

ITC MIDWEST
20789 780th Avenue
Albert Lea, MN 56007
phone: 507-377-6168
www.itctransco.com

June 10, 2011

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

Re: Faribault Switch Station – Request for Minor Alteration Authorization

Dear Dr. Haar:

ITC Midwest, LLC (“ITC”) is electronically filing this request for a Minor Alteration authorization pursuant to Minnesota Statute 216E.16 and Minnesota Rule 7850.4800. We will also provide three paper copies of this request to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and the Minnesota Office of Energy Security via US mail.

ITC proposes to construct the Faribault Switch Station in Faribault County. The new 161kV switch station will be constructed on ITC property just west of Blue Earth, MN.

Please call me at (507) 377-6000 ext. 2004 with any questions regarding this filing. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Gross', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

David Gross
Associate Community Relations Rep.

Enclosure

Cc: Michele Stindtman, Faribault County Program Administrator – w/encl. (1)
Deborah Pile, Department of Commerce – w/encl. (3)

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**STATE OF MINNESOTA
BEFORE THE
MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Ellen Anderson		Chair
David C. Boyd		Commissioner
J. Dennis O'Brien		Commissioner
Phyllis A. Reha		Commissioner
Betsy Wergin		Commissioner

<p><i>In the Matter of the Faribault Switch Station Addition Request for Minor Alteration Authorization</i></p>	<p>APPLICATION FOR A MINOR ALTERATION IN TRANSMISSION LINE</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Docket No. _____</p>
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project components subject to Commission minor alteration determination consist of the following:

Faribault Switch Station: The new transmission switching station site would be located just west of Blue Earth, MN, south of County Road 6 and west of County Road 9, in Faribault County. The subject parcel contains 3.35 acres and is owned by ITC.

This project consists of constructing a new 161kilovolt (kV) switching station adjacent to and immediately east of the easement for the existing ITC Winnebago Junction - Buffalo Center 161 kV transmission line to accommodate the interconnection of a 36 megawatt (MW) wind powered generating facility. Two existing transmission structures will be relocated and replaced within the existing right-of-way to accommodate connection of the new station, as shown on Figure 3. The transmission switching station will consist of 3 breakers, line termination structures, switches and bus work. There will also be a new 12' x 60' control building that will house the relays and other equipment for the 161 kV facilities. The control building will be located on the west side of the switch station yard. The site will be surrounded by an 8 foot perimeter fence. The fenced-in area will be 2.53 acres. The cost of this project is estimated at \$4,000,000. Drawings that show the project location and site plan are enclosed. (Figures 1-4)

The approximate project start date for the Faribault Switch Station is August 1, 2011 with a projected in-service date of December 31, 2011.

PROJECT NEED

ITC is constructing a new 161 kV switching station in Faribault County to accommodate the interconnection of a 36 MW wind powered generating facility. The generating facility is owned by Big Blue Wind Farm LLC, and the ITC-owned switching station is being constructed at Big Blue Wind Farm's requested point of interconnection, which is adjacent to the collector substation being constructed as part of the generation project, which has applied for a site permit in Docket No. IP6851/WS-10-1238.

ITC is a transmission-owning member of the Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator (Midwest ISO), and under the Midwest ISO tariff, ITC is obligated to construct facilities necessary to provide safe and reliable interconnection of new generating facilities. The interconnection of Big Blue Wind Farm's generating facility has been evaluated under the Midwest ISO tariff, and it has been determined that the generating facility can be safely and reliably connected to the transmission system upon completion of construction of the switching station.

The Midwest ISO, ITC, and Big Blue Wind Farm are all parties to an agreement that provides for the construction of the new 161 kV switching station and interconnection of the generating facility. The agreement conforms to Midwest ISO's FERC approved tariff. A copy of the agreement is posted on the Midwest ISO web site at

<https://www.midwestiso.org/Library/Repository/Contract%20Legal%20Regulatory/Interconnection%20Agreement/ITC%20Midwest%20LLCBig%20Blue%20Wind%20Farm%20LLC%20LGIA%20G358%20SA1828%202nd%20Rev%20PUBLIC%20VER.pdf> .

ANALYSIS

Minnesota Rule 7850.4800 establishes the standard for determining whether a change in a high voltage transmission line is a minor alteration. The rule provides that, "A minor alteration is a change in...a high voltage transmission line that does not result in significant changes in human or environmental impact of the facility."

