



CITY of ORONO

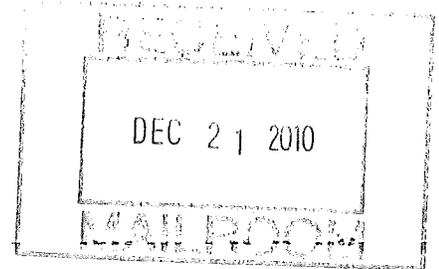
Municipal Offices

Street Address:
2750 Kelley Parkway
Orono, MN 55356

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 66
Crystal Bay, MN 55323-0066

December 16, 2010

Dr. Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101



RE: Orono Substation Expansion
City Zoning File 10-3486
PUC Docket No. E002/LR-10-957

Dr. Haar

As you are aware, Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (Xcel Energy) intended to seek local review and approval of their expansion of the existing Xcel Orono Substation at 3960 Sixth Avenue North and construction of a new 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line (Project).

On September 1, 2010, Xcel Energy notified the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) of its intent to seek local review and approval of the Project pursuant to the Power Plant Siting Act (PPSA), Minnesota Statute § 216E.05, subd. 3, and Minnesota Rule 7850.5300, subp. 3. On September 7, 2010, the Office of Energy Security notified the City and Xcel Energy that the PUC received the notice and confirmed that the Project is eligible for local review.

Subsequently, Xcel Energy made a partial application to the City for Conditional Use Permit (CUP) review and approval, and initiated an Environmental Assessment (EA) process. To date, Xcel Energy's application to the City of Orono for the CUP and EA for the Project at 3960 Sixth Avenue North is incomplete.

This letter is to notify you the Orono City Council voted on Monday, December 13, 2010, to refer review and permitting of the routing and siting for this Project to the PUC pursuant to MN Statute §21E.05, subd. 1(b) and MN Rule 7850.5300 subp. 4. If you have any questions or need any further information regarding the City's decision please feel free to contact me at 952-249-4627.

Thank you,
CITY OF ORONO

Melanie Curtis
Planning & Zoning Coordinator

c: Ray Kirsch
Energy Facility Permitting, Office of Energy Security
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101

Xcel Energy
Attn: Chris Rogers, Siting and Land Rights Agent
414 Nicollet Mall MP-8
Minneapolis, MN 55401