

APPENDIX D

AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE

APPENDIX D.1
AGENCIES CONTACTED REGARDING PROJECT

Agency	Date of Letter Regarding Project Notice
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Twin Cities Field Office	June 20, 2008
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Regulatory Project Managers	June 20, 2008
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources ("MnDNR") - Natural Heritage Program	July 10, 2008
MnDNR – Waters Area Hydrologist	June 20 and 24, 2008
MnDNR – Ecological Resources	June 20, 2008
MnDNR Region 4 – Southern Minnesota Lands and Minerals	June 20, 2008
Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office	August 7, 2008
Minnesota Department of Transportation ("MnDOT") - Utility Permits, Permits Supervisor	June 20, 2008
MnDOT District 7A Utility Permit Contact	June 20, 2008
Brown County Planning and Zoning Administrator	June 20, 2008
Brown County Highway Department – County Engineer	June 20, 2008
Brown County Environmental Coordinator/Manager	June 20, 2008
Brown Soil and Water Conservation District - Chair	June 20, 2008
Nicollet County Engineer/Public Works – Department Head	June 20, 2008
Nicollet County Environmental Services - Department Head	June 20, 2008
Nicollet Soil and Water Conservation District Chair	June 20, 2008
MN BWSR Board Conservationist	June 20, 2008
City of New Ulm Public Utilities Administration	June 20, 2008
City of New Ulm Engineering and Inspections	June 20, 2008
City of New Ulm Public Works / New Ulm Street Department	June 20, 2008
New Ulm Municipal Airport	June 20, 2008
Milford Township, Brown County – Town Chair	August 6, 2008
Lafayette Township, Nicollet County – Town Chair	August 6, 2008

APPENDIX D.2

LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS CONTACTED REGARDING PROJECT

Local Governmental Unit	Date of Letter Regarding Project Notice
Milford Township, Brown County – Town Chair	August 8, 2008
Lafayette Township, Nicollet County – Town Chair	August 8, 2008
Brown Soil and Water Conservation District - Chair	August 8, 2008
Brown County Environmental Coordinator/Manager	August 8, 2008
Brown County Highway Department – County Engineer	August 8, 2008
Brown County Planning and Zoning Administrator	August 8, 2008
Nicollet Soil and Water Conservation District Chair	August 8, 2008
Nicollet County Environmental Services - Department Head	August 8, 2008
Nicollet County Engineer/Public Works – Department Head	August 8, 2008
MN BWSR Board Conservationist	August 8, 2008
City of New Ulm Public Works / New Ulm Street Department	August 8, 2008
City of New Ulm Engineering and Inspections	August 8, 2008
City of New Ulm Public Utilities Administration	August 8, 2008

Joe Sedarski

From: Joe Sedarski
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2008 12:44 PM
To: 'Laurie_Fairchild@fws.gov'
Subject: RE: Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Hi Laurie – yes, Todd was sent a similar e-mail and letter, in addition to other DNR contacts (Lisa Joyal, etc.).

Joe

From: Laurie_Fairchild@fws.gov [mailto:Laurie_Fairchild@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2008 12:38 PM
To: Joe Sedarski
Subject: RE: Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Hi Joe,

I forgot to ask before, but I'm assuming you've already talked to DNR - was it Todd Kolander that you spoke with? He's usually my contact. Thanks

Laurie

Joe Sedarski <Joe.Sedarski@westwoodps.com>

08/13/2008 11:53 AM

To "Laurie_Fairchild@fws.gov" <Laurie_Fairchild@fws.gov>
cc "Rogers, Timothy G" <Timothy.G.Rogers@xcelenergy.com>, Rob Bouta
<Rob.Bouta@westwoodps.com>

Subject RE: Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Hi Laurie -- sorry about the Figure A. The attached is the project location figure, which we meant to include with the August 8, 2008 letter. For this same project, I e-mailed you on June 20 a similar request which I think had a figure attached. In any event, sorry for the confusion.

The project involves a rebuild of existing line, as well as construction of a new substation (see figure for approximate area). Does your comment below apply to the substation area as well?

Thanks again for your comments and response.

Regards,
Joe

From: Laurie_Fairchild@fws.gov [mailto:Laurie_Fairchild@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2008 11:42 AM
To: Joe Sedarski
Subject: Re: Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Hi Joe,

Although a map would have been helpful (there was no Figure A that accompanied the letter I received, I think in this case its ok

without one because it will be a rebuild of an existing line. As for the substation, it does not appear there are any federally listed threatened or endangered species in that project area. Let me know if you have any questions/further need for comments. Thanks!

Laurie

Laurie Fairchild
Twin Cities Field Office
612-725-3548

Joe Sedarski <Joe.Sedarski@westwoodps.com>

06/20/2008 02:57 PM

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

cc "Rogers, Timothy G" <Timothy.G.Rogers@xcelenergy.com>, Rob Bouta
<Rob.Bouta@westwoodps.com>

Subject Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Dear Ms. Fairchild,

Please review the attached letter and contact me with any concerns regarding the above Project. We appreciate your timely assistance with this matter.

Regards,

Joe

Joseph G. Sedarski
Environmental Services/Senior Project Manager

Westwood Professional Services
7699 Anagram Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55344-7310

DIRECT 952-906-7405
CELL 612-360-0502
EMAIL joe.sedarski@westwoodps.com
MAIN 952-937-5150
FAX 952-937-5822
WEB www.westwoodps.com

[attachment "Ltr to USFWS Twin Cities.doc" deleted by Laurie Fairchild/R3/FWS/DOI] [attachment "20081081doq01A.pdf" deleted by Laurie Fairchild/R3/FWS/DOI] [attachment "20081081doq01A_B1.pdf" deleted by Laurie Fairchild/R3/FWS/DOI]

Joe Sedarski

From: Laurie_Fairchild@fws.gov
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2008 12:24 PM
To: Joe Sedarski
Cc: Rob Bouta; Rogers, Timothy G
Subject: RE: Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

The letter I just reviewed was dated June 20; don't worry about the map though. My previous email covers the new substation too, sorry I didn't make it more clear.

Laurie

Joe Sedarski <Joe.Sedarski@westwoodps.com>

08/13/2008 11:53 AM

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

cc "Rogers, Timothy G" <Timothy.G.Rogers@xcelenergy.com>, Rob Bouta
<Rob.Bouta@westwoodps.com>

Subject RE: Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Hi Laurie – sorry about the Figure A. The attached is the project location figure, which we meant to include with the August 8, 2008 letter. For this same project, I e-mailed you on June 20 a similar request which I think had a figure attached. In any event, sorry for the confusion.

The project involves a rebuild of existing line, as well as construction of a new substation (see figure for approximate area). Does your comment below apply to the substation area as well?

Thanks again for your comments and response.

Regards,
Joe

From: Laurie_Fairchild@fws.gov [mailto:Laurie_Fairchild@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2008 11:42 AM
To: Joe Sedarski
Subject: Re: Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Hi Joe,

Although a map would have been helpful (there was no Figure A that accompanied the letter I received, I think in this case its ok without one because it will be a rebuild of an existing line. As for the substation, it does not appear there are any federally listed threatened or endangered species in that project area. Let me know if you have any questions/further need for comments. Thanks!

Laurie

Laurie Fairchild
Twin Cities Field Office
612-725-3548

Joe Sedarski <Joe.Sedarski@westwoodps.com>

06/20/2008 02:57 PM

To "laurie_fairchild@fws.gov" <laurie_fairchild@fws.gov>
cc "Rogers, Timothy G" <Timothy.G.Rogers@xcelenergy.com>, Rob Bouta
<Rob.Bouta@westwoodps.com>
Subject Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Dear Ms. Fairchild,

Please review the attached letter and contact me with any concerns regarding the above Project. We appreciate your timely assistance with this matter.

Regards,

Joe

Joseph G. Sedarski
Environmental Services/Senior Project Manager

Westwood Professional Services
7699 Anagram Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55344-7310

DIRECT 952-906-7405
CELL 612-360-0502
EMAIL joe.sedarski@westwoodps.com
MAIN 952-937-5150
FAX 952-937-5822
WEB www.westwoodps.com

[attachment "Ltr to USFWS Twin Cities.doc" deleted by Laurie Fairchild/R3/FWS/DOI] [attachment "20081081doq01A.pdf" deleted by Laurie Fairchild/R3/FWS/DOI] [attachment "20081081doq01A_B1.pdf" deleted by Laurie Fairchild/R3/FWS/DOI]

Joe Sedarski

From: Joe Sedarski
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2008 2:01 PM
To: 'Laurie_Fairchild@fws.gov'
Cc: Rob Bouta; Rogers, Timothy G
Subject: RE: Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Hi Laurie,

Here are some of your answers. The project consists of two main parts: one new substation (West New Ulm Substation) and rebuilding approximately 4.25 miles of existing 69 kV line to 115/69kV double circuit line. The rebuilt line will all be overhead, within existing right-of-way.

