9.0 ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION: ASSOCIATED FACILITIES, ALTERNATE ROUTE

The Project includes construction of various associated facilities that are required for the completion of the Project. This Chapter describes the environmental setting of the existing substations that require expansion (Lyon County and Lake Marion) and the environmental setting of new substation locations (Hazel Creek Substation North area, Cedar Mountain Substation North area, Helena Substation North area and the Hampton area) for the Alternate Route.

For the Minnesota Valley Substation no expansion will be required (only equipment additions); therefore, it is not included in this Section. This Chapter also describes the environmental setting of the transmission system interconnections at the Cedar Mountain, Helena and Hampton substations.

The associated facilities are described in detail in Section 2.3. The Hampton Substation area contains both the Preferred and Alternate substation sites. See Section 7.5 for a discussion on the Hampton Substation Area.

The Applicants reviewed environmental information in their analysis of the Project area and compared the existing environmental conditions with the Project impacts associated with each route section. The environmental resource impacts are tabulated in Appendix E.

9.1 HAZEL CREEK SUBSTATION NORTH AREA

The proposed Hazel Creek Substation North area is located at the north end of the Lyon County to Minnesota Valley section of the Alternate Route. The Hazel Creek Substation North area is just south of TH 67 and west of TH 23. Appendix D.6 identifies the proposed substation location area. The Applicants will need to acquire a minimum of 15 acres for the proposed substation construction, which is discussed in Section 5.2.6.

9.1.1 DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Refer to Section 6.1 for a description of the environmental setting in this region of Minnesota. The proposed substation area is primarily flat in an agricultural setting in Yellow Medicine County. There are small, farmed drainages in the vicinity with several homesteads present throughout the landscape. The elevation of the proposed Hazel Creek Substation North area ranges from 900 to 1,100 feet AMSL.

9.1.2 HUMAN SETTLEMENT

9.1.2.1 Public Health and Safety

See Section 7.1.2.1 for public health and safety information.

9.1.2.2 Commercial, Industrial, Residential Land Use

The predominant land use in the Hazel Creek Substation North area is open agricultural land with some scattered rural residences and farmsteads. There are no commercial or industrial land uses in proximity to the proposed substation location. Beyond agricultural lands, the other predominant land use surrounding the proposed substation is surface transportation land uses including roads and railways.

Impacts and Mitigation

See Section 7.1.2.2 for impacts and mitigation.

9.1.2.3 Displacements

See Section 7.1.2.3 for displacement information.

9.1.2.4 Noise

Refer to Section 7.1.2.4 for substation noise information.

9.1.2.5 Aesthetics

A description of area aesthetics for Yellow Medicine County is provided in Section 6.2.5.

Impacts and Mitigation

See Section 7.1.2.5 for impacts and mitigation.

9.1.2.6 Socioeconomics

A discussion of current socioeconomic conditions for populations living in proximity to the proposed Hazel Creek Substation North is provided in Section 7.1.2.6.

9.1.2.7 Cultural Values

The methods used to identify cultural values are discussed in Section 6.2.7.

9.1.2.8 Recreation

Refer to Section 6.2.8 for recreational resources information.

A snowmobile trail follows TH 67 for approximately two miles and a half-mile segment of the trail is located within the north portion of the proposed substation area.

Impacts and Mitigation

See Section 6.2.8.1 for impacts and mitigation.

9.1.2.9 Public Services

See Section 7.1.2.9 for public services information.

9.1.2.10 Transportation

See Section 7.1.2.10 for transportation information.

9.1.2.11 Radio, Television, Cellular Phone and GPS

A telecommunication tower is located in the north portion of the proposed Hazel Creek Substation North area.

Impacts and Mitigation

Refer to Section 6.2.11.1 for impacts and mitigation information.

9.1.3 LAND-BASED ECONOMIES

9.1.3.1 Agriculture

Refer to Section 6.3.1.2 for agricultural information in Yellow Medicine County. Approximately 77 percent, or 1,617 acres of land within the Hazel Creek Substation North area is used for agriculture.

Impacts and Mitigation

Refer to Section 6.3.1.7 for agriculture impacts and mitigation information.

9.1.3.2 Forestry

No impacts to forestry resources are anticipated within the proposed Hazel Creek Substation North area.

9.1.3.3 Tourism

No impacts to tourism resources are anticipated within the proposed Hazel Creek Substation North area.

