STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

ROUTE PERMIT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINE AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES

IN DAKOTA COUNTY

ISSUED TO
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY, A MINNESOTA CORPORATION

PUC DOCKET NO. E002/TL-11-795

In accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850, this route permit is hereby issued to:

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY, A MINNESOTA CORPORATION

Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation is authorized by this route permit to construct approximately 4.2 miles of new 115 kilovolt (kV) double circuit transmission line and to remove two existing 115 kV single circuit transmission lines in Dakota County, Minnesota.

The transmission line and associated facilities shall be built within the route identified in this permit, as portrayed on the official route maps, and in compliance with all other conditions specified in this permit.

Approved and adopted this _3rd_ day of _May_ 2013

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

_____

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651.296.0406 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through Minnesota Relay at 1.800.627.3529 or by dialing 711.

CONTENTS

ATTACHMENTS

Compliance Filing Procedures for High Voltage Transmission Lines
Permit Compliance Filings
Complaint Handling Procedures for High Voltage Transmission Lines

ROUTE MAPS

1 ROUTE PERMIT

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) hereby issues this route permit to Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (permittee or Xcel Energy) pursuant to Minnesota Statute 216E.03 and Minnesota Rule 7850. This permit authorizes the permittee to construct approximately 4.2 miles of new 115 kV double circuit transmission line and associated facilities in Dakota County, Minnesota, as identified in the attached route permit maps, hereby incorporated into this document.

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The permittee is authorized to construct a new 115 kV double circuit transmission line, as a replacement for two existing 115 kV single circuit transmission lines (Xcel Energy lines 0844 and 0861), and associated facilities, described as follows:

- Construction of a new 115 kV double circuit transmission line, approximately 4.2 miles in length, from the Black Dog substation (the substation directly adjacent to the Black Dog generating plant) to structure 31A, just east of the Savage substation;

- Construction of two new 115 kV single circuit transmission lines, approximately 0.4 miles in length, to facilitate connection of the new 115 kV double circuit line to the Black Dog substation;

- Reconductoring of one 115 kV single circuit transmission line (Xcel Energy line 0844) between structure 36 and the Savage substation; and

- Removal of the two existing 115 kV single circuit transmission lines (Xcel Energy lines 0844 and 0861) which currently connect the Black Dog substation and structure 31A.

2.1 Project Location

The project is located in the city of Burnsville in Dakota County, Minnesota. The project is located in Sections 22, 23, 27, 28, 32, 33, and 34 of Township 27 North, Range 24 West.

2.2 Associated Facilities and Substations

No new or modified facilities or substations are required for the project. Access to the Black Dog substation and the Savage substation will be required for the connection of transmission lines to existing substation infrastructure.

2.3 Structures and Conductors

The permittee shall use steel, self-weathering, monopole structures for the project. For the 115 kV single circuit transmission lines, the permittee shall use Y-frame structures. For the 115 kV double circuit transmission line, the permittee shall use delta structures for that portion of the line east of Interstate 35 West (I-35W), and davit arm structures for that portion of the line west of I-35W. For the crossing of I-35W (structures 19 and 20), the permittee shall use specialty arch-shaped structures (N-structures).

For that section of the line west of I-35W where the permittee uses davit arm structures, the permittee shall use specialized davit arms. The permittee shall confer with the city of Burnsville as to the davit arm shape for these structures and shall use a shape which is agreeable to the city and the permittee for this section of the line.

The permittee shall underbuild or place underground the existing distribution line that runs along the western end of 118th St. and along Golf Drive.

The conductor for all new transmission lines and reconductoring shall be 795 26/7 aluminum conductor steel supported (ACSS) or its equivalent.

All transmission lines shall be equipped with protective devices to safeguard the public if an accident occurs.

All transmission lines shall be designed to meet or exceed local and state codes, the National Electric Safety Code (NESC), and North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) requirements. This includes standards relating to clearance to ground, clearance to crossing utilities, clearance to buildings, clearance to vegetation, strength of materials, clearances over roadways, right-of-way widths, and permit requirements.

The permittee shall confer with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) as to the proper clearance for the new 115 kV double circuit line over I-35W and shall meet or exceed all clearance requirements.

3 DESIGNATED ROUTE

The designated route and anticipated alignment are shown on the route maps attached to this permit and further described as follows:

Two new 115 kV single circuit transmission lines would exit the Black Dog substation proceeding westward approximately 0.4 miles, where these lines would join on a double circuit structure. The line would then proceed, as a double circuit, westward along the northern edge of Black Dog Lake and along I-35W to a crossing of I-35W (approximately 2.4 miles). After crossing I-35W, the line would proceed westward along 118th Street and the northern edge of Kraemer quarry for approximately 1.2 miles. At the intersection of 118th Street and Golf Drive, the line would turn southward and follow Golf Drive for approximately 0.6 miles to its termination at structure 31A.

The reconductoring of Xcel Energy line 0844 would occur within the existing right-of-way and on the existing structures for the line between structure 36 and the Savage substation.

3.1 Route Width and Alignment

The designated route width for the new 115 kV double circuit transmission line shall be 750 feet for that portion of the line east of I-35W, and 400 feet for that portion of the line west of I-35W.

For that section of the route east of I-35W and along Black Dog Road, the anticipated alignment ~~shall be at least~~is 5 feet south of the road and the city of Burnsville's planned trail right-of-way.

For that section of the route west of I-35W and along 118th Street, the anticipated alignment ~~shall be at least~~is 30 feet south of the city of Burnsville's planned roadway surface. For that section of the route west of I-35W and along Golf Drive, the anticipated alignment ~~shall be at least~~is 47 to 48 feet east of the city of Burnsville's planned roadway surface.

In the event that geotechnical or other engineering considerations require that the final alignment for the project be closer to the city of Burnsville's planned development features than noted above, the permittee shall confer with the city on a feasible alignment for the project (see Section 5.6.3, "Plan and Profile Review").

The route width noted above provides the permittee with flexibility for minor adjustments of the specific alignment or right-of-way to accommodate landowner requests and unforeseen conditions. The final alignment (i.e., permanent and maintained right-of-way) will be located within this designated route unless otherwise authorized below.

The designated route identifies an alignment that minimizes the overall potential impacts to the factors identified in Minnesota Rule 7850.4100 and which was evaluated in the environmental review and permitting process. Consequently, this permit anticipates that the transmission line right-of-way will generally conform to the alignment shown in the attached maps and described herein, unless changes are requested by individual landowners, unforeseen conditions are encountered, or are otherwise provided for by this permit.

Any alignment modifications within this designated route shall be located so as to have comparable overall impacts relative to the factors in Minnesota Rule 7850.4100 as does the alignment identified in this permit, and shall be specifically identified, documented, and approved as part of the plan and profile submitted pursuant to Section 4.1 of this permit.

Route width variations outside the designated route may be allowed for the permittee to overcome potential site specific constraints. These constraints may arise from any of the following:

1) Unforeseen circumstances encountered during the detailed engineering and design process.

2) Federal or state agency requirements.

3) Existing infrastructure within the transmission line route, including but not limited to roadways, railroads, natural gas and liquid pipelines, high voltage electric transmission lines, or sewer and water lines.

4) Planned infrastructure improvements identified by state agencies and local government units (LGUs) and made part of the record for this permit.

Any alignment modifications arising from these site specific constraints that would result in right-of-way placement outside the designated route shall be located so as to have comparable overall impacts relative to the factors in Minnesota Rule 7850.4100 as does the alignment

identified in this permit and shall also be specifically identified, documented, and approved as part of the plan and profile submitted pursuant to Section 4.1 of this permit.

3.2 Right-of-Way Placement

Where the transmission line route parallels existing highway and other road rights-of-way, the transmission line right-of-way shall occupy and utilize the existing right-of-way to the maximum extent possible, consistent with the criteria in Minnesota Rule 7850.4100, the requirements of this permit, and – for highways under MnDOT jurisdiction – MnDOT rules, policies, and procedures for accommodating utilities in highway rights-of-way.

3.3 Right-of-Way Width

The new 115 kV double circuit transmission line will require a 100 foot right-of-way, 50 feet on each side of the transmission line centerline. Additional temporary right-of-way may be required from landowners to accommodate construction of the line.

4 GENERAL CONDITIONS

The permittee shall comply with the following general conditions during construction of the transmission line and associated facilities and the life of this permit.

