

From: Rankin, Dennis - RD, Washington, DC
To: [Coleman Burnett](#)
Subject: FW: Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line
Date: Wednesday, January 11, 2017 3:20:47 PM

Tribal letter

From: Cusick, Lauren - RD, Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2017 8:19 AM
To: Rankin, Dennis - RD, Washington, DC <Dennis.Rankin@wdc.usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line

From: Rankin, Dennis - RD, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2016 8:43 AM
To: Cusick, Lauren - RD, Washington, DC <lauren.cusick@wdc.usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line

fyi

From: Diane Hunter [<mailto:dhunter@miamination.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2016 3:03 PM
To: Rankin, Dennis - RD, Washington, DC <Dennis.Rankin@wdc.usda.gov>
Subject: Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Aya, kikwehsitoole – I show you respect. My name is Diane Hunter, and I am the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Federally Recognized Miami Tribe of Oklahoma. In this capacity, I am the Miami Tribe's point of contact for all Section 106 issues.

The Miami Tribe offers no objection to the above-mentioned project at this time, as we are not currently aware of existing documentation directly linking a specific Miami cultural or historic site to the project site. However, as this site is within the aboriginal homelands of the Miami Tribe, if any human remains or Native American cultural items falling under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) or archaeological evidence is discovered during any phase of this project, the Miami Tribe requests immediate consultation with the entity of jurisdiction for the location of discovery. In such a case, please contact me at 918-541-8966, or by email at dhunter@miamination.com to initiate consultation.

The Miami Tribe accepts the invitation to serve as a consulting party to the proposed project. In my capacity as Tribal Historic Preservation Officer I am the point of contact for consultation.

Respectfully,

Diane Hunter

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1326
Miami, OK 74355

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 28, 2016

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BUDGET
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS
HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Brandon McBride
Administrator
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Rural Utilities Service
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250-1510

Dear Administrator McBride:

I write to urge you to update and expand the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) public scoping process for the proposed Cardinal Hickory Creek transmission line [81 FR 71696] to allow adequate time for public comment during this process.

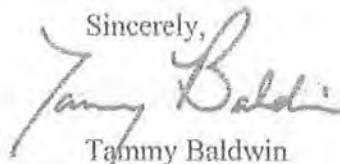
Many constituents in Wisconsin are paying close attention to the Cardinal Hickory Creek project and are seeking opportunities to participate in public meetings and public comment periods to ensure their input on the proposed line is incorporated into federal and state decisions. Although they have been paying close attention to opportunities to provide input, several constituents contacted me with concerns that the public notice for the upcoming federal RUS public scoping process did not reach many interested stakeholders, including local government officials. By the time local leaders learned about it, they had little time to rearrange their schedules to attend. Additionally, the November 2 public scoping meeting in Dodgeville, Wisconsin conflicts with a related meeting being held by the American Transmission Company in Pewaukee. I am concerned this scheduling conflict could limit participation in these public processes for the many Wisconsin residents who wish to attend both meetings.

In order to ensure adequate time for members of the public to prepare meaningful input to inform the public scoping for the proposed Cardinal Hickory Creek transmission line, I ask that you extend the public comment period, and hold an additional public scoping meeting in Wisconsin.

In addition, several stakeholders raised concerns about the lack of direct outreach to municipal governments that could be impacted by the proposed 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line. A project this size requires significant communication and consultation among affected communities, private entities, and state and federal governments. The EIS process is a critical opportunity for members of the public to provide meaningful input. As you continue to move through the EIS process, I ask you to directly contact the municipal governments along the proposed route of the Cardinal Hickory Creek transmission line to provide updates on the process, details about upcoming meetings, and ample notification of any additional public comment opportunities.

Thank you in advance for your attention to the concerns of Wisconsin residents, and for upholding the integrity of the public engagement process for this project.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
U.S. Senator

Rankin, Dennis - RD, Washington, DC

From: Kubena, Kellie - RD, Washington, DC
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2016 11:06 AM
To: Rankin, Dennis - RD, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Public Scoping Meetings/Cardinal Hickory Creek Transmission Line

Calvin is busy right now. Left a message. Will call you if I get him on the phone later today. Thanks!

