APPENDIX F. MFSA CORRIDOR WIDER OR NARROWER THAN 500 FEET

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APPENDIX F. MFSA CORRIDOR WIDER OR NARROWER THAN 500 FEET

Pursuant to § 75-20-303(5)(a)(i), Montana Code Annotated (MCA), if the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MTDEQ) were to approve the North Plains Connector Project (Project), the approved location must be a 500-foot-wide facility siting corridor. In certain areas along the Project right-of-way, MTDEQ and North Plains Connector LLC (the Proponent—a Grid United LLC Company) have consulted with each other to identify areas where the corridor should be more or less than 500 feet wide (§ 75-20-303(5)(a)(ii), MCA). These 20 locations are identified as follows, along with the rationale for the deviation from the 500-foot corridor (Figure F-1):

- Sites A–C are needed due to existing and projected energy infrastructure congestion near Colstrip, Montana. The additional space would allow flexibility to adapt final transmission line siting to new infrastructure coming online prior to Project construction.
- Sites D–I are needed to accommodate transmission line access to the preferred converter station site (for the Rosebud County Converter Station). The preferred converter station site is still in the acquisition phase, and layout of the facilities is still conceptual. Flexibility with transmission line siting into and out of the site is needed.
- Site J is needed to allow transmission line access to a backup converter station site should the preferred converter station site not be available.
- Sites K–N, P, R, and S are needed to provide greater flexibility to site the transmission line through rugged topography. A wider corridor in these areas will allow the Proponent flexibility to refine its route during pre-construction based on additional geotechnical investigations and/or field work, which in turn would improve constructability, better avoid and/or minimize impacts on sensitive resources, and enhance the Proponent's ability to reclaim the area following construction.
- Site O is required to accommodate the potential need for a larger offset from an existing pipeline.
- Site Q is required to accommodate the potential need for a more perpendicular existing transmission line crossing.
- Site T is needed because landowners have requested the Proponent consider minor adjustments to its route.

Table F-1
Areas with a Corridor Wider than 500 Feet

Site ID	Milepost	Rationale
Rosebud Transmission Line		
A	0.0	Flexibility to coordinate with other future facilities at Colstrip
B	0.0	Flexibility to coordinate with other future facilities at Colstrip
C	0.0	Flexibility to coordinate with other future facilities at Colstrip
D	3.0	Flexibility for final design layout of preferred converter station site
E	3.0	Flexibility for final design layout of preferred converter station site
F	3.0	Flexibility for final design layout of preferred converter station site
G	3.0	Flexibility for final design layout of preferred converter station site
H	3.0	Flexibility for final design layout of preferred converter station site
HVDC Transmission Line		
I	0.5	Flexibility for final design layout of preferred converter station site
J	2.0	Backup converter station site
K	38.0	Rugged topography
L	38.5	Rugged topography
M	40.3	Rugged topography
N	40.5	Rugged topography
O	41.8	Possible additional pipeline offset needed
P	108.0	Rugged topography
Q	127.2	Possible more perpendicular existing transmission line crossing needed
R	131.9	Rugged topography
S	131.9	Rugged topography
T	154.5	Landowner request

Source: J. Kuba, Pers. Comm., August 7, 2025

HVDC = high-voltage direct current

The Proponent is requesting 15 areas where the certificated corridor would be narrower than 500 feet (Table F-2). All sites are small and are proposed to avoid adjacent or non-participating landowners and/or to accommodate landowner request. None of the areas are needed for construction in rugged topography nor do they contain sensitive resources or infrastructure that would warrant a wider corridor. For these reasons, the Proponent prefers to narrow its corridor in these locations (Figure F-1):

Table F-2
Areas with a Corridor Narrower than 500 Feet

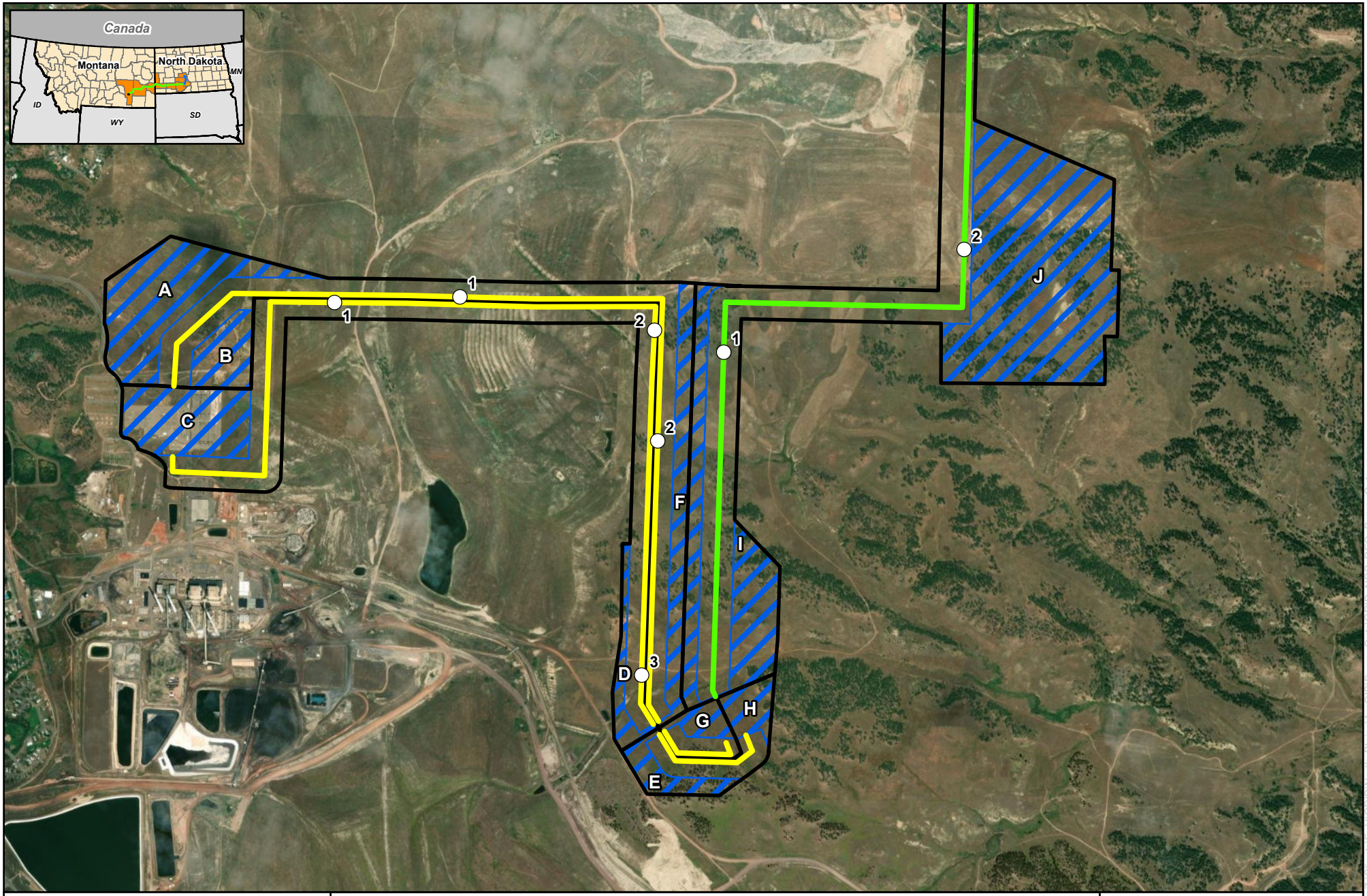
Site ID	Milepost	Rationale
Rosebud Transmission Line		
None		
HVDC Transmission Line		
1	31.0	Avoid adjacent or non-participating landowner and/or landowner request
2	79.9	Avoid adjacent or non-participating landowner and/or landowner request
3	82.8	Avoid adjacent or non-participating landowner and/or landowner request
4	102.1	Avoid adjacent or non-participating landowner and/or landowner request
5	111.9	Avoid adjacent or non-participating landowner and/or landowner request
6	128.9	Avoid adjacent or non-participating landowner and/or landowner request
7	131.0	Avoid adjacent or non-participating landowner and/or landowner request
8	152.3	Avoid adjacent or non-participating landowner and/or landowner request
9	157.2	Avoid adjacent or non-participating landowner and/or landowner request
10	157.9	Avoid adjacent or non-participating landowner and/or landowner request
11	163.9	Avoid adjacent or non-participating landowner and/or landowner request
12	168.2	Avoid adjacent or non-participating landowner and/or landowner request
13	168.3	Avoid adjacent or non-participating landowner and/or landowner request
14	170.0	Avoid adjacent or non-participating landowner and/or landowner request
15	172.1	Avoid adjacent or non-participating landowner and/or landowner request

