



August 31, 2023

Mr. Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
127 7th Place East, Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

RE: In The Matter of the Application for a Certificate of Need for the Proposed 345 kV Brookings County – Lyon County and Helena – Hampton Second Circuit Project
Docket No. E002/CN-23-200

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

On August 18, 2023, the Commission issued a Notice of Comment on Application Completeness and Variance request in the matter of:

**In The Matter of the Application for a Certificate of Need for the Proposed 345 kV
Brookings County – Lyon County and Helena – Hampton Second Circuit Project**

Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) staff has reviewed the certificate of need application filed by Xcel Energy and believes the application contains the environmental information required under Minn. R. 7849.0310, 7849.0330, and 7849.0340.

Xcel Energy plans to apply for a minor alteration to the existing Brookings to Hampton route permit (Docket No: ET2/TL 08-1474) in a timeframe that allows for contemporaneous review of the certificate of need and the minor alteration request. EERA anticipates making its recommendations on the minor alteration request after release of the Environmental Report for the certificate of need.

EERA staff is available to answer any questions the Commission may have.

Sincerely,
/s/ Suzanne Lamb Steinhauer

Suzanne Steinhauer
Environmental Review Manager
Energy Environmental Review and Analysis