



**DEPARTMENT OF
ADMINISTRATION**

Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office

April 9, 2024

Introductions



Kelly Gragg-Johnson

Environmental Review
Specialist for Broadband



Lucy Harrington

Environmental Review
Archaeologist for Broadband

Minnesota SHPO



- The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is a division within the Minnesota Department of Administration.
- Our office is located at the Administration Building just north of the State Capitol at 50 Sherburne Avenue in Saint Paul.
- SHPO's were created by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The goal was to create an agency to spearhead state preservation initiatives and help carry out the nation's historic preservation program.
- Minnesota's SHPO was created by state statute in 1969 to provide statewide leadership.

<https://mn.gov/admin/shpo/>

Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

SHPO News and Information

- Registration is open for PreserveMN 2021! Visit the [Conference page](#) for more information.
- A searchable and sortable list of [National Register Listings in Minnesota](#) is now available!
- The [Minnesota Historic Structure Rehabilitation Tax Credit program](#) has sunset.
- The [Minnesota Statewide Historic Preservation Plan 2022-2032](#) is now available to download.
- Electronic environmental review submittals and tolling continues to be in effect for federal and state reviews until further notice. [Electronic Environmental Review Submittals](#).
- [SHPO's COVID-19 related messaging archive](#).



[Identification & Evaluation](#)

Identification and evaluating historic properties helps you make informed preservation decisions.

[National Register Listings in Minnesota](#)

More than 1,750 Minnesota listings, encompassing over 6,000 properties from all counties in the state, can be found on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the nation's official list of properties deemed worthy of preservation.

[Tax Incentives](#)

Learn about tax incentives that reward private investment in the rehabilitation of historic properties.

[Environmental Review](#)

Learn more about the federal and state laws that protect historic and archaeological properties, as well as the project review process in Minnesota.

[Statewide Preservation Plan 2022-2032](#)

The Minnesota Statewide Historic Preservation Plan 2022-2032 is the culmination of a three-year statewide collaborative process of gathering insights and learning from the public, stakeholders, and many partners, and is available for download.

[Local Preservation](#)

Federal, state, tribal, and local partnerships work to protect historic properties.

[About Us](#)

Learn more about the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), find contact information, and more.

[Recent National Register Listings](#)

A list of the latest National Register listings in Minnesota

SHPO Environmental Review Statistics FFY 2023 (Oct 2022 – Sept 2023)

3,206 Total Project Reviews

2,872 = Federal Reviews

**334 = State Reviews and Technical Assistance
Requests**

Minnesota State Statutes

Minnesota Statute 138.40 - Field Archaeology Act

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/138.40>

Directs state agencies, departments, and political subdivisions to submit development plans to SHPO for review of proposed **projects on non-federal public land** that may affect known or suspected archaeological sites.

Minnesota Statute 138.665 - Historic Sites Act

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/138.665>

State agencies, departments, the University of Minnesota, and political subdivisions of the State have a **responsibility to protect physical features and historic character of designated historic properties** (National Register, State Register, Historic Sites Network) and shall consult with SHPO to determine appropriate treatments including seeking ways to avoid or mitigate adverse effects. Parties must agree in writing on a “suitable course of action.”

Minnesota Statute 138.666 - Historic Sites Act

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/138.666>

The state, state departments and agencies, political subdivisions, and the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota shall cooperate with the Minnesota Historical Society and the State Historic Preservation Office in **safeguarding state historic sites and in the preservation of historic and archaeological properties.**

Border-to-Border Broadband Program

- State law requires state agencies to consider their projects' effects on significant archaeological sites and designated historic properties. For the Border-to-Border Broadband Development Program, DEED has authorized their applicants to consult with SHPO.
- SHPO reviews the proposed broadband development projects to understand whether they will affect significant archaeological sites and designated historic properties.
- SHPO does not conduct archaeological surveys or research. We recommend that the applicant hire a qualified professional archaeologist to help prepare documentation to submit to our office. Go to the Preservation Specialist Directory for a list of archaeologists: <https://www.mnhs.org/preservation/directory>
- Here is a link to SHPO's guidance on the documentation we recommend be prepared for non-federal broadband projects: <https://mn.gov/admin/shpo/environmental-review/broadband/>

