STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

ROUTE PERMIT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINE AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES

DAKOTA, GOODHUE, OLMSTED, AND WABASHA COUNTIES

ISSUED TO
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY
PUC DOCKET NO. E002/TL-09-1448

In accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850, this route permit is hereby issued to:

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

Northern States Power Company, dba Xcel Energy, is authorized by this route permit to construct a new, approximately 74-mile 345 kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line between Hampton, Minnesota, and Kellogg, Minnesota, a new, approximately 18-mile 161 kV high voltage transmission line between Pine Island Township and Rochester, Minnesota, a new North Rochester Substation in Pine Island Township, Minnesota, and modifications to the Hampton Substation in Vermillion Township, Dakota County, Minnesota and the Northern Hills Substation in Rochester, Minnesota, to accommodate the transmission lines.

The transmission line and associated facilities shall be built within the route identified in this permit, as portrayed on the official route maps, and in compliance with the all other conditions specified in this permit.

Approved and adopted this 30th day of May, 2012

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar,
Executive Secretary

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1 ROUTE PERMIT

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) hereby issues this route permit to Northern States Power Company, dba Xcel Energy, Inc. (Xcel or Permittee) pursuant to Minnesota Statute 216E.03 and Minnesota Rules 7850. This permit authorizes the Permittee to construct a new, approximately 74-mile 345 kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line between Hampton, Minnesota, and Kellogg, Minnesota, a new, approximately 18-mile 161 kV high voltage transmission line between Pine Island Township and Rochester, Minnesota, a new North Rochester Substation in Pine Island Township, Minnesota, and modifications to the Hampton Substation in Vermillion Township, Dakota County, Minnesota, and the Northern Hills Substation in Rochester, Minnesota, to accommodate the transmission lines, as identified in the attached route permit maps, hereby incorporated into this document.

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Permittee is authorized to construct a project comprising construction of new transmission lines and associated facilities shown on the attached maps and described as (using segments from the Final Environmental Impact Statement and the official record in this matter):

1. Construction of a new, overhead 345 kV transmission line from the planned Hampton Substation in Vermillion Township, Dakota County, Minn., to the new North Rochester substation in Pine Island Township, Goodhue County, Minn., generally following Highway 52, as shown on the attached maps, along Modified Route 1P;

2. Construction of a new, overhead 161 kV transmission line from the new North Rochester Substation south to the existing Northern Hills Substation in Rochester, Minn., in Olmsted County following Route 2A;

3. Construction of a new, overhead 345 kV transmission line from the new North Rochester Substation east toward the Mississippi River crossing near Kellogg, Minn., in Wabasha County following Modified Route 3P-Zumbro-S and 3P-004;

4. Construction of a new North Rochester Substation in Pine Island Township, Goodhue County, Minn., as represented on the attached maps, and,

5. Modifications and upgrades at the planned Hampton Substation and the existing Northern Hills Substation, as described in the route permit application and Environmental Impact Statement.

The proposed structures for the 345 kV HVTL are double circuit-capable, single-pole, self-weathering steel structures. The height of these poles will range from 130 to 170 feet, with the spans between poles ranging from 700 to 1,000 feet. Areas of special engineering circumstances or other long spans may require poles up to 200 feet in height. The typical right-of-way width for the 345 kV transmission line is 150 feet. The proposed structures for the 161 kV HVTL are single-pole, steel structures 70 to 105 feet in height, with spans between the poles ranging from 400 to 700 feet. The typical right-of-way width for the 161 kV transmission line is 80 feet. Due to engineering standards and environmental considerations, alternate structure types may be

required in areas of long spans or angles. The proposed line will be built using double-circuit capable poles; only one circuit will be installed for the majority of this Project. The second position will be available for a possible future additional circuit.

The transmission line shall be equipped with protective devices to safeguard the public if an accident occurs.

The transmission line shall be designed to meet or exceed local and state codes, the National Electric Safety Code (NESC), and North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) requirements. This includes standards relating to clearances to ground, clearance to crossing utilities, clearance to buildings, strength of materials, clearances over roadways, right-of-way widths, and permit requirements.

