



1414 West Hamilton Avenue
P.O. Box 8
Eau Claire, WI 54702-0008

May 11, 2005

Mr. Robert Schroeder, Chair
Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
658 Cedar Street, Room 300
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Xcel Energy's Application to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board for a new double circuit 115/115 kV transmission line tapped from the existing Summit-Loon Lake 115 kV transmission line to the Eastwood Substation

Dear Mr. Schroeder:

Northern States Power Company, now doing business as Xcel Energy, hereby notifies the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) of its intent to submit an application under the alternative process to construct a new double circuit 115/115 kV transmission line tapped from the existing Summit-Loon Lake 115 kV transmission line south to the Eastwood Substation near Mankato Minnesota. We will be following the procedures in parts 4400.2000 to 4400.2750 as authorized by Minnesota Rule 4400.2000. This letter is provided to comply with the requirements of Rule 4400.2000, Subp. 2.

Xcel Energy plans to file the application within the next month. We will work with Staff to address any comments they have in order to expedite application acceptance and completion of the environmental assessment.

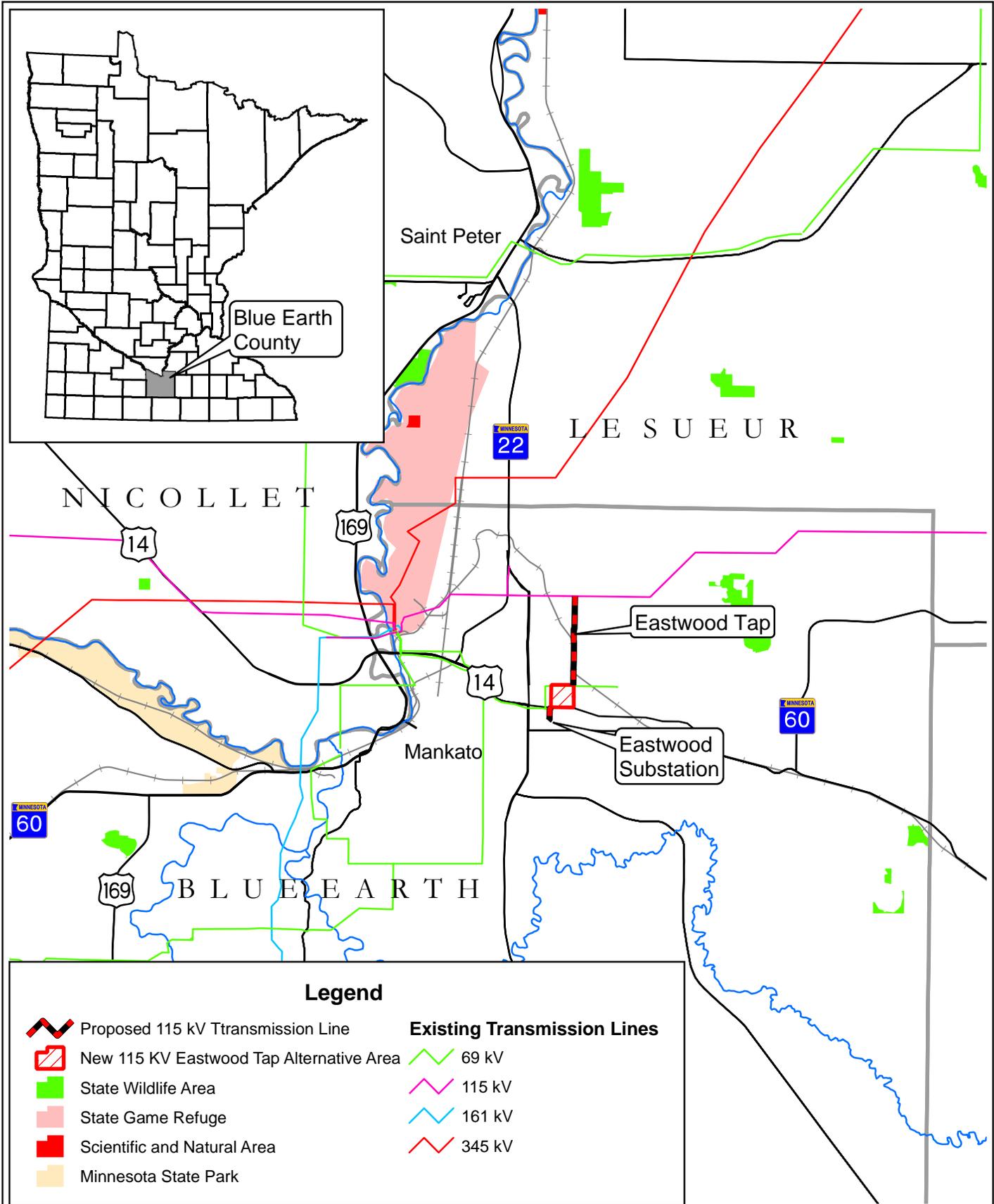
If you should have any questions, please contact me at 715-839-4661.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Pamela Jo Rasmussen'.

Pamela Jo Rasmussen
Team Lead Siting and Permitting

c: Angela Piner
Kathy Beaman
Jerry Chezik
Tom Hillstrom



- Legend**
- | | | | |
|---|--|---|------------------------------------|
|  | Proposed 115 kV Transmission Line |  | Existing Transmission Lines |
|  | New 115 kV Eastwood Tap Alternative Area |  | 69 kV |
|  | State Wildlife Area |  | 115 kV |
|  | State Game Refuge |  | 161 kV |
|  | Scientific and Natural Area | | 345 kV |
|  | Minnesota State Park | | |

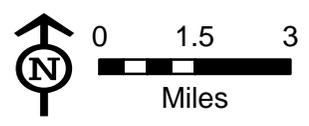


Figure B.1 - General Vicinity Map
 Eastwood 115 kV Transmission Line Tap Project
 Mankato, Blue Earth County, MN



Legend

Proposed Project

 New 115 kV Eastwood Tap

 New 115 KV Eastwood Tap Alternative Area

Existing Transmission Lines

 69 kV

 115 kV

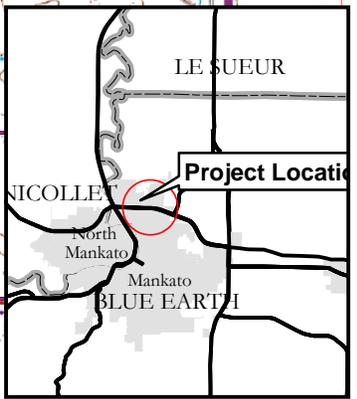
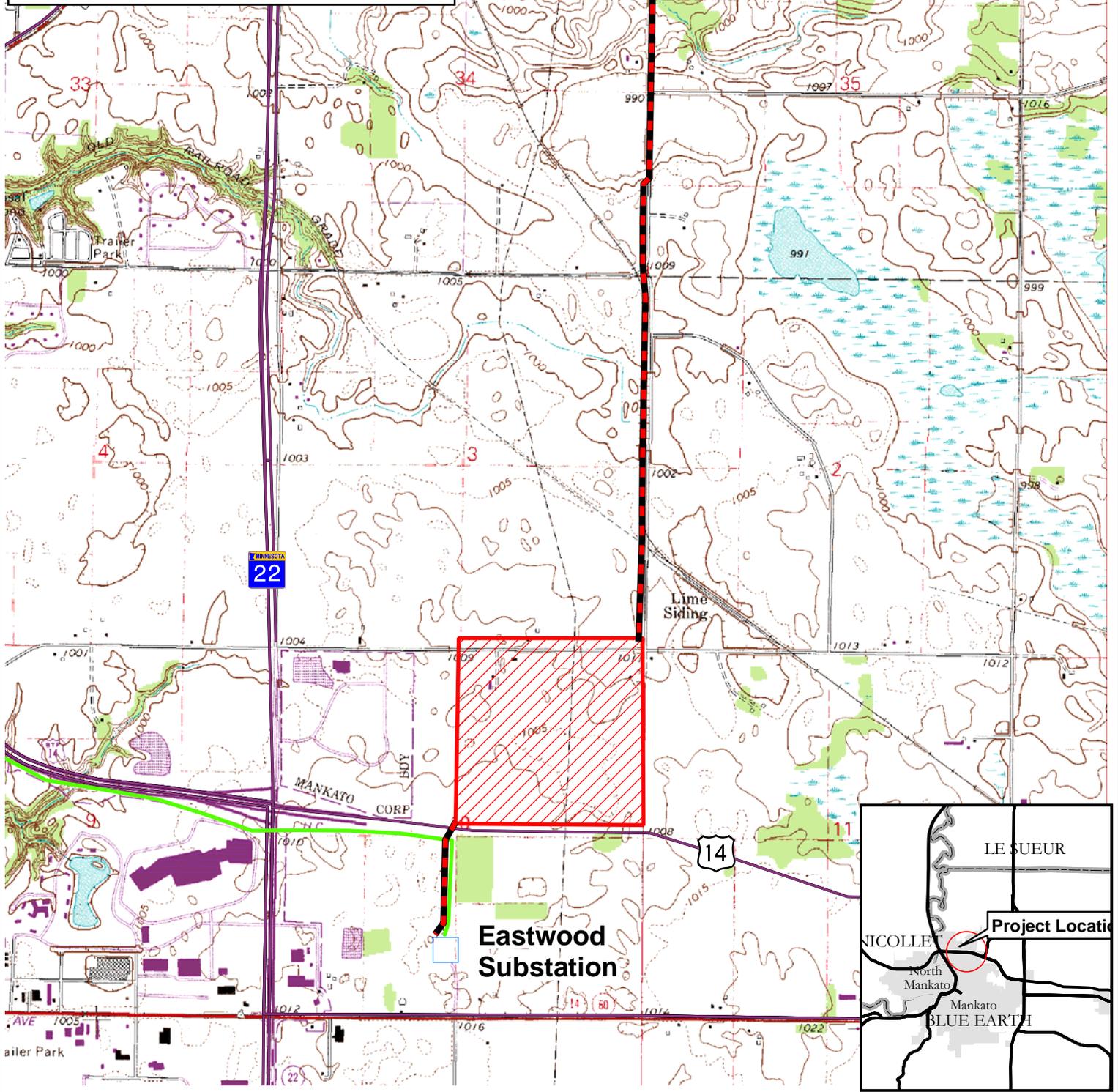


Figure B.2 - Project Location Map
Eastwood 115 kV Transmission Line Tap Project
Mankato, Blue Earth County, Minnesota



Legend

Proposed Project

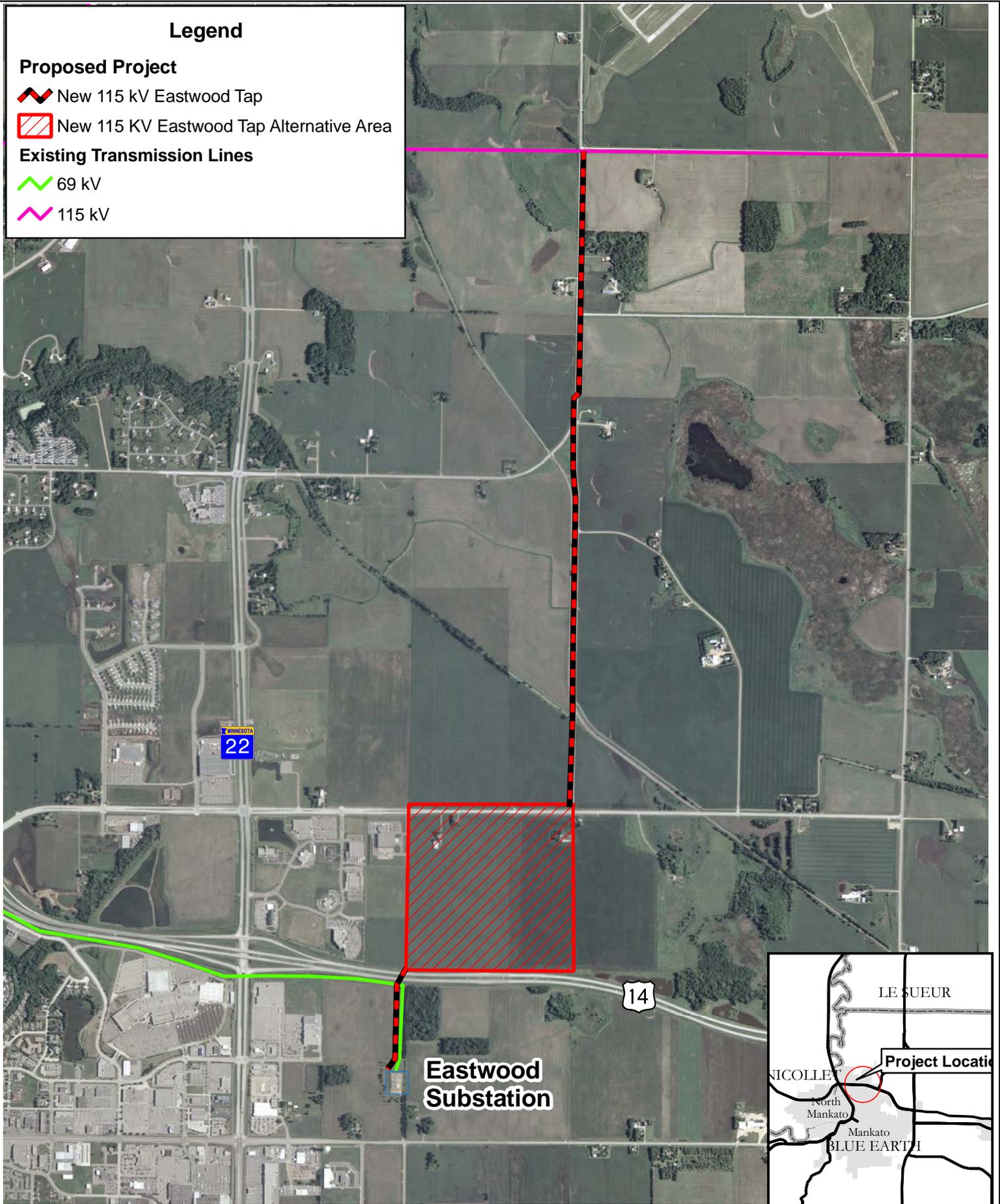
 New 115 kV Eastwood Tap

 New 115 KV Eastwood Tap Alternative Area

Existing Transmission Lines

 69 kV

 115 kV



0 1,000 2,000 3,000
Feet

Figure B.3 - Eastwood Tap Map
Eastwood 115 kV Transmission Line Tap Project
Mankato, Blue Earth County, Minnesota



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program, Box 25
500 Lafayette Road

St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-40
Phone: (651) 296-7863 Fax: (651) 296-1811 E-mail: sarah.hoffmann@dnr.state.mn.us

November 22, 2004

Angela Piner
HDR Engineering
6190 Golden Hills Drive
Minneapolis, MN 55417

RECEIVED
NOV 24 2004
HDR Engineering, Inc.

Re: Request for Natural Heritage information for vicinity of proposed Eastwood Tap and Transmission Upgrades; T109N R26W Sections 25-28, 31, 33-36; T108N R26W Sections 1-4, 6, 9-12; and T108N R27W Section 1; Blue Earth County
NHNRP Contact #: ERDB 20050373

Dear Ms. Piner,

The Minnesota Natural Heritage database has been reviewed to determine if any rare plant or animal species or other significant natural features are known to occur within an approximate one-mile radius of the area indicated on the map enclosed with your information request. Based on this review, there are 9 known occurrences of rare species or natural communities in the area searched (for details, see enclosed database printout and explanation of selected fields). However, based on the nature and location of the proposed project I do not believe it will affect any known occurrences of rare features.

The Natural Heritage database is maintained by the Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program, a unit within the Division of Ecological Services, Department of Natural Resources. It is continually updated as new information becomes available, and is the most complete source of data on Minnesota's rare or otherwise significant species, natural communities, and other natural features. Its purpose is to foster better understanding and protection of these features.

Because our information is not based on a comprehensive inventory, there may be rare or otherwise significant natural features in the state that are not represented in the database. A county-by-county survey of rare natural features is now underway, and has been completed for Blue Earth County. Our information about natural communities is, therefore, quite thorough for that county. However, because survey work for rare plants and animals is less exhaustive, and because there has not been an on-site survey of all areas of the county, ecologically significant features for which we have no records may exist on the project area.