9.1.3.4 Mining

There are several aggregate and granite mine locations near the proposed Hazel Creek Substation North area, but no resources are identified within the substation area. No impacts to mining resources are anticipated.

9.1.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

9.1.4.1 Archaeology

See Section 7.1.4.1 for archaeology information.

9.1.4.2 Architectural History

See Section 7.1.4.2 for architectural information.

9.1.5 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

9.1.5.1 Air Quality

See Section 6.1.5 for air quality information.

9.1.5.2 Water Quality and Resources

See Section 6.5.2 for a discussion of water resources and water quality in the Project area. Hazel Creek and one other unnamed stream occur in the substation area. Neither has impaired water quality and they are both PWIs. There are small wetlands are found in the middle of Section 19 of Minnesota Falls Township, and other small wetlands are found in associated with ditches and streams. Wetlands total approximately 75 acres, or 3.6 percent of the substation area. No lakes or other surface water features, or FEMA floodplains, occur in this area.

Impacts and Mitigation

See Section 7.1.5.2 for impacts and mitigation.

9.1.5.3 Flora

See Section 6.5.3 for a discussion of common habitats in the Project area. Agricultural land uses dominate the landscape in this area. There are two permanent land conservation easements, totaling approximately 32 acres. There is dry hill prairie habitat is located in the northeastern portion of this substation area, and rock outcrops are located in the eastern portion. No other State or federal land or easements, natural communities, or rare native habitats are found in the substation area.

Impacts and Mitigation

See Section 6.5.3.7 for a discussion of impacts and mitigation for wildlife in the substation area.

9.1.5.4 Fauna

Wildlife resources in the substation area are typical of agricultural lands. See Section 6.5.4 for a discussion of common fauna in the Project area.

Impacts and Mitigation

See Section 6.5.4.7 for a discussion of impacts and mitigation for wildlife in the substation area.

9.1.6 RARE AND UNIQUE NATURAL RESOURCES

Rock outcrop and dry hill prairie communities are found in the eastern portion of the substation area. These communities will be avoided where possible. See Section 6.6.7 for a discussion of rare and unique resources.

9.2 CEDAR MOUNTAIN SUBSTATION NORTH AREA

The proposed Cedar Mountain Substation North area is located on the east end of the Lyon County to Cedar Mountain Alternate Route section. The proposed substation area is located east of 370th Street, west of County Road 71, north of 680th Avenue and south of 700th Avenue. Appendix D.6 identifies the proposed substation location. The Applicants will seek to acquire 40 acres for the proposed substation construction, which is discussed in Section 5.2.2.

9.2.1 DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Refer to Section 8.1.2 for a description of the environmental setting in this region of Minnesota. The proposed Cedar Mountain Substation North area is primarily flat in an agricultural setting in Renville County. There are a few small, farmed drainages in the vicinity and several homesteads are present throughout the landscape. The elevation of the site ranges from 1,000 to 1,100 feet AMSL.

9.2.2 HUMAN SETTLEMENT

9.2.2.1 Public Health and Safety

See Section 7.2.2.1 for public health and safety information.

9.2.2.2 Commercial, Industrial, Residential Land Use

Land uses surrounding the proposed Cedar Mountain Substation North area are agricultural lands with scattered rural residences and farmsteads. No commercial or industrial land uses are found in the vicinity of the substation area.

Impacts and Mitigation

See Section 7.2.2.2 for impacts and mitigation.

9.2.2.3 Displacements

See Section 7.2.2.3 for displacement information.

9.2.2.4 Noise

Refer to Section 7.1.2.4 for substation noise information.

9.2.2.5 Aesthetics

See Section 7.2.2.5 for aesthetics information.

9.2.2.6 Socioeconomics

A discussion of current socioeconomic conditions for populations living in proximity to the proposed Cedar Mountain Substation North area is provided in Section 8.2.6.

Impacts and Mitigation

See Section 7.2.2.6 for impacts and mitigation.

9.2.2.7 Cultural Values

The methods used to identify cultural values are discussed in Section 6.2.7.

9.2.2.8 Recreation

A snowmobile trail follows 370th Street for one mile, heads east on County Highway 2 for a half mile, then heads south following 375th Street for a half mile within the proposed Cedar Mountain Substation North area.

