

## Appendix Y – Section 106 Correspondence and Consultation



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

December 21, 2011

Mr. William Quackenbush  
Ho-Chunk Nation  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
P.O. Box 667  
W9814 Airport Rd  
Black River Falls, WI 54615

RE: Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Consulting Party  
Comment: 345 kV Hampton – Rochester – La Crosse Transmission Project  
Hampton, MN

Dear Mr. Quackenbush:

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency which administers the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development, Utilities Programs is authorized to provide financial assistance for infrastructure development in rural areas under its Electric Program in accordance with 7 CFR Part 1794. Dairyland Power Cooperative has applied to RUS for financial assistance to construct and operate (in conjunction with four other utilities) a 345 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line from Hampton, Minnesota to north of La Crosse, Wisconsin.

RUS is considering funding this application, thereby making the proposal an undertaking subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), 16 U.S.C. § 470F, and its implementing regulations, "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR Part 800).

By letter dated June 11, 2009, RUS invited the Ho-Chunk Nation to participate in government-to-government consultation for the referenced undertaking.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was submitted to the Ho-Chunk Nation under separate cover. RUS prepared the Draft EIS in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with the intent to adequately integrate the Section 106 and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The Draft EIS is also available for download at the following website:  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-CapX2020-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>.

RUS will be holding public meetings for the Draft EIS in the project area during the week of January 9 to 13, 2012. The dates and locations of the meetings were included the Draft EIS transmittal letter. You are also invited to a meeting at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, January 11 at the Board Room at Cannon Falls High School in Cannon Falls, Minnesota,

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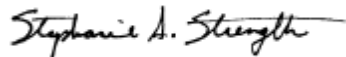
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Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Stephanie Strength at the phone number or email above.

Sincerely,



Stephanie A. Strength  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Water and Environmental Programs

Enclosure



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

December 21, 2011

Mr. giiwegiizhigookway Martin  
Ketegitigaaning Ojibwe Nation  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
P.O. Box 249  
E23857 Poplar Circle  
Watersmeet, MI 49969

RE: Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Consulting Party  
Comment: 345 kV Hampton – Rochester – La Crosse Transmission Project  
Hampton, MN

Dear Mr. Martin:

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RUS is considering funding this application, thereby making the proposal an undertaking subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), 16 U.S.C. § 470F, and its implementing regulations, "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR Part 800).

By letter dated June 11, 2009, RUS invited the Ketegitigaaning Ojibwe Nation to participate in government-to-government consultation for the referenced undertaking.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was submitted to the Ketegitigaaning Ojibwe Nation under separate cover. RUS prepared the Draft EIS in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with the intent to adequately integrate the Section 106 and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The Draft EIS is also available for download at the following website:  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-CapX2020-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>.

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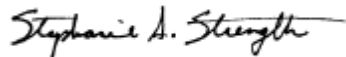
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Sincerely,



Stephanie A. Strength  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Water and Environmental Programs

Enclosure



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

December 21, 2011

Ms. Natalie Weyaus  
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
43408 Oodena Drive  
Onamia, MN 56359

RE: Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Consulting Party  
Comment: 345 kV Hampton – Rochester – La Crosse Transmission Project  
Hampton, MN

Dear Ms. Weyaus:

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency which administers the U.S Department of Agriculture's Rural Development, Utilities Programs is authorized to provide financial assistance for infrastructure development in rural areas under its Electric Program in accordance with 7 CFR Part 1794. Dairyland Power Cooperative has applied to RUS for financial assistance to construct and operate (in conjunction with four other utilities) a 345 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line from Hampton, Minnesota to north of La Crosse, Wisconsin.

RUS is considering funding this application, thereby making the proposal an undertaking subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), 16 U.S.C. § 470F, and its implementing regulations, "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR Part 800).

By letter dated June 11, 2009, RUS invited the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians to participate in government-to-government consultation for the referenced undertaking.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was submitted to the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians under separate cover. RUS prepared the Draft EIS in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with the intent to adequately integrate the Section 106 and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The Draft EIS is also available for download at the following website:  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-CapX2020-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>.

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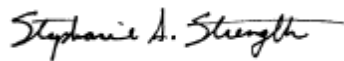
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Sincerely,



Stephanie A. Strength  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Water and Environmental Programs

Enclosure



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

December 21, 2011

Ms. Corina Burke  
Oneida Nation of Wisconsin  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
3703 Hillcrest Drive  
Green Bay, WI 54313

RE: Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Consulting Party  
Comment: 345 kV Hampton – Rochester – La Crosse Transmission Project  
Hampton, MN

Dear Ms. Burke:

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency which administers the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development, Utilities Programs is authorized to provide financial assistance for infrastructure development in rural areas under its Electric Program in accordance with 7 CFR Part 1794. Dairyland Power Cooperative has applied to RUS for financial assistance to construct and operate (in conjunction with four other utilities) a 345 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line from Hampton, Minnesota to north of La Crosse, Wisconsin.

RUS is considering funding this application, thereby making the proposal an undertaking subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), 16 U.S.C. § 470F, and its implementing regulations, "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR Part 800).

By letter dated June 11, 2009, RUS invited the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin to participate in government-to-government consultation for the referenced undertaking.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was submitted to the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin under separate cover. RUS prepared the Draft EIS in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with the intent to adequately integrate the Section 106 and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The Draft EIS is also available for download at the following website:  
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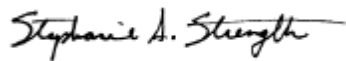


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Sincerely,



Stephanie A. Strength  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Water and Environmental Programs

Enclosure



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

December 21, 2011

Mr. Leonard Wabasha  
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux  
Director of Cultural Resources  
2330 Sioux Trail NW  
Prior Lake, MN 55372

RE: Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Consulting Party  
Comment: 345 kV Hampton – Rochester – La Crosse Transmission Project  
Hampton, MN

Dear Mr. Wabasha:

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RUS is considering funding this application, thereby making the proposal an undertaking subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), 16 U.S.C. § 470F, and its implementing regulations, "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR Part 800).

By letter dated June 11, 2009, RUS invited the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux to participate in government-to-government consultation for the referenced undertaking.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was submitted to the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux under separate cover. RUS prepared the Draft EIS in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with the intent to adequately integrate the Section 106 and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The Draft EIS is also available for download at the following website: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-CapX2020-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>.

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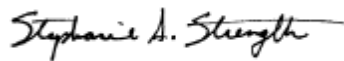
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Sincerely,



Stephanie A. Strength  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Water and Environmental Programs

Enclosure



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

December 21, 2011

Ms. Britta Bloomberg  
Minnesota Historical Society  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
345 Kellogg Boulevard West  
St. Paul, MN 55102

RE: Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Consulting Party  
Comment: 345 kV Hampton – Rochester – La Crosse Transmission Project  
Hampton, MN

Dear Ms. Bloomberg:

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency which administers the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development, Utilities Programs is authorized to provide financial assistance for infrastructure development in rural areas under its Electric Program in accordance with 7 CFR Part 1794. Dairyland Power Cooperative has applied to RUS for financial assistance to construct and operate (in conjunction with four other utilities) a 345 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line from Hampton, Minnesota to north of La Crosse, Wisconsin.

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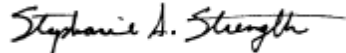
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Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Stephanie A. Strength in blue ink.

Stephanie A. Strength  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Water and Environmental Programs

Enclosure



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

December 21, 2011

Ms. Mary Georgeff  
Wisconsin Historical Society  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
816 State Street  
Madison, WI 53706

RE: Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Consulting Party  
Comment: 345 kV Hampton – Rochester – La Crosse Transmission Project  
Hampton, MN

Dear Ms. Georgeff:

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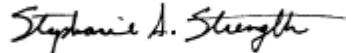
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Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Stephanie A. Strength in blue ink.

Stephanie A. Strength  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Water and Environmental Programs

Enclosure



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

December 21, 2011

Mr. Chip Brown  
Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Officer  
Historic Preservation, Public History  
816 State St., Room 306  
Madison, WI 53706

RE: Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Consulting Party  
Comment: 345 kV Hampton – Rochester – La Crosse Transmission Project  
Hampton, MN

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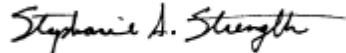


the Hampton – Rochester – La Crosse Project, for discussion purposes for this meeting. A version of the Programmatic Agreement will be included with the Final EIS. Please respond by January 5 with your intention regarding this meeting to Stephanie Strength at 970-403-3559 or [stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov). If no acceptances are received by January 5, the meeting will be cancelled.

Any comments on the Draft EIS or Programmatic Agreement received by the close of the comment period (estimated to be January 30, 2012) will be incorporated in the Final EIS. Please submit written comments to Stephanie Strength at 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 1571, Washington, DC 20250-1571 and/or via email to [stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov).

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Stephanie Strength at the phone number or email above.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Stephanie A. Strength in blue ink.

Stephanie A. Strength  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Water and Environmental Programs

Enclosure

## Draft Programmatic Agreement

Not included with Final EIS copy – see Appendix W for most recent Draft Programmatic Agreement.



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

March 8, 2012

Mr. William Quackenbush  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Ho-Chunk Nation  
W9814 Airport Rd  
Black River Falls, WI 54615

RE: Rural Utilities Service Section 106 Consultation  
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project  
Upcoming Consultation Meeting (Programmatic Agreement Development)

Dear Mr. Quackenbush:

In June 2009, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture hosted scoping meetings in Minnesota and Wisconsin in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to obtain input from the public and agencies about the Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse Transmission System Improvement Project.<sup>1</sup> As part of the invitation to attend scoping, the Ho-Chunk Nation also was invited to participate in consultation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and the Class I Survey results were made available for review. The Ho-Chunk Nation was also invited to an additional consultation meeting and site visit on May 10 and 12, 2010. A third invitation for a consultation meeting was sent December 21, 2011 along with a draft programmatic agreement. On December 16, 2011 the Ho-Chunk Nation was also sent a copy of the Draft EIS prepared for RUS' NEPA requirements.

The purpose of this letter is: (1) to invite the Ho-Chunk Nation to participate in a consultation meeting to discuss language for a programmatic agreement and (2) to provide you with an update on the status of this project.

The consultation meeting is scheduled for March 23 at The Plaza Hotel & Suites at 1025 Highway 61 East, Winona, Minnesota 55987. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00. A deli lunch will be provided for participants.

---

<sup>1</sup> The project is one of four transmission line projects proposed by CapX2020 utilities. CapX2020 is a regional joint initiative of 11 transmission owning utilities whose goal is to study, develop, permit and construct transmission improvements in Minnesota and the surrounding region needed to meet energy demands to the year 2020. The CapX2020 utilities involved with this project include: (1) Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC); (2) Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM), and Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin corporation (NSPW) (collectively, Xcel Energy); (3) Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA); (4) Rochester Public Utilities (RPU); and (5) WPPI Energy, Inc. (WPPI).

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RUS will be participating in the meeting via teleconference. However, the cooperating agency (US Army Corps of Engineers) and RUS' consultant will be attending the meeting in person. Representatives from the utilities will be available for informational presentations as needed and requested by the consulting parties, however, the purpose of the meeting is an opportunity for you to discuss and consider with RUS the potential effects of this project on historic properties.

The enclosed documents have been included to facilitate your participation in consultation:

1. Timeline of Section 106 and consultation activities (including letters and meetings)
2. Summary of cultural resource survey approach and status
3. Project Map – Status of Proposed Routes
4. Summary schedule for the Section 106, NEPA, and Minnesota and Wisconsin permitting processes
5. Draft PA

It is our understanding that there might be important traditional resources and/or properties to which the Ho-Chunk Nation attaches religious and cultural significance within the area that may be impacted by the proposed project. We would appreciate receiving any information you would be willing to share with us on any unique, special, ethnographic, traditional, or archaeological resources or areas in or near the proposed project.

Your input is important to RUS. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Stephanie Strength at (970) 403-3559 or via email at [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov). RUS looks forward to working with you as Section 106 review proceeds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark S. Plank". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mark S. Plank  
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Rural Utilities Service

Attachments



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

March 8, 2012

Ms. giwegiizhigookway Martin  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Ketegitigaaning Ojibwe Nation  
E23857 Poplar Circle  
Watersmeet, MI 49969

RE: Rural Utilities Service Section 106 Consultation  
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project  
Upcoming Consultation Meeting (Programmatic Agreement Development)

Dear Ms. Martin:

In June 2009, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture hosted scoping meetings in Minnesota and Wisconsin in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to obtain input from the public and agencies about the Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse Transmission System Improvement Project.<sup>1</sup> As part of the invitation to attend scoping, the Ketegitigaaning Ojibwe Nation also was invited to participate in consultation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and the Class I Survey results were made available for review. The Ketegitigaaning Ojibwe Nation was also invited to an additional consultation meeting and site visit on May 10 and 12, 2010. A third invitation for a consultation meeting was sent December 21, 2011 along with a draft programmatic agreement. On December 16, 2011 the Ketegitigaaning Ojibwe Nation was also sent a copy of the Draft EIS prepared for RUS' NEPA requirements.

The purpose of this letter is: (1) to invite the Ketegitigaaning Ojibwe Nation to participate in a consultation meeting to discuss language for a programmatic agreement and (2) to provide you with an update on the status of this project.

The consultation meeting is scheduled for March 23 at The Plaza Hotel & Suites at 1025 Highway 61 East, Winona, Minnesota 55987. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00. A deli lunch will be provided for participants.

---

<sup>1</sup> The project is one of four transmission line projects proposed by CapX2020 utilities. CapX2020 is a regional joint initiative of 11 transmission owning utilities whose goal is to study, develop, permit and construct transmission improvements in Minnesota and the surrounding region needed to meet energy demands to the year 2020. The CapX2020 utilities involved with this project include: (1) Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC); (2) Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM), and Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin corporation (NSPW) (collectively, Xcel Energy); (3) Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA); (4) Rochester Public Utilities (RPU); and (5) WPPI Energy, Inc. (WPPI).

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The enclosed documents have been included to facilitate your participation in consultation:

6. Timeline of Section 106 and consultation activities (including letters and meetings)
7. Summary of cultural resource survey approach and status
8. Project Map – Status of Proposed Routes
9. Summary schedule for the Section 106, NEPA, and Minnesota and Wisconsin permitting processes
10. Draft PA

It is our understanding that there might be important traditional resources and/or properties to which the Ketegitigaaning Ojibwe Nation attaches religious and cultural significance within the area that may be impacted by the proposed project. We would appreciate receiving any information you would be willing to share with us on any unique, special, ethnographic, traditional, or archaeological resources or areas in or near the proposed project.

Your input is important to RUS. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Stephanie Strength at (970) 403-3559 or via email at [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov). RUS looks forward to working with you as Section 106 review proceeds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark S. Plank". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mark S. Plank  
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Rural Utilities Service

Attachments



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

March 8, 2012

Ms. Corina Williams  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Oneida Nation of Wisconsin  
3703 Hillcrest Drive  
Green Bay, WI 54313

RE: Rural Utilities Service Section 106 Consultation  
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project  
Upcoming Consultation Meeting (Programmatic Agreement Development)

Dear Ms. Williams:

In June 2009, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture hosted scoping meetings in Minnesota and Wisconsin in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to obtain input from the public and agencies about the Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse Transmission System Improvement Project.<sup>1</sup> As part of the invitation to attend scoping, the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin also was invited to participate in consultation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and the Class I Survey results were made available for review. The Oneida Nation of Wisconsin was also invited to an additional consultation meeting and site visit on May 10 and 12, 2010. A third invitation for a consultation meeting was sent December 21, 2011 along with a draft programmatic agreement. On December 16, 2011 the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin was also sent a copy of the Draft EIS prepared for RUS' NEPA requirements.

The purpose of this letter is: (1) to invite the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin to participate in a consultation meeting to discuss language for a programmatic agreement and (2) to provide you with an update on the status of this project.

The consultation meeting is scheduled for March 23 at The Plaza Hotel & Suites at 1025 Highway 61 East, Winona, Minnesota 55987. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00. A deli lunch will be provided for participants.

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<sup>1</sup> The project is one of four transmission line projects proposed by CapX2020 utilities. CapX2020 is a regional joint initiative of 11 transmission owning utilities whose goal is to study, develop, permit and construct transmission improvements in Minnesota and the surrounding region needed to meet energy demands to the year 2020. The CapX2020 utilities involved with this project include: (1) Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC); (2) Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM), and Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin corporation (NSPW) (collectively, Xcel Energy); (3) Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA); (4) Rochester Public Utilities (RPU); and (5) WPPI Energy, Inc. (WPPI).

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RUS will be participating in the meeting via teleconference. However, the cooperating agency (US Army Corps of Engineers) and RUS' consultant will be attending the meeting in person. Representatives from the utilities will be available for informational presentations as needed and requested by the consulting parties, however, the purpose of the meeting is an opportunity for you to discuss and consider with RUS the potential effects of this project on historic properties.

The enclosed documents have been included to facilitate your participation in consultation:

11. Timeline of Section 106 and consultation activities (including letters and meetings)
12. Summary of cultural resource survey approach and status
13. Project Map – Status of Proposed Routes
14. Summary schedule for the Section 106, NEPA, and Minnesota and Wisconsin permitting processes
15. Draft PA

It is our understanding that there might be important traditional resources and/or properties to which the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin attaches religious and cultural significance within the area that may be impacted by the proposed project. We would appreciate receiving any information you would be willing to share with us on any unique, special, ethnographic, traditional, or archaeological resources or areas in or near the proposed project.

Your input is important to RUS. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Stephanie Strength at (970) 403-3559 or via email at [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov). RUS looks forward to working with you as Section 106 review proceeds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark S. Plank". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mark S. Plank  
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Rural Utilities Service

Attachments





United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

March 8, 2012

Mr. Leonard Wabasha  
Director of Cultural Resources  
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux  
2330 Sioux Trail NW  
Prior Lake, MN 55372

RE: Rural Utilities Service Section 106 Consultation  
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project  
Upcoming Consultation Meeting (Programmatic Agreement Development)

Dear Mr. Wabasha:

In June 2009, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture hosted scoping meetings in Minnesota and Wisconsin in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to obtain input from the public and agencies about the Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse Transmission System Improvement Project.<sup>1</sup> As part of the invitation to attend scoping, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux also was invited to participate in consultation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and the Class I Survey results were made available for review. The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux was also invited to an additional consultation meeting and site visit on May 10 and 12, 2010. A third invitation for a consultation meeting was sent December 21, 2011 along with a draft programmatic agreement. On December 16, 2011 the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux was also sent a copy of the Draft EIS prepared for RUS' NEPA requirements.

The purpose of this letter is: (1) to invite the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux to participate in a consultation meeting to discuss language for a programmatic agreement and (2) to provide you with an update on the status of this project.

