

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

ROUTE PERMIT FOR A

HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINE AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES

IN

DODGE AND MOWER COUNTIES

ISSUED TO

DODGE COUNTY WIND, LLC

PUC DOCKET NO. IP 6981/TL-20-867

In accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850 this route permit is hereby issued to:

Dodge County Wind, LLC

Dodge County Wind, LLC is authorized by this route permit to construct and operate the 161 kV transmission line authorized by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

The high-voltage transmission line and associated facilities shall be built within the route identified in this route permit and as portrayed on the route maps and in compliance with the conditions specified in this route permit.

Approved and adopted this 15th day of October, 2024.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Will Seuffert', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Will Seuffert,
Executive Secretary

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Attachment 1 – Compliant Handling Procedures for Permitted Energy Facilities

Attachment 2 – Compliance Filing Procedure for Permitted Energy Facilities

Attachment 3 – Preliminary Route Alternatives Maps

1 ROUTE PERMIT

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) hereby issues this route permit to Dodge County Wind, LLC (Permittee) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850. This route permit authorizes the Permittee to construct and operate an approximately 27-mile 161 kV high voltage transmission line, which will connect the proposed Dodge County Wind, LLC (DCW) Substation to Great River Energy's existing Pleasant Valley Substation, and as identified in the attached route maps, hereby incorporated into this document (Dodge County Wind 161 kV Transmission Line, henceforth known as Transmission Facility).

1.1 Preemption

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216E.10, this route permit shall be the sole route approval required for construction of the Transmission Facility and this route permit shall supersede and preempt all zoning, building, or land use rules, regulations, or ordinances promulgated by regional, county, local and special purpose governments.

2 TRANSMISSION FACILITY DESCRIPTION

The Transmission Facility consists of approximately 27 miles of 161 kV transmission line between the newly constructed DCW Substation located in Section 15 of Ripley Township to the existing Pleasant Valley Substation located in Section 19 of Pleasant Valley Township.

The Transmission Facility is located in the following:

County	Township Name	Township	Range	Section
Dodge	Ripley	106N	18W	13, 14, 15, 24
	Ashland	106N	17W	16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, 32, 33, 34
	Hayfield	105N	17W	1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 24, 25, 36
	Vernon	105N	16W	7, 18, 19, 30, 31
Mower	Sargeant	104N	16W	5, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24
	Pleasant Valley	104N	15W	18, 19

2.1 Structures

The Transmission Facility will primarily consist of single-circuit weathering steel monopole structures for the majority of the Transmission Facility's length.

The Transmission Facility will also use a smaller number of double circuit weathering steel monopole structures where the Transmission Facility will be co-located with the existing Pleasant Valley to Austin Northeast 161 kV transmission line owned by Great River Energy.

Transmission structures will be spaced between 400 and 900 feet apart, with average spans of 500 to 800 between poles. Transmission structures may be up to 160 feet above the ground and will typically range in height from 80 to 140 feet above ground depending upon the terrain and environmental constraints (such as stream crossings and required angle structures). Angle structures may be supported by guy wires.

The table below details specifics on the various structure and conductor types as presented in the route permit application.

Transmission Line Type	Structure		Foundation	Base Diameter (feet)	Height (feet)	Span (feet)
	Type	Material				
Single Circuit 161 kV	Monopole - Tangent	Steel	Direct-embed, concrete pier,	2 – 4	80 - 130	400 - 900
	Monopole - Angle		Direct-embed with guying, concrete pier	3-6	90 - 130	
	Monopole Dead-end		Direct-embed with guying, concrete pier	2 - 7	100 - 140	
	Monopole – Tangent with underbuild		Direct-embed, concrete pier,	3 - 4	120 - 140	
Double Circuit 161 kV	Monopole - Tangent		Direct-embed, concrete pier,	3 - 4	80 - 120	
	Monopole - Angle		Direct-embed with guying, concrete pier	3 - 7	80 - 120	
	Monopole Dead-end		Direct-embed with guying, concrete pier	6 - 8	80 -100	

2.2 Conductors

Each of the single-circuit structures will include three conductors and additional shield/communication wires. Double-circuit structures will include six conductors and additional shield/communication wires. The phase wires will have a diameter of approximately 795 to 1272 kcmil.

2.3 Project Ownership

At least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting, the Permittee shall file a description of its ownership structure, identifying, as applicable:

- (a) the owner(s) of the financial and governance interests of the Permittee;
- (b) the owner(s) of the majority financial and governance interests of the Permittee's owners; and
- (c) the Permittee's ultimate parent entity (meaning the entity which is not controlled by any other entity).

The Permittee shall notify the Commission of:

- (a) a change in owner(s) of the majority* financial or governance interests in the Permittee; or
- (b) a change in owner(s) of the majority* financial or governance interests of the Permittee's owners; or
- (c) a sale which changes the ultimate parent entity of the Permittee.

*When there are only co-equal 50/50 percent interests, any change shall be considered a change in majority interest.

Also, in the event of an ownership change, the Permittee must provide the Commission with a certification that it has read, understands and is able to comply with the plans and procedures it filed and all conditions of this permit.

3 DESIGNATED ROUTE

The route designated by the Commission in this route permit is described below and shown on the route maps attached to this route permit (Designated Route). The Designated Route is generally described as follows:

Attached to this Route Permit is a map of the Designated Route. This 26.7-mile route includes a 450-foot route width for most of the route, with approximately 225 feet either side of the proposed alignment for most of the route; 450 feet around each turning structure; and a route width of 1,155 feet by 1,340 feet around the DCW substation and a route width of 1,880 feet by 2,640 feet around the Pleasant Valley substation.

The route begins at the Dodge County Wind Substation and includes use of a combination of private easements and county road right-of-way between the substation and MN 56. The route then uses MnDOT right-of-way for two miles along Highway 56, uses county road ROW along Dodge CR 4/710th Steet, before turning south using county road right-of-way along Dodge CR 9, Mower CR 20, and Mower CR 1 and finally double circuits with GRE's existing Pleasant Valley to Austin Northeast 161 kV line into the Pleasant Valley Substation.

The identified route widths on the attached route maps provide the Permittee with flexibility for minor adjustments of the alignment or right-of-way to accommodate landowner requests and unforeseen conditions. The Permittee shall locate the final right-of-way within the Designated Route unless otherwise authorized by this route permit or the Commission.

4 RIGHT-OF-WAY

This route permit authorizes the Permittee to obtain a new permanent right-of-way for the transmission line up 100 feet in width, except in order to accommodate appurtenances located at road intersections, in which case this route permit authorizes the Permittee to obtain a new permanent right-of-way up to 250 feet in width.

