



# Courtenay Wind Farm

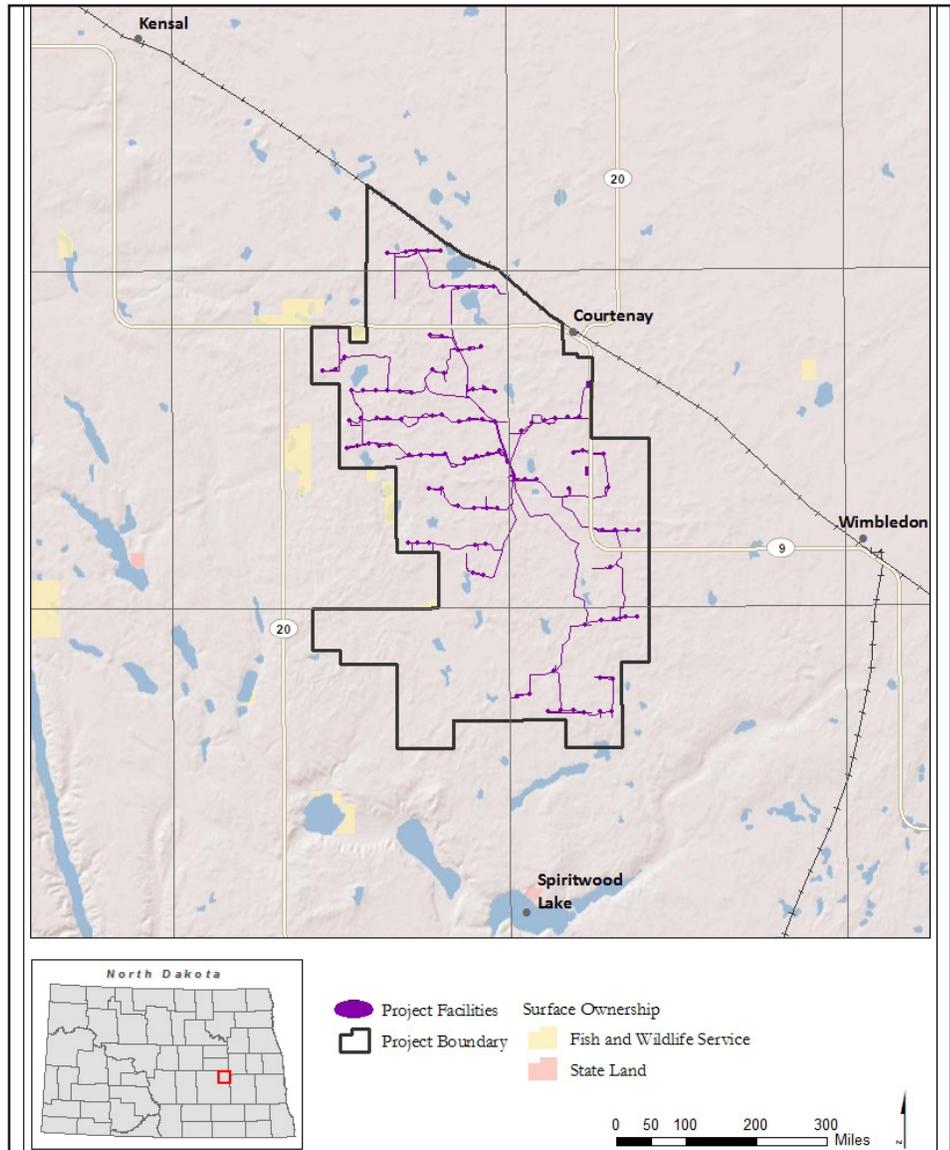
## Project Description

Northern States Power Company – Minnesota doing business as Xcel Energy is currently constructing the Courtenay Wind Farm (CWF) located north of Jamestown in Stutsman County, North Dakota. When fully constructed, the CWF project is anticipated to consist of 100 turbines, producing up to 200.5 megawatts of electricity. The CWF boundary contains approximately 24,200 acres, and approximately 19,000 acres of privately owned land is leased for the project. The project will interconnect to the Otter Tail Power 115/345 kilovolt substation, located approximately seven miles north of Jamestown via an approximately 17-mile long overhead transmission line and will transmit power into the Midcontinent Independent System Operator grid.

## Potential Eagle Impacts

There may be bald eagle mortality due to the operation of the CWF 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 programmatic permits for such take only after an applicant has committed to undertake all practical measures to avoid and minimize such take and mitigate anticipated take to the maximum extent achievable.

We received an application for a five year programmatic eagle take permit from Xcel Energy for the CWF Project. The project applicant has provided an Eagle Conservation Plan (ECP) that summarizes project design, construction, and operational measures taken to avoid and minimize impacts to eagles. The ECP identifies a predicted



level of take of up to five bald eagles within the five year permit period.

## Project Review

The Service has an independent statutory responsibility under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate its own actions related to the CWF Project, namely the possible issuance of an eagle take permit. An Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared to analyze the impacts associated with the proposed action. There will be a future opportunity to comment on the

EA and no permit decision will be made until after the NEPA process is complete.

Should additional information be needed, please contact us at:

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**Data Source:**  
Eagle Management Units:  
USFWS 2014

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

