

APPENDIX E – Agency Correspondence and Responses

Local Government Units

Date	Project ID	Parties Involved	Local Government Units (LGUs)	Summary
1/7/2020	Dodge Wind	Steel County Board	Project Status Update	
1/7/2020	Dodge Wind	Steele County Planning and Zoning/ Highway Department	Project Status Update	
1/14/2020	Dodge Wind	Dodge County Board	Project Status Update	
5/20/2022	Dodge Wind	MNDOT	Submit ROW Permits for Micrositing	
5/20/2020	Dodge Wind	Dodge County Highway Department	Submit ROW Permits for Micrositing	
5/22/2020	Dodge Wind	Havana Township Board	Courtesy Call Re: Micrositing Crews/Survey	
5/22/2020	Dodge Wind	Aurora Township Board	Courtesy Call Re: Micrositing Crews/Survey	
5/22/2020	Dodge Wind	Claremont Township Board	Courtesy Call Re: Micrositing Crews/Survey	
5/22/2020	Dodge Wind	Ripley Township Board	Courtesy Call Re: Micrositing Crews/Survey	
5/22/2020	Dodge Wind	Ashland Township Board	Courtesy Call Re: Micrositing Crews/Survey	
5/22/2020	Dodge Wind	Cannistota Township Board	Courtesy Call Re: Micrositing Crews/Survey	
5/22/2020	Dodge Wind	Vernon Township Board	Courtesy Call Re: Micrositing Crews/Survey	
5/22/2020	Dodge Wind	Mower County Highway Department	Courtesy Call Re: Micrositing Crews/Survey	
5/22/2020	Dodge Wind	Olmsted County Highway Department	Courtesy Call Re: Micrositing Crews/Survey	
5/22/2020	Dodge Wind	Pleasant Valley Township Board	Courtesy Call Re: Micrositing Crews/Survey	
5/22/2020	Dodge Wind	Rock Dell Township Board	Courtesy Call Re: Micrositing Crews/Survey	
5/22/2020	Dodge Wind	Salem Township Board	Courtesy Call Re: Micrositing Crews/Survey	
5/22/2020	Dodge Wind	Sargent Township Board	Courtesy Call Re: Micrositing Crews/Survey	
5/26/2020	Dodge Wind	Dodge County Board	Project Status Update	
6/9/2020	Dodge Wind	Steele County Administration	Project Status Update	
7/14/2020	Dodge Wind	Steele County Planning and Zoning	Schedule Agency Meeting Re: Land Use Permitting	
7/14/2020	Dodge Wind	Steele County Highway Department	Schedule Agency Meeting Re: Road Use/Development Agreement and Permitting	
7/14/2020	Dodge Wind	Dodge County Planning and Zoning	Schedule Agency Meeting Re: Land Use Permitting	
7/14/2020	Dodge Wind	Dodge County Highway Department	Schedule Agency Meeting Re: Road Use/Development Agreement and Permitting	
7/14/2020	Dodge Wind	Dodge County Environmental Services	Schedule Agency Meeting Re: Floodplain, Wetland, Shoreland Permitting	
7/14/2020	Dodge Wind	Dodge County SWCD	Schedule Agency Meeting Re: Floodplain, Wetland, Shoreland Permitting	
7/14/2020	Dodge Wind	Olmsted County SWCD	Schedule Agency Meeting Re: Floodplain, Wetland, Shoreland Permitting	

Date	Project ID	Parties Involved	Summary
7/20/2020	Dodge Wind	Dodge County/Steele County Highway Departments	Dodge County Wind RUA and Development Agreement Agency Coordination Meeting with Steele and Dodge Counties
7/24/2020	Dodge Wind	Dodge County Zoning Department, Lauren Cornelius	High level project discussion regarding Dodge County WECS Ordinance
8/6/2020	Dodge Wind	Dodge County Environmental Services and Planning and Zoning	Project Status Update and Request for Zoning Letter
8/17/2020	Dodge Wind	Dodge County Environmental Services	Dodge County clarifying that it was not the County's intent for Chapter 16 of the Dodge County Zoning Ordinance, and its setbacks, to be applied to LWECs seeking siting approval from Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
8/25/2020	Dodge Wind	Dodge County Environmental Services	Confirm receipt of letter from County, authority, and schedule next Agency Coordination Meeting
8/28/2020	Dodge Wind	Dodge County Environmental Services	Detailed Site and Route Plan Review
9/11/2020	Dodge Wind	Dodge County Environmental Services	Discussion regarding local floodplain regulations
9/25/2020	Dodge Wind	Dodge County GIS	Discuss GIS data layers for project planning and development
10/8/2020	Dodge Wind	Dodge County Environmental Services	Email summary and location maps of turbine infrastructure within floodplains provided to Dodge County Environmental Services.
10/12/2020	Dodge Wind	Dodge County Environmental Services	Dodge County Environmental Services requests sections and townships for infrastructure intersecting floodplains
10/12/2020	Dodge Wind	Dodge County Environmental Services	Townships and sections for infrastructure intersecting floodplains provided to Dodge County Environmental Services
10/13/2020	Dodge Wind	Dodge County Environmental Services	Email discussion of floodplain zoning regarding turbines 26 and 47's associated infrastructure
10/16/2020	Dodge Wind	Dodge County Highway Department	Discuss use of county road ROW for proposed transmission line route
11/3/2020	Dodge Wind	Rhonda Toquam, Dodge County Commissioner	Discuss proposed transmission line use of Hayfield Township road ROW
11/12/2020	Dodge Wind	Joshua Tetzlaff, Dodge Center City Administrator	Discuss changes to project proposed transmission line and point of interconnection (no longer Byron)
12/3/2020	Dodge Wind	Ripley Township Board	Discuss project updates (map provided) proposed transmission line and point of interconnection
12/10/2020	Dodge Wind	Hayfield Township Board	Discuss project updates (map provided) proposed transmission line and point of interconnection
12/14/2020	Dodge Wind	ASHLAND TOWNSHIP	Project status update including review of the new transmission line route

Date	Project ID	Parties Involved	Summary
12/16/2020	Dodge Wind	DODGE CENTER MUNICIPAL AIRPORT	Project status update including review of the new transmission line route
12/22/2020	Dodge Wind	DODGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS	Project status update including review of the new transmission line route
4/14/2021	Dodge Wind	Angie Lipelt, Mower County Admin Mike Hanson, Mower County Hwy	Email to summarize roads being considered for proposed route. Mentioned that DCW is willing to pay the cost of any future pole shifts that might be required if the roads expand. Requested feedback if that would alleviate County concern for placing poles in 660th ST ROW
4/22/2021	Dodge Wind	Stacy Egstad, MNDOT Ann Driver, MNDOT David Evans, MNDOT	Dodge t-line route review over TH56 and TH30. MNDOT asked for details about flying tap structure, position in the ROW, type and orientation of poles. MNDOT agreed to guys and anchors that are parallel w/ road ROW. Agreed to have more discussion on skewed crossings. Permit application takes 6-8 weeks and cannot be approved until after issuance of PUC written order.
5/10/2021	Dodge Wind	Sargeant Township	Update to Township Board. Discussed t-line route, routing methodology, landowner interactions, and placement in the ROW.
5/10/2021	Dodge Wind	Ashland Township	Update to Township Board. Discussed new project size, new project boundary, and permitting timeline.
5/11/2021	Dodge Wind	Dodge County Board	Update to County Board. Discussed new project size and boundary, permitting timeline, road use agreement expectations, and decommissioning plan. Requested an image of a typical t-line pole.
5/11/2021	Dodge Wind	Dodge Center City Administrator	Reviewed current project boundary and gen-tie route. Discussed DNH filing process and timing. DCW requested to be on the agenda at the next scheduled Airport Advisory Board meeting
5/11/2021	Dodge Wind	Hayfield Township	Update to Township Board on t-line. Discussed t-line structure type, position in ROW, and outreach to LOs. Reviewed Board's questions on stray voltage and blowout.
5/12/2021	Dodge Wind	Angie Lipelt, Mower County Admin Mike Hanson, Mower County Hwy	Mower County officials confirmed that the use of 660th Ave is acceptable for the DCW t-line.
5/13/2021	Dodge Wind	Guy Kolnhofer, Dodge County Highway	Reviewed intersection approach options, status of LO outreach, expected outcomes for pole positioning.

