In The Matter Of:

Amendment to Repower the 200 MW Pleasant Valley Large Wind Energy Conversion System in Dodge and Mower Co's.

Public Information Meeting - 09-1197 August 16, 2022 09-1197 Public Information Meeting - 8-16-22

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Min-U-Script® with Word Index

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1	AUGUST 16, 2022 - PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING - 09-1197	1	MR. SCOTT EK: Hello. Thanks for coming
2	BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION		tonight. We're here for the Pleasant Valley Wind
3	AND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE		repower project. Xcel Energy applied for a repower
4			of the existing Pleasant Valley Wind facility.
5		5	August 16th, 2022. My name is Scott Ek.
6	In the Matter of the Application for a Site Permit		I'm an analyst with the Public Utilities Commission.
7	Amendment to Repower the 200 MW Pleasant Valley Large		I suppose I can move this along. We have Rich Davis
8	Wind Energy Conversion System in Dodge and Mower		with the Department of Commerce. They help us with
9	Counties, Minnesota		the technical and environmental-type work with
10			projects like this. And Matt Langan with Xcel
11	PUC DOCKET NO. E-002/WS-09-1197		Energy. And I'll start out the beginning of the
12			presentation. Matt will pick up the details of the
13			project, and I'll just outlay the review process,
14			the Commission review process. Then we'll get to
15	Holiday Inn Austin Conference Center		questions and comments you may have at the end of
16	1701 Fourth Avenue Northwest		the presentation.
17	Austin, Minnesota	17	
18	moon, mmesoca		facility, the Pleasant Valley Wind. It was issued a
19			permit originally back in 2010. The permit was
20	Met, pursuant to Notice, at 6:00 p.m. in	20	
21	the evening on August 16, 2022.		But the facility's now been in operation since about
	the evening on August 16, 2022.		November of 2015, I believe. And so just this April
22			Xcel applied for, as I said, an amendment to the
23			site permit, and it's called I guess in the
24			industry we call it a repower, and we'll get to why
25	COURT REPORTER: Bridget E. Kelly		industry we can it a repower, and we it get to will
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- So for projects like this it's -- as I
- 2 said it's really amending the existing permit to
- 3 reflect Xcel's proposal to do these upgrades. And
- 4 so the Commission, when it looks at this, you know,
- 5 we look at the large wind energy conversion systems,
- 6 and we make sure any changes are done that are
- 7 compatible with environmental preservation,
- 8 sustainable development, and the efficient use of
- 9 resources in a general sense.
- 10 Xcel has an application. There's a
- 11 review copy here. There's electronic copies on our
- 12 eDockets system. I'll have more information about
- 13 how to access that as we move on here. That, Xcel
- 14 goes through, you know, all the categories the
- 15 Commission must look at and gives us information on
- 16 potential impacts of the upgrade, measures they
- 17 would use to mitigate any of those impacts and
- 18 whatnot. And we consider those -- the Commission
- 19 considers those when it amends the permit.
- 20 So second, the Commission can amend a
- 21 site permit for a large wind energy conversion
- 22 system at any time for good cause. And in this case
- 23 it's a request to amend, and the Commission can
- 24 place conditions in a permit or modify, in this
- 25 case, a permit that's already out there.

- 1 additional information as well based on what's been
- 2 heard. And it's expected in October the Commission
- 3 would take this up and make amendments to the
- 4 permit, or they could deny, but they will make a
- 5 decision on what's been proposed.
- So that's where we're at. I'll have a
- 7 few more slides after Matt explains the project, and
- 8 then as I said we'll head into questions and
- 9 comments.
- 10 MR. MATT LANGAN: Thank you, Scott. Can
- 11 everyone hear me okay? We don't have a microphone.
- 12 We feel like it was a cozy enough room maybe so
- 13 you'd be able to hear us. But just raise your hand
- 14 if I get too quiet for you.
- So I'm Matt Langan. I work with Xcel
- 16 Energy. I'm part of a project team that has
- 17 proposed this repower project at Pleasant Valley.
- 18 That proposal is in those binders behind Rich there
- 19 in a hard copy, if anybody's interested in looking
- 20 at them. We brought some maps here tonight. What
- 21 I'll say is, is that there is a formal, you know,
- 22 presentation that happens tonight. We do take
- 23 questions or comments recorded by the reporter here.
- 24 But certainly if you want to -- we're gonna stick
- 25 around if you have questions, you know, that, you

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- So this is -- you know, this process,
- 2 this is really the -- tonight's probably the most
- 3 important part of the process, is to come out into
- 4 the community, answer questions, and provide
- 5 information on what the project's about. And
- 6 there's a written comment period that follows this 7 meeting until -- I believe it's August 31st where
- 8 you can write in comments. So tonight, verbal
- 9 questions and comments, and the written comment are
- 10 the most important part of this process.
- You can see 8/16 and 8/17. So we're at
- 12 the in-person public information meeting tonight.
- 13 There is an online one tomorrow. Everything that's
- 14 discussed tonight will be discussed tomorrow, so
- 15 it's for those who can't participate in person and
- 16 want to participate online. But nothing's different
- 17 about the meetings. It's the same information both
- 18 nights. But you're welcome to attend both if you
- 19 choose, and as I said the information -- the written
- 20 comment period closes August 31st.
- Next month -- there isn't a designated
- 22 date as of yet, but there will be post-meeting
- 23 filings by the Department that will take into
- 24 consideration the comments raised tonight. And in
- 25 the written comment period, Xcel will file

- 1 know, you wanted to ask on the side and look at a
- 2 particular area on the map. We'll hang around and
- 3 be happy to entertain those too, if you didn't want
- 4 to speak during the more formal portion of this.
- 5 Okay. So, Scott, you can go to the next
- 6 slide, if you don't mind.
- 7 So just a little quick bit about Xcel
- 8 Energy. We have service territory in eight states
- 9 in the nation, 3.6 million electricity customers,
- 10 2 million natural gas customers. We are a leader in
- 11 wind energy, energy efficiency, carbon reduction,
- 12 storm restoration, and innovative technology.
- Next slide, please.
- And so our company has a vision for the
- 15 future, and that is to reduce carbon emissions
- 16 amongst our generation fleet. Pleasant Valley Wind
- 17 Farm is a really important part of that. In 2020
- 18 our company was able to reduce carbon emissions by
- 19 51 percent in comparison to levels in 20 -- excuse
- 20 me, 2005. Our goal is by 2030 to reduce those
- 21 carbon emissions by 80 percent based off 2005

numbers and by 2050 be 100 percent carbon free.

