



2302 Great Northern Drive  
Fargo, ND 54802

April 16, 2024

—Via Electronic Mail and U.S. Mail—

Steven M. Kahl, Executive Director  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
State Capitol Building, Dept. 408  
600 East Boulevard  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

RE: CASE NO. PU-23-366  
INFORMATIONAL LETTER RE: MANKATO – MISSISSIPPI RIVER  
345 kV TRANSMISSION PROJECT (LRTP4)

Dear Mr. Kahl:

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, by way of this letter is notifying the North Dakota Public Service Commission that on April 2, 2024 the Company submitted a Certificate of Need (CON) application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MNPUCC) for the Mankato – Mississippi River Transmission Line Project (the Project).

The Project consists of a new, approximately 130 mile 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between the Wilmarth Substation in Mankato, Minnesota and the Mississippi River and a new, approximately 20 mile 161 kV transmission line between the North Rochester Substation near Pine Island, Minnesota and an existing transmission line northeast of Rochester, Minnesota. A project overview map has been attached as Attachment A.

The Project was studied, reviewed, and approved as part of the Long-Range Transmission Planning (LRTP) Tranche 1 Portfolio by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.'s (MISO) Board of Directors in July 2022 as part of its 2021 Transmission Expansion Plan (MTEP21) report. The LRTP Tranche 1 Portfolio will provide significant benefits to the Midwest subregion of the MISO footprint by facilitating more reliable, safe, and affordable energy delivery. The Project, designated as a portion of LRTP4 in MTEP21, is a key part of the LRTP Tranche 1 Portfolio.

In its Order dated February 21, 2024 in Case No. PU-23-366, the Commission adopted the First Amended and Restated Settlement Agreement, which removed the requirement that the Company must file ADP applications for proposed new construction, rehabilitation, or acquisition of certain resources.

The Company plans to include the Project in our next Transmission Cost Recovery Rider (TCRR) application to be filed this fall. Through the TCRR process the Commission can review the Project and determine whether the investments and associated costs are recoverable through the TCRR.

The Company has discussed this request with Commission Staff. Staff is in agreement that this is a reasonable request given the circumstances of this matter. Please be advised that the Company is not waiving any rights or arguments with respect to the prudence of the Project.

Please contact me at [alex.j.nisbet@xcelenergy.com](mailto:alex.j.nisbet@xcelenergy.com) if you have any questions regarding this correspondence.

Sincerely,

/s/

ALEX NISBET  
REGULATORY POLICY SPECIALIST

Enclosure  
cc: Victor Schock