State and Federal Agencies

Agency Correspondence Catalog - Letter Correspondence Provided as Attachment

Date	Project ID	Deliverable Type	Communication Type	To	From	Possible/Pending Action Items
MNDNR						
4/13/2017	Dodge Wind		Meeting	MNDNR - Cynthia Warzecha MNDNR - Kevin Mixon USFWS - Mags Rheude	NextEra - Jason Harris NextEra - Brian Bartels NextEra - Jenny Field Atwell - Bobbi Westerby Atwell - Tara Corbet Atwell - Ethan Jahnke HDR - Scott Krych	Discussion of project including biological studies conducted, bald eagle data, ABPP, setbacks, northern long-eared bat, Henslow's Sparrow and Loggerhead Shrike, and rusty patched bumblebee
7/11/2018	Dodge Wind		Meeting	MNDNR - Cynthia Warzecha MNDNR - Kevin Mixon USFWS - Mags Rheude	NextEra - Jenny Field NextEra - Jim Lindsay Atwell - Tara Corbet Atwell - Aaron Boone Atwell - Sean Fitzgerald	Meeting to review results of year two avian studies and provide an update on project siting, status of site and route applications
9/17/2018	Dodge Wind		Conference Call	MNDNR - Todd Piepho MNDNR - Nicole Lehman	NextEra - Jenny Field Atwell - Todd Udvig	Conference call to discuss the public waters (PWI) implications for the project.
4/29/2020	Dodge Wind	NHIS Review	Email	MNDNR - Lisa Joyal	Atwell - Griffin Fraser	Request for updated NHIS Review
10/22/2020	Dodge Wind		Email	MNDNR - Ceil Strauss	Atwell - Maureen O'Shea-Stone	Request for floodplain permitting information
10/22/2020	Dodge Wind		Email	Atwell - Maureen O'Shea-Stone	MNDNR - Ceil Strauss	MNDNR request for project location information in response to floodplain request.
10/23/2020	Dodge Wind		Email	MNDNR - Ceil Strauss	Atwell - Maureen O'Shea-Stone	Atwell provided location information
10/23/2020	Dodge Wind		Email	MNDNR - Ceil Strauss	Atwell - Maureen O'Shea-Stone	Atwell request for confirmation regarding if state is responsible for issuing a permit
10/23/2020	Dodge Wind		Email	Atwell - Maureen O'Shea-Stone	MNDNR - Ceil Strauss	MNDNR response clarifying party responsible for permitting
11/4/2020	Dodge Wind	NHIS Review	Email	Atwell - Griffin Fraser	MNDNR - Samantha Bump	MNDNR response to NHIS request follow-up; providing update on status of the NHIS request
11/10/2020	Dodge Wind		Email	Atwell - Maureen O'Shea-Stone	MNDNR - Ceil Strauss	MNDNR provides spatial data to Atwell
12/16/2020	Dodge Wind	NHIS Review	Email	Atwell - Griffin Fraser	MNDNR - Samantha Bump	MNDNR response indicating infrastructure changes do not change the results of the November 15, 2018 review.
1/15/2021	Dodge Wind		Email	MNDNR - Cynthia Warzecha MNDNR - Joanne Boettcher MNDNR - Becky Horton MNDNR - Lisa Joyal USFWS - Dawn Marsh	WEST - Joyce Pickle	Request for meeting with MNDNR and USFWS
2/2/2021	Dodge Wind		Meeting	MNDNR - Cynthia Warzecha MNDNR - Joanne Boettcher MNDNR - Lisa Joyal USFWS - Dawn Marsh	NextEra - Bridgette Valeron NextEra - Sean Fitzgerald Atwell - Tara Corbett Atwell - Maureen O'Shea-Stone Atwell - Griffin Fraser West - Jennifer Stucker WEST - Joyce Pickle	Project update and discussion of 2020 bat acoustic monitoring study results
7/26/2021	Dodge Wind		Email	MNDNR - Lisa Joyal MNDNR - Cynthia Warzecha	WEST - Joyce Pickle	Delivery of Sullivant's Milkweed Study Plan for MNDNR review
9/1/2021	Dodge Wind		Meeting	MNDNR - Cynthia Warzecha MNDNR - Joanne Boettcher USFWS - Dawn Marsh	NextEra - Bridgette Valeron NextEra - Mark Lennox NextEra - David Gil Atwell - Tara Corbett Atwell - Maureen O'Shea-Stone WEST - Joyce Pickle WEST - Alaini Cossette	General Project Update including project status and schedule, wind site wildlife studies update.

U.S. Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration

9/8/2020	Dodge Wind		Letter	NextEra Analytics - Ryan Rackliffe	NTIA - John R. McFall	No agencies had issues turbine placement in this area
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SHPO

5/1/2017	Dodge Wind	MnSHPO Preliminary Review	Email	Atwell - Ben Banks	MnSHPO - Sarah Beimers	Concurrence letter with 4/4/2017 letter
8/8/2018	Dodge Wind	Phase I Archaeological Survey Report	Letter	MnSHPO - Sarah Beimers	Atwell - Jill Kotwasinski	Submission of Phase I Archeology report to MN SHPO
9/12/2018	Dodge Wind		Letter	Atwell - Jill Kotwasinski	MnSHPO - Sarah Beimers	Concurrence with 8/8/2018 letter

Date	Project ID	Deliverable Type	Communication Type	To	From	Possible/Pending Action Items
USACE						
8/7/2017	Dodge Wind		Meeting	USACE - Meghan Brown, Steele Co LGU - Eric Gulbransen, Dodge Co LGU - Mark Gamm MNDNR - Todd Piepho	NEER - Jennifer Field Jason Harris Atwell - Tara Corbett Atwell - Todd Udvig Atwell - Bobbi Westerby	Wetland and stream permitting discussion
9/12/2018	Dodge Wind		Conference Call	USACE - Meghan Brown LGU - Eric Gulbransen, Steele Co LGU - Mark Gamm, Dodge Co LGU - Skip Langer, Olmsted Co	NextEra - Jenny Field NextEra - Mike Weich NextEra - Kimberly Dickey Atwell - Tara Corbet Atwell - Todd Udvig	Wetland and waters permitting discussion
U.S. Department of Defense (USDOD)						
4/14/2020	Dodge Wind		Meeting	USDOD	NextEra - Mark Lennox	Discussion of turbine impacts to
5/6/2020	Dodge Wind		Meeting	USDOD	NextEra - Mark Lennox	Discussion of turbine impacts to NORAD radar as well as well as military training route
USFWS						
2/28/2017	Dodge Wind		Email	Atwell - Sean Fitzgerald	USFWS - Mags Rheude	Asked to setup a call to discuss eagle nest data
3/7/2017	Dodge Wind		Email	Atwell - Sean Fitzgerald	USFWS - Mags Rheude	Known eagle nest data provided out to 12 miles from the WRA boundary provided in xlsx format, but missing projection and coordinate system data
3/7/2017	Dodge Wind		Email	Atwell - Sean Fitzgerald	USFWS - Mags Rheude	Known eagle nest data provided out to 12 miles from the WRA boundary in shapefile format
4/13/2017	Dodge Wind		Meeting	USFWS - Mags Rheude MNDNR - Cynthia Warzecha MNDNR - Kevin Mixon	NextEra - Jason Harris NextEra - Brian Bartels NextEra - Jenny Field Atwell - Bobbi Westerby Atwell - Tara Corbet Atwell - Ethan Jahnke HDR - Scott Krych	Discussion of project including biological studies conducted, bald eagle data, ABPP, setbacks, northern long-eared bat, Henslow's Sparrow and Loggerhead Shrike, and rusty patched bumblebee
5/5/2017	Dodge Wind	KMZ	Email	USFWS - Mags Rheude	Atwell - Sean Fitzgerald	KMZ of updated WRA boundary (shift into Steele County) provided to USFWS
5/8/2017	Dodge Wind		Email	Atwell - Sean Fitzgerald	USFWS - Mags Rheude	Asking about timetable the new nest data is needed by.
5/9/2017	Dodge Wind		Email	Atwell - Sean Fitzgerald	USFWS - Mags Rheude	Requesting shapefiles to look at nests
5/9/2017	Dodge Wind		Email	Atwell - Sean Fitzgerald	USFWS - Mags Rheude	Updated shapefiles for Bald Eagle nests in a 10-mile buffer
5/9/2017	Dodge Wind		Email	Atwell - Sean Fitzgerald	USFWS - Mags Rheude	USFWS eagle nest data is purely incidental, no formal surveys have been flown within MN by either agency since de-listing of BAEA (2007)
7/11/2018	Dodge Wind		Meeting	USFWS - Mags Rheude MNDNR - Cynthia Warzecha MNDNR - Kevin Mixon	NextEra - Jenny Field NextEra - Jim Lindsay Atwell - Tara Corbet Atwell - Aaron Boone Atwell - Sean Fitzgerald	Project update including discussion of Tier 3 avian resources study findings and PUC permitting progress
7/25/2019	Dodge Wind	NextEra Avian and Bat Protection Plan (ABPP)	Email	USFWS - Mags Rheude	Atwell - Tara Corbett	ABPP provided to USFWS
7/25/2019	Dodge Wind	NextEra Wildlife Reports and Site Characterization Study	Email	USFWS - Mags Rheude	Atwell - Tara Corbett	Appendix I (Wildlife Reports) and Appendix J (Site Characterization Study) of the site permit application provided to USFWS
1/15/2021	Dodge Wind		Email	MNDNR - Cynthia Warzecha MNDNR - Joanne Boettcher MNDNR - Becky Horton MNDNR - Lisa Joyal USFWS - Dawn Marsh	WEST - Joyce Pickle	Request for meeting with MNDNR and USFWS
2/2/2021	Dodge Wind		Meeting	MNDNR - Cynthia Warzecha MNDNR - Joanne Boettcher MNDNR - Lisa Joyal USFWS - Dawn Marsh	NextEra - Bridgette Valeron NextEra - Sean Fitzgerald Atwell - Tara Corbett Atwell - Maureen O'Shea-Stone Atwell - Griffin Fraser West - Jennifer Stucker WEST - Joyce Pickle	Project update and discussion of 2020 bat acoustic monitoring study results

Date	Project ID	Deliverable Type	Communication Type	To	From	Possible/Pending Action Items
9/1/2021	Dodge Wind		Meeting	MNDNR - Cynthia Warzecha MNDNR - Joanne Boettcher USFWS - Dawn Marsh	NextEra - Bridgette Valeron NextEra - Mark Lennox NextEra - David Gil Atwell - Tara Corbett Atwell - Maureen O'Shea-Stone WEST - Joyce Pickle WEST - Alaini Cossette	General Project Update including project status and schedule, wind site wildlife studies update.

Tribal Outreach Letter Recipients

Date	Project ID	Deliverable Type	Communication Type	To	From	Possible/Pending Action Items
Tribal						
5/1/2020	Dodge Wind		Letter	Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe Fort Belknap Indian Community Ho-Chunk Nation Iowa Tribe of Kansas & Nebraska Lower Brule Sioux Tribe Lower Sioux Indian Community Menominee Indian Tribe Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Grand Portage Band of Chippewa Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe White Earth Nation Northern Cheyenne Tribe Oglala Sioux Tribe Omaha Tribe of Nebraska Prairie Island Indian Community Red Lake Nation Rosebud Sioux Tribe Santee Sioux Nation Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Spirit Lake Tribe Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians Upper Sioux Community Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska Yankton Sioux Tribe	NextEra - Ron Burris	

MNDNR

From: [Griffin Fraser](#)
To: ["review.nhis@state.mn.us"](mailto:review.nhis@state.mn.us)
Cc: Lisa.Joyal@state.mn.us
Subject: Dodge County Wind Project - NHIS Request
Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 9:43:00 AM
Attachments: [DodgeCountyWindProject NHIS Data Request Full Binder 20200429.pdf](#)
[DodgeCountyWindProject AOI 20200428.zip](#)

Hi Lisa –

Attached you will find an NHIS Data Request Form and shapefile package for the Dodge County Wind Project. Please note, this request is an update to a previous NHIS request (ERDB# 20140348-0006).

Regards,

Griffin Fraser

Environmental Consultant

ATWELL, LLC

303.222.5046 Direct

720.925.8217 Mobile

6200 S. Syracuse Way | Suite 470 | Greenwood Village, CO 80111

www.atwell-group.com



2012	For Agency Use Only:		#Sec _____	Contact Rqsted? _____
	Received _____	Due _____	Inv _____	#EOs _____
	Search Radius _____mi. L / I / D EM		Map'd _____	Survey Rqsted? _____
	NoR / NoF / NoE / Std / Sub	Let _____	Log out _____	#Com _____
			Related ERDB# _____	

NATURAL HERITAGE INFORMATION SYSTEM (NHIS) DATA REQUEST FORM

Please read the instructions on page 3 before filling out the form. Thank you!

WHO IS REQUESTING THE INFORMATION?

☐ Mr. _____
☐ Ms. _____

Name and Title _____

Agency/Company _____

Mailing Address _____

(Street) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Responses will be sent via email. If you prefer US Mail check here: ☐

THIS INFORMATION IS BEING REQUESTED FOR A:

- ☐ Federal EA ☐ State EAW ☐ PUC Site or Route Application ☐ Watershed Plan ☐ BER
☐ Federal EIS ☐ State EIS ☐ Local Government Permit ☐ Research Project
☐ NEPA Checklist ☐ Other (describe) _____
☐ Check here if this project is funded through any of the following grant programs: Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (L-SOHC), Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL), or Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

INFORMATION WE NEED FROM YOU:

- 1) **Enclose a map** of the project boundary/area of interest (topographic maps or aerial photos are preferred).
- 2) Please **provide a GIS shapefile*** (NAD 83, UTM Zone 15N) of the project boundary/area of interest.
- 3) List the following locational information* (attach additional sheets if necessary):

For Agency Use: Region / MBS Status 	County _____	Township # _____	Range # _____	Section(s) (please list all sections) _____	For Agency Use: TRS Confirmed <input type="checkbox"/>
	_____	_____	_____	_____	
	_____	_____	_____	_____	
	_____	_____	_____	_____	
	_____	_____	_____	_____	

- 4) Please provide the following information (attach additional sheets if necessary):

Project Name: _____

Project Proposer: _____

Description of Project (including types of disturbance anticipated from the project): _____

Describe the existing land use of the project site. What types of land cover / habitat will be impacted by the proposed project?

List any waterbodies (e.g., rivers, intermittent streams, lakes, wetlands) that may be affected by the proposed project, and discuss how they may be impacted (e.g., dewatering, discharge, riverbed disturbance).

Does the project have the potential to affect any groundwater resources (e.g., groundwater appropriation, change in recharge, or contamination)?

To your knowledge, has the project undergone a previous Natural Heritage review? If so, please list the correspondence #: ERDB # _____. How does this request differ from the previous request (e.g., change in scope, change in boundary, project being revived, project expansion, different phase)?

To your knowledge, have any native plant community or rare species surveys been conducted within the site? If so, please list:

List any DNR Permits or Licenses that you will be applying for or have already applied for as part of this project:

INFORMATION WE PROVIDE TO YOU:

1) The response will include a Natural Heritage letter. If applicable, the letter will discuss potential effects to rare features.

