

TO: Public Advisor, Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101

FROM: Global Minerals Engineering, 1035 7th Avenue East, Hibbing, MN 55746

DATE: December 23, 2019

PUC Docket Number: E002/MC-19-758

RE: Comments on Minor Alteration of Xcel Energy's 500 kV Transmission Line 5702 in Chisholm, MN

Open Topics:

Should the Commission approve the request for a minor alteration to construct an approximately 3-mile, 500-kilovolt (kV) high-voltage transmission?

Yes, we are in favor of the approval of the 3-mile alteration of Xcel's transmission line subject to the affected land and mineral owners being fairly compensated and the affected land and mineral owners ability to notice and have the high-voltage transmission line be re-located without prejudice to ensure no encumbrance of future underlying mineral resources. Hopefully, this relocation will ensure that Hibbing Taconite can extend their mine area, and subsequently the life of the mine, and avoid blast damage to the powerline structures.

Should any conditions be required if a minor alteration is approved?

Affected land and mineral, and mineral stockpile owners must be notified and approve any minor alteration prior to the movement of any infrastructure on their lands or minerals, approved or otherwise.

Are there other issues or concerns related to this matter?

No more than 4 years should be allowed to notice and require the movement of the high-volt transmission line infrastructure by the Lessor, landowner, mineral owner, or mineral stockpile owner.

This transmission line shall not prevent access across the approved route for adjacent land, mineral and mineral stockpile owners.