



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA
MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

Bringing power to your life.

April 9, 2010

Via Electronic Filing

Dr. Burl W Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency: Westside Substation System Connection

Dear Dr. Haar:

In accordance with the Power Plant Siting Act, Minnesota Statute Section 216E.05, subd. 3, this letter serves as the required notice to the Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") that Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency ("SMMPA") has elected to seek local approval to construct a 3,000-foot long 161 kilovolt ("kV") transmission line (the "Connection") in Cascade Township, Minnesota that will connect the Byron to Cascade 161 kV transmission line to Rochester Public Utilities' ("RPU") Westside Substation.

Project Need

The Connection is part of the overall Byron to Westside 161 kV Project (the "Project") which is needed to provide additional capacity to serve customers in the Rochester area. The Project was also identified in the Regional Incremental Generation Outlet Study dated August 19, 2008 as one of three recommended transmission line projects to increase future generation outlet capability at the Pleasant Valley Substation. This Project is listed in the 2009 Minnesota Biennial Transmission Projects Report in the Southeast Zone under Section 6.7.14.

Project Description

The Project is located in Kalmar and Cascade townships with the Connection located in Cascade Township. The Project includes: 1) the installation of a second set of davit arms, insulators and conductors on existing concrete structures installed in 1984 along Highway 14 between the Byron Substation in Byron, Minnesota, in Kalmar Township, to an area south of the new Rochester Public Utilities Westside Substation, and 2) the Connection which involves the installation of structures and the stringing of conductors north, approximately 3,000 feet, from Highway 14 to RPU's Westside Substation in Cascade Township.

Dr. Burl Haar
April 8, 2010
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The 1984 conditional use permit authorizes the installation of a second set of davit arms and three additional conductors along Highway 14 from the Byron Substation to the area south of the new Westside Substation. **Attachment 1.** The Connection from Highway 14 to the Westside Substation is entirely within Cascade Township and therefore Cascade Township has conditional use permitting authority. SMMPA has obtained easements to construct the Connection from the two affected landowners. A map of the Project is attached as **Attachment 2.**

Substations

As part of the Project, new 161 kV breakers will be installed at the Byron and Westside substations.

Transmission Line

The Connection portion of the Project to be permitted through Cascade Township and is located in Sections 30 and 31, T107N, R14W. The transmission line will be constructed using light duty steel poles approximately 80 to 90 feet tall.

Local Unit of Government

SMMPA will permit the new 3,000 feet of transmission line through Cascade Township and the work along Highway 14 will be completed in accordance with the existing 1984 conditional use permit. A conditional use permit application for the Connection was submitted to Cascade Township on April 8, 2010. Cascade Township has been informed that it has 60 days to refer the permitting process to the Commission.

Questions regarding the Project should be directed to Roger Ihrke, Township Cooperative Planning Association, at 507-529-0774; or Rick Hettwer, SMMPA, at 507-292-6451.

Sincerely,



Richard Hettwer, PE
Manager of Power Delivery

RJH:dd:2k10021
Enclosure

cc: Affidavit of service on: General List of Interested Persons – with enclosure
Roger Ihrke, Township Cooperative Planning Association – with enclosure
Deborah Pile, Department of Commerce – with enclosure

CONDITIONAL USE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, an application Conditional Use #84-3 on behalf of Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, the owner(s) of the premises described as:

WHEREAS, the applicant(s) is asking the Planning Advisory Commission of the County of Olmsted to grant a conditional use permit per Section 4.02 of the Olmsted County Zoning Ordinance to permit *the placement of power poles for an Electrical Transmission in the Flood Plain, located in the Highway 14 right-of-way, as shown on the attached map.*

and

WHEREAS, the matter of such conditional use permit has been reviewed by the Zoning Administrator and he has submitted his report to the Planning Advisory Commission concerning the requested conditional use permit, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the proposed conditional use permit was duly noticed and held by the Planning Advisory Commission in the Board Room of the Olmsted County Courthouse, 515 Second Street Southwest, at 7:30 p.m. on April 19 19 84,

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Planning Advisory Commission of Olmsted County as follows:

CONDITIONS:

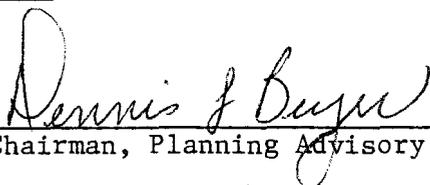
- 1. None.

