



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
St Paul District

APPLICANT: **Matt McFarlane**  
**Xcel Energy**

# **Public Notice**

**ISSUED: December 17, 2014**

**EXPIRES: January 20, 2015**

**REFER TO: MVP-2014-02382-DJM**

**SECTION: 404 - Clean Water Act**

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1. APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO permanently discharge fill material into 0.01 acre of wetlands, temporarily discharge fill material into 0.79 acre of wetlands, and to permanently convert 2.10 acres of Hardwood swamp wetlands to Fresh (wet) meadow wetlands, all in conjunction with the construction of a new 1.5 mile long 69KV transmission line to extend the existing W3488 line.

2. SPECIFIC INFORMATION.

APPLICANT'S ADDRESS:

1414 West Hamilton Avenue  
P.O. Box 8  
Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54702

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located in Section 5, Township 34N, Range 6W and in Sections 30 and 31, Township 35N, Range 6W, all in Rusk County, Wisconsin.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: The project as proposed would involve the installation of 37 new power poles, 11 of which would be located in wetlands, resulting in a permanent discharge of fill material into 0.01 acre of wetlands. The project would also include a temporary discharge of fill material into 0.79 acre of wetlands for the purpose of the installation of work pads during construction. In addition, 2.10 acres of Hardwood swamp wetlands is proposed to be converted to Fresh (wet) meadow wetland as a result of the construction of a 50-foot easement. The purpose of the project is to provide electrical service to Enbridge's new Ladysmith Pumping Station.

QUANTITY, TYPE, AND AREA OF FILL: The aquatic resources impacted by this proposed project total 2.90 acres. Permanent impacts by filling include 0.01 acre of Fresh (wet) meadow wetlands. Temporary impacts resulting from work pads include 0.79 acre of Fresh (wet) meadow wetlands. Additional wetland impacts would result from the conversion of 2.10 acres of Hardwood swamp wetlands to Fresh (wet) meadow wetlands.

VEGETATION IN AFFECTED AREA: The wetlands proposed to be impacted include Fresh (wet) meadows and Hardwood swamps.

SOURCE OF FILL MATERIAL: The source of the fill material is proposed to be from a license facility.

SURROUNDING LAND USE: The surrounding land use is primarily a mix of agriculture with some forested areas.

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THE FOLLOWING POTENTIALLY TOXIC MATERIALS COULD BE USED AT THE PROJECT SITE: The potentially toxic materials anticipated to be used at the project site would include materials typical of construction areas such as diesel fuel and gasoline.

MITIGATION: The applicant has proposed that impacts to waters of the United States would be mitigated through the purchase of 1.14 credits from the Northland Cranberries wetland mitigation bank in Wood County, Wisconsin.

**3. REPLIES/COMMENTS.**

Interested parties are invited to submit to this office written facts, arguments, or objections within 30 days of the date of this notice. These statements should bear upon the suitability of the location and the adequacy of the project and should, if appropriate, suggest any changes believed to be desirable. Comments received may be forwarded to the applicant.

Replies may be addressed to Regulatory Branch, St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers, 180 Fifth Street East, Suite 700, Saint Paul, MN 55101-1678.

Or, IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROJECT, call Dan Munson at the St. Paul office of the Corps, telephone number (651) 290-5191.

To receive Public Notices by e-mail, go to: [http://mvp-extstp.mvp.usace.army.mil/list\\_server/](http://mvp-extstp.mvp.usace.army.mil/list_server/) and add your information in the New Registration Box.

**4. FEDERALLY-LISTED THREATENED OR ENDANGERED WILDLIFE OR PLANTS OR THEIR CRITICAL HABITAT.**

None were identified by the applicant or are known to exist in the permit area. However, Rusk County is within the known or historic range of the following Federally-listed threatened (T) and endangered (E) species:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Habitat</u>
Northern long-eared bat (proposed E)	Hibernates in caves and mines – swarming in surrounding wooded areas in autumn. During summer, roosts and forages in upland forests.
Sheepnose mussel (E)	Chippewa River

This application is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Any comments it may have concerning Federally-listed threatened or endangered wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

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**5. JURISDICTION.**

This application is being reviewed in accordance with the practices for documenting Corps jurisdiction under Sections 9 & 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act identified in Regulatory Guidance Letter 08-02. We have made an initial determination that the aquatic resources that would be impacted by the proposed project are regulated by the Corps of Engineers under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section(s) 9 & 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. The Corps will prepare an approved or preliminary jurisdictional determination prior to making a permit decision. Approved jurisdictional determinations are posted on the St. Paul District web page at <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>.

