

**Reply Comments from North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters, International  
Union of Operating Engineers Local 49 and Laborers International Union of North  
America MN & ND**

Feb 14, 2022

Mr. Will Seuffert  
Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7th Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101

*RE: Petition for Approval to Sell 348 Acres of Land at Sherco (PA 22-489)*

Dear Mr. Seuffert,

We submit these brief late-filed reply comments in support of the arguments put forward by the City of Becker in opposition to the Department of Commerce's position that Xcel Energy should develop and employ a process whereby a significant majority of future land sales at the Sherco site utilize a competition bidding process.

As the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) is aware, the city of Becker is losing a significant portion of its taxbase, as well as a major source of employment, with the closure of the three coal units at Sherco. For our members who performed ongoing maintenance at the plant, the closure will be a real challenge and setback for them and their families. As outlined in Mayor Bertram's comments, the city of Becker has been working collaboratively with Xcel energy and Sherburne County on planning for the future of the Sherco site to ensure that it is developed to its full potential. Effective development of the Sherco site is not only important for mitigating some of the impact of the Sherco closure, it will also likely lead to construction employment opportunities in the years to come—potentially benefiting some of our members who will lose work opportunities at the Sherco plant.

While we recognize the interest in ensuring that Xcel Energy ratepayers—which include our members—receive the financial benefit of land being sold at the Sherco site, a competitive bidding process could seriously hamper efforts by the city of Becker to maximize the use of the land for economic development purposes. There are more reasonable ways to ensure that ratepayer interests are protected while ensuring the city of Becker has the flexibility to meet their local economic development goals.

Both the state legislature and the Walz Administration have emphasized the importance of supporting communities that are negatively impacted by the energy transition. Providing some flexibility in the process Xcel sells the land in order to support the community is an extremely reasonable accommodation to meet this goal.

Sincerely,

Adam Duinck, North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters  
Nate Runke, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49  
Kevin Pranis, Laborers International Union of North America–MN & ND