



Darrin F. Lahr
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RECEIVED

June 21, 2011

JUN 21 2011

VIA EMAIL AND FEDEX

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:

We have been advised by the North Dakota Public Service Commission staff that the Notice of Hearing for the June 23, 2011 hearing in this matter was not published in Richland County. Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation ("Xcel Energy" or the "Company"), appreciates the prompt attention to this issue and would like to take this opportunity to present our preference for moving forward.

The Company believes that if the Commission chooses to cancel the June 23 hearing, there would not be any further concerns regarding the hearing notice. However, if the Commission elects to cancel the hearing, the Company would request that the Commission, at the appropriate time, vary its rules and combine the Corridor proceeding and the forthcoming Route proceeding to mitigate any delay caused by cancelling the June 23 hearing. Consolidation of these proceedings will help ensure that the permitting processes are completed so that the Fargo Project can be timely constructed to meet area needs. Additionally, consolidating the Routing and Corridor

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proceeding may help to better address certain issues raised by the City of Fargo in this proceeding.

The Company expects to file its application for a Route Permit sometime in August. As currently envisioned, the Company will request the necessary procedural waivers for the Commission to consolidate the Corridor and Routing proceedings and hear them together as part of the forthcoming Route Permit application. Meanwhile, the Commission could hold the Corridor proceeding in abeyance.

That said, the Company understands that the Commission may choose to move forward with the hearing on June 23. The Company is fully prepared to participate at such hearing.

The Company appreciates the opportunity to provide input on this matter and looks forward to a successful regulatory process. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

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

Darrin F. Lahr

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

cc: City of Fargo, N.D.