

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

David Boyd  
J. Dennis O'Brien  
Phyllis Reha  
Thomas Pugh  
Betsy Wergin

Chair  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner

In the Matter of the Application of Xcel Energy for a Route Permit for the Lake Yankton to Marshall Transmission Line Project in Lyon County

ISSUE DATE: **AUG 29 2008**

DOCKET NO. E-002/TL-07-1407

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER ISSUING A ROUTE PERMIT TO XCEL ENERGY FOR THE LAKE YANKTON TO MARSHALL TRANSMISSION PROJECT

The above-captioned matter came before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (the Commission) on August 14, 2008, acting on an application by Northern States Power Company, d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel or the Company) for a Route Permit to construct a new, 115 kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line (HVTL) between the Company's existing Lake Yankton Substation in Lyon County and the existing Southwest Marshall Substation in Lyon County, a distance of approximately 15.7 miles.

A public hearing was held on June 26, 2008. The public hearing record closed on July 11, 2008.

**STATEMENT OF ISSUE**

Should the Commission find that the Environmental Assessment and the record adequately address the issues identified in the Scoping Decision? Should the Commission issue a route permit identifying a specific route and permit conditions for the proposed Lake Yankton to Marshall Transmission Line Project in Lyon County?

Based upon all of the proceedings herein, the Commission makes the following:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

**The Applicant**

1. The Applicant is Xcel Energy, a Minnesota investor owned utility with headquarters in Minneapolis. Xcel Energy provides electricity services to approximately 1.2 million customers and natural gas services to 425,000 residential, commercial and

industrial customers. Xcel Energy also provides electricity service to customers in Wisconsin, South Dakota and North Dakota.

## **The Project**

2. Xcel proposes to construct a 115 kV transmission line and associated substation modifications between the existing Lake Yankton Substation and the existing Southwest Marshall Substation. Xcel Energy will construct, own, and operate the proposed 115 kV transmission line.

3. The Project is part of Xcel Energy's Buffalo Ridge Incremental Generation Outlet (BRIGO) transmission project, which is a series of measures intended to increase transmission capacity to export wind energy generated on Southwestern Minnesota's Buffalo Ridge and resolve electric reliability issues in the city of Marshall. The permit application, maps, appendices, and other documents were made available to the public through the Commission Energy Facility and edockets websites.<sup>1</sup>

4. The Project is proposed entirely in Lyon County, Minnesota. The proposed route begins north of Balaton at the existing Lake Yankton Substation and terminates at the Southwest Marshall Substation at the southern boundary of Marshall. Nearly the entire proposed route runs parallel to state, county and township road rights-of-way. The area along the proposed route is rural and dominated by agricultural land uses, although some suburban and concentrations of rural residential lands are found near Marshall. Several transmission and distribution lines are present in the area.<sup>2</sup>

5. In its Application, Xcel identifies the elements of the Project. Construction of approximately 15.7 miles of 115 kV transmission line between the Lake Yankton Substation and the Southwest Marshall Substation and installation of associated facilities to accommodate the new transmission line at the Lake Yankton Substation. The substation facilities will not require expansion of the substation footprint.

6. Xcel Energy proposes to utilize steel, single circuit transmission line structures (poles) with braced post insulators for the proposed line. The structures will average 90 feet tall and will have an average span of approximate 700 feet. Figure 4 in the Environmental Assessment (EA) shows a cross section drawing of a typical 115 kV single pole structures being considered for this Project.

7. The transmission line will utilize 795 aluminum core steel supported (ACSS) conductors, as well as a shield wire to protect the transmission line from lightning.

8. The transmission right-of-way (easement area) width requirement for the 115 kV transmission project would be 75 feet wide. The width of the right-of-way

---

<sup>1</sup> The Xcel Lake Yankton to Marshall Transmission Project information is located on the Commission website at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19448>

<sup>2</sup> Exhibit 3

(ROW) cleared will be less in areas where the new transmission line follows an existing linear corridor, such as an existing transmission line or road. Xcel Energy will seek a permanent easement, providing the right to construct, operate and maintain the transmission line, for the full width and length of the ROW. Additional ROW may be required for longer spans or special design requirements based on a final survey. ROW width depends on conductor blowout and the recommended clearances to obstructions along the route.<sup>3</sup>

### **Procedural History**

9. Minn. Stat. § 216B.243, subd. 2, states that no large energy facility shall be sited or constructed in Minnesota without the issuance of a Certificate of Need (CON) by the Commission. Minn. Stat. § 216B.2421, subd. 2(3) defines a “large energy facility” as any high voltage transmission line with a capacity of 100 kV or more with more than ten miles of length or that crosses a state line. Because the proposed Project is greater than 10 miles in length, a CON is required.

10. The Commission issued a CON to Xcel Energy for the BRIGO transmission project, including the proposed Lake Yankton – Southwest Marshall transmission line, on September 14, 2007. In its Order, the Commission required that Xcel file route permit applications for all the three BRIGO transmission lines no later than January 2008 and take necessary steps to have the lines constructed and in-service no later than spring 2009.<sup>4</sup>

11. On November 1, 2007, a letter was submitted to the Commission by Xcel providing notice of its intent to submit a Route Permit Application under the Alternative Permitting Process set forth in Minn. Rules, Part 7849.5500 to 7849.5720.<sup>5</sup>

12. On January 14, 2008, Xcel filed a Route Permit Application for the Lake Yankton to Southwest Marshall transmission project.<sup>6</sup>

13. The Commission accepted the Application as complete on February 8, 2008.<sup>7</sup>

14. On January 20, 2008 Xcel Energy published notice of Route Permit Application in the *Marshall Independent* newspaper as required under Minn. Rules, Part 7849.5550 and on January 29, 2008, Xcel mailed a notice of Route Permit Application to persons required.<sup>8</sup>

15. On February 19, 2008, the OES mailed a combined Notice of Public Information and Environmental Assessment (EA) Scoping Meeting to those persons

---

<sup>3</sup> Exhibit 2, Chapters 4 -5

<sup>4</sup> Docket E002/CN-06-154, Commission Order Granting Certificates of Need <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/ShowFile.do?DocNumber=4772937>

<sup>5</sup> Exhibit 1

<sup>6</sup> Exhibit 2 and Exhibit 3

<sup>7</sup> Exhibit 6

<sup>8</sup> Exhibit 8

whose name appeared on the Commission 's power plant general notification list, local officials and property owners along the proposed route in compliance with Minn. Rules, Part 7849.5550.<sup>9</sup>

16. Xcel published Notice of Application and Notice of Public Information and Environmental Assessment (EA) in the *Marshall Independent* January 20, 2008, in compliance with Minn. Rules, Parts 7849.5500 and 7849.5570.<sup>10</sup>

17. A Public Information and EA Scoping meeting was held on March 4, 2008, at the Lyon County Government Center in Marshall, Minnesota, in accordance with Minn. Rules, Part 7849.5570. Approximately 25 persons attended. During the meeting, several landowners voiced concerns related to transmission line construction, crop damage and the proximity of the proposed transmission line to homes along the proposed route. These issues, along with the typical line routing impacts, were incorporated into the EA Scoping Decision.

18. During the public information meeting, concern was raised about the portion of Xcel's proposed route (approximately the northern most 3 miles) which crosses portions of Lake Marshall Township Sections 17 and 18.

19. Five comment letters were received during the scoping comment period concerning the Lake Yankton to Marshall Transmission Project, including three requesting that OES include specific alternative routes in the EA.<sup>11</sup>

20. The EA Scoping Decision was signed by the Director of the Office of Energy Security on March 31, 2008.<sup>12</sup>

21. The EA was filed with the Commission and made available on May 20, 2008.<sup>13</sup>

22. Pursuant to Minn. Rules, Part 7849.5710, Xcel published Revised Notice of Public Hearing in the *Marshall Independent* on June 12, 2008.<sup>14</sup>

23. On June 5, 2008, the OES mailed a Revised Notice of Public Hearing to those persons on the project mailing list and to those local governmental representatives required to be served with notice in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 216E.03 and Minn. Rules, Part 7849.5710.<sup>15</sup>

24. On June 16, 2008, the Revised Notice of Public Hearing and Availability of Environmental Assessment was published in the *EQB Monitor*.

---

<sup>9</sup> Exhibit 7

<sup>10</sup> Exhibit 17

<sup>11</sup> Exhibits 9, 10 and 12

<sup>12</sup> Exhibit 11

<sup>13</sup> Exhibit 12

<sup>14</sup> Exhibit 19

<sup>15</sup> Exhibit 11 and Exhibit 13

25. Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Steve Mihalchick presided over a public hearing during the evening of June 26, 2008. The public hearing was held at the Lyon County Government Center, 607 West Main Street, Marshall, Minnesota. The ALJ provided the opportunity for members of the public to air their views regarding the proposed route of the transmission line. The comment period closed on July 11, 2008.<sup>16</sup>

26. Minnesota Office of Energy Security (OES), Energy Facility Permitting project manager Adam Sokolski appeared at the Public Hearing on behalf of the OES staff and pursuant to Minn. Rules, Part 7849.5710, subpart 3, provided a presentation describing the Route Permit process, the proposed Project, the EA and introduced documents into the record.<sup>17</sup>

27. Xcel Energy employee Timothy Rogers appeared at the Public Hearing on behalf of the Company and testified about the Project, proposed route, human, agricultural and environmental impacts, and other matters related to the Project. Attorneys Lisa Agrimonti and Valerie Herring of the Briggs and Morgan law firm also appeared on behalf of the Company.<sup>18</sup>

28. Approximately 25 members of the public attended the Public Hearing. All persons who desired to speak were afforded a full opportunity to make a statement on the record.<sup>19</sup>

29. A comment period for written comments was open until July 11, 2008. Twenty six written comments were received.<sup>20</sup> On July 30, 2008, ALJ Mihalchick filed a Summary of Testimony at the Public Hearing.<sup>21</sup>

### **Environmental Assessment Analysis of Proposed Route and Alternative Route**

30. The EA was prepared in accordance with Minn. Rules, Part 7849.5700 and contained all of the information required. The EA evaluated Xcel Energy's proposed route and a number of alternative route segments proposed by the public in Lake Marshall Township Sections 17 and 18.<sup>22</sup>

### **Potential Impacts and Mitigation**

31. The total amount of agricultural land that will be permanently impacted by the Project is approximately one half mile greater along the proposed route than along Alternatives A-1 and A-2. Permanent impacts will occur due to the placement of the transmission line poles. Temporary impacts may include soil compaction and crop damage within the transmission line right-of-way (ROW). Landowners will be

---

<sup>16</sup> Exhibit 22

<sup>17</sup> Id.

<sup>18</sup> Id.

<sup>19</sup> Id.

<sup>20</sup> Id. and Exhibit 21

<sup>21</sup> Id.

<sup>22</sup> Exhibit 15

compensated for the use of their land and crop damages through easement payments. Additionally, to minimize loss of farmland and to ensure reasonable access to the land near the poles, Xcel intends to place the poles within 10 feet outside of the road ROW for nearly the entire length of the route, except where Xcel has proposed routing cross country using the proposed route in Lake Marshall Township Section 17. When possible, Xcel will attempt to construct the transmission line before crops are planted or following harvest. Xcel will compensate landowners for crop damage and soil compaction that occur as a result of the Project.<sup>23</sup>

32. The proposed transmission lines will be designed to meet or exceed all requirements of the National Electric Safety Code (NESC), which is the utility safety standard that applies to all transmission lines. In addition, the substation facilities will be fenced, and access will be limited to authorized personnel. The proposed transmission line will meet the National Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) reliability standards.

33. The Project will create only nominal corona or noise impacts and mitigation measures are not necessary.

34. There are no areas of concentrated residential or commercial developments immediately adjacent or close to the proposed route. There are residential areas adjacent to route alternatives A-1 and A-2 in Lake Marshall Township Section 17.

35. The transmission line and structures may contrast with surrounding land uses; nearly the entire length of the proposed route and all of route alternatives A-1 and A-2 utilize existing transmission and transportation corridors, and will avoid homes to the greatest extent practicable. Xcel will work with landowners to identify concerns related to the transmission line, including tree clearing, replanting cleared areas, addressing soil compaction and crop damages. The final alignment of the transmission line, where routed along existing roads, can and will cross the road in order to avoid homes and farmsteads to the extent practicable.

36. Socioeconomic impacts will be primarily positive. The Project will create short-term construction expenditures in the area and transmission capacity in order to further develop wind farms in the general area and along Buffalo Ridge, and will resolve electric reliability problems in Marshall.

37. There are public recreational areas, Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), or other public parks near the Project. The Project will not be constructed within these areas and will not impact these resources.

38. Traffic levels may be slightly impacted during construction of the Project, with no impacts anticipated during facility operation; and no mitigation necessary. The operation of the transmission line will have no impact on traffic patterns or usage. The route permit requires Xcel to cooperate with local units of government on placement of transmission structures in a manner to accommodate planned future road rebuilding and reconstruction plans, including the reconstruction and expansion of 250<sup>th</sup> Street.

---

<sup>23</sup> Exhibits 2, 3, 15 and 17

39. The proposed transmission line will not impact active mining operations.

40. The proposed route and the alternative routes do not contain prohibited sites, including National Parks; national historic sites and landmarks, national historic districts; national wildlife refuges; national monuments; national wild, scenic and recreational river ways; state wild, scenic, and recreational rivers and their land use districts; state parks; nature conservancy preserves; state scientific and natural areas; and state and national wilderness areas.

41. Construction of the transmission line will result in no disturbances to the bedrock geology beneath the Project route. Soils exposed during construction may be vulnerable to erosion until stabilized. Some compaction of surface soils may result from the use of heavy construction equipment. Xcel Energy will implement best management practices (BMP) during construction activities to prevent and minimize soil erosion and compaction as stated in the Application and as required by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

42. In September 2007, Xcel Energy's archaeological consultant reviewed the records at the Minnesota State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) and conducted a Phase Ia Cultural Resources Survey, both of which indicate that no known historic or archaeological resources near the proposed route. Impacts to previously identified resources are not anticipated as a result of the Project. In the event that an impact would occur, Xcel Energy would determine the nature of the impact and consult with the SHPO on whether or not the resource was eligible for listing in the NRHP.

43. Limited impacts to trees will occur due to the routing of the transmission line. Trees and tall vegetation will be cleared for approximately 37.5 feet on either side of the 115 kV transmission line along the route. To minimize impacts to trees, Xcel will only remove trees located in the ROW for the transmission lines.

44. There is potential for displacement of wildlife during construction of the Project and the loss of small amounts of habitat from the transmission line route. Displacement of fauna is anticipated to be temporary in nature. Because no long-term population-level effects are anticipated no mitigation will be required.

45. Transmission lines can pose an electrocution danger to large birds such as raptors. Xcel Energy's transmission line design standards provide adequate spacing to eliminate the risk of raptor electrocution, so there are no concerns about avian electrocution as a result of the transmission line.

46. The issue of electromagnetic fields (EMF) was discussed in the EA. EMF, present around any electrical device, have been the subject of much discussion regarding potential human health effects. The intensity of the electric field is related to the voltage of the line and the intensity of the magnetic field is related to the current flow through the conductors. Both magnetic and electric fields decrease in intensity with increasing distance from the source.

