

APPENDIX J – Phase I Cultural Literature Review



CULTURAL RESOURCES LITERATURE SEARCH

DODGE WIND ENERGY CENTER DODGE AND STEELE COUNTIES MINNESOTA

Prepared for

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dodge County Wind, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, is proposing the construction of the Dodge County Wind Energy Facility (Project), a large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) with a capacity of 258.92 megawatts. The Project would be constructed within an approximately 28,348-acre area (Project Area) in Dodge and Steele Counties, Minnesota (Southeast Riverine West [3w] and Prairie Lake East [2e] archaeological regions). The Project has applied for a Public Utility Commission permit (PUC Docket No. WS-20-866 for an LWECS). This Project does not involve federal funding or permitting and is not subject to federal historic preservation regulations.

Atwell, LLC (Atwell) was contracted to conduct an updated cultural resources literature search of the proposed Project Area to update cultural resources investigations originally conducted for the Project in 2018 and to identify any cultural resources that may have been recorded since that time. This report also incorporates minor changes to the Project Area boundary that have occurred since 2018. The cultural resources literature search is designed to accomplish the following: (1) to aid Dodge County Wind, LLC in complying with the Minnesota Historic Sites Act and the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act, (2) to identify currently known cultural resources and ascertain their recorded potential eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), (3) to aid in project planning and avoid tribal and cultural sensitive areas, and (4) to produce a report documenting the results of the literature search.

Atwell conducted the cultural resources literature search by examining electronic records held by the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (MnSHPO) and the Office of the State Archaeologist in May 2020 to identify cultural resource records within the Project Area and a 1-mile buffer of the Project Area. County and township histories, historic maps, county atlases, the Andreas Atlas, county soil surveys, and current and historic aerial photographs were also examined. In total, 78 documented architectural resources were identified in MnSHPO records within the Project Area and 1-mile buffer. The Project has voluntarily avoided direct impacts to all recorded architectural resources within the Project Area and 1-mile buffer. Therefore, no additional architectural investigation is recommended.

In total, 8 archaeological sites have been recorded within the Project Area. Six of these archaeological sites have been determined Not Eligible or recommended as Not Eligible for the NRHP, and two have not yet been evaluated for listing in the NRHP. The Project has voluntarily committed to avoiding direct impacts to all of these archaeological sites.

Three cemeteries were identified within the Project Area. As currently proposed, the Project has implemented a 100-foot avoidance buffer around these cemeteries to avoid direct impacts and

avoid potential violations of Minnesota Statute 307.08, which protects private cemeteries and burial grounds.

While the majority of proposed infrastructure locations have been previously subjected to archaeological survey in 2018, the remainder will be surveyed in 2021. In compliance with the Public Utilities Commission LWECS site permit review requirements, Atwell recommends that currently proposed infrastructure locations that have not been surveyed should be examined by a qualified archaeologist to identify any unrecorded archaeological sites that could possibly be present in these locations.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	1
FIGURES.....	II
TABLES.....	II
1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION	1
1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND HISTORY.....	2
1.2.1 Regional Setting	2
1.2.2 Environmental History	3
2 RESEARCH DESIGN	4
2.1 OBJECTIVES.....	4
2.2 RESEARCH METHODS.....	4
3 LITERATURE SEARCH RESULTS	5
3.1 HISTORICAL ATLAS AND MAP REVIEW	5
3.2 PREVIOUS CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEYS.....	6
3.3 ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES.....	6
3.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES.....	11
4 CULTURE HISTORY	13
4.1 PALEOINDIAN TRADITION (12,000 TO 8000 B.P)	13
4.2 ARCHAIC TRADITION (8000 TO 2800 B.P.)	13
4.3 WOODLAND TRADITION (2800 B.P. TO EUROPEAN CONTACT).....	14
4.4 PLAINS VILLAGE AND MISSISSIPPIAN/ONEOTA TRADITIONS (1100 B.P. TO EUROPEAN CONTACT)	14
4.5 CONTACT/POST-CONTACT PERIOD (1639 TO PRESENT)	15
5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	17
6 REFERENCES.....	18

FIGURES

Figure 1. Site Location Map

Figure 2. Previously Recorded Cultural Resources (Not Included for Public Distribution)

TABLES

Table 3.1. Cultural Resource Surveys Conducted Within the Project Area and 1-Mile Buffer	7
Table 3.2. Architectural Resource Records Within the Project Area and 1-Mile Buffer	7
Table 3.3. Archaeological Sites and Leads Within the Project Area and 1-Mile Buffer	11

1 INTRODUCTION

Dodge County Wind, LLC (DCW), a wholly owned subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, is proposing the construction of the Dodge County Wind Energy Facility (Project), a large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) with a capacity of 258.92 megawatts (MW). The Project would be constructed within an approximately 28,348-acre area (Project Area) in Dodge and Steele Counties, Minnesota (Figure 1). The Project has applied for a Public Utility Commission (PUC) permit (PUC Docket No. WS-20-866 for an LWECS). This Project does not involve federal funding or permitting and is not subject to federal historic preservation regulations.

Atwell, LLC (Atwell) was contracted to conduct an updated cultural resources literature search of the proposed Project Area including all proposed wind turbine locations, access roads, crane walking paths, collector substation, operations and maintenance facility, laydown yard, and an underground electric collection system. This report updates the cultural resources literature search that was originally conducted for the Project in 2018 (Pfennig and Kotwasinski 2018) to identify any cultural resources that may have been recorded since that time. This report also incorporates minor changes to the Project Area boundary that have occurred since the 2018 cultural literature search.

