ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

FOR THE

PROPOSED GLENCOE LIGHT AND POWER
115 KV TRANSMISSION LINE

BY

MCLEOD COUNTY, MINNESOTA

OCTOBER 2011
# ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**GLENCOE LIGHT AND POWER (GLPC)**

**PROPOSED 115 KV ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE**

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1.0 PROPOSED PROJECT DETAILS

1.1 Project Owner

Glencoe Light and Power (GLPCC) owns and operates a municipal electric system that provides service to the community of Glencoe, Minnesota, which has a population of 5,631 (2010 Census). GLPCC is governed by a five-member Commission appointed by the City Council.

1.2 Project Need

GLPC 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 on the west side of Diamond Ave. This project is needed to increase system reliability for GLPC and the area transmission system, as well as to provide additional future capacity on the system.

1.3 Project Description

GLPC’s transmission line project will consist of the construction of approximately 4.0 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, GLPC 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 be steel single-pole structures. Custom-designed steel poles will be used where the line route changes direction. 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 GLPC’s existing 115 kV substation on the west side of Armstrong Ave., follow the west ROW of Armstrong Ave. South to the west side of the intersection of 6th Street and 5th Street, continue east...
adjacent to 5th street across Chandler Ave. N to a point in the north Public ROW of U.S. Highway 212, then northeast adjacent to U.S. Highway 212 in Public ROW to Hennepin Ave. N, then northeast and east adjacent to and parallel with U.S. Highway 212 in private ROW to Pleasant Ave. N, continue east adjacent to U.S. Highway 212 in Public ROW approximately 0.25 mile, thence south across U.S. Highway 212, then east in Public ROW adjacent to and parallel with U.S. Highway 212 to Diamond Ave., continue north across U.S. Highway 212 adjacent to Diamond Ave. in Private ROW approximately 0.5 mile, then west approximately 0.03 mile to an interconnection point with the Proposed Diamond Ave. Substation. 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. BMPs will be used to provide erosion control to minimize runoff during construction all phases of construction. A Contractor procured by GLPC 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.

GLPC would periodically use the transmission line ROW to perform inspections, maintain equipment, and repair any damage. GLPC 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 McLeod County and City of Glencoe jurisdictions. After discussing the project with these entities, McLeod County agreed to act as the lead RGU.

Per Minn. Stat. § 216E.05, subd. 3 and Minn. Rules 7849.6200 Subp.3, GLPC provided notice to the PUC a route permit had been applied for through the local review process and that McLeod 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 McLeod County and GLPC 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 McLeod 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 McLeod County. A final decision (i.e. conditional use permit) on the proposed Project cannot be made by McLeod 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 McLeod County Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing at a Commission meeting on September 28, 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 transmission line will not affect any water resource.

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 threatened or endangered species within the proposed transmission line corridor. The FWS recommended that the project proponent consider utilizing bird diverters on the transmission line section that runs in close proximity to Buffalo Creek after it crosses to the south side of Highway 212 and extends to the east. (see email dated 8/29/11).

The MN DNR’s regional assessment ecologist (see emails dated 8/16/11) indicated that they have no concerns with the proposed project at this time.

It was noted from the Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program database that there are no known occurrences of rare species within the searched area of a one mile radius. Therefore, it was concluded that the project will not negatively affect any known occurrences of rare features.
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 recommended that an archaeological survey be completed if the project location could not be documented as previously disturbed or previously surveyed (see letter dated 8/1/11 in the Appendix). Since the project location is located in Public ROW, existing city easement corridors and on previously tilled agricultural land it was concluded that the project area is located on previously disturbed ground and an archaeological survey would not need to be completed.

