ABSTRACT OF HISTORICAL REPORT

Abstract

Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (Xcel Energy), as part of the CapX2020 Initiative, proposes to construct the CapX2020 Fargo to St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission Line Project. The Fargo to St. Cloud Project involves a new 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line extending from the new Quarry Substation, located west of the City of St. Cloud in Stearns County, Minnesota, to the new Bison Substation, to be located northwest of the City of Fargo in Cass County, North Dakota. The total length of the project is approximately 213 miles (342.8 kilometers [km]). The Fargo to St. Cloud Project will be permitted and constructed in several construction spreads to facilitate the sequencing of environmental field studies, permitting, right-of-way acquisition, engineering, and construction to successfully accommodate the required in-service dates. An approximately 33-mile (53.1-km) portion of the Project from the North Dakota/Minnesota border to the new Bison Substation, to be located in Cass County, North Dakota, is the portion of the project that is discussed within this current report (see Appendix B), and referred to herein as the "Project".

The proposed transmission structures (transmission poles) range in height between 130 and 175 feet (see example of representative transmission structure type in Appendix B). The span length between transmission structures generally ranges between 600 and 1,000 feet depending on site-specific considerations. The right-of-way for the proposed 345-kV electric transmission line will generally be 150 feet in width. Access to the transmission line right-of-way corridor is typically made directly from existing roads or temporary access routes that run parallel or perpendicular to the transmission line right-of-way.

A Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit from the North Dakota Public Service Commission (NDPSC) are required for the Project. Preliminary filings were submitted in December 2010 and April 2011. A combined application was submitted to the NDPSC in October 2011. In response to the initial filing, a letter from the State Historic Society of North Dakota (SHSND) was received in March 2011. This letter recommended that a Class II Reconnaissance Survey be conducted for "standing structures in the visual area of potential effect (APE)." In response to this letter, a Class I Literature Search and Class II Reconnaissance Survey were conducted for the Project.

The architectural history survey was conducted within the scope of the North Dakota SHPO Guidelines Manual for Cultural Resource Inventory Projects[1] and the NDCRS Site Form Training Manual: Architectural Sites. This survey was conducted to identify architectural history resources within the Project's APE that are potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (*NRHP*). The visual APE for the Project encompasses an area extending 1,000 radial feet (304.8 meters [m]) from anticipated transmission structure locations. This area is generally depicted on the series of topographic maps and high-resolution

[1] The *North Dakota SHPO Guidelines Manual for Cultural Resource Inventory Projects* is used for Projects which are sponsored fully or in part by the ND SHPO, projects reviewed by the ND SHPO under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and projects complying with North Dakota laws designating, regulating, and governing the review role of the State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHSND) as carried out by the ND SHPO.

aerial imagery provided in Appendix B. The Project APE comprises approximately 7,976.4 acres (3,227.9 hectares).

The various townships, ranges and sections across which the anticipated alignment is located, and in which the visual APE is located, were identified (see Appendix A). A Class I Literature Review was performed in order to identify any previous surveys or previously surveyed properties within the APE (see Appendix C). Although three previously surveyed architectural historic properties were identified within 1.5 miles (2.4 km) of the anticipated alignment or centerline, no previously surveyed architectural historic properties were identified within the visual APE. Tax property records associated with parcels affected by the Project and which host existing structures were evaluated. When tax property records specifically identified that existing buildings or structures were constructed within the last 50 years, these parcels and associated structures were removed from further consideration. Historic maps were also studied, as were census records. Fieldwork was conducted in December 2011. John N. Vogel of Heritage Research Limited served as Principal Investigator. Field observations were conducted from public rights-of-way in December 2011 and high-resolution aerial imagery was reviewed where public accessibility was limited.

The results of the Class II Reconnaissance Survey identified three new architectural historic properties. Properties 1, 3, and 4 were all historic and at least 50 years in age and, therefore, warranted their recognition in the survey. These three properties, however, all lacked sufficient integrity to be considered potentially eligible for the NRHP. Additionally, the reconnaissance survey confirmed that three potential properties identified through historic map research were all demolished with no structural or evident historic archaeological resources remaining. As a result, no impacts to historic architectural resources as a result of Project implementation are anticipated.