

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

Updated In-service Date Projection

November 30, 2006

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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:

The October 16, 2006 posting estimated that the Nobles County to Lakefield Junction 345 kV line would be completed in October 2007. All estimates in the posting were and are subject to the limitation that "actual in-service date for individual component projects may be affected or delayed if required approvals cannot be obtained or are delayed ...".

On November 28, 2006, Xcel Energy commenced a lawsuit in Nobles County District Court against the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). The lawsuit alleges that MnDOT has refused to issue 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 further alleges that if construction is not commenced by February 2, 2007, the estimated October 2007 in-service date cannot be met. The lawsuit requested that the court issue a writ of mandamus compelling MnDOT to issue the requested permit to allow construction to commence no later than February 2, 2007.

On November 30, 2006, the Court issued a writ of mandamus ordering MnDOT to appear in court on December 13, 2006 to show cause why MnDOT has not issued the requested permit. Further updates may be posted on OASIS as developments warrant.

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. 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.