



414 Nicollet Mail
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401.1993

May 3, 2001

Mr. William Goff
City Planner
City of South St. Paul
125 3rd Avenue North
South St. Paul, MN 55075

Re: Conditional Use Permit-Application
Southeast Metro Electric System Upgrade
Lines 0818/5529

Dear Mr. Goff:

This letter is to formally apply for a conditional use permit from the City of South St. Paul for Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy to upgrade its existing transmission system within the City. This upgrade involves rebuilding line 0818 to add a second 115kV circuit. A route map of the existing line is included with this application as Exhibit A.

Project Need

Without the proposed line improvements, several outage conditions will cause overload of the existing 115 kV lines in this area by 2004. To eliminate the transmission system deficiencies, Xcel proposes: to add a second 11.5kV circuit between the Red Rock and Rogers Lake Substation in Mendota Heights. This would establish two, independent circuits between Red Rock and Rogers Lake Substation. The addition of the second circuit will prevent loss of electrical service in the event of failure of the existing line.

Existing Line

The existing 115kV transmission line (line 0818) was originally constructed in the early 1920's. Most of the original structures and the-conductors have been replaced in later years and the alignment of the line has been modified in several locations. The existing line is primarily supported by wooden H-frame structures and lattice steel structures. Aerial photographs of the existing line, including pole structures, is provided in Exhibit B.

Project Proposal_

Xcel Energy proposes to double-circuit the existing transmission line in order to have the transmission facilities necessary to continue providing reliable electrical power to *customers in the southeast suburban Minneapolis-St. Paul area. The proposed improvements include installing a second set of conductors on the existing structures crossing the Mississippi River from Red Rock (Newport, MN) to Stockyards' (South; St. Paul, MN) substations, As shown in Exhibit C: From the Stockyards substation easterly within South St. Paul the existing line would be removed and replaced with a double-circuit 115kV line on tubular steel poles. The new steel pole structures are proposed to be located within 10 feet of the existing poles. A typical section of a steel pole is provided in Exhibit D.*

The existing line may also need to be rerouted across and adjacent to the Van Hoven Company, Inc. at 505 Hardman Avenue South. The property owner has indicated an interest in routing the line along or next to the perimeter of his property to better accommodate the use of his property. Xcel Energy is requesting approval to be able to reroute the line, if necessary, in the vicinity of this property with this application, as shown in Exhibit E.

Project Data

Electrical Size: 115,000 volts (115kV) (Same as existing line)
Right-of-Way: Existing right-of-way, except for Van Hoven property
Structures: Double circuit steel poles at existing structure locations (within 10 feet)
Height: Approximately 1.00 ft.; 140 [ft. at](#) Mississippi River crossing
Span: Approximately 500 ft.

Project Timeline

The proposed construction timeline is:

Phase I

- Red Rock/Rogers Lake (September 2001 to January 2002)
- Stockyards (January 2002 to Spring 2002)
- Foundations (January 2002 to June 2002)
- Line Installation for Red Rock to Stockyards (April 2002 to May 2002)*

may change to October 2003 if steel is not available before May 2002

Phase II

Line Replacements (October 2002 through May 2003)

Necessary Approvals and Status

Northern States Power Company applied for a conditional use permit. with the City of Mendota Heights on March 2, 1999. Following public hearings on the application, citizens from the area petitioned for an environmental assessment worksheet (EAW) and NSP voluntarily prepared an EAW. The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) made a negative declaration ordering that they had determined that the proposed Southeast Metro 115kV Transmission Line Project does not have the. potential for significant environmental .effects. Therefore, an environmental impact statement was not required. A copy of the negative declaration is provided in Exhibit F.

Following the EQB's negative declaration, the Cities of Sunfish Lake, Mendota Heights, and South St. Paul agreed to form a Transmission Line Steering Committee to further *study the issue. Commonwealth Associates, Inc. of Jackson, Michigan, was retained by* the Steering Committee as an independent consultant to review alternatives to the proposed project. The Steering Committee concluded its work on March 22, 2001 and allowed until April 5, 2001 for additional comments., The City is in receipt of the' consultant's review and the Steering Committee's report. Xcel Energy is in the process of obtaining the required conditional use permits

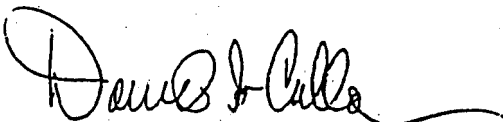
from South St. Paul, Mendota Heights and Sunfish Lake. Engineering and construction plans to acquire the applicable permits

from the Corps of Army Engineers, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will be obtained after the conditional use permit process.

The completion of this project will provide reliable transmission supply to the City and the surrounding area. It will meet electrical growth demand and prevent unacceptable risk of power outages with minimal impact to the community. The project will allow the addition of the new circuit by combining it with the existing transmission line on new structures within existing right-of-way and land owned by NSP, d/b/a Xcel Energy, for utility facilities. Xcel Energy will contact and work with affected landowners during the project and will repair or compensate landowners for damage caused by construction.

Northern States. Power Company d/b/a as Xcel Energy makes this application in compliance with the City's statutory zoning authority which allows for review of this *facility in order to meet applicable zoning requirements. However, by this application,* Xcel. Energy does not waive or subordinate its right to develop and construct the proposed transmission line project pursuant to its eminent domain authority.

Sincerely,



David G. Callahan SR/WA
Team Lead
Siting and Land Rights