APPENDIX C

Agency Correspondence

APPENDIX C.1

List of Agencies

Xcel Energy
Kohlman to Goose Lake 115/115kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project
Appendix C.1 – List of Agencies

Agency	Contact Name	Title	Address 1	City	State	Zip
Ramsey County Historical Society	John Lindley	Executive Director & Editor	323 Landmark Center 75 West Fifth St.	St. Paul	MN	55102
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	Gene Hugoson	Commissioner	625 Robert Street North	St. Paul	MN	55107
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Region 3	Keith Parker	Regional Director	1200 Warner Rd.	St. Paul	MN	55106
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Division of Ecological and Water Resources	Steve Hirsch	Director	500 Lafayette Road	St. Paul	MN	55155
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Doug Norris	Wetlands Program Coordinator	500 Lafayette Road	St. Paul	MN	55155
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Region 3	Tim Bremicker	Regional Wildlife Manager	1200 Warner Road	St. Paul	MN	55106
Minnesota Department of Transportation - District 3	Scott McBride	District Engineer	1500 W. County Road B-2	Roseville	MN	55113
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	Susan Heffron	Environmental Review Coordinator	520 Lafayette Road	St. Paul	MN	55155
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission	Dr. Burl Haar	Executive Secretary	121 7th Place East, Suite 350	St. Paul	MN	55101
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - St. Paul District -Ramsey County	Andy Beaudet	County Project Manager	180 5th Street E., Suite 700	St. Paul	MN	55101
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Minnesota	Tony Sullins	Field Supervisor	4101 American Boulevard E.	Bloomington	MN	55425
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Division of Waters	Molly Shodeen	Area Hydrologist	1200 Warner Road	St. Paul	MN	55106

APPENDIX C.2

List of LGUs Sent a Project Notice Letter

Xcel Energy
Kohlman to Goose Lake 115/115kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project
Appendix C.2 – List of Local Government Units

Agency	Contact Name	Title	Address 1	City	State	Zip
Ramsey Conservation District	Ann WhiteEagle	Administrator	1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive	Arden Hills	MN	55112
Ramsey Conservation District	Carrie Wasley	Chair	1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive	Arden Hills	MN	55112
Ramsey Conservation District	Janelle Anderson	Secretary	1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive	Arden Hills	MN	55112
Ramsey Conservation District	Margaret Behrens	Education and Information	1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive	Arden Hills	MN	55112
Ramsey Conservation District	Mara Humphrey	Vice Chair	1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive	Arden Hills	MN	55112
Ramsey Conservation District	Gwen Willems	Treasurer	1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive	Arden Hills	MN	55112
Ramsey Conservation District	Mike Goodnature	GIS Natural Resource Specialist	1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive	Arden Hills	MN	55112
Ramsey Conservation District	Ryan Johnson	Urban BMP Specialist	1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive	Arden Hills	MN	55112
Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District	Roger Lake	President of the Board	2442 Jansen Avenue	White Bear Lake	MN	55110
Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District	Cliff Aichinger	District Administrator	2665 Noel Drive	Little Canada	MN	55117
Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District	Jack Frost	Treasurer	2324 E. Maple Lane	Maplewood	MN	55109
Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District	Bob Johnson	Secretary	418 Burlington Road	St. Paul	MN	55119
City of Gem Lake	Tina Carstens	WCA - Watershed District Contact	3622 104th Avenue N	Brooklyn Park	MN	55443

Xcel Energy
Kohlman to Goose Lake 115/115kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project
Appendix C.2 – List of Local Government Units

Agency	Contact Name	Title	Address 1	City	State	Zip
City of Gem Lake	Stephanie McNamara	WCA - Watershed Mgmt. Organization Contact	1369 East Cty Road E	Gem Lake	MN	55110
City of Vadnais Heights	Tina Carstens	WCA - Watershed District Contact	3622 104th Avenue N	Brooklyn Park	MN	55443
City of Vadnais Heights	Stephanie McNamara	WCA - Watershed Mgmt. Organization Contact	1369 East Cty Road E	Gem Lake	MN	55110
White Bear Township	Stephanie McNamara	WCA - Watershed Mgmt. Organization Contact	4701 Highway 61	White Bear Lake	MN	55110
White Bear Township	Nick Tomczik	WCA - Watershed District Contact	4325 Pheasant Ridge Dr., Suite 611	Blaine	MN	55449
City of White Bear Lake	John Hanson	WCA - Watershed District Contact	Barr Engineering, 4700 W 77th Street	Minneapolis	MN	55435
City of Maplewood	Tina Carstens	WCA - Watershed District Contact	3622 104th Avenue N	Brooklyn Park	MN	55443
City of Maplewood	John Hanson	WCA - Watershed District Contact	Barr Engineering, 4700 W 77th Street	Minneapolis	MN	55435
City of White Bear Lake	Stephanie McNamara	WCA - Watershed Mgmt. Organization Contact	4701 Highway 61	White Bear Lake	MN	55110
City of White Bear Lake	Nick Tomczik	WCA - Watershed District Contact	4325 Pheasant Ridge Dr., Suite 611	Blaine	MN	55449
City of Gem Lake	Robert Uzpen	Mayor	4200 Otter Lake Road	Gem Lake	MN	55110
City of Gem Lake	Bill Short	City Clerk	1281 Hammond Road	White Bear Township	MN	55110
City of Gem Lake	Jessie Hart	City Treasurer	1281 Hammond Road	White Bear Township	MN	55110
City of Gem Lake	Faith Kuny	Planning Commission Chair	4200 Otter Lake Road	Gem Lake	MN	55110

Xcel Energy
Kohlman to Goose Lake 115/115kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project
Appendix C.2 – List of Local Government Units

Agency	Contact Name	Title	Address 1	City	State	Zip
White Bear Township	Bill Mample	Town Board Chair	1281 Hammond Road	White Bear Township	MN	55110
White Bear Township	Bob Kermes	Board Supervisor	1281 Hammond Road	White Bear Township	MN	55110
White Bear Township	Ed Prudhon	Town Board Supervisor	1281 Hammond Road	White Bear Township	MN	55110
White Bear Township	Jerry Mahoney	Planning Commission Chair	1281 Hammond Road	White Bear Township	MN	55110
White Bear Township	Paul Groschen	Utility Commission Chair	1281 Hammond Road	White Bear Township	MN	55110
White Bear Township	Daniel Shlaferman	Economic Development Advisory Board Chair	1281 Hammond Road	White Bear Township	MN	55110
White Bear Township	Dale Reed	Public Works Director	1281 Hammond Road	White Bear Township	MN	55110
City of Maplewood	Jim Antonen	City Manager	1830 County Road B East	Maplewood	MN	55109
City of Maplewood	Tom Ekstrand	Senior Planner	1830 County Road B East	Maplewood	MN	55109
City of Maplewood	Chuck Ahl	Public Works Director	1830 County Road B East	Maplewood	MN	55109
City of Maplewood	Kim Schmidt	Parks and Recreation Commission Chairperson	1830 County Road B East	Maplewood	MN	55109
City of Maplewood	Will Rossbach	Mayor	1830 County Road B East	Maplewood	MN	55109
City of Maplewood	Lorraine Fisher	Planning Commission Chairperson	1830 County Road B East	Maplewood	MN	55109
City of White Bear Lake	Jo Emerson	Mayor	1857 7th Street	White Bear Lake	MN	55110
City of White Bear Lake	Jim Berry	Planning Commission Chair	2199 Roth Place	White Bear Lake	MN	55110

Xcel Energy
Kohlman to Goose Lake 115/115kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project
Appendix C.2 – List of Local Government Units

