

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL,  
INC.; CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY;  
FRIENDS OF MINNESOTA SCIENTIFIC AND  
NATURAL AREAS,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE  
SERVICE, MARTHA WILLIAMS, in her official  
capacity as Principal Deputy Director of the  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

*Federal Defendants.*

Civ. No. 1:21-cv-00770-ABJ

**DECLARATION OF NICOLE VANDAL**

I, Nicole Vandal, declare as follows:

1. I am a Litigation Assistant at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC).

2. I have reviewed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Map (RPBB Map) on the Service's website, <https://fws.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=2716d871f88042a2a56b8001a1flacae> (last visited Apr. 18, 2022).

3. The RPBB Map is prepopulated with certain "layers," each of which displays data from a different dataset. Using data from March 20, 2022, one prepopulated layer shows "High Potential Zones" (HPZs) in red, while another shows "Low Potential Zones" (LPZs) in yellow. On the left-hand toolbar of the RPBB Map, there is a "Layers" tab that allows the user to select and view additional map layers.

4. Using the “Layers” tab, I searched for a preset ArcGIS layer called “World Topographic Map,” which labels certain geographic regions and landmarks, and set this as the new base layer. Next, I set the transparency of the overlying HPZ and LPZ layers to 50.0%, which allowed me simultaneously to view both the HPZs and LPZs, as well as the labeled landmarks on the “World Topographic Map” layer. Based on this, I was able to determine that Gale Woods Farm, Carver Park Reserve, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, University of Wisconsin Arboretum, Chicago Rockford International Airport, and surrounding areas all fall within HPZs and/or LPZs identified by the Service.

5. Screenshots of the map with the overlapping layers, generated using the Service’s website and the technique described in paragraph 4, are attached as exhibits to this declaration. Each map depicts the overlap of HPZs and LPZs with one of the locations mentioned above. HPZs are shown in red and LPZs are shown in yellow.

6. Exhibit A shows that Gale Woods Farm falls entirely within an HPZ, while much of the surrounding area falls within an HPZ or LPZ.

7. Exhibit B shows Carver Park Reserve falls almost entirely within an HPZ. A small portion of the Reserve intersects with an LPZ on the top left (northwest) corner. Much of the surrounding area falls within either an HPZ or LPZ.

8. Exhibit C shows that Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (“Refuge”) intersects with both HPZs and LPZs. I confirmed these intersections through a visual comparison with the map available on the Service’s website for the Refuge, <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/minnesota-valley/map>. Utilizing the “Refine Map” function on the website, I was able to view a version of the map showing the boundaries of the Refuge. A true

and correct copy of this version of the map is attached as Exhibit D. Much of the area surrounding the Refuge also overlaps with an HPZ or LPZ.

9. Exhibit E shows that the University of Wisconsin Arboretum is entirely within an HPZ, while much of the surrounding area overlaps with either an HPZ or LPZ.

10. Exhibit F shows that Chicago Rockford International Airport falls almost entirely within an HPZ. A small portion of the airport intersects with an LPZ on the top right (northeast) corner. Much of the surrounding area also overlaps with an HPZ or LPZ.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

Executed on this 18th day of April, 2022, in New York, New York.