Source: J. Kuba, Pers. Comm., August 7, 2025

HVDC = high-voltage direct current

F.1. REFERENCES

Kuba, J. 2025. Email. VP Environmental with Grid United personal communication with Craig Jones, Senior MEPA/NEPA Coordinator, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Helena, Montana. August 7, 2025.



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1 inch = 2,000 feet

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Figure F-1
500' Corridor Expansions and Reductions
North Plains Connector Project

- Milepost
- HVDC Transmission Line
- Rosebud Transmission Line
- Corridor Expansion
- 500' Corridor

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Figure F-1
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North Plains Connector Project

Milepost

HVDC Transmission Line

500' Corridor

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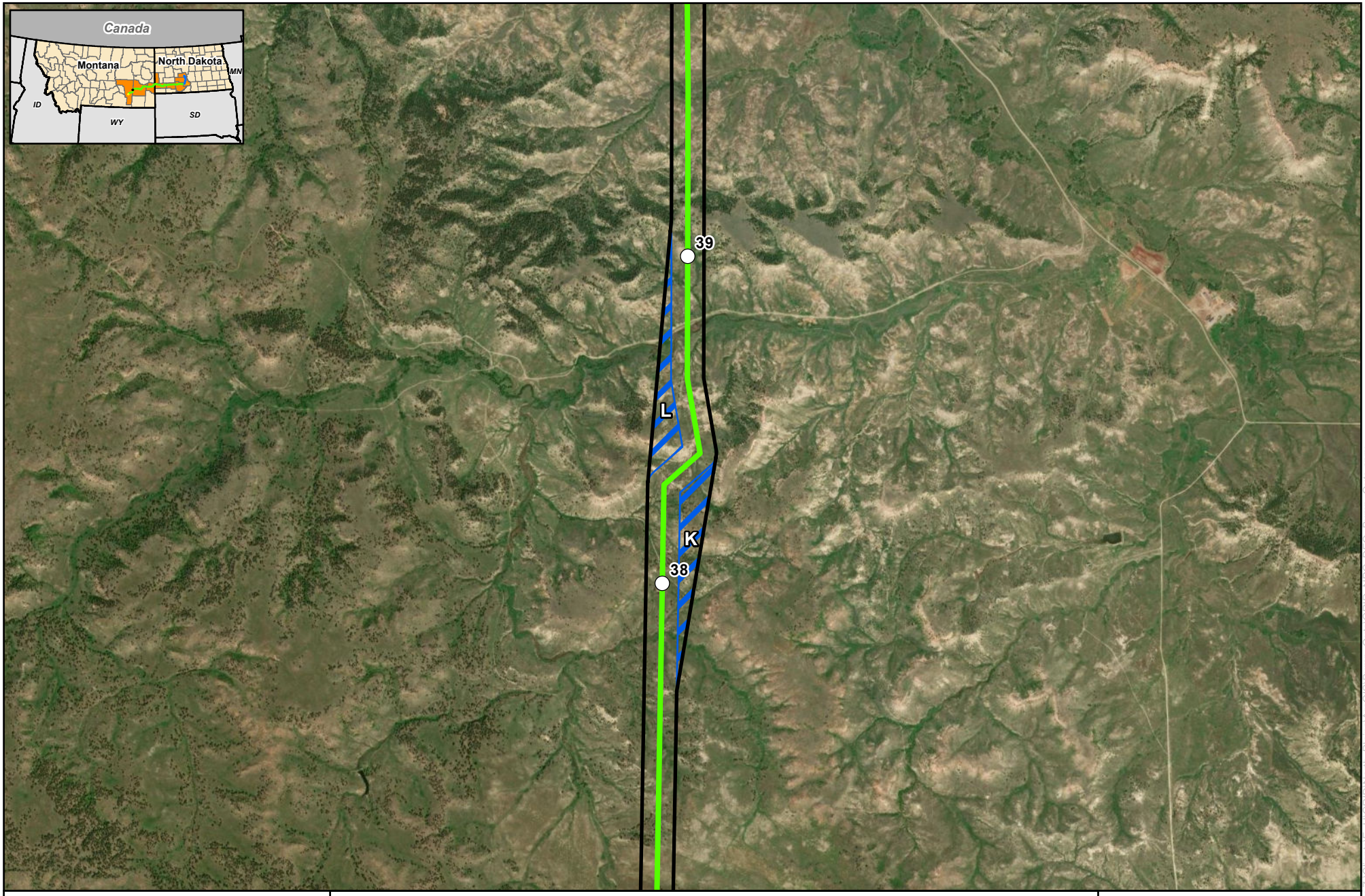