4.1 Plan and Profile

At least thirty (30) days before right-of-way preparation for construction begins on any segment or portion of the project, the permittee shall provide the Commission with a plan and profile of the right-of-way and the specifications and drawings for right-of-way preparation, construction, transmission structure specifications and locations, and restoration for the transmission line. The documentation shall include maps depicting the plan and profile including the right-of-way, alignment, and structures in relation to the route and alignment approved per the permit. The permittee shall submit a plan and profile that is consistent with the Department of Commerce's Plan and Profile Guidance for Transmission Lines, http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/documents/Plan and Profile Guidance 06142012.pdf

The permittee may not commence construction until the thirty (30) days has expired or until the Commission has advised the permittee in writing that it has completed its review of the documents and determined that the planned construction is consistent with this permit. If the permittee intend to make any significant changes in the plan and profile or the specifications and drawings after submission to the Commission, the permittee shall notify the Commission at least five (5) days before implementing the changes. No changes shall be made that would be in violation of any of the terms of this permit.

4.2 Construction Practices

The permittee shall follow those specific construction practices and material specifications described in its route permit application to the Commission, dated February 14, 2012, and as described in the environmental assessment and findings of fact, unless this permit establishes a different requirement, in which case this permit shall prevail.

4.2.1 Field Representative

At least fourteen (14) days prior to commencing construction, the permittee shall advise the Commission in writing of the person or persons designated to be the field representative for the permittee with the responsibility to oversee compliance with the conditions of this permit during construction.

The field representative's address, phone number, email, and emergency phone number shall be provided to the Commission and shall be made available to affected landowners, residents, public officials and other interested persons. The permittee may change the field representative at any time upon written notice to the Commission.

4.2.2 Local Governments

During construction, the permittee shall minimize any disruption to public services or public utilities. To the extent disruptions to public services occur, these would be temporary and the permittee will work to restore service promptly.

Where any impacts to utilities have the potential to occur, permittee will work with both landowners and local agencies to determine the most appropriate transmission structure placement.

The permittee shall cooperate with county and city road authorities to develop appropriate signage and traffic management during construction.

4.2.3 Cleanup

All waste and scrap that is the product of construction shall be removed from the area and properly disposed of upon completion of each task. Personal litter, including bottles, cans, and paper from construction activities shall be removed on a daily basis.

4.2.4 Noise

Construction and routine maintenance activities shall be limited to daytime working hours, as defined in Minnesota Rule 7030.0200, to ensure nighttime noise level standards will not be exceeded.

4.2.5 Vegetation Removal in the Right-of-Way

The permittee shall minimize the number of trees to be removed in selecting and constructing the transmission line right-of-way, specifically preserving windbreaks, shelterbelts, living snow fences, vegetation near trail and stream crossings, and vegetative screening that minimizes aesthetic impacts, to the maximum extent practicable and to the extent that such actions do not violate sound engineering principles or system reliability criteria.

Tall tree species located within the transmission line right-of-way that endanger the safe and reliable operation of the transmission facility may be removed.

In many cases certain low and slow growing species that do not exceed a mature height of 15 feet can be planted in the right-of-way to blend the difference between the right-of-way and adjacent wooded areas, to the extent that the low growing vegetation will not pose a threat to the transmission facility or impede construction.

4.2.6 Aesthetics

The permittee shall consider input pertaining to visual impacts from landowners and land management agencies prior to final location of structures, rights-of-way, and other areas with the potential for visual disturbance. Care shall be used to preserve the natural landscape, minimize tree removal, and prevent any unnecessary destruction of the natural surroundings in the vicinity of the project during construction and maintenance. Structures shall be placed at a reasonable distance, consistent with sound engineering principles and system reliability criteria, from intersecting roads, highway, or trail crossings and may cross roads to minimize or avoid impacts.

4.2.7 Erosion Control

The permittee shall follow erosion control measures outlined in Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) guidance and best management practices regarding sediment control practice during construction, including protecting storm drain inlets, use of silt fences, protecting exposed soil, immediately stabilizing restored soil, controlling temporary soil stockpiles, and controlling vehicle tracking.

The permittee shall implement reasonable measures to minimize runoff during construction and shall promptly plant or seed, erect sediment control fences (e.g. biorolls, sandbags, and silt fences), apply mulch (e.g. hay or straw) on exposed soils, and/or use erosion control blankets and turf reinforcement mats to provide structural stability to bare surfaces and slopes.

When utilizing seed to establish temporary and permanent vegetative cover on exposed soil, the permittee shall select specific site characteristic seed, certified to be free of noxious weeds.

Contours shall be graded as required so that all surfaces drain naturally, blend with the natural terrain, and are left in a condition that will facilitate re-vegetation, provide for proper drainage, and prevent erosion. All areas disturbed during construction of the facilities shall be returned to their pre-construction condition.

If one acre or more of land is disturbed by the project or as otherwise required by the MPCA, the permittee shall prepare a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)/State Disposal System (SDS) construction stormwater permit from the MPCA.

4.2.8 Wetlands and Water Resources

Structures shall be located to span watercourses, wetlands, and floodplains to the extent practicable and consistent with sound engineering principles. Minimal grading of areas

around pole locations may be required to accommodate construction vehicles and equipment.

The permittee shall endeavor to access wetlands and riparian areas using the shortest route possible in order to minimize travel through wetland areas and prevent unnecessary impacts wherever possible.

Construction in wetlands and riparian areas shall be scheduled during frozen ground conditions, when practicable. When construction during winter is not possible, construction mats (wooden mats or a composite mat system) shall be used to protect wetland vegetation. All-terrain construction vehicles designed to minimize soil impact in damp areas may also be used.

No staging or stringing set up areas shall be placed within or adjacent to wetlands or water resources, as practicable. The structures shall be assembled on upland areas before they are brought to the site for installation.

Soil excavated from the wetlands and riparian areas shall be contained and not placed back into the wetland or riparian area. The permittee shall also utilize erosion control methods identified in Section 4.2.7 of this permit, as warranted. Areas disturbed by construction activities shall be restored to pre-construction conditions (soil horizons, contours, vegetation, etc.).

4.2.9 Temporary Work Space

The permittee shall limit temporary easements to special construction access needs and additional staging or lay-down areas required outside of the authorized right-of-way. Space shall be selected to limit the removal and impacts to vegetation.

Temporary lay down areas outside of the authorized transmission line right-of-way will be obtained from affected landowners through rental agreements and are not provided for in this permit.

Temporary driveways may be constructed between the roadway and the structures to minimize impact by using the shortest route possible. Construction mats may also be used to minimize impacts on access paths and construction areas.

4.2.10 Restoration

The permittee shall restore the right-of-way, temporary work spaces, access roads, abandoned right-of-way, and other public or private lands affected by construction of the transmission line. Practices to restore areas impacted by construction and maintenance activities are also described in Section 4.2.7 of this permit.

Restoration within the right-of-way must be compatible with the safe operation, maintenance, and inspection of the transmission line.

Within 60 days after completion of all restoration activities, the permittee shall advise the Commission in writing of the completion of such activities. The permittee shall compensate landowners for any yard/landscape, crop, soil compaction, drain tile, or other damages that may occur during construction.

4.2.11 Notice of Permit

The permittee shall inform all employees, contractors, and other persons involved in the transmission line construction of the terms and conditions of this permit.

4.3 Periodic Status Reports

The permittee shall report to the Commission on progress regarding finalization of the route, design of structures, and construction of the transmission line. The permittee need not report more frequently than monthly.

4.4 Complaint Procedures

Prior to the start of construction, the permittee shall submit to the Commission the procedures that will be used to receive and respond to complaints. The procedures shall be in accordance with the requirements set forth in the complaint procedures attached to this permit.

4.5 Notification to Landowners

The permittee shall provide all affected landowners with a copy of this permit and the complaint procedures at the time of the first contact with the landowners after issuance of this permit. At the time of first contact, the permittee shall also provide all affected landowners with a copy of the *Rights-of-Way and Easements for Energy Facility Construction and Operation* fact sheet provided by the Department of Commerce.

The permittee shall contact landowners prior to entering the property or conducting maintenance along the route. The permittee shall avoid construction and maintenance practices, specifically the use of herbicides or other pesticides, which are inconsistent with the landowner's or tenant's use of the land (See also, Section 4.2.5).

The permittee shall work with landowners to locate the high-voltage transmission line to minimize the loss of agricultural land, forest, and wetlands, and to avoid homes and farmsteads.

4.6 Completion of Construction

4.6.1 Notification to Commission

At least three days before the line is to be placed into service, the permittee shall notify the Commission of the date on which the line will be placed into service and the date on which construction was complete.

4.6.2 As-Builts

Within 60 days after completion of construction, the permittee shall submit copies of all the final as-built plans and specifications developed during the project.

4.6.3 GPS Data

Within 60 days after completion of construction, the permittee shall submit to the Commission, Department of Commerce Energy Facility Permitting staff, and the Minnesota Geospatial Information Office (MnGEO) geospatial information (e.g., ArcGIS compatible map files, shapefiles) for all structures associated with the transmission line, each switch, and each substation connected.

