

## NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD

*Issued: December 22, 2016*

### **In the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy for a Route Permit for the Black Dog Natural Gas Pipeline Project in Burnsville, Minnesota**

**PUC Docket Number: G002/GP-16-656**

**Comment Period:** Initial comment period closes January 9, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

Reply comment period closes January 16, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

*Comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. on the close date. Comments received after the comment periods close may not be considered. The reply comment period is intended to be for responsive comments. Any new factual or material information filed in the reply period will be handled accordingly.*

#### **Topics Open for Comment:**

Please focus your comments on information that will help answer the following questions:

1. Does this proposed project have a significant impact on humans or the environment?
2. Should the Commission grant or deny the partial exemption requested by Xcel Energy?
3. Are the Commission's general pipeline permit conditions reasonable for this project?
4. Should any specific permit conditions be placed on this project?
5. Are there other project-related issues or concerns?

**Project Background:** Northern States Power Company (d/b/a Xcel Energy) is proposing to construct an approximately 2.2 mile long, 16-inch outside-diameter, high pressure (650 psig) natural gas pipeline from the Northern Natural Gas Company Cedar Station in Eagan to Northern States Power Company's Black Dog Generating Plant in Burnsville. The Commission accepted the application for approval of a partial exemption and a request for a route permit on September 30, 2016. The Commission held a public meeting to solicit input on the proposal on November 2, 2016. Following the public meeting, comments were received on the application until November 30, 2016.

Due to concerns of several state agencies and interested entities, Xcel submitted a letter on December 8, 2016 requesting to file a supplement with further information about the project and waiving the 90-day statutory deadline for a Commission decision. The supplement was filed by Xcel on December 21, 2016. With this notice the Commission is establishing an additional comment period on the partial exemption request and potential route permit issuance. In the interim, the Commission will hear this matter on

January 5, 2017 (during the open comment period) to discuss process related issues. Any necessary updates will be filed in the record as a result of that hearing.

**Minnesota Statute and Rules:** This project is being reviewed under Minnesota Statute 216G and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7852, available at [www.revisor.mn.gov](http://www.revisor.mn.gov).

**Filing Requirements:** Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are **required** to file documents using the Commission's electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants and interested persons are encouraged to use eFiling: [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *eFiling*, and follow the prompts.

**Submit Public Comments:** Visit [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *Speak Up!*, find this docket, and add your comments to the discussion.

- *If you wish to include an exhibit, map or other attachment, please send your comments via U.S. Mail or via eFiling.*

Send U.S. Mail to Public Utilities Commission, 121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul MN 55101. Please include the Commission's docket number in all communications.

**Full Case Record:** See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission's website at: [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (*16*) and the docket number (*656*), select *Search*.

**Subscribe** to receive email notification when new documents are filed in this docket at: [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *Subscribe*, and follow the prompts.

**Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure?** Contact Commission staff, Tricia DeBleeckere, at [tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us](mailto:tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2254.

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