

Appendix E

Natural Resource Agency Correspondence

For Agency Use Only:			
Received _____	Due _____	RUSH	
Related ERDB# _____			
Search Radius _____ mi.	ER/All _____	Map'd _____	EOs _____
NoR/ NoC/ NoE/ Std/ Sub	Let _____	Inv _____	Log out _____

MINNESOTA NATURAL HERITAGE INFORMATION SYSTEM (NHIS) DATA REQUEST FORM

DATE OF REQUEST May 21, 2008

WHO IS REQUESTING THE INFORMATION?

Name and Title Melissa Doperalski, Wildlife and Conservation Biologist

Agency/Company Tetra Tech EM, Inc. (MN)

Mailing Address 2001 Killebrew Drive, Suite 141 Bloomington MN 55425

(Street) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

Phone 612-643-2227 FAX 612-643-2201 e-mail melissa.doperalski@ttemi.com

WHAT INFORMATION DO YOU NEED?

Preferred Reply Method: Email US Mail

- Printouts of known occurrences of federally and state listed plants and animals; native plant communities; and aggregation sites such as bat hibernacula, colonial waterbird nesting sites, and prairie chicken booming grounds.
 - With Environmental Review
 - Printouts Only; No Review Needed
- Printouts of information listed above, plus geological features and state rare species with no legal status.
 - With Environmental Review
 - Printouts Only; No Review Needed
- Other (describe) _____

INFORMATION WE NEED FROM YOU:

- 1) **Enclose a map** of the project boundary (topographic maps or aerial photos are preferred).
- 2) If possible, please **provide a GIS shapefile** (NAD 83, UTM Zone 15N) of the project area.
- 3) List the following locational information (attach additional sheets if necessary):

For Agency Use Only:	<u>County</u> _____ <u>Township #</u> _____ <u>Range #</u> _____ <u>Section(s) (please list all sections)</u> _____
	_____ *See attached list

- 4) Please provide the following information (attach additional sheets if necessary):

Project Name <u>Jackson County-Northstar Transmission Line</u>
Project Proposer <u>National Wind, LLC</u>
Detailed Project Description (see instructions, please) _____ <u>National Wind plans to interconnect the Emmet County Wind Energy Project located in north central Iowa with Xcel Energy's Lakefield Junction to Fox Lake 161 kV transmission line near Jackson, MN.</u>
Current/Past Land-Use of Project Site _____ <u>Primarily agriculture and pasture uses.</u>

5) You will be provided with a response letter, an index database printout, and a detailed database printout. **Describe how you plan to use this information, including** in what form and detail, if any, you wish to publish this information. (Please note that we do not generally give permission to publish the detailed database printout.) _____

Information provided will be written into a Route Permit Application. The permit application will document any significant findings related to Natural Resources, as identified by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and other agencies.

TURN-AROUND TIME

Requests generally take **3 weeks** from date of receipt to process, and are processed in the order received. Rush requests are processed in 2 weeks or less, and include an extra fee.

FEES

For-profit organizations, including consultants working for governmental agencies, are charged a fee for this service. In addition, **a fee may be charged for large requests from any source. A surcharge of \$50 is applied for ALL rush orders;** if this is a rush order, please check the blank below. All fees are subject to change. Please do not include payment with your request; an invoice will be sent to you.

Rush - (\$50 fee for ALL rush orders)

“The information supplied above is complete and accurate. I understand that material supplied to me from the Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System is copyrighted and that I am not permitted to reproduce or publish any of this copyrighted material without prior written permission from the Minnesota DNR. Further, if permission to publish is given, I understand that I must credit the Minnesota Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as the source of the material.”

Signature _____
(required)

Mail or email completed forms to:

For further information call:

Lisa Joyal *(for projects associated with environmental reviews; e.g., EAWs)*
Endangered Species Environmental Review Coordinator
lisa.joyal@dnr.state.mn.us

(651) 259-5109

or

Sharron Nelson *(for general requests)*
Assistant Database Manager
sharron.nelson@dnr.state.mn.us

(651) 259-5123

at

Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Or FAX completed forms to: (651) 296-1811

Additional information about the Natural Heritage & Nongame Research Program is available at
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nhnrp/>

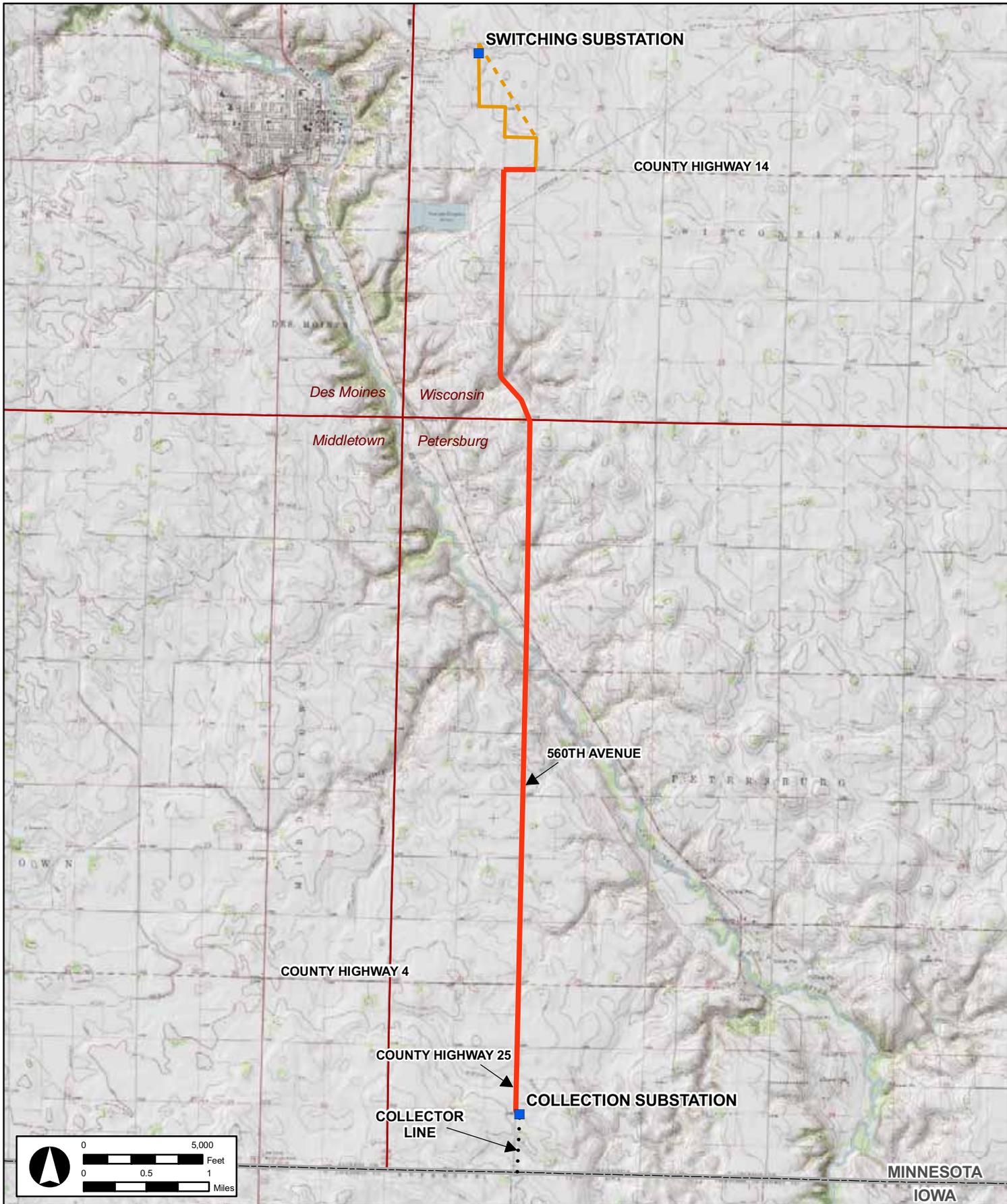
For Agency Use Only:

EO's requiring comment _____

Sources contacted	Topic	Response
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Response Summary _____

_____ Responder _____



NORTHSTAR TRANSMISSION LINE
NATIONAL WIND, LLC
PROJECT LOCATION
JACKSON COUNTY, MN
MAY 2008



Legend

- Substation
- Collector Line
- Proposed Transmission Line (Roadway)
- Proposed Transmission Line (Private Property)
- - - Alternate Transmission Line (Private Property)
- State Boundary
- Township Boundary

LOCATION MAP



Sources: MN Land Management Information Center (LMIC), MN Data Deli, MN DNR, U.S. FWS, National Geographic TOPOI Pro, ESRI

The purple line is the t-line. The teal squares are the STR that are included on the excel spreadsheet.

S15 - T102N - R35W	S14 - T102N - R35W	S13 - T102N - R35W	S18 - T102N - R34W	S17 - T102N - R34W	S16 - T102N - R34W	S15 - T102N - R34W	
S22 - T102N - R35W	S23 - T102N - R35W	S24 - T102N - R35W	S19 - T102N - R34W	S20 - T102N - R34W	S21 - T102N - R34W	S22 - T102N - R34W	
	T102N - R35W				T102N - R34W		
	S26 - T102N - R35W	S25 - T102N - R35W	S30 - T102N - R34W	S29 - T102N - R34W	S28 - T102N - R34W	S27 - T102N - R34W	
	S35 - T102N - R35W	S36 - T102N - R35W	S31 - T102N - R34W	S32 - T102N - R34W	S33 - T102N - R34W	S34 - T102N - R34W	
S3 - T101N - R35W	S2 - T101N - R35W	S1 - T101N - R35W	S6 - T101N - R34W	S5 - T101N - R34W	S4 - T101N - R34W	S3 - T101N - R34W	
	S11 - T101N - R35W	S12 - T101N - R35W	S7 - T101N - R34W	S8 - T101N - R34W	S9 - T101N - R34W	S10 - T101N - R34W	
	S14 - T101N - R35W	S13 - T101N - R35W	S18 - T101N - R34W	S17 - T101N - R34W	S16 - T101N - R34W	S15 - T101N - R34W	
	T101N - R35W				T101N - R34W		
	S23 - T101N - R35W	S24 - T101N - R35W	S19 - T101N - R34W	S20 - T101N - R34W	S21 - T101N - R34W	S22 - T101N - R34W	
	S26 - T101N - R35W	S25 - T101N - R35W	S30 - T101N - R34W	S29 - T101N - R34W	S28 - T101N - R34W	S27 - T101N - R34W	
	S35 - T101N - R35W	S36 - T101N - R35W	S31 - T101N - R34W	S32 - T101N - R34W	S33 - T101N - R34W	S34 - T101N - R34W	



