

MEMORANDUM

TO: Scott Ek
Office of Energy Security

FROM: Tim Rogers
Xcel Energy

DATE: September 15, 2008

RE: **West New Ulm – Fort Ridgely 115/69 kV Rebuild Project**
MPUC Docket No. E002/TL-08-956

This memorandum responds to the questions raised in your September 9, 2008 email regarding the Route Permit Application for the Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (“Xcel Energy”) West New Ulm – Fort Ridgely 115/69 kV Rebuild Project (the “Application”).

(1) You noted that Figure B.2a depicts a route width of 800 feet (400 feet on each side) while the text of the Application states that the requested route width is 400 feet wide (200 feet on each side of the centerline). The text in the Application on page 4, 2nd paragraph, is correct. Attached is a revised Figure B.2a that shows the correct total requested route width of 400 feet.

(2) Your email also asks about the route width for the portion of the proposed 115 kV line once this line splits from the existing 69 kV line near the proposed West New Ulm Substation. As shown in the revised Figure B.2a, once the 115 kV line splits from the 69 kV line and crosses County Road 12, the 115 kV line will be within the West New Ulm substation fence line. As a result, there is no requested route width for this portion of the line. Figure B.2a incorrectly showed the line to be located outside the substation area. This error has been corrected on the enclosed revised Figure B.2a.

(3) Your email also inquires about the designation of an area of land as a “passive park” on page 9 of the Application and what this designation signifies. It is my understanding that a “passive park” denotes a park that does not have designated sports fields or community buildings. Rather a passive park is largely an open area green space used for picnicking and/or nature trails. The specific “passive park” referenced in Application on pages 9 and 50 is owned by the City of New Ulm and is currently unnamed. This passive park contains a paved bike/walking path and a newly installed sidewalk along North Broadway Street. It is my

understanding, based on discussions that Xcel Energy has had with City officials, that the park is currently zoned "RA" which is an agricultural/residential district. In addition, the City has indicated that portions of this park were acquired by tax forfeiture and that those portions of the park cannot be sold or developed by the City. The City also stated that the other portions of the park were purchased by the City and the City has the ability to do what it wants with this portion of the park.

(4) The final question in your email concerns Figure B.5 and the location of that portion of the proposed 115 kV line from Fort Ridgely into the West New Ulm Substation near County Road 12 as shown on Figure B.5. Figure B.5 is a substation electrical diagram and does not represent the actual placement of the transmission lines. While the diagram appears to show two separate lines north of the West New Ulm Substation, the 115 kV line and the 69 kV line will actually be located on double circuit structures north of the substation as depicted in the revised Figure B.2a. The 115 kV line will only become single circuit once it turns west across County Highway 12 into the West New Ulm Substation.

For the double circuit structures for the 69/115 kV transmission line north of the West New Ulm Substation, Xcel Energy plans to keep with the current alignment for the existing 69 kV line and place the 115/69 kV structures within the existing road right-of-way of County Road 12 where possible. If it is not possible to stay within the existing road right-of-way, the new structures will be placed approximately 5 to 10 feet outside the public right-of-way in private land as is Xcel Energy's general practice.

Please feel free to contact me with any other questions that you have regarding the Application.



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September 15, 2008

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Dr. Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

**Re: Northern States Power Company
Application to Public Utilities Commission for a Route Permit West New
Ulm – Fort Ridgely 115/69 kV Rebuild Project**

MPUC Docket No. E002 /TL-08-956

Dear Dr. Haar:

In further review of the Application for a Route Permit filed August 29, 2008, Applicant Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (“Xcel Energy”), identified certain errors in selected diagrams in Appendix B of the Application. To correct these errors, Xcel Energy is hereby filing revised Figures B.1, B.2a, B.2c, B.3, B.4, B.5, B.6a, and B.6b. Xcel Energy will also be providing a copy of this submission to local officials who previously received a copy of the Application.

The specific changes to each map are detailed below:

- Figure B.1: This figure was revised to correctly show the location of the 115 kV line when it splits from the 69 kV line and crosses County Highway 12 into the West New Ulm Substation. For this segment, the line will be within the substation fence, not outside the fence as shown.
- Figures B.2a, B.3 and B4: The same change noted above regarding the 115 kV line was made to all three diagrams. In addition, the green and yellow dashed lines along County Highway 12 representing the proposed 115/69 kV double circuit transmission line were consolidated into one line. Figure B.2a was also revised to show a route width of 400 feet (200 feet on each side) along County Highway 12 as opposed to 800 feet (400 feet on each side) to match the text of the Application.

BRIGGS AND MORGAN

Dr. Burl W. Haar
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- Figure B.2c: The labeling of one of the transmission lines was changed from New Ulm Public Utilities to Xcel Energy to represent the correct owner.
- Figure B.5: This figure was revised to show the 115 kV line on the same structure as the 69 kV line east of County Highway 12.
- Figures B.6a and B.6b: These figures were revised to correct the labeling of the lines coming into and out of the Fort Ridgely Substation.

