

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

FOR THE

**PROPOSED MOORHEAD PUBLIC SERVICE
115 KV TRANSMISSION LINE AND SUBSTATION**

BY

CLAY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

October 2011

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**MOORHEAD PUBLIC SERVICE (MPS)
PROPOSED 115 KV ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
1.0	PROPOSED PROJECT DETAILS 1
1.1	Project Owner 1
1.2	Project Need..... 1
1.3	Project Description..... 1
1.4	Project Location 2
1.5	Construction Details..... 2
2.0	REGULATORY DETAILS 4
2.1	Permit Requirement 4
2.2	Environmental Assessment Requirements..... 4
2.3	EA Public Input..... 5
3.0	ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS..... 6
3.1	Air Quality 6
3.2	Water Resources 6
3.3	Wildlife and Vegetation 6
3.4	Noise 7
3.5	Archaeological and Historic Resources 7
3.6	Soils and Geology 7
3.7	Aesthetics and Visual Impacts 8
3.8	Human Settlement..... 8
3.9	Public Health and Safety..... 9
3.10	Transportation 10
4.0	PROJECT APPROVALS AND PERMITS 11
4.1	Permits and Approvals..... 11
APPENDIX	– Figure 1: Project Location Map
	– Figure 2: Proposed Transmission Line Routing
	– Figure 3: Typical Tangent Structure
	– Agency Correspondence

1.0 PROPOSED PROJECT DETAILS

1.1 Project Owner

Moorhead Public Service (MPS) owns and operates a municipal electric system that provides service to the community of Moorhead, Minnesota, which has a population of 38,065 (2010 Census). MPS is governed by a five-member Commission appointed by the City Council and the Mayor.

1.2 Project Need

MPS is planning to add a new 115 kV (115,000 volts) electric transmission line to serve a new 115 kV substation that will be constructed in the McCara Business Park. This project is needed to provide additional capacity on the system, as well as increase system reliability to the new 115 kV substation.

1.3 Project Description

MPS's transmission line project will consist of the construction of approximately 6.6 miles of new overhead 115 kV transmission line and a new 115kV substation. To lessen impact to agricultural and residential property use along the line route, MPS is proposing a route that will follow along road right-of-ways, railroad right-of-ways or utility-easement corridors.

The 115 kV transmission line will consist of narrow profile construction, utilizing horizontal post insulators. A typical structure is shown on Figure 3 in the Appendix. Poles will primarily be wood or steel single-pole structures. Custom-designed laminated and/or steel poles will be used where the line route changes direction. Guy wires and anchors may be required in areas, but will be minimized to the extent possible to lessen the impact to landowners. The transmission lines will carry four wires (three electrical and one for lightning protection/communication).

1.4 Project Location

The proposed route of the new tie line would begin at an electrical interconnection point with MPS's existing 115 kV transmission line on the north side of 50th Ave. South, follow the north ROW of 50th Ave. South east to the east side of Highway 52, continue northwest adjacent to drainage ditch #47 approximately 1.4 miles, then east approximately 0.3 mile, then north to the proposed location for the new 115 kV substation. From the substation the route will continue west to drainage ditch #47, then northwest along and adjacent to the ROW of drainage ditch #47 until it intersects with the existing 115 kV line near 20th Ave. Figures 1 and 2 in the Appendix show the location and line routing, respectively.

1.5 Construction Details

Construction of the proposed transmission Project is planned to begin in the spring of 2012, depending on when required permitting approvals are obtained and easement acquisition is completed. The proposed 115 kV transmission line would be constructed at grade elevations; therefore, no structure locations would require grading unless it is necessary to provide a level area for construction access and activities. Construction would comply with the latest industry standards regarding clearance to ground, clearance to crossing utilities, clearance to buildings, ROW widths, erecting power poles, and stringing of transmission line conductors.

The excavation for a typical structure would require disturbing a soil area that is 3 to 4 feet in diameter and 9 to 12 feet deep. Structures located in wet environments or angle-type structures may require additional foundation support, typically consisting of a concrete foundation or placement of the structure base inside a vertical, galvanized steel culvert. Best management practices (BMP) will be used to provide erosion control to minimize runoff during all phases of construction. A Contractor procured by MPS would perform transmission line construction in compliance with local, state, National Electrical Safety Code, and industry standards.

Poles would be delivered to either the staked location or a project storage yard. Insulators and other hardware would typically be attached while the pole was on the ground. The pole would then be lifted, placed and secured in or on the foundation by a bucket truck or crane.

Once the structures have been erected, conductors would be installed by establishing stringing setup areas. The stringing setup areas would usually be established every two miles or at locations where the line route changed direction along the project route. Conductor stringing operations also require brief access to each structure to secure the conductor wire to the insulators or to install shield wire clamps once final sag is established. Temporary guard or clearance poles would be installed, as needed, over existing distribution or communication lines, streets, roads, highways, railways or other obstructions after any necessary notifications were made or permits obtained. This ensures that conductors would not obstruct traffic or contact existing energized conductors or other cables. In addition, the conductors would be protected from damage.

MPS would periodically use the transmission line ROW to perform inspections, maintain equipment, and repair any damage. MPS would also conduct regular route maintenance for removal of undesired vegetation that would interfere with the operation of the proposed transmission line.

During construction, limited ground disturbance at the structure sites may occur. Disturbed areas would be restored to their original condition to the maximum extent practicable as negotiated with the landowner. Post-construction reclamation activities include:

- Removing and disposing of debris,
- Removing all temporary facilities (including staging and laydown areas),
- Employing appropriate erosion control measures,
- Reseeding and mulching areas disturbed by construction activities with vegetation similar to that which was removed and,
- Restoring the areas to their original condition to the extent possible.

In cases where soil compaction has occurred, the construction crews or site restoration contractor would use various methods to alleviate the compaction as negotiated with landowners.

2.0 REGULATORY DETAILS

2.1 Permit Requirement

The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) is responsible for permitting power plants, transmission lines, pipelines and wind turbine siting. Under the Power Plant Siting Act, a permit from the PUC is required for transmission line projects over 100 kV (Minn. Stat. § 216E). However on eligible projects, local review and permitting is possible. For such projects, a utility may apply to a local unit of government (named the responsible governmental unit or RGU) instead of the PUC for a permit to build the project. The project is proposed to traverse the Clay County and City of Moorhead jurisdictions. After discussing the project with these entities, Clay County agreed to act as the lead RGU.

Per Minn. Stat. § 216E.05, subd. 3 and Minn. Rules 7849.6200 Subp.3, MPS provided notice to the PUC a route permit had been applied for through the local review process and that Clay County agreed to be the RGU (see letter in the Appendix). A letter was received from the Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security (OES) to Clay County and MPS confirming the proposed Project was eligible for local review (see letter in Appendix). Notice of the project was also sent to those persons on the Power Plant Siting General Notification list as required under Minn. Rules 7850.5300, Subp. 3 (see notice in Appendix).

2.2 Environmental Assessment Requirements

In accordance with Minn. Rules 7849.6200 Subp.5, the RGU over the project must prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA contains information on the human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and addresses methods to mitigate such impacts.

A copy of the EA must be provided to the PUC by Clay County, and a notice must be published in the Minnesota Department of Administration, Environmental Quality Board (EQB) Monitor stating that the EA is available for public review, how a copy of the document may be reviewed, that the public may comment on the document, and the procedure for submitting comments to Clay County. A final decision (i.e. conditional use permit) on the proposed Project cannot be made by Clay County until at least 10 days after the notice appears in the EQB Monitor.

