



2200 IDS Center
80 South 8th Street
Minneapolis MN 55402-2157
tel 612.977.8400
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May 16, 2011

RECEIVED

Zeviel Simpser
(612) 977-8865
zsimpser@briggs.com

MAY 16 2011

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Darrell Nitschke
Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
Department 408
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

**Re: Northern States Power Company
Fargo-Monticello MN 345 kV Cap-X Transmission Line
Siting Application
Case No. PU-07-759**

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation ("Xcel Energy" or the "Company"), Applicant in the above referenced matter, submits for filing an original, seven copies, and an electronic version of certain additional information to supplement its application in the above referenced matter. Specifically included in this filing are the following:

1. Maps showing the Study Area and criteria that led to the proposed corridor location within the study area, including the Exclusion and Avoidance areas discussed in the application. Please see the enclosed Corridor Selection Criteria chart for a description of these maps.
2. Copies of all letters sent to federal and state agencies describing the Fargo Project and all responses received.
3. A list of qualifications of the people in the various disciplines that contributed to the corridor location study.
4. An 8"x10" pdf map of the corridor suitable for newspaper publication and showing various landmarks in the area to help readers better identify the corridor location.
5. Verification of Mr. Darrin Lahr attesting that the information filed is true and correct.

Darrell Nitschke
May 16, 2011
Page 2

The Company is submitting this information at the request of North Dakota Public Service Commission Staff who identified this information as necessary to deem Xcel Energy's application complete.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

BRIGGS AND MORGAN, P.A.



Zeviel Simpser

ZS/ts
Enclosures

cc: Darrin F. Lahr
Dave Sederquist
Erik Johnson, Robert McConn, Jr., and Jason Loos
Mitchell Armstrong
Jerry Lein
Lisa M. Agrimonti

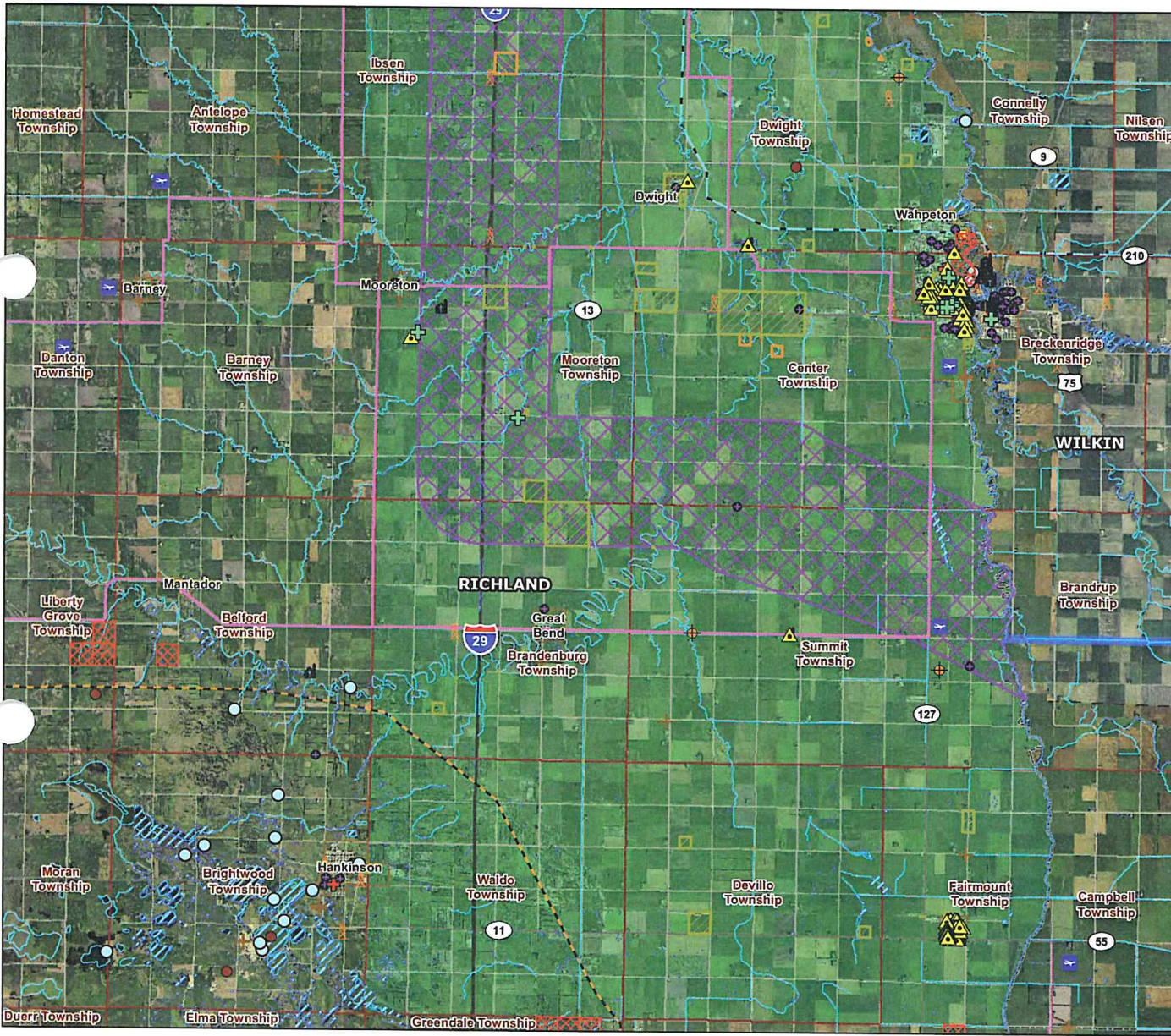
1. Study Area Maps

CORRIDOR SELECTION CRITERIA

	Area Type	Description of Corridor	Map
Exclusion Areas	Designated or registered national: parks; memorial parks; historic sites and landmarks; natural landmarks; monuments; and wilderness areas	Three NRHP sites (historic architectural) occur within the Proposed Corridor.	All instances of these areas within the Study Area are included in the attached maps.
	Designated or registered state: parks; historic sites; monuments; historical markers; archaeological sites; and nature preserves	One state monument, Champion Tree, is located within the Proposed Corridor (<1% of the Proposed Corridor).	All instances of these areas within the Study Area are included in the attached maps.
	County parks and recreational areas; municipal parks; and parks owned or administered by other governmental subdivisions	Four parks are located within the Proposed Corridor, in addition to six recreational use areas that receive funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Collectively, these areas comprise less than 1% of the Proposed Corridor.	All instances of these areas within the Study Area are included in the attached maps.
	Areas critical to the life stages of threatened or endangered animal or plant species	No identified occurrences (0%) of threatened or endangered species within the Proposed Corridor.	No instances of these areas are within the Study Area and are therefore not included in the attached maps.
	Areas where animal or plant species that are unique or rare to this state would be irreversibly damaged	No identified occurrences (0%) within the Proposed Corridor.	No instances of these areas are within the Study Area and are therefore not included in the attached maps.
Avoidance Areas	Designated or registered national: historic districts; wildlife areas; wild, scenic, or recreational rivers; wildlife refuges; and grasslands	No identified occurrences (0%) within the Proposed Corridor.	No instances of these areas are within the Study Area and are therefore not included in the attached maps.
	Designated or registered state: wild, scenic, or recreational rivers; game refuges; game management	No identified occurrences (0%) within the Proposed Corridor.	No instances of these areas are within the Study Area and are therefore not

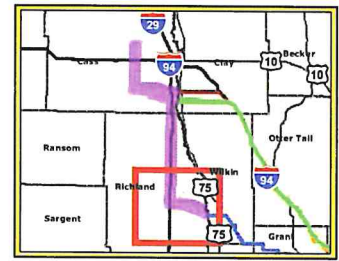
	Area Type	Description of Corridor	Map
	areas; management areas; forests; forest management lands; and grasslands		included in the attached maps.
	Historical resources which are not specifically designated as exclusion or avoidance areas	Seven previously recorded archaeological sites occur within the Proposed Corridor and 48 previously identified historic architectural resources (not eligible for the NRHP) occur within the Proposed Corridor. Collectively, these sites comprise less than 1% of the Proposed Corridor.	All instances of these areas within the Study Area are included in the attached maps.
	Areas which are geologically unstable	The Fargo regional area and the Red River valley are both considered unstable areas, related in part to existing soils and local engineered geology. While no known faults or areas of subsidence occur within the Proposed Corridor and the Proposed Corridor is located within a low earthquake probability area, there are other geologic considerations associated with the weak soils that occur in the Project area. However, proper engineering practices and careful routing should allow the proper siting of the Project in these areas pursuant to the conditions provided in N.D.A.C. § 69-06-08-02(2).	See comment at left. Not included in the attached maps.
	Within five hundred feet of a residence, school, or place of business	1,183 known residences occur within the Proposed Corridor. One school occurs within the Proposed Corridor.	See comment at left. Please also see attached population density map which shows that the Proposed Corridor is situated within low population density areas.

