

APPENDIX C
PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE

Appendix C.1
MnDNR NHIS RESPONSE



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Division of Ecological and Water Resources, Box 25

500 Lafayette Road

St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4025

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

March 31, 2011

Correspondence # ERDB 20110246-0002

Mr. Dustin Daniels
URS Corporation, Inc.
100 South Fifth Street, Suite 1500
Minneapolis, MN 55402

RE: Natural Heritage Review of the proposed Orono Substation Expansion;
T118N R23W Sections 29, 30, 31, & 32; Hennepin County

Dear Mr. Daniels,

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, rare features have been documented within the search area (for details, see the enclosed database reports; please visit the Rare Species Guide at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rsg/index.html> for more information on the biology, habitat use, and conservation measures of these rare species). Please note that the following **rare features may be adversely affected** by the proposed project:

- Trumpeter swans (*Cygnus buccinator*), a state-listed threatened species, have been documented nesting in close proximity to the proposed project. These rare birds may be at risk for colliding with or being electrocuted by overhead transmission lines. We recommend the use of bird diverters on overhead lines near lakes and rivers, or other areas that may attract large concentrations of waterfowl. Please contact the DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist, Melissa Doperalski at 651-259-5738, for a regional perspective on the recommended number and locations of bird diverters for this specific line.

The Route Permit Application should address whether the proposed project has the potential to adversely affect this state-listed species and, if so, any avoidance or mitigation measures that will be implemented.

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 and Water 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 is for your personal use only as it may include specific location information that is considered nonpublic data under *Minnesota Statutes*, section 84.0872, subd. 2. If you wish to reprint or publish the Detailed Report for any purpose, please contact me to request written permission.**

For environmental review purposes, the Natural Heritage letter and database reports are valid for one year; they are only valid for the project location (noted above) and the project description provided on the NHIS Data Request Form. Please contact me if project details change or if an updated review is needed.

Please note that locations of the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*), federally-listed as threatened and state-listed as special concern, and the Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), federally-listed as threatened, are not currently tracked in the NHIS. As such, the Natural Heritage Review does not address these species.

Furthermore, the Natural Heritage Review does not constitute review or approval by the Department of Natural Resources as a whole. Instead, it identifies issues regarding known occurrences of rare features and potential effects to these rare features. Additional rare features for which we have no data may be present in the project area, or there may be other natural resource concerns associated with the proposed project. For these concerns, please contact your DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist (contact information available at http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/ereview/erp_regioncontacts.html). Please be aware that additional site assessments or review may be required.

Thank you for consulting us on this matter, and for your interest in preserving Minnesota's rare natural resources. An invoice will be mailed to you under separate cover.

Sincerely,



Lisa Joyal
Natural Heritage Review Coordinator

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

cc: Jamie Schrenzel, DNR
Melissa Doperalski, DNR
Krista Larson, DNR
Deborah Pile, OES

Printed March 2011
 Data valid for one year

Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System
Index Report of records within 1 mile radius of:
 ERDB #20110246-0002 - Orono Substation Expansion
 Multiple TRS
 Hennepin County

Rare Features Database:

Element Name and Occurrence Number	Federal Status	MN Status	State Rank	Global Rank	Last Observed Date	EO ID #
Vertebrate Animal						
<u>Cygnus buccinator</u> (Trumpeter Swan) #2 T122N R26W S34, T116N R24W S9, T116N R24W S4, T117N R21W S6, T [...]; Carver, Hennepin, Sherburne, Wright County		THR	S2B	G4	2009-08-06	28342
<u>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</u> (Bald Eagle) #2110 T118N R23W S29; Hennepin County		SPC	S3B,S3N	G5	2005-04-04	26998
Animal Assemblage						
<u>Colonial Waterbird Nesting Area</u> (Colonial Waterbird Nesting Site) #810 T118N R23W S20, T118N R23W S29; Hennepin County		N/A	SNR	GNR	1998	12140
Vascular Plant						
<u>Panax quinquefolius</u> (American Ginseng) #192 T118N R23W S19, T118N R23W S30; Hennepin County		SPC	S3	G3G4	1995-05-18	21574
Native Plant Community (This may not represent a complete list. Also see MCBS Native Plant Communities at http://deli.dnr.state.mn.us.)						
<u>Native Plant Community, Undetermined Class</u> #2260 T118N R23W S19, T118N R23W S30; Hennepin County	(NPC Code:)	N/A	SNR	GNR	1995-05-18	21573
<u>Red Oak - Sugar Maple - Basswood - (Bitternut Hickory) Forest Type</u> #937 T117N R23W S6, T118N R23W S31; Hennepin County	(NPC Code: MHs38c)	N/A	S2	GNR	1988-07-01	8456

Records Printed = 6

Minnesota's endangered species law (*Minnesota Statutes*, section 84.0895) and associated rules (*Minnesota Rules*, part 6212.1800 to 6212.2300 and 6134) prohibit the taking of threatened or endangered species without a permit. For plants, taking includes digging or destroying. For animals, taking includes pursuing, capturing, or killing.

Rare Features Database Reports: An Explanation of Fields

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

Please note that the database reports 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#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 Natural Heritage Review Coordinator at 651- 259-5109.

Appendix C.2

LIST OF LGUs AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES AND AGENCIES
SENT A 90-DAY PROJECT NOTICE LETTER

Appendix C.2: Local Government Units and Other Interested Parties and Agencies Contacted

Table C.2 identifies the LGUs and other interested parties and agencies that were provided the January 10, 2011 90-day Project Notice Letter. The letter included in the proceeding pages is representative of the letter that was sent to each person listed below.

