

Direct Testimony and Schedules
Timothy S. Carlsgaard

**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 THREE
345 kV TRANSMISSION LINES WITH
ASSOCIATED SYSTEM CONNECTIONS

PUC DOCKET No. E002/CN-06-1115
OAH DOCKET No. 15-2500-19350-2

TESTIMONY OF
TIMOTHY S. CARLSGAARD

On Behalf of

APPLICANTS

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY, A MINNESOTA CORPORATION,
AND
GREAT RIVER ENERGY

May 15, 2008

Exhibit _____

1 **I. INTRODUCTION AND QUALIFICATIONS**

2

3 **Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND YOUR BUSINESS ADDRESS.**

4 A. My name is Timothy S. Carlsgaard and my business address is 414 Nicollet Mall,
5 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401.

6

7 **Q. BY WHOM ARE YOU EMPLOYED AND WHAT IS YOUR POSITION?**

8 A. I am employed as the CapX2020 Communications and Public Affairs Manager
9 by Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (“Xcel Energy”).

10

11 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE.**

12 A. I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Broadcast Journalism from Arizona
13 State University. I joined Xcel Energy in January 2007. I am primarily
14 responsible for implementing the public communications and outreach aspects
15 of the CapX2020 transmission expansion program. Prior to joining Xcel Energy,
16 I worked for six years as the Chief of the Advocacy Section at the United
17 Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. My experience at the United Nations
18 included designing, developing and implementing communications plans to
19 enhance media coverage and to support global awareness on a variety of issues,
20 including drug abuse, human trafficking, corruption and HIV/AIDS. Before
21 working at the United Nations, I served as the Manager of Regional
22 Communications for Fannie Mae’s Southeast Regional Office. As part of this
23 position, I drafted press releases, newspaper articles and speeches for Fannie
24 Mae’s partnership offices. In addition, I served as the regional spokesperson for
25 the company and created an annual comprehensive communications plan for the
26 region. My resume is attached as Schedule 1.

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Q. FOR WHOM ARE YOU TESTIFYING?

A. I am testifying for Xcel Energy and Great River Energy, the joint Applicants for Certificates of Need in this proceeding.

Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY IN THIS PROCEEDING?

A. The purpose of my testimony is to provide a summary of Applicants' communications with the public, local government officials and other interested stakeholders concerning the CapX2020 Initiative.

II. PUBLIC OUTREACH REGARDING CAPX2020

Q. PLEASE PROVIDE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANTS' COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE PUBLIC REGARDING THE FILING OF THE CERTIFICATE OF NEED APPLICATION FOR THE CAPX2020 PROJECTS.

A. Applicants compiled a list of approximately 73,000 landowners and 565 local government officials throughout the State to encourage participation in this proceeding. In July 2007, Applicants sent a notice of the filing of the Certificate of Need Application to persons on this list. The mailings are attached as Schedules 2A, 2B and 2C. This mailing complied with the notice requirements contained in Minn. R. 7849.7050, Subp. 1.

Newspaper advertisements regarding the filing of the Certificate of Need Application were also run in 106 newspapers throughout the State. A copy of this newspaper ad is attached as Schedule 3. A state-wide press release was also issued on August 16, 2007, announcing the filing of the Certificate of Need Application.

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Q. HOW DID APPLICANTS COMPILE THE LIST OF LANDOWNERS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS THAT RECEIVED THIS MAILING?

A. The 73,000 landowners that received notice included all landowners with property interests in land located in three “notice study corridors,” in which the three CapX2020 345 kV transmission lines are proposed to be built. The local government officials that received notice included all government officials of the municipalities located in the three “notice study corridors.”

Q. HAVE APPLICANTS HOSTED ANY OPEN HOUSES MEETINGS REGARDING THE CAPX2020 PROJECTS ?

A. Yes. Applicants have hosted two rounds of open house meetings with the public regarding the CapX2020 Projects. The first round of these open houses took place from September to October 2007. The second round of open houses began in March 2008 and will be complete by the end of May 2008. Applicants sent direct mailings to the public regarding the dates and locations for both rounds of open houses.

Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE COMMUNICATIONS THAT WERE SENT TO THE PUBLIC REGARDING THE FIRST ROUND OF OPEN HOUSES.

A. In August 2007, the same list of 73,000 landowners and public officials who received notice of the filing of the Application received an invitation and a schedule of the first round of open houses that Applicants volunteered to host. This open house invitation is attached as Schedule 4.

1 In addition, Applicants sent a mailing to about 7,000 landowners in the Twin
2 Cities – Fargo 345 kV Project corridor in October 2007 to advise them of three
3 open houses scheduled for the month of October related to the Twin Cities –
4 Fargo 345 kV Project. This mailing is attached as Schedule 5.

5
6 In addition to these direct mailings, a press release was issued on September 5,
7 2007, announcing the upcoming first round of open houses to select newspapers
8 along the proposed project corridors.

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10 Additional notice of the first round of open houses was provided through
11 newspaper ads that were run in 49 newspapers throughout the State. These
12 newspaper ads are attached as Schedule 6.

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14 Applicants also conducted extensive outreach with members of the media prior
15 to the Notice Plan mailing to introduce the proposed project and via telephone
16 and email in late August and early September 2007 concerning the open houses.
17 These press releases are attached as Schedules 7A, 7B and 7C.

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19 **Q. WHERE WERE THE FIRST ROUND OF OPEN HOUSES HELD?**

20 A. Applicants hosted a total of twenty-four open houses in September and October
21 2007. These open houses were held in Fergus Falls, Moorhead, Alexandria,
22 Brainerd, Melrose, Barrett, Clearwater, Wheaton, Belgrade, Winona, Rochester,
23 Wabasha, Red Wing, Northfield, Lakeville, Hendricks, Marshall, Granite Falls,
24 Olivia, Redwood Falls, Arlington, Glencoe and New Prague, Minnesota. In
25 addition, an open house was held in Wahpeton, North Dakota.

26

1 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE COMMUNICATIONS THAT WERE SENT TO THE PUBLIC**
2 **REGARDING THE SECOND ROUND OF OPEN HOUSES.**

3 A. Applicants also hosted a second round of open houses in March and April 2008
4 regarding the Twin Cities – Fargo 345 kV Project and the Twin Cities –
5 Brookings County 345 kV Project. In March 2007, a list of 58,000 landowners
6 and public officials in the notice corridors for the Fargo – Twin Cities 345 kV
7 Project and the Twin Cities – Brookings County 345 kV Project received an
8 invitation and a schedule of the second round of open houses that Applicants
9 volunteered to host. These open house invitations are attached as Schedule 8A
10 and 8B.

11
12 Open houses regarding the Twin Cities – La Crosse 345 kV Project will be held
13 at the end of May 2008. A similar mailing was sent to 18,000 landowners and
14 public officials regarding the second round of open houses for the Twin Cities –
15 La Crosse 345 kV Project. This open house invitation is attached as Schedule 9.

16
17 Additional notice of the second round of open houses for the Twin Cities –
18 Fargo 345 kV Project and the Twin Cities – Brookings County 345 kV Project
19 was provided through newspaper ads that were run in 36 newspapers throughout
20 the State. These newspaper ads are attached as Schedule 10. Newspaper ads
21 were run in mid-May regarding the Twin Cities – La Crosse 345 kV Project open
22 houses at the end of May 2008.

23

1 **Q. WERE THE DIRECT MAILINGS REGARDING THE SECOND ROUND OF OPEN**
2 **HOUSES SENT TO THE SAME LANDOWNERS AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS THAT**
3 **RECEIVED NOTICE OF THE FIRST ROUND OF OPEN HOUSES?**

4 A. No. For the second round of open houses, additional landowners were
5 identified to receive notice of the CapX2020 transmission expansion projects.
6 These additional landowners were identified as a result of further examination of
7 proposed corridors. These new corridor areas were identified through
8 discussions with the public at public open houses and at routing work group
9 meetings. As a result, in March 2008, 365 notice packets were sent to additional
10 landowners regarding the Twin Cities – Fargo 345 kV Project. These notice
11 packets included the original items that were sent out in July 2007 regarding the
12 CapX2020 transmission expansion plan, along with notice of the second round
13 of open houses. For the Twin Cities – Brookings County 345 kV Project, 640
14 additional landowners received notice packets. These additional mailings bring
15 the total number of Minnesota landowners that have received notice of the
16 CapX2020 transmission projects to approximately 74,000. Notice packets were
17 sent out to 200 to 300 additional landowners regarding the Twin Cities – La
18 Crosse 345 kV Project at the end of April 2008.

19
20 **Q. WHERE WERE THE SECOND ROUND OF OPEN HOUSES HELD?**

21 Open houses for the Twin Cities – Fargo 345 kV Project were held in Clear
22 Water, Melrose, Alexandria, Barrett, Fergus Falls, Breckenridge, Minnesota and
23 Fargo, North Dakota. Open houses for the Twin Cities – Brookings County
24 345 kV Project were held in Marshall, Hendricks, Redwood Falls, New Prague,
25 Arlington and Farmington, Minnesota. Applicants plan to host five additional
26 open houses at the end of May 2008 regarding the Twin Cities – La Crosse 345

1 kV Project. These open houses will be held in Winona, Rochester, Cannon Falls
2 and St. Charles, Minnesota and Centerville, Wisconsin.

3
4 **Q. ARE APPLICANTS REQUIRED TO HOST THESE OPEN HOUSES?**

5 No. These open houses are not required by the rules and have been voluntarily
6 hosted by Applicants to maximize citizen understanding and participation in the
7 CapX2020 Projects. The goal of these open houses, as well as the other
8 extensive outreach efforts, is to address any concerns, issues and questions that
9 interested members of the public may have regarding the CapX2020 Projects.

10
11 **Q. HAVE APPLICANTS PARTICIPATED IN OTHER PUBLIC MEETINGS REGARDING
12 THE CAPX2020 PROJECTS?**

13 A. Yes. Applicants also participated in five public meetings that were organized by
14 community groups. These public meetings were held in Dakota County on
15 October 25, 2007, in Eureka Township on November 28, 2007, in Avon Hills on
16 January 8, 2008, in Brown County on April 18, 2008, and in St. Cloud on April
17 16, 2008.

18
19 **Q. HAVE APPLICANTS MADE ANY PRESENTATIONS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT
20 OFFICIALS REGARDING THE CAPX2020 PROJECTS?**

21 A. Yes. Prior to and since the Certificate of Need Application was filed in August
22 2007, Applicants have conducted more than 100 meetings with presentations to
23 local government officials, including at least one meeting with county
24 commissioners in every county in the three corridors. In addition to the county
25 commissioners, Applicants have met with township boards and mayors and/or
26 city administrators in the major cities along the routes, such as, Rochester,

1 Alexandria and La Crosse. Applicants have also made presentations at the
2 district meetings of the Association of Minnesota Townships and set up a
3 CapX2020 display at these meetings. In addition, Applicants attended the
4 League of Minnesota Cities annual conference and the annual state meetings of
5 county commissioners, townships and major farm groups.

6
7 **Q. DID APPLICANTS PROVIDE ADDITIONAL NOTICE RELATING TO THE**
8 **ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT BEING PREPARED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF**
9 **COMMERCE, OFFICE OF ENERGY SECURITY, AS PART OF THESE**
10 **CERTIFICATES OF NEED PROCEEDINGS?**

11 A. Yes. After the Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security (“OES”)
12 set the schedule for the public information scoping meetings associated with the
13 Environmental Report, Applicants sent information on the dates and times of
14 those meetings to the list of 73,000 landowners and 565 local governmental
15 officials. This mailing is attached as Schedule 11. The information was sent out
16 on November 16, 2007 to ensure that it was received by everyone on the entire
17 list more than 15 days ahead of any of the meetings. The first meeting was
18 scheduled for December 10, 2007, in Moorhead, Minnesota.

19
20 Applicants also published newspaper notices of these meetings, at the request of
21 the OES. The OES instructed Applicants which newspapers should publish
22 these notices. Applicants understand that the 17 newspapers chosen by the OES
23 satisfy the published notice requirement under Minn. R. 7849.7050, Subp. 3 for
24 the area of the Projects. These newspaper notices ran from November 28-30,
25 2008.

1 **Q. BEFORE CONSTRUCTING THESE PROJECTS, APPLICANTS WILL NEED TO**
2 **RECEIVE ROUTE PERMITS. WHAT EFFORTS HAVE APPLICANTS UNDERTAKEN**
3 **TO GET PUBLIC INPUT ON POTENTIAL ROUTES PRIOR TO FILING ROUTE**
4 **PERMIT APPLICATIONS?**

5 A. From January to March 2008, Applicants hosted 20 routing work group meetings
6 and plan to host 11 additional routing work group meetings in May 2008.
7 Applicants have created routing work groups as another outreach tool in our
8 effort to gather local community input. The groups are made-up of landowners,
9 community representatives, public officials and other interested parties. The
10 purpose of these routing work group meetings is to allow routing work group
11 participants to have an opportunity to identify and confirm some of the criteria
12 used in proposing routes, evaluate local routing issues and provide feedback on
13 initial ideas the utilities have developed for narrowed corridor and route options.
14 This information will be used as Applicants prepare route applications for the
15 proposed projects.

16
17 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY?**

18 A. Yes.

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