Xcel Energy℠
SOUTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY

Siting and Land Rights
P. O. Box 1261
Amarillo, TX 79105-1261
Telephone: **806-378-2132**
Facsimile: 806-378-2142

April 2, 2008
(Via mail)

Name _____
Agency _____
Street _____
City _____

Re: Southwestern Public Service Company's Proposed North Texas Transmission Projects
Dallam, Hansford, Hartley, Hutchinson, Moore, Oldham, Potter, and Sherman Counties, Texas
PBS&J Project Nos. 100001200, 100001201, 100001202, and 100001203

Dear _____:

Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS) is proposing to construct four new electric transmission line projects north of the Amarillo, Texas area. Each project is briefly described below:

Hitchland Interchange to Moore County Substation 230 kilovolt (kV) Project – SPS proposes to construct a new 230 kV electric transmission line from the Hitchland Interchange located in Hansford County to the existing Moore County Substation located near Dumas in Moore County, Texas. The proposed transmission line will be approximately 50 miles long. Please refer to the attached Figure 1 depicting the project study area.

Dallam County Substation to Sherman County Substation 115 kV Project – SPS proposes to construct a new 115 kV electric transmission line from the existing Dallam County Substation located in Dalhart, Dallam County, Texas to the existing Sherman County Substation located near Stratford in Sherman County, Texas. The proposed transmission

line will be approximately 40 miles long. Please refer to the attached Figure 2 depicting the project study area.

Dallam County Substation to Channing Substation 230 kV Project – SPS proposes to construct a new 230 kV electric transmission line from the existing Dallam County Substation located in Dalhart, Dallam County, Texas to the existing Channing Substation located in Channing, Hartley County, Texas. The proposed transmission line will be approximately 40 miles long and will initially be energized and operated as a 115 kV transmission line. Please refer to the attached Figure 3 depicting the project study area.

Channing Substation to Northwest Interchange 230 kV Project – SPS proposes to construct a new 230 kV electric transmission line from the existing Channing Substation located in Channing, Hartley County, Texas to the existing Northwest Interchange located north of Amarillo in Potter County, Texas. The proposed transmission line will be approximately 50 miles long and will initially be energized and operated as a 115 kV transmission line. Please refer to the attached Figure 4 depicting the project study area.

SPS has retained the firm of PBS&J, an environmental planning consultant, to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Alternative Route Analysis to support an application for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) from the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC). PBS&J is currently in the process of gathering data on the existing environment and identifying environmental and land use constraints within the study area that will be used in the creation of an environmental and land use constraint map for each project. SPS and PBS&J will identify potential alternative routes that consider environmental and land use constraints.

We are requesting that your office provide information concerning environmental and land use constraints regarding reservoirs, surface or ground water issues, TWDB

studies or other issues of interest to the TWDB within each project study area. Your comments will be an important consideration in the evaluation of alternative routes and in the assessment of impacts. Upon certification of a final route for each proposed project, SPS will determine the need for other approvals and/or permits. If your jurisdiction has approvals and/or permits that would apply to these projects, please identify them in response to this inquiry. If permits are required from your office, SPS will contact your office following certification of a final route for each project.

Thank you for your assistance with these electric transmission line projects. Please contact Kelli Boren, PBS&J Project Manager, at 972-818-7275, if you have any questions or require additional information. Your earliest reply will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Brad Sparks
Team Leader Siting & Land Rights

Attachments

U. S. Department of Homeland Security
FEMA Region 6
800 North Loop 288
Denton, TX 76209-3698

FEMA

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
REGION VI
MITIGATION DIVISION

PUBLIC NOTICE REVIEW/ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION

☐ We have no comments to offer. ☒ We offer the following comments:

WE WOULD REQUEST THAT THE COUNTY FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR BE CONTACTED FOR THE REVIEW AND POSSIBLE PERMIT REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS PROJECT.

