

The Commission met on **Thursday, July 18, 2024**, with Chair Sieben and Commissioners Means, Ham, Sullivan, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

E-002/GS-23-217

In the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power Co. d/b/a Xcel Energy for a Site permit for the up to 250 MW Sherco 3 Solar Energy Generating System in Sherburne County, Minnesota

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Determine that the Environmental Assessment and the record created in this matter address the issues identified in the Scoping Decision.
2. Issue the Proposed Site Permit attached to these briefing papers modified as follows:
 - a. Change special site permit condition 5.1 to read:

The Permittee shall develop a site-specific Visual Screening Plan. The Visual Screening Plan shall be designed and managed to mitigate visual impacts to adjacent residences and cemeteries. The Visual Screening Plan shall at a minimum include: (a) objectives for screening of nearby residences and cemeteries; and (b) a description of the types of trees and shrub species to be used, the location of plantings, and plans for installation, establishment, and maintenance. The location of trees and shrubs included in the Visual Screening Plan that are located within the Permittee's site control shall be included in the Site Plan filed under Section 8.3. **The Permittee is required to maintain and ensure the successful growth, health, and maintenance of the vegetation for 3 years.** At least 14 days prior to the pre-construction meeting, the Permittee shall file: (a) the Visual Screening Plan; (b) documentation of coordination between landowners within 500 feet of the site boundary; and (c) an affidavit of its distribution of the Visual Screening Plan to landowners within 500 feet of the site boundary.

3. Authorize Commission staff to update and modify the amended site permit to correct typographic and formatting errors, improve consistency, and ensure agreement with the Commission's final order in the matter.

The motion passed 5-0.

E-002/M-13-867

In the Matter of Xcel Energy's Community Solar Garden Program;

E-002/CI-23-335

In the Matter of Implementation of 2023 Legislative Changes to Xcel Energy Community Solar Garden Program

This matter was tabled.

E-002/CI-24-176

In the Matter of an Investigation into the Implementation of a Small DER Capacity Reservation System for Xcel Energy

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission take the following actions:

1. Suspend the comment period.
2. Authorize the Executive Secretary to issue a notice resuming the comment period on this matter to be coordinated with docket(s) addressing cost-sharing.

The motion passed 5-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: November 13, 2024



Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary