Appendix O – Microwave Study

Wind Power GeoPlanner™

Microwave Study

South Deuel Wind

Prepared on Behalf of Invenergy

September 7, 2023

COMSEARCH
A CommScope Company

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1. Introduction

Microwave bands that may be affected by the installation of wind turbine facilities operate over a wide frequency range (900 MHz – 23 GHz). Comsearch has developed and maintains comprehensive technical databases containing information on licensed microwave networks throughout the United States. These systems are the telecommunication backbone of the country, providing long-distance and local telephone service, backhaul for cellular and personal communication service, data interconnects for mainframe computers and the Internet, network controls for utilities and railroads, and various video services. This report focuses on the potential impact of wind turbines on licensed, proposed and applied non-federal government microwave systems.

2. Project Overview

Project Information

Name: South Deuel Wind

County: Deuel

State: South Dakota

Number of Turbines: TBD

Blade Diameter: 164 meters

Hub Height: 98 meters

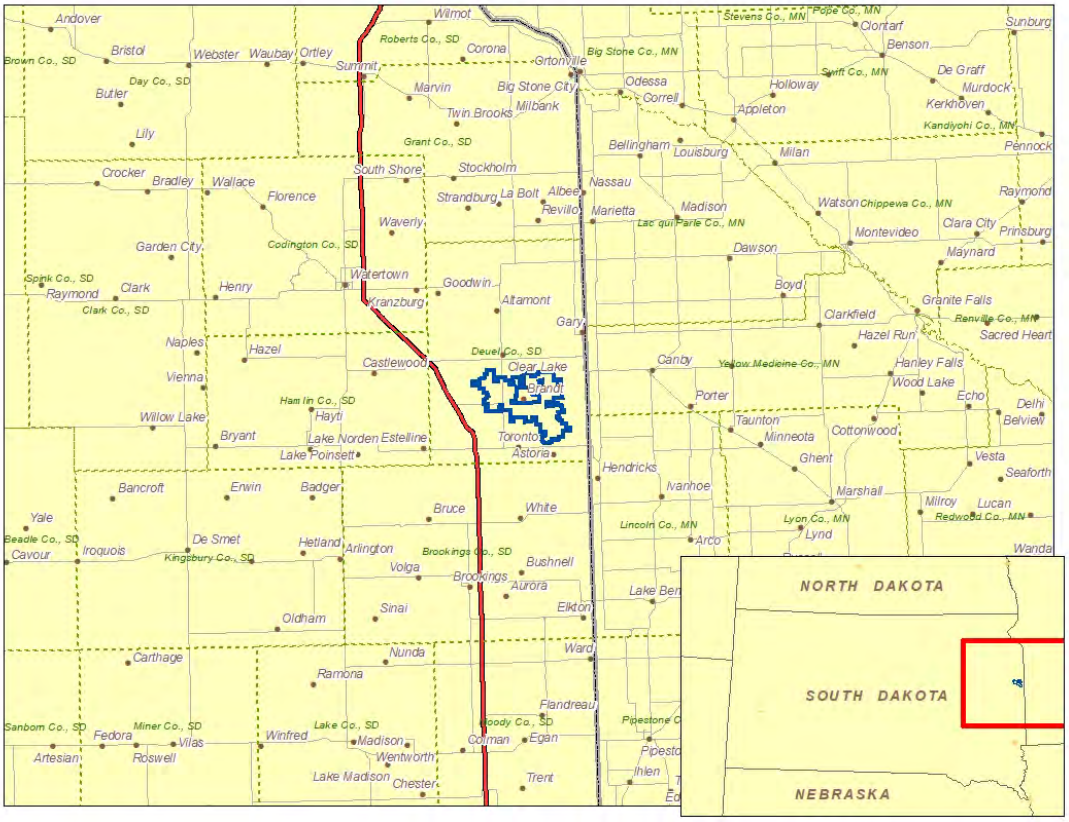


Figure 1: Area of Interest

3. Fresnel Zone Analysis

Methodology

Our obstruction analysis was performed using Comsearch's proprietary microwave database, which contains all non-government licensed, proposed and applied paths from 0.9 - 23 GHz[1]. First, we determined all microwave paths that intersect the area of interest[2] and listed them in Table 1. This path and the area of interest that encompasses the planned turbine locations are shown in Figure 2.

