414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

February 27, 2014

Dr. Burl W. Haar **—Via Electronic Filing—**
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

Re: APPLICATION
MINOR ALTERATION OF THE BLUE LAKE-WILMARTH-LAKEFIELD
345 KV TRANSMISSION LINE
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY
DOCKET NO. E002/MC-14-163

Dear Dr. Haar:

Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation, is electronically filing this request to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC or Commission) for a minor alteration authorization in compliance with Minnesota Statute 216E.16 and Minnesota Rule 7850.4800. The minor alteration consists of the construction of an approximately 0.55-mile 345 kilovolt (kV), in-and-out tap line and a proposed upgrade to the Scott County Substation. The tap line will connect the existing Blue Lake-Wilmarth-Lakefield 345 kV Transmission Line #0982 to the expansion of the Scott County Substation (**Figure 1**). This project is needed to improve system performance during n-2 conditions and in order to alleviate future load serving problems between Scott County and Eden Prairie Substations. N-2 condition refers to Category C3 events as defined in the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's transmission planning standards. The standard requires utilities to ensure system reliability during the loss of any two bulk electric elements with or without dropping customer load. NSP plans the system such that load is not required to be dropped to ensure transmission system reliability.

A. Applicable Law and Analysis

The 345 kV Transmission Line #0982 was constructed in the 1970's, prior to PUC permitting authority. The PUC permitting authority is extended to those high voltage transmission lines not previously permitted by the PUC (Minn. R. 7850.4800, Subp.1). A minor alteration is a change in a high voltage transmission line that does not result in significant modifications to the human or environmental impacts of the facility that are subject to the Power Plant Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E). The Company requesting a minor alteration is required to submit an application for the proposed action to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Minn. R. 7850.4800, Subp. 2). Per Minn. Stat. 216B.243, Subd. 8.(4), this project is exempt from the Certificate of Need approval process as it is "a high-voltage transmission line of one mile or less required to connect a new or upgraded substation to an existing, new, or upgraded high-voltage transmission line." The Commission is authorized to approve a minor alteration after providing "at least a ten-day period for interested persons to submit comments on the application or to request that the matter be brought to the [C]ommission for consideration" (Minn. R. 7850.4800, Subp.2).

B. Project Description

The proposed minor alteration would extend 2,911 linear feet (0.55 miles) and occupy a 150' Right-of-Way (ROW). The southern terminus of the proposed tap line is the intersection with the existing Blue Lake-Wilmarth-Lakefield 345 kV Transmission Line 0982. The northern terminus is the existing Scott County Substation. The proposed ROW occupies 10.13 acres. The substation expansion occupies 5.36 acres. The combined total acreage for the proposed minor alteration is 15.49 acres.

The minor alteration begins at Transmission Structure 1 of the existing 0982 Transmission Line and extends north, traversing an agricultural field, and paralleling an existing double-circuit 115 kV line, for 1,326 feet, to Transmission Structure 2. From Structure 2 the proposed tap line extends roughly northwest for 864 feet to Transmission Structure 3. This second segment crosses portions of three privately held parcels and U.S. Highway 169 before terminating at Structure 3, which is located on land currently owned by the Company, but leased as agricultural land. The line continues to the northwest an additional 606 feet to Transmission Structure 4, located near the northern corner of the expanded Scott

County substation footprint. The proposed line makes a 90 degree turn to the south and extends 115 feet into the expanded Scott County substation (**Figure 1**).

Xcel Energy will use steel, double-circuit, double-pole structures for the project. Structures will range in height from 170 to 195 feet (Figure 2). The transmission line will be designed to meet or exceed local and state codes, the National Electric Safety Code (NESC), and North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) requirements. This includes standards relating to clearance to ground, clearance to crossing utilities, clearance to buildings, clearance to vegetation, strength of materials, clearances over roadways, ROW widths, and permit requirements.

C. Landowners

The proposed tap line will affect a total of six individual parcels. Five of the six parcels included in the minor alteration proposal contain previously constructed transmission infrastructure features. The single new parcel affected by the proposed tap line is owned by a landowner who owns one of the already affected parcels. Xcel Energy will work with all landowners to acquire easements for the proposed tap line. A copy of this filing is being prepared for each of the affected landowners.

D. Impacts

Table 1 provides a summary of the environmental impacts of the proposed minor alteration. A discussion of these impacts follows.