The proposed construction of the Faribault Switch Station will not result in significant changes in the human or environmental impacts of the facilities and therefore qualifies as a minor alteration.

- The closest landowner is approximately 500 feet to the west of the subject parcel. Impacts to adjacent landowners during phases of construction will be minimized. There may be minor noise and dust impacts at times during construction, but such impacts will not be significant.

- Aesthetic impacts to adjacent property owners are expected to be minimal. This project will not have any adverse effects on the existing landscape. The loss of wildlife habitat will be minimal.
- The construction of the transmission switching station will conform to all local minimum setback requirements.
- There will be no new tree clearing for this project. The subject parcel is currently agricultural and planted with crops. There will be no forest impacts and minimal agricultural impacts due to the construction of the transmission switching station.
- Access to the subject parcel is from a paved County road onto ITC property. Vehicles will be able to travel from the paved County road to the subject parcel without crossing others' private property.
- The construction of the transmission switching station on the subject parcel will have no significant human or environmental impacts.

NOTICE AND COMMENT REQUIREMENTS

Minnesota Rule 7850.4800, Subpart 2, provides that the Commission shall mail notice of receipt of the application to those persons on the general list and to those persons on the project contact list if such a list exists. The commission shall provide at least a ten day period for interested persons to submit comments on the application or to request the matter be brought to the commission for consideration.

Pursuant to Minnesota Rule 7829.0700, ITC requests that the following persons be placed on the Commission's official list for this matter:

David Gross
Associate Community Relations Rep.
ITC Midwest
20789 780th Avenue
Albert Lea, MN 56007

Dave Grover
Manager, Regulatory Strategy
ITC Midwest
444 Cedar Street, Suite 1020
St. Paul, MN 55101

Utility Employee Responsible for Filing

David Gross
Associate Community Relations Rep.
ITC Midwest
20789 780th Avenue
Albert Lea, MN 56007
(507) 377-6000 ext. 2004 office
(507) 320-2422 cell
(507) 377-1190 fax

CONCLUSION

ITC respectfully requests the Commission authorize the Faribault Switch Station as a minor alteration, as provided in Minnesota Rule 7850.4800.