2.3 EA Public Input

Prior to completion of the EA, Minn. Rule 7850.5300 requires that the public have an opportunity to participate in developing the scope of the EA. The Clay County Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing at a Commission meeting on August 30, 2011 to provide an option for the public to provide input on the development of the EA.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 Air Quality

Since electric transmission lines and substations do not produce air emissions, there will be no environmental impacts to air quality. An insignificant amount of emissions will occur during construction due to normal construction vehicles and equipment.

3.2 Water Resources

The only water resource that the transmission line will affect is a crossing of Ditch #47. The Buffalo Red River personnel that were contacted stated that a permit would need to be obtained prior to construction.

3.3 Wildlife and Vegetation

The US Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the DNR's Regional Assessment Ecologist, and the DNR's Endangered Species Environmental Review Coordinator were contacted regarding potential wildlife and vegetation resources in the vicinity of the project. In addition, a search of the Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program database was conducted for the project area.

The FWS indicated that there are no federally listed proposed, threatened or endangered species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat within the action area of the proposed project (see email dated 7/14/11).

It was noted from the Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program database that there are two known occurrences of rare species and one rare feature within the searched area of a one mile radius. These were the Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia*), located in Section 28 T139N T48W, the Garita Skipper (*Oarisma garita*) located in Sections 15,14,13 and 12 of T139W R48W and the Wet Prairie (Northern) Type located in Sections 26 and 23 of T139N R48W. The DNR noted that the Wet Prairie (Northern) Type may be adversely affected by the proposed project.

To address the issue MPS will require the contractor(s) acquired for this project to avoid ground disturbance within the Railroad ROW including no vehicle use or stockpiling of equipment. The Transmission line

centerline will be on private property east of the Railroad ROW. The excavation for a typical structure would require disturbing a soil area that is 3 to 4 feet in diameter and 9 to 12 feet deep. This will be done completely on private property to avoid disturbance of the Railroad ROW where the Wet Prairie (Northern) Type was located. Therefore, it was concluded that the project will not negatively affect any known occurrences of this rare feature.

The MN DNR's regional assessment ecologist (see emails dated 8/17/11) also reviewed the project. He referred to the recommendations made by the Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program database and stated that he had no additional comments to add at this time.

3.4 Noise

Standard levels of noise associated with heavy construction equipment operation will occur during construction. These impacts are expected to be minimal, and would be similar in nature or less than the noise levels produced by trains passing by or the normal traffic along the City's streets.

The high voltage transmission line will be operated within the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Noise Pollution Control Rules, Chapter 7030.

3.5 Archaeological and Historic Resources

The Minnesota Historical Society State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was contacted concerning the presence of historic properties in the project vicinity. SHPO concluded that because there are no federal/state agencies funding/permitting the project a review by SHPO was not necessary (see email dated 6/6/11 in the Appendix). The Clay County Historical Society was also contacted concerning the presence of historic properties in the project vicinity. They (see letter dated 6/1/11 in the Appendix) indicated that no areas of historical significance will be affected by this project.

3.6 Soils and Geology

The project area is located within and near the City of Moorhead in Clay County. According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

(MnDNR) Ecological Classification System (ECS), the project area is located within the Red River Prairie Subsection of the Red River Valley section of the Prairie Parkland Province (MnDNR 2011). The Red River Prairie Subsection topography is level to gently rolling. There is some steeper topography along drainages and adjacent to Lake Traverse (DNR 2011).

Since the proposed 115 kV transmission line would be constructed at grade elevations, no pole locations would require grading unless it is necessary to provide a level area for construction access and activities.

3.7 Aesthetics and Visual Impacts

The proposed transmission line will consist of narrow profile construction single pole structures. The proposed transmission line running along 50th Ave. South will be in an area that is used primarily for agricultural purposes. Therefore, the aesthetic and visual impacts of the line in this area will be minimal.

The portions of transmission line running along Highway 52, Main Avenue Southeast and the portions connecting to MPS's Opportunity Substation will also consist of narrow profile construction to help minimize the visual impacts to the commercial and multi-use residential properties in this area.

3.8 Human Settlement

The proposed transmission line is to be located within either the public road right-of-way, or on property easements acquired from private landowners. Therefore, human settlement will not be impacted in these areas. The easements that will be requested from landowners will have transmission line poles or an overhang of the wires and 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.

3.9 Public Health and Safety

All transmission line will be constructed in accordance with the National Electric Safety Code (NESC) and other relevant industry standards, to insure that adequate safety clearances and provisions are provided. Safety measures including fencing, warning signs, and equipment grounding will be provided per code requirements. All construction personnel will be required to follow Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations throughout project construction.

Questions about Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF) sometimes arise concerning electrical power lines. The following paragraphs include information provided by the Minnesota State Interagency Working Group (MSIWG). Work Group members included representatives from the Department of Commerce, the Department of Health, the Pollution Control Agency, the Commission, and the Environmental Quality Board (MSIWG, 2002). In September of 2002 the MSIWG published “A White Paper on Electric and Magnetic Field (EMF) Policy and Mitigation Options.” (This paper is located at the following weblink – <http://www.capx2020.com/Images/EMFWhitePaper2002.pdf>). The following excerpts are from the summary of the afore mentioned document:

Over the last two decades concern about the health effects of electric and magnetic fields (EMF) has increased. Early scientific studies reported a weak association between increased rates of cancer and closeness to certain kinds of power lines that can cause strong electric and magnetic fields. As more electric facilities are built to meet growing demands for electricity, policy makers will increasingly be faced with questions regarding the potential health impacts of EMF. This report is the result of an interagency work group that was formed to examine these issues and provide useful, science-based information to policy makers in Minnesota.

Electric and magnetic fields are a basic force of nature generated by electricity from both natural and human sources. Exposure to EMF comes from high voltage transmission lines and distribution lines, wiring in buildings, and electric appliances. Electric fields are easily shielded by common objects such as trees, fences, and walls. Magnetic fields are

difficult to shield; this is why magnetic fields produced by power lines can extend into people's homes.

Research on the health effects of EMF has been carried out since the 1970s. Epidemiological studies have mixed results – some have shown no statistically significant association between exposure to EMF and health effects, and some have shown a weak association. More recently, laboratory studies have failed to show such an association, or to establish a biological mechanism for how magnetic fields may cause cancer. A number of scientific panels convened by national and international health agencies and the U.S. Congress have reviewed the research carried out to date. Most concluded that there is insufficient evidence to prove an association between EMF and health effects; however, many of them also concluded that there is insufficient evidence to prove that EMF exposure is safe.

3.10 Transportation

Construction of the project will be performed so as to minimize any impacts to highway and road traffic. The appropriate traffic control devices will be utilized during construction, as dictated by the applicable highway authorities (MnDOT, Clay County, etc.)

The proposed line will lie under an approach surface of the Moorhead Municipal Airport and is subject to the restrictions of the local Airport Zoning Ordinance. The project will comply with all federal, state, and local regulations pertaining to air transportation safety and airport protection.

4.0 PROJECT PERMITS AND APPROVALS

4.1 Permits and Approvals

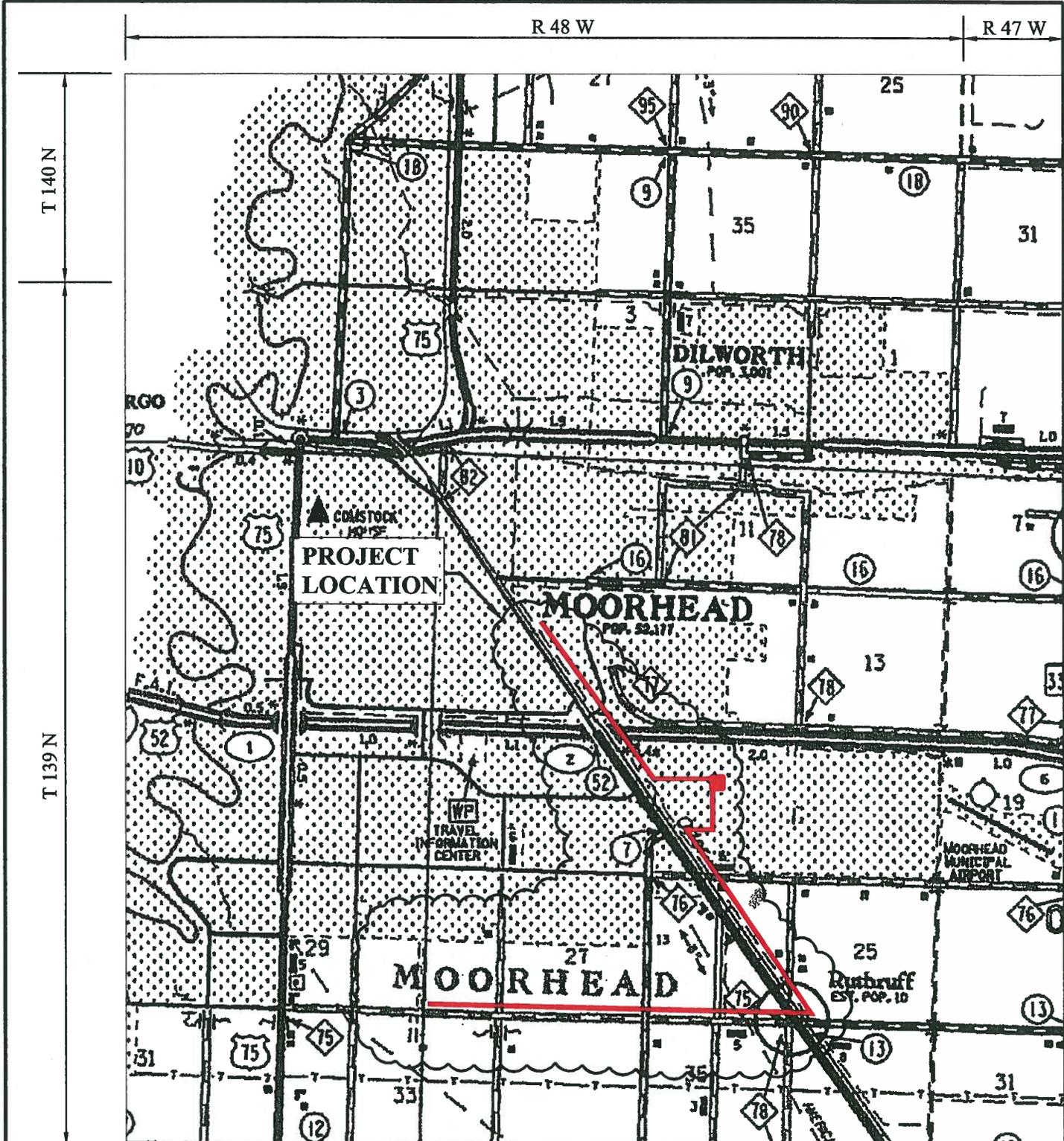
Following is a list of permits and approvals associated with the project, and their current status:

Agency	Permit or Approval	Regulated Activity	Status
County of Clay	Local Review - Conditional Use Permit	Construction of 115 kV Transmission Line	In process
County of Clay	Utility Accommodation Permit	Permit to install structure in County ROW and/or overhang	Permits will be obtained prior to construction.
MN Dept. of Natural Resources (MN DNR)	Environmental Review – Threatened and Endangered Species, Wetlands, Other Resources	Review of Project Impacts	See response of Natural Heritage Database Review. No additional comments at this time – email dated 8-17-11
MN Dept. of Natural Resources (MN DNR)	Minnesota Natural Heritage Database Review	Review of Project Impacts	Three known occurrence of rare features (none affected by project) – email dated 6/30/11
Buffalo Red-River Watershed District	Ditch #47 crossing and construction permit	Permit to install structures in Easement corridor and cross Ditch #47	Final approval of the project will be given after final design is complete.
Minnesota Historical Society	Review of Historic Places	Historic Preservation	No review necessary – email dated 6/6/2011.
Clay County Historical Society	Review of Historic Places	Historic Preservation	No historic properties affected by project – letter dated 6/1/2011.

Agency	Permit or Approval	Regulated Activity	Status
US Dept. of Interior Fish and Wildlife Service	Environmental Review – Threatened and Endangered Species and Critical Habitat	Review of Project Impacts	No foreseen environmental impacts – email dated 7/14/11
Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT)	Highway Crossing Permits	Permits to cross Hwy 52 & I-94.	Permits will be obtained prior to construction.
FAA	Form 7460-1 Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration	Notification of structures that lie within the regulated air space.	Permits will be obtained prior to construction.
City of Moorhead	Moorhead Municipal Airport Impact Review	Review of Project Impacts	Final approval of the project will be given after final design is complete.

APPENDIX

- Figure 1: Project Location Map
- Figure 2: Proposed Transmission Line Routing
- Figure 3: Typical Tangent Structure
- Agency Correspondence:
 - Moorhead Public Services Local Review Request Letter (1 page)
 - Minnesota Department of Commerce / Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Energy Facilities Permitting Letter Acknowledgment (2 pages)
 - Moorhead Public Services Notice of Project to General Notification List (9 pages)
 - Notice of Public Hearing for Public Input on EA (3 pages)
 - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) Regional Ecologist and Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program (9 pages)
 - Minnesota Historical Society State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) (3 pages)
 - Clay County Historical Society (2 pages)
 - US Department of Interior Fish and Wildlife Service (2 pages)



LEGEND

- Proposed 115 kV Transmission Line
- Proposed 115 kV Substation



REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION



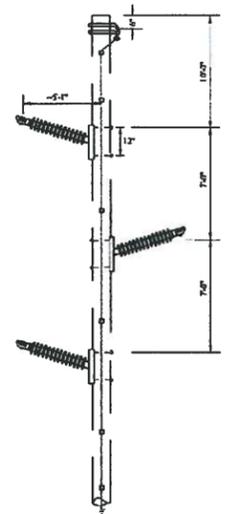
Date: 5-11
 Designed By: DSM
 Project Manager: DJH
 Project Number: 417009

MOORHEAD PUBLIC SERVICE
 MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA

PROJECT LOCATION MAP
 115 KV TRANSMISSION LINE

DWG
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Fig. 1



115 KV TRANSMISSION LINE TANGENT STR. W/H.I.P.

DATE	DESIGNED BY	CHECKED BY	DATE	PROJECT NO.	SCALE	FIG. NO.
						TP-115

LEGEND

- Existing 115 KV transmission line
- Proposed 115 KV transmission line Route 1(6.6 miles)
- Substation Site



I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN, SPECIFICATION OR REPORT WAS PREPARED BY ME, OR UNDER MY DIRECT SUPERVISION, AND THAT I AM A DULY LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA.

