

414 Nicollet Mall Minneapolis, MN 55401

April 19, 2023

-Via Electronic Filing-

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

RE: RESILIENT MINNEAPOLIS PROJECT PETITION FOR APPROVAL FOR UPDATED COSTS DOCKET NO. E002/M-21-694

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, submits to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission this filing regarding the Resilient Minneapolis Project (RMP), in compliance with Order Point 9 of the Commission's July 26, 2022 Order in the above-mentioned docket. With this Petition, we request Commission action on our request for an increased cost cap for the RMP.

Order Point 9 of the Order states:

Xcel shall file a letter in this docket to notify the Commission and stakeholders if the Company encounters any significant procurement challenges related to RMP, including delays, low bid numbers, or unexpected costs.

We have received the results of our recent request for proposals related to the project and re-evaluated our budget, which has increased to \$17.7 million due to industry trends and economy-wide inflationary pressures, as we explain in the enclosed Petition. Given this increase, we propose to move the project forward at all three sites, but we have paused implementation of RMP at one of the three sites while we seek input from the Commission on the cost increase.

We have electronically filed this document with the Commission, and copies have

been served on the parties on the attached service list. Please contact Taige Tople at <u>taige.d.tople@xcelenergy.com</u> or me at <u>amber.r.hedlund@xcelenergy.com</u> if you have any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely,

/s/

Amber Hedlund Manager, Regulatory Project Management

Enclosure cc: Service List

REQUIRED INFORMATION

I. SUMMARY OF FILING

A one-paragraph summary is attached to this filing pursuant to Minn. R. 7829.1300, subp. 1.

II. SERVICE ON OTHER PARTIES

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216.17, subd. 3, we have electronically filed this document with the Commission. Pursuant to Minn. R. 7829.1300, subp. 2, the Company has served a copy of this filing on the Department of Commerce and the Office of the Attorney General. A summary of the filing has been served on all parties on the enclosed service list.

III. GENERAL FILING INFORMATION

Pursuant to Minn. R. 7829.1300, subp. 3, the Company provides the following information.

A. Name, Address, and Telephone Number of Utility

Northern States Power Company doing business as: Xcel Energy 414 Nicollet Mall Minneapolis, MN 55401 (612) 330-5500

B. Name, Address, and Telephone Number of Utility Attorney

Shubha Harris Deputy General Counsel Xcel Energy 414 Nicollet Mall, 401 – 8th Floor Minneapolis, MN 55401 612-215-4517

C. Date of Filing

The date of this filing is April 19, 2023.

REQUIRED INFORMATION

D. Statute Controlling Schedule for Processing the Filing

Commission Rules define this filing as a "miscellaneous filing" under Minn. R. 7829.0100, subp. 11 since no determination of Xcel Energy's overall revenue requirement is necessary. Minn. R. 7829.1400, subp. 1 and 4 permit comments in response to a miscellaneous filing to be filed within 30 days and reply comments to be filed no later than 10 days thereafter.

E. Utility Employee Responsible for Filing

Amber Hedlund Manager, Regulatory Project Management Xcel Energy 414 Nicollet Mall, 401 – 7th Floor Minneapolis, MN 55401 612-337-2268

IV. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Pursuant to Minn. R. 7829.0700, the Company requests that the following persons be placed on the Commission's official service list for this proceeding:

Shubha Harris Deputy General Counsel Xcel Energy 414 Nicollet Mall, 401 – 8th Floor Minneapolis, MN 55401 <u>shubha.m.harris@xcelenergy.com</u> Christine Schwartz Regulatory Administrator Xcel Energy 414 Nicollet Mall, 401 – 7th Floor Minneapolis, MN 55401 regulatory.records@xcelenergy.com

Any information requests in this proceeding should be submitted to Ms. Schwartz at the Regulatory Records email address above.

STATE OF MINNESOTA BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Katie J. Sieben Valerie Means Matthew Schuerger Joseph K. Sullivan John A. Tuma

IN THE MATTER OF XCEL ENERGY'S 2021 INTEGRATED DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM PLAN DOCKET NO. E002/M-21-694

Chair

Commissioner Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF UPDATED COSTS FOR THE RESILIENT MINNEAPOLIS PROJECT

INTRODUCTION

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, submits this Petition to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for approval of updated costs for the Resilient Minneapolis Project (RMP).

As the Commission is aware, the RMP seeks to improve communities' resilience to crises by installing solar/battery microgrids at three community center locations in Minneapolis: the North Minneapolis Community Resiliency Hub, the Sabathani Community Center, and the Minneapolis American Indian Center (MAIC).

The Commission's July 26, 2022 Order (Order) certifying the RMP set a cost cap of \$9 million based on our preliminary capital budget estimate presented with our November 1, 2021 certification request. Order Point 7 of the Order states in part:

The Commission certifies the Resilient Minneapolis Project and limits cost recovery to a cost cap of \$9 million unless Xcel can show by clear and convincing evidence that the costs were reasonable, prudent, and beyond the Company's control.

The Order also requires the Company to notify the Commission and stakeholders of any unexpected costs because, as we indicated at the hearing, we did not at that time believe the initial estimates from 2021 remained accurate given inflationary and supply chain pressures.¹

In our RMP Annual Report filed December 1, 2022, we indicated:

As the Company explained in the June 1, 2022 hearing on our IDP, supply chain issues and inflationary pressures have had a significant impact on the costs of several microgrid components. While we will not have updated pricing until we receive RFP responses in early 2023, we expect the costs of those components – including at least [battery energy storage systems], islanding switches, and transformers – to increase relative to our previous estimate, which was based on [the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL's)] Annual Technology Baseline costs as of 2020. As the Commission is aware, unfortunately these cost increases are common across many projects and the industry at large, and these increases are beyond the Company's control. We expect these cost increases will increase the budget for the three RMP microgrids beyond the initial \$9 million capital cost estimate.

We have recently received the results of our Request for Proposals (RFP). Those results confirm that the capital costs for the project at all three sites have increased from our original preliminary capital cost estimate, which was based on 2020 NREL Annual Technology Baseline costs. The cost increases are beyond the Company's control and not specific to the RMP, but rather due to industry-wide increases in equipment and labor costs, as we will discuss in more detail below. These cost increases are driven by equipment and materials for which we have now received bid pricing, including the battery energy storage systems and islanding switches, as well as transformers and other necessary equipment procured separately (i.e., outside the scope of the contractor selected through the RFP process). Based on this updated pricing, the RMP cannot be built at all three sites under the current \$9 million cost cap. We now estimate the project will cost approximately \$17.6 million, including O&M, before the estimated Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) investment tax credit benefits of approximately \$1.5 million, per the preliminary guidance from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Consistent with the Order, we believe it is appropriate to reconsider how to move forward given the economic pressures the projects face. Each site provides varying benefits to the community and our customers, and the overall project provides an

¹ July 26, 2022 ORDER ACCEPTING 2021 INTEGRATED DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM PLAN AND CERTIFYINGTHE RESILIENT MINNEAPOLIS PROJECT, Docket No. E002/M-21-694, at Order Point 9.

opportunity to collaborate with our community partners, deepening our relationship and understanding of their energy priorities and needs in ways that support broader equity goals. However, we also understand that our customers are facing cost pressures of their own due to economy-wide inflation, and we are working – across the Company – to minimize costs for our customers.

We have looked at ways to bring the cost down for customers, including by securing tax benefits, which we discuss further below. We have also explored ways to mitigate the cost increase, including canceling or delaying the project, reducing the installed battery capacity at one or more sites, and reducing the number of sites. We discuss these possible alternatives further in Section I.E. While some alternatives have the benefit of reducing costs, they also have drawbacks. With all of this in mind, we intend to proceed with the design and implementation for two of the sites, Sabathani and MAIC, to keep those projects on track to achieve commercial operation by the end of 2024 as planned. At the same time, we are pausing the implementation at the third site, the North Minneapolis Community Resiliency Hub, pending a Commission decision on the Company's request to increase the cost cap for these projects, as discussed in detail below. This pause would delay commercial operation of the North Minneapolis site by approximately one year, i.e., to the end of 2025. We believe this approach is the best way to balance costs with customer and community benefits and provide stakeholders and the Commission with an opportunity to review and provide input on the cost increase discussed below.

In the remainder of this filing, we discuss:

- The results of our RFP and our updated schedule and cost estimates, including how we intend to maximize newly available tax credits for energy storage and microgrid controllers in the IRA to benefit our customers;
- Cost mitigation alternatives we considered;
- Our plan to move forward with the RMP at two sites, while temporarily pausing the third, largest site pending a Commission determination on our proposal to proceed; and
- Our request for an increased cost cap to \$17.6 million.

Given our goal of keeping the RMP projects on track to the extent possible, we request Commission action by July 13, 2023. This timing aligns with the provisions in the contract we are currently finalizing, which would enable us to proceed with the third site, if approved, achieving commercial operation at the third site by the end of 2025 and without being subject to additional contract costs.

I. DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF FILING

A. RMP Summary

The Resilient Minneapolis Project seeks to improve communities' resilience to crises by installing solar/battery microgrids at three community center locations: the North Minneapolis Community Resiliency Hub, Sabathani Community Center, and MAIC (collectively referred to as the "RMP hosts"). At each site, the Company will work with the hosts to install rooftop solar (owned by the hosts), battery energy storage systems (BESS), microgrid controls, and necessary distribution system modifications to integrate these technologies. The microgrids when operating in "island" mode (i.e., during an electric system outage) will provide power for services critical to the communities that the RMP hosts serve. Recognizing that outages are generally infrequent and brief, and the need to fully utilize RMP assets to benefit all customers, the RMP BESS will also be dispatched on a routine basis to provide a variety of grid services and learnings to benefit all the Company's customers.²

B. **RFP** Process

From the inception of RMP, we have sought to maximize the benefits of the project for our customers and communities while managing costs. We conducted a two-step process to select an engineer/procure/construct (EPC) contractor to build all three RMP microgrids. The two-step process was designed to, first, cast a wide net to make a large number of potential bidders aware of the RMP opportunity, and then, subsequently, narrow the field to a smaller number of technology- and projectappropriate bidders from whom the Company would seek a full proposal.

Consistent with this plan, the Company released a Request for Information (RFI) in October 2022 to identify a short list of bidders for the subsequent RFP. The RFI sought to identify bidders interested in the project. The RFI was sent to 21 potential bidders, and the Company received eight responses. After reviewing the RFI responses, we issued an RFP to seven potential bidders in November 2022. Three bidders submitted proposals in January 2023.

Although materially higher than our initial cost estimates from our November 2021 IDP, the proposals we received were similar in price, indicating that the cost increases are driven by industry-wide trends and are beyond the Company's control. Prices for battery energy storage systems have increased after years of steady decline. Since the

² See our December 1, 2022 Annual Report in this docket for further discussion of the sites and planned emergency service capabilities.

original preliminary budget estimate – which was based on the NREL Annual Technology Baseline for 2020 – costs of labor, transformers, batteries, and other electrical equipment have all increased due to supply chain challenges, COVID impacts, the economy-wide inflationary environment, and increased demand. As the Commission is aware, these industry dynamics have led to increased costs on a variety of projects, including both our owned projects, such as the Border Winds and Pleasant Valley wind repowering projects, as well as third-party projects, such as the solar PPAs for the Louise & Fillmore projects. These projects and the increasing costs they are facing are not unique in the industry. For example, across the U.S., battery storage project developers have sought to reopen contracts or have canceled battery projects outright due to inflationary pressures. Developers have requested sometimes dramatic price increases – upwards of 200 percent – in some contract renegotiations.³

After we received proposals that confirmed our expectation that our preliminary budget estimates were no longer valid, we took two actions.

First, we evaluated the proposals and then began contract negotiations. The bidding process and market dynamics discussed above required us to move quickly; bid pricing remains valid for a maximum of 90 days after we receive the initial bid. Delaying and rebidding the project some months from now likely would, based on industry-wide increases in labor costs and equipment lead times, result in a high likelihood that bid prices would continue to increase and that the project at all three sites would be delayed. We believe this approach of moving forward with contract negotiations was preferable to putting the entire project on hold. It allowed us to gather information needed to present a full budget picture while keeping options open, before presenting those options to the Commission.

Second, simultaneously with contract negotiations, we explored alternative options for RMP that would allow us to go forward with some variation of the project while reducing the cost increase relative to the \$9 million cap. We present these alternatives in Section E.

In evaluating the bids received in response to the RFP, we selected the supplier that will provide the most technically efficient and cost-effective BESS while meeting delivery schedules. One bidder was eliminated on the basis of our technical evaluation. Of the two remaining bids, we selected the contractor with the lower bid price. We began negotiations with our selected EPC contractor on March 22, and we anticipate executing the contract in early June.

³ *See, e.g.,* Garrett Hering, "Inflation unleashes wave of battery storage renegotiation in US," July 8, 2022, available at <u>https://www.capitaliq.spglobal.com/web/client?auth=inherit#news/article?id=70845573</u>.

C. Using IRA Tax Credits to Reduce Customer Costs

While costs of the project have increased compared to our initial estimates in 2021, we are committed to maximizing the benefits of the project for our customers, including by leveraging tax credits available under the IRA, which was passed after we proposed the project. In our Comments in Docket No. E999/CI-22-624, we summarized at a high level how the Company aims to leverage a broad range of tax credits, grants, and incentives in the IRA to accelerate our progress toward 100 percent carbon-free electricity while saving customers an estimated \$1.4 billion in costs over the next ten years.⁴

With respect to the RMP, we are working to ensure we take full advantage of a new Investment Tax Credit (ITC) in the IRA for energy storage systems and microgrid controllers and return the value of this ITC net of any transaction costs to our customers. In the RFP discussed above and based on current preliminary IRS guidance, we required bidders to meet the prevailing wage and qualified apprenticeship requirements of the IRA, which will ensure the RMP battery and microgrid control equipment qualifies for the full ITC of 30 percent, rather than the six percent "base" ITC. The qualified apprenticeship requirement slightly increases the cost of the project, but the increased cost is more than offset by the future tax credits. The requirement also will increase the workforce development benefits of the RMP because our selected contractor must commit to have at least 15 percent of labor hours performed by qualified apprentices enrolled in a registered training program. Those apprentices can go on to work on other clean energy projects in the future.

In addition, the EPC contractor we selected has committed to meet the IRA's domestic content requirements that, based on our preliminary analysis of current guidance from the IRS, would qualify the project for an additional 10 percent bonus ITC. The Company will continue to monitor and carry out corresponding actions to maximize the ITC and commits to return the value of all tax credits to customers. In total, we estimate that the ITC could result in \$1.5 million in RMP project savings for our customers. Our updated estimates included in the analysis of alternatives below do not include the value of any ITC that would be returned to the Company's customers, net of any transaction costs.

⁴ Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy. January 30, 2023 Comments in the *Joint Investigation into the Impacts of the Federal Inflation Reduction Act*. Docket No. E999/CI-22-624.

D. Updated Cost Estimate

As shown in Table 1 below, we now expect the project's capital costs will be approximately \$16.9 million. Adding in anticipated annual O&M costs and maintenance and warranties fees brings our updated total estimate to \$17.6 million, before the anticipated ITC benefits of approximately \$1.5 million.

		Capital Costs			
Capital Costs		Updated I	Estimates		2021 Estimate
	North Minneapolis Resiliency Hub	Minneapolis American Indian Center	Sabathani Community Center	Updated Total Capital Budget	2021 Estimate - Total
Battery Energy Storage					
System	\$4,230,000	\$1,700,000	\$1,770,000	\$7,710,000	\$4,003,449
Islanding Switch	\$650,000	\$390,000	\$390,000	\$1,430,000	\$725,400
Medium Voltage Work	\$2,490,000	\$1,080,000	\$1,080,000	\$4,650,000	\$298,096
Site Evaluation/Surveying/Prep	\$160,000	\$160,000	\$160,000	\$490,000	\$634,26 0
Business Systems Integration	\$330,000	\$330,000	\$330,000	\$1,000,000	\$990,822
Project Management and Labor	\$230,000	\$240,000	\$240,000	\$710,000	\$ 739 , 040
Communications	\$120,000	\$130,000	\$130,000	\$370,000	\$1,547,810
Costs Due to Delaying One Site	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	\$500,000	\$ 0
Total Capital Costs	\$8,730,000	\$4,030,000	\$4,100,000	\$16,860,000	\$8,938,878
		O&M Costs			
	North Minneapolis Resiliency Hub	Minneapolis American Indian Center	Sabathani Community Center	Updated Total O&M Budget	2021 Estimate - Total
10 Years Maintenance Fees	\$390,000	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$730,000	\$624,030
	/	Costs (Capital	and O&M)		
	North Minneapolis Resiliency Hub	Minneapolis American Indian Center	Sabathani Community Center	Updated Total Budget	2021 Estimate - Total
Total Costs	\$9,120,000	\$4,200,000	\$4,270,000	\$17,590,000	\$9,562,908

Table 1:	RMP	Budget	Estimate	Comparison
		0		1

We are completing contract negotiations with our selected EPC contractor now. As we will discuss in Section E, through our negotiations we have found creative ways to mitigate risk to the extent possible while maintaining optionality and keeping the projects moving forward.

In addition to the information from our recent RFP, Table 1 reflects updated costs for materials and labor that are outside the scope of the EPC contract. Specifically, the line item labeled "Miscellaneous" in the 2021 filling has been redistributed to reflect updates to costs as well as better granularity in the estimate. The "Miscellaneous" category was comprised of items related to Medium Voltage and Communications work; as a result, the old category was adjusted to reflect this better understanding. The increases in the Medium Voltage category reflect the increased costs of transformers, switch gear, and the related interconnection work.

E. Alternatives Considered

As we evaluated bids and began contract negotiations, we explored various ways to reduce risk and control costs while, to the extent possible, moving forward with the RMP. We considered three alternatives: (1) delaying or canceling the project at all three sites; (2) reducing the installed battery capacity at one or more sites; and (3) reducing the number of sites. We provide an overview of each alternative below. Each alternative reduces costs to varying degrees but also has drawbacks. Of the alternatives, we conclude that proceeding with the projects at Sabathani and MAIC, while temporarily pausing implementation at the North Minneapolis Community Resiliency Hub pending a Commission determination, is the most reasonable way to keep RMP moving forward while the Commission considers our Petition.

1. Project Delay or Cancellation

We understand the financial pressures facing our customers, and we are continually working to find ways to reduce expenses. In light of this, given the cost increases for the RMP, we considered canceling the project outright, but we still believe in the value of the project to our customers and communities, and we want to move forward in partnership with the hosts. As we discussed in our original (2021 IDP) filing, we believe the RMP provides value not just to the three microgrid hosts – supporting resilience hubs for the large number of people they serve – but also to all our customers via the opportunity to test and learn from the year-round dispatch of battery systems to serve a variety of different use cases.

We also explored delaying or pausing RMP at all three sites. This approach would provide more time for parties to revisit the project as a whole, given the increased costs; however, the updated costs would be far from certain as we would need to pause contract negotiations pending Commission action and then likely issue another RFP. Therefore, this approach would be unlikely to reduce costs; on the contrary, we believe project costs in a later reissued RFP would increase further.

2. Reduction in Battery Capacity

We considered whether reducing the size of one or more of the projects would be a reasonable alternative to reduce costs. In effect, this would mean reducing the installed capacity of the BESS at a site. The BESS capacities were originally designed to support certain minimum critical loads at each resilience hub, for a certain minimum outage duration. Reducing the installed BESS capacity would reduce costs, but simultaneously reduce the maximum electrical load that could be supported, the maximum outage duration through which this load could be sustained, or both.

At Sabathani and MAIC, the current BESS sizing was determined based on the resilience hub's purpose, identified by the hosts: to serve as an emergency refuge or community gathering space delivering critical services during an outage. The planned BESS installed capacity will support the critical services identified by the hosts, for a minimum outage duration (including the possibility of extending this duration by recharging with solar generation and/or curtailing non-critical loads).⁵ For these two sites, the planned BESS sizes are the minimum viable size required to sustain the services hosts deem critical to the sites serving as a resilience hub for their communities. In other words, with a smaller BESS, those two resilience hubs would not be able to serve the primary purpose for which they are designed.

The North Minneapolis Community Resiliency Hub is significantly larger and has a slightly different primary function. This microgrid is designed to serve three buildings: the Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) Nutrition Center, Franklin Middle School, and Hall Elementary School. The planned BESS sizing, at 1.5 MW/3 MWh, is designed to support the summer peak load of all three buildings (assumed to be coincident) for two hours. However, our project leads, Renewable Energy Partners and MPS, conceived this project with the primary resilience purpose being to support the Nutrition Center to function as an emergency operations center and food service location in the event of an outage. Unlike Sabathani and MAIC, this resilience hub is not primarily conceived as an emergency shelter in which Franklin and/or Hall schools would house community members during an outage – though that remains a desirable secondary purpose if those two buildings were also part of the microgrid.

⁵ See our December 1, 2022 RMP annual report for a description of how those critical loads were identified working with the hosts.

Thus, it would be possible to lower costs by limiting the North Minneapolis Community Resiliency Hub to a single building (the Nutrition Center) and its primary purpose – forgoing the option for Franklin and Hall schools to be supported and serve as community gathering spaces. This option would involve installing only 1 MW/2 MWh, rather than the originally designed 1.5 MW/3MWh at the North Minneapolis site. We estimate that reducing the battery size in this way could save approximately \$1.4 million.⁶

However, reducing the microgrid size would change the nature of the North Minneapolis resilience hub from a three-building microgrid with the potential to provide community gathering spaces at the schools, to a single-building microgrid serving solely as an emergency operations center and food service location. Further, reducing the scope of the North Minneapolis site would create technical feasibility challenges that would need to be addressed.

For these reasons, we believe the drawbacks of this approach outweigh the estimated cost reduction of \$1.4 million.

3. Reduction in Number of Sites

Finally, we considered the option of reducing RMP to two sites and not moving forward with the third site at all. In this alternative, the North Minneapolis site would be the project with which we did not proceed because of its larger size and corresponding cost. As shown in Table 1, if the Company did not implement the North Minneapolis microgrid, it would still be possible to implement the projects at Sabathani and MAIC within the Commission's \$9 million cost cap. If either Sabathani or MAIC were not implemented, it would not be possible to implement the North Minneapolis site and a second microgrid site for a cost close to the \$9 million cap.

We do not advocate for this alternative because each RMP site was chosen to provide distinct services and benefits to its local community, which has unique needs and varying vulnerabilities in the event of a climate change-induced extreme weather or other emergency. As such, we prefer to move forward with RMP at all three sites; however, we acknowledge that the cost increases are significant. Therefore, as we will discuss below, we propose to pause implementation of RMP at the North Minneapolis site while, through prudent contract negotiations, maintaining optionality as we seek the Commission's input.

⁶ Compared to our recommended alternative of pausing implementation at the North Minneapolis site.

F. Implementation Next Steps and Request for Increased Cost Cap

We are confident in our ability to implement the RMP at Sabathani and MAIC within the \$9 million cap, and the Company will bear the burden of demonstrating prudency for all costs. As discussed above, macroeconomic trends and industry dynamics necessitated that we move forward with contract negotiations or risk further price increases that would put the entire project in jeopardy. However, we have worked with our selected vendor to ensure that the contract gives the Company the option to move forward with the third site. We are still finalizing the terms and expect to execute the contract in early June, and we intend to incorporate a limited notice to proceed provision for the North Minneapolis Community Resiliency Hub. Including this provision allows us to lock in firm pricing for Sabathani and MAIC, avoiding further cost increases for those two sites. Upon contract execution, we intend to order equipment and begin engineering work with the hosts and the EPC contractor – keeping these two microgrid projects on track to achieve commercial operation by the end of 2024. Later, we can provide the EPC contractor with notice to proceed on the North Minneapolis site, should the Commission determine that our request for an increased cost cap is reasonable.