Table 1: Project Impact Summary

Criteria	Units	New Alignment and ROW (150 feet)	Additional Information	Source
Proposed Infrastructure				
Length of Transmission Line	Feet (miles)	2,911 (0.55)	No additional information.	Xcel Energy 2013
Length that is in or Parallel to Existing Right-of-Way	Feet (miles)	1,326 (0.25)	Transmission	Xcel Energy 2013
		368 (0.07)	Transportation	Xcel Energy 2013
Number of Roads Crossed	Number	2	US Highway 169 and new access road to Scott Co. Substation	MnDOT 2013
Number of Parcels Crossed	Number	6	Theis, Roger and Phyllis; Shakopee Acquisition, LLC (2); MnDOT; Northern States Power; and ECSY LTD Partnership	Xcel Energy and Scott County 2013
Structures				
Number of Residences	Number	0	No additional information.	Bing Aerial Imagery and Field Assessment 2013
Number of Non-Residential Buildings	Number	1	Portion of a barn	Bing Aerial Imagery and Field Assessment 2013
Land Cover				
Area of Agricultural Land Crossed	Acres	10.24	National Land Cover Database (NLCD) classification – cultivated cropland	NLCD (2006)
Area of Forested Land Crossed	Acres	0.07	NLCD classification – deciduous forest	NLCD (2006)
Area of Open Land Crossed	Acres	3.82	NLCD classification – shrub/scrub, grassland/herbaceous, pasture/hay	NLCD (2006)
Area of Developed Land Crossed	Acres	1.12	NLCD classification – developed, medium intensity	NLCD (2006)
Area of Wetlands Crossed	Acres	0.24	NLCD classification – emergent herbaceous wetland	NLCD (2006)
		0	No additional information.	NWI (2010)
		0	No additional information.	NHD (2011)

Criteria	Units	New Alignment and ROW (150 feet)	Additional Information	Source
Transmission Line Distance across a Lake, Stream, Drainage, or Other Waterway	Feet	0	No additional information.	MnDNR trout streams (2002) and Public Waters Inventory (2008), Wild and Scenic Rivers (2006)
Conservation and Recreation Lands				
Wildlife Management Areas	Acres	0	No additional information.	MnDNR 2006
National Wildlife Refuges	Acres	0	No additional information.	USFWS 2013
Waterfowl Production Areas	Acres	0	No additional information.	USFWS 2009
State Wildlife Refuges	Acres	0	No additional information.	MnDNR 2010
County Parks and Trails	Acres	0	No additional information.	Scott County 2013
Mineral Resources				
Mineral Resources	Acres	0	Weckman Quarry adjacent to Substation on west side.	MnDOT ASIS 2013
Metal Mining Resources	Acres	0	No additional information.	MnDNR 2011
Sensitive Natural Resources				
Native Plant Communities	Acres	0	No additional information.	MnDNR 2013
Railroad Right-of-Way Prairie	Acres	0	No additional information.	MnDNR 1998
Sites of Biodiversity Significance	Acres	0.19	Site below the minimum biodiversity significance threshold on ECSY LTD Partnership parcel	MnDNR 2013
Number and Count of Known Protected or Endangered Species	Number of Species, Count within species	0	No additional information.	MnDNR NHIS (Xcel Energy License Agreement current as of August 17, 2013
Known Cultural Resources				
National Register Properties	Number	0	No additional information.	SHPO 2013
Inventoried Historic Resources	Number	0	No additional information.	SHPO 2013
Inventoried Archeological Sites	Number	0	No additional information.	SHPO/OSA 2013

The proposed infrastructure of the tap line will include 2,911 linear feet (0.55 miles) of 345 kV double circuit transmission tap line connecting the existing 0982 Transmission Line with the Scott County Substation. Approximately 1,326 feet of the proposed tap line parallels an existing 115 kV transmission line corridor. An additional 368 feet of the proposed ROW is shared with the U.S. Highway corridor.

U.S. Highway 169 is one of the two roads crossed by the proposed tap line. The second road is a gravel access road located immediately west of U.S. Highway 169 which has recently been constructed to provide access to the Scott County Substation (**Figure 1**). As mentioned above, a total of six individual parcels will be affected. However, five of the six parcels already contain infrastructure features associated with previously constructed transmission facilities (i.e., poles, transmission lines, or substation). One parcel, ECSY Limited Partnership, located adjacent the substation parcel on the north, will have approximately 40 feet of the 150' ROW, but no transmission facilities.

No residential structures are located within the ROW of the proposed tap line. A portion of a single permanent structure is situated within the ROW; however, it is an unoccupied agricultural storage structure. The project has been designed to provide sufficient clearance from the storage structure such that the storage structure would not be affected or need to be moved.

The proposed 345 kV tap line has been designed to share as much ROW as possible with the existing 115 kV line while also minimizing impacts to the mobile home community and other residences in the area. The proposed 345 kV tap line has 21 residences and three non-residential structures within 300 feet of the line, with the closest residence and non-residence being 122 feet and 29 feet from the line, respectively. The closest residence is not in the mobile home community, but the Colburn Drive cul-de-sac. The existing 115 kV line has 40 residences and three non-residences at least partially within 300 feet of the line. Additionally, at least one residence is directly beneath the 115 kV line and the closest non-residential building is 158 feet from the 115 kV line. Both the proposed 345 kV and 115 kV lines are closest to the same non-residential building – the agricultural storage structure described above.

The maximum electric field, measured at one meter above ground, associated with the Project is calculated to be 7.13 kV/m which is below the Commission's 8 kV/m threshold. The calculated electric fields for the Project are provided in Table 2. No residences or non-residential structures will need to be relocated due to construction and operation of the tap line.

Table 2: Calculated Electric Fields (Kv/M) For Proposed 345/345 kV And Existing 115 kV Transmission Line Designs (3.28 Feet Above Ground)

Structure Type	Maximum Operating Voltage (kV)	Distance to Proposed Centerline												
		-300'	-200'	-100'	-75'	-50'	-25	0'	25	50'	75'	100'	200'	300'
Steel 345kV/345kV Double Pole Double Circuit	345/345	0.09	0.18	0.18	0.42	2.03	5.86	7.13	5.86	2.03	0.42	0.19	0.18	0.09
Lattice Str 115/115kV Steel Pole Double Circuit (Existing)	121/121	0.01	0.03	0.07	0.08	0.05	0.91	2.14	0.91	0.05	0.08	0.07	0.03	0.01
Steel 345kV/345kV Double Pole Double Circuit Lattice Str 115/115kV Steel Pole Double Circuit	345/345/121/121	0.07	0.14	2.15	0.41	2.01	5.89	7.13	5.87	2.04	0.41	0.19	0.17	0.09

The magnetic field profiles for each structure configuration being considered for the Project are shown in Table 3. The peak magnetic field values are calculated at a point directly under the proposed transmission line and where the conductor is closest to the ground. The same method is used to calculate the magnetic field at the edge of the right-of-way. The calculated magnetic fields show that field levels decrease rapidly as the distance from the centerline increases.

Table 3: Calculated Magnetic Flux Density (MILLIGAUSS) For Proposed 345/345 kV And Existing 115 kV Transmission Line Designs (3.28 Feet Above Ground)

Segment	System Condition	Current (Amps)	Distance to Proposed Centerline												
			-300'	-200'	-100'	-75'	-50'	-25	0'	25	50'	75'	100'	200'	300'
Steel 345kV/345kV Double Pole Double Circuit	Peak	340/40	1.30	2.46	7.08	10.31	15.80	24.18	36.44	42.83	28.73	17.31	11.01	3.15	1.52
	Avg.	204/24	0.78	1.48	4.25	6.19	9.48	14.51	21.87	25.70	17.24	10.39	6.60	1.89	0.91
Lattice Str 115/115kV Steel Pole Double Circuit (Existing)	Peak	100/100	0.25	0.53	1.95	3.26	6.27	13.24	16.65	13.24	6.27	3.26	1.95	0.53	0.25
	Avg.	60/60	0.15	0.32	1.17	1.96	3.76	7.94	9.99	7.94	3.76	1.96	1.17	0.32	0.15
Steel 345kV/345kV Double Pole Double Circuit	Peak	340/40/ 391/391	2.05	7.87	74.40	46.49	29.81	30.99	40.70	44.36	28.21	16.50	10.34	2.94	1.44
Lattice Str 115/115kV Steel Pole Double Circuit	Avg.	204/24/ 235/235	1.23	4.73	47.12	27.94	17.90	18.60	24.43	26.61	16.92	9.90	6.21	1.77	0.87

The calculated audible noise profile for the proposed Project is shown in Table 4. Noise levels produced by the 345 kV and the 115 kV transmission line are generally less than outdoor background levels and are therefore not usually audible. Calculated audible noise levels from the proposed 345 kV tap line and the existing 115 kV line will be below daytime and nighttime noise standards established by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and should not be noticeably greater than existing ambient noise levels in the area.