BY *James J. Haselhoff*
 James J. Haselhoff, P.E.
 I.C. LICENSE NO. 40275 DATE 5/25/11

REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION

ICGR DeWild Grant Rockert & Assoc. Co.
 Consulting Engineers
 Rock Rapids, Iowa

Date: 5-11
 Designed By: DSM
 Project Manager: DJH
 Project Number: 417009

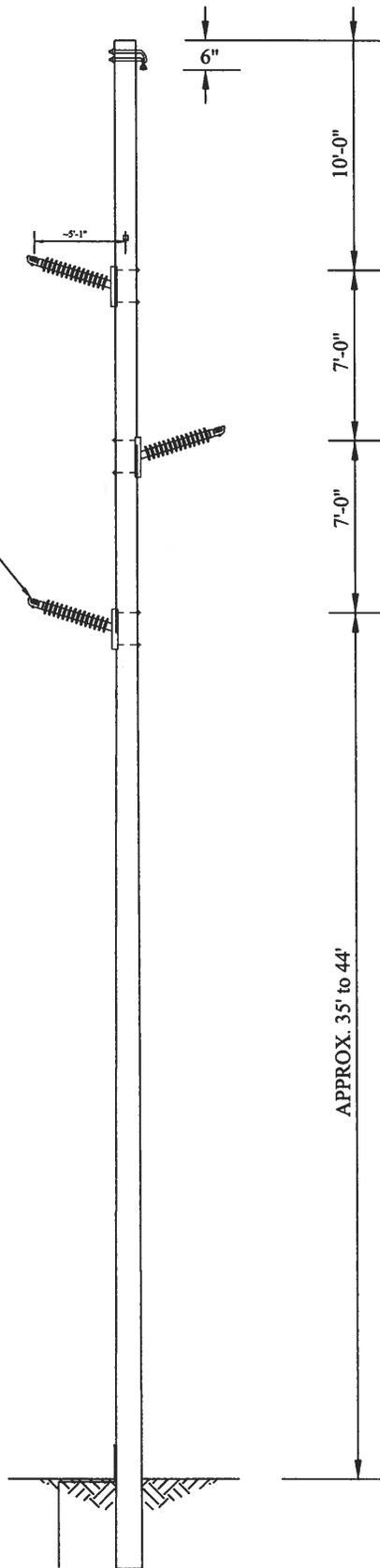
MOORHEAD PUBLIC SERVICE
 MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA

PROPOSED TRANSMISSION LINE ROUTING

DWG
 NO
 Fig. 2

P:\417009\DWG\FIG. 2.DWG

115 KV
TRANSMISSION
CONDUCTORS



REV	DATE	APP	DESCRIPTION



Date: 8-11
 Designed By: DJH
 Project Manager: DJH
 Project Number: 417009

MOORHEAD PUBLIC SERVICES
 MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA

TYPICAL TANGENT
 STRUCTURE -
 PROPOSED 115 KV
 TRANSMISSION LINE

D
W
G
N
O

Fig. 3



June 28, 2011

500 Center Avenue
P.O. Box 779
Moorhead, MN 56561-0779
phone: 218.299.5400
fax: 218.299.5193
www.mpsutility.com

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

RE: Moorhead Public Service/Clay County 115kV Transmission and Substation Project

Dear Dr. Haar:

In accordance with the Power Plant Siting Act, Minnesota Statutes Section 216E.05, Subd. 3, this letter is to provide official notice to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission that Moorhead Public Service (MPS) has elected to seek local approval for the construction of a new 115kV transmission line and substation in Moorhead, Minnesota.

The project includes constructing 7.5 miles of 115kV transmission line and a substation. The transmission line is located entirely within the limits of Clay County, Minnesota, with a majority of the line located outside the city limits of Moorhead. The new facilities are being constructed to improve the reliability of MPS' system. Enclosed are drawings that show the planned route of the new line.

The City of Moorhead and Clay County have discussed the project and have agreed that Clay County will take the lead as the Responsible Governmental Unit. Therefore, MPS will permit the project through the Clay County conditional use permit process.

Any questions regarding the conditional use permit or conditional use permit process should be directed to Tim Magnusson, Planning Director, Clay County, at 218-299-5002, and any questions regarding the project should be directed to me at 218-299-5404.

Sincerely,

Bill Schwandt, PE MBA
General Manager

enclosures

cc Tim Magnusson, Planning Director, Clay County



Energy Facility Permitting
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198
ph 651.296.4026 | fx 651.297.7891
www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us

August 19, 2011

Bill Schwandt
Moorhead Public Service
500 Center Ave.
PO Box 779
Moorhead, MN 56561

Tim Magnusson
Clay County Planning and Zoning
Clay County Courthouse – 3rd Floor
807 11th St. North
Moorhead, MN 56560

**Re: Local Review of Moorhead Public Service 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project
Commission Docket Number: E275/LR-11-689**

Dear Mr. Schwandt and Mr. Magnusson,

Greetings. This letter confirms that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) has received notification that Moorhead Public Service (MPS) intends to seek local review to construct a new 7.5-mile long 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line and associated substation (“Opportunity Substation”). The project would be located in Clay County and in the city of Moorhead, Minn.

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

Based on the proposed location of the project, Clay County and the city of Moorhead are the local units of government with jurisdiction to permit the project. MPS has indicated that it will be seeking a conditional use permit from Clay County for that portion of the project in the county. 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 a local unit of government with jurisdiction over the project (Minn. Rules

7850.5300). MPS has indicated that Clay County and the city of Moorhead are in agreement that Clay County will be responsible for the environmental review process for MPS's proposed project.

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 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.

Clay 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>).

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

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Ray Kirsch
raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us
651-296-7588

cc: Burl Haar, Commission
Bob Cupit, Commission
Michael Redlinger, city of Moorhead
Dennis Haselhoff, DeWild Grant Eckert & Associates

**NOTICE OF MOORHEAD PUBLIC SERVICE PROJECT
115KV TRANSMISSION LINE AND SUBSTATION IN CLAY COUNTY**

Pursuant to Minnesota Statute §216E.05 and Rule 7850.5300, Moorhead Public Service (MPS) has submitted notification to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission that it is seeking local approval for the construction of a new 115kV (115,000 volts) transmission line and substation.

Project Need

MPS is planning to construct a new 115kV electric transmission line and substation to provide reliable service to the southeast area of Moorhead. This project is needed to increase system reliability for MPS and the area transmission system, as well as to provide additional capacity on the system.

Planned Project

MPS' project will consist of the construction of approximately 7.5 miles of new overhead 115kV transmission line and an electric substation. To lessen the impact to agricultural and residential property use along the line route, MPS is proposing a route that will follow along road right-of-ways or utility easement corridors. Enclosed are maps of the proposed line route.

Poles will primarily be wood or steel single-pole structures. Custom-designed laminated and/or steel poles will be used where the line route changes direction. Guy wires and anchors may be required in areas, but will be minimized to the extent possible to lessen the impact to landowners. The transmission lines will carry four wires—three electrical and one for lightning protection/communications.

