

Grace Wagner

From: City of Saint Paul <cityofsaintpaul@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 1:09 PM
To: Grace Wagner
Subject: Courtesy Copy: Sound Level Variance Application Xcel Energy Infrastructure/Utility Project on the CPKC Railroad Crossing Eagle Parkway and Shepard Road

This is a courtesy copy of an email bulletin sent by Grace Wagner.

This bulletin was sent to the following groups of people:

Subscribers of ENS - D17: CapitolRiver Council or ENS - D9: West 7th / Fort Road Federation (1495 recipients)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Sound Level Variance

Xcel Energy – Infrastructure/Utility Project on the CPKC Railroad Crossing Eagle Parkway and Shepard Road

This is to inform you of a request for a variance from the sound level limitations as indicated in the St. Paul Noise Ordinance (Chapter 293 of the St. Paul Legislative Code).

Description of Variance:

Location: Eagle Parkway from Shepard Road to North Chestnut Street

Noise Source: Jason Alley, Xcel Energy, Principal Distribution Designer, has requested a sound level variance, for 60.6 decibels (dBA) at no specified distance, to present amplified sound for the Xcel Energy infrastructure/utility project on the CPKC Railroad Crossing Eagle Parkway and Shepard Road, October 19 through November 2, 2026, at Eagle Parkway from Shepard Road to North Chestnut Street. The variance is requested for the hours of 7:00 am to 7:00 pm for set-up, with continuous operation (twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week) while tunnelling through RR Zone A on October 19 through November 2, 2026.

The Department of Safety and Inspections will be recommending the following conditions:

1) The Variance shall be for the hours of 7:00 am to 7:00 pm for set-up, with continuous operation (twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week) while tunnelling through RR Zone A on October 19 through November 2, 2026, for the Xcel Energy infrastructure/utility project on the CPKC Railroad Crossing at Eagle Parkway and Shepard Road.

2) Xcel Energy shall take all practical steps available to minimize the noise levels during this period which do not otherwise unduly hinder the project or unreasonably increase the costs of the project.

3) The applicant shall monitor the decibel level from the variance approved distance of each noise source and create a report that records the general operating decibel levels within 15 minutes of the start of each performing act and at intervals no greater than 60 minutes apart thereafter. The report shall be made available for viewing by city staff upon request during the variance and within 30 days thereafter. The Applicant shall also conduct a decibel reading during the variance upon request of city staff.

4) All powered equipment such as generators, heavy machinery, pneumatic systems, and similar devices shall be turned off no later than 7:00 pm during set-up, and whenever possible to minimize noise levels during continuous operation (twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week) while tunneling through RR Zone A, from October 19 through November 2, 2026, the project dates.

Comments for Public Hearings

The public may comment on public hearing items in person, in writing or via voicemail. Any comments and materials submitted by 12:00 pm on the day before the meeting, Tuesday, September 15, 2026, will be attached to the public record and available for review by the City Council.

Written public comment on public hearing items can be submitted to Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us or CouncilHearing@ci.stpaul.mn.us. Submit a comment by voicemail at 651-266-6805.

Tennessee Warning ([Minnesota Statutes, § 13.04, subd. 2](#)) If you submit a comment, the email address you provide is public data under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. You are not legally or otherwise required to provide your email.

Live testimony will be taken in person in the Council Chambers. You may need to sign up to testify when you attend a Council meeting -- please check with a greeter.

Members of the public may view City Council meetings online at <https://stpaul.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx> or on local cable Channel 18.

A public hearing before the City Council on this variance request will be held on:

Date: Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Time: 3:30 pm

Location: 3rd floor, City Hall Council Chambers

After the public hearing, the Council may grant, deny, or modify the variance request.

If you have questions about the sound level variance, please contact:

Grace Wagner, Inspector
grace.wagner@stpaul.gov



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