3 DESIGNATED ROUTE

The approved route is shown on the route maps attached to this permit and further designated as follows:

3.1 Route Width and Alignment

The width of the designated route shall be limited to 600-1000 feet, specifically as depicted on the attached route maps, and unless otherwise indicated on those maps. The final alignment (i.e., permanent and maintained rights-of-way) will be located within this designated route unless otherwise authorized below.

This width will provide the Permittee with flexibility for minor adjustments of the specific alignment or right-of-way to accommodate landowner requests and unforeseen conditions. The final alignment (i.e., permanent and maintained rights-of-way) will be located within this designated route unless otherwise authorized below.

The designated route identifies an alignment that minimizes the overall potential impacts to the factors identified in Minnesota Rule 7850.4100 and which was evaluated in the environmental review and permitting process. Consequently, this permit anticipates that the actual right-of-way will generally conform to the alignment shown in the attached maps, unless changes are requested by individual landowners, unforeseen conditions are encountered, or are otherwise provided for by this permit.

Any alignment modifications within this designated route shall be located so as to have comparable overall impacts relative to the factors in Minnesota Rule 7850.4100 as does the alignment identified in this permit, and shall be specifically identified and documented in and approved as part of the Plan and Profile submitted pursuant to Section 4.1 of this permit.

Route width variations outside the designated route may be allowed for the Permittee to overcome potential site specific constraints. These constraints may arise from any of the following:

1) Unforeseen circumstances encountered during the detailed engineering and design process.

2) Federal or state agency requirements.

3) Existing infrastructure within the transmission line route, including but not limited to roadways, railroads, natural gas and liquid pipelines, high voltage electric transmission lines, or sewer and water lines.

4) Planned infrastructure improvements identified by state agencies and local government units (LGUs) and made part of the evidentiary record during the record for this permit.

Any alignment modifications arising from these site specific constraints that would result in right-of-way placement outside the designated route shall be located so as to have comparable overall impacts relative to the factors in Minnesota Rule 7850.4100 as does the alignment identified in this permit and shall also be specifically identified and documented in and approved as part of the plan and profile submitted pursuant to Section 4.1 of this permit.

3.2 Right-of-Way Placement

Where the transmission line route parallels existing highway and other road rights-of-way, the transmission line right-of-way shall occupy and utilize the existing right-of-way to the maximum extent possible, consistent with the criteria in Minnesota Rule 7850.4100, the other requirements of this permit, and for highways under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT), Mn/DOT rules, policies, and procedures for accommodating utilities in trunk highway rights-of-way.

3.3 Right-of-Way Width

The 345 kV transmission line will be built primarily with single pole structures, which will require a 150-foot right-of-way, 75 feet on each side of the transmission line centerline. Areas of special engineering circumstances, such as river crossings or other large spans, may require a wider right-of way in accordance with NESC and NERC requirements. The 161 kV transmission line will be built primarily with single pole structures, which will require an 80-foot right-of-way, 40 feet on each side of the transmission line centerline. For cross-country portions of the route using H-frame structures or single pole braced post structures the right-of-way shall be up to 180 feet, or 90 feet each side of the transmission line centerline.

4 GENERAL CONDITIONS

The Permittee shall comply with the following general conditions during construction of the transmission line and associated facilities and the life of this permit.

4.1 Plan and Profile

At least thirty (30) days before right-of-way preparation for construction begins on any segment or portion of the project, the Permittee shall provide the Commission with a plan and profile of the right-of-way and the specifications and drawings for right-of-way preparation, construction,

transmission structure specifications and locations, and restoration for the transmission line. The documentation shall include maps depicting the plan and profile including the right-of-way, alignment, and structures in relation to the route and alignment approved per the permit.

The Permittee may not commence construction until the thirty (30) days has expired or until the Commission has advised the Permittee in writing that it has completed its review of the documents and determined that the planned construction is consistent with this permit. After the plan and profile has been submitted to the Commission or acknowledged by the Executive Secretary, if the Permittee intends to make any significant changes in the plan and profile or the specifications and drawings, the Permittee shall notify the Commission at least five (5) days before implementing the changes. No changes shall be made that would be in violation of any of the terms of this permit.

4.2 Construction Practices

The Permittee shall follow those specific construction practices and material specifications described in the Xcel application to the Commission for a route permit, dated January 19, 2010, and as described in the environmental impact statement and Findings of Fact, unless this permit establishes a different requirement, in which case this permit shall prevail.

4.2.1 Field Representative

At least fourteen (14) days prior to commencing construction, the Permittee shall advise the Commission in writing of the person or persons designated to be the field representative for the Permittee with the responsibility to oversee compliance with the conditions of this permit during construction.

The field representative's address, phone number, email, and emergency phone number shall be provided to the Commission and shall be made available to affected landowners, residents, public officials and other interested persons. The Permittee may change the field representative at any time upon written notice to the Commission.

4.2.2 Local Governments

During construction, the Permittee shall minimize any disruption to public services or public utilities. To the extent disruptions to public services occur, these would be temporary and the Permittee will work to restore service promptly.

Where any impacts to utilities have the potential to occur, Permittee will work with both landowners and local agencies to determine the most appropriate transmission structure placement.

The Permittee shall cooperate with county and city road authorities to develop appropriate signage and traffic management during construction.

4.2.3 Cleanup

All waste and scrap that is the product of construction shall be removed from the area and properly disposed of upon completion of each task. Personal litter, including bottles, cans, and paper from construction activities shall be removed on a daily basis.

4.2.4 Noise

Construction and routine maintenance activities shall be limited to daytime working hours, as defined in Minnesota Rule 7030.0200, to ensure nighttime noise level standards will not be exceeded.

4.2.5 Vegetation Removal in the Right-of-Way

The Permittee shall minimize the number of trees to be removed in selecting the right-of-way specifically preserving to the maximum extent practicable windbreaks, shelterbelts, living snow fences and vegetation in areas such as trail crossings, where vegetative screening may minimize aesthetic impacts, to the extent that such actions do not violate sound engineering principles or system reliability criteria.

Tall tree species located within the transmission line right-of-way that endanger the safe and reliable operation of the transmission facility shall be removed.

In many cases certain low and slow growing species that do not exceed a mature height of 15 feet can be planted in the right-of-way to blend the difference between the right-of-way and adjacent wooded areas, to the extent that the low growing vegetation that will not pose a threat to the transmission facility or impede construction.

4.2.6 Aesthetics

The Permittee shall consider input pertaining to visual impacts from landowners or land management agencies prior to final location of structures, rights-of-way, and other areas with the potential for visual disturbance. Care shall be used to preserve the natural landscape, minimize tree removal and prevent any unnecessary destruction of the natural surroundings in the vicinity of the project during construction and maintenance. Structures shall be placed at the reasonable distance, consistent with sound engineering principles and system reliability criteria, from intersecting roads, highway, or trail crossings and could cross roads to minimize or avoid impacts.

4.2.7 Erosion Control

The Permittee shall follow standard erosion control measures outlined in Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) guidance and best management practices regarding sediment control practice during construction include protecting storm drain inlets, use of silt fences, protecting exposed soil, immediately stabilizing restored soil, controlling temporary soil stockpiles, and controlling vehicle tracking.

The Permittee shall implement reasonable measures to minimize runoff during construction and shall promptly plant or seed, erect sediment control fences (e.g. biorolls,

sandbags, and silt fences), apply mulch (e.g. hay or straw) on exposed soils, and/or use erosion control blankets and turf reinforcement mats to provide structural stability to bare surfaces and slopes. The Permittee shall consult with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) to identify areas where wildlife-friendly erosion control mesh should be used during and following construction activities.

When utilizing seed to establish temporary and permanent vegetative cover on exposed soil, the Permittee shall select specific site characteristic seed, certified to be free of noxious weeds.

Contours shall be graded as required so that all surfaces drain naturally, blend with the natural terrain, and are left in a condition that will facilitate re-vegetation, provide for proper drainage, and prevent erosion. All areas disturbed during construction of the facilities shall be returned to their pre-construction condition.

Where larger areas of one acre or more are disturbed or other areas designated by the MPCA, the Permittee shall prepare the required Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)/State Disposal System (SDS) construction stormwater permit from the MPCA.

4.2.8 Wetlands and Water Resources

Structures shall be located to span watercourses, wetlands, and floodplains to the extent practicable and consistent with sound engineering principles. Minimal grading of areas around pole locations may be required to accommodate construction vehicles and equipment.

