



**In the Matter of the Xcel Energy Certificate
of Need Application for Three 115 kV
Transmission Lines in Southwestern
Minnesota**

**ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT
SCOPING DECISION**

PUC Docket No. E002/CN-06-154

The above matter has come before the Commissioner of the Department of Commerce (the Department) for a decision on the content of the Environmental Report (ER) to be prepared in consideration of the Xcel Energy Application for a Certificate of Need for three, 115 kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission lines (HVTL) in Southwestern Minnesota.

The Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) Energy Facilities Permitting Unit held public information meetings on February 21 and 22, 2007, in Slayton, Ivanhoe and Marshall to inform the public about the project and the regulatory proceedings; discuss environmental, social and economic issues of importance in the area potentially affected; and to gather public input into the scope of the Environment Report (ER) to be prepared for the project. The meetings provided the public an opportunity to ask questions about the project, and to suggest alternatives and specific impacts to address in the ER. The public was given until March 14, 2006, to submit written comments. No written comments were received.

Having reviewed the matter, and having consulted with staff, I hereby make the following Order on the content of the ER:

MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED

The ER will address the following subjects/matters for the proposed project:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The ER will describe the proposed project, right of way requirements, location, purpose, and proposed design.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The ER will describe the regulations and regulatory processes which the project is being reviewed under, including the Certificate of Need, environmental review, and the public participation process.

ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROJECT

The ER will describe and analyze the feasibility of the following alternatives:

- No-build alternative;
- Conservation alternative,
- Existing line or system improvements,
- Generation alternative, and
- Use of alternative corridors.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION

The ER will describe the environmental setting within the project area and analyze the potential or unavoidable impacts of and mitigation measures for the proposed project, including:

- Impacts on human settlement: socioeconomic, displacement, noise, aesthetics, radio and television interference, archeological and historic resources, human health and safety (including electric and magnetic fields, and safety codes).
- Impacts on land-based economics: recreation, prime farmland, transportation, mining and forestry, and economic development.
- Impacts on natural environment: air quality, water quality (including surface water, groundwater and wetlands), soils and geology, flora and fauna, rare and unique natural resources.

PERMITS AND APPROVALS REQUIRED

The ER will describe the Federal, state and local permits required to build the project.

ISSUES OUTSIDE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The ER will not consider the impacts or mitigative measures associated with specific routes within the proposed corridors. Site specific concerns (i.e., along specific routes) will be addressed in separate PUC or local government permitting process expected to begin sometime in mid to late 2007.

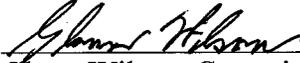
The ER will only identify the general potential impacts from the construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed HVTLs along the broad geographic areas proposed, and the measures generally available to mitigate these potential impacts.

SCHEDULE

The ER shall be completed by April 24, 2007.

Signed this 22 day of March, 2007

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



Glenn Wilson, Commissioner

E002/CN-06-154

Mam-Marie Sallah
Ener Information Administration
C/O Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave, SW EI-53
Washington DC,

Tina Wexler
Aldridge Electric
844 E Rockland Rd

Mam-Marie Sallah
Ener Information Administration
C/O Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave, SW EI-53
Washington DC, 20585

Jolie McShane
AIR2, LLC
2345 York Road
Suite 102
Timonium, MD 21093

Joseph Dudak
ITC Holdings
39500 Orchard Hill Place Drive, Suite 200
Suite 200
Novi, MI 48375

Don Huff
Shaw Environmental
831 Critter Court
Onalaska, WI 54650

Shawn Foy
Scott Cnty property owner
5100 E 270th St
Elko, MN 55020

CHRIS BIBEAU
LABORER TRAINING
2350 MAIN ST
LINO LAKES, MN 55038

George Johnson
SEH Inc.
3535 Vadnais Center Road
Saint Paul, MN 0

Forum Communications
Pressroom, B12C
State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

Juliann Sturm
6090 Pagenkopf Road
Maple Plain, MN 55359

Pinnacle Engineering, Inc.
11541 95th Ave. N.
Maple Grove, MN 55369

Cal Dufault
3409 Glynwater Trl NW
Prior Lake, MN 55372

John Drawz
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
200 South Sixth Street
Suite 4000
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Michael Krikava
Briggs and Morgan, P.A.
2200 IDS Center
80 South 8th Street
Minneapolis, Mi 55402

12 South 6th Street
#930
Minneapolis, MN 55403

HDR
701 Xenia Ave. South, Suite 600
Minneapolis, MN 55416

UEI
5201 East River Road #308
Minneapolis, MN 0

John Wachtler
Barr Engineering
4700 West 77th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55435

Greg ILKKA
14174 Sand Creek Ln
New Prague, MN 56071

249 SW 3rd Street
Avoca, MN 56114

7761st Street
Chandler, MN 56122

Lincoln County Highway Dept.
PO Box 97
Ivanhoe, MN 56142

Dale Peterburs
16657 - 140th St
Lismore, MN 56155

Loren Sieve
19310 170th Street
Lismore, MN 56155

1172 US Highway 75
Verdi, MN 56164

County Highway 20
Tracy, MN 56175

12167 Aspen Avenue
Tracy, MN 56175

David Norgaard
Southwest Wind Consulting
1631 290th Ave.
Tyler, Mi 56178

152 Hansen Street
Tyler, MN 56178

Robert Fuerstenberg
12608 Edwards Ave.
Wilmont, Mn 56185

12247 Durfee Avenue
Wilmont, MN 56185

Jarrett Hubbard
Mn/DOT Dist 8
2505 Transportation Road
Willmar, MN 56201

2505 Transportation Road
Willmar, MN 56201

113 S 4th Street
Marshall, MN 56258

Brad Roos
113 South 4th Street
Marshall, MN 56258

204 N 6th Street
Marshall, MN 56258

2379 County Road 7
Marshall, MN 56258

113 G Street
Marshall, MN 56258

2059 County Road 74
Marshall, MN 56258

203 Southvieg
Marshall, MN 56258

Michael Kawlewski
Otter Tail Power Co
215 S Cascade St
PO Box 496
Fergus Falls, MN 56538

