

Appendix C

Agency and Tribal Correspondence

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Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC)

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May 23, 2024
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council
161 Rondo Avenue, Ste. 919
St. Paul, MN 55103
651.539.2202
Shannon.geshick@state.mn.us

Dear Shannon Geshick, Executive Director;

HDR Engineering, Inc (HDR) is assisting Dairyland Power with the development of a proposed 161 kV transmission line, called Beaver Creek. The Project would be located in Filmore County, Minnesota and Howard County, Iowa. The proposed transmission line would run approximately 3.5 miles in Minnesota and 6.5 miles in Iowa. See the attached map.

Dairyland Power has completed initial environmental due diligence and expects to file a Route Permit Application with the Public Utility Commission of Minnesota (PUC) in the coming months and a Franchise Application with the Iowa Utilities Board in 2025 and will be subject to environmental review through the Rural Utilities Service.

At present, Dairyland Power is conducting further agency outreach and would appreciate your review and comment on the project as it relates to the resources your agency manages. We are looking forward to hearing from you! If you require further information or have questions about the project, please contact me at (763) 278-5928 or Dan.schmidt@hdrinc.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dan Schmidt'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dan Schmidt

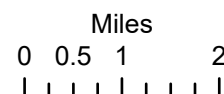
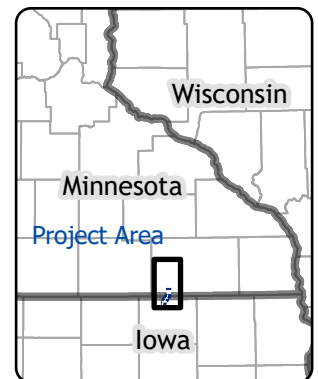
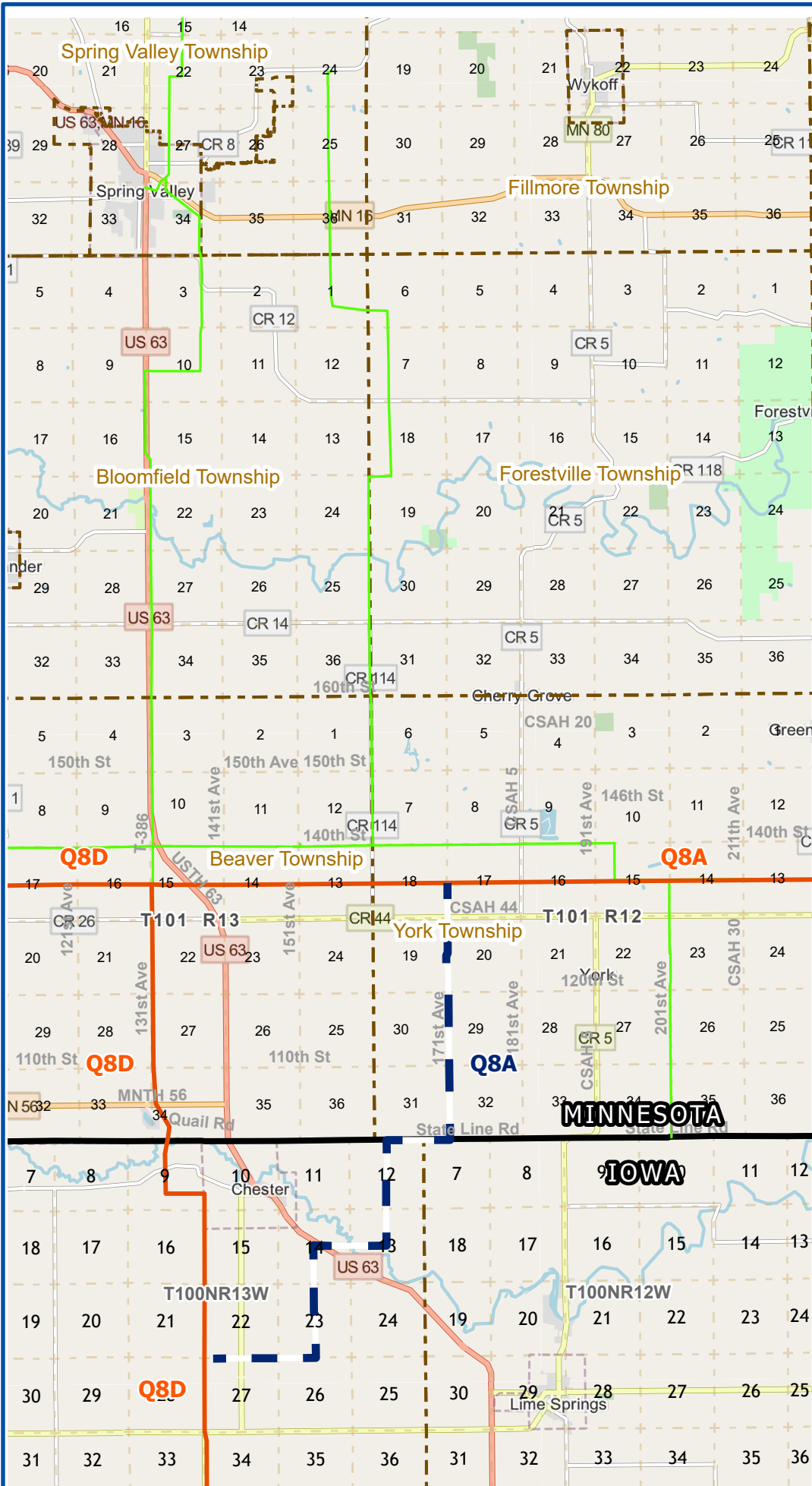
HDR

CC: Dylan Goetsch, dylan.goetsch@state.mn.us

Project Overview

LEGEND

- Intended Alignment
- DPC 69 kV Transmission Line
- DPC 161 kV Transmission Line
- State Boundary
- Civil Township



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR)

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May 23, 2024
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
2118 Campus Dr SE, Suite 100
Rochester, MN 55901
507.206.2852
info.dnr@state.mn.us

Greetings;

HDR Engineering, Inc (HDR) is assisting Dairyland Power with the development of a proposed 161 kV transmission line, called Beaver Creek. The Project would be located in Filmore County, Minnesota and Howard County, Iowa. The proposed transmission line would run approximately 3.5 miles in Minnesota and 6.5 miles in Iowa. See the attached map.

Dairyland Power has completed initial environmental due diligence and expects to file a Route Permit Application with the Public Utility Commission of Minnesota (PUC) in the coming months and a Franchise Application with the Iowa Utilities Board in 2025 and will be subject to environmental review through the Rural Utilities Service. A review of rare MCE NHIS state-listed special concern, threatened, or endangered species within the Project ROW and one-mile of the Project centerline identified one threatened plant species, edible valerian (*Valeriana edulis* var. *ciliata*), within one mile of the Project centerline.

At present, Dairyland Power is conducting further agency outreach and would appreciate your review and comment on the project as it relates to the sensitive species and habitat. We are looking forward to hearing from you! If you require further information or have questions about the project, please contact me at (763) 278-5928 or Dan.schmidt@hdrinc.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dan Schmidt'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

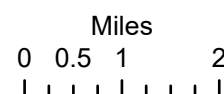
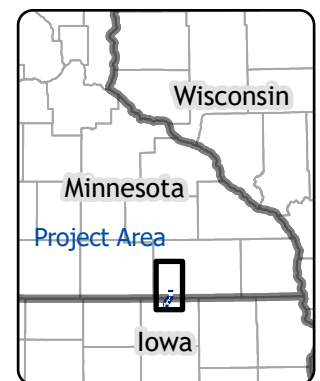
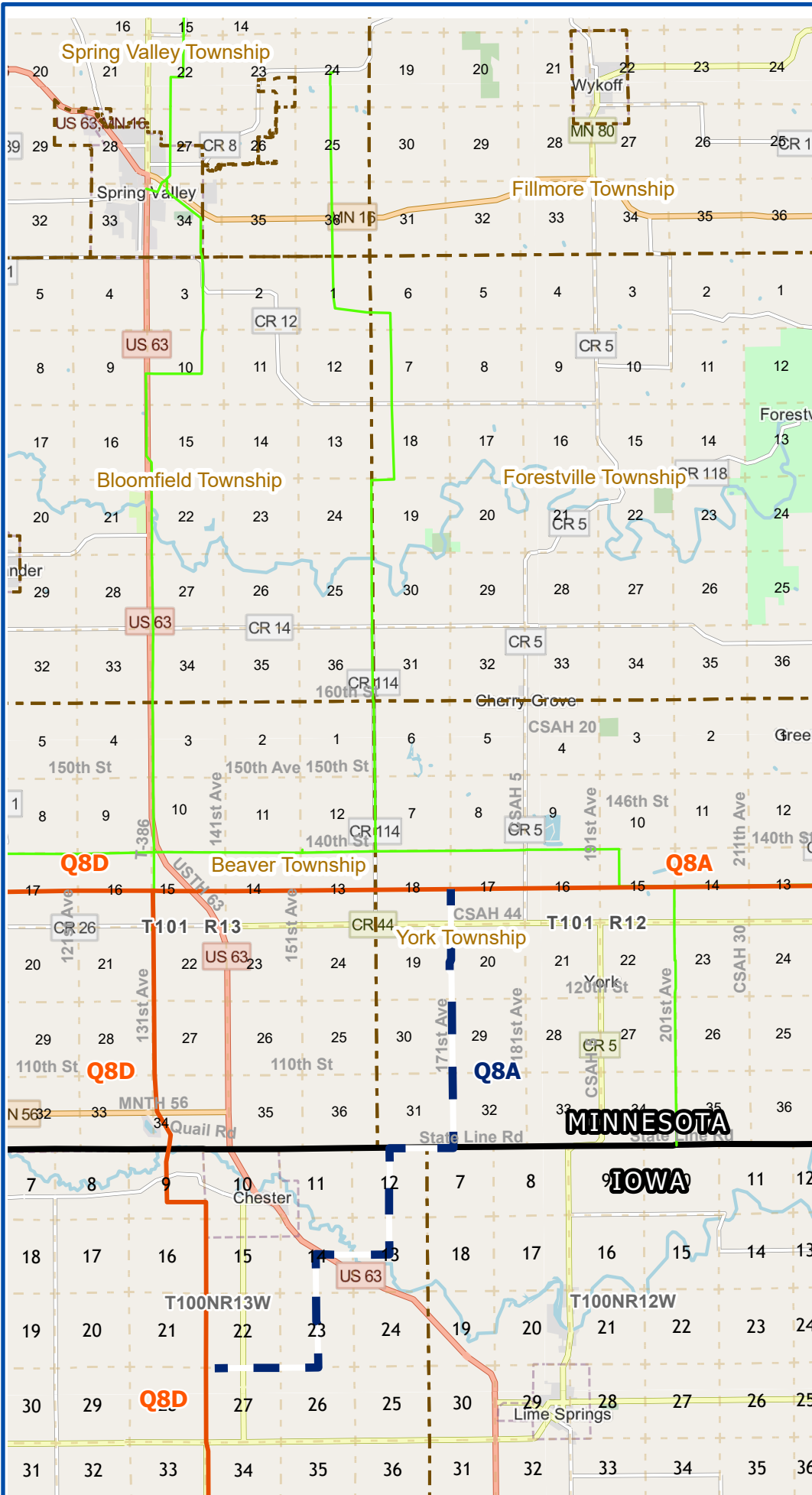
Dan Schmidt

HDR

Project Overview

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From: [Granstrom-Arndt, Kirsten](#)
To: [Collins, Melissa \(DNR\)](#); [Schmidt, Dan](#)
Cc: [Michael Peters](#); [MN_Info \(DNR\)](#); [Fairman, Kate \(DNR\)](#); [Plank, Catherine \(DNR\)](#)
Subject: RE: Dairyland Beaver Creek Transmission Line Project Review
Date: Monday, June 3, 2024 4:27:27 PM
Attachments: [20240603_BeaverCreek_centerline.zip](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[20240603_BeaverCreek_RouteCorridor.zip](#)
[2024-00334-NHRLetter.pdf](#)

Hi Melissa,

The proposed project is a 161 kV transmission line which would travel approximately 3.5 miles through agricultural and residential land, connecting with existing infrastructure at the north end and crossing over the Minnesota border at the south end. The majority of impacts for this project, except where the project would connect with existing infrastructure, will require new right-of-way.