On the map, the yellow/green dashed line is supposed to show the transmission line rebuild locations, which extends from the existing Fort Ridgley Substation north of New Ulm, south and west to the yellow/red hatched oval area in the vicinity of the existing New Ulm Brown County REA Substation. The rebuild line crosses a portion of the corporate limits of the City of New Ulm on the north end of the City, as indicated on the map.

I will work at getting more details to you on look of rebuilt lines, more precise length of line, number of lines, and poles.

In the meantime, hope this helps. Please feel free to call me at (952) 906-7405 if you have any other questions or comments.

Thanks,
Joe

From: Laurie_Fairchild@fws.gov [mailto:Laurie_Fairchild@fws.gov]
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2008 1:50 PM
To: Joe Sedarski
Cc: Rob Bouta; Rogers, Timothy G
Subject: Re: Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Hi Joe,

There are no new lines shown on the map (only existing lines are pointed out - is the unlabeled line within the New Ulm limits the "new" line? Or, is it only the substation that is new? Also, I need a description of what the rebuild and new lines will look like - for the new stuff (if applicable) I also need length of line; is all of this overhead? How tall are the poles? How many lines? etc.

Thanks,

Laurie

Joe Sedarski <Joe.Sedarski@westwoodps.com>

06/20/2008 02:57 PM

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

cc "Rogers, Timothy G" <Timothy.G.Rogers@xcelenergy.com>, Rob Bouta <Rob.Bouta@westwoodps.com>

Subject Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Dear Ms. Fairchild,

Please review the attached letter and contact me with any concerns regarding the above Project. We appreciate your timely assistance with this matter.

Regards,

Joe

Joseph G. Sedarski
Environmental Services/Senior Project Manager

Westwood Professional Services

7699 Anagram Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55344-7310

DIRECT	952-906-7405
CELL	612-360-0502
EMAIL	joe.sedarski@westwoodps.com
MAIN	952-937-5150
FAX	952-937-5822
WEB	www.westwoodps.com

[attachment "Ltr to USFWS Twin Cities.doc" deleted by Laurie Fairchild/R3/FWS/DOI] [attachment "20081081doq01A.pdf" deleted by Laurie Fairchild/R3/FWS/DOI]

Joe Sedarski

From: Norton, Eric M MVP [Eric.M.Norton@usace.army.mil]
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2008 11:59 AM
To: Joe Sedarski
Subject: RE: Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Joe,

I apologize for not getting back to you sooner on this, but from the Corps standpoint we would be concerned with the methods for crossing the wetlands and waterways, as well as the Minnesota River. If you are planning on spanning these areas or directional boring under the waterways and wetlands, a permit would most likely not be required. However, if you plan on placing poles or discharging fill in the wetlands or waterways, a permit will be required. If you have any questions, feel free to send me an e-mail or give me a call. Thanks for your patience.

Eric Norton
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Branch
190 5th Street East
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101
Telephone: (651) 290-5358
Facsimile: (651) 290-5330
Eric.M.Norton@usace.army.mil

In order to assist us in improving our service to you, we invite you to complete the survey found at:

<http://per2.nwp.usace.army.mil/survey.html>

-----Original Message-----

From: Joe Sedarski [mailto:Joe.Sedarski@westwoodps.com]
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2008 3:00 PM
To: Ahlness, Jon K MVP; Norton, Eric M MVP
Cc: Rogers, Timothy G; Rob Bouta
Subject: Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Dear Messrs. Ahlness and Norton,

Please review the attached letter and contact me with any concerns regarding the above Project. We appreciate your timely assistance with this matter.

Regards,

Joe

Joseph G. Sedarski
Environmental Services/Senior Project Manager

Westwood Professional Services
7699 Anagram Drive

Eden Prairie, MN 55344-7310

DIRECT 952-906-7405
CELL 612-360-0502
EMAIL joe.sedarski@westwoodps.com
<<mailto:fname.lname@westwoodps.com>>
MAIN 952-937-5150
FAX 952-937-5822
WEB www.westwoodps.com <<http://www.westwoodps.com/>>

Joe Sedarski

From: Lisa Joyal [Lisa.Joyal@dnr.state.mn.us]
Sent: Monday, August 11, 2008 4:21 PM
To: Joe Sedarski
Subject: West New Ulm Substation & Transmission Line Rebuild
Attachments: 20090036-1a.pdf; 20090036a07i.pdf; 20090036a07d.pdf; BioticsFieldExpl.pdf

I have attached the reply letter and database reports regarding the above project. Please remember that the detailed report is for your use only. It should not be published or copied (including electronically) for others.

I'm sorry that I was not able to make the two-week turnaround for a rush request. You will not be charged the additional rush fee. It was an oversight on my part that I did not contact you before the two-week deadline to let you know that I would be unable to meet the deadline.

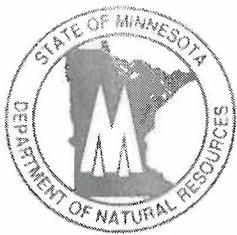
Again, I apologize for any inconvenience this has caused.