Agency	Contact Name	Title	Address 1	City	State	Zip
City of White Bear Lake	Mark Burch	Director of Public Works/City Engineer	4701 Highway 61	White Bear Lake	MN	55110
City of White Bear Lake	Mark Sather	City Manager	4701 Highway 61	White Bear Lake	MN	55110
Vadnais Lake Area Water Mgmt Organization	Mark Johannsen	Chair	800 East Co. Rd. E	Vadnais Heights	MN	55127
Ramsey County Board of Commissioners	Tony Bennett	District 1 Commissioner	220 Court House, 15 W. Kellogg Blvd	St. Paul	MN	55102
Ramsey County Board of Commissioners	Victoria Reinhardt	District 7 Commissioner	220 Court House, 15 W. Kellogg Blvd	St. Paul	MN	55102
Ramsey County Manager Office	Julie Kleinschmidt	County Manager	250 Court House, 15 W. Kellogg Blvd	St. Paul	MN	55102
City of Vadnais Heights	Mark Johannsen	Mayor	800 East Co. Rd. E	Vadnais Heights	MN	55127
City of Vadnais Heights	Mark Graham	Public Service Director/City Engineer	800 East Co. Rd. E	Vadnais Heights	MN	55127
City of Vadnais Heights	Gerald Urban	City Administrator	800 East Co. Rd. E	Vadnais Heights	MN	55127
City of Gem Lake	Justin M. Gese		10901 Red Circle Drive, Suite 300	Minnetonka	MN	55343

APPENDIX C.3

Letter to LGUs Requesting Project Comments

414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

1-800-895-4999
Xcelenergy.com

February 24, 2012

<<Insert Contact Name>>
<<Insert Agency>>
<<Insert Address1>>
<<Insert City, State, Zip>>

Re: Notice of Proposed Transmission Line Project
Kohlman to Goose Lake Rebuild Project
Xcel Energy, Inc. / Northern States Power Company

Dear <<Insert Contact Name>>:

Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation, d/b/a Xcel Energy, Inc. ("Xcel Energy") is planning an electric transmission project located in the cities of Maplewood, White Bear Lake, and Vadnais Heights, Ramsey County, Minnesota, as shown on the attached **Figure 1**. The project involves rebuilding approximately 3.3 miles of existing single circuit 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line to a double circuit 115 kV transmission line between the Kohlman Lake (KOL) and Goose Lake (GLK) substations. The Project is referred to as the Kohlman Lake to Goose Lake 115 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project ("Project"). The Project is needed to ensure reliable power delivery to the northeastern metro region, between Arden Hills and Hugo, and to meet the North American Electric Reliability Corporation ("NERC") planning standards without shedding load during transmission outages.

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 your comments. This notice is also required under Minn. Stat. § 216E.03, subd. 3a and 3b to allow each local unit of government within the proposed route area the opportunity to meet with Xcel Energy to discuss the Project prior to filing a Route Permit Application ("RPA").

Description of the Project

A Project map is attached for your reference (see **Figure 1**). The Project location is further described in the following table:

City/Township Name	Township (N)	Range (W)	Section(s)
City of Maplewood	T29	R22	3
	T30	R22	34
City of White Bear Lake	T30	R22	22, 27, 34
City of Gem Lake	T30	R22	22, 27
City of Vadnais Heights	T30	R22	34
White Bear Township	T30	R22	22

The Project involves: (1) removing the existing single circuit 115 kV transmission line structures and wires between KOL and GLK substations, (2) rebuilding a new double circuit 115 kV transmission line between KOL and GLK substations in approximately the same alignment, and (3) modifying the existing substations and transmission line terminations.

Approximately forty (40) existing single circuit structures will be replaced with approximately the same number of new double circuit structures. The majority of the proposed new structures will be galvanized steel poles with a vertical davit arm configuration constructed on drilled pier concrete foundations. The average height of the new structures will be approximately 90 feet with an average span of 300 to 500 feet. All substation modifications will occur within existing graded areas.

The majority of the proposed Project will be located along the existing transmission line alignment within railroad right-of-way. However, some new easement acquisition is anticipated. The Project is located in a generally developed area where land use consists primarily of commercial/industrial, residential, and open land. The transmission line route includes several road and utility crossings. Additionally, the Project may cross over one small waterbody and several small wetlands.

Permitting Requirements

The proposed new double circuit 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 an HVTL with a capacity of 100 kV or more, it is not more than 10 miles long in Minnesota and it does not 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 an opportunity for the public to comment on the Project.

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. I can be reached as follows:

Sage Tauber
Permitting Analyst
Xcel Energy, Inc.
414 Nicollet Mall, MP8
Minneapolis, MN 55401
Phone: (612) 330-2909
Email: Sage.Tauber@xcelenergy.com

Thank you for your assistance with this project. Please contact me if you have any questions, or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Sage Tauber

Sage Tauber
Permitting Analyst
Xcel Energy, Siting & Land Rights

Enclosure: Figure 1

cc: Joe Samuel, Xcel Energy

APPENDIX C.4

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Correspondence

414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

February 24, 2012

Tony Sullins, Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services Field Office
4101 East 80th Street
Bloomington, MN 55425

Re: Kohlman Lake to Goose Lake 115kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project
Ramsey County, Minnesota
Xcel Energy, Inc. / Northern States Power Company

Dear Mr. Sullins:

Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation, d/b/a Xcel Energy, Inc. ("Xcel Energy") is planning an electric transmission project located in the cities of Maplewood, White Bear Lake, and Vadnais Heights, Ramsey County, Minnesota, as shown on the attached **Figure 1**. The project involves rebuilding approximately 3.3 miles of existing single circuit 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line to a double circuit 115 kV transmission line between the Kohlman Lake (KOL) and Goose Lake (GLK) substations. The Project is referred to as the Kohlman Lake to Goose Lake 115 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project ("Project"). The Project is needed to ensure reliable power delivery to the northeastern metro region, between Arden Hills and Hugo, and to meet the North American Electric Reliability Corporation ("NERC") planning standards without shedding load during transmission outages.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you notice of the proposed Project and to request your comments. This request is submitted for general Project planning purposes and so that mitigation measures may be implemented, as necessary, to minimize or avoid impacts to known rare plants, animals, and natural communities within the proposed Project area. An endangered resources review request has also been submitted to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, National Heritage Information System.

Description of the Project

The proposed Project area is depicted on the enclosed U.S. Geological Survey ("USGS") topographic map and aerial photo-based map (Figures 1 and 2, respectively). The township, range, and sections crossed by the proposed Project are listed in the following table:

City/Township Name	Township (N)	Range (W)	Section(s)
City of Maplewood	T29	R22	3
	T30	R22	34
City of White Bear Lake	T30	R22	22, 27, 34
City of Gem Lake	T30	R22	22, 27
City of Vadnais Heights	T30	R22	34
White Bear Township	T30	R22	22

The Project involves: (1) removing the existing single circuit 115 kV transmission line structures and wires between KOL and GLK substations, (2) rebuilding a new double circuit 115 kV transmission line between KOL and GLK substations in approximately the same alignment, and (3) modifying the existing substations and transmission line terminations.

Approximately forty (40) existing single circuit structures will be replaced with approximately the same number of new double circuit structures. The majority of the proposed new structures will be galvanized steel poles with a vertical davit arm configuration constructed on drilled pier concrete foundations. The average height of the new structures will be approximately 90 feet with an average span of 300 to 500 feet. All substation modifications will occur within existing graded areas.

The majority of the proposed Project will be located along the existing transmission line alignment within railroad right-of-way. However, some new easement acquisition is anticipated. The Project is located in a generally developed area where land use consists primarily of commercial/industrial, residential, and open land. The transmission line route includes several road and utility crossings. Additionally, the Project may cross over one small waterbody and several small wetlands.

