

October 24, 2017

Daniel P. Wolf
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

RE: **Response Comments of the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources**
Docket No. E002/M-17-629

Dear Mr. Wolf:

Below are the response comments of the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources (Department) in the matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy (Xcel), for Approval of a Medical Affordability Program (MAP or Program). Xcel filed the Petition on August 24, 2017.

On September 25, 2017, the Department filed comments recommending that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) approve Xcel's Petition, modified to change the Program tariff (to clarify certain customer-facing aspects of the Program) and to change the Program application and information sheet (to clarify that a customer does not need to receive a grant from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in order to participate in the Program).

On October 5, 2017, Xcel filed reply comments agreeing to the Department's recommended changes to the Program tariff and information sheet. On October 12, 2017, Xcel filed supplemental comments with a Program application modified to reflect that participation in the Program does not require receipt of LIHEAP grants, as suggested by the Department.

As Xcel has agreed to the Department's recommended modifications, the Department recommends that the Commission approve Xcel's Petition as modified in Xcel's reply comments and supplemental reply comments.

Sincerely,

/s/ STEPHEN COLLINS
Rates Analyst