

Appendix D.1

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program, Box 25
500 Lafayette Road

St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-40__

Phone: (651) 259-5107 Fax: (651) 296-1811 E-mail: sarah.hoffmann@dnr.state.mn.us

RECEIVED

MAR 20 2006

HDR Engineering, Inc.



March 16, 2006

Ms. Angela Piner
HDR Engineering, Inc.
6190 Golden Hills Drive
Minneapolis, MN 55416

Re: Request for Natural Heritage information for vicinity of proposed Cannon Falls Substation and Transmission Line Construction

NHNRP Contact #: ERDB 20060689

County	Township (N)	Range (W)	Section(s)
Dakota	113	18	35 & 36
Dakota	113	17	31
Goodhue	112	18	1, 2, & 11-14
Goodhue	112	17	6 & 7

Dear Ms. Piner,

The Minnesota Natural Heritage database has been reviewed to determine if any known locations of rare plant or animal species or other significant natural features would be impacted by the proposed substation and transmission line project. Based on this review, it appears that the only features that could potentially be impacted by the project are the dry sand-gravel prairie native plant community and the Kitten-tails (*Besseyia bullii*) located in the southwest corner of the study area. Provided this area can be avoided, we don't have any concerns with the project. If avoidance of this area will not be possible, please contact me again to discuss the endangered species permitting process.

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, native plant 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, and has been completed for Dakota and Goodhue Counties. Our information about native plant communities is, therefore, quite thorough for those counties. However, because survey work for rare plants and animals is less exhaustive, and because there has not been an on-site survey of all areas of each county, ecologically significant features for which we have no records may exist on the project area.

Please be aware that review by the Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program focuses only 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 Ecologists, Todd Kolander at (507) 359-6073 for Goodhue County or Wayne Barstad at (651) 772-7940 for Dakota County.

An invoice in the amount of \$66.00 will be mailed to you under separate cover within several 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

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

An Equal Opportunity Employer



Printed on Recycled Paper Containing a Minimum of 10% Post-Consumer Waste



Metropolitan District

Waters Edge
1500 West County Road B-2
Roseville MN 55113-3174

March 20, 2006

RECEIVED

MAR 24 2006

HDR Engineering

HDR Engineering, Inc.
Angela Piner, Environmental Scientist
6190 Golden Hills Drive
Minneapolis, MN 55416

Dear Ms Piner:

Thank you for the letter dated February 20, 2006 regarding the expansion of the existing Cannon Falls Transmission Substation. Mn/DOT Metro District has the following comments:

1. It doesn't appear that the substation is on or abuts current Mn/DOT right of way. Therefore, there are no comments about the property of the substation.
2. Power lines connecting to the substation and crossing or using Mn/DOT right of way must follow both permitting policies and the accommodation policy. At this point in time there appears to be no special circumstances with either a permit or the accommodation of these power lines. Please note that just south of the study area is the line between Metro District and District 6 (Rochester).
3. Permits Any use of or work within or affecting Mn/DOT right of way requires a permit. Permit forms are available from Mn/DOT's utility website at www.dot.state.mn.us/tecsup/utility . Please direct any questions regarding permit requirements to Buck Craig (651-582-1447) of Mn/DOT's Metro Permits Section.
4. Traffic The increased development resulting from the proposed substation will have a significant impact on the safety and capacity of Mn/DOT's transportation infrastructure. In order to identify potential adverse impacts resulting from the proposed development, Mn/DOT would like to review any traffic information that has been developed. Please submit available traffic information to: Tod Sherman (651-582-1548), Mn/DOT's Program Management Section, 1500 West County Road B-2, Roseville, MN 55113

Sincerely,

Terry Zoller
Metro District Construction Engineer

Cc: Kristi Sebastian, Dakota County
Lynn Maratzka, Dakota

Appendix D.7

GOODHUE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



Gregory Isakson, P.E.
Public Works Director
County Engineer

2140 Pioneer Road
P.O. Box 404
Red Wing, MN 55066
PHONE 651.385.3025
FAX 651.388.8437
www.co.goodhue.mn.us

HIGHWAYS ♦ PARKS ♦ RECYCLING ♦ SOLID WASTE ♦ HHW

RECEIVED

APR 04 2006

HDR Engineering, Inc.

