

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### **ABSTRACT/NOTE TO REVIEWER OR READER**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

	<u>Page No.</u>
<b>1.0 INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1-1</b>
1.1 Project Description.....	1-1
1.2 Owners .....	1-8
1.3 Development of Cardinal-Hickory Creek Initial Study Area and Alternative Crossing Locations.....	1-11
1.4 Overview of Agency Requirements and Outreach .....	1-15
1.5 Organization of This Report .....	1-16
<b>2.0 PURPOSE AND NEED .....</b>	<b>2-1</b>
2.1 Study Efforts Supporting the Project .....	2-1
2.1.1 Upper Midwest Transmission Development Initiative .....	2-2
2.1.2 MISO Regional Generator Outlet Study .....	2-3
2.2 MISO MVP Portfolio Development .....	2-4
2.2.1 Transmission System Reliability .....	2-6
2.2.2 Increased Economic Benefits.....	2-6
2.2.3 Increased Transfer Capability – Reliable Renewable Energy Integration.....	2-7
2.2.4 National Public Policy Benefits .....	2-7
2.3 Conclusion .....	2-12
<b>3.0 DEVELOPMENT OF CARDINAL-HICKORY CREEK INITIAL STUDY AREA, ALTERNATIVE CROSSING LOCATIONS, AND ACA STUDY AREA .....</b>	<b>3-1</b>
3.1 Development of Initial Study Area and Crossing Locations .....	3-1
3.2 ACA Study Area Boundary .....	3-3
3.3 USFWS Mitigation Policy and Refuge Lands .....	3-4
3.3.1 USFWS Authority to Grant Right-of-Way for Power Line Use.....	3-4
3.3.2 Non-Refuge Alternative Crossing Locations.....	3-6
3.3.3 Refuge Alternatives .....	3-9
3.4 Major Stakeholders .....	3-9
3.4.1 Federal Agencies.....	3-15
3.4.2 State Agencies.....	3-15
3.4.3 Native American Tribes and Nations.....	3-16
<b>4.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACA STUDY AREA AND ALTERNATIVE CROSSING LOCATIONS .....</b>	<b>4-1</b>
4.1 Existing Conditions in ACA Study Area .....	4-1
4.1.1 Physiographic Setting .....	4-1

4.1.2	Hydrology .....	4-1
4.1.3	Transportation .....	4-2
4.1.4	Population and Housing .....	4-7
4.1.5	Threatened and Endangered Species .....	4-9
4.1.6	Conservation Areas/Natural Resources .....	4-12
4.2	Existing Conditions in Municipalities .....	4-17
4.2.1	Guttenberg, Iowa.....	4-17
4.2.2	Cassville, Wisconsin .....	4-21
4.2.3	Dubuque, Iowa/East Dubuque, Illinois .....	4-22
4.3	Existing Conditions in Non-Refuge Crossing Locations .....	4-24
4.3.1	L&D 11 .....	4-24
4.3.2	Highway 151 Bridge .....	4-24
4.3.3	Galena 161 kV .....	4-24
4.3.4	Julien Dubuque Bridge .....	4-25
4.4	Existing Conditions in Refuge Crossing Locations .....	4-25
4.4.1	L&D 10 .....	4-25
4.4.2	Nelson Dewey .....	4-26
4.4.3	Stoneman.....	4-26