TABLE C.2
Local Government Units and Other Interested Parties and Agencies Contacted

Agency	Contact Name	Title	Address 1	City	State	Zip	Phone	Email
City of Orono	Melanie Curtis	Planning and Zoning Coordinator	P.O. Box 66	Crystal Bay	MN	55323	952-249-4627	mcurtis@ci.orono.mn.us
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - St. Paul District	Melissa Jenny	Project Manager	190 5th Street E., Suite 401	St. Paul	MN	55101-1638	651-290-5367	Melissa.M.Jenny@usace.army.mil
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Minnesota	Tony Sullins	Field Supervisor	4101 Amercian Boulevard E.	Bloomington	MN	55425	612-725-3548	tony_sullins@fws.gov
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	Gene Hugoson	Commissioner	625 Robert Street North	St. Paul	MN	55155-2538	651-201-6015	gene.hugoson@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Central Region	Melissa Doperalski	Regional Environmental Review Ecologist	1200 Warner Rd.	St. Paul	MN	55106	651-259-5738	melissa.doperalski@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Division of Waters	Kate Drewry	Area Hydrologist	1200 Warner Rd.	St. Paul	MN	55106	651-259-5845	kate.drewry@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Region 3	Joe Kurcinka	Regional Director	1200 Warner Rd.	St. Paul	MN	55106	651-259-5800	Fred.Bengtson@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Lisa Joyal	Natural Heritage Review Coordinator	500 Lafayette Road, Box 25	St. Paul	MN	55155	651-259-5109	lisa.joyal@dnr.state.mn.us
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	Susan Heffron	Environmental Review Coordinator	520 Lafayette Road	St. Paul	MN	55155-4194	651-757-2417	susan.heffron@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation - Metro District	Stacy Kotch	Transportation Program Specialist 2	395 John Ireland Boulevard	St. Paul	MN	55155-1899	651-366-4635	Stacy.Kotch@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation - Metro District	Scott McBride	Metro District Engineer	395 John Ireland Boulevard	St. Paul	MN	55155-1899	651-234-7703	scott.mcbride@state.mn.us
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources	John Jaschke	Executive Director	520 Lafayette Road	St. Paul	MN	55155	651-296-0878	john.jaschke@bwsr.state.mn.us
State Historic Preservation Office	Mary Ann Heidemann	Manager of Government Programs and Compliance	345 Kellogg Blvd. W.	St. Paul	MN	55102-1903	651-259-3456	maryann.heidemann@mnhs.org
Natural Resources Conservation Service - Minnesota	Don Baloun	State Conservationist	375 Jackson St., Suite 600	St. Paul	MN	55101	651-602-7900	don.baloun@mn.usda.gov
Metropolitan Council	Peter Bell	Chair	390 Robert St. N	St. Paul	MN	55101	651-602-1390	peter.bell@metc.state.mn.us
Metropolitan Council	Robert McFarlin	District 3	390 Robert St. N	St. Paul	MN	55101	763-557-9749	robert.mcfarlin@metc.state.mn.us
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District	Eric Evenson	District Administrator	18202 Minnetonka Blvd.	Deephaven	MN	55391	952-471-0590	eevenson@minnehahacreek.org
Hennepin County Board	Jan Callison	District 6 Commissioner	300 S. 6th St.	Minneapolis	MN	55487-0241	612-348-7886	jan.callison@co.hennepin.mn.us
Hennepin County Department of Research, Planning, and Development	Kristine Martin	Director	300 S. 6th St.	Minneapolis	MN	55487-0241	612-596-7639	kristine.martin@co.hennepin.mn.us
Hennepin County Department of Environmental Services	Carl Michaud	Director	417 N 5th Street, Suite 200	Minneapolis	MN	55401-3206	612-348-3777	
Hennepin County Transportation	Carolyn Fackler, PE	Permits Office	1600 Prairie Drive	Medina	MN	55340	612-596-0336	carolyn.fackler@co.hennepin.mn.us
Hennepin County Office of the County Administrator	Richard Johnson	County Administrator	300 S. 6th St.	Minneapolis	MN	55487-0241	612-348-8228	county.admin@co.hennepin.mn.us
Hennepin County Soil and Water Conservation District (District 5)	Jeffrey Beck	Public Relations	P.O. Box 26628	St. Louis Park	MN	55426	952-935-1600	no email address
Three Rivers Park District	Sara Wyatt	District 1 Representative	3000 Xenium Lane North	Plymouth	MN	55441	763-559-9000	
Three Rivers Park District	Dell Miller	Releations	3000 Xenium Lane North	Plymouth	MN	55441	763-559-6754	

The following is an example letter that is representative of the documentation that sent to each person listed in Table C.2.

January 10, 2011

Melanie Curtis
Planning and Zoning Coordinator
City of Orono
PO Box 66
Crystal Bay, MN 55323

**Re: Notice of Proposed Transmission Line and Substation Expansion Project
Orono Substation Expansion Project
Xcel Energy, Inc./Northern States Power Company
PUC Docket No. E002/TL-_____**

Dear Ms. Curtis:

Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (Xcel Energy) proposes to expand and upgrade the existing Orono Substation and construct new 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines to connect the planned substation to existing Xcel Energy 115kV transmission Line 0831 located at 3960 Sixth Avenue North, City of Orono (City), Hennepin County, Minnesota (see **Figure 1**).

The expansion and upgrade will include a complete rebuild of the existing Orono Substation, an increase in operating voltage from 69kV to 115kV, and a new double circuit 115kV transmission line to connect the substation to existing transmission line (Project). The Project is needed to increase the operating voltage from 69kV to 115kV which will improve local and system reliability, reduce the risk of overloads, and allow for additional load growth in the future.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you notice of Xcel Energy's plan to obtain a Route Permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) for the proposed Project and request comments for the Project. This notice is also required under Minn. Stat. § 216E.03, subd. 3a and 3b to allow each local governmental unit (LGU) within the proposed Project area the opportunity to meet with Xcel Energy to discuss the Project prior to filing a Route Permit Application (RPA).

Orono Substation

The Orono Substation is located at 3960 Sixth Avenue North, Orono, Hennepin County, MN 55356. The Project site consists of approximately 16 acres and is located in the SW ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 29 and the NW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 32, Township 118 North, Range 23 West. The Project area is bounded by State Highway 12 (Wayzata Boulevard) and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad to the north, County Road 6 (6th Avenue North) to the south and east, with a residential property boundary to the west. The property contains an existing substation in the southwest corner of the property that is surrounded by open meadow with scattered trees. The remainder of the property is comprised of wetland. Adjacent land use consists of large-lot, single-family homes to the west and south, wetland to the north, and a highway interchange to the east.

Project Description

The existing Orono Substation has been in service since 1990 and is situated on land owned in fee by Xcel Energy. All proposed substation upgrade components will be located within existing Xcel Energy property.