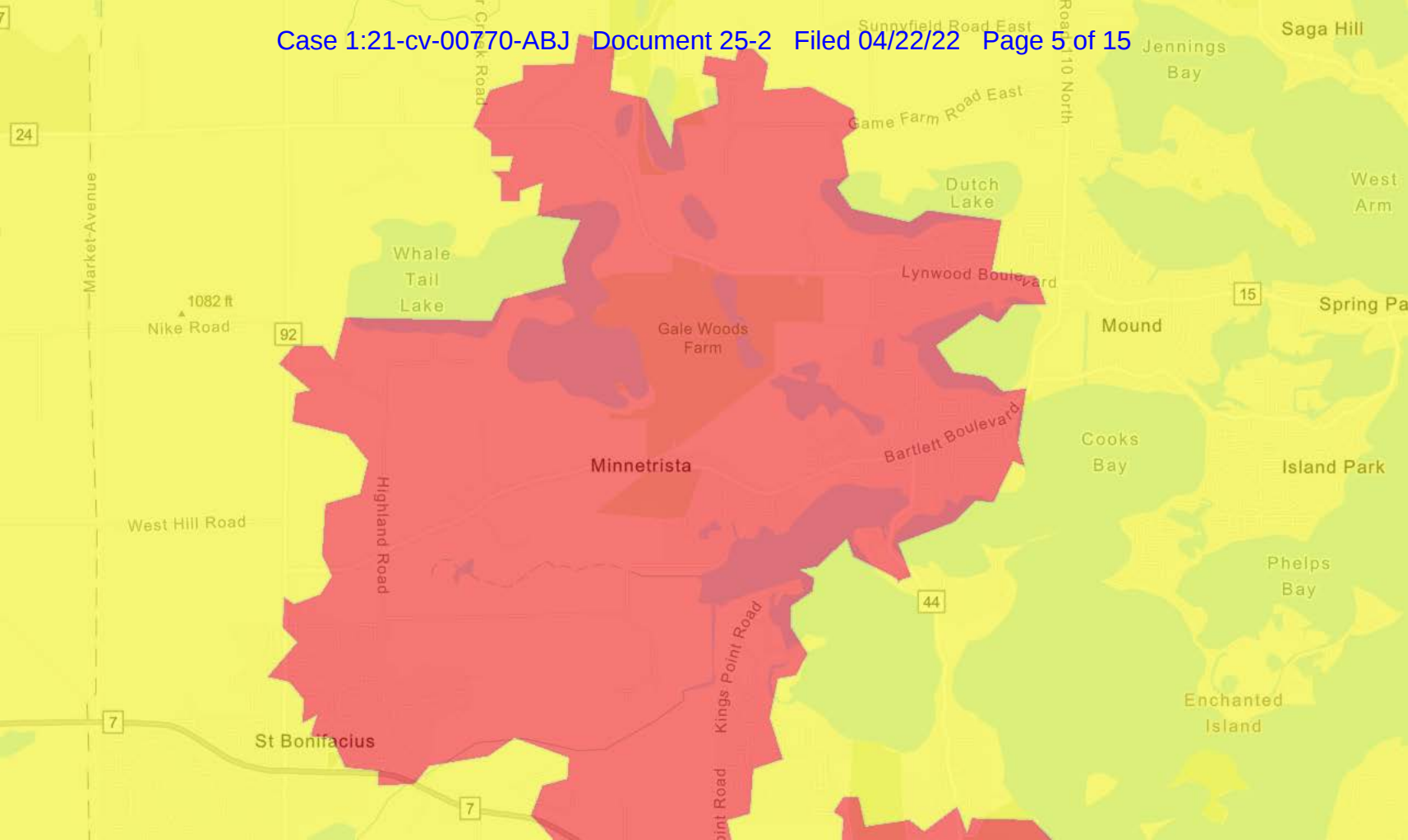


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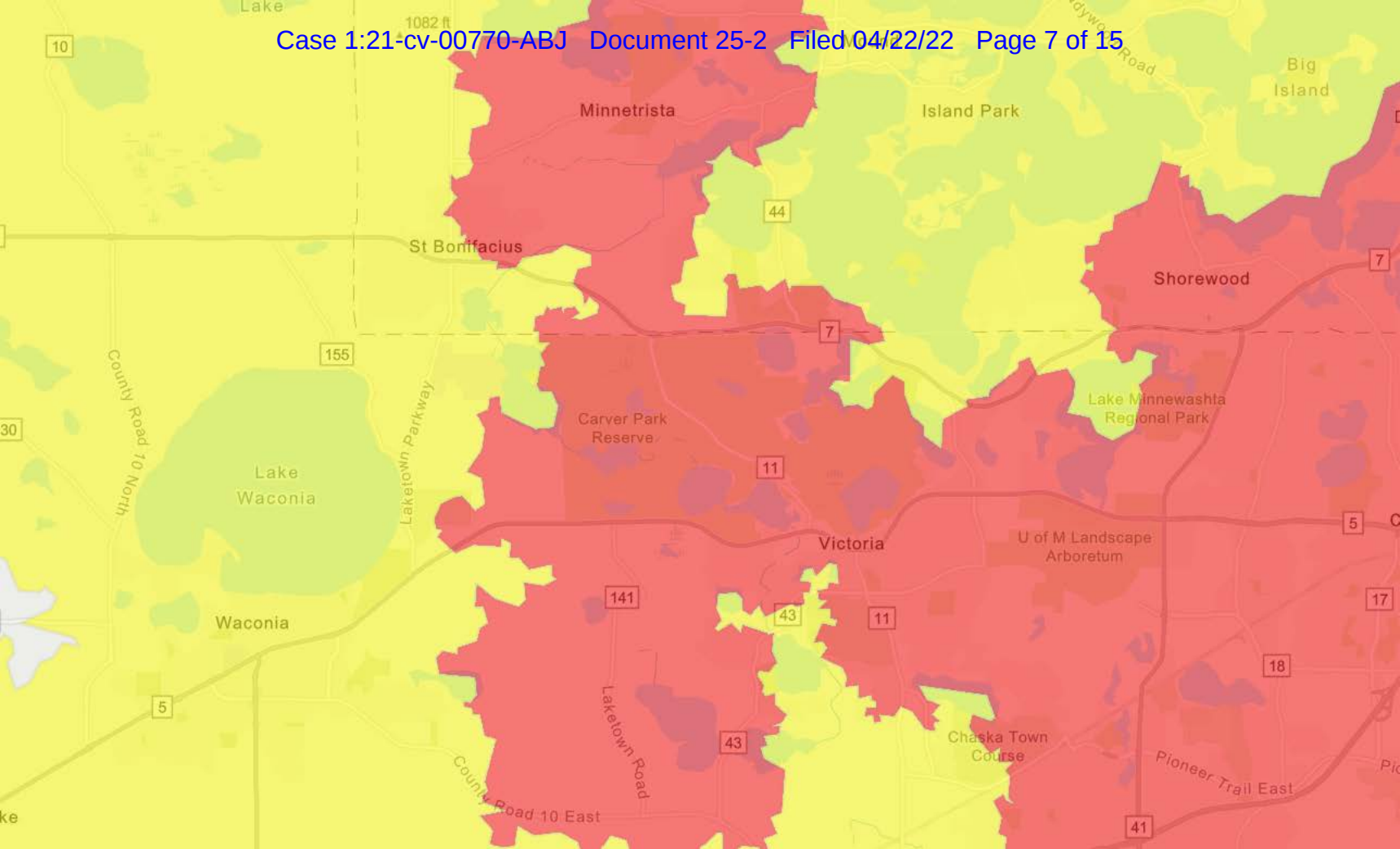
## Exhibit A

