

# APPENDIX C

## FAUNA

APPENDIX C.1  
REPRESENTATIVE MAMMAL SPECIES

Common Name	Scientific Name
Short-tailed shrew	<i>Blarina brevicauda</i>
Virginia opossum	<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>
Plains pocket gopher	<i>Geomys bursarius</i>
Woodchuck	<i>Marmota monax</i>
Striped skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>
Meadow vole	<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>
House mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>
White-tailed deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>
Northern grasshopper mouse	<i>Onychomys leucogaster</i>
Deer mouse	<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>
Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>
Eastern mole	<i>Scalopus aquaticus</i>
Thirteen-lined ground squirrel	<i>Spermophilus tridecemlineatus</i>
Eastern cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>
Red fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
Meadow jumping mouse	<i>Zapus hudsonius</i>

APPENDIX C.2  
REPRESENTATIVE AVIAN SPECIES

Common Name	Scientific Name
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>
Grasshopper Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus saccharinum</i>
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Upland Sandpiper	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>
Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Brewer's blackbird</i>
Great Horned owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>
Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>
American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>
Chimney Swift	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>
Black-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
Eastern Wood Pewee	<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>
Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>
Willow Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>
Horned Lark	<i>Emmophila alpestris</i>
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Northern Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>
Orchard Oriole	<i>Icterus spurius</i>
Least Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>
Belled Kingfisher	<i>Megascyle alcyon</i>
Red-headed Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>
Wild Turkey	<i>Melagris gallopavo</i>
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>
Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Black Capped Chickadee	<i>Parus atricapillus</i>
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>
Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>
Gray Partridge	<i>Pendix perdix</i>
Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>
Ring-necked Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Phenicia ludovicianus</i>
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>
Vesper Sparrow	<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>
Purple Martin	<i>Progne subis</i>
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>
Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
Eastern Phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>
American Woodcock	<i>Scelopax minor</i>
Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>
Dickcissel	<i>Spiza americana</i>
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>
Field Sparrow	<i>Spizella pusilla</i>
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>
Western Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Brown Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>
Yellow-headed Blackbird	<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaidura macroura</i>

APPENDIX C.3  
 REPRESENTATIVE AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE SPECIES

Common Name	Scientific Name
Tiger Salamander	<i>Ambystoma tigrinum</i>
Spiny Softshell Turtle	<i>Apalone spiniferus</i>
American Toad	<i>Bufo americanus</i>
Snapping Turtle	<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>
Painted Turtle	<i>Chrysemys picta</i>
Eastern Yellowbelly Racer	<i>Coluber constrictor</i>
Fox Snake	<i>Elaphe vulpina</i>
Northern Prairie Skink	<i>Emmeces septentrionalis</i>
Common Map Turtle	<i>Graptemys geographica</i>
False Map Turtle	<i>Graptemys pseudogeographica</i>
Western Hognose Snake	<i>Heterodon nasicus</i>
Milk Snake	<i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i>
Smooth Green Snake	<i>Liochlorophis vernalis</i>
Mudpuppy	<i>Necturus maculosus</i>
Northern Water Snake	<i>Nerodia sipedon</i>
Chorus Frog	<i>Pseudacris triseriata</i>
Northern Leopard Frog	<i>Rana pipiens</i>
Redbelly Snake	<i>Storeria occipitomaculata</i>
Plains Garter Snake	<i>Thamnophis radix</i>
Eastern Garter Snake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>

**APPENDIX D**

**AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE**

APPENDIX D.1  
AGENCIES CONTACTED REGARDING PROJECT

Agency	Date of Letter Regarding Project Notice
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Twin Cities Field Office	June 20, 2008
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Regulatory Project Managers	June 20, 2008
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources ("MnDNR") - Natural Heritage Program	July 10, 2008
MnDNR – Waters Area Hydrologist	June 20 and 24, 2008
MnDNR – Ecological Resources	June 20, 2008
MnDNR Region 4 – Southern Minnesota Lands and Minerals	June 20, 2008
Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office	August 7, 2008
Minnesota Department of Transportation ("MnDOT") - Utility Permits, Permits Supervisor	June 20, 2008
MnDOT District 7A Utility Permit Contact	June 20, 2008
Brown County Planning and Zoning Administrator	June 20, 2008
Brown County Highway Department – County Engineer	June 20, 2008
Brown County Environmental Coordinator/Manager	June 20, 2008
Brown Soil and Water Conservation District - Chair	June 20, 2008
Nicollet County Engineer/Public Works – Department Head	June 20, 2008
Nicollet County Environmental Services - Department Head	June 20, 2008
Nicollet Soil and Water Conservation District Chair	June 20, 2008
MN BWSR Board Conservationist	June 20, 2008
City of New Ulm Public Utilities Administration	June 20, 2008
City of New Ulm Engineering and Inspections	June 20, 2008
City of New Ulm Public Works / New Ulm Street Department	June 20, 2008
New Ulm Municipal Airport	June 20, 2008
Milford Township, Brown County – Town Chair	August 6, 2008
Lafayette Township, Nicollet County – Town Chair	August 6, 2008

**APPENDIX D.2**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS CONTACTED REGARDING PROJECT**

<b>Local Governmental Unit</b>	<b>Date of Letter Regarding Project Notice</b>
Milford Township, Brown County – Town Chair	August 8, 2008
Lafayette Township, Nicollet County – Town Chair	August 8, 2008
Brown Soil and Water Conservation District - Chair	August 8, 2008
Brown County Environmental Coordinator/Manager	August 8, 2008
Brown County Highway Department – County Engineer	August 8, 2008
Brown County Planning and Zoning Administrator	August 8, 2008
Nicollet Soil and Water Conservation District Chair	August 8, 2008
Nicollet County Environmental Services - Department Head	August 8, 2008
Nicollet County Engineer/Public Works – Department Head	August 8, 2008
MN BWSR Board Conservationist	August 8, 2008
City of New Ulm Public Works / New Ulm Street Department	August 8, 2008
City of New Ulm Engineering and Inspections	August 8, 2008
City of New Ulm Public Utilities Administration	August 8, 2008

## Joe Sedarski

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**From:** Joe Sedarski  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 13, 2008 12:44 PM  
**To:** 'Laurie\_Fairchild@fws.gov'  
**Subject:** RE: Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Hi Laurie – yes, Todd was sent a similar e-mail and letter, in addition to other DNR contacts (Lisa Joyal, etc.).

Joe

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**From:** Laurie\_Fairchild@fws.gov [mailto:Laurie\_Fairchild@fws.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 13, 2008 12:38 PM  
**To:** Joe Sedarski  
**Subject:** RE: Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Hi Joe,

I forgot to ask before, but I'm assuming you've already talked to DNR - was it Todd Kolander that you spoke with? He's usually my contact. Thanks

Laurie

Joe Sedarski <Joe.Sedarski@westwoodps.com>

08/13/2008 11:53 AM

To "Laurie\_Fairchild@fws.gov" <Laurie\_Fairchild@fws.gov>  
cc "Rogers, Timothy G" <Timothy.G.Rogers@xcelenergy.com>, Rob Bouta  
<Rob.Bouta@westwoodps.com>  
Subject RE: Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Hi Laurie -- sorry about the Figure A. The attached is the project location figure, which we meant to include with the August 8, 2008 letter. For this same project, I e-mailed you on June 20 a similar request which I think had a figure attached. In any event, sorry for the confusion.

The project involves a rebuild of existing line, as well as construction of a new substation (see figure for approximate area). Does your comment below apply to the substation area as well?

Thanks again for your comments and response.

Regards,  
Joe

**From:** Laurie\_Fairchild@fws.gov [mailto:Laurie\_Fairchild@fws.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 13, 2008 11:42 AM  
**To:** Joe Sedarski  
**Subject:** Re: Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Hi Joe,

Although a map would have been helpful (there was no Figure A that accompanied the letter I received, I think in this case its ok

without one because it will be a rebuild of an existing line. As for the substation, it does not appear there are any federally listed threatened or endangered species in that project area. Let me know if you have any questions/further need for comments. Thanks!

Laurie

Laurie Fairchild  
Twin Cities Field Office  
612-725-3548

Joe Sedarski <[Joe.Sedarski@westwoodps.com](mailto:Joe.Sedarski@westwoodps.com)>

06/20/2008 02:57 PM

To "laurie\_fairchild@fws.gov" <[laurie\\_fairchild@fws.gov](mailto:laurie_fairchild@fws.gov)>

cc "Rogers, Timothy G" <[Timothy.G.Rogers@xcelenergy.com](mailto:Timothy.G.Rogers@xcelenergy.com)>, Rob Bouta  
<[Rob.Bouta@westwoodps.com](mailto:Rob.Bouta@westwoodps.com)>

Subject Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Dear Ms. Fairchild,

Please review the attached letter and contact me with any concerns regarding the above Project. We appreciate your timely assistance with this matter.

Regards,

Joe

Joseph G. Sedarski  
Environmental Services/Senior Project Manager

**Westwood Professional Services**  
7699 Anagram Drive  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344-7310

DIRECT 952-906-7405  
CELL 612-360-0502  
EMAIL [joe.sedarski@westwoodps.com](mailto:joe.sedarski@westwoodps.com)  
MAIN 952-937-5150  
FAX 952-937-5822  
WEB [www.westwoodps.com](http://www.westwoodps.com)

[attachment "Ltr to USFWS Twin Cities.doc" deleted by Laurie Fairchild/R3/FWS/DOI] [attachment "20081081doq01A.pdf" deleted by Laurie Fairchild/R3/FWS/DOI] [attachment "20081081doq01A\_B1.pdf" deleted by Laurie Fairchild/R3/FWS/DOI]

## Joe Sedarski

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**From:** Laurie\_Fairchild@fws.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 13, 2008 12:24 PM  
**To:** Joe Sedarski  
**Cc:** Rob Bouta; Rogers, Timothy G  
**Subject:** RE: Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

The letter I just reviewed was dated June 20; don't worry about the map though. My previous email covers the new substation too, sorry I didn't make it more clear.

Laurie

Joe Sedarski <[Joe.Sedarski@westwoodps.com](mailto:Joe.Sedarski@westwoodps.com)>

08/13/2008 11:53 AM

To "Laurie\_Fairchild@fws.gov" <[Laurie\\_Fairchild@fws.gov](mailto:Laurie_Fairchild@fws.gov)>

cc "Rogers, Timothy G" <[Timothy.G.Rogers@xcelenergy.com](mailto:Timothy.G.Rogers@xcelenergy.com)>, Rob Bouta  
<[Rob.Bouta@westwoodps.com](mailto:Rob.Bouta@westwoodps.com)>

Subject RE: Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

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The project involves a rebuild of existing line, as well as construction of a new substation (see figure for approximate area). Does your comment below apply to the substation area as well?

Thanks again for your comments and response.

Regards,  
Joe

**From:** [Laurie\\_Fairchild@fws.gov](mailto:Laurie_Fairchild@fws.gov) [[mailto:Laurie\\_Fairchild@fws.gov](mailto:Laurie_Fairchild@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 13, 2008 11:42 AM  
**To:** Joe Sedarski  
**Subject:** Re: Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Hi Joe,

Although a map would have been helpful (there was no Figure A that accompanied the letter I received, I think in this case its ok without one because it will be a rebuild of an existing line. As for the substation, it does not appear there are any federally listed threatened or endangered species in that project area. Let me know if you have any questions/further need for comments. Thanks!

Laurie

Laurie Fairchild  
Twin Cities Field Office  
612-725-3548

Joe Sedarski <[Joe.Sedarski@westwoodps.com](mailto:Joe.Sedarski@westwoodps.com)>

06/20/2008 02:57 PM

To "laurie\_fairchild@fws.gov" <laurie\_fairchild@fws.gov>  
cc "Rogers, Timothy G" <Timothy.G.Rogers@xcelenergy.com>, Rob Bouta  
<Rob.Bouta@westwoodps.com>  
Subject Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Dear Ms. Fairchild,

Please review the attached letter and contact me with any concerns regarding the above Project. We appreciate your timely assistance with this matter.

Regards,

Joe

Joseph G. Sedarski  
Environmental Services/Senior Project Manager

**Westwood Professional Services**  
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MAIN 952-937-5150  
FAX 952-937-5822  
WEB [www.westwoodps.com](http://www.westwoodps.com)

[attachment "Ltr to USFWS Twin Cities.doc" deleted by Laurie Fairchild/R3/FWS/DOI] [attachment "20081081doq01A.pdf" deleted by Laurie Fairchild/R3/FWS/DOI] [attachment "20081081doq01A\_B1.pdf" deleted by Laurie Fairchild/R3/FWS/DOI]

## Joe Sedarski

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**From:** Joe Sedarski  
**Sent:** Monday, June 23, 2008 2:01 PM  
**To:** 'Laurie\_Fairchild@fws.gov'  
**Cc:** Rob Bouta; Rogers, Timothy G  
**Subject:** RE: Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Hi Laurie,

Here are some of your answers. The project consists of two main parts: one new substation (West New Ulm Substation) and rebuilding approximately 4.25 miles of existing 69 kV line to 115/69kV double circuit line. The rebuilt line will all be overhead, within existing right-of-way.

On the map, the yellow/green dashed line is supposed to show the transmission line rebuild locations, which extends from the existing Fort Ridgley Substation north of New Ulm, south and west to the yellow/red hatched oval area in the vicinity of the existing New Ulm Brown County REA Substation. The rebuild line crosses a portion of the corporate limits of the City of New Ulm on the north end of the City, as indicated on the map.

I will work at getting more details to you on look of rebuilt lines, more precise length of line, number of lines, and poles.

In the meantime, hope this helps. Please feel free to call me at (952) 906-7405 if you have any other questions or comments.

