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January 22, 2014

Dr. Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
350 Metro Square Building
121 Seventh Place East
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

**Re: Minor Alteration Requests for
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse Transmission Line Project
PUC Docket No. E002/TL-09-1448
North Rochester – Mississippi River 345 kV Transmission Line Segment**

Dear Dr. Haar:

On May 30, 2012, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission granted Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, (“Permittee”) a Route Permit for the Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse Transmission Line Project (“Project”). Permittee submits the enclosed application for approval of two minor alterations of the route approved for the Project pursuant to Minnesota Rules Part 7850.4800. The two proposed minor alterations are described in the attached Minor Alteration Request.

Included in the request are descriptions of the proposed changes, tables summarizing the impacts of the proposed changes and accompanying maps.

Xcel Energy respectfully requests that the Commission authorize a minor alteration to permit construction of the Project along the proposed route. Please feel free to contact me at (612) 330-6073 or ellen.l.heine@xcelenergy.com if you have any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ellen Heine".

Ellen Heine
Compliance and Permitting Analyst

cc: David Birkholz, Department of Commerce, Energy Facilities Permitting

Minor Alteration Request for CapX2020 Hampton – Rochester – La Crosse Transmission Project

Background and Summary of Request

On May 30, 2012, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) granted a Route Permit to Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, to construct the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse High Voltage Transmission Line Project (“Project”). Xcel Energy submits this application to the Commission for approval of two minor alterations of the route approved for the Project pursuant to Minnesota Rules Part 7850.4800. These two minor alterations are proposed and described below.

The first minor alteration request pertains to pole Nos. 3-9 which are located directly east of the North Rochester Substation along 500th Street in Pine Island Township. Poles 3 – 9 are located on the intended Commission approved alignment. However, approximately 65 feet of the transmission right-of-way is located outside the approved route width due to a mapping error made by Xcel Energy when the route width was reduced at the request of the Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (“EERA”) staff just prior to the Commission hearings and decision.

The second minor alteration request pertains to pole Nos. 49-53 which are located near the intersection of Power Dam Road and White Bridge Road in Oronoco Township. Xcel Energy requests that the route width be expanded to accommodate a landowner’s request to replace a two-pole 90 degree angle in their cultivated farm field with one-pole located in an unfarmed rocky area of their property.

Table 1. Summary of Requested Minor Alterations

Structures Identifying Beginning and End of the Segment for the Change Requests	Page Number in Initial Plan and Profile Filing	Page Number in [Revised] Plan and Profile for the Change Requests	Map Page Number in Initial Plan and Profile Filing	Map Page Number in this Change Request	Distance Between Structures that Mark the End Points of the Segment	How Many Landowners Are Affected and the Parcels Affected	Describe the Requested Change and the Reason for the Change
Pole 3 – 9 Route width adjustment (no change in alignment)	NH-257078-8 and NH-257078-9	No change in Plan and Profile	Sheetmaps NA-1 and NA-2	Figure 1	1.2 miles	Landowners affected = 7 Parcels affected = 7	Change is requested to meet the original intent of locating the alignment along the south side of 500 th St with overlap of the road ROW
Pole 49 - 53 (Alignment change and route width adjustment)	NH-257078-17	No change in Plan and Profile	NA-12	Figure 2	0.95 miles	Landowners affected=6 Parcels affected=8	Change is requested to accommodate landowners' preference to reduce farmland impact. Change replaces a two-pole 90 degree turn in their field and a single pole in a non-cropped rocky area.

Minor Alteration Standard

A minor alteration is a change in a high voltage transmission line that does not result in significant changes in the human or environmental impact of the facility subject to the Power Plant Siting Act, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E. Permittees requesting a minor alteration must submit the application to the Commission. Minn. R. 7850.4800. The Commission is authorized to approve a minor alteration after providing “at least a ten-day period for interested persons to submit comments on the application or to request that the matter be brought to the [C]ommission for consideration.” Minn. R. 7850.4800, subp. 2.

As demonstrated below, the proposed minor alterations do not result in significant changes in the human or environmental impact of the facility. Tables showing the impacts of the Project if constructed along Anticipated Alignment within the Approved Route compared to the Modified Alignment within the Modified Route are included below.

