



414 Nicollet Mall  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-1993

September 1, 2010

**Via Electronic Filing and U.S. Mail**

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

**RE: Notice of Election to Seek Local Review of Proposed Transmission Line and Substation Expansion  
PUC Docket No. E002/LR-10-\_\_\_\_\_**

Dear Dr. Haar:

In accordance with the Power Plant Siting Act (PPSA), Minn. Stat. § 216E.05, subd. 3, and Minn. R. 7850.5300, subp. 3, this letter, filed via eFiling, serves as the required notice to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) that Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (Xcel Energy) intends to seek local review and approval to expand the existing Orono Substation and construct new 115kV transmission lines to connect the expanded substation to existing Xcel Energy 115kV transmission Line 0831 (see **Figure 1**). The expansion and upgrade will include a complete rebuild of the existing substation, an increase in operating voltage from 69kV to 115kV, and a new 115kV transmission line (Project).

**Orono Substation**

The Orono Substation is located at 3960 Sixth Avenue North, Orono, Hennepin County, MN 55356. The Project site consists of approximately 16 acres and is located in the SW ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 29 and the NW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 32, Township 118 North, Range 23 West. The Project area is bounded by State Highway 12 (Wayzata Boulevard) and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad to the north, County Road 6 (6<sup>th</sup> Avenue North) to the south and east, with a residential property boundary to the west. The property contains an existing substation in the southwest corner of the property that is surrounded by open meadow with scattered trees. The remainder of the property is comprised of wetland. Adjacent land use consists of large-lot, single-family homes to the west and south, wetland to the north, and a highway interchange to the east.

**Project Need**

The Project is needed to increase system reliability and reduce the risk of overloads. The increase in voltage from 69kV to 115kV is needed to improve local reliability and to allow for additional load growth in the future.

### **Project Description**

The existing Orono Substation has been in service since 1990 and is situated on land owned in fee by Xcel Energy. All proposed substation upgrade components will be located within existing Xcel Energy property. Xcel Energy also proposes to build a new transmission line to connect the Orono Substation to the existing 115kV Line 0831 located approximately ½ mile northwest of the Orono Substation. The new 115kV transmission line route will run north from the Orono Substation across Xcel Energy property for approximately ¼ mile and then cross an additional ¼ mile of private property as shown on the attached map (see **Figure 1**).

### **Local Governmental Unit**

The City of Orono (City) is the local governmental unit (LGU) for the Project. While the Project is required to be approved by the Commission pursuant to the PPSA, Minn. Stat. § 216E.05 and Minn. R. 7850.5300, Xcel Energy intends to seek local review and approval from the City via the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) process. City staff has indicated they are willing to review and grant a CUP for the Project. On August 20, 2010, Xcel Energy submitted a CUP application to the City for review and approval of the Project.

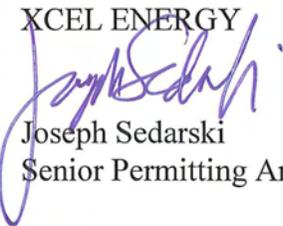
Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216E.05, subd. 1(b) and Minn. R. 7850.5300, subp. 4, the City has been notified that it has 60 days to refer permitting the Project to the Commission. Additionally, Xcel Energy is working with other applicable regulatory agencies to obtain Project specific required permits regarding public land, water, and wetland crossings.

Xcel Energy provided notice to those persons on the general notification list that a permit for the Project has been applied for from the City in accordance with Minn. R. 7850.5300, subp. 3. Questions for the City regarding this Project and the City CUP process should be directed to Melanie Curtis, Planning & Zoning Coordinator, at (952) 249-4627, or me at (612) 330-6435.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