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Map,  
<https://fws.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=2716d871f88042a2a56b8001a1f1acae> (last visited April 21, 2022) (showing Gale Woods Farm and surrounding area)



## **Exhibit B**

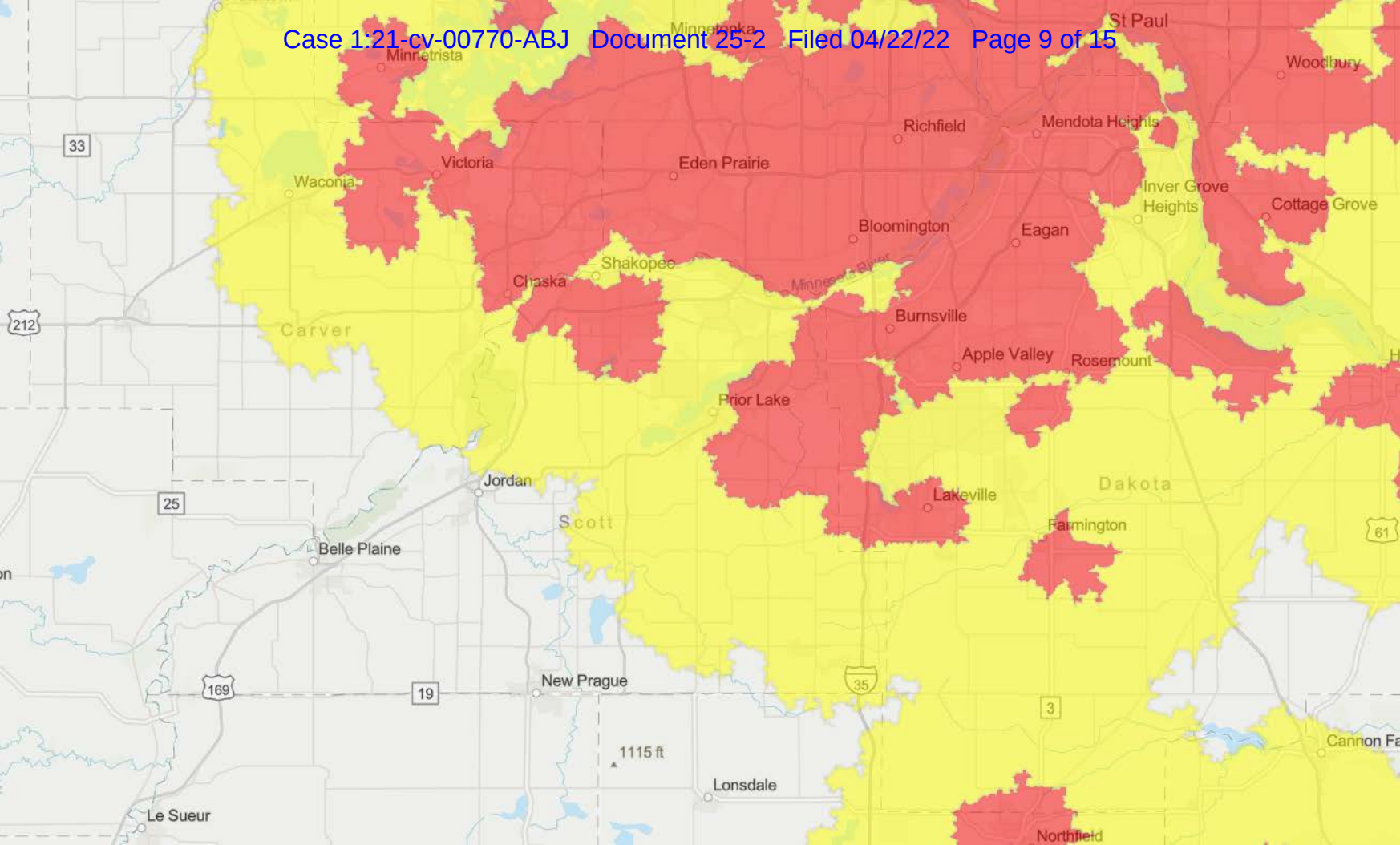
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Map,  
<https://fws.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=2716d871f88042a2a56b8001a1flacae> (last visited April 21, 2022) (showing Carver Park Reserve and surrounding area)



