

February 1, 2017

—Via Electronic Filing—

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

RE: Metropolitan Council Encroachment Agreement not Required for Black Dog Natural Gas Pipeline Project Docket No. G002/GP-16-656

Dear Mr. Wolf:

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 August 18, 2016.

In our December 28, 2016 filing we noted that an encroachment agreement would be needed from the Metropolitan Council (Met Council) for the location where the proposed natural gas pipeline crosses beneath the Met Council's existing 66 inch sanitary sewer. Xcel Energy provided the Met Council with preliminary plans for the proposed pipeline. Upon review of those plans staff has informed us that an encroachment agreement is not necessary, because the pipeline will not interfere with the sanitary sewer if built as shown in the plans. A letter from Scott Dentz from the Met Council to this effect is enclosed.

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

Sincerely,

Ellen Heine Sr. Land Agent January 20, 2017

Ms. Ellen Heine Xcel Energy Sr. Land Agent 414 Nicollet Mall 414-6A Minneapolis, MN 55401

Subject: Easement encroachment

Proposed pipeline crossing

Dear Ms. Heine,

The 16-inch Black Dog Pipeline Project U.P.R.R. bore will not interfere with our use of our easement, if it is constructed substantially as shown on the preliminary plan file No. 219 attached.

We do not believe it is necessary to enter into a consent agreement with NSP/Xcel, the grantor of our easement.

Please advise the contractor chosen to construct the pipeline, that stockpiles of soil or other material over the sewer interceptor will not be allowed and that the interceptor must be protected during construction activities including heavy truck traffic. We will mark the sewer when the contractor submits a Gopher State One Call location ticket.

I can be reached at 651-602-4503 if you wish to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

E. Scott Dentz

Manager Engineering and Design Interceptor Group Metropolitan Council Environmental Services

CC: Peter Owens

METROPOLITAN C O U N C I L