THE APPLICANT HAS STATED THAT THE FOLLOWING STATE, COUNTY, AND/OR LOCAL PERMITS HAVE BEEN APPLIED FOR/ISSUED: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Water Resources permit - Pending

**6. STATE SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION.**

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION. This Public Notice has been sent to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and is considered by the District Engineer to constitute valid notification to that agency for Section 401 water quality certification. A permit will not be granted until the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has issued or waived Section 401 certification.

**7. HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL.**

This public notice is being sent to the National Park Service and the State Archaeologist for their comments. The Corps will review information on known cultural resources and/or historic properties within and adjacent to the project area. The Corps will also consider the potential effects of the project on any properties that have yet to be identified. The results of this review and the Corps' determination of effect will be coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Officer independent of this public notice. Any adverse effects on historic properties will be resolved prior to the Corps authorization, or approval, of the work in connection with this project.

**8. PUBLIC HEARING REQUESTS.**

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, in detail, the reasons for holding a public hearing. A request may be denied if substantive reasons for holding a hearing are not provided or if there is otherwise no valid interest to be served.

**9. PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW.**

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably

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foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Environmental and other documents will be available for review in the St. Paul District Office.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Mr. Jeff Olson  
Chief, Northeast Section

Enclosures: Drawings labeled (MVP-2014-02382-DJM, Page 1 of 14 through page 14 of 14)

NOTICE TO EDITORS: This public notice is provided as background information and is not a request or contract for publication.

# W3488 69 kV Line Extension

Rusk County, WI

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Data Courtesy of Xcel Energy & ESRI  
NAD HARN 1983 Wisconsin Transverse Mercator