I have attached a couple of shapefiles showing the project centerline and route corridor, which should encompass the entirety of the impact area.

The initial NHIS database review (ID 2022-034) was completed prior to receiving an official Minnesota Conservation Explorer report, which was sent to us on May 24th.

I have attached the official MCE report for your review.

Please let me know if you need anything else,

[Kirsten Granstrom-Arndt](#), M.S.
D 763.591.6691

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: Collins, Melissa (DNR) <Melissa.Collins@state.mn.us>
Sent: Monday, June 3, 2024 12:41 PM
To: Schmidt, Dan <Dan.Schmidt@hdrinc.com>
Cc: Granstrom-Arndt, Kirsten <Kirsten.Granstrom-Arndt@hdrinc.com>; Michael Peters <Michael.Peters@DairylandPower.com>; MN_Info (DNR) <info.dnr@state.mn.us>; Fairman, Kate (DNR) <kate.fairman@state.mn.us>; Plank, Catherine (DNR) <Catherine.Plank@state.mn.us>
Subject: RE: Dairyland Beaver Creek Transmission Line Project Review

WARNING: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Dan,

I can assist you in early coordination for this transmission line project. Can you please let me know if the proposed line will utilize existing right-of-way or require new right-of-way? Can

you also provide shapefiles of the route/ROW? It sounds like you used a private license agreement to query the NHIS database. Since rare features were identified within a mile, have you submitted the project to Minnesota Conservation Explorer for further coordination with MNDNR?

Thank you,

Melissa Collins

Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist | Ecological and Water Resources

Pronouns: She/her/hers

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

1200 Warner Road

St. Paul, MN 55106

Phone: 651-259-5755

Email: melissa.collins@state.mn.us

mndnr.gov



From: Schmidt, Dan <Dan.Schmidt@hdrinc.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2024 3:34 PM

To: MN_Info (DNR) <info.dnr@state.mn.us>

Cc: Granstrom-Arndt, Kirsten <Kirsten.Granstrom-Arndt@hdrinc.com>; Michael Peters <Michael.Peters@DairylandPower.com>

Subject: Dairyland Beaver Creek Transmission Line Project Review

You don't often get email from dan.schmidt@hdrinc.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

This message may be from an external email source.

Do not select links or open attachments unless verified. Report all suspicious emails to Minnesota IT Services Security Operations Center.

Please find attached a project introduction letter about the Dairyland Beaver Creek Transmission Line Project. Thank You

Dan

Dan Schmidt
Senior Project Manager

HDR
1601 Utica Ave S., Suite 600
St Louis Park, MN 55416-3400
D 763.278.5928 M 612.812.2069

dan.schmidt@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

Minnesota Office of the State Archaeologist (MNOSA)

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May 23, 2024
Office of the State Archaeologist
328 W. Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55102
651.201.2263
amanda.gronhovd@state.mn.us

Dear Amanda Gronhovd, State Archaeologist;

HDR Engineering, Inc (HDR) is assisting Dairyland Power with the development of a proposed 161 kV transmission line, called Beaver Creek. The Project would be located in Filmore County, Minnesota and Howard County, Iowa. The proposed transmission line would run approximately 3.5 miles in Minnesota and 6.5 miles in Iowa. See the attached map.

Dairyland Power has completed initial environmental due diligence and expects to file a Route Permit Application with the Public Utility Commission of Minnesota (PUC) in the coming months and a Franchise Application with the Iowa Utilities Board in 2025 and will be subject to environmental review through the Rural Utilities Service.

At present, Dairyland Power is conducting further agency outreach and would appreciate your review and comment on the project as it relates to the resources your agency manages. We are looking forward to hearing from you! If you require further information or have questions about the project, please contact me at (763) 278-5928 or Dan.schmidt@hdrinc.com.

Sincerely,

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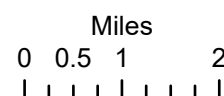
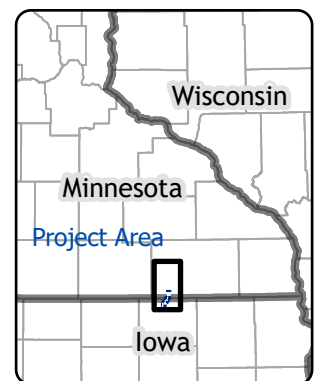
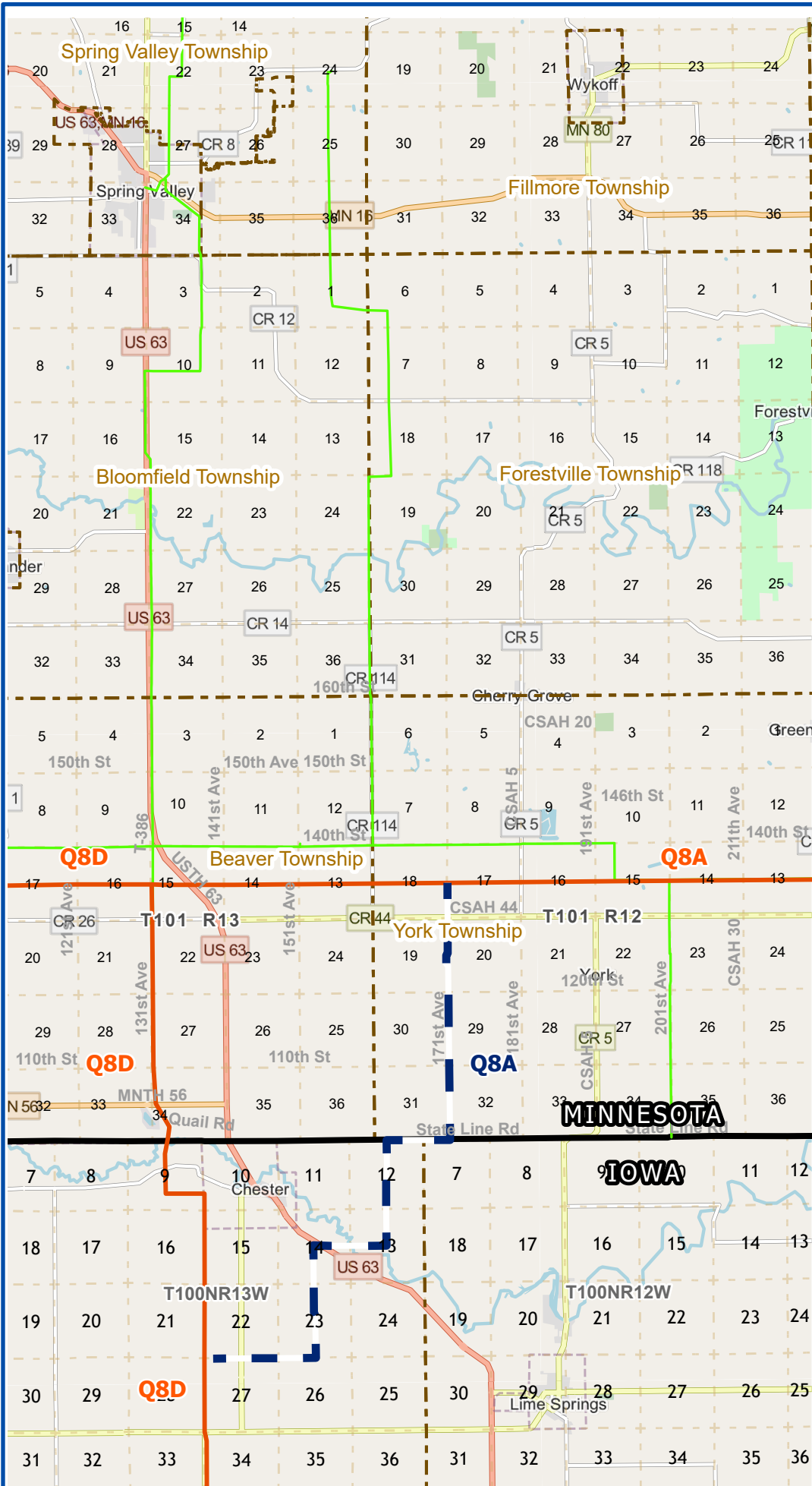
Dan Schmidt

HDR

Project Overview

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- State Boundary
- Civil Township



Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (MNSHPO)

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May 23, 2024
State Historic Preservation Office
Administration Building Ste. 203
50 Sherburne Ave
St. Paul, MN 55155
651.201.3287
Kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us

Dear Kelly Gragg-Johnson, Environmental Review Program Specialist;

HDR Engineering, Inc (HDR) is assisting Dairyland Power with the development of a proposed 161 kV transmission line, called Beaver Creek. The Project would be located in Fillmore County, Minnesota and Howard County, Iowa. The proposed transmission line would run approximately 3.5 miles in Minnesota and 6.5 miles in Iowa. See the attached map.

Dairyland Power has completed initial environmental due diligence and expects to file a Route Permit Application with the Public Utility Commission of Minnesota (PUC) in the coming months and a Franchise Application with the Iowa Utilities Board in 2025 and will be subject to environmental review through the Rural Utilities Service.

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Dan Schmidt

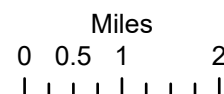
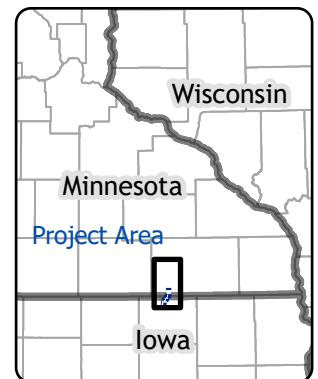
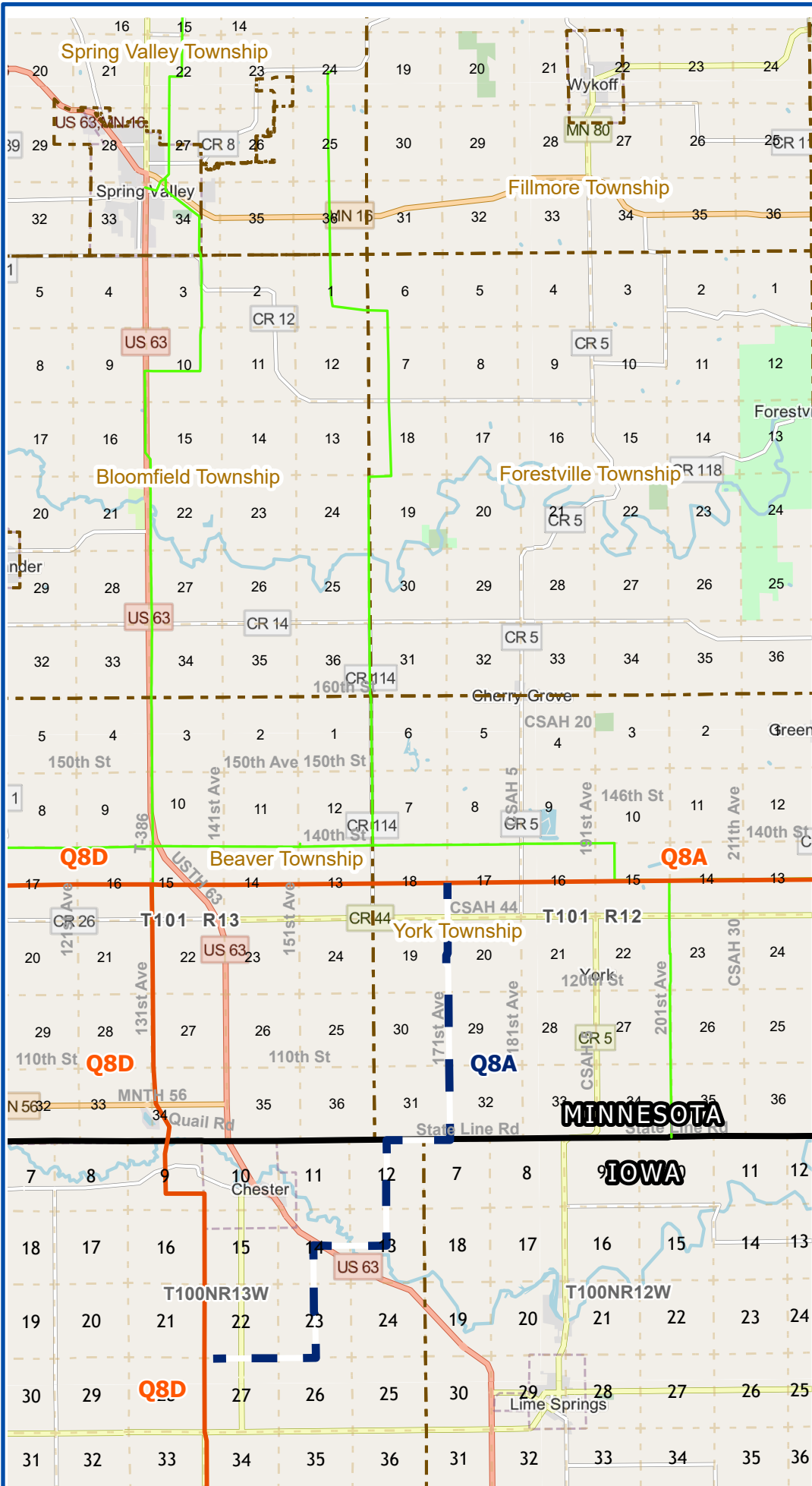
HDR