## Exhibit C

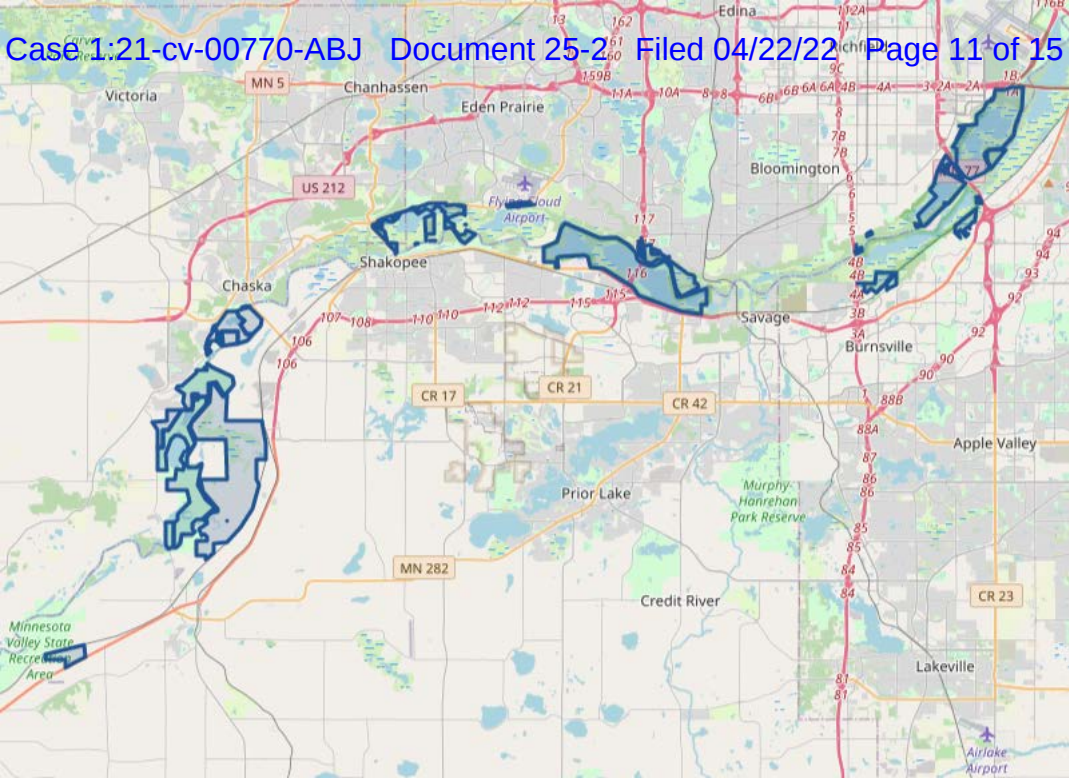
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Map,  
<https://fws.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=2716d871f88042a2a56b8001a1f1acae> (last visited April 21, 2022) (showing Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and surrounding area)