For more information about this project, please contact:

Mr. Bill Schwandt
General Manager
Moorhead Public Service
P. O. Box 779
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(218) 299-5404

Mr. Tim Magnusson
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(218) 299-5002

Sincerely,



Bill Schwandt, PE MBA
General Manager
Moorhead Public Service

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**SPECIAL MEETING
CLAY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
7:00 PM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2011
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**COUNTY OF CLAY
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a public hearing has been called and will be convened in and for Clay County, Minnesota, on the 30th day of August, 2011 to begin at 7:00 PM on the 3rd Floor, Clay County Courthouse, 807 North 11th Street, Moorhead, MN 56560, for the purpose of providing public input on the content of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed transmission line and substation that will be located in Sections 15, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, and 28 of Township 139N, Range 48W, of Clay County.

Clay County is in the process of preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a 115 kV transmission line and substation proposed by Moorhead Public Service (MPS). The proposed transmission line project will consist of the construction of approximately 7.5 miles of new overhead 115 kV transmission line and substation. This project is needed to increase system reliability of MPS as well as provide additional capacity on the system.

If you know of any interested person or persons who did not receive written notification of said hearing, it would be appreciated if you inform them of said hearing. If you cannot attend said hearing, this office will receive all comments verbal and/or written. Said hearing will be conducted by the Clay County Planning and Zoning Commission.

MPS has requested environmental review of the project by several federal and state agencies. The status of those reviews is pending.

**BY ORDER OF THE CLAY COUNTY
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
Tim Magnusson
Planning Director**

**SPECIAL MEETING
CLAY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
7:00 PM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2011
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

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**BY ORDER OF THE CLAY COUNTY
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION**
Tim Magnusson
Planning Director

PRINTER'S AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

(Section 331.06 Minnesota Statutes 1961, as amended by Law of 1963)

STATE OF MINNESOTA

SS

County of Clay

Marc C. Ness, being duly sworn, on oath says he is and during all the times herein stated has been the managing editor of the newspaper known as the Clay County Union, Inc. and has full knowledge of the facts herein stated as follows: (1) Said newspaper is printed in the English language in newspaper format and in column and sheet form equivalent in printed space to at least 900 square inches. (2) Said newspaper is a weekly and is distributed at least once each week. (3) Said newspaper has 50 percent of its news columns devoted to news of local interest to the community which it purports to serve and does not wholly duplicate any other publication and is not made up entirely of patents, plate matter and advertisements. (4) Said newspaper is circulated in and near the municipality which it purports to serve, has at least 500 copies regularly delivered to paying subscribers, has an average of at least 75 percent of its total circulation currently paid for no more than three months in arrears and has entry as second-class matter in its local post office. (5) Said newspaper files a copy of each issue immediately with the State Historical Society. (6) Said newspaper is made available at single or subscription prices to any person, corporation, partnership or other unincorporated association requesting the newspaper and making the applicable payment. (7) Said newspaper has complied with all the foregoing conditions for at least one year preceding the day or dates of publication mentioned below. (8) Said newspaper has filed with Secretary of State of Minnesota prior to January 1, 1966 and each January 1 thereafter an affidavit in the form prescribed by the Secretary of State and signed by the managing officer of said newspaper and sworn to before a notary public stating that the newspaper is a legal newspaper.

He further states on oath that the printed.....*Special Meeting*.....

.....hereto attached as a part of hereof was cut from the columns of said newspaper, and was printed and published therein in

English language, once each week, for.....¹.....successive weeks; that it was first so published on Monday the.....^{15th}.....day of.....*August*.....20.....¹¹.....and was thereafter printed and published on every ~~Monday~~ day of each week to and including

Monday the.....day of.....20.....and that the following is a printed copy of the lower case alphabet from A to Z, both inclusive, and is hereby acknowledged as being the size and kind of type used in the composition and publication of said notice, to wit:

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN OPQRSTUVWXYZ abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
ABCDEFGHIJKLMN OPQRSTUVWXYZ abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
ABCDEFGHIJKLMN OPQRSTUVWXYZ abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
ABCDEFGHIJKLMN OPQRSTUVWXYZ abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

[Signature].....Managing Editor

Subscribed and sworn to before me this.....^{9th}.....day of.....*August*.....20.....¹¹.....

[Signature]
.....Notary Public

My Commission Expires.....*Jan 31*.....20.....¹¹.....



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CLAY COUNTY PLANNING
COMMISSION
7:00 PM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2011
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COUNTY OF CLAY
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

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Clay County is in the process of preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a 115 kV transmission line and substation proposed by Moorhead Public Service (MPS). The proposed transmission line project will consist of the construction of approximately 7.5 miles of new overhead 115 kV transmission line and substation. This project is needed to increase system reliability of MPS as well as provide additional capacity on the system.

If you know of any interested person or persons who did not receive written notification of said hearing, it would be appreciated if you inform them of said hearing. If you cannot attend said hearing, this office will receive all comments verbal and/or written. Said hearing will be conducted by the Clay County Planning and Zoning Commission.

MPS has requested environmental review of the project by several federal and state agencies. The status of those reviews is pending.

**BY ORDER OF THE CLAY COUNTY
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
Tim Magnusson
Planning Director
(August 22, 2011)**

1300946



DeWild Grant Reckert and Associates Company

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May 27, 2011

Mr. Nathan Kestner
Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
2115 Birchmont Beach Road NE
Bemidji, MN 56601

**Re: Proposed Moorhead Public Service 115 kV Transmission Line Project
Clay County, Minnesota**

Dear Mr. Kestner:

Clay County is in the process of preparing an environmental assessment for a 115 kV transmission line proposed by Moorhead Public Service (MPS). The proposed transmission line project will be located near Moorhead, Minnesota and will consist of the construction of approximately 6.6 miles of new overhead 115 kV transmission line, and the construction of a new substation. This project is needed to increase system reliability for MPS and the area transmission system, as well as provide additional capacity on the system.

The proposed transmission line will be located in Sections 28, 27, 26, 25, 23, 22 and 15 of T139N, R48W in Clay County Minnesota. Enclosed are two figures that show the project location and the planned route of the new line.

The County is requesting your review of this project with respect to the environmental impacts in the project area.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your agency by June 22, 2011. If you have any questions or require more information about this project, please contact me at 712-472-2531 or dhaselhoff@dgrnet.com. Thanks in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

DEWILD GRANT RECKERT
& ASSOCIATES COMPANY

Dennis Haselhoff, P.E.
Project Engineer

Enclosures

Daniel L. Messner

From: Kestner, Nathan (DNR) <nathan.kestner@state.mn.us>
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2011 3:57 PM
To: Daniel L. Messner
Cc: Joyal, Lisa (DNR)
Subject: RE: Moorhead Public Service 115 kV Xmsn Line Project
Attachments: 20110543-1a.pdf

Daniel-

Thanks for the opportunity to review this project. DNR's Natural Heritage Review Coordinator reviewed the locations described in the May 2011 comment solicitation and provided recommendations (attached) on potential impacts which should be assessed in a forthcoming environmental assessment worksheet (EAW). I also have reviewed the project and have no additional comments to add at this time. Upon receipt of the EAW, DNR may comment on its accuracy and completeness.

Nathan Kestner
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From: Daniel L. Messner [mailto:dmessner@dgrnet.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2011 3:47 PM
To: Kestner, Nathan (DNR)
Subject: Moorhead Public Service 115 kV Xmsn Line Project

Nathan

Please review and comment on the attached project.