Sincerely,

Lisa

~~~~~  
Lisa Joyal  
Endangered Species Environmental Review Coordinator NHIS Data Distribution Coordinator  
Division of Ecological Resources Minnesota Department of Natural Resources 500 Lafayette  
Road, Box 25 St. Paul, MN 55155

phone: 651-259-5109  
fax: 651-296-1811  
[lisa.joyal@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:lisa.joyal@dnr.state.mn.us)  
[www.mndnr.gov/eco](http://www.mndnr.gov/eco)



# Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Division of Ecological Resources, Box 25

500 Lafayette Road

St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4025

Phone: (651) 259-5109 Fax: (651) 296-1811 E-mail: lisa.joyal@dnr.state.mn.us

August 11, 2008

Mr. Joseph Sedarski  
Westwood Professional Services, Inc.  
7699 Anagram Drive  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Re: Request for Natural Heritage information in the vicinity of the proposed West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project  
Correspondence # : ERDB 2009036

| County   | Township (N) | Range (W) | Section(s)  |
|----------|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| Brown    | 110          | 31        | 12-14       |
| Nicollet | 110          | 30        | 5, 7, 8, 18 |

Dear Mr. Sedarski,

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, several rare features have been documented within the search area (for details, see the enclosed database reports). Please note that the following **rare features may be impacted** by the proposed project:

- Several mussel species, including the wartyback (*Quadrula nodulata*), a state-listed endangered species, have been documented in the Minnesota River in the vicinity of the proposed project. As mussels are particularly vulnerable to deterioration in water quality, especially increased siltation, it is important that sound erosion and sediment control practices be implemented and maintained near the river. **Please contact me again if the rebuild will impact the riverbed in any way**, as a mussel survey will likely be required prior to the onset of construction.
- Sullivant's milkweed (*Asclepias sullivantii*), a state-listed threatened plant, has been documented within a prairie remnant in the right-of-way of the Dakota Minnesota and Eastern Railroad in T110N R31W Section 14. (GIS shapefiles of MCBS Railroad Rights-of-Way Prairies can be downloaded from the DNR's Data Deli website at <http://deli.dnr.state.mn.us>.) To protect this rare plant, disturbance within the prairie remnant should be avoided. If this is not possible, and impacts in the railroad right-of-way are anticipated, a botanical survey will be needed. **Please contact me again if this is the case.**
- The above information, along with any proposed avoidance or mitigation measures, should be addressed in the Route Permit Application and subsequent Environmental Assessment.

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 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 and a Detailed Report of records in the Rare Features Database, the main database of the NHIS. To control the release of specific location information, which might result in the destruction of a rare feature, both reports are copyrighted.

The Index Report provides rare feature locations only to the nearest section, and may be reprinted, unaltered, in an 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. **The Detailed Report may include specific location information, and is for your personal use only. If you wish to reprint or publish the detailed report for any purpose, please contact me to request written permission.**

Please be aware that this letter focuses only on potential effects to *rare natural features*; there may be other natural resource concerns associated with the proposed project. This letter does not constitute review or approval by the Department of Natural Resources as a whole.

An invoice in the amount of \$87.22 will be mailed to you under separate cover within two weeks of the date of this letter. You are being billed for the database search and printouts, and staff scientist review. Thank you for consulting us on this matter, and for your interest in preserving Minnesota's rare natural resources.

Sincerely,



Lisa Joyal  
Endangered Species Environmental Review Coordinator

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

Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System: Rare Features Database  
Index Report of records within 1 mile radius of:  
West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project  
Multiple TRS  
Nicollet and Brown Counties

| Element Name and Occurrence Number                                                                                                             | Federal Status | MN Status | State Rank | Global Rank | Last Observed Date | EO ID # |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|------------|-------------|--------------------|---------|
| <b>Blue Earth, Brown, Carver, Chippewa, [...] County, MN</b>                                                                                   |                |           |            |             |                    |         |
| <u>Polyodon spathula</u> (Paddlefish) #4<br>Location Description: T27N R24W S23, T115N R23W S16, T115N R23W S17, T115N R38W S28, T [...]       |                | THR       | S2         | G4          | 2004-12-04         | 16501   |
| <b>Brown County, MN</b>                                                                                                                        |                |           |            |             |                    |         |
| <u>Asclepias sullivantii</u> (Sullivant's Milkweed) #55<br>Location Description: T110N R31W S14                                                |                | THR       | S2         | G5          | 1998-06-26         | 23951   |
| <b>Brown, Nicollet County, MN</b>                                                                                                              |                |           |            |             |                    |         |
| <u>Actinonaias ligamentina</u> (Mucket) #82<br>Location Description: T110N R30W S18, T110N R30W S8, T110N R30W S17                             |                | THR       | S2         | G5          | 1989-07-25         | 17037   |
| <u>Alasmidonta marginata</u> (Elktoe) #65<br>Location Description: T110N R30W S17                                                              |                | THR       | S2         | G4          | 1989-07-29         | 29480   |
| <u>Arcidens confragosus</u> (Rock Pocketbook) #5<br>Location Description: T110N R30W S7                                                        |                | END       | S1         | G4          | 1989-Pre           | 17018   |
| <u>Cycleptus elongatus</u> (Blue Sucker) #104<br>Location Description: T110N R30W S6, T110N R31W S1                                            |                | SPC       | S3         | G3G4        | 1998-05            | 29947   |
| <u>Elliptio dilatata</u> (Spike) #104<br>Location Description: T110N R30W S18, T110N R30W S8, T110N R30W S7, T110N R30W S17                    |                | SPC       | S3         | G5          | 1989-07-29         | 29481   |
| <u>Freshwater Mussel Concentration Area</u> (Mussel Sampling Site) #114<br>Location Description: T110N R30W S18, T110N R30W S8, T110N R30W S17 |                | N/A       | SNR        | G3          | 1989-07-25         | 11498   |
| <u>Lampsilis teres</u> (Yellow Sandshell) #5<br>Location Description: T110N R30W S7                                                            |                | END       | S1         | G5          | 1989-Pre           | 17047   |
| <u>Ligumia recta</u> (Black Sandshell) #89<br>Location Description: T110N R30W S17                                                             |                | SPC       | S3         | G5          | 1989-07-25         | 17064   |
| <u>Pleurobema coccineum</u> (Round Pigtoe) #72<br>Location Description: T110N R30W S17                                                         |                | THR       | S2         | G4G5        | 1989-07-29         | 29482   |
| <u>Quadrula nodulata</u> (Wartyback) #4<br>Location Description: T110N R30W S17                                                                |                | END       | S1         | G4          | 1989-07-25         | 17041   |

Nicollet County, MN

Printed July 2008  
Data valid for one year

Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System: Rare Features Database  
Index Report of records within 1 mile radius of:  
West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project  
