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October 22, 2012

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

RE: In the Matter of the SWTC Scott County-Bluff Creek-Westgate 69 kV to 115 kV Transmission Line Upgrade – Scoping Comment Addendum
PUC Docket No. E002/TL-11-948

Dear Mr. Birkholz,

In the development of the Environmental Assessment for the above-mentioned project, MnDOT representatives and Xcel Energy representatives met with you on October 9th, 2012, to discuss MnDOT's interests surrounding existing and new scoping alternatives along Trunk Highways (TH) 5, 7, and 41, as noted in our scoping comments of August 1, 2012. More specifically, the intention of the meeting was to discuss the feasibility of placing this HVTL along TH 7 in these areas as well as the suggested areas of TH 41 and TH 5 with regard to MnDOT's Utility Accommodation Policy (http://www.dot.state.mn.us/utility/files/pdf/appendix-b.pdf) and issuance of a MnDOT Utility Permit on Trunk Highway Right of Way.

MnDOT appreciates the opportunity to meet and discuss our interests. MnDOT notes that several of the scoping alternatives impact the state transportation system with a large portion of the project area directly abutting a state trunk highway.

MnDOT has broken down our concerns/constraints by department in the following manner:

TRAFFIC

Attached is a sketch of the Traffic Control Signal System (in Enclosure 2) to be avoided at the intersection of TH 41 and TH 5 while maintaining a perpendicular crossing of both trunk highways.

PLANNING

MnDOT projects planned on TH 7 from Minnetonka Blvd to County Road 101 include sign replacement along the corridor in 2016 and signal replacement at Vine Hill Rd. in 2017. No capacity improvements are planned.

RIGHT OF WAY MAPPING

Attached are the MnDOT right of way maps for the Scoping Alternatives in question along TH 41, TH7 and TH5. Both sides of the trunk highway right of way (area to avoid physical encroachment) are highlighted for your convenience.

Sincerely,

Stacy Kotch
Utility Transmission Route Coordinator
Office of Land Management
Minnesota Department of Transportation

Enclosures 1.MNDOT ROW MAPS -TH 7 ALTERNATIVE (flash drive)
2.MNDOT ROW MAPS - TH 41 & TH 5 ALTERNATIVE (flash drive)

cc: Tim Rogers – Xcel Energy