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- 500' Corridor

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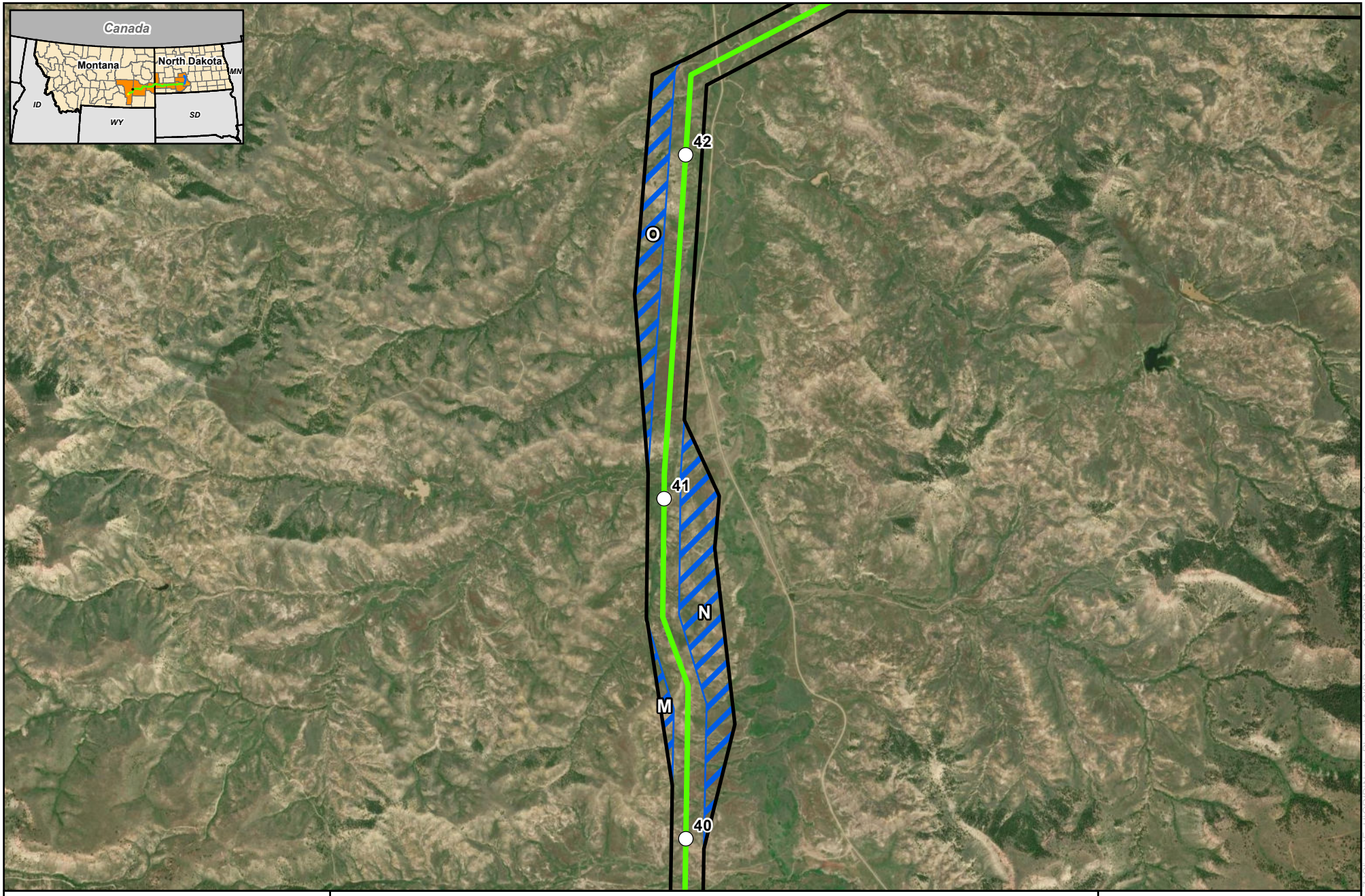

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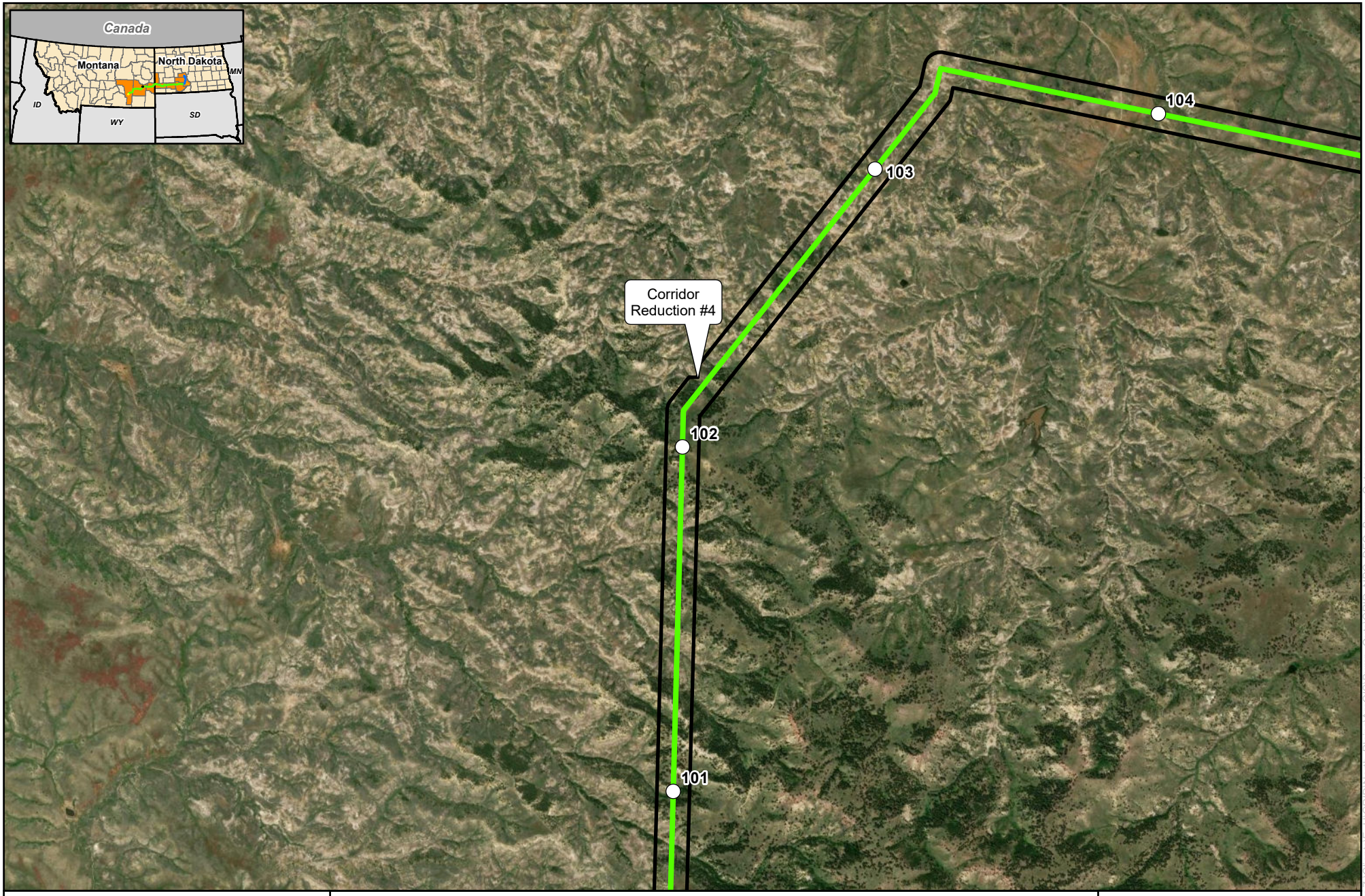