The Permittee shall endeavor to access wetlands and riparian areas using the shortest route possible in order to minimize travel through wetland areas and prevent unnecessary impacts wherever possible.

Construction in wetlands and riparian areas shall be scheduled during frozen ground conditions, when practicable. When construction during winter is not possible, construction mats (wooden mats or a composite mat system) shall be used to protect wetland vegetation. All-terrain construction vehicles designed to minimize soil impact in damp areas may also be used.

No staging or stringing set up areas shall be placed within or adjacent to wetlands or water resources, as practicable. The structures shall be assembled on upland areas before they are brought to the site for installation.

Soil excavated from the wetlands and riparian areas shall be contained and not placed back into the wetland or riparian area. The Permittee shall also utilize erosion control methods identified in Section 4.2.7 (Erosion Control), as warranted. Areas disturbed by construction activities shall be restored to pre-construction conditions (soil horizons, contours, vegetation, etc.).

4.2.9 Temporary Work Space

The Permittees shall limit temporary easements to special construction access needs and additional staging or lay-down areas required outside of the authorized right-of-way. Space shall be selected to limit the removal and impacts to vegetation.

Temporary lay down areas outside of the authorized transmission line right-of-way will be obtained from affected landowners through rental agreements and are not provided for in this permit.

Temporary driveways may be constructed between the roadway and the structures to minimize impact by using the shortest route possible. Construction mats may also be used to minimize impacts on access paths and construction areas.

4.2.10 Restoration

The Permittee shall restore the right-of-way, temporary work spaces, access roads, abandoned right-of-way, and other public or private lands affected by construction of the transmission line. Practices to restore areas impacted by construction and maintenance activities are also described in Section 4.2.7 of this permit.

Restoration within the right-of-way must be compatible with the safe operation, maintenance, and inspection of the transmission line.

Within 60 days after completion of all restoration activities, the Permittee shall advise the Commission in writing of the completion of such activities. The Permittee shall compensate landowners for any yard/landscape, crop, soil compaction, drain tile, or other damages that may occur during construction.

4.2.11 Notice of Permit

The Permittee shall inform all employees, contractors, and other persons involved in the transmission line construction of the terms and conditions of this permit.

4.3 Periodic Status Reports

The Permittee shall report to the Commission on progress regarding finalization of the route, design of structures, and construction of the transmission line. The Permittee need not report more frequently than monthly.

4.4 Complaint Procedures

Prior to the start of construction, the Permittee shall submit to the Commission the procedures that will be used to receive and respond to complaints. The procedures shall be in accordance with the requirements set forth in the complaint procedures attached to this permit.

4.5 Notification to Landowners

The Permittee shall provide all affected landowners with a copy of this permit and the complaint procedures at the time of the first contact with the landowners after issuance of this permit. At

the time of first contact, the Permittee shall also provide all affected landowners with a copy of the *Landowner Guide to Easements* publication provided by the Department of Commerce.

The Permittee shall contact landowners prior to entering the property or conducting maintenance along the route. The Permittee shall avoid construction and maintenance practices, particularly the use of fertilizer, herbicides or other pesticides that are inconsistent with the landowner's or tenant's use of the land (See also, Section 4.2.5).

The Permittee shall work with landowners to locate the high-voltage transmission line to minimize the loss of agricultural land, forest, and wetlands, and to avoid homes and farmsteads.

4.6 Completion of Construction

4.6.1 Notification to Commission

At least three days before the line is to be placed into service, the Permittee shall notify the Commission of the date on which the line will be placed into service and the date on which construction was complete.

4.6.2 As-Builts

Within 60 days after completion of construction, the Permittee shall submit both paper and electronic copies (as available) of the final as-built plans and specifications developed during the project to the Commission and the Department of Commerce Energy Facilities Permitting Unit. Permittee should indicate the file format for any GPS or Autocad drawings.

4.6.3 GPS Data

Within 60 days after completion of construction, the Permittee shall submit to the Commission, in the format requested by Commission staff, geo-spatial information (ArcGIS compatible map files, GPS coordinates, associated database of characteristics, etc.) for all structures associated with the transmission line, each switch, and each substation connected.