The enclosed results of the database search are provided in two formats: index and full record. To control the release of locational information which might result in the damage or destruction of a rare element, both printout formats are copyrighted.

The index provides rare feature locations only to the nearest section, and may be reprinted, unaltered, in an Environmental Assessment Worksheet, municipal natural resource plan, or report compiled by your company for the project listed above. If you wish to reproduce the index for any other purpose, please contact me to request written permission. **The full-record printout includes more detailed locational information, and is for your personal use only. If you wish to reprint the full-record printouts for any purpose, please contact me to request written permission.**

Please be aware that review by the Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program focuses only on *rare natural features*. It does not constitute review or approval by the Department of Natural Resources as a whole. If you require further information on the environmental review process for other natural resource-related issues, you may contact your Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist, Shannon

DNR Information: 651-296-6157 • 1-888-646-6367 • TTY: 651-296-5484 • 1-800-657-3929



Fisher, at (507) 359-6073.

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

Sincerely,



Sarah D. Hoffmann
Endangered Species Environmental Review Coordinator

encl: Database search results
Rare Feature Database Print-Outs: An Explanation of Fields

TWP	RNG	PRIMARY SECTION	FED STATUS	MN STATUS	S RANK	ELEMENT and OCCURRENCE NUMBER	MANAGED AREA
T108N	R26W	06		SPC		COLUBER CONSTRICTOR (RACER) #50	
T108N	R26W	07		THR		ACTINONAIAS LIGAMENTINA (MCKET MUSSEL) #87	
T108N	R26W	07				MUSSEL SAMPLING SITE #120	
T109N	R26W	20		SPC		COLUBER CONSTRICTOR (RACER) #51	
T109N	R26W	31			S1	MESIC PRAIRIE (SOUTHEAST) #38	
T109N	R27W	25			S3	FLOODPLAIN FOREST SILVER MAPLE SUBTYPE #64	
T109N	R27W	36	LT	SPC		HALIAEETUS LEUCOCEPHALUS (BALD EAGLE) #1380	
T109N	R27W	36				MUSSEL SAMPLING SITE #121	
T109N	R27W	36		THR		POLYODON SPATHULA (PADDLEFISH) #6	

RECORDS PRINTED = 9

An invoice for the work completed will be mailed to you under separate cover within two weeks of the date of this letter. You are being billed for map and database search and identification work. Thank you for contacting us on this matter and for your interest in preserving Minnesota's natural resources.
 Please call (651) 552-0078.



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

RECEIVED

DEC 10 2004

HDR Engineering, Inc.

December 8, 2004

Ms. Angela Piner
HDR Engineering
6190 Golden Hills Drive
Minneapolis, MN 55416

RE: Construction of approximately 3 miles of new transmission line from the Eastwood substation to the Summit to Loon Lake transmission line, additional .5 miles also required to connect the Summit substation to the Wilmarth substation
Blue Earth County
SHPO Number: 2005-0470

Dear Ms. Piner:

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

Based on our review of the project information, we conclude that there are no properties listed on the National or State Registers of Historic Places, and no known or suspected archaeological properties in the area that will be affected by this project.

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

Please contact Dennis Gimmetstad at (651) 296-5462 if you have any questions regarding our review of this project.

Sincerely,

Britta L. Bloomberg
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Piner, Angela

From: Kevin Bittner [kevinbi@bolton-menk.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2005 11:11 AM
To: Piner, Angela
Cc: Paul Vogel (E-mail); George Rosati (E-mail)
Subject: FW: Eastwood Transmission Line Tap Project

Hi Angela,

We did do this evaluation but I failed to send you the results. Based on the information you have provided, there appears to be about 20' of clearance from the top of the proposed structure to the bottom of the 7:1 transitional airspace surface. In other words, the appropriate clearances are met. The attachment shows our evaluation. If design conditions change, please provide the new information for review.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Kevin Bittner
Mankato Airport Engineer
Bolton & Menk, Inc.

