



414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

March 21, 2022

—Via Electronic Filing—

Will Seuffert
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: INITIAL COMMENT
IN THE MATTER OF A FORMAL COMPLAINT AND REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED
RELIEF BY SUNSHARE, LLC AGAINST NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY
D/B/A XCEL ENERGY REGARDING VARIANCE FOR VOS RATE SCHEDULE
FOR FIVE SUNSHARE PROJECTS, DOCKET NO. E002/C-21-125
AND
IN THE MATTER OF A FORMAL COMPLAINT AND REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED
RELIEF BY SUNSHARE, LLC AGAINST NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY
D/B/A XCEL ENERGY REGARDING SUNSHARE CLEODSUN PROJECT,
DOCKET NO. E002/C-21-126

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, submits to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission these Initial Comments in Response to the Commission's Notice of Answer and Comment Period issued on February 18, 2022 in the above referenced dockets.

On March 10, 2022 the Company submitted our Answers to the allegations raised in SunShare's Petition in Docket No. 21-125 and in SunShare's Second Amended Complaint in Docket No. 21-126. The Answers addressed the issues and topics identified in the Commission's Notice for Initial Comment. Therefore, we incorporate into these Initial Comments the totality of our Answers as if set forth in full. Additionally, we provide a short summary response to the following two topics in the Notice as our more comprehensive response to these topics is included in our Answers:

- Should the Commission grant SunShare’s variance request to achieve a 2020 VOS Vintage rate rather than a 2019 VOS Vintage rate for all of the SunShare projects?
- Should the Commission determine that Xcel is imposing unreasonable interconnection costs by requiring a replacement, rather than a retrofitting, of a recloser and regulator for the CleodSun site?

A. SunShare Should Not Receive a Variance

As noted in our March 10, 2022 Answer in Docket No. E002/C-21-125, the Company believes SunShare’s Complaint should be dismissed. SunShare’s Petition requests that the Commission grant a variance under Minn. R. 7829.3200 to the applicable Value of Solar (VOS) Bill Credit Rate for the SunShare OsterSun, CleodSun, GraniteSun, QuarrySun and SinclairSun projects. Instead of the 2019 vintage year rate applicable by the tariff provisions, SunShare is asking that a higher 2020 vintage year rate be applied. However, the VOS rate specified in our tariff is not a Commission rule and therefore Minn. R. 7829.3200 does not apply, absent special circumstances, which SunShare has not identified. Furthermore, as we discuss in more detail in our March 10, 2022 Answer, SunShare has not met the elements required in Minn. R. 7829.3200 for granting a variance, and its request for variance was filed in the incorrect docket. We recommend that the Commission dismiss the Petition in Docket No. 21-125.

B. The Proposed Replacement of Equipment is Reasonable

SunShare’s Second Amended Complaint for the CleodSun project requests that the Commission compel the Company to utilize a one-off solution that SunShare believes will result in a decrease in the CleodSun project’s interconnection costs. The Company has reviewed this “one off” solution and has concluded that it is not a prudent change and does not allow the Company to fulfill its statutory duties to use our judgment to assure the reliability of our network and safety for our employees and customers. It would be poor public policy and a “slippery slope” for the Commission to further consider the relief requested by SunShare. Further, the equipment requested by SunShare would vary from that used to serve our retail customers, would discriminate against other developers, and would be inconsistent with a prior Independent Engineer determination on a similar dispute. Additionally, any complaint of this nature for a pre-MN DIP application such as the CleodSun application can only be submitted during the detailed design estimate phase, which takes place after SunShare has signed and funded the Interconnection Agreement. SunShare has not yet signed and funded the

Interconnection Agreement. For these reasons, we recommend the Second Amended Complaint in Docket No. 21-126 be dismissed.

We have electronically filed this document with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, and copies have been served on the parties on the attached service list. Please contact Jessica Peterson at Jessica.k.peterson@xcelenergy.com or (612)330-6850 if you have any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely,

/s/

JAMES DENNISTON
ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL

Enclosures
c: Service List

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Mustafa Adam, 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; or

xx by electronic filing.

Docket Nos.: E002/C-21-125 and E002/C-21-126

Dated this 21st day of March, 2022.

/s/

Mustafa Adam
Regulatory Administrator

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Jacob	Bobrow	jbobrow@mysunshare.com	SunShare	1724 Gilpin St Denver, CO 80218	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-125_Official Service List 21-125
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_21-125_Official Service List 21-125
James	Denniston	james.r.denniston@xcelenergy.com	Xcel Energy Services, Inc.	414 Nicollet Mall, 401-8 Minneapolis, MN 55401	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-125_Official Service List 21-125
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_21-125_Official Service List 21-125
Elizabeth	Reddington	lreddington@pivotenergy.net	Pivot Energy	1750 15th St Ste 400 Denver, CO 80202	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-125_Official Service List 21-125
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_21-125_Official Service List 21-125
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_21-125_Official Service List 21-125
Lynnette	Sweet	Regulatory.records@xcelenergy.com	Xcel Energy	414 Nicollet Mall FL 7 Minneapolis, MN 554011993	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-125_Official Service List 21-125
Curtis P	Zaun	curtis@cpzlaw.com	Attorney At Law	3254 Rice Street Little Canada, MN 55126	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-125_Official Service List 21-125

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Jacob	Bobrow	jbobrow@mysunshare.com	SunShare	1724 Gilpin St Denver, CO 80218	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-126_Official Service List 21-126
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_21-126_Official Service List 21-126
James	Denniston	james.r.denniston@xcelenergy.com	Xcel Energy Services, Inc.	414 Nicollet Mall, 401-8 Minneapolis, MN 55401	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-126_Official Service List 21-126
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_21-126_Official Service List 21-126
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Curtis P	Zaun	curtis@cpzlaw.com	Attorney At Law	3254 Rice Street Little Canada, MN 55126	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-126_Official Service List 21-126