

# MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING:

### HIGH BRIDGE REPOWERING PROJECT

Tuesday, May 24, 2005

7:00 p.m.

Lady Slipper Room

Centennial Office Building

658 Cedar Street

St. Paul, MN

### EQB Docket No. 05-92-PPS-Xcel High Bridge

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**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) will hold a Public Hearing on an application by Xcel Energy to construct and operate a natural gas-fuel, combined-cycle electric generating facility capable of producing 480 to 665 megawatts (MW).

The proposal consists of replacing the existing 270 MW coal fueled plant (i.e., the High Bridge Plant) with a new, natural gas-fired, combined cycle plant. The conversion of the High Bridge Plant is exempted from the Certificate of Need requirements of Minnesota Statutes § 216B.243.

The public hearing will be held on **Tuesday, May 24, 2005**, in the Lady Slipper room of the Centennial Office Building (COB) in the State Capital Complex. The COB is located at 658 Cedar Street in St. Paul, Minnesota. The hearing will convene at 7:00 pm.

**Administrative Law Judge** Bruce H. Johnson will preside at the hearing. Judge Johnson's address is Office of Administrative Hearings, 100 Washington Square, Suite 1700, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-2138, phone 612.341.7607.

**Environmental Assessment** The EQB has prepared an Environmental Assessment on the proposed project. The EA addresses the potential impacts of the proposed project. Copies of the environmental assessment, permit application and other materials can be obtained at the EQB web site

<http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=15966>

or by contacting the project manager, Bill Storm ([bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us)) 300 Centennial Bldg., 658 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55155, telephone 651.296.9535, facsimile 651.296.3698 (TTY relay service 800.627.3529).

**Conduct of Hearing** The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Power Plant Siting Act, Minn. Stat. §§ 116C.51 to 116C.69, and the rules of the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board, Minn. Rules parts 4400.2000 to 4400.2950, for projects of the size and type proposed here.

The EQB staff will be present at the hearing and make a brief presentation about the project and introduce into the record a number of documents relating to the project, including the application, the Environmental Assessment, and certain procedural documents. Representatives of the applicant will be present to offer evidence and to answer questions. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions of EQB staff and Xcel Energy representatives,

to make statements, and to offer written comments and material into the record. Members of the public are not required to file any papers in advance of the hearing in order to participate.

The record will remain open for at least ten days after the close of the hearing for interested persons to submit written comments to the Administrative Law Judge. Judge Johnson will determine at the hearing a date for the comment period to end. Comments must be submitted directly to Judge Johnson at the address above.

**Purpose of Hearing** The purpose of the public hearing is to compile the record for the EQB to consider in making a final decision on the permit requested. Upon closure of the public comment period, Judge Johnson will write a report and make a recommendation to the EQB on the granting of the site permit and on any appropriate permit conditions. It is anticipated that the application will come before the EQB for a final decision on the permit at its July 21, 2005, Board meeting.

**Public Utilities Commission Proceeding.** This project is part of Xcel Energy's Metropolitan Emission Reduction Proposal, which was reviewed and approved by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in Docket E002/M-02-633. The conversion of the High Bridge Plant is exempt from the Certificate of Need requirements of Minnesota Statutes § 216B.243.

**Additional Information** Questions about the EQB process can be directed to Bill Storm of the EQB staff at 658 Cedar Street, 300 Centennial Building, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155, phone 651.296.9535, e-mail at [Bill.Storm@state.mn.us](mailto:Bill.Storm@state.mn.us)

**Mailing List** Any person may add his or her name to a mailing list maintained by the EQB for future mailings regarding this project. If you would like to receive notice of the EQB's final decision in this matter, you may put your name on this mailing list. Names can be added to the list by contacting Mr. Storm or electronically by visiting the EQB website:

<http://www.mnplan.state.mn.us/maillinglist.html>