That said, maintaining optionality through this contracting approach does have cost and timing impacts. With this approach, implementation at the North Minneapolis site, if approved, would happen later, so it would be unlikely to achieve commercial operation until the end of 2025. In addition, the EPC contractor would need to mobilize twice for construction, adding approximately \$500,000 to the North Minneapolis project cost, as shown in Table 1 above. Nevertheless, we believe this is the best approach to realize the benefits of RMP as the Commission considers our petition.

CONCLUSION

Since the Commission's approval last June, we have continued to collaborate closely with the RMP hosts through the project planning and design process. Building those partnerships and developing these projects over the last two years has reinforced for us how important the RMP resilience hubs are to our partners and the communities they serve. Equally, we look forward to the learning opportunity RMP will provide for deploying battery systems to deliver a broad range of grid services to the benefit of all our customers. However, costs for the project have increased due to factors outside the Company's control, and we understand and appreciate the need to control costs that will be borne by our customers in a challenging economic environment. Therefore, we submit this petition to engage the Commission in a discussion about the RMP and how to proceed. In the interim, to make progress toward realizing the benefits of the project, we are moving forward with the project at Sabathani and MAIC.

We do wish to move forward with the project at the North Minneapolis Community Resiliency Hub, and therefore we respectfully request the Commission take the following action by July 13, 2023:

• Increase the Resilient Minneapolis Project cost cap to \$17.6 million.

The Company has notified our three partners – Sabathani Community Center, MAIC, and Renewable Energy Partners – of the rationale for this filing and our intention to move forward with the Sabathani and MAIC microgrids while temporarily pausing the North Minneapolis site pending further discussion with the Commission. We will continue to keep the hosts informed as this discussion continues.

Dated: April 19, 2023

Northern States Power Company

STATE OF MINNESOTA BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Katie J. Sieben Valerie Means Matthew Schuerger Joseph K. Sullivan John A. Tuma Chair Commissioner Commissioner Commissioner

IN THE MATTER OF XCEL ENERGY'S 2021 INTEGRATED DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM PLAN DOCKET NO. E002/M-21-694

PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF UPDATED COSTS FOR THE RESILIENT MINNEAPOLIS PROJECT

SUMMARY OF FILING

Please take notice that on April 19, 2023, Northern States Power Company doing business as Xcel Energy filed with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission a Petition requesting approval of updated costs for the Resilient Minneapolis Project (RMP).

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Marie Horner, 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
- \underline{xx} electronic filing