	Area Type	Description of Corridor	Map
	Reservoirs and municipal water supplies.	No identified occurrences (0%) within the Proposed Corridor.	No instances of these areas are within the Study Area and are therefore not included in the attached maps.
	Water sources for organized rural water districts	No identified occurrences (0%) within the Proposed Corridor.	No instances of these areas are within the Study Area and are therefore not included in the attached maps.
	Irrigated land.	Agricultural land use is the predominant land use within the Proposed Corridor and much of this land is irrigated. However, proper engineering practices and careful routing should allow the proper siting of the Project in these areas pursuant to the conditions provided in N.D.A.C. § 69-06-08-02(2).	See comment at left. Known county irrigation permitted land included on attached maps.
	Areas of recreational significance which are not designated as exclusion areas.	General recreational use areas, such as snowmobile trails and golf courses, occur within the Proposed Corridor. Collectively, these areas comprise less than 1% of the Proposed Corridor.	No instances of these areas are within the Study Area and are therefore not included in the attached maps.



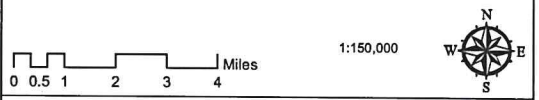
CapX2020

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Legend

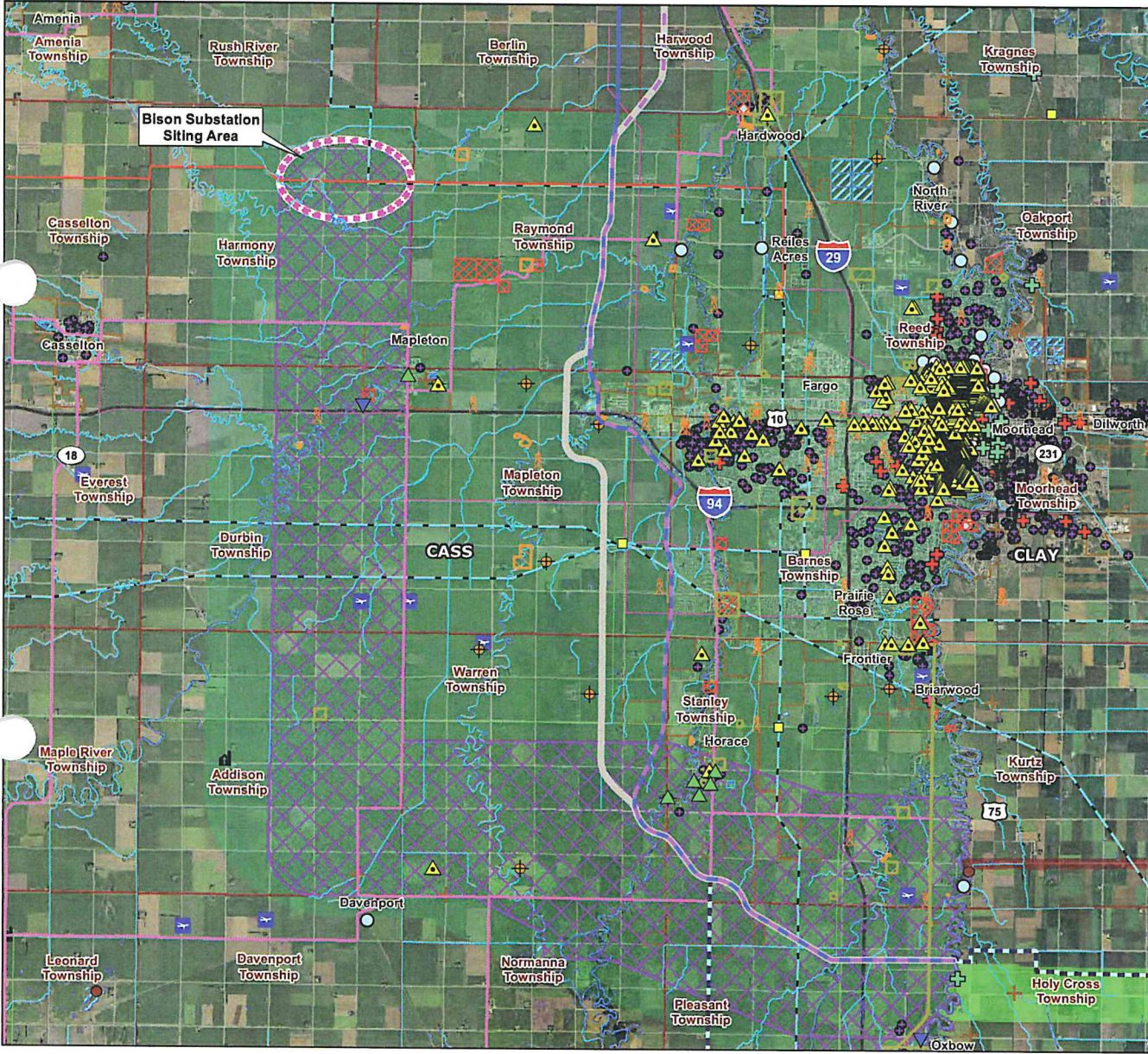
- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| | Proposed Corridor | | Airport |
| | Study Area | | Cemetery |
| | Minnesota Routes | | Church |
| | Preferred Route | | FCC Antenna Structure |
| | Northern Alternative Route | | Daycare Facility |
| | Southern Alternative Route | | ND Species of Concern |
| | Exclusion Areas | | ND Significant Ecological Community |
| | Park/Monument | | Stream |
| | National Register Historic Place | | Wetland |
| | Avoidance Area | | Transmission Line (kV) |
| | Known Historical Site | | 345 |
| | Known Historical Site | | 250 |
| | Known Archaeological Site | | 230 |
| | Known Archaeological Site | | 115 |
| | Park/Monument | | 69 |
| | Snowmobile Trail | | Municipal Boundary |
| | County Registered Irrigation Permit | | Township Boundary |



ND Study Area Southern Portion

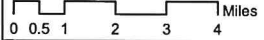
DATE: 05/16/11 DRAWN BY: MLTEICHERT

Xcel#122255 CapX Monticello to Fargo GIS
 Fargo\MXD\2011\02\ND_Alignment
 _CapX_F_ND_Alignment_South_half.mxd



Legend

- Proposed Corridor
- Bison Substation Siting Area
- Study Area
- Minnesota Routes**
- Preferred Route
- Northern Alternative Route
- North Dakota Diversion Project Alignments**
- DEIS Diversion Alignment
- LPP Diversion Alignment
- Sponsor Proposed Diversion Alignment
- Diversion Alignment Tieback Levee
- Exclusion Areas**
- Park/Monument
- National Register Historic Place
- Avoidance Areas**
- Known Historical Site
- Known Archaeological Site
- Known Archaeological Site
- Park/Monument
- Snowmobile Trail
- County Registered Irrigation Permit
- Other Sensitivities**
- Airport
- Cemetery
- Church
- FCC Antenna Structure
- Hospital
- Daycare Facility
- ND Species of Concern
- ND Significant Ecological Community
- Stream
- Wetland
- Transmission Line (kV)**
- 345
- 250
- 230
- 115
- 69
- Municipal Boundary
- Township Boundary



