



414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-1993

April 18, 2008

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

Re: Notification of Intent to File Application Pursuant to Alternative Permitting Process for a proposed rebuild of a 69 kV transmission line to a 115 kV transmission line and two new substations near Mankato, Minnesota.

Dear Dr. Haar:

In accordance with Minnesota Rule 7849.5500, Subpart 2, Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation ("NSP-Minnesota") hereby notifies the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) of its intent to submit an application for a route permit for the Mankato Loop project (Project) following the alternative permitting procedures in Minnesota Rules 7849.5500 to 7849.5720. The Project is a joint development with Great River Energy ("GRE").

The Project includes the following components of a 69- kilovolts (kV) transmission line that will be rebuilt within the existing easement to a 115-kV transmission line to loop around Mankato.

1. Two new substations: 115-161/69 kV South Bend substation and 115-69 kV substation and a 69 kV breaker station at Stoney Creek.
2. Approximately 4 miles of an existing NSP-Minnesota 69 kV transmission line will be rebuilt to 115 kV from South Bend substation to Ballard corner switches.
3. Approximately 2 miles of an existing NSP-Minnesota 69 kV transmission line will be rebuilt to 115/69 kV double circuits from Ballard Corner switches to Stoney Creek Substation.
4. Approximately 2 miles of an existing NSP and GRE 69 kV transmission lines will be rebuilt to 115 kV from the Stoney Creek Substation to the Pohl Substation.

NSP-Minnesota and Great River Energy plan to file the application in May 2008. 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) 330-1955.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Timothy G. Rogers' followed by a small flourish.

Timothy G. Rogers
Permitting Analyst

cc: Jerry Chezik, Xcel
Pam Rasmussen, Xcel
Gene Kotz, Great River Energy
Kodi Jean Church, Great River Energy
Robert Cupit, MN PUC
Suzanne Steinhauer, MN DOC