Ground disturbance associated with the Project will generally be limited to excavation necessary for the removal of existing structures and the installation of new structures on drilled pier concrete foundations. The construction corridor for the proposed transmission line rebuild is approximately 100 feet wide (50 feet on either side of the proposed centerline).

Species and Critical Habitat Review

Xcel Energy reviewed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's ("USFWS") website for a list of species and critical habitat that may be present within Ramsey County.[1] According to the website, the following two endangered species are known to occur within the county: Higgins eye pearlymussel (*Lampsilis higginsii*) and winged mapleleaf (*Quadrula fragosa*).

The Higgins eye pearlymussel occurs within the Mississippi River and the lower portion of some of its larger tributaries, and the winged mapleleaf occurs in the St. Croix River. The Project does not cross the Mississippi or St. Croix River, nor does it cross any other waterway containing

[1] http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/lists/minnesot-cty.html

suitable habitat. Therefore, it has been determined that this Project will have *no effect* on these species or their habitats.

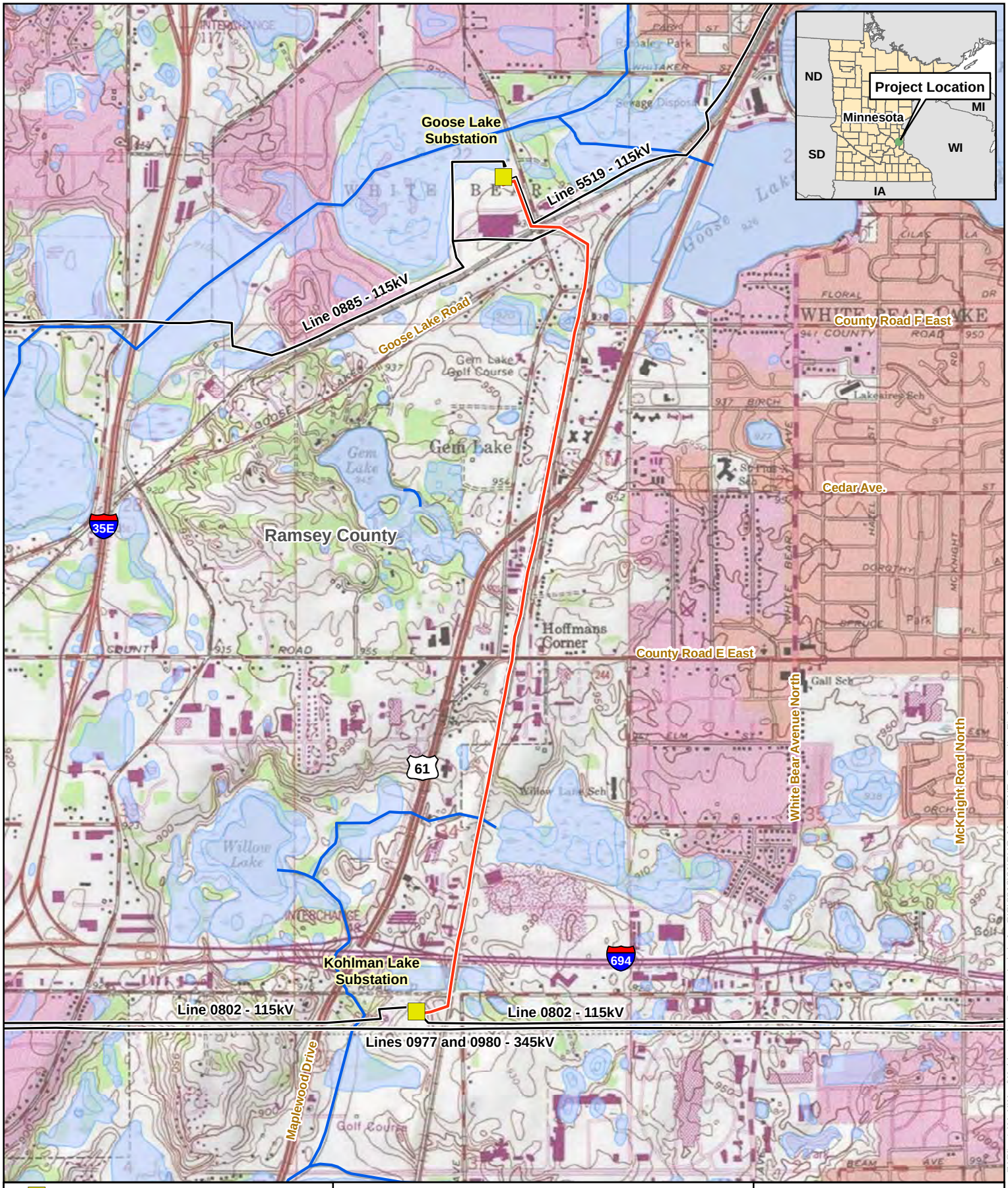
Xcel Energy respectfully requests your concurrence with the above assessment of the proposed Project. Xcel Energy understands the USFWS typically does not provide concurrence for a no effect determination, but appreciates your review and response to provide documentation for permitting purposes.

Thank you for your assistance with this project. If you have any questions, or require additional information, please contact me at (612) 330-2909 or Sage.Tauber@xcelenergy.com.

