CITY OF
SHOREWOOD

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31 July 2012

Mr. David Birkholz, State Permit Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Xcel Scott County-Westgate Upgrade Project (the "Project")

Dear Mr. Birkholz:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above-referenced project. The City of Shorewood (the "City") has reviewed the available record documents, attended the Public Scoping meeting held on 18 July, and offers the following comments/questions:

Alternate Route While our initial reaction to the routing was to favor the alternate route along State Highway 7 to Vine Hill Road, it appears that the alternate route would actually have as much or more impact on more residents in Shorewood than the existing route.

Electro-Magnetic Field (EMF) Please provide the EMF analysis of impacts reflecting the difference in EMF between a 69kV power line and a 115kV line.

Potential for Undergrounding The City does not find in the record any consideration given to burying the proposed power lines. What impacts would be incurred by the City if this were undergrounded? Please include this option in the scoping analysis.

Pole Height/Design The presentation did a good job of illustrating the differences between the existing and proposed poles. Please make these illustrations available to show our City Council and residents. Also, regarding the two choices of finish, how will that be determined? Might sole consideration be different for various segments, depending on the wishes of the various affected communities?

Construction Activities There are a number of questions relative to construction:

- What is the estimated construction timeframe, particularly the segment between Excelsior and the substation in Deephaven?
- Staging of construction materials – where will this take place? Will there be large pieces of project material strewn along right-of-way? If so, for how long?
- To what extent will traffic be disrupted, again particularly along Minnetonka Boulevard?
- What are the proposed hours of construction?

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Conditional Use Permit Section 1201.03 Subd. 10. d. of the Shorewood City Code (a copy of which is attached) requires a conditional use permit for overhead transmission lines in excess of 33KV. Our staff is available to meet with yours to guide you through that process.

Franchise Agreement The City takes this opportunity to remind Xcel that it continues to operate within Shorewood without a franchise agreement.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the plans to-date. If you have any questions relative to the above, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,
CITY OF SHOREWOOD

Bradley J. Nielsen

Bradley J. Nielsen
Planning Director

Cc: Mayor and City Council
Planning Commission
Bill Joynes
Larry Brown
James Landini
Tim Keane
Bruce DeJong