

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Katie J. Sieben
Hwikwon Ham
Audrey C. Partridge
Joseph K. Sullivan
John A. Tuma

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

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

SERVICE DATE: October 21, 2025

DOCKET NO. E-002/ESS-25-214

The above-entitled matter has been considered by the Commission and the following disposition made:

Authorized solely the site for the project identified by Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy in its site permit application in the scoping decision for the environmental assessment.

This decision is issued by the Commission's consent calendar subcommittee, under a delegation of authority granted under Minn. Stat. § 216A.03, subd. 8 (a). Unless a party, a participant, or a Commissioner files an objection to this decision within ten days of receiving it, it will become the Order of the full Commission under Minn. Stat. § 216A.03, subd. 8 (b).

The Commission agrees with and adopts the recommendations of the Department of Commerce, which are attached and hereby incorporated into the Order.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION



Sasha Bergman
Executive Secretary



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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, 2025.¹ The Commission accepted the application as substantially complete on August 12, 2025.²

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.³

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

¹ 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](#).

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

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

⁴ 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 black ink that reads "Suzanne Steinhauer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and 'St'.

Suzanne Steinhauer
Environmental Review Manager
Energy Infrastructure Permitting

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Robin Benson, hereby certify that I have this day, served a true and correct copy of the following document to all persons at the addresses indicated below or on the attached list by electronic filing, electronic mail, courier, interoffice mail or by depositing the same enveloped with postage paid in the United States mail at St. Paul, Minnesota.

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ORDER

Docket Number: **E-002/ESS-25-214**

Dated this **21st** day of **October, 2025**

/s/ Robin Benson

#	First Name	Last Name	Email	Organization	Agency	Address	Delivery Method	Alternate Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
1	Sasha	Bergman	sasha.bergman@state.mn.us		Public Utilities Commission		Electronic Service		No	25-214 Official CC Service List
2	Matthew	Brodin	mbrodin@allete.com	Minnesota Power		30 West Superior Street Duluth MN, 55802 United States	Electronic Service		No	25-214 Official CC Service List
3	Christina	Brusven	cbrusven@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson Byron		60 S 6th St Ste 1500 Minneapolis MN, 55402-4400 United States	Electronic Service		No	25-214 Official CC Service List
4	Mike	Bull	mike.bull@state.mn.us		Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Place East, Suite 350 St. Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		No	25-214 Official CC Service List
5	Jordan	Clitty	jordan.r.clitty@xcelenergy.com	Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy-Elec		414 Nicollet Mall Minneapolis MN, 55401 United States	Electronic Service		No	25-214 Official CC Service List
6	John	Coffman	john@johncoffman.net	AARP		871 Tuxedo Blvd. St. Louis MO, 63119-2044 United States	Electronic Service		No	25-214 Official CC Service List
7	Generic	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.state.mn.us		Office of the Attorney General - Department of Commerce	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400 St. Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		No	25-214 Official CC Service List
8	George	Crocker	gw illc@naw o.org	North American Water Office		5093 Keats Avenue Lake Elmo MN, 55042 United States	Electronic Service		No	25-214 Official CC Service List
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22	Christine	Marquis	regulatory.records@xcelenergy.com	Xcel Energy		414 Nicollet Mall MN1180-07-MCA Minneapolis MN, 55401 United States	Electronic Service		No	25-214 Official CC Service List

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24	Stacy	Miller	stacy.miller@minneapolismn.gov	City of Minneapolis		350 S. 5th Street Room M 301 Minneapolis MN, 55415 United States	Electronic Service		No	25-214 Official CC Service List
25	David	Moeller	dmoeller@allete.com	Minnesota Power			Electronic Service		No	25-214 Official CC Service List
26	Andrew	Moratzka	andrew.moratzka@stoel.com	Stoel Rives LLP		33 South Sixth St Ste 4200 Minneapolis MN, 55402 United States	Electronic Service		No	25-214 Official CC Service List
27	David	Niles	david.niles@avantenergy.com	Minnesota Municipal Power Agency		220 South Sixth Street Suite 1300 Minneapolis MN, 55402 United States	Electronic Service		No	25-214 Official CC Service List
28	Carol A.	Overland	overland@legalelectric.org	Legalelectric - Overland Law Office		1110 West Avenue Red Wing MN, 55066 United States	Electronic Service		No	25-214 Official CC Service List
29	Generic Notice	Residential Utilities Division	residential.utilities@ag.state.mn.us		Office of the Attorney General - Residential Utilities Division	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul MN, 55101-2131 United States	Electronic Service		No	25-214 Official CC Service List
30	Kevin	Reuther	kreuther@mcncenter.org	MN Center for Environmental Advocacy		26 E Exchange St, Ste 206 St. Paul MN, 55101-1667 United States	Electronic Service		No	25-214 Official CC Service List
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32	Janet	Shaddix Eling	jshaddix@janetshaddix.com	Shaddix & Associates		7400 Lyndale Avenue South Suite 190 Richfield MN, 55423 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	25-214 Official CC Service List
33	Bria	Shea	bria.e.shea@xcelenergy.com	Xcel Energy		414 Nicollet Mall Minneapolis MN, 55401 United States	Electronic Service		No	25-214 Official CC Service List

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