



414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

December 5, 2014

—Via Electronic Filing—

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: LAUNCH ANNOUNCEMENT FOR SOLAR*REWARDS COMMUNITY
DOCKET NO. E002/M-13-867

Dear Dr. Haar:

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, submits to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission this implementation update on the launch of Solar*Rewards Community (S*RC). The Company is pleased to announce the launch date for the S*RC online application system. We will begin accepting applications at 9:00 a.m. Central Standard Time on December 12, 2014. Parties interested in applying to the program, can visit www.xcelenergy.com to apply.

In anticipation of launch, the Company offers further information regarding the process and timing of S*RC applications and additional information regarding the interconnection process.

Please contact Jessica Peterson at jessica.k.peterson@xcelenergy.com or (612) 330-6850 if you have any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely,

/s/

SHAWN WHITE
MANAGER, DSM & RENEWABLE REGULATORY STRATEGY & PLANNING

Enclosure
c: Service List

STATE OF MINNESOTA
BEFORE THE
MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Beverly Jones Heydinger	Chair
David C. Boyd	Commissioner
Nancy Lange	Commissioner
Dan Lipschultz	Commissioner
Betsy Wergin	Commissioner

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY
FOR APPROVAL OF ITS PROPOSED
COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDENS PROGRAM

DOCKET No. E002/M-13-867

IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

OVERVIEW

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, submits the attached implementation update regarding the Solar*Rewards Community (S*RC) program. The Company is pleased to announce the launch date for the S*RC online application system. We will begin accepting applications at 9:00 a.m. Central Standard Time on December 12, 2014. Additionally, we offer further information regarding the process and timing of S*RC applications and information regarding the interconnection process.

IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

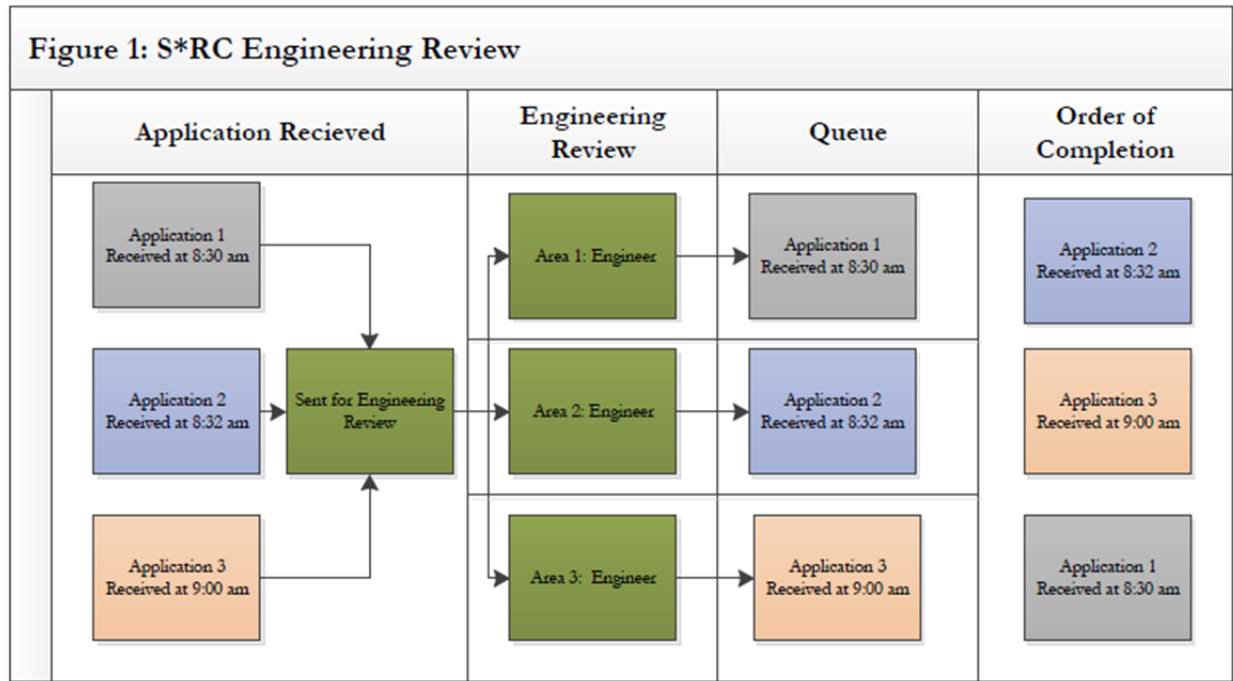
A. Application Process and Contact Information

