

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
Application of Xcel Energy and Ottertail Power Company  
EL 13-020  
Responses to Commission's Third Data Request

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South Dakota Docket EL13-020  
Data Request 3-1  
Date Received 12/31/2013

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**REQUEST:** In MISO's MTEP11 Appendix A, it is identified that the Big Stone South to Brookings MVP is a double circuit 345-kV line. The application submitted is for a single circuit 345-kV transmission line, and the application does not mention the possibility of expanding the line to double circuit in the future. Does the Applicant plan to add a second circuit to this transmission line in the future? If so, are the structures that will be installed for this transmission line going to be for a double circuit 345-kV line? If not, how is this project consistent with the MISO approved MVP?

**RESPONSE:** The proposed Brookings County – Big Stone South 345 kV line is approximately 70 miles long. The proposed line would consist of 27 miles of double circuit capable line (corresponding with the northern portion of the line permitted and certified in Docket No. EL 12-063 and therefore not a subject of this particular Docket) and 43 miles of single circuit line. The Certification docket in EL 12-063 indicated that the previously certified northern portion of the project would be double-circuit capable.

MISO approved the line for double circuit capability given the high probability of future generation development in the Big Stone area. Based on past interconnection studies of projects in the Big Stone area, NSP, Otter Tail, and MISO collectively determined that the future second circuit, if needed, would likely be built from the Big Stone South substation in South Dakota to a substation in the vicinity of Granite Falls, MN. In accordance with Docket No. EL 12-063, the northern portion of the line will be constructed as double circuit capable and will allow better integration of on-going and future projects in the region

Therefore, the second circuit would not be constructed on the structures approved in this docket

Response By: Joe Samuel  
Title: Project manager  
Department: Transmission Project Management  
Telephone: 612 337 2338

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South Dakota Docket EL13-020  
Data Request 3-2  
Date Received - 12/31/2013

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**REQUEST:** Please identify other major industries on the project maps, including underground oil or gas pipelines that the transmission line may run parallel to or cross. If other major industries do not exist within the project area, please provide a brief statement that makes note of such.

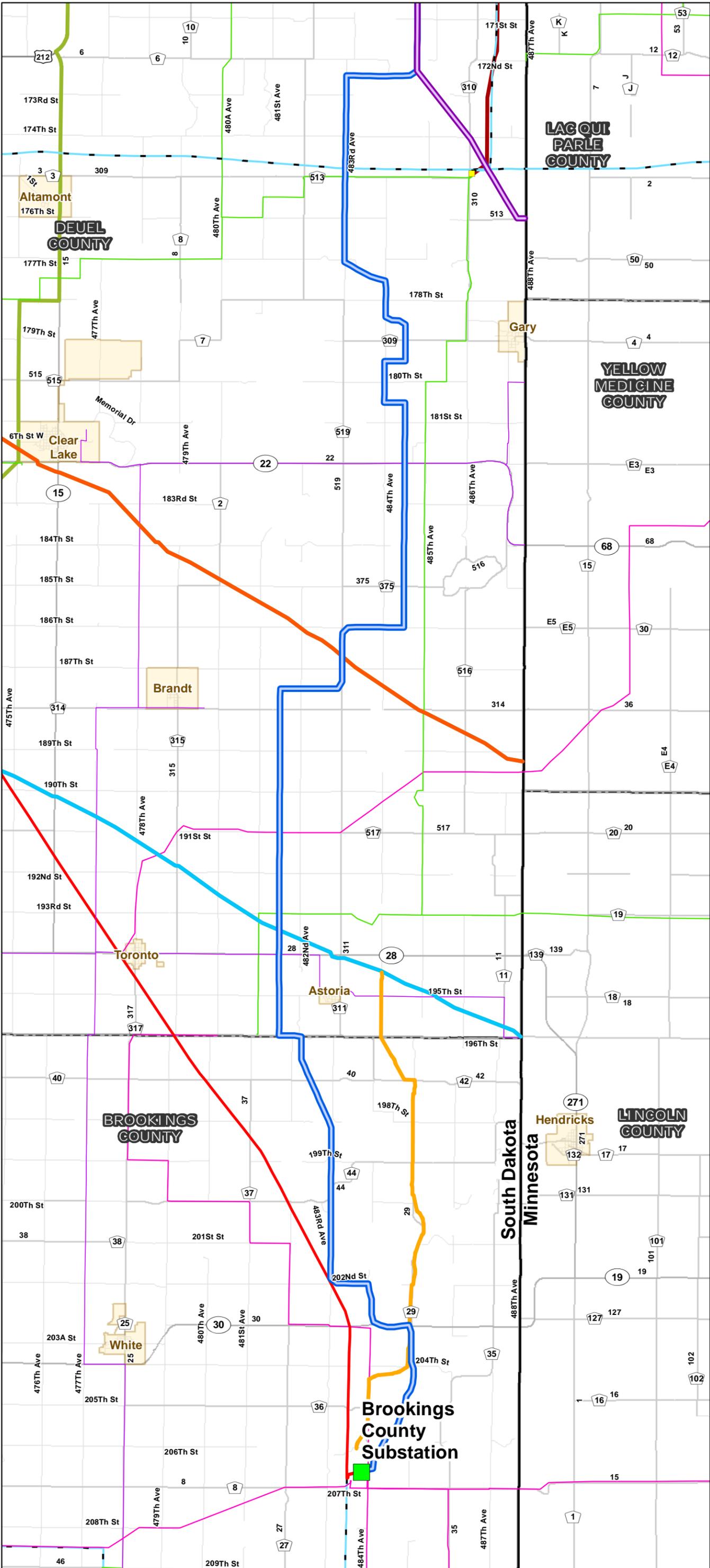
**RESPONSE:** There are no major industries in the project area other than a natural gas power plant just north of the Brookings County Substation. A map of existing pipelines and electric transmission lines in the project area is attached.