REVIEWER: Mayra Diaz
(940) 898-5541

DATE: 4/14/08

Xcel Energy℠
SOUTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY

RECEIVED FRC MAIL ROOM
FEMA, REGION VI
2008 APR -4 P 12: 32

Siting and Land Rights
P. O. Box 1261
Amarillo, TX 79105-1261
Telephone: **806-378-2132**
Facsimile: 806-378-2142

April 2, 2008
(Via mail)

Mr. Donald Fairley
Regional Environmental Officer
Federal Emergency Management Agency
800 North Loop 288
Denton, Texas 76209-3698

Re: Southwestern Public Service Company's Proposed North Texas Transmission Projects
Dallam, Hansford, Hartley, Hutchinson, Moore, Oldham, Potter, and Sherman Counties, Texas
PBS&J Project Nos. 100001200, 100001201, 100001202, and 100001203

Dear Mr. Fairley:

Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS) is proposing to construct four new electric transmission line projects north of the Amarillo, Texas area. Each project is briefly described below:

Hitchland Interchange to Moore County Substation 230 kilovolt (kV) Project – SPS proposes to construct a new 230 kV electric transmission line from the Hitchland Interchange located in Hansford County to the existing Moore County Substation located near Dumas in Moore County, Texas. The proposed transmission line will be approximately 50 miles long. Please refer to the attached Figure 1 depicting the project study area.

Dallam County Substation to Sherman County Substation 115 kV Project – SPS proposes to construct a new 115 kV electric transmission line from the existing Dallam County Substation located in Dalhart, Dallam County, Texas to the existing Sherman County Substation located near Stratford in Sherman County, Texas. The proposed transmission

line will be approximately 40 miles long. Please refer to the attached Figure 2 depicting the project study area.

Dallam County Substation to Channing Substation 230 kV Project – SPS proposes to construct a new 230 kV electric transmission line from the existing Dallam County Substation located in Dalhart, Dallam County, Texas to the existing Channing Substation located in Channing, Hartley County, Texas. The proposed transmission line will be approximately 40 miles long and will initially be energized and operated as a 115 kV transmission line. Please refer to the attached Figure 3 depicting the project study area.

Channing Substation to Northwest Interchange 230 kV Project – SPS proposes to construct a new 230 kV electric transmission line from the existing Channing Substation located in Channing, Hartley County, Texas to the existing Northwest Interchange located north of Amarillo in Potter County, Texas. The proposed transmission line will be approximately 50 miles long and will initially be energized and operated as a 115 kV transmission line. Please refer to the attached Figure 4 depicting the project study area.

SPS has retained the firm of PBS&J, an environmental planning consultant, to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Alternative Route Analysis to support an application for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) from the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC). PBS&J is currently in the process of gathering data on the existing environment and identifying environmental and land use constraints within the study area that will be used in the creation of an environmental and land use constraint map for each project. SPS and PBS&J will identify potential alternative routes that consider environmental and land use constraints.

We are requesting that your office provide information concerning environmental and land use constraints regarding floodplains or other issues of interest to FEMA within each project study area. Your comments will be an important consideration in the evaluation of alternative routes and in the assessment of impacts. Upon certification of a final route for each proposed project, SPS will determine the need for other approvals and/or permits. If your jurisdiction has approvals and/or permits that would apply to these projects, please identify them in response to this inquiry. If permits are required from your office, SPS will contact your office following certification of a final route for each project.

Thank you for your assistance with these electric transmission line projects. Please contact Kelli Boren, PBS&J Project Manager, at 972-818-7275, if you have any questions or require additional information. Your earliest reply will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Brad Sparks
Team Leader Siting & Land Rights

Attachments

United States Department of Agriculture
NRCS
Natural Resources Conservation Service

101 S. Main Street
Temple, TX 76501-6624
Phone: 254-742-9861
FAX: 254-742-9859

April 17, 2008

Southwestern Public Service Company
Siting and Land Rights
P.O. Box 1261
Amarillo, TX 79105-1261

Attention: Brad Sparks, Team Leader Siting and Land Rights

Subject: LNU-Farmland Protection
SPS Company's Proposed North Texas Transmission Projects
Dallam, Hansford, Hartley, Hutchinson, Moore, Oldham, Potter, and Sherman Counties, Texas
PBS&J Projects 100001200, 10001201, 100001202, 100001203

We have reviewed the information provided concerning the proposed Southwestern Public Service Company's construction of four new power lines in eight High Plains counties in Texas, as outlined in your letter of April 2, 2008.This review is part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) evaluation for the Public Utilities Commission of Texas. We have evaluated the proposed areas as required by the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA).

The proposed projects do contain Important Farmland Soils; however, we do not normally consider power lines to be a conversion of farmland because the site can still be used after construction. All projects outlined in your letter are considered exempt from the FPPA. We have completed a Farmland Conversion Impact Rating (form AD-1006) indicating the exemption. During construction we urge you to use approved erosion control methods. If you plan any permanent substations or structures we can rate those when the exact location is known.

