

Red Wing City Council

January 22, 2024 Council Packet



CITY COUNCIL MEETING STAFF REPORT

To: City Council Members and Mayor

From: Travis Bray, Police Captain

Meeting Date: January 22, 2024

Agenda Item Number: 11.C.

Title

Presentation on Xcel Energy Emergency Sirens.

Captain Bray has requested time on the agenda to present the Council with information related to Xcel Energy sirens.

Purpose

Discuss the upcoming decommissioning of the emergency alert sirens in the city of Red Wing. Highlight options for the council to either take ownership of the current sirens or have Xcel Energy remove the sirens. The cost to maintain each siren is estimated to be \$500-\$1000 (this estimate is based on new batteries every two to three years and regular maintenance costs). A monitoring fee would also be anticipated. The fee is approximately \$5,000-\$10,000 annually. The monitoring fee would cover the services of NELCOM, which is the current company that maintains and services the Sirens on an annual basis.

Recommended Action

At this time, the Red Wing City Emergency manager does not have a recommendation to keep or decommission the emergency sirens. The process with Xcel Energy is still in the early stages and more information will be provided as the process progresses. At that time, the Emergency Manager for the city will have a better understanding of costs associated with the sirens and what the long term outlook for the sirens may be.

Attachments

1. PINGP Sirens-Power Point

Strategic Plan Alignment

- Public Safety#37. Increase staff training and planning for all emergencies including cyber-attacks. Develop and /or assess all emergency preparedness plans and improve the communication system so messaging is consistent to the public during emergencies.
- How We'll Act, #68: Research and discuss potential programs or practices revolving around building stronger neighborhoods.

Background

Xcel Energy maintains 64 Outdoor Emergency Sirens within Goodhue County.

33 of these Sirens are located within the City of Red Wing.

Xcel Plans to decommission all outdoor sirens within Goodhue County, Dakota County and Pierce Counties in 2024 (no date has been set for this to occur).

Moving forward, IPAWS and Everbridge Resident Connect will be utilized for emergency notifications, which will be activated by the State of MN.

The current sirens are being made available to the City of Red Wing by Xcel Energy at no cost. The City of Red Wing would be responsible for maintenance and monitoring capabilities for these sirens.

Each siren has an approximate annual cost of \$500-\$1000 to maintain the siren in proper working order.

To remotely monitor all the sirens, an annual cost of \$5,000-\$10,000 is anticipated.

The sirens would be monitored by the company - NELCOM.

The sirens would still be activated by the GCSO Dispatch center when needed.

Discussion

The Red Wing City Council will be asked to make a decision to keep the emergency notification sirens presently installed within the city limits of Red Wing or have Xcel Energy decommission the sirens and remove them from the city. A monetary cost will be associated with keeping the sirens and the council will have to weigh the decision to pay for these services or have them removed.

Financial Plan and Impact

The actual cost to keep the sirens is still not known and fluctuates from year to year depending on maintenance costs associated with all 33 sirens. The monitoring fee to service the sirens will be an annual cost and is estimated to be \$5,000-\$10,000 dollars. The council would have the option to look for a different service company that may have more lucrative prices. Again, these fees are not known at this time.

Alternatives

The council can decide to go to a purely digital emergency notification system that would require residence to have access to a cellular phone, television, radio, landline phone service, or other communication device that can receive emergency messages. The financial burden would be strictly on the residence of Red Wing and the City of Red Wing would not have a financial interest in emergency notifications. This would occur if the City of Red Wing decided to get rid of the emergency sirens.

The council could approve Xcel Energy's donation of the sirens. The sirens would continue to work as they do now, and the audible alert tone would still be activated in the event of an emergency or severe weather event. A financial cost would be associated with keeping the sirens and would be the responsibility of the City of Red Wing.

Recommended Action

At this time, the Red Wing City Emergency manager does not have a recommendation to keep or decommission the emergency sirens. The process with Xcel Energy is still in the early stages and more information will be provided as the process progresses. At that time, the Emergency Manager for the city will have a better understanding of costs associated with the sirens and what the long term outlook for the sirens may be.

PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT- SIREN UPDATE

City of Red Wing Emergency Manager: Travis Bray



- ④ Xcel Energy maintains 64 Outdoor Emergency Sirens within Goodhue County
- ④ 33 of these Sirens are located with in the City of Red Wing
- ④ Xcel Plans to decommission all outdoor sirens within Goodhue County, Dakota County and Pierce Counties in 2024 (no date has been set for this to occur)
- ④ Moving forward, IPAWS and Everbridge Resident Connect will be utilized for emergency notifications, which will be activated by the State of MN.