Response By: Tom Hillstrom  
Title: Permitting Manager  
Department: Siting and Land Rights  
Telephone: 612 330 5835

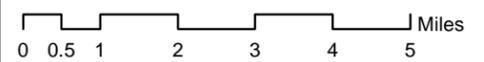


**Legend**

- Project End Point
  - Proposed Route
  - SDPUC Certificated Route
  - Municipal Boundary
  - County Boundary
  - Basin Electric Natural Gas Pipeline
  - Magellan Liquid Petroleum Pipeline
  - Northern Border Natural Gas Pipeline
- Existing Transmission Line**
- 345 (kV)
  - 230 (kV)
  - 115 (kV)
  - 69 (kV)
  - 41 (kV)



1:150,000



**Big Stone South to Brookings County Project Pipeline Crossings**

DRAWN BY: MLTEICHERT      DATE: 01/07/14

Xcel\0159818\_Big\_Stone\GIS\MXD\2014\01\1\Data\_Request3\CapxB\_DR3\_Pipeline\_Crossings.mxd

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South Dakota Docket EL13-020  
Data Request 3-3  
Date Received – 12/31/2013

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**REQUEST:** Please provide a thorough description of all taxes paid as a result of the Project's construction.

**RESPONSE:** The Big Stone South Brookings project will be responsible for paying appropriate taxes in South Dakota. Taxes that will be paid include taxes on professional services, sales tax for the purchase of material/goods, and property taxes. In addition, Contractor Excise Tax will be paid if the work associated with the Big Stone South Brookings project is not self-performed. The project is early in the design phase and due to the scale of the project and the many unknown construction and sourcing variables, it is not possible to provide an itemized accounting of taxes to be paid. The project will be subject to the following taxes:

1. Professional Services – 4%; in general any professional service that will benefit the project is taxed at 4%
2. Sales Tax – 4%; sales taxed paid on a materials purchased
3. Contractor Excise Tax (CET) 2%; excise tax on gross receipts of prime and subcontractors providing construction services or realty improvements
4. Local Taxes - Each city has different tax rates (i.e. Gary-1%; Brookings-2%) tax applied to goods and services that occur within city limits.
5. Property Taxes – upon completion of project the associated value of Xcel Energy and Otter Tail Power project assets will be added to the overall value of Xcel and Otter Tail Power assets in South Dakota and the property tax will be based on overall value of the respective Utility Company assets.