Xcel Energy also proposes to build a new double circuit 115kV transmission line to connect the Orono Substation to the existing 115kV Line 0831 located approximately ½ mile northwest of the Orono Substation. The Project will require modifying Xcel Energy's existing transmission Line 0881 to make this connection. The new double circuit 115kV transmission line route is proposed to run north from the Orono Substation across Xcel Energy property for approximately ¼ mile and then cross an additional ¼ mile of private property as shown on the attached map (see **Figure 1**). Please note that Xcel Energy is evaluating siting/routing information and previously obtained public comments regarding the Project.

Depending upon the final selected route, the Project may cross over adjacent wetlands or railroad/roads. A portion of the proposed Project may be located within existing easements maintained by Xcel Energy or other road authorities and utilities. However, some new easement acquisition is anticipated. For new construction of structures and transmission line, Xcel Energy typically proposes a 400-foot-wide route corridor, 200 feet on either side of the proposed new line location.

Permitting Requirements

The proposed new 115 kV transmission line meets the definition of a High Voltage Transmission Line (HVTL) under Minn. Rules Chapter 7850.1000, subp. 9. A Route Permit is required for the Project, for which Xcel Energy will apply. The Project qualifies for the Alternative Permitting Process under Minn. Stat. § 216E.04, subd. 2(3) and pursuant to Minn. Rules Chapter 7850.2800 to 7850.3900 (see Minn. Rules Chapter 7850.2800, subp. 1(C)), which Xcel Energy may elect to use.

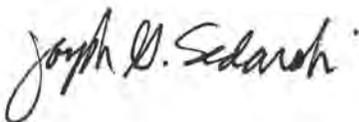
A Certificate of Need (CON) is not required for the Project because it is not classified as a large energy facility (LEF) under Minn. Stat. §§ 216B.243 and 216B.2421, subd. 2(3). While the Project is a HVTL with a capacity of 100 kV or more, it is not more than 10 miles long in Minnesota nor does it cross a state line. Therefore, Xcel Energy will not need to apply for a CON for the Project.

The Route Permit proceeding will determine where the proposed facilities will be located. As part of the permitting process, the MPUC considers input from the applicant utility, interested stakeholders, local government units, state and federal agencies, and landowners who may be affected by the Project. Xcel Energy plans to submit an application for a Route Permit for the Project to the MPUC within the next several months. Additional environmental review will occur during the routing process. The routing process will consider environmental, land use, and other potential routing impacts, and provide the opportunity for the public to comment.

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216E.03, subd. 3b, you may request a pre-application consultation meeting regarding the proposed Project within 30 days of receiving this notice. Please review this information and provide comments, questions, or concerns you may have regarding the proposed Project, or if you would like to request a pre-application consultation meeting.

Please contact me at (612) 330-6435 or joseph.g.sedarski@xcelenergy.com if you have any questions or comments regarding the Project or this notice.

