

From: [Noyce, Christian \(He/They\) \(PUC\)](#)
To: [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: FW: CANCELLED - City of Slayton Public Hearing
Date: Wednesday, December 10, 2025 1:44:12 PM

Please submit this public comment by Brad G. into docket 25-129.

Thank you,

Christian

From: Brad Gass <bradg@digitalplains.net>
Sent: Wednesday, December 10, 2025 1:40 PM
To: Noyce, Christian (He/They) (PUC) <christian.noyce@state.mn.us>
Cc: whendy <whendy@digitalplains.net>
Subject: Re: CANCELLED - City of Slayton Public Hearing

You don't often get email from bradg@digitalplains.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello, Christian - I had planned to attend this evening's hearing regarding the City of Slayton / Xcel infrastructure purchase, but just received notification that it has been cancelled.

I did not see specific details on how to submit comments in writing other than to reference the docket numbers, so I'm writing you to submit my comments.

Regarding docket numbers:
MPUC Docket No. E-002/ PT-7157/SA-25-129
OAH Docket No. 22-2500-40870

We have been an Xcel customer for many years for a number of properties in the area, and our experiences have been varied by location served.

However, my most recent contact with Xcel was just this last August was particularly frustrating, and I believe the mind boggling indifference shown by Xcel in this specific instance perfectly represents the reasons for, and support of the purchase of Xcel assets service the City of Slayton.

My wife and I own a commercial building on Broadway Avenue in Slayton (2629 Broadway Avenue) which we purchased ~3 years ago, and we spent most of the summer re-roofing that property with the help of contractor friends. As our roofing project finally approached the rear (alley) end of the building in August, I decided the time had come to contact Xcel to see what could be done to correct what I saw as a safety issue with the

service drop to our building.

Our building has 3-phase 200A 208Y/120V overhead service from Xcel, with the (relatively short) service drop coming from near a pole on the other side of the alley behind our building. Our building itself is comprised of ~125 feet of low-pitch flat roof, with an ~25 foot addition having a monoslope steel roof on it. Our service mast, weather head, and attachment point are at the very east end of our building against the alley, protruding from the steel roof on the addition.

The problem I contacted Xcel seeking resolution for was that none of the connections at our weather head from the service drop to our conductors are insulated in any way. They are just hanging in free space, uninsulated, separated only by the rigidity of the conductors alone, exposed to the weather - and to anyone or anything that might come in contact with them. One of the phase connections is hanging only a couple inches away from our (conductive, grounded) service mast.

Through our roofing project, we were working at height (20 feet or so), largely unprotected from the constant winds in southwest Minnesota, handling sheets of plywood, insulation, tarps, large pieces of rubber roofing materials, and 8-10 foot pieces of metal roofing and coil flashing, and were now working on the last section of roof before it transitioned to the steel roof (and from there down to the electrical mast and live service connections capable of delivering very high currents and lethal voltages), I contacted Xcel to see if we could schedule them to come out and properly insulate those service connections to at least offer some minimal protection against accidental contact should a gust of wind or similar cause materials or people to move unexpectedly. A quick survey of the other service drops from the alleys on either side of Broadway Avenue showed that our building was the ONLY one that did not have the service drop connections insulated in some way.

After some time navigating Xcel's telephone menus, speaking to a customer service representative, and sitting on hold for a few minutes, I was then informed that insulating those connections was OUR responsibility, and WE needed to hire an electrician to perform that work. I challenged that, asking who made those connections and who's responsibility those connections were, but got more of the same.

Frustrated at the total indifference to personal and property safety, the utter lack of concern for doing things properly, and the buck (and cost) passing I was faced with, I ended the call rather than continue to waste my time trying to get this resolved.

We did take extra steps and time to ensure we worked as safely as we could after that, and thankfully finished the roof itself without incident. However, we do plan to completely re-flash that roof with new metal flashing this coming spring, and this issue will once again present personal and property safety issues that we may be forced to resolve on our dime, despite it being my firm belief that this is Xcel's burden to bear.

Even if Xcel wishes to debate and split-hairs with who is responsible for what, the fact that every other service drop I personally surveyed in Slayton was insulated in some way tells me that this was and still is "standard practice" (if not required by code), and it certainly would have been in Xcel's best interest in terms of customer satisfaction and reduction of corporate liability in the event of a related incident, to have simply

acknowledged the issue and scheduled a crew stop and insulate those connections sometime when they were in the area for other work.

That said, it is my understanding that should the City of Slayton successfully purchase the assets of Xcel Energy - which to be crystal clear, I support - that the operations and management would be done by Nobles Coop Electric. Here as well, we have been a Nobles Coop customer at our farm in rural Slayton even longer than we've been an Xcel customer. And I can predict with confidence that if this exact same issue had arose under management by Nobles Coop, a crew would have been at the location and those connections would have been fully insulated by the end of that very same day.

Being long time customers of, and having first-hand experience with both entities, the differences between Xcel Energy and Nobles Coop Electric are stark in almost every way in my experience. I believe that the customers and area involved in this utility asset purchase proposal would all be much better, and more responsively served by the City of Slayton under the management of Nobles Coop Electric than as currently served by Xcel Energy.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad and Whendy Gass

bradg@digitalplains.net / 507-829-3490 (Brad)

whendy@digitalplains.net / 507-829-4925 (Whendy)

From: "Xcel Energy" <noreply@account.xcelenergy.com>

To: "bradg" <bradg@digitalplains.net>

Sent: Wednesday, December 10, 2025 12:16:41 PM

Subject: CANCELLED - City of Slayton Public Hearing

[Xcel Energy](#)



PUBLIC HEARING – CANCELLED

Electric Utility Infrastructure Purchase

This email is to inform you that the in-person public hearing scheduled for December 10, 2025 has been cancelled due to weather.

The hearing was for the City of Slayton's petition with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission requesting that the Commission determine the price for the City to purchase the electric utility infrastructure of Xcel Energy within the City.

If you have any questions about the process or need assistance in submitting comments, contact the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission:

Christian Noyce

651-201-2215

christian.noyce@state.mn.us

You may also contact the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's Consumer Affairs Office at:

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

121 7th Place East, Suite 350

St. Paul, MN 55101

Phone: 651-296-0406 or 800-657-3782

Email: consumer.puc@state.mn.us

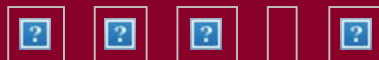
In questions or comments, please reference:

- MPUC Docket No. E-002/ PT-7157/SA-25-129
- OAH Docket No. 22-2500-40870

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