

STATE OF MINNESOTA
BEFORE THE
MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Nancy Lange	Chair
Dan Lipschultz	Commissioner
Matthew Schuenger	Commissioner
Katie Sieben	Commissioner
John Tuma	Commissioner

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF XCEL ENERGY MPUC Dockets Nos. E002/M-17-694
FOR APPROVAL TO BUILD, OWN, AND OPERATE DAKOTA
RANGE I AND II WIND

**COMMENTS OF THE LABORERS DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MINNESOTA & NORTH
DAKOTA ON XCEL ENERGY’S PETITION FOR APPROVAL TO BUILD, OWN AND
OPERATE THE 302 MW DAKOTA RANGE I AND II WIND PROJECTS**

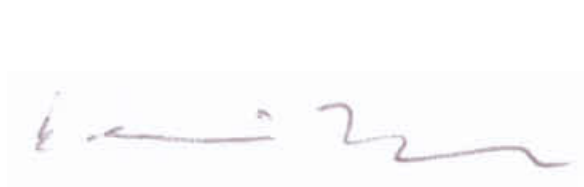
The Laborers District Council of Minnesota & North Dakota (Laborers Union) and its five Local Unions, represent more than 12,000 construction workers and public employees in Minnesota, North Dakota and Northwestern Wisconsin. We are affiliated with the Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA), a 500,000-member strong organization that fights on behalf of construction workers in the U.S. and Canada, including many that build and maintain energy infrastructure assets.

The Laborers Union has reviewed Xcel Energy’s proposal to add 302 MW of wind generation capacity by building and operating Dakota Range I and II wind energy projects, as well as comments submitted by the Department of Commerce Division of Energy Resources (DOC- DER). Our organization strongly supports the development of energy resources, and while we understand the concerns raised by DOC DER, we also believe that approval of the proposal could be in the best interest of ratepayers and state residents if the projects allow ratepayers to capture savings from expiring tax credits, and if they create high-quality construction jobs for Minnesotans and South Dakotans who live near the site of the proposed project.

If Dakota Range I and II were built under terms similar to those of Xcel’s nearby Blazing Star I and II wind projects, we believe that they might deliver significant benefits to Minnesota workers. We look forward to learning more details from Xcel regarding the company’s construction plans, and in the meantime, we hope that the Commission will not dismiss the potential benefits of the proposal.

Dated: December 1, 2017

Respectfully Submitted,
Laborers District Council of Minnesota & North Dakota



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