- ☐ Check here if you are interested in a list of rare features in the vicinity of the area of interest but you do **not** need a review of potential effects to rare features. Please list the reason a review is not needed:

2) Depending on the results of the query or review, the response may include an Index Report of known aggregation sites and known occurrences of federally and state-listed plants and animals* within an approximate one-mile radius of the project boundary/area of interest. The Index Report and Natural Heritage letter can be included in any public environmental review document.

3) A Detailed Report that contains more information on each occurrence may also be requested. Please note that the Detailed Report may contain specific location information that is protected under *Minnesota Statutes*, section 84.0872, subd. 2, and, as such, the Detailed Report may not be included in any public document (e.g., an EAW).

- ☐ Check here if you would like to request a Detailed Report. Please note that if the results of the review are 'No Effects' or a standard comment, a Detailed Report may not be available.

FEES / TURNAROUND TIME

There is a fee* for this service. Requests generally take **3-4 weeks** from date of receipt to process, and are processed in the order received.

I have read the entire form and instructions, and the information supplied above is complete and accurate. I understand that material supplied to me from the Natural Heritage Information System is copyrighted and that I am not permitted to reproduce or publish any of this copyrighted material without prior written permission from the DNR. Further, if permission to publish is given, I understand that I must credit the Minnesota Division of Ecological and Water Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, as the source of the material.

Signature
(required)

Griffin Fraser

Note: Digital signatures representing the name of a person shall be sufficient to show that such person has signed this document.

Mail or email completed form to:

Lisa Joyal, Endangered Species Review Coordinator
Division of Ecological and Water Resources
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
Review.NHIS@state.mn.us

[Online version of the form](#)

Revised March 2, 2012

Instructions for the Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS) Data Request Form

The Division of Ecological and Water Resources maintains the Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS), a collection of databases that provides information on Minnesota's rare plants and animals, native plant communities, and other rare features. The NHIS is continually updated as new information becomes available, and the Minnesota County Biological Survey (MBS) is a major source of this information.

- Use this form to request information on rare features within an approximate one-mile radius of an area of interest. You may reproduce this form for your own use or to distribute. An [electronic copy of the form](#) is available at the DNR's web site.
- If you are interested in obtaining the Rare Features Database electronically as a GIS shapefile, do not fill out this form. Please see [this Natural Heritage Data document](#) for more information on this option.

WHO IS REQUESTING THE INFORMATION?

- The person whose name is entered on the form under the "Who is Requesting the Information" section must sign the form as an acknowledgment of the State of Minnesota's copyright on all generated reports. All correspondence and invoices will be sent to this person. Please do not ask us to send this information to a different party.
- Please include a complete mailing address. Responses will be sent via email unless you specify differently.

INFORMATION WE NEED FROM YOU:

- Include a legible map (topographic maps or aerial photographs are preferred) clearly showing:
 - 1) location and boundaries of the project,
 - 2) associated infrastructure, and
 - 3) any waterbodies that may be affected by the proposed project.
- If the project boundary is large **or** complex, please provide a **GIS shapefile** (NAD 83, UTM Zone 15) of the project boundary/area of interest. Do not include any buffers. An additional "digitizing fee" may be charged for projects that require a substantial amount of time to digitize.
- Provide a complete list of sections that the proposed project or area of interest falls within. Do not include any buffer area. Please double-check this information. Incorrect sections can delay the processing of your request, and may result in an invalid review.
- Please provide a detailed **project description**, attaching separate pages to the form if necessary. Identify the type of development (e.g., housing, commercial, utility, ethanol facility, wind farm) being proposed, the size and # of units (if applicable), construction methods, and **any associated infrastructure** such as access roads, utility connections, and water supply and/or discharge pipelines.
- We cannot begin processing data requests until we receive all parts of the request, including a map and a completed, signed form.

INFORMATION WE PROVIDE TO YOU:

- The Natural Heritage review and database reports are valid for environmental review purposes for one year, and they are only valid for the project location and description provided on the form. Please contact Lisa Joyal at lisa.joyal@state.mn.us if project details change or if a data update is needed.
- Please note that the Natural Heritage review and database reports do not address/contain locations of the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*), state-listed as special concern, or Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), federally-listed as threatened, as these species are not currently tracked in the Natural Heritage Information System. See page 4.

FEES / TURNAROUND TIME:

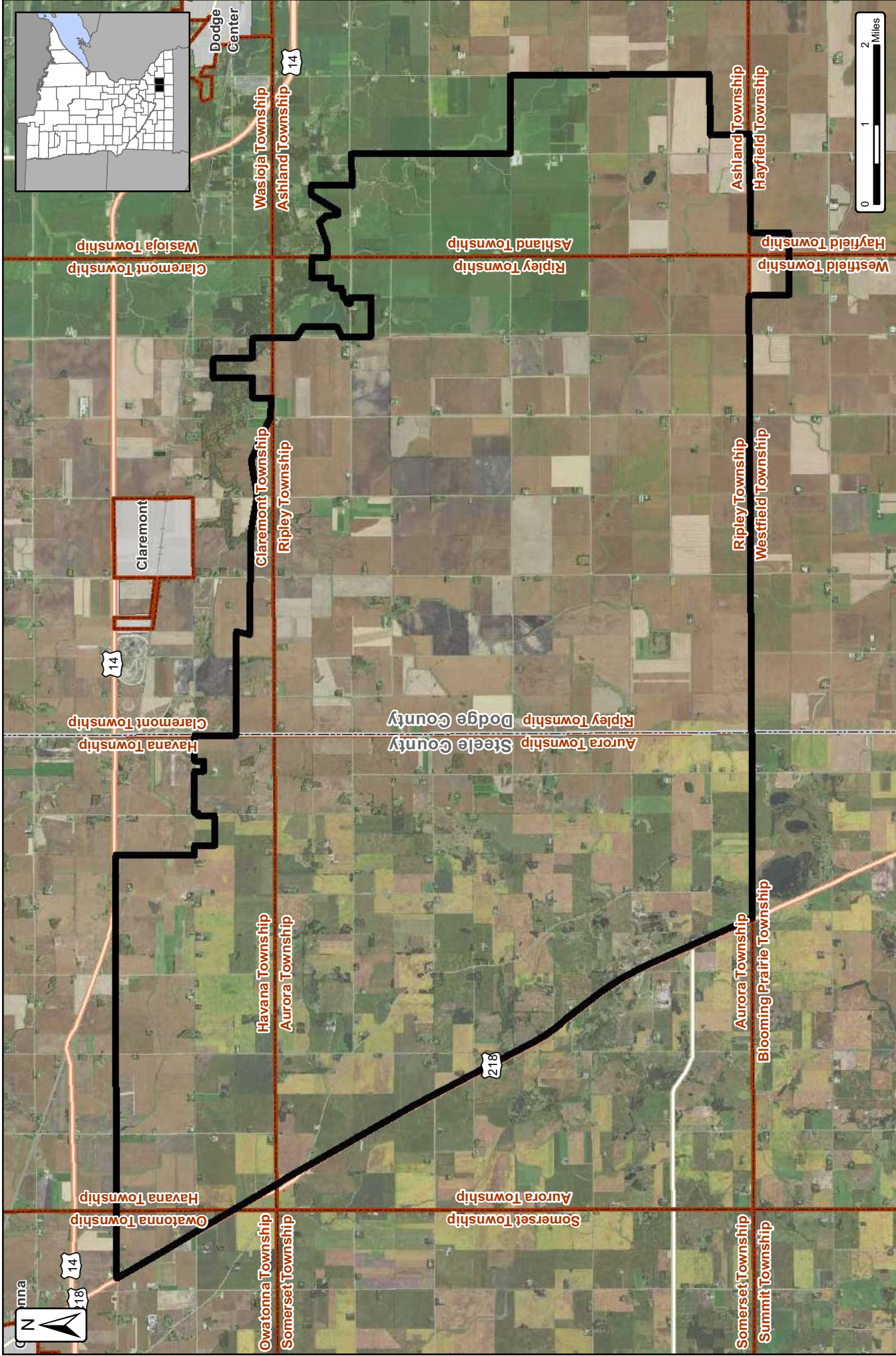
- There is a fee for this service. All fees are subject to change. The [current fee schedule](#) is available online. The minimum charge is \$90.00, and increases based on the time it takes us to process the request (dependent upon project size and the results of the query). Please do not include payment with your request; an invoice will be sent to you.
- There is generally a **3-4 week turn-around time** to process requests.

