

## **Appendices**

**Appendix A**  
**Project Notice Letter**



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA  
MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

*Bringing power to your life.*



December 14, 2010

**Via Electronic Filing and U.S. Mail**

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

RE: Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency and Redwood Falls Public Utilities'  
Redwood County 115 kV Transmission Project

Dear Dr. Haar:

In accordance with the Power Plant Siting Act, Minnesota Statutes Section 216E.05, subdivision 3, this letter serves as the required notice to the Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") that Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency ("SMMPA") and Redwood Falls Public Utilities ("RFPU") have elected to seek local approval to construct a five (5)-mile long overhead 115 kilovolt ("kV") transmission line and 115 kV substation ("the Project") in the City of Redwood Falls and Delhi, Redwood Falls, and Paxton townships, Minnesota. The proposed transmission line will be constructed and owned by SMMPA and will connect the new RFPU electric distribution substation (proposed to be called "East Substation") along County State Aid Highway 1 with RFPU's existing West Substation in the City of Redwood Falls ("Project").

**Project Need**

The Project is listed in the 2009 Minnesota Biennial Transmission Projects Report in the Southwest Zone under Section 6.6.11. Load in the area around Redwood Falls continues to grow. Because of the increasing demand, additional resources are necessary to serve residential and commercial customers in the area around Redwood Falls, Minnesota. SMMPA and RFPU considered two alternatives to meet this need: 1) serving the load by upgrading the existing 69 kV transmission system in the area; and 2) providing a new 115 kV source into the proposed East Substation. After further study, it was determined that a new 115 kV source into RFPU's proposed East Substation was preferable because even with modifications, the 69 kV transmission system in the area would be capable of providing adequate service only until 2015.

**Project Description**

SMMPA and RFPU are applying for a Conditional Use Permit (“CUP”) through Redwood County to obtain authorization to construct the Project. SMMPA is proposing to follow existing road rights-of-way or utility easement corridors to lessen impact to agricultural and residential properties along the transmission line route. RFPU has acquired the necessary property for the proposed East Substation. Project information is available on the enclosed Project Fact Sheet.

**Substation**

As part of the Project, RFPU proposes to construct a new 1-acre 115 kV substation located south of East Bridge Street and west of County State Aid Highway 1, beyond the Redwood Falls city limits in Paxton Township, but still within the RFPU service territory.

**Transmission Line**

The 115 kV transmission line portion of the Project to be permitted and constructed by SMMPA is located in Sections 1, 2, 11 and 12, T112N, R36W; Section 36, T113N, R36W; and Sections 5, 6, 7 and 8, T112N, R35W. The transmission line will be constructed using wood poles approximately 60 to 80 feet above the ground line.

**Local Unit of Government**

SMMPA and RFPU will permit the Project through the Redwood County CUP process. A CUP application for the Project was submitted to Redwood County on December 6, 2010. Redwood County has been informed that it has 60 days after receiving the CUP application to refer the permitting process to the Commission.

Questions regarding the CUP or the CUP process should be directed to Brian Blastad, Land Use and Zoning Supervisor, Redwood County, at 507-637-4023 and questions regarding the Project should be directed to Rick Hettwer, SMMPA, at 507-292-6451 or Chuck Heins, RFPU, at 507-627-1301.

Sincerely,



Richard Hettwer, PE  
Manager of Power Delivery  
SMMPA

Sincerely,



Chuck Heins  
Public Utilities Superintendent  
RFP

RJH:nw:2k10066  
enclosure

cc: Affidavit of Service on: General List of Interested Persons – with enclosure  
Brian Blastad, Land Use & Zoning Supervisor, Redwood County – with enclosure  
Deborah Pile, Department of Commerce – with enclosure

# Proposed 115 kV Transmission Line - Redwood Falls Area



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA  
MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

**Southern Minnesota  
Municipal Power Agency**  
500 First Avenue SW  
Rochester, MN 55902-3303  
1-800-237-8992  
www.smmpa.com



**Redwood Falls Public Utilities**  
333 S Washington St  
Redwood Falls, MN 56283  
1- 507-637-5755  
www.ci.redwood-falls.mn.us

## Project Need

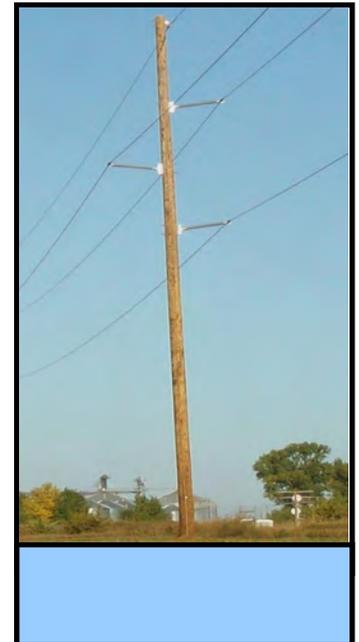
Redwood Falls Public Utilities (RFPU) is planning to add an electric distribution substation on the east side of the City along County Road 1. This project is needed to keep up with increasing electrical demand within the City and to provide necessary system reliability. Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA), power supplier to Redwood Falls Public Utilities, is planning to construct new 115 kV (115,000 volts) transmission line facilities from RFPU's existing West Substation to RFPU's new East Substation.

## Planned Project (Shown on Map on Back)

SMMPA's new construction transmission line project will consist of approximately 5.0 miles of overhead 115 kV transmission line. To lessen impact to agricultural and residential property use along the line route, SMMPA is proposing a route that will follow existing road right-of-ways or utility-easement corridors.

The proposed route of the overhead line would begin at RFPU's West Substation near the intersection of Hwy 19 and Westfalls Drive, follow Hwy 19 west to Laser Ave, continue south to a point on the south side of the Redwood River, then east to Ramsey St, turning south along Ramsey St to 327<sup>th</sup> St, and continuing east and then north along 327<sup>th</sup> St to Normandale Road. From Normandale Road, the line would continue east for approximately 1.5 miles, and then continue north for 0.5 miles to a new substation site. Poles will primarily be wood single-pole structures (see photo at right). Guy wires and anchors may be required in areas, but will be minimized to the extent possible to lessen the impact on agricultural activities. The transmission lines will carry four wires (three electrical and one for lightning protection). In certain areas, RFPU's or the rural electric cooperative's distribution line may be underbuilt on SMMPA's new transmission line structures.

