



414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

February 17, 2005

Bill Storm
Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
658 Cedar Street, Room 300
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: HIGH BRIDGE SITE PERMIT APPLICATION
DOCKET 05-91-PPS-Xcel High Bridge
NATURAL GAS PIPELINE INFORMATION

Dear Mr. Storm:

In your email message of February 7, 2005 you asked for information regarding the natural gas pipeline that will provide fuel to the High Bridge Combined Cycle Power Plant. As in the Black Dog project, Xcel Energy is conducting a competitive bidding process to determine the gas supplier for the High Bridge project. We are currently evaluating the bids received and anticipate a bid selection sometime in March. We attempt to answer your questions in this letter as best we can but we do not have all of the information you requested.

Specifically you asked for the anticipated operating pressure (PSI), diameter and construction material of the pipeline. We anticipate the facility will be a steel pipeline, 20 inches in diameter, with an operating pressure range between 550 and 700 PSI.

You asked if it is possible that due to the ownership/operator of the anticipated pipeline that FERC may have permit/review authority over the construction/routing of the pipeline. We do not anticipate that FERC will be involved in permitting the line. Both companies under consideration are local distribution companies. We assume either would include the pipeline in their local distribution infrastructure and, as the result, the line would be subject to the EQB's Pipeline Route Permitting authority.

You also asked us to provide a figure which shows the location of the proposed High Bridge plant and the NNG Cedar Town Border Station and to highlight on the figure, to the best of our knowledge, the possible pipeline route between the two points. At this time we have no particular knowledge of how the gas supplier intends to route the pipeline that will serve High Bridge and we are not comfortable speculating how the line might be routed. The figure enclosed identifies the location of the High Bridge site and the Cedar Town Border Station, the likely source of gas supply. The base map identifies existing corridors such as road and rail right-of-ways, which, presumably, would be given routing consideration. The pipeline is not part of this application but will be subject to the Board's separate Pipeline Route Permitting process.

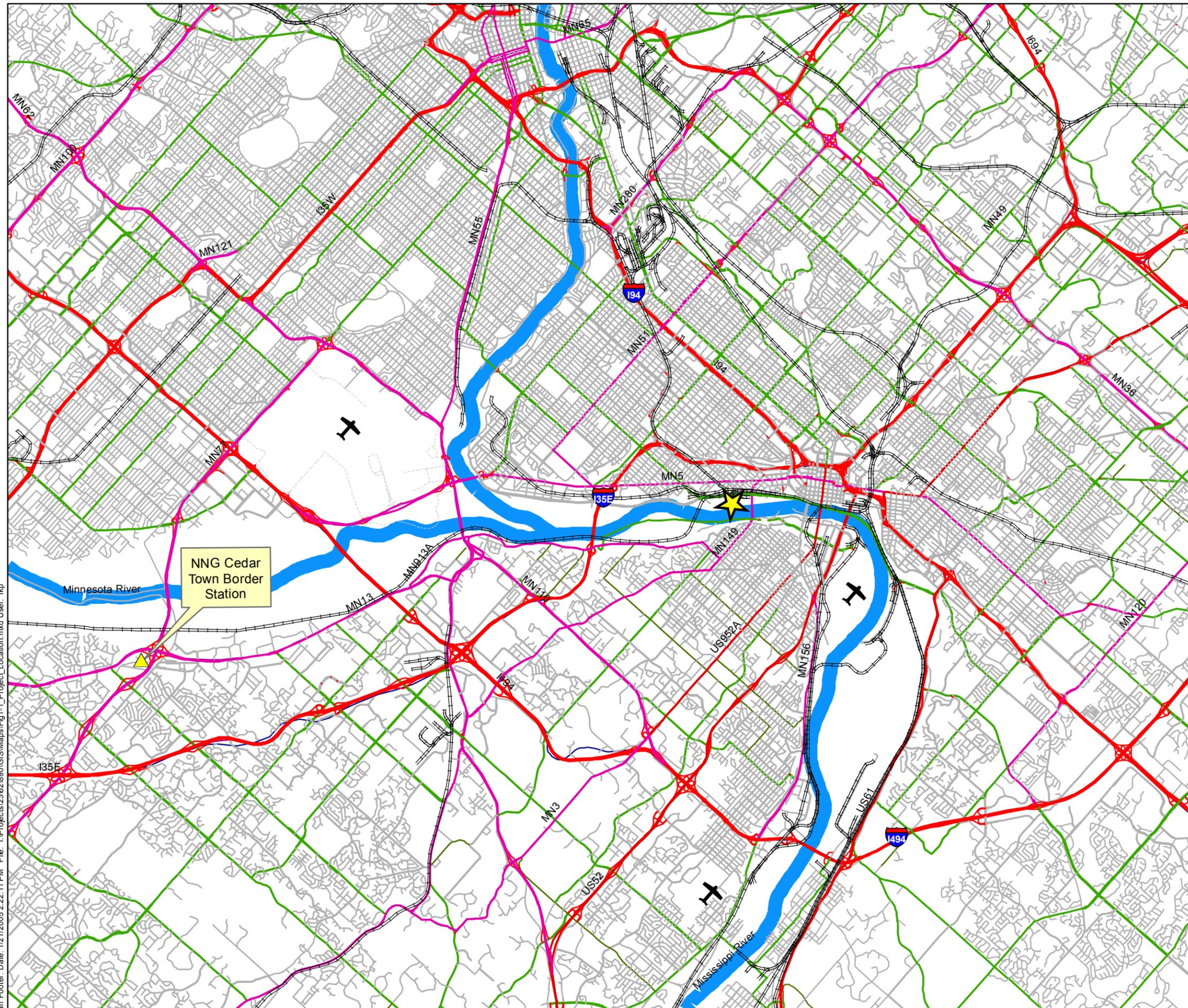
Please call me at (612) 330 6732 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Alders". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

JAMES ALDERS
MANAGER REGULATORY PROJECTS

Enclosure



★ Project Site

✈ Airport

≡≡≡ Railroad

MetroRoads

- Interstate Hwy
- US Hwy
- State Trunk Hwy
- County State-aid Hwy
- Municipal State-aid Hwy
- County Road
- Township Road
- Municipal Street
- State Park Road
- Ramp
- Private Road
- River



0 0.5 1 2 3 Miles

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Kilometers



Figure 1-1

Project Location
High Bridge Combined Cycle Project
St. Paul, MN

January 2005
Revised February 14, 2005

Barr Footer: Date: 1/21/2005 2:22:11 PM File: I:\Projects\23621890\GIS\Maps\Fig1-1_Project_Location.mxd User: lkp

Data Source: Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Metropolitan Council