



December 1, 2006

TO: TRIPOLI ROCKET CLUB, AND ITS MEMBERS  
RE: NORTH BRANCH, MINNESOTA LAUNCH SITE

Please be advised that your North Branch launch site is in close proximity to a 500,000 volt (500 kV) power line owned by Xcel Energy. This line is a critical interconnection to the Twin Cities and surrounding areas for both reliability and energy delivery. An outage to this line would be an enormous safety risk, would have significant financial consequences and would be a major inconvenience to those who would lose power. In addition, any outage would require that power be redispached from other sources of generation.

There have recently been two incidences of rocket recovery from within these lines. The cost of removing the rocket in each of these cases was approximately \$5,000. If the line had been outaged in either instance, the costs associated with the outage could have been in the millions of dollars. Xcel Energy has been working with the Tripoli Rocket Club on solutions to eliminate rocket contacts with the line; however, because these incidences continue to occur, Xcel Energy will pursue all available remedies, including the relocation of the launching area. This letter is to inform the Club and its members that Xcel Energy must recover any such costs caused by a future incident from the responsible individuals and from the club.

As indicated above, these are dangerous lines transmitting 500,000 volts of electricity. Any contact with the lines can be **extremely** dangerous. **Do not attempt to personally recover your rocket from these lines.** If a rocket should become entangled in the line, you must call Xcel Energy immediately at 1-800-895-1999. Please inform the operator who takes your call that it is regarding the "Xcel Energy 500kV transmission line in North Branch, Minnesota," or call 911. Prompt removal of the rocket may avoid the occurrence of an expensive power outage.