

Comments from International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49 and North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters

May 22, 2024

The Honorable Kristien Butler
Office of Administrative Hearings
600 N Robert Street
PO BOX 64620
St. Paul, MN 55164-0620

RE: In the Matter of the Application of Xcel Energy for a Site Permit for the up to 250 MW Sherco 3 Solar Energy Generating System in Sherburne County, Minnesota Sherco Solar Project (EOO2/GS-23-217)

Dear Judge Butler,

The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49 (IUOE Local 49) and the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters (NCSRCC) submit these brief comments in support of granting a site permit to Xcel Energy for the construction of the Sherco 3 Solar project in Sherburne County.

Both unions represent construction workers who construct and maintain a wide array of critical infrastructure—including in the energy sector. The energy sector has historically been a source of family-sustaining, union jobs with good pay and benefits. As our energy system transitions towards more renewable energy resources it is important that we are maintaining the same labor standards for workers. We appreciate Xcel Energy's ongoing commitment to doing so.

In addition to the benefits for workers, this project will be critical for meeting the 100% by 2040 carbon free standard passed by the state legislature in 2023. The timely approval of the permit for this project will ensure that Xcel is meeting its energy needs as it transitions away from legacy coal facilities.

For the above reasons, we encourage you to approve the site permit for the Sherco 3 project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nathan Runke, Regulatory and Political Affairs Coordinator, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49

Richard Kolodziejcki, Public Affairs Director, North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters

