

Direct Testimony and Schedule
Jessica K. Peterson

Before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
State of Minnesota

In the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy
for a Certificate of Need for Additional Dry Cask Storage at the
Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation
in Wright County

Docket No. E002/CN-21-668
Exhibit___(JKP-1)

Conservation Programs and Impacts

March 1, 2023

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Schedule

Statement of Qualifications

Schedule 1

1 **I. INTRODUCTION AND QUALIFICATIONS**

2

3 Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND TITLE.

4 A. My name is Jessica K. Peterson. I am the Manager of Strategy and
5 Performance for Xcel Energy Services Inc. (XES or Service Company), the
6 service company subsidiary of Xcel Energy.

7

8 Q. WHAT IS YOUR PREFERRED FORM OF ADDRESS?

9 A. I use she/her pronouns and am comfortable being addressed as Ms. Peterson.

10

11 Q. ARE YOU PROVIDING TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF NORTHERN STATES POWER
12 COMPANY, D/B/A XCEL ENERGY (XCEL ENERGY OR THE COMPANY)?

13 A. Yes.

14

15 Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE.

16 A. I have worked for Xcel Energy since 2001. I served as a Program Manager
17 for various Conservation Improvement programs and focused on Strategy
18 and Implementation of our demand response portfolio before moving into
19 our Demand Side Management (DSM) Regulatory and Policy group, where I
20 worked as an analyst for six years before serving in my current role beginning
21 in 2021. My statement of qualifications is provided as Exhibit____(JKP-1),
22 Schedule 1.

23

24 Q. WHAT ARE YOUR CURRENT RESPONSIBILITIES?

25 A. In my current role, I manage a group of four individuals who focus on Xcel
26 Energy's implementation of the Company's demand side management and
27 related efforts. My group is responsible for filing our Conservation

1 Improvement Plans (CIP) in Minnesota and DSM plans in South Dakota as
2 well as reporting on the status of those efforts.

3
4 Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY IN THIS PROCEEDING?

5 A. The purpose of my Direct Testimony in this proceeding is to:

- 6 • Identify the portions of the Certificate of Need Application (the
7 Application) that I am sponsoring; and
- 8 • Discuss current conservation program achievements, future goals, and
9 the potential to offset generation with conservation programs.

10
11 **II. BACKGROUND**

12
13 Q. PLEASE IDENTIFY WHICH SECTIONS OF THE APPLICATION YOU ARE
14 SPONSORING.

15 A. I am sponsoring the following Application sections:

- 16 • Ch. 4.1.2-3; 4.2.3 – Conservation Aspects of Need
- 17 • Ch. 5.2 – Promotional Activities
- 18 • Ch. 6 – Conservation Programs

19
20 Q. ARE YOU SPONSORING ANY UPDATES TO THE APPLICATION?

21 A. No.

22
23 Q. WHAT SCHEDULES ARE YOU SPONSORING IN YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?

24 A. I am sponsoring the following schedule:

- 25 • Schedule 1 – Statement of Qualifications

1 Q. HOW IS THE REMAINDER OF YOUR TESTIMONY ORGANIZED?

2 A. My testimony is organized as follows:

- 3 • *Section III*: Conservation Programs
- 4 • *Section IV*: Generation Offset
- 5 • *Section V*: Conclusion

6

7

III. CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

8

9 Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION OF YOUR TESTIMONY?

10 A. In this section, I describe Xcel Energy's conservation programs and its
11 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) goals for those conservation programs for
12 2020–2034.

13

14 Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE XCEL ENERGY'S CONSERVATION PROGRAMS.

15 A. Xcel Energy offers a combination of more than 40 business, residential,
16 income qualified, and pilot energy efficiency and demand response programs.

17

18 Based on 2021 data, these conservation programs have saved nearly 11,735
19 GWh of energy and 4,113 MW of demand, since 1990.

20

21 Q. WHAT ARE XCEL ENERGY'S FUTURE PLANS FOR CONSERVATION?

22 A. Through its CIP, Xcel Energy's current IRP proposes goals of 11,795 GWh
23 and 2,156 MW cumulative savings over the 2020–2034 planning period, or
24 780 GWh annually. This includes growing the Demand Response portfolio
25 to over 1,500 MW by 2034.

1 **IV. GENERATION OFFSET**

2
3 Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION OF YOUR TESTIMONY?

4 A. In this section, I explain that Xcel Energy’s conservation programs are
5 insufficient to replace the generation from the Monticello Nuclear Generating
6 Plant (Monticello Plant or the Plant).

7
8 Q. CAN CONSERVATION PROGRAMS REDUCE DEMAND ENOUGH TO REPLACE THE
9 MNGP?

10 A. No. Although Xcel Energy has aggressive energy efficiency and DSM efforts
11 through 2034, these programs cannot sufficiently reduce demand to the point
12 that the Monticello Plant is not needed for generation.

13
14 As I mentioned above, Xcel Energy and its customers have saved nearly
15 11,735 GWh of energy and 4,113 MW of demand. These savings avoided the
16 need to build more than 16 medium-sized (250 MW) power plants.
17 Additionally, Xcel Energy’s current IRP proposes goals of an additional
18 11,795 GWh and 2,156 MW cumulative savings over the 2020–2034 planning
19 period, or 780 GWh annually. Despite these reductions, the IRP still
20 anticipates an increase in customer load over time and therefore a need for
21 generation beyond what can realistically be avoided through conservation
22 programs. Although conservation-related energy savings are projected to
23 grow and continue to offset the need for new energy facilities, they are
24 insufficient to both offset the need for new generation and replace generation
25 from the Monticello Plant if it was retired in 2030.

1 Further, the State of Minnesota recently passed a bill requiring utilities to
2 generate 100 percent of their electricity through carbon-free generation by
3 2040, accelerating Xcel Energy's plan to reach carbon-free generation in
4 Minnesota by ten years. Conservation programs will be a necessary
5 component to achieving this goal. Under this accelerated timeline, the savings
6 achieved by the Company's conservation programs will be needed to
7 supplement the loss of carbon-based generation, leaving even less room to
8 further reduce the programs' ability to replace generation from the Monticello
9 Plant. This is addressed in more detail in Company witness Mr. Allen Krug's
10 Direct Testimony.

11
12 Q. HAVE PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES BY XCEL ENERGY CREATED THE NEED FOR
13 THE ADDITIONAL SPENT FUEL STORAGE?

14 A. No. The Monticello Plant is an essential part of the electrical supply system
15 and has been for 50 years. The need for additional storage is a simple function
16 of extending the life of the Plant to continue to provide baseload power
17 beyond 2030.

18
19 **V. CONCLUSION**

20
21 Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY?

22 A. Yes, it does.

Statement of Qualifications

Jessica K. Peterson

Jessica Peterson has been employed by Northern States Power Company – Minnesota (NSPM) in demand side management (DSM) roles for 21 years and her current position is Manager, Performance and Strategy for the Company's DSM Policy and Strategy department. Her current job responsibilities include DSM policy analysis, customer program compliance, and strategic analysis for the Company's future efficiency portfolio.

Jessica received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Relations from Winona State University in 2001. Later, she received a Master of Business Administration from St. Thomas University in 2010. Jessica was hired by NSPM as Marketing Coordinator in 2001, progressing to a Senior Product Manager role during her tenure in the Department. Her experience in Product Marketing included the development and implementation of demand side management programs in Minnesota. Additionally, she helped launch our demand side management programs (DSM) in our Colorado jurisdiction in 2007.

In 2011, Jessica accepted a position as a DSM and Renewable Strategy and Policy Coordinator. In this role, she led cross functional teams to discover and plan the direction of the Company's future demand response portfolio and managed the policy direction for our DSM portfolio in our northern service territories.

In 2014, she transferred to the Company's DSM Policy & Strategy team. Her role within the team was to manage compliance, policy, stakeholder engagement and strategic direction as part of customer renewable programs. She also managed our DSM compliance for South Dakota where she has continued to be an expert witness on our DSM portfolio since 2014. Jessica was promoted to Manager, Performance and Strategy in 2021, where her responsibilities expanded as described above.