

November 3, 2022

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

–Via Electronic Filing—

RE: REPLY COMMENTS

ELECTRIC VEHICLE PILOT PROGRAMS MODIFICATION REQUEST

DOCKET NO. E002/M-18-643

Dear Mr. Seuffert,

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, submits these Reply Comments in response to the October 18, 2022 Comments from ChargePoint and the October 24, 2022 Comments from the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources (Department) in the above-referenced docket. These Comments were submitted in response to our request to modify our Fleet Electric Vehicle Service Pilot and Public Charging Infrastructure Pilot filed on September 23, 2022.

In our September 23, 2022 petition we requested Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) approval to continue operating both pilots beyond the end of this year and approval to reallocate budgeted funds between the two pilots. Several Companies provided letters of support for these pilots and our efforts to promote fleet and public charging, which we included with our Petition in Docket No. E002/M-22-432. Our requested modifications would allow us to continue to operate these pilots without interruption and provide additional operational budget flexibility, ensuring we can continue our fleet and public charging efforts.

We thank both ChargePoint and the Department for their review of our modification request and their recommendations that our request should be approved. In these Reply Comments we will address the specific recommendations of the Department and provide the additional information they requested in their Comments.

¹ See Attachments AA1 through AA11

Pilot Terms

In our modification request, we requested that the terms of the pilots be extended beyond their original three-year terms until there is final resolution of our program modification request in Docket No. E002/M-22-432. Our extension request was to allow for continued operations if the case takes longer to consider than expected. The Commission recently issued an order to move our larger EV proposal to a contested case.² While the procedural schedule for the contested case has not been established yet, we believe the Department's recommendation to add one year to the pilot terms, extending them into 2024, will be sufficient in allowing us to operate the pilots until the larger modification requests are decided.

Budget for Fleet EV Service Pilot Projects

The Company has requested flexibility to move planned budget funds between the Fleet EV Service Pilot and Public Charging Infrastructure Pilots. We have nearly exhausted the originally approved budget for the Public Charging Infrastructure Pilot of \$9.2 million. Meanwhile, for the Fleet EV Service Pilot we expect to have spent about \$1.5 million of the approved budget of \$14.4 million by the end of this year.

This Department has requested greater information about the required budget needed to serve the applications received for the Fleet EV Service Pilot. The Company has not previously provided this information (and the Public Charging Infrastructure Pilot as well) because most the applications are still at the point where costs for the proposed projects are not known as design work has not yet been completed. The Company has consistently provided the information it has available in our previous filings and EV Annual Reports. However, to ensure that Commission has all the information it needs to decide in this request, we are providing estimates of the costs of future Fleet EV Service Pilots acknowledging the fact that costs may differ once actual design work is completed for all projects.

If our modification request is approved, we plan to continue accepting applications for both pilots and will allocate funds between the two pilots to service the applications that are approved until the full budgets for both pilots are exhausted. As such, we can confirm that we are planning to have budgeted funds available to serve the 11 applications that were in process at the time we filed our September 23, 2022 Petition, as was recommended by the Department, plus any additional applications that are accepted while funding is still available. After our petition, we received an additional

² See Notice of and Order for Hearing, Docket No. E002/M-22-432 (October 26, 2022)

four applications and currently have 15 applications in process for the Fleet EV Service Pilot.³ We expect to have funds for all these projects.

We have not completed detailed cost estimates for all the Fleet EV Service Pilot applications currently in process. However, based on previous experiences and currently available information, we estimate that approximately \$2.1 million of funds will be needed to complete the 15 projects currently in the application phase and operate all completed stations. This information was requested by the Department in their Comments.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide the Commission with our Reply Comments and ask that they approve our request as filed in our September 23, 2022 petition. We have electronically filed this document with the Commission and notice of the filing has been served on the parties on the attached service list. Please contact Carl Cronin at carl.cronin@xcelenergy.com if you have any questions regarding this filing.

SINCERELY,

/s/

HOLLY HINMAN
DIRECTOR, REGULATORY AFFAIRS

c: Service List

 $^{^3}$ 8 projects with signed agreements in design/construction phase and 7 applications in processing phase.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

- I, Joshua DePauw, 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

DOCKET NO. E002/M-18-643

Dated this 3rd day of November 2022
's/
oshua DePauw

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