Table 4: Calculated Audible Noise (Db) For Proposed 345/345 kV And Existing 115 kV Transmission Line Designs (3.28 Feet Above Ground)

Structure Type	Noise L5 (75 Feet From Centerline) (Decibels a weighted)	Noise L50 (75 feet From Centerline) (Decibels a weighted)
Steel 345kV/345kV Double Pole, Double Circuit	50.6	47.1
Lattice Str 115/115kV Steel Pole Double Circuit (Existing)	23.5	20.0
Steel 345kV/345kV Double Pole, Double Circuit Lattice Str 115/115kV Steel Pole Double Circuit	50.6	47.1

Land cover data were derived from the 2006 National Land Cover Dataset, a 16-class land cover dataset for the conterminous United States at a spatial resolution of 30 meters. These data are based on satellite imagery from 2005-2006. This dataset is commonly used to quantify land cover, although because of its date of coverage and spatial resolution, is best used as an estimate and land cover should be field verified for current conditions and accuracy. A total of 15.49 acres of land are included in the proposed tap line ROW and the substation expansion footprint. Of this total, 10.24 acres (66.11% of total project acreage) are classified as cultivated cropland. A total of 3.82 acres (24.66 % of total project acreage) are classified as open land. However, field visits to the project area indicate that an estimated 2.84 acres of the land classified as open has been incorporated into agricultural production. This brings the potential total cultivated cropland to 13.08 acres (84.44 % of total project acreage) and potentially limits the open land acreage to 0.98 acres (6.33% of total project acreage). Forested land comprises 0.07 acres (0.5% of total project acreage). Field visits to the project area indicate that much of the land classified as forested has been cleared. However, in current design, none of the acreage designated forested will be affected. A total of 1.12 acres (7.23% of total project acreage) is classified as medium intensity developed land. As with the forested acreage, the developed land will not be affected. A small amount of tree clearing will be necessary northwest of Transmission Structure 2. Xcel Energy will work with the affected landowners to establish low-growing vegetation replacement screening.

While the NLCD dataset classifies 0.24 acres (1.55% of total project area) of emergent herbaceous wetland in the project area, hydrography specific datasets indicate there are no water features in the project area. There are no inventoried National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) or National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) wetlands, waterbodies, or watercourses in the project area. Further, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) is in the process of updating the 1970s NWI data in Minnesota, and according to this updated data, there are no wetlands in the project area. The project area is also void of MDNR trout streams, Public Waters Inventory (PWI) basins, wetlands and watercourses, and Wild and Scenic Rivers. The lack of water features was confirmed during a field visit.

There are no Wildlife Management Areas, National Wildlife Refuges, Waterfowl Production Areas, State Wildlife Areas, or County Parks and Trails located within the proposed tap line ROW. There are also no mineral or metal mining resources documented within the ROW.

According to the Minnesota Biological Survey for Scott County, there are no records of Native Plant Communities or Railroad Right-of-Way prairies within the project area. The parcel located immediately north of the substation is identified as a Site of Biodiversity Significance by the MDNR. However, it is classified as "below the minimum biodiversity threshold". Current project plans include the biodiversity site within the 150' ROW but will not be physically altered during construction or physically occupied by any of the proposed facilities. As previously mentioned, the 150' ROW extends approximately 40 feet onto this parcel.

Per the recommendations of MDNR received during early coordination activities, precautions and best management practices will be used to avoid the spread of invasive plants by heavy equipment during construction and maintenance activities. The applicant proposes to use wildlife-friendly (non-plastic, non-welded) erosion control materials to reduce mortality to small nongame species. Further, the applicant will work with landowners to preserve, wherever possible, low-growing shrub species that can provide wildlife habitat. The applicant will only use native seed mixes where re-seeding of vegetated areas is needed.

A review of Xcel Energy's licensed NHIS dataset, current as of August 17, 2013, produced no records of known threatened and endangered species or other rare features within the project area. This review was verified by Lisa Joyal, MDNR Endangered Species Review Coordinator (see Appendix A, ERBD# 20140207-0002.)

No previously documented archaeological sites, inventoried historic resources, or listed National Register Historic Properties are located within the proposed project area. Further, no identified historic properties were identified within one mile of the proposed project.

E. Assessment of Project Impacts

Xcel Energy has designed the project to not result in significant changes to the human and environmental impacts of Transmission Line #0982. An evaluation of the impacts of the project relative to the routing factors found in Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850.4100 can be found in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Assessment of Impacts of Requested Alignment.

Routing Factor: Minnesota Rules 7850.1900 subp. 3 and Minnesota Rules 7850.4100	Impact Regarding Alignment and Right-of-Way Change Requested
Effects on human settlement, including, but not limited to displacement, noise, aesthetics, cultural values, recreation and public services.	No impacts to human settlement are anticipated. No displacement will be required. Noise levels will be below state standards. No recreation facilities or public services will be impacted. Any incremental effects to cultural values and aesthetics are minimized by sharing right-of-way with an existing transmission line and Highway 169..
Effects on Public Health and Safety	No impacts to public health and safety are anticipated. The calculated electric, magnetic, and field levels are below any state standards. No safety concerns exist with the construction or operation of this tap line.
Effects on land-based economies, including, but not limited to agriculture, forestry, tourism and mining.	No impacts to land-based economies are anticipated. Based on project design, effects to agricultural activities will be minimal.
Effects on archaeological and historic resources.	No archaeological or historic resources have been documented within the project area. No impacts are anticipated.
Effects on the natural environment, including effects on air and water quality resources and flora and fauna.	No impacts to the natural environment are anticipated. See Table 1 for natural resource impact information.
Effects on rare and unique natural resources.	No rare and unique natural resources have been documented within the project area. No impacts are anticipated.