PLEASE SEE NEXT PAGE FOR ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

- The DNR [Rare Species Guide](#) is the state's authoritative reference for Minnesota's endangered, threatened, and special concern species. It is a dynamic, interactive source that can be queried by county, ECS subsection, watershed, or habitat.
- Information on the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*):
[DNR website gray wolf Species Profile](#)
[USFWS website Monitoring Report](#)
- Information on the Canada lynx (*Lynx Canadensis*):
[DNR website Canada Lynx Species Profile](#)
[USFWS website Canada Lynx profile](#)
- [Minnesota's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy](#) is an action plan focused on managing Minnesota's native animals whose populations are rare, declining, or vulnerable to decline. It identifies Species in Greatest Conservation Need and the Key Habitats that support them.
- [The Minnesota Geospatial Commons](#) allows users to download GIS shapefiles of MBS Sites of Biodiversity Significance, MBS Native Plant Communities, MBS Railroad Rights-of-Way Prairies, and Scientific and Natural Area Boundaries.
- Information on [MBS Site Biodiversity Significance Ranks](#)
- Information on [MBS Native Plant Communities](#)
- Questions? Please contact Lisa Joyal at 651-259-5109 or lisa.joyal@state.mn.us.

Dodge County Wind Project TRS			
County	Township	Range	Sections
Dodge	T105N	R17W	6
Dodge	T105N	R18W	1
Dodge	T106N	R17W	6-7, 18-20, 29-32
Dodge	T106N	R18W	1-36
Dodge	T107N	R18W	31-35
Steele	T106N	R19W	1-17, 20-28, 34-36
Steele	T107N	R19W	26-36
Steele	T107N	R20W	25, 36



Dodge County Wind, LLC

Project Location Map

Dodge County & Steele County, Minnesota

Date: 4/28/2020

SOURCE: USDA NAIP 2017



From: Bump, Samantha (DNR) <samantha.bump@state.mn.us>
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 2:20 PM
To: Griffin Fraser <gfraser@atwell-group.com>
Cc: Valeron, Bridgette (Bridgette.Valeron@nexteraenergy.com)
<Bridgette.Valeron@nexteraenergy.com>; Maureen O'Shea-Stone <moshea-stone@atwell-group.com>;
Warzecha, Cynthia (DNR) <cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us>; Boettcher, Joanne (DNR)
<Joanne.Boettcher@state.mn.us>
Subject: RE: Dodge County Wind Project - NHIS Request

Hi Griffin,

I have reviewed the NHIS regarding the above project. The proposed changes do not change the results of the original review. As such, the Natural Heritage letter dated November 15, 2018 is valid with this email until December 16, 2021.

Thank you for consulting us on this matter. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Have a great day,

Samantha Bump

NHIS Review Specialist | Ecological & Water Resources

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Samantha.Bump@state.mn.us





Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Division of Ecological & Water Resources
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025

November 15, 2018

Correspondence # ERDB 20140348-0006

Mr. Sean Fitzgerald
Atwell, LLC
4700 E Southern Ave
Mesa, AZ 85206

RE: Natural Heritage Review of the proposed Dodge County Wind,

County	Township (N)	Range (W)	Section(s)
Steele	107	19	27,34-36
Steele	106	19	1-2
Steele	106	19	12-13
Dodge	106	18	2-5,8-15,17-20,22-23 & 30
Dodge	106	17	7 & 18

Dear Mr. Fitzgerald,

As requested, the Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System has been queried to determine if any rare species or other significant natural features are known to occur within an approximate one-mile radius of the proposed project. Based on this query, rare features have been documented within the search area (for details, please visit the [Rare Species Guide Website](#) for more information on the biology, habitat use, and conservation measures of these rare species). **Based on the current configuration of the turbines and associated infrastructure as depicted in the submitted shapefiles**, the following rare features may be adversely affected by the proposed project:

Ecologically Significant Areas

- There is an area ranked as *Below* in T106N R18W Sections 11-14 within the project footprint that the Minnesota Biological Survey considered for Sites of Biodiversity Significance, but was determined to be below the minimum biodiversity threshold for statewide significance. This area, however, has conservation value at the local level as habitat for native plants and animals, corridors for animal movements, buffers surrounding higher quality natural areas, or as areas with high potential for restoration of native habitat. This particular area contains Sullivant's milkweed, a state-listed threatened plant species (see below).

State-listed Species

- The creek heelsplitter (*Lasmigona compressa*), a state-listed mussel of special concern, has been documented within of Dodge Center Creek multiple times, as recently as 2010. Please implement effective erosion prevention and sediment control practices when installing collection lines, crossing the creek, and throughout the duration of this project to minimize deterioration of water quality.
- Sullivant's milkweed (*Asclepias sullivantii*), a state-listed threatened plant species, has been documented growing on the east side of 150th Avenue within T106N R18W Section 12. This record is within the direct vicinity of the access road to Turban 54. Minnesota's endangered species law (*Minnesota Statutes*, section 84.0895) and associated rules (*Minnesota Rules*, part 6212.1800 to 6212.2300 and 6134) prohibit taking endangered or threatened plants or animals, including their parts or seeds, without a permit. **As such, a qualified surveyor needs to determine whether this species still exists within the project footprint** (see attached survey protocol information). Surveys must follow the standards contained in the attached Rare Species Survey Process and Rare Plant Guidance. Project planning should take into account that any botanical survey needs to be conducted during the appropriate time of the year, which may be limited.

Birds

The DNR has received the Avian Use Report dated March 15, 2017 completed by HDR, the Pre-Construction Avian Migration & Eagle Use Study dated June 14, 2018 completed by Atwell, and the Targeted Loggerhead Shrike & Henslow's Sparrow Inventory Survey dated July 19, 2017 completed by Atwell. HDR's surveys were completed the summer of 2015 through the fall of 2016 and detected two state-listed endangered species, two state-listed species of special concern, and 31 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN); Atwell's surveys were completed spring of 2017 through spring of 2018 and detected three state-listed endangered species, four state-listed species of special concern, and 20 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). Although the project boundary has shifted between survey periods, all of the above survey reports provide information that pertains to the current project. The following state-listed birds were documented in the vicinity of the project area:

- Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*) - this species nests on the ground in uncultivated grasslands and old fields with standing, dead vegetation and a substantial litter layer. They typically nest between mid-May and mid-July.

Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) - this species is found in lakes or rivers during migration. They build nests on emergent vegetation in marshes or in shallow, sheltered areas of lakes. It is unlikely that this species will nest in the area, but it may migrate through the area.

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) – this species is found grasslands that contain short grass and scattered perching sites such as hedgerows, shrubs, or small trees. They can be found in native prairie, pastures, shelterbelts, old fields or orchards, cemeteries, grassy roadsides, and farmyards. The breeding season is typically April through July.

Potential concerns include construction disturbance during the breeding season and collisions with turbines. Minnesota's endangered species law (*Minnesota Statutes*, section 84.0895) and associated rules

(Minnesota Rules, part 6212.1800 to 6212.2300 and 6134) prohibit the taking of endangered or threatened species, including their parts or seeds, without a permit. **Given the protected status of these species, observations in the vicinity of the project, and the potential to impact suitable habitat, an avoidance plan is required for these state endangered species.** The avoidance plan should identify specific measures that will be implemented to avoid take and minimize disturbance to these species. Measures may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- avoidance of suitable habitat during the breeding season;
- winter construction;
- recommendations found on the DNR Rare Species Guide;
- consultation with the DNR Regional Non-game Specialist, Lisa Gelvin-Innvaer at 507-359-6033 or lisa.gelvin-innvaer@state.mn.us;
- training for construction crew.

Please submit the completed avoidance plan to Lisa Joyal, the Endangered Species Review Coordinator, at Lisa.Joyal@state.mn.us or 651-259-5109.

- Forster's tern (*Sterna forsteri*), Trumpeter Swans (*Cygnus buccinator*), American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*), Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*), Peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*), Purple Martin (*Progne subis*), and Franklin's gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*), all state listed species of special concern.

Please note that there are discrepancies in the Pre-Construction Avian Migration & Eagle Use Study regarding the state status of multiple species. For any future documents, please ensure that the species state status corresponds to Minnesota's List of Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species effective August 19, 2013.

It should be noted that many SGCN are not tracked in the Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS), and the NHIS does not include records of migrating birds. Wind farms can affect birds due to collision mortality, displacement due to disturbance, habitat fragmentation, and habitat loss. Even if collision mortality rates are low, the additional mortality may be significant for rare species. In addition, the results from some studies suggest that grassland birds are deterred from nesting in otherwise appropriate habitat by the presence of tall structures in the vicinity. We recommend post-construction avian fatality monitoring to provide information regarding unexpected impacts, if any, to rare birds. Knowledge of these types of extraordinary events would allow for the implementation of additional measures to minimize disturbance, such as the curtailment of turbine operations during certain conditions..

Federally Protected Species

- The Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS) tracks bat roost trees and hibernacula plus some acoustic data, but this information is not exhaustive. Although there are no NHIS records for bats in the vicinity of the proposed project, all seven of Minnesota's bats can be found throughout Minnesota. The northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*), and little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) are all state-listed species of special concern.

The DNR has received and reviewed the Bat Monitoring Final Report (2014). The results indicated that the area receives moderate bat activity compared to other wind study sites and that three, possibly all four

of the state-listed species of special concern, were identified within the previous project area. Actions to minimize impacts to bats include, but are not limited to, the following recommendations:

- place turbines an adequate distance from wetlands, waterbodies, and waterways,
- feather turbine blades below cut-in speeds, and
- conduct post-construction fatality monitoring.

As the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has listed the northern long-eared bat as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), please coordinate with the USFWS regarding this species.

Environmental Review and Permitting

- Please include a copy of this letter in any state or local license or permit application. Please note that measures to avoid or minimize disturbance to the above rare features may be included as restrictions or conditions in any required permits or licenses.

The Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS), a collection of databases that contains information about Minnesota's rare natural features, is maintained by the Division of Ecological and Water Resources, Department of Natural Resources. The NHIS is continually updated as new information becomes available, and is the most complete source of data on Minnesota's rare or otherwise significant species, native plant communities, and other natural features. However, the NHIS is not an exhaustive inventory and thus does not represent all of the occurrences of rare features within the state. Therefore, ecologically significant features for which we have no records may exist within the project area. If additional information becomes available regarding rare features in the vicinity of the project, further review may be necessary.

For environmental review purposes, the results of this Natural Heritage Review are valid for one year; the results are only valid for the project location (noted above) and the project description provided on the NHIS Data Request Form. Please contact me if project details change or for an updated review if construction has not occurred within one year.

The Natural Heritage Review does not constitute review or approval by the Department of Natural Resources as a whole. Instead, it identifies issues regarding known occurrences of rare features and potential effects to these rare features. If needed, please contact your [DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist](#) to determine whether there are other natural resource concerns associated with the proposed project. Please be aware that additional site assessments or review may be required.

Thank you for consulting us on this matter, and for your interest in preserving Minnesota's rare natural resources. An invoice will be mailed to you under separate cover.

Sincerely,



Samantha Bump
Natural Heritage Review Specialist
Samantha.Bump@state.mn.us

Links: Rare Species Guide

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rsg/index.html>

DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist Contact Info

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/ereview/erp_regioncontacts.html

The DNR's Guidance for Commercial Wind Energy Projects

https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/ewr/dnr_wind_energy_project_guidance.pdf

USFWS Key to the Northern Long-Eared Bat 4(d) Rule for Non-Federal Activities

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/KeyFinal4dNLEB.html>

USFWS Key to the Northern Long-Eared Bat 4(d) Rule for Federal Actions

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/KeyFinal4dNLEBFedProjects.html>

USFWS Northern Long-eared Bat Website

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/index.html>

USFWS Northern Long-eared Bat Fact Sheet

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/nlebFactSheet.html>

enc. Rare Species Survey Process, DNR List of Surveyors

cc: Kevin Mixon
Cynthia Warzecha

U.S. Department of Commerce National telecommunications and
Information Administration



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Telecommunications and
Information Administration
Washington, D.C. 20230

September 8, 2020

Mr. Ryan Rackliffe
Wind Resource Modeling Analyst
NextEra Analytics
700 Universe Blvd.
Juno Beach, FL 33408

Re: Dodge County Project: Dodge & Steele Counties, MN

Dear Mr. Rackliffe:

In response to your request on July 21, 2020, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration provided to the federal agencies represented in the Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee (IRAC) the plans for the Dodge County Wind Energy Project, located in Dodge and Steele Counties, Minnesota.

After a 45+ day period of review, there were no reviewing agencies that had issues with turbine placement in this area.

While the other IRAC agencies did not identify any concerns regarding radio frequency blockage, this does not eliminate the need for the wind energy facilities to meet any other requirements specified by law related to these agencies. For example, this review by the IRAC does not eliminate any need that may exist to coordinate with the Federal Aviation Administration concerning flight obstruction.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this proposal.

Sincerely,

John R.

McFall

John R. McFall

Deputy Chief, Spectrum Services Division
Office of Spectrum Management

Digitally signed by
John R. McFall
Date: 2020.09.09
08:23:15 -04'00'

SHPO

May 1, 2017

Mr. Benjamin Banks
Lead Cultural Resources Specialist
Atwell
15500 College Boulevard
Lenexa, KS 66219

RE: Dodge County Wind – Dodge Wind Resource Area
Construction of a windfarm – includes collection lines and access roads
Dodge County
MnHPO Number: 2017-1619

Dear Mr. Banks:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above project. Information received in our office on 6 April 2017 has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the Minnesota Historical Society by the Minnesota Historic Sites Act and the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act.

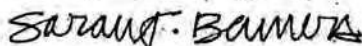
We have reviewed the Phase Ia Cultural Resources Literature Review that was included with your April 4, 2017 submittal. We agree with your recommendation that the project infrastructure be sited to avoid known archaeological sites, if at all possible. If avoidance is not feasible, Phase II evaluation of these sites will be needed. Also, due to the nature and location of the proposed project, we recommend that a Phase I archaeological survey be completed for all areas of proposed ground disturbance. The survey must meet the requirements of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Identification and Evaluation and should include an evaluation of National Register eligibility for any sites that are identified.

We will reconsider the need for survey if the project area can be documented as previously surveyed or disturbed. Any previous survey work must meet contemporary standards. **Note:** plowed areas and right-of-way are not automatically considered disturbed. Archaeological sites can remain intact beneath the plow zone and in undisturbed portions of the right-of-way.

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. 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.

If you have any questions regarding our review of this project, please contact David Mather, National Register Archaeologist, at (651) 259-3454.