The Company offers Attachment A as further information regarding our application process. While this information was provided to the Solar Implementation Workgroup (S*RC Workgroup) on December 3, 2014, we recommend parties familiarize themselves with this process in anticipation of program launch. Further refinements to the process, if any, will be available at www.xcelenergy.com and questions may be directed to program staff at srcmn@xcelenergy.com.

B. Engineering Review

Our October 7, 2014 Compliance filing noted continued engagement regarding engineering review and the “first-ready, first-served” process. The S*RC Workgroup has continued to discuss the details of this process. The Company offers the

following illustration of how applications will sequentially flow through engineering review.



In the above example, applications are sent to engineering based on submittal of the initial documentation, appropriate fees, and drawings. S*RC program management sends applications to engineering based on when fees are received.

Applications sent to engineering then migrate to specific area engineers for review based on distinct geographic distribution area. Within each distribution area, a queue for the basis of establishing a claim to the capacity available on that part of the distribution system is established. From a system-wide standpoint, some applications will move through the process faster than others based on the geographic distribution in which the solar garden resides. Additionally, the queue order for projects by area will directly impact each other (i.e. on the same feeder or substation) and will be taken into account when performing studies and associated costs. The example provided shows that the second application received in the “first-ready, first-served” process is actually the first application approved. This could have occurred for various reasons including when the engineer received it, the completeness of the application and, more importantly, where the garden was located.

Garden operators can view a time stamp marking when the application is sent to engineering,¹ and is used to mark the start of the 30 day requirement for the Company to determine application completeness.

C. Interconnection Approval

Developers regularly submit Interconnection Applications under Section 10 of the Company's Electric Rate Book. If developers wish to later associate their Section 10 Interconnection Application with a community solar garden application, they may do so.

If we have received a solar garden through a Section 10 interconnection application we will treat them accordingly depending on whether or not they conform to S*RC program requirements.

- Interconnection applications that are currently in the engineering queue conforming to S*RC program requirements will retain their position within the interconnection queue. Therefore, a Section 10 interconnection project that is 300 kW and follows all other requirements for S*RC can retain its position in the queue.
- Projects that do not comply with S*RC requirements are not eligible to become community solar gardens. For example, a Section 10 interconnection application for a 10 MW system cannot be modified into 10 separate 1 MW interconnections without submitting 10 new interconnection applications and paying the new interconnection fee² in addition to fees already paid.

As noted in our Compliance filing, an S*RC program application must be completed for the program and all application fees must be paid.

If an Interconnection Application submitted under Section 10 is later associated with an S*RC application and it meets all program S*RC requirements, it will retain its position in the interconnection queue.

To further communicate how a queue will be managed, we offer business rules applicable to interconnection applications in Attachment B. These business rules are shown in gray. These were discussed at the workgroup meeting on October 29, 2014, and pertain to the flow chart found in our Section 10 tariff, Sheet 101.

¹ Garden Operators can view their process step dates in the S*RC Application System under "Application Step Detail" on the solar garden page of the system.

² New S*RC applications will require an interconnection fee as described in the Solar*Rewards Community Tariff, Section 9, Sheet 77.

CONCLUSION

We look forward to the launch of the S*RC program. We thank the Commission, the Department, stakeholders, and the S*RC Workgroup for the time spent helping assure a successful program launch. The Company is pleased to provide our customers another new solar choice in Minnesota.