March 31, 2006

HDR Engineering Inc
Angela Piner
Environmental Scientist
6190 Golden Hills Drive
Minneapolis MN 55416

RE: Cannon Falls Tap 115 kV Transmission Line Construction, G405 Substation
Construction and Expansion of the Existing Cannon Falls Transmission Substation

Dear Ms. Piner,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Cannon Falls Tap Project proposed expansion plan sheets. We would like to see the new lines run with existing lines where ever possible. Another suggestion would be to contact Dakota County Parks regarding the Cannon Falls Substation Expansion, if you have not already done so.

Sincerely,

Greg Isakson, P.E.
Public Works Director/County Engineer

Appendix D.6

Appendix D.5

Piner, Angela

From: Moratzka, Lynn [LYNN.MORATZKA@CO.DAKOTA.MN.US]
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2006 4:33 PM
To: Piner, Angela
Subject: FW: Clarification of County Comment (3-15-2006)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

> To: Angela Piner, Environmental Scientist, HDR Engineering, Inc.

>
> RE: Cannon Falls Tap 115kV Transmission Line Construction, G405
> Substation Construction and Expansion of the Cannon Falls Transmission
> Substation

> This email is in reply to your email (of 3-XX-06) regarding the County's comment
about the proposed new 161kV/115kV Substation (G405 Substation).

> Our letter of March 6th included a comment based on the mistaken understanding that
the new substation would be located on Xcel property near the existing Cannon Falls
Substation at Lake Byllesby. After talking with you, we now understand that the new
substation would be located on the property for the site of the new power plant in the
Cannon Falls Industrial Park.

> Based on this information, we wish to withdraw our comment about the G405
Substation.

> Thank you



RECEIVED

MAR 08 2006

HDR Engineering, Inc.

Office of Planning
Lynn G. Moratzka, AICP
Planning Manager

Dakota County
Western Service Center
14955 Galaxie Avenue
Apple Valley, MN 55124

952.891.7030
Fax 952.891.7031
www.co.dakota.mn.us

March 6, 2006

Angela Piner
Environmental Scientist
HDR Engineering, Inc.
6190 Golden Hills Drive
Minneapolis, MN 55416

RE: Cannon Falls Tap 115kV Transmission Line Construction, G405 Substation
Construction and Expansion of the Cannon Falls Transmission Substation

Dear Ms. Piner:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed projects prior to Xcel Energy's filing of a Route Permit Application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in March of 2006.

County staff in the Physical Development Division have reviewed your letter and attached map. Our comments are attached to this letter.

We look forward to working with you as these projects go forward.

If you have any questions, please call me at (952) 891-7033.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynn Moratzka".

Lynn Moratzka, Manager
Office of Planning

Encl

c: Joseph A. Harris, Dakota County Commissioner – District 1
Brandt Richardson, County Administrator
Greg Konat, Director, Physical Development Division
Phyllis Hanson, Manager, Metropolitan Council

Appendix D.4

DAKOTA COUNTY COMMENTS: Xcel Energy's Proposed Construction of Two 115kV Power Transmission Lines and Expansion of the Cannon Falls Transmission Substation.

New 161 kV/115kV Substation (G405 Substation)

Your letter of 2-20-2006 indicates that the new substation "will be located on the power plant property". County staff presume that the property in question is one of the two land parcels located near the existing Cannon Falls Transmission Substation by the dam on Lake Byllesby. County staff request that more detailed information about the new substation and a site map showing its location be included in the route permit application that will be filed with the PUC.

New 115 kV Power Transmission Lines

County staff understand that State rules require that Xcel Energy follow existing road right-of-ways or existing power transmission line easements when proposing to route and construct new lines. County staff suggest that the two new lines could be placed in the CSAH 86 road right-of-way, in the segment located between the east County line and US 52 to the west.

For the construction of new power transmission lines in County road right-of-way, Xcel Energy must apply for a County permit and include plan sheets that show the route of the two lines.

The County prefers that each line be as close to the edge of the County road right-of-way line as possible. This may require the company to get easements for any overhang of the tower arms into the road right-of-way.

If future improvements to the County road require expansion of the road right-of-way, the power line may need to be relocated at the owner's expense.

Expansion of the Existing Cannon Falls Transmission Substation

County staff request that more detailed information about the expansion of the substation and a map that shows its location be included in the route permit application to be filed with the PUC.

The County would like more information about the location and dimensions of the proposed expansion of the existing fence to the northwest.

The expansion of the substation cannot interfere with operation of the dam at Lake Byllesby. Coordination of this project with North American Hydro will be necessary, to avoid any long-term shut down of the substation that could adversely impact the generation of electricity at the dam.

The Dakota County Parks Department operates a maintenance shop out of a building that is located near the substation property. The Parks Department will need to have continued access to the shop during construction activity (minor, short-term interruptions would be acceptable if the County was notified prior to their occurrence and could adjust its operations accordingly).



Appendix D.3

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

July 20, 2004

Ms. Julie Spapperi
URS Corporation
One Continental Towers
1701 Golf Road, Suite 100
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

RE: Proposed Cannon Falls Energy Center
T112.R17 S6 NW, Cannon Falls, Goodhue County
SHPO Number: 2004-2589

Dear Ms. Spapperi:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the above project. It has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the Minnesota Historical Society by the Minnesota Historic Sites Act and the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act.

Based on our review of the project information, we conclude that there are no properties listed on the National or State Registers of Historic Places, and no known or suspected archaeological properties in the area that will be affected by this project.

Please note that this comment letter does not address the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36CFR800, Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for the protection of historic properties. If this project is considered for federal assistance, or requires a federal permit or license, it should be submitted to our office with reference to the assisting federal agency.

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 HISTORICAL SOCIETY

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

RECEIVED

MAR 28 2006

HDR Engineering, Inc.

March 23, 2006

Ms. Angela Piner
HDR Engineering
6190 Golden Hills Drive
Minneapolis, MN 55416

RE: Cannon Falls Tap 115 kV Transmission Line, G405 Substation Construction and
Expansion of the existing Cannon Falls Transmission Substation
Dakota and Goodhue Counties
SHPO Number: 2006-1341

Dear Ms. Piner:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the above project. It has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the Minnesota Historical Society by the Minnesota Historic Sites Act and the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act.

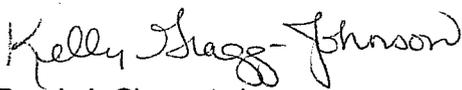
We believe that there is a good probability that unreported archaeological properties might be present in the project area. Therefore, we recommend that a survey of the area be completed. The survey must meet the requirements of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Identification and Evaluation, and should include an evaluation of National Register eligibility for any properties that are identified. For your information, we have enclosed a list of consultants who have expressed an interest in undertaking such surveys.

If the project area can be documented as previously disturbed or previously surveyed, we will re-evaluate the need for survey. Previously disturbed areas are those where the naturally occurring post-glacial soils and sediments have been recently removed. Any previous survey work must meet contemporary standards.

Please note that this comment letter does not address the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36CFR800, procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for the protection of historic properties. If this project is considered for federal assistance, or requires a federal license or permit, it should be submitted to our office with reference to the appropriate federal agency.

If you have any questions on our review of this project, please contact me at (651) 296-5462.

Sincerely,


Dennis A. Gimmestad
Government Programs and Compliance Officer

Enclosure: List of Consultants