An easement will be requested from landowners that will have transmission line poles or an overhang of the wires or apparatus on their property. The easement will provide for such things as construction and maintenance access, vegetation control and structure limitations in the easement area. The majority of the easement area will still be allowed for use by the landowner for such things as farming activities, drainage systems, underground utilities and access drives. A fair offer of compensation will be presented along with the easement to landowners.



## Project Schedule

Easement Acquisition .....	Fall 2010 - Winter 2010/2011
Project Permitting .....	Fall 2010 – Spring 2010
Construction Start .....	Summer/Fall 2011

## Contact

Rick Hettwer  
Manager of Power Delivery  
Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency  
507-285-0478  
rj.hettwer@smmpa.org

Chuck Heins  
Public Utilities Superintendent  
Redwood Falls Public Utilities  
507-627-1301  
cheins@ci.redwood-falls.mn.us





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

December 16, 2010

Richard Hettwer  
Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency  
500 First Ave. SW  
Rochester, MN 55902

Chuck Heins  
Redwood Falls Public Utilities  
333 S. Washington St.  
Redwood Falls, MN 56283

Brian Balstad  
Redwood County Government Center  
403 S. Mill St., PO Box 130  
Redwood Falls, MN 56283

**Re: Local Review of Redwood County 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation  
Commission Docket Number: ET9, E298/LR-10-1272**

Dear Mr. Hettwer, Mr. Heins, and Mr. Balstad,

Greetings. This letter confirms that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) has received notification that Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA) and Redwood Falls Public Utilities (RFPU) intend to seek local review to construct a new 5-mile long 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line and associated substation (“East Substation”). The new transmission line and substation would be located in the City of Redwood Falls and within the Redwood County townships of Delhi, Redwood Falls, and Paxton.

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

SMMPA and RFPU have indicated that Redwood County is the local unit of government with jurisdiction to permit this project. A conditional use permit application was submitted to Redwood County on December 6, 2010. A local unit of government may relinquish its permitting jurisdiction by requesting that the Commission assume jurisdiction within 60 days of the filing of an application with the local unit of government (Minn. Rules 7850.5300, Subp. 4).

An environmental review process, including the development of an environmental assessment (EA), must be conducted by the local unit of government with jurisdiction over the project

(Minn. Rules 7850.5300). This letter acknowledges that Redwood County is the responsible governmental unit for the proposed project and associated environmental review. Specific requirements with regard to the environmental review process include (Minn. Rules 7850.5300, Subp. 5):

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

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

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

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray Kirsch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "K".

Ray Kirsch  
Energy Facility Permitting  
Office of Energy Security  
[raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us](mailto:raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us)  
651-296-7588

cc: Burl Haar, Commission  
Bob Cupit, Commission

## **Appendix B**

### **Public Input Letters and Comments**

# REDWOOD COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE

*Planning & Zoning • Solid Waste • Recycling  
Drainage Inspector • Agricultural Inspector*



P.O. BOX 130  
REDWOOD FALLS  
MINNESOTA 56283  
PH: 507-637-4023

**To:** Property Owners within ¼ mile of Proposed Transmission Line Project, Chair and Clerk of Paxton Township and Redwood Falls Township, and City of Redwood Falls  
**From:** Redwood County Environmental Office  
**Date:** February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
**RE:** Input on scope of Environmental Assessment for the Proposed 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project in the Redwood Falls Area.

---

Redwood Falls Public Utilities (RFPU) is planning to add an electric distribution substation on the east side of the City along County Road 1. This project is needed to keep up with increasing electrical demand within the City and to provide necessary system reliability. Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA), is planning to construct a new 115 kV transmission line from RFPU's existing West Substation to RFPU's new East substation. See attached Project Description and Project Map.

The proposed route would begin near RFPU's West Substation near the intersection of Hwy 19 and Westfalls Drive, follow Hwy 19 west to Laser Ave, continue south to a point on the south side of the Redwood River, then east to Ramsey St. turning south along Ramsey St. to 327<sup>th</sup> St, and continuing east and then north along 327<sup>th</sup> St to Normandale Road. From Normandale Road, the line would continue east for approximately 1.5 miles, and then continue north for 0.5 miles to RFPU's new East Substation site.

The transmission line will be constructed with single wood poles that will be 60-80 feet in height. Guy wires and anchors may be required in areas, but will be minimized to the extent possible to lessen the impact on agricultural activities. The transmission lines will carry four wires (three electrical and one for lightning protection). In certain areas, RFPU's or the rural electric cooperative's distribution line may be underbuilt on SMMPA's new transmission line structures.

This letter is intended to allow the public to comment on the project and provide input on the content of the Environmental Assessment (EA). A preliminary Table of Contents for the EA is attached as a starting point for what should be covered in the EA. We encourage you to provide comments on the project and additional topics you want to see addressed in the EA.

Thank you for your input on this project. Please return your comment form in the self-addressed envelope provided by February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Respectfully,

Brian C. Balstad  
Land Use/Zoning Supervisor  
Redwood County Environmental Office



Printed on 100%  
Post-Consumer Recycled Paper

An Equal  
Opportunity Employer

# Proposed 115 kV Transmission Line - Redwood Falls Area



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA  
MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

**Southern Minnesota  
Municipal Power Agency**  
500 First Avenue SW  
Rochester, MN 55902-3303  
1-800-237-8992  
www.smmpa.com



**Redwood Falls Public Utilities**  
333 S Washington St  
Redwood Falls, MN 56283  
1- 507-637-5755  
www.ci.redwood-falls.mn.us

## Project Need

Redwood Falls Public Utilities (RFPU) is planning to add an electric distribution substation on the east side of the City along County Road 1. This project is needed to keep up with increasing electrical demand within the City and to provide necessary system reliability. Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA), power supplier to Redwood Falls Public Utilities, is planning to construct new 115 kV (115,000 volts) transmission line facilities from RFPU's existing West Substation to RFPU's new East Substation.

