



Courtenay Wind Farm

Project Description

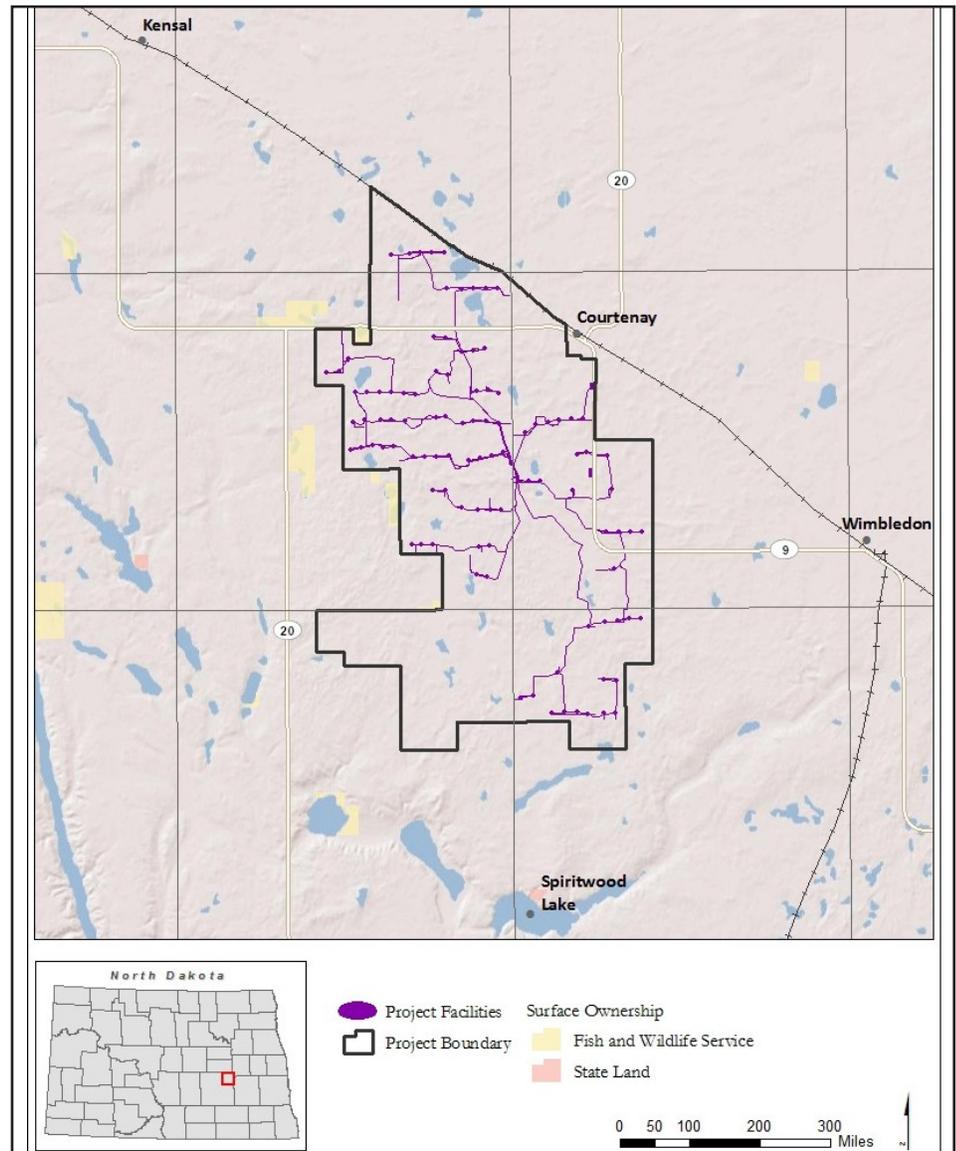
Northern States Power Company – Minnesota, doing business as Xcel Energy, is currently operating and maintaining the Courtenay Wind Farm (Project) located north of Jamestown in Stutsman County, North Dakota. The Project is a 200.5-megawatt facility consisting of 100 turbines. It interconnects to the Otter Trail Power 115/345 kilovolt substation via an approximately 17-mile long overhead transmission line and transmits power into the Midcontinent Independent System Operator grid. The Project boundary contains approximately 24,200 acres, and approximately 19,000 acres of privately-owned land is leased for the project.

Potential Eagle Impacts

There may be bald eagle mortality due to the operation of the Project. Take, including killing of eagles, is prohibited by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. However, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has been delegated the authority to issue eagle take permits, where the take is determined to be compatible with the preservation of eagles. The Service will issue permits for such take only after an applicant has committed to undertake all practical measures to avoid and minimize such take, and mitigate any remaining take, when applicable.

Project Review

We received an application for a five-year eagle take permit from Xcel Energy for the take of bald eagles related to the operation and maintenance of the Project. The applicant has provided an Eagle Conservation Plan (ECP) that summarizes measures taken to avoid and minimize impacts to eagles.



The Service has an independent statutory responsibility under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate its own actions related to the Project, namely the possible issuance of an eagle take permit. An Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared. The EA evaluates the impact of issuing (and not issuing) an eagle take permit for the existing Project. There will be an opportunity to comment on the EA in early 2018 and no permit decision will be made until after the NEPA process is complete.

Should additional information be needed, please contact us at:

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Migratory Birds
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please specify “Courtenay
Wind Farm” in the
subject line
<https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/wind/Courtenay-Wind-Farm/>



Data Source:
Eagle Management Units:
USFWS 2014

Coordinate System:
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 13N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter

