

# **APPENDIX H**

## **Wetland Delineation and Habitat Assessment Report**

Lyon County Generating Station Project  
Combined Application  
MPUC Docket Nos. E002/CN-25-145, G002/GS-25-154,  
E002/TL-25-161 & G002/GP-25-163  
May 2025



March 16, 2025

Michael Aasen, PE  
Principal Engineer  
Xcel Energy  
414 Nicollet Mall  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Re: Wetland Delineation and Protected Species/Habitat Assessment for Xcel Energy's Proposed Lyon County Generation Station in Lyon County, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Aasen:

Burns & McDonnell Engineering, Inc. (Burns & McDonnell) was hired by Northern States Power Minnesota d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel) to assist with wetland/waterbody delineations and the assessment of protected species and potentially suitable habitat for the proposed 420 megawatts (MW) combustion turbine generator and associated facilities at a greenfield generating station (Project) to be located in Lyon County, Minnesota (Appendix A, Figure 1). The area evaluated is approximately 154 acres and is hereby referred to as the "Survey Area" as shown in Figure 1.

The following sections discuss the assessment methods used to determine if the Survey Area has wetlands or other waters present and if there is potential for the Project to contain suitable habitat for protected species or otherwise potentially impact protected species.

### **DESKTOP ANALYSIS**

Burns & McDonnell reviewed available background information for the proposed Survey Area prior to conducting field surveys, including:

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood maps
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic maps
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Public Waters Inventory (PWI) data
- USGS National Hydrography Dataset (NHD)
- 2008-2024 National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) aerial photography
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) 2021 National Land Cover Dataset (NLCD)
- National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Survey Geographic Database (SSURGO)
- USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC)

FEMA flood maps confirmed that the Survey Area does not overlap with mapped floodplains. Topographic maps depict the Survey Area as being generally flat, with elevation differences ranging by approximately twenty feet (Figure 2).

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NWI data shows there are two palustrine emergent (PEM) wetlands present within the Survey Area. NHD/PWI data show no waterbodies or flowlines within or adjacent to the Survey Area (Figure 2).

Land cover and aerial imagery in the Survey Area is effectively all cropland with a roadside ditch along the southern and western, and extent (Figure 3). There are no trees within the Survey Area.

The NRCS SSURGO digital dataset indicates that portions of 11 soil map units are present in the Survey Area (Figure 3). Of these soil map units, four soil map units have hydric soils rating as being either “hydric” or “predominantly hydric” comprising approximately 52% of the Survey Area.

#### ***Farmed Wetland Data Review***

The two identified NWI farmed PEM wetlands within the Survey Area were assessed via the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR) Guidance for Offsite Hydrology/Wetland Determinations (Guidance) and the 2008 Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Midwest Region – Version 2.0 (Regional Supplement) for interpreting wetland hydrology in agricultural areas. Precipitation data was evaluated to identify the five most recent years of “normal” climate conditions that coincide with NAIP aerial imagery (2008, 2015, 2017, 2021, and 2023). Once these five NAIP aerial images were identified, NRCS SSURGO hydric soils and NWI data were reviewed within the Survey Area to identify a total of three areas (Areas 1 through 3) exhibiting wetland hydrology signatures, such as crop stress, drown out conditions, or clear soil saturation. Utilizing the Guidance form, one depression/PEM farmed wetland was determined to likely be present within the Survey Area that warranted additional evaluation (Appendix A, Figures 5A through 5C and Appendix B).

#### **FIELD INVESTIGATION**

Waylon Hirst, a Senior Environmental Scientist with Burns & McDonnell, conducted the onsite assessment of the Survey Area on April 17, 2024.

The Survey Area is largely comprised of cropland with a roadside ditch along the southern and western extent. Plant communities within the southern and western ditched Survey Area were dominated by smooth brome grass (*Bromus inermis*). Natural color photographs taken onsite are included in Appendix C. The below sections discuss the respective analysis of habitat and wetland delineation following the field survey.

#### ***Analysis of Federally Protected Species and Habitat***

The USFWS Information, Planning, and Conservation (IPaC) System was queried to determine which federally protected species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) may be present

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within and adjacent to the Survey Area (Appendix D)<sup>1</sup>. IPaC search results indicated the potential presence of one mammal endangered species, one mammal proposed endangered species, and one candidate insect species. No critical habitat for any potentially present species within or adjacent to the Survey Area. IPaC results also indicated that 16 species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act may occur within or adjacent to the Survey Area.

*ESA protected species potentially occurring within or adjacent to the Survey Area:*

- 1) Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*): The northern long-eared bat is classified as Endangered under the ESA due to the spread of white-nose syndrome and habitat loss. During spring, summer, and fall this species is found across the eastern and north-central United States and Canada and roosts in trees, caves, and occasionally manmade structures. Northern long-eared bats generally prefer roost trees based on suitability to retain bark or provide cavities or crevices. Given the lack of forested areas, rock outcroppings, or karst features in the Survey Area, it is Burns & McDonnell's opinion that the Project will have no effect on this species.
- 2) Tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*): The tricolored bat is a widespread, previously common species with a range spanning from Central America to southern Canada. This species' decline is primarily due to widespread fatalities associated with the introduction and spread of white-nose syndrome among populations in the eastern United States and Canada. During the winter, tricolored bats are found in caves and mines, and along road-associated culverts in areas where caves are not common. During the spring, summer and fall, tricolored bats are found in forested habitats where they roost in trees, primarily among leaves. This species typically forages over waterways and forest edges and is an opportunistic feeder consuming small insects including caddisflies, moths, beetles, wasps, flying ants and flies. Given the lack of karst features and trees in the Survey Area, it is Burns & McDonnell's opinion that the Project will have no effect on the tricolored bat. Furthermore, as of the date this report is issued, the tricolored bat is not afforded federal protections as a proposed for Endangered listing species; therefore, no further actions are currently required. If this species is provided protection under the ESA at a future time, further assessment may be considered.
- 3) Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*): Monarch butterflies range throughout North and Central America and are present in the Survey Area during two of their three summer generations. Monarch butterfly eggs are laid singly on a number of milkweed (*Asclepias*) species found throughout the monarch's range, and the caterpillars feed exclusively on these plants. Following hatching and metamorphosis, adult butterflies feed on a variety of nectar sources in grasslands. Given the potential presence of milkweed and flowering plants in the roadside ditches along the perimeter of the Survey Area, it is Burns &

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<sup>1</sup> IPaC document in Appendix D shows a USFWS autogenerated figure with only a partial Survey Area, but the actual IPaC results are representative of the entire Survey Area, not just the area shown on the IPaC figure.

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McDonnell's opinion that the Project may affect, but is unlikely to adversely affect the monarch butterfly. Furthermore, the monarch butterfly is not afforded federal protections as a candidate species; therefore, no further actions are currently required. If this species is provided protection under the ESA at a future time, further assessment may be considered.

*MBTA protected species potentially occurring within or adjacent to the Survey Area:*

In addition to the above species, the following 16 avian species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act were determined to potentially occur within the Survey Area:

- American golden-plover (*Pluvialis dominica*)
- Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
- Black tern (*Chlidonias niger*)
- Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*)
- Eastern whip-poor-will (*Antrastomus vociferus*)
- Franklin's gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*)
- Golden-winged warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*)
- Grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum perpallidus*)
- Henslow's sparrow (*Centronyx henslowii*)
- Hudsonian godwit (*Limosa haemastica*)
- Lesser yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*)
- Northern harrier (*Circus hudsonius*)
- Pectoral sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*)
- Red-headed woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*)
- Short-billed dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*)
- Willet (*Tringa semipalmata*)

The Survey Area is largely comprised of cropland. The majority of the above avian species typically inhabit undeveloped areas with wetlands, ponds, lakes, shorelands, and/or wooded areas. For these reasons, it is Burns & McDonnell's opinion that the Project is unlikely to adversely affect these avian species due to lack of generally suitable habitat.

#### ***Analysis of State Protected Species and Habitat***

Burns & McDonnell submitted the Survey Area to the MDNR for a Natural Heritage Review on March 16, 2025. The MDNR determined through the Natural Heritage Review that they did not believe the Project will negatively affect any known occurrences of rare features. Additionally, the Natural Heritage Review did not require further evaluations (Appendix E).

#### ***Wetland Delineation Results***

Prior to conducting field surveys in the Survey Area, precipitation conditions in the three months prior to the survey date were evaluated (Table 1).

**Table 1: Precipitation at the Survey Area for Three Months Prior to Field Wetland Delineation**

<b>30 Days Ending</b>	<b>Actual Precipitation (inches)</b>	<b>Long-term 30<sup>th</sup> percentile (inches)*</b>	<b>Long-term 70<sup>th</sup> percentile (inches)*</b>	<b>Actual Relative to Average</b>
4/17/2024	3.457	1.500	3.353	Wetter than normal
3/18/2024	0.000	0.538	1.352	Drier than normal
2/17/2024	0.461	0.243	0.893	Normal

Source: USACE antecedent precipitation tool (APT)

\*The long-term percentile averages were calculated using data between 1991 and 2023.

