



**Darrin F. Lahr**  
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January 22, 2013

**VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS**

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 CapX Transmission Line Siting  
Application  
Case No. PU-07-759**

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Pursuant to Ordering Clause 4 of the North Dakota Public Service Commission's (the "Commission") September 12, 2012 Finding of Fact, Conclusion of Law and Order in the above referenced case ("Order"), Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation ("Xcel Energy" or the "Company") provides the following update.

During June and July of 2012, Xcel Energy performed an additional Class I Literature Search and Class III Intensive Archaeological Investigation for the CapX2020 Fargo to St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission Line Project ("Project"). This investigation supplemented survey work completed in 2011 and reported in *Class I Literature Search and Class III Intensive Archaeological Investigation of the CapX2020 Fargo to St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission Line Project, Cass County, North Dakota* (Bielakowski 2011). Of the 1,403.23-acre (567.87-hectare) Project Area of Potential Effect ("APE"), 636.41 acres (257.55 hectares) were previously surveyed by Xcel Energy in 2011 (Bielakowski 2011). During the 2012 Class III Intensive Archaeological Investigation ("Survey"), a pedestrian survey was completed for 556.92 acres (225.37 hectares) and shovel testing was completed for 3.73 acres (1.51 hectares). Access to

the remaining 206.17 acres (83.43 hectares) of the North Dakota portion of the Project APE was restricted due to a lack of landowner permission.

The results of the Survey indicated that no historic properties or sites would be affected by the construction and operation of the CapX Fargo Transmission Line. On January 9, 2013, Xcel Energy submitted a report to the North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office (“NDSHPO”) providing the results of the Survey. On January 11, 2013, the NDSHPO issued a letter, enclosed, indicating that it concurred with the Company’s assessment. The following table presents a list of the transmission pole locations that have been surveyed and approved by the NDSHPO, or require survey in 2013.

<i><b>Transmission Line Pole Locations Previously Approved</b></i>
0955-3, 0955-4, 0955-5, 0955-13, 0955-14, 0955-15, 0955-16, 0955-17, 0955-32, 0955-33, 0955-34, 0955-35, 0955-36, 0955-37, 0955-38, 0955-39, 0955-40, 0955-41, 0955-84, 0955-85, 0955-86, 0955-87, 0955-88, 0955-89, 0955-90, 0955-91, 0955-92, 0955-93, 0955-94, 0955-95, 0955-96, 0955-100, 0955-101, 0955-107, 0955-108, 0955-109, 0955-110, 0955-111, 0955-120, 0955-121, 0955-122, 0955-125, 0955-126, 0955-127, 0955-128, 0955-129, 0955-130, 0955-131, 0955-132
<i><b>Transmission Line Pole Locations Recently Approved</b></i>
0955-1, 0955-2, 0955-8, 0955-9, 0955-10, 0955-11, 0955-12, 0955-18, 0955-19, 0955-20, 0955-21, 0955-22, 0955-23, 0955-24, 0955-25, 0955-26, 0955-27, 0955-28, 0955-29, 0955-30, 0955-31, 0955-42, 0955-43, 0955-44, 0955-45, 0955-46, 0955-47, 0955-48, 0955-49, 0955-50, 0955-51, 0955-52, 0955-53, 0955-54, 0955-55, 0955-56, 0955-57, 0955-58, 0955-59, 0955-60, 0955-61, 0955-62, 0955-63, 0955-64, 0955-65, 0955-66, 0955-67, 0955-68, 0955-69, 0955-70, 0955-71, 0955-72, 0955-73, 0955-74, 0955-75, 0955-82, 0955-83, 0955-97, 0955-98, 0955-99, 0955-102, 0955-105, 0955-106, 0955-115, 0955-116, 0955-117, 0955-118, 0955-119, 0955-123, 0955-124
<i><b>Transmission Line Pole Locations Requiring Survey</b></i>
0955-6, 0955-7, 0955-76, 0955-77, 0955-78, 0955-79, 0955-80, 0955-81, 0955-103, 0955-104, 0955-112, 0955-113, 0955-114

Pursuant to Ordering Clause 4 of the Order, the Company was required to obtain SHPO approval prior to beginning construction on the portion of the Route and Corridor in the Survey. The Company began construction January 14, 2013. In accordance with the permit the Company will only construct in areas where it has obtained SHPO approval. The Company intends to perform a Class III Intensive Archaeological Investigation for the remaining 206.17 acres (83.43 hectares) of the Corridor and Route in spring and summer of 2013.

Darrell Nitschke  
January 22, 2013  
Page 3

Please contact me at [darrin.f.lahr@xcelenergy.com](mailto:darrin.f.lahr@xcelenergy.com) or 763-493-1808 if you have 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" being the most prominent parts.

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

cc: Jerry Lein  
Mike Diller  
Darrin Lahr  
Dave Sederquist