Dated: December 5, 2014

Northern States Power Company

Solar*Rewards Community (S*RC) – Online Application Process

Updated 12/4/14

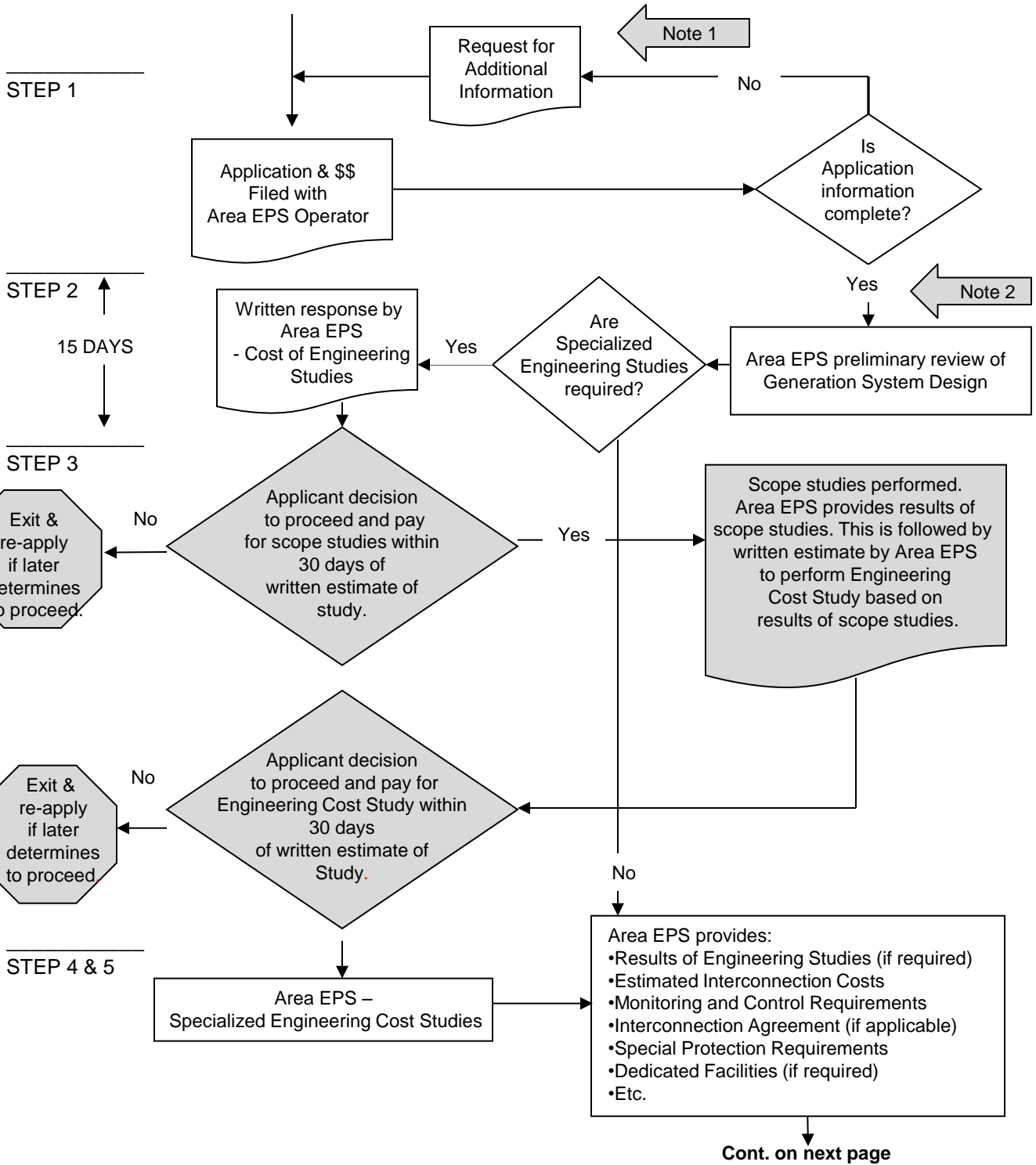
Item	Completed By	Required Action	Xcel Energy Response Time
Web Form	Solar Garden Operator	Complete web form and Project info to gain access to S*RC Application System.	Login and credentials are emailed to Garden Operator <u>within 3 business days</u> of submission.
1. Complete <u>Step 1</u> in S*RC Application System – Submit Application fee and Deposit	Solar Garden Operator	Application and deposit forms can be downloaded from the S*RC Application System. Once they are signed, they can be uploaded back into the system. Application fees and deposits are wired or mailed. Reservation letter can be downloaded for the site location noted at this time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be done at the installer’s preferred pace. Applications are moved to step 2 <u>within 3 business days</u> from payments and documents being received. Fees and deposit dates are recorded within the S*RC application system.
2. Complete <u>Step 2</u> in S*RC Application System – Subscriber Validation and State Certificate	Solar Garden Operator	Step 2 requires the Solar Garden Operator to upload a State Certificate of Good Standing before moving on to Step 3. This step also allows the Solar Garden Operator to begin adding subscribers to the garden. Data privacy forms must be processed before adding subscribers. Subscriber Agency Agreements can be downloaded, signed and uploaded at this time. Subscribers do not need to be entered to move to step 3. A minimum of five subscribers will be required prior to Application Step 5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application is moved to step 3 automatically upon uploading the Certificate of Good Standing and pressing “Submit Subscribers” button in S*RC Application System. Data Privacy forms are processed within <u>5 business days</u> of submission once entered.
3a. Complete <u>Step 3</u> in S*RC Application System – Engineering Review	Solar Garden Operator	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Upload required engineering documents to S*RC Application System, documents include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> line diagram site plan interconnection application to S*RC Application System Submit Engineering Study Fee. Once application and engineering documents are uploaded and fees received, documents will be sent to the engineering team for review of “application completeness.” Solar Garden Operator must request Account/Premise numbers and electric service from Builders Call Line. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program staff will send applications to Engineering <u>within 3 business days</u> of receiving documents and payment. Xcel Energy will provide approval for application completeness or comments for correction <u>within 30 calendar days</u> of receiving documents and payment of Engineering Study Fee. Garden Operator is notified by email and this date is noted within the S*RC application system.

