

APPENDIX D

AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE

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APPENDIX D.1

LIST OF AGENCIES CONCERNING REQUESTS FOR COMMENTS ON PROJECT

Agency	Date of Letter Regarding Project Notice
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Twin Cities Field Office	May 19, 2010 and January 20, 2011
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Regulatory Project Managers	May 19, 2010 and January 20, 2011
MnDNR – Waters Area Hydrologist – Region 3	May 19, 2010 and January 20, 2011
MnDNR – Waters Area Hydrologist – Region 4	May 19, 2010 and January 20, 2011
MnDNR – Ecological Resources – Region 3	May 19, 2010 and January 20, 2011
MnDNR – Ecological Resources – Region 4	May 19, 2010 and January 20, 2011
MnDNR Region 3 – Central Minnesota Lands and Minerals	May 19, 2010 and January 20, 2011
MnDNR Region 4 – Southern Minnesota Lands and Minerals	May 19, 2010 and January 20, 2011
MnDOT Utility Permits – Metro/Central Office (Carver Co.) – Permit Supervisor	May 19, 2010 and January 20, 2011
Carver Soil and Water Conservation District – District Manager	January 20, 2011
Carver County-Land & Water Services Division	January 20, 2011
Hennepin County Soil and Water Conservation District-Board of Supervisors-District 4	January 20, 2011
Hennepin County Soil and Water Conservation District-Board of Supervisors-District 5	January 20, 2011
Hennepin Regional Rail Authority	January 20, 2011
Carver County Farm Service Agency – Service Center Office – Director	January 20, 2011

APPENDIX D.2**LIST OF LGUs SENT A PROJECT NOTICE LETTER**

Local Governmental Unit	Date of Letter Regarding Project Notice
City of Deephaven-Engineer	May 19, 2010
Carever County administrator	May 19, 2010
Carver County District 1 Commissioner	May 19, 2010
Carver County Public Works director	May 19, 2010
Carver County office of Environmental Services	May 19, 2010
Carver County District 2 Commissioner	May 19, 2010
City of Chanhassen Community Development Director	May 19, 2010
City of Chanhassen Mayor	May 19, 2010
City of Chanhassen-Manager	May 19, 2010
City of Chanhassen-Parks & Recreation Director	May 19, 2010
City of Chanhassen-Planning Commission Chair	May 19, 2010
City of Chanhassen-City Engineer	May 19, 2010
City of Deephaven-Park Committee Chair	May 19, 2010
City of Deephaven-Zoning Coordinator	May 19, 2010
City of Deephaven-Mayor	May 19, 2010
City of Deephaven-Planning Commission Chair	May 19, 2010
City of Eden Prairie-City Manager	May 19, 2010
City of Eden Prairie-Mayor	May 19, 2010
City of Excelsior-City Planner	May 19, 2010
City of Excelsior-City Manager	May 19, 2010
City of Greenwood-Zoning Administrator	May 19, 2010
City of Greenwood-Mayor	May 19, 2010
City of Greenwood-Planning Commission Chair	May 19, 2010
City of Greenwood-Administrator	May 19, 2010
City of Minnetonka-City Manager	May 19, 2010
City of Minnetonka-Mayor	May 19, 2010
City of Shorewood-City Administrator	May 19, 2010
City of Shorewood-Planning Director	May 19, 2010
Hennepin County Engineer	May 19, 2010

Local Governmental Unit	Date of Letter Regarding Project Notice
Hennepin County Administrator	May 19, 2010
Lake Minnetonka Conservation District	May 19, 2010
City of Chaska-Administrator	May 19, 2010
City of Chaska-Planning and Development Director	May 19, 2010
City of Chaska-Engineer	May 19, 2010
City of Chaska-Senior Clerk	January 13, 2012
City of Chaska-Mayor	January 13, 2012
Scott County Commissioner-District 1	January 13, 2012
Scott County Administrator	January 13, 2012
Scott County Soil and Water Conservation District	January 13, 2012
Jackson Township Chair	January 13, 2012