Multiple TRS  
Nicollet and Brown Counties

| <u>Element Name and Occurrence Number</u>                                                                     | <u>Federal Status</u> | <u>MN Status</u> | <u>State Rank</u> | <u>Global Rank</u> | <u>Last Observed Date</u> | <u>EO ID #</u> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Nicollet County, MN</b>                                                                                    |                       |                  |                   |                    |                           |                |
| <u>Native Plant Community, Undetermined Class #473</u><br>Location Description: T110N R30W S5, T110N R30W S4  |                       | N/A              | SNR               | GNR                | 1999-06-01                | 25610          |
| <u>Native Plant Community, Undetermined Class #494</u><br>Location Description: T110N R30W S6, T111N R30W S31 |                       | N/A              | SNR               | GNR                | 1999-06-01                | 25611          |

Records Printed = 14

The Division of Ecological Resources recently adopted a new database system called Biotics. As a result of this change, the layout and contents of the database reports have been revised. Many of the fields included in the new reports are the same or similar to the previous report fields, however there are several new fields and some of the field definitions have been slightly modified. We recommend that you familiarize yourself with the latest field explanations.

## Rare Features Database Reports: An Explanation of Fields

The Rare Features Database (Biotics) is part of the Natural Heritage Information System, and is maintained by the Division of Ecological Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

*\*\*Please note that the print-outs are copyrighted and may not be reproduced without permission\*\**

### **Field Name: [Full (non-abbreviated) field name, if different]. Further explanation of field.**

#### **-E-**

**Element Name and Occ #:** [Element Name and Occurrence Number]. The Element is the name of the rare feature. For plant and animal species records, this field holds the scientific name followed by the common name in parentheses; for all other elements (such as native plant communities, which have no scientific name) it is solely the element name. Native plant community names correspond to Minnesota's Native Plant Community Classification (Version 2.0). The Occurrence Number, in combination with the Element Name, uniquely identifies each record.

**EO Data:** [Element Occurrence Data]. For species elements, this field contains data collected on the biology of the Element Occurrence\* (EO), including the number of individuals, vigor, habitat, soils, associated species, peculiar characteristics, etc. For native plant community elements, this field is a summary text description of the vegetation of the EO, including structure (strata) and composition (dominant/characteristic species), heterogeneity, successional stage/dynamics, any unique aspects of the community or additional noteworthy species (including animals). Note that this is a new field and it has not been filled out for many of the records that were collected prior to conversion to the new database system. Some of the information meeting the field definition may be found in the General Description field.

**EO ID#:** [Element Occurrence Identification Number]. Unique identifier for each Element Occurrence record.

**EO Rank:** [Element Occurrence Rank]. An evaluation of the quality and condition of an Element Occurrence (EO) from A (highest) to D (lowest). Represents a comparative evaluation of: 1) quality as determined by representativeness of the occurrence especially as compared to EO specifications and including maturity, size, numbers, etc. 2) condition (how much has the site and the EO itself been damaged or altered from its optimal condition and character). 3) viability (the long-term prospects for continued existence of this occurrence - used in ranking species only). EO Ranks are assigned based on recent fieldwork by knowledgeable individuals.

**Extent Known?:** A value that indicates whether the full extent of the Element is known (i.e., it has been determined through field survey) at that location. If null, the value has not been determined.

#### **-F-**

**Federal Status:** Status of species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act: LE = endangered; LT = threatened; LE,LT = listed endangered in part of its range, listed threatened in another part of its range; LT,PDL = listed threatened, proposed for delisting; C = candidate for listing. If null or "No Status" the species has no federal status.

**First Observed Date:** Date that the Element Occurrence was first reported at the site in format YYYY-MM-DD. A year followed by "Pre" indicates that the observed date was sometime prior to the date listed, but the exact date is unknown.

#### **-G-**

**General Description:** General description or word picture of the area where the Element Occurrence (EO) is located (i.e., the physical setting/context surrounding the EO), including a list of adjacent communities. When available, information on surrounding land use may be included. Note that the information tracked in this field is now more narrowly defined than it was in the old database system, and some of the information still in this field more accurately meets the definition of the new EO Data field. We are working to clean up the records so that the information in the two fields corresponds to the current field explanations described herein. Also note that the use of uppercase in sentences in this field is not significant but rather an artifact of transferring data from the old database system to the new system.

**Global Rank:** The global (i.e., range-wide) assessment of the relative rarity or imperilment of the species or community. Ranges from G1 (critically imperiled due to extreme rarity on a world-wide basis) to G5 (demonstrably secure, though perhaps rare in parts of its range). Global ranks are determined by NatureServe, an international network of natural heritage programs and conservation data centers.

#### **-L-**

**Last Observed Date:** Date that the Element Occurrence was last observed to be extant at the site in format YYYY-MM-DD.

**Last Survey Date:** Date of the most recent field survey for the Element Occurrence, regardless of whether it was found during the visit. If the field is blank, assume the date is the same as the Last Observed Date.

Location Description: County or Counties in which the Element Occurrence was documented followed by Township, Range, and Section information (not listed in any particular order). Each unique Township, Range, and Section combination is separated by a comma. In some cases, there are too many Township, Range, and Section combinations to list in the field, in which case, the information will be replaced with, "Legal description is too lengthy to fit in allotted space".

-M-

Managed Area(s): Name of the federally, state, locally, or privately managed park, forest, refuge, preserve, etc., containing the occurrence, if any. If this field is blank, the element probably occurs on private land. If "(Statutory Boundary)" occurs after the name of a managed area, the location may be a private inholding within the statutory boundary of a state forest or park.

MN Status: [Minnesota Status]. Legal status of plant and animal species under the Minnesota Endangered Species Law: END = endangered; THR = threatened; SPC = special concern; NON = tracked, but no legal status. Native plant communities, geological features, and colonial waterbird nesting sites do not have any legal status under the Endangered Species Law and are represented by a N/A.

-N-

NPC Classification (v1.5): Native plant community name in Minnesota's Native Vegetation: A Key to Natural Communities (Version 1.5). This earlier classification has been replaced by Minnesota's Native Plant Community Classification (Version 2.0).

-O-

Observed Area: The total area of the Element Occurrence, in acres, which is measured or estimated during fieldwork. If null, the value has not been determined.

Ownership Type: Indicates whether the land on which the Element Occurrence was located was publicly or privately owned; for publicly owned land, the agency with management responsibility is listed, if known.

-S-

Site Name: The name of the site(s) where the Element Occurrence is located. Sites are natural areas of land with boundaries determined and mapped according to biological and ecological considerations.

