

NONPUBLIC DATA - NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

Nobles Wind Repower - Early Coordination DNR Comments

3

discuss if any additional surveys are recommended. The ABPP should include, as an Appendix, a post-construction fatality monitoring plan to assess project impacts using the [Minnesota Avian and Bat Survey Protocols for Wind Energy Projects](#).

Recent Minnesota Public Utilities Commission site permits have required that all turbines are locked or feathered up to the manufacturer's standard cut-in speed from one-half hour before sunset to one-half hour after sunrise from April 1 to October 31 of each year of operation. Site permits also state that operating turbines must be equipped with operational software capable of adjusting turbine cut-in speeds. The MNDNR supports this site permit requirement.

Waterbodies

Several public water streams, their floodplains, and many other smaller flow paths are within the project boundary. Some National Wetland Inventory wetlands and sensitive groundwater areas are also located within the project boundary. Any crossings of public waters will require a [DNR Utility Crossing License](#). If any dewatering or water appropriations are necessary, we encourage early coordination with DNR Hydrologists when applying for [Water Appropriation Permit](#) due to sensitive groundwater and surface water features found in and near the project area. The project should work with the appropriate authority (typically the county) to ensure any Wetland Conservation Act, flood plain, or other local environmental requirements are fulfilled.

Conclusion

We look forward to working with you on this in a positive and collaborative manner to ensure that sustainable energy sources are developed while protecting Minnesota's natural resources. Please contact me if you have any questions about these comments.

Sincerely,



Joanne Boettcher

Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist

cc:

Cynthia Warzecha, Energy Project Planner

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HAVE YOU SEEN A BLANDING'S TURTLE ?

State-listed Threatened Species



Carapace



Male=concave **Plastron** Female=flat

Carapace (upper shell): Round, dome-shaped, very smooth, dull black with specks and streaks of yellow throughout.

Plastron (lower shell): Yellow with dark splotches on each scute (section); hinged between 3rd and 4th pair of scutes (front closes like a drawbridge) So the Blanding's turtle is sometimes called a "semi-Box Turtle"

The **bright yellow chin and underside of the long neck** is one of the most conspicuous features of this turtle.

Marshes, ponds, rivers & streams, adjacent uplands; Also travel overland & cross roads. May bask on logs, shore



Yellow neck/chin; no stripes



Domed Carapace

The MNDNR Nongame Wildlife Program (NWP) is seeking reports of **Blanding's turtles** in the counties of southern Minnesota*.

If possible, sightings should be verified promptly by either:

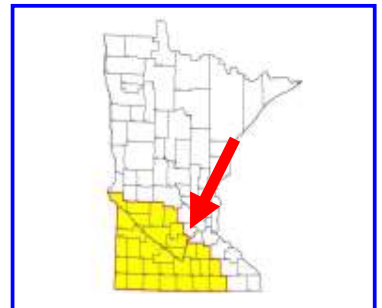
1. photographs showing identifying characteristics (top & bottom of shell, jaw) AND/OR
2. a detailed written description specifying identifying characteristics and circumstances of the sighting. (incl. if turtle shell is marked in any way)

Please include:

- Name phone number &/or email address of person reporting sighting
- Date of Sighting
- Number of Blanding's turtles observed
- Specific Location of Sighting
e.g. GPS coordinates OR Township, Range Section to the nearest ¼ ¼ section &/OR
- Specific directions (e.g. roads with distance and direction from nearest town or other conspicuous landmark with any other information that may be helpful for locating the site. Details about the habitat & landowner contacts also really help. **Many Thanks !**

Please Report Sightings as soon as possible to:

MNDNR Nongame Wildlife Program- Southern Region
Lisa Gelvin-Innvaer, Phone: 507-233-1254 Email: lisa.gelvin-innvaer@state.mn.us
Mike Worland Phone: 507-362-8786 Email: michael.worland@state.mn.us



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Standard Erosion Control and Invasive Species Prevention Best Practices

Take precautions when working near waterbodies to prevent sedimentation and erosion:

- Erodeable surfaces should not be left exposed for greater than one day. For example, work should not commence late in the week if it will be left unfinished over a weekend.
- Work should not commence if rain is predicted.
- All wheeled or tracked construction equipment should be restricted to work areas above the stream bank.
- Fill material should not be stockpiled in the floodplain.
- Backfill placed below Ordinary High Water (OHW) should consist of clean granular material free of fines, silts, soils, and mud.
- Use [Best Practices for DNR General Public Waters Work Permit GP 2004-0001: Species Protection](#). Refer to pages: 3, 11, 14, 16, 25, 33, and 34 as relevant to a particular project.
- Vegetative “grout” should be incorporated with any installed rip rap (see page 33 of above link).
- [Native species planting/seeding](#) should be used.
- DNR Public Waters Work Permit may be required. Permit requirements must be followed.

Use wildlife friendly erosion control:

- Biodegradable netting should be used, preferably natural materials with short degradation periods.
- Erosion control blankets should be limited to bio-netting or natural netting types due to the risk of entanglement and death of small animals. [2018 MnDOT Standards Specifications for Construction](#) identify acceptable materials in Category 3N or 4N mulches.
- Do not use products that require UV-light to degrade (also called “photodegradable”), as they do not degrade properly when covered/shaded.
- Do not use products containing plastic mesh netting or other plastic components.
- Do not use mulch products that contain synthetic (plastic) fiber additives near waterbodies.
- See [Wildlife Friendly Erosion Control](#) for more information.

Take active steps to prevent invasive species introduction and spread:

- Clean all equipment (including but not limited to: vehicles, clothing, and gear) at a site prior to moving to another site. All soil, aggregate material, mulch, vegetation, seeds, animals, etc. need to be removed using a hand tool, brush, compressed air, pressure washer, or otherwise.
- If equipment is not cleaned before arriving to a work site, then clean the equipment in the parking or staging area, ensuring no material is deposited at the new site. Material cleaned from equipment should be disposed of legally.
- All equipment (including but not limited to: waders, tracked vehicles, barges, boats, turbidity curtain, sheet pile, and pumps) used for work in an “infested water” must be adequately decontaminated. See [Watercraft Decontamination Manual](#) for more information.
- See [Come Clean, Leave Clean](#) for more detailed guidance. This guidance is required for those working on DNR lands as part of grant or contract or are working under a permit, your grant, contract, or permit.

Referenced Links

https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/pwpermits/gp_2004_0001_chapter1.pdf

<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/seed-mixes>

<https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/wildlife-friendly-erosion-control.pdf>

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/pre-letting/spec/2018/2018-spec-book-final.pdf>

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/dnrlands.html>

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/dnrlands.html>

https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/natural_resources/invasives/mndnr_ais_decontamination_handbook.pdf