<b>5.0</b>	<b>ANALYSIS OF ACA ROUTES AND ALTERNATIVE CROSSING LOCATIONS .....</b>	<b>5-1</b>
5.1	Overview of Methodology .....	5-2
5.2	NEPA and the Analysis of Alternative Crossing Locations .....	5-4
5.3	Site Reconnaissance and GIS Analysis.....	5-5
5.4	Evaluation Criteria for ACA Routes.....	5-6
5.4.1	Engineering .....	5-6
5.4.2	Environmental and Land Use.....	5-7
5.4.3	Social Issues .....	5-8
5.4.4	Feasibility.....	5-10
5.5	Overview of the Alternative Crossing Evaluation Process.....	5-10
5.6	Non-Refuge ACA Routes and Alternative Crossing Locations .....	5-11
5.6.1	L&D 11 Alternative Crossing Location and ACA Route.....	5-15
5.6.2	Highway 151 Bridge Alternative Crossing Location and ACA Route.....	5-26
5.6.3	Julien Dubuque Bridge Alternative Crossing Location and ACA Route.....	5-33
5.6.4	Galena 161 kV Line Alternative Crossing Location and ACA Route.....	5-41
5.6.5	Summary of Non-Refuge ACA Routes and Alternative Crossing Locations.....	5-48
5.7	Refuge ACA Routes and Alternative Crossing Locations.....	5-48
5.7.1	L&D 10 ACA Route and Alternative Crossing Locations .....	5-48
5.7.2	Stoneman ACA Route and Alternative Crossing Location .....	5-59
5.7.3	Nelson Dewey ACA Route and Alternative Crossing Location.....	5-70
5.7.4	Summary of Refuge Options .....	5-77
5.8	Underground Construction Options .....	5-78

5.8.1	Potential Locations for Underground Construction .....	5-78
5.8.2	Review of Potential Costs.....	5-80
5.8.3	Analysis of an Underground Alternative at the Refuge.....	5-80
5.8.4	State Regulatory Considerations.....	5-85
<b>6.0</b>	<b>MAJOR FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL PERMITS AND APPROVALS .....</b>	<b>6-1</b>
6.1	NEPA .....	6-1
6.2	Primary Federal Authorizations and Approvals for the Mississippi River Crossing .....	6-2
6.2.1	USFWS .....	6-2
6.2.2	RUS.....	6-3
6.2.3	USACE/EPA.....	6-3
6.2.4	U.S. Coast Guard .....	6-4
6.3	State Need, Siting, and Condemnation Approvals for the Mississippi River Crossing .....	6-4
6.3.1	Iowa.....	6-4
6.3.2	Wisconsin Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity .....	6-4
6.3.3	Illinois .....	6-5
6.3.4	Other State-Required Permits .....	6-6
6.4	Local Siting and Condemnation Approvals for the Mississippi River Crossing .....	6-7
6.4.1	City of Dubuque.....	6-7
6.4.2	City of Guttenberg .....	6-8
<b>7.0</b>	<b>AGENCY OUTREACH.....</b>	<b>7-1</b>
7.1	Federal Agencies.....	7-1
7.2	State Agencies.....	7-3
7.3	Local Government Units.....	7-3
7.4	Multi-Agency and Other Agencies .....	7-5
<b>8.0</b>	<b>PREFERRED CROSSING LOCATION FOR THE PROJECT .....</b>	<b>8-1</b>
8.1	Elimination of Alternatives from Further Consideration.....	8-1
8.2	Selection of the Preferred Crossing Location .....	8-2
8.2.1	Design of the Utilities' Preferred Alternative Crossing Location .....	8-3
8.2.2	Measures to Mitigate Potential Impacts to the Refuge .....	8-9
8.2.3	Optional Transmission Design through Refuge.....	8-9
<b>9.0</b>	<b>REFERENCES .....</b>	<b>9-1</b>

**APPENDIX A - ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS DATA****APPENDIX B - AGENCY MEETING MINUTES AND OTHER MATERIALS****APPENDIX C - CITY OF DUBUQUE RESOLUTION AND MATERIALS****APPENDIX D - EVALUATION OF UNDERGROUND TRANSMISSION  
INSTALLATION****APPENDIX E - MVP TRIENNIAL REVIEW**

