

Surrebuttal Testimony and Exhibits  
Jeffrey S. Broberg, LPG, REM

STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS  
FOR THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ROUTE  
PERMIT APPLICATION FOR  
CAPX2020

**SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF**

**JEFFREY S. BROBERG**

On Behalf of

**INTERVENOR**

**ORONOCO TOWNSHIP**

June 3, 2011

PUC Docket No. ET2/TL-09-1448  
OAH Docket No. 7-2500-20283-2  
Broberg Surrebuttal

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1 I. INTRODUCTION

2  
3 Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME.

4 A. My name is Jeffrey S. Broberg.

5  
6 Q. HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY TESTIFIED IN THIS PROCEEDING?

7 A. Yes. I provided rebuttal testimony on behalf of Intervenor Oronoco Township.

8  
9 Q. HAVE YOU REVIEWED THE DIRECT AND REBUTTAL TESTIMONIES OF  
10 OTHERS IN THIS PROCEEDING?

11 A. Yes, I have.

12  
13 Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY?

14 A. I am providing surrebuttal testimony to respond to the rebuttal testimony provided by  
15 North Route Group witnesses, Suzanne Rohlfing and Stephen Hackman, and by  
16 Applicant's witnesses, Tom Hillstrom and Grant Stevenson.

17  
18 Q. WHAT EXHIBITS ARE ATTACHED TO YOUR SURREBUTTAL  
19 TESTIMONY?

20 A. **Exhibit 1:** Route Permit Application; Figure 5.1-2: Alma Crossing.

21 **Exhibit 2:** CapX2020 River Crossing Exhibit.

22 **Exhibit 3:** Summary Tables of Archaeological and Historical sites within one-half  
23 Mile.



1 river/floodplain crossings would be located downstream of dams that have the potential  
2 to fail. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (“FEMA”) and the  
3 2007 National Inventory of Dams, there are 80,000 dams in the United States, of which  
4 one third pose a “high” or “significant” hazard to life and property if failure occurs. As  
5 such, the concrete pier foundation design at the Alternative Route would be constructed  
6 to the same standards that would be employed for crossing the Mississippi River  
7 floodplain at the Kellogg/Alma crossing.

8  
9 **Q. MS. ROHLFING AND MR. HACKMAN CONTEND ARCHEOLOGICAL AND**  
10 **HISTORICAL SITES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHEN SELECTING THE**  
11 **MODIFIED PREFERRED ROUTE, THE ALTERNATIVE ROUTE, OR THE**  
12 **ROUTE OPTION AS THE FINAL ROUTE. DO YOU AGREE WITH THIS**  
13 **STATEMENT?**

14 A. Yes. According to the DEIS, the Applicant indicates the total number of archaeological  
15 and historical sites within one-half mile of the Modified Preferred Route (3P Route),  
16 Alternative Route (3A Route) and the Route Option (3P-Zumbro-N) is 21, 20, and 17,  
17 respectively. A copy of the archeological and historical summary tables as included in  
18 the DEIS is provided in **Exhibit 3**. Combined, the overall impact to archaeological and  
19 historic sites will be greatest along the Modified Preferred Route (3P Route).

1 **Q. MS. ROHLFING AND MR. HACKMAN CONTEND MANY ARCHEOLOGICAL**  
2 **AND HISTORICAL SITES ARE NOT REPORTED IN THE DEIS. DO YOU**  
3 **AGREE WITH THIS STATEMENT?**

4 A. No. If archeological and historical sites are present, they should have been documented  
5 by the State Archeologist or through the State Historic and Preservation Office (“SHPO”)  
6 databases. The information provided by Ms. Rohlring and Mr. Hackman is only an  
7 opinion and is not supported by evidence from Minnesota authorities.

