
APPENDIX A
APPLICANT'S NOTICE LETTER TO COMMISSION OF INTENT TO
USE ALTERNATIVE PERMITTING PROCESS

September 28, 2010

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 Route Permit Application Under the Alternative Permitting Process for the Proposed Xcel Energy 115 kV Transmission Line and Associated Facilities - St. Cloud Loop BEN-MHW Project

Dear Dr. Haar:

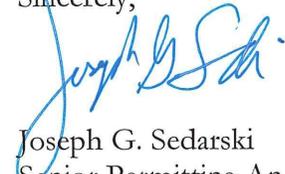
In accordance with Minnesota Rule 7850.2800, Subpart 2, Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (Xcel Energy), hereby notifies the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) of its intent to submit an application for a route permit for the St. Cloud Loop BEN-MHW Project ("Project") pursuant to the alternative permitting procedures in Minnesota Rules 7850.2800 to 7850.3700.

The proposed Project includes constructing a new, approximately five mile long, 115 kilovolt ("kV") transmission line from the Mayhew Lake Substation to transmission Structure 39 in the City of Sauk Rapids and Sauk Rapids/Minden Townships, Benton County, Minnesota. The Project will also include modifying existing transmission lines and associated substations. The Project is needed to provide a second source of power to the Mayhew Lake Substation and associated loads, and to ensure reliable and stable electric service in the Sauk Rapids - St. Cloud area.

Xcel Energy plans to file the application in October 2010 and will work with PUC and Department of Commerce staff to address any questions and/or comments in order to expedite application acceptance and completion of the environmental assessment.

If you have questions, please contact me at (612) 330-6435.

Sincerely,



Joseph G. Sedarski
Senior Permitting Analyst

cc: Deborah Pile, Office of Energy Security
Bob Cupit, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
Timothy G. Rogers, Xcel Energy
Paul J. Lehman, Xcel Energy
Christopher B. Clark, Xcel Energy