4.7 Electrical Performance Standards

4.7.1 Grounding

The permittee shall design, construct, and operate the transmission line in a manner that the maximum induced steady-state short-circuit current shall be limited to five milliamperes (mA), root mean square (rms) alternating current between the ground and any non-stationary object within the right-of-way, including but not limited to large motor vehicles and agricultural equipment. All fixed metallic objects on or off the right-of-way, except electric fences that parallel or cross the right-of-way, shall be grounded to the extent necessary to limit the induced short-circuit current between ground and the object so as not to exceed one mA rms under steady state conditions of the transmission line and to comply with the ground fault conditions specified in the NESC. The permittee shall address and rectify any induced current problems that arise ~~during~~ from transmission line operation.

4.7.2 Electric Field

The transmission line shall be designed, constructed, and operated in such a manner that the electric field measured one meter above ground level immediately below the transmission line shall not exceed 8.0 kV/m rms.

4.7.3 Interference with Communication Devices

If interference with radio or television, satellite, wireless internet, GPS-based agriculture navigation systems, or other communication devices is caused by the presence or operation of the transmission line, the permittee shall take whatever action is prudently feasible to restore or provide reception equivalent to reception levels in the immediate area just prior to the construction of the line.

4.8 Other Requirements

4.8.1 Applicable Codes

The permittee shall comply with applicable requirements of the NESC including clearances to ground, clearance to crossing utilities, clearance to buildings, right-of-way widths,

erecting power poles, and stringing of transmission line conductors. The transmission line facility shall also meet NERC reliability standards.

4.8.2 Other Permits

The permittee shall comply with all applicable state rules and statutes. The permittee shall obtain all required local, state and federal permits for the project and comply with the conditions of these permits. A list of permits which may be required for the project is included in the route permit application and the environmental assessment. The permittee shall submit a copy of such permits to the Commission upon request.

4.8.3 Pre-emption

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 216E.10, subdivisions 1 and 2, this route permit shall be the sole route approval required to be obtained by the permittee and this permit shall supersede and preempt all zoning, building, or land use rules, regulations, or ordinances promulgated by regional, county, local and special purpose government.

4.8.4 Delay in Construction

If the permittee have not commenced construction or improvement of the route within four years after the date of issuance of this permit, the Commission shall consider suspension of the permit in accordance with Minnesota Rule 7850.4700.

4.9 Archeological and Historic Resources

If any previously unrecorded archaeological sites are discovered during construction of the project, the permittee shall immediately stop work at the site and shall mark and preserve the site(s) and notify the Commission and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of the discovery. The Commission and the SHPO shall have three (3) working days from the time the agency is notified to conduct an inspection of the site if either agency chooses to do so. On the fourth day after notification, the permittee may begin work on the site unless the SHPO has directed that work shall cease. In such event, work shall not continue until the SHPO determines that construction can proceed.

If human remains are encountered during construction, the permittee shall immediately halt construction at that location and promptly notify local law enforcement authorities and the State Archaeologist. Construction at the human remains location shall not proceed until authorized by local law enforcement authorities or the State Archaeologist.

If any federal funding, permit, or license is involved or required, the permittee shall notify the SHPO as soon as possible in the planning process to coordinate section 106 (36 C.F.R. part 800) review.

Prior to construction, construction workers shall be trained about the need to avoid cultural properties, how to identify cultural properties, and procedures to follow if undocumented cultural properties, including gravesites, are found during construction.

4.10 Avian Mitigation

The permittee's transmission design shall incorporate adequate spacing of conductor(s) and grounding devices in accordance with Avian Power Line Interaction Committee standards to minimize the risk of electrocution to raptors with larger wingspans that may simultaneously come in contact with a conductor and grounding devices.

5 SPECIAL CONDITIONS

Special conditions shall take precedence over other conditions of this permit if there should be a conflict between the two.

5.1 Flight Diverters

The permittee shall place bird flight diverters on the overhead static lines along the entirety of the designated route for the 115 kV double circuit transmission line and the 115 kV single circuit connecting lines, excepting that portion of the route which crosses over I-35W. Diverters shall be placed every 40 feet along a transmission line circuit (staggered every 20 feet along the double circuit transmission line).

5.2 Blanding's Turtle

The permittee shall follow the measures and recommendations for avoiding and minimizing impacts to Blanding's turtle populations as outlined in the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' Environmental Review Fact Sheet for the Blanding's Turtle (http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/natural_resources/animals/reptiles_amphibians/turtles/blandings_turtle/factsheet.pdf). Construction and maintenance personnel shall be made aware of the Blanding's turtle and its habitat during pre-construction meetings.

5.3 Wildlife-friendly Erosion Control Mesh

The permittee shall use wildlife-friendly erosion control mesh for the project.

5.4 Seepage Meadow / Carr Plant Communities

The permittee shall construct that portion of the project which contains Seepage Meadow / Carr plant communities, as this portion is identified in the environmental assessment for project, when the ground is frozen.

5.5 Invasive Species Management Plan

The permittee shall develop an invasive species management plan. The permittee shall file the plan with the Commission fourteen (14) days prior to submitting the plan and profile for the project. The purpose of the plan is to minimize the introduction of invasive species to the project area during construction and maintenance of the project. The plan shall:

a. Document the permittee's coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding invasive species and project construction and maintenance practices.
b. Document the permittee's coordination with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources regarding invasive species, including the permittee's review of invasive

species best management practices provided by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/dnrlands.html, http://council.wisconsinforestry.org/invasives/transportation/).

c. Identify measures that the permittee will use to avoid and minimize the introduction of invasive species to the project area during construction and maintenance of the project.

5.6 Coordination with the City of Burnsville

5.6.1 Shoreland and Floodplain Ordinances

The permittee shall coordinate with the city of Burnsville and shall supply information required by the city concerning the project, so that the city may review the project for consistency with state and federally mandated floodplain and shoreland requirements. The permittee shall implement, to the extent practicable, those measures identified by the city during its review that would make the project most consistent with these requirements.

5.6.2 Vegetation Removal

The permittee, upon completion of pre-construction surveying and prior to any vegetation removal, shall coordinate with the city of Burnsville and relate the types and locations of vegetation that will be removed for construction of the project. The permittee's coordination shall be documented and included with the permittee's plan and profile submission(s) (Section 4.1).

5.6.3 Plan and Profile Review

The permittee shall consult with the city of Burnsville regarding the plan and profile drawings for the project and shall allow the city to review and comment on the drawings prior to the permittee's submission of the drawings to the Commission. The permittee shall document the city's comments and permittee's responses and shall include them with the permittee's plan and profile submission(s) (Section 4.1).

5.6.4 Wetlands Review

The applicant shall coordinate with the city of Burnsville to determine the proper application of the State of Minnesota's Wetlands Conservation Act (WCA) to the project.

5.7 Coordination on Dump Sites, Fill Sites, and Solid or Hazardous Wastes

The permittee shall notify Dakota County if it encounters dump sites, fill sites, or solid or hazardous waste during construction of the project. The permittee shall coordinate with the county on the management of such sites or waste, should they be encountered during construction of the project.

5.8 Coordination on Regional Greenway Trail

The permittee shall coordinate with the city of Burnsville and Dakota County concerning the alignment of the project along Black Dog Road and the regional greenway trail planned to

parallel Black Dog Road. The permittee shall document this coordination and shall include it with the permittee's plan and profile submission(s) (Section 4.1).

5.9 Coordination on Future 118th St. Interchange / Crossing of I-35W

The permittee shall coordinate with the city of Burnsville, Dakota County, and Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) metro district planners concerning the alignment of the project and the placement of structures at the project's proposed crossing of I-35W (the potential future site of the 118th St. interchange). The coordination shall be undertaken to minimize the likelihood that the location of the project will constrain future highway improvements, including a potential 118th St. interchange. The permittee shall document this coordination and shall include it with the permittee's plan and profile submission(s) (Section 4.1).

6 PERMIT AMENDMENT

This permit may be amended at any time by the Commission. Any person may request an amendment of the conditions of this permit by submitting a request to the Commission in writing describing the amendment sought and the reasons for the amendment. The Commission will mail notice of receipt of the request to the permittee. The Commission may amend the conditions after affording the permittee and interested persons such process as is required.

7 TRANSFER OF PERMIT

The permittee may request at any time that the Commission transfer this permit to another person or entity. The permittee shall provide the name and description of the person or entity to whom the permit is requested to be transferred, the reasons for the transfer, a description of the facilities affected, and the proposed effective date of the transfer.