## Planned Project (Shown on Map on Back)

SMMPA's new construction transmission line project will consist of approximately 5.0 miles of overhead 115 kV transmission line. To lessen impact to agricultural and residential property use along the line route, SMMPA is proposing a route that will follow existing road right-of-ways or utility-easement corridors.

The proposed route of the overhead line would begin at RFPU's West Substation near the intersection of Hwy 19 and Westfalls Drive, follow Hwy 19 west to Laser Ave, continue south to a point on the south side of the Redwood River, then east to Ramsey St, turning south along Ramsey St to 327<sup>th</sup> St, and continuing east and then north along 327<sup>th</sup> St to Normandale Road. From Normandale Road, the line would continue east for approximately 1.5 miles, and then continue north for 0.5 miles to a new substation site. Poles will primarily be wood single-pole structures (see photo at right). Guy wires and anchors may be required in areas, but will be minimized to the extent possible to lessen the impact on agricultural activities. The transmission lines will carry four wires (three electrical and one for lightning protection). In certain areas, RFPU's or the rural electric cooperative's distribution line may be underbuilt on SMMPA's new transmission line structures.

An easement will be requested from landowners that will have transmission line poles or an overhang of the wires or apparatus on their property. The easement will provide for such things as construction and maintenance access, vegetation control and structure limitations in the easement area. The majority of the easement area will still be allowed for use by the landowner for such things as farming activities, drainage systems, underground utilities and access drives. A fair offer of compensation will be presented along with the easement to landowners.



## Project Schedule

Easement Acquisition .....	Fall 2010 - Winter 2010/2011
Project Permitting .....	Fall 2010 – Spring 2010
Construction Start .....	Summer/Fall 2011

## Contact

Rick Hettwer  
Manager of Power Delivery  
Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency  
507-285-0478  
rj.hettwer@smmpa.org

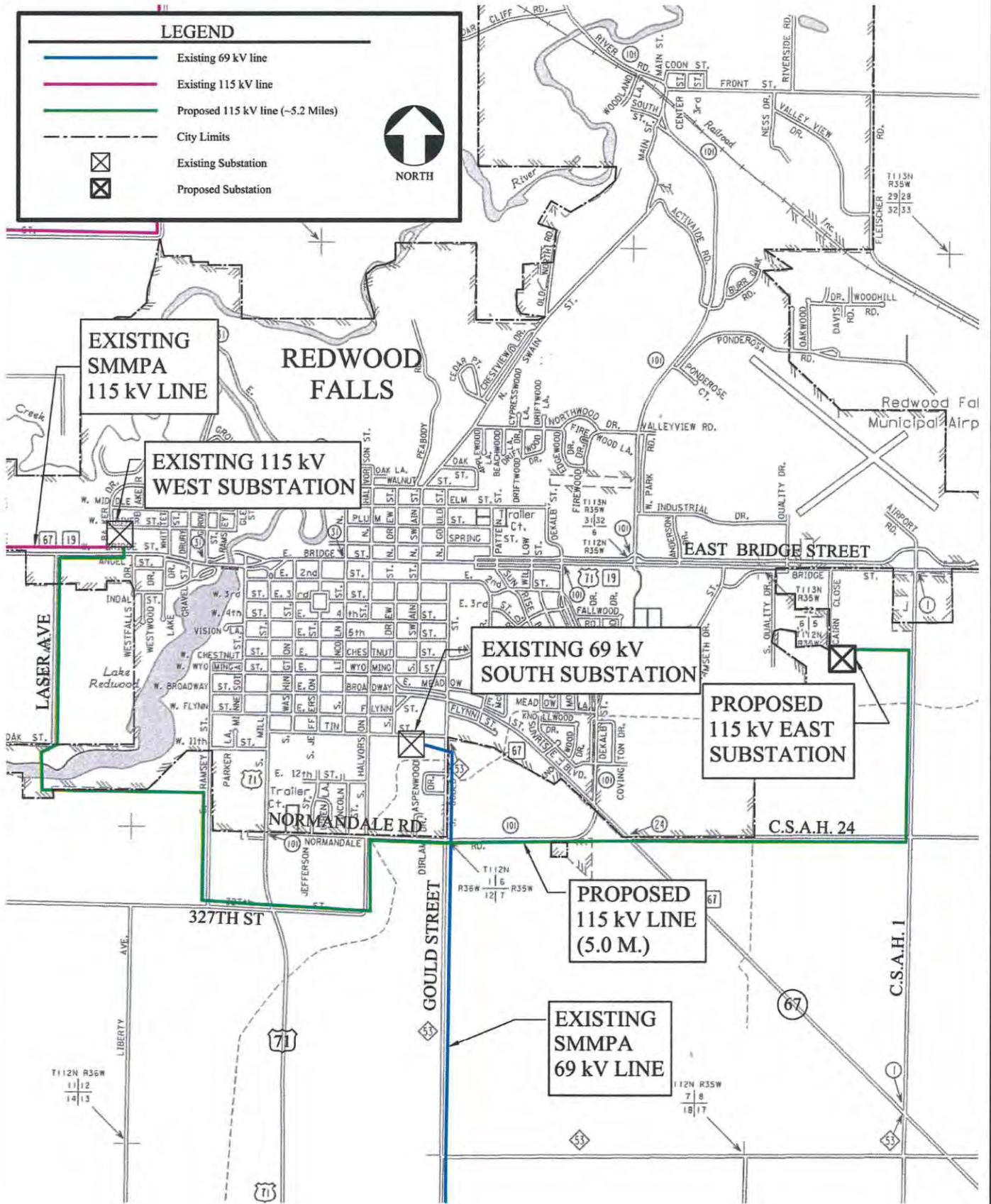
Chuck Heins  
Public Utilities Superintendent  
Redwood Falls Public Utilities  
507-627-1301  
cheins@ci.redwood-falls.mn.us

10/12/2010

# PROJECT MAP

## LEGEND

-  Existing 69 kV line
-  Existing 115 kV line
-  Proposed 115 kV line (~5.2 Miles)
-  City Limits
-  Existing Substation
-  Proposed Substation



# Table of Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
  - 1.1 Proposed Project and Project Need
  - 1.2 Project Description and Location
  - 1.3 Project Cost Estimate
  - 1.4 Project Schedule
- 2.0 Regulatory Framework
  - 2.1 Permit Requirement
  - 2.2 Environmental Assessment Requirement
  - 2.3 Public Participation/Scoping of Environmental Assessment
  - 2.4 Conditional Use Permit
- 3.0 Engineering Design, Right-of-Way Acquisition, and Construction
  - 3.1 Substation
  - 3.2 Transmission Line
  - 3.3 Right-of-Way Acquisition
  - 3.4 Construction and Maintenance Procedures
- 4.0 Assessment of Impacts and Mitigation
  - 4.1 Description of Environmental Setting
  - 4.2 Impacts on Human Settlement
    - 4.2.1 Human Health and Safety
    - 4.2.2 Property Values
    - 4.2.3 Displacement
    - 4.2.4 Noise
    - 4.2.5 Aesthetics
    - 4.2.6 Public Services
    - 4.2.7 Transportations (including airports)
  - 4.3 Impacts on Land-based Economies
    - 4.3.1 Recreation and Tourism
    - 4.3.2 Agriculture
    - 4.3.3 Mining and Forestry
  - 4.4 Natural Resources
    - 4.4.1 Air Quality
    - 4.4.2 Water Resources
    - 4.4.3 Flora and Fauna
    - 4.4.4 Rare and Unique Natural Resources
  - 4.5 Cultural Resources
    - 4.5.1 Archaeological Resources
    - 4.5.2 Historic Resources
- 5.0 Regulatory Permits and Approvals Required

**Comment:**

---

I have the following comments on the Redwood Falls Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project: (Please write your comments below. Use another sheet of paper if more space is needed.)

I have No comments on the Redwood Falls Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project.

---

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Comment:**

---

I have the following comments on the Redwood Falls Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project: (Please write your comments below. Use another sheet of paper if more space is needed.)

I have No comments on the Redwood Falls Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project.

---

Name: James Erie

Address: 733 Normandale R

Phone: 507-637-8242

**Comment:**

---

I have the following comments on the Redwood Falls Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project: (Please write your comments below. Use another sheet of paper if more space is needed.)

I operate an auction company and clerk with wireless radios. Will this cause any interference?

I have No comments on the Redwood Falls Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project.

---

Name: Doug Kerkhoff

Address: 1500 E Bridge St

Phone: 507-644-8433  
507-829-6859

**Comment:**

---

- I have the following comments on the Redwood Falls Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project: (Please write your comments below. Use another sheet of paper if more space is needed.)

I do not want transmission line across  
from us  
it lower your property value  
go out side and hear that Buzzing all the time  
it bothers the T.V. so it don't come in at all

Don & Marge Knapp  
33430 - 327th St.  
Redwood Falls, MN 56283

- I have No comments on the Redwood Falls Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project.
- 

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Comment:

---

- I have the following comments on the Redwood Falls Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project: (Please write your comments below. Use another sheet of paper if more space is needed.)

Reveiwng the Project MAP SHOWS too ME OPERATIONS TAKE PLACE QUITE WEST OF MY IMMEDIATE LOCATION AND ENVIROMENTAL WORKS. I DO APPREC. INFORMING ME OF THIS PROJECT AND STAND prepered to SUPPORT this in ANY way dictated by CIRCUMSTANCE.

- I have No comments on the Redwood Falls Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project.
- 

Name: KNUTSON STEVEN

Address: 518 WEST BRG. ST Redwood Falls MN 56283 1550

Phone: NONE

**Comment:**

---

- I have the following comments on the Redwood Falls Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project: (Please write your comments below. Use another sheet of paper if more space is needed.)

I have a big concern about guy (anchor) wires. I expect the placement of the poles — will be reviewed with each landowner. No surprises.

If done right - I have no objection.

- I have No comments on the Redwood Falls Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project.
- 

Name: Brian J. Mathiowetz

Address: 17786 Cty Rd. 8 Sleepy Eye, MN. 56085

Phone: 507-799-6545

**Comment:**

---

I have the following comments on the Redwood Falls Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project: (Please write your comments below. Use another sheet of paper if more space is needed.)

I have No comments on the Redwood Falls Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project.

---

Name: Randy + Jayce Pomitra  
Address: 33930 Laser Ave Redwood Falls, MN  
Phone: 507-430-1864 Jayce 56283  
507-829-4772 Randy

RECEIVED  
MAR 02 2011  
CITY OF REDWOOD FALLS

**Comment:**

I have the following comments on the Redwood Falls Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project: (Please write your comments below. Use another sheet of paper if more space is needed.)

Redwood Fall Township Board

Per Chuck Heins conversation with Steve Whittet (Supervisor)

We as a Townboard have No objections to the proposed Power line.

I have No comments on the Redwood Falls Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project.

Name: Redwood Falls Township

Address: 34511 County Hwy 17 Redwood Falls MN 56283

Phone: 507-828-7238 desk

**Comment:**

---

I have the following comments on the Redwood Falls Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project: (Please write your comments below. Use another sheet of paper if more space is needed.)

I have No comments on the Redwood Falls Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project.

---

Name: R. F. Nursing                      John Buckley  
Address: Box 304                              1212 So Mill St  
Phone: 637-8952

**Comment:**

---

- I have the following comments on the Redwood Falls Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project: (Please write your comments below. Use another sheet of paper if more space is needed.)

The proposed line would go through my front yard. My property value will decrease, several of my trees will have to be relocated and I will end up with 2 poles in my yard. I will also have to look at the thing for years. Is there any one in the county that would want this?

- I have No comments on the Redwood Falls Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project.
- 

Name: JEFF SCHMIOT

Address: 34430 W. RD 101 REDWOOD FALLS

Phone: 644-3600

**Comment:**

---

I have the following comments on the Redwood Falls Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project: (Please write your comments below. Use another sheet of paper if more space is needed.)

I have No comments on the Redwood Falls Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project.

---

Name: Alvin Seaman

Address: 731 Normansdale RD.