Impacts and Mitigation

Although snowmobile trails exist within the substation area, the Applicants do not anticipate any impacts to the trails. The Applicants will work to construct the substation so that no direct impacts to this resource would result, as practical.

9.2.2.9 Public Services

See Section 7.2.2.9 for impacts and mitigation.

9.2.2.10 Transportation

Roadways

A series of county highways and roads including County Highway 2, County Highway 5, and County Road 73 are within the area for the proposed Cedar Mountain Substation North. Other local roads are also located in a traditional grid pattern of roadways in this region.

Railways

No railways are located within the proposed Cedar Mountain Substation North area.

Airports and Aviation Facilities

No airports or aviation facilities are located within the substation area.

Pipelines

No pipelines are located within the substation area.

Impacts and Mitigation

See Section 7.2.2.10 for impacts and mitigation.

9.2.2.11 Radio, Television, Cellular Phone and GPS

Two telecommunication towers are located along County Highway 2 within the proposed Cedar Mountain Substation North area. One tower is located near an existing substation on the east side of County Highway 5 and the other tower is located on the north side of County Highway 2.

Impacts and Mitigation

Refer to Section 6.2.11.1 for impacts and mitigation information.

9.2.3 LAND-BASED ECONOMIES

9.2.3.1 Agriculture

Refer to Section 6.3.1.2 for agricultural information in Renville County.

Approximately 99 percent of the land within the proposed Cedar Mountain Substation North area is used for agriculture.

Impacts and Mitigation

Refer to Section 6.3.1.7 for agriculture impacts and mitigation information.

9.2.3.2 Forestry

No impacts to forestry resources are anticipated within the proposed Cedar Mountain Substation North area.

9.2.3.3 Tourism

No impacts to tourism resources are anticipated within the proposed Cedar Mountain Substation North area.

9.2.3.4 Mining

There is one identified aggregate mining located in the center of the Cedar Mountain Substation North area, but it has never been sampled or mined.

Impacts and Mitigation

Refer to Section 6.3.4.1 for mining impacts and mitigation information.

9.2.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

9.2.4.1 Archaeology

There are no archaeological sites of interest within one mile around the proposed Cedar Mountain Substation North area.

9.2.4.2 Architectural History

There is one architectural site that falls within one mile around the Cedar Mountain Substation North area (Table H-32, Appendix H). This structure has not been evaluated for the NRHP and will not be impacted by the construction or maintenance of the Project.

9.2.5 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

9.2.5.1 Air Quality

Refer to Section 6.5.1 for general air quality information. No impacts to air quality are anticipated within the proposed Cedar Mountain Substation North area.

9.2.5.2 Water Quality and Resources

See Section 6.5.2 for a discussion of water resources and water quality in the proposed Cedar Mountain Substation North area. Two unnamed PWI streams occur in this substation area, neither of which has impaired water quality and both are PWIs. Small wetlands totaling approximately 49 acres, or 1.1 percent of the substation area, are scattered throughout the area. No lakes or other surface water features occur in this area.

Impacts and Mitigation

Impacts are expected to be negligible if wetlands and streams can be avoided. Water quality will be protected by appropriate erosion control methods during construction. See Section 6.5.2.7 for a discussion of impacts and mitigation for water resources and water quality.

9.2.5.3 Flora

See Section 6.5.3 for a discussion on common habitats in the Project area. Agricultural land uses dominate the landscape in this area. There are approximately 139 acres of land conservation easements within the proposed Cedar Mountain Substation North area. No other State or federal land or easements, natural communities, or rare native habitats are found in the substation area.

Impacts and Mitigation

See Section 6.5.3.7 for a discussion of impacts and mitigation for vegetation and habitat.

9.2.5.4 Fauna

See Section 7.2.4.4 for fauna information.

9.2.6 RARE AND UNIQUE NATURAL RESOURCES

No State or federal protected or rare species or habitats occur in this substation area.

9.3 CEDAR MOUNTAIN SUBSTATION NORTH 115 KV REROUTE

The Applicants will need to reroute the exiting 115 kV line to tap into the proposed Cedar Mountain Substation North area. Reroute C is located just north of the City of Franklin and parallel to County Road 73 on the east side and runs along a field line to the west of County Highway 5. The Reroute area connects to the southwest edge of the Cedar Mountain Substation North area. Appendix D.9 identifies the Reroute location.

