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May 6, 2013

**ELECTRONIC FILING**

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

**Re: CapX 2020 Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse High Voltage Transmission  
Line Project  
MPUC Docket No. E002/TL-09-1448**

Dear Dr. Haar:

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, submits this application for approval of a minor alteration of the route approved for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse High Voltage Transmission Line Project (“Project”) pursuant to Minnesota Rules Part 7850.4800. The minor alteration, which proposes to place a 0.4 mile segment outside the approved route, reduces human impacts by increasing the distance of the line to the nearest residence from less than 175 feet to more than 1,300 feet and is supported by both affected landowners.

**Minor Alteration Proposal**

On May 30, 2012, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) granted a Route Permit for the Project. The Approved Route includes a segment in the Pine Island area that ran north/south in front of William Reiling’s house and then turned east/west along the southern boundary of Larry Tri’s property. During the easement acquisition process, Mr. Reiling and Mr. Tri worked together to develop a more acceptable alternative alignment (“Modified Route”), for which both landowners have granted easements. The Modified Alignment moves the line from the front of Mr. Reiling’s house to across his field. Both the 600-foot wide Approved Route and the 300-foot wide Modified Route are shown on the enclosed **Attachment 1**. Xcel Energy requests that the Commission approve the Modified Route. The 300-foot width is requested to retain flexibility for minor adjustments that may be required based on site specific conditions and landowner preference.

## **Minor Alteration Standard**

“A minor alteration is a change in a large electric power generating plant or high voltage transmission line that does not result in significant changes in the human or environmental impact of the facility.” Minnesota Rules Part 7850.4800, Subp. 1. No minor alteration may be made without Commission approval. *Id*

## **Minor Alteration Impacts**

The proposed minor alteration should be approved because it does not result in significant changes in the human or environmental impact of the facility. A table showing the impacts of the Project if constructed along Anticipated Alignment within the Approved Route compared to the Modified Alignment within the Modified Route is enclosed as **Attachment 2**. The Modified Route reduces impacts to human settlement by moving the alignment from within 169 feet of the Reiling residence to 1,374 feet away. Other impacts are also reduced. For example, the Modified Route is shorter (.70 miles vs. 1 mile) and permanent agricultural impacts are reduced from 570 to 475 square feet by eliminating one pole. Costs are also \$700,000 lower for the Modified Route (\$3.2 million vs. \$2.5 million). Impacts of the Modified Route to wetlands, however, are greater. The Modified Route results in 1.08 acres of wetland tree clearing verses zero acres of wetland tree clearing on the Approved Route. The United States Army Corps of Engineers, which must issue a Section 404, Clean Water Act, permit for the Project has reviewed the Modified Route and did not raise any objections during a field review or review of the permit application for the Project. Issuance of the Section 404 permit, which would include the Modified Route, is pending and expected later this spring.

The Modified Route is also a cross-country route. The approved route follows existing rights-of-way for 80 percent of its length. However, the landowner affected by the cross-country route, Mr. Reiling, agrees with the change as it moves the transmission line farther from his home.

## **Notice and Comment Requirements**

Xcel Energy is copying Mr. Reiling and Mr. Tri on this filing. Minnesota Rule Part 7850.4800, subpart 2, states that the Commission shall mail notice of receipt of the application to those persons on the general list and to those persons on the project contact list if such a list exists. The Commission shall provide at least a 10-day period for interested persons to submit comments on the application or to request the matter be brought to the Commission for consideration.

## **Closing**

Xcel Energy respectfully requests that the Commission authorize a minor alteration to permit construction of the Project along the Modified Route. Please contact me at (612) 330-6330 with any questions about this filing.

Sincerely,

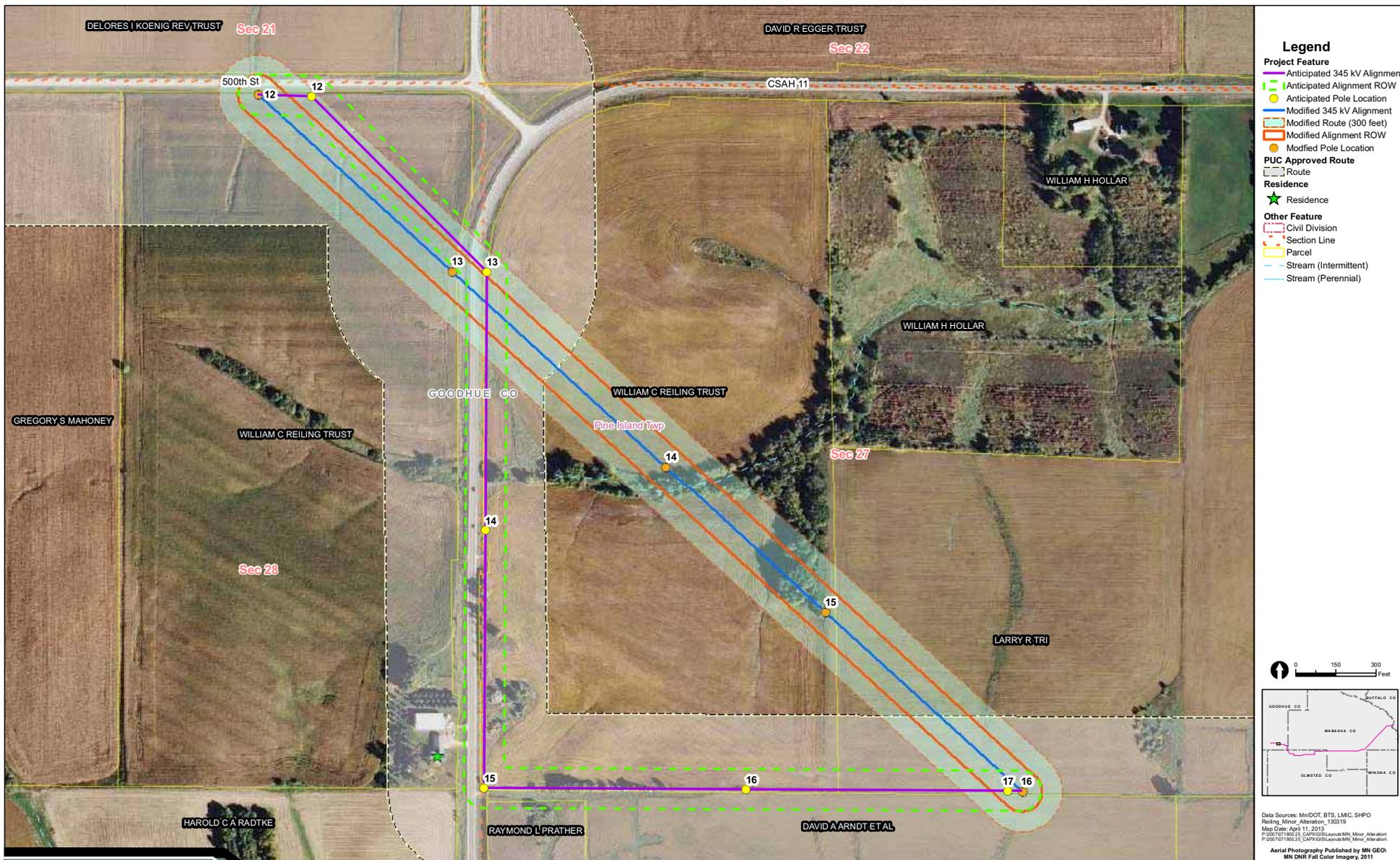
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Grant D. Stevenson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and "S".

Grant D. Stevenson

GDS/rlr

Enclosures

cc: William Reiling  
Larry Tri



**Summary Comparison of Impacts for North Rochester to Alma 345 kV Approved Route segment and the 345 kV Modified Route segment**

Resource Category	Approved 345 kV Route Segment	Modified 345 kV Route Segment
<b>Residences</b>		
Number of Residences 0-40 feet (within ROW) from route centerline	0	0
Number of Residences 0-75 feet from route centerline	0	0
Number of Residences 75-150 feet from route centerline	0	0
Number of Residences 150-300 feet from route centerline	1	0
Density (residences/linear mile within 300 feet of route centerline)	1	0
<b>Recreation and Tourism</b>		
No impacts to recreation and tourism are anticipated		
<b>Effects on Land-Based Economics</b>		
Agriculture		
Permanent Impact	570 square feet	475 square feet
Temporary Impact	1.6 acres	2.1 acres
Forestry	No impacts to economically important forestry areas.	
Mining	No impacts to aggregate mines.	
<b>Archaeological and Historic Resources Sites Within 1,000 feet of Route Centerline</b>		
Archaeological	1	1
Architectural		
National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)	0	0
Architectural (Properties with the potential to be 50 years old or older)	0	0
<b>Natural Environment</b>		
Water Resources		
Permanent Wetlands Impacts	0 square feet	0 square feet
Temporary Wetlands Impacts	0 acres	0.10 acres
Potential Tree Clearing in Wetlands	0 acres	1.08 acres
Stream Crossings	0	1
Flora		
Percent Cropland	63%	85%
Percent Grassland	19%	3%
Percent Shrubland	0%	0%
Percent Forested Land	4%	0%
Percent Aquatic (Wetland and Open Water)	6%	11%
Percent Impervious	8%	1%
Fauna		
Conservation Reserve Program Lands Crossed	0	0
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Lands Crossed	0	0
Length of Important Bird Areas Crossed	0	0

**Summary Comparison of Impacts for North Rochester to Alma 345 kV Approved Route segment and the 345 kV Modified Route segment**