Sincerely,

Sage Tauber
Permitting Analyst
Xcel Energy, Siting & Land Rights

Enclosures:
Figure 1 - USGS Topographic Map
Figure 2 – Aerial Photo-Based Map



Xcel Substation

Rebuild Existing Single Circuit 115kV Line to Double Circuit 115kV

Existing Xcel Transmission Lines

Waterbody

NWI Wetland

0 1,000 2,000 Feet

N

Figure 1

Kohlman Lake to Goose Lake Transmission Line Project

Project Overview - Topographic

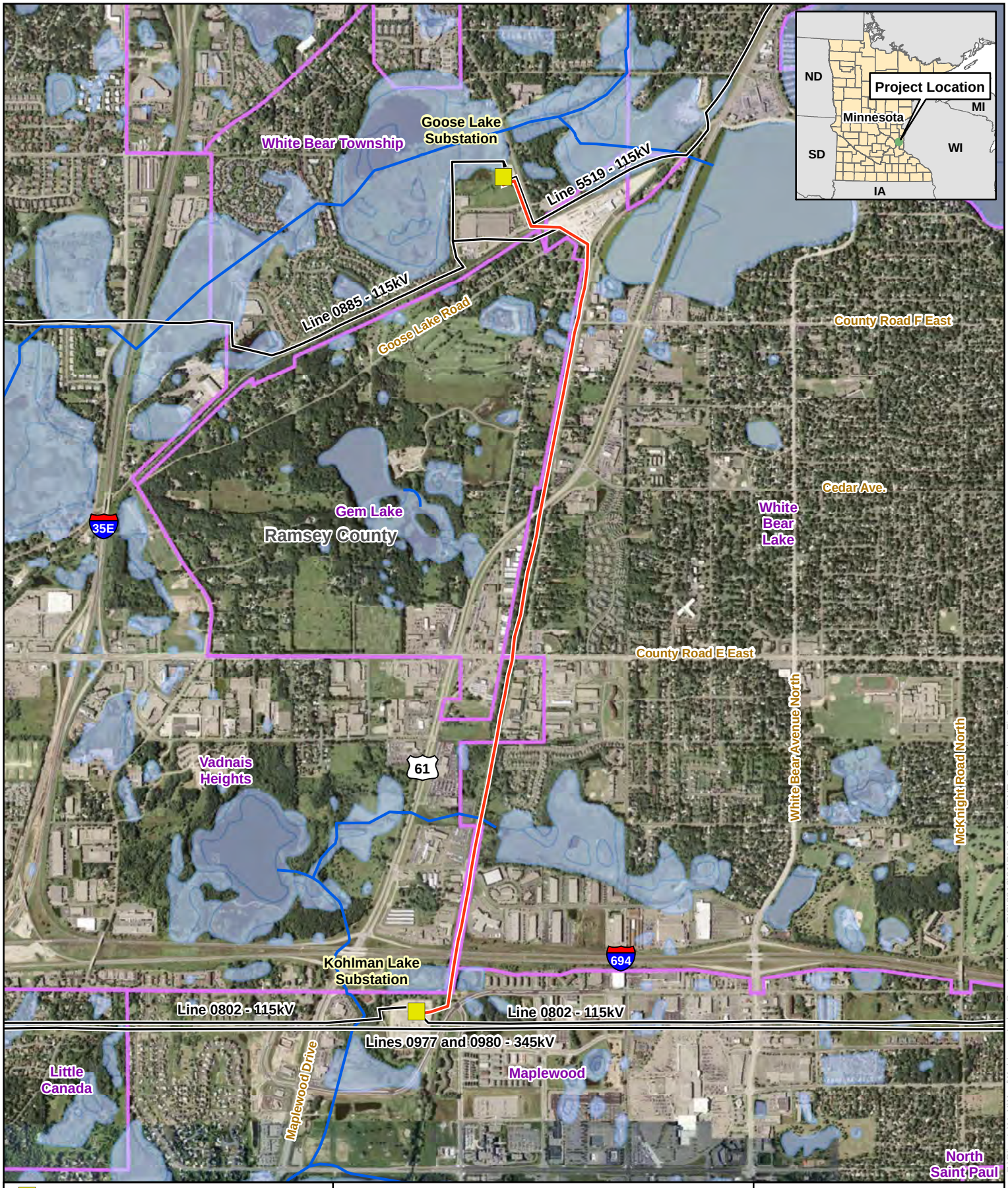
Ramsey County, Minnesota

Xcel Energy

Source: Topo provided by ESRI - NWI provided by MN DNR
All other data from Xcel Energy, ESRI, and Merjent
This information is for environmental review purposes only.

Source: Z:\Clients\0_X\Xcel\KohlmanLake_GooseLake_ArcGIS\2012\01\PUC_Maps\DNR_Consults_Fig1.mxd

Date: (2/15/2012)



Xcel Substation

Rebuild Existing Single Circuit 115kV Line to Double Circuit 115kV

Existing Xcel Transmission Lines

Waterbody

NWI Wetland

Municipal Boundary

0 1,000 2,000 Feet

Figure 2

Kohlman Lake to Goose Lake Transmission Line Project

Project Overview - Aerial

Ramsey County, Minnesota

Xcel Energy

Source: Aerial provided by ESRI - NWI provided by MN DNR
All other data from Xcel Energy, ESRI, and Merjent
This information is for environmental review purposes only.

Source: Z:\Clients\0_XX\Xcel\KohlmanLake_GooseLake_ArcGIS\2012\01\PUC_Maps\DNR_Consults_Fig2.mxd

Date: (2/24/2012)

APPENDIX C.5

MnDNR NHIS Correspondence

414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

February 24, 2012

Ms. Lisa Joyal
Endangered Species Environmental Review Coordinator
Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Request for Endangered Resources Review
Kohlman Lake to Goose Lake 115 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project
Xcel Energy, Inc. / Northern States Power Company

Dear Ms. Joyal:

Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation, d/b/a Xcel Energy, Inc. ("Xcel Energy") is planning an electric transmission project located in the cities of Maplewood, White Bear Lake, and Vadnais Heights, Ramsey County, Minnesota, as shown on the attached **Figure 1**. The project involves rebuilding approximately 3.3 miles of existing single circuit 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line to a double circuit 115 kV transmission line between the Kohlman Lake (KOL) and Goose Lake (GLK) substations. The Project is referred to as the Kohlman Lake to Goose Lake 115 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project ("Project"). The Project is needed to ensure reliable power delivery to the northeastern metro region, between Arden Hills and Hugo, and to meet the North American Electric Reliability Corporation ("NERC") planning standards without shedding load during transmission outages.

Xcel Energy respectfully requests your review of the Minnesota National Heritage Information System ("NHIS") to determine if rare plants, animals, and natural communities or other significant natural features are known to occur within the Project area. This request is submitted for general information and Project planning purposes so that mitigation measures may be implemented, as necessary, to minimize or avoid impacts to known rare plants, animals, and natural communities within the proposed Project area. Enclosed is a completed Minnesota NHIS Data Request Form.

Description of the Project

The proposed Project area is depicted on the enclosed U.S. Geological Survey ("USGS") topographic map and aerial photo-based map (Figures 1 and 2, respectively). The township, range, and sections crossed by the proposed Project are listed in the following table:

City/Township Name	Township (N)	Range (W)	Section(s)
City of Maplewood	T29	R22	3
	T30	R22	34
City of White Bear Lake	T30	R22	22, 27, 34
City of Gem Lake	T30	R22	22, 27
City of Vadnais Heights	T30	R22	34
White Bear Township	T30	R22	22

The Project involves: (1) removing the existing single circuit 115 kV transmission line structures and wires between KOL and GLK substations, (2) rebuilding a new double circuit 115 kV transmission line between KOL and GLK substations in approximately the same alignment, and (3) modifying the existing substations and transmission line terminations.

Approximately forty (40) existing single circuit structures will be replaced with approximately the same number of new double circuit structures. The majority of the proposed new structures will be galvanized steel poles with a vertical davit arm configuration constructed on drilled pier concrete foundations. The average height of the new structures will be approximately 90 feet with an average span of 300 to 500 feet. All substation modifications will occur within existing graded areas.

The majority of the proposed Project will be located along the existing transmission line alignment within railroad right-of-way. However, some new easement acquisition is anticipated. The Project is located in a generally developed area where land use consists primarily of commercial/industrial, residential, and open land. The transmission line route includes several road and utility crossings. Additionally, the Project may cross over one small waterbody and several small wetlands.

Ground disturbance associated with the Project will generally be limited to excavation necessary for the removal of existing structures and the installation of new structures on drilled pier concrete foundations in approximately the same alignment. The construction corridor for the proposed transmission line rebuild is approximately 100 feet wide (50 feet on either side of the proposed centerline.

Please note that Xcel Energy is in the process of evaluating siting/routing information and collecting comments and input. Therefore, the proposed route location shown for the new double circuit 115 kV transmission line is preliminary and subject to minor changes through this process.

Thank you for your assistance with this project. If you have any questions, or require additional information, please contact me at (612) 330-2909 or Sage.Tauber@xcelenergy.com.

Sincerely,

Sage Tauber
Permitting Analyst
Xcel Energy, Siting & Land Rights

Enclosures:

NHIS Data Request Form
Figure 1 - USGS Topographic Project Location Map
Figure 2 - Aerial Photo-Based Project Location Map
GIS Shapefiles of Proposed Project Area (electronic transmittal)

NO STAPLES PLEASE

For Agency Use Only:					
Received _____	Due _____	RUSH	Inv _____	#Sec _____	Contact Rqsted? _____
Search Radius _____mi.	ER / All	Map'd _____		#EOs _____	Survey Rqsted? _____
NoR / NoF / NoE / Std / Sub	Let _____	Log out _____		#Com _____	
				Related ERDB# _____	

Minnesota DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

NATURAL HERITAGE INFORMATION SYSTEM (NHIS) DATA REQUEST FORM

Please read the instructions on page 3 before filling out the form. Thank you!

WHO IS REQUESTING THE INFORMATION?

