

## NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD

Issued: *October 30, 2017*

### **In the Matter of Xcel Energy's Renewable Development Fund (RDF) Annual Report, Tracker Account True-up, and Request for 2018 Rider Factor**

**PUC Docket Number: E-002/M-17-712**

**Comment Period:** Initial comment period closes November 22, 2017 at 4:30pm  
Reply comment period closes December 8, 2017 at 4:30pm

*Comments received after comment period closes may not be considered*

#### **Topics Open for Comment:**

- Is the 2018 RDF rate rider factor proposed by Xcel reasonable, and based on appropriate assumptions, information, and supporting calculations?
- Has Xcel complied with Minnesota Laws 2017, Chapter 94, Article 10, Section 3, Subdivision 1 (b) with respect to the transfer of funds to the Renewable Development Account (RDA) on July 1, 2017? Is there any action the Commission should take?
- Should the Commission take any action on the Crown Hydro RDF grant contract (AH-01) under Minnesota Laws 2017, Chapter 94, Article 10, Section 29, or other authority?
- Are there other issues or concerns related to this matter?

**Background:** On September 29, 2017, Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy, filed its Renewable Development Fund Annual Report, Tracker Account True-up, and Request for 2018 Rider Factor. Xcel is requesting a 2018 RDF rate rider factor of \$0.001522 to collect \$45,552,934, which would increase an average residential customer's bill by \$0.37 per month.

Significant changes were made to the Renewable Development Account statute, Minn. Stat. §116C.779, in the 2017 legislative session as part of Minnesota Laws 2017, Chapter 94, Article 10, Section 3. Among other changes, a Renewable Development Account (RDA) is established as a special revenue fund of the State of Minnesota, administered by Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) and Xcel is required to transfer funds into that account each January 15 starting in 2018.

Minnesota Laws 2017, Chapter 94, Article 10, Section 3, Subdivision 1 (b) requires Xcel to transfer all funds in the previously-established RDF account to the new RDA on July 1, 2017, with a number of exceptions. Xcel did not transfer any funds, as discussed in their September 29, 2017 filing.

Minnesota Laws 2017, Chapter 94, Article 10, Section 29, requires certain RDF grantees to transfer unexpended grant funds to the RDA if specific conditions exist. On August 28, 2017, Friends of the Lock and Dam (FOLD) filed comments on Xcel's July 27, 2017 RDF Quarterly Status Report in Docket 00-1583 et al., urging the Commission to consider the Crown Hydro project grant and any other "expired" RDF contracts in light of the new statutory language. Xcel responded on September 13, 2017.

**Filing Requirements:** Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are **required** to file documents using the Commission's electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants and interested persons are encouraged to use eFiling: [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *eFiling*, and follow the prompts.

**Submit Public Comments:** Visit [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *Speak Up!* or click [HERE](#) to find this docket, and add your comments to the discussion.

- If you wish to include an exhibit, map or other attachment, please send your comments via U.S. Mail.

Send U.S. Mail to Public Utilities Commission, 121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul MN 55101. Please include the Commission's docket number in all communications.

**Full Case Record:** See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission's website at [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (17) and the docket number (712), select *Search*.

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