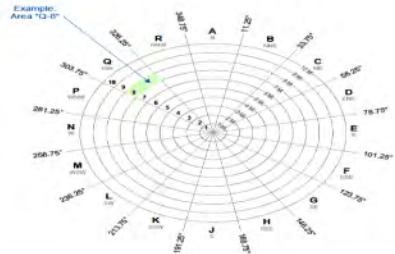
Current Siren Locations

Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant

Siren Locations January, 2022



- ★ Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant
- Siren Location
- Ⓜ Emergency Operations Center
- Sector Line
- Sub-Area
- ▭ Tribal Lands



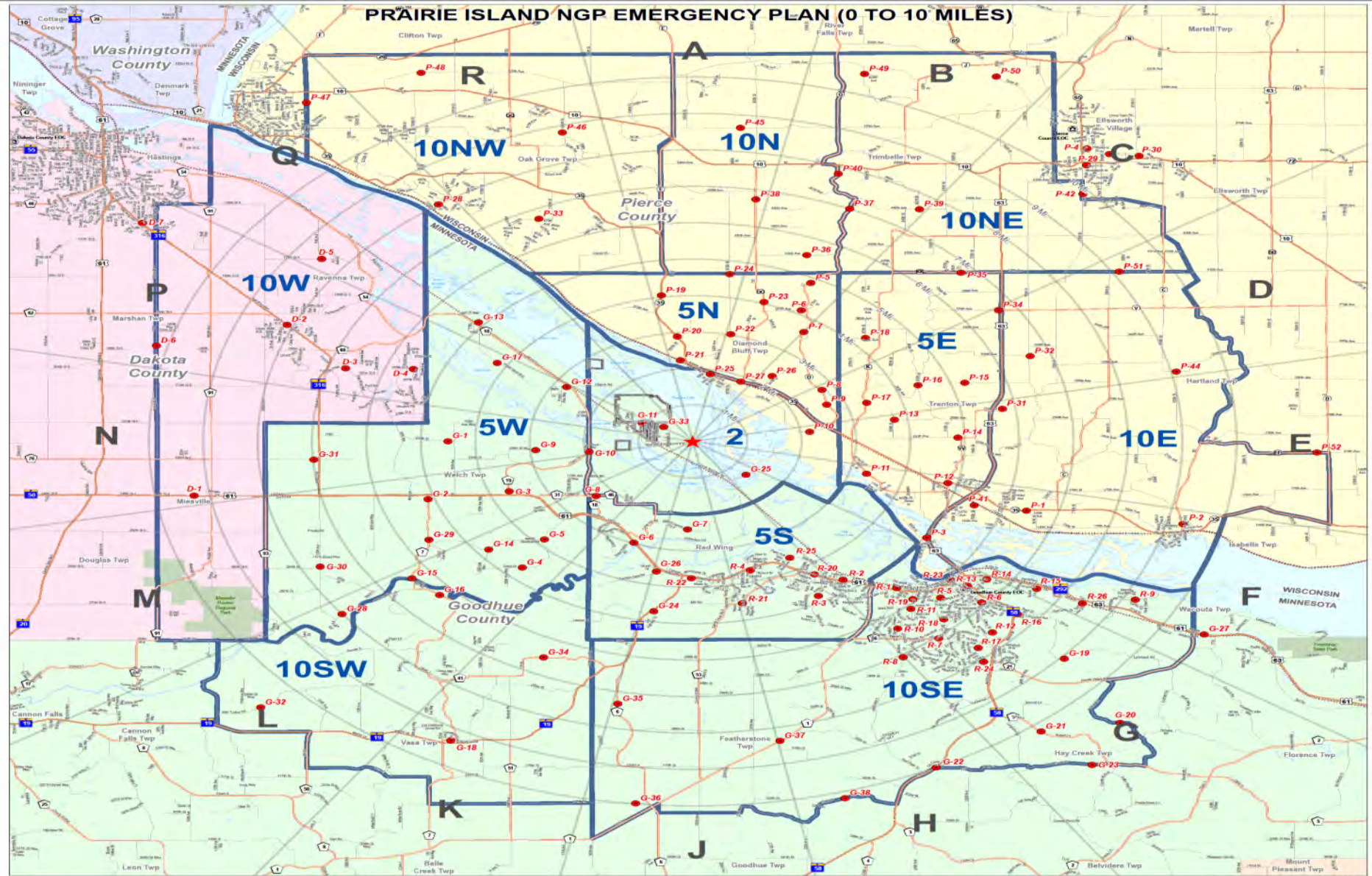
Estimated Winter Weekday Peak Population for the Prairie Island EP2

Sub-Area	Residents: Goodhue Co	Residents: Dakota Co	Residents: Pierce Co	Residents: Transfers	Employees	TOTAL
SN	0	0	0	0	0	0
SE	0	0	0	0	0	0
SS	3,600	0	0	0	0	3,600
SW	750	0	0	0	0	750
SNW	0	0	0	0	0	0
SNW	0	0	0	0	0	0
SNW	0	0	0	0	0	0
SNW	0	0	0	0	0	0
SNW	0	0	0	0	0	0
SNW	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	39,213	3,454	7,802	6,143	1,274	60,877

Population estimates are from the Emergency Time Estimates Study for the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant.
Emergency Planning Zone, 2012 (based on 2010 Census data). Additional information is available in this report.
* Residents at the community center, considered as transient.
* Special events at the Prairie Island Casino may significantly increase the transient population in the 2-mile area.



Minnesota Department of Public Safety
Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
This map and information are provided as a public service. Information is provided as is and is not intended to be used for any other purpose. The map is not a warranty, representation, or endorsement of any product or service. The map is not a warranty, representation, or endorsement of any product or service. The map is not a warranty, representation, or endorsement of any product or service.



Information regarding Sirens and notifications

- ④ **Goodhue County Dispatch currently sets off all sirens within the City of Red Wing and the remaining sirens located in Goodhue County.**
- ④ **Currently the City of Red Wing does not own any of the sirens located within the City limits.**
- ④ **With Xcel Energy no longer maintaining the sirens, the State of MN has agreed to be the responsible party for activating the new emergency notifications and activation of the emergency messaging platforms related to the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant (PINGP).**



The future of Sirens in Red Wing

- ④ **The current sirens are being made available to the City of Red Wing by Xcel Energy at no cost**
- ④ The City of Red Wing would be responsible for maintenance and monitoring capabilities for these sirens
- ④ **Each siren has an approximate cost of \$500-\$1000 to maintain the siren in proper working order annually**
- ④ To remotely monitor all of the sirens, a cost of \$5,000-\$10,000 is anticipated annually
- ④ **The sirens would be monitored by the company-NELCOM**
- ④ The Sirens would still be activated by the GCSO Dispatch center when needed.



Questions?



Red Wing City Council

June 24, 2024 Council Packet



CITY COUNCIL MEETING STAFF REPORT

To: City Council Members and Mayor

From: Peter Hanlin, Assistant Fire Chief & Emergency Management Director

Meeting Date: June 24, 2024

Agenda Item Number: 11.D.

Title

Consider Motion to Adopt * Resolution No. 8014 Accepting Outdoor Warning Sirens from Xcel. Assistant Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director Peter Hanlin will provide a review of the City's options regarding the existing outdoor warning sirens and is seeking direction from the City Council on how to move forward. Staff recommends approval of Resolution No. 8014 for the donation.

Purpose

Consider action to accept the donation of outdoor warning sirens or to decline the donation and have Xcel remove the sirens.

Recommended Action

Accept the donation of 33 outdoor warning sirens from Xcel Energy, direct staff to identify a vendor for ongoing maintenance and repairs, and establish an appropriate operating budget line item for future budget cycles.

Attachments

1. Red Wing Outdoor Warning Siren Locations
2. NWS Multiple Warning Methods
3. FEMA IPAWS 101
4. Proposed Maintenance Contract
5. XCEL Donations In-Kind Form
6. January 22, 2024 Staff Report and Presentation
7. 11. D_Xcel Donation 8014 33 Outdoor warning sirens

Strategic Plan Alignment

38. Increase community outreach to improve residents' awareness and knowledge of how to prepare for a wide range of emergencies. Engage community partners to assist in this work. (13.B.1.)

41. Maintain quality equipment, facilities, and technology to meet the police and fire departments' missions and to fulfill the needs of the community. Keep updated on all trends and future needs. (13.C.3.)