---

<sup>1</sup> The project is one of four transmission line projects proposed by CapX2020 utilities. CapX2020 is a regional joint initiative of 11 transmission owning utilities whose goal is to study, develop, permit and construct transmission improvements in Minnesota and the surrounding region needed to meet energy demands to the year 2020. The CapX2020 utilities involved with this project include: (1) Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC); (2) Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM), and Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin corporation (NSPW) (collectively, Xcel Energy); (3) Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA); (4) Rochester Public Utilities (RPU); and (5) WPPI Energy, Inc. (WPPI).

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Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

The consultation meeting is scheduled for March 23 at The Plaza Hotel & Suites at 1025 Highway 61 East, Winona, Minnesota 55987. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00. A deli lunch will be provided for participants.

RUS will be participating in the meeting via teleconference. However, the cooperating agency (US Army Corps of Engineers) and RUS' consultant will be attending the meeting in person. Representatives from the utilities will be available for informational presentations as needed and requested by the consulting parties, however, the purpose of the meeting is an opportunity for you to discuss and consider with RUS the potential effects of this project on historic properties.


The enclosed documents have been included to facilitate your participation in consultation:

16. Timeline of Section 106 and consultation activities (including letters and meetings)
17. Summary of cultural resource survey approach and status
18. Project Map – Status of Proposed Routes
19. Summary schedule for the Section 106, NEPA, and Minnesota and Wisconsin permitting processes
20. Draft PA

It is our understanding that there might be important traditional resources and/or properties to which the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux attaches religious and cultural significance within the area that may be impacted by the proposed project. We would appreciate receiving any information you would be willing to share with us on any unique, special, ethnographic, traditional, or archaeological resources or areas in or near the proposed project.

Your input is important to RUS. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Stephanie Strength at (970) 403-3559 or via email at [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov). RUS looks forward to working with you as Section 106 review proceeds.

Sincerely,



Mark S. Plank  
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Rural Utilities Service

Attachments



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

March 8, 2012

Mr. Michael Wiggins, Jr.  
Chairman  
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa  
72682 Maple St  
Odanah, WI 54861

RE: Rural Utilities Service Section 106 Consultation  
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project  
Upcoming Consultation Meeting (Programmatic Agreement Development)

Dear Mr. Wiggins:

In June 2009, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture hosted scoping meetings in Minnesota and Wisconsin in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to obtain input from the public and agencies about the Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse Transmission System Improvement Project.<sup>1</sup> As part of the invitation to attend scoping, the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa also was invited to participate in consultation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and the Class I Survey results were made available for review. The Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa was also invited to an additional consultation meeting and site visit on May 10 and 12, 2010

The purpose of this letter is: (1) to invite the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa to participate in a consultation meeting to discuss language for a programmatic agreement and (2) to provide you with an update on the status of this project.

The consultation meeting is scheduled for March 23 at The Plaza Hotel & Suites at 1025 Highway 61 East, Winona, Minnesota 55987. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00. A deli lunch will be provided for participants.

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<sup>1</sup> The project is one of four transmission line projects proposed by CapX2020 utilities. CapX2020 is a regional joint initiative of 11 transmission owning utilities whose goal is to study, develop, permit and construct transmission improvements in Minnesota and the surrounding region needed to meet energy demands to the year 2020. The CapX2020 utilities involved with this project include: (1) Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC); (2) Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM), and Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin corporation (NSPW) (collectively, Xcel Energy); (3) Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA); (4) Rochester Public Utilities (RPU); and (5) WPPI Energy, Inc. (WPPI).

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RUS will be participating in the meeting via teleconference. However, the cooperating agency (US Army Corps of Engineers) and RUS' consultant will be attending the meeting in person. Representatives from the utilities will be available for informational presentations as needed and requested by the consulting parties, however, the purpose of the meeting is an opportunity for you to discuss and consider with RUS the potential effects of this project on historic properties.

The enclosed documents have been included to facilitate your participation in consultation:

1. Timeline of Section 106 and consultation activities (including letters and meetings)
2. Summary of cultural resource survey approach and status
3. Project Map – Status of Proposed Routes
4. Summary schedule for the Section 106, NEPA, and Minnesota and Wisconsin permitting processes
5. Draft PA

It is our understanding that there might be important traditional resources and/or properties to which the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa attaches religious and cultural significance within the area that may be impacted by the proposed project. We would appreciate receiving any information you would be willing to share with us on any unique, special, ethnographic, traditional, or archaeological resources or areas in or near the proposed project.

Your input is important to RUS. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Stephanie Strength at (970) 403-3559 or via email at [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov). RUS looks forward to working with you as Section 106 review proceeds.

Sincerely,



Mark S. Plank  
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Rural Utilities Service

Attachments

Cc:  
Edith Leoso



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

March 8, 2012

Ms. Edith Leoso  
THPO / NAGPRA Director  
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa  
72682 Maple St  
Odanah, WI 54861

RE: Rural Utilities Service Section 106 Consultation  
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project  
Upcoming Consultation Meeting (Programmatic Agreement Development)

Dear Ms. Leoso:

In June 2009, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture hosted scoping meetings in Minnesota and Wisconsin in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to obtain input from the public and agencies about the Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse Transmission System Improvement Project.<sup>1</sup> As part of the invitation to attend scoping, the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa also was invited to participate in consultation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and the Class I Survey results were made available for review. The Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa was also invited to an additional consultation meeting and site visit on May 10 and 12, 2010

The purpose of this letter is: (1) to invite the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa to participate in a consultation meeting to discuss language for a programmatic agreement and (2) to provide you with an update on the status of this project.

The consultation meeting is scheduled for March 23 at The Plaza Hotel & Suites at 1025 Highway 61 East, Winona, Minnesota 55987. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00. A deli lunch will be provided for participants.

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<sup>1</sup> The project is one of four transmission line projects proposed by CapX2020 utilities. CapX2020 is a regional joint initiative of 11 transmission owning utilities whose goal is to study, develop, permit and construct transmission improvements in Minnesota and the surrounding region needed to meet energy demands to the year 2020. The CapX2020 utilities involved with this project include: (1) Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC); (2) Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM), and Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin corporation (NSPW) (collectively, Xcel Energy); (3) Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA); (4) Rochester Public Utilities (RPU); and (5) WPPI Energy, Inc. (WPPI).

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The enclosed documents have been included to facilitate your participation in consultation:

6. Timeline of Section 106 and consultation activities (including letters and meetings)
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10. Draft PA

It is our understanding that there might be important traditional resources and/or properties to which the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa attaches religious and cultural significance within the area that may be impacted by the proposed project. We would appreciate receiving any information you would be willing to share with us on any unique, special, ethnographic, traditional, or archaeological resources or areas in or near the proposed project.

Your input is important to RUS. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Stephanie Strength at (970) 403-3559 or via email at [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov). RUS looks forward to working with you as Section 106 review proceeds.

Sincerely,



Mark S. Plank  
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Rural Utilities Service

Attachments

Cc:  
Michael Wiggins, Jr.



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

March 8, 2012

Mr. James Weston  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Flandreau Santee Sioux of South Dakota  
603 W. Broad Ave.  
Flandreau, SD 57028

RE: Rural Utilities Service Section 106 Consultation  
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project  
Upcoming Consultation Meeting (Programmatic Agreement Development)

Dear Mr. Weston:

In June 2009, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture hosted scoping meetings in Minnesota and Wisconsin in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to obtain input from the public and agencies about the Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse Transmission System Improvement Project.<sup>1</sup> As part of the invitation to attend scoping, the Flandreau Santee Sioux of South Dakota also was invited to participate in consultation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and the Class I Survey results were made available for review. The Flandreau Santee Sioux of South Dakota was also invited to an additional consultation meeting and site visit on May 10 and 12, 2010

The purpose of this letter is: (1) to invite the Flandreau Santee Sioux of South Dakota to participate in a consultation meeting to discuss language for a programmatic agreement and (2) to provide you with an update on the status of this project.

The consultation meeting is scheduled for March 23 at The Plaza Hotel & Suites at 1025 Highway 61 East, Winona, Minnesota 55987. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00. A deli lunch will be provided for participants.

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<sup>1</sup> The project is one of four transmission line projects proposed by CapX2020 utilities. CapX2020 is a regional joint initiative of 11 transmission owning utilities whose goal is to study, develop, permit and construct transmission improvements in Minnesota and the surrounding region needed to meet energy demands to the year 2020. The CapX2020 utilities involved with this project include: (1) Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC); (2) Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM), and Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin corporation (NSPW) (collectively, Xcel Energy); (3) Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA); (4) Rochester Public Utilities (RPU); and (5) WPPI Energy, Inc. (WPPI).

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The enclosed documents have been included to facilitate your participation in consultation:

11. Timeline of Section 106 and consultation activities (including letters and meetings)
12. Summary of cultural resource survey approach and status
13. Project Map – Status of Proposed Routes
14. Summary schedule for the Section 106, NEPA, and Minnesota and Wisconsin permitting processes
15. Draft PA

It is our understanding that there might be important traditional resources and/or properties to which the Flandreau Santee Sioux of South Dakota attaches religious and cultural significance within the area that may be impacted by the proposed project. We would appreciate receiving any information you would be willing to share with us on any unique, special, ethnographic, traditional, or archaeological resources or areas in or near the proposed project.

Your input is important to RUS. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Stephanie Strength at (970) 403-3559 or via email at [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov). RUS looks forward to working with you as Section 106 review proceeds.

Sincerely,



Mark S. Plank  
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Rural Utilities Service

Attachments





United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

March 8, 2012

Mr. David Grignon  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin  
PO Box 910  
Keshena, WI 54135

RE: Rural Utilities Service Section 106 Consultation  
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project  
Upcoming Consultation Meeting (Programmatic Agreement Development)

Dear Mr. Grignon:

In June 2009, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture hosted scoping meetings in Minnesota and Wisconsin in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to obtain input from the public and agencies about the Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse Transmission System Improvement Project.<sup>1</sup> As part of the invitation to attend scoping, the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin also was invited to participate in consultation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and the Class I Survey results were made available for review. The Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin was also invited to an additional consultation meeting and site visit on May 10 and 12, 2010

The purpose of this letter is: (1) to invite the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin to participate in a consultation meeting to discuss language for a programmatic agreement and (2) to provide you with an update on the status of this project.

The consultation meeting is scheduled for March 23 at The Plaza Hotel & Suites at 1025 Highway 61 East, Winona, Minnesota 55987. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00. A deli lunch will be provided for participants.

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<sup>1</sup> The project is one of four transmission line projects proposed by CapX2020 utilities. CapX2020 is a regional joint initiative of 11 transmission owning utilities whose goal is to study, develop, permit and construct transmission improvements in Minnesota and the surrounding region needed to meet energy demands to the year 2020. The CapX2020 utilities involved with this project include: (1) Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC); (2) Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM), and Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin corporation (NSPW) (collectively, Xcel Energy); (3) Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA); (4) Rochester Public Utilities (RPU); and (5) WPPI Energy, Inc. (WPPI).

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Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

RUS will be participating in the meeting via teleconference. However, the cooperating agency (US Army Corps of Engineers) and RUS' consultant will be attending the meeting in person. Representatives from the utilities will be available for informational presentations as needed and requested by the consulting parties, however, the purpose of the meeting is an opportunity for you to discuss and consider with RUS the potential effects of this project on historic properties.

The enclosed documents have been included to facilitate your participation in consultation:

16. Timeline of Section 106 and consultation activities (including letters and meetings)
17. Summary of cultural resource survey approach and status
18. Project Map – Status of Proposed Routes
19. Summary schedule for the Section 106, NEPA, and Minnesota and Wisconsin permitting processes
20. Draft PA

It is our understanding that there might be important traditional resources and/or properties to which the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin attaches religious and cultural significance within the area that may be impacted by the proposed project. We would appreciate receiving any information you would be willing to share with us on any unique, special, ethnographic, traditional, or archaeological resources or areas in or near the proposed project.

Your input is important to RUS. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Stephanie Strength at (970) 403-3559 or via email at [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov). RUS looks forward to working with you as Section 106 review proceeds.

Sincerely,



Mark S. Plank  
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Rural Utilities Service

Attachments

Cc:  
Craig Corn



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

March 8, 2012

Mr. Craig Corn  
Chairman  
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin  
PO Box 910  
Keshena, WI 54135

RE: Rural Utilities Service Section 106 Consultation  
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project  
Upcoming Consultation Meeting (Programmatic Agreement Development)

Dear Mr. Corn:

In June 2009, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture hosted scoping meetings in Minnesota and Wisconsin in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to obtain input from the public and agencies about the Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse Transmission System Improvement Project.<sup>1</sup> As part of the invitation to attend scoping, the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin also was invited to participate in consultation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and the Class I Survey results were made available for review. The Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin was also invited to an additional consultation meeting and site visit on May 10 and 12, 2010

The purpose of this letter is: (1) to invite the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin to participate in a consultation meeting to discuss language for a programmatic agreement and (2) to provide you with an update on the status of this project.

The consultation meeting is scheduled for March 23 at The Plaza Hotel & Suites at 1025 Highway 61 East, Winona, Minnesota 55987. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00. A deli lunch will be provided for participants.

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<sup>1</sup> The project is one of four transmission line projects proposed by CapX2020 utilities. CapX2020 is a regional joint initiative of 11 transmission owning utilities whose goal is to study, develop, permit and construct transmission improvements in Minnesota and the surrounding region needed to meet energy demands to the year 2020. The CapX2020 utilities involved with this project include: (1) Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC); (2) Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM), and Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin corporation (NSPW) (collectively, Xcel Energy); (3) Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA); (4) Rochester Public Utilities (RPU); and (5) WPPI Energy, Inc. (WPPI).

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Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

RUS will be participating in the meeting via teleconference. However, the cooperating agency (US Army Corps of Engineers) and RUS' consultant will be attending the meeting in person. Representatives from the utilities will be available for informational presentations as needed and requested by the consulting parties, however, the purpose of the meeting is an opportunity for you to discuss and consider with RUS the potential effects of this project on historic properties.

The enclosed documents have been included to facilitate your participation in consultation:

21. Timeline of Section 106 and consultation activities (including letters and meetings)
22. Summary of cultural resource survey approach and status
23. Project Map – Status of Proposed Routes
24. Summary schedule for the Section 106, NEPA, and Minnesota and Wisconsin permitting processes
25. Draft PA

It is our understanding that there might be important traditional resources and/or properties to which the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin attaches religious and cultural significance within the area that may be impacted by the proposed project. We would appreciate receiving any information you would be willing to share with us on any unique, special, ethnographic, traditional, or archaeological resources or areas in or near the proposed project.

Your input is important to RUS. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Stephanie Strength at (970) 403-3559 or via email at [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov). RUS looks forward to working with you as Section 106 review proceeds.

Sincerely,



Mark S. Plank  
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Rural Utilities Service

Attachments

Cc:  
David Grignon



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

March 8, 2012

Ms. Whitney White  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Prairie Island Indian Community  
5636 Sturgeon Lake Road  
Welch, MN 55089

RE: Rural Utilities Service Section 106 Consultation  
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project  
Upcoming Consultation Meeting (Programmatic Agreement Development)

Dear Ms. White:

In June 2009, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture hosted scoping meetings in Minnesota and Wisconsin in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to obtain input from the public and agencies about the Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse Transmission System Improvement Project.<sup>1</sup> As part of the invitation to attend scoping, the Prairie Island Indian Community also was invited to participate in consultation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and the Class I Survey results were made available for review. The Prairie Island Indian Community was also invited to an additional consultation meeting and site visit on May 10 and 12, 2010

The purpose of this letter is: (1) to invite the Prairie Island Indian Community to participate in a consultation meeting to discuss language for a programmatic agreement and (2) to provide you with an update on the status of this project.

The consultation meeting is scheduled for March 23 at The Plaza Hotel & Suites at 1025 Highway 61 East, Winona, Minnesota 55987. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00. A deli lunch will be provided for participants.

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<sup>1</sup> The project is one of four transmission line projects proposed by CapX2020 utilities. CapX2020 is a regional joint initiative of 11 transmission owning utilities whose goal is to study, develop, permit and construct transmission improvements in Minnesota and the surrounding region needed to meet energy demands to the year 2020. The CapX2020 utilities involved with this project include: (1) Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC); (2) Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM), and Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin corporation (NSPW) (collectively, Xcel Energy); (3) Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA); (4) Rochester Public Utilities (RPU); and (5) WPPI Energy, Inc. (WPPI).

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Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

RUS will be participating in the meeting via teleconference. However, the cooperating agency (US Army Corps of Engineers) and RUS' consultant will be attending the meeting in person. Representatives from the utilities will be available for informational presentations as needed and requested by the consulting parties, however, the purpose of the meeting is an opportunity for you to discuss and consider with RUS the potential effects of this project on historic properties.

The enclosed documents have been included to facilitate your participation in consultation:

26. Timeline of Section 106 and consultation activities (including letters and meetings)
27. Summary of cultural resource survey approach and status
28. Project Map – Status of Proposed Routes
29. Summary schedule for the Section 106, NEPA, and Minnesota and Wisconsin permitting processes
30. Draft PA

It is our understanding that there might be important traditional resources and/or properties to which the Prairie Island Indian Community attaches religious and cultural significance within the area that may be impacted by the proposed project. We would appreciate receiving any information you would be willing to share with us on any unique, special, ethnographic, traditional, or archaeological resources or areas in or near the proposed project.

Your input is important to RUS. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Stephanie Strength at (970) 403-3559 or via email at [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov). RUS looks forward to working with you as Section 106 review proceeds.

Sincerely,



Mark S. Plank  
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Rural Utilities Service

Attachments

Cc:  
Johnny Johnson



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

March 8, 2012

Mr. Johnny Johnson  
Tribal President  
Prairie Island Indian Community  
5636 Sturgeon Lake Road  
Welch, MN 55089

RE: Rural Utilities Service Section 106 Consultation  
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project  
Upcoming Consultation Meeting (Programmatic Agreement Development)

Dear Mr. Johnson:

In June 2009, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture hosted scoping meetings in Minnesota and Wisconsin in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to obtain input from the public and agencies about the Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse Transmission System Improvement Project.<sup>1</sup> As part of the invitation to attend scoping, the Prairie Island Indian Community also was invited to participate in consultation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and the Class I Survey results were made available for review. The Prairie Island Indian Community was also invited to an additional consultation meeting and site visit on May 10 and 12, 2010

The purpose of this letter is: (1) to invite the Prairie Island Indian Community to participate in a consultation meeting to discuss language for a programmatic agreement and (2) to provide you with an update on the status of this project.

The consultation meeting is scheduled for March 23 at The Plaza Hotel & Suites at 1025 Highway 61 East, Winona, Minnesota 55987. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00. A deli lunch will be provided for participants.

