



**Cheryl F. Campbell**  
Senior Vice President, Gas

1800 Larimer Street, Suite 1400  
Denver, CO 80202

August 30, 2017

Craig Reamann, Program Manager/Inspector  
ND Gas Pipeline Safety  
North Dakota Public Service Commission, Dept. 0408  
600 East Boulevard  
Bismarck, ND 58505

RE: Response to Notice of Probable Violation (Case No. PU-17-292)

Dear Mr. Reamann,

Northern States Power Company – Minnesota (NSPM), an Xcel Energy Company, provides the following response to the issues identified in your July 20, 2017 Notice of Probable Violation.

On June 13, 2017, NSPM provided documentation that, on May 10-11, 2017, Larry Clemens performed backfilling work after his operator qualifications (OQ) had expired. Thus, NSPM will not contest the allegation of probable violation and a check for \$1,000 will be sent in a separate letter. The Company wishes to inform you and the Commission that corrective actions have since been taken to ensure that a more extensive review of covered tasks and individual's qualifications are performed both by the contractor and NSPM. These steps include:

- The contractor has designated an individual to be responsible for reviewing the OQ process on an ongoing basis and prior to annual training for employees, and
- Third party inspectors are now provided a list of contract employees and the tasks they are qualified to perform.

If you need further information or clarification regarding this matter, please contact Lisa Kallberg at 651-229-2282.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Campbell  
Sr. Vice President, Gas  
Xcel Energy

cc: Katie Hellfritz, Sr. Director Gas Governance  
Lisa Kallberg, Principal Gas Standards Consultant  
Jeff Murray, Manager Pipeline Compliance & Standards  
Brad Sylliaasen, Director Design and Construction

2 GS-17-292 Filed 08/31/2017 Pages: 1  
Response to Notice of Probable Violation(s)  
Northern States Power Company  
Cheryl Campbell, Sr. VP, Gas