

Appendix A

Application Completeness Checklist

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North Rochester to Skyway High Voltage Transmission Line Project

Topic	Statute or Rule	Text from Statute or Rule	Location in Application
Project Ownership	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 3(b)(1)	A statement of proposed ownership of the facility at the time of filing the application and after commercial operation.	§ 1.2
Permittee Name	Minn. Stat. § 261I.05, subd. 3(b)(2)	The name of any person or organization initially named as permittee or permittees and the name of any other person to whom the permit may be transferred if transfer of the permit is contemplated.	§ 1.3
Project Description	Minn. Stat. § 261I.05, subd. 3(b)(3)	A description of the proposed large energy facility and all associated facilities, including size, type, and timing of the facility.	Ch. 2.0
Environmental Information	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 3(b)(4)	The environmental information required under subdivision 4.	Ch. 6.0
Identification of Property Owners	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 3(b)(5)	The names of each owner are described under subdivision 8.	Appendix E
Maps	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 3(b)(6)	United States Geological Survey topographical maps, or other maps acceptable to the Commission, that show the entire proposed large energy infrastructure facility.	Appendix B
Existing Right-of-Way (ROW)	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 3(b)(7)	A document that identifies existing utility and public ROW along or near the large energy infrastructure facility.	Appendix B, Figure 2
Project Design, Including Required Ancillary Facilities	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 3(b)(8)	The engineering and operational design at each of the proposed sites for the proposed large energy infrastructure facility, and identify transportation, pipeline, and electrical transmission systems that are required to construct, maintain, and operate the facility.	§§ 2.2–2.4

Topic	Statute or Rule	Text from Statute or Rule	Location in Application
Project Cost	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 3(b)(9)	A cost analysis of the proposed large energy infrastructure facility, including the costs to construct, operate, and maintain the facility.	§ 3.1
Design for Expansion	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 3(b)(10)	A description of possible design options to accommodate the large energy infrastructure facility's future expansion.	§ 2.5
Site or ROW Acquisition, Construction, Maintenance, and Restoration	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 3(b)(11)	The procedures and practices proposed to acquire, construct, maintain, and restore the large energy infrastructure facility's ROW or site.	§§ 2.2 – 2.4
Other Permits	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 3(b)(12)	A list and brief description of federal, State, and local permits that may be required for the proposed large energy infrastructure facility.	§ 4.1
Certificate of Need	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 3(b)(13)	A discussion regarding whether a Certificate of Need application is required and, if a Certificate of Need application is required, whether the Certificate of Need application has been submitted.	§ 1.5.1
Alternative Sites or Routes Considered	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 3(b)(14)	A discussion regarding any other sites or routes that were considered and rejected by the applicant.	Ch. 5.0
Additional Information Required by Rule	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 3(b)(15)	Any information the Commission requires pursuant to an administrative rule.	Not Applicable
Tribal Coordination	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 3(b)(16); Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 5(2)	<p>A discussion regarding coordination with Minnesota Tribal governments, as defined under section 10.65, subdivision 2, by the applicant, including but not limited to the notice required under subdivision 5 of this section.</p> <p>At least 30 days before filing an application with the Commission, an applicant must provide notice to: (2) Minnesota Tribal governments, as defined under section 10.65, subdivision 2.</p>	§ 7.1.1; Appendix C

Topic	Statute or Rule	Text from Statute or Rule	Location in Application
Preapplication Coordination (LGUs)	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 5(1)	At least 30 days before filing an application with the Commission, an applicant must provide notice to: (1) each local unit of government within which a site or route may be proposed.	§ 7.1.4; Appendix C
Preapplication Coordination (State Technical Resource Agencies)	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 5(3)	At least 30 days before filing an application with the Commission, an applicant must provide notice to: (3) the state technical resource agencies.	§ 7.1.3; Appendix C
Environmental Setting	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 4(a)(1)	A description of each site or route's environmental setting.	§ 6.3
Human Settlement	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2)	A description of the effects the facility's construction and operation has on human settlement, including but not limited to, public health and safety, displacement, noise, aesthetics, socioeconomic impacts, environmental justice impacts, cultural values, recreation, and public services.	§ 6.4
Aesthetics	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2)		§ 6.4.1
Cultural Values	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2)		§ 6.4.2
Displacement	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2)		§ 6.4.3
Environmental Justice	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2); 216I.05, subd. 11(a)(3)		§ 6.4.4
Public Health and Safety	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2); 216I.05, subd. 11(b)(1) (Decision Criteria)		§ 6.4.5
Noise	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2)		§ 6.4.6
Public Services and Transportation	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2)		§ 6.4.7
Recreation	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2)		§ 6.4.9

Topic	Statute or Rule	Text from Statute or Rule	Location in Application
Socioeconomics	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2); 216I.05, subd. 11(b)(14)		§ 6.4.10
Property Values	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2)		§ 6.4.11
Land Use and Zoning	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 11(a)(2)	The Commission's site and route permit determinations must (1) be guided by the State's goals to conserve resources; (2) minimize environmental impacts and minimize human settlement and other land use conflicts.	§ 6.4.8
Land-based Economies	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 4(a)(3)	A description of the facility's effects on land-based economies, including but not limited to agriculture, forestry, tourism, and mining.	§ 6.5
Agriculture	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 4(a)(3)		§ 6.5.1
Forestry	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 4(a)(3)		§ 6.5.2
Mining	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 4(a)(3)		§ 6.5.3
Tourism	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 4(a)(3)		§ 6.5.4
Archaeological and Historic Resources	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 4(a)(4)		A description of the facility's effects on archaeological and historic resources.
Natural Resources	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 4(a)(5)	A description of the facility's effects on the natural environment, including effects on air and water quality resources, flora, and fauna.	§ 6.7
Air Quality	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 4(a)(5)		§ 6.7.1
Geology and Groundwater	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 4(a)(5)		§ 6.7.2
Soils	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 4(a)(5)		§ 6.7.3

Topic	Statute or Rule	Text from Statute or Rule	Location in Application
Surface Water and Wetlands	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 4(a)(5)		§ 6.7.4
Vegetation	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 4(a)(5)		§ 6.7.5
Wildlife and Habitat	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 4(a)(5)		§ 6.7.6
Rare and Unique Natural Resources	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 4(a)(8)	A description of the facility's effects on rare and unique natural resources.	§ 6.7.7
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 4(a)(6)	A description of the greenhouse gas emissions associated with constructing and operating the facility.	§ 6.7.8
Climate Change Resilience	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 4(a)(7)	A description of the facility's climate change resilience.	§ 6.7.9
Unavoidable Impacts	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 4(a)(9)	A list that identifies human and natural environmental effects that are unavoidable if the facility is approved at a specific site or route.	§ 6.8
Irretrievable and Irreversible Impacts	Minn. Stat. § 216I.05, subd. 11(b)(11)	Evaluating irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources if the proposed site or route is approved.	§ 6.9

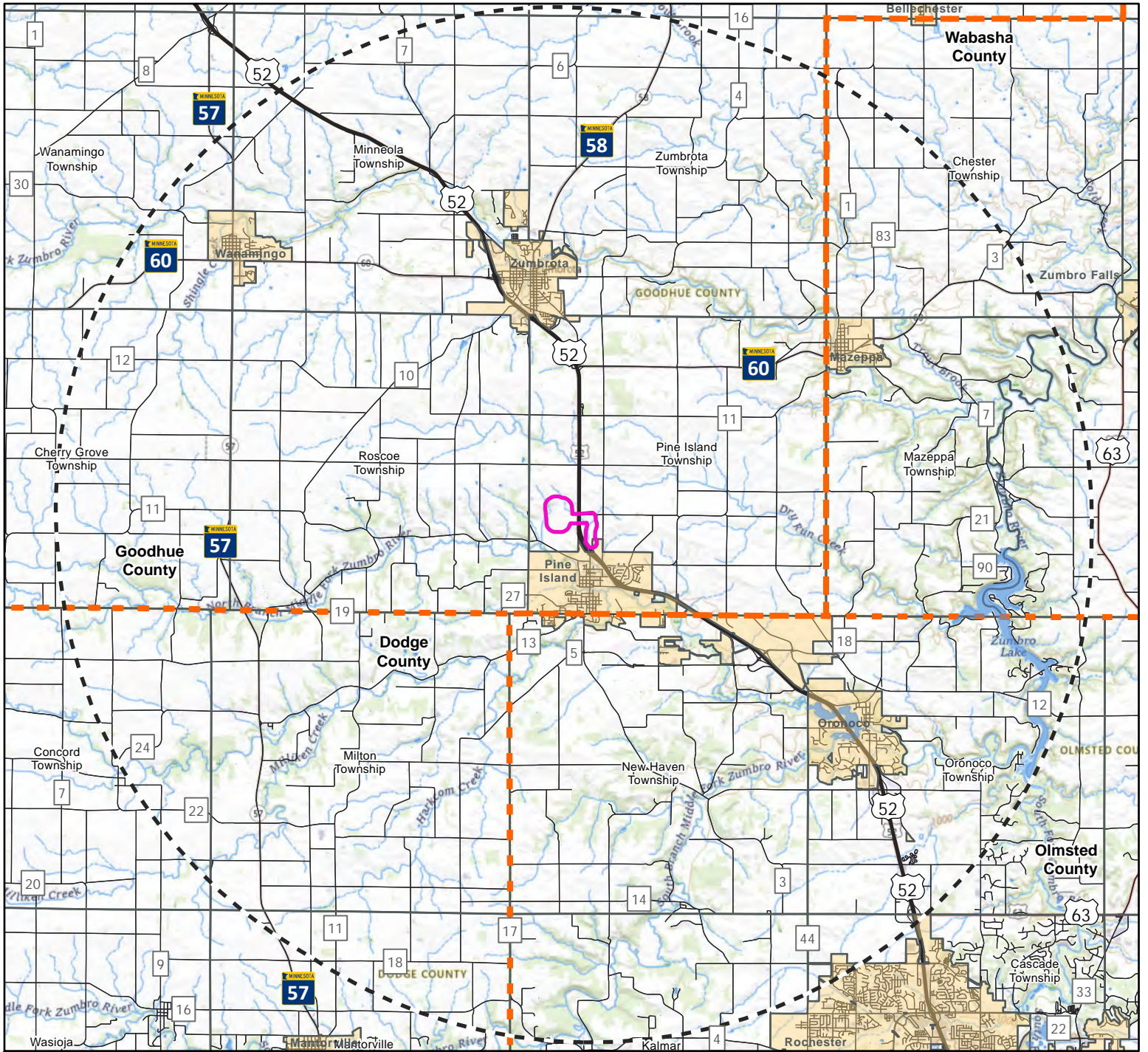
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Appendix B

Detailed Project Maps



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FIGURE 1: PROJECT LOCATION



LEGEND

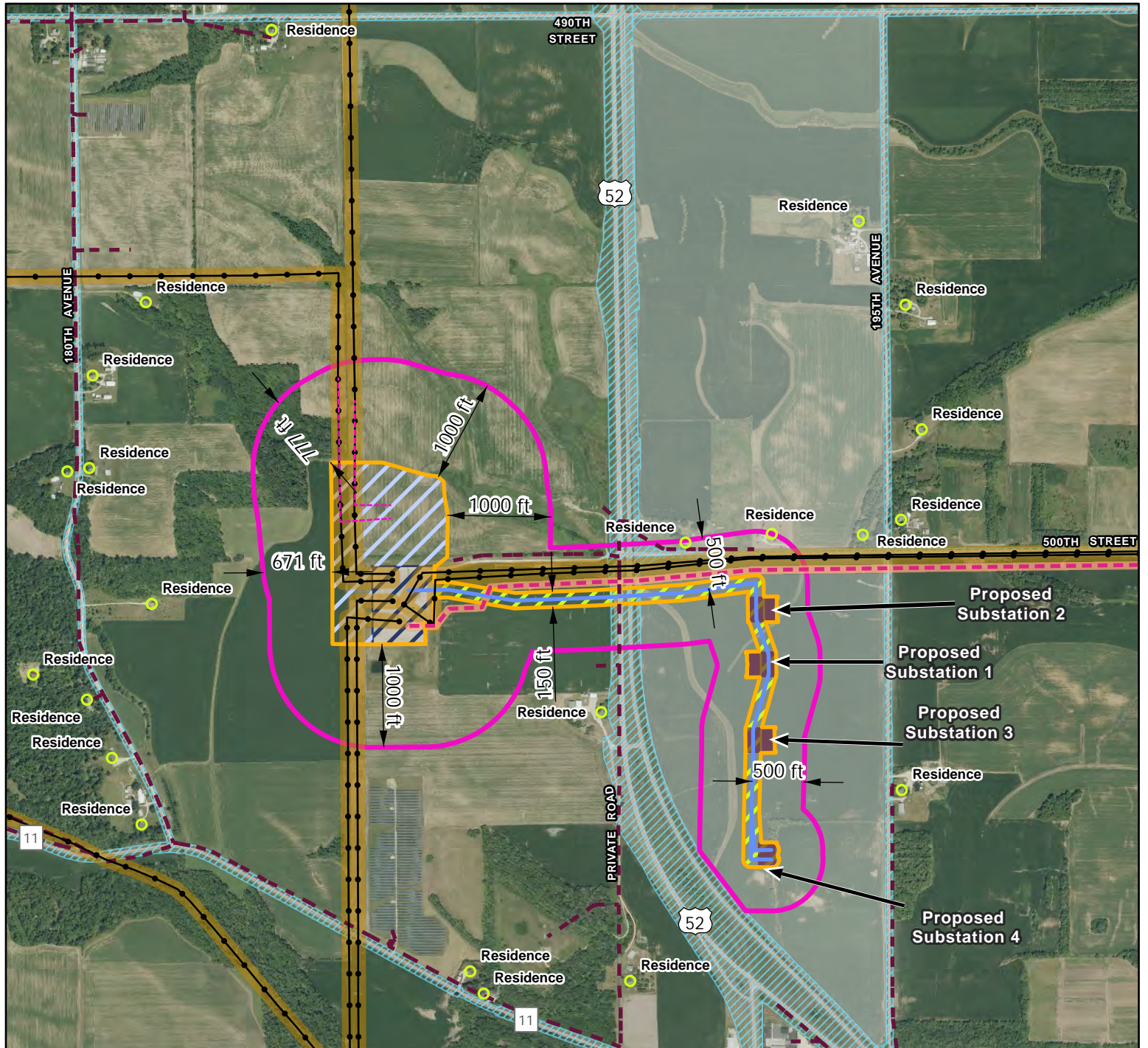
- Proposed Project (Route Width)
- 10-Mile Project Area Buffer
- County Boundary
- City Boundary
- Township Boundary
- NHD Waterbody



 0 Miles 4

Scale: 1:180,000
 Center: 92°39'13"W 44°13'14"N



FIGURE 2: PROJECT AREA AND FACILITIES

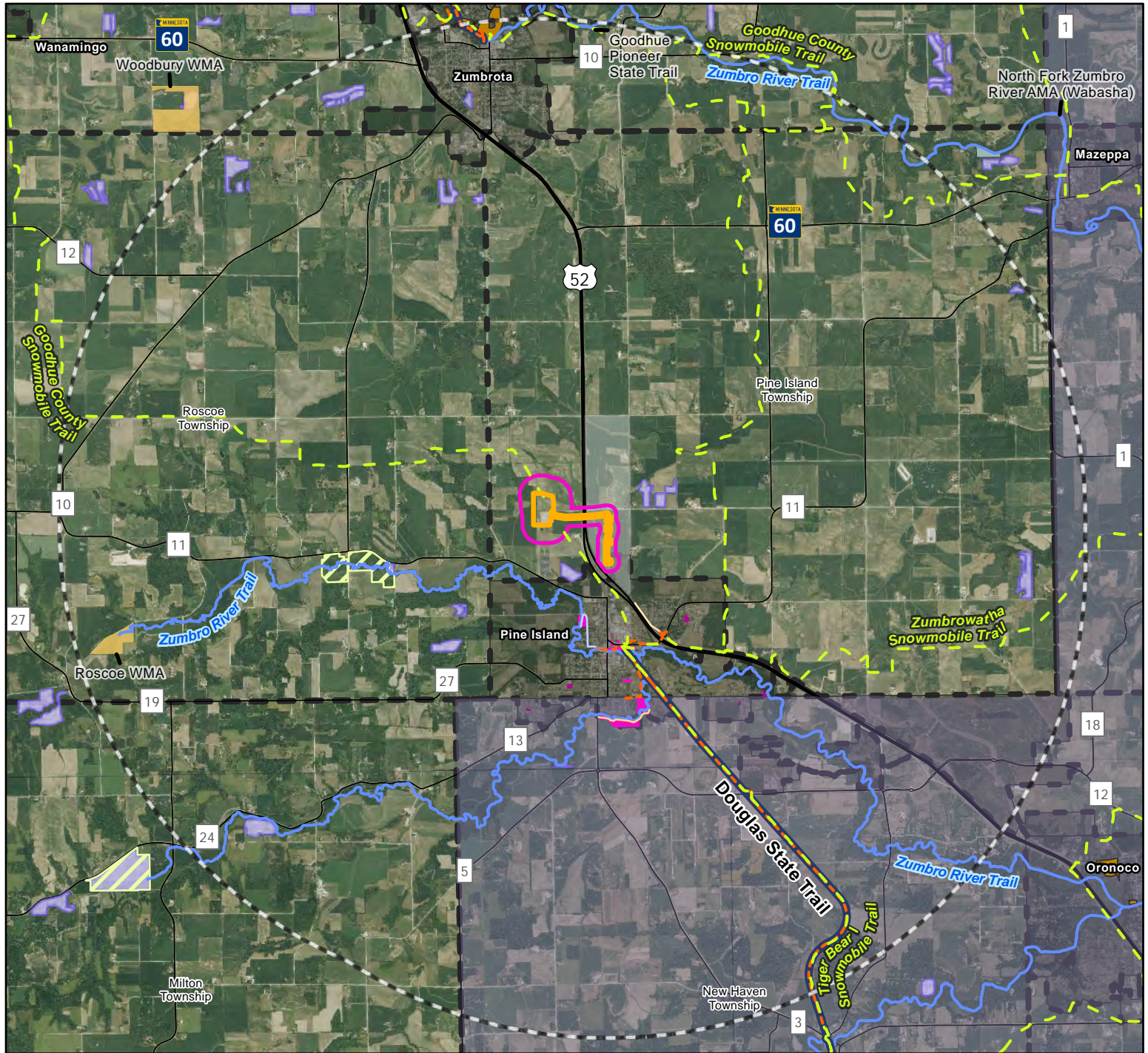


LEGEND	
	Proposed Project Area
	Proposed Route Width
	Proposed 345/345 kV Transmission Line
	Proposed Centerline Changes
	Existing North Rochester Substation
	Proposed North Rochester Substation Expansion Area
	Proposed Transmission Line ROW
	Proposed Substations
	AUAR Development Area
	Residences
	Road ROW
	Planned 161 kV Transmission Line (PUC Approved Feb. 5, 2026)
	Planned 161 kV Transmission Line ROW (PUC Approved Feb. 5, 2026)
	Existing Transmission Lines
	Existing Transmission Lines ROW
	Existing Overhead Distribution Lines

Imagery: Goodhue County, 2023 NAIP

Scale: 1:16,500
Center: 92°39'9"W 44°13'30"N

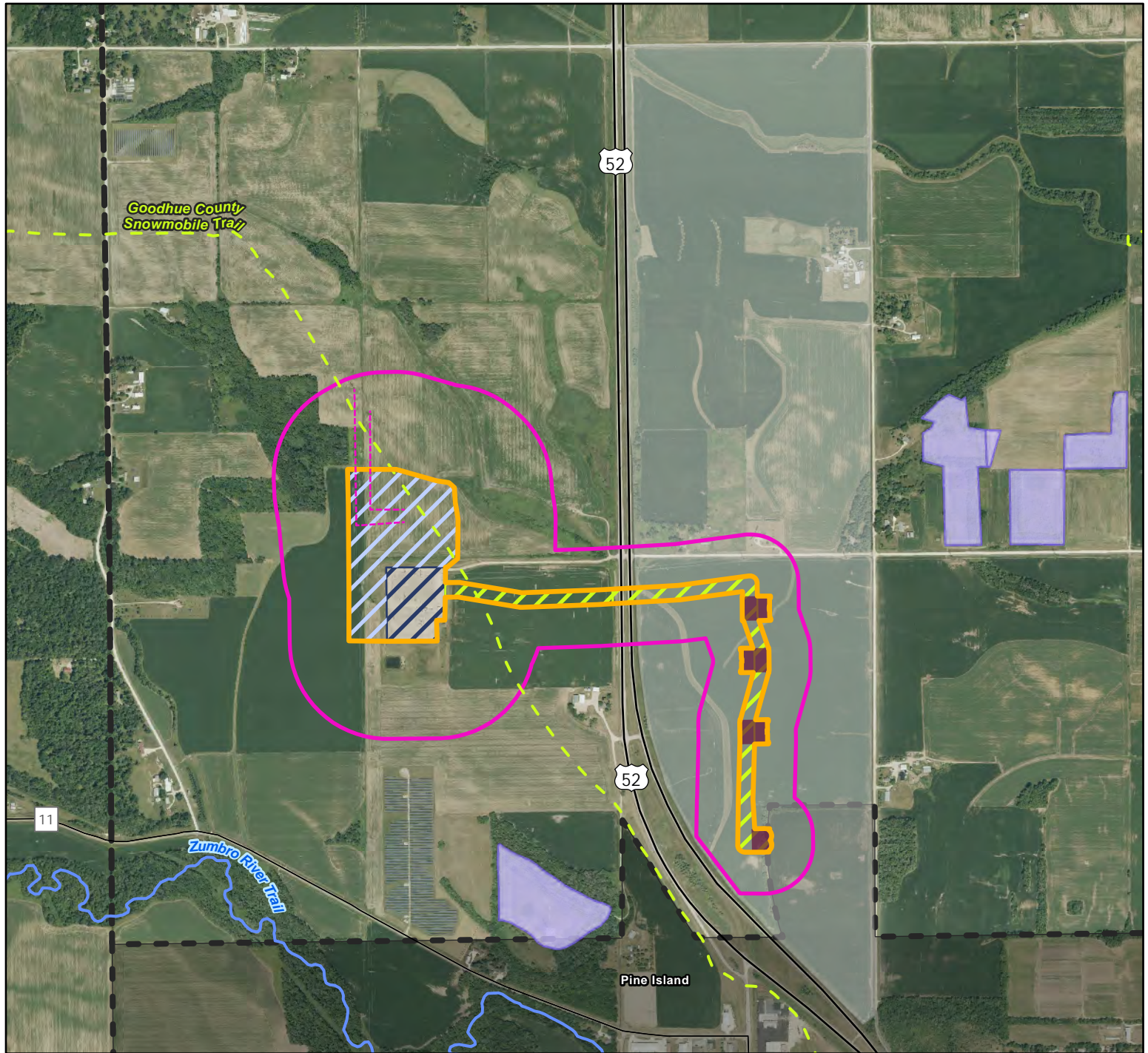
FIGURE 3A: PUBLIC LAND OWNERSHIP AND RECREATION



LEGEND			<p>* Digitized from City of Pine Island Parks and Recreation parks map Imagery: Goodhue, Dodge, and Olmsted Counties, 2023 NAIP</p>  <p>0 Miles 3</p> <p>Scale: 1:95,000</p> <p>Center: 92°39'10"W 44°13'17"N</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed Project Area Proposed Route Width AUAR Development Area 5-Mile Project Area Buffer Minnesota Water Trails Minnesota Snowmobile Trails Minnesota Bikeways Minnesota State Trails (MS 85.015) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Parks State Funded Conservation Easements (RIM Reserve) Driftless Area National Wildlife Refuge NRCS Easements City Boundary Township Boundary MNDNR Management Units Aquatic Management Area - AMA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Trail Other Forest Land Wildlife Management Area - WMA City of Pine Island Parks and Trail Data* Existing Trails (Paved) Zwart Horse Trail Existing Trails (Gravel) City Public Parks Neighborhood Parks 	

DATE EXPORTED: 2/16/2026

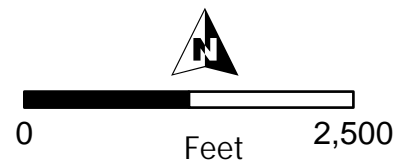
FIGURE 3B: PUBLIC LAND OWNERSHIP AND RECREATION



LEGEND

- | | |
|--|---|
| Proposed Project Area | Proposed Substations |
| Proposed Route Width | AUAR Development Area |
| Proposed Centerline Changes | Minnesota Water Trails |
| Existing North Rochester Substation | Minnesota Snowmobile Trails |
| Proposed North Rochester Substation Expansion Area | State Funded Conservation Easements (RIM Reserve) |
| Proposed Transmission Line ROW | City Boundary |
| | Township Boundary |