47. There is insufficient evidence to demonstrate a causal relationship between EMF exposure and any adverse human health effects. On the basis of the most current information available from the World Health Organization and expert advice of the Minnesota Department of Health, no Minnesota regulations have been established pertaining to magnetic fields from HVTLs.

48. Impacts to air quality will be minimal, temporary, and associated only with ROW clearing and line construction.

49. Construction of the Project will not directly affect surface water resources. During construction, there is a possibility of sediment reaching surface waters as the ground is disturbed by excavation, grading and construction traffic. Though no permanent impacts to water bodies or wetlands are anticipated, Xcel Energy will minimize impacts to wetlands and other water resources by using standard erosion control measures and BMPs. A NPDES permit from the MPCA and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan will be required for the Project. Once the Project is complete it will have no impact on surface water quality. No additional mitigation is necessary.

50. At the request of Xcel Energy, the DNR searched the Minnesota Natural Heritage database for known occurrences of rare species and natural communities within the proposed route. The DNR's search resulted in the identification of one Minnesota species of special concern, the Prairie Mimosa (*desmanthus illinoensis*), a native prairie plant species, which was last observed near the Lake Yankton Substation in 1954. No mitigation is necessary.

51. The proposed route and alternatives A-1 and A-2 analyzed in the EA have similar human and environmental impacts, some of which are unavoidable if the Project is permitted and built. None of the routes is expected to cause an irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources.

52. In its Application, Xcel estimated that the Project will cost approximately \$13,089,000. The Company reduced its cost estimates to approximately \$7,500,000 in its testimony provided at the public hearing.<sup>24</sup>

### **Assessment of the Alternatives**

53. At the March 4, 2008, Public Meeting, and in public comments, a number of landowners who live along the Company's proposed route in Lake Marshall Township Sections 17 and 18, requested that the OES evaluate in the EA several alternatives to the proposed route. These routes included all of the routes evaluated and rejected by Xcel Energy in its route permit application.

54. Impacts from the proposed route and route alternatives in Lake Marshall Township sections 17 and 18 evaluated in this EA are quite similar. Except for minor

---

<sup>24</sup> Exhibit 2 and Exhibit 17

short-term impacts during construction, there are no impacts to air quality or to noise experienced in the Project Area anticipated from the Project. Impacts with respect to aesthetics, recreation, archaeological and historic features, human health and safety, radio and TV reception, soils and geology, and fauna are anticipated to be the same for all alternatives evaluated. Impacts to land use and agriculture vary among the proposed route and route alternatives in Lake Marshall Township Sections 17 and 18. Areas where there is some variation in impacts among alternatives are summarized by route alternative below. Each route alternative is shown Figure 2 in the Application and in Xcel's hearing testimony.

55. The proposed route has the fewest homes and businesses immediately adjacent to the route (0-200 feet). The proposed route has no homes within 200 feet. The proposed route would be within 200 feet of 1 business. Several comments from residents of the 42 home Klien Addition, a suburban style subdivision in the northwestern quarter section of Section 18, Lake Marshall Township, have expressed the opinion that the proposed route is too close to homes in this area. The Stattlemans and other landowners on 257<sup>th</sup> Street along the proposed route have commented that the proposed route bisects private parcels between Minnesota Highway 23 and 257<sup>th</sup> planned for development in the near future.<sup>25</sup> The proposed transmission line route and alignment is approximately 600-700 feet from the back side of the nearest homes in the Klien Addition.

56. The proposed route (and Alternative B) in Lake Marshall Township Section 17 runs cross country in undeveloped drainage and floodplain areas for approximately one mile. This section of the route contains no existing road, transmission, distribution or other existing ROW, however, the route is proposed along the border of cultivated fields and lowlands or wetland areas. Portions of the proposed route are within the 100-year floodplain, particularly in the northern half of Lake Marshall Township Section 18.

57. Alternative A-1 is approximately 800 feet longer than the proposed route. Rather than running cross country through Section 17, Lake Marshall Township, A-1 follows 250<sup>th</sup> Street east 1 mile to CSAH 7, where it turns north and runs parallel to the west side of CSAH 7 for approximately 0.75 mile. At this point, Alternative A-1 turns east and runs cross country 0.5 mile along a ditch and field line to the Southwest Marshall Substation. The last 0.5 mile portion of the alternative is used by the proposed route, A-1, A-2, B, and D-1.

58. Alternative A-1 has the second highest number of homes immediately adjacent to the route (0-200 feet). Alternative A-1 contains no homes within 100 feet, 20 homes between 100- 200 feet, and no businesses within 200 feet of the proposed centerline of the route, which is the centerlines of 250<sup>th</sup> Street and CSAH 7. Most of the homes in Alternative A-1 are located along the west side of CSAH 7 north of 250<sup>th</sup> Street and south of Highway 23. Only one home is located on the east side of CSAH 7, and it is likely that the transmission line could cross to the western side of the road for a short distance to avoid that home. Electric distribution lines are present along 250<sup>th</sup> and CSAH 7.

---

<sup>25</sup> Exhibits 9 and 21

59. In comments filed on May 5, 2008, Marshall Municipal Utilities (MMU) indicated that it no longer plans to build a future transmission line along CSAH 7 south of Highway 23 and north of 250<sup>th</sup> Street, which was one of the reasons the A-1 route was rejected in Xcel's Application.<sup>26</sup> MMU would not object to the Lake Yankton to Marshall transmission line route along CSAH 7 in this area. MMU indicates that it may be able to assign the easements it has acquired for this future transmission line to Xcel Energy in this area.

60. In comments filed on March 24, 2008, Lyon County indicated that it is planning to convert 250<sup>th</sup> Street to a County State Aid Highway in this area.<sup>27</sup> When this occurs, the 250<sup>th</sup> Street ROW will increase from 60 feet wide to 120 feet wide. Routing the transmission line along 250<sup>th</sup> Street (common for alternative A-1, C-1, and C-2) may be appropriate, but may require additional consultation and coordination with Lyon County regarding placement of transmission line structures prior to the county expanding the road ROW.

61. Alternative A-2 (250<sup>th</sup> Street/Highway 7 Alternative) was not evaluated in the Application, but is an attempt by the EFP staff to address concerns raised by the public and provide a route alternative that avoids the potential transportation impacts to 250<sup>th</sup> Street. The alternative segment begins at the intersection of 240<sup>th</sup> Street and 230<sup>th</sup> Avenue, follows 240<sup>th</sup> Street east approximately 1 mile until reaching the intersection of 240<sup>th</sup> Street and 240<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Lyon County Road 7). At this point, the alternative segment follows 240<sup>th</sup> Avenue (County Road 7) north approximately 1 mile to the intersection of 250<sup>th</sup> Street and 240<sup>th</sup> Avenue (County Road 7). At this point, the alternative segment would follow the same route as A-1 to the substation.

62. Alternative A-2 is approximately 575 feet longer than the proposed route. There are no homes within 100 feet, 22 homes between 100-200 feet of the centerline of the route. It appears that the transmission line could run along either side or cross the roads in this route to avoid homes. There are three potential crossings of wetlands or water bodies along this route alternative. Because the line would be built on private lands immediately adjacent to the road ROW, the route would have the same agricultural impacts per mile as the rest of the transmission line.

