

In the Matter of the Applications of Xcel Energy for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit for the Minnesota Energy Connection Project in Sherburne, Stearns, Kandiyohi, Wright, Meeker, Chippewa, Yellow Medicine, Renville, Redwood and Lyon Counties in Minnesota. PUC Docket No. 22-131; 22-132

Commissioner Tuma Alternative 10. C. (Minnesota River Crossing near Franklin and Lower Sioux Indian Community)

For the purpose of identifying an alternative alignment within the expanded route width below that reduces environmental, cultural, historical and human impacts, the Permittee shall coordinate with the Lower Sioux Indian Community (particularly their leaders responsible for tribal historic preservation, land management and natural resources), the affected Townships, BWSR (particularly those responsible for managing conservation easements in this area), DNR and the affected landowners. The Permittee shall file with the Commission the results of the coordination and any modifications to the transmission line alignment that have been mutually agreed to within the expanded route width.

The route width along the Modified Blue Route and Alternative AA1 between Franklin and where the Modified Blue Route crosses Porter Avenue is expanded as follows (see attached map):

From State Highway 19 South across the river valley the route width is extended east from the Modified Blue Route alignment an additional 2500 feet (this is intended to encompass the alternatives recommended by Mark Hogan in his November 25, 2024 comments);

To the east of Ranch Avenue, the route width is extended south from the Modified Blue Route alignment an additional 3500 feet; and

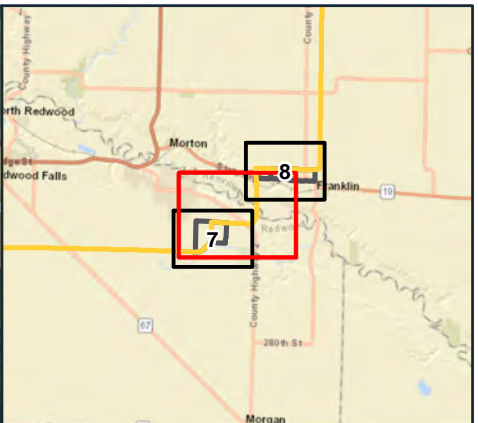
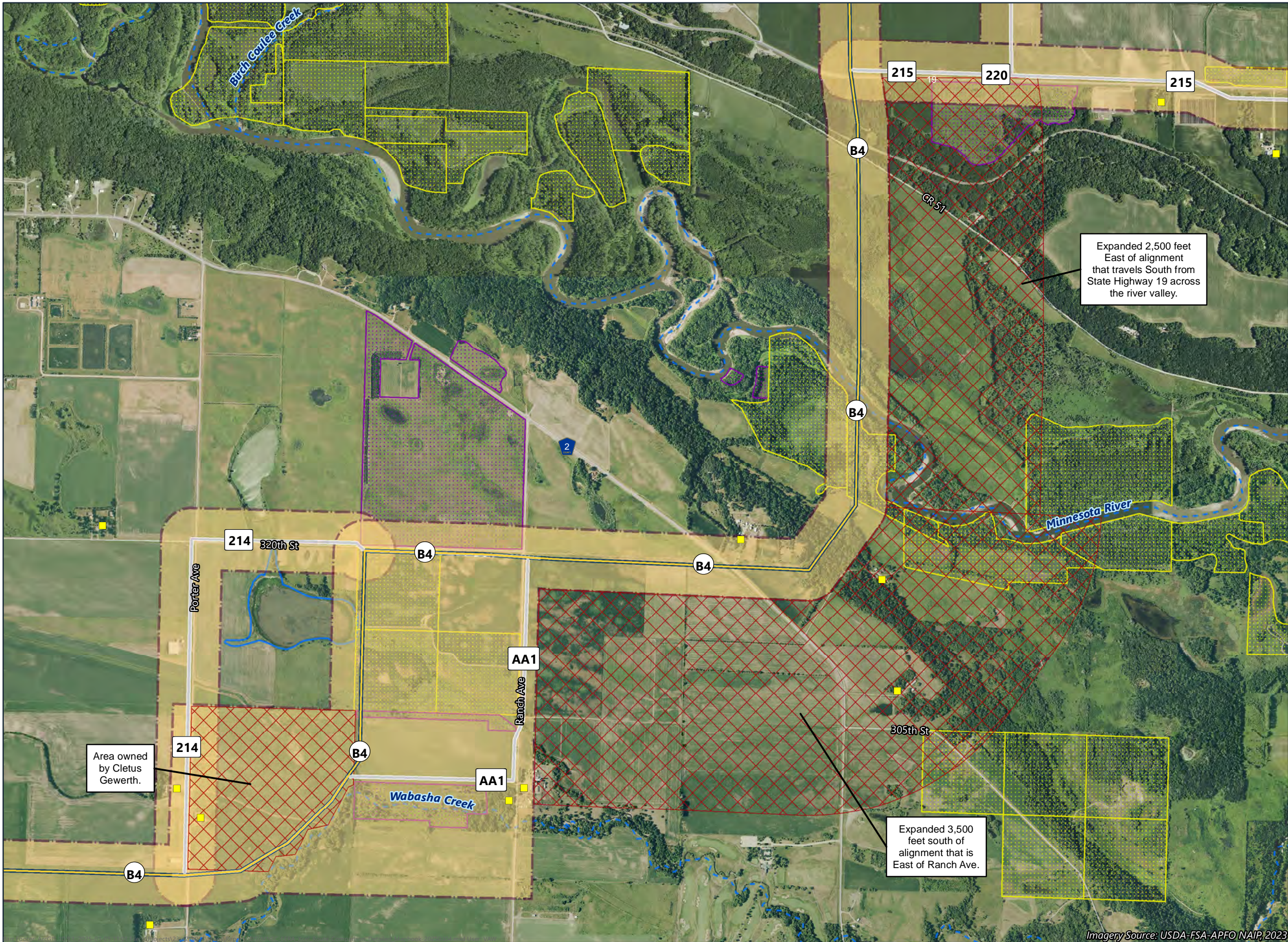
To the east of Porter Avenue, the route width is expanded to include all of the property owned by Cletus Gewerth and the residence east of Porter Avenue.

In the coordination described above, the Permittee shall also address and consider possible triple circuiting with the existing 69 KV line or lower H-frame structures if there is consensus that doing so will mitigate impacts.

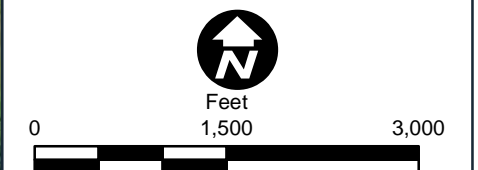
The Permittee is required to compensate affected landowners for any loss of income that results from any modification, cancellation or limitation of any conservation easement in this area because of the Project.

If a landowner is willing to allow an alternative route within this expanded route width and if the Permittee acquires some or all of the landowner's property pursuant to Minn. Stat. section [216E.12/216I.21, subd. 4], the Commission finds that result would be reasonable and prudent and in the public interest for this particular section of the route.

In particular, if the property owners along Porter Avenue choose to have an alignment running on the north of their property and the east of Porter Avenue, the Permittee is authorized to work with the land owners to move the existing structure to a new foundation at a better location in the neighborhood or assist with relocation as required under Minn. Stat. section [216E.12/216I.21, subd. 4].



- Route Segment (incorporates alternative[s])
- Refinement
- Route Width
- Route Width Expansions
- Residence Location
- PWI Waterbody
- PWI Watercourse
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Easement
- Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Easement



FRANKLIN AREA EXPANSION
Minnesota Energy
Connection Project