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April 16, 2014

Burl W. Haar  
Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2147

**RE: Response of the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources to Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy's Reply Comments**  
Docket No. E,G002/M-14-185

Dear Dr. Haar:

In its April 1, 2014 comments in the above-referenced matter, the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources (Department) recommended that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) approve Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy's (Xcel Energy or the Company) petition in the above-referenced docket, but noted that Xcel Energy had neglected to provide certain information that was required by the Commission's June 3, 2013 Order in Docket No. E,G002/M-13-161. Xcel Energy provided the missing information in its April 11, 2014 reply comments.

The Department reviewed the information provided by Xcel Energy, and concludes that the record now contains all of the information required by the Commission's June 3, 2013 Order. The Department continues to recommend that the Commission approve Xcel Energy's proposed 2014-2015 natural gas State Energy Program Rider (SEP Rider) adjustment factor of \$0.002238, customer notice, and tariff update to incorporate the approved adjustment factor.

Consistent with past filings, the Department also continues to recommend that Xcel Energy provide the following information in the Company's next SEP Rider filing:

- A comparison by month for the past twelve months for which actual data is available of the actual natural gas SEP-related costs to the budgeted costs;
- A discussion of reasons for deviations from budgeted amounts (both higher and lower).

The Department is available to answer any questions that the Commission may have.

Sincerely,

/s/ SUSAN MEDHAUG  
Supervisor, Energy Regulation and Planning

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