1.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The Project proposes the construction of 68 General Electric (GE) 3.4 MW wind turbines and 11 GE 2.52 MW wind turbines. A maximum of 79 turbines are proposed for construction. Energy from the turbines will be routed through underground electrical collection systems that will deliver power to the Project collector substation. This power will be stepped up at the Project's collector substation from the collection line to the transmission line. The entire collection system will be buried underground.

The Project Area is located in western Dodge County and eastern Steele County in southeastern Minnesota, immediately southwest of Dodge Center and north of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. Table 1.1 lists the townships, ranges, and sections in which the Project Area is located.

Table 1.1. Project Area Location

County Name	Township Name	Township	Range	Sections
Steele	Aurora	106N	19W	1–4, 11–13, 24, 25, 36
Steele	Havana	107N	19W	25–28, 33–36
Dodge	Claremont	107N	18W	31–35
Dodge	Ashland	106N	17W	7, 18, 19
Dodge	Ripley	106N	18W	2–24, 29–32
Dodge	Westfield	105N	18W	5, 8

1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND HISTORY

The Project Area is located in portions of the Southeast Riverine West (3w) and Prairie Lake East (2e) archaeological regions. The Southeast Riverine West archaeological region covers most of southeastern Minnesota, including all of Dodge and Olmsted Counties. The Prairie Lake East archaeological region covers most of southwestern and south-central Minnesota and includes portions of Steele County (Hudak et al. 2002). The majority of the Project Area is located in the Southeast Riverine West archaeological region. Archaeological resources are predominantly concentrated along the Mississippi River and its tributaries in this area and expected resource locations would be near water sources on bluff tops and terraces. The landscape is characterized by stream-dissected terrain. No natural lakes are in the region; however, three major river systems extend westward from the Mississippi into the region's interior: the Cannon, the Zumbro, and the Root. The climate is known to be the mildest in the state with a growing season of at least 160 days per year and consistent average rainfall.

1.2.1 Regional Setting

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Ecoregion mapping data (EPA 2015) indicates that the Project Area is located within the Eastern Iowa and Minnesota Drift Plains (EIMDP) Level IV ecoregion of the Western Corn Belt Plains ecoregion Level III (EPA 2015). The EIMDP ecoregion receives approximately 24 to 36 inches of precipitation per year and is characterized by fertile undulating plains with scattered stream systems covered by glacial tills dominated by row crops and some pasture (EPA 2015). The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) Ecological Classification System further defines the Project Area as the Eastern Broadleaf Forest Province (EBFP), a transition zone between the western prairies and eastern mixed conifer/deciduous forests (MNDNR 2017). The EBFP includes the Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal subsection (222M), characterized by deciduous forest, woodland, and prairie in a hummocky morainal landscape, and the Oak Savanna subsection (222Me) historically covered by bur oak savanna, patches of tallgrass prairie, and maple-basswood forest on gently rolling hills (MNDNR 2017).

The Project Area is situated near the small communities of Dodge Center (approximately 3.5 miles northeast), Claremont (approximately 0.8 miles north), and Blooming Prairie (approximately 4.8 miles south). Small farmsteads are scattered throughout the Project Area, and public roads are generally situated in a grid-like arrangement. Overall, the Project Area is dominated by agricultural cropland and a moderately extensive network of agricultural ditches with intermittent and ephemeral streams, many of which support herbaceous riparian buffers. The general topography of the Project Area has an undulating, rolling relief with elevations between 1,190 and 1,350 feet above mean sea level. The Project Area generally slopes to the east and is

predominantly composed of silty loam soils that were formed in glacial till and eolian deposits (NRCS 2020).

1.2.2 Environmental History

During the Pleistocene Ice Age (60,000 B.P. to 17,000 B.P.), southeastern Minnesota was lightly glaciated and had a stream-dissected terrain. From 17,000 B.P. to 15,500 B.P., Dodge County was largely free of ice, but remained unattractive for human habitation largely due to sparse vegetation that allowed few animals to inhabit the region (Hudak et al. 2002). This climate kept human utilization of the region to a minimum. By approximately 14,000 B.P., glaciers had completely melted and left Dodge County generally covered by an open boreal coniferous forest dominated by grasses and scattered conifer trees. As glaciers receded, the ecology of the region became more diversified (Gibbon 2012).

From 8000 B.P. to 3000 B.P. the Project Area primarily consisted of prairie vegetation and animal associations. Typical mammals included buffalo, elk, skunk, badger, jackrabbit, ground squirrel, gopher, and coyote. Scattered forests of oak and hickory were present along stream valleys, around lakes, and on some plateaus and low hills. The most common tree species were oak, sycamore, cottonwood, elm, hackberry, maple, basswood, and beech. Hunter-gatherers entered prairies seasonally to hunt buffalo. Likewise, small groups lived year-round on the prairies (Gibbon 2012).

From 3,000 B.P. to present, deciduous forest encompassed much of the Project Area. Deciduous forest was characterized by broadleaf deciduous trees with a wide variety of animals present. Although white-tailed deer were the primary game animal, bison and badgers inhabited areas of open grassland. The climate of the province was still more moderate, with shorter winters, less snowfall, and longer, hotter summers. Soils were deeper and richer, and drainage systems much more mature than in northern Minnesota (Gibbon 2012).

Numerous small streams and seasonal washes were scattered throughout Dodge County with few lakes dotting the region. When Euro-Americans began to settle the region, a vast majority of the landscape was composed of tall grass prairie with oak and hickory forests along stream valleys. Climate in the Project Area region is among the mildest in the state with an annual precipitation range between 28 and 30 inches (Hudak et al. 2002).