Name and Title: Sage Tauber, Permit Analyst

Agency/Company: Xcel Energy

Mailing Address: 414 Nicollet Mall, MP8-A (Street) Minneapolis (City) MN (State) 55401 (Zip Code)

Phone: 612-330-2909 e-mail: Sage.Tauber@xcelenergy.com

Responses will be sent via email. If you prefer US Mail check here: ☐

THIS INFORMATION IS BEING REQUESTED FOR A:

☐ Federal EA ☐ State EAW ☐ PUC Site Application ☐ Watershed Plan

☐ Federal EIS ☐ State EIS ☐ Local Government Permit ☐ Research Project

☐ NEPA Checklist ☐ AUAR

☑ Other (describe) PUC Route Permit

INFORMATION WE NEED FROM YOU:

1) **Enclose a map** of the project boundary/area of interest (topographic maps or aerial photos are preferred).

2) Please **provide a GIS shapefile*** (NAD 83, UTM Zone 15N) of the project boundary/area of interest.

3) List the following locational information* (attach additional sheets if necessary):

For Agency Use: TRS Confirmed ☐

For Agency Use: Region / MCBS Status		County	Township #	Range #	Section(s) (please list **all** sections)
		Ramsey	30N	22W	22, 27, & 34
		Ramsey	29N	22W	3

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

Project Name: Kohlman Lake to Goose Lake 115kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Project Proposer: Northern States Power Company / dba Xcel Energy, Inc.

Description of Project (including types of disturbance anticipated from the project):

The Project involves rebuilding approximately 3.3 miles of existing single circuit, 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line to a double circuit, 115 kV transmission line within the existing transmission corridor (railroad right-of-way) from Kohlman Lake Substation in Maplewood, MN to Goose Lake Substation in White Bear Lake, MN. Ground disturbance will be generally limited to the removal of existing transmission line structures and the construction of new, steel pole structures on drilled pier concrete foundations (approx. 40 structures total).

* Please see the instructions on page 3.

Describe the existing land use of the project site. What types of land cover/habitat will be impacted by the proposed project?

The transmission line rebuild route is located within existing railroad right-of-way through urban land use areas (residential, commercial/industrial).

List any waterbodies (e.g., rivers, intermittent streams, lakes, wetlands) that may be affected by the proposed project, and how they may be impacted (e.g., dewatering, discharge, riverbed disturbance).

Goose Lake runs east of the Project route and there are several potential wetlands parallel to the Project route. No waterbodies are expected to be impacted by the transmission line rebuild project. (Please refer to the aerial-based project location map for National Wetland Inventory (NWI) data.)

To your knowledge, has the project undergone a previous Natural Heritage review? If so, please list the correspondence #: ERDB # N/A. How does this request differ from the previous request (e.g., change in scope, change in boundary, project being revived, project expansion, different phase)?

To your knowledge, have any native plant community or rare species surveys been conducted within the site? If so, please list: No.

List any DNR Permits or Licenses that you will be applying for or have already applied for as part of this project:

No DNR permits have been applied for to date, but an assessment of DNR permits requried for the project is ongoing as the Project develops.

INFORMATION WE PROVIDE TO YOU:

1) The response will include a Natural Heritage letter. If applicable, the letter will discuss potential impacts to rare features.

☐ Check here if this information is being requested for a formal environmental review document (e.g., EAW, EIS) **and** your company/agency has a staff ecologist who will be making the impact determination **and** you do not want DNR staff to provide any interpretation of impacts.

2) The response will also include an Index Report of known aggregation sites and known occurrences of federally and state-listed plants and animals*within an approximate one-mile radius of the project boundary/area of interest.

☑ Check here if you would also like geologic features and rare species with no legal status included in the report.

3) If desired, a Detailed Report that contains more information on each occurrence can be obtained. Please note that the Detailed Report may contain specific location information that is protected under *Minnesota Statutes*, section 84.0872, subd. 2, and, as such, the Detailed Report may not be included in any public document (e.g., an EAW). The Index Report and Natural Heritage letter can be included in any public environmental review document.

☑ Check here if you would also like to receive a Detailed Report.

FEES / TURNAROUND TIME

There is a fee* for this service. Requests generally take **3-4 weeks** from date of receipt to process, and are processed in the order received. Rush requests* are processed in 2 weeks or less if workloads allow, but are not guaranteed.

☐ Check here to RUSH this request. You will be charged an additional $50.

I have read the entire form, and the information supplied above is complete and accurate. I understand that material supplied to me from the Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System is copyrighted and that I am not permitted to reproduce or publish any of this copyrighted material without prior written permission from the Minnesota DNR. Further, if permission to publish is given, I understand that I must credit the Minnesota Division of Ecological Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, as the source of the material.

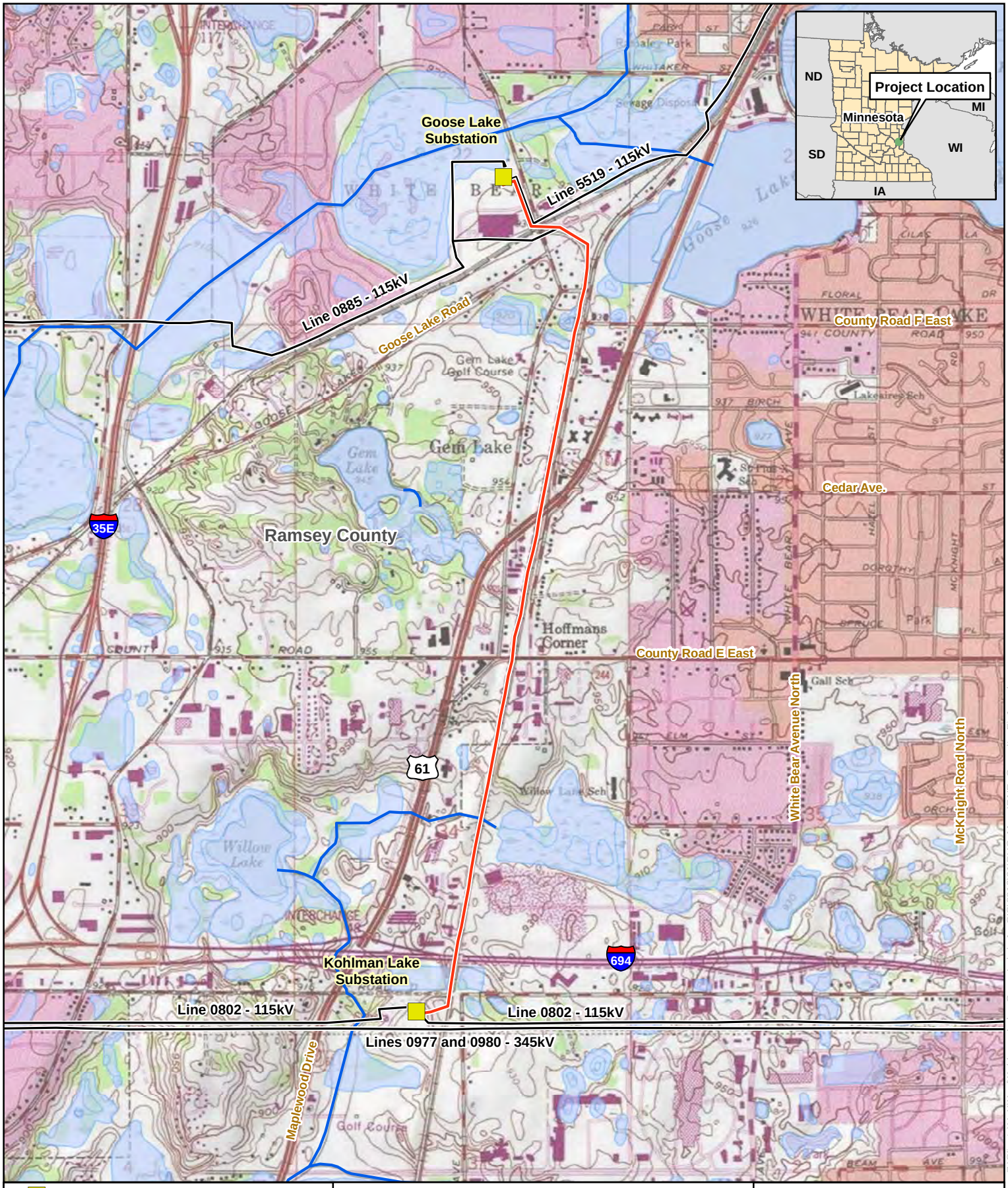
Signature (**required**) Sage Tauber	Note: Digital signatures representing the name of a person shall be sufficient to show that such person has signed this document.