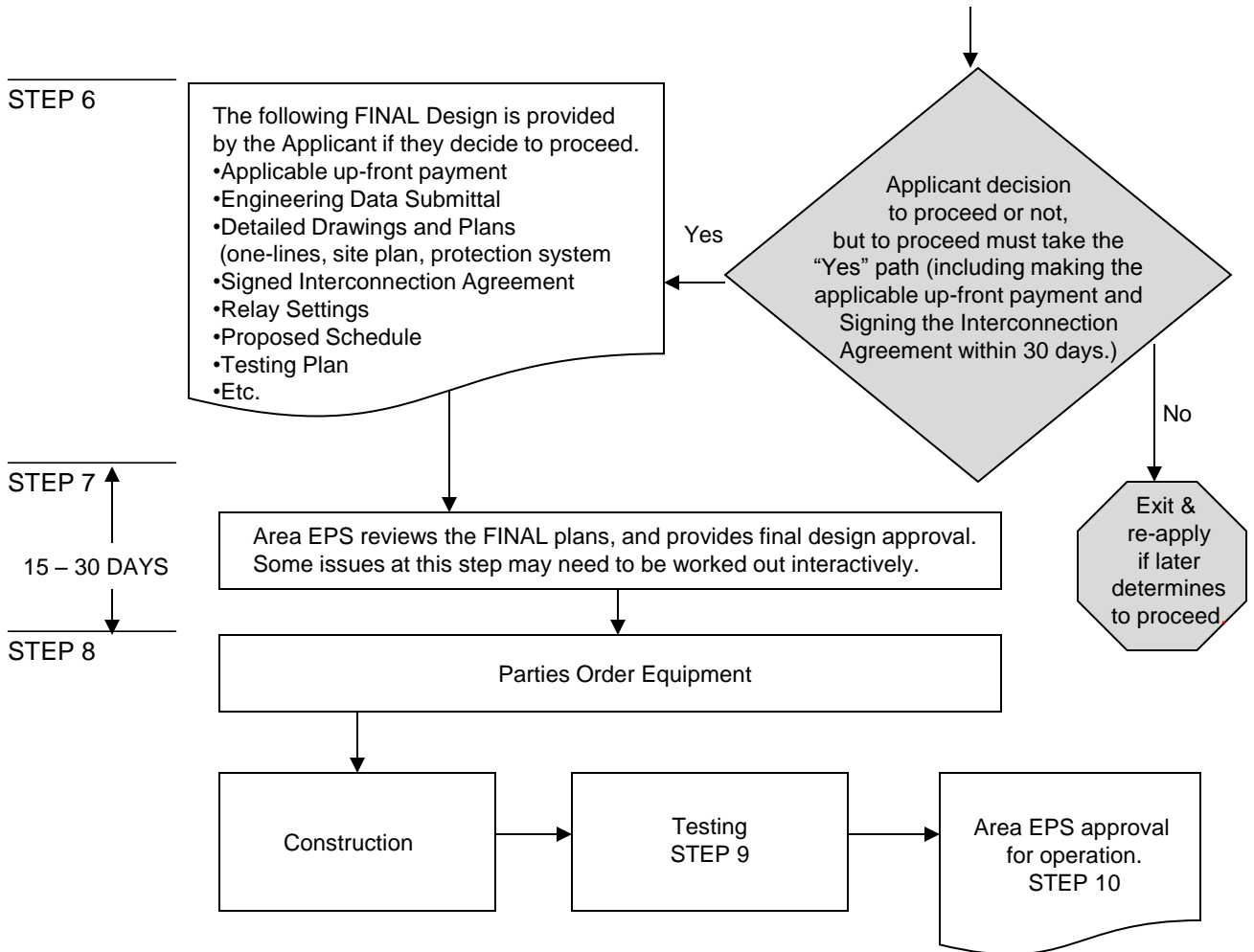
3b. Interconnection Approval	Xcel Energy	Xcel Energy Area Engineering, Meter Engineering, and Interconnection Design will approve or comment on system design and interconnection. The interconnection cost estimate and Interconnection Agreement will be sent to garden operator. The account and premise numbers will also be sent to Garden Operator.	We will provide engineering approval or comment for correction <u>within 60 calendar days of determining completeness. Garden Operator is notified by email and approval is noted in the S*RC System.</u> Application is moved to Step 4 within 3 business days of receiving Engineering Approval.
4. Complete Step 4 in S*RC Application System – Executed Documents	Solar Garden Operator	<p>The following must be uploaded into the S*RC Application System:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signed Reservation Letter • Signed Interconnection Agreement • Signed Standard Contract for S*RC • Total Project Cost Invoice • Proof of insurance • Electrical inspection report <p>At this point garden must have a minimum of 5 valid subscribers in the S*RC Application System. Nothing further is required in the S*RC Application system by the Garden Operator other than subscriber management/maintenance.</p>	Can be done at the installer’s preferred pace.
5. Application Complete	Xcel Energy	Countersign and upload Interconnection Agreement and Standard Contract for S*RC.	Application is moved to Step 5 (Application Complete) within 3 business days of receipt of all step 4 requirements.
6. Bill Credits and Incentive Payments	Xcel Energy	Bill Credits and Incentive Payments are calculated for subscribed energy production. Energy produced during the first (partial) month is classified as unsubscribed energy.	Bill credits are applied to accounts on the 10 th day of the month following production. Depending on the subscriber’s bill cycle, bill credits can have a lag time of one month from the solar production meter read date.

Notes:

- Garden Operators can view their process step dates in the S*RC Application System under “Application Step Detail” on the solar garden page of the system.
- Community Solar Garden must be producing energy within two years from the date Xcel Energy found the application complete. This is a tariff requirement.

**Section 10 Distributed Generation Interconnection Process
 Business Rules for projects over 250 kW**





Notes specific to Solar*Rewards Community program:

1. Engineering will determine completeness within thirty days of submittal of line diagram, site plan, and interconnection application to S*RC Application System.
2. This is the starting point for when the twenty-four month completion metric and sixty-day Engineering approval/rejection metric begins. If rejected, the application can be corrected and resubmitted and the sixty-day metric begins anew. The twenty-four month completion metric does not begin anew.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Tiffany Hughes, hereby certify that I have this day served copies of the foregoing document on the attached list of persons.

xx by depositing a true and correct copy thereof, properly enveloped with postage paid in the United States mail at Minneapolis, Minnesota

xx electronic filing

Docket No. E002/M-13-867

Dated this 5th day of December 2014

/s/

Tiffany Hughes
Records Analyst

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
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Michael	Allen	michael.allen@allenergysolar.com	All Energy Solar	721 W 26th st Suite 211 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55405	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_13-867_Community Solar Garden - Xcel
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