



Supervisor, Siting and Land Rights

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December 30, 2010

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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Darrell Nitschke
Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
Department 408
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

**Re: Northern States Power Company
Fargo-Monticello MN 345 kV Cap-X Transmission Line
Siting Application
Case No. PU-07-759**

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Pursuant to N.D.C.C. Ch. 49-22, Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation ("Xcel Energy" or the "Company") provides the enclosed original and ten copies of its Application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility for the North Dakota portion of the CapX2020 Fargo to St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission Project for filing with the North Dakota Public Service Commission (the "Commission"). In its application, the Company is requesting that the Commission certify a corridor for the North Dakota portion of the CapX2020 Fargo to St. Cloud Project (the "Project"). The proposed corridor will run from a point on the North Dakota/Minnesota border to the proposed Bison Substation in an area west of Fargo. As contemplated by N.D.C.C. Ch. 49-22, the Company intends to pursue siting of the Project in two stages: corridor certification and permitting of the route. Once a corridor is determined, the Company will apply for a route permit identifying the specific route of the Project within the corridor.

On November 13, 2007, the Company submitted its letter of intent to construct the Project pursuant to N.D.C.C. § 49-22-07.1. By Motion dated December 14, 2007, the Commission accepted the letter of intent and assessed a \$100,000 filing fee. The fee is being sent under separate cover.

The Company further respectfully requests that the Commission change the caption in the above referenced matter to read as follows:

Northern States Power Company
Fargo-St. Cloud MN 345 kV CapX2020 Transmission Line
Siting Application

This change is being requested to reflect the fact that the Project being permitted in this application is the North Dakota portion of a 345 kV transmission line from a substation in the St. Cloud area in Minnesota to a substation in the Fargo area in North Dakota. Additional details are provided in the Application.

Also enclosed is the verification of Mr. Darrin Lahr. For the convenience of the Commission, we have bound all the copies of the application enclosed herein. Furthermore, the Company has provided an electronic version of all the documents in this filing on the enclosed DVD.

The Project is part of the CapX2020 Group 1 Projects, one of the largest transmission expansion projects in the history of the Upper Midwest. Given the interest in the Group 1 Projects, an external Project website, www.CapX2020.com, has been established. This website, intended for viewing by stakeholders and the general public, provides a portal to archived and updated CapX2020 information. Summaries of the various routing working group meetings and open houses are also included on the website. In addition to the external website, a toll-free hotline, 1-866-876-2869 and general email address, fargoinfo@CapX2020.com, have also been established. The Commission may refer interested stakeholders and members of the public to these resources for answers to questions regarding the Project.

Please feel free to contact me or Mr. Dave Sederquist at (701) 241-8632 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darrin F. Lahr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Darrin" and last name "Lahr" clearly distinguishable.

Darrin F. Lahr

Supervisor, Siting and Land Rights,
Xcel Energy Services Inc., as agent for
Northern States Power Company,
a Minnesota corporation