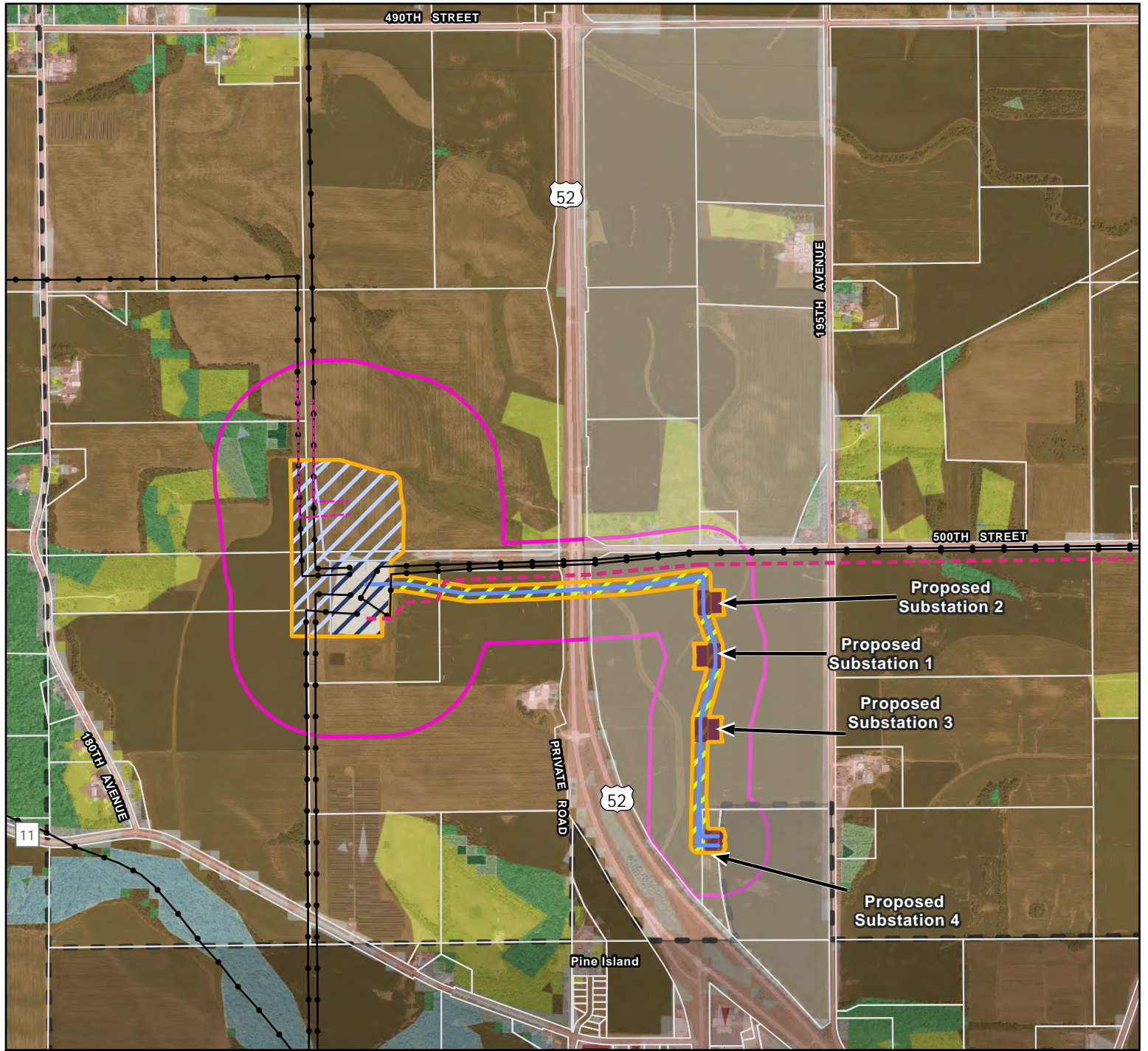
* Digitized from City of Pine Island Parks and Recreation parks map
 Imagery: Goodhue County, 2023 NAIP



Scale: 1:17,500

Center: 92°39'9"W 44°13'30"N

FIGURE 4: LAND COVER

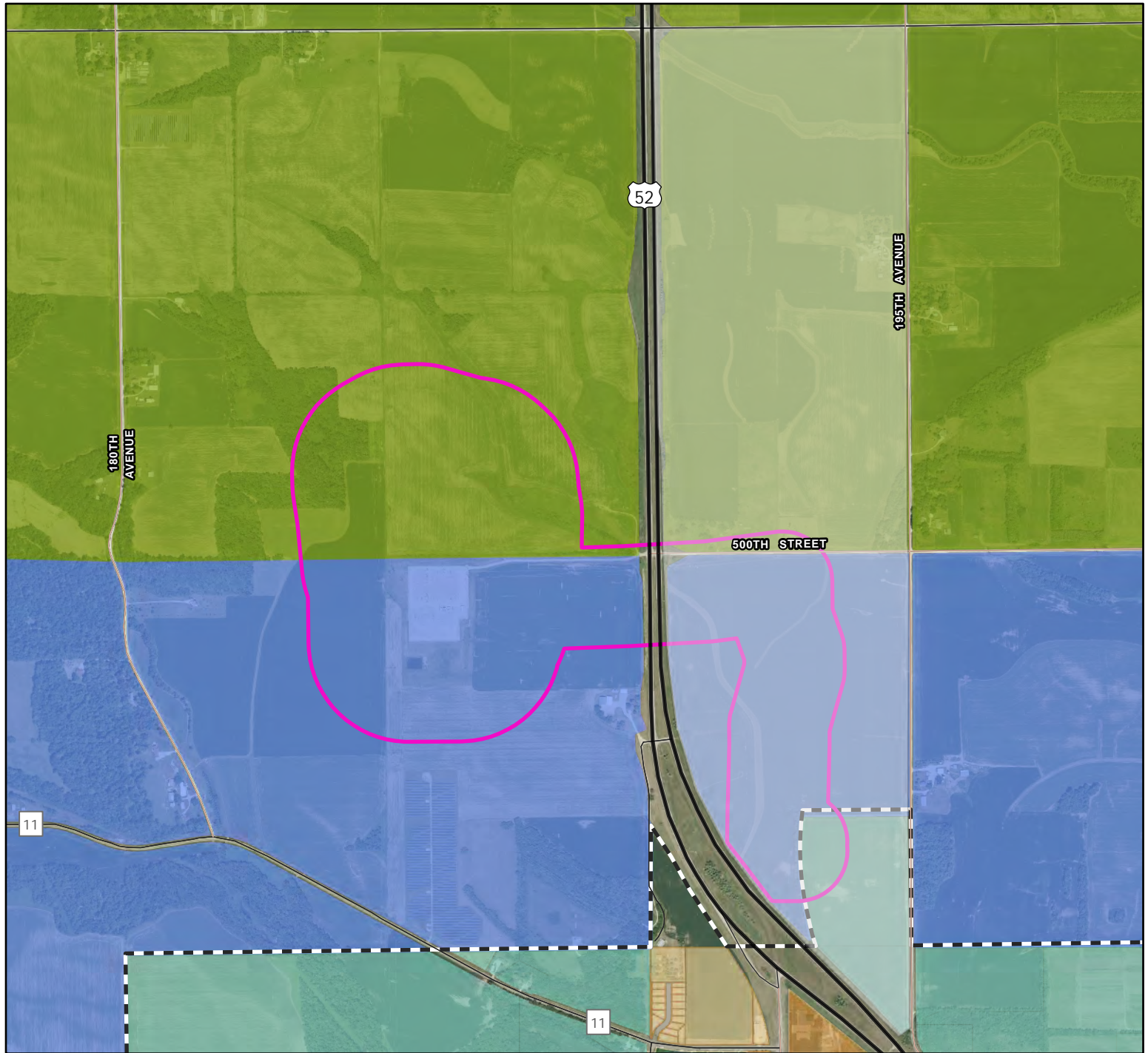


LEGEND			Imagery: Goodhue County, 2023 NAIP
Proposed Route Width	AUAR Development Area	Developed, Open Space	 0 Feet 2,000 Scale: 1:17,000 Center: 92°39'3"W 44°13'30"N
Proposed Project Area	Future 161 kV Transmission Line	Deciduous Forest	
Proposed Transmission Line	Existing Transmission Lines	Evergreen Forest	
Proposed Centerline Changes	Parcels	Mixed Forest	
Existing North Rochester Substation	City Boundary	Hay/Pasture	
Proposed North Rochester Substation Expansion Area	Township Boundary	Cultivated Crops	
Proposed Transmission Line ROW	NLCD Cover Class 2024	Barren Land	
Proposed Substations	Developed, High Intensity	Herbaceous	
	Developed, Medium Intensity	Woody Wetlands	
	Developed, Low Intensity		

DATE EXPORTED: 2/11/2026



FIGURE 5: ZONING



LEGEND

- Proposed Route Width
- AUAR Development Area (Zoning and Platting conditionally approved by the City of Pine Island on 1/20/26)
- City Boundary
- Goodhue County Zoning**
- A3 - Urban Fringe

- A1 - Agricultural Protection
- City of Pine Island Zoning**
- AG: Agricultural District
- C-2: Highway Commercial District
- I-1: Heavy Industrial District
- I-2: Light Industrial District

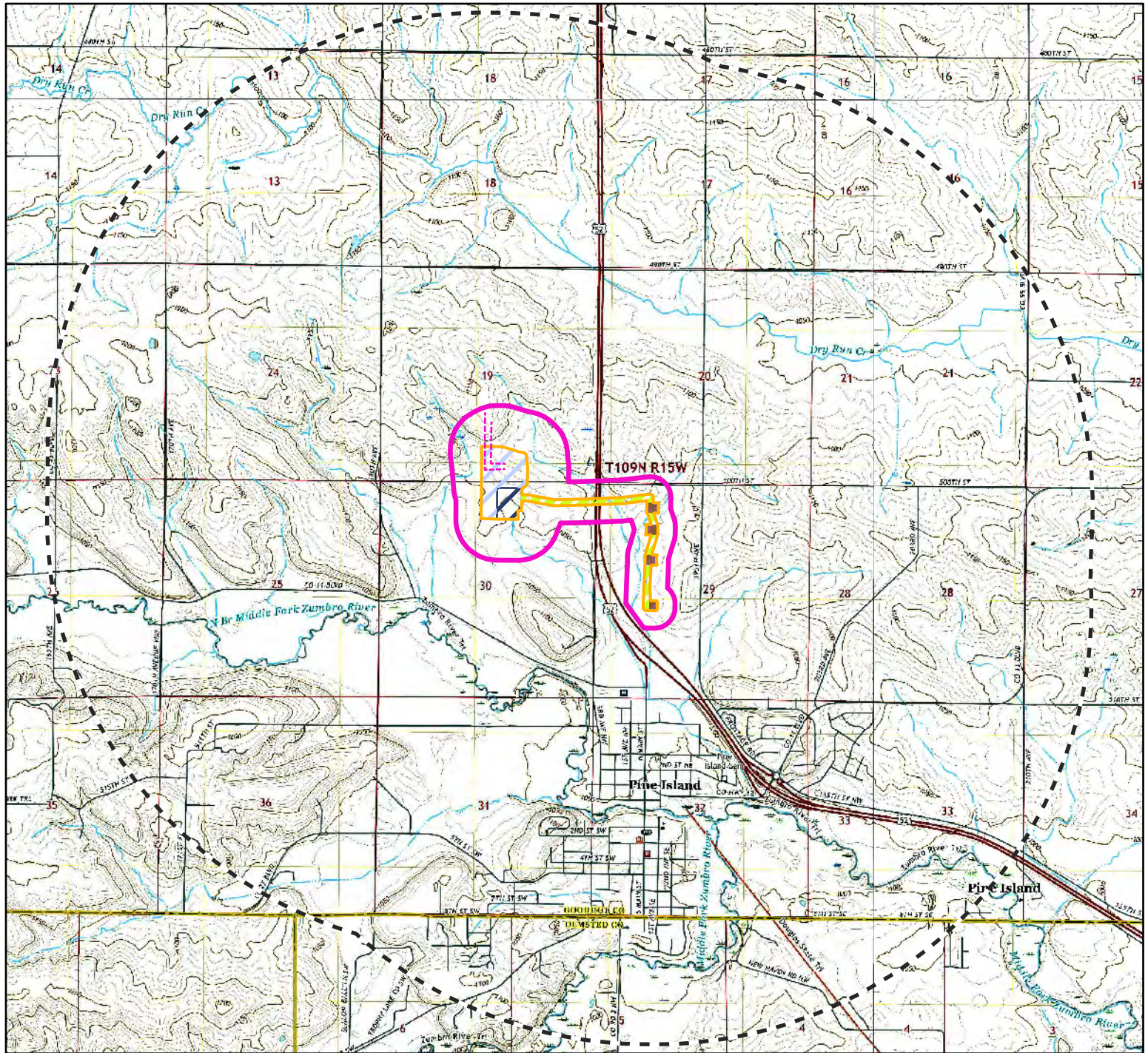
Imagery: Goodhue County, 2023 NAIP



Scale: 1:17,000

Center: 92°39'13"W 44°13'30"N

FIGURE 6: USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP



LEGEND

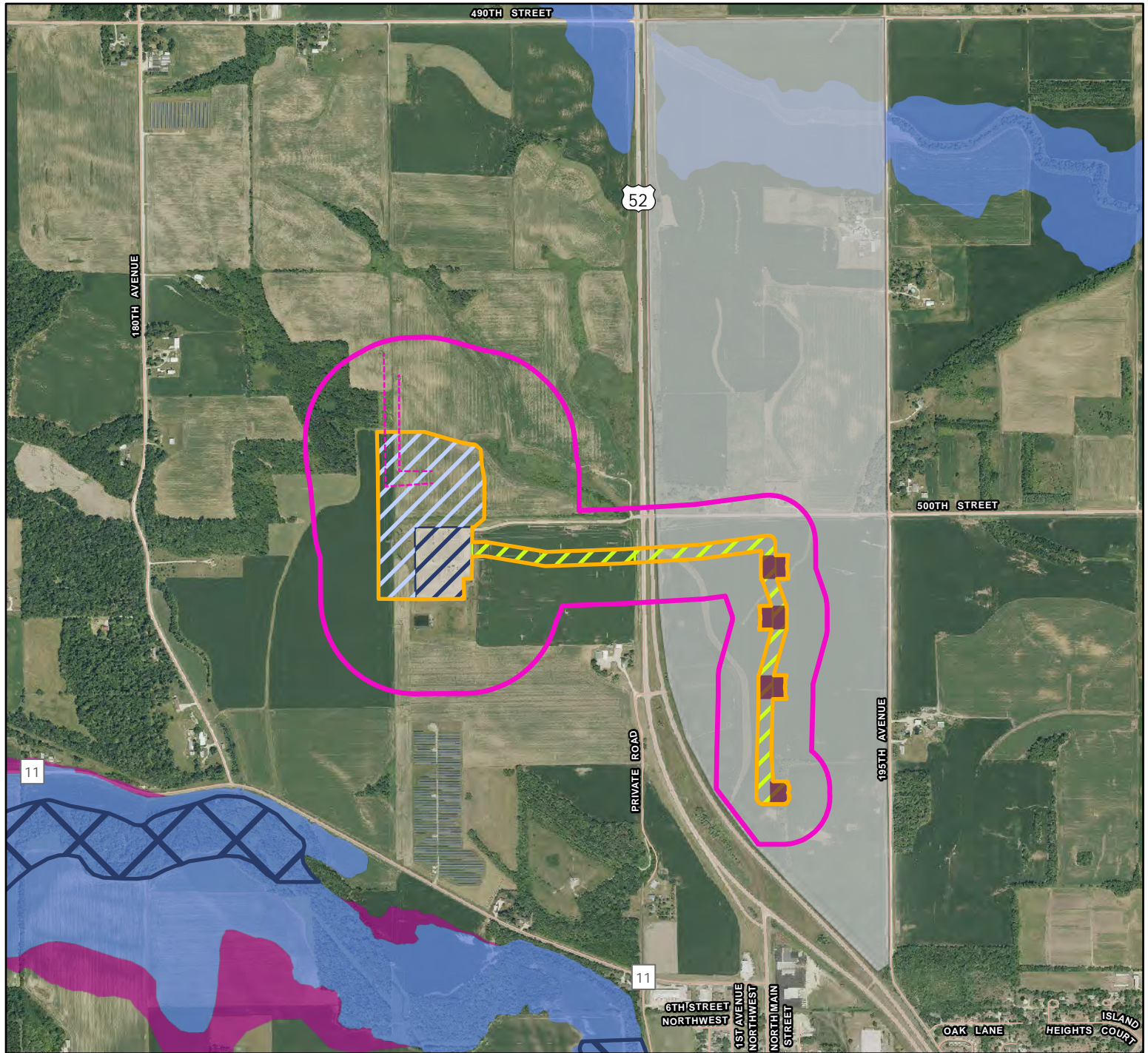
- Proposed Project Area
- Proposed Route Width
- Proposed Centerline Changes
- 2-Mile Project Area Buffer
- Existing North Rochester Substation
- Proposed North Rochester Substation Expansion Area
- Proposed Transmission Line ROW
- Proposed Substations

0 Feet 5,000
 Scale: 1:41,500
 Center: 92°39'10"W 44°13'17"N












Source: USGS Topographic Maps 1:24,000 from 2022 Quadrangles Included: Zumbrota, Mazeppa, Pine Island, and Oronoco



FIGURE 7: FLOODPLAIN DATA



LEGEND

-  Proposed Project Area
-  Proposed Route Width
-  Proposed Centerline Changes
-  AUAR Development Area
-  Existing North Rochester Substation
-  Proposed North Rochester Substation Expansion Area
-  Proposed Transmission Line ROW
-  Proposed Substations
- FEMA Data**
-  Floodway
-  100 Year Floodplain
-  500 Year Floodplain



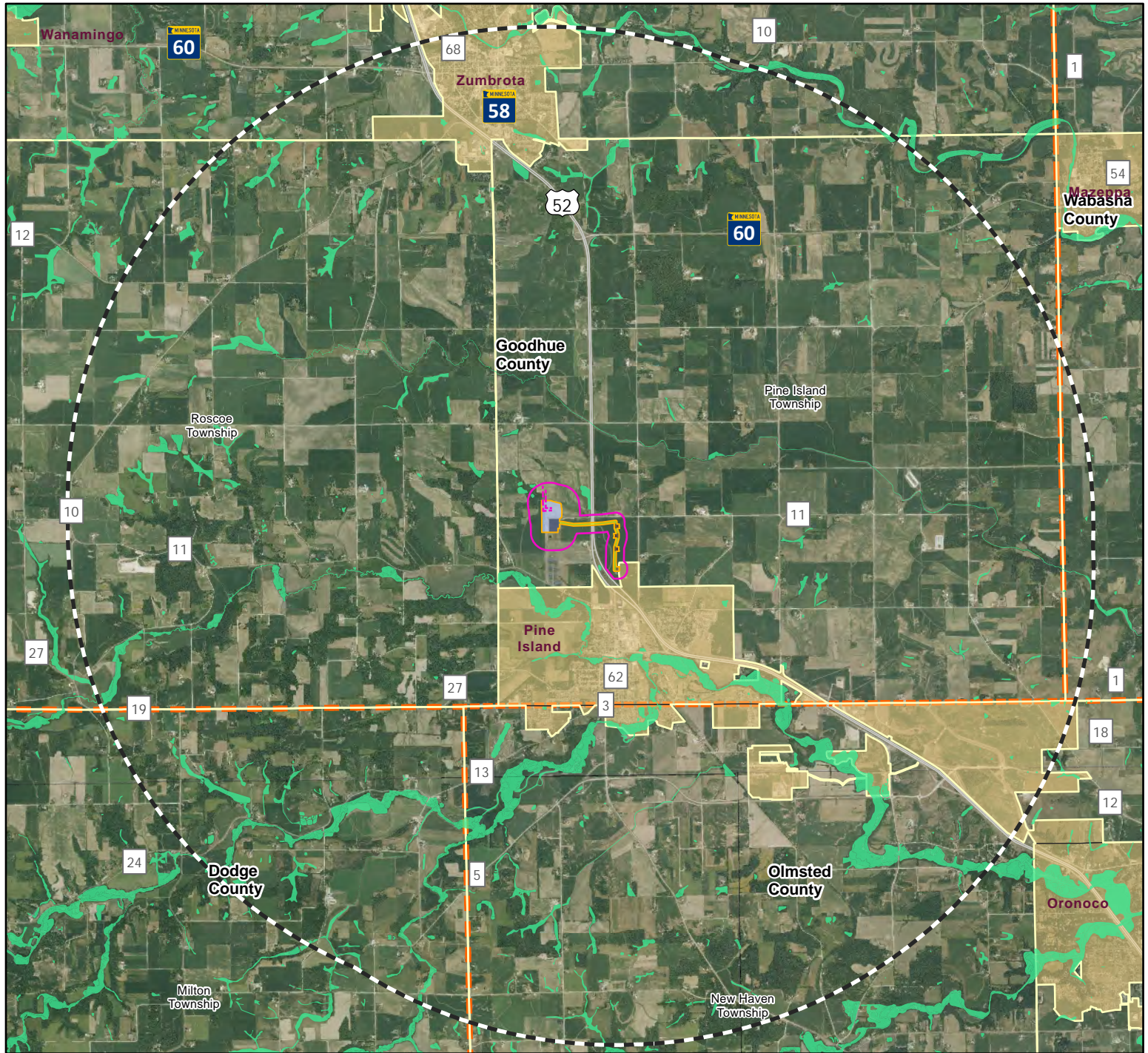
0 Feet 2,000

Scale: 1:18,000

Center: 92°39'13"W 44°13'26"N



FIGURE 8: WETLANDS



LEGEND

- Proposed Project Area
- Route Width
- 5-Mile Project Area Buffer
- Proposed Centerline Changes
- Existing North Rochester Substation
- Proposed North Rochester Substation Expansion Area
- Proposed Transmission Line ROW
- Proposed Substations
- Undelineated National Wetland Inventory
- City Boundary
- Township Boundary
- County Boundary



0 Miles 2

Scale: 1:95,000

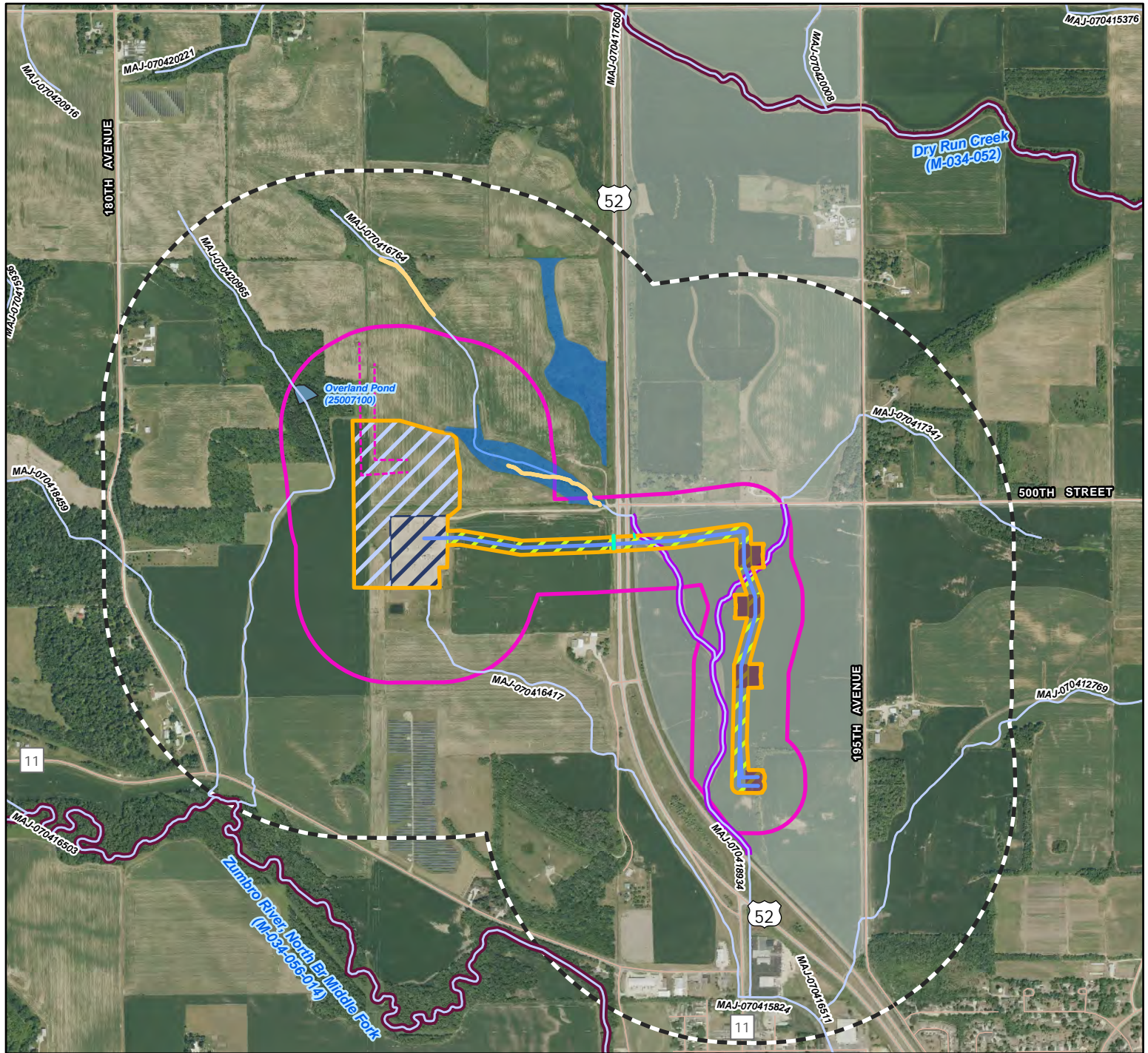
Center: 92°39'16"W 44°13'21"N

Imagery: Goodhue, Dodge, and Olmsted Counties, 2023 NAIP

DATE EXPORTED: 2/16/2026



FIGURE 9: SURFACE WATERS



LEGEND

- Proposed Project Area
- Proposed Route Width
- Half-Mile Project Area Buffer
- AUAR Development Area
- Proposed Transmission Line
- Proposed Centerline Changes
- Existing North Rochester Substation
- Proposed North Rochester Substation Expansion Area
- Proposed Transmission Line ROW
- Proposed Substations
- MNDNR Rivers and Streams
- Public Watercourses
- Swale*
- MNDNR Hydrography - All Water Features
- Delineated Wetlands
- Previously Delineated Wetlands
- Previously Delineated Waterway

*Based on the Notice of Decision from 07/09/24 the swales in the Project Area are not considered WOTUS as they do not meet the definition.

