



Minnesota Department of Transportation

Office of Land Management

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February 10, 2016

Bill Storm, Environmental Review Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul MN 55101

Re: In the Matter of the Application of Xcel Energy for a Site Permit for the 215 MW Black Dog 6 Project in Burnsville, Minnesota
PUC Docket No. E-002/GS-15-834

Dear Mr. Storm:

On January 6th, 2016, a request was made for public comment on the scope of the Environmental Assessment (EA) relating to the site permit application by Xcel Energy for a Site Permit for the 215 MW Black Dog 6 Project in Burnsville, Minnesota. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) submits the following comments in response to the request.

Upon initial review of the proposed project, it appears that the combustion turbine will not impact the state trunk highway system in the project area. 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.

There may be highway-related considerations regarding oversize/overweight hauling of equipment for the proposed project. Specifically, these large loads of freight are often transported along nearby interregional corridors (IRC) such as I35E and I35W, both high priority IRCs. Because MnDOT's highway construction activities could impact the Applicant's plans to haul oversize loads to the proposed site, the Applicant will need to coordinate with MnDOT when planning such loads.

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/policy/operations/op002.html>.

Any generating plant 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

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temporary or permanent access, please coordinate with Buck Craig, Metro Permits, at (651) 234-7911 or Buck.Craig@state.mn.us.

MnDOT has a continuing interest in working with the Xcel Energy 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

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