Direct Testimony and Schedule
John I. Marshall

Before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
State of Minnesota

In the Matter of the Petition of the City of Slayton for the Determination of Compensation for City Acquisition of Xcel Energy Electric Service Territory

MPUC Docket No. E002, PT-7157/SA-25-129
CAH Docket No. 22-2500-40870

# Direct Testimony of John I. Marshall

November 21, 2025

## Table of Contents



## Schedule

# I. INTRODUCTION

Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND OCCUPATION.

A. My name is John I. Marshall. I am the Regional Vice President for Customer, Community and Foundation for Northern States Power Company – Minnesota d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel Energy or the Company).

Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE.

A. In my current role, I oversee our local government relations, commercial and industrial large customer account management, and social investments and non-profit engagement in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. My statement of qualifications is included as Exhibit___(JIM-1), Schedule 1.

Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY IN THIS PROCEEDING?

A. The purpose of my testimony is to describe the Company's relationship with the City of Slayton (Slayton or the City), respond to the service quality concerns that the City mentioned in its filing with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission),[1] present the Company's service quality data, and describe the Company's continuing investments in Slayton.

Q. PLEASE PROVIDE A SUMMARY OF YOUR TESTIMONY.

A. I first discuss the relationship between Slayton and the Company, which involves close collaboration between City and Company staff. I then discuss the

[1] *In the Matter of the Petition of the City of Slayton for the Determination of Compensation for City Acquisition of Xcel Energy Electric Service Territory*, CAH Docket Number: 22-2500-40870, Docket No. E002, PT-7157/SA-25-129, PETITION OF THE CITY OF SLAYTON FOR THE DETERMINATION OF COMPENSATION UNDER MINN. STAT. § 216B.45 AND FOR A CONTESTED CASE PROCEEDING at 2 (Feb. 24, 2025).

quality of service the Company provides to customers in Slayton and present Xcel Energy's service quality data for the City. I also explain the Company's staffing and work-assignment processes. Finally, I discuss Xcel Energy's investments in Slayton, made to ensure that Slayton continues to receive reliable electric service.

## II. BACKGROUND

### A. Relationship with Slayton

Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE XCEL ENERGY'S HISTORY OF PROVIDING ELECTRIC SERVICE TO THE CITY OF SLAYTON.

A. Xcel Energy has proudly served the electric needs of Slayton and the surrounding community for over 70 years. During this time, Xcel Energy has become a vital member of the community and developed a close working relationship with the City.

Beyond providing electric service to Slayton, Xcel Energy supports the Slayton community in other ways. Xcel Energy has contributed to the Murray County Fair and Slayton's Fourth of July firework display and sponsored the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall, Flag Day, Pumpkin Fest, Light Up Gullord Park, and the USO Show. Xcel Energy also supports the Slayton community through annual property taxes related to our infrastructure. In 2023, Xcel Energy paid approximately $230,500 to Murray County, including funding to the school district, benefiting the community.

Q. HOW DOES XCEL ENERGY COORDINATE WITH THE CITY TO ENSURE IT IS PROVIDING RELIABLE ELECTRIC SERVICE TO ITS CUSTOMERS?

A. Our Community Relations Manager, Eric Pauli, has worked closely with the City Administrator for over a decade. During this time, Mr. Pauli has coordinated with the City on a variety of issues, and spearheaded projects to address the City's concerns. For instance, in September 2021, the City requested that Xcel Energy investigate two outages affecting several residences along Linden Avenue and Maple Avenue. Xcel Energy did just that.

Our investigation showed that, while the outages were caused by vegetation, replacement of the existing infrastructure would improve service quality to the residences along Linden Avenue and Maple Avenue. Following the investigation, a replacement project was initiated, and design work for the project began.

In the fall of 2022, the Company replaced 15 poles, 5 overhead transformers 4,009 feet of overhead primary/neutral wire and 1,510 feet of overhead secondary wire. In addition, tree trimming was done throughout the entire project area.

Q. DID THE LINDEN AVENUE LINE REBUILD IMPROVE SERVICE QUALITY?

A. Yes. The installation of new infrastructure, along with vegetation maintenance, is expected to reduce the number of outages experienced by the residents of Linden Avenue and Maple Avenue, thereby improving service quality.