From: Rankin, Dennis - RD, Washington, DC
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2016 10:58 AM
To: Kubena, Kellie - RD, Washington, DC <Kellie.Kubena@wdc.usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Public Scoping Meetings/Cardinal Hickory Creek Transmission Line

From: Boldebuck, Calvin [<mailto:Calvin.Boldebuck@mail.house.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2016 3:47 PM
To: Rankin, Dennis - RD, Washington, DC <Dennis.Rankin@wdc.usda.gov>
Subject: Public Scoping Meetings/Cardinal Hickory Creek Transmission Line

Greetings Mr. Rankin,

I left you a voicemail earlier today and also wanted to follow up with an email so that you have that as a contact option. Our office has received quite a few calls and emails this week regarding the upcoming Public Scoping Meetings for the proposed ATC Cardinal Hickory Creek Transmission Line project in South-Western/Central Wisconsin. The proposed routes run through several counties in the 2nd Congressional District which Congressman Pocan represents. Several of our constituents have called to express displeasure and concern regarding the lack of public notification for the upcoming scoping meetings and I wanted to get some clarity on what all is required by agencies in regards to notifying the public of meetings such as these. In addition to getting some more information for our constituents I also had a few general questions for you regarding the process as a whole. If you have time either this week or next week I would appreciate a call at 608-258-9800.

Thank you,

Calvin Boldebuck
Field Representative
Congressman Mark Pocan (WI-02)
10 East Doty Street, Room 405
Madison, WI 53703
Office: 608-258-9800



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS – ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT
CLOCK TOWER BUILDING - PO BOX 2004
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61204-2004

December 6, 2016

Regional Planning and
Environmental Division North (RPEDN)

U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Utilities Service
ATTN: Dennis Rankin, Environmental Protection Specialist
1400 Independence Ave. SW, Room 2244, Stop 1571
Washington, DC 20250-1571

Dear Mr. Rankin:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District and the St. Paul District (Corps) have participated in early Agency Scoping meetings for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek 345-kV Transmission Line (Project) proposed by the Dairyland Power Cooperative (Proponent). The US Department of Agriculture - Rural Utilities Service has identified itself as the Lead Agency and will be preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as stated in the Federal Register, Notice of Intent on October 18, 2016. Corps representatives attended meetings held at the Dubuque Grand River Center on May 17, 2016 and at the Cobblestone Suites on September 21, 2016. We have received your most recent meeting invitation dated October 14, 2016.

The Corps will continue to participate in the environmental review process as a cooperating agency. As mentioned above, this project involves two Corps Districts. Corps civil works boundaries differ from its regulatory boundaries. District staff reviewed the information provided thus far and have the following consolidated comments:

A. Real Estate Division North: The Project may have impacts to Government parcels of Corps-administered land. The Rock Island District's Real Estate Division has confirmed that as of November 30, 2016, the Proponent has not submitted the required real estate outgrant application. It is essential to contact the Real Estate Division and submit all required information for the action to be considered. The point of contact for real estate requirements is Jeff Nelson, 309-794-5833. Please note that only the Real Estate Division within either District has the authority to authorize the use of federally-controlled land.

Please note: Prior to issuing real estate instruments for this project, policy identifies that an approved mitigation plan would be needed for statutory and non-statutory mitigation and has different options for mitigation possibly including acquisition of lands turned over to the government. A mitigation plan would need to include mitigation for both real property loss (timber) and habitat loss. A coordinated site restoration plan would also be required.

B. Regulatory Offices: In the State of Wisconsin, authority to review and authorize work regulated pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (Section 10) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (Section 404) rests with the St. Paul District. In the State of Iowa, this same authority is vested with the Rock Island District.

The proposed project includes a crossing of the Mississippi River, a Section 10 navigable water of the United States. Section 10 prohibits the construction, excavation, or deposition of materials in, over, or under navigable waters of the United States, or any work that would affect the course, location, condition, or capacity of those waters, unless the work has been authorized by a Department of the Army permit. In addition to Section 10 authorization, the Proponent is required to obtain Section 404 authorization for any proposed placement of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including jurisdictional wetlands, in advance of completing regulated work.

