



April 11, 2008

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
GRE Elk River Peaking Station Project
Docket No. ET2/GS-07-715

Dear Dr. Haar:

Attached are the comments and recommendations of the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) Staff in the following matter:

In the Matter of the Application for a LEPGP Site Permit for the Elk River Peaking Station and associated system upgrades. Should the Commission find that the Environmental Impact Statement and the record adequately address the issues identified in the Scoping Decision? Should the Commission issue a LEPGP site permit identifying a specific site and permit conditions for the proposed GRE Elk River Peaking Plant project?

The proposed project consists of a single, simple-cycle combustion turbine generator (CT) with a nominal summer generating capacity of 175 MW and other associated facilities. The facility will use natural gas and ultra-low sulfur distillate fuel oil. The preferred site location is on GRE's campus in Elk River, Sherburne County, Minnesota.

The Department is providing you with:

- A. Comments and Recommendations;
- B. Proposed Findings of Facts, Conclusions of Law and Order;
- C. Proposed Site Permit.

Staff is available to answer any questions the Commission may have.

Sincerely,

William Cole Storm, DOC EFP Staff

Enclosures