

CALPINE



1961 Premier Drive | Suite 100 | Mankato, MN 56001
PH 507.385.6640 | PH 800.697.0652 | FX 507.345.4451
greatermankato.com

IN THE MATTER OF XCEL ENERGY'S
PETITION SEEKING APPROVAL FOR A
COMPETITIVE RESOURCE ACQUISITION
PROPOSAL

PUC Docket Number: E-002/CN-12-1240
OAH Docket Number: 8-2500-30760

October 29, 2013

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55164-0620

RECEIVED
2013 NOV -4 AM 7:53
ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

Dear Judge Lipman:

On behalf of Greater Mankato Growth (GMG), the Chamber of Commerce and economic development organization representing more than 850 members in the Greater Mankato Area, I write to convey our organization's continued support for Calpine Corporation's proposed expansion of the Mankato Energy Center in the context of the pending competitive acquisition proceeding. GMG earlier expressed its support for Calpine's expansion in a letter dated August 13, 2012 in the context of Xcel's IRP proceeding in Docket No. 10-825.

Calpine's Mankato facility was initially designed, permitted and constructed to accommodate additional power generation at the site and this proceeding represents an opportunity to complete the facility as planned. The location of the plant in Mankato has provided substantial benefits to our community, particularly with respect to the City of Mankato's water use agreement with Calpine, which helped the City meet state discharge requirements and has been an environmental benefit to the Minnesota River. The location of Calpine's facility in Mankato is in a good location, and Calpine has been a great corporate citizen. GMG encourages the Public Utilities Commission to recognize that the bid submitted by Calpine in this docket has strong local support and no known opposition.

Thank you for your consideration on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan G. Zierdt', written over a white background.

Jonathan G. Zierdt
President & CEO

10 Civic Center Plaza
Post Office 3368
Mankato, MN 56002-3368

Phone: (507) 387-8600
Fax: (507) 388-7530
www.ci.mankato.mn.us



IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
OF XCEL ENERGY'S PETITION SEEK
APPROVAL FOR A COMPETITIVE
RESOURCE ACQUISITION PROPOSAL

MPUC Docket No. E002/CN-12-1240
OAH Docket No. 8-2500-30760

October 31, 2013

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
PO Box 6460
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul MN 55164-0620

RECEIVED
2013 NOV -4 PM 1:00
ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

Dear Honorable Eric L. Lipman:

On August 13, 2012, the City of Mankato filed a letter in support of Calpine's expansion of the Mankato Energy Center, in the context of Xcel's IRP proceeding in Docket No. 10-825. This letter is to confirm our ongoing support in the context of the pending competitive acquisition proceeding. Calpine's Mankato facility was initially designed, permitted and constructed to accommodate additional power generation at the site and this proceeding represents an opportunity to complete the facility as planned. The location of the plant in Mankato has provided substantial benefits to our community, particularly with respect to our water use agreement with Calpine, which helped us meet state discharge requirements and has been and environmental benefit to the Minnesota River. The location of Calpine's facility in Mankato is in a good location, and Calpine has been a great corporate citizen. We encourage the Public Utilities Commission to recognize that the bid submitted by Calpine in this docket has strong local support and no known opposition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Hentges". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Pat Hentges
City Manager

10 Civic Center Plaza
Post Office 3368
Mankato, MN 56002-3368

Phone: (507) 387-8600
Fax: (507) 388-7530
www.ci.mankato.mn.us



IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
OF XCEL ENERGY'S PETITION SEEK
APPROVAL FOR A COMPETITIVE
RESOURCE ACQUISITION PROPOSAL

MPUC Docket No. E002/CN-12-1240
OAH Docket No. 8-2500-30760

October 31, 2013

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
PO Box 6460
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul MN 55164-0620

Dear Honorable Eric L. Lipman:

On August 13, 2012, the City of Mankato filed a letter in support of Calpine's expansion of the Mankato Energy Center, in the context of Xcel's IRP proceeding in Docket No. 10-825. This letter is to confirm our ongoing support in the context of the pending competitive acquisition proceeding. Calpine's Mankato facility was initially designed, permitted and constructed to accommodate additional power generation at the site and this proceeding represents an opportunity to complete the facility as planned. The location of the plant in Mankato has provided substantial benefits to our community, particularly with respect to our water use agreement with Calpine, which helped us meet state discharge requirements and has been an environmental benefit to the Minnesota River. The location of Calpine's facility in Mankato is in a good location, and Calpine has been a great corporate citizen. We encourage the Public Utilities Commission to recognize that the bid submitted by Calpine in this docket has strong local support and no known opposition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Hentges". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Pat Hentges
City Manager

GERONIMO

October 8, 2013

RECEIVED

2013 OCT 28 AM 7:53

ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55164-0620

RE: Comment on Xcel Energy's Petition to Seek Approval for a Competitive Resource Acquisition Proposal

Docket E-002/CN-12-1240
OAH 8-2500-30760

Dear Mr. Lipman:

We would like to express heartfelt support for the Geronimo Aurora Solar project and the overall development of solar and wind energy throughout the state of Minnesota. We support the multiple site strategy of this project, including the site located in Franconia Township, Chisago County MN, where we reside.

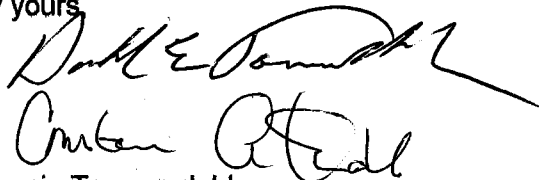
The estimated economic benefits of the entire 100 megawatt project will bring about 800 temporary construction jobs and 30 permanent positions to the state of Minnesota.

Our community will benefit from this project by producing a portion of our energy locally and sustainably. We believe this could provide a useful and workable model for communities around the Country (and world) moving forward.

There are also tangible environmental benefits to this project. It helps us meet our continually growing need for power without contributing to greenhouse gases. Once implemented, solar power production is relatively immune to wild fluctuations of fossil fuel prices. Producing energy locally, close to where it is needed, reduces the costs of transmission and line loss. We believe the future of power generation lies in a more local-centric model, not in a deteriorating and vulnerable grid-based system.

On a personal level, I believe this project will make an ideal neighbor. It will not impact the area with noise, traffic, pollution or sprawl. Our area is semi-rural and has relied on working on farms to retain its character. As the farms inevitably retire, we see this as an opportunity to provide an alternative land use that helps maintain the rural nature as our energy demands continue to rise.

Respectfully yours,



Donald & Connie Tommerdahl
Scandia, MN

Oak Park Heights, MN.
October 8, 2013

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
P. O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul MN 55164-0620

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2013 OCT 28 AM 7:52

ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

RE: Comment on Xcel Energy's Petition Seek Approval for a Competitive Resource Acquisition Proposal

Docket E-002/CN-12-1240
OAH 8-2500-30760

Dear Mr. Lipman,

I, Carol J. Smith, am trustee of the Wayne and Carol Family Trust regarding this piece of property and do whole heartedly support the plan for a solar farm to be created on one of my properties. This property is located in Carver County, Young America Township, section 1. We have three daughters, two of them live out of state and we have had numerous conversations with them and their husbands, via emails and conference calls and we all agree that this would be a worthwhile project.

I feel because of the lay of the land on this property and its proximity to an Xcel Energy substation that this is an ideal location for a solar farm.

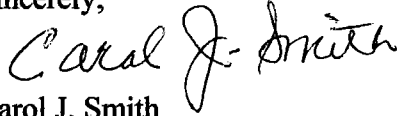
At first I had some reservations about relinquishing ownership on this piece of farm land. My husband, now deceased, was a wonderful land steward. He treasured the land he farmed and took excellent care of it. As he remarked, they weren't making more black soil. His main concern was some of the land being used for "cement" projects but as our daughters and I discussed this project, we felt he would have been extremely supportive as we are making use of the environment. As farmers, we know and experienced the value of sunlight. This solar project would be non-polluting to this area.

