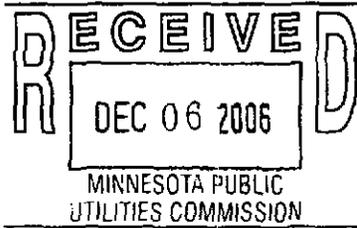




December 4, 2006



474 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-1993

Dr. Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Xcel Energy's Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to upgrade a 69kV line to 115/161 kV between the Chisago Substation and the St. Croix River

Notification of Intent to File Application Pursuant to Alternative Permitting Process

Dear Dr. Haar:

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, hereby notifies the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) of its intent to submit an application for a route permit for the Chisago to Taylors Falls project (Project) following the procedures in Minnesota Rules 4400.2000 to 4400.2950 as authorized by Rule 4400.2000, subp. 2.

The Certificate of Need Application for the proposed project was filed on November 16, 2006. The Minnesota portion of the project consists of:

- Replacement of a 69 kV transmission line with a 115 kV line from Chisago County Substation to a new substation called Lawrence Creek near Taylors Falls, Minnesota.
- Construction of the new Lawrence Creek Substation
- Replacement of a 69 kV transmission line with a 161 kV line from the new Lawrence Creek substation to the St. Croix River.

The project also includes construction of the 161 kV line through St. Croix Falls Wisconsin to the Apple River Substation. The Wisconsin portion of the project has already been permitted through the Public Services Commission of Wisconsin.

Xcel Energy plans to file the application by December 29, 2006. We will work with PUC and Department of Commerce Staff to address any comments they have in order to expedite application acceptance and completion of the environmental assessment.

If you should have any questions, please contact me at (612) 330-6537.

Sincerely,



Tom Hillstrom
Senior Permitting Analyst

cc: Jim Alders
Mike Dunham
Tom Bailey, Briggs & Morgan
Robert Cupit, MN PUC
Deb Pile, MN DOC