2 RESEARCH DESIGN

2.1 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the cultural resources literature search are as follows: (1) to aid DCW in complying with the Minnesota Historic Sites Act and the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act, (2) to identify currently known cultural resources and ascertain their recorded potential eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), (3) to aid in project planning and avoid tribal and cultural sensitive areas, and (4) to produce a report documenting the results of the literature search.

2.2 RESEARCH METHODS

The literature search consists of an examination of files from the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (MnSHPO) and the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA). Electronic records were requested from the MnSHPO by Benjamin Banks on May 22, 2020, and were received on May 27, 2020. The OSA records were reviewed electronically utilizing the OSA Portal online mapping database between May 22 and May 28, 2020. The literature search assists in identifying previous cultural resource investigations, previously recorded archaeological sites, the potential for sites within the Project Area, and previously recorded architectural resources.

The recorded NRHP eligibility of resources identified by the literature search are based on the National Register Criteria in 36 CFR Part 60.1, guidelines established by the National Park Service, and historic contexts developed by the MnSHPO. In order to be eligible for NRHP listing, a cultural resource must retain integrity and meet one or more of the following criteria:

- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic value, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

A cultural resource must possess several characteristics in order to retain sufficient integrity for listing in the NRHP. There are seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The three aspects of integrity that are specifically relevant to archaeological sites are typically location, materials, and association.

3 LITERATURE SEARCH RESULTS

The literature search included review of records within the Project Area and within a 1-mile buffer surrounding the Project Area. Records reviewed included state archaeological and historic site files available from the OSA and MnSHPO, NRHP data available from the National Park Service, and state historic architecture inventory data available from the MnSHPO. Additionally, county and township histories and historic maps including Bureau of Land Management (BLM) General Land Office (GLO) plat maps (BLM 2020), county atlases (*The Farmer Magazine* 1914a; *The Farmer Magazine* 1914b), the Andreas Atlas (Andreas 1874), county soil surveys, and current and historic aerial photographs were examined. Recorded architectural resources, archaeological sites, and previously conducted cultural resources investigations located within the Project Area and 1-mile buffer are illustrated in Figure 2.

3.1 HISTORICAL ATLAS AND MAP REVIEW

Review of GLO Record Original Survey Maps ranging in dates from 1854 to 1856 (BLM 2020) do not depict potential cultural resources within the Project Area. The *Illustrated Historical Atlas of Minnesota* (Andreas 1874) documents 13 property owners within the Project Area: KG. Ayer, W. Blowers, JK. Bucklin, LT. Dagget and Son, P. Engelking, DG. Fuller, John Ingalls, HC. Syke, D. King, CH. Manchester, P. McCrady, F. Meyers, and Jesse Nunn. The Andreas Atlas depicts residential structures associated with each of the 13 landowners and two schools scattered throughout the Project Area.

Atwell reviewed the 1914 historic atlas for Dodge County (*The Farmer Magazine* 1914a) and Steele County (*The Farmer Magazine* 1914b) and determined that the Project Area was sparsely populated with many residential buildings at that time. Churches and schools were scattered throughout the Project Area. Villages appeared in multiple townships but were small in size, typically less than 80 acres. School district boundaries were outlined in most townships in unsystematic order, as well as defined Rural Free Delivery System routes, which were common for the time. The Chicago and Northwestern Railroad traversed Havana and Claremont Townships from southeast to northwest.

In Claremont Township, the City of Claremont is platted in the center of Section 28 along the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. In Ripley Township, the Village of Venture appears in the upper northwest corner of Section 35 at the intersection of present-day 140th Avenue and 690th Street. A school (southeast corner of intersection) and a church (northeast corner of intersection) were also depicted at the location of Venture Village. Review of current aerial imagery shows that this area is currently agricultural fields, and structures related to Venture Village do not appear to be extant.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps ranging in date from 1954 to 1958 (ESRI 2020) indicate the Project Area was sparsely populated with a generally well-established section-line county road network. Residential construction was largely located within 250 feet of roads. Schools and churches were interspersed periodically throughout the Project Area. The Aurora Lutheran Cemetery, Saint John's Lutheran Cemetery, and the Thompson Cemetery are depicted on USGS topographic maps within the Project Area.

3.2 PREVIOUS CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEYS

Previous cultural resources survey records are available for the Project Area and include nine investigations that have been completed within the Project Area and 1-mile buffer. Previous cultural resources investigations included six reports related to improvements on Trunk Highway (TH) 14, a railroad improvement Project, and a multiple resource area nomination for historic resources of Dodge County. Additionally, Atwell previously conducted a Phase I archaeological survey for the proposed Project in 2018. A report of this investigation (Pfennig and Kotwasinski 2018) documented three newly recorded archaeological sites (21DO0017, 21DO0018, and 21DO0019), which were recommended Not Eligible for listing in the NRHP. The report was provided to the MnSHPO for review and comment on August 8, 2018, and concurrence on the findings was received from MnSHPO on September 12, 2018. Table 3.1 provides more specific information related to the previous surveys conducted within the Project Area and 1-mile buffer.

3.3 ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES

The OSA records identified 12 architectural resources within the Project Area and an additional 66 architectural resources within the 1-mile buffer, for a total of 78 documented resources (Table 3.2). Within the Project Area, the Pichner Farmstead (ST-HAV-034), the Dunker Farmstead (ST-HAV-035), and the Thompson/Ripka Farmstead (ST-HAV-038) have been officially determined Eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C by the MnSHPO. Bridge 20501 (DO-CLT-053), the Aurora Lutheran Church (ST-HAV-006), a farmstead (ST-HAV-023), the Thompson Cemetery (ST-HAV-036), and the Thompson Farmstead (ST-HAV-037) are also located in the Project Area and have been recommended Not Eligible for listing in the NRHP. Ripley Town Hall (DO-RIP-001) is also located within the Project Area and remains unevaluated for NRHP eligibility. The remaining three resources (ST-HAV-001, ST-HAV-004, and ST-HAV-008) within the Project Area remain unevaluated for NRHP eligibility and do not appear on current aerial imagery, which suggests that they may have been demolished.

Table 3.1. Cultural Resource Surveys Conducted Within the Project Area and 1-Mile Buffer

Report Number	Author	Title	Report Date
DO-81-1H	Frame, Robert M. III	Historic Resources of Dodge County, Multiple Resource Area Nomination	1981
mult-91-10	Harrison, C.	Report on Preliminary Cultural Resource Reconnaissance Survey Along Corridor Proposed for Reconstruction of TH 14, Kasson to TH 218, Owatonna, Dodge and Steele Counties, Minnesota	1991
mult-92-04	Harrison, C.	Report on Cultural Resource Investigations along Corridors Proposed for the Reconstruction of TH 14 between Kasson and TH 218 at Owatonna, Dodge and Steele Counties, Minnesota (Parts 1 & 2)	1992
DO-91-01	Ketz, A.	Phase II Archaeological Testing for the TH 14 Realignment, Dodge Center Creek East Site, Dodge County, Minnesota	1994
DO-08-x1	Florin, F., et.al.	Phase I Archaeological Survey and Phase II Evaluation of Site 21ST19 and 21ST21 for the TH 14 Improvement Project, Owatonna to Dodge Center in Steele and Dodge Counties, Minnesota. Report of Investigation #85	2008
ST-08-x1	Florin, F., and J. Lindbeck	Phase I Archaeological Survey for the TH 14 Improvement Project, Owatonna to Dodge Center in Steele and Dodge Counties, Minnesota. Report of Investigation #81	2008
DO-09-x1	Terrell, Michelle, and Andrea Vermeer	Phase I and II Archaeological Investigations of the Minnesota Rehabilitation Segment	2009
DO-09-x2	Florin, Frank	Phase II Testing at Site 21DO14 for the Bypass Alignment Alternative 3—Claremont Option 4, TH14 Improvement Project, Owatonna to Dodge Center in Steele and Dodge Counties, Minnesota. Report of Investigation #86	2009
	Pfennig, K., and J. Kotwasinski	Phase I Archaeological Survey for the Dodge Wind Energy Center and Transmission Line Dodge, Steele, and Olmstead Counties, Minnesota	2018

Table 3.2. Architectural Resource Records Within the Project Area and 1-Mile Buffer

Architectural Inventory Number	Property Name	County	Project Area	NRHP Eligibility
DO-CLC-002	Church	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Unevaluated
DO-CLC-003	Claremont School	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Unevaluated
DO-CLC-004	Commercial Complex	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Unevaluated
DO-CLC-008	Farmstead	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLC-009	Rand's Arabians	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLC-010	Greenway Cooperative Service	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLC-011	House	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible

Architectural Inventory Number	Property Name	County	Project Area	NRHP Eligibility
DO-CLC-012	House	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLC-013	House	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLC-014	House	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLC-015	House	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLC-016	House	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLC-017	House	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLC-018	House	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLC-019	House	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLC-020	House	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLC-021	House	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLC-022	House	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLC-023	House	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLC-024	House	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLC-025	House	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLC-026	House	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLC-027	Claremont Water Plant	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLC-028	Greenway Cooperative Service	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLC-030	Winona & St. Peter Railroad Claremont Segment	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Officially Eligible—Criteria A and C
DO-CLC-031	Farmstead	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLC-032	House	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLC-034	House	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLC-035	House	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLC-036	House	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLC-037	House	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible

Architectural Inventory Number	Property Name	County	Project Area	NRHP Eligibility
DO-CLC-038	House	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLC-039	House	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLC-040	House	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLC-041	Commercial Building	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLC-042	Farmstead	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLT-002	Farmstead	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Unevaluated
DO-CLT-007	Kubat Farmstead	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLT-009	Winona & St. Peter Railroad Claremont Segment	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Officially Eligible—Criteria A and C
DO-CLT-010	Farmstead	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLT-014	Arendts Farmstead	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Officially Eligible—Criterion C
DO-CLT-018	Farmstead	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLT-019	Farmstead	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLT-022	Farmstead	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLT-023	Farmstead	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLT-024	Farmstead	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLT-031	Lehmann Farmstead	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Officially Eligible—Criterion C, May have been demolished
DO-CLT-034	Farmstead	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLT-046	Farmstead	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLT-048	Claremont Hillside Cemetery	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLT-049	St. Francis de Sales Cemetery	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLT-050	Farmstead	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLT-051	Farmstead	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLT-052	McMartin House	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
DO-CLT-053	Bridge 20501	Dodge	In Project Area	Recommended Not Eligible

Architectural Inventory Number	Property Name	County	Project Area	NRHP Eligibility
DO-RIP-001	Ripley Town Hall	Dodge	In Project Area	Unevaluated
DO-WSF-001	Church	Dodge	In 1-Mile Buffer	Unevaluated
ST-AUR-006	School	Steele	In 1-Mile Buffer	Unevaluated
ST-HAV-001	Stark's Creamery	Steele	In Project Area	Unevaluated, Possibly Demolished
ST-HAV-004	District School No. 68	Steele	In Project Area	Unevaluated, Possibly Demolished
ST-HAV-005	District School No. 26	Steele	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
ST-HAV-006	Aurora Lutheran Church	Steele	In Project Area	Recommended Not Eligible
ST-HAV-008	St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church	Steele	In Project Area	Unevaluated, Possibly Demolished
ST-HAV-020	Farmstead	Steele	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
ST-HAV-021	Farmstead	Steele	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
ST-HAV-023	Farmstead	Steele	In Project Area	Recommended Not Eligible
ST-HAV-024	Nelson Farmstead	Steele	In 1-Mile Buffer	Officially Eligible—Criterion C
ST-HAV-025	Tollefson Farmstead	Steele	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
ST-HAV-026	Farmstead	Steele	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
ST-HAV-027	Farmstead	Steele	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
ST-HAV-029	Natzel Farmstead	Steele	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
ST-HAV-030	Farmstead	Steele	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible
ST-HAV-034	Pichner Farmstead	Steele	In Project Area	Officially Eligible—Criterion C
ST-HAV-035	Dunker Farmstead	Steele	In Project Area	Officially Eligible—Criterion C
ST-HAV-036	Thompson Cemetery	Steele	In Project Area	Recommended Not Eligible
ST-HAV-037	Thompson Farmstead	Steele	In Project Area	Recommended Not Eligible
ST-HAV-038	Thompson/Ripka Farmstead	Steele	In Project Area	Officially Eligible—Criterion C
ST-HAV-050	Farmstead	Steele	In 1-Mile Buffer	Recommended Not Eligible

Approximately half of the 66 architectural resources located within the 1-mile buffer (N=35) are associated with the City of Claremont. Within the 1-mile buffer, the Winona and St. Peter Railroad Claremont Segment (DO-CLC-030 and DO-CLT-009), the Arents Farmstead (DO-CLT-014), the Lehmann Farmstead (DO-CLT-031), and the Nelson Farmstead (ST-HAV_024) have been determined Eligible for listing in the NRHP by the MnSHPO. An additional 25 houses, 22 farmsteads, 4 commercial properties, 2 cemeteries, a water plant, and a school have been recommended Not Eligible for listing in the NRHP at the time of their recording. The remaining 6 resources are unevaluated for NRHP eligibility.

Review of architectural resources under the Minnesota Historic Sites Act would typically only include NRHP, Minnesota State Historic Sites Network (MSHSN), or Minnesota State Register of Historic Places (MSRHP) designated or listed resources. Architectural resources listed on the NRHP, MSHSN, or MSRHP are not present within the Project Area or 1-mile buffer. Architectural resources that have not been designated or listed on the NRHP, MSHSN, or MSRHP (resources that are unevaluated or not eligible) would not require additional architectural evaluation or avoidance by the Project. The closest NRHP, MSHSN, and/or MSRHP listed property is the Blooming Prairie Commercial Historic District (NRHP Reference Number 94000832) in Blooming Prairie, Steele County, which is just over 4.8 miles southeast of the Project Area.

3.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The literature search identified 8 archaeological site records within the Project Area and an additional 11 archaeological sites records within the 1-mile buffer (Table 3.3). Of the 8 sites within the Project Area, 3 have been determined Not Eligible for listing on the NRHP, 3 have been recommended Not Eligible, and 2 are unevaluated. Of the 11 sites within the 1-mile buffer, 1 site (12-DO-0012) has been determined Eligible for the NRHP and 8 are unevaluated. One site has been partially evaluated as Not Eligible while another is unevaluated but likely not eligible.

Table 3.3. Archaeological Sites and Leads Within the Project Area and 1-Mile Buffer

Site Number, Name	County, Township	Site Type, Function	Cultural Affiliation	NRHP Eligibility	Location Relative to Project Area
21DO0012, Claremont Station	Dodge, Claremont Twp.	Transportation Related Ruin	Post-Contact, Historic Euro-American	Eligible	In 1-Mile Buffer
21DO0013, (no name)	Dodge, Claremont Twp.	Single Artifact Find Spot	Pre-Contact	Unevaluated (Likely Not Eligible)	In 1-Mile Buffer
21DO0014, (no name)	Dodge, Claremont Twp.	Lithic Scatter, Habitation	Pre-Contact: Paleoindian, Archaic, and Initial Woodland Traditions	Portion Not Eligible, Remainder Unevaluated	In 1-Mile Buffer

Site Number, Name	County, Township	Site Type, Function	Cultural Affiliation	NRHP Eligibility	Location Relative to Project Area
21DO0015, (no name)	Dodge, Claremont Twp.	Lithic Scatter	Pre-Contact	Unevaluated	In 1-Mile Buffer
21DO0017, (no name)	Dodge, Ripley Twp.	Artifact Scatter, Farmstead	Post-Contact, Historic Euro-American	Not Eligible	In Project Area
21DO0018, (no name)	Dodge, Ripley Twp.	Artifact Scatter, Farmstead	Post-Contact, Historic Euro-American	Not Eligible	In Project Area
21DO0019, (no name)	Dodge, Ripley Twp.	Artifact Scatter, Historic Dump	Post-Contact, Historic Euro-American	Not Eligible	In Project Area
21ST0019, (no name)	Steele, Havana Twp.	Lithic Scatter, Workshop	Pre-Contact	Unevaluated	In 1-Mile Buffer
21ST0020, (no name)	Steele, Havana Twp.	Lithic Scatter, Workshop	Pre-Contact	Unevaluated	In 1-Mile Buffer
21ST0021, (no name)	Steele, Havana Twp.	Lithic Scatter, Workshop	Pre-Contact: Paleoindian, Late Woodland	Unevaluated	In 1-Mile Buffer
21ST0022, (no name)	Steele, Havana Twp.	Lithic Scatter, Workshop	Pre-Contact	Unevaluated	In 1-Mile Buffer
21ST0024, (no name)	Steele, Havanna Twp.	Lithic Scatter, Habitation	Pre-Contact: Late Woodland	Unevaluated	In Project Area
21ST0025, (no name)	Steele, Havanna Twp.	Lithic Scatter, Habitation	Pre-Contact: Paleoindian, Late Woodland	Unevaluated	In Project Area
21ST0026, (no name)	Steele, Havanna Twp.	Lithic Scatter, Habitation	Pre-Contact	Recommended Not Eligible	In Project Area
21ST0027, (no name)	Steele, Havanna Twp.	Single Artifact Find Spot	Pre-Contact	Recommended Not Eligible	In Project Area
21ST0028, (no name)	Steele, Havanna Twp.	Single Artifact Find Spot	Pre-Contact	Recommended Not Eligible	In Project Area
21ST0034, Eaker 1	Steele, Blooming Prairie Twp.	Lithic Scatter	Pre-Contact	Unevaluated	In 1-Mile Buffer
21ST0035, Eaker 2	Steele, Blooming Prairie Twp.	Lithic Scatter	Pre-Contact	Unevaluated	In 1-Mile Buffer
21ST0036, Eaker 3	Steele, Blooming Prairie Twp.	Lithic Scatter	Pre-Contact	Unevaluated	In 1-Mile Buffer

4 CULTURE HISTORY

The following prehistoric and historic contexts were generated from previously prepared syntheses for the State of Minnesota and the Upper Midwest (Dobbs 1990a, 1990b; MnSHPO 1993; Hudak et al. 2002; Gibbon 2012). The Pre-Contact period is divided into four traditions: Paleoindian, Archaic, Woodland, and Plains Village and Mississippian/Oneota. These traditions are further defined by significant changes in how Native American communities exploited technology and food sources.

4.1 PALEOINDIAN TRADITION (12,000 TO 8000 B.P)

This period is marked by the retreat of glacial ice and the draining of several lakes, including Lake Agassiz and Lake Superior. The Paleoindian occupations in Minnesota were characterized by low population density, and sites were often short-term, specialized activity areas that resulted in a sparse archaeological signature. Paleoindians had a nomadic lifestyle and lived near game animals, sources of wood, chert, large streams, and other major water sources. Paleoindians based their movements on the seasons, the availability of plants, and the migratory patterns of game animals.

Paleoindian Tradition archaeological sites are often identified by isolated projectile points and scatters of a few lithic artifacts on the ground surface. Justice (1987) divides these projectile points into Early Paleoindian—Fluted Point Pattern (Clovis, Gainey, and Folsom points) and Late Paleoindian—non-fluted Lanceolate Point Pattern (Plano and Cody Complex points). Other lithic tool types associated with the patterns of the Paleoindian Tradition in Minnesota include bifacially flaked knives, simple choppers, adzes, and large scrapers (Dobbs 1990a).

4.2 ARCHAIC TRADITION (8000 TO 2800 B.P.)

The end of the Pleistocene marked the end of the last Ice Age and the beginning of the Archaic period. The retreating glaciers exposed new land surfaces unlike any in present-day Minnesota. Expanses of prairie began to displace the forests, expansive lakes, and large, swift rivers fed by glacial runoff. Dietary and settlement patterns shifted as people adapted to environmental changes. More diverse plant and animal resources were utilized during the Archaic period, and the toolkit diversified to include ground and pecked stone tools, copper tools, and a wider variety of projectile point types. Archaic Tradition technology is characterized by a change in projectile point manufacture, shifting from lanceolate to notched and stemmed points.

During the Archaic period, regional differences in material culture began to develop. The four distinct Archaic Tradition contexts identified in Minnesota include the Shield Archaic, Lake-Forest Archaic, Prairie Archaic, and Eastern Archaic (Dobbs 1990a). Research suggests that community size increased from previous Paleoindian populations, yet remained small with day-to-day

activities taking place at a series of small seasonal camps (Anfinson 1987). As with known Paleoindian sites, Archaic sites are relatively small and sparse.

4.3 WOODLAND TRADITION (2800 B.P. TO EUROPEAN CONTACT)

Throughout the Midwestern United States, the Woodland Tradition is generally divided into three periods: Early, Middle, and Late; however Anfinson (1987) has suggested that a division into Initial and Terminal periods may be more appropriate in Minnesota. The climate during this period shifted from dry and warm to moist and cool and began to stabilize to resemble the climate that exists in the state today (Anfinson 1990).

Woodland Tradition cultures exhibit evidence of an increasingly sedentary lifestyle. This is evident in the manufacture of ceramic vessels, construction of burial mounds, and cultivation of specific plant species (Dobbs 1990a). The original divisions of Early, Middle, and Late Woodland were differentiated by their changes in technology. Ceramics during the Early Woodland period are normally thick and crude with cord-marked decoration on the exterior. During the Middle Woodland there is early evidence of earthen burial mounds. The Late Woodland period continues the tradition of ceramics and burial mounds, but ceramic decorations and styles become more regionalized (Anfinson 1990). Despite significant changes in many aspects of the Woodland culture, archaeological research indicates that life during the Woodland Tradition remained similar to that of the Archaic period, with a dependence upon a diverse, seasonal resource base of plants and animals (Anfinson 1987:222). Site types assigned to the Woodland Tradition throughout the region range from small, limited-use sites to large village and habitation sites.