4.7 Electrical Performance Standards.

4.7.1 Grounding

The Permittees shall design, construct, and operate the transmission line in a manner that the maximum induced steady-state short-circuit current shall be limited to five milliamperes (mA), root mean square (rms) alternating current between the ground and any non-stationary object within the right-of-way, including but not limited to large motor vehicles and agricultural equipment. All fixed metallic objects on or off the right-of-way, except electric fences that parallel or cross the right-of-way, shall be grounded to the extent necessary to limit the induced short-circuit current between ground and the object so as not to exceed one mA rms under steady state conditions of the transmission line and to comply with the ground fault conditions specified in the NESC. The

Permittees shall address and rectify any induced current problems that arise during transmission line operation.

4.7.2 Electric Field

The transmission line shall be designed, constructed, and operated in such a manner that the electric field measured one meter above ground level immediately below the transmission line shall not exceed 8.0 kV/m rms.

4.7.3 Interference with Communication Devices

If interference with radio or television, satellite, wireless internet, GPS-based agriculture navigation systems or other communication devices is caused by the presence or operation of the transmission line, the Permittee shall take whatever action is prudently feasible to restore or provide reception equivalent to reception levels in the immediate area just prior to the construction of the line.

4.8 Other Requirements.

4.8.1 Applicable Codes

The Permittee shall comply with applicable requirements of the NESC including clearances to ground, clearance to crossing utilities, clearance to buildings, right-of-way widths, erecting power poles, and stringing of transmission line conductors. The transmission line facility shall also meet the NERC reliability standards.

4.8.2 Other Permits

The Permittee shall comply with all applicable state rules and statutes. The Permittee shall obtain all required local, state and federal permits for the project and comply with the conditions of these permits. A list of the required permits is included in the route permit application and the environmental impact statement. The Permittee shall submit a copy of such permits to the Commission upon request.

4.8.3 Pre-emption

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 216E.10, subdivisions 1 and 2, this route permit shall be the sole route approval required to be obtained by the Permittee and this permit shall supersede and preempt all zoning, building, or land use rules, regulations, or ordinances promulgated by regional, county, local and special purpose government.

4.8.4 Delay in Construction

If the Permittee has not commenced construction or improvement of the route within four years after the date of issuance of this permit, the Commission shall consider suspension of the permit in accordance with Minnesota Rule 7850.4700.

4.9 Archeological and Historic Resources

If any previously unrecorded archaeological sites are discovered during construction of the project, the Permittee shall immediately stop work at the site and shall mark and preserve the site(s) and notify the Commission and the SHPO of the discovery. The Commission and the SHPO shall have three (3) working days from the time the agency is notified to conduct an inspection of the site if either agency chooses to do so. On the fourth day after notification, the Permittee may begin work on the site unless the SHPO has directed that work shall cease. In such event, work shall not continue until the SHPO determines that construction can proceed.

If human remains are encountered during construction, the Permittee shall immediately halt construction at that location and promptly notify local law enforcement authorities and the State Archaeologist. Construction at the human remains location shall not proceed until authorized by local law enforcement authorities or the State Archaeologist.

If any federal funding, permit, or license is involved or required, the Permittee shall notify the SHPO as soon as possible in the planning process to coordinate section 106 (36 C.F.R. part 800) review.

Prior to construction, construction workers shall be trained about the need to avoid cultural properties, how to identify cultural properties, and procedures to follow if undocumented cultural properties, including gravesites, are found during construction.

4.10 Avian Mitigation

The Permittee's standard transmission design shall incorporate adequate spacing of conductor(s) and grounding devices in accordance with Avian Power Line Interaction Committee standards to eliminate the risk of electrocution to raptors with larger wingspans that may simultaneously come in contact with a conductor and grounding devices.

5 SPECIAL CONDITIONS

The Permittee shall provide a report to the Commission as part of the plan and profile submission that describes the actions taken and mitigative measures developed regarding the project and the following Special Conditions.

5.1 Additional Conductor Installation

The Permittee is allowed to install six conductors at highway crossings and the Zumbro River crossing in order to minimize transportation disruption and natural resource impacts in the event additional lines are authorized along the route.