The Survey Area had received approximately one inch of accumulating precipitation 24 hours prior to the site visit on April 17, 2024. Accordingly, the Survey Area was saturated as shown in the representative photos in Appendix C. As noted in the above farmed wetland review, based on the Guidance, one depression/PEM farmed wetland (W-1) was identified within the Survey Area during the field delineation (Figure 4). W-1 exhibited crop stress and geomorphic conditions consistent with farmed wetland characteristics. Only USACE can determine if W-1 is considered a Water of the U.S. and therefore jurisdictional under the Clean Water Act. However, based on the isolated nature of W-1, it is Burns & McDonnell’s opinion that this farmed wetland is likely not jurisdictional under the Clean Water Act. However, W-1 would potentially be jurisdictional under the state Wetland Conservation Act if impacted by the Project. Natural color photographs taken onsite are included in Appendix C, and the location of photo points were also recorded using a sub-meter accurate global positioning system unit.

**SUMMARY**

Burns & McDonnell conducted a protected species/habitat assessment and wetland delineation of the Survey Area on April 17, 2024. It is Burns & McDonnell’s opinion that the Project is unlikely to affect protected species or habitat based on lack of high-quality, unique, or otherwise generally suitable habitat. Only the USFWS and MDNR has authority to officially determine that the Project is unlikely to affect protected species and habitat. The MDNR has determined that the Project is unlikely to affect state protected species.

Burns & McDonnell identified one depression/PEM wetland and no streams within the Survey Area. Please note that only USACE and the Local Government Unit (with BWSR oversight) has authority to officially determine wetland concurrence and jurisdictionality. Accordingly, Burns & McDonnell recommends this report be submitted to USACE and the LGU for official review and concurrence.

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Please do not hesitate to contact me at [whirst@burnsmcd.com](mailto:whirst@burnsmcd.com) if you have any questions following your review of this report.

Sincerely,



Waylon Hirst, CWD, P.G.  
Senior Environmental Scientist

Attachments:

- Appendix A - Figures
- Appendix B - Wetland Hydrology from Aerial Imagery Recording Form
- Appendix C - Field Photos
- Appendix D - USFWS IPaC Resource List
- Appendix E - MDNR Natural Heritage Review Letter

eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance [web application].  
eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York. Available: <http://www.ebird.org>.

## **APPENDIX A - FIGURES**

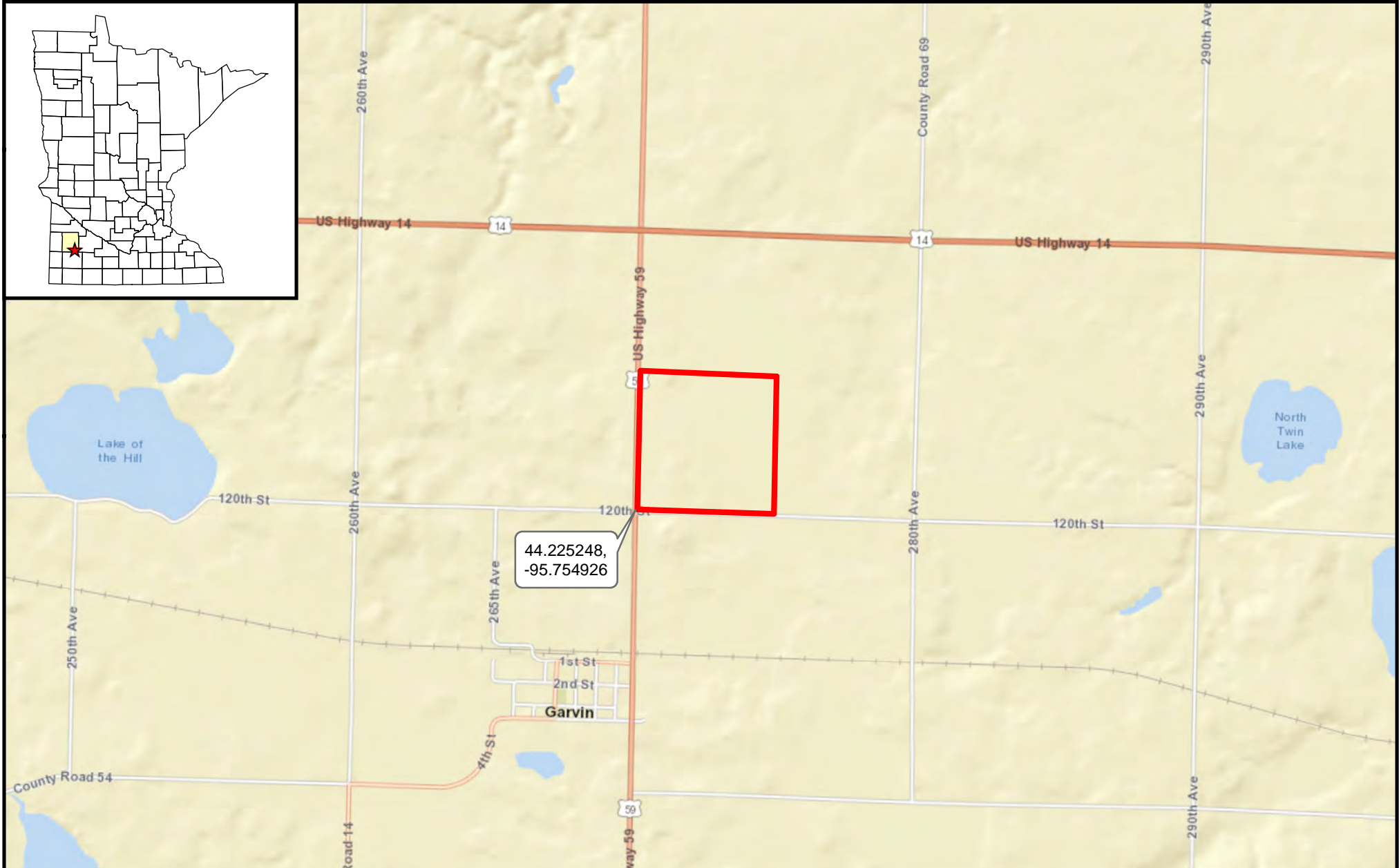
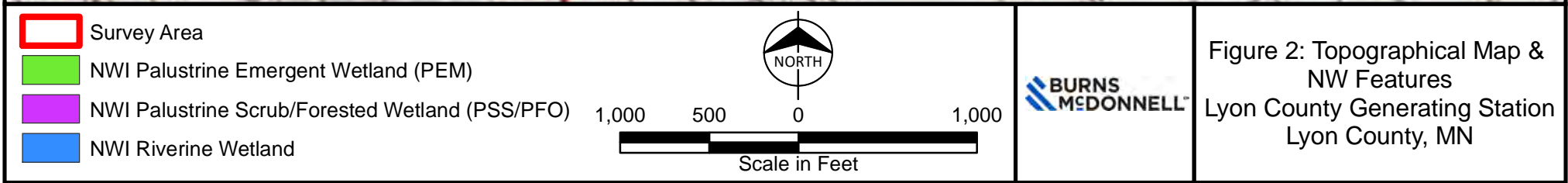
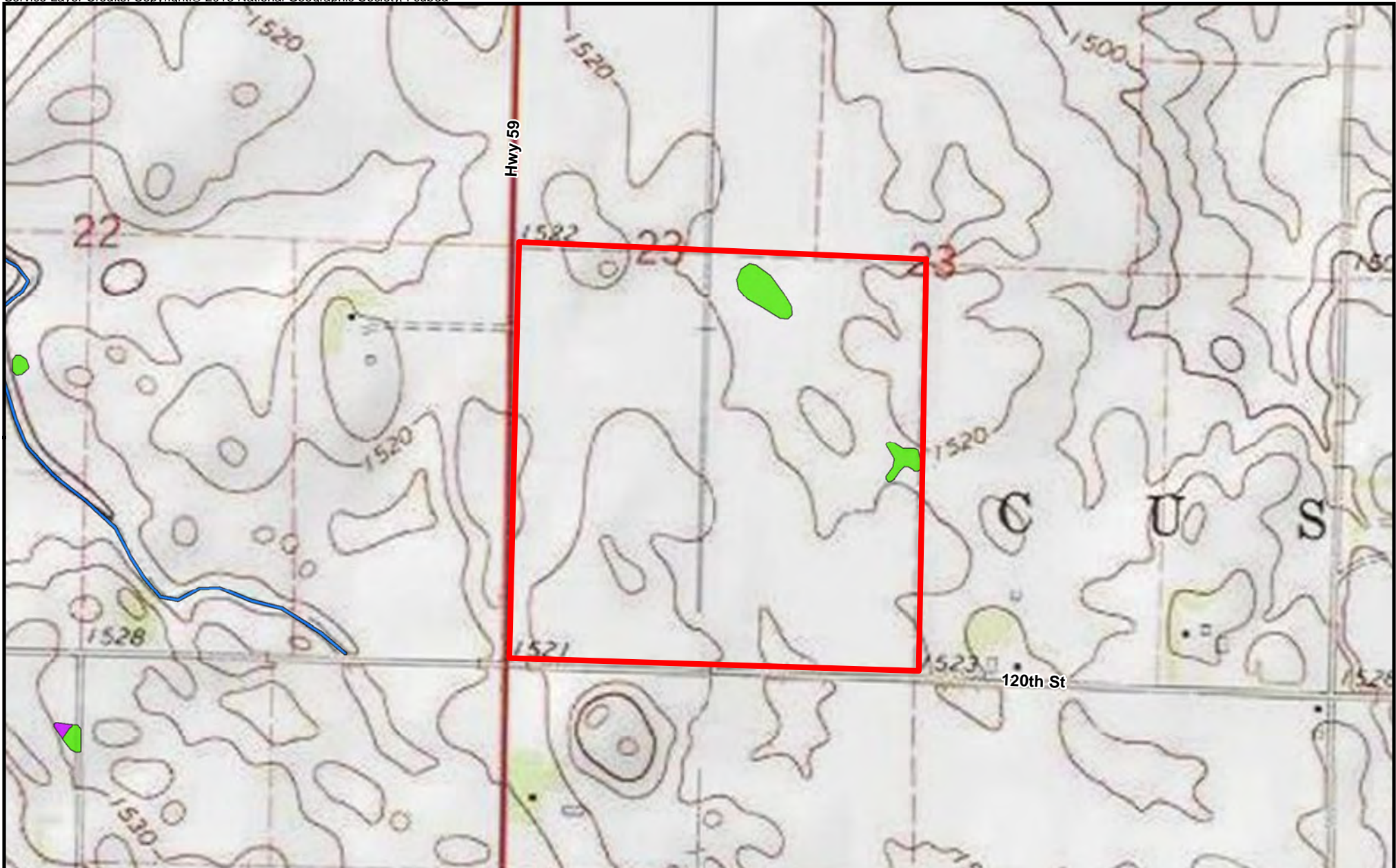