Mail or email completed form to:
Lisa Joyal, Natural Heritage Review Coordinator
Division of Ecological Resources
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
lisa.joyal@state.mn.us

Form is available at
http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nhnrp/nhis_data_request.pdf

Revised July 2009

* Please see the instructions on page 3.



Xcel Substation

Rebuild Existing Single Circuit 115kV Line to Double Circuit 115kV

Existing Xcel Transmission Lines

Waterbody

NWI Wetland

0 1,000 2,000 Feet

N

Figure 1

Kohlman Lake to Goose Lake Transmission Line Project

Project Overview - Topographic

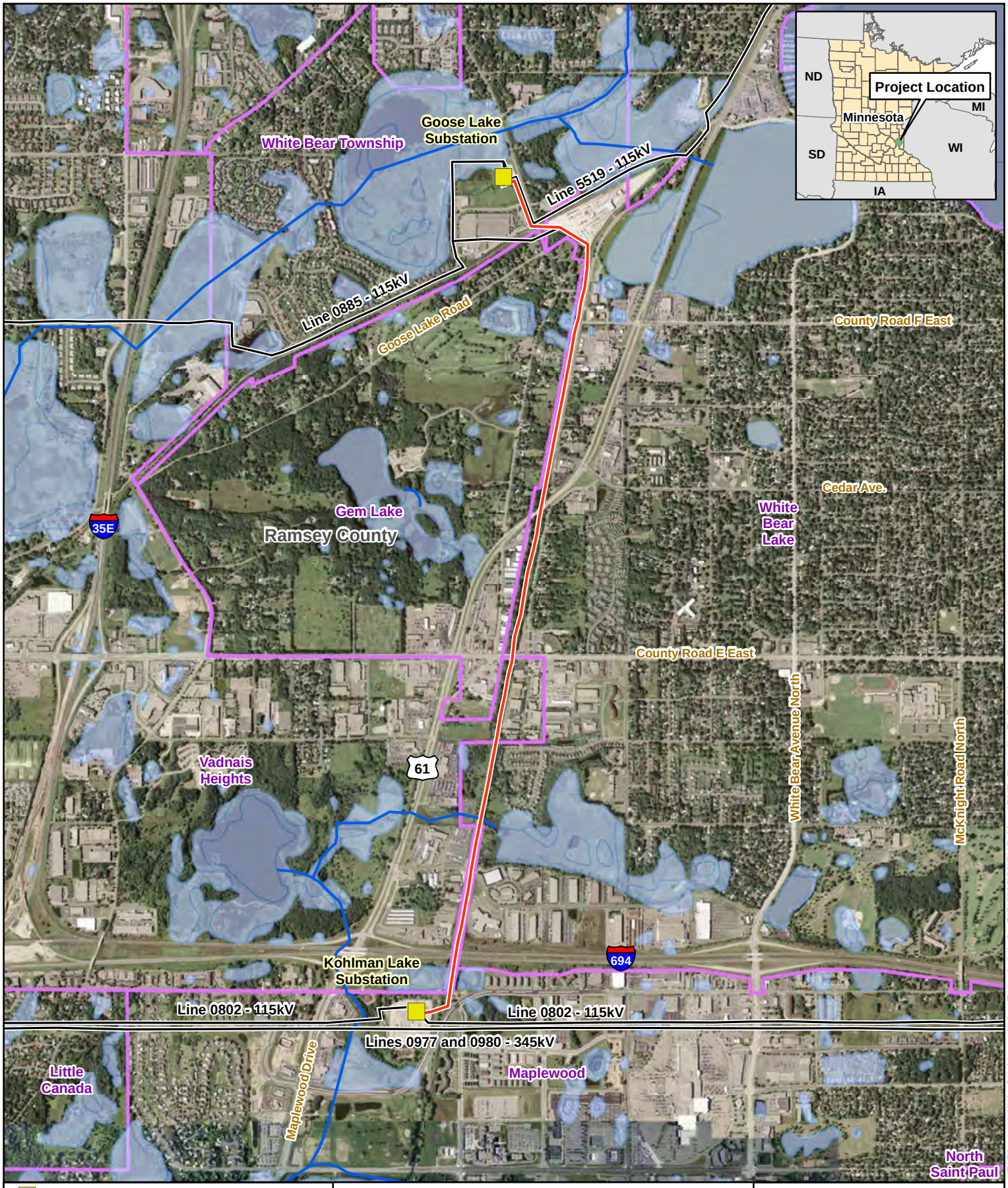
Ramsey County, Minnesota

Xcel Energy

Source: Topo provided by ESRI - NWI provided by MN DNR
All other data from Xcel Energy, ESRI, and Merjent
This information is for environmental review purposes only.

Source: Z:\Clients\0_X\Xcel\KohlmanLake_GooseLake_ArcGIS\2012\01\PUC_Maps\DNR_Consults_Fig1.mxd

Date: (2/15/2012)



Xcel Substation

Rebuild Existing Single Circuit 115kV Line to Double Circuit 115kV

Existing Xcel Transmission Lines

Waterbody

NWI Wetland

Municipal Boundary

0 1,000 2,000 Feet

Figure 2

Kohlman Lake to Goose Lake Transmission Line Project

Project Overview - Aerial

Ramsey County, Minnesota

Xcel Energy

Source: Aerial provided by ESRI - NWI provided by MN DNR
All other data from Xcel Energy, ESRI, and Merjent
This information is for environmental review purposes only.

Source: Z:\Clients\0_XX\Xcel\KohlmanLake_GooseLake_ArcGIS\2012\01\PUC_Maps\DNR_Consults_Fig2.mxd

Date: (2/24/2012)

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 13, 2012 **Correspondence # ERDB 20120293**

M. Sage Tauber
Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall, MP8-A
Minneapolis, MN 55401

RE: Natural Heritage Review of the proposed Kohlman to Goose 115kV Rebuild;
Ramsey County

Dear M. Tauber,

As requested, the Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS) 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, the following **rare species *may* be adversely affected** by the proposed project:

- Blanding's turtles (*Emydoidea blandingii)*, a state-listed threatened species, have been reported from the vicinity of the proposed project and may be encountered on site. If Blanding's turtles are found on the site, please remember that state law and rules prohibit the destruction of threatened or endangered species, except under certain prescribed conditions. If turtles are in imminent danger they should be moved by hand out of harm's way, otherwise they should be left undisturbed.

  For your information, I have attached a Blanding's turtle fact sheet that describes the habitat use and life history of this species. The fact sheet also provides two lists of recommendations for avoiding and minimizing impacts to this rare turtle. **Please refer to the first list of recommendations for your project.** If greater protection for turtles is desired, the second list of additional recommendations can also be implemented. The attached flyer should be given to all contractors working in the area.

The Natural Heritage Information System, 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.

