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Xcel Energy	Information Request No.	2
Docket No.:	E002/M-25-142	
Response To:	Minnesota Public Utilities Commission	
Requestor:	Hanna Terwilliger, Sophie Nikitas	
Date Received:	May 4, 2026	

Question:

Please describe how the Company develops any existing planning standards, and the frequency on which they are modified. In your reply, please indicate whether the Company relies on any national best practices (such as IEEE standards or the National Electric Code) in developing its standards.

Response:

The Company develops and applies its planning standards to align with its design and construction standards. Planning activities are informed by the technical requirements, assumptions, and performance criteria embedded in those design and construction standards, and are then assessed in light of specific system conditions, project objectives, operational constraints, and risk considerations. This approach ensures that planning standards and decisions are both consistent with underlying engineering standards and appropriately tailored to current system needs.

In developing and applying these standards, industry best practices and national standards are used as important reference points where relevant, but they are not applied exclusively or automatically. The Company relies heavily on engineering judgment and expertise as its primary decision-making framework. This allows the Company to address unique system characteristics or emerging conditions that may not be fully covered or anticipated by published standards.

Planning standards are reviewed and modified on an as-needed basis, rather than on a fixed schedule. Updates may be triggered by changes in system configuration, new regulatory requirements, evolving industry practices, lessons learned from completed projects, and/or identification of opportunities for improved analytical rigor. This adaptive process ensures that standards remain current, practical, and aligned with both industry evolution and system-specific needs.

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