Construction on the site would benefit those seeking jobs, both temporary during construction and than again for maintenance. It would be a place where area school children could come and learn more about solar energy and the benefits it produces. It could be stressed that it is non-polluting and will help with health benefits for the area. Because this site is near Xcel Energy's substation it would be cheaper and cleaner to provide electric energy in the surrounding areas..

A personal benefit would be receiving power from a nearby site. I know this valuable farm land would be put to good use. It was a piece of farm land that our family walked and worked on so it is very precious to us. We would be glad to know that

many others will benefit from our family's decision to have a solar farm erected on that site. We would hope that our neighbors in Carver County and others in the area would be as pleased as we are with our decision.

Sincerely,

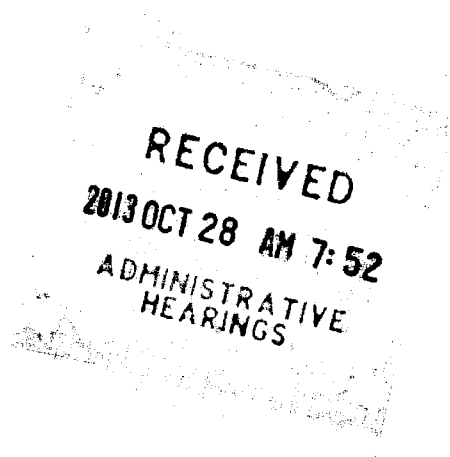
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol J. Smith". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Carol J. Smith

Trustee of the Wayne and Carol Smith Farm Trust

October 9, 2013

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
P O Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St Paul MN 55164-0620



RE: Comment on Xcel Energy's Petition Seek Approval for a Competitive Resource Acquisition Proposal
Docket E-002/CN-12-1240
OAH 8-2500-30760

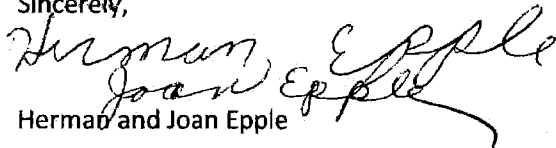
Dear Mr. Eric Lipman:

We are sending this letter regarding our support for an alternative energy project in our area, Wright County, Minnesota.

When the present Xcel substation was updated, the substation is by our farm about 400 feet, the workers stated we should have more energy kilowatts at this site. We believe solar energy is the best for increasing the megawatts. Solar energy will be cleaner to our environment and the project won't run out or fluctuate in cost like fossil fuels.

We strongly support the Geronimo Energy Project in our area, Wright County, Minnesota.

Sincerely,


Herman and Joan Epple

6583 State Hwy 25 SW
Montrose MN 55363

October 10, 2013

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55164-0620

RECEIVED
2013 OCT 28 AM 7:53
ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

RE: Comment on Xcel Energy's Petition to Seek Approval for a Competitive Resource Acquisition Proposal

Docket E-002/CN-12-1240
OAH 8-2500-30760

Dear Mr. Lipman:

We would like to express heartfelt support for the Geronimo Aurora Solar project and the overall development of solar and wind energy throughout the state of Minnesota. We support the multiple site strategy of this project, including the site located in Franconia Township, Chisago County MN, where we reside.

The estimated economic benefits of the entire 100 megawatt project will bring about 800 temporary construction jobs and 30 permanent positions to the state of Minnesota.

Our community will benefit from this project by producing a portion of our energy locally and sustainably. We believe this could provide a useful and workable model for communities around the Country (and world) moving forward.

There are also tangible environmental benefits to this project. It helps us meet our continually growing need for power without contributing to greenhouse gases. Once implemented, solar power production is relatively immune to wild fluctuations of fossil fuel prices. Producing energy locally, close to where it is needed, reduces the costs of transmission and line loss. We believe the future of power generation lies in a more local-centric model, not in a deteriorating and vulnerable grid-based system.

On a personal level, I believe this project will make an ideal neighbor. It will not impact the area with noise, traffic, pollution or sprawl. Our area is semi-rural and has relied on working on farms to retain its character. As the farms inevitably retire, we see this as an opportunity to provide an alternative land use that helps maintain the rural nature as our energy demands continue to rise.

Respectfully yours,



John Hebert
26111 Quinlan Ave
Lindstrom, MN 55045

October 11, 2013

RECEIVED
2013 OCT 28 AM 7:52
ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55164

RE: Comment on Xcel Energy's Petition Seek Approval for a Competitive Resource Acquisition Proposal
Docket E-002/CN-12-1240 OAH 8-2500-30760

Dear Mr. Lipman,

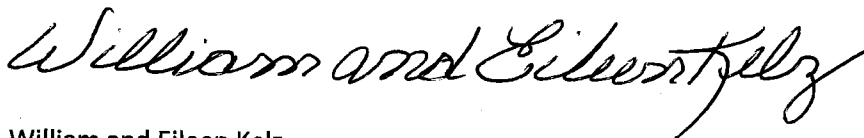
We are writing to state our support for the Aurora Solar Project submitted by Geronimo Energy. My husband and I are owners of farmland in South Washington County, MN. It is the farm I grew up on. Our 40 acres is a part of the Whitaker Farm, the oldest continually owned family farm in Minnesota. We are tremendously proud of the heritage of this land and welcome the opportunity through Geronimo Energy, to dedicate 40 acres to the Aurora Solar Energy Project.

We have been long time proponents of renewable energy because it is non-polluting unlike many other fossil fuels and has a much healthier impact on the environment. My husband and I live near two sand fracking plants and this process, to get to the natural gas, is anything but clean and sustainable. Solar is a much more responsible solution to present and future energy needs.

As my brother and my son continue to farm the remainder of the farm, I appreciate the fact that they can do so along side the solar installations without concern for their health and well-being.....without the noise pollutionwithout the other dangers that other forms of energy can present.

We look forward to being a part of this solar project that will support the area with jobs, produce energy close to home efficiently and sustainably, and will lead the way to responsible energy production.

Sincerely,



William and Eileen Kelz

RECEIVED

2013 OCT 28 AM 7:53

ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

Kenneth & Suzan Hollerich
2141 SAVIDGE LAKE ROAD
CLEVELAND, MN. 56017
Ph. 507-934-2984
Fax 507-934-9859

Oct. 12, 2013

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul, Mn. 55164-0620

Re: Comment on Xcel Energy's Petition Seek Approval for a Competitive Resource Acquisition Proposal.

Docket E-002/CN12-1240
OAH 8-2500-30760

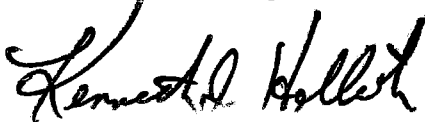
Dear Mr. Eric Lipman,

My wife Suzan and I are writing this letter in support of Geronimo's projects in the construction of solar energy throughout Minnesota.

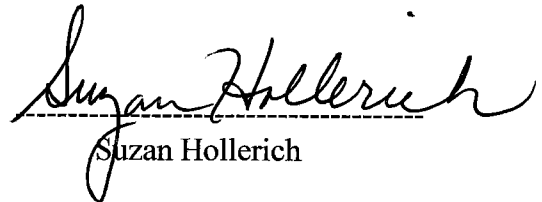
Having a proposed 19 acre 2 megawatt site near St. Peter, Mn. in Le Sueur County, Kasota Sec. 24. we are very excited to take part in a process that features a renewable energy resource. This would be a local environmentally friendly renewable power source. Many jobs would be created during construction and also to maintain the facilities after construction.