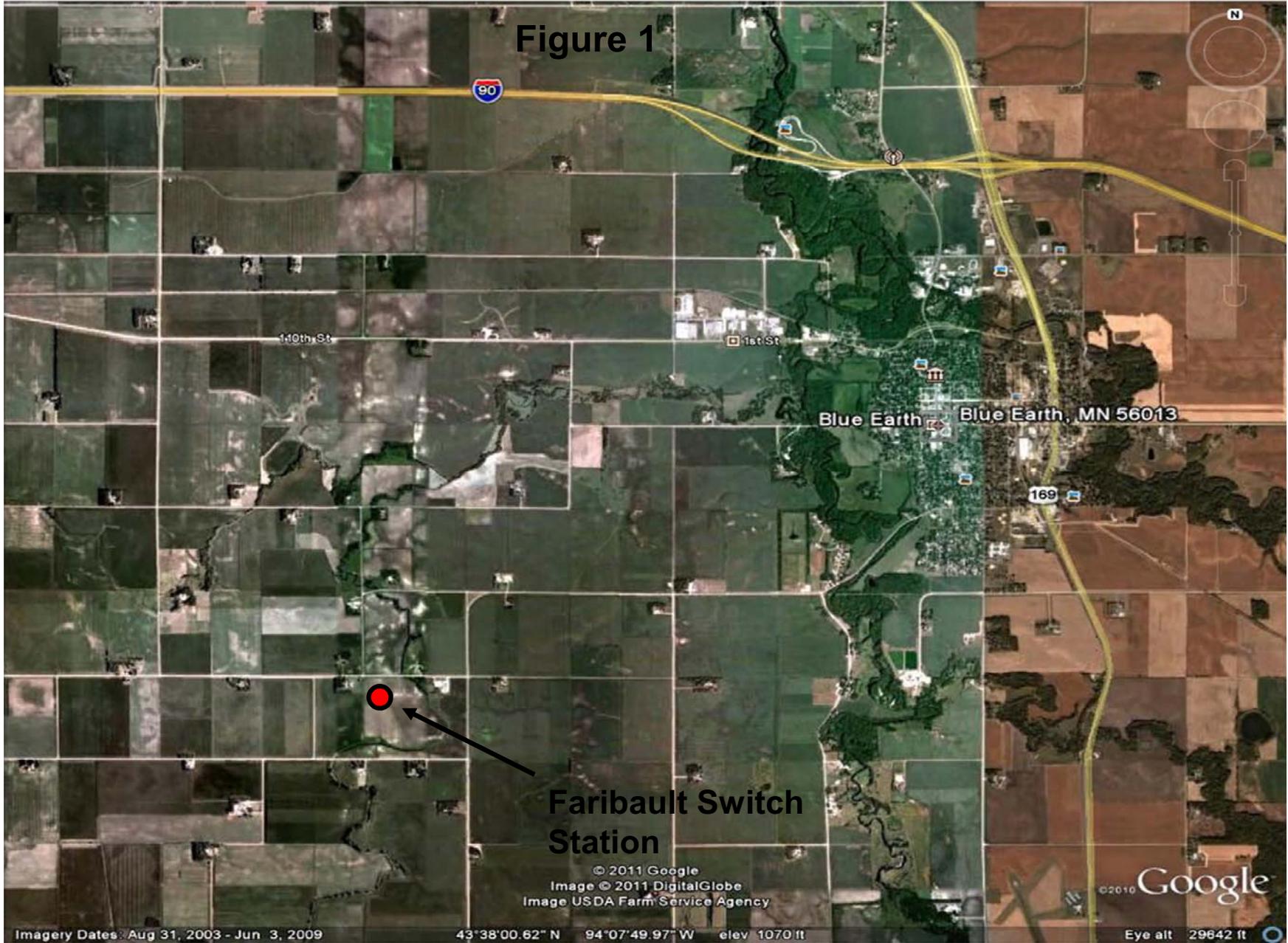
Dated: *June 10, 2011*

ITC Holdings, Inc.
d/b/a ITC Midwest LLC

By: 

David Gross
Associate Community Relations Rep.

