

**Northern States Power Company**  
**Southwest Minnesota 825 MW Wind Transmission Expansion Project**

Updated In-service Date Projection

January 2, 2007

Page 1 of 1

Background:

On October 16, 2006 Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation and wholly owned subsidiary of Xcel Energy Inc. (hereafter Xcel Energy), updated the in-service date projections for the Southwest Minnesota 825 MW Wind Transmission Expansion Project. The project -- which consists of nearly 50 individual projects -- was approved by the Minnesota PUC in its certificate of need order in Docket No. E002/CN-01-1958. The Xcel Energy Transmission Function (XET) may post periodic updates to the project schedule on OASIS as construction progresses and more information is available. Interested parties should periodically check the OASIS site (<http://oasis.midwestiso.org/OASIS/NSP>) for updated information.

Potential Permitting Impact on Schedule:

On November 30, 2006 Xcel Energy provided notice that it had commenced a lawsuit against the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) seeking issuance of highway permits sufficient to allow Xcel Energy to commence construction on portions of the Nobles County to Lakefield Junction 345 kV line along I-90. The lawsuit was resolved, and Xcel Energy was subsequently issued highway permits from MnDOT sufficient to allow Xcel Energy to commence construction of the Nobles County to Lakefield Junction 345 kV line along I-90.

The in service date estimates contained in Xcel Energy's October 16, 2006 posting are now updated as follows:

Nobles County to Lakefield Junction 345 kV line	December 2007
Nobles County Substation	December 2007
Nobles County Substation 35 kV	January 2008
Split Rock to Nobles County 345 kV line	May 2008

All timing estimates remain subject to the limitation that the actual in-service date for individual component projects may be affected or delayed if required approvals cannot be obtained or are delayed and may be affected by other factors beyond Xcel Energy's control such as unusual weather.

If You Have Questions:

XET is subject to FERC's Order No. 2004 rules establishing Standards of Conduct for Transmission Providers. Under those rules, XET cannot provide preferential access to transmission information such as construction schedule information. To facilitate disclosure, there are two ways interested parties can obtain information.

Questions may be submitted through the XET Question and Answer (Q&A) Function available at [http://www.rmao.com/xfpp/nsp\\_qa.html](http://www.rmao.com/xfpp/nsp_qa.html). Answers will be made available to the public when the answer is posted on the Q&A page.

As noted earlier, project information of more general interest (such as updates to this schedule) will also be periodically posted at the MISO OASIS (<http://oasis.midwestiso.org/OASIS/NSP>).

Interested parties should check these sites periodically.

Thank you.

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