

Direct Testimony and Schedule
Tyler S. Beemer

Before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
State of Minnesota

In the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power Company
for a Certificate of Need, Site Permit, Route Permit, and Pipeline Permit for the
Lyon County Generating Station Project in Lyon County, Minnesota

MPUC Docket Nos. E002/TL-25-161, G002/GS-25-154, G002/GP-25-163
CAH Docket No. 5-2500-41123

Environmental Analysis

January 12, 2026

1 **I. INTRODUCTION AND QUALIFICATIONS**

2
3 Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.

4 A. My name is Tyler Beemer. My business address is 5600 American Boulevard
5 West, Suite 300, Bloomington, Minnesota, 55437.

6
7 Q. BY WHOM ARE YOU EMPLOYED AND IN WHAT CAPACITY?

8 A. I am employed as an Associate Environmental Scientist by Burns &
9 McDonnell, Inc. (Burns).

10
11 Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE.

12 A. I graduated from the University of Illinois in 2006 with a bachelor's degree in
13 Geological and Earth Sciences/Geosciences, and obtained my master's degree
14 in Environmental Science in 2007 from Oregon State University. I have been
15 an environmental scientist with Burns for 17 years. In that time, I have led and
16 managed field survey efforts for wetland delineations, habitat assessments,
17 and stormwater inspections. Currently, I largely manage environmental
18 assessment and permitting-related efforts for various energy infrastructure
19 projects. My Statement of Qualifications is included as Exhibit__(TSB-1),
20 Schedule 1.

21
22 Q. FOR WHOM ARE YOU TESTIFYING?

23 A. I am testifying on behalf of the applicant in this proceeding, Northern States
24 Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy (Xcel Energy).

1 Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY IN THIS PROCEEDING?

2 A. The purpose of my testimony is generally to: (1) describe the environmental
3 analysis undertaken for the Lyon County Generating Station Project (Project);
4 (2) discuss coordination with the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office
5 (SHPO) regarding the Project; and (3) describe other potential permits and
6 approvals that may be needed for the Project.

7

8 Q. ARE YOU SPONSORING ANY PORTIONS OF THE COMBINED APPLICATION FOR
9 A CERTIFICATE OF NEED, SITE PERMIT, TWO TRANSMISSION LINE ROUTE
10 PERMITS, AND A PIPELINE ROUTING PERMIT AND PARTIAL EXEMPTION
11 (APPLICATION) SUBMITTED BY XCEL ENERGY FOR THE PROJECT?

12 A. Yes. I am sponsoring the following section of the Application:

- 13 • 1.7 Environmental Impacts
- 14 • 7.0 Environmental Analysis, except for Section 7.4.1
- 15 • 8.0 Federal and State Agency, Tribal Nations, Local Government, and
16 Public Outreach
- 17 • 9.0 Permits and Approvals

18

19 II. PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

20

21 Q. DID XCEL ENERGY CONDUCT ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSES RELATED TO THE
22 PROJECT PRIOR TO SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION?

23 A. Yes. Xcel Energy conducted desktop and field environmental analyses
24 regarding the Project site prior to submitting the Application. The purpose of
25 this evaluation was to identify existing resources and avoid or minimize
26 potential impacts to sensitive resources. For example, as described in Section

1 7.4.6, Xcel Energy conducted a field wetland delineation in April 2024, and
2 sited Project facilities to avoid the single wetland identified. Likewise, as
3 described in Section 7.1.3 and Appendix I of the Application, Xcel Energy
4 completed a sound study for the Project to confirm that the Project will
5 comply with Minnesota's noise standards.
6

7 Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE PROJECT SITE.

8 A. The Project will be located entirely on two parcels that will be owned by Xcel
9 Energy in Lyon County and adjacent to the proposed Garvin Substation at
10 the southernmost end of the Minnesota Energy Connection Project. The
11 Project site is approximately 155 acres in size and located entirely within
12 cultivated crop land. Permanent impacts will be limited to approximately 30
13 acres.
14

15 Q. WILL XCEL ENERGY EMPLOY AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION MEASURES TO
16 REDUCE POTENTIAL PROJECT IMPACTS?

17 A. Yes. These measures are described throughout the Application with respect
18 to each resource being discussed. Most significantly, however, Xcel Energy
19 avoided and minimized potential impacts by siting the Project to avoid
20 sensitive resources and in close proximity to an existing natural gas pipeline
21 and the Garvin Substation.
22

23 Q. HAVE YOU REVIEWED THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) PREPARED
24 BY THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (COMMISSION) FOR THE
25 PROJECT?

26 A. Yes. The EA includes a comprehensive assessment of the potential human

1 and environmental impacts of the Project. Xcel Energy intends to submit any
2 additional specific comments on the EA during the public hearing comment
3 period.