5.2 Notice During Construction

The Permittee shall coordinate with Mn/DOT, local highway authorities, the State Patrol or other appropriate agencies to manage the safe flow of traffic throughout construction, including giving notice to the travelling public and landowners when implosive devices will be used to splice conductors.

5.3 Construction Environmental Control Plan

The Permittee shall develop a Construction Environmental Control Plan. This Plan shall include all Environmental Control Plans and permits developed for the Project, including, but not limited to the Agricultural Impact Mitigation Plan (AIMP), an avian mitigation plan, a re-vegetation plan, and a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The Permittee shall file the Construction Environmental Control Plan with the Commission fourteen (14) days prior to submitting the Plan and Profile:

a. The Construction Environmental Control Plan shall include a process for reporting construction process and plans to the Commission.
b. The Permittee shall provide dedicated environmental inspectors and monitors to oversee the construction process and to monitor compliance with 1) the Vegetation Management Plan, 2) the Avian Mitigation Plan, and 3) the requirements of this and all other environmental permits.
c. The Permittee shall consult with the MnDNR concerning right-of-way management, use of bird diverters, and construction near water bodies, wetlands, native plant communities and breeding areas.
d. The Permittee shall avoid hydrologic impacts to the calcareous fen located in Watopa Township, Section 2. If any hydrologic impacts are expected, a fen management plan would be required by Minn. Statute 103G.223 in coordination with MnDNR

5.4 Vegetation Management Plan

The Permittee shall develop a Vegetation Management Plan and submit it to the Commission fourteen (14) days prior to submitting the Plan and Profile. The purpose of the Vegetation Management Plan is to minimize tree clearing, prevent the introduction of noxious weeds and invasive species, and revegetate disturbed non-cropland areas with appropriate native species in cooperation with landowners and appropriate state, federal and local resource agencies. The Vegetation Management Plan shall:

a. Identify measures taken to minimize tree removal and minimize ground disturbance.
b. Identify a comprehensive re-vegetation plan for non-cropland areas.
c. Identify areas, such as trail crossings, where vegetative screening would minimize aesthetic impacts to the extent that such actions do not violate sound engineering principles or system reliability criteria.
d. Identify vegetation control methods to be used during the operation and maintenance of the HVTL.
e. Identify areas where landowners or resource agencies have specified no herbicide application.
f. Identify measures to prevent the introduction of noxious weeds and invasive species on lands disturbed by construction activities.

5.5 Avian Mitigation Plan

In light of the concerns to avian species raised with this Project, the Permittee shall develop an Avian Mitigation Plan to identify potential risks to avian species from the Project and to identify strategies that will be implemented to avoid or minimize impacts to birds or their habitats. The plan should be submitted to the Commission fourteen (14) days prior to filing the Plan and Profile.

5.6 Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan

The Permittee shall develop a Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan prior to construction using stormwater management and best management practices guidance available from MPCA and shall submit the Plan to the Commission at least fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of construction. This Plan shall specify the use of wildlife friendly erosion mesh if soil stabilization is necessary. This Plan may be the same as the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) submitted to the PCA as part of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit application.

5.7 Rare Species Surveys

Known locations of state-listed threatened/endangered species and their habitats have been identified within the project area. These species may occur within the proposed route where suitable habitat exists. The Permittee, in consultation with the MnDNR, will determine the need for rare species surveys (pre-construction) on the anticipated alignment. In the areas where these species are known to exist or where the alignment passes through habitats where these species are likely to exist, field surveys may be required. The Permittee shall avoid impacts to these species by adjusting pole placement and shifting the alignment. In the event that impacts cannot be avoided, the Permittee would be required to obtain a takings permit from MnDNR for impacts to the species. The Permittee shall submit results of these efforts to the Commission with the Plan and Profile.

5.8 Blanding's Turtles

The Permittees shall follow measures and recommendations for avoiding and minimizing impacts to Blanding's turtle populations as outlined in the *Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Division of Ecological Resources Environmental Review Fact Sheet Series for Blanding's Turtle* (http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/natural_resources/animals/reptiles_amphibians/turtles/blandings_turtle/factsheet.pdf). Construction and maintenance personnel shall be made aware of the Blanding's turtle and their habitat during pre-construction meetings.

