



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

520 Lafayette Road North | St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4194 | 651-296-6300

800-657-3864 | 651-282-5332 TTY | www.pca.state.mn.us | Equal Opportunity Employer

February 24, 2012

Mr. Raymond Kirsch
State Permit Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Re: Notice of Xcel Energy Route Permit Application
Replacement of Transmission Line – Black Dog to Savage
PUC Docket Number: E002/TL-11-795

Dear Mr. Kirsch:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Xcel Energy filing for a Route Permit for the proposed transmission line replacement project, to be located in, Burnsville, Dakota County, Minnesota. Regarding matters for which the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has regulatory responsibility and other interests, MPCA staff has the following comments for your consideration. Please also use these comments, as the MPCA's comments in response to the future Environmental Assessment for the project.

- If the total project will disturb one acre or more of land, a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System Construction Stormwater Permit is required from the MPCA. Information regarding the MPCA's Construction Stormwater Program can be found on the MPCA's website at: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/stormwater/stormwater-c.html>. Questions regarding Construction Stormwater Permit requirements should be directed to Roberta Getman at 507-206-2629.
- A Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for project related wetland impacts may be necessary. Please be aware that if a USACE Section 404 Individual Permit is required for any project activity, then an MPCA CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification or waiver must also be obtained as part of the permitting process. The Section 401 Water Quality Certification ensures that the activity will comply with the state water quality standards. Any conditions required within the MPCA 401 Certificate are then incorporated into the USACE 404 Permit. You can find additional information about the MPCA's 401 Certification process at www.pca.state.mn.us/water/401.html. For further information about the 401 Water Quality Certification process, please contact Kevin Molloy at 651-757-2577 or Judy Mader at 651-757-2544.
- The project will include the removal of old wood transmission line poles. The route permit application did not indicate how the poles will be disposed. Xcel will need to determine if the poles are hazardous waste or not before disposal. If they are determined to be hazardous waste, they must be disposed of, according to the state of Minnesota's hazardous waste rules (Minn. R. ch. 7045).

Mr. Raymond Kirsch

Page 2

February 24, 2012

Please be aware that this letter does not constitute approval by the MPCA of any or all elements of the project for the purpose of pending or future permit action(s) by the MPCA. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the project proposer to secure any required permits and to comply with any requisite permit conditions. If you have any questions concerning our review of this project, please contact Steve Sommer of my staff by e-mail at steve.sommer@state.mn.us or by telephone at 651-757-2746.

Sincerely,


for

Craig Affeldt

Supervisor

Environmental Review Unit

Resource Management and Assistance Division

CA/SS:mbo

cc: Steve Sommer, MPCA, St. Paul

Doug Wetzstein, MPCA, St. Paul