Finally, it is common for project proponents to complete additional design after the NEPA process is concluded. This information will be required by both Districts to evaluate regulated portions of the project pursuant to both Section 10 and Section 404. It is the responsibility of the Proponent to provide a complete application with this information to both the St. Paul District and the Rock Island District to begin this process.

C. Environmental Compliance Planning Division North: Environmental Compliance for granting a real estate instrument will be needed in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. The USDA-RUS Service has identified itself as the Lead Agency and intends to prepare an EIS. The Rock Island District Commander, per Engineering Regulation 200-2-2 paragraph 21, will normally adopt another Federal agency's EIS and consider it to be adequate unless the Commander finds substantial doubt as to technical or procedural adequacy or omission of factors important to the Corps' decision.

D. Emergency Management Office: The Rock Island District is responsible for operating and maintaining the Mississippi River for safe and effective navigation. In order to ensure the Rock Island District will be able to fulfill its authorized mission on the Mississippi River, permission under Section 408 may be required for the proposed project. Engineer Circular 1165-2-216 provides policy and procedural guidance for processing requests to alter U.S. Army Corps of Engineers civil works projects pursuant to 33 USC 408.

E. Operations - Mississippi River Project Natural Resource Office: Procedures set forth in the Non-Recreation Outgrant Policy must be followed. If the proposal proceeds, there would need to be mitigation for both real property and forested habitat loss in order to make the project whole. This policy applies to all new non-recreation outgrant requests for use of Corps fee-owned lands and waters at Civil Works water resource projects. The primary rationale for authorizing any future non-recreational outgrant request for use on Corps lands or waters will be one of two reasons: 1) there is no viable alternative to the activity or structure being located on Civil Works land or waters or 2) there is a direct benefit to the government.

F. Other Information: The Responsible Federal Agency should coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (both Refuge and Ecosystem Service Offices); the U.S. Coast Guard; State Historic Preservation Agencies; State Departments of Natural Resources; and State Emergency Management Agencies to determine other possible impacts.

Enclosure 1 includes the Points of Contact for this matter. In addition, I have sent a copy of this correspondence to:

Mr. Greg Poremba
Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS Project Manager
SWCA Environmental Consultants
200 West 22nd Street, Suite 220
Lombard, IL 60148

No other concerns surfaced during our review. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your proposal. If you need more information, please call Ms. Wendy Frohlich of our Environmental Compliance Branch, telephone 309/794-5573.

Sincerely,



Kenneth A. Barr
Chief, Environmental Planning Branch, (RPEDN)

Wendy Frohlich
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Planning Division North, Environmental Compliance
Clock Tower Building
PO Box 2004
Rock Island, IL 61204-2004
Phone: (309) 794-5573

Kerrie J. Hauser (MVP-2012-03481-KJH)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Paul District
La Crescent Regulatory Field Office
1114 South Oak Street
La Crescent, MN 55947
Phone: (651) 290-5903

Jeff Nelson
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Real Estate Division North (Rock Island)
Clock Tower Building
PO Box 2004
Rock Island, IL 61204-2004
Phone: (309) 794-5833

Joey Shoemaker
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District
Regulatory Office
Clock Tower Building
PO Box 2004
Rock Island, IL 61204-2004
Phone: (309) 794-5559

Paul F. St. Louis
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District
Emergency Management Section
Clock Tower Building
PO Box 2004
Rock Island, IL 61204-2004
Phone: 309-794-5208

Joseph Lundh
Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi River Project
PO Box 534
Pleasant Valley, IA 52767
Phone: 309-794-4528



United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Midwest Region
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha Nebraska 68102-4226

1.A(MWR-PCL)-ER-16/0594

January 4, 2017

Mr. Dennis Rankin
Environmental Protection Specialist
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Room 2244, Stop 1571
Washington, D.C. 20250-1571

Dear Mr. Rankin:

The National Park Service (NPS) has reviewed the Rural Utility Service's Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in connection with possible impacts related to the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project proposed by Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC). The NPS is concerned that the proposed alternatives for the transmission lines would have visual and auditory impacts on the scenic and recreational resources of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail (NST) and Trail Complex.

