

BSS+E

Big Stone South to Ellendale

Date

First Name Last Name

Address

City State Zip

Enclosed are your results of the soybean cyst nematode (SCN) soil testing. In fall 2014 and spring 2015, Big Stone South-Ellendale Transmission Line project crews sampled and tested soil samples for SCN as a condition in the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission's permit for the project. We'll use the results to identify parcels of land that have SCN present and, therefore, will guide techniques to minimize the spread of SCN during the line's survey work and construction.

We worked with South Dakota State University's (SDSU) Department of Plant Science to develop a sampling methodology, to test soil samples for SCN, and to identify techniques to reduce the spread of SCN during survey work and construction. According to a 2013 report published by the SDSU Department of Plant Science, farm practices, flood water, and wildlife such as migrating birds, can spread SCN. Because of these other methods by which SCN can spread, the techniques we use during construction will only reasonably minimize—not stop—the spread of SCN. To view SDSU's 2013 report about SCN that details the history and importance of SCN, how it is spread, and management practices, visit www.BSSETransmissionLine.com under FAQs & Resources or call Vicki Severson to request a printed copy at 218-739-8389 (office) or 218-770-1561 (cell).

Although not a requirement, we're sharing these test results to help you better understand the amount of SCN, if any, present in your soil in case you wish to implement SDSU's management suggestions. These management suggestions are outlined in your results letter and discussed in more detail in the SDSU report mentioned above. Our testing is limited to the project's right-of-way. If your results are negative, SCN was not detected in the locations that we sampled—but SCN may be present in other areas of your parcel. If your results are positive, SCN may be present in higher quantities in other areas of your parcel.

SDSU will destroy your soil sample on July 15, 2015. We have no plans to conduct further widespread SCN testing prior to construction. If you have questions about your results, contact SDSU at (605) 688-5545. If you'd like additional SCN soil testing, you can collect new samples and SDSU will test at no charge.

Sincerely,

Al Koeckeritz
Manager, BSSE project
Otter Tail Power Company

Enclosure

