



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Minnesota Department of Commerce



January 29, 2008

TO: Matt Langan
DNR Agency Technical Representative

FROM: William Cole Storm
EQB Staff, (Tel: 651-296-9535)

RE: Request for clarification
Xcel Energy's Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Extended Power Uprate Project
PUC Docket No. E002/GS-08-690

As you are aware, Xcel Energy has submitted a LEPGP Site permit application for its proposed Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant (PINGP) Extended Power Uprate (EPU) Project to the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) and the Office of Energy Security (OES) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

On October 7, 2008, I received a comment letter from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on issues relative to the scope of the EIS. In the discussion on the potential impacts of the 10 percent increase in rejected heat resulting from the EPU, the DNR made the statement that adding an auxiliary dry cooling tower should be evaluated and that this addition "would prevent further deterioration of ice cover on Lake Pepin."

The OES is requesting assistance and/or clarification from the DNR on the condition of ice cover on Lake Pepin. If the DNR has data supporting the statement that ice cover on Lake Pepin has been deteriorating, including any information on factors that may be contributing to this deterioration, I would greatly appreciate it if you could forward this to me for consideration in the EIS document.

The draft EIS is scheduled for release on March 17, 2009; your prompt response would be greatly appreciated. I am available to meet with you to discuss this matter at your convenience.