Routing Factor: Minnesota Rules 7850.1900 subp. 3 and Minnesota Rules 7850.4100	Impact Regarding Alignment and Right-of-Way Change Requested
Application of design options that maximize energy efficiencies, mitigate adverse environmental effects, and could accommodate expansion of transmission or generating capacity.	The project has been designed to maximize energy efficiencies, and avoid any environmental effects. No mitigation will be required. The project is being proposed to improve system performance during n-2 conditions, and to alleviate future load serving problems.
Use or paralleling of existing right-of-way, survey lines, natural division lines, and agricultural field boundaries.	The proposed route shares (46)% of its ROW with the Black Dog 115 kV line, and (13)% of its ROW with existing transportation corridor.
Use of existing large electric power generating plant sites.	Not applicable to current project.
Use of existing transportation, pipeline, and electrical transmission systems rights-of-way.	The proposed route shares (46)% of its ROW with the Black Dog 115 kV line, and (13)% of its ROW with existing transportation corridor
Electrical system reliability.	The proposed project will support reliable transmission of electricity.
Cost of constructing, operation and maintenance which are dependent on design and route.	The anticipated costs to construct the tap line and expand the substation are approximately $24 million.
Human and natural environmental effects that cannot be avoided.	Any minimal human and environmental effects associated with the project are described in Table 1, and are not significant in nature.
Irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources.	No irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources are anticipated as part of this project.
Measures that might be implemented to mitigate the potential human and environmental impacts identified above and the estimated cost of the mitigative measures.	No mitigative measures are needed for this project. The project has been designed to minimize any impacts to human and environmental factors.
Wilderness Areas: No high voltage transmission line may be routed through state or national wilderness areas (Prohibition, Minn. Rules 7850.4300).	The proposed project does not include crossings of any state or national wilderness areas.
Parks and Natural Areas: No high voltage transmission line may be routed through state or national parks or state scientific and natural areas unless the transmission line would not materially damage or impair the purpose for which the area was designated and feasible and prudent alternative exists. Economic considerations alone do not justify use of these areas for high voltage transmission line (Minn. Rules 7850.4300).	The proposed project does not include crossings of any state or national parks or state scientific and natural areas.

