



414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

December 7, 2016

—Via Electronic Filing—

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

RE: **Waiver of Decision Deadline for the Black Dog Natural Gas Pipeline Project;
Docket No. G002/GP-16-656**

Dear Mr. Wolf:

On August 18, 2016, pursuant to Minn. Stat. §216G.02 and Minn. Rules Chapter 7852, the Company filed a route permit for a 2.2 mile pipeline from Northern Natural Gas Company's Cedar Station to Northern States Power Company's Black Dog Generating Plant in Burnsville. The Commission accepted the Company's application as complete through its Order dated September 30, 2016.

Both Minn. Stat. §216G.02 and Minn. Rules Chapter 7852 include a 90 day deadline after Commission acceptance of the partial exemption application for the Commission to decide whether to grant or deny the partial exemption. Based on the Commission's September 30, 2016 acceptance Order, the 90 day period ends on December 29.

The Company has been diligently working with various parties to ensure a robust record sufficient for the Commission to find that the requirements for a partial exemption are met. We anticipate supplementing the record shortly and will continue to work with staff to address issues raised by the Department of Commerce. To ensure that there is adequate time for Commission review the entire record, the Company hereby waives the 90 day requirement.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Ellen Heine'.

Ellen Heine
Xcel Energy
Sr. Land Agent