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<sup>1</sup> The project is one of four transmission line projects proposed by CapX2020 utilities. CapX2020 is a regional joint initiative of 11 transmission owning utilities whose goal is to study, develop, permit and construct transmission improvements in Minnesota and the surrounding region needed to meet energy demands to the year 2020. The CapX2020 utilities involved with this project include: (1) Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC); (2) Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM), and Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin corporation (NSPW) (collectively, Xcel Energy); (3) Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA); (4) Rochester Public Utilities (RPU); and (5) WPPI Energy, Inc. (WPPI).

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Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

RUS will be participating in the meeting via teleconference. However, the cooperating agency (US Army Corps of Engineers) and RUS' consultant will be attending the meeting in person. Representatives from the utilities will be available for informational presentations as needed and requested by the consulting parties, however, the purpose of the meeting is an opportunity for you to discuss and consider with RUS the potential effects of this project on historic properties.

The enclosed documents have been included to facilitate your participation in consultation:

31. Timeline of Section 106 and consultation activities (including letters and meetings)
32. Summary of cultural resource survey approach and status
33. Project Map – Status of Proposed Routes
34. Summary schedule for the Section 106, NEPA, and Minnesota and Wisconsin permitting processes
35. Draft PA

It is our understanding that there might be important traditional resources and/or properties to which the Prairie Island Indian Community attaches religious and cultural significance within the area that may be impacted by the proposed project. We would appreciate receiving any information you would be willing to share with us on any unique, special, ethnographic, traditional, or archaeological resources or areas in or near the proposed project.

Your input is important to RUS. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Stephanie Strength at (970) 403-3559 or via email at [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov). RUS looks forward to working with you as Section 106 review proceeds.

Sincerely,



Mark S. Plank  
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Rural Utilities Service

Attachments

Cc:  
Whitney White





United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

March 8, 2012

Mr. Rick Thomas  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska  
52948 Hwy 12  
Niobrara, NE 68760

RE: Rural Utilities Service Section 106 Consultation  
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project  
Upcoming Consultation Meeting (Programmatic Agreement Development)

Dear Mr. Thomas:

In June 2009, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture hosted scoping meetings in Minnesota and Wisconsin in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to obtain input from the public and agencies about the Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse Transmission System Improvement Project.<sup>1</sup> As part of the invitation to attend scoping, the Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska also was invited to participate in consultation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and the Class I Survey results were made available for review. The Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska was also invited to an additional consultation meeting and site visit on May 10 and 12, 2010

The purpose of this letter is: (1) to invite the Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska to participate in a consultation meeting to discuss language for a programmatic agreement and (2) to provide you with an update on the status of this project.

The consultation meeting is scheduled for March 23 at The Plaza Hotel & Suites at 1025 Highway 61 East, Winona, Minnesota 55987. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00. A deli lunch will be provided for participants.

---

<sup>1</sup> The project is one of four transmission line projects proposed by CapX2020 utilities. CapX2020 is a regional joint initiative of 11 transmission owning utilities whose goal is to study, develop, permit and construct transmission improvements in Minnesota and the surrounding region needed to meet energy demands to the year 2020. The CapX2020 utilities involved with this project include: (1) Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC); (2) Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM), and Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin corporation (NSPW) (collectively, Xcel Energy); (3) Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA); (4) Rochester Public Utilities (RPU); and (5) WPPI Energy, Inc. (WPPI).

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Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

RUS will be participating in the meeting via teleconference. However, the cooperating agency (US Army Corps of Engineers) and RUS' consultant will be attending the meeting in person. Representatives from the utilities will be available for informational presentations as needed and requested by the consulting parties, however, the purpose of the meeting is an opportunity for you to discuss and consider with RUS the potential effects of this project on historic properties.

The enclosed documents have been included to facilitate your participation in consultation:

36. Timeline of Section 106 and consultation activities (including letters and meetings)
37. Summary of cultural resource survey approach and status
38. Project Map – Status of Proposed Routes
39. Summary schedule for the Section 106, NEPA, and Minnesota and Wisconsin permitting processes
40. Draft PA

It is our understanding that there might be important traditional resources and/or properties to which the Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska attaches religious and cultural significance within the area that may be impacted by the proposed project. We would appreciate receiving any information you would be willing to share with us on any unique, special, ethnographic, traditional, or archaeological resources or areas in or near the proposed project.

Your input is important to RUS. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Stephanie Strength at (970) 403-3559 or via email at [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov). RUS looks forward to working with you as Section 106 review proceeds.

Sincerely,



Mark S. Plank  
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Rural Utilities Service

Attachments



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

March 8, 2012

Ms. Dianne Desrosiers  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation  
205 Oak St. East, Suite 121  
Sisseton, SD 57262

RE: Rural Utilities Service Section 106 Consultation  
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project  
Upcoming Consultation Meeting (Programmatic Agreement Development)

Dear Ms. Desrosiers:

In June 2009, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture hosted scoping meetings in Minnesota and Wisconsin in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to obtain input from the public and agencies about the Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse Transmission System Improvement Project.<sup>1</sup> As part of the invitation to attend scoping, the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation also was invited to participate in consultation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and the Class I Survey results were made available for review. The Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation was also invited to an additional consultation meeting and site visit on May 10 and 12, 2010

The purpose of this letter is: (1) to invite the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation to participate in a consultation meeting to discuss language for a programmatic agreement and (2) to provide you with an update on the status of this project.

The consultation meeting is scheduled for March 23 at The Plaza Hotel & Suites at 1025 Highway 61 East, Winona, Minnesota 55987. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00. A deli lunch will be provided for participants.

---

<sup>1</sup> The project is one of four transmission line projects proposed by CapX2020 utilities. CapX2020 is a regional joint initiative of 11 transmission owning utilities whose goal is to study, develop, permit and construct transmission improvements in Minnesota and the surrounding region needed to meet energy demands to the year 2020. The CapX2020 utilities involved with this project include: (1) Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC); (2) Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM), and Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin corporation (NSPW) (collectively, Xcel Energy); (3) Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA); (4) Rochester Public Utilities (RPU); and (5) WPPI Energy, Inc. (WPPI).

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Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

RUS will be participating in the meeting via teleconference. However, the cooperating agency (US Army Corps of Engineers) and RUS' consultant will be attending the meeting in person. Representatives from the utilities will be available for informational presentations as needed and requested by the consulting parties, however, the purpose of the meeting is an opportunity for you to discuss and consider with RUS the potential effects of this project on historic properties.

The enclosed documents have been included to facilitate your participation in consultation:

41. Timeline of Section 106 and consultation activities (including letters and meetings)
42. Summary of cultural resource survey approach and status
43. Project Map – Status of Proposed Routes
44. Summary schedule for the Section 106, NEPA, and Minnesota and Wisconsin permitting processes
45. Draft PA

It is our understanding that there might be important traditional resources and/or properties to which the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation attaches religious and cultural significance within the area that may be impacted by the proposed project. We would appreciate receiving any information you would be willing to share with us on any unique, special, ethnographic, traditional, or archaeological resources or areas in or near the proposed project.

Your input is important to RUS. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Stephanie Strength at (970) 403-3559 or via email at [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov). RUS looks forward to working with you as Section 106 review proceeds.

Sincerely,



Mark S. Plank  
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Rural Utilities Service

#### Attachments

Cc:  
Robert Shepherd  
Myrna Thompson  
Steve Jackson, Jr.



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

March 8, 2012

Mr. Steve Jackson, Jr.  
Office of Environmental Protection  
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation  
P.O. Box 509  
Agency Village, SD 57262

RE: Rural Utilities Service Section 106 Consultation  
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project  
Upcoming Consultation Meeting (Programmatic Agreement Development)

Dear Mr. Jackson:

In June 2009, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture hosted scoping meetings in Minnesota and Wisconsin in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to obtain input from the public and agencies about the Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse Transmission System Improvement Project.<sup>1</sup> As part of the invitation to attend scoping, the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation also was invited to participate in consultation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and the Class I Survey results were made available for review. The Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation was also invited to an additional consultation meeting and site visit on May 10 and 12, 2010

The purpose of this letter is: (1) to invite the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation to participate in a consultation meeting to discuss language for a programmatic agreement and (2) to provide you with an update on the status of this project.

The consultation meeting is scheduled for March 23 at The Plaza Hotel & Suites at 1025 Highway 61 East, Winona, Minnesota 55987. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00. A deli lunch will be provided for participants.

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<sup>1</sup> The project is one of four transmission line projects proposed by CapX2020 utilities. CapX2020 is a regional joint initiative of 11 transmission owning utilities whose goal is to study, develop, permit and construct transmission improvements in Minnesota and the surrounding region needed to meet energy demands to the year 2020. The CapX2020 utilities involved with this project include: (1) Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC); (2) Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM), and Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin corporation (NSPW) (collectively, Xcel Energy); (3) Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA); (4) Rochester Public Utilities (RPU); and (5) WPPI Energy, Inc. (WPPI).

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Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

RUS will be participating in the meeting via teleconference. However, the cooperating agency (US Army Corps of Engineers) and RUS' consultant will be attending the meeting in person. Representatives from the utilities will be available for informational presentations as needed and requested by the consulting parties, however, the purpose of the meeting is an opportunity for you to discuss and consider with RUS the potential effects of this project on historic properties.

The enclosed documents have been included to facilitate your participation in consultation:

46. Timeline of Section 106 and consultation activities (including letters and meetings)
47. Summary of cultural resource survey approach and status
48. Project Map – Status of Proposed Routes
49. Summary schedule for the Section 106, NEPA, and Minnesota and Wisconsin permitting processes
50. Draft PA

It is our understanding that there might be important traditional resources and/or properties to which the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation attaches religious and cultural significance within the area that may be impacted by the proposed project. We would appreciate receiving any information you would be willing to share with us on any unique, special, ethnographic, traditional, or archaeological resources or areas in or near the proposed project.

Your input is important to RUS. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Stephanie Strength at (970) 403-3559 or via email at [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov). RUS looks forward to working with you as Section 106 review proceeds.

Sincerely,



Mark S. Plank  
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Rural Utilities Service

#### Attachments

Cc:  
Robert Shepherd  
Dianne Desrosiers  
Myrna Thompson



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

March 8, 2012

Mr. Robert Shepherd  
Chairman  
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation  
P.O. Box 509  
Agency Village, SD 57262

RE: Rural Utilities Service Section 106 Consultation  
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project  
Upcoming Consultation Meeting (Programmatic Agreement Development)

Dear Mr. Shepherd:

In June 2009, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture hosted scoping meetings in Minnesota and Wisconsin in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to obtain input from the public and agencies about the Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse Transmission System Improvement Project.<sup>1</sup> As part of the invitation to attend scoping, the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation also was invited to participate in consultation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and the Class I Survey results were made available for review. The Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation was also invited to an additional consultation meeting and site visit on May 10 and 12, 2010

The purpose of this letter is: (1) to invite the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation to participate in a consultation meeting to discuss language for a programmatic agreement and (2) to provide you with an update on the status of this project.

The consultation meeting is scheduled for March 23 at The Plaza Hotel & Suites at 1025 Highway 61 East, Winona, Minnesota 55987. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00. A deli lunch will be provided for participants.

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<sup>1</sup> The project is one of four transmission line projects proposed by CapX2020 utilities. CapX2020 is a regional joint initiative of 11 transmission owning utilities whose goal is to study, develop, permit and construct transmission improvements in Minnesota and the surrounding region needed to meet energy demands to the year 2020. The CapX2020 utilities involved with this project include: (1) Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC); (2) Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM), and Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin corporation (NSPW) (collectively, Xcel Energy); (3) Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA); (4) Rochester Public Utilities (RPU); and (5) WPPI Energy, Inc. (WPPI).

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Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

RUS will be participating in the meeting via teleconference. However, the cooperating agency (US Army Corps of Engineers) and RUS' consultant will be attending the meeting in person. Representatives from the utilities will be available for informational presentations as needed and requested by the consulting parties, however, the purpose of the meeting is an opportunity for you to discuss and consider with RUS the potential effects of this project on historic properties.

The enclosed documents have been included to facilitate your participation in consultation:

51. Timeline of Section 106 and consultation activities (including letters and meetings)
52. Summary of cultural resource survey approach and status
53. Project Map – Status of Proposed Routes
54. Summary schedule for the Section 106, NEPA, and Minnesota and Wisconsin permitting processes
55. Draft PA

It is our understanding that there might be important traditional resources and/or properties to which the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation attaches religious and cultural significance within the area that may be impacted by the proposed project. We would appreciate receiving any information you would be willing to share with us on any unique, special, ethnographic, traditional, or archaeological resources or areas in or near the proposed project.

Your input is important to RUS. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Stephanie Strength at (970) 403-3559 or via email at [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov). RUS looks forward to working with you as Section 106 review proceeds.

Sincerely,



Mark S. Plank  
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Rural Utilities Service

#### Attachments

Cc:  
Dianne Desrosiers  
Myrna Thompson  
Steve Jackson, Jr.





United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

March 8, 2012

Ms. Myrna Thompson  
Office of Environmental Protection  
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation  
P.O. Box 509  
Agency Village, SD 57262

RE: Rural Utilities Service Section 106 Consultation  
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project  
Upcoming Consultation Meeting (Programmatic Agreement Development)

Dear Ms. Thompson:

In June 2009, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture hosted scoping meetings in Minnesota and Wisconsin in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to obtain input from the public and agencies about the Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse Transmission System Improvement Project.<sup>1</sup> As part of the invitation to attend scoping, the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation also was invited to participate in consultation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and the Class I Survey results were made available for review. The Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation was also invited to an additional consultation meeting and site visit on May 10 and 12, 2010

The purpose of this letter is: (1) to invite the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation to participate in a consultation meeting to discuss language for a programmatic agreement and (2) to provide you with an update on the status of this project.

The consultation meeting is scheduled for March 23 at The Plaza Hotel & Suites at 1025 Highway 61 East, Winona, Minnesota 55987. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00. A deli lunch will be provided for participants.

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<sup>1</sup> The project is one of four transmission line projects proposed by CapX2020 utilities. CapX2020 is a regional joint initiative of 11 transmission owning utilities whose goal is to study, develop, permit and construct transmission improvements in Minnesota and the surrounding region needed to meet energy demands to the year 2020. The CapX2020 utilities involved with this project include: (1) Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC); (2) Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM), and Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin corporation (NSPW) (collectively, Xcel Energy); (3) Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA); (4) Rochester Public Utilities (RPU); and (5) WPPI Energy, Inc. (WPPI).

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Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

RUS will be participating in the meeting via teleconference. However, the cooperating agency (US Army Corps of Engineers) and RUS' consultant will be attending the meeting in person. Representatives from the utilities will be available for informational presentations as needed and requested by the consulting parties, however, the purpose of the meeting is an opportunity for you to discuss and consider with RUS the potential effects of this project on historic properties.

The enclosed documents have been included to facilitate your participation in consultation:

56. Timeline of Section 106 and consultation activities (including letters and meetings)
57. Summary of cultural resource survey approach and status
58. Project Map – Status of Proposed Routes
59. Summary schedule for the Section 106, NEPA, and Minnesota and Wisconsin permitting processes
60. Draft PA

It is our understanding that there might be important traditional resources and/or properties to which the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation attaches religious and cultural significance within the area that may be impacted by the proposed project. We would appreciate receiving any information you would be willing to share with us on any unique, special, ethnographic, traditional, or archaeological resources or areas in or near the proposed project.

Your input is important to RUS. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Stephanie Strength at (970) 403-3559 or via email at [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov). RUS looks forward to working with you as Section 106 review proceeds.

Sincerely,



Mark S. Plank  
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Rural Utilities Service

#### Attachments

Cc:  
Robert Shepherd  
Dianne Desrosiers  
Steve Jackson, Jr.



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

March 8, 2012

Mr. Roger Yankton, Sr.  
Chairperson  
Spirit Lake Dakota Nation  
P.O. Box 359  
Fort Totten, ND 58335

RE: Rural Utilities Service Section 106 Consultation  
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project  
Upcoming Consultation Meeting (Programmatic Agreement Development)

Dear Mr. Yankton, Sr.:

In June 2009, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture hosted scoping meetings in Minnesota and Wisconsin in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to obtain input from the public and agencies about the Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse Transmission System Improvement Project.<sup>1</sup> As part of the invitation to attend scoping, the Spirit Lake Dakota Nation also was invited to participate in consultation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and the Class I Survey results were made available for review. The Spirit Lake Dakota Nation was also invited to an additional consultation meeting and site visit on May 10 and 12, 2010

The purpose of this letter is: (1) to invite the Spirit Lake Dakota Nation to participate in a consultation meeting to discuss language for a programmatic agreement and (2) to provide you with an update on the status of this project.

The consultation meeting is scheduled for March 23 at The Plaza Hotel & Suites at 1025 Highway 61 East, Winona, Minnesota 55987. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00. A deli lunch will be provided for participants.

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<sup>1</sup> The project is one of four transmission line projects proposed by CapX2020 utilities. CapX2020 is a regional joint initiative of 11 transmission owning utilities whose goal is to study, develop, permit and construct transmission improvements in Minnesota and the surrounding region needed to meet energy demands to the year 2020. The CapX2020 utilities involved with this project include: (1) Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC); (2) Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM), and Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin corporation (NSPW) (collectively, Xcel Energy); (3) Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA); (4) Rochester Public Utilities (RPU); and (5) WPPI Energy, Inc. (WPPI).

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Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

RUS will be participating in the meeting via teleconference. However, the cooperating agency (US Army Corps of Engineers) and RUS' consultant will be attending the meeting in person. Representatives from the utilities will be available for informational presentations as needed and requested by the consulting parties, however, the purpose of the meeting is an opportunity for you to discuss and consider with RUS the potential effects of this project on historic properties.

The enclosed documents have been included to facilitate your participation in consultation:

61. Timeline of Section 106 and consultation activities (including letters and meetings)
62. Summary of cultural resource survey approach and status
63. Project Map – Status of Proposed Routes
64. Summary schedule for the Section 106, NEPA, and Minnesota and Wisconsin permitting processes
65. Draft PA

It is our understanding that there might be important traditional resources and/or properties to which the Spirit Lake Dakota Nation attaches religious and cultural significance within the area that may be impacted by the proposed project. We would appreciate receiving any information you would be willing to share with us on any unique, special, ethnographic, traditional, or archaeological resources or areas in or near the proposed project.

Your input is important to RUS. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Stephanie Strength at (970) 403-3559 or via email at [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov). RUS looks forward to working with you as Section 106 review proceeds.

Sincerely,



Mark S. Plank  
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Rural Utilities Service

Attachments



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

March 8, 2012

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

RE: Rural Utilities Service Section 106 Consultation  
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project  
Upcoming Consultation Meeting (Programmatic Agreement Development)

Dear Mr. Jensvold:

In June 2009, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture hosted scoping meetings in Minnesota and Wisconsin in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to obtain input from the public and agencies about the Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse Transmission System Improvement Project.<sup>1</sup> As part of the invitation to attend scoping, the Upper Sioux Indian Community also was invited to participate in consultation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and the Class I Survey results were made available for review. The Upper Sioux Indian Community was also invited to an additional consultation meeting and site visit on May 10 and 12, 2010

The purpose of this letter is: (1) to invite the Upper Sioux Indian Community to participate in a consultation meeting to discuss language for a programmatic agreement and (2) to provide you with an update on the status of this project.

