

**Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy**

**03-64-TR-XCEL**

**IN THE MATTER OF XCEL ENERGY'S APPLICATION TO THE  
MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD FOR A ROUTE  
PERMIT FOR A 161 KV TRANSMISSION LINE  
FROM LAKEFIELD JUNCTION TO FOX LAKE**

**Direct Testimony**

**Of**

**Grant D. Stevenson  
Project Manager  
(Xcel Energy Services Inc.)**

**BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD  
OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA  
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF GRANT D. STEVENSON**

**Q. Please state your name and business address.**

A. Grant D. Stevenson. My business address is 414 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401.

**Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?**

A. I am employed as a Project Manager with Xcel Energy Services Inc., the service company subsidiary of Xcel Energy, Inc. Xcel Energy, Inc. is the registered public utility holding company parent of Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy (“Xcel Energy” or “Company”).

**Q. Describe your educational background and current job responsibilities.**

A. I graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1986 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Mechanical Engineering. I began working for Northern States Power Company in 1984, while I was still in college. In 1986, I joined the Company fulltime as a mechanical engineer at the Sherburne County generating plant in Becker, Minnesota. I was responsible for managing projects to improve productivity, efficiency and safety at the Company’s largest generating plant. I also managed contractors, directed work plant operations, maintenance, and technical personnel. Since 1986, I have held positions with the Company with increasing responsibility. In September 2000, I became a Transmission Project Manager, the title I hold today. As project manager, I am responsible for capital project scope, budget, and schedule. My current project portfolio includes more than 250 million of capital projects, including the Southwest Minnesota Wind Outlet

Project and the Chisago-Apple River Transmission Project. My responsibilities include working with public and state agencies to obtain permits necessary for construction of transmission capital projects such as those proposed in this proceeding and managing the projects through design and construction.

**Q. On whose behalf are you submitting this testimony?**

A. On behalf of the applicant, Xcel Energy.

**Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

A. The purpose of my testimony is to support Xcel Energy's application to the EQB for a route permit to construct a new 161 kV transmission line from the Lakefield Junction Substation to the Fox Lake Substation ("Application").

**Q. Were you involved in the preparation of the Application?**

A. Yes. I assisted in the development of Sections 3.0 through 3.5. I also collected information and assisted in the preparation of Chapter 5 of the Application. Specifically, I, along with Pamela Rasmussen gathered the information for and prepared sections 5.1.4, MnDOT contacts, 5.1.6 City of Jackson contacts and 5.2, Public Participation.

**Q. Are you available to act as sponsor for particular sections of the Application?**

A. Yes. I am available to address issues and questions arising out of Sections 3.0 through 3.5. I am also prepared to answer questions regarding Sections 5.1.4, 5.1.6 and 5.2.

**Q. Do you have any changes or corrections to the sections of the Application for which you are acting as sponsor in this hearing?**

A. No.

**Q. Do you have any changes or corrections to any other information you provided to the MEQB in this proceeding?**

A. Yes. The MEQB Staff asked me to prepare a summary of costs for the route options, including Jackson load serving project options. The chart I prepared dated April 9, 2004 is included as Table 6 in the Environmental Assessment. I have revised the chart to include updated information regarding cost estimates on the load serving portion of the chart which I received from Michael Steckelberg, project engineer with Great River Energy. The updated information refines the earlier estimates but does not materially change how the various options compare to each other on a cost basis. A copy of the revised Table 6 is attached to my testimony as Exhibit GDS-1.

**Q. Does this conclude your direct testimony?**

A. Yes.