Review Previously Documented Historic Resources

- Visit the Minnesota Statewide Historic Inventory Portal (MnSHIP)

<https://mnship.gisdata.mn.gov/>

- Visit the Office of the State Archaeologist Portal (OSA Portal)

<https://osaportal.gisdata.mn.gov/>

MnSHIP: Online Aboveground Inventory Research

Minnesota's Statewide Historic Inventory Research

https://mnship.gisdata.mn.gov/public-map

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Log In

Find address or place

MnSHIP Polygons

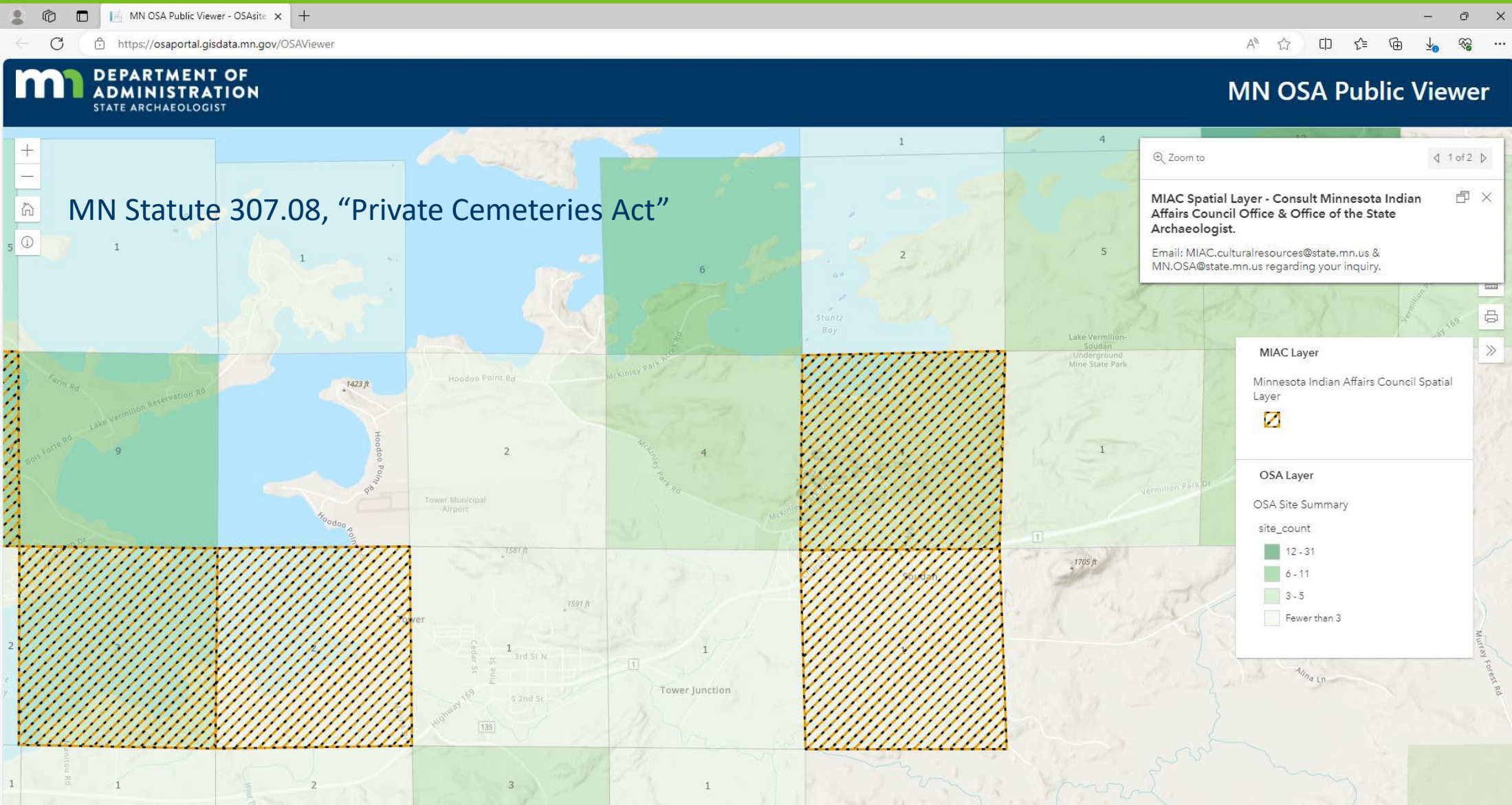
Historic Inventory Number	SL-BRE-00008
Property Name	Soudan Mine
Address	Mn. Hwy 1 & Mn. Hwy. 169
Property Type	Site
MnSHIP_ID	96098