TETRA TECH

May 21, 2008

Ms. Laurie Fairchild, Field Supervisor
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Twin Cities Ecological Services Field Office
4101 East 80th Street
Bloomington, MN 55425-1665

Subject: Jackson County-Northstar Transmission Line
National Wind, LLC

Dear Ms. Fairchild:

Tetra Tech has been contracted by National Wind, LLC to complete a Route Permit application for the target area located in Jackson County, Minnesota (see attached figure). As part of this process, we are required to obtain information regarding proposed activities for the target area and how they will affect listed threatened/endangered species, candidate species, species of concern, and critical habitats in the project area. Specific site information and a map of the target areas have been included for your review.

Site Address: Jackson County, southeast of the city of Jackson.

Legal Description: See attached listing of Township, Range, Sections for proposed transmission line.

Project Description: National Wind plans to interconnect the Emmet County Wind Energy Project located in north central Iowa with Xcel Energy's Lakefield Junction to Fox Lake 161 kV transmission line near Jackson, MN. The target area is approximately 9.8 miles in length primarily along County Highway 4/560th Avenue.

We would appreciate a response within 30 days of receipt of this letter indicating whether the project will affect resources under your jurisdiction. We will need a response even if there will be no effect.

Included in your response, we would appreciate information on listed species that may occur in the target areas, species occurrences and critical habitats in and around the target area. References or enclosures of guidance materials or recommendations for proposed projects such as this would be appreciated as well.

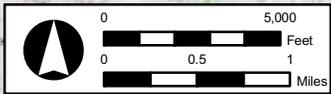
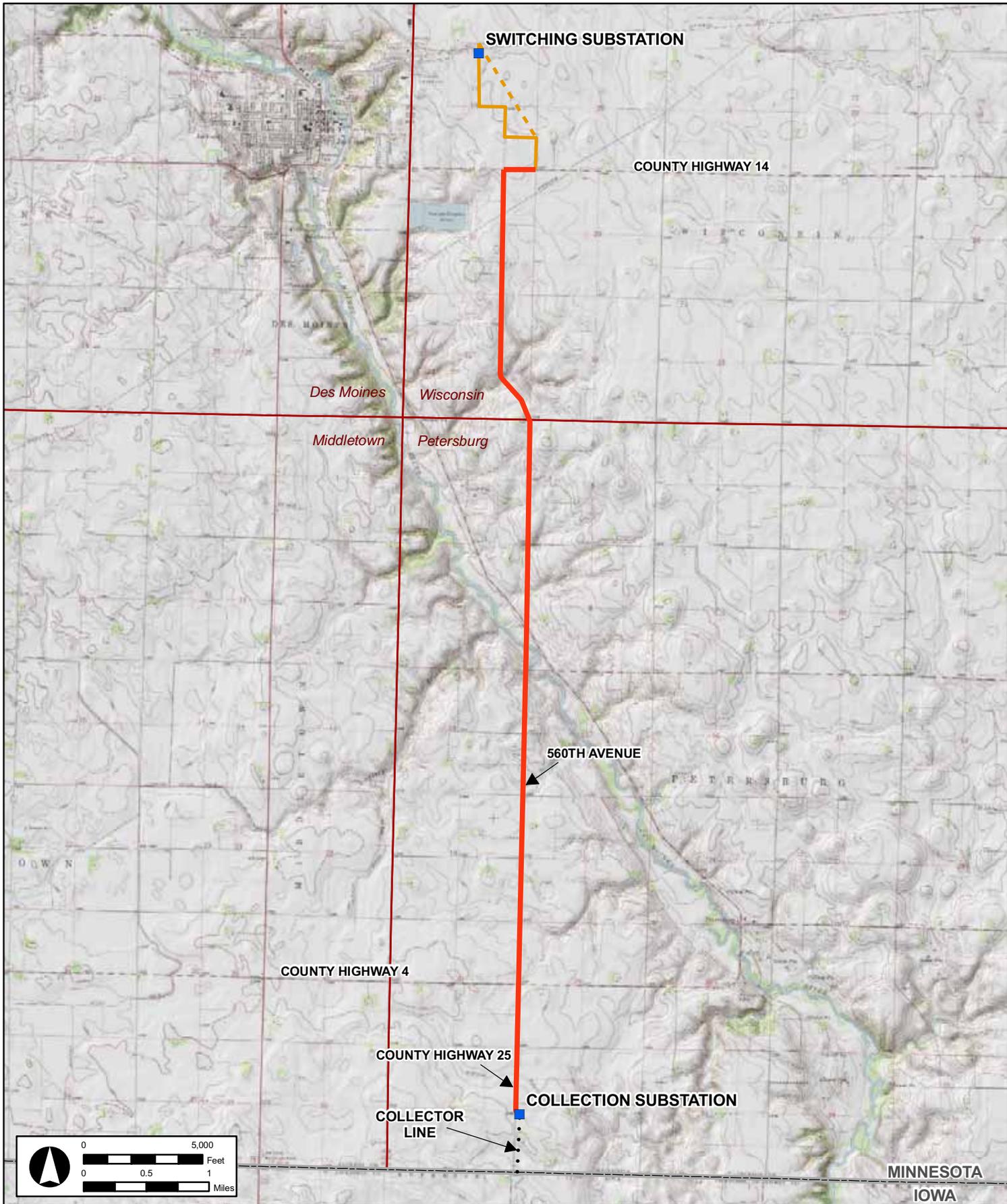
Your time and effort regarding this request are greatly appreciated. If you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at 612-643-2227.

