CITY OF EXCELSIOR

339 THIRD STREET
EXCELSIOR, MINNESOTA 55331
TEL: 952-474-5233
FAX: 952-474-6300
www.ci.excelsior.mn.us

July 31, 2012

Mr. David Birkholz
State Permit Manager
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198

Re: Excelsior Substation Upgrades, PUC Docket Nos. 11-948 and 11-332

Dear Mr. Birkholz:

Xcel Energy is proposing an upgrade of the Excelsior substation as part of the construction of a new 115kV transmission line. It is anticipated based on materials presented by Xcel Energy to date that there will be potential impacts to the City and its residents. The Excelsior City Council requests that all available options and alternatives for reducing or eliminating such impacts be considered and evaluated through the Environmental Assessment Process.

The City of Excelsior has the following comments and questions regarding the upgrade of the Excelsior substation:

- Identify and assess the visual impacts of the substation and identify all practicable methods to limit or reduce the height of the new facility.

- Identify and assess all practicable methods to screen, disguise, camouflage or otherwise remove the substation from general view.

- Identify and assess any noise impacts. Will the substation generate or emit a hum or other sounds that may have an impact on the surrounding area?

We look forward to your assessment of the environmental impacts of this project and will assist you in any way possible. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 952-653-3672.

Sincerely,

Kristi Luger
City Manager