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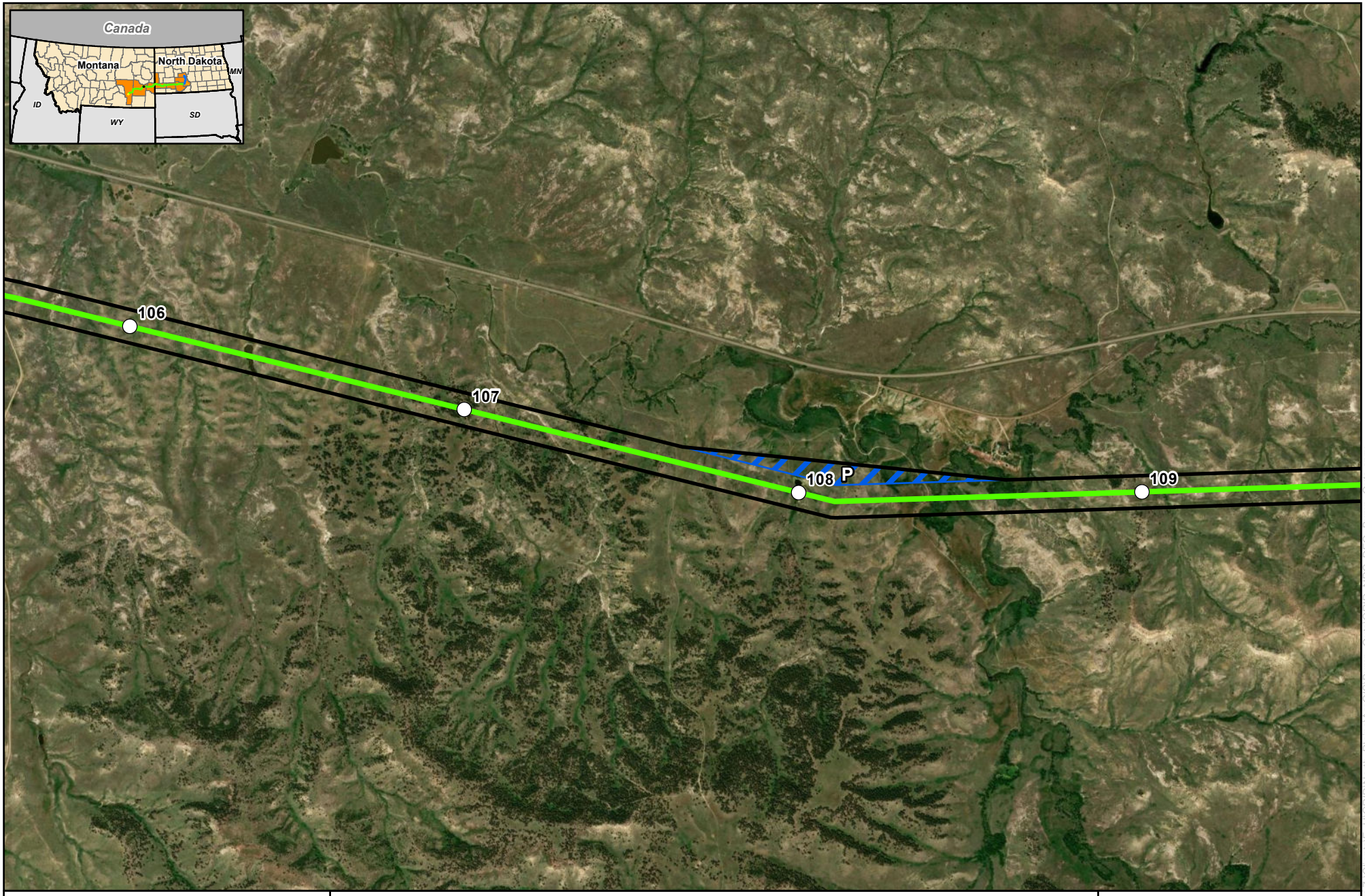