Background

Outdoor warning sirens are an important tool used to warn people outdoors of a threat to life safety. Sirens are an integral part of the alerting system intended to direct people indoors and then to get additional information. Outdoor warning sirens are the only warning tool completely under direct local control. There are 33 outdoor warning sirens in the City of Red Wing, all of which were installed and have been maintained by Xcel Energy as part of their emergency notification system. Goodhue County and the City of Red Wing have been able to utilize these sirens for weather-related warnings up to this point at no direct cost.

In Goodhue County, other towns have installed and maintained outdoor warning sirens unrelated to Xcel Energy. These are located in Goodhue, Zumbrota, Cannon Falls, Kenyon, Wanamingo, and Dennison but due to the size of those towns, there are far fewer sirens. In the Midwest, there is no trend to remove outdoor warning sirens because of new alternative warning methods. Larger suburban areas like Hennepin County are planning to investing millions to upgrade their system's capabilities and some municipalities in those areas have statutes that require contractors to install new outdoor warning sirens as new developments are built.

Over the past couple years, nuclear power plants nationwide have been transitioning away from outdoor warning sirens for alerting the public to radiological emergencies and will instead be using the Integrated Public Alert Warning System (IPAWS). IPAWS is a platform designed to send a single message through multiple platforms including, but not limited to, mobile phones, television, and radio. An Amber Alert is an example of an IPAWS message.

In late 2023, Xcel Energy notified state and local emergency management agencies that they had petitioned FEMA and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to discontinue use of the existing outdoor warning sirens for both Prairie Island and Monticello plants and would be offering the existing sirens to the local municipalities as a donation, requiring those municipalities to assume the responsibility for ongoing maintenance and repairs. Police Captain Bray and Goodhue County Emergency Management Director Merchlewitz presented this information to the Council in January 2024 to provide a heads-up that action would need to be taken on this in the near future.

The outdoor warning sirens in Red Wing have an anticipated lifespan of 35 years. The current sirens are 22 years old and have been maintained to very high standards. With a cost of around \$30,000 for a new siren, installing the same outdoor warning system as Red Wing currently has would cost the City approximately \$990,000.

Discussion

If the City decides to accept the donation, Xcel will decommission specific components that allow Prairie Island to activate the sirens but will leave all other components in place, allowing Goodhue County Dispatch to continue activating them.

Should the City Council choose not to accept the donation, Xcel plans to decommission and remove the existing sirens at their expense.

Xcel is awaiting final confirmation from FEMA and the NRC to move forward with this transition, at which point they plan to decommission sirens as soon as possible.

Financial Plan and Impact

Any costs associated with accepting the siren donation would be new expenses for the City. Staff would recommend these costs be added to the Emergency Management operating budget starting in 2025.

Accepting the donation would result in an estimated annual maintenance contract of approximately \$14,500 (\$435 per siren). Other recurring maintenance/repair costs will include replacing siren batteries every 5-8 years with a replacement cost of approximately \$2,000 per siren, as well as any other repairs that are needed. The City could also choose to insure the sirens as Property-In-The-Open which would cost around \$5,000 annually with a \$10,000 deductible, or could leave them uninsured.

If the City were to accept the donation and later choose to decommission and remove a siren, the cost is estimated to be \$4,000 each.

Declining the donation would result in no financial impact on the City specifically relating to the siren removal. However, the City should consider some public education campaigns to educate residents of the changes to the emergency alerting system which would have internal, and potentially some external, costs.

Alternatives

Decline the donation and have Xcel Energy remove all outdoor warning sirens located within the City of Red Wing.