## B. Municipalization

Q. WHEN DID YOU FIRST BECOME AWARE THAT THE CITY OF SLAYTON WAS EXPLORING THE IDEA OF MUNICIPALIZATION?

A. I am aware that during a City Council meeting on November 15, 2021, the City decided to hire a consultant to evaluate the formation of a municipal utility. Following this decision, Xcel Energy nonetheless remained engaged and committed to serving its customers in Slayton and the surrounding community.

Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE DECEMBER 2022 MEETING BETWEEN XCEL ENERGY AND CITY STAFF.

A. In December 2022, I, along with other representatives from Xcel Energy met with City staff to talk about the future of Xcel Energy's electric service in Slayton and to enhance collaboration between the City and the Company. The purpose of this meeting was to facilitate open dialogue between the City and Xcel Energy and to identify strategies to better meet the needs of its customers in Slayton. I confirmed to the City that Xcel Energy remained fully committed to serving its customers in Slayton.

Q. WHAT WAS AN OUTCOME OF THIS MEETING?

A. During the meeting, Slayton requested increased communications from Xcel Energy, particularly regarding the status of projects. In response to this request and to create an open forum for the City and Xcel Energy to collaborate, Xcel Energy initiated quarterly meetings with the City.

Q. DURING THESE QUARTERLY MEETINGS, DID THE CITY EXPRESS CONCERNS ABOUT THE CONDITION OF XCEL ENERGY'S PROPERTY IN SLAYTON?

A. Yes, the City raised concerns about the condition of the Company's property in Slayton. In response, Xcel Energy reaffirmed its plans for pole testing and replacement and a rebuild of the 69 kV transmission line serving Slayton and surrounding communities. I discuss these investments in more detail below.

Q. DID THE CITY EXPRESS CONCERNS REGARDING XCEL ENERGY'S SERVICE QUALITY DURING THESE QUARTERLY MEETINGS?

A. Yes. As mentioned above, these meetings were designed to promote collaboration between the City and the Company and to develop a strategy to address these concerns. As such, design and construction employees were present in these meetings to further address any service quality concerns. Xcel Energy also provided points of contact for certain situations, such as emergency outages, in which additional assistance may be required.

Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE INFORMATION MEETING HELD BY THE CITY ON NOVEMBER 30, 2023.

A. On November 30, 2023, the City held a public information meeting regarding the formation of a municipal electric utility by the City. While I did not attend this meeting, other Xcel Energy employees did. It is my understanding that during the meeting the City presented the idea of forming a municipal electric utility with support from Nobles Cooperative Electric (Nobles).

Q. WAS NOBLES COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS MEETING?

A. While I was not aware of the extent of Nobles's involvement at the time, based on discovery received during this case, it appears that the City coordinated extensively with Nobles when preparing for this meeting. Nobles prepared a draft presentation, designed the meeting invitations, and even created a website for the City.[2]

[2] Exhibit___(ADK-1), Schedule 9.

Q. WHEN WAS THE NEXT MEETING DISCUSSING THE MUNICIPALIZATION EFFORT?

A. On January 24, 2024, the City held an informational meeting in which a consultant for the City presented the results of a municipalization feasibility study. I, along with other Xcel Energy representatives, including a distribution engineer, and attended this meeting. I gave a presentation in which I discussed Xcel Energy's continuing commitment to Slayton, provided updates on infrastructure improvement projects, and answered questions. Nobles also presented at this meeting.

Q. DID YOU ATTEND THE MAY 1, 2024 PUBLIC MEETING?

A. Yes. The May 1, 2024 meeting was the final public meeting before the special election. I, along with Eric Pauli and others from Xcel Energy, attended the meeting and were available for questions. Representatives from Nobles also attended the May 1, 2024 public meeting and were available for questions.