Thanks,  
Joe

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**From:** Laurie\_Fairchild@fws.gov [mailto:Laurie\_Fairchild@fws.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 23, 2008 1:50 PM  
**To:** Joe Sedarski  
**Cc:** Rob Bouta; Rogers, Timothy G  
**Subject:** Re: Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Hi Joe,

There are no new lines shown on the map (only existing lines are pointed out - is the unlabeled line within the New Ulm limits the "new" line? Or, is it only the substation that is new? Also, I need a description of what the rebuild and new lines will look like - for the new stuff (if applicable) I also need length of line; is all of this overhead? How tall are the poles? How many lines? etc.

Thanks,

Laurie

Joe Sedarski <[Joe.Sedarski@westwoodps.com](mailto:Joe.Sedarski@westwoodps.com)>

06/20/2008 02:57 PM

To "Laurie\_Fairchild@fws.gov" <[laurie\\_fairchild@fws.gov](mailto:laurie_fairchild@fws.gov)>

cc "Rogers, Timothy G" <[Timothy.G.Rogers@xcelenergy.com](mailto:Timothy.G.Rogers@xcelenergy.com)>, Rob Bouta <[Rob.Bouta@westwoodps.com](mailto:Rob.Bouta@westwoodps.com)>

Subject Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Dear Ms. Fairchild,

Please review the attached letter and contact me with any concerns regarding the above Project. We appreciate your timely assistance with this matter.

Regards,

Joe

Joseph G. Sedarski  
Environmental Services/Senior Project Manager

**Westwood Professional Services**

7699 Anagram Drive  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344-7310

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WEB	<a href="http://www.westwoodps.com">www.westwoodps.com</a>

[attachment "Ltr to USFWS Twin Cities.doc" deleted by Laurie Fairchild/R3/FWS/DOI] [attachment "20081081doq01A.pdf" deleted by Laurie Fairchild/R3/FWS/DOI]

## Joe Sedarski

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**From:** Norton, Eric M MVP [Eric.M.Norton@usace.army.mil]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 23, 2008 11:59 AM  
**To:** Joe Sedarski  
**Subject:** RE: Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Joe,

I apologize for not getting back to you sooner on this, but from the Corps standpoint we would be concerned with the methods for crossing the wetlands and waterways, as well as the Minnesota River. If you are planning on spanning these areas or directional boring under the waterways and wetlands, a permit would most likely not be required. However, if you plan on placing poles or discharging fill in the wetlands or waterways, a permit will be required. If you have any questions, feel free to send me an e-mail or give me a call. Thanks for your patience.

Eric Norton  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Regulatory Branch  
190 5th Street East  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101  
Telephone: (651) 290-5358  
Facsimile: (651) 290-5330  
[Eric.M.Norton@usace.army.mil](mailto:Eric.M.Norton@usace.army.mil)

In order to assist us in improving our service to you, we invite you to complete the survey found at:

<http://per2.nwp.usace.army.mil/survey.html>

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Joe Sedarski [mailto:Joe.Sedarski@westwoodps.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 20, 2008 3:00 PM  
**To:** Ahlness, Jon K MVP; Norton, Eric M MVP  
**Cc:** Rogers, Timothy G; Rob Bouta  
**Subject:** Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Dear Messrs. Ahlness and Norton,

Please review the attached letter and contact me with any concerns regarding the above Project. We appreciate your timely assistance with this matter.

Regards,

Joe

Joseph G. Sedarski  
Environmental Services/Senior Project Manager

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MAIN 952-937-5150  
FAX 952-937-5822  
WEB [www.westwoodps.com](http://www.westwoodps.com) <<http://www.westwoodps.com/>>

**Joe Sedarski**

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**From:** Lisa Joyal [Lisa.Joyal@dnr.state.mn.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 11, 2008 4:21 PM  
**To:** Joe Sedarski  
**Subject:** West New Ulm Substation & Transmission Line Rebuild  
**Attachments:** 20090036-1a.pdf; 20090036a07i.pdf; 20090036a07d.pdf; BioticsFieldExpl.pdf

I have attached the reply letter and database reports regarding the above project. Please remember that the detailed report is for your use only. It should not be published or copied (including electronically) for others.

I'm sorry that I was not able to make the two-week turnaround for a rush request. You will not be charged the additional rush fee. It was an oversight on my part that I did not contact you before the two-week deadline to let you know that I would be unable to meet the deadline.

Again, I apologize for any inconvenience this has caused.