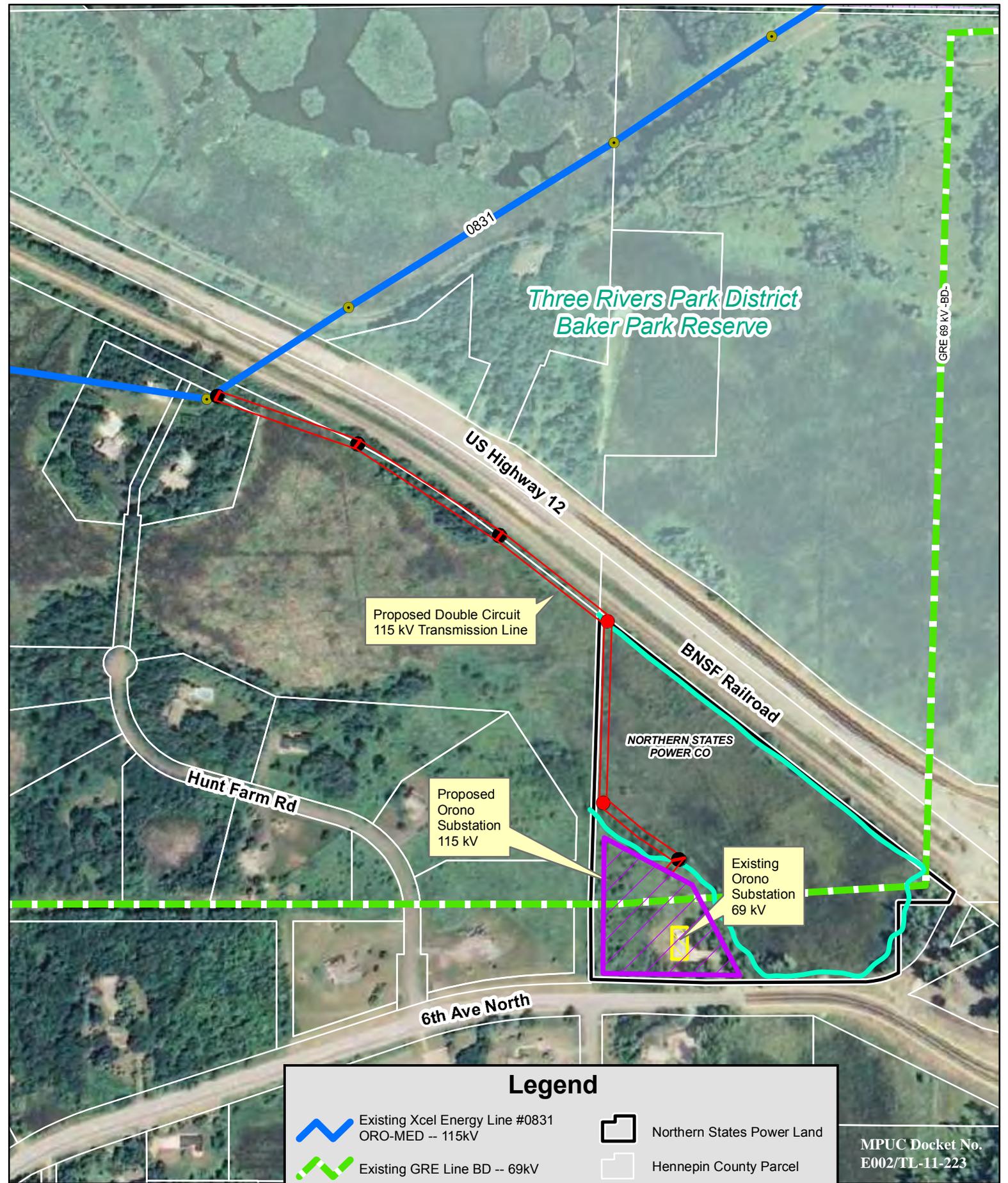
Sincerely,



Xcel Energy
Senior Permitting Analyst

Enc. Figure 1

cc: Chris Rogers, Xcel Energy



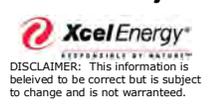
Legend

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing Xcel Energy Line #0831 ORO-MED -- 115kV Existing GRE Line BD -- 69kV NSP-MN Transmission Structure Proposed Orono Substation (115 kV) Existing Orono Substation (69 kV) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern States Power Land Hennepin County Parcel Proposed Double Circuit 115 kV Transmission Line Approximate Wetland Boundary
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NOTE: Proposed transmission line and substation expansion locations are approximate.

MPUC Docket No. E002/TL-11-223

Figure 1
Proposed Orono Substation Project



Appendix C.3
City of Orono Response



Chris Rogers
414 Nicollet Mall MP-8
Minneapolis, MN 55401

CITY of ORONO

Municipal Offices

Street Address:
2750 Kelley Parkway
Orono, MN 55356

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 66
Crystal Bay, MN 55323-0066

REQUEST FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

SUBJECT: Zoning Application #10-3486

The City of Orono is required to notify you within fifteen (15) business days as to the status of your application for a conditional use permit (CUP) for property located at 3960 Sixth Avenue. We received your application on August 23, 2010. Below is a list of items the city is requesting to complete our review:

- ✓ Two (2) original *scaled* copies of the certificate of survey, and a reduced copy (11'x17' or smaller), meeting our survey requirements indicating the following:
 - all existing and proposed structures,
 - all proposed improvements,
 - existing topographic contours extending 50' past the property boundaries, and
 - proposed stormwater drainage and proposed site grading (please indicate total cubic yards of proposed earth movement on/off site).
- ✓ Scaled elevation drawings and construction plans, transmission tower details – height, color, etc.
- ✓ Screening proposal (if any).
- ✓ \$2,500 escrow – This project requires submittal of an application escrow in the amount of \$2,500. Please complete the enclosed escrow agreement and submit along with a check for the escrow.

Application #10-3486 is incomplete. I understand the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission approval process requires a scoping meeting be held by our Planning Commission prior to the City's CUP public hearing process. This scoping meeting can be held prior to the submittal of the aforementioned outstanding CUP items, however the CUP application must be considered complete at least 30 days prior to the CUP public hearing date.

Please contact me at 952.249.4627 or email at mcurtis@ci.orono.mn.us should you have any questions.

Sincerely,
City of Orono

Melanie Curtis
Planning & Zoning Coordinator

Sedarski, Joseph G

From: Mike Gaffron [MGaffron@ci.orono.mn.us]
Sent: Thursday, November 18, 2010 2:46 PM
To: Sedarski, Joseph G
Cc: Melanie Curtis
Subject: Highway 12 Plan Sheets
Attachments: 2005 TH 12 Erosion Control Sheets west of 6-12 intersection.pdf; 2005 Forcemain Relocation Sheets west of 6-12 intersection.pdf; 2005 Inplace Utility Sheets west of 6-12 intersection.pdf

Joe –

The attached MnDOT Highway 12 plan sheets may be of some use, although I don't know whether they are final plans; all are dated 2005. What they do show is that the railroad bed & tracks appear to have not been relocated west of the CR6/Hwy12 intersection, which is what I recall. They do show limits of construction and right-of-way locations. Don't know whether these will resolve some questions, but they are all we have here.

Mike

Michael P. Gaffron
Assistant City Administrator / Long Term Strategy
City of Orono
(Street Address) 2750 Kelley Parkway
(Mailing Address) P.O. Box 66, Crystal Bay , MN 55323
Phone: (952) 249-4622
Fax: (952) 249-4616



CITY of ORONO

Municipal Offices

Street Address:
2750 Kelley Parkway
Orono, MN 55356

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 66
Crystal Bay, MN 55323-0066

December 16, 2010

Dr. Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Orono Substation Expansion
City Zoning File 10-3486
PUC Docket No. E002/LR-10-957

Dr. Haar

As you are aware, Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (Xcel Energy) intended to seek local review and approval of their expansion of the existing Xcel Orono Substation at 3960 Sixth Avenue North and construction of a new 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line (Project).

On September 1, 2010, Xcel Energy notified the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) of its intent to seek local review and approval of the Project pursuant to the Power Plant Siting Act (PPSA), Minnesota Statute § 216E.05, subd. 3, and Minnesota Rule 7850.5300, subp. 3. On September 7, 2010, the Office of Energy Security notified the City and Xcel Energy that the PUC received the notice and confirmed that the Project is eligible for local review.

Subsequently, Xcel Energy made a partial application to the City for Conditional Use Permit (CUP) review and approval, and initiated an Environmental Assessment (EA) process. To date, Xcel Energy's application to the City of Orono for the CUP and EA for the Project at 3960 Sixth Avenue North is incomplete.

This letter is to notify you the Orono City Council voted on Monday, December 13, 2010, to refer review and permitting of the routing and siting for this Project to the PUC pursuant to MN Statute §21E.05, subd. 1(b) and MN Rule 7850.5300 subp. 4. If you have any questions or need any further information regarding the City's decision please feel free to contact me at 952-249-4627.