- Next slide, please.
- So as part of that progression, we
- 25 applied to the Public Utilities Commission for a

J

- 1 repower of four of our existing wind farms in our
- 2 northern region, three of which are in Minnesota and
- 3 one of which is the Pleasant Valley Wind Farm. The
- 4 Commission approved that plan, that proposal, in
- 5 2020, but there are further approvals that the
- 6 Commission needs to make before that actually
- 7 happens. And so the site permit amendment is one of
- 8 those, and that's what we're here talking about
- 9 tonight. We believe there are multiple benefits to
- 10 this proposal. We believe it's going to save our
- 11 customers money. We believe that it's going to
- 12 increase the energy produced and the efficiency with
- which it's produced. We're going to lengthen the
- 14 life of the wind farm so it's in the community
- operating for an even longer span of time and then
- improve the technology that's within those wind
- turbines. Along with that there are additional
- landowner payments and local government tax payments
- that are good benefits of the project as well.
- 20 You can go to the next slide. Thank you.
- So just some basics. As you know the 21
- 22 existing wind farm went into operation in 2015.
- There are 100 Vestas -- Vestas is the model -- 100
- 24 Vestas V100 models within the project area, and each
- 25 has a capacity of 2.0 megawatts. With the repowered

- 1 a number of farms. This is pretty standard for wind
- 2 farms these days, and we've found that folks really
- 3 appreciate having the lights only on when the
- 4 aircraft are coming by. And I'm happy to -- when I
- get done with the presentation if anybody has any
- more questions about that system, I'm happy to
- answer them.
- Scott, you can keep going. Okay. Good.
- 9 So the construction process is
- 10 approximately six to eight months in duration. We
- would intend to start in spring of 2025, ending by
- winter of '25. There could be some site preparation
- work in 2024, but it would be minor. The actual
- installation of the components really wouldn't occur
- till starting in '25. In order to remove the blades
- and the hub and install the new components, we'll do
- so with cranes in the project area. Importantly,
- and I think especially for this community and this
- project, we are going to use rubber-tire cranes,
- where they only travel on public roads and access --
- and existing access roads to the turbines. There
- will be no cross-country travel of cranes walking
- from one turbine to the next across fields.
- And then to give you an idea of what the
- 25 workspace around a turbine looks like, we have

2 in the area immediately surrounding the turbine

3 foundation for us to set our -- to stage our

8 turbine foundation. That's a construction

Okay. Scott, next one. Thank you.

1 analyzed that it would be a maximum 400-foot radius

equipment, the construction equipment, to stage the

new turbine components, and to stage where the old turbine components come down. So that will all

happen within a 400-foot radius maximum of the

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- 1 wind farm, the proposal is to build it in 2025 so
- 2 it's fully operational as repowered by the end of
- 3 2025. And at that point the turbines will be -- and
- 4 we'll get to this in the next couple slides, some of 5 the details around this, but then the turbine models
- 6 will be a V110, 2.2 megawatts in capacity. The buzz
- 7 numbers there, V100 means it's a 100-meter rotor
- 8 diameter, okay, and we'll show a graphic, what I
- 9 mean by that. It's a 100-meter rotor diameter now. 10 When they are repowered at V110s, that will be a

- 15
- 16
- This last bullet is an important one. So 17
- 18 as you know the current models have a static light
- on there to make for safe aviation in the area.
- What we would intend to install with the repowered
- wind farm is what's called an aircraft detection
- 22 lighting system. That means that the lights are off
- 23 unless an aircraft is approaching the area. Then
- 24 the lights go on to make for safe navigation. This 25 is an approved FAA lighting system. We've put it on

- 11 110-meter rotor diameter. So we're increasing the 12 radius by 5 meters, right, 5 meters on either -- on 13 all sides. And then importantly -- I'm sorry, let's 14 go back one. MR. SCOTT EK: Sorry. MR. MATT LANGAN: No, that's fine.
- So just, you know, as we're using the 11

9 footprint, if you will.

- 12 terminology, obviously the blades, those will move
- from -- you know, instead of 50 meters long, they'll
- be 55 meters long. The nacelle will either, again,
- have components in that nacelle replaced or an
- entirely new nacelle placed on the turbine tower,
- and then this piece is the hub right here that
- connects the blades. That will be a replaced
- component as well, as part of the repower. But with
- the foundation and the tower, those are going to
- remain in the same location and will use the same
- 22 foundation and tower itself. So those won't move or
- 23 change.

10

- Okay. Scott, next one. Thanks. 24
- I've got some contact information on 25

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- 1 here. You know, now is the time when you want to
- 2 submit -- if you want to submit comments, certainly
- 3 you can do those on the record, and Scott's got
- 4 contact information for the state to do so. A handy
- 5 thing to pick up, if you didn't already, is the copy
- 6 of this presentation, right there, where all of this
- 7 information is going to be. But we at Xcel really
- 8 welcome your questions or concerns, and even after
- 9 this process is over, we really invite any comments
- 10 or questions or concerns to come in to us and we'll
- 11 be happy to answer them. So here's some information
- 12 about how to get in touch with us, again either
- 13 during this -- the state review process or anytime
- 14 after and leading up to and through construction.
- 15 I think that's my last slide.
- 16 MR. SCOTT EK: Okay.
- 17 MR. MATT LANGAN: Thank you.
- 18 MR. SCOTT EK: Thanks, Matt.
- Yeah, so as Matt was leading into here, I
- 20 put this -- I'm going to -- there will be a slide at
- 21 the end -- this information will -- I'll leave up at
- 22 the end of the presentation. As Matt said there's a
- 23 copy of this presentation with all this information,
- 24 as well as a notice that was sent out, so you can
- 25 grab those on the front desk. It has contact

- 1 hand. But make sure -- we want to do it one person
- 2 at a time 'cause we have a court reporter here that
- 3 will take that information down, and we'll have a
- 4 transcript of all the questions and the comments.
- 5 So you'll want to state and spell your
- 6 first name. If you forget, I'll remind you or the
- 7 court reporter will remind you. Speak loudly and
- 8 clearly. And like I said we sometimes limit it to
- 9 five minutes if there's a lot of folks here, but I
- 10 think we have plenty of time to get through any
- 11 questions that might come up. And should it go way
- 12 long, you can always add yourself to the queue
- 13 again. But here's the slide I was talking about
- 14 with the information, and as I said there's
- 15 information on the front desk when you walked in.
- So I guess we'll go to questions and
- 17 comments. The first person -- the only person that
- 18 signed up to speak is Mr. Nathan Runke.
- MR. NATHAN RUNKE: I can probably talk
- 20 loud enough from back here. So my name's Nathan
- 21 Runke. So that's N-A-T-H-A-N, R-U-N-K-E. I'm with
- 22 the International Union of Operating Engineers Local
- 23 49. We're a heavy equipment operator union that
- 24 represents fourteen and a half thousand members
- 25 across Minnesota and both Dakotas, 800 of which live