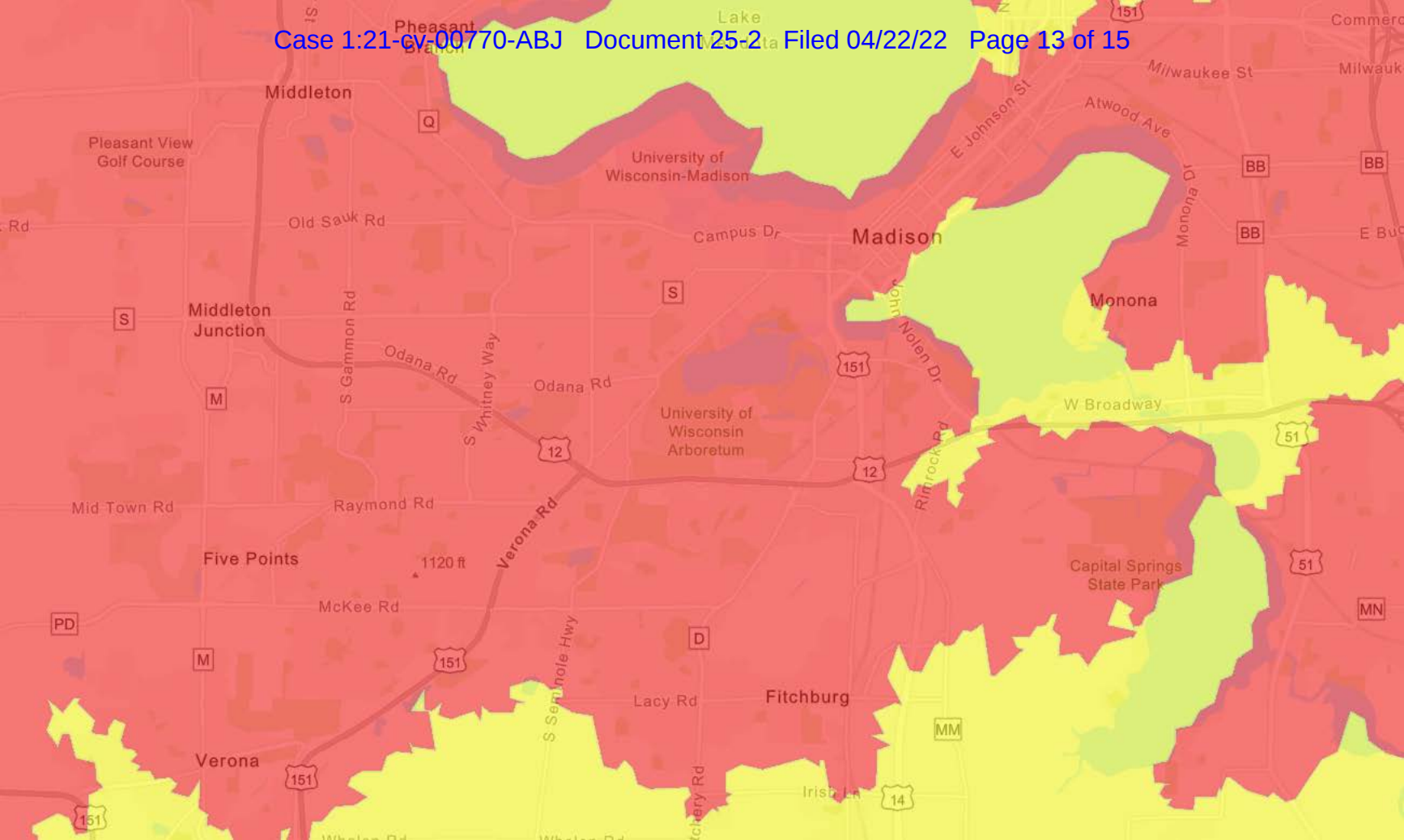
## **Exhibit D**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Minnesota National Wildlife Refuge,  
<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/minnesota-valley/map> (last visited April 21, 2022).



## Exhibit E

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Map,  
<https://fws.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=2716d871f88042a2a56b8001a1f1acae> (last visited April 21, 2022) (showing University of Wisconsin Arboretum and surrounding area)



## **Exhibit F**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Map,  
<https://fws.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=2716d871f88042a2a56b8001a1f1acae> (last visited April 21, 2022) (showing Chicago Rockford International Airport and surrounding area)