6 PERMIT AMENDMENT

The permit may be amended at any time by the Commission. Any person may request an amendment of the conditions of this permit by submitting a request to the Commission in writing describing the amendment sought and the reasons for the amendment. The Commission will mail notice of receipt of the request to the Permittee. The Commission may amend the conditions after affording the Permittee and interested persons such process as is required.

7 TRANSFER OF PERMIT

The Permittee may request at any time that the Commission transfer this permit to another person or entity. The Permittees shall provide the name and description of the person or entity to whom the permit is requested to be transferred, the reasons for the transfer, a description of the facilities affected, and the proposed effective date of the transfer.

The person to whom the permit is to be transferred shall provide the Commission with such information as the Commission shall require to determine whether the new permittee can comply with the conditions of the permit. The Commission may authorize transfer of the permit after affording the Permittee, the new permittee, and interested persons such process as is required.

8 REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF THE PERMIT

The Commission may initiate action to revoke or suspend this permit at any time. The Commission shall act in accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Rule 7850.5100 to revoke or suspend the permit.

MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
COMPLIANCE FILING PROCEDURE
FOR PERMITTED HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES

1. Purpose

To establish a uniform and timely method of submitting information required by the Commission energy facility permits.

2. Scope and Applicability

This procedure encompasses all compliance filings required by permit.

3. Definitions

Compliance Filing – A sending (filing) of information to the Commission, where the information is required by a Commission site or route permit.

4. Responsibilities

A) The Permittee shall eFile all compliance filings with Dr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary, Public Utilities Commission, through the Commission's electronic filing system. The system is hosted by the Department of Commerce at: https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/home.jsp

General instructions are provided on the website. To eFile a document a Permittee must be registered and obtain a User ID and Password.

B) All filings must have a cover sheet that includes:
1) Date
2) Name of submitter / Permittee
3) Type of Permit (Site or Route)
4) Project Location
5) Project Docket Number
6) Permit Section Under Which the Filing is Made
7) Short Description of the Filing

Filings that are graphic intensive (e.g., maps, plan and profile) must, in addition to being eFiled, be submitted as paper copies and on CD. Copies and CDs should be sent to: 1) Dr. Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN, 55101-2147, and 2) Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN, 55101-2198.

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PERMIT COMPLIANCE FILINGS[1]

PERMITTEE: Northern States Power Company (dba Xcel Energy, Inc.)
PERMIT TYPE: HVTL Route Permit
PROJECT LOCATION: Dakota, Goodhue, Olmsted and Wabasha counties
PUC DOCKET NUMBER: E002/TL-09-1448

Filing Number	Permit Section	Description	Due Date
1	4. 1	Plan and profile of right-of-way	30 days before ROW preparation or construction
2	4.2.1	Contact information for field representative	14 days prior to construction
3	4.2.10	Restoration Complete	60 days after completion of all restoration activities
4	4.3	Periodic Status Reports	monthly
5	4.4	Complaint Procedures	Prior to start of construction
6	Paragraph F of Complaint Handling Procedures	Complaint Reports	By the 15th of each month
7	4.5	Notification to landowners	
8	4.6.1	Notice of completion and date of placement in service	Three days prior to energizing
9	4.6.2	Provide As-built plans and specifications	Within 60 days after completion of construction
10	4.6.3	GPS information	Within 60 days after completion of construction
11	4.9	Notification of previously unrecorded archaeological sites	As needed

[1] This compilation of permit compliance filings is provided for the convenience of the Permittee and the Commission. However, it is not a substitute for the permit; the language of the permit controls.

12	5.1	Documentation of landowner agreement	30 days before ROW preparation or construction
13	5.3	**Construction Environmental Control Plan**	30 days before ROW preparation or construction
14	5.4	**Vegetation Management Plan**	30 days before ROW preparation or construction
15	5.5	**Avian Mitigation Plan**	30 days before ROW preparation or construction
16	5.6	**Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan**	30 days before ROW preparation or construction
17	5.7	**Determination of Need for Rare Species Surveys**	30 days before ROW preparation or construction

MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
COMPLAINT HANDLING PROCEDURES FOR
HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES

A. Purpose:

To establish a uniform and timely method of reporting complaints received by the Permittee concerning Permit conditions for site preparation, construction, cleanup and restoration, operation and resolution of such complaints.