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- 1 information, comment deadlines, how to comment,
- 2 where to send the comments, and so forth.
- 3 So what the Commission looks for -- of
- 4 course you can comment on anything you like, but
- 5 what helps the Commission and the Department is to
- 6 identify any impacts you foresee, you know, with
- 7 your property or with the project in general, human8 and environmental impacts or things that should be
- 9 mitigated or concerns you just question that are out
- 10 there and then the -- just whether or not the
- 11 Commission should approve the requested site permit
- 12 amendments. That helps the Commission. That said,
- 13 we will take any comment you have and it's always
- 14 helpful.
- That's the reason for tonight, and so
- 16 here just in a few minutes or so, we'll go into the
- 17 questions and comments for you folks. So if you --
- 18 I see on the -- when you came in, there were sign-in
- 19 sheets. Of course you don't have to sign in. It
- 20 looks like one -- we have one person that actually
- signed in that wanted to speak. There's other folksthat just wanted to be put on the mailing list and
- 23 whatnot. So what'll happen, I'll ask the person who
- 24 signed in to speak first, and since there's only a
- 25 dozen or more of us here, we can go by questions by

- 1 within 50 miles of this project.
- 2 I just wanted to speak in support of this
- 3 project. It creates the work that our members do
- 4 every day. Xcel has a pretty well proven track
- 5 record of employing people with family-sustaining
- 6 wages and giving them the opportunity to either get
- 7 a career in this industry or continue their career
- 8 in this industry, so we really appreciate working
- 9 with a company like them. I'm confident this 10 project will be done in a way that the workers that
- 11 will work on it will benefit strongly from it. We
- 12 support the goal of carbon reduction. So any of
- 13 these wind farms, we'll obviously be out there to
- 14 work on them. We'd encourage the Commission to keep
- 15 the local benefits of local union labor potential on
- 16 a job like this in mind when they're considering it,
- 17 and we'd urge the Commission to approve the
- 18 requested site permit amendments. And thank you for
- 19 the opportunity to speak tonight.
- MR. SCOTT EK: Thank you. So I guess we
- 21 can just now open it up to a show of hands, whoever
- 22 has a question or a comment.
- MR. RANDY SWANSON: I have a question.
- MR. SCOTT EK: Sure. If you just want to
- 25 -- if you could just state and spell your name for

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1 the court reporter.

- MR. RANDY SWANSON: Okay. Randy Swanson,
- 3 S-W-A-N-S-O-N. My question is it seems like -- are
- 4 you doing this for a lot of repair, because you're
- 5 only -- you're only increasing it 2/10ths per
- 6 windmill. That seems like that's a lot of work for
- 7 just 2/10th's more power out of each one. That, and
- 8 the other thing is a lot of these have been sitting
- 9 idle, not even running. I've noticed there's
- 10 anywhere from three to a half a dozen that haven't
- 11 run for a couple months, and then they'll start them
- 12 again. I was wondering, well, they're gonna start
- 13 working on them, but they weren't. So that's the
- 14 question there I guess I would have. As far as your
- 15 carbon reduction, most of that was because you
- 16 eliminated coal plants.
- **MR. MATT LANGAN:** Can I take that?
- 18 MR. SCOTT EK: Yeah.
- 19 MR. MATT LANGAN: So thanks for the
- 20 comments, plural, I think. Thanks for the comments.
- Number one, you're right the -- while
- 22 there's a 0.2 megawatt increase, the numbers, the
- 23 energy efficiency gained over time is really an
- 24 economic win. If you prorate that over the 25-year
- 25 operating life that we're proposing here, it's

- 1 a wind farm that we believe really does provide
- 2 benefits to the community. We've been here for the
- 3 seven years. We like operating here. We hope that
- 4 we have a good working relationship with folks in
- 5 the community, and so we want to extend that. We
- 6 want to extend that operating life and that
- 7 partnership with the community.
- 8 In terms of the individual turbines being
- 9 shut down or not working, I'm sorry to say I don't
- 10 have the answer for why that might be. You know, I
- 11 guess I wouldn't know. I can take a look at that
- and try to provide some information about why that
- is. But certainly what we'd like is for our
- 14 turbines to be operating all the time of course.
- MR. RANDY SWANSON: I do have one more
- part of that as far as the -- I just have one more
- 17 part of that compared to -- I mean, what it amounts
- 18 to and stuff, you're backup for these plants and
- 19 stuff, a lot of people have problems. Why aren't
- 20 they leaving some of the coal plants, because
- 21 there's gonna be such a high demand for electricity,
- 22 especially with this administration. It's
- 23 impossible to meet those demands. Other countries
- 24 are saying we might think about it by 2030, and
- 25 we're trying to make all these things now.

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- 1 actually substantial with the new technology and the
- 2 longer blades. It is a true economic benefit even
- 3 if it seems, you know, incremental per turbine. So
- 4 -- and that was something that the Public Utilities
- 5 Commission had to evaluate when they were approving
- 6 the proposal, was is this worth it? And so it is
- 7 and we can -- I think we can point -- although not8 off the top of my head, we can point to some areas
- 9 of the application where we have, you know, provided
- 10 those numbers. But you're right. There's an
- 11 incremental per turbine out of the 100 turbines'
- 12 increase there, and -- okay. That was the first
- 13 comment.
- 14 Second comment, you're right. Our
- 15 proposal -- and maybe this was the third comment.
- 16 Forgive me. But you're right. Our proposal is to
- 17 shutter our coal plants -- coal-burning units up at
- 18 Sherco -- within the State of Minnesota. And so
- 19 that makes these type of renewable energy projects
- 20 all the more important, because energy use is not
- 21 going down right now. And so we need to -- we need
- 22 to replace those coal-fired units with renewable
- 23 energy from projects like this. And so extending
- 24 the service life of the Pleasant Valley Wind Farm is
- 25 a priority for us, you know, where we're looking at

- Although the United States uses a lot of
- 2 electricity, as far as -- I guess what I'm asking is
- 3 the backup plans that they have right now are jet
- 4 engines running on natural gas. But natural gas
- 5 does not have enough BTUs to start them, so they
- 6 have to start on a jet fuel like a diesel fuel for
- 7 probably 20 to 30 minutes before they can generate
- 8 enough heat to switch it to a natural gas. Kind of
- 9 defeats the purpose of the carbons, because they're
- .o getting a lot of carbons out there.
- MR. SCOTT EK: Oh, valid points. Valid
- 2 points. It's just -- and I get your question. It
- 13 makes a lot of sense to me as well. I question, you
- 14 know, how -- unfortunately, I am not the
- 15 decisionmaker. And, you know, I didn't plan these
- 16 policies out in the future and require what -- you
- 17 know, tell Xcel what they're expected to do and
- 18 whatnot. But, no, just as a citizen myself, I
- 19 scratch my head and go, well, if we're getting rid
- 20 of these big generating facilities, what's gonna
- 21 take their place? And if so, you know, I think
- 22 you're talking about peaker plants that use natural
- 23 gas, and Xcel turns them on and off, you know,
- 24 depending on the grid, the load, and the electricity 25 needed.

