March 21, 2012

--Via Electronic Filing--

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN  55101

RE: NOTICE PLAN COMPLIANCE FILING
SCOTT COUNTY – STRUCTURE #57 115/115 kV CONVERSION AND
STRUCTURE #57 – WESTGATE 115 kV UPGRADE
DOCKET NO. E002/CN-11-332

Dear Dr. Haar:

Attached is Xcel Energy’s Notice Plan Compliance filing in the above referenced docket. The compliance filing demonstrates that we have fulfilled all of the notice elements of our Plan as required.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact me at 612-330-6750.

SINCERELY,

/s/

MARK SUEL
Regulatory Case Specialist

Enclosure
APPLICATION TO THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF NEED FOR THE SCOTT COUNTY – STRUCTURE #57 115/115 kV CONVERSION AND STRUCTURE #57 – WESTGATE 115 kV UPGRADE

I. INTRODUCTION
Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (“Company”), submits this Notice Plan compliance filing to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) as required by Minnesota Rules 7829.2500 and 7829.2550. This compliance filing confirms that all required notices have been given in advance of submitting a Certificate of Need application to remove the existing 69 kV transmission line between the double circuit Structure #57 of Line #5516 (north of the Bluff Creek Substation) and the Westgate Substation and replace it with a new 115 kV transmission line near the cities of Chanhassen, Shorewood, Excelsior, Deephaven, Greenwood, Minnetonka, and Eden Prairie, Minnesota. The Certificate of Need application was filed on March 9, 2012.

II. NOTICE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION
In its August 8, 2011 Order, the Commission approved the Company’s Notice Plan with modification and granted a variance from Minnesota Rules 7829.2550, subpart 6, which requires notice plan implementation within 30 days of an Order approving the plan. The Commission agreed that the Notice Plan should instead be implemented closer to the date that the Company submitted its Certificate of Need Application. In accordance with the
Commission’s directive, we implemented notice as required by Minn. R. 7829.2550. The following notice plan elements were fulfilled in anticipation of filing a Certificate of Need application in March of 2012.

**Direct Mail Notice to Government Officials**
On February 22, 2012, the Company sent direct mail notice to approximately 10 city and county officials within Carver and Hennepin Counties. The list of notified officials is included in this filing as Attachment A. Minn. R. 7829.2550 Subp. 3(C)

**Direct Mail Notice to Landowners and Residents**
On February 22, 2012, direct mail notice was sent to approximately 8,000 residents and landowners located in Carver, Hennepin, and Scott Counties. This included notice to an expanded area of residents and landowners in the southwest area of the project corridor to ensure that all parties that may be interested in this proposed project would be made aware of it. This approach was discussed with Commission staff. The list of notified residents and landowners is included in this filing as Attachment B. Minn. R. 7829.2550 Subp. 3(A) and (B)

**Notice Materials**
Included in the notice sent to officials, landowners, and residents was an informational letter and a project corridor notice map. A copy of the notice materials that were sent to parties is included in this filing as Attachment C. Minn. R. 7829.2550 Subp. 4

**Newspaper Notice**
Newspaper advertisements announcing the transmission line project were run in local and statewide papers during the period from February 27, 2012 through March 1, 2012. Statewide ads were run in the Minneapolis Star Tribune and the St. Paul Pioneer Press. Local ads were run statewide and within the project area. A list of the newspapers with associated invoice, a copy of the ad and affidavit of publication are included in this filing as Attachment D. Minn. R. 7829.2550 Subp. 3(D)
III. **CONCLUSION**
The Company submits this Compliance Filing demonstrating that we have fulfilled all of the notice elements of our Plan as required.

Dated: March 21, 2012

Respectfully Submitted,

Northern States Power Company
d/b/a Xcel Energy

/s/

Paul J. Lehman
Manager Regulatory Administration
Carver County Administrator  
600 East Fourth St.  
Chaska, MN 55318

Greenwood City Administrator  
20225 Cottagewood Rd.  
Deephaven, MN 55331

Chanhassen City Administrator  
City of Chanhassen  
7700 Market Blvd.  
Chanhassen, MN 55317

County Administrator  
Hennepin County Government Center  
300 S. Sixth St.  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Shorewood City Administrator  
City of Shorewood  
5755 Country Club Rd.  
Shorewood, MN 55331

