

**FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
**Office of Energy Projects**  
**Division of Dam Safety and Inspections**  
**Chicago Regional Office**

In reply refer to: P-2056

November 12, 2025

VIA Electronic Mail

Mr. Donald Hartinger  
Plant Director, Renewable Operations – Hydro  
Xcel Energy  
[Donald.R.Hartinger@xcelenergy.com](mailto:Donald.R.Hartinger@xcelenergy.com)

Re: St. Anthony Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2056)  
Hennepin Island Earth Dam Secant Pile Wall  
- November 3, 2025 West End Seal Verification Grouting

Dear Mr. Hartinger:

Xcel Energy's November 3, 2025 letter provided a Technical Memorandum (TC) concerning the construction of the secant pile wall in the Hennepin Island Earth Dam at the St. Anthony Fall Hydroelectric Project No. 2056. The TC was prepared by the Design Engineer, Ms. Bethany Kelly, P.E. of Barr Engineering, to document the work completed for the end seal at the west (upstream) end of the secant pile wall. Additionally, the TC proposes supplementary work to verify the effectiveness of the tangent piles to serve as the end seal and if necessary to complete further grouting to eliminate the potential for windows that could allow concentrated seepage and increase the risk of internal erosion.

The proposed scope of work will involve drilling four 8-inch diameter verification holes between and through the 14-foot-deep tangent piles to 21 feet below grade, which matches the nearest adjacent secant pile depth. The down-the-hole hammer (DTH) with air flush is being proposed as the drilling method. The TC indicated that the risks associated with the proposed drilling method are considered acceptable as the drilling will occur through the previously concreted area (strength estimated at 3,000 psi) rather than the unprotected embankment fill, then into deep weathered bedrock or competent rock. The November 3, 2025 cover letter indicated that Xcel has reviewed the proposed plan and agrees with the path forward.

We completed our review of your submittal, and concur with the proposed grouting verification work, justification for the selected drilling methodology, and the general procedures described in the TM. You are authorized to proceed with proposed work.

During the execution of DTH drilling works, pressure should be closely monitored. If any signs of cracking are observed on the adjacent piles or on the embankment area, work must be stopped immediately, and the hole should be backfilled. Any proposed changes to the location of the verification holes must be coordinated with your consultant and FERC. A work progress should be provided via email on a daily basis.

You may contact Mr. Paul Kokoszka at 312.596.4457 ([Paul.Kokoszka@ferc.gov](mailto:Paul.Kokoszka@ferc.gov)) or me at (312) 596-4430 or if you have questions.

Sincerely,

**KEVIN**

**GRIEBENOW**

Digitally signed by  
KEVIN GRIEBENOW

Date: 2025.11.12  
12:45:31 -06'00'

Kevin Griebenow, P.E.  
Regional Engineer

cc: Mr. Dean Steines, P.E. Chief Dam Safety Engineer at Xcel Energy  
[dean.s.steines@xcelenergy.com](mailto:dean.s.steines@xcelenergy.com)