Figure 1: Survey Area Location  
Lyon County Generating Station  
Lyon County, MN





-  Survey Area
-  Non-Hydric Soil (0 Rating)
-  Predominantly Non-Hydric Soil (1-32 Rating)
-  Predominantly Hydric Soil (66-99 Rating)
-  Hydric Soil (100 Rating)

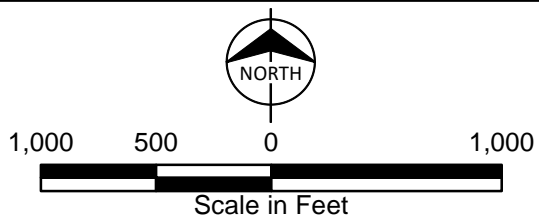


Figure 3: Soil Hydric Rating  
Lyon County Generating Station  
Lyon County, MN

## Hydric Rating by Map Unit

Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
J1A	Parnell silty clay loam, depressional, 0 to 1 percent slopes	100	15.3	10.0%
J11A	Vallers clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	95	2.6	1.7%
J75B	Renshaw-Fordville loams, coteau, 2 to 6 percent slopes	0	2.1	1.4%
J96C2	Barnes-Buse complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes, moderately eroded	0	0.1	0.1%
J101B	Hokans-Svea complex, 1 to 4 percent slopes	5	6.4	4.2%
J104A	Svea loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	10	8.1	5.3%
J106B	Barnes, occasional saturation-Buse-Svea complex, 1 to 6 percent slopes	1	12.7	8.3%
J107A	Lakepark-Roliss-Parnell, depressional, complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes	85	10.4	6.8%
J195B	Poinsett-Waubay silty clay loams, 1 to 6 percent slopes	2	4.0	2.6%
J199A	Fulda silty clay, 0 to 2 percent slopes	85	54.3	35.3%
J236A	Highpoint Lake silty clay, 0 to 2 percent slopes	10	37.8	24.6%
<b>Totals for Area of Interest</b>			<b>153.9</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Description

This rating indicates the percentage of map units that meets the criteria for hydric soils. Map units are composed of one or more map unit components or soil types, each of which is rated as hydric soil or not hydric. Map units that are made up dominantly of hydric soils may have small areas of minor nonhydric components in the higher positions on the landform, and map units that are made up dominantly of nonhydric soils may have small areas of minor hydric components in the lower positions on the landform. Each map unit is rated based on its respective components and the percentage of each component within the map unit.

The thematic map is color coded based on the composition of hydric components. The five color classes are separated as 100 percent hydric components, 66 to 99 percent hydric components, 33 to 65 percent hydric components, 1 to 32 percent hydric components, and less than one percent hydric components.

In Web Soil Survey, the Summary by Map Unit table that is displayed below the map pane contains a column named 'Rating'. In this column the percentage of each map unit that is classified as hydric is displayed.

Hydric soils are defined by the National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils (NTCHS) as soils that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part (Federal Register, 1994). Under natural conditions, these soils are either saturated or inundated long enough during the growing season to support the growth and reproduction of hydrophytic vegetation.

The NTCHS definition identifies general soil properties that are associated with wetness. In order to determine whether a specific soil is a hydric soil or nonhydric soil, however, more specific information, such as information about the depth and duration of the water table, is needed. Thus, criteria that identify those estimated soil properties unique to hydric soils have been established (Federal Register, 2002). These criteria are used to identify map unit components that normally are associated with wetlands. The criteria used are selected estimated soil properties that are described in "Soil Taxonomy" (Soil Survey Staff, 1999) and "Keys to Soil Taxonomy" (Soil Survey Staff, 2006) and in the "Soil Survey Manual" (Soil Survey Division Staff, 1993).

If soils are wet enough for a long enough period of time to be considered hydric, they should exhibit certain properties that can be easily observed in the field. These visible properties are indicators of hydric soils. The indicators used to make onsite determinations of hydric soils are specified in "Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States" (Hurt and Vasilas, 2006).

### References:

Federal Register. July 13, 1994. Changes in hydric soils of the United States.

Federal Register. September 18, 2002. Hydric soils of the United States.

Hurt, G.W., and L.M. Vasilas, editors. Version 6.0, 2006. Field indicators of hydric soils in the United States.

Soil Survey Division Staff. 1993. Soil survey manual. Soil Conservation Service. U.S. Department of Agriculture Handbook 18.

Soil Survey Staff. 1999. Soil taxonomy: A basic system of soil classification for making and interpreting soil surveys. 2nd edition. Natural Resources Conservation Service. U.S. Department of Agriculture Handbook 436.

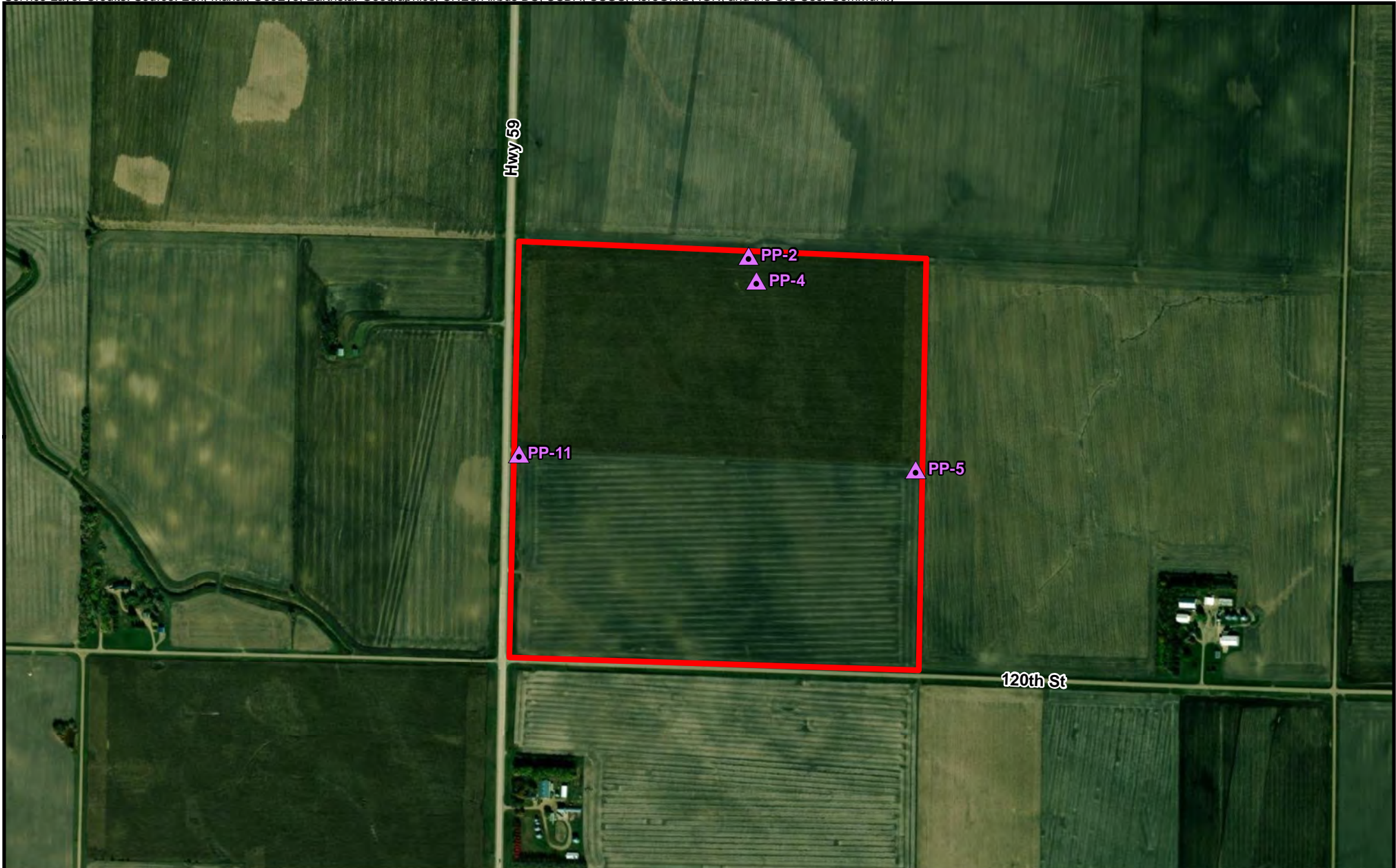
Soil Survey Staff. 2006. Keys to soil taxonomy. 10th edition. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service.