Thanks,

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(712) 472-2531
FAX: (712) 472-2710

May 27, 2011

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: Proposed Moorhead Public Service 115 kV Transmission Line Project
Clay County, Minnesota**

Dear Ms. Joyal:

Clay County is in the process of preparing an environmental assessment for a 115 kV transmission line proposed by Moorhead Public Service (MPS). The proposed transmission line project will be located near Moorhead, Minnesota and will consist of the construction of approximately 6.6 miles of new overhead 115 kV transmission line, and the construction of a new substation. This project is needed to increase system reliability for MPS and the area transmission system, as well as provide additional capacity on the system.

The proposed transmission line will be located in Sections 28, 27, 26, 25, 23, 22 and 15 of T139N, R48W in Clay County Minnesota. Enclosed are two figures that show the project location and the planned route of the new line.

The County is requesting your review of this project with respect to threatened and endangered species, wetlands, and other natural resources that occur in the area. We have enclosed a completed Natural Heritage Information System Data Request Form.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your agency by June 22, 2011. If you have any questions or require more information about this project, please contact me at 712-472-2531 or dhaselhoff@dgrnet.com. Thanks in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

DEWILD GRANT RECKERT
& ASSOCIATES COMPANY



Dennis Haselhoff, P.E.
Project Engineer

Enclosures

NO STAPLES
PLEASE



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

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 **Dennis Haselhoff, Project Engineer**

Agency/Company **DeWild Grant Reckert & Associates Co.**

Mailing Address **1302 South Union St. Rock Rapids IA 51246**

(Street) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

Phone **712-472-2531** e-mail **dhaselhoff@dgrmet.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) _____

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: Region / MCBS Status	County	Township #	Range #	Section(s) (please list all sections)	For Agency Use: TRS Confirmed <input type="checkbox"/>
	Clay	139N	48W	15, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27 and 28	

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

Project Name: **Proposed 115 kV Transmission Line Project**

Project Proposer: **Moorhead Public Service**

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

MPS's transmission line project will consist of the construction of approximately 6.6 miles of new overhead 115 kV transmission line. To lessen impact to agricultural and residential property use along the line route, MPS is proposing a route that will follow along road right-of-ways or utility-easement corridors.

The 115 kV transmission line will consist of narrow profile construction, utilizing horizontal post insulators. Poles will primarily be wood or steel single-pole structures. Custom-designed laminated and/or steel poles will be used where the line route changes direction. Guy wires and anchors may be required in areas, but will be minimized to the extent possible to lessen the impact to landowners. The transmission lines will carry four wires (three electrical and one for lightning protection/communication).

* 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 and substation will be installed on lands primarily dedicated to agricultural or commercial use.

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).

None

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

No

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:

None

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.

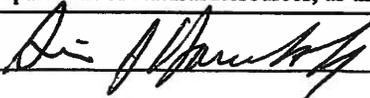
FEES / TURNAROUND TIME

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)



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



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

June 29, 2011

Correspondence # ERDB 20110543

Mr. Dennis Haselhoff
DeWild Grant Reckert & Associates Co.
1302 South Union Street
Rock Rapids, IA 51246

RE: Natural Heritage Review of the proposed Moorhead Public Service 115 kV Transmission Line;
T139N R48W Sections 15, 22, 23, & 25-28; Clay County

Dear Mr. Haselhoff,

As requested, the Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System has been queried to determine if any rare species or other significant natural features are known to occur within an approximate one-mile radius of the proposed project. Based on this query, rare features have been documented within the search area (for details, see the enclosed database reports; please visit the Rare Species Guide at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rsg/index.html> for more information on the biology, habitat use, and conservation measures of these rare species). Please note that the following **rare features may be adversely affected** by the proposed project:

- The Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS) has identified a native prairie remnant in the railroad right-of-way between the railroad and the highway in T139N R48W Sections 22, 23, 25, & 26 (please see the enclosed map; A GIS shapefile of MCBS Railroad Rights-of-Way Prairies can be downloaded from the DNR Data Deli at <http://deli.dnr.state.mn.us/>.) The 1997 Minnesota State Legislature directed the DNR to conduct a field review of active railroad rights-of-way (ROW) to identify native prairie. The DNR surveyed 3240 miles of railroad ROW, of which 487 discontinuous miles of native prairie were identified. The prairie fragments were ranked *very good*, *good*, or *fair* based on the coverage of native prairie plant species, abundance of woody shrubs, and level of disturbance (such as herbicide use or equipment storage). The prairie remnant in the vicinity of the project area was considered to be in fair condition based on a windshield survey. Current conditions at this site are unknown.

Given that more than 99% of the prairie that was present in the state before settlement has been destroyed, and more than one-third of Minnesota's endangered, threatened, and special concern species are now dependent on the remaining small fragments of Minnesota's prairie ecosystem, we feel that all prairie remnants merit protection. As such, we recommend that ground disturbance within the railroad right-of-way be avoided if feasible. To further protect the prairie, there should be no vehicle use or stockpiling of equipment within prairie areas. If avoidance is not feasible, we recommend that disturbed areas be planted with prairie species native to Minnesota, or some other non-invasive cover, immediately following construction.

- The Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) should address whether the proposed project has the potential to adversely affect the above rare feature and, if so, the EAW should describe any measures that will be taken to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts.

The Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS), a collection of databases that contains information about Minnesota's rare natural features, is maintained by the Division of Ecological and Water Resources, Department of Natural Resources. The NHIS is continually updated as new information becomes available, and is the most complete source of data on Minnesota's rare or otherwise significant species, native plant communities, and other natural features. However, the NHIS is not an exhaustive inventory and thus does not represent all of the occurrences of rare features within the state. Therefore, ecologically significant features for which we have no records may exist within the project area.

The enclosed results include an Index Report of records in the Rare Features Database, the main database of the NHIS. To control the release of specific location data, the report is copyrighted and only provides rare features locations to the nearest section. The Index Report may be reprinted, unaltered, in any environmental review document (e.g., EAW or EIS), municipal natural resource plan, or report compiled by your company for the project listed above. If you wish to reproduce the Index Report for any other purpose, please contact me to request written permission.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

