

**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Ecological & Water Resources  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040**

February 11, 2026

Sasha Bergman  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East  
St. Paul, MN 55101

**RE: In the Matter of the Application of Xcel Energy for a Certificate of Need, Site Permit, Transmission Line Route Permit, and Pipeline Route Permit for the Lyon County Generating Station in Lyon County, Minnesota. Docket Numbers: G002/GS-25-154; E002/TL-25-161; G002/GP-25-163**

Ms. Bergman,

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA), draft site permit and draft route permits for Xcel Energy (Applicant) to construct the Lyon County Generating Station (Project). Based on the review of the EA and draft site permit and draft route permits, the DNR offers the following comments.

### **Water Appropriations**

The Project's water appropriation needs may require a General Permit for Temporary Appropriation to allow the Applicant to fill a water storage tank, which will be approximately 500,000 gallons, if groundwater pumped exceeds 10,000 gallons in a day. The Applicant should clarify the Project's water appropriation needs in their DNR Water Appropriation Permit application through the [MNDNR Permitting and Reporting System \(MPARS\)](#).

### **Vegetation Management Plan**

The DNR supports permit condition 5.3.10 of the draft route permit for the transmission lines, directing the Applicant to develop a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP). The DNR recommends a special condition is included in the route permit for the pipeline and the site permit similar to permit condition 5.3.10 of the draft route permit for the transmission lines. The special condition should direct the

Permittee to develop a VMP for all areas that do not contain permanent facilities within the project footprint.

The DNR appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Lyon County Generating Station. Please contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Martin Donovan  
Energy Review Planner  
[Martin.Donovan@state.mn.us](mailto:Martin.Donovan@state.mn.us)  
651-259-5402

CC: Haley Byron, DNR Regional Environmental Ecologist  
Samantha Bump, DNR Energy Review Planner  
Jim Sullivan, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

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