Sincerely,

Lisa

~~~~~  
Lisa Joyal  
Endangered Species Environmental Review Coordinator NHIS Data Distribution Coordinator  
Division of Ecological Resources Minnesota Department of Natural Resources 500 Lafayette  
Road, Box 25 St. Paul, MN 55155

phone: 651-259-5109  
fax: 651-296-1811  
[lisa.joyal@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:lisa.joyal@dnr.state.mn.us)  
[www.mndnr.gov/eco](http://www.mndnr.gov/eco)



# Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Division of Ecological Resources, Box 25

500 Lafayette Road

St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4025

Phone: (651) 259-5109 Fax: (651) 296-1811 E-mail: lisa.joyal@dnr.state.mn.us

August 11, 2008

Mr. Joseph Sedarski  
Westwood Professional Services, Inc.  
7699 Anagram Drive  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Re: Request for Natural Heritage information in the vicinity of the proposed West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project  
Correspondence # : ERDB 2009036

| County   | Township (N) | Range (W) | Section(s)  |
|----------|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| Brown    | 110          | 31        | 12-14       |
| Nicollet | 110          | 30        | 5, 7, 8, 18 |

Dear Mr. Sedarski,

As requested, the Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System has been queried to determine if any rare species or other significant natural features are known to occur within an approximate one-mile radius of the proposed project. Based on this query, several rare features have been documented within the search area (for details, see the enclosed database reports). Please note that the following **rare features may be impacted** by the proposed project:

- Several mussel species, including the wartyback (*Quadrula nodulata*), a state-listed endangered species, have been documented in the Minnesota River in the vicinity of the proposed project. As mussels are particularly vulnerable to deterioration in water quality, especially increased siltation, it is important that sound erosion and sediment control practices be implemented and maintained near the river. **Please contact me again if the rebuild will impact the riverbed in any way**, as a mussel survey will likely be required prior to the onset of construction.
- Sullivant's milkweed (*Asclepias sullivantii*), a state-listed threatened plant, has been documented within a prairie remnant in the right-of-way of the Dakota Minnesota and Eastern Railroad in T110N R31W Section 14. (GIS shapefiles of MCBS Railroad Rights-of-Way Prairies can be downloaded from the DNR's Data Deli website at <http://deli.dnr.state.mn.us>.) To protect this rare plant, disturbance within the prairie remnant should be avoided. If this is not possible, and impacts in the railroad right-of-way are anticipated, a botanical survey will be needed. **Please contact me again if this is the case.**
- The above information, along with any proposed avoidance or mitigation measures, should be addressed in the Route Permit Application and subsequent Environmental Assessment.

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 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.

The enclosed results include an Index Report and a Detailed Report of records in the Rare Features Database, the main database of the NHIS. To control the release of specific location information, which might result in the destruction of a rare feature, both reports are copyrighted.

The Index Report provides rare feature locations only to the nearest section, and may be reprinted, unaltered, in an environmental review document (e.g., EAW or EIS), municipal natural resource plan, or report compiled by your company for the project listed above. If you wish to reproduce the index report for any other purpose, please contact me to request written permission. **The Detailed Report may include specific location information, and is for your personal use only. If you wish to reprint or publish the detailed report for any purpose, please contact me to request written permission.**

Please be aware that this letter focuses only on potential effects to *rare natural features*; there may be other natural resource concerns associated with the proposed project. This letter does not constitute review or approval by the Department of Natural Resources as a whole.

An invoice in the amount of \$87.22 will be mailed to you under separate cover within two weeks of the date of this letter. You are being billed for the database search and printouts, and staff scientist review. Thank you for consulting us on this matter, and for your interest in preserving Minnesota's rare natural resources.

Sincerely,



Lisa Joyal  
Endangered Species Environmental Review Coordinator

enc.    Rare Features Database: Index Report  
          Rare Features Database: Detail Report  
          Rare Features Database Reports: An Explanation of Fields

Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System: Rare Features Database  
Index Report of records within 1 mile radius of:  
West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project  
Multiple TRS  
Nicollet and Brown Counties

| Element Name and Occurrence Number                                                                                                             | Federal Status | MN Status | State Rank | Global Rank | Last Observed Date | EO ID # |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|------------|-------------|--------------------|---------|
| <b>Blue Earth, Brown, Carver, Chippewa, [...] County, MN</b>                                                                                   |                |           |            |             |                    |         |
| <u>Polyodon spathula</u> (Paddlefish) #4<br>Location Description: T27N R24W S23, T115N R23W S16, T115N R23W S17, T115N R38W S28, T [...]       |                | THR       | S2         | G4          | 2004-12-04         | 16501   |
| <b>Brown County, MN</b>                                                                                                                        |                |           |            |             |                    |         |
| <u>Asclepias sullivantii</u> (Sullivant's Milkweed) #55<br>Location Description: T110N R31W S14                                                |                | THR       | S2         | G5          | 1998-06-26         | 23951   |
| <b>Brown, Nicollet County, MN</b>                                                                                                              |                |           |            |             |                    |         |
| <u>Actinonaias ligamentina</u> (Mucket) #82<br>Location Description: T110N R30W S18, T110N R30W S8, T110N R30W S17                             |                | THR       | S2         | G5          | 1989-07-25         | 17037   |
| <u>Alasmidonta marginata</u> (Elktoe) #65<br>Location Description: T110N R30W S17                                                              |                | THR       | S2         | G4          | 1989-07-29         | 29480   |
| <u>Arcidens confragosus</u> (Rock Pocketbook) #5<br>Location Description: T110N R30W S7                                                        |                | END       | S1         | G4          | 1989-Pre           | 17018   |
| <u>Cycleptus elongatus</u> (Blue Sucker) #104<br>Location Description: T110N R30W S6, T110N R31W S1                                            |                | SPC       | S3         | G3G4        | 1998-05            | 29947   |
| <u>Elliptio dilatata</u> (Spike) #104<br>Location Description: T110N R30W S18, T110N R30W S8, T110N R30W S7, T110N R30W S17                    |                | SPC       | S3         | G5          | 1989-07-29         | 29481   |
| <u>Freshwater Mussel Concentration Area</u> (Mussel Sampling Site) #114<br>Location Description: T110N R30W S18, T110N R30W S8, T110N R30W S17 |                | N/A       | SNR        | G3          | 1989-07-25         | 11498   |
| <u>Lampsilis teres</u> (Yellow Sandshell) #5<br>Location Description: T110N R30W S7                                                            |                | END       | S1         | G5          | 1989-Pre           | 17047   |
| <u>Ligumia recta</u> (Black Sandshell) #89<br>Location Description: T110N R30W S17                                                             |                | SPC       | S3         | G5          | 1989-07-25         | 17064   |
| <u>Pleurobema coccineum</u> (Round Pigtoe) #72<br>Location Description: T110N R30W S17                                                         |                | THR       | S2         | G4G5        | 1989-07-29         | 29482   |
| <u>Quadrula nodulata</u> (Wartyback) #4<br>Location Description: T110N R30W S17                                                                |                | END       | S1         | G4          | 1989-07-25         | 17041   |

Nicollet County, MN

Printed July 2008  
Data valid for one year

Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System: Rare Features Database  
Index Report of records within 1 mile radius of:  
West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project  
Multiple TRS  
Nicollet and Brown Counties

| Element Name and Occurrence Number                                                                            | Federal Status | MN Status | State Rank | Global Rank | Last Observed Date | EO ID # |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|------------|-------------|--------------------|---------|
| <b>Nicollet County, MN</b>                                                                                    |                |           |            |             |                    |         |
| <u>Native Plant Community, Undetermined Class #473</u><br>Location Description: T110N R30W S5, T110N R30W S4  |                | N/A       | SNR        | GNR         | 1999-06-01         | 25610   |
| <u>Native Plant Community, Undetermined Class #494</u><br>Location Description: T110N R30W S6, T111N R30W S31 |                | N/A       | SNR        | GNR         | 1999-06-01         | 25611   |

Records Printed = 14

The Division of Ecological Resources recently adopted a new database system called Biotics. As a result of this change, the layout and contents of the database reports have been revised. Many of the fields included in the new reports are the same or similar to the previous report fields, however there are several new fields and some of the field definitions have been slightly modified. We recommend that you familiarize yourself with the latest field explanations.

## Rare Features Database Reports: An Explanation of Fields

The Rare Features Database (Biotics) is part of the Natural Heritage Information System, and is maintained by the Division of Ecological Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

*\*\*Please note that the print-outs are copyrighted and may not be reproduced without permission\*\**

**Field Name:** [Full (non-abbreviated) field name, if different]. Further explanation of field.

**-E-**

**Element Name and Occ #:** [Element Name and Occurrence Number]. The Element is the name of the rare feature. For plant and animal species records, this field holds the scientific name followed by the common name in parentheses; for all other elements (such as native plant communities, which have no scientific name) it is solely the element name. Native plant community names correspond to Minnesota's Native Plant Community Classification (Version 2.0). The Occurrence Number, in combination with the Element Name, uniquely identifies each record.

**EO Data:** [Element Occurrence Data]. For species elements, this field contains data collected on the biology of the Element Occurrence\* (EO), including the number of individuals, vigor, habitat, soils, associated species, peculiar characteristics, etc. For native plant community elements, this field is a summary text description of the vegetation of the EO, including structure (strata) and composition (dominant/characteristic species), heterogeneity, successional stage/dynamics, any unique aspects of the community or additional noteworthy species (including animals). Note that this is a new field and it has not been filled out for many of the records that were collected prior to conversion to the new database system. Some of the information meeting the field definition may be found in the General Description field.

**EO ID#:** [Element Occurrence Identification Number]. Unique identifier for each Element Occurrence record.

**EO Rank:** [Element Occurrence Rank]. An evaluation of the quality and condition of an Element Occurrence (EO) from A (highest) to D (lowest). Represents a comparative evaluation of: 1) quality as determined by representativeness of the occurrence especially as compared to EO specifications and including maturity, size, numbers, etc. 2) condition (how much has the site and the EO itself been damaged or altered from its optimal condition and character). 3) viability (the long-term prospects for continued existence of this occurrence - used in ranking species only). EO Ranks are assigned based on recent fieldwork by knowledgeable individuals.

**Extent Known?:** A value that indicates whether the full extent of the Element is known (i.e., it has been determined through field survey) at that location. If null, the value has not been determined.

**-F-**

**Federal Status:** Status of species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act: LE = endangered; LT = threatened; LE,LT = listed endangered in part of its range, listed threatened in another part of its range; LT,PDL = listed threatened, proposed for delisting; C = candidate for listing. If null or "No Status" the species has no federal status.

**First Observed Date:** Date that the Element Occurrence was first reported at the site in format YYYY-MM-DD. A year followed by "Pre" indicates that the observed date was sometime prior to the date listed, but the exact date is unknown.

**-G-**

**General Description:** General description or word picture of the area where the Element Occurrence (EO) is located (i.e., the physical setting/context surrounding the EO), including a list of adjacent communities. When available, information on surrounding land use may be included. Note that the information tracked in this field is now more narrowly defined than it was in the old database system, and some of the information still in this field more accurately meets the definition of the new EO Data field. We are working to clean up the records so that the information in the two fields corresponds to the current field explanations described herein. Also note that the use of uppercase in sentences in this field is not significant but rather an artifact of transferring data from the old database system to the new system.

**Global Rank:** The global (i.e., range-wide) assessment of the relative rarity or imperilment of the species or community. Ranges from G1 (critically imperiled due to extreme rarity on a world-wide basis) to G5 (demonstrably secure, though perhaps rare in parts of its range). Global ranks are determined by NatureServe, an international network of natural heritage programs and conservation data centers.

**-L-**

**Last Observed Date:** Date that the Element Occurrence was last observed to be extant at the site in format YYYY-MM-DD.

**Last Survey Date:** Date of the most recent field survey for the Element Occurrence, regardless of whether it was found during the visit. If the field is blank, assume the date is the same as the Last Observed Date.

Location Description: County or Counties in which the Element Occurrence was documented followed by Township, Range, and Section information (not listed in any particular order). Each unique Township, Range, and Section combination is separated by a comma. In some cases, there are too many Township, Range, and Section combinations to list in the field, in which case, the information will be replaced with, "Legal description is too lengthy to fit in allotted space".

