

# **Appendix I**

## **Phase I Cultural Resource Literature Review**

In accordance with Minnesota Rules, part 7829.0500 and Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13, Xcel Energy has designated portions of Appendix I – Phase I Cultural Resource Literature Review as **NONPUBLIC DATA – NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE** because it contains sensitive cultural resource location information. The Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office Manual for Archaeological Projects in Minnesota provides for restricted access to sensitive cultural resource location information.



May 12, 2023

Ellen Heine  
Manager, Siting & Land Rights  
Xcel Energy  
414 Nicollet Mall, (GO 6)  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

**Re: Cultural Resources Literature Review for the Sherco Solar 3 Facility**  
File: R0036476.00

Xcel Energy contracted Westwood Professional Services, Inc., (Westwood) to conduct a cultural resources literature review for the Sherco Solar 3 Facility (Project; Project Area) located south of the city of Clear Lake in Sherburne County, MN. The Project is a proposed 250 MW AC solar energy generation facility on approximately 1,780 acres of land. The literature review Study Area includes the Project Area, a collection corridor, and an encompassing one-mile buffer (**Exhibit 1, Table 1**) for a total of 17,120 acres.

<b>Table 1: PLSS Sections in Study Area</b>			
<b>Township</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Sections in Project Area</b>	<b>Section in Buffer</b>
123	27		26, 35, 36
34	30	13, 23, 24, 25	11-15, 22-26
34	29	15-19	7-23, 29-31
122	27		1, 2
122	26		5-7

The background research and literature review consisted of examining files maintained by the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) and the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Review of information from these offices included an examination of site maps, archaeological site forms, burial files, historic structure inventories, and survey reports. The purpose of this review is to create an inventory of previously recorded cultural resources, including archaeological sites and historic architecture resources that are in the Study Area. The background research and literature review would identify previous cultural resource investigations along with levels of disturbance and potential for sites within the Project Area or buffer.

### Literature Review

On March 16, 2023, Westwood Cultural Resource Manager Ryan Grohnke requested a database search from the SHPO. Additionally, he reviewed the Minnesota state archaeological site files

available via the online Portal maintained by the OSA to obtain a list of previously recorded archaeological sites and historic structures located within the proposed study area.

The Project Area is located in Minnesota Archaeological Region 4e – Central Lakes Deciduous (East). Prehistoric sites in this region are generally located near lakes and major rivers (Gibbon et al. 2002).

Previous Cultural Resources Survey

Units 1 and 2 of the Project was previously surveyed in 2000. The investigation was reported in the Phase I Cultural Resources Survey, Sherco Solar and Transmission Line, Becker, Sherburne County, Minnesota by Tetra Tech, Inc. dated February 16, 2021. No archaeological resources were identified during this survey.

Previously Documented Archaeological Sites

One previously recorded archaeological site has been identified within the Project Area with an additional five sites being previously recorded in the one-mile buffer. The site within the Project Area (21SH0088) is a single historic artifact consisting of a fired lead bullet potentially dating to the 1860s located in Unit 5. The Lee Pioneer Burial Site (21SH0058) is immediately adjacent to the west boundary of Unit 5 of the Project Area. Although located outside of the Project Area, due to the presence of human burials, care should be taken to avoid this site. None of the archaeological sites in the Study Area have been evaluated for listing in the NRHP.

**Table 2: Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites in the Study Area**

Site No.	Site Name	Site Type	NRHP Eligibility	Project/Buffer
21SH0040	St. Cloud Site BC	Lithic Scatter	Unevaluated	Buffer
21SH0042	NA	Artifact Scatter, Structural Ruin	Unevaluated	Buffer
21SH0058	Lee Pioneer Burial	Cemetery	Unevaluated (Avoidance required due to burials)	Buffer (Immediately adjacent)
21SH0088	NA	Single Artifact	Unevaluated	Project
21SHaa	NA	Artifact Scatter	Unevaluated	Buffer
21SHc	NA	Historic Documentation	Unevaluated	Buffer