Phone: 507-637-2169

**Comment:**

---

I have the following comments on the Redwood Falls Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project: (Please write your comments below. Use another sheet of paper if more space is needed.)

I have No comments on the Redwood Falls Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project.

---

Name: Gary Zick, Chair, Trustees - St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Address: 719 West Broadway  
Phone: 637-2035

**Comment:**

---

- I have the following comments on the Redwood Falls Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project: (Please write your comments below. Use another sheet of paper if more space is needed.)

Cant beleive years ago they spent all that time and money to bury utilitie line in this town, Just to put poles up years later, Think you could bury them again and go straight from normandale to ramsey st.

- I have No comments on the Redwood Falls Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project.
- 

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



**Comment:**

---

I have the following comments on the Redwood Falls Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project: (Please write your comments below. Use another sheet of paper if more space is needed.)

I have No comments on the Redwood Falls Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project.

---

Name: Eric + Mary Woodford

Address: 2402 Lake st , Emmetsburg, IA 50536

Phone: 712-922-4102

**Comment:**

---

I have the following comments on the Redwood Falls Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project: (Please write your comments below. Use another sheet of paper if more space is needed.)

I have No comments on the Redwood Falls Area 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project.

---

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

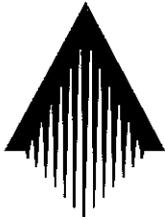
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Doug & Barb Hagg  
1205 South Lincoln  
Redwood Falls, MN 56283

507 637 2554

## **Appendix C**

### **Conditional Use Permit Application**



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA  
MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

*Bringing power to your life.*

THE CITY OF  
REDWOOD  
FALLS

December 2, 2010

Brian Balstad  
Redwood County Government Center  
403 South Mill Street  
P.O. Box 130  
Redwood Falls, MN 56283

RECEIVED  
DEC 06 2010  
CITY OF REDWOOD FALLS

RE: Southern MN Municipal Power Agency's (SMMPA) and  
The City Of Redwood Falls Conditional Sue Permit Application for a Proposed  
115 kV Transmission Line and a Proposed East Substation

Dear Mr. Balstad:

Enclosed is an application for a Redwood County Conditional Use Permit ("CUP") for SMMPA's proposed 115 kV transmission line and the City of Redwood Falls proposed East Substation. Also enclosed is a check in the amount of \$650 for the county fee associated for this application.

SMMPA and the City of Redwood Falls agree the sixty (60) day deadline set forth at Minnesota Statutes Section 15.99 shall not commence until the Environmental Assessment ("EA") regarding the aforementioned project has been completed and approved, in writing, by Redwood County. Therefore, the sixty (60) day time deadline shall be waived to this extent.

Let us know if you need anything from SMMPA or Redwood Falls in order to complete the EA or the CUP for this project.

Sincerely,

Richard Hettwer  
SMMPA

Sincerely,

Chuck Heins  
City of Redwood Falls

RJH:nw:2k10065  
enclosures





www.co.redwood.mn.us

### Application for Conditional Use Permit

Permit #: \_\_\_\_\_-10

Date:

**Location of Proposed Use:**

Address:           Cairn Close Road           City: Redwood Falls State: MN Zip: 56283  
House # Street Name

Parcel #: 62-005-2190 Township: Paxton Section: 5 Twp #: T-112-N Range: R-35-W

**Legal Description:**

Substation will be located at: TR 435.60' X 500' IN NWFR1/4 (5.00 acres); 115 kV overhead transmission line will pass through Section 36 of Delhi Township, Sections 1, 2, 11, and/or 12 of Redwood Falls Township, Sections 5, 6, 7, and/or 8 of Paxton Township.

**Information about the Site:**

**Zoning District:** Limited Industry

**General description of the building or request:**

Construction and operation of a new 115 kV to 13.8 kV local distribution substation ("East substation") and 115 kV overhead transmission line commencing at existing West substation and proceeding five (5) miles to new East substation along the following proposed route: commencing at existing West Substation and proceeding West along Highway 19 to Laser Avenue, then South to a point on South side of Redwood River, then East to Ramsey Street, then South along Ramsey Street to 327th Street, then East and North along 327th Street to Normandale Road, then East for approximately 1.5 miles, and then North for 0.5 miles to new East substation. Overhead transmission lines will consist of four (4) wires and will be suspended from wood single-pole structures. Guy wires and anchors will be constructed along route as necessary. RFPU's or rural electric coop's distribution line may be underbuilt on new transmission line structures. All necessary easements will be acquired. A 28' x 36' control building, an electrical substation, and a fence measuring 180' x 155' will be constructed on site. No other structures will be located on site. See attached fact sheet & project map.

**Type of occupancy:**

Essential Service Line & Structure

**Building Size:** (Please enter dimensions in feet)

Width:                      Length:                      Diameter:

Sidewall Height:                      Total Height:

**Setbacks:** (Please enter in feet)

Side Yard Setback: 35                      Direction: North

Side Yard Setback: 310                      Direction: South

Rear Yard Setback: 190                      Direction: East

Road Type:                      Setback from the Center of the Road:                      73

Right-of-Way Footage: 33                      ft

**General Contractor:**

Name: Project bids will be accepted at a later date                      City:                      State: MN

**Sewer System Contractor:**

**Name:**

**City:**

**State: MN**

**Type of Sewer System:**

**Drainage Plan:**

Surface water will be appropriately drained; Drainage plan will be prepared

**Water Usage (estimated gallons per day):**

**Soil Type 1:**

**Soil Type 2:**

**Estimated Date of Completion:** 12/31/2012

**Other Information:**

Contact information for co-applicant SMMPA is as follows: Richard Hettwer, 500 First Avenue Southwest, Rochester, MN 55902, telephone (507) 285-0478. Contact information for co-applicant RFPU is as follows: Chuck Heins, 333 South Washington Street, Redwood Falls, MN 56283, telephone (507) 637-5789.

**Applicant Information:**

**First Name:**

**Last Name:**

**Business:** Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA) & Redwood Falls Public Utilities (RFPU)

**Address:**

**City:**

**State: MN**

**Zip:**

**Home Phone:**

**Cell Phone:**

**Land Owner Information:**

**First Name:** City of Redwood Falls

**Last Name:**

I affirm that the forgoing information is true and accurate. I understand that if any portion of this information is false or materially misleading, any conditional use permit issued in reliance upon this information is voidable at the election of Redwood County.