-M-

Managed Area(s): Name of the federally, state, locally, or privately managed park, forest, refuge, preserve, etc., containing the occurrence, if any. If this field is blank, the element probably occurs on private land. If "(Statutory Boundary)" occurs after the name of a managed area, the location may be a private inholding within the statutory boundary of a state forest or park.

MN Status: [Minnesota Status]. Legal status of plant and animal species under the Minnesota Endangered Species Law: END = endangered; THR = threatened; SPC = special concern; NON = tracked, but no legal status. Native plant communities, geological features, and colonial waterbird nesting sites do not have any legal status under the Endangered Species Law and are represented by a N/A.

-N-

NPC Classification (v1.5): Native plant community name in Minnesota's Native Vegetation: A Key to Natural Communities (Version 1.5). This earlier classification has been replaced by Minnesota's Native Plant Community Classification (Version 2.0).

-O-

Observed Area: The total area of the Element Occurrence, in acres, which is measured or estimated during fieldwork. If null, the value has not been determined.

Ownership Type: Indicates whether the land on which the Element Occurrence was located was publicly or privately owned; for publicly owned land, the agency with management responsibility is listed, if known.

-S-

Site Name: The name of the site(s) where the Element Occurrence is located. Sites are natural areas of land with boundaries determined and mapped according to biological and ecological considerations.

Survey Site #/Name: The name of the survey site, if applicable, where the Element Occurrence is located. Survey sites are sites that provide a geographic framework for recording and storing data, but their boundaries are not based on biological and ecological considerations. Minnesota County Biological Survey site numbers, if applicable, are also listed in this field.

Survey Type: Information on the type of survey used to collect information on the Element Occurrence.

Surveyor(s): Name(s) of the person(s) that collected survey information on the Element Occurrence.

State Rank: Rank that best characterizes the relative rarity or endangerment of the taxon or plant community in Minnesota. The ranks do not represent a legal status. They are used by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to set priorities for research, inventory and conservation planning. The state ranks are updated as inventory information becomes available. S1 = Critically imperiled in Minnesota because of extreme rarity or because of some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extirpation from the state. S2 = Imperiled in Minnesota because of rarity or because of some factor(s) making it very vulnerable to extirpation from the state. S3 = Vulnerable in Minnesota either because rare or uncommon, or found in a restricted range, or because of other factors making it vulnerable to extirpation. S4 = Apparently secure in Minnesota, usually widespread. S5 = Demonstrably secure in Minnesota, essentially ineradicable under present conditions. SH = Of historical occurrence in the state, perhaps having not been verified in the past 20 years, but suspected to be still extant. An element would become SH without the 20-year delay if the only known occurrences in the state were destroyed or if it had been extensively and unsuccessfully looked for. SNR = Rank not yet assessed. SU = Unable to rank. SX = Presumed extinct in Minnesota. SNA = Rank not applicable. S#S# = Range Rank: a numeric range rank (e.g., S2S3) is used to indicate the range of uncertainty about the exact status of the element. S#B, S#N = Used only for migratory animals, whereby B refers to the breeding population of the element in Minnesota and N refers to the non-breeding population of the element in Minnesota.

-V-

Vegetation Plot: Code(s) for any vegetation plot data that have been collected within this Element Occurrence (i.e., either Releve Number or the word "RELEVE" indicates that a releve has been collected).

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\* Element Occurrence – an area of land and/or water in which an Element (i.e., a rare species or community) is, or was, present, and which has practical conservation value for the Element as evidenced by potential continued (or historical) presence and/or regular recurrence at a given location. Specifications for each species determine whether multiple observations should be considered 1 Element Occurrence or 2, based on minimum separation distance and barriers to movement.

## Data Security

Locations of some rare features must be treated as sensitive information because widespread knowledge of these locations could result in harm to the rare features. For example, wildflowers such as orchids and economically valuable plants such as ginseng are vulnerable to exploitation by collectors; other species, such as bald eagles, are sensitive to disturbance by observers. For this reason, we prefer that publications not identify the precise locations of vulnerable species. We suggest describing the location only to the nearest section. If this is not acceptable for your purposes, please call and discuss this issue with the Endangered Species Environmental Review Coordinator at (651) 259-5109.

## Joe Sedarski

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**From:** Joe Sedarski  
**Sent:** Friday, August 08, 2008 4:31 PM  
**To:** 'lisa.joyal@dnr.state.mn.us'  
**Cc:** 'Rogers, Timothy G'; Rob Bouta  
**Subject:** RE: MN DNR Natural Heritage Database Search Request for Proposed West New Ulm Substation & Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Hi Ms. Joyal,

We were wondering if you had the chance to review our request and respond to our request on July 10 for this Project.

Thanks for your assistance with this Project.

Regards,  
Joe

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**From:** Joe Sedarski  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 10, 2008 4:59 PM  
**To:** 'lisa.joyal@dnr.state.mn.us'  
**Cc:** 'Rogers, Timothy G'; Rob Bouta  
**Subject:** MN DNR Natural Heritage Database Search Request for Proposed West New Ulm Substation & Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Dear Ms. Joyal,

On behalf of Xcel Energy, Inc., please find attached to this e-mail the above request in our cover letter, a completed MN DNR Database Request Form, Figures A and B, and the GIS shapefiles required by the MN DNR for this request. Note that we respectfully request a two-week response.

Should you have any questions or comments regarding this request, please contact me.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation and assistance with this matter.

Regards,  
Joe

<< File: NHIS Data Request2.pdf >>  
<< File: Ltr to MN DNR Natural Heritage Program.doc >>  
<< File: 20081081doq01A.pdf >>  
<< File: 20081081drg01B.pdf >>  
<< File: Trans\_Line.zip >>  
<< File: 1\_Mile\_Buffer.zip >>

Joseph G. Sedarski  
Environmental Services/Senior Project Manager

**Westwood Professional Services**

7699 Anagram Drive  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344-7310

DIRECT 952-906-7405  
CELL 612-360-0502  
EMAIL [joe.sedarski@westwoodps.com](mailto:joe.sedarski@westwoodps.com)  
MAIN 952-937-5150  
FAX 952-937-5822  
WEB [www.westwoodps.com](http://www.westwoodps.com)



## TELEPHONE RECORD

**Project:** Xcel Energy – New West New Ulm Substation & Transmission -  
Line Rebuild Project/Route Permit Application

**Date:** June 23, 2008 and August 11, 2008

**Call To / Phone No.:** Joe Sedarski (JGS), Westwood (952) 906-7405

**Call From / Phone No.:** Steve Schoeb, MnDOT Roadway Regulations Supervisor, District  
7 (507) 304-6180

### Summary of Telephone Conference:

Steve Schoeb, MnDOT Roadway Regulations Supervisor, call to JGS regarding comments on the proposed Xcel Energy New Ulm project. Mr. Schoeb indicated that if Xcel will be working within MnDOT right-of-way, a permit will be required. He indicated that MnDOT ROW in the Project area varies from 46 to 75 feet in width, depending on the location. Near the railroad tracks, the ROW is 50 feet wide. If Xcel Energy is outside MnDOT ROW, no permit is needed. Mr. Schoeb indicated that MnDOT posts ROW maps online for us to review.

## Joe Sedarski

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**From:** Steve Schoeb [Steve.Schoeb@dot.state.mn.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 11, 2008 2:53 PM  
**To:** Joe Sedarski  
**Subject:** Re: Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project  
**Attachments:** Steve Schoeb.vcf

The proposal looks OK. Mn/DOT's Right of Way along that stretch of highway varies quite a bit. When you have the locations nailed down a little closer let me take a look. Our R/W maps are available online also if that will help you.

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/maps/gisweb/row/>

Steve Schoeb  
Roadway Regulations Supervisor  
District 7 Mn/DOT  
501 South Victory Dr.  
Mankato, Mn. 56001  
507-304-6180  
[steve.schoeb@dot.state.mn.us](mailto:steve.schoeb@dot.state.mn.us)

>>> Joe Sedarski <[Joe.Sedarski@westwoodps.com](mailto:Joe.Sedarski@westwoodps.com)> 6/20/2008 3:02:18 PM >>>  
Dear Mr. Schoeb,

Please review the attached letter and contact me with any concerns regarding the above Project. We appreciate your timely assistance with this matter.

Regards,

Joe

Joseph G. Sedarski  
Environmental Services/Senior Project Manager

Westwood Professional Services  
7699 Anagram Drive  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344-7310

DIRECT 952-906-7405  
CELL 612-360-0502  
EMAIL [joe.sedarski@westwoodps.com](mailto:joe.sedarski@westwoodps.com)<<mailto:fname.lname@westwoodps.com>>  
MAIN 952-937-5150  
FAX 952-937-5822  
WEB [www.westwoodps.com](http://www.westwoodps.com)<<http://www.westwoodps.com/>>

**TOWNSHIP OF LAFAYETTE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
PO BOX 604  
NEW ULM, MINNESOTA 56073**

RECEIVED  
AUG 15 2008  
WESTWOOD  
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

August 13, 2008

Westwood Professional Services  
Joseph G. Sedarski  
Senior Project Manager  
7699 Anagram Drive  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Dear Mr. Sedarski:

At the August 11, 2008 meeting of the board of supervisors they discussed the letters and information that you have sent the chairman and clerk concerning Xcel Energy Inc. intention of increasing the size of the power lines coming into Lafayette Township from New Ulm and ending at the Fort Ridgely Substation.

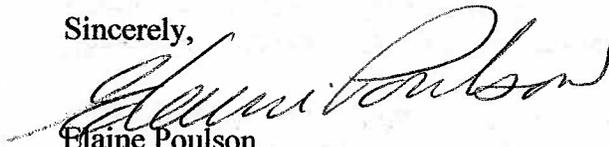
The supervisors understand that this project will likely proceed as planned by Xcel Energy Inc. and the major concern that the supervisors have is any damage that will be done to the town's roads and right-a-ways by workman and heavy equipment using them.

It is therefore expected that any damage to the roads or right-of-ways resulting from the work that is done to upgrade the power lines in Lafayette Township must be reimbursed to the township after the roads and right-a-way are improved to the previous condition.

It is also very important that local traffic using the roads is disrupted as little as possible during the work period.

The supervisors would like a letter sent to them assuring them of the intent by Xcel Energy Inc. to reimburse Lafayette Township for any damage to the roads or right a ways that results from their work during the upgrade. If you would like to discuss the issue of roads and right-a-ways repair and usage in Lafayette Township, please contact Chairman Chuck Schmidt at (507) 3549-4390.

Sincerely,

  
Elaine Poulson  
Town Clerk



## TELEPHONE RECORD

**Project:** Xcel Energy – New West New Ulm Substation & Transmission -  
Line Rebuild Project/Route Permit Application

**Date:** August 15, 2008

**Call To / Phone No.:** Joe Sedarski (JGS), Westwood (952) 906-7405

**Call From / Phone No.:** Tom Gieffer, Milford Township Clerk

### Summary of Telephone Conference:

Mr. Gieffer called in response to the Xcel Energy letter dated August 8, 2008 regarding notice of the Project. He indicated that the Township board met last night and that they would like to request a meeting with Xcel Energy to discuss the proposed Project. I gave Mr. Gieffer Tim Roger's telephone number at Xcel Energy to call and make such arrangements.