120 3rd Avenue South
Brookings, So 57006

3005 S. Glendales Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

3724 West Avera Drive
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

44927 208th Street
Arlington, SD 57212

Martin Bettmann
South Dakota PUC
500 E Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 0

Tina Wexler
Aldridge electric
844 E rockland rd
Libertyville, IL 60048

Ivan Clark
R. W. Beck, Inc.
1801 California Street
Suite 2800
Denver, CO 80202

Kent Scholl
1099 18th St
Suite 3000
Denver, CO 0

David Glenn
PPM Energy, Inc.
1125 NW Couch St
Portland, OR 97209

Jeffery Evans
Evans Consulting Services
PMB 145
1645 9th Ave., SE
Albany, Or 97322

10:
MN PUC

James Alders
Xcel Energy
7th Floor
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis MN 55401-1993

LeRoy and Myrna Pedersen
28502 - 395th Street
Renville MN 56283

Burl W. Haar (0+15)
MN Public Utilities Commission
Suite 350
121 East Seventh Place
St. Paul MN 55101-2147

Annette Bair
Southwest Regional Development Comm.
Suite 1
2401 Broadway Avenue
Slayton MN 56172

John C. Reinhardt
Laura A. Reinhardt
3552 26Th Avenue South
Minneapolis MN 55406

20:
Dept. of Commerce

Jean Christoffels
Murray County Planning and Zoning
2500 28th Street
P.O. Box 57
Slayton MN 56172

Marilyn Remer
Mn/DOT
Office of Technical Support
395 John Ireland Boulevard
St. Paul MN 55155-1899

Sharon Ferguson (4)
MN Department Of Commerce
Suite 500
85 7th Place East
St. Paul MN 55101-2198

Christopher Clark
Xcel Energy
5th Floor
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis MN 55401-1993

Brad Roos
Marshall Municipal Utilities
113 4th Street South
Marshall MN 56258

30:
Inter-Office Mail

Elizabeth Goodpaster
Minnesota Center for
Environmental Advocacy
26 E. Exchange Street, #206
St. Paul MN 55101

Matthew J. Schuerger P.E.
Energy Systems Consulting Services, LLC
P.O. Box 16129
St. Paul MN 55116

Julia Anderson
MN Office Of The Attorney General
1400 BRM Tower
445 Minnesota Street
St. Paul MN 55101-2131

Beverly Heydinger
Office Of Administrative Hearings
Suite 1700
100 Washington Square
Minneapolis MN 55401-2138

Janet Shaddix Elling
Shaddix And Associates
9100 West Bloomington Freeway
Suite 122
Bloomington MN 55431

Curt Nelson
OAG-RUD
900 BRM Tower
445 Minnesota Street
St. Paul MN 55101-2130

James P. Johnson
Xcel Energy
5th Floor
414 Nicollet Mall, 5th Flr
Minneapolis MN 55401-1993

Mrg Simon
Missouri River Energy Services
P.O. Box 88920
Sioux Falls SD 57109-8920

Valerie M. Smith
Office of the Attorney General
1400 BRM Tower
445 Minnesota Street
St. Paul MN 55101

Michael C. Krikava
Briggs And Morgan, P.A.
2200 IDS Center
80 South 8th Street
Minneapolis MN 55402

Beth H. Soholt
Wind on the Wires
Suite 203
1619 Dayton Avenue
St. Paul MN 55104-6206

40:
Regular Postal Mail

David R. Moeller
Minnesota Power
30 West Superior Street
Duluth MN 55802-2093

Juliann Sturm
6090 Pagenkopf Road
Maple Plain MN 55359

Lisa M. Agrimonti
Briggs And Morgan, P.A.
2200 IDS Center
80 South 8th Street
Minneapolis MN 55402

Robert Olsen
Lincoln County Environmental Office
319 N. Rebecca
PO Box 29
Ivanhoe MN 56142

James Swanson
Mn/DOT District 7
501 South Victory Drive
Mankato MN 56001-5302

E002/CN-06-154, ListID# 1 Xcel Energy: In the matter of Xcel Energy Notice for a Certificate of Need Notice Plan Approval Request

Mukhtar Thakur
Mn/DOT
Office of Technical Support
395 John Ireland Blvd.
St. Paul MN 55155-1899

SaGonna Thompson
Xcel Energy
7th Floor
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis MN 55401-1993

Dave Trooien
Mn/DOT District 8
Willmar MN 56281

John Wachtler
Barr Engineering Co.
4700 West 77th Street
Minneapolis MN 55435-4803

Harold Wall
301 2nd Street East
Balaton MN 56115

Brian Zavesky
Missouri River Energy Services
P.O. Box 88920
3724 West Avera Drive
Sioux Falls SD 57108