Figure 1



Blue Earth, MN 56013

Faribault Switch Station

© 2011 Google
Image © 2011 DigitalGlobe
Image USDA Farm Service Agency

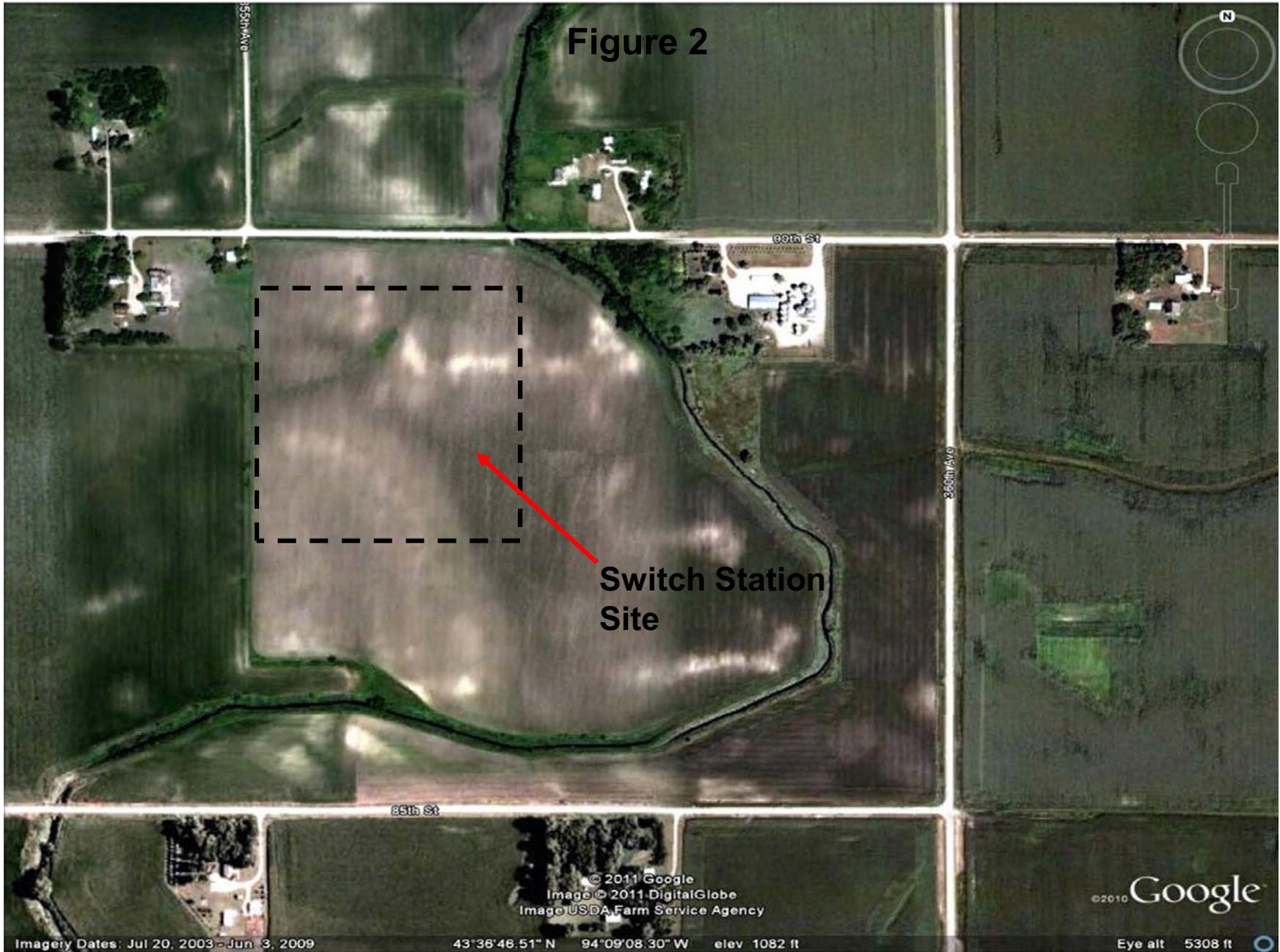
Google

Imagery Dates: Aug 31, 2003 - Jun 3, 2009

43°38'00.62" N 94°07'49.97" W elev 1070 ft

Eye alt 29642 ft

Figure 2



Switch Station Site



© 2011 Google
Image © 2011 DigitalGlobe
Image USDA Farm Service Agency

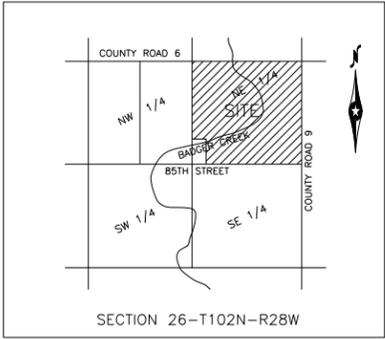
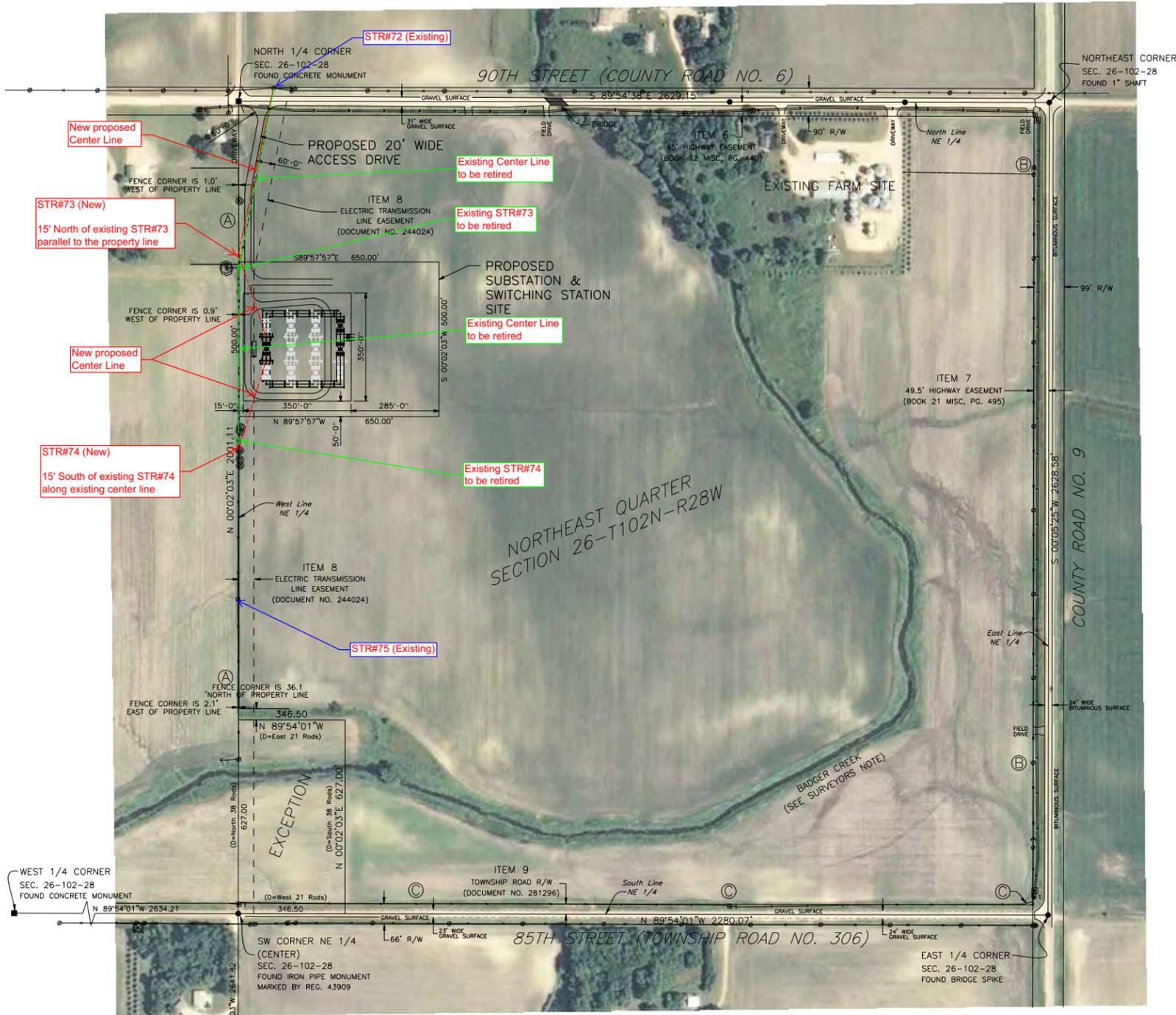
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Imagery Dates: Jul 20, 2003 - Jun 3, 2009 43°36'46.51" N 94°09'08.30" W elev 1082 ft Eye alt 5308 ft