APPENDIX D.7

## Joe Sedarski

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**From:** Porter, Randall [PorterR@powersystem.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 18, 2008 3:18 PM  
**To:** Joe Sedarski  
**Cc:** Patrick Wrase  
**Subject:** Comments on Xcel Energy's permitting plans  
**Attachments:** RWP-Sedarski-7-18-08.pdf

Joe,

Here's the letter I discussed with you.

Thanks,

Randy



## Power System

Engineering, Inc.

OFFICES IN:  
MADISON, WI  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN  
MARIETTA, OH  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN

12301 Central Avenue, N.E., Suite 250  
Minneapolis, MN 55434  
**Fax:** (763) 755-7028  
**Tel:** (763) 755-5122  
**Web Site:** [www.powersystem.org](http://www.powersystem.org)

Via e-mail

July 18, 2008

Mr. Joseph G. Sedarski  
Senior Project Manager  
Westwood Professional Services  
7699 Anagram Drive  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

***Subject: Proposed West New Ulm Substation & Transmission Line Rebuild  
Project Xcel Energy/Northern States Power Company***

Dear Mr. Sedarski:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Xcel Energy's plans to obtain a permit from the MPUC for the West New Ulm substation and associated transmission line rebuild.

The West New Ulm substation & transmission line are critical facilities that are badly needed to enable both Xcel Energy and the City of New Ulm meet the existing and future electric needs of their customers. The City of New Ulm understands the Alternative Permitting Process will be used and fully supports this effort.

Because of the importance and technically complex nature of this project, timely communication between Xcel and the City of New Ulm is critical. The City and Xcel will likely develop shared or adjacent facilities and ROW in order to minimize the utility footprint on a growing area of the community.

In light of the need to closely coordinate the project, the City of New Ulm would like to request monthly project updates from Xcel Energy starting August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Project updates should be sent to:

Mr. Patrick Wrase, P.E.  
Planning & Development Engineer  
New Ulm Public Utilities  
310 First North Street  
New Ulm, MN 56073  
[patrick.wrase@ci.new-ulm.mn.us](mailto:patrick.wrase@ci.new-ulm.mn.us)

Mr. Randy Porter  
Executive Consultant  
Power System Engineering, Inc.  
12301 Central Ave. NE, Suite 250  
Blaine, MN 55434  
[porterr@powersystem.org](mailto:porterr@powersystem.org)

New Ulm appreciates this opportunity to comment on Xcel's plan. We look forward to working with Xcel to meet our customers' needs.

Sincerely,



Randall W. Porter, P.E.  
Executive Consultant

MN0460804/sja



## TELEPHONE RECORD

**Project:** Xcel Energy – New West New Ulm Substation & Transmission -  
Line Rebuild Project/Route Permit Application

**Date:** July 25, 2008

**Call To / Phone No.:** Joe Sedarski (JGS), Westwood (952) 906-7405

**Call From / Phone No.:** Randall W. Porter, Power System Engineering, Inc. (763) 755-  
1522

### Summary of Telephone Conference:

Randy Porter of Power System Engineering, Inc., consultants to the City of New Ulm, call to JGS regarding comments on Xcel Energy New Ulm Project. Mr. Porter stated that the City of New Ulm supports the Project. He indicated that a resident of New Ulm near the Xcel Energy right-of-way contacted him and wanted to know if the proposed transmission line would extend closer to residential homes south of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street North along the proposed route. The resident questioned this based on information provided by Xcel regarding the proposed structures and dimensions of where the lines would be placed on the structures.

APPENDIX D.7



## TELEPHONE RECORD

**Project:** Xcel Energy – New West New Ulm Substation & Transmission -  
Line Rebuild Project/Route Permit Application

**Date:** August 8, 2008

**Call To / Phone No.:** Patrick Wrase, City of New Ulm Public Utilities (507) 359-8202

**Call From / Phone No.:** Joe Sedarski (JGS), Westwood (952) 906-7405

### Summary of Telephone Conference:

JGS call to Patrick Wrase City of New Ulm Public Utilities regarding plans for utility projects located at 23<sup>rd</sup> Street North or in the vicinity of existing Xcel Energy transmission line and structures.

Mr. Wrase stated that he knew of no planned projects along the existing Xcel Energy transmission line route. He indicated a tap from the existing natural gas pipeline along the west side of County Highway 12 may be installed when the area east of County Highway 12 and north of U.S. Highway 14 around the Somsen WMA becomes developed. Mr. Wrase was not sure when tapping the natural gas line would occur, and that installation depends on when this area becomes developed. He was aware of no other City improvements in the vicinity of the Xcel Energy line and structures and he has no knowledge of private improvements in these areas.

## Joe Sedarski

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**From:** Mielke, Brian D [Brian.D.Mielke@xcelenergy.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 08, 2008 2:08 PM  
**To:** Patrick Wrase  
**Cc:** Rogers, Timothy G; Joe Sedarski; Chezik, Gerald V  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed New Ulm 115kV-69kV Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild

Good Afternoon Patrick,

Thank you for your earlier message regarding the transmission line that runs along 23rd North Street. We appreciate hearing the comments you receive from your citizens. We consider health and safety of the public when we design new structures and lines, following industry and regulatory standards. Xcel Energy will design the rebuilding of this line to minimize impacts to residences and natural resources. Most often, this involves utilizing current corridors and corresponding easements when a pre-existing facilities exist. We will look closer into your request.

Please feel free to Tim Rogers at 612-330-1955 or myself at 612-330-7946 at any time with future questions or concerns. Thank you again.

Brian Mielke  
Siting and Land Rights Agent  
Xcel Energy  
612-330-7946  
612-573-9073 (fax)

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**From:** Patrick Wrase [mailto:patrick.wrase@ci.new-ulm.mn.us]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 08, 2008 11:45 AM  
**To:** Mielke, Brian D  
**Cc:** Gary Gleisner; Steve Soukup  
**Subject:** Proposed New Ulm 115kV-69kV Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild

Brian,

Yesterday, 8/7/08, I spoke with Joe Sedarski of Westwood Professional Services about the above referenced project. We are getting numerous phone calls from residents of 23<sup>rd</sup> North Street regarding the project. The concern of these residents is that the proposed project will move high voltage cables closer to their property and that the proposed poles will actually hang the wires above private property and out of the easement area. Another concern is that the proposed upgrades will be a significant change to the existing transmission system and that the proposed facilities are not suitable in a residential neighborhood with such a compact street right of way.

I have attached a construction drawing from 1999 that shows the location of the poles on 23<sup>rd</sup> to the ROW lines. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Street ROW is 60 feet in total. It appears that the existing poles are only 6 to 7 feet on the street side of the ROW line. Based on this information and the drawing of the double circuit poles provided at the New Ulm open house, the wires will overhang private property. The typical of the proposed pole is shown to have the center arm extend 8 feet from the edge of the pole.

The New Public Utilities supports the project and looks forward to the increased reliability that the project will bring. However, with respect to the section of line along 23<sup>rd</sup> North Street, we would ask that you please consider relocating this

portion of the project further to the north and establish a ROW corridor more appropriate for a 115KV transmission system.

Thank You,

Patrick Wrase, P.E.  
Utilities Planning and Development Engineer  
New Ulm Public Utilities  
310 First North Street  
New Ulm, MN 56073  
(507) 359-8202 office  
(507) 354 7318 fax

[patrick.wrase@ci.new-ulm.mn.us](mailto:patrick.wrase@ci.new-ulm.mn.us)

[www.ci.new-ulm.mn.us](http://www.ci.new-ulm.mn.us)

<<9904-44 (2).pdf>>

## Joe Sedarski

---

**From:** Joe Sedarski  
**Sent:** Monday, June 23, 2008 10:19 AM  
**To:** 'Mike Wagner'  
**Cc:** Mandy Landkamer; Rob Bouta  
**Subject:** RE: US Hwy. 14 & County Rd. 12??  
**Attachments:** 20081081doq01A.pdf

Hi Mr. Wagner,

Thanks for your quick response, and sorry for the confusion on the project location. The new substation is planned for the northwest corner of the intersection of U.S. Highway 14 and County Road 12 located west of the City of New Ulm, west of the New Ulm Municipal Airport located in Milford Township, Brown County, near the Somsen Slough, and not the intersection in Courtland you mentioned in your e-mail.

I am attaching a pdf of the project location for your use in locating this project.

Please contact me at 952-906-7405 if you have any other questions regarding the project location. Thanks for your assistance with this matter.

Regards,  
Joe

---

**From:** Mike Wagner [mailto:mwagner@co.nicollet.mn.us]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 20, 2008 3:39 PM  
**To:** Joe Sedarski  
**Cc:** Mandy Landkamer  
**Subject:** US Hwy. 14 & County Rd. 12??

Mr. Sedarski: Your memo of June 20, today, states that a new substation is to be constructed in the vicinity of the NW corner of the intersection of U. S. Highway 14 and County Road 12. That intersection is located within the City of Courtland. Please provide a more specific description of your proposed location. Mike Wagner

---

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Joe Sedarski [mailto:Joe.Sedarski@westwoodps.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 20, 2008 3:12 PM  
**To:** Mike Wagner  
**Cc:** Rogers, Timothy G; Rob Bouta  
**Subject:** Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Dear Mr. Wagner,

Please review the attached letter and contact me with any concerns regarding the above Project. We appreciate your timely assistance with this matter.

Regards,

Joe

Joseph G. Sedarski  
Environmental Services/Senior Project Manager

**Westwood Professional Services**  
7699 Anagram Drive  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344-7310

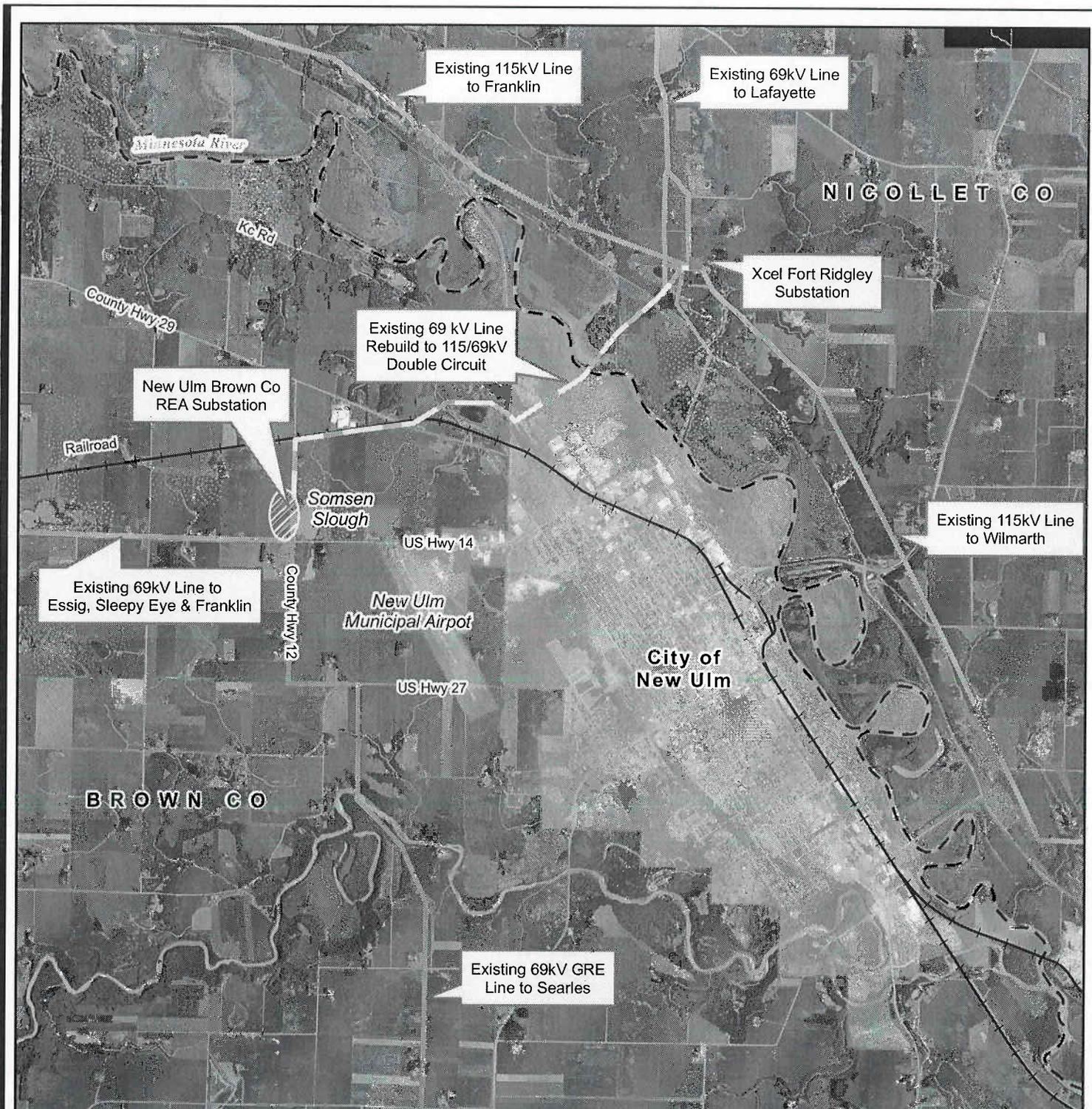
DIRECT 952-906-7405  
CELL 612-360-0502  
EMAIL [joe.sedarski@westwoodps.com](mailto:joe.sedarski@westwoodps.com)  
MAIN 952-937-5150  
FAX 952-937-5822  
WEB [www.westwoodps.com](http://www.westwoodps.com)

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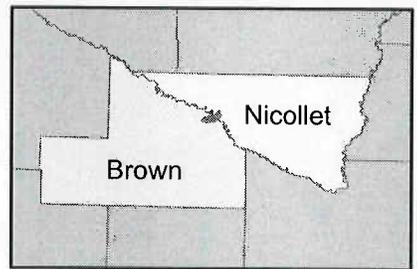


# Proposed West New Ulm Substation and 115kV-69kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Brown and Nicollet Counties, MN

## Legend

- |                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  Proposed Xcel Energy West New Ulm Substation              |  Railroad             |
|  Existing Substation - Fort Ridgley                        |  MN DNR Wildlife Area |
|  Existing Substation - New Ulm                             |  County Boundary      |
|  Proposed Xcel Energy 115kV-69kV Transmission Line Rebuild |  Waterbody            |
|  Great River Energy Transmission                           |  River/Stream         |
|  Xcel Energy Transmission                                  |  City Boundary        |
|  City of New Ulm Transmission                              |                                                                                                          |



Data Source(s): NSP, MN DNR, USDA.



Figure A



## TELEPHONE RECORD

**Project:** Xcel Energy – New West New Ulm Substation & Transmission -  
Line Rebuild Project/Route Permit Application

**Date:** June 23, 2008

**Call To / Phone No.:** Joe Sedarski (JGS), Westwood (952) 906-7405

**Call From / Phone No.:** Mandy Landkamer, Nicollet County Environmental Services  
Director (507) 934-0254

### Summary of Telephone Conference:

Mandy Landkamer, Director of Nicollet County Environmental Services, call to JGS regarding comments to Xcel Energy New Ulm project. Ms. Landkamer stated that she is concerned over erosion issues if Xcel Energy removes vegetation along the hillside above the Minnesota River valley, above County Road 21, at the north end of the Project transmission line location. She wanted to know if the proposed route follows the existing line (which she believed was along the Township Road), or if it cuts through the hillside as proposed. Ms. Landkamer indicated she would provide e-mail comments as well.

## Joe Sedarski

---

**From:** Joe Sedarski  
**Sent:** Monday, June 23, 2008 5:16 PM  
**To:** 'Mandy Landkamer'  
**Cc:** Rogers, Timothy G; Rob Bouta  
**Subject:** RE: Excel Energy Transmission Line

Hi Mandy,

Thanks for your call a little earlier today. I will review this with Xcel Energy and get back to you with a response soon.

Thanks again for your review and comments.

Regards,  
Joe

---

**From:** Mandy Landkamer [mailto:mlandkamer@co.nicollet.mn.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 23, 2008 4:59 PM  
**To:** Joe Sedarski  
**Subject:** Excel Energy Transmission Line

Joe-

As I mentioned during our phone conversation, I am concerned with the proposed route as indicated on the map attached to the original email. Due to the nature of the area, excavation and the removal of vegetation along the hillside/bluff can and has caused excessive erosion during rain events which settle into the road ditch. My question to you is, will the proposed route follow the existing route along along the Township Road rather than cut through the hillside as proposed?