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APPENDIX D.3
USFWS RESPONSE

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Rogers, Timothy G

From: Rogers, Timothy G
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2010 3:53 PM
To: 'Richard_Davis@fws.gov'
Subject: RE: Proposed SW Twin Cities Transmission Line Rebuild Project #0737

Hi Rich-

We plan to install swan flight diverters on the static overhead line in areas where the transmission line is adjacent to or crosses wetlands and water bodies. The locations where we plan on marking the line will be presented in our route permit application to the MN Public Utilities Commission (PUC). I will send you those figures prior to our submittal to the PUC.

We will perform an eagle nest survey later this fall. The survey will consist of an experience biologist walking the existing transmission line and noting the presence of eagle nests in or adjacent to the utility corridor.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you.

Tim Rogers.

612-330-1955

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

From: Richard_Davis@fws.gov [mailto:Richard_Davis@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, September 29, 2010 4:41 PM
To: Rogers, Timothy G
Subject: RE: Proposed SW Twin Cities Transmission Line Rebuild Project #0737

Hello Mr. Rogers,

I have completed our review of the proposed Southwest Twin Cities Transmission Line Rebuild Project in the Cities of Chanhassen, Deephaven, Eden Prairie, Excelsior, Greenwood, Minnetonka, and Shorewood, Minnesota. Data available at the time of my review does not indicate any records of federally listed species protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) within the proposed project area.

The Service is responsible for administration of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The MBTA prohibits taking, killing, possession, transportation, and importation of migratory birds, their eggs, parts, and nests, except when specifically authorized by the Department of the Interior. Bird diverters should be installed on transmission lines placed across or adjacent to watercourses, open waterbodies, wetlands, wooded areas, and grasslands. Construction of the proposed project within potential migratory bird nesting habitats should be avoided during the primary nesting seasons.

Bald and golden eagles are afforded additional legal protection under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d). There is a record of an active bald eagle nest approximately 5,000 feet north of the proposed project alignment. We recommend that Xcel Energy perform an eagle nest survey along the proposed project alignment to identify newly constructed nests that may be affected by the project during construction.

Thank you for the opportunity to review your proposed project. If you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance feel free to contact me by phone or email.

Sincerely,

Rich Davis

Richard Davis
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Twin Cities Field Office
4101 American Blvd. E.
Bloomington, MN 55425
(612) 725-3548 ext. 2214

APPENDIX D.4
MINNESOTA DNR NHIS RESPONSE

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Kelly Kunst

From: Joyal, Lisa (DNR) [Lisa.Joyal@state.mn.us]
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 3:43 PM
To: Kelly Kunst
Subject: SWTC Bluff Creek to Westgate NHIS request

I have reviewed the NHIS regarding the above project. There are no new records in the vicinity of the project. As such, the Natural Heritage letter dated 2 April 2010 is still valid.

Thank you for consulting us on this matter. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Lisa Joyal

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

phone: 651-259-5109  
[lisa.joyal@state.mn.us](mailto:lisa.joyal@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) 259-5107 Fax: (651) 296-1811 E-mail: [heidi.cyr@state.mn.us](mailto:heidi.cyr@state.mn.us)

April 2, 2010

Correspondence # ERDB 20100599

Mr. Scott Zeimetz  
Westwood Professional Services, Inc.  
7699 Anagram Drive  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

RE: Natural Heritage information in the vicinity of the proposed Bluff Creek/Westgate Transmission Line Rebuild

| County   | Township (N) | Range (W) | Section(s)     |
|----------|--------------|-----------|----------------|
| Hennepin | 117          | 23        | 23-26,34,35    |
|          | 117          | 22        | 19,20,29-32    |
|          | 116          | 22        | 5,8,9          |
| Carver   | 116          | 23        | 3,4,9,10,15,22 |

Dear Mr. Zeimetz,

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 visit the Rare Species Guide at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rsg/index.html> for more information on the biology, habitat use, and conservation measures of these rare species). Please note that the following **rare features may be impacted** by the proposed project:

- Blanding's turtles (*Emydoidea blandingii*), a state-listed threatened species, have been reported from the vicinity of the proposed project and may be encountered on site. If Blanding's turtles are found on the site, please remember that state law and rules prohibit the destruction of threatened or endangered species, except under certain prescribed conditions. If turtles are in imminent danger they should be moved by hand out of harm's way, otherwise they should be left undisturbed.

