

**Appendix B:
Public Utility Commission and Local Governmental Unit Notification Letters**

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July 26, 2011

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

Re: Notification of Intent by Xcel Energy to File a Route Permit Application Under the Alternative Permitting Process for the Proposed North Rochester - Chester 161 kV Transmission Line Project

Dear Dr. Haar:

In accordance with Minnesota Rule 7850.2800, Subpart 2, this letter serves as notice to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) that Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (Applicant), intends to file a Route Permit Application (RPA) for the Proposed North Rochester - Chester 161 kV Transmission Line Project (Project) in Goodhue, Wabasha, and Olmsted Counties, Minnesota, pursuant to the alternative permitting procedures in Minnesota Rules 7850.2800 to 7850.3900.

The Applicant is making this Application on behalf of itself and other anticipated co-owners of the Project, including Dairyland Power Cooperative (Dairyland), Rochester Public Utilities (RPU), Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMMPA), and WPPI Energy. These co-owners are referred to as "the Utilities".

The application will request to construct approximately 28 to 30 miles of new 161 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between the proposed North Rochester Substation located between Zumbrota and Pine Island, Minnesota and the existing Chester Substation located west of Rochester, Minnesota and associated modifications at the North Rochester Substation and the Chester Substation.

The Project is part of the Hampton – Rochester – La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project (Hampton – Rochester – La Crosse 345 kV Project). The Commission granted a Certificate of Need in May 2009 approving construction of the Project.

Enclosed with this letter is an invitation to a public meeting scheduled for August 2, 2011. The invitation includes a map and a description of the project.

The Applicant plans to file the Application in August 2011 and will work with Commission 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 there are any questions, please contact Grant Stevenson (612) 330-6330 or me at (612) 330-6538.

Sincerely,

Tom Hillstrom



CapX2020 Permitting Lead

Cc: Matt Langan – Department of Commerce
Deborah Pile – Department of Commerce
Bob Cupit – Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

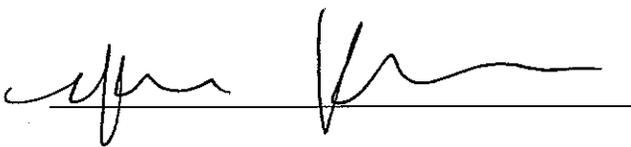
Enclosure

AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING

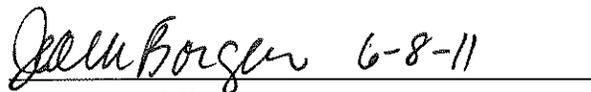
I, Erin Klegstad, hereby certify that on June 8, 2011, I deposited in the U.S. mail at Minneapolis, a copy of the following mailing notice (copy attached) addressed to all persons on the attached service lists.

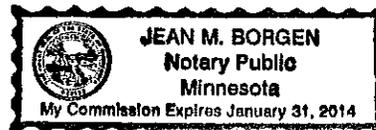
NOTICE OF XCEL ENERGY UPCOMING FILING OF ROUTE PERMIT APPLICATION WITH THE PUC & NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH THE PROJECT TEAM TO ADDRESS ANY CONCERNS OR ANSWER QUESTIONS (PUC DOCKET NO. E002/TL-09-1448)

Dated this 8th day of June, 2011.



Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 8th day of June, 2011.


Notary Public





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June 7, 2011

David Johnson
Wabasha County administrator
625 Jefferson Avenue
Red Wing, MN 55981

Subject: North Rochester-Chester 161 kV Transmission Line Route
Permit Notification and Invitation to Meet Project Staff

Dear Mr. Johnson,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the CapX2020 utilities plan to submit a Route Permit application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC) for a 161 kV line from the proposed North Rochester Substation (to be located between Pine Island and Zumbrota) to the existing Chester Substation west of Rochester. The application is expected to be submitted this summer.

