

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

August 27, 2003

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

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 submitted the first report on August 2, 2002 on. One report is submitted on behalf of all the operating companies that signed the MOU every six months.

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

EDM International, Inc. continues to gather data for the development of the APP for PSCo and CLFP. Approximately 90% of the surveys are complete and a draft APP is expected to be completed by the end of 2003. Xcel Energy staff will be reviewing the draft report this fall to develop the Company's plans for implementing the approved EDM recommendations.

As reported previous, Xcel Energy will start development of the APP's for the remainder of the service companies in 2003, 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. We plan to go out for bid on the rest of the APP work this winter.

Regardless of the completion date of the APP's, Xcel Energy has implemented a training program for all electric delivery field personnel that may encounter birds. In addition, the final stages of the development of a bird poster is underway for additional education for Xcel Energy employees. Xcel Energy is working on these issues and 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. Special Purpose permits have been issued by Region 3 for Northern States Power Company – Minnesota (Permit MB074020-0) and Northern States Power

Company – Wisconsin (Permit MB074019-0) The other applications are currently under review by the respective USFWS Migratory Bird Offices.

3. Summary of Avian Injuries
 None reported

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
SPS	Two dead Great Horned Owls, electrocuted on a pole containing three transformers, near Dumas, Texas.	02/17/03	The structure was modified on 02/20/03 and included: 1. Replacing 8' crossarms with 12' crossarms. 2. Installation of new arresters with animal guard protection. 3. Installation of insulating tubing on all primary risers. 4. Installation of one animal guard on each transformer.
SPS	Dead eagle at structure near Stinnett TX.	02/18/03	USFW initially notified on 02/18. On 03/07/03, a line crew replaced the 8' arm on the structure where the raptor was found with a 10' arm and installed Bird Spikes as per G-19 & G-25 of Xcel Energy's Design And Construction Standards.
SPS	Red Tailed Hawk electrocution on utility pole in Chaves County, near Roswell, New Mexico.	03/11/03	USFW initially notified on 03/12. Modifications, performed in May, included adding two animal guards on the bushings and insulation tape to the primary risers. Cost of the project was estimated to be \$200
SPS	Great Horned owl near Borger, Texas.	03/27/03	USFW initially notified on 03/28. Modifications, performed in May, included replacing the primary jumpers on the OCR with insulated jumpers. Animal guards were also installed on all primary bushings. It was unknown exactly where the owl made contact at the time of discovery, but it did appear the only animal guard on the center phase was blackened. Cost of the project was estimated to be \$538.35.
SPS	A juvenile Great Horned Owl was discovered electrocuted at the Potash Junction Substation, 20 miles east of Carlsbad, New Mexico.	06/01/03	USFW initially notified on 06/06. It was discovered that there was a Great Horned Owl nesting three juveniles, on the ground, at the substation. The remaining owls have since left the substation. No further actions performed.
SPS	Crow at substation near Clovis, New	06/12/03	Electrocution resulted in a 28-minute outage affecting 2,400 customers. The cause was a crow that came in contact with

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Operating Company	Description	Date	Comments
	Mexico.		energized equipment in a 23-kilovolt substation; after the crow carcass was removed, station was re-energized. No further actions performed.
SPS	Great Horned Owl at TUCO Interchange near Abernathy, Texas.	07/30/03	Probable source of electrocution is 25 kva transformer. Modifications of the structure are pending.
PSCo	Bald Eagle at Rifle Falls Hatchery	01/15/03	Appears to have been electrocuted. Seven structures within the Hatchery were retrofitted. No outage reported.
PSCo	Bald Eagle at Rifle Falls Hatchery	02/28/03	Appears to have been hit by vehicle. Seven structures within the Hatchery were retrofitted. No outage reported.
PSCo	Crow at 86 th and Roslyn	04/21/03	Electrocuted on pole mounted switch. Structure was retrofitted to prevent future takings. No outage reported.
PSCo	Red Tailed Hawk at Ennis Substation	05/09/03	Appears that electrocution occurred when hawk landed to roost. Required retrofits are being determined. No outage reported.
PSCo	Golden Eagle near Rifle Colorado	05/11/03	Electrocution occurred on modified 69kV line. Investigation being performed. One and one half hour outage reported.
NSPMN	Bald Eagle near Monticello, MN	6/3/03	Electrocution occurred when bird tried to fly through distribution line while carrying mallard. Bird made phase-to-phase contact. Unknown person removed carcass. No plans to modify line since it appears to be unusual occurrence. USFWS and MDNR notified.
NSPM	Red Tail Hawk at Sherco Power plant	8/1/03	Hawk electrocuted on pole. Xcel pursuing measures to insulate wires. USFWS notified.

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
PSCo	Relocated osprey nest near Debeque, Colorado water treatment plant.	5/02/03	Depredation permit acquired from USFWS prior to relocation.

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

Operating Company	Description	Date	Comments
PSCo	Removed inactive osprey nest located on transmission structure near Dillon Reservoir in Colorado.	06/16/03	Contacted USFWS prior to removal. Retrofit performed to eliminate future nesting attempts.
NSPM	Removed inactive osprey nest located on transmission structure located in Orono, MN	4/23/03, 5/2/03, 5/20/03, 5/27/03	All nests were removed as they were being built--prior to eggs being laid. Local crews and designers working with Three Rivers Park District to put up a platform to attract pair to different location. Local Xcel Energy engineer will continue to monitor situation. This is the same nest that was discussed in the last report.
NSPW	Removed inactive raven's nest from substation in Ino, WI	3/27/03	Nest was unoccupied.

D. Endangered/Threatened Migratory Bird Nest Removals

No removals have been reported

6. **Eagle Permits**

No requests have been filed.

7. **Summary of Record-Keeping Procedures**

Xcel Energy is currently developing record keeping procedures. Each contact for the operating companies is coordinating contacts and reports. 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 March 3, 2004.)