## **Rating Options**

*Aggregation Method: Percent Present*

*Component Percent Cutoff: None Specified*

*Tie-break Rule: Lower*



 Survey Area  
 Photo Point

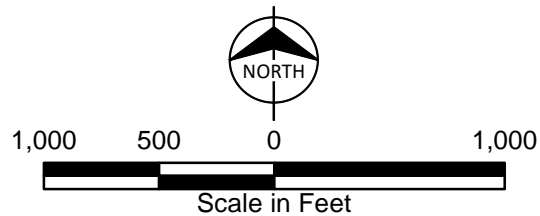
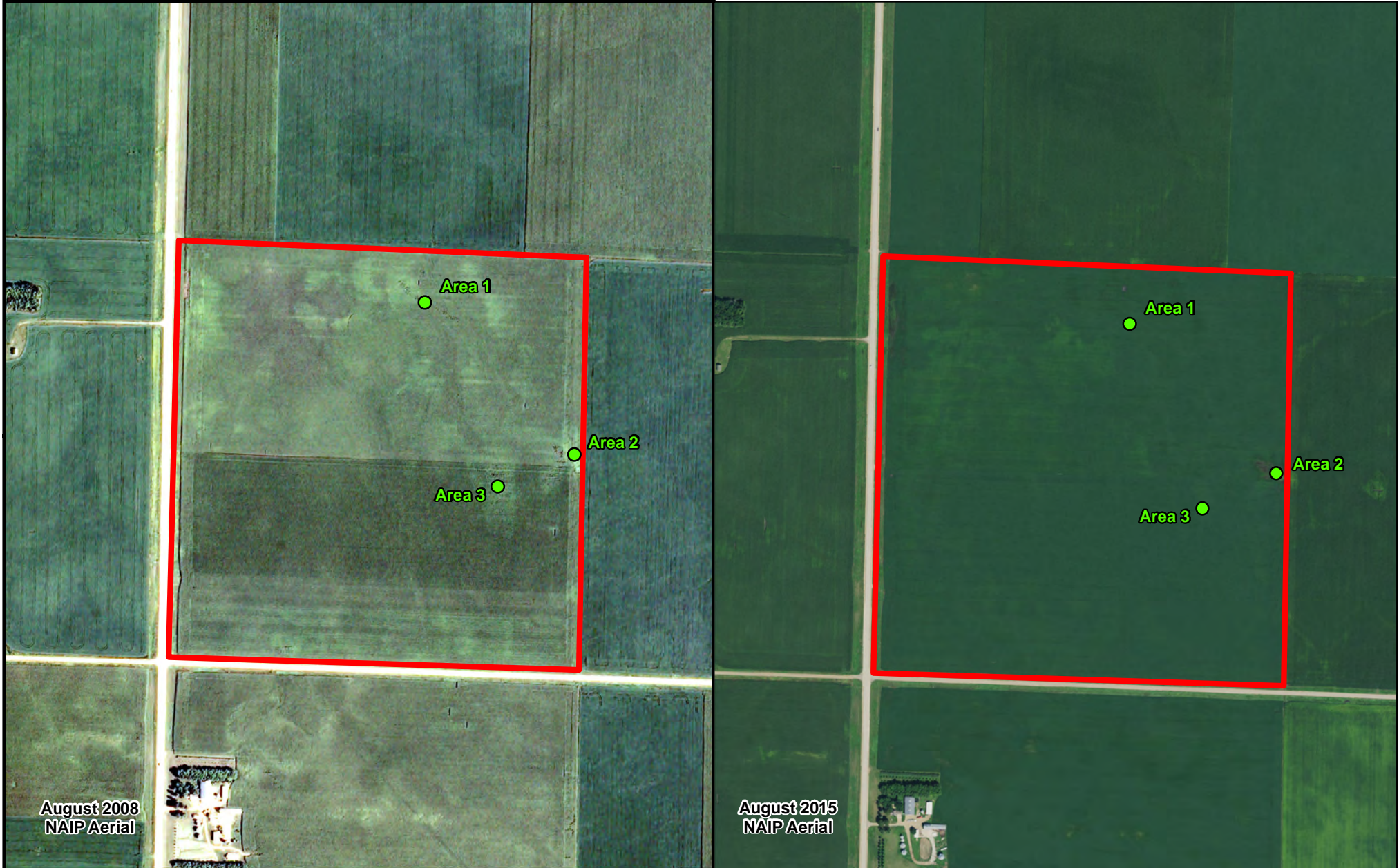



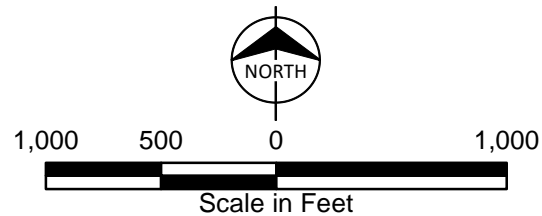
Figure 4: Photo Locations  
Lyon County Generating Station  
Lyon County, MN



August 2008  
NAIP Aerial

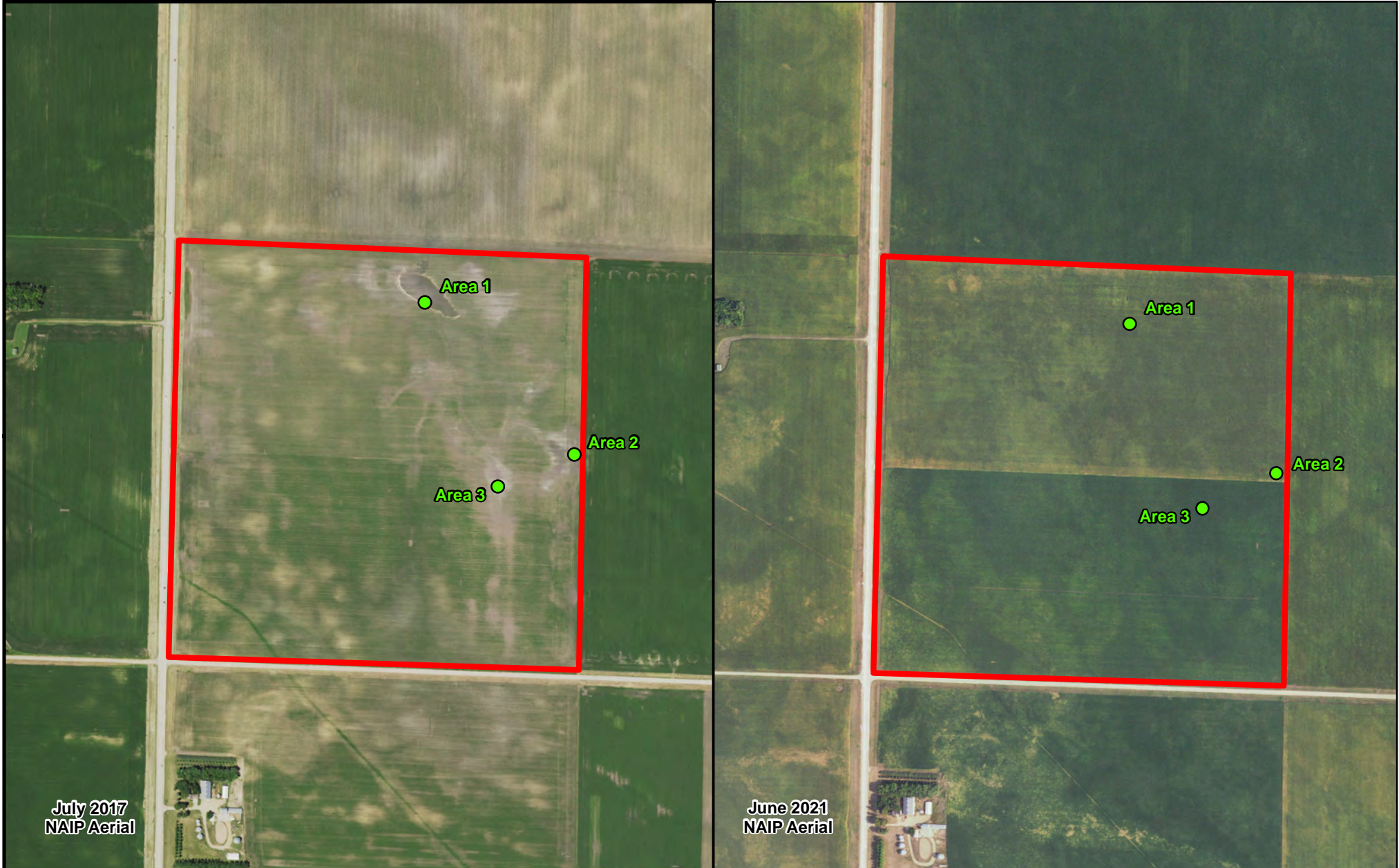
August 2015  
NAIP Aerial


 Survey Area



 BURNS  
MCDONNELL

Figure 5A: Farm Wetland Review  
Lyon County Generating Station  
Lyon County, MN