Previously Documented Historic/Architectural Resources

Eight-three (83) historic/architectural resources have been previously inventoried within the Study Area, none of which are located within the Project Area (**Exhibit 2**). Fifty-eight (58) resources are in the city of Clearwater to the southwest of the Project Area, 10 are in Clear Lake City northwest of the Project Area, and 13 resources are in unincorporated areas. Two historic linear resources, Trunk Highway 10 (XX-ROD-35/37/40, SH-XXX-002) and Fort Ripley Military Road (SH-CLT-011) cut through the Study Area on northwesterly corridors, running alongside Project boundaries. Trunk Highway 10 is Considered Eligible for listing in the NRHP. In the city of Clearwater, the Masonic Lodge (WR-CWC-056), First Congregational Church (WR-CWC-044), and William W. Webster

House (WR-CWC-031) are listed in the NRHP. The remaining historic resources in the Study Area are unevaluated for NRHP eligibility.

**Table 3: Previously Recorded Historic/Architectural Resources in the Study Area**

SHPO ID	Property Name	Address	NRHP Status	Proximity to Project
XX-ROD-034/35/37/40, SH-XXX-002	Trunk Highway 10	TH 10	Eligible	Buffer
SH-BKT-002	Fred Eilers Farm	SE corner CH 53 & CH 54	Unevaluated	Buffer
SH-CLC-001	Schwab House	5xx Center St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
SH-CLC-002	Clear Lake School	NE corner 4th St. & Center St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
SH-CLC-003	St. Marcus Catholic Church	3xx Center St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
SH-CLC-004	Methodist Episcopal Church	NE corner Church St. & Center St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
SH-CLC-005	Clear Lake State Bank	1xx Center St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
SH-CLC-006	Clear Lake City Hall	NW corner State St. & Center St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
SH-CLC-007	farmhouse	E. of Co. Hwy. 6	Unevaluated	Buffer
SH-CLC-008	farmstead	143 Center St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
SH-CLC-009	house	146 Center St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
SH-CLC-010	Clear Lake Farmers Elevator	430 State St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
SH-CLT-002	Frank Goenner Farmhouse	NE corner CH 54 & CH 55	Unevaluated	Buffer
SH-CLT-003	Fred Sudtelgte Farmhouse	NW corner U.S. Hwy. 10 /U.S. Hwy. 52 & CH 55	Unevaluated	Buffer
SH-CLT-004			Unevaluated	Buffer
SH-CLT-005			Unevaluated	Buffer
SH-CLT-006			Unevaluated	Buffer
SH-CLT-007	Henry Berger Brick Farmhouse	N. of Co. Rd. 56	Unevaluated	Buffer
SH-CLT-011	Fort Ripley Military Road: Clear Lake Twp. Segment	Co. Hwy. 8	Unevaluated	Buffer
SH-CLT-014	Bridge 6557	TH 24 3.2 mi SW of Jct. TH 10	Unevaluated	Buffer
SH-CLT-015	house	147 Center St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
SH-CLT-016	commerce	128 Market St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
SH-CLT-017	house	143 Market St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
SH-CLT-018	house	146 Market St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
SH-CLT-019	BNSF Storage Building	149 Market St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-001	Ferry Landing and Crossing	Oak St. & Mississippi River	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-002	Pat Quinn House	Oak St. & River St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-003	Mayor A.B. Solinger House	Main St. & Oak St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-004	Thomas Tollington House	Main St. & Maple St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-005	John Townsend House	SE corner Main St. & Elm St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-006	Peter Leme House	xxx Main St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-007	First State Bank	NE corner Main St. & Pine St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-008	Stanley Phillips House	xxx Main St.	Unevaluated	Buffer

