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December 13, 2019

Public Advisor, Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: In the Matter of the Application for a Minor Alteration of Xcel Energy's 500 kV Transmission Line 5702 in Chisholm, Minnesota
PUC Docket No. E002/MC-19-758

On December 9th, 2019 the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) issued a Notice of Comment Period on Minor Alteration Application regarding Xcel Energy's 500 kV Transmission Line 5702 in Chisholm, Minnesota. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has reviewed the application and submits the following comments in response to the Notice.

MnDOT appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Minor Alteration Application. As previously stated by our agency, highway crossings by utilities, such as this proposed crossing of US 169, do not pose insurmountable difficulties in issuing a permit. These permits usually have conditions associated with them, such as ensuring that wires maintain a height that will not pose a hazard to the traveling public or maintenance employees. Highway crossings should occur as close to right angles as possible with pole placement located an adequate distance from highway rights of way. Given the potential effects of proposed, skewed crossing, Xcel Energy ensured that MnDOT was consulted as a part of the stakeholder group assisting in the development of the route prior to submitting the Minor Alteration Application. MnDOT understands the circumstances surrounding the need for the angle of the HVTL crossing and believes that issuing a Utility Accommodation Permit for this work affecting US 169 is feasible.

Should the Commission approve this alteration request, early coordination with MnDOT staff is recommended. All applicable permitting and traffic control coordination efforts should be done through MnDOT's District 1 Engineering Specialist, Wayne Scheer. Mr. Scheer can be reached at 218-725-2780 or Wayne.Scheer@state.mn.us.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,

Stacy Kotch Egstad

Utility Routing and Siting Coordinator
Minnesota Department of Transportation
Office of Land Management

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