XY: -92.333683°, 47.791720°

Table View

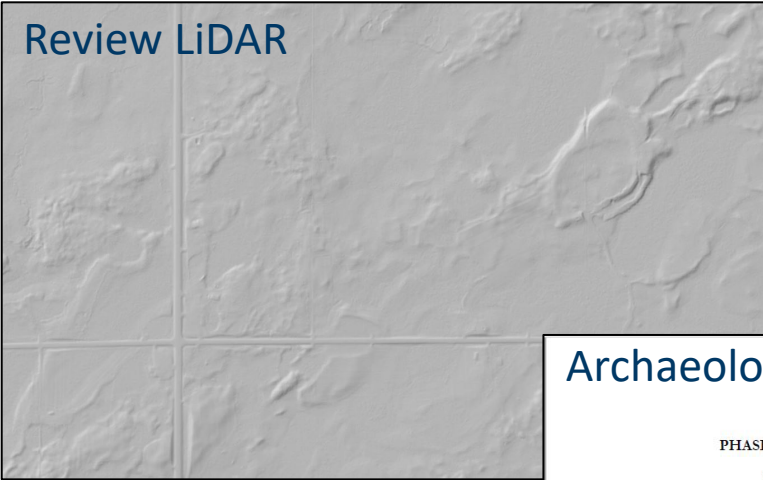
500 m

OSA Portal: Archaeology and Burial Sites Research



Prepare Documentation

Review LiDAR



Archaeology Report

PHASE 1a LITERATURE SEARCH
And
FIELD INSPECTION
ALBANY MUTUAL TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION
STEARNS COUNTY EAST PHASE I
2022 BORDER TO BORDER GRANT
BROADBAND PROJECT

Stearns County, Minnesota

PREPARED FOR:
Cooperative Network Services LLC
PO Box J / 14 Main Street SW
Menahga, MN 56464

PREPARED BY:
McFarlane Consulting LLC
684 Orleans Street
St Paul, MN 55107

Christopher Moose, Principal Investigator
OSA License Number: 23-079

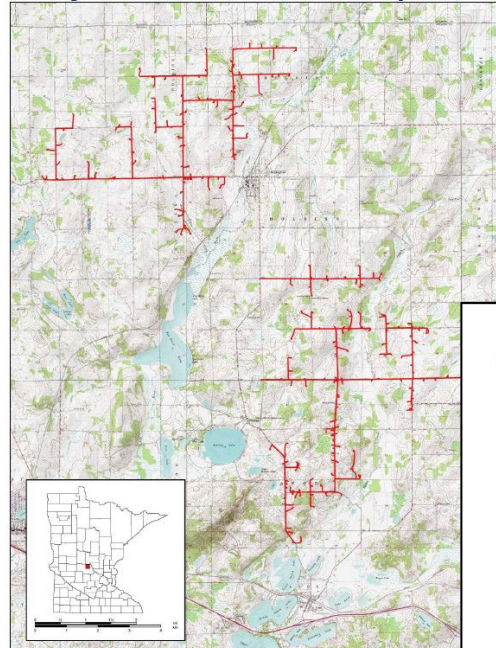
May 2023

McFarlane Consulting Project Report 2023.027

Information about the location of sensitive areas (e.g., archaeological sites, burial, sacred areas) should be removed from this report before public distribution.

