

414 Nicollet Mall Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

### PUBLIC DOCUMENT NOT PUBLIC DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED

— VIA ELECTRONIC FILING—

January 10, 2022

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

RE: REPLY COMMENTS

PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF A CREDIT MECHANISM TO RETURN TO CUSTOMERS DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SETTLEMENT PAYMENTS.

DOCKET NO. E002/M-21-815

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, submits to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission these Reply Comments. We appreciate the review of our filing by the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources (Department), and for their recommendations in their December 23, 2021 comments.

The Department requested the Company provide additional information regarding: (1) support for the planned implementation timing for the customer bill credit, and (2) the Settlement Agreement and third extension of the Settlement Agreement with the Department of Energy.

# Credit Implementation Timing

The Company's billing system is capable of processing only one refund at a time.<sup>1</sup> As a result, the 12<sup>th</sup> Minnesota DOE credit needs to be coordinated with other refunds and billing credits already scheduled to occur in 2022 in various NSP state jurisdictions. The DOE credit involves calculating an individual credit amount for every Minnesota customer based on twelve months of usage; the total setup, testing and posting to accounts involves approximately eight weeks. Therefore, we proposed combining the DOE credit with the already scheduled 2020 property tax

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The billing system limitation applies to refunds/credits based on 12 months of historical usage.

and annual incentive program (AIP) refund in our August 10, 2021 Reply Comments in Docket No. E002/M-19-688.

The Company may not be able to begin implementing the 12<sup>th</sup> DOE credit within 60 days of an Order. We are currently preparing the South Dakota DOE credit for implementation. If we are able to process the Minnesota 12<sup>th</sup> DOE credit after we issue the South Dakota credit, we will do so. However, we have a standing requirement to provide a refund to Windsource customers before their transition to the Renewable\*Connect program.<sup>2</sup> To meet that requirement, we need to begin the transition work in mid-March of 2022. If we cannot complete the Minnesota 12<sup>th</sup> DOE credit before mid-March of 2022, we will process the Windsource refund and then begin implementation of the combined 2020 property tax and AIP refund along with the DOE 12<sup>th</sup> credit.

#### Department of Energy Settlement Negotiations

The Department requested information as to whether the third extension of the Settlement Agreement is similar to the original Settlement Agreement or if there have been any changes. The original Settlement Agreement and the extension documents are materially and substantively the same in terms of the process for claims submission and the standards for determining the Company's allowable costs. The third extension of the Settlement Agreement does include one minor technical change to the acceptance rate table attached to the original Settlement Agreement; this change was included in the third extension by agreement of the parties to clarify a minor error in that table and is not of substantive import. The Company and the U.S. Government reached the third extension of the Settlement Agreement in August of 2020. The third extension of the Settlement Agreement extends the 2011 Settlement Agreement for the recovery of spent fuel storage damages for another three-year period to allow for recovery of damages through December 31, 2022 (Payments 12, 13, 14).

Attachment A is a copy of the original Settlement Agreement and Attachment B contains a copy of the third extension of the Settlement Agreement. Both Attachments are trade secret in their entirety.

#### Future Compliance

The Company agrees with the Department's recommendations to submit a compliance filing 30 days after completion of the bill credits and to continue providing the information and documentation consistent with the Commission's Order in Docket No. E002/M-11-807.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>See Docket Nos. E-002/M-01-1479, E-002/M-19-33 Order (July 2, 2020) pt. 1b. This Windsource refund was scheduled for January 2022 and was delayed due to delays in the availability of the solar and wind resources required to support the program.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Order Point 11, December 16, 2011 Order, Docket No. E002/M-11-807.

Please note Attachments A and B include Trade Secret information protected by the Minnesota Data Practices Act. Xcel Energy maintains this information as trade secret pursuant to Minn. Stat. §13.37 (1)(b) based on its economic value from not being generally known and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use. This information includes confidential contractual terms. This information has independent economic value from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by, other parties who could obtain economic value from its disclosure or use.

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216B.17, Xcel Energy has electronically filed these documents with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact Gail Baranko at (612) 330-6935 or <a href="mailto:gail.baranko@xcelenergy.com">gail.baranko@xcelenergy.com</a> or Carl Cronin at (612) 215-4669 or <a href="mailto:carl.cronin@xcelenergy.com">carl.cronin@xcelenergy.com</a>.

Sincerely,

/s/

GAIL A. BARANKO MANAGER, REGULATORY PROJECTS

Enclosures cc: Service Lists

### PUBLIC DOCUMENT – NON-PUBLIC DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED

Northern States Power Company

Docket No. E002/M-21-815

Reply Comments – Attachments A & B

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Attachments A and B are marked as "Non-Public" in their entirety. Pursuant to Minn. R. 7829.0500, subp. 3, the Company provides the following description of the excised material:

#### Attachments A and B:

- 1. **Nature of the Material:** PDF copy of Original Settlement Agreement and Third Extension of the Settlement Agreement with the Department of Energy
- 2. **Authors:** The Company and Department of Energy
- 3. **Importance:** Protected material subject to U.S. Court of Federal Claims Protective Order
- 4. Date the Information was Prepared: January 6, 2022

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

- I, Mustafa Adams, hereby certify that I have this day served copies of the foregoing document on the attached list of persons.
  - <u>xx</u> by depositing a true and correct copy thereof, properly enveloped with postage paid in the United States mail at Minneapolis, Minnesota
  - xx electronic filing

## XCEL ENERGY SERVICE LIST E002/M-21-815

Dated this 10<sup>th</sup> day of January 2022

/s/

Mustafa Adams Regulatory Administrator

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