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

From: Piner, Angela [mailto:Angela.Piner@hdrinc.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2005 12:05 PM
To: Kevin Bittner
Cc: Rasmussen, Pamela Jo; Cashman, Tim C.; Beastrom, Robert G; Vogel, Paul
Subject: RE: Eastwood Transmission Line Tap Project

Kevin,

I've been talking to the engineer on this project. He has developed some preliminary design work for the Eastwood Tap Project. This preliminary design was developed using publicly available USGS DEM data.

The plan at this time is to install two new steel H-Frame dead end structures at the tap location and remove the existing wood H-frame, Structure #523. We've chosen to use dead end H-Frames to keep the structure heights as low as possible. With this approach, we believe that the elevation of the top of the new structures would be no greater than the top of pole elevation of the existing Structure #523. However, at this time we're not able to determine the exact pole top elevations because the existing plan and profiles for the line do not show any elevation information and the USGS elevations are no better than +/- 5'. We do know that Structure #523 is 70' above ground height.

We've attached a photo taken of Structure #523 (looking south) for reference. We plan to install one of the new H-Frame dead end structures at the intersection of existing transmission line and the existing distribution line. The other H-Frame dead end would go pretty close to the existing wood H-Frame Structure #523.

You expressed concerned about structures in the northernmost 300' of the new Eastwood tap line. In our preliminary design, we've located the first double circuit structure about 420' south of the tap. This structure may need to be adjusted depending on the actual location of the existing distribution poles that run north-south along the highway. However, at this time we're pretty comfortable saying that we can keep the top elevation of this new double circuit structure equal to or lower than Structure #523, if needed.

We hope this will help in your determination. If you have any additional questions, please let me know.

Angela Piner

From: Kevin Bittner [mailto:kevinbi@bolton-menk.com]

Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2005 1:45 PM
To: Piner, Angela
Cc: Paul Vogel (E-mail)
Subject: RE: Eastwood Transmission Line Tap Project

Angela,

We've done a quick review of the transmission line and have determined that we'll need more information to make the proper evaluation. With the initial information you provided regarding location and approximate pole height, we've basically determined that the north end of the line could be very close if not into the restricted airspace of the cross-wind runway. We'll need specific top of pole elevation and pole location information on about the last 300 feet of line on the north end of the project. Only with this information will we be able to make a definite determination.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Kevin Bittner, P.E.
Mankato Regional Airport Engineer
Bolton & Menk, Inc.
219 North Main Street
Fairmont, MN 56031-1833

507-238-4738
507-238-4732 (fax)

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

From: Piner, Angela [mailto:Angela.Piner@hdrinc.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2005 1:07 PM
To: Kevin Bittner
Subject: RE: Eastwood Transmission Line Tap Project

Kevin,
Sounds good. Thanks for the quick reply!

Angela

From: Kevin Bittner [mailto:kevinbi@bolton-menk.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2005 1:06 PM
To: Piner, Angela
Cc: Potter, Brad; Vogel, Paul; Jason Schmidt (E-mail)
Subject: RE: Eastwood Transmission Line Tap Project

Hi Angela,

We will be evaluating the proposed transmission line based on the information you have provided. We should have a preliminary response by early next week.

Kevin Bittner, P.E.
Office Manager
Bolton & Menk, Inc.
219 North Main Street
Fairmont, MN 56031-1833

507-238-4738
507-238-4732 (fax)

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

From: Piner, Angela [mailto:Angela.Piner@hdrinc.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2005 12:24 PM
To: Kevin Bittner

Cc: Potter, Brad; Vogel, Paul
Subject: Eastwood Transmission Line Tap Project

Dear Mr. Bittner,

Mr. Paul Vogel of the City of Mankato has requested that I contact you about the proposed Eastwood Transmission Line Tap Project and possible impacts to the Mankato Regional Airport. Below is my correspondence with Mr. Vogel, which appears has been forwarded to you. In my original email to Mr. Brad Potter I highlight the height of the structures and the location. I've attached a map to aid in your review.

Please feel free to call me with any additional information needs you may have.

