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January 3, 2014

Bill Storm, Environmental Review Manager
Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA)
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul MN 55101

Re: In the Matter of the Minnesota Canisteo Project 115kV HVTL Route Permit Application
PUC Docket No E015/TL-13-805

Dear Mr. Storm:

On November 26th, 2013, a request was made for public comment on the scope of the Environmental Assessment (EA) relating to the route permit application by Minnesota Power for a 115kV High Voltage Transmission Line (HVTL) and substation in Itasca County. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) submits the following comments in response to the request.

Upon initial review of the project, it appears that the proposed transmission lines and associated substation do not directly abut a state trunk highway. MnDOT requests that our agency be made aware of any changes to the proposed project that may make the project area close enough to occupy a portion of current MnDOT right of way.

MnDOT has adopted a formal policy and procedures for accommodation of utilities on the highway rights of way ("Utility Accommodation Policy"). A copy of MnDOT's policy can be found at http://www.dot.state.mn.us/utility/policy/utilitypolicy.html.

Any HVTL construction work, including delivery or storage of structures, materials or equipment that may affect MnDOT right of way is of concern such that MnDOT should be involved in planning and coordinating such activities. If work is required within MnDOT right of way for temporary or permanent access, please coordinate with Liz Wallin, District 1B Permits, at 218-742-1077 or Liz.Wallin@state.mn.us.

MnDOT has a continuing interest in working with the Minnesota Power to ensure that possible impacts to the state transportation system are adequately addressed. We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,

Stacy Kotch

Utility Transmission Route Coordinator

Minnesota Department of Transportation