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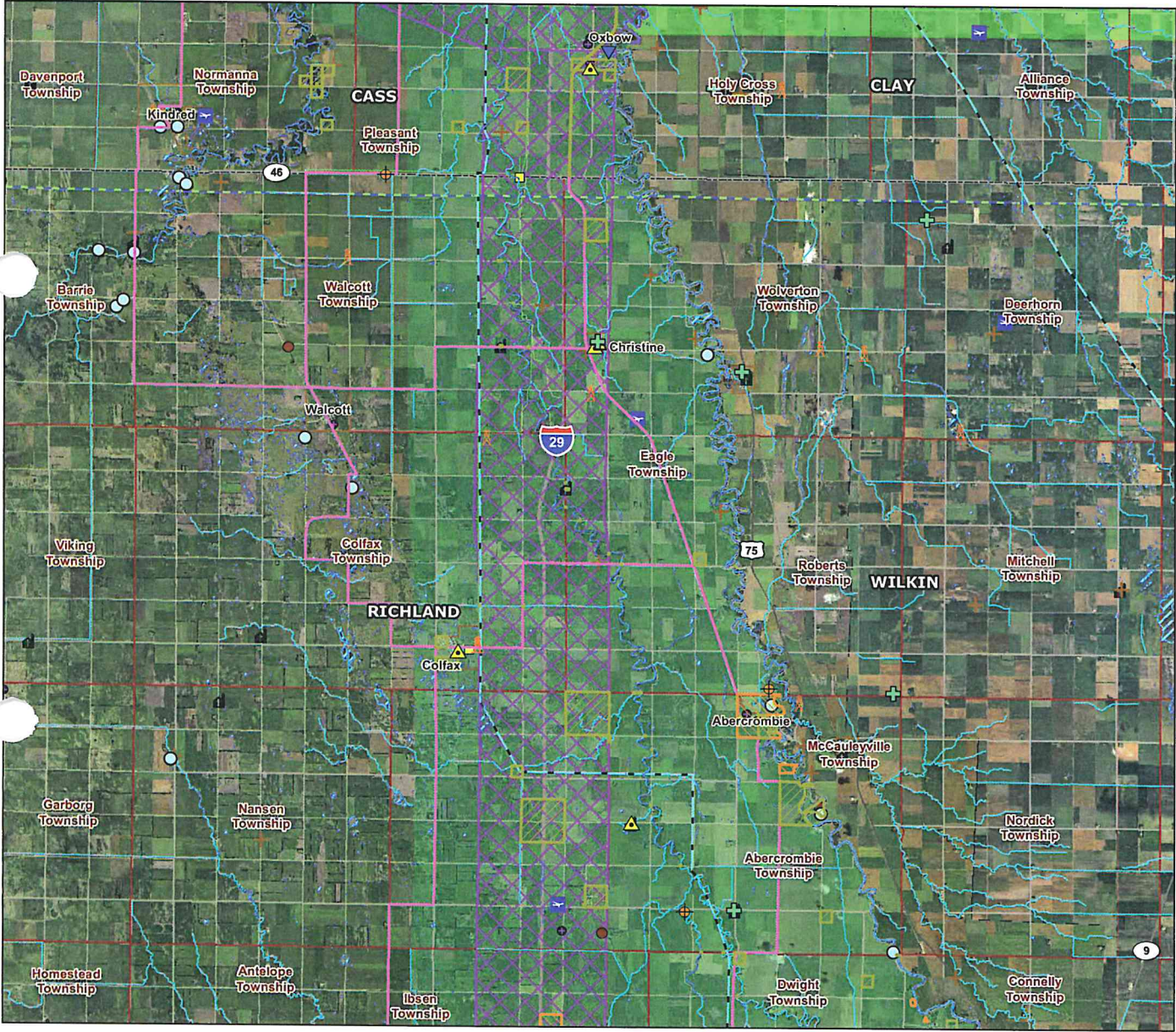


**ND Study Area
Northern Portion**

DATE: 05/16/11

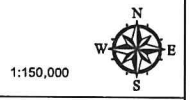
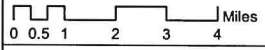
DRAWN BY: MLTEICHERT

X:\a\122295 CapX Micro\GIS\ Fargo\MD\2011\02\ND_Alignments_CapX_F_ND_Alignment_North_Half.mxd



Legend

- Proposed Corridor
- Study Area
- Minnesota Routes**
- Preferred Route
- Northern Alternative Route
- Southern Alternative Route
- Exclusion Areas**
- Park/Monument
- National Register Historic Place
- Avoidance Area**
- Known Historical Site
- Known Historical Site
- Known Archaeological Site
- Known Archaeological Site
- Park/Monument
- Snowmobile Trail
- County Registered Irrigation Permit
- Other Sensitivities**
- Airport
- Cemetery
- Church
- FCC Antenna Structure
- Hospital
- Daycare Facility
- ND Species of Concern
- ND Significant Ecological Community
- Stream
- Wetland
- Transmission Line (kV)**
- 345
- 250
- 230
- 115
- 69
- Municipal Boundary
- Township Boundary



ND Study Area Middle Portion

DATE: 05/16/11	DRAWN BY: MLTEICHERT
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2. Agency Letters

In addition to the attached state and federal agency letter or email correspondence provided, the following entities were sent invitations for various meetings conducted as part of the public involvement process for the Project. A copy of each letter invitation corresponding to the meeting venues below are also provided. Additionally, potentially affected local government units were invited to each of the meetings identified below and local officials meetings in February and May of 2010.

Meeting Venue	Agencies Invited
Routing Work Group 1 January 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Dakota Department of Agriculture • North Dakota Department of Transportation • North Dakota Game and Fish Department • Federal Aviation Administration • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Routing Work Group 2 March 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Dakota Department of Agriculture • North Dakota Department of Transportation • North Dakota Game and Fish Department • Federal Aviation Administration • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Routing Work Group 3 May 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Dakota Department of Agriculture • North Dakota Department of Transportation • North Dakota Game and Fish Department • Federal Aviation Administration • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Public Meetings March 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Dakota Department of Agriculture • North Dakota Department of Transportation • North Dakota Game and Fish Department • North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department • North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office • Federal Aviation Administration • U. S. Army Corps of Engineers • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



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January 11, 2008

Invitation to Participate in
ROUTING WORK GROUP MEETING 1
FARGO TO MONTICELLO TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

To: Routing Work Group Meeting Invitee
From: Darrin Lahr, Supervisor Siting and Permitting, Xcel Energy

JANUARY 28, 2008
11:00AM – 1:00PM
BEST WESTERN DOUBLEWOOD INN
3333 13TH AVENUE SOUTH
FARGO, ND 58103

WHAT IS A ROUTING WORK GROUP MEETING?

Routing Work Group meetings are a series of public meetings that allow for the participation of representatives of various stakeholder organizations such as landowners, elected officials, community leaders, agencies, environmental, and other interested parties in the routing process. Invitees to the Routing Work Group meetings are typically representative of their respective constituents, with regard to local perceptions, perspectives, or concerns.

This first meeting will focus on understanding and prioritizing the criteria that will be utilized for route development and selection for the Fargo to Monticello Project.

WHAT IS THE FARGO TO MONTICELLO PROJECT?

The Fargo to Monticello Project involves the development of a new 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line that will improve reliability in the region, position the system for future growth, and begin to build a foundation for transmitting renewable energy. The project is proposed to connect at substations in Fargo, Alexandria, St. Cloud, and Monticello. The project is proposed to be built in phases beginning in 2010 and completing in the 2015 timeframe. A Project Area map is included on the reverse of this invitation.

WHAT IS CAPX 2020?

CapX 2020 is a joint initiative of 11 transmission-owning utilities in Minnesota and the surrounding region working together to implement a strategic plan to expand the electric transmission grid to ensure continued affordable reliable service, increase local capacity in response to job and population growth, and meet renewable energy requirements. This is the first major upgrade to the regional transmission system in over 25 years.

We look forward to your input and appreciate your time. Please send no more than two representatives from your organization, including yourself, to the meeting. Lunch will be provided.

Please RSVP by January 23rd by contacting Dawn Shultz or Teri Lavalier at 1-800-238-7968, or if you have any questions.



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February 15, 2008

Invitation to Participate in
ROUTING WORK GROUP MEETING 2
FARGO TO MONTICELLO TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

To: Routing work group meeting invitee
From: Darrin Lahr, Supervisor Siting and Permitting, Xcel Energy

MARCH 4, 2008
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
BEST WESTERN DOUBLEWOOD INN
3333 13TH AVENUE SOUTH
FARGO, ND 58103

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF ROUTING WORK GROUP 2?

The first round of Routing Work Group meetings was held in late January and focused on identifying criteria that will be used in developing routing options for the CapX 2020 Fargo to Monticello Project. The second set of Routing Work Group meetings will focus on how the criteria have been analyzed and incorporated to refine the preliminary notice corridors. Invitees will also be engaged in an interactive routing exercise aimed at providing an understanding of how routes are generally identified and evaluated.

WHAT IS THE FARGO TO MONTICELLO PROJECT?

The proposed CapX 2020 Fargo to Monticello Project involves the development of a new 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line that will improve reliability in the region, position the system for future growth and begin to build a foundation for transmitting renewable energy. The project is proposed to connect at substations in Fargo, Alexandria, St. Cloud, and Monticello. The project would be built in phases beginning in 2010 with completion around 2015. A project area map is included on the reverse of this invitation.

WHAT IS CAPX 2020?

CapX 2020 is a joint initiative of 11 transmission-owning utilities in Minnesota and the surrounding region working together to implement a strategic plan to expand the electric transmission grid to ensure continued affordable reliable service, increase local capacity in response to job and population growth and to support renewable energy expansion. This is the first major upgrade to the regional transmission system in over 25 years.

We look forward to your input and appreciate your time. Please select one of the above locations to attend and send no more than two representatives from your organization. **Lunch will be provided.**

***Please RSVP by February 27th by contacting Dawn Shultz or Teri Lavalier
at 1-800-238-7968, or if you have any questions.***



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May 5, 2008

Invitation to Participate in
ROUTING WORK GROUP MEETING 3
FARGO TO ST. CLOUD TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

To: Routing work group meeting invitee
From: Darrin Lahr, Supervisor Siting and Permitting, Xcel Energy

MAY 22, 2008
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
WAHPETON EAGLES CLUB
114 DAKOTA AVENUE
WAHPETON, ND 58075

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF ROUTING WORK GROUP 3?

The CapX 2020 project team hosted a second round of Routing Work Group meetings in March to collect input from participants for the development of route options that will be included in the Minnesota route application. We also discussed dividing the project into two separate projects - Monticello to St. Cloud and Fargo to St. Cloud. This change will allow the project team to first meet the critical electrical needs in the St. Cloud area. The upcoming meeting in Wahpeton provides the project team an opportunity to introduce its proposed route options for Fargo to St. Cloud and to discuss and collect feedback from participants. The CapX 2020 utilities are working toward filing a Route Permit application in Fall 2008. Participants are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to identify areas that require additional analysis in the development of final route options.

WHAT IS CAPX 2020?

CapX 2020 is a joint initiative of 11 transmission-owning utilities in Minnesota and the surrounding region working together to implement a strategic plan to expand the electric transmission grid to ensure continued affordable reliable service, increase local capacity in response to job and population growth, and to support renewable energy expansion. This is the first major upgrade to the regional transmission system in more than 25 years.

We look forward to receiving your input and appreciate your time. Please select one of the above locations to attend and send no more than two representatives from your organization.
Supper will be provided.

Please RSVP by May 14th by contacting Dawn Shultz or Teri Lavalier at 1-800-238-7968, or if you have any questions.



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Twin Cities Field Office
4101 American Blvd E.
Bloomington, Minnesota 55425-1665

July 25, 2008

Mr. Darrin Lahr
Excel Energy
8701 Monticello Lane
Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369

Dear Mr. Lahr:

As part of the on-going process to determine the most feasible and least environmentally damaging alternative for the proposed Fargo to Monticello transmission line, we are providing comments on fish and wildlife resources and their habitat in the affected areas, based on the most recent proposed route maps. This project is one of four separate transmission lines proposed under the state of Minnesota's CAPX2020 initiative, each of which is being reviewed via separate processes and timelines; therefore, this letter is specific to the Fargo to Monticello project only.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) staff from the Twin Cities Field Office and the Fergus Falls and Litchfield Wetland Management Districts have met with the project proponents, most recently on May 6, 2008, to discuss the project and associated resource concerns. The May 6 meeting was particularly focused on the high quality waterfowl and grassland bird habitat surrounding the Highway 94 alternative, and the abundance of land owned or held in easement by the Service in this area. We have provided data on location and status of these Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs), and grassland and FmHA easements so that it may be incorporated into the alternatives analysis.

Below we reiterate the points laid out at the May 6 meeting and provide recommendations for future discussions:

Obtaining Right-of-Ways (ROW) for new development activities on Refuge lands

Any powerline project that would place the footprint of a pole within, or transmission lines over, WPA's or habitat (i.e. grassland and FmHA) easements requires a right-of-way (ROW) easement from the Service. In order to grant a ROW across these properties the Service must find the use appropriate (603 FW 1) and compatible (603 FW2). Under the current policies a large aerial powerline almost certainly could not be found appropriate or compatible. Under the 1966 National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act and 1997 amendment entitled the National Wildlife Refuge System

Improvement Act, mitigation is not a viable path to granting a ROW easement for this type of activity. The only exception to this policy is that mitigation may be allowed for "minor expansions of existing rights of ways." This is normally applied to existing road rights-of-way where an additional 10-15 feet may be added to an existing right-of-way. A new large-voltage powerline project, even if it was located next to an existing powerline, would not be considered a "minor expansion".

The enclosed map shows the inherent difficulty of selecting the Highway 94 corridor alternative, as there are 11 separate locations along the corridor that would need to be avoided. Although eight of these could be avoided by switching to the opposite roadside, there are three sites where lands on both sides of the road would be incompatible with the proposed transmission line. Of particular concern is the corridor from Barnesville to Alexandria, Minnesota.

Development Activities in Wetland Easements

The wetland basins are protected units within the Service's wetland easements, and these cannot be burned, leveled, filled, or drained. This includes the placement of the poles/support structures as well as any temporary construction impacts. There are no restrictions regarding powerlines which cross over these wetland basins but we strongly recommend that the lines be equipped with markers to deter bird strikes. Many of these wetlands have a history of providing either brood rearing or migratory habitat and markers have been shown to significantly decrease avian mortality due to collisions with the wires. In general, we would strongly recommend that easements be avoided.

Alternatives

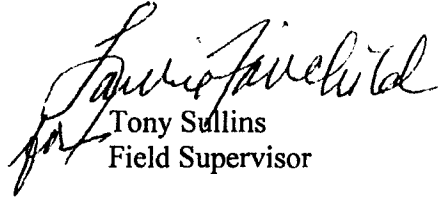
We understand the routes are still being determined; we are available to discuss other proposals not currently under review and to discuss modifications of those now being analyzed. In particular, we are interested in coordinating on an alternate southern route as part of the Highway 94 proposal, centering on the currently proposed stretch between Barnesville and Alexandria. An additional alternate route which does not rely on the Highway 94 corridor and avoids the majority of Service WPA's and easements is outlined on the enclosed map. This southerly route is one of the options discussed in previous project meetings.