The transmission line's anticipated alignment is intended to minimize potential impacts relative to criteria identified in Minn. R. 7850.4100. The actual right-of-way will generally conform to the anticipated alignment identified on the route maps, unless changes are requested by individual landowners and agreed to by the Permittee or for unforeseen conditions that are encountered or as otherwise provided for by this route permit.

Any right-of-way modifications within the Designated Route shall be located so as to have comparable overall impacts relative to the factors in Minn. R. 7850.4100, as does the right-of-way identified in this route permit, and shall be specifically identified and documented in and approved as part of the plan and profile submitted pursuant to Section 9.1 of this route permit.

Where the transmission line parallels existing highway and other road rights-of-way, the transmission line right-of-way shall occupy and utilize the existing right-of-way to the maximum extent possible; consistent with the criteria in Minn. R. 7850.4100 and the other requirements of this route permit; and for highways under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the procedures for accommodating utilities in trunk highway rights-of-way.

5 GENERAL CONDITIONS

The Permittee shall comply with the following conditions during construction and operation of the transmission line and associated facilities over the life of this route permit.

5.1 Route Permit Distribution

Within 30 days of issuance of this route permit, the Permittee shall provide all landowners, regional development commissions, county auditor and environmental offices, and city and township clerks within or adjacent to the Designated Route with a copy of this route permit and the complaint procedures. The Permittee shall file with the Commission an affidavit of its route permit and complaint procedures distribution within 30 days of issuance of this permit.

5.2 Access to Property

The Permittee shall contact landowners prior to entering or conducting maintenance within their property, unless otherwise negotiated with the landowner. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Department of Commerce (Commerce) or Commission staff.

5.3 Construction and Operation Practices

The Permittee shall follow the specific construction practices and material specifications described in the record of the proceedings unless this route permit establishes a different requirement in which case this route permit shall prevail.

5.3.1 Field Representative

The Permittee shall designate a field representative responsible for overseeing compliance with the conditions of this route permit during construction of the Transmission Facility. This person shall be accessible by telephone or other means during normal business hours throughout site preparation, construction, cleanup, and restoration.

The Permittee shall file with the Commission and provide landowners within or adjacent to the Designated Route, local governmental units and other interested persons the name, address, email, phone number, and emergency phone number of the field representative at least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting. The Permittee may change the field representative at any time upon notice to the Commission, landowners within or adjacent to the Designated

Route, local governmental units and other interested persons. The Permittee shall file with the Commission an affidavit of distribution of its field representative's contact information at least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting and upon changes to the field representative.

5.3.2 Employee Training of Route Permit Terms and Conditions

The Permittee shall train all employees, contractors, and other persons involved in the Transmission Facility construction of the terms and conditions of this route permit. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Commerce or Commission staff.

5.3.3 Independent Third-Party Monitoring

The Permittees shall propose a Third-Party Monitoring Scope of Work and identify one independent third party monitor in coordination with Commerce. The Third-Party Scope of Work shall be developed in consultation with and approved by Commerce. This third-party monitor will report directly to and will be under the control of Commerce with costs borne by the Permittee. The Permittee shall file with the Commission the Third-Party Monitoring Scope of Work, and the name, address, email, phone number, and emergency phone number of the third-party monitor at least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting, and upon changes to the Third-Party Scope of Work or third-party monitor contact information.

5.3.4 Public Services, Public Utilities, and Existing Easements

During Transmission Facility construction, the Permittee shall minimize any disruption to public services or public utilities. To the extent disruptions to public services or public utilities occur these shall be temporary, and the Permittee shall restore service promptly. Where any impacts to utilities have the potential to occur the Permittee shall work with both landowners and local entities to determine the most appropriate transmission structure placement.

The Permittee shall cooperate with road authorities to develop appropriate signage and traffic management during construction. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Commerce or Commission staff.

5.3.5 Temporary Workspace

The Permittee shall limit temporary easements to special construction access needs and additional staging or lay-down areas required outside of the authorized right-of-way. Temporary space shall be selected to limit the removal and impacts to vegetation. The

Permittee must obtain temporary easements outside of the authorized transmission line right-of-way from affected landowners through rental agreements and are not provided for in this route permit.

The Permittee may construct temporary driveways between the roadway and the structures to minimize impact using the shortest route feasible. The Permittee shall use construction mats to minimize impacts on access paths and construction areas. The Permittee shall submit the location of temporary workspaces and driveways with the plan and profile pursuant to Section 9.1.

5.3.6 Noise

The Permittee shall comply with noise standards established under Minn. R. 7030.0010 to 7030.0080. The Permittee shall limit construction and maintenance activities to daytime working hours to the extent practicable.

5.3.7 Aesthetics

The Permittee shall consider input pertaining to visual impacts from landowners or land management agencies prior to final location of structures, rights-of-way, and other areas with the potential for visual disturbance. The Permittee shall use care to preserve the natural landscape, minimize tree removal and prevent any unnecessary destruction of the natural surroundings in the vicinity of the Transmission Facility during construction and maintenance. The Permittee shall work with landowners to locate the high-voltage transmission line to minimize the loss of agricultural land, forest, and wetlands, and to avoid homes and farmsteads. The Permittee shall place structures at a distance, consistent with sound engineering principles and system reliability criteria, from intersecting roads, highways, or trail crossings.

5.3.8 Soil Erosion and Sediment Control

The Permittee shall implement those erosion prevention and sediment control practices recommended by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Construction Stormwater Program. If construction of the Transmission Facility disturbs more than one acre of land, or is sited in an area designated by the MPCA as having potential for impacts to water resources, the Permittee shall obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System Construction Stormwater Permit from the MPCA that provides for the development of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan that describes methods to control erosion and runoff. The Permittee shall provide its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit and

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan to MPCA and request MPCA's review of those documents on a monthly basis during project construction.

The Permittee shall implement reasonable measures to minimize erosion and sedimentation during construction and shall employ perimeter sediment controls, protect exposed soil by promptly planting, seeding, using erosion control blankets and turf reinforcement mats, stabilizing slopes, protecting storm drain inlets, protecting soil stockpiles, and controlling vehicle tracking. Contours shall be graded as required so that all surfaces provide for proper drainage, blend with the natural terrain, and are left in a condition that will facilitate re-vegetation and prevent erosion. All areas disturbed during construction of the Transmission Facility shall be returned to pre-construction conditions.

5.3.9 Wetlands and Water Resources

The Permittee shall design wetland impact avoidance measures and implement them during construction of the Transmission Facility. Measures shall include spacing and placing the power poles at variable distances to span and avoid wetlands, watercourses, and floodplains. Unavoidable wetland impacts as a result of the placement of poles shall be limited to the immediate area around the poles. To minimize impacts, the Permittee shall construction in wetland areas during frozen ground conditions where practicable and according to permit requirements by the applicable permitting authority. When construction during winter is not possible, the Permittee shall use wooden or composite mats to protect wetland vegetation. The Permittee shall contain soil excavated from the wetlands and riparian areas and not place it back into the wetland or riparian area. The Permittee shall access wetlands and riparian areas using the shortest route possible in order to minimize travel through wetland areas and prevent unnecessary impacts. The Permittee shall not place staging or stringing set up areas within or adjacent to wetlands or water resources, as practicable. The Permittee shall assemble power pole structures on upland areas before they are brought to the site for installation.

The Permittee shall restore wetland and water resource areas disturbed by construction activities to pre-construction conditions in accordance with the requirements of applicable state and federal permits or laws and landowner agreements. The Permittee shall meet all requirements of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and local units of government.

5.3.10 Vegetation Management

The Permittee shall minimize the number of trees to be removed in selecting the right-of-way specifically preserving to the maximum extent practicable windbreaks, shelterbelts, living snow fences, and vegetation in areas such as trail and stream crossings where vegetative screening may minimize aesthetic impacts, to the extent that such actions do not violate sound engineering principles or system reliability criteria.

The Permittee shall remove tall growing species located within the transmission line right-of-way that endanger the safe and reliable operation of the transmission line. The Permittee shall leave undisturbed, to the extent possible, existing low growing species in the right-of-way or replant such species in the right-of-way to blend the difference between the right-of-way and adjacent areas, to the extent that the low growing vegetation that will not pose a threat to the transmission line or impede construction.

5.3.11 Application of Pesticides

The Permittee shall restrict pesticide use to those pesticides and methods of application approved by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, DNR, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Selective foliage or basal application shall be used when practicable. All pesticides shall be applied in a safe and cautious manner so as not to damage adjacent properties including crops, orchards, tree farms, apiaries, or gardens. The Permittee shall contact the landowner at least 14 days prior to pesticide application on their property. The Permittee may not apply any pesticide if the landowner request that there be no application within the landowner's property. The Permittee shall provide notice of pesticide application to landowners and beekeepers operating apiaries within three miles of the pesticide application area at least 14 days prior to such application. The Permittee shall keep pesticide communication and application records and provide them upon the request of Commerce or Commission staff.

5.3.12 Invasive Species

The Permittee shall employ best management practices to avoid the potential introduction and spread of invasive species on lands disturbed by Transmission Facility construction activities. The Permittee shall develop an Invasive Species Prevention Plan and file it with the Commission at least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting. The Permittee shall comply with the most recently filed Invasive Species Prevention Plan.

5.3.13 Noxious Weeds

The Permittee shall take all reasonable precautions against the spread of noxious weeds during all phases of construction. When utilizing seed to establish temporary and permanent vegetative cover on exposed soil the Permittee shall select site appropriate seed certified to be free of noxious weeds. To the extent possible, the Permittee shall use native seed mixes. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Commerce or Commission staff.

5.3.14 Roads

Where practical, the Permittee shall use existing roadways for activities associated with the Transmission Facility and specially use all-weather roads to transport heavy components. At least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting, the Permittee shall file with the Commission a Public Road Use Report that:

- (a) includes a map that identifies which roads are needed for the Project;
- (b) identifies who has jurisdiction over the roads;
- (c) indicates whether inspections of the roads are required prior to Transmission Facility construction; and
- (d) provides the status of Public Road Use Agreements or Public Road Development Agreements.

The Permittee must obtain and file with the Commission Public Road Use Agreements or Public Road Development Agreements before Project construction may begin. The Public Road Use Agreements or Public Road Development Agreements shall include written authorizations from who has jurisdiction over the road, and maintenance and repair plans that may be required based on damages from Transmission Facility construction.

5.3.15 Archaeological and Historic Resources

The Permittee shall make every effort to avoid impacts to archaeological and historic resources when constructing the Transmission Facility. In the event that a resource is encountered, the Permittee shall consult with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the State Archaeologist, and the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC). Where feasible, avoidance of the resource is required. Where not feasible, mitigation must include an effort to minimize Transmission Facility impacts on the resource consistent with SHPO and State Archaeologist requirements.

Prior to construction, the Permittee shall train workers about the need to avoid cultural properties, how to identify cultural properties, and procedures to follow if undocumented cultural properties, including gravesites, are found during construction. If human remains are encountered during construction, the Permittee shall immediately halt construction and promptly notify local law enforcement, the State Archaeologist, and MIAC. The Permittee shall not resume construction at such location until authorized by local law enforcement or the State Archaeologist. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Commerce or Commission staff.

5.3.16 Avian Protection

The Permittee in cooperation with the DNR shall identify areas of the transmission line where bird flight diverters will be incorporated into the transmission line design to prevent large avian collisions attributed to visibility issues. Standard transmission design shall incorporate adequate spacing of conductors and grounding devices in accordance with Avian Power Line Interaction Committee standards to eliminate the risk of electrocution to raptors with larger wingspans that may simultaneously come in contact with a conductor and grounding devices. The Permittee shall submit documentation of its avian protection coordination with the DNR with the plan and profile pursuant to Section 9.1.

5.3.17 Restoration

The Permittee shall restore the right-of-way, temporary workspaces, access roads, abandoned right-of-way, and other public or private lands affected by construction of the Transmission Facility. Restoration within the right-of-way must be compatible with the safe operation, maintenance, and inspection of the transmission line. Within 60 days after completion of all restoration activities, the Permittee shall file with the Commission a Notification of Restoration Completion.

5.3.18 Cleanup

The Permittee shall remove and properly dispose of all waste and scrap from the right-of-way and all premises on which construction activities were conducted upon completion of each task. The Permittee shall remove and properly dispose of all personal litter, including bottles, cans, and paper from construction activities on a daily basis.

5.3.19 Pollution and Hazardous Wastes

The Permittee shall take all appropriate precautions to protect against pollution of the environment. The Permittee shall be responsible for compliance with all laws applicable to the generation, storage, transportation, clean up and disposal of all wastes generated during construction and restoration of the right-of-way.