Recommended Action

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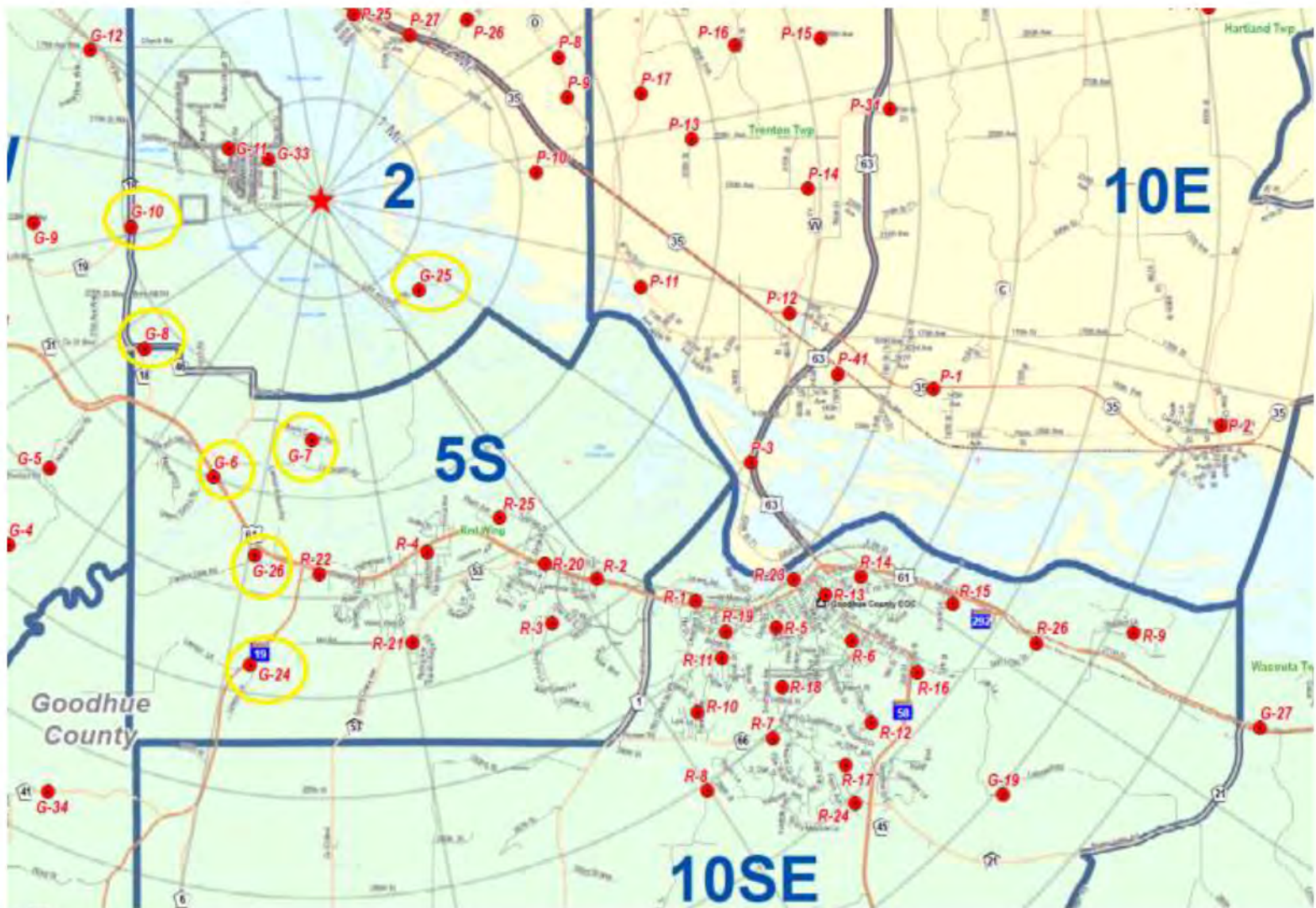
Questions?



Red Wing Outdoor Warning Siren Locations

June 2024

R-1 through R-26, and the 7 circled G locations





Have Multiple Methods to Recieve

NWS Warnings



WEA (Wireless Emergency Alerts)
and Weather Apps



NOAA
Weather
Radio



Outdoor
Sirens



Life Saving
Weather
Information



Family,
Friends or
Coworkers



Internet



Local TV
and Radio

IPAWS 101

INTEGRATED PUBLIC ALERT & WARNING SYSTEM

America's
System for Local
Emergency Alerts



WHAT IS IPAWS ?

Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) is a tool that Federal, State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial (FSLTT) public safety agencies can use to notify the public of disasters and deliver emergency and public safety information.

FSLTT public safety agencies can sign up to become an **Alerting Authority**.

ALERTING AUTHORITY

A jurisdiction with the designated authority to alert and warn the public when there is an impending natural or human-made disaster, threat, or dangerous or missing person.

ALERT PATHWAYS INCLUDE



BENEFITS OF IPAWS

NO SIGN-UP REQUIRED TO RECEIVE ALERTS

There is no need to sign up or subscribe to receive alerts from IPAWS. There is no cost to receive alerts.

MINIMAL COST TO ALERTING AUTHORITIES

There is no cost to send or receive alerts through IPAWS. Alerting Authorities may incur costs to purchase compatible alert origination software that meets IPAWS requirements.