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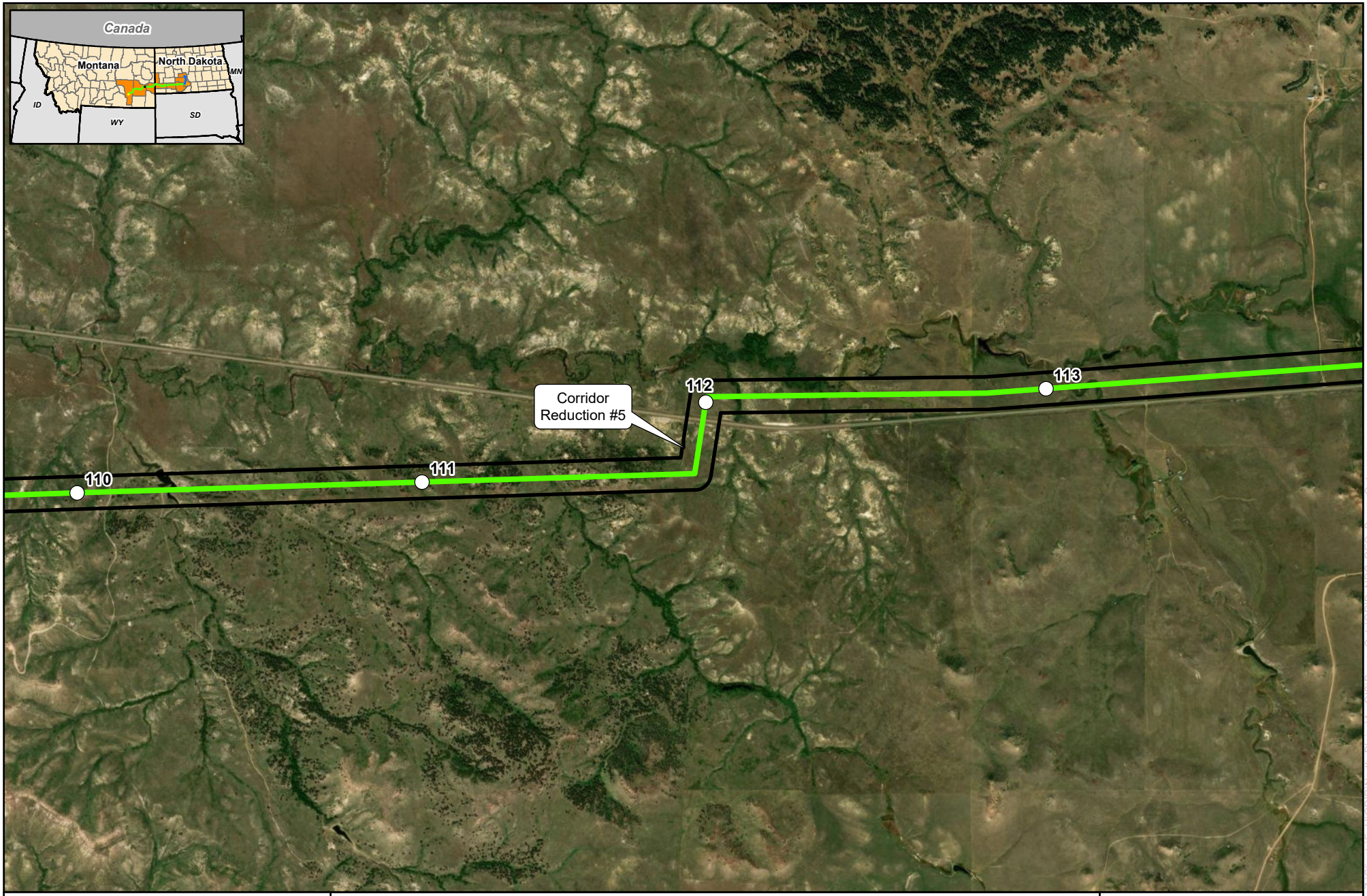

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North Plains Connector Project

Milepost
HVDC Transmission Line
500' Corridor

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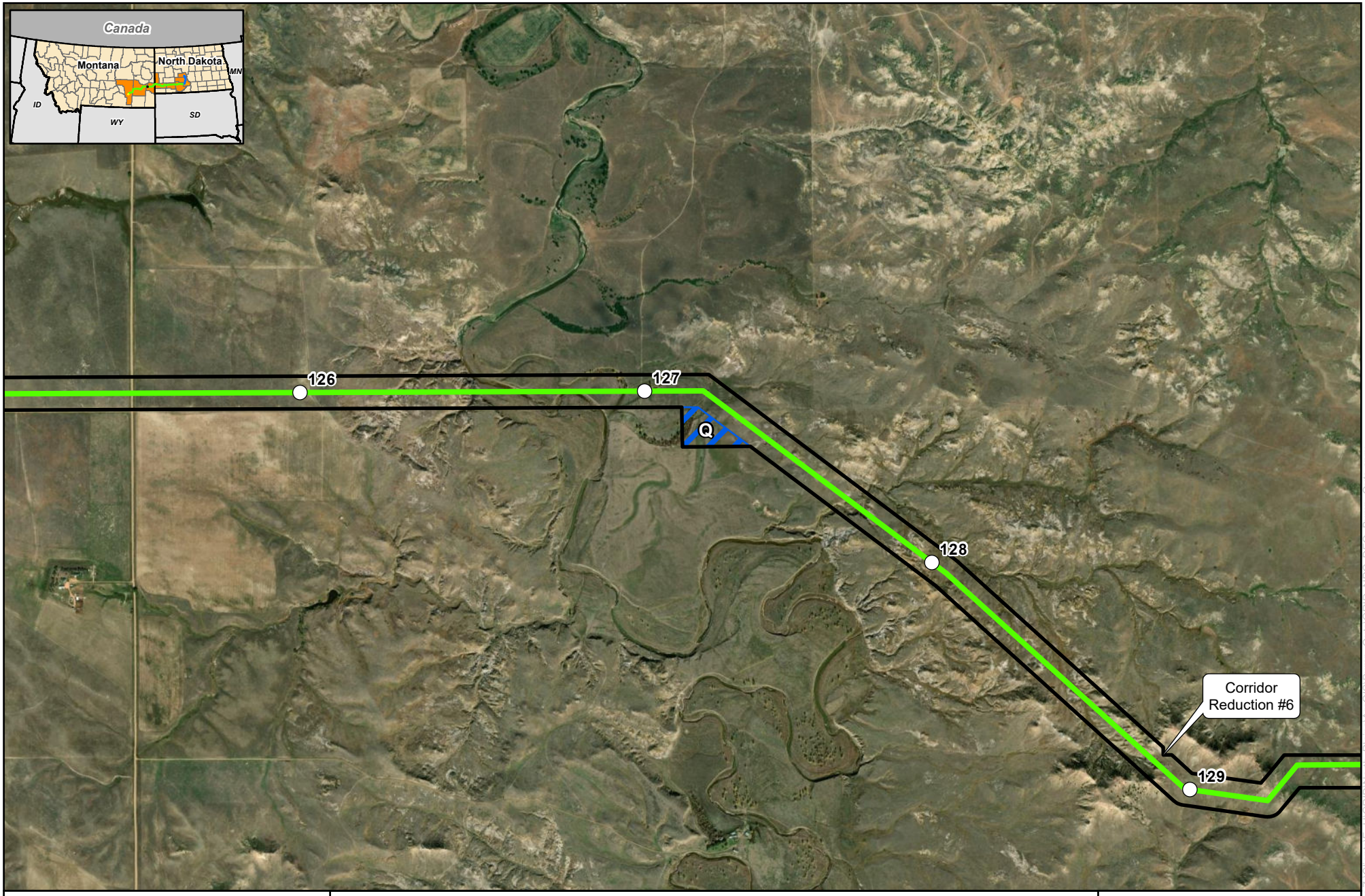