The person to whom the permit is to be transferred shall provide the Commission with such information as the Commission shall require to determine whether the new permittee can comply with the conditions of the permit. The Commission may authorize transfer of the permit after affording the permittee, the new permittee, and interested persons such process as is required.

8 REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF THE PERMIT

The Commission may initiate action to revoke or suspend this permit at any time. The Commission shall act in accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Rule 7850.5100 to revoke or suspend the permit.

MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
COMPLIANCE FILING PROCEDURE
FOR PERMITTED ENERGY FACILITIES

1. Purpose

To establish a uniform and timely method of submitting information required by Commission energy facility permits.

2. Scope and Applicability

This procedure encompasses all compliance filings required by permit.

3. Definitions

Compliance Filing – A sending (filing) of information to the Commission, where the information is required by a Commission site or route permit.

4. Responsibilities

A) The permittee shall eFile all compliance filings with Dr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary, Public Utilities Commission, through the Commission's electronic filing system (eDockets). The system is hosted by the Department of Commerce at: https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/home.jsp

General instructions are provided on the website. To eFile a document a permittee must be registered and obtain a user ID and password.

B) All filings must have a cover sheet that includes:

1. Date
2. Name of submitter / permittee
3. Type of permit (site or route)
4. Project location
5. Project docket number
6. Permit section under which the filing is made
7. Short description of the filing

C) Filings that are graphic intensive (e.g., maps, plan and profile) must, in addition to being eFiled, be submitted as paper copies and on CD. Copies and CDs should be sent to: (1) Dr. Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN, 55101-2147, and (2) Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN, 55101-2198. Additionally, the Commission may request a paper copy of any eFiled document.

BLANK

PERMIT COMPLIANCE FILINGS[1]

PERMITTEE(S): Northern States Power Company
PERMIT TYPE: HVTL Route Permit
PROJECT LOCATION: Dakota County
PUC DOCKET NUMBER: E002/TL-11-795

Filing Number	Permit Section	Description	Due Date
1	4. 1	Plan and profile of right-of-way (ROW)	30 days before ROW preparation for construction
2	4.2.1	Contact information for field representative	14 days prior to construction
3	4.2.10	Restoration complete	60 days after completion of all restoration activities
4	4.3	Periodic status reports	Monthly
5	4.4	Complaint procedures	Prior to start of construction
6	Complaint Handling Procedures	Complaint reports	By the 15th of each month
7	4.5	Notification to landowners	First contact with landowners after permit issuance
8	4.6.1	Notice of completion and date of placement in service	Three days prior to energizing
9	4.6.2	Provide as-built plans and specifications	Within 60 days after completion of construction
10	4.6.3	Provide GPS data	Within 60 days after completion of construction
11	4.9	Notification of previously unrecorded archaeological sites	Upon discovery
12	5.5	Invasive species management plan	14 days prior to submission of plan and profile

[1] This compilation of permit compliance filings is provided for the convenience of the permittee(s) and the Commission. However, it is not a substitute for the permit; the language of the permit controls.

Filing Number	Permit Section	Description	Due Date
13	5.6.2	Coordination with city of Burnsville on vegetation removal	Included with plan and profile submission
14	5.6.3	Coordination with city of Burnsville on plan and profile	Included with plan and profile submission
15	5.8	Coordination on regional greenway trail	Included with plan and profile submission
16	5.9	Coordination on future 118th St. interchange / crossing of I-35W	Included with plan and profile submission

MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
COMPLAINT HANDLING PROCEDURES
FOR HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES

1. Purpose

To establish a uniform and timely method of reporting complaints received by the permittee concerning permit conditions for site preparation, construction, cleanup and restoration, operation, and resolution of such complaints.

2. Scope

This reporting plan encompasses complaint report procedures and frequency.

3. Applicability

The procedures shall be used for all complaints received by the permittee.

4. Definitions

Complaint – A statement presented to the permittee by a person expressing dissatisfaction, resentment, or discontent as a direct result of the high voltage transmission line and associated facilities. Complaints do not include requests, inquiries, questions or general comments.

Substantial Complaint – A written complaint alleging a violation of a specific route permit condition that, if substantiated, could result in permit modification or suspension pursuant to the applicable regulations.

Unresolved Complaint – A complaint which, despite the good faith efforts of the permittee and a person(s), remains to both or one of the parties unresolved or unsatisfactorily resolved.

Person – An individual, partnership, joint venture, private or public corporation, association, firm, public service company, cooperative, political subdivision, municipal corporation, government agency, public utility district, or any other entity, public or private, however organized.

5. Complaint Documentation and Processing

Everyone involved with any phase of the high voltage transmission line is responsible for ensuring expeditious and equitable resolution of all complaints. It is therefore necessary to establish a uniform method for documenting and handling complaints related to this high voltage transmission line project. The following procedures will satisfy this requirement:

A. The permittee shall document all complaints by maintaining a record of all applicable information concerning the complaint, including the following:

1. Name of the permittee and project.
2. Name of complainant, address and phone number.
3. Precise property description or parcel number (where applicable).
4. Nature of complaint.
5. Response given.
6. Name of person receiving complaint and date of receipt.
7. Name of person reporting complaint to the Public Utilities Commission and phone number.
8. Final disposition and date.

B. The permittee shall assign an individual to summarize complaints for transmittal to the Commission.

6. Reporting Requirements

The permittee shall report all complaints to the Commission according to the following schedule:

Immediate Reports – All substantial complaints shall be reported to the Commission the same day received, or on the following working day for complaints received after working hours. Such reports are to be directed to the Commission's Consumer Affairs Office at 1-800-657-3782 or consumer.puc@state.mn.us. Voice messages are acceptable. E-mail Subject Line should read "EFP Complaint" w/ docket. No.

Monthly Reports – By the 15th of each month, a summary of all complaints, including substantial complaints and unresolved complaints, received during the preceding month shall be eFiled with the Commission.

If no Complaints were received during the preceding month, the permittee shall submit (eFile) a summary indicating that no complaints were received.

7. Complaints Received by the Commission or Department of Commerce

Complaints received directly by the Commission or Department of Commerce from aggrieved persons regarding site preparation, construction, cleanup, restoration, operation, and maintenance shall be promptly sent to the permittee.

8. Commission Process for Unresolved Complaints

Initial Screening – Commission staff shall perform an initial evaluation of unresolved complaints submitted to the Commission. Complaints raising substantive routing permit issues shall be processed and resolved by the Commission. Staff shall notify the permittee and the complainant if it determines that the complaint is a substantial complaint. With respect to such complaints, each party shall submit a written summary of its position to the Commission no later than ten days after receipt of the staff

notification. The complaint will be presented to the Commission for a decision as soon as practicable.

Condemnation/Compensation Issues – If the Commission staff's initial screening determines that a complaint raises issues concerning the just compensation to be paid to landowners on account of permittee acquisition of high voltage transmission line easements, staff shall recommend to the Executive Secretary that the matter be resolved under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 117. If the Executive Secretary concurs, he shall so report to the Commission and the matter shall be dealt with in the high voltage transmission line condemnation proceedings as an issue of just compensation.

