

## NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD

Issued: January 10, 2020

### In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company for Approval of a Plan to Offer Generating Resources into the MISO Market on a Seasonal Basis

**PUC Docket Number(s):** E-002/M-19-809

**Comment Period:** Initial comment period closes April 1, 2020 at 4:30pm

Reply comment period closes April 16, 2020 at 4:30pm

*Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not be considered by the Commission.*

**Issue:** Is Xcel Energy's proposal to offer generating assets into the MISO market on a seasonal basis reasonable and in the public interest?

#### **Topic(s) Open for Comment:**

- Is Xcel's plan to offer these generators on the MISO market economic and in the public interest?
- How does Xcel's plan relate to the self-commitment and self-scheduling of large baseload generation facilities investigation in Docket No. E-999/CI-19-704?
- Is Xcel's request for preapproval to true-up 2020 fuel costs that differ from its initial 2020 fuel forecast as approved in Docket No. E-002/AA-19-293 reasonable?
- Are there other issues or concerns related to this matter?

**Background:** On December 20, 2019, Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy (Xcel or Xcel Energy) submitted a petition for approval of a plan to offer the Allen S. King Generating Station (King Plant) starting in March 2020 and Unit 2 of the Sherburne County Generating Station (Sherco 2) starting in September 2020 into the MISO market on a seasonal basis. Xcel is proposing to suspend normal operation at the King Plant during non-peak seasons as soon as March 2020 and to suspend normal operation at Sherco 2 during non-peak seasons beginning in September 2020. During these seasonal suspension periods, the Company would operate the facilities only if required for reliability. Xcel also requests approval to true-up 2020

fuel costs that differ from its initial 2020 fuel forecast<sup>1</sup> due to this proposed change in commitment.

In a related matter, in its November 13, 2019 ORDER ACCEPTING 2017-2018 ELECTRIC REPORTS AND SETTING ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS (November 13, 2019 Order),<sup>2</sup> the Commission directed Minnesota Power, Otter Tail, and Xcel Energy to submit “an annual compliance filing analyzing the potential options for seasonal dispatch generally, and potential options and strategies for utilizing “economic” commitments for specific coal-fired generating plants. The utilities shall include a specific explanation of barriers or limitations to each of these potential options, including but not limited to technical limits of the units and contract requirements (shared ownership, steam offtake contracts, minimum fuel supply requirements, (shared ownership, steam offtake contracts, minimum fuel supply requirements, etc.) as relevant, on March 1, 2020, and each year thereafter.”

In another related matter, the Commission requested procedural comments on its investigation into self-commitment and self-scheduling of large baseload generating facilities.<sup>3</sup> Comments on the investigation are due on January 13, 2020 and replies are due on January 28, 2020.

**Filing Requirements:** Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are **required** to file documents using the Commission’s electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants and interested persons are encouraged to use eFiling: [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *eFiling*, and follow the prompts.

**Submit Public Comments:**

**Online:** Visit [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select Comment and follow the prompts

**Email:** [publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us)

**U.S. Mail:** Public Advisor  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7th Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul MN 55101

**Full Case Record:** See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission’s website at [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (19) and the docket number (809), select *Search*.

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<sup>1</sup> As approved under fuel clause reform in the Commission’s November 14, 2019 Order, In the Matter of Northern States Power Company d/b/a/ Xcel Energy, Incorporated’s (Xcel) Petition for Approval of its 2020 Annual Fuel Forecast and Monthly Fuel Cost Charges, Docket No. E-002/AA-19-293.

<sup>2</sup> In the Matter of the Review of the 2017-2018 Annual Automatic Adjustment Report for All Electric Utilities, Docket No. E-999/AA-18-373

<sup>3</sup> In the Matter of an Investigation into Self-Commitment and Self-Scheduling of Large Baseload Generation Facilities, Docket No. E-999/CI-19-704

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