Sincerely,

Melissa Doperalski
Wildlife and Conservation Biologist

Enclosure

Tetra Tech EM Inc.
2001 Killebrew Drive, Suite 141, Bloomington, MN 55425
Tel 612.643.2200 Fax 612.643.2201 www.tetrattech.com



NORTHSTAR TRANSMISSION LINE
NATIONAL WIND, LLC

PROJECT LOCATION

JACKSON COUNTY, MN
MAY 2008



Legend

- Substation
- Collector Line
- Proposed Transmission Line (Roadway)
- Proposed Transmission Line (Private Property)
- - - Alternate Transmission Line (Private Property)
- State Boundary
- Township Boundary

Sources: MN Land Management Information Center (LMIC), MN Data Deli, MN DNR, U.S. FWS, National Geographic TOPOI Pro, ESRI

LOCATION MAP



The purple line is the t-line. The teal squares are the STR that are included on the excel spreadsheet.

S15 - T102N - R35W	S14 - T102N - R35W	S13 - T102N - R35W	S18 - T102N - R34W	S17 - T102N - R34W	S16 - T102N - R34W	S15 - T102N - R34W	
S22 - T102N - R35W	S23 - T102N - R35W	S24 - T102N - R35W	S19 - T102N - R34W	S20 - T102N - R34W	S21 - T102N - R34W	S22 - T102N - R34W	
	T102N - R35W				T102N - R34W		
	S26 - T102N - R35W	S25 - T102N - R35W	S30 - T102N - R34W	S29 - T102N - R34W	S28 - T102N - R34W	S27 - T102N - R34W	
	S35 - T102N - R35W	S36 - T102N - R35W	S31 - T102N - R34W	S32 - T102N - R34W	S33 - T102N - R34W	S34 - T102N - R34W	
S3 - T101N - R35W	S2 - T101N - R35W	S1 - T101N - R35W	S6 - T101N - R34W	S5 - T101N - R34W	S4 - T101N - R34W	S3 - T101N - R34W	
	S11 - T101N - R35W	S12 - T101N - R35W	S7 - T101N - R34W	S8 - T101N - R34W	S9 - T101N - R34W	S10 - T101N - R34W	
	S14 - T101N - R35W	S13 - T101N - R35W	S18 - T101N - R34W	S17 - T101N - R34W	S16 - T101N - R34W	S15 - T101N - R34W	
	T101N - R35W				T101N - R34W		
	S23 - T101N - R35W	S24 - T101N - R35W	S19 - T101N - R34W	S20 - T101N - R34W	S21 - T101N - R34W	S22 - T101N - R34W	
	S26 - T101N - R35W	S25 - T101N - R35W	S30 - T101N - R34W	S29 - T101N - R34W	S28 - T101N - R34W	S27 - T101N - R34W	
	S35 - T101N - R35W	S36 - T101N - R35W	S31 - T101N - R34W	S32 - T101N - R34W	S33 - T101N - R34W	S34 - T101N - R34W	

SECT	TOWN	TDIR	RANG	RDIR	TWPRNGSEC	Label
18	102	N	34	W	10203418	S18 - T102N - R34W
19	102	N	34	W	10203419	S19 - T102N - R34W
20	102	N	34	W	10203420	S20 - T102N - R34W
30	102	N	34	W	10203430	S30 - T102N - R34W
31	102	N	34	W	10203431	S31 - T102N - R34W
32	102	N	34	W	10203432	S32 - T102N - R34W
6	101	N	34	W	10103406	S6 - T101N - R34W
5	101	N	34	W	10103405	S5 - T101N - R34W
7	101	N	34	W	10103407	S7 - T101N - R34W
8	101	N	34	W	10103408	S8 - T101N - R34W
18	101	N	34	W	10103418	S18 - T101N - R34W
17	101	N	34	W	10103417	S17 - T101N - R34W
19	101	N	34	W	10103419	S19 - T101N - R34W
20	101	N	34	W	10103420	S20 - T101N - R34W
30	101	N	34	W	10103430	S30 - T101N - R34W
29	101	N	34	W	10103429	S29 - T101N - R34W
31	101	N	34	W	10103431	S31 - T101N - R34W
32	101	N	34	W	10103432	S32 - T101N - R34W



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Division of Ecological Resources, Box 25