8  
9 **Q. MS. ROHLFING AND MR. HACKMAN CONTEND THAT SELECTION OF**  
10 **THE ALTERNATIVE ROUTE WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON**  
11 **RECREATION, SPECIFICALLY TO SMALLMOUTH BASS FISHING**  
12 **DOWNSTREAM OF THE ZUMBRO RIVER DAM. DO YOU AGREE WITH**  
13 **THIS STATEMENT?**

14 A. No. During May and August 2007, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
15 (“DNR”) Division of Fish and Wildlife conducted an open water creel survey of Lake  
16 Zumbro and a 24-mile Lower Zumbro River Creel Survey (“Survey”). This Survey was  
17 attached to my rebuttal testimony dated May 20, 2011 as Exhibit 5. The purpose of the  
18 Survey was to provide additional information regarding the special regulations and  
19 fishery on the Zumbro River and to provide baseline data on the open water angling  
20 effort, catch, and harvest for Lake Zumbro. For reference purposes the Alternative Route  
21 and the Route Option both cross the Zumbro River, whereas the Modified Preferred  
22 Route crosses Lake Zumbro.

1 Table 3 at page 15 and Table 14 at page 20 of the Survey show the following  
2 creel season fishing pressure estimates:

3 **Table 1: Summary of Creel Season Fishing Pressure Estimates by Site**  
4 **for the Zumbro River and Lake Zumbro, MN.**

Location in DNR Study	Route Alternative Location	Angler hours	Standard Error
Plunge Pool (Zumbro River)	Route Option	1948	364
Green Bridge (Zumbro River)	Alternative Route	1673	355
Lake Zumbro	Modified Preferred Route	Boat Anglers 25,158 Bank anglers 5,312 All anglers 30,470	2,735 710 3,005

5 (See Broberg Rebuttal, Ex. 5, pp. 15, 20 (May 20, 2011).)

6 We acknowledge the Plunge Pool (Route Option) and the Green Bridge  
7 (Alternative Route) of the Zumbro River have both been designated as “catch and  
8 release” reaches for smallmouth bass. However, based on data presented in Table 1, the  
9 fishing pressure on Lake Zumbro surpasses the fishing pressure of the Zumbro River by a  
10 factor of 15:1. Therefore, the Modified Preferred Route will have a larger impact on  
11 recreational users through visual and enjoyment impacts.

12 Table 2 below summarizes the primary and secondary species sought by anglers  
13 (%) in the Zumbro River and Lake Zumbro.



**Table 2: Primary and Secondary Species Sought by Anglers (%)**

**in the Zumbro River and Lake Zumbro, MN.**

Species	Zumbro River		Lake Zumbro	
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
Anything	25	None	28	4
Bass	6	None	12	10
Muskie	3	None	<1	0
Sauger	8	None	None	None
Smallmouth bass	52	None	2	1
Sucker	6	None	1	5
Channel Catfish	None	67	1	1
Trout	None	33	None	None
Black Crappie	None	None	19	34
Bluegill	None	None	22	30
Carp	None	None	0	1
Largemouth bass	None	None	1	1
Northern Pike	None	None	2	7
Panfish	None	None	12	6
Walleye	None	None	<1	0

(See id.)

As shown, Lake Zumbro offers many more recreational opportunities for fishing a greater variety of species including bass, crappie, bluegill, channel catfish, carp, largemouth bass, muskie, northern pike, pan fish, smallmouth bass, sucker, and walleye. Comparatively, the species diversity and fishing opportunities are not as abundant on the Zumbro River. In addition, Lake Zumbro also provides many other recreational opportunities including swimming, canoeing, water skiing, and boating. Therefore, the greatest impact to recreational fishing and other recreational opportunities will be realized on the along the Modified Preferred Route.



1 **Q. MS. ROHLFING AND MR. HACKMAN CONTEND THE ALTERNATIVE**  
2 **ROUTE WILL BE MORE IMPACTED IF THE POLICY OF NON-**  
3 **PROLIFERATION IS NOT ADHERED TO AND A NEW TRANSMISSION LINE**  
4 **IS CONSTRUCTED COMPARED TO THE MODIFIED PREFERRED ROUTE.**  
5 **DO YOU AGREE WITH THIS STATEMENT?**