**Land Owner Signature:**

*Richard Hettwer*  
SMMPA

*Chuck Heins*  
City of Redwood Falls

**Date:** 12/2/10

**Office Use Only:** \* The section below is to be filled out by the Environmental Office Staff

**CUP Permit Fee:**

\$650.00

**Receipt #:**

**Date Approved:**

---

**Commission Action:**

**County Board Action:**

**Approved:**

**Date:**

**Approved:**

**Date:**

**Disapproved:**

**Date:**

**Disapproved:**

**Date:**

# Proposed 115 kV Transmission Line - Redwood Falls Area



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA  
MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

**Southern Minnesota  
Municipal Power Agency**  
500 First Avenue SW  
Rochester, MN 55902-3303  
1-800-237-8992  
www.smmmpa.com



**Redwood Falls Public Utilities**  
333 S Washington St  
Redwood Falls, MN 56283  
1- 507-637-5755  
www.ci.redwood-falls.mn.us

## Project Need

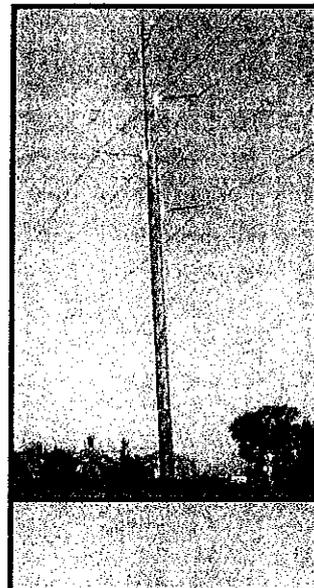
Redwood Falls Public Utilities (RFPU) is planning to add an electric distribution substation on the east side of the City along County Road 1. This project is needed to keep up with increasing electrical demand within the City and to provide necessary system reliability. Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMMPA), power supplier to Redwood Falls Public Utilities, is planning to construct new 115 kV (115,000 volts) transmission line facilities from RFPU's existing West Substation to RFPU's new East substation.

## Planned Project (Shown on Map on Back)

SMMMPA's new construction transmission line project will consist of approximately 5.0 miles of overhead 115 kV transmission line. To lessen impact to agricultural and residential property use along the line route, SMMMPA is proposing a route that will follow existing road right-of-ways or utility-easement corridors.

The proposed route of the overhead line would begin at RFPU's West Substation near the intersection of Hwy 19 and Westfalls Drive, follow Hwy 19 west to Laser Ave, continue south to a point on the south side of the Redwood River, then east to Ramsey St, turning south along Ramsey St to 327<sup>th</sup> St, and continuing east and then north along 327<sup>th</sup> St to Normandale Road. From Normandale Road, the line would continue east for approximately 1.5 miles, and then continue north for 0.5 miles to a new substation site. Poles will primarily be wood single-pole structures (see photo at right). Guy wires and anchors may be required in areas, but will be minimized to the extent possible to lessen the impact on agricultural activities. The transmission lines will carry four wires (three electrical and one for lightning protection). In certain areas, RFPU's or the rural electric cooperative's distribution line may be underbuilt on SMMMPA's new transmission line structures.

An easement will be requested from landowners that will have transmission line poles or an overhang of the wires or apparatus on their property. The easement will provide for such things as construction and maintenance access, vegetation control and structure limitations in the easement area. The majority of the easement area will still be allowed for use by the landowner for such things as farming activities, drainage systems, underground utilities and access drives. A fair offer of compensation will be presented along with the easement to landowners.



## Project Schedule

Easement Acquisition .....	Fall 2010 - Winter 2010/2011
Project Permitting .....	Fall 2010 – Spring 2010
Construction Start .....	Summer/Fall 2011

## Contact

Rick Hettwer  
Manager of Power Delivery  
Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency  
507-285-0478  
rh.hettwer@smmmpa.org

Chuck Heins  
Public Utilities Superintendent  
Redwood Falls Public Utilities  
507-627-1301  
cheins@ci.redwood-falls.mn.us