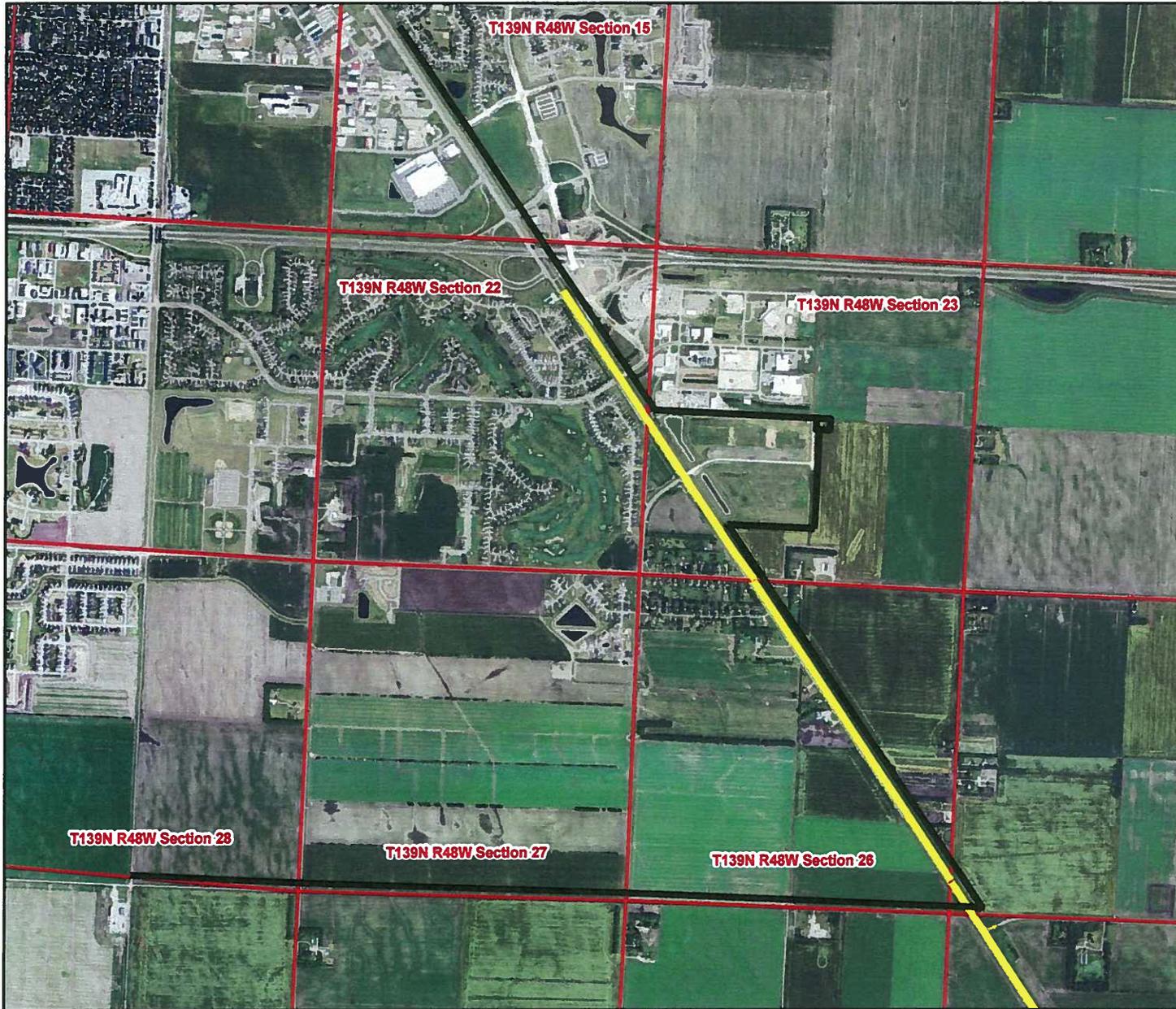


Lisa Joyal
Natural Heritage Review Coordinator

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

cc: Nathan Kestner
Becky Marty

ERDB #20110543 - Moorhead Public Service 115 kV Transmission Line Clay County



Legend

Moorhead 115kV Line


MCBS Railroad Rights-of-Way Prairies

-  Very Good
-  Good
-  Fair

PLS Sections




Copyright 2011, State of Minnesota, DNR
 Rare Feature, Prairie Railroad Survey, Native Plant Community,
 and Sites of Biodiversity Significance data are from the
 Natural Heritage Information System. The absence of rare features
 for a particular location should not be construed to mean that the
 DNR is confident rare features are absent from that location.

Printed June 2011
Data valid for one year

Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System
Index Report of records within 1 mile radius of:
ERDB #20110543 - Proposed 115 kV Transmission Line
T139N R48W Sections 15, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, & 28
Clay County

Rare Features Database:

Element Name and Occurrence Number	Federal Status	MN Status	State Rank	Global Rank	Last Observed Date	EO ID #
Vertebrate Animal						
<u>Speotyto cunicularia</u> (Burrowing Owl) #42 T139N R48W S28; Clay County		END	S1B,SNRM	G4	2007-08-23	34452
Invertebrate Animal						
<u>Oarisma garita</u> (Garita Skipper) #5 T139N R48W S15, T139N R48W S14, T139N R48W S13, T139N R48W S12, T [...]; Clay County		THR	S2	G5	1968-06-19	24753
Native Plant Community (This may not represent a complete list. Also see MCBS Native Plant Communities at http://deli.dnr.state.mn.us .)						
<u>Wet Prairie (Northern) Type</u> #189 T139N R48W S26, T139N R48W S23; Clay County	(NPC Code: WPn53c)	N/A	S3	GNR	1994-07-29	21842

Records Printed = 3

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



DeWild Grant Reckert and Associates Company

CONSULTING ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS

1302 SOUTH UNION STREET
P.O. BOX 511
ROCK RAPIDS, IA 51246
(712) 472-2531
FAX: (712) 472-2710

May 27, 2011

Ms. Kelly Gragg-Johnson
Government Programs and Compliance Officer
Minnesota Historical Society
345 W. Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55102-1906

**Re: Proposed Moorhead Public Service 115 kV Transmission Line Project
Clay County, Minnesota**

Dear Ms. Gragg-Johnson:

Clay County is in the process of preparing an environmental assessment for a 115 kV transmission line proposed by Moorhead Public Service (MPS). The proposed transmission line project will be located near Moorhead, Minnesota and will consist of the construction of approximately 6.6 miles of new overhead 115 kV transmission line, and the construction of a new substation. This project is needed to increase system reliability for MPS and the area transmission system, as well as provide additional capacity on the system.

The proposed transmission line will be located in Sections 28, 27, 26, 25, 23, 22 and 15 of T139N, R48W in Clay County Minnesota. Enclosed are two figures that show the project location and the planned route of the new line.

The County is requesting your review of this project with respect to historic properties within the project area.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your agency by June 22, 2011. If you have any questions or require more information about this project, please contact me at 712-472-2531 or dhaselhoff@dgrnet.com. Thanks in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

DEWILD GRANT RECKERT
& ASSOCIATES COMPANY

Dennis Haselhoff, P.E.
Project Engineer

Enclosures

417009.
permit

Daniel L. Messner

From: Dennis Haselhoff
Sent: Monday, June 06, 2011 2:58 PM
To: Daniel L. Messner
Subject: FW: Moorhead Public Service Transmission Line Project, 2011-2487

Dan:

Please put a copy of this email in the permitting file.

Thanks,
Dennis

From: Coburn, Leslie [mailto:leslie.coburn@mnhs.org]
Sent: Monday, June 06, 2011 12:38 PM
To: Dennis Haselhoff
Subject: RE: Moorhead Public Service Transmission Line Project, 2011-2487

Then we'll withdraw the project from our review. If circumstances change that require our review of the project, please let us know.

Thanks!
Leslie

From: Dennis Haselhoff [mailto:dhaselhoff@dgrnet.com]
Sent: Monday, June 06, 2011 11:26 AM
To: Coburn, Leslie
Subject: RE: Moorhead Public Service Transmission Line Project, 2011-2487

This project meets the requirements of the local permit option. MPS intends to seek a local permit for this project.

Thanks,
Dennis

From: Coburn, Leslie [mailto:leslie.coburn@mnhs.org]
Sent: Monday, June 06, 2011 11:15 AM
To: Dennis Haselhoff
Subject: RE: Moorhead Public Service Transmission Line Project, 2011-2487

If there are no federal/state agencies funding/permitting the project, then it doesn't need to be reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Office. However, often transmission lines are permitted by the Public Utilities Commission. Are you sure this project will not be permitted by that state agency?

