



658 Cedar Street
Room 300
St. Paul, MN 5155

(651)297-1257
Fax (651)296-3698
TTY: (800)627-3529
www.eqb.state.mn.us

February 4, 2005

Mr. James Alders
Manager Regulatory Projects
Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-1993

RE: Acceptance of Site Permit Application: High Bridge Project
EQB Docket #05-91-PPS-Xcel Energy High Bridge

Dear Mr. Alders:

On January 31, 2005, Xcel Energy filed a Site Permit application with the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (MEQB) regarding the construction of a 480-665 MW, combined cycle, natural gas fueled large electric power generating plant in St. Paul, Minnesota.

MEQB staff has reviewed your application and has recommended that I find your application consistent with the requirements of Minnesota Rules, part 4400.1150, and that the application be reviewed pursuant to the Alternative Permitting Review process procedures in Minnesota Rules, part 4400.2000-2950. Based upon the MEQB staff recommendation and my review, I am accepting the Xcel Energy application with the understanding that if additional information is requested by the MEQB staff, these requests will be addressed promptly.

Given the nature and scope of the project and MERP's high public profile since its initial introduction in July of 2002, I have decided not to appoint a citizen advisory task force for this project.

Mr. Bill Storm will be the MEQB's staff project manager for this project and you may direct any future questions to him. Mr. Larry Hartman of the MEQB staff will serve as the public advisor for this project. We look forward to working with Xcel Energy to fully address any issues that may be raised in review of this application. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Schroeder, Chair
Environmental Quality Board