For your information, I have attached a Blanding's turtle fact sheet that describes the habitat use and life history of this species. The fact sheet also provides two lists of recommendations for avoiding and minimizing impacts to this rare turtle. **Please refer to the first list of recommendations for your project.** If greater protection for turtles is desired, the second list of additional recommendations can also be implemented. The attached flyer should be given to all contractors working in the area.

- Two state-listed fish species of special concern, the least darter (*Etheostoma microperca*) and the pugnose shiner (*Notropis anogenus*), have been documented in Lake Minnetonka and several of the smaller lakes in the vicinity of the project. As these species are intolerant of environmental degradation, especially turbidity and siltation, it is important that stringent erosion and sediment control practices be implemented and maintained during this project. Spanning the lakes crossed by the transmission lines will also help to minimize impacts to these rare fish.

The Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS), a collection of databases that contains information about Minnesota's rare natural features, is maintained by the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Ecological 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 is for your personal use only as it may include specific location information that is considered nonpublic data under *Minnesota Statutes*, section 84.0872, subd. 2. If you wish to reprint or publish the Detailed Report for any purpose, please contact me to request written permission.**

This letter does not constitute review or approval by the Department of Natural Resources as a whole. Instead, it identifies issues regarding known occurrences of rare features and potential effects to these rare features. Additional rare features for which we have no data may be present in the project area, or there may be other natural resource concerns associated with the proposed project. For these concerns, please contact your DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist, Melissa Doperalski at (651-259-5738). Please be aware that additional site assessments or review may be required.

Thank you for consulting us on this matter, and for your interest in preserving Minnesota's rare natural resources. An invoice will be mailed to you under separate cover.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Heidi Cyr', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Heidi Cyr  
Endangered Species Environmental Review Specialist

enc.    Rare Features Database: Index Report  
         Rare Features Database: Detail Report  
         Rare Features Database Reports: An Explanation of Fields  
         Fact sheets: Blanding's turtles (*Emydoidea blandingii*)

Printed March 2010  
Data valid for one year

**Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System**  
**Index Report of records within 1 mile radius of:**  
 ERDB #20100599 - Bluff Creek/Westgate Transmission Line Rebuild  
 Multiple TRS  
 Carver and Hennepin Counties