 Survey Area

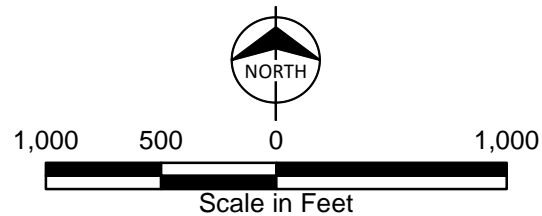
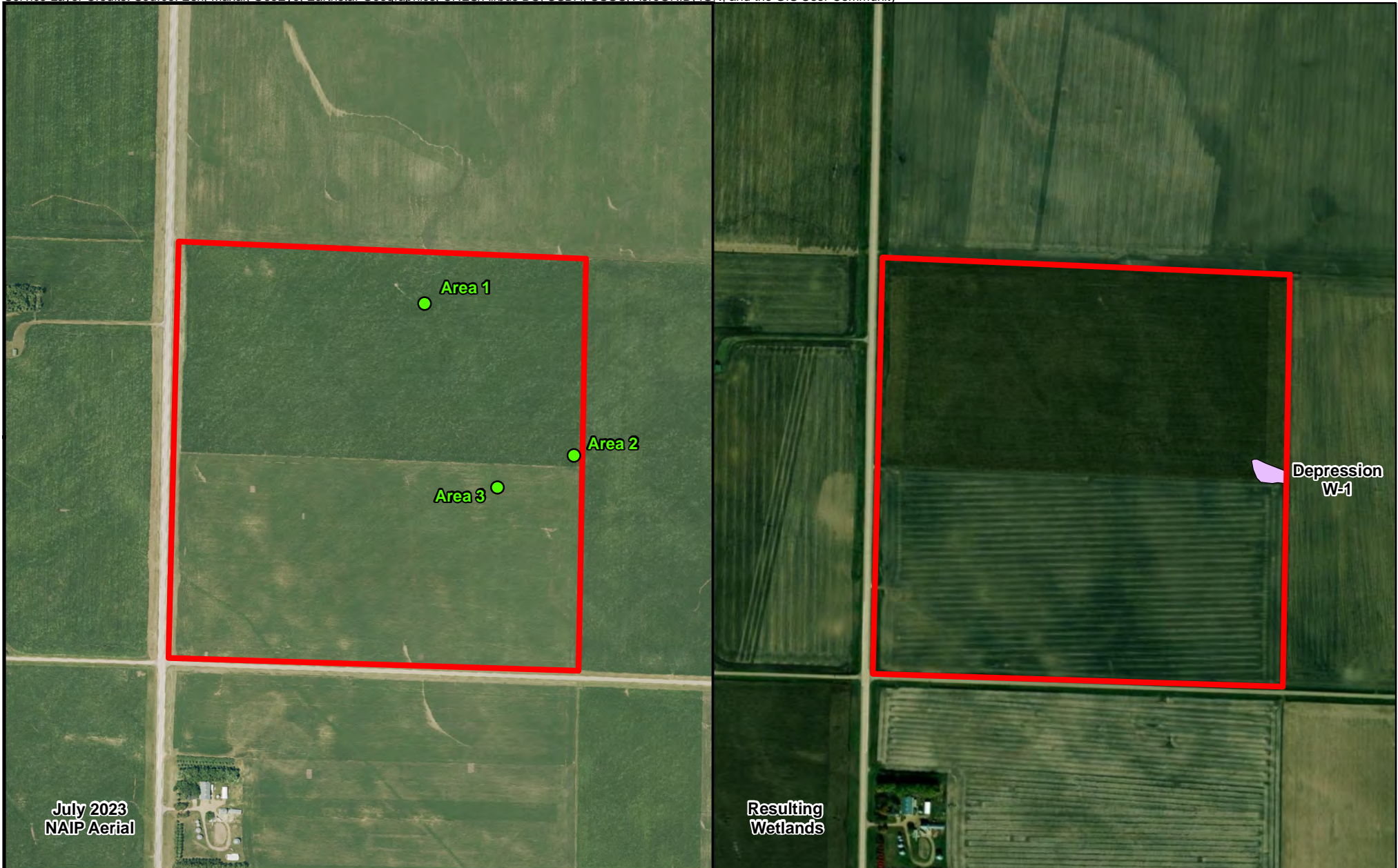




Figure 5B: Farm Wetland Review  
Lyon County Generating Station  
Lyon County, MN



July 2023  
NAIP Aerial

Resulting  
Wetlands

-  Survey Area
-  Depression Wetland (W-1)

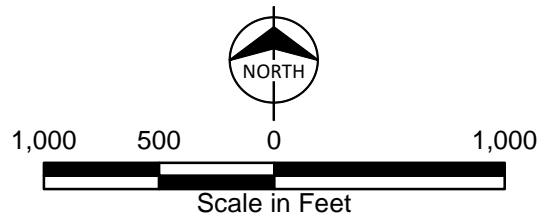


Figure 5C: Farm Wetland Review  
Lyon County Generating Station  
Lyon County, MN

**APPENDIX B - WETLAND HYDROLOGY FROM AERIAL IMAGERY RECORDING FORM**



### Wetland Hydrology from Aerial Imagery – Recording Form

Project Name: Xcel Lyon Couny Date: 5/10/2024 County: Lyon County, MN

Investigator: Waylon Hirst Legal Description (T, R, S): T109N R41W S23

Use the Decision Matrix below to complete Table 1.

Hydric Soils present <sup>1</sup>	Identified on NWI or other wetland map <sup>2</sup>	Percent with wet signatures from Exhibit 1	Field verification required <sup>3</sup>	Wetland?
Yes	Yes	>50%	No	Yes
Yes	Yes	30-50%	No	Yes
Yes	Yes	<30%	Yes	Yes, if other hydrology indicators present
Yes	No	>50%	No	Yes
Yes	No	30-50%	Yes	Yes, if other hydrology indicators present
Yes	No	<30%	No	No
No	Yes	>50%	No	Yes
No	Yes	30-50%	No	Yes
No	Yes	<30%	No	No
No	No	>50%	Yes	Yes, if other hydrology indicators present
No	No	30-50%	Yes	Yes, if other hydrology indicators present
No	No	<30%	No	No

<sup>1</sup> The presence of hydric soils can be determined from the “Hydric Rating by Map Unit Feature” under “Land Classifications” from the Web Soil Survey. “Not Hydric” is the only category considered to not have hydric soils. Field sampling for the presence/absence of hydric soil indicators can be used in lieu of the hydric rating if appropriately documented by providing completed field data sheets.

<sup>2</sup> At minimum, the most updated NWI data available for the area must be reviewed for this step. Any and all other local or regional wetland maps that are publically available should be reviewed.

<sup>3</sup> Area should be reviewed in the field for the presence/absence of wetland hydrology indicators per the applicable 87 Manual Regional Supplement, including the D2 indicator (geomorphic position).

**Table 1.**

Area	Hydric Soils Present	Identified on NWI or other wetland map	Percent with wet signatures from Exhibit 1	Other hydrology indicators present <sup>1</sup>	Wetland?
1	Y	Y	20%	N	N
2	Y	Y	40%	N	Y
3	Y	N	20%	N	N

<sup>1</sup> Answer “N/A” if field verification is not required and was not conducted.

**APPENDIX C - FIELD PHOTOS**



Photo PP-2: View of typical site conditions in central section of the Survey Area, facing north.



Photo PP-4: View of typical site conditions in central section of the Survey Area, facing south.



Photo PP-5: Photo of Farmed Wetland, FW-1 PEM, Facing South.



Photo PP-11: View of typical site conditions in southwestern section of the Survey Area, facing southeast.

**APPENDIX D - USFWS IPAC RESOURCE LIST**



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office  
3815 American Blvd East  
Bloomington, MN 55425-1659  
Phone: (952) 858-0793

In Reply Refer To:

04/25/2024 18:46:45 UTC

Project Code: 2024-0082176

Project Name: Bison Generating Station Project

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

This response has been generated by the Information, Planning, and Conservation (IPaC) system to provide information on natural resources that could be affected by your project. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) provides this response under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543), the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 *et seq.*).

### **Threatened and Endangered Species**

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirement for obtaining a Technical Assistance Letter from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

### **Consultation Technical Assistance**

Please refer to our [Section 7 website](#) for guidance and technical assistance, including [step-by-step instructions](#) for making effects determinations for each species that might be present and for specific guidance on the following types of projects: projects in developed areas, HUD, CDBG, EDA, USDA Rural Development projects, pipelines, buried utilities, telecommunications, and requests for a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) from FEMA.

We recommend running the project (if it qualifies) through our **Minnesota-Wisconsin Federal Endangered Species Determination Key (Minnesota-Wisconsin ("D-key"))**. A [demonstration video](#) showing how-to access and use the determination key is available. Please note that the Minnesota-Wisconsin D-key is the third option of 3 available d-keys. D-keys are tools to help Federal agencies and other project proponents determine if their proposed action has the potential to adversely affect federally listed species and designated critical habitat. The Minnesota-Wisconsin D-key includes a structured set of questions that assists a project proponent in determining whether a proposed project qualifies for a certain predetermined consultation outcome for all federally listed species found in Minnesota and Wisconsin (except for the northern long-eared bat- see below), which includes determinations of "no effect" or "may affect, not likely to adversely affect." In each case, the Service has compiled and analyzed the best available information on the species' biology and the impacts of certain activities to support these determinations.

