

ADDENDUM TO THE SOUND LEVEL ASSESSMENT

**CROCKER WIND FARM**



the science of insight 8.2.2018



**PREPARED FOR:**  
CROCKER WIND FARM, LLC

**SUBMITTED BY:**  
RSG

**IN COOPERATION WITH:**  
MERJENT

55 Railroad Row  
White River Junction, VT 05001  
802.295.4999  
[www.rsginc.com](http://www.rsginc.com)





## CROCKER WIND FARM

PREPARED FOR:  
CROCKER WIND FARM, LLC

# CONTENTS

<b>1.0</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>SOUND PROPAGATION MODELING</b> .....	<b>3</b>
2.1	Modeling Procedures.....	3
2.2	Model Results.....	4
<b>3.0</b>	<b>CONCLUSIONS</b> .....	<b>6</b>
	<b>APPENDIX A: SOURCE INFORMATION</b> .....	<b>7</b>
	<b>APPENDIX B: RECEIVER INFORMATION</b> .....	<b>11</b>

### List of Figures

FIGURE 1: CROCKER WIND FARM AREA MAP (PHASE 1) .....	2
FIGURE 2: SOUND PROPAGATION MODELING RESULTS FOR GE 2.7-116 LNTE .....	5
FIGURE 3: SOURCE LOCATIONS .....	7
FIGURE 4: RECEIVER LOCATIONS AND SOUND PROPAGATION MODELING RESULTS .....	11

### List of Tables

TABLE 1: MODEL RESULTS SUMMARY FOR THE GE 2.7-116 LNTE.....	4
TABLE 2: SOUND PROPAGATION MODELING PARAMETERS .....	7
TABLE 3: 1/1 OCTAVE BAND MODELED TURBINE SPECTRUM (dBZ UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED) .....	8
TABLE 4: MODELED TURBINE SOUND POWER LEVEL & LOCATIONS.....	8
TABLE 5: DISCRETE RECEIVER RESULTS .....	11





## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

---

This is an addendum to the Sound Level Assessment for Crocker Wind Farm dated December 13, 2017. The purpose of this addendum is to provide sound propagation model results for the first phase of wind turbines (Phase 1) for Crocker Wind Farm, LLC which is planned for 200 MW and up to 77 turbines.

The updates included in this addendum are an updated turbine layout for Phase 1, an updated residential dataset, and the proposed turbine model, GE 2.7-116 LNTE with a turbine output of 2.7 MW and a hub height of 90 meters. A map of the project showing only the Phase 1 turbines is provided in Figure 1. The Figure shows a total of 84 turbine locations because it includes the primary locations (shown in white) and the alternate locations (shown in dark green). While only 77 turbines would be installed, we have analyzed the sound levels for this assessment of all 84 turbines operating simultaneously.

Included in this addendum are:

- Sound propagation modeling procedures and results; and
- Conclusions.

The Sound Level Assessment from December 2017 also included information on noise standards, background sound level measurements and a primer on the science of sound. Readers should refer to that document for information on those topics.

The information presented in this report leads us to conclude that the proposed Crocker Wind Farm can be constructed and operated in such a way as to comply with the Clark County noise limits and the noise limits in the Order<sup>1</sup> issued by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for Crocker Wind Farm.

---

<sup>1</sup> SD PUC, “Final Decision and Order Granting Permit to Construct Facilities and Notice of Entry”, EL17-055, June 12, 2018.