For environmental review purposes, the results of this Natural Heritage Review are valid for one year; the results are only valid for the project location (noted above) and 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

Lisa Joyal
Natural Heritage Review Coordinator

enc. Blanding's Turtle Fact Sheet and Flyer

Environmental Review Fact Sheet Series

Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species of Minnesota

Blanding's Turtle

(*Emydoidea blandingii*)

Minnesota Status:	Threatened	State Rank[1]:	S2
Federal Status:	none	Global Rank[1]:	G4

HABITAT USE

Blanding's turtles need both wetland and upland habitats to complete their life cycle. The types of wetlands used include ponds, marshes, shrub swamps, bogs, and ditches and streams with slow-moving water. In Minnesota, Blanding's turtles are primarily marsh and pond inhabitants. Calm, shallow water bodies (Type 1-3 wetlands) with mud bottoms and abundant aquatic vegetation (e.g., cattails, water lilies) are preferred, and extensive marshes bordering rivers provide excellent habitat. Small temporary wetlands (those that dry up in the late summer or fall) are frequently used in spring and summer -- these fishless pools are amphibian and invertebrate breeding habitat, which provides an important food source for Blanding's turtles. Also, the warmer water of these shallower areas probably aids in the development of eggs within the female turtle. Nesting occurs in open (grassy or brushy) sandy uplands, often some distance from water bodies. Frequently, nesting occurs in traditional nesting grounds on undeveloped land. Blanding's turtles have also been known to nest successfully on residential property (especially in low density housing situations), and to utilize disturbed areas such as farm fields, gardens, under power lines, and road shoulders (especially of dirt roads). Although Blanding's turtles may travel through woodlots during their seasonal movements, shady areas (including forests and lawns with shade trees) are not used for nesting. Wetlands with deeper water are needed in times of drought, and during the winter. Blanding's turtles overwinter in the muddy bottoms of deeper marshes and ponds, or other water bodies where they are protected from freezing.

LIFE HISTORY

Individuals emerge from overwintering and begin basking in late March or early April on warm, sunny days. The increase in body temperature which occurs during basking is necessary for egg development within the female turtle. Nesting in Minnesota typically occurs during June, and females are most active in late afternoon and at dusk. Nesting can occur as much as a mile from wetlands. The nest is dug by the female in an open sandy area and 6-15 eggs are laid. The female turtle returns to the marsh within 24 hours of laying eggs. After a development period of approximately two months, hatchlings leave the nest from mid-August through early-October. Nesting females and hatchlings are often at risk of being killed while crossing roads between wetlands and nesting areas. In addition to movements associated with nesting, all ages and both sexes move between wetlands from April through November. These movements peak in June and July and again in September and October as turtles move to and from overwintering sites. In late autumn (typically November), Blanding′s turtles bury themselves in the substrate (the mud at the bottom) of deeper wetlands to overwinter.

IMPACTS / THREATS / CAUSES OF DECLINE

- loss of wetland habitat through drainage or flooding (converting wetlands into ponds or lakes)
- loss of upland habitat through development or conversion to agriculture
- human disturbance, including collection for the pet trade* and road kills during seasonal movements
- increase in predator populations (skunks, raccoons, etc.) which prey on nests and young

*It is illegal to possess this threatened species.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AVOIDING AND MINIMIZING IMPACTS

These recommendations apply to typical construction projects and general land use within Blanding's turtle habitat, and are provided to help local governments, developers, contractors, and homeowners minimize or avoid detrimental impacts to Blanding's turtle populations. **List 1** describes minimum measures which we recommend to prevent harm to Blanding's turtles during construction or other work within Blanding's turtle habitat. **List 2** contains recommendations which offer even greater protection for Blanding's turtles populations; this list should be used *in addition to the first list* in areas which are known to be of state-wide importance to Blanding's turtles (contact the DNR's Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program if you wish to determine if your project or home is in one of these areas), or in any other area where greater protection for Blanding's turtles is desired.

List 1. Recommendations for all areas inhabited by Blanding's turtles.	**List 2. *Additional* recommendations for areas known to be of state-wide importance to Blanding's turtles.**
GENERAL	
A flyer with an illustration of a Blanding's turtle should be given to all contractors working in the area. Homeowners should also be informed of the presence of Blanding's turtles in the area.	Turtle crossing signs can be installed adjacent to road-crossing areas used by Blanding's turtles to increase public awareness and reduce road kills.
Turtles which are in imminent danger should be moved, by hand, out of harms way. Turtles which are not in imminent danger should be left undisturbed.	Workers in the area should be aware that Blanding's turtles nest in June, generally after 4pm, and should be advised to minimize disturbance if turtles are seen.
If a Blanding's turtle nests in your yard, do not disturb the nest.	If you would like to provide more protection for a Blanding's turtle nest on your property, see "Protecting Blanding's Turtle Nests" on page 3 of this fact sheet.
Silt fencing should be set up to keep turtles out of construction areas. It is critical that silt fencing be removed after the area has been revegetated.	Construction in potential nesting areas should be limited to the period between September 15 and June 1 (this is the time when activity of adults and hatchlings in upland areas is at a minimum).
WETLANDS	
Small, vegetated temporary wetlands (Types 2 & 3) should not be dredged, deepened, filled, or converted to storm water retention basins (these wetlands provide important habitat during spring and summer).	Shallow portions of wetlands should not be disturbed during prime basking time (mid morning to mid- afternoon in May and June). A wide buffer should be left along the shore to minimize human activity near wetlands (basking Blanding's turtles are more easily disturbed than other turtle species).
Wetlands should be protected from pollution; use of fertilizers and pesticides should be avoided, and run-off from lawns and streets should be controlled. Erosion should be prevented to keep sediment from reaching wetlands and lakes.	Wetlands should be protected from road, lawn, and other chemical run-off by a vegetated buffer strip at least 50' wide. This area should be left unmowed and in a natural condition.
ROADS	
Roads should be kept to minimum standards on widths and lanes (this reduces road kills by slowing traffic and reducing the distance turtles need to cross).	Tunnels should be considered in areas with concentrations of turtle crossings (more than 10 turtles per year per 100 meters of road), and in areas of lower density if the level of road use would make a safe crossing impossible for turtles. Contact your DNR Regional Nongame Specialist for further information on wildlife tunnels.
Roads should be ditched, not curbed or below grade. If curbs must be used, 4 inch high curbs at a 3:1 slope are preferred (Blanding's turtles have great difficulty climbing traditional curbs; curbs and below grade roads trap turtles on the road and can cause road kills).	Roads should be ditched, not curbed or below grade.

ROADS cont.	
Culverts between wetland areas, or between wetland areas and nesting areas, should be 36 inches or greater in diameter, and elliptical or flat-bottomed.	Road placement should avoid separating wetlands from adjacent upland nesting sites, or these roads should be fenced to prevent turtles from attempting to cross them (contact your DNR Nongame Specialist for details).
Wetland crossings should be bridged, or include raised roadways with culverts which are 36 in or greater in diameter and flat-bottomed or elliptical (raised roadways discourage turtles from leaving the wetland to bask on roads).	Road placement should avoid bisecting wetlands, or these roads should be fenced to prevent turtles from attempting to cross them (contact your DNR Nongame Specialist for details). This is especially important for roads with more than 2 lanes.
Culverts under roads crossing streams should be oversized (at least twice as wide as the normal width of open water) and flat-bottomed or elliptical.	Roads crossing streams should be bridged.
UTILITIES	
Utility access and maintenance roads should be kept to a minimum (this reduces road-kill potential).	
Because trenches can trap turtles, trenches should be checked for turtles prior to being backfilled and the sites should be returned to original grade.	
LANDSCAPING AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT	
Terrain should be left with as much natural contour as possible.	As much natural landscape as possible should be preserved (installation of sod or wood chips, paving, and planting of trees within nesting habitat can make that habitat unusable to nesting Blanding's turtles).
Graded areas should be revegetated with native grasses and forbs (some non-natives form dense patches through which it is difficult for turtles to travel).	Open space should include some areas at higher elevations for nesting. These areas should be retained in native vegetation, and should be connected to wetlands by a wide corridor of native vegetation.
Vegetation management in infrequently mowed areas -- such as in ditches, along utility access roads, and under power lines -- should be done mechanically (chemicals should not be used). Work should occur fall through spring (after October 1st and before June 1st).	Ditches and utility access roads should not be mowed or managed through use of chemicals. If vegetation management is required, it should be done mechanically, as infrequently as possible, and fall through spring (mowing can kill turtles present during mowing, and makes it easier for predators to locate turtles crossing roads).