We have attached a Hydric Soils List for the eight counties in your study area. These lists highlight soils that are either ponded frequently for long or very long duration or are somewhat poorly drained to very poorly drained and have a high water table.

We are enclosing the completed AD-1006 for the project indicating the approval status. Thank you for the resource materials you submitted to evaluate this project.

If you have any questions please call Laurie Kiniry at (254)-742-9861, Fax (254)-742-9859.

Sincerely,

Laurie N. Kiniry

Laurie N. Kiniry, Soil Scientist
USDA-NRCS, Temple, Texas

Enclosures

U.S. Department of Agriculture

FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING

PART I *(To be completed by Federal Agency)*	Date Of Land Evaluation Request April 2, 2008	
Name of Project North Texas Transmission Projects in High Plains	Federal Agency Involved PUC	
Proposed Land Use Electricity Transmission	County and State Dallam, Hansford, Hartley, Hutchinson, Moore, Oldham, Potter, Sherman Counties, Texas	
PART II *(To be completed by NRCS)*	Date Request Received By NRCS April 10, 2008	Person Completing Form: L. Kiniry

Does the site contain Prime, Unique, Statewide or Local Important Farmland? *(If no, the FPPA does not apply - do not complete additional parts of this form)*	YES ☐	NO X	Acres Irrigated	Average Farm Size
Major Crop(s)	Farmable Land in Govt. Jurisdiction Acres: %		Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: %	
Name of Land Evaluation System Used LESA	Name of State or Local Site Assessment System NONE		Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS	

PART III *(To be completed by Federal Agency)*	Alternative Site Rating			
	Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly				
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly				
C. Total Acres In Site				
PART IV *(To be completed by NRCS)* Land Evaluation Information				
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland				
B. Total Acres Statewide Important or Local Important Farmland				
C. Percentage Of Farmland In County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted				
D. Percentage Of Farmland In Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value				
PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion Relative Value of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)				

PART VI *(To be completed by Federal Agency)* Site Assessment Criteria *(Criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5 b. For Corridor project use form NRCS-CPA-106)*	Maximum Points	Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
1. Area In Non-urban Use	(15)				
2. Perimeter In Non-urban Use	(10)				
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed	(20)				
4. Protection Provided By State and Local Government	(20)				
5. Distance From Urban Built-up Area	(15)				
6. Distance To Urban Support Services	(15)				
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	(10)				
8. Creation Of Non-farmable Farmland	(10)				
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services	(5)				
10. On-Farm Investments	(20)				
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	(10)				
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	(10)				
TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS	160				
PART VII *(To be completed by Federal Agency)*					
Relative Value Of Farmland *(From Part V)*	100				
Total Site Assessment *(From Part VI above or local site assessment)*	160				
TOTAL POINTS *(Total of above 2 lines)*	260				

Site Selected:	Date Of Selection	Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES ☐ NO ☐

Reason For Selection:

Name of Federal agency representative completing this form: Laurie Kiniry, USDA-NRCS	Date: April 17, 2008

Hydric Soils

Hansford County, Texas

Map symbol and map unit name	Component	Percent of map unit	Landform	Hydric rating	Hydric criteria
HcA:					
Hansford silty clay, 0 to 1 percent slopes, frequently ponded	Hansford	85	Playa floors	Yes	---

Explanation of hydric criteria codes:

1. All Histels except for Folistels, and Histosols except for Folists.
2. Soils in Aquic suborders, great groups, or subgroups, Albolls suborder, Historthels great group, Histoturbels great group, Pachic subgroups, or Cumulic subgroups that:
   A. are somewhat poorly drained and have a water table at the surface (0.0 feet) during the growing season, or
   B. are poorly drained or very poorly drained and have either:
      1.) a water table at the surface (0.0 feet) during the growing season if textures are coarse sand, sand, or fine sand in all layers within a depth of 20 inches, or
      2.) a water table at a depth of 0.5 foot or less during the growing season if permeability is equal to or greater than 6.0 in/hr in all layers within a depth of 20 inches, or
      3.) a water table at a depth of 1.0 foot or less during the growing season if permeability is less than 6.0 in/hr in any layer within a depth of 20 inches.
3. Soils that are frequently ponded for long or very long duration during the growing season.
4. Soils that are frequently flooded for long or very long duration during the growing season.

This table lists the map unit components that are rated as hydric soils in the survey area. This list can help in planning land uses; however, onsite investigation is recommended to determine the hydric soils on a specific site (National Research Council, 1995; Hurt and Vasilas, 2006).