Proposed Minor Alteration for Segment 1 – Poles 3-9

The approved route and alignment includes a segment in Pine Island Township that runs east/west along the south edge of 500th Street after exiting the North Rochester Substation. The route width in this location was narrowed in consultation with EERA staff prior to Commission decision to ensure that the alignment would be located on the south side of the road to avoid residences located on the north side of the road. When this was done the route width polygon was mistakenly clipped to the south edge of the road right-of-way rather than to the north edge. Because of this, a portion of the alignment extends over the road right-of-way and outside of the approved route width as shown in Figure 1. As there is no proposed change in alignment, this minor alternation to the route width will not result in any change in the human or environmental impact of the facility.

Table 2.A. Criteria and Data to be Used to Assess Impacts of Requested Route Width Adjustment: Segment 1 Pole 3 to Pole 9.

Criteria	Units	Permitted Alignment and Right-of-Way	Proposed Alignment and Right-of-Way	Other Information Important to this Request
Length of the Transmission Line	feet or miles	1.2 miles	1.2 miles	Route width change request expands approved route width by approximately 9.1 acres (grassland=5.1 acres, forest land=0.2 acres, crop land=0.7 acres, and roadway=3.1 acres).
Length that is In or Parallel to Existing Right-of-Way	feet or miles	1.0 mile	1.0 mile	
Number of Roads Crossed	number	0	0	
Number of Parcels Crossed	number	7	7	Goebel Daughters Irrevocable Trust, Gregory Mahoney, James Walter, James Watson, Terry Hayward, Michael Chamberlain, Bruce Clemenson
Number of Residences Within the Right-of-Way	number	0	0	
Number of Non-Residential Buildings Within the Right-of-Way	number	0	0	
Area of Agricultural Land Crossed	acres	12.2 acres	12.2 acres	

Table 2.A. Criteria and Data to be Used to Assess Impacts of Requested Route Width Adjustment: Segment 1 Pole 3 to Pole 9.

Criteria	Units	Permitted Alignment and Right-of-Way	Proposed Alignment and Right-of-Way	Other Information Important to this Request
Area of Forested Land Crossed	acres	0.6 acres	0.6 acres	
Area of Mineral or Metal Mining Resources within Right-of-Way	acres	0	0	
Area of Wetlands Crossed	acres	0.13 acres	0.13 acres	
Transmission Line Distance Across a Lake, Stream, Drainage or Other Waterway	feet or miles	3 intermittent stream crossings @ 3 feet each = 9 feet	3 intermittent stream crossings @ 3 feet each = 9 feet	There are no national wild, scenic and recreational rivers crossed
Area of Open Land Crossed	acres	Grassland=6.1 acres	Grassland=6.1 acres	
Area of Developed Land Crossed	acres	Roadway=3.4 acres	Roadway=3.4 acres	
Area of Parks, Waterfowl Production Areas, Wildlife Management Areas, Wildlife Refuges, and Prairie within the Right-of-Way	acres	0	0	
Number and Count of Known Protected or Endangered Species	number of species, count within species	0	0	
Number of Archeological and Historic Resources	number	0	0	

Table 3.A. Assessment of Impacts of Requested Route Width Adjustment for Segment 1, Pole 3 to Pole 9

Routing Factor Minn. Rules 7850.1900 subp. 3. and Minn. Rules 7850.4100	Impact Regarding Alignment and Right-of-Way Change Requested
Effects on human settlement, including, but not limited to displacement, noise, aesthetics, cultural values, recreation and public services	No Change
Effects on public health and safety	No Change
Effects on land-based economies, including, but not limited to agriculture, forestry, tourism and mining	No Change
Effects on archeological and historic resources	No Change
Effects on the natural environment, including effects on air and water quality resources and flora and fauna	No Change
Effects on rare and unique natural resources	No Change
Application of design options that maximize energy efficiencies, mitigate adverse environmental effects, and could accommodate expansion of transmission or generating capacity	No Change
Use or paralleling of existing rights-of-way, survey lines, natural division lines, and agricultural field boundaries	No Change

Table 3.A. Assessment of Impacts of Requested Route Width Adjustment for Segment 1, Pole 3 to Pole 9