6 A. No. Although the Alternative Route currently does not have an existing bridge or  
7 existing distribution line at the proposed Zumbro River crossing, it does have the shorter  
8 Zumbro River crossing than the Modified Preferred Route: the Zumbro River crossing on  
9 the Alternative Route is 1,000 feet, whereas the Zumbro River crossing on the Modified  
10 Preferred Route is 1,500 feet. Accordingly, crossing the Zumbro River on the Alternative  
11 Route will have a smaller impact to recreational users, habitats, and humans than the  
12 crossing on the Modified Preferred Route

13 According to Schedule 8, revised on May 19, 2011, of Tom Hillstrom's Direct  
14 Testimony, the number of homes impacted within 0-500 feet of the centerline of the  
15 transmission line route for the Modified Preferred Route and the Alternative Route is 130  
16 and 22, respectively.

17  
18 **Q. ON PAGES 11-15 OF THE NORTH ROUTE GROUP'S REBUTTAL**  
19 **TESTIMONY, CONCERNS ARE EXPRESSED ABOUT FORESTED LAND AND**  
20 **CLAIMS ARE MADE THAT THE TRANSMISSION LINE'S IMPACTS ON**  
21 **TREES ARE PERMANENT. WHAT ARE THE STANDARDS FOR**  
22 **CONVERTING FORESTED LAND TO NON-FORESTED LAND IN WABASHA**  
23 **COUNTY?**

1 A. Based upon our review of the Wabasha County Zoning Ordinance and discussion with  
2 Mr. Floyd Reister, Wabasha County Planning and Zoning Director, show that Wabasha  
3 County allows forestry and forest land conversion as a permitted use for all land  
4 classifications. Therefore, any person with woods on private property can clear-cut and  
5 permanently remove the trees or cut all the trees to convert the forest for other non-  
6 forested uses without permits or regulation.

7

8 **Q. ARE THE NORTH ROUTE GROUP'S CONCERNS LEGITIMATE?**

9 A. No. Any argument that clearing of woods for the transmission line corridor has more  
10 impact than any other allowed forest use or forest conversion is false. There is nothing in  
11 local or state rules to suggest that sustainable forestry or land management is a standard  
12 or a requirement for landowners or for transmission line operators in Wabasha County.

13

14 **Q. THE NORTH ROUTE GROUP RAISED ISSUES RELATED TO BUILDING AND**  
15 **MAINTAINING TRANSMISSION POLES ON KARST TERRAIN. DO YOU**  
16 **HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE WITH KARST HAZARDS?**

17 A. Yes. I am a Minnesota Licensed Professional Geologist with over 20 years of experience  
18 with the identification, mapping, and mitigation of sinkholes and other Karst hazards in  
19 southeastern Minnesota.

1 **Q. ARE KARST HAZARDS A CONCERN THAT WOULD FAVOR ONE ROUTE**  
2 **OVER ANOTHER?**

3 A. No. In my experience Karst features occur on all three routes under review and the risks  
4 are similar for all of the routes. While the risks are similar, any specific Karst features  
5 that could present hazards can be successfully mitigated during construction. There are  
6 tens of thousands of transmission, utility, and communication poles and towers on Karst  
7 terrain. In my 20 years of experience, there has never been a failure of these types of  
8 structures in southeastern Minnesota caused by Karst features.

9  
10 **III. SURREBUTTAL TO APPLICANT'S REBUTTAL TESTIMONY**

11  
12 **Q. ON PAGES 5-6 OF HIS REBUTTAL TESTIMONY, MR. HILLSTROM STATED**  
13 **THAT HE HAS "NEVER INTERPRETED [THE ROUTE SELECTION**  
14 **PROCESS] TO REQUIRE A COMPARISON OF THE TAXABLE PROPERTY**  
15 **VALUES." IN YOUR EXPERIENCE, DO MR. HILLSTROM'S STATEMENTS**  
16 **REFLECT THE ROUTE PERMIT DETERMINATION REQUIREMENTS IN**  
17 **MINNESOTA RULE 7850.4100?**

18 A. No. Minnesota Rule 7850.4100 states, "In determining whether to issue a permit for a  
19 large electric power generation plant or high voltage transmission line, the commission  
20 shall consider the following . . ." and goes on to list 14 specific factors. These factors  
21 include the "effects on human settlement, including, but not limited to, displacement,  
22 noise, aesthetics, cultural values, recreation and public services" and "effects on land-  
23 based economics, including, but not limited to, agriculture, forestry, tourism and mining."