Thank you,
CITY OF ORONO

Melanie Curtis
Planning & Zoning Coordinator

c: Ray Kirsch
Energy Facility Permitting, Office of Energy Security
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101

Xcel Energy
Attn: Chris Rogers, Siting and Land Rights Agent
414 Nicollet Mall MP-8
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Appendix C.4
NRCS Response



Natural Resources Conservation Service
375 Jackson Street, Suite 600
St. Paul, MN 55101-1854

January 20, 2011

Mr. Chris Rogers
Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401-1993

IN REPLY REFER TO: Excel Energy – Orono Substation Expansion

Dear Mr. Rogers:

The Minnesota Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has reviewed the above-referenced project. The project sponsors are not USDA program benefit recipients, thus the wetland conservation provisions of the 1985 Food Security act, as amended, are not applicable. It should be noted, however, that actions by a non-USDA participant third party (project sponsor) which impact agricultural wetlands owned or operated by USDA participants, may jeopardize the owner/operator's USDA eligibility. If such impacts are anticipated, the owner/operator should contact the county Farm Service Agency (FSA) office to consider an application for a third party exemption.

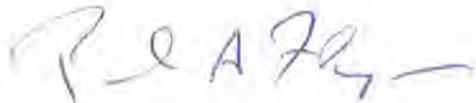
The following agencies may have federal or state wetlands, cultural resources, water quality or threatened and endangered species jurisdiction in the proposed project, and should be consulted.

- Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) – Clean Water Act
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) – Endangered Species Act
- Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) - Minnesota Wetlands Conservation Act
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)
- State Historic Preservation Officer/State Archaeologist (SHPO)

Finally, if as a result of your proposal you are affecting agricultural lands, and if any federal monies are involved, it is a requirement that a Farmland Policy Protection Act (FPPA) site assessment be appropriately filed. Because of the location and type of activity proposed, this project may impact agricultural lands. If so, you should submit a Farmland Conversion Impact Rating form (Form AD-1006) for each Minnesota county with part one (1) filled out. Along with the AD-1006, send a detailed map of the area impacted. We will then complete the form and mail it back to you. FPPA land evaluations are conducted by local NRCS personnel who review the project for possible effects on unique, prime or statewide important farmland. You can find the FPPA form AD-1006 at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/fppa/>. Please refer

specific FPPA requests in Hennepin County to Kathryn DesForge, Area Resource Soil Scientist, at (763) 566-2941 or kathryn.desforge@mn.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "P. A. Flynn" with a horizontal line extending to the right.

PAUL A. FLYNN
Environmental Review and Justice Program

cc: Kathryn DesForge, ARSS, NRCS, Brooklyn Center, MN

Appendix C.5
US FISH AND WILDLIFE Response



"Sedarski, Joseph G"
<Joseph.G.Sedarski@xcelenergy.com>

02/09/2011 01:03 PM

To: ""Andrew_Horton@fws.gov" <Andrew_Horton@fws.gov>

cc: ""Dustin_Daniels@URSCorp.com" <Dustin_Daniels@URSCorp.com>, "Rogers, Christopher" <Christopher.C.Rogers@xcelenergy.com>, "Kotz II, Eugene"

bcc:

Subject: RE: Orono Substation Expansion Project

Good afternoon Mr. Horton:

Thank you for reviewing and responding to our request for comments regarding the Orono Substation Expansion Project. We will take this into account in the permitting process, and include your comments in the Route Permit Application as well.

Thanks again and
Best Regards,
Joe

Joe Sedarski
Xcel Energy | Responsible By Nature
Senior Permitting Analyst
414 Nicollet Mall, MP8, Minneapolis, MN 55401
P: 612.330.6435 C: 612.816.5073 F: 612.573-1834
E: joseph.g.sedarski@xcelenergy.com

XCELENERGY.COM

Please consider the environment before printing this email

-----Original Message-----

From: Andrew_Horton@fws.gov [mailto:Andrew_Horton@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 11:34 AM
To: Sedarski, Joseph G
Subject: Orono Substation Expansion Project

Joseph Sedarski
Senior Permitting Analyst
Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Dear Mr. Sedarski,

Our records indicate there are no federally listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat within the action area of the proposed project. The project area does run across a small wetland and is near the Three Rivers Park Districts' Baker Park Reserve. Given the proximity of the project to this important bird area, we recommend that bird flight diverters be installed on the shield wire of the transmission line that crosses the wetland from the Proposed Orono Substation to the BNSF Railroad/US Highway 12 Right of Way. If any maintenance is required on the existing Xcel Energy Line #0831 ORO-Med we would also recommend that bird flight diverters be installed on the shield wire of the transmission line for the portion that crosses Baker Park Reserve.

If project plans change, additional information on listed or proposed species becomes available, or new species are listed that may be affected by the project, consultation should be reinitiated. Thank you for your cooperation in meeting our joint responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act. If you have any further questions, please contact me at (612) 725-3548 x2208.

Sincerely,

Andrew Horton
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Twin Cities ES Field Office
4101 American Blvd East
Bloomington, MN 55425-1665
(612) 725-3548 ext. 2208

Appendix C.6
MnDOT Response



Minnesota Department of Transportation

Metropolitan District

Waters Edge
1500 West County Road B-2
Roseville, MN 55113-3174

October 14, 2010

Xcel Energy
ATTN: Joe Sedarski, Senior Permitting Analyst
414 Nicollet Mall – MP8
Minneapolis, MN 55401

SUBJECT: Orono Substation Expansion and 115kV Transmission Line, P10-036
SW Quadrant of US 12 and 6th Ave. N.
Orono, Hennepin Ave
Control Section 2713

Dear Mr. Sedarski:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Orono Substation Expansion and 115kV Transmission Line Project. Mn/DOT has reviewed the information and has the following comments:

The proposed location of the new transmission line will be an improvement over the existing 69kV GRE Line BD, which will be disconnected, since it will be located farther from the new US 12/County Road 6 interchange. Mn/DOT does not have any concerns with the scope of the EA.

If the new transmission line runs along Mn/DOT right-of-way, a long form permit will be required. Any use of or work within or affecting Mn/DOT right of way requires a permit. Permit forms are available from MnDOT's utility website at www.dot.state.mn.us/tecsup/utility. Please include one 11 x 17 plan set and one full size plan set with each permit application. Please direct any questions regarding permit requirements to Buck Craig, MnDOT's Metro Permits Section, at (651) 234-7911.

We look forward to reviewing the Environmental Assessment when it becomes available. If you have any questions concerning this review please feel free to contact me at (651) 234-7794.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tod Sherman".