Project Location Map

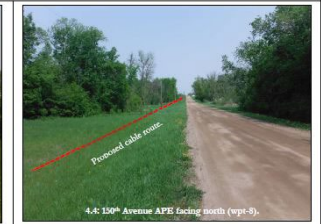
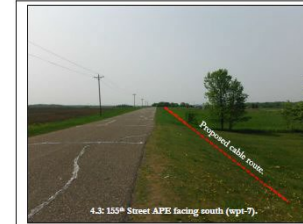
County East Phase 1



McFarlane Consulting LLC

11.0 EXHIBIT 4: GENERAL PROJECT PHOTOS

Field Photos



McFarlane Consulting

Page 14

Submit Documentation for Review

Cover Letter

150 2nd St SW | Perham, MN 56573 | 218.346.3600

August 25, 2023

Kelly Gragg-Johnson
Environmental Review Program Specialist
MHS/SHPO
50 Sherburne Avenue, Suite 203
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Request SHPO Review of Stearns County Arvig B2B Project

This mainline and last-mile project will reach 945 unserved and 1,475 underserved households, farms and businesses in the central portion of Stearns County near the rural parts of Sauk Centre, Melrose, Meire Grove, Greenwald, Elrosa, Spring Hill, St. Martin (and in-town St. Martin), Roscoe, Farming, Richmond, Cold Spring and Eden Valley. Thanks to a funding partnership with Stearns County and with the State of Minnesota, Arvig will be able to extend its growing fiber network to these structures with internet speeds from 100 Mbps / 20 Mbps up to 10 Gbps / 1 Gbps, meeting and exceeding Minnesota's 2026 state speed goal of 100 Mbps / 20 Mbps.

- Attachment maps identifying proposed facility placement
- MN SHPO Request for Project Review Form
- Archaeological Phase 1 and Summary

Planned facilities are scheduled to be insulated fiber optic cables with the majority of installations being performed by direct insertion via cable plow with small amounts of trenching near termination points and equipment cabinets. Boring equipment is intended for use in areas where direct insertion is prohibited due to hard surfaced roadways, rivers, culverts, streams, other obstacles, or sensitive environmental features that require avoidance. All Phase 1 recommendations will be followed. OSA will review the areas identified in Phase 1.

Proposed construction is planned to start during the construction season for 2023 and 2024 (approximately May 1 and November 30). Prior to construction, all required permits and licenses will be obtained. Unless otherwise directed by an agency having jurisdictional authority, mainline facilities are intended to be placed at 36-48 inches below existing grade and subscriber drop cables will be placed to 24 inches. Subscriber drop cables are anticipated to be installed on previously disturbed soil of the property owner, to the extent possible, by following driveways and private roads leading to the premises.

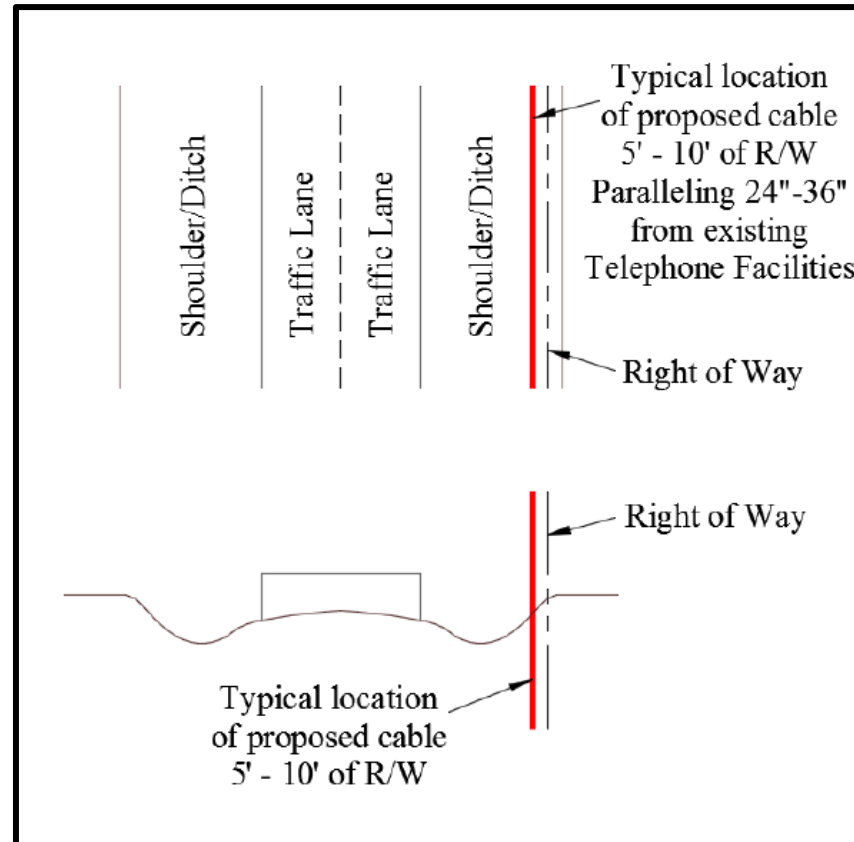
With exception of individual subscriber's drop cable, all proposed mainline construction is scheduled to occur within public road rights-of-way on previously disturbed grounds. The majority of the mainline is anticipated to parallel previously installed facilities of other communication and transmission providers to the extent practicable.

