



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge
51 E. Fourth Street - Room 101
Winona, Minnesota 55987



IN REPLY REFER TO:

April 14, 2009

Mr. David C. Boyd, Chair
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2147

Dear Chairman Boyd:

The Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge has been involved with review of the proposed CapX2020 power transmission project for well over a year. We have and will continue to provide input to Xcel Energy and their contractors since any alternative will have to cross the 240,000-acre, 261-mile-long national wildlife refuge.

However, it has become obvious that there is a tremendous amount of confusion and concern with the general public on this project, especially within communities bordering the refuge.

I strongly support delaying a decision on the certificate of need. The public needs more opportunity and time to learn and understand the true needs and the social and resource tradeoffs of this project. From my experience, giving people additional time now will save time in the long run, especially on a project of this scope.

Thank you for considering my input.

Sincerely,

Refuge Manager