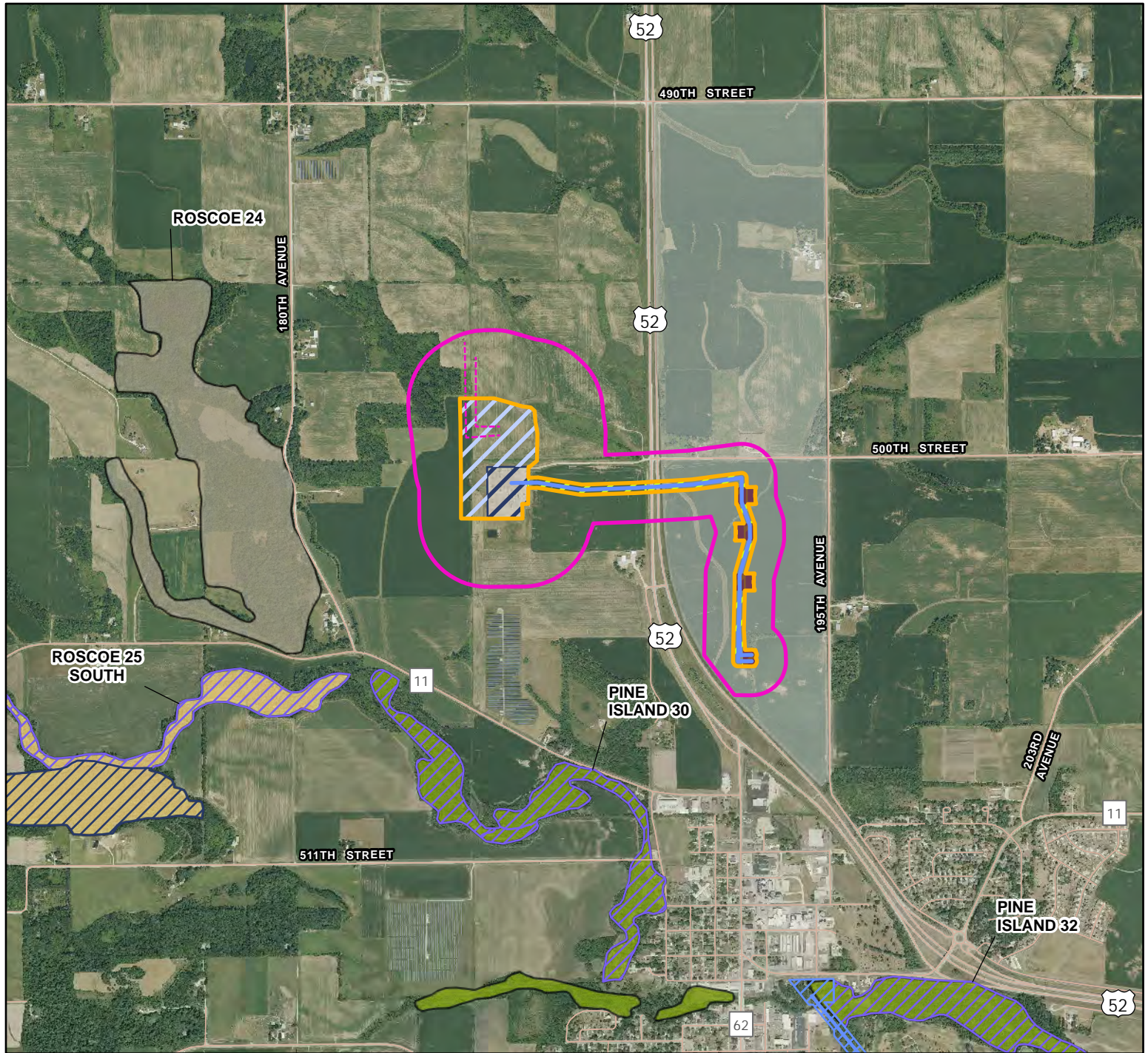
Imagery: Goodhue County, 2023 NAIP



Scale: 1:18,000

Center: 92°39'9"W 44°13'25"N

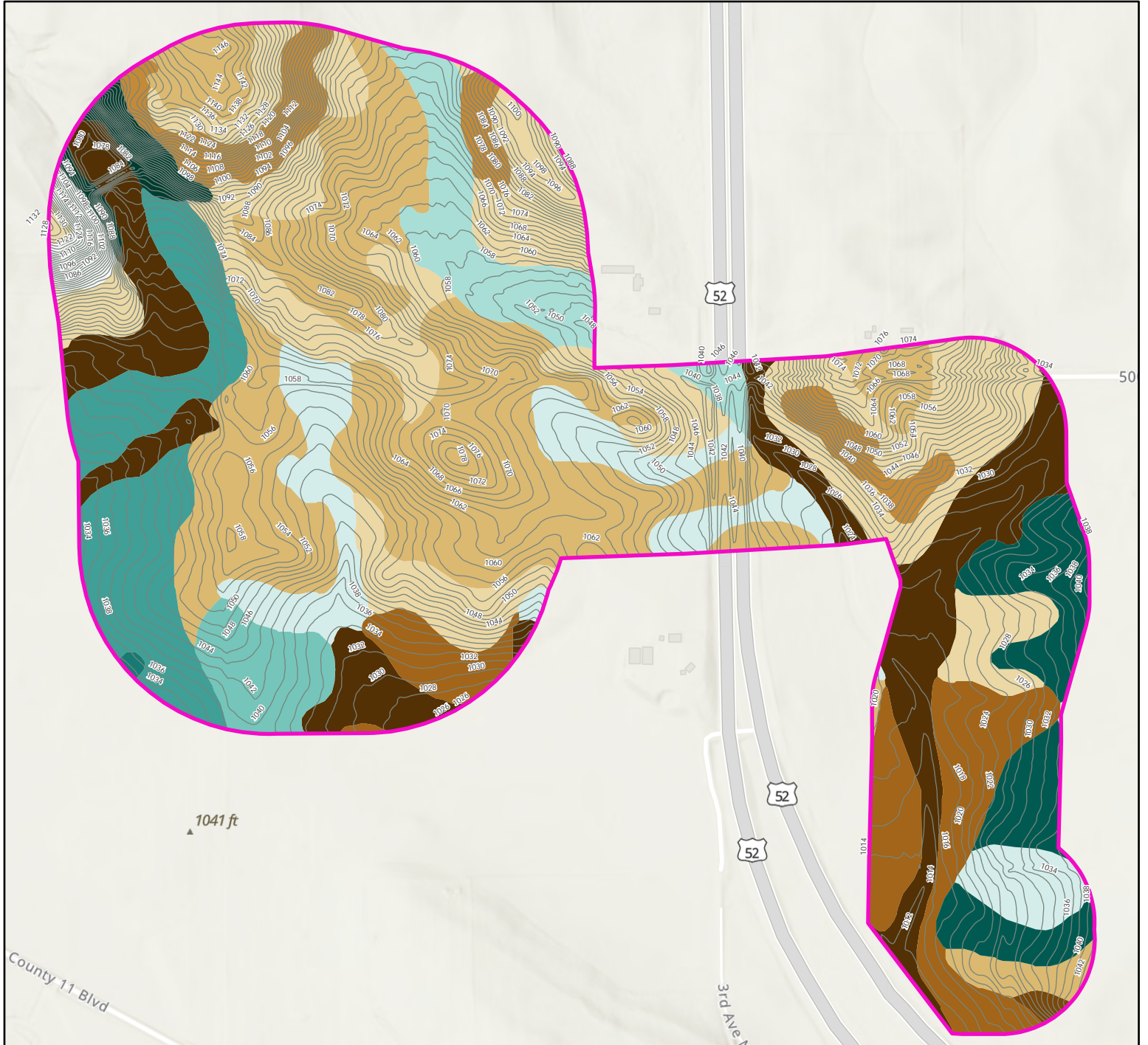
FIGURE 10: UNIQUE NATURAL FEATURES



LEGEND		Imagery: Goodhue County, 2023 NAIP
Proposed Route Width	Proposed Project Area	MBS Sites of Biodiversity Significance High Moderate Below
AUAR Development Area	Proposed Transmission Line	
Proposed Centerline Changes	Existing North Rochester Substation	
Proposed North Rochester Substation Expansion Area	Proposed Transmission Line ROW	MNDNR Native Plant Communities Elm - Ash - Basswood Terrace Forest Southern Terrace Forest Sugar Maple - Basswood - (Bitternut Hickory) Forest
Proposed Substations		 0 Feet 2,500 Scale: 1:25,000 Center: 92°39'19"W 44°13'18"N

DATE EXPORTED: 2/11/2026


FIGURE 11: SOILS DATA




LEGEND

- Proposed Route Width
- 2 Foot Contours
- Mapunit Name**
- Barremills silt loam, drainageway, 1 to 5 percent slopes, occasionally flooded
- Bassett-Kasson complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded
- Dakota silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes
- Downs-Hersey complex, 12 to 18 percent slopes, moderately eroded
- Downs-Hersey complex, 2 to 6 percent slopes
- Downs-Hersey complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes, moderately eroded
- Downs-Hersey, bedrock substratum, complex, 12 to 18 percent slopes, moderately eroded
- Fayette-Hersey, bedrock substratum, complex, 18 to 25 percent slopes, moderately eroded
- Joy silt loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes
- Joy-Ossian, occasionally flooded, complex, 1 to 5 percent slopes
- Kasson silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes
- Richwood silt loam, 1 to 6 percent slopes
- Shandep-Cylinder complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Vasa silt loam, 1 to 4 percent slopes
- Winneshiek-Waucoma complex, 18 to 35 percent slopes

Minimum elevation - 1012 feet
Maximum elevation - 1148 feet

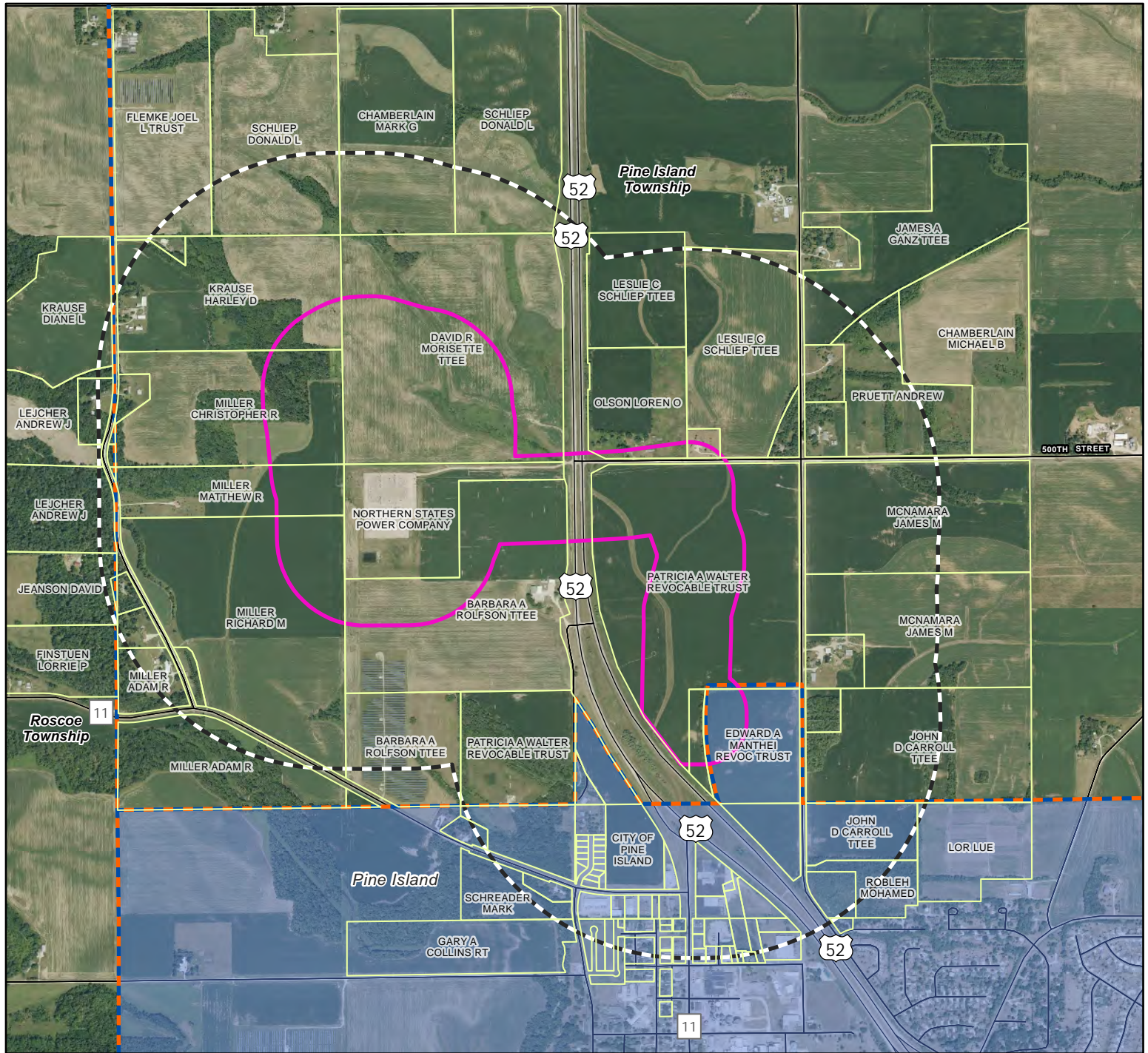




Scale: 1:9,000
Center: 92°39'14"W 44°13'20"N

DATE EXPORTED: 2/11/2026

FIGURE 12: LAND OWNERSHIP AND PARCEL BOUNDARIES



LEGEND

- Half-Mile Project Area Buffer
- Proposed Route Width
- Parcels Within Half a Mile
- Roads
- City Boundary
- Township Boundary



Scale: 1:19,500

Center: 92°39'3"W 44°13'20"N

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Appendix C

Agency and Tribal Correspondence

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DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
November 6, 2025	Email/ Letter	Applicants	Stakeholders	Proposed 345 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Project Initial Stakeholder Outreach
November 6, 2025	Email	Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community	Applicants	Response to Initial Outreach Letter– No Concerns
November 7, 2025	Email	Goodhue County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)	Applicants	Response to Initial Outreach Letter – nearby wetland
November 7, 2025	Email	Applicants	Goodhue County SWCD	Discussion regarding nearby wetland
November 7, 2025	Email	USACE	Applicants	Response to initial outreach
November 7, 2025	Email	Applicants	USACE	Response to initial outreach (continued)
November 11, 2025	Email	Applicants	Additional Stakeholders	Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Project Initial Stakeholder Outreach
November 11, 2025	Email	Applicants	MnDOT	Clarification of MnDOT Project-specific ENM form
November 12, 2025	Email	MnDOT	Applicants	Clarification of MnDOT Project-specific ENM (continued)
November 12, 2025	Email	Applicants	MnDOT	Project-specific ENM form and meeting coordination
November 12, 2025	Email	MnDOT	Applicants	Project-specific ENM form and meeting coordination (continued)

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
November 12, 2025	Email	Applicants	MnDOT	Project-specific ENM form and meeting coordination (continued)
November 13, 2025	Email	MnDOT	Applicants	Utility ENM Request
November 13, 2025	Email	Applicants	MnDOT	Utility ENM Request – Confirmation of receipt
November 13, 2025	Email	USFWS [Mags Martin]	Applicants	Name update request
November 13, 2025	Email	MnSHPO	Applicants	Clarification of submittal
November 13, 2025	Email	Applicants	MnSHPO	Clarification of submittal (continued)
November 13, 2025	Email	Pine Island Township	Applicants	Request to discuss concerns about possible drainage
November 13, 2025	Email	Applicants	Pine Island Township	Coordination for a meeting to discuss drainage concerns
November 13, 2025	Email	Pine Island Township	Applicants	Coordination for a meeting to discuss drainage concerns (continued)
November 19, 2025	Email	Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community	Applicants	Response to initial outreach – No concerns + Address change request
November 20, 2025	Email	FAA	Applicants	Response to initial outreach + Contact change request
November 20, 2025	Email	Applicants	FAA	Response to initial outreach (continued)

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
November 25, 2025	Email	USFWS	Applicants	No resource concerns, IPaC recommendation
December 1, 2025	Email	USFWS	Applicants	Response to initial outreach, IPAC
December 1, 2025	Email & Letter Attachment	Goodhue County	Applicants	Response to initial outreach, attachment containing comments and questions from county commissioner
December 8, 2025	Email & Letter Attachment	MN SHPO	Applicants	Response to initial outreach, attachment containing information regarding statutes and archaeological literature review & survey assessment.
December 8, 2025	Email & Letter Attachment	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	Applicants	Determination of no historic properties
April 21, 2026	Email & Letter Attachment	Applicants	Tribal Stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fond Du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa • Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa • Lower Sioux Indian Community • Bois Forte Band of Chippewa 	Proposed 345 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Project Follow Up Stakeholder Outreach

DATE	TYPE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe • Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians • Upper Sioux Community • White Earth Nation 	
April 21, 2026	Email	Bois Forte Band of Chippewa	Applicants	Response to outreach letter, no concerns. Encouraged Applicants to reach out to Ho-Chunk and Winnebago tribes in Nebraska
April 22, 2026	Email & Letter Attachment	Applicants	Tribal Stakeholders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin • Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska 	Proposed 345 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Project Initial Stakeholder Outreach

Appendix C

November 6 Agency outreach contact list

Agency and Tribal Coordination

LOCAL UNITS OF GOVERNMENT/STATE TECHNICAL RESOURCE AGENCIES/OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

County	Organization	GTU CLASS	Position	Name	Last Name	Address 1	Address 2	City	State	Zip Code
Goodhue County	Goodhue County	County	County Administrator	Scott Arneson	Arneson	509 W 5th St		Red Wing	MIN	55066
Goodhue County	Goodhue County	County	County Board Member District 3	Todd Greseth	Greseth	509 W 5th St		Red Wing	MIN	55066
Goodhue County	Goodhue County	County	Director/County Engineer, Public Works	Jess Greenwood	Greenwood	2140 Pioneer Road		Red Wing	MIN	55066
Goodhue/Olmsted Counties	City of Pine Island	City	City Administrator	Elizabeth Howard	Howard	PO Box 280	250 South Main Street	Pine Island	MIN	55963
Goodhue/Olmsted Counties	City of Pine Island	City	Deputy City Clerk	Stephanie Pocklington	Pocklington	PO Box 280	250 South Main Street	Pine Island	MIN	55963
Goodhue/Olmsted Counties	City of Pine Island	City	Public Works Director	Todd Robertson	Robertson	PO Box 280	250 South Main Street	Pine Island	MIN	55963
Goodhue/Olmsted Counties	City of Pine Island	City	Mayor	David Friese	Friese	PO Box 280	250 South Main Street	Pine Island	MIN	55963
Goodhue/Olmsted Counties	City of Pine Island	City	Council Member	Brandt Veith Staloch	Veith Staloch	PO Box 280	250 South Main Street	Pine Island	MIN	55963
Goodhue/Olmsted Counties	City of Pine Island	City	Council Member	Vernon Pahl	Pahl	PO Box 280	250 South Main Street	Pine Island	MIN	55963
Goodhue/Olmsted Counties	City of Pine Island	City	Council Member	Colton Wright	Wright	PO Box 280	250 South Main Street	Pine Island	MIN	55963
Goodhue/Olmsted Counties	City of Pine Island	City	Council Member	Deliana Welis	Welis	PO Box 280	250 South Main Street	Pine Island	MIN	55963
Goodhue County	Pine Island Township	Township	Chairperson	Glen Betcher	Betcher	20011 480th St.		Zumbrota	MIN	55992
Goodhue County	Pine Island Township	Township	Clerk	David A. Arndt	Arndt	21196 510th Ave		Pine Island	MIN	55963
Goodhue County	Pine Island Township	Township	Supervisor	James Ganz	Ganz	49550 195th Ave		Pine Island	MIN	55963
Goodhue County	Pine Island Township	Township	Vice Chair	Richard Miller	Miller	50389 180th Ave		Pine Island	MIN	55963
Federal	U.S. House of Representatives	Elected Official - Federal	Congressman - MN 1st District	Brad Finstad	Finstad	2746 Superior Drive NW Suite 100		Rochester	MIN	55001
Federal	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Lead Project Manager	Lead Project Manager	Alex Meinicke	Meinicke	332 Minnesota Street, Suite E1500		St. Paul	MIN	55101
Federal	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Supervisor	Supervisor	Shauna Marquardt	Marquardt	3815 American Blvd. East		Bloomington	MIN	55425
Federal	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife Biologist	Margaret Martin	Martin	5600 American Blvd W - Ste 990		Bloomington	MIN	55437
Federal	Federal Aviation Administration	Manager	Manager	Lindsay Terry	Terry	6020 28th Ave S - Ste 102		Minneapolis	MIN	55450
Federal	U.S. Department of Agriculture	State Conservationist	State Conservationist	Troy Daniell	Daniell	375 Jackson Street - Suite 410		St. Paul	MIN	55101
State	Minnesota State House of Representatives	Elected Official - State	Representative - District 20B	Steven Jacob	Jacob	658 Cedar Street		St. Paul	MIN	55155
State	Minnesota State Senate	Elected Official - State	Senator - District 20	Steve Drazkowski	Drazkowski	95 University Ave W #2411		St. Paul	MIN	55155
State	Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation	Executive Director	Executive Director	Leanne Buck	Buck	100 Empire Dr Ste 205		St. Paul	MIN	55103
County	Goodhue County Soil and Water Conservation District	District Manager	District Manager	Beau Kennedy	Kennedy	PO Box 335	104 East 3rd Avenue	Goodhue	MIN	55027
State	Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources	Environmental Planner, Ag Marketing & Development	Environmental Planner, Ag Marketing & Development	Ed Lenz	Lenz	1400 E Lyon St Ste 100		Rochester	MIN	55904
State	Minnesota Department of Agriculture	Health Impact Assessment and Climate Change Program Director	Health Impact Assessment and Climate Change Program Director	Steve Roos	Roos	625 Robert Street		St. Paul	MIN	55155
State	Minnesota Department of Health	Energy Review Planner	Energy Review Planner	Kristin Raab	Raab	625 Robert Street N		St. Paul	MIN	55101
State	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Environmental Review Operations Lead	Environmental Review Operations Lead	Samantha Bump	Bump	500 Lafayette Road		St. Paul	MIN	55164
State	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Utility Routing and Siting Coordinator	Utility Routing and Siting Coordinator	Kate Fairman	Fairman	500 Lafayette Road		St. Paul	MIN	55155
State	Minnesota Department of Transportation	Transportation District Engineer	Transportation District Engineer	Stacy Kotch	Kotch	395 John N Ireland Blvd		Mankato	MIN	56001-6888
State	Minnesota Department of Transportation	Division Director & Deputy State Historic Enforcement	Division Director & Deputy State Historic Enforcement	Mark Schoenfelder	Schoenfelder	2900 48th Street NW		Rochester	MIN	55901-5848
State	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	Preservation Officer	Preservation Officer	Steve Oscarson	Oscarson	520 Lafayette Rd N		St. Paul	MIN	55155-1800
State	Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office	SC/SW Regional Director	SC/SW Regional Director	Amy Spang	Spang	50 Sherburne Ave -#203		St. Paul	MIN	55101
State	Community and Economic Development Associates (CEDA)	Regional Development	Regional Development	Annie Nichols	Nichols	1500 South Highway 52, PO Box 483		Chatfield	MIN	55923
State	Community and Economic Development Associates (CEDA)	Regional Development	Regional Development	Ron Zeigler	Zeigler	1500 South Highway 52, PO Box 483		Chatfield	MIN	55923
Local	Pine Island Area Chamber of Commerce	Chamber of Commerce	PIACC 2025 President	Chris Stelling	Stelling	PO Box 441		Pine Island	MIN	55963
Local	Goodhue County Economic Development Authority	Economic Development	Secretary	Scott O. Arneson	Arneson	509 West 5th Street		Red Wing	MIN	55066
Local	Pine Island Economic Development Authority	Economic Development	President	Ann Fahy-Gust	Fahy-Gust	Goodhue County Government Center		Red Wing	MIN	55066

November 5, 2025

Stakeholder

**Re: Stakeholder Outreach - Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Project
Goodhue County, Minnesota**

Greetings:

Xcel Energy is proposing to permit, construct, and operate a new, approximately 1.3 mile long, double-circuit, 345-kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line (Project) that will connect Xcel Energy's existing North Rochester Substation to new substation facilities located at a proposed technology center/mixed use industrial development site (development site) near the City of Pine Island in Goodhue County, Minnesota. The development site (known as the Skyway Project¹) is undergoing permitting and approval processes with the City of Pine Island separate from this 345 kV transmission line project.

To accommodate the proposed 345/345-kV high voltage transmission line, Xcel Energy's existing North Rochester Substation will be expanded to the north by approximately 17.9 acres and additional substation facilities will be constructed within the development site. The transmission line is proposed to have a 150-foot-wide right-of-way. The enclosed map shows the location of the proposed Project facilities. The proposed transmission line and substation expansion would be constructed primarily on land currently being farmed for corn and soybeans.

Xcel Energy plans to submit a Route Permit Application (RPA) with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in the first quarter of 2026. We intend to file the RPA in accordance with Minnesota Statutes (Minn. Stat.) 216I.07 under the standard review process.

Xcel Energy requests your feedback to assist in identifying potential impacts. If you would like to meet to discuss the Project, or if you have questions or would like

¹ The Skyway Project is being proposed by Ryan Companies US, Inc. An Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) has been completed for the development site project and the City of Pine Island is currently reviewing that project for applicable permits and approvals. See the City of Pine Island website ([Project Skyway - Pine Island, MN](#)) for more information.

additional information, please contact me at Ellen.L.Heine@xcelenergy.com or (612) 330-6073.

We look forward to hearing from you about this Project and respectfully request comments by or before December 19, 2025.

Sincerely,

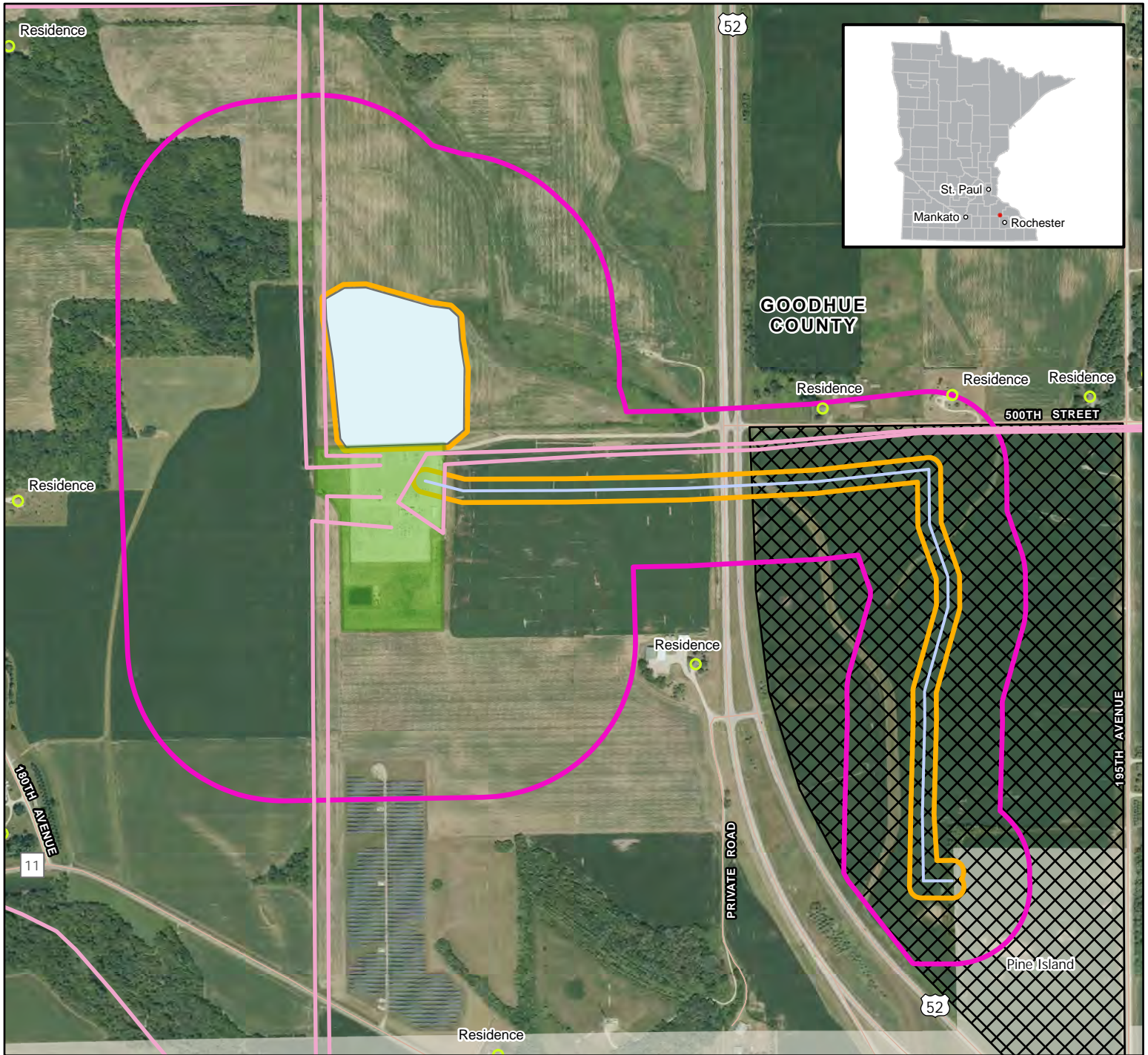


Ellen Heine
Xcel Energy
Principal Siting and Permitting Agent

Enc. Project Location Map



PROJECT LOCATION MAP



LEGEND

- Residences
- Existing Transmission Lines
- Proposed Transmission Line
- Proposed Right-of-Way
- Transmission Facility Study Area
- Proposed Development Site
- Approximate Extent of Substation Expansion
- Existing North Rochester Substation
- County Boundary
- City Boundary

Imagery: Goodhue County, 2023 NAIP



Scale: 1:11,000

Center: 92°39'16"W 44°13'21"N

From: Heine, Ellen L <Ellen.L.Heine@xcelenergy.com>
Sent: Friday, November 7, 2025 9:22 AM
To: Dvorak, Ben <ben.dvorak@goodhueswcd.org>
Cc: Kennedy, Beau <bkennedy@goodhueswcd.org>; Sedarski, Joe <Joe.Sedarski@hdrinc.com>
Subject: Re: Skyway transmission line project

CAUTION: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks Ben,

Yes, we will definitely plan to do a delineation for that area. The grading area shown in the map is preliminary. Hopefully we will be able to avoid direct wetland impacts, but if not, we will work with you on review and permitting.

Thanks,
Ellen

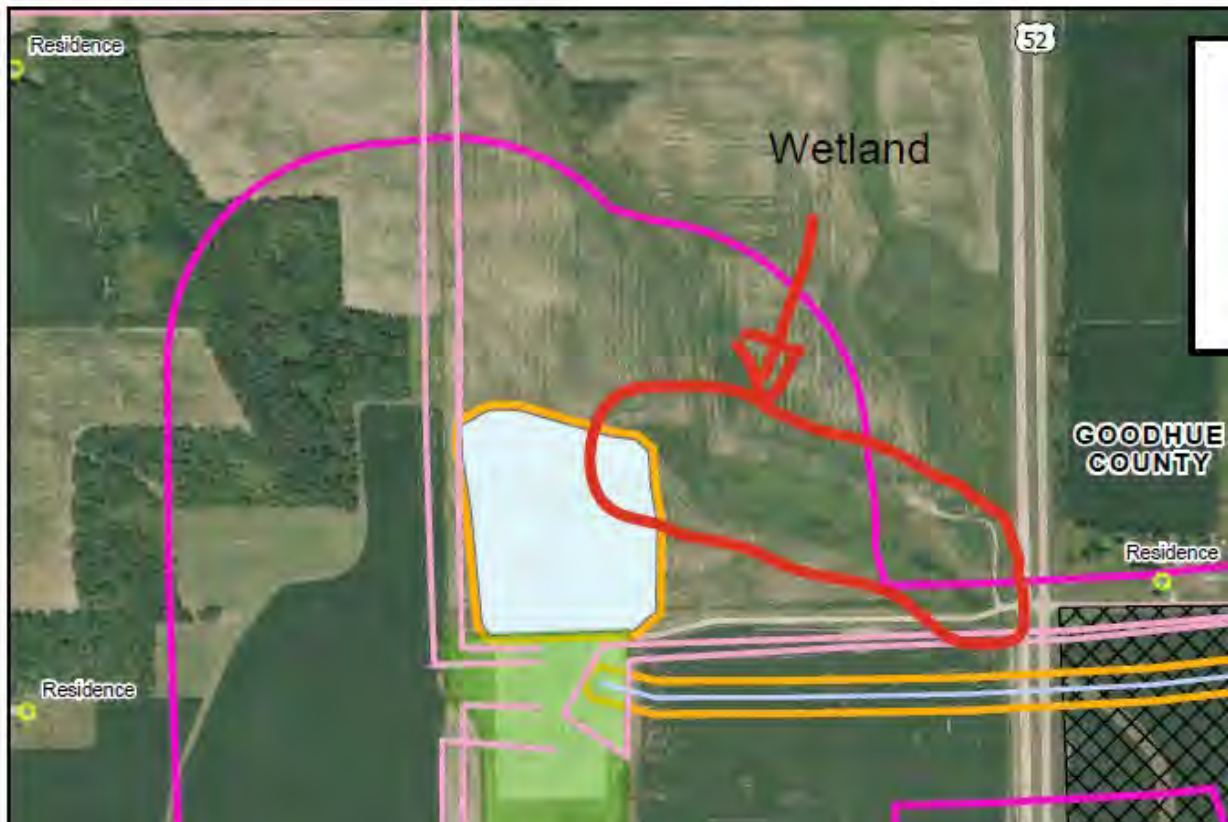
From: Dvorak, Ben <ben.dvorak@goodhueswcd.org>
Sent: Friday, November 7, 2025 9:15:02 AM
To: Heine, Ellen L <Ellen.L.Heine@xcelenergy.com>
Cc: Kennedy, Beau <bkennedy@goodhueswcd.org>
Subject: Skyway transmission line project

EXTERNAL - STOP & THINK before opening links and attachments.

Hi Ellen,

I'm the Wetland Conservation Act LGU for Goodhue county and I just wanted to make you aware that there is a wetland near where your expansion is planned. I'm sure Xcel was planning to do a delineation eventually, but I wanted to make sure you were aware.

PROJECT LOCATION MAP



Thank you



Ben Dvorak

Natural Resource Specialist

ben.dvorak@goodhueswcd.org

651-923-5286 Ext 105

www.goodhueswcd.org

104 East 3rd Ave/PO Box 335

Goodhue, MN 55027

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From: Sedarski, Joe
Sent: Friday, November 7, 2025 9:59 AM
To: 'Meincke, Alexander C CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)' <Alexander.C.Meincke@usace.army.mil>; Heine, Ellen L <ellen.l.heine@xcelenergy.com>
Cc: Raine, Katie <Katie.Raine@hdrinc.com>; Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>; Andre, Jake N <jacob.n.andre@xcelenergy.com>; Giuffre, David <david.giuffre@xcelenergy.com>; Mauseth, Timothy S <Timothy.S.Mauseth@xcelenergy.com>; Fordice, Randy L <randy.l.fordice@xcelenergy.com>; Bentz, Nick <Nicholas.Bentz@hdrinc.com>; Lexvold, Ross L <ross.l.lexvold@xcelenergy.com>
Subject: RE: Xcel Energy - Stakeholder Outreach - Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Project, Goodhue County, MN

Thanks for your response Mr. Meincke.
We will review and follow up as needed for this Project.

Best,

Joe

[Joe Sedarski, PE](#)

Sr. Environmental PM / Sr. Technical Advisor

HDR
1601 Utica Avenue South, Suite 600
St. Louis Park, MN 55416-3400
D 763.591.6684 M 612.214.6658
Joe.Sedarski@hdrinc.com
hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: Meincke, Alexander C CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA) <Alexander.C.Meincke@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Friday, November 7, 2025 9:30 AM
To: Sedarski, Joe <Joe.Sedarski@hdrinc.com>; Heine, Ellen L <ellen.l.heine@xcelenergy.com>
Cc: Raine, Katie <Katie.Raine@hdrinc.com>; Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>; Andre, Jake N <jacob.n.andre@xcelenergy.com>; Giuffre, David <david.giuffre@xcelenergy.com>; Mauseth, Timothy S <Timothy.S.Mauseth@xcelenergy.com>; Fordice, Randy L <randy.l.fordice@xcelenergy.com>; Bentz, Nick <Nicholas.Bentz@hdrinc.com>; Lexvold, Ross L <ross.l.lexvold@xcelenergy.com>
Subject: RE: Xcel Energy - Stakeholder Outreach - Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Project, Goodhue County, MN

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Hello,

Our office is committed to efficient, helpful service. It is unclear if your project will have impacts to jurisdictional waters. If your project will have impacts to aquatic resources, please submit a permit application with the impacts clearly identified and we can assist you through our permit review process if authorization is required.

You may also request a pre-application meeting to discuss your project prior to submitting a permit application. You can find more information on our permit program and our joint application here: <https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permitting-Process-Procedures/>. *Be sure to select the pre-application box on the joint application.

Please note this recommendation is only pertaining to the Corps process and does NOT indicate whether a review is required from the state or local authorities.

If we do not receive a response from you within 3 business days we will assume nothing further is needed from our office.

Respectfully,

Alex Meincke
Lead Project Manager, South Branch, Regulatory Division
St. Paul District, US Army Corps of Engineers
332 Minnesota Street, Suite E1500
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
Office Phone: (651) 290-5485

From: Sedarski, Joe <Joe.Sedarski@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 6, 2025 11:32 AM
To: Heine, Ellen L <ellen.l.heine@xcelenergy.com>
Cc: Raine, Katie <Katie.Raine@hdrinc.com>; Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>; Andre, Jake N <jacob.n.andre@xcelenergy.com>; Giuffre, David <david.giuffre@xcelenergy.com>; Mauseth, Timothy S <Timothy.S.Mauseth@xcelenergy.com>; Fordice, Randy L <randy.l.fordice@xcelenergy.com>; Bentz, Nick <Nicholas.Bentz@hdrinc.com>; Lexvold, Ross L <ross.l.lexvold@xcelenergy.com>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Xcel Energy - Stakeholder Outreach - Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Project, Goodhue County, MN

Greetings and good afternoon all,

On behalf of Xcel Energy, we are sending you the attached stakeholder outreach letter concerning the proposed 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line project (Project) located in Goodhue County, Minnesota. We are also sending you this letter and map via US Mail to

ensure you receive this.

If you have questions, comments or concerns, please contact either Ellen Heine, Principal Siting and Permitting Agent, Xcel Energy, or myself by or before December 19, 2025.

Ellen can be reached at Ellen.L.Heine@xcelenergy.com or (612) 330-6073. Joe can be reached at joe.sedarski@hdrinc.com or (612) 214-6658.

We appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Best Regards,

Joe

[Joe Sedarski, PE](mailto:Joe.Sedarski@hdrinc.com)

Sr. Environmental PM / Sr. Technical Advisor

HDR

1601 Utica Avenue South, Suite 600

St. Louis Park, MN 55416-3400

D 763.591.6684 **M** 612.214.6658

Joe.Sedarski@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: [Sedarski, Joe](#)
 To: [Kotch Egstad, Stacy \(DOT\)](#)
 Cc: [Heine, Ellen L](#); [Raine, Katie](#); [Hanley, Jennifer](#); [Neff, Alexis](#); [Parker, Amber](#)
 Subject: RE: Xcel Energy - Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Project - Goodhue County, MN
 Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 11:48:58 AM
 Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thanks Stacy – will check our team and circle back when we can meet.

Joe

[Joe Sedarski, PE](#)

Sr. Environmental PM / Sr. Technical Advisor

HDR

1601 Utica Avenue South, Suite 600

St. Louis Park, MN 55416-3400

D 763.591.6684 **M** 612.214.6658

Joe.Sedarski@hdrinc.com

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From: Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>

Sent: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 11:08 AM

To: Sedarski, Joe <Joe.Sedarski@hdrinc.com>

Cc: Heine, Ellen L <ellen.l.heine@xcelenergy.com>; Raine, Katie <Katie.Raine@hdrinc.com>; Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>; Neff, Alexis <Alexis.Neff@hdrinc.com>; Parker, Amber <Amber.Parker@hdrinc.com>

Subject: RE: Xcel Energy - Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Project - Goodhue County, MN

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Joe,

Just a 30-min mtg should suffice unless we go awry on a topic. I have a longer list of “optional attendees,” but here’s my starting point:

30-min slots

11-20-25 @ 3pm

11-24-25 @ 3pm

12-2-25 @ 1pm

12-3-25 @ 10am

MnDOT attendees -

Required: david.evans@state.mn.us ; Paul.Hartzheim@state.mn.us ;

terry.condon@state.mn.us

Optional: anthony.wagner@state.mn.us ; greg.paulson@state.mn.us ;

Brian.McCoy@state.mn.us ; Karissa.Hogan@state.mn.us; jai.kalsy@state.mn.us

Thanks much,

Stacy Kotch Egstad

Utility Routing & Siting Coordinator | Office of Land Management

Minnesota Department of Transportation

395 John Ireland Blvd Mailstop 678

St. Paul, MN. 55155

651-358-0786



From: Sedarski, Joe <Joe.Sedarski@hdrinc.com>

Sent: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 10:25 AM

To: Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>; Hartzheim, Paul (DOT) <Paul.Hartzheim@state.mn.us>

Cc: Heine, Ellen L <ellen.l.heine@xcelenergy.com>; Raine, Katie <Katie.Raine@hdrinc.com>; Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>; Neff, Alexis <Alexis.Neff@hdrinc.com>; Parker, Amber <Amber.Parker@hdrinc.com>

Subject: RE: Xcel Energy - Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Project - Goodhue County, MN

Hi Stacy and thanks for your reply, plan to send us a tailored ENM form for this Project and request to meet.

We'd be happy to meet – please let us know some dates and times that work for your schedule and team. We can set up from there with Xcel folks.

Best,

Joe

[Joe Sedarski, PE](#)

Sr. Environmental PM / Sr. Technical Advisor

HDR

1601 Utica Avenue South, Suite 600

St. Louis Park, MN 55416-3400

D 763.591.6684 **M** 612.214.6658

Joe.Sedarski@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>

Sent: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 10:16 AM

To: Sedarski, Joe <Joe.Sedarski@hdrinc.com>; Hartzheim, Paul (DOT) <Paul.Hartzheim@state.mn.us>

Cc: Heine, Ellen L <ellen.l.heine@xcelenergy.com>; Raine, Katie <Katie.Raine@hdrinc.com>; Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>; Neff, Alexis <Alexis.Neff@hdrinc.com>; Parker, Amber <Amber.Parker@hdrinc.com>

Subject: RE: Xcel Energy - Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Project - Goodhue County, MN

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Good Morning, Joe,

Yes, I will prepare a tailored ENM (we've made some slight updates in the latest revision) and send that out to you ASAP.

Although this project proposal seems to have minimal TH effects by comparison, we do have several enviro resources in the area, and there are MnDOT's planned construction projects that would interest you.

If we think it's best to have a (shorter) project introductory meeting to kick this off, I'd be happy to facilitate MnDOT attendance.

Thank you for being proactive on this, as usual. Much appreciated.

Stacy Kotch Egstad

Utility Routing & Siting Coordinator | Office of Land Management

Minnesota Department of Transportation

395 John Ireland Blvd Mailstop 678

St. Paul, MN. 55155

651-358-0786



From: Sedarski, Joe <Joe.Sedarski@hdrinc.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 11, 2025 10:57 AM

To: Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>; Hartzheim, Paul (DOT) <Paul.Hartzheim@state.mn.us>

Cc: Heine, Ellen L <ellen.l.heine@xcelenergy.com>; Raine, Katie <Katie.Raine@hdrinc.com>; Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>; Neff, Alexis <Alexis.Neff@hdrinc.com>; Parker, Amber <Amber.Parker@hdrinc.com>

Subject: Xcel Energy - Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Project - Goodhue County, MN

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Good morning Stacy and Paul – hope all is very well with you both!

We sent you a stakeholder outreach letter and map last week for the above-referenced Project. Checking in to see if MnDOT will issue a Project-specific ENM form for us to use to compile info and data, and make a formal ENM request for that Project. If so, we'll await that document and begin to prepare data needed to complete that. If not, please advise as to current form to use for such.

As always, appreciate your help!

Best,

Joe

[Joe Sedarski, PE](#)

Sr. Environmental PM / Sr. Technical Advisor

HDR

1601 Utica Avenue South, Suite 600

St. Louis Park, MN 55416-3400

D 763.591.6684 **M** 612.214.6658

Joe.Sedarski@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: [Sedarski, Joe](#)
To: [Kotch Egstad, Stacy \(DOT\)](#)
Cc: [Heine, Ellen L](#); [Hanley, Jennifer](#); [Raine, Katie](#); [Parker, Amber](#)
Subject: RE: Xcel Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Project - Goodhue Co, MN
Date: Thursday, November 13, 2025 9:20:14 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thanks much Stacy!

We'll use this and submit when completed.

Joe

[Joe Sedarski, PE](#)

Sr. Environmental PM / Sr. Technical Advisor

HDR
1601 Utica Avenue South, Suite 600
St. Louis Park, MN 55416-3400
D 763.591.6684 M 612.214.6658
Joe.Sedarski@hdrinc.com
hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2025 7:33 AM
To: Sedarski, Joe <Joe.Sedarski@hdrinc.com>
Subject: RE: Xcel Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Project - Goodhue Co, MN

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Joe,

Please see the attached Utility ENM request for this project.

Thank you,

Stacy Kotch Egstad

Utility Routing & Siting Coordinator | Office of Land Management

Minnesota Department of Transportation

395 John Ireland Blvd Mailstop 678

St. Paul, MN. 55155

651-358-0786



-----Original Appointment-----

From: Sedarski, Joe <Joe.Sedarski@hdrinc.com>

Sent: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 3:31 PM

To: Sedarski, Joe; Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT); Evans, David (DOT); Hartzheim, Paul (DOT); Condon, Terry (He/Him/His) (DOT); Heine, Ellen L; Hanley, Jennifer

Cc: Wagner, Anthony L (DOT); Paulson, Gregory (He/Him/His) (DOT); McCoy, Brian (DOT); Hogan,

Karissa (She/Her/Hers) (DOT); Kalsy, Jai (DOT)

Subject: Xcel Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Project - Goodhue Co, MN

When: Monday, November 24, 2025 3:00 PM-3:30 PM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada).

Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

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Good afternoon – Xcel would like to meet with MnDOT staff concerning the above referred to Project (also, attaching letter we sent last week). We'll provide an introduction of the Project and review the location, as well as discuss ENM request for such.

We appreciate your time and look forward to meeting.

Best, Joe

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 243 846 582 434 58

Passcode: xu6GF32Y

Dial in by phone

[+1 402-513-9026,,541404415#](#) United States, Omaha

[\(833\) 255-2803,,541404415#](#) United States (Toll-free)

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 541 404 415#

For organizers: [Meeting options](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)

From: Martin, Margaret (Mags) <margaret_martin@fws.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2025 10:46 AM
To: Heine, Ellen L <Ellen.L.Heine@xcelenergy.com>
Subject: Name change request

EXTERNAL - STOP & THINK before opening links and attachments.

Hi Ellen,

Today's my first day back from furlough and I had a notice of a project from you waiting for me

I had a quick favor to ask - can you change my name in your "interested party" mailing list? My last name should be changed from Rheude to Martin. My email address is now: margaret_martin@fws.gov. Things sent to the old email are automatically forwarded. The project you requested feedback on was the Proposed 345 kV transmission line project in Goodhue County. Migratory Birds doesn't have any immediate feedback other than to follow APLIC guidance for transmission lines and to reach out if there are any eagle nest or eagle related issues.

Thank you so much!



Mags Martin (she/her) (fka Rheude)
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Midwest Migratory Bird Program
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5600 American Blvd. West, Suite 990
Bloomington, MN 55437-1458
612-430-1732
margaret_martin@fws.gov

From: [Sedarski, Joe](#)
To: [ENReviewSHPO](#); [Heine, Ellen L](#)
Cc: [Harrington, Lucy \(She/Her/Hers\) \(ADM\)](#); [Koski, Laura Joreen](#); [Hanley, Jennifer](#); [Raine, Katie](#); [Parker, Amber](#)
Subject: RE: Xcel Energy - Stakeholder Outreach - Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Project, Goodhue County, MN
Date: Friday, November 14, 2025 7:49:05 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good morning Katie, Lucy, all –

We appreciate your response to this initial Project letter which is intended to introduce the Project and request initial comments. This was not meant to be a SHPO Project review submittal, which will come later and we will follow instructions you sent.

Thanks again for your response and we look forward to next steps with SHPO on this Project as this moves forward.

Best,

Joe

[Joe Sedarski, PE](#)

Sr. Environmental PM / Sr. Technical Advisor

HDR

1601 Utica Avenue South, Suite 600

St. Louis Park, MN 55416-3400

D 763.591.6684 **M** 612.214.6658

Joe.Sedarski@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: MN_ADM_ENV Review SHPO <ENReviewSHPO@state.mn.us>

Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2025 4:45 PM

To: Sedarski, Joe <joe.sedarski@hdrinc.com>; Heine, Ellen L <ellen.l.heine@xcelenergy.com>

Cc: Harrington, Lucy (She/Her/Hers) (ADM) <Lucy.Harrington@state.mn.us>

Subject: RE: Xcel Energy - Stakeholder Outreach - Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Project, Goodhue County, MN

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Hi Joe and Ellen,

Thank you for your project review request which we received via email and US mail. For future reference, the Environmental Review Program at the State Historic Preservation Office now **only** accepts electronic submittals. After reviewing the letter that was sent, it is unclear if this was intended as a project review submittal. If this was intended to be submitted for review, please follow the instructions at <https://mn.gov/admin/shpo/environmental-review/submit/> and email the complete review package to: ENReviewSHPO@state.mn.us.

I have cc'd Lucy Harrington, who is the SHPO reviewer for PUC related projects. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Thank you!
Katie

Environmental Review Program Team

State Historic Preservation Office
Minnesota Department of Administration



[MnSHIP](#) is now live! Learn more about [Minnesota's Statewide Historic Inventory Portal](#) and how to access historic survey information.

From: Sedarski, Joe <Joe.Sedarski@hdrinc.com>

Sent: Thursday, November 6, 2025 11:32 AM

To: Heine, Ellen L <ellen.l.heine@xcelenergy.com>

Cc: Raine, Katie <Katie.Raine@hdrinc.com>; Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>; Andre, Jake N <jacob.n.andre@xcelenergy.com>; Giuffre, David <david.giuffre@xcelenergy.com>; Mauseth, Timothy S <Timothy.S.Mauseth@xcelenergy.com>; Fordice, Randy L <randy.l.fordice@xcelenergy.com>; Bentz, Nick <Nicholas.Bentz@hdrinc.com>; Lexvold, Ross L <ross.l.lexvold@xcelenergy.com>

Subject: Xcel Energy - Stakeholder Outreach - Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Project, Goodhue County, MN

Some people who received this message don't often get email from joe.sedarski@hdrinc.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

This message may be from an external email source.

Do not select links or open attachments unless verified. Report all suspicious emails to Minnesota IT Services Security Operations Center.

Greetings and good afternoon all,

On behalf of Xcel Energy, we are sending you the attached stakeholder outreach letter concerning the proposed 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line project (Project) located in Goodhue County, Minnesota. We are also sending you this letter and map via US Mail to ensure you receive this.

If you have questions, comments or concerns, please contact either Ellen Heine, Principal Siting and Permitting Agent, Xcel Energy, or myself by or before December 19,

From: rmiller@bevcomm.net <rmiller@bevcomm.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2025 5:07 PM
To: Sedarski, Joe <Joe.Sedarski@hdrinc.com>
Subject: RE: Xcel Energy - Stakeholder Outreach - Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Project, Goodhue County, MN

You don't often get email from rmiller@bevcomm.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

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My Monday of next week is busy but I think the rest of the week is open.

Dick

From: Sedarski, Joe <Joe.Sedarski@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2025 4:46 PM
To: rmiller@bevcomm.net; Heine, Ellen L <ellen.l.heine@xcelenergy.com>
Subject: Re: Xcel Energy - Stakeholder Outreach - Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Project, Goodhue County, MN

Hi Mr. Miller,

Happy to help and thanks for reaching out. Wondering if we can set up a meeting with you to discuss this matter. If so, can you let us know some dates and times that work for you?

Copying in Ellen too.

Thanks again!

Joe

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: rmiller@bevcomm.net <rmiller@bevcomm.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2025 3:06 PM
To: Sedarski, Joe <Joe.Sedarski@hdrinc.com>
Subject: RE: Xcel Energy - Stakeholder Outreach - Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Project, Goodhue County, MN

You don't often get email from rmiller@bevcomm.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Joe,

I called Ellen and left a message. I need to talk to someone about the expansion of the substation. My concern is that it is possible that the drainage from it will cause problems for the field to the west of the site. We earlier had to tile that area because of the water coming from that property. There is an area that was designated as an “agriculturally created wetland” in that area that FSA allowed us to tile.

Thank you for your time,

Richard M Miller

From: Sedarski, Joe <Joe.Sedarski@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 6, 2025 11:32 AM
To: Heine, Ellen L <ellen.l.heine@xcelenergy.com>
Cc: Raine, Katie <Katie.Raine@hdrinc.com>; Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>; Andre, Jake N <jacob.n.andre@xcelenergy.com>; Giuffre, David <david.giuffre@xcelenergy.com>; Mauseth, Timothy S <Timothy.S.Mauseth@xcelenergy.com>; Fordice, Randy L <randy.l.fordice@xcelenergy.com>; Bentz, Nick <Nicholas.Bentz@hdrinc.com>; Lexvold, Ross L <ross.l.lexvold@xcelenergy.com>
Subject: Xcel Energy - Stakeholder Outreach - Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Project, Goodhue County, MN

Greetings and good afternoon all,

On behalf of Xcel Energy, we are sending you the attached stakeholder outreach letter concerning the proposed 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line project (Project) located in Goodhue County, Minnesota. We are also sending you this letter and map via US Mail to ensure you receive this.

If you have questions, comments or concerns, please contact either Ellen Heine, Principal Siting and Permitting Agent, Xcel Energy, or myself by or before December 19, 2025.

Ellen can be reached at Ellen.L.Heine@xcelenergy.com or (612) 330-6073. Joe can be reached at joe.sedarski@hdrinc.com or (612) 214-6658.

We appreciate your consideration of this matter.

From: Leonard Wabasha (TO) <leonard.wabasha@shakopeedakota.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 19, 2025 1:26 PM
To: Heine, Ellen L <Ellen.L.Heine@xcelenergy.com>
Subject: Proposed 345kV Transmission Line Project Goodhue County Minnesota

EXTERNAL - STOP & THINK before opening links and attachments.