The three essential characteristics of wetlands are hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology (Cowardin and others, 1979; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1987; National Research Council, 1995; Tiner, 1985). Criteria for all of the characteristics must be met for areas to be identified as wetlands. Undrained hydric soils that have natural vegetation should support a dominant population of ecological wetland plant species. Hydric soils that have been converted to other uses should be capable of being restored to wetlands.

Hydric soils are defined by the National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils (NTCHS) as soils that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part (Federal Register, 1994). These soils, under natural conditions, are either saturated or inundated long enough during the growing season to support the growth and reproduction of hydrophytic vegetation.

The NTCHS definition identifies general soil properties that are associated with wetness. In order to determine whether a specific soil is a hydric soil or nonhydric soil, however, more specific information, such as information about the depth and duration of the water table, is needed. Thus, criteria that identify those estimated soil properties unique to hydric soils have been established (Federal Register, 2002). These criteria are used to identify map unit components that normally are associated with wetlands. The criteria used are selected estimated soil properties that are described in "Soil Taxonomy" (Soil Survey Staff, 1999) and "Keys to Soil Taxonomy" (Soil Survey Staff, 2006) and in the "Soil Survey Manual" (Soil Survey Division Staff, 1993).

If soils are wet enough for a long enough period of time to be considered hydric, they should exhibit certain properties that can be easily observed in the field. These visible properties are indicators of hydric soils. The indicators used to make onsite determinations of hydric soils are specified in "Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States" (Hurt and Vasilas, 2006).

Hydric soils are identified by examining and describing the soil to a depth of about 20 inches. This depth may be greater if determination of an appropriate indicator so requires. It is always recommended that soils be excavated and described to the depth necessary for an understanding of the redoximorphic processes. Then, using the completed soil descriptions, soil scientists can compare the soil features required by each indicator and specify which indicators have been matched with the conditions observed in the soil. The soil can be identified as a hydric soil if at least one of the approved indicators is present.

Map units that are dominantly made up of hydric soils may have small areas, or inclusions, of nonhydric soils in the higher positions on the landform, and map units dominantly made up of nonhydric soils may have inclusions of hydric soils in the lower positions on the landform.

The criteria for hydric soils are represented by codes in the table (for example, 2B3). Definitions for the codes are as follows:

Hydric Soils

1. All Histels except for Folistels, and Histosols except for Folists.
2. Soils in Aquic suborders, great groups, or subgroups, Albolls suborder, Historthels great group, Histoturbels great group, Pachic subgroups, or Cumulic subgroups that:
   A. are somewhat poorly drained and have a water table at the surface (0.0 feet) during the growing season, or
   B. are poorly drained or very poorly drained and have either:
      1) a water table at the surface (0.0 feet) during the growing season if textures are coarse sand, sand, or fine sand in all layers within a depth of 20 inches, or
      2) a water table at a depth of 0.5 foot or less during the growing season if saturated hydraulic conductivity (Ksat) is equal to or greater than 6.0 in/hr in all layers within a depth of 20 inches, or
      3) a water table at a depth of 1.0 foot or less during the growing season if saturated hydraulic conductivity (Ksat) is less than 6.0 in/hr in any layer within a depth of 20 inches.
3. Soils that are frequently ponded for long or very long duration during the growing season.
4. Soils that are frequently flooded for long or very long duration during the growing season.

References:

Cowardin, L.M., V. Carter, F.C. Golet, and E.T. LaRoe. 1979. Classification of wetlands and deep-water habitats of the United States. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service FWS/OBS-79/31.

Federal Register. September 18, 2002. Hydric soils of the United States.

Federal Register. July 13, 1994. Changes in hydric soils of the United States.

Hurt, G.W., and L.M. Vasilas, editors. Version 6.0, 2006. Field indicators of hydric soils in the United States.

National Research Council. 1995. Wetlands: Characteristics and boundaries.
Soil Survey Division Staff. 1993. Soil survey manual. Soil Conservation Service. U.S. Department of Agriculture Handbook 18.

Soil Survey Staff. 2006. Keys to soil taxonomy. 10th edition. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Soil Survey Staff. 1999. Soil taxonomy: A basic system of soil classification for making and interpreting soil surveys. 2nd edition. Natural Resources Conservation Service. U.S. Department of Agriculture Handbook 436.

Tiner, R.W., Jr. 1985. Wetlands of Delaware. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Wetlands Section.

United States Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Laboratory. 1987. Corps of Engineers wetlands delineation manual. Waterways Experiment Station Technical Report Y-87-1.