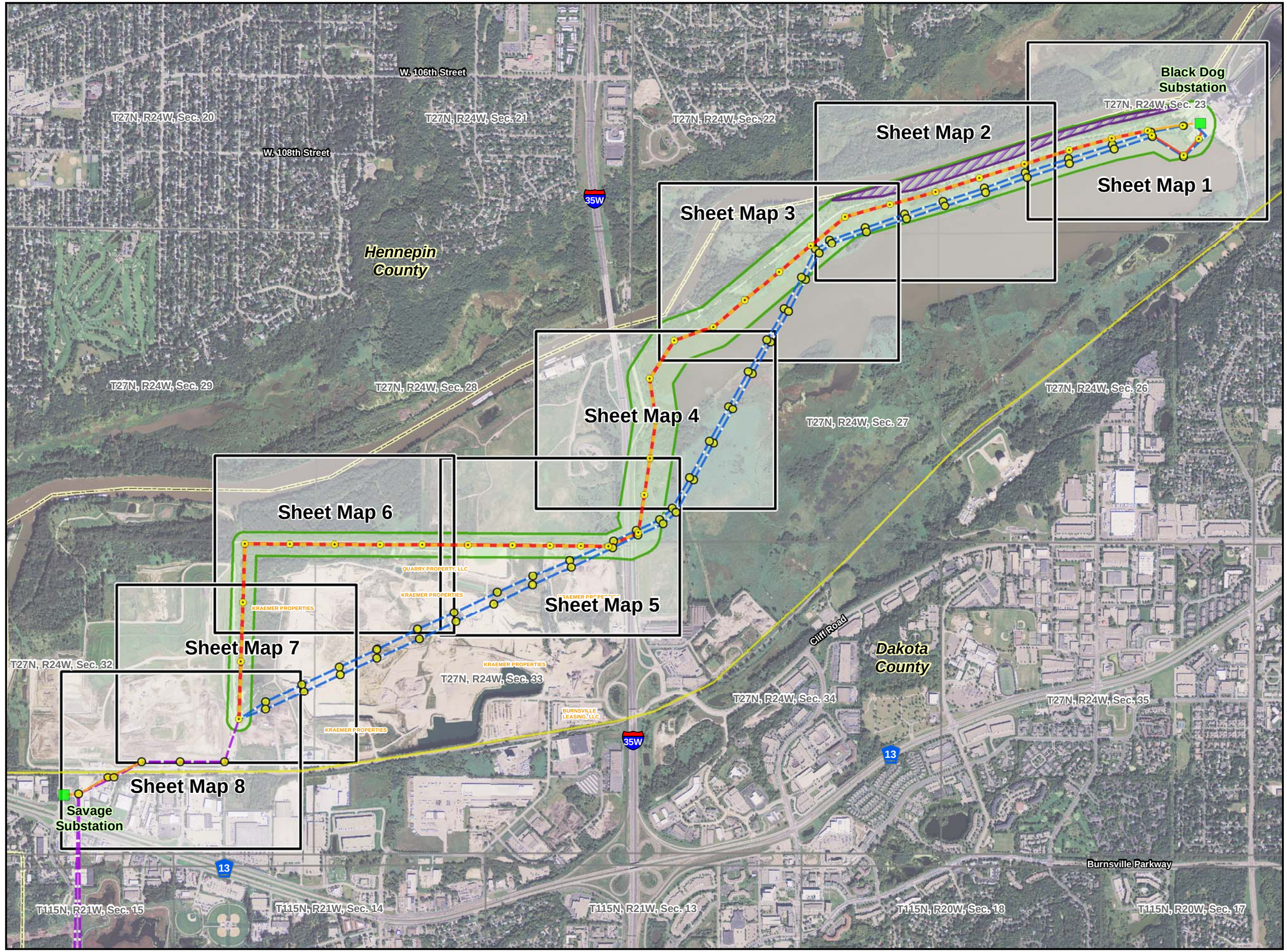
9. Permittee Contact for Complaints

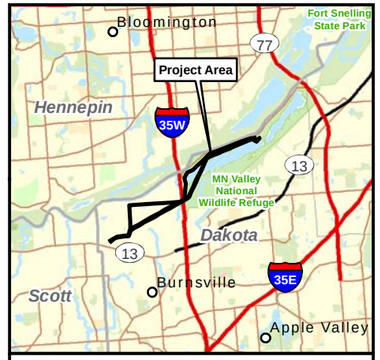
Ellen Heine
Permitting/Compliance Analyst
Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall, MP-8
Minneapolis, MN 55401
612-330-6073
ellen.l.heine@xcelenergy.com

Any change that is made to the permittee contact for complaint reporting shall be promptly eFiled with the Commission and notification shall be provided to all affected landowners.

BLANK

ROUTE MAPS





0 800 1,600 Feet

1 inch = 1,600 feet

Permitted Route

- Permitted Route
- Excised Area of Permitted Route
- Anticipated Alignment, Line 0861, Single Circuit (115kV)
- Anticipated Alignment, Line 0844, Single Circuit (115kV)
- Anticipated Alignment, Lines 0844 and 0861, Double Circuit (115kV)
- Anticipated Structures

Existing Utilities

- Existing Structures
- Xcel Energy Substation
- Lines 0844 and 0861 - To Be Removed
- Lines 0844 and 0861 - To Remain
- Union-Pacific Railroad

Base Data

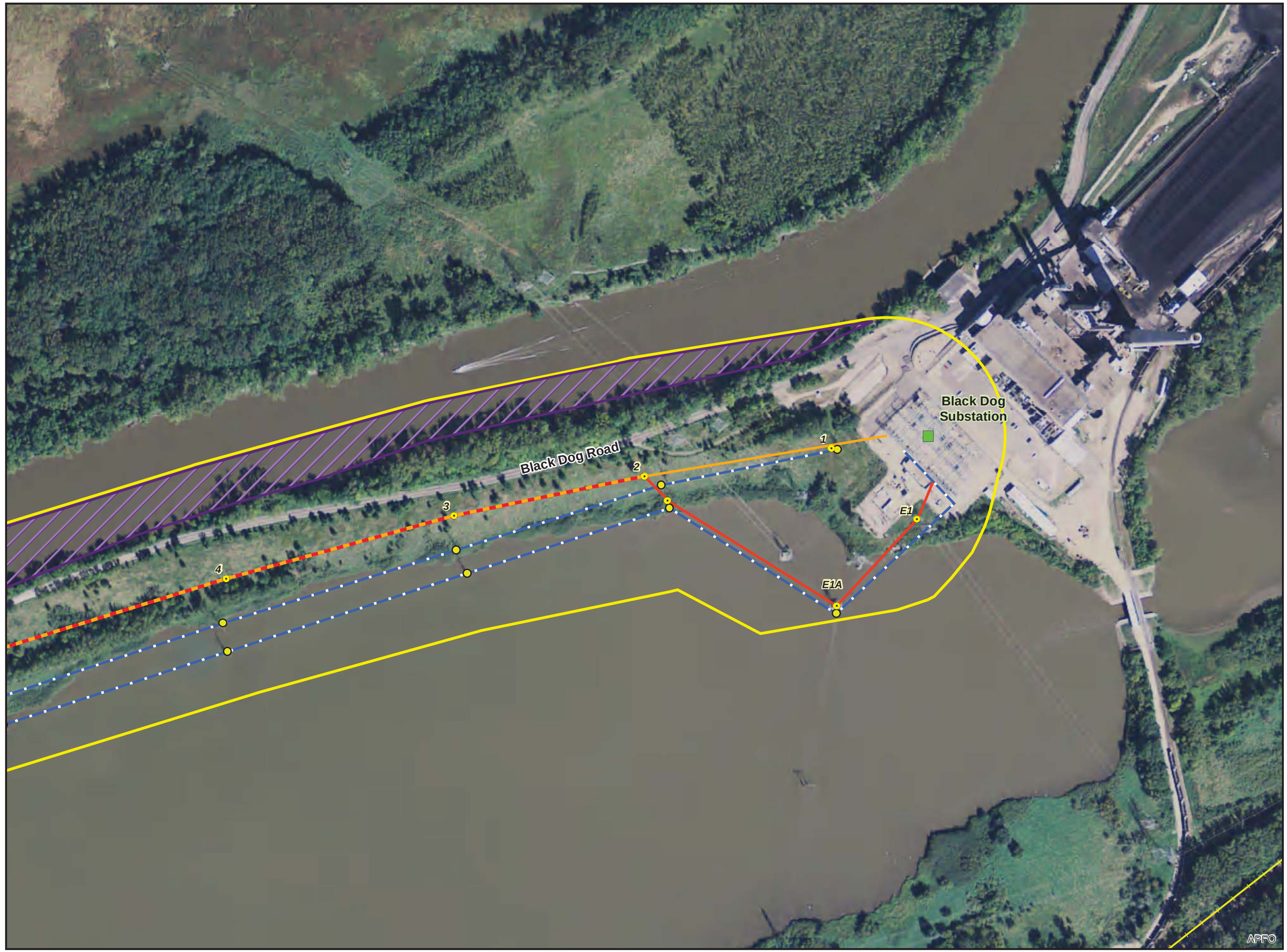
- Section Boundary
- County Boundary

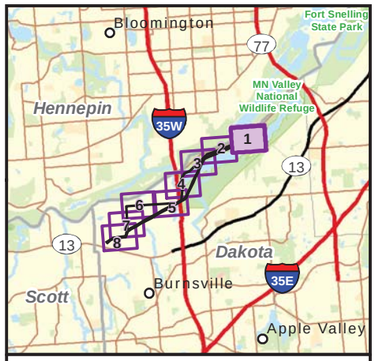
Black Dog to Savage 115 kV Project

PUC Docket No. E002/TL-11-795

Sheet Map Key

Source: Aerial Photography: NAIP 2010
All Other Data Provided by Xcel Energy, Merjent
This information is for environmental review purposes only.
Revision Date: 09/20/2012





0 150 300 Feet

1 inch = 300 feet

Permitted Route

- Permitted Route
- Excised Area of Permitted Route
- Anticipated Alignment, Line 0861, Single Circuit (115kV)
- Anticipated Alignment, Line 0844, Single Circuit (115kV)
- Anticipated Alignment, Lines 0844 and 0861, Double Circuit (115kV)
- Anticipated Structures