63. Alternative B is virtually identical to Xcel Energy's proposed route, but rather than running cross country in the northeastern quarter of Section 17, Lake Marshall Township, Alternative B runs along 257<sup>th</sup> Street, which is about 500 feet (one tenth of a mile) south of the proposed route. There are four homes within 100 feet and one business within 200 feet of the centerline of 257<sup>th</sup> Street and Alternative B. All of the homes along 257<sup>th</sup> Street are located on the south side of the street. While this alternative may have fewer impacts on future development of land than the proposed route, the

---

<sup>26</sup> See MMU comments dated May 2, 2008 at:  
<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/ShowFile.do?DocNumber=5176334>

<sup>27</sup> Exhibit 10, Lyon County comments:  
<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/ShowFile.do?DocNumber=5037430>

transmission line would be very close (approximately 75 – 125 feet) to the homes and business along 257<sup>th</sup> Street. Comments received from landowners in the Klien Addition, the Stattlemans and others in the area oppose this route due to its proximity to homes in the Klien Addition and along 257<sup>th</sup> Street.

64. Alternative C-1 runs along 250<sup>th</sup> Street starting at 230<sup>th</sup> Avenue, east approximately 1.5 miles until it turns north at approximately the half section line in Section 17, Lake Marshall Township. At this point the route turns north and runs approximately 0.75 mile across farm fields before terminating at the Southwest Marshall Substation. Alternative C-1 has 1 home within 100 feet, 8 homes between 100-200 feet and no businesses within 200 feet. Alternative C-1 is approximately 950 feet longer than Xcel's proposed route, but runs cross country for a shorter distance (0.75 mile vs. 2.25 miles). The 0.75 mile cross-country portion of Alternative C-1 runs across actively cultivated fields and would adversely impact these fields.

65. Because Alternative C-1 runs along 250<sup>th</sup> Street, it shares the same potential transportation impacts as Alternative A-1 and C-2. Public comments of the Klien Addition and Stattlemans have generally been supportive of this alternative. The landowner, Don DeLahnge, in Lake Marshall Township Section 17 strongly opposes this route due to high agricultural impacts to his fields caused by this route.<sup>28</sup>

66. Alternative C-2 runs along 250<sup>th</sup> Street starting at 230<sup>th</sup> Avenue, east approximately 1.0 mile until it meets CSAH 7, where the route then turns northeast and travels cross country approximately 1.0 mile to the Southwest Marshall Substation. Alternative C-2 has 1 home within 100 feet, 6 homes between 100-200 feet and no businesses within 200 feet. Alternative C-2 is approximately 1,150 feet shorter than Xcel's proposed route and runs cross country for a shorter distance (approx 1.0 mile vs. 2.25 miles). Alternative C-2 runs diagonally across approximately 1.0 mile of cultivated farmland, which may result in greater impacts to farmland when compared to Xcel's proposed route and Alternative C-1 route due to the longer distance on farmlands and diagonal route across farm fields.

67. Because Alternative C-2 runs along 250<sup>th</sup> Street, it shares the same potential transportation impacts as Alternative A-1 and C-1. Public comments of the Klien Addition and Stattlemans have generally been supportive of this alternative. The landowner, Don DeLahnge, in Lake Marshall Township Section 17 strongly opposes this route due to high agricultural impacts.<sup>29</sup>

68. Alternative D-1 follows the same route as Xcel's proposed route cross country for approximately the first 0.66 mile, but rather than running cross country in the northeastern quarter of Section 17, Lake Marshall Township, Alternative D-1 runs cross country due east along the half section line in Section 17, then across CSAH 7 to the half section line in Section 18. At this point, Alternative D-1 turns north approximately 0.25 mile to the Southwest Marshall Substation. There is 1 home within 100 feet, 1 home

---

<sup>28</sup> Exhibits 21 and 22.

<sup>29</sup> Exhibits 21 and 22.

between 100-200 feet, and no businesses within 200 feet of the centerline of the route. Alternative D-1 runs across agricultural lands for nearly its entire approximately 2.10 mile length which will result in greater impacts to farmlands when compared to Xcel's proposed route. Public comments have generally opposed this alternative due to potential residential and agricultural impacts.<sup>30</sup>

69. Alternative D-2 follows the same route as Alternative D-1 up to the point D-2 crosses CSAH 7. At this point, Alternative D-2 turns northeast across farm fields approximately 0.25 mile, then follows the same route as Xcel's proposed route and Alternatives A-1 and B to the Southwest Marshall Substation. There is 1 home within 100 feet, 1 home between 100-200 feet, and 1 business within 200 feet of the centerline of the route. Alternative D-2 is approximately 200 feet longer than Xcel's proposed route. Alternative D-2 runs cross country across agricultural lands for nearly its entire approximately 2.25 mile length which may result in greater impacts to farmlands when compared to Xcel's proposed route. Public comments have generally opposed this alternative due to potential residential and agricultural impacts.<sup>31</sup>

### **Applicable Statutory Conditions**

70. The Project qualifies as a Large Energy Facility under Minn. Stat. § 216B.2421, and requires a Certificate of Need from the Commission. The Certificate of Need for this Project was issued to Xcel Energy on September 14, 2007, and is found in docket number E002/CN-06-154. Minn. Rules, Part 7849.5720, Subpart 3, requires a Certificate of Need to be issued prior to making a final decision a Route Permit application.

71. The Project is eligible for the Alternative Routing Process of the Power Plant Siting Act, Minn. Stat. § 216E.04 and Minn. Rules, Part 7849.5500.

72. Minn. Stat. § 216E.03, subdivision 7 and Minn. Rules, Part 7849.5910 provide considerations in designating sites and routes and determining whether to issue a permit for a large electric power generating plant or a high voltage transmission line.

Based on the Findings of Fact, the Commission makes the following:

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. Any of the foregoing Findings more properly designated as Conclusions are hereby adopted as such.
2. The Commission has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this proceeding pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216E.03, subdivision 2.

---

<sup>30</sup> Id.

<sup>31</sup> Id.

3. The Project qualifies for review under the Alternative Review Process of Minn. Stat. § 216E.04 and Minn. Rules, Part 7849.5510.
4. The Applicant, the OES and the Commission have complied with all procedural requirements required by law.
5. The OES has completed an Environmental Assessment on this Project as required by Minn. Stat. § 216E.04, subdivision 5, Minn. Rules, Part 7849.5700.
6. The Commission has considered all the pertinent factors relative to its determination of whether a Route Permit should be approved as required by Minn. Stat. § 216E.03, subdivision 7 and Minn. Rules, Part 7849.5910 and considered all the pertinent factors in determining whether the Route Permit should be approved.
7. The conditions included in the Route Permit are reasonable and appropriate.

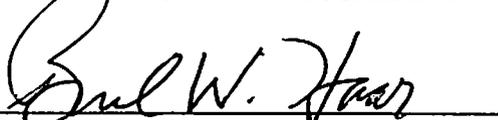
Based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions contained herein and the entire record of this proceeding, the Commission hereby makes the following:

### **ORDER**

A Route Permit is hereby issued to Xcel Energy to construct approximately 15.7 miles of 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between the Lake Yankton Substation and the Southwest Marshall Substation and associated facilities at the Lake Yankton substation to accommodate the new transmission line. The approved route shall follow the road centerlines as described in Xcel Energy's proposed route for the entire length except as modified to follow the A-1 route alternative through Lake Marshall Townships Sections 17 and 18.

The Route Permit shall be issued in the form attached hereto, with a map showing the approved route.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

  
Burl W. Haar,  
Executive Secretary

**STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**ROUTE PERMIT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A HIGH  
VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINE  
IN**

**LYON COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**ISSUED TO  
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY d/b/a XCEL  
ENERGY**

**DOCKET No. E-002/TL-07-1407**

In accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7849, this Route Permit is hereby issued to:

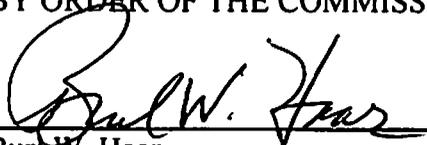
**NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY d/b/a XCEL  
ENERGY**

Northern States Power Company, d/b/a Xcel Energy (hereinafter referred to as Xcel Energy), is authorized by this route permit to construct a new, 115 kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line in Lyon County between the Lake Yankton Substation and the Southwest Marshall Substation, a distance of approximately 15.7 miles. Xcel Energy is authorized to make modifications at the Lake Yankton and Southwest Marshall Substations to accommodate the new 115 kV transmission line.