Survey Site #/Name: The name of the survey site, if applicable, where the Element Occurrence is located. Survey sites are sites that provide a geographic framework for recording and storing data, but their boundaries are not based on biological and ecological considerations. Minnesota County Biological Survey site numbers, if applicable, are also listed in this field.

Survey Type: Information on the type of survey used to collect information on the Element Occurrence.

Surveyor(s): Name(s) of the person(s) that collected survey information on the Element Occurrence.

State Rank: Rank that best characterizes the relative rarity or endangerment of the taxon or plant community in Minnesota. The ranks do not represent a legal status. They are used by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to set priorities for research, inventory and conservation planning. The state ranks are updated as inventory information becomes available. S1 = Critically imperiled in Minnesota because of extreme rarity or because of some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extirpation from the state. S2 = Imperiled in Minnesota because of rarity or because of some factor(s) making it very vulnerable to extirpation from the state. S3 = Vulnerable in Minnesota either because rare or uncommon, or found in a restricted range, or because of other factors making it vulnerable to extirpation. S4 = Apparently secure in Minnesota, usually widespread. S5 = Demonstrably secure in Minnesota, essentially ineradicable under present conditions. SH = Of historical occurrence in the state, perhaps having not been verified in the past 20 years, but suspected to be still extant. An element would become SH without the 20-year delay if the only known occurrences in the state were destroyed or if it had been extensively and unsuccessfully looked for. SNR = Rank not yet assessed. SU = Unable to rank. SX = Presumed extinct in Minnesota. SNA = Rank not applicable. S#S# = Range Rank: a numeric range rank (e.g., S2S3) is used to indicate the range of uncertainty about the exact status of the element. S#B, S#N = Used only for migratory animals, whereby B refers to the breeding population of the element in Minnesota and N refers to the non-breeding population of the element in Minnesota.

-V-

Vegetation Plot: Code(s) for any vegetation plot data that have been collected within this Element Occurrence (i.e., either Releve Number or the word "RELEVE" indicates that a releve has been collected).

---

\* Element Occurrence – an area of land and/or water in which an Element (i.e., a rare species or community) is, or was, present, and which has practical conservation value for the Element as evidenced by potential continued (or historical) presence and/or regular recurrence at a given location. Specifications for each species determine whether multiple observations should be considered 1 Element Occurrence or 2, based on minimum separation distance and barriers to movement.

## Data Security

Locations of some rare features must be treated as sensitive information because widespread knowledge of these locations could result in harm to the rare features. For example, wildflowers such as orchids and economically valuable plants such as ginseng are vulnerable to exploitation by collectors; other species, such as bald eagles, are sensitive to disturbance by observers. For this reason, we prefer that publications not identify the precise locations of vulnerable species. We suggest describing the location only to the nearest section. If this is not acceptable for your purposes, please call and discuss this issue with the Endangered Species Environmental Review Coordinator at (651) 259-5109.

## Joe Sedarski

---

**From:** Joe Sedarski  
**Sent:** Friday, August 08, 2008 4:31 PM  
**To:** 'lisa.joyal@dnr.state.mn.us'  
**Cc:** 'Rogers, Timothy G'; Rob Bouta  
**Subject:** RE: MN DNR Natural Heritage Database Search Request for Proposed West New Ulm Substation & Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Hi Ms. Joyal,

We were wondering if you had the chance to review our request and respond to our request on July 10 for this Project.

Thanks for your assistance with this Project.

Regards,  
Joe

---

**From:** Joe Sedarski  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 10, 2008 4:59 PM  
**To:** 'lisa.joyal@dnr.state.mn.us'  
**Cc:** 'Rogers, Timothy G'; Rob Bouta  
**Subject:** MN DNR Natural Heritage Database Search Request for Proposed West New Ulm Substation & Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Dear Ms. Joyal,

On behalf of Xcel Energy, Inc., please find attached to this e-mail the above request in our cover letter, a completed MN DNR Database Request Form, Figures A and B, and the GIS shapefiles required by the MN DNR for this request. Note that we respectfully request a two-week response.

Should you have any questions or comments regarding this request, please contact me.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation and assistance with this matter.

Regards,  
Joe

<< File: NHIS Data Request2.pdf >>  
<< File: Ltr to MN DNR Natural Heritage Program.doc >>  
<< File: 20081081doq01A.pdf >>  
<< File: 20081081drg01B.pdf >>  
<< File: Trans\_Line.zip >>  
<< File: 1\_Mile\_Buffer.zip >>

Joseph G. Sedarski  
Environmental Services/Senior Project Manager

**Westwood Professional Services**

7699 Anagram Drive  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344-7310

DIRECT 952-906-7405  
CELL 612-360-0502  
EMAIL [joe.sedarski@westwoodps.com](mailto:joe.sedarski@westwoodps.com)  
MAIN 952-937-5150  
FAX 952-937-5822  
WEB [www.westwoodps.com](http://www.westwoodps.com)



## TELEPHONE RECORD

**Project:** Xcel Energy – New West New Ulm Substation & Transmission -  
Line Rebuild Project/Route Permit Application

**Date:** June 23, 2008 and August 11, 2008

**Call To / Phone No.:** Joe Sedarski (JGS), Westwood (952) 906-7405

**Call From / Phone No.:** Steve Schoeb, MnDOT Roadway Regulations Supervisor, District  
7 (507) 304-6180

### Summary of Telephone Conference:

Steve Schoeb, MnDOT Roadway Regulations Supervisor, call to JGS regarding comments on the proposed Xcel Energy New Ulm project. Mr. Schoeb indicated that if Xcel will be working within MnDOT right-of-way, a permit will be required. He indicated that MnDOT ROW in the Project area varies from 46 to 75 feet in width, depending on the location. Near the railroad tracks, the ROW is 50 feet wide. If Xcel Energy is outside MnDOT ROW, no permit is needed. Mr. Schoeb indicated that MnDOT posts ROW maps online for us to review.

## Joe Sedarski

---

**From:** Steve Schoeb [Steve.Schoeb@dot.state.mn.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 11, 2008 2:53 PM  
**To:** Joe Sedarski  
**Subject:** Re: Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project  
**Attachments:** Steve Schoeb.vcf

The proposal looks OK. Mn/DOT's Right of Way along that stretch of highway varies quite a bit. When you have the locations nailed down a little closer let me take a look. Our R/W maps are available online also if that will help you.

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/maps/gisweb/row/>

Steve Schoeb  
Roadway Regulations Supervisor  
District 7 Mn/DOT  
501 South Victory Dr.  
Mankato, Mn. 56001  
507-304-6180  
[steve.schoeb@dot.state.mn.us](mailto:steve.schoeb@dot.state.mn.us)

>>> Joe Sedarski <[Joe.Sedarski@westwoodps.com](mailto:Joe.Sedarski@westwoodps.com)> 6/20/2008 3:02:18 PM >>>  
Dear Mr. Schoeb,

Please review the attached letter and contact me with any concerns regarding the above Project. We appreciate your timely assistance with this matter.

Regards,

Joe

Joseph G. Sedarski  
Environmental Services/Senior Project Manager

Westwood Professional Services  
7699 Anagram Drive  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344-7310

DIRECT 952-906-7405  
CELL 612-360-0502  
EMAIL [joe.sedarski@westwoodps.com](mailto:joe.sedarski@westwoodps.com)<<mailto:fname.lname@westwoodps.com>>  
MAIN 952-937-5150  
FAX 952-937-5822  
WEB [www.westwoodps.com](http://www.westwoodps.com)<<http://www.westwoodps.com/>>

**TOWNSHIP OF LAFAYETTE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
PO BOX 604  
NEW ULM, MINNESOTA 56073**

RECEIVED  
AUG 15 2008  
WESTWOOD  
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

August 13, 2008

Westwood Professional Services  
Joseph G. Sedarski  
Senior Project Manager  
7699 Anagram Drive  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Dear Mr. Sedarski:

At the August 11, 2008 meeting of the board of supervisors they discussed the letters and information that you have sent the chairman and clerk concerning Xcel Energy Inc. intention of increasing the size of the power lines coming into Lafayette Township from New Ulm and ending at the Fort Ridgely Substation.

