



January 19, 2005

State Historic Preservation Office
345 West Kellogg Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55102-1906

Subject: Lund 230 kV Substation and 230 Kv Transmission Line Project

Gentlemen:

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc., with the assistance of its contractor HDR, is in the process of preparing an environmental report for the Rural Utilities Service for the above subject project. Additionally Minnkota will be seeking a Route Permit from the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (MEQB) for the transmission line portion of this project. Minnkota anticipates filing the permit application with the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (MEQB) early this year. The route permit will be applied for under the alternative permitting process outlined in Minnesota Rule 4400.2000 to 4400.2750. A map is enclosed which indicates the location of the project and additional project information.

The project includes a number of improvements associated with a new substation south of Baudette, Minnesota. The improvements are identified below:

1. A new 230/69 kV Substation, "Lund Substation," to be located on 4 acres in the SW ¼ of Section 19, T160 N, R30 W
2. A new 230 kV double circuit transmission line running 0.5 miles north from the existing Minnkota owned 230 kV Winnipeg, Manitoba to Hibbing, Minnesota transmission line, to the new Lund Substation.
3. Approximately 0.1 mile of new 69 kV transmission line to connect the new Lund Substation to the existing Minnkota owned Warroad to Littlefork 69 kV transmission line.
4. Replace 1.5 miles of the existing Warroad to Littlefork single circuit 69 kV transmission line with 1.5 miles of double circuit 69 kV transmission line.
5. Install approximately 1.2 miles of buried fiber optic cable connecting the new Lund Substation to an existing radio tower. All but approximately 460 feet of the fiber optic cable will be buried within the existing 69 kV transmission line right-of-way.
6. Remove an existing Baudette tap switch (Spoonier Switch) on the Warroad to Littlefork 69 kV line.

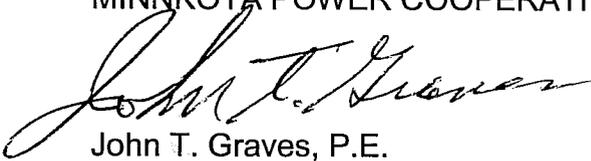
The project is located in Lake of the Woods County in Sections 19 & 30 in T160 N, R30 W and in Section 24 in T160 N, R31 W.

Minnkota requests your office provide comment regarding the possible impacts created by the proposed project on historic properties in the project area. Should you find that there might be impacts, please provide any recommendations you may have to mitigate or avoid these impacts.

We would greatly appreciate a response within thirty days or less. If you need any further information or wish to discuss the project, please contact me at 701-795-4221.

Yours truly,

MINNKOTA POWER COOPERATIVE, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John T. Graves". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

John T. Graves, P.E.
Environmental Manager

Enclosures:
Project Location Map

C: Dan Schmidt, HDR



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE



RECEIVED

MAR 9 2005

HDR Engineering, Inc.

February 17, 2005

Mr. John T. Graves
Minnkota Power Cooperative
PO Box 13200
Grand Forks, ND 58208-3200

RE: Lund 230kV Substation and 230 kV Transmission Line Project
Lake of the Woods County
SHPO Number: 2005-0989

Dear Mr. Graves:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the above project. It has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Officer by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (36CFR800).

Based on available information, we conclude that **no properties** eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places are within the project's area of effect.

Please contact Dennis Gimmestad at (651) 296-5462 if you have any questions regarding our review of this project.

Sincerely,

Britta L. Bloomberg
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program, Box 25

500 Lafayette Road

St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-40__

Phone: (651) 296-7863 Fax: (651) 296-1811 E-mail: sarah.hoffmann@dnr.state.mn.us

RECEIVED

FEB 23 2005

HDR Engineering, Inc.