Xcel Energy regrets any inconvenience caused by the errors in the Application. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

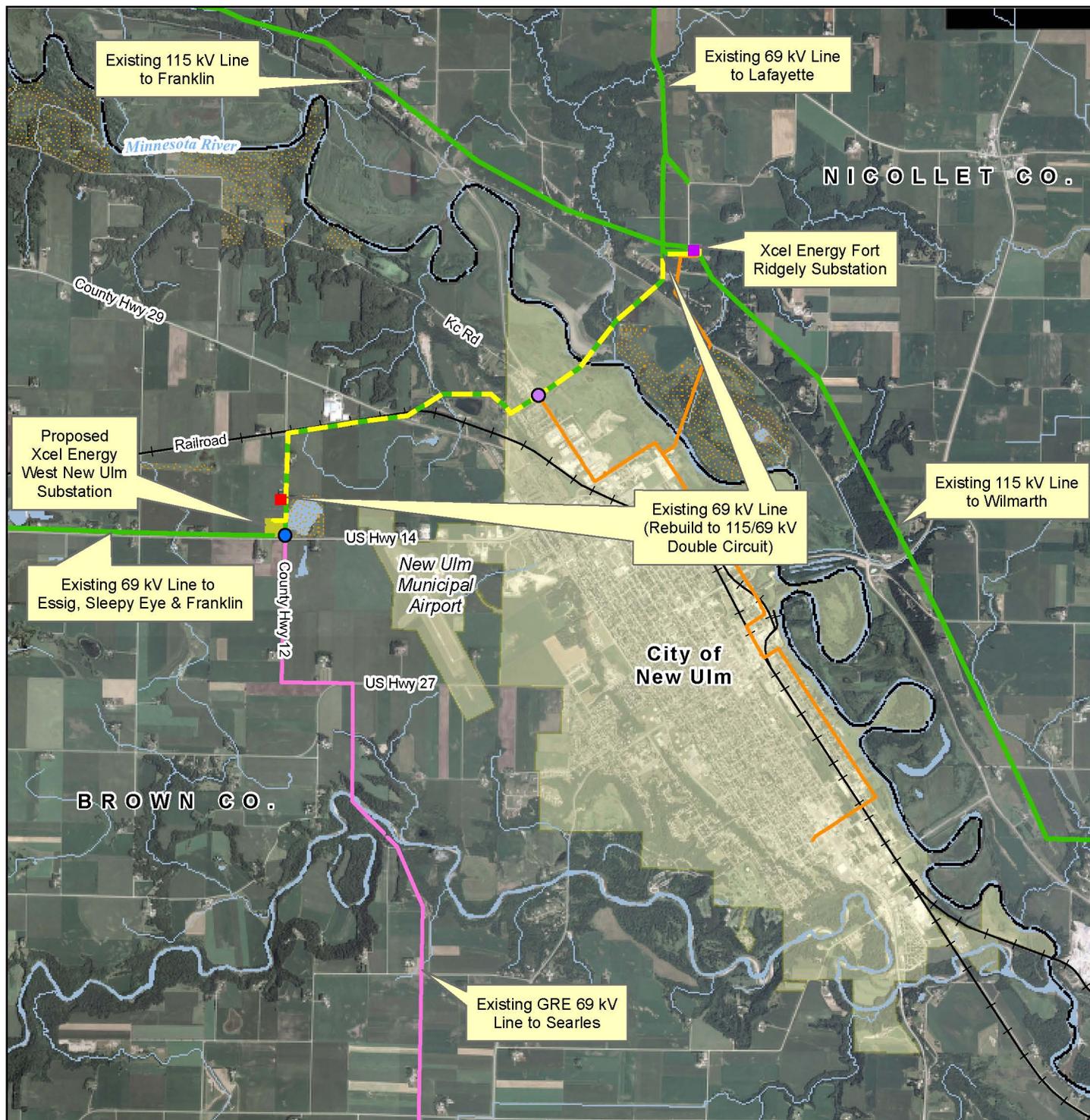
Sincerely,



Lisa M. Agrimonti

LMA/dba
Enclosures

cc (w/encs.): Scott Ek, Minnesota Office of Energy Security (hand-delivered)



