Transmission Cost Recovery Rider
Descriptions of Projects Proposed to be
Eligible Under SDCL 49-34A-25.1

The following projects were approved for recovery by the Commission in the Company's Transmission Cost Recovery Rider filing in Docket No. EL12-035, and there have been no substantive changes to the projects' scopes since their approval in that docket:

- CapX2020 Brookings – Twins Cities 345 kV transmission line
- CapX2020 Fargo – Twin Cities 345 kV transmission line
- CapX2020 La Crosse-Local 345 kV transmission line
- CapX2020 La Crosse-MISO
- CapX2020 La Crosse-WI
- Glencoe – Waconia
- Sioux Falls Northern

The following projects were approved for recovery by the Commission in the Company's Transmission Cost Recovery Rider filing in Docket No. EL13-006, and there have been no substantive changes to the projects' scopes since their approval in that docket:

- Bluff Creek – Westgate transmission line
- Chaska Area transmission line
- Minn Valley transmission line
- Maple River – Red River
- Big Stone – Brookings 345 kV Line
- Lake Marion – Burnsville
- Maple Lake – Annandale
- Wilmarth – Carver County

The Commission re-affirmed cost recovery of the above projects through the Transmission Cost Recovery Rider most recently in Docket No. EL14-80.

The Company seeks eligibility determination for the following projects:

1. Minot Load Serving Transmission Line

Project Description and Context

Xcel Energy is proposing a new 230kV Substation and Transmission Line. The existing 115kV lines in the area will be brought in and out of this new substation. Without these facilities, the Minot area voltage cannot be maintained, and Xcel Energy load will be shed.

Efforts to Ensure Lowest Cost to Ratepayers

All major materials (steel structures, switches, transformers, breakers and conductors) and construction labor for this project will take advantage of contracts that have been negotiated by the Company's sourcing group. These contracts were negotiated based on Xcel Energy system-wide use of materials and components resulting in lowest cost.

2. Red Wing – Wabasha Rebuild (NSPM Major Line Rebuild)

Project Description and Context

The purpose of this project is to maintain system reliability by rebuilding 5.0 miles of single circuit 69kv transmission line terminating at Wabasha Substation. In addition, the wood structures in this line section are at the end of life. The existing pole structures, which are primarily H-frame wood poles, will be removed and replaced by a combination of custom steel poles, Light Duty steel poles and H-Frame wood poles. New steel wire will be used as phase conductor and shield wire on the rebuild line. The Transmission Maintenance and Reliability Group has developed a prioritized refurbishment work plan, based on patrol inspection reports.

Efforts to Ensure Lowest Cost to Ratepayers

All major materials (steel structures, switches, transformers, breakers and conductors) and construction labor for this project will take advantage of contracts that have been negotiated by the Company's sourcing group. These contracts were negotiated based on Xcel Energy system-wide use of materials and components resulting in lowest cost.

3. Galloping Mitigation Near Nobles County Substation

Project Description and Context

The purpose of this project is to reduce galloping on the line that has caused multiple outages and damage to the existing conductor and structures in an area of Southwest Minnesota. Twenty-one outages have been recorded over the past five years that have been directly attributed to galloping. To mitigate galloping, we will upgrade the

conductors and/or install specialized anti-galloping devices on two segments of line in the area. The first phase upgrades approximately 22.4 circuit miles of 345kV line between the Nobles County Substation and the Lakefield Junction Substation. The second phase upgrades approximately 10.7 circuit miles and adds anti-galloping devices on approximately 21 circuit miles between Split Rock Substation and Nobles County Substation.

Efforts to Ensure Lowest Cost to Ratepayers

All major materials (steel structures, switches, transformers, breakers and conductors) and construction labor for this project will take advantage of contracts that have been negotiated by the Company's sourcing group. These contracts were negotiated based on Xcel Energy system-wide use of materials and components resulting in lowest cost.