The transmission line shall be built within the route identified in this permit and as portrayed on the attached official route map, and in compliance with the conditions specified in this permit.

Approved and adopted this 29<sup>th</sup> day of  
August, 2008

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION



Burl W. Haar,  
Executive Secretary

## **I. ROUTE PERMIT**

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (the Commission) hereby issues this route permit to Xcel Energy (the Permittee) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7849. This permit authorizes Xcel to construct approximately 15.7 miles of 115 kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line (HVTL) and make equipment modifications at the Lake Yankton and Southwest Marshall substations to accommodate the new transmission line.

## **II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Xcel Energy is authorized to build a 15.7 mile, 115 kV transmission line and add associated electrical equipment necessary for connection of the permitted line at the existing Lake Yankton and Southwest Marshall substations

The transmission line authorized by this permit will utilize unbundled 795 aluminum conductor steel supported (ACSS) conductors. The line will be constructed on steel transmission structures (poles). Xcel Energy is authorized to use steel, single circuit transmission line structures with braced post insulators carry 115 kV conductor throughout the approved route.

Specialty transmission line structures including, but not limited to, steel or laminated wood post structures on concrete foundations are authorized for long spans, road or waterway crossings, and when circumstances require.

## **III. DESIGNATED ROUTE**

The route designated by the Commission in this permit comprises the segments as described in detail below, as analyzed in the EA, and shown on the Official Route Map attached to this permit. In an effort to maximize Xcel Energy's ability to accommodate individual landowners' needs, a route width of 200 feet on either side of the stated route centerline (centerline of adjacent roads) is approved (400 foot total width). For all segments except for the approximately one-mile segment on 250<sup>th</sup> Street between 230<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 240<sup>th</sup> Avenue, the approved right-of-way is 47.5 feet wide where the route is adjacent to existing road ROW or clear zones, and up to 75-feet wide where the route travels "cross country." For the segment on 250<sup>th</sup> Street between 230<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 240<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Xcel Energy is authorized to acquire up to 105 feet of ROW.

### ***Description of Route (See attached map)***

The proposed route begins on the south end at the Lake Yankton Substation. The transmission line route will proceed north along 210th Avenue paralleling the existing 115 kV transmission line for approximately 1,700 feet and continuing north to 160th Street. At 160th Street, the transmission line will run east for a

mile to 220th Avenue. The 115 kV transmission line will go north following 220th Avenue for eight miles. The line will continue east along the section line (between Sections 24 and 25, Lynd Township) following a fence line for a mile, and then proceed north along 230th Avenue for another mile.

At this point, the route shall follow the A-1 alternative until the line terminates at the Southwest Marshall Substation. At the intersection of 230th Avenue and 250th Street the route will turn east and follow 250th Street to CSAH 7. At CSAH 7, the route will turn north and run north along CSAH 7 until it reaches the MMU Easement on the east side of CSAH 7 near 257<sup>th</sup> Street. The route will then turn east for approximately a half-mile and enter the Southwest Marshall Substation from the south side.

The proposed transmission lines will be designed to meet or surpass all relevant local and state codes, and North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and Xcel Energy standards. Appropriate standards will be met for construction and installation, and all applicable safety procedures will be followed during and after installation.

#### **IV. PERMIT CONDITIONS**

The Permittee shall comply with the following conditions during construction of the transmission line and associated facilities and the life of this permit.

**A. Plan and Profile.** At least 14 calendar days before right-of-way preparation for construction begins, the Permittee shall provide the Commission with a plan and profile of the right-of-way and the specifications and drawings for right-of-way preparation, construction, cleanup, and restoration for the transmission line. The Permittee may not commence construction until the 14 days has expired or until the Commission has advised the Permittee in writing that it has completed its review of the documents and determined that the planned construction is consistent with this permit. If the Permittee intend to make any significant changes in its plan and profile or the specifications and drawings after submission to the Commission, the Permittee shall notify the Commission at least five days before implementing the changes. No changes shall be made that would be in violation of any of the terms of this permit.

#### **B. Construction Practices.**

**1. Application.** The Permittee shall follow those specific construction practices and material specifications described in the Xcel Energy Application to the Commission for a route permit, dated January 14, 2008, and as described in the EA unless this permit establishes a different requirement, in which case this permit shall prevail.

- 2. Field Representative.** At least 10 days prior to commencing construction, the Permittee shall advise the Commission in writing of the person or persons designated to be the field representative for the Permittee with the responsibility to oversee compliance with the conditions of this Permit during construction. The field representative's address, phone number, and emergency phone number shall be provided to the Commission and shall be made available to affected landowners, residents, public officials and other interested persons. The Permittee may change its field representative at any time upon written notice to the Commission.
- 3. Cleanup.** All waste and scrap that is the product of construction shall be removed from the area and properly disposed of upon completion of each task. Personal litter, including bottles, cans, and paper from construction activities shall be removed on a daily basis.
- 4. Vegetation Removal.** The Permittee shall minimize the number of trees to be removed in selecting the right-of-way (ROW). As part of construction, low growing brush or tree species are allowable at the outer limits of the easement area. To the extent practical, low growing vegetation that will not pose a threat to the transmission facility or impede construction should remain in the easement area.
- 5. Erosion Control.** The Permittee shall implement reasonable measures to minimize runoff during construction and shall plant or seed non-agricultural areas that were disturbed where structures are installed.
- 6. Temporary Work Space.** The Permittee shall limit temporary easements to special construction access needs and additional staging or lay-down areas required outside of the authorized ROW.
- 7. Restoration.** The Permittee shall restore the ROW, temporary work spaces, access roads, abandoned ROW, and other private lands affected by construction of the transmission line. Restoration within the ROW must be compatible with the safe operation, maintenance, and inspection of the transmission line.

Xcel Energy shall work with landowners, the DNR, and local wildlife management programs to restore and maintain the right-of-way to provide useful and functional habitat for plants, nesting birds, small animals and migrating animals and to minimize habitat fragmentation in a manner consistent with inspection and safe maintenance of the right-of-way.

Within 60 days after completion of all restoration activities, the Permittee shall advise the Commission in writing of the completion of such activities.

**8. Notice of Permit.** The Permittee shall inform all employees, contractors, and other persons involved in the construction of the transmission line of the terms and conditions of this permit.

**C. Periodic Status Reports.** Upon request, the Permittee shall report to the Commission on progress regarding finalization of the route, design of structures, and construction of the transmission line. The Permittee need not report more frequently than quarterly.

**D. Complaint Procedure.** Prior to the start of construction, the Permittee shall submit to the Commission the company's procedures to be used to receive and respond to complaints. The procedures shall be in accordance with the requirements set forth in the complaint procedures attached to this permit.

**E. Notification to Landowners.** The Permittee shall provide all affected landowners with a copy of this permit at the time of the first contact with the landowners after issuance of this permit. Xcel Energy shall contact landowners prior to entering the property or conducting maintenance along the route and avoid maintenance practices, particularly the use of fertilizer or pesticides, inconsistent with the landowner's or tenant's use of the land.

Xcel Energy shall work with landowners to locate the HVTL on their property to minimize the loss of agricultural land, forest, and wetlands, with due regard for proximity to homes and property lines.