SHPO ID	Property Name	Address	NRHP Status	Proximity to Project
WR-CWC-009	A.L. Hart House		Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-010	house	SE corner Main St. & Ash St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-011	Clearwater Cooperative Creamery	SW corner Main St. & River St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-012	George Newell House	SE corner Main St. & Pine St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-013	Robert Mitchell House	xxx Main St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-014	Stevens House	SW corner Main St. & Walnut St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-015	house	SW corner Main St. & Ash St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-016	house	xxx Main St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-017	Dexter Collins House		Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-018	wagon shop	SE corner Spring St. & Ash St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-019	S. M. Phillips Drug Store	SW corner Maple St. & Main St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-020	house	xxx Spring St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-021	United Methodist Church	SW corner Elm St. & Main St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-022	house	xxx Main St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-023	Clearwater State Bank	NW corner Main St. & Maple St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-024	house	NE corner Spring St. & Maple St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-025	Midwood House	xxx Spring St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-026	Kriss House		Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-027	Coleman House	SE corner Spring St. & Elm St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-028	house	xxx Main St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-029	house	NW corner Main St. & Elm St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-030	Paritt House	NE corner Spring St. & Oak St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-031	William W. Webster House	205 Spring St	Listed	Buffer
WR-CWC-032	William Crary House	SW corner Spring St. & Elm St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-033	Cummings House	xxx Spring St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-034	house	SW corner Spring St. & Elm St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-035	St. Lukes Parish House	xxx Spring St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-036	St. Lukes Catholic Church	NW corner Spring St. & Maple St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-037	Sam Sheldon House	xxx Spring St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-038	house	NW corner Spring St. & Ash St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-039	house	xxx Bluff St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-040	house	SE corner Bluff St. & Maple St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-041	Seth Gibbs House	xxx Spring St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-042	Hartly Dunton House	SW corner Bluff St. & Maple St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-043	house	NW corner Bluff St. & Ash St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-044	First Congregational Church	SW corner Bluff St. & Elm St.	Listed	Buffer
WR-CWC-045	Clearwater School	xxx Bluff St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-046	house	SW corner Bluff St. & Oak St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-047	house	NW corner Bluff St. & Elm St.	Unevaluated	Buffer

SHPO ID	Property Name	Address	NRHP Status	Proximity to Project
WR-CWC-048	house	xxx Bluff St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-049	house	NW corner Lime St. & Ash St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-050	E. Barrett House	xxx Main St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-051	house		Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-052	W.T. Rigby House		Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-053	D. Watkins House		Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-054	Thomas Porter House		Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-055	Thomas Tollington House	xxx Spring St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-056	Clearwater Masonic Lodge	NW corner Oak St. & Main St.	Listed	Buffer
WR-CWC-057	house	xxx Linn St.	Unevaluated	Buffer
WR-CWC-058	Jenks Octagon House	xxx Prairie St.	Unevaluated	Buffer

### Other Sources

Nearly all of the Study Area is in Clear Lake Township. Portions of the one-mile buffer overlap with the cities of Clear Lake and Clearwater. In the southwest portion of the buffer, the city and township of Clearwater are set on the west side of the Mississippi River in Wright County. The following coverage of the Study Area was reviewed:

- 1874 Sherburne County, Atlas of Minnesota (A.T. Andreas)
- 1903 Plat Book of Sherburne County (North West Publishing)
- 1914 Atlas and Farm Directory of Sherburne County (Webb Publishing)
- 1925 Minnesota State Atlas (W. W. Hixson & Co.)
- 1953, 1970 Annandale quadrant 15' topographic maps (USGS)
- 1965, 1972, 1980 Monticello quadrant 15' topographic maps (USGS)
- 1963, 1980, 1987, 1995, 2010, 2013, 2022 Clear Lake quadrant 7.5' topographic maps (USGS)
- 1976, 1995, 2010, 2013, 2022 Clearwater quadrants 7.5' topographic maps (USGS)

All years of map coverage depict the major lakes throughout the Study Area, including Jones, Crecent, Mosford, and Camp, as well as wetlands and smaller waterbodies. The 1874 map depicts the Northern Pacific Railroad (NP RR) running along the present TH 10 corridor, through the Study Area and city of Clear Lake. The railroad corridor runs generally parallel to the Mississippi River, which flows about 3 miles south of the railroad. The railroad also serves as an informal boundary, with dense “burr oak timber” forests covering the land to its north. Clear Lake Station, where the city of Clear Lake now stands, is indicated on the map. Kirk’s Ferry operated where the eventual bridge over the Mississippi River to Clearwater was built. In 1874, three plots of land are noted to be claimed in the Study Area; two are located close to the river and one southeast of Clear Lake Station. Roads are indicated along the corridors of the NP RR and present TH 10, State Highway 24, and River Road SE/Fort Ripley Military Road. In 1903, the roads are distinguished as “Main Traveled Wagon Roads” while the River Road SE corridor is a minor wagon road.