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

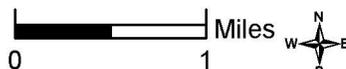
Brown and Nicollet counties, MN

Legend

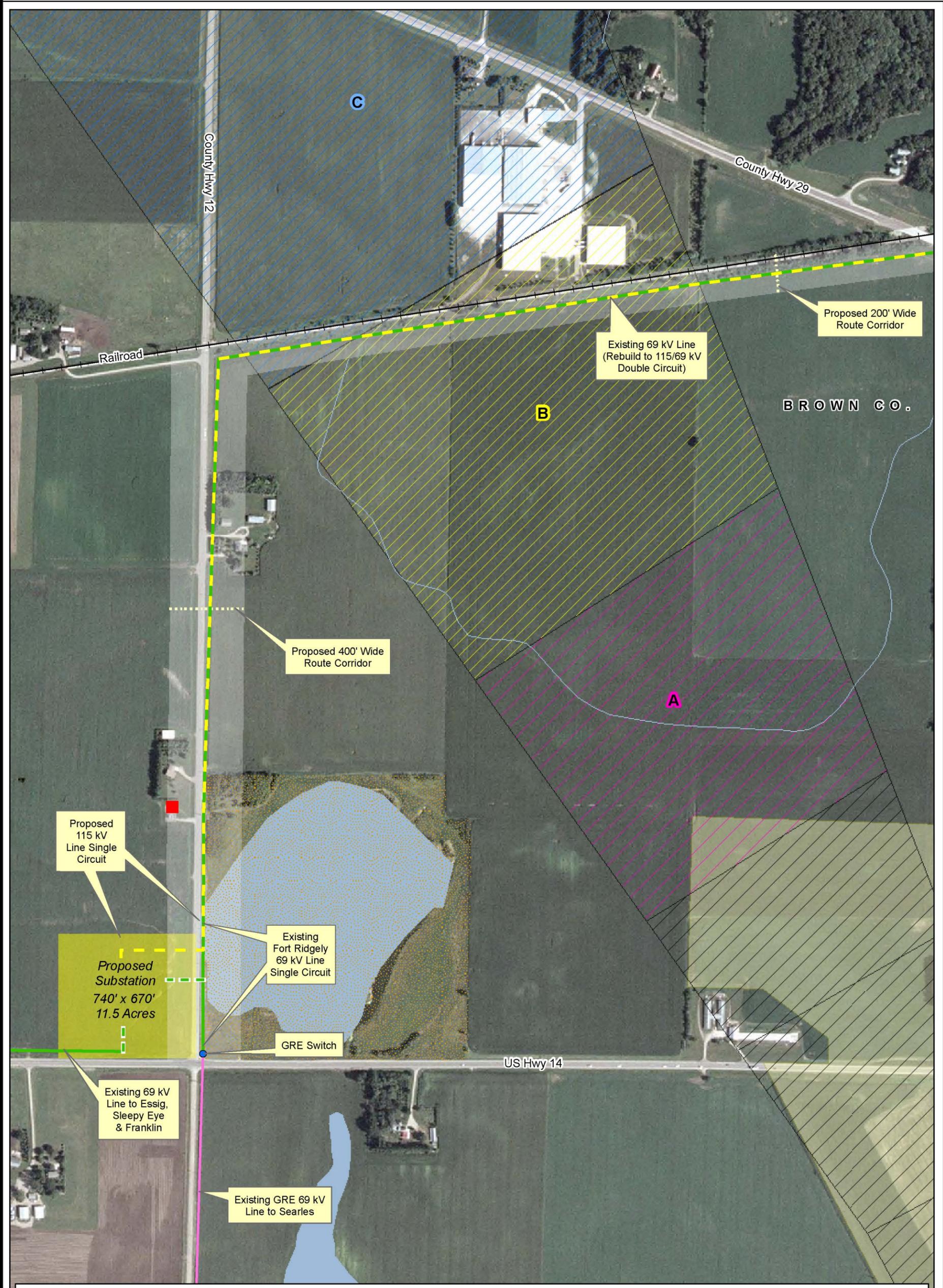
- Existing Substation - Fort Ridgely
- Existing Substation - Brown Co. REA
- New Ulm Switch
- GRE Switch
- Proposed Xcel Energy 115/69 kV Transmission Line
- Proposed Xcel Energy West New Ulm Substation
- Xcel Energy Transmission Line
- GRE Transmission Line
- New Ulm Public Utilities Transmission Line
- Railroad
- MN DNR Wildlife Area
- Waterbody
- River/Stream
- County Boundary
- City Boundary



Data Source(s): Xcel Energy, MN DNR, USDA.



