Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

STATE OF MINNESOTA

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INDUSTRIAL DIVISION
PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES)/
STATE DISPOSAL SYSTEM (SDS) PERMIT MN0000884

Public Comment Period Begins: **August 16, 2012**
Public Comment Period Ends: **September 17, 2012**

Current Permit Issued: August 12, 2005
Current Permit Expiration Date: July 31, 2010

Name and Address of Permittee:
Northern States Power Co dba Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall MP 7
Minneapolis, MN 55401-1993

Facility Name and Location:
Xcel – Combine Cycle (High Bridge) Plant
155 Randolph Avenue
St. Paul, Ramsey County, Minnesota

Receiving Water: Mississippi River (Beneficial Use Classes: 2B, 3C, 4A, 4B, 5 & 6)

Description of Permitted Facility
The High Bridge Combined Cycle Generating Plant (HBCC) plant is a combined cycle electrical generating facility utilizing fossil fuel. The plant has the capability of producing 575 megawatts. Natural gas is used to fuel the combustion turbine, and exhaust from the combustion turbine is used to make steam in a heat recovery steam generator.

The facility has one point source outfall discharging to surface waters consisting primarily of once-through non-contact cooling water (NCCW) at an average rate of 138 million gallons per day (mgd). During the summer cooling season, the discharge can increase to 201.1 mgd. Evaporative cooling water and reject water from the reverse osmosis system are also discharged to surface waters, co-mingled with the NCCW discharge.

Effluent limitations for the discharge were developed based on EPA promulgated effluent limitation guidelines for the steam electric power generating industry and protecting receiving water quality for a fishable/swimmable designated beneficial use.

The location of the Facility is shown on the attached map.

Preliminary Determination on the Draft Permit
The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Commissioner has made a preliminary determination to reissue this NPDES/SDS permit for a term of approximately five years.

A draft permit and fact sheet are available for review at the MPCA office at the St. Paul address listed below and on-line at http://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/data/index.cfm?PN=1.

A copy of the draft permit and fact sheet will be mailed to you if the MPCA receives your written or oral request at this office. If you have questions about this draft permit or the Commissioner's preliminary determination, please contact Deborah Idzorek at 651-757-2704.

Written Comments
You may submit written comments on the conditions of the draft permit or on the Commissioner's preliminary determination.

Written comments must include the following:

1. A statement of your interest in the permit application or the draft permit.
2. A statement of the action you wish the MPCA to take, including specific references to sections of the draft permit that you believe should be changed.
3. The reasons supporting your position, stated with sufficient specificity as to allow the Commissioner to investigate the merits of your position.

Petition for Public Informational Meeting
You also may request that the MPCA Commissioner hold a public informational meeting. A public informational meeting is an informal meeting that the MPCA may hold to solicit public comment and statements on matters before the MPCA, and to help clarify and resolve issues.

A petition requesting a public informational meeting must include the following information:

1. A statement identifying the matter of concern.
2. The information required under items 1 through 3 of "Written Comments," identified above.
3. A statement of the reasons the MPCA should hold a public informational meeting.
4. The issues that you would like the MPCA to address at the public informational meeting.

Petition for Contested Case Hearing
You also may submit a petition for a contested case hearing. A contested case hearing is a formal evidentiary hearing before an administrative law judge. In accordance with Minn. R. 7000.1900, the MPCA will grant a petition to hold a contested case hearing if it finds that: (1) there is a material issue of fact in dispute concerning the application or draft permit; (2) the MPCA has the jurisdiction to make a determination on the disputed material issue of fact; and (3) there is a reasonable basis underlying the disputed material issue of fact or facts such that the holding of the contested case hearing would allow the introduction of information that would aid the MPCA in resolving the disputed facts in making a final decision on the draft permit. A material issue of fact means a fact question, as distinguished from a policy question, whose resolution could have a direct bearing on a final MPCA decision.