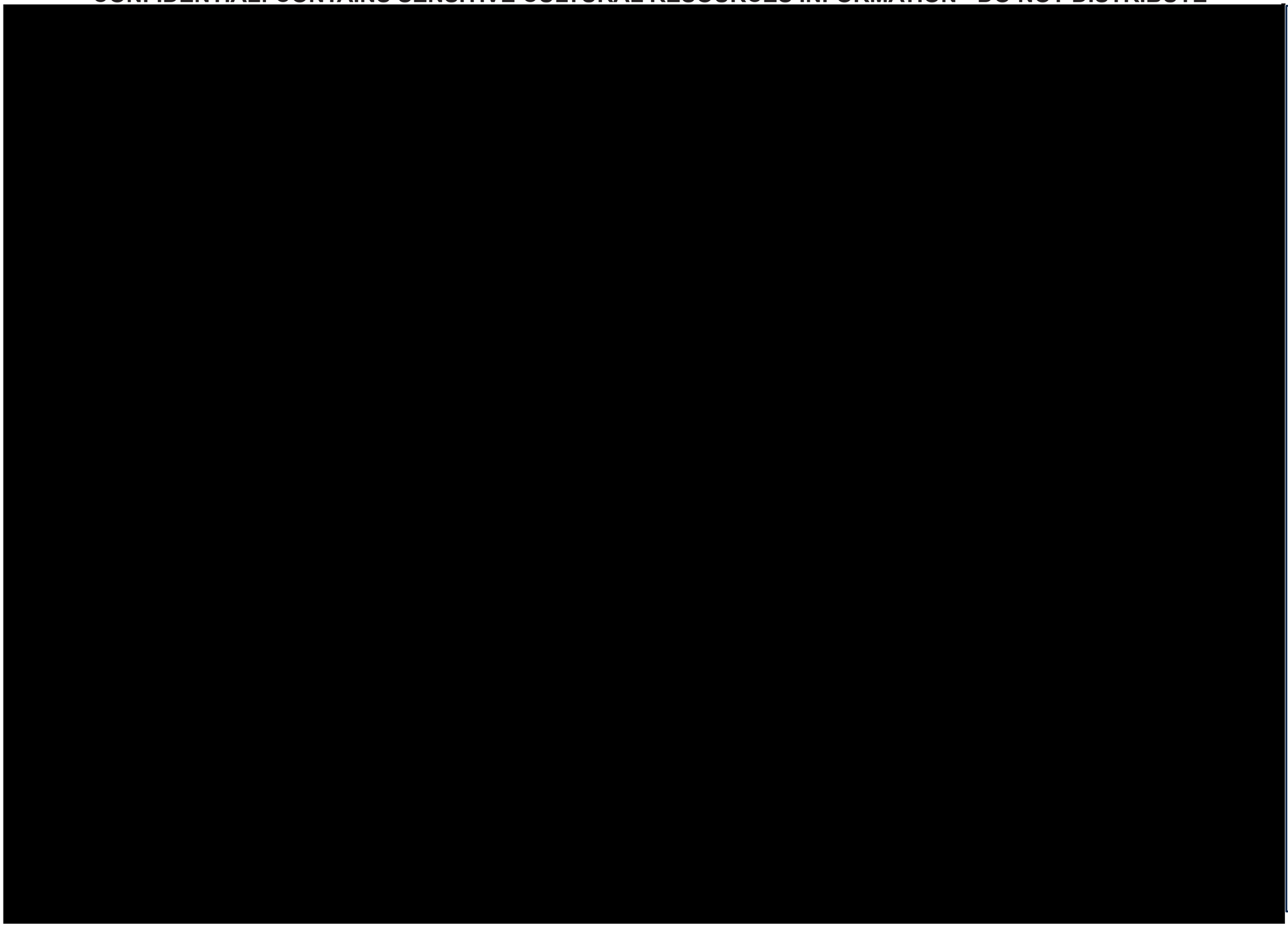
EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 115 KV
- 230 KV
- SCENIC BYWAYS
- ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft

N



Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 4 OF 37

- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- PROPOSED CENTERLINE
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY

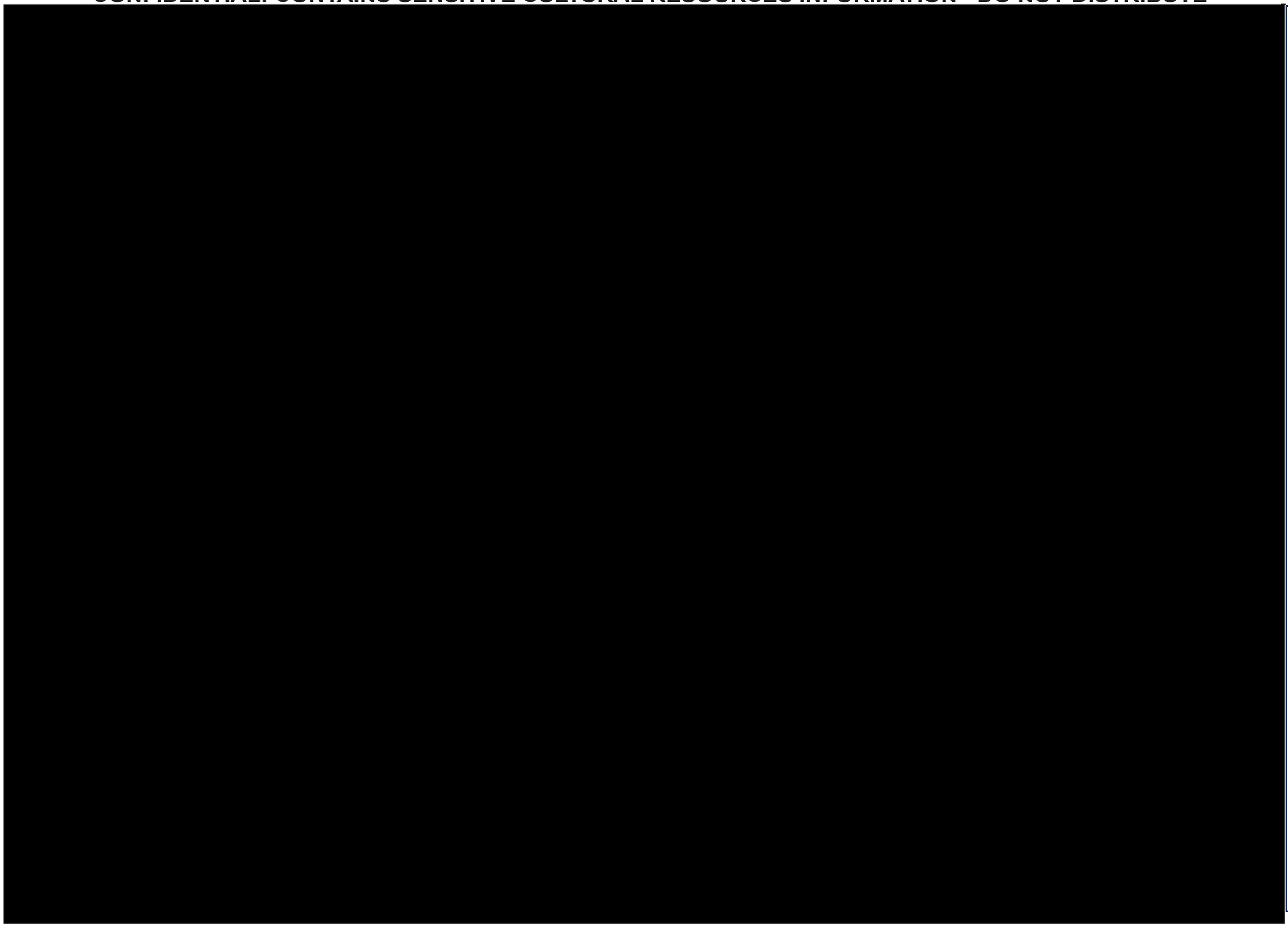
EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 115 KV
- 230 KV
- ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft

N



Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 5 OF 37

- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- PROPOSED CENTERLINE
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY

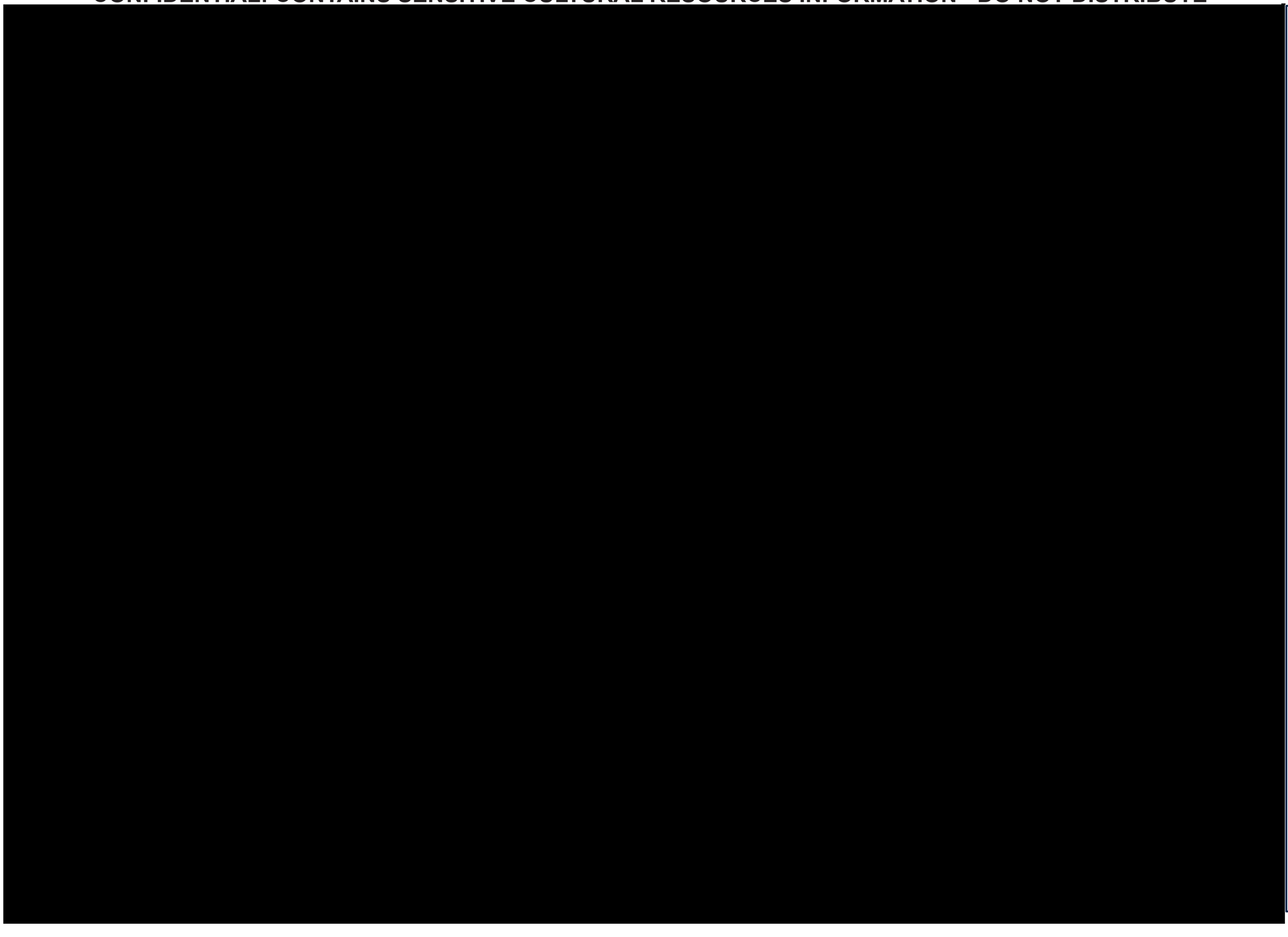
EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 115 KV
- 230 KV

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft

N



Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 6 OF 37

- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- PROPOSED CENTERLINE
- EXISTING SUBSTATIONS
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY
- CITY BOUNDARY

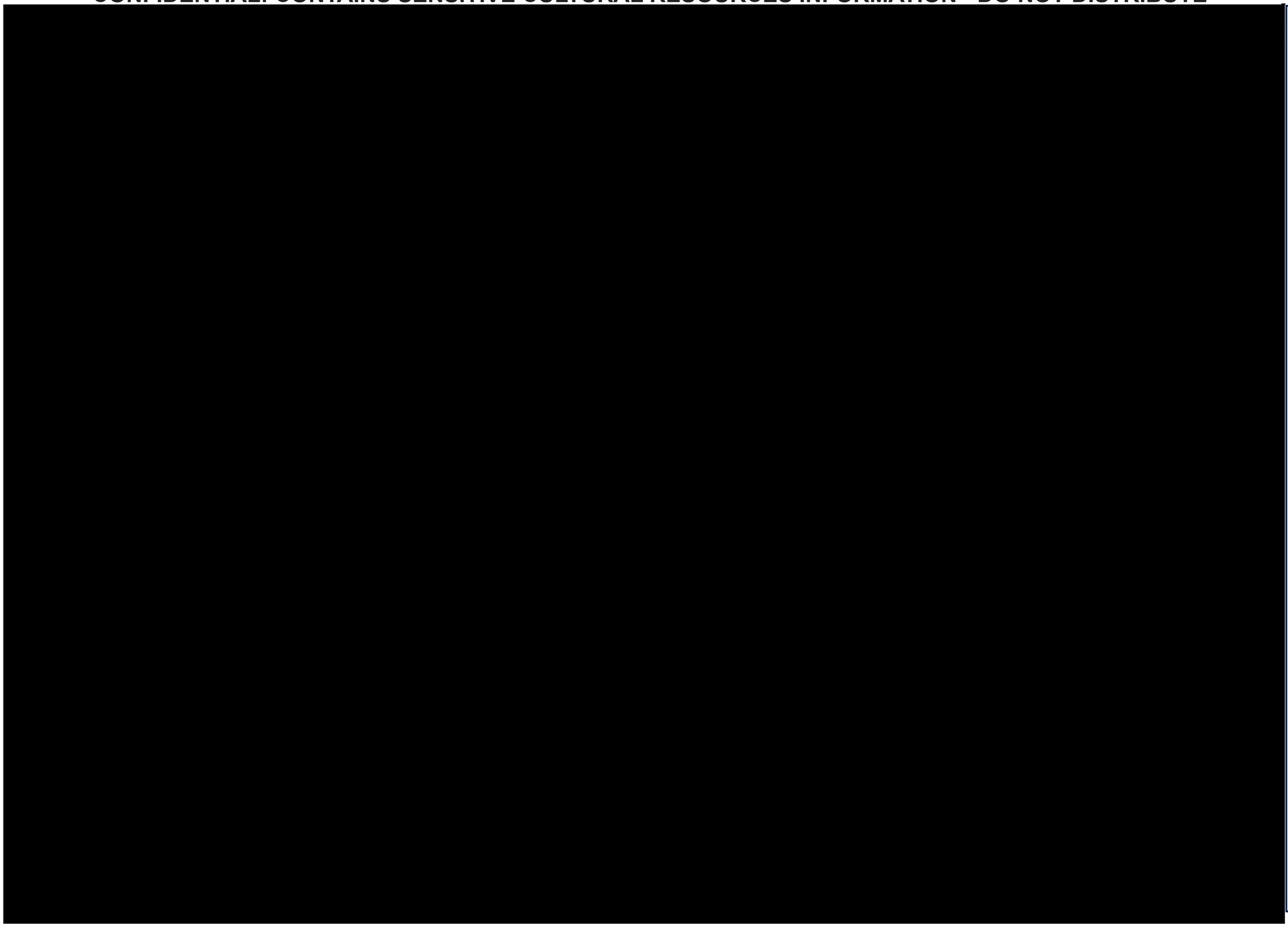
EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 115 KV
- 230 KV
- ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE - HIGHWAY
- ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft

N



Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 7 OF 37

- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- PROPOSED CENTERLINE
- EXISTING SUBSTATIONS
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY

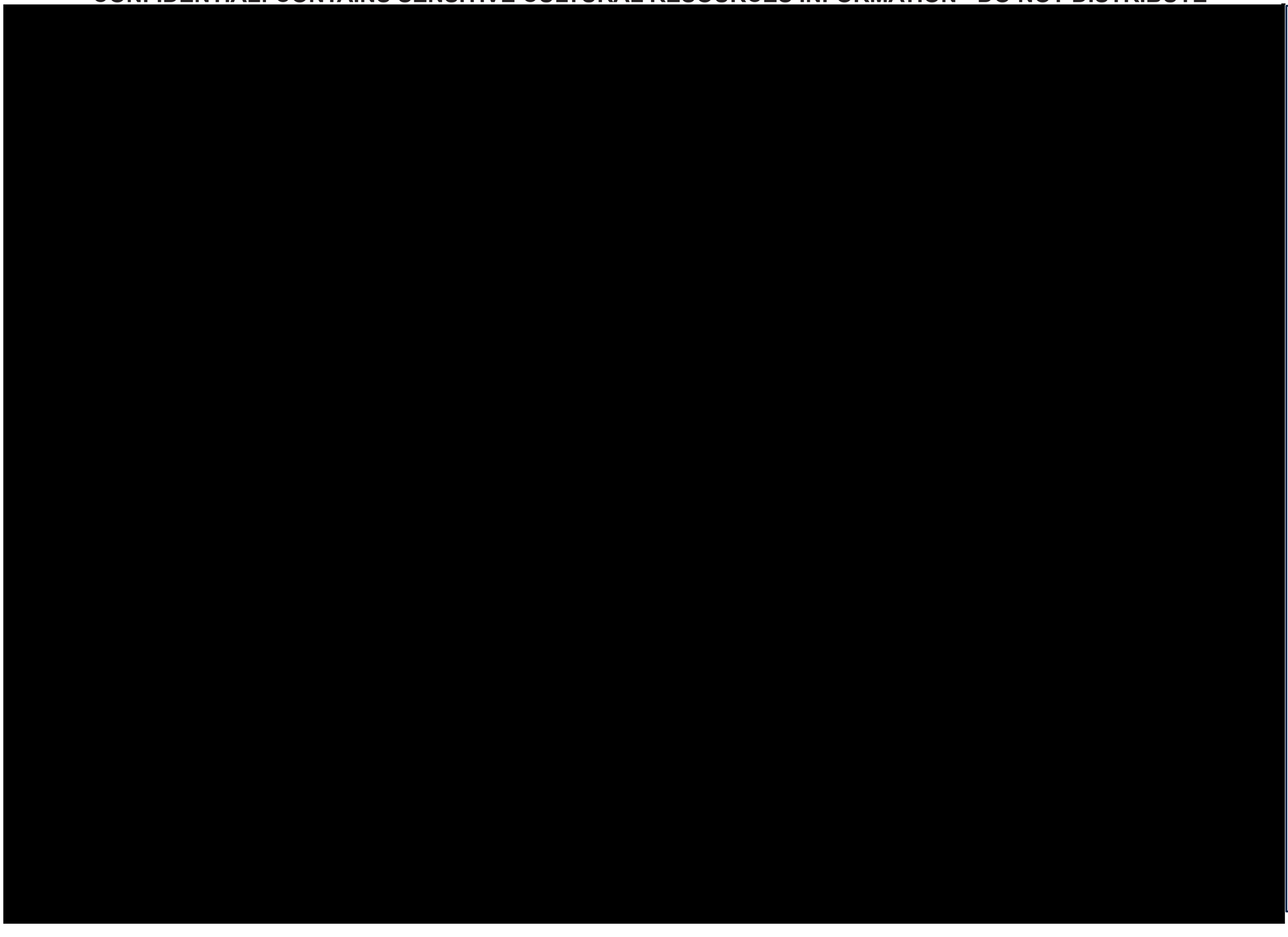
EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 115 KV
- 230 KV
- 250 KV
- PIPELINE
- ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft

N



Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 8 OF 37

- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- PROPOSED CENTERLINE
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY

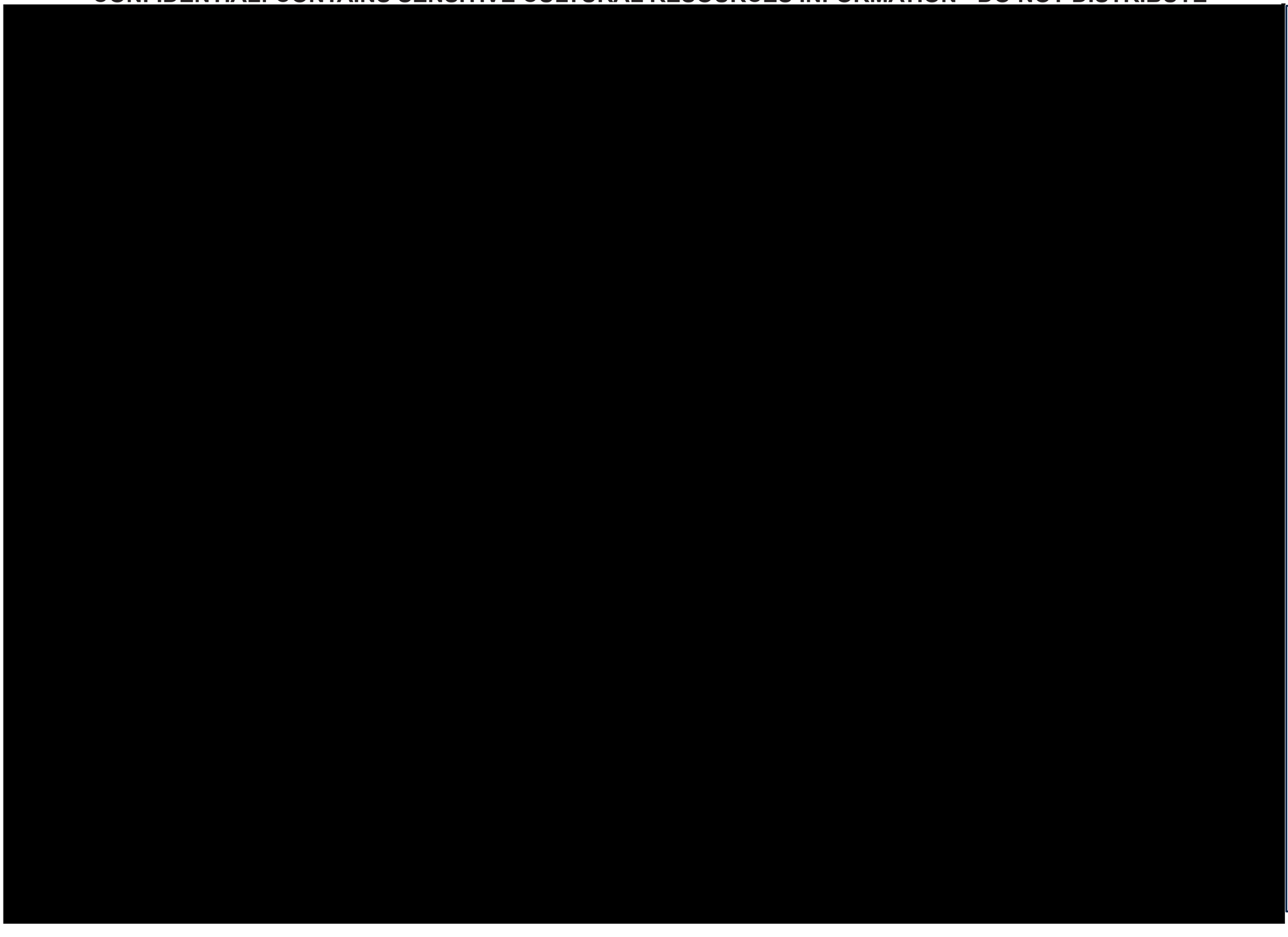
EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 115 KV
- 230 KV
- 250 KV
- PIPELINE
- ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft

N



Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 9 OF 37

- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- PROPOSED CENTERLINE
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY

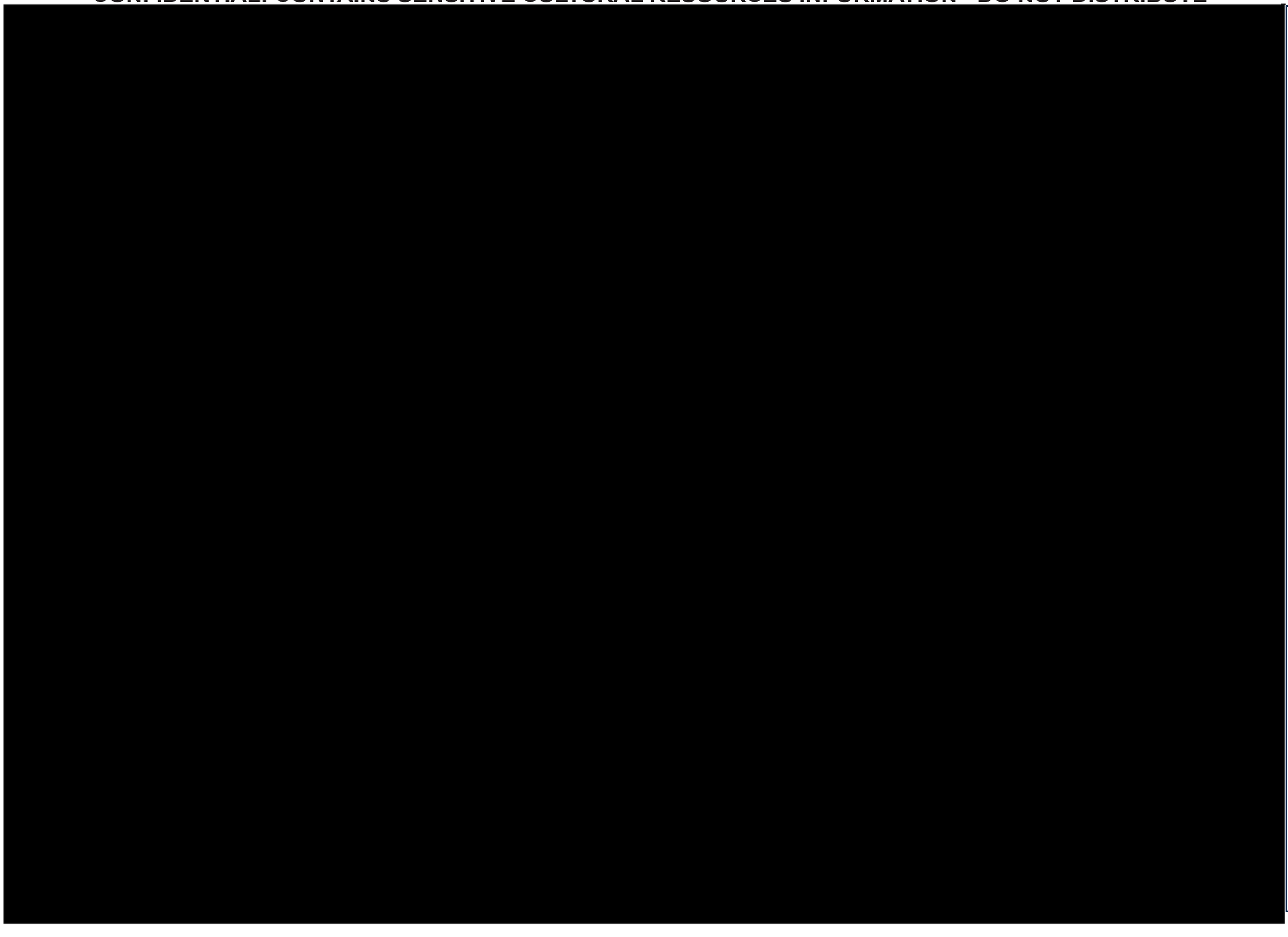
EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 115 KV
- 230 KV

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft

N



Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 10 OF 37

- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- PROPOSED CENTERLINE
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY

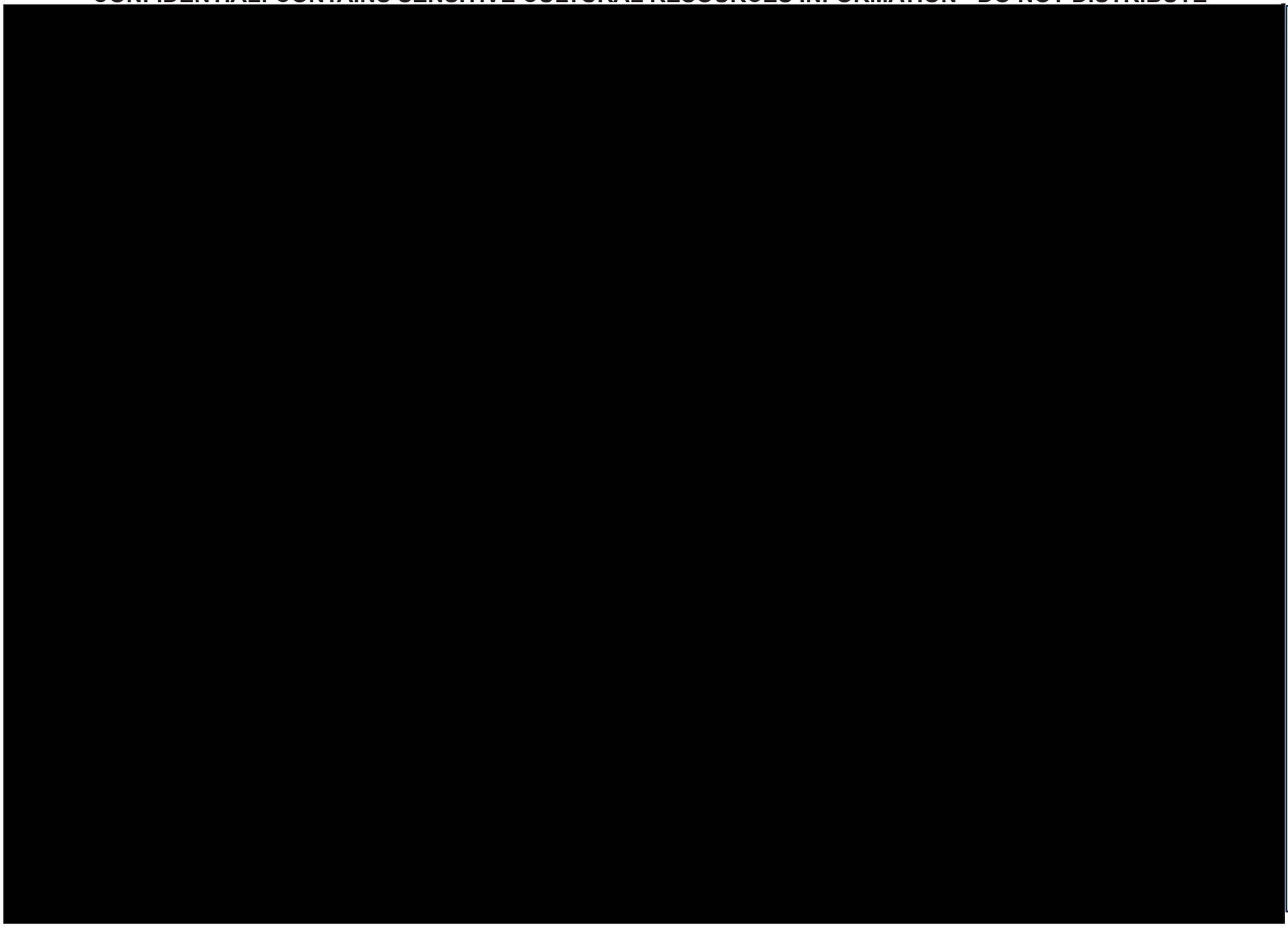
EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 115 KV
- 230 KV

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft

N



Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 11 OF 37

- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- PROPOSED CENTERLINE
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY

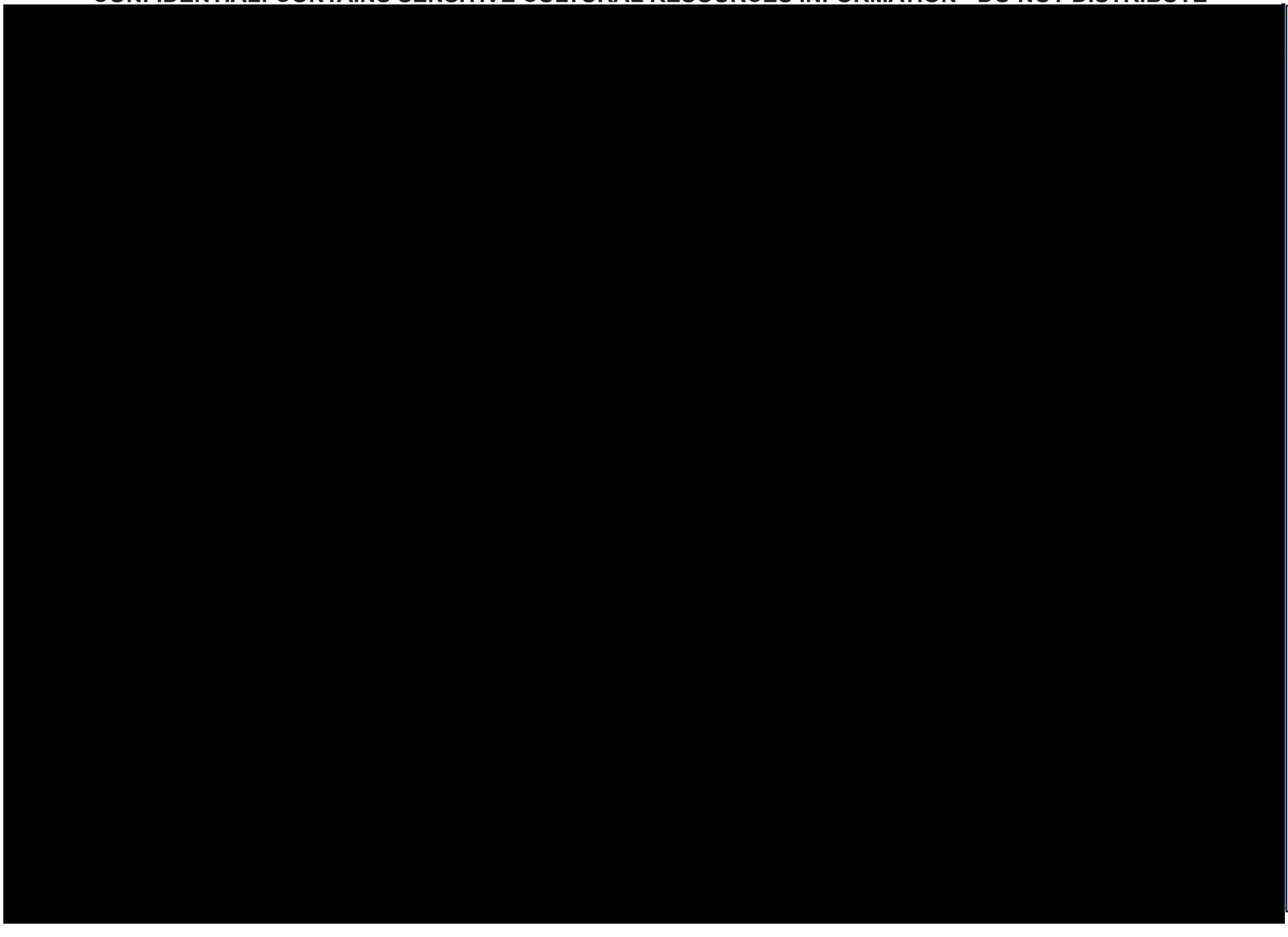
EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 115 KV
- 230 KV

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft

N



Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 12 OF 37

- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- PROPOSED CENTERLINE
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY

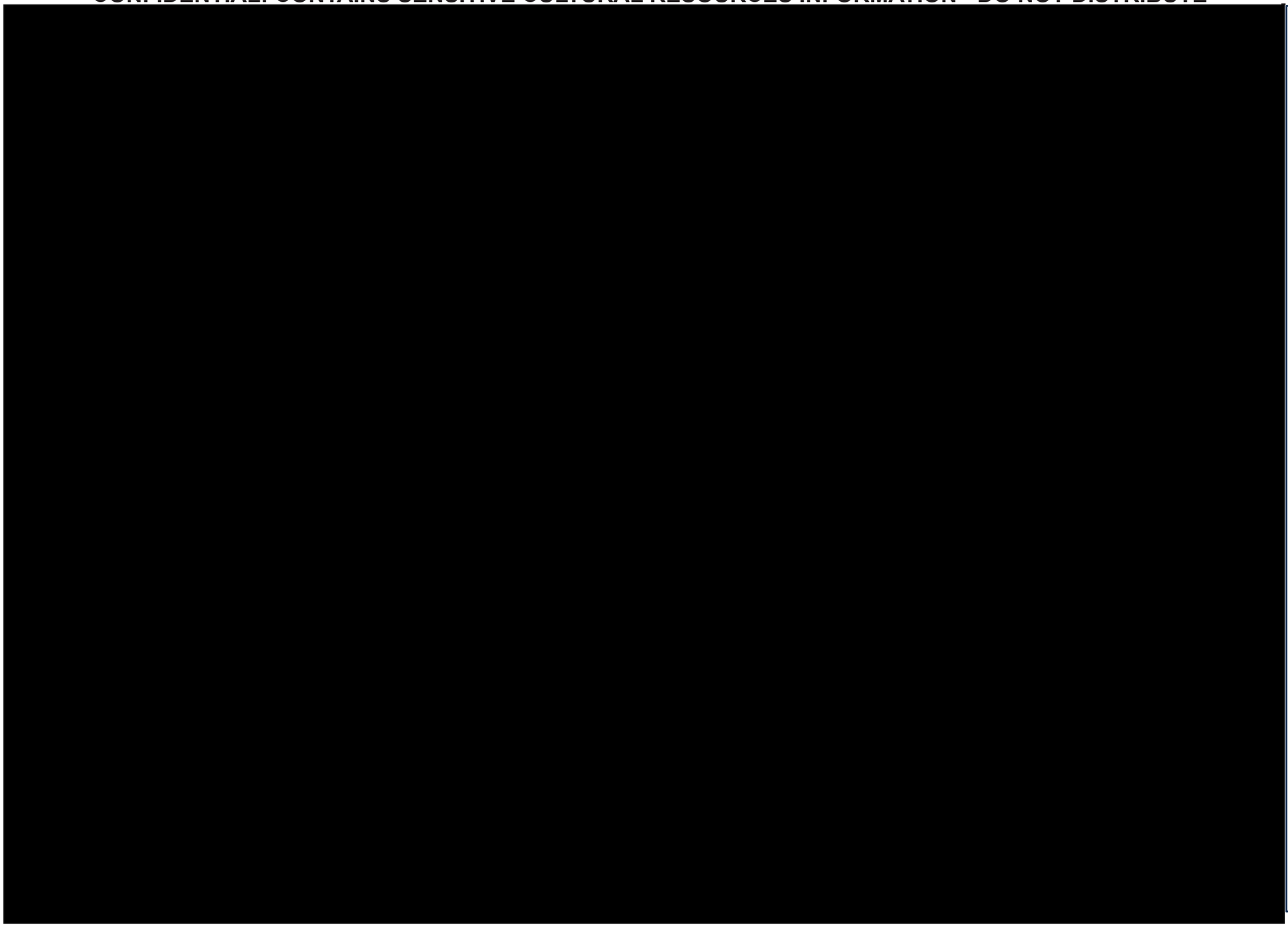
EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 115 KV
- 230 KV
- TRIBAL LANDS
- ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft

N



Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 13 OF 37

- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- PROPOSED CENTERLINE
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY

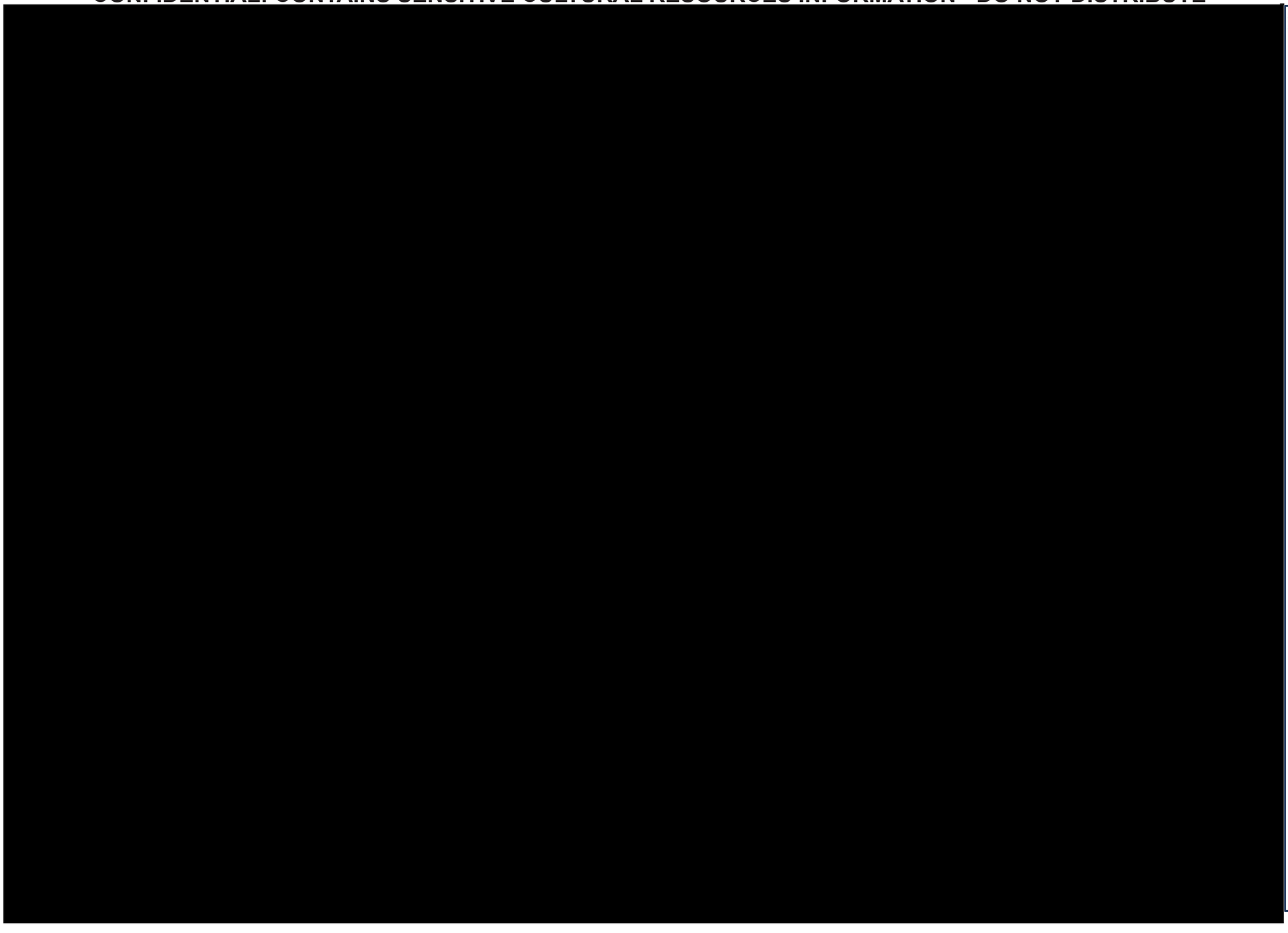
EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 69 KV
- 115 KV
- 230 KV
- SCENIC BYWAYS
- UNRECORDED HISTORIC CEMETERY