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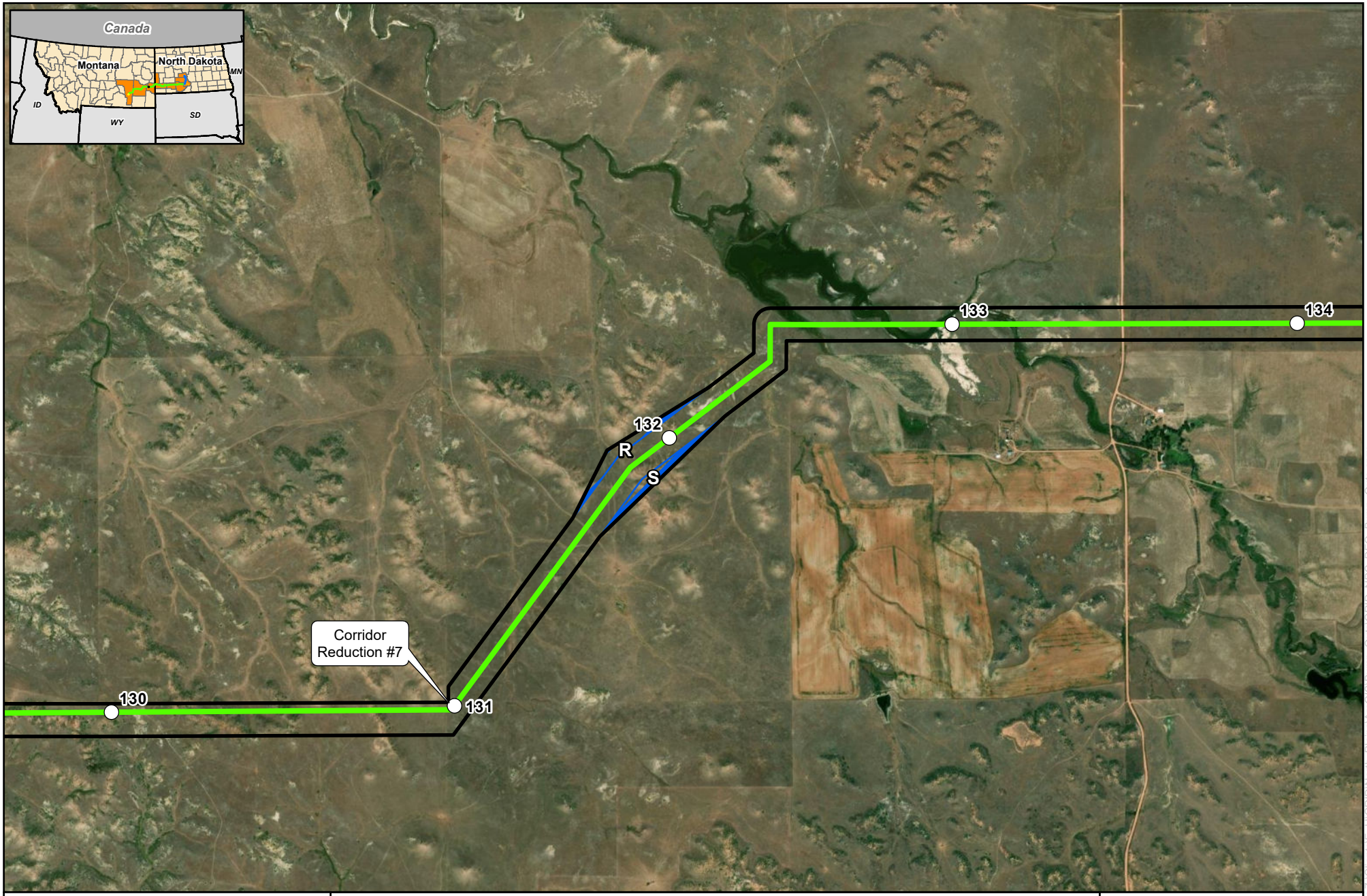

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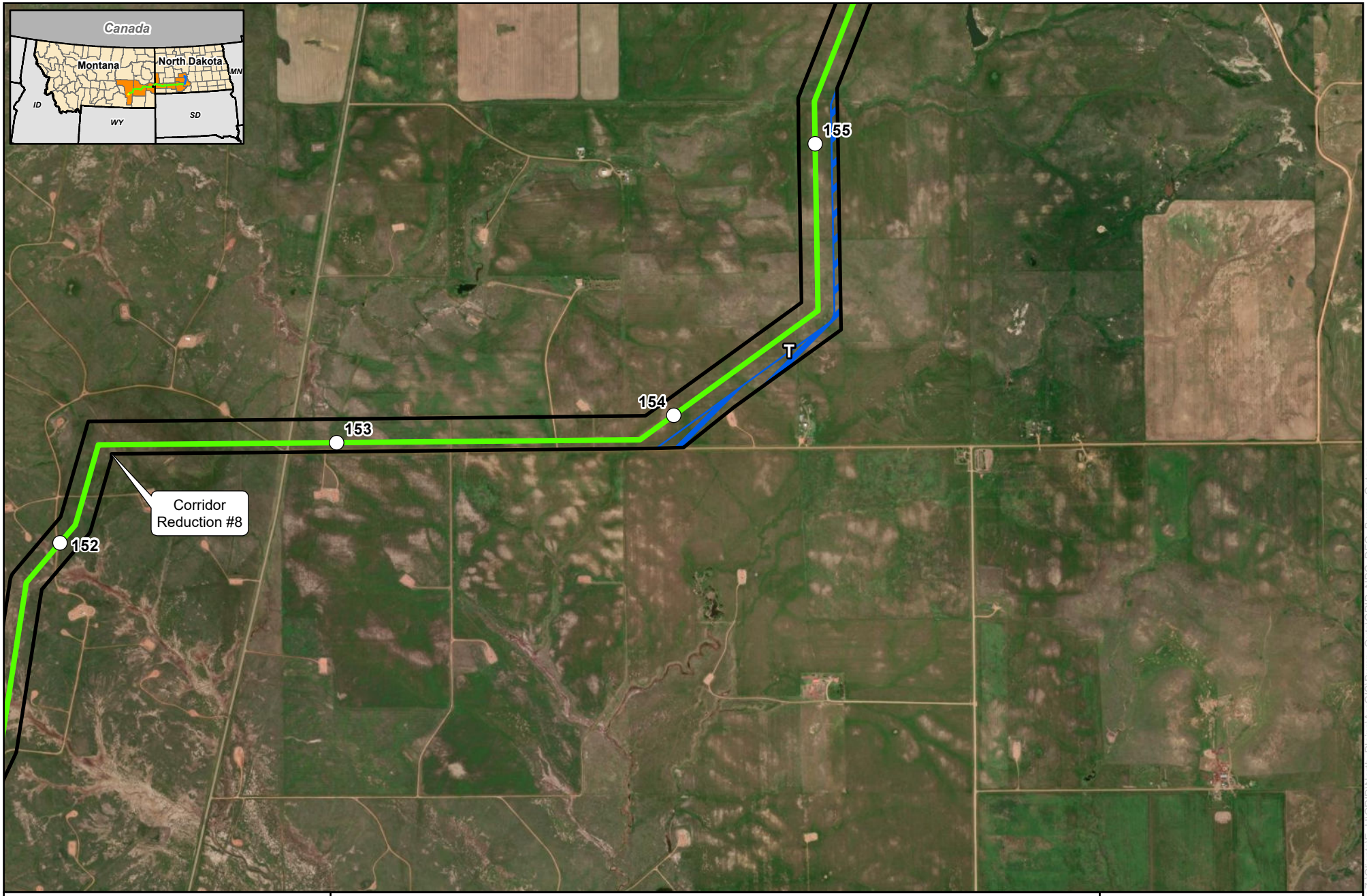