General Vicinity Map
Revised Appendix B.1



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

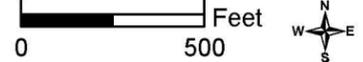
Brown and Nicollet counties, MN

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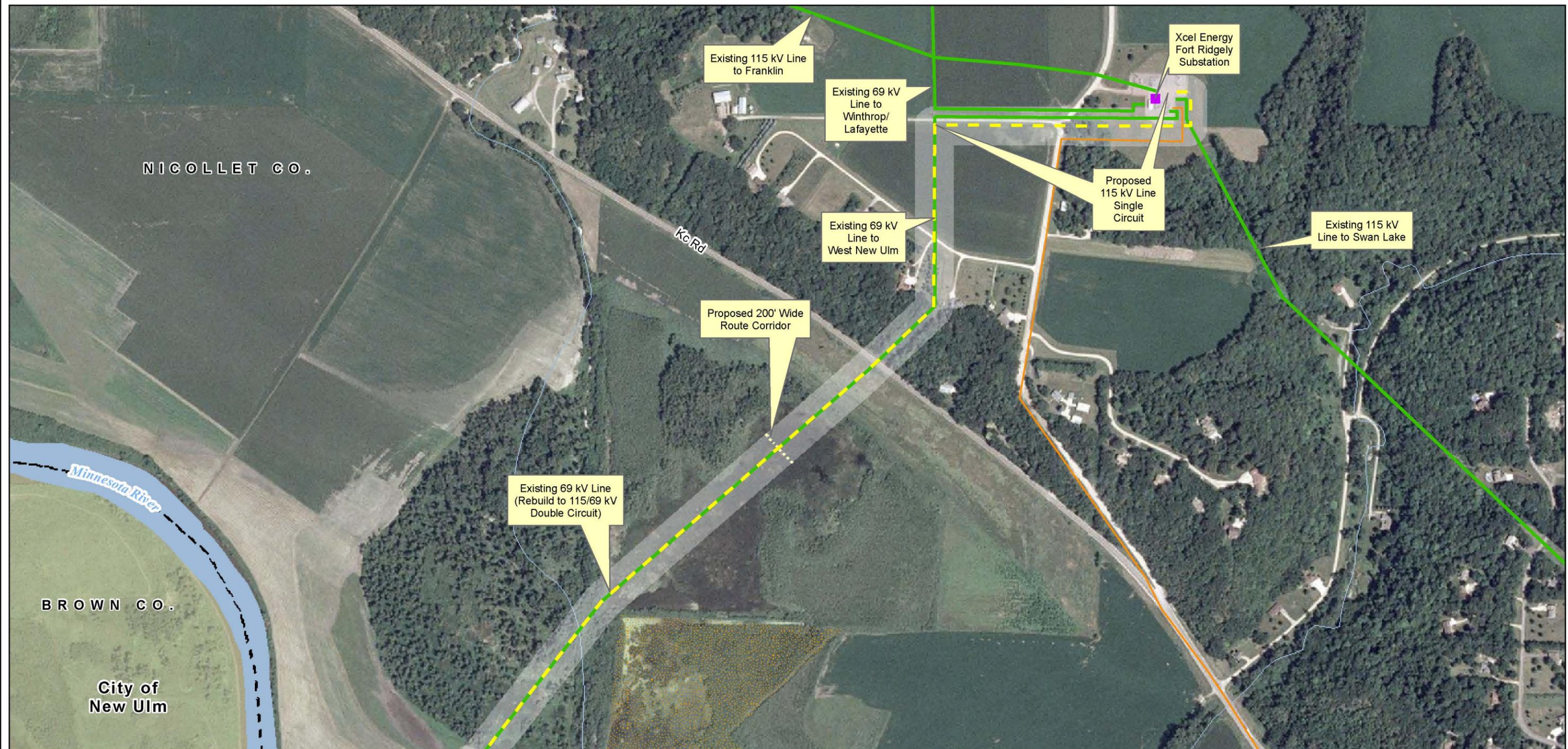
- | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| ● GRE Switch | — GRE Transmission Line | City of New Ulm Municipal Airport |
| ■ Existing Substation - Brown Co. REA | — New Ulm Public Utilities Transmission Line | Airport Runway Zone |
| ■ Proposed Xcel Energy West New Ulm Substation | Railroad | Safety Zone "A" |
| Proposed Xcel Energy 115/69 kV Transmission Line | MN DNR Wildlife Area | Safety Zone "B" |
| Proposed Route Corridor | Waterbody | Safety Zone "C" |
| — Xcel Energy Transmission Line | River/Stream | |
| - - - Xcel Energy Transmission Line Connection | City Boundary | |



Data Source(s): Xcel Energy, MN DNR, USDA.



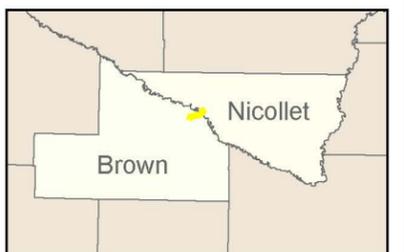
Project Location Map
Revised Appendix B.2a



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

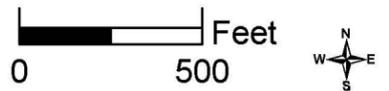
Brown and Nicollet counties, MN

- Legend**
- Existing Substation - Fort Ridgely
 - Proposed Xcel Energy 115/69 kV Transmission Line
 - Proposed Route Corridor
 - Xcel Energy Transmission Line
 - New Ulm Public Utilities Transmission Line
 - Railroad
 - MN DNR Wildlife Area
 - ~ Waterbody
 - ~ River/Stream
 - County Boundary
 - City Boundary



Data Source(s): Xcel Energy, MN DNR, USDA.