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft

N



Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 14 OF 37

- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- PROPOSED CENTERLINE
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY
- CITY BOUNDARY

EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 69 KV
- 115 KV
- 230 KV
- SCENIC BYWAYS
- ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE
- CUYUNA IRON RANGE HISTORIC MINING LANDSCAPE DISTRICT
- UNRECORDED HISTORIC CEMETERY
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft

N

Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 15 OF 37

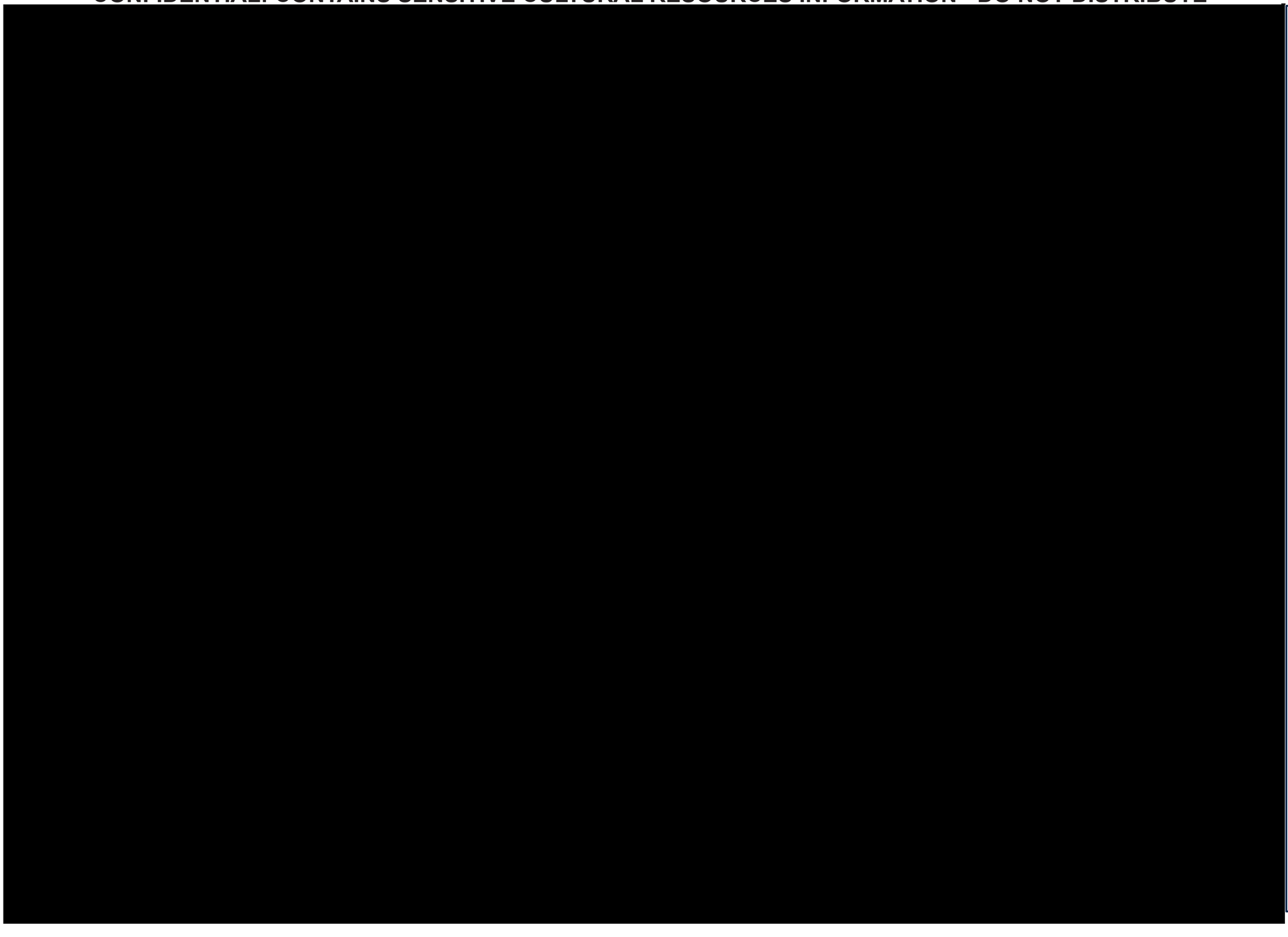
- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- PROPOSED CENTERLINE
- EXISTING SUBSTATIONS
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY
- CITY BOUNDARY

EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 69 KV
- 115 KV
- 230 KV
- PIPELINE
- RAILROAD
- ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE
- CUYUNA IRON RANGE HISTORIC MINING LANDSCAPE DISTRICT
- UNRECORDED HISTORIC CEMETERY
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft



Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 16 OF 37

- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- PROPOSED CENTERLINE
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY

EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 69 KV
- 115 KV
- 230 KV
- PIPELINE
- RAILROAD
- UNRECORDED HISTORIC CEMETERY

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft

N

Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 17 OF 37

- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- PROPOSED CENTERLINE
- EXISTING SUBSTATIONS
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY

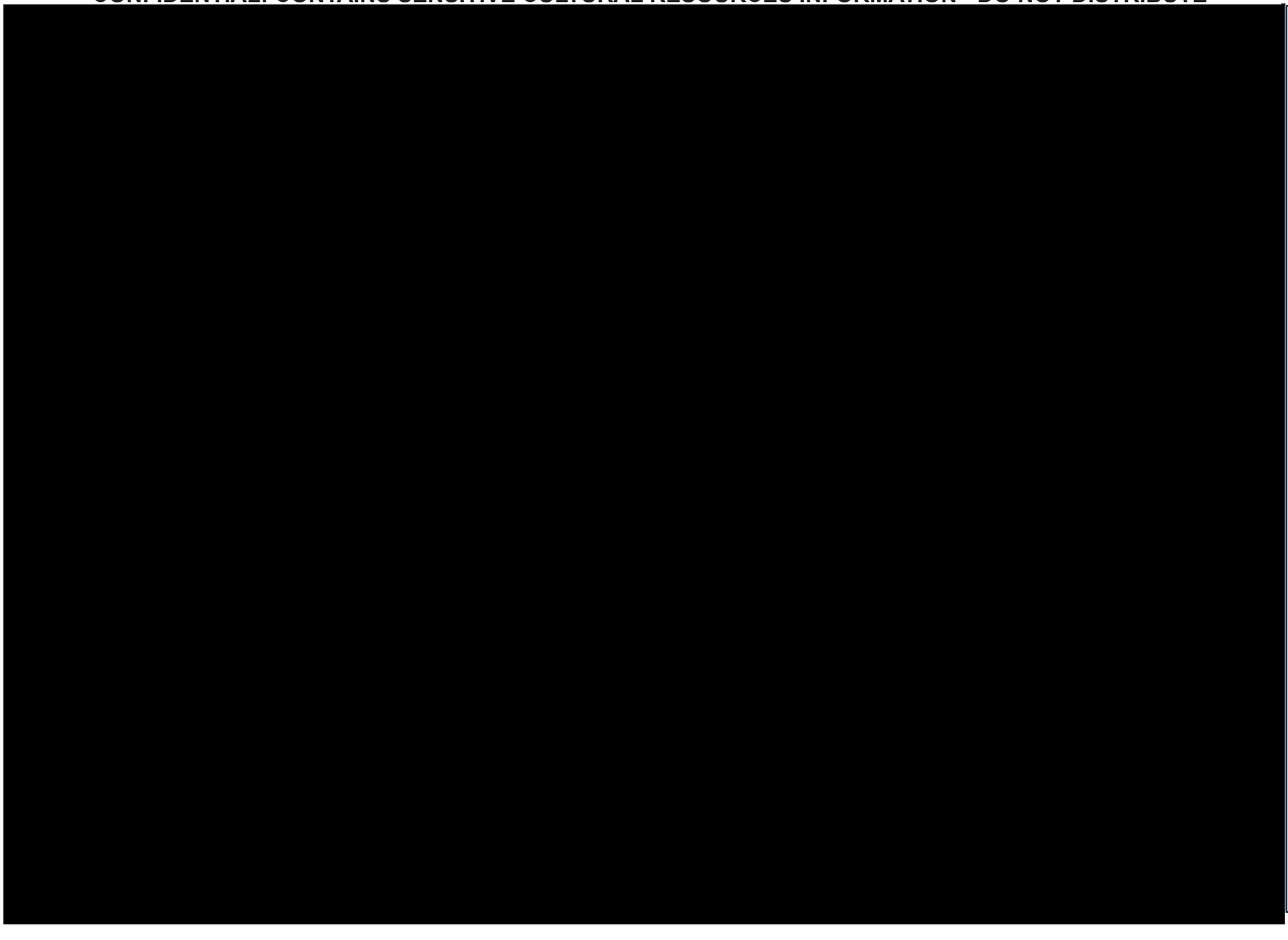
EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 69 KV
- 115 KV
- 230 KV
- PIPELINE
- ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE - HIGHWAY
- UNRECORDED HISTORIC CEMETERY
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft

N



Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 18 OF 37

- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- PROPOSED CENTERLINE
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY

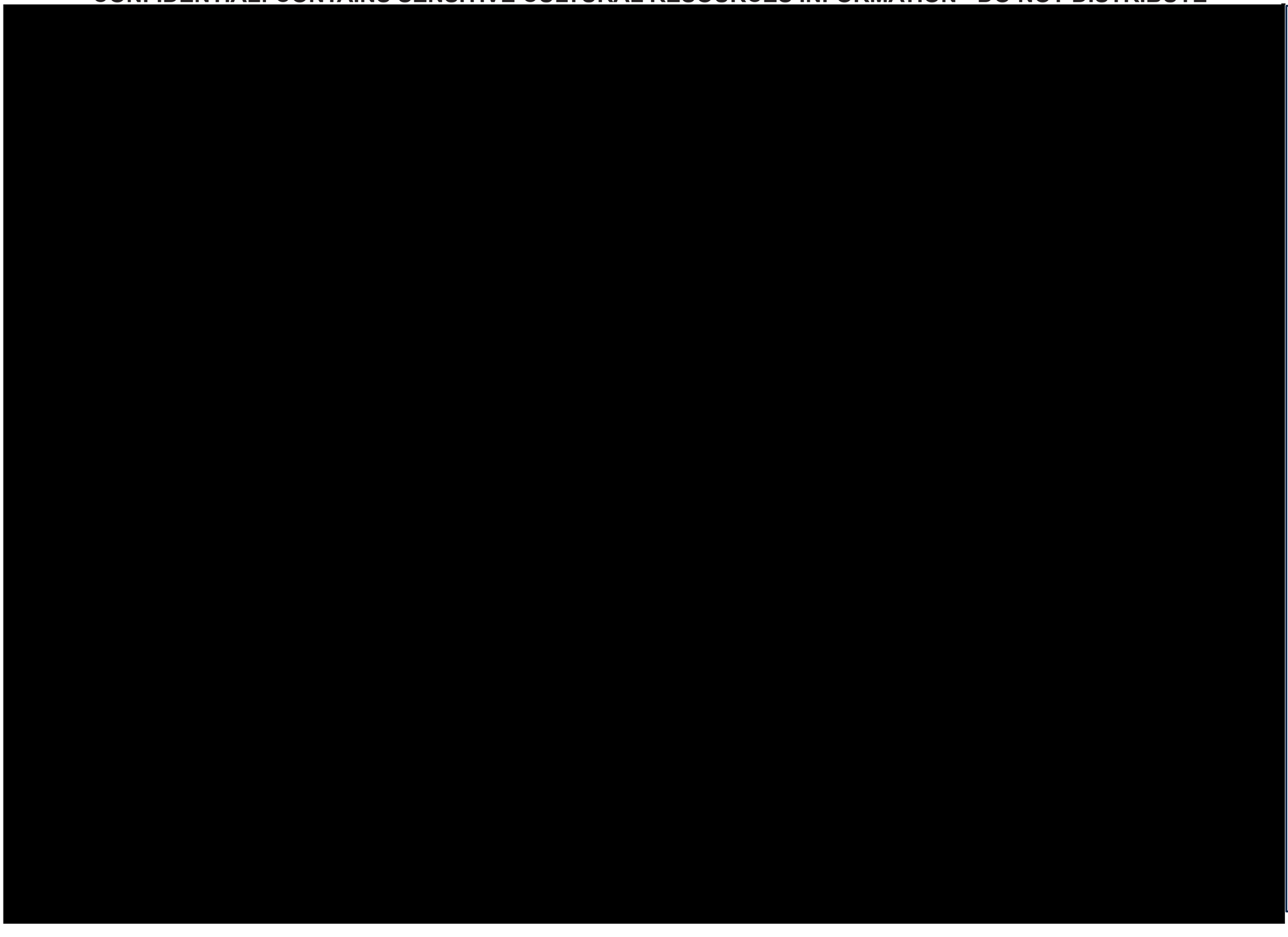
EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 115 KV
- 230 KV
- ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE
- UNRECORDED HISTORIC CEMETERY
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft

N



Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 19 OF 37

- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- PROPOSED CENTERLINE
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY

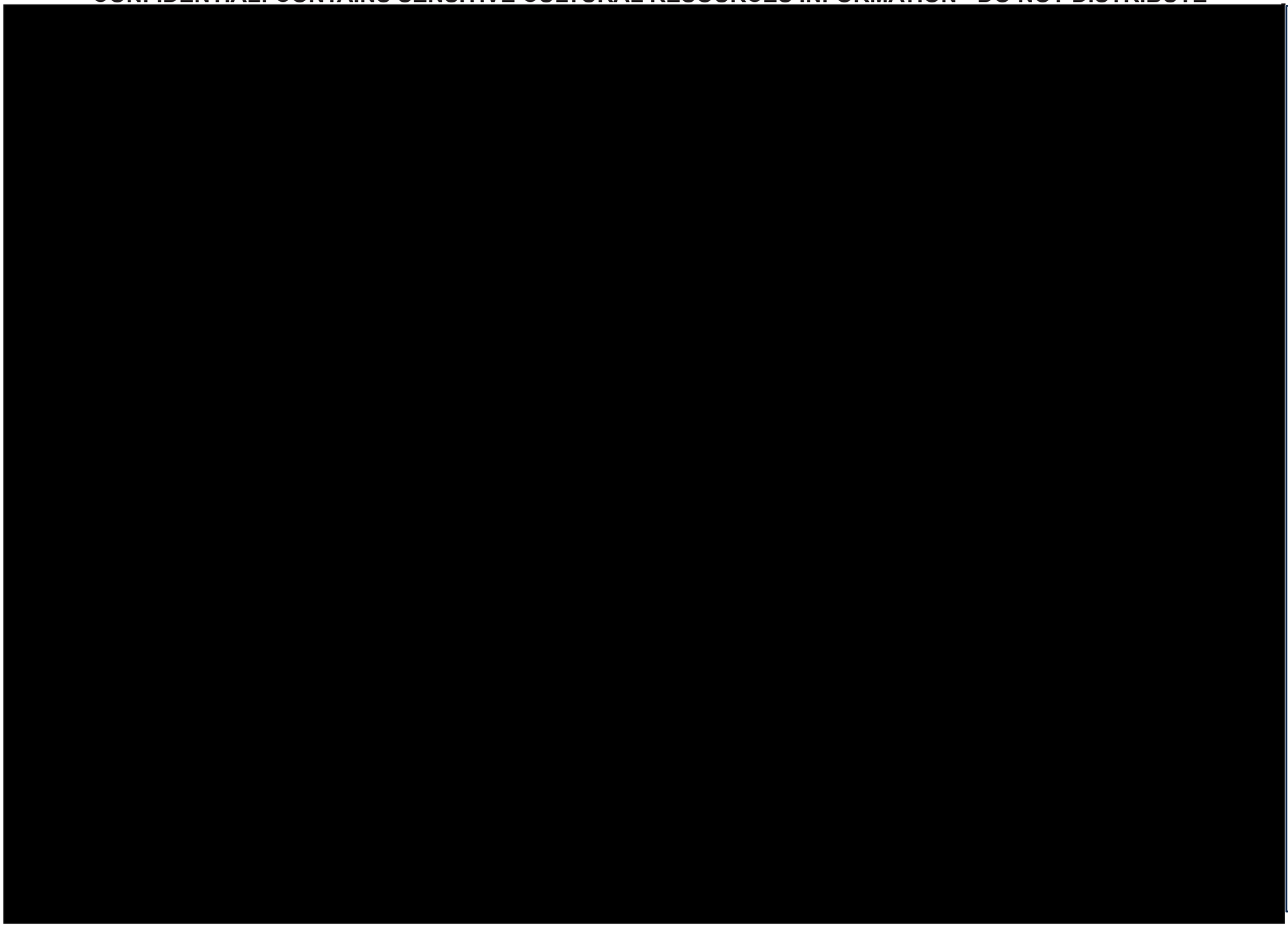
EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 230 KV

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft

N



Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 20 OF 37

- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- PROPOSED CENTERLINE
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY

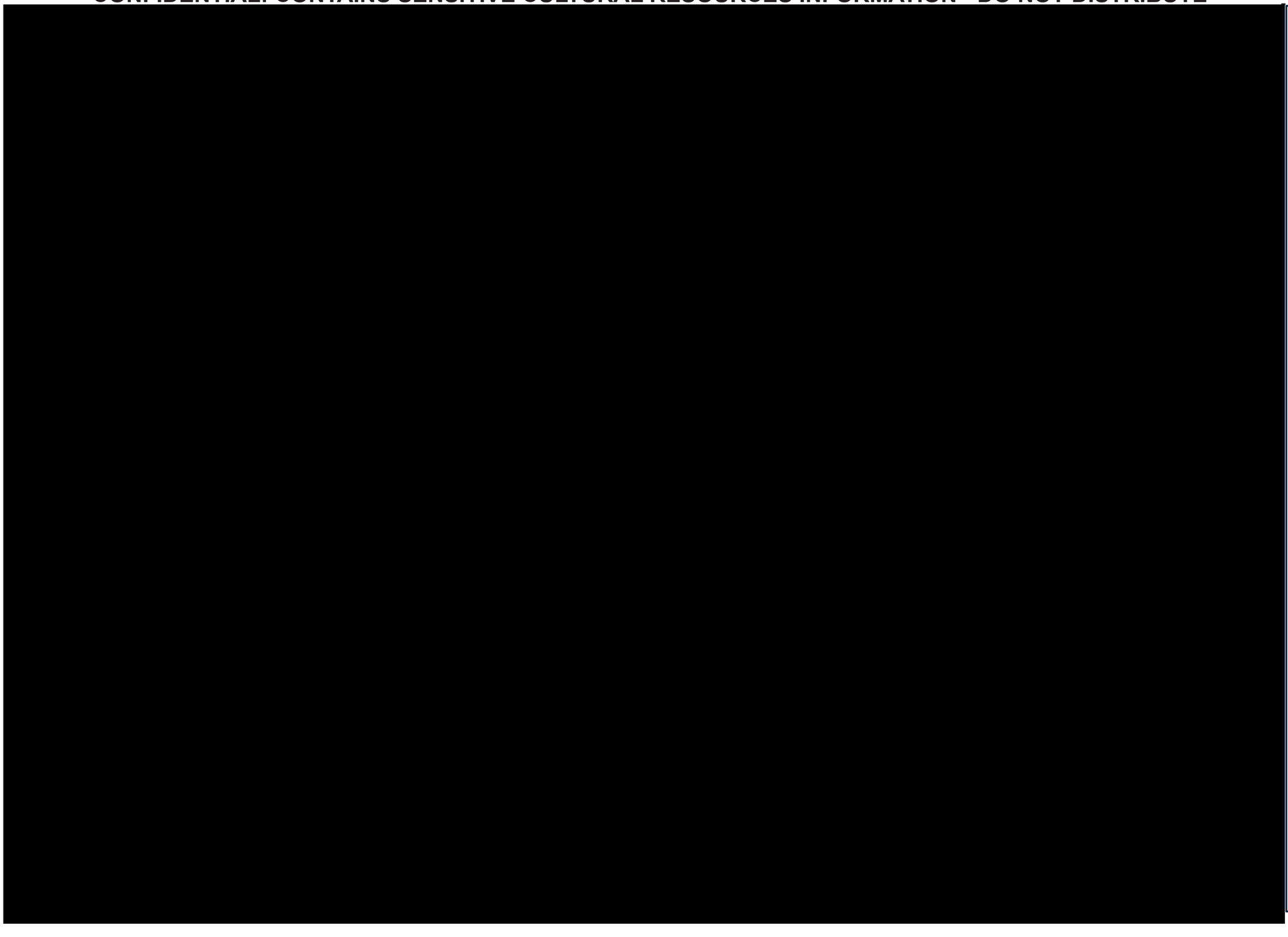
EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 230 KV

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft

N



Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 21 OF 37

- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- PROPOSED CENTERLINE
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY
- CITY BOUNDARY

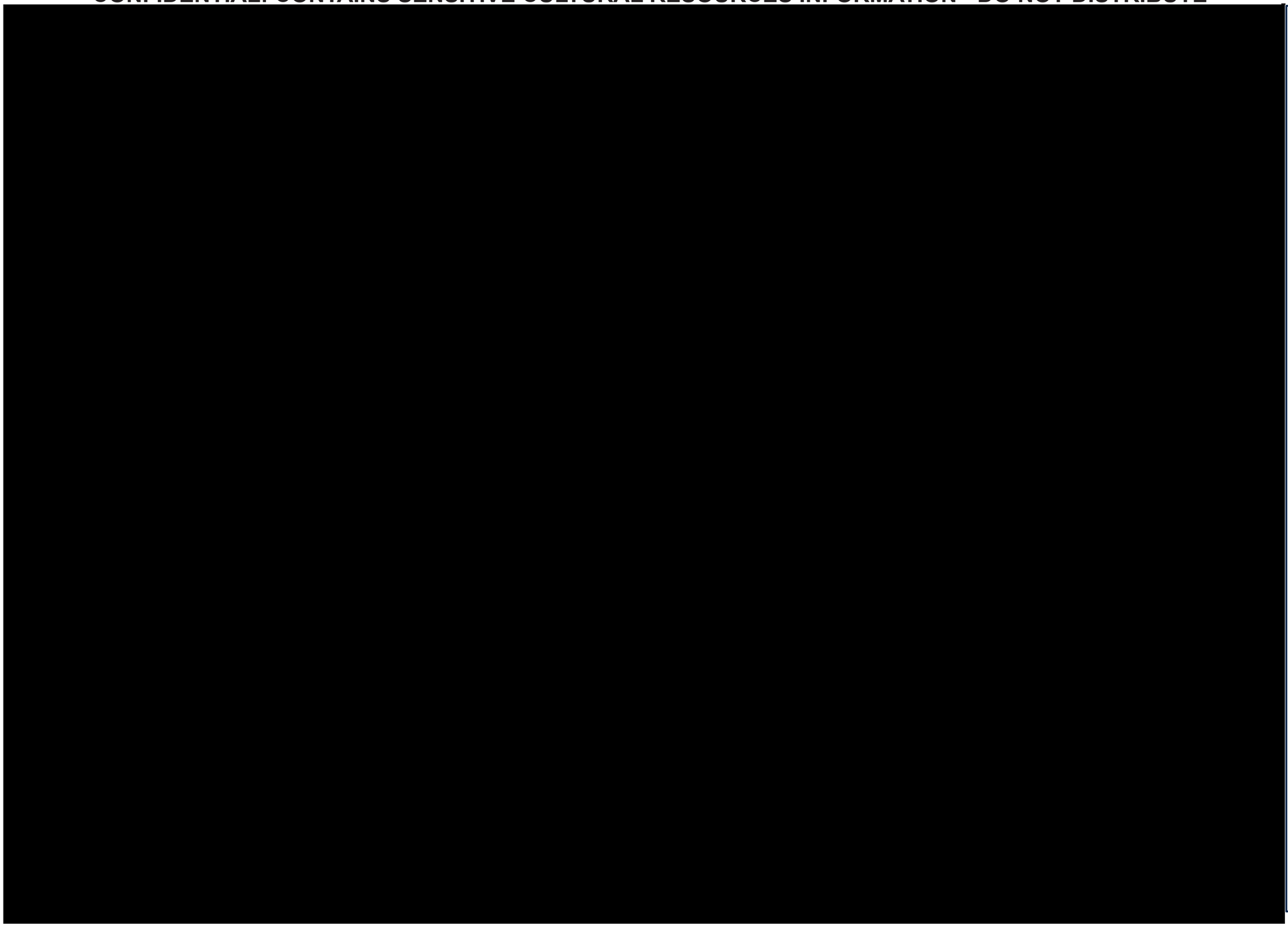
EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 230 KV
- UNRECORDED HISTORIC CEMETERY

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft

N



Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 22 OF 37

- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- PROPOSED CENTERLINE
- EXISTING SUBSTATIONS
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY
- CITY BOUNDARY

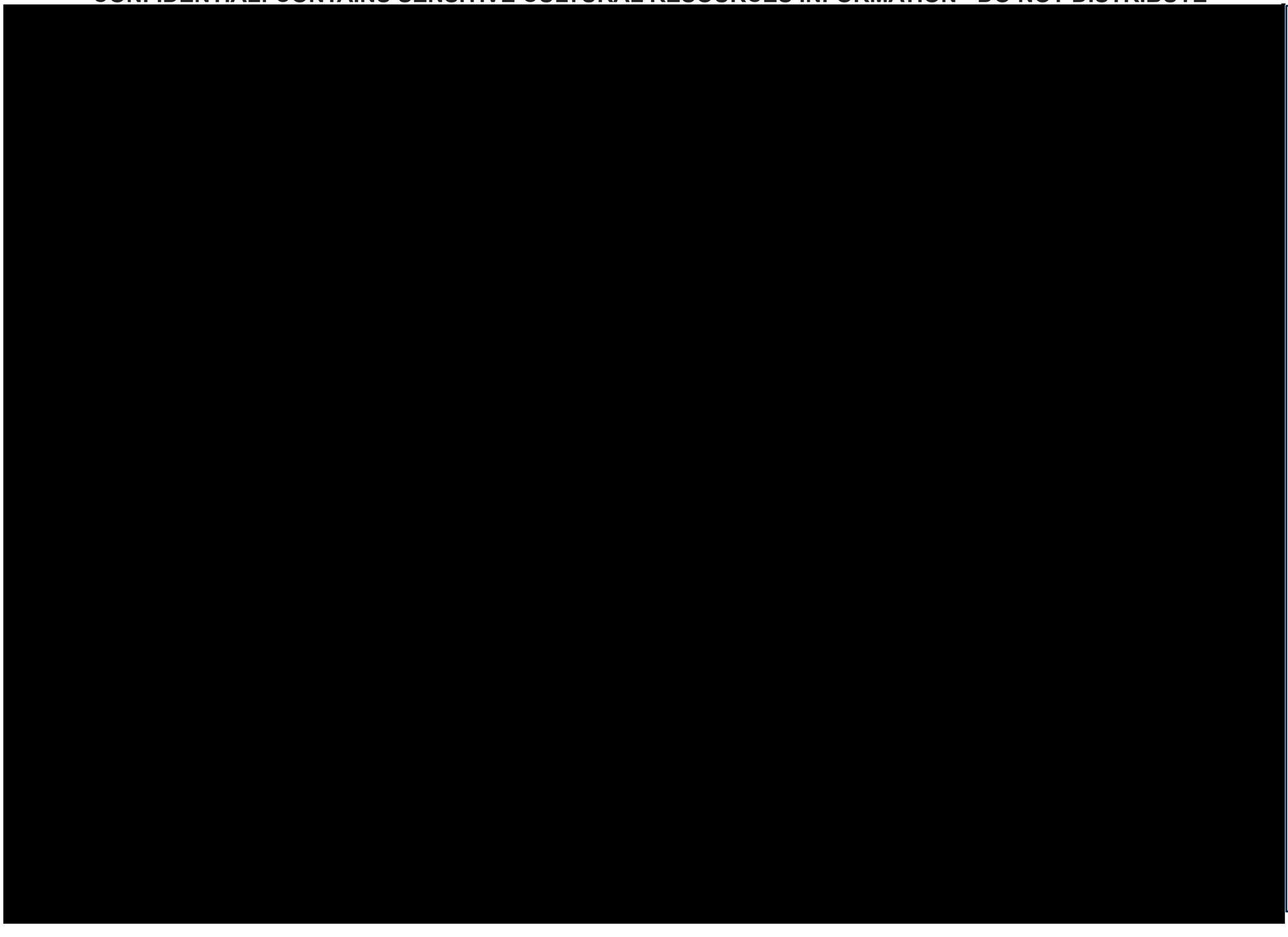
EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 230 KV
- ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE
- UNRECORDED HISTORIC CEMETERY

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft

N



Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 23 OF 37

- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- PROPOSED CENTERLINE
- SHIFT 230KV CENTERLINE
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY
- CITY BOUNDARY

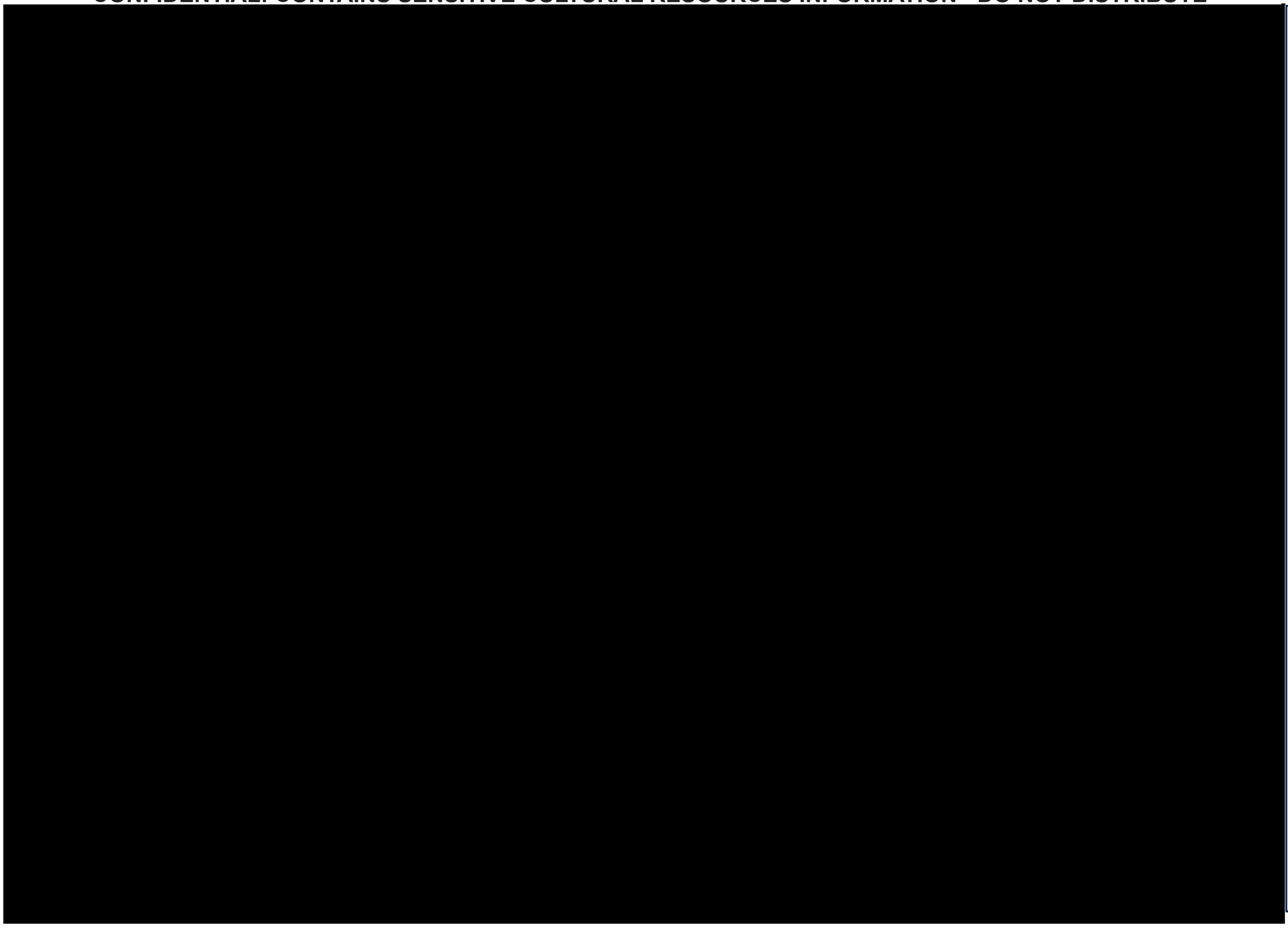
EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 230 KV

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft

N



Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 24 OF 37

- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- PROPOSED CENTERLINE
- SHIFT 230KV CENTERLINE
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY
- CITY BOUNDARY

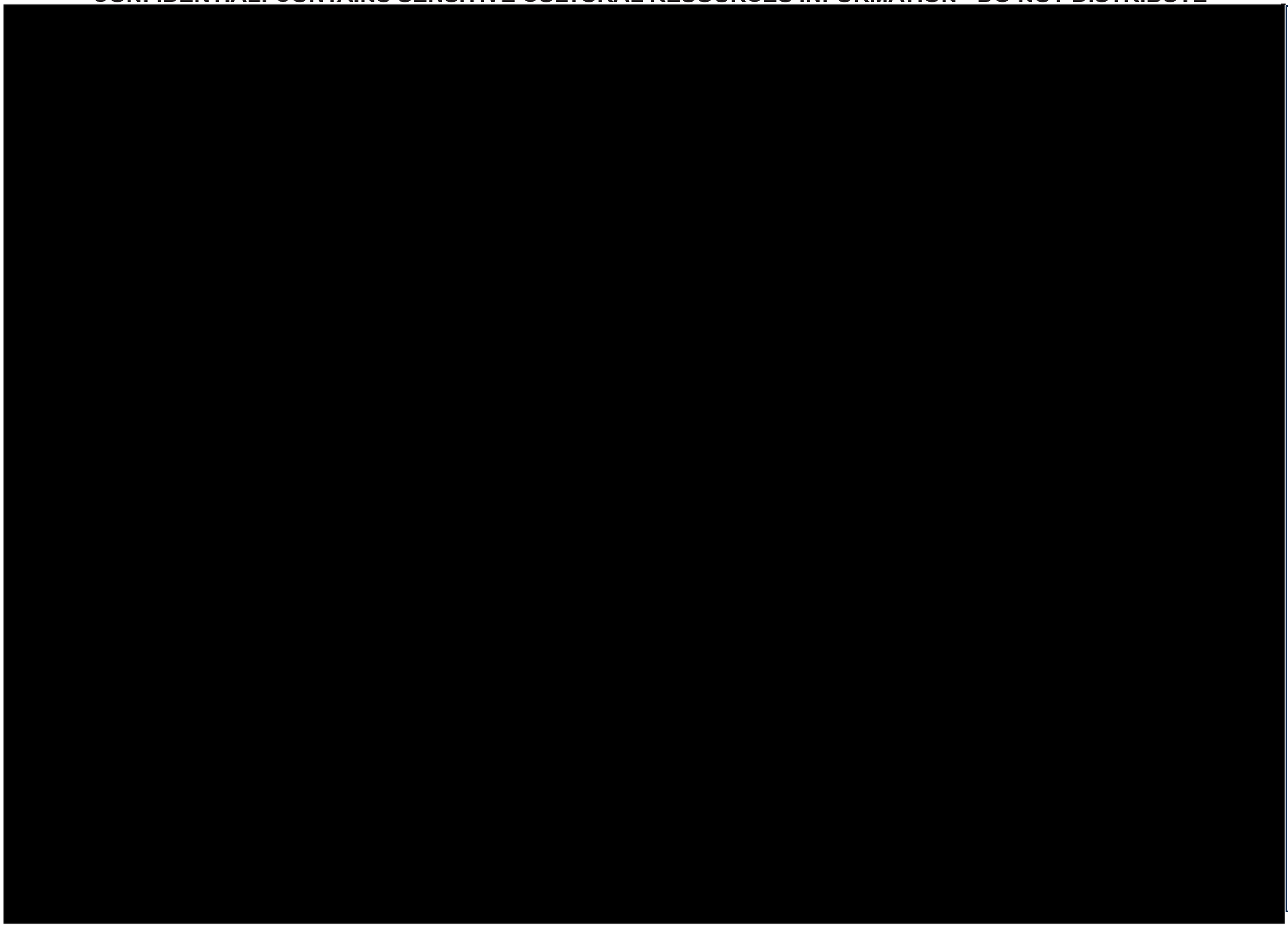
EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 230 KV
- PIPELINE

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft

N



Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 25 OF 37

- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- PROPOSED CENTERLINE
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY
- CITY BOUNDARY

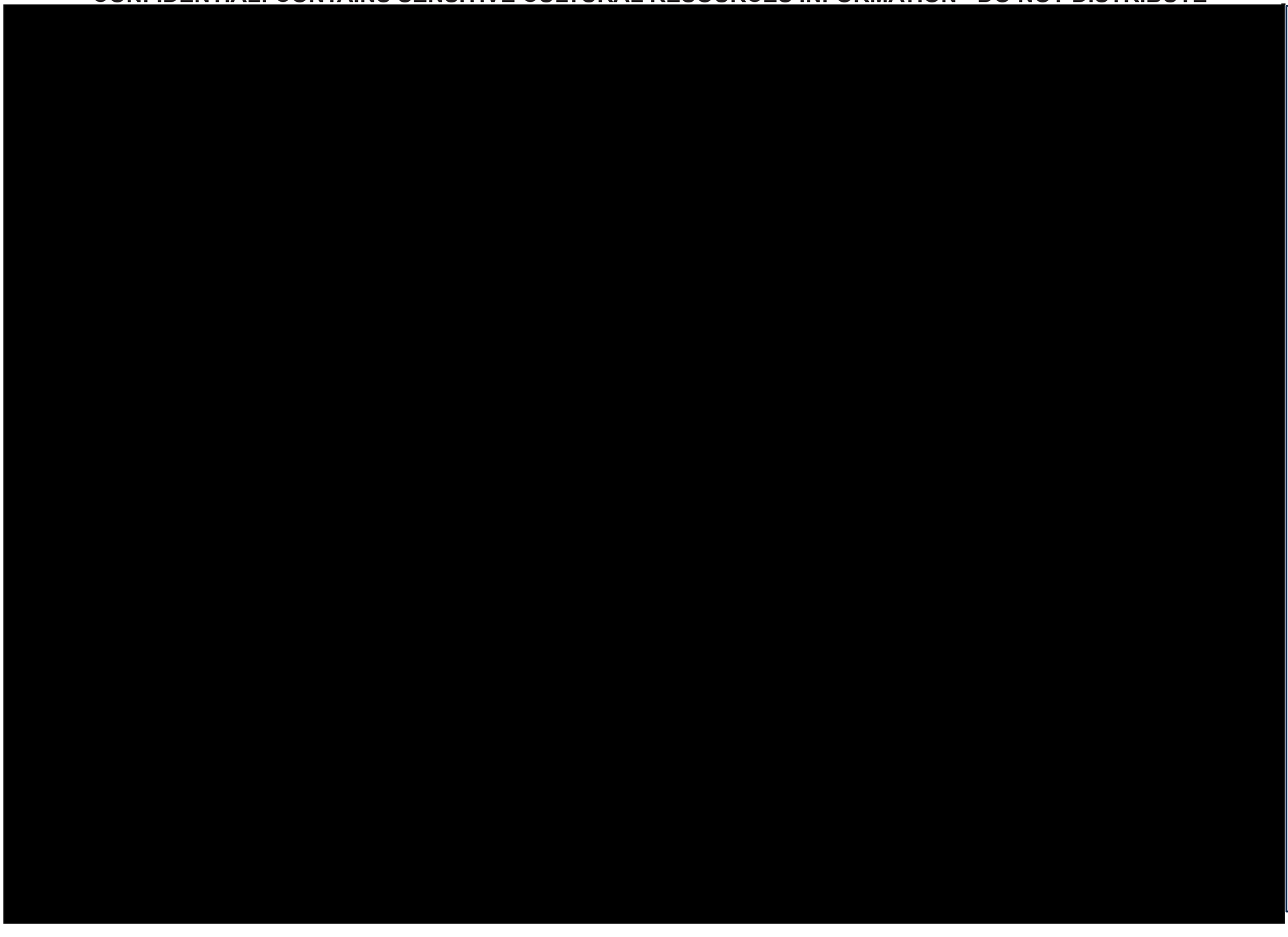
EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 230 KV
- PIPELINE
- UNRECORDED HISTORIC CEMETERY