Hydric Soils

Hutchinson County, Texas

Map symbol and map unit name	Component	Percent of map unit	Landform	Hydric rating	Hydric criteria
Ca:					
Clairemont silt loam	Unnamed, hydric minor components	1	Depressions	Yes	3
Hu:					
Humbarger clay loam, channeled	Unnamed, hydric minor components	1	Depressions	Yes	3
Ln:					
Lincoln soils	Sweetwater	5	Depressions, Draws, Flood plains	Yes	2B3, 3
Ne:					
Ness clay	Ness	100	Plains, Playas	Yes	2B3, 3
Sw:					
Sweetwater soils	Sweetwater	95	Draws, Flood plains	Yes	2B3
Ya:					
Yahola fine sandy loam	Unnamed, hydric minor components	1	Depressions	Yes	3

Explanation of hydric criteria codes:

1. All Histels except for Folistels, and Histosols except for Folists.
2. Soils in Aquic suborders, great groups, or subgroups, Albolls suborder, Historthels great group, Histoturbels great group, Pachic subgroups, or Cumulic subgroups that:
   A. are somewhat poorly drained and have a water table at the surface (0.0 feet) during the growing season, or
   B. are poorly drained or very poorly drained and have either:
      1.) a water table at the surface (0.0 feet) during the growing season if textures are coarse sand, sand, or fine sand in all layers within a depth of 20 inches, or
      2.) a water table at a depth of 0.5 foot or less during the growing season if permeability is equal to or greater than 6.0 in/hr in all layers within a depth of 20 inches, or
      3.) a water table at a depth of 1.0 foot or less during the growing season if permeability is less than 6.0 in/hr in any layer within a depth of 20 inches.
3. Soils that are frequently ponded for long or very long duration during the growing season.
4. Soils that are frequently flooded for long or very long duration during the growing season.

Hydric Soils

Sherman County, Texas

Map symbol and map unit name	Component	Percent of map unit	Landform	Hydric rating	Hydric criteria
Ch:					
Cass and Humbarger soils, channeled	Unnamed, hydric minor components	2	Depressions	Yes	3
Ma:					
Manzano clay loam	Unnamed, hydric minor components	2	Depressions	Yes	3
Ne:					
Ness clay	Ness	100	Plains, Playas	Yes	2B3, 3

Explanation of hydric criteria codes:

1. All Histels except for Folistels, and Histosols except for Folists.
2. Soils in Aquic suborders, great groups, or subgroups, Albolls suborder, Historthels great group, Histoturbels great group, Pachic subgroups, or Cumulic subgroups that:
   A. are somewhat poorly drained and have a water table at the surface (0.0 feet) during the growing season, or
   B. are poorly drained or very poorly drained and have either:
      1.) a water table at the surface (0.0 feet) during the growing season if textures are coarse sand, sand, or fine sand in all layers within a depth of 20 inches, or
      2.) a water table at a depth of 0.5 foot or less during the growing season if permeability is equal to or greater than 6.0 in/hr in all layers within a depth of 20 inches, or
      3.) a water table at a depth of 1.0 foot or less during the growing season if permeability is less than 6.0 in/hr in any layer within a depth of 20 inches.
3. Soils that are frequently ponded for long or very long duration during the growing season.
4. Soils that are frequently flooded for long or very long duration during the growing season.

Hydric Soils

Moore County, Texas

Map symbol and map unit name	Component	Percent of map unit	Landform	Hydric rating	Hydric criteria
Hu:					
Humbarger loam	Unnamed, hydric minor components	1	Depressions	Yes	3
Ln:					
Lincoln loamy fine sand	Unnamed, hydric minor components	1	Depressions	Yes	3
Nc:					
Ness clay	Ness	100	Plains, Playas	Yes	2B3, 3
RW:					
Riverwash	Unnamed, hydric minor components	1	Sloughs	Yes	3

Explanation of hydric criteria codes:

1. All Histels except for Folistels, and Histosols except for Folists.
2. Soils in Aquic suborders, great groups, or subgroups, Albolls suborder, Historthels great group, Histoturbels great group, Pachic subgroups, or Cumulic subgroups that:
   A. are somewhat poorly drained and have a water table at the surface (0.0 feet) during the growing season, or
   B. are poorly drained or very poorly drained and have either:
      1.) a water table at the surface (0.0 feet) during the growing season if textures are coarse sand, sand, or fine sand in all layers within a depth of 20 inches, or
      2.) a water table at a depth of 0.5 foot or less during the growing season if permeability is equal to or greater than 6.0 in/hr in all layers within a depth of 20 inches, or
      3.) a water table at a depth of 1.0 foot or less during the growing season if permeability is less than 6.0 in/hr in any layer within a depth of 20 inches.
3. Soils that are frequently ponded for long or very long duration during the growing season.
4. Soils that are frequently flooded for long or very long duration during the growing season.