As a new large solar project in the county, that promotes green energy, it would be a show case in the area for many, including school field trips to educate students in an environmentally self sustaining power source.

Suzan and I would take great pride in helping to bring forth an energy project that moves our Country to the goal of becoming energy sufficient.



Kenneth Hollerich



Suzan Hollerich

October 14, 2013

RECEIVED
2013 OCT 28 AM 7:58

ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55164-0620

RE: Comment on Xcel Energy's Petition to Seek Approval for a Competitive Resource Acquisition Proposal

Docket E-002/CN-12-1240
OAH 8-2500-30760

Dear Mr. Lipman:

We would like to express heartfelt support for the Geronimo Aurora Solar project and the overall development of solar and wind energy throughout the state of Minnesota. We support the multiple site strategy of this project, including the site located in Franconia Township, Chisago County MN, where we reside.

The estimated economic benefits of the entire 100 megawatt project will bring about 800 temporary construction jobs and 30 permanent positions to the state of Minnesota.

Our community will benefit from this project by producing a portion of our energy locally and sustainably. We believe this could provide a useful and workable model for communities around the Country (and world) moving forward.

There are also tangible environmental benefits to this project. It helps us meet our continually growing need for power without contributing to greenhouse gases. Once implemented, solar power production is relatively immune to wild fluctuations of fossil fuel prices. Producing energy locally, close to where it is needed, reduces the costs of transmission and line loss. We believe the future of power generation lies in a more local-centric model, not in a deteriorating and vulnerable grid-based system.

On a personal level, I believe this project will make an ideal neighbor. It will not impact the area with noise, traffic, pollution or sprawl. Our area is semi-rural and has relied on working on farms to retain its character. As the farms inevitably retire, we see this as an opportunity to provide an alternative land use that helps maintain the rural nature as our energy demands continue to rise.

Respectfully yours,


Katie Eggleston
Lindstrom, MN

October 14, 2013

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
P. O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620

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2013 OCT 28 AM 7:53
ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

Re: Docket E-002/CN-12-1240
OAH 8-2500-30760


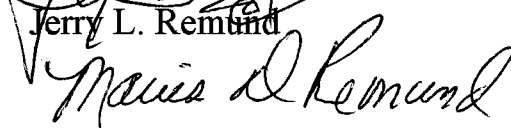
Dear Mr. Eric Lipman:

We are the owners of two parcel's of land (25.69 Acres) in Pipestone County and signed a Purchase Agreement with Geronimo Energy to Purchase 15.69 Acres of Land for a Solar Energy Project. Said land consists of ten (10) acres in Sweet Township, connected to five point six nine (5.69) acres within the City Limits of Pipestone, Minnesota.

My decision to sell this land to Geronimo Energy was based on the economic conditions in Pipestone County, expansion of renewable Energy, noiseless alternative energy, education for the schools, job opportunities and new Tax Base. It is our opinion that this would be an asset to this community.

Please approve this Solar Energy Project with Geronimo Energy which it is our opinion this will benefit this community and the State of Minnesota.

Thank you for Your Time


Jerry L. Remund

Mavis D. Remund

October 14, 2013

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul MN 55164-0620

RECEIVED

2013 OCT 28 AM 7:52

ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

RE: Comment on Xcel Energy's Petition Seek Approval for a Competitive Resource Acquisition Proposal.

Docket E-002/CN-12-1240
OAH 8-2500-30760

Dear Mr. Eric Lipman,

I am writing this letter to express my strong support for this solar project and the long term positive impact on Paynesville and the surrounding area. The economic and environment benefits will help everyone in our area.

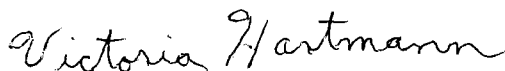
The Stearns County and Paynesville Township project will have a tremendous impact on Paynesville for the employment this will create both for the building of the project and the ongoing care for the facility. The estimates of 800 temporary constructions jobs and 30 permanent jobs will be a tremendous benefit to our community and area. We need jobs like this in the Paynesville area. Rural Minnesota is a great place to live, but we need jobs to keep our people in our towns.

Some broader community benefits include the educational opportunities for our local schools producing energy locally, and because of the close proximity to the current substation it will be easily connected. During the hottest time in the summer and the coldest time in the winter the sun is most intense and this is when we need energy the most. This renewable solar energy will never run out or fluctuate in cost like oil. This project will bring a locally produced energy source that's non-polluting, helping to keep the local community sustainable and healthy.

The land where the solar farm will be located has been owned by our family for three generations. We are very proud to have this property be used for a project like this. My father-in-law and husband were very community minded and seeing the benefit this will provide for so many would make them very proud.

Please give this project strong consideration as it will help Paynesville, but most of all it will have a positive impact on my children and great grandchildren for years to come. This futuristic plan will benefit our world for years to come.

Sincerely,



Victoria Hartmann

October 14, 2013

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul MN 55164-0620

RECEIVED
2013 OCT 28 AM 7:52
ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

RE: Comment on Xcel Energy's Petition Seek Approval for a Competitive Resource Acquisition Proposal.

Docket E-002/CN-12-1240
OAH 8-2500-30760

Dear Mr. Eric Lipman,

I am writing this letter to express my support for this solar project and the long term positive impact on our community and world. The economic and environment benefits create a win-win for everyone. The idea from the first time it was present seems to really make sense.


The Stearns County and Paynesville Township project will have a tremendous impact on Paynesville for the employment this will create both for the building of the project and the ongoing care for the facility. The estimates of 800 temporary constructions jobs and 30 permanent jobs will be a tremendous benefit to our community and area. Rural Minnesota needs jobs like this to sustain our economies.

Some broader community benefits include the educational opportunities for our local schools producing energy locally, and because of the close proximity to the current substation it will be easily connected to the energy grid. During the hottest time in the summer and the coldest time in the winter the sun is most intense in our area and this is when we need energy the most. This project will bring a locally produced energy source that's non-polluting, helping to keep the local community sustainable and healthy. I am very much a strong environmentalist and the idea of reducing our dependence on oil and the pollutants that come with them is very important to me.

The land where the solar farm will be located has been owned by our family for three generations. We are very proud to have this property be used for a project like this. My father-in-law was very community minded and seeing the benefit this will provide for so many would make him very proud. He was an avid reader who often talked about the positive potential of solar energy.

Please give this project strong consideration as solar panels will benefit our communities and world for years to come.

Sincerely,


Shirley Hartmann

October 14, 2013

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul MN 55164-0620

RECEIVED
2013 OCT 28 AM 7:52
ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

RE: Comment on Xcel Energy's Petition Seek Approval for a Competitive Resource Acquisition Proposal.

Docket E-002/CN-12-1240
OAH 8-2500-30760

Dear Mr. Eric Lipman,

I am writing this letter to express my support for this solar project and the long term positive impact on our community and world. The economic and environment benefits create a win-win for everyone.

The Stearns County and Paynesville Township project will have a tremendous impact on Paynesville for the employment this will create both for the building of the project and the ongoing care for the facility. The estimates of 800 temporary constructions jobs and 30 permanent jobs will be a tremendous benefit to our community and area. Rural Minnesota needs jobs like this to sustain our economies.

Some broader community benefits include the educational opportunities for our local schools producing energy locally, and because of the close proximity to the current substation it will be easily connected to the energy grid. During the hottest time in the summer and the coldest time in the winter the sun is most intense in our area and this is when we need energy the most. This renewable solar energy will never run out or fluctuate in cost like fossil fuels. This project will bring a locally produced energy source that's non-polluting, helping to keep the local community sustainable and healthy.

