

From: denise.slipy@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Denise Slipy](#)
To: [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: MN Must Get Distributed Power Plants Right (PUC Docket #: 25-378)
Date: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 8:04:21 AM

[You don't often get email from denise.slipy@everyactioncustom.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

This message may be from an external email source.

Do not select links or open attachments unless verified. Report all suspicious emails to Minnesota IT Services Security Operations Center.

Dear Minnesota Public Utilities Commission,

RE: PUC Docket #: 25-378 (In the Matter of Northern States Power Company, dba Xcel Energy, Petition for Approval of Capacity*Connect, a Distributed Capacity Procurement (DCP) program)

Prices for electricity are rising as demand for electricity grows. Distributed Power Plants are a creative way to address this that can allow consumers more energy options while reducing the cost of electricity for all ratepayers. It can also create market driven incentives that lowers the cost of adoption of solar and batteries by homeowners and businesses. Other states like California, Massachusetts, New York, and Texas are already doing this and attracting new business, jobs, and innovation to their states in the process.

The only thing preventing Minnesota from moving forward is the right policy. Unfortunately, Xcel Energy is proposing that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission adopt rules for Distributed Power Plants that ignore lessons from other states. Xcel Energy wants a program that delivers little value to their customers by blocking the many Minnesotans that want, or already have, batteries from benefiting.

My strongest concerns about this proposal are:

Expands Xcel's monopoly control of our energy system. Monopolies are never the driver of innovation. In many other states Distributed Power Plants are being operated by third parties, not the monopoly utility. This creates competition that lowers prices and delivers a better product to both the utility and their customers. These models allow homeowners and businesses with solar and batteries to be a part of the Distributed Power Plant, thus lowering the cost of solar and battery adoption while leveraging private capital.

Provides no guaranteed savings and may even cost ratepayers money. Distributed Power Plants can and must save all ratepayers money. This is being proven in other states. Incredibly this proposal does not guarantee savings and could even cost Xcel money. A cost Xcel will pass on to ratepayers.

Does not take into account the existing models working in other states. Let's benefit from the work other states have done to show how a competitive Distributed Power Plant model can best meet our needs. In particular, we should look to the ConnectedSolution program in Massachusetts and the Customer Battery Energy Sharing (CBES) program in Puerto Rico - because they work to save people money, scale resources to meet critical grid needs, and create more energy democracy. Even Xcel's own Aggregator Virtual Power Plant (AVPP) program just rolling out in Colorado is a better example than what they have proposed here in Minnesota.

If we do it right, Distributed Power Plants have the potential to offer Minnesotans energy choices, lower everyone's electric costs and make our electrical grid more resilient. I urge you to use your authority to reject this proposed version of a Distributed Power Plant in Minnesota and create a new proposal that does these three things:

- Expands competition by allowing for a competitive process where third parties can operate a Distributed Power Plant.

- Allows consumers with solar, batteries, and other energy controlling devices such as smart thermostats to participate in the Distributed Power Plant.
- Guarantees savings to Xcel energy customers. The proposal should require Xcel to purchase grid services (more electricity to the grid at times of peak demand for example) from Distributed Power Plants at a rate that saves them money. This is being done in other states and can be done here.

To succeed Minnesota must embrace the role we all want to play in being part of the renewable energy future. We need a Distributed Power Plant model that works for all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,
Mrs Denise Slipy
9385 County Road 11 Breezy Point, MN 56472-3550
denise.slipy@gmail.com