

Ex Parte Communication Report

Date:

To: Public Ex Parte Communication File

Docket No:

Case Name:

From: PUC Staff:

RE: Permissible Ex Parte Communications Pursuant to Minn. Rules, Part 7845.7400.

1. Type of communication: (Oral or Written)

If written, attach the document.

If oral, Date:

Time:

NOTE: In both instances, please notify the Maker the communication has been submitted for inclusion in the record.

2. Maker of the Communication:

3. Recipient of the Communication:

4. For communications involving the setting of interim rates or the review of compliance filings, the topic was:

5. For all other permissible communications that are prohibited for the Commissioners under Minn. Rules, part 7845.7200, the substance of the communication was:

6. For oral permissible ex parte communications, has a copy of this memo been sent to the assigned Administrative Law Judge? Yes No N/A



Re: Ex Parte clarification on final positions (Xcel DCP proposal)

From John Farrell <jfarrell@ilsr.org>

Date Thu 2/12/2026 11:03 AM

To Nikitas, Sophie (She/Her/Hers) (PUC) <sophie.nikitas@state.mn.us>

Cc Terwilliger, Hanna (PUC) <hanna.terwilliger@state.mn.us>; sanderson@solarunitedneighbors.org <sanderson@solarunitedneighbors.org>

 1 attachment (17 KB)

Proposed Decision Options - Xcel Capacity Connect Docket No. 25-0378.docx;

Sophie and Hanna,

This is a supplemental recommendation. SUN and ILSR otherwise support the recommendations of Cooperative Energy Futures, et al., to adopt the Department recommendations, or where modified, the JSP recommendations. I updated the attached document to reflect this and will file it in the docket now.

Sincerely,
John

On Thu, Feb 12, 2026 at 10:26 AM Nikitas, Sophie (She/Her/Hers) (PUC) <sophie.nikitas@state.mn.us> wrote:

Also I'll be out of office for the next week so I'm CC'ing Hanna to continue the conversation!

Sophie Nikitas

Rates Analyst | Economic Analysis Unit

[Pronouns](#): She/Her

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

121 7th Place E, Suite 350

Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

E: sophie.nikitas@state.mn.us

P: 651-539-1062

mn.gov/puc

From: Nikitas, Sophie (She/Her/Hers) (PUC)
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2026 10:09 AM
To: 'John Farrell' <jfarrell@ilsr.org>
Cc: sanderson@solarunitedneighbors.org
Subject: RE: Ex Parte clarification on final positions (Xcel DCP proposal)

Hi John, you can file this in eDockets. However, can you please still clarify if you still wish your recommendations from your initial comments to be included as final decision options?

Best,

Sophie

Sophie Nikitas

Rates Analyst | Economic Analysis Unit

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From: John Farrell <jfarrell@ilsr.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 5:06 PM
To: Nikitas, Sophie (She/Her/Hers) (PUC) <sophie.nikitas@state.mn.us>
Cc: sanderson@solarunitedneighbors.org
Subject: Re: Ex Parte clarification on final positions (Xcel DCP proposal)

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

Sophie,

Thank you so much for reaching out. Here is one proposed alternative decision option from ILSR / SUN. Please let me know if I should file it via eDockets or if any other formatting or editing is required.

Sincerely,
John

On Fri, Feb 6, 2026 at 12:19 PM Nikitas, Sophie (She/Her/Hers) (PUC) <sophie.nikitas@state.mn.us> wrote:

Hi all,

In order to make sure Public Utilities Commission Staff accurately reflects your position in the briefing papers for Xcel's Capacity*Connect proposal (25-378), I am writing with a clarification. Do the recommendations on the [Cooperative Energy Future et al. Supplemental Comments](#) replace your [December 10th recommendations](#)?

If your final recommendations differ from Cooperative Energy Futures' et al. Supplemental Comments, please provide a Word document with a complete list of your final recommendations. As you compose the list, please word the recommendations as you would want them to appear in a list of decision options, and indicate where you support other parties' decision options.

If you are able, please provide the list by Thursday, February 12th. If you need more time, please let us know.

I plan to file the response as a permissible ex parte communication in the interest of transparency.

Best,

Sophie

Sophie Nikitas

Rates Analyst | Economic Analysis Unit

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February 11, 2026

Via Electronic Filing

**Re: In the Matter of Northern States Power Company, dba Xcel Energy, Petition for Approval of Capacity*Connect, a Distributed Capacity Procurement (DCP) program
Docket No. E002/M-25-0378**

To Whom It May Concern:

The Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR), along with Solar United Neighbors (SUN), respectfully submit the following alternative decision option for consideration, regarding third party participation in Capacity*Connect. We offer this option in addition to supporting the supplemental comments of Cooperative Energy Futures, et al, which supports the Department recommendations except where modified by the Joint Solar Parties.

This proposed decision option could be included as Recommendation 5.1 within the consensus framework.

ILSR / SUN Recommendation 1. Require Xcel to launch a 20 MW pilot for 3rd party owned C*C resources no later than July 1, 2027, and use the data from that program's performance as the evidence to inform the independent evaluation in the JSP-modified Recommendation 11.

This recommendation aims to capture a more accurate and useful evaluation of third-party participation — using actual experience — rather than attempting to evaluate such a scenario in the abstract, as proposed by other intervenors.

Sincerely,

/s/

John Farrell, Institute for Local Self-Reliance
Minneapolis, MN
jfarrell@ilsr.org | 612-808-0888

/s/

Bobby King
Minnesota State Director
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