

## **Appendix C – Agency, Public, and Tribal Outreach and Correspondence**

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In the Matter of the Blue Lake BESS Project  
for Site Permit Application as administered  
by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

**AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING**

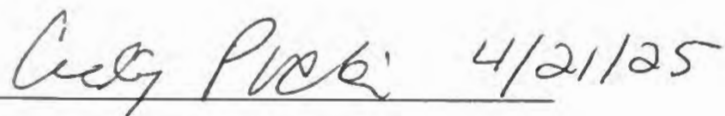
Tyler Beemer of Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company Inc. being first duly sworn, deposes and states that on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March, 2025, the following was mailed by the United States Postal Service, first-class postage prepaid thereon, to the individuals identified on the attached mailing list

- Project Notification Letter for Xcel Energy's Blue Lake Battery Energy Storage Project in Shakopee, MN

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Subscribed and sworn to before me

this 21<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2025

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Notary Public





414 Nicollet Mall  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401  
Xcelenergy.com

March 7, 2025

**ADDRESSEE**

**Re: Blue Lake Battery Energy Storage Project**

Dear **X**:

Northern States Power Company, d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel Energy) is proposing to construct the 135.5 megawatt (MW)/542 megawatt-hour (MWh) Blue Lake Energy Storage project composed of lithium-ion battery technology in Shakopee, Minnesota (Project). The Project is located at 1276 70th Street, Shakopee, Minnesota on Xcel Energy owned land adjacent to the existing Blue Lake Generating Station. The enclosed map shows the location of the Project.

The proposed Project would consist of approximately 128 Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) enclosures and 32 Medium Voltage (MV) transformers. The MV transformer steps up voltage to 34.5 kV. After the voltage is stepped up at each BESS block, the MV cabling is collected in the project substation, where the voltage is once again stepped up to the transmission level voltage of 115 kV through the Main Power Transformer included as part of this project. The location of this facility is direction adjacent to the Point of Interconnection (POI) at the existing Blue Lake Substation, where the transmission line is less than 500 feet.

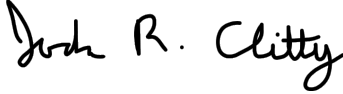
Xcel Energy plans to file an application for Site Permit to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) in the Summer of 2025. Xcel Energy would appreciate any input you may have on the Project and the proposed site. This letter, and any responses received, will be included in Xcel Energy's site permit application. There will also be numerous public input opportunities as part of the Commission's Site Permit process.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you regarding the proposed Project. If you'd like to request a meeting, please contact me at [Jordan.R.Clitty@xcelenergy.com](mailto:Jordan.R.Clitty@xcelenergy.com) or 320-290-9819. We also welcome written comments, and I am available to answer any questions you may have.

We appreciate your assistance as we evaluate siting information and look forward to

hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jordan R. Clitty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'C'.

Jordan R Clitty  
Project Manager, Xcel Energy

Enclosure: Preliminary Project Overview Figure



0 250 500 Feet

- General Site Boundary
- General Battery Energy Storage Area



Project Overview  
Xcel Energy - Blue Lake Battery  
Energy Storage Project

Shakopee, MN

## March 7<sup>th</sup> 2025 Mailing List

Organization / Name	ATTN	Title	Address
City of Shakopee	Michael Kerski	Director of Planning and Development	485 Gorman St Shakopee, MN 55379
City of Shakopee	Matt Lehman	Mayor	485 Gorman St Shakopee, MN 55379
Scott County	Jody Brennan	Commissioner, District #3	200 4th Avenue W Shakopee, MN 55379
Scott County	Tony Winiecki	Highway Engineer	600 Country TRL E Jordan, MN 55352
Scott County	Brad Davis	Planning Manager	200 4th Avenue W Shakopee, MN 55379
Lower Minnesota Watershed District	Joseph Barisonzi	President	112 East 5th Street, #102 Chaska, MN 55318
Lower Minnesota Watershed District	Janet Williams	Scott County Representative	112 East 5th Street, #102 Chaska, MN 55318
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa	Jaylen Strong	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	1500 Bois Forte Road, Tower, MN 55790
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Evan Shroeder	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	28 University Road, Cloquet, MN 55720
Grand Portage Band of Ojibwe	Rob Hull	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Po Box 428, Grand Portage, MN 55605
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	Gina Lemon	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	190 Sailstar Drive NW, Cass Lake, MN 56633
Lower Sioux Indian Community	Cheyenne St. John	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	39527 Reservation Hwy 1, Morton, MN 56270
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Mike Wilson	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	43408 Oodena Drive, Onamia, MN 56359
Prairie Island Indian Community	Noah White	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	5636 Sturgeon Lake Road, Welch, MN 55089
Red Lake Nation	George Branchaude	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	15484 Migizi Drive, Red Lake, MN 56671
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community	Leonard Wabasha	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	2330 Sioux Trail NW, Prior Lake, MN 55372
Upper Sioux Community	Samantha Odegard	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	PO Box 147, 5722 Travers Lane Granite Falls, MN 56241
White Earth Nation	Jacob Syverson	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	35500 Eagle View Road, Ogema, MN 56569
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council	John Reynolds	Cultural Resource Manager	161 St. Anthony Avenue, Ste. 940 St. Paul, MN 55103

**From:** Leffler, Paul M CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA) <Paul.M.Leffler@usace.army.mil>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 17, 2025 10:21 AM  
**To:** Beemer, Tyler <Tyler.Beemer@xcelenergy.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Xcel Energy - Blue Lake Battery Storage Project Notification

before opening links and attachments.

Hi Tyler,

I was able to look a little closer at the project location and there aren't any obvious wetlands or other waters on the site. If there are no aquatic resource impacts on the project then no permit would be necessary from our office. No further coordination with us would be necessary in that case.

it meets our General permit requirements.

Sincerely,

Paul M. Leffler  
Chief, South Branch  
Regulatory Division, St. Paul District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Phone: (312) 632-0381  
<https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>

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**From:** Leffler, Paul M CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 17, 2025 9:47 AM  
**To:** Konickson, Chad S CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA) <[chad.konickson@usace.army.mil](mailto:chad.konickson@usace.army.mil)>; Beemer, Tyler <[Tyler.Beemer@xcelenergy.com](mailto:Tyler.Beemer@xcelenergy.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Xcel Energy - Blue Lake Battery Storage Project Notification

Hi Tyler,

I'll send you a few dates later today that work for us. Thanks for reaching out!

Sincerely,

Paul M. Leffler  
Chief, South Branch  
Regulatory Division, St. Paul District

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Phone: (312) 632-0381

<https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>

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**From:** Konickson, Chad S CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA) <[chad.konickson@usace.army.mil](mailto:chad.konickson@usace.army.mil)>

**Sent:** Monday, March 17, 2025 9:28 AM

**To:** Beemer, Tyler <[Tyler.Beemer@xcelenergy.com](mailto:Tyler.Beemer@xcelenergy.com)>

**Cc:** Leffler, Paul M CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA) <[Paul.M.Leffler@usace.army.mil](mailto:Paul.M.Leffler@usace.army.mil)>

**Subject:** RE: Xcel Energy - Blue Lake Battery Storage Project Notification

Good morning, Tyler. Thank you for your message. I forwarded it to the Branch Chief for that area, Paul Leffler, requesting that he contact you to set up a pre-application meeting to discuss your proposal. You can expect to hear from Paul or someone on his team.

Have a great day.

Chad Konickson  
Chief, Regulatory Division

US Army Corps of Engineers  
St. Paul District  
332 Minnesota Street, Suite E1500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-1323  
651.290.5364

**From:** Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <stacy.kotch@state.mn.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 17, 2025 8:18 AM  
**To:** Beemer, Tyler <Tyler.Beemer@xcelenergy.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Xcel Energy - Blue Lake Battery Storage Project Notification

before opening links and attachments.

Good Morning, Mr. Beemer,

MnDOT is in receipt of your Project Notification email as shown below.

The proposed project, as currently shown, does not look to directly impact MnDOT trunk highways or areas of interest. Therefore, our usual request for a project introduction meeting followed by a specific project review process is not required at this time. If I am mistaken in this observation, please advise.

It is assumed that Xcel will utilize existing accesses from 70<sup>th</sup> St S for this Project as any access from US 169 will not be allowed due to Freeway Design/controlled access in the Project area (see map below).

With the possible exception of OSOW ([Minnesota Oversize/Overweight Permits - MnDOT](#)) permits that may be needed during project construction, MnDOT does not anticipate the need for coordination of any other utility accommodation, trunk highway access, or miscellaneous permits.



Approx TH ROW Limits =

Freeway Design & Special Conditions =

Please view the current MnDOT Metro District construction projects website at [Construction Projects, Plans, and Studies on Minnesota Highways - MnDOT](#) for any future projects that may affect the timing and construction of your proposed project. MnDOT's 10-Year Capital Highway Investment Plan (CHIP) may also be useful for project planning purposes: <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/planning/10yearplan/district-chip.html>

For the rail (Union Pacific Railroad Company [UP]) north of the Project area:  
 Railroads are private entities that conduct their own permitting process for utility impacts. MnDOT does not have jurisdiction in these areas. It is recommended that Project coordination occurs directly with the affected railroad.  
[Minnesota Rail Viewer Application \(MnRail\)](#)

Thank you for reaching out to MnDOT to engage in early Project coordination. If you have questions regarding my reply, please reach out.