The 1903 map shows the NP and Great Northern (GN) Railroads running parallel to each other along the present TH 10 corridor. At the time, nearly all the land within the Study Area had been claimed, but few homesteads were indicated throughout the unincorporated areas. Clearwater was established in 1856 between the banks of the Mississippi and Clearwater Rivers. Clear Lake was established as a station on the new NP RR line in 1879 (Upham 1920, 587, 639). The 1903 map indicates one school house in the Study Area; generally the churches, cemeteries, and other public buildings are depicted within the incorporated cities in the Study Area. In 1914, the TH 10 and River Road SE roadways are noted as Rural Routes. It appears the bridge to Clearwater had been constructed by this time. Two cemeteries are noted just outside the Clear Lake city limits and one school is noted in the southern portion of the Study Area.

The topographic maps published since 1953 show the Study Area has remained sparsely populated. Historical aerial photographs confirm the area has been historically rural and land used for agricultural crops.

#### Summary and Recommendation

A review of the existing cultural resource data indicates that there is one previously documented archaeological site within the proposed Project Area. This site, 21SG0088, is a single artifact and likely not considered significant. Site 21SH0058 (Lee Pioneer Burial) is immediately adjacent the Project Area. Care should be taken to avoid any impacts to this cemetery. The three NRHP-listed architectural resources are each at least 0.9 mile from the Project Area in the city of Clearwater. There will be no physical effects to historic properties, and it is anticipated that there will be no adverse indirect effects. Views between the NRHP properties and the Project Area will be limited or fully obscured by intervening buildings, topography, and overall distance. Trunk Highway 10 runs adjacent to the Project Area and has been determined eligible for listing in the NRHP. Construction and operation of the Project will not physically affect the corridor. Adverse indirect effects are not anticipated; the Project will not affect the ability of this resource to convey its historic association with transportation, and its NRHP eligibility will remain intact. Therefore, the construction and operation of the Project will have no adverse effects to historic properties listed in, eligible for, or potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP.

As the Project is proposed to be 250 MW, it will be permitted by the MN Public Utilities Commission (PUC) under the Power Plant Siting rule, Chapter 7850. The PUC may require consideration of the Project's effects upon cultural resources including the completion of archaeological field surveys, and/or consultation with the SHPO. Field surveys of Units 1 and 2 were completed in 2000 and the remaining Units will be surveyed in Spring of 2023.

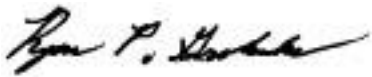
If the Project is deemed a federal undertaking (requiring a federal permit, license, or approval; is located on federally owned or managed land; or receives federal financial assistance), the scope of required cultural resource investigations would be determined by the functioning lead federal agency in cooperation with the SHPO and pertinent Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPO) as defined in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended) (NHPA).



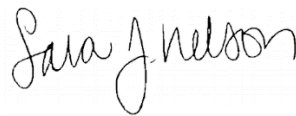
If human remains are encountered during construction activities, all ground disturbing activity must cease, and local law enforcement must be notified per MN 307.08. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 612-209-3352 or [ryan.grohnke@westwoodps.com](mailto:ryan.grohnke@westwoodps.com).

Sincerely,

WESTWOOD PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



Ryan P. Grohnke  
Cultural Resources Manager



Sara J. Nelson  
Architectural Historian

## References

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1874 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Minnesota*. Chicago: A.T. Andreas. Online resource, <https://historicmapworks.com/Atlas/US/8283/>, accessed April 2023.