1 Minn. R. 7850.4100(A), (C). Mr. Hillstrom basically admitted that no consideration has  
2 been made of taxable land values, which are fundamental to land-based economics and a  
3 primary indicator of human settlement. Mr. Hillstrom ignores the rules that explicitly  
4 state that the review is “not limited to” the listed factors and then argues that “to my  
5 knowledge, [Minnesota Rule 7850.4100 has] never been interpreted to require a  
6 comparison of the taxable property values.” (Hillstrom Rebuttal, p. 5.) I believe that the  
7 rule is clear: the Commission “shall consider . . . effects on land-based economies,  
8 including, but not limited to, agriculture, forestry, tourism, and mining.” (Minn. R.  
9 7850.4100(A).) The Commission shall consider all pertinent factors, including taxable  
10 land values. I believe that Mr. Hillstrom’s admission is a de-facto acknowledgment that  
11 the Applicant’s analysis of land-based economics is incomplete. An evaluation of land  
12 values shows that either the Alternative Route or the Route Option, both of which are in  
13 Wabasha County, would be preferable to the Modified Preferred Route in terms of future  
14 impacts on both human settlement patterns and land based economies. An evaluation of  
15 land values is also an important consideration for comparing the costs of acquiring the  
16 necessary right-of-way.

17  
18 **Q. THE ROUTE APPLICATION ONLY REVIEWS LAND-BASED ECONOMIES**  
19 **FACTORS OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND MINING. IN YOUR**  
20 **UNDERSTANDING OF THE RULES, IS THAT ALL THAT IS REQUIRED?**

21 A. No. Minnesota Rule 7850.4100 requires that the Commission consider all 14 factors  
22 “including, but not limited to” the listed criteria. It is the Applicant’s responsibility to

1 provide information to the Commission and it is clear that CapX2020 has not presented  
2 information on the full range of pertinent factors as required in the rule.

3 **Q. WHY IS TAXABLE LAND VALUE COMPARISON A VALID MEASURE OF**  
4 **HUMAN SETTLEMENT AND LAND-BASED ECONOMIES?**

5 A. Taxable land values are a function of multiple factors including the needs of the taxing  
6 authority (a measure of local investment in infrastructure, schools and local government  
7 services), comparable prices from recent land sales, parcel location, size, improvements,  
8 productive capacity, highest and best use (determined by land use regulations, land use  
9 opportunity and other factors) and market conditions. The taxable land values are a valid  
10 measure for comparison between properties or groups of properties along the routes being  
11 analyzed because it takes into account multiple factors that are applied consistently by the  
12 assessor. In addition, the taxable land values are validated because each landowner has  
13 the right and the opportunity to appeal the values, which can be adjusted by the local  
14 taxing authorities if deemed appropriate. These two factors assure that the taxable values  
15 are consistent and defensible, making this a valuable metric for comparison between the  
16 route alternates.

17  
18 **Q. IS THERE ANY JUSTIFICATION TO EXCLUDE AN ANALYSIS OF TAXABLE**  
19 **LAND VALUES?**

20 A. Yes. It is not in the interest of the applicant to show that the Alternative Route is  
21 preferable to the Modified Preferred Route. While the taxable property value data is  
22 easily accessible, it also clearly shows the difference in land values based on all the  
23 factors that go into property assessments. When comparing the routes, we see a defining



1 difference between the land values. Taxable land value is not only a valid comparison,  
2 but it is a valid reason to choose the route with lesser impact on land-based economies.