LOCAL TARGETING

With IPAWS, Alerting Authorities can target specific geographic areas to ensure only those in the affected area, including visitors, receive the alert. The content and timing of alerts is at the discretion of Alerting Authorities. FEMA does not review, edit, approve, or disapprove alerts sent by public safety agencies.

LANGUAGE & FUNCTIONAL ACCESSIBILITY

WEA's recipients can currently choose to display alerts in English or Spanish and EAS messages can include multilingual audio. IPAWS also allows for the integration of images and has text-to-speech capability to accommodate those with functional needs.



FEMA

January 2024

fema.gov/IPAWS

For any questions, please email fema-ipaws-stakeholder-engagement@fema.dhs.gov

SIGN UP TO BE AN IPAWS ALERTING AUTHORITY!

NOTE: BEFORE APPLYING, FIND OUT IF YOU ARE QUALIFIED.

Local authorities, please consult with your State IPAWS representative (typically found in the State Emergency Management Agency) about your ability to become an IPAWS Alerting Authority. Sovereign tribal and territorial authorities do not need to consult before applying. Other public or private-sector organizations may also be eligible depending on their public safety mission.

Detailed instructions for sign-up can be found on the [IPAWS website](#).

To sign up, you will be asked to complete the following:



KEY SUCCESS POINTS

1,800+

There are currently
1,800+ IPAWS
Alerting Authorities.

180+

AMBER Alerts via
IPAWS have led to the
recovery of more than
180 missing children.

600

Through IPAWS, over
600 WEA alerts are
sent per month.

IPAWS IN ACTION

MASSACHUSETTS 11-YEAR-OLD ONE OF MANY RECOVERED THANKS TO AMBER ALERT

After a stranger forced an 11-year-old girl in Springfield, Massachusetts into his vehicle, an AMBER Alert was promptly sent out, spurring the community in to action. An outpouring of videos and pictures of the suspected kidnapper and his vehicle flooded in, providing detectives with invaluable information that led to the safe recovery of the girl and the arrest of the kidnapper.

TORNADO SURVIVORS CREDIT WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERT FOR SAVING THEIR LIVES

Survivors of a deadly tornado had more than luck to thank for their lives. At roughly 3 a.m., in the black of night, a tornado touched down in Bollinger County, Missouri, setting out on a path that left five dead and many injured and homeless. It could have been worse. A WEA sent by officials to all in the tornado's path, allowed many people to seek shelter, potentially saving their lives.

POWER BLACKOUTS AVERTED THANKS TO WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERT

Power blackouts can disrupt societies like few other disasters. They can sever communications, water supplies, and transportation; close gas stations, ATMs and grocery stores; prevent the use of medical devices; and cause mass food spoilage. A record-breaking California heatwave led to an extraordinarily high level of energy consumption. The state's power grid was strained and power blackouts were imminent. A critical WEA was sent, asking Californians to "conserve energy now". Within five minutes, energy usage had reduced across the state by nearly 2.4 percent, leaving enough power to prevent disaster.



FEMA  **IPAWS**

January 2024

 fema.gov/IPAWS

For any questions, please email fema-ipaws-stakeholder-engagement@fema.dhs.gov

CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS - INKIND (Non-Cash) DONATION**XCEL ENERGY INC.**

Corporate Giving
1800 Larimer Street
Denver, CO 80202

Corp. Giving Dept
CorporateGiving@xcelenergy.com
Phone: 612-330-1927

ORIGINAL - Xcel Energy Foundation COPY - Originating Department

This form is provided to document the donation of in-kind goods and/or services by Xcel Energy to *non-profit organizations. Upon completion, this form must be signed by the recipient and returned to Xcel Energy Foundation Attn: Corporate Giving

COMPANY

NSPW ☐ NSPM ☐ PSCO ☐ SPS ☐ XLS ☐

DONOR

Your Name _____ Date: _____
From Department: _____ Location: _____
Name of Dir./Mgr.: _____ Date: _____
Signature of Dir./Mgr.: _____

DONATION

Item Description _____

Estimated Fair Market Value: \$ _____

Name of Dir./Mgr. releasing material: _____

Signature of Dir./Mgr.: _____

RECIPIENT

Non-profit Organization: * _____

Address: _____

Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

This donation is made subject to the following conditions:

1. All equipment and accessories are offered on an "as - where is" basis FOB point of shipment
2. XCEL ENERGY EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS ANY AND ALL WARRANTIES OF ANY KIND, INCLUDING ALL WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR PURPOSE, WHETHER STATUTORY, WRITTEN, ORAL, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED.
3. It shall be the responsibility of the person named above to schedule all freight and transfer arrangements at dates and times acceptable to Xcel Energy.

The recipient acknowledges that no goods or services were provided to Xcel Energy in exchange for the above-mentioned donation:

Recipient Name: _____ Phone: _____

RECIPIENT SIGNATURE: _____ Date: _____

EIN (tax I.D. for non-profit organizations)* _____

* Non-profit status may be confirmed by verifying that the organization has received their letter of notification from the IRS indicating their exception from Federal income tax under the provisions of section 501c3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

*** FORM MUST BE COMPLETE BEFORE SENDING TO CORPORATE GIVING ***

Approval of this form acknowledges that Capital Asset Accounting has been notified of the retirement of this equipment; and



Emergency Communication Systems

Safety First

1750 Hamilton Court Little Chute, WI 54140
www.emergencycommunicationsystems-ecs.com
Phone: (920) 423-3311
Email: Bill@Siren-Service.com

Agreement for Warning System Annual Inspection & Preventative Maintenance

Creating a contract between Emergency Communication Systems and our customers instills confidence in the communities that we serve, knowing the warning system equipment is being maintained, tested, and held to a high standard. Service contracts for our customers allows them to ensure proper maintenance is being done on their equipment for the agreed upon length of time, eliminating any need to further search for certified service vendors or additional quotes. Service contracts allow Emergency Communication Systems to keep up to date records of equipment, ensure proper operation to protect our communities when a threat arises, and provides us with regular checks to ensure the equipment we stand behind is operating at optimal performance.

The following Annual Inspection & Preventative Maintenance Agreement is between

Emergency Communication Systems

&

City of Red Wing, MN

Annual Siren Maintenance for Tornado Sirens include but not limited to.

Details of Service:

The goal of this service is to minimize the possibility of siren failure and to capture the maximum performance and reliability of the warning system through scheduled annual service visits.

1. Inspect all electrical and mechanical connections. Make sure that all fasteners are properly tightened.
2. Visual inspection of the grounding system, utility pole, conduits and connections and cabinets.
3. Inspect both the rotator motor and siren motor (if equipped)
4. Grease and inspect siren head (up to 60ft head height)
5. Realign and reset rotation tensioner (if equipped)
6. Check sensor adjustment (if equipped)
7. Check rotation current sensor (if equipped)
8. Check AC power sensor (if equipped)
9. Check intrusion sensor (if equipped)
10. Check battery voltage/ cold cranking amps (if equipped)
11. Check controller auto-reporting (if equipped)
12. Check battery charger voltage (if equipped)
13. Check transformer/rectifier (if equipped)
14. Test manual siren activation (if equipped)

Please Note: if any parts or material are needed there will be an additional fee.

Scope of Responsibility

Emergency Communication Systems Scope of Responsibility

- Schedule technicians to perform services
- Ensure inspection is per manufacturer's specifications
- Conduct work in a timely manner
- Identify any open issues
- Provide a service point of contact to the customer

Customer Scope of Responsibility

- Provide an authorized point of contact for scheduling and onsite coordination
- Notify Emergency Communication Systems of any special instruction or other security issues affecting their visit to the site

**CITY OF RED WING
RESOLUTION NO. 8014**

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATION OF

WHEREAS, the City of Red Wing ("City") is generally authorized to accept donations of property pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 465.03 for the benefit of its citizens, and is specifically authorized to accept gifts, provided the acceptance be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the City Council by a resolution;

WHEREAS, Xcel Energy has offered to Donate 33 Outdoor Warning Sirens to the City for the Red Wing Fire Department;

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it is appropriate to accept the donations offered for the benefit of its citizens, as allowed by law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RED WING, MINNESOTA, AS FOLLOWS:

The donation of 33 Outdoor Warning Sirens described above is accepted.

The motion for the adoption of this Resolution was duly seconded by Member _____, and upon a roll call vote being taken, the following members voted in favor of the motion:

And the following members voted against the motion:

Whereupon the Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Kim Beise, Council President

ATTEST:

Teri L. Swanson, MCMC
City Clerk

(seal)

Presented to the Mayor at _____ .m. on this _____ day of _____,
2024.

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2024.

Michael Wilson, Mayor