

From: [Schrenzel, Jamie \(DNR\)](#)
To: [DeBleeckere, Tricia \(PUC\)](#)
Cc: [Frantz, Kate \(DNR\)](#); [Horton, Becky \(DNR\)](#); [Doneen, Randall \(DNR\)](#); [Olson, Theresa \(DNR\)](#)
Subject: DNR Comments - Motley Transmission Minor Alteration
Date: Thursday, June 16, 2016 3:15:05 PM

Dear Ms. DeBleeckere:

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) met with Great River Energy for a site visit on June 16, 2016 at the proposed location of the Minor Alteration 2 substation location for the Motley Transmission Project.

Based on our assessment of the proposed location, the DNR no longer recommends an alternate location for the substation. The proposed location is mapped within the edge of a Central Region Regionally Significant Ecological Area (RSEA). Our site visit found the proposed substation location to be within a disturbed portion of the RSEA consisting of a pine plantation. However, we recommend the following mitigation measures to reduce impacts to the surrounding RSEA habitat and site:

-Use of a native pollinator-friendly seed mix containing milkweed to replace the loss of some pollinator habitat at the proposed substation site. The DNR can assist with identifying an appropriate seed mix.

-Reducing the substation footprint by reducing clearing along the edge of the substation along the eastern side. This side borders what appears to be a native plant community.

-Emphasizing invasive species best management practices. This is of particular importance because we noted multiple invasive species in the proposed substation site. Cleaning equipment prior to moving to another location is an example of these best management practices.

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding the Motley Transmission Line Project Minor Alteration. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jamie Schrenzel
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