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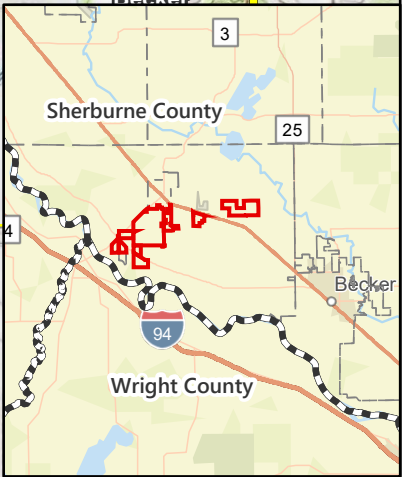
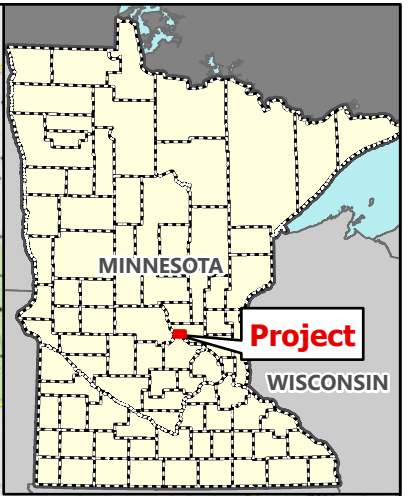
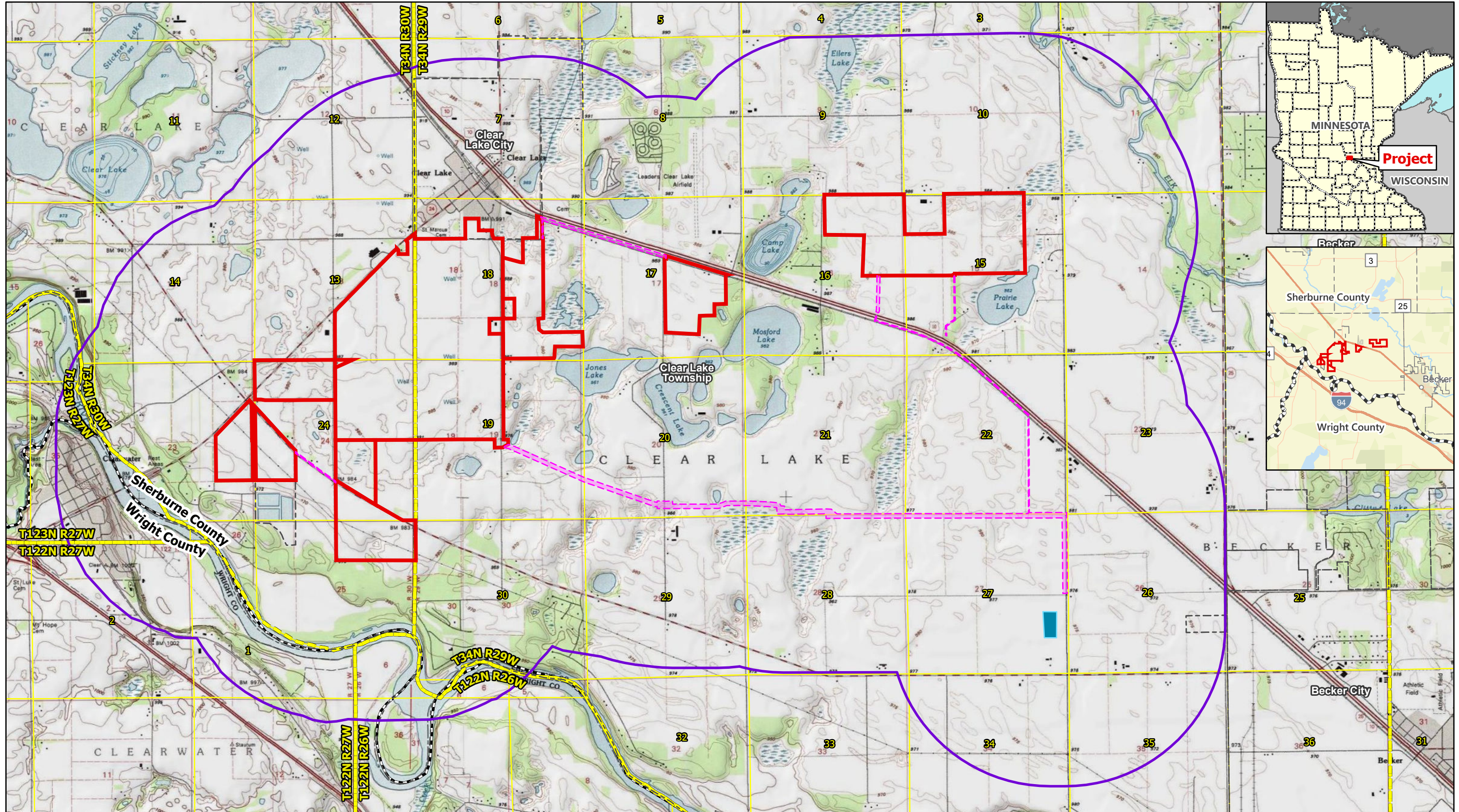
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Webb Publishing