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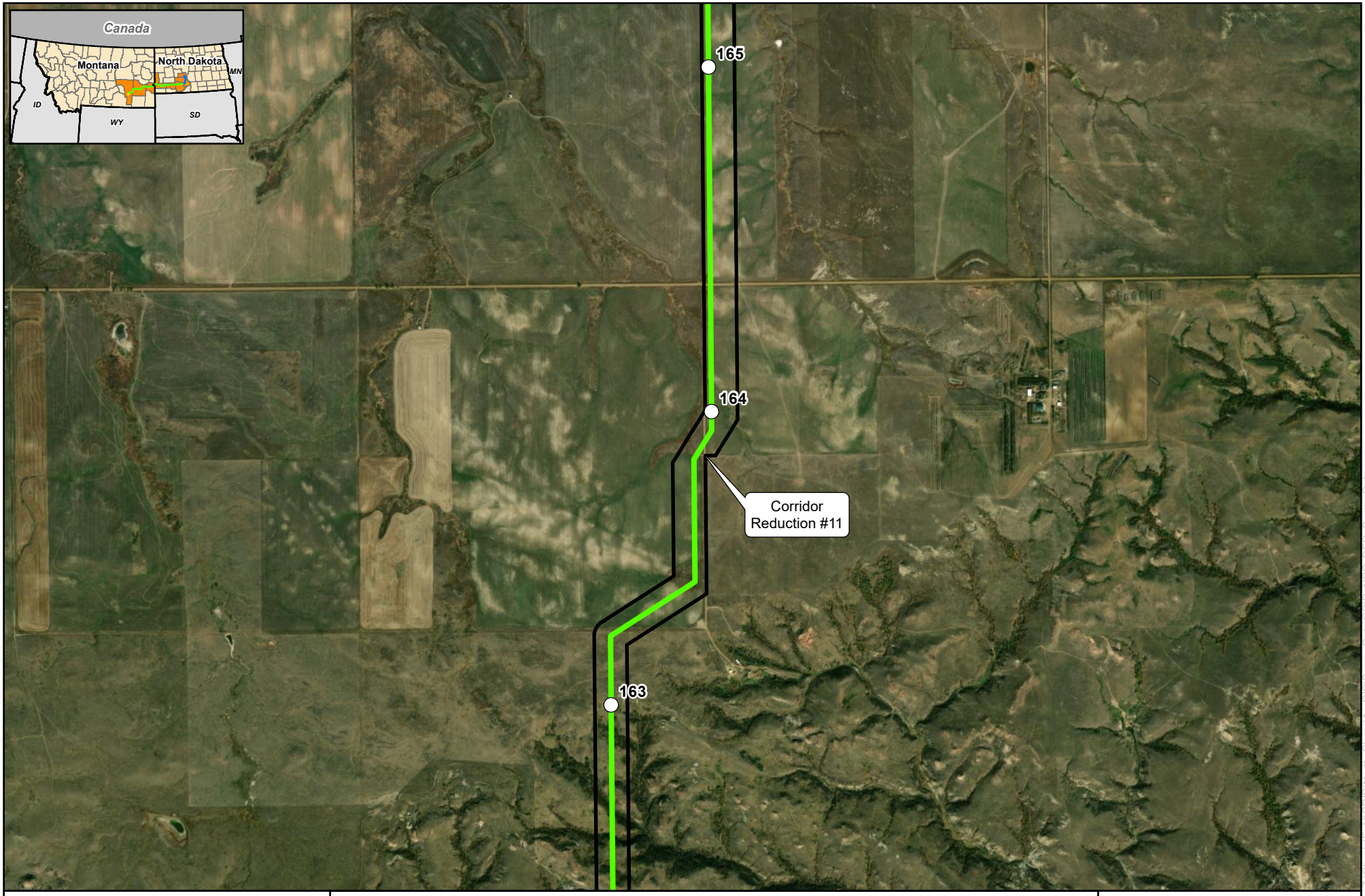

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North Plains Connector Project