**F. Completion of Construction.**

**1. Notification to Commission.** At least three days before the line is to be placed into service, the Permittee shall notify the Commission of the date on which the line will be placed into service and the date on which construction was complete.

**2. As-Builts.** Upon request of the Commission, the Permittee shall submit copies of all the final as-built plans and specifications developed during the project.

**3. GPS Data.** Within 60 days after completion of construction, the Permittee shall submit to the Commission, in the format requested by the Commission, geo-spatial information (GIS compatible maps, GPS coordinates, etc.) for all above ground structures associated with the transmission lines, each switch, and each substation connected.

**G. Electrical Performance Standards.**

**1. Grounding.** The Permittee shall design, construct, and operate the transmission line in such a manner that the maximum induced steady-state short-

circuit current shall be limited to five milliamperes rms alternating current between the ground and any non-stationary object within the ROW, including but not limited to large motor vehicles and agricultural equipment. All fixed metallic objects on or off the ROW, except electric fences that parallel or cross the right-of-way, shall be grounded to the extent necessary to limit the induced short circuit current between ground and the object so as not to exceed one milliampere rms under steady state conditions of the transmission line and to comply with the ground fault conditions specified in the National Electric Safety Code (NESC).

**2. Electric Field.** The transmission line shall be designed, constructed, and operated in such a manner that the electric field measured one meter above ground level immediately below the transmission line shall not exceed 8.0 kV/m rms.

**3. Interference with Communication Devices.** If interference with radio or television, satellite or other communication devices is caused by the presence or operation of the transmission line, the Permittee shall take whatever action is prudently feasible to restore or provide reception equivalent to reception levels in the immediate area just prior to the construction of the line.

## **H. Special Conditions**

**1. Archaeological and Historic Resources.** Xcel Energy shall make every effort to avoid impacts to identified archaeological and historic resources when installing the HVTL on the approved route. In the event that an impact would occur, the Applicants will consult with State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and invited consulting parties. Where feasible, avoidance of the resource is required. Where not feasible, mitigation for project-related impacts on National Register of Historic Properties (NRHP)-eligible archaeological and historic resources must include an effort to minimize project impacts on the resource.

**2. Wetlands/Water Resources.** Wetland impact avoidance measures that shall be implemented during design and construction of the transmission line will include spacing and placing the power poles at variable distances to span and avoid wetlands. Unavoidable wetland impacts as a result of the placement of poles shall be limited to the immediate area around the poles. To minimize impacts, construction in wetland areas shall occur in the winter. If necessary, wooden or composite mats will be used to protect wetland vegetation. All requirements of the USACE (wetlands under federal jurisdiction), MDNR (Public Waters/Wetlands), and County (wetlands under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act) shall be met.

Impacts to floodplains, in particular the placement of power pole structures, shall be avoided to the maximum extent possible by placing these structures above the

floodplain contours outside of the designated floodplain, and by spanning the floodplain with the transmission line.

If construction activities at the substation and switching station will result in the disturbance of one acre or more of soils, a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater permit will be required. Erosion control measures and Best Management Practices (BMPs) shall be followed during these activities.

**3. Accommodation of Existing and Planned Infrastructure.** Xcel Energy is required to work with the townships and counties along the route to accommodate their concerns regarding drain tiles, pole depth and placement in relationship to existing roads and road expansion plans, including Lyon County's planned expansion and reconstruction of 250<sup>th</sup> Street.

#### **I. Other Requirements.**

**1. Applicable Codes.** The Permittee shall comply with applicable North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) reliability standards and requirements of the National Electric Safety Code (NESC) including clearances to ground, clearance to crossing utilities, clearance to buildings, ROW widths, erecting power poles, and stringing of transmission line conductors.

**2. Other Permits.** The Permittee shall comply with all applicable state rules and statutes. The Permittee shall obtain all required local, state and federal permits for the project and comply with the conditions of these permits. A list of the required permits is included in the permit application and the environmental assessment. The Permittee shall submit a copy of such permits to the Commission upon request.

**3. Pre-emption.** Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 216E.10, subdivisions 1 and 2, this route permit shall be the sole route approval required to be obtained by the Permittee and this permit shall supersede and preempt all zoning, building, or land use rules, regulations, or ordinances promulgated by regional, county, local and special purpose government.

**J. Delay in Construction.** If the Permittee have not commenced construction or improvement of the route within four years after the date of issuance of this permit, the Commission shall consider suspension of the permit in accordance with Minnesota Rule 7849.5970.

#### **V. PERMIT AMENDMENT**

The permit conditions in Section IV. may be amended at any time by the Commission. Any person may request an amendment of the conditions of this permit by submitting a request to the Commission in writing describing the amendment sought and the reasons for the amendment. The Commission will mail notice of receipt of the request to the Permittee. The Commission may amend the conditions after affording the Permittee and interested persons such process as is required.

## **VI. TRANSFER OF PERMIT**

The Permittee may request at any time that the Commission transfer this permit to another person or entity. The Permittee shall provide the name and description of the person or entity to whom the permit is requested to be transferred, the reasons for the transfer, a description of the facilities affected, and the proposed effective date of the transfer. The person to whom the permit is to be transferred shall provide the Commission with such information as the Commission shall require to determine whether the new Permittee can comply with the conditions of the permit. The Commission may authorize transfer of the permit after affording the Permittee, the new permittee, and interested persons such process as is required.

## **VII. REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF THE PERMIT**

The Commission may initiate action to revoke or suspend this permit at any time. The Commission shall act in accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Rules part 7849.6010 to revoke or suspend the permit.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
COMPLAINT REPORT PROCEDURES FOR  
HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES**

**1. Purpose**

To establish a uniform and timely method of reporting complaints received by the Permittee concerning the Permit conditions for site preparation, construction, cleanup and restoration, and resolution of such complaints.

**2. Scope**

This reporting plan encompasses complaint report procedures and frequency.

**3. Applicability**

The procedures shall be used for all complaints received by the Permittee.

**4. Definitions**

**Complaint:** - A statement presented by a person expressing dissatisfaction, resentment, or discontent as a direct result of the HVTL and associated facilities. Complaints do not include requests, inquiries, questions or general comments.

**Telephone Complaint:** - A person presenting a Complaint by telephone shall indicate whether the Complaint relates to (1) a substantive Routing Permit matter, (2) a HVTL location matter, or (3) a compensation matter. All callers must provide the following information when presenting a Complaint by telephone: (1) name; (2) date and time of call; (3) phone number; (4) email address (if available); (5) home address; (6) parcel number.

**Substantial Complaint:** – Written complaints alleging a violation of a specific Route Permit condition that, if substantiated, could result in Permit modification or suspension pursuant to the applicable regulations.

**Person:** - An individual, partnership, joint venture, private or public corporation, association, firm, public service company, cooperative, political subdivision, municipal corporation, government agency, public utility district, or any other entity, public or private, however organized.

**5. Responsibilities**

Everyone involved with any phase of the HVTL is responsible to ensure expeditious and equitable resolution of all complaints. It is therefore necessary to

establish a uniform method for documenting and handling complaints related to this HVTL project. The following procedures will satisfy this requirement:

- A. The Permittee shall document all complaints by maintaining a record of all applicable information concerning the complaint, including the following:
  1. Name of the Permittee and project.
  2. Name of complainant, address and phone number.
  3. Precise property description or tract numbers (where applicable).
  4. Nature of complaint.
  5. Response given.
  6. Name of person receiving complaint and date of receipt.
  7. Name of person reporting complaint to the Commission and phone number.
  8. Final disposition and date.
- B. The Permittee shall assign an individual to summarize complaints for transmittal to the Commission.

