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October 18, 2010

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The Honorable Richard Luis
Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
St. Paul, MN 55164-0620

RE: Request for Extension of Comment Period
In the Matter of the Application for a Route Permit for the CapX 2020 Brookings-Hampton High Voltage Transmission Lines; OAH Docket No.: 7-2500-20283-2
PUC Docket No.: ET-2/TL-08-1474

Dear Judge Luis:

I write on behalf of the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security Energy Facility Permitting Unit ("OES EFP") to respond to Xcel Energy and Great River Energys' request for a two week extension of the post-hearing public comment period in this remand proceeding. The purpose of the extension would be to allow parties to respond to the comments of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service ("USFWS").

Based on conversations in the past week with USFWS personnel, OES EFP does not object to such extension, and believes it will help to further inform the record on the issues remanded by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. However, OES EFP also believes that the current briefing schedule does not need modification as the parties can respond to the USFWS comments in their reply briefs, if allowed. In the alternative, OES EFP supports a slightly shorter extension to the comment period with comments due on October 29, 2010. In addition, the OES does not support allowing the public to comment on USFWS' comments, as suggested by Ms. Maccabee.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karen Finstad Hammel".

KAREN FINSTAD HAMMEL
Assistant Attorney General

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AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF RAMSEY)

I hereby state that on the 18th day of October 2010, I efiled the attached Letter to Judge Richard C. Luis, and served the same by United States Mail, upon all parties on the attached service list, postage prepaid, by depositing the same at St. Paul, Minnesota.

Subscribed and sworn to before me
on October 18, 2010

/s Deborah A. Bastyr
Notary Public - Minnesota
My Commission Expires Jan. 31, 2013

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