

December 15, 2017

Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 Seventh Place E.
Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Reply Comments of the City of Minneapolis
PUC Docket No. E-002/M-17-712
Our File No. 12-01816

Dear Mr. Wolf:

The attached Reply Comments are being submitted by the City of Minneapolis through the undersigned Assistant City Attorney.

These comments were authorized by the Minneapolis City Council at its' meeting of December 8, 2017. The City Council action containing the authorization was approved by the Mayor on December 11, 2017. The authorization of comments was recommended by the City Council's Intergovernmental Relations Committee on November 30, 2017. Please accept these Reply Comments of the City of Minneapolis, acting by and through its City Council, as they relate to Docket No.: E-002/M-17-712.

Sincerely,



Corey M. Conover
Assistant City Attorney
(612) 673-2182

CMC/asl
Enclosure

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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| Nancy Lange | Chair |
| Dan Lipschultz | Vice Chair |
| Matt Schuerger | Commissioner |
| John Tuma | Commissioner |
| Katie Sieben | Commissioner |

In the Matter of the Xcel Energy’s Renewable Development Fund (RDF) Annual Report, Tracker Account Tune-up, and Request for 2018 Rider Factor

Docket No. E-002/M-17-712

REPLY COMMENTS OF THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

The City of Minneapolis, acting by and through its City Council, respectfully submits these reply comments in response to the notice of the Public Utilities Commission issued October 30, 2017, and in response to the initial round of comments submitted in response to such notice.

The City of Minneapolis supports the comments of the Minnesota Metropolitan Council which respectfully requests that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission review and terminate the Crown Hydro Renewable Development Account (RDF) grant contract and require the grant recipient to transfer unexpended grant funds to the clean energy advancement fund account. The City agrees that the proposed Crown Hydro project is incompatible with the regional parks master plan, and impedes the ability of the Metropolitan Council and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to implement the 2040 regional parks system plan.

The City of Minneapolis urges the Public Utilities Commission to use its oversight and regulatory powers to terminate the grant to Crown Hydro.

Minnesota laws 2017, Chapter 94, Article 10, Section 29 requires that a grant recipient transfer any grant funds that remain unexpended to the Clean Energy Advancement Fund account if all of the following conditions are met:

- 1) The grant was awarded more than five years before the effective date of this section;
- 2) The grant recipient has failed to obtain control of the site on which the project is to be constructed;
- 3) The grant recipient has failed to secure all necessary permits or approvals from any unit government with respect to the project; and
- 4) Construction of the project has not begun.

Despite the protestations of Crown Hydro, construction of the project as defined by Minnesota law, clearly has not begun with the mere purchase and storage of turbines. That is not the beginning of construction under Minnesota law.

Crown Hydro has not obtained a site. No significant physical alteration of the site has occurred. No land has been cleared. No excavation has taken place. Crown Hydro has not begun construction of the project. The project grant should be terminated. The grant recipient should be required to transfer any unexpended grant funds to the Clean Energy Advancement Fund Account.

The City of Minneapolis, acting by and through its city council, also supports the comments of the City of Minneapolis, acting through its independently elected Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, the comments of Minneapolis City Council Member Jacob Frey, the comments of Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin, the comments of the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board, a legislatively created body composed of 22 members, the St. Anthony Falls Alliance, a body consisting of representatives of the North Loop Neighborhood Association, Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association, Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood Association, Nicollet Island East Bank Neighborhood Association, and the St. Anthony West

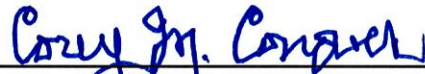
Neighborhood Association, the comments of the Friends of the Lock and Dam, the comments of the Friends of Riverfront, the comments of Park Watch, the comments of the Great River Coalition, the comments of the Minneapolis Parks Foundation, the comments of former State Representative Phyllis Kahn, and the comments of the National Parks Conservation Association, all of which urge termination of the grant to Crown Hydro.

Respectfully submitted,

SUSAN L. SEGAL

City Attorney

By



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Dated: December 15, 2017