5.3.20 Damages

The Permittee shall fairly restore or compensate landowners for damage to crops, fences, private roads and lanes, landscaping, drain tile, or other damages sustained during construction. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Commerce or Commission staff.

5.4 Electrical Performance Standards

5.4.1 Grounding

The Permittee shall design, construct, and operate the transmission line in a manner so that the maximum induced steady-state short-circuit current shall be limited to five milliamperes root mean square (rms) alternating current between the ground and any non-stationary object within the right-of-way, including but not limited to large motor vehicles and agricultural equipment. All fixed metallic objects on or off the right-of-way, except electric fences that parallel or cross the right-of-way, shall be grounded to the extent necessary to limit the induced short-circuit current between ground and the object so as not to exceed one milliamperes rms under steady state conditions of the transmission line and to comply with the ground fault conditions specified in the National Electric Safety Code. The Permittee shall address and rectify any induced current problems that arise during transmission line operation.

5.4.2 Electric Field

The Permittee shall design, construct, and operate the transmission line in such a manner that the electric field measured one meter above ground level immediately below the transmission line shall not exceed 8.0 kV/m rms.

5.4.3 Interference with Communication Devices

If interference with radio or television, satellite, wireless internet, GPS-based agriculture navigation systems or other communication devices is caused by the presence or operation of

the Transmission Facility, the Permittee shall take whatever action is necessary to restore or provide reception equivalent to reception levels in the immediate area just prior to the construction of the Transmission Facility. The Permittee shall keep records of compliance with this section and provide them upon the request of Commerce or Commission staff.

5.5 Other Requirements

5.5.1 Safety Codes and Design Requirements

The Permittee shall design the transmission line and associated facilities to meet or exceed all relevant local and state codes, the National Electric Safety Code, and North American Electric Reliability Corporation requirements. This includes standards relating to clearances to ground, clearance to crossing utilities, clearance to buildings, strength of materials, clearances over roadways, right-of-way widths, and permit requirements.

5.5.2 Other Permits and Regulations

The Permittee shall comply with all applicable state rules and statutes. The Permittee shall obtain all required permits for the Transmission Facility and comply with the conditions of those permits unless those permits conflict with or are preempted by federal or state permits and regulations. The Permittee shall submit a copy of such permits upon the request of Commerce or Commission staff.

At least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting, the Permittee shall file with the Commission an Other Permits and Regulations Submittal that contains a detailed status of all permits, authorizations, and approvals that have been applied for specific to the Transmission Facility. The Other Permits and Regulations Submittal shall also include the permitting agency or authority, the name of the permit, authorization, or approval being sought, contact person and contact information for the permitting agency or authority, brief description of why the permit, authorization, or approval is needed, application submittal date, and the date the permit, authorization, or approval was issued or is anticipated to be issued.

The Permittee shall demonstrate that it has obtained all necessary permits, authorizations, and approvals by filing an affidavit stating as such and an updated Other Permits and Regulations Submittal, prior to commencing Transmission Facility construction. The Permittee shall provide a copy of any such permits, authorizations, and approvals upon the request of Commerce or Commission staff.

6 SPECIAL CONDITIONS

The special conditions shall take precedence over other conditions of this route permit should there be a conflict.

6.1 Wildlife-Friendly Erosion Control

The Permittee shall use only “bio-netting” or “natural netting” types of erosion control materials and mulch products without synthetic (plastic) fiber additives.

6.2 Dust Control

The Permittee shall minimize and avoid, if possible, the use of chloride-based dust control chemicals (i.e. calcium chloride, magnesium chloride).

6.3 Snowmobile Trails

The Permittee shall coordinate with local snowmobile groups regarding potential project related impacts to the snowmobile trails in Dodge and Mower counties. Coordination with local snowmobile groups shall include discussions of potential construction timing and activities that could impact the trail and potential trail rerouting needs.

6.4 Karst Geology

At least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting, the Permittee shall file with the Commission a geotechnical report and engineering recommendation for transmission structures using concrete foundations. The geotechnical report shall be prepared under the direction of a geotechnical engineer licensed in the State of Minnesota. The submittal shall also include a letter from the Permittee summarizing the geotechnical report recommendations to be implemented on the project.

6.5 Northern Long-Eared Bat

For Project construction, the Permittee shall comply with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service guidance and requirements in effect regarding NLEB, including tree clearing restrictions if applicable.

6.6 Loggerhead Shrike

The permittee shall avoid tree and shrub removal within suitable Loggerhead Shrike habitat during the April through July breeding season. If tree or shrub removal will occur during the breeding season, the permittee shall coordinate with DNR to identify potentially suitable habitat and ensure that a qualified surveyor inspects the trees/shrubs for active nests prior to removal.

6.7 Road and Ditch Improvements

The Permittee shall implement, at its own expense, such road or ditch improvements required as a condition of road right-of-way permits, agreements, or authorizations that are entered into by the Permittee and MnDOT, Dodge County, or Mower County for the project.

6.8 Unanticipated Discoveries Plan

Prior to construction, the Permittee shall survey areas of construction activity within undisturbed land that have not been surveyed.

The Permittee shall develop an Unanticipated Discoveries Plan (UDP) to identify guidelines to be used in the event previously unrecorded archeological or historic properties, or human remains, are encountered during construction, or if unanticipated effects to previously identified archaeological or historic properties occur during construction. This is in addition to and not in lieu of any other obligations that may exist under law or regulation relating to these matters. The UDP shall describe how previously unrecorded, non-human burial, archaeological sites found during construction shall be marked and all construction work must stop at the discovery location. The Permittee shall file the UDP with the Commission at least 14 days prior to the preconstruction meeting.

6.9 Community Electric Consultation

The Permittee shall attempt in good faith to meet with the owners of the dairy and hog farms adjacent to the Route for the purpose of explaining the energy and electrical standard effects addressed in sections 5.4.1 and 5.4.2. The Permittee shall demonstrate compliance with the consultation obligation in its pre-construction filing.

6.10 Stormwater Financial Security

The Permittee shall establish a stormwater impact financial security mechanism with Dodge County to cover potential effects of stormwater damage associated with project construction.

7 DELAY IN CONSTRUCTION

If the Permittee has not commenced construction or improvement of the route within four years after the date of issuance of this route permit the Permittee shall file a Failure to Construct Report on the failure to construct and the Commission shall consider suspension of the route permit in accordance with Minn. R. 7850.4700.

8 COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

At least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting, the Permittee shall file with the Commission the Complaint Procedures that will be used to receive and respond to complaints. The Complaint Procedures shall be in accordance with the requirements of Minn. R. 7829.1500 or Minn. R. 7829.1700, and as set forth in the complaint procedures attached to this route permit.