Existing Utilities

- Lines 0844 and 0861 - To Be Removed
- Lines 0844 and 0861 - To Remain
- Existing Structures
- Xcel Energy Substation
- Storm Sewer
- Union-Pacific Railroad

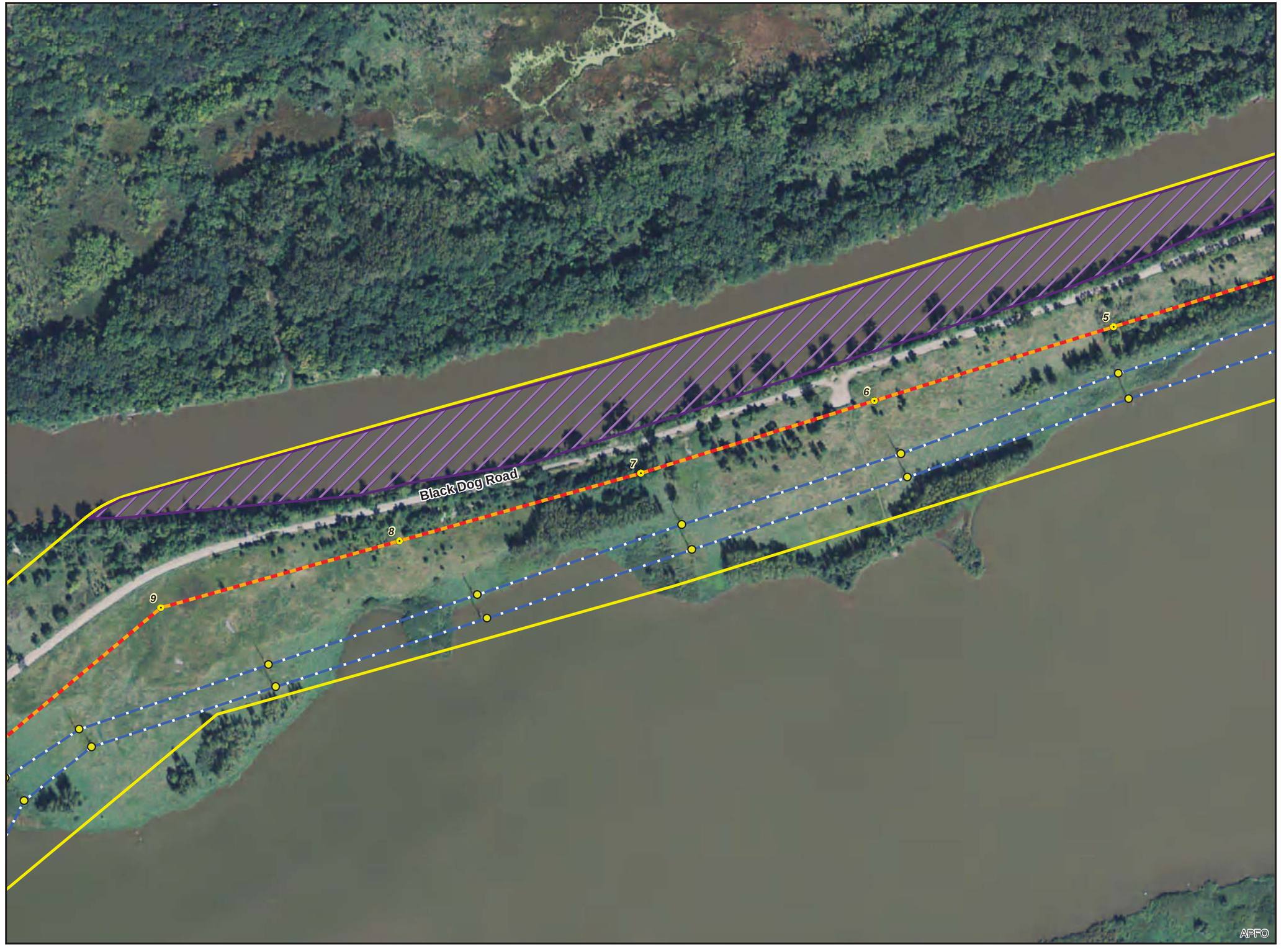
Black Dog to Savage 115 kV Project

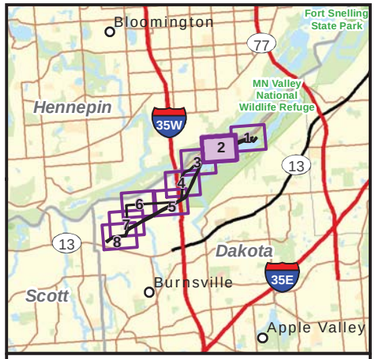
PUC Docket No. E002/TL-11-795

Map 1 of 8

Route Permit Map

Source: *Aerial Photography: NAIP 2010*
All Other Data Provided by Xcel Energy, Merjent, ESRI, MNDOT and the MN DNR
This information is for environmental review purposes only.
Revision Date: 09/19/2012





0 150 300 Feet

1 inch = 300 feet

Permitted Route

- Permitted Route
- Excised Area of Permitted Route
- Anticipated Alignment, Line 0861, Single Circuit (115kV)
- Anticipated Alignment, Line 0844, Single Circuit (115kV)
- Anticipated Alignment, Lines 0844 and 0861, Double Circuit (115kV)
- Anticipated Structures

Existing Utilities

- Lines 0844 and 0861 - To Be Removed
- Lines 0844 and 0861 - To Remain
- Existing Structures
- Xcel Energy Substation
- Storm Sewer
- Union-Pacific Railroad