The land where the solar farm will be located has been owned by our family for three generations. We are very proud to have this property be used for a project like this. Our grandparents and my father were very community minded and seeing the benefit this will provide for so many would make them very proud.

Please give this project strong consideration as solar panels do not wear out or have the noise intrusion like wind turbines and this futuristic plan will benefit our world for years to come.

Sincerely,



David Hartmann

10-14-13

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55164-0620

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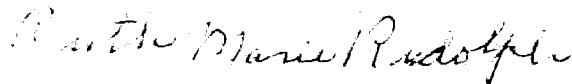
RE: Comment on Xcel Energy's Petition Seek Approval for a Competitive Resource Acquisition Proposal

Docket E-002/CN-12-1240
OAH 8-2500-30760

Dear Mr. Eric Lipman,

I support the Aurora Solar Project and Geronimo Energy for developing clean energy sources in Minnesota. I'm a land owner in Annandale, located in Wright county. This 100MW project will produce renewable energy for many years to come. It will supply local communities with 800 temporary construction jobs, and 30 permanent jobs. Producing energy locally will reduce cost for transmission lines and line losses. I'm proud to be part of this project because it will produce non-polluting energy for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Ruth Rudolph

October 15, 2013

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
PO Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55164-0620

RECEIVED

2013 OCT 28 AM 7:59

ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

RE: Comment on Excel Energy's Petition Seek Approval for a Competitive Resource Acquisition Proposal

Docket F-002/CN-12-1240
OAH 8-2500-30760

Dear Mr. Eric Lipman,

We believe that mankind was meant to be good stewards of all natural resources that have been given to them. Past history has shown that this country has been reckless and wasteful in using its power supply. We feel that solar and wind energy, as renewable non-polluting sources for our power, is a good place to start conserving these resources.

One of the tracts that is being considered on which to place a solar project is on land owned by us in Dodge County in southern MN. When first approached about the project we were hesitant about it, but after much consideration, we decided that since we are close to retirement age and will not be farming much longer we could do our part in helping the environment for future generations. This piece of land is located such that it is convenient to existing transmission lines, etc. making it an economical location.

We feel that this is exciting to be able to participate in a project such as this. It will be beneficial to the area both in energy produced locally but also the chance for both temporary and permanent job positions in this area.

Sincerely,



Rodney and Carol Ann Thompson
Land owner

October 15, 2013

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul MN 55164-0620

RECEIVED
2013 OCT 28 AM 7:58
ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

RE: Comment on Xcel Energy's Peak Petition Seek Approval for a Competitive Resource Acquisition Proposal.

Docket E-002/CN-12-1240

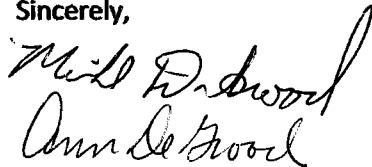
OAH 8-2500-30760

Dear Mr. Eric Lipman,

We, Mike and Ann DeGroot, are owners of property in Rice County, near Faribault MN. Geronimo Energy contacted us to see if we would be interested in leasing some of our rural property for the Aurora Solar Project. We have agreed to do so.

We support this renewable solar project. We strongly believe in the environmental benefit of solar energy and feel this type of non-fossil fuel energy production is necessary for future generations. We NEED to invest, as a state and community, in this type of non-polluting, renewable energy. We are proud to be involved in a small part of the Aura Solar Project here in Rice County.

Sincerely,



Mike and Ann DeGroot

October 16, 2013

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul MN 55164-0620

RECEIVED

2013 OCT 28 AM 7:52

ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

RE: Comment on Xcel Energy's Petition Seek Approval for a Competitive Resource Acquisition Proposal.

Docket E-002/CN-12-1240
OAH 8-2500-30760

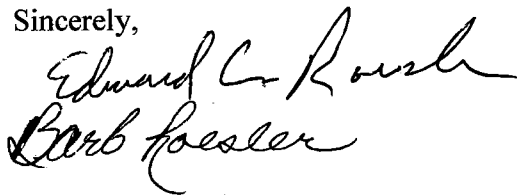
The Honorable Eric Lipman,

We're writing to express our support for Geronimo Energy's 100 MW Solar Project. Our land in Waseca County is a site that Geronimo will use for a 10 MW solar farm. We think that the project is a good idea, not only for our personal benefits but for the overall benefits that the project will bring to Waseca and the other project sites.

We decided that converting our land to a solar farm would be an excellent way to diversify our income. Our family farms our land and with that comes the uncertainty of the agriculture sector. We felt that this project will provide stability to our family. We are supportive of the low impact nature of the solar development as we will be able to easily convert our land back to agriculture at the end of the solar farm's **useful life.**

The site will bring good local jobs to the Waseca area and bring money to the area. Supporting the rural **communities is an important part of our future and we believe Geronimo's project is doing just that.** With a clean and environmentally friendly energy option, we feel that Geronimo's project is the best option for Waseca, the state of Minnesota, and Xcel Energy.

Sincerely,



Ed and Barbara Roesler

October 17, 2013

RECEIVED

2013 OCT 28 AM 7:59

ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55164-0620

RE: Comment on Xcel Energy's Petition to Seek Approval for a Competitive Resource Acquisition Proposal

Docket E-002/CN-12-1240
OAH 8-2500-30760

Dear Mr. Lipman:

We would like to express heartfelt support for the Geronimo Aurora Solar project and the overall development of solar and wind energy throughout the state of Minnesota. We support the multiple site strategy of this project, including the site located in Franconia Township, Chisago County MN, where we reside.

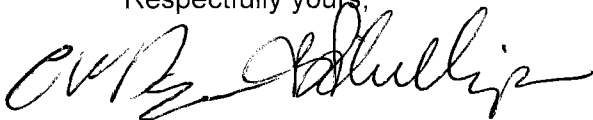
The estimated economic benefits of the entire 100 megawatt project will bring about 800 temporary construction jobs and 30 permanent positions to the state of Minnesota.

Our community will benefit from this project by producing a portion of our energy locally and sustainably. We believe this could provide a useful and workable model for communities around the Country (and world) moving forward.

There are also tangible environmental benefits to this project. It helps us meet our continually growing need for power without contributing to greenhouse gases. Once implemented, solar power production is relatively immune to wild fluctuations of fossil fuel prices. Producing energy locally, close to where it is needed, reduces the costs of transmission and line loss. We believe the future of power generation lies in a more local-centric model, not in a deteriorating and vulnerable grid-based system.

On a personal level, We believe this project will make an ideal neighbor. It will not impact the area with noise, traffic, pollution or sprawl. Our area is semi-rural and has relied on working on farms to retain its character. As the farms inevitably retire, we see this as an opportunity to provide an alternative land use that helps maintain the rural nature as our energy demands continue to rise.

Respectfully yours,



Chuck & Julia Phillips
Forest Lake, MN

October 20, 2013

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St Paul, MN 55164-0620

RECEIVED
2013 OCT 28 AM 7: 53
ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

RE: Comment on Xcel Energy's Petition Seek Approval for a Competitive Resource Acquisition Proposal.

Docket E-002/CN-12-1240
OAH 8-2500-30760

Dear Mr. Eric Lipman,

I would like to express my support for the Solar Energy proposal by Geronimo Energy. I own one of the parcel of land that is designated on this proposal. My husband and I purchased this land for our retirement years ago. We were making plans to build a home there when my husband became ill. Unfortunately, he passed away in 2008 before we could complete those plans. I had resigned not to sell that land, although a large land developer expressed a serious interest in it. I just couldn't picture a large housing development going up on our land.

Our family has always been supportive of conservation and environmental impact on land. I always had an organic garden while raising a family. Our youngest son, Brian, moved to Costa Rica 15 years ago to study amphibians. It quickly became apparent that habitats were being destroyed where these amphibians lived. He has become involved in conservation and habitat restoration and has formed the Costa Rican Amphibian Research Center where he continues his research on amphibians, with a large emphasis on conservation and habitat restoration.