Attached you will find a map with an aerial of Nicollet County as the background with the proposed route indicated.

Thanks,  
Mandy

Mandy Landkamer  
Environmental Services Director  
501 S Minnesota Avenue  
St. Peter, MN 56082  
507-934-0254  
507-934-0259 fax  
[mlandkamer@co.nicollet.mn.us](mailto:mlandkamer@co.nicollet.mn.us)

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[info@co.nicollet.mn.us](mailto:info@co.nicollet.mn.us)

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## Joe Sedarski

---

**From:** Mandy Landkamer [mlandkamer@co.nicollet.mn.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 23, 2008 4:59 PM  
**To:** Joe Sedarski  
**Subject:** Excel Energy Transmission Line  
**Attachments:** Xcel Energy.pdf

Joe-

As I mentioned during our phone conversation, I am concerned with the proposed route as indicated on the map attached to the original email. Due to the nature of the area, excavation and the removal of vegetation along the hillside/bluff can and has caused excessive erosion during rain events which settle into the road ditch. My question to you is, will the proposed route follow the existing route along along the Township Road rather than cut through the hillside as proposed?

Attached you will find a map with an aerial of Nicollet County as the background with the proposed route indicated.

Thanks,  
Mandy

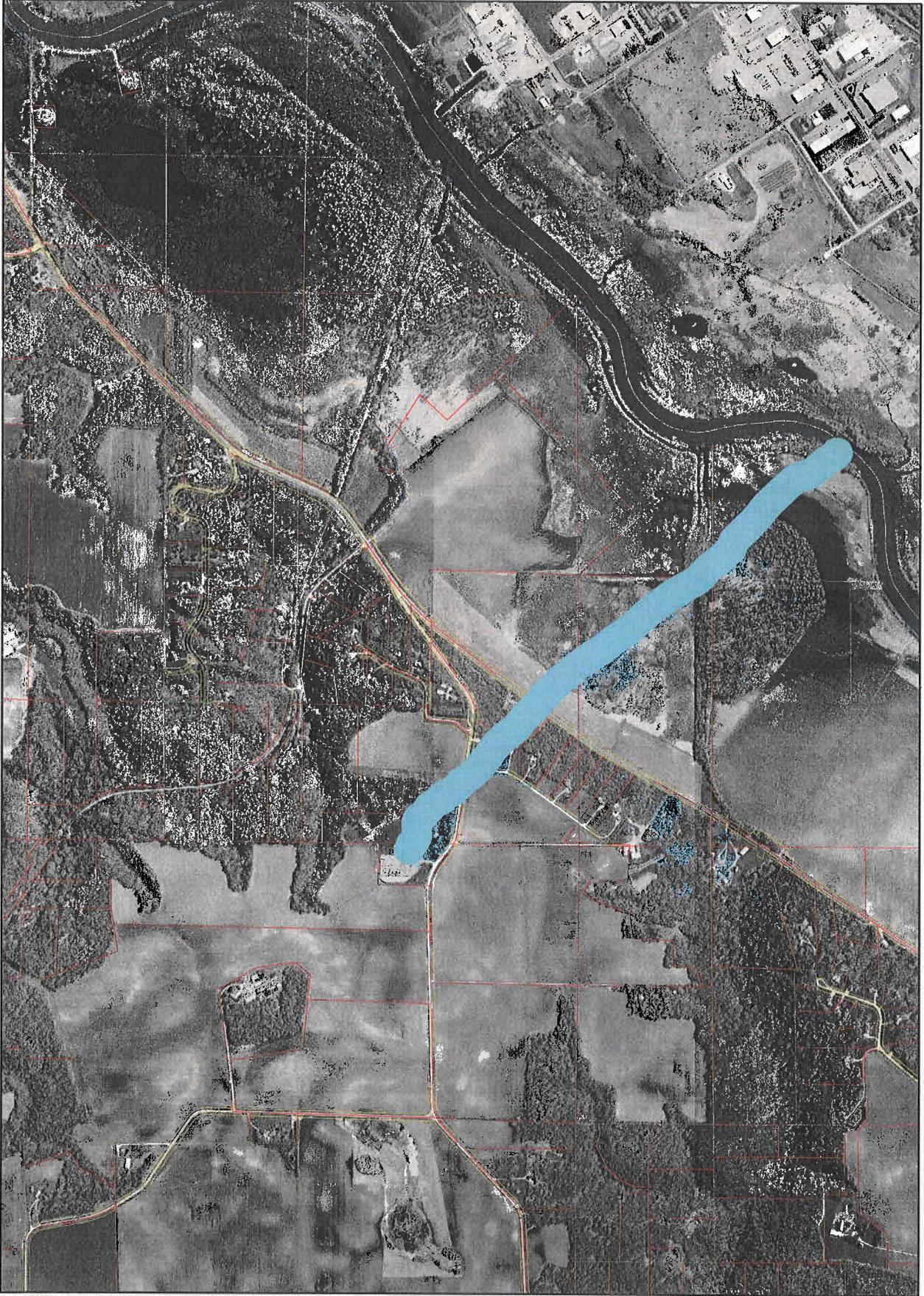
Mandy Landkamer  
Environmental Services Director  
501 S Minnesota Avenue  
St. Peter, MN 56082  
507-934-0254  
507-934-0259 fax  
[mlandkamer@co.nicollet.mn.us](mailto:mlandkamer@co.nicollet.mn.us)

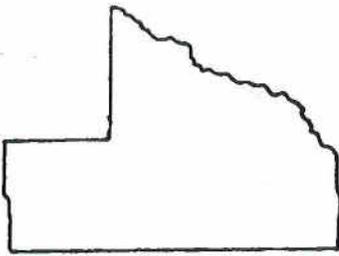
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**[info@co.nicollet.mn.us](mailto:info@co.nicollet.mn.us)**

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**BROWN  
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

300 2nd Ave. S.V  
Sleepy Eye, Minnesota 5608  
Telephone 507-794-255  
Fax 507-794-555  
E-mail: brownsxcd@sleepyeyetel.n

June 24, 2008

RECEIVED  
JUN 25 2008  
WESTWOOD  
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Joseph G. Sedarski  
Senior Project Manager  
Westwood Professional Services

Re: Proposed West New Ulm Substation & Transmission Line Rebuild Project  
Xcel Energy/Northern States Power Company

Dear Mr. Sedarski:

On behalf of the Brown Soil & Water Conservation District I am able to report that your proposed Substation & Transmission Line Rebuild Project do not effect any RIM Easement Areas in Brown County.

As far as WCA is concerned you will need to contact Desiree Hohenstein at the Brown County Courthouse. Phone: 507-233-6641.

Any other questions, feel free to contact me at the office.

Sincerely,

Tom Maher  
Program Manager  
Brown SWCD

## Joe Sedarski

---

**From:** Tom Fischer [Tom.D.Fischer@state.mn.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 23, 2008 10:25 AM  
**To:** Joe Sedarski  
**Subject:** RE: Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

JOE:

I've passed along your e-mail and attachments to our RIM easement specialist, Tim Fredbo, located in our BWSR central office in St. Paul. Tim will check out if there are any RIM easements located within your proposed project area and what, if any, action might be necessary. Once I hear back from Tim, I'll contact you again.

Thomas Fischer, Board Conservationist

MN Board of Water and Soil Resources  
261 Hwy 15 South  
New Ulm, MN 56073

Phone: 507.359.6091  
Fax: 507.359.6018

e-mail: [Tom.D.Fischer@state.mn.us](mailto:Tom.D.Fischer@state.mn.us)

---

**From:** Joe Sedarski [mailto:Joe.Sedarski@westwoodps.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 20, 2008 3:21 PM  
**To:** tom.d.fischer@state.mn.us  
**Cc:** Rogers, Timothy G; Rob Bouta  
**Subject:** Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Dear Mr. Fischer,

Please review the attached letter and contact me with any concerns regarding the above Project. We appreciate your timely assistance with this matter.

Regards,

Joe

Joseph G. Sedarski  
Environmental Services/Senior Project Manager

**Westwood Professional Services**  
7699 Anagram Drive  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344-7310

DIRECT 952-906-7405  
CELL 612-360-0502  
EMAIL [joe.sedarski@westwoodps.com](mailto:joe.sedarski@westwoodps.com)  
MAIN 952-937-5150  
FAX 952-937-5822  
WEB [www.westwoodps.com](http://www.westwoodps.com)

## Joe Sedarski

---

**From:** Tom Fischer [Tom.D.Fischer@state.mn.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 23, 2008 3:24 PM  
**To:** Joe Sedarski  
**Cc:** Kevin Ostermann  
**Subject:** RE: Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

JOE:

I received information back from Tim Fredbo of BWSR St. Paul...

Based on the map provided by Westwood there is only one easement along the path of the proposed transmission line rebuild and new substation (yellow line on map). It is the Ron Gruber CREP easement 52-11-01-01 in Nicollet Co. located in NW1/4 of the SE1/4, also referred to as Government Lot 7, of Sec. 7, T110N, R30W, Nicollet County.

Excel Energy had a utility easement for this line on this property prior to us taking our CREP easement so there should be no problem with what is being proposed. Their utility easement rights were in place prior to ours so they have the right to do what they are proposing.

Kevin Ostermann of the Nicollet SWCD may want to work with the project when the time comes to recommend erosion control measures, if needed, and possibly provide appropriate CREP seed mix to reseed areas disturbed.

Tim indicated that there are no other RIM easements affected by this project so there is no need to go through the process to alter or release any acres for the project.

If there are any further questions, Tim said to give him a call at 651-296-0880.

Joe...one final note...please contact Kevin Ostermann prior to beginning the project so that he can provide assistance. He can be reached at 507-931-2550 ext. 116

Thomas Fischer, Board Conservationist

MN Board of Water and Soil Resources  
261 Hwy 15 South  
New Ulm, MN 56073

Phone: 507.359.6091  
Fax: 507.359.6018

e-mail: [Tom.D.Fischer@state.mn.us](mailto:Tom.D.Fischer@state.mn.us)

## Joe Sedarski

---

**From:** Tom Fischer [Tom.D.Fischer@state.mn.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2008 8:09 AM  
**To:** Joe Sedarski  
**Cc:** Pam Rivers; Desiree Hohenstein  
**Subject:** RE: Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

JOE:

The result of our communications yesterday show there is only one RIM/CREP easement for you to deal with...that being the one in Nicollet County. And, you said you would be in contact with Kevin Ostermann of the Nicollet SWCD office when construction times comes.

The reason for my e-mail today is to make you aware of the MN Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). WCA has been in place throughout MN since 1992. Its purpose is to provide for a no-net loss of MN's wetlands. Local government units administer WCA at the county level. There is an application process for local review and approval. (The application is also accepted and reviewed by the MN DNR and the US Army Corps of Engineers.) The two county WCA contacts are also receiving this e-mail...Pam Rivers in St. Peter (Nicollet County) and Desiree Hohenstein in New Ulm (Brown County). I suggest you contact both to discuss your project and initiate the application process.

Thomas Fischer, Board Conservationist

MN Board of Water and Soil Resources  
261 Hwy 15 South  
New Ulm, MN 56073

Phone: 507.359.6091  
Fax: 507.359.6018

e-mail: [Tom.D.Fischer@state.mn.us](mailto:Tom.D.Fischer@state.mn.us)

---

**From:** Joe Sedarski [mailto:Joe.Sedarski@westwoodps.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 20, 2008 3:21 PM  
**To:** tom.d.fischer@state.mn.us  
**Cc:** Rogers, Timothy G; Rob Bouta  
**Subject:** Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Dear Mr. Fischer,

Please review the attached letter and contact me with any concerns regarding the above Project. We appreciate your timely assistance with this matter.

Regards,

Joe

Joseph G. Sedarski  
Environmental Services/Senior Project Manager

**Westwood Professional Services**  
7699 Anagram Drive  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344-7310

DIRECT 952-906-7405

CELL 612-360-0502  
EMAIL [joe.sedarski@westwoodps.com](mailto:joe.sedarski@westwoodps.com)  
MAIN 952-937-5150  
FAX 952-937-5822  
WEB [www.westwoodps.com](http://www.westwoodps.com)

**APPENDIX E**

**LANDOWNER LIST**

**AND**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS\***

\*Addresses have been redacted from comment forms due to privacy concerns

APPENDIX E.1  
LANDOWNER LIST

| Owner Name                                             | City         | State | Zip       |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------|-----------|
| BROWN COUNTY LANDOWNERS<br>FREDRICK & MARIANNE BIANCHI | NEW ULM      | MN    | 560734213 |
| NEW ULM, CITY OF                                       | NEW ULM      | MN    | 560731785 |
| HADC RIDGEWAY ET AL                                    | DEEPHAVEN    | MN    | 553913260 |
| CHARLES L & ANNABELLE ALBAUGH                          | NEW ULM      | MN    | 560731026 |
| MICHAEL & JULIANN REINHART                             | NEW ULM      | MN    | 560731917 |
| DONALD R JORGENSEN JR                                  | NEW ULM      | MN    | 560731026 |
| TROY T & KAREN TRAULICH                                | NEW ULM      | MN    | 560731025 |
| TIMOTHY L & MARIA C ANDERSON                           | NEW ULM      | MN    | 560731025 |
| ELDON & CAROLYN TRAULICH ETAL                          | NEW ULM      | MN    | 560731096 |
| CHRISTOPHER L DEVRIES ETAL                             | NEW ULM      | MN    | 560731025 |
| WILLIAM & CAROL HUELSKAMP                              | NEW ULM      | MN    | 560731025 |
| SCOTT & DIANE ROLLOFF                                  | NEW ULM      | MN    | 560731025 |
| RICHARD E & SABINA TRAULICH                            | NEW ULM      | MN    | 560731025 |
| RICHARD S & KATHERINE HUBERT                           | NEW ULM      | MN    | 560731005 |
| DANNY L & EILEEN C HEMMING                             | NEW ULM      | MN    | 560733127 |
| JOSEPH & NICHOLE KOSER                                 | FORT MADISON | IA    | 526272123 |
| JEREMY J & KELLY M BRENNAN                             | NEW ULM      | MN    | 560731064 |
| RICHARD & GLADYS LEGARE                                | NEW ULM      | MN    | 560731025 |
| KRIS A & MARIA E SCHNEEBERG                            | NEW ULM      | MN    | 560731025 |
| WAL-MART STORES INC                                    | BENTONVILLE  | AR    | 727128050 |
| WAL-MART REALTY CO STORE # 3760                        | BENTONVILLE  | AR    | 727166299 |
| 1.918.001.05.050<br>ROGER SCHULTZ ETAL                 | NEW ULM      | MN    | 560733306 |
| ROTHMEIER DEVELOPMENT INC                              | NEW ULM      | MN    | 560734901 |
| JAMES & ALICE ROBERTS                                  | NEW ULM      | MN    | 560731027 |
| ORLIN J & MARJORIE L MACK                              | NEW ULM      | MN    | 560734167 |
| MARGUERITE RUNCK CREDIT TRUST                          | NEW ULM      | MN    | 560734183 |
| ROBERT B RUNCK DISCLAIMER TRUST                        | NEW ULM      | MN    | 560734171 |
| HELEN RUNCK                                            | NEW ULM      | MN    | 560734171 |
| JEROME & PAULINE HIE TALA                              | NEW ULM      | MN    | 560734064 |
| DANIEL & BARBARA STUEBER                               | NEW ULM      | MN    | 560734156 |
| TED & KATHLEEN A STUEBER                               | NEW ULM      | MN    | 560734155 |
| JAMES H & MARLYS A MCLEAN                              | ANDOVER      | MN    | 553043111 |
| BROWN COUNTY                                           | NEW ULM      | MN    | 560730248 |
| INLAND AMERICAN N.U. ATLAS LLC                         | OAK BROOK    | IL    | 605231190 |
| RAYMOND & MARCELLA HAGER                               | NEW ULM      | MN    | 560734171 |

Appendix E.1

| Owner Name                     | City        | State | Zip       |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------|-----------|
| NANCY A QUAM                   | NEW ULM     | MN    | 560734058 |
| RAE RUNCK                      | NEW ULM     | MN    | 560734171 |
| HAROLD RUNCK                   | NEW ULM     | MN    | 560734183 |
| HENRY N SOMSEN JR TRUST        | NEW ULM     | MN    | 560730834 |
| ALICE E HENLE FAMILY TRUST     | NEW ULM     | MN    | 560731809 |
| JAMES H & MARTYS A MCLEAN      | ANDOVER     | MN    | 553043111 |
| BROWN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC    | SLEEPY EYE  | MN    | 560850529 |
| RICHARD LENTZ                  | NEW ULM     | MN    | 560734061 |
| LEON F & MARIAN T HAUBRICH     | NEW ULM     | MN    | 560734154 |
| STATE OF MN PUBLIC HUNTING GRD | ST PAUL     | MN    | 551554030 |
| ROGER & MARGARET SCHULTZ       | NEW ULM     | MN    | 560733306 |
| GREGORY P HAUBRICH             | NEW ULM     | MN    | 560734060 |
| ROBERT B RUNCK DISCLAIMER TRUS | NEW ULM     | MN    | 560734171 |
| HILDA FRITSCHE                 | NEW ULM     | MN    | 560733426 |
| JENNIFER BERG                  | MINNEAPOLIS | MN    | 554192409 |
| LEANN KRZMARZICK               | NEW ULM     | MN    | 560734153 |
| SCOTT R & LAVONNE T HOGEN      | NEW ULM     | MN    | 560734065 |
| ELIZABETH A MECKLENBURG        | NEW ULM     | MN    | 560731559 |
| LIVERNE & IRENE PIOTER         | NEW ULM     | MN    | 560734062 |
| ELIZABETH A MECKLENBURG        | NEW ULM     | MN    | 560731559 |
| DNR - REAL EST MGMT TX SPECTST | ST PAUL     | MN    | 551554030 |
| ALICE E HENLE FAMILY TRUST     | NEW ULM     | MN    | 560731809 |
| KEVIN D & LINDA L WIELAND      | NEW ULM     | MN    | 560734158 |
| HENRY N SOMSEN JR TRUST        | NEW ULM     | MN    | 560730834 |
| LEO & CAROL MARTI              | NEW ULM     | MN    | 560734006 |
| THOMAS STUEBER ETAL            | NEW ULM     | MN    | 560734021 |
