

**Xcel Energy/USFWS**  
**Avian Protection Memorandum Of Understanding**  
**Semi-Annual Report #2**  
**March 3, 2003**

**Covering August 2, 2002 through February 2, 2003 Reporting Period**

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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 with the Service three months and two weeks after the date of the execution of this MOU and every six months thereafter. The Company submitted the first report, compiling information described in the MOU, which occurred during the initial three-month period, on August 2, 2002. One report is submitted on behalf of all the Xcel Energy operating companies that signed the MOU.

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

EDM International continues to gather data for the development of the APP for PSCo and CLFP, Xcel Energy expects that APP will be complete by the end of 2003. Fieldwork began in 2002 and will be completed in 2003. During the field reviews, bird mortalities may be documented. In 2002, those mortalities found were documented and measures to modify the structures will be developed and reported as part of the final APP. In 2003, the same measures will be in place; however, the USFWS will also be notified of any mortalities found during these field surveys.

As reported previously, Xcel Energy will start development of the APP's for the remainder of the operating companies in 2003, but have proposed to the Service that those APP's will not be fully developed until after 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 has filed applications for special purpose permits for all of the operating companies. Those applications are currently under review by the respective USFWS Migratory Bird Offices.

### 3. Summary of Avian Injuries

Operating Company	Description	Date	Comments
SPS	Cattle Egret injured at Jones Station, Lubbock Texas. The egret had a broken wing.	10/09/2002	Transported by company official to South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Lubbock.

### 4. Summary of Avian Deaths

The following table summarizes avian deaths that have occurred since August 2, 2002. Specific details of an incident can be provided upon request.

Operating Company	Description	Date	Comments
NSP-MN	Three trumpeter swans found dead in Monticello, MN.	12/10/2002	Xcel was notified that three young swans were found dead by hunters near powerlines near Monticello, MN. Two of the lines are owned by Xcel Energy and one by Great River Energy. Xcel reported deaths to Regional USFWS MBO.
NSP-MN	One trumpeter swan found dead in Monticello, MN.	1/4/2003	Another immature trumpeter swan found under same lines as reported on 12/10/2002. Xcel Energy included this information in discussions with USFWS, and Great River Energy. Xcel will be working to develop a plan to mark lines in 2003 before next winter.
NSP-MN	Cormorant found dead near powerlines by Prairie Island Generating Plant substation	10/25/02	USFWS notified on 10/25/02. DNR also notified. Cormorants are common in the area. This is the first reported collision. Xcel will continue to monitor to determine if any mitigative measures are needed.
PSCo	Owl, unknown type, found electrocuted at the base of a distribution pole near Evergreen, CO.	8/5/2002	The carcass was found by a lineman and reported to Larry Claxton. A voice mail message was left with USFWS Special Agent Leo Suazo. The Lineman left the carcass where found and was gone upon his return. The suspected distribution pole will be retrofitted within a month.
PSCo	Hawk, unknown type, found electrocuted at the base of a distribution pole near Evergreen, CO.	8/5/2002	The carcass was found by lineman and reported to Larry Claxton. A voice mail message was left with USFWS Special Agent Leo Suazo. Lineman had transported carcass to a nearby veterinary clinic prior to reporting. Clinic had disposed of carcass in a dumpster before being contacted by Mr. Claxton. The suspected distribution pole will be retrofitted within a month.
PSCo	Red Tailed Hawk carcass was found at the base of a	9/17/2002	Lineman found carcass and contacted the Colorado Division of Wildlife who took possession. PSCo Transmission Engineering investigated and determined the hawk was sitting

Operating Company	Description	Date	Comments
	transmission pole near Palisade CO.		on structure #115 when lightning hit structure #114. A resultant current was sent via the static wire to structure #115, which had a broken insulator, and flashed over to the hawk. The insulator was replaced to prevent future problems.
SPS	American Kestrel found dead at Harrington Station, Amarillo Texas.	08/26/2002	Found under unit #3 baghouse. No electrical structures were in the immediate vicinity. USFWS was notified. No other action was performed.
SPS	Hawk electrocution on utility pole in Chaves County, near Roswell, New Mexico.	10/09/2002	USFWS was notified. Modifications performed were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One triangle anti-perching device was installed.</li> <li>• Insulation was installed on the electrical cables.</li> </ul>
SPS	Red Tailed Hawk electrocution on utility pole near Seagraves, Texas. The bird was found alive, transported to the Wildlife Center in Lubbock, TX where it was euthanized.	10/11/2002	Rob Lee, USFWS agent, notified Xcel Energy of the electrocution, and also requested several other poles near the vicinity be modified. Modifications performed were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The transformer bank that feeds Meter #49328400 was reworked and bird guards were installed on 10/14/2002.</li> <li>• The single transformer was checked and bird guards were installed on 10/15/2002.</li> <li>• The jumpers on three other transformer banks, in the vicinity, were checked and bird guards were installed on 10/15/2002.</li> </ul>
SPS	Red Tailed Hawk electrocution on transformer structure near Stinnett, Texas	10/30/2002	USFWS was notified. Modifications made on 01/22/2003 were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lightning arresters were replaced by new poly-type material lightning arresters</li> <li>• Primary leads were replaced with leads containing electrocution prevention insulation material</li> <li>• Installed bird guards on the primary risers</li> </ul>
SPS	Hawk electrocution on transformer pole in Floyd County, near Lockney TX.	12/30/2002	USFWS was notified. Modifications to the structure consisted of two wildlife bird guards were installed on 12/30/02.

## 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

None have been reported.

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

Operating Company	Description	Date	Comments
NSP-Minnesota	Removed osprey nest located on distribution line in Orono, MN.	12/10/02	The USFWS office in St. Paul and MDNR contacted prior to removal.

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 8/2/2003.)