Q. WHAT IS XCEL ENERGY'S OVERALL RESPONSE TO THE CITY'S PLAN TO MUNICIPALIZE?

A. Xcel Energy respects the right of the City to form its own municipal utility. Regardless of the outcome of this proceeding, we remain committed to broadly serving our customers in Slayton and the greater Slayton area. Xcel Energy has been engaged in helping the City and the Company's customers in the City understand the process. If the City decides to proceed, we will continue to meet regularly with and work closely with the City to ensure an orderly transition for our customers.

## III. SERVICE QUALITY

Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION OF YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?

A. I understand from discussions with Slayton, attendance at public meetings, and the filings in this proceeding, that one reason the City is considering municipalization is related to concerns about the quality of service provided by Xcel Energy. Respectfully, the Company disagrees with these concerns. In this section, I describe the service we provide to Slayton and various measurements of the quality of that service. Ultimately, the Company has provided reliable service to Slayton and recent infrastructure investments ensure that it will continue to provide reliable service in the future.

### A. Reliability Performance Standards

Q. WHAT SERVICE DOES XCEL ENERGY PROVIDE TO SLAYTON?

A. The Company provides electricity to all of the people that live and work in Slayton, under tariffs and rates that are approved by the Commission.

Q. HOW IS SERVICE QUALITY MEASURED?

A. The Commission sets reliability performance standards annually for electric utilities like Xcel Energy and requires electric utilities to file annual reports on their reliability performance.[3] These annual reports must include the system average interruption duration index (SAIDI), system average interruption frequency index (SAIFI), and customer average interruption duration index (CAIDI) reliability performance standards for the calendar year, by work centers

[3] Minn. R. 7826.0600, subp. 2; Minn. R. 7826.0500, subp. 1.

and for its service area.[4] The service quality annual reports are reviewed by the Commission, the Department, and other interested parties.

Q. DOES XCEL ENERGY REPORT RELIABILITY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS ON THE CITY LEVEL IN ITS ANNUAL SERVICE QUALITY REPORTS?

A. No. Xcel Energy reports reliability performance standards by work center and for its assigned service area as a whole, as required by Minn. R. 7826.0500, subp. 1. It does not report reliability performance standards on the city level in any Minnesota filing.

Q. WHAT IS SAIDI?

A. SAIDI is the average minutes of interruption per customer. It is determined by dividing the annual sum of customer-minutes of interruption by the average number of customers served during the year.[5]

Q. WHAT IS SAIFI?

A. SAIFI is the average number of interruptions of electric service for a customer in a year.[6]

Q. WHAT IS CAIDI?

A. CAIDI is the customer average interruption duration index. It measures the average outage duration for a customer.[7]

[4] Minn. R. 7826.0500, subp. 1.
[5] Minn. R. 7826.0200, subp. 10.
[6] Minn. R. 7826.0200, subp. 11.
[7] Minn. R. 7826.0200, subp. 4.

Q. HOW ARE SAIDI, SAIFI, AND CAIDI REPORTED?

A. SAIDI, SAIFI, and CAIDI, as reported below, are storm-normalized in accordance with the IEE standard. This means that they have been adjusted to neutralize the effects of outages due to major storms.[8] The reliability performance standards presented below show the performance of the feeders that serve Slayton, the performance of the Southeast Work Center, of which Slayton is a part, and Xcel Energy's Minnesota service territory as a whole.

Q. HOW DOES THE SAIDI FOR SLAYTON COMPARE WITH XCEL ENERGY'S CUSTOMERS?

A. Table 1, below, shows a 10-year summary of SAIDI for Slayton, Xcel Energy's Southeast Work Center, of which Slayton is a part, and the Minnesota Service Area.

**Table 1**
**SAIDI**

| | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Minnesota** | 90.0 | 90.5 | 75.0 | 96.1 | 81.0 | 98.9 | 88.8 | 90.0 | 86.4 | 110.0 |
| **Southeast** | 86.5 | 110.2 | 96.3 | 118.8 | 129.1 | 105.1 | 79.8 | 111.8 | 87.3 | 121.5 |
| **Slayton** | 99.1 | 44.9 | 27.4 | 123.4 | 78.5 | 197.9 | 62.7 | 120.1 | 53.3 | 182.6 |

Slayton's SAIDI has been lower (which means better) or similar to the SAIDI for Minnesota and the Southeast Work Center or for eight of the last ten years. This means that the interruptions experienced by customers in Slayton were, on average, comparable or shorter to the interruptions that other Xcel Energy customers experienced.