LEGENDS:

- RED: New Proposed
- GREEN: Existing to be Retired
- BLUE: Reference Only

Figure 3



VICINITY MAP
NOT TO SCALE

SURVEYOR'S NOTES

- Orientation of the bearing system used for this survey is based on the State of Minnesota's HARN 1996 Faribault County Coordinate System.
- Subject property, as presented in the title insurance commitment, contains a total of 153.577 acres of land.
- Access to subject property is presently provided via field drives to County Road No. 6 on the north, County Road No. 9 on the east and 85th Street (Township Road No. 306) on the south. (See Schedule B Items 6, 7 & 9)
- A drainage way (Badger Creek) passes through the subject property. It appears that the subject property and adjacent properties drain surface water into said drainage way.
- Underground utility lines and structures are shown in an approximate way only, according to information provided by others. A request that utilities be located for this survey was made through Gopher State One Call (Ticket No. 90040446). The underground utility lines and structures shown on this map represent the information provided to Bolton & Menk, Inc. as a result of that request. The surveyor does not guarantee that the information provided was either complete or accurate. The surveyor does not guarantee that there are no other underground utility lines and structures, active or abandoned, on or adjacent to the subject property.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

The following were provided in Frundt & Johnson, LTD., Commitment No. CA6-2006782, effective date March 15, 2009, Schedule A.

The Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) of Section Twenty-six (26), Township One Hundred Two (102) North of Range Twenty-eight (28) West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, Faribault County, Minnesota, excepting therefrom the following described tract:

Commencing at the Southwest corner of the Northeast Quarter of Section 26; thence North 38 rods along the west line of the northeast quarter, thence East 21 rods parallel with the south line of the northeast quarter, thence South 38 rods parallel with the west line of the northeast quarter, thence West 21 rods along the south line of the northeast quarter to the place of beginning.