February 14, 2005

Mr. John Graves
Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.
PO Box 3200
Grand Forks, ND 58208-3200

Re: Request for Natural Heritage information for vicinity of proposed Lund Substation and 230 kV Transmission Line, T160N R30W Sec. 19 & 30 and T160N R31W Sec. 24, Lake of the Woods County
NHNR Contact #: ERDB 20050546

Dear Mr. Graves,

The Minnesota Natural Heritage database has been reviewed to determine if any rare plant or animal species or other significant natural features are known to occur within an approximate one-mile radius of the area indicated on the map enclosed with your information request. Based on this review, there is 1 known occurrence of a rare species in the area searched (for details, see enclosed database printout and explanation of selected fields). However, based on the nature and location of the proposed project I do not believe it will affect any known occurrences of rare features.

- Please note however, that the transmission line crosses the Carp Swamp Wildlife Management Area (WMA). If you have not already done so, I recommend that you contact the DNR Area Wildlife Manager, Jeff Dittrich at 218-634-1705 regarding any information or concerns he may have about the project as it relates to the WMA.

The Natural Heritage database is maintained by the Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program, a unit within the Division of Ecological Services, Department of Natural Resources. It is continually updated as new information becomes available, and is the most complete source of data on Minnesota's rare or otherwise significant species, natural communities, and other natural features. Its purpose is to foster better understanding and protection of these features.

Because our information is not based on a comprehensive inventory, there may be rare or otherwise significant natural features in the state that are not represented in the database. A county-by-county survey of rare natural features is now underway, but has not been completed for Lake of the Woods County. Therefore ecologically significant features for which we have no records may exist on the project area.

The enclosed results of the database search are provided in two formats: index and full record. To control the release of locational information which might result in the damage or destruction of a rare element, both printout formats are copyrighted.

The index provides rare feature locations only to the nearest section, and may be reprinted, unaltered, in an Environmental Assessment Worksheet, municipal natural resource plan, or report compiled by your company for the project listed above. If you wish to reproduce the index for any other purpose, please contact me to request written permission. **The full-record printout includes more detailed locational information, and is for your personal use only. If you wish to reprint the full-record printouts for any purpose, please contact me to request written permission.**

Please be aware that review by the Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program focuses only

DNR Information: 651-296-6157 • 1-888-646-6367 • TTY: 651-296-5484 • 1-800-657-3929



on *rare natural features*. It does not constitute review or approval by the Department of Natural Resources as a whole. If you require further information on the environmental review process for other natural resource-related issues, you may contact your Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist, Paul Stolen, at (218) 755-4068.

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

Sincerely,



Sarah D. Hoffmann
Endangered Species Environmental Review Coordinator

encl: Database search results
Rare Feature Database Print-Outs: An Explanation of Fields

1822 Mill Road • P.O. Box 13200 • Grand Forks, ND 58208-3200 • Phone (701) 795-4000
January 19, 2005

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Baudette Field Office
Attn: Daniel R. Haig
P.O. Box 217
Baudette, MN 56623-0217

Subject: Lund 230 kV Substation and 230 Kv Transmission Line Project

Gentlemen:

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc., with the assistance of its contractor HDR, is in the process of preparing an environmental report for the Rural Utilities Service for the above subject project. Additionally Minnkota will be seeking a Route Permit from the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (MEQB) for the transmission line portion of this project. Minnkota anticipates filing the permit application with the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (MEQB) early this year. The route permit will be applied for under the alternative permitting process outlined in Minnesota Rule 4400.2000 to 4400.2750. A map is enclosed which indicates the location of the project and additional project information.

The project includes a number of improvements associated with a new substation south of Baudette, Minnesota. The improvements are identified below:

1. A new 230/69 kV Substation, "Lund Substation," to be located on 4 acres in the SW ¼ of Section 19, T160 N, R30 W
2. A new 230 kV double circuit transmission line running 0.5 miles north from the existing Minnkota owned 230 kV Winnipeg, Manitoba to Hibbing, Minnesota transmission line, to the new Lund Substation.
3. Approximately 0.1 mile of new 69 kV transmission line to connect the new Lund Substation to the existing Minnkota owned Warroad to Littlefork 69 kV transmission line.
4. Replace 1.5 miles of the existing Warroad to Littlefork single circuit 69 kV transmission line with 1.5 miles of double circuit 69 kV transmission line.
5. Install approximately 1.2 miles of buried fiber optic cable connecting the new Lund Substation to an existing radio tower. All but approximately 460 feet of the fiber optic cable will be buried within the existing 69 kV transmission line right-of-way.

