

The Commission met on **Thursday, October 10, 2024**, with Chair Sieben and Commissioners Means, Ham, and Sullivan present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

**E-002/M-24-173**

**In the Matter of Xcel Energy's Petition for an Automatic Bill Credit Pilot Program;**

**E-002/M-22-266**

**In the Matter of Efforts to Advance Workforce Diversity, Inclusive Participation, and Equitable Access to Utility Services for Xcel Energy;**

**E-002/RP-19-368**

**In the Matter of the 2020–2034 Upper Midwest Integrated Resource Plan of Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy**

Commissioner Ham moved that the Commission:

1. Find that the pilot proposal advances the Commission's objective for the Equity Stakeholder Advisory Group (ESAG) related to designing for the equitable delivery of electricity services and programs for energy-burdened customers.
2. Approve Xcel's petition for an automatic bill credit pilot program with the modifications described below.
3. Require Xcel to continue its efforts to implement the recommendations from ESAG and to monitor efforts from the Environmental Justice Board.
4. Require Xcel to implement the additional screens identified below to determine eligible census block groups. Xcel shall revise and file the analysis of the total number of census block groups and premises eligible for a bill credit, as well as the total cost of the Bill Credit Pilot, after running these screens.
  - a. Screen out census block groups with 15 or fewer premises.
  - b. Screen out premises where the customer name indicates that a corporate or government entity, or other entity that is not a natural person, pays the electric bill, including but not limited to the terms in Attachment 6 of OAG's initial comments in this proceeding.

- c. Screen out premises where the customer billing address is outside of Minnesota.
  - d. Screen out data for premises where the premise address and the in-state billing address are not the same.
  - e. Flag for extra scrutiny any account holder names that appear multiple times in the data.
- 5. Require Xcel to use poverty rates as a second criterion for determining bill credit eligibility.
- 6. Require Xcel to file the following data in this docket for customers receiving bill credits:
  - a. The number of premises involuntarily disconnected.
  - b. The number of premises who were granted protection under the cold weather rule.
  - c. The number of premises with current payment plans.
  - d. The number of past due accounts.
  - e. The total dollars past due.
  - f. The number and amount of write-offs from uncollectible accounts.
  - g. The number and amount of late fees charged to customers.
  - h. The number of premises electing to opt out of the bill credit.
- 7. Require Xcel to report on the average bill credit amount per month and missing payments until the end of the pilot period. If the data is not available, Xcel shall explain why the data is not available.
- 8. Require Xcel to in its first report include two years of historical data prior to automatic bill credits being applied. If two years of historical data is not available, Xcel shall explain why not.
- 9. Require Xcel to, before the pilot begins, define the pilot's intended outcomes and identify how it will measure and report on these, including at minimum the following areas:
  - a. The impact that automatic bill credits have on participants' electric bills.
  - b. Associated benefits from the pilot, including changes in payment of Xcel bills, customer arrears, service disconnections, and customers' ability to pay for other daily expenses.

- c. Impacts on participation in and benefits received from other bill payment assistance programs.
10. Require Xcel to report on pilot implementation and evaluation process every six months after the pilot launches, in a compliance filing in this docket. At the first report filed by Xcel, all parties can raise concerns with the program by filing comments with the Commission within 30 days. The Commission may discontinue the program after the first year based on consideration of filed comments.
11. Require Xcel to consult with ESAG on the scope of work of the evaluation to be included in its RFP.
12. Require Xcel to conduct one stakeholder meeting between ESAG, the company, and the third-party evaluator during the evaluation design process and before data collection begins.
13. Require Xcel to update ESAG via email every two months on the implementation of the Pilot Petition and on the evaluation process.
14. Require Xcel to provide credit recipients with energy efficiency investment and workforce development opportunities.
15. Authorize the Executive Secretary to issue a Notice of Comment Period in Docket No. E-002/CI-24-115 on whether Xcel should perform a study evaluating the contribution to Minnesota system costs caused by residential customers with different usage profiles. The comment period may consider segmenting Xcel's residential customers into groups based on usage profile, consulting the Citizen's Utility Board Illinois study as an example.

The motion passed 4–0.

#### **E,G-002/M-24-130**

#### **In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Co. d/b/a Xcel Energy for Approval of Miscellaneous Tariff Modifications**

Commissioner Ham moved that the Commission:

1. Approve Xcel Energy's proposed miscellaneous tariff modifications as listed in Attachment A and the corresponding redline changes shown in Xcel's March 15, 2024 filing.
2. Require Xcel Energy to file revised tariff sheets reflecting the approved modifications within 20 days of the order.

The motion passed 4–0.

**E-002/M-13-867**

**In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company, d/b/a Xcel Energy, for Approval of Its Proposed Community Solar Garden Program**

Commissioner Sullivan moved that the Commission deny the petitioners' requests for reconsideration of the August 16, 2024 order and deny Standard Solar, Inc.'s request to reconsider its request to stay implementation of the May 30, 2024 order.

The motion passed 4–0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: December 18, 2024**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Seuffert", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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**Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary**