

## **Xcel Energy Policy Regarding Electrical Equipment Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) Status and Spill Responsibility**

Agencies, consulting firms, and individuals often inquire about the possibility of transformers containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). This document summarizes Xcel Energy's policy regarding PCB concentration levels in electrical equipment.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines "PCB equipment" as equipment containing greater than 500 parts per million (ppm) PCBs; "PCB contaminated equipment" as containing 50-500 ppm PCBs; and "non-PCB equipment" as containing less than 50 ppm PCBs. Any mineral oil filled equipment with no label or unknown concentration is assumed to be "PCB Contaminated" per EPA regulation, and is managed accordingly.

Xcel Energy requires new equipment containing mineral oil to be certified by the manufacturer as "non-PCB." Older electrical equipment will typically contain low to non-regulated levels of PCBs. Xcel Energy retrofills, removes and/or disposes of electrical equipment on a periodic basis throughout its system thus removing older potentially PCB contaminated transformers.

If dielectric fluid is released from a company transformer and the PCB status is unknown, it is Xcel Energy's policy to test the transformer for PCB content, perform spill cleanup, and repair or replace the equipment in accordance with federal and/or state requirements. In the event there is a spill from the electrical equipment, please contact Xcel Energy immediately at 1-800-895-1999.