**Rare Features Database:**

| Element Name and Occurrence Number                                                                                                         | Federal Status | MN Status | State Rank | Global Rank | Last Observed Date | EO ID # |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|------------|-------------|--------------------|---------|
| <b>Vertebrate Animal</b>                                                                                                                   |                |           |            |             |                    |         |
| <u>Buteo lineatus</u> (Red-shouldered Hawk) #43<br>T117N R23W S24, T117N R23W S26, T117N R23W S25, T117N R23W S23 ; Hennepin County        |                | SPC       | S3B,SNRN   | G5          | 1989-SU            | 10423   |
| <u>Buteo lineatus</u> (Red-shouldered Hawk) #161<br>T117N R22W S19 ; Hennepin County                                                       |                | SPC       | S3B,SNRN   | G5          | 1996-06-10         | 18852   |
| <u>Buteo lineatus</u> (Red-shouldered Hawk) #162<br>T117N R23W S26, T117N R23W S25 ; Hennepin County                                       |                | SPC       | S3B,SNRN   | G5          | 1993               | 18851   |
| <u>Buteo lineatus</u> (Red-shouldered Hawk) #163<br>T117N R23W S24, T117N R22W S30, T117N R23W S25, T117N R22W S19 ; Hennepin County       |                | SPC       | S3B,SNRN   | G5          | 1994-04            | 18850   |
| <u>Elaphe vulpina</u> (Western Fox Snake) #14<br>T117N R23W S33, T117N R23W S27, T117N R23W S26, T117N R23W S28, T [...] ; Hennepin County |                | NON       | S4         | G5          | 1939-05-21         | 8072    |
| <u>Emydoidea blandingii</u> (Blanding's Turtle) #120<br>T117N R23W S34, T117N R23W S28, T117N R23W S33 ; Hennepin County                   |                | THR       | S2         | G4          | 1987-05-10         | 6824    |
| <u>Emydoidea blandingii</u> (Blanding's Turtle) #752<br>T117N R23W S35, T117N R23W S34 ; Hennepin County                                   |                | THR       | S2         | G4          | 1994-06-12         | 21044   |
| <u>Etheostoma microperca</u> (Least Darter) #14<br>T117N R23W S22 ; Hennepin County                                                        |                | SPC       | S3         | G5          | 1992-05-09         | 6532    |
| <u>Etheostoma microperca</u> (Least Darter) #15<br>T116N R23W S4, T116N R23W S8, T116N R23W S5 ; Carver County                             |                | SPC       | S3         | G5          | 2006-05-05         | 6531    |
| <u>Etheostoma microperca</u> (Least Darter) #44<br>T117N R23W S35, T117N R23W S36 ; Hennepin County                                        |                | SPC       | S3         | G5          | 2006-05-30         | 22332   |
| <u>Notropis anogenus</u> (Pugnose Shiner) #25<br>T117N R23W S36, T117N R23W S35, T116N R23W S2 ; Carver, Hennepin County                   |                | SPC       | S3         | G3          | 1941-10            | 6609    |
| <u>Notropis anogenus</u> (Pugnose Shiner) #26<br>T117N R23W S23, T117N R23W S16, T117N R23W S15, T117N R23W S14, T [...] ; Hennepin County |                | SPC       | S3         | G3          | 1991               | 6608    |

**Vascular Plant**



Printed March 2010  
Data valid for one year

Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System  
Index Report of records within 1 mile radius of:  
ERDB #20100599 - Bluff Creek/Westgate Transmission Line Rebuild  
Multiple TRS  
Carver and Hennepin Counties

Rare Features Database:

| Element Name and Occurrence Number                                                                                              | Federal Status | MN Status | State Rank | Global Rank | Last Observed Date | EO ID # |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|------------|-------------|--------------------|---------|
| <b>Vascular Plant</b>                                                                                                           |                |           |            |             |                    |         |
| <u>Panax quinquefolius</u> (American Ginseng) #193<br>T117N R23W S22 ; Hennepin County                                          |                | SPC       | S3         | G3G4        | 1995-06-28         | 21571   |
| <b>Terrestrial Community - Other Classification</b>                                                                             |                |           |            |             |                    |         |
| <u>Native Plant Community, Undetermined Class</u> #2315 (NPC Code: )<br>T117N R23W S23, T117N R23W S22 ; Hennepin County        |                | N/A       | SNR        | GNR         | 1995-06-28         | 21635   |
| <b>Other (Ecological)</b>                                                                                                       |                |           |            |             |                    |         |
| <u>Ice deposition (quaternary)</u> #3<br>T116N R23W S4, T117N R23W S35, T116N R23W S3, T117N R23W S34 ; Carver, Hennepin County |                | N/A       | SNR        | GNR         | 1977               | 41      |

Records Printed = 15

Minnesota's endangered species law (*Minnesota Statutes*, section 84.0895) and associated rules (*Minnesota Rules*, part 6212.1800 to 6212.2300 and 6134) prohibit the taking of threatened or endangered species without a permit. For plants, taking includes digging or destroying. For animals, taking includes pursuing, capturing, or killing.