| LEON F & MARIAN T HAUBRICH     | NEW ULM     | MN    | 560734154 |
| KATHERINE R GLUTH LIVING TRUST | NEW ULM     | MN    | 560734297 |
| LEON F & MARIAN T HAUBRICH     | NEW ULM     | MN    | 560734154 |
| LEON F & MARIAN T HAUBRICH     | NEW ULM     | MN    | 560734154 |
| RALPH & JUNETTE ROSENAU        | NEW ULM     | MN    | 560734157 |
| NICOLET COUNTY LANDOWNERS      | NEW ULM     | MN    | 56073     |
| RONALD J GRUBER &              | NEW ULM     | MN    | 56073     |
| PAUL ROBLING &                 | JORDAN      | MN    | 55352     |
| ANDREW R KEHREN &              | NEW ULM     | MN    | 56073     |
| MN DNR TAX SPECIALIST          | ST PAUL     | MN    | 551554030 |

| Owner Name        | City    | State | Zip   |
|-------------------|---------|-------|-------|
| DIANNE FRANTA     | NEW ULM | MN    | 56073 |
| JEFFREY J BELLM & | NEW ULM | MN    | 56073 |
| PAUL ROBLING &    | JORDAN  | MN    | 55352 |

ed \$1 mil- Clarksfield and Marshall. The on mitiga- 21-mile project will increase r, the I- safety on the highway, widen- area, Local and the shoulder safety zones es, serving the direction each side.

### athletes to compete

ta athletes from Blue Earth, Brown, Farbu- ca and Watonwan counties will compete in lavage, ay, July 15, with the tournament to follow athletes the chance to compete in up to two pical Olympics Minnesota Unified Sports heir doubles and team events, with partners f event volunteers, coaches, and fundrais- inding out more information about Special den at 877-310-2437 or by e-mail at

### raws 11K

the Sleepy Eye Family Aquatic Center. In its e been made at the aquatic center that col- in concession sales. approved a police department request for a rackenridge St. S.E. next to Sleepy Eye Lake to Jim Larson for ie Sleepy Eye "Let's Go Fishing" chapter, rost boil and broken water main street dam.

### meetings set

attend one of three cooperative grocery store- nity Center. 10 a.m. Thursday, July 24 and 7 p.m. Tues- can be dropped off at the Gibbon Commu- ic Development office at P.O. Box 207, Gay- brochures or pledge forms can pick them up Lumber and Organ's Insurance Agency. tion, call 877-766-5499.

0 a.m. Tuesday, July 15 at the Sheriff's Of-

# Xcel Energy Open House

## West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild

### CONDUCTED BY

Northern States Power Company  
doing business as  
Xcel Energy

### WHEN & WHERE?

Tuesday, July 15, 2008  
New Ulm Civic Center  
Room 203  
1212 North Franklin Street  
New Ulm, MN 56073  
Time: 4:30 to 7:00 P.M.

### WHY?

The Project consists of building a new 115 kV substation, building a new 115 kV transmission line, and rebuilding a segment of existing transmission line west of the City of New Ulm. Xcel Energy plans to double circuit the current 69 kV line with the proposed 115 kV line.

### What Next?

After the Open House, we will analyze all the information gathered and will identify a proposed substation location. Following a route permit application will be submitted to the Public Utility Commission.

Representatives from Xcel Energy and the project team will be on hand to answer your questions, obtain your input, and discuss your concerns.

Written Statements or comments about this project can be mailed to Tim Rogers at Xcel Energy, Suite 800A, 250 Marquette Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55401.

Phone: (612) 330-1955 Fax: (612) 330-6590

Disabilities: People with disabilities who plan to attend the meeting and need special arrangements, should contact Tim Rogers at the telephone number listed.

sign Home Center  
area rug for you.

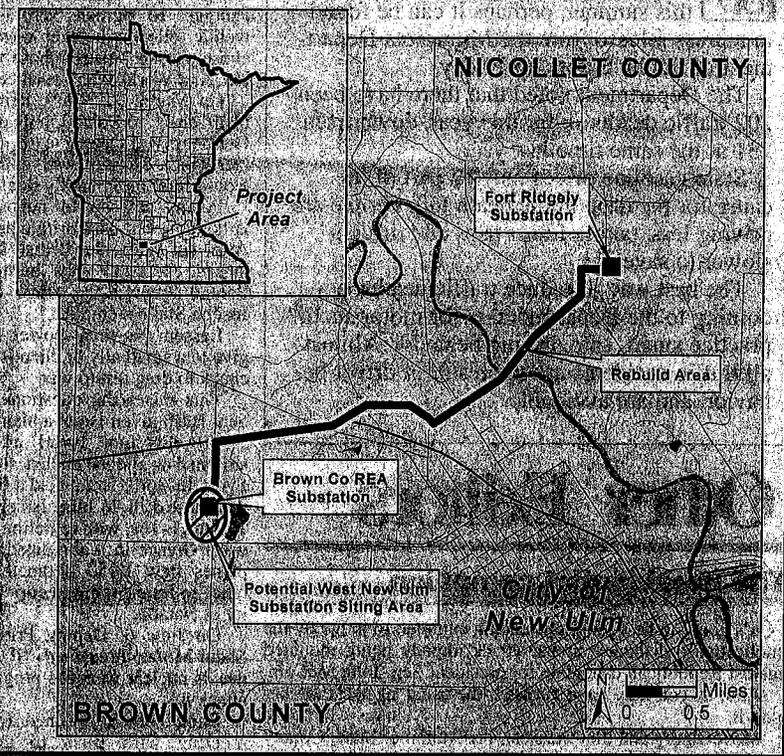
# Rugs

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is our business"

Hwy 14 West • New Ulm  
(507) 233.8440

Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00-5:30  
Saturday 8:00-1:00





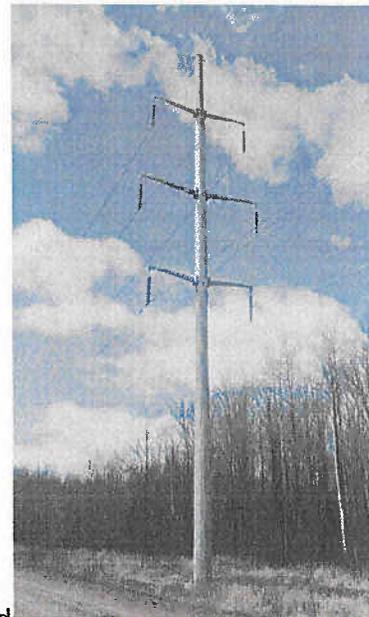
**PROPOSED WEST NEW ULM 115 kV-69kV SUBSTATION  
AND TRANSMISSION LINE REBUILD PROJECT**

**FACT SHEET**

**PROJECT NEED:** Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, is planning to construct a new substation west of the City of New Ulm, construct a new 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line, and upgrade a segment of the existing 69 kV transmission line located between the new substation and the existing Fort Ridgely substation. This facility is needed to support increased electrical loads, support the network transmission at the City of New Ulm's 52 megawatt (MW) load, and to meet future regional load growth expected in the area.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

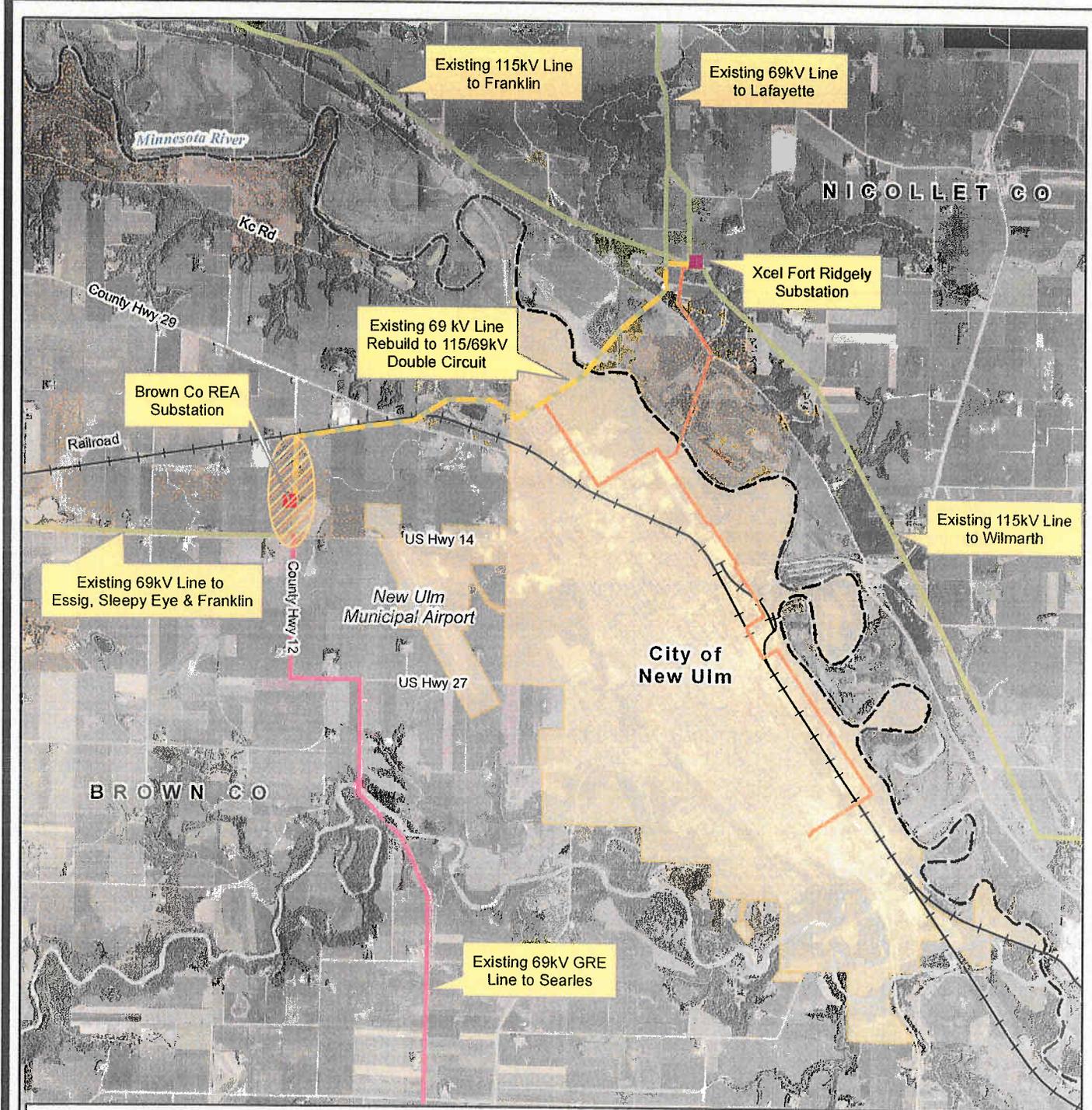
- The project consists of building a new 115-69 kV substation, building a new 115 kV transmission line, and rebuilding a segment of existing transmission line. Xcel Energy plans to double circuit the current 69 kV line with the proposed 115 kV line (see photo).
- For project location, please see the map on the back of this page.
- The transmission line structure type is anticipated to be primarily steel, single poles with davit arms (some wood poles may also be utilized.)
- Estimated project completion is scheduled for April 2010.
- Acquisition of the land for the planned substation is expected to take place in 2008 and early 2009.
- Xcel Energy plans to construct the proposed transmission line work within existing utility right-of-way. Removal of trees and vegetation may be necessary in areas where they have grown along or into the transmission line right-of-way area. If extensive tree work or special construction access is necessary on your property, a representative of Xcel Energy will be in contact with you.
- After construction is completed, construction damage will be restored or compensated for by Xcel Energy.



Typical Steel Single Pole

**CONTACTS:**

**Brian Mielke**, Xcel Energy Siting and Land Rights Agent 612-330-7946 or  
[brian.d.mielke@xcelenergy.com](mailto:brian.d.mielke@xcelenergy.com)

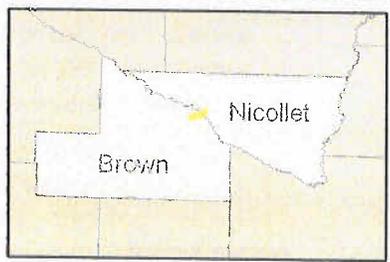


# Proposed West New Ulm Substation and 115kV-69kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Brown and Nicollet Counties, MN

## Legend

- Proposed Xcel Energy West New Ulm Substation
- Existing Substation - Fort Ridgely
- Existing Substation - Brown Co REA
- Proposed Xcel Energy 115kV-69kV Transmission Line Rebuild
- Great River Energy Transmission
- Xcel Energy Transmission
- City of New Ulm Transmission
- MN DNR Wildlife Area
- Waterbody
- River/Stream
- Railroad
- County Boundary
- City Boundary



Data Source(s): NSP, MN DNR, USDA.



Map Document: (P:\20081081\gis\20081081\081\081.dwg) 7/15/2008 - 9:12:15 AM

Figure A

**INVITATION  
XCEL ENERGY OPEN HOUSE FOR THE  
PROPOSED WEST NEW ULM 115-69 kV SUBSTATION AND TRANSMISSION LINE  
REBUILD PROJECT, NEW ULM, MN**

**Tuesday, July 15, 2008  
4:30 to 7 p.m.**

**New Ulm Civic Center, Room 203, 1212 North Franklin Street, New Ulm, MN**

You are receiving this open house invitation because you own property in an area where Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, is planning to construct a new substation, build a new 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line, and rebuild a segment of existing transmission line. Xcel Energy plans to double circuit the current 69 kV line with the proposed 115 kV line. We are seeking feedback from the public on this project prior to filing with the Public Utilities Commission later this summer.

At the open house, we will have maps and information on the proposed substation site location, structure types, right-of-way, the permitting process and other issues of interest. Please join us so that we can talk about our proposed schedule, explain our proposed project and answer any questions you may have. You will also have the opportunity to meet with key project staff that will be available to answer any questions you may have.

Please join us so that we can share our plans with you and let you know how to participate in the state permitting process. You are welcome at anytime during the hours of the open house. If you cannot attend, please contact Tim Rogers, from Xcel Energy at the number shown below and he will send you information or have representatives from Xcel Energy arrange to speak with you at another time.

### **THE PROJECT**

The particular facility for which the permit is requested (the "Project") includes one (1) new substation (West New Ulm), several miles of new 115 kV transmission and a rebuilt segment of existing 69 kV line, including associated electric equipment upgrades at the existing Fort Ridgely Substation located near the City of New Ulm in Brown and Nicollet Counties. The purpose of the Project is to support increased electrical loads, support the network transmission at the City of New Ulm's 52 megawatt (MW) load, and to meet future regional load growth expected in the area.

The Project includes the following components located west and north of the City of New Ulm:

1. One new substation; 115-69 kV West New Ulm Substation.
2. New 4.25 miles of 115 kV transmission line from the proposed West New Ulm Substation to the existing Fort Ridgely Substation along existing utility right-of-way.
3. Rebuild a segment of existing 69 kV transmission line located between the proposed West New Ulm Substation and the existing Fort Ridgely Substation.
4. Double-circuiting the current 69 kV transmission line with the proposed 115 kV transmission line.
5. Xcel Energy anticipates that the existing transmission line structures will be replaced with primarily steel, single poles with davit arms (some wood poles may also be utilized.)
6. Electric equipment at the existing Fort Ridgely Substation will be modified to accommodate the planned changes and improvements.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

After our open house, we will analyze all the information we have gathered and will identify our preferred location of the West New Ulm Substation. An application for a route permit will then be submitted to the Public Utilities Commission.

### THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION ROUTE PERMIT PROCESS

This project will be filed under the alternative permitting process. This process includes another public information meeting in the early phase of application review as well as a public hearing prior to a decision being made on the route permit. A flow chart of this process can be found at this web site:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/documents/Altpermitprocessfinal.pdf>

#### LAND ACQUISITION CONTACT:

**Brian Mielke**, Xcel Energy, Siting and Land  
Rights Agent, 612-330-7946 or  
[brian.d.mielke@xcelenergy.com](mailto:brian.d.mielke@xcelenergy.com)

#### PERMITTING CONTACT:

**Tim Rogers**, Xcel Energy, Siting and Land  
Rights Permitting Analyst, 612-330-1955  
[timothy.g.rogers@xcelenergy.com](mailto:timothy.g.rogers@xcelenergy.com)



## PROPOSED WEST NEW ULM 115-69 kV SUBSTATION AND TRANSMISSION LINE REBUILD PROJECT

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### **Why is this project needed?**

This project is necessary to support increased electrical loads, support the network transmission at the City of New Ulm's 52 megawatt (MW) load, and to meet future regional load growth expected in the area.

#### **What permits are needed?**

Xcel Energy will apply for a route permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC). We anticipate filing the permit application late this summer, 2008. The project will be filed under the alternative permitting process identified in Minnesota Rules 7849.500 and 7849.5720.

#### **When will the substation be built, the new 115 kV lines constructed and the existing 69 kV lines rebuilt?**

The permit process is expected to take up to six months from the date of our filing. Acquisition of the land for the planned substation is expected to take place in 2008 and early 2009. After the substation location is approved, we will begin the survey and design. We expect construction of the substation and transmission lines to begin in mid-2009. The project is scheduled to be completed in April 2010. Xcel Energy will build and own the West New Ulm Substation and transmission lines.

#### **Where will the new substation be located?**

The proposed location for the West New Ulm Substation has not been selected. However, the substation site needs to be located near the existing Brown County REA Substation and existing Xcel Energy 69 kV transmission line on County Highway 12, north of U.S. Highway 14 and west of the City of New Ulm in Brown County. We will gather public information and input at our open house meeting on July 15, 2008. After our public open house, we will submit a permit application with the preferred substation location to the MPUC. The MPUC will follow their regulatory process (which also includes opportunities for public involvement) to determine the final substation location and associated line routes for based on information Xcel Energy provides in the application, as well as information supplied by you and other interested parties.

**What can landowners expect in the form of compensation if the final substation route for the transmission line projects is on their land?**

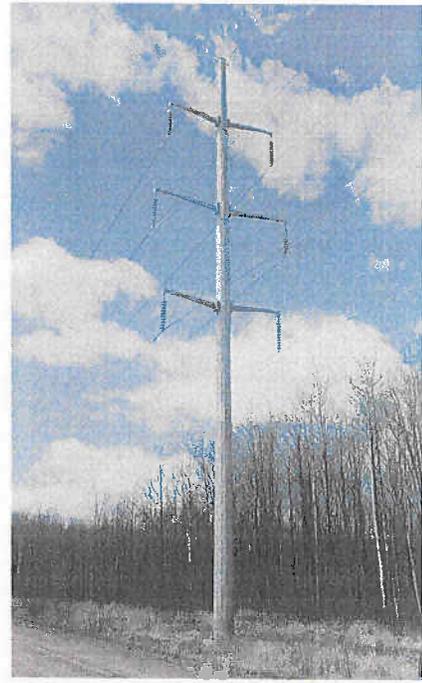
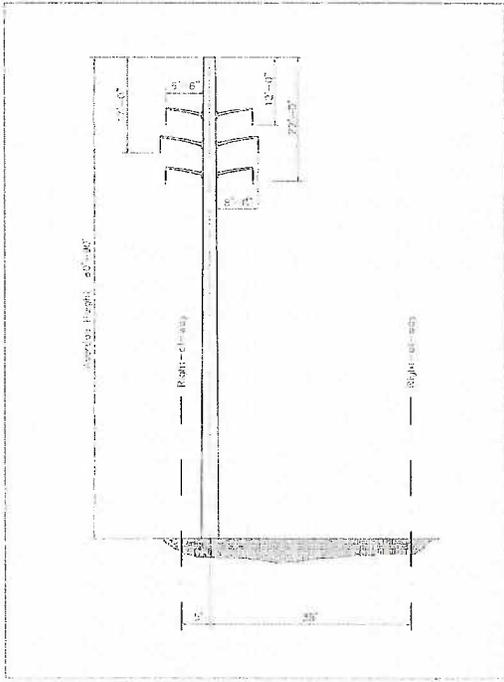
Xcel Energy will provide fair compensation in the form of easement payments to property owners who host power lines. We will work directly with property owners to address their concerns. Property owners may continue to use the land around transmission structures as long as it doesn't interfere with the safe operation of the facility. We have additional handouts providing more detailed right-of-way information and a description of how the landowner contact process works.

**What about EMF?**

Electric and magnetic fields, called EMF for short, are created by anything that conducts electricity, including transmission lines, household appliances and business equipment. These fields are strongest closest to their source, so the farther you are away from the source, the lower the strength of the field. Decades of scientific and medical research, reviewed by national and international expert panels and government agencies, have found no convincing evidence of adverse impacts to human health from EMF. We would be happy to provide more detailed background information concerning the question of health effects associated with magnetic fields if you wish. We will also provide information on this issue in our permit applications.