NOTES CORRESPONDING TO SCHEDULE B - EXCEPTIONS

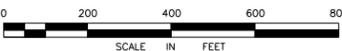
- The following were provided in Frundt & Johnson, LTD., Commitment No. CA6-2006782, effective date March 15, 2009, Schedule B Exceptions. The items referenced correspond to the items defined in the Title Commitment's Schedule B - Exceptions, and are referenced on survey drawing by item number.
- Items 1 through 4, 11, 12 and 14, Schedule B Exceptions are not addressed on this survey.
- Item 5: *There is an Easement to Interstate Power Company found at entry number 22 dated April 17, 1980 and filed for record July 25, 1980 in Book 12 Misc'l, Page 11 for the purpose of transmitting electric or other power and/or a telegraph or telephone line or lines, which would commence at a point 1 foot north of the northeast fence corner of the subject property, thence East along the North line of said property to a point 1 foot north of the northeast fence corner of the subject property. The Easement includes the right to cut down and side trim the trees necessary to give the clearance distance specified within a radius of 16 feet from the line and including the right of ingress and egress over the lands for doing anything necessary or useful for the enjoyment of the Easement granted.*
- The easement's description does not have a defined starting and ending point. Therefore, the location of said easement could not be defined and is not graphically displayed on the survey drawing.
- Item 6: *There is an Easement for Highway Purposes to Faribault County dated April 10, 1958 and filed for record April 17, 1958 in Book 21 Misc'l, Page 440 over the north 45 feet of the Northeast Quarter of Section 26 described above.*
- The limits of said highway easement is graphically displayed on the survey drawing.
- Item 7: *There is an Easement of Highway Purposes to Faribault County dated April 3, 1959 and filed for record June 12, 1959 in Book 21 Misc'l, Page 496 over the east 49 1/4 feet of the Northeast Quarter of Section 26 described above.*
- The limits of said highway easement is graphically displayed on the survey drawing.
- Item 8: *There is an Easement to Interstate Power Company dated April 9, 1981 and filed for record April 21, 1981 as document number 244024 for the purpose of constructing and operating an electric transmission line of a single pole construction within a 100 foot wide strip running in a northerly-southerly direction with the centerline beginning near the north quarter corner of Section 26 above described, thence southerly to the point near the center of said Section 26. Said easement was assigned to ITC Midwest, LLC by virtue of the Easement Assignment dated December 20, 2007 and filed for record January 7, 2008 as document number 342813.*
- The easement's description does not have a defined starting and ending point therefore the limits of said easement cannot be exactly determined. It appears said easement pertains to the existing overhead transmission line running along the westerly side of the subject property. For the purposes of this survey the limits of said easement have been assumed to be 50 feet on each side of said existing overhead electrical transmission line.
- Item 9: *There is a Township Resolution dated December 3, 1992 and filed for record December 9, 1992 as document number 201598 establishing Jo Daviess Township Road # 506 as a two-road wide right-of-way on both sides of the centerline bordering the Northeast Quarter of Section 26 on the south.*
- The limits of said Township road is graphically displayed on the survey drawing.
- Item 10: *There is a Resolution found at entry number 107 dated January 16, 2007 and filed for record January 16, 2007 as document number 358048 by the Faribault County Board of Commissioners approving the Conditional Use Permit for Big Blue Wind Farm, LLC for an electrical substation to be located on the subject property, which is non-transferable, and provided that the electrical substation must be started on or before January 5, 2009 or the conditional use permit is void.*
- The limits of said Conditional Use Permit is blank in nature covering the entire West Half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 26. The proposed location of the substation site (according to information provided by the client) is located within the limits defined by said permit. The proposed substation site is graphically displayed on the survey drawing.
- Item 13: *Rights of the public and the State of Minnesota in and to that part of the premises lying below the natural high water mark of Badger Creek.*
- said Badger Creek is shown on the survey drawing.

STATEMENT OF POSSIBLE ENCROACHMENTS

- The following are possible encroachments that may affect the Subject Property. Bolton & Menk, Inc. does not guarantee that all encroachments have been identified.
- The fence along the west boundary line lies on subject property's boundary and/or adjacent property's boundary. The fence represents the occupation lines. The ownership of said fence is unknown.
 - The overhead electric lines and associated power poles, and anchors lie on or very near the west right-of-way line of County Road 9 and may cross onto the subject property's boundary outside of the dedicated highway right-of-way.
 - The underground telephone lines and associated telephone pedestals lie on or very near the north right-of-way line of 85th Street (Township Road No. 306) and may cross onto the subject property's boundary outside the dedicated township road easement.

