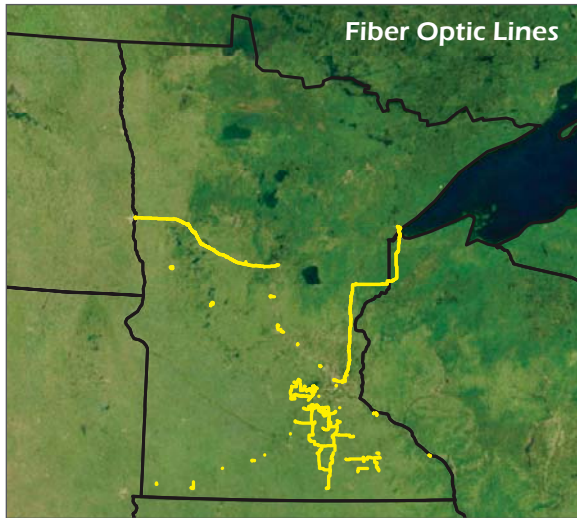
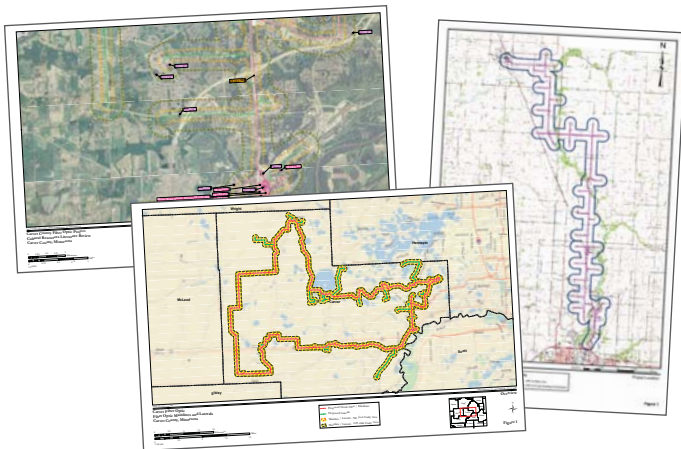


# Fiber Optic Industry Cultural Resources Compliance and Planning

*Throughout the Upper Midwest*



The 106 Group has conducted a number of cultural resources investigations to assist our clients through the regulatory obligations associated with proposed fiber optic projects. Recently, fiber optic projects have been receiving more federal funding, particularly through the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), a division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), a division of the U.S. Department of Commerce, as part of their Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program (BTOP). Therefore, the projects need to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).



To facilitate complying with these regulations, we have conducted literature reviews that identify known cultural resources along the proposed fiber routes and assessments concerning the potential for cultural resources to be impacted by the proposed project. Most fiber optic lines are installed within existing road right-of-way or utility easements that have often been previously disturbed. In addition,

use of either vibratory plows or directional drilling/boring causes minimal disturbance to the surrounding area. By conducting a literature review first, the need for additional cultural resources investigations is often reduced and/or eliminated. Examples include Jaguar Communications Inc. Fiber Optic project (370 miles), Eventis Telecom – Greater Minnesota Broadband Collaborative Project (425 miles), and Carver County Open Fiber Initiative Project (155 miles).