3.6 **Soils and Geology**

The project area is located within and near the City of Glencoe in McLeod County. According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) Ecological Classification System (ECS), the project area is located within the Big Woods Subsection of the Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal section of the Eastern Broadleaf Forest Province (MnDNR 2011). The Big Woods Subsection topography characteristics are gently to moderately rolling. The dominant landscape feature is circular, level topped hills bounded by smooth side slopes. Broad level areas between the hills are interspersed with closed depressions containing lakes and peat bogs. Presently, most of the region is farmed (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 Diamond Ave. 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 212, Armstrong Ave and the portions connecting to GLPC’s Armstrong 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 above 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, McLeod County, etc.)

The proposed line will lie under an approach surface of the Glencoe 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:

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<th>Regulated Activity</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<td>Local Review - Conditional Use Permit</td>
<td>Construction of 115 kV Transmission Line</td>
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<tr>
<td>County of McLeod</td>
<td>Utility Accommodation Permit</td>
<td>Permit to install structure in County ROW and/or overhang</td>
<td>Permits will be obtained prior to construction.</td>
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<td>MN Dept. of Natural Resources (MN DNR)</td>
<td>Environmental Review – Threatened and Endangered Species, Wetlands, Other Resources</td>
<td>Review of Project Impacts</td>
<td>No foreseen environmental impacts – email dated 8/16/11</td>
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<tr>
<td>MN Dept. of Natural Resources (MN DNR)</td>
<td>Minnesota Natural Heritage Database Review</td>
<td>Review of Project Impacts</td>
<td>No known occurrence of rare features (none affected by project) – letter dated 8/2/11</td>
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<td>Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT)</td>
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<td>Notification of structures that lie within the regulated air space.</td>
<td>Permits will be obtained prior to construction.</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Glencoe</td>
<td>Glencoe Municipal Airport Impact Review</td>
<td>Review of Project Impacts</td>
<td>Final approval of the project will be given after final design is complete.</td>
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APPENDIX

– Figure 1: Project Location Map

– Figure 2: Proposed Transmission Line Routing

– Figure 3: Typical Tangent Structure

– Agency Correspondence:

  • Glencoe Light and Power Local Review Request Letter (1 page)

  • Minnesota Department of Commerce / Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
    Energy Facilities Permitting Letter Acknowledgment (2 pages)

  • Glencoe Light and Power Notice of Project to General Notification List (6 pages)

  • Notice of Public Hearing for Public Input on EA (6 pages)

  • Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) Regional Ecologist and
    Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program (6 pages)

  • Minnesota Historical Society State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) (2 pages)

  • US Department of Interior Fish and Wildlife Service (2 pages)
115 KV TRANSMISSION CONDUCTORS

APPROX. 35' 3" 4'
February 24, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Notice is being served under Minnesota Administrative Rule 7850.5300, subparagraph 3, that the Light and Power Commission, City of Glencoe, is requesting local review under Minnesota Administrative Rule 7850.5300. The Light and Power Commission has filed for a Conditional Use Permit with McLeod County to permit and site a proposed 115,000 volt electric transmission line and substation. The line length proposed is approximately 4.5 miles in length. The transmission line will connect the City of Glencoe Armstrong substation (western) to the new Diamond substation (eastern). This will be the replacement for the current 71 year old 69,000 volt transmission line serving the city and providing network service to the city of Glencoe, Minnesota.

For additional information on the Conditional Use Permit, the contact for McLeod County is Larry Gasow, McLeod County Zoning Administrator, Glencoe, Minnesota. His contact information by phone is (320) 864-1291 and by email is larry.gasow@co.mcleod.mn.us.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

David Meyer
General Manager
March 11, 2011

David Meyer  
Glencoe Light and Power Commission  
305 11th St. East  
Glencoe, MN 55336

Larry Gasow  
McLeod County  
830 11th St. East  
Glencoe, MN 55336

Re: Local Review of Glencoe Light and Power 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation  
Commission Docket Number: E241/LR-11-162

Dear Mr. Meyer and Mr. Gasow,

Greetings. This letter confirms that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) has received notification that the Glencoe Light and Power Commission (GLPC) intends to seek local review to construct a new 4.5-mile long 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line and associated substation (“East Substation”). The transmission line and substation would be located in McLeod County; the transmission line would pass through the city of Glencoe.