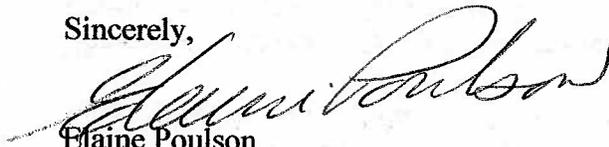
The supervisors understand that this project will likely proceed as planned by Xcel Energy Inc. and the major concern that the supervisors have is any damage that will be done to the town's roads and right-a-ways by workman and heavy equipment using them.

It is therefore expected that any damage to the roads or right-of-ways resulting from the work that is done to upgrade the power lines in Lafayette Township must be reimbursed to the township after the roads and right-a-way are improved to the previous condition.

It is also very important that local traffic using the roads is disrupted as little as possible during the work period.

The supervisors would like a letter sent to them assuring them of the intent by Xcel Energy Inc. to reimburse Lafayette Township for any damage to the roads or right a ways that results from their work during the upgrade. If you would like to discuss the issue of roads and right-a-ways repair and usage in Lafayette Township, please contact Chairman Chuck Schmidt at (507) 3549-4390.

Sincerely,

  
Elaine Poulson  
Town Clerk



## TELEPHONE RECORD

**Project:** Xcel Energy – New West New Ulm Substation & Transmission -  
Line Rebuild Project/Route Permit Application

**Date:** August 15, 2008

**Call To / Phone No.:** Joe Sedarski (JGS), Westwood (952) 906-7405

**Call From / Phone No.:** Tom Gieffer, Milford Township Clerk

### Summary of Telephone Conference:

Mr. Gieffer called in response to the Xcel Energy letter dated August 8, 2008 regarding notice of the Project. He indicated that the Township board met last night and that they would like to request a meeting with Xcel Energy to discuss the proposed Project. I gave Mr. Gieffer Tim Roger's telephone number at Xcel Energy to call and make such arrangements.

APPENDIX D.7

## Joe Sedarski

---

**From:** Porter, Randall [PorterR@powersystem.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 18, 2008 3:18 PM  
**To:** Joe Sedarski  
**Cc:** Patrick Wrase  
**Subject:** Comments on Xcel Energy's permitting plans  
**Attachments:** RWP-Sedarski-7-18-08.pdf

Joe,

Here's the letter I discussed with you.

Thanks,

Randy



## Power System

Engineering, Inc.

OFFICES IN:  
MADISON, WI  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN  
MARIETTA, OH  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN

12301 Central Avenue, N.E., Suite 250  
Minneapolis, MN 55434  
**Fax:** (763) 755-7028  
**Tel:** (763) 755-5122  
**Web Site:** [www.powersystem.org](http://www.powersystem.org)

Via e-mail

July 18, 2008

Mr. Joseph G. Sedarski  
Senior Project Manager  
Westwood Professional Services  
7699 Anagram Drive  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

***Subject: Proposed West New Ulm Substation & Transmission Line Rebuild  
Project Xcel Energy/Northern States Power Company***

Dear Mr. Sedarski:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Xcel Energy's plans to obtain a permit from the MPUC for the West New Ulm substation and associated transmission line rebuild.

The West New Ulm substation & transmission line are critical facilities that are badly needed to enable both Xcel Energy and the City of New Ulm meet the existing and future electric needs of their customers. The City of New Ulm understands the Alternative Permitting Process will be used and fully supports this effort.

Because of the importance and technically complex nature of this project, timely communication between Xcel and the City of New Ulm is critical. The City and Xcel will likely develop shared or adjacent facilities and ROW in order to minimize the utility footprint on a growing area of the community.

In light of the need to closely coordinate the project, the City of New Ulm would like to request monthly project updates from Xcel Energy starting August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Project updates should be sent to:

Mr. Patrick Wrase, P.E.  
Planning & Development Engineer  
New Ulm Public Utilities  
310 First North Street  
New Ulm, MN 56073  
[patrick.wrase@ci.new-ulm.mn.us](mailto:patrick.wrase@ci.new-ulm.mn.us)

Mr. Randy Porter  
Executive Consultant  
Power System Engineering, Inc.  
12301 Central Ave. NE, Suite 250  
Blaine, MN 55434  
[porterr@powersystem.org](mailto:porterr@powersystem.org)

New Ulm appreciates this opportunity to comment on Xcel's plan. We look forward to working with Xcel to meet our customers' needs.

Sincerely,



Randall W. Porter, P.E.  
Executive Consultant

MN0460804/sja



## TELEPHONE RECORD

**Project:** Xcel Energy – New West New Ulm Substation & Transmission -  
Line Rebuild Project/Route Permit Application

**Date:** July 25, 2008

**Call To / Phone No.:** Joe Sedarski (JGS), Westwood (952) 906-7405

**Call From / Phone No.:** Randall W. Porter, Power System Engineering, Inc. (763) 755-  
1522

### Summary of Telephone Conference:

Randy Porter of Power System Engineering, Inc., consultants to the City of New Ulm, call to JGS regarding comments on Xcel Energy New Ulm Project. Mr. Porter stated that the City of New Ulm supports the Project. He indicated that a resident of New Ulm near the Xcel Energy right-of-way contacted him and wanted to know if the proposed transmission line would extend closer to residential homes south of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street North along the proposed route. The resident questioned this based on information provided by Xcel regarding the proposed structures and dimensions of where the lines would be placed on the structures.



## TELEPHONE RECORD

**Project:** Xcel Energy – New West New Ulm Substation & Transmission -  
Line Rebuild Project/Route Permit Application

**Date:** August 8, 2008

**Call To / Phone No.:** Patrick Wrase, City of New Ulm Public Utilities (507) 359-8202

**Call From / Phone No.:** Joe Sedarski (JGS), Westwood (952) 906-7405

### Summary of Telephone Conference:

JGS call to Patrick Wrase City of New Ulm Public Utilities regarding plans for utility projects located at 23<sup>rd</sup> Street North or in the vicinity of existing Xcel Energy transmission line and structures.

Mr. Wrase stated that he knew of no planned projects along the existing Xcel Energy transmission line route. He indicated a tap from the existing natural gas pipeline along the west side of County Highway 12 may be installed when the area east of County Highway 12 and north of U.S. Highway 14 around the Somsen WMA becomes developed. Mr. Wrase was not sure when tapping the natural gas line would occur, and that installation depends on when this area becomes developed. He was aware of no other City improvements in the vicinity of the Xcel Energy line and structures and he has no knowledge of private improvements in these areas.

## Joe Sedarski

---

**From:** Mielke, Brian D [Brian.D.Mielke@xcelenergy.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 08, 2008 2:08 PM  
**To:** Patrick Wrase  
**Cc:** Rogers, Timothy G; Joe Sedarski; Chezik, Gerald V  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed New Ulm 115kV-69kV Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild

Good Afternoon Patrick,

Thank you for your earlier message regarding the transmission line that runs along 23rd North Street. We appreciate hearing the comments you receive from your citizens. We consider health and safety of the public when we design new structures and lines, following industry and regulatory standards. Xcel Energy will design the rebuilding of this line to minimize impacts to residences and natural resources. Most often, this involves utilizing current corridors and corresponding easements when a pre-existing facilities exist. We will look closer into your request.

Please feel free to Tim Rogers at 612-330-1955 or myself at 612-330-7946 at any time with future questions or concerns. Thank you again.

Brian Mielke  
Siting and Land Rights Agent  
Xcel Energy  
612-330-7946  
612-573-9073 (fax)

---

**From:** Patrick Wrase [mailto:patrick.wrase@ci.new-ulm.mn.us]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 08, 2008 11:45 AM  
**To:** Mielke, Brian D  
**Cc:** Gary Gleisner; Steve Soukup  
**Subject:** Proposed New Ulm 115kV-69kV Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild

Brian,

Yesterday, 8/7/08, I spoke with Joe Sedarski of Westwood Professional Services about the above referenced project. We are getting numerous phone calls from residents of 23<sup>rd</sup> North Street regarding the project. The concern of these residents is that the proposed project will move high voltage cables closer to their property and that the proposed poles will actually hang the wires above private property and out of the easement area. Another concern is that the proposed upgrades will be a significant change to the existing transmission system and that the proposed facilities are not suitable in a residential neighborhood with such a compact street right of way.