3  
4 **Q. MR. HILLSTROM NOTED THAT ROUTE SELECTION BASED ON LAND**  
5 **VALUES FAVORS AFFLUENT COUNTIES AND NEIGHBORS AT THE**  
6 **EXPENSE OF LESS AFFLUENT COUNTIES AND NEIGHBORS. WHAT IS**  
7 **YOUR REACTION TO THIS STATEMENT?**

8 A. It is simply a false assumption that any route decision based on land value assessments  
9 leads to discrimination against disadvantaged groups. Discrimination against less  
10 affluent, disadvantaged, or minority sectors is independent of land values, especially in  
11 agriculture production areas like Olmsted and Wabasha Counties where taxable land  
12 values are more reflective of factors such as productive capacity, field size, and future  
13 development. Therefore, low land value simply is not a measure of poverty or  
14 disadvantage. Choosing a route based on land cost is a legitimate choice, especially  
15 when land costs, as here, reflect future residential development. It is a misdirection to  
16 suggest that routes across lower value land categorically favor the wealthy and  
17 discriminate against the disadvantaged.

18  
19 **Q. ON PAGE 6 OF HIS REBUTTAL TESTIMONY, MR. HILLSTROM CITED**  
20 **ORONOCO TOWNSHIP QUESTIONS ABOUT WHY CAPX2020 DID NOT**  
21 **FOLLOW THE STATE OF MINNESOTA'S NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY**  
22 **AND WHY CAPX2020 DID NOT PROPOSE AN ALTERNATIVE TO CO-**  
23 **LOCATE ALONG THE EXISTING 69kV LINE THROUGH MAZEPPA. MR.**  
24 **HILLSTROM COMMENTED THAT THERE WERE THREE REASONS THIS**



1           **WAS NOT A “GOOD ROUTING OPPORTUNITY.” CAN YOU COMMENT**  
2           **ABOUT HIS REASONING TO REJECT CO-LOCATION AND REJECT THE**  
3           **PRINCIPLE OF NON-PROLIFERATION?**

4           A. The non-proliferation policy, as cited in the Route Permit at Section 2.3.3, references  
5           Minn. Stat. § 216E.02, subd. 1 and precedent setting case law (People for Environmental  
6           Enlightenment & Responsibility (PEER), Inc. v Minnesota Environmental Quality  
7           Council, 266 N.W.2d 858 (Minn. 1978), which call upon the Commission to consider  
8           utilization of existing transmission corridors. Until Mr. Hillstrom’s current testimony,  
9           there has been no evidence that the Applicant gave any consideration to the existing  
10          69kV transmission route cited in Oronoco’s DEIS response at page 9 of Attachment A  
11          and shown on CapX2020 documents.

12                   Additionally, Mr. Hillstrom’s reasoning for rejecting consideration of the non-  
13          proliferation policy fails for the following reason:

- 14                   • Even though the existing line goes through Mazeppa and Zumbro Falls,  
15                   the right-of-way (“ROW”) easements already exist. In the first instance, the  
16                   ROW easements must be assumed to be safe and protective of the existing  
17                   landowners. In the second instance, the corridor already restricts new  
18                   development or structures within the existing ROW. It is only logical to follow  
19                   the non-proliferation policy to use the existing ROW, especially when compared  
20                   with acquiring and developing new ROW.
- 21                   • Even though Mr. Hillstrom cites a relatively high number of existing  
22                   homes near the existing line, there is no data or analysis to provide a comparison  
23                   against the proliferation of new routes.

1           •       The connection of this existing 69kV ROW segment to Kellogg would  
2           simply continue to follow the 69kV route west, turning south one mile west of  
3           Millville along CR23 to the Modified Preferred Route, and would continue to use  
4           existing ROW in conformance with Minnesota’s non-proliferation policy.

5           Mr. Hillstrom’s testimony effectively chooses the impact on human development factor  
6           over the non-proliferation factor along the 69kV ROW. Yet, the Applicant ignores the  
7           impact on present and future human development on the Oronoco portion of the Modified  
8           Preferred Route.