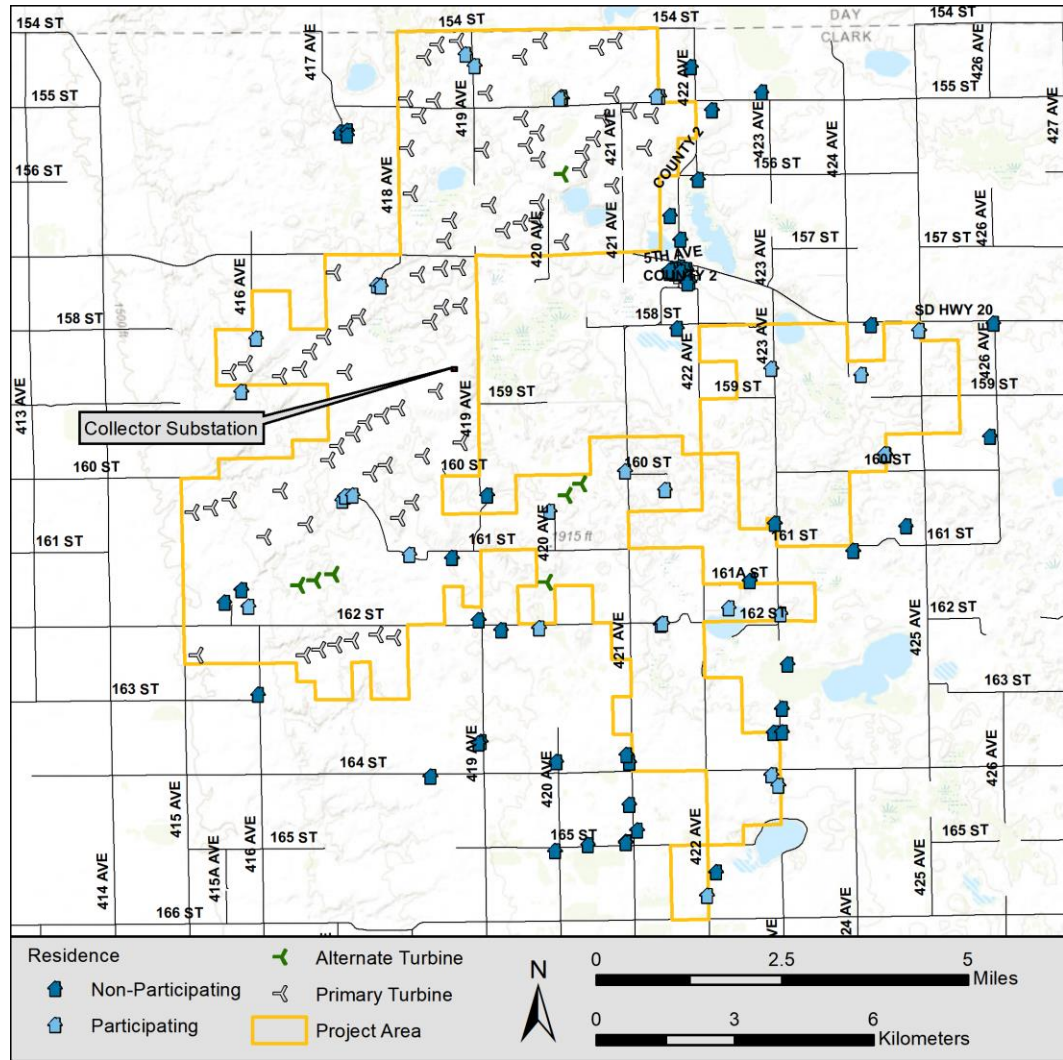


FIGURE 1: CROCKER WIND FARM AREA MAP (PHASE 1)

## 2.0 SOUND PROPAGATION MODELING

---

Modeling conducted for this addendum was conducted in the same manner as modeling conducted for the Sound Level Assessment from December 2017.

### 2.1 | MODELING PROCEDURES

Modeling for the project was in accordance with the standard ISO 9613-2, “Acoustics – Attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors, Part 2: General Method of Calculation.” The ISO standard states,

This part of ISO 9613 specifies an engineering method for calculating the attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors in order to predict the levels of environmental noise at a distance from a variety of sources. The method predicts the equivalent continuous A-weighted sound pressure level ... under meteorological conditions favorable to propagation from sources of known sound emissions. These conditions are for downwind propagation ... or, equivalently, propagation under a well-developed moderate ground-based temperature inversion, such as commonly occurs at night.

The model takes into account source sound power levels, surface reflection and absorption, atmospheric absorption, geometric divergence, meteorological conditions, walls, barriers, berms, and terrain. The acoustical modeling software used here was CadnaA, from Datakustik GmbH. CadnaA is a widely accepted acoustical propagation modeling tool, used by many noise control professionals in the United States and internationally.

ISO 9613-2 also assumes downwind sound propagation between every source and every receiver, consequently, all wind directions, including the prevailing wind directions, are taken into account.