E. Conclusion

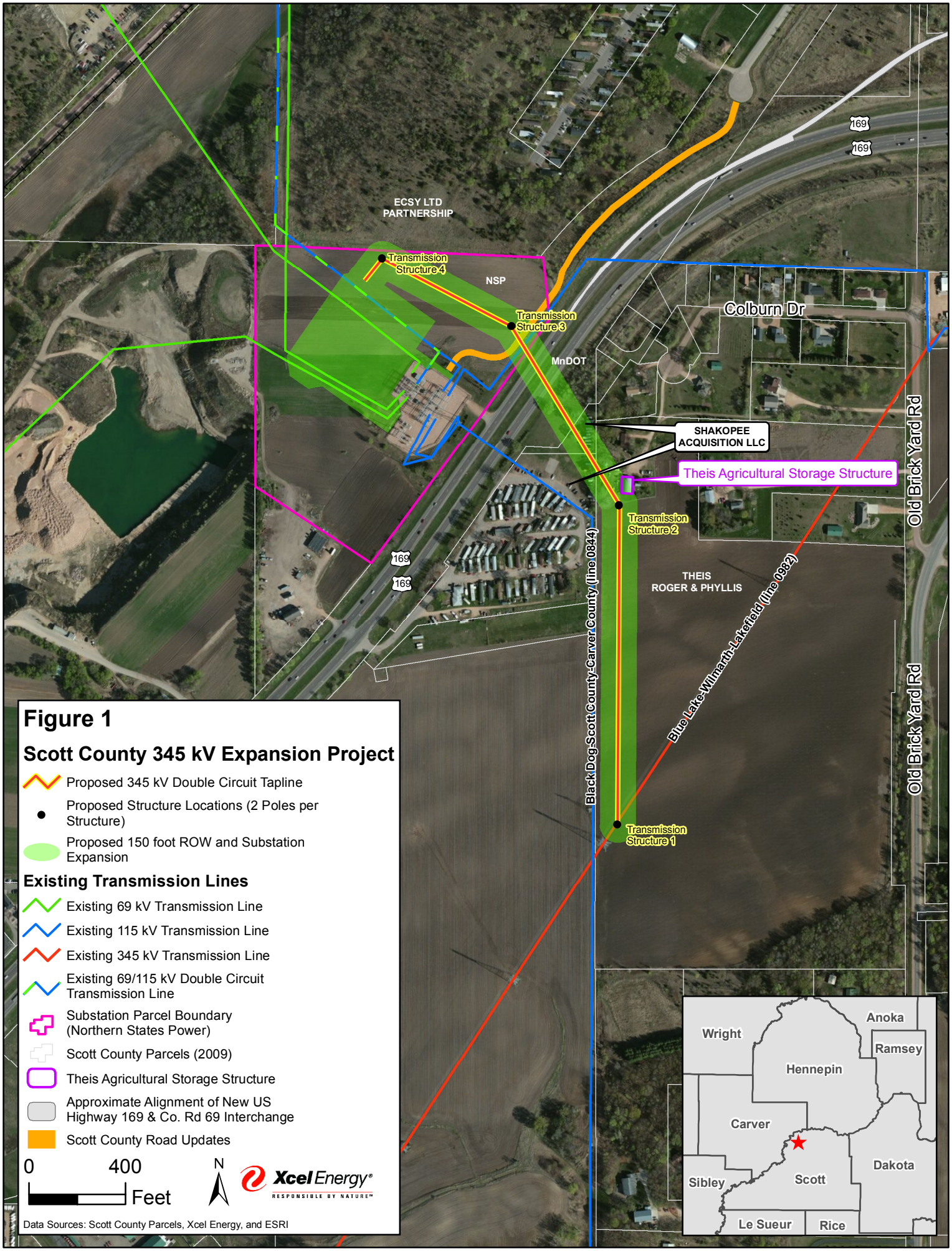
Based on the information included in this minor alteration application, Xcel Energy believes the proposed 345 kV Transmission Tap Line project does not represent a significant change in the human or natural environment, and therefore qualifies as a Minor Alteration as defined by Minnesota Statute and Rule. Xcel Energy respectfully requests that the Commission approve the proposed minor alteration.

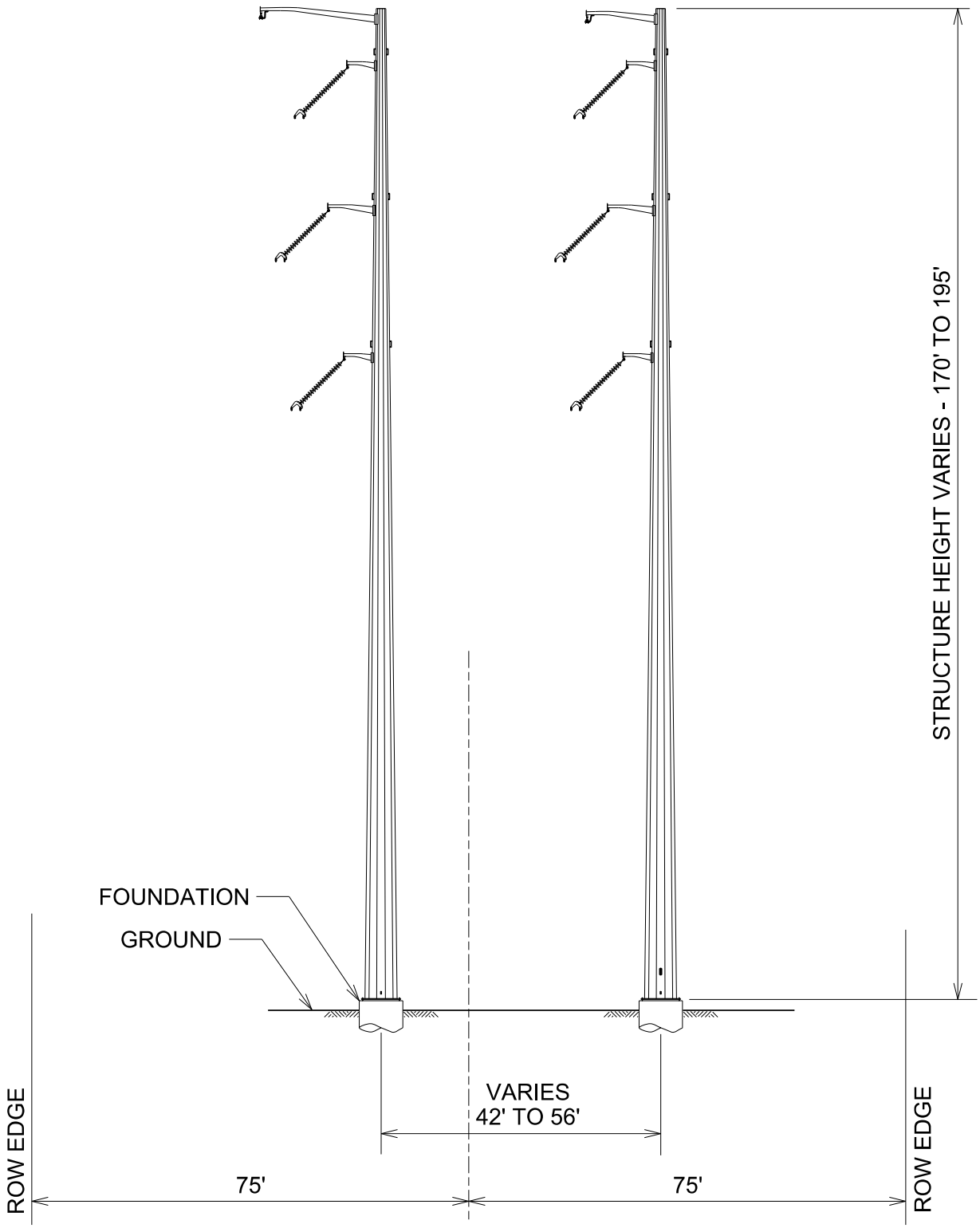
If there are any questions regarding this filing, please feel free to contact Matt Langan, Xcel Energy Senior Permitting Analyst at (612) 330-6954 or Matthew.A.Langan@xcelenergy.com.