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft

N



Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 26 OF 37

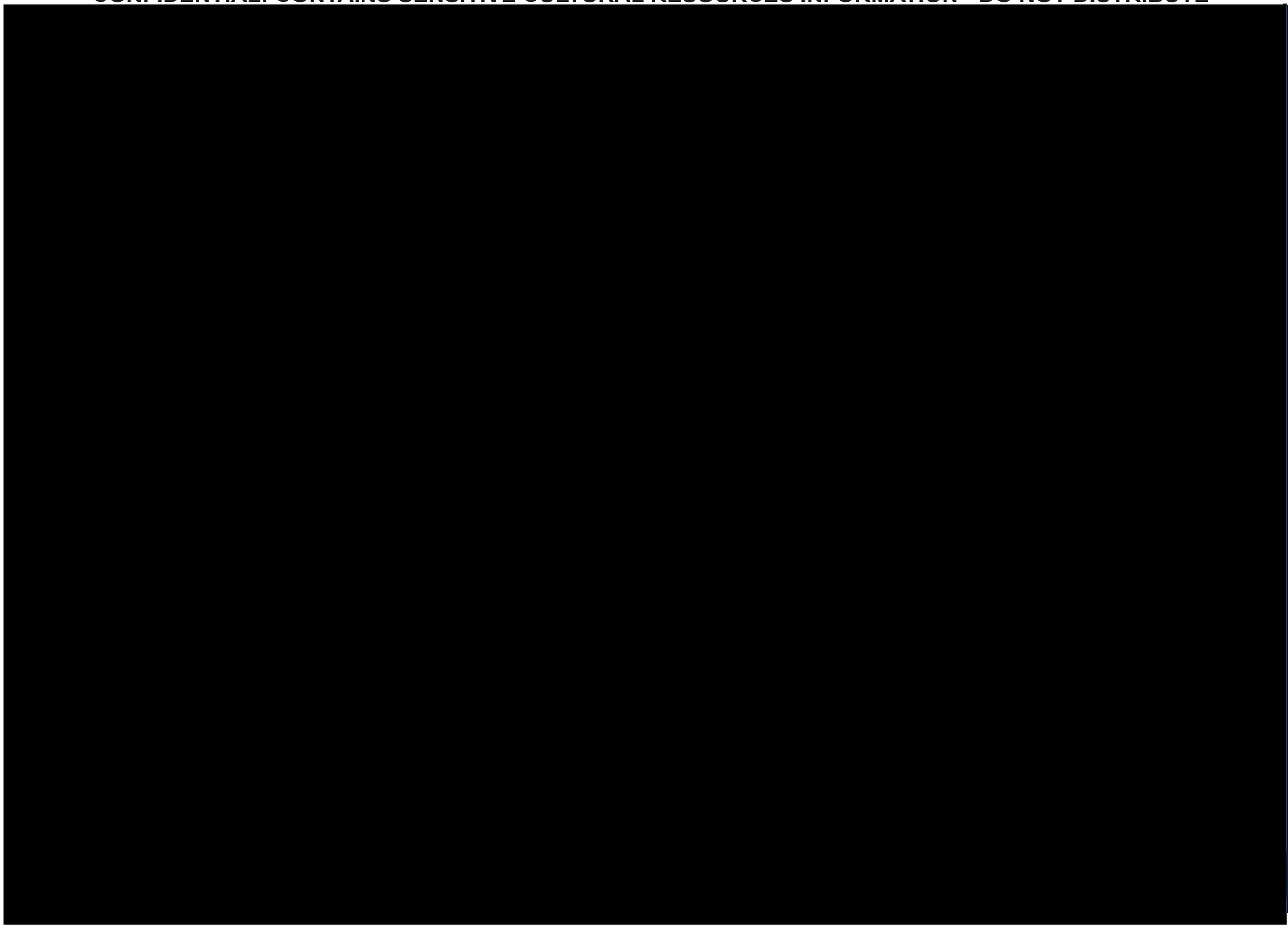
- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- PROPOSED CENTERLINE
- SHIFT 230KV CENTERLINE
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY

EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 230 KV
- UNRECORDED HISTORIC CEMETERY

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft



Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 27 OF 37

- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- PROPOSED CENTERLINE
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY

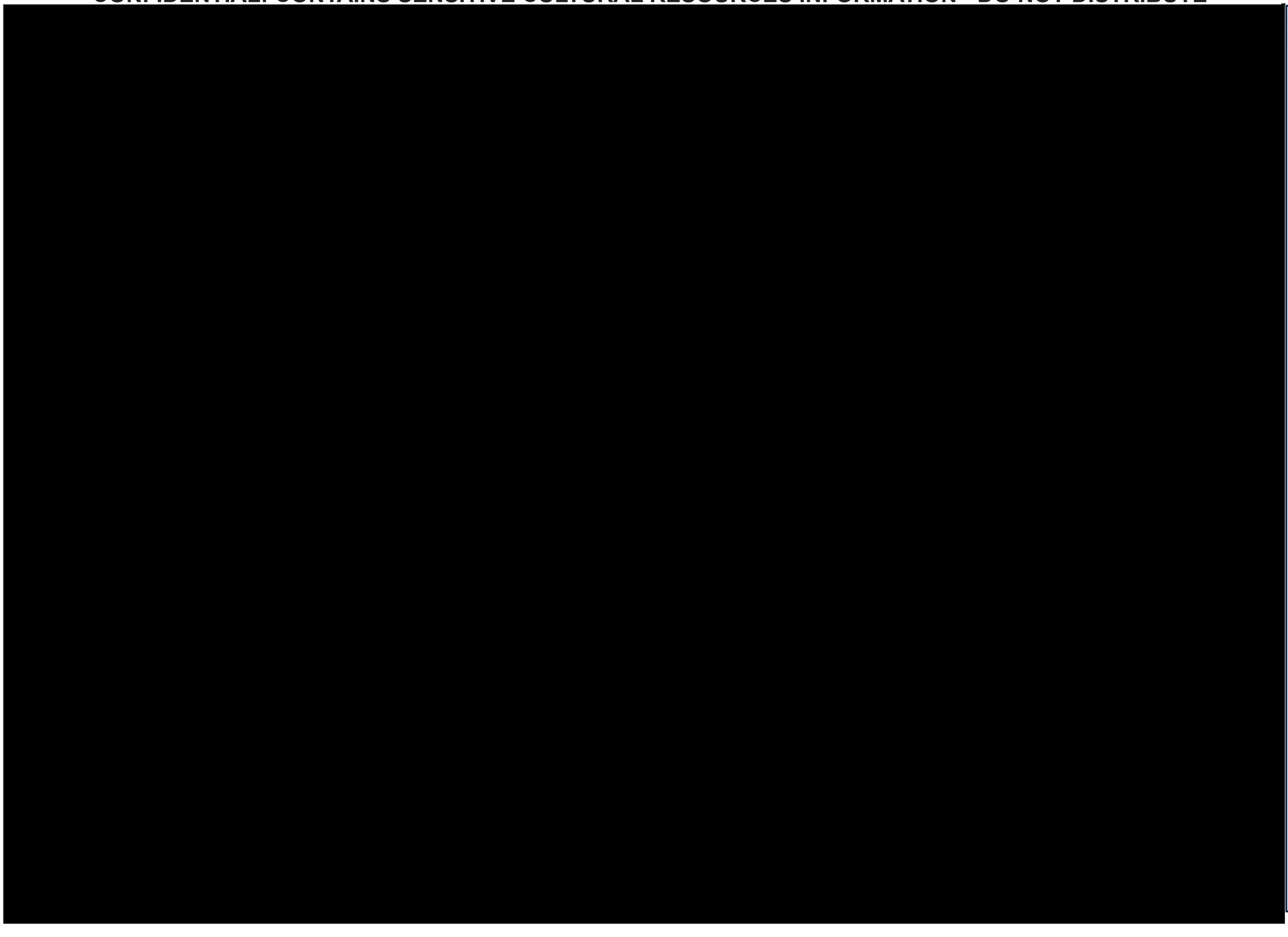
EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 230 KV
- PIPELINE
- ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft

N



Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 28 OF 37

- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- PROPOSED CENTERLINE
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY

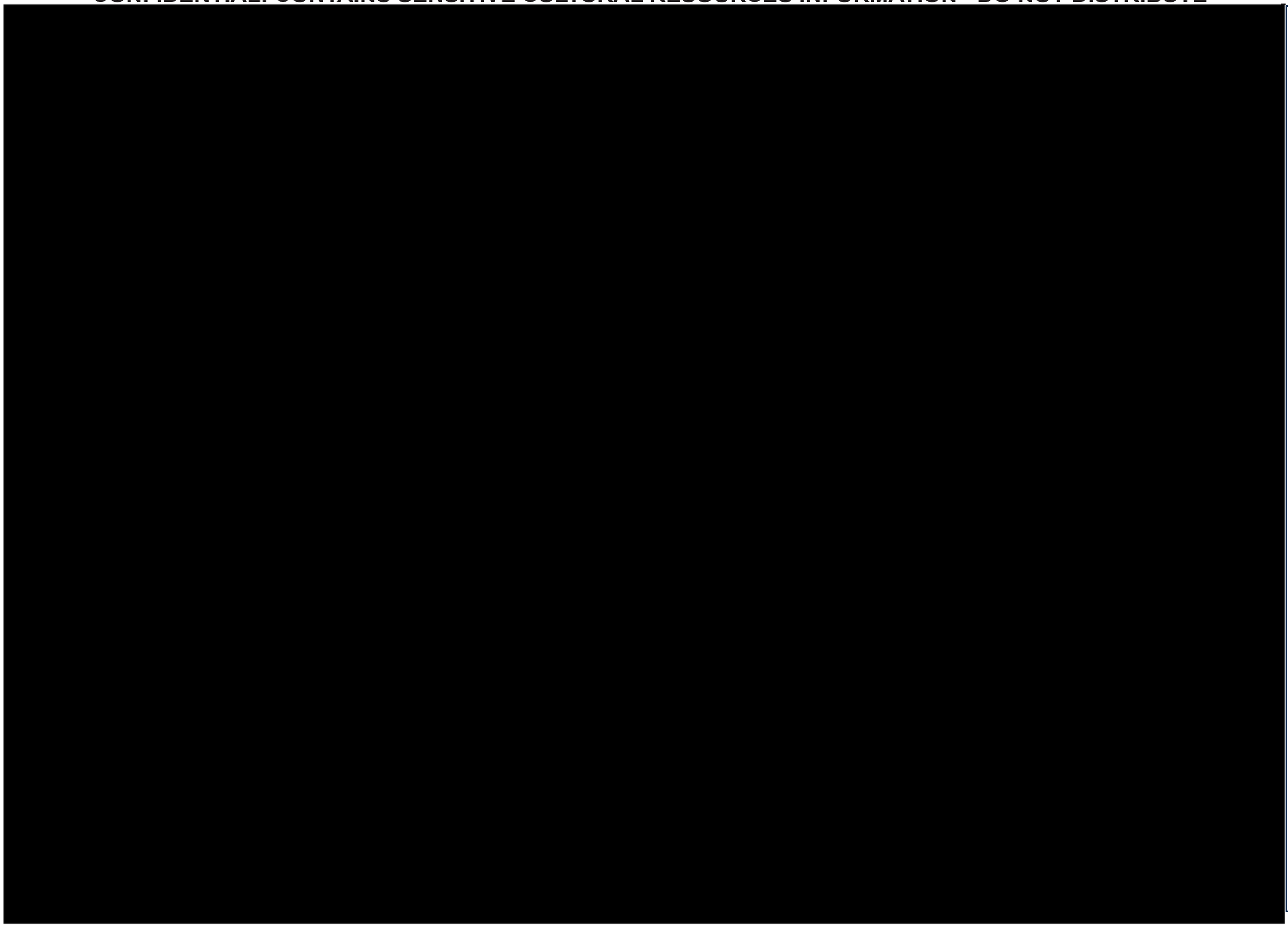
EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 230 KV
- PIPELINE
- ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft

N



Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 29 OF 37

- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- PROPOSED CENTERLINE
- EXISTING SUBSTATIONS
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY

EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 69 KV
- 230 KV
- PIPELINE
- ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE
- UNRECORDED HISTORIC CEMETERY

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft

N

Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 30 OF 37

- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- PROPOSED CENTERLINE
- SHIFT 230KV CENTERLINE
- SHIFT 69KV CENTERLINE
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY

EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 69 KV
- 230 KV
- PIPELINE
- ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE
- UNRECORDED HISTORIC CEMETERY
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft

N

Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 31 OF 37

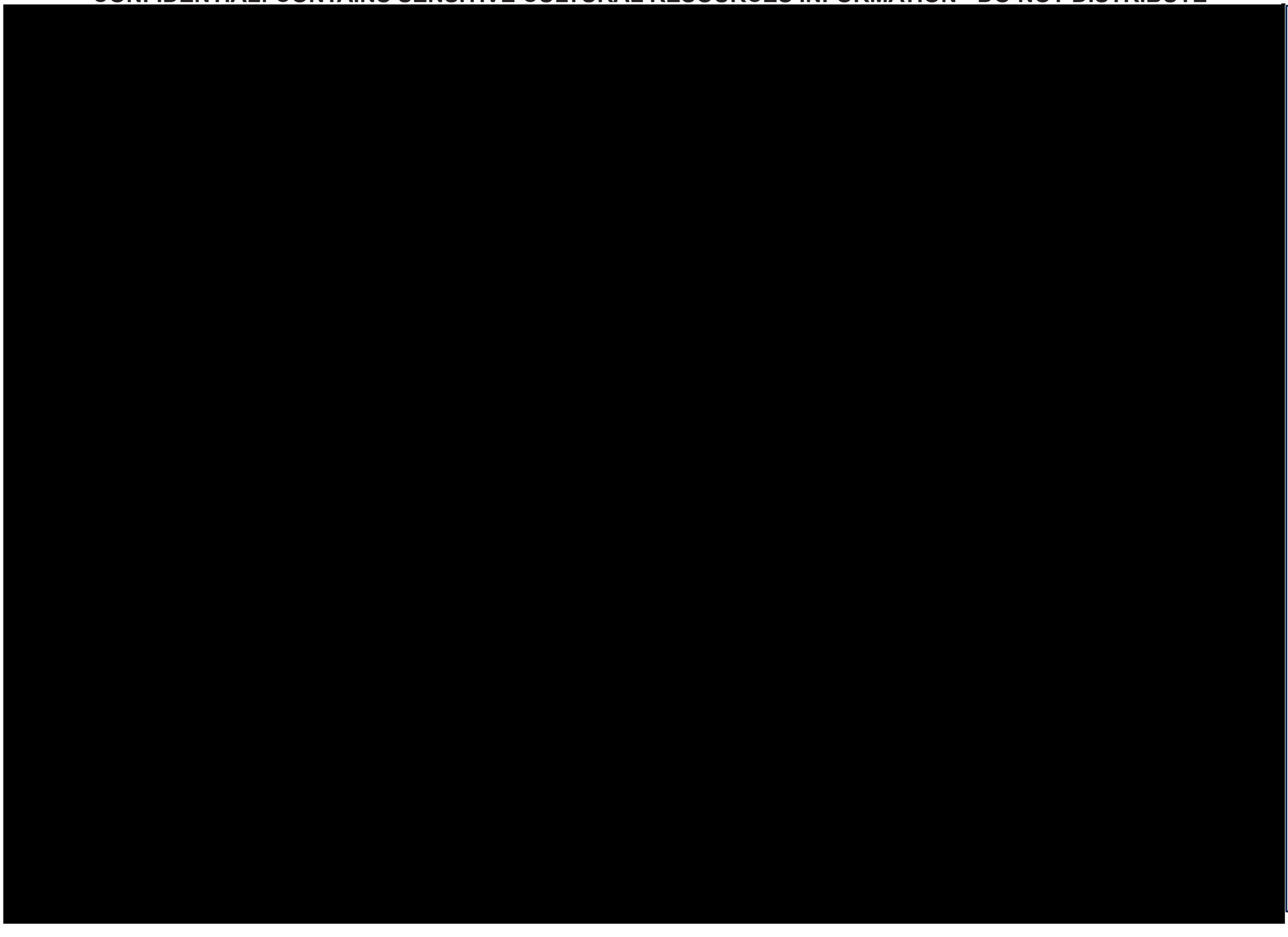
- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- PROPOSED CENTERLINE
- REPLACE GRE-BS LINE
- REPLACE MR LINE
- PROJECT SUBSTATION
- EXISTING SUBSTATIONS
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY
- CITY BOUNDARY

EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 69 KV
- 115 KV
- 230 KV
- 345 KV AND ABOVE
- ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE - HIGHWAY
- ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE
- UNRECORDED HISTORIC CEMETERY
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft



Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 32 OF 37

- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- REPLACE GRE-BS LINE
- EXISTING SUBSTATIONS
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY
- CITY BOUNDARY

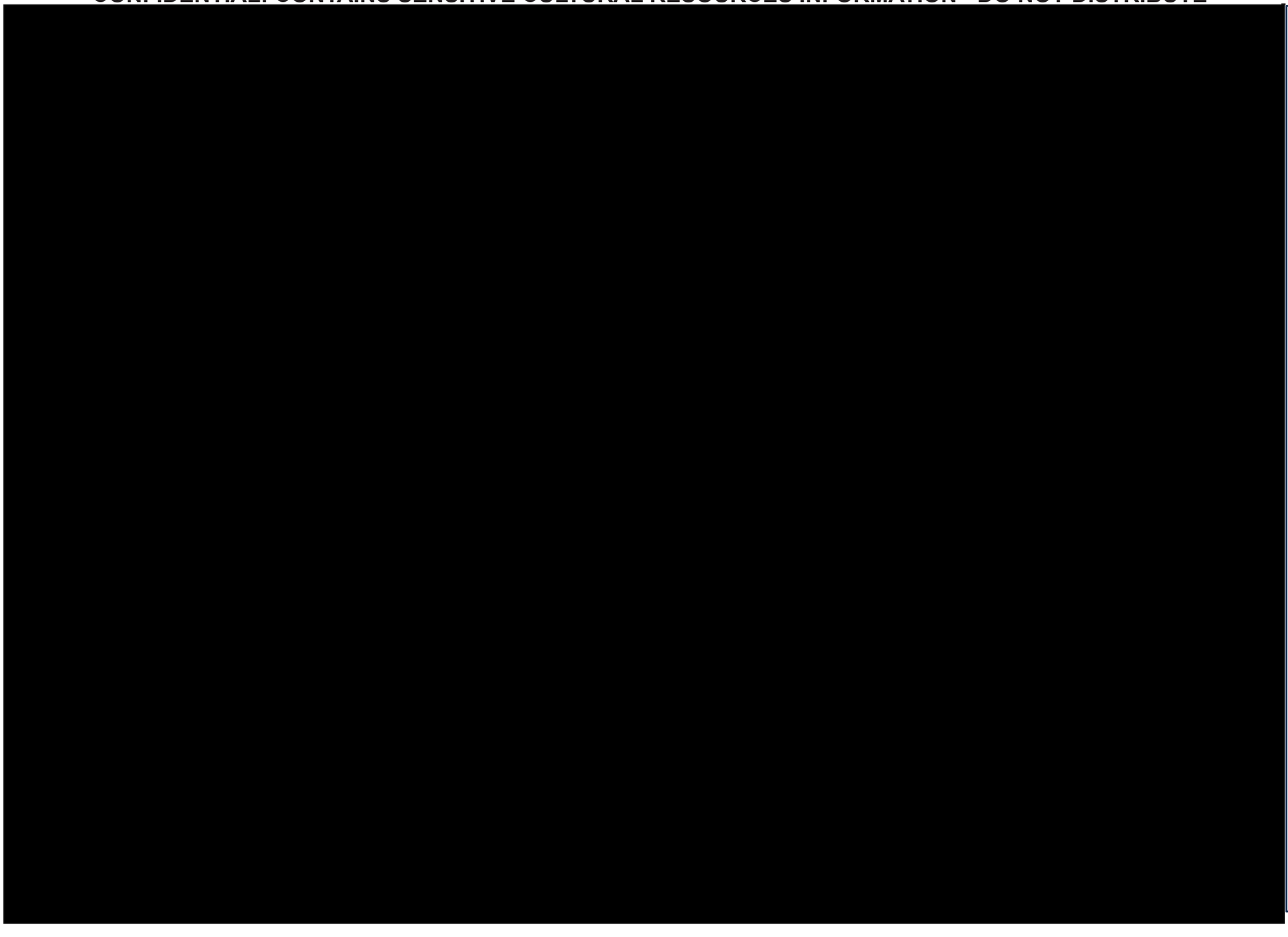
EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 69 KV
- 230 KV
- RAILROAD
- ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft

N



Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 33 OF 37

- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- REPLACE MR LINE
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY

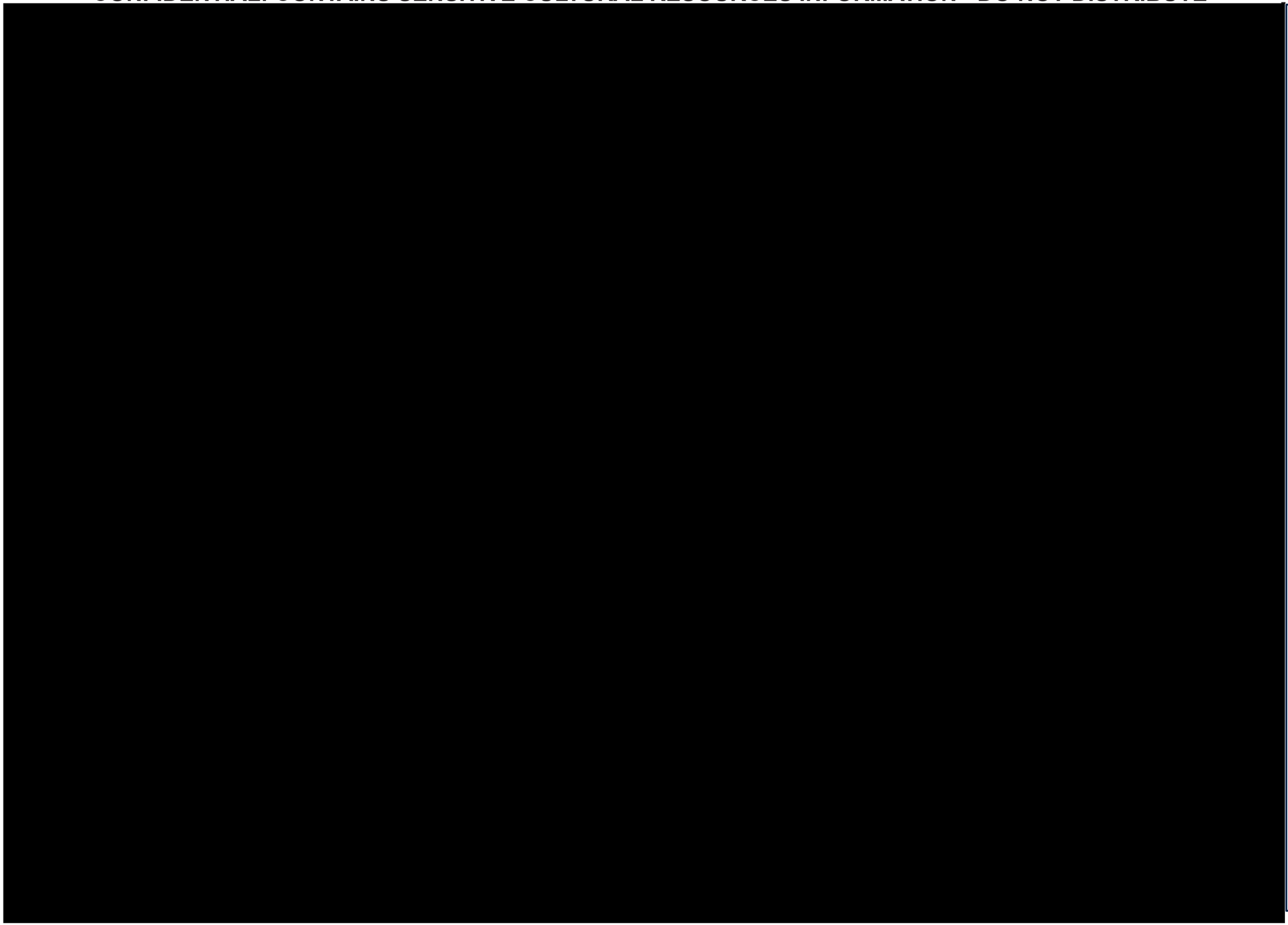
EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 69 KV
- 345 KV AND ABOVE

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft

N



Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 34 OF 37

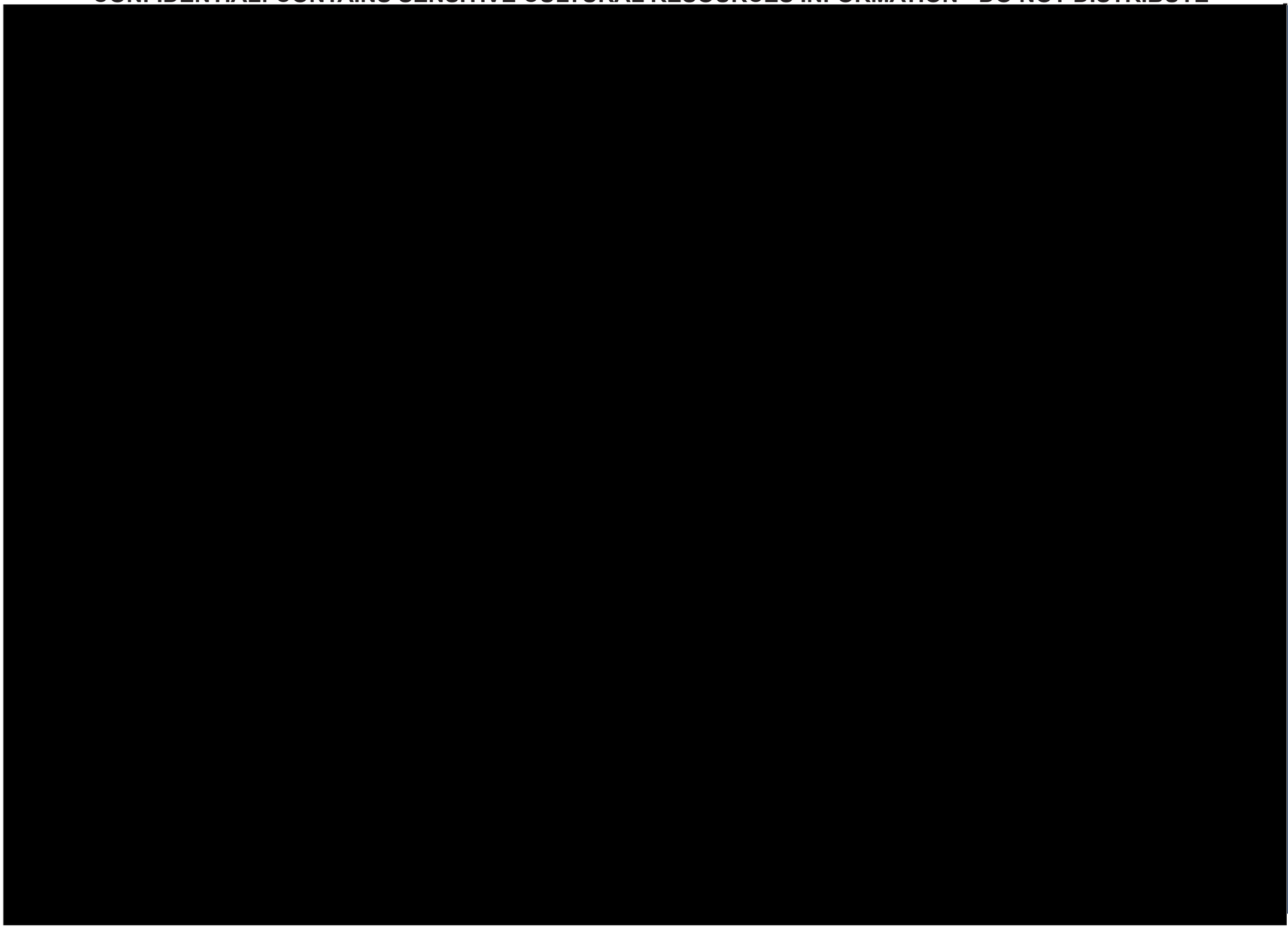
- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- REPLACE GRE-BS LINE
- REPLACE MR LINE
- EXISTING SUBSTATIONS
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY

EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 69 KV
- 230 KV
- 345 KV AND ABOVE
- ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE
- UNRECORDED HISTORIC CEMETERY
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft



Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 35 OF 37

- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- REPLACE GRE-BS LINE
- REPLACE MR LINE
- REPLACE EXISTING 69KV
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY
- CITY BOUNDARY

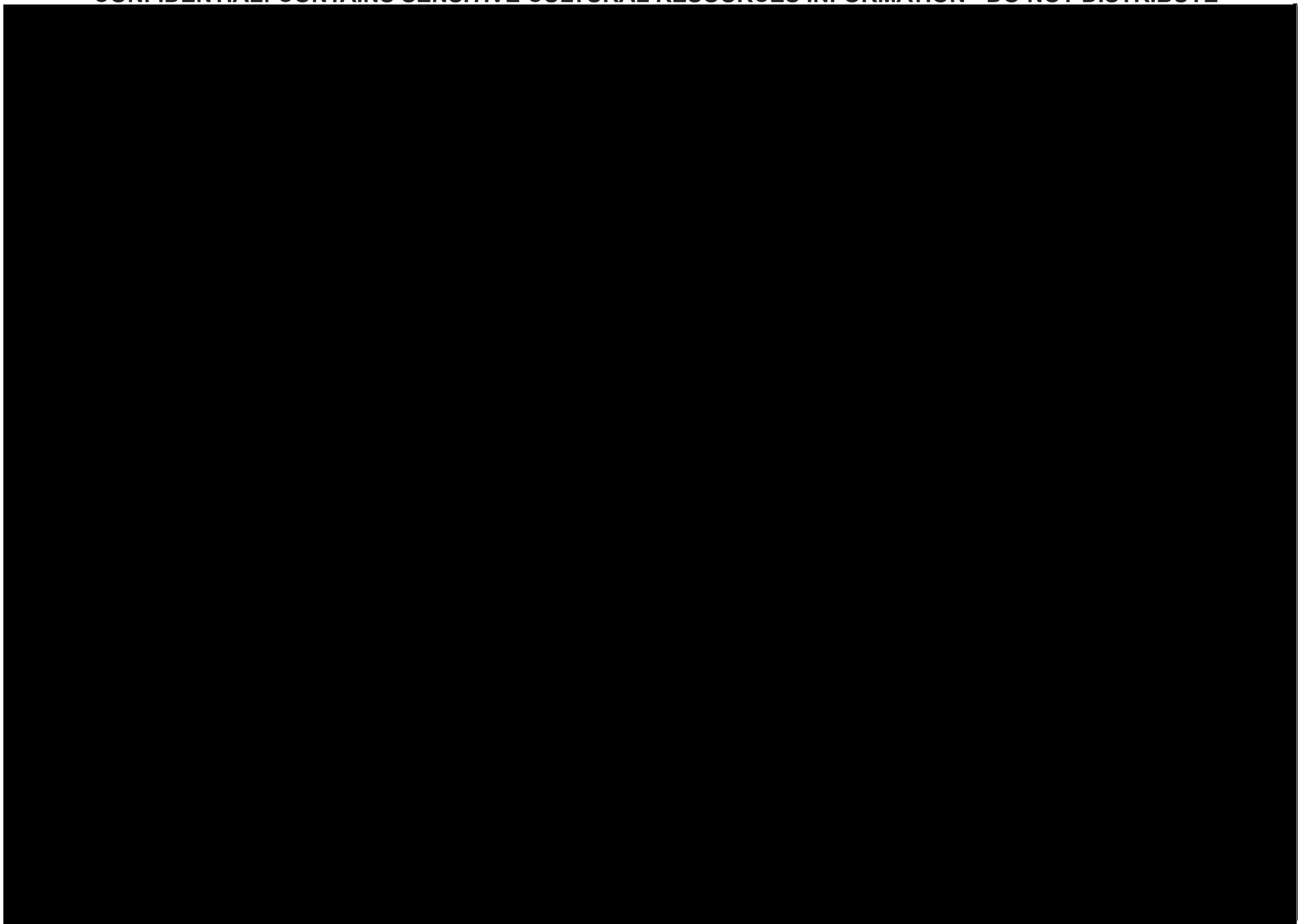
EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 69 KV
- 230 KV
- 345 KV AND ABOVE
- RAILROAD
- ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE
- UNRECORDED HISTORIC CEMETERY
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft

N



Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 36 OF 37

- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- PROPOSED CENTERLINE
- REPLACE GRE-BS LINE
- REPLACE MR LINE
- BIG OAKS SUBSTATION AREA
- PROJECT SUBSTATION
- EXISTING SUBSTATIONS
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY
- CITY BOUNDARY

EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 69 KV
- 115 KV
- 230 KV
- 345 KV AND ABOVE
- RAILROAD
- ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE
- UNRECORDED HISTORIC CEMETERY
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft

N

[redacted]

Northland Reliability Project

CULTURAL RESOURCES MAPBOOK

PAGE 37 OF 37

- SUBSTATION SITING AREA
- PROPOSED ROUTE
- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- PROPOSED CENTERLINE
- REPLACE GRE-BS LINE
- REPLACE MR LINE
- BIG OAKS SUBSTATION AREA
- PROJECT SUBSTATION
- EXISTING SUBSTATIONS
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY
- CITY BOUNDARY

EXISTING TRANSMISSION

- 69 KV
- 115 KV
- 230 KV
- 345 KV AND ABOVE
- PIPELINE
- RAILROAD
- SCENIC BYWAYS
- ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE
- UNRECORDED HISTORIC CEMETERY
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

Only archaeological and architectural resources that are within the Proposed Route are labeled.

0 1,000 2,000 Ft

N

***Big Oaks Substation Area is not part of the Northland Reliability Project and is solely provided for locational purposes.**

Cultural Resources Literature Review

Cultural Resources Literature Review

Northland Reliability Project

Aitkin, Benton, Cass, Crow Wing, Itasca, Morrison, and Sherburne Counties, Minnesota

HDR Project No. 10348886

PREPARED BY

HDR, Inc.
1601 Utica Avenue S., Suite 600
St. Louis Park, MN 55416

PREPARED FOR

Minnesota Power
Great River Energy

May 8, 2023

Contents

Tables

Figures

Appendices

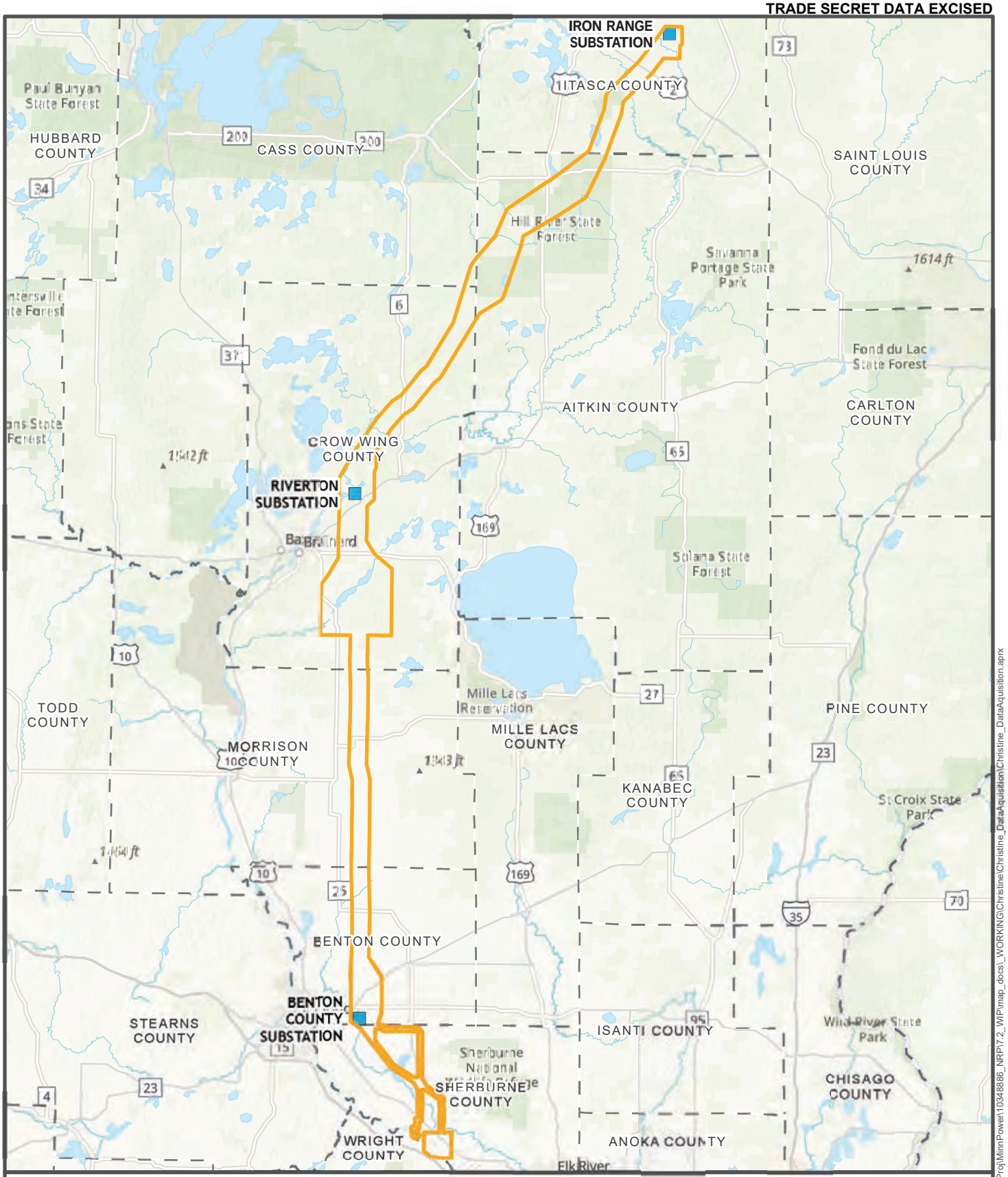
This page is intentionally left blank.

1 Introduction

Minnesota Power and Great River Energy have identified the need to construct a new approximately 140-mile 345-kV double-circuit transmission line located generally near existing transmission line corridors from Minnesota Power's Iron Range Substation in Itasca County to Great River Energy's Benton County Substation near St. Cloud (Segment 1), and replace two existing transmission lines each approximately 20 miles from the Benton County Substation to two separate substations in Sherburne County (Segment 2). One of these transmission lines will be the replacement of a 230kV line with two 345-kV circuits on double-circuit 345-kV structures connecting to the new Big Oaks Substation in Sherburne County. The other line will be replacing a 345-kV line using 345-kV double-circuit structures connecting to the existing Sherco Substation in Sherburne County. Also, the existing Iron Range Substation and the Benton County Substation would be expanded and a new substation at or near the existing Riverton Substation will be constructed. These proposed transmission line segments and associated substation improvements are hereafter referred to as the Project.

This literature review includes research within the Cultural Resources Study Area, which encompasses the Route Corridor and Notice Area for the Project. The Cultural Resources Study Area encompasses the area where potential alignments for the transmission line will be identified and is larger than needed for the transmission line route. The Cultural Resources Study Area spans multiple counties including Aitkin, Benton, Cass, Crow Wing, Itasca, Morrison, and Sherburne counties in Minnesota. Minnesota Power and Great River Energy are in the process of refining possible routes within the currently defined Cultural Resources Study Area. Developing this Project will include a comprehensive permitting process that includes applying for a certificate of need and route permit with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC). Other state and federal approvals and permits, such as a Section 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), are anticipated.

The purpose of this literature review is to determine if there are previously identified archaeological sites or architecture/history properties within the currently defined Cultural Resources Study Area. The literature review will inform identification and evaluation of preliminary routes and aid in determining if future archaeological or architecture/history survey is needed to comply with state and federal cultural resources laws, such as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations (36 CFR 800), if applicable.



Path: \\mspe-gis-file\GISProj\MinnPower\10348886_NRP\7.2_WIP\map_docs_WORKING\Christine\Christine_DataAquisition\Christine_DataAquisition.aprx

Northland Reliability Project

PROJECT LOCATION
NORTHLAND RELIABILITY PROJECT
FIGURE 1

2 Methods

2.1 Cultural Resources Study Area

The primary objective of the cultural resources literature review was to identify whether there are known archaeological sites or known architectural history properties within the Cultural Resources Study Area. The Cultural Resources Study Area encompasses the area where potential alignments for the transmission line will be identified. The results of this investigation will inform identification and evaluation of preliminary routes and aid in determining if future archaeological or architecture/history survey is needed to comply with applicable state and federal cultural resources laws. All work was conducted in accordance with the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Manual for Archaeological Projects in Minnesota (SHPO 2005), Historic and Architectural Survey Manual (SHPO 2017), the State Archaeologist's Manual for Archaeological Projects in Minnesota (OSA 2011), and The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation [48 Federal Register 44716-44740] (National Park Service [NPS] 1983).

2.2 Background Research

Beginning in December of 2022 and concluding in April of 2023, HDR staff conducted research using the Minnesota SHPO inventory files and the Minnesota Office of the State Archeologist (OSA) online portal to identify known Precontact and Post-Contact archaeological sites, as well as architecture/history properties that have been previously identified within the Cultural Resources Study Area. The National Park Service system online National Register of Historic Places information was reviewed to confirm if National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Listed Historic Properties or National Historic Landmarks are present within the Cultural Resources Study Area.

2.3 Tribal and Agency Outreach

HDR has assisted Minnesota Power and Great River Energy to engage Tribes and state cultural regulatory agencies to share project information and gather information regarding resource areas to inform the identification of potential routes and to avoid or minimize impact to these resources, if feasible. Consultation with Tribes and agencies will continue after completion and submittal of this literature review.

Initially, letters to introduce the Project and invite further communication/meetings were sent to all the Minnesota federally recognized Tribes and state tribal organizations in August of 2022. To date, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Upper Sioux Community, Lower Sioux Indian Community, and Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe have responded with interest in continued project involvement and further communication. A meeting with Sherburne County and their tribal partners the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Upper Sioux Community, and Lower Sioux Indian Community was conducted on January 10, 2023 to discuss the proposed Big Elk Lake Park, which is located along the existing transmission line easement within Segment 2 of the Project.

Meetings were conducted with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe on February 8, 2023, the Upper Sioux Community on March 2, 2023, and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe March 9, 2023. An overview of the Project and its components, the purpose and need, and anticipated schedule were presented. A follow-up meeting was held with Samantha Odegard, Upper Sioux Community Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), on April 10, 2023, specifically to discuss preliminary results from her review of the Cultural Resources Study Area. In addition, follow-up meetings were held with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe on April 17, 2023, and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and Upper Sioux Community on May 5, 2023. The meetings were to provide a project update and review preliminary results of the cultural resources literature review and the routing process.

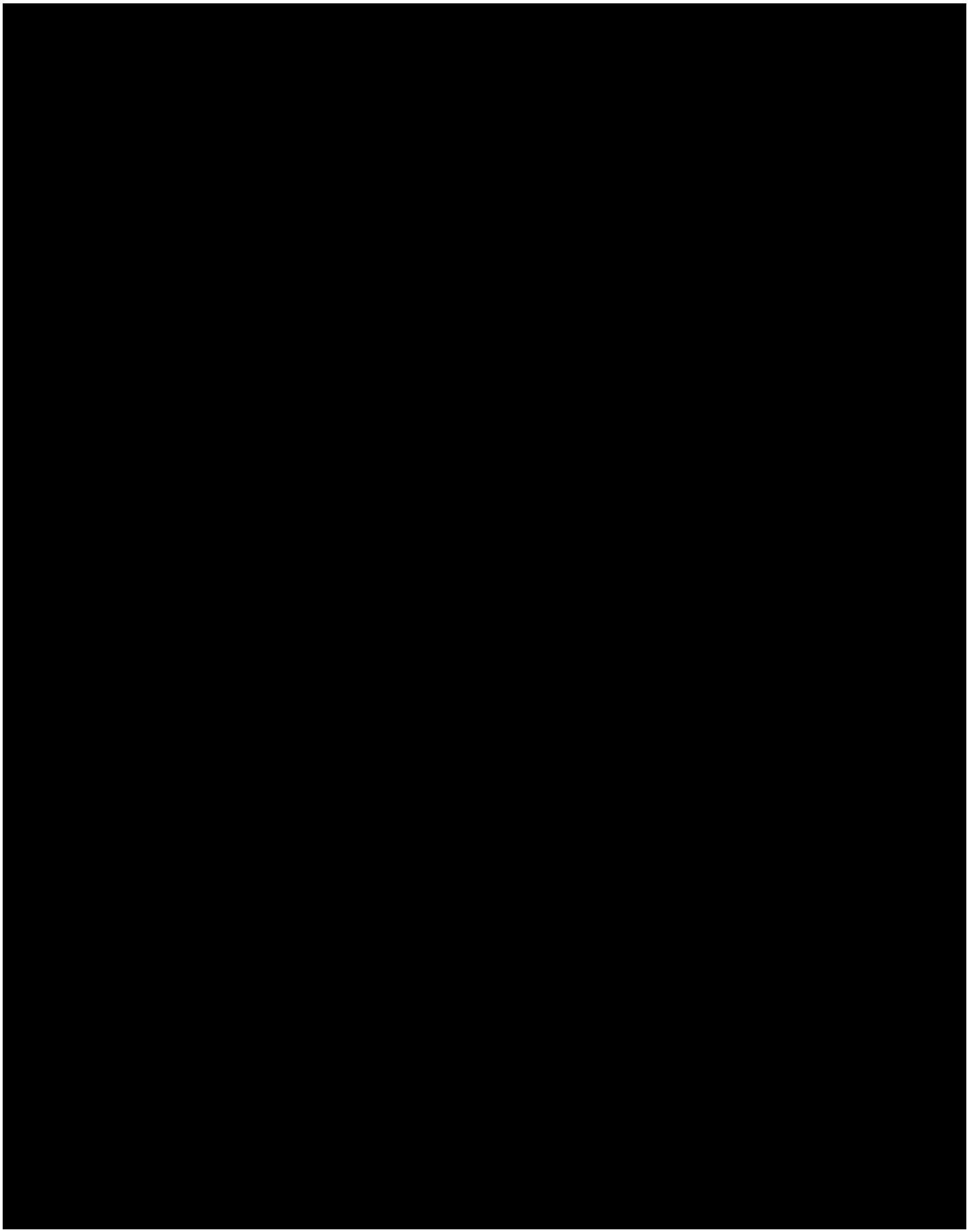
Initial introductory letters were also sent to the Minnesota SHPO, Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA), and Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC) in September of 2022. A follow-up meeting with all three agencies was held on March 27, 2023. An overview of the Project and its components, the purpose, need, anticipated schedule, the anticipated permits and regulatory context, and preliminary results of the cultural resources literature review were presented. The anticipated approach and sequence of cultural resources studies needed to comply with state and federal cultural resources laws, if applicable, were also discussed.

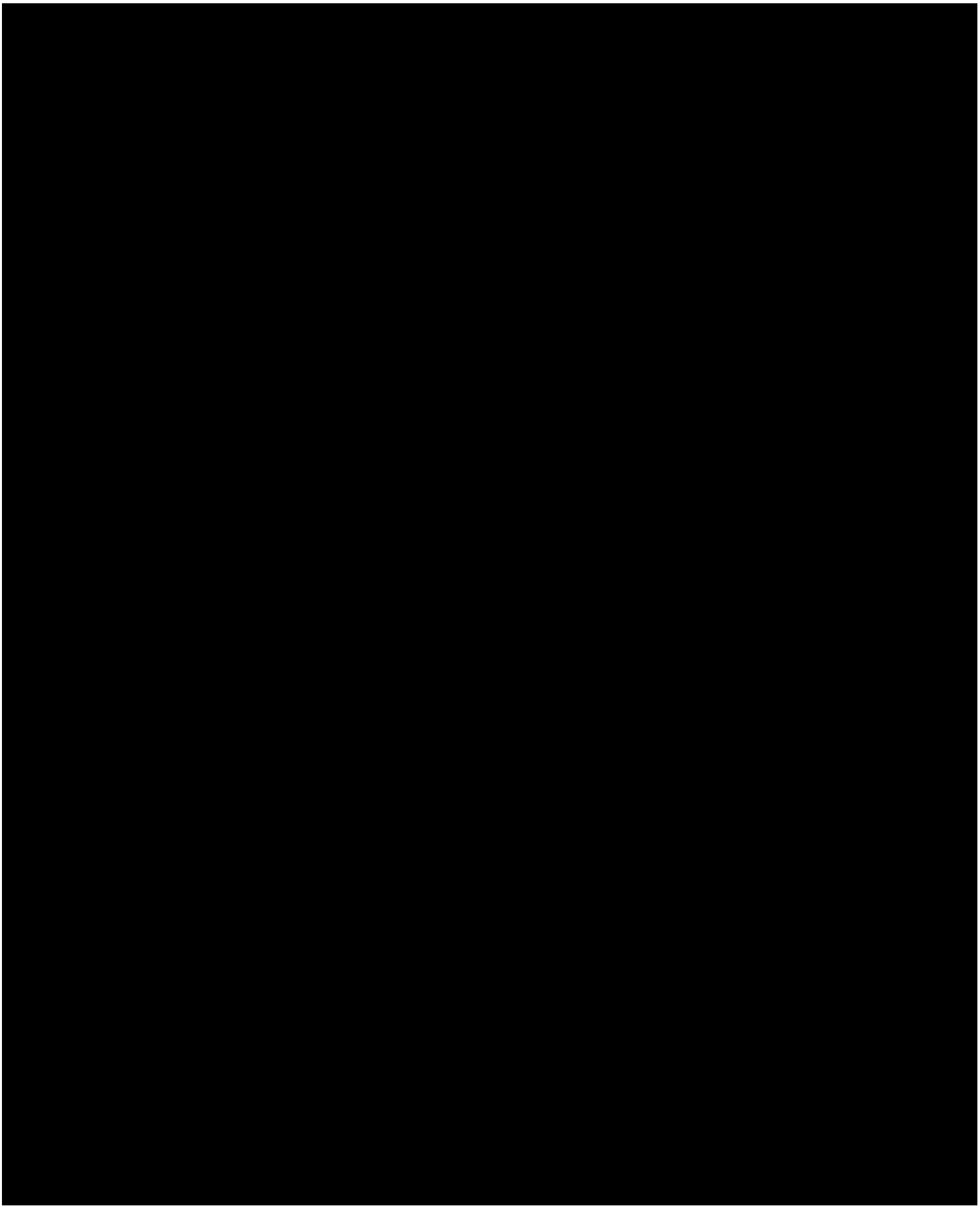
3 Literature Search Results

A cultural resources literature search was completed of the Cultural Resources Study Area beginning in December of 2022 and concluding in April of 2023. Known resources within the Cultural Resources Study Area are summarized below.

3.1 Archaeology

The literature search identified 51 previously recorded archaeological sites within the Cultural Resources Study Area (see Table 1 and Appendix A). The majority of the previously identified archaeological sites are from the Precontact period. [redacted] No areas of concern for the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council are located within the Cultural Resources Study Area. [redacted] A meeting was held with Sherburne County and their tribal partners, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Upper Sioux Community, and Lower Sioux Indian Community to discuss their proposed park and this Project, which anticipates utilizing an existing transmission line easement that crosses through the proposed park. The County is also working with their tribal partners regarding designation of a portion of the park area as a Traditional Cultural Landscape and a potential National Heritage Area. A Tribal Cultural Property survey is in progress and should be complete in June 2023. [redacted] It should be noted, Tribal communication has highlighted the potential for Traditional Cultural Properties and other archaeological or religious resources not documented with state agencies within the Cultural Resources Study Area. These locations are confidential and may be disclosed on an as-needed basis by Tribal authorities as Project communications continue. These potential sites are therefore not included in this literature review.





3.1.1 Unrecorded Historic Cemeteries

The literature search identified 12 unrecorded historic cemeteries within the Cultural Resources Study Area (Table 2, Appendix A). These sites were inventoried during the 2011 “An Investigation of Unrecorded Historical Cemeteries in Minnesota” completed by Two Pines Resources Group, LLC (Vermeer and Terrell 2011). This study collected available information on unofficial, otherwise unrecorded cemeteries and burials within the State of Minnesota to update the site files of the OSA and determine the status of these burials in selected counties. These unrecorded historic cemeteries are not inventoried with the OSA as formal archaeological sites and have not been assigned site inventory numbers but should be treated as potential archaeological resources and locations of potential human remains interred during the Post-Contact period. In some cases, the research compiled in the 2011 study uncovered evidence that a cemetery may have been planned, but the cemetery may not have been created. Supplemental research, including land use history records, may be needed to confirm a cemetery was established where they are identified in the 2011 study. These cemetery/burial locations can often only be ascertained to the Section or Quarter Section PLSS level. For any of the cemeteries/burials listed in Table 1 and mapped in Appendix A, if they are mapped as a full section or quarter section, the burial(s) could be anywhere within that area, not necessarily comprising the area in its entirety.

*Notes from Terrell and Vermeer 2011

3.2 Architectural History

The literature search identified 71 previously inventoried historic architectural resources or historic districts (SHPO inventoried properties) within the Cultural Resources Study Area (see Table 3 and Appendix A). Three properties, the Trommald Elevated Metal Water Tank (CW-TMC-001), the Frank Gran Farmstead (IC-UOG-017), and the Herbert Maximilian Fox House (SH-BKC-012) are Listed in the NRHP. Three properties were previously determined Eligible for listing in the NRHP, including the Perry Lake School (CW-PLK-001), Cuyuna Iron Range Historic Mining Landscape District (CW-XXX-00001), and Bridge No. 7423 (Marsh Rainbow Arch Bridge, IC-UOG-088). Six properties have previously been evaluated and determined Not Eligible for the NRHP. The remaining known properties have not been evaluated and their NRHP eligibility is unknown.

The Cuyuna Iron Range Historic Mining Landscape District, an NRHP-Eligible historic district, overlaps a portion of the Cultural Resources Study Area (see Appendix A). This district, which dates from 1904-1953, covers 4,693 acres (or 7.3 square miles) around the towns of Cuyuna, Trommald, Riverton, and Crosby, largely within Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR)-managed lands (Radford 2013), just over 1,000 acres of which fall within the Cultural Resources Study Area. The areas considered eligible within the Cuyuna Iron Range Historic Mining Landscape District incorporate most of the Cuyuna County State Recreation Area and multiple areas between Crosby and Riverton, Minnesota. The features contributing to the landscape's eligibility include the open-pit mines and tailings piles, ore stockpiles, structures, structure footings and foundations, roads, and railroad corridors (Radford 2013). During World War I, the Cuyuna Range supplied 90 percent of the nation's manganese. Once manganese ore shipments from Russia stopped, the Cuyuna mines became one of the most important manganese ore sources in the United States. By 1920, there were 29 mines on the Cuyuna Range, producing over two million tons per year, reaching peak production by 1953. The Cuyuna mines closed in 1978 after taconite processing began in Silver Bay in 1956 (Radford 2013).

The Cuyuna Iron Range Historic Mining Landscape District contains the 20-acre NRHP-Listed Ironton Sintering Plant National Register Historic District, which is located on the west bank of the Portsmouth Mine Pit Lake and north of Crosby, Minnesota. The Ironton Sintering Plant National Register Historic District is located outside of the Cultural Resources Study Area, two miles to the east, and will not be affected by this Project.

It should be noted that the Herbert Maximilian Fox House (SH-BKC-012) has been moved twice since it was first listed in the NRHP. The pioneer farmhouse was moved initially in 1981 to an intersection in the City of Becker and was moved a second time to its current location in 2006 when the new Sherburne History Center was constructed. The moves were extensively documented and reported to the National Park Service. Considering the structure's final location emulated the rural setting in which it first stood, the National Park Service determined the structure still retains the features required to be Listed in the NRHP (Sherburne County Historical Society 2005).

Table 3. Previously Recorded Architectural Resources within Cultural Resources Study Area

Inventory No	Property Name	Property Type	National Register Status
AK-HLC-019	Hill City Rest Area	Road rest area	Not evaluated
AK-HLK-001	Quadna Mountain	Landscape	Not evaluated
AK-MCV-002	Farmstead	Farmstead	Not evaluated
AK-MCV-003	St. James Catholic Church	Church	Not evaluated
AK-MCV-004	United Methodist Church	Church	Not evaluated
AK-MCV-005	Earl Heath House (Razed)	Residence	Not evaluated
AK-MCV-006	Swatara Consolidated School	School	Not evaluated
AK-MCV-007	First National Bank of Swatara and Store	Bank	Not evaluated
AK-MCV-008	Heath Brothers Store	Commercial building	Not evaluated
AK-MCV-009	Frank Trepanier's General Store and Swatara Hotel	Commercial building	Not evaluated
AK-MCV-010	Soo Line Depot (Razed)	Depot	Not evaluated
AK-MCV-011	Boyd's Ranch	Inn	Not evaluated
AK-MCV-013	House	Residence	Not evaluated
AK-UOG-005	Log Cabin	Seasonal residence	Not evaluated
AK-UOG-013	House	Residence	Not evaluated
AK-UOG-014	Firewood Shelter	Lumber yard	Not evaluated
AK-UOG-015	House	Residence	Not evaluated
BN-GRM-005	Bridge 05501	Bridge	Not evaluated
BN-MIN-001	Church	Church	Not evaluated
BN-MIN-002	District No. 44 School	School	Not evaluated
BN-MIN-005	St. Patrick's Catholic Church	Church	Not evaluated
BN-MIN-006	House	Residence	Not evaluated
BN-MIN-007	School	School	Not evaluated
BN-MIN-008	Barthelemy Farmstead (Scherbing Farm)	Farmstead	Not evaluated
BN-MIN-010	Bridge No. 6591	Bridge	Not evaluated
BN-MLK-005	Mayhew Lake Township Hall	Township hall	Not evaluated
BN-MLK-006	Farmstead	Farmstead	Not evaluated
BN-MLK-008	St. Joseph's Lutheran Church	Church	Not evaluated
BN-SGT-002	District No. 35 School	School	Not evaluated
BN-SGT-005	Tracy Farmstead	Farmstead	Not evaluated
BN-SGT-017	Rudolph Farmstead	Farmstead	Not evaluated
CW-DBT-002	Bridge No. 1896	Bridge	Not Eligible
CW-IRN-001	Farmstead	Farmstead	Not evaluated
CW-MGT-001	Maple Grove Township Hall	Township hall	Not evaluated
CW-MGT-002	Bridge 18502	Bridge	Not Eligible
CW-PLK-001	Perry Lake School	School	Eligible
CW-RVC-001	School	Education	Not evaluated
CW-RVC-002	Riverton Elevated Metal Water Tank	Water tower	Not Eligible

Inventory No	Property Name	Property Type	National Register Status
CW-TMC-001	Trommald Elevated Metal Water Tank	Water tower	Listed
CW-XXX-00001	Cuyuna Iron Range Historic Mining Landscape District	Landscape	Eligible
IC-TLT-012	Log House (Moved)	Residence	Not evaluated
IC-TLT-014	Barn	Barn	Not evaluated
IC-TLT-015	Log Barn	Barn	Not evaluated
IC-TLT-016	Log Barn	Barn	Not evaluated
IC-UOG-001	Splithand School (Razed)	School	Not evaluated
IC-UOG-013	Log Barn	Barn	Not evaluated
IC-UOG-014	Log Barn	Barn	Not evaluated
IC-UOG-015	Log Building	Farm building	Not evaluated
IC-UOG-016	Log Hay Barn	Barn	Not evaluated
IC-UOG-017	Frank Gran Farmstead	Farmstead	Listed
IC-UOG-088	Bridge No. 7423 (Marsh Rainbow Arch Bridge)	Bridge	Eligible
MO-LAS-001	Blacksmith Shop	Blacksmith shop	Not evaluated
MO-LAS-002	Kasper Garage	Service station	Not evaluated
MO-LAS-003	Lastrup Co-op Creamery	Creamery	Not evaluated
MO-LAS-004	Church	Church	Not evaluated
MO-LAS-005	St. John's Catholic Church	Church	Not evaluated
MO-LAS-006	Lastrup Village Hall	City hall	Not evaluated
MO-LAS-007	U.S. Post Office	Post office	Not evaluated
SH-BKC-012	Herbert Maximilian Fox House	Residence	Listed
SH-BKT-008	Andrew Swanson Farmhouse	Residence	Not evaluated
SH-BKT-013	Farm	Farmstead	Not evaluated
SH-BKT-014	House	Residence	Not evaluated
SH-BKT-015	Farmstead	Farmstead	Not evaluated
SH-BKT-016	Farmstead	Farmstead	Not evaluated
SH-BKT-017	Farmstead	Farmstead	Not evaluated
SH-HAV-003	Farm	Farmstead	Not evaluated
SH-PAL-007	Bridge No. L8138	Bridge	Not evaluated
SH-PAL-009	Weis Farm	Farmstead	Not evaluated
XX-ROD-017	Trunk Highway 18	Roadway	Not Eligible
XX-ROD-021	Trunk Highway 95	Roadway	Not Eligible
XX-ROD-044	Current TH 169	Roadway	Not Eligible

4 Recommendations

4.1 Archaeology

It is anticipated the Project will require a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit from the USACE and permits from the MN PUC and MNDNR.

The literature search identified 51 archaeological sites and 12 unrecorded historic cemeteries within the Cultural Resources Study Area. Five sites [redacted] were previously determined Eligible for listing in the NRHP.

Ten Precontact archaeological sites [redacted] were identified through communication with the County, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Upper Sioux Community, and Lower Sioux Indian Community as part of the planned Big Elk Lake Park development. The County is also working with their Tribal partners regarding designation of the park area as a Traditional Cultural Landscape and a potential National Heritage Area. A Tribal Cultural Property survey is in progress and should be complete in June 2023. [redacted]

In addition, Tribal communication has highlighted the potential for Traditional Cultural Properties and other archaeological or religious resources not documented with state agencies within the Cultural Resources Study Area. These locations are confidential and may be disclosed on an as-needed basis by Tribal authorities as project communications continue. These potential sites are therefore not included in this literature review.

The USACE, as the lead federal agency, will determine if their permit requires compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. If so, the lead federal agency will formally define the Area of Potential Effects (APE), initiate consultation with the SHPO and interested parties under Section 106 regulations and determine if additional cultural resource studies may be needed to comply with Section 106. The Project is receiving permits from the MN PUC and likely the MNDNR, and portions of this Project will cross nonfederal public land; therefore, the Project must comply with the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act (MS 138.31-138.42). State agencies providing permitting/licensing for this Project (MN PUC and likely MNDNR) may also require compliance with the Minnesota Historic Sites Act (MS 138.661-138.669); however, there are no previously listed archaeological sites within the Cultural Resources Study Area. All burials on public or private land are protected by the Minnesota Private Cemeteries Act (MS 308.08). Continued consultation with the state permitting agencies, as well as the SHPO and OSA, is recommended to determine survey and documentation needs to comply with applicable state cultural resources laws.

4.2 Architectural History

As previously stated, it is anticipated that the Project will require a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit from the USACE and permits from the MN PUC and MNDNR.

The literature review identified 71 architectural/history properties located within the Cultural Resources Study Area. Three properties, the Trommald Elevated Metal Water Tank (CW-TMC-001), the Frank Gran Farmstead (IC-UOG-017), and the Herbert Maximilian Fox House (SH-BKC-012) are Listed in the NRHP. Three properties were previously determined Eligible for listing in the NRHP, including the Perry Lake School (CW-PLK-001), Cuyuna Iron Range Historic Mining Landscape District (CW-XXX-00001), and Bridge No. 7423 (Marsh Rainbow Arch Bridge, (IC-UOG-088).

The Cuyuna Iron Range Historic Mining Landscape District, an NRHP-Eligible historic district, overlaps a portion of the Cultural Resources Study Area (see Appendix A). This 1904-1953 district covers 4,693 acres (or 7.3 square miles), just over 1,000 acres of which fall within the Cultural Resources Study Area. The district includes a concentration of open-pit mines, railroad lines and spurs, roads, and tailings piles around the towns of Cuyuna, Trommald, Riverton, and Crosby, largely within MNDNR-managed lands.

The USACE, as the lead federal agency, will review permit compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. If so, the lead federal agency will formally define the Area of Potential Effects (APE), initiate consultation with the SHPO and interested parties under Section 106 regulations and determine if additional cultural resource studies may be needed to comply with Section 106. State agencies providing permitting/licensing for this Project (MN PUC, likely MNDNR) may also require compliance with the Minnesota Historic Sites Act (MS 138.661-138.669) if the three NRHP-listed properties within the Cultural Resources Study Area may be affected.

5 References

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

2005 *SHPO Manual for Archeological Projects in Minnesota*. Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office, St. Paul, Minnesota.

2017 *Historic and Architectural Survey Manual.* Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office, St. Paul, Minnesota.

National Park Service (NPS)

1983 Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation. *Federal Register* 48(190):44716-44740.

Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA)

2011 *State Archaeologist's Manual for Archaeological Projects in Minnesota*. Office of the State Archaeologist, St. Paul, MN

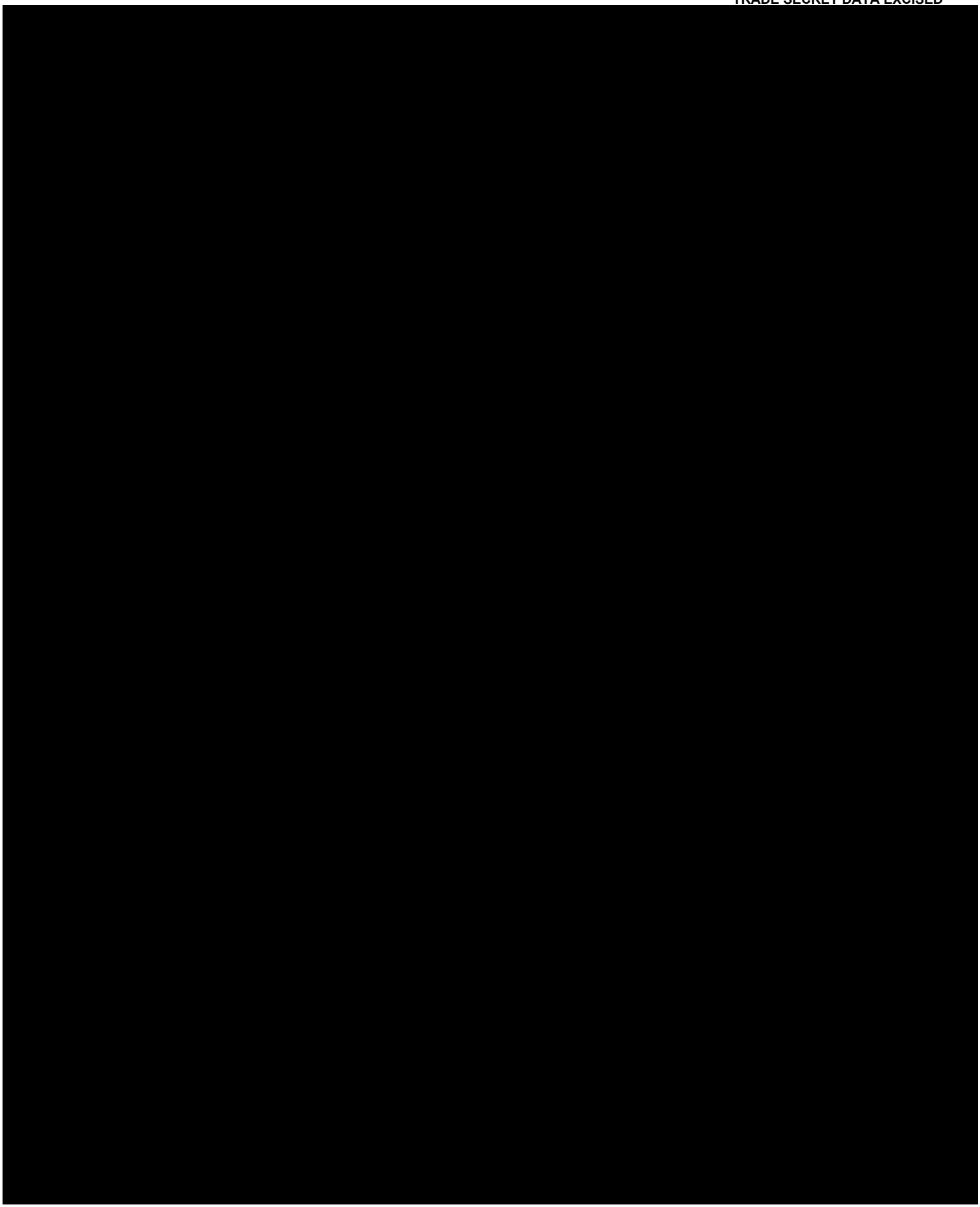
Radford, David S.

2013 Cultural Resource Reconnaissance Survey for the Huntington Trailhead Improvements Project, Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area, Crow Wing County, Minnesota.

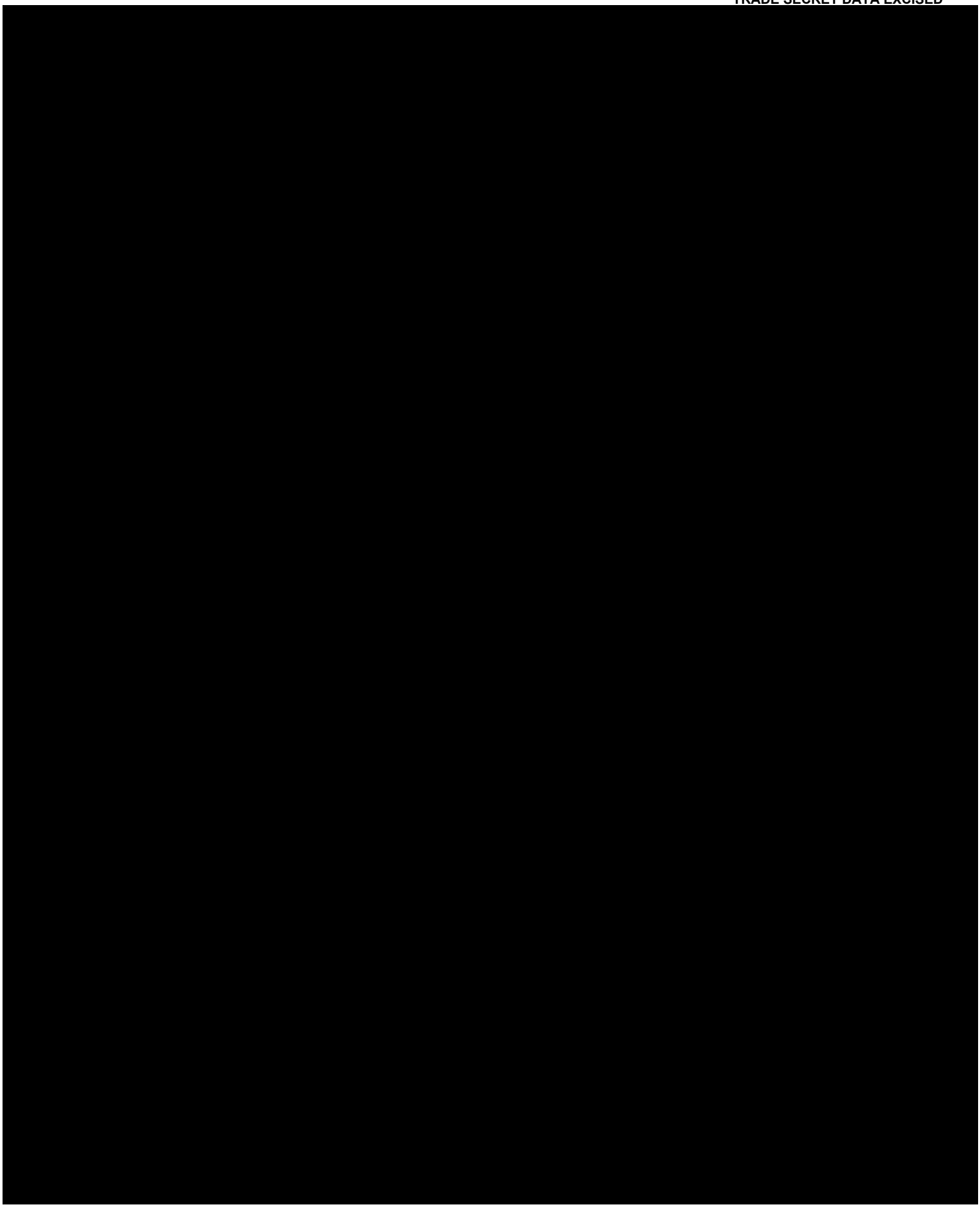
Vermeer, Andrea and Michelle Terrell

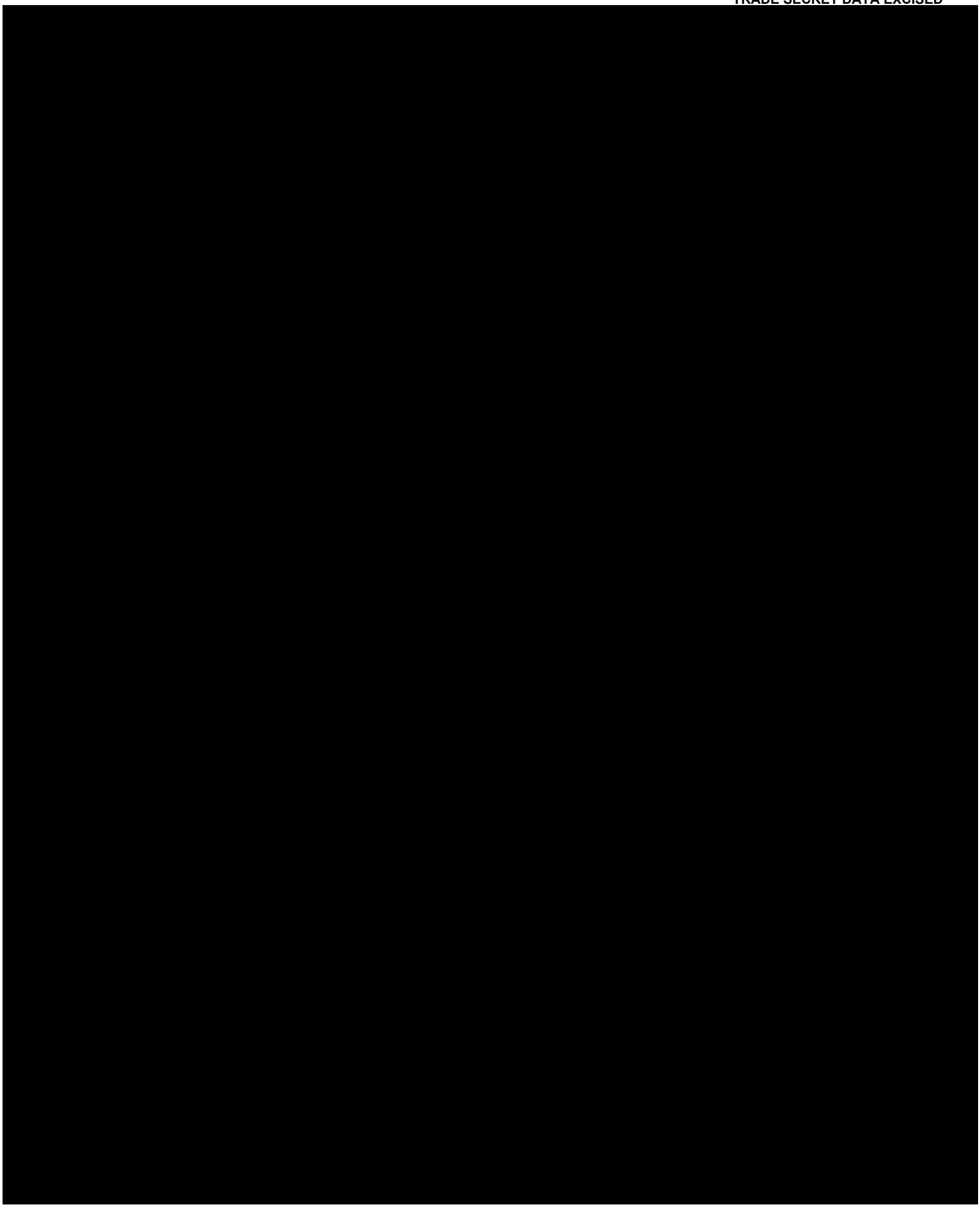
2011 An Investigation of Minnesota's Unrecorded Historical Cemeteries. Project funded by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund as Part of the Statewide Survey of Historic and Archaeological Sites. Prepared for the Minnesota Historical Society by Two Pines Resource Group, LLC.