**Stacy Kotch Egstad**

Utility Routing & Siting Coordinator | Office of Land Management

**Minnesota Department of Transportation**

395 John Ireland Blvd Mailstop 678

St. Paul, MN. 55155

651-358-0786

[Large Energy Facility Project Guidance - MnDOT \(state.mn.us\)](https://state.mn.us)



**From:** Beemer, Tyler  
**Sent:** Monday, March 17, 2025 10:25 AM  
**To:** Wolfgram, Jonathan (DPS) <[jonathan.wolfgram@state.mn.us](mailto:jonathan.wolfgram@state.mn.us)>  
**Cc:** Stansbury, Todd (DPS) <[todd.stansbury@state.mn.us](mailto:todd.stansbury@state.mn.us)>; Mendiola, Michael (DPS) <[michael.mendiola@state.mn.us](mailto:michael.mendiola@state.mn.us)>; Coffman, Thomas (DPS) <[thomas.coffman@state.mn.us](mailto:thomas.coffman@state.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: Xcel Energy - Blue Lake Battery Storage Project Notification

Jonathan,

There will be no natural gas pipeline infrastructure associated with the project. There is an existing natural gas pipeline to the east of the project area that is outside of the project boundary/parcel and isn't anticipated to be affected.

Thanks,

**Tyler Beemer**  
**Xcel Energy**  
Siting and Lang Rights Agent (Prof. Consultant Burns & McDonnell)  
414 Nicollet Mall, 7 Minneapolis, MN 55401  
P: 952.491.9470  
E: [tyler.beemer@xcelenergy.com](mailto:tyler.beemer@xcelenergy.com)

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**From:** Wolfgram, Jonathan (DPS) <[jonathan.wolfgram@state.mn.us](mailto:jonathan.wolfgram@state.mn.us)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 17, 2025 10:19 AM  
**To:** Beemer, Tyler <[Tyler.Beemer@xcelenergy.com](mailto:Tyler.Beemer@xcelenergy.com)>  
**Cc:** Stansbury, Todd (DPS) <[todd.stansbury@state.mn.us](mailto:todd.stansbury@state.mn.us)>; Mendiola, Michael (DPS) <[michael.mendiola@state.mn.us](mailto:michael.mendiola@state.mn.us)>; Coffman, Thomas (DPS) <[thomas.coffman@state.mn.us](mailto:thomas.coffman@state.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: Xcel Energy - Blue Lake Battery Storage Project Notification

Good morning Tyler,

Are you able to confirm whether there will be any natural gas pipeline infrastructure associated with this project?

Thank you,

**Jon Wolfgram, P.E.**  
*Deputy Director*

**From:** Beemer, Tyler  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 19, 2025 4:06 PM  
**To:** Marsh, Dawn S <dawn\_marsh@fws.gov>  
**Cc:** Tawes, Robert <robert\_tawes@fws.gov>; Galbraith, Betsy M <betsy\_galbraith@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Xcel Energy - Blue Lake Battery Storage Project Notification

Dawn,

There is no federal nexus for this project and we have begun evaluations for suitable habitat on protected species.

Thanks,

Tyler

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**From:** Marsh, Dawn S <dawn\_marsh@fws.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 19, 2025 8:32 AM  
**To:** Beemer, Tyler <Tyler.Beemer@xcelenergy.com>  
**Cc:** Tawes, Robert <robert\_tawes@fws.gov>; Galbraith, Betsy M <betsy\_galbraith@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Xcel Energy - Blue Lake Battery Storage Project Notification

Tyler,

Thank you for reaching out and for the early coordination on this project. I no longer work for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Field Office and have passed your request along to Field Office leadership for awareness. Due to workload constraints, it's unlikely staff will have the capacity for a standalone meeting to discuss the project. Is there a federal nexus (e.g., federal permits or funds) with this project?

I suggest using the IPaC tool to generate a species list, if you haven't already, and reviewing conservation measures for the [northern long-eared bat](#) and [rusty patched bumble bee](#).

Thank you,  
Dawn

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Dawn Marsh | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Deputy Program Manager  
3815 American Blvd. E., Bloomington, MN 55425  
Mobile: (612) 283-8054

**From:** Leonard Wabasha (TO) <[leonard.wabasha@shakopeedakota.org](mailto:leonard.wabasha@shakopeedakota.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 18, 2025 3:10 PM  
**To:** Clitty, Jordan R <[Jordan.R.Clitty@xcelenergy.com](mailto:Jordan.R.Clitty@xcelenergy.com)>  
**Cc:** [jrbathel7@yahoo.com](mailto:jrbathel7@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Blue Lake Energy Storage Facility

before opening links and attachments.

Dear Jordan Clitty

Thank you for the opportunity to consult on this proposed project. I am aware that there are significant archaeological sites in the Blue Lake area, please share the literature review with us when it is complete and if possible mark those locations on a map with the proposed development site to have a better understanding of the distance between the proposed site and the archaeological sites present. Thank you again and looking forward to working with you on this project, Have a Great Day!!



**LEONARD WABASHA**

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer • Cultural Resources  
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community  
d: 952.496.6120  
[shakopeedakota.org](http://shakopeedakota.org)  
[Leonard.Wabasha@shakopeedakota.org](mailto:Leonard.Wabasha@shakopeedakota.org)

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community is a federally recognized, sovereign Indian tribe located southwest of Minneapolis/St. Paul. With a focus on being a good neighbor, good steward of the earth, and good employer, the SMSC is committed to charitable donations, community partnerships, a healthy environment, and a strong economy.



## LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE

### *Tribal Historic Preservation Office*

*Gina M Lemon, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer*

*Anita M Cloud, Tribal Historic Preservation Assistant*

May 10, 2025

Via Internet

Xcel Energy  
Attn: Jordan R Clitty, Project Manager  
414 Nicollet Mall  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

**RE: Blue Lake Battery Storage Energy Storage Project.**

The project would consist of approximately 128 Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) enclosures and 32 Medium Voltage (MV) transformers. The MV transformer steps up voltage to 34.5 kV. After the voltage is stepped up at each BESS block, the MV cabling is collected in the project substation, where the voltage is once again stepped up to the transmission level of 115 kV through the Main Power Transformer included as part of this project.

1276 70<sup>th</sup> St.

Shakopee, MN 55379

Latitude: 44° 47' 24.0" N

Longitude: 93° 25' 37.2" W

**LL THPO No. 25-143-NCRI**

Dear Jordan R Clitty,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced project. This has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given to the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended in 1992, and the Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (38CFR800).

**I have reviewed the documentation. After careful consideration of our records, I have determined that the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe does not have any recorded historic properties, within this area. \*\* This does not mean there are not any cultural resources present, at this time. \*\***

**\*\*\*We at the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe support any other Tribe that may have concerns.**

Should any human remains or suspected human remains be encountered, all work shall cease and the following personnel should be notified immediately: County Sheriff's Office, Office of the State Archaeologist, and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe along with other interested parties.

Please note the above determination does not "exempt" future projects from Section 106 review. In the event of any other tribe notifying you of an issue or us (LLBO) of concerns for this specific project, we may reenter into the consultation process.

You may contact me at (218) 335-2940 if you have questions regarding our review of this project. Please refer to the **LL-THPO Number** as stated above in all correspondence with this project.

Respectfully submitted,

*Gina M Lemon*

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

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Leech Lake Tribal Historic Preservation Office - Established in 1996

190 Sailstar Drive NE \* Cass Lake, MN 56633

[Gina.lemon@llojibwe.net](mailto:Gina.lemon@llojibwe.net)



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**RE: Xcel Energy Blue Lake BESS Project**

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**From** Michael Kerski <MKerski@shakopeemn.gov>

**Date** Wed 6/4/2025 5:01 PM

**To** Swanson, Michelle M <michelle.m.swanson@xcelenergy.com>

**EXTERNAL - STOP & THINK** before opening links and attachments.

The city confirms that the PUC can handle the line and that the city will not require any approvals for this.

**Michael Kerski**

Director of Planning & Development

City of Shakopee

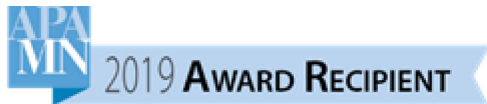
485 Gorman Street

Shakopee, MN 55379

Direct 952-233-9346

Cell 864-360-5473

[www.ShakopeeMN.gov](http://www.ShakopeeMN.gov)



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**From:** Swanson, Michelle M <michelle.m.swanson@xcelenergy.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 4, 2025 4:57 PM

**To:** Michael Kerski <MKerski@shakopeemn.gov>

**Subject:** Xcel Energy Blue Lake BESS Project

Michael,

As we discussed, the Xcel Energy Blue Lake BESS Project includes construction of a short, less than 500-foot 161 kV transmission line (the “gen-tie line”) connecting the new project substation to the adjacent, existing Blue Lake Substation. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission will be permitting the BESS under its siting authority in Minn. Stat. Ch. 216E. In our conversation, you confirmed that the City considers the gen-tie line to be an associated facility to the BESS, subject to the Commission’s permitting jurisdiction, and no separate approval is required from the City of Shakopee. We’d appreciate if you could respond to this email to confirm so that we can include this correspondence in our Site Permit Application.

Thanks,

Michelle

**Michelle Swanson**  
**Xcel Energy**

**Community Relations Manager**

**5309 West 70<sup>th</sup> Street, Edina, MN 55439**

**C: 612-965-7975 P: 952-380-2604**

**E: [michelle.m.swanson@xcelenergy.com](mailto:michelle.m.swanson@xcelenergy.com)**