Upon request, the Permittee shall assist Commerce or Commission staff with the disposition of unresolved or longstanding complaints. This assistance shall include, but is not limited to, the submittal of complaint correspondence and complaint resolution efforts.

9 COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

Failure to timely and properly make compliance filings required by this route permit is a failure to comply with the conditions of this route permit. Compliance filings must be electronically filed with the Commission.

9.1 Pre-Construction Meeting

Prior to the start of any construction, the Permittee shall participate in a pre-construction meeting with Commerce and Commission staff, and local and state road authorities, to review pre-construction filing requirements, scheduling, and to coordinate monitoring of construction and site restoration activities. Within 14 days following the pre-construction meeting, the Permittee shall file with the Commission, a summary of the topics reviewed and discussed and a list of attendees. The Permittee shall indicate in the filing the anticipated construction start date.

9.2 Plan and Profile

At least 30 days prior to the pre-construction meeting, the Permittee shall provide the Commission and local and state road authorities with a plan and profile of the right-of-way and the specifications and drawings for right-of-way preparation, construction, structure specifications and locations, cleanup, and restoration for the transmission line. The documentation shall include maps depicting the plan and profile including the right-of-way, alignment, and structures in relation to the route and alignment approved per this route permit.

The Department of Commerce shall submit its recommendations to the Commission as to whether the documents and the planned construction are consistent with the permit within 25 days of the pre-construction meeting. The Permittee may not commence construction until the earlier of

- (a) 30 days after the pre-construction meeting or
- (b) until the Commission has notified the Permittee in writing that it has completed its review of the documents and determined that the planned construction is consistent with this permit.

If the Commission notifies the Permittee in writing within 30 days after the pre-construction meeting that it has completed its review of the documents and planned construction, and finds that the planned construction is not consistent with this permit, the Permittee may submit additional and/or revised documentation and may not commence construction until the Commission has notified the Permittee in writing that it has determined that the planned construction is consistent with this permit. If the Permittee intends to make any significant changes to its plan and profile or the specifications and drawings after submission to the Commission, the Permittee shall notify the Commission at least five days before implementing the changes. No changes shall be made that would be in violation of any of the terms of this permit.

9.3 Status Reports

The Permittee shall file monthly Construction Status Reports beginning with the pre-construction meeting and until completion of restoration. Construction Status Reports shall describe construction activities and progress, activities undertaken in compliance with this permit, and shall include text and photographs.

If the Permittee does not commence construction of the Transmission Facility within six months of this route permit issuance, the Permittee shall file Pre-Construction Status Reports on the anticipated timing of construction every six months beginning with the issuance of this route permit until the pre-construction meeting. The Pre-Construction Status Reports shall include information on the Transmission Facility's interconnection process.

9.4 In-Service Date

At least three days before the transmission line is to be placed into service, the Permittee shall notify the Commission of the date on which the transmission line will be placed into service and the date on which construction was complete.

9.5 As-Built

Within 90 days after completion of construction, the Permittee shall submit to the Commission copies of all final as-built plans and specifications developed during the Transmission Facility construction.

9.6 GPS Data

Within 90 days after completion of construction, the Permittee shall submit to the Commission, in the format requested by the Commission, geo-spatial information (e.g., ArcGIS compatible map files, GPS coordinates, associated database of characteristics) for all structures associated with the Transmission Facility and each substation connected.

9.7 Right of Entry

The Permittee shall allow Commission designated representatives to perform the following, upon reasonable notice, upon presentation of credentials and at all times in compliance with the Permittee's site safety standards.

- (a) To enter upon the facilities easement of the property for the purpose of obtaining information, examining records, and conducting surveys or investigations.
- (b) To bring such equipment upon the facilities easement of the property as is necessary to conduct such surveys and investigations.
- (c) To sample and monitor upon the facilities easement of the property.
- (d) To examine and copy any documents pertaining to compliance with the conditions of this route permit.

10 ROUTE PERMIT AMENDMENT

This route permit may be amended at any time by the Commission. Any person may request an amendment of the conditions of this route permit by submitting a request to the Commission in writing describing the amendment sought and the reasons for the amendment. The Commission will mail notice of receipt of the request to the Permittee. The Commission may amend the conditions after affording the Permittee and interested persons such process as is required.

11 TRANSFER OF ROUTE PERMIT

The Permittee may request at any time that the Commission transfer this route permit to another person or entity (transferee). In its request, the Permittee must provide the Commission with:

- (a) the name and description of the transferee;
- (b) the reasons for the transfer;
- (c) a description of the facilities affected; and
- (d) the proposed effective date of the transfer.

The transferee must provide the Commission with a certification that it has read, understands and is able to comply with the plans and procedures it filed, and all conditions of this route permit.

12 REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF THE ROUTE PERMIT

The Commission may initiate action to revoke or suspend this route permit at any time. The Commission shall act in accordance with the requirements of Minn. R. 7850.5100, to revoke or suspend this route permit.

ATTACHMENT 1

Complaint Handling Procedures for Permitted Energy Facilities

**MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
COMPLAINT HANDLING PROCEDURES FOR
PERMITTED ENERGY FACILITIES**

a) Purpose

To establish a uniform and timely method of reporting and resolving complaints received by the permittee concerning permit conditions for site or route preparation, construction, cleanup, restoration, operation, and maintenance.

b) Scope

This document describes complaint reporting procedures and frequency.

c) Applicability

The procedures shall be used for all complaints received by the permittee and all complaints received by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) under Minn. R. 7829.1500 or Minn. R. 7829.1700 relevant to this permit.

d) Definitions

Complaint: A verbal or written statement presented to the permittee by a person expressing dissatisfaction or concern regarding site or route preparation, cleanup or restoration, or other permit conditions. Complaints do not include requests, inquiries, questions or general comments.

Substantial Complaint: A written complaint alleging a violation of a specific permit condition that, if substantiated, could result in permit modification or suspension pursuant to the applicable regulations.

Unresolved Complaint: A complaint which, despite the good faith efforts of the permittee and a person, remains unresolved or unsatisfactorily resolved to one or both of the parties.

Person: An individual, partnership, joint venture, private or public corporation, association, firm, public service company, cooperative, political subdivision, municipal corporation, government agency, public utility district, or any other entity, public or private; however organized.

e) Complaint Documentation and Processing

1. The permittee shall designate a representative responsible for filing complaints to the Commission's eDocket system. This person's name, phone number and email address shall accompany all complaint submittals. The name and contact information for the representative shall be kept current in eDockets.
2. A person presenting the complaint should, to the extent possible, include the following information in their communications:
 - a. name, address, phone number, and email address;
 - b. initial date of the complaint;
 - c. tract, parcel number, or address of the complaint;
 - d. a summary of the complaint; and
 - e. whether the complaint relates to a permit violation, a construction practice issue, or other type of complaint.
3. The permittee shall document all complaints by maintaining a record of all applicable information concerning the complaint, including the following:
 - a. docket number and project name;
 - b. name of complainant, address, phone number and email address;
 - c. precise description of property or parcel number;
 - d. name of permittee representative receiving complaint and date of receipt;
 - e. nature of complaint and the applicable permit condition(s);
 - f. summary of activities undertaken to resolve the complaint; and
 - g. a statement on the final disposition of the complaint.

f) Reporting Requirements

The permittee shall commence complaint reporting at the beginning of project construction and continue through the term of the permit, unless otherwise required below. The permittee shall report all complaints to the Commission according to the following schedule:

Immediate Reports: All substantial complaints shall be reported to the Commission the same day received, or on the following working day for complaints received after working hours. Such reports are to be directed to the Commission's Public Advisor at 1-800-657-3782 (voice messages are acceptable) or publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us. For e-mail reporting, the email

subject line should read “PUC EFP Complaint” and include the appropriate project docket number.

Monthly Reports: During project construction, restoration, and operation, a summary of all complaints, including substantial complaints received or resolved during the preceding month, shall be filed by the 15th of each month to Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary, Public Utilities Commission, using the eDockets system. The eDockets system is located at: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/home.jsp>. If no complaints were received during the preceding month, the permittee shall file a summary indicating that no complaints were received.

If a project has submitted twelve consecutive months of complaint reports with no complaints, monthly reports can terminate by a letter to eDockets notifying the Commission of such action. If a substantial complaint is received (by the company or the Commission) following termination of the monthly complaint report, as noted above, the monthly reporting should commence for a period of one year following the most recent complaint or upon resolution of all pending complaints.

If a permittee is found to be in violation of this section, the Commission may reinstate monthly complaint reporting for the remaining permit term or enact some other commensurate requirement via notification by the Executive Secretary or some other action as decided by the Commission.

g) Complaints Received by the Commission

Complaints received directly by the Commission from aggrieved persons regarding the permit or issues related to site or route preparation, construction, cleanup, restoration, or operation and maintenance will be promptly sent to the permittee.

The permittee shall notify the Commission when the issue has been resolved. The permittee will add the complaint to the monthly reports of all complaints. If the permittee is unable to find resolution, the Commission will use the process outlined in the Unresolved Complaints Section to process the issue.

h) Commission Process for Unresolved Complaints

Complaints raising substantial and unresolved permit issues will be investigated by the Commission. Staff will notify the permittee and appropriate persons if it determines that the

complaint is a substantial complaint. With respect to such complaints, the permittee and complainant shall be required to submit a written summary of the complaint and its current position on the issues to the Commission. Staff will set a deadline for comments. As necessary, the complaint will be presented to the Commission for consideration.

i) Permittee Contacts for Complaints and Complaint Reporting

Complaints may be filed by mail or email to the permittee's designated complaint representative, or to the Commission's Public Advisor at 1-800-657-3782 or publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us. The name and contact information for the permittee's designated complaint representative shall be kept current in the Commission's eDocket system.

ATTACHMENT 2

Compliance Filing Procedures for Permitted Energy Facilities

**MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
COMPLIANCE FILING PROCEDURE FOR
PERMITTED ENERGY FACILITIES**

A. Purpose

To establish a uniform and timely method of submitting information required by Commission energy facility permits.

B. Scope and Applicability

This procedure encompasses all known compliance filings required by permit.

C. Definitions

Compliance Filing: A filing of information to the Commission, where the information is required by a Commission site or route permit.

D. Responsibilities

1. The permittee shall file all compliance filings with Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary, Public Utilities Commission, through the eDockets system. The eDockets system is located at:
<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/home.jsp>

General instructions are provided on the eDockets website. Permittees must register on the website to file documents.

2. All filings must have a cover sheet that includes:
 - a. Date
 - b. Name of submitter/permittee
 - c. Type of permit (site or route)
 - d. Project location
 - e. Project docket number
 - f. Permit section under which the filing is made
 - g. Short description of the filing

3. Filings that are graphic intensive (e.g., maps, engineered drawings) must, in addition to being electronically filed, be submitted as paper copies and on CD. Paper copies and CDs should be sent to: 1) Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147, and 2) Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis, 85 7th Place East, Suite 280, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198.

The Commission may request a paper copy of any electronically filed document.