Model input parameters are listed in Appendix A including the modeled sound power spectrum for the proposed turbine model, GE 2.7-116 LNTE.

For this analysis, we utilized a ground absorption factor for mixed porous and hard ground of  $G = 0.5$ . A 2 dB uncertainty factor was added to the turbine sound power per typical manufacturer specifications.

Two distinct receiver heights are included in the analysis. Residences<sup>2</sup> are modeled as discrete receivers at 4 meters (13 feet) above ground level. The 4-meter (13-foot) receiver height mimics the height of a second-story window. The sound pressure level contours in Figure 2 are calculated at a height of 1.5 meters (5 feet), to represent average listening height outside of homes.

A search distance up to 8,000 meters (5 miles) allows for the contributions of distant turbines to be considered at receivers. The contribution of distant turbines will depend on the geometry and geography of the project.

---

<sup>2</sup> There are no off-site businesses or governmental buildings in the relevant modeling area.

## 2.2 | MODEL RESULTS

A summary of the sound propagation model results is provided in Table 1, and Appendix B provides a list of the calculated overall sound pressure levels at each receiver and a map showing all receiver identification numbers for reference in the chart.

As shown in Table 1, all residences are projected at 50 dBA or less, and all non-participating residences are projected at 41 dBA or less from the proposed project. The average across all residences is 32 dBA.

**TABLE 1: MODEL RESULTS SUMMARY FOR THE GE 2.7-116 LNTE**

<b>Residence Classification</b>	<b>Avg. Leq</b>	<b>Max. Leq</b>	<b>Min. Leq</b>
All	32 dBA	50 dBA	9 dBA
Participating	35 dBA	50 dBA	11 dBA
Non-Participating	30 dBA	41 dBA	9 dBA

Model results are also shown in Figure 2 in a contour line map format. Results are presented as contour lines representing 5-dB increments of calculated A-weighted sound pressure levels.

At some receivers in Appendix B and some areas shown in Figure 2, sound levels are expected to be less than those shown since all 84 turbines (primary and alternate locations) were included in the model and only 77 are planned to be installed.