## 6. Requirements

The Permittee shall report all complaints to the Commission according to the following schedule:

**Immediate Reports:** - All substantial complaints shall be reported to the Commission by phone or by e-mail the same day received or on the following working day for complaints received after working hours. Such reports are to be directed to HVTL Permit Compliance at the following:  
[DOC.energypermitcompliance@state.mn.us](mailto:DOC.energypermitcompliance@state.mn.us) or 1-800-657-3794. Voice messages are acceptable.

**Monthly Reports:** - By the 15th of each month, a summary of all complaints, including substantial complaints received or resolved during the preceding month. Such summaries shall be sent to Dr. Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, Metro Square Building, 121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147. A copy of each complaint shall be sent to Permit Compliance, Minnesota Department of Commerce, 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198.

**Unresolved Complaints:** - The permittee shall submit all unresolved complaints to the Commission for resolution by the Commission, where appropriate, no later than 45 days after the date of the submission.

## **7. Complaints Received by the Commission**

Copies of complaints received directly by the Commission from aggrieved persons regarding site preparation, construction, cleanup, restoration, operation and maintenance shall be promptly sent to the Permittee.

**Initial Screening:** - Commission Staff shall perform an initial evaluation of unresolved Complaints submitted to the Commission. Complaints raising substantive Routing Permit issues shall be processed and resolved by the Commission. Staff shall notify Xcel Energy and the Complaining person if it determines that the Complaint is a Substantial Complaint. With respect to such Complaints, each party shall submit a written summary of its position to the Commission no later than ten days after receipt of the Staff notification. Staff shall present Briefing Papers to the Commission, which shall resolve the Complaint within twenty days of submission of the Briefing Papers.

**Condemnation/Compensation Issues:** - If the Commission's Staff initial screening determines that a Complaint raises issues concerning the just compensation to be paid to landowners on account of Xcel Energy's acquisition of HVTL easements, Staff shall recommend to the Executive Secretary that the matter be resolved under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 117. If the Executive Secretary concurs, he shall so report to the Commission and the matter shall be dealt with in the HVTL condemnation proceedings as an issue of just compensation.



**XCEL ENERGY LAKE YANKTON TO SOUTHWEST MARSHALL  
TRANSMISSION PROJECT**

**PUBLIC HEARING EXHIBIT LIST**

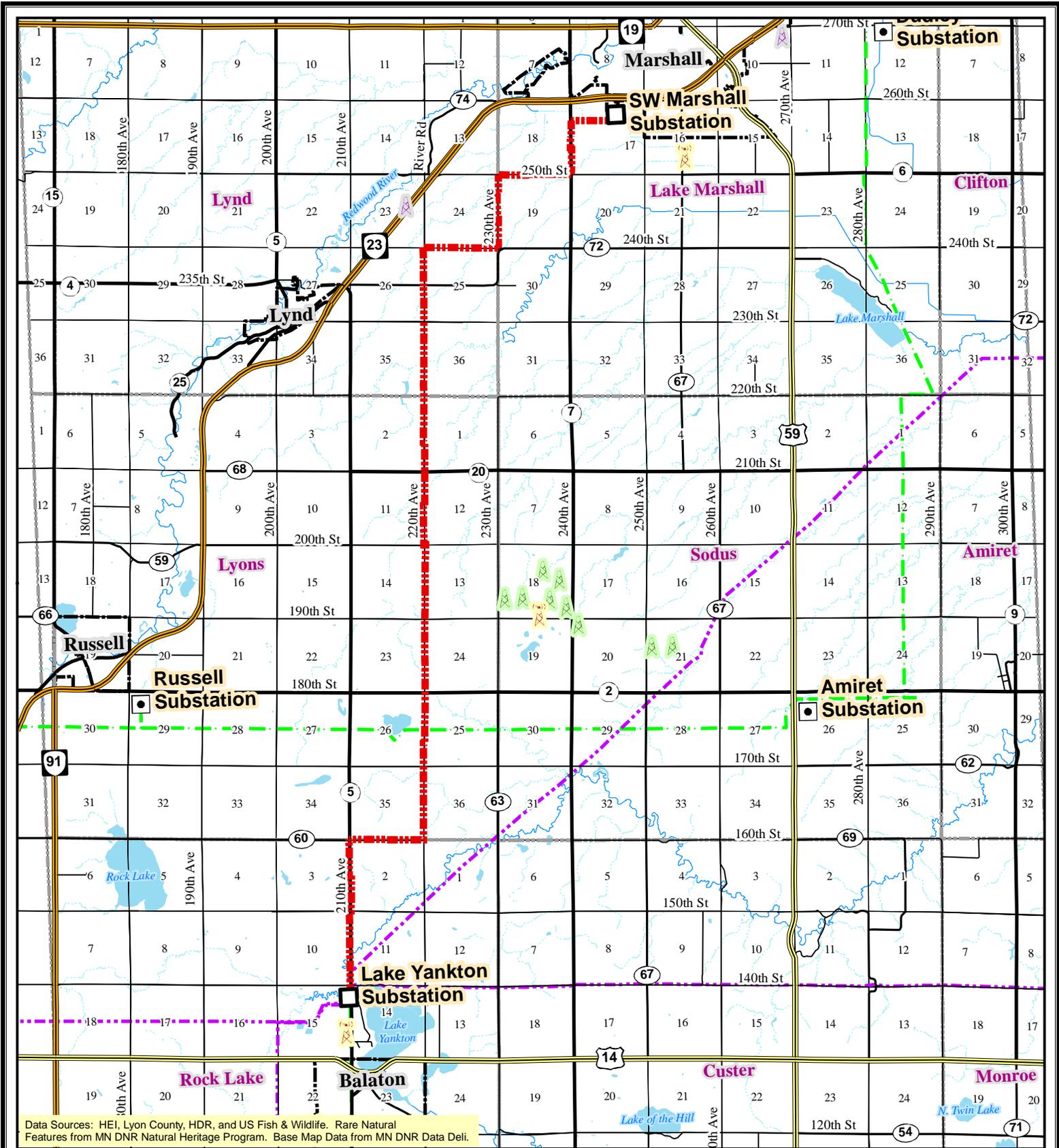
**In the Matter of the Application for a Route Permit for the Lake Yankton –  
Marshall 115 kilovolt Transmission Line Project**

**PUC Docket No. E002/TL-07-1407**

<b>DOC Exhibit No.</b>	<b>Exhibit</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>eDockets Document Number</b>
1	Notice of Intent to File Application Under the Alternative Permitting Process	November 1, 2007	<a href="#">4827728</a>
2	Cover Letter to Route Permit Application	January 14, 2008	<a href="#">4897775</a>
3	Route Permit Application (1 of 2)	January 14, 2008	<a href="#">4897776</a>
	Route Permit Application (2 of 2)	January 14, 2008	<a href="#">4897777</a>
	Route Permit Application Appendix A	January 14, 2008	<a href="#">4897779</a>
	Route Permit Application Appendix B1	January 14, 2008	<a href="#">4897780</a>
	Route Permit Application Appendix B2	January 14, 2008	<a href="#">4897782</a>
	Route Permit Application Appendix C	January 14, 2008	<a href="#">4897783</a>

