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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

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Leslie Knapp has more than 37 years of project experience related to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and state level environmental review and permitting. Ms. Knapp has worked on projects throughout the Midwest, resulting in projects that have been permitted and constructed.

## EDUCATION

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- MA, Earth Science, University of Northern Iowa
- BA, General Science, University of Northern Iowa

## REGISTRATIONS/CERTIFICATIONS

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- Professional Geologist, Wisconsin–No. 132-013
- Professional Geologist, Minnesota–No. 30354

## SELECTED PROJECT EXPERIENCE

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### **Project Manager, Confidential, Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) Site Permit Application for 100 MW Wind Project, MN.**

Project manager for field studies and MNPUC permit application for 100 MW wind project.

### **Project Manager, Triple H Wind Project, South Dakota Public Utility Commission Facility Permit Application, SD**

Project manager for a South Dakota Public Utility Commission Energy Facility Permit Application to construct and operate a 250 MW wind energy facility.

### **Project Manager, Confidential Client, Confidential Project, NEPA Environmental Assessment for the Habitat Conservation Plan/Incidental Take Permit Application Existing Wind Farm, OH.**

Project manager for project supporting the USFWS as the lead federal agency in the analysis of environmental consequences of issuance of the Incidental Take Permit (ITP) and implementation of a Habitat Conservation Permit (HCP) for Indiana and Northern long-eared bat. Leading team working with USFWS Region 3 staff on the NEPA EA evaluating avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures identified in the HCP to reduce potential environmental impacts. The EA is being prepared according to the guidance provided in the Draft USFWS Manual Part 550.

### **Permitting Strategy Lead, Confidential, Environmental Critical Issues Analysis for Wind Projects, MN**

Permitting strategy lead for critical issues analysis of two potential wind projects in Minnesota.

### **Project Manager, Confidential, LWECS Site Permit and High Voltage Transmission Line Route Permit Applications for 200 MW Wind Project, MN.**

Project manager for field studies and Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MNPUC) permit applications for 200 MW wind project and 345 kV transmission line.

### **Project Manager, Dairyland Power Cooperative Q1 161-kV Rebuild Marshland Substation to North La Crosse Tap, WI**

Project manager for environmental review and permitting to rebuild approximately 25 miles of 161-kV transmission line. Separate EAs with scoping were prepared for each of two segments under the new U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service (RUS) rules. Prepared regulatory applications including Incidental Take Permit (ITP) and Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for Eastern massasauga and Wood turtle; Section 404 and state wetland and waterway permits, permits to cross federal and state lands, including approximately 1 mile of USFWS federal refuge property; and for federal, state, and other applicable permits. Both segments have been constructed, the thirteen-mile Q1-D North project was constructed and used heavy lift helicopter construction in the Black River floodplain.

### **Project Director, Xcel Energy, CapX2020 Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse 345-kV Transmission Routing and Permitting, WI and MN**

Project director for an approximately 160-mile-long 345-kV transmission project involving two states and a Mississippi River Crossing. Led team conducting routing, siting, and state and federal environmental review and permitting. Project required two state EISs (WI and MN), and one federal EIS led by RUS with USFWS and USACE as cooperating agencies. Work included development of a permitting strategy and work plan allowing the project to be completed under an aggressive schedule as one of the Obama Administration's fast-track projects. Conducted siting and routing and broad-reaching public and agency involvement, including Tribal consultation. Permits and applications included developing a Wisconsin

Public Service Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) application and support through state EIS process, a Minnesota Certificate of Need (CON) and Route Permit Application (RPA) and support through state EIS process, and environmental documentation and support for the federal EIS process. Obtained permits for crossing USFWS refuge lands, state lands, and the Mississippi, Black, and Zumbro rivers and for wetland and waterway impacts under the Sections 404 and 10 of the Clean Water Act, Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act, and NR 103 (Wisconsin).

**Project Manager, Dairyland Power Cooperative, Renewal of Mississippi River Crossing Permit, WI and MN**

Project manager for renewal of a 161 kV transmission right-of-way that crosses the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge. Responsible for preparing the application to address the requirements of 50 CFR § 29.21-2 Application Procedures for Right-of-Way through USFWS National Wildlife Refuge System lands and USACE Section 10 and 404 permitting.

**Senior Review, Dairyland Power Cooperative, Alma to Rock Elm (N-5) 69 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project, WI**

Senior reviewer for environmental review and permitting for approximately 33 miles of 69 kV transmission line construction and approximately 26 line retirement between Alma and Rock Elm, Wisconsin. Work includes a RUS EA with scoping to meet NEPA requirements; siting and routing; permit to cross the WDNR Tiffany Wildlife Area; and ITP and HCP for Eastern massassauga; biological resource, wetland and waterway studies and permitting; Section 106 and Tribal consultations; FAA notifications.

**Project Manager, Xcel Energy, Magic City to McHenry 230-kV Transmission Project, Siting and Routing, Combined State Applications, and Permitting, ND**

Project manager for a new, approximately 20 mile 230-kV transmission line project between a new Magic City Substation and the existing McHenry Substation in Minot, North Dakota. Work included siting and routing; public meeting support; mapping right-of-entry status; coordinating with agencies and other stakeholders; Class I Literature Search and Class III Intensive Cultural Resources Inventory; biological resource field

surveys, including surveys for potential Dakota skipper habitat and raptor nests; wetland mapping; preparation of a Consolidated Application to the North Dakota Public Service Commission for a Waiver or Reduction of Procedures and Time Schedules and Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Transmission Facility Route Permit; preparing federal, state, and local permit applications including U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Nationwide Permit 12 Pre-Construction Notification, Sovereign Lands Permit and Permit for Structures located with Floodplain for Souris River crossing; and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan.

**Project Manager, Dairyland Power Cooperative Elizabeth to Mt. Carroll 69-kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project, IL**

Project manager for Environmental Report led by RUS and state of Illinois permitting for rebuilding approximately 23 miles of 69-kV transmission line. Work included coordination and consultation with federal, state, and local agencies and officials, and preparation of regulatory permit applications as required to construct the project; data collection and desktop review of existing data, GIS analysis of corridor; field work and evaluation of rare species habitat, wetlands and waterways, and other environmentally sensitive areas; coordination and permitting to cross through state Palisades Park; Indiana bat biological assessment; and Phase I and II archaeological surveys.

**Project Director, 1995–2003 USACE, St. Paul District, Environmental/Biological Studies Indefinite Delivery Contracts, MN, WI, IA, ND, and Canada**

Project director for 3, 3-year indefinite delivery orders, primarily related to NEPA scoping and documentation. Representative work included work to support the Navigation Study EIS, Devils Lake EIS, Minnesota River In-Stream Flow Study Rainy and Namakan Lakes Ecological Evaluations, Red River Virtual Database, and Project Completion Reports for Six Upper Mississippi River Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Projects.