Sincerely,

Angela Piner

Environmental Scientist

HDR | ONE COMPANY - *Many Solutions*

6190 Golden Hills Drive

Minneapolis MN 55416-1020

Phone (763) 591-5478

Fax (763) 591-5413

From: Vogel, Paul [mailto:pvogel@city.mankato.mn.us]
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2005 8:45 AM
To: Piner, Angela
Cc: Potter, Brad; Kevin Bittner
Subject: FW: Eastwood Transmission Line Tap Project

Angela, I would ask that you contact our Airport consulting engineer, Bolton and Menk, and have the line and pole height reviewed with them. They have the existing and proposed horizontal and conical surfaces. Your contact with Bolton and Menk will be Kevin Bittner, at 507-238-4738.

Paul Vogel
Director of Community Development
City of Mankato
P.O. Box 3368
Mankato, MN 56002-3368
(507) 387-8613 Work
(507) 387-6845 Fax
(507) 340-3733 Mobile
<http://www.ci.mankato.mn.us/>

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

From: Piner, Angela [mailto:Angela.Piner@hdrinc.com]
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2005 3:11 PM
To: Potter, Brad
Cc: Rasmussen, Pamela Jo
Subject: Eastwood Transmission Line Tap Project

Dear Mr. Potter,

On behalf of Xcel Energy, HDR Engineering, Inc. (HDR) requests your office review a proposed transmission line route for potential conflicts with the Mankato Regional Airport. The airport is located in the

northeast corner as shown on the attached aerial photograph/map. Xcel's proposed transmission line route is located in Section 35, Township 109N, Range 26W; Sections 2, 3 and 10, Township 108N, Range 26W, and is also identified on the attached map.

The proposed project (Project) involves the construction of approximately 3 miles of 115/115kV double circuit transmission line. The preliminary pole height estimates are 70 to 80 feet tall. According to the Airport Zoning Plan you had previously sent HDR, it appears the transmission line will be within the designated horizontal surface for the Project, and the Project will not be within the Safety Zone boundaries. Please identify any conflicts and permits that may be required due to the construction of the Project.

It is our understanding that you may not remain the contact for this Project. If you could identify who will be the most likely contact upon your departure, Xcel Energy will continue any discussions regarding conflicts with your successor, as necessary.

If you have any questions regarding this Project, please contact me at the number listed below.