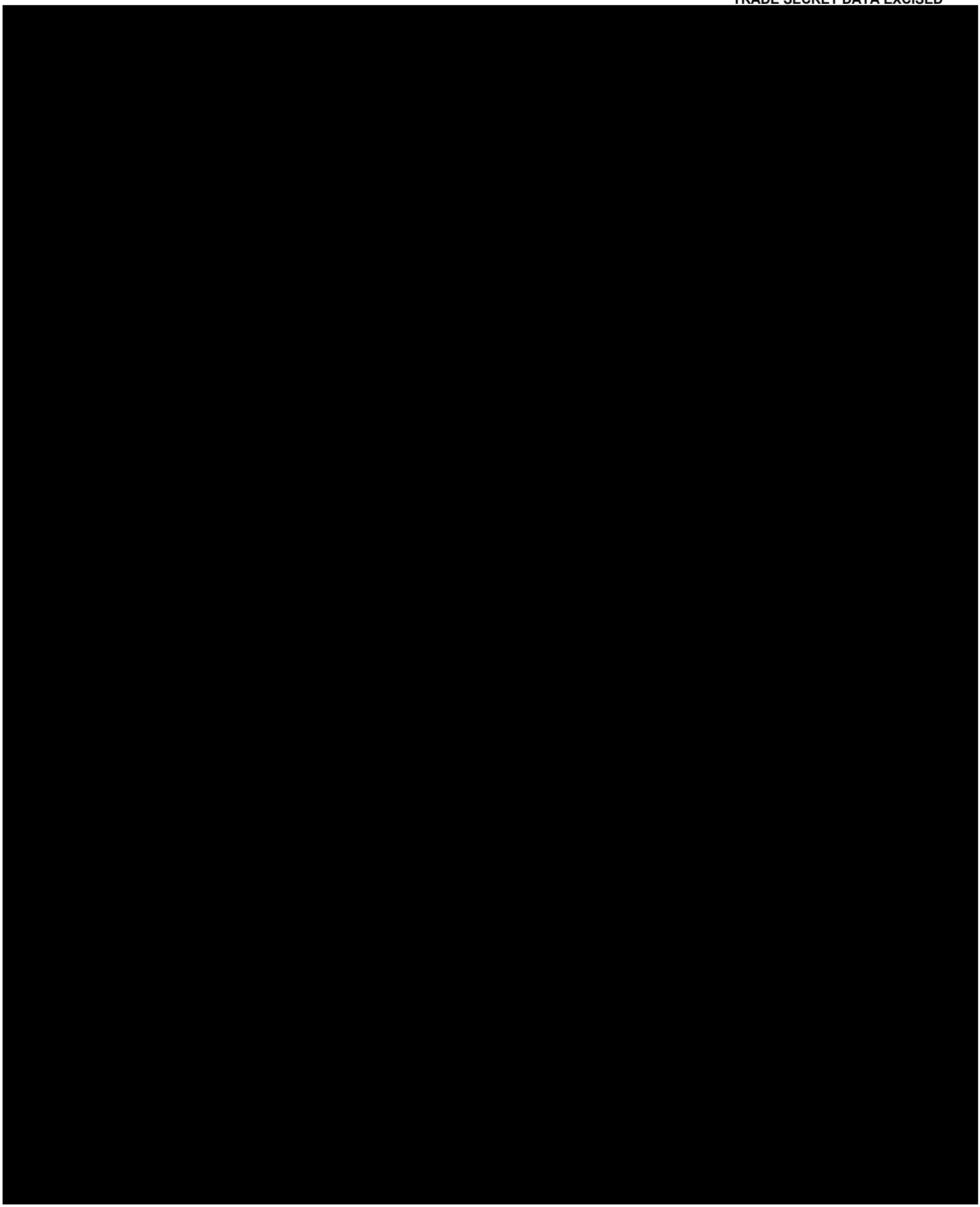
Appendix A. Known Cultural Resources Figures



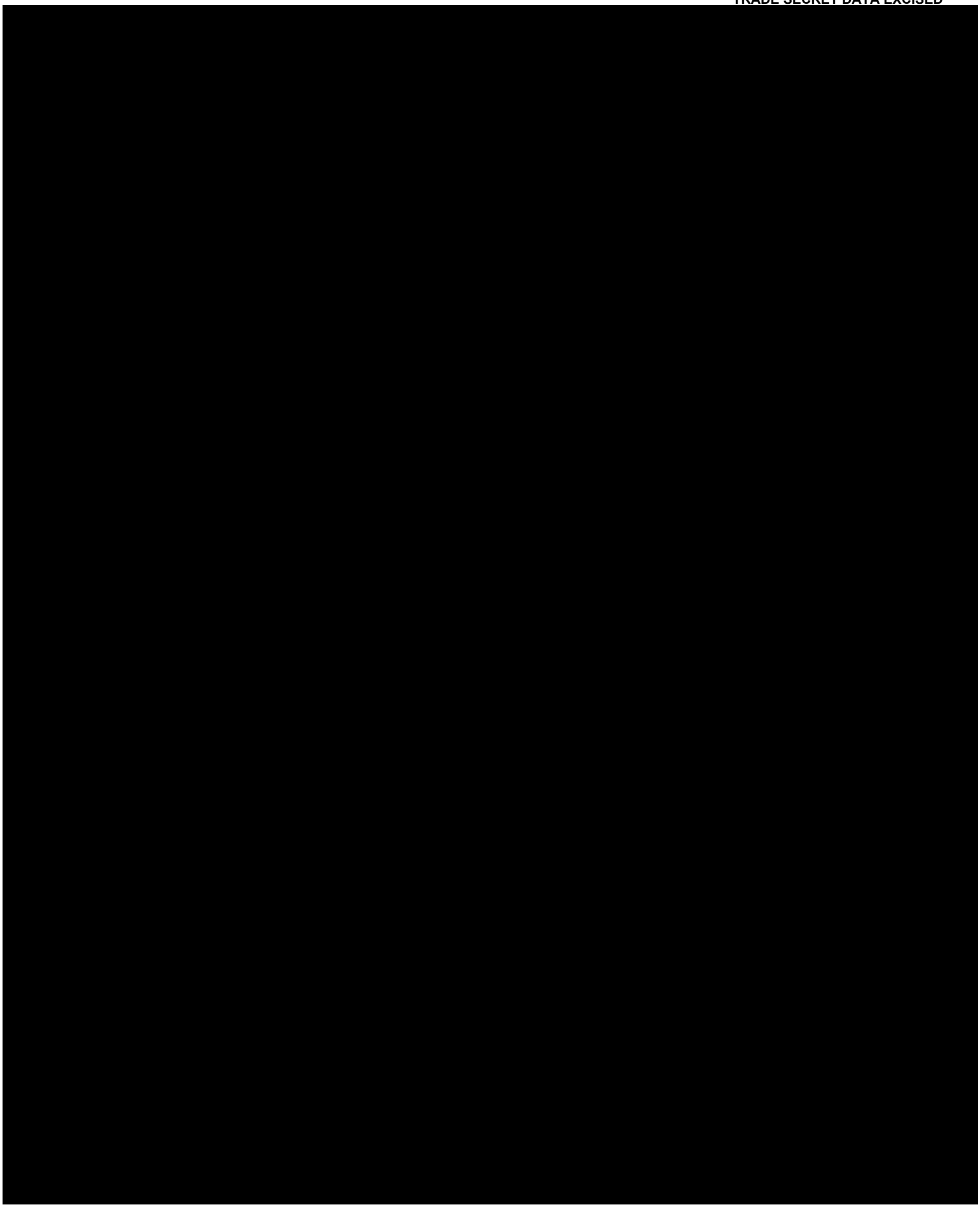
[redacted]

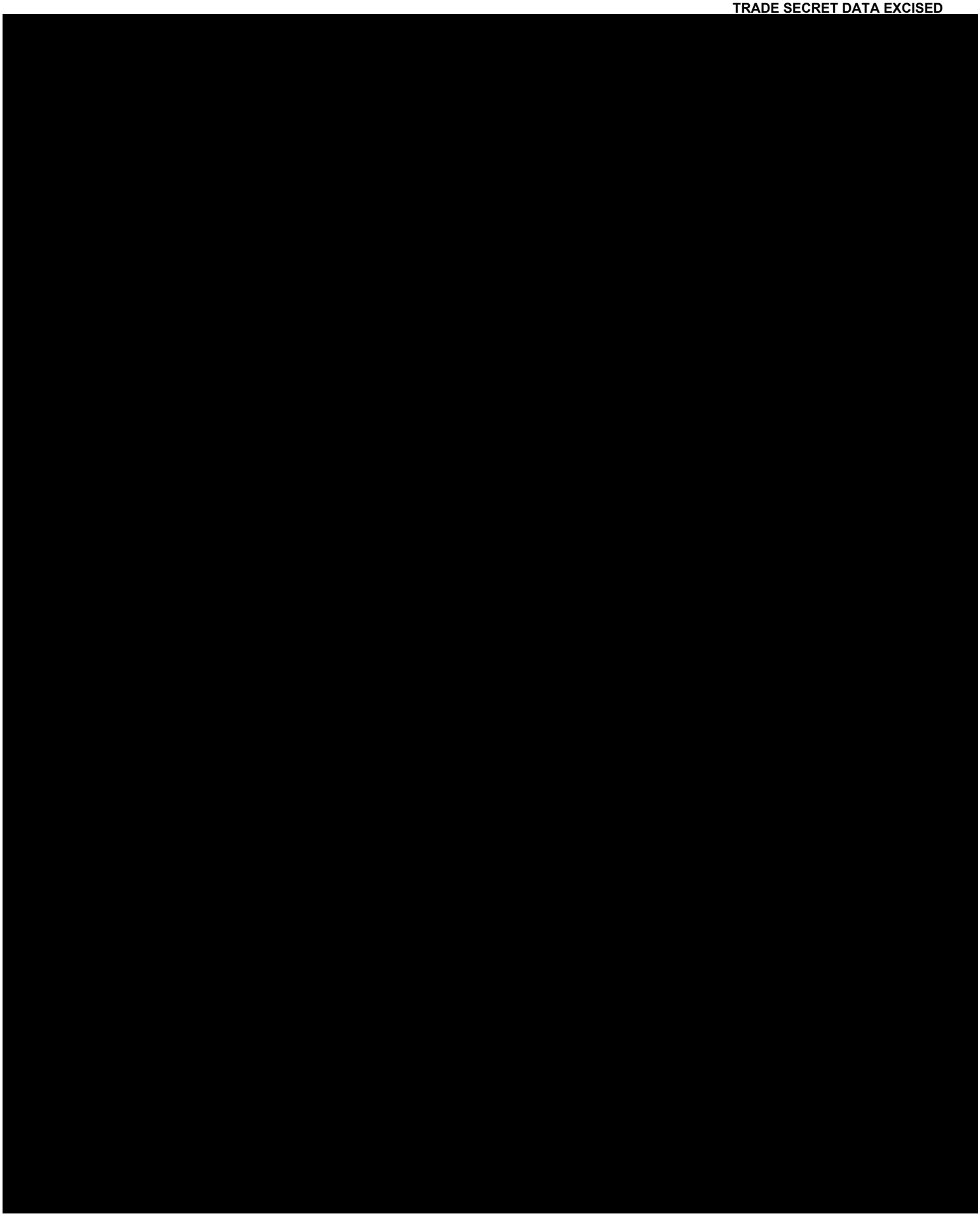






[redacted]





[redacted]

Additional Tribal Correspondence

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Correspondence

Northland Reliability Project

GREAT RIVER ENERGY. | minnesota power

Agenda

Project:	Northland Reliability Project	
Subject:	Project Meeting	
Date:	Thursday, March 09, 2023	
Location:	Microsoft Teams	
Attendees:	**Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe** •Brandy Toft – Interim Environmental Director •Eugene Strowbridge – Sustainability Coordinator •Amanda Wold – Environmental Deputy Director **Minnesota Power** •Jim Atkinson – Manager – Environmental and Real Estate •Zach Golkowski – Senior Environmental Compliance Specialist	**Great River Energy** •Brian Hunker – Transmission Permitting Project Manager **HDR** •Jennifer Bring – HDR Environmental Section Manager, Cultural Resources and Tribal Engagement Lead •Dan Schmidt – HDR Project Manager •Jenn Walter – HDR GIS/Routing Lead

Discussion

- Great River Energy (GRE) and Minnesota Power (MP) presented an overview of the Northland Reliability Project (project) (see PowerPoint presentation).
- Questions/discussions:
  - Jim confirmed that the project will increase the capacity of the system to facilitate the transition to renewable generation.
  - Schedule – Public meetings are being planned for the first week of May to present the preliminary route. It is anticipated that a route permit application will be submitted in August 2023 (a combined Certificate of Need and Route Permit Application).
  - The preliminary route will be 500-1,000 feet wide and laydown yards are anticipated to be at existing facilities. The wider route width is to allow flexibility for adjustments during final design or construction. The final right-of-way will be 150 feet wide; if the new line is adjacent to an existing line, they can share right-of-way by approximately 30-40 feet.

- The structures will be monopole with a drilled pier foundation. It is not anticipated that structures will require guy wires. The depth of the footing is variable; approximately 30-100 feet depending on soils, type of structure, loads, etc. The structures will be Core 10 self-weathering.
- Construction is anticipated to be primarily in winter in wetland areas.
- Brandy requested:
    - Shapefile of the Route Corridor to facilitate their review She requested it be sent to Matt Frazer.
    - Copies of the slides from the presentation.
- GIS review of the Route Corridor.
    - Long Lake area – the current transmission line runs through the isthmus between the two lakes. Routes to the east or west of the lakes are being considered. The route would rejoin the existing 230 kV line to the south of the lakes.
    - South of Riverton is primarily pasture and agricultural land.
    - North of the Benton County Substation are more residences. The St. Cloud Airport is to the west of the substation.
    - South of the Benton County Substation GRE and MP are evaluating uncrossing the transmission lines.
- Brandy appreciated the overview in GIS and having the ceded territory layer. Brandy requested the shapefile by Friday morning so she has time to follow-up with Matt Frazer and Amy Burnette (THPO) regarding the review.
- The team will schedule another meeting in mid-April to review the results of Brandy's team's review of the Route Corridor.

Northland Reliability Project

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Meeting

March 9, 2023

1

Agenda

- Introductions
- Project overview
- Questions/discussion
- Next steps

2

Northland Reliability Project

3

MISO-approved project: part of a regional plan

Learn more at misoenergy.org

4

Fulfilling a need

Provide system support

Provide support to the energy grid as more renewable energy is brought online and coal operations cease at existing power plants

Increase capacity

Safely and reliably deliver more clean energy from where it's produced to where it's consumed by utility customers and power cooperative members

Strengthen resiliency

Improve ability to withstand more frequent extreme weather events

Enhance flexibility

Meet future energy needs by enabling transfer of many types of power generation to many locations to meet the long-term needs of our customers and members

5

Two main project segments

- Segment one: Iron Range Substation to Riverton Substation to Benton County Substation
- Segment two: Benton County Substation to Big Oaks Substation

6

Segment one

Iron Range Substation to Riverton Substation to Benton County Substation

- New double-circuit 345-kV transmission line
- Approximately 130 miles
- Opportunities to route near existing transmission lines
- Connect into new Riverton Substation

Northland Reliability Project | 7

7

Segment two

Benton County Substation to Big Oaks Substation

- Replace existing 230-kV transmission line to double-circuit 345-kV transmission line
- Approximately 20 miles
- Verifying existing route and right-of-way are suitable for a 345-kV line

Northland Reliability Project | 8

8

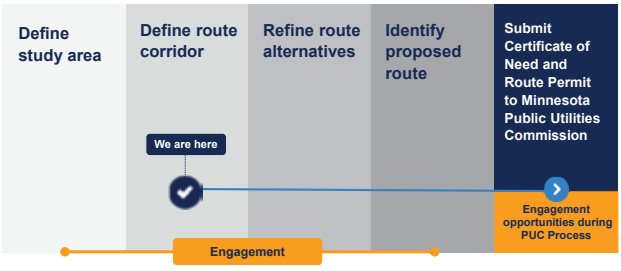
Additional project improvements

- Expand the existing Iron Range Substation and the Benton County Substation
- Install a new substation at or near the existing Riverton Substation and reconfiguring existing transmission lines in the Riverton area
- Rebuild approximately 20 miles of existing single-circuit 345-kv line from the Benton County Substation to the Sherco Substation in Sherburne County

Northland Reliability Project | 9

9

Our routing process & input opportunities



Northland Reliability Project | 10

10

Study area to route corridor

Northland Reliability Project | 11

11

Routing process considerations

The criteria for route selection is set by Minnesota statute and guides our routing process.

To route a project, we consider:

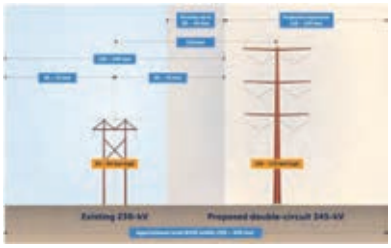
- Opportunities
- Constraints
- Engineering and construction considerations

Northland Reliability Project | 12

12

ROW needs for segment one

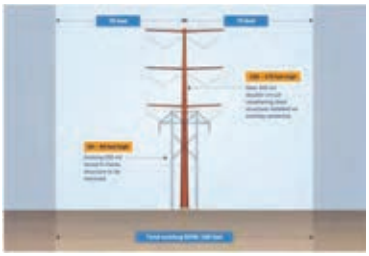
- Need additional ROW when located near an existing line
- Opportunity to share up to 30-40 feet of ROW with existing transmission lines



13

ROW needs for segment two

- ROW will remain 150-feet-wide
- Additional temporary ROW needed for construction
- Structure type factors:
  - Land use/land cover
  - Topography
  - Water/wetlands
  - Soil types



14

Public engagement

- Website – interactive comment
- Open houses week of Jan 23 and Jan 30
- In-person and virtual engagement opportunities

Communicating our path forward
Ongoing communication with stakeholders and landowners throughout the project

15

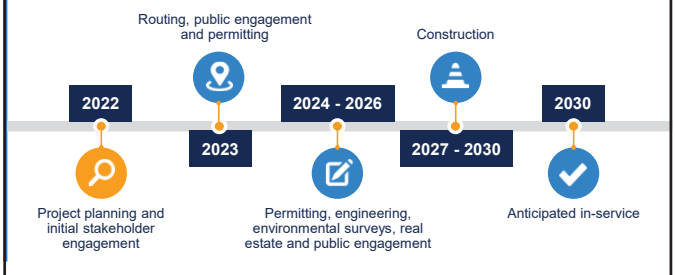
Tribal and agency outreach

We're committed to communicating early, often and throughout the project:

- Initial Tribal and tribal organizations letters – August 2022
- Initial agency letters sent – September 2022
- Meetings with Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, and Upper Sioux – December 2022 to March 2023
- Big Elk Lake Park meeting with Lower Sioux, Mille Lacs, Upper Sioux, and Sherburne County – January 2023
- Ongoing coordination with various agencies, including MnDNR
- Continued and ongoing opportunities to meet one-on-one and at key project milestones

16

Anticipated schedule



17

Northland Reliability Project

Connect with us!

northlandreliabilityproject.com

Call our hotline at 218-864-6059

Send us an email at connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com

18

Northland Reliability Project

GREAT RIVER ENERGY | minnesota power

Notes

Project:	Northland Reliability Project	
Subject:	Project Meeting	
Date:	Thursday, April 27, 2023	
Location:	Microsoft Teams	
Attendees:	**Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe** •Brandy Toft – Environmental Director •Colleen Wells – Archeologist and Field Director, Heritage Sites Program **Minnesota Power** •Jim Atkinson – Manager – Environmental and Real Estate •Zach Golkowski – Senior Environmental Compliance Specialist •Kyle Larson – Construction Management •Kurt Anderson – Director of Environmental and Land Management	**Great River Energy** •Dan Lesher – Manager, Transmission Permitting & Land Rights •Brian Hunker – Transmission Permitting Project Manager **HDR** •Jennifer Bring – HDR Environmental Section Manager, Cultural Resources and Tribal Engagement Lead •Dan Schmidt – HDR Project Manager •Jenn Walter – HDR GIS/Routing Lead •Laura Koski – HDR Cultural Resources Specialist

- Great River Energy (GRE) and Minnesota Power (MP) presented an overview of the Northland Reliability Project (project) (see PowerPoint presentation).
- Questions/discussions:
  - Colleen Wells asked if the Project includes hydropower or other power generation. It was clarified that the Project is not for generating new power, but for moving power from generating facilities to areas on the grid that need it.
  - Colleen asked if the line crosses the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe reservation or ceded territories. It was confirmed that the proposed transmission line would cross ceded territory, but not the current reservation boundaries.
  - Colleen asked about the extent of substation expansions. It was stated that the extent of the substation expansions is still being determined.
  - Colleen asked about the right-of-way width. It was explained that the right-of-way for both segments would be 150 feet. The right-of-way for the portions that parallel existing transmission lines can overlap existing right-of-way by 30 to 40 feet.
  - Colleen asked if any work would be conducted outside of the right-of-way. It was explained that the route width is wider than the right-of-way needed to construct the

Project to provide flexibility to address engineering, human (landowner preferences), and environmental concerns that arise after the route permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission has been issued. But disturbance would be limited to the right-of-way.

- The differences between the study area, preliminary route, intended right-of-way, and intended centerline were discussed.
  - The study area is the geographic area consideration for the route of the power line.
  - The preliminary route is the area within which the right-of-way will be placed. It is thinner along Segment Two since it is proposed that the existing lines will be replaced within the existing easement.
  - The intended right-of-way represents the physical land area within a route needed to construct and operate the transmission line.
  - The intended centerline represents the transmission line location within the right-of-way.
- Colleen asked about the timeline for submitting the Route Permit application. It was explained that it is anticipated the application will be submitted to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in early August. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's review of the application before issuing the Route Permit may take 18 months.
  - A cultural resources literature review, including a review of known archaeological and historic architectural properties using the State Historic Preservation Office and Office of the State Archaeologist's records. Outreach to Tribes is also being conducted to identify resources of potential tribal interest.
  - It is anticipated that cultural resources surveys may start as soon as the fall of 2023, but the majority would occur in 2024.
  - Colleen requested a copy of the final Cultural Resources Literature Review when it is ready.
- GIS review of the preliminary route, intended right-of-way, and intended centerline
  - Reviewed locations where the preliminary route has been widened to allow for flexibility routing around constraints, including around the Riverton Substation.
  - Colleen asked if existing transmission lines will stay or be replaced. It was explained that the existing transmission lines in Segment One would remain; the transmission lines in Segment Two would be replaced.
  - Colleen asked how wide the preliminary route is. It was explained the preliminary route width varies along the route depending on constraints.
- To inform the Route Permit application and future cultural resources studies, if the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe has any areas of interest within the proposed route and are willing to share that information, it would be appreciated.
  - Colleen stated she may be able to start reviewing the data mid-late next week (week of May 1-5).
  - It was noted that Colleen and Brandy would coordinate with Amy Burnette, the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribal Historic Preservation Office, who could not attend the meeting. GRE and MP indicated they would be happy answer questions Amy may have.

Northland Reliability Project

GREAT RIVER ENERGY | minnesota power

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Meeting

April 27, 2023

1

Agenda

- Introductions
- Project overview
- Outreach updates
  - Public engagement
  - Tribal and agency outreach
- Routing progression/updates
- Questions/Discussion

2

Northland Reliability Project

GREAT RIVER ENERGY | minnesota power

3

Fulfilling a need

Maintaining reliability	Enabling clean energy	Strengthening resiliency	Enhancing flexibility
Provide system support as energy resources continue to evolve.	Increase capacity to safely and reliably deliver clean energy from where it's produced to where it's needed by our customers and members.	Enhance system resiliency during extreme weather events.	Plan proactively to meet changing customers' and members' power needs due to decarbonization and electrification.

4

MISO-approved project: part of a regional plan

5

Two main project segments

- **Segment one:** Iron Range Substation to Riverton Substation to Benton County Substation
- **Segment two:** Benton County Substation to Big Oaks Substation Area

6

Segment one

Iron Range Substation to Riverton Substation to Benton County Substation

- New double-circuit 345-kV transmission line
- Approximately 140 miles
- Opportunities to route near existing transmission lines
- Connect into new Riverton Substation

7

Segment two

Benton County Substation to Big Oaks Substation

- Replace an approximately 20-mile 230-kV line with two 345-kV circuits from Benton County Substation to a new substation named Big Oaks in Sherburne County.
- Replace an approximately 20-mile 345-kV line from the Benton County Substation to the existing Sherco Substation in Sherburne County.

8

Additional project improvements

- Expand the existing Iron Range Substation near Grand Rapids and the Benton County Substation near St. Cloud.
- Install a new substation at or near the existing Riverton Substation and reconfigure existing transmission lines in the Riverton area.

9

Public engagement to date

Throughout the process, we've gathered public input to help identify routing opportunities and inform the project team of constraints.

- Fall Stakeholder Workshops
  - Six workshops with 80 total attendees
- Winter Public Open Houses
  - Seven locations with 14 times offered
  - 252 total attendees
- Winter Virtual Open House
  - 122 participants

10

Upcoming public engagement

- Public open houses May 2 - 4
- Self-paced virtual open house May 1 - 12
- In-person and virtual engagement opportunities

Communicating our path forward
Ongoing communication with stakeholders and landowners throughout the project.

11

Tribal and agency outreach

12

Our study area

How we defined our study area:

- Substation connections
- Existing corridors

Northland Reliability Project | 13

13

Route Corridor

How we defined our route corridor:

- Substation connections
- Existing corridors
- Input gathered during our fall 2022 stakeholder workshops

Northland Reliability Project | 14

14

Preliminary Route

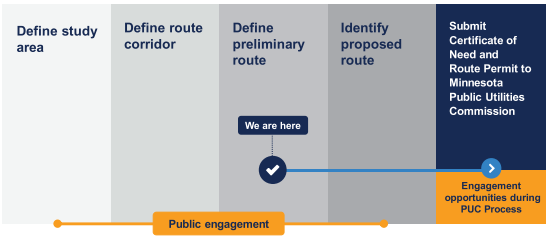
How we defined our preliminary route:

- Substation connections
- Existing corridors
- Input gathered during 15 open houses held January – February 2023

Northland Reliability Project | 15

15

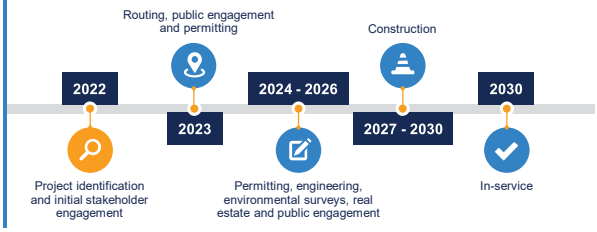
Our routing process & input opportunities



Northland Reliability Project | 16

16

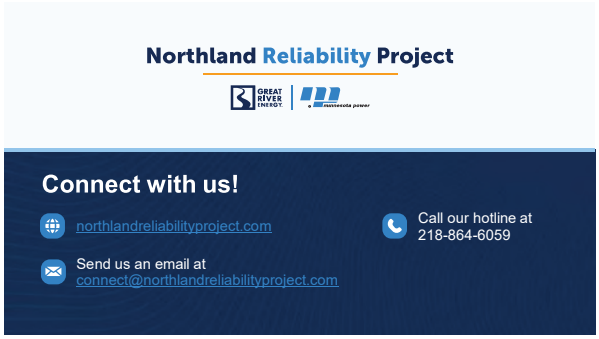
Anticipated schedule



Northland Reliability Project | 17

17

18


Northland Reliability Project
GREAT RIVER ENERGY
Connect with us!
northlandreliabilityproject.com
Call our hotline at 218-864-6059
Send us an email at connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com

19

Bring, Jennifer

From: Bring, Jennifer
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 4:17 PM
To: Amy Burnette
Cc: Colleen Wells; mike.wilson@millelacsband.com; St. John, Cheyanne; samanthao@uppersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov; Hunker, Brian GRE-MG
Subject: RE: Northland Reliability P Preliminary Route and Follow-up Meeting - Week of July 10th?
Attachments: 20230627_NRP_Route_ROW_Centerline_shp.zip

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Amy,

Thank you for the email. Brian asked that I forward the GIS data to you and Colleen. Attached is GIS data of the Proposed Route, Proposed Right-of-Way, and the Proposed Centerline for the Northland Reliability transmission project.

We are in the process of compiling copies of previous archaeology survey reports and can provide those to you when we have them. We will also provide further details regarding the group windshield reconnaissance with tribal representatives planned for August as soon as possible.

Please let us know if there are any questions.

Thanks,
Jenny

Jennifer Bring
M 651.324.0432

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: Amy Burnette <amy.burnette@llojibwe.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 9:25 AM
To: Hunker, Brian GRE-MG <bhunker@grenergy.com>
Cc: Colleen Wells <colleen.wells@llojibwe.net>; Bring, Jennifer <Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com>; mike.wilson@millelacsband.com; St. John, Cheyanne <cheyanne.stjohn@lowersioux.com>; samanthao@uppersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov
Subject: FW: Northland Reliability P Preliminary Route and Follow-up Meeting - Week of July 10th?

Dear Brian Hunker,

Thank you for calling me yesterday evening. We talked on the phone about the Northland Reliability joint project between Great River and MN Power overhead line that will likely be a section 404 permit from the Army Corps of Engineers, which is not quite yet section 106 yet because the permit application has not been completed. Thank you for

telling me that 80 to 85 percent is proposed project plan uses existing routing which does not require an alternative route, and that the current study area / proposed route is outside of the Leech Lake Reservation.

I would be interested in seeing any previous archaeological reports along the route. I cannot accept any external drives. But if you could attempt to send them separately as attachments and include in the subject line, Northland Reliability spelled out. The name spelled out rather than shortened would help me track amongst the many emails I receive.

I would be interested in the group meeting you have planned to do sometime soon and understand this is preliminary studies, but you do have the proposed route. The proposed route shapefiles, with centerline for the 1000 ft study APE should be sent to Colleen.Well@llojibwe.net. Brandy's office is separate. Colleen and I work closely together in the Cultural Resources department of the Leech Lake Division of Resource Management.

Sincerely,
Amy Burnette
Leech Lake Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
190 Sailstar Drive NW
Cass Lake, MN 56633

Desk (218) 335-2940
Email amy.burnette@llojibwe.net

From: Bring, Jennifer <Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2023 11:09 AM
To: Amy Burnette <amy.burnette@llojibwe.net>; Brandy Toft <brandy.toft@llojibwe.net>; Colleen Wells <colleen.wells@llojibwe.net>
Cc: Lesher, Dan GRE-MG <dlesher@grenergy.com>; Hunker, Brian GRE-MG <bhunker@grenergy.com>; Zach Golkowski (MP) <zgolkowski@mnpower.com>; Jim Atkinson (MP) <jbatkinson@mnpower.com>; kyle larson <KPLARSON@mnpower.com>; Northland Reliability Project <connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com>; Schmidt, Dan <dan.schmidt@hdrinc.com>; Koski, Laura Joreen <Laura.Koski@hdrinc.com>; Hawkins, Rebecca <Rebecca.Ralston-Hawkins@hdrinc.com>; Amanda Wold <amanda.wold@llojibwe.net>
Subject: RE: NRP Preliminary Route and Follow-up Meeting - Week of July 10th?

Hi Brandy, Amy, and Colleen,

It looks like the dates/times this week didn't work for everyone. Are there dates/times next week (July 17-21) that would work to meet?

As mentioned, we would like to provide an update regarding the Northland Reliability Project. Also, we would like to discuss details regarding a windshield reconnaissance survey of the alignment for tribal representatives we are looking to schedule in August to get a better idea of the proposed alignment and inform the cultural resources survey field

approach. We anticipate the survey would be 2-3 days and done primarily from public right-of-way. Lower Sioux, Mille Lacs, and Upper Sioux have indicated an interest in participating.

Amy and Colleen – if we cannot find a time that works for you to meet, can you let us know if you would be interested in participating in the August windshield reconnaissance survey and, if so, are there dates in August that would work better for you? We want to do what we can to facilitate your participation in the survey.

Thanks,
Jenny

Jennifer Bring
M 651.324.0432

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: Bring, Jennifer
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2023 11:14 AM
To: Amanda Wold <amanda.wold@llojibwe.net>; Amy Burnette <amy.burnette@llojibwe.net>; Brandy Toft <brandy.toft@llojibwe.net>; Colleen Wells <colleen.wells@llojibwe.net>
Cc: Lesher, Dan GRE-MG <dlesher@grenergy.com>; Hunker, Brian GRE-MG <bhunker@grenergy.com>; Zach Golkowski (MP) <zgolkowski@mnpower.com>; Northland Reliability Project <connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com>; Schmidt, Dan <dan.schmidt@hdrinc.com>; Koski, Laura Joreen <Laura.Koski@hdrinc.com>; kyle larson <KPLARSON@mnpower.com>; Jim Atkinson (MP) <jbatkinson@mnpower.com>
Subject: RE: NRP Preliminary Route and Follow-up Meeting - Week of July 10th?

Brandy – thank you for your time this morning to chat and providing an update re: your availability to meet the week of July 10th. As discussed, you have availability to meet the following dates/times:

- Tuesday, July 11th – from 11:30am - 1:30pm
- Friday, July 14th – from 1-3pm

Amy and Colleen – do either of the above dates/times work for you to meet virtually to provide an update regarding the Northland Reliability Project? We also would like to discuss details regarding a windshield reconnaissance survey of the alignment for tribal representatives we are looking to schedule in August (likely the first half of August) to get a better idea of the proposed alignment and inform the cultural resources survey field approach. We anticipate this windshield reconnaissance would be 2-3 days to travel the entire corridor, staying primarily to public rights-of-way.

If you have interest in the windshield survey, please let us know your availability in August and we can work to finalize dates and provide additional details.

Thanks,
Jenny

Jennifer Bring
M 651.324.0432

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: Bring, Jennifer <Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Friday, June 16, 2023 7:11 AM
To: Amanda Wold <amanda.wold@llojibwe.net>; Amy Burnette <amy.burnette@llojibwe.net>; Brandy Toft <brandy.toft@llojibwe.net>
Cc: Lesher, Dan GRE-MG <dlesher@grenergy.com>; Hunker, Brian GRE-MG <bhunker@grenergy.com>; Zach Golkowski

(MP) <zgolkowski@mnpower.com>; Northland Reliability Project <connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com>; Schmidt, Dan <dan.schmidt@hdrinc.com>; Koski, Laura Joreen <Laura.Koski@hdrinc.com>; kyle larson <KPLARSON@mnpower.com>; Jim Atkinson (MP) <jbatkinson@mnpower.com>
Subject: Re: NRP Preliminary Route and Follow-up Meeting

Thanks, Amanda!

Amy - do any of the dates/times that Amanda identified work for you?

Thanks,
Jenny

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Amanda Wold <amanda.wold@llojibwe.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2023 8:26 AM
To: Bring, Jennifer <Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com>; Amy Burnette <amy.burnette@llojibwe.net>; Brandy Toft <brandy.toft@llojibwe.net>
Cc: Lesher, Dan GRE-MG <dlesher@grenergy.com>; Hunker, Brian GRE-MG <bhunker@grenergy.com>; Zach Golkowski (MP) <zgolkowski@mnpower.com>; Northland Reliability Project <connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com>; Schmidt, Dan <dan.schmidt@hdrinc.com>; Koski, Laura Joreen <Laura.Koski@hdrinc.com>; kyle larson <KPLARSON@mnpower.com>; Jim Atkinson (MP) <jbatkinson@mnpower.com>
Subject: Re: NRP Preliminary Route and Follow-up Meeting

Jenny,

Thank you for your email. I'm looking at the schedule and I believe there is some availability.

Available times:
Tuesday, June 27: 11:30-12:30
Wednesday, June 28: 1:00pm-2:00pm
Thursday, June 29: 3:30-4:30
Friday, June 30: anytime 9:00am-2:00pm
Tuesday, July 11: anytime 9:00am-1:00pm
Friday, July 14: anytime 9:00am-3:00pm

Please let me know if any of these times work for you.

Thank you,
Amanda

Amanda Wold
Environmental Deputy Director

amanda.wold@llojibwe.net
http://www.llojibwe.org/
190 Sailstar Drive NW,
Cass Lake, MN 56633

From: Bring, Jennifer <Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 9:01 PM
To: Amy Burnette <amy.burnette@llojibwe.net>; Brandy Toft <brandy.toft@llojibwe.net>; Amanda Wold <amanda.wold@llojibwe.net>
Cc: Lesher, Dan GRE-MG <dlesher@grenergy.com>; Hunker, Brian GRE-MG <bhunker@grenergy.com>; Zach Golkowski (MP) <zgolkowski@mnpower.com>; Northland Reliability Project <connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com>; Schmidt, Dan <dan.schmidt@hdrinc.com>; Koski, Laura Joreen <Laura.Koski@hdrinc.com>; kyle larson <KPLARSON@mnpower.com>; Jim Atkinson (MP) <jbatkinson@mnpower.com>
Subject: RE: NRP Preliminary Route and Follow-up Meeting

It looks like Brandy is out of the office through the end of this week so, adding Amanda to this correspondence.

Amanda – I'm not sure if you are able to identify possible dates/times the week of June 26th or July 10th that may work for Brandy (and you, if you are available)?

Thanks,
Jenny

Jennifer Bring

M 651.324.0432

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: Bring, Jennifer
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 8:57 PM
To: Amy Burnette <amy.burnette@llojibwe.net>; Brandy.toft@llojibwe.net
Cc: Lesher, Dan GRE/MG <dlesher@grenergy.com>; Hunker, Brian GRE-MG <bhunker@grenergy.com>; Zach Golkowski (MP) <zgolkowski@mnpower.com>; Northland Reliability Project <connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com>; Schmidt, Dan <dan.schmidt@hdrinc.com>; Koski, Laura Joreen <Laura.Koski@hdrinc.com>; Kyle Larson (MP) <KPLARSON@mnpower.com>; Jim Atkinson (MP)
Subject: NRP Preliminary Route and Follow-up Meeting

Hi Amy and Brandy,

In follow up to the email sent to Amy at the end of May with the cultural resources literature review report for the Northland Reliability Project, we were thinking it would be good to connect to provide an opportunity to answer any further questions Amy may have about the project, work completed to date, schedule and next steps. In addition, we are looking at possibly coordinate a windshield survey of the corridor with tribal representatives this fall to get a better understand of the route/right-of-way and inform development of a survey strategy to guide cultural field surveys for the Project.

Would the two of you have availability to meet sometime either the week of June 26th or July 10th? Let us know your availability and we can get an invite out.

Thanks,
Jenny

Jennifer Bring
M 651.324.0432

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: Bring, Jennifer
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 12:07 PM
To: Amy Burnette <amy.burnette@llojibwe.net>
Cc: Lesher, Dan GRE/MG <dlesher@GREnergy.com>; Hunker, Brian GRE-MG <bhunker@grenergy.com>; Jim Atkinson (MP); Zach Golkowski (MP) <zgolkowski@mnpower.com>; Northland Reliability Project <connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com>; Schmidt, Dan <dan.schmidt@hdrinc.com>; Koski, Laura Joreen <Laura.Koski@hdrinc.com>; Kyle Larson (MP) <KPLARSON@mnpower.com>
Subject: RE: NRP Preliminary Route and Follow-up Meeting

Hello Amy,

Sorry for any confusion. We had hoped our last meeting date/time would have worked for you to be able to provide additional detail regarding the project and be able to answer some of these questions in person; however, we were glad your colleague Colleen was able to join.

Project Details and Mapping
To inform your review, additional maps are available on the project website - Maps (northlandreliabilityproject.com) – including an online interactive map showing the preliminary route for the project, which will be reviewed in the Route Permit application to be submitted to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC) in August of this year. Please note that the preliminary route shown includes two potential options in the Riverton area. The intent is to select one to

include in the Route Permit application. A transmission line route is the path that a transmission line may follow. Under Minnesota Statute 216E, subd. 8, the route may have a variable width of up to 1.25 miles. The preliminary route is the area within which the right-of-way will be placed. The route width is wider than the right-of-way to provide flexibility to address engineering, human (landowner preferences), and environmental concerns that arise after the permit has been issued by the MN PUC.

Detailed PDF maps showing the preliminary route and the intended centerline and right-of-way within the preliminary route are also on the project website at the link above. The intended right-of-way is a representation of the physical land area within a route that is needed to construct, maintain, and operate the transmission line; usually represented as the required easement. The intended centerline is a representation of the location of the transmission line within the right-of-way. The preliminary route, intended right-of-way, and intended centerline are subject to change based on comments, engineering, permitting, field conditions or other factors. However, we wanted to provide this data to you to understand where we are with the intended project routing and siting, and state permitting process.

A majority (over 85%) of the 180 miles of proposed transmission corridor parallel or replace existing transmission lines. There are a few locations where existing constraints (human, environmental, cultural, engineering, etc.) make it difficult for the proposed transmission line to follow existing lines. One of these locations is in the South Long Lake/Upper South Long Lake area approximately 6 miles southeast of Brainerd (see screenshot below). The existing transmission line in this area roughly parallels Highway 23 and crosses between the two lakes on an isthmus and there are many residences and known archaeological sites. Therefore, the preliminary route (in orange/brown in the screenshot below) goes to the east of Upper South Long Lake to avoid some of the constraints in this area.

Please let us know if there are additional or specific maps you would like to see to further inform your review.

The intended centerline crosses 98 different streams/creeks and 8 DNR lakes: Mud, Hay, Platt River Dam Pool and 5 unnamed. Following submittal of the Route Permit application, the project will complete additional analysis, including field surveys, to obtain other permits and approvals needed for construction, such as permitting from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and a Public Waters permit and under the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). Construction is anticipated to start in 2027.

Cultural Resources Review to Date

To date, we have completed a cultural resources literature review including files at the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Minnesota Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) online portal to identify known archaeological sites and historical structures within the preliminary route corridor. Laura Koski (HDR) served as Principal Investigator for the literature review. The information from the literature review, as well as input provided by Tribes engaged to date, has informed routing for the project. The report summarizing the results of the literature review is attached for your reference and will be included in the Route Permit application.

No cultural resources field survey has been conducted for the project yet; however, following submittal of the Route Permit application, the project will complete additional analysis, including field surveys, for cultural resources. It is anticipated that a cultural resources assessment and field survey strategy will be prepared in consultation with the SHPO, OSA, Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, and Tribes. A search for and review of previously completed archaeological surveys within the project area will be included as part of the cultural resources assessment prior to field survey. We will include you in that consultation and can provide copies of reports for surveys conducted.

Tribal Engagement to Date

In addition to Leech Lake environmental staff, we have had meetings with staff (THPOs and environmental staff) from Mille Lacs, Lower Sioux, and Upper Sioux regarding the project and potential areas of interest/concern. To date, Upper Sioux and Mille Lacs have indicated an interest in participating in field surveys, including conducting a pre-field windshield reconnaissance with tribal representatives to visually inspect the proposed route and help identify areas for more focused in-field investigations. We are in the preliminary stages of planning this pre-field reconnaissance, and you or your staff are welcome to participate. Please let us know if you are interested and we can keep you informed as planning moves forward.

Please let us know if you have further questions. Also, we would be happy to set up a meeting to talk through more project details, if that would be helpful. Any information you would be willing to share regarding areas of interest or concern within the preferred route/intended ROW to further inform the process moving forward, including identifying our strategy for field review, would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks so much.
Jenny

Jennifer Bring
M 651.324.0432

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: Amy Burnette <amy.burnette@llojibwe.net>
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2023 1:05 PM
To: Bring, Jennifer <Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com>
Subject: RE: NRP Preliminary Route and Follow-up Meeting

Hello Jennifer,

In regard to the Minnesota Power and Great River Energy Northland Reliability project:

Although I am a team member with DRM, Brandy does not assign anything to me. I believe that my coworker Colleen Wells was able to go the day you arranged that meeting with Brandy.
I see that there is an isthmus described at a long lake. Where is this at? I do not have GIS and require more information.
I am not seeing anything about it in this slide show about energy.
Who is the project's archaeological Principal Investigator?
How many water bodies are you crossing?
Is this project located in an existing ROW for other utilities, or is this a completely new corridor across the land?
I would also like locations of any archaeological survey that done was done before this project in any of the lands which your project plans go through.
I would like to know if other tribes have engaged with you to participate in or monitor any upcoming activities.

Amy.

From: Bring, Jennifer <Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 10:42 PM
To: Amy Burnette <amy.burnette@llojibwe.net>; Colleen Wells <colleen.wells@llojibwe.net>; Brandy Toft <brandy.toft@llojibwe.net>
Cc: Hunker, Brian GRE-MG <bhunker@grenergy.com>; Lesher, Dan GRE-MG <dlesher@grenergy.com>; Zach Golkowski (MP) <zgolkowski@mnpower.com>; Jim Atkinson (MP) <jbatkinson@mnpower.com>; Northland Reliability Project <connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com>
Subject: RE: NRP Preliminary Route and Follow-up Meeting

Hi Amy,

The project anticipates submitting a Certificate of Need and Route Permit application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in August of this year. Potential wetland impacts would likely fall within a Regional General Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and other state approvals or permits are likely, including a Public Waters permit and under the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). However, the extent of potential impacts to resources is currently being calculated and discussions with agencies are ongoing.

To further inform your review of the project, attached is the initial project introduction letter that was mailed in August 2022. Also attached are slides and notes from our last meeting with Brandy and other Leech Lake staff on March 3, 2023. Please let us know if you have questions once you have a chance to review.

Also, in addition to the GIS data for the recently defined preliminary route provided earlier this month, attached is GIS data showing the intended centerline and right-of-way within the preliminary route that Minnesota Power and Great River Energy currently intend to use for construction of the project. We'll review this in more detail during the meeting Thursday but, please note that along a few portions of the route, shifts to the centerline of existing lines are needed to accommodate adding the new transmission line. A centerline and right-of-way for both lines is shown in the data in these areas.

Thanks and looking for to continuing our discussion tomorrow.

Best,
Jenny

Jennifer Bring
M 651.324.0432

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: Amy Burnette <amy.burnette@llojibwe.net>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 10:02 AM
To: Bring, Jennifer <Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com>
Cc: Colleen Wells <colleen.wells@llojibwe.net>; Brandy Toft <brandy.toft@llojibwe.net>
Subject: RE: NRP Preliminary Route and Follow-up Meeting

Jennifer,

Thank you for sending your limited Great River Energy and Minnesota Power energy project information. If I need more information, I will let you know soon. It is not likely that I will be there in person on the 27th.
Who is the federal contact for this? Which agency? Have you made application?

