

State Public Utilities Commission

Beverly Jones Heydinger	Chair
John Tuma	Commissioner
Nancy Lange	Commissioner
Dan Lipschultz	Commissioner
Betsy Wergin	Commissioner

Docket No. E-002/M-13-867

Date: 5/18/2015

In the matter of Northern States Power Company, dba Xcel Energy re:

Community Solar Garden Program (“CSG”)

Comments of Renewable Energy Partners (“REP”):

REP believes that large, co-located MW CGS’s are inconsistent with the original intent of CSG law.

The **Community** Solar Garden program became law as a way for residents of **communities** to take personal responsibility in lowering their carbon foot print by subscribing to a clean energy source.

It was recently brought to REPS attention that Xcel had well over 600 MWs in applications queue, for community solar.

It appears most of the subscribers of the 600 MW of solar in the queue, are large corporations. This was not the intent o the law. It has been brought to REPS attention that the use of this CSG program in this manner, through large co-located solar farms that was intended to benefit to community could ultimately hurt the communities by raising rates, especially for communities that already struggle with high energy costs.

To clarify things REP is an advocate for solar. However, REP thinks that there should be further consideration by the Commission for a program that addresses utility scale solar for corporate solar subscribers. One that will not adversely affect low income communities.

Jamez Staples

Renewable Energy Partners

