

STATE OF MINNESOTA

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

**In the Matter of Xcel Energy's Application
for a Certificate of Need Large Electric Power
Generating Plant at the Blue lake Generating
plant in Shakopee, Minnesota, and an
Application for a Site Permit for the plant and
a Route Permit Associated for an Associated
High Voltage Transmission line.**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
SCOPING DECISION
EQB Docket No. 04-75-PPS-Xcel Blue Lake
PUC Docket No. E002/CN-04-76**

The above-entitled matter came before the Chair of the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (MEQB) for a decision on the scope of the Environmental Assessment (EA) to be prepared on the proposed expansion of the Blue Lake Generating plant.

The EQB held a public meeting on March 11, 2004, to discuss the project with the public and to solicit input into the scope of the EA to be prepared. The public was given until April 2 to submit written comments regarding the scope of the EA.

Having reviewed the comments submitted and consulted with EQB staff, I hereby make the following Scoping Order.

MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED

The EA on the Blue Lake Generating plant expansion project will address the following matters:

- 1.0 INTRODUCTION
 - 1.1 Purpose and Need
 - 1.2 Regulatory requirements
- 2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION
 - 2.1 LEPGP
 - 2.1.1 General
 - 2.1.2 Description of Power Generating Equipment and Processes
 - 2.1.3 Air Emission Control Equipment
 - 2.1.4 Water Use
 - 2.1.5 Wastewater
 - 2.1.6 Solid and Hazardous Waste Generation
 - 2.1.6 Fuel Supply
 - 2.1.7 Permits
 - 2.1 HVTL
 - 2.1.1 General
 - 2.1.2 Design
 - 2.1.3 Right-of-Way Requirements and Acquisition
 - 2.1.4 Construction
 - 2.1.5 Operation and Maintenance
 - 2.1.6 Permits

- 3.0 ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED LEPGP
 - 3.1 No-build Alternative
 - 3.2 Demand Side Management
 - 3.3 Purchase Power
 - 3.3.1 Long term Purchase Power
 - 3.3.2 Short term Purchase Power
 - 3.4 Alternative Fuels
 - 3.4.1 Fossil Fuel Technologies
 - 3.4.2 Renewable Resource Technologies
 - 3.5 Up-grading Existing Facilities
 - 3.6 New Transmission
- 4.0 ALTERNATIVE HVTL ROUTES
 - 4.1 Alternative A: Eastern Edge of Parcel 75
 - 4.2 Alternative B: Western Edge of Dean Lake
 - 4.3 Alternative C: Along Highway 169
- 5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSED LEPGP
 - 5.1 Air Quality
 - 5.1.1 Criteria Pollutants
 - 5.1.2 Hazardous Air Pollutants
 - 5.2 Biological Resources
 - 5.2.1 Flora
 - 5.2.2 Fauna
 - 5.2.3 Rare & Unique Natural resources
 - 5.3 Cultural Resources
 - 5.3.1 Public Services & Infrastructure
 - 5.3.2 Archaeological & Historic Resources
 - 5.4 Geology and Soils
 - 5.5 Health and Safety
 - 5.6 Land Use
 - 5.6.1 Zoning & Displacement
 - 5.6.2 Aesthetics & Visual Impacts
 - 5.7 Noise
 - 5.7.1 Project Noise
 - 5.7.2 Noise Standards
 - 5.7.3 Current Noise Environment
 - 5.8 Transportation
 - 5.9 Water Resources
 - 5.9.1 Surface Water
 - 5.9.2 Groundwater
 - 5.9.3 Wetlands
 - 5.10 Waste Management and Disposal
- 6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSED HVTL
 - 6.1 Air Quality

- 6.2 Biological Resources
 - 6.2.1 Flora
 - 6.2.2 Fauna
 - 6.6.3 Rare & Unique Natural resources
- 6.3 Cultural Resources
 - 6.3.1 Human Settlements
 - 6.3.2 Archaeological & Historic Resources
- 6.4 Geology and Soils
- 6.5 Health and Safety
 - 6.5.1 Electric and Magnetic Fields
 - 6.5.2 Radio and TV Interference
- 6.6 Land Use
 - 6.6.1 Zoning & Displacement
 - 6.6.2 Aesthetics & Visual Impacts
 - 6.6.3 MN/DOT Parcel 75
- 6.7 Noise
 - 6.7.1 Corona Noise
- 6.8 Transportation
- 6.9 Water Resources
 - 6.9.1 Surface Water
 - 6.9.2 Groundwater
 - 6.9.3 Wetlands

ISSUES OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE EA

The EQB will not, as part of this environmental review, consider whether a different size or different type of transmission line should be built. Nor will the EQB consider the no-build option regarding the HVTL. Nor will the EQB consider any alternative sites for the proposed plant.

IDENTIFICATION OF PERMITS

The EA will include a list of permits that will be required for the applicant to construct this project.

SCHEDULE

The EA will be completed by May 16, 2004.

Signed this 13 day of April, 2004

STATE OF MINNESOTA
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Robert A. Schroeder,
Chair