

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Katie J. Sieben  
Valerie Means  
Matthew Schuerger  
John A. Tuma

Chair  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner

Holly Hinman  
Regulatory Manager  
Xcel Energy  
414 Nicollet Mall  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

ISSUE DATE: February 21, 2020

DOCKET NO. E-002/M-19-721

In the Matter of Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy's Transmission Cost Recovery Rider

The above-entitled matter was considered by the Commission on February 20, 2020 and the following disposition made:

- 1. Granted provisional approval of Xcel's petition, with the understanding that a final decision on these matters will be made subsequent to receipt of interested parties' comments.**
- 2. Extended the comment deadline to a date no sooner than July 31, 2020.**

The Commission agrees with and adopts the recommendations of the Department of Commerce, which are attached and hereby incorporated into the order. This order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Will Seuffert  
Executive Secretary



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December 9, 2019

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

**RE: Letter from the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources regarding Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy's Petition for Approval of its 2019 and 2020 Transmission Cost Recovery Rider and Resulting Adjustment Factors by Customer Class in Docket No. E002/M-19-721**

Dear Mr. Wolf:

On November 15, 2019, Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel or the Company) filed a petition requesting approval of its 2019 and 2020 Transmission Cost Recovery Rider (TCR) and Resulting Adjustment Factors by Customer Class (Petition). If approved as filed, Xcel's proposal would result in a rate decrease for ratepayers.

At its December 3, 2015 agenda meeting, in light of the then-extensive workload, especially the significant number of contested cases with statutory deadlines, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) suggested that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) consider notifying the Commission and other parties, on a case-by-case basis, when there were proceedings in which the Department would likely require extended time extensions. Given that there are four and potentially five contested rate cases (possibly including the Company's proposed general rate case in Docket No. E002/GR-19-564), along with numerous proceedings involving policy matters, regulatory workload is again extensive.

The Company's request for an update to its TCR at this time, while commendable in light of the proposed reduction in rates, comes on top of this significant work load burden on the Commission and the Department. Further, efforts to process Xcel's previous TCR petition only recently concluded, so those rates have been updated.

Given that Minnesota Statutes, Section 216B.03 specifies that, "Any doubt as to reasonableness should be resolved in favor of the consumer," and because the Petition results in a rate reduction, the Department requests that the Commission grant provisional approval of Xcel's Petition, with the understanding that a final decision on these matters will be made subsequent to receipt of interested parties' comments.

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Due to the interplay between this Petition and Xcel's pending rate case, along with deadlines in rate cases of Dakota Electric Association, Great Plains, CenterPoint Energy, and Minnesota Power, the Department requests that the comment deadline be set sometime after July 31, 2020, which the Department estimates to be a reasonable date, based on the information known at this time.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

/s/ MARK A. JOHNSON  
Public Utilities Analyst Coordinator

MJ/ar

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Robin Benson, hereby certify that I have this day, served a true and correct copy of the following document to all persons at the addresses indicated below or on the attached list by electronic filing, electronic mail, courier, interoffice mail or by depositing the same enveloped with postage paid in the United States mail at St. Paul, Minnesota.