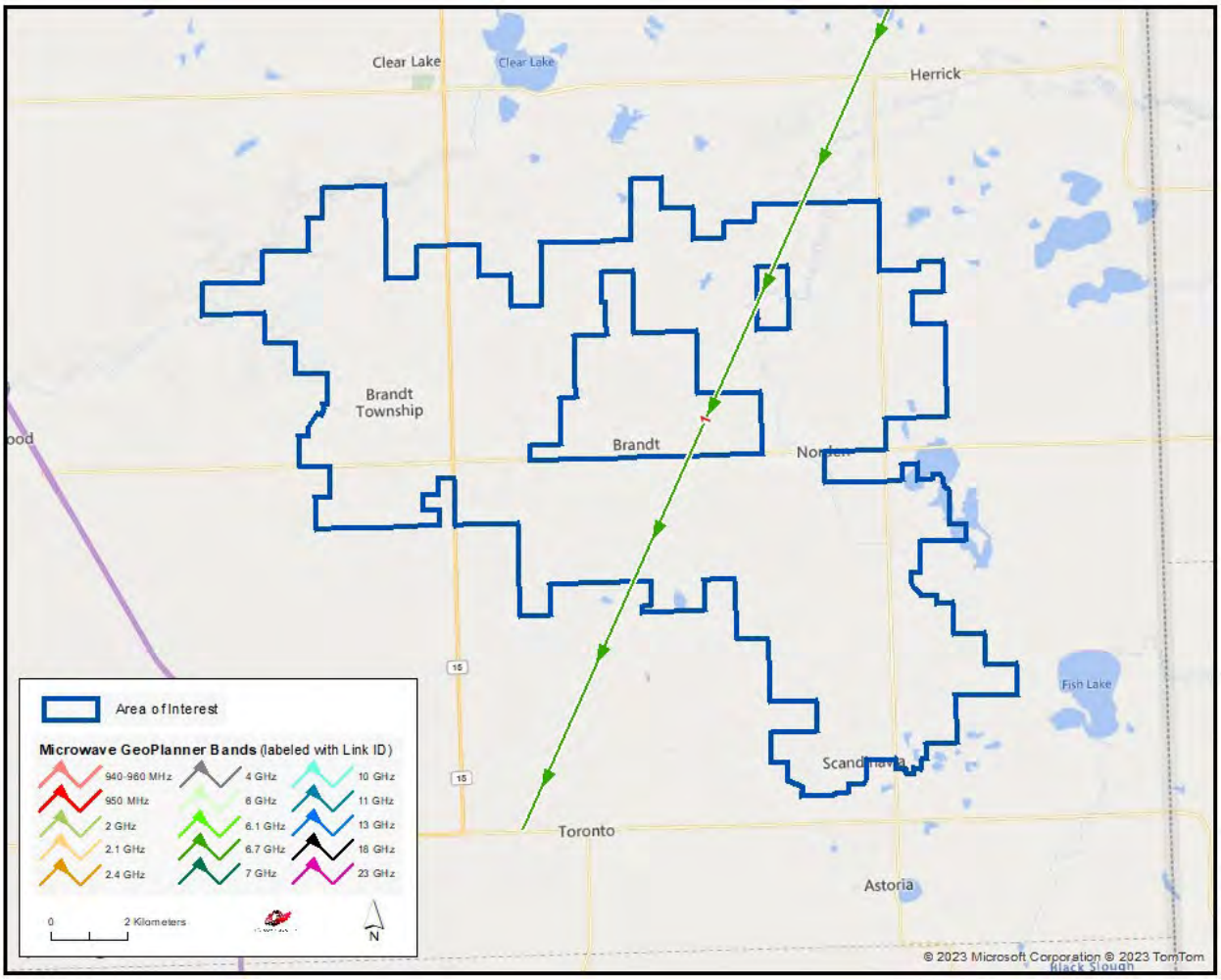


Figure 2: Microwave Paths that Intersect the Area of Interest

[1] Please note that this analysis does not include unlicensed microwave paths or federal government paths that are not registered with the FCC.

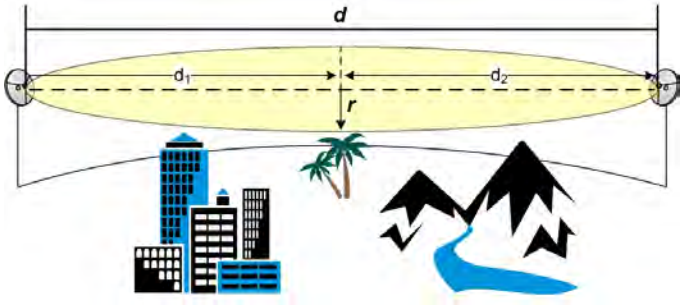
[2] We use FCC-licensed coordinates to determine which paths intersect the area of interest. It is possible that as-built coordinates may differ slightly from those on the FCC license.

ID	Status	Callsign 1	Callsign 2	Band	Path Length (km)	Licensee
1	Licensed	WHI614	WHI615	6.7 GHz	34.05	Otter Tail Power Company

Table 1: Summary of Microwave Paths that Intersect the Area of Interest
(See enclosed mw_geopl.xlsx for more information and
GP_dict_matrix_description.xls for detailed field descriptions)

Next, we calculated a Fresnel Zone for this path based on the following formula:

$$r \cong 17.3\sqrt{\frac{n}{F_{GHz}}\left(\frac{d_1 d_2}{d_1 + d_2}\right)}$$



Where,

r	=	Fresnel Zone radius at a specific point in the microwave path, meters
n	=	Fresnel Zone number, 1
F_{GHz}	=	Frequency of microwave system, GHz
d_1	=	Distance from antenna 1 to a specific point in the microwave path, kilometers
d_2	=	Distance from antenna 2 to a specific point in the microwave path, kilometers

The calculated Fresnel Zone shows the narrow area of signal swath and is calculated for the microwave path in the project area. In general, this is the area where the planned wind turbines should be avoided, if possible. Likewise, Comsearch recommends that an area directly in front of each microwave antenna should be avoided. This corresponds to the Consultation Zone which measures 1 kilometer along the main beam of the antenna and 24 ft (7.3 meters) wide. A depiction of the individual Fresnel and Consultation Zones is shown in Figure 3, and is also included in the shapefiles[3,4].

[3] The ESRI® shapefiles enclosed are in NAD 83 UTM Zone 14 projected coordinate system.

[4] Comsearch makes no warranty as to the accuracy of the data included in this report beyond the date of the report. The data provided in this report is governed by Comsearch's data license notification and agreement located at http://www.comsearch.com/files/data_license.pdf.

