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Xcel Energy

Information Request No.

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Docket No.: E002/M-25-142

Response To: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Requestor: Hanna Terwilliger, Sophie Nikitas

Date Received: May 4, 2026

Question:

Is the Company aware of any other state utility commission that approves planning standards similar to the process suggested by the Minnesota Department of Commerce?

Response:

No, the Company is not aware of any other state utility commission that reviews or approves planning standards, as suggested by the Department. In Minnesota, utilities are vested with the responsibility to provide safe and adequate service under the regulatory compact. We take our role in providing safe and reliable electrical service to our customers very seriously. As such, the Company maintains professional staff and expertise to ensure the standards it develops and applies to its equipment installation and configurations and the way it plans and operates its system complies with prevailing industry standards and the best engineering practices and thought leadership.

An example at the federal level, FERC's Order No. 881 on managing transmission line ratings, relies on calculations grounded in "Good Utility Practice" as the governing standard, rather than mandating prescriptive methodologies. Thereby appropriately preserving utility discretion over system engineering decisions. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission also recognizes "good utility practices" and the Company's responsibility to determine reasonable and prudent, least-cost system configurations to meet the needs of the Company's customers and maintain system reliability and performance in the Company's Minnesota Electric Rate Book, General Rules and Regulations, Section No. 6 – Special Facilities, Original Sheet No. 27.1, Definition of "Standard Facilities:"

"Standard Facilities" are those facilities whose design or location constitute the reasonable and prudent, least-cost alternative that is consistent with the existing electric system configuration, will meet the needs of the Company's customers and will maintain system reliability and performance under the circumstances. In determining the design or location of a "Standard Facility", **the Company shall use good utility practices** and evaluate all of the circumstances surrounding the proposal, including (i)

public and employee safety in the installation, operation and maintenance of the facility, (ii) compliance with the National Electrical Safety Code, other applicable engineering standards and electric utility norms and standards, (iii) electric system reliability requirements, (iv) the presence, age, condition and configuration of existing facilities in the affected area, (v) the presence and size of existing right-of-way in the affected area, (vi) existing topology, soil, spacing, and any environmental limitations in the specific area, (vii) existing and reasonably projected development in the affected area, (viii) installation, maintenance, useful life and replacement cost factors, and (ix) other relevant factors under the particular circumstances.

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Date: May 18, 2026