Sincerely,

MATTHEW A. LANGAN
SENIOR PERMITTING ANALYST
PERMIT PROJECT LEAD
XCEL ENERGY

Enclosures
cc: Service List


ECSY LTD PARTNERSHIP
NSP
Transmission Structure 4
Transmission Structure 3
MnDOT
Colburn Dr
SHAKOPEE ACQUISITION LLC
Theis Agricultural Storage Structure
Transmission Structure 2
THEIS ROGER & PHYLLIS
Transmission Structure 1
Black Dog-Scott County-Carver County (line 0844)
Blue Lake-Wilmarth-Lakefield (line 0982)
Old Brick Yard Rd
Old Brick Yard Rd
169
169
169
169
Figure 1
Scott County 345 kV Expansion Project
Proposed 345 kV Double Circuit Tapline
Proposed Structure Locations (2 Poles per Structure)
Proposed 150 foot ROW and Substation Expansion
Existing Transmission Lines
Existing 69 kV Transmission Line
Existing 115 kV Transmission Line
Existing 345 kV Transmission Line
Existing 69/115 kV Double Circuit Transmission Line
Substation Parcel Boundary (Northern States Power)
Scott County Parcels (2009)
Theis Agricultural Storage Structure
Approximate Alignment of New US Highway 169 & Co. Rd 69 Interchange
Scott County Road Updates
0
400
Feet
N
Xcel Energy
RESPONSIBLE BY NATURE
Data Sources: Scott County Parcels, Xcel Energy, and ESRI
Wright
Anoka
Ramsey
Hennepin
Carver
Dakota
Sibley
Scott
Le Sueur
Rice



THIS MAP/DOCUMENT IS A TOOL TO ASSIST EMPLOYEES IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR JOBS.YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY IS PROVIDED FOR BY USING SAFETY PRACTICES, PROCEDURES AND EQUIPMENT AS DESCRIBED IN THE SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAMS, MANUALS AND SPARS.

INTERNAL INFORMATION: DO NOT COPY OR DISTRIBUTE WITHOUT EXPRESS WRITTEN CONSENT FROM XCEL ENERGY

NSP OPERATING AREA
ENGINEERING
Minneapolis, MN

LINE 0982

345 kV

PERMIT DRAWING

PROPOSED STRUCTURE - STEEL, ANGLE, DOUBLE CIRCUIT, DOUBLE POLE

GRP	SIGNIFICANT NUMBER
LOC ID GRP 1	0982
3	
4	
5A	
5B	5340
6	
CL	

Xcel Energy®

SCALE N.T.S.

NL-11838299-P1

REV NONE

$FILES$ $TIME$ $DATE$

APPENDIX A:

AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE

Langan, Matthew A

From: Joyal, Lisa (DNR) [Lisa.Joyal@state.mn.us]
Sent: Sunday, February 09, 2014 5:47 PM
To: Langan, Matthew A
Cc: Schrenzel, Jamie (DNR); Haworth, Brooke (DNR)
Subject: Scott County Tap Line - Natural Heritage Review Concurrence
Attachments: Xcel_ScottCo_Fig1_121913 draft.pdf; Figure 2_Structure Typical Scott Co.pdf

Hi Matt,

I have reviewed the information that you submitted regarding the above project and concur with your assessment that the project will not adversely affect any known occurrences of rare features. The reference number for this correspondence is ERDB #20140207-0002.