Protecting Blanding's Turtle Nests: Most predation on turtle nests occurs within 48 hours after the eggs are laid. After this time, the scent is gone from the nest and it is more difficult for predators to locate the nest. Nests more than a week old probably do not need additional protection, unless they are in a particularly vulnerable spot, such as a yard where pets may disturb the nest. Turtle nests can be protected from predators and other disturbance by covering them with a piece of wire fencing (such as chicken wire), secured to the ground with stakes or rocks. The piece of fencing should measure at least 2 ft. x 2 ft., and should be of medium sized mesh (openings should be about 2 in. x 2 in.). It is ***very important*** that the fencing be **removed <u>before August 1st</u>** so the young turtles can escape from the nest when they hatch!

REFERENCES

[1]Association for Biodiversity Information. "Heritage Status: Global, National, and Subnational Conservation Status Ranks." NatureServe. Version 1.3 (9 April 2001). http://www.natureserve.org/ranking.htm (15 April 2001).

Coffin, B., and L. Pfannmuller. 1988. Minnesota's Endangered Flora and Fauna. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 473 pp.

REFERENCES (cont.)

Moriarty, J. J., and M. Linck. 1994. Suggested guidelines for projects occurring in Blanding's turtle habitat. Unpublished report to the Minnesota DNR. 8 pp.

Oldfield, B., and J. J. Moriarty. 1994. Amphibians and Reptiles Native to Minnesota. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 237 pp.

Sajwaj, T. D., and J. W. Lang. 2000. Thermal ecology of Blanding′s turtle in central Minnesota. Chelonian Conservation and Biology 3(4):626-636.

CAUTION

BLANDING'S TURTLES

MAY BE ENCOUNTERED IN THIS AREA

The unique and rare Blanding's turtle has been found in this area. Blanding's turtles are state-listed as Threatened and are protected under Minnesota Statute 84.095, Protection of Threatened and Endangered Species. Please be careful of turtles on roads and in construction sites. For additional information on turtles, or to report a Blanding's turtle sighting, contact the DNR Nongame Specialist nearest you: Bemidji (218-308-2641); Grand Rapids (218-327-4518); New Ulm (507-359-6033); Rochester (507-280-5070); or St. Paul (651-259-5764).

DESCRIPTION: The Blanding's turtle is a medium to large turtle (5 to 10 inches) with a black or dark blue, dome-shaped shell with muted yellow spots and bars. The bottom of the shell is hinged across the front third, enabling the turtle to pull the front edge of the lower shell firmly against the top shell to provide additional protection when threatened. The head, legs, and tail are dark brown or blue-gray with small dots of light brown or yellow. A distinctive field mark is the bright yellow chin and neck.

BLANDING'S TURTLES DO NOT MAKE GOOD PETS
IT IS ILLEGAL TO KEEP THIS THREATENED SPECIES IN CAPTIVITY

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AVOIDING AND MINIMIZING IMPACTS TO BLANDING'S TURTLE POPULATIONS

(see Blanding's Turtle Fact Sheet for full recommendations)

- This flyer should be given to all contractors working in the area. Homeowners should also be informed of the presence of Blanding's turtles in the area.
- Turtles that are in imminent danger should be moved, by hand, out of harms way. Turtles that are not in imminent danger should be left undisturbed to continue their travel among wetlands and/or nest sites.
- If a Blanding's turtle nests in your yard, do not disturb the nest and do not allow pets near the nest.
- Silt fencing should be set up to keep turtles out of construction areas. It is critical that silt fencing be removed after the area has been revegetated.
- Small, vegetated temporary wetlands should not be dredged, deepened, or filled.
- All wetlands should be protected from pollution; use of fertilizers and pesticides should be avoided, and run-off from lawns and streets should be controlled. Erosion should be prevented to keep sediment from reaching wetlands and lakes.
- Roads should be kept to minimum standards on widths and lanes.
- Roads should be ditched, not curbed or below grade. If curbs must be used, 4" high curbs at a 3:1 slope are preferred.
- Culverts under roads crossing wetland areas, between wetland areas, or between wetland and nesting areas should be at least 36 in. diameter and flat-bottomed or elliptical.
- Culverts under roads crossing streams should be oversized (at least twice as wide as the normal width of open water) and flat-bottomed or elliptical.
- Utility access and maintenance roads should be kept to a minimum.
- Because trenches can trap turtles, trenches should be checked for turtles prior to being backfilled and the sites should be returned to original grade.
- Terrain should be left with as much natural contour as possible.
- Graded areas should be revegetated with native grasses and forbs.
- Vegetation management in infrequently mowed areas -- such as in ditches, along utility access roads, and under power lines -- should be done mechanically (chemicals should not be used). Work should occur fall through spring (after October 1st and before June 1st).

Compiled by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Division of Ecological Resources, Updated March 2008
Endangered Species Environmental Review Coordinator, 500 Lafayette Rd., Box 25, St. Paul, MN 55155 / 651-259-5109

APPENDIX C.6

Minnesota SHPO Response

Minnesota
Historical Society

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

April 6, 2012

Ms. Sage Tauber, Permitting Analyst
Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

RE: Kohlman Lake to Goose Lake 115kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project
T29 R22 S3 and T30 R22 S22, 27, 34, Ramsey County
SHPO Number: 2012-1378

Dear Ms. Tauber:

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.

Based on our review of the project information, we conclude that there are no properties listed on the National or State Registers of Historic Places, and no known or suspected archaeological properties in the area that will be affected by this project.

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 permit or license, it should be submitted to our office with reference to the assisting federal agency.

Please contact our Compliance Section at (651) 259-3455 if you have any questions regarding our review of this project.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Heidemann
Manager, Government Programs and Compliance

APPENDIX C.7

Rice Creek Watershed District Response

Tauber, Sage

From: Nicholas Tomczik [ntomczik@ricecreek.org]
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 2:42 PM
To: Tauber, Sage
Subject: Kohlman Lake to Goose Lake Transmission Line

Ms. Tauber:

Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) has reviewed the Xcel Energy letter February 24,2012 and included figure 1. The current alignment of the project is outside of the RCWD jurisdictional area. (It appears to be in Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District and Vadnais Lake Water Management Organization.)

Nick Tomczik
Permit Coordinator/Wetland Specialist
Rice Creek Watershed District
4325 Pheasant Ridge Dr. NE, #611
Blaine, MN 55449-4539
Phone: 763-398-3079
ntomczik@ricecreek.org

APPENDIX C.8

City of White Bear Lake Response

City of White Bear Lake

4701 Highway 61 • White Bear Lake, Minnesota 55110
TDD (651) 429-8511 • Fax (651) 429-8500
Phone (651) 429-8526

February 28, 2012

Sage Tauber
Permitting Analyst
Xcel Energy, Siting & Land Rights
414 Nicollete Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Dear Sage:

We are in receipt of your letter dated February 24, 2012, notifying the City of Xcel's intent to rebuild the Kohlman to Goose Lake transmission line. We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the project and its impacts to the City of White Bear Lake. We would be interested in details regarding the height and appearance of the new versus old poles, how the double transmission line will appear, any safety concerns, what the construction schedule may be and what impacts the project may have during construction.

Please contact Elisabeth Stannard at our office (651-429-8531) to schedule a meeting.

Thank you for contacting the City regarding this project.

Sincerely,

Mark L. Burch, P.E.
Director of Public Works/City Engineer

cc: Mark Sather, City Manager
Anne Kane, Community Development Director

Attachment: Letter from Xcel Energy dated 2/24/12