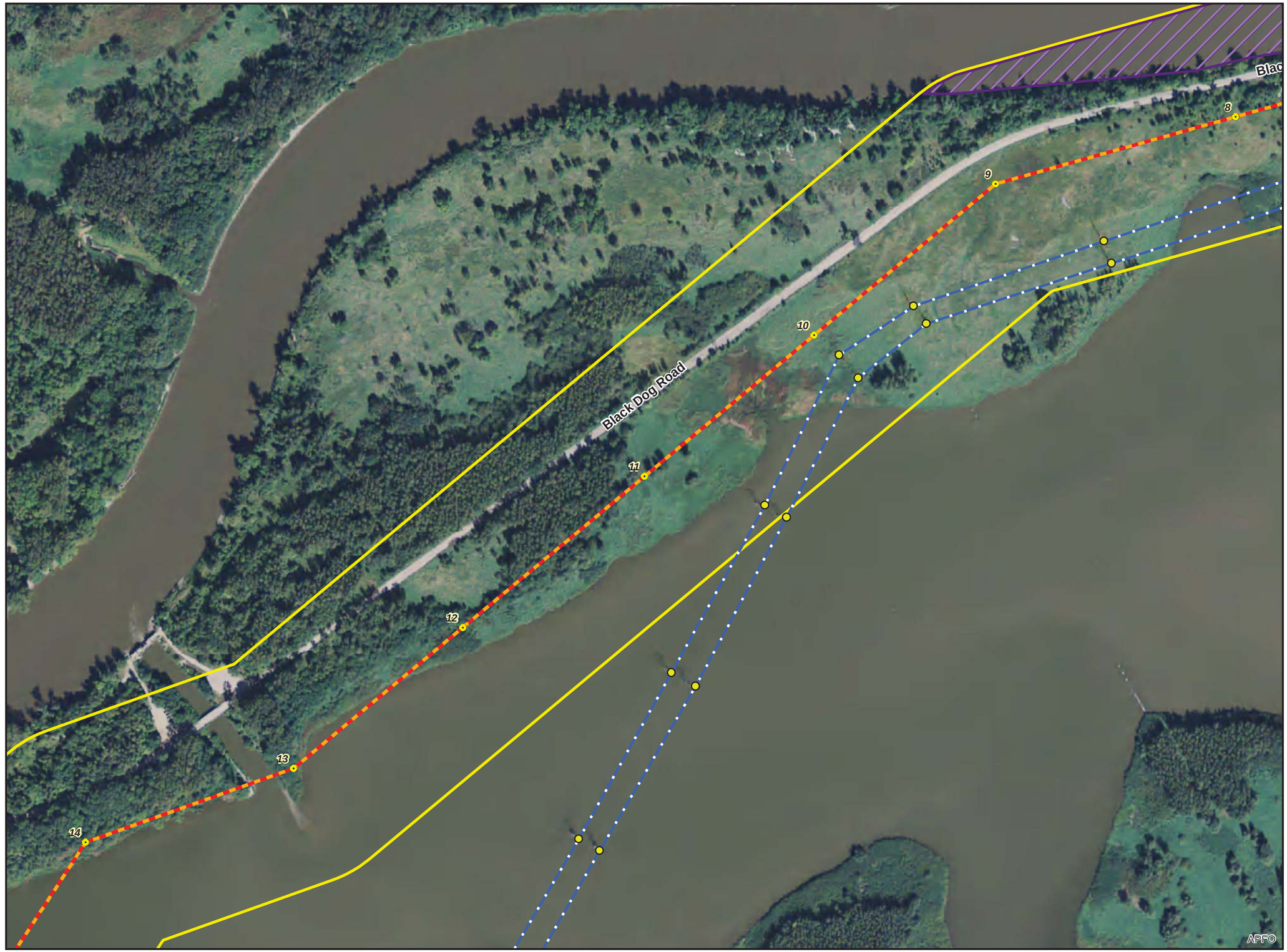
Black Dog to Savage 115 kV Project

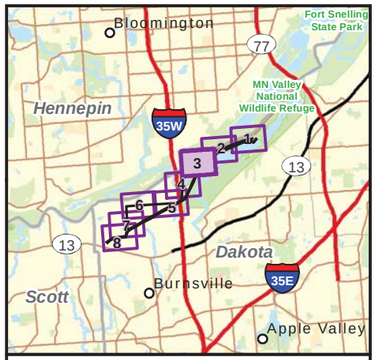
PUC Docket No. E002/TL-11-795

Map 2 of 8

Route Permit Map

Source: *Aerial Photography: NAIP 2010*
All Other Data Provided by Xcel Energy, Merjent, ESRI, MNDOT and the MN DNR
This information is for environmental review purposes only.
Revision Date: 09/19/2012





0 150 300 Feet

1 inch = 300 feet

Permitted Route

- Permitted Route
- Excised Area of Permitted Route
- Anticipated Alignment, Line 0861, Single Circuit (115kV)
- Anticipated Alignment, Line 0844, Single Circuit (115kV)
- Anticipated Alignment, Lines 0844 and 0861, Double Circuit (115kV)
- Anticipated Structures

Existing Utilities

- Lines 0844 and 0861 - To Be Removed
- Lines 0844 and 0861 - To Remain
- Existing Structures
- Xcel Energy Substation
- Storm Sewer
- Union-Pacific Railroad

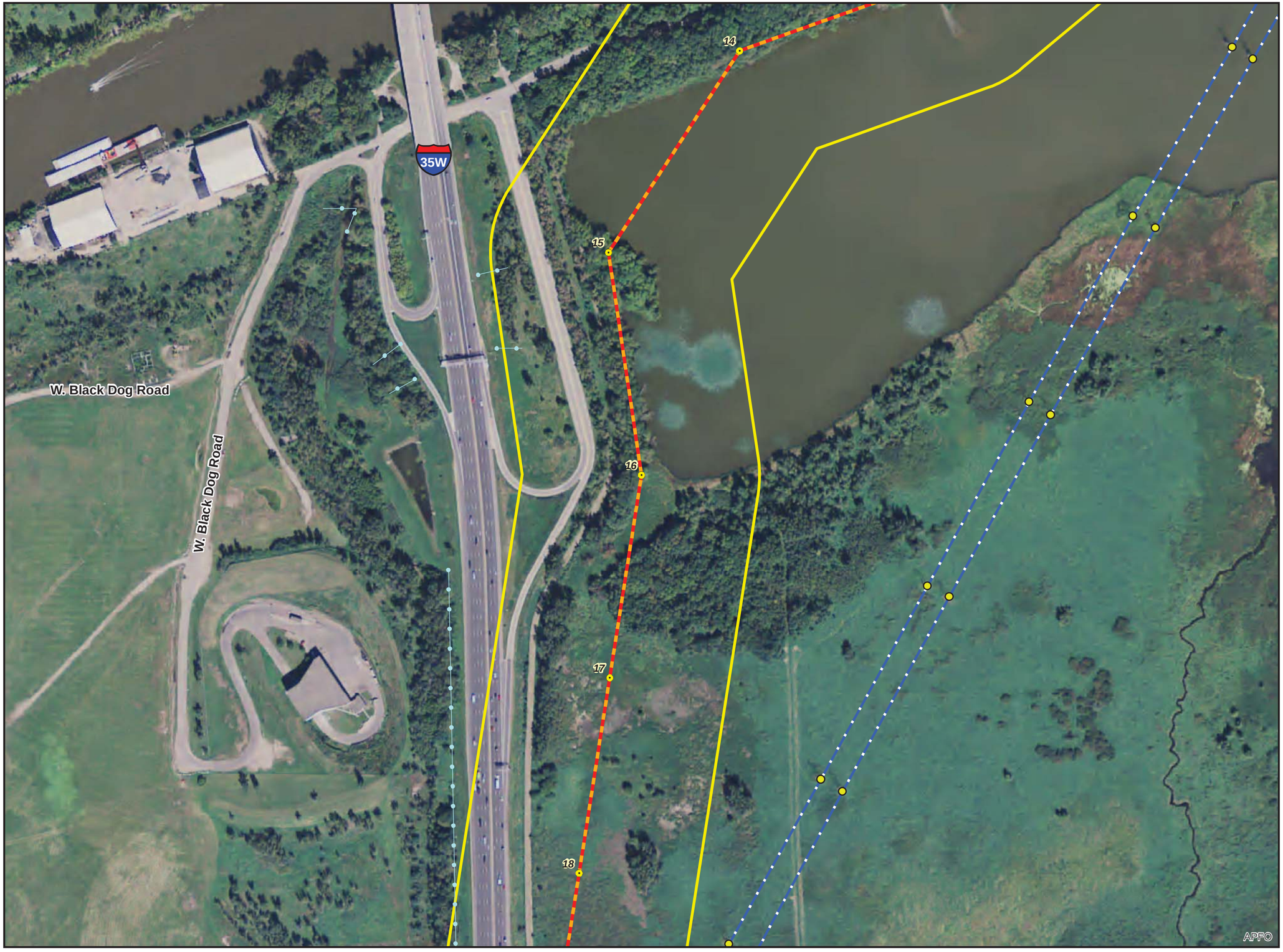
Black Dog to Savage 115 kV Project

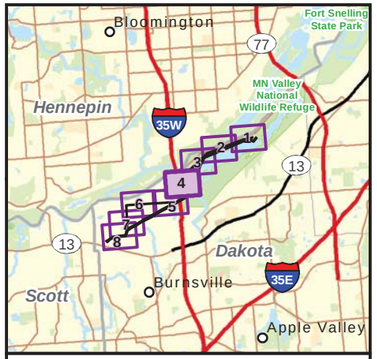
PUC Docket No. E002/TL-11-795

Map 3 of 8

Route Permit Map

Source: *Aerial Photography: NAIP 2010*
All Other Data Provided by Xcel Energy, Merjent, ESRI, MNDOT and the MN DNR
This information is for environmental review purposes only.
Revision Date: 09/19/2012





0 150 300 Feet

1 inch = 300 feet

Permitted Route

- Permitted Route
- Excised Area of Permitted Route
- Anticipated Alignment, Line 0861, Single Circuit (115kV)
- Anticipated Alignment, Line 0844, Single Circuit (115kV)
- Anticipated Alignment, Lines 0844 and 0861, Double Circuit (115kV)
- Anticipated Structures

Existing Utilities

- Lines 0844 and 0861 - To Be Removed
- Lines 0844 and 0861 - To Remain
- Existing Structures
- Xcel Energy Substation
- Storm Sewer
- Union-Pacific Railroad

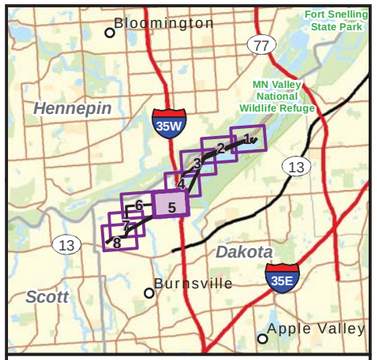
Black Dog to Savage 115 kV Project

PUC Docket No. E002/TL-11-795

Map 4 of 8

Route Permit Map

Source: *Aerial Photography: NAIP 2010*
All Other Data Provided by Xcel Energy, Merjent, ESRI, MNDOT and the MN DNR
This information is for environmental review purposes only.
Revision Date: 09/19/2012



0 150 300 Feet

1 inch = 300 feet

Permitted Route

- Permitted Route
- Excised Area of Permitted Route
- Anticipated Alignment, Line 0861, Single Circuit (115kV)
- Anticipated Alignment, Line 0844, Single Circuit (115kV)
- Anticipated Alignment, Lines 0844 and 0861, Double Circuit (115kV)
- Anticipated Structures