The consultation meeting is scheduled for March 23 at The Plaza Hotel & Suites at 1025 Highway 61 East, Winona, Minnesota 55987. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00. A deli lunch will be provided for participants.

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<sup>1</sup> The project is one of four transmission line projects proposed by CapX2020 utilities. CapX2020 is a regional joint initiative of 11 transmission owning utilities whose goal is to study, develop, permit and construct transmission improvements in Minnesota and the surrounding region needed to meet energy demands to the year 2020. The CapX2020 utilities involved with this project include: (1) Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC); (2) Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM), and Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin corporation (NSPW) (collectively, Xcel Energy); (3) Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA); (4) Rochester Public Utilities (RPU); and (5) WPPI Energy, Inc. (WPPI).

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Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

RUS will be participating in the meeting via teleconference. However, the cooperating agency (US Army Corps of Engineers) and RUS' consultant will be attending the meeting in person. Representatives from the utilities will be available for informational presentations as needed and requested by the consulting parties, however, the purpose of the meeting is an opportunity for you to discuss and consider with RUS the potential effects of this project on historic properties.

The enclosed documents have been included to facilitate your participation in consultation:

66. Timeline of Section 106 and consultation activities (including letters and meetings)
67. Summary of cultural resource survey approach and status
68. Project Map – Status of Proposed Routes
69. Summary schedule for the Section 106, NEPA, and Minnesota and Wisconsin permitting processes
70. Draft PA

It is our understanding that there might be important traditional resources and/or properties to which the Upper Sioux Indian Community attaches religious and cultural significance within the area that may be impacted by the proposed project. We would appreciate receiving any information you would be willing to share with us on any unique, special, ethnographic, traditional, or archaeological resources or areas in or near the proposed project.

Your input is important to RUS. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Stephanie Strength at (970) 403-3559 or via email at [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov). RUS looks forward to working with you as Section 106 review proceeds.

Sincerely,



Mark S. Plank  
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Rural Utilities Service

Attachments



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

March 8, 2012

Ms. Sandra Massey  
NAGPRA Representative  
Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma  
920883 South Hwy 99, Bldg. A  
Stroud, OK 74079

RE: Rural Utilities Service Section 106 Consultation  
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project  
Upcoming Consultation Meeting (Programmatic Agreement Development)

Dear Ms. Massey:

In June 2009, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture hosted scoping meetings in Minnesota and Wisconsin in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to obtain input from the public and agencies about the Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse Transmission System Improvement Project.<sup>1</sup> As part of the invitation to attend scoping, the Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma also was invited to participate in consultation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and the Class I Survey results were made available for review. The Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma was also invited to an additional consultation meeting and site visit on May 10 and 12, 2010

The purpose of this letter is: (1) to invite the Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma to participate in a consultation meeting to discuss language for a programmatic agreement and (2) to provide you with an update on the status of this project.

The consultation meeting is scheduled for March 23 at The Plaza Hotel & Suites at 1025 Highway 61 East, Winona, Minnesota 55987. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00. A deli lunch will be provided for participants.

---

<sup>1</sup> The project is one of four transmission line projects proposed by CapX2020 utilities. CapX2020 is a regional joint initiative of 11 transmission owning utilities whose goal is to study, develop, permit and construct transmission improvements in Minnesota and the surrounding region needed to meet energy demands to the year 2020. The CapX2020 utilities involved with this project include: (1) Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC); (2) Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM), and Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin corporation (NSPW) (collectively, Xcel Energy); (3) Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA); (4) Rochester Public Utilities (RPU); and (5) WPPI Energy, Inc. (WPPI).

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RUS will be participating in the meeting via teleconference. However, the cooperating agency (US Army Corps of Engineers) and RUS' consultant will be attending the meeting in person. Representatives from the utilities will be available for informational presentations as needed and requested by the consulting parties, however, the purpose of the meeting is an opportunity for you to discuss and consider with RUS the potential effects of this project on historic properties.

The enclosed documents have been included to facilitate your participation in consultation:

71. Timeline of Section 106 and consultation activities (including letters and meetings)
72. Summary of cultural resource survey approach and status
73. Project Map – Status of Proposed Routes
74. Summary schedule for the Section 106, NEPA, and Minnesota and Wisconsin permitting processes
75. Draft PA

It is our understanding that there might be important traditional resources and/or properties to which the Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma attaches religious and cultural significance within the area that may be impacted by the proposed project. We would appreciate receiving any information you would be willing to share with us on any unique, special, ethnographic, traditional, or archaeological resources or areas in or near the proposed project.

Your input is important to RUS. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Stephanie Strength at (970) 403-3559 or via email at [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov). RUS looks forward to working with you as Section 106 review proceeds.

Sincerely,



Mark S. Plank  
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Rural Utilities Service

Attachments





United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

March 8, 2012

Mr. Edmore Green  
NAGPRA Representative  
Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska  
305 N Main  
Reserve, KS 66434

RE: Rural Utilities Service Section 106 Consultation  
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project  
Upcoming Consultation Meeting (Programmatic Agreement Development)

Dear Mr. Green:

In June 2009, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture hosted scoping meetings in Minnesota and Wisconsin in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to obtain input from the public and agencies about the Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse Transmission System Improvement Project.<sup>1</sup> As part of the invitation to attend scoping, the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska also was invited to participate in consultation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and the Class I Survey results were made available for review. The Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska was also invited to an additional consultation meeting and site visit on May 10 and 12, 2010

The purpose of this letter is: (1) to invite the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska to participate in a consultation meeting to discuss language for a programmatic agreement and (2) to provide you with an update on the status of this project.

The consultation meeting is scheduled for March 23 at The Plaza Hotel & Suites at 1025 Highway 61 East, Winona, Minnesota 55987. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00. A deli lunch will be provided for participants.

---

<sup>1</sup> The project is one of four transmission line projects proposed by CapX2020 utilities. CapX2020 is a regional joint initiative of 11 transmission owning utilities whose goal is to study, develop, permit and construct transmission improvements in Minnesota and the surrounding region needed to meet energy demands to the year 2020. The CapX2020 utilities involved with this project include: (1) Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC); (2) Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM), and Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin corporation (NSPW) (collectively, Xcel Energy); (3) Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA); (4) Rochester Public Utilities (RPU); and (5) WPPI Energy, Inc. (WPPI).

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Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

RUS will be participating in the meeting via teleconference. However, the cooperating agency (US Army Corps of Engineers) and RUS' consultant will be attending the meeting in person. Representatives from the utilities will be available for informational presentations as needed and requested by the consulting parties, however, the purpose of the meeting is an opportunity for you to discuss and consider with RUS the potential effects of this project on historic properties.

The enclosed documents have been included to facilitate your participation in consultation:

76. Timeline of Section 106 and consultation activities (including letters and meetings)
77. Summary of cultural resource survey approach and status
78. Project Map – Status of Proposed Routes
79. Summary schedule for the Section 106, NEPA, and Minnesota and Wisconsin permitting processes
80. Draft PA

It is our understanding that there might be important traditional resources and/or properties to which the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska attaches religious and cultural significance within the area that may be impacted by the proposed project. We would appreciate receiving any information you would be willing to share with us on any unique, special, ethnographic, traditional, or archaeological resources or areas in or near the proposed project.

Your input is important to RUS. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Stephanie Strength at (970) 403-3559 or via email at [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov). RUS looks forward to working with you as Section 106 review proceeds.

Sincerely,



Mark S. Plank  
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Rural Utilities Service

Attachments



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

March 8, 2012

Mr. Jonathan Buffalo  
NAGPRA Representative  
Sac and Fox of the Mississippi in Iowa  
303 Meskwaki Road  
Tama, IA 52339

RE: Rural Utilities Service Section 106 Consultation  
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project  
Upcoming Consultation Meeting (Programmatic Agreement Development)

Dear Mr. Buffalo:

In June 2009, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture hosted scoping meetings in Minnesota and Wisconsin in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to obtain input from the public and agencies about the Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse Transmission System Improvement Project.<sup>1</sup> As part of the invitation to attend scoping, the Sac and Fox of the Mississippi in Iowa also was invited to participate in consultation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and the Class I Survey results were made available for review. The Sac and Fox of the Mississippi in Iowa was also invited to an additional consultation meeting and site visit on May 10 and 12, 2010

The purpose of this letter is: (1) to invite the Sac and Fox of the Mississippi in Iowa to participate in a consultation meeting to discuss language for a programmatic agreement and (2) to provide you with an update on the status of this project.

The consultation meeting is scheduled for March 23 at The Plaza Hotel & Suites at 1025 Highway 61 East, Winona, Minnesota 55987. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00. A deli lunch will be provided for participants.

---

<sup>1</sup> The project is one of four transmission line projects proposed by CapX2020 utilities. CapX2020 is a regional joint initiative of 11 transmission owning utilities whose goal is to study, develop, permit and construct transmission improvements in Minnesota and the surrounding region needed to meet energy demands to the year 2020. The CapX2020 utilities involved with this project include: (1) Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC); (2) Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM), and Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin corporation (NSPW) (collectively, Xcel Energy); (3) Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA); (4) Rochester Public Utilities (RPU); and (5) WPPI Energy, Inc. (WPPI).

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Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

RUS will be participating in the meeting via teleconference. However, the cooperating agency (US Army Corps of Engineers) and RUS' consultant will be attending the meeting in person. Representatives from the utilities will be available for informational presentations as needed and requested by the consulting parties, however, the purpose of the meeting is an opportunity for you to discuss and consider with RUS the potential effects of this project on historic properties.

The enclosed documents have been included to facilitate your participation in consultation:

81. Timeline of Section 106 and consultation activities (including letters and meetings)
82. Summary of cultural resource survey approach and status
83. Project Map – Status of Proposed Routes
84. Summary schedule for the Section 106, NEPA, and Minnesota and Wisconsin permitting processes
85. Draft PA

It is our understanding that there might be important traditional resources and/or properties to which the Sac and Fox of the Mississippi in Iowa attaches religious and cultural significance within the area that may be impacted by the proposed project. We would appreciate receiving any information you would be willing to share with us on any unique, special, ethnographic, traditional, or archaeological resources or areas in or near the proposed project.

Your input is important to RUS. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Stephanie Strength at (970) 403-3559 or via email at [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov). RUS looks forward to working with you as Section 106 review proceeds.

Sincerely,



Mark S. Plank  
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Rural Utilities Service

Attachments



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

March 8, 2012

Dr. Robert Fields  
Cultural Preservation Office  
Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma  
RR 1, Box 721  
Perkins, OK 74059

RE: Rural Utilities Service Section 106 Consultation  
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project  
Upcoming Consultation Meeting (Programmatic Agreement Development)

Dear Dr. Fields:

In June 2009, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture hosted scoping meetings in Minnesota and Wisconsin in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to obtain input from the public and agencies about the Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse Transmission System Improvement Project.<sup>1</sup> As part of the invitation to attend scoping, the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma also was invited to participate in consultation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and the Class I Survey results were made available for review. The Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma was also invited to an additional consultation meeting and site visit on May 10 and 12, 2010

The purpose of this letter is: (1) to invite the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma to participate in a consultation meeting to discuss language for a programmatic agreement and (2) to provide you with an update on the status of this project.

The consultation meeting is scheduled for March 23 at The Plaza Hotel & Suites at 1025 Highway 61 East, Winona, Minnesota 55987. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00. A deli lunch will be provided for participants.

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<sup>1</sup> The project is one of four transmission line projects proposed by CapX2020 utilities. CapX2020 is a regional joint initiative of 11 transmission owning utilities whose goal is to study, develop, permit and construct transmission improvements in Minnesota and the surrounding region needed to meet energy demands to the year 2020. The CapX2020 utilities involved with this project include: (1) Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC); (2) Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM), and Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin corporation (NSPW) (collectively, Xcel Energy); (3) Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA); (4) Rochester Public Utilities (RPU); and (5) WPPI Energy, Inc. (WPPI).

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Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

RUS will be participating in the meeting via teleconference. However, the cooperating agency (US Army Corps of Engineers) and RUS' consultant will be attending the meeting in person. Representatives from the utilities will be available for informational presentations as needed and requested by the consulting parties, however, the purpose of the meeting is an opportunity for you to discuss and consider with RUS the potential effects of this project on historic properties.

The enclosed documents have been included to facilitate your participation in consultation:

86. Timeline of Section 106 and consultation activities (including letters and meetings)
87. Summary of cultural resource survey approach and status
88. Project Map – Status of Proposed Routes
89. Summary schedule for the Section 106, NEPA, and Minnesota and Wisconsin permitting processes
90. Draft PA

It is our understanding that there might be important traditional resources and/or properties to which the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma attaches religious and cultural significance within the area that may be impacted by the proposed project. We would appreciate receiving any information you would be willing to share with us on any unique, special, ethnographic, traditional, or archaeological resources or areas in or near the proposed project.

Your input is important to RUS. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Stephanie Strength at (970) 403-3559 or via email at [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov). RUS looks forward to working with you as Section 106 review proceeds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark S. Plank". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark S. Plank  
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Rural Utilities Service

Attachments



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

March 8, 2012

Ms. Rebecca Graser  
WI Program Lead Project Manager  
USACE, Regulatory Branch  
20711 Watertown Rd, Suite F  
Waukesha, WI 53186

RE: Rural Utilities Service Section 106 Consultation  
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project  
Upcoming Consultation Meeting (Programmatic Agreement Development)

Dear Ms. Graser:

In June 2009, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture hosted scoping meetings in Minnesota and Wisconsin in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to obtain input from the public and agencies about the Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse Transmission System Improvement Project.<sup>1</sup> As part of the invitation to attend scoping, the USACE also was invited to participate in consultation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and the Class I Survey results were made available for review. The USACE was also invited to an additional consultation meeting and site visit on May 10 and 12, 2010. A third invitation for a consultation meeting was sent December 21, 2011 along with a draft programmatic agreement. On December 16, 2011 the USACE was also sent a copy of the Draft EIS prepared for RUS' NEPA requirements.

The purpose of this letter is: (1) to invite the USACE to participate in a consultation meeting to discuss language for a programmatic agreement and (2) to provide you with an update on the status of this project.

The consultation meeting is scheduled for March 23 at The Plaza Hotel & Suites at 1025 Highway 61 East, Winona, Minnesota 55987. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00. A deli lunch will be provided for participants.

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<sup>1</sup> The project is one of four transmission line projects proposed by CapX2020 utilities. CapX2020 is a regional joint initiative of 11 transmission owning utilities whose goal is to study, develop, permit and construct transmission improvements in Minnesota and the surrounding region needed to meet energy demands to the year 2020. The CapX2020 utilities involved with this project include: (1) Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC); (2) Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM), and Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin corporation (NSPW) (collectively, Xcel Energy); (3) Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA); (4) Rochester Public Utilities (RPU); and (5) WPPI Energy, Inc. (WPPI).

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Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

RUS will be participating in the meeting via teleconference. However, the cooperating agency (US Army Corps of Engineers) and RUS' consultant will be attending the meeting in person. Representatives from the utilities will be available for informational presentations as needed and requested by the consulting parties, however, the purpose of the meeting is an opportunity for you to discuss and consider with RUS the potential effects of this project on historic properties.

The enclosed documents have been included to facilitate your participation in consultation:

1. Timeline of Section 106 and consultation activities (including letters and meetings)
2. Summary of cultural resource survey approach and status
3. Project Map – Status of Proposed Routes
4. Summary schedule for the Section 106, NEPA, and Minnesota and Wisconsin permitting processes
5. Draft PA

It is our understanding that there might be important traditional resources and/or properties to which your Tribe attaches religious and cultural significance within the area that may be impacted by the proposed project. We would appreciate receiving any information you would be willing to share with us on any unique, special, ethnographic, traditional, or archaeological resources or areas in or near the proposed project.

Your input is important to RUS. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Stephanie Strength at (970) 403-3559 or via email at [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov). RUS looks forward to working with you as Section 106 review proceeds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark S. Plank". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mark S. Plank  
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Rural Utilities Service

Attachments





United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

March 8, 2012

Mr. David Studenski  
MN Project Manager  
USACE, Regulatory Branch  
1114 S. Oak Street  
La Crescent, MN 55947

RE: Rural Utilities Service Section 106 Consultation  
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project  
Upcoming Consultation Meeting (Programmatic Agreement Development)

Dear Mr. Studenski:

In June 2009, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture hosted scoping meetings in Minnesota and Wisconsin in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to obtain input from the public and agencies about the Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse Transmission System Improvement Project.<sup>1</sup> As part of the invitation to attend scoping, the USACE also was invited to participate in consultation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and the Class I Survey results were made available for review. The USACE was also invited to an additional consultation meeting and site visit on May 10 and 12, 2010. A third invitation for a consultation meeting was sent December 21, 2011 along with a draft programmatic agreement. On December 16, 2011 the USACE was also sent a copy of the Draft EIS prepared for RUS' NEPA requirements.

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<sup>1</sup> The project is one of four transmission line projects proposed by CapX2020 utilities. CapX2020 is a regional joint initiative of 11 transmission owning utilities whose goal is to study, develop, permit and construct transmission improvements in Minnesota and the surrounding region needed to meet energy demands to the year 2020. The CapX2020 utilities involved with this project include: (1) Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC); (2) Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM), and Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin corporation (NSPW) (collectively, Xcel Energy); (3) Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA); (4) Rochester Public Utilities (RPU); and (5) WPPI Energy, Inc. (WPPI).

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Your input is important to RUS. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Stephanie Strength at (970) 403-3559 or via email at [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov). RUS looks forward to working with you as Section 106 review proceeds.

Sincerely,



Mark S. Plank  
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Rural Utilities Service

Attachments



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

March 8, 2012

Mr. Brad Johnson  
Cultural Resource Manager  
USACE, Regulatory Branch  
180 5th Street East, Suite 700  
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Rural Utilities Service Section 106 Consultation  
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project  
Upcoming Consultation Meeting (Programmatic Agreement Development)

Dear Mr. Johnson:

In June 2009, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture hosted scoping meetings in Minnesota and Wisconsin in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to obtain input from the public and agencies about the Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse Transmission System Improvement Project.<sup>1</sup> As part of the invitation to attend scoping, the USACE also was invited to participate in consultation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and the Class I Survey results were made available for review. The USACE was also invited to an additional consultation meeting and site visit on May 10 and 12, 2010. A third invitation for a consultation meeting was sent December 21, 2011 along with a draft programmatic agreement. On December 16, 2011 the USACE was also sent a copy of the Draft EIS prepared for RUS' NEPA requirements.