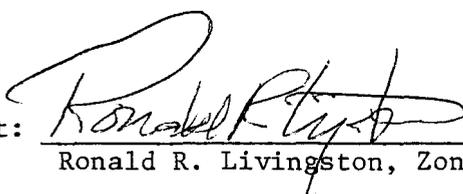
CONCLUSION:

The Planning Advisory Commission of Olmsted County has hereby granted a conditional use permit per Section 4.02 of the Olmsted County Zoning Ordinance to permit *the placement of Power Poles for an Electrical Transmission in the Flood Plain, located in the Highway 14 right-of-way, as shown on the attached map.*

according to the plans therefore dated "Received April 11, 19 84, Consolidated Planning Department, Olmsted County."

Passed and adopted by the Planning Advisory Commission of Olmsted County, Minnesota, this 19th day of April, 1984.


Chairman, Planning Advisory Commission

Attest: 
Ronald R. Livingston, Zoning Administrator

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____ 19_____.

Notary Public

Filed in the office of the County Recorder on the _____ day of _____, 19_____.

DISTRIBUTION: County Recorder, Zoning Administrator, County Assessor, Applicant



ZONING DISTRICTS

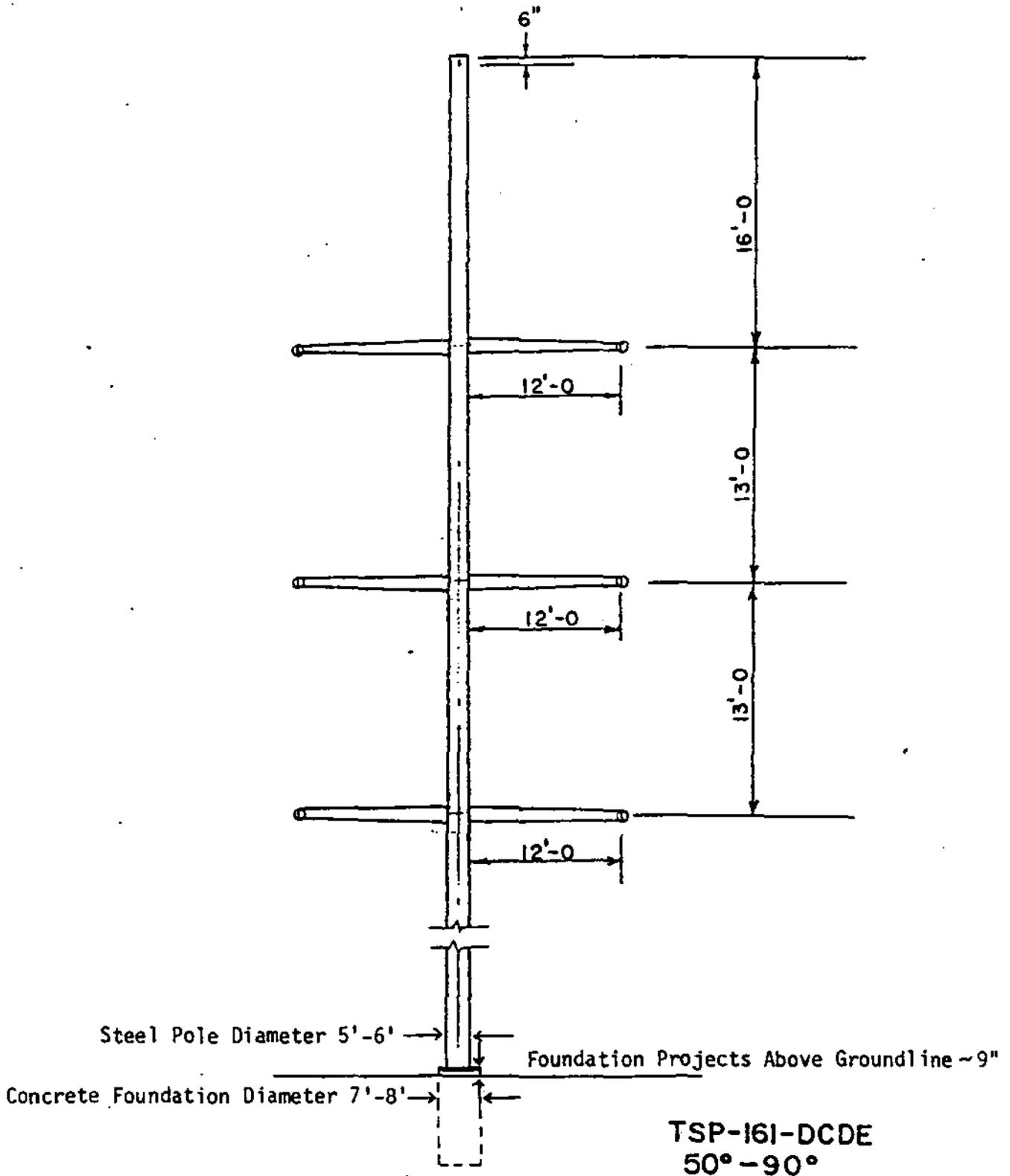
- | | |
|---|--|
| A-1 AGRICULTURAL PROTECTION DISTRICT | R-2 MIXED LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT |
| A-2 AGRICULTURAL PROTECTION DISTRICT | R-3 MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT |
| A-3 AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT | |
| A-4 AGRICULTURAL-URBAN EXPANSION DISTRICT | RC RECREATIONAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT |
| ARC AGRICULTURAL RESIDENTIAL CLUSTER DISTRICT | CS COMMERCIAL SERVICE DISTRICT |
| RSD RURAL SERVICE CENTER DISTRICT | HC HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL DISTRICT |
| RA RURAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT | I INDUSTRIAL |
| R-1 LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT | |



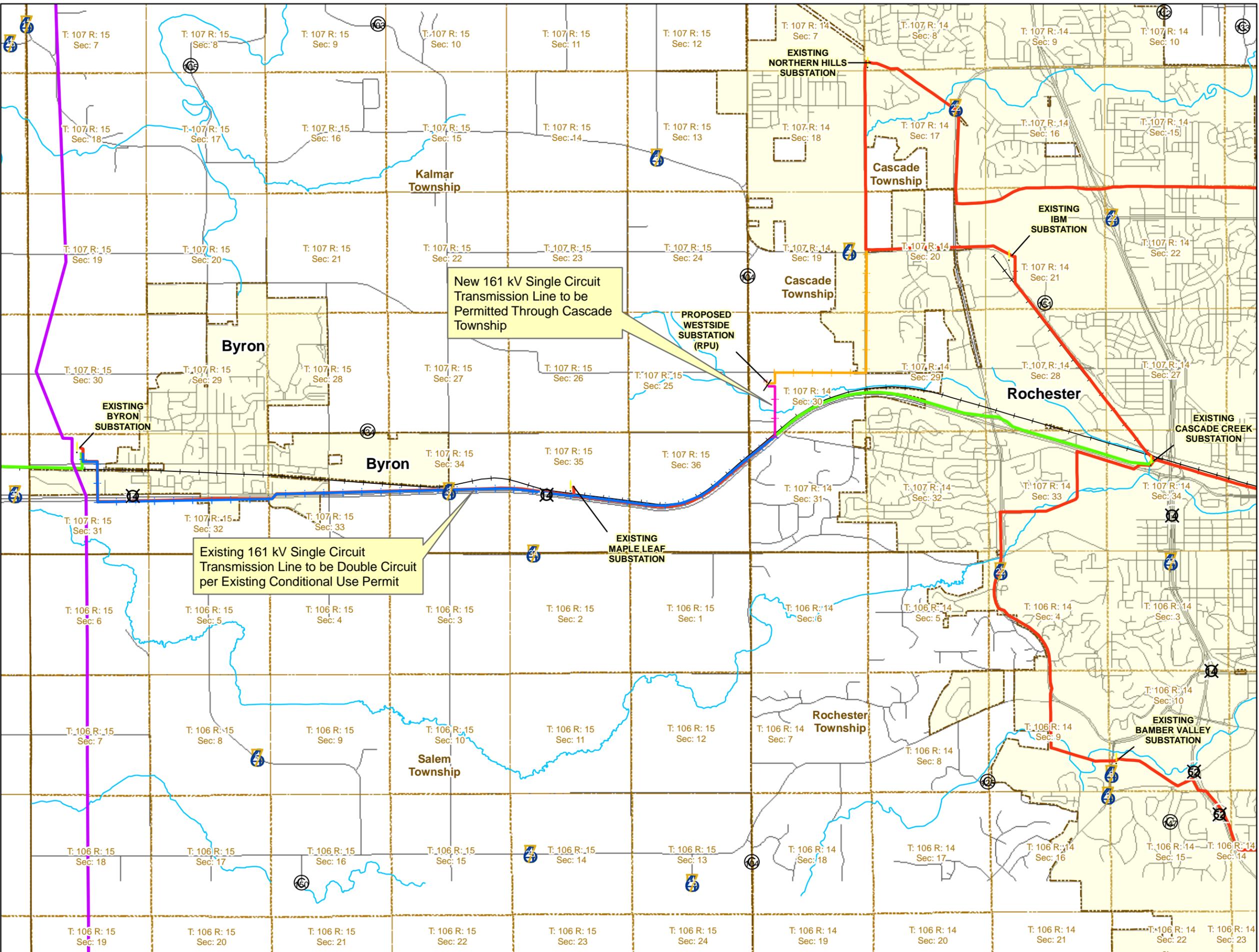
ADOPTED ORD. NO.
DATE

EXHIBIT 1

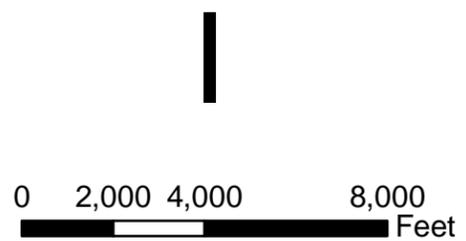
COUNTY OF OLMSTED
CONSOLIDATED PLANNING DEPARTMENT



	BYRON - CASCADE	
	161 KV TRANSMISSION LINE	
	ROCHESTER PUBLIC UTILITIES	
	ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA	
ULTEIG ENGINEERS INC.		FARGO-MINNEAPOLIS
DESIGNED BY:	SCALE:	DRAWING NO.
CHECKED BY:	DATE:	5250
APPROVED BY:		DATE:



- Proposed SMMPA Line**
 - 161 kV Double Circuit with Existing Line
 - 161 kV
- Proposed RPU Line**
 - 161 kV
- Existing Line**
 - 161 kV (RPU)
 - 161 kV (SMMPA)
 - 345 kV (Xcel Energy, Inc)
 - Proposed Substation
 - Existing Substation
 - City Boundaries
 - Township Boundary
 - Section Boundary
 - PWI Streams
 - Railroads



PROJECT LOCATION
 Byron-Westside Project
 SMMPA
 Olmsted County, MN

NOTICE OF SOUTHERN MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY'S INTENT TO PERMIT A NEW 3,000-FOOT LONG 161 KV TRANSMISSION PROJECT IN CASCADE TOWNSHIP PURSUANT TO LOCAL REVIEW

Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency ("SMMPA") headquartered in Rochester, Minnesota, proposes to construct a new 3,000-foot long 161 kV transmission line from Rochester Public Utilities' Westside Substation, south to SMMPA's existing Byron to Cascade Creek 161 kV transmission line at Highway 14 in Cascade Township, Minnesota (the "Connection"). SMMPA proposes to construct the Connection in Cascade Township as part of its Byron to Westside 161 kV Transmission Project (the "Project") located in Kalmar and Cascade townships. The Project is needed to provide load serving capacity to the Rochester area and to support generation outlet capability. SMMPA submitted an application to Cascade Township for a conditional use permit ("Application") pursuant to the local review provisions of the Power Plant Siting Act, Minnesota Statutes Section 216E.05 and Minnesota Rule 7850.5300. A map of the project is attached.

