

## MIDTOWN GREENWAY COALITION INFORMATION REQUEST

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Xcel Energy

Docket No.: OAH 15-2500-20599-2

PUC No. E-002/TL-09-38

Response To: Midtown Greenway Coalition

Information Request No. 22  
Response Supplement

Date Received: September 30, 2009

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### Question:

Page 17 of the Application describes the potential expansion of the proposed Hiawatha Substation “in the future to accommodate additional transmission facilities, potentially a 345 kV line, if necessary to meet community load-serving needs.”

- A. State in what year Applicant has projected that a 345 kV line would be needed to meet community load-serving needs.
- B. Detail with a description of the length and endpoints of the proposed 345 kV transmission line and a map where Applicant proposes that a potential 345 kV line would be located to meet community load-serving needs.
- C. Detail the nature of community load-serving needs that Applicant believes would require a 345 kV line in the future, specifying the location of load which forms the basis of this analysis, a year-by-year projection of percentage and megawatt growth, and the applicable critical load level if the proposed 115 kV project were to be constructed.
- D. Provide an estimate of the capital costs projected for the construction of the 345 kV line as described herein.
- E. Describe in detail all planning studies suggesting the potential need for the above 345 kV line in order to meet community load-serving needs. Provide copies of any such studies that are not contained in Appendix D of the Application.
- F. Describe all conservation, distributed energy, electricity storage and smart grid technologies specifically considered by Applicant in connection with the 115 kV proposal in this Application to reduce the likelihood that the above-described 345 kV transmission line would be needed to meet community load-serving needs. Provide copies of any studies, documents, or memoranda describing Applicant’s consideration of such measures.

Original Response:

- A.** Transmission Planning uses a 10-year planning horizon for proposed projects. In 2008, planning engineers evaluated a 345 kV alternative as part of a 10-year vision plan. No need for the 345 kV line in the South Minneapolis has been identified within the 10-year planning.
- B.** There are no current plans to construct a 345 kV line in the South Minneapolis area.
- C.** As load continues to grow in the metro area and with the uncertainty of renewable generation impact on the metro area generation, the possibility of bringing in a larger source to relieve the lower voltage 115 kV system may be necessary.
- D.** Cost estimate information for 345 kV plans considered for the South Minneapolis area is in the “South Minneapolis Electric Reliability Study” (July 18, 2008), Section 7 and Appendix D.
- E.** See “South Minneapolis Electric Reliability Study” (Xcel Energy 00040-00081).
- F.** Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (Xcel Energy) is continually working on initiatives to increase energy conservation. We are expanding customer programs and developing new initiatives designed to make progress towards greater energy efficiency. We are also continually evaluating new technologies to address customer demands. We will continue to work with our customers in the South Minneapolis area to save energy and manage its use and to integrate new technologies.

Response Supplement:

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Neither a new 345 kV transmission source into the Hiawatha Substation nor a Hiawatha Substation expansion is contemplated in Xcel Energy's 10-year plan.

As discussed in the Application and in response to the Midtown Greenway Coalition IR 21, Xcel Energy will be incorporating smart technologies into the distribution substation design for the Project so the substations can utilize smart technologies when they become widely available. Xcel Energy has a host of conservation programs in place throughout Minnesota. In the South Minneapolis area, in addition to regular Company programs, Xcel Energy has provided funding to the Phillips Energy Cooperative from 2001 to 2009 to promote existing conservation programs such as Savers Switch, energy efficient appliance trade in and rebates and similar programs. In early 2009, the Phillips Energy Cooperative notified Xcel Energy that it no longer desired funding from Xcel Energy for these outreach efforts.

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Original Response By: Jason Standing  
Title: Senior Specialty Engineer  
Department: Transmission Asset Management  
Date: 10/15/2009

Response Supplement By: RaeLynn Asah  
Title: Permitting Analyst  
Department: Siting and Land Rights  
Date: 11/12/2009