

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 27, 2006

### **XCEL ENERGY SELECTS SARGENT & LUNDY FOR RIVERSIDE REPOWERING PROJECT**

*Chicago, IL USA* - Xcel Energy Services has selected Sargent & Lundy LLC to perform the detailed design engineering for the Riverside Repowering Project. The station, located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, is part of Xcel Energy's Metropolitan Emission Reduction Program (MERP), a voluntary plan to significantly reduce power plant air emissions in the Twin Cities while increasing electric generating capacity.

The project will replace the existing coal-fired Units 7 and 8 with a natural gas combined-cycle arrangement of two combustion turbines and corresponding heat recovery steam generators (HRSGs). The final 2x2x1 configuration will increase the total generating capacity of the plant by approximately 80 MW, generating 480 MW (nominal) upon completion.

The state-of-the-art design for the repowered units will include measures to enable the existing units to continue operating through construction and facilitate a rapid changeover to the new installation in order to minimize plant offline time. The first unit is scheduled to be retired in mid-September 2008 with first fire of the repowered station scheduled for January 1, 2009 and an in-service date of May 2009.

*Sargent & Lundy LLC is a worldwide leader in professional services for the electric power industry and has been dedicated exclusively to serving energy business and energy intensive clients for 115 years. The firm provides comprehensive engineering, energy business consulting, and project services for new and operating electric power plants and power delivery systems.*

*Xcel Energy (NYSE: XEL) is a leading U.S. electricity and natural gas utility company, with operations in 10 Western and Midwestern states. Xcel Energy offers a comprehensive portfolio of energy-related products and services to 3.3 million electricity customers and 1.8 million natural gas customers through its regulated operating companies. The company has revenue of \$10 billion annually, owns more than 33,000 miles of natural gas pipelines, and operates power plants that generate over 15,200 megawatts of electric power.*

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