<b>Resource Category</b>	<b>Approved 345 kV Route Segment</b>	<b>Modified 345 kV Route Segment</b>
Length of Grassland Bird Conservation Areas Crossed	0	0
Number of Federal Rare and Unique Species Known to Occur Within 1 mile of Route Centerline		
Threatened	0	0
Endangered	0	0
Candidate	0	0
Number of State Rare and Unique Species Known to Occur Within 1 mile of Route Centerline		
Threatened	0	0
Endangered	0	0
Species of Concern	0	0
DNR Rare Native Communities	0	0
Length of Outstanding Biodiversity Sites Crossed	0	0
Length of High Biodiversity Sites Crossed	0	0
Length of Moderate Biodiversity Sites Crossed	0	0
<b>Use or Paralleling of Existing ROW (Transportation, Pipeline, and Electrical Transmission Systems) and Property Lines</b>		
Length following Transmission Line (miles)	0	0
Length following road but not Transmission Line (miles)	0.40	0
Length following property line but not transmission line or roads (miles)	0.40	0
Total length following transmission line, roads, or property lines (miles)	0.80	0
Length not following transmission line, roads, or property lines (miles)	0.20	0.70
<b>Total length of route (miles)</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.70</b>
Percentage of route following Transmission Line	0%	0%
Percentage of route following road but not Transmission Line	40%	0%
Percentage of route following property line but not transmission line or roads	40%	0%
Percentage of route following transmission line, roads, or property lines	80%	0%
Percentage of route not following transmission line, roads, or property lines	20%	100%
<b>Estimated Costs (millions)</b>		
Cost	\$3.2 million	\$2.5 million
<b>Design Options that Maximize Energy Efficiencies, Mitigate Adverse Environmental Effects, and could Accommodate Expansion of Transmission or Generating Capacity</b>		
Design Options	Same design, no difference between the alignments.	
<b>Effects on Electrical System Reliability</b>		
Effects on Electrical System Reliability	No difference between the alignments.	
<b>Other Information</b>		

**Summary Comparison of Impacts for North Rochester to Alma 345 kV Approved Route segment and the 345 kV Modified Route segment**

<b>Resource Category</b>	<b>Approved 345 kV Route Segment</b>	<b>Modified 345 kV Route Segment</b>
Total Segment ROW (acres)	17.8 acres	13.7 acres
Length outside route corridor (at centerline)	0 miles	0.4 miles
Acreage of easement area outside route corridor	0 acres	6.6 acres

*In the Matter of the Application for a  
Route Permit for the Hampton - Rochester  
- La Crosse High Voltage Transmission  
Line Project*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE  
MPUC Docket No. E002/TL-09-1448**

Rachel Rolseth certifies that on the 6th day of May 2013, she filed true and correct copy of **Application for Approval of a Minor Alteration of the Route Approved and attachments 1-2**, by posting it on [www.edockets.state.mn.us](http://www.edockets.state.mn.us). Said document was also served via U.S. Mail and e-mail as designated on the Official Service List on file with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in the above-referenced docket.

*/s/ Rachel Rolseth*  
Rachel Rolseth

## Service List Member Information

## Electronic Service Member(s)

Last Name	First Name	Email	Company Name	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret
Agrimonti	Lisa	lagrimonti@briggs.com	Briggs And Morgan, P.A.	Electronic Service	No
Anderson	Julia	Julia.Anderson@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	Electronic Service	Yes
Ferguson	Sharon	sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	Electronic Service	Yes
Haar	Burl W.	burl.haar@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	Electronic Service	Yes
Herring	Valerie	vherring@briggs.com	Briggs and Morgan, P.A.	Electronic Service	No
Jensen	Linda	linda.s.jensen@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	Electronic Service	No
Keane	Timothy	tjk@mgmlp.com	Malkerson Gunn Martin LLP	Electronic Service	No
Krass	Phillip	prk@mgmlp.com	Malkerson Gunn Martin LLP	Electronic Service	No
Lindell	John	agorud.ecf@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	Electronic Service	Yes
Meloy	Brian	brian.meloy@leonard.com	Leonard, Street & Deinard	Electronic Service	No
Myers	Rachel	rrm@mgmlp.com	Malkerson Gunn Martin LLP	Electronic Service	No
Overland	Carol A.	overland@legalectric.org	Legalelectric - Overland Law Office	Electronic Service	No
Rohlfing	Suzanne	caraway57@aol.com	North Route Group	Electronic Service	No
Schrenzel	Jamie	jamie.schrenzel@state.mn.us	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Electronic Service	No
Seykora	David	dave.seykora@state.mn.us	MN Department of Transportation	Electronic Service	No
Shaddix Elling	Janet	jshaddix@janetshaddix.com	Shaddix And Associates	Electronic Service	Yes
Thompson	SaGonna	Regulatory.Records@xcelenergy.com	Xcel Energy	Electronic Service	No

## Paper Service Member(s)

Last Name	First Name	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret
Hackman	Stephen	North Route Group	59919 430th Avenue, Mazeppa, MN-55956	Paper Service	No
Hillstrom	Tom	Xcel Energy	7th Floor, 414 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN-554011993	Paper Service	No
Maccabee	Paula	Just Change Law Offices	1961 Selby Avenue, St. Paul, MN-55104	Paper Service	No
Seratt	Bill	Mississippi River Parkway Commission	222 State Street, Suite 400, Madison, We-53703	Paper Service	No

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Line Project*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE  
MPUC Docket No. E002/TL-09-1448**

**LANDOWNER MAILING LIST**

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