[8] Minn. R. 7826.0200, subp. 9.

Q. HOW DOES THE SAIFI FOR SLAYTON COMPARE TO THE REST OF XCEL ENERGY'S CUSTOMERS?

A. Table 2, below, shows a 10-year summary of SAIFI for Slayton, Xcel Energy's Southeast Work Center and the Minnesota Service Area.

**Table 2**
**SAIFI**

| | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Minnesota** | 0.83 | 0.83 | 0.74 | 0.89 | 0.75 | 0.99 | 0.92 | 0.86 | 0.85 | 1.08 |
| **Southeast** | 0.75 | 0.85 | 0.84 | 0.92 | 0.93 | 0.87 | 0.76 | 0.91 | 0.71 | 0.92 |
| **Slayton** | 1.09 | 0.10 | 0.17 | 1.43 | 1.11 | 2.44 | 0.28 | 0.62 | 0.33 | 2.32 |

Slayton's SAIFI has been lower than the SAIFI for Minnesota and the Southeast Work Center for five of the last ten years. This means that customers in Slayton experienced, on average, fewer interruptions than other Xcel Energy customers for five of the last ten years.

Q. HOW DOES THE CAIDI FOR SLAYTON COMPARE TO THE REST OF XCEL ENERGY'S CUSTOMERS?

A. Table 3, below, shows a 10-year summary of CAIDI for Slayton, Xcel Energy's Southeast Work Center and the Minnesota Service Area.

**Table 3**
**CAIDI**

| | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Minnesota** | 108 | 109 | 101 | 107 | 108 | 100 | 96 | 104 | 102 | 102 |
| **Southeast** | 115 | 130 | 115 | 130 | 139 | 120 | 105 | 123 | 122 | 132 |
| **Slayton** | 91 | 468 | 163 | 86 | 71 | 81 | 222 | 194 | 162 | 79 |

Slayton's CAIDI has been lower than the CAIDI for Minnesota and the Southeast Work Center for five of the last ten years. This means that for five of the past ten years customers in Slayton experienced shorter interruptions than other Xcel Energy customers.

Q. WHAT CAUSED THE HIGHER CAIDI NUMBERS FOR 2016 AND 2021?

A. In 2016 and 2021, Slayton's CAIDI was higher than that of the Southeast Work Center and Xcel Energy's Minnesota service area due to outages associated with vegetation and underground cable. It typically takes longer to restore vegetation caused outages and underground outages. Vegetation contact with utility assets often causes extensive damage to overhead equipment such as transformers, poles, wires, fuses, and switches and requires time-intensive repairs before power is restored. Underground outages tend to be lengthier because lines and circuits need to be located underground before they can be repaired.

Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN THE SAIDI AND SAIFI DATA FOR SLAYTON IN 2018.

A. In 2018, two events contributed 92.6 of the 123.4 minutes for SAIDI and 1.09 of the 1.43 minutes for SAIFI. The first event involved repairs at the Slayton substation which required Xcel Energy to shut off power for a period of time. The second event was a weather event that caused extensive damage to overhead equipment.

Q. WHAT CAUSED ELEVATED SAIDI AND SAIFI IN 2020?

A. In 2020, there were two transmission level outages that substantially contributed to the SAIDI and SAIFI metrics for the year. The rebuild of the 69 kV transmission line that serves Slayton, discussed more below, will improve the resiliency of this line. We expect that when the project is complete in 2026, the new line will provide more reliable service to our customers in and around Slayton.

Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN SLAYTON'S 2022 RELIABILITY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.

A. For Slayton's SAIDI metric, a single, isolated event contributed 73.6 minutes of the 120.1 minutes total for the year.

Q. WHAT CAUSED ELEVATED SAIDI AND SAIFI IN 2024?

A. In 2024, SAIDI numbers were elevated by 122.4 due to planned outages associated with the 69 kV transmission line rebuild and replacement of distribution poles.

Q. ARE THESE RELIABILITY INCIDENTS UNUSUAL?

A. As demonstrated by the data above, Xcel Energy provides reliable service to Slayton, and our customers in Slayton can count on having access to electricity nearly all of the time. But there are occasionally weather events or other incidents that have a large impact on reliability metrics. This is an unavoidable part of the electric system, and, as I discuss more below, Xcel Energy has engaged in extensive efforts to improve reliability in and around Slayton in recent years.

## B. Staffing

Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION?

A. In this section, I describe how Xcel Energy employees prudently and cost-effectively serve customers in Slayton and in the surrounding area. As discussed in more detail below, a District Representative, that serves Slayton, along with a team of Xcel Energy employees, based in the Pipestone Service Center, are primarily responsible for performing routine work in and around Slayton. In certain situations, employees from other service centers also perform work in Slayton.

Q. WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE?

A. A District Representative has a wide range of technical skills and is responsible for addressing a variety of issues, from responding to emergency calls, helping a new customer start service, trimming vegetation that threatens power lines, and addressing animal-caused outages. A District Representative is usually the first to respond to electric outages and works with field crews to get the power back on as quickly and safely as possible.

Q. WHAT TASKS DO EMPLOYEES FROM THE PIPESTONE SERVICE CENTER PERFORM?

A. The four Xcel Energy employees based out of the Pipestone Service Center, located just 30 miles west of Slayton, perform routine work in Slayton and the surrounding community. On a typical day, these employees perform a variety of maintenance tasks in and around Slayton and in other nearby communities, to ensure continued reliability of Xcel Energy's network. These tasks include responding to specific customer requests, performing ongoing maintenance or

vegetation management, replacing equipment and performing upgrades. These employees also pivot to emergency response as needed.

Q. WHAT OTHER XCEL ENERGY EMPLOYEES PERFORM WORK IN SLAYTON?

A. While the Pipestone Service Center has primary responsibility for the Slayton area, the Company can draw on resources from other areas as well. When needed, Xcel Energy technicians travel from the Sioux Falls Service Center. This allows the Company to effectively deploy its resources in response to the needs of its customers.

Q. WHAT CREWS RESPOND TO STORM OUTAGES IN SLAYTON?

A. In the case of widespread outages, such as those caused by large storms, Xcel Energy is able to call on our crews from around the state and region to restore power. Xcel Energy also has the ability to call on our mutual aid partners from neighboring utilities to assist our crews during major outage events.

Q. HOW DOES XCEL ENERGY'S STORM RESPONSE COMPARE TO THAT OF OTHER UTILITIES?

A. Xcel Energy has been acknowledged for its effective response to a wide range of severe weather events, including thunderstorms, tornadoes, winter storms, blizzards, hurricanes, and flooding. The Company's ability to mobilize resources and support both its own customers and other utilities during emergencies has earned it notable industry recognition.

Awards from the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) include an Emergency Assistance Award (2024) for mutual aid support in response to Hurricanes Helene and Milton and multiple Emergency Recovery Awards (2024, 2023,

2020, 2016, 2015, and 2014) for outstanding storm response impacting its own customers.

These awards highlight Xcel Energy's commitment to reliability and rapid restoration efforts during major outage events, as well as its role in supporting other utilities through mutual aid partnerships.

## IV. INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION OF YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?

A. In this section, I describe recent investments made to Xcel Energy's system to ensure that Xcel Energy continues to provide safe and reliable service to our customers.

Q. HAS THE COMPANY CONTINUED TO INVEST IN THE SLAYTON AREA AFTER LEARNING THAT THE CITY WAS CONSIDERING MUNICIPALIZATION?

A. Yes. Even though the City is considering leaving our system, we remain obligated to provide electric service to the City. As such, we made the investments needed to ensure our customers continue to receive reliable service. These projects also impact the costs that Slayton will need to pay to acquire our property, as discussed in more detail by Company witness Lisa Peterson.

### A. Linden Avenue Rebuild

Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE LINDEN AVENUE REBUILD.

