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March 17, 2006

VIA E-FILING

The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0111

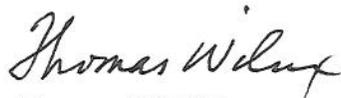
Re: Ex Parte No. 657 (Sub-No. 1) – Major Issues in Rail Rate Cases

Dear Secretary Williams:

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned matter please find a Notice of Intent to Participate submitted on behalf of Xcel Energy.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Thomas W. Wilcox

TWW:kjm
Enclosure

cc: Ray D. Gardner, Esq.

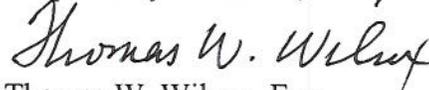
**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

EX PARTE NO. 657 (Sub-No. 1) - MAJOR ISSUES IN RAIL RATE CASES

Notice of Intent to Participate of Xcel Energy

Pursuant to the Surface Transportation Board's Decision served on February 27, 2006 instituting this rulemaking proceeding, Xcel Energy hereby gives notice of its intent to participate in this proceeding as a party of record. Xcel Energy requests that copies of notices, decisions, comments, and pleadings in this proceeding be served on the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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March 17, 2006