The proposal consists of the construction of a 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line and associated infrastructure connecting the Hickory Creek Substation in Dubuque County, Iowa, with the Cardinal Substation in the Town of Middleton, Wisconsin. The Project also includes construction of a new intermediate 345/138-kV substation near the Village of Montfort in either Grant County or Iowa County, Wisconsin and a new 345-kV terminal within the existing Cardinal Substation. The total length of the 345-kV transmission lines associated with the proposed project(s) will be approximately 125 miles.

Several alternative transmission line corridors have been identified between the Cardinal Substation in the Town of Middleton, Wisconsin, and the Hickory Creek Substation in Dubuque County, Iowa for the Cardinal Hickory proposal. Our comments are specific to the eastern portion of the proposal, as the alternatives in this location would impact the Ice Age National Scenic Trail (NST) and Ice Age Complex at Cross Plains (Complex) -- the interpretive site for the Ice Age NST and a component of the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve.

Background: Ice Age National Scenic Trail

- Authorized by Congress in 1980, the Ice Age Trail is one of eleven national scenic trails. When complete, it will be a continuous 1,200 mile premier recreational footpath that follows the line of the last glacial advance in Wisconsin. The trail is managed through strong partnerships between the NPS, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA). The purpose of the NST is to ensure protection, preservation, and interpretation of nationally significant resources and values associated with continental glaciation in Wisconsin, and to provide outdoor recreational and educational opportunities that support and are compatible with the conservation and enjoyment of nationally significant scenic, historic, natural, and cultural resources along the Trail.

- At this time, the Ice Age NST exists in segments within the eastern project area of the Cardinal Hickory Creek Transmission Line proposal. The NST is located northwest of the Village of Cross Plains on the 433- acre Swamplovers property owned by the IATA, purchased with federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) dollars, as well as state, county, and private monies. The NST continues east of Swamplovers, passing over bluffs on the northern edge and through the Village of Cross Plains (Village). In 2017, IATA will be constructing a new section of the NST on the bluffs located on the southern edge of the Village as well. Other lands have been purchased with LWCF funds by the IATA on Stagecoach Road for addition to the NST in the future.
- Ice Age Complex at Cross Plains
This 1,700 acre site located on Old Sauk Pass, Town of Cross Plains, Dane County, Wisconsin, is the national interpretive site for the Ice Age NST. Located next to Wisconsin's second largest urban population, its future development and use will tell the story to thousands of visitors and school groups annually of how our lands were shaped and molded. Views from the site of the terminal moraine, the driftless area including Blue Mounds, and the glacial drainageway (Black Earth Trench) now occupied by State Highway 14, are very important in telling the unique story of the interface between the glaciated and unglaciated areas of the State. The NPS, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Dane County Parks Department have all purchased lands within the project boundaries utilizing Federal LAWCON funds. A General Management Plan was developed for the Complex and received a Record of Decision in 2013.
- Ice Age National Scientific Reserve
The Complex is also a component of the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve (Reserve). Authorized by Congress in 1964, the Reserve is composed of nine units to protect and interpret collections of outstanding examples of features from continental glaciation, i.e. moraines, drumlins, kettles, kames, eskers, ice walled lake plains, outwash plains, erratics, etc.