B. Scope:

This document describes Complaint reporting procedures and frequency.

C. Applicability:

The procedures shall be used for all complaints received by the Permittee and all complaints received by the Commission under Minn. Rule 7829.1500 or 7829.1700 relevant to this Permit.

D. Definitions:

Complaint: A verbal or written statement presented to the Permittee by a person expressing dissatisfaction or concern regarding site preparation, cleanup or restoration or other HVTL and associated facilities route permit conditions. Complaints do not include requests, inquiries, questions or general comments.

Substantial Complaint: A written Complaint alleging a violation of a specific Route Permit condition that, if substantiated, could result in Permit modification or suspension pursuant to the applicable regulations.

Unresolved Complaint: A Complaint which, despite the good faith efforts of the Permittee and a person(s), remains to both or one of the parties unresolved or unsatisfactorily resolved.

Person: An individual, partnership, joint venture, private or public corporation, association, firm, public service company, cooperative, political subdivision, municipal corporation, government agency, public utility district, or any other entity, public or private, however organized.

E. Complaint Documentation and Processing:

1. The Permittee shall designate an individual to summarize Complaints for substantial to the Commission. This person's name, phone number and e-mail address shall accompany all complaint submittals.

2. A Person presenting the Complaint should to the extent possible, include the following information in their communications:

    a. Name of Complainant, address, phone number, and e-mail address.
    b. Date of complaint
    c. Tract or parcel number
    d. Whether the complaint relates to (1) a Route Permit matter, (2) a HVTL and associated facility issue, or (3) a compliance issue.

3. The Permittee shall document all Complaints by maintaining a record of all applicable information concerning the Complaint, including the following:

    a. Docket Number and Project Name.
    b. Name of complainant, address, phone number, and e-mail address.
    c. Precise property description or parcel number.
    d. Name of Permittee representative receiving Complaint and date of receipt.
    e. Nature of Complaint and the applicable Route Permit conditions(s).
    f. Activities undertaken to resolve the Complaint.
    g. Final disposition of the Complaint.
    h. Email Subject Line should read "EFP Complaint" and include the appropriate project docket number.

F. Reporting Requirements:

The Permittee shall report all complaints to the Commission according to the following schedule:

Immediate Reports: All substantial complaints shall be reported to the Commission the same day received, or on the following working day for complaints received after working hours. Such reports are to be directed to the Commission's Consumer Affairs Office at consumer.puc@state.mn.us or 1-800-657-3782.

Monthly Reports: By the 15th of each month, a summary of all complaints, including substantial complaints received or resolved during the preceding month, shall be Filed to Dr. Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary, Public Utilities Commission, using the Minnesota Department of Commerce eDocket system (see eFiling instructions attached to this permit).

If no Complaints were received during the preceding month, the Permittee shall submit (eFile) a summary indicating that no complaints were received.

Permittee shall commence and continue to file monthly Reports from the time of Permit issuance through the 12 months following the Notice of Project Completion. Thereafter, the Permittee shall file a Complaint Report with the Commission within 14 days of the receipt of a new complaint through the term of the permit

G. Complaints Received by the Commission or DOC:

Complaints received directly by the Commission from aggrieved persons regarding site preparation, construction, cleanup, restoration, operation and maintenance shall be promptly sent to the Permittee.

H. Commission Process for Unresolved Complaints:

Initial Screening: Commission staff shall perform an initial evaluation of unresolved Complaints submitted to the Commission. Complaints raising substantial HVTL Route Permit issues shall be processed and resolved by the Commission. Staff shall notify Permittee and appropriate person(s) if it determines that the Complaint is a Substantial Complaint. With respect to such Complaints, each party shall submit a written summary of its position to the Commission no later than ten days after receipt of the Staff notification. The Complaint will be presented to the Commission for a decision as soon as practicable.

I. Permittee Contacts for Complaints and Complaint Reporting:

Permittee will eFile the Complaint Project Contact's information within 14 days of the Order granting a route permit and will include the Complaint Project Contact's information in the mailing to landowners and local governments.