Excelsior City Administrator  
City of Excelsior  
339 3rd St.  
Excelsior, MN 55331

Minnetonka City Administrator  
Minnetonka City Hall  
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Deephaven City Administrator  
20225 Cottagewood Rd.  
Deephaven, MN 55331

Eden Prairie City Administrator  
8080 Mitchell Road  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344
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Re: Notice of Certificate of Need proceedings to upgrade the Southwest Twin Cities (SWTC) Bluff Creek-Westgate 69 kV Transmission Line to 115 kV Capacity near the Cities of Chanhassen, Excelsior, Greenwood, Deephaven, Shorewood, Minnetonka, and Eden Prairie located in Carver and Hennepin Counties

Dear Local Official:

My name is Paul Lehman. I manage regulatory projects for Xcel Energy. I am writing on behalf of Xcel Energy to inform you of our proposal to upgrade approximately 14 miles of an existing high voltage transmission line and to upgrade two existing substations that may be located in your area. I also explain the regulatory process that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“the Commission”) will follow in determining whether this project is needed and the various opportunities you will have to participate in the regulatory process.

Proposed 115 Kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Upgrade
This project is needed to ensure reliable and stable electric service in the Chanhassen, Shorewood, Excelsior, Greenwood, Deephaven, Minnetonka and Eden Prairie areas of the southwest Twin Cities. The project is also needed to allow future growth and development in the area.

Our plan to meet area electricity needs includes upgrading the Bluff Creek to Westgate transmission line from 69 kV to 115 kV capacity and to upgrade two substations to 115 kV capacity. We propose the following upgrades:

- Converting approximately 3.6 miles of 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV transmission line between the Bluff Creek and Excelsior Substations
- Converting approximately 3 miles of 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV capacity between the Excelsior and Deephaven Substations
- Converting approximately 7.5 miles of 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV capacity between the Deephaven and Westgate Substations
• Upgrading the Excelsior and Deephaven Substations to 115 kV capacity
• Change the voltage of approximately 5.3 miles of 115/69 kV transmission line to 115/115 kV operation between the Scott County Substation to a point just north of the Bluff Creek Substation

The attached map illustrates the proposed project. The transmission line that we propose to upgrade is illustrated by the red dashed line. The brown dashed line represents an alternative route that would replace approximately 4 miles of the existing line from the Excelsior Substation to the Deephaven Substation. Existing Substations are identified by name on the map.

Xcel Energy continuously repairs, upgrades and adds new facilities to its system in communities throughout the state to maintain reliable service for its customers. The project we propose here is part of a larger effort to ensure reliable electric service throughout the southwest Twin Cities.

We propose to upgrade approximately 14 miles of transmission line along existing right-of-way. Some of the existing poles would be removed and replaced with steel structures that are capable of supporting the larger transmission line. Typically, 115 kV transmission lines use wood or steel poles that are 60- to 80 feet tall and spaced about 300 to 400 feet apart within a right-of-way that is about 75 feet wide. In the event that new right-of-way is required for this project, we will work with landowners to purchase property rights, known as an easement, in order to construct any new segment of transmission line that may be needed. If easement terms cannot be reached, we can then submit the dispute to the eminent domain process.

I wish to stress the fact that no part of our proposal has been approved and no construction has taken place. Again, no routing or construction decisions have been made at this stage of the process. This letter is intended to provide you with early notice of our plans so that you can discuss this important energy project with your constituents. We have also sent notice to all potentially affected parties within the shaded area on the enclosed notice map. I hope you will consider taking time to participate in the regulatory process that will ultimately determine if and where these lines are constructed.

**Regulatory Information**
Two regulatory steps must be taken before any transmission line upgrades can begin. First, the Commission must determine whether the upgrade is needed.
The Commission will base its determination on a thorough review of our application and input received from the public. If the Commission determines that the transmission project is needed, the second step is to determine where the line should be built. The transmission line cannot be constructed unless the Commission issues both a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit.

As part of the Certificate of Need process, the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources will solicit public comment and prepare an Environmental Report. Additional environmental review will take place during the routing process. The routing process will consider environmental, land use, and other potential routing impacts. Again, I encourage you to participate and to share your views.