<b>DOC Exhibit No.</b>	<b>Exhibit</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>eDockets Document Number</b>
	Route Permit Application Appendix D	January 14, 2008	<a href="#">4897784</a>
	Route Permit Application Appendix E	January 14, 2008	<a href="#">4897785</a>
4	Notice of Public Utilities Commission Meeting	January 25, 2008	<a href="#">4907121</a>
5	Department of Commerce Energy Facilities Permitting Staff Comments and Recommendations to the Commission on Completeness of the Application	January 30, 2008	<a href="#">4912909</a>
6	PUC Order Accepting Application	February 8, 2008	<a href="#">4931501</a>
7	Notice of Application Acceptance, Public Information and Scoping Meeting	February 19, 2008	<a href="#">4946630</a>
8	Affidavit of Service and Publication	February 19, 2008	<a href="#">4946624</a>
9	Public Comments	March 12, 2008	<a href="#">5017775</a>
10	Comments of the Lyon County Board of Commissioners	March 24, 2008	<a href="#">5037430</a>
11	Environmental Assessment Scoping Decision	March 31, 2008	<a href="#">5044934</a> <a href="#">5343583</a>
12	Comments of Marshall Municipal Utilities	May 5, 2008	<a href="#">5176334</a>
13	Xcel Energy Letter Describing Design Modification	May 13, 2008	<a href="#">5204284</a>
14	Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment and Public Hearing	June 2, 2008	<a href="#">5251585</a>
15	Environmental Assessment	June 2, 2008	<a href="#">5251582</a>

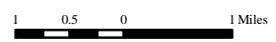
<b>DOC Exhibit No.</b>	<b>Exhibit</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>eDockets Document Number</b>
16	Revised Notice of Public Hearing and Environmental Assessment	June 5, 2008	<a href="#">5264785</a>
17	Direct Timothy Rogers, Xcel Energy	June 25, 2008	<a href="#">5308926</a>
18	Xcel Energy Letter: BRIGO Projects Status Report	June 25, 2008	<a href="#">5308919</a>
19	Affidavits of Service and Publication	July 10, 2008	<a href="#">5343584</a> <a href="#">5343585</a>
20	Xcel Energy Letter Clarifying Ditch Characteristics	July 11, 2008	<a href="#">5344899</a>
21	Public Comments	Various	<a href="#">5373475</a> <a href="#">5373476</a> <a href="#">5373478</a> <a href="#">5373479</a> <a href="#">5373480</a>
22	Administrative Law Judge's Summary of Public Comments	July 30, 2008	<a href="#">5394438</a>

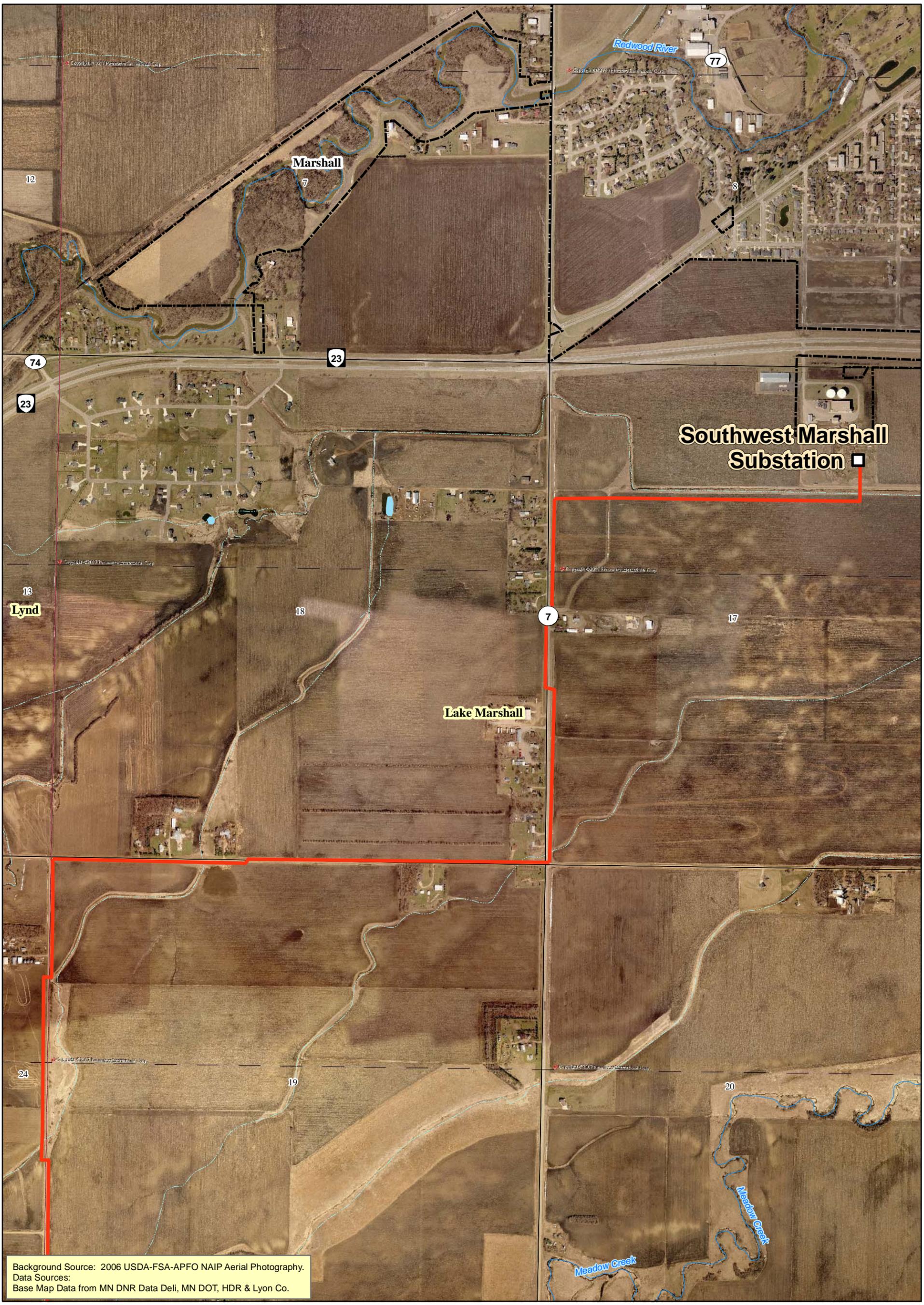


Data Sources: HEI, Lyon County, HDR, and US Fish & Wildlife. Rare Natural Features from MN DNR Natural Heritage Program. Base Map Data from MN DNR Data Deli.

- |                          |                                     |  |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Substations (HDR)</b> | <b>TOWERS</b>                       | <b>Existing Transmission Lines (HDR)</b> |
| ▲ Unknown                | ▲ Unknown Type                      | — 69kV                                   |
| ⊕ 115/69kV               | ▲ Wind                              | - - - 115kV                              |
| ■ DIST                   | ▲ Wireless                          |  |
| ■ SUB                    |                                     |  |
| ○ SWITCH                 |                                     |  |
|                          | <b>Approved A-1, 115kV TL Route</b> |  |
|                          | — — — — —                           |  |

**Lake Yankton to Marshall  
115kV Transmission Line Project  
Lyon County, Minnesota**





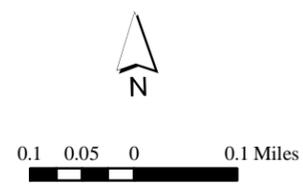
Background Source: 2006 USDA-FSA-APFO NAIP Aerial Photography.  
 Data Sources:  
 Base Map Data from MN DNR Data Deli, MN DOT, HDR & Lyon Co.

- Approved A-1, 115 kV TL Route
- Substation**
- ▲ Unknown Type
- ⊙ 115/69kV
- Dist.
- Sub.
- Switch

- Towers**
- ▲ Unknown Type
- ▲ Wind
- ▲ Wireless

- Existing Transmission Lines (HDR)**
- 69kV
- 115kV

- Water Features (MN DNR)**
- Centerline (River)
- Stream (Perennial)
- Stream (Intermittent)



**Lake Yankton to Marshall  
 115kV Transmission Line Project  
 Lyon County, Minnesota**

**Route Detail - Marshall Substation**