



414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

November 16, 2016

—Via Electronic Filing—

Daniel P. Wolf
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: **Additional Information on Anticipated Pipeline Alignment and Construction Impacts for the Black Dog Natural Gas Pipeline Project**
Docket No. G002/GP-16-656

Dear Mr. Wolf:

On August 18, 2016 Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation, doing business as Xcel Energy, submitted an Application for a Route Permit for the Black Dog Natural Gas Pipeline Project (Project) pursuant to Minnesota Rules Chapter 7852.0600. On October 26th an update on the anticipated alignment based on more detailed engineering was filed to the docket. The purpose of this filing is to provide some additional information on the updated anticipated pipeline alignment.

As described in the alignment update filed on October 26th the anticipated alignment of the pipeline within the City of Burnsville/electric transmission line corridor was shifted to the southwest side of that corridor due to the presence of an existing storm sewer running down the center of much of that corridor. At the Public Information Meeting on November 2nd there were questions raised as to how this alignment shift might impact landowners along that corridor as well as vegetation clearing on Burnsville property. Staff from the City of Burnsville also has similar questions following the meeting.

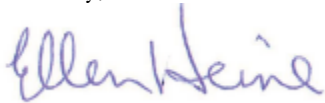
Enclosed are two map sets showing the updated alignment from Highway 13 to the railroad corridor. The first set shows the approximate alignment and associated preliminary 40 foot right-of-way. Initial engineering drawings included some locations where the pipeline was less than 20 feet from private property lines. This was based on some pipeline curvature constraints and existing Xcel Energy standards for offset distances from electric transmission lines. This preliminary alignment did not include any temporary or permanent construction impacts on private property, and Xcel Energy planned to request a narrower right-of-way in these locations. However, based on comments received, the project team has evaluated further and determined that the line can be shifted closer to the electric transmission lines without consequences to the pipeline. This shift will place the pipeline 20 feet or more from all private properties within this corridor.

The second map set shows that same proposed alignment along with locations where tree clearing is anticipated for project construction and maintenance. While there will be some clearing needed along the southwest side of the corridor, that clearing will be limited as much as possible to the proposed 40 foot wide right-of-way. No tree clearing is planned to accommodate temporary construction activities. In the route permit application, *Section 6.2 Temporary Rights-of-Way* we described the need for a wider temporary construction corridor in some locations. This is due to the fact that the terrain within this corridor is variable and often very steep. In some cases access along the center or northeast side would be more feasible, and there is currently an unimproved two track path running along the corridor for approximately 1500 feet of its length, which would likely be used for construction access. Some pictures of the corridor showing the two track path and terrain are enclosed with this filing.

Please note, the Xcel Energy Vegetation Management group currently maintains vegetation clearances within this corridor for the existing electric transmission and distribution lines. Crews were out in October to remove any incompatible trees as part of the regular 4 year maintenance cycle. Some of this clearing overlaps the area proposed as pipeline right-of-way, however the clearing the recently took place was only related to the power lines.

Please contact me at ellen.l.heine@xcelenergy.com or 612-330-6073 if you have questions or would like further information regarding this matter.




Sincerely,




Ellen Heine
Sr. Land Agent
Xcel Energy



Black Dog Natural Gas Pipeline Proposed Alignment and Right-of-Way

-  Parcel Boundaries
-  Proposed Pipeline Alignment
-  Proposed 40 foot right-of-way

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0 50 100 200 Feet

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Highway 13

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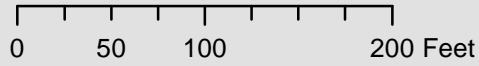
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Black Dog Natural Gas Pipeline Proposed Alignment and Right-of-Way

- Parcel Boundaries
- Proposed Pipeline Alignment
- Proposed 40 foot right-of-way





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Black Dog Natural Gas Pipeline Proposed Alignment and Right-of-Way




-  Parcel Boundaries
-  Proposed Pipeline Alignment
-  Proposed 40 foot right-of-way

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0 50 100 200 Feet



Black Dog Natural Gas Pipeline Proposed Alignment and Anticipated Tree Clearing

-  Anticipated Tree Clearing
-  Parcel Boundaries
-  Proposed Pipeline Alignment



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Black Dog Natural Gas Pipeline Proposed Alignment and Anticipated Tree Clearing

 Anticipated Tree Clearing

 Parcel Boundaries

 Proposed Pipeline Alignment

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Black Dog Natural Gas Pipeline Proposed Alignment and Anticipated Tree Clearing

 Anticipated Tree Clearing

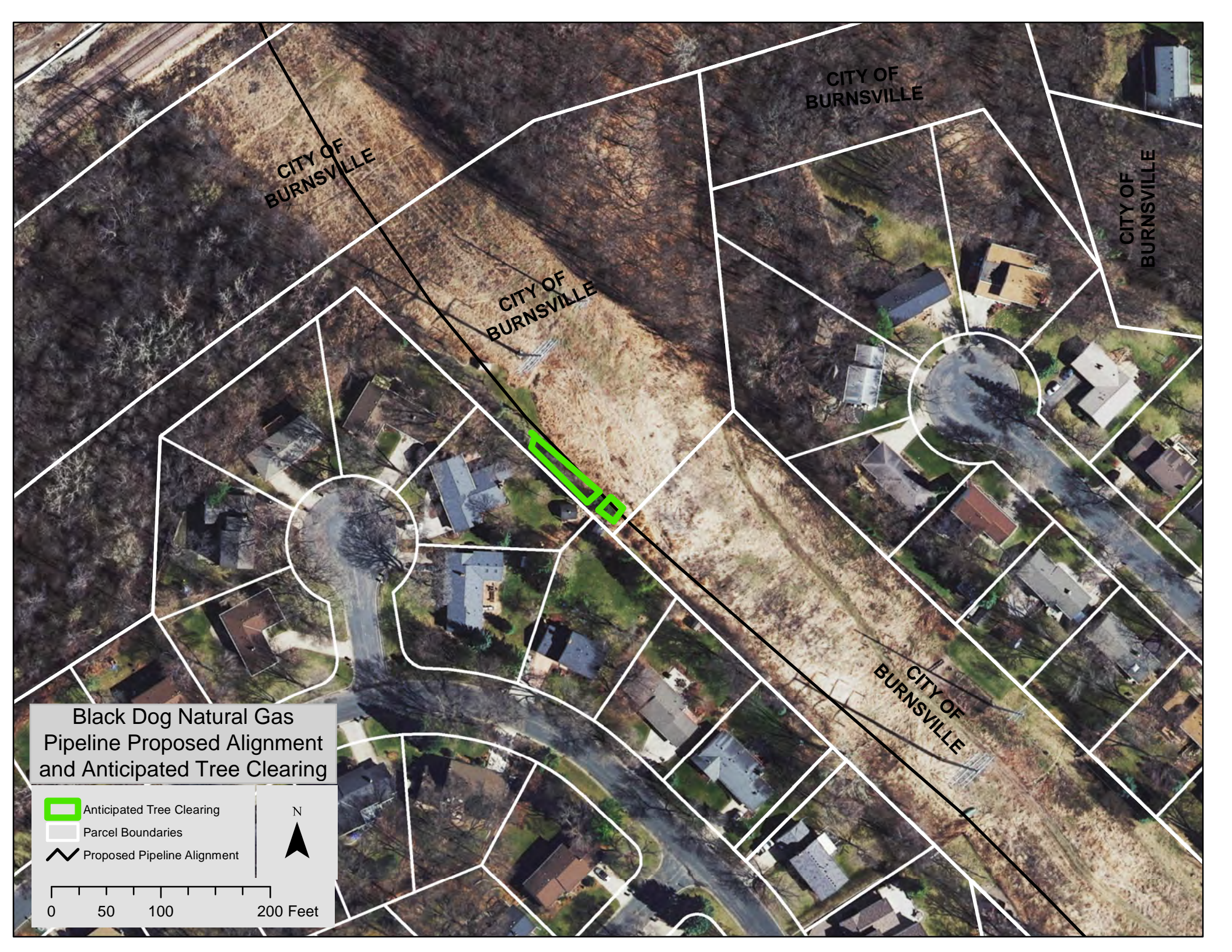
 Parcel Boundaries

 Proposed Pipeline Alignment

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0 50 100 200 Feet





Proposed alignment looking northwest from River Hills Dr.



Tree that will need to be removed within proposed alignment.



Two-track maintenance road running between existing transmission lines (proposed pipeline alignment is up to the left (NW))



Looking up to the NW toward proposed alignment from two-track maintenance road



View back to the SE from bluff above railroad tracks, maintenance road visible in the distance between transmission line poles