DOCKET NO. Е002/М-21-694

Dated this 19th day of April 2023

/s/

Marie Horner Regulatory Administrator

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Michael	Allen	michael.allen@allenergysol ar.com	All Energy Solar	721 W 26th st Suite 211 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55405	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
David	Amster Olzweski	david@mysunshare.com	SunShare, LLC	1151 Bannock St Denver, CO 80204-8020	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Ellen	Anderson	ellena@umn.edu	325 Learning and Environmental Sciences	1954 Buford Ave Saint Paul, MN 55108	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
МК	Anderson	anderson@fresh- energy.org	Fresh Energy	408 St Peter Street Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Jay	Anderson	jaya@cmpas.org	Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency	7550 Corporate Way Suite 100 Eden Prairie, MN 55344	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Alison C	Archer	aarcher@misoenergy.org	MISO	2985 Ames Crossing Rd Eagan, MN 55121	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Mara	Ascheman	mara.k.ascheman@xcelen ergy.com	Xcel Energy	414 Nicollet Mall FI 5 Minneapolis, MN 55401	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Donna	Attanasio	dattanasio@law.gwu.edu	George Washington University	2000 H Street NW Washington, DC 20052	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
John	Bailey	bailey@ilsr.org	Institute For Local Self- Reliance	1313 5th St SE Ste 303 Minneapolis, MN 55414	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Mark	Bakk	mbakk@lcp.coop	Lake Country Power	26039 Bear Ridge Drive Cohasset, MN 55721	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Gail	Baranko	gail.baranko@xcelenergy.c om	Xcel Energy	414 Nicollet Mall7th Floor Minneapolis, MN 55401	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Jessica L	Bayles	Jessica.Bayles@stoel.com	Stoel Rives LLP	1150 18th St NW Ste 325 Washington, DC 20036	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Mathias	Bell	mathias@weavegrid.com	Weave Grid, Inc.	222 7th Street, 2nd floor San Francisco, California 94103	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
James J.	Bertrand	james.bertrand@stinson.co m	STINSON LLP	50 S 6th St Ste 2600 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Derek	Bertsch	derek.bertsch@mrenergy.c om	Missouri River Energy Services	3724 West Avera Drive PO Box 88920 Sioux Falls, SD 57109-8920	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
William	Black	bblack@mmua.org	MMUA	Suite 200 3131 Fernbrook Lane Plymouth, MN 55447	Electronic Service North	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Zoe	Bourgerie	zoe.bourgerie@minneapoli smn.gov	Minneapolis City of Lakes	350 S 5th St Rm 307 Minneapolis, MN 55415	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Kenneth	Bradley	kbradley1965@gmail.com		2837 Emerson Ave S Apt CW112 Minneapolis, MN 55408	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Elizabeth	Brama	ebrama@taftlaw.com	Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP	2200 IDS Center 80 South 8th Street Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Jon	Brekke	jbrekke@grenergy.com	Great River Energy	12300 Elm Creek Boulevard Maple Grove, MN 553694718	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Sydney R.	Briggs	sbriggs@swce.coop	Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric	2411 W. Bridge St PO Box 485 Owatonna, MN 55060-0485	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Mark B.	Bring	mbring@otpco.com	Otter Tail Power Company	215 South Cascade Street PO Box 496 Fergus Falls, MN 565380496	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Janet	Brown	jab5100@gmail.com	Sabathani Community Center (Sabathani/SCC)	310 E 38th St Ste 200 Minneapolis, MN 55409	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Christina	Brusven	cbrusven@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson Byron	200 S 6th St Ste 4000 Minneapolis, MN 554021425	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
LORI	CLOBES	Iclobes@mienergy.coop	MiEnergy Cooperative	31110 COOPERATIVE WAY PO BOX 626 RUSHFORD, MN 55971	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
James	Canaday	james.canaday@ag.state. mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	Suite 1400 445 Minnesota St. St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Douglas M.	Carnival	dmc@mcgrannshea.com	McGrann Shea Carnival Straughn & Lamb	N/A	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Ray	Choquette	rchoquette@agp.com	Ag Processing Inc.	12700 West Dodge Road PO Box 2047 Omaha, NE 68103-2047	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
John	Coffman	john@johncoffman.net	AARP	871 Tuxedo Blvd. St, Louis, MO 63119-2044	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Kenneth A.	Colburn	kcolburn@symbioticstrategi es.com	Symbiotic Strategies, LLC	26 Winton Road Meredith, NH 32535413	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Generic Notice	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.st ate.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Riley	Conlin	riley.conlin@stoel.com	Stoel Rives LLP	33 S. 6th Street Suite 4200 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
George	Crocker	gwillc@nawo.org	North American Water Office	PO Box 174 Lake Elmo, MN 55042	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
David	Dahlberg	davedahlberg@nweco.com	Northwestern Wisconsin Electric Company	P.O. Box 9 104 South Pine Street Grantsburg, WI 548400009	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
James	Denniston	james.r.denniston@xcelen ergy.com	Xcel Energy Services, Inc.	414 Nicollet Mall, 401-8 Minneapolis, MN 55401	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Curt	Dieren	curt.dieren@dgr.com	L&O Power Cooperative	1302 S Union St Rock Rapids, IA 51246	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Carlon	Doyle Fontaine	carlon.doyle.fontaine@sen ate.mn	MN Senate	75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd Room G-17 St Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Kristen	Eide Tollefson	healingsystems69@gmail.c om	R-CURE	28477 N Lake Ave Frontenac, MN 55026-1044	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Rebecca	Eilers	rebecca.d.eilers@xcelener gy.com	Xcel Energy	414 Nicollet Mall - 401 7th Floor Minneapolis, MN 55401	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Bob	Eleff	bob.eleff@house.mn	Regulated Industries Cmte	100 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd Room 600 St. Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Betsy	Engelking	betsy@nationalgridrenewa bles.com	Geronimo Energy, LLC	8400 Normandale Lake Blvd Ste 1200 Bloomington, MN 55437	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Oncu	Er	oncu.er@avantenergy.com	Avant Energy, Agent for MMPA	220 S. Sixth St. Ste. 1300 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
James C.	Erickson	jericksonkbc@gmail.com	Kelly Bay Consulting	17 Quechee St Superior, WI 54880-4421	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Catherine	Fair	catherine@energycents.org	Energy CENTS Coalition	823 E 7th St St Paul, MN 55106	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
John	Farrell	jfarrell@ilsr.org	Institute for Local Self- Reliance	2720 E. 22nd St Institute for Local Self- Reliance Minneapolis, MN 55406	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn .us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 280 Saint Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Nathan	Franzen	nathan@nationalgridrenew ables.com	Geronimo Energy, LLC	8400 Normandale Lake Blvd Ste 1200 Bloomington, MN 55437	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694