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- 1 Yeah, you're right. I, you know --
- 2 that's just a bigger conversation than we can have
- 3 here tonight. You know, we're just talking about
- 4 this wind farm and replacing the mechanics and
- 5 blades on each of the turbines to add to the whole.
- 6 So, I mean, the questions you asked are valid, but I
- 7 don't know if they can be answered here tonight.
- MR. JIM HAHN: My name is Jim Hahn,
- 9 H-A-H-N. My comment really was we're going to work
- 10 on adding 10 percent of capacity of potential by
- 11 adding the bigger blades and better technology, but
- 12 ultimately what are we going to gain by this? If we
- 13 cannot add that extra 10 percent into the grid, why
- 14 do we do it?
- 15 MR. MATT LANGAN: So while -- can I
- 16 answer?
- 17 **MR. SCOTT EK:** Oh, yeah.
- **MR. MATT LANGAN:** So it's -- it's the
- 19 energy efficiency given by, right, the new -- the
- 20 new blades and the new components within the nacelle
- 21 that gain a greater efficiency. So we're capturing
- 22 -- capturing more wind, if you will, right, and
- 23 therefore increasing what is currently the
- 24 generating output. Even -- even if we are able to
- 25 -- we are limited to our maximum contribution at the

- . Now, where the bigger blades really help
- 2 is in the summer months, right, the low-wind summer
- 3 months. So the bigger blade will allow us to
- 4 produce more energy at the 4 to 5, 6-meter second
- 5 winds. So that's really where their bread and
- 6 butter is with the bigger blades. That's why the
- 7 industry has gone to the bigger blades, so we can
- 8 spend more time producing energy, if that makes
- 9 sense. So going to the overproduce, you know, we're
- 10 going from 200 megawatts to 220 megawatts. That's
- 11 at our top end. But we'll just run a curtailment on
- 12 them. So we won't technically shut any down, but we
- can only interject 200 megawatts onto the system.
- 14 That is our limit, and we're not allowed to go over
- 15 that. Does that answer your question?
- 16 MR. JIM HAHN: Yeah, I guess it does. It
- 17 just makes you go to work and feel -- like Randy was
- 18 just asking about, you know, why do you have them
- stand idle?
- 20 MR. CHRIS HOGG: Well, those couple that
- 21 are standing idle, they have been standing idle for
- 22 a little while. The December 18th derecho that came
- 23 through did damage to the blades. We had seven
- 24 blades get damaged in that storm, and it's taken a
- 25 while. The blades, they're older. They're harder

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- 1 point of interconnect, we are able to get there more
- 2 efficiently, and so we are actually producing more
- 3 energy with the new repowered turbines than the
- 4 existing turbines.
- 5 MR. JIM HAHN: So ultimately you'll leave
- 6 more tower stands idle then 'cause you won't need 7 them?
- 8 MR. MATT LANGAN: Chris, would you -- we
- 9 do have other members of the Xcel project team here,
- 10 and we would have to state a name and provide an
- 11 answer. Chris, if you could.
- 12 MR. CHRIS HOGG: Chris Hogg, H-O-G-G. So
- 13 right now our max output, we're a 200-megawatt
- 14 facility. That's with our interconnect, right, so
- 15 we can't go over 200 megawatts. We're a 2.0 machine
- 16 right now, so we can at the turbine generate
- 17 2 megawatts or 200 megawatts, right, collectively.
- 18 But we lose a lot of the losses in the collection
- 19 lines. So what the overrun does on the 2.2 -- the 2
- 20 to the 2.2, it allows us to generate 200 megawatts
- 21 at our point of interconnect. So we're gonna get
- 22 there -- so that's about five or six megawatts that
- 23 we're losing, without looking at the numbers again,
- 24 from the turbine all the way to our point of
- 25 interconnect.

- 1 to find. You know, it's 2015, 2014, is when they
- 2 were produced. So they get harder to find. You
- 3 gotta get them shipped up here. They come from all
- 4 over the U.S. They have to be matched weight. They
- 5 gotta be within so many kilograms of each other.
- 6 The pitch has got to be the same on them. So we
- 7 finally got them in. We're doing the last one
- 8 hopefully on Thursday, and we should have all of
- 9 them back and running.
- 10 MR. RANDY SWANSON: Are they equipping
- 11 them with the deicing?
- MR. CHRIS HOGG: I wish there was
- 13 something for deicing.
- 14 MR. RANDY SWANSON: Okay.
- 15 **MR. CHRIS HOGG:** Does that kind of get
- 16 both questions there?
- 17 **MR. SCOTT EK:** Are there any other
- **18** questions from folks?
- 19 Yes, sir. Just, if you could, speak
- 20 loudly and --
- MR. NATE REID: Sure. Sure.
- 22 Nate Reid, R-E-I-D. I guess my question's probably
- 23 for Chris. And Xcel's been really good to work with
- 24 as opposed to the original construction outfit. How
- 25 heavy is the crane? And is it gonna -- is it gonna

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1 crush tile when it runs across it? Drain tile.

MR. CHRIS HOGG: I mean, long story

- 3 short, yeah, I mean, we're gonna crush tile again,
- 4 but we're gonna stay to the turbine roads. So that
- 5 access, we're actually gonna have to -- the crane's
- 6 a little wider than the road in some spots, so if
- 7 there's tile out there, there's high potential for
- 8 it to be impacted. Now, they can't travel that full
- 9 crane fully weighted down our turbine roads, so
- 10 we'll actually have to break down quite a bit of it
- 11 so it becomes an overweight semitrailer, you know,
- 12 which is still 80,000 pounds, right? You're moving
- 13 down the road or down a turbine road. But we're not
- 14 -- as Matt mentioned earlier, we're not going across
- 15 the road. It's turbine to turbine on the access
- 16 road. Once they get down to whatever's on that set
- 17 of access roads, they'll break it down more and then
- take it on to the next set and build it at the
- 19 tower.
- 20 So I've kind of looked at that, and I've
- 21 been working a little bit with the project team.
- 22 You know, there's -- if there's a main under the
- 23 road, it's something where we could possibly do some
- 24 cribbing, get a ramp, do cribbing so we can spread
- 25 that load out even more. The mains are -- I don't

