

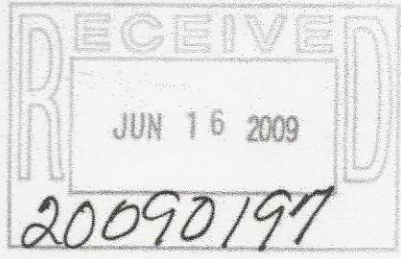
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Final Environmental Impact Statement

Volume I

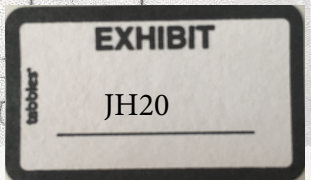
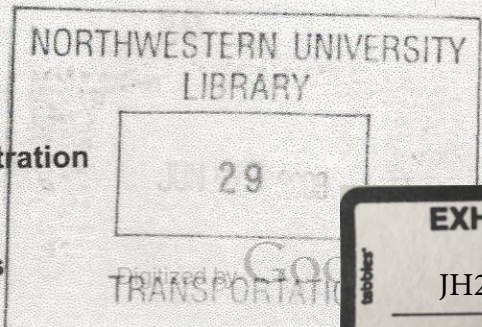
June 2009



Big Stone II Power Plant and Transmission Project



Prepared for:
Lead Agency:
Western Area Power Administration
Cooperating Agency:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Corridor C

Plant Species

A total of 27 special status plant species may occur within Corridor C. Of these 27 species, eight plant species have been documented within Corridor C including Sullivant's milkweed, Missouri milkvetch, black disc lichen, larger water-starwort, yellow-fruited sedge, plains prickly pear, clustered broomrape, and yellow prairie violet (Appendix F, Table 2, Volume III).

Terrestrial Species

A total of 16 special status terrestrial species may occur within Corridor C including two mammals, five birds, three reptiles, and six invertebrates. Eight terrestrial species have been documented within Corridor C including northern river otter, prairie vole, American woodcock, bald eagle, spiny softshell, five-lined skink, Pawnee skipper, and regal fritillary (Appendix F, Table 2, Volume III).

Aquatic Species

Corridor C contains suitable habitat for nine fish and 15 mussel special status species (Appendix F, Table 2, Volume III). Fish occurrence includes four species near the southern Minnesota River crossing (lake sturgeon, blue sucker, paddlefish, and black buffalo), one species in the Yellow Bank River (central mud minnow), one species in Monighan and Cobb creeks (northern redbelly dace), and two species in the Whetstone, North Fork Whetstone, or northern Minnesota river crossings (golden redbreast and rosyface shiner). Hornyhead chub has been collected in upper Minnesota, North Fork Whetstone and South Fork Yellowbank rivers, and Monighan Creek. The mussel species are associated with the Whetstone, North Fork Whetstone, Minnesota, and Lac qui Parle rivers.

Corridor C1

Plant Species

A total of 27 special status plant species may occur within Corridor C1. Of these 27 species, 10 plant species have been documented within Corridor C1 including Sullivant's milkweed, slender milkvetch, Missouri milkvetch, black disc lichen, larger water-starwort, cutleaf ironplant, plains prickly pear, clustered broomrape, soft goldenrod, and red three-awn (see Appendix F, Table 2, Volume III).

Terrestrial Species

A total of 16 special status terrestrial species that may occur within Corridor C1 include two mammals, five birds, three reptiles, and six invertebrates. Ten terrestrial species have been documented within Corridor C1 including bald eagle, burrowing owl, loggerhead shrike, Wilson's phalarope, five-lined skink, Spiny softshell, Arogos skipper, Dakota skipper, powesheik skipper, and regal fritillary (see Appendix F, Table 2, Volume III).

Aquatic Species

The number of special status fish and mussel species that may occur in waterbodies crossed by Corridor C1 would be the same as listed for Corridor C.