Thank you for notifying us of this project, and for the opportunity to provide comments.

Lisa Joyal

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Lisa Joyal
Endangered Species Review Coordinator
NHIS Data Distribution Coordinator
Division of Ecological and Water Resources
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25
St. Paul, MN 55155

phone: 651-259-5109
lisa.joyal@state.mn.us
www.mndnr.gov/eco

From: Langan, Matthew A [mailto:Matthew.A.Langan@xcelenergy.com]
Sent: Friday, January 17, 2014 9:18 AM
To: Schrenzel, Jamie (DNR); Joyal, Lisa (DNR)
Subject: Scott County Tap Line project

Jamie and Lisa – Hi! Hope all's well.

Per my phone message, here's a map and structure typical of a project I'm working on in Scott County. The project connects an existing 345kV transmission line to an existing substation, through a 0.6-mile double circuit tap line. We intend to file a minor alteration application with PUC at the end of the month, and since the associated comment period under that process is brief, I wanted to give you guys some extra time to review the project.

As is shown on the attached map, the route would be placed on previously disturbed/cleared land (agriculture, highway, Xcel substation property) and shares existing ROW with a 115kV line and Hwy 169. In our own review, we did not find any natural resources impacts.
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Langan, Matthew A

From: Haworth, Brooke (DNR) [Brooke.Haworth@state.mn.us]
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2014 4:40 PM
To: Langan, Matthew A
Cc: bkhaworth@msn.com; Schrenzel, Jamie (DNR); Pile, Deborah (COMM)
Subject: DNR comments re: Scott County Tap Line Project
Attachments: wildlife-friendly-erosion-control.pdf; best_practices_for_prevention_ais.pdf; State Seed Mixes.pdf

Hi Matt,

Thank you for providing background and materials on the Scott County Tap Line project. I understand you have contacted Lisa Joyal, the DNR Endangered Species review Coordinator, regarding the Natural Heritage Information System review. She will contact you regarding an NHIS concurrence. As the Regional Ecological Assessment Ecologist, I have reviewed this project and agree with your assessment that no natural resource impacts would be expected.

We present the following recommendations for your consideration.

For all ground disturbance activities, we recommend precautions to avoid the spread of invasive plants by heavy equipment, and the use of wildlife-friendly (non-plastic, non-welded) erosion control materials to reduce mortality to small nongame species. We recommend that you preserve wherever possible the low-growing shrub species that can provide wildlife habitat. In areas where land-owner preference allows, we also recommend re-seeding disturbed areas with appropriate native prairie seed mixes. This vegetation would also provide food and habitat for butterflies and other native pollinators. Please see attachments for each of these recommendations.

Thank you for this early coordination opportunity. Please let me know if you have questions regarding this material.

Brooke Haworth
Environmental Assessment Ecologist, Central Region
MnDNR Division of Ecological and Water Resources
1200 Warner Road, St. Paul, MN 55106
Phone: 651-259-5755
Email: Brooke.haworth@state.mn.us

Langan, Matthew A

From: Kotch, Stacy (DOT) [stacy.kotch@state.mn.us]
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 1:20 PM
To: Langan, Matthew A
Subject: RE: Scott County Tap Line project
Attachments: SCOTT CO TAP MNDOT MAP 1-27-14.pdf

Matt,

Both MnDOT Metro District Planning and MnDOT Roadside Vegetation Management Unit have no issues with the current proposed alignment as shown in the maps you sent on 1-17-14.
Attached is map showing current MNDOT right of way (highlighted in yellow) for your project area. I believe I may have shared this with you already.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the plans and for your communication efforts in this process.

Stacy Kotch
Utility Transmission Route Coordinator
Office of Land Management
Minnesota Department of Transportation
651-366-4635

From: Langan, Matthew A [mailto:Matthew.A.Langan@xcelenergy.com]
Sent: Friday, January 17, 2014 8:43 AM
To: Kotch, Stacy (DOT)
Subject: Scott County Tap Line project

Stacy-
I've attached the map we will include in our Minor Alteration Application to be filed by the end of the month, as well as a typical drawing of the 4 transmission structures used for this project. Please let me know if you have any initial thoughts. We will be sending a letter and map to area residents, local governments, etc. in advance of our filing. You'll receive that mailing as well.

Thanks,
Matt

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