

December 20, 2023

**VIA eDOCKETS**

The Honorable Suzanne Todnem  
Office of Administrative Hearings  
600 North Robert Street  
P.O. Box 64620  
St. Paul, MN 55164-0620

RE: Post-Hearing Reply  
Minnesota Energy Connection Project  
OAH Docket No. 23-2500-39782  
MPUC Docket No. E-002/TL-22-132

Dear Judge Todnem,

Department of Commerce Energy and Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) staff has reviewed Xcel Energy's *Post-Hearing Brief and Proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendations*. At this time, staff does not have any reply to Xcel's brief or revisions to the proposed findings.

We are currently in the process of analyzing comments provided on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and making appropriate edits in preparation for issuing a Final Environmental Impact Statement on January 22, 2025. After the Final Environmental Impact Statement is issued, EERA staff will evaluate whether any supplemental filings, as provided for in the scheduling order, are appropriate.

Sincerely,



Andrew Levi  
Energy Environmental Review and Analysis