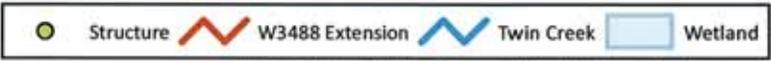
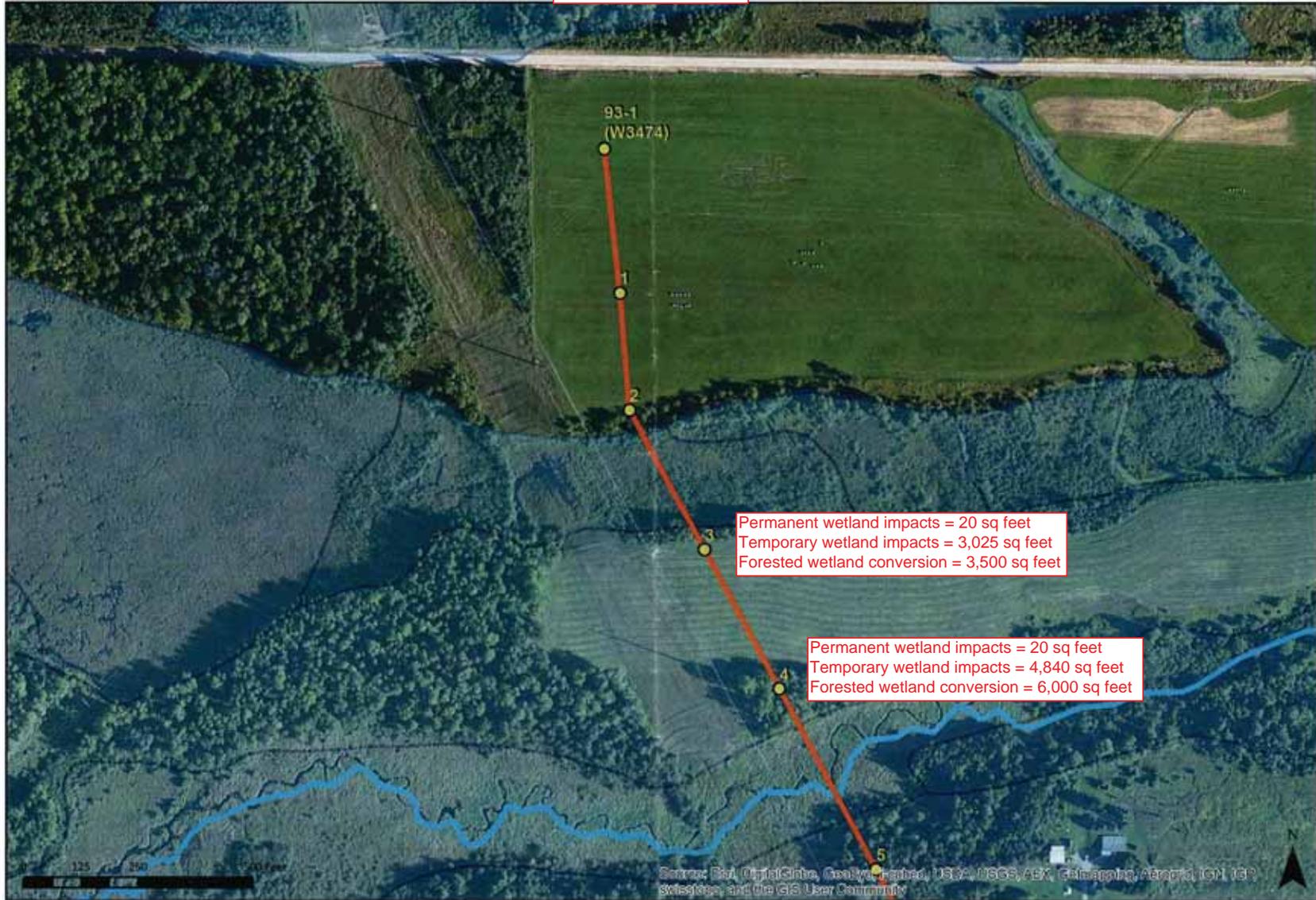
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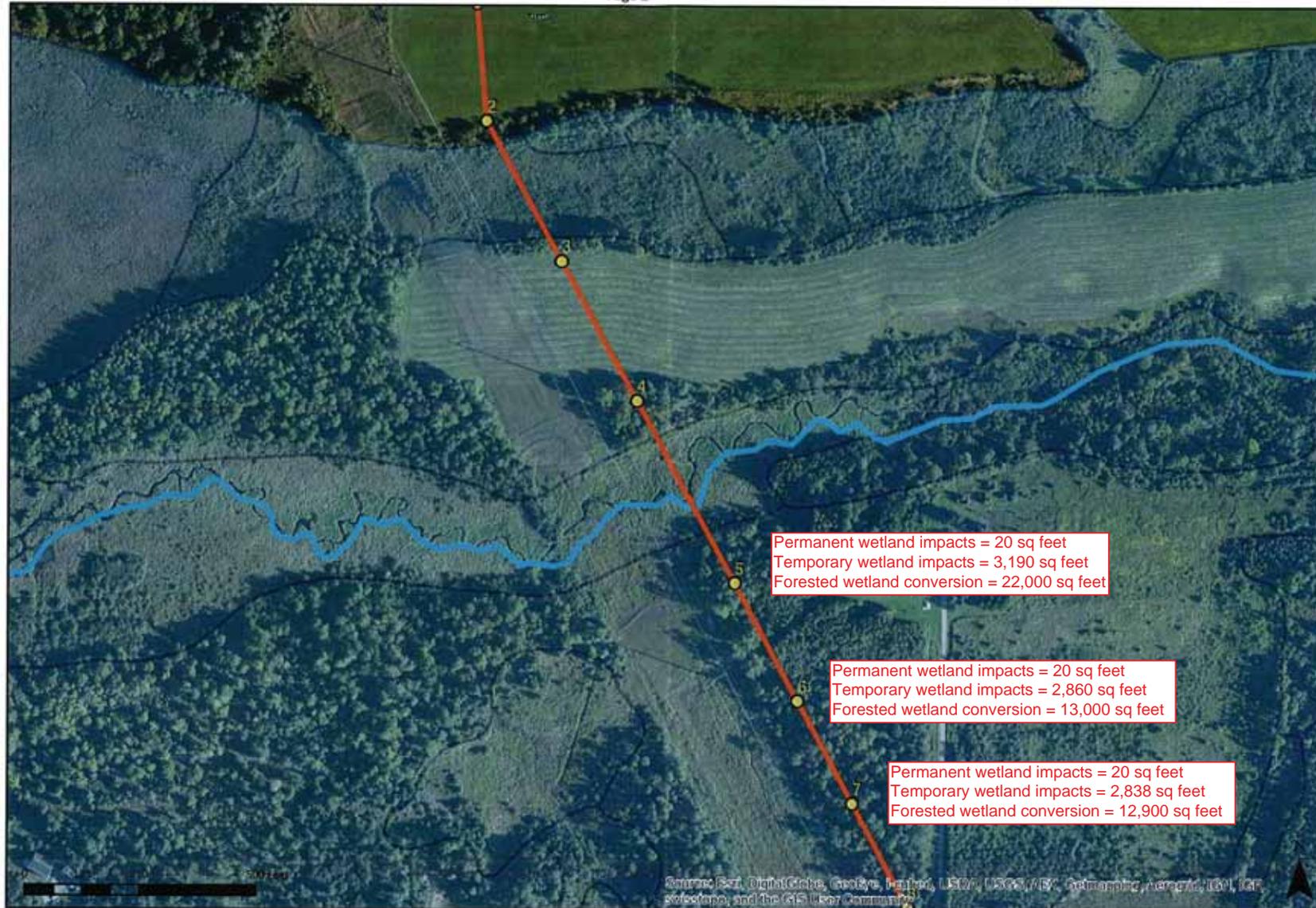
- W3488 Extension
- Xcel Energy Transmission
- Foreign Transmission