500 Lafayette Road

St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4025

Phone: (651) 259-5109 Fax: (651) 296-1811 E-mail: lisa.joyal@dnr.state.mn.us

July 28, 2008

Mr. Sean Flannery
Tetra Tech EM, Inc.
2001 Killebrew Drive, Suite 141
Bloomington, MN 55425

Re: Request for Natural Heritage information in the vicinity of the proposed Northstar Transmission Line, T102N R34W Sections 18-20 & 30-32 and T101N R34W Sections 5-8 & 17-20 & 29-32, Jackson County
Correspondence # : ERDB 20080785

Dear Mr. Flannery,

As requested, the Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System has been queried to determine if any rare species or other significant natural features are known to occur within an approximate one-mile radius of the proposed project. Based on this query, several rare features have been documented within the search area (for details, please see the enclosed database reports). Please note that the following **rare features *may be impacted*** by the proposed project:

- The Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS) has documented Sullivant's milkweed (*Asclepias sullivantii*), a state-listed threatened plant, in a mesic prairie remnant in the right-of-way of the I&M Rail Link Railroad in T102N R34W Sections 18 & 19 (please see enclosed map; GIS shapefiles of MCBS Railroad Rights-of-way Prairies can be downloaded from the DNR Data Deli at <http://deli.dnr.state.mn.us/>). Based on the maps that were submitted with the request form, it is unclear whether the footprint of the proposed project includes the prairie remnant. Because Minnesota's endangered species law (*Minnesota Statutes*, section 84.0895) and associated rules (*Minnesota Rules*, part 6212.1800 -6212.2300 and 6134) prohibit the taking of threatened or endangered species without a permit, ground disturbance within the prairie remnant should be completely avoided. To further protect the prairie, there should be no vehicle use or stockpiling of equipment within the prairie. If applicable, runoff from the project area should be diverted away from the prairie and, immediately following construction, disturbed areas adjacent to the prairie should be planted with prairie species native to Minnesota, or some other non-invasive cover.

If impacts to the prairie remnant within the railroad right-of-way are anticipated, a botanical survey will be needed. If this is the case, please contact me again to discuss survey requirements and protocol.

The Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS), a collection of databases that contains information about Minnesota's rare natural features, is maintained by the Division of Ecological Resources, Department of Natural Resources. The NHIS 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. However, the NHIS is not an exhaustive inventory and thus does not represent all of the occurrences of rare features within the state. Therefore, ecologically significant features for which we have no records may exist within the project area.

The enclosed results include an Index Report and a Detailed Report of records in the Rare Features Database, the main database of the NHIS. To control the release of specific location information, which might result in the destruction of a rare feature, both reports are copyrighted.

The Index Report provides rare feature locations only to the nearest section, and may be reprinted, unaltered, in an environmental review document (e.g., EAW or EIS), municipal natural resource plan, or report compiled by your company for the project listed above. If you wish to reproduce the index report for any other purpose, please contact me to request written permission. **The Detailed Report may include specific location information, and is for your personal use only. If you wish to reprint or publish the detailed report for any purpose, please contact me to request written permission.**

Please be aware that this letter focuses only on potential effects to *rare natural features*; there may be other natural resource concerns associated with the proposed project. This letter does not constitute review or approval by the Department of Natural Resources as a whole. An invoice in the amount of \$90.24 will be mailed to you under separate cover within two weeks of the date of this letter. You are being billed for the database search and printouts, and staff scientist review. Thank you for consulting us on this matter, and for your interest in preserving Minnesota's rare natural resources.

Sincerely,



Lisa Joyal
Endangered Species Environmental Review Coordinator

enc. Rare Features Database: Index Report
 Rare Features Database: Detail Report
 Rare Features Database Reports: An Explanation of Fields
 Map

Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System: Rare Features Database
 Index Report of records within 1 mile radius of:
 Northstar Transmission Line
 Multiple TRS
 Jackson County

Printed June 2008
 Data valid for one year

Element Name and Occurrence Number	Federal Status	MIN Status	State Rank	Global Rank	Last Observed Date	EO ID #
Jackson County, MN						
<u>Actinonaias ligamentina</u> (Mucket) #239 Location Description: T101N R34W S28, T101N R34W S7, T101N R34W S8		THR	S2	G5	1999-Pre	31766
<u>Asclepias sullivantii</u> (Sullivant's Milkweed) #37 Location Description: T102N R34W S19, T102N R34W S18		THR	S2	G5	1997-08-23	22262
<u>Elliptio dilatata</u> (Spike) #197 Location Description: T101N R34W S28, T101N R34W S7, T101N R34W S8		SPC	S3	G5	1999-08-PRE	33664
<u>Lanius ludovicianus</u> (Loggerhead Shrike) #68 Location Description: T102N R35W S14, T102N R35W S13, T102N R35W S12, T102N R35W S34, T [...]	No Status	THR	S2B	G4	1992	9819
<u>Ligumia recta</u> (Black Sandshell) #430 Location Description: T101N R34W S8, T101N R34W S7		SPC	S3	G5	1999-08-12-PR E	33880
<u>Mesic Prairie</u> (Southern) Type #239 Location Description: T102N R34W S19, T102N R34W S18		N/A	S2	GNR	1997-08-24	24327
<u>Pleurobema coccineum</u> (Round Pigtoe) #129 Location Description: T101N R34W S8, T101N R34W S7		THR	S2	G4G5	1999-Pre	31713
<u>Quadrula metanavra</u> (Monkeyface) #60 Location Description: T101N R34W S8, T101N R34W S7		THR	S2	G4	1999-Pre	31544
<u>Trillium nivale</u> (Snow Trillium) #47 Location Description: T102N R35W S24		SPC	S3	G4	2006-04-16	34048