**APPENDIX D.5**  
**MINNESOTA DOT RESPONSE**

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**Minnesota Department of Transportation**

**Metropolitan District**

Waters Edge  
1500 West County Road B-2  
Roseville, MN 55113-3174

June 10, 2010

Timothy Rogers  
Xcel Energy, Supervisor of Siting and Permitting  
250 Marquette Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

**SUBJECT:** Southwest Twin Cities Transmission Line  
Mn/DOT Review #PRE10-003  
Meandering Thru Chanhassen and Minnetonka  
Hennepin County/Carver County  
Control Section 2706 and 1002

Dear Mr. Rogers:

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) has reviewed the above referenced preliminary plan. As plans are further developed, please be aware of the following issues:

***Area Engineer:***

At this preliminary stage, Mn/DOT would like a schedule and time line for construction. We need to know if the project will be constructed in a year, or if it will be completed in stages. To provide this information, please contact Nicole Peterson, Area Engineer, at (651) 234-7723.

***Permits:***

Any use of or work within Mn/DOT right of way requires a Long Form Permit. Permit forms are available from Mn/DOT's utility website at [www.dot.state.mn.us/tecsup/utility](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/tecsup/utility). Please direct any questions regarding permit requirements to Buck Craig, Mn/DOT's Metro Permits Section, at (651) 234-7911.

Thank you again for this opportunity to review these plans. As a reminder, please address all initial future correspondence for development activity such as plats and site plans to:

Development Reviews  
Mn/DOT - Metro Division  
Waters Edge  
1500 West County Road B-2  
Roseville, Minnesota 55113

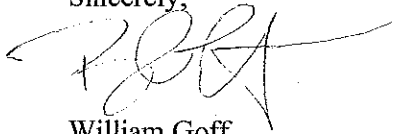
Mn/DOT document submittal guidelines require either:

1. One (1) electronic pdf. version of the plans (the electronic version of the plan needs to be developed for 11" x 17" printable format with sufficient detail so that all features are legible);
2. Seven (7) sets of full size plans.

If submitting the plans electronically, please use the pdf. format. Mn/DOT can accept the plans via e-mail at [metrodevreviews@state.mn.us](mailto:metrodevreviews@state.mn.us) provided that each separate e-mail is less than 20 megabytes. Otherwise, the plans can be submitted on a compact disk.

If you have any questions concerning this review please feel free to contact me at (651) 234-7797.

Sincerely,



William Goff  
Senior Planner

Cc: Sharmeen Al\_Jaff, City of Chanhassen  
Julie Wischnack, City of Minnetonka  
Bob Byers, Hennepin County

**Copy sent via Groupwise:**

E.Buck Craig  
Tod Sherman  
Nicole Peterson  
Scott Pedersen  
Stacy Kotch  
Dave Seykora  
Ann Braden / Metropolitan Council

**File Copy:**

Mn/DOT Division File CS 1002 and 2706  
Mn/DOT LGL File Chanhassen and Minnetonka

Sharmeen Al-Jaff, Senior Planner  
City of Chanhassen  
7700 Market Boulevard  
PO Box 147  
Chanhassen, MN 55317

Julie Wischnack, Community Development Director  
City of Minnetonka  
14600 Minnetonka Blvd  
Minnetonka, MN 55345-1502

Bob Byers  
Hennepin County Public Works  
1600 Prairie Drive  
Medina, MN 55340-5421

**APPENDIX D.6**  
**USACE RESPONSE**

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
ST. PAUL DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
SIBLEY SQUARE AT MEARS PARK  
190 FIFTH STREET EAST, SUITE 401  
ST. PAUL MINNESOTA 55101-1638

JUN 04 2010

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF  
Operations  
Regulatory (2010-01923-MTS)

**COPY**

Mr. Timothy G. Rogers  
Xcel Energy  
414 Nicollet Mall, MP8A  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

Dear Mr. Rogers:

This letter responds to a letter dated, May 20, 2010, requesting comments about a project of Xcel Energy to rebuild/improve a transmission line (No. 0737) from 69kV to 115kV, in addition to upgrading substation transformers and switches. The project is located in Sections 3, 4, 9, 10, 15, 16, Township 116N., Range 23W, Carver County; Sections 5, 8 and 9, Township 116N., Range 22W., Hennepin County; Sections 19, 20, 29, 30, 31, 32, Township 117N., Range 22W., Hennepin County; and Sections 23, 24, 25, 26, 34, 35, Township 117N., Range 23W., Hennepin County, Minnesota.

The placement of aerial lines that cross navigable waters of the U.S. requires authorization under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act.

Underground utility lines through waters of the U.S., including wetlands, as well as navigable waters of the U. S. are regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act if there is a discharge of dredged or fill material. Any discharge would require authorization by a general permit or letter of permission.

Underground lines installed by vibratory plow and directional bore method through waters of the U.S., including wetlands, do not involve a discharge and a permit is not required. However, if installation of connecting points requires excavation and backfill in waters of the U.S., including wetlands, a permit would be required.

The placement of poles, overhead wiring, and/or buried wiring at upland locations is not within the jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers, provided the work does not involve the placement of dredged or fill material into any waterbody or wetland.

Temporary placement of fill material into any waterbody or wetland for purposes such as bypass roads, temporary stream crossings, cofferdam construction, or storage sites may require a Department of the Army permit.

If any of the proposed work would involve the placement of fill material, either permanent or temporary, please notify our office.



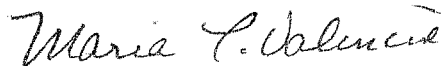
Without detailed construction plans, we cannot provide specific comments regarding the effects that the proposed activity would have on watercourse floodstages. It has been our experience that underground and overhead utility construction has negligible effects on flood stages, provided excess construction material is removed from the floodplain and additional care is taken not to disturb its hydraulic characteristics.

You may also need city, county, or State permits for the project. You should contact the appropriate agencies for their permit requirements. If the project includes the placement of dredged or fill material in a Federal regulated waterbody, we will notify the responsible State agency for water quality (401) certification.

You should also contact the State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO) to determine if there are any known historic or archeological sites in the area or if any cultural resource survey would be required.

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Setering in our St. Paul office at (651) 290-5396. In any correspondence or inquiries, please refer to the Regulatory number shown above.

Sincerely,



*for*  
Tamara E. Cameron  
Chief, Regulatory Branch

**APPENDIX D.7**  
**HENNEPIN COUNTY RESPONSE**

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**Rogers, Timothy G**

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**From:** Rogers, Timothy G  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 01, 2011 4:20 PM  
**To:** 'Jessica.Galat@co.hennepin.mn.us'  
**Subject:** RE: Xcel trimming in Excelsior, Greenwood, Deephaven, and Minnetonka

Hi Jessica-

I met with our Vegetation Management managers (Brad Weidenfeller and Fletcher Johnson) last week regarding your email and the SWTC Bluff Creek to Westgate project in general. I think we will come to a consensus soon, but need to make sure you understand our concerns with the terms listed below. Brad and Fletcher told me these terms from 2007 were never agreed upon, just items that Xcel and John Tripp discussed. One other clarification I should note, as we work together on this project, is the difference between vegetation removal for the construction project versus vegetation removal for line maintenance. We need to be cognizant of what type of vehicles will need access to the corridor and how much room will be necessary to set poles and string conductors during construction.

At our last meeting I talked about the hot spot areas that needed to be cut this fall because we couldn't wait to cut vegetation in these areas as part of the construction project. The hot spot cutting should begin within the next several weeks. We have surveyed the easement boundaries and notified affected cities and landowners of the upcoming work. Besides making sure we have the required vegetative clearances in these areas, I hope to point to this fall's hot spot cutting as an example of what the construction cutting may initially look like.

We would like to promote the growth of grasses and forbs in the wire zone (directly below the conductors). Use of mowers is the best tool for this. Low growing shrubs are compatible in the border zone (between the wire zone and the edge of the easement). However for construction we may need to cut the vegetation lower to allow vehicle access. We can leave chipped woody material along the corridor. We will seek a permit with Three Rivers Park.