A. In fall of 2022, Xcel Energy rebuilt a single-phase line between Linden Avenue and Maple Avenue from 27th Street to 32nd Street.

Q. WHAT WAS THIS PROJECT DESIGNED TO ADDRESS?

A. As discussed above, this project was developed in response to a request by the City to investigate two outages affecting several residences between Linden Avenue and Maple Avenue. Our investigation showed that, while the two outages were caused by vegetation, replacing and upgrading the existing infrastructure would improve service quality to these residences.

Q. WHAT WORK DID THE REBUILD ENTAIL?

A. The rebuild consisted of the replacement of 15 poles, 5 overhead transformers, 4,009 feet of overhead primary/neutral wire, 1,510 feet of secondary open wire with net 1/0AL lashed wire. The project also involved tree trimming along the entire route between Linden Avenue and Maple Avenue and 27th Street and 32nd Street.

Q. WHAT WAS THE COST OF THIS PROJECT?

A. The cost of the Linden Avenue rebuild was $194,201.

Q. HOW DOES THIS PROJECT BENEFIT CUSTOMERS?

A. The rebuild, along with associated tree trimming, improved system resilience and is expected to improve system reliability for Xcel Energy customers taking service from this line.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THE LINDEN AVENUE REBUILD?

A. Yes. This project is a good example of the type of coordination with our customers that is very important for Xcel Energy. The City identified an area of

concern. In response, we conducted an investigation and made investments to our infrastructure, improving service for our customers.

## B. Distribution Pole Testing and Replacement

Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE POLE TESTING AND REPLACEMENT PROGRAM.

A. The pole testing and replacement program is a statewide program that was developed and established in 2016. As part of the program, poles are tested and evaluated on a 12 to 15-year cycle. The Company has a target to evaluate a certain percentage of its poles each year, and all of its poles over a 12 to 15-year timeframe.

Q. WHEN DID THE POLE TESTING AND REPLACEMENT PROJECT BEGIN IN SLAYTON?

A. An Xcel Energy contractor, OSMOSE Utilities Services Company, began structural testing on existing utility poles in Slayton in May 2023. While Xcel Energy planned the timing of testing for each area of the state based on a 12 to 15-year cycle, Slayton was prioritized for pole testing and replacement to address concerns raised by City staff.

Q. HOW MANY POLES WERE REPLACED AS PART OF THIS PROJECT?

A. In 2024, 198 poles were replaced within the city limits of Slayton. The replacement of 198 poles cost $1,622,329.

Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE XCEL ENERGY'S DRONE INSPECTION PROGRAM.

A. In addition to the pole testing and replacement project described above, Xcel Energy recently initiated a pole inspection program using drones. In 2024, Xcel Energy inspected distribution poles in Slayton and identified 126 for

replacement. These poles were replaced in 2024 and 2025, at a cost of $2,252,677.

### C. Transmission Line Rebuild

Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE 69 KV TRANSMISSION LINE THAT SERVES SLAYTON.

A. The 69 kV line originates at the Pipestone Substation, runs east, and eventually terminates at the Tracy Switching Station. In 2021, Xcel Energy determined that the line had reached the end of its useful life and began planning to rebuild this transmission line.

Q. DID XCEL ENERGY CONSIDER RELIABILITY WHEN DETERMINING WHETHER TO REPLACE THE 69 KV LINE?

A. Yes. In the five years preceding 2021, this transmission line had 44 momentary outages and 17 sustained outages. This averaged to 12.4 outages per year. Improving reliability was an important factor in Xcel Energy's decision to replace and rebuild the 69 kV transmission line serving Slayton.

Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE REBUILD PROJECT.

A. The rebuild project began in 2022, and involves rebuilding 46 miles of the transmission line that serves Slayton and the surrounding area. This project included installing 900 new power poles and upgrading existing powerlines to help improve reliability. The first phase of the project, completed in 2023, replaced 17 miles of power line from Pipestone to the Woodstock and Rock River Substations. The second phase, completed in 2024, included 14 miles of power line from the Moon Lake Substation to Currie. The final phase of the project will be 15 miles of new power line from Currie to Tracy. The final phase of the project will be completed by the end of 2026.

