



Minnesota Department of Transportation

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Mr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

In the Matter of the Application of Xcel Energy's Application for a Minor Alteration to the Blue Lake-Wilmarth-Lakefield 345kV Transmission Line #0982 and Scott County Substation in Scott County, MN
PUC Docket No. E-002/MC-14-163

Dear Mr. Haar,

On March 3rd, 2014 the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) issued a Notice of Comment Period on Minor Alteration Application with regards to Xcel Energy's Application for a Minor Alteration to the Blue Lake-Wilmarth-Lakefield 345kV Transmission Line #0982 and Scott County Substation in Scott County, MN. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has reviewed the minor alteration request for the proposed transmission line project and submits the following comments in response to the Notice.

Xcel Energy has been in communication with MnDOT while planning this minor alteration given that the 345kV crosses US Hwy 169. Xcel has been made aware of the Cooperative Agreement between MnDOT and Scott County (State Project #7005-107) that will relocate Xcel's direct substation access from TH 169 and create a frontage road coming from the north. Xcel has also been informed of the US Hwy 169 and County Highway 69 Interchange Project that is currently under construction near their project area.

Having reviewed the submitted map, along with other communication between Xcel and MnDOT, we believe that our current and planned projects can continue as anticipated. We also believe that the project is permissible given Xcel's anticipated pole placement will be far enough from MnDOT right of way to show no cause for concern. During this review process, if the project alignment and/or pole placement should change to affect MnDOT right of way differently, MnDOT would expect to be notified in order to have an opportunity to work with Xcel Energy and the PUC on an acceptable alternative.

MnDOT has adopted a formal policy and procedures for accommodation of utilities on the highway rights-of-way ("Utility Accommodation Policy"). A copy of MnDOT's policy can be found at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/utility/policy/utilitypolicy.html>. Xcel Energy will need to obtain permits from MnDOT pursuant to the Utility Accommodation Policy for any location where the HVTL will occupy a portion of the highway right-of-way.

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It should be noted that it is the Applicant's responsibility to locate and show all other existing utilities in the proposed work area on the sketches submitted with every [Application for Utility Accommodation on Trunk Highway Right of Way](#) .

Any HVTL construction work, including delivery or storage of structures, materials or equipment that may affect MnDOT right of way is of concern such that MnDOT should be involved in planning and coordinating such activities. If work is required within MnDOT right of way for temporary or permanent access, please coordinate with Buck Craig, Metro District Permits, at 651-234-7911 or Buck.Craig@state.mn.us.

MnDOT has a continuing interest in working with the PUC and Xcel Energy to ensure that possible impacts to highways, airports, waterways, rail lines and the environmentally significant areas of highway right of way are adequately addressed. We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments.



Stacy Kotch

Utility Transmission Route Coordinator

Office of Land Management

Minnesota Department of Transportation

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