9.3.1 DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Reroute C is located in a primarily agricultural setting in Renville County. There are a few small, farmed drainages in the vicinity and a few homesteads within the Reroute.

9.3.2 HUMAN SETTLEMENT

General measures described in Section 7.3.2 apply to the Cedar Mountain Substation North 115 kV reroute. No impacts are associated with noise and cultural values. The resources described below regarding Human Settlement are specific to the Reroute area.

9.3.2.1 Public Health and Safety

A discussion of public health and safety concerns and mitigation regarding HVTLs is provided in Section 6.2.1.

9.3.2.2 Commercial, Industrial, Residential Land Use

Land uses in this portion of Renville County are described in Section 8.2.2.1.

9.3.2.3 Displacement

The Project will be designed to avoid displacement of existing homes or businesses. A discussion of displacement issues is provided in Section 6.2.3.

9.3.2.4 Aesthetics

Please refer to Section 8.2.5 for a discussion of area aesthetics for southern Renville County.

9.3.2.5 Socioeconomics

A discussion of the current socioeconomic conditions for this area is provided in Section 8.2.6.

9.3.2.6 Public Services

Local telephone and cable television lines likely extend along the roads and driveways to homes or other buildings located within the Reroute C area. No other public utilities have been identified in the reroute area. The Applicants will work with local public utility providers during engineering and construction to identify any unknown public services and avoid disturbances to existing services.

Impacts and Mitigation

No impacts are anticipated to public services with the relocation of the 115 kV transmission line using Reroute C. Refer to Section 6.2.9 for information on mitigation techniques for public services.

9.3.2.7 Recreation

A snowmobile trail system is located within Reroute C paralleling 670th Avenue and heading south parallel to County Road 73.

Impacts and Mitigation

Refer to Section 6.2.8.1 for impacts and mitigation information for recreational resources. The Applicants will work to avoid all recreational resources when siting the Reroute.

9.3.2.8 Transportation

Two major roadways are found in the Reroute area between Franklin and the proposed Cedar Mountain Substation North. These roadways are County Road 73 and County Highway 5. Both roadways run north-south. Additionally, 660th Avenue and 670th Avenue run east-west through the reroute area. No other surface transportation land uses are found in this region.

Impacts and Mitigation

No impacts are anticipated to transportation systems with the relocation of the 115 kV transmission line using Reroute C. Refer to Section 6.2.10 for information on mitigation techniques for transportation.

9.3.2.9 Radio, Television, Cellular Phone and GPS

There is one telecommunication tower located in the center of Section 25.

Impacts and Mitigation

Refer to Section 6.2.11.1 for impacts and mitigation information.

9.3.3 LAND-BASED ECONOMIES

9.3.3.1 Agriculture

Approximately 99 percent, or 1780 acres of the land within Reroute C is used for agriculture. There is an organic farm located within one mile of Reroute C that is certified organic as reported by the MnDOA. The State does not depict the exact location of an organic farm field.

Impacts and Mitigation

Refer to Section 6.3.1.7 for agriculture impacts and mitigation information. The Applicants estimate permanent impacts to agricultural lands within Reroute C at 17,150 square feet. The Applicants estimate that 49 acres of land will be temporarily impacted by Reroute C due to transmission line construction.

9.3.3.2 Forestry

The majority of the land is agriculture. No economic forest resources are anticipated to be impacted.

9.3.3.3 Tourism

No impacts to tourism resources are anticipated in Reroute C.

9.3.3.4 Mining

Refer to Section 6.3.4 for general mining information. No impacts to mining resources are anticipated within the Reroute.

9.3.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

In November of 2008, the Applicants reviewed SHPO records in St. Paul to identify known archaeological resources within one mile of Reroute C. The literature was also searched for reports of previously surveyed areas relevant to the Cedar Mountain Substation North area.

9.3.4.1 Archaeology

There are no archaeological sites of interest within one mile of Reroute C.

9.3.4.2 Architectural History

There are 16 architectural sites within one mile of Reroute C (Table H-33, Appendix H). None of these structures have been evaluated for listing on the NRHP and will not be impacted by the construction or maintenance of the Project.

9.3.5 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

9.3.5.1 Air Quality

Refer to Section 6.5.1 for general air quality information. No impacts to air quality are anticipated within Reroute C.