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South Dakota Docket EL13-020  
Data Request 3-4  
Date Received – 12/31/2013

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**REQUEST:** Comments filed in the docket on September 3, 2013, from Russ Larson suggest Gilley's Grove Ass'n and the Applicant have worked out a new route and that the Applicant would be submitting a route change soon. Please provide an update on this matter.

**RESPONSE:** Applicants have modified the proposed route at Gilley's Grove to best accommodate landowner concerns and to minimize impacts. As shown on Sheets 3 and 4 of the attached maps, the revised route in this area follows roads and property boundaries instead of a diagonal route through three parcels. Of the three affected parcels, only Gilley's Grove has signed an easement option agreement. Applicants believe that the revised route is the best alignment through this area and continue to work to reach agreement with the two remaining landowners.

Also shown on the attached maps are three other areas where Applicants have adjusted the alignment since the application was filed. Applicants do not believe these three changes are material changes but present them as revisions to the proposed route. In the minor route changes outlined below the Applicant has signed easement options agreements from the affected landowners.

Minor Route Change – Sheet 1 (Structures 139-140)

This change moves structure 140 approximately 100 feet to the west to optimize design.

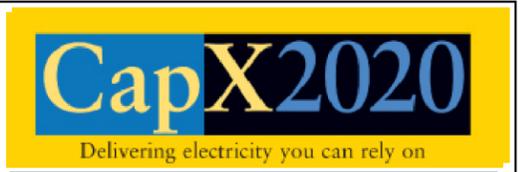
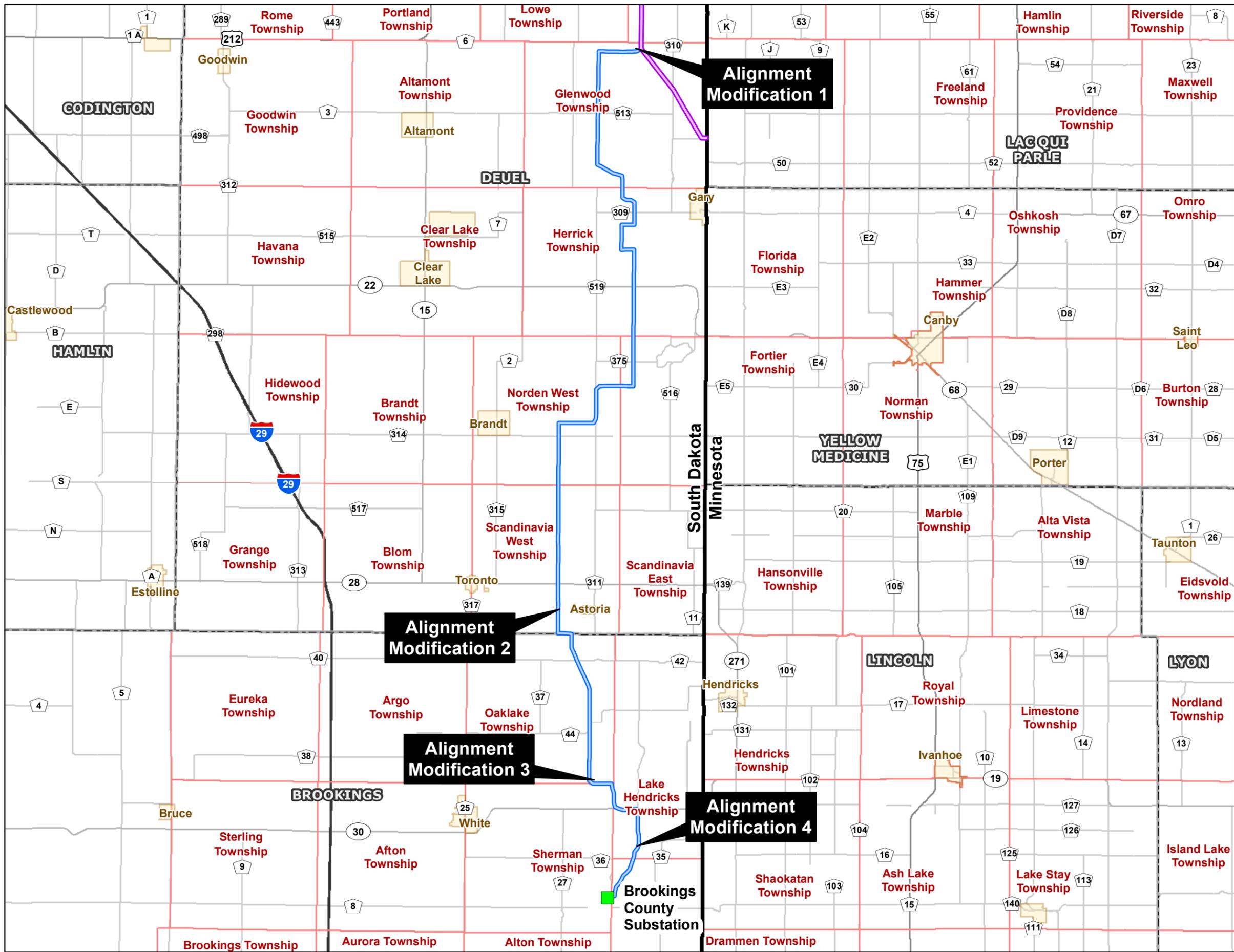
Minor Route Change - Sheet 2 ( Structures 289-291)