I have attached a construction drawing from 1999 that shows the location of the poles on 23<sup>rd</sup> to the ROW lines. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Street ROW is 60 feet in total. It appears that the existing poles are only 6 to 7 feet on the street side of the ROW line. Based on this information and the drawing of the double circuit poles provided at the New Ulm open house, the wires will overhang private property. The typical of the proposed pole is shown to have the center arm extend 8 feet from the edge of the pole.

The New Public Utilities supports the project and looks forward to the increased reliability that the project will bring. However, with respect to the section of line along 23<sup>rd</sup> North Street, we would ask that you please consider relocating this

portion of the project further to the north and establish a ROW corridor more appropriate for a 115KV transmission system.

Thank You,

Patrick Wrase, P.E.  
Utilities Planning and Development Engineer  
New Ulm Public Utilities  
310 First North Street  
New Ulm, MN 56073  
(507) 359-8202 office  
(507) 354 7318 fax

[patrick.wrase@ci.new-ulm.mn.us](mailto:patrick.wrase@ci.new-ulm.mn.us)

[www.ci.new-ulm.mn.us](http://www.ci.new-ulm.mn.us)

<<9904-44 (2).pdf>>

## Joe Sedarski

---

**From:** Joe Sedarski  
**Sent:** Monday, June 23, 2008 10:19 AM  
**To:** 'Mike Wagner'  
**Cc:** Mandy Landkamer; Rob Bouta  
**Subject:** RE: US Hwy. 14 & County Rd. 12??  
**Attachments:** 20081081doq01A.pdf

Hi Mr. Wagner,

Thanks for your quick response, and sorry for the confusion on the project location. The new substation is planned for the northwest corner of the intersection of U.S. Highway 14 and County Road 12 located west of the City of New Ulm, west of the New Ulm Municipal Airport located in Milford Township, Brown County, near the Somsen Slough, and not the intersection in Courtland you mentioned in your e-mail.

I am attaching a pdf of the project location for your use in locating this project.

Please contact me at 952-906-7405 if you have any other questions regarding the project location. Thanks for your assistance with this matter.

Regards,  
Joe

---

**From:** Mike Wagner [mailto:mwagner@co.nicollet.mn.us]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 20, 2008 3:39 PM  
**To:** Joe Sedarski  
**Cc:** Mandy Landkamer  
**Subject:** US Hwy. 14 & County Rd. 12??

Mr. Sedarski: Your memo of June 20, today, states that a new substation is to be constructed in the vicinity of the NW corner of the intersection of U. S. Highway 14 and County Road 12. That intersection is located within the City of Courtland. Please provide a more specific description of your proposed location. Mike Wagner

---

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Joe Sedarski [mailto:Joe.Sedarski@westwoodps.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 20, 2008 3:12 PM  
**To:** Mike Wagner  
**Cc:** Rogers, Timothy G; Rob Bouta  
**Subject:** Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Dear Mr. Wagner,

Please review the attached letter and contact me with any concerns regarding the above Project. We appreciate your timely assistance with this matter.

Regards,

Joe

Joseph G. Sedarski  
Environmental Services/Senior Project Manager

**Westwood Professional Services**  
7699 Anagram Drive  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344-7310

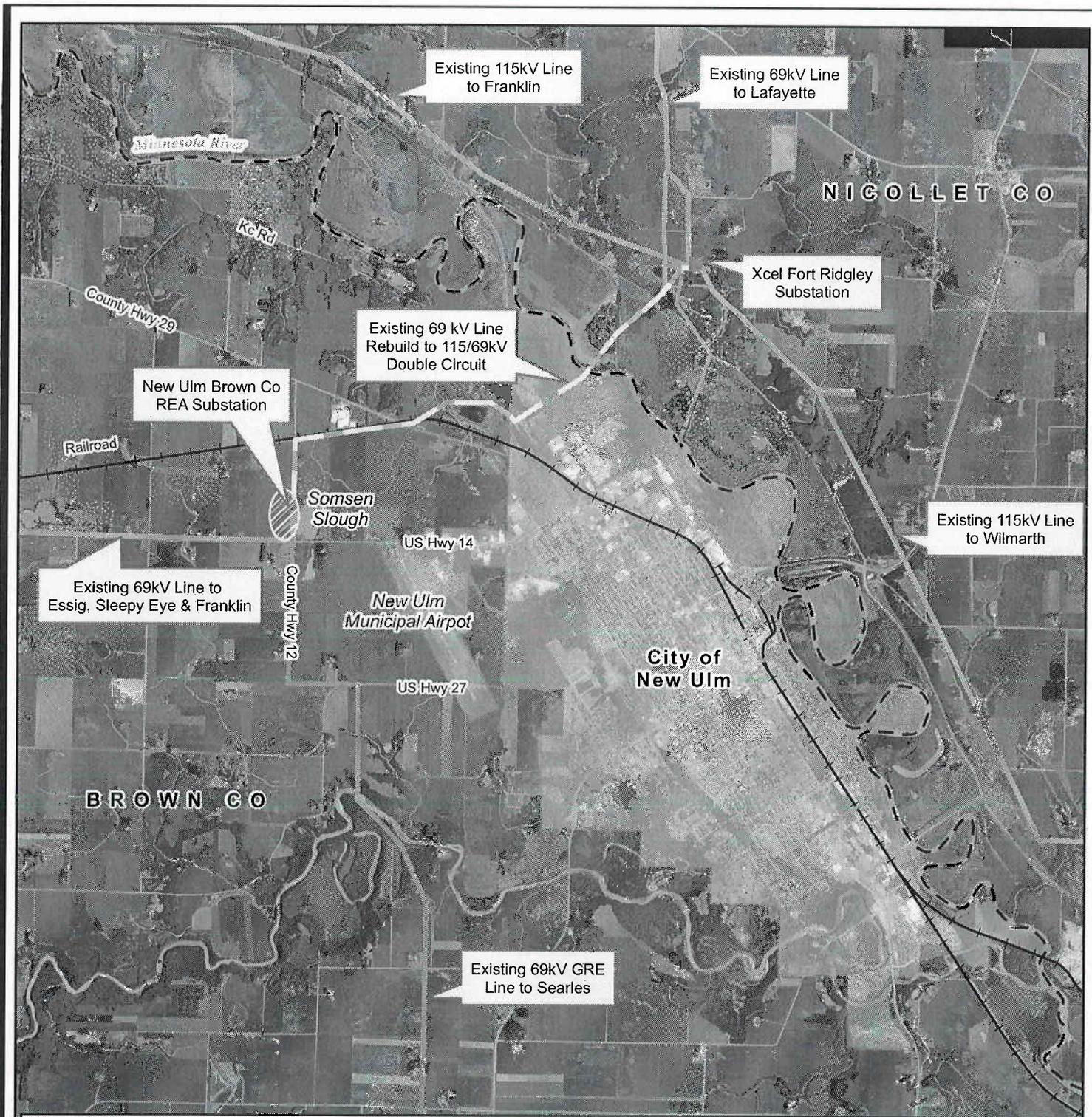
DIRECT 952-906-7405  
CELL 612-360-0502  
EMAIL [joe.sedarski@westwoodps.com](mailto:joe.sedarski@westwoodps.com)  
MAIN 952-937-5150  
FAX 952-937-5822  
WEB [www.westwoodps.com](http://www.westwoodps.com)

The information contained in this EMAIL message is intended only for the confidential use of the recipients names above. This message and all attachments associated is a communication, which, as such is privileged and confidential. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient or an agent responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this document in error and that any review, dissemination, distribution, or copy of this message or any accompanying attachments is strictly prohibited.

**IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS COMMUNICATION IN ERROR, DELETE AND DESTROY ANY COPIES. PLEASE NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY AT**

**[info@co.nicollet.mn.us](mailto:info@co.nicollet.mn.us)**

 please consider the environment - do you really need to print this email?

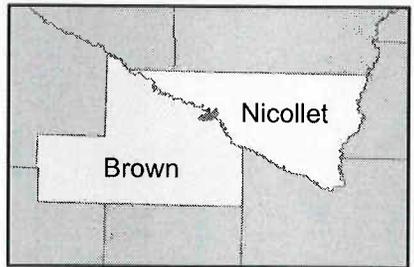


# Proposed West New Ulm Substation and 115kV-69kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Brown and Nicollet Counties, MN

## Legend

-  Proposed Xcel Energy West New Ulm Substation
-  Existing Substation - Fort Ridgley
-  Existing Substation - New Ulm
-  Proposed Xcel Energy 115kV-69kV Transmission Line Rebuild
-  Great River Energy Transmission
-  Xcel Energy Transmission
-  City of New Ulm Transmission
-  Railroad
-  MN DNR Wildlife Area
-  County Boundary
-  Waterbody
-  River/Stream
-  City Boundary



Data Source(s): NSP, MN DNR, USDA.



Map Document: (P:\2008\1081\gis\20081081dco01A.mxd) 6/19/2008 - 3:01:46 PM

Figure A



## TELEPHONE RECORD

**Project:** Xcel Energy – New West New Ulm Substation & Transmission -  
Line Rebuild Project/Route Permit Application

**Date:** June 23, 2008

**Call To / Phone No.:** Joe Sedarski (JGS), Westwood (952) 906-7405

**Call From / Phone No.:** Mandy Landkamer, Nicollet County Environmental Services  
Director (507) 934-0254

### Summary of Telephone Conference:

Mandy Landkamer, Director of Nicollet County Environmental Services, call to JGS regarding comments to Xcel Energy New Ulm project. Ms. Landkamer stated that she is concerned over erosion issues if Xcel Energy removes vegetation along the hillside above the Minnesota River valley, above County Road 21, at the north end of the Project transmission line location. She wanted to know if the proposed route follows the existing line (which she believed was along the Township Road), or if it cuts through the hillside as proposed. Ms. Landkamer indicated she would provide e-mail comments as well.

## Joe Sedarski

---

**From:** Joe Sedarski  
**Sent:** Monday, June 23, 2008 5:16 PM  
**To:** 'Mandy Landkamer'  
**Cc:** Rogers, Timothy G; Rob Bouta  
**Subject:** RE: Excel Energy Transmission Line

Hi Mandy,

Thanks for your call a little earlier today. I will review this with Xcel Energy and get back to you with a response soon.

Thanks again for your review and comments.

Regards,  
Joe

---

**From:** Mandy Landkamer [mailto:mlandkamer@co.nicollet.mn.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 23, 2008 4:59 PM  
**To:** Joe Sedarski  
**Subject:** Excel Energy Transmission Line

Joe-

As I mentioned during our phone conversation, I am concerned with the proposed route as indicated on the map attached to the original email. Due to the nature of the area, excavation and the removal of vegetation along the hillside/bluff can and has caused excessive erosion during rain events which settle into the road ditch. My question to you is, will the proposed route follow the existing route along along the Township Road rather than cut through the hillside as proposed?

Attached you will find a map with an aerial of Nicollet County as the background with the proposed route indicated.

Thanks,  
Mandy

Mandy Landkamer  
Environmental Services Director  
501 S Minnesota Avenue  
St. Peter, MN 56082  
507-934-0254  
507-934-0259 fax  
[mlandkamer@co.nicollet.mn.us](mailto:mlandkamer@co.nicollet.mn.us)

The information contained in this EMAIL message is intended only for the confidential use of the recipients names above.

This message and all attachments associated is a communication, which, as such is privileged and confidential. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient or an agent responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this document in error and that any review, dissemination, distribution, or copy of this message or any accompanying attachments is strictly prohibited.

IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS COMMUNICATION IN ERROR, DELETE AND DESTROY ANY COPIES. PLEASE NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY AT

[info@co.nicollet.mn.us](mailto:info@co.nicollet.mn.us)

 please consider the environment - do you really need to print this email?

