

APPENDIX D2

Description of Vegetative Communities

Description of Vegetation Types Encountered along the Proposed Plymouth-Maple Grove 115 kV Transmission Line Route

Upland Deciduous Oak Forest: Forested areas dominated mostly by red oak and green ash. Other species include white oak, northern pin oak, burr oak, ironwood, black cherry, slippery elm, basswood, sugar maple, boxelder and quaking aspen. Understory shrubs were dominated primarily by buckthorn, prickly ash and honeysuckle.

Upland Deciduous Maple Basswood Forest: Forested areas dominated by sugar maple, basswood, and slippery elm. Other species include boxelder, red oak, American elm, green ash, hackberry, chokecherry and black cherry. Understory shrubs were dominated by buckthorn, sugar maple, chokecherry, honeysuckle, and redosier dogwood.

Upland Mixed Forest: Forested areas containing introduced coniferous species such as scotch and Austrian pine. Numerous other species are present; some include siberian elm, green ash, black cherry, quaking aspen, and boxelder.

Lowland Hardwood Forest: Forested areas dominated by green ash, boxelder, eastern cottonwood, and black willow. Other species include quaking aspen, burr oak, black ash, basswood, and American elm. Shrub species are dominated by redosier dogwood and boxelder.

Woodland-Brushland: Areas with an interrupted canopy of woody vegetation dominated by smooth sumac and prickly ash. Other woody species include wild plum, wild apple, green ash, gray dogwood, red cedar, quaking aspen, and burr oak. The herbaceous stratum is generally dominated by smooth brome and goldenrods.

Roadway Woodland-Brushland: Areas with an interrupted canopy of woody vegetation existing along roadways, railroads, and other landscaped sites. The topography is created due to construction of roadways, railroads, or other development projects. Woody species are dominated by smooth sumac and prickly ash. Other woody species include wild plum, wild apple, green ash, gray dogwood, red cedar, quaking aspen, and chokecherry. The herbaceous stratum is generally dominated by smooth brome and goldenrods.

Open Grassland: These are unmowed areas where the native forested vegetation has been removed and is now dominated by grasses and forbs. These areas include set aside farm fields, field edges, and existing transmission and distribution line right of way. Species are mostly comprised of smooth brome, goldenrods, reed canary grass, and switchgrass.

Willow Swamp: Areas of saturated soils dominated by woody shrubs. Dominant species include pussy willow, slender willow, Bebb's willow and redosier dogwood. Other species include cattail, softstem bulrush, reed canary grass and sandbar willow.

Floodplain Forest: Forested areas on seasonally saturated soils located along creeks or flowages. Dominated by black ash, green ash, American elm, quaking aspen, eastern cottonwood and black willow. Shrub species included willows and redosier dogwood.

Cattail Marsh: Flooded wetland areas dominated by cattails and reed canary grass. Additional species include giant reed grass, smartweeds, bulrushes, and sedges. In some cases the wetland is made up almost entirely of cattail and reed canary grass.

Mixed Emergent Marsh: Flooded wetland areas dominated by bulrushes, bur-reed, smartweed, water plantain, sedges, cattail, and reed canary grass.

Open Water: Open water areas including runoff ponds and deeper wetlands. Vegetation is mostly absent with some species present such as duckweed, coontail, and pondweeds.

Creek/Ditch: Includes road and railroad ditches, creeks, and flowages. Typical species include cattails, reed canary grass, giant reed grass, sedges, and redosier dogwood.

Yards/Ornamental/Boulevard: Includes residential and commercial yards, golf courses, and grassed road slopes and approaches. Types of vegetation are yard grass, ornamental shrubs, ornamental herbaceous plants, and a mixture of trees including boulevard, shade and fruit trees. Typical tree species include Norway spruce, Colorado spruce, white cedar, red cedar, scotch pine, Austrian pine, red pine, Douglas fir, green ash, honey-locust, mountain ash, boxelder, silver maple, sugar maple, Norway maple, amur maple, American elm, siberian elm, northern pin oak, red oak, white oak, crab apple, apple, plum, yellow birch, paper birch, weeping willow, black willow, basswood, dogwoods, lilacs, and others.

Gravel Pits/Temporary: Includes volunteer and remnant species of sites disturbed from gravel mining activities. Examples include: Shrubs/Saplings - aspen, boxelder, green ash, eastern cottonwood, prickly ash, honeysuckle, buckthorn, gooseberry, chokecherry, and sandbar willow. Herbs include - sweetclover, smooth brome, goldenrod, foxtail, field pennycress, Maximilian sunflower, thistle, and raspberry.

Agricultural Tilled: Includes row crop or small grain production. Crops grown in 2002 included soybeans.

Agricultural Forage: Includes the production of grass, a grass legume mix, or legume hay. Crops identified in 2003 included grass hay.

Developing: Includes areas where vegetation is mostly absent, and earthwork is occurring or has recently been done. This includes residential and commercial development projects.

Absent: Includes areas where vegetation is permanently absent such as roadways, buildings, parking lots, and driveways.