Substations and Other System Improvements

Although no special status species have been documented within the vicinity of the existing substations or at the proposed new Canby relocated site, several species may occur within the area and are discussed in Appendix F, Table 2, Volume III. The federally-listed or candidate species known to

STATE T&E SPECIES STATUS REVIEWS
APPROVED BY SDGFP COMMISSION 5 APRIL 2018

- A status review was drafted for each state threatened or state endangered species to summarize the current status of each in the state.
- If sufficient information existed, draft criteria for downlisting (changing status from endangered to threatened) and/or delisting (removing a threatened or endangered species from the state list) are described. If such information was lacking, the review describes additional monitoring or research needs.
- For species also listed as federal threatened or federal endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, separate state recovery goals were not drafted. For those, SD Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) will continue cooperating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to meet identified recovery goals or assist in recovery planning.
- The authority for state threatened and endangered species conservation and recovery, including listings and delistings, corresponds to the state's boundaries. South Dakota's state endangered species law does not require that the state list of threatened and endangered species agree with the federal list developed under the authority of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Species that have been delisted under the ESA may be included on South Dakota's list because they remain rare within the state's boundaries.
- South Dakota's endangered species law is included in this document as Appendix A. The law can also be viewed here:
http://www.sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/Codified_Laws/DisplayStatute.aspx?Type=Statute&Statute=34A-8
- A draft version of this document was presented at the October 5-6, 2017 meeting of the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission, and a 60-day public comment period was advertised through December 8, 2017. SDGFP staff reviewed comments received and made appropriate changes to the draft document. The summary of how these comments were considered is included as Appendix B of this document.
- These status reviews will be revisited at least every two years to comply with the biennial review schedule of the state list of threatened and endangered species.

Northern Redbelly Dace

STATE T&E SPECIES STATUS REVIEW

Species Name: Northern Redbelly Dace, *Chrosomus eos*

South Dakota Status, including legal status and special listings:

- State threatened, (SD Administrative Rule 41:10:02:06. List of threatened fish)
- Monitored by South Dakota Natural Heritage Program
- State Heritage rank S2, (imperiled)
- Included as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in South Dakota Wildlife Action Plan

Federal Status:

- NatureServe global rank G5 (secure, although it may be rare in some portions of the range); last reviewed 3 November 2011 (NatureServe 2016)
- USDA Forest Service, Region 1, Dakota Prairie Grassland, 2011 aquatic sensitive species
- USDA Forest Service, Region 2, Rocky Mountain Region sensitive species

Basis for new listing, status change (T to E, or E to T), or continued listing with same status:

Northern Redbelly Dace are listed as secure throughout their range, however, listed as imperiled in South Dakota (NatureServe 2016). The justification for including Northern Redbelly Dace on the first list of state threatened (16 March 1978) fish is unknown but was presumably due to the need for specific spring-fed habitats and fragmentation from interconnecting waterways of suitable habitat. Northern Redbelly Dace are extremely vulnerable to extirpation with limited ability for recolonization and continued listing as state threatened species is recommended.

→ local extinction

Recommend that taxonomy be updated during the next SDGFP Commission review: (Note: finalized at November 2-3, 2017 Commission meeting)

Current Northern Redbelly Dace (*Phoxinus eos*)
Recommended Northern Redbelly Dace (*Chrosomus eos*)

Description, biology and life history:

The Northern Redbelly Dace is a small, dark olive to silvery minnow with two dark lateral stripes separated by an iridescent, silvery band on the sides. In breeding males, the silvery belly is reddish in color with yellow fins (NGPC 2010). The mouth is upturned; with the chin anterior to the upper lip (reaching more than halfway to the eye) and the snout is rounded (Bertrand et al. *in prep*). Little is known about the reproductive biology or life history for Northern Redbelly Dace in South Dakota; however it is presumed that they spawn between late April and June over aquatic vegetation. Eggs hatch within 8-10 days (Faber 1984; SDGFP 2006). Most individuals live 3 to 4 years (NGPC 2010). The diet includes mainly diatoms and filamentous algae, also zooplankton, invertebrates and plant material (SDGFP 2006; NGPC 2010).