- 1 them that said, yeah, we'd like them in a different
- 2 spot than what they are. They went by the original
- 3 footprint no matter what. They didn't give a hoot
- 4 what we said at the meetings, and basically they
- 5 were saying they were gonna plank this and stuff,
- 6 the heavy cranes and things. And I realize what
- 7 you're using now is gonna be a lot better system as
- 8 far as cranes.
- 9 MR. CHRIS HOGG: Yep.
- 10 MR. RANDY SWANSON: What they did as far
- 11 as cranes, they were out to crush tile. I mean,
- 12 they damaged millions of dollars of tile.
- .3 MR. CHRIS HOGG: I don't disagree with
- 14 that. Again, we're in better control of the
- 15 situation this time around.
- 16 MR. SCOTT EK: Mr. Swanson.
- 17 MR. RANDY SWANSON: Yes.
- 18 MR. SCOTT EK: We have this all in
- 19 transcript. So, you know -- and our permits -- our
- 20 permits -- no, but really, the Commission -- that's
- 21 one of the important things to the commissioners. I
- 22 know that they -- the first thing they have in mind
- 23 when considering a project or any changes to a
- 24 project are the concerns of the people, of the
- 25 landowners. I know -- I mean, one of the

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- 1 want to crush a main. RES was -- RES did a few of
- 2 those obviously back in the original construction,
- 3 but there's definitely things we can do to help
- 4 prevent and truly minimize the impact to the field
- 5 tile this time.
- 6 And then since we're more in charge of
- 7 the project as opposed to last time, as the BOT
- 8 we'll be able to more handpick our tile company, and
- 9 they'll be able to be out there while -- you know,
- 10 while we're on construction and do repairs and stuff
- 11 right then and there. Long story short, we'll crush
- 12 some tile, but we'll be more responsive to fixing
- 13 them this time around, as we have full control this
- **14** time.
- 15 MR. RANDY SWANSON: Could I add to that
- 16 question? I don't want to be hogging everything
- 17 here, but I think it'd probably the opinion and my
- 18 opinion is especially that I'm glad Xcel is doing
- 19 this. But the ones that were doing the construction
- 20 there, the last group, they're pathetic, and they --
- 21 what was discouraging to a lot of people was that
- 22 they put a footprint out saying we're gonna put
- 23 these windmills here and stuff like that, and then
- 24 they said but we'll change where you want. Well,
- 25 everybody -- not everybody, but there's a lot of

- 1 commissioners, he's just focused on, you know, local
- 2 landowners and ensuring that that permit covers, you3 know, all the concerns that they have. And our
- 4 permits do require a builder to -- if they damage
- 5 drain tile, fences, anything for that matter, that
- 6 it needs to be replaced. And at any time we would
- 7 expect a landowner, if there's problems working with
- 8 that developer or construction company, to come to
- 9 the Commission, and that's when we step in and help
- 10 take over for that landowner. So it's really
- 11 important.
- It's unfortunate that last time around it
- sounds like some not so great things may have
- 14 happened, and I think Xcel's aware of that, it
- 15 sounds like too. So this time around if this is all
- 16 approved, hopefully it's a little better. But it is
- 17 a concern that the commissioners all take to heart.
- **MR. RANDY SWANSON:** In that sense I have
- 19 sympathy for Xcel, because a lot of situations,
- 20 there were things they didn't have control over and
- 21 they got dumped on, is what it amounted to. So 22 that's the main thing there, and they were supposed
- 23 to last as far as the -- that was the first question
- 24 I asked. As far as the longevity of these, they
- 25 were talking 25, 30 years. A lot of them were

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- 1 leaking in the planetaries and everything like this,
- 2 the reduction for the crops and stuff. But then
- 3 four or five years, oil running down and stuff this
- 4 way. So that's what I was hoping. They're putting
- 5 a lot better equipment in there now than they did
- 6 before as far as the gearboxes, as far as everything
- 7 that goes that way.
- MR. SCOTT EK: Thank you.
- Yes, sir, if you can just state and spell
- 10 your name and try to speak loud if you can, please.
- MR. KRIS HOUG: My name is Kris Houg, 11
- 12 K-R-I-S, H-O-U-G. I actually live over by Glenville
- in the footprint of the Freeborn Wind Farm that they
- put up there recently. But anyway to put people's
- mind at ease, I'm actually with the Local 49 too, so
- I came from the heavy equipment operator background. And I can tell you that Xcel has been a great entity
- to work with on these projects. They've provided a
- 19 lot of local jobs, and you're gonna see a lot less,
- 20 I guess, travelers in from the southern states and
- all over. They pick really responsible contractors
- 22 to do these jobs, and they take care of the
- 23 landowners.
- I'm working with several farms out west 24
- 25 right now that Xcel is in charge of, and they've

- 1 Waltham Township. The roads were not fine. They
- did not repair them, and in fact on intersections
- that they had widened out when they went and removed
- 4 it, in places they narrowed our roadway at that
- intersection by 3 feet and the in-slope was totally
- ignored. That puts the township at a severe
- liability. If somebody would cut the corner a
- little too short, it would cause a rollover, because
- the in-slope is not what it was supposed to be.
- My question is, is would it be in the
- 11 best interest of the township to go out and
- videotape all these roads in the conditions they are
- now prior to when this construction starts so we
- 14 have a reference of what we expect Xcel or the
- contractors to bring it back to prior to them
- leaving the area? Last contractors paid Waltham
- Township -- I believe it was \$78,000 and said, well,
- here's the money, you guys just go and fix it. When
- you have 8 miles of road that the integrity has been
- totally compromised, \$78,000, what is the cost to
- regrade 1 mile of road? It is much greater than
- what they were -- they were throwing peanuts at us,
- thinking we would think it was a large sum of money
- and that was it. We were not allowed to maintain
- that road for three years while construction went

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- 1 been absolutely perfect for people to deal with.
- 2 And the landowners that I have talked to are
- 3 absolutely happy with what's going on out there.
- 4 And so like you guys have dealt with in the past,
- 5 I've heard horror stories. I just wanted to cheer
- 6 up the locals a little bit. There's gonna be a lot
- 7 better contractors in town working on these.
- **MR. SCOTT EK:** Thank you. Yes, sir.
- MR. RON MASCHING: My name is Ron
- 10 Masching, R-O-N, M-A-S-C-H-I-N-G. My question is
- 11 with the weight of these cranes, it doesn't matter
- 12 if they're rubber tired or if there on tracks or
- whatever. What occurred last year within Waltham
- 14 township was the integrity of the gravel roads is
- 15 totally destroyed. The actual load that you can put
- on a gravel road is far less than 80,000 pounds.
- And the width when they get out to the outer edge of
- that road, it does not have the depth of gravel, so
- the integrity of the road is easily destroyed. And
- the simple fix of just adding more gravel to that
- 21 road does not improve the integrity of the road that
- 22 was destroyed.
- And my question is as a resident, Mower
- 24 County was willing to sign off that the roads were
- 25 fine, and at that time I operated the grader for