Dear Ellen

Thank you for the opportunity to consult with you on this propose project, after having viewed the information provided I have no concerns, Thank you again, Have a Great Day!!

Please update your records to indicate that my mailing address is 2300 Tiwahe Circle, Shakopee Minnesota 55379...



LEONARD WABASHA
 Tribal Historic Preservation Officer • Hocokata Ti
 Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
 d: 952.496.6120
shakopeedakota.org
Leonard.Wabasha@shakopeedakota.org

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community is a federally recognized, sovereign Indian tribe located southwest of Minneapolis/St. Paul. With a focus on being a good neighbor, good steward of the earth, and good employer, the SMSC is committed to charitable donations, community partnerships, a healthy environment, and a strong economy.

 Confidentiality Notice: This message and any attachments may contain confidential information intended solely for the designated recipient. If you are not the intended recipient, any review, dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete it from your system.

From: Heine, Ellen L <Ellen.L.Heine@xcelenergy.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 20, 2025 2:36 PM
To: Hahn, Robert (FAA) <Robert.Hahn@faa.gov>
Cc: contact@mmrtproject.com; Sedarski, Joe <Joe.Sedarski@hdrinc.com>
Subject: RE: FAA Response - Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Project - Goodhue Co, MN

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Thanks Robert,

This is helpful. We are not planning anything over 200', but will definitely at a minimum use the FAA screening tool once we have a little more detail on our proposed design.

We will also update our contact list to note Lindsay Terry instead of Andy for any future outreach.

Ellen

Ellen Heine
Xcel Energy
P: 612.330.6073 C: 651-247-0957
E: ellen.l.heine@xcelenergy.com

From: Hahn, Robert (FAA) <Robert.Hahn@faa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 20, 2025 2:03 PM
To: Heine, Ellen L <Ellen.L.Heine@xcelenergy.com>
Subject: FAA Response - Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Project - Goodhue Co, MN

EXTERNAL - STOP & THINK before opening links and attachments.

Ms. Heine,

Per the letter addressed to Andy Peek (DTD 11/5/2025 & Andy is no longer in this office s/b changed to Lindsay Terry), FAA notification criteria is shown in 14 CFR Part 77.9:

§ 77.9 Construction or alteration requiring notice.

If requested by the FAA, or if you propose any of the following types of construction or alteration, you must file notice with the FAA of:

- (a) Any construction or alteration that is more than 200 ft. AGL at its site.
- (b) Any construction or alteration that exceeds an imaginary surface extending outward and upward at any of the following slopes:
 - (1) 100 to 1 for a horizontal distance of 20,000 ft. from the nearest point of the nearest runway of each airport described in paragraph (d) of this section with its longest runway more than 3,200 ft. in actual length, excluding heliports.
 - (2) 50 to 1 for a horizontal distance of 10,000 ft. from the nearest point of the nearest runway of each airport described in paragraph (d) of this section with its longest runway no more than 3,200 ft. in actual length, excluding heliports.
 - (3) 25 to 1 for a horizontal distance of 5,000 ft. from the nearest point of the nearest landing and takeoff area of each heliport described in paragraph (d) of this section.
- (c) Any highway, railroad, or other traverse way for mobile objects, of a height which, if adjusted upward 17 feet for an Interstate Highway that is part of the National System of Military and Interstate Highways where overcrossings are designed for a minimum of 17 feet vertical distance, 15 feet for any other public roadway, 10 feet or the height of the highest mobile object that would normally traverse the road, whichever is greater, for a private road, 23 feet for a railroad, and for a waterway or any other traverse way not previously mentioned, an amount equal to the height of the highest mobile object that would normally traverse it, would exceed a standard of paragraph (a) or (b) of this section.
- (d) Any construction or alteration on any of the following airports and heliports:
 - (1) A public use airport listed in the Airport/Facility Directory, Alaska Supplement, or Pacific Chart Supplement of the U.S. Government Flight Information Publications;
 - (2) A military airport under construction, or an airport under construction that will be available for public use;
 - (3) An airport operated by a Federal agency or the DOD.
 - (4) An airport or heliport with at least one FAA-approved instrument approach procedure.

Since the proposed site is not close to a public airport, I am not seeing a penetration to the 100:1 notification surface unless any of the proposed development is more than 200' AGL.



However, I would suggest filing at least two critical points [i.e., maybe the end points of the proposed transmission line tower route]. That way, one gets something official in writing (determination letter) to be put in the file showing that coordination w/ the FAA has taken place.

File electronically at the following site:

[Obstruction Evaluation / Airport Airspace Analysis \(OE3A\)](#)

Sincerely,

Robert Hahn
 FAA - Dakota-Minnesota ADO
 6020 28th Ave S
 Suite 102
 Minneapolis, MN 55450-2700
 W 612-253-4639
 E-mail: Robert.Hahn@faa.gov



Proposed 345 kV Xcel Transmission Line Project, Goodhue County, MN

From Tawes, Robert <robert_tawes@fws.gov>

Date Tue 11/25/2025 9:31 AM

To ellen.L.heine@excelenergy.com <ellen.L.heine@excelenergy.com>

Cc O'Brien, Katie E <katie_obrien@fws.gov>; Twin Cities, FW3 <TwinCities@fws.gov>

Hi Ellen. We received your November 5, 2025, letter outlining the upcoming proposed 1.3-mile transmission line project. In cursory review I don't see any resource concerns however I suggest visiting our online IPaC system to assist you in your environmental review (<https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/>). In the future, please send all project review requests or notifications electronically to our email address, twincities@fws.gov to ensure faster review. Thanks for your interest in conservation.

Rob Tawes | Field Supervisor

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office

3815 American Blvd. East, Bloomington, MN 55425-1665

Mobile: (651) 895-5433, Email: robert_tawes@fws.gov

<https://www.fws.gov/office/minnesota-wisconsin-ecological-services>



From: Heine, Ellen L
Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 9:56 AM
To: Tawes, Robert <robert_tawes@fws.gov>
Cc: katie_obrien@fws.gov; twincities@fws.gov
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Xcel Energy - Stakeholder Outreach - Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Project, Goodhue County, MN

Ah! It says “excelenergy.com” Should be “XcelEnergy.com” (no e in front of Xcel). Glad there’s not a bigger email issue.

Thanks for the feedback. I believe they did do an IPaC review, but will confirm, and if anything comes up we will follow up with you as needed. I don’t expect any issues with federal species here as it’s almost all cropland, but will still confirm that.

Thanks,

Ellen

Ellen Heine
Xcel Energy
P: 612.330.6073 C: 651-247-0957
E: ellen.l.heine@xcelenergy.com

From: Tawes, Robert <robert_tawes@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 9:43 AM
To: Heine, Ellen L <Ellen.L.Heine@xcelenergy.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: Xcel Energy - Stakeholder Outreach - Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Project, Goodhue County, MN

EXTERNAL - STOP & THINK before opening links and attachments.

Hi Ellen. Here is the email that I sent last week. I encountered a similar bounce back situation when emailing with Tyler Beemer to his xcelenergy email earlier in the year.

Rob Tawes | Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office
3815 American Blvd. East, Bloomington, MN 55425-1665
Mobile: (651) 895-5433, Email: robert_tawes@fws.gov

December 1, 2025

Ellen Heine
Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401
Principal Siting and Permitting Agent

RE: Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Project Goodhue County, MN

Dear Ms. Heine:

We are in receipt of your correspondence dated November 5, 2025, regarding the proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Project Goodhue County, Minnesota, and have shared it with our County Board asking for any comments or questions. Enclosed are comments and questions submitted by County Commissioner Linda Flanders in response. One additional comment received from County Commissioner Todd Greseth was that our existing customer base does not get charged for the expansion.

We appreciate your attention to these matters and look to your response to share with the County Board.

Sincerely,



Xcel Energy Transmission Line Proposal Summary

Quick Summary

Xcel Energy proposes a 1.3-mile, double-circuit, 345-kV transmission line connecting the North Rochester Substation to a new substation at the Skyway Project site near Pine Island. This includes a 17.9-acre substation expansion and another 150-foot-wide right-of-way across Highway 52 and farmland on both sides of the highway.

Potential Benefits

1. Supports power reliability for new development.
2. Provides utility personal property tax base increases.
3. Allows continued farming beneath lines (with restrictions).

Potential Concerns

1. Loss of prime agricultural land.
2. Cumulative land-use impact from multiple projects existing and planned for County.
3. Potential factor for routing planned future transmission lines.
4. Construction impacts such as soil compaction. (FYI, compaction compensation is part of easement negotiations with landowners, typically sliding scale over 5 years)
5. Aesthetic and property value concerns.
6. Limited public disclosure regarding the Skyway Project.

The project may be strategically beneficial but may affect farmland and rural character, individually and in concert with other planned projects. It warrants investigation and discussion regarding routing, environmental impact, agricultural protections, and cumulative development effects.

Key Questions to Ask Xcel Energy

1. This particular project crosses Highway 52 and runs along 500th where a CapX 2020 line is currently located. How will this be positioned, in light of that CapX 2020 line?
2. This particular project, though short, is proposed as a “double-circuit 345kV transmission line” connecting to the Skyway Project. What is capacity rating for this project and what is anticipated load of the Skyway Project?
2. How will you protect farmland long-term—both during construction and after the transmission lines are operating?

3. What alternatives were considered that would reduce agricultural impact, and why were they ruled out?
4. What benefits—financial or otherwise—does Goodhue County and landowners receive that directly offset the agricultural land impact? What costs to the County and landowners are expected? What other impacts are anticipated and what is avoidance, mitigation, and/or compensation plan? What are expected Utility Personal Property Tax revenue expected for Goodhue County?
5. How does this project fit into Xcel’s long-term grid plan for Goodhue County—especially regarding known planned high-voltage lines and in consideration of the existing transmission lines currently north/south and east/west at the North Rochester substation.? Please provide a map of existing transmission in Goodhue County and planned project areas/alignments and a narrative description of planned transmission projects within Goodhue County, including links for more information. Please include separately anticipated data center interconnections, such as this one in Pine Island, also Cannon Falls, and any other known large loads proposed for Goodhue County, and MISO Tranche 2 projects anticipated in Goodhue County, including any project utilizing the “North Rochester” substation, i.e., MISO 25, PUC CN-25-120 Pleasant Valley – North Rochester – Hampton; and MISO 26, PUC CN-25-121 and 122, North Rochester – Columbia; and any others.

From: [Harrington, Lucy \(She/Her/Hers\) \(ADM\)](#)
To: [Heine, Ellen L](#); [Sedarski, Joe](#)
Cc: [Koski, Laura Joreen](#); [Hanley, Jennifer](#); [Raine, Katie](#); [Parker, Amber](#)
Subject: SHPO # 2026-0116 RE: Xcel Energy - Stakeholder Outreach - Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Project, Goodhue County, MN
Date: Monday, December 8, 2025 3:14:03 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[2026-0116.pdf](#)

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Find attached MN SHPO's comment in response to the request dated 11/6/25.

Lucy Harrington (she/her) | Environmental Review Archaeologist

State Historic Preservation Office

Minnesota Department of Administration

50 Sherburne Avenue, Suite 203

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

(651) 201-3283 | lucy.harrington@state.mn.us

From: Sedarski, Joe <joe.sedarski@hdrinc.com>

Sent: Friday, November 14, 2025 7:49 AM

To: MN_ADM_ENV Review SHPO <ENReviewSHPO@state.mn.us>; Heine, Ellen L <ellen.l.heine@xcelenergy.com>

Cc: Harrington, Lucy (She/Her/Hers) (ADM) <Lucy.Harrington@state.mn.us>; Koski, Laura Joreen <Laura.Koski@hdrinc.com>; Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>; Raine, Katie <Katie.Raine@hdrinc.com>; Parker, Amber <Amber.Parker@hdrinc.com>

Subject: RE: Xcel Energy - Stakeholder Outreach - Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Project, Goodhue County, MN

Good morning Katie, Lucy, all –

We appreciate your response to this initial Project letter which is intended to introduce the Project and request initial comments. This was not meant to be a SHPO Project review submittal, which will come later and we will follow instructions you sent.

Thanks again for your response and we look forward to next steps with SHPO on this Project as this moves forward.

Best,
Joe

Joe Sedarski, PE

Sr. Environmental PM / Sr. Technical Advisor

HDR

1601 Utica Avenue South, Suite 600

St. Louis Park, MN 55416-3400

D 763.591.6684 M 612.214.6658

Joe.Sedarski@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: MN_ADM_ENV Review SHPO <ENReviewSHPO@state.mn.us>

Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2025 4:45 PM

To: Sedarski, Joe <joe.sedarski@hdrinc.com>; Heine, Ellen L <ellen.l.heine@xcelenergy.com>

Cc: Harrington, Lucy (She/Her/Hers) (ADM) <Lucy.Harrington@state.mn.us>

Subject: RE: Xcel Energy - Stakeholder Outreach - Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Project, Goodhue County, MN

CAUTION: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Joe and Ellen,

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I have cc'd Lucy Harrington, who is the SHPO reviewer for PUC related projects. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Thank you!

Katie

Environmental Review Program Team

State Historic Preservation Office

Minnesota Department of Administration



[MnSHIP](#) is now live! Learn more about [Minnesota's Statewide Historic Inventory Portal](#) and how to access historic survey information.

From: Sedarski, Joe <Joe.Sedarski@hdrinc.com>

Sent: Thursday, November 6, 2025 11:32 AM

December 8, 2025

Ellen Heine
Xcel Energy
Principal Siting and Permitting Agent
Ellen.L.Heine@xcelenergy.com

RE: Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Project
Pine Island, Goodhue County
SHPO Number: 2026-0116

Dear Ellen Heine:

Thank you for reaching out to the State Historic Preservation Office regarding a project that will require a permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Based on the legislative changes and guidance at the PUC, we understand that you have reached out to our office during the permit pre-application outreach. The PUC permit application is required to address “archaeological and historic resources,” which have been defined in PUC guidance.

An [archaeological literature review and survey assessment](#) of the project area will help determine whether the project has the potential to affect known or suspected significant archaeological sites. Sometimes an archaeological assessment results in a recommendation for an archaeological survey (or a Phase I field investigation). The Phase I archaeological survey will provide further information regarding whether or not intact significant archaeological sites are located within the proposed project area and will be affected by the proposed project. For a list of consultants who have expressed an interest in undertaking such studies and surveys, please visit the website <https://www.mnhs.org/preservation/directory>, and select “Archaeologists” in the “Specialties” box.

A review of the Minnesota Statewide Historic Inventory Portal (MnSHIP) will aid in identifying if there are previously documented above ground historic resources within your project area (including those that are designated historic properties), please visit: <https://mnship.gisdata.mn.gov/> (Public Map). However, if a project becomes a federal undertaking, a survey to identify above ground historic properties that are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places may be necessary. For additional information on how to do research to identify cultural resources within your project area, please visit the webpage: <https://mn.gov/admin/shpo/surveyandinventory/research/>.

Please keep in mind that under state statute, [2161.18](#), the PUC is responsible for satisfying the requirements under Minnesota Statute [138.665](#) because the PUC makes the decision on whether to issue a permit and what conditions should be included in the permit regarding archaeological and historic resources.

Please note that this comment letter does not address the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36 CFR § 800. If this project is considered for federal financial assistance, or requires a federal permit or license, then review and consultation with our office will need

to be initiated by the lead federal agency in order to define an appropriate area of potential effects for the federal undertaking as well as the necessary historic property identification and evaluation efforts required for a federal review. Be advised that comments and recommendations provided by our office for this state-level review may differ from findings and determinations made by the federal agency as part of review and consultation under Section 106.

Please contact Environmental Review Archaeologist Lucy Harrington at lucy.harrington@state.mn.us if you have any questions on our comment letter.

Sincerely,



Amy Spong
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

November 6 Tribal outreach contact list

Column 1	Organization	CTU_C Position	Salutation	Name	Last Name	Phone	Email	Address 1	Address 2	City	State	Zip Code
Mr.	Apache Tribe of Oklahoma	Tribe Chairman	Mr.	Durrell Cooper	Cooper	(405)247-9483	durrellcooper05@gmail.com	PO Box 1330		Andarko	OK	73005
Mr.	Bois Forte Band of Chippewa	Tribe Chairperson	Mr.	Carlos Hernandez	Hernandez	(218)757-3261	carlos.hernandez@boisfortensn.gov	5344 Lakeshore Nekt Lake		Fort Totten	ND	58772
Mr.	Bois Forte Band of Chippewa	Tribe THPO	Mr.	Jaylen Strong	Strong	(218)753-6017	jaylen.strong@boisfortensn.gov	1500 Bois Fort Tower		Fort Totten	ND	58790
Mr.	Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma	Tribe Governor	Mr.	Reggie Wassana	Wassana	(405)422-7928	wassana@c-a-tribes.org	100 Red Moor Condo		Ok	73023	
Mr.	Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma	Tribe THPO	Mr.	Max Bear	Bear	(405)422-7416	mbsaar@cheyenneandrapahonnsn.gov	700 Black Kett Condo		Ok	73023	
Mr.	Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota	Tribe President	Mr.	Anthony Reider	Reider		tony.reider@fst-nsn.gov	PO Box 283		Flandreau	SD	57028
Mr.	Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota	Tribe THPO	Mr.	Garrie Kils A Hundred	Kils A Hundred		garrie.kilshundred@fst.org	PO Box 283		Flandreau	SD	57028
Mr.	Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Tribe Chairman	Mr.	Bruce Savage	Savage	(218)878-7119	bruce.savage@fdlband.org	1720 Big Lake Cloquet		Clouquet	MN	55720
Mr.	Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Tribe THPO	Mr.	Evan Schroeder	Schroeder		evanschroeder@fdlband.org	1720 Big Lake Cloquet		Clouquet	MN	55720
Mr.	Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Be	Tribe President	Mr.	Jeffrey Stiffarm	Stiffarm		jeffrey.stiffarm@tribelknapp.org	656 Agency M Harlem		MT	59526-9455	
Mr.	Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Be	Tribe THPO	Mr.	Michael Black Wolf	Black Wolf		mblackwolf@tribelknapp.org	83 Stevens Rd Grand Portage		MT	59526-9455	
Mr.	Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Tribe Chairman	Mr.	Robert Deschamps	Deschamps	(218)475-2277	robertdeschamps@grandportage.com	P.O. Box 428		MN	55605	
Mr.	Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Tribe THPO	Mr.	Rudolf Hill	Hill	(218)475-0111	rph@grandportage.com	P.O. Box 428		MN	55605	
Mr.	Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska	Tribe Chairman	Mr.	Timothy Rhoad	Rhoad		tkrhoad@iowas.org	346-B Thrash White Cloud		KS	66094	
Mr.	Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska	Tribe THPO	Mr.	Alan Kelley	Kelley	(758)995-3258	akelley@iowas.org	345-B Thrash White Cloud		KS	66094	
Mr.	Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin	Tribe President	Mr.	Jon Greendeer	Greendeer	(715) 284-9343	maasuaga@ho-chunk.com	W9874 Airport Road		Black River Falls	WI	54615
Mr.	Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin	Tribe THPO	Mr.	William Quackembush	Quackembush	(715)284-7181	bill.quackembush@ho-chunk.com	16250 Helmet Road		Tomah	WI	54615
Mr.	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	Tribe Chairman	Mr.	Faron Jackson	Jackson	(218)335-8309	Faron.Jackson@llobjibwe.net	190 Sallitar Dr Cass Lake		MN	56633	
Ms.	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	Tribe THPO	Ms.	Gina Lemmon	Lemmon	(218)335-8309	gina.lemmon@llobjibwe.net	190 Sallitar Dr Cass Lake		MN	56633	
Mr.	Lower Sioux Indian Community	Tribe President	Mr.	Joseph O'Brien	O'Brien		joey.obrien@lowersioux.com	PO Box 308		MN	56270	
Ms.	Lower Sioux Indian Community	Tribe THPO	Ms.	Cheyenne St. John	St. John	(507)697-8672	cheyenne.stjohn@lowersioux.com	39527 Reservi Morton		MN	56270	
Mr.	Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin	Tribe Chairwoman	Mr.	Joey Awonohopaty	Awonohopaty	(715)799-5114	chairman@mtw.org	PO Box 910		Keheena	WI	54135
Mr.	Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin	Tribe THPO	Mr.	David Grignon	Grignon	(715)799-5258	dgrignon@mtw.org	PO Box 910		Keheena	WI	54135-0910
Mr.	Millie Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Tribe Chief Executive	Mr.	Virgil Wind	Wind		virgil.wind@millelacsband.com	43408 Odden:Oramia		MN	56359	
Mr.	Minnesota Chippewa Tribe	Tribe Executive Director	Mr.	Mike Wilson	Wilson	(320)532-7780	mike.wilson@millelacsband.com	43408 Odden:Oramia		MN	56359	
Mr.	Minnesota Chippewa Tribe	Tribe THPO	Mr.	Luke Warmsholz	Warmsholz		lwarmsholt@mnmchippewatribe.org	PO Box 217		Cass Lake	MN	56633
Mr.	Minnesota Indian Affairs Council	Tribe Cultural Resources Manager	Mr.	Michael LaRoque	LaRoque		george.gogleye@state.mn.us	PO Box 217		Cass Lake	MN	56633
Mr.	Minnesota Indian Affairs Council	Tribe Cultural Resources Manager	Mr.	George J Gogleye Jr.	Gogleye Jr.		george.gogleye@state.mn.us	Ste. 919		161. Rondo Av St. Paul	MN	55103
Ms.	Minnesota Indian Affairs Council	Tribe Cultural Resources Manager	Ms.	Lilly Geraghty	Geraghty		lilly.geraghty@state.mn.us	Ste. 919		161. Rondo Av St. Paul	MN	55103
Mr.	Minnesota Indian Affairs Council	Tribe Cultural Resources Manager	Mr.	Isaac Weston	Weston		isaac.weston@state.mn.us	Ste. 919		161. Rondo Av St. Paul	MN	55103
Ms.	Minnesota Indian Affairs Council	Tribe Cultural Resources Manager	Ms.	Selena Bernier	Bernier		selena.bernier@state.mn.us	Ste. 919		161. Rondo Av St. Paul	MN	55103
Ms.	Minnesota Indian Affairs Council	Tribe Executive Director	Ms.	Shannon Geshick	Geshick		shannon.geshick@state.mn.us	Ste. 919		161. Rondo Av St. Paul	MN	55103
Mr.	Prairie Island Indian Community	Tribe President	Mr.	Grant Johnson	Johnson	(651)385-4175	grant.johnson@pic.org	5636 Sturgeon Welch		MN	55089	
Mr.	Prairie Island Indian Community	Tribe THPO	Mr.	Neah White	White		neah.white@pic.org	5636 Sturgeon Welch		MN	55089	
Mr.	Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians	Tribe Chairman	Mr.	Darrell Seki	Seki	(218)679-3241	deku@redlakenation.org	15484 Wiglet I Red Lake		MN	56671	
Mr.	Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians	Tribe THPO	Mr.	George Brachaude	Brachaude	(218)679-1687	alanzo.demey@redlakenation.org	PO Box 274		Red Lake	MN	56671
Mr.	Santee Sioux Nation, Nebraska	Tribe Chairperson	Mr.	Alonzo Denny	Denny		alonzo.denny@snsdakota.com	108 Spirit Lake Ribara		NE	68760	
Mr.	Santee Sioux Nation, Nebraska	Tribe THPO	Mr.	Larry Thomas	Thomas		sns.thpo@gmail.com	425 Trauler Av Nubara		NE	68760	
Mr.	Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community	Tribe Chairman	Mr.	Carly Miller	Miller		businesscouncil@shakopeddakota.org	Suite 2		2300 Sioux Tr:Prior Lake	MN	55372
Mr.	Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community	Tribe THPO	Mr.	Leonard Wabasha	Wabasha	(952)496-6120	leonard.wabasha@shakopeddakota.org	2300 Sioux Tr:Prior Lake		MN	55372	
Mr.	Sisseton-Wahpeton Ojate of the Lake	Tribe Chairman	Mr.	J. Garret Renville	Garret Renville		chairman@swo-nsn.gov	12554 Bia High Agency Village		SD	57662	
Ms.	Sisseton-Wahpeton Ojate of the Lake	Tribe THPO	Ms.	Diame Derosters	Derosters		diamet@swo-nsn.gov	PO Box 907		Agency Village	SD	57662
Mr.	Spirit Lake Tribe, North Dakota	Tribe Chairperson	Mr.	Lonna Jackson-Street	Jackson-Street		lstreet@spiritlakenation.com	P.O. Box 359		Fort Totten	ND	58835-0359
Mr.	Spirit Lake Tribe, North Dakota	Tribe THPO	Mr.	Kenneth Graywater Jr	Graywater Jr.		kggraywater@spiritlakenation.com	P.O. Box 359		Fort Totten	ND	58835-0359
Mr.	Upper Stou Community	Tribe Chairman	Mr.	Kevin Jensvold	Jensvold	(320)564-6372	kevinj@upperstoucommunity-nsn.gov	PO Box 147		5722 Traversers Granite Falls	MN	56241
Ms.	Upper Stou Community	Tribe THPO	Ms.	Samantha Odeward	Odeward	(320)564-6334	samanthao@upperstoucommunity-nsn.gov	PO Box 147		5722 Traversers Granite Falls	MN	56241
Mr.	White Earth Nation	Tribe THPO	Mr.	Jacob Swerson	Swerson	(218)935-3503	jacob.swerson@whiteearth-nsn.gov	P.O. Box 418		White Earth	MN	56591
Mr.	White Earth Nation	Tribe Chairman	Mr.	Cody Brown	Brown	(402)878-2272 Ex	cody.brown@winnebago-nsn.gov	601 E College Road		Thunder Cian Winnebago	NE	68071
Mr.	White Earth Nation	Tribe THPO	Mr.	Roland Warner	Warner	(402)575-5587 Ex	roland.warner@winnebago-nsn.gov	601 E College Road		Thunder Cian Winnebago	NE	68071

Appendix C

Agency and Tribal Coordination

April 21 Tribal outreach follow-up contact list

Category	Organization	Position	Name	Phone	Email	Address 1	Address 2	City	State	Zip Code
MN Tribe	Bois Forte Band of Chippewa	Chairperson	Carlos Hernandez	(218)757-3261, ext. 1260	carloshernandez@boisforte-nsn.gov		5344 Lakeshore Drive	Nett Lake	MN	55772
MN Tribe	Bois Forte Band of Chippewa	THPO	Jaylen Strong	(218)753-6017	jaylen.strong@boisforte-nsn.gov		1500 Bois Forte Road	Tower	MN	55790
MN Tribe	Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Chairman	Bruce Savage		brucesavage@fdband.org		1720 Big Lake Rd	Cloquet	MN	55720
MN Tribe	Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	THPO	Evan Schroeder	(218)878-7129	evanschroeder@fdband.com		1720 Big Lake Rd	Cloquet	MN	55720
MN Tribe	Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Chairman	Robert Deschampe	(218)475-2277	robertdeschampe@grandportage.com	P.O. Box 428	83 Stevens rd	Grand Portage	MN	55605
MN Tribe	Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	THPO	Rob Hull	(218)475-0111	thpo@grandportage.com	P.O. Box 428	83 Stevens Rd	Grand Portage	MN	55605
MN Tribe	Lower Sioux Indian Community	President	Joseph O'Brien		joey.obrien@lowersioux.com	PO Box 308	39527 Reservation Hwy. 1	Morton	MN	56270
MN Tribe	Lower Sioux Indian Community	THPO	Cheyenne St. John	(507)697-8672	cheyenne.stjohn@lowersioux.com	PO Box 308	39527 Reservation Hwy. 1	Morton	MN	56270
MN Tribe	Millie Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Chief Executive	Virgil Wind	(320)564-6372	virgil.wind@millelacsband.com		43408 Oodena Drive	Onamia	MN	56359
MN Tribe	Millie Lacs Band of Ojibwe	THPO	Mike Wilson	(320)532-7780	mike.wilson@millelacsband.com		43408 Oodena Drive	Onamia	MN	56359
MN Tribe	Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians	Chairman	Darrell Seki	(218)679-3341	dseki@redlakenation.org		15484 Mjigizi Drive	Red Lake	MN	56671
MN Tribe	Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians	THPO	George Branchaude	(218)679-1687	george_branchaude@redlakenation.org	PO Box 274		Red Lake	MN	56671
MN Tribe	Upper Sioux Community	Chairman	Kevin Jensvold	(320)564-6372	kevinj@uppersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov	PO Box 147	5722 Travers Lane	Granite Falls	MN	56241
MN Tribe	Upper Sioux Community	THPO	Samantha Oddegard	(320)564-6334	samanthao@uppersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov	PO Box 147	5722 Travers Lane	Granite Falls	MN	56241
MN Tribe	White Earth Nation	Chairman	Michael Fairbanks	(218)983-3285	michael.fairbanks@whiteearth-nsn.gov		35500 Eagle View Road	Ogema	MN	56569
MN Tribe	White Earth Nation	THPO	Jacob Syverson	(218)935-3503	Jacob.Syverson@whiteearth-nsn.gov	P.O. Box 418		White Earth	MN	56591
Non-MN Tribe	Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska	Chairman	Coly Brown	(402) 878-2272 Ext. 3203	coly.brown@winnebagotribe.com	601 E College Road	Thunder Clan Building	Winnebago, NE	68071	
Non-MN Tribe	Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska	THPO	Roland Warner	(402) 257-5587 ext. 2600	roland.warner@winnebagotribe.com	601 E College Road	Thunder Clan Building	Winnebago, NE	68071	
Non-MN Tribe	Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin	President	Jon Greendeer	(715) 284-9343	maasugas@ho-chunk.com	W9814 Airport Road,	Black River Falls, WI	54615		
Non-MN Tribe	Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin	THPO	William Quackenbush	(715) 284-7181	bill.quackenbush@ho-chunk.com	W9814 Airport Road,	Black River Falls, WI	54615		

November 5, 2025

Stakeholder

**Re: Stakeholder Outreach - Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Project
Goodhue County, Minnesota**

Greetings:

Xcel Energy is proposing to permit, construct, and operate a new, approximately 1.3 mile long, double-circuit, 345-kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line (Project) that will connect Xcel Energy's existing North Rochester Substation to new substation facilities located at a proposed technology center/mixed use industrial development site (development site) near the City of Pine Island in Goodhue County, Minnesota. The development site (known as the Skyway Project¹) is undergoing permitting and approval processes with the City of Pine Island separate from this 345 kV transmission line project.

To accommodate the proposed 345/345-kV high voltage transmission line, Xcel Energy's existing North Rochester Substation will be expanded to the north by approximately 17.9 acres and additional substation facilities will be constructed within the development site. The transmission line is proposed to have a 150-foot-wide right-of-way. The enclosed map shows the location of the proposed Project facilities. The proposed transmission line and substation expansion would be constructed primarily on land currently being farmed for corn and soybeans.

Xcel Energy plans to submit a Route Permit Application (RPA) with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in the first quarter of 2026. We intend to file the RPA in accordance with Minnesota Statutes (Minn. Stat.) 216I.07 under the standard review process.

Xcel Energy requests your feedback to assist in identifying potential impacts. If you would like to meet to discuss the Project, or if you have questions or would like

¹ The Skyway Project is being proposed by Ryan Companies US, Inc. An Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) has been completed for the development site project and the City of Pine Island is currently reviewing that project for applicable permits and approvals. See the City of Pine Island website ([Project Skyway - Pine Island, MN](#)) for more information.

additional information, please contact me at Ellen.L.Heine@xcelenergy.com or (612) 330-6073.

We look forward to hearing from you about this Project and respectfully request comments by or before December 19, 2025.

Sincerely,

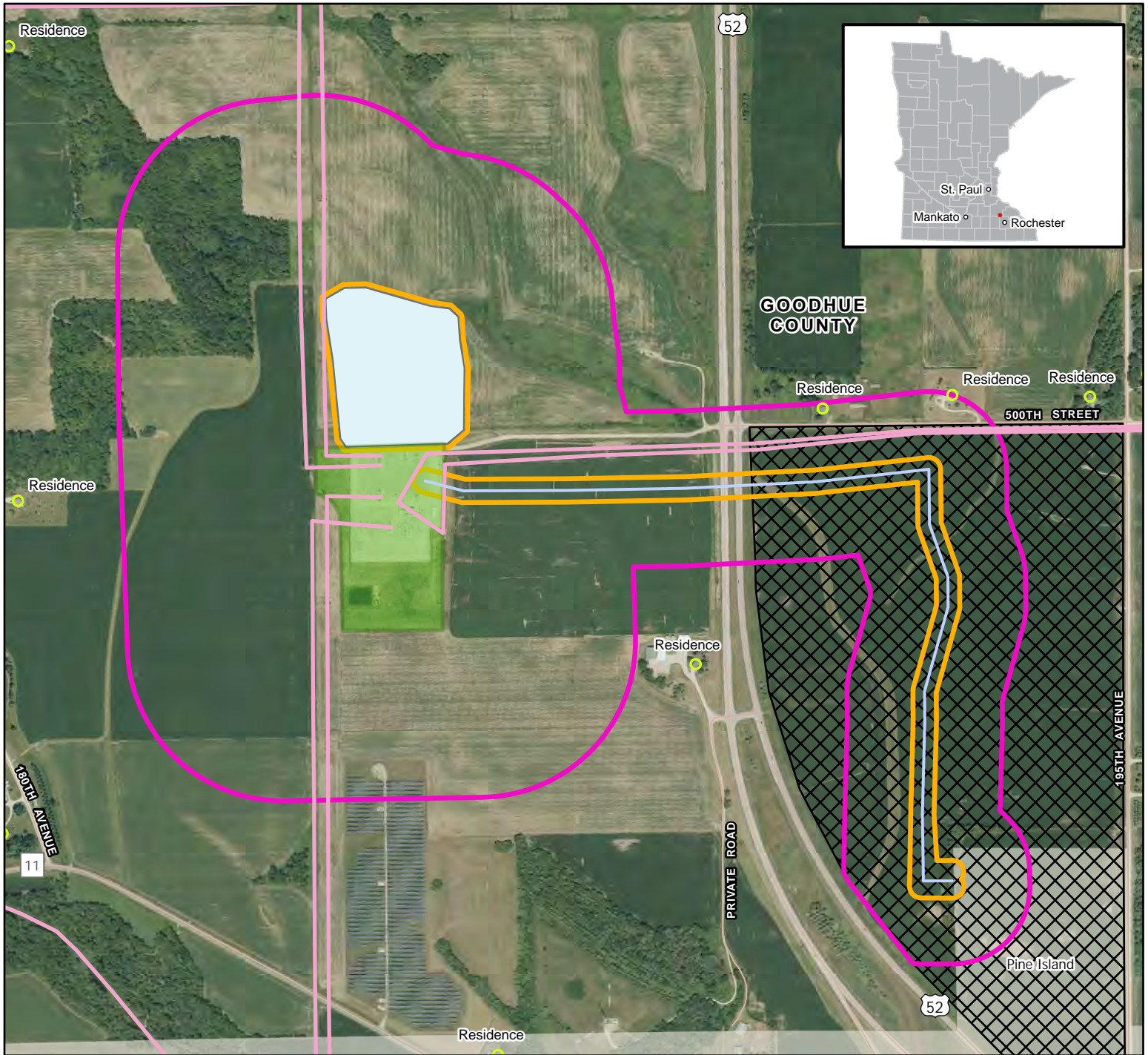


Ellen Heine
Xcel Energy
Principal Siting and Permitting Agent

Enc. Project Location Map



PROJECT LOCATION MAP



LEGEND

- Residences
- Existing Transmission Lines
- Proposed Transmission Line
- Proposed Right-of-Way
- Transmission Facility Study Area
- Proposed Development Site
- Approximate Extent of Substation Expansion
- Existing North Rochester Substation
- County Boundary
- City Boundary

Imagery: Goodhue County, 2023 NAIP



Scale: 1:11,000

Center: 92°39'16"W 44°13'21"N

From: [Leonard Wabasha \(TO\)](#)
 To: [Sedarski, Joe](#); [Heine, Ellen L](#)
 Cc: [Raine, Katie](#); [Hanley, Jennifer](#); [Andre, Jake N](#); [Giuffre, David](#); [Mauseth, Timothy S](#); [Fordice, Randy L](#); [Bentz, Nick](#); [Lexvold, Ross L](#)
 Subject: RE: Xcel Energy - Stakeholder Outreach - Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Project, Goodhue County, MN
 Date: Thursday, November 6, 2025 11:50:10 AM
 Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from leonard.wabasha@shakopeedakota.org.
[Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Ellen Heine

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, I currently have no concerns about the proposed project. Have a Great Day!!



LEONARD WABASHA
 Tribal Historic Preservation Officer • Hokokata Ti
 Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
 d: 952.496.6120
[shakopeedakota.org](mailto:leonard.wabasha@shakopeedakota.org)
Leonard.Wabasha@shakopeedakota.org

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community is a federally recognized, sovereign Indian tribe located southwest of Minneapolis/St. Paul. With a focus on being a good neighbor, good steward of the earth, and good employer, the SMSC is committed to charitable donations, community partnerships, a healthy environment, and a strong economy.

From: Sedarski, Joe <Joe.Sedarski@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 6, 2025 11:32 AM
To: Heine, Ellen L <ellen.l.heine@xcelenergy.com>
Cc: Raine, Katie <Katie.Raine@hdrinc.com>; Hanley, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hanley@hdrinc.com>; Andre, Jake N <jacob.n.andre@xcelenergy.com>; Giuffre, David <david.giuffre@xcelenergy.com>; Mauseth, Timothy S <Timothy.S.Mauseth@xcelenergy.com>; Fordice, Randy L <randy.l.fordice@xcelenergy.com>; Bentz, Nick <Nicholas.Bentz@hdrinc.com>; Lexvold, Ross L <ross.l.lexvold@xcelenergy.com>
Subject: Xcel Energy - Stakeholder Outreach - Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Project, Goodhue County, MN

You don't often get email from joe.sedarski@hdrinc.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

This message came from **outside the organization**. Do Not click on links, open attachments or respond unless you know the content is safe.

Greetings and good afternoon all,

On behalf of Xcel Energy, we are sending you the attached stakeholder outreach letter

concerning the proposed 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line project (Project) located in Goodhue County, Minnesota. We are also sending you this letter and map via US Mail to ensure you receive this.

If you have questions, comments or concerns, please contact either Ellen Heine, Principal Siting and Permitting Agent, Xcel Energy, or myself by or before December 19, 2025.

Ellen can be reached at Ellen.L.Heine@xcelenergy.com or (612) 330-6073. Joe can be reached at joe.sedarski@hdrinc.com or (612) 214-6658.

We appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Best Regards,

Joe

[Joe Sedarski, PE](mailto:Joe.Sedarski@hdrinc.com)

Sr. Environmental PM / Sr. Technical Advisor

HDR

1601 Utica Avenue South, Suite 600

St. Louis Park, MN 55416-3400

D 763.591.6684 **M** 612.214.6658

Joe.Sedarski@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

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From: Anita Cloud <anita.cloud@llojibwe.net>
Sent: Friday, December 12, 2025 7:20 PM
To: Heine, Ellen L <Ellen.L.Heine@xcelenergy.com>
Cc: Gina Lemon <gina.lemon@llojibwe.net>
Subject: thpo # 25-592

EXTERNAL - STOP & THINK before opening links and attachments.

Please consult with the Prairie Island Community, your attention is appreciated.

Have a good day...

Respectfully,

Anita M Cloud

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
Tribal Historic Preservation Assistant
190 Sailstar Drive NE
Cass Lake, MN 56633
anita.cloud@llojibwe.net

Anita Cloud

Tribal Historic Preservation Assistant



anita.cloud@llojibwe.net
<http://www.llojibwe.org/>
190 Sailstar Drive NW, Cass Lake, MN 56633



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LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE

Tribal Historic Preservation Office

Gina M Lemon, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Anita M Cloud, Tribal Historic Preservation Assistant

December 8, 2025

Via Internet

Xcel

Attn: Ellen Heine, Principal Siting and Permitting Agent

414 Nicollet Mall

Minneapolis, MN 55401

RE: Stakeholder Outreach – Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line Project, Goodhue County, MN.

Xcel Energy is proposing to permit, construct, and operate a new, approximately 1.3 mile long, double-circuit, 345-kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line (Project) that will connect Xcel Energy's existing North Rochester Substation to a new substation facilities located at a proposed technology center/mixed use industrial development site (development site) near the City of Pine Island in Goodhue County.

LL THPO No. 25-592-NCRI

Dear Ellen Heine,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced project. This has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given to the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended in 1992, and the Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (38CFR800).

I have reviewed the documentation. After careful consideration of our records, I have determined that the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe does not have any recorded historic properties, within this area. ** This does not mean there are not any cultural resources present, at this time. **

Should any human remains or suspected human remains be encountered, all work shall cease and the following personnel should be notified immediately: County Sheriff's Office, Office of the State Archaeologist, and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe along with other interested parties.

Please note the above determination does not "exempt" future projects from Section 106 review. In the event of any other tribe notifying you of an issue or us (LLBO) of concerns for this specific project, we may reenter into the consultation process.

You may contact me at (218) 335-2940 if you have questions regarding our review of this project. Please refer to the **LL-THPO Number** as stated above in all correspondence with this project.

Respectfully submitted,

Gina M Lemon

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Leech Lake Tribal Historic Preservation Office - Established in 1996

190 Sailstar Drive NE * Cass Lake, MN 56633

Gina.lemon@llojibwe.net

From: [Heine, Ellen L](#)
To: [jaylen.strong](#); [carloshernandez](#)
Subject: RE: Request for feedback on proposed 345 kV transmission line
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 1:31:10 PM

CAUTION: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks for the quick response. I will check back on our list and make sure we included the Ho-Chunk and Winnebago in our initial outreach.

Have a wonderful afternoon!

Ellen

Ellen Heine
Xcel Energy
P: 612.330.6073 C: 651-247-0957
E: ellen.l.heine@xcelenergy.com

From: Jaylen Strong <jaylen.strong@boisforte-nsn.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 1:14 PM
To: Heine, Ellen L <Ellen.L.Heine@xcelenergy.com>; Carlos Hernandez <carloshernandez@boisforte-nsn.gov>
Subject: Re: Request for feedback on proposed 345 kV transmission line

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Boozhoo Ellen,

Thank you for sending this follow up email. I missed your initial email in November. Bois Forte does not have any information regarding cultural properties that would be affected by this project, so we will defer to those tribal communities that are closer to the project. If you haven't I would also encourage you to reach out to the Ho-Chunk and Winnebago tribes in Nebraska to ensure that they don't have any cultural resources in this area as well.

Weweni bimaadizing,

Jaylen Strong – Bebaamoshiiyaan
Bois Forte Tribal Government
Heritage Center Director

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
O: 218-753-6017 | C: 218-248-2314
jaylen.strong@boisforte-nsn.gov
[Heritage Center Facebook Page](#)

From: Heine, Ellen L <Ellen.L.Heine@xcelenergy.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 11:53 AM
To: Carlos Hernandez <carloshernandez@boisforte-nsn.gov>; Jaylen Strong <jaylen.strong@boisforte-nsn.gov>
Subject: Request for feedback on proposed 345 kV transmission line

Chairman Hernandez and THPO Strong,

I am writing you to follow up on the initial letter we sent you in early November 2025 concerning a proposed 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line project in Goodhue County, Minnesota (see attached initial outreach letter and map). Xcel Energy is proposing to permit, construct, and operate a new, approximately 1.2 mile long, double-circuit, 345 kV high voltage transmission line that will connect Xcel Energy's existing North Rochester Substation to new substation facilities located at a proposed technology center near the City of Pine Island in Goodhue County, Minnesota.

Xcel Energy will be submitting an application for a Route Permit with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) near the end of this month. We request your feedback to assist in identifying potential impacts. If you would like to meet to discuss the Project, or if you have questions or would like additional information, please contact me at ellen.l.heine@xcelenergy.com or (612) 330-6073. I look forward to hearing from you.

To ensure that I've sent this to the correct email addresses please acknowledge receipt of this email.

Thank you,

Ellen

Ellen Heine
Xcel Energy
Principal Siting and Permitting Agent
414 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401
P: 612.330.6073 C: 651-247-0957
E: ellen.l.heine@xcelenergy.com

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Appendix D
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission March 27,
2026 Draft Application Review Comments and the
Applicants' Response

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**MN EIP Draft Application
Review Letter
March 27, 2026**

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Appendix D

March 27, 2026

Ellen Heine
Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall – 6th Floor
Minneapolis, MN 55401
Ellen.l.heine@xcelenergy.com

RE: Draft Application Review
Skyway 345 kV Transmission Line Project
Docket No. E002/TL-26-135

Dear Ellen Heine,

As required by Minn. Stat. 216I.05, subd. 6, applicants requesting a site or route permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) must provide a draft of the application, including the required Environmental Assessment information, to Commission staff prior to filing the application. On February 18, 2026, Northern States Power Company (d/b/a Xcel Energy) provided Commission Energy Infrastructure Permitting (EIP) staff with a draft of the route permit application for the Skyway 345 kV Transmission Line Project in Goodhue County.

Attached are the EIP staff comments on the draft application. As required by Minn. Stat. 216I.05, subd. 6(b), EIP staff's comments are focused on the completeness of the application and clarifications that may assist the Commission's review of the application. EIP staff's review of the draft application is informed by the *Commission's Draft Application Guidance for Large Energy Infrastructure Facilities in Minnesota*.

Please let me know if you have questions or would like to discuss these comments further.

Sincerely,



Logan Hicks, Environmental Review Manager

Appendix D

Northern States Power Company (d/b/a Xcel Energy) provided a draft application for the Skyway 345 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Project (Project) on February 18, 2026. The Project consists of an approximately 1.2 mile 345 kV transmission line, the upgrade of an existing substation and four new substations in Goodhue County, Minnesota.

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) Environmental Infrastructure Permitting (EIP) staff appreciates the opportunity to review the draft application. EIP staff's review of the application is guided by the Commission's Draft Application Guidance.

Although the draft provided included much of the information required by Minnesota Statute §216I, EIP staff recommends the final application filed in eDockets incorporate several revisions to clarify the proposed project, the potential impacts, and potential mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, and otherwise mitigate impacts. These clarifications are intended to assist the Commission's review of the application, including the environmental assessment (EA). More detail on recommendations is included in a redline that accompanies this letter and is summarized in the following table. General recommendations that apply to the document as a whole include:

- Labeling tables and figures chronologically throughout the document regardless of section.
- For all resources, clarify the impact intensity using the definitions in Section 6.1 of the application.
- EIP requests the applicants reach out again to the Minnesota tribes who did not respond with a follow up email and, if that is not successful, a phone call. Document these attempts for inclusion in the RPA when filed.
- Add Project Skyway as a reasonably foreseeable project and including the analysis of impacts to resources.

Appendix D

Topic	EIP Act MS §216I	Location in Document
Project ownership	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(1)	Section 1.2
Meets staff expectations. The expanded substation and transmission line will be owned by Northern States Power Company, d/b/a Xcel Energy. The four new substations will be owned by the not-yet-revealed applicant (Skyway). Be sure to add the applicant's name in the final application.		
Permittee name	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(2)	Section 1.3
Meets staff expectations. Northern States Power Company (d/b/a Xcel Energy) and Skyway will be the permittees. Be sure to add the applicant's information in the final application.		
Project description	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(3)	Section 2
Staff recommends adding a numeric description of the route width you are requesting.		
Environmental Information, generally	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(4)	Section 6
See discussion in specific resource areas.		
Identification of Property Owners	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(5), as described in 216I.05, subd. 8 (3)	Appendix E
Meets staff expectations.		
Maps	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(6)	Appendix B
Staff recommends including figures in text of the document rather than referencing an appendix. Otherwise, meets staff expectations.		
Existing ROWs	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(7)	Section 6
Staff recommends adding a description of existing ROW that is planned to be paralleled in Section 2.2.2.		
Project design, including required ancillary facilities	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(8)	Section 2
Largely meets staff expectations. We recommend including a figure that depicts the difference between Route Width, ROW, and Alignment.		
Project cost	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(9)	Section 3.1
Meets staff expectations.		
Design for expansion	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(10)	Section 2.5
Meets staff expectations.		
Site or ROW acquisition, construction, maintenance, & restoration	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(11)	Section 2

Topic	EIP Act MS §216I	Location in Document
<p>EIP staff recommends the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe where you are in the land acquisition process. Provide a table or list of maintenance activities and maintenance intervals for each activity. 		
Other Permits	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(12)	Section 4
Meets staff expectations.		
CN Requirement	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(13)	Section 1.5.1
Meets staff expectations, a Certificate of Need is not required.		
Other sites or routes considered	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(14)	Section 5
Meets staff expectations.		
Additional information required by rule	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(15)	n/a
Staff recommends the applicants clarify the project avoids the prohibited routes identified in Minn. R. 7850.4300.		
Tribal coordination	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(16)	Section 7.1.1
22 Federally Recognized Tribes were notified on November 6, 2025, according to Section 7.1.1 of the application.		
<p>The Commission's July 2025 Guidance for Successful Tribal Engagement (Tribal guidance) is available on the Commission's website. Staff recommends the applicant provide notification to those listed in the eDockets service lists "Tribal Government Contacts" and "Tribal Historic Preservation Offices," as recommended in the Commission's Tribal guidance. This standard will promote consistency for applicants and is the best way to ensure contacts that are used are up to date. At the time the draft application was provided, the applicant has initiated coordination with all 11 tribes (and more) and has received responses from 2 of the tribes.</p>		
<p>As discussed in the commission's Tribal guidance, a single email or postal letter about a project does not suffice as coordination. A reasonable effort must be documented that the applicants attempted to coordinate with each tribe with multiple methods and attempts when a response isn't received. EIP requests the applicants reach out again to the Minnesota tribes who did not respond with a follow up email and, if that is not successful, a phone call. Document these attempts for inclusion in the RPA when filed.</p>		
Preapplication Coordination (LGUs)	216I.05, subd. 5 (1)	Appendix C
Meets staff expectations. LGUs were properly notified on November 6, via email as denoted in Appendix C.		

Topic	EIP Act MS §216I	Location in Document
Preapplication Coordination (State Technical Resource Agencies)	216I.05, subd. 5 (3)	Appendix C
Staff recommends the applicants ensure that notice is provided to the “Agency Reps” service list in eDockets. This standard will promote consistency for applicants and is the best way to ensure contacts that are used are up to date. All technical resource agencies contacted should be included in Appendix C.		
Environmental information, generally	216I.05, subd. 4(a)	Section 6
See individual resource discussions. Each EA resource section should include a discussion of existing conditions, impacts, and mitigation measures; see staff comments in document.		
Environmental setting	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(1)	Section 6.3
Meets staff expectations.		
Human settlement, generally	216I.05, subd. 4(2)	Section 6.4
See comments on specific resource sections.		
Public health & safety including EMF	216I.05, subd. 11(b)(1) (Decision Criteria)	Section 6.4.5
Staff provided comments on tables and figures in this section to improve readability. Provide a table for common EMF sources.		
Displacement	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2)	Section 6.4.3
Meets staff expectations.		
Noise	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2)	Section 6.4.6
Staff provided comments on figures in this section to improve readability, and technical edits to improve clarity.		
Aesthetics	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2); 216I.19 (turbine lighting)	Section 6.4.1
Staff provided comments on figures in this section to improve readability, and technical edits to improve clarity.		
Socioeconomic Impacts	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2); 216I.05, subd. 11(b)(14)	Section 6.4.10
Staff provided recommendations to source citations for Section 6.4.11 Property Values.		
Environmental Justice Impacts	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2); 216I.05, subd. 11(a)(3)	Section 6.4.5
Meets staff expectations.		

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Topic	EIP Act MS §216I	Location in Document
Cultural Values	216I.05, bud. 4(a) (2)	Section 6.4.2
Meets staff expectations.		
Recreation	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2)	Section 6.4.9
Meets staff expectations.		
Public Services	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2)	Section 6.4.7
Staff provided technical edits and comments to improve the clarity of this section. Otherwise, meets staff expectations.		
Land Use	216I.05, subd. 11(a) (2)	Section 6.4.8
Staff provided technical comments to improve the clarity of this section. Otherwise, meets staff expectations.		
Land-based economics, generally	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(3)	Section 6.5
See comments on specific resource sections.		
Agriculture	216I.05, subd. 4(3); 216I.05, subd. 11(b)(5) and (9)	Section 6.5.1
Meets staff expectations.		
Forestry	216I.05, subd. 4(3)	Section 6.5.2
Meets staff expectations.		
Mining	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(3)	Section 6.5.3
Meets staff expectations.		
Tourism	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(3)	Section 6.5.4
Meets staff expectations.		
Archaeological & historic resources	216I.05, subd. 4(4)	Section 6.6
Staff provided technical edits and comments to improve the clarity of this section. Staff recommends including Minnesota Indian Affairs Council as an entity receiving notice in the Unanticipated Discovery Plan.		
Natural environment impacts - generally	216I.05, subd. 4(5)	Section 6.7
See resource-specific discussions.		