9

10

IV. CONCLUSION

11

12   **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY?**

13   A. Yes.



Figure 5.1-2: Alma Crossing  
Hampton ▪ Rochester ▪ La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project





Lake Zumbro Dam Emergency Inundation Map  
 Probable Maximum Flooding (PMF) Failure Scenario



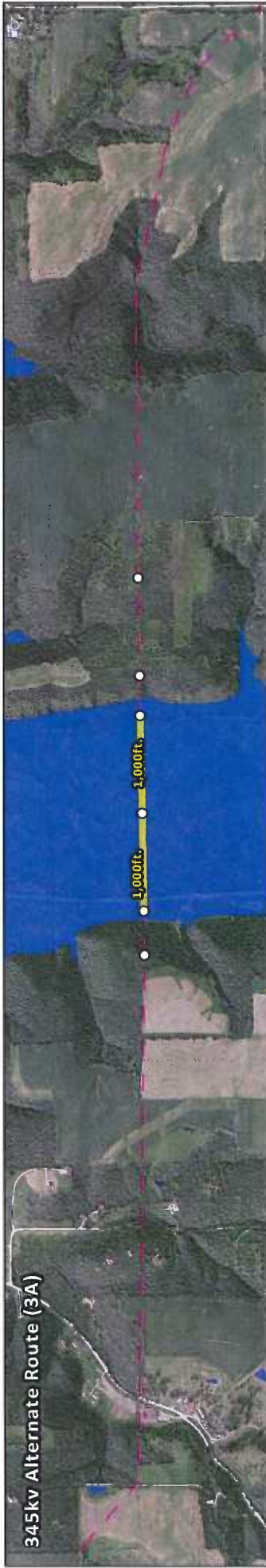
Full Dam Break Only



Date: 4/19/2011  
 Map Location: L:\RPUC\GIS\MapDocs\Borealis\PMF\FullDamBreak\117.mxd

EXHIBIT 2



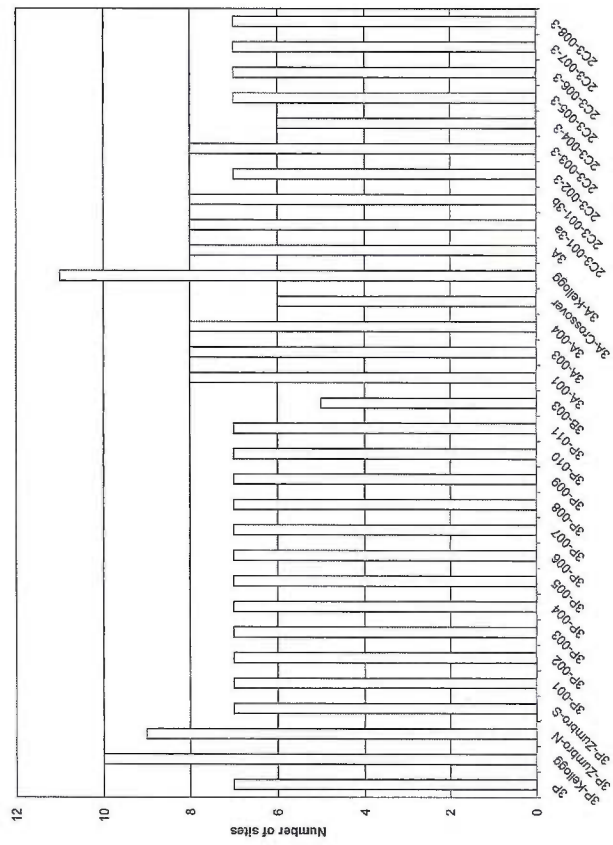


# CapX2020 River Crossing Exhibit



Environmental Impacts

Figure 8.3.4.10.1 Number of archaeological sites within one-half mile of each route alternative - Segment 3



\*Note, a portion of each of the "C" route alternatives would have a parallel alignment between Segments 2 and 3. Because of this, impacts in these areas are double counted. See Section 8.2.4 for further information on parallel alignments. The calculated impacts for the portions that are double counted are available in Appendix J.

Along most of the A route alternatives, eight archaeological sites have been documented within one mile of the route centerline. One of the sites was listed as a lithic scatter that has been determined as not eligible for listing on the NRHP. Eligibility of the remaining sites has not been determined (MVAC 2008). Two of the A route alternatives, 3A-Kellogg and 3A-Crossover pass near 11 and 6 sites, respectively.

The B and C route alternatives have potential impacts to archaeological sites that range from six to eight sites.

