

March 24, 2024

Via Electronic Filing

Mr. Will Seuffert
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

**Re: In the Matter of the Route Permit Application for the Minnesota Energy Connection Project in Sherburne, Stearns, Kandiyohi, Wright, Meeker, Chippewa, Yellow Medicine, Renville, Redwood, and Lyon counties in Minnesota
MPUC Docket No. E002/TL-22-132**

Dear Mr. Seuffert,

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy (Xcel Energy, the Company, or the Applicant) submits these Reply Comments in response to the March 14, 2025, Notice of Comment Period (Notice) issued by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) regarding the proposed Minnesota Energy Connection Project (or, Project). By the close of the initial comment period on March 20, 2025, comments were filed by Xcel Energy and Lower Sioux Indian Community.

In its comments, Lower Sioux Indian Community provided comments regarding a cultural resource site, 21RW0001. Xcel Energy appreciates Lower Sioux Indian Community's comments and participation in this docket and Xcel Energy is committed to continuing to coordinate with Lower Sioux Indian Community and any other interested Tribes as the Project proceeds. With respect to site 21RW0001, the site was identified in the Route Permit Application¹ and in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS).² The Final EIS noted that : "Site 21RW0001 is a Native American burial mound site consisting of one mound... and is located south of Franklin along the Mississippi River."³ The Final EIS also noted that, in 1978, the site had been reported to be destroyed by the development of a house complex and gravel pit.

¹ Route Permit Application, at 145.

² Final EIS, at 260.

³ *Id.*

To fully evaluate the extent and condition of Site 21RW001, Xcel Energy will be undertaking further evaluation in this area. Specifically, Xcel Energy will be conducting field surveys prior to construction and is committed to tribal involvement in these surveys, as well as employing tribal monitors in the vicinity of the Minnesota River crossing (among other areas) during construction of the Project. Xcel Energy will also implement an Unanticipated Discoveries Plan during construction.⁴

Xcel Energy will continue to coordinate with Lower Sioux Indian Community regarding the Project and is reaching out to discuss next steps regarding this site.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this filing. These comments have been e-filed through www.edockets.state.mn.us. A copy of this filing is also being served upon the persons on the Official Service List of record.

Sincerely,

/s/ Matthew Langan

MATTHEW LANGAN
MANAGER, REGULATORY POLICY

⁴ Route Permit Application, at 147.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ROUTE
PERMIT APPLICATION FOR THE
MINNESOTA ENERGY CONNECTION
PROJECT IN SHERBURNE, STEARNS,
KANDIYOHI, WRIGHT, MEEKER,
CHIPPEWA, YELLOW MEDICINE,
RENVILLE, REDWOOD, AND LYON
COUNTIES IN MINNESOTA**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

**OAH Docket No. 23-2500-39782
MPUC Docket No. E002/TL-22-132**

Breann L. Jurek certifies that on the 24th day of March 2025, she e-filed on behalf of Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, a true and correct copy of its Reply Comments with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission via eDockets (www.edockets.state.mn.us). Said document was also served on the Official Service List of record on file with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and as attached hereto.

Executed on: March 24, 2025

Signed: /s/ Breann L. Jurek

Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
60 South Sixth Street
Suite 1500
Minneapolis, MN 55402

#	First Name	Last Name	Email	Organization	Agency	Address	Delivery Method	Alternate Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
1	Lisa	Agrimonti	lagrimonti@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.		60 South Sixth Street Suite 1500 Minneapolis MN, 55402-4400 United States	Electronic Service		No	22-132Official CC Service List
2	Mara	Ascherman	mara.k.ascherman@xcelenergy.com	Xcel Energy		414 Nicollet Mall Fl 5 Minneapolis MN, 55401 United States	Electronic Service		No	22-132Official CC Service List
3	David	Bell	david.bell@state.mn.us		Department of Health	POB 64975 St. Paul MN, 55164 United States	Electronic Service		No	22-132Official CC Service List
4	Generic	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.state.mn.us		Office of the Attorney General - Department of Commerce	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400 St. Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	22-132Official CC Service List
5	Ian M.	Dobson	ian.m.dobson@xcelenergy.com	Xcel Energy		414 Nicollet Mall, 401-8 Minneapolis MN, 55401 United States	Electronic Service		No	22-132Official CC Service List
6	Randall	Doneen	randall.doneen@state.mn.us		Department of Natural Resources	500 Lafayette Rd, PO Box 25 Saint Paul MN, 55155 United States	Electronic Service		No	22-132Official CC Service List
7	Bret	Eknes	bret.eknes@state.mn.us		Public Utilities Commission	Suite 350 121 7th Place East St. Paul MN, 55101-2147 United States	Electronic Service		No	22-132Official CC Service List
8	Kate	Fairman	kate.fairman@state.mn.us		Department of Natural Resources	Box 32 500 Lafayette Rd St. Paul MN, 55155-4032 United States	Electronic Service		No	22-132Official CC Service List
9	Annie	Felix Gerth	annie.felix-gerth@state.mn.us			Board of Water & Soil Resources 520 Lafayette Rd Saint Paul MN, 55155 United States	Electronic Service		No	22-132Official CC Service List
10	Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us		Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 280 Saint Paul MN, 55101-2198 United States	Electronic Service		No	22-132Official CC Service List
11	Todd	Green	todd.a.green@state.mn.us		Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry	443 Lafayette Rd N St. Paul MN, 55155-4341 United States	Electronic Service		No	22-132Official CC Service List
12	Kari	Howe	kari.howe@state.mn.us		DEED	332 Minnesota St, #E200 1ST National Bank Bldg St. Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		No	22-132Official CC Service List
13	Breann	Jurek	bjurek@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron PA		60 S Sixth St Ste 1500	Electronic Service		No	22-132Official

#	First Name	Last Name	Email	Organization	Agency	Address	Delivery Method	Alternate Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
						Minneapolis MN, 55402 United States				CC Service List
14	Raymond	Kirsch	raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us		Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 500 St. Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		No	22- 132Official CC Service List
15	Chad	Konickson	chad.konickson@usace.army.mil	U.S.Army Corps of Engineers		332 Minnesota St. Suite E1500 Saint Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		No	22- 132Official CC Service List
16	Nicholas	Korn	njkorn@gmail.com			27445 County Road 23 Albany MN, 56307 United States	Electronic Service		No	22- 132Official CC Service List
17	Stacy	Kotch Egstad	stacy.kotch@state.mn.us		MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	395 John Ireland Blvd. St. Paul MN, 55155 United States	Electronic Service		No	22- 132Official CC Service List
18	Dawn S	Marsh	dawn_marsh@fws.gov	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service		Minnesota- Wisconsin Field Offices 4101 American Blvd E Bloomington MN, 55425 United States	Electronic Service		No	22- 132Official CC Service List
19	Carol A.	Overland	overland@legalelectric.org	Legalelectric - Overland Law Office		1110 West Avenue Red Wing MN, 55066 United States	Electronic Service		No	22- 132Official CC Service List
20	Stephen	Rakow	stephen.rakow@state.mn.us		Department of Commerce	Suite 280 85 Seventh Place East St. Paul MN, 55101-2198 United States	Electronic Service		No	22- 132Official CC Service List
21	Generic Notice	Residential Utilities Division	residential.utilities@ag.state.mn.us		Office of the Attorney General - Residential Utilities Division	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul MN, 55101-2131 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	22- 132Official CC Service List
22	Stephan	Roos	stephan.roos@state.mn.us		Minnesota Department of Agriculture	625 Robert St N Saint Paul MN, 55155- 2538 United States	Electronic Service		No	22- 132Official CC Service List
23	Christine	Schwartz	regulatory.records@xcelenergy.com	Xcel Energy		414 Nicollet Mall FL 7 Minneapolis MN, 55401- 1993 United States	Electronic Service		No	22- 132Official CC Service List
24	Will	Seuffert	will.seuffert@state.mn.us		Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Pl E Ste 350 Saint Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	22- 132Official CC Service List
25	Janet	Shaddix Elling	jshaddix@janetshaddix.com	Shaddix And Associates		7400 Lyndale Ave S Ste 190 Richfield MN, 55423 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	22- 132Official CC Service List
26	Bria	Shea	bria.e.shea@xcelenergy.com	Xcel Energy		414 Nicollet Mall Minneapolis	Electronic Service		No	22- 132Official CC

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						MN, 55401 United States				Service List
27	Suzanne	Todnem	suzanne.todnem@state.mn.us		Office of Administrative Hearings	600 Robert Street North PO Box 64620 St. Paul MN, 55164 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	22-132Official CC Service List
28	Jayne	Trusty	execdir@swrdc.org	SWRDC		2401 Broadway Ave #1 Slayton MN, 56172 United States	Electronic Service		No	22-132Official CC Service List
29	Jen	Tyler	tyler.jennifer@epa.gov	US Environmental Protection Agency		Environmental Planning & Evaluation Unit 77 W Jackson Blvd. Mailstop B-19J Chicago IL, 60604-3590 United States	Electronic Service		No	22-132Official CC Service List
30	Garrick	Valverde	garrick.valverde@apexcleanenergy.com	Apex Clean Energy		8665 Hudson Boulevard North Suite 200 Lake Elmo MN, 55042 United States	Electronic Service		No	22-132Official CC Service List
31	Haley	Waller Pitts	hwallerpitts@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.		60 S Sixth St Ste 1500 Minneapolis MN, 55402-4400 United States	Electronic Service		No	22-132Official CC Service List
32	Cynthia	Warzecha	cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources		500 Lafayette Road Box 25 St. Paul MN, 55155-4040 United States	Electronic Service		No	22-132Official CC Service List
33	Alan	Whipple	sa.property@state.mn.us		Minnesota Department Of Revenue	Property Tax Division 600 N. Robert Street St. Paul MN, 55146-3340 United States	Electronic Service		No	22-132Official CC Service List
34	Jonathan	Wolfgram	jonathan.wolfgram@state.mn.us		Office of Pipeline Safety	445 Minnesota St Ste 147 Woodbury MN, 55125 United States	Electronic Service		No	22-132Official CC Service List