Amy.

From: Brandy Toft <brandy.toft@llojibwe.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 9:33 AM
To: Bring, Jennifer <Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com>
Cc: Amy Burnette <amy.burnette@llojibwe.net>; Colleen Wells <colleen.wells@llojibwe.net>
Subject: Re: NRP Preliminary Route and Follow-up Meeting

~~Thu, April 20 – 10-11:30 am~~
~~Fri, April 21 – 1-2:30 pm~~
Thu, April 27 – ~~8:30 am-11 am,~~ 1:30-2:30 pm potentially open
Fri, April 28 – 1-4 pm {230-330 open potentially}

Hello Jennifer,

I only have a limited availability on the 27th and 28th. I have invited our THPO office and Heritage Sites staff to join as well.

Miigwech,
Brandy

Brandy Toft
Environmental Director
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
218.760.1672 (c)
218.335.7417 (o) note change
Brandy.toft@llojibwe.net

Brandy Toft
Environmental Director

brandy.toft@llojibwe.net
http://www.llojibwe.org/
190 Sailstar Drive NW, Cass Lake, MN 56633

From: Bring, Jennifer <Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 10:46 PM
To: Brandy Toft <brandy.toft@llojibwe.net>
Cc: Amanda Wold <amanda.wold@llojibwe.net>; Eugene Strowbridge <Eugene.Strowbridge@llojibwe.net>; Hunker, Brian GRE-MG <bhunker@grenergy.com>; Lesher, Dan GRE-MG <dlesher@grenergy.com>; Zach Golkowski (MP) <zgolkowski@mnpower.com>; Jim Atkinson (MP) <jbatkinson@mnpower.com>; Schmidt, Dan <dan.schmidt@hdrinc.com>; Walter, Jennifer <jennifer.walter@hdrinc.com>; Northland Reliability Project <connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com>
Subject: NRP Preliminary Route and Follow-up Meeting

Hi Brandy,

Since our last call, we have been working on defining a preliminary route for the Northland Reliability project. Attached is a GIS shapefile of the identified preliminary route that will be presented at the open houses the first week of May. Please note that the preliminary route is narrower than the previously defined route corridor but still larger than the final right-of-way needed to construct the project. Also, the preliminary route includes two potential options in the Riverton area. The intent is to select one to include in the Route Permit application.

We'd like to set up a meeting to discuss the results of your review of the route corridor, if possible, information you would be willing to share regarding areas of interest along this preliminary route. Below are dates/times our team is available in the coming weeks – please let us know which of these dates/times would work for you for a virtual call. We anticipated the call would be up to 1 hour.

Thu, April 20 – 10-11:30 am
Fri, April 21 – 1-2:30 pm
Thu, April 27 – 8:30 am-11 am, 1:30-2:30 pm
Fri, April 28 – 1-4 pm

We look forward to continuing our discussion. Also, copies of the presentation slides from our meeting last month were previously provided. However, for reference, attached are notes from our last meeting. Please let us know if you have comments or additions to the notes.

Thanks,
Jenny

Jennifer Bring
Environmental Section Manager MN/WI
Senior Environmental Scientist/Project Manager

HDR
1601 Utica Ave. S. Suite 600
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
M 651.324.0432
Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

Lower Sioux Indian Community Correspondence

Bring, Jennifer

From: Bring, Jennifer
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 11:03 AM
To: Cheyanne St. John
Cc: Hunker, Brian GRE-MG; Zach Golkowski (MP); Lesher, Dan GRE/MG; Jim Atkinson (MP); Schmidt, Dan; Northland Reliability Project
Subject: Northland Reliability Transmission Project - Project Update
Attachments: ___NRP_PrelimRoute_IntendedCenterlineROW.zip

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello Cheyanne,

As a follow-up to our earlier meetings with you, Mille Lacs, Upper Sioux, and Sherburne County regarding the Northland Reliability transmission project, we wanted to provide you an update regarding the project. We have been working on defining a preliminary route for the Northland Reliability project. Attached is a GIS shapefile of the identified preliminary route that we anticipate including in the Route Permit application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, which we hope to submit by early August. Please note that the preliminary route includes two potential options in the Riverton area. The intent is to select one to include in the Route Permit application. The preliminary route is also shown on our Project's website (www.northlandreliabilityproject.com). In addition, the website shows an intended right-of-way and centerline within the preliminary route (shapefiles attached).

For your information, a transmission line route is the path that a transmission line may follow. Under Minnesota Statute 216E, subd. 8, the route may have a variable width of up to 1.25 miles. The preliminary route is the area within which the right-of-way will be placed. The route width is typically wider than the right-of-way to provide flexibility to address engineering, human (landowner preferences), and environmental concerns that arise after the permit has been issued.

The intended right-of-way is a representation of the physical land area within a route that is needed to construct and operate the transmission line; usually represented as the required easement. The intended centerline is a representation of the location of the transmission line within the right-of-way. In many cases, the poles would be placed in the center of the right-of-way, but in some areas, such as along roads, poles may be offset to account for road geometrics, topography, or waterbodies, etc.

The preliminary route, intended right-of-way, and intended centerline are subject to change based on comments, engineering, permitting, field conditions or other factors. However, we wanted to provide this data to you to understand where we are with the intended project routing and siting, and state permitting process. As previously mentioned, outside of the meeting concerning the Big Elk Lake Park, we have continued conversations with Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, and Upper Sioux regarding the project and potential areas of interest/concern. We have also provided the attached data to Sherburne County and offered to meet again. Please let us know if you have questions or would like to meet regarding the project, whether with Sherburne County or separately. Any information you would be willing to share regarding areas of interest or concern within the preferred route/intended ROW to further inform the process moving forward, including identifying our strategy for field review, would be greatly appreciated.

Looking forward to continuing our discussion with you.

Best,
Jenny

Jennifer Bring
Environmental Section Manager MN/WI
Senior Environmental Scientist/Project Manager

HDR
1601 Utica Ave. S. Suite 600
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
M 651.324.0432
Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From:	Bring, Jennifer
To:	Cheyanne St. John
Cc:	Hunker, Brian GRE-MG; Zach Golkowski (MP); Lesher, Dan GRE-MG; Jim Atkinson (MP); Schmidt, Dan; Northland Reliability Project; Koski, Laura Joreen
Subject:	RE: Northland Reliability Transmission Project - Project Update
Date:	Monday, June 12, 2023 9:30:09 AM
Attachments:	NRP Cultural Lit Review_20230508.pdf

Hello Cheyanne,

In follow up to our email below providing updates regarding the Northland Reliability project, attached is a copy of the cultural resources literature review for the Project. Please note that the literature review covered the Proposed Route and Notice Area for the Project to inform the routing and siting and identification of the proposed right-of-way and centerline for the project. As previously mentioned, the literature review will be summarized and included in the Route Permit application, which is anticipated to be filed with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in early August.

It is anticipated that a Cultural Resource Survey Strategy will be prepared in consultation with appropriate agencies (SHPO, OSA, MIAC) and Tribes, following the Route Permit application to outline and guide survey to be completed prior to construction to comply with applicable cultural resources laws.

Please let us know if there are questions regarding the literature review. We would also be happy to meet to discuss the results of the literature review and provide further updates regarding the Project.

Best,
Jenny

Jennifer Bring
M 651.324.0432

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: Bring, Jennifer
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 11:03 AM
To: Cheyanne St. John <cheyanne.stjohn@lowersioux.com>
Cc: Hunker, Brian GRE-MG <bhunker@grenergy.com>; Zach Golkowski (MP) <zgolkowski@mnpower.com>; Lesher, Dan GRE/MG <dlesher@grenergy.com>; Jim Atkinson (MP); Schmidt, Dan <dan.schmidt@hdrinc.com>; Northland Reliability Project <connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com>
Subject: Northland Reliability Transmission Project - Project Update

Hello Cheyanne,

As a follow-up to our earlier meetings with you, Mille Lacs, Upper Sioux, and Sherburne County regarding the Northland Reliability transmission project, we wanted to provide you an update

regarding the project. We have been working on defining a preliminary route for the Northland Reliability project. Attached is a GIS shapefile of the identified preliminary route that we anticipate including in the Route Permit application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, which we hope to submit by early August. Please note that the preliminary route includes two potential options in the Riverton area. The intent is to select one to include in the Route Permit application. The preliminary route is also shown on our Project's website (www.northlandreliabilityproject.com). In addition, the website shows an intended right-of-way and centerline within the preliminary route (shapefiles attached).

For your information, a transmission line route is the path that a transmission line may follow. Under Minnesota Statute 216E, subd. 8, the route may have a variable width of up to 1.25 miles. The preliminary route is the area within which the right-of-way will be placed. The route width is typically wider than the right-of-way to provide flexibility to address engineering, human (landowner preferences), and environmental concerns that arise after the permit has been issued.

The intended right-of-way is a representation of the physical land area within a route that is needed to construct and operate the transmission line; usually represented as the required easement. The intended centerline is a representation of the location of the transmission line within the right-of-way. In many cases, the poles would be placed in the center of the right-of-way, but in some areas, such as along roads, poles may be offset to account for road geometrics, topography, or waterbodies, etc.

The preliminary route, intended right-of-way, and intended centerline are subject to change based on comments, engineering, permitting, field conditions or other factors. However, we wanted to provide this data to you to understand where we are with the intended project routing and siting, and state permitting process. As previously mentioned, outside of the meeting concerning the Big Elk Lake Park, we have continued conversations with Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, and Upper Sioux regarding the project and potential areas of interest/concern. We have also provided the attached data to Sherburne County and offered to meet again. Please let us know if you have questions or would like to meet regarding the project, whether with Sherburne County or separately. Any information you would be willing to share regarding areas of interest or concern within the preferred route/intended ROW to further inform the process moving forward, including identifying our strategy for field review, would be greatly appreciated.

Looking forward to continuing our discussion with you.

Best,
Jenny

Jennifer Bring
Environmental Section Manager MN/WI
Senior Environmental Scientist/Project Manager

HDR
1601 Utica Ave. S. Suite 600
St. Louis Park, MN 55416

M 651.324.0432
Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

Northland Reliability Project

GREAT RIVER ENERGY | minnesota power

Notes

Project:	Northland Reliability Project	
Subject:	Project Meeting	
Date:	Tuesday, June 27, 2023	
Location:	Microsoft Teams	
Attendees:	**Lower Sioux Indian Community** •Cheyanne St. John – Tribal Historic Preservation Officer **Minnesota Power** •Zach Golkowski – Senior Environmental Compliance Specialist **Great River Energy** •Dan Lesher – Manager, Transmission Permitting & Land Rights •Brian Hunker – Transmission Permitting Project Manager	**HDR** •Jennifer Bring – HDR Environmental Section Manager, Cultural Resources and Tribal Engagement Lead •Becky Hawkins – HDR Project Manager •Jenn Walter – HDR GIS/Routing Lead •Laura Koski – HDR Cultural Resources Specialist

Discussion

Project Overview

- Meeting opened with introductions. Great River Energy (GRE) and Minnesota Power (MP) presented an update of the Northland Reliability Project (project) (see PowerPoint presentation).
    - Cheyenne St. John asked about Segment 2 and if there would be deconstruction or abandonment of existing poles.
        - Brian Hunker indicated the H-frame poles in Segment A will be removed and replaced with monopoles. Some poles may have guy wires that will be unscrewed, and the wire removed. Some may be cut off below grade if difficult to remove.
        - The monopoles in Segment B will be replaced with new double-circuit monopoles. The existing concrete pier foundations will be removed and excavated approximately 4-6 feet.

- The differences between the currently proposed route and right-of-way from the preliminary route previously provided to Cheyanne were reviewed.
    - Iron Range Substation area – narrowed the route south of the substation area
    - South of the Cuyuna Series Compensation Station – selected east alignment option
    - South of the Benton County Substation – narrowed the route to the existing easement for the MR and GRE-BS lines
- Cheyenne said there are some sensitive areas intersected by the project (highlighted Big Elk Lake Park area, Ironton Substation area, and Pierz area) and that, as the project moves forward, it is important the Tribes continue to be involved.
- A copy of the presentation slides and GIS data for the current Proposed Route, Centerline, and Right-of-Way will be sent to Cheyenne.
- Cheyanne said to cc their IT email address [redacted] to ensure her office's IT doesn't bounce any emails with attached data.

Windshield Reconnaissance

- GRE and MP are planning a windshield tour for tribal representatives, ideally in August 2023. It is estimated the tour may take 2-3 days and will be conducted from public rights-of-way (will not have right of entry yet).
    - Cheyenne stated she or possibly a TCS of hers would like to be involved.
    - Cheyenne said August 22nd through 29th is already booked and unavailable.
    - Prior to the windshield reconnaissance, Cheyanne would like some time to review the project data to determine their areas of interest and how long they may want to be in the field.
- GRE and MP will provide the project data as soon as possible to facilitate Cheyanne's review and follow up with further details regarding the windshield tour.

Tribal Council Communication

- Cheyanne recommended setting up a meeting with the Tribal Council to provide an overview of the project. Cheyenne indicated a meeting can be scheduled through the Executive Secretary ([redacted].
- GRE and MP said they would welcome the opportunity to meet with tribal leadership.

Agenda

- Introductions
- Project overview
- Routing progression
- Schedule
- Questions

2

Northland Reliability Project

GREAT RIVER ENERGY | minnesota power

3

Fulfilling a need

Maintaining reliability

Provide system support as energy resources continue to evolve.

Enabling clean energy

Increase capacity to safely and reliably deliver clean energy from where it's produced to where it's needed by our customers and members.

Strengthening resiliency

Enhance system resiliency during extreme weather events.

Enhancing flexibility

Plan proactively to meet changing customers' and members' power needs due to decarbonization and electrification.

4

MISO-approved project: part of a regional plan

5

Two main project segments

- **Segment one:** Iron Range Substation to Riverton Substation to Benton County Substation
- **Segment two:** Benton County Substation to Big Oaks Substation

Northland Reliability Project | 6

6

Segment one

Iron Range Substation to Cuyuna Comp Station to Benton County Substation

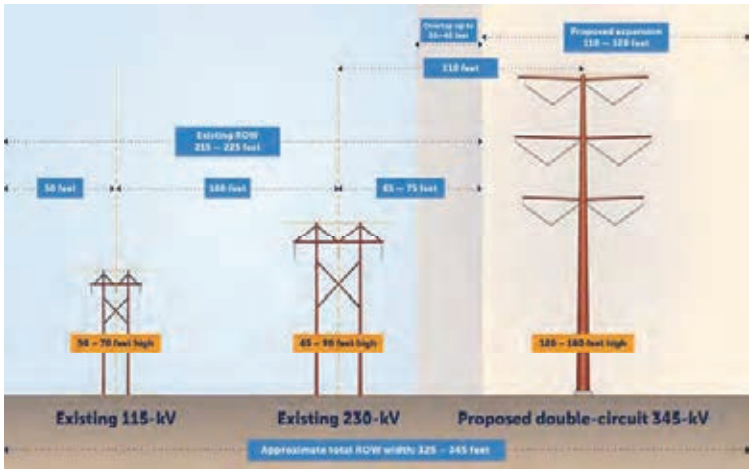
- New double-circuit 345-kV transmission line
- Approximately 140 miles
- Opportunities to route near existing transmission lines
- Connect into new Cuyuna Series Compensation Station

Northland Reliability Project | 7

7

ROW needs for segment one

- Need additional ROW when located near an existing line
- Opportunity to share up to 30-40 feet of ROW with existing transmission lines

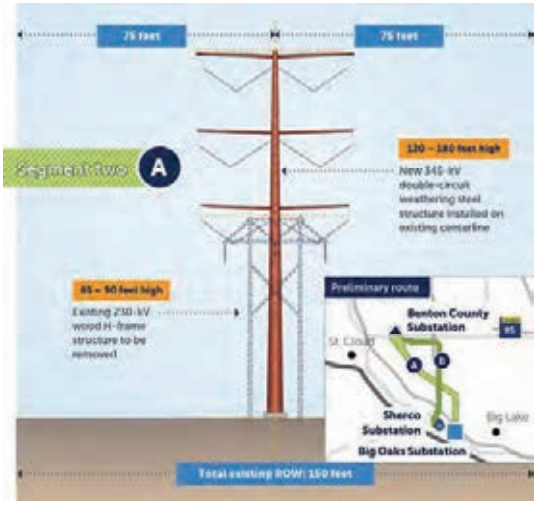


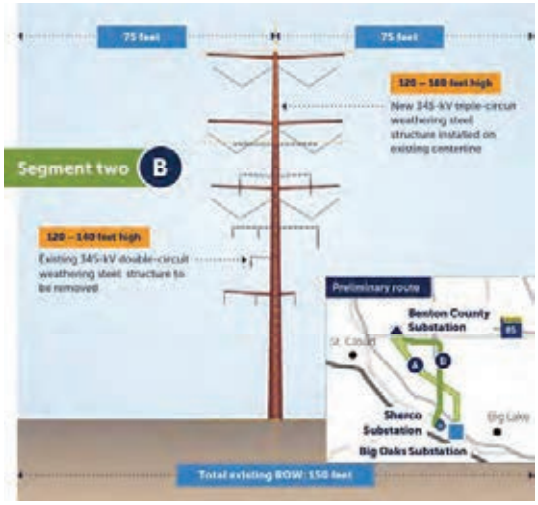
Segment two

Benton County Substation to Big Oaks Substation

- Replace an approximately 20-mile 230-kV line with two 345-kV circuits from Benton County Substation to a new substation named Big Oaks in Sherburne County.
- Replace an approximately 20-mile 345-kV line from the Benton County Substation to the existing Sherco Substation in Sherburne County.

ROW needs for segment two

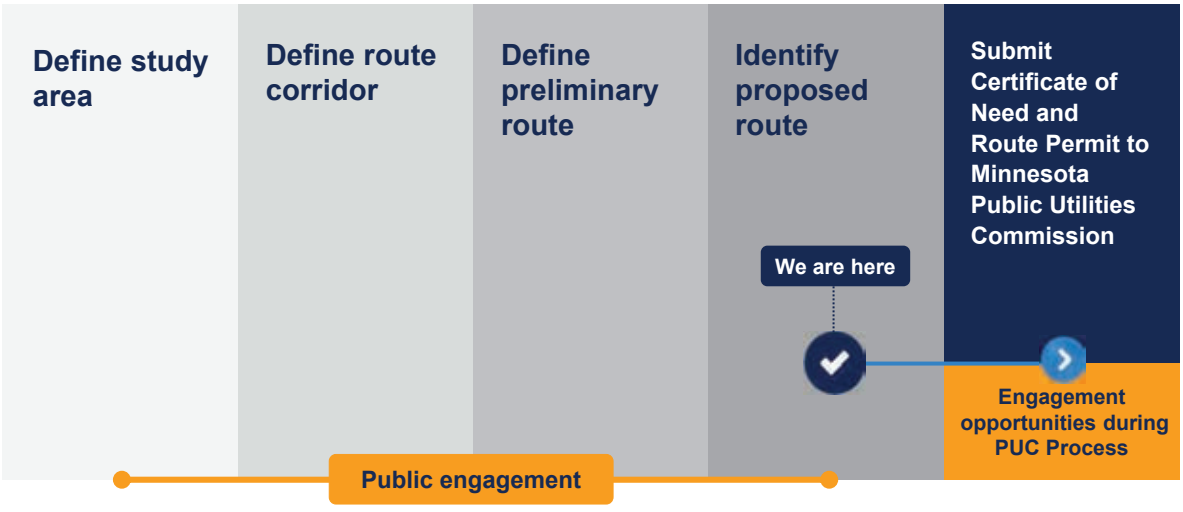




Northland Reliability Project | 10

10

Our routing process & input opportunities



Northland Reliability Project | 11

11

Route Development

Study Area

Route Corridor

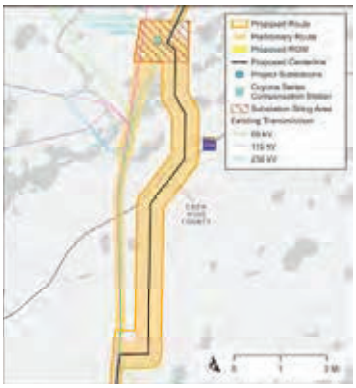
Preliminary Route

Northland Reliability Project | 12

12

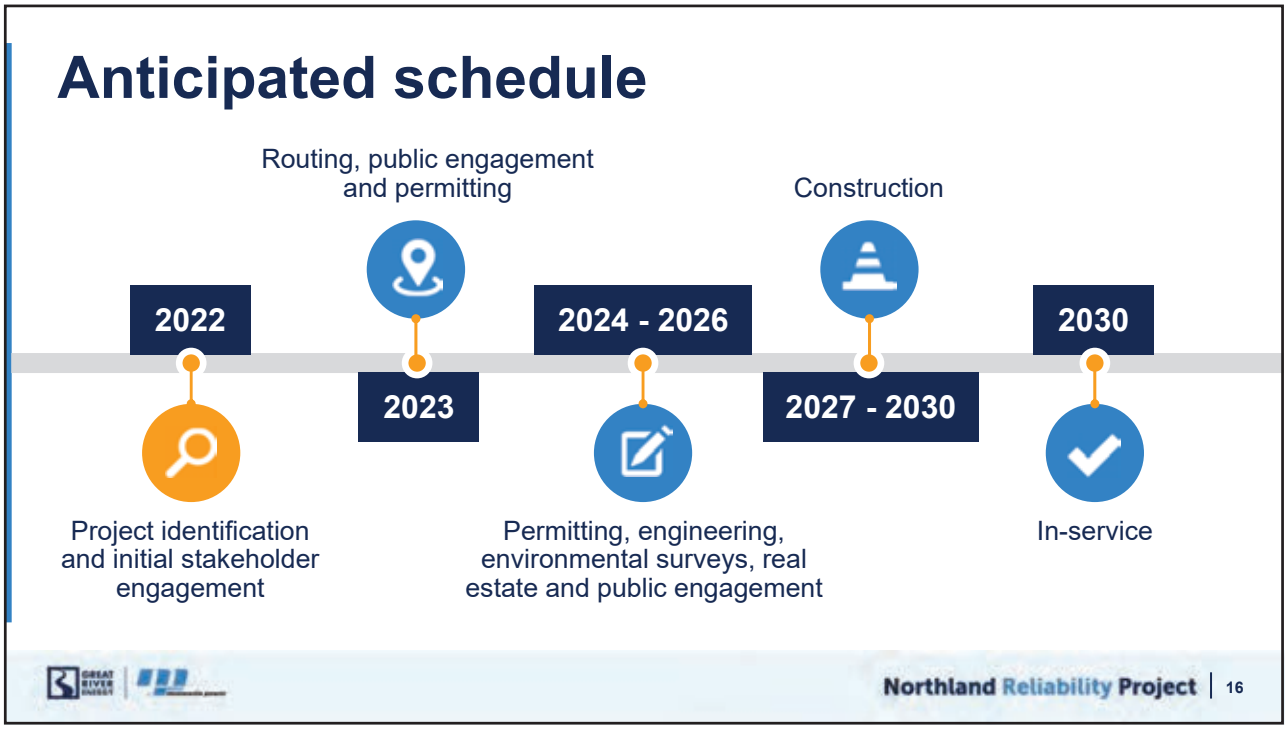
Proposed Route

- 3 revisions from Preliminary Route to Proposed Route

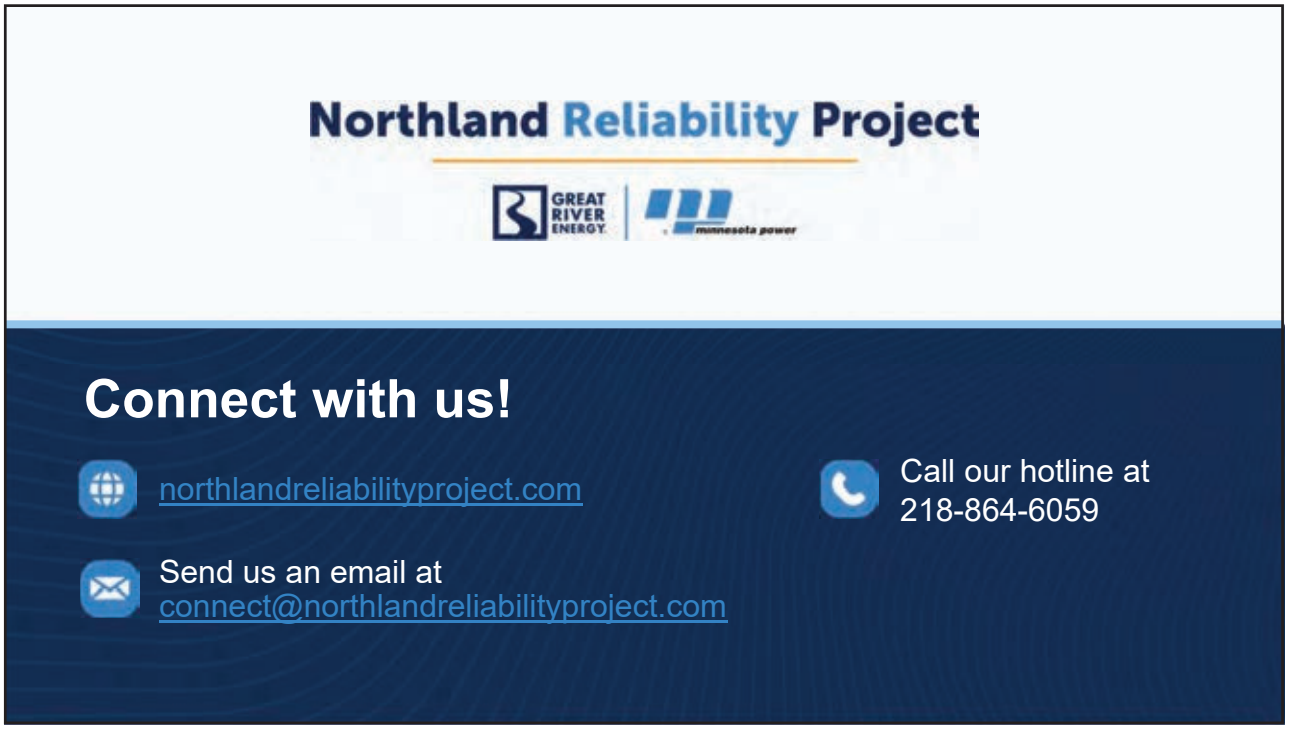


Northland Reliability Project | 13

13


Anticipated schedule
Routing, public engagement and permitting
Construction
2022
2023
2024 - 2026
2027 - 2030
2030
Project identification and initial stakeholder engagement
Permitting, engineering, environmental surveys, real estate and public engagement
In-service
Northland Reliability Project | 16

16


Northland Reliability Project
GREAT RIVER ENERGY
minnesota power
Connect with us!
northlandreliabilityproject.com
Call our hotline at 218-864-6059
Send us an email at connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com

17

Bring, Jennifer

From: Bring, Jennifer
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 1:57 PM
To: Cheyanne St. John
Cc: Hawkins, Rebecca; Koski, Laura Joreen; Lesher, Dan GRE-MG; Hunker, Brian GRE-MG; Zach Golkowski (MP); Walter, Jennifer; Jim Atkinson (MP); [redacted]
Subject: RE: Northland Reliability Project - Lower Sioux Meeting 6/30
Attachments: NRP_Meeting_Presentation_20230713.pdf; 20230627_NRP_Route_ROW_Centerline_shp.zip

Tracking:

Recipient	Delivery
Cheyanne St. John	
Hawkins, Rebecca	Delivered: 7/18/2023 2:05 PM
Koski, Laura Joreen	Delivered: 7/18/2023 2:05 PM
Lesher, Dan GRE-MG	
Hunker, Brian GRE-MG	
Zach Golkowski (MP)	
Walter, Jennifer	Delivered: 7/18/2023 2:05 PM
Jim Atkinson (MP)	
[redacted]	

Hi Cheyanne,

Thanks again for taking time to connect with us at the end of last week regarding the Northland Reliability project. Attached are copies of the PowerPoint slides from the meeting. We are finalizing notes from the call and will get them to you as soon as possible.

Also attached is GIS data of the Proposed Route, Proposed Right-of-Way, and the Proposed Centerline for the project. We made sure to copy the IT email address you provided.

Once you have a chance to review the attached materials, please let us know if you have any questions. Also, if you are willing to share information from your review of the current Proposed Route and Right-of-Way to inform the cultural survey strategy that will be developed, it would be greatly appreciate. In the meantime, we will follow up with further details regarding the windshield reconnaissance planned for August.

Thanks,
Jenny

Jennifer Bring
M 651.324.0432

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: Cheyanne St. John <cheyanne.stjohn@lowersioux.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2023 9:32 AM
To: Bring, Jennifer <Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com>
Cc: Hawkins, Rebecca <Rebecca.Ralston-Hawkins@hdrinc.com>; Koski, Laura Joreen <Laura.Koski@hdrinc.com>; Lesher, Dan GRE-MG <dlesher@GREnergy.com>; Hunker, Brian GRE-MG <bhunker@grenergy.com>; Zach Golkowski (MP)

<zgolkowski@mnpower.com>; Walter, Jennifer <jennifer.walter@hdrinc.com>; Jim Atkinson (MP) <jbatkinson@mnpower.com>
Subject: RE: Northland Reliability Project - Lower Sioux Meeting 6/30

[redacted] to send GIS files, links or dropboxes

[redacted] to schedule meeting time with tribal council
Thank-you for the update!
Cheyanne

From: Bring, Jennifer <Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 1, 2023 11:05 AM
To: Cheyanne St. John <cheyanne.stjohn@lowersioux.com>
Cc: Hawkins, Rebecca <Rebecca.Ralston-Hawkins@hdrinc.com>; Koski, Laura Joreen <Laura.Koski@hdrinc.com>; Lesher, Dan GRE-MG <dlesher@GREnergy.com>; Hunker, Brian GRE-MG <bhunker@grenergy.com>; Zach Golkowski (MP) <zgolkowski@mnpower.com>; Walter, Jennifer <jennifer.walter@hdrinc.com>; Jim Atkinson (MP) <jbatkinson@mnpower.com>
Subject: RE: Northland Reliability Project - Lower Sioux Meeting 6/30

Hi Cheyenne,

I'm so sorry to hear about your loss. Our deepest condolences to you and your family.

We can certainly reschedule. I believe you previously indicated you are not available July 10-11. Do you have any availability July 12-14? If you have availability, we can work around your schedule.

Best,
Jenny

Jennifer Bring
M 651.324.0432

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: Cheyanne St. John <cheyanne.stjohn@lowersioux.com>
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2023 6:22 PM
To: Bring, Jennifer <Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com>
Cc: Hawkins, Rebecca <Rebecca.Ralston-Hawkins@hdrinc.com>; Koski, Laura Joreen <Laura.Koski@hdrinc.com>; Lesher, Dan GRE-MG <dlesher@GREnergy.com>; Hunker, Brian GRE-MG <bhunker@grenergy.com>; Zach Golkowski (MP) <zgolkowski@mnpower.com>; Walter, Jennifer <jennifer.walter@hdrinc.com>; Jim Atkinson (MP) <jbatkinson@mnpower.com>
Subject: Re: Northland Reliability Project - Lower Sioux Meeting 6/30

Apologies for the late response. We had a relative pass and many of our government offices were closed.
Can we please reschedule for a time that works best for your group. I will review the attached documents in preparation for the next meeting.
I appreciate your understanding.

Cheyanne St. John, THPO
Lower Sioux Indian Comm.

From: Bring, Jennifer <Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2023 1:36:10 PM
To: Cheyanne St. John <cheyanne.stjohn@lowersioux.com>
Cc: Hawkins, Rebecca <Rebecca.Ralston-Hawkins@hdrinc.com>; Koski, Laura Joreen <Laura.Koski@hdrinc.com>; Lesher, Dan GRE-MG <dlesher@GREnergy.com>; Hunker, Brian GRE-MG <bhunker@grenergy.com>; Zach Golkowski (MP) <zgolkowski@mnpower.com>; Walter, Jennifer <jennifer.walter@hdrinc.com>; Jim Atkinson (MP) <jbatkinson@mnpower.com>
Subject: Northland Reliability Project - Lower Sioux Meeting 6/30

Hi Cheyanne,

It looks like your schedule may have changed and you were not able to join the Northland Reliability Project call today. To inform our ongoing conversation regarding the Project, please find attached GIS shapefiles of Proposed Route, Proposed Right-of-Way, and Proposed Centerline for the Project. This the area we are including in the Route Permit application we are preparing for submittal to the MN Public Utilities Commission. As previously mentioned, the route width is typically wider than the right-of-way to provide flexibility to address engineering, human (landowner preferences), and environmental concerns that arise after the permit has been issued.

We are also looking to coordinate a windshield survey of the corridor this fall with tribal representatives to get a better understand of the route/right-of-way and inform development of a survey strategy to guide cultural field surveys. We anticipate this windshield reconnaissance would be 2-3 days to travel the entire corridor, staying primarily to public rights-of-way. We are also following up with Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, and Upper Sioux regarding this. We are looking to schedule the survey in August (likely the first half of August).

If you have interest in participating in the windshield survey, please let us know your availability in August and we can work to finalize dates and provide additional details.

Thanks,
Jenny

Jennifer Bring
Environmental Section Manager MN/WI
Senior Environmental Scientist/Project Manager

HDR
1601 Utica Ave. S. Suite 600
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
M 651.324.0432
Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Correspondence

MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

August 26, 2022

Jim Atkinson
Environmental and Real Estate Manager
Minnesota Power
30 W Superior St, Duluth, MN 55802

RE: Northland Reliability Project

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced project. It has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended in 1992 and the Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (38CFR800).

The Mille Lacs Band THPO department has reviewed the project. At this time we have interest in consultations in order to mitigate any possible disturbances to any cultural/historical properties that may arise from the project referenced above and look forward to discussions.

You may contact our Office (320) 532-7450 Cell (320)362-1393 if you have questions regarding our review of these projects. Please refer to the MLB-THPO Number as stated above in all correspondence with these projects.

Sincerely,

Terry Kemper 8/24/22

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Terry Kemper

Mille lacs Band of Ojibwe

43408 Oodena Drive

Onamia MN 56359

DISTRICT I
43408 Oodena Drive • Onamia, MN 56359
(320) 532-7439 • Fax (320) 532-7514

DISTRICT II
36666 State Highway 65 • McGregor, MN 55760
(320) 384-6240 • Fax (218) 768-3903

DISTRICT III
45749 Grace Lake Road • Sandstone, MN 55072
(218) 768-3311 • Fax (320) 384-6190

URBAN OFFICE
1404 E. Franklin Avenue • Minneapolis, MN 55404
(612) 872-1424 • Fax (612) 872-1215

From: Bring, Jennifer
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 5:03 PM
To: Charlie Lippert
Cc: Perry Bunting; Terry Kemper; Susan Klapel; Lesher, Dan GRE-MG; Hunker, Brian GRE-MG; Zach Golkowski (MP); 'connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com'; Jim Atkinson (MP)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL MAIL] Northland Reliability Project

Hi Charlie,

I hope you are staying safe and warm with the winter weather we are having!

I left a voicemail earlier today but wanted to also follow up via email. As mentioned in my voicemail, the project team will be in Pierz, MN for open houses on Tuesday, January 24th. If it would work for you, Terry, Perry, and any others you would like to participate, the project team could meet with you in person from 2-3 pm that day. If that doesn't work, we can look at an alternate date for this first meeting. Let us know if there are typical days during the month where you have availability and we would be happy to work around your schedule.

As Jim said, we hope this is the first of many discussions moving forward.

Thanks!
Jenny

Jennifer Bring
M 651.324.0432

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: Charlie Lippert <Charlie.Lippert@millelacsband.com>
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 4:52 PM
To: Jim Atkinson (MP) <JBATKINSON@mnpower.com>
Cc: Bring, Jennifer <Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com>; Perry Bunting <Perry.Bunting@millelacsband.com>; Terry Kemper <Terry.Kemper@millelacsband.com>; Susan Klapel <Susan.Klapel@millelacsband.com>; Lesher, Dan GRE-MG <dlesher@GREnergy.com>; Hunker, Brian GRE-MG <bhunker@GREnergy.com>; Zach Golkowski (MP) <zgolkowski@mnpower.com>; 'connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com' <connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL MAIL] Northland Reliability Project

Miigwech (Thank you) Jim.
I'll look forward to Jenny's communications.
Niin sa
Charlie L.

Get Outlook for Android

From: Jim Atkinson (MP) <JBATKINSON@mnpower.com>
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 4:46:09 PM

To: 'Charlie Lippert' <Charlie.Lippert@millelacsband.com>
Cc: Bring, Jennifer <Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com>; Perry Bunting <Perry.Bunting@millelacsband.com>; Terry Kemper - Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (terry.kemper@millelacsband.com) <terry.kemper@millelacsband.com>; Susan Klapel <Susan.Klapel@millelacsband.com>; 'Lesher, Dan GRE-MG' <dlesher@GREnergy.com>; Hunker, Brian GRE-MG <bhunker@GREnergy.com>; Zach Golkowski (MP) <zgolkowski@mnpower.com>; 'connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com' <connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL MAIL] Northland Reliability Project

Hi Charlie,

Minnesota Power and GRE would like to meet in the near future with Mille Lacs Band to provide a general introduction to the Northland Reliability Project. Hopefully this is just the first of many discussions. I've asked HDR Inc. to help set this up. Jenny Bring from HDR will be reaching out to discuss schedules, location, agenda, Etc. She's copied here as well. As I mentioned previously, we're happy to do the traveling. So, keep an eye out for Jenny. She'll be reaching out.

Thanks again!

-Jim

From: Jim Atkinson (MP)
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2022 4:47 PM
To: 'Charlie Lippert' <Charlie.Lippert@millelacsband.com>; dlesher@GREnergy.com
Cc: Susan Klapel <Susan.Klapel@millelacsband.com>; Perry Bunting <Perry.Bunting@millelacsband.com>; Terry Kemper <Terry.Kemper@millelacsband.com>; Dan Schmidt (dan.schmidt@hdrinc.com) (dan.schmidt@hdrinc.com) <dan.schmidt@hdrinc.com>; 'connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com' <connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com>; Hyland, Emily (Emily.Hyland@hdrinc.com) <Emily.Hyland@hdrinc.com>; Bring, Jennifer <Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL MAIL] Northland Reliability Project

Hello Charlie,

Thanks so much for reaching out and your offer to have regular and frequent communications regarding our proposed project. That's welcome news to us, and we're more than happy to accommodate. I'd suggest that we meet face-to-face as much as possible, but can operate virtually as well when needed. Since it's our proposal, we're also happy to do the traveling. So, if you define a time and place, we'll make it work on our end. If you'd like to discuss, I can be reached just about any time on my cell, 218-343-9119.

Thanks again! I'm looking forward to our first meeting.

-Jim

From: Charlie Lippert [mailto:Charlie.Lippert@millelacsband.com]
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2022 8:20 AM
To: Jim Atkinson (MP) <JBATKINSON@mnpower.com>; dlesher@GREnergy.com
Cc: Susan Klapel <Susan.Klapel@millelacsband.com>; Perry Bunting <Perry.Bunting@millelacsband.com>; Terry Kemper <Terry.Kemper@millelacsband.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL MAIL] Northland Reliability Project

Boozhoo (Hello) Jim, boozhoo Dan.

A letter dated August 22, 2022, sent to our Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin have reached my desk recently regarding the Northland Reliability Project. Since receiving your letter, I see that this 345kV transmission line project now has the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC) Docket Number 22-390.

The Environmental Office and the Tribal Historic Preservation Office of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Department of Natural Resources (DNR) would like to have regular and frequent communications from your offices with updates on this project. We also invite you to request for formal Industrial Consultation with us on your project development since according to the project study area map attached with the letter, [redacted] and the project legs from southern Crow Wing County, through Morrison and Benton Counties, and into Sherburne County are part of our 1837 Treaty of St. Peters (7 Stat. 536) Ceded Territory (1837CT) in which our Tribal members exercise their usufructuary rights to hunt, fish, trap, and gather the shared resources of the area.

For the engineering and other technical coordination associated with your project, please have me as your Tribal Contact.
For more generalized environmental discussions, please include my supervisor, Perry Bunting, Director of Environmental Programs.
For matters involving Sacred Sites, Traditional Cultural Landscapes, or other issues covered in NHPA 106, please contact Terry Kemper, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.
For a formal Industrial Consultation with us, please make arrangements through Susan Klapel, Executive Director of Natural Resources.

The three individuals mentioned above have been cc'd in this communication.

Our team here at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe DNR look forward to hearing from your offices regarding this needed electrical infrastructure project that will increase electrical delivery reliability to our region.

Niin sa
Charlie L.

Charles J. Lippert, Air Quality Specialist
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, DNRE
43408 Oodena Drive
Onamia, MN USA 56359-2236

T: 1-320-532-4704 ; **F:** 1-320-532-7514 ; **M:** 1-651-271-4391
E: Charlie.Lippert@millelacsband.com
X: charliel.millelacsojibwe@gmail.com

Pronoun: Ojibwe—— ᐃᓐ [wiin]
English—— one/one's

From: Charlie Lippert <Charlie.Lippert@millelacsband.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 7:49 AM
To: Bring, Jennifer
Cc: Perry Bunting; Terry Kemper; Susan Klapel; Lesher, Dan GRE-MG; Hunker, Brian GRE-MG; Zach Golkowski (MP); 'connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com'; Jim Atkinson (MP); Schmidt, Dan
Subject: RE: Northland Reliability Project

Mino-gigizheb (good morning) Jenny.

