



STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DATE: February 17, 2011

TO: Service List

FROM: Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Burl W. Haar", is written over the "FROM:" line.

DOCKET: E-002/CN-10-694

SUBJECT: In the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy for a Certificate of Need for Two 115 kV High Voltage Transmission Lines in the Midtown Area of South Minneapolis, Hennepin County

RE: **NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIODS**

**Take Note** that on November 29, 2010 Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel, the Applicant) filed a certificate of need application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for two 115 kV HVTLs and two new distribution substations in the Midtown Area of South Minneapolis. The proposal is known as the Hiawatha Project. The project is designed to meet the distribution needs of Xcel's customers in south Minneapolis.

In 2010, the Legislature enacted a new provision that requires a Certificate of Need for transmission lines of this size and length, if it is in an area with high population density and if the lines are within one-half mile of, and parallel to, a below-grade bike and pedestrian path that connects with other bike paths along a river. (2010 Minn. Laws, ch. 361, art. 5, sec. 19)

The Commission found the Application complete on February 16, 2011 and is currently soliciting written comments on the merits of the proposed project, particularly whether there are any contested issues of fact with respect to the representations made in the Application. Initial comments will be accepted through **Thursday, March 31, 2011** and replies through **Friday, April 29, 2011**.

Comments should be *filed electronically* via the Commission's eDockets system at <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling> and be addressed to Burl Haar, Executive Secretary, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147.

Questions regarding this matter may be directed to Commission staff person Bret Eknes at (651) 201-2236 or e-mail at [bret.eknes@state.mn.us](mailto:bret.eknes@state.mn.us) or Tricia DeBleeckere at (651) 201-2254 or e-mail at [tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us](mailto:tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us).

**This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651.296.0406 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through Minnesota Relay at 1.800.627.3529 or by dialing 711.** [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us)

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Margie DeLaHunt, hereby certify that I have this day, served a true and correct copy of the following document to all persons at the addresses indicated below or on the attached list by electronic filing, electronic mail, courier, interoffice mail or by depositing the same enveloped with postage paid in the United States mail at St. Paul, Minnesota.

### **Minnesota Public Utilities Commission NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIODS**

Docket Number **E-002/CN-10-694**

Dated this **17th** day of **February, 2011**

/s/ Margie DeLaHunt

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