**What will the line look like?**

The transmission line we propose using is a single pole structure that is made of steel. The picture below is very similar to what the transmission line structure will look like and is called a "davit arm" structure. The conductor, which is the wire that conveys the electricity, will be a double circuit.



**115 kV Line Typical Span 400'  
40' Typical Right of Way Width**



NORTHERN STATES POWER

Proposed West New Ulm 115-69 kV Substation and  
Transmission Line Rebuild Project

July 15, 2008  
New Ulm, MN

| NAME                                   | ADDRESS/EMAIL                   | PHONE #              |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Hilda Gutschel<br>John W Gutschel      | New Ulm MN 56073                | 507<br>3544387       |
| Jessette Rosenau<br>Ralph Rosenau      | New Ulm MN 56073                | 507<br>354-3706      |
| Mike Heidemann<br>Brown County REA     | m.heidemann@browncountyrea.coop | 507-794<br>3331      |
| Steve Koehler<br>New Ulm City Engineer | New Ulm 56073                   | 507-359-8345         |
| Dick & Seaboth<br>Opp. City Comm       | Nil                             | 354-7112             |
| Sharon Seletz                          | "                               | "                    |
| Gary Blisner                           | New Ulm 56073                   | 359-8204             |
| Jeff + Mary Bellin                     | New Ulm 56073                   | 359-3615             |
| Leo Marti                              | NU MN 56073                     | 354 8062<br>276-0610 |
| Orlin Mack                             | New Ulm, Mn 56073               | 354-2248             |



Proposed West New Ulm 115-69 kV Substation and  
Transmission Line Rebuild Project

July 15, 2008  
New Ulm, MN

| NAME            | ADDRESS/EMAIL           | PHONE #      |
|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Dale Mack       | New Ulm, MN 56073       | 354-8937     |
| Ron Grabet      | New Ulm, MN             | 354-2304     |
| Arlon Jutsche   | New Ulm, MN 56073       | 354-2369     |
| Katherine Bluth | New Ulm, MN 56073       |              |
| Ray Sally Hager | New Ulm 56073           |              |
| Troy Trautlich  |                         | 354-5347     |
| Tim Anderson    |                         | 354-4185     |
| Spaie Fowler    |                         | 359-9666     |
| TOPP OLSON      |                         | 276-2622     |
| Jeff Zija       | Redwood Falls, MN 56283 | 507-637-4076 |



Proposed West New Ulm 115-69 kV Substation and  
Transmission Line Rebuild Project

July 15, 2008  
New Ulm, MN

| NAME                              | ADDRESS/EMAIL | PHONE # |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------|
| Pauline Hietala<br>Jerome Hietala |               |         |
| Scott & LaVonne<br>Hogun          | N.U.          |         |
|                                   |               |         |
|                                   |               |         |
|                                   |               |         |
|                                   |               |         |
|                                   |               |         |
|                                   |               |         |
|                                   |               |         |
|                                   |               |         |

### Objection to Placement of Proposed Excel Sub-station

We, the undersigned, object to the placement of the Excel sub-station as proposed by Excel on the following grounds:

- The proposed sub-station takes away productive agricultural land. Given the volatile commodity markets and crop inventory issues, agricultural land should not be disrupted and taken away for the placement of the Excel sub-station.
- The City has annexed sufficient land within close proximity of the proposed site that would not disrupt or take agricultural land out of production.
- The proposed location of the Excel sub-station would have significant disruption to existing drainage and tile patterns located on agricultural land surrounding the proposed site.
- There are better, more suitable locations for the Excel sub-station, other than the

proposed site.

Richard G. Leutz  
 Kimberly K. Haulrich  
 Paul Fritzsche  
 Arlon Fritzsche  
 Leon Haulrich  
 Lorraine Fritzsche  
 Melanee Fritzsche  
 Jerome J. Hietala  
 Pauline A. Hietala  
 Andrew Fritzsche  
 Kevin Wick  
 Linda Walden  
 Fred J. Stueber  
 Kathy Stueber

Henry Larson Mnt Trust By Scott Mel  
 Katherine Gluth  
 Marian Haulrich  
 Greg Haulrich  
 Ralome Hogen  
 Lott R. Uged  
 Ralph Rosenau  
 Junette Rosenau  
 Paul Rappas  
 Jennifer A. Berg  
 Wallace Neblen  
 Daniel Stueber  
 Barb Stueber  
 Jason Stueber  
 Norman Stueber

*[Signature]*  
 Marcella Hager

July 29, 2008

Tim Rogers  
Excel Energy Center  
414 Nicollet Mall MP-8A  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Thanks for taking the time to meet with us at the open house on July 15, 2008 regarding the proposed line rebuild project. We currently live at \_\_\_\_\_, New Ulm, MN 56073. From my understanding, the breaker pole would be located on the corner of our property. I do have some concerns regarding the current proposed route of the rebuild.

- \* What will the size of the breaker pole be? It currently is located within 60 feet of our residence, and having a larger pole with extended arms would bring the high voltage wires even closer.
- \* With the number of electrical lines increasing, what type of health hazard will this have on current residents?
- \* If this pole is going to be replaced in its current location, what is the possibility of working with the City of New Ulm to address the sidewalk issue on our property. The current pole is in the center of the sidewalk location surrounded by metal grates making this a safety hazard for the many children using the sidewalks with their bikes, along with the elderly (anyone for that matter) using it for their walks. It is also in inconvenience for us as residents trying to keep a nice lawn because they have to go on one side or the other of the pole which shows wear and tear on our grass. Could the replacement pole be placed on the northeast side of Broadway Street instead of the southwest side (which is our property)?
- \* How sturdy of a structure will this pole be? What is the possibility of the pole coming down during a storm? If this would happen, what kind of damage can this cause?
- \* Is there a possibility to rebuild these lines underground? If this is not an option, what about rerouting them to the north and west, away from a highly populated area, giving more opportunities for continued growth without affecting residential units and allowing for upgrades with minimal interruptions.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns. I would appreciate it if I would continue to be informed of any decisions made in reference to this line rebuild which will directly affect my family and I. If you would like to discuss any issues, please feel free to call me at (507)354-5347 or on my cell at (507)276-4833. Thank you.

Troy Traulich

New Ulm, MN 56073

To Xcel Energy

ATTN: Tim Rogers

RE: Proposed New Ulm transmission Line Rebuild and New Subdivision (West New Ulm)

Our Property Address: :

New Ulm MN

Thank you for the dialog at the New Ulm Open House July 15, 2008. I do have a few concerns and opinions on the power lines going in the front our house at in New Ulm, Minnesota.

Currently, the pole is located in the center of our picture windows. At this open house we were told Xcel Energy will move poles to a more suitable part of lot if possible, on a lot line, etc. The major concern is that the current pole is 45 feet from the front of our house and that the replacement poles will have arms that extend out another 8 feet towards our house putting them just 37 feet away from the front our house. They will also have three more lines for a total of seven lines and more voltage.

I believe this is no longer a reasonable distance from a house or to have this type of utility running through a residential neighborhood. The power lines will extend over the top of our sidewalk onto our front yard. I hate to think what will happen if a line is blown off during a storm.

The land rights date back to the 1920's when the area was not residential. I believe now would be the time to realign your power lines to the North and West away from the populated area, as New Ulm continues to grow. This would give you the ability to expand over the next 80 years. Thank you.

Timothy L. Anderson

Maria C. Anderson

New Ulm MN 56073

507-354-4185 (home)

507-276-0173 (cell)



## TELEPHONE RECORD

**Project:** Xcel Energy – New West New Ulm Substation & Transmission -  
Line Rebuild Project/Route Permit Application

**Date:** August 1, 2008

**Call To / Phone No.:** Joe Sedarski (JGS), Westwood (952) 906-7405

**Call From / Phone No.:** Tim Anderson, Resident of New Ulm, MN (507) 354-4185

### Summary of Telephone Conference:

Tim Anderson, resident of New Ulm, call to JGS regarding his concern over placement of new structures and transmission line in front of his house. Mr. Anderson suggested that Xcel Energy take the opportunity now to reroute the existing line to go along the bike path, which would take it away from residences, and then route to the existing line location. He understands Xcel Energy would need to acquire ROW for this, but thinks that the new structure and line will encroach further upon his property and, although he is not overly concerned about health issues, mentioned that there is some concern over health as well.

I informed Mr. Anderson that his call is recorded and forwarded to Xcel Energy, and I suggested he also contact Xcel Energy directly.

APPENDIX E.4

To Xcel Energy

ATTN: Tim Rogers

RE: Proposed New Ulm transmission Line Rebuild and New Subdivision (West New Ulm)  
Our Property Address: New Ulm MN

Thank you for the dialog at the New Ulm Open House July 15, 2008. I do have a few concerns and opinions on the power lines going in the front our house at [redacted] in New Ulm, Minnesota.

Currently, the pole is located in the center of our picture windows. At this open house we were told Xcel Energy will move poles to a more suitable part of lot if possible, on a lot line, etc. The major concern is that the current pole is 45 feet from the front of our house and that the replacement poles will have arms that extend out another 8 feet towards our house putting them just 37 feet away from the front our house. They will also have three more lines for a total of seven lines and more voltage.

I believe this is no longer a reasonable distance from a house or to have this type of utility running through a residential neighborhood. The power lines will extend over the top of our sidewalk onto our front yard. I hate to think what will happen if a line is blown off during a storm.

The land rights date back to the 1920's when the area was not residential. I believe now would be the time to realign your power lines to the North and West away from the populated area, as New Ulm continues to grow. This would give you the ability to expand over the next 80 years. Thank you.

Timothy L. Anderson  
Maria C. Anderson

New Ulm MN 56073  
507-354-4185 (home)  
507-276-0173 (cell)



## TELEPHONE RECORD

**Project:** Xcel Energy – New West New Ulm Substation & Transmission -  
Line Rebuild Project/Route Permit Application

**Date:** August 7, 2008

**Call To / Phone No.:** Joe Sedarski (JGS), Westwood (952) 906-7405

**Call From / Phone No.:** Chris DeVries, Resident of New Ulm, MN (507) 354-7512

### Summary of Telephone Conference:

Chris DeVries, resident of New Ulm, call to JGS regarding his concern over placement of new structures and transmission line in front of his house. Mr. DeVries stated that the current Xcel Energy line is located about 47 feet from his house, and that he understands that the new line will be closer, about 39 feet from his house.

He called to express his concern of locating the proposed line closer to his residence and requested that Xcel Energy consider moving the line to another route. Mr. DeVries acknowledged that he is aware that Xcel Energy has land rights for the right-of-way for the transmission line dating back to the 1920s.

I informed Mr. DeVries that his call is recorded and forwarded to Xcel Energy.

To Xcel Energy  
Att. Tim Rogers

8-5-08

The following letter is in regards to the power line upgrade that is proposed to be in front of our house at New Ulm, MN. The current power lines that run in front of our house are approximately 47 Ft away from the house to the center of the pole. My concern is that the line upgrade is to have 8ft arms that extend out putting 3 more lines on each side of the pole carrying more voltage. This addition would put the new power lines only 39 ft from the front of our house. To have this type of power line running though a residential neighbor hood or that close to a house I believe is not a safe distance. The lines will extend over the sidewalk and onto our yard. With children and others that use the sidewalks on a daily basis it scares me to think of what would happen if a line was to be blown down and the possible health concerns of being close to a live power line that is carrying high voltage power at all times. Since the current lines are to be rebuilt I feel that now would be an appropriate time to realign the power lines to the North and West of New Ulm away from populated areas. With the possibility of expanded growth in the city of New Ulm the realignment of the proposed power lines would allow you the ability to expand in the future should it be necessary.

Thank you for your time.



Christopher L. DeVries  
Erica L DeVries

New Ulm, MN 56073  
507-354-7512

APPENDIX E.4