I can be reached directly at 218-347-3613 or via email at julie.ahlbrecht@TrustCompass.com with any questions or additional forms/information that may be required.

Sincerely,

Julie Ahlbrecht
Regulatory & Compliance Professional

TrustCompass.com

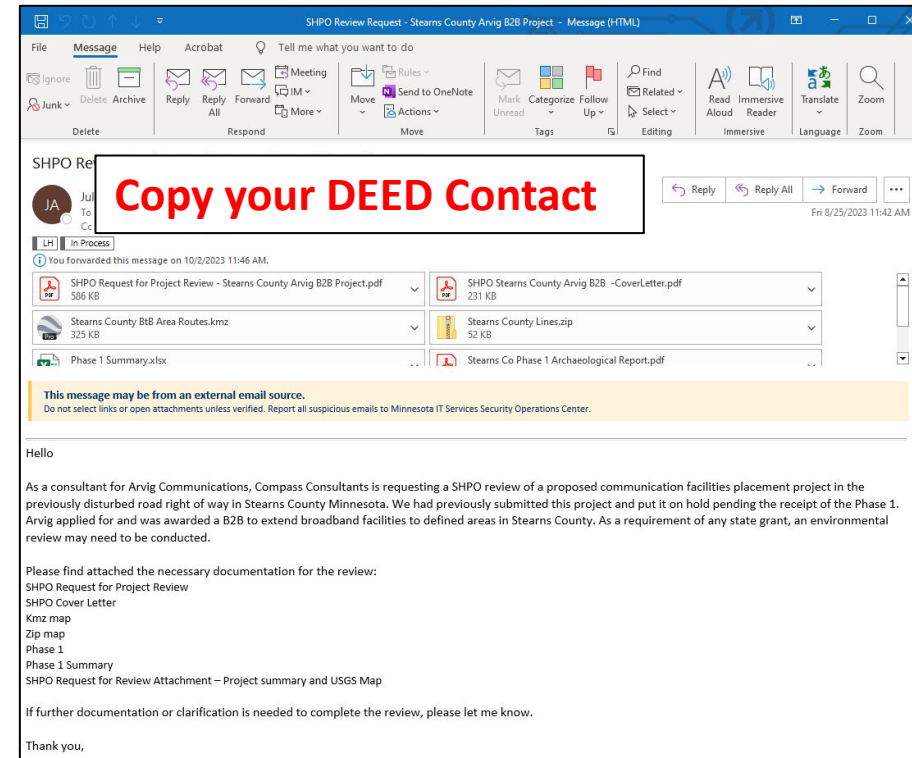
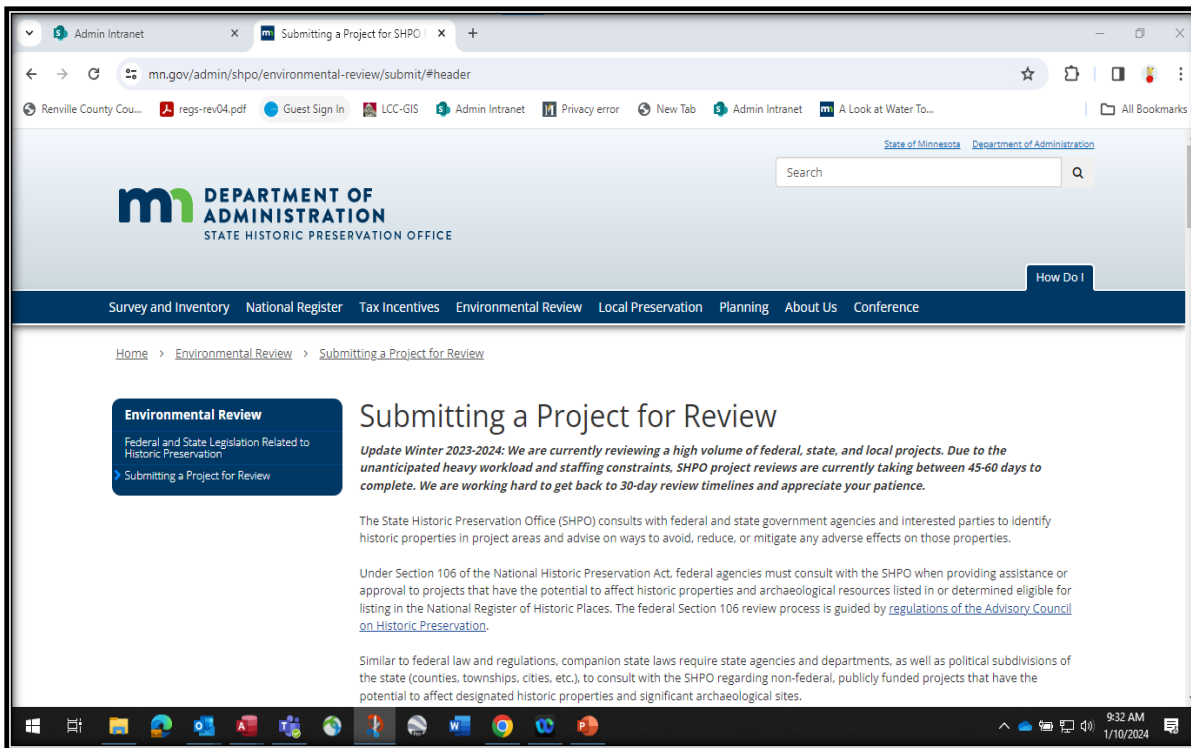