10/7/2010

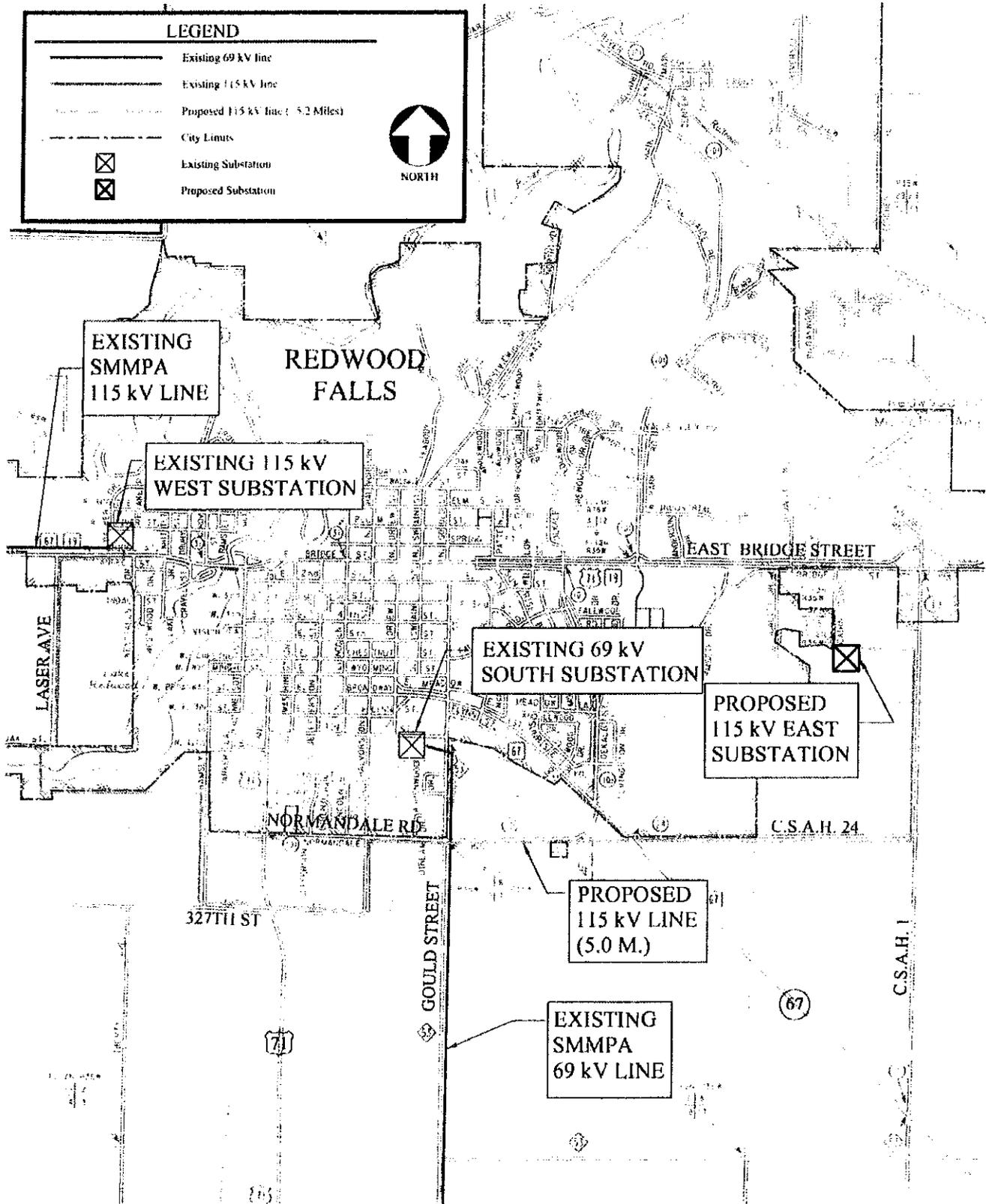
# PROJECT MAP

**LEGEND**

- Existing 69 kV line
- Existing 115 kV line
- Proposed 115 kV line ( 5.2 Miles)
- City Limits
- Existing Substation
- Proposed Substation



NORTH



10/7/2010

Permit # \_\_\_\_\_

Please add the following items to the map:

1. New Structure(s)
2. Septic System
3. Well

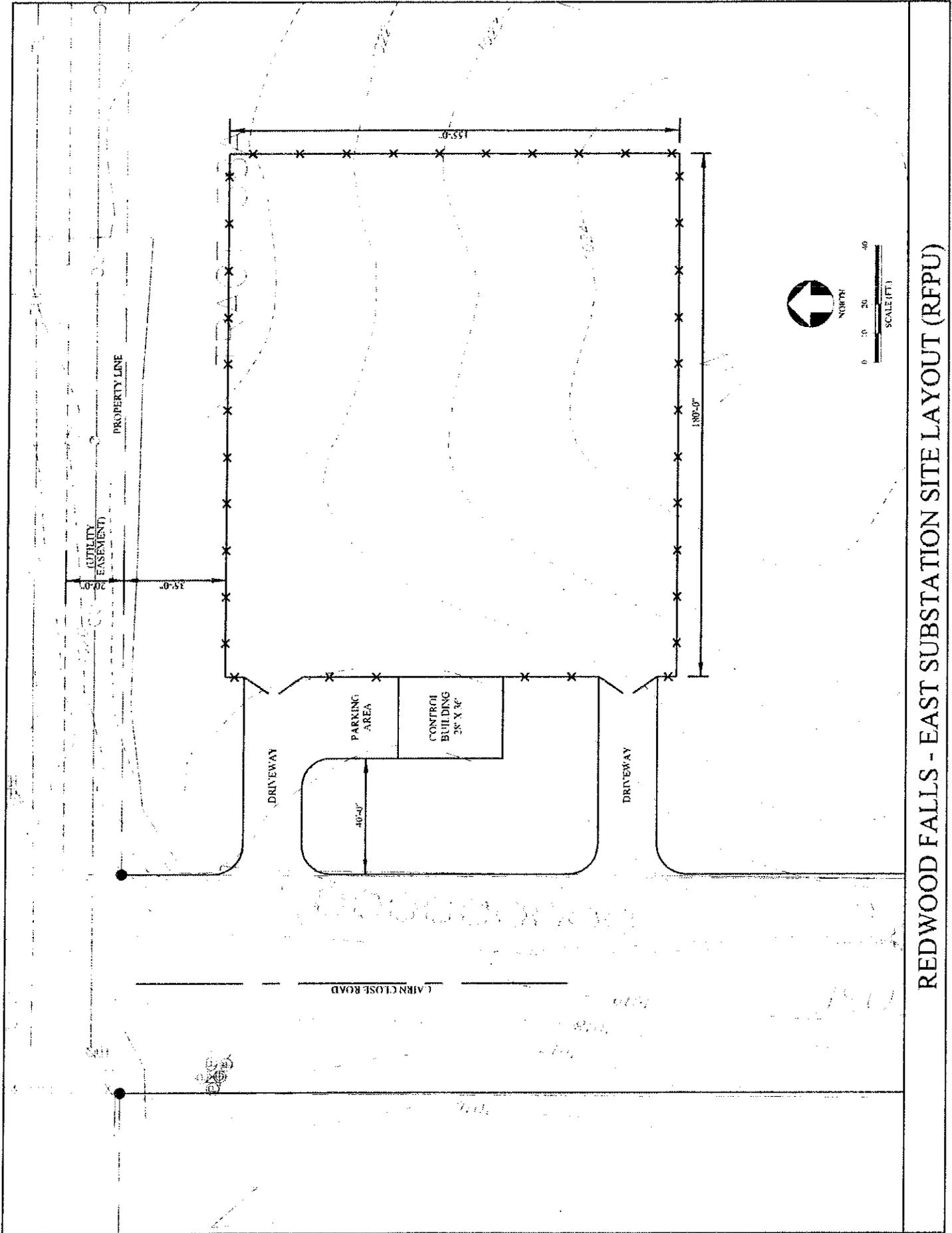
Please see attached.