CC: Lucy Harrington, lucy.harrington@state.mn.us

Project Overview

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- State Boundary
- Civil Township



From: [Schmidt, Dan](#)
To: [GraggJohnson, Kelly \(ADM\)](#)
Cc: [Michael Peters \(Michael.Peters@DairylandPower.com\)](#); [Ben Campbell](#)
Subject: RE: Dairyland Beaver Creek Transmission Line Project Review
Date: Monday, June 17, 2024 9:34:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi Kelly,

I guess it is both. In short term we will be filing our route permit application with the PUC (likely late July). DPC will be receiving funding from the RUS, we expect the RUS env process to start in early 2025 once we have more clarity from the PUC process. Thanks

Dan

[Dan Schmidt](#)
D 763.278.5928 M 612.812.2069

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From: GraggJohnson, Kelly (ADM) <kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us>
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2024 7:50 AM
To: Schmidt, Dan <Dan.Schmidt@hdrinc.com>
Subject: RE: Dairyland Beaver Creek Transmission Line Project Review

CAUTION: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Dan – Is this receiving funding through the RUS, will it be subject to review under S106 of the National Historic Preservation Act? Or is this a state level review because of the PUC permitting?

Thanks

Kelly



Kelly Gragg-Johnson (she/her/hers) | **Environmental Review Program Specialist**

50 Sherburne Avenue, Suite 203

Saint Paul, MN 55155

(651) 201-3285 | kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us

Please reference this [SHPO Environmental Review Program Update](#) regarding current project review timelines and staffing changes for the Environmental Review Program.

-

From: Schmidt, Dan <Dan.Schmidt@hdrinc.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2024 2:28 PM

To: GraggJohnson, Kelly (ADM) <kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us>

Cc: Harrington, Lucy (She/Her/Hers) (ADM) <Lucy.Harrington@state.mn.us>; Granstrom-Arndt, Kirsten <Kirsten.Granstrom-Arndt@hdrinc.com>; Michael Peters <Michael.Peters@DairylandPower.com>

Subject: Dairyland Beaver Creek Transmission Line Project Review

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Please find attached a project introduction letter about the Dairyland Beaver Creek Transmission Line Project. Thank You

Dan

Dan Schmidt

Senior Project Manager

HDR

1601 Utica Ave S., Suite 600

St Louis Park, MN 55416-3400

D 763.278.5928 **M** 612.812.2069

dan.schmidt@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

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May 23, 2024
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Minnesota State Office
375 Jackson St
St. Paul, 55101-1854
651.602.7900
kristine.a.kust@usda.gov

Dear Troy Daniell, State Conservationist;

HDR Engineering, Inc (HDR) is assisting Dairyland Power with the development of a proposed 161 kV transmission line, called Beaver Creek. The Project would be located in Fillmore County, Minnesota and Howard County, Iowa. The proposed transmission line would run approximately 3.5 miles in Minnesota and 6.5 miles in Iowa. See the attached map.

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At present, Dairyland Power is conducting further agency outreach and would appreciate your review and comment on the project as it relates to the resources your agency manages. We are looking forward to hearing from you! If you require further information or have questions about the project, please contact me at (763) 278-5928 or Dan.schmidt@hdrinc.com.

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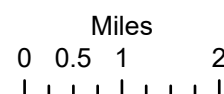
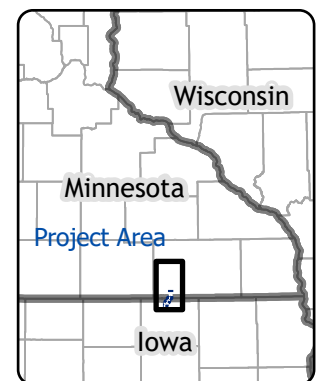
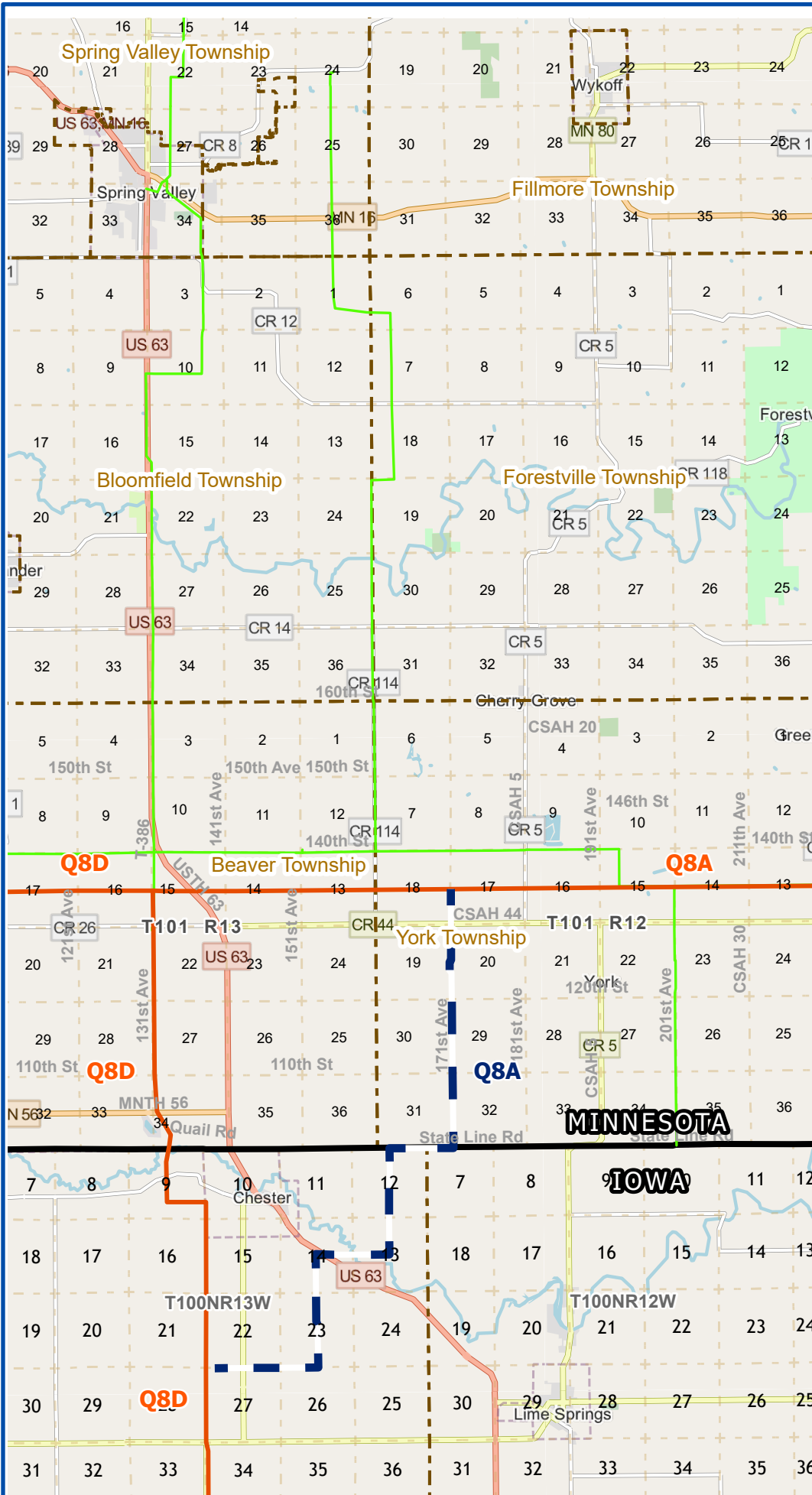
Dan Schmidt

HDR

Project Overview

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- DPC 69 kV Transmission Line
- DPC 161 kV Transmission Line
- State Boundary
- Civil Township



United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

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May 23, 2024

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District - Regulatory
332 Minnesota St., Suite E1500
St. Paul, MN 55101
651.290.5525
USACE_Requests_MN@usace.army.mil

Greetings;

HDR Engineering, Inc (HDR) is assisting Dairyland Power with the development of a proposed 161 kV transmission line, called Beaver Creek. The Project would be located in Filmore County, Minnesota and Howard County, Iowa. The proposed transmission line would run approximately 3.5 miles in Minnesota and 6.5 miles in Iowa. See the attached map.

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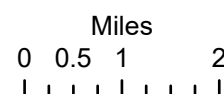
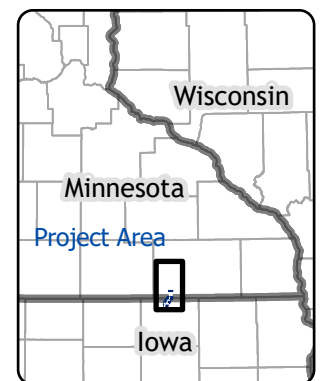
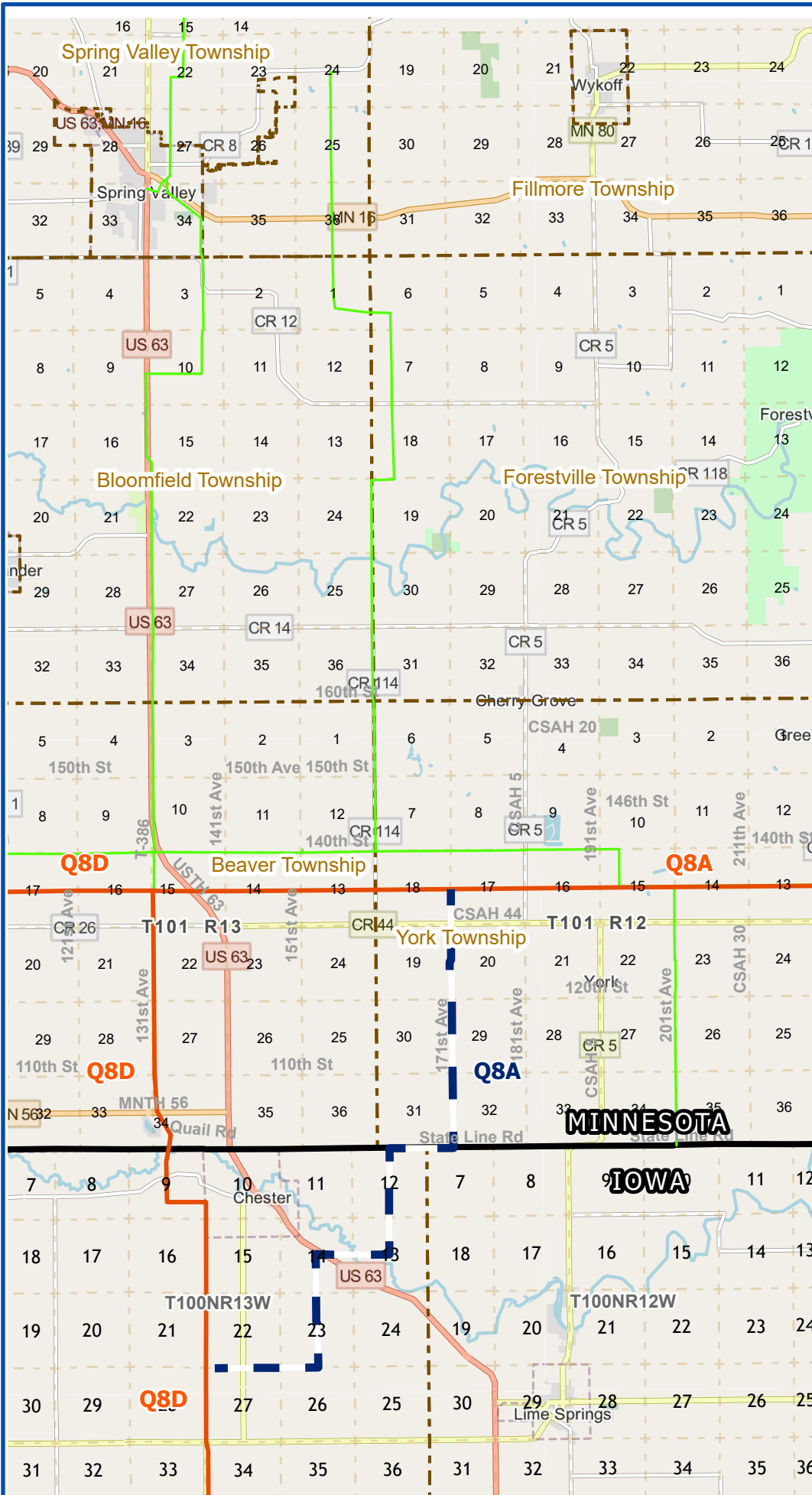
Dan Schmidt

HDR

Project Overview

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From: [Parker, Kaecey R CIV USARMY CEMVP \(USA\)](#)
To: [Schmidt, Dan](#)
Cc: [Studenski, David A CIV USARMY CEMVP \(USA\)](#)
Subject: Beaver Creek Utility Project
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 6:53:28 AM

CAUTION: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

The Corps of Engineers St. Paul District Regulatory Division (the Corps) recently received a request for comments for the Beaver Creek Utility Project.

Our office is committed to efficient, helpful service. It is unclear if your project will have impacts to jurisdictional waters. If your project will have impacts to aquatic resources, please submit a permit application with the impacts clearly identified and we can assist you through our permit review process if authorization is required.

You may also request a pre-application meeting to discuss your project prior to submitting a permit application. You can find more information on our permit program and our joint application here: <https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permitting-Process-Procedures/>.

*Be sure to select the pre-application box on the joint application.

Please note this recommendation is only pertaining to the Corps process and does NOT indicate whether a review is required from the state or local authorities.

If we do not receive a response from you within 3 business days we will assume nothing further is needed from our office.

Respectfully,

Kaecey Parker
Environmental Protection Technician
Regulatory Division, St. Paul District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

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May 23, 2024
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Minnesota Ecological Services Field Office
3815 American Blvd. East
Bloomington, MN 55425-1665
TwinCities@fws.gov

Greetings;

HDR Engineering, Inc (HDR) is assisting Dairyland Power with the development of a proposed 161 kV transmission line, called Beaver Creek. The Project would be located in Filmore County, Minnesota and Howard County, Iowa. The proposed transmission line would run approximately 3.5 miles in Minnesota and 6.5 miles in Iowa. See the attached map.

Dairyland Power has completed initial environmental due diligence and expects to file a Route Permit Application with the Public Utility Commission of Minnesota (PUC) in the coming months and a Franchise Application with the Iowa Utilities Board in 2025 and will be subject to environmental review through the Rural Utilities Service. A review of the USFWS IPaC system identified six federally threatened, endangered, proposed endangered, candidate, and non-essential experimental population species within one mile of the Proposed Route: the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), whooping crane (*Grus americana*), monarch butterfly (*Danaus Plexippus*), prairie bush clover (*Lespedeza leptostachya*), and western prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera praeclara*).

At present, Dairyland Power is conducting further agency outreach and would appreciate your review and comment on the project as it relates to the resources your agency manages. We are looking forward to hearing from you! If you require further information or have questions about the project, please contact me at (763) 278-5928 or Dan.schmidt@hdrinc.com.

Sincerely,

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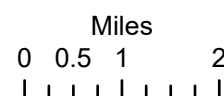
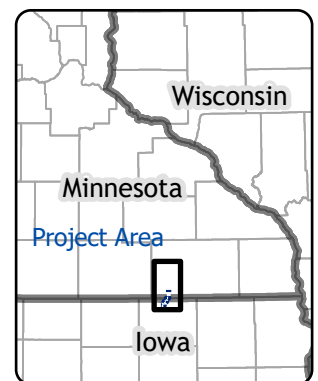
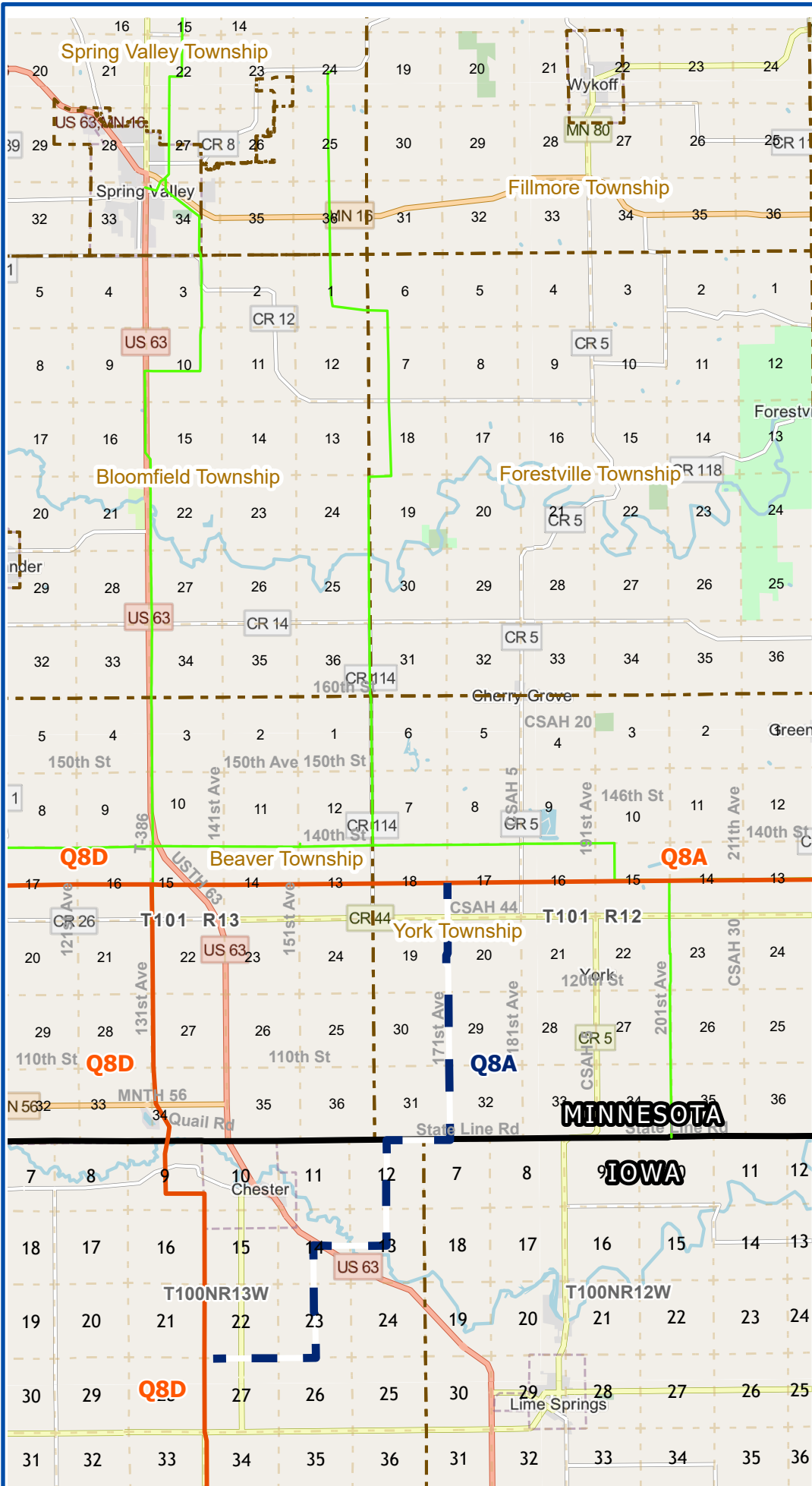
Dan Schmidt

HDR

Project Overview

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- Civil Township



From: [Simpkins, Darin](#)
To: [Schmidt, Dan](#)
Cc: [Granstrom-Arndt, Kirsten](#); [Michael Peters](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Dairyland Beaver Creek Transmission Line Project Review
Date: Thursday, May 23, 2024 3:29:49 PM
Attachments: [USFWS BeaverCreek Draft Agency Intro Letter.pdf](#)

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Good Day Dan -

Assuming that the project has a federal nexus with USDS-RUS (e.g., funding or permits), I will be your USFWS Point of Contact (POC) for Section 7 ESA consultation for the project. Feel free to email me your request for consultation and associated consultation package materials when you have it assembled and are ready to initiate the process.

Best,

Darin Simpkins

From: Schmidt, Dan <Dan.Schmidt@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2024 2:27 PM
To: Twin Cities, FW3 <TwinCities@fws.gov>
Cc: Granstrom-Arndt, Kirsten <Kirsten.Granstrom-Arndt@hdrinc.com>; Michael Peters <Michael.Peters@DairylandPower.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Dairyland Beaver Creek Transmission Line Project Review

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Please find attached a project introduction letter about the Dairyland Beaver Creek Transmission Line Project. Thank You

Dan

[Dan Schmidt](#)
Senior Project Manager

HDR
1601 Utica Ave S., Suite 600
St Louis Park, MN 55416-3400
D 763.278.5928 **M** 612.812.2069

dan.schmidt@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

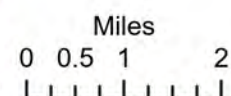
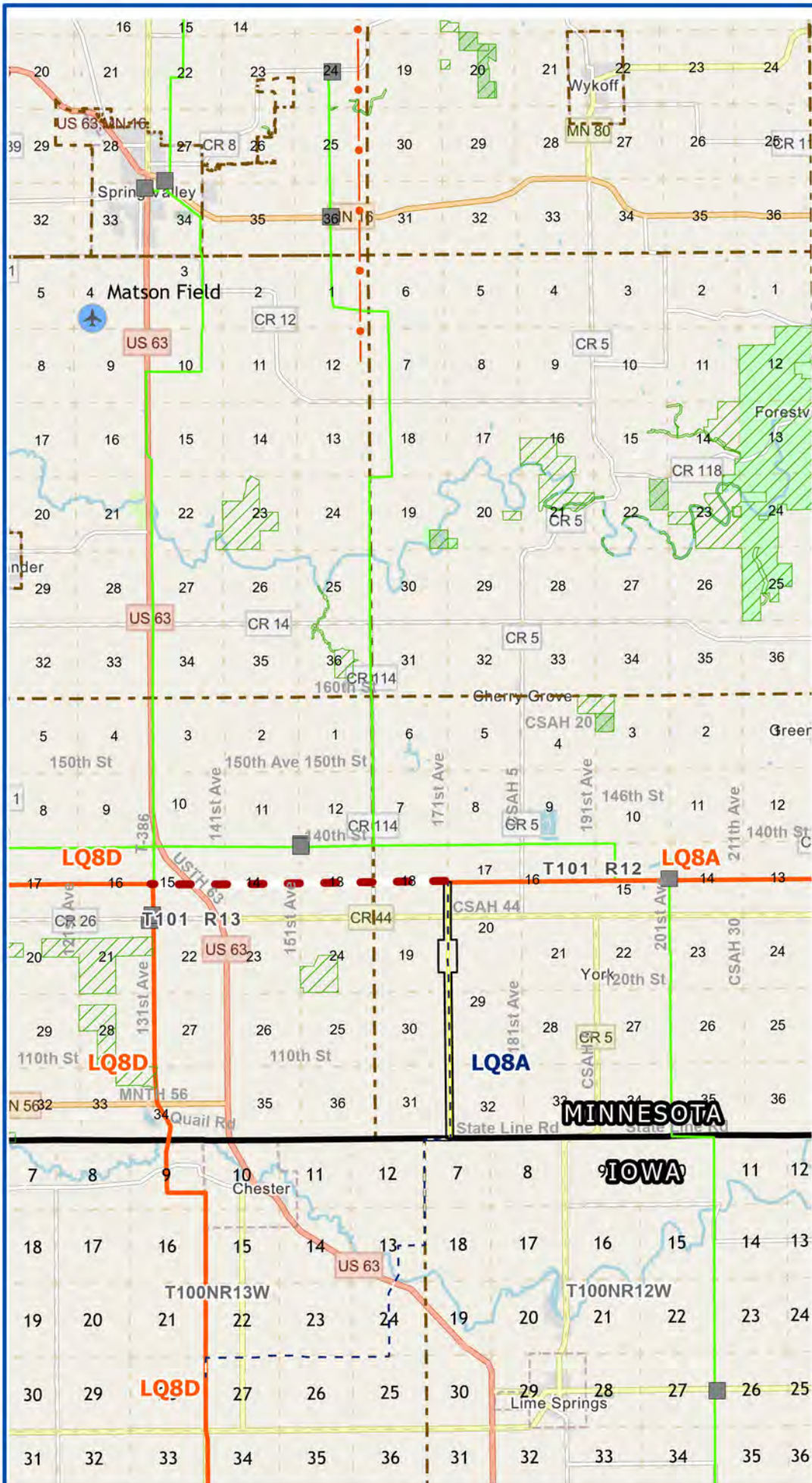
Tribal Correspondence

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Project Overview (Minnesota & Iowa)

LEGEND

- Proposed Alignment
- Proposed Route
- Proposed ROW
- Substations
- Existing 69 kV Transmission
- Existing 161 kV Transmission
- To be Retired Dairyland 161 kV Transmission
- Natural Gas Pipelines
- Oil Pipeline
- State Boundary
- Civil Township
- ✈ Airfield or Airport
- DNR Managed Units



June 20, 2024

Catherine Chavers
Chairwoman
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa
5344 Lakeshore Drive
Nett Lake, MN 55772

RE: Beaver Creek Project

Dear Chairwoman Chavers

HDR Engineering, Inc (HDR) is assisting Dairyland Power Cooperative (Dairyland) with the development of a 161 kV transmission line, the Beaver Creek Project (project). This project will travel approximately 3.5 miles through agricultural and residential land located along 171st Avenue within York Township in Fillmore County, Minnesota and continuing for an additional 6.5 miles in Iowa. The line will connect with existing infrastructure at the north end and cross over the Minnesota border at the south end. A project overview map is included with this letter.

Dairyland has completed initial environmental due diligence and expects to file a Route Permit Application with the Public Utility Commission of Minnesota (PUC) in the coming months, a Franchise Application with the Iowa Utilities Board in 2025, as well as complete National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review through the Rural Utilities Service.

At present, Dairyland is conducting further agency and Tribal outreach and would appreciate and value your input to attempt to avoid or minimize impacts to Tribally significant resources, if they are present. Responses can be sent to my email address provided below. If preferred, we can have a more in-depth conversation either in-person or virtually, to discuss the project and receive your input. We would appreciate your review and comment on the project as it relates to the resources your agency manages. We are looking forward to hearing from you! If you require further information or have questions about the project, please contact me at. (763) 278-5928 or Dan.schmidt@hdrinc.com.

Sincerely,

Dan Schmidt
Senior Project Manager

cc: Jaylen Strong

Attachments:

June 20, 2024

Kevin Dupuis
Chairman
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
1720 Big Lake Rd
Cloquet, MN 55720

RE: Beaver Creek Project

Dear Chairman Dupuis,

HDR Engineering, Inc (HDR) is assisting Dairyland Power Cooperative (Dairyland) with the development of a 161 kV transmission line, the Beaver Creek Project (project). This project will travel approximately 3.5 miles through agricultural and residential land located along 171st Avenue within York Township in Fillmore County, Minnesota and continuing for an additional 6.5 miles in Iowa. The line will connect with existing infrastructure at the north end and cross over the Minnesota border at the south end. A project overview map is included with this letter.

Dairyland has completed initial environmental due diligence and expects to file a Route Permit Application with the Public Utility Commission of Minnesota (PUC) in the coming months, a Franchise Application with the Iowa Utilities Board in 2025, as well as complete National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review through the Rural Utilities Service.

At present, Dairyland is conducting further agency and Tribal outreach and would appreciate and value your input to attempt to avoid or minimize impacts to Tribally significant resources, if they are present. Responses can be sent to my email address provided below. If preferred, we can have a more in-depth conversation either in-person or virtually, to discuss the project and receive your input. We would appreciate your review and comment on the project as it relates to the resources your agency manages. We are looking forward to hearing from you! If you require further information or have questions about the project, please contact me at. (763) 278-5928 or Dan.schmidt@hdrinc.com.

Sincerely,

Dan Schmidt
Senior Project Manager

cc: Evan Shroeder

Attachments:

June 20, 2024

Robert Deschampe
Chairman
Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
83 Stevens Rd, P.O. Box 428
Grand Portage, MN 55605

RE: Beaver Creek Project

Dear Chairman Deschampe,

HDR Engineering, Inc (HDR) is assisting Dairyland Power Cooperative (Dairyland) with the development of a 161 kV transmission line, the Beaver Creek Project (project). This project will travel approximately 3.5 miles through agricultural and residential land located along 171st Avenue within York Township in Fillmore County, Minnesota and continuing for an additional 6.5 miles in Iowa. The line will connect with existing infrastructure at the north end and cross over the Minnesota border at the south end. A project overview map is included with this letter.

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At present, Dairyland is conducting further agency and Tribal outreach and would appreciate and value your input to attempt to avoid or minimize impacts to Tribally significant resources, if they are present. Responses can be sent to my email address provided below. If preferred, we can have a more in-depth conversation either in-person or virtually, to discuss the project and receive your input. We would appreciate your review and comment on the project as it relates to the resources your agency manages. We are looking forward to hearing from you! If you require further information or have questions about the project, please contact me at. (763) 278-5928 or Dan.schmidt@hdrinc.com.

Sincerely,

Dan Schmidt
Senior Project Manager

cc: Rob Hull

Attachments:

June 20, 2024

Faron Jackson
Chairman
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
190 Sailstar Drive NE
Cass Lake, MN 56633

RE: Beaver Creek Project

Dear Chairman Jackson,

HDR Engineering, Inc (HDR) is assisting Dairyland Power Cooperative (Dairyland) with the development of a 161 kV transmission line, the Beaver Creek Project (project). This project will travel approximately 3.5 miles through agricultural and residential land located along 171st Avenue within York Township in Fillmore County, Minnesota and continuing for an additional 6.5 miles in Iowa. The line will connect with existing infrastructure at the north end and cross over the Minnesota border at the south end. A project overview map is included with this letter.

Dairyland has completed initial environmental due diligence and expects to file a Route Permit Application with the Public Utility Commission of Minnesota (PUC) in the coming months, a Franchise Application with the Iowa Utilities Board in 2025, as well as complete National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review through the Rural Utilities Service.

At present, Dairyland is conducting further agency and Tribal outreach and would appreciate and value your input to attempt to avoid or minimize impacts to Tribally significant resources, if they are present. Responses can be sent to my email address provided below. If preferred, we can have a more in-depth conversation either in-person or virtually, to discuss the project and receive your input. We would appreciate your review and comment on the project as it relates to the resources your agency manages. We are looking forward to hearing from you! If you require further information or have questions about the project, please contact me at. (763) 278-5928 or Dan.schmidt@hdrinc.com.

Sincerely,

Dan Schmidt
Senior Project Manager

cc: Gina Lemon

Attachments:

June 20, 2024

Robert Larson
President
Lower Sioux Indian Community
39527 Reservation Hwy. 1, PO Box 308
Morton, MN 56270

RE: Beaver Creek Project

Dear President Larson,

HDR Engineering, Inc (HDR) is assisting Dairyland Power Cooperative (Dairyland) with the development of a 161 kV transmission line, the Beaver Creek Project (project). This project will travel approximately 3.5 miles through agricultural and residential land located along 171st Avenue within York Township in Fillmore County, Minnesota and continuing for an additional 6.5 miles in Iowa. The line will connect with existing infrastructure at the north end and cross over the Minnesota border at the south end. A project overview map is included with this letter.

Dairyland has completed initial environmental due diligence and expects to file a Route Permit Application with the Public Utility Commission of Minnesota (PUC) in the coming months, a Franchise Application with the Iowa Utilities Board in 2025, as well as complete National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review through the Rural Utilities Service.

At present, Dairyland is conducting further agency and Tribal outreach and would appreciate and value your input to attempt to avoid or minimize impacts to Tribally significant resources, if they are present. Responses can be sent to my email address provided below. If preferred, we can have a more in-depth conversation either in-person or virtually, to discuss the project and receive your input. We would appreciate your review and comment on the project as it relates to the resources your agency manages. We are looking forward to hearing from you! If you require further information or have questions about the project, please contact me at. (763) 278-5928 or Dan.schmidt@hdrinc.com.

Sincerely,

Dan Schmidt
Senior Project Manager

cc: Cheyanne St. John

Attachments:

June 20, 2024

Melanie Benjamin
Chief Executive
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
43408 Oodena Drive
Onamia, MN 56359

RE: Beaver Creek Project

Dear Chief Executive Benjamin,

HDR Engineering, Inc (HDR) is assisting Dairyland Power Cooperative (Dairyland) with the development of a 161 kV transmission line, the Beaver Creek Project (project). This project will travel approximately 3.5 miles through agricultural and residential land located along 171st Avenue within York Township in Filmore County, Minnesota and continuing for an additional 6.5 miles in Iowa. The line will connect with existing infrastructure at the north end and cross over the Minnesota border at the south end. A project overview map is included with this letter.