Project Location Map
Revised Appendix B.2c



Map Document: P:\2008\1081\gis\20081081\doc01A_B2c.mxd
8/26/2008 6:22:49 PM



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

Brown and Nicollet counties, MN

Legend

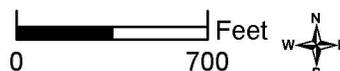
- GRE Switch
- Existing Substation - Brown Co. REA
- Alternative Substation Location
- Proposed Xcel Energy West New Ulm Substation
- Proposed Xcel Energy 115/69 kV Transmission Line
- Xcel Energy Transmission Line
- Xcel Energy Transmission Line Connection
- GRE Transmission Line
- Hutchinson Utility Gas Pipeline
- Railroad
- MN DNR Wildlife Area
- Waterbody
- River/Stream
- City of New Ulm Municipal Airport
- Safety Zone "A"
- Safety Zone "B"
- Safety Zone "C"

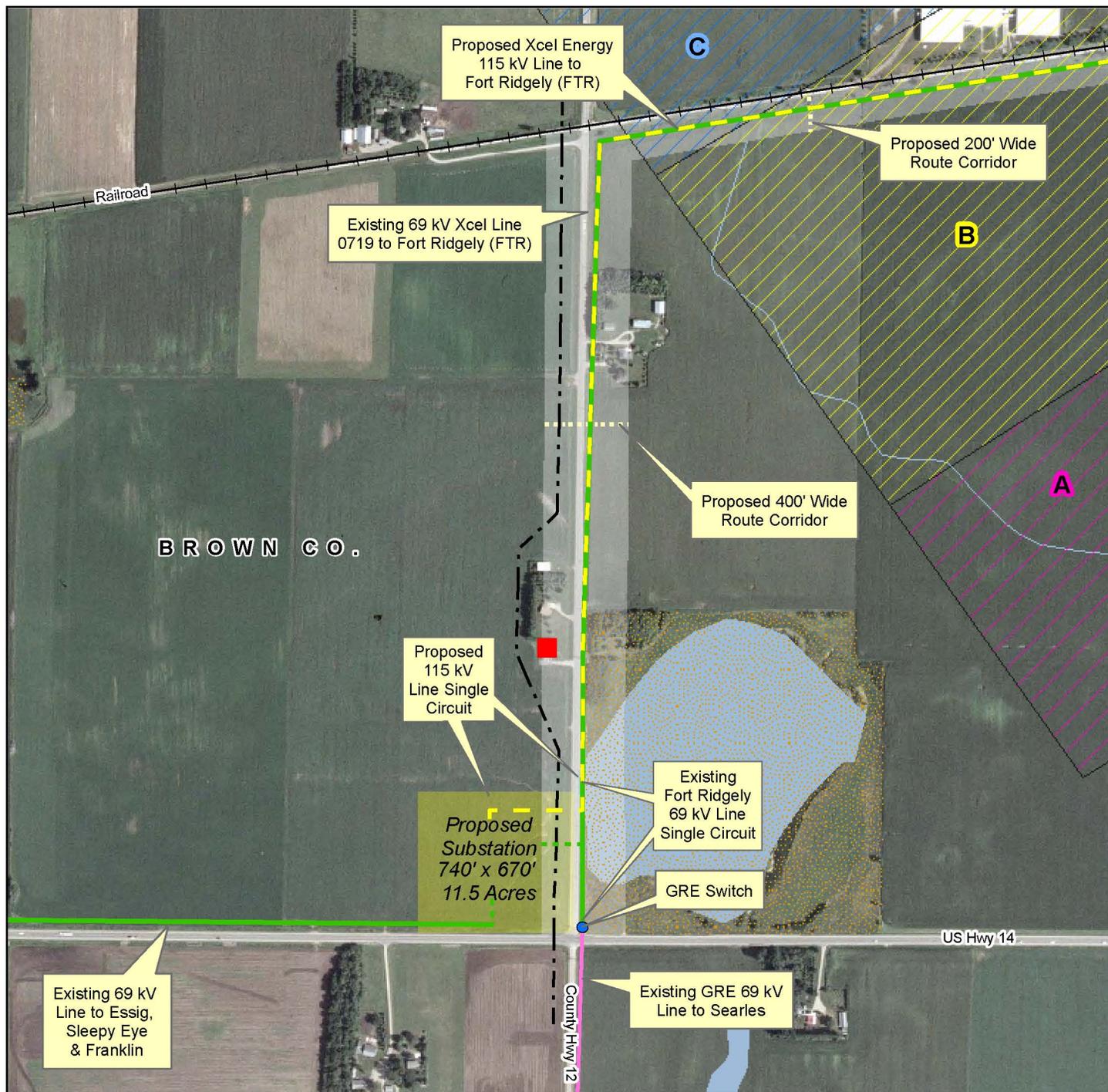


Data Source(s): Xcel Energy, MN DNR, USDA.