Milepost
HVDC Transmission Line
500' Corridor

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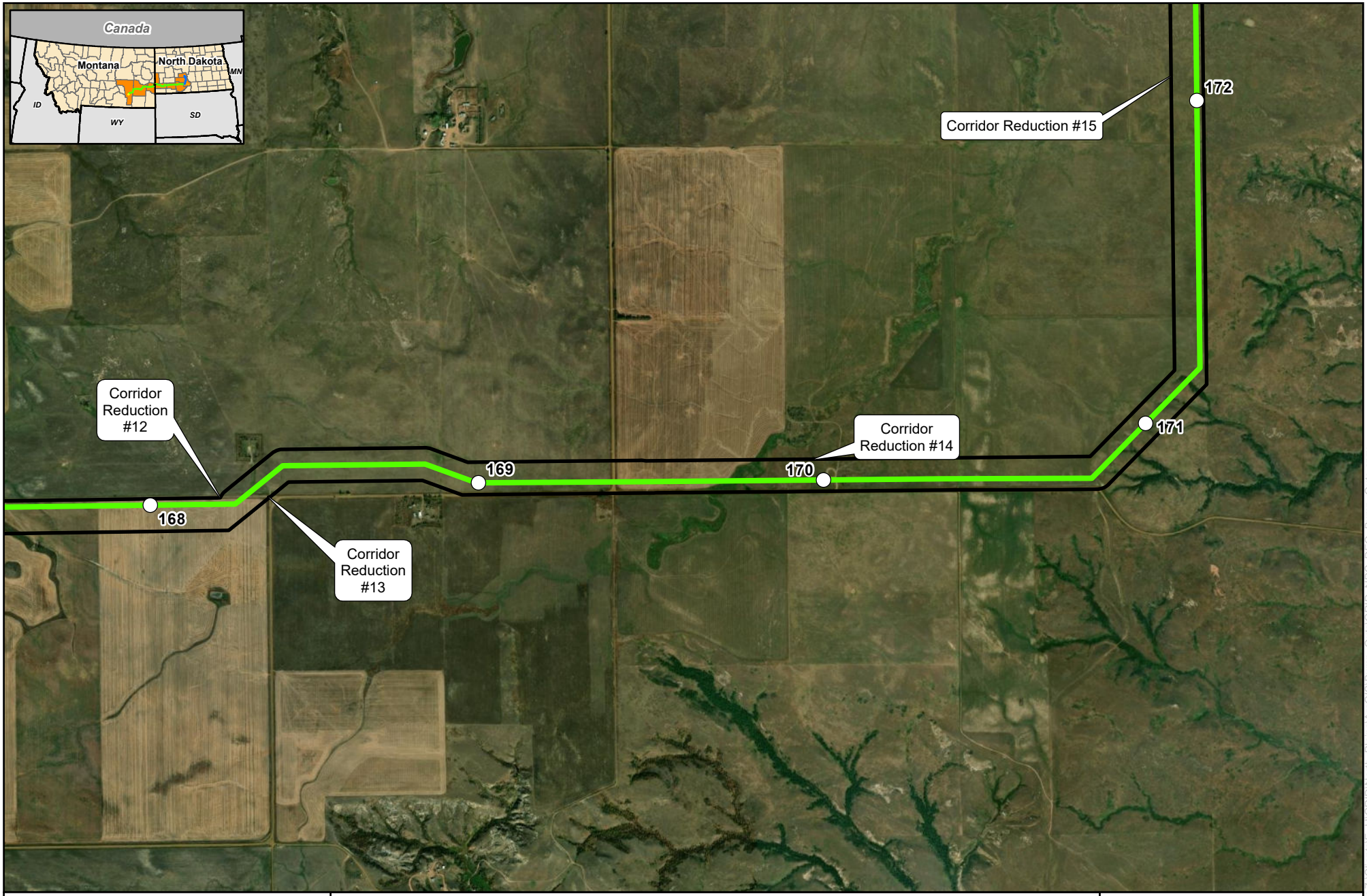

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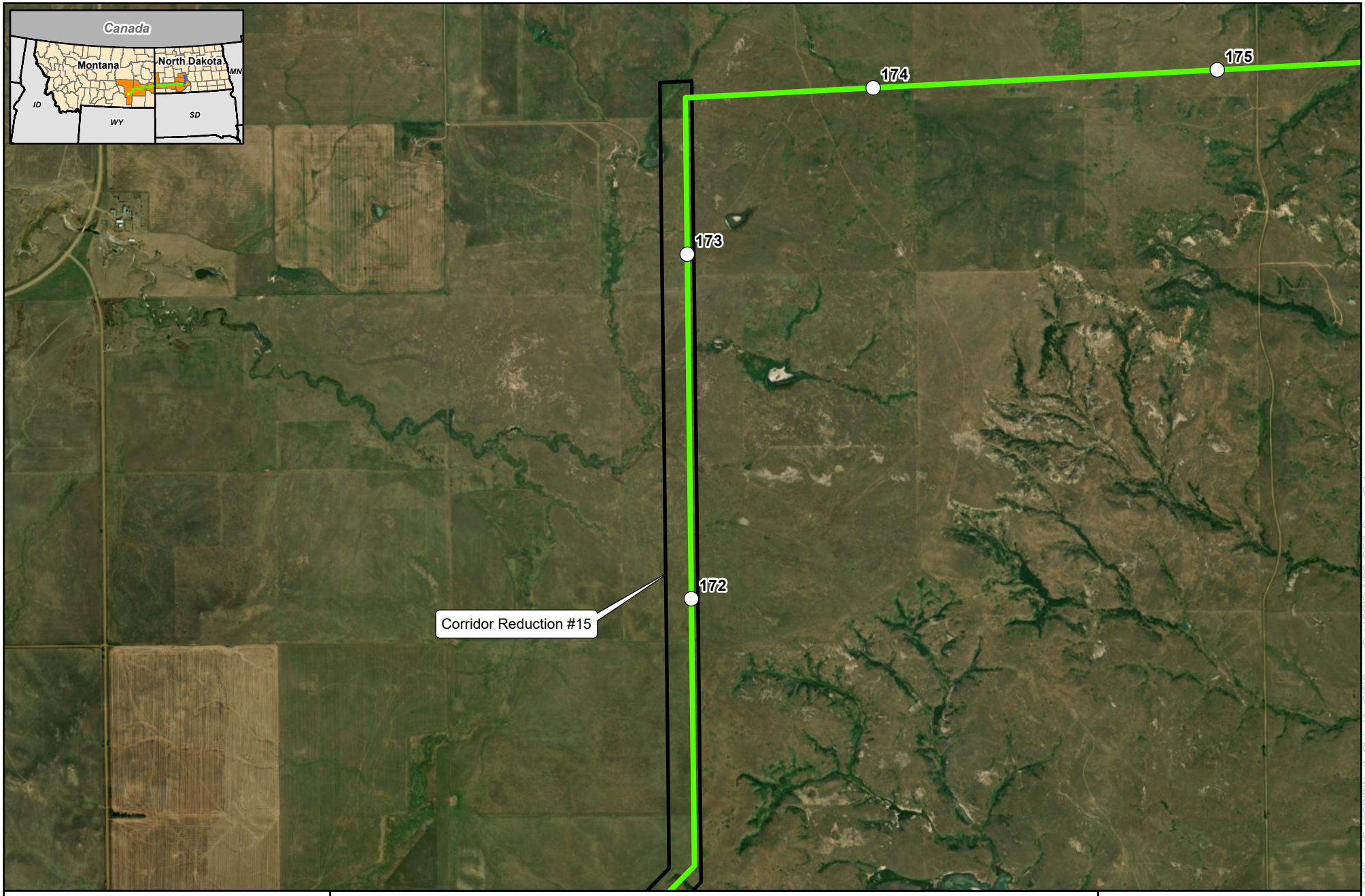

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