Records Printed = 9

The Division of Ecological Resources recently adopted a new database system called Biotics. As a result of this change, the layout and contents of the database reports have been revised. Many of the fields included in the new reports are the same or similar to the previous report fields, however there are several new fields and some of the field definitions have been slightly modified. We recommend that you familiarize yourself with the latest field explanations.

Rare Features Database Reports: An Explanation of Fields

The Rare Features Database (Biotics) is part of the Natural Heritage Information System, and is maintained by the Division of Ecological Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Please note that the print-outs are copyrighted and may not be reproduced without permission

Field Name: [Full (non-abbreviated) field name, if different]. Further explanation of field.

-E-

Element Name and Occ #: [Element Name and Occurrence Number]. The Element is the name of the rare feature. For plant and animal species records, this field holds the scientific name followed by the common name in parentheses; for all other elements (such as native plant communities, which have no scientific name) it is solely the element name. Native plant community names correspond to Minnesota's Native Plant Community Classification (Version 2.0). The Occurrence Number, in combination with the Element Name, uniquely identifies each record.

EO Data: [Element Occurrence Data]. For species elements, this field contains data collected on the biology of the Element Occurrence* (EO), including the number of individuals, vigor, habitat, soils, associated species, peculiar characteristics, etc. For native plant community elements, this field is a summary text description of the vegetation of the EO, including structure (strata) and composition (dominant/characteristic species), heterogeneity, successional stage/dynamics, any unique aspects of the community or additional noteworthy species (including animals). Note that this is a new field and it has not been filled out for many of the records that were collected prior to conversion to the new database system. Some of the information meeting the field definition may be found in the General Description field.

EO ID#: [Element Occurrence Identification Number]. Unique identifier for each Element Occurrence record.

EO Rank: [Element Occurrence Rank]. An evaluation of the quality and condition of an Element Occurrence (EO) from A (highest) to D (lowest). Represents a comparative evaluation of: 1) quality as determined by representativeness of the occurrence especially as compared to EO specifications and including maturity, size, numbers, etc. 2) condition (how much has the site and the EO itself been damaged or altered from its optimal condition and character). 3) viability (the long-term prospects for continued existence of this occurrence - used in ranking species only). EO Ranks are assigned based on recent fieldwork by knowledgeable individuals.

Extent Known?: A value that indicates whether the full extent of the Element is known (i.e., it has been determined through field survey) at that location. If null, the value has not been determined.

-F-

Federal Status: Status of species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act: LE = endangered; LT = threatened; LE,LT = listed endangered in part of its range, listed threatened in another part of its range; LT,PDL = listed threatened, proposed for delisting; C = candidate for listing. If null or "No Status" the species has no federal status.

First Observed Date: Date that the Element Occurrence was first reported at the site in format YYYY-MM-DD. A year followed by "Pre" indicates that the observed date was sometime prior to the date listed, but the exact date is unknown.

-G-

General Description: General description or word picture of the area where the Element Occurrence (EO) is located (i.e., the physical setting/context surrounding the EO), including a list of adjacent communities. When available, information on surrounding land use may be included. Note that the information tracked in this field is now more narrowly defined than it was in the old database system, and some of the information still in this field more accurately meets the definition of the new EO Data field. We are working to clean up the records so that the information in the two fields corresponds to the current field explanations described herein. Also note that the use of uppercase in sentences in this field is not significant but rather an artifact of transferring data from the old database system to the new system.

Global Rank: The global (i.e., range-wide) assessment of the relative rarity or imperilment of the species or community. Ranges from G1 (critically imperiled due to extreme rarity on a world-wide basis) to G5 (demonstrably secure, though perhaps rare in parts of its range). Global ranks are determined by NatureServe, an international network of natural heritage programs and conservation data centers.

-L-

Last Observed Date: Date that the Element Occurrence was last observed to be extant at the site in format YYYY-MM-DD.

Last Survey Date: Date of the most recent field survey for the Element Occurrence, regardless of whether it was found during the visit. If the field is blank, assume the date is the same as the Last Observed Date.

Location Description: County or Counties in which the Element Occurrence was documented followed by Township, Range, and Section information (not listed in any particular order). Each unique Township, Range, and Section combination is separated by a comma. In some cases, there are too many Township, Range, and Section combinations to list in the field, in which case, the information will be replaced with, "Legal description is too lengthy to fit in allotted space".

-M-

Managed Area(s): Name of the federally, state, locally, or privately managed park, forest, refuge, preserve, etc., containing the occurrence, if any. If this field is blank, the element probably occurs on private land. If "(Statutory Boundary)" occurs after the name of a managed area, the location may be a private inholding within the statutory boundary of a state forest or park.