Q. WHAT ARE THE ANTICIPATED RESULTS OF THIS PROJECT?

A. Xcel Energy anticipates that the rebuild will improve transmission reliability and, as a result, improve service quality for Slayton customers and other customers in the area.

Q. HOW MUCH HAS XCEL ENERGY INVESTED IN THIS PROJECT TO DATE?

A. While the project is currently ongoing, Xcel Energy expects the transmission line rebuild project will cost $39.2 million.

## V. CONCLUSION

Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR TESTIMONY AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

A. The Company has provided reliable electric service to its customers in Slayton for decades and, during that time, has become vital member of the community. Over the past few years, the Company has made substantial investments to its property located within Slayton city limits and to its transmission property used to serve the City to ensure that our customers continue to receive reliable electric service. While Xcel Energy respects the right of the City to form its own municipal utility, the Company remains committed to serving our customers in Slayton and the greater Slayton area. If the City decides to proceed, we will work to ensure an orderly transition for our customers.

Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?

A. Yes, it does.

# John I. Marshall

**XCEL ENERGY**

**Regional VP Customer, Community & Foundation *(MN/ND/SD)*** **2023 – Present**

- Integrated Account Management (AM) Team overseeing 1,500 largest commercial & industrial customers within the 3-state NSPM footprint. Developed and executed AM transition plans following significant retirements to codify team leadership, retain culture, promote talent, and ensure strong customer relationships and pipeline development.
- Work with large customer segment on energy related issues including power quality, facility expansions, growth and energy efficiency opportunities.

**Regional VP Community Relations & Foundation *(MN/ND/SD)*** **2021 – 2023**

- Executed critical hires in North Dakota following long-term employee retirements of 75% of ND leadership team.
- Drove strategic outreach strategy across 3-state NSPM footprint to educate communities and non-energy focused partners on future planning to achieve carbon-free goals.

**Director of Community Relations & Foundation *(MN/ND/SD)*** **2019 – 2021**

- Expanded existing leadership scope into North & South Dakota quickly building key stakeholder relationships in North & South Dakota.
- Championed various internal/external COVID efforts including 90k mask donations to communities across 3-state NSPM footprint & Essential Workers Appreciation Week.

**Director of Community Relations & Foundation *(MN)*** **2017 – 2019**

- Lead Community Relations team across the MN electric and gas service territory encompassing 500+ communities and strategic stakeholders including cities, counties, townships, villages, chambers of commerce and economic development organizations.
- Launched Social Investments team to work closely with non-profit partners across MN.

**Director of Strategic Accounts *(MN/ND/SD)*** **2016 – 2017**

- Expanded leadership role in addition to managing Saint Paul/Ramsey County Government Relations focused on cultivating strategic customer relationships within AM portfolio to enhance company alignment with energy efficiency goals of large customers.

**Manager of Community & Government Relations *(St. Paul/Ramsey County)* 2008–2016**

- Worked with St. Paul & Ramsey County to proactively and reactively manage various issues including outages, policies, storm restoration, construction, permitting and others requiring partnership, mitigation and dispute resolution.

**CITY OF SAINT PAUL**
**City Council Legislative Aide *(Ward 3)*** **2002 – 2008**

- Provided award winning constituent service, project & policy management, mediation and dispute resolution while acting as liaison for numerous business owners and non-profits on issues of property taxes, licenses, permitting, parking regulations, zoning matters, and public safety.

## EDUCATION

**Saint Mary's University, Minneapolis**
MBA – Emphasis in Sustainability & Environmental Management
2018 Graduate

**Saint Mary's University, Winona**
B.A. Public Relations, Minor Spanish Language
2001 Graduate

**Saint Thomas Military Academy, Mendota Heights**
JROTC Officer | 1st Lieutenant | 2nd Platoon Bravo Company
1997 Graduate

## ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Rate School – National Association of Regulated Utilities (NARUC)**
2002 Graduate

**Harvard Business School**
2019 National Young American Leaders Program | Cohort 5

**Utility Finance & Accounting for Non-Financial Professionals**
2010 & 2016 Course Completion