



Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**NOTICE OF OBJECTION UNDER MINN. STAT. §216B.1612, SUBD. 7(d)
AND ESTABLISHING A REPLY COMMENT PERIOD**

Issued: December 3, 2013

**In the Matter of the Petition of Northern State Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy
for Approval of the Third Amendment to the Power Purchase Agreement with Big
Blue Wind Farm, LLC.**

PUC Docket Number: E-002/M-13-1002

Comment Period: Reply comment period closes Friday, December 13, 2013 at 4:30pm.

Topic/s Open for Comment:

- Whether the change in the ownership structure of Big Blue Wind Farm, LLC affects the project's C-BED status; and
- Whether a new determination of C-BED eligibility is required, and if so, the steps and time-frame needed for such a re-determination.

Docket Background: On October 31, 2013, Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel) filed a request for approval of its third amendment to the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Big Blue Wind Farm, LLC. Xcel asked for approval under the Community-Based Energy Development (C-BED) statute, Minn. Stat. §216B.1612. Under subd. 7(d) of that statute, unless a party objects to a contract within 30 days of submission to the Commission, the contract is deemed approved.

On December 2, 2013, the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources (Department) filed comments stating that they expect to recommend approval, but first recommending that Xcel provide in reply comments an analysis, based on the C-BED statute, showing that the change in ownership structure does not affect the last determination of C-BED eligibility of the project and does not require a re-determination of its eligibility.

The Commission is treating the Department comments as an objection under Minn. Stat. §216B.1612, subd. 7(d). Therefore, the PPA amendment is not deemed approved under the 30 day timeframe of the statute.

Filing Requirements: Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are **required** to file documents using the Commission's electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants and interested persons are encouraged to use eFiling.

Submit Public Comments: E-mail to PublicComments.PUC@state.mn.us.

Persons without e-mail access may send by U.S. mail to Burl Haar, Executive Secretary, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul MN 55101-2147. Please include the Commission's docket number in all communications.

Full Case Record: All documents filed in this docket are available on the Commission's website at www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Search eDockets," enter the year (13) and the docket number (1002), select "Search."

Subscribe to the Docket: Receive notification when new documents are filed in this docket at www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Subscribe to a Docket," and follow the prompts.

Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure? Contact Commission staff, Michelle Rebholz at 651-201-2206 or Janet Gonzalez at 651-201-2231.

Change your mailing preferences: E-mail consumer.puc@state.mn.us or call 651-296-0406.

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