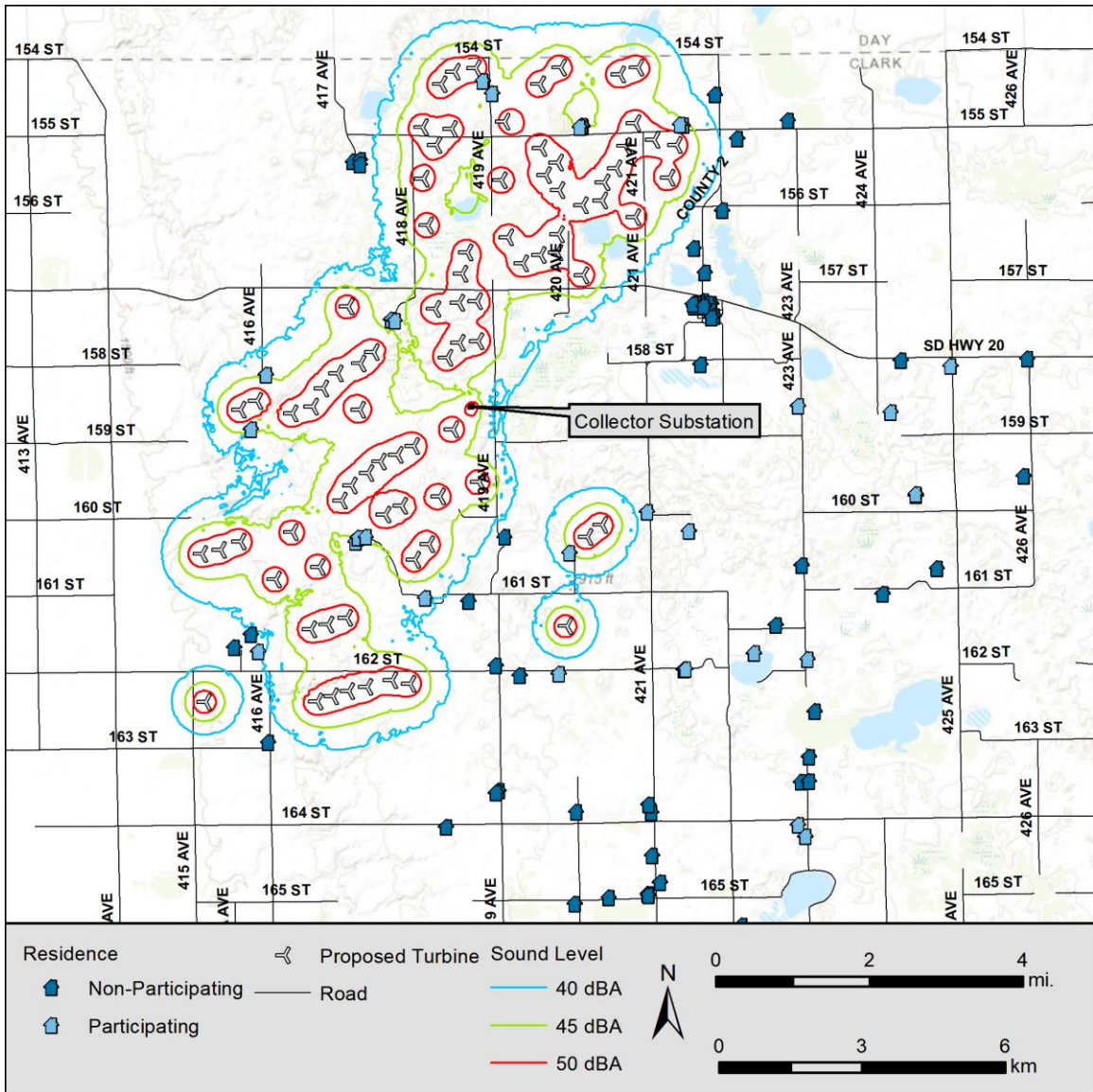


FIGURE 2: SOUND PROPAGATION MODELING RESULTS FOR GE 2.7-116 LNTe

### 3.0 CONCLUSIONS

---

Sound propagation modeling was updated for Crocker Wind Farm utilizing only Phase 1 turbine locations, an updated residential dataset, and the propose turbine model, GE 2.7-116 LNTE with a turbine output of 2.7 MW and a hub height of 90 meters. Conclusions of this addendum are as follows:

1. Projected sound levels from the project are 50 dBA or less at all residences, 41 dBA or less at all non-participating residences, and the average sound level (Leq) across all residences is 32 dBA.
2. These projected sound levels meet the Clark County sound level limit of 50 dBA equivalent continuous sound pressure level (Leq) at residences and the condition limits in the PUC Order which are:
  - a. 45 dBA, long-term average sound pressure level (equivalent continuous sound level, Leq), at non-participating residences; and
  - b. 50 dBA, long-term average sound pressure level (equivalent continuous sound level, Leq), at participating residences.

# APPENDIX A: SOURCE INFORMATION

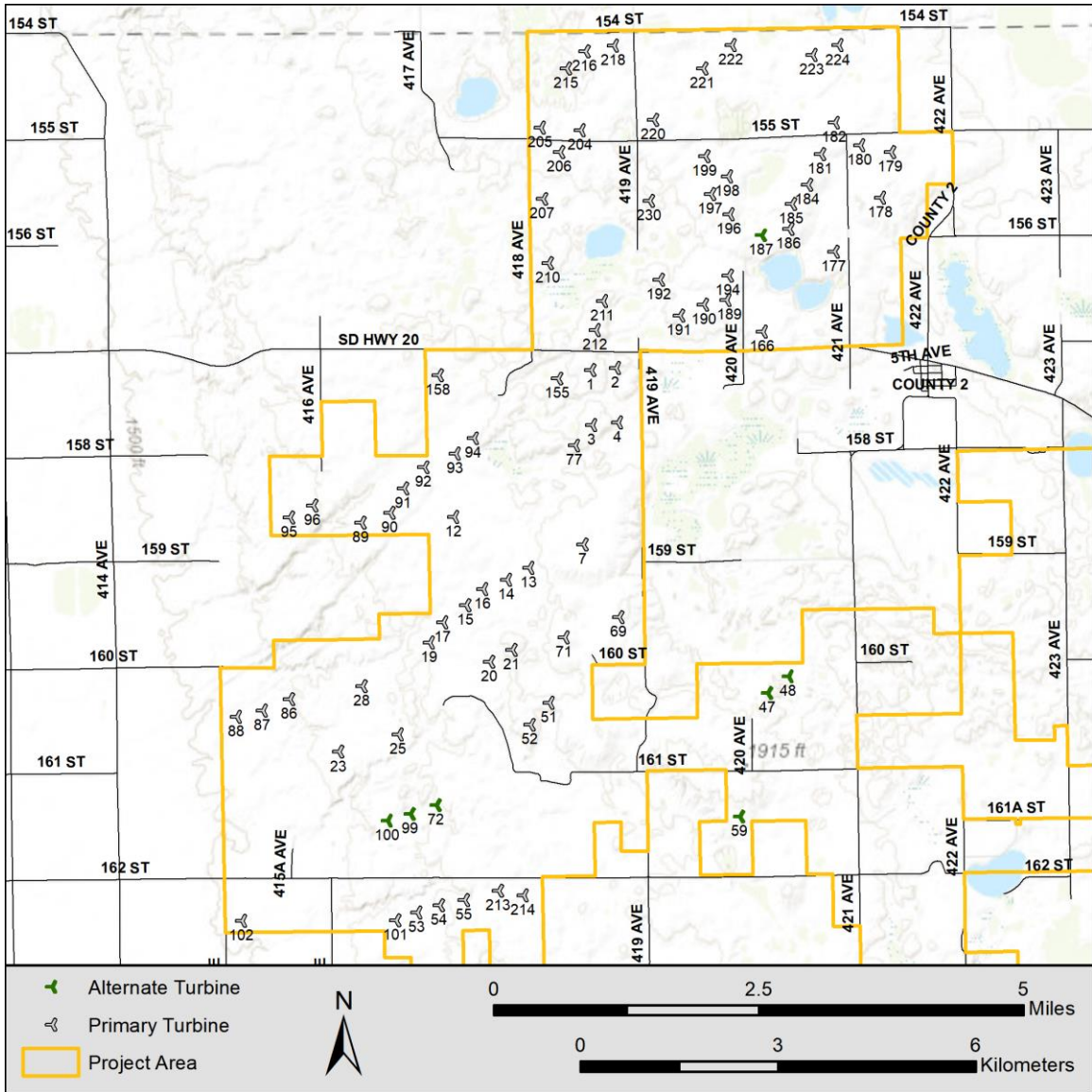


FIGURE 3: SOURCE LOCATIONS

TABLE 2: SOUND PROPAGATION MODELING PARAMETERS

Parameter	Setting
Ground Absorption	Spectral for all sources, Mixed Ground (G=0.5)
Atmospheric Attenuation	Based on 10 Degrees Celsius, 70% Relative Humidity
Reflections	None
Receiver Height	4 meters for residences, 1.5 meters for grid
Search Distance	8,000 meters

**TABLE 3: 1/1 OCTAVE BAND MODELED TURBINE SPECTRUM (dBZ UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED)<sup>3</sup>**

Sound Source	1/1 Octave Band Center Frequency									Sum (dBA)	Sum (dBZ)
	31.5 Hz	63 Hz	125 Hz	250 Hz	500 Hz	1 kHz	2 kHz	4 kHz	8 kHz		
GE 2.7-116 LNTE	119	116	110	106	104	103	100	92	76	107.5	121.3

**TABLE 4: MODELED TURBINE SOUND POWER LEVEL & LOCATIONS**

Source ID	GE 2.7-116 LNTE - Modeled Sound Power (dBA)	Coordinates (UTM NAD 83 Z14N)		
		X (m)	Y (m)	Z (m)
1	109.5	590446	4995368	651
2	109.5	590826	4995399	636
3	109.5	590462	4994532	650
4	109.5	590856	4994567	638
7	109.5	590325	4992719	662
12	109.5	588367	4993133	633
13	109.5	589507	4992362	636
14	109.5	589170	4992179	635
15	109.5	588544	4991795	634
16	109.5	588805	4992040	633
17	109.5	588196	4991533	621
19	109.5	587993	4991224	616
20	109.5	588910	4990931	618
21	109.5	589252	4991113	639
23	109.5	586613	4989565	589
25	109.5	587518	4989827	605
28	109.5	586966	4990561	598
47	109.5	593136	4990460	641
48	109.5	593455	4990714	636
51	109.5	589815	4990311	647
52	109.5	589526	4989977	656
53	109.5	587806	4987122	600
54	109.5	588146	4987232	609
55	109.5	588519	4987316	612
59	109.5	592709	4988584	662
69	109.5	590874	4991609	668
71	109.5	590045	4991307	658
72	109.5	588098	4988758	606

<sup>3</sup> LNTE stand for Low Noise Trailing Edges.

