



414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

August 8, 2012

—Via Electronic Filing—

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: REPLY COMMENTS
NATURAL GAS SERVICE QUALITY REPORT
DOCKET NO. G002/M-12-440

Dear Dr. Haar:

Northern States Power Company submits this Reply to the July 27, 2012 Comments of the Minnesota Department of Commerce – Division of Energy Resources in the above-referenced docket.

We have electronically filed this document with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, and copies have been served on the parties on the attached service list.

Please contact Bria Shea at bria.e.shea@xcelenergy.com or 612-330-6064 if you have any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely,

/s/

PAUL J LEHMAN
MANAGER, REGULATORY COMPLIANCE AND FILINGS

Enclosures
c: Service List

STATE OF MINNESOTA
BEFORE THE
MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Beverly Jones Heydinger	Chair
Phyllis A. Reha	Commissioner
David C. Boyd	Commissioner
J. Dennis O'Brien	Commissioner
Betsy Wergin	Commissioner

IN THE MATTER OF NORTHERN STATES
POWER COMPANY, ANNUAL REPORT ON
NATURAL GAS SERVICE QUALITY FOR
2011

DOCKET NO. G002/M-12-440

REPLY COMMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, submits to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission this Reply to the July 27, 2012 Comments of the Minnesota Department of Commerce – Division of Energy Resources on our Annual Report on Natural Gas Service Quality for 2011.

We appreciate the review of our Petition by the Department and their recommendation that the Commission accept our Report pending submission of further details. We provide our Reply as well as the requested information below.

REPLY

A. Natural Gas Service Interruptions

The Department requested additional information surrounding two of our gas service interruption events. We provide details for both events below.

1. February Incident

On February 2, 2011, St. Paul Regional Water damaged a 4 inch polyethylene gas main while installing a new water main valve near the intersection of Eustis Street and Franklin Avenue in St. Paul. The event occurred at 11:25 AM and impacted 597 customers. The area was made safe and restoration began at 12:40 PM, and was completed at 7:00 PM. Our internal incident analysis determined that the Xcel Energy locator mis-located the damaged main by approximately nine feet. Measurements on the GIS prints were accurate on the map. However, the path of the main ran at an

angle to the northeast deviating from the measurement identified on the map. There were no injuries resulting from this outage.

2. *March Incident*

On March, 24, 2011, Xcel Energy crews were working at the intersection of Fry Street and University Avenue on a project to relocate gas facilities that were in conflict with light rail construction. A 12 inch end cap blew off the end of a 60 pound steel gas main while resetting the sealing element during a stopple operation. A temporary compression end cap was installed on the end of the main. As the tapper worked to reset the stopper, gas immediately built up on the temporary compression cap and the pressure caused the cap to blow off the main. When the main was blowing, the tapper momentarily was able to re-stop the flow of gas by resetting the stopper but the sealing element on the stopper partially rolled, causing a void around the sealing element and allowing gas to escape. The gas was turned off at 12:58 PM and was turned back on at 6:48 PM. The blowing gas was isolated using existing system valves, resulting in an outage to 51 commercial and 709 residential customers. There were no injuries resulting from this outage.

B. Meter Reading

The Department noted that our meter reading performance would be more meaningful if we also provide our total number of meters in future reports. We have no issue with this suggestion and will provide this additional data in future reports.

CONCLUSION

We appreciate the Department's review of our Report and respectfully request that the Commission approve our Annual Report on Natural Gas Service Quality for 2011, as amended by this Reply.

Dated: August 8, 2012

Northern States Power Company

Respectfully submitted by:

/s/

PAUL J LEHMAN
MANGER, REGULATORY COMPLIANCE AND FILINGS

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Lindsey Didion, hereby certify that I have this day served copies of the foregoing document on the attached list of persons.

xx by depositing a true and correct copy thereof, properly enveloped with postage paid in the United States mail at Minneapolis, Minnesota

xx electronic filing

Docket No. G002/M-12-440

Dated this 8th day of August 2012

/s/

Lindsey Didion

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