Miigwech (thank you) for the files you have sent over, and miigwech for correcting the on the map how the 1855 Mille Lacs Reservation is depicted. Greatly appreciate that. Also, the boundary file you have used must be a good one, because in addition to showing the correct boundaries of our 1855 Mille Lacs Reservation, it also depicts our Wild Rice Parcels, [redacted]

Niin
Charlie L.

From: Bring, Jennifer <Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com>
Sent: January 23, 2023 3:56 PM
To: Charlie Lippert <Charlie.Lippert@millelacsband.com>
Cc: Perry Bunting <Perry.Bunting@millelacsband.com>; Terry Kemper <Terry.Kemper@millelacsband.com>; Susan Klapel <Susan.Klapel@millelacsband.com>; Lesher, Dan GRE-MG <dlesher@GREnergy.com>; Hunker, Brian GRE-MG <bhunker@GREnergy.com>; Zach Golkowski (MP) <zgolkowski@mnpower.com>; 'connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com' <connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com>; Jim Atkinson (MP) <JBATKINSON@mnpower.com>; Schmidt, Dan <dan.schmidt@hdrinc.com>
Subject: RE: Northland Reliability Project

Hi Charlie,

Happy Monday! Thank you for the follow up email confirming your team's availability. I will send an invite shortly for an MS Teams meeting on Wednesday, February 8 from 1:30-3:00 pm.

The study area depicted on the October 2022 map referenced in your email has been narrowed down to a route corridor, as depicted on the attached map. A .shp of the route corridor boundary is also attached for reference. We

developed the route corridor based on where the new power line will need to connect into substations, input gathered during our fall 2022 stakeholder workshops and the opportunity to route near existing utility corridors and land already being used for power lines. The route corridor is narrower than the original study area, and wider than the right of way that will be needed for the construction, operation and maintenance of the line. The next step in route development will be to define route alternatives within the route corridor so, we do not have a preliminary (preferred) route to share at this time.

And thank you for identifying the error regarding the depiction of the Mille Lacs Reservation boundary on the October 2022 map. We've updated it on the attached pdf map but, please let us know if any further updates are needed. Also, if you would be willing to share information regarding the location of your Wild Rice Parcels, we would greatly appreciate it. As you mentioned, we can discuss this at our upcoming meeting.

We look forward to meeting with you in early February.

Best,
Jenny

Jennifer Bring
M 651.324.0432

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: Charlie Lippert <Charlie.Lippert@millelacsband.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 11:05 AM
To: Bring, Jennifer <Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com>
Cc: Perry Bunting <Perry.Bunting@millelacsband.com>; Terry Kemper <Terry.Kemper@millelacsband.com>; Susan Klapel <Susan.Klapel@millelacsband.com>; Lesher, Dan GRE-MG <dlesher@GREnergy.com>; Hunker, Brian GRE-MG <bhunker@GREnergy.com>; Zach Golkowski (MP) <zgolkowski@mnpower.com>; 'connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com' <connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com>; Jim Atkinson (MP) <JBATKINSON@mnpower.com>
Subject: RE: Northland Reliability Project

Boozhoo Jenny.

It seems that Wednesday, February 8 is the only date that would work for all of us here at Mille Lacs.

Also, looking online, I did find the boundaries of the NRP's study area, but are you able to share with us what the preliminary (preferred) route for the 345 kV AC line is, with the understanding that the final routing may be significantly different from that, though well within the study area. Either a .shp or a .kml/.kmz file would work for us.

Additionally to note, the NRP Study Area Map (October 2022) does not depict Mille Lacs Reservation properly. Outside of the Study Area, we see the Greater Leech Lake Reservation is properly depicted, but our 1855 Mille Lacs Reservation is not, showing just our Tribal Trust parcels and not our Reservation, and within the Study Area, our Wild Rice Parcels are not depicted at all. During our meeting, we may want to discuss this to rectify any future graphics associated with the NRP.

Miigwech.
Niin
Charlie L.

Charles J Lippert
Air Quality Specialist
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
43408 Oodena Dr
Onamia, MN 56359-2236
(320) 532-4704 Work
(651) 271-4391 Mobile
Charlie.Lippert@millelacs...
www.millelacsband.com

From: Bring, Jennifer <Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com>
Sent: January 16, 2023 2:17 PM
To: Charlie Lippert <Charlie.Lippert@millelacsband.com>
Cc: Perry Bunting <Perry.Bunting@millelacsband.com>; Terry Kemper <Terry.Kemper@millelacsband.com>; Susan Klapel <Susan.Klapel@millelacsband.com>; Lesher, Dan GRE-MG <dlesher@GREnergy.com>; Hunker, Brian GRE-MG <bhunker@GREnergy.com>; Zach Golkowski (MP) <zgolkowski@mnpower.com>; 'connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com' <connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com>; Jim Atkinson (MP) <JBATKINSON@mnpower.com>
Subject: RE: Northland Reliability Project

Hi Charlie,

Below are some dates and times in the coming weeks that our team is available for a virtual meeting regarding the Northland Reliability Project. Since this is our first meeting, we are thinking it would be good to have 1.5 hrs for the meeting to allow time to present information regarding the project, as well as enough time for discussion.

Friday, January 27
- Between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm

Wednesday, February 8
- 1:30-3:00 pm

Thursday, February 9
- Between 9:00 am and 2:30 pm

Friday, February 10
- Between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm

Please let us know if one of these dates/times work for you, Susan, Terry, and Perry. We are looking forward to the opportunity to connect and, hopefully, this is just the first of many discussions.

Best,
Jenny

Jennifer Bring
M 651.324.0432

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: Bring, Jennifer
Sent: Wednesday, January 4, 2023 4:58 PM
To: Charlie Lippert <Charlie.Lippert@millelacsband.com>
Cc: Perry Bunting <Perry.Bunting@millelacsband.com>; Terry Kemper <Terry.Kemper@millelacsband.com>; Susan Klapel <Susan.Klapel@millelacsband.com>; Lesher, Dan GRE-MG <dlesher@GREnergy.com>; Hunker, Brian GRE-MG <bhunker@GREnergy.com>; Zach Golkowski (MP) <zgolkowski@mnpower.com>;

'connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com' <connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com>; Jim Atkinson (MP) <JBATKINSON@mnpower.com>
Subject: RE: Northland Reliability Project

Hi Charlie,

Happy New Year! I hope you and yours are staying safe and warm with this winter weather we're having.

We certainly understand the difficulty of coordinating schedules for an in person meeting, especially during this time of the year. I'll connect with the team to identify some dates and times in the coming weeks for a possible virtual meeting and will follow up as soon as possible.

Best,
Jenny

Jennifer Bring
M 651.324.0432

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: Charlie Lippert <Charlie.Lippert@millelacsband.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 3, 2023 9:18 AM
To: Bring, Jennifer <Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com>
Cc: Perry Bunting <Perry.Bunting@millelacsband.com>; Terry Kemper <Terry.Kemper@millelacsband.com>; Susan Klapel <Susan.Klapel@millelacsband.com>; Lesher, Dan GRE-MG <dlesher@GREnergy.com>; Hunker, Brian GRE-MG <bhunker@GREnergy.com>; Zach Golkowski (MP) <zgolkowski@mnpower.com>; 'connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com' <connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com>; Jim Atkinson (MP) <JBATKINSON@mnpower.com>
Subject: RE: Northland Reliability Project

Mino-oshki-biboon (Happy New Year) Jennifer.

I hope your December festivities and New Years Day celebration all unfurled with joy for you and yours.

Considering that this is January in Minnesota, and Susan, Terry, Perry, and my schedule is all over the place (both literally and figuratively), would it be possible for you to schedule a virtual meeting with us, say, with either Zoom or MS Teams? And propose some dates and we can discuss among ourselves to figure out which option would work for us.

Miigwech (Thank you).
Niin
Charlie L.

From: Bring, Jennifer <Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com>
Sent: December 21, 2022 5:03 PM
To: Charlie Lippert <Charlie.Lippert@millelacsband.com>
Cc: Perry Bunting <Perry.Bunting@millelacsband.com>; Terry Kemper <Terry.Kemper@millelacsband.com>; Susan Klapel <Susan.Klapel@millelacsband.com>; Lesher, Dan GRE-MG <dlesher@GREnergy.com>; Hunker, Brian GRE-MG <bhunker@GREnergy.com>; Zach Golkowski (MP) <zgolkowski@mnpower.com>; 'connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com' <connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com>; Jim Atkinson (MP)

<JBATKINSON@mnpower.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL MAIL] Northland Reliability Project

Hi Charlie,

I hope you are staying safe and warm with the winter weather we are having!

I left a voicemail earlier today but wanted to also follow up via email. As mentioned in my voicemail, the project team will be in Pierz, MN for open houses on Tuesday, January 24th. If it would work for you, Terry, Perry, and any others you would like to participate, the project team could meet with you in person from 2-3 pm that day. If that doesn't work, we can look at an alternate date for this first meeting. Let us know if there are typical days during the month where you have availability and we would be happy to work around your schedule.

As Jim said, we hope this is the first of many discussions moving forward.

Thanks!
Jenny

Jennifer Bring
M 651.324.0432

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: Charlie Lippert <Charlie.Lippert@millelacsband.com>
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 4:52 PM
To: Jim Atkinson (MP) <JBATKINSON@mnpower.com>
Cc: Bring, Jennifer <Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com>; Perry Bunting <Perry.Bunting@millelacsband.com>; Terry Kemper <Terry.Kemper@millelacsband.com>; Susan Klapel <Susan.Klapel@millelacsband.com>; Lesher, Dan GRE-MG <dlesher@GREnergy.com>; Hunker, Brian GRE-MG <bhunker@GREnergy.com>; Zach Golkowski (MP) <zgolkowski@mnpower.com>; 'connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com' <connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL MAIL] Northland Reliability Project

Miigwech (Thank you) Jim.
I'll look forward to Jenny's communications.
Niin sa
Charlie L.

Get Outlook for Android

From: Jim Atkinson (MP) <JBATKINSON@mnpower.com>
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 4:46:09 PM
To: 'Charlie Lippert' <Charlie.Lippert@millelacsband.com>
Cc: Bring, Jennifer <Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com>; Perry Bunting <Perry.Bunting@millelacsband.com>; Terry Kemper - Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (terry.kemper@millelacsband.com) <terry.kemper@millelacsband.com>; Susan Klapel <Susan.Klapel@millelacsband.com>; 'Lesher, Dan GRE-MG' <dlesher@GREnergy.com>; Hunker, Brian GRE-MG <bhunker@GREnergy.com>; Zach Golkowski (MP) <zgolkowski@mnpower.com>; 'connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com' <connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL MAIL] Northland Reliability Project

Hi Charlie,

Minnesota Power and GRE would like to meet in the near future with Mille Lacs Band to provide a general introduction to the Northland Reliability Project. Hopefully this is just the first of many discussions. I've asked HDR Inc. to help set this up. Jenny Bring from HDR will be reaching out to discuss schedules, location, agenda, Etc. She's copied here as well. As I mentioned previously, we're happy to do the traveling. So, keep an eye out for Jenny. She'll be reaching out.

Thanks again!

-Jim

From: Jim Atkinson (MP)
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2022 4:47 PM
To: 'Charlie Lippert' <Charlie.Lippert@millelacsband.com>; dlesher@GREnergy.com
Cc: Susan Klapel <Susan.Klapel@millelacsband.com>; Perry Bunting <Perry.Bunting@millelacsband.com>; Terry Kemper <Terry.Kemper@millelacsband.com>; Dan Schmidt (dan.schmidt@hdrinc.com) (dan.schmidt@hdrinc.com) <dan.schmidt@hdrinc.com>; 'connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com' <connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com>; Hyland, Emily (Emily.Hyland@hdrinc.com) <Emily.Hyland@hdrinc.com>; Bring, Jennifer <Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL MAIL] Northland Reliability Project

Hello Charlie,

Thanks so much for reaching out and your offer to have regular and frequent communications regarding our proposed project. That's welcome news to us, and we're more than happy to accommodate. I'd suggest that we meet face-to-face as much as possible, but can operate virtually as well when needed. Since it's our proposal, we're also happy to do the traveling. So, if you define a time and place, we'll make it work on our end. If you'd like to discuss, I can be reached just about any time on my cell, [redacted].

Thanks again! I'm looking forward to our first meeting.

-Jim

From: Charlie Lippert [mailto:Charlie.Lippert@millelacsband.com]
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2022 8:20 AM
To: Jim Atkinson (MP) <JBATKINSON@mnpower.com>; dlesher@GREnergy.com
Cc: Susan Klapel <Susan.Klapel@millelacsband.com>; Perry Bunting <Perry.Bunting@millelacsband.com>; Terry Kemper <Terry.Kemper@millelacsband.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL MAIL] Northland Reliability Project

Boozhoo (Hello) Jim, boozhoo Dan.

A letter dated August 22, 2022, sent to our Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin have reached my desk recently regarding the Northland Reliability Project. Since receiving your letter, I see that this 345kV transmission line project now has the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC) Docket Number 22-390.

The Environmental Office and the Tribal Historic Preservation Office of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Department of Natural Resources (DNR) would like to have regular and frequent communications from your offices with updates on this project. We also invite you to request for formal Industrial Consultation with us on your project development since according to the project study area map attached with the letter, [redacted] and the project legs from southern Crow Wing County, through Morrison and Benton Counties, and into Sherburne County are part of our 1837 Treaty of St. Peters (7 Stat. 536) Ceded Territory (1837CT) in which our Tribal members exercise their usufructuary rights to hunt, fish, trap, and gather the shared resources of the area.

For the engineering and other technical coordination associated with your project, please have me as your Tribal Contact.
For more generalized environmental discussions, please include my supervisor, Perry Bunting, Director of Environmental Programs.
For matters involving Sacred Sites, Traditional Cultural Landscapes, or other issues covered in NHPA 106, please contact Terry Kemper, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.
For a formal Industrial Consultation with us, please make arrangements through Susan Klapel, Executive Director of Natural Resources.

The three individuals mentioned above have been cc'd in this communication.

Our team here at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe DNR look forward to hearing from your offices regarding this needed electrical infrastructure project that will increase electrical delivery reliability to our region.

Niin sa
Charlie L.

Charles J. Lippert, Air Quality Specialist
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, DNRE
43408 Oodena Drive
Onamia, MN USA 56359-2236

T: 1-320-532-4704 ; **F:** 1-320-532-7514 ; **M:** 1-651-271-4391
E: Charlie.Lippert@millelacsband.com
X: charliel.millelacsojibwe@gmail.com

Pronoun: Ojibwe—— ᐃᓐ [wiin]
English—— one/one's

Northland Reliability Project

GREAT RIVER ENERGY | minnesota power

Notes

Project:	Northland Reliability Project	
Subject:	Project Meeting	
Date:	Wednesday, February 08, 2023	
Location:	Microsoft Teams	
Attendees:	**Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe** •Charlie Lippert – Air Quality Specialist •Perry Bunting – Director of Environmental Programs •Susan Klapel – Executive Director of Natural Resources •Jordan Williams – Wildlife Biologist •Shena Matrious – Public Relations Coordinator **Minnesota Power** •Jim Atkinson – Manager – Environmental and Real Estate •Zach Golkowski – Senior Environmental Compliance Specialist •Kyle Larson – Construction Management	**Great River Energy** •Dan Lesher – Manager, Transmission Permitting & Land Rights •Brian Hunker – Transmission Permitting Project Manager **HDR** •Jennifer Bring – HDR Environmental Section Manager, Cultural Resources and Tribal Engagement Lead •Dan Schmidt – HDR Project Manager •Jenn Walter – Routing/Siting Lead

Discussion

- Great River Energy (GRE) and Minnesota Power (MP) presented an overview of the Northland Reliability Project (project) (see PowerPoint presentation).

- Discussion topics:
  - Right-of-way needs for the project
    - New right-of-way will be 150 feet (ft) wide.
    - Right-of-way paralleling existing lines has the potential to overlap the existing right-of-way by 30-40 feet (combined width of approximately 260 – 270 ft wide).
  - Vegetation maintenance within right-of-way
    - Trees and tall vegetation typically removed within right-of-way.
    - GRE/MP are open to discussing the possibility of planting pollinator habitat within right-of-way. There may be little opportunity to plant, since much of the existing vegetation quickly grows back after construction.

  - Studies required by the PUC process – who and how are those contracted?
    - Various resource studies, such as cultural, biological, and wetlands are conducted.
    - GRE/MP may have HDR conduct some surveys and other consultants may be utilized for other surveys.
    - GRE/MP open to discussing participation of Tribes in those studies.
  - How are storm events or fire addressed?
    - Typically addressed as part of plans prepared prior to operation.
  - How is mitigation for potential impacts identified?
    - Possible mitigation is dependent on the type of potential impact. However, the project is very early in the process. GRE/MP are looking to engage stakeholders at this early stage to inform identification of routes to attempt to avoid/minimize impacts to resources, as feasible.

- GIS review of Route Corridor
  - Mille Lacs ceded territory encompasses the Route Corridor north of the Benton County Substation.
  - The area south of the Benton County Substation and into Sherburne County was historically Anishinaabe and Dakota territory.
  - Portion of historical Rabbit Lake Reservation is within the Route Corridor (west of Aitkin).
  - Access to resources (e.g., wild rice) may be a concern, particularly near Long Lake.
  - [redacted] are accurate, but outside of the refined Route Corridor.
  - Charlie recommended downloading ceded territory GIS data.
- Information requested by Mille Lacs
  - Known migratory birds and flyways that overlap the Route Corridor.
  - Utility contact for Big Stone South to Alexandria to Big Oaks and the Tremval to Jump River transmission projects. Those projects are led by Xcel Energy. Dan Lesher will follow up with contact information at Xcel Energy.

Northland Reliability Project

GREAT RIVER ENERGY | minnesota power

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Meeting

February 8, 2023

1

Agenda

- Introductions
- Project overview
- Questions/discussion
  - Ceded territory resources
  - Other interests/comments
- Next steps

2

Northland Reliability Project

GREAT RIVER ENERGY | minnesota power

3

MISO-approved project: part of a regional plan

Learn more at misoenergy.org

4

Fulfilling a need

Provide system support	Increase capacity	Strengthen resiliency	Enhance flexibility
Provide support to the energy grid as more renewable energy is brought online and coal operations cease at existing power plants	Safely and reliably deliver more clean energy from where it's produced to where it's consumed by utility customers and power cooperative members	Improve ability to withstand more frequent extreme weather events	Meet future energy needs by enabling transfer of many types of power generation to many locations to meet the long-term needs of our customers and members

5

Two main project segments

- Segment one: Iron Range Substation to Riverton Substation to Benton County Substation
- Segment two: Benton County Substation to Big Oaks Substation

6

Segment one

Iron Range Substation to Riverton Substation to Benton County Substation

- New double-circuit 345-kV transmission line
- Approximately 130 miles
- Opportunities to route near existing transmission lines
- Connect into new Riverton Substation

7

Segment two

Benton County Substation to Big Oaks Substation

- Replace existing 230-kV transmission line to double-circuit 345-kV transmission line
- Approximately 20 miles
- Verifying existing route and right-of-way are suitable for a 345-kV line

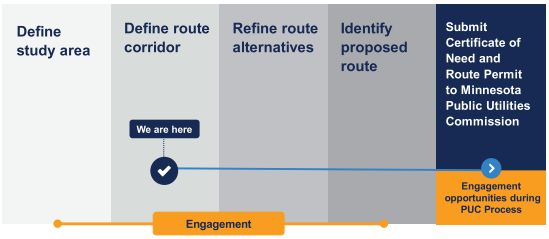
8

Additional project improvements

- Expand the existing Iron Range Substation and the Benton County Substation
- Install a new substation at or near the existing Riverton Substation and reconfiguring existing transmission lines in the Riverton area
- Rebuild approximately 20 miles of existing single-circuit 345-kv line from the Benton County Substation to the Sherco Substation in Sherburne County

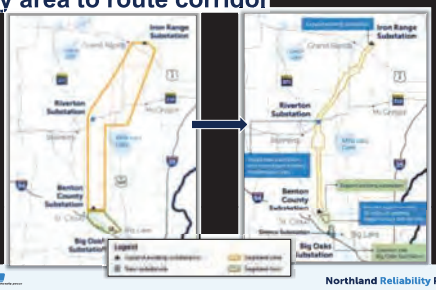
9

Our routing process & input opportunities



10

Study area to route corridor



11

Routing process considerations

The criteria for route selection is set by Minnesota statute and guides our routing process.

To route a project, we consider:

- Opportunities
- Constraints
- Engineering and construction considerations

12

Public engagement

- Website – interactive comment
- Open houses week of Jan 23 and Jan 30
- In-person and virtual engagement opportunities

Communicating our path forward
Ongoing communication with stakeholders and landowners throughout the project

13

Tribal and agency outreach

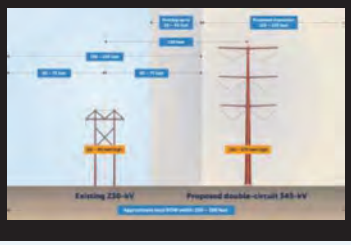
We're committed to communicating early, often and throughout the project:

- Initial Tribal and tribal organizations letters – August 2022
- Initial agency letters sent – September 2022
- Meetings with Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, and Upper Sioux – December 2022 to February 2023
- Big Elk Lake Park meeting with Lower Sioux, Mille Lacs, Upper Sioux, and Sherburne County – January 2023
- Ongoing coordination with various agencies, including MnDNR
- Continued and ongoing opportunities to meet one-on-one and at key project milestones

14

ROW needs for segment one

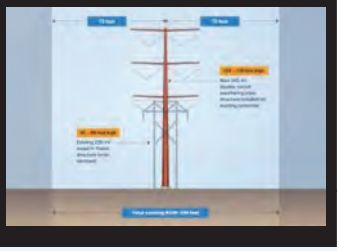
- Need additional ROW when located near an existing line
- Opportunity to share up to 30-40 feet of ROW with existing transmission lines



15

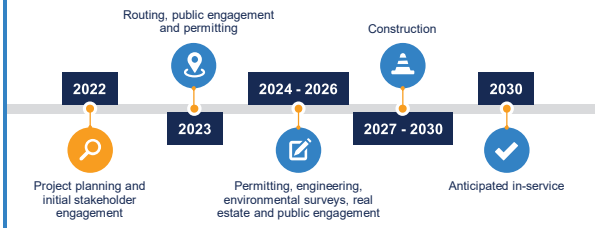
ROW needs for segment two

- ROW will remain 150-feet-wide
- Additional temporary ROW needed for construction
- Structure type factors:
  - Land use/land cover
  - Topography
  - Water/wetlands
  - Soil types



16

Anticipated schedule



17

Northland Reliability Project

Connect with us!

northlandreliabilityproject.com

Call our hotline at 218-864-6059

Send us an email at connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com

18

From: Bring, Jennifer
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 10:30 AM
To: Charlie Lippert (Mille Lacs); Susan Klapel; Perry Bunting; Terry Kemper
Cc: Hunker, Brian GRE-MG; Lesher, Dan GRE/MG; Zach Golkowski (MP); Jim Atkinson (MP); Schmidt, Dan; Walter, Jennifer; Northland Reliability Project; jordan williams
Subject: NRP Preliminary Route and Follow-up Meeting
Attachments: NRP_FINAL_20230414_PrelimROUTE_SHP.zip; NRP_Mille Lacs_Meeting_Presentation_2023.02.08.pdf; NRP_Mille Lacs Project Mtg_Notes_02082023.pdf

Hi Charlie, Susan, Perry, and Terry,

On our last call regarding the Northland Reliability project, Charlie, you requested known migratory birds and flyways data that overlaps the Route Corridor. The Mississippi River flyway covers most of central Minnesota and the Northland Reliability project area (Migratory Bird Program Administrative Flyways | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (fws.gov)). In addition, the National Audubon Society has an online tool, the Bird Migration Explorer (audubon.org), which allows you to search for specific species. Is there a species of interest?

In addition, since our last call, we have been working on defining a preliminary route for the Northland Reliability project. Attached is a GIS shapefile of the identified preliminary route that will be presented at the open houses the first week of May. Please note that the preliminary route is narrower than the previously defined route corridor but still larger than the final right-of-way needed to construct the project. Also, the preliminary route includes two potential options in the Riverton area. The intent is to select one to include in the Route Permit application.

We'd like to set up a meeting to discuss the results of your review of the route corridor and, if possible, information you would be willing to share regarding areas of interest along this preliminary route. Below are dates/times our team is available in the coming weeks – please let us know which of these dates/times would work for you for a virtual call. We anticipated the call would be up to 1 hour.

Thu, April 20 – 10-11:30 am
Fri, April 21 – 1-2:30 pm
Thu, April 27 – 8:30 am-11 am, 1:30-2:30 pm
Fri, April 28 – 1-4 pm

We look forward to continuing our discussion. Also, attached for reference is a copy of the presentation slides and notes from our last meeting. Please let us know if you have comments or additions to the notes.

Thanks,
Jenny

Jennifer Bring
Environmental Section Manager MN/WI
Senior Environmental Scientist/Project Manager

HDR
1601 Utica Ave. S. Suite 600
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
M 651.324.0432
Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

Northland Reliability Project

GREAT RIVER ENERGY. | minnesota power

Notes

Project:	Northland Reliability Project	
Subject:	Project Meeting	
Date:	Friday, May 05, 2023	
Location:	Microsoft Teams	
Attendees:	**Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe** •Charlie Lippert – Air Quality Specialist **Minnesota Power** •Jim Atkinson – Manager – Environmental and Real Estate •Kyle Larson – Construction Management **Great River Energy** •Dan Lesher – Manager, Transmission Permitting & Land Rights •Brian Hunker – Transmission Permitting Project Manager	**HDR** •Jennifer Bring – HDR Environmental Section Manager, Cultural Resources and Tribal Engagement Lead •Dan Schmidt – HDR Project Manager •Jenn Walter – HDR GIS/Routing Lead •Laura Koski – HDR Cultural Resources Specialist

- Great River Energy (GRE) and Minnesota Power (MP) presented an update of the Northland Reliability Project (project) (see PowerPoint presentation).
- Questions/discussions:
    - Charlie Lippert had reviewed the new GIS data files provided (preliminary route, intended right-of-way, and intended centerline). Charlie had spoken with Jordan Williams (Mille Lacs Band Wildlife Biologist) and indicated that Jordan does not see too many issues with the narrowed-down boundaries.
    - The differences between the study area, preliminary route, intended right-of-way, and intended centerline were discussed.
        - The study area is the geographic area consideration for the route of the power line.
        - The preliminary route is the area within which the right-of-way will be placed. The route width is typically wider than the right-of-way to provide flexibility to address engineering, human (landowner preferences), and environmental concerns that arise after the route permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission has been issued. It is thinner along Segment Two

since it is proposed that the existing lines will be replaced within the existing easement.

- The intended right-of-way represents the physical land area within a route needed to construct and operate the transmission line.
- The intended centerline represents the transmission line location within the right-of-way.

- It was explained that it is anticipated the application will be submitted to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in early August. It is anticipated that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission review of the document before issuing the Route Permit may take 18 months.
    - A cultural resources literature review, including a review of known archaeological and historic architectural properties using the State Historic Preservation Office and Office of the State Archaeologist's records is being completed to help inform this application. Outreach to Tribes is also being conducted to identify resources of potential tribal interest.
    - The literature review is being finalized and can be shared when it is ready.
    - It is anticipated that cultural resources surveys may start as soon as the fall of 2023, but the majority would occur in 2024.
    - Charlie suggested contacting the new Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Mike Wilson, for additional cultural input.
    - Charlie asked if the Dakota ceded territories and their associated cultural activities of hunting/fishing/gathering will be covered in the literature review. Jenny Bring indicated that this information would be referenced in the Route Permit application and additional research and outreach would be part of developing a cultural resources survey strategy once the Route Permit Application is submitted.
    - Charlie stated the current proposed route passes through two former Indian Reservations: Pokegama and Rabbit Lake Reservations (both established in the 1855 treaty). He indicated that, since the Rabbit Lake area is already significantly disturbed, it may not retain a high degree of intact archaeological resources.
    - Jenny asked if Charlie could provide GIS data for those historical boundaries or if there is a preferred source for that information. Charlie referred to data available from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM); however, he indicated that the boundaries created by Mille Lacs were based on treaty language, but the BLM did not always follow treaty language precisely.
- Brian Hunker asked Charlie if Mille Lacs representatives would be interested in joining for windshield survey of the preliminary route. Charlie stated Mille Lacs personnel may be able to join for a windshield survey.
- GIS review of the preliminary route, intended right-of-way, and intended centerline
    - In the Big Elk Lake Park area, it was confirmed that conversations with Sherburne County, Upper Sioux, Lower Sioux, and Mille Lacs have been ongoing and will continue regarding park development, known resources, and pole

placement to attempt to avoid cultural resources of the area. Charlie stated that the Big Elk Lake and Elk River area was an Ojibwe hunting area.

- In the Long Lake area, it was explained that the preliminary route was specifically located east of Long Lake to avoid the congested isthmus between the lakes, which contains the existing transmission line, [redacted], and residential structures and lake homes.
- Charlie mentioned several areas of interest along the preliminary route:
  - [redacted] (stated they were minor).
  - Towards the northern end, the preliminary route clips the historical Pokegama Lake Reservation (established by an 1855 treaty).
  - No areas of concern in Charlie's data regarding cultural properties around the Iron Range Substation area.
  - Areas near the [redacted] will be of higher potential for cultural resources.
  - Near the Big Oaks Substation [redacted].
  - [redacted].
- Charlie wanted to ensure a plan was in place for inadvertent discoveries. Jenny indicated it is anticipated an inadvertent discoveries plan would be prepared prior to construction.
- Jenny confirmed that there would be follow-up with Mike Wilson to summarize the Project information, outreach completed to date, and provide GIS data.

Northland Reliability Project

GREAT RIVER ENERGY | minnesota power

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Meeting

May 5, 2023

1

Agenda

- Introductions
- Project overview
- Outreach updates
  - Public engagement
  - Tribal and agency outreach
- Routing progression/updates
- Questions/Discussion

2

Northland Reliability Project

GREAT RIVER ENERGY | minnesota power

3

Fulfilling a need

Maintaining reliability

Provide system support as energy resources continue to evolve.

Enabling clean energy

Increase capacity to safely and reliably deliver clean energy from where it's produced to where it's needed by our customers and members.

Strengthening resiliency

Enhance system resiliency during extreme weather events.

Enhancing flexibility

Plan proactively to meet changing customers' and members' power needs due to decarbonization and electrification.

4

MISO-approved project: part of a regional plan

5

Two main project segments

- **Segment one:** Iron Range Substation to Riverton Substation to Benton County Substation
- **Segment two:** Benton County Substation to Big Oaks Substation Area

6

Segment one

Iron Range Substation to Riverton Substation to Benton County Substation

- New double-circuit 345-kV transmission line
- Approximately 140 miles
- Opportunities to route near existing transmission lines
- Connect into new Riverton Substation

7

Segment two

Benton County Substation to Big Oaks Substation

- Replace an approximately 20-mile 230-kV line with two 345-kV circuits from Benton County Substation to a new substation named Big Oaks in Sherburne County.
- Replace an approximately 20-mile 345-kV line from the Benton County Substation to the existing Sherco Substation in Sherburne County.

8

Additional project improvements

- Expand the existing Iron Range Substation near Grand Rapids and the Benton County Substation near St. Cloud.
- Install a new substation at or near the existing Riverton Substation and reconfigure existing transmission lines in the Riverton area.

9

Public engagement to date

Throughout the process, we've gathered public input to help identify routing opportunities and inform the project team of constraints.

- Fall Stakeholder Workshops
  - Six workshops with 80 total attendees
- Winter Public Open Houses
  - Seven locations with 14 times offered
  - 252 total attendees
- Winter Virtual Open House
  - 122 participants

10

Upcoming public engagement

- Public open houses May 2 - 4
- Self-paced virtual open house May 1 - 12
- In-person and virtual engagement opportunities

Communicating our path forward
Ongoing communication with stakeholders and landowners throughout the project.

11

Tribal and agency outreach

12

Our study area

How we defined our study area:

- Substation connections
- Existing corridors

Northland Reliability Project | 13

13

Route Corridor

How we defined our route corridor:

- Substation connections
- Existing corridors
- Input gathered during our fall 2022 stakeholder workshops

Northland Reliability Project | 14

14

Preliminary Route

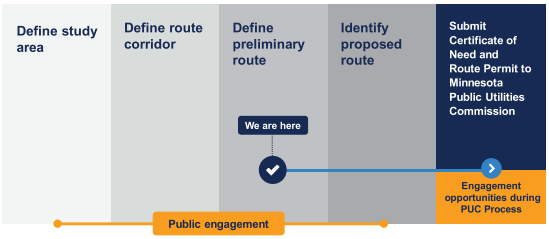
How we defined our preliminary route:

- Substation connections
- Existing corridors
- Input gathered during 15 open houses held January – February 2023

Northland Reliability Project | 15

15

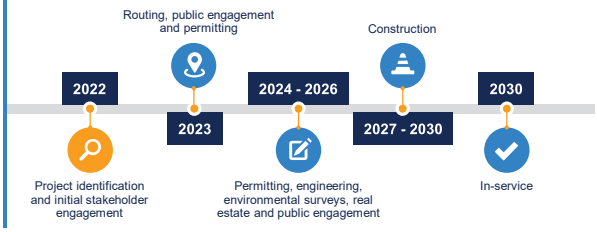
Our routing process & input opportunities



Northland Reliability Project | 16

16

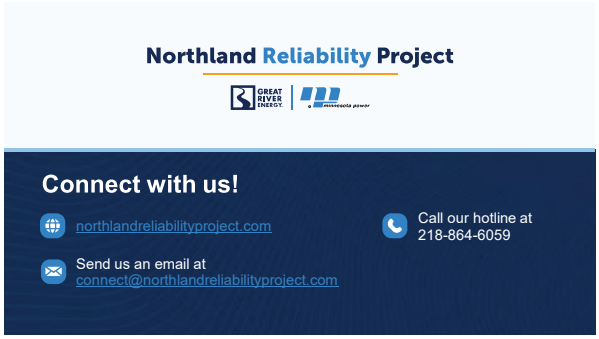
Anticipated schedule



Northland Reliability Project | 17

17

18


Northland Reliability Project
GREAT RIVER ENERGY
Connect with us!
northlandreliabilityproject.com
Call our hotline at 218-864-6059
Send us an email at connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com

19

From:	Bring, Jennifer
Sent:	Sunday, May 14, 2023 9:34 PM
To:	Mike Wilson
Cc:	Charlie Lippert (Mille Lacs); Hunker, Brian GRE-MG; Zach Golkowski (MP); Lesher, Dan GRE/MG; Jim Atkinson (MP); Schmidt, Dan; Koski, Laura Joreen; Northland Reliability Project
Subject:	Northland Reliability Transmission Project - Introduction Email
Attachments:	___NRP_PrelimRoute_IntendedCenterlineROW.zip; 20220822_NRP Initial Tribal Letters_Mailed 2022-08-23.pdf; 20220826_NRP_Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe_ResponseLetter.pdf; NRP_Mille Lacs Meeting_Presentation_20230505.pdf; NRP_Mille Lacs_Meeting_Presentation_2023.02.08.pdf; NRP_Mille Lacs Project Mtg_Notes_02082023.pdf

Hello Mike,

Your colleague, Charlie Lippert, informed us of your new role as the THPO for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. Congratulations!

Considering you're just getting settled as THPO, we wanted to reach out and help get you caught up regarding communications we have had with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe to date regarding the Northland Reliability Project – a transmission line project stretching from northern Minnesota near Grand Rapids in Itasca County to central Minnesota near Becker in Sherburne County.

A brief summary of key project communications with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe thus far:

- August 22, 2022 – Initial outreach letter introducing the project sent (letter attached)
- August 26, 2022 – Terry Kemper responded in a letter stating the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe would like to be involved in project discussions/meetings (letter attached)
- December 12, 2022 – Charlie Lippert reached out via email reiterating the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's interest in further project discussions
- February 8, 2023 – Virtual meeting was held with Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe representatives to introduce the project, review schedule, provide an overview of the routing process and engagement to date, reviewed the Route Corridor, which was refined from the initial Study Area illustrated in the initial outreach letter from August 2022 (presentation slides and meeting notes attached)
- May 5, 2023 – Virtual update meeting was held with Charlie Lippert to provide project updates, including review of the refined Preliminary Route, which was refined from the Route Corridor reviewed in the February 8, 2023 meeting (presentation slides attached, meeting notes being finalized).
    - We anticipate including the Preliminary Route in the Route Permit application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC), which we hope to submit by early August.
    - Please note that the Preliminary Route includes two potential options in the Riverton area. The intent is to select one to include in the Route Permit application. The Preliminary Route is also shown on our Project's website (www.northlandreliabilityproject.com). In addition, the website shows an intended right-of-way and centerline within the Preliminary Route. Shapefiles for the Preliminary Route, intended right-of-way, and intended centerline are attached for your review.

For your information, a transmission line route is the path that a transmission line may follow. Under Minnesota Statute 216E, subd. 8, the route may have a variable width of up to 1.25 miles. The preliminary route is the area within which the right-of-way will be placed. The route width is typically wider than the right-of-way to provide flexibility to address engineering, human (landowner preferences), and environmental concerns that arise after the permit has been issued.

The intended right-of-way is a representation of the physical land area within a route that is needed to construct and operate the transmission line; usually represented as the required easement. The intended centerline is a representation of the location of the transmission line within the right-of-way. In many cases, the poles would be placed in the center of the right-of-way, but in some areas, such as along roads, poles may be offset to account for road geometrics, topography, or waterbodies, etc.

The preliminary route, intended right-of-way, and intended centerline are subject to change based on comments, engineering, permitting, field conditions or other factors. However, we wanted to provide this data to you to understand where we are with the intended project routing and siting, and state permitting process. Also so you're aware, in addition to the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, we have met and communicated with Leech Lake, Lower Sioux, and Upper Sioux regarding the project and potential areas of interest/concern.

HDR has conducted a Cultural Resources Literature Review to identify known cultural resources along the corridor, which has informed the routing and siting development to date. A summary of the known cultural resources within the preliminary route and intended right-of-way is presented at the end of the presentation slides from the May 5, 2023 meeting. Information from the literature review will be included in the Route Permit application but, a copy of the report can be provided once its finalized, if you would like.

Following submittal of the Route Permit application to the MN PUC, the project anticipates conducting additional field studies, including cultural resources, and obtaining needed permits for construction from 2024-2026, with construction anticipated to start in 2027. There have been initial discussions with some Tribes regarding conducting a windshield survey of the preliminary route to help identify areas of greater tribal interest or focus for subsequent in-field surveys. We would be happy to include you or your representative in that windshield survey when it is scheduled.

We understand this is a lot of information to review. We would be happy to schedule a meeting to review this information with you and answer questions you may have, if that would be helpful. Please let us know if you are interested in meeting and we can determine dates/times. Any information you would be willing to share regarding areas of interest or concern within the preferred route/intended ROW to further inform the process moving forward, including identifying our strategy for field review, would be greatly appreciated.

Looking forward to working with you moving forward.

Thanks,
Jenny

Jennifer Bring
Environmental Section Manager MN/WI
Senior Environmental Scientist/Project Manager

HDR
1601 Utica Ave. S. Suite 600
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
M 651.324.0432
Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From:	Bring, Jennifer
To:	Mike Wilson
Cc:	Charlie Lippert (Mille Lacs); Hunker, Brian GRE-MG; Zach Golkowski (MP); Lesher, Dan GRE-MG; Jim Atkinson (MP); Schmidt, Dan; Koski, Laura Joreen; Northland Reliability Project
Subject:	RE: Northland Reliability Transmission Project - Introduction Email
Date:	Monday, June 12, 2023 9:31:46 AM
Attachments:	NRP Cultural Lit Review_20230508.pdf

Hello Mike,

In follow up to our email below providing a summary of information and outreach to date regarding the Northland Reliability project, attached is a copy of the cultural resources literature review for the Project. Please note that the literature review covered the Proposed Route and Notice Area for the Project to inform the routing and siting and identification of the proposed right-of-way and centerline for the project. As previously mentioned, the literature review will be summarized and included in the Route Permit application, which is anticipated to be filed with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in early August.

It is anticipated that a Cultural Resource Survey Strategy will be prepared in consultation with appropriate agencies (SHPO, OSA, MIAC) and Tribes, following the Route Permit application to outline and guide survey to be completed prior to construction to comply with applicable cultural resources laws.

Please let us know if there are questions regarding the literature review. We would also be happy to meet to discuss the results of the literature review and provide further updates regarding the Project.

Best,
Jenny

Jennifer Bring
M 651.324.0432

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: Bring, Jennifer
Sent: Sunday, May 14, 2023 9:34 PM
To: Mike Wilson <Mike.Wilson@millelacsband.com>
Cc: Charlie Lippert (Mille Lacs) <charlie.lippert@millelacsband.com>; Hunker, Brian GRE-MG <bhunker@grenergy.com>; Zach Golkowski (MP) <zgolkowski@mnpower.com>; Lesher, Dan GRE/MG <dlesher@grenergy.com>; Jim Atkinson (MP); Schmidt, Dan <dan.schmidt@hdrinc.com>; Koski, Laura Joreen <Laura.Koski@hdrinc.com>; Northland Reliability Project <connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com>
Subject: Northland Reliability Transmission Project - Introduction Email

Hello Mike,

Your colleague, Charlie Lippert, informed us of your new role as the THPO for the Mille Lacs Band of

Ojibwe. Congratulations!