Tod Sherman
Planning Supervisor

Copy: Bob Byers / Hennepin County Planning
Melanie Curtis / City of Orono

Electronic Copies:

Buck Craig, Permits

Scott Pederson, Area Engineer

Becky Parzyck, Right-of-Way

Ryan Coddington, Traffic

Nancy Jacobson, Design

Dave Seykora, State Program Administration Coordinator

Stacy Kotch, Program Specialist 2

Bob Byers, P.E.

Hennepin County Public Works

1600 Prairie Drive

Medina, MN 55340-5421

Melanie Curtis

Planning & Zoning Coordinator

City of Orono

P.O. Box 66

Crystal Bay, MN 55323

Appendix C.7
SHPO Response

October 21, 2010

Xcel Energy
Attn: Joe Sedarski, Senior Permitting Analyst
414 Nicollet Mall – MP8
Minneapolis, MN 55401

RE: Orono Substation Expansion and New 115kV Transmission Line Project
T118 R23 S29 SW, S30 SE, S32 NW
Orono, Hennepin County
PUC Docket Number: E002/LR-10-957
SHPO Number: 2010-4976

Dear Mr. Sedarski:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the above project. It has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the Minnesota Historical Society by the Minnesota Historic Sites Act and the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act.

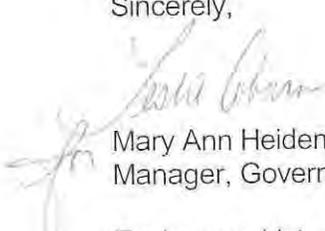
Due to the nature of the proposed project, we recommend that an archaeological survey be completed. The survey must meet the requirements of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Identification and Evaluation, and should include an evaluation of National Register eligibility for any properties that are identified. For your information, we have enclosed a list of consultants who have expressed an interest in undertaking such surveys.

If the project area can be documented as previously disturbed or previously surveyed, we will re-evaluate the need for survey. Previously disturbed areas are those where the naturally occurring post-glacial soils and sediments have been recently removed. Any previous survey work must meet contemporary standards.

Please note that this comment letter does not address the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36CFR800, procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for the protection of historic properties. If this project is considered for federal assistance, or requires a federal license or permit, it should be submitted to our office with reference to the appropriate federal agency.

If you have any questions on our review of this project, please contact me at (651) 259-3456.

Sincerely,


Mary Ann Heidemann
Manager, Government Programs and Compliance

Enclosure: List of Consultants



STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

May 12, 2011

Joe Sedarski, Senior Permitting Analyst
Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401-1993

RE: Orono Substation Expansion and Transmission Line
Orono, Hennepin County
SHPO Number: 2010-4976

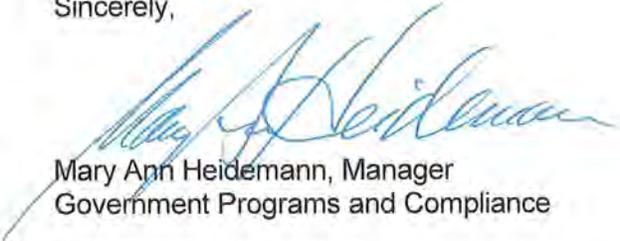
Dear Mr. Sedarski:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Phase Ia Literature Review submitted for the above project. It has been reviewed pursuant to responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Office by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (36CFR800).

Based on the information provided, we concur with the conclusions and recommendations of your consulting archaeologist that a full field survey needs to be performed at two locations within the project area: the 16 acre parcel proposed for expansion of the Orono Substation, and the landform previously identified as site 21HE0162, being considered as a location for transmission structures.

We look forward to reviewing results of that survey. Meanwhile, please call our archaeologist, David Mather, at (651) 259-3454, if you have any questions on our review.

Sincerely,



Mary Ann Heidemann, Manager
Government Programs and Compliance

Appendix C.8
METROPOLITAN COUNCIL Response

October 26, 2010

Xcel Energy
ATTN: Joe Sedarski, Senior Permitting Analyst
414 Nicollet Mall – MP8
Minneapolis, MN 55401

RE: Request for Comments on Proposed Orono Substation Expansion and New 115kV Transmission Line Project Environmental Assessment Scoping Comments
City of Orono Zoning Application #10-3486
PUC Docket No. E002/LR-10-957
Council Review File No. 20780-1

Dear Mr. Sedarski:

The Metropolitan Council (Council) received Xcel Energy's request for comments on the scope of the Environmental Assessment (EA) that will be prepared for the proposed Orono substation expansion and new 115kV transmission line project.

The Orono substation is located at 3960 Sixth Avenue North in Orono, Minnesota. The proposed project would completely rebuild the existing substation to increase its operating voltage from 69kV to 115kV, construct a new 0.5 mile 115kV transmission line to connect the substation to existing 115kV Line 0831, and remove an unspecified length of existing GRE Line BD – 69kV. The following comments are offered that will need to be addressed in the EA document.

The proposed substation expansion project is located near Baker Park Reserve, owned and operated by Three Rivers Park District, and part of the metropolitan area's regional parks system. The potential visual and noise impacts to the park reserve should be evaluated in the EA and the proposed disconnection and removal of power line GRE Line BD – 69kV through Baker Park Reserve should be coordinated with Three Rivers Park District.

The proposed new transmission line will cross Council forcemain Interceptor 8352 south of Highway 12 and east of Hunt Farm Road. This 12-inch diameter Ductile Iron Pipe interceptor was built in 2008 at a depth of approximately 12 feet. To assess the potential impacts to the interceptor pipe in this location, preliminary plans should be sent to Scott Dentz, Metropolitan Council Environmental Services Interceptor Engineering Manager (651-602-4503) for review and comment, *prior* to initiating the project.

Please contact Jim Larsen PE, Senior Planner, with any questions at 651-602-1159.