**APPENDIX F - STATE PROTECTED SPECIES**

**APPENDIX G - OPTIONAL TRANSMISSION DESIGN THROUGH THE REFUGE**

**APPENDIX H - NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT ACT  
OF 1997**

## LIST OF TABLES

	<u>Page No.</u>
Table 4-1: Total Population in Cities Near ACA Routes .....	4-7
Table 4-2: Population and Housing Data in Affected Counties .....	4-8
Table 4-3: Employment Data.....	4-9
Table 4-4: Federal and State Protected Species Known or Likely to Occur in ACA Study Area.....	4-10
Table 5-1: Potential Impact Summary Table for L&D 11 ACA Route.....	5-19
Table 5-2: Potential Impact Summary Table for Highway 151 Bridge ACA Route.....	5-29
Table 5-3: Potential Impact Summary Table for Julien Dubuque Bridge ACA Route .....	5-38
Table 5-4: Potential Impact Summary Table for Galena 161 kV Line ACA Route.....	5-45
Table 5-5: Potential Impact Summary Table for L&D 10 ACA Route.....	5-53
Table 5-6: Potential Impact Summary Table for Stoneman ACA Route .....	5-63
Table 5-7: Potential Impact Summary Table for Nelson Dewey ACA Route.....	5-73
Table 7-1: USFWS Meetings.....	7-1
Table 7-2: USACE Meetings .....	7-2
Table 7-3: Iowa Utilities Board Meetings .....	7-3
Table 7-4: Iowa Department of Natural Resources Meetings .....	7-3
Table 7-5: Public Service Commission of Wisconsin and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Meetings.....	7-3
Table 7-6: City of Dubuque Meetings .....	7-4
Table 7-7: City of East Dubuque Meetings .....	7-4
Table 7-8: Village and Township of Cassville Meetings .....	7-4
Table 7-9: City of Guttenberg Meetings.....	7-5
Table 7-10: Iowa Environmental Council Meetings.....	7-5
Table 7-11: Center for Rural Affairs in Iowa .....	7-5
Table 8-1: Routing Constraints Associated with Stoneman and Nelson Dewey ACA Routes.....	8-3

**LIST OF FIGURES**

	<u>Page No.</u>
Figure 1-1: Cardinal-Hickory Creek Initial Study Area .....	1-3
Figure 1-2: ITC Typical Proposed 345 kV/345 kV Structure.....	1-6
Figure 1-3: ITC Typical Proposed 345 kV Structure.....	1-7
Figure 1-4: Proposed ITC Low-Profile 345 kV/345 kV Double-Circuit Structure .....	1-9
Figure 1-5: Proposed ITC Mississippi River Crossing 345 kV/345 kV Structure.....	1-10
Figure 1-6: ACA Study Area and Alternative Crossing Locations.....	1-13
Figure 2-1: UMTDI Wind Zones and Renewable Energy Transmission Corridors .....	2-2
Figure 2-2: RGOS Wind Zones.....	2-5
Figure 3-1: Non-Refuge ACA Routes.....	3-7
Figure 3-2: Refuge ACA Routes.....	3-11
Figure 4-1: Watersheds in the ACA Study Area.....	4-3
Figure 4-2: Surface Water in the ACA Study Area .....	4-5
Figure 4-3: Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge .....	4-13
Figure 4-4: State, County, and Local Lands and Parks .....	4-19
Figure 4-5: South Port Redevelopment Rendering .....	4-23
Figure 5-1: Overview of Non-Refuge ACA Routes .....	5-13
Figure 5-2: Lock & Dam No. 11 ACA Route .....	5-17
Figure 5-3: Lock & Dam No. 11 ACA Route Technical/Safety Exclusion Area .....	5-23
Figure 5-4: Highway 151 Bridge ACA Route .....	5-27
Figure 5-5: Julien Dubuque Bridge ACA Route .....	5-35
Figure 5-6: Galena 161 kV ACA Route.....	5-43
Figure 5-7: Lock & Dam No. 10 ACA Route .....	5-51
Figure 5-8: Lock & Dam No. 10 ACA Route Technical/Safety Exclusion Areas .....	5-57
Figure 5-9: Stoneman ACA Route .....	5-61
Figure 5-10: Nelson Dewey ACA Route .....	5-71
Figure 8-1: Preliminary Plan and Profile of Nelson Dewey ACA Route in the Refuge.....	8-5
Figure 8-2: Wing Dam Locations .....	8-7
Figure 8-3: Conceptual Revegetation Area.....	8-11