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 GLPC’s proposed project is eligible for local review.

Based on the proposed location of the project, McLeod County and the city of Glencoe are the local units of government with jurisdiction to permit the project. It is our understanding that GLPC will be seeking a conditional use permit from McLeod 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). It is our understanding that McLeod County and the city of Glencoe are in agreement that McLeod County will be responsible for the environmental review process for GLPC’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 (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.

McLeod 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.

This letter confirms that GLPC 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).

Finally, GLPC’s proposed project is part of a larger transmission project – the Glencoe to Waconia transmission line upgrade – that requires a certificate of need from the Commission (Commission docket number CN-09-1390). Accordingly, permitting of GLPC’s proposed project is dependent upon a determination by the Commission that the Glencoe to Waconia upgrade is needed by the State of Minnesota. Thus, though the environmental review process may proceed, McLeod County may not issue a permit for GLPC’s project prior to this determination.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

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

cc: Burl Haar, Commission
    Bob Cupit, Commission
    Mark Larson, City of Glencoe
NOTICE OF THE GLENCOE LIGHT AND POWER COMMISSION’S INTENT TO PERMIT A NEW 4.5 MILE LONG 115 KV TRANSMISSION LINE AND SUBSTATION IN MCLEOD COUNTY PURSUANT TO LOCAL REVIEW

Project Need
Glencoe Light and Power Commission (GLPC), Glencoe Minnesota is planning to construct a new 115 KV (115,000 volts) transmission line facility from GLPC’s existing West substation to a new East substation (switching station). The project is needed to provide network service and increase the reliability of the transmission system serving the city.

Planned Project
The new transmission line project will consist of approximately 4.5 miles of overhead 115 KV transmission line and a new substation. To lessen the impact to agricultural and residential property use along the line route, GLPC is proposing a route that will follow existing road right of way ROW or utility easement corridors.

The proposed route of the overhead line will begin at the existing West Substation located on Armstrong avenue and 11th street east, follow Armstrong avenue south along the west side of the road to an existing overhead distribution line and turn east, the line will follow the existing distribution line until it intersects with the north ROW of US trunk highway 212, follow the north ROW line of US trunk highway 212 for approximately 9500 feet, the line will cross US trunk highway 212 diagonally to the south ROW of US trunk highway 212, the line will follow the south ROW of US trunk highway 212 for approximately 12,500 feet, the line will turn north on the west side of Diamond avenue for approximately 3500 feet, the line will turn west and terminate in the new East substation. Poles will be primarily steel single pole structures and wood equivalent steel structures. The wood structures were considered but the woodpeckers in the area have been quite active in damaging existing structures. Guy wires may be required in areas, but will be minimized to the extent possible to lessen impact on agricultural activities. The transmission lines will carry four wires. (three electrical and one for lightning protection) In certain areas GLPC or the rural electric cooperative’s distribution lines may be under built on GLPC’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 will still be allowed for use by the land owner for such things as farming activities, drainage systems, underground utilities and access drives.

Under Minnesota Statutes section 216E.05 and Minnesota rule 7850.5300 Glencoe Light and Power Commission has submitted notification to the MN Public Utilities Commission and McLeod County requesting local review.

For more information about this project please contact:

Mr. David Meyer, General Manager
Glencoe Light and Power Commission
305 11th Street East
Glencoe, Minnesota 55336
320.864.5184

Mr. Larry Gasow, Zoning Administrator
McLeod County
830 11th Street East
Glencoe, Minnesota 55336
320.864.1259

