



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-40_25



February 16, 2005

Mr. Alan Mitchell
Environmental Quality Board
300 Centennial Building, 658 Cedar St.
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Xcel Energy Buffalo to White 115kV Transmission Line and The Yankee Substation
Environmental Assessment
Docket #04-84-TR-XCEL

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) for Xcel Energy's Buffalo to White 115kV High Voltage Transmission Line and Yankee Substation located in Lincoln County, Minnesota. With respect to potential impacts to natural resources, and in accordance with Minnesota Statutes §116C.575 subd.6, the DNR offers the following comments.

5.2 Route Segment Description: Route Segment B – pp.23-24

DNR supports Xcel Energy's proposal to remove a 1.4-mile segment of the Lake Yankton – Pipestone 115kV line from the Hole-in-the-Mountain Wildlife Management Area and the Nature Conservancy's Hole-in-the-Mountain Prairie.

Minnesota Statutes §116C.61

Minnesota Statutes §116C.61, Subdivision 3 requires state agencies authorized to issue permits for construction of HVTLs to state whether the site, and other design matters, under consideration for approval by the Environmental Quality Board will be in compliance with agency standards, rules or policies. Project construction and operation will require a License to Cross Public Waters permit from the DNR, as is noted in the EA. Project construction and operation will be in compliance with DNR's standards, rules and policies.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this document. Please contact me with any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Matt Langan, Environmental Planner
Environmental Policy & Review Unit
Division of Ecological Services
(651) 297-3359

EXHIBIT 28
MEQB Docket
04-84-TR-Xcel

c: Commissioner Gene Merriam, Cheryl Heide, Lee Pfanmuller, Tom Balcom, Shannon Fisher,
Larry Hartman - EQB

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