**Citizen Participation & Contact Information**
Both the Certificate of Need and Routing processes emphasize public participation. There will be public meetings and hearings in your area during the coming months so that you can participate in this important energy infrastructure decision. Notice of these meetings and hearings will be published in local newspapers and will also be available at the Commission’s web site ([www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us)). You can also learn more about transmission planning in your area by visiting the Minnesota Electric Transmission Planning website at [www.minnelectrans.com](http://www.minnelectrans.com).

The Certificate of Need process is governed by Minnesota Statutes § 216B.243, and Minnesota Rules Chapters 4410, 7829, and 7849. The Route Permit process is governed by Minnesota Statutes § 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7849. You can review these regulations at [www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us](http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us).

The application for these lines, as well as other regulatory filings related to our proposal, will be posted at [www.xcelenergy.com](http://www.xcelenergy.com). You can also add your name to the official state agency mailing lists to receive information. The mailing address and related information to do so is provided at the end of this letter.

Please note that the Certificate of Need process and the Routing process are separate. In other words, decisions about the need for the upgrade will be determined during the Need process. Decisions about the location of the transmission line will be made during the Routing process. Although the Company plans to upgrade the existing transmission line along existing right-of-way, the Commission must ultimately determine if the existing right-of-way or a new line location is in the public interest.

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission will reference the Certificate of Need proceeding for our proposal as Docket No.E002/CN-11-332, *In the*
Matter of the Application of Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota Corporation, for a Certificate of Need to Upgrade the Southwest Twin Cities (SWTC) Bluff Creek-Westgate Transmission line from 69 kV to 115 kV Capacity.

Please feel free to contact any of the individuals below for more information.

Certificate of Need Process
Bret Eknes
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101
Bret.eknes@state.mn.us
651-201-2236

Routing & Environmental Review
Deborah Pile
Minnesota Division of Energy Resources
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101
Deborah.pile@state.mn.us
651-297-2375

Xcel Energy Contact
Paul J. Lehman
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401
612-330-7529
Paul.Lehman@Xcelenergy.com

I’m sure your constituents will have questions. We would be happy to meet with you and other local officials to discuss our proposal. Please feel free to contact me at 612-330-7529 if you have questions or if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Lehman
Manager, Regulatory Administration
Enclosure
Re: Notice of Certificate of Need proceedings to upgrade the Southwest Twin Cities (SWTC) Bluff Creek- Westgate 69 kV Transmission Line to 115 kV Capacity near the Cities of Chanhassen, Excelsior, Greenwood, Deephaven, Shorewood, Minnetonka, and Eden Prairie located in Carver and Hennepin Counties

Dear Local Resident/Land Owner:

My name is Paul Lehman. I manage regulatory projects for Xcel Energy. I am writing on behalf of Xcel Energy to inform you of our proposal to upgrade approximately 14 miles of an existing high voltage transmission line and to upgrade two existing substations that may be located in your area. I also explain the regulatory process that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“the Commission”) will follow in determining whether this project is needed and the various opportunities you will have to participate in the regulatory process.

Proposed 115 Kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Upgrade
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We propose to upgrade approximately 14 miles of transmission line along existing right-of-way. Some of the existing poles would be removed and replaced with steel structures that are capable of supporting the larger transmission line. Typically, 115 kV transmission lines use wood or steel poles that are 60- to 80 feet tall and spaced about 300 to 400 feet apart within a right-of-way that is about 75 feet wide. In the event that new right-of-way is required for this project, we will work with landowners to purchase property rights, known as an easement, in order to construct any new segment of transmission line that may be needed. If easement terms cannot be reached, we can then submit the dispute to the eminent domain process.

I wish to stress the fact that no part of our proposal has been approved and no construction has taken place. Again, no routing or construction decisions have been made at this stage of the process. This letter is intended to provide you with early notice of our plans so that you can participate in the decision making process for this important energy project. I hope you will consider taking time to participate in the regulatory process that will ultimately determine if and where these lines are constructed.

**Regulatory Information**

Two regulatory steps must be taken before any transmission line upgrades can begin. First, the Commission must determine whether the upgrade is needed. The Commission will base its determination on a thorough review of our
application and input received from the public. If the Commission determines that the transmission project is needed, the second step is to determine where the line should be built. The transmission line cannot be constructed unless the Commission issues both a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit.

As part of the Certificate of Need process, the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources will solicit public comment and prepare an Environmental Report. Additional environmental review will take place during the routing process. The routing process will consider environmental, land use, and other potential routing impacts. Again, I encourage you to participate and to share your views.

