

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road • St. Paul, MN • 55155-40



March 10, 2010

Bill Storm, Project Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Re: Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Hiawatha Transmission Line Project
[PUC Docket Number: E002/TL-09-38]

Dear Mr. Storm:

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has reviewed the Hiawatha Transmission Line Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and provides the following comments.

General

Urban landscaping and green space provides some habitat for various local and migrating species. Generally, the DNR suggests planning routing and substation location where the impact to flora is the least.

5.10.1. Affected Environment

This sections states that "Other than the presence of the Handsome Sedge noted above, there are no other flora species noted in the NHIS (Xcel Energy, 2009)." This statement should be corrected to clarify that it is only referring to the area within a one-mile radius of the project.

Figure 5.12-1 and Table 5.12-1

ERM, Inc. has obtained the Rare Features Data through a license agreement (LA-519) with the DNR. The terms of this agreement restrict the manner in which the data can be displayed in public documents. To comply with the terms of this agreement, the specific location information should be removed from Figure 5.12-1 and Table 5.12-1 in the Final EIS and should no longer be distributed in any other associated documents.

Thank-you for the opportunity to review the DEIS for the Hiawatha Transmission Line Project. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jamie Schrenzel".

Jamie Schrenzel
Principal Planner
Environmental Review Unit
(651) 259-5115

Storm 3/10/2010



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