Alternative Substations Location Map

Revised Appendix B.3





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

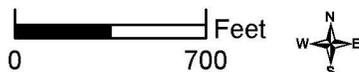
Brown and Nicollet counties, MN

Legend

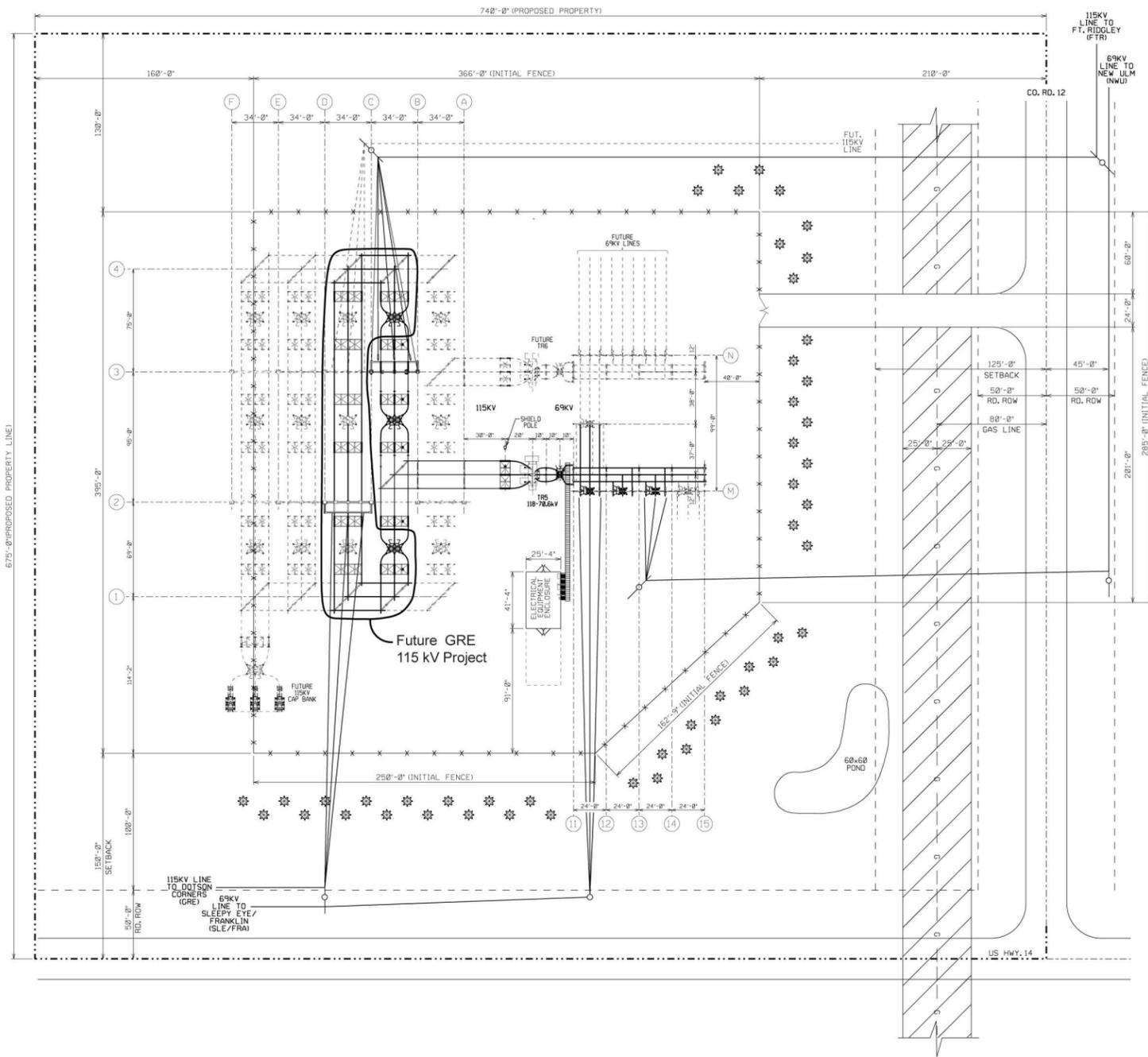
- GRE Switch
- Existing Substation - Brown Co. REA
- Proposed Xcel Energy West New Ulm Substation
- Proposed Xcel Energy 115/69 kV Transmission Line
- Proposed Route Corridor
- Xcel Energy Transmission Line
- Xcel Energy Transmission Line Connection
- GRE Transmission Line
- Hutchinson Utility Gas Pipeline
- Railroad
- MN DNR Wildlife Area
- Waterbody
- River/Stream
- City of New Ulm Municipal Airport**
- Safety Zone "A"
- Safety Zone "B"
- Safety Zone "C"



Data Source(s): Xcel Energy, MN DNR, USDA.