Sincerely,



Phyllis Hanson, Manager
Local Planning Assistance

cc: Robert McFarlin, District 3 Council Member
Susan Hoyt, Planning Sector Representative
Judy Sventek, Water Resources Assessment
Cheryl Olsen, Reviews Coordinator

Appendix C.9

THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT Response

Three Rivers
Park District
Board of
Commissioners

October 26, 2010

Sara Wyatt
District 1

Mr. Joe Sedarski
Senior Permitting Analyst
414 Nicollet Mall – MP8
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Marilynn Corcoran,
District 2

RE: Request for Comments of Proposed Orono Substation Expansion and
New 115kV Transmission Line Project
City of Orono Zoning Application #10-3486
PUC Docket No. E002/LR-10-957

Mark Haggerty
District 3

Dear Mr. Sedarski

Three Rivers Park District (Park District) has reviewed the proposed Xcel Energy project as described in the Xcel Energy letter dated September 23, 2010 and as referenced by the PUC Docket No. E002/LR-10-957. As defined in your project description and attached Figure 1, it appears no new construction will affect Park District property.

Dale Woodbeck,
Vice Chair
District 4

The Park District will work with Xcel Energy on the decommissioning of the existing 69kV transmission line to be disconnected as per Figure 1.

Rosemary Franzese
District 5

Please send all future correspondence directly to me. I can be contacted directly, at 763.559.6759 or ddeveau@threeriversparkdistrict.org, with questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Donald J. DeVeau, Director
Department of Planning and Development

DJD:lcl

C: Three Rivers Park District
Del Miller, Intergovernmental Relations Manager
John Barten, Director of Natural Resources

Larry Blackstad, Chair
Appointed

Barbara Kinsey
Appointed

Cris Gears
Superintendent

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MPUC Docket No.
E002/TL-11-223

November 12, 2010

Three Rivers
Park District
Board of
Commissioners

Mr. Joseph G. Sedarski
Senior Permitting Analyst
Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall – MP8
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Sara Wyatt
District 1

RE: Proposed Orono Substation Expansion
New 115 kV Transmission Line Project
City of Orono Zoning Application #10-3486
PUC Docket No. E002/LR-10-957

Marilynn Corcoran,
District 2

Dear Mr. Sedarski:

Mark Haggerty
District 3

Three Rivers Park District (Park District) understands that Xcel Energy proposes to expand the Orono substation and construct a new 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line as part of said project. The Park District also understands that in addition to the line identified in the original proposed substation project, Xcel Energy will evaluate routing alternatives for the proposed transmission line.

Dale Woodbeck,
Vice Chair
District 4

One alternative transmission line route discussed at our meeting on November 1, 2010, is proposed within Baker Park Reserve, owned and operated by Three Rivers Park District. Under Minnesota State Statutes, the Park District is charged to operate, maintain, protect, improve, and preserve the park system. Baker Park Reserve is a 3,300 acre park reserve under the jurisdiction of the Park District.

Rosemary Franzese
District 5

Please understand, as discussed on November 1, 2010, pursuant to Minnesota State Statutes and Park District policy, diversion of Park District property for any purpose other than those for which the lands were acquired will be strongly opposed. Park District Policy XII is enclosed for your reference and use.

Larry Blackstad, Chair
Appointed

In order for the Park District Board of Commissioners to consider the diversion of public park property, all alternatives must be considered and evaluated. This diversion includes, but not limited to, fee title ownership, easement, permit, temporary occupancy permit and temporary access.

Barbara Kinsey
Appointed

The Park District insists that Excel Energy evaluate all options for the alternative transmission line route prior to consideration of the route through Baker Park Reserve. If the Baker Park Reserve route is considered, the Park District has identified several components which need to be addressed and evaluated through an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) process. Following is a partial list of the primary concerns that Three Rivers Park District desires to be addressed in the EAW. These issues may need to be expanded based upon preliminary findings in the EAW.

Cris Gears
Superintendent

MPUC Docket No.
E002/TL-11-223

Environmental Assessment

1. Project Title
2. Proposer
3. Identify RGU
4. Reason for EAW
5. Project Location
6. Description
- 6a. Provide a project summary
- 6b. Give a complete description of the proposed project.
- 6c. Explain the project purpose; explain the need for the project and identify its beneficiaries.
- 6d. Are future stages of this development including development on any other property planned or likely to happen?
- 6e. Is this project a subsequent stage of an earlier project?
7. Project magnitude data
8. Permits and approvals required. List all known local, state and federal permits, approvals and financial assistance for the project.
9. Land use. Describe current and recent past land use and development on the site and on adjacent lands. Describe relationship to existing facilities and utilities.
10. Cover types. Estimate the acreage of the site with each of the following cover types before and after development.
11. Fish, wildlife and ecologically sensitive resources.
 - Trumpeter Swans frequently fly through this area. One significant cause of swan mortality is collision with power lines. Specifically, the EAW needs to address measures to protect the swan population from power line entanglement.
- 11a. Identify fish and wildlife resources and habitats on or near the site and describe how they would be affected by the project. Describe any measures to be taken to minimize or avoid impacts including but not limited to:
 - Wetlands – Identify actual requirements for utility pole installation in non-stable soils within marsh.
 - Woods/forest – Specifically address the construction impacts and impacts of long-term maintenance on the trees southeast of Lake Katrina.. Identify height restrictions of vegetation under the proposed transmission line and the frequency and method of vegetation control. Documented experience indicates that disruption of the natural vegetation in the Park Reserve will increase the potential for invasive species introductions into the Park Reserve. The EAW needs to discuss short-term and long-range measures to minimize these invasive introductions and preventative measures to manage vegetation.
 - Brush/grassland
 - Lawn/landscaping
 - Impervious surfaces
- 11b. Identify mitigation strategies
- 11c. Are any state-listed (endangered, threatened or special concern) species rare plant communities or other sensitive ecological resources on or near the site?
12. Physical impacts on water resources. Will the project involve the physical or hydrologic alteration – dredging, filling, stream diversion, outfall structure, diking, and impoundment – of any surface waters such as a lake, pond, wetland, stream or drainage ditch?
If yes, identify water resource affected. Describe alternatives considered and proposed mitigation measures to minimize impacts.

