

- ☐ Not-Public Document – Not For Public Disclosure
☐ Public Document – Not-Public Data Has Been Excised
☒ Public Document

Xcel Energy	Information Request No.	1
Docket No.:	E002/M-25-142	
Response To:	Minnesota Public Utilities Commission	
Requestor:	Hanna Terwilliger, Sophie Nikitas	
Date Received:	May 4, 2026	

Question:

On page 26 of its February 26, 2026 Initial Comments the Department of Commerce provides the following definition of “Planning Standard”:

A rule, guide, or decision criterion that governs a broad range of distribution planning activities beyond actions taken with regard to a single piece of equipment or project, and where its modification would not result in the immediate failure of system equipment.

- A. How many “planning standards” does the Company have, based on this definition?
- B. Based on this definition, does the Company have written “planning standards” for the topics listed in recommendations C.2 and F.1 of the Department’s April 23, 2026 Reply Comments?

Response:

This definition of a “Planning Standard” encompasses the majority of the Company’s design, construction, and planning processes. It is difficult to estimate the number of guidelines, thresholds, and decision criterion that are impacted directly or indirectly. The “planning standards” that the Department of Commerce specifically call out for review (N-1 capacity) have direct interactions and interdependencies with the engineering calculations for standards that the DOC identified as *outside* the umbrella of system planning standards (conductor sizing). Stated simply, choices made regarding N-1 planning and operations are standard engineering practice and affect the inputs for engineering calculations that determine conductor ratings. Policy changes that lead to a greater percentage of capacity utilization may necessitate an offsetting reduction in the overall magnitude of rated capacity to preserve asset service lives and the ability for the Company to reliably serve customers.

Preparer:	Mike Renman
Title:	Manager, Electric System Performance
Department:	Electric Distribution System
Telephone:	651-229-2509
Date:	May 18, 2026