MN Status: [Minnesota Status]. Legal status of plant and animal species under the Minnesota Endangered Species Law: END = endangered; THR = threatened; SPC = special concern; NON = tracked, but no legal status. Native plant communities, geological features, and colonial waterbird nesting sites do not have any legal status under the Endangered Species Law and are represented by a N/A.

-N-

NPC Classification (v1.5): Native plant community name in Minnesota's Native Vegetation: A Key to Natural Communities (Version 1.5). This earlier classification has been replaced by Minnesota's Native Plant Community Classification (Version 2.0).

-O-

Observed Area: The total area of the Element Occurrence, in acres, which is measured or estimated during fieldwork. If null, the value has not been determined.

Ownership Type: Indicates whether the land on which the Element Occurrence was located was publicly or privately owned; for publicly owned land, the agency with management responsibility is listed, if known.

-S-

Site Name: The name of the site(s) where the Element Occurrence is located. Sites are natural areas of land with boundaries determined and mapped according to biological and ecological considerations.

Survey Site #/Name: The name of the survey site, if applicable, where the Element Occurrence is located. Survey sites are sites that provide a geographic framework for recording and storing data, but their boundaries are not based on biological and ecological considerations. Minnesota County Biological Survey site numbers, if applicable, are also listed in this field.

Survey Type: Information on the type of survey used to collect information on the Element Occurrence.

Surveyor(s): Name(s) of the person(s) that collected survey information on the Element Occurrence.

State Rank: Rank that best characterizes the relative rarity or endangerment of the taxon or plant community in Minnesota. The ranks do not represent a legal status. They are used by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to set priorities for research, inventory and conservation planning. The state ranks are updated as inventory information becomes available. S1 = Critically imperiled in Minnesota because of extreme rarity or because of some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extirpation from the state. S2 = Imperiled in Minnesota because of rarity or because of some factor(s) making it very vulnerable to extirpation from the state. S3 = Vulnerable in Minnesota either because rare or uncommon, or found in a restricted range, or because of other factors making it vulnerable to extirpation. S4 = Apparently secure in Minnesota, usually widespread. S5 = Demonstrably secure in Minnesota, essentially ineradicable under present conditions. SH = Of historical occurrence in the state, perhaps having not been verified in the past 20 years, but suspected to be still extant. An element would become SH without the 20-year delay if the only known occurrences in the state were destroyed or if it had been extensively and unsuccessfully looked for. SNR = Rank not yet assessed. SU = Unable to rank. SX = Presumed extinct in Minnesota. SNA = Rank not applicable. S## = Range Rank: a numeric range rank (e.g., S2S3) is used to indicate the range of uncertainty about the exact status of the element. S#B, S#N = Used only for migratory animals, whereby B refers to the breeding population of the element in Minnesota and N refers to the non-breeding population of the element in Minnesota.

-V-

Vegetation Plot: Code(s) for any vegetation plot data that have been collected within this Element Occurrence (i.e., either Releve Number or the word "RELEVE" indicates that a releve has been collected).

* Element Occurrence – an area of land and/or water in which an Element (i.e., a rare species or community) is, or was, present, and which has practical conservation value for the Element as evidenced by potential continued (or historical) presence and/or regular recurrence at a given location. Specifications for each species determine whether multiple observations should be considered 1 Element Occurrence or 2, based on minimum separation distance and barriers to movement.

Data Security

Locations of some rare features must be treated as sensitive information because widespread knowledge of these locations could result in harm to the rare features. For example, wildflowers such as orchids and economically valuable plants such as ginseng are vulnerable to exploitation by collectors; other species, such as bald eagles, are sensitive to disturbance by observers. For this reason, we prefer that publications not identify the precise locations of vulnerable species. We suggest describing the location only to the nearest section. If this is not acceptable for your purposes, please call and discuss this issue with the Endangered Species Environmental Review Coordinator at (651) 259-5109.

Northstar Transmission Line Jackson County

GIS shapefiles of MCBS Sites of Biodiversity Significance and MCBS Native Plant Communities can be downloaded from the DNR Data Deli at <http://deli.dnr.state.mn.us>.



Legend

- Rare Plant
- PLS Sections

THIS MAP MAY NOT BE REPRINTED OR PUBLISHED WITHOUT PERMISSION



Copyright 2008, State of Minnesota, DNR
Rare Feature, Prairie Railroad Survey, Native Plant Community,
and Sites of Biodiversity Significance data are from the
Natural Heritage Information System. The absence of rare features
for a particular location should not be construed to mean that the
DNR is confident rare features are absent from that location.

INVOICE

Attn: Sean Flannery

To: Tetra Tech EM, Inc.
2001 Killebrew Drive, Suite 141
Bloomington, MN 55425

Invoice Date: 7/28/08

For services rendered in response to a data request of the Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System

Date of Request: 5/21/08

ERDB File Number: 20080785

Description of Request
Natural Heritage information in the vicinity of the proposed Northstar Transmission Line, T102N R34W Sections 18-20 & 30-32 and T101N R34W Sections 5-8 & 17-20 & 29-32, Jackson County

Number of Sections in Request	18			
Number of Database Records in Search Area	9			
Number of Comments	1			
Base Fee				\$60.00
Database Search and Printout Fee				\$24.24
Interpretation Fee				\$6.00
Rush Fee				\$0.00
Total Due:				\$90.24

Please remit payment by 8/28/08 to:

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - OMB
500 Lafayette Road, Box 10
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Make checks payable to: the **State of Minnesota**
Please reference ERDB file number noted above on the check.