Considering you're just getting settled as THPO, we wanted to reach out and help get you caught up regarding communications we have had with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe to date regarding the Northland Reliability Project – a transmission line project stretching from northern Minnesota near Grand Rapids in Itasca County to central Minnesota near Becker in Sherburne County.

A brief summary of key project communications with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe thus far:

- August 22, 2022 – Initial outreach letter introducing the project sent (letter attached)
- August 26, 2022 – Terry Kemper responded in a letter stating the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe would like to be involved in project discussions/meetings (letter attached)
- December 12, 2022 – Charlie Lippert reached out via email reiterating the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's interest in further project discussions
- February 8, 2023 – Virtual meeting was held with Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe representatives to introduce the project, review schedule, provide an overview of the routing process and engagement to date, reviewed the Route Corridor, which was refined from the initial Study Area illustrated in the initial outreach letter from August 2022 (presentation slides and meeting notes attached)
- May 5, 2023 – Virtual update meeting was held with Charlie Lippert to provide project updates, including review of the refined Preliminary Route, which was refined from the Route Corridor reviewed in the February 8, 2023 meeting (presentation slides attached, meeting notes being finalized).
    - We anticipate including the Preliminary Route in the Route Permit application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC), which we hope to submit by early August.
    - Please note that the Preliminary Route includes two potential options in the Riverton area. The intent is to select one to include in the Route Permit application. The Preliminary Route is also shown on our Project's website (www.northlandreliabilityproject.com). In addition, the website shows an intended right-of-way and centerline within the Preliminary Route. Shapefiles for the Preliminary Route, intended right-of-way, and intended centerline are attached for your review.

For your information, a transmission line route is the path that a transmission line may follow. Under Minnesota Statute 216E, subd. 8, the route may have a variable width of up to 1.25 miles. The preliminary route is the area within which the right-of-way will be placed. The route width is typically wider than the right-of-way to provide flexibility to address engineering, human (landowner preferences), and environmental concerns that arise after the permit has been issued. The intended right-of-way is a representation of the physical land area within a route that is needed to construct and operate the transmission line; usually represented as the required easement. The intended centerline is a representation of the location of the transmission line within the right-of-way. In many cases, the poles would be placed in the center of the right-of-way, but in some areas, such as along roads, poles may be offset to account for road geometrics, topography, or waterbodies, etc.

The preliminary route, intended right-of-way, and intended centerline are subject to change based on comments, engineering, permitting, field conditions or other factors. However, we wanted to

provide this data to you to understand where we are with the intended project routing and siting, and state permitting process. Also so you're aware, in addition to the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, we have met and communicated with Leech Lake, Lower Sioux, and Upper Sioux regarding the project and potential areas of interest/concern.

HDR has conducted a Cultural Resources Literature Review to identify known cultural resources along the corridor, which has informed the routing and siting development to date. A summary of the known cultural resources within the preliminary route and intended right-of-way is presented at the end of the presentation slides from the May 5, 2023 meeting. Information from the literature review will be included in the Route Permit application but, a copy of the report can be provided once its finalized, if you would like.

Following submittal of the Route Permit application to the MN PUC, the project anticipates conducting additional field studies, including cultural resources, and obtaining needed permits for construction from 2024-2026, with construction anticipated to start in 2027. There have been initial discussions with some Tribes regarding conducting a windshield survey of the preliminary route to help identify areas of greater tribal interest or focus for subsequent in-field surveys. We would be happy to include you or your representative in that windshield survey when it is scheduled.

We understand this is a lot of information to review. We would be happy to schedule a meeting to review this information with you and answer questions you may have, if that would be helpful. Please let us know if you are interested in meeting and we can determine dates/times. Any information you would be willing to share regarding areas of interest or concern within the preferred route/intended ROW to further inform the process moving forward, including identifying our strategy for field review, would be greatly appreciated.

Looking forward to working with you moving forward.

Thanks,
Jenny

Jennifer Bring
Environmental Section Manager MN/WI
Senior Environmental Scientist/Project Manager

HDR
1601 Utica Ave. S. Suite 600
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
M 651.324.0432
Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

Northland Reliability Project

Notes

Project:	Northland Reliability Project	
Subject:	Project Meeting	
Date:	Monday, June 26, 2023	
Location:	Microsoft Teams	
Attendees:	**Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe** •Charlie Lippert – Air Quality Specialist •Mike Wilson – Tribal Historic Preservation Officer **Minnesota Power** •Jim Atkinson – Manager – Environmental and Real Estate **Great River Energy** •Dan Lesher – Manager, Transmission Permitting & Land Rights •Brian Hunker – Transmission Permitting Project Manager	**HDR** •Jennifer Bring – HDR Environmental Section Manager, Cultural Resources and Tribal Engagement Lead •Jenn Walter – HDR GIS/Routing Lead •Laura Koski – HDR Cultural Resources Specialist

Discussion

Project Overview

- Meeting opened with introductions. Great River Energy (GRE) and Minnesota Power (MP) presented an update of the Northland Reliability Project (project) (see PowerPoint presentation).
    - Mike Wilson asked if the substations were being addressed separately from the rest of the proposed route. Dan Lesher indicated that all substations but Big Oaks are included in the permit application for the route. The Big Oaks substation will be reviewed as part of the separate Alexandria to Big Oaks project led by Xcel Energy.

Windshield Reconnaissance

- GRE and MP are planning a windshield tour for tribal representatives, ideally in August 2023. It is estimated the tour may take 2-3 days and will be conducted from public rights-of-way (will not have right of entry yet). Brian Hunker asked if the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe would have interest in participating and, if so, is there a time in August that representatives would be available?

  - Mike said he is interested in participating in the windshield reconnaissance and may be able to fit it in within the first two to three weeks of August.
- Mike stated his immediate areas of concern are near the Becker and Big Oaks substations and the Long Lake area.
- Charlie Lippert reminded the group that the Riverton area includes the historic Rabbit Lake Reservation. Jenny Bring indicated that we have data showing the historic reservation boundaries.
- Mike stated, in his experience, there are usually two, sometimes up to three times, as many cultural resources in any given area than what is portrayed on the OSA portal.
- Charlie recommended Warren Upham's Minnesota Geographic Names: Their Origin and Historic Significance book to identify locations with indigenous place names that may have potential indigenous significance. Jenny stated this can be incorporated into additional research and analysis that would be incorporated into the future cultural resources survey strategy.

Mapping Overview in GIS

- GRE and MP highlighted the differences between the proposed route and right-of-way from the preliminary route in GIS.
- The portion of the route in the Long Lake area was reviewed. It was noted that the next closest lake to the route in this area is just over 0.75 mile to the northeast (Nokay Lake). Mike stated this area would likely be one of his focus areas during the windshield survey and as the project progresses. [redacted]
- Then the Big Elk Lake Park area was reviewed. [redacted] Jenny relayed Samantha Odegard with the Upper Sioux Community has also been consulted regarding this [redacted]. The Tribes will be consulted regarding input on where structures could be located to try to avoid resources as much as possible.
- The Big Oaks Substation area was also reviewed. Mike stated the project area's proximity to the river increases the potential for cultural resources and will need to reviewed. Jenny reiterated the substation itself will be reviewed and constructed as part of a separate project.
- [redacted]

Northland Reliability Project

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Meeting

June 26, 2023

1

Agenda

- Introductions
- Project overview
- Outreach updates
- Routing progression/updates
- Windshield Reconnaissance Survey
- Questions/Discussion

2

Northland Reliability Project

3

Fulfilling a need

Maintaining reliability

Provide system support as energy resources continue to evolve.

Enabling clean energy

Increase capacity to safely and reliably deliver clean energy from where it's produced to where it's needed by our customers and members.

Strengthening resiliency

Enhance system resiliency during extreme weather events.

Enhancing flexibility

Plan proactively to meet changing customers' and members' power needs due to decarbonization and electrification.

4

MISO-approved project: part of a regional plan

5

Two main project segments

- Segment one: Iron Range Substation to Riverton Substation to Benton County Substation
- Segment two: Benton County Substation to Big Oaks Substation Area

6

Segment one

Iron Range Substation to Riverton Substation to Benton County Substation

- New double-circuit 345-kV transmission line
- Approximately 140 miles
- Opportunities to route near existing transmission lines
- Connect into new substation in the Riverton area
- Expand the existing Iron Range Substation near Grand Rapids

7

Segment two

Benton County Substation to Big Oaks Substation

- Replace an approximately 20-mile 230-kV line with two 345-kV circuits from Benton County Substation to a new substation named Big Oaks in Sherburne County.
- Replace an approximately 20-mile 345-kV line from the Benton County Substation to the existing Sherco Substation in Sherburne County.
- Expand the existing Benton County Substation near St. Cloud.

8

Public engagement to date

Throughout the process, we've gathered public input to help identify routing opportunities and inform the project team of constraints.

- Fall Stakeholder Workshops
  - Six workshops with 80 total attendees
- Winter Public Open Houses
  - Seven locations with 14 times offered, 252 total attendees
- Winter Virtual Open House
  - 122 participants
- Spring Public Open Houses
  - Six times offered, 213 total attendees
- Spring Virtual Open House
  - 234 participants

9

Tribal and agency outreach

10

Our study area

How we defined our study area:

- Substation connections
- Existing corridors

11

Route Corridor

How we defined our route corridor:

- Substation connections
- Existing corridors
- Input gathered during our fall 2022 stakeholder workshops

12

Preliminary Route

How we defined our preliminary route:

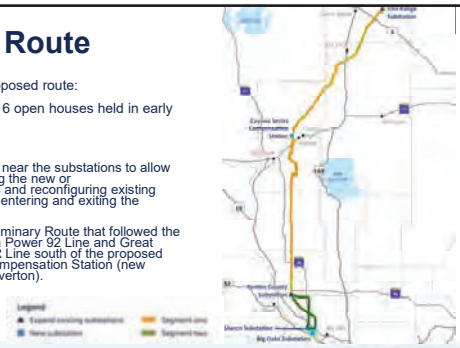
- Substation connections
- Existing corridors
- Input gathered during 15 open houses held January – February 2023

13

Proposed Route

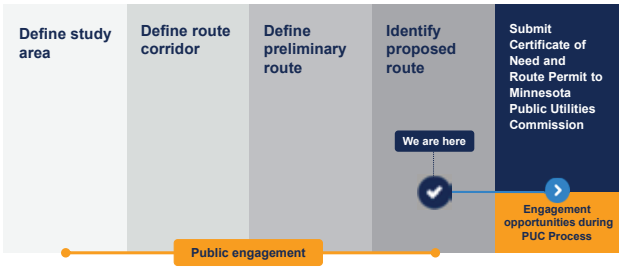
How we defined our proposed route:

- Input gathered during 6 open houses held in early May 2023
- Key changes include:
  - Refined the Route near the substations to allow flexibility in locating the new or expanded facilities and reconfiguring existing transmission lines entering and exiting the substations.
  - Removed the Preliminary Route that followed the existing Minnesota Power 92 Line and Great River Energy's MR Line south of the proposed Cuyuna Series Compensation Station (new substation near Riverton).



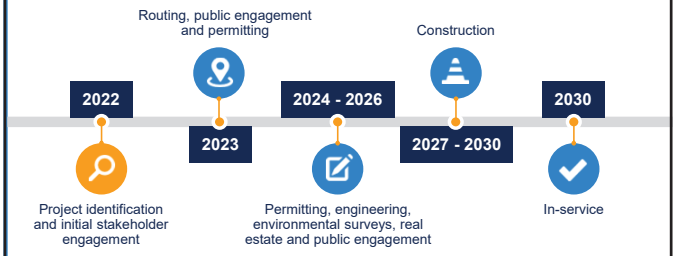
14

Our routing process & input opportunities



15

Anticipated schedule



16

Cultural research results

Within the Proposed Route:

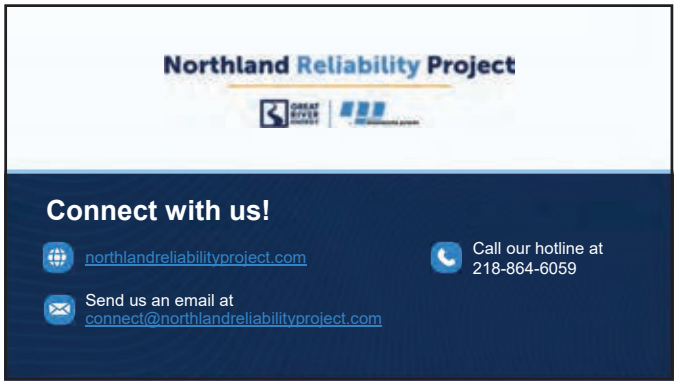
- 13 previously recorded archaeological sites, 8 of which are within the proposed ROW
  - No NRHP listed or eligible sites within route
  - Remaining sites include 1 earthwork site (not within proposed ROW) and Precontact and Post-Contact artifact scatters
- No unrecorded historic cemeteries (OSA Portal)
- 11 previously inventoried architecture/history properties, 4 within the proposed ROW
  - One NRHP-listed property
    - Frank Gran Farmstead (IC-UOG-017) – not within proposed ROW
  - One NRHP-eligible property
    - Cuyuna Iron Range Historic Mining Landscape District (CW-XXX-00001) – within proposed ROW

17

Windshield Reconnaissance

- Visual drive-through of the Proposed Route
  - Inform identification of areas to focus future field surveys
  - Anticipate 2-3 days to complete
  - Primarily conducted from roads/other public ROW
  - Schedule this fall, ideally in August 2023

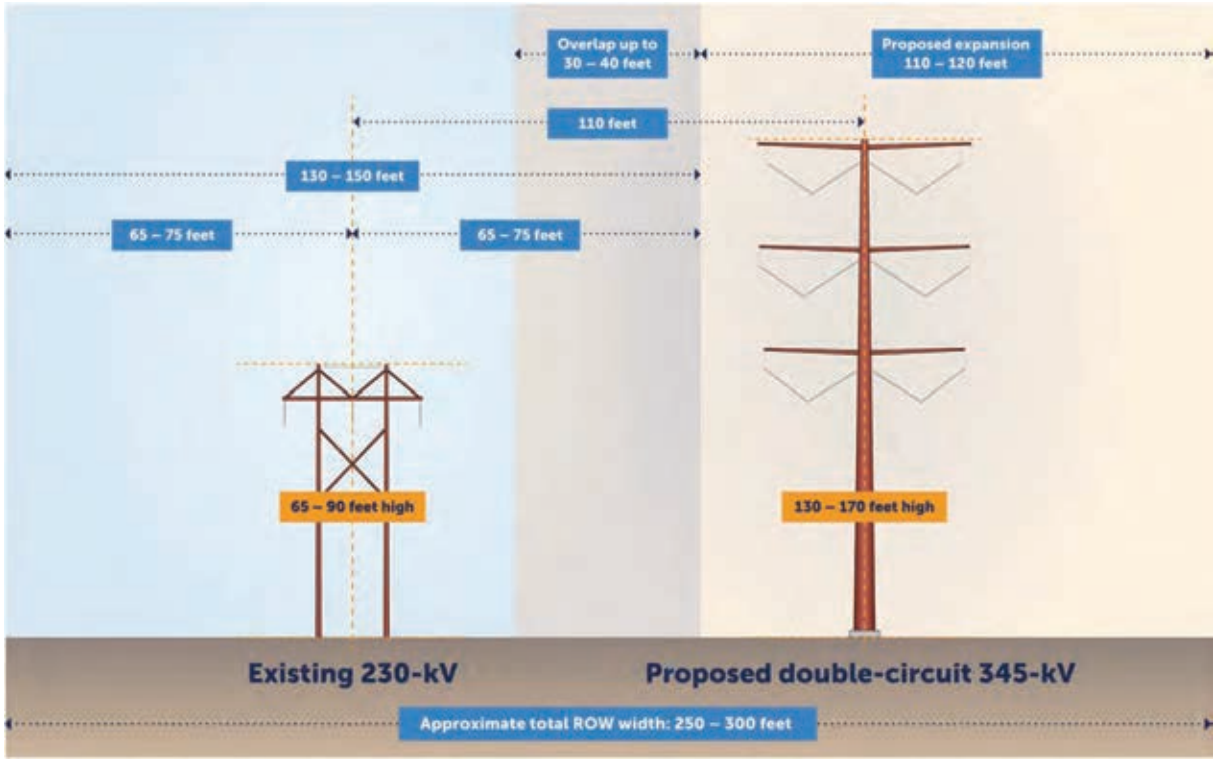
18


Northland Reliability Project
Connect with us!
northlandreliabilityproject.com
Call our hotline at
218-864-6059
Send us an email at
connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com

19

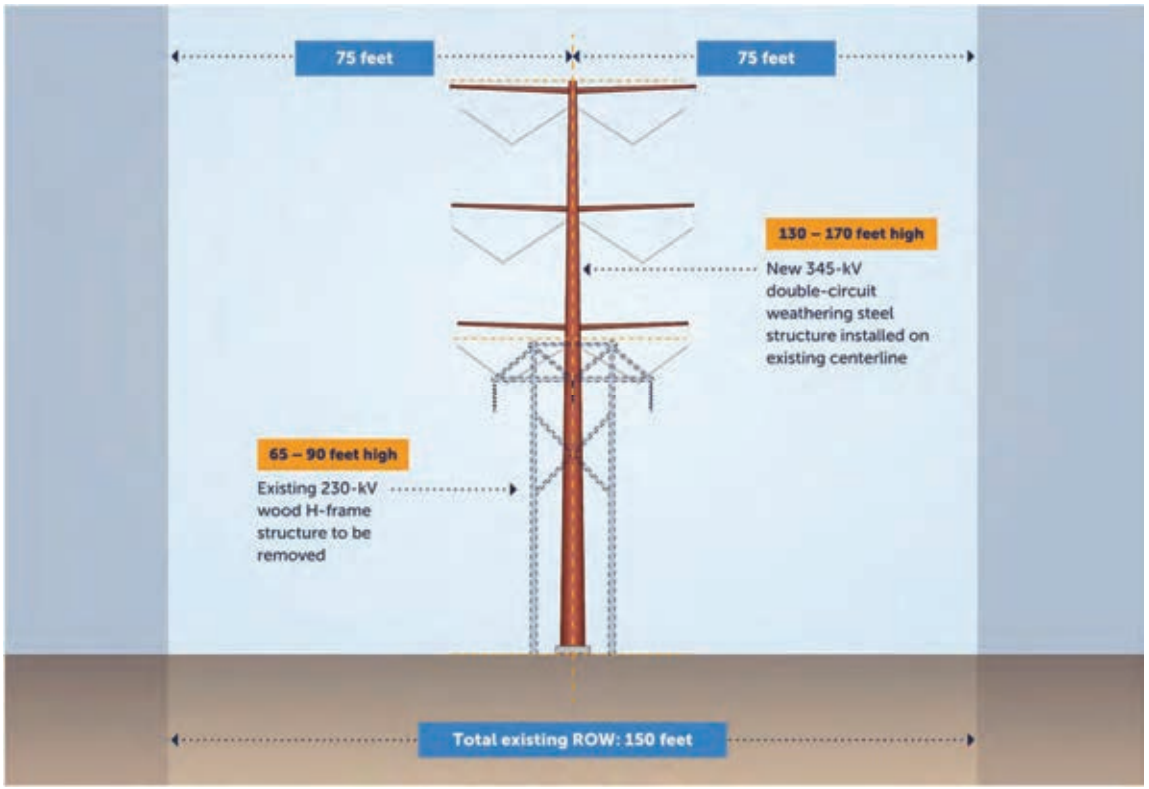
ROW needs for segment one

- Need additional ROW when located near an existing line
- Opportunity to share up to 30-40 feet of ROW with existing transmission lines



ROW needs for segment two

- ROW will remain 150-feet-wide
- Additional temporary ROW needed for construction
- Structure type factors:
  - Land use/land cover
  - Topography
  - Water/wetlands
  - Soil types



Bring, Jennifer

From: Bring, Jennifer
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 6:49 PM
To: Mike Wilson; Charlie Lippert (Mille Lacs); Lesher, Dan GRE/MG; Hunker, Brian GRE-MG; Zach Golkowski (MP); Walter, Jennifer; Jim Atkinson (MP)
Cc: Hawkins, Rebecca; Koski, Laura Joreen; Northland Reliability Project
Subject: Northland Reliability Project - Mille Lacs Meeting Follow-up
Attachments: NRP_Mille Lacs Meeting_Presentation_20230626.pdf; NRP_Mille Lacs_Presentation_2023.02.08_Pole Diagrams.pdf; 20230627_NRP_Route_ROW_Centerline_shp.zip

Tracking:

Recipient	Delivery
Mike Wilson	
Charlie Lippert (Mille Lacs)	
Lesher, Dan GRE/MG	
Hunker, Brian GRE-MG	
Zach Golkowski (MP)	
Walter, Jennifer	Delivered: 6/28/2023 6:56 PM
Jim Atkinson (MP)	
Hawkins, Rebecca	Delivered: 6/28/2023 6:56 PM
Koski, Laura Joreen	Delivered: 6/28/2023 6:55 PM
Northland Reliability Project	

Hi Mike and Charlie,

Thanks again for taking time Monday to meet with us. As discussed in the meeting, attached are copies of the PPT slides, including the pole diagram slides we reviewed in the meeting. Also attached are GIS shapefiles of the current Proposed Route, Proposed Right-of-Way, and Proposed Centerline.

We are finalizing the notes from the meeting and will forward those to you soon. Also, we are following up with a couple of Tribes regarding availability in August for the windshield reconnaissance survey. We will follow up with anticipated field dates for that as soon as we have them.

Thanks,
Jenny

Jennifer Bring
Environmental Section Manager MN/WI
Senior Environmental Scientist/Project Manager

HDR
1601 Utica Ave. S. Suite 600
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
M 651.324.0432
Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

Upper Sioux Community Correspondence

Northland Reliability Project

Notes

Project:	Northland Reliability Project	
Subject:	Project Meeting	
Date:	Thursday, March 02, 2023	
Location:	Microsoft Teams	
Attendees:	**Upper Sioux Community** •Samantha Odegard – Tribal Historic Preservation Officer **Minnesota Power** •Jim Atkinson – Manager – Environmental and Real Estate •Zach Golkowski – Senior Environmental Compliance Specialist	**Great River Energy** •Brian Hunker – Transmission Permitting Project Manager **HDR** •Jennifer Bring – HDR Environmental Section Manager, Cultural Resources and Tribal Engagement Lead •Dan Schmidt – HDR Project Manager •Jenn Walter – HDR GIS/Routing Lead

Discussion

- Great River Energy (GRE) and Minnesota Power (MP) presented an overview of the Northland Reliability Project (project) (see PowerPoint presentation).
- The plan is to develop a preliminary route over March/April and present it at a public meeting in late April/early May.
- Questions/Discussions:
    - Samantha indicated there are many undocumented sites and even documented sites that were maybe impacted by previous transmission line construction.
    - If the route will be following or replacing existing lines, already impacted areas should be avoided, if possible. Maintenance and tree clearing within a corridor can also be a concern, particularly regarding heavy equipment and potential surface disturbance.
    - Samantha indicated that often the best approach to identify these areas is fieldwork. She said Tribal Representatives will often join archaeological work that may be ongoing, or

the Tribe may do their own spot-checking. The fieldwork would likely concentrate on areas of greatest concern (e.g., areas near waterways, etc.).

- Samantha indicated she can review the Route Corridor provided and identify initial areas of concerns. She will aim to have the review done on or before March 24th. Samantha recommended we follow up with her if we do not hear from her that week.
- A follow-up meeting will be set up, likely in April, to review specific resource areas identified.
- Big Elk Lake Park
    - Brian asked about possible timing for another meeting regarding the park.
    - Samantha indicated that site visits by the County and Tribal partners start at the end of April. Samantha suggested a virtual follow up earlier in April. Samantha will double-back with County and other partners to determine the schedule for the next meeting.

Northland Reliability Project

Upper Sioux Community Meeting

March 2, 2023

1

Agenda

- Introductions
- Project overview
- Questions/discussion
- Next steps

2

Northland Reliability Project

3

MISO-approved project: part of a regional plan

Learn more at misoenergy.org

4

Fulfilling a need

Provide system support
Provide support to the energy grid as more renewable energy is brought online and coal operations cease at existing power plants

Increase capacity
Safely and reliably deliver more clean energy from where it's produced to where it's consumed by utility customers and power cooperative members

Strengthen resiliency
Improve ability to withstand more frequent extreme weather events

Enhance flexibility
Meet future energy needs by enabling transfer of many types of power generation to many locations to meet the long-term needs of our customers and members

5

Two main project segments

- Segment one: Iron Range Substation to Riverton Substation to Benton County Substation
- Segment two: Benton County Substation to Big Oaks Substation

6

Segment one

Iron Range Substation to Riverton Substation to Benton County Substation

- New double-circuit 345-kV transmission line
- Approximately 130 miles
- Opportunities to route near existing transmission lines
- Connect into new Riverton Substation

7

Segment two

Benton County Substation to Big Oaks Substation

- Replace existing 230-kV transmission line to double-circuit 345-kV transmission line
- Approximately 20 miles
- Verifying existing route and right-of-way are suitable for a 345-kV line

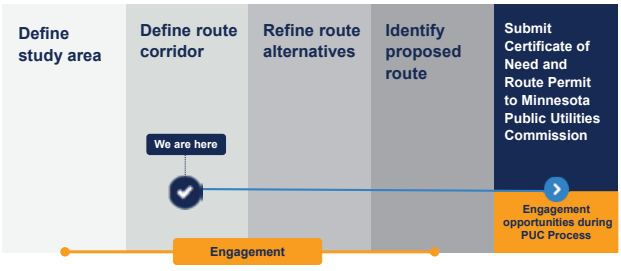
8

Additional project improvements

- Expand the existing Iron Range Substation and the Benton County Substation
- Install a new substation at or near the existing Riverton Substation and reconfiguring existing transmission lines in the Riverton area
- Rebuild approximately 20 miles of existing single-circuit 345-kv line from the Benton County Substation to the Sherco Substation in Sherburne County

9

Our routing process & input opportunities



10

Study area to route corridor

11

Routing process considerations

The criteria for route selection is set by Minnesota statute and guides our routing process.

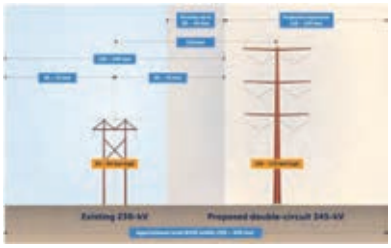
To route a project, we consider:

- Opportunities
- Constraints
- Engineering and construction considerations

12

ROW needs for segment one

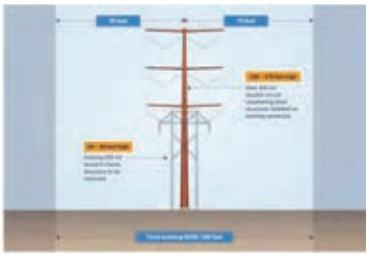
- Need additional ROW when located near an existing line
- Opportunity to share up to 30-40 feet of ROW with existing transmission lines



13

ROW needs for segment two

- ROW will remain 150-feet-wide
- Additional temporary ROW needed for construction
- Structure type factors:
  - Land use/land cover
  - Topography
  - Water/wetlands
  - Soil types



14

Public engagement

- Website – interactive comment
- Open houses week of Jan 23 and Jan 30
- In-person and virtual engagement opportunities

Communicating our path forward
Ongoing communication with stakeholders and landowners throughout the project

15

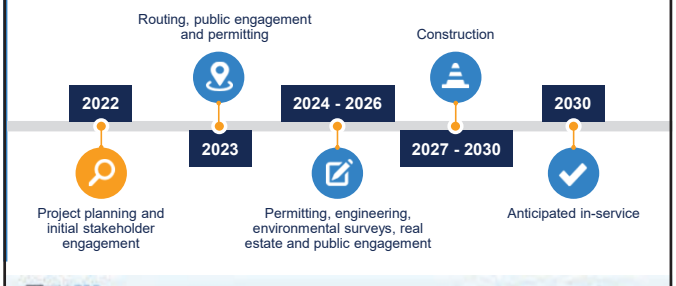
Tribal and agency outreach

We're committed to communicating early, often and throughout the project:

- Initial Tribal and tribal organizations letters – August 2022
- Initial agency letters sent – September 2022
- Meetings with Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, and Upper Sioux – December 2022 to March 2023
- Big Elk Lake Park meeting with Lower Sioux, Mille Lacs, Upper Sioux, and Sherburne County – January 2023
- Ongoing coordination with various agencies, including MnDNR
- Continued and ongoing opportunities to meet one-on-one and at key project milestones

16

Anticipated schedule



17

Northland Reliability Project

Connect with us!

northlandreliabilityproject.com

Call our hotline at 218-864-6059

Send us an email at connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com

18

From: Bring, Jennifer
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 10:37 PM
To: Samantha Odegard
Cc: Hunker, Brian GRE-MG; Lesher, Dan GRE/MG; Jim Atkinson (MP); Zach Golkowski (MP); Schmidt, Dan; Walter, Jennifer; Northland Reliability Project
Subject: NRP Preliminary Route and Scheduling Meeting
Attachments: NRP_FINAL_20230414_PrelimROUTE_SHP.zip; NRP_Upper Sioux Meeting_Presentation_2023.03.02.pdf; NRP_Upper Sioux Project Mtg_Notes_03022023.pdf

Hi Samantha,

Thanks for the discussion last week and for sending the maps of the corridor. As discussed on our call last week, we have been working on defining a preliminary route for the Northland Reliability project. Attached is a GIS shapefile of the identified preliminary route that will be presented at the open houses the first week of May. Please note that the preliminary route is narrower than the previously defined route corridor but still larger than the final right-of-way needed to construct the project. Also, the preliminary route includes two potential options in the Riverton area. The intent is to select one to include in the Route Permit application.

We'd like to set up a meeting to discuss the preliminary route and, if possible, information you would be willing to share regarding areas of interest along the this preliminary route to build up on the maps you provided last week for the route corridor. Below are dates/times our team is available – please let us know which of these dates/times would work for you for a virtual call. We anticipated the call would be up to 1 hour.

Thu, April 20 – 10-11:30 am
Fri, April 21 – 1-2:30 pm
Thu, April 27 – 8:30 am-11 am, 1:30-2:30 pm
Fri, April 28 – 1-4 pm

We look forward to continuing our discussion. Also, for reference, attached are notes and the slides from our meeting last month. Please let us know if you have comments or additions to the notes.

Thanks,
Jenny

Jennifer Bring
Environmental Section Manager MN/WI
Senior Environmental Scientist/Project Manager

HDR
1601 Utica Ave. S. Suite 600
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
M 651.324.0432
Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

Northland Reliability Project

GREAT RIVER ENERGY. | minnesota power

Notes

Project:	Northland Reliability Project	
Subject:	Project Meeting	
Date:	Friday, May 05, 2023	
Location:	Microsoft Teams	
Attendees:	**Upper Sioux Community** •Samantha Odegard – Tribal Historic Preservation Officer **Minnesota Power** •Jim Atkinson – Manager – Environmental and Real Estate •Kyle Larson – Construction Management **Great River Energy** •Dan Lesher – Manager, Transmission Permitting & Land Rights •Brian Hunker – Transmission Permitting Project Manager	**HDR** •Jennifer Bring – HDR Environmental Section Manager, Cultural Resources and Tribal Engagement Lead •Dan Schmidt – HDR Project Manager •Jenn Walter – HDR GIS/Routing Lead •Laura Koski – HDR Cultural Resources Specialist

- Great River Energy (GRE) and Minnesota Power (MP) presented an update of the Northland Reliability Project (project) (see PowerPoint presentation).
- Questions/discussions:
  - Brian Hunker asked if there have been further meetings regarding the Big Elk Lake Park. Samantha Odegard stated training was recently completed and additional survey at the Big Elk Lake Park area was started again. Samantha confirmed most archaeological work should be finished by June 2023.
    - Brian asked when the best time would be to schedule the next discussion with the County and the Tribal partners. Samantha said the soonest would be in June.
  - GIS review of the preliminary route, intended right-of-way, and intended centerline
    - The Big Elk Lake Park area was reviewed. Samantha said it should be feasible to work around the cultural resources within the area with pole siting.
    - The Long Lake area was reviewed. Jim Atkinson said the route is now planned to run east of Long Lake to avoid resources as much as possible, which Samantha said she was pleased to see. Samantha stated on-the-ground site visits would be [redacted]
    - Samantha indicated she has been reviewing the route data and identifying areas for spot-survey site visits.

- When that review is complete, Jenny Bring asked if Samantha would be willing to share that information to inform the overall survey strategy.
- Samantha suggested a pre-construction site visit to review some of these areas to further define the areas for focused field surveys. Brian indicated GRE and MP could facilitate that and offered using a GRE van to transport tribal representatives.
- Lesher asked Samantha if access to certain areas would be needed for the pre-construction site visit. Samantha believed most spot checks may be completed from the road. Lesher said landowner access can be coordinated for Samantha's team when needed.
- [redacted]

o It was discussed that field survey may start as early as fall 2023. Samantha said they could likely make this field season work. It was mentioned that the Mille Lacs Band also indicated an interest in field surveys. Samantha said that Upper Sioux would be happy to coordinate with Mille Lacs or other interested Tribes moving forward.

Northland Reliability Project

GREAT RIVER ENERGY | minnesota power

Upper Sioux Community Meeting

May 5, 2023

1

Agenda

- Routing progression/updates
- Outreach updates
  - Public engagement
  - Tribal and agency outreach
- Initial research results
- Questions/Discussion

2

Study Area

How we defined our study area:

- Substation connections
- Existing corridors

3

Route Corridor

How we defined our route corridor:

- Substation connections
- Existing corridors
- Input gathered during our fall 2022 stakeholder workshops

4

Preliminary Route

How we defined our preliminary route:

- Substation connections
- Existing corridors
- Input gathered during 15 open houses held January – February 2023

5

Public engagement to date

Throughout the process, we've gathered public input to help identify routing opportunities and inform the project team of constraints.

- Fall Stakeholder Workshops
  - Six workshops with 80 total attendees
- Winter Public Open Houses
  - Seven locations with 14 times offered
  - 252 total attendees
- Winter Virtual Open House
  - 122 participants

6

Upcoming public engagement

- Public open houses May 2 - 4
- Self-paced virtual open house May 1 - 12
- In-person and virtual engagement opportunities

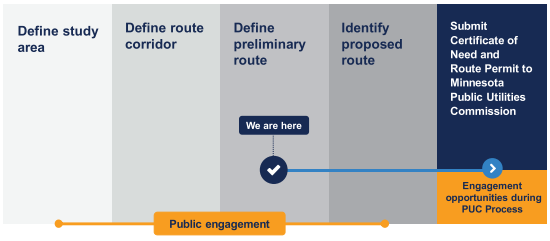
Communicating our path forward
Ongoing communication with stakeholders and landowners throughout the project.

7

Tribal and agency outreach

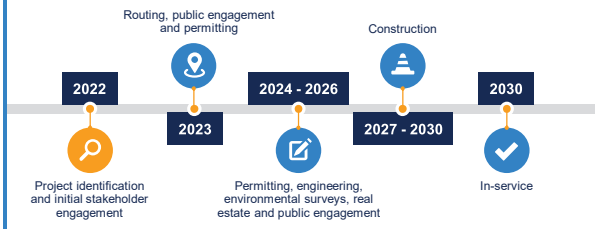
8

Our routing process & input opportunities



9

Anticipated schedule



10

11

Northland Reliability Project

Connect with us!

northlandreliabilityproject.com

Call our hotline at 218-864-6059

Send us an email at connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com

12

From:	Bring, Jennifer
To:	Samantha Odegard
Cc:	Hunker, Brian GRE-MG; Jim Atkinson (MP); Lesher, Dan GRE-MG; Zach Golkowski (MP); Schmidt, Dan; Koski, Laura Joreen; Northland Reliability Project
Subject:	Northland Reliability Project - Cultural Resources Literature Review
Date:	Monday, June 12, 2023 9:40:19 AM
Attachments:	NRP Cultural Lit Review_20230508.pdf

Hello Samantha,

In follow up to our last meeting regarding the Northland Reliability transmission project, attached is a copy of the cultural resources literature review for the Project. Please note that the literature review covered the Proposed Route and Notice Area for the Project to inform the routing and siting and identification of the proposed right-of-way and centerline for the project (preliminary results were summarized in our past meetings). As previously mentioned, the literature review will be summarized and included in the Route Permit application, which is anticipated to be filed with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in early August.

It is anticipated that a Cultural Resource Survey Strategy will be prepared in consultation with appropriate agencies (SHPO, OSA, MIAC) and Tribes, following the Route Permit application to outline and guide survey to be completed prior to construction to comply with applicable cultural resources laws.

Please let us know if there are questions regarding the literature review. If possible, maybe we can find a time in the coming weeks to meet and discuss the results of the literature review, the status of your desktop review of the proposed route and right-way provided in early May, and further details regarding the Project and the windshield survey discussed in our last meeting.

Best,
Jenny

Jennifer Bring
Environmental Section Manager MN/WI
Senior Environmental Scientist/Project Manager

HDR
1601 Utica Ave. S. Suite 600
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
M 651.324.0432
Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

Northland Reliability Project

GREAT RIVER ENERGY. | minnesota power

Notes

Project:	Northland Reliability Project	
Subject:	Project Meeting	
Date:	Tuesday, June 27, 2023	
Location:	Microsoft Teams	
Attendees:	**Upper Sioux Community** •Samantha Odegard – Tribal Historic Preservation Officer **Minnesota Power** •Jim Atkinson – Manager – Environmental and Real Estate •Zach Golkowski – Senior Environmental Compliance Specialist **Great River Energy** •Dan Lesher – Manager, Transmission Permitting & Land Rights •Brian Hunker – Transmission Permitting Project Manager	**HDR** •Jennifer Bring – HDR Environmental Section Manager, Cultural Resources and Tribal Engagement Lead •Becky Hawkins – HDR Project Manager •Jenn Walter – HDR GIS/Routing Lead

Discussion

Project Overview

- Great River Energy (GRE) and Minnesota Power (MP) highlighted the differences between the currently proposed route and right-of-way from the preliminary route previously reviewed with Samantha.
    - Iron Range Substation area – narrowed the route south of the substation area
    - South of the Cuyuna Series Compensation Station – selected east alignment option
    - South of the Benton County Substation – narrowed the route to the existing easement for the MR and GRE-BS lines
- GIS data for the current Proposed Route, Centerline, and Right-of-Way will be sent to Samantha.

Windshield Reconnaissance

- GRE and MP are planning a windshield tour for tribal representatives, ideally in August 2023. It is estimated the tour may take 2-3 days and will be conducted from public rights-of-way (will not have right of entry yet).
    - Samantha indicated that the first weekend in August is a powwow weekend so, they could be available before Friday. The second week, Samantha is presenting for a conference one day, but may be able to work around that.
    - Samantha indicated she is fine doing the tour with other Tribes but, may go up ahead of time to review the route on their own, maybe on their drive up north. So, if the tour with the Tribes could start north and head south, that would work best for their planning.

Compensation for Tribal Participation

- Samantha indicated her time is covered by the Tribe; however, if another tribal representative participates, particularly in field survey, she was wondering about the process of compensation for their time.
    - Samantha indicated she can direct invoice after the fieldwork, if that is acceptable. Otherwise, if a contract needs to be set up, the insurance requirements are typically different than standard contracts and they would need their tribal attorney to review.
    - Samantha said she could provide an example of a contract with insurance terms that were acceptable to the Tribe.
- GRE and MP will follow up with further details regarding the windshield tour and compensation approach.

Bring, Jennifer

From: Bring, Jennifer
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2023 1:41 PM
To: Samantha Odegard
Cc: Hawkins, Rebecca; Koski, Laura Joreen; Lesher, Dan GRE/MG; Zach Golkowski (MP); Walter, Jennifer; Jim Atkinson (MP); Hunker, Brian GRE-MG
Subject: Northland Reliability Project - 6/27 Upper Sioux Meeting Follow-up
Attachments: 20230627_NRP_Route_ROW_Centerline_shp.zip

Tracking:

Recipient	Delivery
Samantha Odegard	
Hawkins, Rebecca	
Koski, Laura Joreen	Delivered: 6/30/2023 1:43 PM
Lesher, Dan GRE/MG	
Zach Golkowski (MP)	
Walter, Jennifer	Delivered: 6/30/2023 1:43 PM
Jim Atkinson (MP)	
Hunker, Brian GRE-MG	

Hi Samantha,

Thank you for taking time to connect with us earlier this week regarding the Northland Reliability Project. As mentioned in the meeting, attached are GIS shapefiles of the Proposed Route, Proposed Right-of-Way, and Proposed Centerline for the Project. This the area we are including in the Route Permit application we are preparing for submittal to the MN Public Utilities Commission. As previously mentioned, the route width is typically wider than the right-of-way to provide flexibility to address engineering, human (landowner preferences), and environmental concerns that arise after the permit has been issued.

We will follow up soon re: dates and details for the windshield survey in August.

Best,
Jenny

Jennifer Bring
Environmental Section Manager MN/WI
Senior Environmental Scientist/Project Manager

HDR
1601 Utica Ave. S. Suite 600
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
M 651.324.0432
Jennifer.Bring@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us