West New Ulm Substation Location
Revised Appendix B.4



PRELIMINARY
 NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

<small>THIS MAP/DOCUMENT IS A TOOL TO ASSIST EMPLOYEES IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR JOBS. YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY IS PROVIDED FOR BY USING SAFETY PRACTICES, PROCEDURES AND EQUIPMENT AS DESCRIBED IN THE SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAMS, MANUALS AND SPARS. CONFIDENTIAL DO NOT COPY OR DISTRIBUTE TO OTHERS WITHOUT EXPRESS WRITTEN CONSENT FROM XCEL ENERGY.</small>		<small>NEW ULM PROJECT NUMBER</small> WNU
NSP OPERATING AREA ENGINEERING Minneapolis, MN	WEST NEW ULM SUBSTATION PROPOSED LOCATION PLAN	<small>DATE</small> 8/11/2008
	<small>SCALE</small> 1"=40'-0"	<small>REV</small> NONE

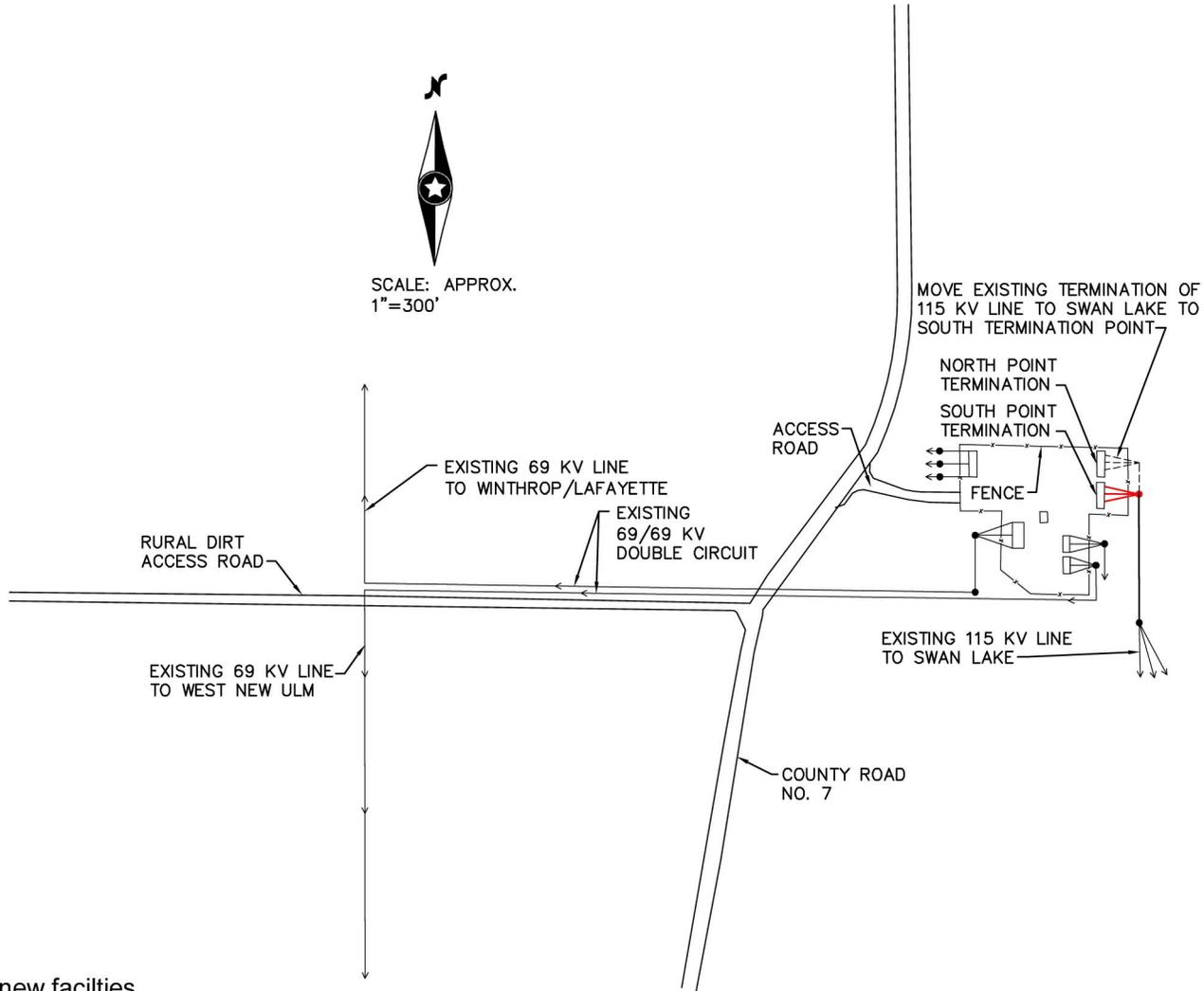


Data Source(s): Xcel Energy.