The purpose of this letter is: (1) to invite the USACE to participate in a consultation meeting to discuss language for a programmatic agreement and (2) to provide you with an update on the status of this project.

The consultation meeting is scheduled for March 23 at The Plaza Hotel & Suites at 1025 Highway 61 East, Winona, Minnesota 55987. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00. A deli lunch will be provided for participants.

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<sup>1</sup> The project is one of four transmission line projects proposed by CapX2020 utilities. CapX2020 is a regional joint initiative of 11 transmission owning utilities whose goal is to study, develop, permit and construct transmission improvements in Minnesota and the surrounding region needed to meet energy demands to the year 2020. The CapX2020 utilities involved with this project include: (1) Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC); (2) Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM), and Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin corporation (NSPW) (collectively, Xcel Energy); (3) Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA); (4) Rochester Public Utilities (RPU); and (5) WPPI Energy, Inc. (WPPI).

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RUS will be participating in the meeting via teleconference. However, the cooperating agency (US Army Corps of Engineers) and RUS' consultant will be attending the meeting in person. Representatives from the utilities will be available for informational presentations as needed and requested by the consulting parties, however, the purpose of the meeting is an opportunity for you to discuss and consider with RUS the potential effects of this project on historic properties.

The enclosed documents have been included to facilitate your participation in consultation:

11. Timeline of Section 106 and consultation activities (including letters and meetings)
12. Summary of cultural resource survey approach and status
13. Project Map – Status of Proposed Routes
14. Summary schedule for the Section 106, NEPA, and Minnesota and Wisconsin permitting processes
15. Draft PA

It is our understanding that there might be important traditional resources and/or properties to which your Tribe attaches religious and cultural significance within the area that may be impacted by the proposed project. We would appreciate receiving any information you would be willing to share with us on any unique, special, ethnographic, traditional, or archaeological resources or areas in or near the proposed project.

Your input is important to RUS. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Stephanie Strength at (970) 403-3559 or via email at [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov). RUS looks forward to working with you as Section 106 review proceeds.

Sincerely,



Mark S. Plank  
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Rural Utilities Service

Attachments



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

March 8, 2012

Mr. Tony Sullins  
Twin Cities Ecological Services Field Office  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
4101 American Blvd. East  
Bloomington, MN 55425

RE: Rural Utilities Service Section 106 Consultation  
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project  
Upcoming Consultation Meeting (Programmatic Agreement Development)

Dear Mr. Sullins:

In June 2009, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture hosted scoping meetings in Minnesota and Wisconsin in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to obtain input from the public and agencies about the Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse Transmission System Improvement Project.<sup>1</sup> As part of the invitation to attend scoping, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also was invited to participate in consultation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and the Class I Survey results were made available for review. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was also invited to an additional consultation meeting and site visit on May 10 and 12, 2010. A third invitation for a consultation meeting was sent December 21, 2011 along with a draft programmatic agreement. On December 16, 2011 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was also sent a copy of the Draft EIS prepared for RUS' NEPA requirements.

The purpose of this letter is: (1) to invite the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to participate in a consultation meeting to discuss language for a programmatic agreement and (2) to provide you with an update on the status of this project.

The consultation meeting is scheduled for March 23 at The Plaza Hotel & Suites at 1025 Highway 61 East, Winona, Minnesota 55987. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00. A deli lunch will be provided for participants.

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<sup>1</sup> The project is one of four transmission line projects proposed by CapX2020 utilities. CapX2020 is a regional joint initiative of 11 transmission owning utilities whose goal is to study, develop, permit and construct transmission improvements in Minnesota and the surrounding region needed to meet energy demands to the year 2020. The CapX2020 utilities involved with this project include: (1) Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC); (2) Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM), and Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin corporation (NSPW) (collectively, Xcel Energy); (3) Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA); (4) Rochester Public Utilities (RPU); and (5) WPPI Energy, Inc. (WPPI).

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The enclosed documents have been included to facilitate your participation in consultation:

16. Timeline of Section 106 and consultation activities (including letters and meetings)
17. Summary of cultural resource survey approach and status
18. Project Map – Status of Proposed Routes
19. Summary schedule for the Section 106, NEPA, and Minnesota and Wisconsin permitting processes
20. Draft PA

It is our understanding that there might be important traditional resources and/or properties to which your Tribe attaches religious and cultural significance within the area that may be impacted by the proposed project. We would appreciate receiving any information you would be willing to share with us on any unique, special, ethnographic, traditional, or archaeological resources or areas in or near the proposed project.

Your input is important to RUS. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Stephanie Strength at (970) 403-3559 or via email at [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov). RUS looks forward to working with you as Section 106 review proceeds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark S. Plank". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mark S. Plank  
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Rural Utilities Service

Attachments



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

March 8, 2012

Mr. Kevin Foerster  
Refuge Manager, Upper Mississippi River NWR  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
51 East Fourth Street  
Winona, MN 55987

RE: Rural Utilities Service Section 106 Consultation  
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project  
Upcoming Consultation Meeting (Programmatic Agreement Development)

Dear Mr. Foerster:

In June 2009, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture hosted scoping meetings in Minnesota and Wisconsin in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to obtain input from the public and agencies about the Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse Transmission System Improvement Project.<sup>1</sup> As part of the invitation to attend scoping, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also was invited to participate in consultation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and the Class I Survey results were made available for review. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was also invited to an additional consultation meeting and site visit on May 10 and 12, 2010. A third invitation for a consultation meeting was sent December 21, 2011 along with a draft programmatic agreement. On December 16, 2011 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was also sent a copy of the Draft EIS prepared for RUS' NEPA requirements.

The purpose of this letter is: (1) to invite the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to participate in a consultation meeting to discuss language for a programmatic agreement and (2) to provide you with an update on the status of this project.

The consultation meeting is scheduled for March 23 at The Plaza Hotel & Suites at 1025 Highway 61 East, Winona, Minnesota 55987. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00. A deli lunch will be provided for participants.

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The enclosed documents have been included to facilitate your participation in consultation:

21. Timeline of Section 106 and consultation activities (including letters and meetings)
22. Summary of cultural resource survey approach and status
23. Project Map – Status of Proposed Routes
24. Summary schedule for the Section 106, NEPA, and Minnesota and Wisconsin permitting processes
25. Draft PA

It is our understanding that there might be important traditional resources and/or properties to which your Tribe attaches religious and cultural significance within the area that may be impacted by the proposed project. We would appreciate receiving any information you would be willing to share with us on any unique, special, ethnographic, traditional, or archaeological resources or areas in or near the proposed project.

Your input is important to RUS. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Stephanie Strength at (970) 403-3559 or via email at [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov). RUS looks forward to working with you as Section 106 review proceeds.

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Mark S. Plank  
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Rural Utilities Service

Attachments





United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

March 8, 2012

Ms. Barbara Mitchell Howard  
State Historic Preservation Office  
Minnesota Historical Society  
345 Kellogg Boulevard West  
St. Paul, MN 55102

RE: Rural Utilities Service Section 106 Consultation  
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project  
Upcoming Consultation Meeting (Programmatic Agreement Development)

Dear Ms. Howard:

In June 2009, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture hosted scoping meetings in Minnesota and Wisconsin in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to obtain input from the public and agencies about the Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse Transmission System Improvement Project.<sup>1</sup> As part of the invitation to attend scoping, the Minnesota Historical Society also was invited to participate in consultation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and the Class I Survey results were made available for review. The Minnesota Historical Society was also invited to an additional consultation meeting and site visit on May 10 and 12, 2010. A third invitation for a consultation meeting was sent December 21, 2011 along with a draft programmatic agreement. On December 16, 2011 the Minnesota Historical Society was also sent a copy of the Draft EIS prepared for RUS' NEPA requirements.

The purpose of this letter is: (1) to invite the Minnesota Historical Society to participate in a consultation meeting to discuss language for a programmatic agreement and (2) to provide you with an update on the status of this project.

The consultation meeting is scheduled for March 23 at The Plaza Hotel & Suites at 1025 Highway 61 East, Winona, Minnesota 55987. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00. A deli lunch will be provided for participants.

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Sincerely,

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Mark S. Plank  
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Rural Utilities Service

Attachments



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

March 8, 2012

Ms. Mary Georgeff  
State Historic Preservation Office  
Wisconsin Historical Society  
816 State Street  
Madison, WI 53706

RE: Rural Utilities Service Section 106 Consultation  
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project  
Upcoming Consultation Meeting (Programmatic Agreement Development)

Dear Ms. Georgeff:

In June 2009, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture hosted scoping meetings in Minnesota and Wisconsin in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to obtain input from the public and agencies about the Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse Transmission System Improvement Project.<sup>1</sup> As part of the invitation to attend scoping, the Wisconsin Historical Society also was invited to participate in consultation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and the Class I Survey results were made available for review. The Wisconsin Historical Society was also invited to an additional consultation meeting and site visit on May 10 and 12, 2010. A third invitation for a consultation meeting was sent December 21, 2011 along with a draft programmatic agreement. On December 16, 2011 the Wisconsin Historical Society was also sent a copy of the Draft EIS prepared for RUS' NEPA requirements.

The purpose of this letter is: (1) to invite the Wisconsin Historical Society to participate in a consultation meeting to discuss language for a programmatic agreement and (2) to provide you with an update on the status of this project.

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<sup>1</sup> The project is one of four transmission line projects proposed by CapX2020 utilities. CapX2020 is a regional joint initiative of 11 transmission owning utilities whose goal is to study, develop, permit and construct transmission improvements in Minnesota and the surrounding region needed to meet energy demands to the year 2020. The CapX2020 utilities involved with this project include: (1) Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC); (2) Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM), and Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin corporation (NSPW) (collectively, Xcel Energy); (3) Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA); (4) Rochester Public Utilities (RPU); and (5) WPPI Energy, Inc. (WPPI).

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark S. Plank". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark S. Plank  
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Rural Utilities Service

Attachments

## **Timeline of Section 106 and Consultation Activities Hampton – Rochester – La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project**

- June 1, 2009 – an invitation to participate in scoping and consultation and to attend scoping meetings was sent to 108 tribal representatives.
- June 11, 2009 – based on follow-up calls to all parties who were sent the June 1, 2009 letter, 48 additional letters were sent to tribal representatives inviting government-to-government consultation and participation in scoping.
- June 17 and June 24, 2009 – scoping meetings were held for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A representative of the Shakopee Dakota Tribe attended a scoping meeting and 12 tribes submitted comments during the scoping period.
- April 13, 2010 – based on earlier responses, invitations were sent to 91 tribal representatives via certified letter to participate in a conference call on April 22
- April 19, 2010 – follow-up phone contact was initiated with the 91 tribal representatives sent the invitation.
- April 22, 2010 – a conference call was held to discuss the May 2010 informational meetings and site visit. None of the 91 tribal parties on the mailing and consultation list participated in the call.
- April 30, 2010 – letter invitation to the informational meeting and site visit for May 11 and 12 was sent to 87 tribal representatives (additional four representatives eliminated from contact list due to responses from the April 19 phone contact).
- May 11 and 12, 2010 – two representatives from the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians attended the informational meeting and site visit.
- May 28, 2010 – telephone follow-up was initiated with the tribes who had been sent the letter invitation to the informational meeting and site visit.
- June 3, 2010 – reminder letter sent to tribal representatives about June 15 conference call to discuss results of meeting and site visit conducted on May 11 and 12.
- June 15, 2010 – a follow-up conference call regarding the information meeting and site visit was held.
- December 16, 2011 – the Draft EIS was made available for review and comment (Draft EIS includes a summary of the records review of properties on the National Register of Historic Places [NHRP] and of registered archaeological sites). Copies of the Draft EIS were sent to those tribes who indicated a potential interest in consultation during scoping.
- December 21, 2011 – those tribes who received a copy of the Draft EIS were sent invitations to a Section 106 meeting for January 11, 2012 and a copy of the Draft Programmatic Agreement (PA) for review. No tribes responded.
- January 2012 – follow-up calls were made to the tribes regarding Draft PA and Draft EIS.

Examples of the letters sent are attached.



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development  
Washington, DC

June 1, 2009

The Honorable John Wilmer, Sr.  
Chairperson  
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa  
P.O. Box 39  
Odanah, WI 54861

Subject: Proposed Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project Agency and Public Scoping Meetings Notification

Dear Chairperson:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Utilities Service (RUS), Dairyland Power Cooperative, and other CapX2020 utilities are holding agency and public scoping meetings to discuss the proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kilovolt (kV) Transmission System Improvement Project (the Proposal). Serving as the lead Federal agency, RUS is responsible for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The agency scoping meetings provide an opportunity for you to discuss project details with RUS acting as the lead agency for NEPA compliance, and utility representatives. Comments received will be incorporated into the planning process and used to develop the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The purpose of this letter is to invite you to upcoming agency and public scoping meetings and to notify you of the upcoming Federal Register Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS.

#### Description of Proposal

CapX2020 is a joint initiative of 11 electric transmission-owning utilities in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the surrounding region to expand the electric transmission grid to meet increasing demand for power. The proposed facilities are needed to improve regional reliability, enhance local load serving needs, and provide generation outlet support. Xcel Energy Inc., acting as operating companies Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM), and Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin corporation (NSPW) is the lead utility for the Proposal. Dairyland has requested financial assistance from the RUS for its anticipated 11 percent ownership interest. Other anticipated owners of the proposed facilities include WPPI Energy, Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA), and Rochester Public Utilities (RPU).

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Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800)795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

The CapX2020 utilities listed above are proposing to construct a 345 kV electric transmission line and associated facilities between Hampton, Minnesota; Rochester, Minnesota; and the La Crosse, Wisconsin area. The Proposal includes the 345 kV transmission line from a substation near Hampton, Minnesota, to a proposed new substation in north Rochester, to a new or existing substation near La Crosse, Wisconsin, in addition to the construction of new 161-kV transmission lines and associated facilities in the Rochester, Minnesota area.

#### Document Availability and Requests

In preparation for scoping, the CapX2020 utilities have prepared two documents to support the Proposal. These two documents are intended to provide agencies and the public with a general understanding of the proposed project. The Alternative Evaluation Study (AES) explains the Proposal's need, discusses the alternative methods that have been considered to meet that need, and which alternative is considered the best for fulfilling the need. The Macro Corridor Study (MCS) defines the study area and shows the Proposal's end points. Within the study area, macro-corridors have been developed based on environmental, engineering, economic, land use, and permitting constraints. These documents will be available for review prior to the agency and public scoping meetings to be held in June 2009. Please refer to the NOI in the Federal Register (<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>) for a list of repositories where the documents will be available for review, or if you are interested in receiving copies of either of these documents please contact [Stephanie.Strength@usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Strength@usda.gov) or 202-720-0468. These documents will also be posted on the RUS website at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

#### Section 106 and Tribal Consultation

Rural Utilities Service (RUS) will be the Section 106 consultation lead for the Proposal. RUS will cooperate with Tribes, the State Historic Preservation Officers in Minnesota and Wisconsin, and land managing agencies to determine locations of cultural resources within the Proposal area. A Class I cultural survey was conducted in 2008 for proposed corridors and will be updated in the summer of 2009 for route alternatives. It is anticipated that a Class III survey will be conducted prior to construction of the Proposal. Survey results will be made available to you upon request and completion of work.

#### Agency Scoping and Public Scoping Meetings

You are invited to attend agency and public scoping meetings at the locations listed below:

**Agency Scoping Meetings:**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Date and Time</b>
Wanamingo, MN	Wanamingo Community Center 401 Main Street Wanamingo, MN 55983	June 17, 2009  10 - 12pm
La Crosse, WI	Radisson Hotel La Crosse 200 Harborview Plaza La Crosse, WI 54601	June 23, 2009  10 - 12pm


**Public Scoping Meetings:**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Date and Time</b>
Plainview, MN	Plainview-Elgin-Millville High School Cafeteria 500 West Broadway Plainview, MN 55964	June 16, 2009  6 - 8pm
Wanamingo, MN	Wanamingo Community Center 401 Main Street Wanamingo, MN 55983	June 17, 2009  6 - 8pm
St. Charles, MN	City of St. Charles Community Meeting Room 830 Whitewater Avenue St. Charles, MN 55972	June 18, 2009  6 - 8pm
La Crescent, MN	La Crescent American Legion 509 North Chestnut La Crescent, MN 55947	June 23, 2009  6 - 8pm
Galesville, WI	Centerville/Town of Trempealeau Community Center W24854 State Rd. 54/93 Galesville, WI 54630	June 24, 2009  6 - 8pm
Fountain City, WI	Cochrane-Fountain City High School S2770 State Road 35 Fountain City, WI 54629	June 25, 2009  6-8pm



We appreciate the opportunity to discuss the Proposal and address any of your questions or concerns. To RSVP to an agency scoping meeting with the project team, please contact Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov or 202-720-0468. We look forward to your participation in the process.