Routing Factor Minn. Rules 7850.1900 subp. 3. and Minn. Rules 7850.4100	Impact Regarding Alignment and Right-of-Way Change Requested
Use of existing large electric power generating plant sites	No Change
Use of existing transportation, pipeline, and electrical transmission systems or rights-of-way	No Change
Electrical system reliability	No Change
Cost of constructing, operation and maintenance which are dependent on design and route	No Change
Human and natural environmental effects that cannot be avoided	No Change
Irreversible and ir retrievable commitments of resources	No Change
Measures that might be implemented to mitigate the potential human and environmental impacts identified above and the estimated costs of the mitigative measures	No Change
Wilderness Areas: No high voltage transmission line may be routed through state or national wilderness areas (Prohibition, Minn. Rules 7850.4300)	No Change
Parks and Natural Areas: No high voltage transmission line may be routed through state or national parks or state scientific and natural areas unless the transmission line would not materially damage or impair the purpose for which the area was designated and no feasible and prudent alternative exists. Economic considerations alone do not justify use of these areas for a high voltage transmission line (Prohibition, Minn. Rules 7850.4300)	No Change

Minor Alteration Proposed for Segment 2 – Poles 49 to 53

The second minor alteration request pertains to pole Nos. 49-53 which are located near the intersection of Power Dam Road and White Bridge Road NW in Oronoco Township. The approved alignment intermittently follows property lines until it reaches Power Dam Road NW. At that point, the alignment crosses the road and continues directly east to a point midway across a landowner property where it takes a 90 degree turn to the south to join and follow property lines south of White Bridge Road NW (Figure 2).

Xcel Energy requests that the approved alignment and route width be adjusted to accommodate the request of the affected landowner. The landowner’s requested alignment crosses the parcel at a diagonal. This alignment eliminates three poles from a tilled farm field and instead results in one pole being located in a non-farmed area. The number of poles on neighboring parcels is unchanged.

This proposed change will reduce agricultural impacts. The proposed alignment change results in a small area (0.05 acres) of right-of-way which falls outside the permitted route width. The total length of the alignment change is approximately 0.3 miles. Impacts of the proposed alignment change and route width adjustment are comparable or reduced for most of the routing factors set forth in Minnesota Rule 7850.4100. Details for the requested change are shown in Tables 2.B and 3.B below.

Table 2.B. Criteria and Data to be Used to Assess Impacts of Requested Route Width Adjustment for Segment 2, Pole 49 to Pole 53.

Criteria	Units	Permitted Alignment and Right-of-Way	Proposed Alignment and Right-of-Way	Other Information Important to this Request
Length of the Transmission Line	feet or miles	1.10 mile	0.95 miles	
Length that is In or Parallel to Existing Right-of-Way	feet or miles	0 miles	0 miles	
Number of Roads Crossed	number	1	1	
Number of Parcels Crossed	number	8	8	Arlene Nellis, Neil Stolp, Marla Culver, Ernest Bakke, Vernon Rucker, and Javon Bea Trustee
Number of Residences Within the Right-of Way	number	0	0	
Number of Non-Residential Buildings Within the Right-of-Way	number	0	0	
Area of Agricultural Land Crossed	acres	14.8	12.5	
Area of Forested Land Crossed	acres	1.1	1.1	
Area of Mineral or Metal Mining Resources within Right-of-Way	acres	0	0	
Area of Wetlands Crossed	acres	1	0.2	
Transmission Line Distance Across a Lake, Stream, Drainage or Other Waterway	feet or miles	0	0	There are no national wild, scenic and recreational rivers, or trout streams crossed
Area of Open Land Crossed	acres	Grassland=2.7	Grassland=3.7	
Area of Developed Land Crossed	acres	Roadway=0.3 acres	Roadway=0.5 acres	
Area of Parks, Waterfowl Production Areas, Wildlife Management Areas, Wildlife Refuges, and Prairie within the Right-of-Way	acres	0	0	
Number and Count of Known Protected or Endangered Species	number of species, count within species	0	0	
Number of Archeological and Historic Resources	number	0	0	

Table 3.B. Assessment of Impacts of Requested Route Width Adjustment for Segment 2, Pole 49 to Pole 53

