

January 17, 2020

Ryan Barlow
Acting Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

RE: **Reply Comments of the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources**
Docket No. E002/M-19-685

Dear Mr. Barlow:

Attached are the reply comments of the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources (Department) in the following matter:

Northern States Power Company, d/b/a Xcel Energy's 2019 Hosting Capacity Analysis Report.

The report was filed on November 1, 2019, by:

Bria E. Shea
Director, Regulatory & Strategic Analysis
Northern States Power Company d/b/a/ Xcel Energy Services Inc.
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

The Department will provide its final recommendations in supplemental comments once the Department evaluates Xcel Energy's reply comments. The Department is available to respond to any questions the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission may have on this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ MATTHEW LANDI
Rates Analyst

ML/ja
Attachment



Before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Reply Comments of the Minnesota Department of Commerce
Division of Energy Resources

Docket No. E002/M-19-685

I. BACKGROUND

On November 1, 2019 Northern States Power d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel or the Company) filed its 2019 Hosting Capacity Analysis Report as required by Minn. Stat. §216B.2425, subd. 8 and the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's (Commission) August 15, 2019 Order in Docket No. E002/M-18-684.

On December 30, 2019, the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department), Interstate Renewable Energy Council, Inc. (IREC), and Fresh Energy submitted initial comments in this proceeding.

On January 14, 2020, the Commission issued a Notice of Comment Period (Notice), which established a supplemental comment period. The Notice creates a supplemental comment period deadline of January 27, 2020.

The Notice lists the following topic as open for comment:

The scope of this supplement comment period is limited to issues raised in the initial and reply comment period.

The Notice also indicates that the Department requested additional information anticipated for inclusion in Xcel Energy's reply comments.

II. DEPARTMENT ANALYSIS

The Department reviewed the initial comments of IREC and Fresh Energy and notes that these stakeholders offered a number of recommendations and requested additional information from Xcel. As indicated above, the Department, too, requested additional information from the Company, and anticipated that Xcel would respond to those requests in its reply comments.

The Department views the supplemental comment period as an opportunity for all stakeholders to review, evaluate, and respond to Xcel's reply comments. Accordingly, the Department will review, evaluate, and respond to Xcel's reply comments during the supplemental comment period.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Department will provide final recommendations in supplemental comments, after reviewing information requested in reply comments.

/ja

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Sharon Ferguson, hereby certify that I have this day, served copies of the following document on the attached list of persons by electronic filing, certified mail, e-mail, or by depositing a true and correct copy thereof properly enveloped with postage paid in the United States Mail at St. Paul, Minnesota.

**Minnesota Department of Commerce
Reply Comments**

Docket No. E002/M-19-685

Dated this 17th day of January 2020

/s/Sharon Ferguson

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