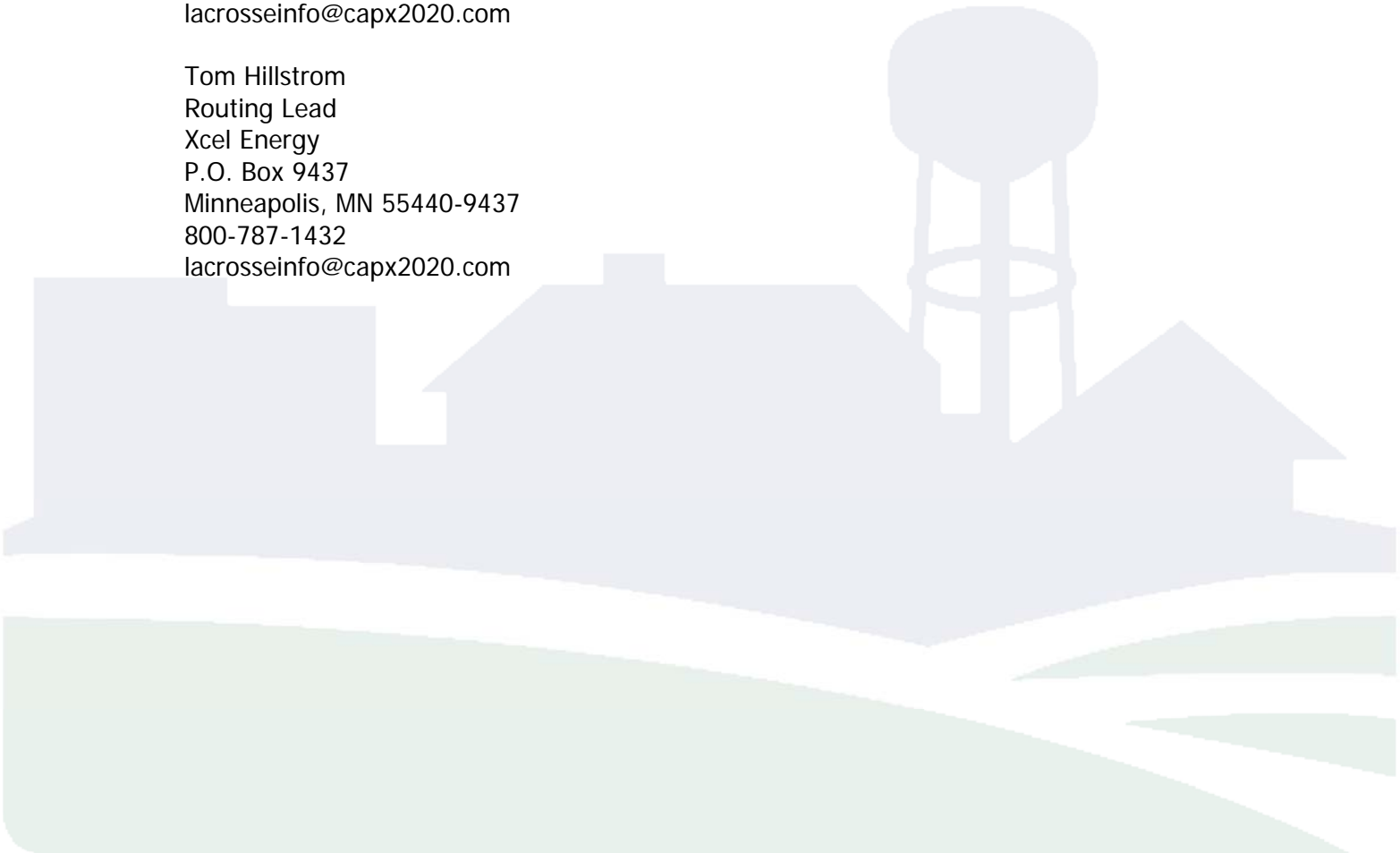
Thank you,



MARK S. PLANK  
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff)

Additional Project Contacts:  
Chuck Thompson  
Manager, Siting and Regulatory Affairs  
Dairyland Power Cooperative  
P.O. Box 9437  
Minneapolis, MN 55440-9437  
800-787-1432  
lacrosseinfo@capx2020.com

Tom Hillstrom  
Routing Lead  
Xcel Energy  
P.O. Box 9437  
Minneapolis, MN 55440-9437  
800-787-1432  
lacrosseinfo@capx2020.com





United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development  
Washington, DC

June 11, 2009

Chairman Eugene Bigboy  
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians  
P.O. Box 39  
Odanah, WI 54861  
715-682-7118 (fax)

RE: Proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System  
Minnesota and Wisconsin

Dear Eugene Bigboy,

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) has received an application for financial assistance from Dairyland, one of the partner utilities of CapX2020, for the construction of a 345 kV electric transmission line and associated facilities to connect Hampton and Rochester, Minnesota with the La Crosse Wisconsin area. CapX2020 is a joint initiative of eleven electric transmission-owning utilities in Minnesota, Wisconsin and the surrounding region to expand the grid to meet the increasing demand for power. Dairyland anticipates an eleven percent ownership interest in the referenced proposal.

The application under consideration by RUS includes construction of a 345 kV transmission line connecting from a substation near Hampton, Minnesota, to a proposed new substation in north Rochester and ending at a new or existing substation near La Crosse, Wisconsin, in addition to the construction of new 161 kV transmission lines and associated facilities in the Rochester, Minnesota area. Dairyland, as well as the other CapX2020 utilities, believe the proposed facilities are needed to improve regional reliability, enhance local load serving needs, and provide generation outlet support.

RUS is considering funding this application, thereby making the proposal an undertaking subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), 16 U.S.C. § 470f, and its implementing regulations, "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR Part 800). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is considering issuance of a permit under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act for this proposal to cross the Mississippi River, thereby making it an undertaking subject to Section 106 review. The USACE has agreed that RUS will be the lead federal agency for the purposes of Section 106 review in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.2(a)(2). RUS also is the lead federal agency responsible for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). RUS will coordinate compliance with Section 106 and its implementing procedures with the steps taken to satisfy its NEPA requirements.

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To meet RUS requirements and provide general baseline information to support NEPA and Section 106 reviews, the CapX2020 utilities have prepared two documents. The *Alternative Evaluation Study* (AES) explains the need for the proposal, discusses the alternatives that have been considered to meet that need, and establishes the alternative that the CapX2020 utilities believe will best meet that need. In addition to the AES, the CapX2020 utilities prepared a Macro Corridor Study (MCS) which describes the macro corridors that have been developed based on environmental, engineering, economic, land use, and permitting constraints. These documents along with the views of agencies, consulting parties, tribes, and the public will inform RUS's decision regarding which alternatives to carry forward to analysis in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). For an electronic version of these documents you may go to <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>, or if you are interested in receiving hard copies of either of these documents, please contact the RUS project manager, Stephanie Strength at 202-720-0468 or at [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov).

Based on the MCS the following counties could be affected by this proposal – in Minnesota, Goodhue, Rice, Dakota, Winona, Wabasha, Olmsted, Dodge, and Houston; and in Wisconsin, Buffalo, Trempealeau, and La Crosse. As currently defined by RUS, the area of potential effects (APE) for the referenced undertaking includes a broad area encompassed by the macro corridors described in the MCS. RUS will refine the scope of the APE as Section 106 review proceeds and more specific information is gathered about likely effects to historic properties.

In 2008, the CapX2020 utilities conducted a background study to assess the likelihood for historic properties to be identified in the APE. A copy of this report can be made available upon request. Additional study of the APE is planned for the summer 2009. Because the alternatives to be considered consist of corridors and large land areas, RUS will phase the identification and evaluation of historic properties, and the application of the criteria of adverse effect, in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.4(b)(2) and § 800.5(a)(3). Accordingly, RUS proposes to conclude Section 106 review with a Programmatic Agreement (PA) so that it may defer these steps until after a specific alignment has been selected.

RUS is writing to invite the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians to participate in government-to-government consultation for the referenced undertaking. Please advise RUS of your decision in writing as soon as possible so that your input can be incorporated as early as possible in project development. Your decision about consultation should be sent to Stephanie Strength at 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 1571, Room 2244, Washington, D.C. 20250-1571 or via email at [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov). In order to facilitate your tribe's participation,

RUS also has notified Edith Leoso, Preservation Officer, for the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians, about the referenced proposal.

In order to get more information about this proposal, RUS is inviting the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians to attend any of the following agency and public scoping meetings. RUS requests that you notify Stephanie Strength at [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov) in advance if you plan to attend an agency scoping meeting.

**Agency Scoping Meetings:**

Location	Address	Date and Time
Wanamingo, MN	Wanamingo Community Center 401 Main Street Wanamingo, MN 55983	June 17, 2009  10 - 12pm
La Crosse, WI	Radisson Hotel La Crosse 200 Harborview Plaza La Crosse, WI 54601	June 23, 2009  10 - 12pm

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Fountain City, WI	Cochrane-Fountain City High School S2770 State Road 35 Fountain City, WI 54629	June 25, 2009  6 - 8pm

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at 202-720-1649. RUS appreciates your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark S. Plank". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark S. Plank, Director  
Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Water and Environmental Programs

cc: Stephanie Strength





United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

April 13, 2010

Chairman John Wilmer, Sr.  
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa  
P.O. Box 39  
Odanah, WI 54861

RE: Rural Utilities Service Section 106 Consultation  
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project  
Upcoming Meeting and Site Visit

Dear Tribal Cultural Resources Representative:

In June 2009, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture hosted scoping meetings in Minnesota and Wisconsin in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to obtain input from the public and agencies about the Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project.<sup>1</sup> As part of the invitation to attend scoping, Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa also was invited to participate in consultation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and the Class I Survey results were made available for review. The purpose of this letter is: (1) to invite Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa to participate in a consultation meeting and a site visit hosted by the project proponent, and (2) to provide you with an update on the status of this project.

The informational meetings and site visits will occur over two days during the week of May 10, 2010. Day 1 will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the American Inn Hotel in Wabasha, MN. with an informational meeting and question and answer session. The meeting will be followed by a site visit to the proposed river crossing at Alma, alternate river crossing at Winona, and other locations as identified by attendees. Day 2 will also begin with an informational meeting and question and answer session at 9:00 a.m. at the Radisson in La Crosse. The meeting will be followed by a site visit to the alternate river crossings at La Crosse, Winona, and other locations identified by attendees. A light breakfast of rolls and coffee will be provided at the morning meetings and a lunch will be provided during the site visit for attendees each day. The hotel contact information is as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> The project is one of four transmission line projects proposed by CapX2020 utilities. CapX2020 is a regional joint initiative of 11 transmission owning utilities whose goal is to study, develop, permit and construct transmission improvements in Minnesota and the surrounding region needed to meet energy demands to the year 2020. The CapX2020 utilities involved with this project include: (1) Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC); (2) Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM), and Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin corporation (NSPW) (collectively, Xcel Energy); (3) Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA); (4) Rochester Public Utilities (RPU); and (5) WPPI Energy, Inc. (WPPI).

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Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>

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Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

Name: American Inn Hotel  
Address: 150 Commerce Drive Wabasha, MN 55981  
Phone Number: (651) 565-5366

Name: Radisson Inn  
Address: 200 Harborview Plaza La Crosse, WI 45601  
Phone Number: (608) 784-6680

**Please complete the enclosed Questionnaire before April 22, 2010, so that RUS can select a specific date for the meeting and site visit, and prepare for these events.** RUS will schedule a teleconference for April 22, 2010, to discuss meeting details, including development of an agenda with participating consulting parties. More information about this teleconference will be provided soon. The enclosed documents have been included to facilitate your participation in consultation:

1. Project Map – Status of Proposed Routes
2. Questionnaire information on proposed meeting and site visit locations
3. Summary schedule for the Section 106, NEPA, and Minnesota and Wisconsin permitting processes

The NEPA Scoping Report is posted on the RUS website at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. A total of 1,135 comments from 359 commenters were received during the scoping comment period that began on May 28, 2009, and ended July 25, 2009. Public comments were submitted using comment forms, letters, emails, online comment form submission, and phone-calls. Some of the comments made at the public scoping meetings were recorded on project route maps, and documented later by digitizing with GIS and including in the public comment database.

It is our understanding that there might be important traditional resources and/or properties to which your Tribe attaches religious and cultural significance within the area that may be impacted by the proposed project. We would appreciate receiving any information you would be willing to share with us on any unique, special, ethnographic, traditional, or archaeological resources or areas in or near the proposed project. Your input is important to RUS. Accordingly, RUS will host another teleconference as a follow-up to the May meeting and site visit on June 1, 2010. This conference will offer yet another opportunity for you to discuss and consider with RUS the potential effects of this project on historic properties.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Stephanie Strength at (202.720.0468) or via email at [stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov). RUS looks forward to working with you as the Section 106 review proceeds.

Sincerely,



MARK S. PLANK  
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
USDA, Rural Utilities Program



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

April 30, 2010

NAME – THPO/Tribal Cultural Resources Representative  
TITLE  
IDENTIFY TRIBE ADDRESS

RE: Rural Utilities Service Section 106 Consultation  
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project  
Upcoming Informational Meeting and Site Visit

Dear THPO/Tribal Cultural Resources Representative:

This letter is regarding the information meeting and site visit planned for May 2010 on the Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project. Based on responses to the letter and questionnaire distributed in April, the Rural Utilities Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (RUS) has made arrangements to conduct the informational meeting and site visit on **May 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> 2010**. On April 22, 2010, the RUS hosted a conference call to discuss with tribes and others interested in participating as a consulting party the date, time and agenda for the meeting in May. Prior to the conference call, consulting parties were contacted and provided with details to participate in a teleconference.

The informational meetings and site visits will occur on May 11 and May 12, 2010. Day 1 will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the American Inn Hotel in Wabasha, MN with an informational meeting and question and answer session. The meeting will be followed by a site visit to the proposed river crossing at Alma, the alternate river crossing at Winona, and other locations as identified by attendees. Day 2 will also begin with an informational meeting and question and answer session at 9:00 a.m. at the Radisson Inn in La Crosse, WI. The meeting will be followed by a site visit to the alternate river crossings at La Crosse, Winona, and other locations identified by attendees. A light breakfast of rolls and coffee will be provided at the morning meetings and a lunch will be provided during the site visit for attendees each day. The hotel contact information is as follows:

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Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>

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Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).



Day 1

Name: American Inn Hotel

Address: 150 Commerce Drive Wabasha, MN 55981

Phone Number: (651) 565-5366

(Please contact the hotel directly for lodging reservations)

Day 2

Name: Radisson Inn

Address: 200 Harborview Plaza La Crosse, WI 45601

Phone Number: (608) 784-6680

(Please contact the hotel directly for lodging reservations and notify that you are with RUS)

Dairyland will provide reimbursement to no more than two representatives authorized by their tribes to participate. Reimbursement will be based on the General Services Administration FY 2010 standard CONUS rate schedule with a maximum of \$70 for lodging and \$46 for meals and M&IE. The rates are the same for both Minnesota and Wisconsin. Reimbursement requests of \$116 or less will not need receipts. Reimbursements will be processed by the Accounts Receivable office of Dairyland by check.

RUS will host another teleconference on June 1, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. (EST) as a follow-up to the May meeting and site visit. This conference call will offer yet another opportunity for you to discuss with RUS the potential effects of this project on historic properties.

Please use the following for the call on June 1:

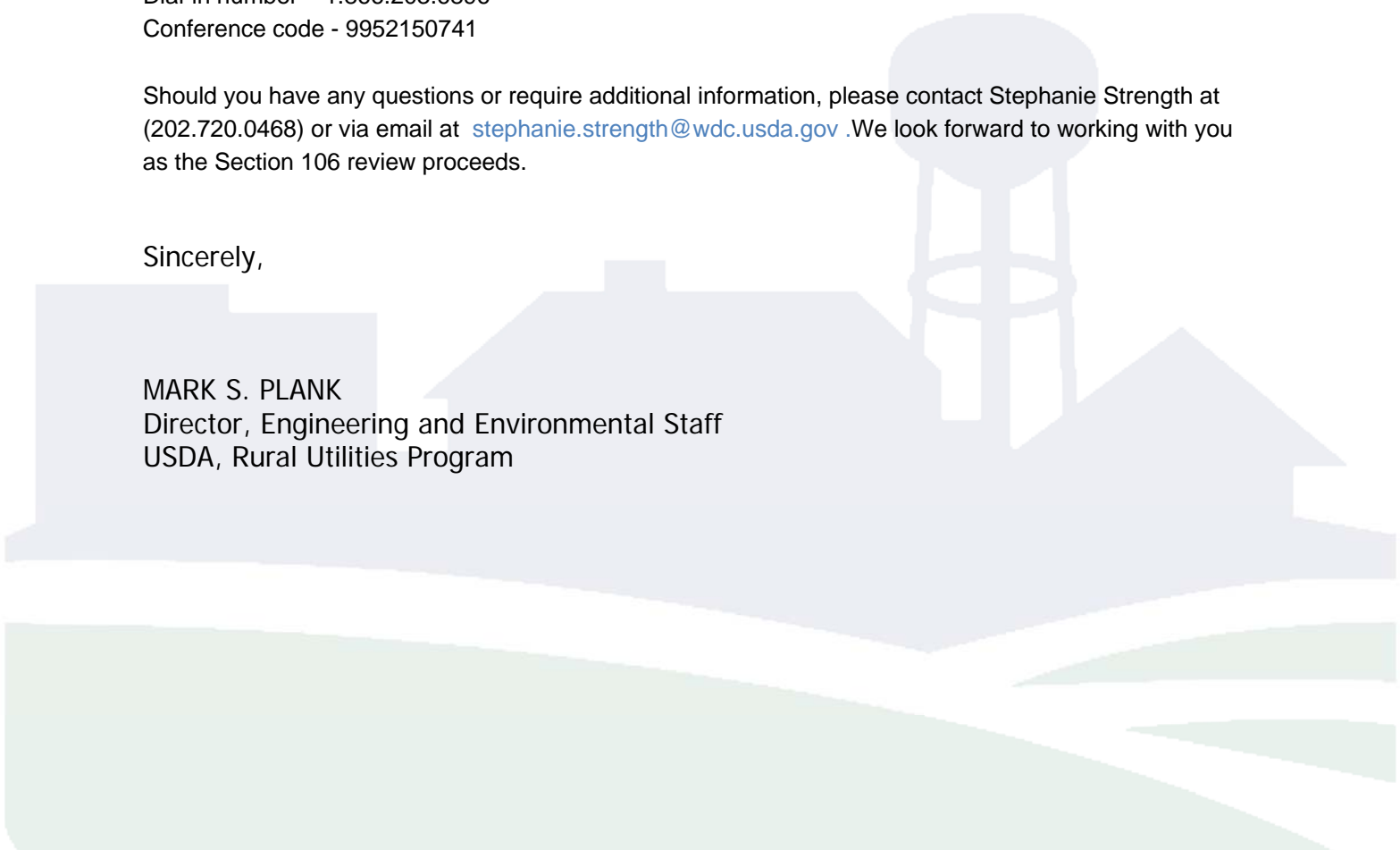
Dial-in number – 1.866.203.6896

Conference code - 9952150741

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Stephanie Strength at (202.720.0468) or via email at [stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov). We look forward to working with you as the Section 106 review proceeds.

Sincerely,

MARK S. PLANK  
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
USDA, Rural Utilities Program



June 3, 2010

NAME – THPO/Tribal Cultural Resources Representative  
TITLE  
IDENTIFY TRIBE ADDRESS

RE: Rural Utilities Service Section 106 Consultation  
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project  
Reminder of Call on June 15, 2010 and Brief Summary of Informational Meeting and Site Visit  
Conducted on May 11 -12, 2010

Dear Cultural Resources Representative:

This letter is reminder of a conference call scheduled for June 15, 2010 to discuss the results of the meetings and site visits conducted on May 11 and 12, 2010 on the Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project.

#### Background

Consulting parties were contacted by the Rural Utilities Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (RUS) in April and provided with details to participate in a teleconference focusing on Section 106. On April 22, 2010, the RUS hosted a conference call to discuss with tribes and others who might be interested in participating as a consulting party. RUS made arrangements with representatives of the CapX project proponent team to conduct the informational meeting and site visit on May 11th and 12th.

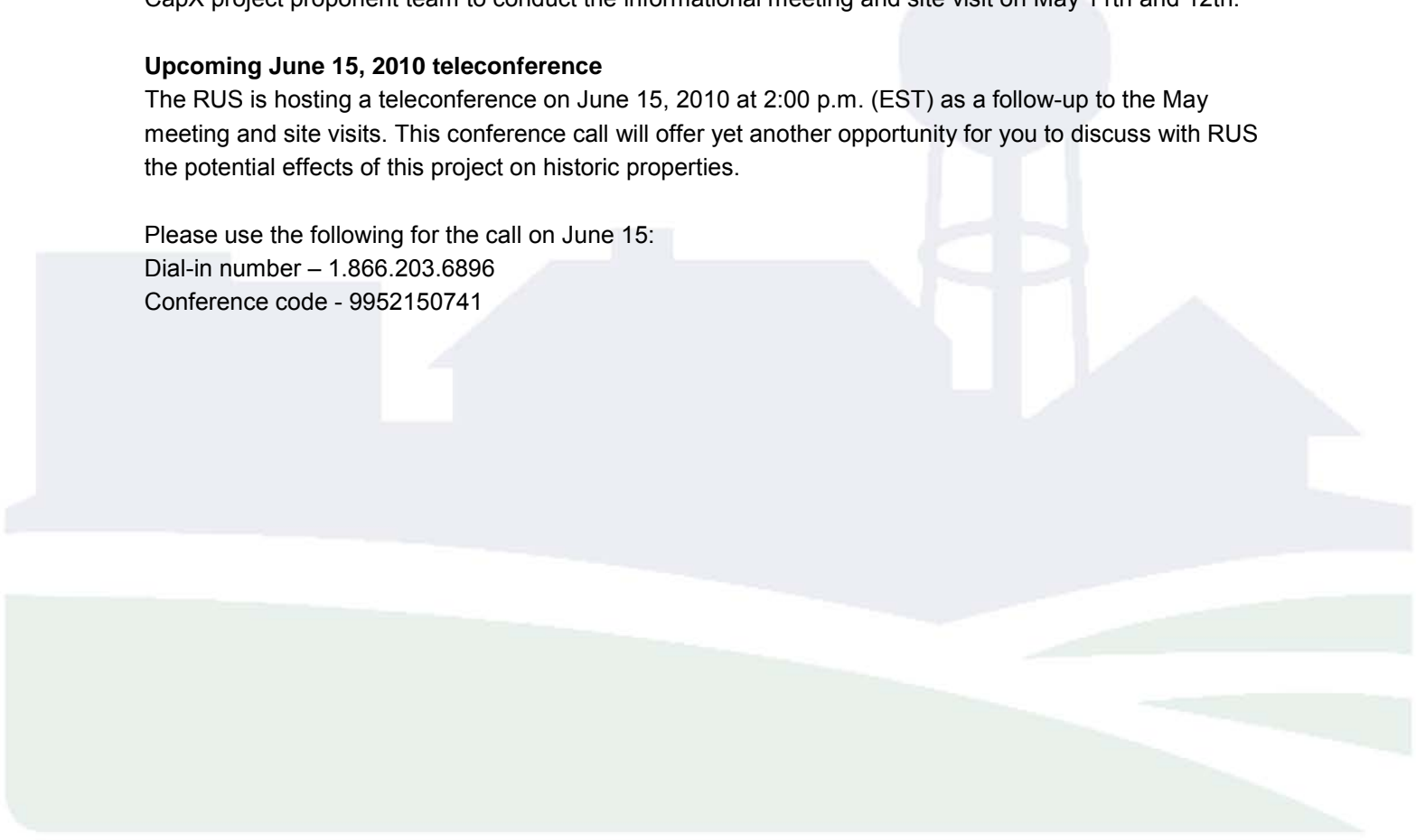
#### **Upcoming June 15, 2010 teleconference**

The RUS is hosting a teleconference on June 15, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. (EST) as a follow-up to the May meeting and site visits. This conference call will offer yet another opportunity for you to discuss with RUS the potential effects of this project on historic properties.

Please use the following for the call on June 15:

Dial-in number – 1.866.203.6896

Conference code - 9952150741



Recap of April 22, 2010 teleconference

The RUS hosted a teleconference on April 22, 2010 to discuss with interested parties the agenda and site visit possibilities for the meetings scheduled for May 2010. Parties were contact via certified letter with follow-up telephone calls. None of the parties identified in the approved Section 106 mailing list joined the call.

### **Informational meetings and site visits on May 11, 2010**

An informational meeting was conducted in Wabasha, MN on May 11th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the American Inn Hotel. Participants included:

Stephanie Strength and Laura Dean representing the RUS (via conference call)

Natalie Weyaus, THPO, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians

Alisha Skinaway, Elder of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians

Garry Ruff, City of Alma

Jean Dowiasch and Connie Arzigian, Mississippi Valley Archeological Center

Tom Hillstrom, Xcel Energy

Leslie Knapp and Joan DeGraff, AECOM

After briefings on the status of the project and a summary of cultural resource work there was a question and answer session. Questions included:

**Q:** Who is the decision maker for this project to move ahead?

**A:** **There are actually three decision makers for this project. The states of Minnesota and Wisconsin and the federal government each have a role in permitting the proposed project:**

### **Minnesota permitting**

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission must grant two approvals before construction – a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is written during routing.

- [Certificate of Need application](#) – filed August 16, 2007
- [Certificate of Need application](#) – granted May 22, 2009
- [Route Permit application](#) – filed January 19, 2010
- [Route maps](#)

### **Wisconsin permitting**

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin must issue a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) prior to construction. The permit certifies the project need and designates a route.

- June 2010 (anticipated) – filing of CPCN application
- [Route option map](#)

### **Federal permitting**

Rural Utilities Service, a division of the United States Department of Agriculture, is a federal financing agency that provides funding assistance to cooperatives for the installation and modernization of rural electric systems. In cooperation with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, RUS will prepare a federal EIS to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act.

- [RUS scoping report](#) – published February 2010
- [Alternative Evaluation Study](#)
- [Macro Corridor Study](#)
- Fourth quarter 2010 (anticipated) – public hearings on draft EIS

**Q:** What are the criteria be used to avoid areas of concern?

**A:** Siting a transmission line is a three-phase process that involves mapping resources, identifying opportunities and constraints within the project study area, and evaluating each alternative. A recommended route and alternatives were identified based on a series of project-specific siting criteria, including the following:

- Existing road and transmission line corridors
- Land use considerations, such as proximity to residences impact on agricultural activities, and existing and future land use
- Environmental resource considerations such as impacts on cultural and historic sites, or biological resources such as wildlife, plants and wetlands
- Topography
- Jurisdiction and regulatory considerations
- Cost

Comments from tribal representatives included:

A request that project planning and construction avoid cultural resources.

Any artifacts found should be left in place.

The meeting was followed by a site visit to the proposed river crossing at Alma and the alternate river crossing at Winona.

#### **Informational meetings and site visits on May 12, 2010**

An informational meeting was conducted in La Crosse, WI on May 12th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Radisson Inn. Participants included:

Stephanie Strength and Laura Dean representing the RUS (via conference call)

Bill Gilles and John Erickson, the La Crescent Area Historical Society

Neale Horman, the Onalaska Area Historical Society

Jean Dowiasch, Mississippi Valley Archeological Center

Tom Hillstrom, Xcel Energy

Joan DeGraff, AECOM

After briefings on the status of the project and a summary of cultural resource work there was a question and answer session.

**Q:** What is the anticipated project schedule?

**A:** The project schedule continues to evolve. The current anticipated schedule for construction is expected between 2012 and 2015 after a rigorous public process to determine need and routing.

While the agenda proposed a site visit to the proposed river crossing at Alma and the alternate river crossing at Winona, none of the historical society representatives elected to participate.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Stephanie Strength at 202.720.0468 or via email at [stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov). We look forward to speaking with you during the call on June 15<sup>th</sup> and to working with you as the Section 106 review proceeds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark S. Plank". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MARK S. PLANK  
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
USDA, Rural Utilities Program





United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

December 21, 2011

Mr. William Quackenbush  
Ho-Chunk Nation  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
P.O. Box 667  
W9814 Airport Rd  
Black River Falls, WI 54615

RE: Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Consulting Party  
Comment: 345 kV Hampton – Rochester – La Crosse Transmission Project  
Hampton, MN

Dear Mr. Quackenbush:

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency which administers the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development, Utilities Programs is authorized to provide financial assistance for infrastructure development in rural areas under its Electric Program in accordance with 7 CFR Part 1794. Dairyland Power Cooperative has applied to RUS for financial assistance to construct and operate (in conjunction with four other utilities) a 345 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line from Hampton, Minnesota to north of La Crosse, Wisconsin.

RUS is considering funding this application, thereby making the proposal an undertaking subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), 16 U.S.C. § 470F, and its implementing regulations, "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR Part 800).

By letter dated June 11, 2009, RUS invited the Ho-Chunk Nation to participate in government-to-government consultation for the referenced undertaking.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was submitted to the Ho-Chunk Nation under separate cover. RUS prepared the Draft EIS in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with the intent to adequately integrate the Section 106 and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The Draft EIS is also available for download at the following website:  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-CapX2020-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>.

RUS will be holding public meetings for the Draft EIS in the project area during the week of January 9 to 13, 2012. The dates and locations of the meetings were included the Draft EIS transmittal letter. You are also invited to a meeting at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, January 11 at the Board Room at Cannon Falls High School in Cannon Falls, Minnesota,

1400 Independence Ave, SW • Washington, DC 20250-0700  
Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>

Committed to the future of rural communities.

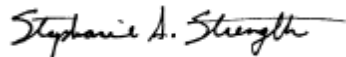
"USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."  
To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.,  
Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

specifically to continue the Section 106 consultation process, including discussion of a Programmatic Agreement, and to discuss comments on the Draft EIS related to the Section 106 process. We have enclosed a preliminary draft Programmatic Agreement for the Hampton – Rochester – La Crosse Project, for discussion purposes for this meeting. A version of the Programmatic Agreement will be included with the Final EIS. Please respond by January 5 with your intention regarding this meeting to Stephanie Strength at 970-403-3559 or [stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov). If no acceptances are received by January 5, the meeting will be cancelled.

Any comments on the Draft EIS or Programmatic Agreement received by the close of the comment period (estimated to be January 30, 2012) will be incorporated in the Final EIS. Please submit written comments to Stephanie Strength at 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 1571, Washington, DC 20250-1571 and/or via email to [stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov).

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Stephanie Strength at the phone number or email above.

Sincerely,



Stephanie A. Strength  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Water and Environmental Programs

Enclosure

**List of Reports On-File from Previous Cultural Resources Investigations  
CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse Project**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Location (see Report Codes on map)</b>	<b>Investigator(s)</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
1974	<i>Archaeological Survey of the Proposed Dairyland Power Cooperative Rail Loop, Wisconsin</i>	74-1013	Vehik, Rain and Susan C.	University of Wisconsin - La Crosse
1977	<i>Archaeological Survey of the proposed Industrial Park at Holmen, Wisconsin</i>	77-0920	Gallagher, James P.	University of Wisconsin - La Crosse
1978	<i>An Archaeological Survey of a proposed Bypass Track Route in the City of La Crosse, Wisconsin</i>	78-0774	Gallagher, James P.	University of Wisconsin - La Crosse
1980	<i>Final Report of an Archaeological Survey of a proposed Construction Area in Perrot State Park, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin</i>	80-0352	Patin, Michele, Lynne Goldstein, and Elizabeth Benchley	UW-Milwaukee Archaeological Research Laboratory
1980	<i>An Intensive Cultural Resource Survey of the Proposed Dairyland Power Cooperative Fly Ash Disposal Facility, Alma, Wisconsin</i>	80-0441	Peter, Duane E., T.R. Hayes, and James P. Gallagher	Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center
1980-1982	<i>The 1980-1982 La Crosse Area Archaeological Survey, Wisconsin</i>	80-6621	Gallagher, James P., Roland L. Rodell, and Katherine Stevenson	Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center
1981	<i>WDOT Archaeological Survey Field Report: STH 35, Fountain City to Merrick State Project, Buffalo County, Wisconsin</i>	81-0273	Connor, Melissa	Wisconsin Historical Society Museum Archaeology Program
1982	<i>A Preliminary Archaeological Survey of a proposed Sewage Treatment Site near Galesville, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin</i>	82-0498	Birk, Douglas A.	Independent contractor, Minneapolis, MN
1984	<i>Archaeological Investigations in Southeastern Minnesota: The 1984 Root River Survey, Minnesota</i>	84-HU-With	Withrow, Randall W.	Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center
1985	<i>An Archaeological Reconnaissance of a proposed Substation in the Town of Onalaska, Wisconsin</i>	85-0023	Gallagher, James P. and Robert F. Boszhardt	Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center
1986	<i>An Archaeological Survey of the Proposed La Crosse Gateway Project in La Crosse County, Wisconsin</i>	86-1275	Salkin, Philip H.	Archaeological Consulting Services



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<b>Date</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Location (see Report Codes on map)</b>	<b>Investigator(s)</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
1986	<i>WDOT Materials Excavation Site Report: STH 93/USH 53 Borrow Pit, Wisconsin</i>	86-5524	Meinholz, Norm	Wisconsin Historical Society Museum Archaeology Program
1986	<i>Phase I Archaeological Survey of the proposed Pine Creek Substation, Houston County, Minnesota</i>	86-HU-Sass	Sasso, Robert F.	Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center
1987	<i>Archaeological Survey of selected portions of Navigation Pools 6, 7, and 8, Upper Mississippi River, Minnesota-Wisconsin</i>	87-6603	Boszhardt, Robert F.	Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center
1987	<i>Phase I Archaeological Investigations of Two Proposed Dredge Material Disposal Sites: Parcel 3.10, Pierce County, Wisconsin and Parcel 5.24, Wabasha County, Minnesota</i>	87-WB-Stil	Stiles-Hanson, Cynthia	Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center
1988	<i>A Literature and Records search on Proposed Improvements to portions of CTH K in Gale, Caledonia, and Trempealeau Townships, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin</i>	88-1133	Cunningham, Roger R.	Archaeological Consulting and Services
1989	<i>An Archaeological Survey of the proposed Whispering Pines Plat in Holland Township, La Crosse County, Wisconsin</i>	89-1077	Salkin, Philip H.	Archaeological Consulting Services
1989	<i>WDOT Archaeological Survey Field Report: CTH P, from STH 35 to CTH J, Wisconsin</i>	89-1141	Keene, David	Archaeological Research, Inc.
1990	<i>Trampin' the Tamarack: A Report of the Phase I Survey and the Phase II Testing along the Portion of STH 93 between Centerville and Tamarack, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin</i>	90-0902	Broihahn, John H. and Neal Moebius	Wisconsin Historical Society
1992	<i>Phase I and II Archaeological Investigations of six sites along a proposed Prairie Trail in the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge, Wisconsin</i>	92-0383	Arzigian, Constance M. and Holly Halverson	Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center
1993	<i>Phase I Archaeological Investigations along the Gaynor Access Route, Holmen, La Crosse County, Wisconsin</i>	93-0127	Arzigian, Constance and Wendy Holtz	Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Location (see Report Codes on map)</b>	<b>Investigator(s)</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
1993	<i>Letter report regarding Perrot State Park future contact station, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin</i>	93-0525	Dirst, Victoria	WDNR
1993	<i>Phase I Archaeological Investigations at the Terminal Points of Two Diversion Dikes in the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge, Wisconsin</i>	93-1228	Arzigian, Constance M. and Jean Dowiasch	Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center
1993	<i>A Phase I Archaeological Investigation for the Kujak Transport Project, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin</i>	93-1425	Arzigian, Constance M. and Jean Dowiasch I.	Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center
1995	<i>Phase I Archaeological Investigations along the Gaynor Access Route, Holmen, La Crosse County, Wisconsin</i>	95-0533	Arzigian, Constance and Wendy Holtz	Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center
1996	<i>A Phase I and Phase II Archaeological Survey of the proposed Kreisel Borrow Pit Location in Trempealeau County, Wisconsin</i>	96-0211	Holtz, Wendy K. and Robert F. Boszhardt	Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center
1996	<i>WDOT Archaeological Survey Field Report: Construct Drainage Channel for STH 35/54 from bridge over Little Tamarack Creek to 209 meters east of Wright Road, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin</i>	96-5003	Trocki, Patricia	Wisconsin Historical Society Museum Archaeology Program
1996	<i>Letter Report: Lange Drive, City of La Crosse, La Crosse County, Wisconsin</i>	96-5008	Boszhardt, Robert F.	Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center
1996	<i>Phase I Archaeological Investigations for proposed Reconstruction of the State Line Bridge, Winona, Minnesota</i>	96-WN-Stev	Stevenson, Katherine P.	Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center
1997	<i>WDOT Archaeological Survey Field Report: Reconstruct STH 35 from Merrick State Park to STH 37, Buffalo County, Wisconsin</i>	97-1294	Rodell, Roland L.	Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center
1999	<i>WDOT Archaeological Survey Field Report: Reconstruction of STH 35, Wisconsin</i>	99-0348	Holtz, Wendy K.	Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center

**List of Reports On-File from Previous Cultural Resources Investigations  
CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse Project**