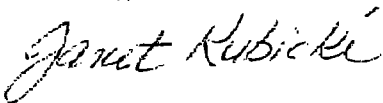
When Geronimo first approached me with interest in the land that I have in Shafer, MN, I was very interested in their proposal. I liked the idea of solar energy as a clean renewable energy as an alternative to traditional energy production. Our country needs to promote alternative sources of energy and we committed to do that several years ago.

I feel the area near my land would benefit from this source of energy and we would be less dependent on sources further away. In the long run it would be more cost efficient. We could take pride in our local efforts to promote and provide an alternative source of energy, being an inspiration for others to follow.

I know my husband would have approved the possibility of using our land as a source of renewable, alternative, and non-polluting energy.

I hope you will approve the Aurora Solar Project as it would fulfill a promise to our country to provide an alternate, renewable, sustainable, and environmentally safe source of energy.

Sincerely,



Janet Kubicki

Land owner

November 5, 2013

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55164-0620

RECEIVED
2013 NOV 21 AM 9:47
ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

RE: PUC Docket Number E-002/CN-12-1240
OAH Docket Number 8-2500-30760

Dear the Honorable Eric L. Lipman:

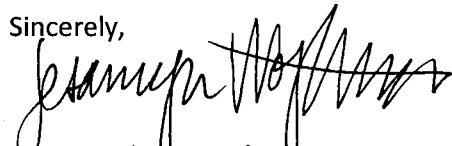
I am writing to submit my comments for the Competitive Resource Acquisition Process to select resources to meet the need identified in Xcel Energy's Integrated Resource Plan docket. I am in support of Geronimo Energy's project, which is up to 100 MW of solar generation distributed at up to 31 sites across Minnesota.

Geronimo Energy's project plans to utilize solar arrays across Xcel's service territory that will be of benefit by being able to bring energy to the grid efficiently and cost-effectively, which will in turn provide energy and capacity for the local distribution network.

In addition, these projects will impact [insert your own note about how these projects will impact you/your job/construction jobs/company work/etc.].

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Jesamyn Wojtowick

2500-30760



Pipestone County
Economic Development Authority
416 Hiawatha Ave. South Pipestone, Minnesota 56164-1566
507-825-6742
Fax 507-825-6843



November 11, 2013

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul MN 55164-0620

RE: Commission Docket No. E-002/RP-10-825;
Geronimo Energy's up to 100 MW of solar generation distributed at up to 23 sites across Minnesota

Dear Mr. Lipman:

On behalf of the Pipestone County Economic Development Authority, I am writing in support of the proposed Geronimo Energy 100 MW Solar Generation Project. Geronimo Energy has proposed 23 sites across Minnesota with one of the sites being located in Pipestone County.

We believe the Geronimo Energy Solar Project located in Pipestone County will meet the expectations of current and future citizens with regard to energy needs. In addition, we believe the Project will enhance the economic development of Pipestone County by providing jobs in the local economy as well as increased purchase of goods and services that cycle back into the local community.

We ask for your thoughtful consideration of selecting the Geronimo Energy Solar Project to meet Excel Energy's identified need.

Sincerely,

Les Nath
Pipestone County Economic Development Board Chair

cc: County EDA Board
Jordan Burmeister, Geronimo Energy Project Manager

November 6, 2013

RECEIVED

2013 NOV 14 AM 7:49

Cecil & Lindal Martin
6585 Eden Prairie Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55347
(952) 934-9068

ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

November 8, 2013

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55164-0620

Dear Mr. Lipman:

RE: Comment on Xcel Energy's Petition to Seek Approval for a Competitive Resource Acquisition Proposal.

Docket E-002/CN-12-1240
OAH 8-2500-30760

Our support for the Geronimo Energy Solar Proposal is unwavering.

Our property is located in Winsted Township, City of Lester Prairie.
Property location: North of Highway MN 7 & East of McLeod County 9.

This project offers many benefits to the local community and the State of Minnesota. The most valuable and important benefits are employment and the production of non-polluting, local energy. Clean energy ensures our citizen's health and sustainable communities.

As auto recyclers, we know and experienced first hand the benefits of creating sustainable communities. Similar to recycling, which reduces pollution and reuses materials, this solar project provides a standard and quality of life that maximizes the sun's energy, avoids harming our environment and exploiting our natural resources.

Recently, we were in Europe and observed numerous communities using solar energy through various constructs. We saw solar farms and building architectures with solar energy. Also, we stayed in a hotel that used solar energy acquired from its rooftop. The citizens shared solar energy is reliable and fully integrated into the culture. We were surprised to learn of Europe's solar energy advancements, and our deep lack of solar energy use. We are impressed with the integration of solar energy into daily life, and recommend the same incorporation for our communities.

We wholeheartedly support this solar project because it aligns with our values and beliefs. As wise stewards of natural resources, we hold ourselves responsible to preserve and protect our natural resources. We are committed to a legacy that leaves our grandchildren an air quality comparable to the one we experienced in our youth and when we raised our family. Creating solar energy guarantees us the possibility of realizing our goal.

We ardently support the development of solar energy. Its benefits are numerous. We must collaborate to address the energy needs of society. Minnesota is a leader in conservation. Solar energy supports this revered value. Solar energy is vital to our future and promises the State of Minnesota and her citizenry a superior quality of life.

Thank you for the kindness of your time and support. Please do not hesitate to contact us, as you deem appropriate.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signatures of Cecil and Lindal Martin in cursive script. The signature for Cecil Martin is on top, and Lindal Martin's is below it.

Cecil and Lindal Martin

2500-30760 ✓

Pipestone County Commissioners

416 Hiawatha Ave. South Pipestone, Minnesota 56164-1566

507-825-6742

Fax 507-825-6843



November 11, 2013

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul MN 55164-0620

RE: Commission Docket No. E-002/RP-10-825;
Geronimo Energy's up to 100 MW of solar generation distributed at up to 23 sites across
Minnesota

Dear Mr. Lipman:

On behalf of the County Board of Commissioners, I am writing in support of the proposed Geronimo Energy 100 MW Solar Generation Project. Geronimo Energy has proposed 23 sites across Minnesota with one of the sites being located in Pipestone County.

We believe the Geronimo Energy Solar Project located in Pipestone County will meet the expectations of current and future citizens with regard to energy needs. In addition, we believe the Project will enhance the economic development of Pipestone County by providing jobs in the local economy as well as increased purchase of goods and services that cycle back into the local community. Furthermore, the Geronimo Energy Solar Project located in Pipestone County will allow Pipestone County to provide effective and efficient services with tax revenue generated from the Project.

We ask for your thoughtful consideration of selecting the Geronimo Energy Solar Project to meet Excel Energy's identified need.

Sincerely,

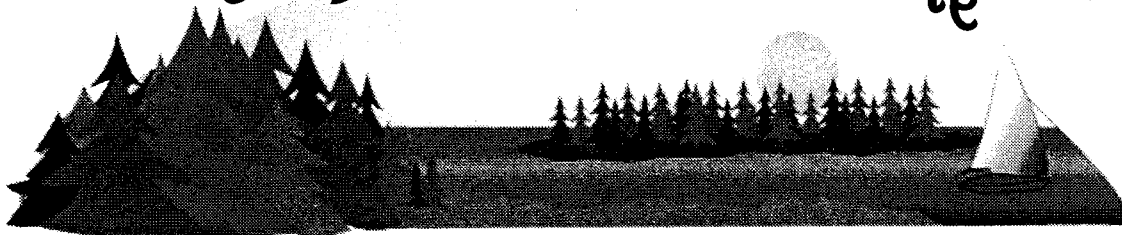
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harold Butch Miller".