4
5 **III. COORDINATION WITH SHPO**

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7 Q. THE COMMISSION AUTHORIZED XCEL ENERGY TO INITIATE CONSULTATION
8 WITH SHPO RELATED TO THE PROJECT AND DIRECTED XCEL ENERGY TO
9 INFORM THE COMMISSION OF THE STATUS OF THAT CONSULTATION WITH PRE-
10 FILED TESTIMONY. ARE YOU AWARE OF THAT AUTHORIZATION?

11 A. Yes. In this section of my Direct Testimony, I provide an update regarding
12 the status of Xcel Energy's coordination and consultation with SHPO
13 regarding the Project.

14
15 Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE XCEL ENERGY'S COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION
16 WITH SHPO.

17 A. As described in Section 7.3 of the Application, Xcel Energy conducted
18 background research on known cultural resources within the Project Study
19 Area in April 2024 and prepared the Phase I Cultural Resource Survey
20 (attached as Appendix G to the Application). The Phase I Cultural Resource
21 Survey resulted in no previously recorded sites or new historic resources
22 identified within the Project Study Area. Xcel Energy submitted the results of
23 the Phase I Cultural Resource Survey for concurrence from SHPO and Office
24 of the State Archaeologist (OSA) on March 4, 2025. SHPO concurred with
25 the findings of the Phase I Cultural Resource Survey on April 23, 2025; SHPO
26 concurrence is included in Appendix J to the Application. OSA provided its

1 concurrence on May 06, 2025, which is also included in Appendix J of the
2 Application.

3
4 Q. AS A RESULT OF THIS CONSULTATION, HAS SHPO INDICATED WHETHER THE
5 PROPOSED PROJECT WILL AFFECT KNOWN ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES OR
6 DESIGNATED HISTORIC PROPERTIES?

7 A. Yes. In its April 23, 2025, correspondence, SHPO stated that it has
8 “determined that no significant archaeological sites will be affected by this
9 project and that there are no properties listed in the National or State Registers
10 of Historic Places, or within the Historic Sites Network, that will be affected
11 by this project.”

12
13 Q. HAS XCEL ENERGY ALSO COORDINATED WITH TRIBAL NATIONS?

14 A. Yes. Xcel Energy has provided Tribal Nations in Minnesota with information
15 regarding the Project (*see* Section 8.1 and Appendix J of the Application). No
16 concerns have been identified to date.

17
18 Q. WILL XCEL ENERGY PREPARE AN UNANTICIPATED DISCOVERIES PLAN
19 (UDP) FOR THE PROJECT?

20 A. Yes. Xcel Energy will develop a UDP for use during construction of the
21 Project that outlines the procedures to be followed in the event unanticipated
22 archaeological materials are found. If archaeological resources are discovered
23 during construction, construction activity would be halted in that location, the
24 SHPO and interested Tribal Historic Preservation Officers would be notified,
25 and appropriate measures would be implemented to protect the resource.

26

1 **IV. OTHER POTENTIAL PERMITS AND APPROVALS**

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3 Q. WILL THE PROJECT REQUIRE PERMITS AND APPROVALS OTHER THAN THOSE
4 SOUGHT FROM THE COMMISSION?

5 A. Yes. The additional permits and approvals that may be required are identified
6 in Table 9-1 of the Application. Xcel Energy will obtain any permits and
7 approvals prior to conducting the work for which the permit is required.

8

9 **V. CONCLUSION**

10

11 Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY?

12 A. Yes.

Tyler S. Beemer

Associate Environmental Scientist | Burns & McDonnell Engineering, Inc., Bloomington, MN
Email: tbeemer@burnsmcd.com

Professional Summary

Environmental Scientist with over 19 years of experience, including 17 years with Burns & McDonnell. Specializes in environmental permitting and project management for large-scale energy and infrastructure developments, including utility-scale battery energy storage systems, natural gas generation facilities, high-voltage transmission lines, gas pipelines, solar, and wind projects. Proven expertise in coordinating with federal and state agencies such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and state Departments of Natural Resources across 20+ states. Recognized for leading multi-disciplinary teams and delivering environmentally sound, compliant, and practical project solutions.

Education

- M.S. Environmental Science, Oregon State University, 2007
- B.S. Geology and Earth Science, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 2006

Certifications and Professional Associations

- Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS #2816)
- Minnesota Wetland Delineator (ID 1251)
- Minnesota Wetland Professionals Association
- Society of Wetland Scientists

Professional Experience

Burns & McDonnell – Bloomington, MN | Associate Environmental Scientist (2008–Present)

Oversees environmental permitting, compliance, and field survey coordination for complex energy and infrastructure developments. Manages siting, analysis, and permitting for renewable energy, battery storage, transmission, and natural gas projects. Experienced in wetland delineations, NEPA documentation, and GIS-based environmental analysis. Leads coordination with federal and state agencies under the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and related environmental regulations.