Source ID	GE 2.7-116 LNTE - Modeled Sound Power (dBA)	Coordinates (UTM NAD 83 Z14N)		
		X (m)	Y (m)	Z (m)
77	109.5	590206	4994221	647
86	109.5	585866	4990367	576
87	109.5	585455	4990192	564
88	109.5	585058	4990096	553
89	109.5	586955	4993047	622
90	109.5	587393	4993196	623
91	109.5	587601	4993573	626
92	109.5	587904	4993894	626
93	109.5	588385	4994100	635
94	109.5	588666	4994332	634
95	109.5	585865	4993126	610
96	109.5	586215	4993311	601
99	109.5	587704	4988626	595
100	109.5	587352	4988518	597
101	109.5	587479	4987004	591
102	109.5	585141	4987001	551
155	109.5	589945	4995242	638
158	109.5	588128	4995289	642
166	109.5	593055	4995948	659
177	109.5	594145	4997168	653
178	109.5	594854	4997989	669
179	109.5	595007	4998682	665
180	109.5	594540	4998788	656
181	109.5	593942	4998652	659
182	109.5	594154	4999135	661
184	109.5	593745	4998184	667
185	109.5	593500	4997892	666
186	109.5	593460	4997515	666
187	109.5	593045	4997421	646
189	109.5	592505	4996430	658
190	109.5	592161	4996366	655
191	109.5	591793	4996200	651
192	109.5	591487	4996743	650
194	109.5	592535	4996808	661
196	109.5	592552	4997736	660
197	109.5	592271	4998045	659
198	109.5	592527	4998310	660
199	109.5	592182	4998619	652
204	109.5	590293	4999012	655
205	109.5	589685	4999053	659
206	109.5	589971	4998678	655

Source ID	GE 2.7-116 LNTÉ - Modeled Sound Power (dBA)	Coordinates (UTM NAD 83 Z14N)		
		X (m)	Y (m)	Z (m)
207	109.5	589710	4997974	642
210	109.5	589797	4996996	642
211	109.5	590628	4996420	646
212	109.5	590518	4995975	653
213	109.5	589046	4987452	620
214	109.5	589425	4987382	627
215	109.5	590078	4999950	643
216	109.5	590363	5000214	642
218	109.5	590797	5000295	657
220	109.5	591564	4999175	657
221	109.5	592152	4999950	657
222	109.5	592588	5000305	649
223	109.5	593819	5000160	647
224	109.5	594210	5000303	646
230	109.5	591342	4997941	639
Transformer 1	102.9	590756	4993157	574
Transformer 2	102.9	590723	4993159	573