If your completed d-key output letter shows a "No Effect" (NE) determination for all listed species, print your IPaC output letter for your files to document your compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

For Federal projects with a "Not Likely to Adversely Affect" (NLAA) determination, our concurrence becomes valid if you do not hear otherwise from us after a 30-day review period, as indicated in your letter.

If your d-key output letter indicates additional coordination with the Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office is necessary (i.e., you get a "May Affect" determination), you will be provided additional guidance on contacting the Service to continue ESA coordination outside of the key; ESA compliance cannot be concluded using the key for "May Affect" determinations unless otherwise indicated in your output letter.

**Note: Once you obtain your official species list, you are not required to continue in IPaC with d-keys, although in most cases these tools should expedite your review.** If you choose to make an effects determination on your own, you may do so. If the project is a Federal Action, you may want to review our section 7 step-by-step instructions before making your determinations.

### **Using the IPaC Official Species List to Make No Effect and May Affect Determinations for Listed Species**

1. If IPaC returns a result of "There are no listed species found within the vicinity of the project," then project proponents can conclude the proposed activities will have **no effect** on any federally listed species under Service jurisdiction. Concurrence from the Service is not required for **no effect** determinations. No further consultation or coordination is required. Attach this letter to the dated IPaC species list report for your records.
2. If IPaC returns one or more federally listed, proposed, or candidate species as potentially present in the action area of the proposed project – other than bats (see below) – then project proponents must determine if proposed activities will have **no effect** on or **may affect** those species. For assistance in determining if suitable habitat for listed, candidate, or proposed species occurs within your project area or if species may be affected by project activities, you can obtain [Life History Information for Listed and Candidate Species](#) on our office website. If no impacts will occur to a species on the IPaC species list (e.g., there is no habitat present in the project area), the appropriate determination is **no effect**. No further consultation or coordination is required. Attach this letter to the dated IPaC species list report for your records.

3. Should you determine that project activities **may affect** any federally listed, please contact our office for further coordination. Letters with requests for consultation or correspondence about your project should include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header. Electronic submission is preferred.

### **Northern Long-Eared Bats**

Northern long-eared bats occur throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin and the information below may help in determining if your project may affect these species.

This species hibernates in caves or mines only during the winter. In Minnesota and Wisconsin, the hibernation season is considered to be November 1 to March 31. During the active season (April 1 to October 31) they roost in forest and woodland habitats. Suitable summer habitat for northern long-eared bats consists of a wide variety of forested/wooded habitats where they roost, forage, and travel and may also include some adjacent and interspersed non-forested habitats such as emergent wetlands and adjacent edges of agricultural fields, old fields and pastures. This includes forests and woodlots containing potential roosts (i.e., live trees and/or snags  $\geq 3$  inches dbh for northern long-eared bat that have exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices, and/or hollows), as well as linear features such as fencerows, riparian forests, and other wooded corridors. These wooded areas may be dense or loose aggregates of trees with variable amounts of canopy closure. Individual trees may be considered suitable habitat when they exhibit the characteristics of a potential roost tree and are located within 1,000 feet (305 meters) of forested/wooded habitat. Northern long-eared bats have also been observed roosting in human-made structures, such as buildings, barns, bridges, and bat houses; therefore, these structures should also be considered potential summer habitat and evaluated for use by bats. If your project will impact caves or mines or will involve clearing forest or woodland habitat containing suitable roosting habitat, northern long-eared bats could be affected.

Examples of unsuitable habitat include:

- Individual trees that are greater than 1,000 feet from forested or wooded areas,
- Trees found in highly developed urban areas (e.g., street trees, downtown areas),
- A pure stand of less than 3-inch dbh trees that are not mixed with larger trees, and
- A monoculture stand of shrubby vegetation with no potential roost trees.

If IPaC returns a result that northern long-eared bats are potentially present in the action area of the proposed project, project proponents can conclude the proposed activities **may affect** this species **IF** one or more of the following activities are proposed:

- Clearing or disturbing suitable roosting habitat, as defined above, at any time of year,
- Any activity in or near the entrance to a cave or mine,
- Mining, deep excavation, or underground work within 0.25 miles of a cave or mine,
- Construction of one or more wind turbines, or
- Demolition or reconstruction of human-made structures that are known to be used by bats based on observations of roosting bats, bats emerging at dusk, or guano deposits or stains.

*If none of the above activities are proposed*, project proponents can conclude the proposed activities will have **no effect** on the northern long-eared bat. Concurrence from the Service is not required for **No**

**Effect** determinations. No further consultation or coordination is required. Attach this letter to the dated IPaC species list report for your records.

*If any of the above activities are proposed*, and the northern long-eared bat appears on the user's species list, the federal project user will be directed to either the range-wide northern long-eared bat D-key or the Federal Highways Administration, Federal Railways Administration, and Federal Transit Administration Indiana bat/ Northern long-eared bat D-key, depending on the type of project and federal agency involvement. Similar to the Minnesota-Wisconsin D-key, these d-keys helps to determine if prohibited take might occur and, if not, will generate an automated verification letter.

*Please note:* On November 30, 2022, the Service published a proposal final rule to reclassify the northern long-eared bat as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. On January 26, 2023, the Service published a 60-day extension for the final reclassification rule in the Federal Register, moving the effective listing date from January 30, 2023, to March 31, 2023. This extension will provide stakeholders and the public time to preview interim guidance and consultation tools before the rule becomes effective. When available, the tools will be available on the Service's northern long-eared bat website (<https://www.fws.gov/species/northern-long-eared-bat-myotis-septentrionalis>). Once the final rule goes into effect on March 31, 2023, the 4(d) D-key will no longer be available (4(d) rules are not available for federally endangered species) and will be replaced with a new Range-wide NLEB D-key (range-wide d-key). For projects not completed by March 31, 2023, that were previously reviewed under the 4(d) d-key, there may be a need for reinitiation of consultation. For these ongoing projects previously reviewed under the 4(d) d-key that may result in incidental take of the northern long-eared bat, we recommend you review your project using the new range-wide d-key once available. If your project does not comply with the range-wide d-key, it may be eligible for use of the Interim (formal) Consultation framework (framework). The framework is intended to facilitate the transition from the 4(d) rule to typical Section 7 consultation procedures for federally endangered species and will be available only until spring 2024. Again, when available, these tools (new range-wide d-key and framework) will be available on the Service's [northern long-eared bat website](#).

### **Whooping Crane**

Whooping crane is designated as a non-essential experimental population in Wisconsin and consultation under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act is only required if project activities will occur within a National Wildlife Refuge or National Park. If project activities are proposed on lands outside of a National Wildlife Refuge or National Park, then you are not required to consult. For additional information on this designation and consultation requirements, please review "[Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of Whooping Cranes in the Eastern United States.](#)"

### **Other Trust Resources and Activities**

*Bald and Golden Eagles* - Although the bald eagle has been removed from the endangered species list, this species and the golden eagle are protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Should bald or golden eagles occur within or near the project area please contact our office for further coordination. For communication and wind energy projects, please refer to additional guidelines below.

*Migratory Birds* - The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) prohibits the taking, killing, possession, transportation, and importation of migratory birds, their eggs, parts, and nests, except when specifically authorized by the Service. The Service has the responsibility under the MBTA to proactively prevent the

mortality of migratory birds whenever possible and we encourage implementation of [recommendations that minimize potential impacts to migratory birds](#). Such measures include clearing forested habitat outside the nesting season (generally March 1 to August 31) or conducting nest surveys prior to clearing to avoid injury to eggs or nestlings.

*Communication Towers* - Construction of new communications towers (including radio, television, cellular, and microwave) creates a potentially significant impact on migratory birds, especially some 350 species of night-migrating birds. However, the Service has developed [voluntary guidelines for minimizing impacts](#).

*Transmission Lines* - Migratory birds, especially large species with long wingspans, heavy bodies, and poor maneuverability can also collide with power lines. In addition, mortality can occur when birds, particularly hawks, eagles, kites, falcons, and owls, attempt to perch on uninsulated or unguarded power poles. To minimize these risks, please refer to [guidelines](#) developed by the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee and the Service. Implementation of these measures is especially important along sections of lines adjacent to wetlands or other areas that support large numbers of raptors and migratory birds.

*Wind Energy* - To minimize impacts to migratory birds and bats, wind energy projects should follow the Service's [Wind Energy Guidelines](#). In addition, please refer to the Service's [Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance](#), which provides guidance for conserving bald and golden eagles in the course of siting, constructing, and operating wind energy facilities.

#### **State Department of Natural Resources Coordination**

While it is not required for your Federal section 7 consultation, please note that additional state endangered or threatened species may also have the potential to be impacted. Please contact the Minnesota or Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for information on state listed species that may be present in your proposed project area.

##### *Minnesota*

[Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Endangered Resources Review Homepage](#)

Email: [Review.NHIS@state.mn.us](mailto:Review.NHIS@state.mn.us)

##### *Wisconsin*

[Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - Endangered Resources Review Homepage](#)

Email: [DNRERReview@wi.gov](mailto:DNRERReview@wi.gov)

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. Please feel free to contact our office with questions or for additional information.

#### Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
- Bald & Golden Eagles
- Migratory Birds
- Wetlands

## OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

**Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office**

3815 American Blvd East

Bloomington, MN 55425-1659

(952) 858-0793

## PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2024-0082176  
Project Name: Bison Generating Station Proejct  
Project Type: Power Gen - Natural Gas  
Project Description: Power generation facility in Lyon County, MN  
Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@44.23239165,-95.74991990961414,14z>



Counties: Lyon County, Minnesota

## ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 3 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species. Note that 2 of these species should be considered only under certain conditions.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

- 
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

## MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This species only needs to be considered if the project includes wind turbine operations.</li> </ul> Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045</a>	Endangered
Tricolored Bat <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This species only needs to be considered if the project includes wind turbine operations.</li> </ul> Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515</a>	Proposed Endangered

## INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</a>	Candidate

## CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

## USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS OR FISH HATCHERIES WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

## BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act<sup>1</sup> and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act<sup>2</sup>.

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to bald or golden eagles, or their habitats<sup>3</sup>, should follow appropriate regulations and consider

implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the ["Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles"](#).

1. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
2. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

There are likely bald eagles present in your project area. For additional information on bald eagles, refer to [Bald Eagle Nesting and Sensitivity to Human Activity](#)

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626</a>	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31

## PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read ["Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles"](#), specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

### Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

### Breeding Season (■)

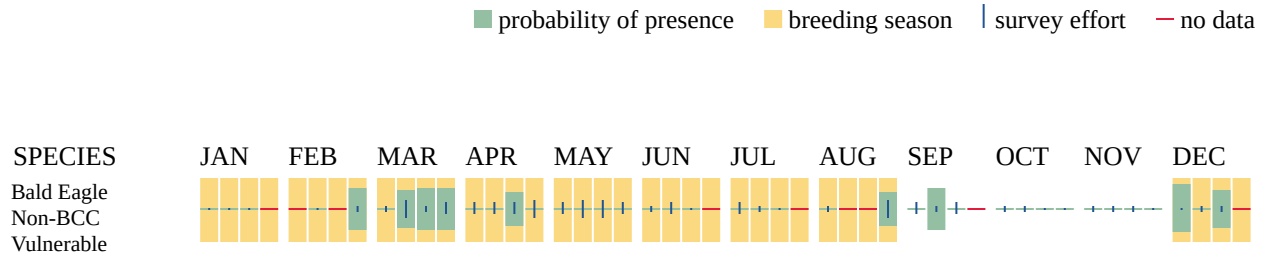
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

### Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

### No Data (—)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.



Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

## MIGRATORY BIRDS

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act<sup>1</sup> and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act<sup>2</sup>.

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats<sup>3</sup> should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)".

- 
1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
  2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
  3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
<p>American Golden-plover <i>Pluvialis dominica</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10561">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10561</a></p>	Breeds elsewhere
<p>Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i></p> <p>This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626</a></p>	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31
<p>Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger surinamensis</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3093">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3093</a></p>	Breeds May 15 to Aug 20
<p>Bobolink <i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9454">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9454</a></p>	Breeds May 20 to Jul 31
<p>Eastern Whip-poor-will <i>Antrastomus vociferus</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10678">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10678</a></p>	Breeds May 1 to Aug 20
<p>Franklin's Gull <i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10567">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10567</a></p>	Breeds May 1 to Jul 31
<p>Golden-winged Warbler <i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8745">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8745</a></p>	Breeds May 1 to Jul 20
<p>Grasshopper Sparrow <i>Ammodramus savannarum perpallidus</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8329">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8329</a></p>	Breeds Jun 1 to Aug 20
<p>Henslow's Sparrow <i>Centronyx henslowii</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3941">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3941</a></p>	Breeds May 1 to Aug 31
<p>Hudsonian Godwit <i>Limosa haemastica</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9482">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9482</a></p>	Breeds elsewhere

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
<p>Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679</a></p>	Breeds elsewhere
<p>Northern Harrier <i>Circus hudsonius</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8350">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8350</a></p>	Breeds Apr 1 to Sep 15
<p>Pectoral Sandpiper <i>Calidris melanotos</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9561">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9561</a></p>	Breeds elsewhere
<p>Red-headed Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9398">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9398</a></p>	Breeds May 10 to Sep 10
<p>Short-billed Dowitcher <i>Limnodromus griseus</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9480">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9480</a></p>	Breeds elsewhere
<p>Willet <i>Tringa semipalmata</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10669">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10669</a></p>	Breeds Apr 20 to Aug 5

## PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

### Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

### Breeding Season (■)

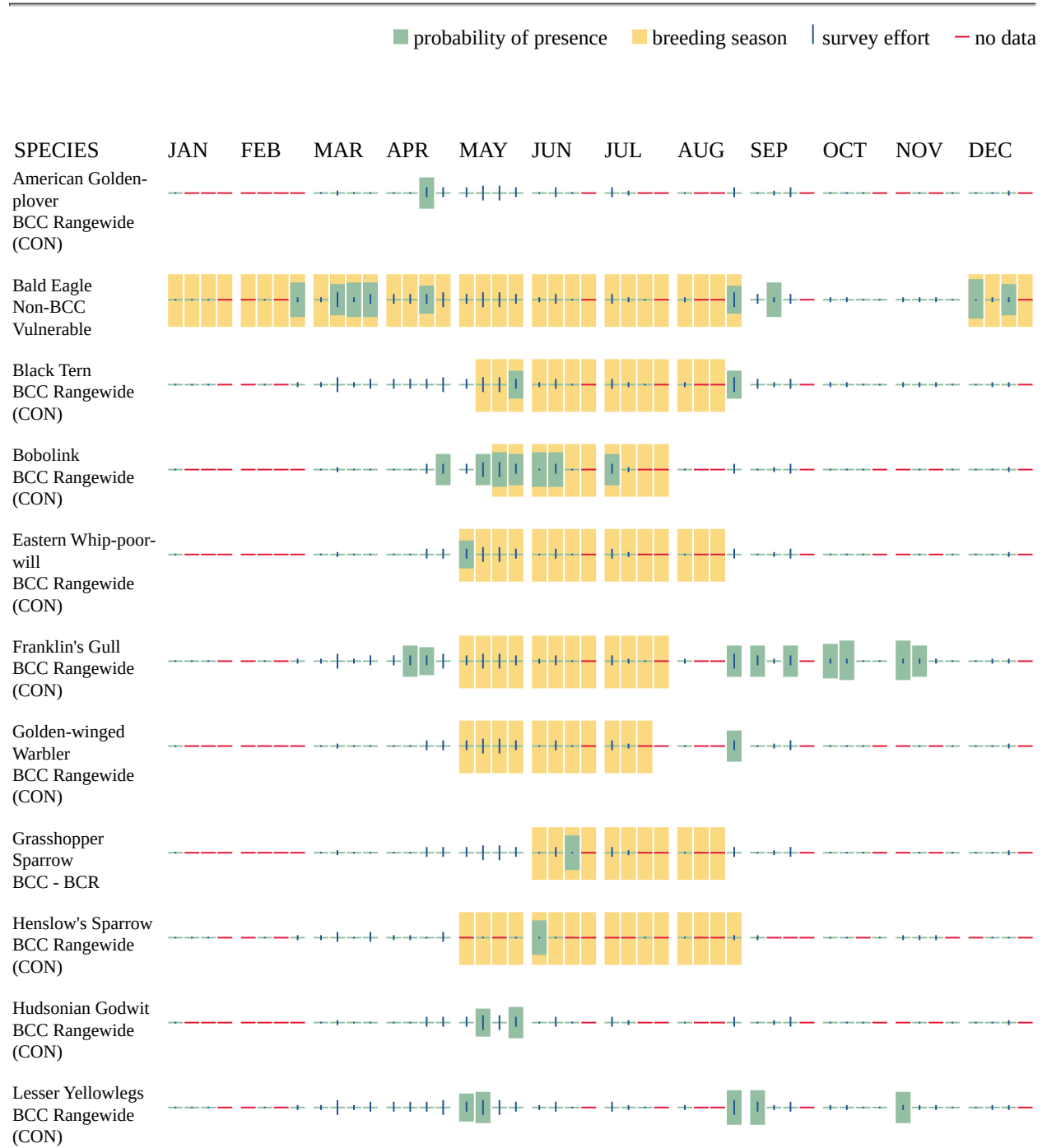
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

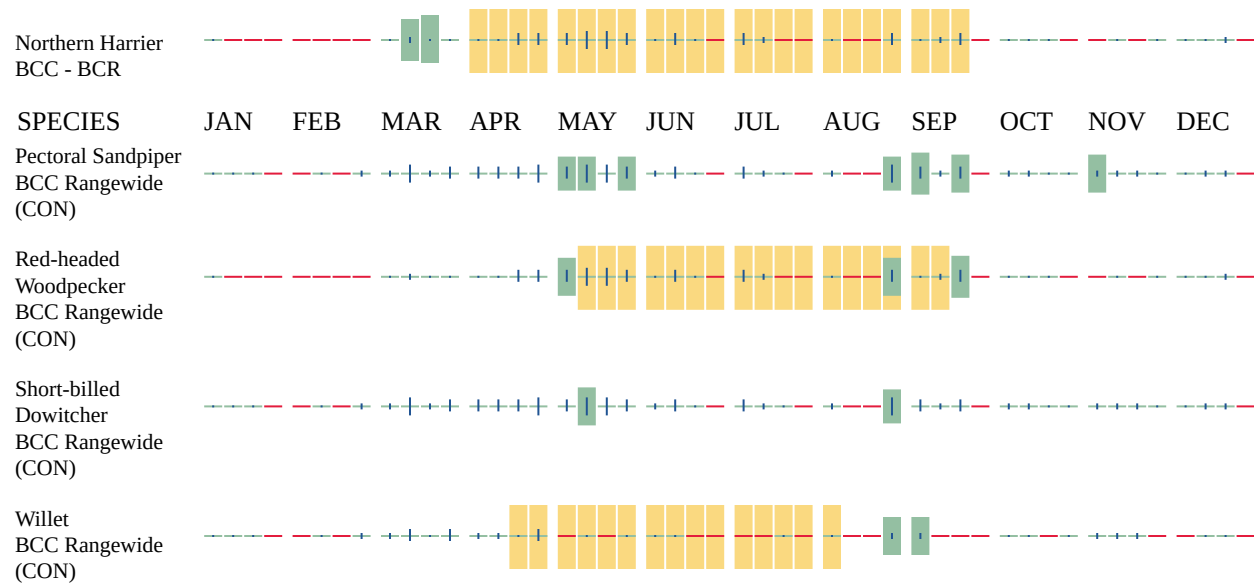
### Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

**No Data (-)**

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.





Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

## WETLANDS

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

### FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND

- PEM1Af

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: Private Entity  
Name: Sam Weaver  
Address: 8201 Norman Center D  
City: Bloomington  
State: MN  
Zip: 55437  
Email: sbweaver@burnsmcd.com  
Phone: 9526562690

**APPENDIX E - MDNR NATURAL HERITAGE REVIEW LETTER**



## Formal Natural Heritage Review - Cover Page

See next page for results of review. A draft watermark means the project details have not been finalized and the results are not official.

**Project Name:** Lyon County Generating Station Project

**Project Proposer:** Xcel Energy

**Project Type:** Power, Other

**Project Type Activities:** Other

**TRS:** T109 R41 S23

**County(s):** Lyon

**DNR Admin Region(s):** South

**Reason Requested:** PUC Site or Route Application

**Project Description:** Northern States Power Company, d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel Energy) is proposing to construct the Lyon County Generating Station in Lyon County, Minnesota (Project). ...

**Existing Land Uses:**

**Landcover / Habitat Impacted:**

**Waterbodies Affected:**

**Groundwater Resources Affected:**

**Previous Natural Heritage Review:** Yes, ERDB#: 2025-00144

**Previous Habitat Assessments / Surveys:** No

### SUMMARY OF AUTOMATED RESULTS

Category	Results	Response By Category
Project Details	No Comments	No Further Review Required
Ecologically Significant Area	No Comments	No Further Review Required
State-Listed Endangered or Threatened Species	No Comments	No Further Review Required
State-Listed Species of Special Concern	No Comments	No Further Review Required
Federally Listed Species	No Records	Visit IPaC For Federal Review



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

March 16, 2025

Project ID: MCE #2025-00277

Tyler Beemer  
Burns & McDonnell  
8201 Norman Center Drive, Suite 500  
Bloomington, MN 55437

RE: Automated Natural Heritage Review of the proposed Lyon County Generating Station Project  
See Cover Page for location and project details.

Dear Tyler Beemer,

As requested, the above project has been reviewed for potential effects to rare features. Given the project details provided on the cover page, I do not believe the proposed project will negatively affect any known occurrences of rare features. To ensure compliance with federal law, conduct a federal regulatory review using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) online [Information for Planning and Consultation \(IPaC\) tool](#).

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

For environmental review purposes, the results of this Natural Heritage Review are valid for one year; the results are only valid for the project location and the project description provided on the cover page. If project details change or construction has not occurred within one year, please resubmit the project for review before initiating project activities.

The Natural Heritage Review does not constitute project approval by the Department of Natural Resources. Instead, it identifies issues regarding known occurrences of rare features and potential impacts to these rare features. For information on the environmental review process or other natural resource concerns, you may contact your [DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist](#).

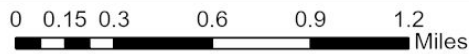
Thank you for consulting us on this matter, and for your interest in preserving Minnesota's rare natural resources.

Sincerely, *The Natural Heritage Review Team* [Natural Heritage Review Program](#)  
[Review.NHIS@state.mn.us](mailto:Review.NHIS@state.mn.us)

Links: USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) tool  
[Information for Planning and Consultation \(IPaC\) tool](#)  
DNR Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist Contact Info  
[https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/ereview/erp\\_regioncontacts.html](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/ereview/erp_regioncontacts.html)

# Lyon County Generating Station Project

Aerial Imagery With Locator Map



 Project Boundary

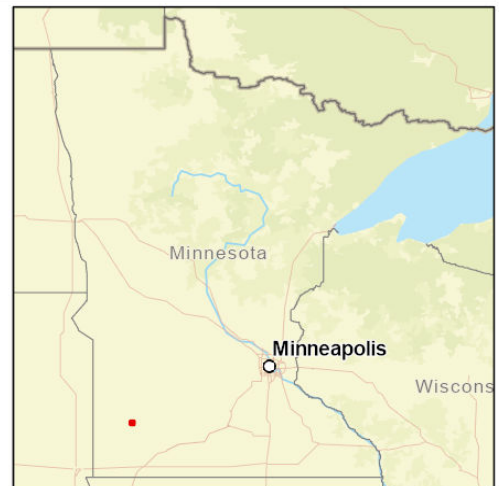
Project Type: Power, Other

Project Size (acres): 152.20

County(s): Lyon

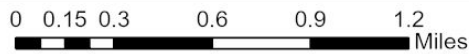
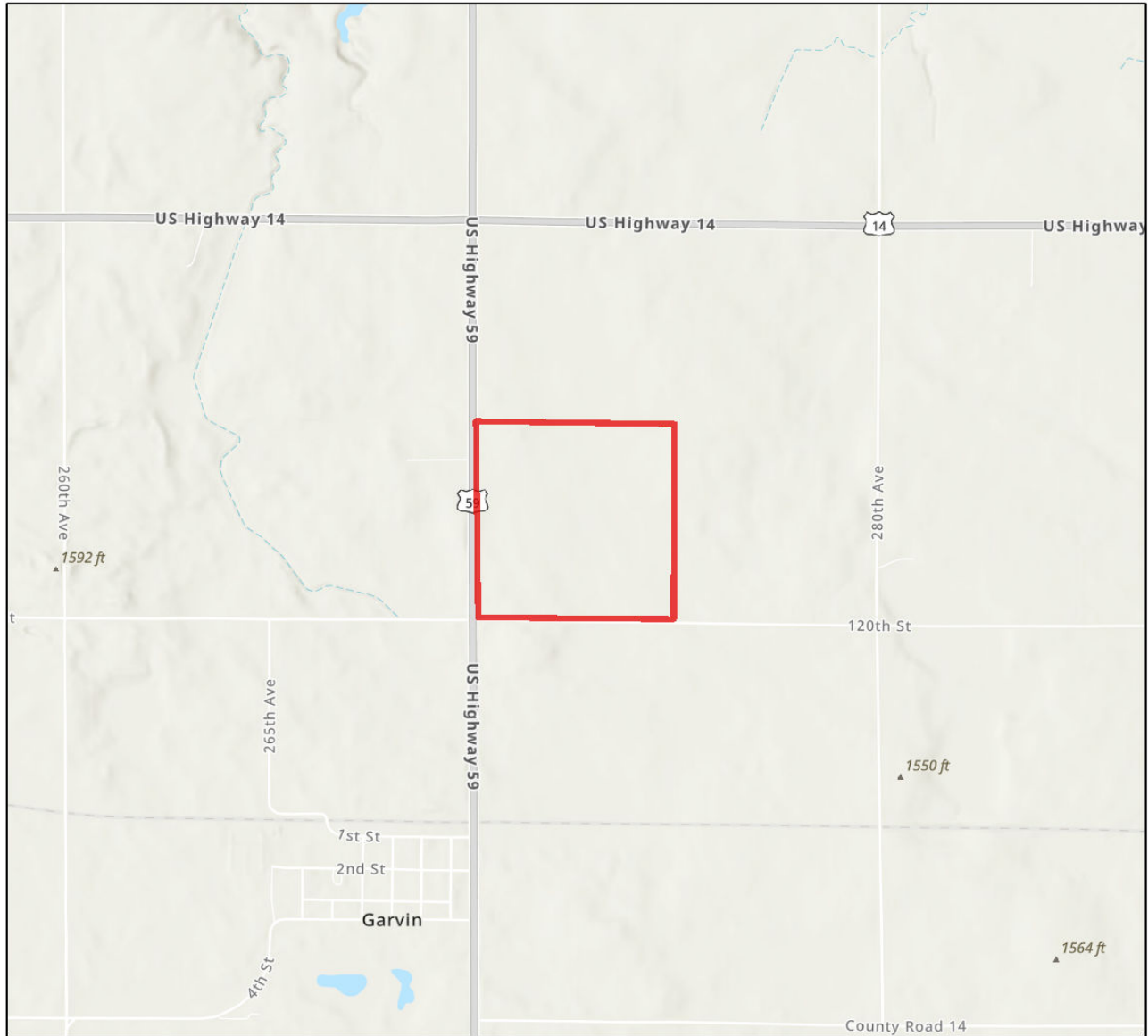
TRS: T109 R41 S23

Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, USFWS  
Maxar  
Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS,



# Lyon County Generating Station Project

USA Topo Basemap With Locator Map



 Project Boundary

Project Type: Power, Other

Project Size (acres): 152.20

County(s): Lyon

TRS: T109 R41 S23

Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, USFWS  
Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA  
Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS,