12.1 PERMIT COMPLIANCE FILINGS¹

PERMITTEE: Dodge County Wind, LLC

PERMIT TYPE: High Voltage Transmission Line

PROJECT LOCATION: Dodge and Mower Counties

PUC DOCKET NUMBER: IP-76981/WS-20-867

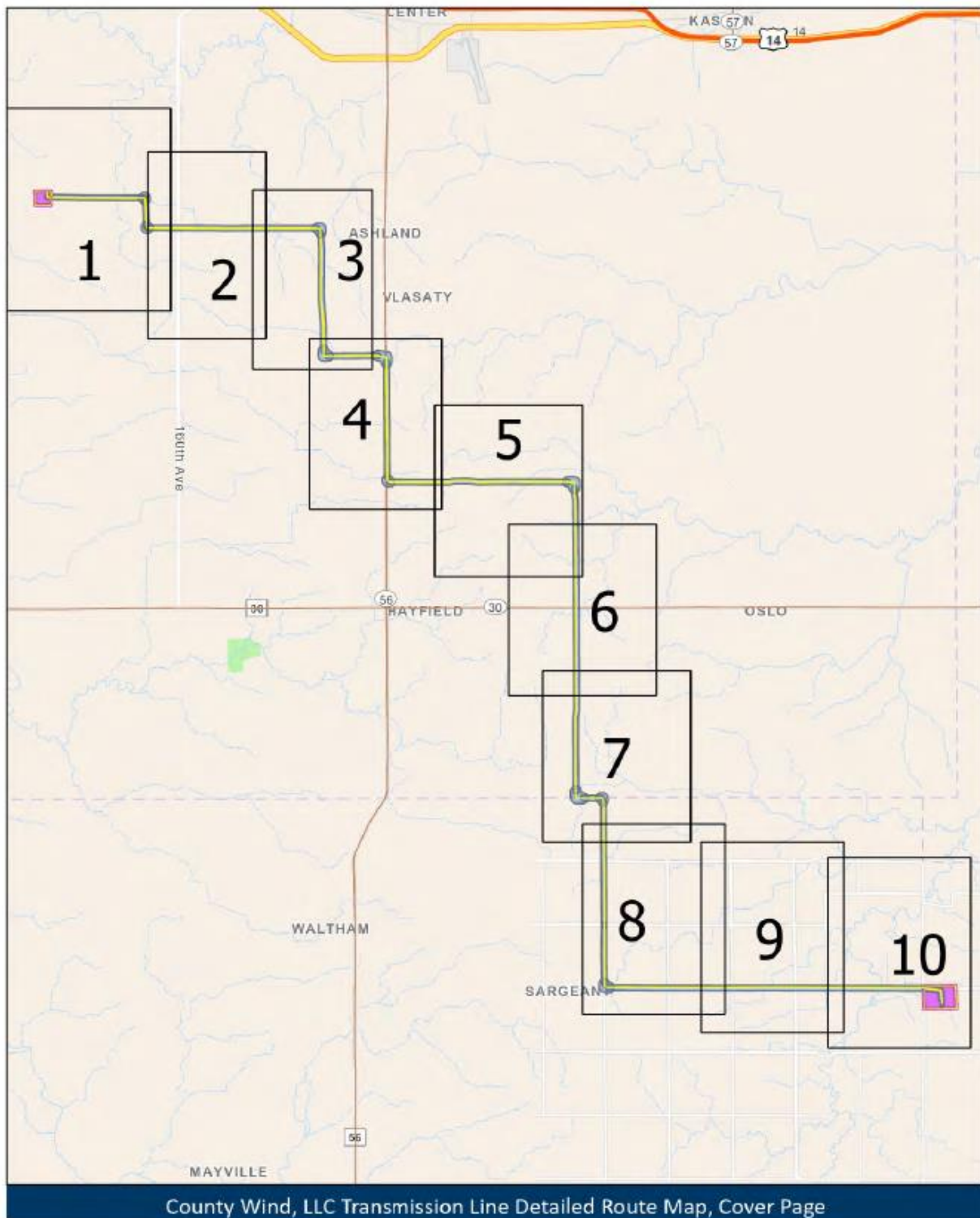
Filing Number	Permit Section	Description of Compliance Filing	Due Date
1	2.3	Project Ownership	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting
2	5.1	Route Permit Distribution	Within 30 days of permit issuance
3	5.3.1	Field Representative	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting
4	5.3.3	Independent Third-Party Monitoring	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting and upon changes
	5.3.8	NPDES Permit to MPCA	Monthly during

¹ This compilation of permit compliance filings is provided for the convenience of the permittee and the Commission. It is not a substitute for the permit; the language of the permit controls.

Filing Number	Permit Section	Description of Compliance Filing	Due Date
5			project construction
6	5.3.11	Application of Pesticides	14 days prior to pesticide application
7	5.3.12	Invasive Species Prevention Plan	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting
8	5.3.16	Avian Protection Coordination with DNR	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting
9	5.3.17	Notification of Restoration Completion	Within 60 days after completion of restoration
10	5.5.2	Other Permits and Regulations Submittal	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting
11	6.3	Snowmobile Trail Coordination	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting
12	6.4	Geotechnical Report and Engineering Recommendations	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting
13	6.7	Road and Ditch Improvements	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting
14	6.8	Unanticipated Discoveries Plan	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting
15	6.9	Community Electric Consultation	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting
16	6.10	Stormwater Financial Security	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting
17	7	Failure to Construct	

Filing Number	Permit Section	Description of Compliance Filing	Due Date
18	8	Complaint Procedures	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting
19	9.1	Summary of Pre-Construction Meeting	Within 14 days of meeting
20	9.2	Plan and Profile	30 days prior to pre-construction meeting
21	9.3	Construction Status Reports	Monthly beginning with pre-construction meeting; Every six months if construction does not commence within six months of permit issuance
22	9.4	In-Service Date	At least 3 days prior to being placed in service
23	9.5	As-builts	Within 90 days of construction completion
24	9.6	GPS Data	Within 90 days of construction completion