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Topic	EIP Act MS §216I	Location in Document
Air quality	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(5)	Section 6.7.1
Meets staff expectations.		
Geology and Groundwater	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(5); 216I.05, subd. 11(b)(1)	Section 6.7.2
Meets staff expectations.		
Soils	216I.05, subd. 11(b)(1); 216I.05, subd. 11(b)(5)	Section 6.7.3
Meets staff expectations.		
Surface waters (including stormwater, floodplains, and wetlands)	216I.05, subd. 4(5); 216I.05, subd. 11(b)(1)	Section 6.7.4
Staff recommends including more information in terms of previously delineated wetlands. Otherwise, meets staff expectations.		
Vegetation	216I.05, subd. 4(5)	Section 6.7.5
Meets staff expectations.		
Wildlife and Habitat	216I.05, subd. 4(5)	Section 6.7.6
Meets staff expectations.		
Rare & unique resources	216I.05, subd. 4(8)	Section 6.7.7
Staff recommends including any review documentation as appendices to the application. Public and Nonpublic data will be categorized as such. Otherwise, meets staff expectations.		
Greenhouse gases	216I.05, subd. 4(6)	Section 6.7.8
Meets staff expectations.		
Climate change resilience	216I.05, subd. 4(7)	Section 6.7.9
Staff provided technical edits and comments to improve the clarity of this section. Otherwise, meets staff expectations.		
Unavoidable Impacts	216I.05, subd. 4(9)	Section 6.8
Meets staff expectations.		
Irretrievable and Irreversible Impacts	216I.05, subd. 11(b)(11)	Section 6.9
Meets staff expectations.		
Cumulative Potential Effects	216I.05, subd. 11(a)(1) and (b)10)	Section 6.10

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Topic	EIP Act MS §216I	Location in Document
Staff recommends including Project Skyway as a reasonably foreseeable project and including the analysis of impacts to resources.		
Mitigation Measures	216I.05, subd. 4(10)	Throughout
Meets staff expectations.		
Additional Material		
Appendices	Staff recommends updating appendices as applicable from comments throughout the application.	

Applicants' Responses

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Appendix D

Applicants' Response – Skyway 345 kV Transmission Line Project

Response to Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Energy Infrastructure Permitting Staff's
 Draft Application Review (March 27, 2026 Comments)

Docket: E002/TL-26-135

Date: April 28, 2026

Topic	EIP Act MS §216I	Location in Document	Applicants' Response
Project ownership	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(1)	Section 1.2	
Meets staff expectations. The expanded substation and transmission line will be owned by Northern States Power Company, d/b/a Xcel Energy. The four new substations will be owned by the not-yet-revealed applicant (Skyway). Be sure to add the applicant's name in the final application.			Applicants have updated project ownership to include the name of the co-applicant throughout the application.
Permittee name	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(2)	Section 1.3	
Meets staff expectations. Northern States Power Company (d/b/a Xcel Energy) and Skyway will be the permittees. Be sure to add the applicant's information in the final application.			N/A
Project description	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(3)	Section 2	
Staff recommends adding a numeric description of the route width you are requesting.			Applicants have added a numeric description and have included additional figures.
Environmental Information, generally	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(4)	Section 6	
See discussion in specific resource areas.			Applicants have incorporated comments as appropriate.
Identification of Property Owners	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(5), as described in 216I.05, subd. 8 (3)	Appendix E	
Meets staff expectations.			N/A
Maps	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(6)	Appendix B	
Staff recommends including figures in text of the document rather than referencing an appendix. Otherwise, meets staff expectations.			Applicants have added additional in text figures but have kept detailed

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Topic	EIP Act MS §216I	Location in Document	Applicants' Response
Existing ROWs	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(7)	Section 6	figures in the appendix due to the size of the figures.
Staff recommends adding a description of existing ROW that is planned to be paralleled in Section 2.2.2.			Applicants have added the description of the existing ROW that is planned to be paralleled and have added an additional figure.
Project design, including required ancillary facilities	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(8)	Section 2	
Largely meets staff expectations. We recommend including a figure that depicts the difference between Route Width, ROW, and Alignment.			Applicants have added an additional in text figure.
Project cost	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(9)	Section 3.1	
Meets staff expectations.			N/A
Design for expansion	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(10)	Section 2.5	
Meets staff expectations.			N/A
Site or ROW acquisition, construction, maintenance, & restoration	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(11)	Section 2	Applicants have included additional details on the status of the land acquisition process. Applicants have included additional description of applicable maintenance activities and maintenance intervals. Specific maintenance intervals or activities cannot be provided as they are often as-needed.
EIP staff recommends the following:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe where you are in the land acquisition process. • Provide a table or list of maintenance activities and maintenance intervals for each activity. 			

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Topic	EIP Act MS §216I	Location in Document	Applicants' Response
Other Permits	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(12)	Section 4	
Meets staff expectations.			
CN Requirement	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(13)	Section 1.5.1	
Meets staff expectations, a Certificate of Need is not required.			
Other sites or routes considered	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(14)	Section 5	
Meets staff expectations.			
Additional information required by rule	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(15)	n/a	
Staff recommends the applicants clarify the project avoids the prohibited routes identified in Minn. R. 7850.4300.			
Tribal coordination	216I.05, subd. 3(b)(16)	Section 7.1.1	
22 Federally Recognized Tribes were notified on November 6, 2025, according to Section 7.1.1 of the application.			
The Commission's July 2025 Guidance for Successful Tribal Engagement (Tribal guidance) is available on the Commission's website. Staff recommends the applicant provide notification to those listed in the eDockets service lists "Tribal Government Contacts" and "Tribal Historic Preservation Offices," as recommended in the Commission's Tribal guidance. This standard will promote consistency for applicants and is the best way to ensure contacts that are used are up to date. At the time the draft application was provided, the applicant has initiated coordination with all 11 tribes (and more) and has received responses from 2 of the tribes.			
As discussed in the commission's Tribal guidance, a single email or postal letter about a project			
Applicants have added additional details about coordination with Tribes, including additional outreach activities which are planned to be completed during the permitting process. On Nov. 6, 2025, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community responded with no concerns; on Nov. 19, 2025, this same Tribe also emailed a request for an address change. On Dec. 8, 2025, Leech Lake Band of			

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Topic	EIP Act MS §216I	Location in Document	Applicants' Response
<p>does not suffice as coordination. A reasonable effort must be documented that the applicants attempted to coordinate with each tribe with multiple methods and attempts when a response isn't received. EIP requests the applicants reach out again to the Minnesota tribes who did not respond with a follow up email and, if that is not successful, a phone call. Document these attempts for inclusion in the RPA when filed.</p>			<p>Ojibwe emailed a determination of no historic properties.</p> <p>On April 21, 2026, the Applicants sent a follow up email to 8 of the 11 Minnesota Tribes who have not responded to the initial outreach completed in November 2025. On April 22, 2026, the Applicants also reached out to two additional tribes as requested by Bois Forte THPO.</p>
<p>Preapplication Coordination (LGUs)</p>	<p>216I.05, subd. 5 (1)</p>	<p>Appendix C</p>	
<p>Meets staff expectations. LGUs were properly notified on November 6, via email as denoted in Appendix C.</p>			<p>N/A</p>
<p>Preapplication Coordination (State Technical Resource Agencies)</p>	<p>216I.05, subd. 5 (3)</p>	<p>Appendix C</p>	
<p>Staff recommends the applicants ensure that notice is provided to the "Agency Reps" service list in eDockets. This standard will promote consistency for applicants and is the best way to ensure contacts that are used are up to date. All technical resource agencies contacted should be included in Appendix C.</p>			<p>Applicants have reviewed the "Agency Reps" service list. The state agencies on this list have been contacted as part of initial stakeholder outreach which is included in the Application.</p> <p>Applicants will provide notice to the "Agency Reps" service list in eDockets when the Application is filed.</p>
<p>Environmental information, generally</p>	<p>216I.05, subd. 4(a)</p>	<p>Section 6</p>	
<p>See individual resource discussions. Each EA resource section should include a discussion of existing conditions, impacts, and mitigation measures; see staff comments in document.</p>			<p>Applicants have reviewed all redline edits and have incorporated these proposed edits as appropriate.</p>

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Topic	EIP Act MS §216I	Location in Document	Applicants' Response
Environmental setting	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(1)	Section 6.3	
Meets staff expectations.			
Human settlement, generally	216I.05, subd. 4(2)	Section 6.4	
See comments on specific resource sections.			
Public health & safety including EMF	216I.05, subd. 11(b)(1) (Decision Criteria)	Section 6.4.5	
Staff provided comments on tables and figures in this section to improve readability. Provide a table for common EMF sources.			
Displacement	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2)	Section 6.4.3	
Meets staff expectations.			
Noise	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2)	Section 6.4.6	
Staff provided comments on figures in this section to improve readability, and technical edits to improve clarity.			
Aesthetics	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2); 216I.19 (turbine lighting)	Section 6.4.1	
Staff provided comments on figures in this section to improve readability, and technical edits to improve clarity.			

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Topic	EIP Act MS §216I	Location in Document	Applicants' Response
Socioeconomic Impacts	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2); 216I.05, subd. 11(b)(14)	Section 6.4.10	proposed edits as appropriate.
Environmental Justice Impacts	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2); 216I.05, subd. 11(a)(3)	Section 6.4.5	Applicants have addressed Staff's recommendations.
Meets staff expectations.			N/A
Cultural Values	216I.05, bud. 4(a) (2)	Section 6.4.2	N/A
Meets staff expectations.			N/A
Recreation	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2)	Section 6.4.9	N/A
Meets staff expectations.			N/A
Public Services	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(2)	Section 6.4.7	Applicants have reviewed all redline edits and have incorporated these proposed edits as appropriate.
Land Use	216I.05, subd. 11(a) (2)	Section 6.4.8	Applicants have reviewed all redline edits and have incorporated these proposed edits as appropriate.
Land-based economics, generally	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(3)	Section 6.5	Applicants have reviewed all redline edits and have incorporated these proposed edits as appropriate.

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Topic	EIP Act MS §216I	Location in Document	Applicants' Response
See comments on specific resource sections.			Applicants have reviewed all redline edits and have incorporated these proposed edits as appropriate.
Agriculture	216I.05, subd. 4(3); 216I.05, subd. 11(b)(5) and (9)	Section 6.5.1	
Meets staff expectations.			N/A
Forestry	216I.05, subd. 4(3)	Section 6.5.2	
Meets staff expectations.			N/A
Mining	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(3)	Section 6.5.3	
Meets staff expectations.			N/A
Tourism	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(3)	Section 6.5.4	
Meets staff expectations.			N/A
Archaeological & historic resources	216I.05, subd. 4(4)	Section 6.6	
Staff provided technical edits and comments to improve the clarity of this section. Staff recommends including Minnesota Indian Affairs Council as an entity receiving notice in the Unanticipated Discovery Plan.			Applicants have reviewed all redline edits and have incorporated these proposed edits as appropriate.
Natural environment impacts - generally	216I.05, subd. 4(5)	Section 6.7	

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Topic	EIP Act MS §216I	Location in Document	Applicants' Response
See resource-specific discussions.			Applicants have reviewed all redline edits and have incorporated these proposed edits as appropriate.
Air quality	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(5)	Section 6.7.1	
Meets staff expectations.			N/A
Geology and Groundwater	216I.05, subd. 4(a)(5); 216I.05, subd. 11(b)(1)	Section 6.7.2	
Meets staff expectations.			N/A
Soils	216I.05, subd. 11(b)(1); 216I.05, subd. 11(b)(5)	Section 6.7.3	
Meets staff expectations.			N/A
Surface waters (including stormwater, floodplains, and wetlands)	216I.05, subd. 4(5); 216I.05, subd. 11(b)(1)	Section 6.7.4	
Staff recommends including more information in terms of previously delineated wetlands. Otherwise, meets staff expectations.			Applicants have added an additional delineation report to Appendix K.
Vegetation	216I.05, subd. 4(5)	Section 6.7.5	
Meets staff expectations.			N/A
Wildlife and Habitat	216I.05, subd. 4(5)	Section 6.7.6	
Meets staff expectations.			N/A
Rare & unique resources	216I.05, subd. 4(8)	Section 6.7.7	

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Topic	EIP Act MS §216I	Location in Document	Applicants' Response
Staff recommends including any review documentation as appendices to the application. Public and Nonpublic data will be categorized as such. Otherwise, meets staff expectations.			Applicants have created new Appendix I – Natural Resource Data and have included the USFWS IPaC and the Natural Heritage Request to MnDNR.
Greenhouse gases	216I.05, subd. 4(6)	Section 6.7.8	
Meets staff expectations.			N/A
Climate change resilience	216I.05, subd. 4(7)	Section 6.7.9	
Staff provided technical edits and comments to improve the clarity of this section. Otherwise, meets staff expectations.			Applicants have reviewed all redline edits and have incorporated these proposed edits as appropriate.
Unavoidable Impacts	216I.05, subd. 4(9)	Section 6.8	
Meets staff expectations.			N/A
Irretrievable and Irreversible Impacts	216I.05, subd. 11(b)(11)	Section 6.9	
Meets staff expectations.			N/A
Cumulative Potential Effects	216I.05, subd. 11(a)(1) and (b)10)	Section 6.10	
Staff recommends including Project Skyway as a reasonably foreseeable project and including the analysis of impacts to resources.			The Applicants have added Project Skyway as a reasonably foreseeable project and impacts to resources from Project Skyway are analyzed in the Project Skyway's AUAR.
Mitigation Measures	216I.05, subd. 4(10)	Throughout	

Appendix D

Topic	EIP Act MS §216I	Location in Document	Applicants' Response
Meets staff expectations.			N/A
Additional Material			
Appendices	Staff recommends updating appendices as applicable from comments throughout the application.		The Applicants have updated appendices to address comments throughout the application.

Appendix E

List of Landowners

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First Name	Last Name	Company	Address	City	State	Zip
CHRISTOPHER R	MILLER		511 W GLENBROOK DR	LENOIR	TN	37771
MATTHEW R	MILLER		50112 180TH AVE	PINE ISLAND	MN	55963
HARLEY D	KRAUSE		PO BOX 356	PINE ISLAND	MN	55963-0356
KATHLEEN M	BAKKEN		19321 500TH ST	PINE ISLAND	MN	55963-7648
RICHARD M	MILLER		50389 180TH AVE	PINE ISLAND	MN	55963
LOREN O	OLSON		19131 500TH ST	PINE ISLAND	MN	55963
AMANDA L	DUNKIN		49844 180TH AVE	PINE ISLAND	MN	55963
ADAM R	MILLER		50453 180TH AVE	PINE ISLAND	MN	55963
ERWIN A	PONCELET		49508 180TH AVE	PINE ISLAND	MN	55963-7603
		LESLIE C SCHLIEP TTEE	201 7TH ST SW	PINE ISLAND	MN	55963
		PATRICIA A WALTER REVOCABLE TRUST	312 COUNTY ROAD 11 NW	PINE ISLAND	MN	55963
		EDWARD A MANTHEI REVOC TRUST	807 NORTHLAND LN NE	ROCHESTER	MN	55906
		BARBARA A ROLFSON TTEE	PO BOX 82	PINE ISLAND	MN	55963-0082
		NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY	414 NICOLLET MALL	MINNEAPOLIS	MN	55401
		DAVID R MORISETTE TTEE	33293 XKIMO TRL NW	CAMBRIDGE	MN	55008

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Appendix F

Draft Vegetation Management Plan

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VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

North Rochester to Skyway High Voltage Transmission Line Project

MPUC Docket No. E002 /TL-26-135

February 18, 2026

Northern States Power Company



**414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401**

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1 INTRODUCTION

The North Rochester to Skyway High Voltage Transmission Line Project (Project) is an approximately 1.3 mile long, double-circuit, 345-kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line that will connect Xcel Energy's existing North Rochester Substation to new substation facilities located at a proposed technology center/mixed use industrial development site (development site) near the City of Pine Island. Additionally, Ryan Companies US, Inc. proposes to construct and operate mini substations at the proposed development site. The Project Area for the Project consists of anticipated areas of potential construction disturbance including the substation expansion area and 150-foot-wide transmission line ROW. The Project area is 42.05 acres. This Vegetation Management Plan (VMP or Plan) is intended to describe Xcel Energy standards for handling of vegetation removal and protection of existing vegetation during site preparation and construction and for revegetation of areas of exposed soil during restoration following Project construction.

Xcel Energy provides this draft Vegetation Management Plan (Plan) for consideration as part of the route permit proceedings.

2 GENERAL RIGHT-OF-WAY VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Xcel Energy standard practice is to clear all woody vegetation within a planned substation expansion area and the full right-of-way width for construction of new transmission lines. This includes cases where a new transmission line will be located within an existing right-of-way such as for a line rebuild or double-circuiting a new line with an existing line. The purpose of clearing to the full extent of the right-of-way is to ensure adequate and safe working spaces for crews during construction as well as to provide appropriate clearances for safe reliable operation of the lines once construction is complete. There are limited circumstances when this practice is modified and selected vegetation can remain within the right-of-way provided National Electric Safety Code (NESC) clearance requirements are met.

To the greatest extent possible, Xcel Energy identified and selects substation expansion areas that are free of vegetation and other development/land use to avoid and minimize vegetation removal. While the removal of woody vegetation within the transmission line right-of-way is necessary, efforts are made to protect existing compatible low-growing vegetation in order to minimize construction impacts such as soil erosion, wetland damage, or habitat loss. The following is a list of general practices that will be used to minimize vegetation impacts related to Project construction.

- Use erosion control best management practices (BMPs) to intercept stormwater runoff from areas disturbed as part of clearing operations. Stormwater BMPs are addressed in the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).
- Minimize rutting by using matting materials in wetland areas for all construction activities, including substation site preparation and right-of-way clearing activities; or perform work on firm or frozen ground that can support the equipment used.
- Minimize soil disturbance in steeply sloped areas, to the extent possible and/or practicable.
- Limit construction activities, including vegetation removal, to substation site preparation areas and the right-of-way and off right-of-way access.
- To the extent practicable, limit traffic in the right-of-way between transmission structure locations to a single access path.
- Limit staging and lay-down areas to previously disturbed areas where practicable.
- Use construction mats to minimize impacts within wetlands and other areas with easily disturbed soils when construction during winter (frozen) months is not possible.
- To the extent practicable, complete construction in wet organic soils when the ground is frozen.
- When existing low growing vegetation is disturbed during construction restoration efforts focus on establishing compatible (low growing) non-invasive species within the right-of-way.

3 VEGETATION REMOVAL

While most of the Project planned substation expansion area and transmission line right-of-way is located within existing agricultural fields, the Project will require some clearing of vegetation within the planned substation expansion area and the transmission line right-of-way and along temporary construction access paths. Tall woody vegetation that may interfere with safe construction and safe and reliable operation of the transmission line will be removed and managed through the operational life of the Project.

Clearing of vegetation will occur prior to other construction activities as allowed by landowner agreements and permit conditions. Clearing may be accomplished with the use of chainsaws, mowers, and hydraulic tree-cutting equipment. Vegetation will be cut

at, or slightly above, the ground surface. Within the planned substation expansion area, site grading and preparation will be completed as part of construction of substation equipment and facilities; no vegetation will remain in the substation expansion area. Rootstock or stumps will typically be left in place within the transmission line right-of-way unless transmission structure installation or construction access requires otherwise or at the request of the landowner.

Prior to construction, Xcel Energy will acquire the planned substation expansion area and associated facilities. For the transmission line, applicable landowners will be notified to allow them to harvest trees within easement boundaries prior to the initiation of clearing of the transmission line right-of-way. The landowner will retain the title to all timber material, if desired. Non-merchantable material, including trees, brush, and slash, will be either cut and scattered, placed in windrow piles, chipped, or burned within the right-of-way. Non-merchantable felled material may also be removed from the right-of-way in a fashion that does not cause erosion unless BMPs are installed.

3.1 UPLAND VEGETATION REMOVAL

The cut and scatter method, where understory trees, branches and brush are simply cut, sectioned into smaller pieces, and scattered across the site, may be used in areas where limited clearing is necessary, and access is challenging. The purpose of this method is to limit the need for unnecessary equipment access and hauling which could potentially disturb existing ground or vegetation.

Woody vegetation may be chipped and scattered over the right-of-way to a maximum depth of one inch in non-agricultural upland areas. Woody vegetation removed from the planned substation expansion area will be removed and disposed of at an appropriate off-site location.

3.2 WETLAND VEGETATION REMOVAL

The use of heavy equipment in wetlands will be kept to the minimum extent practicable. Wetland impact minimization will be accomplished by the following BMPs:

- siting transmission structures in upland locations (e.g., not placed within wetland areas) and not disturbing wetland areas near structure locations;
- constructing in wetlands during frozen conditions to the extent feasible;
- working in dry conditions;
- using low ground-pressure tires or specialized tracked vehicles; and
- using of matting materials when the ground is not frozen.

These BMPs are intended to minimize damage to wetland vegetation and soils.

Xcel Energy completed a wetland delineation field review of the Project Area in October 2025; two wetlands totaling approximately 0.073 acres were identified in the field review and impacts are minimal and to be avoided. Removal of trees and shrubs from identified wetlands may be necessary in some locations. The removal of woody vegetation within wetlands will be conducted in accordance with applicable U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) permit conditions. Within these areas, all trees and large shrub species will be cleared to ground level. Small diameter trees and shrubs (<6" diameter) will be cut and debris scattered in place. Large diameter trees and shrubs (>6" diameter) will be hauled out of wetland areas to suitable upland locations and treated according to applicable procedures. If the cut and scatter method is used within wetland areas no slash material will be left in the wetlands. Chipping or scattering of chips will not occur in wetlands.

Stump removal may occur within wetlands only where stumps interfere with the placement of construction mats or pole locations or pose a risk to construction tires and equipment. Where removal is required for access, stumps will be ground to a point at or slightly below the ground surface using low ground-pressure track-mounted equipment. Woody materials generated by stump grinding may be thin-spread in the wetland; but said material will not be mounded.

4 HERBICIDE USE

Herbicides may be used within the transmission line right-of-way to control regrowth of woody species, prevent the re-sprout of the stumps of tall-growing tree species or to control listed invasive or noxious weed species. All herbicide use will be in accordance with manufacturer's specifications and all applicable federal and state regulations. Herbicides designated for upland use will not be used within 75 feet of the vegetative buffer of waterbodies. Herbicides used in or near wetlands and waterbodies must be designed for use in wet areas as designated by manufacturer's specifications and federal and state regulations. Herbicides will not be used on public lands without any required permits/approvals and will not be used at organic farms or other properties where landowners prohibit their use.

The contractor applying herbicide will be required to obtain any necessary permits and/or certifications prior to herbicide placement and will be required to keep proper documentation of location and timing of herbicide use. Treatment shall conform to manufacturers' specifications.

5 NOXIOUS WEEDS AND INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL

Xcel Energy has identified mitigation measures to be implemented to prevent the introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive species (NWIS) on lands disturbed by construction activities.

Preventing the introduction of NWIS from outside of the Project Area is primarily accomplished by ensuring that, prior to arrival onsite, equipment is cleaned and visible dirt or plant parts are removed using methods such as vehicle washing, high pressure compressed air blowers or brushing. A variety of methods can be used to control NWIS that are already present within the Project substation expansion area, transmission line right-of-way or access routes. These include completing tree and brush clearing during the winter, treating NWIS infested areas with herbicide prior to start of clearing, spreading mulch along access paths, and routing access paths away from NWIS infested areas.

Winter clearing limits the likelihood of construction equipment coming in contact with NWIS plant parts or seeds and reduces the chances of spreading those parts throughout the substation expansion area and transmission line right-of-way. Treatment of NWIS areas with herbicides before they are able to go to seed can also minimize spread. If any mulch is used on the Project, it will consist of state-certified weed-free material or mulch derived from onsite locations.

The contractor will be responsible for locating and documenting the source of certified weed-free mulch. Copies of the applicable certification documentation must be made available upon request to the appropriate agencies. Mulch derived from onsite locations may be spread up to six inches deep in upland areas to provide ground protection along access paths. Upon abandonment of access routes, woodchip mulch will be spread evenly to a depth no greater than one inch. No mulch will be spread in wetland locations. Major infestation areas identified during the first growing season will be treated with the use of herbicides or by mechanical methods.

6 SEEDING AND REVEGETATION

Revegetation of areas disturbed by construction activities will take place as soon as practicable following construction completion in those areas. Seedbed preparation will be dependent on the site conditions following construction activities and may include tilling to a minimum depth of four inches with a disc, field cultivator, or chisel plow, breaking up large clumps and firming the soil surface. Prior to seeding, prepared beds should be sufficiently soft to allow for seed penetration and mulch anchoring, while sufficiently firm to provide surface soil stability. Seeding and mulching should occur parallel to ground contours as practicable.

In areas where stumps remain within areas of cleared forest, it may not be practical to access large areas of ground with seeding and seedbed preparation equipment. In these areas, smaller vehicles may be required to perform tasks such as smoothing ruts, preparing seedbeds with small rakes, and surface packing after seeding. Fertilizers and other soil amendments are not recommended and will only be applied as requested by and agreed to with landowners.

Because of the linear nature of transmission line projects there are typically many different landcover types and plant communities impacted by Project construction. In cases where there are exposed soils in areas such as roadsides, field edges and other locations dominated by non-native species a Minnesota state seed mix from the 25 series (Non-Native Grassland) will typically be used. These are certified seed mixes which are designed for regional land cover types and meet minimum standards for seed purity, germination rate, weed seed content and pure live seed weight, and are certified as noxious weed free. In locations where disturbances are within previously undisturbed natural areas which contain native plant species an appropriate native seed mix will be used. On private agricultural lands, agents will work with landowners to develop appropriate measures for reseeded of disturbed soils which may involve planting of row crops. Pastures will be seeded with landowner-specified seed mix.

6.1 SEEDING METHODS

Seeding methods may include broadcast, seed drilling or hydroseeding. Broadcast seeding is the most commonly used method for relatively small disturbed areas, which are typically what is seen in transmission line construction. Seed is uniformly distributed by a mechanical, hand-operated seeder, or in small seeding areas, by hand. Following seeding, the surface is typically raked with a cultipacker, harrow, or hand rake. The bed is to be firmed as appropriate to site conditions.

Drilled seed will typically be sown at a depth of approximately 0.25 inches; however, some native seed mixes contain small seed which needs to be shallower. If native seed mixes are being installed via seed drill equipment will be able to accommodate and uniformly distribute different sizes of seed at the required depth. Feeding mechanisms will be able to evenly distribute different seed types at the rates specified. Seedbed soil is to be suitably firmed immediately following seed drilling. Seed drilling is only used in areas with a larger disturbance footprint.

