STATE OF MINNESOTA

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

In the Matter of Xcel Wilmarth HVTL Application for a Route Permit for a Double Circuit 115 Kilovolt and a Single Circuit 345 Kilovolt Transmission Line to be located in Mankato, Minnesota.

APPOINTMENT OF HEARING EXAMINER
EQB Docket No. 04-86-TR-XCEL

The above-entitled matter came before the Chair of the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (MEQB) for appointment of a hearing examiner pursuant to Minnesota Rules part 4400.2850, subpart 2.

The applicable rule allows the Chair to appoint an Environmental Quality Board staff person to serve as the hearing examiner. I hereby appoint Alan Mitchell of the EQB staff as the hearing examiner in this matter. Mr. Mitchell shall set the date, time, and place of the hearing, shall ensure that proper notice of the public hearing is provided in accordance with EQB rules, shall preside at the hearing, shall compile the record, shall forward the record to the EQB in a timely fashion, and shall perform any other tasks that are permitted by applicable law in order to conduct the hearing in a fair, impartial, and expeditious manner. Mr. Mitchell shall not prepare a report or make any recommendation to the Board in his role as hearing examiner, but he may continue his functions as an EQB staff member advising the Board.

Dated: October 6, 2004

STATE OF MINNESOTA
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

Robert A. Schroeder
Chair