Dairyland has completed initial environmental due diligence and expects to file a Route Permit Application with the Public Utility Commission of Minnesota (PUC) in the coming months, a Franchise Application with the Iowa Utilities Board in 2025, as well as complete National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review through the Rural Utilities Service.

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Sincerely,

Dan Schmidt
Senior Project Manager

cc: Mike Wilson

Attachments:

June 20, 2024

Cathy Chavers
President
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe
PO Box 217
Cass Lake, MN 56633

RE: Beaver Creek Project

Dear President Chavers,

HDR Engineering, Inc (HDR) is assisting Dairyland Power Cooperative (Dairyland) with the development of a 161 kV transmission line, the Beaver Creek Project (project). This project will travel approximately 3.5 miles through agricultural and residential land located along 171st Avenue within York Township in Filmore County, Minnesota and continuing for an additional 6.5 miles in Iowa. The line will connect with existing infrastructure at the north end and cross over the Minnesota border at the south end. A project overview map is included with this letter.

Dairyland has completed initial environmental due diligence and expects to file a Route Permit Application with the Public Utility Commission of Minnesota (PUC) in the coming months, a Franchise Application with the Iowa Utilities Board in 2025, as well as complete National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review through the Rural Utilities Service.

At present, Dairyland is conducting further agency and Tribal outreach and would appreciate and value your input to attempt to avoid or minimize impacts to Tribally significant resources, if they are present. Responses can be sent to my email address provided below. If preferred, we can have a more in-depth conversation either in-person or virtually, to discuss the project and receive your input. We would appreciate your review and comment on the project as it relates to the resources your agency manages. We are looking forward to hearing from you! If you require further information or have questions about the project, please contact me at. (763) 278-5928 or Dan.schmidt@hdrinc.com.

Sincerely,

Dan Schmidt
Senior Project Manager

cc: Elizabeth Drost, Rob Hull

Attachments:

June 20, 2024

Grant Johnson
President
Prairie Island Indian Community
5636 Sturgeon Lake Road
Welch, MN 55089

RE: Beaver Creek Project

Dear President Johnson,

HDR Engineering, Inc (HDR) is assisting Dairyland Power Cooperative (Dairyland) with the development of a 161 kV transmission line, the Beaver Creek Project (project). This project will travel approximately 3.5 miles through agricultural and residential land located along 171st Avenue within York Township in Fillmore County, Minnesota and continuing for an additional 6.5 miles in Iowa. The line will connect with existing infrastructure at the north end and cross over the Minnesota border at the south end. A project overview map is included with this letter.

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At present, Dairyland is conducting further agency and Tribal outreach and would appreciate and value your input to attempt to avoid or minimize impacts to Tribally significant resources, if they are present. Responses can be sent to my email address provided below. If preferred, we can have a more in-depth conversation either in-person or virtually, to discuss the project and receive your input. We would appreciate your review and comment on the project as it relates to the resources your agency manages. We are looking forward to hearing from you! If you require further information or have questions about the project, please contact me at. (763) 278-5928 or Dan.schmidt@hdrinc.com.

Sincerely,

Dan Schmidt
Senior Project Manager

cc: Noah White

Attachments:

June 20, 2024

Darrell Seki
Chairman
Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians
15484 Migizi Drive
Red Lake, MN 56671

RE: Beaver Creek Project

Dear Chairman Seki,

HDR Engineering, Inc (HDR) is assisting Dairyland Power Cooperative (Dairyland) with the development of a 161 kV transmission line, the Beaver Creek Project (project). This project will travel approximately 3.5 miles through agricultural and residential land located along 171st Avenue within York Township in Fillmore County, Minnesota and continuing for an additional 6.5 miles in Iowa. The line will connect with existing infrastructure at the north end and cross over the Minnesota border at the south end. A project overview map is included with this letter.

Dairyland has completed initial environmental due diligence and expects to file a Route Permit Application with the Public Utility Commission of Minnesota (PUC) in the coming months, a Franchise Application with the Iowa Utilities Board in 2025, as well as complete National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and will be subject to environmental review through the Rural Utilities Service.

At present, Dairyland is conducting further agency and Tribal outreach and would appreciate and value your input to attempt to avoid or minimize impacts to Tribally significant resources, if they are present. Responses can be sent to my email address provided below. If preferred, we can have a more in-depth conversation either in-person or virtually, to discuss the project and receive your input. We would appreciate your review and comment on the project as it relates to the resources your agency manages. We are looking forward to hearing from you! If you require further information or have questions about the project, please contact me at. (763) 278-5928 or Dan.schmidt@hdrinc.com.

Sincerely,

Dan Schmidt
Senior Project Manager

Attachments:

June 20, 2024

Cole Miller
Chairman
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
2330 Sioux Trail NW
Prior Lake, MN 55372

RE: Beaver Creek Project

Dear Chairman Miller,

HDR Engineering, Inc (HDR) is assisting Dairyland Power Cooperative (Dairyland) with the development of a 161 kV transmission line, the Beaver Creek Project (project). This project will travel approximately 3.5 miles through agricultural and residential land located along 171st Avenue within York Township in Filmore County, Minnesota and continuing for an additional 6.5 miles in Iowa. The line will connect with existing infrastructure at the north end and cross over the Minnesota border at the south end. A project overview map is included with this letter.

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Sincerely,

Dan Schmidt
Senior Project Manager

cc: Leonard Wabasha

Attachments:

June 20, 2024

Kevin Jensvold
Chairman
Upper Sioux Community
5722 Travers Lane, PO Box 147
Granite Falls, MN 56241

RE: Beaver Creek Project

Dear Chairman Jensvold,

HDR Engineering, Inc (HDR) is assisting Dairyland Power Cooperative (Dairyland) with the development of a 161 kV transmission line, the Beaver Creek Project (project). This project will travel approximately 3.5 miles through agricultural and residential land located along 171st Avenue within York Township in Fillmore County, Minnesota and continuing for an additional 6.5 miles in Iowa. The line will connect with existing infrastructure at the north end and cross over the Minnesota border at the south end. A project overview map is included with this letter.

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Sincerely,

Dan Schmidt
Senior Project Manager

cc: Samantha Odegard

Attachments:

June 20, 2024

Michael Fairbanks
Chairman
35500 Eagle View Road
Omega, MN 56569

RE: Beaver Creek Project

Dear Chairman Fairbanks,

HDR Engineering, Inc (HDR) is assisting Dairyland Power Cooperative (Dairyland) with the development of a 161 kV transmission line, the Beaver Creek Project (project). This project will travel approximately 3.5 miles through agricultural and residential land located along 171st Avenue within York Township in Fillmore County, Minnesota and continuing for an additional 6.5 miles in Iowa. The line will connect with existing infrastructure at the north end and cross over the Minnesota border at the south end. A project overview map is included with this letter.

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Sincerely,

Dan Schmidt
Senior Project Manager

cc: Jaime Arsenault

Attachments:

Local Correspondence

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The monthly Beaver Township Board meeting was held on Monday, February 12, 2024 with Bryan Miller, Paul Hanks, Margaret Wierson and Susan Dahl present. Also, present was Jessica Sandry from Dairyland Power Cooperative. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Supervisor Bryan Miller.

The minutes from the January 8, 2024 meeting were read by the clerk. Paul Hanks made a motion to approve the minutes. Bryan Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Jessica Sandry from Dairyland Power Cooperative attended the meeting to discuss the overview of a proposed transmission line project in Fillmore County. Dairyland is proposing the build of approximately 9.8 miles of new 161,000 nominal voltage electrical transmission line, of which approximately 6.3 miles is to be in Howard County, Iowa and approximately 3.5 miles is to be in Fillmore County. The proposed line is a network upgrade to provide transmission capacity for wind energy to be generated at the North Hills wind Project while maintaining safety and reliability of the existing transmission network. Following construction of the proposed line, approximately 4 miles of existing 161kV electrical transmission line in Fillmore County would be retired. The preferred route commences along the 171st Avenue in Fillmore County, approximately 3.5 miles north of the Iowa/Minnesota border, where an existing Dairyland 161kV transmission line crosses the public road. The preferred route then continues to the south and west, following predominately along public roads, to a terminus along 40th Street and James Avenue, where a second Dairyland 161kV transmission line crosses the public roadway. A new switchyard is to be installed at the terminus point and will serve as the point of generation interconnection for the wind energy. Following the proposed construction, approximately 4 miles of existing transmission line in Fillmore County will be retired. See attached Map. Dairyland is required to notify the neighboring communities of the project. Beaver Township is in the notice area. Dairyland will start to apply for permits for the project in the spring of 2024.

Bryan Miller made a motion to pay the following bills. Paul Hanks seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Check #6666 Fillmore County Association of Townships for county dues \$150.00
Check #6667 Minnesota Benefit Association for life insurance \$1,205.00
Check #6668 Kruegels, Inc for LP \$82.16
Check #6669 Minnesota Association of Township for state dues \$337.84
Check #6670 MiEnergy for January bill \$74.77
Check #6671 Evans Publishing & Printing for filing notices \$128.00
Check #6672 LeRoy Area Ambulance \$1,850.00
Check #6673 Rohrer Construction plowed township and clean up SW roads \$4,880.00
Check #6674 Margaret Wierson for reimbursements for tax forms \$21.00

Paul Hanks reports MiEnergy will redo lines and poles south along County 1 and then to the Paul Hanks residence at 120th and 111th intersection.

Paul Hanks reported that he received a phone call from Evelyn Osland letting him know packages for Beaver Township were delivered at her address of 13640 120th street. The packages were for the solar farm being built in Beaver Township. Paul called FedEx asking them to pick up the packages and to deliver them to the correct address.

Treasurer Margaret Wierson reported three checks (#6619, #6624 and #6633) were not used due to toner and printer issues in the year 2023. Checks were not voided, but used a different check number to pay the disbursement. The check numbers used were #6623 to replace #6619, #6628 to replace #6624 and #6634 to replace #6633. Bryan Miller made a motion to accept the original checks in the 2023 check register. Paul Hanks seconded the motion and the motion carried. The original checks listed will be filed with the 2023 records. A copy of the checks is attached to the minutes.

Bryan Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Paul Hanks seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Justin Long Chairman Bryan Miller Supervisor
Paul Hanks Supervisor Susan Dahl Clerk

From: Jessica Sandry
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 10:15 AM
To: dahlhouse@acegroup.cc
Subject: FW: Dairyland Power Cooperative Proposed 161kV Electric Transmission Line Project

From: Jessica Sandry
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 8:11 AM
To: jqk253@gmail.com
Cc: dahlhous@acegroup.cc; Wyatt, Peter <Peter.Wyatt@hdrinc.com>
Subject: Dairyland Power Cooperative Proposed 161kV Electric Transmission Line Project

Mr. Kennedy,

Thank you for returning my call this morning. As I mentioned, I would like to attend the Beaver Township Board meeting on Monday, February 12th, 2024 (7pm) and provide the Board with an overview of a proposed transmission line project in Fillmore County, Minnesota.

Dairyland Power Cooperative (Dairyland) is proposing the build of approximately 9.8 miles of new 161,000 nominal voltage (161kV) electrical transmission line, of which approximately 6.3 miles is to be in Howard County, Iowa and approximately 3.5 miles is to be in Fillmore County, Minnesota. The proposed line is a network upgrade to provide transmission capacity for wind energy to be generated at the North Hills Wind Project while maintaining safety and reliability of the existing transmission network. Following construction of the proposed line, approximately 4 miles of existing 161kV electrical transmission line in Fillmore County, Minnesota would be retired.

The summary information above, along with a project map and additional project details, are available on Dairyland's website via the following link:

[Beaver Creek \(Minnesota\) | Dairyland Power Cooperative](#)

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns regarding the proposed project.

Thank You,

Jessica A. Sandry, SR/WA
Right of Way Agent - Senior
Real Estate and Right-of-Way
DAIRYLAND POWER COOPERATIVE
3200 East Ave. S.
PO Box 817, La Crosse, WI 54602-0817
Mobile: 608-792-3359
Jessica.Sandry@DairylandPower.com
www.DairylandPower.com

From: Jessica Sandry
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2024 5:54 PM
To: 'Gregg, Ronald'
Cc: Adkins, Cristal
Subject: RE: Dairyland Power Cooperative's Proposed Beaver Creek Transmission Line Project

Mr. Gregg,

Thank you. I will plan on stopping by around 9am on Friday, 2-2-2024. I am flexible, so if you are occupied when I arrive, I will have no problem adjusting or stopping back in as needed.

Jessica A. Sandry, SR/WA
Right of Way Agent - Senior
Real Estate and Right-of-Way
DAIRYLAND POWER COOPERATIVE
3200 East Ave. S.
PO Box 817, La Crosse, WI 54602-0817
Mobile: 608-792-3359
Jessica.Sandry@DairylandPower.com
www.DairylandPower.com

From: Gregg, Ronald <rgregg@co.fillmore.mn.us>
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2024 10:09 AM
To: Jessica Sandry <Jessica.Sandry@DairylandPower.com>
Cc: Adkins, Cristal <cadkins@co.fillmore.mn.us>
Subject: [EXT] RE: Dairyland Power Cooperative's Proposed Beaver Creek Transmission Line Project

Jessica: I will be available on Friday February 2, 2024.
Sincerely, Ron Gregg
Fillmore County Engineer
507-765-3854

From: Jessica Sandry <Jessica.Sandry@DairylandPower.com>
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2024 2:48 PM
To: Gregg, Ronald <rgregg@co.fillmore.mn.us>
Cc: Adkins, Cristal <cadkins@co.fillmore.mn.us>
Subject: FW: Dairyland Power Cooperative's Proposed Beaver Creek Transmission Line Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Gregg,

I was wondering if you might have any availability on Friday 2/2/2024. I would like to stop by and provide an update on the status of Dairyland's proposed transmission line project in the Town of York. I see that the standard utility permit application is available online. However, as the proposed line crosses over County Highway 44, I would like to share

preferred route preliminarily and get a sense of any design constraints. If Friday is not convenient for you, I am fairly open and flexible for the following week also.

Thank You,

Jessica A. Sandry, SR/WA
Right of Way Agent - Senior
Real Estate and Right-of-Way
DAIRYLAND POWER COOPERATIVE
3200 East Ave. S.
PO Box 817, La Crosse, WI 54602-0817
Mobile: 608-792-3359
Jessica.Sandry@DairylandPower.com
www.DairylandPower.com

From: Jessica Sandry <Jessica.Sandry@DairylandPower.com>
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 2:46 PM
To: Adkins, Cristal <cadkins@co.fillmore.mn.us>
Cc: Gregg, Ronald <rgregg@co.fillmore.mn.us>
Subject: Dairyland Power Cooperative's Proposed Beaver Creek Transmission Line Project

Cristal,

Thank you for making time today and allowing me to share an overview of Dairyland Power Cooperative's proposed Beaver Creek Transmission Line Project. Dairyland has not yet applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a Certificate of Need or a Route Permit. Per regulatory process, a formal notice to local units of government will be made ahead of application submittal. The goal of my visit today, was simply to share some summary information and raise awareness of the upcoming project.

The proposed 161kV electrical transmission line represents a network upgrade providing transmission capacity for up to 180MW of wind energy to be produced in Howard County, Iowa at the North Hills Wind Project, while maintaining the safety and reliability of the existing electrical transmission network. The proposed line will create an alternate transmission path for the wind energy, thus reducing risk of overload and damage to the existing network.

The proposed line design calls for steel monopoles with arms carrying three conducting wires and one shield wire. The shield wire to be optical ground wire (OPGW), which provides lightning protection and also contains fiber optic strands for communication. The proposed pole type may be directly embedded. However, at line angles, poles are attached to concrete foundations, eliminating need for guy wires. It is anticipated that pole heights would range from 70 to 125 feet and arm lengths would range from 8 to 10 feet. Anticipated diameter of concrete bases at self-supporting poles being from 5.5 to 7 feet.

At present, Dairyland's preferred project route follows 171st Ave in the Town of York. The new line would connect to Dairyland's existing 161kV transmission line which runs east and west approximately ½ mile north Hwy 44 and then follow south along 171st Ave for approximately 3.5 miles to the state line. When following along a public roadway, Dairyland prefers to keep the bases of all poles just outside of road right-of-way and negotiate with landowners for easement rights.

The preferred route crosses property zoned Agriculture. I understand that electrical transmission lines are a permitted use in the Ag District. Would you foresee any permits or variances being required from Fillmore County relative to installation of a transmission line as described above with poles located adjacent to and just outside of public road right of way or relative to individual poles for which height may exceed 100 feet and or a concrete base be required? I

believe that it could be beneficial for Dairyland to have a general understanding of permitting requirements and any constraints that exist in proximity to the public roadways as the project progresses.

Dairyland maintains a webpage with links to summary descriptions of its transmission line projects. This webpage may be accessed from the following link, [Power Delivery Projects | Dairyland Power Cooperative](http://www.dairylandpower.com/power-delivery-projects), or via the following URL, <http://www.dairylandpower.com/power-delivery-projects>. This project is referred to as Beaver Creek and two links are provided on the webpage, one for the project segment in Minnesota and one for the project segment in Iowa. A project specific email address has also been established at beavercreek@dairylandpower.com. Please feel free to share the link, URL or email address with anyone who has interest in finding out more about the project or reaching the project team with questions or comments.

I have also included below images of two PowerPoint slides. One slide summarizes project purpose. The other slide shows images of the proposed pole type.

I have copied Ron Gregg on this email, as I was not able to make contact with Mr. Gregg at the Highway Department Office this morning.

Thank you again and please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Jessica A. Sandry, SR/WA
Right of Way Agent - Senior
Real Estate and Right-of-Way
DAIRYLAND POWER COOPERATIVE
3200 East Ave. S.
PO Box 817, La Crosse, WI 54602-0817
Mobile: 608-792-3359
Jessica.Sandry@DairylandPower.com
www.DairylandPower.com

Project Intro & Purpose...


- Approximately 9.8 miles of New 161kV Electric Transmission Line (3.5 miles in Fillmore County)
- Upgrade of Existing 161kV Transmission Network to Carry Energy Generated at North Hills Wind (Howard County, IA)
- Project Relocates An Existing Line Intersection to a New Electrical Switchyard to be Installed at the Point of Wind Generation Interconnection in Howard County, IA
- Multiple Path Transmission Capacity is Created for Wind Energy, While Maintaining Safety and Reliability of Existing Transmission into SMMPA (Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency) Rice Transmission Substation
- After Construction, Approximately 4 miles of Existing Line in Fillmore County, MN is to be Retired



Steel Poles...



6

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Direct En



Foundation

This email may contain confidential or proprietary information. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender by reply and delete the message.

Dairyland Power Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

"Zero By Choice - Everyone Home Safe Every Day"

From: Jessica Sandry
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 1:20 PM
To: Gregg, Ronald
Cc: Wyatt, Peter; Caleb Hefti; Adkins, Cristal
Subject: Proposed Dairyland Power Cooperative 161kV Electric Transmission Line Crossing Hwy 44

Mr. Gregg,

Thank you for making time to meet with me on Friday 2/2/2024 regarding Dairyland Power Cooperative's proposed 161kV electric transmission line project and the associated crossing over Fillmore County Highway 44. Summary project information and a proposed route map are available via a webpage at the following link: [Beaver Creek \(Minnesota\) | Dairyland Power Cooperative](#).

I understand that in addition to a permit for the proposed aerial crossing over County Highway 44, a permit would also be required for the associated removal of existing overhead wires crossing County Road 114. I have looked through the permit options listed on the Fillmore County website and it would be my understanding that the proper permit application to submit for the removal would be the permit to excavate in, modify or obstruct county right-of-way.

I noted down the bridge/culvert identification numbers (97889 & 97890) that you provided for the waterway crossings along York Township road 171st Avenue to the south of County Highway 44 and the 1994 replacement date associated with those structures. That information may be of assistance during future communications with the Township.

Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions you may have regarding the project. An email address for the project manager, Caleb Hefti, is also included on the above referenced webpage.

Thank You,

Jessica A. Sandry, SR/WA
Right of Way Agent - Senior
Real Estate and Right-of-Way
DAIRYLAND POWER COOPERATIVE
3200 East Ave. S.
PO Box 817, La Crosse, WI 54602-0817
Mobile: 608-792-3359
Jessica.Sandry@DairylandPower.com
www.DairylandPower.com

From: Jessica Sandry
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 2:24 PM
To: 'sara.west@fillmoreswcd.org'
Cc: Michael Peters
Subject: Dairyland Power Cooperative Beaver Creek Transmission Line Project

Sara,

Dairyland Power Cooperative (Dairyland) is proposing the build of approximately 9.8 miles of new 161,000 nominal voltage (161kV) electrical transmission line, of which approximately 3.5 miles is to be in Fillmore County, Minnesota and approximately 6.8 miles is to be in Howard County, Iowa. The proposed line would be a network upgrade providing transmission capacity for wind energy to be generated at the North Hills Wind Project while maintaining the safety and reliability of the existing transmission network.

Additional information regarding the project, including a map depicting preliminarily proposed routing, is available via the following link: [Beaver Creek \(Minnesota\) | Dairyland Power Cooperative](#)

I was wondering if you might have few minutes to discuss the proposed transmission line project. I understand that Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District is involved with water management and buffers and I would be interested in collecting any comments or concerns that you might have regarding line routing or pole placement.

Please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Thank You,

Jessica A. Sandry, SR/WA
Right of Way Agent - Senior
Real Estate and Right-of-Way
DAIRYLAND POWER COOPERATIVE
3200 East Ave. S.
PO Box 817, La Crosse, WI 54602-0817
Mobile: 608-792-3359
Jessica.Sandry@DairylandPower.com
www.DairylandPower.com

From: Jessica Sandry
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 2:46 PM
To: Adkins, Cristal
Cc: Gregg, Ronald
Subject: Dairyland Power Cooperative's Proposed Beaver Creek Transmission Line Project

Cristal,

Thank you for making time today and allowing me to share an overview of Dairyland Power Cooperative's proposed Beaver Creek Transmission Line Project. Dairyland has not yet applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a Certificate of Need or a Route Permit. Per regulatory process, a formal notice to local units of government will be made ahead of application submittal. The goal of my visit today, was simply to share some summary information and raise awareness of the upcoming project.

The proposed 161kV electrical transmission line represents a network upgrade providing transmission capacity for up to 180MW of wind energy to be produced in Howard County, Iowa at the North Hills Wind Project, while maintaining the safety and reliability of the existing electrical transmission network. The proposed line will create an alternate transmission path for the wind energy, thus reducing risk of overload and damage to the existing network.

The proposed line design calls for steel monopoles with arms carrying three conducting wires and one shield wire. The shield wire to be optical ground wire (OPGW), which provides lightning protection and also contains fiber optic strands for communication. The proposed pole type may be directly embedded. However, at line angles, poles are attached to concrete foundations, eliminating need for guy wires. It is anticipated that pole heights would range from 70 to 125 feet and arm lengths would range from 8 to 10 feet. Anticipated diameter of concrete bases at self-supporting poles being from 5.5 to 7 feet.

At present, Dairyland's preferred project route follows 171st Ave in the Town of York. The new line would connect to Dairyland's existing 161kV transmission line which runs east and west approximately ½ mile north Hwy 44 and then follow south along 171st Ave for approximately 3.5 miles to the state line. When following along a public roadway, Dairyland prefers to keep the bases of all poles just outside of road right-of-way and negotiate with landowners for easement rights.

