



STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

TO: Persons on Service List

FROM: Burl Haar, Executive Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Burl Haar".

DOCKET: E002/TL-11-800

SUBJECT: In the Matter of the Route Permit Application by Northern States Power Company for the North Rochester to Chester 161 kV Transmission Line Project in Goodhue, Olmsted, and Wabash counties, Minnesota

DATE: July 10, 2012

RE: **NOTICE SOLICITING COMMENTS**

On September 19, 2011, Northern States Power d/b/a Xcel Energy, (Xcel) filed an application for a route permit for the North Rochester to Chester 161 kV Transmission Line Project ("Project"). The Project was filed pursuant to the alternative permitting procedures in Minnesota Rules 7850.2800 to 7850.3900.

The proposed Project includes construction of approximately 29-30 miles of 161 kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Goodhue, Olmsted, and Wabash counties, Minnesota. The project includes a 13 to 19-mile east-west segment which the Applicant proposes to place the line on the same poles as the Hampton – Rochester – LaCrosse 345 k Transmission Project (refer to Commission Docket E-002/09-1448). The Project also includes a north-south segment of approximately 11 to 13 miles in length, along with associated modifications to the existing Chester Substation in Marion Township, Olmsted County, Minnesota.

On June 29, 2012 the Department of Commerce Energy Facilities Permitting Unit filed its *Comments and Recommendations, Proposed Findings of Fact and Proposed Route Permit*.

At this point in the review process, the Commission will accept comments on the Department's *Comments and Recommendations, Proposed Findings of Fact and Proposed Permit*. Initial comments will be accepted through **July 20, 2012** and replies through **August 1, 2012**. Commission staff will review the comments submitted, and issue a briefing paper on the Project before the Commission makes its final decision. Exceptions submitted by the public may be submitted to Publiccomments.puc@state.mn.us, or addressed to Burl Haar, Executive Secretary, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101. Parties, agencies, and other non-public entities should eFile using the Commission's eDockets system available at www.puc.state.mn.us.

Questions regarding this matter may be directed to Commission staff person Michael Kaluzniak, at 651-201-2257 or e-mail at: mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us. **This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e. large print or audio tape) by calling (651) 296-0406 (voice), or 1(800) 627-3529 (TTY relay service).**

www.puc.state.mn.us