This line is part of the CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse project, which also includes a 345 kV transmission line between Rochester and La Crosse and a 161 kV transmission line between North Rochester Substation and the Northern Hills Substation (see map on back). The overall project was authorized under the MN PUC Certificate of Need granted in May 2009 under Docket No. E002/CN-06-1115.

Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (Xcel Energy), is the lead utility for the project. Anticipated owners of the project include Xcel Energy; Dairyland Power Cooperative; WPPI Energy; Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency; and Rochester Public Utilities. Xcel Energy applied for a Route Permit for the 345 kV line and the 161 kV transmission line between North Rochester and Northern Hills substations in January 2010, Docket No. E002/TL-09-1448.

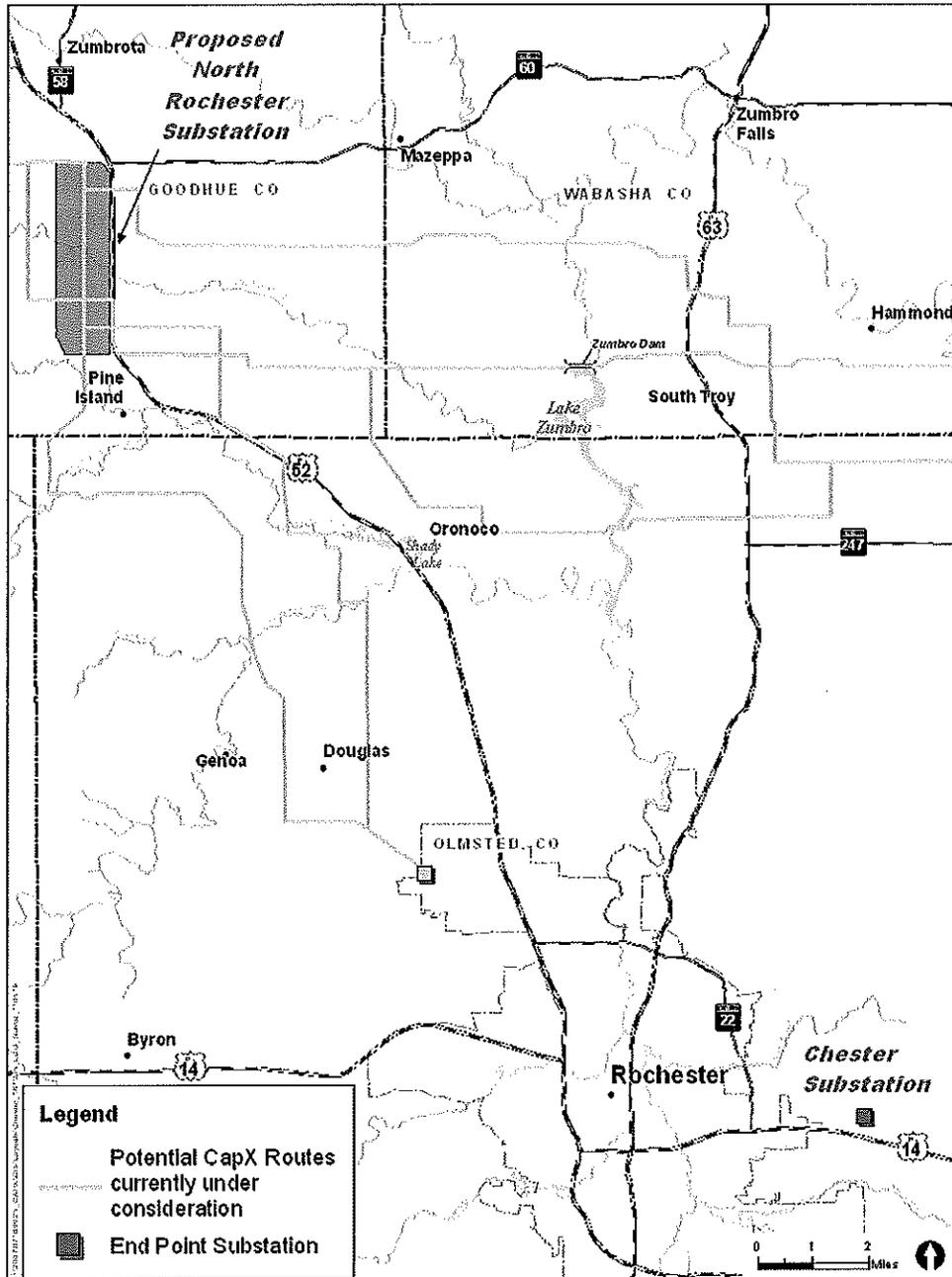
The Route Permit process for the North Rochester-Chester 161 kV line will be a separate process from the larger CapX2020 permitting process currently underway. Before the project can be built, the CapX2020 utilities must obtain approval from state and federal agencies. There are multiple opportunities for public participation during these processes. The CapX2020 utilities encourage all stakeholders to be involved.

As the Route Permit application is developed, we appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the project and address any of your questions or concerns. To schedule a meeting with the project team, or if you have any questions or concerns,

please contact me at thomas.g.hillstrom@xcelenergy.com or (612) 330-6538. We look forward to your participation in the process.

Thank you,

Tom Hillstrom
Xcel Energy
Supervisor, Siting and Permitting



Countries

Richard	Devlin	County Administrator	Olmsted County	151 SE 4th Street	Rochester	MIN	55904
David	Johnson	County Administrator/ Clerk	Wabasha County	625 Jefferson Avenue	Wabasha	MIN	55981
Scott	Arneson	County Administrator/ Clerk	Goodhue County	509 W 5th Street	Red Wing	MIN	55066

Cities

Olmsted	Stefan	Kvenvold	Administrator	City of Rochester	201 4th Street SE	Rochester	MIN
Goodhue	Abraham G.	Algadi	City Administrator	City of Pine Island	250 S Main St., P.O. Box 1000	Pine Island	MIN
Goodhue	Neil	Jensen	City Administrator	City of Zumbrota	City Hall, 175 West Avenue	Zumbrota	MIN
Wabasha	Renee	Mierau	City Clerk	City of Plainview	241 West Broadway	Plainview	MIN
Olmsted	Mary	Blair-Hoeft	City Administrator	City of Byron	680 Byron Main Court NE	Byron	MIN

Townships

Goodhue	David	Arndt	Clerk	Pine Island Township	21196 510th Street	Pine Island	MIN
Goodhue	Laurie	Hoernemann	Clerk	Zumbrota Township	12280 County 4 Blvd	Zumbrota	MIN
Goodhue	Melissa	Peteler	Clerk	Minneola Township	42400 145th Avenue Way	Zumbrota	MIN
Wabasha	Lisa	Mohler	Clerk	Mazeppa Township	40266 608th Street	Zumbro Falls	MIN
Dodge	Jeff	Eastman	Clerk	New Haven Township	6950 100th Street NW	Pine Island	MIN
Olmsted	Judy	Haglund	Clerk	Oronoco Township	12335 25th Avenue NW	Oronoco	MIN
Olmsted	Joseph	Vroman	Clerk/ Treasurer	Cascade Township	411 Lowry Court NW	Rochester	MIN
Olmsted	Jerome	Lawler	Clerk	Haverhill Township	2921 70th Avenue NE	Eyota	MIN
Olmsted	Terrence	Behrens	Clerk	Kalmar Township	PO Box 837	Byron	MIN
Olmsted	David	Schwanke	Clerk	Farmington Township	11534 Co Rd 128 NE	Elgin	MIN
Goodhue	Steven	Kirch	Clerk	Roscoe Township	14959 County	Zumbrota	MIN
Wabasha	Edwin	Jostock	Clerk	Zumbro Township	34051 574th Street	Rochester	MIN

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