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Xcel Energy

Docket No.: E002, ET2/CN-06-1115

Response To: Hwikwon Ham Information Request No. 62
MN Department of Commerce

Date Received: April 8, 2008

Question:

Please provide full description of transmission related incident(s) which caused State of Minnesota (or a utility) in isolation or near isolation from rest of the electric grid system if there is such incident(s) over last two years.

- Please provide a copy of news paper article, MISO news release, utility news release, or any information provided to general public regarding the incident(s).
- Please provide finding(s) or report(s) regarding the incident(s).

Response:

The only known transmission-related incident that caused a condition of isolation or near isolation in the last two years happened on September 18, 2007. During this event, a 345 kV transmission line owned by Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (“NSPM” or “Xcel Energy”), tripped offline at 5:14 a.m. CDT as a result of a conductor failure, which was followed closely by the trip of a second 345 kV transmission line. Other transmission lines in the region were also out of service at the time of the incident for routine maintenance. A series of other transmission line trips on several utility systems caused portions of the NSPM system and utilities to the west and north of NSPM to "island" (*i.e.*, become isolated or disconnected) from the rest of the Eastern Interconnection for approximately nine minutes. The islanded portions of the NSPM system reconnected to the Eastern Interconnection at 5:29 a.m. CDT.

Due to the load/generation balance in the island that formed, the only significant loss of load occurred in Saskatchewan, as indicated in the news articles attached to this response. NSPM did not experience any retail customer outages; approximately 6,000 retail customers of our affiliate NSP (Wisconsin) lost service. Because the islanding event occurred so early in the morning, and concluded after only a few minutes, there were no communications to the general public.

This event is the subject of an active event analysis being led by the Midwest Reliability Organization (“MRO”), the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”) Regional Entity for the state of Minnesota. Separately, a compliance analysis is also being conducted to ensure utilities acted in accordance with all applicable NERC reliability standards. No final reports have been issued. When the final reports are issued, NSPM will make the reports available to the Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security if NERC and MRO confidentiality rules allow disclosure.

Attached are copies of the following documents:

- A public version of the Form OE-417 report submitted by Xcel Energy to the U.S. Department of Energy (“DOE”) after the September 18, 2007 event. The Form OE-417 is comprised of two parts, a Schedule 1, which provides general information about the event and Schedule 2, which is a detailed narrative of the event. Schedule 2 is considered confidential critical energy infrastructure information by DOE. Schedule 1 is not confidential, but lines 4-9 which relate to the identity of the NSPM official who filed the report are confidential. Lines 4-9 of Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 have been redacted accordingly (CapX2020 0000107-0000111).
- A notice of the event posted on the MRO website:
http://www.midwestreliability.org/06_news/releases/Bulk_Power_System_Alert_09-18-07.pdf (CapX2020 0000112).
- Two newspaper clippings from Canadian media describing the outage in Saskatchewan (CapX2020 0000113-0000116).

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