

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY OF ARCHEOLOGICAL REPORT

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

In November 2011, Environmental Resources Management (ERM) conducted a Class I Literature Search and Class III Intensive Archaeological Investigation for the CapX2020 Fargo to St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission Line Project. Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (Xcel Energy), as part of the CapX2020 Initiative, proposes to construct the CapX2020 Fargo to St. Cloud Project (Project). The 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 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.

The proposed transmission structures (transmission poles) range in height between 130 and 175 feet. 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 portion of the Project in North Dakota. 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 I Literature Search and Class III Intensive Archaeological Investigation be conducted within “all areas directly impacted by the project, including crane paths, access roads, transmission line and turbine pads.” In response to this letter, ERM, on behalf of Xcel Energy, conducted a Class I Literature Search and Class III Intensive Archaeological Investigation for the portion of the Project in North Dakota.

The archaeological investigations were conducted within the scope of the *North Dakota SHPO Guidelines Manual for Cultural Resource Inventory Projects*¹. These

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

investigations were conducted to identify archaeological resources within the Project's Area of Potential Effects (APE) that are potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The APE for the Project consists of a corridor generally 300 feet (ft.; 91 m) in width. Within 500 ft. (152 m) of major river locations, the APE widens to a width of 500 ft. (152 m). In general, these APE widths will allow ample room for any future route refinements, as well as the footprints for transmission structures, construction workspaces, areas managed for vegetation for the construction right-of-way, and access. The Project APE comprises approximately 1217.9 acres (492.9 hectares) within the Southern Red River Study Unit. Fieldwork was conducted from November 4th to November 11th, 2011. Andrew Bielakowski, ERM's Cultural Resource Manager, served as Principal Investigator.

Of the 1217.9 acres (492.9 hectares) Project APE, approximately 698.4 acres (282.6 hectares) of this area was surveyed for archaeological resources. Access to 573.5 acres (232.0 hectares) of the Project APE was denied by landowners; Xcel Energy will attempt to survey these areas once all rights-of-way are acquired, assumed to be sometime in 2012. Pedestrian survey was completed for 638.5 acres (258.4 hectares), and shovel testing was completed for 5.88 acres (2.4 hectares). The survey included excavation of 30 shovel tests in two shovel test areas and three site locations that were assessed as warranting subsurface investigation. This report discusses survey results for a total of 698.4 acres (282.63 hectares) of the proposed Project APE within Cass County, North Dakota.

Based on the Class I Literature Search, eight archaeological sites and eleven site leads have been previously recorded within 1.5 miles (2.4 km) of the Project centerline. One archaeological site (32CS2657) has been previously recorded within the Project APE. The site, however, is located within an area that was denied access by landowners. Xcel Energy will attempt to survey this site/area once adjacent right-of-way has been acquired, assumed to be sometime in 2012. During the Class III Intensive Archaeological Investigation for the Project, ERM identified one newly recorded archaeological lead (32CSX334) and two newly recorded archaeological sites (32CS5114 and 32CS5115) within the Project APE. All three sites are recommended as not eligible for the NRHP; therefore, no further work is recommended within the portions of the Project APE surveyed and discussed within this report. Xcel Energy will attempt to survey all Project APE areas that have not been surveyed due to landowner denial of access once adjacent right-of-way has been acquired, assumed to be sometime in 2012.

laws designating, regulating, and governing the review role of the State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHSND) as carried out by the ND SHPO.