



Energy Facility Permitting
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
Saint Paul, MN 55155-2198

January 11, 2008

Dr. Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
127 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

RE: Comments and Recommendations of the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Facility Permitting Staff for a Proposed Route (PUC Docket No. E002/TL-06-1677)

Dear Sir:

Attached are the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Facility Permitting (DOC EFP) Staff Comments and Recommendations; proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusion and Order; and proposed Route Permit in the matter of the application for an HVTL Route Permit by Xcel Energy for the Chisago Transmission Project.

The facility (i.e., Chisago 115/161 kV Transmission Project) for which the permit is requested comprises approximately 13.5 miles of new transmission lines, substation upgrades and a new Lawrence Creek Substation located near Taylors Falls.

The DOC EFP staff is recommending a permit be granted along the Applicant's proposed route, amended to include the "Newell Avenue Underground" alternative south of downtown Lindstrom. Staff is available to answer any questions the Commission may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David E. Birkholz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".

David E. Birkholz, EFP Project Manager

cc: Bob Cupit, PUC Facility Planner