

May 30, 2012

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2147

RE: Docket No. E002/CN-08-509

Dear Dr. Haar:

On March 30, 2012, Xcel Energy (Xcel) filed a notice of changed circumstances regarding the Certificate of Need to make modifications to increase the generating capacity of the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant. Xcel requested that the Commission find that its proposed changes to the size and timing of the project would not have caused the Commission to issue a different decision on December 18, 2009, and that the revised project continues to be in the public interest. Further, Xcel requested that the Commission grant interested persons 60 days to evaluate and respond to Xcel's notice and petition, and an additional 30 days to reply to the responses.

On April 25, 2012, the Commission issued its *Order Varying Deadlines* which approved a 60-day comment period and 30-day reply comment period. Comments are due on May 30, 2012 and Reply Comments are due on July 1, 2012.

The Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) has reviewed Xcel's March 30 petition and performed preliminary analyses of Xcel's petition. The Department updated Xcel's modeling assumptions consistent with changes made to Xcel's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) assumptions in Docket No. E002/RP-10-825. Comments on Xcel's IRP are currently due on June 5, 2012. Consistent with Xcel's results, the Department's preliminary results show that the Prairie Island Uprate continues to be a cost-effective resource addition despite delays in timing and updated assumptions. However, the Department continues to finalize its detailed analysis. To ensure consistency of the analyses in this docket and Xcel's IRP docket, the Department will issue the details of its analysis at the time of its Xcel IRP Comments. The Department apologizes for any difficulties this slight delay may present to parties and is available to answer any questions the Commission may have.

Sincerely,

/s/ CHRISTOPHER SHAW
Rates Analyst

CS/sm

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Sharon Ferguson, hereby certify that I have this day, served copies of the following document on the attached list of persons by electronic filing, certified mail, e-mail, or by depositing a true and correct copy thereof properly enveloped with postage paid in the United States Mail at St. Paul, Minnesota.

**Minnesota Department of Commerce
Letter**

Docket No. E002/CN-08-509

Dated this 30th of May, 2012

/s/Sharon Ferguson

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