**Citizen Participation & Contact Information**

Both the Certificate of Need and Routing processes emphasize public participation. There will be public meetings and hearings in your area during the coming months so that you can participate in this important energy infrastructure decision. Notice of these meetings and hearings will be published in local newspapers and will also be available at the Commission’s web site ([www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us)). You can also learn more about transmission planning in your area by visiting the Minnesota Electric Transmission Planning website at [www.minnelectrans.com](http://www.minnelectrans.com).

The Certificate of Need process is governed by Minnesota Statutes § 216B.243, and Minnesota Rules Chapters 4410, 7829, and 7849. The Route Permit process is governed by Minnesota Statutes § 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7849. You can review these regulations at [www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us](http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us). The application for these lines, as well as other regulatory filings related to our proposal, will be posted at [www.xcelenergy.com](http://www.xcelenergy.com). You can also add your name to the official state agency mailing lists to receive information. The mailing address and related information to do so is provided at the end of this letter.

Please note that the Certificate of Need process and the Routing process are separate. In other words, decisions about the need for the upgrade will be determined during the Need process. Decisions about the location of the transmission line will be made during the Routing process. Although the Company plans to upgrade the existing transmission line along existing right-of-way, the Commission must ultimately determine if the existing right-of-way or a new line location is in the public interest.

for a Certificate of Need to Upgrade the Southwest Twin Cities (SWTC) Bluff Creek-Westgate Transmission line from 69 kV to 115 kV Capacity.

Please feel free to contact any of the individuals below for more information.

**Certificate of Need Process**
Bret Eknes  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7th Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
Bret.eknes@state.mn.us  
651-201-2236

**Routing & Environmental Review**  
Deborah Pile  
Minnesota Division of Energy Resources  
85 7th Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
Deborah.pile@state.mn.us  
651-297-2375

**Xcel Energy Contact**  
Timothy G. Rogers  
250 Marquette Plaza  
Minneapolis, MN  
612-330-1955  
Timothy.G.Rogers@xcelenergy.com

Sincerely,

Paul J. Lehman  
Manager, Regulatory Administration

Enclosures
Southwest Twin Cities (SWTC)
115 kV Transmission Line Upgrades to the Scott Co - Westgate 69 kV System

Legend
- Xcel Transmission Upgrade Rebuild
- Xcel Transmission Alternate Route
- Xcel Owned Substation
- Notice Area
- County Boundary

Notice Area
1,000 ft.

Scott Co Substation
Westgate Substation
Bluff Creek Substation
Excelsior Substation
Deephaven Substation
Notice Area

Carver County
Shorewood
Minnetonka Beach
Tonka Bay
Woodland
Minnetonka
Victoria
Carver County
Eden Prairie
Hennepin County
Hopkins

Notice Area
1,000 ft.

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Hopkins

Notice Area
1,000 ft.
ATTACHMENT D
NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT MATERIALS
Minnesota Newspaper Association
12 South Sixth Street Suite 1120
Minneapolis, MN 55402
612-332-8844

Affidavit of Publication

The Minnesota Newspaper Association verifies that the ad for

Southwest Twin Cities Bluff Creek - Transmission Line upgrade

Ran in the papers listed on the attached invoice

By: ____________

Date: 3/15/12

Managing Director

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 15th day of March 2012.
Notary: ____________
My Commission Expires January 31, 2015
### INVOICE
March 15, 2012

**Order:** 12031XX2  
**Invoice#:** 1377

**Advertiser:** Xcel Energy 233992

**Amount Due:** $25,001.64

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**Gross Advertising:** $29,414.44  
**Total Misc:** $0.00  
**Amount Paid:** $0.00  
**Unbilled:** $25,001.64  
**Balance Due:** $25,001.64
Xcel Energy Transmission Line Upgrade Notice

Xcel Energy Proposes to upgrade the Southwest Twin Cities (SWTC) Bluff Creek - Westgate 69 kV Transmission Line to 115 kV Capacity near the Cities of Chanhassen, Excelsior, Greenwood, Deephaven, Shorewood, Minnetonka, and Eden Prairie located in Carver and Hennepin Counties

Proposal
Northern States Power Company ("Xcel Energy") proposes to upgrade approximately 14 miles of the existing Bluff Creek to Westgate transmission line from 89 kilovolt ("kV") to 115 kV capacity along existing right-of-way; two existing substations would also be upgraded to 115 kV capacity. An alternative route for a segment of the line is also being presented for consideration. Approximately 4 miles of the existing line could be re-routed along Highway 7 and Vine Hill Road. This project is needed to provide reliable and stable electric service to allow future growth and development in the southwest Twin Cities. The 115 kV upgrades will require a Certificate of Need ("CON") from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ("Commission"). The transmission line is located in portions of Carver and Hennepin counties. Following is a description of the proposed transmission upgrades:

- Converting approximately 14 miles of existing 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV capacity from the Bluff Creek Substation to the Excelsior Substation; from the Excelsior Substation to the Deephaven Substation and; from the Deephaven Substation to the Westgate Substation
- Upgrading the Excelsior and Deephaven Substations to 115 kV capacity
- Change the voltage of approximately 5.3 miles of 115/69 kV transmission line to 115/115 kV operation between the Scott County Substation to a point just north of the Bluff Creek Substation

Transmission Planning
Minnesota utilities have posted biennial transmission plans at www.minnelectric.com. The 2009 plan includes a brief discussion of our proposal. Project information will also be posted at Xcel Energy's web site at www.xcelenergy.com.

Routing & Environmental Review
Deborah Pile
Minnesota Division of Energy Resources
65 7th Place E., Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
651-297-2375
Deborah.pile@state.mn.us

Public Process
Before this line can be upgraded, the Commission must certify that it is needed by issuing a Certificate of Need and then determine where the transmission line should be routed by issuing a Route Permit. Xcel Energy plans to submit a Certificate of Need application to the Commission in the next 30 days. As part of the Certificate of Need process, the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources will prepare an environmental report. Minnesota Statutes §216B.244, and Minnesota Rules Chapters 441 O, 7829, and 7849 govern requests for Certificates of Need for high-voltage transmission lines. Minnesota Statutes §216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7849 governs requests for Route Permits.

Both the Certificates of Need and Routing processes emphasize public participation. You can provide written comments to the Commission at several points in the process, and there will be public meetings and hearings in your area during the coming year. We encourage you to get involved in these important electric energy decisions.

Xcel Energy Representative
Paul J Lehman
Manager, Regulatory Administration
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401
612-330-7529
Paul.Lehman@Xcelenergy.com

Project Information
We propose to upgrade approximately 14 miles of transmission line along existing right of way. Some of the existing poles would be removed and replaced with steel structures that are capable of supporting the larger transmission line. Typically, 115 kV transmission lines use wood or steel poles that are 60- to 60 feet tall and spaced about 300 to 350 feet apart within a right-of-way that is about 75 feet wide. In the event that new right-of-way is required for this project, we will work with landowners to purchase property rights, known as an easement, in order to construct any new segment of transmission line that may be needed. If easement terms cannot be reached, we can then submit the dispute to the eminent domain process.

Deborah Pile
Minnesota Division of Energy Resources
65 7th Place E., Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
651-297-2375
Deborah.pile@state.mn.us

We look forward to working with you.
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Mark Suel, hereby certify that I have this day served copies of the foregoing document on the attached list of persons by delivery by hand, electronically or by causing to be placed in the U.S. mail at Minneapolis, Minnesota.

DOCKET NO. E002/CN-11-332

Dated this 21st day of March 2012

/s/

Mark Suel
<table>
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<tr>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Company Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Delivery Method</th>
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<td>Christopher</td>
<td>Clark</td>
<td><a href="mailto:christopher.b.clark@xcelenergy.com">christopher.b.clark@xcelenergy.com</a></td>
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<td>5th Floor 414 Nicollet Mall Minneapolis, MN 554011993</td>
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<td>Sharon</td>
<td>Ferguson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us">sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us</a></td>
<td>Department of Commerce</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alan</td>
<td>Jenkins</td>
<td><a href="mailto:aj@jenkinsatlaw.com">aj@jenkinsatlaw.com</a></td>
<td>Jenkins at Law</td>
<td>2205 Roswell Road Suite 100 Marietta, GA 30062</td>
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<td>Byron E.</td>
<td>Starns</td>
<td><a href="mailto:byron.starns@leonard.com">byron.starns@leonard.com</a></td>
<td>Leonard Street and Deinard</td>
<td>150 South 5th Street Suite 2300 Minneapolis, MN 55402</td>
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