Harold (Butch) Miller
Pipestone County Board of Commissioners Chairman

cc: Jordan Burmeister, Geronimo Energy Project Manager
Pipestone County Board of Commissioners

RECEIVED
2013 NOV 18 AM 7:52
ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

City of Paynesville



A Lifetime Opportunity

November 12, 2013

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
PO Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55164-0620

RECEIVED
2013 NOV 18 AM 7:52
ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

RE: Public Utilities Commission Docket Number:
Office of Administrative Hearings Docket Number:

E-002/CN-12-1240
8-2500-30760

Dear Honorable Lipman:

The City of Paynesville is aware that solar is a renewable, clean, abundant source of energy. Solar energy does not produce waste or pollution and is ecologically acceptable. The City encourages the development of the solar farm while still maintaining the health and safety of the residents of Stearns County. The City Council agrees that the development of this project will provide numerous temporary construction jobs, which will have a long lasting positive economic impact for the residents of the Paynesville area and provide significant economic development to the local townships when built.

The City Council gives our support to Geronimo Energy for the creation of the Aurora Solar Project, with the construction of up to 100 MW of solar generation distributed at up to 31 sites across Minnesota, which will be including the Paynesville area.

Sincerely,

Jean Soine
Mayor Pro Tem

221 Washburne Avenue, Paynesville, MN 56362-1697

Phone: 320-243-3714
TDD #711 320-243-7737

www.paynesvillemn.com

Fax: 320-243-3713
ReneeE@paynesvillemn.com

CHISAGO COUNTY

Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Economic Development Authority

November 15, 2013

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
6000 North Robert Street
PO Box 64620
St. Paul, MN 55164-0620

RECEIVED
2013 NOV 20 AM 7:39
ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

RE: PUC Docket Number E-002/CN-12-1240 --- OAH Docket Number 8-2500-30760

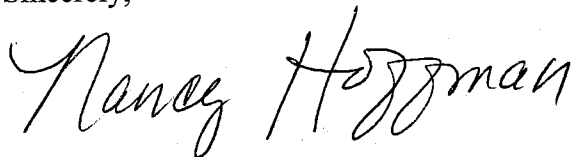
Dear Honorable Lipman:

This letter is written in support of the Aurora Solar Project. The Chisago County HRA/EDA's mission is to improve the commercial and industrial tax base and support job creation within the County. Therefore, we are in support of the jobs that will be created due to the Aurora Solar project, both for the construction phase and the permanent jobs. We support the increase in the tax base from real estate taxes as well as the production taxes that this project will generate.

The Chisago County HRA/EDA also supports keeping the energy dollars here in Minnesota making this a sustainable project. The local solar energy will provide a viable alternative energy that is not intrusive on the environment. We also support the public input process as Geronimo Energy makes land use decisions within the county.

On behalf of the Chisago County HRA/EDA, thank you for the opportunity to express our support for this project. We look forward to seeing this project move forward.

Sincerely,



Nancy Hoffman
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



A NATURAL RESOURCE FOR BUSINESS
38871 7th Avenue · P.O. Box 815 · North Branch, Minnesota 55056
(651) 674-5664 · www.chisagocounty.org

4300 Mayflower RD NW
Sauk Rapids MN 56379-9515
November 19, 2013

RECEIVED

2013 NOV 21 AM 7:46

ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

THE HONORABLE ERIC L. LIPMAN
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
P O BOX 64620
600 N ROBERT STREET
ST PAUL MN 55164-0620

Regarding PUC Docket Number: E-002/CN-12-1240
Regarding OAH Docket Number: 8-2500-30760

The Honorable Mr Lipman

Sauk Rapids Township would support development of the Geronimo's Aurora Solar Project as proposed to be located at Mayhew Lake Substation, Benton County, and Sauk Rapids Township.

Sincerely,



Lonny J Wild, Supervisor
Chairman, Sauk Rapids Township

RECEIVED

2013 NOV 14 AM 8:19

ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

November 5, 2013

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55164-0620

RE: PUC Docket Number E-002/CN-12-1240
OAH Docket Number 8-2500-30760

Dear the Honorable Eric L. Lipman:

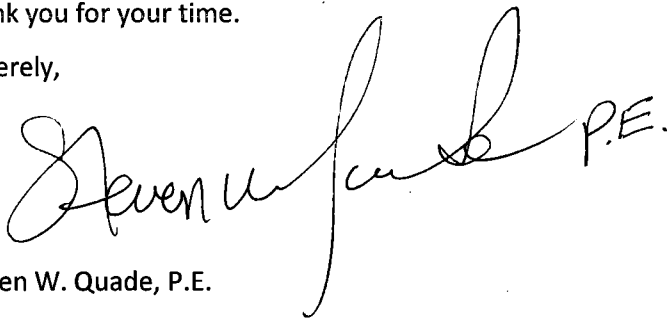
I am writing to submit my comments for the Competitive Resource Acquisition Process to select resources to meet the need identified in Xcel Energy's Integrated Resource Plan docket. I am in support of Geronimo Energy's project, which is up to 100 MW of solar generation distributed at up to 31 sites across Minnesota.

Geronimo Energy's project plans to utilize solar arrays across Xcel's service territory that will be of benefit by being able to bring energy to the grid efficiently and cost-effectively, which will in turn provide energy and capacity for the local distribution network.

In addition, these projects will impact local construction labor force, materials, supplies and land owners. These people live in our communities and energy from the sun can provide electricity for their usage.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Steven W. Quade, P.E.

November 5, 2013

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55164-0620

RECEIVED
2013 NOV 12 AM 7:50
ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

RE: PUC Docket Number E-002/CN-12-1240
OAH Docket Number 8-2500-30760

Dear the Honorable Eric L. Lipman:

I am writing to submit my comments for the Competitive Resource Acquisition Process to select resources to meet the need identified in Xcel Energy's Integrated Resource Plan docket. I am in support of Geronimo Energy's project, which is up to 100 MW of solar generation distributed at up to 31 sites across Minnesota.

Geronimo Energy's project plans to utilize solar arrays across Xcel's service territory that will be of benefit by being able to bring energy to the grid efficiently and cost-effectively, which will in turn provide energy and capacity for the local distribution network.

In addition, these projects will impact the financial stability of many workers within Central Minnesota. As a single person residing in Stearns County, the influx of opportunities which it will bring to Minnesota is so valuable. Recently in Central MN we lost the Verso Paper Mill due to an explosion. Many of those workers have been displace, and this project would offer the possibility of work for many. Your Honor, this project is long overdue, and it is time that Minnesota steps up to the plate to be a front runner in their efforts of renewable energy.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Liz Raehsler

RECEIVED

2013 NOV -8 AM 7:48

ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

November 5, 2013

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55164-0620

RE: PUC Docket Number E-002/CN-12-1240
OAH Docket Number 8-2500-30760

Dear the Honorable Eric L. Lipman:

I am writing to submit my comments for the Competitive Resource Acquisition Process to select resources to meet the need identified in Xcel Energy's Integrated Resource Plan docket. I am in support of Geronimo Energy's project, which is up to 100 MW of solar generation distributed at up to 31 sites across Minnesota.

Geronimo Energy's project plans to utilize solar arrays across Xcel's service territory that will be of benefit by being able to bring energy to the grid efficiently and cost-effectively, which will in turn provide energy and capacity for the local distribution network.

In addition, these projects will impact [insert your own note about how these projects will impact you/your job/construction jobs/company work/etc.].

Thank you for your time.