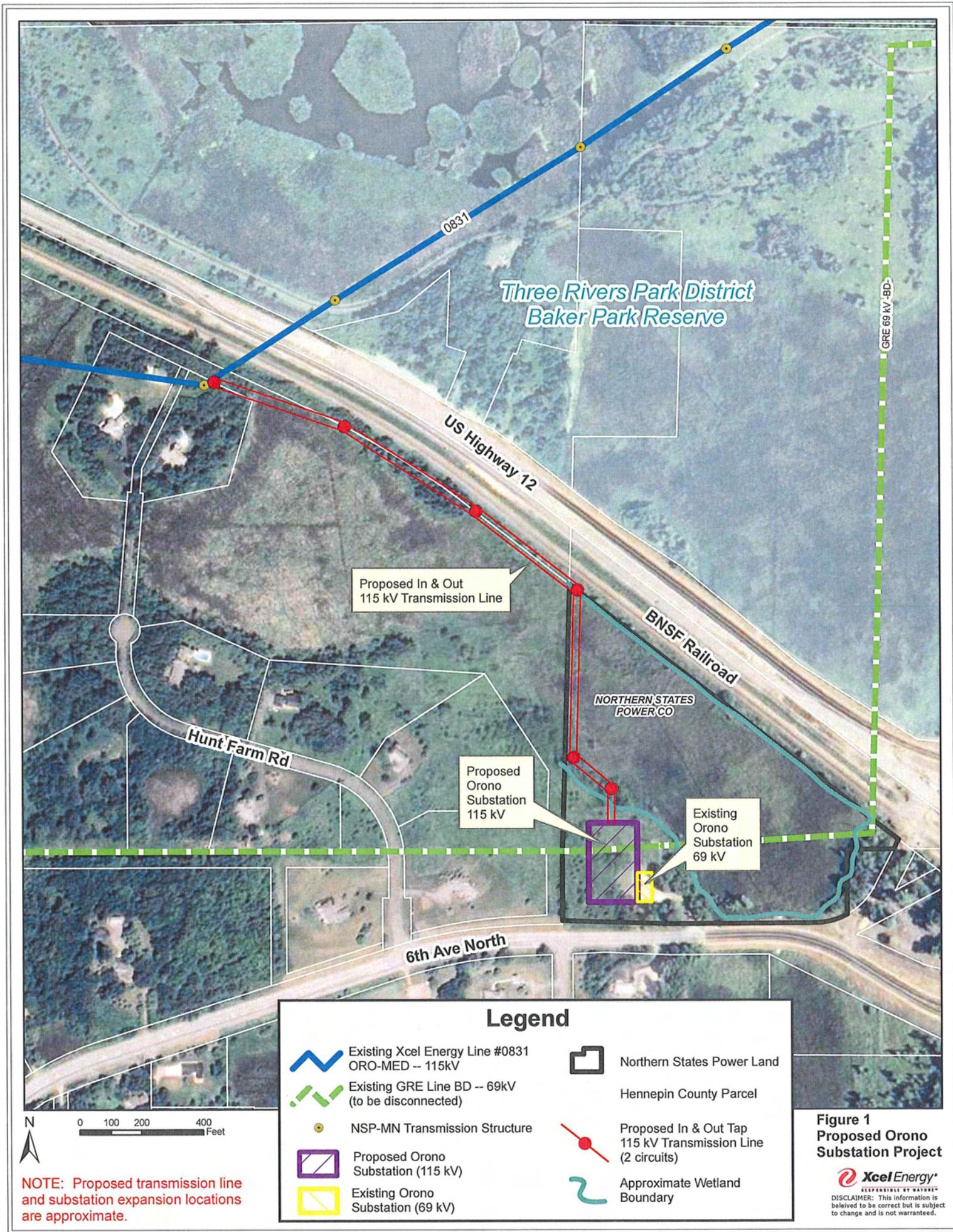
XCEL ENERGY



Joseph Sedarski  
Senior Permitting Analyst

cc: Melanie Curtis, Planning & Zoning Coordinator, City of Orono - w/enc.  
Deborah Pile, Office of Energy Security - w/enc.  
General List of Interested Persons - w/enc.

Enc: Figure 1



Three Rivers Park District  
Baker Park Reserve

0831

US Highway 12

BNSF Railroad

NORTHERN STATES  
POWER CO

Hunt Farm Rd

6th Ave North

Proposed In & Out  
115 kV Transmission Line

Proposed  
Orono  
Substation  
115 kV

Existing  
Orono  
Substation  
69 kV

### Legend

-  Existing Xcel Energy Line #0831 ORO-MED -- 115kV
-  Existing GRE Line BD -- 69kV (to be disconnected)
-  NSP-MN Transmission Structure
-  Proposed Orono Substation (115 kV)
-  Existing Orono Substation (69 kV)
-  Northern States Power Land
-  Hennepin County Parcel
-  Proposed In & Out Tap 115 kV Transmission Line (2 circuits)
-  Approximate Wetland Boundary

**NOTE:** Proposed transmission line and substation expansion locations are approximate.

**Figure 1**  
Proposed Orono  
Substation Project

  
RESPONSIBLY BY DESIGN  
DISCLAIMER: This information is believed to be correct but is subject to change and is not warranted.