LEGEND

- MONUMENT FOUND
- STONE MONUMENT FOUND
- ⊕ ANCHOR
- ⊠ ELECTRIC TRANSFORMER
- ⊞ HAND HOLE
- ⊞ TELEPHONE PEDESTAL
- ⊞ UTILITY POLE
- ⊞ DECIDUOUS TREE
- ⊞ BUSH
- EU — ELECTRIC UNDERGROUND
- EO — ELECTRIC OVERHEAD
- TU — TELEPHONE UNDERGROUND
- TF — TELEPHONE FIBER OPTIC UNDERGROUND
- X — FENCE LINE
- (D=) DEED MEASUREMENT



TRV:01.01
Plotted: \$DATES
File: \$FILES

NO.	DATE	REVISION	BY	CHK'D	APP'VD
0	01-26-2011	ORIGINAL ISSUE (M00022181) FOR REVIEW	BLV-DA	BLV-SD	

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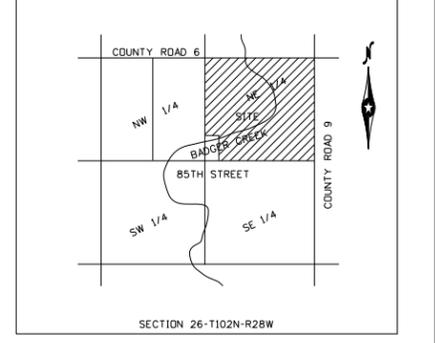
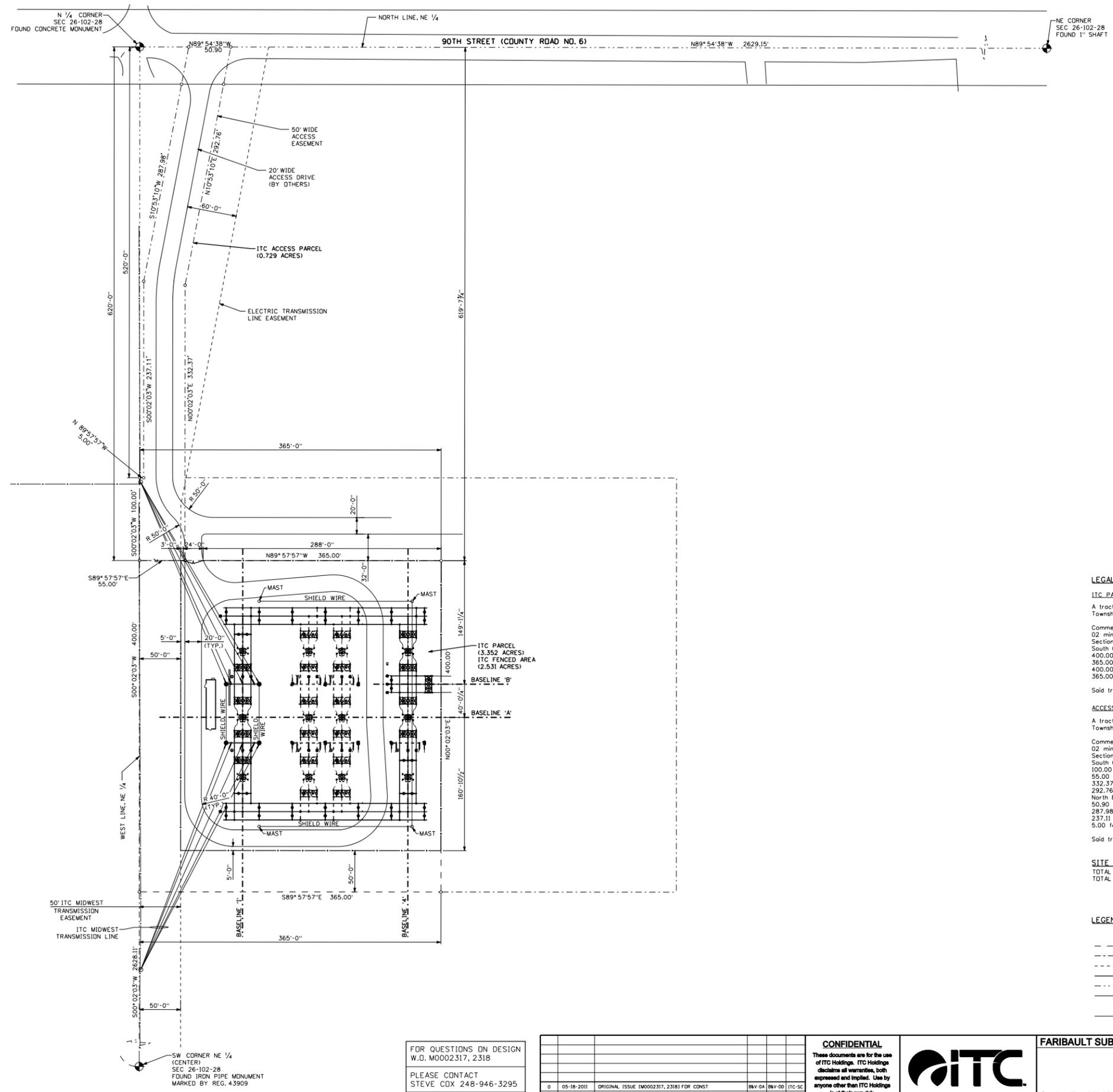
FARIBAULT STATION
Blue Earth, MN