Sincerely,

David Meyer
General Manager GLPC
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td><a href="mailto:tom@nationalconductor.com">tom@nationalconductor.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurley</td>
<td>Wayne 1000 Western Ave.</td>
<td>Fergus Falls</td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>56373</td>
<td>218-739-2339</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wayne@wif.org">wayne@wif.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stradley</td>
<td>Kathleen anc 3116 Highway 9 South</td>
<td>Glyndon</td>
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<td>56547</td>
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<tr>
<td>Herzog</td>
<td>Natalie 10050 57th Avenue N</td>
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<td>MN</td>
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<td>218-498-2623</td>
<td><a href="mailto:naherzog@mnnet.com">naherzog@mnnet.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Morse</td>
<td>Todd 3521 Riverview Circle S</td>
<td>Moorhead</td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>56560</td>
<td>218-233-3254</td>
<td><a href="mailto:toddmorse@cableone.net">toddmorse@cableone.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Newmanovitch-Liacqi</td>
<td>8468 140th Ave S</td>
<td>Sabin</td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>56580</td>
<td>218-789-7150</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jacqui@newmanovitch.com">jacqui@newmanovitch.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wright-Knuten</td>
<td>5111 Lavinia Road NE</td>
<td>Bemidji</td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>56601</td>
<td>218-209-3313</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jrwight@bemidji.k12.mn.us">jrwight@bemidji.k12.mn.us</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Goldhardt</td>
<td>K. A. 43901 253rd Avenue</td>
<td>Leonard</td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>56612</td>
<td>218-986-2311</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kagold1@yodel.com">kagold1@yodel.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nelson</td>
<td>Kevin 120 3rd. Ave. S</td>
<td>Brookings</td>
<td>SD</td>
<td>57006</td>
<td>605-692-1793</td>
<td><a href="mailto:keevinkylin@swuhel.net">keevinkylin@swuhel.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Swartz</td>
<td>Sean 526 10th Street P.O. Box 485</td>
<td>West Fargo</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>58078</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:swartz@brauntintercet.com">swartz@brauntintercet.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Delong</td>
<td>Skip 15317 11th Street N.E.</td>
<td>Mayville</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>58357</td>
<td>701 430-0439</td>
<td><a href="mailto:skdelong@polarcomm.com">skdelong@polarcomm.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bates</td>
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<td>MT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schultz</td>
<td>Amy 765 Industrial Dr</td>
<td>Cary</td>
<td>IL</td>
<td>60013</td>
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<td>877-462-1007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kennon</td>
<td>Peter 333 W Wacker Suite 1500</td>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>IL</td>
<td>60607</td>
<td>312-673-3020</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pkennon@accionana.com">pkennon@accionana.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Busner</td>
<td>Joe 14503 Wallick Rd.</td>
<td>Atchison</td>
<td>KS</td>
<td>66002</td>
<td>913-255-3112</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jbusner@stresscirete.com">jbusner@stresscirete.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Guajardo</td>
<td>Floyd 1455 West Lo Suite 400</td>
<td>Houston</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>77027</td>
<td>713-499-6303</td>
<td><a href="mailto:floodg@pennwell.com">floodg@pennwell.com</a></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Marie 2901 28th Street</td>
<td>Snyder</td>
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<td>325-573-5325</td>
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<tr>
<td>Galloway</td>
<td>Chad 8400 E. Crescent Pkwy</td>
<td>Greenwood Village</td>
<td>CO</td>
<td>80111</td>
<td>720-528-4365</td>
<td><a href="mailto:chad.galloway@arionenergy.com">chad.galloway@arionenergy.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schrader</td>
<td>Michael 4615 East Pebble Ridge Road</td>
<td>Paradise Valley</td>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>85253</td>
<td>602-667-0020</td>
<td>415-977-5693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utler</td>
<td>Emily 85 Second St 2nd Floor</td>
<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>94105</td>
<td>213-546-9845</td>
<td>800-963-5401</td>
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<tr>
<td>Davis</td>
<td>Hadley 85 Second St.</td>
<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>94105</td>
<td>415-977-5768</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hadley.davis@sierracub.org">hadley.davis@sierracub.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Carlson</td>
<td>Hall 85 Norman Drive</td>
<td>Kenora Ontario</td>
<td>ON</td>
<td>PIN 376</td>
<td>807-468-9425</td>
<td>800-963-5401</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
COUNTY OF McLEOD COUNTY
GLENCOE, MINNESOTA

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a regular meeting of the McLeod County Planning Commission will be held on Wednesday, the 28th day of September 2011 at 9:30 a.m. in the County Board Room on the lower level of the Courthouse located at 830 11th Street East in Glencoe, Minnesota.

THE PURPOSE OF SAID MEETING is to consider the application for a Conditional Use Permit filed with the County Zoning Administrator by Glencoe Light and Power for the purpose of Major Essential Services for the construction of a 115kV Electrical Transmission Line and Substation through Sections 13 & 14 of Township 115N-028W (Glencoe Township) and Sections 17 & 18 of Township 115N-057W (Helen) located within the County of McLeod and State of Minnesota. (2 miles within County and 2.5 miles within City of Glencoe)

THIS HEARING will be held by the McLeod County Planning Commission at which time you may appear if you desire, either in person, by agent or attorney, in opposition to or support of the proposed Conditional Use. If you are unable to attend the hearing, written comments may be mailed to: McLeod County Planning & Zoning, 830 11th Street East, Suite 113, Glencoe, Minnesota 55336. Thereafter, the McLeod County Planning Commission shall forward its recommendations to the County Board of Commissioners. If you desire to appeal the Planning Commission’s recommendations, you can take your request to the County Board, which has the final authority to act on the findings of the Planning Commission. All requests may be modified during the hearing process.

PURSUANT to Section 17, Subdivision 5, of the McLeod County Zoning Ordinance, we are required to notify all property owners of record within five hundred (500) feet of the incorporated areas and/or one-quarter (¼) mile of the affected property, and/or to the ten (10) properties nearest to the affected property, whichever would provide notice to the greatest number of owners. If you know of someone who should have received notification of this public hearing but did not, please let us know.

Larry Gasow, McLeod County Zoning Administrator
STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF MCLEOD  

**AFFIDAVIT**

In the matter of the application
For a Conditional Use Permit by:
GLENCOE LIGHT AND POWER CO.

I, Larry Gasow, being first duly sworn on oath deposes and says that on the 14th day of September 2011, the attached NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING was duly served on the following in the above entitled matter, by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a properly addressed sealed envelope, postage prepaid, and by deposit of same in the United States Mail at Glencoe, Minnesota.