Hydric Soils

Dallam County, Texas

Map symbol and map unit name	Component	Percent of map unit	Landform	Hydric rating	Hydric criteria
Ch:					
Church soils	Unnamed, hydric minor components	1	Depressions	Yes	3
Cr:					
Corlena soils	Unnamed, hydric minor components	1	Depressions	Yes	3
Ne:					
Ness clay	Ness	100	Plains, Playas	Yes	2B3, 3

Explanation of hydric criteria codes:

1. All Histels except for Folistels, and Histosols except for Folists.
2. Soils in Aquic suborders, great groups, or subgroups, Albolls suborder, Historthels great group, Histoturbels great group, Pachic subgroups, or Cumulic subgroups that:
   A. are somewhat poorly drained and have a water table at the surface (0.0 feet) during the growing season, or
   B. are poorly drained or very poorly drained and have either:
      1.) a water table at the surface (0.0 feet) during the growing season if textures are coarse sand, sand, or fine sand in all layers within a depth of 20 inches, or
      2.) a water table at a depth of 0.5 foot or less during the growing season if permeability is equal to or greater than 6.0 in/hr in all layers within a depth of 20 inches, or
      3.) a water table at a depth of 1.0 foot or less during the growing season if permeability is less than 6.0 in/hr in any layer within a depth of 20 inches.
3. Soils that are frequently ponded for long or very long duration during the growing season.
4. Soils that are frequently flooded for long or very long duration during the growing season.

Hydric Soils

Hartley County, Texas

Map symbol and map unit name	Component	Percent of map unit	Landform	Hydric rating	Hydric criteria
BuA:					
Bippus clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Unnamed, hydric minor components	1	Depressions	Yes	3
BuB:					
Bippus clay loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	Unnamed, hydric minor components	1	Depressions	Yes	3
Ca:					
Colorado loam	Unnamed, hydric minor components	1	Depressions	Yes	3
Gm:					
Gracemore soils	Unnamed, hydric minor components	20	Flood plains	Yes	2B3
Ln:					
Lincoln soils	Unnamed, hydric minor components	5	Depressions	Yes	3
Ma:					
Mangum clay	Unnamed, hydric minor components	1	Depressions	Yes	3
Ne:					
Ness clay	Ness	100	Plains, Playas	Yes	2B3, 3
Sm:					
Spur loam	Unnamed, hydric minor components	1	Depressions	Yes	3

Explanation of hydric criteria codes:

1. All Histels except for Folistels, and Histosols except for Folists.
2. Soils in Aquic suborders, great groups, or subgroups, Albolls suborder, Historthels great group, Histoturbels great group, Pachic subgroups, or Cumulic subgroups that:
   A. are somewhat poorly drained and have a water table at the surface (0.0 feet) during the growing season, or
   B. are poorly drained or very poorly drained and have either:
      1.) a water table at the surface (0.0 feet) during the growing season if textures are coarse sand, sand, or fine sand in all layers within a depth of 20 inches, or
      2.) a water table at a depth of 0.5 foot or less during the growing season if permeability is equal to or greater than 6.0 in/hr in all layers within a depth of 20 inches, or
      3.) a water table at a depth of 1.0 foot or less during the growing season if permeability is less than 6.0 in/hr in any layer within a depth of 20 inches.
3. Soils that are frequently ponded for long or very long duration during the growing season.
4. Soils that are frequently flooded for long or very long duration during the growing season.