This change moves structures 289, 290 and 291 approximately 100 feet east to avoid a conflict with wood debris burning activity at the Astoria/Toronto landfill parcel.

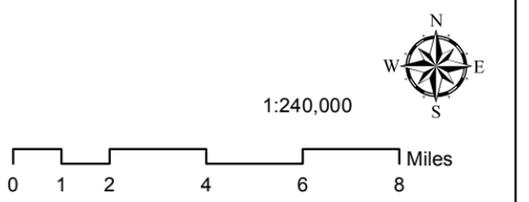
Minor Route Change – Sheet 5 (Structures 353-356)

This change was made to accommodate landowner desires for pole locations at the edge of fields.

Response By: Tom Hillstrom  
Title: Permitting Manager  
Department: Siting and Land Rights  
Telephone: 612 330 5835

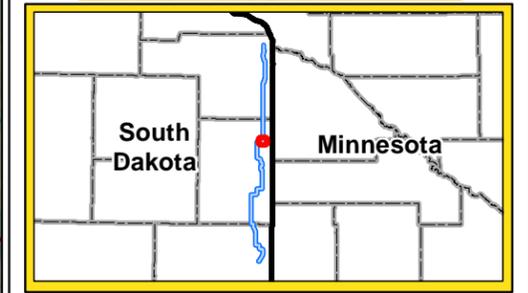
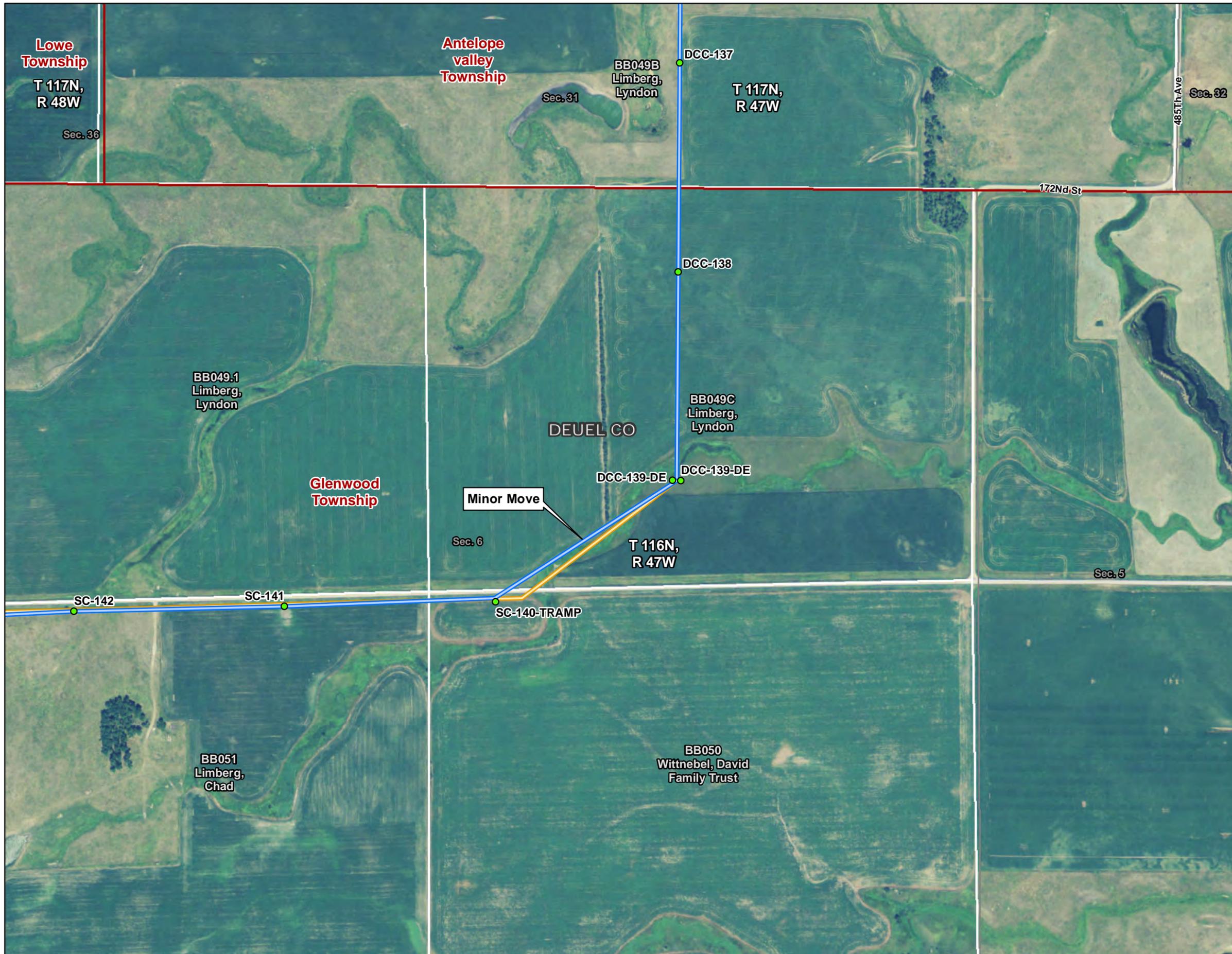


- Legend**
- Proposed Alignment
