



Environmental Quality Board

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April 30, 2004

Honorable Raymond Krause
Chief Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings
100 Washington Square, Suite 1700
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-2138

Re: Xcel Energy Blue Lake Generating Plant Expansion Project
MPUC Docket No. E-002/CN-04-76
OAH Docket No. 2-2500-15828-2

Dear Judge Krause:

In accordance with your Prehearing Order of April 13, 2004, enclosed please find the Prefiled Testimony of William Cole Storm. Mr. Storm will be available at the hearing on May 17, 2004, to answer questions.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Alan Mitchell

cc: Service List

**BEFORE THE MINNESOTA OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
100 WASHINGTON SQUARE, SUITE 1700
100 WASHINGTON AVENUE SOUTH
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55401-2138
FOR THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**LeRoy Koppendraye
Marshall Johnson
Ken Nickolai
Phyllis A. Reha
Gregory Scott**

**Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner**

**In the Matter of the Application of
Northern States Power Company (d/b/a
Xcel Energy) for a Certificate of Need for
a Large Electric Generating Facility (Blue
Lake Generating Plant)**

**MPUC Docket No. E-002/CN-04-76
OAH Docket No. 2-2500-15828-2**

PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM COLE STORM

A: I am the EQB's project manager for the Xcel Energy Blue Lake Generating Plant Expansion project. I am responsible for preparation of the environmental documents and administration of the applications for EQB permits.

Q: What environmental review documents are you preparing in this matter?

A: The EQB rules recognize that if an applicant for a Certificate of Need also applies for the necessary EQB permits at about the same time, the EQB can elect to combine the environmental review conducted for the PUC with the site-specific environmental review required before the EQB can issue the necessary permits. That rule is Minn. Rules part 4410.7060. In this case the Chair of the EQB determined that environmental review would be combined, and I am preparing a single document called an Environmental Assessment.

Q: What have you done with respect to this project?

A: I reviewed the Certificate of Need application submitted by Xcel Energy to the PUC on January 16, 2004, and I have reviewed the site and route permit application submitted by Xcel Energy to the MEQB on February 10, 2004.

I then recommended to the Chair that he accept the site and route permit application. On February 17, 2004, the EQB chair accepted Xcel Energy's site and route permit application.

On March 1, 2004, I sent the Notice of Application and Public Meeting as required by Minnesota Rules part 4410.7030, subparts 1, 2 and 3, to the persons specified in that rule.

On March 11, 2004, I conducted a public meeting at the Shakopee city hall to discuss the project with interested persons and to solicit input into the scope of the EA. Ten people, in addition to representatives of Xcel, attended the public meeting. The public also had an opportunity to ask questions during informal discussions with company representatives. The comment period was held open until 5:00 pm on April 2, 2004. Written comments were received from the Shakopee City Administrator (Mr. Mark McNeil) and the Shakopee Director of Natural Resources (Mr. Mark McQuillian).

The major areas of concern voiced during the public meeting were noise, air emissions and routing of the transmission line through MN/DOT parcel number 75. Written comments centered on the concern over potential impacts on MN/DOT parcel 75 and provided biodiversity information related to this parcel.

After consideration of the public comments, the Chair of the EQB issued a Scoping Order on April 13, 2004.

On April 13, 2004, I sent the Notice of the EA Scoping Decision as required by Minnesota Rules part 4400.2750, subpart 3, to the persons specified in that rule.

On April 21, 2004, I sent a Notice of Public Hearing as required by Minnesota Rules part 4400.2800, to the persons specified in that rule. The Notice was also published in the Shakopee Daily News on April 29, 2004. The Notice announces the holding of an EQB public hearing on May 17, 2004, in the Scott County Government Services Building in Shakopee.

Q: Is the Environmental Assessment complete?

A: No, not as of April 30, 2004

Q: When will the Environmental Assessment be completed and available for review?

A: The Environmental Assessment will be completed by May 17, 2004. It will be posted on the EQB webpage when it is complete. The public will have until at least May 27, 2004, to comment on the Environmental Assessment as part of the EQB permit proceeding. The judge will set the final date for submission of written comments at the May 17 hearing.

Q: Will you be available to answer questions at the May 17, 2004, hearing?

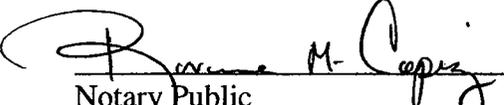
A: Yes.

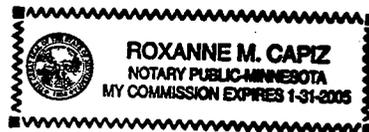
Q: Does that conclude your prefiled testimony?

A: Yes.


William Cole Storm

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 30th day of April, 2004.


Notary Public



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