Mitigation

As route selection occurs, the needed environmental mitigation measures will begin to solidify and we can discuss, for instance, the best options in regard to potential wetland restoration. The measure we know will be required no matter the route, and one we strongly support, is the use of transmission line markers to deter bird strikes. These should be used in any area known to support breeding birds, or between bird concentration areas. We look forward to working with you to identify these areas and to implement appropriate deterrence mechanisms.

We look forward to future meetings and work group sessions as the planning process progresses. If you have questions regarding these comments, please continue to coordinate with Ms. Laurie Fairchild, at (612) 725-3548.

Sincerely,

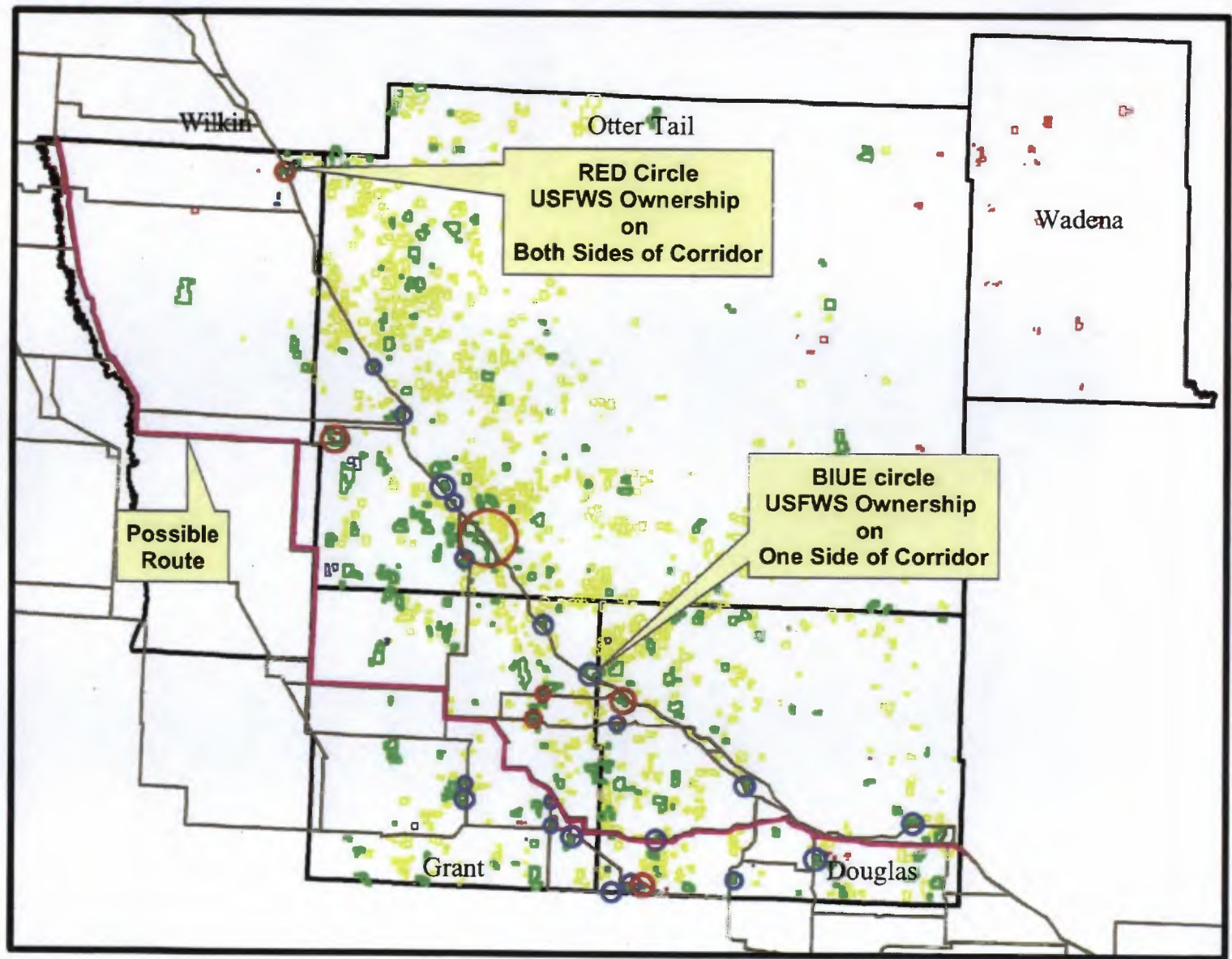
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tony Sullins".

Tony Sullins
Field Supervisor

cc: Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD
Scott Glup, Litchfield WMD
Steve Delehanty, Morris WMD
Sheldon Myerchin, Private Lands Office
Scott Kahan, Detroit Lakes WMD

CAPX 2020

Intersect
with
USFWS
Fee Title
Lands
in
FFWMD



Legend

- StCloud_to_Fargo_CorridorPolys_7May2008
- WPA Boundary
- Flowage
- FmHA
- Habitat
- Wetland
- County Boundary



0 9,500 19,000 38,000 Meters

Nick Owens

From: Ryan J. Lisson
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2010 10:13 AM
To: kgduttonhefner@nd.gov
Subject: CapX Natural Heritage Data Request
Attachments: CapX NDPRD NHI Data Request Area_20100407.zip

Dear Kathy,

I am sending this email as a request for Natural Heritage Inventory data, as per our prior discussion. We are interested in obtaining a shapefile for the locations of any listed species or natural features within the NHI database or Natural Areas that occur within the project area.

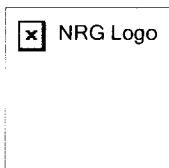
The CapX Fargo to Monticello Project is a proposed 345 kV transmission line that will connect the existing Monticello substation near Monticello, MN to a new substation to be located west of Fargo, ND. Currently a corridor has been identified for the North Dakota portion of the Project, but a specific route has not been identified.

The applicants for the North Dakota portion of the proposed project are Xcel Energy and Otter Tail Power Company. The applicants anticipate filing applications to the North Dakota Public Service Commission for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and a Route Permit in the second half of 2010. They also anticipate construction to begin as early as the second quarter of 2012 and for the line to be in service by the third quarter of 2015.

I have included a shapefile of the area that we would like reviewed for the presence of any listed species or natural areas that occur.

Thank you very much,

Ryan Lisson



Ryan Lisson
rjlisson@nrg-llc.com
(312) 650-7403 Direct
(612) 347-6780 Fax

Nick Owens

From: Ryan J. Lisson
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2010 10:20 AM
To: Matt Koch
Subject: FW: NHI request

FYI

Ryan Lisson

rjlisson@nrg-llc.com
(312) 650-7403 Direct
(612) 347-6780 Fax

From: Duttenhefner, Kathy G. [<mailto:kgduttonhefner@nd.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2010 10:19 AM
To: Ryan J. Lisson
Subject: RE: NHI request

That request is scheduled to go early next week. Kathy D

From: Ryan J. Lisson [<mailto:rjlisson@nrg-llc.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2010 10:16 AM
To: Duttenhefner, Kathy G.
Subject: NHI request

Dear Kathy,

I sent you an email on 4/15/2010 regarding a request for NHI data. In our prior communications, you indicated that a return of data would typically be 10-14 days. I am contacting you now to get an estimated return date, if possible, so we can further develop our timeline.

Thank you very much,
Ryan



Ryan Lisson
rjlisson@nrg-llc.com
(312) 650-7403 Direct
(612) 347-6780 Fax

Nick Owens

From: Ryan J. Lisson
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2010 3:47 PM
To: Matt Koch
Subject: FW: CapX Natural Heritage Data Request
Attachments: NRG_CapX_transmission_request.zip

Here's the NHI data. Let me know if you want me to do anything else.