13. Water use. Will the project involve installation or abandonment of any water wells, connection to or changes in any public water supply or appropriation of any ground or surface water (including dewatering)?
14. Water-related land use management district. Does any part of the project involve a shoreland zoning district, a delineated 100-year flood plain, or a state or federally designated wild or scenic river land use district?
15. Water surface use. Will the project alter any recreational, educational, or aesthetic characteristics on Lake Katrina?
16. Erosion and sedimentation. Give the acreage to be graded or excavated and the cubic yards of soil to be moved.
Address soil compaction during construction and long-range maintenance.
17. Water quality: surface water runoff
- 17a. Compare the quantity and quality of site runoff before and after the project. Describe permanent controls to manage or treat runoff. Describe any stormwater pollution prevention plans.
18. Water quality: Describe any wastewaters that may be anticipated.
19. Geologic hazards and soil conditions
- 19a. Approximate depth (in feet) to ground water
- 19b. Describe the soils on the site
20. Identify any temporary or permanent solid wastes, hazardous wastes, storage tanks to be used on site.
- 20a. Describe types, amounts and compositions of solid or hazardous wastes, including solid animal manure, sludge and ash, produced during construction and operation.
21. Traffic. Identify and describe any traffic improvements necessary.
22. Vehicle-related air emissions. Identify any air quality impacts.
23. Describe any stationary source air emissions
24. Odors, noise and dust
25. Nearby resources. Are any of the following resources on or in proximity to the site?
 - Archaeological, historical or architectural resources?
 - Prime or unique farmlands or land within an agricultural preserve?
 - Designated parks, recreation areas or trails?
 - Scenic views and vistas?
 - Other unique resources?
 Describe any measures to minimize or avoid adverse impacts.
26. Visual impacts. Will the project create adverse visual impacts during construction or operation? Such as glare from intense lights, lights visible in wilderness areas and large visible plumes from cooling towers or exhaust stacks?
27. Compatibility with plans and land use regulations. Is the project subject to an adopted local comprehensive plan, land use plan or regulation, or other applicable land use, water, or resource management plan of a local, regional, state or federal agency?
28. Impact on infrastructure and public services. Will new or expanded utilities, roads, other infrastructure or public services be required to serve the project?
29. Cumulative potential effects. Describe the nature of the cumulative potential effects and summarize any other available information relevant to determining whether there is potential for significant environmental effects due to these cumulative effects.
30. Identify/describe other potential environmental impacts.

Please contact me at 763.559.6759 with any questions or comments. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Donald J. DeVeau, Director
Department of Planning and Development

DJD:lcl

Forwarded under separate cover:

Three Rivers Park District Policy Statement – January 2007

C: John Barten, Director of Natural Resources
Del Miller, Intergovernmental Relations Manager
File: BAK

J:\PROJECTS\Baker Park Reserve\BAK General\11-08-10--J Sedarski-Xcel-Proposed Orono Substation Expansion-DJD.doc

Three Rivers
Park District
Board of
Commissioners

Sara Wyatt
District 1

January 26, 2011

Marilynn Corcoran,
District 2

Joseph G. Sedarski
Senior Permitting Analyst
Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401-1993

Mark Haggerty
District 3

Dear Mr. Sedarski:

Dale Woodbeck,
Vice Chair
District 4

Commissioner Sara Wyatt asked me to express her thanks for your letter of January 10, informing her of the proposal to expand and upgrade the Orono substation and construct new 115 kilovolt transmission lines. We appreciate the update, and we look forward to hearing about the next steps in the process.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Franzese
District 5



Beth Nash
Public Affairs Coordinator

Larry Blackstad, Chair
Appointed

cc: Sara Wyatt, Commissioner, District 1
Del Miller, Intergovernmental Relations Manager

Barbara Kinsey
Appointed

Cris Gears
Superintendent

MPUC Docket No.
E002/TL-11-223

Appendix C.10

MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION Response



85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
main: 651.296.4026 tty: 651.296.2860 fax: 651.297.7891
www.commerce.state.mn.us

September 7, 2010

Joe Sedarski
Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Melanie Curtis
City of Orono
PO Box 66
Crystal Bay, MN 55323

**Re: Local Review of Orono Substation Expansion and 115 kV Transmission Line
Commission Docket Number: E002/LR-10-957**

Dear Mr. Sedarski and Ms. Curtis,

Greetings. This letter confirms that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) has received notification that Xcel Energy intends to seek local review to expand the existing Orono substation and to connect this substation to the electrical transmission grid via a new 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line. The expanded substation and new transmission line would be within the City of Orono in Hennepin County, Minn.

Under the Power Plant Siting Act, a permit from the Commission is required for transmission line projects over 100 kV (Minn. Stat. § 216E). However, local review and permitting is possible for eligible projects (Minn. Stat. § 216E.05). For such projects, a utility may apply to a local unit of government instead of the Commission for a permit to build the project. This letter confirms that Xcel Energy's proposed project is eligible for local review.

Xcel Energy has indicated that the City of Orono is the local unit of government with jurisdiction to permit the project. A conditional use permit application was submitted to the City of Orono on August 20, 2010. A local unit of government may relinquish its permitting jurisdiction by requesting that the Commission assume jurisdiction within 60 days of the filing of an application with the local unit of government (Minn. Rules 7850.5300, Subp. 4).

An environmental review process, including the development of an environmental assessment (EA), must be conducted by the local unit of government with jurisdiction over the project (Minn. Rules 7850.5300). This letter acknowledges that the City of Orono is the responsible governmental unit for the proposed project and associated environmental review.

Specific requirements with regard to the environmental review process include (Minn. Rules 7850.5300, Subp. 5):

- (1) Providing an opportunity for the public to participate in the development of the scope of the environmental assessment (EA) before it is prepared,
- (2) Publishing notice in the EQB Monitor when the assessment is available for review and the procedure for commenting on the assessment, and
- (3) Withholding a final decision on the project until at least ten days after the notice appears in the EQB Monitor.

The City of Orono must also provide a copy of the environmental assessment to the Commission when it is completed (Minn. Rules 7850.5300, Subp. 5). Electronic filing (eFiling) of the environmental assessment is encouraged (<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling>). Files of less than five megabytes (5 MB) in size are also encouraged.

Finally, this letter confirms that Xcel Energy has sent the required notice to those persons on the Commission's general notification list that a permit has been applied for from a local unit of government (Minn. Rules 7850.5300, Subp. 3).

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray Kirsch', written in a cursive style.

Ray Kirsch
Energy Facility Permitting
Office of Energy Security
raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us
651-296-7588

cc: Burl Haar, Commission
Bob Cupit, Commission