Hydroseeding involves applying seed in a broadcast, hydromulch slurry. The hydromulch mix allows the installer to see where application has taken place, ensuring uniform coverage of the seeding area. The hydro-seeder must provide for continuous agitation of slurry and provide for a uniform flow of slurry. This method is not

recommended for diverse native seed mixed because of the range of seed sized and necessary planting depths.

When used, native seed mixes are typically most successful when installed between April 1 to June 30, or when soil temperatures have fallen below 55 degrees Fahrenheit in the fall. However, seeding will also be completed outside of those time periods, as areas are ready for revegetation. This is in order to facilitate permanent vegetation cover as soon as possible. Additional seed may be installed in areas where initial seeding is not successful. Temporary seed (oats or winter wheat) may also be applied in those situations as a cover crop.

Temporary seeding of cover crop will occur in locations where unfrozen, bare soil surface conditions and ruts will not be permanently restored within 30 days of completion of active work. Temporary restoration activities will include the repair of rutted surfaces and an even broadcast-seeding of the temporary cover-crop seed mix at a rate appropriate to the cover crop to provide erosion control of the soils. No mulch is to be applied in wetland areas.

6.2 NATURAL REVEGETATION

In many cases natural revegetation by early successional native species following tree clearing is expected to occur. In areas where native species voluntarily revegetate the right-of-way, active restoration and seeding may not be required. Regular monitoring will take place to ensure that NWIS are controlled, that desirable native plant species become the dominant vegetation communities in natural areas, and that bare soils are quickly stabilized to reduce erosion. In areas of minimal disturbance, vegetation will be allowed to regenerate naturally.

Where standing water is not present, and where surrounding vegetation is dominated by abundant native species, the seeding of bare soils created by rutting, using the temporary cover-crop seed mix may be sufficient for cover while native species revegetate the area.

In areas where wetland plant communities are dominated by native species with rhizomatous root systems that will likely recolonize areas of limited disturbance rapidly, bare soils may be broadcast-seeded with the seasonally appropriate temporary cover-crop. In areas where disturbed and bare soils are sufficient to preclude revegetation from the local, native seed source, a native wetland seed mix will be applied.

7 EROSION CONTROL

In some cases, temporary erosion control methods will be necessary to stabilize soils and give the seed time to germinate. Erosion control measures may consist of anchored

straw mulch, hydromulch, wood chip mulch, or erosion control blankets. When used the contractor will be responsible for acquiring certified weed-free mulch. If used erosion control blanketing will be wildlife-friendly non-welded weave in order to minimize impacts to small wildlife. Mulch or blanketing will be required on disturbed, exposed soils on all slopes greater than five percent, and on dry, sandy soils prone to erosion by wind or rain.

If there are locations where seeding is not possible, and there is adequate seed bank present in the soil, temporary stabilization using erosion control matting or mulch will be installed and maintained in a similar manner as in seeded areas. Dormant seeding may be used after soil temperatures have fallen below 55 degrees Fahrenheit when lower temperatures prevent seed from germinating. If dormant seeding is performed, temporary erosion control measures will be installed as indicated in the project SWPPP.

8 MONITORING

The Permittee will be required to monitor and control NWIS within the right-of-way through the construction. The Environmental Inspector (EI) will inspect and provide information regarding infestations of NWIS along the right-of-way to the appropriate agencies. The Permittee will be required to meet easement and lease conditions and obligations and will continue to work with landowners and the appropriate agencies to achieve standards set forth in easement or lease agreements.

The Permittee will monitor areas where seeding and erosion control measures have been implemented and will follow-up with reseeding measures where vegetative cover by the specified seed mix, or revegetation by the local, native seed source is inadequate to provide long term stability and sustainable native plant communities.

Appendix G

Draft Agricultural Impact Mitigation Plan

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AGRICULTURAL IMPACT MITIGATION PLAN

North Rochester to Skyway High Voltage Transmission Line Project

MPUC Docket No. E002 /TL-26-135

February 18, 2026

Northern States Power Company



**414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401**

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DEFINITIONS

Agricultural Land	Land that is actively managed for cropland, hay land, or pasture, and land in government set-aside programs.
Environmental / Agricultural Monitor	Monitor retained by the Company responsible for overall project compliance with permit conditions and commitments made in this document. The Environmental/Agricultural Monitor, or Monitor, shall also report directly to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and will be responsible for auditing the Companies' compliance with provisions of this AIMP. The monitor will have demonstrated experience with pipeline or electric transmission line construction on Agricultural Land.
Certifying Agent	As defined by the National Organic Program Standards, Federal Regulations 7 CFR Part 205.2.
Cropland	Land actively managed for growing row crops, small grains, or hay.
The Company	Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy . May also include agents and contractors of Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, where appropriate.
Decertified or Decertification	Loss of Organic Certification.
Easement	The agreement(s) and/or interest in privately owned Agricultural Land held by the Company by virtue of which it has the right to construct, operate, and maintain the transmission line together with such other rights and obligations as may be set forth in such agreement.
Final Clean-up	Transmission line activity that occurs after the power line has been constructed. Final Clean-up activities may include: removal of construction debris, de-compaction of soil as required, removal of temporary erosion control structures, final grading, and restoration of fences and required reseeding. Once Final Clean-up is finished, Landowner will be contacted to settle all damage issues and will be provided a form to sign acknowledging final construction settlement.

Landowner	Person(s), or their representatives, holding legal title to Agricultural Land on the transmission line route from whom the Company is seeking, or has obtained, a temporary or permanent Easement. “Landowner” includes Tenant, if any.
Non-Agricultural Land	Any land that is not “Agricultural Land” as defined above.
Organic Agricultural Land	Farms or portions thereof described in 7 CFR Parts 205.100, 205.202, and 205.101.
Organic Buffer Zone	As defined by the National Organic Program Standards, Federal Regulations 7 CFR Part 205.2.
Organic Certification or Organic Certified	As defined by the National Organic Program Standards, Federal Regulations 7 CFR Part 205.100 and 7 CFR Part 205.101.
Organic System Plan	As defined by the National Organic Program Standards, Federal Regulations 7 CFR Part 205.2.
Prohibited Substance	As defined by the National Organic Program Standards, Federal Regulations 7 CFR Part 205.600 through 7 CFR 205.605 using the criteria provided in 7 USC 6517 and 7 USC 6518.
Right-of-Way	The Land included in permanent and temporary Easements which the Companies acquire for the purpose of constructing, operating and maintaining the transmission line.
Subsoil	Soil that is not Topsoil and located immediately below Topsoil.
Tenant	Any Person(s) lawfully renting or sharing land for agricultural production which makes up the “Right-of-Way” as defined in this AIMP.
Tile	Artificial subsurface drainage system.
Topsoil	The uppermost horizon (layer) of the soil, typically with the darkest color and highest content of organic matter.

INTRODUCTION

Xcel Energy, Inc. (Xcel Energy) developed this Agricultural Impact Mitigation Plan (AIMP) with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) in compliance with Minnesota Statutes Section 216E.10, subdivision 3(b). The North Rochester to Skyway High Voltage Transmission line (Project) is approximately 1.3 mile long, double-circuit, 345-kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line that will connect Xcel Energy's existing North Rochester Substation to new substation facilities located at a proposed technology center/mixed use industrial development site (development site) near the City of Pine Island. Additionally, construction and operation of a substation is proposed at the development site.

This AIMP identifies measures Xcel Energy will take during construction to avoid, mitigate, minimize, repair, or provide compensation for impacts on cultivated agricultural land. The AIMP and its provisions will be implemented during construction and restoration activities that Xcel Energy undertakes for the Project prior to filing notice of completion of construction with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission).

Capitalized words and other defined terms have the meanings given to them in this AIMP and its appendices. Use of "Landowner" in this AIMP may be construed to read "Landowner and/or Tenant."

This AIMP and its construction standards and policies apply only to construction activities occurring on privately owned Agricultural Land. If agricultural tile is encountered, whether on Non-Agricultural Land or Agricultural Land, Xcel Energy will implement construction standards relating to the repair of tile discussed further in this AIMP. Portions of this AIMP that identify standards and policies as they apply to Organic Agricultural Land apply only to the types of lands defined in the National Organic Program Rules (7 C.F.R. Parts 205.100; 205.101, and 205.202). Further, construction standards and policies identified in this AIMP can be modified through Easement or other agreement between the Company and the Landowner of Agricultural Land, as appropriate. In such case, the Easement or other agreement will control.

WORKING WITH LANDOWNERS

Xcel Energy will negotiate in good faith with each Landowner of Agricultural Land to secure an agreement containing the conditions or provisions necessary to implement the provisions of this AIMP. The mitigative actions set forth in this AIMP are subject to negotiation and approval or change by Landowner of Agricultural Land, so long as such changes are negotiated with and acceptable to Xcel Energy. Mitigative actions will be executed by Xcel Energy employees or by qualified contractors retained by Xcel

Energy, unless otherwise specified or agreed upon by Landowner. Xcel Energy and Landowner may agree that certain activities will be performed by Landowner.

Unless otherwise specified in this AIMP or in an Easement or other agreement negotiated between the Company and Landowner, construction standards and policies or mitigative actions will be implemented within 90 days after completion of Final Clean-up activities on Agricultural Land. Weather conditions or other circumstances identified by mutual agreement between Landowner and Xcel Energy may delay implementation of mitigative actions after Final Clean-up. Where Xcel Energy determines it is practicable, Xcel Energy may make temporary repairs. These temporary repairs may be made to minimize additional property damage or interference with the Landowner's access to the subject Agricultural Land or to comply with Federal or State permits and regulations.

Xcel Energy or its contractors will implement the construction standards and policies or mitigative actions identified within this AIMP so long as such activities do not conflict with any applicable Federal or State rules, regulations, permits, licenses, approvals, or conditions obtained by the Company for the Project. Should any activity within this AIMP be determined to be unenforceable due to Federal or State rules, regulations, permits, licenses, approvals, or conditions, Xcel Energy will inform the Landowner and will identify a reasonable alternative activity.

Prior to Right-of-Way preparation or construction, Xcel Energy will make a good faith effort to provide each Landowner with contact information, including a phone number and address that can be used to contact Xcel Energy regarding any impacts to Cultivated Agricultural Land or other construction-related concern or question. Xcel Energy will provide updated information to the Landowner within a reasonable time of any change to Xcel Energy's contacts.

Xcel Energy will reasonably restore and/or compensate Landowners, as appropriate, for damages caused by Xcel Energy as a result of transmission line or related facility construction, and as outlined in this AIMP. Xcel Energy will decide whether to restore land and/or compensate Landowner after a discussion with the Landowner.

Xcel Energy will make good faith efforts to provide notice to the Landowner in advance of the commencement of initial construction activities on Agricultural Land. Notice may include personal contact, email, letter, or telephone contact.

ENVIRONMENTAL/AGRICULTURAL MONITOR

Xcel Energy will hire an Environmental/Agricultural Monitor (Monitor) to act as an independent third party to monitor compliance with this AIMP and other permit

conditions/regulatory requirements¹. Xcel Energy will work with the MDA to select the Monitor.

Xcel Energy will coordinate with the MDA in identifying potential contractors to conduct environmental and agricultural monitoring. Xcel Energy will direct the selected contractor to communicate independently with the MDA and set up a reporting relationship as the MDA instructs.

The Monitor will audit the Company's compliance with this AIMP. While the Monitor will not have the authority to direct construction activities and will not have authority to stop construction, the Monitor will be required to immediately report to Xcel Energy observations of a significant non-compliant activity. The MDA may also instruct the Monitor to report non-compliant activities to the MDA. If after reviewing the non-compliant activity, and if judgement is made that continuing the activity will cause damage to the environment or Cultivated Agricultural Land, Xcel Energy would issue a stop work order.

Specific duties of the Monitor will include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Participate in preconstruction training activities sponsored by Xcel Energy and provide construction personnel with training on provisions of this AIMP before construction begins.
2. Monitor construction and restoration activities on Agricultural Land for compliance with provisions of this AIMP. The Monitor will be allowed full access to the Agricultural Land where construction occurs.
3. Work with construction crews to assure all practices are in compliance with the provisions of this AIMP.
4. Document instances of noncompliance and work with construction personnel to identify and implement appropriate corrective actions as needed.
5. Report instances of noncompliance with the AIMP to Xcel Energy and the MDA.
6. Coordinate with the MDA to develop a reporting structure and report directly to the MDA on events or schedule as agreed upon with the MDA.
7. Coordinate communication of Landowner concerns to the MDA, if necessary.

¹ For example, if a Monitor is required to implement other permit requirements (such as a Vegetation Management Plan) Xcel Energy will hire a Monitor that is qualified to conduct compliance monitoring for all such environmental permits, upon review and approval of applicable permitting authorities.

8. Maintain a written log of Landowner concerns observed or reported by Xcel Energy's construction or land rights agents regarding compliance with this AIMP. The written log should record whether the Monitor reported each logged concern to the MDA.
9. Be responsible for determining whether weather conditions have caused the soil to become so wet that mitigation measures designed to alleviate soil compaction would be ineffective and would actually reduce the future production capacity of the land. The Monitor would advise Xcel Energy of these conditions. Xcel Energy will be solely responsible in making the decision on whether it will proceed with construction under these conditions. Compensation for Landowner, as appropriate, will be determined as described in the "Procedures for Determination of Damages and Compensation" section of this AIMP.
10. In disputes between Xcel Energy and a Landowner over restoration, advise the MDA on whether the agricultural restoration is reasonably adequate in consultation with Xcel Energy.

Qualifications and Selection of the Environmental/Agricultural Monitor

The selected Monitor will:

1. Have demonstrated practical experience with pipeline or electric transmission line construction, restoration, and compliance monitoring on Agricultural Land.
2. Have demonstrated practical experience with soils and hydrology in agricultural settings.
3. If work is being performed on Organic Agricultural Land, the Monitor will be trained, in organic inspection, by the Independent Organic Inspectors Association, unless the Monitor received such training during the previous three years.

IMPACT AND MITIGATION PRACTICES

Pole Placement

During the design of the Project, Xcel Energy's engineering, real estate, and permitting staff will seek input from Landowners, as practicable, to address pole placement issues. Prior to construction, Xcel Energy land rights agents will review the planned pole locations with the Landowner when requested to do so by the Landowner.

Pole Removal

If the Project is constructed along an existing transmission line, and Xcel Energy determines the existing facilities can be reasonably co-located, Xcel Energy may

remove existing transmission line structures. For transmission line structures that do not have a footing, Xcel Energy will extract the pole from the ground if possible. In the event a pole cannot be extracted by pulling, Xcel Energy will excavate an area and an attempt will be made to extricate an excavated pole entirely. If an excavated pole cannot be removed in its entirety, the pole will either be cut off at the excavated depth (in the range of approximately five feet) or pushed over if the pole cannot be cut. If an existing transmission structure to be removed has a concrete footing, Xcel Energy will work with the Landowner to determine at what depth the footing must be removed so farming operations can continue on the property.

If Xcel Energy removes an existing pole, all support anchors for the structure will be removed. In these instances, Xcel Energy will work with the Landowner to identify any tile lines located near anchors prior to removal of the anchors. Additionally, if any damage to tile occurs as a result of pole or anchor removal, Xcel Energy will adhere to the “Agricultural Tile” section of this AIMP.

Agricultural Tile

Xcel Energy will contact an affected Landowner for his/her knowledge of tile locations prior to installation of the transmission line. Xcel Energy will attempt to identify tile if the Landowner does not know if tile is located at the proposed pole location. Tile that is damaged, cut, or removed as a result of Xcel Energy’s pole location efforts will be promptly repaired.

If tile is damaged by Project construction, the tile will be repaired with materials of the same quality as that which was damaged. If tiles on or adjacent to the transmission line construction area are adversely affected by construction, Xcel Energy will take such actions as are necessary to restore the tile function, including the relocation, reconfiguration, and replacement of the existing tile. Xcel Energy will correct tile repairs, as needed, after completion of the transmission line construction, provided the repairs were made by Xcel Energy or their agents or designees.

The affected Landowner may elect to negotiate a fair settlement with Xcel Energy for the Landowner to undertake the responsibility for repair, relocation, reconfiguration, or replacement of damaged tile. In the event the Landowner chooses to undertake the responsibility for repair, relocation, reconfiguration, or replacement of the damaged tile, Xcel Energy will have no further liability for the identified damaged tile.

The following standards and policies apply to the tile repairs completed by Xcel Energy:

1. Tiles will be repaired with materials of the same or better quality as that which was damaged.

2. If water is flowing through a damaged tile, temporary repairs will be promptly installed and maintained until such time that permanent repairs can be made.
3. Xcel Energy will make efforts to complete permanent tile repairs within a reasonable timeframe after Final Clean-up, taking into account weather and soil conditions.
4. Following completion of the Final Clean-up and damage settlement, Xcel Energy will be responsible for correcting and repairing tile breaks, or other damages to tile systems that are discovered on the Right-of-Way to the extent that such breaks are the result of Project construction. These damages are usually discovered after the first significant rain event. Xcel Energy will provide the Landowner with contact information should tile damage issues be identified after Final Clean-up. The Company will not be responsible for tile repairs performed by the Landowner.

Xcel Energy will be responsible for repairing areas as necessary to properly drain wet areas along the Right-of-Way caused by the construction of the Project.

Soil Compaction/Rutting

Xcel Energy will repair damage incurred due to compaction, ruts, erosion, and/or washing of soil caused by electric line construction. If, by mutual agreement, the Landowner repairs such damage, Xcel Energy will reimburse the Landowner for the reasonable cost of labor and the use of equipment to repair damage incurred due to compaction, ruts, erosion, and/or washing of soil caused by electric line construction. Xcel Energy will make such payments within a reasonable period of time following completion of project construction and after receiving a statement substantiating the Landowner's repair costs.

If there is a dispute between the Landowner and Xcel Energy as to what areas need to be ripped or chiseled, the depth at which compacted areas should be ripped or chiseled, or the necessity for, or rates of, lime, fertilizer, and organic material application, Xcel Energy will consult with the Monitor prior to making a final decision.

Excess Soil and Rocks

Excess soil and rock will be removed from the site unless otherwise requested by the Landowner. After Final Clean-up and restoration of Agricultural Lands, Xcel Energy will make good faith efforts to obtain written acknowledgement of completion of such activities from the Landowner.

Construction Debris

Xcel Energy will promptly remove construction-related debris and material which is not an integral part of the transmission line from the Landowner's property at the Companies' cost. Such material may include excess construction materials or litter generated by the construction crews. Xcel Energy will pay for the reasonable cost of repairs to the Landowner's equipment if the equipment is damaged by materials or debris left on the property during construction.

Procedures for Determination of Damages and Compensation

Xcel Energy will maintain a procedure for processing Landowner claims for construction-related damages, including but not limited to crop damages. The procedure is intended to standardize and minimize Landowner concerns regarding the recovery of damages, to provide a degree of certainty and predictability for Landowner and the Joint Owners, and to foster good relationships among the Joint Owners and Landowner over the long term. A copy of the procedure will be provided to Landowner during Easement acquisition negotiations.

Damage claim negotiations between Xcel Energy and any affected Landowner will be voluntary in nature. Xcel Energy will offer to compensate Landowners according to the terms of Xcel Energy's damage claim policy in effect at the time the Easement is executed and recorded. The compensation offered is only an offer to settle, and the offer shall not be introduced in any proceeding brought by the Landowner to establish the amount of damages Xcel Energy must pay.

Soil Conservation Practices

Soil conservation practices such as terraces and grassed waterways which are damaged by the transmission line's construction will be restored to their pre-construction condition as near as possible. Xcel Energy will attempt to work with the Landowner to identify and document the pre-construction conditions of these features.

Irrigation

If the transmission line and/or temporary work areas intersect an operational (or soon to be operational) spray irrigation system, Xcel Energy will work with the Landowner to establish an acceptable amount of time the irrigation system may be out of service.

If, as a result of the transmission line construction activities, an irrigation system interruption results in crop damages either on the Right-of-Way or off the Right-of-Way, Landowners will be compensated for resulting crop loss.

If it is feasible and mutually acceptable to Xcel Energy and the Landowner, temporary measures will be implemented to allow an irrigation system to continue to operate across land on which the transmission line is also being constructed. Xcel Energy will not allow an irrigation system to continue operation across land on which the transmission line is also being constructed if Xcel Energy determines that such operation would be unsafe.

Access Routes/ Temporary Roads

The location of access routes to be used for construction purposes will be discussed with the Landowner.

- A. The access routes will be designed so as to not impede proper drainage and will be built to mitigate soil erosion on or near the temporary roads.
- B. If grading is required to create a temporary road, these temporary roads may be left intact through mutual agreement of the Landowner and Xcel Energy unless otherwise restricted by Federal, State, or local regulations.
- C. If a temporary road is to be removed, the Agricultural Land upon which the temporary road is constructed will be returned to its previous use and restored to equivalent condition as existed prior to construction.

MITIGATIVE ACTIONS FOR ORGANIC FARMS

Xcel Energy recognizes that Organic Agricultural Land is a unique feature of the landscape and will treat this land with a similar level of care as other sensitive environmental features. Xcel Energy reviewed the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Organic Integrity Database² and did not identify any Organic Agricultural Land within the Route Width or Project Area associated with the Project. Xcel Energy also contacted landowners involved with the Project who confirmed none of their land is being used as Organic Agricultural Land.

To the extent applicable, this section identifies mitigation measures that apply specifically to farms that are Organic Certified or farms that are in active transition to become Organic Certified, and is intended to address the unique management and certification requirements of these operations. This section supplements and is in addition to all other protections provided in this AIMP.

The provisions of this section will only apply to Organic Agricultural Land for which the Landowner has provided to Xcel Energy a true, correct and current version of the Organic System Plan within 60 days after the signing of the Easement or 60 days after

² United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). 2025. Organic Integrity Database. Accessed on December 10, 2025. Procured from: <https://organic.ams.usda.gov/integrity/Default>

the first contact by Xcel Energy after the Commission issues a Route Permit, whichever occurs first. As noted above, Xcel Energy has not identified Organic Agricultural Land within the Route Width associated with the Project.

Organic System Plan

The Company recognizes the importance of the individualized Organic System Plan to the Organic Certification process. Xcel Energy will work with the Landowner, the Landowner's Certifying Agent, and/or a mutually acceptable third-party organic consultant to identify site-specific construction practices that will minimize the potential for Decertification as a result of construction activities.

Possible practices may include, but are not limited to: equipment cleaning, planting a deep-rooted cover crop in lieu of mechanical decompaction, applications of composted manure or rock phosphate, preventing the introduction of disease vectors from tobacco use, restoration and replacement of beneficial bird and insect habitat, maintenance of organic buffer zones, use of certified-organic seeds for any cover crop, or similar measures. The Company recognizes that Organic System Plans are proprietary in nature and will respect the need for confidentiality.

Prohibited Substances

Xcel Energy will avoid the application of Prohibited Substances onto Organic Agricultural Land. No herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers or seed will be applied to Organic Agricultural Land unless requested and approved by the Landowner. Likewise, Xcel Energy will avoid refueling, fuel or lubricant storage, or routine equipment maintenance on Organic Agricultural Land. Equipment will be checked prior to entry to make sure that fuel, hydraulic and lubrication systems are in good working order before working on Organic Agricultural Land. If Prohibited Substances are used on land adjacent to Organic Agricultural Land, these substances will be used in such a way as to prevent them from entering Organic Agricultural Land.

Temporary Road Impacts

Topsoil and Subsoil layers that are removed during construction on Organic Agricultural Land for temporary road impacts will be stored separately and replaced in the proper sequence after the transmission line is installed. Unless otherwise specified in the site-specific plan described above, Xcel Energy will not use this soil for other purposes, including creating access ramps at road crossings. No Topsoil or Subsoil (other than incidental amounts) may be removed from Organic Agricultural Land. Likewise, Organic Agricultural Land will not be used for storage of soil from non-Organic Agricultural Land.

Erosion Control

On Organic Agricultural Land, Xcel Energy will, to the extent feasible, implement erosion control methods consistent with the Landowner's Organic System Plan. On land adjacent to Organic Agricultural Land, Xcel Energy's erosion control procedures will be designed so that sediment from adjacent non-Organic Agricultural Land will not flow along the Right-of-Way and be deposited on Organic Agricultural Land. Treated lumber, non-organic hay bales, non-approved metal fence posts, etc. will not be used for erosion control on Organic Agricultural Land.

Weed Control

On Organic Agricultural Land, if Xcel Energy determines weed control is necessary during construction activities, Xcel Energy will, to the extent feasible, implement weed control methods consistent with the Landowner's Organic System Plan. Prohibited Substances will not be used for weed control within 50 feet of posted Organic Agricultural Land. Prohibited substances will not be applied in conditions when winds would carry the substance beyond the 50-foot exclusion area.

Monitoring

In addition to the responsibilities of the Monitor described in the AIMP, the following will apply to Organic Agricultural Land:

- A. The Monitor will monitor weather conditions, as well as construction and restoration activities on Organic Agricultural Land for compliance with the provisions of this section and will document any activities that may result in Decertification.
- B. Instances of non-compliance will be documented according to Independent Organic Inspectors Association protocol consistent with the Landowner's Organic System Plan, and will be made available to the MDA, the Landowner, the Landowner's Certifying Agent, and to the Company.

Compensation for Construction Damages

The settlement of damages will be based on crop yield and/or crop quality determination and the need for additional restoration measures. Xcel Energy will first work with the Landowner of Organic Agricultural Land to determine crop yield. In the event Xcel Energy and the Landowner of Organic Agricultural Land cannot determine crop yield, at Xcel Energy's expense, a mutually agreed upon professional agronomist will make crop yield determinations, and the MDA Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Unit will make crop quality determinations.

If the crop yield and/or crop quality determinations indicate the need for soil testing, the testing will be conducted by a commercial laboratory that is properly certified to conduct the necessary tests and is mutually agreeable to Xcel Energy and the Landowner. Field work for soil testing will be conducted by a professional soil scientist or professional engineer licensed by the State of Minnesota. Xcel Energy will be responsible for the cost of sampling, testing and additional restoration activities, if needed. Additional restoration activities will be completed according to the terms of its damage claim policy in effect at the time the Easement is executed and recorded.

Compensation for Damages Due to Decertification

Should any portion of Organic Agricultural Land be Decertified as a result of construction activities, Xcel Energy will pay damages for crops and/or livestock within the area impacted by the lost Certification equal to the full difference between the market value of conventional crops and/or livestock and the market value of the organic crops and/or livestock lost for three years or the period of time necessary for the Landowner or Tenant to regain Certification, whichever comes first. The market value of the crop will be determined as set forth in the damage claim policy. At the request of Xcel Energy, the Landowner shall provide verification of its loss of Organic Certification through the accredited certifying agent prior to any compensation for organic crop loss being paid.

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