SITE PLAN

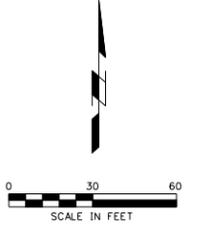
Scale: 1" = 200'-0"

DWG. NO. EC001-M0002318

Figure 4



VICINITY MAP
NOT TO SCALE



LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS:

ITC PARCEL
A tract of land in the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 26, Township 102 North, Range 28 West, Faribault County, Minnesota described as follows:
Commencing at the North Quarter corner of said Section 26; thence South 00 degrees 02 minutes 03 seconds West, along the west line of the Northeast Quarter of said Section 26, a distance of 620.00 feet to the point of beginning; thence continuing South 00 degrees 02 minutes 03 seconds West, along said west line, a distance of 400.00 feet; thence South 89 degrees 57 minutes 57 seconds East, a distance of 365.00 feet; thence North 00 degrees 02 minutes 03 seconds East, a distance of 400.00 feet; thence North 89 degrees 57 minutes 57 seconds West, a distance of 365.00 feet to the point of beginning.
Said tract contains 3.352 acres of land.

ACCESS PARCEL
A tract of land in the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 26, Township 102 North, Range 28 West, Faribault County, Minnesota described as follows:
Commencing at the North Quarter corner of said Section 26; thence South 00 degrees 02 minutes 03 seconds West, along the west line of the Northeast Quarter of said Section 26, a distance of 520.00 feet to the point of beginning; thence continuing South 00 degrees 02 minutes 03 seconds West, along said west line, a distance of 100.00 feet; thence South 89 degrees 57 minutes 57 seconds East, a distance of 55.00 feet; thence North 00 degrees 02 minutes 03 seconds East, a distance of 332.37 feet; thence North 10 degrees 53 minutes 10 seconds East, a distance of 292.76 feet to the north line of the Northeast Quarter of said Section 26; thence North 89 degrees 54 minutes 38 seconds West, along said north line, a distance of 50.90 feet; thence South 10 degrees 53 minutes 10 seconds West, a distance of 287.98 feet; thence South 00 degrees 02 minutes 03 seconds West, a distance of 237.11 feet; thence North 89 degrees 57 minutes 57 seconds West, a distance of 5.00 feet to the point of beginning.
Said tract contains 0.729 acres of land.

SITE INFO
TOTAL ITC PROPERTY AREA - 3.352 ACRES (146,000 SQ. FT.)
TOTAL ITC FENCED AREA - 2.531 ACRES (110,250 SQ. FT.)

LEGEND

	COUNTY SECTION CORNER
	ITC EASEMENT LINE
	EXERGY PROPERTY LINE
	TRANSMISSION LINE EASEMENT
	NEW FENCE
	COUNTY SECTION LINE
	COUNTY ROAD EASEMENT
	LIGHTNING MAST
	SHIELD WIRE

FOR QUESTIONS ON DESIGN
W.D. M0002317, 2318
PLEASE CONTACT
STEVE CDX 248-946-3295

NO.	DATE	REVISION	BY	CHK'D	APV'D
0	05-18-2011	ORIGINAL ISSUE (M0002317, 2318) FOR CONST	BV-D	BV-D	ITC-SC

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FARIBAULT SUBSTATION
FARIBAULT, MN

SITE PLAN

Scale: 1" = 60'-0"

DWG. NO. **74001-02-02**