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P.O. Box 8  
Eau Claire, WI 54702-0008

May 11, 2005

Mr. Robert Schroeder, Chair  
Minnesota Environmental Quality Board  
658 Cedar Street, Room 300  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**RE: Xcel Energy's Application to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board for a new double circuit 115/115 kV transmission line tapped from the existing Summit-Loon Lake 115 kV transmission line to the Eastwood Substation**

Dear Mr. Schroeder:

Northern States Power Company, now doing business as Xcel Energy, hereby notifies the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) of its intent to submit an application under the alternative process to construct a new double circuit 115/115 kV transmission line tapped from the existing Summit-Loon Lake 115 kV transmission line south to the Eastwood Substation near Mankato Minnesota. We will be following the procedures in parts 4400.2000 to 4400.2750 as authorized by Minnesota Rule 4400.2000. This letter is provided to comply with the requirements of Rule 4400.2000, Subp. 2.

Xcel Energy plans to file the application within the next month. We will work with Staff to address any comments they have in order to expedite application acceptance and completion of the environmental assessment.

If you should have any questions, please contact me at 715-839-4661.

Sincerely,

Pamela Jo Rasmussen  
Team Lead Siting and Permitting

c: Angela Piner  
Kathy Beaman  
Jerry Chezik  
Tom Hillstrom