## Joe Sedarski

---

**From:** Mandy Landkamer [mlandkamer@co.nicollet.mn.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 23, 2008 4:59 PM  
**To:** Joe Sedarski  
**Subject:** Excel Energy Transmission Line  
**Attachments:** Xcel Energy.pdf

Joe-

As I mentioned during our phone conversation, I am concerned with the proposed route as indicated on the map attached to the original email. Due to the nature of the area, excavation and the removal of vegetation along the hillside/bluff can and has caused excessive erosion during rain events which settle into the road ditch. My question to you is, will the proposed route follow the existing route along along the Township Road rather than cut through the hillside as proposed?

Attached you will find a map with an aerial of Nicollet County as the background with the proposed route indicated.

Thanks,  
Mandy

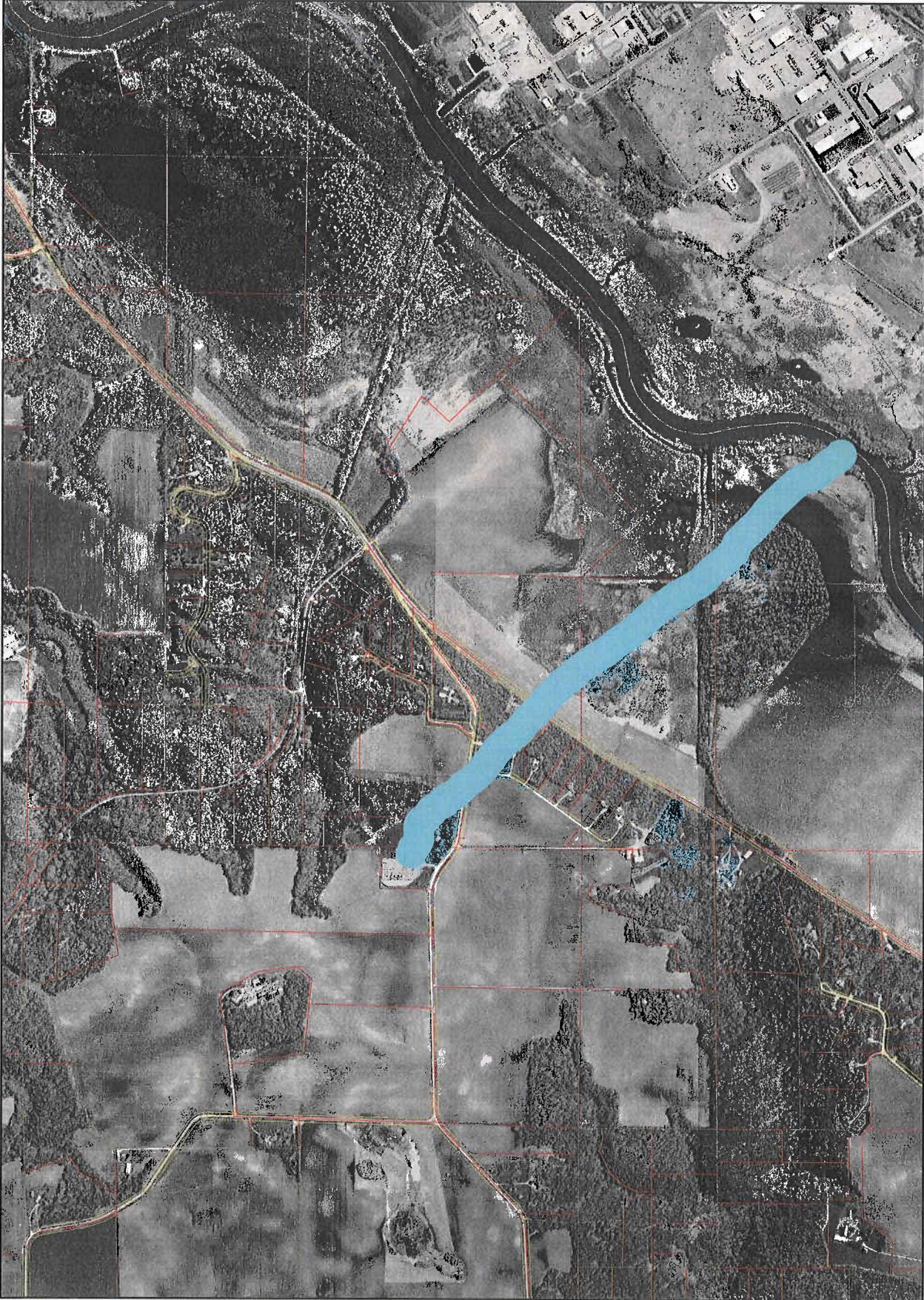
Mandy Landkamer  
Environmental Services Director  
501 S Minnesota Avenue  
St. Peter, MN 56082  
507-934-0254  
507-934-0259 fax  
[mlandkamer@co.nicollet.mn.us](mailto:mlandkamer@co.nicollet.mn.us)

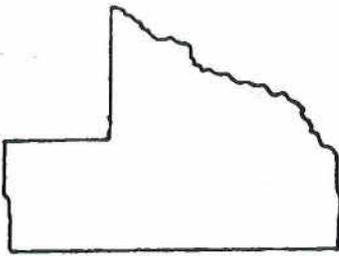
The information contained in this EMAIL message is intended only for the confidential use of the recipients names above. This message and all attachments associated is a communication, which, as such is privileged and confidential. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient or an agent responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this document in error and that any review, dissemination, distribution, or copy of this message or any accompanying attachments is strictly prohibited.

**IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS COMMUNICATION IN ERROR, DELETE AND DESTROY ANY COPIES. PLEASE NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY AT**

**[info@co.nicollet.mn.us](mailto:info@co.nicollet.mn.us)**

 please consider the environment - do you really need to print this email?





**BROWN  
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

300 2nd Ave. S.V  
Sleepy Eye, Minnesota 5608  
Telephone 507-794-255  
Fax 507-794-555  
E-mail: brownsxcd@sleepyeyetel.n

June 24, 2008

RECEIVED  
JUN 25 2008  
WESTWOOD  
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Joseph G. Sedarski  
Senior Project Manager  
Westwood Professional Services

Re: Proposed West New Ulm Substation & Transmission Line Rebuild Project  
Xcel Energy/Northern States Power Company

Dear Mr. Sedarski:

On behalf of the Brown Soil & Water Conservation District I am able to report that your proposed Substation & Transmission Line Rebuild Project do not effect any RIM Easement Areas in Brown County.

As far as WCA is concerned you will need to contact Desiree Hohenstein at the Brown County Courthouse. Phone: 507-233-6641.

Any other questions, feel free to contact me at the office.

Sincerely,

Tom Maher  
Program Manager  
Brown SWCD

## Joe Sedarski

---

**From:** Tom Fischer [Tom.D.Fischer@state.mn.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 23, 2008 10:25 AM  
**To:** Joe Sedarski  
**Subject:** RE: Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

JOE:

I've passed along your e-mail and attachments to our RIM easement specialist, Tim Fredbo, located in our BWSR central office in St. Paul. Tim will check out if there are any RIM easements located within your proposed project area and what, if any, action might be necessary. Once I hear back from Tim, I'll contact you again.

Thomas Fischer, Board Conservationist

MN Board of Water and Soil Resources  
261 Hwy 15 South  
New Ulm, MN 56073

Phone: 507.359.6091  
Fax: 507.359.6018

e-mail: [Tom.D.Fischer@state.mn.us](mailto:Tom.D.Fischer@state.mn.us)

---

**From:** Joe Sedarski [mailto:Joe.Sedarski@westwoodps.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 20, 2008 3:21 PM  
**To:** tom.d.fischer@state.mn.us  
**Cc:** Rogers, Timothy G; Rob Bouta  
**Subject:** Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Dear Mr. Fischer,

Please review the attached letter and contact me with any concerns regarding the above Project. We appreciate your timely assistance with this matter.

Regards,

Joe

Joseph G. Sedarski  
Environmental Services/Senior Project Manager

**Westwood Professional Services**  
7699 Anagram Drive  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344-7310

DIRECT 952-906-7405  
CELL 612-360-0502  
EMAIL [joe.sedarski@westwoodps.com](mailto:joe.sedarski@westwoodps.com)  
MAIN 952-937-5150  
FAX 952-937-5822  
WEB [www.westwoodps.com](http://www.westwoodps.com)

## Joe Sedarski

---

**From:** Tom Fischer [Tom.D.Fischer@state.mn.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 23, 2008 3:24 PM  
**To:** Joe Sedarski  
**Cc:** Kevin Ostermann  
**Subject:** RE: Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

JOE:

I received information back from Tim Fredbo of BWSR St. Paul...

Based on the map provided by Westwood there is only one easement along the path of the proposed transmission line rebuild and new substation (yellow line on map). It is the Ron Gruber CREP easement 52-11-01-01 in Nicollet Co. located in NW1/4 of the SE1/4, also referred to as Government Lot 7, of Sec. 7, T110N, R30W, Nicollet County.

Excel Energy had a utility easement for this line on this property prior to us taking our CREP easement so there should be no problem with what is being proposed. Their utility easement rights were in place prior to ours so they have the right to do what they are proposing.

Kevin Ostermann of the Nicollet SWCD may want to work with the project when the time comes to recommend erosion control measures, if needed, and possibly provide appropriate CREP seed mix to reseed areas disturbed.

Tim indicated that there are no other RIM easements affected by this project so there is no need to go through the process to alter or release any acres for the project.

If there are any further questions, Tim said to give him a call at 651-296-0880.

Joe...one final note...please contact Kevin Ostermann prior to beginning the project so that he can provide assistance. He can be reached at 507-931-2550 ext. 116

Thomas Fischer, Board Conservationist

MN Board of Water and Soil Resources  
261 Hwy 15 South  
New Ulm, MN 56073

Phone: 507.359.6091  
Fax: 507.359.6018

e-mail: [Tom.D.Fischer@state.mn.us](mailto:Tom.D.Fischer@state.mn.us)

## Joe Sedarski

---

**From:** Tom Fischer [Tom.D.Fischer@state.mn.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2008 8:09 AM  
**To:** Joe Sedarski  
**Cc:** Pam Rivers; Desiree Hohenstein  
**Subject:** RE: Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

JOE:

The result of our communications yesterday show there is only one RIM/CREP easement for you to deal with...that being the one in Nicollet County. And, you said you would be in contact with Kevin Ostermann of the Nicollet SWCD office when construction times comes.

The reason for my e-mail today is to make you aware of the MN Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). WCA has been in place throughout MN since 1992. Its purpose is to provide for a no-net loss of MN's wetlands. Local government units administer WCA at the county level. There is an application process for local review and approval. (The application is also accepted and reviewed by the MN DNR and the US Army Corps of Engineers.) The two county WCA contacts are also receiving this e-mail...Pam Rivers in St. Peter (Nicollet County) and Desiree Hohenstein in New Ulm (Brown County). I suggest you contact both to discuss your project and initiate the application process.

Thomas Fischer, Board Conservationist

MN Board of Water and Soil Resources  
261 Hwy 15 South  
New Ulm, MN 56073

Phone: 507.359.6091  
Fax: 507.359.6018

e-mail: [Tom.D.Fischer@state.mn.us](mailto:Tom.D.Fischer@state.mn.us)

---

**From:** Joe Sedarski [mailto:Joe.Sedarski@westwoodps.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 20, 2008 3:21 PM  
**To:** tom.d.fischer@state.mn.us  
**Cc:** Rogers, Timothy G; Rob Bouta  
**Subject:** Xcel Energy / West New Ulm Substation and Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Dear Mr. Fischer,

Please review the attached letter and contact me with any concerns regarding the above Project. We appreciate your timely assistance with this matter.

Regards,

Joe

Joseph G. Sedarski  
Environmental Services/Senior Project Manager

**Westwood Professional Services**  
7699 Anagram Drive  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344-7310

DIRECT 952-906-7405

CELL 612-360-0502  
EMAIL [joe.sedarski@westwoodps.com](mailto:joe.sedarski@westwoodps.com)  
MAIN 952-937-5150  
FAX 952-937-5822  
WEB [www.westwoodps.com](http://www.westwoodps.com)