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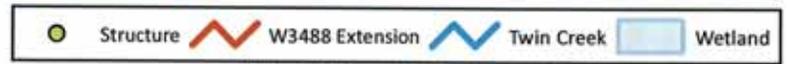
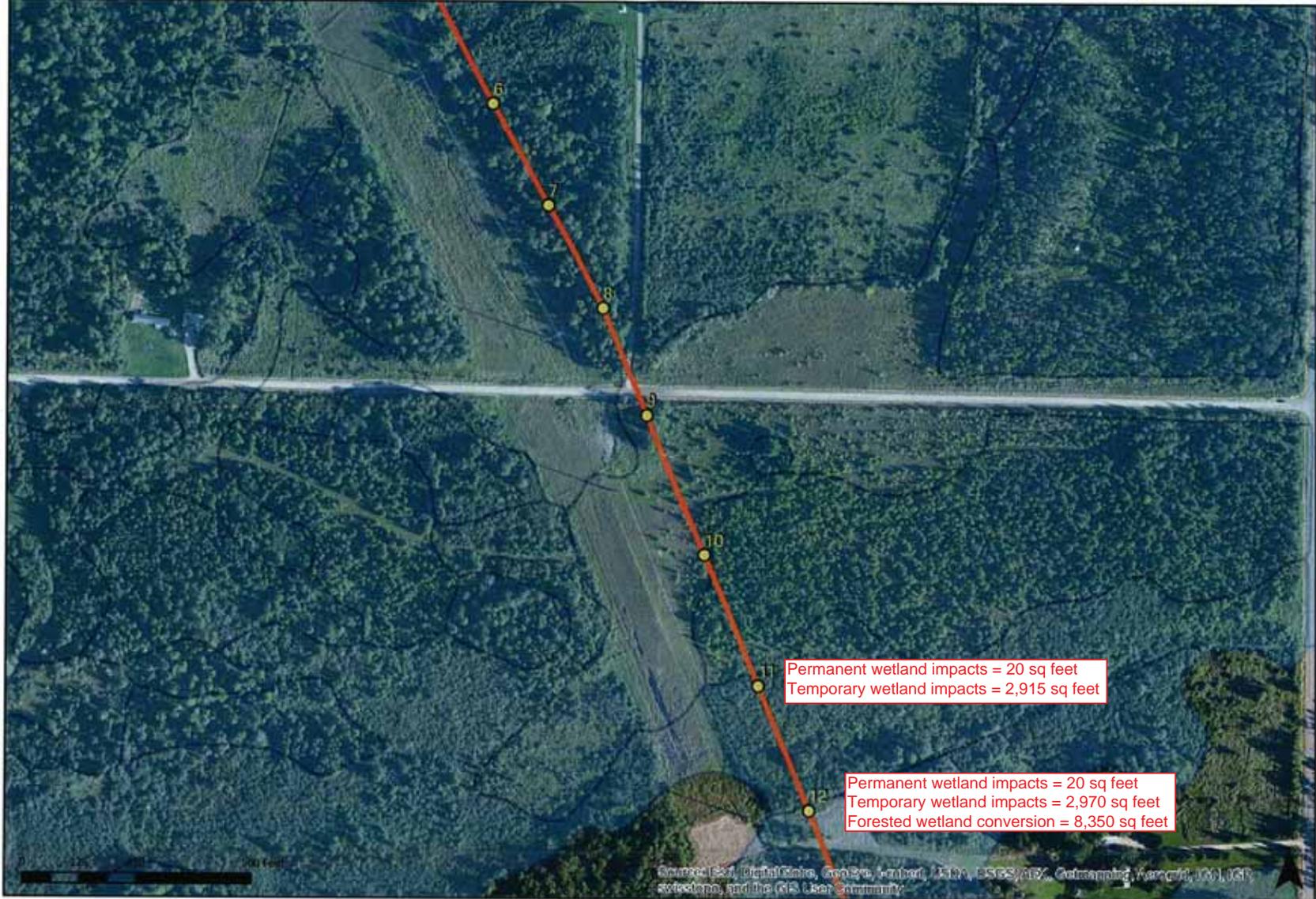


● Structure    W W3488 Extension    〰 Twin Creek    Wetland

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Structure	W3488 Extension	Twin Creek	Wetland
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 Structure	 W3488 Extension	 Twin Creek	 Wetland
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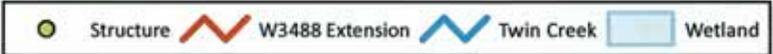


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Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, AeroGRID, IGN, USGS, Air Force, Geomatics, AeroGRID, IGN, Esri, and the GIS User Community



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