



IN REPLY REFER TO

FWS/MNV

United States Department of the Interior

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
3815 American Blvd E.
Bloomington, MN 55425

March 5, 2009

Mr. Scott Ek
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
121 7th Place E. Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

Dear Mr. Ek:

On December 3, 2008, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Wetland Management District (Refuge) provided HDR Engineering, Inc. (HDR) with comments concerning the route of the CapX 2020 Project and the potential impacts to Refuge lands and trust resources. The majority of my comments related to the proposed Minnesota River crossings in or near Belle Plaine and LeSueur, MN. The comments provided to HDR were based on the best available biological information for the river crossing sites. Following the public release of those comments, this office was contacted and provided with additional biological information that was not considered in the previous review. After careful review and several field visits to the sites, I believe that this new information should be considered in our formal review.

In light of this new information, I am requesting that you hold in "abeyance" my original comments until we have had an opportunity to evaluate the additional information. The Refuge has organized a multi-agency review team that will take into account all existing information and conduct an onsite review with all interested parties. It is my expectation that this process will be completed by April 1, 2009. We will provide you with these results.

I apologize for any complications or problems this change may create. I know you will understand the importance of including all information in this review. Please contact me if you would like additional information.

Sincerely,

Charles W Blair
Refuge Manager