Routing Factor Minn. Rules 7850.1900 subp. 3. and Minn. Rules 7850.4100	Impact Regarding Alignment and Right-of-Way Change Requested
Effects on human settlement, including, but not limited to displacement, noise, aesthetics, cultural values, recreation and public services	No change
Effects on public health and safety	No change
Effects on land-based economies, including, but not limited to agriculture, forestry, tourism and mining	Eliminates 3 structures within an agricultural field
Effects on archeological and historic resources	No change
Effects on the natural environment, including effects on air and water quality resources and flora and fauna	No change
Effects on rare and unique natural resources	No change
Application of design options that maximize energy efficiencies, mitigate adverse environmental effects, and could accommodate expansion of transmission or generating capacity	No change
Use or paralleling of existing rights-of-way, survey lines, natural division lines, and agricultural field boundaries	No change
Use of existing large electric power generating plant sites	No change
Use of existing transportation, pipeline, and electrical transmission systems or rights-of-way	No change
Electrical system reliability	No change
Cost of constructing, operation and maintenance which are dependent on design and route	Reduction in cost of construction by approximately \$160,000 to \$200,000
Human and natural environmental effects that cannot be avoided	No change
Irreversible and irretreivable commitments of resources	No change
Measures that might be implemented to mitigate the potential human and environmental impacts identified above and the estimated costs of the mitigative measures	No change
Wilderness Areas: No high voltage transmission line may be routed through state or national wilderness areas (Prohibition, Minn. Rules 7850.4300)	No change
Parks and Natural Areas: No high voltage transmission line may be routed through state or national parks or state scientific and natural areas unless the transmission line would not materially damage or impair the purpose for which the area was designated and no feasible and prudent alternative exists. Economic considerations alone do not justify use of these areas for a high voltage transmission line (Prohibition, Minn. Rules 7850.4300)	No change

Landowner Notice and Comment Requirements

These two minor alterations will not affect any new landowners. Xcel Energy is copying affected landowners (Table 4) on this filing. Minnesota Rule 7850.4800, subpart 2, states that the Commission shall mail notice of receipt of this minor alteration request to those persons on the general list and to those persons on the project contact list. The Commission shall provide at least a

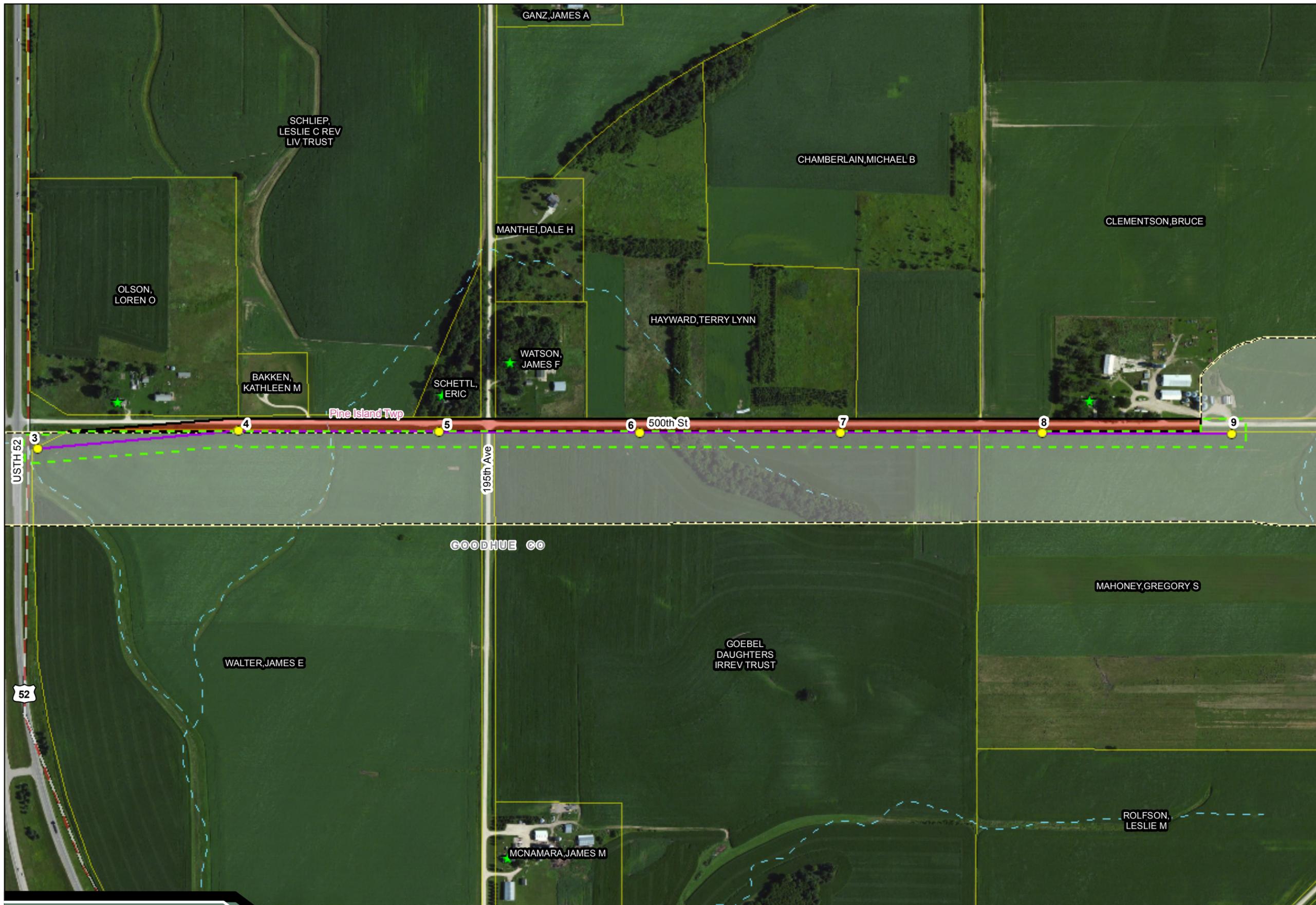
10-day period for interested persons to submit comments on the minor alteration request or to request the matter be brought to the Commission for consideration.

