

October 2, 2025

Ms. Sasha Bergman, Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
127 7th Place East, Suite 350  
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

RE: Alternatives Identified During Scoping Comment Period  
Blue Lake Battery Energy Storage System Project  
Docket No. E002/ESS-25-214

Dear Ms. Bergman,

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) Energy Infrastructure Permitting (EIP) staff has completed the environmental assessment (EA) scoping process in the following matter:

In the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy for an up to 135.5 MW Battery Energy Storage System Site Permit for the Blue Lake Battery Energy Storage Project in Scott County, Minnesota.

Xcel Energy submitted a site permit application to the Commission for the Blue Lake Energy Storage Project (project) on June 20, 2025.<sup>1</sup> The Commission accepted the application as substantially complete on August 12, 2025.<sup>2</sup>

The scoping comment period for the EA was open from August 22, 2025, through September 25, 2025. EIP staff held a remote access public information and scoping meeting on September 10, 2025, and a public meeting in Shakopee, Minnesota on September 11, 2025. There were no attendees at either meeting.<sup>3</sup>

The only comments received during the comment period were from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.<sup>4</sup> None of these comments suggested an alternative site for the proposed project.

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<sup>1</sup> Xcel Energy, *Application for a Site Permit for the Blue Lake Energy Storage Project*, June 20, 2025, 2024, eDockets Numbers [20256-220093-02](#), [20256-220093-03](#), [20256-220093-04](#), [20256-220093-05](#), [20256-220093-06](#), [20256-220093-07](#), [20256-220093-08](#), [20256-220093-09](#), [20256-220093-11](#), [20256-220093-12](#), [20256-220093-13](#), [20256-220093-14](#), 20256-220093-15 (Trade Secret), [20258-222516-01](#), and [20258-222516-03](#).

<sup>2</sup> Commission, *Order Accepting Xcel Energy's Site Permit Application as Substantially Complete*, August 12, 2025, eDocket No. [20258-221987-01](#)

<sup>3</sup> Oral Comments on the Scope of Environmental Assessment, eDockets Number [202510-223469-01](#)

<sup>4</sup> Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Comments ([20259-223282-01](#), [20259-223282-02](#), and [20259-223282-03](#))

EIP Staff Recommendations on Scoping Alternatives  
Docket No. E002/ESS-25-214

Accordingly, EIP staff recommends that the Commission authorize EIP staff to include only the site identified by the Xcel Energy in its site permit application in the EA scoping decision.

EIP staff is available to answer any questions the Commission may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Suzanne Steinhauer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a thin yellow horizontal line.

Suzanne Steinhauer  
Environmental Review Manager  
Energy Infrastructure Permitting