6. Remove an existing Baudette tap switch (Spooner Switch) on the Warroad to Littlefork 69 kV line.

The project is located in Lake of the Woods County in Sections 19 & 30 in T160 N, R30 W and in Section 24 in T160 N, R31 W.

Minnkota requests your office provide comment regarding the possible impacts created by the proposed projects on hydric soils, important farmland, prime forest land, and prime range land. Should you find that there might be impacts, please provide any recommendations you may have to minimize or avoid these effects. We also seek your assessment of the compatibility of the proposals with State, local government, and private programs and policies to protect farmland.

If a project area has been mapped for important prime farmland, please inform us how a copy can be obtained.

We would greatly appreciate a response within thirty days or less. If you need any further information or wish to discuss the listed project, please contact me at 701-795-4221.

Yours truly,

MINNKOTA POWER COOPERATIVE, INC.



John T. Graves, P.E.
Environmental Manager

Enclosures:
Project Location Map

C: Dan Schmidt, HDR



1822 Mill Road • P.O. Box 13200 • Grand Forks, ND 58208-3200 • Phone (701) 795-4000

January 19, 2005

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Twin Cities Ecological Field Services Office
Attn: Dan Stinnett
4101 East 80th Street
Bloomington, MN 55425-1665

Subject: Lund 230 kV Substation and 230 Kv Transmission Line Project

Gentlemen:

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc., with the assistance of its contractor HDR, is in the process of preparing an environmental report for the Rural Utilities Service for the above subject project. Additionally Minnkota will be seeking a Route Permit from the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (MEQB) for the transmission line portion of this project. Minnkota anticipates filing the permit application with the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (MEQB) early this year. The route permit will be applied for under the alternative permitting process outlined in Minnesota Rule 4400.2000 to 4400.2750. A map is enclosed which indicates the location of the project and additional project information.

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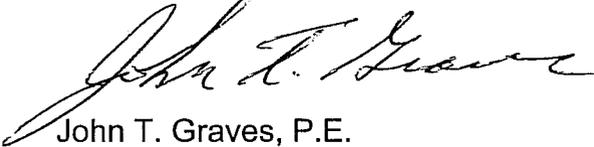
The proposed project does not represent a "major construction activity" as defined in 50 CFR 402.02.

Would you please provide a list of any listed or proposed threatened or endangered species and designated or proposed critical habitat that may be present in the project area. In addition, please advise us of any present concerns you may have related to the possible effects of the projects listed on such species or critical habitat.

We would greatly appreciate a response within thirty days or less. If you need any further information or wish to discuss the project, please contact me at 701-795-4221.

Yours truly,

MINNKOTA POWER COOPERATIVE, INC.



John T. Graves, P.E.
Environmental Manager

Enclosures:
Project Location Map

C: Dan Schmidt, HDR

Piner, Angela

From: Paul_Burke@fws.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2005 2:20 PM
To: Piner, Angela
Subject: Re: Minnkota Lund Substation and 230 kV Line Tap Project

February 17, 2005

Dear Ms. Piner:

We have reviewed the information included with your February 4, 2005, transmittal and we concur with your determination that the proposed action will have no effect on the federally-listed threatened or endangered species bald eagle, gray wolf, or Canada lynx. The piping plover is known to occur within Saint Louis County, but it is not known to occur in the vicinity of your project. This precludes further action as required under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. If new information becomes available that indicates listed species may be affected, consultation must be re-initiated.