Sincerely,



Sarah J. Beimers, Manager
Government Programs and Compliance



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August 8, 2018

Sarah Beimers,
Manager of Government Programs and Compliance
MnHPO – Compliance Unit
Minnesota Historical Society
345 Kellogg Boulevard W
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102-1906

Atwell, LLC Project No. 16002517
MnHPO Number: 2017-1619

**Re: Submittal of Phase I Archeology Survey Report for
Dodge County Wind & Transmission Line Project
Dodge, Steele, & Olmsted counties, Minnesota**

Dear Ms. Beimers,

To further support the existing documentation pertaining to MnHPO Number: 2017-1619, Atwell is providing this Phase I Archaeological Survey for your review. The Phase I archaeological survey was conducted in all areas where ground disturbance is planned for the Dodge County Wind and Transmission Project (Project) as recommended by the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Dodge County Wind, LLC proposes to build a 170 megawatt (MW), 70-turbine wind facility and approximate 23-mile-long transmission line in Dodge, Steele and Olmsted Counties. Dodge County Wind, LLC submitted applications for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) Site Permit (MPUC Docket Number: WS-17-307) for the wind facility and a Transmission Line Route Permit (MPUC Docket Number: IP6981/TL-17-308) to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) on June 29, 2018.

The wind facility is proposed to be located in Aurora Township, Havana Township, and Owatonna Township, in Steele County and in Ashland Township, Claremont Township, Hayfield Township, Ripley Township (Sections 1-36), and Westfield Township in Dodge County. The transmission line is proposed in Ripley Township, Ashland Township, Canisteo Township, and Mantorville Township in Dodge County, as well as in Salem Township, Kalmar Township, and the City of Byron in Olmsted County. The Project Area includes a total of approximately 62,324 acres of privately owned land that is largely used for agriculture. Specific Sections of each township that are included in the wind facility and transmission line are provided in the tables below.

Wind Facility Location

County	Township Name	Township	Range	Sections
Steele	Aurora	106N	19W	1-17, 21-28, 34-36
Steele	Havana	107N	19W	26-36
Steele	Owatonna	107N	20W	25, 36
Dodge	Ashland	106N	17W	6, 7, 18-20, 29-32
Dodge	Claremont	107N	18W	31-35
Dodge	Hayfield	105N	17W	6
Dodge	Ripley	106N	18W	1-36
Dodge	Westfield	105N	18W	1

Transmission Line Location

County	Township Name/City	Township	Range	Sections
Dodge	Ripley	106N	18W	13-15, 24
	Ashland	106N	17W	15-28
	Canisteo	106N	16W	13-15, 19-23, 30
	Mantorville	107N	16W	36
Olmsted	Salem	106N	15W	16-18
	Kalmar	107N	14W	31
	City of Byron	107N	14W	31

The Phase I archaeological investigation included a literature search, microsite assistance, and pedestrian survey. Pedestrian surveys were conducted between May 7 and June 1, 2018. Jill M. Kotwasinski was the principal investigator (OSA License No. 18-027) for Atwell. During the survey, a total of five previously unidentified post-contact archaeological sites were observed within the wind facility study area (DW-01, DW-02, DW-03, DW-04, and DW-05). Two post-contact archaeological sites (DWT-01 and DWT-02) and two post-contact isolated finds (DWT-IF01, and DWT-IF02) were observed within the transmission line study area. All of the newly recorded sites and isolated finds are composed of historic debris scatters.

The Phase I archaeological survey for the Project is complete. It is the opinion of Atwell that no archaeological sites eligible for or listed on the NRHP will be affected by Project activities, and



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Minnesota Historical Society
Dodge County Wind Project
July 27, 2018
Page 3 of 3

no further work is recommended in the portions of the Project that have been surveyed to date.

If you have any questions or comments in relation to the Phase I Archaeological Survey Report contained herein please contact me via email at jkotwasinski@atwell-group.com, or at 630.577.0800.

Sincerely,
ATWELL, LLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jill M. Kotwasinski".

Jill M. Kotwasinski, MS, RPA
Cultural Resources Specialist

Environmental Services

Enclosures: Phase I Archaeology Survey Report

CC: Jennifer Field, NextEra Energy Resources, LLC
Tara Corbett, Atwell, LLC

September 12, 2018

Ms. Jill Kotwasinski
Cultural Resources Specialist
Atwell
1245 East Diehl Road, Suite 100
Naperville, IL 60563

RE: Dodge County Wind & Transmission Line Project
Dodge County
SHPO Number: 2017-1619

Dear Ms. Kotwasinski:

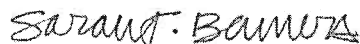
Thank you for continuing consultation on the above project. Information received in our office on 13 August 2018 has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Office by the Minnesota Historic Sites Act and the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act.

We have reviewed the cultural resources survey report titled *Phase I Archaeological Survey for the Dodge Wind Energy Center & Transmission Line, Dodge, Steele, & Olmsted Counties, Minnesota* (July 13, 2018, Atwell) that was prepared for this project. Based on the results of the survey, we conclude that there are no properties listed in the National or State Registers of Historic Places, and no known or suspected archaeological properties in the area that will be affected by this project.

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. 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 Kelly Gragg-Johnson, Environmental Review Specialist, at (651) 201-3285 or kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us if you have any questions on our review of this project.

Sincerely,



Sarah J. Beimers
Environmental Review Program Manager



You recently sent us mail that was incorrectly addressed.

The Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office has moved to the Department of Administration at the State of Minnesota. Our new address is:

**Environmental Review
State Historic Preservation Office
50 Sherburne Ave., Suite 203
St. Paul, MN 55155**

- The Environmental Review Manager is Sarah Beimers.
- The Minnesota SHPO is no longer affiliated with the Minnesota Historical Society.

Tribal

May 1st, 2020

Mr. Leonard Wabasha
THPO
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
2330 Sioux Trail NW
Prior Lake, MN 55372

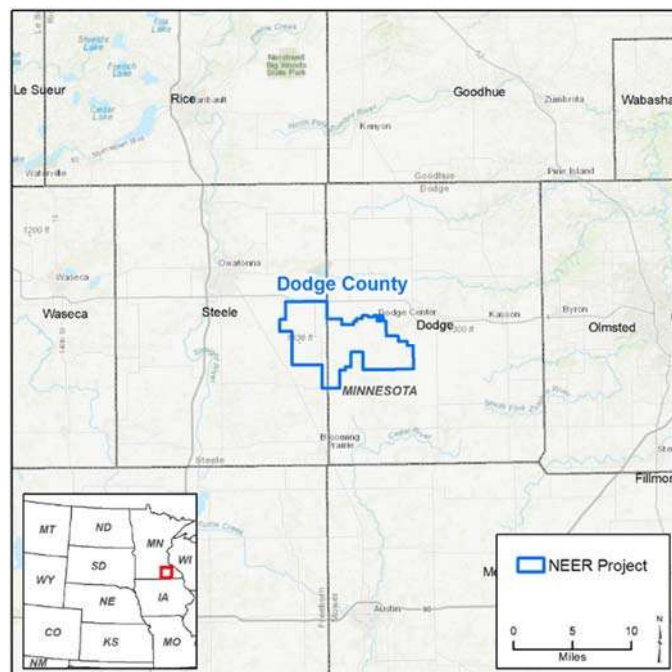
Subject: Development of Dodge County Wind Project in Dodge, Steele, Olmsted, and Mower Counties, Minnesota

Dear Leonard,

Dodge County Wind, LLC, an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, (NextEra) is developing the Dodge County Wind Project in Dodge, Steele, Olmsted, and Mower Counties, MN. Dodge County will be located on private land approximately 25 miles west of the city of Rochester, MN. (Figure 1).

Dodge County will be comprised of approximately 58 wind turbine generators with a total nameplate capacity of approximately 170 megawatts (MW). Additional facilities proposed to be reconstructed include access roads, electrical collection systems and cabling, meteorological (MET) towers, an operations and maintenance facility, substation, a temporary concrete batch plant and temporary construction and materials storage facilities. The project will also construct an approximately 30-mile-long generation-tie (gen-tie) transmission line to interconnect with the grid at the Pleasant Valley Substation in Mower County, MN.