ATTACHMENT 3
Route Map



- Anticipated Alignment
- Substations
- Route Width

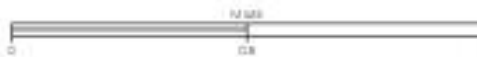


mn COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT

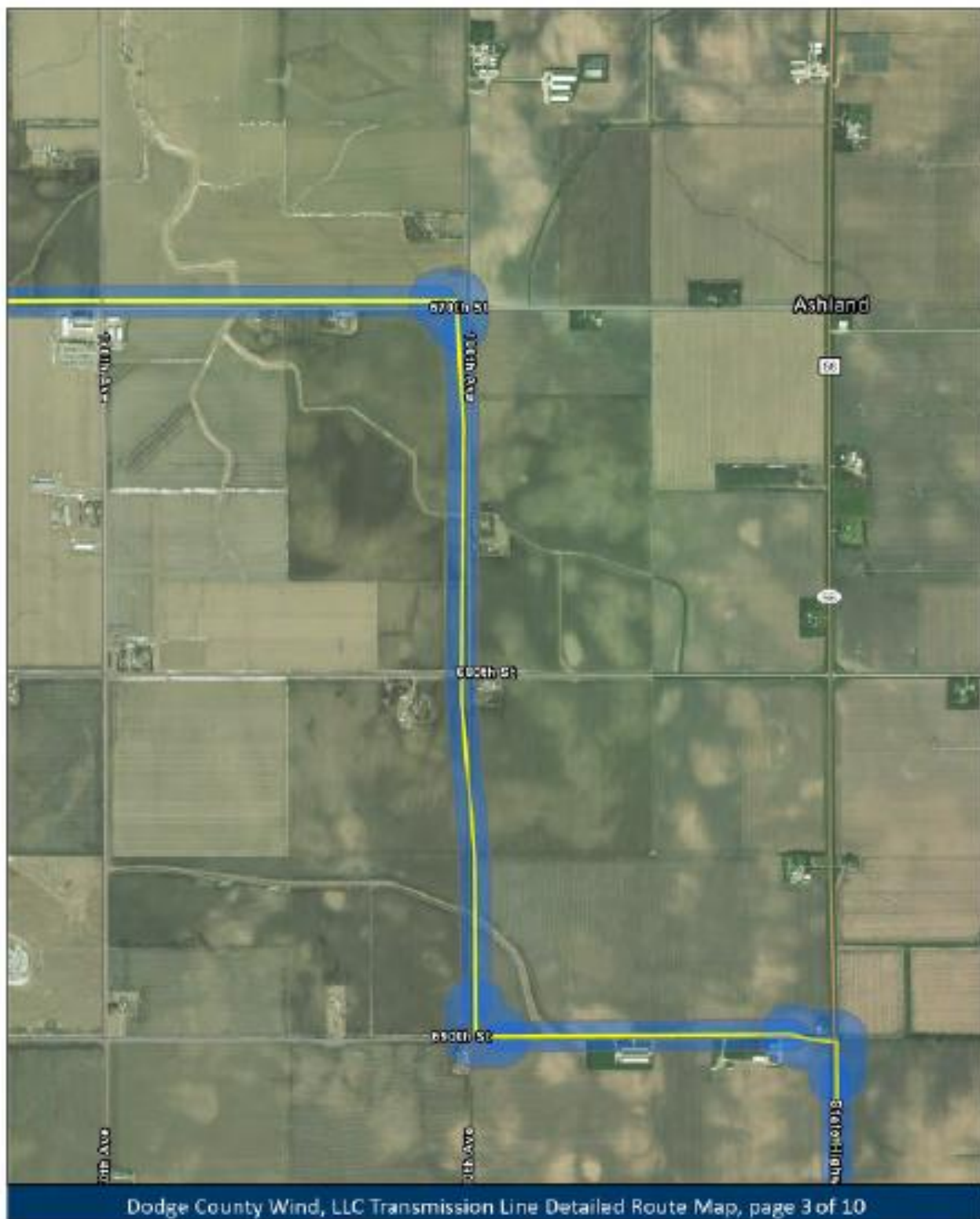




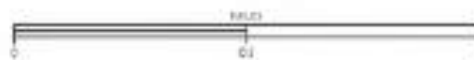
Anticipated Alignment
Route Width



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DEPARTMENT



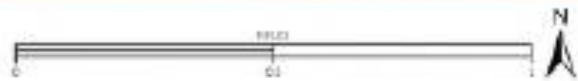
Anticipated Alignment
Route Width



m COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT



Anticipated Alignment
Route Width





Anticipated Alignment
Route Width



mi COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT



Anticipated Alignment
Route Width



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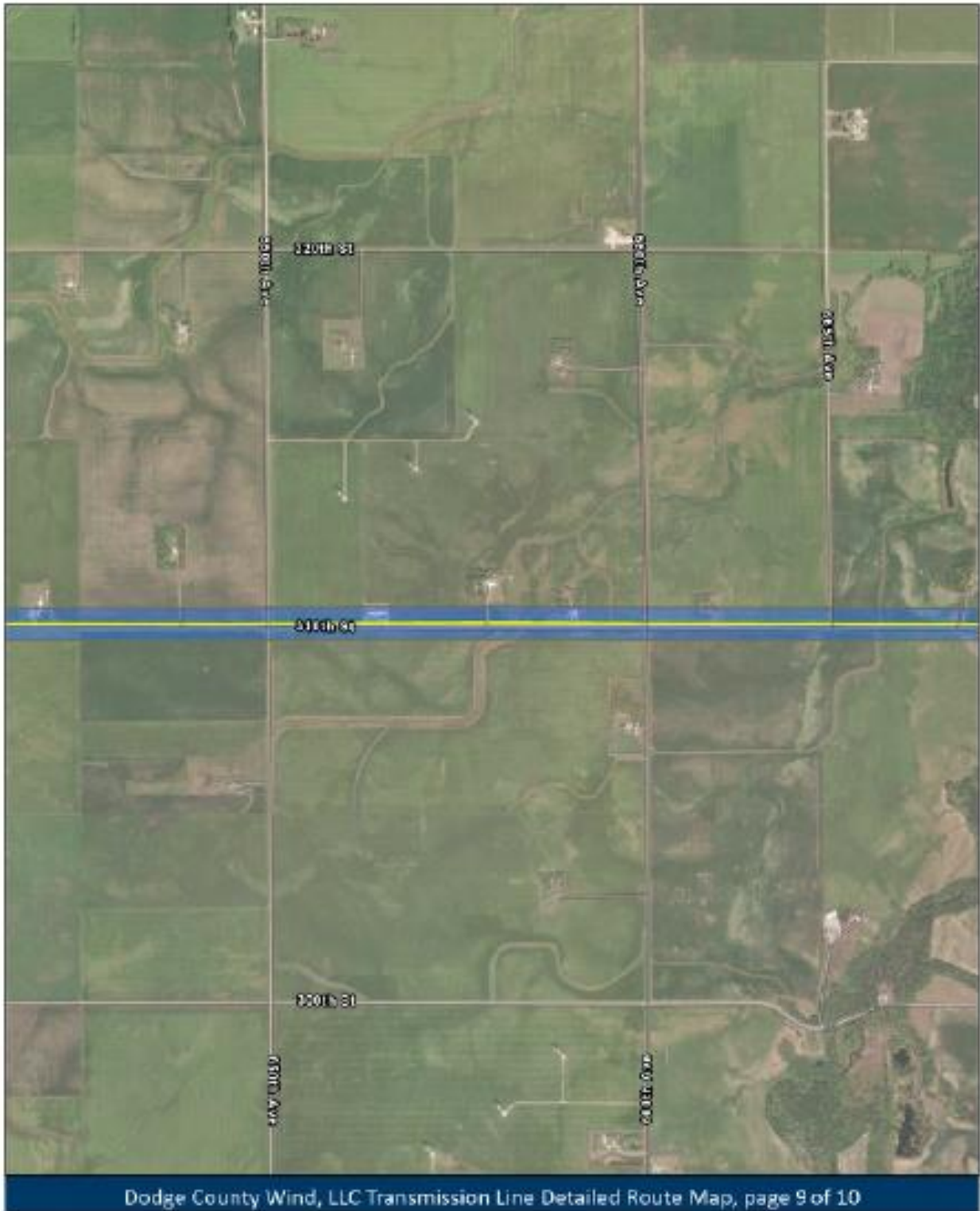


Dodge County Wind, LLC Transmission Line Detailed Route Map, page 8 of 10

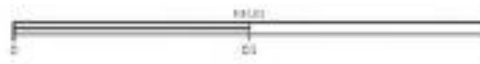
Anticipated Alignment
Route Width



MI COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT



Anticipated Alignment
Route Width



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