Past due invoices will be turned over to the Department of Revenue for collection.
Credit will not be extended to any account with an invoice over 60 days past due.



"Flannery, Sean"
<Sean.Flannery@ttemi.com>

07/21/2008 11:04 AM

To "Longley, Rebecca" <rebecca.longley@tteci.com>

cc

bcc

Subject FW: Jackson Co. Request

Below is the email received from Laurie Fairchild (USFWS) regarding the Jackson County transmission line.

She states that the email chain should be used as her official response.

I have sent a follow up to Lisa Joyal (MN DNR), and will let you know when I hear something from her.

Thanks,

Sean Flannery | Project Manager

Direct: 612.643.2228 | Cell: 651.338.5986 | Fax: 612.643.2201
sean.flannery@ttemi.com

Tetra Tech | EMI

2001 Killebrew Drive, Suite 141 | Bloomington, Minnesota 55425 | www.tetrattech.com

"In times of change, the learners will inherit the earth, while the learned will find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists."

- Eric Hoffer

PLEASE NOTE: This message, including any attachments, may include privileged, confidential and/or inside information. Any distribution or use of this communication by anyone other than the intended recipient is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender by replying to this message and then delete it from your system.

From: Laurie_Fairchild@fws.gov [mailto:Laurie_Fairchild@fws.gov]

Sent: Monday, June 30, 2008 8:59 AM

To: Doperalski, Melissa

Cc: Kinny, John; Flannery, Sean

Subject: RE: Jackson Co. Request

Hi,

Ok, sounds like you've done your homework. If you are making a "no effect" determination for T&E species, then you don't need an official letter from us (per the ESA). I feel comfortable with your explanation below and have no other questions/concerns but you'll have to use this email exchange as your official response. Thanks for the quick feedback,

Laurie

Laurie Fairchild
Fish & Wildlife Biologist
Twin Cities Field Office
612-725-3548

"Doperalski, Melissa"

<Melissa.Doperalski@ttemi.com>

06/29/2008 11:46 PM

To: <Laurie_Fairchild@fws.gov>
cc: "Kinny, John" <john.kinny@ttemi.com>, "Flannery, Sean"
<Sean.Flannery@ttemi.com>
Subject: RE: Jackson Co. Request
ct

Laurie,

May 14th through the 16th, we walked the proposed line corridor for the purpose of identifying potential wetland areas, sensitive species (endangered, threatened, species of concern, critical habitat areas), identify current land use, and make general species observations. We did not identify any sensitive species within the proposed line corridor; including the prairie bush clover nor did we observe areas that would qualify as suitable habitat for the prairie bush clover. Therefore, we do not believe that the proposed project as described will not adversely affect the prairie bush clover.

In regards to the state mussel survey site, you are correct in assuming that the line will span or bore underneath the creek.

Please let me know if you need to receive a formal letter of the determination, or if you need more information. An official letter response from you (USFWS) would be appreciated for our records. If you could possibly pdf the response and email it to us, that would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,
Melissa

From: Laurie_Fairchild@fws.gov [mailto:Laurie_Fairchild@fws.gov]
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2008 3:54 PM
To: Doperalski, Melissa
Subject: Re: Jackson Co. Request

Hi Melissa,

I know I just sent you a question re: the transmission line attributes but I also wanted to let you know:

- we have no easements or other land interests in the project area
- the line goes through potential prairie bush clover sites (this assumes that there is suitable habitat within the roadways/existing easements)
- the line passes directly over a state mussel survey site (but I'm assuming you will either be spanning the creek or boring underneath)

The only unknown I see here is the PBC possibilities but this is a species that has been surveyed for quite a bit so I think the likelihood that it would be found in your area is pretty low. It likes mesic moderately damp to dry native prairie sites, some of which still exist in roadways and along railroad ROW's. It's your responsibility to make the final determination of whether suitable habitat exists in your area and then whether it will be affected (i.e. can it be avoided), but there is no hit in the Heritage Database for a known population of plants within your search area at the present time.

Hope this helps. Let me know what, if anything, you need in addition to the above comments. If you think it's possible that the species may be affected, then we would need a letter stating this and we could write up a concurrence letter.

Laurie



TETRA TECH EC, INC.

TELEPHONE / PERSONAL CONVERSATION REPORT

Project #: 106-3678

Project Name: Northstar Transmission Line

Conversation with: Eric Reed
Minnesota DNR

Representing: _____

Date: 10/27/2008

Time: 1:30 PM EST

Conversation:

Mr. Reed indicated that filing the Application for License to Cross Public Lands or Waters with the Minnesota DNR Lands and Minerals office would begin the process to allow the crossing of the Des Moines River. The Minnesota DNR may require set back restrictions for pole placements; however, there is nothing specifically restricting the crossing of scenic water routes with a transmission line in the Minnesota DNR regulations.

By: Sean Sparks
(Tetra Tech EC, Inc.)

