



Environmental Quality Board

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June 23, 2004

Pamela Jo Rasmussen
Permitting Analyst
Xcel Energy, Inc. - NSP
PO Box 8
1414 W. Hamilton Avenue
Eau Claire, WI, 54702-0008

Re: Docket MEQB No. 03-73-TR-Xcel

Dear Ms. Ramussen:

Here are several information requests regarding the Split Rock to Lakefield 345/115 transmission line project.

You may respond by e-mail, but please also provide a response in writing by July 14, 2004. Please indicate the above cited docket number, the corresponding request number and the respondent's name and title in your response. If your response contains Trade Secret data, please include a public copy. If you have any questions or problems providing the requested information, please contact me at 651-296-2096.

Request No. 1.

Please provide Xcel Energy's detailed siting criteria requirements for the Nobles County Substation, in addition to the information provided in your route-permit application, including (1) total land required, (2) minimum proximity to residences, (3) relationship to potential future wind energy turbine facilities, (4) roadway access for construction, (5) availability of nearby corridors or routes for potential future high-voltage transmission line interconnections, and (6) any other relevant consideration.

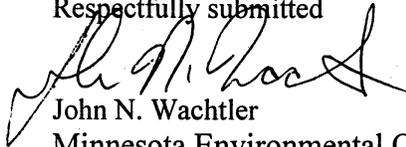
Request No. 2

Please provide a detailed analysis of the reliability issues regarding the potential use of the Alliant 161 kV line as a double circuit line with a new 345 kV line to the extent possible. Please describe your analysis in any quantifiable or descriptive methods available. Also please describe the current status of your discussions with Alliant Energy regarding the potential reconstruction and rebuilding of that line as a double-circuit structure.

Request No. 3

The Nobles County Public Works Director has raised the issue of who bears the financial liability for moving any new transmission line poles due to a future county or township road expansion. Please provide Xcel Energy's normal procedures for determining whether to place transmission line poles within an existing roadway right-of-way and how the issue of potential future liability for moving the poles affects whether or how far poles are placed into adjacent yards or fields. Also, please provide a clarification of Xcel's current policy on this liability issue.

Respectfully submitted



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