- 1 on. I would hope that they would allow the township
- 2 to perform maintenance during the construction
- 3 period rather than come in after everything was
- destroyed and try and bring it back to where it was.
- MR. MATT LANGAN: Did you want to answer
- that? I'm happy to also, in terms of road-use 7 agreements.
- **MR. RICH DAVIS:** I was gonna say per the
- 9 site permit that the Commission would issue for
- this, there is language in there -- there's a
- condition to have a road-use agreement or a
- development agreement, is what they're called.
- Sometimes that's generally between the county and the developer, so Xcel in this case. A lot of times
- townships will give that authority over to the
- county, like you mentioned with Mower County signing
- off on stuff. And that's kind of where the
- responsibility of that lies, is that we have to --
- we'll receive a copy of that. But at this point I
- would say you might want to address that. 20
- MR. MATT LANGAN: I think you're 21
- answering correctly. So as part of the site permit
- if we were warranted, there will be a condition that 24 we enter into a road-use or road-development
- 25 agreement with the townships and county. I know

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- 1 that those agreements take a while to put together.
- 2 I also know that, you know, getting a snapshot of
- 3 the current condition of the road is something
- 4 that's in the interest of both parties, right? So,
- 5 yeah, it's often a videotaping of the condition of
- 6 the road or other measures of the road's integrity
- 7 before construction starts.
- MR. RON MASCHING: So in the investment
- 9 of having that videotape, there are companies out
- 10 there that professionally do videotaping and they
- 11 know the critical areas, of which it is definitely
- shown in the before video and the after video. Is
- Xcel willing to accept that they incur the cost of
- 14 that, or would the township to have to pay for that
- just to protect what we currently have?
- MR. MATT LANGAN: I want to make sure I'm 16
- understanding your question correctly because the
- answer to what I think your question is, is that
- Xcel Energy would be responsible for any damages
- caused to the roadways because of construction
- 21 traffic.
- **MR. RON MASCHING:** Okay. My question is 22
- to make it very clear what damage was done, what the
- 24 condition of the road was before, and what it is
- 25 after construction's completed, to pay for that

- 1 that road-use agreement is what roads will be used.
- 2 Not every single road of course in the township and
- county is going to be used for construction. That's
- 4 a big part of the negotiation or the cooperation
- between the construction company and the local unit
- of government, whatever it might be, is what are the
- appropriate roads to use to accomplish construction.
- So we're not using roads that aren't appropriate in
- the first place to use.
- Go ahead. 10
- 11 **MR. RICH DAVIS:** I was just going to say
- 12 I would recommend that you -- that the township
- bring that up to Mower County so that they can then
- have that discussion with Xcel when they're working
- through the road-use agreement, unless the
- township's gonna represent themselves in that --
- working through that agreement, because then it
- would be -- you would want something like that in
- the agreement itself to specify who's doing the
- before and the after in handling those kind of
- things. That would be my recommendation, I guess.
- That's where it would probably do the most help.
- **MR. RON MASCHING:** What I'm looking at is
- what took place when the wind farm was originally --
- the original construction when it was erected. What

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- 1 videotaping, is that going to be the responsibility
- 2 of the township or is Xcel going to have funds
- 3 available to reimburse the township for that, or is
- 4 Xcel going to have a program? Because it's not just
- 5 one township that's affected here. The 100 wind
- generators involve many townships.
- MR. MATT LANGAN: Yes.
- MR. RON MASCHING: Are they going to
- 9 videotape all those, or is it just up to the
- 10 townships to stand up and say, hey, we want to
- protect what we have worked hard to maintain?
 - MR. MATT LANGAN: Yeah, understood.
- 13 Thanks. And this is such a good question and
- something that we spend a lot of time on. I will
- say that it's not me that negotiates the road-use
- agreement, so I don't know every detail on it. But
- I will say that it seems reasonable that Xcel Energy
- would bear the cost of taping the condition of the
- 19 roads before we use them. That seems reasonable,
- and if I'm wrong, anybody else on the Xcel project
- 21 team can tell me I am, or I'll come back and I'll
- 22 get in touch with you directly to tell you I was
- 23 wrong. But that seems like a reasonable cost for us
- 24 to bear, and so we'll do that.
- What I will say is, you know, part of 25

- 1 I'm looking at is the township did not have a say
- 2 so. We had to go to Mike Hanson in Mower County,
- 3 and we had to actually physically drag him out and
- show him the damage on the roads before he said,
- okay, well, maybe I shouldn't sign off on this.
- Because Sargeant Township to the east of us, one of the roads, like you said, that they used
- was 320, and that -- a mile of that was in Sargeant
- Township. A mile of it was in Waltham Township.
- And, I mean, it -- that road just got pushed down
- into the ground. They tried to repair it by putting big 4-inch breaker rock on the road with no concern
- for the liability that the township would stand if
- somebody driving down that road tried to drive it at
- 55 miles an hour, which is the legal speed limit on
- a gravel road that is not posted. According to
- state law, it's 55 miles an hour. If somebody loses
- control of that vehicle and goes in the ditch, I can
- guarantee you their lawyer is going to name Waltham
- Township as the responsible party, and we were not
- allowed to do anything to maintain those roads while the construction was going on.
- 23 So what I would like to see changed is
- 24 that not only does the county take responsibility to
- 25 sign off, but also the townships have a say in that.

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- 1 This is all going to be discussed at the township's
- 2 annual meeting in March prior to when all this gets
- 3 started.
- 4 MR. SCOTT EK: I can add to that. And
- 5 I'm sorry to hear about the problems you had with
- 6 the last contractor and whatnot. That said, also
- 7 I'm not putting any blame. It's too bad that you
- 8 couldn't have -- someone couldn't have contacted the
- 9 Commission. You know, I imagine you went to the
- 10 contractor, and the contractor is supposed to
- 11 contact the Commission, and there's supposed to be a
- 12 chain of -- a chain of command. And if that chain
- 13 of command breaks down, then we would expect the
- 14 township to come to the Commission or go to the
- 15 county. There would be some type of interaction.
- But I wanted to -- here's why I point
- 17 that out, is in the permit that's existing right
- 18 now, this is just an excerpt from Section 7.8, and
- 19 this won't change. With your comments tonight, it
- 20 might get even a little better as we go through this
- 21 process to amend. But, you know, the permittee
- 22 shall, prior to use of such roads, make satisfactory
- 23 arrangements with the appropriate state, county, or
- 24 township government body having jurisdiction over
- 25 roads to be used for construction of the project for

- 1 farmland, for the townships, and the roads. It was
- 2 all a learning process. I just hope that across the
- 3 board that everybody, all people concerned, will do
- 4 a much better job in making it so that efficiency of
- 5 producing electricity isn't, quote, unquote, the
- 6 focus of the whole thing.
- MR. SCOTT EK: Right. Yes
- MR. NATE REID: Nate Reid again. I'm
- 9 wondering what happens if I don't sign my amendment.
- 10 A little background, I met with a gentleman, a very
- 11 nice guy and, you know, got the sheet that says,
- 12 okay, it's gonna be 10 percent more on such and such
- 13 a date and all this and that and, you know, talked
- 14 about going from the loyalty payment to the fixed
- 15 payment. And that's all great too, and I said,
- 16 well, you know, that sounds great, why don't you
- 17 just write that into the amendment that it's gonna
- 18 be 10 percent more based on some, you know, CPI
- 19 factor from this point forward, and we'll know
- 20 exactly what it will be. And, well, we can't do
- **21** that.
- 22 So I'm kind of wondering, I don't usually
- 23 sign contracts that I have to perform on without the
- 24 other side stating exactly what they're gonna do.
- 25 It seems like it's a fairly -- and maybe I don't

