Roger R. Conant
2 Sunfish Lane
Sunfish Lake, MN 55118

May 28, 1999

Mr. Jack Sjoholm
Senior Counsel
Law Department
Northern State Power
414 Nichollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Dear Jack,

I am writing you in your capacity as a senior official at Northern States Power regarding a dangerous situation that NSP needs to address.

One of my neighbors, Melissa Prueher, lives within 50 feet of the transmission power line that runs through Sunfish Lake. About a month ago, she and her husband measured the EMF radiation in their home using NSP supplied equipment. She measured more than 30 mG in her bedroom. Since the Spring is not a peak period for electric use, it is likely that the intensity of EMF radiation is substantially higher in the summer.

Mrs. Prueher has suffered four miscarriages while living in her current residence and, consequently, being exposed to the very high EMF levels described above. She suffered a fifth miscarriage in her previous residence, which is also located adjacent to a high-voltage transmission line. In short, all five lost babies were irradiated in the womb by high levels of EMF emanated from your power lines.

In its recent letter to me, NSP's claimed that "the cumulative result of these [recent] studies has failed to conclude that there are harmful effects from powerlines." This statement is misleading in general and disingenuous with respect to such specific harmful manifestations as miscarriages. The two recent seminal reviews of the health effects of EMF are the NIH's EMFRapid Study (1998) and the National Academy of Science's Study on the Possible Health Effects of EMF (1997). Both review the relationship between exposure to EMF from transmission power lines and miscarriages. Probably because it is extraordinarily rare for electric companies to operate power lines that radiate high EMF into private homes, the two reviews found only a few relevant studies. *All of the studies identified by the NIH and the National Academy found statistically significant relationships between EMF from power lines and miscarriages.* They found these relationships at levels of EMF lower than that experienced by Mrs. Prueher. In short, the available recent evidence suggests that power line EMF induces miscarriages.

Mrs. Prueher is again pregnant.

Because all available recent evidence examined by these two major research reviews suggests a positive relationship between EMF and miscarriages, and because Mrs. Prueher has already experienced five miscarriages while being exposed to high levels of EMF from your transmission power lines, it is imperative that you immediately shut down the line that runs by Mrs. Prueher's house! You are already planning to shut down this line in conjunction with the construction of a new power line on the same right of way, so clearly there is no acceptable reason to defer the shutdown.

Five babies have already been lost after being exposed to high levels of EMF radiated from your power lines. It is intolerable for NSP to cause through its inaction the loss of a sixth infant.

Sincerely,

cc: Mrs. Melissa Prueher, The Environmental Quality Board