Existing Utilities

- Lines 0844 and 0861 - To Be Removed
- Lines 0844 and 0861 - To Remain
- Existing Structures
- Xcel Energy Substation
- Storm Sewer
- Union-Pacific Railroad

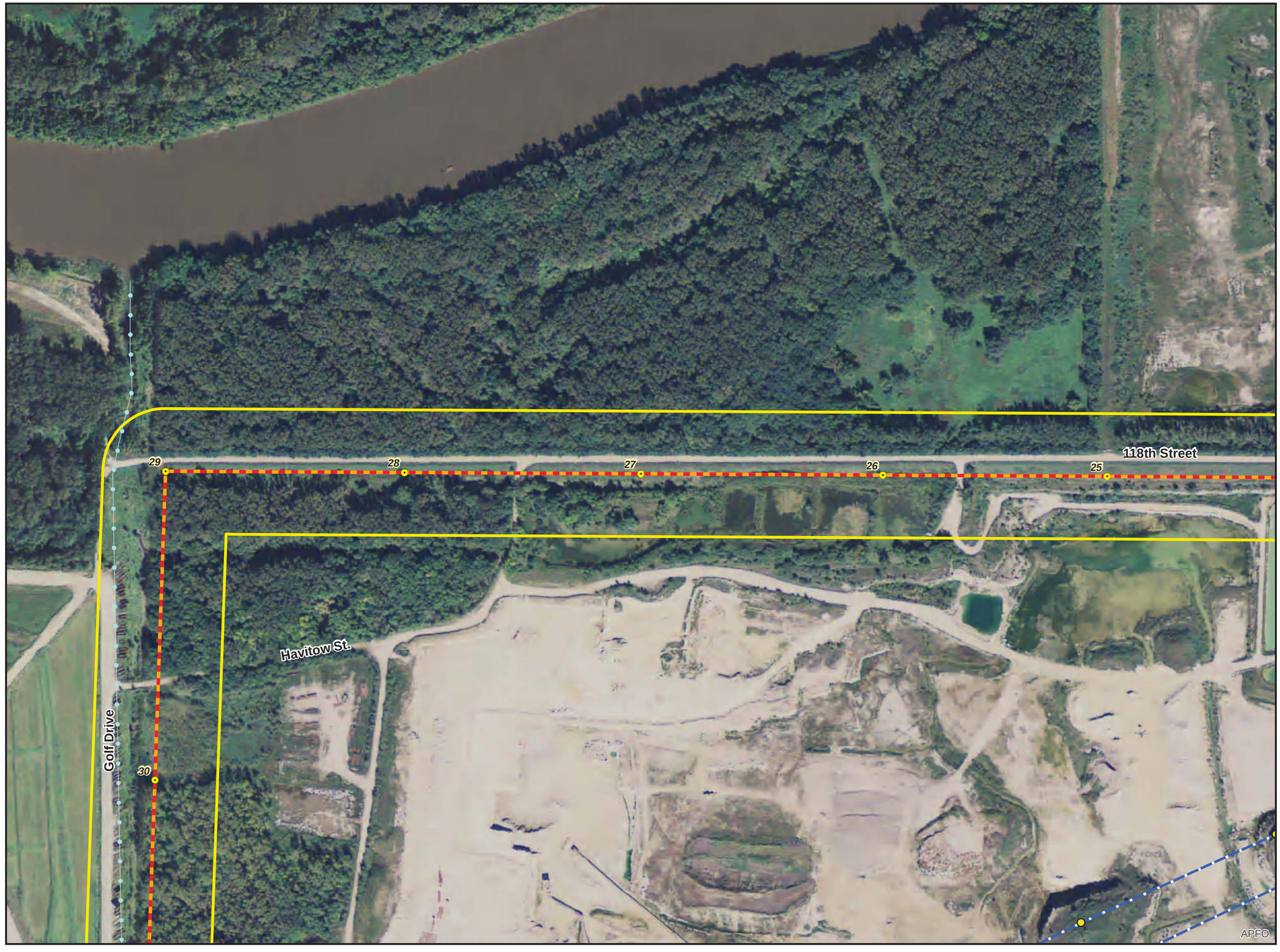
Black Dog to Savage 115 kV Project

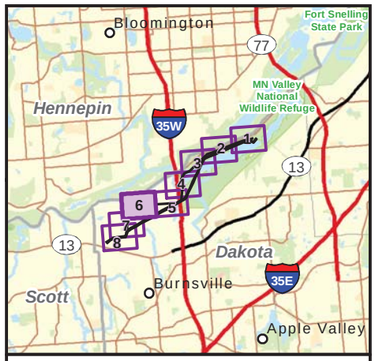
PUC Docket No. E002/TL-11-795

Map 5 of 8

Route Permit Map

Source: *Aerial Photography: NAIP 2010*
All Other Data Provided by Xcel Energy, Merjent, ESRI, MNDOT and the MN DNR
This information is for environmental review purposes only.
Revision Date: 09/19/2012





0 150 300 Feet

1 inch = 300 feet

Permitted Route

- Permitted Route
- Excised Area of Permitted Route
- Anticipated Alignment, Line 0861, Single Circuit (115kV)
- Anticipated Alignment, Line 0844, Single Circuit (115kV)
- Anticipated Alignment, Lines 0844 and 0861, Double Circuit (115kV)
- Anticipated Structures

Existing Utilities

- Lines 0844 and 0861 - To Be Removed
- Lines 0844 and 0861 - To Remain
- Existing Structures
- Xcel Energy Substation
- Storm Sewer
- Union-Pacific Railroad

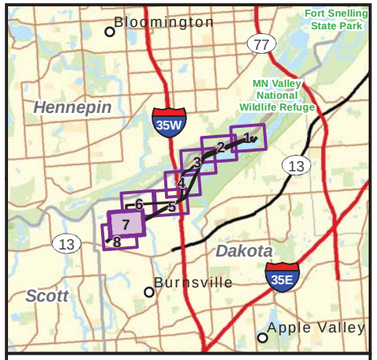
Black Dog to Savage 115 kV Project

PUC Docket No. E002/TL-11-795

Map 6 of 8

Route Permit Map

Source: *Aerial Photography: NAIP 2010*
All Other Data Provided by Xcel Energy, Merjent, ESRI, MNDOT and the MN DNR
This information is for environmental review purposes only.
Revision Date: 09/19/2012



0 150 300 Feet

1 inch = 300 feet

Permitted Route

- Permitted Route
- Excised Area of Permitted Route
- Anticipated Alignment, Line 0861, Single Circuit (115kV)
- Anticipated Alignment, Line 0844, Single Circuit (115kV)
- Anticipated Alignment, Lines 0844 and 0861, Double Circuit (115kV)
- Anticipated Structures

Existing Utilities

- Lines 0844 and 0861 - To Be Removed
- Lines 0844 and 0861 - To Remain
- Existing Structures
- Xcel Energy Substation
- Storm Sewer
- Union-Pacific Railroad

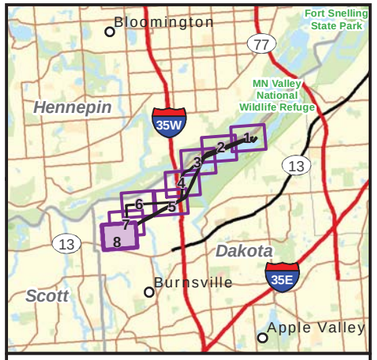
Black Dog to Savage 115 kV Project

PUC Docket No. E002/TL-11-795

Map 7 of 8

Route Permit Map

Source: *Aerial Photography: NAIP 2010*
All Other Data Provided by Xcel Energy, Merjent, ESRI, MNDOT and the MN DNR
This information is for environmental review purposes only.
Revision Date: 09/19/2012



0 150 300 Feet

1 inch = 300 feet

Permitted Route

- Permitted Route
- Excised Area of Permitted Route
- Anticipated Alignment, Line 0861, Single Circuit (115kV)
- Anticipated Alignment, Line 0844, Single Circuit (115kV)
- Anticipated Alignment, Lines 0844 and 0861, Double Circuit (115kV)
- Anticipated Structures

Existing Utilities

- Lines 0844 and 0861 - To Be Removed
- Lines 0844 and 0861 - To Remain
- Existing Structures
- Xcel Energy Substation
- Storm Sewer
- Union-Pacific Railroad

Black Dog to Savage 115 kV Project

PUC Docket No. E002/TL-11-795

Map 8 of 8

Route Permit Map

Source: *Aerial Photography: NAIP 2010*
All Other Data Provided by Xcel Energy, Merjent, ESRI, MNDOT and the MN DNR
This information is for environmental review purposes only.
Revision Date: 09/19/2012