**NAME/ADDRESS**  
(Townships & City Clerks)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name and Address 1</th>
<th>Name and Address 2</th>
<th>Name and Address 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| KEVIN K & TAMMY S MATHEWS  
6278 HWY 212  
GLENCOE MN 55336 | KATHRYN ADELMANN  
212 BLUEFIELD DR  
PO BOX 598  
SEWARD AK 99664 | KEVIN & RODNEY MATHEWS  
6714 110TH ST  
GLENCOE MN 55336 |
| DONALD F & JEAN GRUENHAGEN  
1008 MITCHELL CT  
GLENCOE MN 55336 | BERGMANN HOMES LLC  
7416 80TH ST  
GLENCOE MN 55336 | RICKY & LARRY WITTHUS  
981 LAKE SUSAN HILLS DR  
CHANHASSEN MN 55317 |
| KNIFE RIVER CORP NORTH CENTRAL  
4787 SHADOWWOOD DR NE  
SAUK RAPIDS MN 56379 | VERONE M WITTHUS REVOC TRUST  
6495 100TH ST  
GLENCOE MN 55336 | DAVID J & SUSAN LORENCE  
11271 VAN LOON SHORES SW  
LOWRY MN 56349 |
| TERRANCE G & BARBARA J BUSKA  
2604 9TH ST E  
GLENCOE MN 55336 | BRIAN G SCHUETTE REV TRUST  
6638 100TH ST  
GLENCOE MN 55336 | MICHAEL M GAVIN  
1017 HENNEPIN AVE N  
GLENCOE MN 55336 |
| THOMAS G II & MAY X ANDERSON  
6522 100TH ST  
GLENCOE MN 55336 | RYAN D VOS  
6574 100TH ST  
GLENCOE MN 55336 | LEROY H & BEVERLY WEBER TRUST  
6986 100TH ST  
GLENCOE MN 55336 |
| CATHERINE L TEMPLIN  
2424 9TH ST E  
GLENCOE MN 55336 | ROBERT & JOYCE MATHEWS  
12897 FALCON AVE  
GLENCOE MN 55336-9562 | SCOTT A & NICOLE SIDWELL  
4608 CARLOW RD  
MOUND MN 55364 |
| 4 SQUARE BUILDERS INC  
2718 9TH ST E  
GLENCOE MN 55336 | LOREN & DIANE LANGE  
12393 125TH ST  
GLENCOE MN 55336 | DELITE OUTDOOR ADVERTISING INC  
C/O LAMAR ADVERTISING#157  
PO BOX 865  
ST CLOUD MN 56302 |
| TLC PROPERTIES INC  
C/O LAMAR ADVERTISING#157  
PO BOX 865  
ST CLOUD MN 56302 | RICHARD D & BETTY GORR  
6834 100TH ST  
GLENCOE MN 55336 | LOIS TEPLY &  
SETH & BRITT TEPLY  
20205 624TH AVE  
LITCHFIELD MN 55355 |
| WAYNE E GOFF  
5721 HWY 212  
GLENCOE MN 55336 | MICHAEL D WETTENELG &  
ANNE J YOUNGBLUT  
5713 HWY 212  
GLENCOE MN 55336 | GENE J & SANDRA HORMANN  
11104 DIAMOND AVE  
GLENCOE MN 55336 |
Larry Gasow
McLeod County Zoning Administrator

Subscribed and sworn before me this

14th day of September, 2011.

Sandra L. Posusta
Notary Public
Public Hearing

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF MCLEOD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that the regular meeting of the McLeod County Planning Commission has been scheduled on Wednesday, the 28th day of September 2011 at 9:30 A.M. in the County Board Room on the lower level of the Courthouse at 830 11th Street East in Glencoe, Minnesota.

THE PURPOSE OF THE SAID MEETING is to consider the following applications located in the County of McLeod and filed with the County Zoning Administrator. All requests are subject to modification during the hearing process:

1. A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT filed by Brian Malz for the placement of a storage shed which brings the total accessory buildings combined square footage to more than 2,000 sq. ft., to be located on Tract A of Registered Land Survey 35, Sect. 28, Twp. 115-027 (Helen).

2. A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT filed by Tobias Buhr of Diamond Detailing for the purpose of a Home Occupation for car detailing and auto sales to be located 1.43 AC., TRACT 311' X 200' IN SE 1/4 SW 1/4, Sect. 25, Twp. 117-027 (Winsted).

3. A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT filed by Glencoe Light and Power for the purpose of Major Essential Services for the construction of 115 kV Electrical Transmission line & substation through Sects 13 & 14 of Twp., 115N-028W, (Glencoe) and Sects 17 & 18 of Twp., 115N-057W (Helen). (2 miles in County and 2.5 miles in City of Glencoe.)

THESE HEARINGS will be held by the McLeod County Planning Commission at which time you may appear if you desire, either in person or by agent or attorney, in opposition to or support of the proposed Conditional Use. Thereafter, the McLeod County Planning Commission shall forward its recommendations to the County Board of Commissioners. If you desire to appeal the Planning Commission’s recommendations, you may take your request to the County Board which has the final authority to act on the findings of the Planning Commission.

Larry Gasow
McLeod County Zoning Admin
(Published in The McLeod County Chronicle September 14, 2011)
Affidavit of Publication

State of Minnesota  ss.
County of McLeod

Richard Glennie, being duly sworn, on oath says that he is the Editor of the newspaper known as The McLeod County Chronicle, and has full knowledge of the facts which are stated below:

(A) The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements constituting qualification as a qualified newspaper, as provided by Minnesota Statute 331A/331/07 and other applicable laws as amended.

