

Xcel Energy/USFWS
Avian Protection Memorandum Of Understanding
Semi-Annual Report #1
August 2, 2002

On April 19, 2002, Xcel Energy and the USFWS entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish procedures and policies to be employed by the Company's operating companies and the Service in dealing with migratory birds that may be present, injured or killed on the Company's property during the period of this MOU.

As part of the agreement, Xcel Energy agreed to file a report three months and two weeks after the date of the execution of this MOU to the Service compiling the information described above in the MOU, which occurred during the initial three-month period. The Company is submitting one report on behalf of all the operating companies that signed the MOU. The filing date is based upon the signing date of the Public Service of Colorado (April 19, 2002).

1. Status of the Development and Implementation of an Avian Protection Plan (APP)

Xcel Energy has contracted with EDM International in April, 2002 to develop the APP for the PSCo service territory, which complies with of Section 4.A. of the MOU. It is expected that APP will be complete by the end of 2003. Xcel Energy will start development of the APP's for the remainder of the service companies, but have proposed to the Service that those APP's will not be fully developed until the PSCo APP is finalized. This will allow us to develop one APP, work out issues and have the format available to promptly complete the remaining APP's. Regardless of the completion date of the APP's, Xcel Energy is moving forward with employee training and continuing to address issues. Therefore, Xcel Energy is in compliance with Section 4.A. of the other MOUs.

2. Status of Special Purpose Permit

Xcel Energy is coordinating the acquisition of the "Special Purpose Permit" from the Service and expects to have an application filed by September 15, 2002.

3. Summary of Avian Injuries

There have been no avian injuries during this period.

4. Summary of Avian Deaths

The following table summarizes avian deaths that have occurred since April 19, 2002. Specific details of an incident can be provided upon request.

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Operating Company	Description	Date	Comments
SPS	Two Golden Eagles electrocuted on a utility pole in Midland County Texas.	5/03/02	A call was received from USFW agent Rob Lee, out of Lubbock, TX informing Xcel Energy of the electrocutions and inquired if this could have been one of SPS poles, and if not, did we know whose pole it was. It was determined by Mr. Lee that the pole belonged to BP Arco. No further action was performed.
SPS	Decaying Golden Eagle at Harrington Station, near Amarillo, TX.	Discovered on 6/18/02	USFW agent Rob Lee in Lubbock, TX was notified. Mr. Lee bagged and picked up the carcass. A necroscopy was to be performed if decay was not too severe. It is uncertain if electrocution was cause of death. There are no immediate plans for structure modifications, though Mr. Lee did make some suggestions for possible nearby structure modifications in the future.
SPS	Harris Hawk electrocution on utility pole at Carlsbad, New Mexico.	6/20/02	Modifications of the pole were performed on July 03, 2002. The modifications were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The old cross arm was replaced, along with going to 60-inch braces verses 110's. • Replaced the pole ground with 600 volt #4 TW from below the tank ground on the transformer, to the top of the pole. • Replaced the 10 kV arrester with a new wildlife protected one. • Installed bird guards on the transformer jumper. • Replaced all primary jumpers with 600 volt #4 TW. • Lashed molding to all three phases on each side of the structure. Photos are available. The total cost for labor, vehicles, and materials came to \$344.30. A report was sent to USFW agent Brian Lakes in Albuquerque.
NSP-Wisconsin	Crows electrocuted in Blair substation, Blair, WI	6/24/02	Two adult crows found dead in substation. Appeared to have been attacking fake owl and possibly contacted bus work. Reported to Pam R. in July and to Robin Flaherty on 8/1/02. Since information provided late and electrocution not confirmed, Xcel will monitor situation for further incidents and will correct if occur again.
NSP-Wisconsin	1 mourning dove (not confirmed), 16 immature starlings in Bugle Lake substation, Independence, WI	7/17/02 & 7/30/02	Lineman reported on 7/17/02 that several dead birds had been found in substation. Site was reviewed on 7/17/02 and 7 dead starlings found in various stages of decomposition. Lineman reported that he had seen a mourning dove on previous visit earlier in week, but no dove was found on this visit. General review of site did not find an area where contact may have occurred. Reported to local Wisconsin DNR wildlife biologist that day. Reported to substation maintenance who planned to review site and perform a more detailed analysis of

Operating Company	Description	Date	Comments
			possible problem areas in substation. On 7/30/02 9 additional birds found. Reported to WDNR and also USFWS (Robin Flaherty). Substation maintenance will review on 8/5/02. Birds have decomposed quickly due to hot weather. No signs of electrocution apparent. Will continue to monitor site and try to get birds freshly killed to send to WDNR lab. Will follow up with status in next report.

5. Summary of Migratory Bird Nest Removals

A. Active Migratory Bird Nests Non-Emergency Removals

None have been reported.

B. Active Nests Of Non-Endangered/Threatened, Non-eagle Migratory Birds—Emergency Removals

Operating Company	Description	Date	Comments
NSP-Wisconsin	Removed osprey nest under construction on distribution line in Eau Claire, WI	5/22/02	The nest was directly on the conductors and the lineman was concerned about the possibility of fire. The nest was under construction, there were no eggs. The USFWS office in St. Paul was contacted the next day Robin Flaherty
SPS	Hawk nest with juveniles caused outage.	6/13/02	Informed USFW Service agent Rob Lee on June 13. It was subsequently determined that the pole did not belong to Xcel Energy. The pole was energized by June 21. It is unknown what became of the nest and juvenile hawks. Rob Lee was notified by phone of the situation.
SPS	Company personnel were trimming trees at Bones Hook Park, located in Amarillo, TX and found an occupied hawk nest.	7/17/02	Informed USFW Service agent Rob Lee on July 17. He stated the proper approach for such incidents is to wait until the nest becomes inactive before trimming the branch(s) containing the nest. Once the nest is inactive, it can be destroyed (Texas, Oklahoma, Arizona, New Mexico). He also mentioned that during future similar circumstances, when trimming the tree, try not to leave an isolated branch. Keeping several branches in place surrounding the nest would decrease the chance of juvenile raptors being electrocuted. The information was relayed to appropriate personnel.

C. Inactive Nests of Non-listed, Non-eagle Migratory Birds -Emergency Removal

Operating Company	Description	Date	Comments
NSP-Wisconsin	Removed crow nest on Ino Pump substation near Iron River, WI	5/23/02	The nest was close to conductors. Informed USFWS prior to removal (Robin Flaherty) and also worked with USDA animal control division. Wisconsin Law allows removal of crow nests that pose a risk to property.

D. Endangered/Threatened Migratory Bird Nest Removals

No removals have been reported

6. Eagle Permits

None have been applied for.

7. Summary of Record-Keeping Procedures

Xcel Energy is currently developing record keeping procedures. Once the special purpose permits are acquired, final procedures will be completed.

The next report will be submitted to the Service in six months (within 30 days following that date.)