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- 1 maintenance repair of the roads that will be subject
- 2 to extra wear and tear due to transportation of
- 3 equipment and project components. The permittee
- 4 shall notify the Commission of such arrangements
- 5 upon request to the Commission.
- 6 So just saying that, I know Xcel has done
- 7 other projects and is aware of this. This is very
- 8 general language, and you heard me name townships in
- 9 there. So in this case this road agreement would
- 10 include the county, the townships, if it was a city.
- 11 All those players involved would be part of that
- 12 road agreement, and it would have to be filed. And
- 13 somewhere in that agreement, Xcel would have to say 14 all of these bodies agree to this and we've come to
- -- amazant If not Varl var nod to as hadrond
- 15 agreement. If not, Xcel, you need to go back and
- work with these to make -- until there is agreement or satisfaction, you know, to the Commission and all
- 18 involved.
- So I just wanted to point out as the
- 20 permit exists, it says that. It should have helped
- 21 last time. I apologize. Hopefully with your
- 22 comments and the existing language and Xcel being
- 23 the developer, it will go better this time.
- MR. RON MASCHING: Well, last time was a
- 25 learning process for everybody, for the farmers,

- 1 understand and that's fine. It seems like a fairly
- 2 straightforward deal. You know, we're gonna max out
- 3 a 2.2, and I think the previous thing says 4400 per
- 4 megawatt. And, you know, there's -- you know,
- 5 inflation's been low. It's ratcheting up. So, I
- 6 mean, it should be fairly easy to spell out exactly
- 7 what we're gonna get paid. So I'm kind of wondering
- 8 where do I go from there?
- 9 MR. MATT LANGAN: Well, I can -- yeah, I
- 10 can answer part of that, but I do have one question
- 11 just so I understand. Do you host a turbine on your
- **12** land?
- 13 MR. NATE REID: Yes.
 - 4 MR. MATT LANGAN: Okay. All right. So I
- think -- you know, Xcel would hope to come to an
- 16 agreement with you. I will say that we do have a
- 17 land agent representative here tonight that we're
- 18 happy to speak with you further about that. The
- 19 site permit itself doesn't get into, you know,
- 20 payment amounts or anything like that, so that's
- 21 sort of not the subject of a site permit tonight.
- 22 MR. NATE REID: Right.
- 23 MR. MATT LANGAN: But I encourage you, if
- 24 you wouldn't mind, to just stick around, and we
- 25 could speak with you about that afterwards.

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- 1 **MR. NATE REID:** Absolutely.
- 2 MR. MATT LANGAN: And so -- and thanks
- 3 for clarifying that you have a turbine on your land.
- 4 You know, we would -- not extending the agreement
- 5 would not allow us to run a repower turbine past the
- 6 existing term of the permit. That's the impact it
- 7 would be. But if you don't mind, sir, please stick
- 8 around, and we'd be happy to speak with you.
- 9 MR. NATE REID: Very pleasant
- 10 conversations with the agent and not unhappy.
- 11 Just like I said I don't want to --
- MR. MATT LANGAN: You bet.
- 13 **MR. NATE REID:** Good fences make good 14 neighbors.
- 15 MR. MATT LANGAN: Yep.
- MR. SCOTT EK: And I can just say on the
- 17 Commission side of it, the Commission doesn't and
- 18 can't get into these individual agreements, how
- 19 they're structured and who agrees on what.
- 20 Basically, the Commission's just made aware, you
- 21 know, if people are signing agreements or are they
- 22 against agreements, just kind of how they feel about
- 23 the project being on their property and what -- but
- 24 not the -- not the details of any of these
- 25 agreements, they don't consider.

- 1 everybody's windshields. And it built up the roads
- 2 in our township through the years, 'cause each year
- 3 they would do a certain percent of putting crushed
- 4 rock on certain gravel roads. Tried to do the worst
- 5 ones first and then build up to where everybody
- 6 would get a light cover.
- But they found that they saved more money
- 8 -- I have a friend here -- that has been -- when the
- 9 first people came talking about it, Duwayne was one
- 10 of the advisory board. He talked the other farmers
- 11 into electing certain guys to be on the board, and
- 12 there were five of them. He was one, and they met
- 13 with the lawyers. They met with RES, and they made
- 14 -- or said to them that they would pay for Dexter's
- 15 lawyer also. Not only were they doing the lawsuits,
- but they were telling the guys.
- And so the word around got that when they
- 18 first started talking about things, these people
- 19 didn't even know what we meant by tiling on a farm.
- 20 They thought we were talking about the stuff you put
- 21 on walls. So it's really basic. You gotta be sure
- 22 they know what you want to have them do and that
- 23 tiling is much different in Texas. They don't do
- 24 it, and up here they do a lot.
- 25 And we had a lot of tiling issues. They

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- MR. NATE REID: I would say working with
- 2 Xcel's been very good. I mean, it's -- no
- 3 complaints at all. I'm very happy with them.
- 4 MR. SCOTT EK: All right. Any other
- 5 folks have questions or comments?
- 6 Yes, sir, if you could state and spell
- 7 your name.
- 8 MR. DUWAYNE SKOV: My name is Duwayne
- 9 Skov, S-K-O-V. The initial construction of the two
- 10 windmills on our property, we had more trouble with
- 11 tile lines than anything I ever done, And it was
- 12 about three years before we finally got it
- 13 straightened out. Also, I'm retired now, and I live
- 14 in assisted living place. Certainly the income from
- 15 the windmills is a big help paying for it. The
- 16 Dexter Township is getting a nice check from the
- 17 wind tax. The county's getting good wind tax. I
- 18 appreciate it.
- MR. SCOTT EK: Thank you for the comment.
- 20 MS. LAVONNE SKOV: And Duwayne was on the
- 21 Dexter board, the township board, for 30 years, and
- 22 roads is the main thing they worked with. And they
- 23 -- he talked the other guys into -- instead of
- 24 buying gravel, they bought crushed rock, which is
- 25 bigger but yet not so big that it's gonna break

- 1 did not follow what he recommended. And our tile
- 2 lines went a certain direction, and he wanted them
- 3 to not drive across them and put something the other
- 4 way. But they didn't pay any attention, and they
- 5 went down beside or over or whatever, and so we had6 a lot of problems with them. But it wasn't our
- 7 local ones that were doing that, and so it was just
- 8 people that did not understand that you don't do
- 9 that.
- **COURT REPORTER:** Can I get your name?
- 11 MS. LAVONNE SKOV: Oh, Lavonne Skov.
- 12 L-A-V-O-N-N-E, S-K-O-V. It's a long O.
- .3 **MR. SCOTT EK:** And just to kind of answer
- 14 your concerns, I think as you heard tonight, we
- 15 touched on both those subjects. And it sounds like
- 16 that's a bone of contention with folks, and that's
- 17 exactly what these -- excuse me, these meetings are
- 18 for, is to get this information on the record so I
- 19 can put it -- Rich can put it into his post-meeting
- 20 filings, and I can put it into my briefing papers 21 for the commissioners. And Xcel is here today
- 22 listening to the concerns. So that's the reason for
- 23 these meetings.
- **MS. LAVONNE SKOV:** They don't have a --
- 25 the board is not working with them at all anymore.