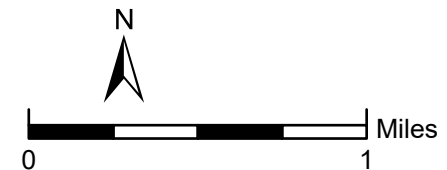
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Map Document: \\westwoodps.local\Global\Projects\030476.001\_GIS\Working\230316\_SUN\_CRIMR003676\_040\_CRIM\_230316.aprx 5/5/2023 2:40 PM S.Nelson

Data Source(s): Westwood (2023); ESRI WMS  
USGS Topographic & World Streets Basemaps  
(Accessed 2023); U.S. Census Bureau (2021).

- Project Area (as of 5/1/2023)
- Project and Collection Buffer
- County Boundary
- City/Civil Township Boundary
- PLS Township
- PLS Section
- Collection Corridor
- Substation



**Westwood**  
 Toll Free (888) 937-5150 westwoodps.com  
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# Sherco 3 Solar Project













Sherburne County, Minnesota

## Overall Project Location

Public Document Not-Public Data has Been Excised

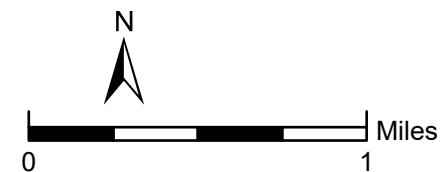
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USGS Topographic & World Streets Basemaps  
(Accessed 2023); U.S. Census Bureau (2021).

-  Project Area (as of 5/1/2023)
-  Project and Collection 1-Mile Buffer
-  Collection Corridor
-  Substation
-  County Boundary
-  PLS Township
-  PLS Section
-  Archaeological Site
-  Previously Surveyed Sherco Unit
-  Historic/Architectural Resource
-  Linear Resource
-  NRHP Property

**Westwood**

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# Sherco 3 Solar Project

Sherburne County, Minnesota






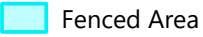
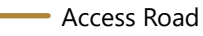
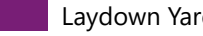


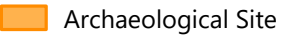
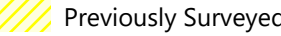

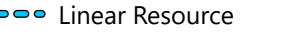
**Cultural Resources  
in Vicinity of Project**

EXHIBIT 2

Public Document Not-Public Data has Been Excised

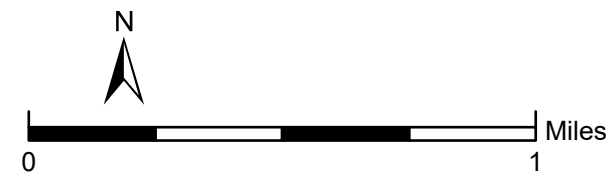
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Data Source(s): Westwood (2023); ESRI WMS  
USGS Topographic & World Streets Basemaps  
(Accessed 2023); U.S. Census Bureau (2021).

-  Project Area (as of 5/1/23)
-  Project 1-Mile Buffer
-  County Boundary
-  PLS Section
-  Collection Corridor
-  Fenced Area
-  Access Road
-  Laydown Yard
-  Array
-  Substation
-  Archaeological Site
-  Previously Surveyed Sherco Unit
-  Historic/Architectural Resource
-  Linear Resource

**Westwood**

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# Sherco 3 Solar Project

Sherburne County, Minnesota

**Cultural Resources  
in Vicinity of Project Layout**