9.3.5.2 Water Quality and Resources

See Section 8.5.2 for a discussion of water resources and water quality in the Project area. See Section 8.5.2.7 for a discussion of impacts and mitigation for these resources. In the Reroute area, a ditch is located in the eastern half of Section 26 in Birch Coulee Township. A small NWI wetland is identified in an agricultural field in the southeast quarter of Section 36 in Birch Coulee Township. These areas will be avoided or spanned. No other water resources or water quality issues occur.

9.3.5.3 Flora

See Section 8.5.3 for a discussion of common habitats in the Project area. See Section 8.5.3.7 for a discussion of impacts and mitigation for flora resources. Agricultural land uses dominate the landscape in this area. Wooded windbreaks surround homes in the Reroute Area.

9.3.5.4 Fauna

See Section 8.5.4 for a discussion of common fauna in the Project area. See Section 8.5.4.7 for a discussion of impacts and mitigation for these resources. Species associated with agricultural land uses will be found in Reroute C.

9.3.6 RARE AND UNIQUE NATURAL RESOURCES

See Section 8.6 for a discussion of rare and unique natural resources in the Project area. See Section 8.6.7 for a discussion of impacts and mitigation for these resources. No State or federal protected or rare species or habitats occur in Reroute C.

9.4 HELENA SUBSTATION NORTH AREA

The proposed Helena Substation North area is located on the east end of the Cedar Mountain to Helena section of the Alternate Route. The proposed substation area is located north of TH 19, west of Naylor Avenue, south of 250th Street, and east of Galena Avenue. Appendix D.11 identifies the proposed substation area location. The Applicants will need to acquire 40 acres for the proposed substation construction, as discussed in Section 2.3.5.

9.4.1 DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Refer to Section 6.1.5 for a description of the environmental setting in this region of Minnesota. The proposed Helena Substation North area is primarily flat in an agricultural setting in Scott County. There are a few small, farmed drainages in the vicinity and several homesteads are present throughout the landscape. Wooded areas are occur along the drainage areas. The elevation of the substation area ranges from 900 feet to 1,050 feet AMSL.

9.4.2 HUMAN SETTLEMENT

9.4.2.1 Public Health and Safety

A discussion of public health and safety concerns regarding substations is provided in Section 7.1.2.1.

9.4.2.2 Commercial, Industrial, Residential Land Use

Land uses within the proposed Helena Substation North area are mostly agricultural, with very few farmsteads and rural residences. No commercial or industrial land uses are found in this area of Scott County or the substation area. Patches of forest cover and undisturbed lands are located within the area.

Impacts and Mitigation

See Section 7.4.2.2 for impacts and mitigation.

9.4.2.3 Displacements

See Section 7.4.2.3 for displacement information.

9.4.2.4 Noise

Refer to Section 6.2.4 for general noise information. No noise impacts are anticipated within the proposed Helena Substation North area.

9.4.2.5 Aesthetics

A description of aesthetics for the Helena Substation North area is provided in Section 6.2.5.

Impacts and Mitigation

See Section 7.4.2.5 for impacts and mitigation.

9.4.2.6 Socioeconomics

A discussion of current socioeconomic conditions for populations living in proximity to the proposed Helena Substation North area is provided in Section 8.2.6.

Impacts and Mitigation

See Section 7.4.2.6 for impacts and mitigation.

9.4.2.7 Cultural Values

The methods used to identify cultural values are discussed in Section 6.2.7.

9.4.2.8 Recreation

Marsh WMA is located adjacent to the northeast portion of the proposed Helena Substation North area and a small piece of Michel Marsh WMA is located in the western portion of the substation area. Both WMAs provide hunting and wildlife observation opportunities.

There are approximately two miles a snowmobile trails within the proposed Helena Substation North area.

Impacts and Mitigation

Refer to Section 6.2.8.71 for impacts and migration information for recreational resources. The Applicants will work to avoid all recreational resources when siting the proposed Helena Substation North area.

9.4.2.9 Public Services

See Section 7.4.2.9 for public services information.

9.4.2.10 Transportation

There are no railways or airports in the substation area. Roadways within the Helena Substation North area include Aberdeen Avenue and 260th Street, both of which are considered local roads. These roads are lightly populated with a small number of rural residences and farmsteads. Future planning by Scott County supports the extension of County Highway 2 through this region to connect with U.S. Highway 169.