  - SDPUC Certificated Route
  - Municipal Boundary
  - Township Boundary
  - County Boundary



**Alignment Modifications  
Big Stone South to  
Brookings County Project**

DRAWN BY: MLTEICHERT    DATE: 01/03/14  
Xcel0159818 Big\_Stone\GIS\MXD\2014\01\Alignment\_Shifts\CapxB\_South\_Alignment\_Shift\_Maps\_OV.mxd

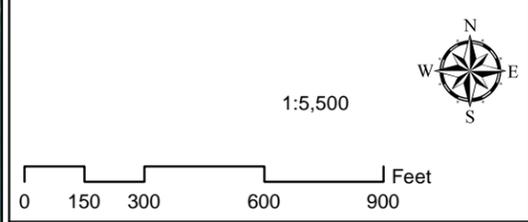


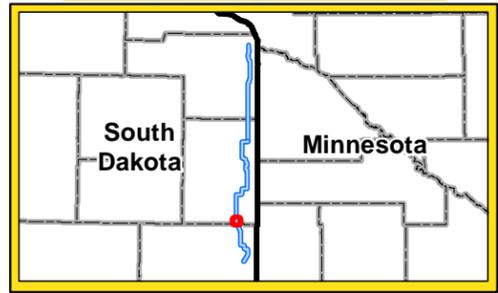
**Legend**

- Proposed Substation
- Proposed Alignment
- PUC Permit Alignment
- + Municipal Boundary
- Township Boundary
- County Boundary
- Section Line
- Parcel Boundary

**Existing Transmission Line (kV)**

- 345
- 230
- 115
- 69





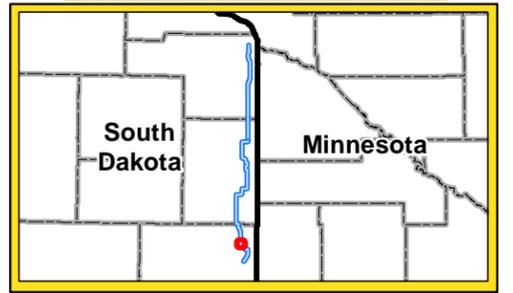
**Legend**

- Proposed Substation
- Proposed Alignment
- PUC Permit Alignment
- + Municipal Boundary
- Township Boundary
- County Boundary
- Section Line
- Parcel Boundary

- Existing Transmission Line (kV)**
- 345
  - 230
  - 115
  - 69



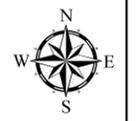
**Alignment Modification 2  
Big Stone South to  
Brookings County Project**



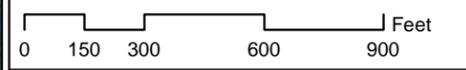
**Legend**

- Proposed Substation
- Proposed Alignment
- PUC Permit Alignment
- + Municipal Boundary
- Township Boundary
- County Boundary
- Section Line
- Parcel Boundary

- Existing Transmission Line (kV)**
- 345
  - 230
  - 115
  - 69

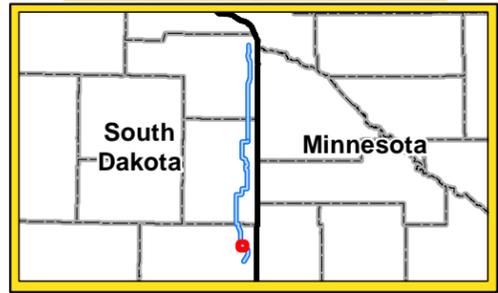


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**Alignment Modification 3  
Big Stone South to  
Brookings County Project**

DRAWN BY: MLTEICHERT	DATE: 01/03/14
<small>Xcel\0159818_Big_Stone\GIS\MXD\2014\01\Alignment_Shifts\CapxB_South_Alignment_Shift_Maps.mxd</small>	
<b>3</b>	

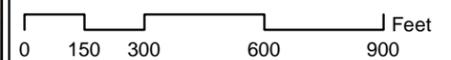


**Legend**

- Proposed Substation
  - Proposed Alignment
  - PUC Permit Alignment
  - + Municipal Boundary
  - Township Boundary
  - County Boundary
  - Section Line
  - Parcel Boundary
- Existing Transmission Line (kV)**
- 345
  - 230
  - 115
  - 69



1:5,500

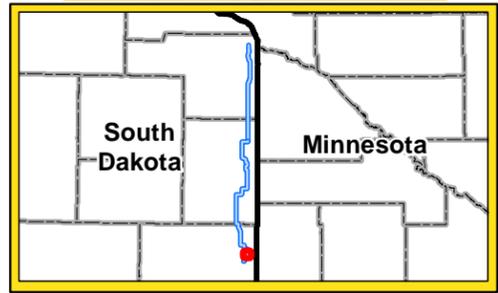


**Alignment Modification 3  
Big Stone South to  
Brookings County Project**

DRAWN BY: MLTEICHERT      DATE: 01/03/14

Xcel\0159818\_Big\_Stone\GIS\MXD\2014\01\Alignment\_Shifts\CapxB\_South\_Alignment\_Shift\_Maps.mxd

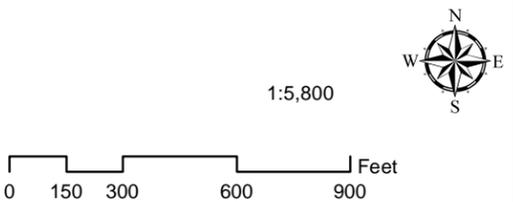




**Legend**

- Proposed Substation
- Proposed Alignment
- PUC Permit Alignment
- + Municipal Boundary
- Township Boundary
- County Boundary
- Section Line
- Parcel Boundary

- Existing Transmission Line (kV)**
- 345
  - 230
  - 115
  - 69



**Alignment Modification 4  
Big Stone South to  
Brookings County Project**