- Describe and share a graphic showing how the cable will be installed.
- Clearly state whether you intend to follow the archaeology report recommendations

Submission of Material to SHPO for Review

Submit to SHPO

Submit Project Review Requests via email:
ENReviewSHPO@state.mn.us



mn.gov/admin/shpo/environmental-review/

SHPO Environmental Review Process



Paul Bunyan-2022 Northern MN Gigazone B2B Project- Phase 1/1a Report

Chris Perius <chris.perius@cooperative>
 To: MN_ADM_ENV Review SHPO
 Cc: Rob St. Clair; Patti Horazuk; Clayton Burns

You forwarded this message on 3/21/2024 3:16 PM.
 Good afternoon,

Included for review and comment is the Phase 1/1A cultural survey report CRM 355 with supporting information assembled by Impact 7G, on behalf of Paul Bunyan Communications (PBC), for their awarded DEED OBD broadband development project located in Aitkin, Itasca and St. Louis County, MN. The project encompasses approximately 32.27 miles of proposed direct buried fiber optic cable installations to a depth of 36" within road rights of ways on previously disturbed environments. Subscriber service cables are proposed to be installed on previously disturbed environments by following driveway and access roads leading to the premises as much as possible. Most of the construction is proposed to parallel previously installed utilities.

I am attaching a share link that contains the cultural report due to the size of the report.
[Impact7G_CRM355_PB2022NMnGigazoneB2B_Archaeology_2-20-24.pdf](#)

Please confirm for me the report was accessible and available to you.
 If you have any questions or problems with the share link, please let me know.

In review of the report, we see no NRHP location conflicts contained within the report. No existing archeological sites are found in the project corridor. The project owner, PBC, is committed to avoidance of all concern items recommended protective measures detailed on summary page 28 and will follow provisions provided with this report and additional provisions that MNSHPO and OSA may determine with comment. An inadvertent discovery recommendation practice listed in the report is to be enforced by contractual agreement. With the following recommendations and provisions, we suggest a finding of "No Effect" or "No Adverse Effect" as an appropriate representation of the project.