NST staff located in Madison, Wisconsin, have attended public meetings and directly communicated with representatives of the Rural Utility Service and American Transmission Company to express concerns about the proposed Cardinal Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project and its potential impact on the Ice Age NST and Complex. The following comments reflect those conversations:

- The proposed transmission line corridors cross the proposed route of the NST and lands purchased for addition to the trail. One alternative also lies directly adjacent to the northern boundary (State Highway 14) of the Ice Age Complex at Cross Plains, Wisconsin, the national interpretive site for the NST.
- The proposed Cardinal Hickory Creek transmission line's eastern terminus is located at the Cardinal Substation in the Town of Middleton. Here there is only one alternative proposed for the line route, which is proposed to travel west toward the Village of Cross Plains paralleling State Highway 14 until it reaches Stagecoach Road and continues to the Substation on County Trunk P. At the Substation it splits into two alternatives: (1) a southern route to Mount Horeb that parallels County Trunk P, and (2) a northern alternative, which continues west through the countryside to just south of State Highway 14, and IATA's Swamplovers property.
- Single Alternative in Eastern Dane County: The single alternative corridor on the eastern edge of the project area would create a serious visual intrusion and diminish the interpretative value of the

Complex. This proposal, consisting of a 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line located along State Highway 14, is adjacent to the northern boundary of the Complex. Currently, vegetation management is underway on the Complex to provide overlooks where expansive views of this significant glacial drainageway (Black Earth Trench) can occur.

Users of the Ice Age NST would also be negatively impacted by the sight and sounds of the transmission lines crossing or paralleling the trail corridor to the Village of Cross Plains. As stated above, additional lands for future Ice Age NST have been purchased by the IATA on Stagecoach Road, utilizing Federal LAWCON funds. The NPS encourages burying transmission lines underground along State Highway 14 and Stagecoach Road to reduce negative impacts on both the Complex and the NST.

- Northern Alternative in Western Dane County
The proposed northern alternative could produce severe visual impacts on the portion of the NST located on the bluffs north of the Village of Cross Plains and the Swamplovers property. If the northern alternative is chosen, the NPS also encourages burying transmission lines underground within the viewshed of the trail.

Southern Alternative in Western Dane County

- The proposed southern alternative to Mt. Horeb could also visually impact both the Complex and Ice Age NST. NPS and IATA staff has completed field reconnaissance of this area. If this alternative is chosen, the NPS requests a formal viewshed analysis of this route to determine the visual impacts to the Complex and Ice Age NST, and identify mitigation measures that would minimize those effects.

The NPS has an ongoing interest in working with all project proponents to ensure that all potential impacts of the proposed project(s) to the NST and Trail Complex resources are adequately addressed. Please continue to work with Ice Age Trail Superintendent John Madden regarding this matter. John may be reached by telephone at (608) 441-5610, or via email at john_madden@nps.gov.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding this EIS.

Sincerely,



Cameron H. Sholly
Regional Director

Enclosure

cc:
Mr. John Madden, Superintendent
Ice Age National Scenic Trail
700 Rayovac Drive, Suite 100
Madison, Wisconsin 53711-2468

Mr. Robert Stewart, Department of the Interior
Regional Environmental Officer
P.O. Box 25007 (D-108)
Denver Federal Center
Denver, Colorado 80225-0007

Lindy Nelson, Department of the Interior
Regional Environmental Officer
200 Chestnut Street
Custom House, Room 244
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

Mr. Tokey Boswell
Chief, Planning and Compliance
Midwest Region
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

Pam Schuler
Manager, Ice Age NST
National Park Service
700 Rayovac Drive, Suite 100
Madison, WI 53711

Ben Bergey, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Director, Bureau of Parks and Recreation
101 S. Webster Street
Madison, WI 53703

Steve Lenz, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Horicon Marsh NWR
W4279 Headquarters Road
Mayville, WI 53050

Darren Marsh
Director, Dane County Parks Department
5201 Fen Oak Drive
Madison, WI 53716








Kevin Thusius, Ice Age Trail Alliance
Director, Land of Land Conservation
2110 Main Street,
P.O. Box 128, Cross Plains, WI 53528