Thanks!
Leslie

From: Dennis Haselhoff [mailto:dhaselhoff@dgrnet.com]
Sent: Monday, June 06, 2011 11:12 AM
To: Coburn, Leslie
Subject: RE: Moorhead Public Service Transmission Line Project, 2011-2487

This project is not funded by any state or federal agencies. However, Clay County, MN will be the governing body to permit the project.

I hope this helps. Let me know if you need any further information.

Thanks.

Dennis Haselhoff, PE

DeWild Grant Reckert & Associates Company

1302 South Union Street

P.O. Box 511

Rock Rapids, IA 51246

Ph: (712) 472-2531

Fax: (712) 472-2710

dhaselhoff@dgrnet.com

From: Coburn, Leslie [<mailto:leslie.coburn@mnhs.org>]

Sent: Monday, June 06, 2011 11:05 AM

To: Dennis Haselhoff

Subject: Moorhead Public Service Transmission Line Project, 2011-2487

Hello, Mr. Haselhoff—

We received your project review submittal for Clay County's Moorhead Public Service Transmission Line Project. However, in order to continue our review, we need to know the federal and/or state agencies that are funding and/or permitting this project. Could you, please, send me a reply e-mail with this information?

Thank you!

Leslie

Leslie Coburn

Government Programs & Compliance Assistant

Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office

345 Kellogg Boulevard West

St. Paul, MN 55102

651-259-3457 (phone)

651-282-2374 (fax)

leslie.coburn@mnhs.org



DeWild Grant Reckert and Associates Company

CONSULTING ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS

1302 SOUTH UNION STREET
P.O. BOX 511
ROCK RAPIDS, IA 51246
(712) 472-2531
FAX: (712) 472-2710

May 27, 2011

Ms. Maureen Kelly Jonason
Director
Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County
PO Box 157
Moorhead, MN 56561

**Re: Proposed Moorhead Public Service 115 kV Transmission Line Project
Clay County, Minnesota**

Dear Ms. Jonason:

Clay County is in the process of preparing an environmental assessment for a 115 kV transmission line proposed by Moorhead Public Service (MPS). The proposed transmission line project will be located near Moorhead, Minnesota and will consist of the construction of approximately 6.6 miles of new overhead 115 kV transmission line, and the construction of a new substation. This project is needed to increase system reliability for MPS and the area transmission system, as well as provide additional capacity on the system.

The proposed transmission line will be located in Sections 28, 27, 26, 25, 23, 22 and 15 of T139N, R48W in Clay County Minnesota. Enclosed are two figures that show the project location and the planned route of the new line.

The County is requesting your review of this project with respect to historic properties within the project area.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your agency by June 22, 2011. If you have any questions or require more information about this project, please contact me at 712-472-2531 or dhaselhoff@dgrnet.com. Thanks in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

DEWILD GRANT RECKERT
& ASSOCIATES COMPANY

Dennis Haselhoff, P.E.
Project Engineer

Enclosures



**HISTORICAL &
CULTURAL SOCIETY**
OF CLAY COUNTY

202 First Avenue North • PO Box 157 • Moorhead, Minnesota 56561-0157
Phone: (218) 299-5511 • Fax: (218) 299-5510

June 1, 2011

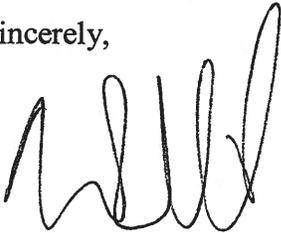
Dennis Haselhoff, P. E.
Dewild Grant Reckert & Associates
PO Box 511
Rock Rapids IA 51246

Re: Proposed Moorhead Public Service 115 kV Transmission Line Project, Clay County, MN

Dear Mr. Haselhoff:

Thank you for your letter of May 27 requesting information about potential historic sites along the proposed transmission line referenced above. I know of no significant historic or cultural sites along the transmission line as located on your enclosures.

Sincerely,



Mark Peihl
Archivist

Cc: Maureen Kelly Jonason

DGR DeWild Grant Reckert and Associates Company

CONSULTING ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS

1302 SOUTH UNION STREET
P.O. BOX 511
ROCK RAPIDS, IA 51246
(712) 472-2531
FAX: (712) 472-2710

May 27, 2011

Ms. Tamara Smith
Ecological Services Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4101 East 80th Street
Bloomington, MN 55425

**Re: Proposed Moorhead Public Service 115 kV Transmission Line Project
Clay County, Minnesota**

Dear Ms. Smith:

Clay County is in the process of preparing an environmental assessment for a 115 kV transmission line proposed by Moorhead Public Service (MPS). The proposed transmission line project will be located near Moorhead, Minnesota and will consist of the construction of approximately 6.6 miles of new overhead 115 kV transmission line, and the construction of a new substation. This project is needed to increase system reliability for MPS and the area transmission system, as well as provide additional capacity on the system.

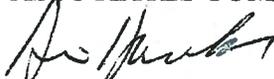
The proposed transmission line will be located in Sections 28, 27, 26, 25, 23, 22 and 15 of T139N, R48W in Clay County Minnesota. Enclosed are two figures that show the project location and the planned route of the new line.

The County is requesting your review of this project with respect to threatened and endangered species that occur in the area. The proposed project does not represent a "major construction activity" as defined in 50CFR402.02.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your agency by June 22, 2011. If you have any questions or require more information about this project, please contact me at 712-472-2531 or dhaselhoff@dgrnet.com. Thanks in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

DEWILD GRANT RECKERT
& ASSOCIATES COMPANY



Dennis Haselhoff, P.E.
Project Engineer

Enclosures

Daniel L. Messner

From: Nick_Rowse@fws.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2011 11:38 AM
To: Daniel L. Messner
Cc: richard_davis@fws.gov; tamara_smith@fws.gov; Peter_Fasbender@fws.gov
Subject: Fw: Moorhead Public Service 115kV Xmssn. Line Project EA

Daniel Messner
DeWild Grant Reckert & Associates
1302 South Union Street
Rock Rapids, IA 51246

Dear Mr. Messner,

Our records indicate there are no federally listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat within the action area of the proposed project. If project plans change, additional information on listed or proposed species becomes available, or new species are listed that may be affected by the project, consultation should be reinitiated. This concludes section 7 consultation for proposed construction at the above location. Thank you for your cooperation in meeting our joint responsibilities under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. If you have any further endangered species questions, please contact me at (612) 725-3548 x2210.

Sincerely,

Nick Rowse
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Twin Cities ES Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4101 American Blvd. E.
Bloomington, MN 55425-1665

----- Forwarded by Nick Rowse/R3/FWS/DOI on 07/14/2011 11:35 AM -----

Richard Davis/R3/FWS/DOI

To Nick Rowse/R3/FWS/DOI@FWS

cc

07/14/2011 11:03 AM

Subject Fw: Moorhead Public Service 115kV Xmssn. Line Project EA

Richard Davis
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Twin Cities Field Office
4101 American Blvd. E.
Bloomington, MN 55425
(612)725-3548 ext. 2214

----- Forwarded by Richard Davis/R3/FWS/DOI on 07/14/2011 11:02 AM -----

"Daniel L. Messner" <dmessner@dgrnet.com>

To "Richard_Davis@fws.gov" <Richard_Davis@fws.gov>

cc "Tamar_Smith@fws.gov" <Tamar_Smith@fws.gov>

07/13/2011 03:45 PM

Subject Moorhead Public Service 115kV Xmssn. Line Project EA