Similar to designing the new structures within the existing corridor, we intend on keeping the extent of tree cutting within the same cut zone we've used in the past.

I think a field review of the hot spot cutting would be a good idea, especially now that we can see stakes that show the extent of our anticipated cut.

Thanks.  
 Tim

**Tim Rogers**  
**Xcel Energy | Responsible By Nature**  
**Supervisor, Siting and Permitting**  
 414 Nicollet Mall, (MP 8A) Minneapolis, MN 55401  
**P:** 612.330.1955 **C:** 612.202.6923 **F:** 612.330.6590  
**E:** [timothy.g.rogers@xcelenergy.com](mailto:timothy.g.rogers@xcelenergy.com)

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**XCELENERGY.COM**

**Please consider the environment before printing this**

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**From:** Jessica.Galat@co.hennepin.mn.us [mailto:Jessica.Galat@co.hennepin.mn.us] **On Behalf Of** John\_M\_Tripp/PW/Hennepin@co.hennepin.mn.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 10, 2011 10:20 AM  
**To:** Rogers, Timothy G  
**Subject:** Fw: Xcel trimming in Excelsior, Greenwood, Deephaven, and Minnetonka

Tim,

2/7/2012

Please see the email below from John Tripp in 2007. The agreed upon terms are bulleted below. I believe this is the last time Xcel trimmed in the area.

As you mentioned at the meeting, I'm hoping that a list of these terms (or, negotiated terms) can be included in the application. A bullet point that I found in a different memo that is not included below is, "To the extent possible, Xcel will limit the distance away from power lines that trees are impacted or removed." Would it possible to include that language or even a maximum distance in numbers that the cities can be made aware of and agree to now rather than going through disputes every 3-4 years?

Thank you.

----- Forwarded by Jessica M Galatz/PW/Hennepin on 11/10/2011 10:11 AM -----

From: John M. Tripp/PW/Hennepin  
 To: Marcia Wilda/PW/Hennepin@Hennepin  
 Cc: Jessica M Galatz/PW/Hennepin@Hennepin, mikes@treetrust.org, jvlaming@threeriversparkdistrict.org, dmiller@threeriversparkdistrict.org, Gary C Galbavy/PW/Hennepin@Hennepin, Susan Evans/PW/Hennepin@Hennepin  
 Date: 01/11/2007 10:22 AM  
 Subject: Xcel trimming in Excelsior, Greenwood, Deephaven, and Minnetonka

---

HCRRA purchased the Hopkins to Victoria Corridor in 1981. Prior to that purchase, Northern States Power Company, now Xcel Energy, purchased an easement (HCRRA agreements 73-34073 and -74) to locate an overhead power line on the south side of the corridor between Excelsior and Hwy. 101. This easement included the right to maintain the utility line as "directed by the Chief Engineer of the Railway", now HCRRA.

Tuesday I met with Brad Weidenfeller from Xcel and Tony Soto from Wright Tree Service, Inc. We drove along the power line and discussed what tree trimming work needed to be done for safe operation of the power line and to minimize power disruptions. Basically, we discussed the below listed trimming work:

- no use of mowers or clear cutting
- selective ground cutting and removal of tall tree species that are directly under the power lines such as ash and elm
- pines and coniferous tree species would be trimmed and not ground cut
- trees would be removed in a 10 foot wide circle around the base of power poles
- buckthorn would only be removed at the request of municipalities and after confirming with HCRRA
- chipping on site would be permitted
- in a couple of areas, where there is dense small tree growth, Bob-Cat width mowers could be used to create paths to access sites at the edge of corridor
- trimming work would start after getting a permit from Three Rivers and contacting each municipality along the line

Apparently the City of Greenwood has concerns about the proposed tree trimming work and Mayor Neuman is trying to arrange a meeting with Xcel, Wright, HCRRA, and the City. Tree trimming has started in Deephaven. Wright anticipates starting in Greenwood in two weeks. Thanks.

John Tripp  
 Sr. Planning Analyst  
 Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority  
 612-348-9265

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2/7/2012

**Rogers, Timothy G**

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**From:** Jessica.Galatz@co.hennepin.mn.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 07, 2011 4:10 PM  
**To:** Rogers, Timothy G  
**Cc:** bcarlson@threeriversparkdistrict.org  
**Subject:** Southwest Transmission Line Upgrade

Tim,

Thank you for bringing me up to speed on the proposed upgrade to the Southwest Transmission Line. Let's talk next week about a time to meet with Chris Rogers to discuss the Rail Authority's property and the existing agreements to Xcel.

---

Jessica Galatz | Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority  
417 North Fifth Street – Suite 320 | Minneapolis, MN 55401 | MC L608 | Office 612.348.2691 | Fax 612.348.9710 |  
jessica.galatz@co.hennepin.mn.us



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2/6/2012

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**APPENDIX D.8**  
**DEEPHAVEN AND GREENWOOD RESPONSE**



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**Rogers, Timothy G**

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**From:** Swanson, Michelle M  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 08, 2010 2:35 PM  
**To:** Rogers, Timothy G  
**Cc:** Weidenfeller, Bradley M  
**Subject:** RE: Southwest Rebuild Project  
That is a good enough timeframe for me.

---

**From:** Rogers, Timothy G  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 08, 2010 2:35 PM  
**To:** Swanson, Michelle M  
**Cc:** Weidenfeller, Bradley M  
**Subject:** RE: Southwest Rebuild Project

Hi Michelle-

That will be a moving target. As the project stands now, we expect to start construction in the **spring of 2013**. We may want to accelerate the schedule so that we can do some of the construction in the winter months, especially the segments along the bike path. We should probably get Brad's thoughts on vegetation management if the project starts construction late 2012/early 2013.

Thanks.

Tim

**Tim Rogers**  
**Xcel Energy | Responsible By Nature**  
**Supervisor, Siting and Permitting**  
414 Nicollet Mall, (MP 8A) Minneapolis, MN 55401  
P: 612.330.1955 C: 612.202.6923 F: 612.330.6590  
E: [timothy.g.rogers@xcelenergy.com](mailto:timothy.g.rogers@xcelenergy.com)

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**From:** Swanson, Michelle M  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 08, 2010 9:23 AM  
**To:** Rogers, Timothy G  
**Subject:** RE: Southwest Rebuild Project

What year would we start actually start the physical part of the project?

---

**From:** Rogers, Timothy G  
**Sent:** Monday, June 07, 2010 11:32 AM  
**To:** Gus Karpas  
**Cc:** 'Deb Kind'; 'Dana Young'; 'Paul Skrede'; Swanson, Michelle M  
**Subject:** RE: Southwest Rebuild Project

Hi Gus-

Here are a few dates and times I propose we meet.  
June 23rd, afternoon.

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June 24th, anytime between 10-3.  
June 25th, afternoon.  
June 28th, after 10.  
June 29, afternoon.

I think 1.5 hrs should be enough time to discuss the project. Let me know location and specific meeting time you would like to meet.

Thank you.

Tim

**Tim Rogers**

**Xcel Energy | Responsible By Nature**

**Supervisor, Siting and Permitting**

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**From:** Gus Karpas [mailto:[guskarpas@mchsi.com](mailto:guskarpas@mchsi.com)]

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 8:54 AM

**To:** Rogers, Timothy G

**Cc:** 'Deb Kind'; 'Dana Young'; 'Paul Skrede'

**Subject:** Southwest Rebuild Project

Tim,

I called about a week or so ago about the cities of Deephaven and Greenwood's concerns about future tree removal associated with the proposed rebuild project of the Southwest Twin Cities Transmission Line (no. 0737). At that time you said you were going to bike the route to get an idea of the extent of the tree removal. The cities would like an opportunity to speak with you to clarify that removal so we can notify our residents of what to expect.

Please let me know when would be a good time for you to meet with us.

Gus Karpas