Paul J. Burke
Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Twin Cities, Minnesota

"Piner, Angela" <Angela.Piner@hdrinc.com>
To <paul_burke@fws.gov>
02/17/2005 02:05 PM
cc

Subject Minnkota Lund
Substation and 230 kV Line Tap Project

Dear Mr. Burke,

As we discussed over the phone, HDR believes the proposed project referenced above will have no effect on threatened and endangered species in the project area. The project will involve the construction of a 230/69 kV substation, a new 0.5 mile long 230 kV line, replacement of an existing 1.5 miles of single circuit 69 kV transmission line with 1.5 miles of new double circuit 69 kV transmission line, a new 0.1 mile long single circuit 69 kV transmission line, and installation of 1.2 miles of buried fiber optic cable. We respectfully request concurrence from your office.

Sincerely,
Angela Piner

Angela Piner
Environmental Scientist
HDR | ONE COMPANY - Many Solutions
6190 Golden Hills Drive
Minneapolis MN 55416-1020
Phone (763) 591-5478
Fax (763) 591-5413



January 19, 2005

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: Ms. Kelly Urbanek
10867 East Gull Lake Drive NW
Brainerd, MN 56401-9051

Gentlemen:

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc., with the assistance of its contractor HDR, is in the process of preparing an environmental report for the Rural Utilities Service for the above subject project. Additionally Minnkota will be seeking a Route Permit from the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (MEQB) for the transmission line portion of this project. Minnkota anticipates filing the permit application with the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (MEQB) early this year. The route permit will be applied for under the alternative permitting process outlined in Minnesota Rule 4400.2000 to 4400.2750. A map is enclosed which indicates the location of the project and additional project information. An aerial map that identifies the NWI wetlands near the project is also enclosed.

The project includes a number of improvements associated with a new substation south of Baudette, Minnesota. The improvements are identified below:

1. A new 230/69 kV Substation, "Lund Substation," to be located on 4 acres in the SW ¼ of Section 19, T160 N, R30 W
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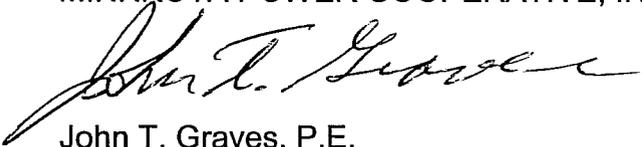
Based upon the proposed route for the new transmission line and location of the substation there is a possibility that poles will be placed within a NWI wetland. HDR has identified potential wetland areas by using the USFWS National Wetland Inventory maps, and will be doing a field review of the area this spring. HDR will complete a wetland delineation of this area following the MEQB Route Permit Application submittal. At that time, Minnkota will be able to identify actual wetland impacts associated with the project, and will apply for the appropriate wetland permits from your office and from the State of Minnesota.

Minnkota requests your office review the proposed project for possible impacts to 100-year floodplains, wetlands, and other important natural resources that occur in the projects areas. Please provide any comments you may have with respect to this project and its possible impacts.

We would greatly appreciate a response within thirty days or less. If you need any further information or wish to discuss the project, please contact me at 701-795-4221.

Yours truly,

MINNKOTA POWER COOPERATIVE, INC.



John T. Graves, P.E.
Environmental Manager

Enclosures:
Project Location Map
Aerial Map

Lund 230/69 kV Substation
Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc
Lake of the Woods County, MN

Minn. Power
Radio Tower

1.2 Mile Underground
Fiber Optic Communications

Replace Approx 1.5 Miles 69 kV
Single Circuit with 1.5 Miles 69 kV
Double Circuit Transmission Line

New Lund 230/69 kV Substation

Approx. 0.1 Mile
69 kV Transmission Line

Approx 1/2 Mile New 230 kV
Double Circuit Transmission Line

Legend

Existing Transmission Lines

— 230 kV

- - - 69 kV

NWI Wetland Types



Palustrine - UB



Palustrine Emergent



Palustrine Forested



Palustrine Scrub-Shrub