### **Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ORDER**

Docket Numbers: **E-002/M-19-721**

Dated this **21st** day of **February, 2020**

/s/ Robin Benson

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
David	Aafedt	daafedt@winthrop.com	Winthrop & Weinstine, P.A.	Suite 3500, 225 South Sixth Street  Minneapolis, MN 554024629	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
Christopher	Anderson	canderson@allete.com	Minnesota Power	30 W Superior St  Duluth, MN 558022191	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
Alison C	Archer	aarcher@misoenergy.org	MISO	2985 Ames Crossing Rd  Eagan, MN 55121	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
Mara	Ascheman	mara.k.ascheman@xcelenenergy.com	Xcel Energy	414 Nicollet Mall Fl 5  Minneapolis, MN 55401	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
James J.	Bertrand	james.bertrand@stinson.com	STINSON LLP	50 S 6th St Ste 2600  Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
James	Canaday	james.canaday@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	Suite 1400 445 Minnesota St. St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
John	Coffman	john@johncoffman.net	AARP	871 Tuxedo Blvd.  St. Louis, MO 63119-2044	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
Generic Notice	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400  St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
Riley	Conlin	riley.conlin@stoel.com	Stoel Rives LLP	33 S. 6th Street Suite 4200 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
George	Crocker	gwillc@nawo.org	North American Water Office	PO Box 174  Lake Elmo, MN 55042	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
John	Farrell	jfarrell@ilsr.org	Institute for Local Self-Reliance	2720 E. 22nd St Institute for Local Self-Reliance Minneapolis, MN 55406	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
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_19-721_M-19-721
Edward	Garvey	edward.garvey@AESLconsulting.com	AESL Consulting	32 Lawton St  Saint Paul, MN 55102-2617	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
Janet	Gonzalez	Janet.gonzalez@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	Suite 350 121 7th Place East St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
Michael	Hoppe	il23@mtn.org	Local Union 23, I.B.E.W.	932 Payne Avenue  St. Paul, MN 55130	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
Alan	Jenkins	aj@jenkinsatlaw.com	Jenkins at Law	2950 Yellowtail Ave.  Marathon, FL 33050	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
Linda	Jensen	linda.s.jensen@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	1800 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota Street  St. Paul, MN 551012134	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
Richard	Johnson	Rick.Johnson@lawmoss.com	Moss & Barnett	150 S. 5th Street Suite 1200 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
Sarah	Johnson Phillips	sarah.phillips@stoel.com	Stoel Rives LLP	33 South Sixth Street Suite 4200 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Mark J.	Kaufman	mkaufman@ibewlocal949.org	IBEW Local Union 949	12908 Nicollet Avenue South  Burnsville, MN 55337	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
Thomas	Koehler	TGK@IBEW160.org	Local Union #160, IBEW	2909 Anthony Ln  St Anthony Village, MN 55418-3238	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
Michael	Krikava	mkrikava@taftlaw.com	TAFT Stettinius & Hollister, LLP	2200 IDS Center 80 S 8th St Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
Peder	Larson	plarson@larkinhoffman.com	Larkin Hoffman Daly & Lindgren, Ltd.	8300 Norman Center Drive Suite 1000 Bloomington, MN 55437	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
Douglas	Larson	dlarson@dakotaelectric.com	Dakota Electric Association	4300 220th St W  Farmington, MN 55024	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
Kavita	Maini	kmaini@wi.rr.com	KM Energy Consulting, LLC	961 N Lost Woods Rd  Oconomowoc, WI 53066	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
Pam	Marshall	pam@energycents.org	Energy CENTS Coalition	823 7th St E  St. Paul, MN 55106	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
Joseph	Meyer	joseph.meyer@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	Bremer Tower, Suite 1400 445 Minnesota Street St Paul, MN 55101-2131	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
Stacy	Miller	stacy.miller@minneapolismn.gov	City of Minneapolis	350 S. 5th Street Room M 301 Minneapolis, MN 55415	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
David	Moeller	dmoeller@allete.com	Minnesota Power	30 W Superior St  Duluth, MN 558022093	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Andrew	Moratzka	andrew.moratzka@stoel.com	Stoel Rives LLP	33 South Sixth St Ste 4200  Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
David	Niles	david.niles@avantenergy.com	Minnesota Municipal Power Agency	220 South Sixth Street Suite 1300 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
Carol A.	Overland	overland@legalelectric.org	Legalelectric - Overland Law Office	1110 West Avenue  Red Wing, MN 55066	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
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_19-721_M-19-721
Kevin	Reuther	kreuther@mncenter.org	MN Center for Environmental Advocacy	26 E Exchange St, Ste 206  St. Paul, MN 551011667	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
Richard	Savelkoul	rsavelkoul@martinsquires.com	Martin & Squires, P.A.	332 Minnesota Street Ste W2750  St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
Will	Seuffert	Will.Seuffert@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th PI E Ste 350  Saint Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
Ken	Smith	ken.smith@districtenergy.com	District Energy St. Paul Inc.	76 W Kellogg Blvd  St. Paul, MN 55102	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
Byron E.	Starns	byron.starns@stinson.com	STINSON LLP	50 S 6th St Ste 2600  Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
James M	Strommen	jstrommen@kennedy-graven.com	Kennedy & Graven, Chartered	200 S 6th St Ste 470  Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721



First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Eric	Swanson	eswanson@winthrop.com	Winthrop & Weinstine	225 S 6th St Ste 3500 Capella Tower Minneapolis, MN 554024629	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
Lynnette	Sweet	Regulatory.records@xcelenergy.com	Xcel Energy	414 Nicollet Mall FL 7  Minneapolis, MN 554011993	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
Thomas	Tynes	jjazynka@energyfreedomcoalition.com	Energy Freedom Coalition of America	101 Constitution Ave NW Ste 525 East  Washington, DC 20001	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
Lisa	Veith	lisa.veith@ci.stpaul.mn.us	City of St. Paul	400 City Hall and Courthouse 15 West Kellogg Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55102	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
Joseph	Windler	jwindler@winthrop.com	Winthrop & Weinstine	225 South Sixth Street, Suite 3500  Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721
Patrick	Zomer	Patrick.Zomer@lawmoss.com	Moss & Barnett a Professional Association	150 S. 5th Street, #1200  Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-721_M-19-721