Ryan Lisson

rjlisson@nrg-llc.com
(312) 650-7403 Direct
(612) 347-6780 Fax

From: Dirk, Christine N. G. [mailto:cdirk@nd.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2010 2:59 PM
To: Ryan J. Lisson
Subject: RE: CapX Natural Heritage Data Request

Hello Ryan,

As requested the North Dakota Natural Heritage Inventory has queried information from the project area. I've included two shapefiles showing locations of plant and animal species of concern and significant ecological communities. The reason we have two shapefiles, a point and a polygon, is because several years ago we implemented a new software program called Biotics. Our data had always been point, but the new software allows polygons. We are in the process of changing our points to polygons but currently have a mix of the two shape types.

I've attached two documents to help explain the field names and codes, EORep_DS_fieldnames.xls and methodology_guide_2010.doc. You will also find the review letter and invoice attached.

You will also find a copy of our species of concern lists attached. For a description of the significant ecological communities please see this link <http://www.natureserve.org/library/northdakotasubset.pdf> For more information regarding any species or community please visit this link to the NatureServe web site <http://www.natureserve.org/index.jsp>

The area was also searched for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) projects that we manage. A shapefile with their location and description has been attached. Please see the review letter for more information about LWCF projects.

All the data has been zipped up and saved as a .piz file. Security measures in our email system will not allow us to send or receive .zip files. Save this file to a folder and rename it with a .zip extension.

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

Christine Dirk
Natural Resource Division

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department
1600 East Century Ave., Suite 3
Bismarck, ND 58503
Ph. 701-328-5368 Fax 701-328-5363
cdirk@nd.gov



April 20, 2010

Michael McKenna, Division Chief
Conservation and Communications Division
North Dakota Department of Game & Fish
100 N. Bismarck Expressway
Bismarck, ND 58501-5095

Subject: CapX2020 Fargo to St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission Line Project

Dear Mr. McKenna:

On behalf of CapX2020, Xcel Energy and Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail) are proposing to construct a new 345 kV transmission line that will connect a new substation near St. Cloud, MN to a proposed substation to be located west of Fargo, ND. A Route Permit Application has been filed with the MN Public Utilities Commission for the Minnesota portion of the project. A Minnesota Route Permit is currently anticipated to be approved late this year. The Applicants anticipate filing applications to the North Dakota Public Service Commission for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and a Route Permit in 2010. The anticipated in-service date for the proposed 345 kV transmission line is 2015.

In North Dakota, the project would include the proposed Bison substation and a 345 kV transmission line from this substation to the Minnesota border. Currently a preferred corridor and alternate corridor have been identified for the North Dakota portion of the project, but a specific route has not been identified. Depending on the corridor and route chosen, the North Dakota portion will be approximately 31 to 81 miles, and will cross Cass and/or Richland counties.

On behalf of the Applicants, we kindly request your review of the proposed corridors to determine the potential presence of federally-listed threatened, endangered and special concern species and critical habitats, which could be affected by the project. A map illustrating the proposed transmission line corridors and a table listing the legal descriptions of the project locations are enclosed. A copy of the table could also be provided electronically if that would help expedite the review process.

Sincerely,

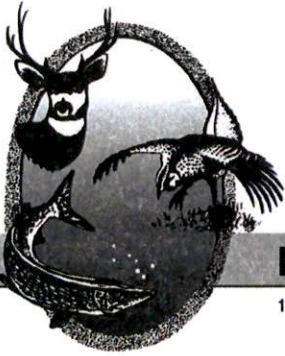
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donell Murphy". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Donell Murphy

Enclosures: Project Overview Map
North Dakota Project Map
Project Location, Legal Descriptions Table

**Legal Descriptions of Sections Crossed by
Preferred and Alternate Corridors**

County	Township	Range	Sections - Crossed
Cass	137N	48W	6,7,31
		49W	1,2,3,4,5,6,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,33,34,35,36
		50W	1
	138N	48W	19,30,31
		49W	17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36
		50W	13,14,15,16,,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,34,35,36
		51W	1,2,3,10,11,12,13,14,15,22,23,24,25,26,27
	139N	51W	1,2,3,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,34,35,36
	140N	51W	1,2,3,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,22,23,24,25,26,27,34,35,36
	Richland	131N	47W
48W			1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15
49W			1,2,3,4,5
132N		47W	31,32,33
		48W	19,20,21,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36
		49W	2,3,4,5,8,9,10,11,14,15,16,17,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,32,33,34,35,36
133N		49W	1,2,3,4,5,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,20,21,22,23,26,27,28,29,32,33,34,35
134N		49W	2,3,4,5,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,32,33,34,35,36
135N		49W	2,3,4,5,8,9,10,11,14,15,16,17,20,21,22,23,26,27,28,29,32,33,34,35
136N		49W	1,2,3,4,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,32,33,34,35
		49W	1,2,3,4,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,32,33,34,35



"VARIETY IN HUNTING AND FISHING"

NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

100 NORTH BISMARCK EXPRESSWAY BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58501-5095 PHONE 701-328-6300 FAX 701-328-6352

May 18, 2010

Doni Murphy
Natural Resource Group
125 S Wacker Drive Suite 275
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Ms. Murphy:

RE: CapX2020 Fargo to St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission Line Project

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department has reviewed this project for wildlife concerns.

This project could cross the Sheyenne, Wild Rice, and Maple Rivers, and Antelope Creek, all Classified fisheries. We recommend these streams and associated riparian corridors be avoided to the extent possible.

The National Wetland Inventory indicates various wetlands within the proposed project corridor. We recommend that steps be taken to protect any wetlands that cannot be avoided, above-ground appurtenances not be placed in wetland areas, and existing drainage patterns be maintained.

We recommend overhead lines be marked when placed over perennial streams or sited in close proximity to large wetland complexes to minimize possible avian impacts. The publication "Mitigating Bird Collisions with Power Lines: the State of the Art in 1994" provides a range of management options which can be used to reduce avian collisions.

We do not believe this project will have any significant adverse effects on wildlife or wildlife habitat, including threatened/endangered species and species of concern, provided these recommendations are implemented where appropriate during construction.

Sincerely,

(for) Michael G. McKenna
Chief
Conservation & Communication Division

js



Delivering electricity you can rely on

www.capx2020.com

March 11, 2011

Fargo District – NDDOT
Troy Gilbertson
503 38th St. S
Fargo, ND 58103

RE: CapX2020 Fargo-St. Cloud 345 kV transmission line project meetings

Dear Mr. Gilbertson:

The CapX2020 utilities, a group of 11 transmission-owning utilities in the upper Midwest including Xcel Energy and Otter Tail Power Company, are beginning the regulatory processes to build a 345 kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line between Fargo, North Dakota and Monticello, Minnesota. This includes both state and local permitting requirements.

Please join us for a meeting of local officials on one of the dates identified below. A project update will be provided, including impacts of the Red River diversion project. These meetings will allow for further discussion about the route options and the regulatory process. We are also seeking your input on other considerations specific to your jurisdictional area, such as setbacks and zoning requirements.

For your convenience, two meetings will be conducted in Cass County and two meetings will be conducted in Richland Township. The same information will be presented at all four meetings.

March 21, 2011

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Wahpeton City Hall
1900 4th Street North
Wahpeton, ND 58075

March 22, 2011

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Colfax Community Center
2009 Broadway Street South
Colfax, ND 58018

March 23, 2011

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Horace Senior Center
214 Thue Court
Horace, North Dakota

March 24, 2011

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Mapleton City Hall / Community Center
651 2nd Street
Mapleton, North Dakota

Multiple representatives from your organization may have also received this invitation. These particular meetings are specific to local officials or representatives such as you. Open house meetings for the general public will be held each evening, following each local officials meeting, at the same locations.

For the portion of the Fargo-St. Cloud Project in North Dakota, the North Dakota Public Service Commission (ND PSC) requires three permits – a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN), a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and a Route Permit. The CapX2020 utilities filed a

CPCN in October 2010; it was approved in January 2011. A CCC was filed in December 2010 and is under review. A Route Permit application is expected to be filed in June 2011.

The Fargo-St. Cloud 345 kV transmission line project comprises the western section of the Fargo-St. Cloud-Monticello 345 kV line and will connect a new Bison Substation west of Fargo to an existing switching station near Alexandria, Minnesota and a new Quarry Substation near St. Cloud.

The new 345 kV line will address local community reliability needs in the southern Red River Valley and the Fargo, Alexandria and St. Cloud areas. It will also help improve the bulk electric system serving these areas, as well as facilitate additional generation development, including renewable generation, in eastern North Dakota and western Minnesota.

The enclosed map illustrates the corridors associated with the portion of the Fargo-St. Cloud Project in North Dakota. More project information will be available at the meeting. Please contact me if you have any questions prior to the meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darrin Lahr".

Darrin Lahr
Routing Lead
CapX2020
1-866-876-2869
fargoinfo@capx2020.com

Enclosures: Map of identified corridors



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

North Dakota Regulatory Office

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
NORTH DAKOTA REGULATORY OFFICE
1513 SOUTH 12TH STREET
BISMARCK ND 58504-6640

March 18, 2011

CapX2020
ATTN: Darrin Lahr, Routing Lead
8701 Monticello Lane
Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369

Dear Mr. Lahr

This is in response to a letter received March 16, 2011 requesting Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) comments regarding the proposed construction of a 345 kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line between Fargo, North Dakota and Monticello, Minnesota.

Corps regulatory offices administer Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. **Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act** regulates work impacting navigable waters. Work over, in, or under navigable waters is considered to have an impact. **Section 404 of the Clean Water Act** regulates the discharge of dredge or fill material (temporarily or permanently) in waters of the United States. Waters of the United States may include, but are not limited to, rivers, streams, ditches, coulees, lakes, ponds, and their adjacent wetlands. Fill material includes, but is not limited to, rock, sand, soil, clay, plastics, construction debris, wood chips, overburden from mines or other excavation activities and materials used to create any structure or infrastructure in the waters of the United States.

Enclosed for your information is the fact sheet for Nationwide Permit 12, Utility Line Activities. Utility line projects are already authorized by Nationwide Permit 12 **provided the utility line can be placed without any change to pre-construction contours and all other proposed construction activities and facilities are in compliance with the Nationwide's permit conditions and 401 Water Quality Certification is obtained**. Please note the pre-construction notification requirements on page 2 of the fact sheet. **If a project involves any one of the seven notification requirements, the project proponent must submit a DA application**. Furthermore, a project must also be in compliance with the "Regional Conditions for Nationwide Permits within the State of North Dakota", found on pages 12 and 13 of the fact sheet.

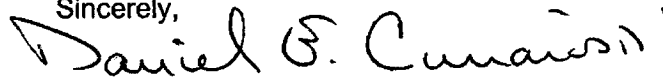
With respect to access road construction (temporary or permanent project roads) and/or upgrades, find enclosed for your information is the fact sheet for Nationwide Permit 14, Linear Transportation Projects. Road crossings are already authorized by Nationwide Permit 14 **provided the discharge does not cause the loss of greater than ½ acre of waters of the United States per crossing and all other proposed construction activities are in compliance with the Nationwide's permit conditions**. Please note the pre-construction notification requirements on the front page of the fact sheet. **If a project involves (1) the loss of waters of the United States exceeding 1/10 acre per crossing; or (2) there is a discharge in a special aquatic site, including wetlands, the project proponent must**

submit a DA application prior to the start of construction. Please reference General Condition 27, Pre Construction Notification on page 8 of the fact sheet. Furthermore, a project must also be in compliance with the "Regional Conditions for Nationwide Permits within the State of North Dakota", found on pages 11 and 12 of the fact sheet. [The following is included for activities on a reservation] Enclosed is a copy of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8's; General Conditions for all Nationwide Permits and specific conditions for Nationwide Permit 14.

Please submit a location map and completed Corps permit application (copy enclosed) describing all proposed work and construction methodology, to the letterhead address if a Section 10/404 permit is required.

Do not hesitate to contact this office by letter or telephone (701-255-0015) if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Daniel E. Cimarosti
Regulatory Program Manager
North Dakota

Enclosures
ENG Form 4345
Fact Sheets NWP 12 & NWP 14

CF: U.S. Army Corps of Engineer, ATTN: Tom Hingsberger. Regulatory Branch, 180 5th Street East, Suite #700, St. Paul Minnesota 55101-1678

3. Qualifications

PERSONNEL CONTRIBUTING TO THE CORRIDOR LOCATION STUDY

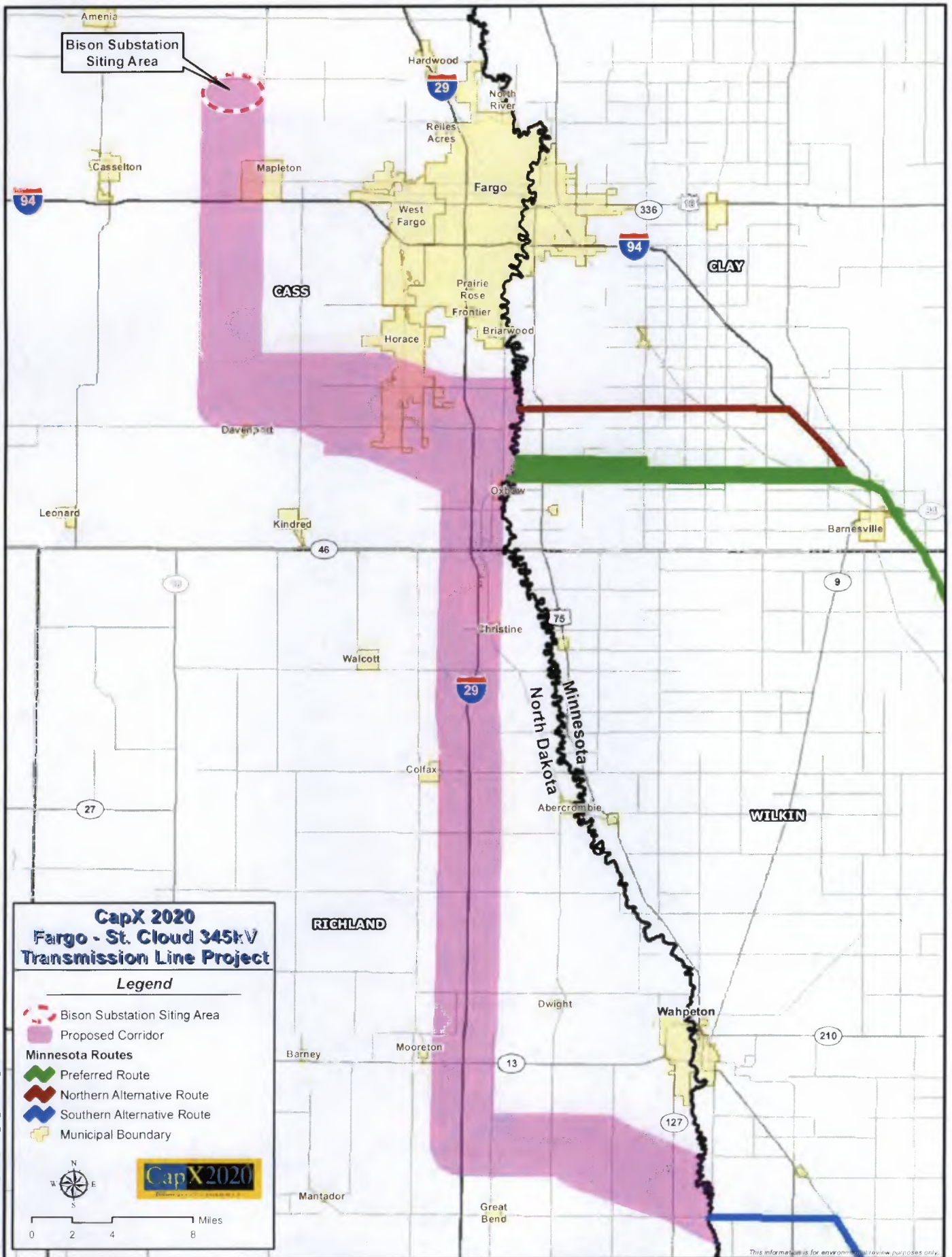
Name/Project Role	Education and Professional Experience
<p>Donell (Doni) Murphy Partner In Charge</p>	<p>Ms. Donell (Doni) Murphy is a Partner and Certified Project Manager with over 12 years of experience. Ms. Murphy specializes in linear corridor and right-of-way assessment, siting, permitting, and acquisition; power generation and substation facility siting and permitting; stakeholder engagement and public involvement; NEPA compliance; post-certification and pre-construction permitting; environmental access planning for construction; environmental mitigation planning; environmental monitoring; and geographical information systems (GIS).</p> <p>She has managed the routing and permitting of more than 1,200 miles of high voltage electrical transmission lines, ranging in voltage from 115 kV to 500 kV. She recently assisted in drafting state legislation that, now enacted, provides for a prescribed, alternative review process for the siting of new transmission facilities in the state of Illinois.</p> <p>B.S., Forest Biology, Colorado State University</p>
<p>Heather Heater Project Manager</p>	<p>Mrs. Heather Heater has more than 10 years of experience in the management and preparation of environmental impact assessments and permit applications for a variety of energy projects including wind energy development, electric transmission lines, and power generation facilities. She has experience in developing regulatory permitting strategies, conducting feasibility and siting studies, and preparing and filing environmental impact statements.</p> <p>Ms. Heater has coordinated regulatory permit processes at the federal, state and local level and has extensive working knowledge of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 10; Clean Water Act, Sections 401/404; National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related studies and regulatory permitting; and Coastal Zone Management.</p> <p>M.S., Environmental Resource Management, Florida Institute of Technology B.S., Marine Biology, Florida Institute of Technology</p>
<p>Nick Owens Project Manager</p>	<p>Mr. Nick Owens has more than seven years of professional experience in environmental consulting. Mr. Owens has managed and permitted a wide variety of projects -- some of which have been subject to extensive scrutiny, aggressive schedules, and potential controversy -- including pipeline installation, pipeline replacement, pipeline integrity, and wind energy facility permitting and design projects throughout the Midwest.</p>

Name/Project Role	Education and Professional Experience
	<p>Mr. Owens specializes in NEPA related studies and regulatory permitting. He has also assisted in obtaining various federal, state, and local permits, including wetland, Clean Water Act, and cultural resource-related permits and led agency coordination and consultation efforts with various agencies such as State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), Departments of Natural Resources (DNR), the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).</p> <p>B.S., Environmental Biology, Eastern Illinois University</p>
<p>Rebecca Gawtry Environmental Scientist</p>	<p>Ms. Rebecca (Bec) Gawtry has over four years of experience in wildlife biology and environmental consulting, and utilizes her background for projects related to Impact Assessment and Planning. She has been involved in NEPA EIS's, including impact analysis for a large mining project in Minnesota. She wrote several sections for a transmission line EIS, including soils and geology, wetlands and water bodies, flora and fauna, and rare and unique resources. In addition, she has experience with permitting and agency consultations, construction environmental compliance reporting, erosion and sediment control inspection, and the restoration of vegetation. Ms. Gawtry focuses on analyzing impacts and providing mitigation measures.</p> <p>B.A., Biology/Environmental Studies, St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN</p>
<p>Angela Kappen Environmental Scientist</p>	<p>Ms. Angela Kappen has more than seven years experience in cultural resource management including over five years experience in consulting with state and federally recognized tribal entities. Ms. Kappen deals directly with federally recognized tribes throughout the United States on behalf of clients in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. Responsibilities have included notifying the tribal entities of each undertaking, observing individual tribal preferences and requirements for each project, working with the tribes for the duration of the project, and communicating with federal agencies regarding tribal consultation, as needed.</p> <p>B.A., Anthropology, Ohio State University</p>
<p>Steven King Environmental Scientist</p>	<p>Mr. Steven King has over 18 years of experience in the field of air quality. His professional experience includes: photochemical air quality modeling and meteorological modeling research for ozone and particulate matter, air permitting projects for new and modified facilities, application of Clean Air Act regulations, and ambient air quality impact studies using USEPA dispersion models. Mr. King has extensive experience in the application of complex photochemical</p>

Name/Project Role	Education and Professional Experience
	<p>models for ozone and particulate matter issues. Mr. King also has considerable dispersion modeling experience for various industrial clients using USEPA's AERMOD model, a program often used in support of PSD air quality modeling applications. Mr. King has a wide depth of experience developing and submitting air quality analyses to a number of eastern states and maintains an excellent working relationship with a number of state contacts.</p> <p>B.S., Meteorology, Northern Illinois University</p>
<p>Leslie Kirchler Environmental Scientist</p>	<p>Dr. Kirchler has over eight years of experience in the fields of urban planning and archaeology. Prior to joining ERM, Dr. Kirchler served as a Consultant for civil engineering firms, municipalities, and government agencies where she conducted research and analysis for reports regarding transportation and environmental planning, cultural resource management, roadway construction, and material availability. She also has developed numerous public involvement programs for agencies throughout the country.</p> <p>Ph.D., Urban, Technological and Environmental Planning, University of Michigan Ph.D., Landscape Architecture, University of Michigan M.A., Landscape Archaeology, University of Sheffield, UK B.S., City and Regional Planning, Cornell University, US B.A., Archaeology and Anthropology, Cornell University</p>
<p>Ryan Lisson Environmental Scientist</p>	<p>Mr. Ryan Lisson has over three years of environmental consulting experience. Mr. Lisson's expertise includes support of permitting efforts for several projects, including electrical transmission lines. He has assisted in obtaining various federal, state, and local permits, including Clean Water Act permits. He has assisted in routing exercises and performed cultural or wetland field studies for transmission lines. Additionally, he has supported multiple agency consultation efforts, prepared socioeconomic desktop assessments, and performed quality assurance on route permit applications and project proposals.</p> <p>B.S., Biology, Augsburg College</p>
<p>Anna Ruszaj Environmental Scientist</p>	<p>Ms. Anna Ruszaj has over four years of experience in conservation biology. She has been involved in preparation of state-level Environmental Impact Statements for energy infrastructure projects, Fatal Flaw Analysis for wind energy generating facilities, and Environmental Assessments for restoration projects. Ms. Ruszaj focuses on environmental permitting, analyzing impacts and providing mitigation measures for threatened and endangered species, assessing</p>

Name/Project Role	Education and Professional Experience
	<p>impacts to avian and bat species from developments of wind farms, and assessing socioeconomic impacts of transmission line projects</p> <p>M.S., Conservation Biology, University of Michigan B.S., Biology, University of Illinois at Chicago</p>
<p>Matt Teichert GIS Manager</p>	<p>Mr. Matt Teichert's academic qualifications include a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography and more than six years of experience managing GIS for large, complex environmental projects. He has extensive experience using multiple GIS platforms to analyze data and develop thematic maps for a wide range of environmental application. Specific Project GIS experience includes full GIS support of several large pipeline and electric transmission projects as well as several gas storage and ethanol projects. Other experience includes creation of digital elevation models (DEM) from LIDAR point data, preparation of maps and impact tables to support routing of transmission lines, historic aerial interpretation to define wetland boundaries, downloading and managing multiple state/federal data set, creation and upkeep of project specific online mapping sites and preparation of maps and GPS data to support field studies. Mr. Teichert is experienced in utilizing ArcView 9.x and 10, Microsoft Visio and Google Earth.</p> <p>B.A., Geography, University of Minnesota</p>

4. Newspaper Map



Fargo-MND007103.WD_Maps_CapX2020_ND_NewsPaper_Map.mxd

This information is for environmental review purposes only.

5. Verification

