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Environmental Quality Board
FEB 2005

February 18, 2005

VIA E-MAIL AND U.S MAIL

Alan Mitchell, EQB Staff Member
Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
300 Centennial Building
658 Cedar Street
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: Route Permit Application by Xcel Energy for a 115 kV High Voltage Transmission Line Between the Buffalo Ridge Substation in Lincoln County, Minnesota and the White Substation in Brookings County, South Dakota, and the Yankee Substation, Docket No. 04-84-TR-XCEL

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy writes to respond to concerns raised by Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. (ITC) in its letter dated October 14, 2004 to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (MEQB) and at the hearings held on February 3, 2005.

Specifically, ITC expressed concerns about harmonic interference it has experienced on its telecommunications lines in the Lake Benton area. At hearing, ITC stated it believed that the interference is being caused by wind turbines or 34.5 kV feeder lines. ITC also stated that it does not know whether higher voltage transmission lines could cause interference and has no specific problems with the proposed route itself but wants to ensure that any potential risk of interference with the new 115 kV transmission line between the Buffalo Ridge Substation and the Brookings County Substation is minimized.

Xcel Energy reaffirms its commitment to work cooperatively with ITC to design and build the new transmission line to minimize harmonic interference. Xcel Energy will be bringing a consultant on board to evaluate the potential impacts of the 115 kV line in conjunction with IEEE Standards 519 and 776. Xcel Energy will also seek input from ITC regarding the placement of the line and requests that the MEQB designate a route with a corridor of 100 feet of each side of the road centerline to allow Xcel Energy to place the line on either side of a road after consultation with ITC. To further address ITC's concerns, Xcel Energy proposes the following permit condition which the MEQB has imposed in certain wind turbine permits:

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MEMBER — LEX MUNDI, A GLOBAL ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT LAW FIRMS

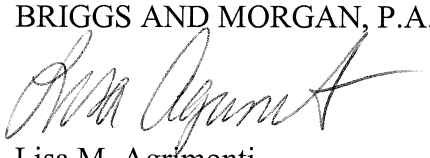
EXHIBIT 27
MEQB Docket
04-84-TR-Xcel

> The Permittee shall not operate the high voltage transmission line and associated facilities so as to cause microwave, television, radio, telecommunications or navigation interference contrary to Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations or other law. In the event the high voltage transmission line and its associated facilities or its operations cause such interference, the Permittee shall take timely measures necessary to correct the problem.

Xcel Energy appreciates the opportunity to provide these additional comments.

Sincerely,

BRIGGS AND MORGAN, P.A.



Lisa M. Agrimonti

LMA/dba

cc: Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc.
Pamela Jo Rasmussen