Sincerely,

Judy Berglund

Youness, Rachel (OAH)

From: Tim J. Lindemann <TLindemann@blattnerenergy.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 05, 2013 5:47 PM
To: *OAH_Ratecomments.oah
Subject: Geronimo Energy

November 5, 2013

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55164-0620

RE: PUC Docket Number E-002/CN-12-1240
OAH Docket Number 8-2500-30760

Dear the Honorable Eric L. Lipman:

I am writing to submit my comments for the Competitive Resource Acquisition Process to select resources to meet the need identified in Xcel Energy's Integrated Resource Plan docket. I am in support of Geronimo Energy's project, which is up to 100 MW of solar generation distributed at up to 31 sites across Minnesota.

Geronimo Energy's project plans to utilize solar arrays across Xcel's service territory that will be of benefit by being able to bring energy to the grid efficiently and cost-effectively, which will in turn provide energy and capacity for the local distribution network.

In addition, these projects will improve local revenues of every town these projects affect. This project could also bring many traveling Minnesota workers home for a while and bolster the State's purse as well...not to mention reducing our dependence on fossil fuels.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Tim Lindemann

November 5, 2013

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55164-0620

RECEIVED
2013 NOV - 8 AM 7:49
ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

RE: PUC Docket Number E-002/CN-12-1240
OAH Docket Number 8-2500-30760

Dear the Honorable Eric L. Lipman:

I am writing to submit my comments for the Competitive Resource Acquisition Process to select resources to meet the need identified in Xcel Energy's Integrated Resource Plan docket. I am in support of Geronimo Energy's project, which is up to 100 MW of solar generation distributed at up to 31 sites across Minnesota.

Geronimo Energy's project plans to utilize solar arrays across Xcel's service territory that will be of benefit by being able to bring energy to the grid efficiently and cost-effectively, which will in turn provide energy and capacity for the local distribution network.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Lisa Knettel

Kandiyohi County and City of Willmar

333 Litchfield Ave. SW, Suite 100, P.O. Box 1783, Willmar, MN 56201 | 320.235.7370 | 866.665.4556 | fax: 320.231.2320 | edc@kandiyohi.com | www.kandiyohi.com

November 6, 2013

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620, 600 North Robert Street
Saint Paul, MN 55154-0620

RECEIVED
2013 NOV 12 AM 7:52
ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

RE: Support for Geronimo's Aurora Solar Project

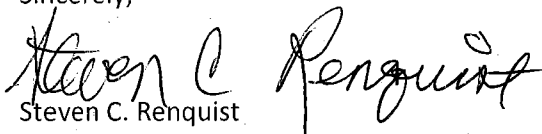
The Kandiyohi County and City of Willmar Economic Development Commission is supportive of the proposed Geronimo Aurora Solar Project. We endorse the project as we have consistently supported renewable resource development as a source of new electricity for our county. I have attached a Kandiyohi County Vision Statement, dated August 17, 2004. The Vision Statement certifies our intent to utilize naturally replenishing sources of energy as an economic development driver that positions our county to offer new industry a reliable, consistent and economical source of energy. Green Energy is not only the right thing to do for the environment it provides a competitive economic advantage to the host geographic area.

The 100 MW Aurora Solar Project has a number of significant advantages:

- a. The development will take place in 25 sites. The distributed structure will allow the locally produced energy to remain in the community which will reduce the need for additional/upgraded transmission lines – reducing eventual cost to the end-user.
- b. The total project will produce approximately 800 construction jobs and 30 long term jobs. More importantly, the availability of the ready supply of predictably priced energy will allow for the economic development growth of the subject areas.
- c. There is an estimated production tax revenue yield of \$9,600/year per four MW site.
- d. The anticipated growth producing energy would be available with low impact and minimal consequences. Energy produced by solar power produces zero pollutants, zero carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, particulate matter, VOCs, sulfur dioxide or mercury.
- e. Minimal residual impact - when the solar farm is past its useful life, it's as simple as removing the posts to convert the land back to agricultural utilization.

Please contact me for additional information or explanation of the aforementioned positive influences.

Sincerely,


Steven C. Renquist
Executive Director

Attachment

supporting. assisting. recruiting.
local business > area entrepreneurs > targeted industry

Kandiyohi County Vision Statement

- Kandiyohi County envisions a future where biotechnology fulfills many unmet needs in human healthcare and in the production of fuels, chemicals & materials.
- Kandiyohi County envisions a future where biotechnology helps create sustainable industrial and agricultural activities.
- Kandiyohi County envisions a future where ag-based bio-refineries take their place alongside oil refineries.
- Kandiyohi County envisions an economy where fuel and power is produced exclusively from agricultural products.

Leadership. As state and national leader in agriculture, Kandiyohi County can become an economy that uses renewable raw materials to produce products and energy. Kandiyohi County will become an agriculture-based biotechnology economy by the year 2015.

Ag Base. Kandiyohi County has potential to become one of the first counties in the nation to become an economy based on biotechnology. The County has a blend of livestock, poultry, and crop production that makes it unique and diverse. The County has the potential to manufacture renewable energy from agricultural products and to process agricultural raw materials into a wide range of commercial products.

Resources. Kandiyohi County has a culture of conservation that compliments a Bio- based Economy. In a bio-based economy, there are three elements: economic, environmental and social...a bio-based economy mimics the natural ecosystem...there's no such thing as waste, the waste of one organism is another's energy source.

Integration. Kandiyohi County has the skills to integrate renewable energy technologies, such as biomass, geothermal, solar and wind, as naturally replenishing sources of energy. A variety of "open-loop" biomass resources (agricultural, municipal, forestry byproducts, wastes, thinnings, etc.) offer tremendous potential for bio-energy/electricity production.

Also, a wide variety of "closed-loop" (crops grown exclusively for energy production) feedstocks are being considered as possible sources of energy.

The Kandiyohi County Board of Commissioners is committed to this vision. Dated at Willmar, Minnesota this 17th day of August, 2004.

ATTEST:	BY THE BOARD:	Sam Modderman	Dennis Peterson
		County Auditor/Treasurer	Chairman

Kandiyohi County and City of Willmar

333 Litchfield Ave. SW, Suite 100, P.O. Box 1783, Willmar, MN 56201 | 320.235.7370 | 866.665.4556 | fax: 320.231.2320 | edc@kandiyohi.com | www.kandiyohi.com

November 6, 2013

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
600 Robert Street North
P.O. Box 64620
St. Paul, MN 55154-0620

RECEIVED
2013 NOV 12 AM 8:18
ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

RE: Support for Geronimo's Aurora Solar Project
Docket No. E-002/CN-12-1240
OAH No. 8-2500-30760

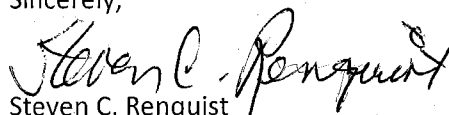
The Kandiyohi County and City of Willmar Economic Development Commission is supportive of the proposed Geronimo Aurora Solar Project. We endorse the project as we have consistently supported renewable resource development as a source of new electricity for our county. I have attached a Kandiyohi County Vision Statement dated August 17, 2004. The Vision Statement certifies our intent to utilize naturally replenishing sources of energy as an economic development driver that positions our county to offer new industry a reliable, consistent and economical source of energy. Green Energy is not only the right thing to do for the environment; it provides a competitive economic advantage to the host geographic area.

The 100 MW Aurora Solar Project has a number of significant advantages:

- a. The development will take place in 25 sites. The distributed structure will allow the locally-produced energy to remain in the community which will reduce the need for additional/upgraded transmission lines—reducing eventual cost to the end-user.
- b. The total project will produce approximately 800 construction jobs and 30 long-term jobs. More importantly, the availability of the ready supply of predictably priced energy will allow for the economic development growth of the subject areas.
- c. There is an estimated production tax revenue yield of \$9,600/year per four MW site.
- d. The anticipated growth producing energy would be available with low impact and minimal consequences. Energy produced by solar power produces zero pollutants, zero carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, particulate matter, VOCs, sulfur dioxide or mercury.
- e. Minimal residual impact—when the solar farm is past its useful life, it's as simple as removing the posts to convert the land back to agricultural utilization.