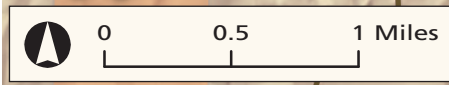
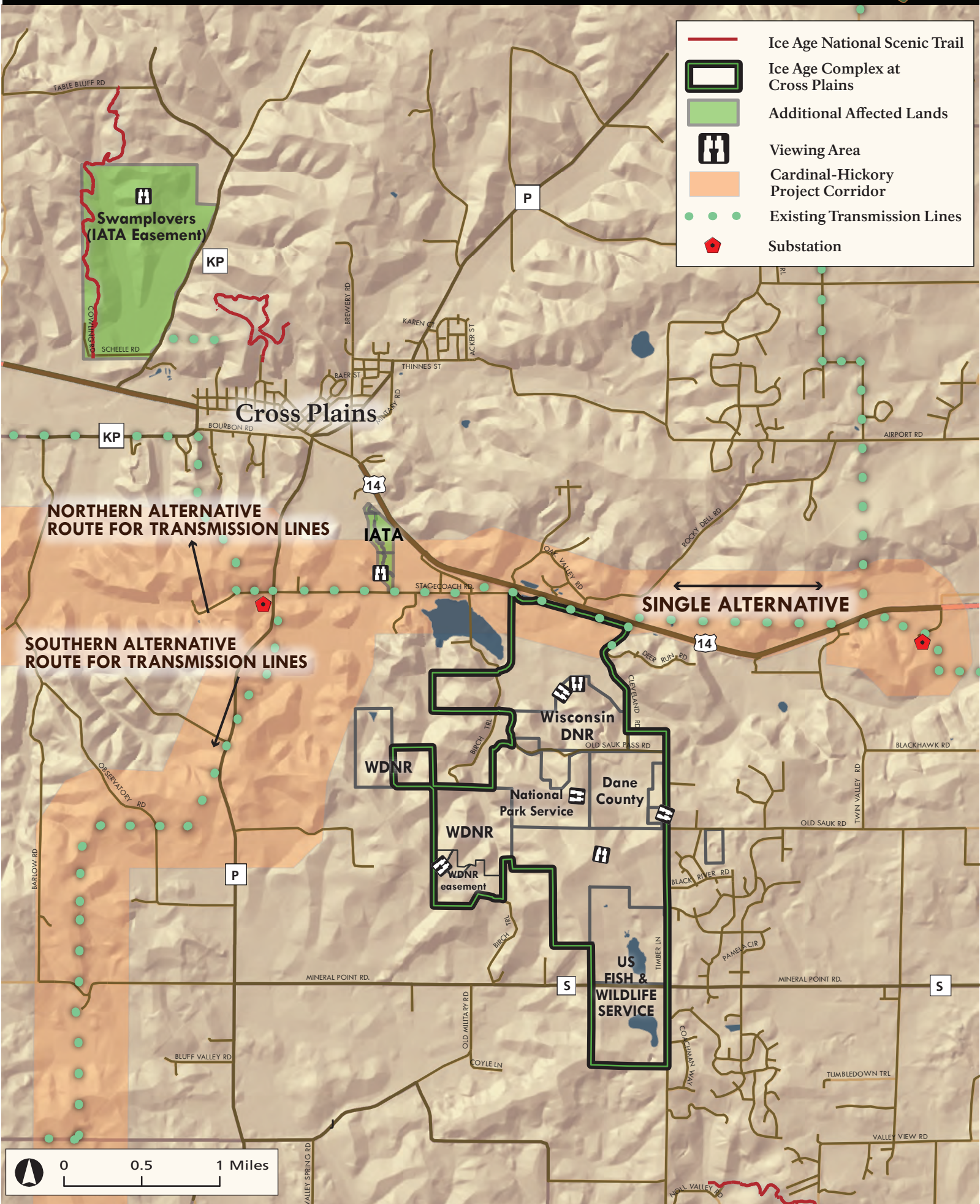


Ice Age National Scenic Trail & Complex



1/3/2017

-  Ice Age National Scenic Trail
-  Ice Age Complex at Cross Plains
-  Additional Affected Lands
-  Viewing Area
-  Cardinal-Hickory Project Corridor
-  Existing Transmission Lines
-  Substation



STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE OF IOWA

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Your request for comment by the State Historic Preservation Officer has been received.

Date Received: **10/19/2016**

Projected end of Review Period based on date received: **11/18/2016**

Agency: **RUS**

SHPO Review & Compliance Number (R&C#): **160522006**

**CARDINAL-HICKORY CREEK 345 KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT - DAIRYLAND
POWER COOP., AMERICAN TRANSMISSION CO., ATC MGMT., & ITC MIDWEST
PROPOSING LINE FROM NE IOWA TO SW & SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN - 125 MILES
TOTAL - SCOPING MEETING INVITE**

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800 (revised, effective August 5, 2004), the 30-day comment period under a formal review begins when the SHPO has received a submittal containing full documentation in support of an agency's finding and determination of effect.

The SHPO is under no time restraints but will provide a technical assistance response when:

- A. The SHPO concludes that the documentation provided does not support the agency's definition of the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the undertaking OR
- B. The SHPO concludes that the project documentation provided does not support the agency's determination of a property's eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places OR
- C. The SHPO concludes that the documentation provided does not support the agency's finding of an undertaking's effects on a historic property OR
- D. The agency has determined that the undertaking will have "Adverse Effects" on historic properties and is actively consulting with SHPO on resolution of those effects.

If the documentation submitted to the SHPO for review meets the basic standards set forth at 36 CFR Part 800.11 and the SHPO fails to respond within 30 days, then the SHPO has waived its opportunity to comment and the agency may either (1) proceed to the next step in the process based upon the agency's finding and determination, or (2) consult directly with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. In order to determine the next step in the process, we advise the agency to review the applicable sections of 36 CFR Part 800 or the programmatic agreement under which your undertaking is being reviewed.

Be advised that the successful conclusion of consultation with the SHPO does not fulfill the agency's responsibility to consult with other parties who may have an interest in properties that may be affected by an undertaking. Nor does it override the sovereign status of federally recognized American Indian Tribes in the Section 106 consultation process.

We have made these comments and recommendations according to our responsibilities defined by Federal law pertaining to the Section 106 process. The responsible federal agency does not have to follow our comments and recommendations to comply with the Section 106 process. It also remains the responsible federal agency's decision on how to proceed from this point for this undertaking.

Should you have any questions please contact me at the email below, referencing the R&C# above.

SHPO Review & Compliance Coordinator

SHPO106@iowa.gov

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE OF IOWA

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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Date Received: **10/19/2016**

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POWER COOP., AMERICAN TRANSMISSION CO., ATC MGMT., & ITC MIDWEST
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Be advised that the successful conclusion of consultation with the SHPO does not fulfill the agency's responsibility to consult with other parties who may have an interest in properties that may be affected by an undertaking. Nor does it override the sovereign status of federally recognized American Indian Tribes in the Section 106 consultation process.

We have made these comments and recommendations according to our responsibilities defined by Federal law pertaining to the Section 106 process. The responsible federal agency does not have to follow our comments and recommendations to comply with the Section 106 process. It also remains the responsible federal agency's decision on how to proceed from this point for this undertaking.

Should you have any questions please contact me at the email below, referencing the R&C# above.

SHPO Review & Compliance Coordinator

SHPO106@iowa.gov



STATE OF IOWA

TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
CHUCK GIPP, DIRECTOR

November 3, 2016

MR GREGORY POREMBA
SWCA ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS
200 W 22ND ST STE 220
LOMBARD IL 60148

RE: Cardinal-Hickory 345kV Transmission Line Project (Clayton & Dubuque Counties, in Iowa)

Dear Mr. Poremba:

This letter is in response to the October 14, 2016 letter concerning the Cardinal-Hickory 345kV Transmission Line Project in Clayton & Dubuque Counties in Iowa. Thank you for inviting our comments on the impact of the above referenced project.

As you are aware, waters of the United States (includes wetlands) should not be disturbed if a less environmentally damaging alternative exists. Unavoidable adverse impacts should be minimized to the extent practicable. Any remaining adverse impacts should be mitigated through restoration, enhancement, creation and/or preservation activities. Information regarding the requirements for mitigation is described in the Federal Register (Volume 73, No. 70) dated April 10, 2008, under "Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources; Final Rule".

