

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS  
FOR THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Application of  
Great River Energy, Northern States  
Power Company (d/b/a Xcel Energy)  
and others for Certificates of Need for  
the Cap X 345-kV Transmission  
Projects

MPUC Docket No. ET-2, E-002, et  
al./CN-06-1115

OAH Docket No. 15-2500-19350-2

**AFFIDAVIT OF TIMOTHY S.  
CARLSGAARD**

Timothy S. Carlsgaard, under oath, states:

1. I am an employee of Xcel Energy Services Inc. My current position is CapX2020 Communications and Public Affairs Manager. I am primarily responsible for implementing the public communications and outreach aspects of the CapX2020 transmission expansion program. I have been in my position for about one year.

2. Applicants provided several communications to approximately 73,000 landowners and 565 local government officials throughout the State to encourage participation in this proceeding. In July 2007, we sent a notice of filing the Certificate of Need Application. In August 2007, we provided this same list with an invitation and schedule of the open houses that Applicants volunteered to host early in the process. Newspaper ads were run in 106 newspapers. On November 16, 2007, we sent a brief progress report to this same list advising this group of people of the upcoming 10 Department of Commerce public information scoping meetings. The three communications that were sent to the list of 73,000, as well as the 565 local government officials, are attached as Exhibits 1, 2, and 3. In addition, we sent a fourth mailing to about 7,000 landowners in the Fargo corridor in October 2007, concerning a second group of three open houses we hosted in October. This mailing is attached as Exhibit 4.

3. In addition to the direct mailings described above, CapX2020 has issued two press releases. On August 16, 2007 a press release was issued state-wide announcing the filing of the Certificate of Need Application. On September 5, 2007 we issued a press release to selected papers along the proposed project corridors announcing our open houses. In addition we conducted extensive outreach with members of the media (phone calls and emails) for both the open houses and the Department of Commerce public information scoping meetings. The press releases are attached as Exhibit 5.

4. The CapX2020 utilities hosted 24 open houses in September and October with invitations being mailed to nearly 565 local government officials and approximately 73,000 landowners the week of August 27th. Newspaper ads ran in 40 papers between September 2-22, 2007 and in nine newspapers between October 10-18, 2007. Open house meetings were held in Fergus Falls, Moorhead, Alexandria, Brainerd, Melrose, Barrett, Clearwater, Wahpeton (ND), Wheaton, Belgrade, Winona, Rochester, Wabasha, Red Wing, Northfield, Lakeville, Hendricks, Marshall, Granite Falls, Olivia, Redwood Falls, Arlington, Glencoe, and New Prague, Minnesota.

5. In the past nine months, we have conducted more than 100 meetings/presentations with local government officials including at least one meeting with county commissioners in every county in the three corridors. In addition to the county commissioners, we have met with township boards and mayors and/or city administrators in the major cities along the routes, such as Rochester, Alexandria, and La Crosse. We have made presentations at the district meetings of the Association of Minnesota Townships and set up a CapX2020 display and attended the League of Minnesota Cities annual conference and the annual state meetings of county commissioners, Townships and major farm groups.

6. The CapX2020 utilities participated in three public meetings organized by community groups in Dakota County (10/25/07), Eureka Township (11/28/07) and Avon Hills (1/8/08).

7. After the Department set the schedule for the public information scoping meetings associated with the Environmental Report, we sent information on the dates and times of those meetings to the list of 73,000 and the 565 local government officials. Exhibit 3. This information was sent out on November 16, 2007 to ensure that it arrived to the whole list more than 10 days ahead of any of the Department's meetings.

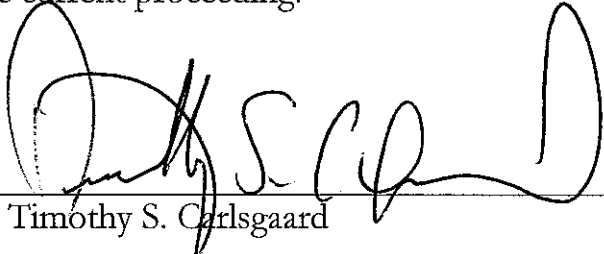
8. Applicants undertook to publish the newspaper notices at the request of the Department. The Department instructed Applicants which newspapers to include. Applicants understand that the 17 newspapers chosen by the Department satisfies published notice in the area of the projects. These ads ran between November 28-30, 2007.

6. Applicants have worked hard to provide meaningful information on topics of interest to the people who have participated thus far. Applicants have sponsored numerous open houses on the proposed facilities and the CapX2020 initiative. These open houses have not been required by the rules and have been undertaken voluntarily to maximize citizen understanding and participation. These open houses, as well as our extensive outreach efforts are designed to address whatever issues and questions interested members of the public may have.


7. Some landowners are more interested in learning whether their particular parcels are likely to be impacted than they are with questions of need. In an effort to be responsive to public inquiry, Applicants have provided information to landowners who have requested it. At no time did Applicants discourage landowners from

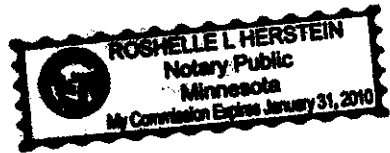
participating in this need proceeding and at no time did Applicants suggest that landowners should avoid participating in the current proceeding.

Dated: February 15, 2008

  
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Timothy S. Carlsgaard

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 15 day of February, 2008.

  
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Notary Public



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