Please contact me for additional information or explanation of the aforementioned positive influences.

Sincerely,


Steven C. Renquist
Executive Director

supporting. assisting. recruiting.
local business > area entrepreneurs > targeted industry



November 6, 2013

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55164-0620

RE: PUC Docket Number E-002/CN-12-1240
OAH Docket Number 8-2500-30760

Dear the Honorable Eric L. Lipman:

I am writing to submit my comments for the Competitive Resource Acquisition Process to select resources to meet the need identified in Xcel Energy's Integrated Resource Plan docket. **I am in support of Geronimo Energy's project**, which is up to 100 MW of solar generation distributed at up to 31 sites across Minnesota.

Geronimo Energy's project plans to utilize solar arrays across Xcel's service territory that will be of benefit by being able to bring energy to the grid efficiently and cost-effectively, which will in turn provide energy and capacity for the local distribution network.

In addition, these projects will impact the renewable energy market and the company in which I work for. I think Blattner Energy is a great company and hope we get to assist Geronimo in construction of the project.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Sara Bauer
Cell: 320.293-.7471
403 4th Street NW
Avon, MN 56310



November 13, 2013

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55164-0620

RE: PUC Docket Number E-002/CN-12-1240
OAH Docket Number 8-2500-30760

Dear the Honorable Eric L. Lipman:

I am writing to submit my comments for the Competitive Resource Acquisition Process to select resources to meet the need identified in Xcel Energy's Integrated Resource Plan docket. I am in support of Geronimo Energy's project, which is up to 100 MW of solar generation distributed at up to 31 sites across Minnesota.

Geronimo Energy's project plans to utilize solar arrays across Xcel's service territory that will be of benefit by being able to bring energy to the grid efficiently and cost-effectively, which will in turn provide energy and capacity for the local distribution network.

In addition, these projects will impact the community. The amount of revenue that construction can bring to these communities can have a large effect on a community. As a Project Manager, for a General Contractor, I have had the chance to witness this first hand. We bring hundreds of jobs to the community. With that we have a lot of outside travelers that come to their communities as well filling up their hotels, restaurants, hardware stores, markets, vendors, ma and pa businesses, etc. In the end these project will also bring permanent jobs to the local residence and in this day in age you can agree that every additional job should count. Please support this effort.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely,

Eric Nelson



30 Cedar Street East, P.O. Box K Annandale, MN 55302
Phone: 320-274-3055 Fax: 320-274-5728 www.annandale.mn.us

November 18, 2013

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul MN 55164-0620

RE: Xcel Energy's Petition to Seek Approval for a Competitive Resource Acquisition Proposal

Dear Honorable Eric L. Lipman,

Representatives from Geronimo Energy presented information to the Annandale City Council on November 4, 2013 regarding their proposal to install a solar panel site near the City of Annandale. The proposed project is outside of the city's jurisdiction, but the Council wanted to extend their support for consideration of alternate energy solutions and actions that provide economic benefit to the City of Annandale if these actions do not pose a negative impact to the public.

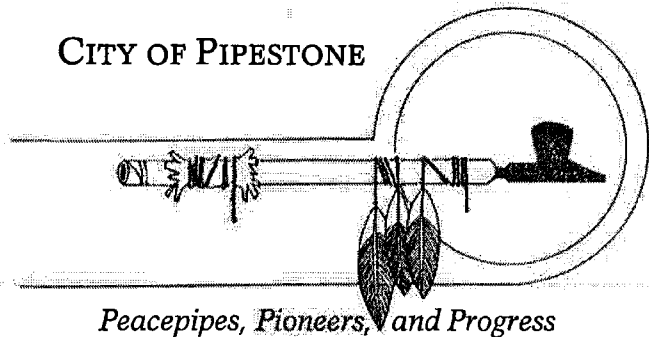
If there are any questions I can be reached at 320-274-3055.

Sincerely,

Kelly Hinnenkamp
City Administrator

City Office Building
119 2nd Ave. S. W.
Pipestone, MN 56164
[507] 825-3324
(VOICE & TDD)
FAX [507] 825-5353

CITY OF PIPESTONE



November 19, 2013

The Honorable Eric L Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
PO Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St Paul MN 55164-0620

RE: PUC E-002/CN 12-1240
Docket #8-2500-30760

Dear Judge Lipman:

On November 18, 2013, the Pipestone City Council approved submitting a Letter of Support for the Aurora Solar Project.

Pipestone is already known as a hub for renewable energy as Pipestone County has over 200 wind towers. Solar energy is a natural addition to the area's green energy resources. The energy produced by the Aurora project will be used locally reducing the interconnection costs and the need for transmission lines. The project will create new jobs state-wide and will generate tax revenue locally.

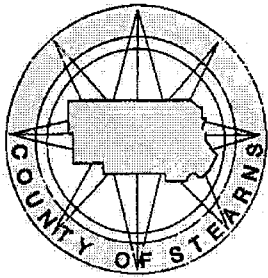
The City of Pipestone supports the Aurora project as it is a "clean" low impact means to generate energy in a way that will benefit the state and the city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurie K Ness".

Laurie K Ness
Mayor

LKN:dn



COUNTY OF STEARNS

Administration Center Rm 121 • 705 Courthouse Square • St. Cloud, MN 56303
320-656-3600 • Fax 320-656-6393 • www.co.stearns.mn.us

November 19, 2013

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
PO Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55164-0620

Re: PUC Docket Numbers: E-002/CN-12-1240
OAH Docket Number: 8-2500-30760

Dear Judge Lipman:

Stearns County is aware of the proposed Aurora Solar Project which is now being planned for 16 counties in Minnesota. Three of these locations are planned for Stearns County near the cities of Albany, Paynesville and Brooten.

These projects are designed to not only provide locally produced electric power for our citizens, but also create additional tax base along with significant economic activity. The anticipated economic activity includes direct employment in construction, operations, local electricians and ground maintenance.

While our County Board is still seeking more information on the overall impact of the Aurora Solar Project on residents in the affected areas, we are excited about the ancillary economic activity associated with locally produced energy. Barring unanticipated local effects of this project, our Board is very supportive of entrepreneurs who wish to bring added economic activity to our county.

Sincerely,

Jeffery H. Mergen, Chair
Stearns County Board of Commissioners

JM:GMR:mst

RECEIVED

2013 NOV -8 AM 11:48

November 6, 2013

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55164-0620

ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

RE: PUC Docket Number E-002/CN-12-1240
OAH Docket Number 8-2500-30760

Dear the Honorable Eric L. Lipman:

I am writing to submit my comments for the Competitive Resource Acquisition Process to select resources to meet the need identified in Xcel Energy's Integrated Resource Plan docket. I am in support of Geronimo Energy's project, which is up to 100 MW of solar generation distributed at up to 31 sites across Minnesota.

Geronimo Energy's project plans to utilize solar arrays across Xcel's service territory that will be of benefit by being able to bring energy to the grid efficiently and cost-effectively, which will in turn provide energy and capacity for the local distribution network.

In addition, these projects will impact many jobs at the company I work with, Blattner Energy, which has been in business in central MN since 1906. Annually we employ over 350 employees in MN and over 2,000 team members across the United States, including Puerto Rico. By continuing to support initiatives such as those being proposed by Xcel and Geronimo, Blattner will continue being afforded the opportunity of providing thousands of jobs to hard working individuals both in MN and across the United States.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