A pipeline owned and operated by Northern Natural Gas Company cuts diagonally northwest-southeast across the land area within the proposed Helena Substation North area, connecting with Belle Plaine and other pipelines in the region. The MinnCan Pipeline travels across the northern edge of the substation area; however, the substation would not be located in proximity to either of these facilities.

Impacts and Mitigation

See Section 7.4.2.10 for impacts and mitigation.

9.4.2.11 Radio, Television, Cellular Phone and GPS

No impacts to telecommunication towers are anticipated with the proposed Helena Substation North area.

9.4.3 LAND-BASED ECONOMIES

9.4.3.1 Agriculture

Refer to Section 6.3.1.4 for agricultural information in the proposed Helena Substation North area.

Approximately 90 percent or 5,097 acres of land within the Helena Substation North area is used for agriculture.

There are nine known anthrax outbreak sites located within the Helena Substation North area. Refer to Section 6.3.1.4 for anthrax information and maps in Appendix G for anthrax outbreak locations.

Impacts and Mitigation

Refer to Section 6.3.1.7 for agriculture impacts and mitigation information.

9.4.3.2 Forestry

No impacts to forestry resources are anticipated within the proposed Helena Substation North area.

9.4.3.3 Tourism

No impacts to tourism resources are anticipated within the proposed Helena Substation North area.

9.4.3.4 Mining

No impacts to mining resources are anticipated within the proposed Helena Substation North area.

Impacts and Mitigation

Refer to Section 6.3.4.1 for mining impacts and mitigation information.

9.4.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

9.4.4.1 Archaeology

There are two archaeological sites within one mile of the proposed Helena Substation North area (Table H-34, Appendix H). These sites have not been evaluated for the NRHP and will not be impacted by the construction or maintenance of the Project.

9.4.4.2 Architectural History

There are five architectural sites within one mile of the proposed Helena Substation North area (Table H-36, Appendix H). These structures have not been evaluated for the NRHP and will not be impacted by the construction or maintenance of the Project.

9.4.5 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

9.4.5.1 Air Quality

Refer to Section 6.5.1 for general air quality information. No impacts to air quality are anticipated within the proposed Helena Substation North area.

9.4.5.2 Water Quality and Resources

See Section 6.5.2 for a discussion of water resources and water quality in the Project area. The West Branch of Raven Creek, County Ditch 10, an unnamed stream and an unnamed ditch are streams found in this substation area. All four are PWIs. The West Branch Raven Creek and County Ditch 10 are listed by the MPCA as impaired due to fecal coliform. Wetlands totaling approximately 618 acres, or 11.0 percent of the substation area, are found throughout the area. There is one large wetland on the southeast side of the substation area, one on the northeast side, and one on the northwest side. A FEMA floodplain is located in the Southeast Quarter of Section 25 in Belle Plaine Township.

Impacts and Mitigation

Impacts are expected to be negligible if wetlands and streams can be avoided. Water quality will be protected by appropriate erosion control methods during construction. See Section 6.5.2.7 for a discussion of water resources and water quality.

9.4.5.3 Flora

See Section 6.5.3 for a discussion of common habitats in the Project area. Agricultural land uses dominate the landscape in this area. The Marsh WMA and a MSNRA are located in the northeast portion of the substation area. The Marsh WMA contains a wetland and prairie. The Michel Marsh WMA is located on the western side of the substation area and includes wetland and prairie habitat.. No other State or federal land or easements, natural communities, or rare native habitats are found in the substation area.

Impacts and Mitigation

See Section 6.5.3.7 for a discussion on impacts and mitigation for vegetation and habitat. Locating the substation away from the Marsh and Michel Marsh WMAs will avoid impacts to that habitat in the Helena Substation North area.

9.4.5.4 Fauna

The Marsh and Michel Marsh WMAs provide habitat for upland and wetland wildlife. Otherwise, wildlife resources in the substation area are typical of agricultural lands. See Section 6.5.4 for a discussion of common fauna in the Project area.

Impacts and Mitigation

See Section 6.5.3.7 for a discussion of impacts and mitigation for wildlife. Locating the substation away from the Marsh WMA will avoid impacts to wildlife resources in the substation area.

9.4.6 RARE AND UNIQUE NATURAL RESOURCES

No State or federal protected or rare species or habitats occur in the substation area.

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