Review and Compliance Database

File #: **2024-1057** Cross Reference #: _____ Agency #/ID: _____

County: **Multiple** City/Township: _____

Project: **Communications Project**

Description: **Paul Bunyan Communications; 2022 Minnesota Gigazone B2B Project, Aitkin, St. Louis and Itasca Counties; installation of 32.27 miles of fiber optic cable**

Township/Range/Section: _____

Federal: _____ State Agency: **DEED** Other Agency: _____

NHPA-106 HSA-138.665 HSA-138.666 FAA-138.40 EQB-4410.1600 HPC-471.193 NEPA EQB

Date received: **2/20/2024** Date due: **3/21/2024** Tracked to: **KJ** on: **4/4/2024** SME Due: **4/2/2021** Letter: **4/5/2024**

Technical Assistance: _____ Information Requested(1): _____ Section 106 Finding: _____ Date: _____
 Survey Requested: _____ Information Requested(2): _____ FAA Finding: **NKS** Date: **4/5/2024**
 Survey Received: _____ Information Requested(2): _____ HSA Finding: _____ Date: _____
 Other Finding: _____ Date: _____

NRHP Listed Property(ies) Affected: _____
 Considered Eligible Finding
 Not Eligible

Date of Eligibility Finding (CEF or Not Eligible) **FIND RC FILE NUMBER**

Entry Date: _____ Review Mgr: **KJ**

MINNESOTA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

April 5, 2024

Chris Perius
 GIS Design Supervisor
 Cooperative Network Services, LLC
 PO Box J, 14 Main St SW
 Menahga, MN 56464

RE: Paul Bunyan Communications – 2022 Northern MN Gigazone B2B Project
 Installation of approximately 32.27 miles of fiber optic cable
 Aitkin, Itasca, and Saint Louis Counties
 SHPO Number: 2024-1057

Dear Chris Perius:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the above referenced project. It has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Office by the Minnesota Historic Sites Act (Minn. Stat. 138.665-666) and the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act (Minn. Stat. 138.40).

As stated in your correspondence, Paul Bunyan Communications is proposing to install approximately 32.27 miles of fiber optic cable in Aitkin, Itasca, and Saint Louis Counties. We have reviewed the submitted report, *Phase I Archaeological Investigation of the Paul Bunyan 2022 Northern Minnesota Gigazone B2B Project, Aitkin, St. Louis, and Itasca Counties, Minnesota* (February 14, 2024) as prepared by Impact 7G. Based on the documentation provided, we agree that there are no properties listed in the National or State Registers of Historic Places, or the State Historic Site Network, that will be affected by the proposed project. We also agree that there are no known or suspected archaeological resources in the area that will be affected by this project.

Implementation of the project in accordance with this finding, as documented, fulfills the agency's responsibilities to consult with our office pursuant to Minn. Stat. 138. If the project is not implemented as proposed, including, but not limited to, a situation where subsequent design changes to the currently proposed project diverts substantially from what was presented at the time of this review, you will need to reopen consultation with our office.

Please note that this comment letter does not address the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36 CFR § 800. If this project is considered for federal financial assistance, or requires a federal permit or license, then review and consultation with our office will need to be initiated by the lead federal agency. Be advised that comments and recommendations provided by our office for this state-level review may differ from findings and determinations made by the federal agency as part of review and consultation under Section 106.

If you have any questions regarding our review of this project, please contact Kelly Gragg-Johnson, Environmental Review Program Specialist, at (651) 201-3285 or kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,

 Sarah J. Beimers
 Environmental Review Program Manager

MINNESOTA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
 50 Sherburne Avenue • Administration Building 203 • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155 • 651-201-3287 mn.gov/admin/shpo •
 mshpo@state.mn.us
 AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND SERVICE PROVIDER

Tips for Successful Review

- ✓ **Plan for sufficient time to consult**
- ✓ **Get to know your project before submitting to SHPO**
- ✓ **Collect and organize documentation**
- ✓ **Reach out to SHPO staff if you have any questions before, during, or after project review**

Thank you!

mn.gov/admin/shpo/

Kelly Gragg-Johnson

Environmental Review Specialist

kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us

(651) 201-3285

Lucy Harrington

Environmental Review Archaeologist

lucy.harrington@state.mn.us

(651) 201-3283