Hydric Soils

Potter County, Texas

Map symbol and map unit name	Component	Percent of map unit	Landform	Hydric rating	Hydric criteria
BcA:					
Bippus clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Unnamed, hydric minor components	1	Depressions	Yes	3
BcB:					
Bippus clay loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	Unnamed, hydric minor components	1	Depressions	Yes	3
Bd:					
Bippus and Spur soils, channeled	Unnamed, hydric minor components	1	Depressions	Yes	3
Cm:					
Clairemont and Mangum soils, channeled	Unnamed, hydric minor components	24	Depressions	Yes	3
Lf:					
Lincoln soils, frequently flooded	Unnamed, hydric minor components	1	Depressions	Yes	3
Lh:					
Lazbuddie clay	Randall	10	Depressions	Yes	2A, 3
Ln:					
Lazbuddie-Urban land complex	Randall	10	Depressions	Yes	2A, 3
Lo:					
Lofton clay loam	Randall	10	Depressions	Yes	2A, 3
Lu:					
Lofton-Urban land complex	Randall	5	Depressions	Yes	2A, 3
Ma:					
Mangum clay, occasionally flooded	Unnamed, hydric minor components	2	Depressions	Yes	3
Ra:					
Randall clay	Randall	80	Playa floors	Yes	2A, 3
Yo:					
Yomont soils, frequently flooded	Unnamed, hydric minor components	5	Depressions	Yes	3

Explanation of hydric criteria codes:

1. All Histels except for Folistels, and Histosols except for Folists.
2. Soils in Aquic suborders, great groups, or subgroups, Albolls suborder, Historthels great group, Histoturbels great group, Pachic subgroups, or Cumulic subgroups that:
   A. are somewhat poorly drained and have a water table at the surface (0.0 feet) during the growing season, or
   B. are poorly drained or very poorly drained and have either:
      1.) a water table at the surface (0.0 feet) during the growing season if textures are coarse sand, sand, or fine sand in all layers within a depth of 20 inches, or

2.) a water table at a depth of 0.5 foot or less during the growing season if permeability is equal to or greater than 6.0 in/hr in all layers within a depth of 20 inches, or

3.) a water table at a depth of 1.0 foot or less during the growing season if permeability is less than 6.0 in/hr in any layer within a depth of 20 inches.

3. Soils that are frequently ponded for long or very long duration during the growing season.
4. Soils that are frequently flooded for long or very long duration during the growing season.

Hydric Soils

Oldham County, Texas

Map symbol and map unit name	Component	Percent of map unit	Landform	Hydric rating	Hydric criteria
9:					
Bippus clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Unnamed, hydric minor components	1	Depressions	Yes	3
11:					
Clairemont silty clay loam, occasionally flooded	Unnamed, hydric minor components	1	Depressions	Yes	3
15:					
Gracemore soils, frequently flooded	Unnamed, hydric minor components	1	Depressions	Yes	3
19:					
Lincoln soils, frequently flooded	Unnamed, hydric minor components	5	Depressions	Yes	2B3, 3
20:					
Lazbuddie clay	Randall	5	Depressions	Yes	2A, 3
21:					
Lofton clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Randall	2	Depressions	Yes	2B3, 3
27:					
Montoya clay	Unnamed, hydric minor components	1	Depressions	Yes	3
38:					
Randall clay	Randall	90	Playa floors	Yes	2A, 3
40:					
Spur and Bippus soils, frequently flooded	Unnamed, hydric minor components	2	Depressions	Yes	3
43:					
Yomont very fine sandy loam, occasionally flooded	Unnamed, hydric minor components	1	Depressions	Yes	3

Explanation of hydric criteria codes:

1. All Histels except for Folistels, and Histosols except for Folists.
2. Soils in Aquic suborders, great groups, or subgroups, Albolls suborder, Historthels great group, Histoturbels great group, Pachic subgroups, or Cumulic subgroups that:
   A. are somewhat poorly drained and have a water table at the surface (0.0 feet) during the growing season, or
   B. are poorly drained or very poorly drained and have either:
      1.) a water table at the surface (0.0 feet) during the growing season if textures are coarse sand, sand, or fine sand in all layers within a depth of 20 inches, or
      2.) a water table at a depth of 0.5 foot or less during the growing season if permeability is equal to or greater than 6.0 in/hr in all layers within a depth of 20 inches, or
      3.) a water table at a depth of 1.0 foot or less during the growing season if permeability is less than 6.0 in/hr in any layer within a depth of 20 inches.
3. Soils that are frequently ponded for long or very long duration during the growing season.
4. Soils that are frequently flooded for long or very long duration during the growing season.

Texas Department of Transportation

AVIATION DIVISION
125 E. 11TH STREET • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-2483 • 512/416-4500 • FAX 512/416-4510

Mr. Brad Sparks
Xcel Corporation
PO Box 1261
Amarillo, Texas 79105-1261

April 7, 2008

Dear Mr. Sparks,

I received your letter dated April 2, 2008 concerning PBS&J projects # 10000 1200 through 10000 1203.

For all four project areas, the following applies. Title 14, US Code, Part 77 of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) requires notice to the FAA if the facility to be constructed fits either of the below listed conditions:

77.13(1) Any construction or alteration of more than 200' above the surface of the ground at its location.

77.13 A 2 (i) Any vertical obstruction, temporary or permanent, that penetrates a 100 to 1 slope for a horizontal distance of 20,000 feet from the nearest point of the nearest runway, starting at the surface at the edge of that runway, for each airport with at least one runway more than 3,200 feet in actual length, excluding heliports. (ii) 50 to 1 for a horizontal distance of 10,000 feet from the nearest point of the nearest runway of each airport specified in paragraph (a)(5) of this section with its longest runway no more than 3,200 feet in actual length, excluding heliports. (iii) 25 to 1 for a horizontal distance of 5,000 feet from the nearest point of the nearest landing and takeoff area of each heliport specified in paragraph (a)(5) of this section.

For the Hitchland-Moore Interchange project, there are three public use airports in the study area – Texhoma Municipal Airport (K49), with the longest runway 3564 feet, at airport reference point 36-30-20.2000N / 101-48-49.2000W / Gruver Municipal Airport (E19), with the longest runway 4698 feet, at airport reference point 36-14-01.4140N / 101-25-55.8820W / Sunray Airport (X43), with the longest runway 3760 feet, at airport reference point 36-01-45.1280N / 101-49-43.6160W.

For the Dallam Sherman Substation project, there are two public use airports in the study area – Stratford Airport (H70), with the longest runway 3023 feet, at airport reference point 36-20-44.3000N / 102-02-57.3000W / Pronger Ranch

Airport, with the longest runway 4100 feet, at airport reference point 36-13-10.1120N / 102-06-14.6390W.

For the Dallam Channing Substation project, there is one public use airport in the study area – Dalhart Municipal Airport (KDHT), with the longest runway 6400 feet, at airport reference point 36-01-21.3060N / 102-32-50.1990W.

For the Channing Northwest Substation project, there are no public use airports within the study area, however the Oldhan County Airport (E52), with the longest runway 4200 feet, at airport reference point 35-13-55.1940N / 102-23-56.7350W may come within the criteria of 77.13 A 2 (i).

If the any of the above criteria are met, the FAA must be notified in four copies using FAA Form 7460-1, "Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration". This form is available at <www.faa.gov/airports_airtraffic/airports/>- forms -Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (512) 416-4507 or <wgunn@dot.state.tx.us>

Sincerely,

William B. Gunn
Compliance

TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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April 4, 2008

Brad Sparks
Team Leader Siting & Land Rights
Xcel Energy
P.O. Box 1261
Amarillo, TX 79105-1261

Re: PBS&J Project Nos. 100001200, 100001201, 100001202, 100001203

Dear Mr. Sparks:

Please note that the scope of this request goes beyond our current program responsibilities. Please feel free to call me at (512) 936-0813 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

William F. Mullican, III
Deputy Executive Administrator
Water Science and Conservation

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
The State Agency for Historic Preservation

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR
JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN
F. LAWERENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 29, 2008

Brad Sparks
Team Leader, Siting & Land Rights
Xcel Energy
P.O. Box 1261
Amarillo, Texas 79105-1261

Re: Project review under the Antiquities Code of Texas, Study Map for Southwestern Public Service Company's (SPS) proposed 230-kV transmission line (180 miles within eight Counties), Dallam, Hansford, Hartley, Hutchinson, Moore, Oldham, Potter and Sherman Counties, Texas (PUC)

Dear Mr. Sparks:

Thank you for your correspondence describing the above referenced project. This letter presents the comments of the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission, the state agency responsible for administering the Antiquities Code of Texas.

The review staff, led by Debra L. Beene, has completed its review. Much of the study area has a moderate to high probability of containing significant cultural resources and an archeological investigation may be warranted. However, we do not have the staff or time to examine the extensive study areas. We understand that SPS has retained PBS&J to gather data on the environment. We recommend that the PBS&J's archeological staff also identify the high probability areas for further cultural resources investigation. We will be pleased to review PBS&J's methodology and probability maps after the routes have been identified.

We look forward to further consultation with your office and hope to maintain a partnership that will foster effective historic preservation. Thank you for your assistance in this state review process, and for your efforts to preserve the irreplaceable heritage of Texas. **If you have any questions concerning our review or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Debra L. Beene at 512/463-5865.**

Sincerely,

for
F. Lawerence Oaks, State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Rob Reid, PBS&J

FLO/dlb