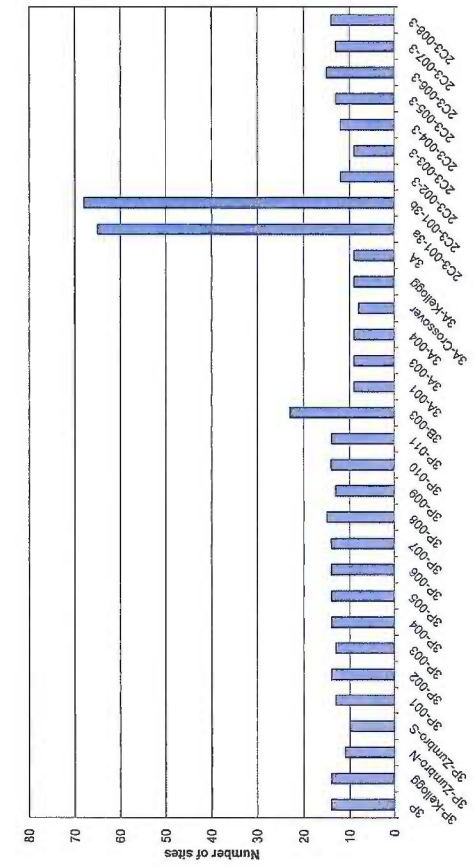
Actual impacts to any archaeological sites will not be known until a route and alignment are selected. However, the applicant would work to design an alignment of the transmission line that would

avoid archaeological resources (see the Mitigation discussion below).

Figure 8.3.4.10-3 compares the number of historical architectural sites within one-half mile on either side of the proposed centerline for each route alternative in this segment. The P route alternatives are approximately equivalent in the number of nearby historic sites, potentially affecting 13 to 15 sites. The 3P-Zumbro-N and 3P-Zumbro-S route alternatives would affect up to 11 sites.

The A route alternatives are also approximately equivalent in the number of nearby historic sites, potentially affecting nine sites. Most of the B and C route alternatives would also affect 9 to 15 sites. Two notable exceptions are route alternatives 2C3-001-3a and 2C3-001-3b, which would affect 65 and 68 historic sites, respectively.

Figure 8.3.4.10.2 Number of historic sites within one-half mile of each route alternative - Segment 3



\*Note, a portion of each of the "C" route alternatives would have a parallel alignment between Segments 2 and 3. Because of this, impacts in these areas are double counted. See Section 8.2.4 for further information on parallel alignments. The calculated impacts for the portions that are double counted are available in Appendix J.

There are no NRHP sites located within one-half mile of the P or A route alternatives.

Mitigation

Project planning and engineering efforts would strive to avoid any sites within the proposed route width for each alternative. Route alternatives 3A-Crossover and 2C3-004-3 have the fewest archaeological sites potentially within one-half mile of the route centerline. Route alternative 3A-Crossover also has the fewest historical architectural sites potentially within one-half mile of the route centerline. However, the proximity analysis is based on the SHPO TSR information; actual proximity to archaeological and historic sites is not known. Therefore, at this time it is not clear which route would have the fewest actual impacts on archaeological or historical resources or what the magnitude of the impacts would be. Specific mitigation plans cannot be made until a complete NHRP assessment of potentially affected sites has been made.

For cultural resources within the route width, once a route is permitted by the Commission, archaeological investigations would be required to locate resources sites and to develop specific mitigation plans. Mitigation plans could entail compensation for the losses of properties that are eligible for listing on the NRHP. Section 7.10 provides an overview of potential impacts to archaeological and historical resources and outlines general steps that would be taken to mitigate impacts to these resources.

8.3.4.11 Transportation and Public Services— Analysis of Segment Alternatives for North Rochester Substation to Mississippi River ROW Sharing

Sharing ROW with existing infrastructure satisfies Minnesota's policy of non-proliferation and reduces the additional ROW needed for the transmission line and can minimize impacts to adjacent property (see Section 4.4). In areas where ROW is shared, however, there is the potential for impacts to transportation along the shared corridors. The possible impacts are discussed