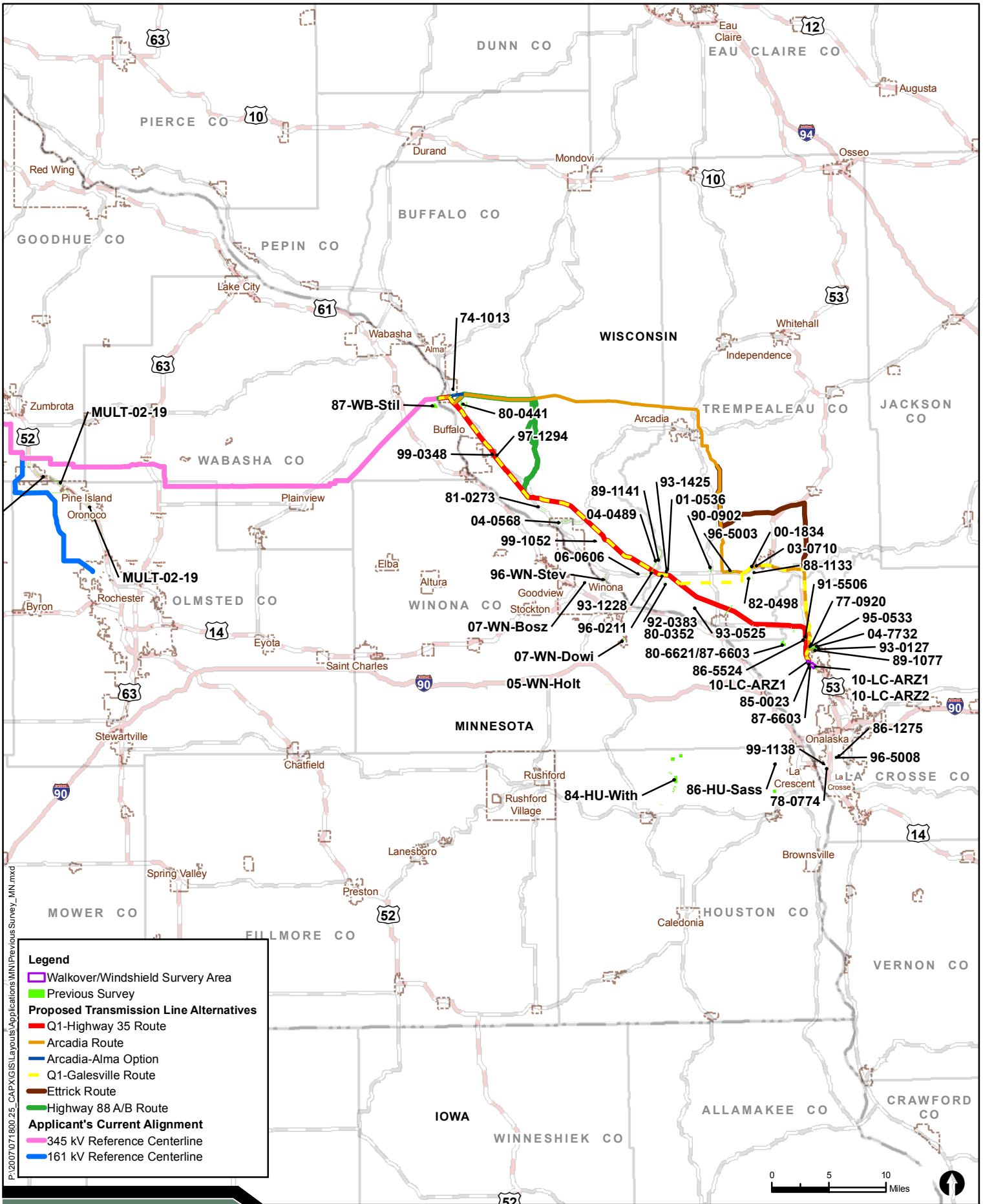
<b>Date</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Location (see Report Codes on map)</b>	<b>Investigator(s)</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
1999	<i>An Archaeological Survey of a proposed Communications Tower Site in Buffalo Township, Buffalo County, Wisconsin</i>	99-1052	Salkin, Philip H.	Archaeological Consulting and Services
1999	<i>Underwater Archaeological Monitoring of the Mobil Oil Dock Removal, City of La Crosse, La Crosse County, Wisconsin</i>	99-1138	Jalbert, Andrew J.	StrataMorph Geoexploration, Inc.
2000	<i>Phase I Archaeological Survey of a proposed Sanitary Sewer and Watermain Project in the city of Galesville, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin</i>	00-1834	Twinde, Vicki and Michael Page	Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center
2001	<i>Phase I Archaeological Survey of a Communications Tower site (TBP-LACR-067C/Hunger Farm) in Trempealeau County, Wisconsin</i>	01-0536	Florin, Frank and Beth Wergin	Florin Cultural Resource Services
2002	<i>Phase I and II Archaeological and Geomorphic Investigations along T.H. 52 between Pine Island and Oronoco, Olmsted and Goodhue Counties, Minnesota</i>	MULT-02-19	Kluth, David W.	Foth & Van Dyke and Associates, St. Paul
2003	<i>WDOT Archaeological Survey Field Report USH 53 Intersection with CTH K and CTH T, La Crosse and Trempealeau Counties, Wisconsin</i>	03-0710	Howell, Ryan	Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center
2004	<i>A Phase I Archaeological Survey of CTH P from STH 35 to CTH J in Buffalo County, Wisconsin</i>	04-0489	Christiansen, George W.	Archaeological Research Inc.
2004	<i>WDOT Archaeological Survey Field Report: STH 95, Fountain City to the County Line, Buffalo County, Wisconsin</i>	04-0568	Saele, Leslie	Wisconsin Historical Society Museum Archaeology Program
2004	<i>Letter report for the proposed St. Elizabeth Church, Holmen, Wisconsin</i>	04-7732	Holtz-Leith, Wendy	Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center
2005	<i>Phase I Archaeological Survey of a portion of the proposed DPC N-13 Transmission Line, T105N-R07W-02, Winona County, Minnesota</i>	05-WN-Holt	Holtz-Leith, Wendy K.	Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center

**List of Reports On-File from Previous Cultural Resources Investigations  
CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse Project**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Location (see Report Codes on map)</b>	<b>Investigator(s)</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
2007	<i>Phase I Archaeological Investigations of the Great River State Trail-Winona Connector in Buffalo County, Wisconsin</i>	06-0606	Reetz, Elizabeth and Kimberly Zunker	Wisconsin Historical Society Museum Archaeology Program
2007	<i>An Archaeological Assessment of the Brink Property Upper Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge, Winona, Minnesota</i>	07-WN-Bosz	Boszhardt, Robert F.	Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center
2007	<i>Phase I Archaeological Survey of the proposed Cobblestone Creek Development along Highway 17 in Winona, Minnesota</i>	07-WN-Dowi	Dowiasch, Jean	Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center
2008	<i>Literature search for previously reported archaeological sites and previous archaeological investigations; database search for previously reported historic standing structures</i>	Not on map – various locations	Arzigian, Constance M. and Jean Dowiasch I.	Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center
2009	<i>Literature search for previously reported archaeological sites and previous archaeological investigations; database search for previously reported historic standing structures</i>	Not on map – various locations	Arzigian, Constance M. and Jean Dowiasch I.	Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center
2010	<i>Literature search for previously reported archaeological sites and previous archaeological investigations; database search for previously reported historic standing structures</i>	Not on map – various locations	Arzigian, Constance M. and Jean Dowiasch I.	Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center
2010	<i>Walkover survey at Riders Club Substation Site, Onalaska Township, La Crosse County, Wisconsin</i>	10-LC-AR22: S13, T17N, R8W	Dowiasch Jean I.	Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center

**List of Reports On-File from Previous Cultural Resources Investigations  
CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse Project**

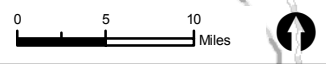
Date	Project	Location (see Report Codes on map)	Investigator(s)	Affiliation
2010	<i>Windshield visits to the Riders Club and Dummer Substation sites and photo-documentation of current conditions at previously recorded archaeological sites nearby</i>	10-LC-ARZ1: 47LC0019 – S13, T17N, R8W & S18, T17N, R7W. 47LC0111 - S13, T17N, R8W. 47LC0119 – S13, T17N, R8W. 47LC0657 - S13, T17N, R8W. 47LC0781 - S13, T17N, R8W.	Arzigian, Constance M. and Jean Dowiasch	Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center
2010	<i>Windshield visits to previously reported sites in Wisconsin and Minnesota</i>	<p><i>NOTE: Individual sites not shown on map, and individual T-R-S coordinates available upon request.</i></p> <p><u>Minnesota</u> 21DKc, 21DKaj, 21DKf, 21GD0248, 21GD0249, 21GDag, 21GDao, 21GDb, 21OL0027, 21OLh, 21OLk, 21OLs, 21WB0043, 21WB0083, 21WB0084, 21WB0096, 21WBh, 21WB0047.</p> <p><u>Wisconsin</u> 47BF0042, 47BF0081, 47BF0087, 47BF0092, 47BF0106, 47BF0123, 47BF0124, 47BF0127, 47BF0166, 47BF0179, 47BF0242, 47BBF7, 47BBF85, 47LC0064, 47LC0065, 47LC0097, 47LC0107, 47LC0530, 47LC0531, 47LC0639, 47TR0002, 47TR0005, 47TR0016, 47TR0017, 47TR0018, 47TR0052, 47TR0053, 47TR0075, 47TR0082, 47TR0095, 47TR0146, 47TR0154, 47TR0210, 47TR0389.</p>	Dowiasch, Jean and Constance Arzigian	Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center



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**Legend**

- Walkover/Windshield Survey Area
- Previous Survey
- Proposed Transmission Line Alternatives**
- Q1-Highway 35 Route
- Arcadia Route
- Arcadia-Alma Option
- Q1-Galesville Route
- Etrick Route
- Highway 88 A/B Route
- Applicant's Current Alignment**
- 345 kV Reference Centerline
- 161 kV Reference Centerline



**PROJECTION: 2012 Survey Timeframes for Archaeological & Historic Structure Surveys  
CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse Project**

Count	Task	Resource	Timeframe	Progress Tracking
<b>GIS</b>				
1	Provide updated shapefiles for entire route, staging areas/yards, access roads, substations, etc.	CapX2020 to AECOM	FEB – MAR 31, 2012	pending
<b>PRE-SURVEY PERMITS/LICENCES/AGREEMENTS</b>				
2	Provide template Gift Agreement for private landowners to deed artifacts to State of Minnesota	AECOM to CapX2020	FEB-MAR 2012	pending
3	Obtain signed Gift Agreement forms from private landowners in the APE for direct effects	CapX2020 to AECOM	MAR - APR 2012	pending
4	Obtain ARPA Permit from USFWS for Upper Mississippi River NWR lands	MVAC	Apply within 10 days of receiving route shapefiles from CapX2020 (see #1) – Winter 2012?	pending
5	Obtain MHS Repository Agreement for permanent curation of archaeological artifacts	MVAC	FEB 2012	Received – RA# 559
6	Obtain License from MN OSA for survey on non-federal, non-tribal public lands	MVAC	FEB 2012	Application sent 2/22/12; License pending
<b>PRE-SURVEY PREPARATIONS</b>				
7	Refresh archaeological literature search	MVAC	2 APR – 13 APR, 2012	pending
8	Complete literature search & background review of previously reported historic structures	AECOM	2 APR – 13 APR, 2012	pending
9	Arrange & attend kickoff meeting to define Area of Potential Effects (APE) and reach acceptable survey approach	CapX2020, RUS, SHPO, AECOM	MAR 2012	pending
10	Initiate formal consultation with federally recognized American Indian tribes	RUS, USACE, Xcel	MAR 15 & 16, 2012	pending
11	Submit draft <i>Cultural Survey Plan for Archaeology</i> to CapX2020 for review	AECOM with MVAC	Within 10 days of receiving route shapefiles from CapX2020 (see #1) and completing 2012 refreshing of lit search (see #7)	pending
12	Submit final <i>Cultural Survey Plan for Archaeology</i> to SHPO and CapX2020	AECOM with MVAC	Within 10 days of receipt of CapX2020's comments	pending

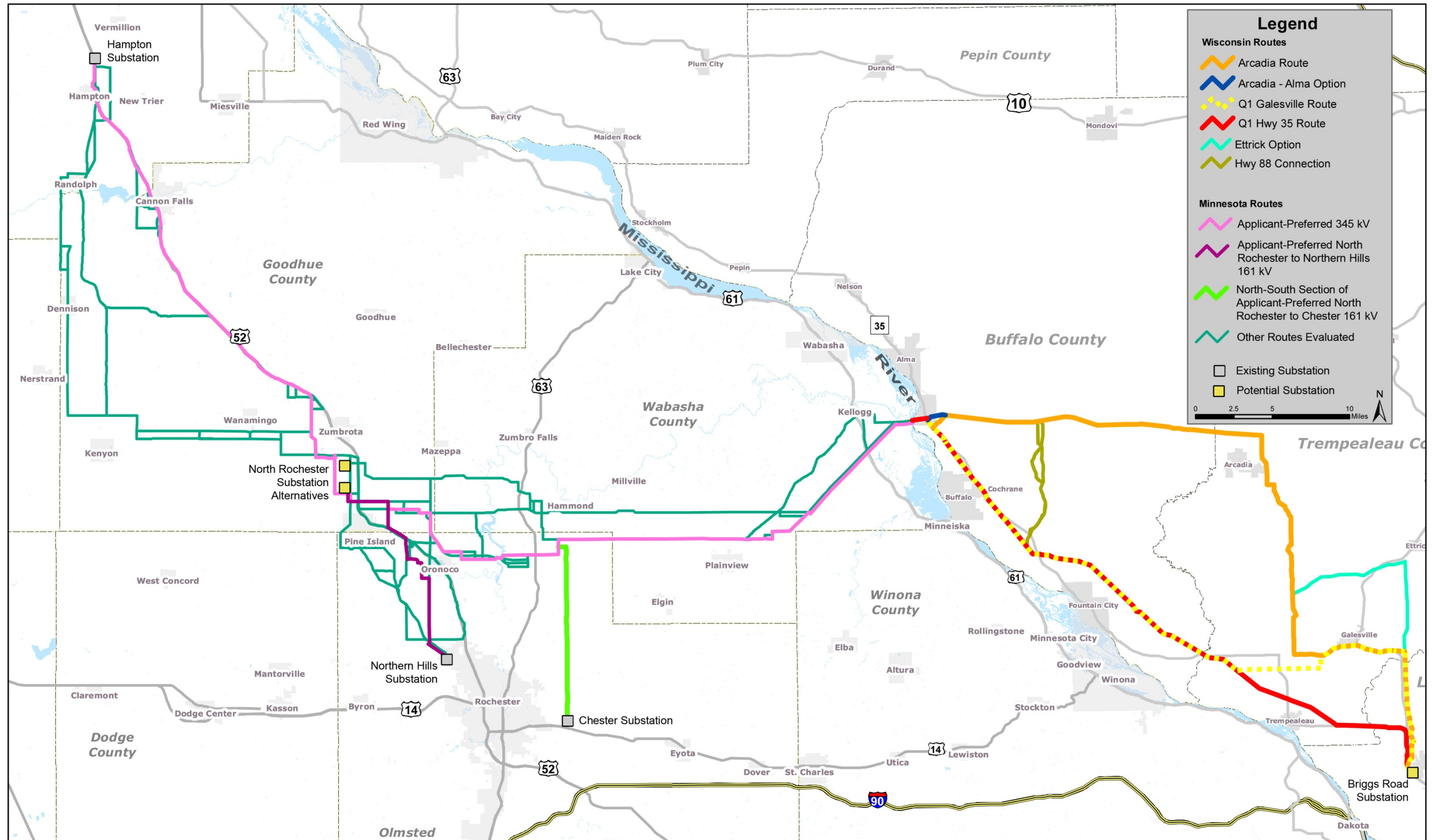
**PROJECTION: 2012 Survey Timeframes for Archaeological & Historic Structure Surveys  
CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse Project**

Count	Task	Resource	Timeframe	Progress Tracking
13	Draft & distribute for comments a <i>Programmatic Agreement</i> for RUS, USACE, USFWS, MN SHPO (and WI SHPO) as signatories, CapX2020 group as invited signatories, and tribes as Consulting Parties	AECOM, CapX2020, RUS	20 FEB – 30 APR, 2012	in progress
14	Execute Programmatic Agreement	RUS	1 MAY – 31 MAY, 2012	In progress
15	Arrange for & landowner permissions for access, and stake or provide waypoints for planned structures	CapX2020	Prior to MAY 1, 2012	pending
<b>ARCHAEOLOGICAL &amp; HISTORIC STRUCTURE SURVEYS</b>				
16	Complete archaeological surveys	MVAC	1 MAY – 20 AUG, 2012 (see also #15)	pending
17	Complete historic structures surveys	AECOM	1 MAY – 20 AUG, 2012	pending
<b>REPORTING/MAPPING/OTHER DOCUMENTATION – ARCHAEOLOGY &amp; HISTORIC STRUCTURES</b>				
18	Complete archaeological reporting & mapping, including site forms/updates and photo-documentation	MVAC (AECOM to QC)	Within 7 months of completion of 2012 archaeological field work	pending
19	Submit draft <i>2012 Archaeology Report</i> to CapX2020 for review	AECOM with MVAC	pending	pending
20	Review draft <i>2012 Archaeology Report</i>	CapX2020	Within 14 days of receipt of report from AECOM	pending
21	Submit final <i>2012 Archaeology Report</i>	AECOM with MVAC	Within 14 days of receipt of CapX2020's comments to draft report	pending
22	Process archaeological artifacts for permanent curation and transfer to MHS or private landowners	MVAC	Within 3 months of completion of 2012 archaeological field work	pending
23	Complete historic structures reporting & mapping, including inventory forms/updates and photo-documentation	AECOM	Within 7 months of completion of 2012 historic structures field work	pending
24	Submit draft <i>2012 Historic Structures Report</i> to CapX2020 for review	AECOM	pending	pending
25	Review draft <i>2012 Historic Structures Report</i>	CapX2020	Within 14 days of receipt of report from AECOM	Pending
26	Submit final <i>2012 Historic Structures Report</i>	AECOM	Within 14 days of receipt of CapX2020's comments to draft report	pending



**PROJECTION: 2012 Survey Timeframes for Archaeological & Historic Structure Surveys  
CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse Project**

<b>Count</b>	<b>Task</b>	<b>Resource</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Progress Tracking</b>
27	Submit 2012 Archaeological and Historic Structures reports to USACE, USFWS, SHPOs, and Tribal Consulting Parties	CapX2020	Pending	Please note SHPOs and THPOs are allowed a 30-day review period



Alternative Routes Evaluated in the Draft EIS.

## Summary Schedule for NEPA, Section 106 and State Processes

### NEPA and Section 106

- December 16, 2011 – Draft EIS
- February 13, 2012 – end Draft EIS comment period
- June 2012 – Final EIS and PA
- October 2012 – Record of Decision

### Minnesota permitting

- January 2010 – Route Permit application
- March 2011 – Draft EIS
- August 2011 – Final EIS
- February 2012 - Administrative law judge recommendation
- Spring 2012 – Minnesota Public Utilities decision

### Wisconsin permitting

- January 2011 – Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) application
- November 2011 – Draft EIS
- January 2012 – Final EIS
- June 2012 – Public Service Commission of Wisconsin Decision

Attachment 5 – Draft Programmatic Agreement

Not included with Final EIS copy – see Appendix W for most recent Draft Programmatic Agreement.

Tribes invited to participate in Section 106 consultation, beginning in 2009

Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians  
Bay Mills Indian Community  
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians  
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe  
Crow Creek Sioux Tribe  
Eastern Shoshone Tribe  
Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe  
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa  
Forest County Potawatomi Community  
Grand Portage Band of Chippewa Indians  
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians  
Hannahville Indian Community  
Ho-Chunk Nation  
Keweenaw Bay Indian Community  
Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin  
Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians  
Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa  
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Indians  
Little River Band of Ottawa Indians  
Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians  
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe  
Lower Sioux Indian Community  
Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi - Gun Lake Tribe  
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin  
MHA Nation - Three Affiliated Tribes  
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians  
Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians, Pine Creek Indian Reservation  
Oglala Sioux Tribe  
Omaha Tribe of Nebraska  
Oneida Nation of Wisconsin  
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians  
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska  
Prairie Island Indian Community  
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin  
Red Lake Band of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe  
Rosebud Sioux Tribe  
Sac and Fox of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska  
Sac and Fox Tribe  
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe  
Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska  
Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians  
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community  
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate  
Sokaogon Chippewa Community of Wisconsin  
Spirit Lake Dakota Nation

St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin  
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe  
Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians  
Turtle Mountain Band of the Chippewa Tribe  
Upper Sioux Indian Community  
White Earth Band of Minnesota Chippewa  
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska  
Yankton Sioux