Table 4 Landowners Adjacent to Alteration Requests

Expansion Area Poles 3 to 9					
Name	PIN	Address	City	State	Zip
BAKKEN,KATHLEEN M	390201001	19321 500TH ST	PINE ISLAND	MN	55963
CHAMBERLAIN,MICHAEL B	470180200	18243 490TH ST	PINE ISLAND	MN	55963
CLEMENTSON,BRUCE	390210800	20147 500TH ST	PINE ISLAND	MN	55963
GOEBEL DAUGHTERS IRREV TRUST	390290100	950 HIGHWAY 95 N	BAYPORT	MN	55003
HAYWARD,TERRY LYNN	390200802	985 ZANZIBAR LN N	PLYMOUTH	MN	55447
MAHONEY,GREGORY S	390280200	50267 203RD AVE	PINE ISLAND	MN	55963
OLSON,LOREN O	390201100	822 CHERRY ST E	MAZEPPA	MN	55956
SCHETTL,ERIC	390200700	19451 500TH ST	PINE ISLAND	MN	55963
SCHLIEP,LESLIE C REV LIV TRUST	400130300	49401 195TH AVE	PINE ISLAND	MN	55963
WALTER,JAMES E	390200100	312 COUNTY RD 11 NW	PINE ISLAND	MN	55963
WATSON,JAMES F	390200800	49960 195TH AVE	PINE ISLAND	MN	55963
Expansion Area Poles 48 to 53					
BAKKE,ERNEST P	840932039680	3694 WHITE BRIDGE RD NW	ORONOCO	MN	55960
CULVER,MARLA K	840922039675	12316 POWER DAM RD NW	ORONOCO	MN	55960
STOLP,NEIL M	840543039631	3951 WHITE BRIDGE RD NW	ORONOCO	MN	55960

Conclusion

Xcel Energy respectfully requests that the Commission approve these two proposed minor alterations.



Legend

Project Feature

- Approved 345 kV Alignment
- Approved Alignment ROW
- Approved Pole Location
- Route Width Expansion Area

PUC Approved Route

- Route

Residence

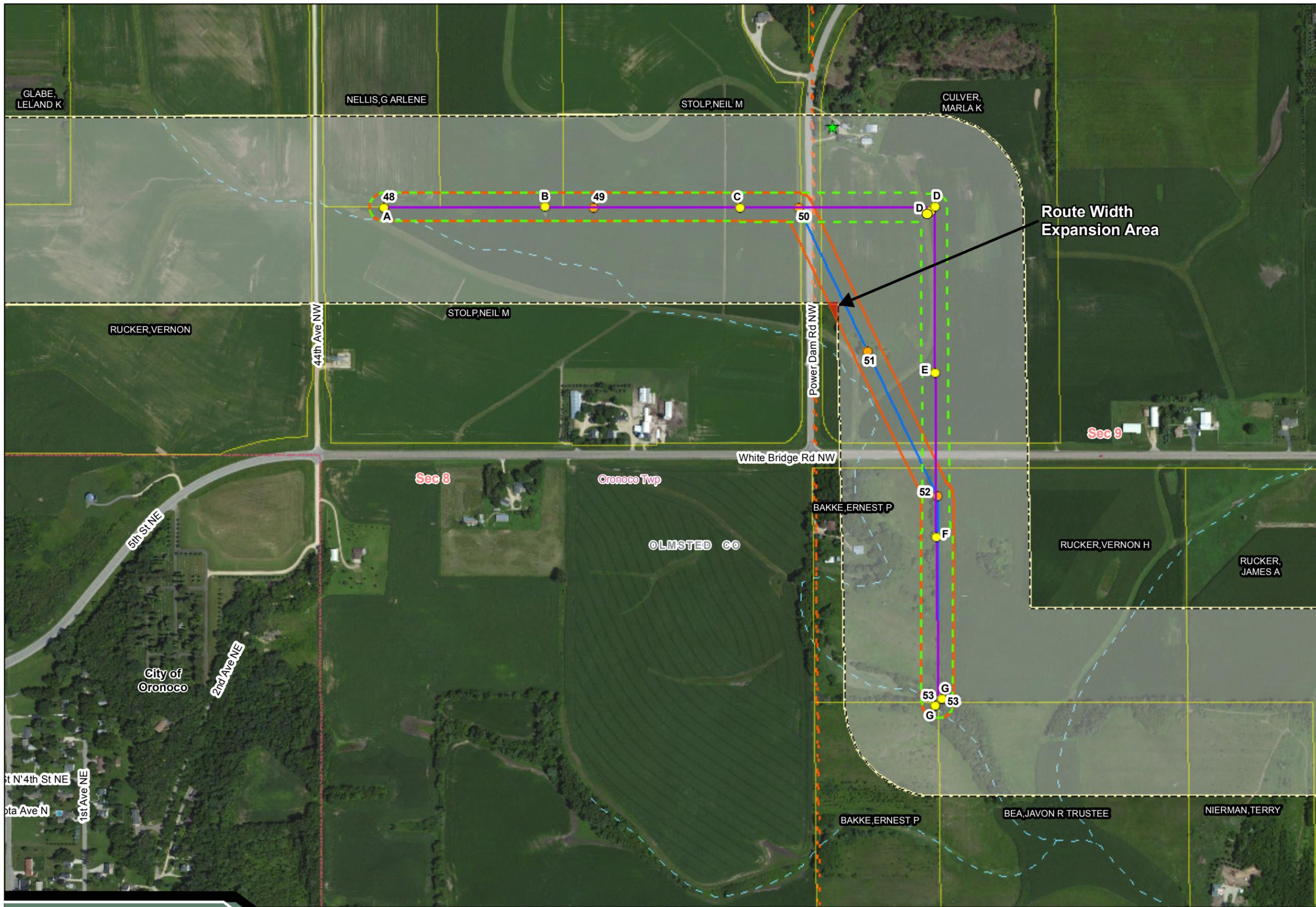
- Residence

Other Feature

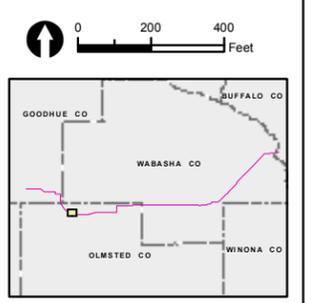
- Civil Division
- Stream (Intermittent)
- Stream (Perennial)
- Parcel



Data Sources: Mn/DOT, BTS, LMIC, SHPO
 Pole_309_Minor_Alteration_140109
 Map Date: November 14, 2013
 P:\2007071800_25_CAP\GIS\Layouts\MN_Minor_Alteration\1
 P:\2007071800_25_CAP\GIS\Layouts\MN_Minor_Alteration\1
 Aerial Photography Published by
 ESRI World Imagery, 2011



- Legend**
- Project Feature**
 - Approved 345 kV Alignment
 - Approved Alignment ROW
 - Approved Pole Location
 - Revised 345 kV Alignment
 - Revised Alignment ROW
 - Revised Pole Location
 - Route Width Expansion Area
 - PUC Approved Route**
 - Route
 - Residence**
 - Residence
 - Other Feature**
 - Civil Division
 - Section Line
 - Stream (Intermittent)
 - Stream (Perennial)
 - Parcel



Data Sources: Mn/DOT, BTS, LMIC, SHPO
 Pole_48to53_Minor_Alteration_140114
 Map Date: January 14, 2014
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 Aerial Photography Published by MN GEO
 MN DNR Fall Color Imagery, 2011