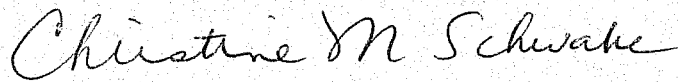
Any proposed placement of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States (including jurisdictional wetlands) requires Department of the Army authorization under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Based on the information you provided, a Section 404 permit may be required for this project. A completed application packet should be submitted to the Rock Island District Corps of Engineers as well as 2 copies to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for processing as soon as possible. The application form can be obtained at: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/RegulatoryLand/FloodPlainManagement/FloodPlainDevPermits.aspx> or at <http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permits.aspx>

We would ask that Best Management Practices be used to control erosion and protect water quality near the projects. You are encouraged to conduct your construction activities during a period of low flow. You are required to seed all disturbed areas with native grasses and to implement appropriate erosion control measures to insure that sediments are not introduced into waters of the United States during construction of the projects. Clearing of vegetation, including trees located in or immediately adjacent to waters of the state, should be limited to that which is absolutely necessary for construction of the projects. Please work with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service if trees will be cleared.

State of Iowa permits potentially needed for your project:
<http://www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/AboutDNR/BusinessRegulatoryAssistance.aspx>

If you have any questions, please call me at (515) 725-8399.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine M Schwake".

Christine Schwake
Environmental Specialist

From: [Coleman Burnett](#)
To: [David Reinhart](#)
Subject: FW: Environmental Review for Natural Resources 13571
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 12:30:29 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image003.jpg](#)
[image004.jpg](#)

From: Moore, Seth [DNR] [<mailto:Seth.Moore@dnr.iowa.gov>]
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2016 3:10 PM
To: Rankin, Dennis - RD, Washington, DC <Dennis.Rankin@wdc.usda.gov>
Subject: Environmental Review for Natural Resources 13571

Mr. Rankin,

RE: Notification of Rural Utilities Service Agency Scoping Meeting for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek 345-kV Transmission Line Environmental Impact Statement

Thank you for inviting Department comment on the impact of this project. The Department has records of the state-listed plant and animal species provided within corridor provided for review. In general, these species are associated with several habitats, including heavily wooded stream corridors, small remnant prairies, and wetlands. Avoidance of these kinds of habitats will avoid impacts with these species.

As you consider potential routes, the Department invites you to review county level Natural Areas Inventory (NAI) data to identify plant and animal species records. NAI data are available on the DNR's interactive website:

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/Threatened-Endangered/Natural-Areas-Inventory>

Because NAI data are not comprehensive field surveys, the DNR also recommends that you determine if suitable habitat for the listed species occurs within your project area. This information should be provided for DNR review when requesting additional comments. In addition to the above mentioned information regarding suitable habitat, please provide a GIS shapefile of the project boundary, including proposed routes, with the request for review. The shapefile must be projected in NAD 83, UTM Zone 15N.

Projects occurring on, above, or under state-owned lands and/or waters require a sovereign lands construction permit from the DNR in advance of work. State-owned lands and waters under the jurisdiction of the DNR include: Meandered Sovereign Lakes, Meandered Sovereign Rivers, State Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, State Parks, and State Preserves. Statewide GIS information about public conservation lands and Bird Conservation Areas is available on the DNR's website at <https://programs.iowadnr.gov/nrgislibx/> under Administrative and Political Boundaries and Biologic and Ecologic headings, respectively. More information regarding the Sovereign Lands Construction Permit Program is available on the DNR's website <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental->

[Protection/Land-Quality/Sovereign-Lands-Permits](#)

Department records and data are not the result of thorough field surveys. If listed species or rare communities are found during the planning or construction phases, additional studies and/or mitigation may be required.

The Department is available for additional review of potential impact of this project once a specific route has been identified. Please refer to tracking number 13571 when requesting additional review.

If you have questions about this letter or require further information, please contact me at (515) 725-8464.

SETH MOORE Sovereign Lands & Environmental Review Coordinator



Iowa Department of Natural Resources
515.725.8464 | seth.moore@dnr.iowa.gov
502 E. 9th Street | Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

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