4.4 PLAINS VILLAGE AND MISSISSIPPIAN/ONEOTA TRADITIONS (1100 B.P. TO EUROPEAN CONTACT)

During the Plains Village and Mississippian/Oneota Traditions, archaeological sites in Minnesota exhibit significant changes in subsistence and settlement patterns. Populations became larger and even more regionalized than was typical during previous periods. In addition, ceramic vessels were manufactured using different forms and decoration, agriculture intensified, and settlement patterns shifted to larger and more permanent villages (usually near river settings).

Archaeologists attribute sites that exhibit these cultural changes to two major traditions: Plains Village and Mississippian/Oneota. These traditions are split further based on region: the Plains Village Tradition is typical in the western part of the state, and the Mississippian Tradition is typical in the eastern part of the state (Anfinson 1987). These traditions last from the end of the Terminal Woodland Tradition to first contact with European explorers (Anfinson 1987).

Anfinson (1987) has suggested the Plains Village Tradition and the Mississippian/Oneota Traditions developed due to regionalization of groups that allowed the creation of distinctive ideas and life-ways. Archaeological evidence suggests the Plains Village complexes developed out

of an indigenous Late Woodland base; however, archaeologists are unsure how the Oneota complexes developed (Dobbs 1990a). Plains Village and Oneota site types are similar to those associated with the Woodland Tradition. The archaeological remains of these complexes range from burial mounds to small, limited-use sites and extensive habitation sites. Site location patterns remain consistent with the Woodland Period.

4.5 CONTACT/POST-CONTACT PERIOD (1639 TO PRESENT)

The Contact period generally refers to the span of time extending from the first European explorations until intensive Euro-American settlement of the region. Minnesota's historical period began in 1673 when French explorers Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet encountered the upper portion of the Mississippi River. During the time of initial contact, the Ioway, Santee Dakota, and possibly the Oto occupied the southeastern portion of Minnesota (Dobbs 1990b). The territory containing modern-day Minnesota was claimed during this period by Spain, France, Great Britain, and the United States.

Settlement and exploration in Minnesota were driven by the establishment, operation, and adaptation of fur trading and exchanging goods. The presence of French and British explorers caused changes to the Native American populations. Native American populations migrated from the east, and certain areas of Minnesota saw a depopulation of native peoples because of introduced diseases and warfare (Dobbs 1990b). A large-scale evacuation of Native Americans in Minnesota, after growing tensions, allowed for further settlement of the area by Europeans.

The large-scale evacuation of Native Americans was a result of an armed conflict between the United States and the Dakota Sioux Indians. Throughout the late 1850s, treaty violations by the United States and unfair annuity payments by U.S. agents caused increasing tension among the Dakota Indians (Ginkel et al. 2016). Over the duration of several months, battles between the Dakota and the settlers, and later the United States Army, took place throughout the Minnesota River valley. The war ended on December 26, 1862, when 38 Dakota Indians were hanged in Mankato in the largest mass execution in U.S. history (Ginkel et al. 2016). Afterward, the government forced most of the remaining Dakota to leave Minnesota.

Minnesota became a territory in 1849 and achieved statehood on May 11, 1858 (Dodge County Historical Society 2017). The first European settlers arrived by steamboats via major rivers and tributaries. Many towns developed into agricultural processing and distribution centers. Industries such as milling and brewing became widespread throughout Minnesota (Hill 1884). In addition to milling, Minnesota was a leader in lumbering and iron mining (Hill 1884).

The rivers, alongside which many towns were established, acted as a major source of transportation and power for these industries. The establishment of railroads in Minnesota in the late nineteenth century spurred rapid growth in the agriculture industry and became a major source of transportation for Minnesota's leading industries (Hill 1884).

Dodge County was historically inhabited by the Mdewakanton Sioux, the Sauk, and the Fox Indians (Dodge County Historical Society 2017). The region of Dodge County was common hunting and combat ground for Native Americans. Native Americans resided in Dodge County as late as 1856–1857; eventually, population declined due to smallpox and loss of land.

The early European settlers of Dodge County were predominantly of New England birth (Dodge County Historical Society 2017). By 1855, settlement had progressed rapidly in Dodge County with the establishment of farms, roads, a hotel, and a tavern. The county was established under the Minnesota territorial government in 1855, with Mantorville as the County Seat (Dodge County Historical Society 2017). The county is named for Henry Dodge, a two-time governor of Wisconsin.

In the early history of Dodge County, agriculture was a leading industry producing wheat, corn, oats, barley, and potatoes in commercial quantities (Dodge County Historical Society 2017). After a decline in wheat production, dairying and diversified farming increased rapidly. The Dodge County Agricultural Society was established in 1857 (Hill 1884). In that same year, the Dodge County Agricultural Society held the first county fair, which was also the first county fair in the Minnesota Territory (Hill 1884).

5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Atwell conducted a literature search of the Project Area and 1-mile buffer. Based on the results of this review, very few cultural resources are known to be present within the Project Area. Atwell recommends the following:

- For architectural resources, Minnesota Historical Society (MnHS) review under the Minnesota Historic Sites Act in conjunction with the PUC LWECS Site Permit review suggests that only architectural resources designated or listed on the NRHP, MSHSN, and MSRHP would require avoidance by the Project. Cultural resources designated or listed on the NRHP, MSHSN, and MSRHP are not located within the Project Area or 1-mile buffer. Architectural resources within the Project Area or 1-mile buffer that are unevaluated or eligible for listing on the NRHP but are not currently designated or listed on the NRHP, MSHSN, or MSRHP would not require avoidance or further evaluation for MnHS review under the Minnesota Historic Sites Act. Nevertheless, the Project has voluntarily avoided direct impacts to all recorded architectural resources within the Project Area and 1-mile buffer. Therefore, no additional architectural investigation is recommended.
- In total, eight archaeological sites have been recorded within the Project Area. Of these archaeological sites, six have been evaluated as either not eligible or recommended not eligible and two are unevaluated for listing in the NRHP. DCW has voluntarily committed to avoiding direct impacts to all of these archaeological sites.
- In total, 11 archaeological sites have been recorded within the 1-mile buffer, of which only 1 site has been determined Eligible for listing in the NRHP. Archaeological sites within the 1-mile buffer would not be impacted by the Project.
- The Aurora Lutheran Cemetery, Saint John's Lutheran Cemetery, and the Thompson Cemetery are depicted on USGS topographic maps within the Project Area. The Thompson Cemetery was also identified in MnSHPO records. As currently proposed, the Project has implemented a 100-foot avoidance buffer around these cemeteries to avoid direct impacts and avoid potential violations of Minnesota Statute 307.08, which protects private cemeteries and burial grounds.
- The majority of proposed infrastructure locations have been previously subjected to archaeological survey in 2018 (Pfennig and Kotwasinski 2018). In compliance with the PUC LWECS Site Permit review requirements, Atwell recommends that currently proposed infrastructure locations that have not been surveyed should be examined by a qualified archaeologist to identify any unrecorded archaeological sites that could possibly be present in these locations.

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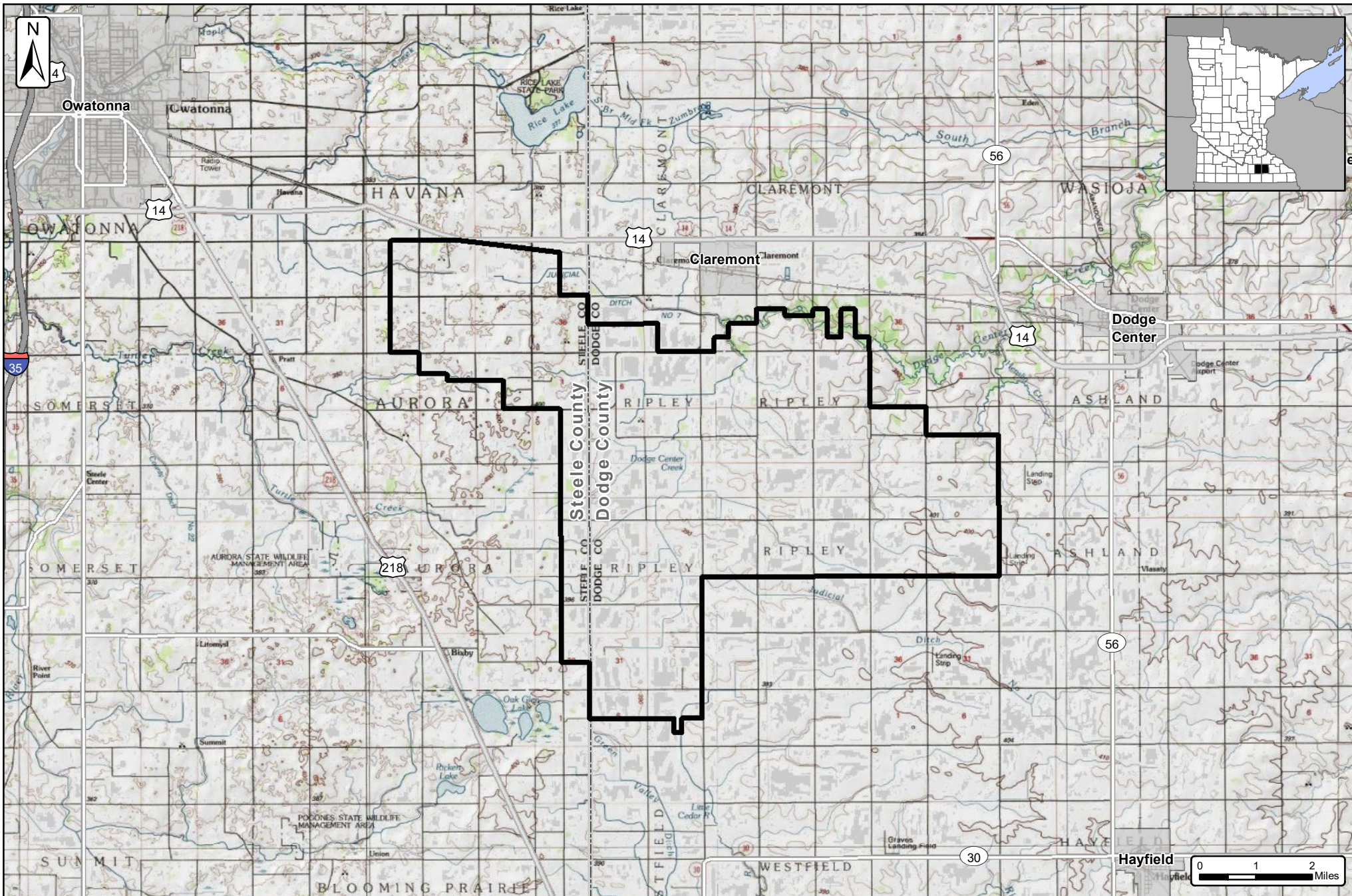
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FIGURES

CONFIDENTIAL MAP: DO NOT DISTRIBUTE



Dodge County Wind, LLC

Figure 1. Site Location Map




Steele County and Dodge County, Minnesota

Date: 7/7/2021

Client:

**Dodge County
Wind, LLC**

Atwell, LLC Project:16002517

-  Wind Resource Area
(5/10/2021) (±28,348 Ac.)
-  City/Village
-  Counties

**BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL
NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION**
SOURCE: USGS TOPOGRAPHIC QUADS



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