The preferred route crosses property zoned Agriculture. I understand that electrical transmission lines are a permitted use in the Ag District. Would you foresee any permits or variances being required from Fillmore County relative to installation of a transmission line as described above with poles located adjacent to and just outside of public road right of way or relative to individual poles for which height may exceed 100 feet and or a concrete base be required? I believe that it could be beneficial for Dairyland to have a general understanding of permitting requirements and any constraints that exist in proximity to the public roadways as the project progresses.

Dairyland maintains a webpage with links to summary descriptions of its transmission line projects. This webpage may be accessed from the following link, [Power Delivery Projects | Dairyland Power Cooperative](https://www.dairylandpower.com/power-delivery-projects), or via the following URL, <http://www.dairylandpower.com/power-delivery-projects>. This project is referred to as Beaver Creek and two links are provided on the webpage, one for the project segment in Minnesota and one for the project segment in Iowa. A project specific email address has also been established at beavercreek@dairylandpower.com. Please feel free to share the link, URL or email address with anyone who has interest in finding out more about the project or reaching the project team with questions or comments.

I have also included below images of two PowerPoint slides. One slide summarizes project purpose. The other slide shows images of the proposed pole type.

I have copied Ron Gregg on this email, as I was not able to make contact with Mr. Gregg at the Highway Department Office this morning.

Thank you again and please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Jessica A. Sandry, SR/WA
Right of Way Agent - Senior
Real Estate and Right-of-Way
DAIRYLAND POWER COOPERATIVE
3200 East Ave. S.
PO Box 817, La Crosse, WI 54602-0817
Mobile: 608-792-3359
Jessica.Sandry@DairylandPower.com
www.DairylandPower.com

Project Intro & Purpose...

- Approximately 9.8 miles of New 161kV Electric Transmission Line (3.5 miles in Fillmore County)
- Upgrade of Existing 161kV Transmission Network to Carry Energy Generated at North Hills Wind (Howard County, IA)
- Project Relocates An Existing Line Intersection to a New Electrical Switchyard to be Installed at the Point of Wind Generation Interconnection in Howard County, IA
- Multiple Path Transmission Capacity is Created for Wind Energy, While Maintaining Safety and Reliability of Existing Transmission into SMMPA (Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency) Rice Transmission Substation
- After Construction, Approximately 4 miles of Existing Line in Fillmore County, MN is to be Retired



Steel Poles...




Direct En



Foundation

6

A Touchstone Energy* Cooperative 

From: Jessica Sandry
Sent: Friday, August 4, 2023 8:53 AM
To: Fred.4sch@gmail.com
Subject: Dairyland Power Cooperative Attendance at York Town Meeting

Tracking:	Recipient	Delivery	Read
	Fred.4sch@gmail.com		
	Caleb Hefti	Delivered: 8/4/2023 8:53 AM	Read: 8/4/2023 8:58 AM

Mr. Scheevel,

Thank you for returning my call yesterday afternoon. I am writing to confirm that I do plan on attending the next regular York Township meeting. Should meeting schedule allow, I would greatly appreciate an opportunity to share information pertaining to a proposed Dairyland Power Cooperative 161kV electrical transmission line project.

I understand the time and location of said meeting to be as follows:

Monday, August 21st, 2023
7:30PM
York Town Hall
12245 County Highway 5
Harmony, MN 55939
(West side of County Road 5, approximately ¾ mile south of County Hwy 44.)

My full contact information is included below. Please feel free to contact me at your convenience with any questions, concerns or updates to the meeting schedule. I will share the meeting details with the project team and determine if there are any other team members that may be available to accompany me and assist with sharing information and answering questions.

Thank You,

Jessica A. Sandry, SR/WA
Right of Way Agent - Senior
Real Estate and Right-of-Way
DAIRYLAND POWER COOPERATIVE
3200 East Ave. S.
PO Box 817, La Crosse, WI 54602-0817
Mobile: 608-792-3359
Jessica.Sandry@DairylandPower.com
www.DairylandPower.com

March 18, 2024

Reg monthly meeting. Sup Broadwater, Ness and Sanford were present.

Chairman Ness called the meeting to order. Pledge to the flag was given.

Clerk read the minutes of the Feb 2024 meeting. Motion made & seconded to approve as read, carried.

Treas Ness gave the financial report. She reported a total of \$194,059.74 in the account with 3 CD's. Excess money from the wire transfer will be rolled over to 2025.

Pete Wyatt from Dairyland Power was present to provide information on the new power line application for a route along Turp road 171 to be placed in service around 2027.

Bills were presented for payment. Motion made and seconded to pay as presented, carried. Motion made and seconded to nominate and elect Dist Broadwater as chair for 2024. carried.

Motion made and seconded to pay Duane Waynes \$30 for Annual meeting moderator, carried.

Discussion was held on cost expenditure for the shed and hall. Plans were made to extend the pad for cement on the front of the hall. Cost overruns were explained.

Sup Broadwater looked into used furniture for the hall.

Motion to increase the liability coverage to maintain coverage to \$500,000 if possible. seconded, carried.

Motion made & seconded to adjourn, carried.

Fred Schum
Clerk



March 7, 2024

Bobbie Hillery, County Administrator
Fillmore County
Courthouse 101 Fillmore St, PO Box 466
Preston, MN 55965

Susan G. Dahl, Clerk
Beaver Township
13821 140th St.
Spring Valley, MN 55975

Fred Scheevel, Clerk
York Township
10844 181st St.
Leroy, MN 55951

Re: **Proposed Transmission Line Project in York Township, Fillmore County, Minnesota**
MPUC Docket Nos. ET3/CN-24-94; ET3/TL-24-95

To Whom It May Concern:

Dairyland Power Cooperative (Dairyland) is proposing to construct and operate an approximately 3.5-mile 161-kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line (HVTL) and associated facilities in York Township, Fillmore County, Minnesota (Project). The Project will start at the intersection of the existing LQ8A Harmony to Beaver Creek line with 171st Avenue in York Township, travel south and cross the Minnesota-Iowa border near the southern border of York Township, continue westerly and southerly through Howard County, Iowa and terminate at a new proposed 161 kV switching yard to be constructed in Chester Township, Howard County, Iowa. The enclosed map depicts the area under consideration for the route for the Project.

Dairyland must obtain a Certificate of Need and Route Permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) to construct the proposed Project. Dairyland is currently gathering information in preparation for filing its applications and expects to file applications with the Commission in mid-2024. Dairyland would appreciate any input you may have on the proposed Project. There will also be numerous opportunities for stakeholder and public input as part of the Commission's processes.

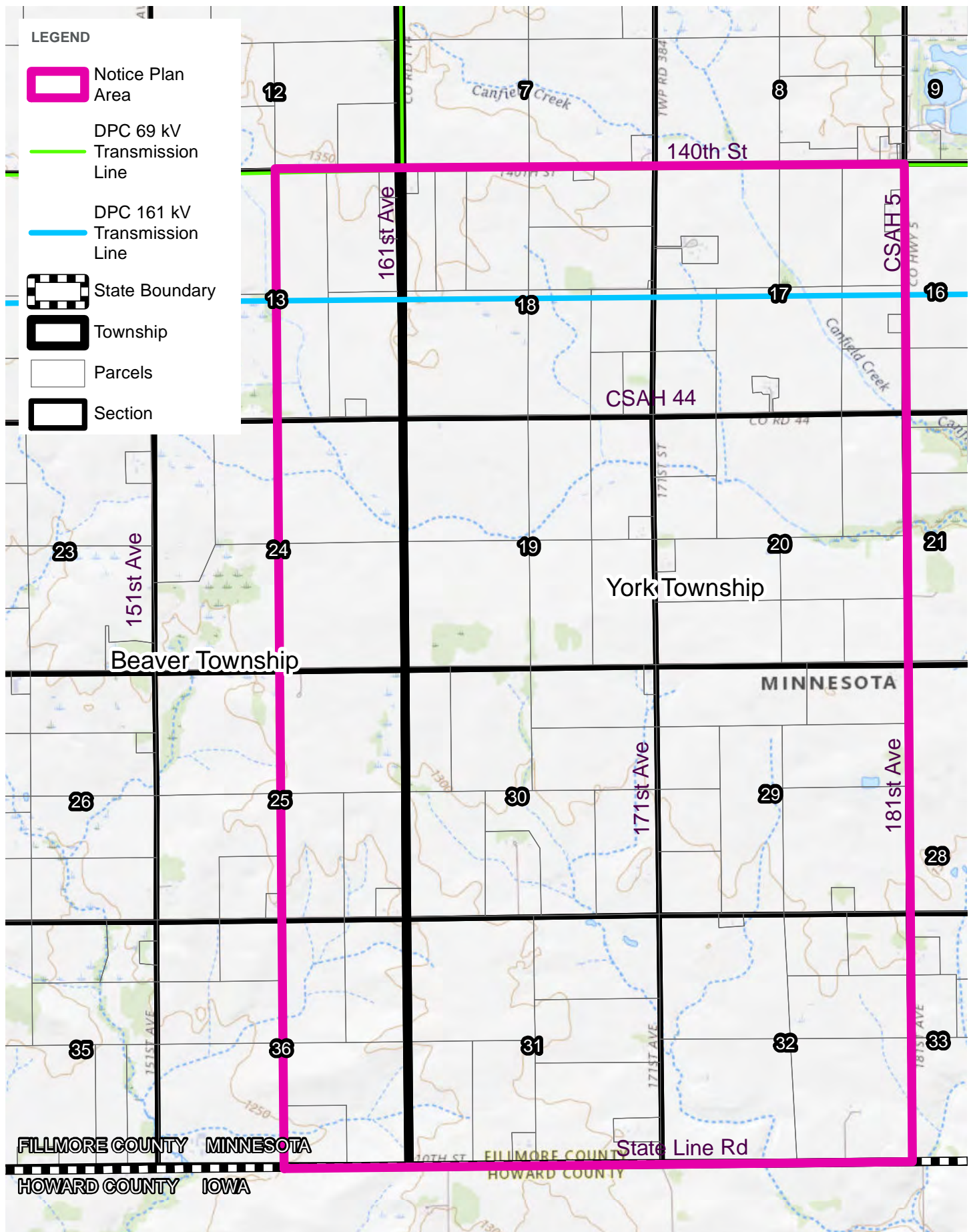
We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you regarding the proposed Project. If you would like to request a meeting, please contact me at 608-792-3359 or Jessica.Sandry@DairylandPower.com.¹ We also welcome written comments, and I am available to answer any questions you have.

Sincerely,

DAIRYLAND POWER COOPERATIVE

Jessica A. Sandry, SR/WA
Right of Way Agent - Senior
Real Estate and Right-of-Way
Encl: Map

¹ This letter is intended to serve as notice of the opportunity for a pre-application consultation meeting under Minn. Stat. § 216E.03, subd. 3a.



**In the Matter of the Application of Dairyland
Power Cooperative for a Certificate of Need for a
161 kV Transmission Line in Fillmore County,
Minnesota**

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

MPUC Docket No. ET3/CN-24-94

Breann L. Jurek certifies that on the 7th day of March 2024, I directed that a true and correct copy of the documents below be placed in an envelope, separately addressed as applicable, and mailed from Minneapolis, Minnesota, by United States mail, postage prepaid:

1. Dairyland Power Cooperative's Letter and accompanying map; and
2. Certificate of Mailing,

to the following individuals:

Bobbie Hillery, County Administrator
Fillmore County Courthouse
101 Fillmore St, PO Box 466
Preston, MN 55965

Susan G. Dahl, Clerk
Beaver Township
13821 140th St.
Spring Valley, MN 55975

Fred Scheevel, Clerk
York Township
10844 181st St.
Leroy, MN 55951

Executed on: March 7, 2024

Signed: /s/ Breann L. Jurek

Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
60 South Sixth Street, Suite 1500
Minneapolis, MN 55402