Sincerely,
Angela Piner

<<xcel_wilmarth_sibley_eastwood_11x17.pdf>>

Angela Piner

Environmental Scientist

HDR | ONE COMPANY - *Many Solutions*

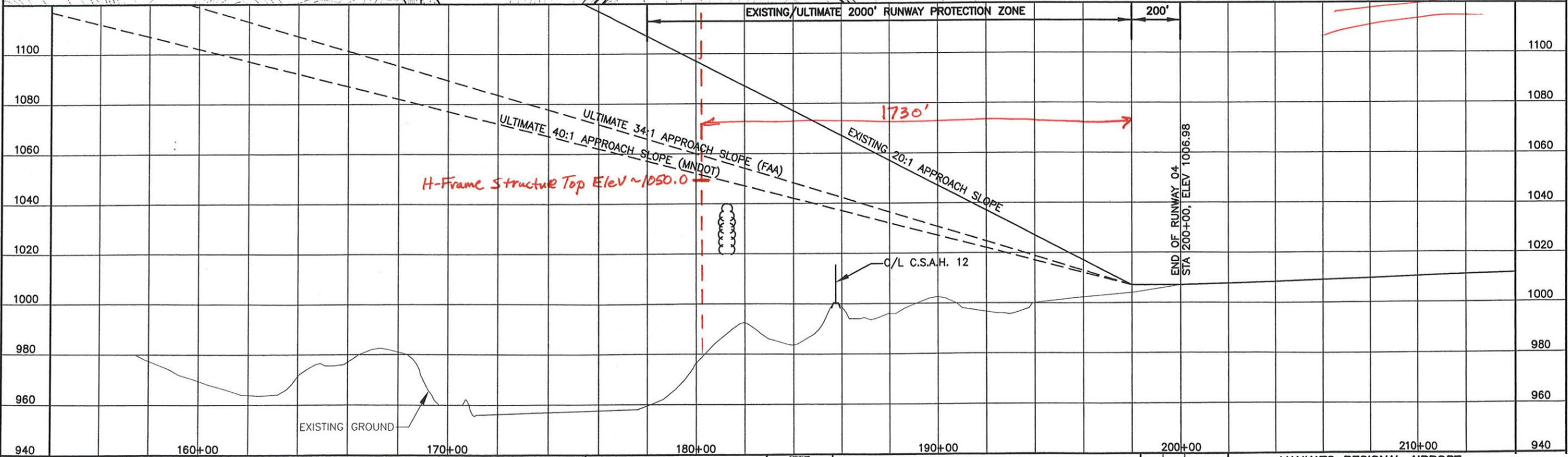
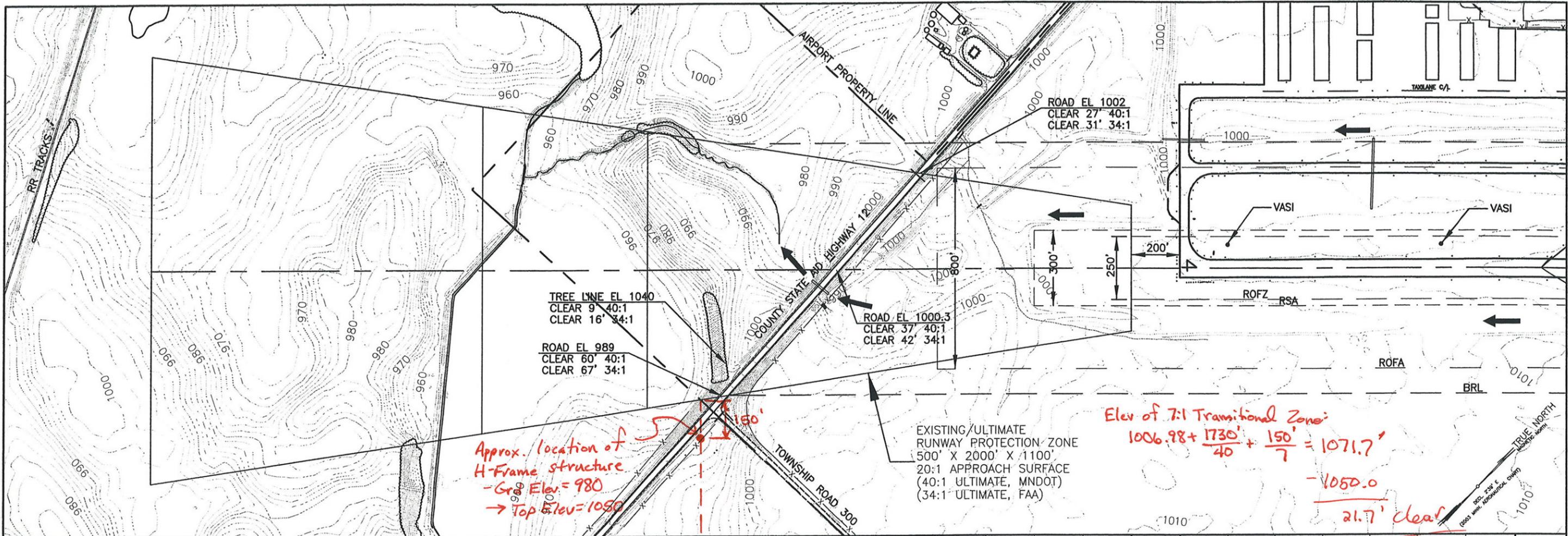
6190 Golden Hills Drive

Minneapolis MN 55416-1020

Phone (763) 591-5478

Fax (763) 591-5413

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

KEVIN F. BITTNER
REG. NO. 21814 DATE 7/28/03

DESIGNED
JPS
DRAWN
JPS
CHECKED
KFB

BOLTON & MENK, INC
CONSULTING ENGINEERS & SURVEYORS
MANKATO, MN FAIRMONT, MN SLEEPY EYE, MN WILLMAR, MN
BURNSVILLE, MN CHASKA, MN AMES, IA LIBERTY, MO

REV.	BY	DATE

MANKATO REGIONAL AIRPORT
CITY OF MANKATO, MINNESOTA
RUNWAY 4 APPROACH PLAN & PROFILE

Appendix C.3

12

H:\MKT04\16341551_Cad\ALP\MPSR1006.dwg 07-28-2003 4:03 pm