

19-0132

Herro, Michael J

From: McFarlane, Matthew J
Sent: Monday, February 18, 2019 7:24 AM
To: Herro, Michael J
Cc: Marquardt, Jeffrey D; Armstrong, JD
Subject: Fwd: LaX Marsh

Mike - please forward onto the City Council. I'll meet you at the office around 9:15.

Matt 715-577-2148

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Tekler, Lindsay M - DNR" <Lindsay.Tekler@wisconsin.gov>
Date: February 18, 2019 at 7:19:57 AM CST
To: "McFarlane, Matthew J" <Matthew.J.McFarlane@xcelenergy.com>
Subject: RE: LaX Marsh

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Hi Matt,

Thank you for providing that additional information. The use of a marsh buggy vehicle in a wetland is not state jurisdictional, as the use of this vehicle should not create a discharge of fill or dredged material. Therefore, the existing permit coverage (GP-WC-2018-32-NO3429) does not need to be updated or amended, and this project is in compliance with the permit (WDNR-GP3-2018) terms and conditions and is in compliance with Ch. 281.36 and Ch. 30 (Wis. Stats.).

Feel free to share this email with others, and to share my contact information is anyone has any questions.

Thanks!

Lindsay Tekler
Energy Project Liaison
Office of Energy - <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Sectors/Energy.html>
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Mobile: (608) 535-2602
Lindsay.Tekler@wisconsin.gov

From: McFarlane, Matthew J <Matthew.J.McFarlane@xcelenergy.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2019 4:06 PM
To: Tekler, Lindsay M - DNR <Lindsay.Tekler@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: LaX Marsh

Hi Lindsay,

Here is some additional information regarding our proposed access in the LaX marsh using a marshbuggy for the purpose of conducting soil borings for our transmission line rebuild W3205. I spoke with Chuck Lee from the Friends of La Crosse River Marsh group yesterday to better understand his concerns. He asked the question as to why we are unable to access the marsh from our LaX Substation rather than Myrick Park. Our soil boring contractor provided the following clarifications on the limitations of the LaCrosse Substation site:

- Lack of adequate parking for a semi-trailers carrying the marsh equipment and the two cranes to setup and unload
- Safety concern with maintaining clearances from the network of existing distribution and transmission lines entering the substation from all directions
- Safety concern with the pedestrian trail and Hwy 35 at this location

GP-WC-2018-32-NO3429

The access route included in the application was based on utilizing the paved City trail that runs north-south through the LaX marsh and then installing mats in the marsh within our existing ROW. At that time, it was unknown that a marshbuggy would be necessary to conduct soil borings in the marsh area and that the City trail would not be wide enough for that piece of equipment. The trail is approximately 12 feet wide whereas the marshbuggy is 19 feet wide. It is the company's position that using a marshbuggy in the LaX marsh as shown on the attached access map will not pose additional temporary or permanent wetland impacts. Therefore no additional permit requirements would be necessary. This equipment floats similar to a pontoon or boat and the purpose of using it is to avoid wetland impacts. Please note that our contractor will also unload an amphibious marsh excavator to the site to be used only in emergency purposes if the marshbuggy/soil boring rig should break through the ice and get stuck. The excavator will remain at the landing at Myrick Park unless needed to break the ice to free up the marshbuggy.

Partnership Opportunity

I have read the *La Crosse River Marsh Strategic Plan* prepared by the Friends group and appreciate their commitment to protecting the marsh. Xcel Energy owns our transmission line ROWs in fee through the marsh and we are also interested in its protection and enhancement. I plan to reach out to them to see if there are opportunities for partnership on prairie restoration or management as they have listed in their plan.

Please let me know if you agree that no additional permitting requirements are necessary for the marshbuggy to operate in the LaX marsh.

Thank you!

Matt McFarlane

Xcel Energy | Responsible By Nature

Sr. Land Rights Agent

1414 W. Hamilton Ave., Eau Claire, WI 54702-0008

Phone: 715.737.2434

Email: matthew.j.mcfarlane@xcelenergy.com