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

Brown and Nicollet counties, MN

West New Ulm Substation Plan View
 Revised Appendix B.5



Items in red indicate new facilities.



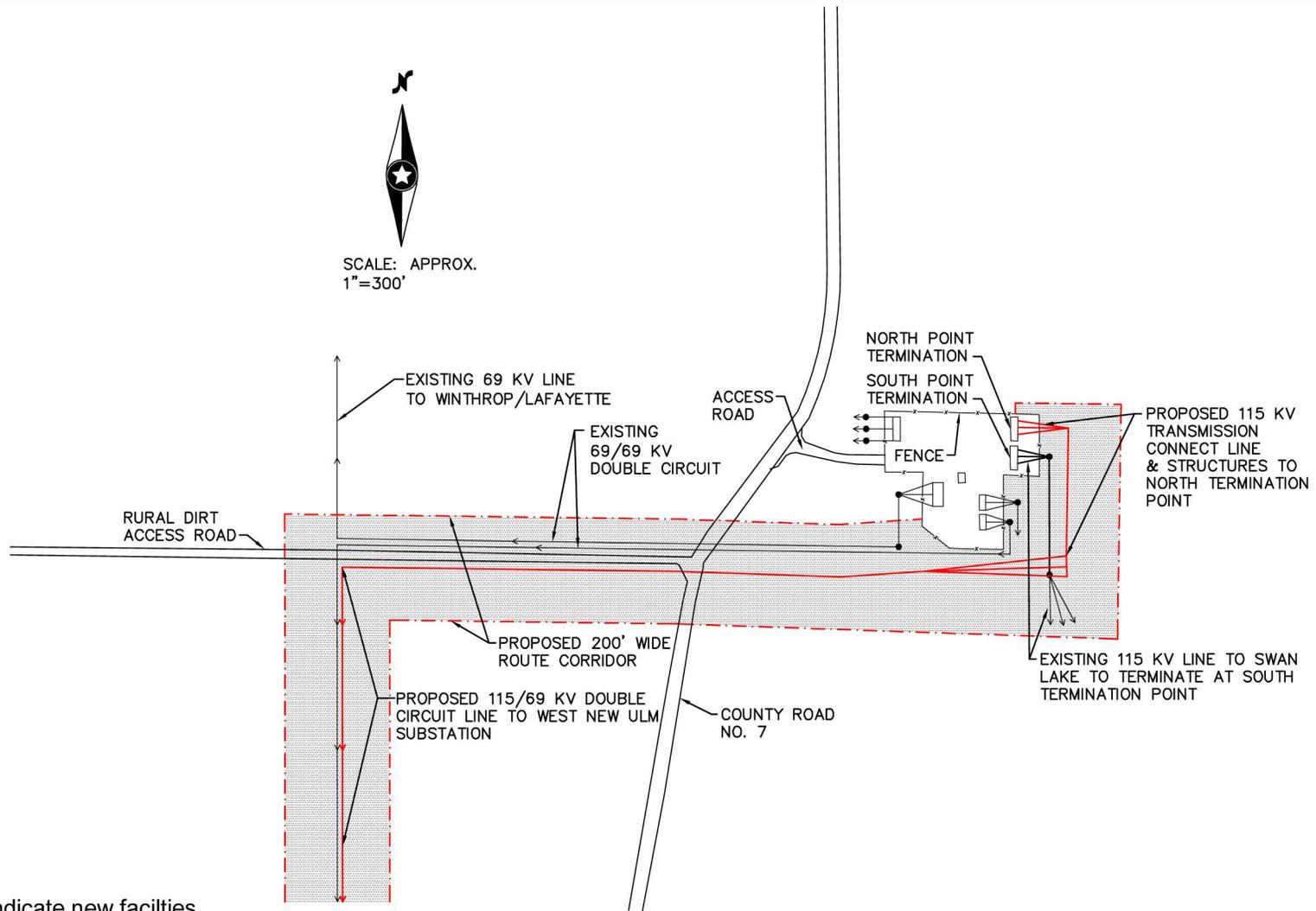
Data Source(s): NSP, Westwood.

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

Brown and Nicollet counties, MN

* Note: Not all improvements, lines and structures at the Fort Ridgely Substation are shown.

Modifications to Fort Ridgely Substation*
Revised Appendix B.6a



Items in red indicate new facilities.



Data Source(s): NSP, Westwood.

* Note: Not all improvements, lines and structures at the Fort Ridgely Substation are shown.

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

Brown and Nicollet counties, MN

Modifications to Fort Ridgely Substation*
Revised Appendix B.6b