



April 2, 2024

Debbie-Anne A Reese
Acting Secretary
US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20426

SUBJECT: Determination of Impacts to Unique and/or Prime Farmland Northern Lights 2025 Expansion Project

Dear Debbie-Anne A. Reese:

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has reviewed the above referenced project. Our review has found that the Northern Lights Expansion Project is not likely to affect USDA easements, see attached map. Contact Kaitlyn Miller, kaitlyn.miller@usda.gov, 651-602-7855, for additional information pertaining to this easement.

Additionally, the project sponsors are not USDA program benefit recipients, thus the wetland conservation provisions of the 1985 Food Security act, as amended are not applicable. It should be noted, however, that actions by a non-USDA participant third party (project sponsor) which impact agricultural wetlands owned or operated by USDA participants, may jeopardize the owner/operators USDA eligibility. If such impacts are anticipated, the owner/operator should contact the county Farm Service Agency (FSA) office to consider an application for a third-party exemption.

The following agencies may have federal or state wetlands, floodplain delineation, cultural resources, water quality, air quality or threatened and endangered species jurisdiction in the proposed project and should be consulted.

- Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) – Clean Water Act
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) – Endangered Species Act
- Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) - Minnesota Wetlands Conservation Act
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)
- State Historic Preservation Officer/State Archaeologist (SHPO)

Finally, if as a result of your proposal you are affecting agricultural lands, and if any federal monies are involved, it is a requirement that a Farmland Policy Protection Act (FPPA) site assessment be appropriately filed. To determine if the proposed undertaking is exempt from the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) call or email Joseph Brennan, State Soil Scientist, (651) 602-7925 or joseph.brennan@usda.gov. If the undertaking is not exempt, please fill out your agency's portion Form AD-1006 or NRCS-CPA-106 (corridor projects) and submit it along with other supporting information.

The current versions of the above FPPA forms are available online:
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/landuse/fppa/>

Sincerely,

RYAN GALBREATH
Environmental Review and Justice Program

cc:
Kaitlyn Miller, Easement Program Manager, NRCS, St. Paul, MN



Subject/Title: NORTHERN LIGHTS 2025 EXPANSION PROJECTS County: Freeborn, MN (27047)

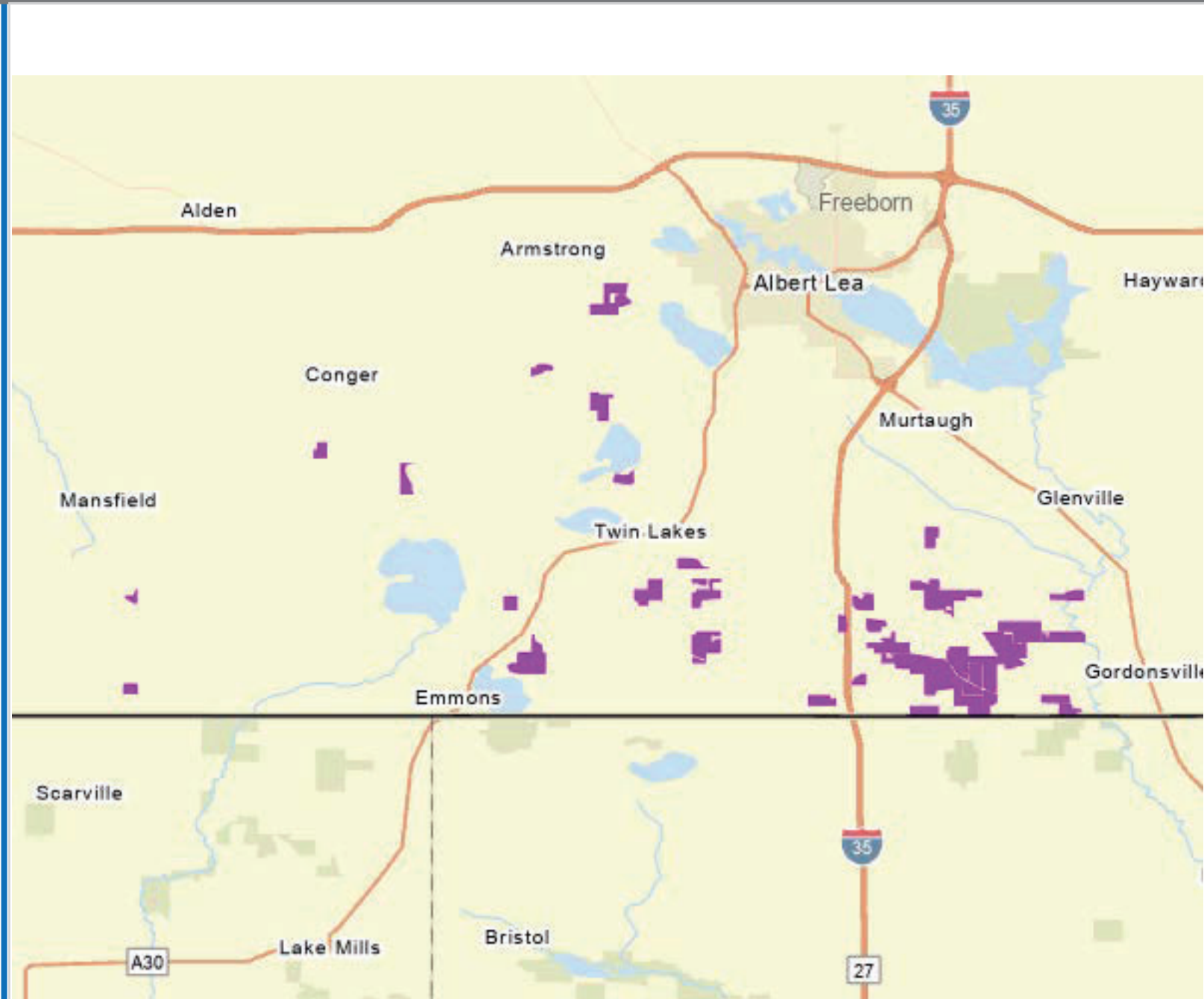
NEST#:

3.00-mile extension of the 36-inch diameter (Lake Mills to Albert Lea)

± acres

Date: 04/19/2024

Easement Impact Study Area in MN



-Select-

-select-

Notes: Depending on the path of the pipeline if it follows the highway A30, then there are no impact to the surrounding easements from Lake Mills, IA to Albert Lea, MN. At the moment, we may need a closed-up map of the proposed pipeline or the GIS/shapefile for further review.

Action:

Need pipeline shapefile





Subject/Title: NORTHERN LIGHTS 2025 EXPANSION PROJECTS County: Houston, MN (27055)

NEST#: 3.00-mile extension of the 36-inch diameter (Lake Mills to Albert) ± acres Date: 04/19/2024

Easement Impact Study Area in MN



-Select-

-select-

At the moment if the activity is to the existing La Crescent Compressor Station, the easements (purple) in Houston county are not affected by the modification.

Notes:

Result:

No impact