Figure 1



NextEra Energy Resources, LLC

700 Universe Boulevard, Juno Beach, FL 33408

Dodge County was originally proposed for completion as a 2019 Commercial Operation Date (COD) project with archaeological survey work performed in 2017-2018. The project is now planned for a 2022 COD. With the additional time and changes to the project, NextEra is now able to collaborate with Tribes on its typical cultural resource identification and avoidance efforts.

Dodge County plans to complete initial wind turbine micro-siting in May 2020. We can offer two “slots” for THPOs or highly experienced TCSs to join the micro-siting effort. Pedestrian survey work will commence concurrently with the micro-siting effort with up to five (5) slots for TCS.

Dodge County anticipates filing all required permit applications with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) by fall 2020, with final permits issued and construction scheduled to begin by spring 2022. Full commercial operation is expected by late-fall 2022. **At this time, no federal action or permits are anticipated; therefore, formal Section 106 consultation by a federal agency is not required.**

Should an action requiring review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) develop, any discussions between Dodge County/NextEra Energy Resources do not take the place of official Section 106 consultation with applicable federal agencies.

Consistent with NextEra's policy to reach out to Tribes in the area of its projects, I wanted to provide you with information about the project and ask whether you have an interest in receiving further information and collaboration opportunities.

Proposed Project

As described above, the proposed project would consist of the construction of an array of wind turbines, each with an associated transformer. Proposed project facilities would include the following components:

- Up to 58 wind turbines;
- All-weather access roads to each turbine site;
- Underground electrical collection lines and fiber optic cables from each turbine to the collection substation;
- A temporary laydown yard (up to 15 acres);
- A batch plant location (up to additional 5 acres);
- Up to 2 temporary and 2 permanent SCADA MET towers;
- Up to 2 permanent aircraft detection lighting system radar installations;
- An O&M yard (approximately 10 acres);
- A collection substation (approximately 5 acres); and
- A grid-tie transmission line (approximately 30 miles)

Although the Project layout is still preliminary, based on similar projects in the region, we anticipate that no more than five percent (5%) of the proposed project area would be temporarily disturbed during construction of the project. Our typical operational facilities generally have no more than two percent (2%) of the project area permanently impacted by infrastructure. Construction activities may temporarily disturb soils and vegetation to an extent that would require some regrading, compaction mitigation, and reseeding following completion of operations. Additionally, the areas temporarily affected could be restored to crop production or grassland, depending on landowner preferences. Access roads, O&M building, substation, and temporary construction/laydown areas would be installed as necessary to fully accommodate all aspects of Project construction, operation, and maintenance.

Project Area

The proposed project is located within a rural area and is situated near the small cities of Dodge Center and Owatonna. Small farmsteads are scattered throughout the project area and public roads are generally situated in a grid-like arrangement. The project area is dominated by agricultural cropland and an extensive network of

agricultural ditches with perennial, intermittent and ephemeral streams. The area is generally flat to gently rolling hills with elevations ranging from 1,280 to 1,410 feet (330 - 430 meters). Land cover within the project area is largely row crops including corn and soybeans with a small amount of oats. Some small areas of grassland/herbaceous land cover is present and includes planted native grassland (e.g., big bluestem, [*Andropogon gerardii*] and Indian grass, [*Sorghastrum nutans*]). Woodland areas are sparse and restricted to creeks and streams occurring within the project area. There are no natural lakes in the region however, three major river systems extend westward from the Mississippi into the region's interior: the Little Cedar, the Zumbro, and the Root.

Cultural Resources Studies

Dodge County Wind contracted with Atwell, LLC (Atwell) to conduct a Phase Ia Cultural Resources Literature Review (Phase Ia) for the project area. The initial literature review was completed in May 2017 for the wind resource area and was updated in May 2018 to include the area traversed by the transmission line route considered at that time. The Phase Ia reviews included a one-mile buffer around the wind resource area and transmission line study areas. Searches of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and Minnesota Office of State Archaeologist (OSA) records were conducted. County and township histories, historic maps including Bureau of Land Management (BLM), General Land Office (GLO) plat maps, county atlas, the Andreas Atlas, county soil surveys, and current and historic aerial photographs were also examined.

Results of the literature review of the project area indicated that no previous cultural resources investigations had been completed within the project area, but that eight previous cultural resources investigations had been completed within the one-mile buffer. Accordingly, no previously inventoried archaeological sites were identified within the project area, but 18 archaeological sites have been located within the one-mile buffer area.

Archaeological pedestrian surveys for the wind resource area and transmission line study area were conducted May 7 through June 1, 2018. These surveys included the following infrastructure under consideration at the time: 75 turbine sites, 22 miles of access roads, 8 miles of crane paths, 52 miles of collection line, and 26 miles of transmission line totaling approximately 1,465 acres. All the land surveyed was in agricultural fields, except for a few small areas of fallow fields, woodlots and public right-of-way. Survey limits for the Project features, i.e. the Assessment Area for the archeological survey, were as follows:

- Access roads – survey corridors were 200 feet (61 meters) wide
- Underground electric – survey corridors were 50 feet (15 meters) wide
- Crane paths – survey areas were 50 feet (15 meters) wide
- Turbine tower pads – survey areas were 600 feet diameter (183 meter) diameter
- Transmission Line Corridor width – survey corridors were 50 feet (15 meters) wide
- Project collector substation and operations and maintenance parcel – 10 acres
- Laydown yard area – 15 acres

The 2018 pedestrian surveys did not identify any pre-historic archaeological sites within the project area.

Dodge County commits to working with all interested Tribes who respond to this outreach effort to avoid any newly documented Tribal resources within the project area, to the extent feasible. Tribal resources, if identified, would be fenced if they are adjacent to construction areas to reduce the potential that they would be inadvertently disturbed during construction.

General Project Timing

Project Micrositing	Spring 2020
Archaeological Field Work/Pedestrian Surveys (as required)	Late-Spring 2020
Prepare & Complete Cultural Resource Report	Summer 2020
Finalize Site Layout/Design	Summer 2020
File Minnesota PUC Applications	Fall 2020
Final Permits Issued	Winter 2021-2022
Construction Mobilization	Spring 2022
Commercial Operation Date	Late-Fall 2022

I hope this information has been helpful to you. Again, as it is NextEra's policy to reach out to Tribes in the vicinity of its projects, I wanted to provide you this information about the project. Please let me know if you have an interest in the project area and would like to be involved in further discussions so that we can answer any questions, provide you additional information, discuss any concerns you may have about the project, and plan any requested tribal participation accordingly. I can be reached at (561) 304-5168 or via email at Ronald.Burris@NextEraEnergy.com.

Regards,



Ronald F. Burris II
Sr Project Manager, Tribal Relations

Cc: Mark Lennox, NextEra
Celestine Wood, NextEra
Rich Estabrook, NextEra

Dodge County Environmental Services



Environmental Services
721 Main St N, Dept. 391
Mantorville, MN 55955-2230
Phone: 507-635-6273
mark.gamm@co.dodge.mn.us

August 17, 2020

Mark Lennox
Project Director
Dodge County Wind, LLC
700 Universe Blvd FEW/JB
Juno Beach, FL 33408

Dear Mr. Lennox,

It is our understanding that Dodge County Wind, LLC is proposing to develop, construct, own, and operate a 170 megawatt large wind energy conversion system ("LWECS") to be located, in part, in Dodge County, Minnesota (the "Project"). It is also our understanding that the Project requires a Site Permit and Certificate of Need from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ("Commission").

Under Minnesota Statute Section 216F.081, "The commission, in considering a permit application for LWECS in a county that has adopted more stringent standards, shall consider and apply those more stringent standards, unless the commission finds good cause not to apply the standards." Dodge County would like to clarify that it was not the County's intent for Chapter 16 of the Dodge County Zoning Ordinance, and its setbacks, to be applied to a LWECS, like Dodge County Wind, seeking siting approval from the Commission.

Sincerely,

Mark Gamm
Dodge County Environmental Services Director

cc. Lauren Cornelius, Zoning Administrator