



414 Nicollet Mall  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

August 20, 2019

—Via Electronic Filing—

Daniel P. Wolf  
Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

RE: REPLY COMMENTS  
SITE PERMIT AMENDMENT  
BLAZING STAR 2 WIND ENERGY PROJECT  
DOCKET NO. IP-6985/WS-17-700

Dear Mr. Wolf:

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy (Company), respectfully submits these reply comments to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission on the above-referenced docket. The Company had requested additional time to work with landowner Brian Lawburgh to address the concerns he raised in comments that were publicly filed in this docket on July 23 and July 29, 2019. Below we address both Mr. Lawburgh's initial comments, as well as those of the Minnesota Department of Commerce's Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DOC-EERA) staff submitted July 23, 2019.

In his July 23 and July 29 comments, Mr. Lawburgh explained his concerns about the impact wind turbines placed to the south and west of his acreage could have on his business, Triple L Farm Barn, which hosts events such as weddings, meetings, reunions, and other private parties.

As noted in Mr. Lawburgh's August 14, 2019, comments, the Company worked to address Mr. Lawburgh's concerns; meeting with him personally and learning that, although he addressed two turbines (T-101 and T-102) in his comments, the turbine location of most concern to Mr. Lawburgh is T-101. The Company has tentatively agreed (subject to developments discussed below) to remove this turbine location from the amended layout, and move it to one of the alternative sites identified in the layout: Site ALT-4. The Company has included with these reply comments updated environmental analysis to reflect this turbine location shift.

In addition to discussing this turbine location shift with Mr. Lawburgh, we reached out to both the landowner who would be losing the T-101 turbine and the landowner

for Site ALT-4 who would be gaining a turbine. The landowner for Site ALT-4 was enthusiastic about the change, and we understand that the landowner for the current T-101 site appreciates the Company's ability to move the turbine location but is upset about losing it. We further understand that this landowner and Mr. Lawburgh are discussing the possibility of leaving the turbine on the current parcel but shifted 200 to 400 feet south. The Company is working with the landowners to determine whether this is a viable option. Regardless, we believe we have fully addressed Mr. Lawburgh's concerns at this time and that further developments regarding the precise location of this turbine should not have an impact on the Commission's decision to amend the Permit for this project.

In addition to resolving Mr. Lawburgh's concerns, the Company also wishes to address the comments submitted by DOC-EERA on the docket, specifically in regard to clarifying the project boundary change request. We think the boundary change request created confusion for two reasons. First, Attachments A, C, and D did not depict the Blazing Star project boundary. These maps have been updated and enclosed for the Commission's and DOC-EERA's consideration. And second, there are indeed a few landowners who have signed up for agreements or easements that were ultimately not used for infrastructure nor setbacks as the layout was finalized. The Company elected not to include these lands within the project boundary.

The Company is pleased that DOC-EERA has recommended Commission approval of the Company's Amendment Application.

We have electronically filed this document with the Commission, and copies have been served on the parties on the attached service list.

Please contact Pamela Gibbs at (612) 330-2889 or [pamela.k.gibbs@xcelenergy.com](mailto:pamela.k.gibbs@xcelenergy.com) or Bria Shea at (612) 330-6064 or [bria.e.shea@xcelenergy.com](mailto:bria.e.shea@xcelenergy.com) if you have any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely,

/s/

BRIA E. SHEA  
DIRECTOR, REGULATORY AND STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

cc: Service List

Enclosures:

Updated environmental analysis to add location ALT-4, and remove location T-101  
Update Amendment Application Attachments A, C and D

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Lynnette Sweet, hereby certify that I have this day served copies of the foregoing document on the attached list of persons.

xx by depositing a true and correct copy thereof, properly enveloped with postage paid in the United States mail at Minneapolis, Minnesota

xx electronic filing

**Docket No. IP-6985/WS-17-700**

Dated this 20th day of August 2019

/s/

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Lynnette Sweet  
Regulatory Administrator

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Generic Notice	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1800  St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_17-700_Official List
Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 280  Saint Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-700_Official List
Eric	Lipman	eric.lipman@state.mn.us	Office of Administrative Hearings	PO Box 64620  St. Paul, MN 551640620	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-700_Official List
Ryan	Long	ryan.j.long@xcelenergy.com	Xcel Energy	414 Nicollet Mall 401 8th Floor Minneapolis, MN 55401	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-700_Official List
Generic Notice	Residential Utilities Division	residential.utilities@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul, MN 551012131	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_17-700_Official List
Janet	Shaddix Elling	jshaddix@janetshaddix.com	Shaddix And Associates	7400 Lyndale Ave S Ste 190  Richfield, MN 55423	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_17-700_Official List
Patrick	Smith	patrick@geronimoenergy.com	Geronimo Wind Energy, LLC	7650 Edinborough Way Ste 725  Edina, MN 55435-5239	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-700_Official List
Lynnette	Sweet	Regulatory.records@xcelenergy.com	Xcel Energy	414 Nicollet Mall FL 7  Minneapolis, MN 554011993	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-700_Official List
Haley	Waller Pitts	hwallerpitts@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.	200 S 6th St Ste 4000  Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-700_Official List
Daniel P	Wolf	dan.wolf@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Place East Suite 350 St. Paul, MN 551012147	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_17-700_Official List