(B) The Planning Commission Hearing each week, one successive week, it was first published on Wednesday, the 14th day of September, 2011, and was thereafter printed and published on every Wednesday to and including the 14th day of September, 2011, and printed below is a copy of the lower case alphabet from A to Z, both inclusive, which is hereby acknowledged as being the size and kind of type used in the composition and publication of the notice:

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abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
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Subscribed and sworn to before me on

This 14th day of September, 2011

Notary Public

Rate Information

1. Lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space $2.53/line or $20.20/inch
2. Maximum rate allowed by law for the above Matter: $2.53/line or $20.20/inch
3. Rate actually charged for the above matter: $1.60/line or $12.80/inch
To: Township and City Clerks

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF MCLEOD

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a regular meeting of the McLeod County Planning Commission will be held on Wednesday, September 28th at 9:30 A.M., in the County Board Room on the lower level of the Courthouse at 830 - 11th Street East in Glencoe, Minnesota.

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THESE HEARINGS will be held by the McLeod County Planning Commission at which time you may appear in opposition to or support of the proposed application. If you or your agent cannot appear for any reason, a written statement may be sent to the Zoning Administrator in place of your presence. Thereafter, the McLeod County Planning Commission shall forward its recommendation to the County Board of Commissioners. If you desire to appeal the Planning Commission’s recommendation, you may take your request to the County Board, which has the final authority to act on the findings of the Planning Commission.

Larry Gasow, McLeod County Zoning Administrator

L.G.slp
July 15, 2011

Mr. Kevin Mixon
Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
261 Hwy 15 South
New Ulm, MN 56073

Re: Proposed Glencoe Light & Power 115 kV Transmission Line & Substation Project
McLeod County, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Mixon:

McLeod County is in the process of preparing an environmental assessment for a 115 kV transmission line proposed by Glencoe Light and Power (GLP). The proposed transmission line project will be located near Glencoe, Minnesota and will consist of the construction of approximately 4.0 miles of new overhead 115 kV transmission line, and the construction of a new substation. This project is needed to increase system reliability for GLP and the area transmission system, as well as provide additional capacity on the system.

The proposed transmission line will be located in Sections 13 and 14 of T115N, R28W and Sections 17 and 18 of T115N R27W in McLeod 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 August 26, 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
FYI.

From: Mixon, Kevin (DNR) [mailto:kevin.mixon@state.mn.us]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2011 9:54 AM
To: Dennis Haselhoff
Subject: Glencoe Light & Power 115kV Transmission Line

Dennis:

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has reviewed the information that we received on July 15, 2011 for the above referenced project located in McLeod County. The DNR does not have any concerns with the proposed project at this time. If you have any questions you can contact me directly at 507-359-6073.

Thanks,

Kevin
July 15, 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 Glencoe Light & Power 115 kV Transmission Line & Substation Project
McLeod County, Minnesota

Dear Ms. Joyal:

McLeod County is in the process of preparing an environmental assessment for a 115 kV transmission line proposed by Glencoe Light and Power (GLP). The proposed transmission line project will be located near Glencoe, Minnesota and will consist of the construction of approximately 4.0 miles of new overhead 115 kV transmission line, and the construction of a new substation. This project is needed to increase system reliability for GLP and the area transmission system, as well as provide additional capacity on the system.

The proposed transmission line will be located in Sections 13 and 14 of T115N, R28W and Sections 17 and 18 of T115N R27W in McLeod 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 August 26, 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
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
Phone: 712-472-2531, e-mail: dhaselhoff@dgnet.com

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):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Township #</th>
<th>Range #</th>
<th>Section(s) (please list all sections)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>McLeod</td>
<td>115N</td>
<td>27W</td>
<td>17 and 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>115N</td>
<td>28W</td>
<td>13 and 14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Project Name: Proposed 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation Project
Project Proposer: Glencoe Light and Power

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

GLP’s transmission line project will consist of the construction of approximately 4.0 miles of new overhead 115 kV transmission line. To lessen impact to agricultural and residential property use along the line route, GLP 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.

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

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) [Signature]

Note: Digital signatures representing the name of a person shall be sufficient to show that such person has signed this document.

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

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

Revised July 2009

* Please see the instructions on page 3.
August 2, 2011

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

RE: Natural Heritage Review of the proposed GLP 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation; T115N R27W Sections 17 & 18 and T115N R28W Sections 13 & 14; McLeod County

Dear Mr. Haselhoff,

As requested, the Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS) has been queried to determine if any rare species or other significant natural features are known to occur within an approximate one-mile radius of the proposed project. Based on this query, there are no known occurrences of rare features in the area searched.

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

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

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

Furthermore, the Natural Heritage Review does not constitute review or approval by the Department of Natural Resources as a whole. Instead, it identifies issues regarding known occurrences of rare features and potential effects to these rare features. Additional rare features for which we have no data may be present in the project area, or there may be other natural resource concerns associated with the proposed project. For these concerns, please contact your DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist (contact information available at [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/ereview/erp_regioncontacts.html](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
July 15, 2011

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

Re: Proposed Glencoe Light & Power 115 kV Transmission Line & Substation Project  
McLeod County, Minnesota

Dear Ms. Gragg-Johnson:

McLeod County is in the process of preparing an environmental assessment for a 115 kV transmission line proposed by Glencoe Light and Power (GLP). The proposed transmission line project will be located near Glencoe, Minnesota and will consist of the construction of approximately 4.0 miles of new overhead 115 kV transmission line, and the construction of a new substation. This project is needed to increase system reliability for GLP and the area transmission system, as well as provide additional capacity on the system.

The proposed transmission line will be located in Sections 13 and 14 of T115N, R28W and Sections 17 and 18 of T115N R27W in McLeod 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 August 26, 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
August 1, 2011

Mr. Dennis Haselhoff, P.E.
DGR and Associates
1302 South Union Street
PO Box 511
Rock Rapids, IA  51246

RE: Glencoe Light and Power 115kV Transmission Line and Substation Project
    T115 R28 S13-14 & T115 R27 S17-18
    Glencoe, McLeod County
    SHPO Number: 2011-2942

Dear Mr. Haselhoff:

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Heidemann
Manager, Government Programs and Compliance

Enclosure: List of Consultants
July 15, 2011

Richard Davis
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Twin Cities Field Office
4101 American Blvd. E.
Bloomington, MN 55425

Re: Proposed Glencoe Light & Power 115 kV Transmission Line & Substation Project
McLeod County, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Davis:

McLeod County is in the process of preparing an environmental assessment for a 115 kV transmission line proposed by Glencoe Light and Power (GLP). The proposed transmission line project will be located near Glencoe, Minnesota and will consist of the construction of approximately 4.0 miles of new overhead 115 kV transmission line, and the construction of a new substation. This project is needed to increase system reliability for GLP and the area transmission system, as well as provide additional capacity on the system.

The proposed transmission line will be located in Sections 13 and 14 of T115N, R28W and Sections 17 and 18 of T115N R27W in McLeod 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 August 26, 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

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Hello Mr. Messner,

I have reviewed the proposed Glencoe Light and Power 115kV Line Project as you requested. At this time data available for our review does not indicate the presence of any Federally listed threatened or endangered species within the proposed transmission line corridor. In reviewing the proposed transmission alignment the line appears to run in close proximity to Buffalo Creek after it crosses to the south side of Highway 212 and extends to the east. The Service recommends that the project proponent consider utilizing bird diverter structures on this segment of the transmission line. Migratory bird species utilize riverine systems and adjacent floodplains for habitat and seasonal flight pathways. The taking of migratory birds is prohibited under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), and the use of bird diverters may help to reduce the potential for bird collisions with the proposed transmission line.

If I can be of further assistance please let me know.

Thank you,

Rich Davis

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