I affirm that the forgoing information is true and accurate. I understand that if any portion of this information is false or misleading, any zoning or land use permit issued in reliance upon this information is voidable at the election of the Redwood County Zoning Administrator.

Landowner Signature: *Randy Peterson* *Chuck Jensen* Date: *12/2/10*  
*SIDEWPA* *City of Redwood Falls*

Administrator Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

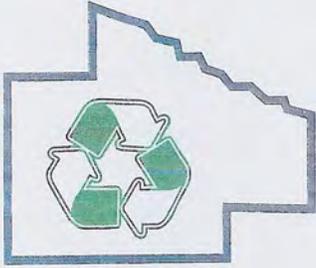
Redwood County Zoning Administrator



REDWOOD FALLS - EAST SUBSTATION SITE LAYOUT (RFPU)

# REDWOOD COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE

*Planning & Zoning • Solid Waste • Recycling  
Drainage Inspector • Agricultural Inspector*



December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010



P.O. BOX 130  
REDWOOD FALLS  
MINNESOTA 56283  
PH: 507-637-4023

VIA U.S. MAIL

Chuck Heins  
City of Redwood Falls  
333 South Washington Street  
P.O. Box 526  
Redwood Falls, MN 56283

Richard Hettwer  
Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency  
500 First Avenue SW  
Rochester, MN 55902-3303

**RE: SMMPA & RFPU Application for Conditional Use Permit**

Dear Mr. Heins & Mr. Hettwer:

I am writing to respectfully inform you the *Application for Conditional Use Permit* submitted on behalf of Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency and the City of Redwood Falls has been reviewed and accepted as of the 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2010, the date the *Application for Conditional Use Permit, Site Plan*, and application/permit fee were received. Pursuant to the agreement entered into by and between the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, the City of Redwood Falls, and the Redwood County Environmental Office, the sixty (60) day time deadline set forth at M.S.A. §15.99 shall not commence and shall be waived until the Environmental Assessment has been completed and approved in writing by Redwood County.

Subsequent to the approval of the Environmental Assessment by Redwood County in writing, a *Notice of Public Hearing* will be published in the official newspaper of Redwood County, namely the Redwood Gazette. Please note, pursuant to Section 25, Subdivision 3(2) of Redwood County Ordinance, the notice must be published at least ten (10) days prior to the public hearing indicating the time and location of the same. Subsequent to the publication of the *Notice of Public Hearing*, a public hearing on the *Application for Conditional Use Permit* will be held at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Redwood County Planning Commission.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone at (507) 637-4023 or in writing at the following address: *Redwood County Environmental Office, P.O. Box 130, Redwood Falls, MN 56283.*



Printed on 100%  
Post-Consumer Recycled Paper

An Equal  
Opportunity Employer

Thank you.

Respectfully,



Brian C. Balstad  
Land Use & Zoning Supervisor  
Redwood County Environmental Office

## **Appendix D**

### **List of Acronyms**

AM	Amplitude modulated
BMP	Best Management Practice
CUP	Conditional Use Permit
dB	Decibels
dBA	“A-weighted” sound scale (human hearing) recorded in units of decibels
DNR	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
DOT	Minnesota Department of Transportation
EA	Environmental Assessment
ECS	Ecological Classification System
ELF	Extremely Low Frequency
EMF	Electromagnetic Field
EMI	Electromagnetic Interference
EPRI	Electric Power Research Institute
EQB	Environmental Quality Board
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FM	Frequency Modulated
G	Gauss (mG = milligauss)
GPS	Global Positioning System
GSM	Global System for Mobile Communications
Hz	Hertz
ICD	Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillators
IEEE	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
kV	Kilovolt
mA	Milliamps
MCBS	Minnesota County Biological Survey
MHz	Megahertz
MN	Minnesota
NAC	Noise Area Classifications
NHIS	Natural Heritage Information System
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NIEHS	National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
OES	Office of Energy Security (Department of Commerce)
PCA	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
PSCW	Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
PUC	Public Utilities Commission
PWI	Public Waters Inventory

RFPU	Redwood Falls Public Utilities
ROW	Right-of-way
SMMPA	Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
UHF	Ultra-high frequency
WHO	World Health Organization

## **Appendix E**

### **References**

## References

---

- Electric Power Research Institute, Inc. (EPRI). 2004. Electromagnetic Interference with Implanted Medical Devices: 1997-2003.
- Jackson, T. O. and J. Pitts. 2010. "The Effect of Electric Transmission Lines on Property Values: A Literature Review." *Journal of Real Estate Literature* 18:2 (239-259).
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. 2011. Ecological Classification System: The Minnesota River Prairie Subsection. Website accessed February 2011 at:  
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ecs/251Ba/index.html>
- Minnesota State Interagency Working Group on EMF Issues. 2002. A White Paper on Electric and Magnetic Field Policy and Mitigation Options. Website accessed February, 2011 at:  
<http://www.capx2020.com/Images/EMFWhitePaper2002.pdf>.
- National Cancer Institute, 2009. *Magnetic Field Exposure and Cancer: Questions and Answers Fact Sheet*, Website accessed February 2011 at:  
<http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/Risk/magnetic-fields>.
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. 1999. NIEHS Report on Health Effects from Exposure to Power-line Frequency Electric and Magnetic Fields. Website accessed February, 2011 at: <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/health/docs/niehs-report.pdf>
- National Institute of Environmental Health Services / National Institutes of Health: 2002. EMF Associated with the Use of Electric Power. Website accessed February, 2011 at:  
<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/health/docs/emf-02.pdf>
- Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW). 2009. Environmental Impacts of Transmission Lines. Website accessed February, 2011 at:  
<http://psc.wi.gov/thelibrary/publications/electric/electric10.pdf>
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). 2009. Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF) Radiation from Power Lines. Website accessed February, 2011 at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/radtown/power-lines.html>.
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service. 2011. County distribution of federally-listed threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species. Accessed February 2011 at:  
<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/lists/minnesot-cty.html>
- World Health Organization. 2009. Electromagnetic Fields: Research. Accessed November 2009 at:  
<http://www.who.int/pehemf/research/en/>