## APPENDIX B: RECEIVER INFORMATION

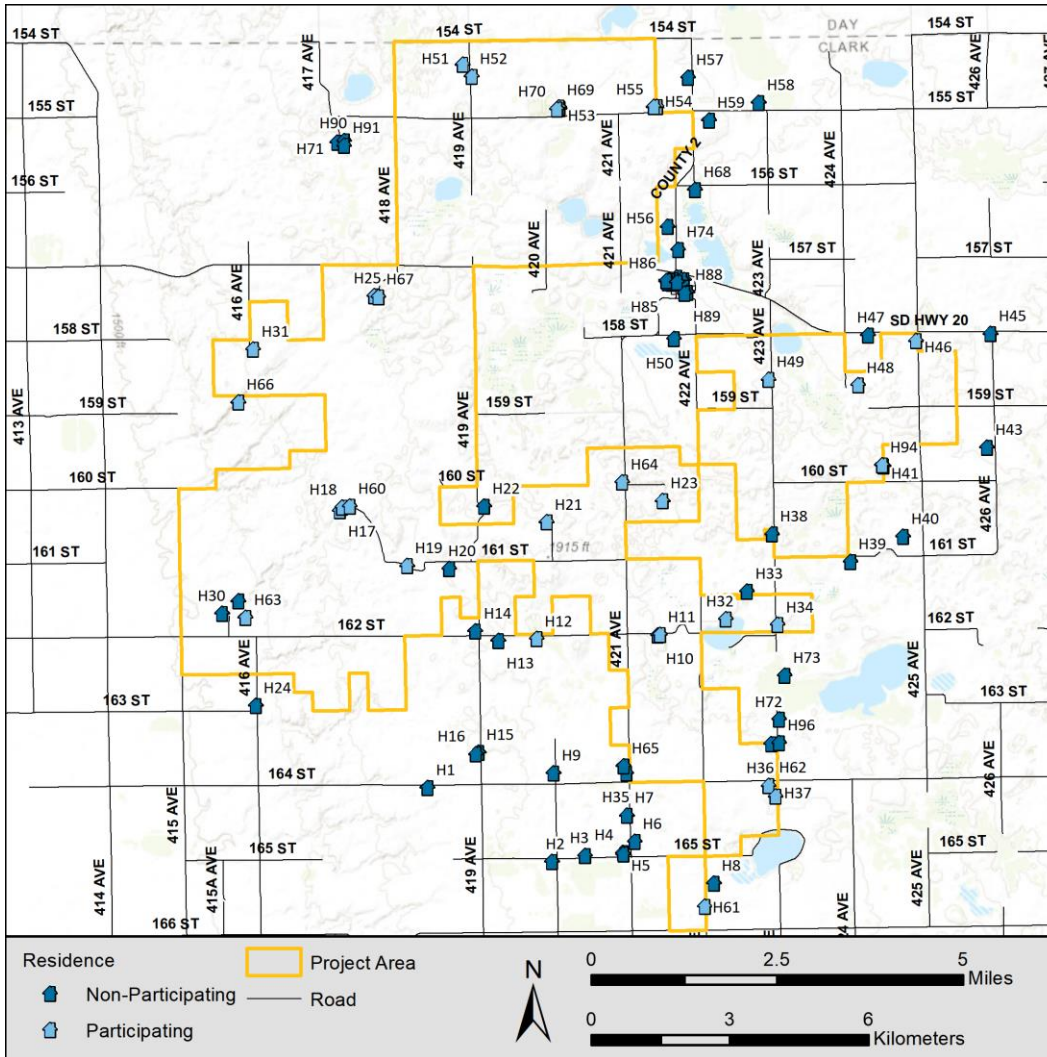


FIGURE 4: RECEIVER LOCATIONS AND SOUND PROPAGATION MODELING RESULTS

TABLE 5: DISCRETE RECEIVER RESULTS

Receiver ID	Receiver Status	Modeled Sound Pressure Level (dBA)	Relative Height (m)	Coordinates (UTM NAD83 Z14N)		
				X (m)	Y (m)	Z (m)
H1	Non-Participating	31	4	590214	4984376	546
H2	Non-Participating	23	4	592904	4982768	566
H3	Non-Participating	20	4	593620	4982900	566
H4	Non-Participating	19	4	594437	4982966	578
H5	Non-Participating	17	4	594440	4982939	578

Receiver ID	Receiver Status	Modeled Sound Pressure Level (dBA)	Relative Height (m)	Coordinates (UTM NAD83 Z14N)		
				X (m)	Y (m)	Z (m)
H6	Non-Participating	21	4	594692	4983211	579
H7	Non-Participating	22	4	594518	4983774	579
H8	Non-Participating	9	4	596399	4982306	575
H9	Non-Participating	27	4	592935	4984692	567
H10	Participating	24	4	595191	4987671	547
H11	Participating	24	4	595234	4987683	545
H12	Participating	38	4	592571	4987592	563
H13	Non-Participating	36	4	591744	4987551	558
H14	Non-Participating	37	4	591249	4987762	551
H15	Non-Participating	29	4	591308	4985134	553
H16	Non-Participating	30	4	591253	4985098	552
H17	Participating	46	4	588306	4990357	527
H18	Participating	46	4	588362	4990440	529
H19	Participating	43	4	589764	4989175	547
H20	Non-Participating	38	4	590677	4989109	553
H21	Participating	45	4	592787	4990119	556
H22	Non-Participating	40	4	591433	4990460	553
H23	Participating	32	4	595289	4990578	556
H24	Non-Participating	39	4	586482	4986149	483
H25	Participating	46	4	589052	4995012	560
H29	Non-Participating	41	4	586122	4988415	479
H30	Non-Participating	40	4	585758	4988140	475
H31	Participating	46	4	586436	4993857	529
H32	Participating	25	4	596670	4988022	545
H33	Non-Participating	24	4	597127	4988614	547
H34	Participating	18	4	597789	4987895	548
H35	Non-Participating	20	4	594514	4984684	575
H36	Participating	12	4	597594	4984416	553
H37	Participating	16	4	597744	4984181	553
H38	Non-Participating	19	4	597663	4989857	549
H39	Non-Participating	17	4	599365	4989264	549
H40	Non-Participating	14	4	600501	4989800	544
H41	Participating	17	4	600067	4991330	560
H43	Non-Participating	<9	4	602317	4991734	549
H45	Non-Participating	<9	4	602396	4994190	560
H46	Participating	18	4	600783	4994038	562
H47	Non-Participating	18	4	599751	4994157	558
H48	Participating	18	4	599531	4993078	547
H49	Participating	29	4	597588	4993203	554



Receiver ID	Receiver Status	Modeled Sound Pressure Level (dBA)	Relative Height (m)	Coordinates (UTM NAD83 Z14N)		
				X (m)	Y (m)	Z (m)
H50	Non-Participating	34	4	595548	4994076	551
H51	Participating	50	4	590972	5000014	567
H52	Participating	47	4	591168	4999758	562
H53	Participating	47	4	593070	4999056	565
H54	Participating	48	4	595172	4999096	573
H55	Participating	48	4	595105	4999100	575
H56	Non-Participating	35	4	595404	4996511	558
H57	Non-Participating	39	4	595848	4999736	564
H58	Non-Participating	34	4	597375	4999190	552
H59	Non-Participating	39	4	596303	4998806	568
H60	Participating	47	4	588527	4990461	530
H61	Participating	11	4	596207	4981798	572
H62	Non-Participating	16	4	597640	4985323	551
H63	Participating	41	4	586274	4988056	482
H64	Participating	39	4	594425	4990983	562
H65	Non-Participating	19	4	594453	4984844	576
H66	Participating	47	4	586112	4992711	509
H67	Participating	45	4	589138	4994988	556
H68	Non-Participating	38	4	596005	4997305	546
H69	Participating	46	4	593049	4999085	565
H70	Participating	47	4	593007	4999048	564
H71	Non-Participating	39	4	588255	4998326	546
H72	Non-Participating	18	4	597824	4985846	548
H73	Non-Participating	19	4	597941	4986803	543
H74	Non-Participating	37	4	595632	4996006	552
H75	Non-Participating	35	4	595760	4995351	553
H76	Non-Participating	36	4	595603	4995405	553
H77	Non-Participating	36	4	595521	4995356	552
H78	Non-Participating	35	4	595551	4995280	550
H79	Non-Participating	36	4	595498	4995279	551
H80	Non-Participating	36	4	595447	4995369	552
H81	Non-Participating	36	4	595449	4995337	551
H82	Non-Participating	35	4	595704	4995308	551
H83	Non-Participating	35	4	595709	4995351	552
H84	Non-Participating	35	4	595767	4995197	551
H85	Non-Participating	36	4	595400	4995287	551
H86	Non-Participating	36	4	595386	4995334	551
H87	Non-Participating	35	4	595614	4995299	550
H88	Non-Participating	35	4	595826	4995087	550



Receiver ID	Receiver Status	Modeled Sound Pressure Level (dBA)	Relative Height (m)	Coordinates (UTM NAD83 Z14N)		
				X (m)	Y (m)	Z (m)
H89	Non-Participating	35	4	595777	4995057	549
H90	Non-Participating	40	4	588407	4998361	551
H91	Non-Participating	39	4	588407	4998261	548
H94	Participating	17	4	600048	4991352	560
H96	Non-Participating	18	4	597825	4985337	551