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- 1 MR. SCOTT EK: I'm sorry?
- 2 MS. LAVONNE SKOV: The advisory board
- 3 that RES had is not working with Xcel.
- 4 MR. SCOTT EK: No, Xcel will be the sole
- 5 developer.
- 6 **MS. LAVONNE SKOV:** But they are the ones
- 7 that have been coming in and doing building things,
- 8 Xcel.
- 9 MR. MATT LANGAN: We will, yes, for
- 10 Pleasant Valley.
- 11 MS. LAVONNE SKOV: For this new one.
- **MR. MATT LANGAN:** For the new one, yes.
- **MS. LAVONNE SKOV:** It's -- it's all of
- 14 us, and we're in Mower County.
- 15 **MR. SCOTT EK:** And then, you know,
- 16 whatever's decided in this -- whatever the
- 17 Commission decides -- if they decide to grant the
- 18 amendments and the project goes, you know, I'd just
- 19 stress, you know, you'll have contact information
- 20 for the Commission, for me, for Rich, for -- there
- 21 will be an individual designated -- a couple
- 22 individuals designated at Xcel that you can contact
- 23 that would be in a permit. Reach out if there's
- 24 problems, because if we don't hear about the
- 25 problems, then we can't -- we don't know about them

- 1 production data that we have. It isn't as good as
- 2 it was, about 5 acres. It still isn't as good as it
- 3 was prior to the first road, that road being put in
- 4 and those cranes coming over the top of them. Just
- 5 I'm not -- not happy with that yet.
- MR. CHRIS HOGG: Yeah, let's discuss that
- 7 specific issue after the meeting. But again, we'll
- 8 -- there's a couple good tile companies left in the
- 9 area still, you know, that we use. I use Dylan now
- 10 for the smaller repairs. We'll have to look at what
- 11 company we want to bring in that will commit to
- 12 this. Ellingson's is another one that comes to
- 13 mind.
- **MR. SCOTT EK:** Any other questions from
- 15 folks?
- 16 MR. RANDY SWANSON: I would add a comment
- that maybe a lot of the problems we have is that
- 18 people in the state or federally or anything,
- 19 they're so far removed from what is actually taking
- 20 place out here. They're the ones that we need to
- 21 educate things. It's just like things on a gravel
- 22 road. You know, they're coming down 35W thinking
- 23 that we -- on a gravel road, we drive one side. The
- 24 load is made for the crown. The center of the road
- 25 is made -- that's where the weight can be.

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- 1 and can't step in. So it's important that folks let
- 2 us know so we can interject ourselves into any
- 3 problems that could be happening.
- 4 Any more questions or comments? Yes, 5 sir.
- 6 MR. JIM HAHN: Jim Hahn again. Just back
- 7 on as far as restoration on these tiles, will you be
- 8 using local tiling companies? Is that the thought,9 or is Xcel gonna bring in tiling companies of their
- or is Acel gonna bring in tiling companies of their own?
- 11 MR. TOM ZELLMER: I'm trying to think.
- 12 What we've done is usually ask operations managers
- 13 what they want. Usually, we ask the operations
- 14 managers who they have as local tile contractors and
- **15** if it's in the system.
- **MR. JIM HAHN:** Comment I still have is
- 17 that I know on our chicken farm, one of our main
- 18 tile lines went under -- they put a road over the
- 19 top of ours, and it crushed that. And we still --
- 20 our production records still show that we got about
- 21 5 acres that still aren't producing where they were
- 22 prior to construction. And we're sure not looking
- 23 forward to more crushing of -- coming up these roads
- 24 again, these roads in our field that go over the top
- 25 of our tile lines. And like I say we enjoy our

- So when you are running something on the
- 2 edge of the road or something that's that heavy
- 3 where it takes that much width -- a lot of this tile
- 4 has mains that are running under the road now. It
- 5 used to be culverts. A lot of them are running
- 6 mains and stuff now. They're gonna crush some. So
- 7 that's -- that's one of the issues, is I think
- 8 they're not understanding, and they're making a
- 9 decision to say, oh, just do this, whatever, and
- 10 they don't have the slightest idea what's going on out here.
- .2 MR. MATT LANGAN: Just one question about
- 13 that. Xcel frequently works with, you know, not
- 14 only individual landowners for things like tile in
- 15 the fields, locations where those are, but also
- 16 county engineers and roadway managers for those type
- 17 of situations as well. Is that who you would point
- 18 us to, to have that kind of local knowledge so that
- 19 we minimize the damage?
- 20 MR. RANDY SWANSON: Yeah. What I was
- 21 saying before is I felt like Xcel is getting the
- 22 brunt of problems that they never created, and
- 23 basically it's a lot of our -- a lot of our people
- in the state, whatever, they're making decisions and saying just do this, and they don't know what's

Page 49 1 going on. So they're the ones that we need to 2 communicate with. They're the ones that need to be 3 -- get out here and make a commitment, put your John 4 Henry down here to say I will follow this. MR. MATT LANGAN: I thank you for those 6 comments. I think it's clear to everybody in the 7 room, you know, there's a story from last time 8 around to be told, a cautionary story, and so that 9 is impressed upon all of us. This frankly is not 10 the first we've heard of it. But it helps to 11 reinforce what we think we have heard about the way 12 it went the first way around, and it's motivating to 13 us to make sure it goes better this time. **MR. SCOTT EK:** Any more comments from 14 15 folks? All right. Well, we'll convene the 16 17 meeting then. We'll wrap it up. As Matt said we'll 18 stick around for any comments off the record or 19 questions you have about the project, and like I 20 said if anything comes to mind after tonight, 21 there's a written comment period. Just grab some of 22 the -- a copy of this presentation or the notice on 23 the front desk. It provides all this info, and you 24 can contact any of us if you have questions or have 25 trouble putting a comment in or anything that comes Page 50 1 to mind and we'll help you out. So thanks for 2 coming. Thanks for all the good comments. It's 3 really good stuff to know actually. So thank you. (Meeting concluded at 7:21 p.m.) 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

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