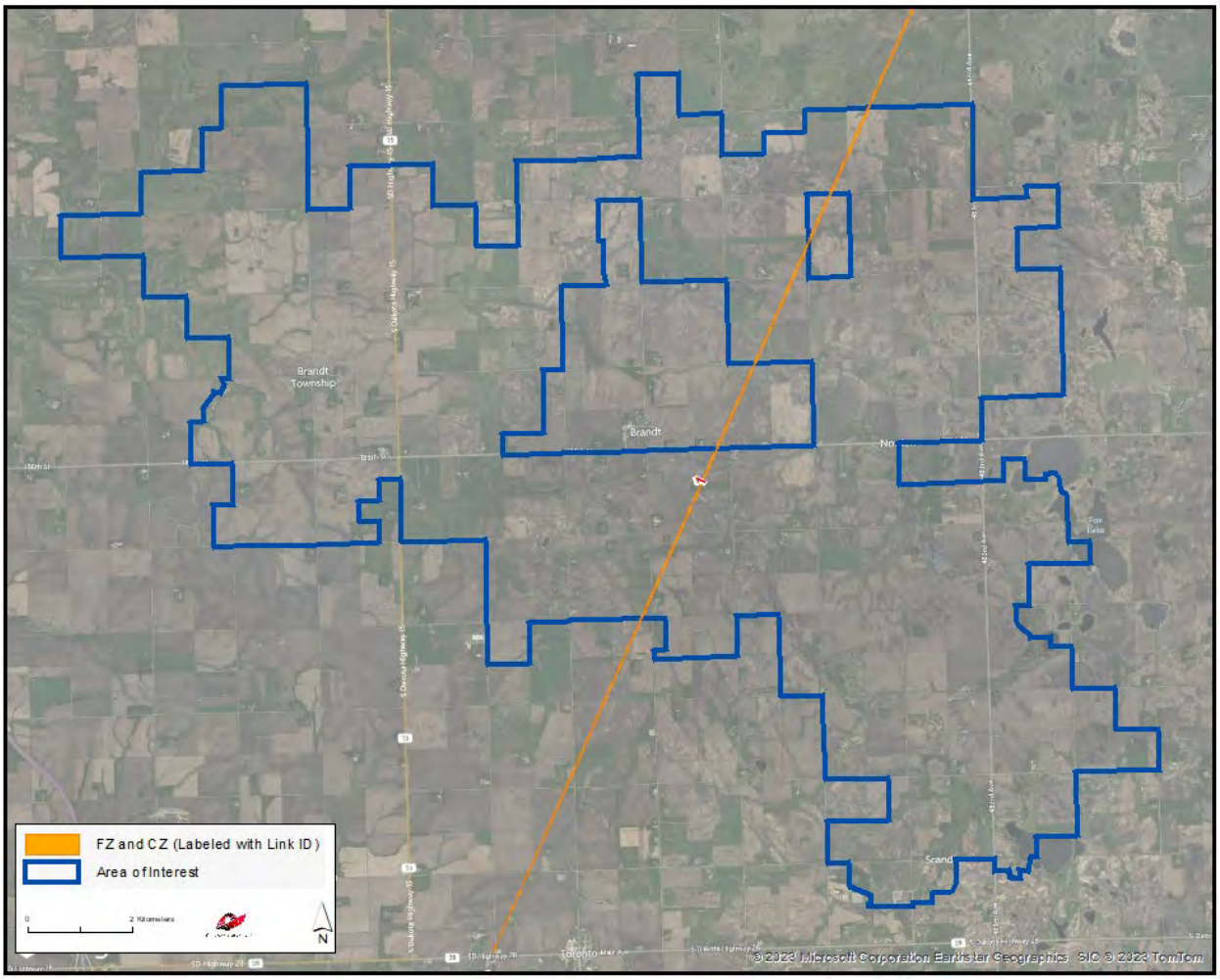


Figure 3: Fresnel and Consultation Zones in the Area of Interest

Discussion of Potential Obstructions

Total Microwave Paths	Paths with Affected Fresnel Zones	Total Turbines	Turbines intersecting Fresnel Zones
1	N/A	N/A	N/A

For this project, turbine locations were not provided; thus we could not determine if any potential obstructions exist between the planned wind turbines and the incumbent microwave paths. If the latitude and longitude values for turbine locations are provided, Comsearch can identify where a potential conflict might exist.

4. Conclusion

Our study identified one microwave path intersecting the South Deuel Wind project area. The Fresnel and Consultation Zones for this microwave path were calculated and mapped. We recommend that all turbines be sited in locations that will not encroach on these exclusion zones.

5. Contact

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