The construction of the Connection includes the installation of structures and the stringing of conductors north, approximately 3,000 feet, from Highway 14 to RPU's Westside Substation. The new structures are proposed to be light duty steel and approximately 80 to 90 feet tall.

The work on the balance of the Project between the Byron Substation and the Connection will be done pursuant to a 1984 conditional use permit that authorizes the installation of the second set of davit arms and three additional conductors along Highway 14 from the Byron Substation to the area south of the new Westside Substation. The Connection from Highway 14 to the Westside Substation is entirely within Cascade Township and therefore Cascade Township has conditional use permitting authority. SMMPA has obtained easements to construct the facilities from the two affected landowners.

Under Minnesota Statutes Section 215E.05, subd. 1(b) and Minnesota Rule 7850.5300, Subp. 4, Cascade Township may choose to refer the Project to the Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") within 60 days of the filing of the Application. The Application was filed with Cascade Township by SMMPA on April 8, 2010.

For more information about this project, please contact:

Richard Hettwer, PE
Southern MN Municipal Power Agency
500 First Avenue Southwest
Rochester, MN 55902-3303
507.292.6451

Roger Ihrke
Township Cooperative Planning
Association
4111 11th Avenue Southwest
Rochester, MN 55904
507.529.0774

Sincerely,



Richard Hettwer, PE