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Hal	Galvin	halgalvin@comcast.net	Provectus Energy Development IIc	1936 Kenwood Parkway Minneapolis, MN 55405	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Edward	Garvey	edward.garvey@AESLcons ulting.com	AESL Consulting	32 Lawton St Saint Paul, MN 55102-2617	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Edward	Garvey	garveyed@aol.com	Residence	32 Lawton St Saint Paul, MN 55102	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Bruce	Gerhardson	bgerhardson@otpco.com	Otter Tail Power Company	PO Box 496 215 S Cascade St Fergus Falls, MN 565380496	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Allen	Gleckner	gleckner@fresh-energy.org	Fresh Energy	408 St. Peter Street Ste 350 Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Jenny	Glumack	jenny@mrea.org	Minnesota Rural Electric Association	11640 73rd Ave N Maple Grove, MN 55369	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Natalie	Haberman	townsend@fresh- energy.org	Fresh Energy	408 St Peter St # 350 St. Paul, Minnesota 55102	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Joe	Halso	joe.halso@sierraclub.org	Sierra Club	1536 Wynkoop St Ste 200 Denver, CO 80202	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Kim	Havey	kim.havey@minneapolismn .gov	City of Minneapolis	350 South 5th Street, Suite 315M Minneapolis, MN 55415	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Todd	Headlee	theadlee@dvigridsolutions. com	Dominion Voltage, Inc.	701 E. Cary Street Richmond, VA 23219	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Amber	Hedlund	amber.r.hedlund@xcelener gy.com	Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy- Elec	414 Nicollet Mall, 401-7 Minneapolis, MN 55401	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Adam	Heinen	aheinen@dakotaelectric.co m	Dakota Electric Association	4300 220th St W Farmington, MN 55024	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Jared	Hendricks	jared.hendricks@owatonna utilities.com	Owatonna Municipal Public Utilities	PO Box 800 208 S Walnut Ave Owatonna, MN 55060-2940	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Annete	Henkel	mui@mnutilityinvestors.org	Minnesota Utility Investors	413 Wacouta Street #230 St.Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Sandra	Henry	Sandra.Henry@elevatenp. org	Elevate	322 S Green St Ste 300 Chicago, IL 60607	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Joe	Hoffman	ja.hoffman@smmpa.org	SMMPA	500 First Ave SW Rochester, MN 55902-3303	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Michael	Норре	lu23@ibew23.org	Local Union 23, I.B.E.W.	445 Etna Street Ste. 61 St. Paul, MN 55106	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Samantha	Houston	shouston@ucsusa.org	Union of Concerned Scientists	1825 K St. NW Ste 800 Washington, DC 20006	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Jan	Hubbard	jan.hubbard@comcast.net		7730 Mississippi Lane Brooklyn Park, MN 55444	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Geoffrey	Inge	ginge@regintllc.com	Regulatory Intelligence LLC	PO Box 270636 Superior, CO 80027-9998	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Ralph	Jacobson	ralphj@ips-solar.com		2126 Roblyn Avenue Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Casey	Jacobson	cjacobson@bepc.com	Basin Electric Power Cooperative	1717 East Interstate Avenue Bismarck, ND 58501	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
John S.	Jaffray	jjaffray@jjrpower.com	JJR Power	350 Highway 7 Suite 236 Excelsior, MN 55331	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Alan	Jenkins	aj@jenkinsatlaw.com	Jenkins at Law	2950 Yellowtail Ave. Marathon, FL 33050	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Andrea	Jenkins	Andrea.Jenkins@minneapo lismn.gov	Minneapolis City of Lakes	350 S 5th St Room 307 Minneapolis, MN 55415	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Richard	Johnson	Rick.Johnson@lawmoss.co m	Moss & Barnett	150 S. 5th Street Suite 1200 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Sarah	Johnson Phillips	sarah.phillips@stoel.com	Stoel Rives LLP	33 South Sixth Street Suite 4200 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Nate	Jones	njones@hcpd.com	Heartland Consumers Power	PO Box 248 Madison, SD 57042	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Mahmoud	Kabalan	mahmoud.kabalan@stthom as.edu	University of St Thomas	2115 Summit Ave. Mail OSS100 School of Engineering Saint Paul, MN 55105	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Michael	Kampmeyer	mkampmeyer@a-e- group.com	AEG Group, LLC	260 Salem Church Road Sunfish Lake, Minnesota 55118	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Nick	Kaneski	nick.kaneski@enbridge.co m	Enbridge Energy Company, Inc.	11 East Superior St Ste 125 Duluth, MN 55802	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
William D	Kenworthy	will@votesolar.org	Vote Solar	332 S Michigan Ave FL 9 Chicago, IL 60604	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Samuel B.	Ketchum	sketchum@kennedy- graven.com	Kennedy & Graven, Chartered	150 S 5th St Ste 700 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Brad	Klein	bklein@elpc.org	Environmental Law & Policy Center	35 E. Wacker Drive, Suite 1600 Suite 1600 Chicago, IL 60601	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Brian	Krambeer	bkrambeer@mienergy.coo p	MiEnergy Cooperative	PO Box 626 31110 Cooperative W Rushford, MN 55971	Electronic Service ay	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Michael	Krause	michaelkrause61@yahoo.c om	Kandiyo Consulting, LLC	433 S 7th Street Suite 2025 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Mary	LaGarde	mlagarde@maicnet.org	Minneapolis American Indian Center	1530 E Franklin Ave Minneapolis, MN 55404	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Matthew	Lacey	Mlacey@grenergy.com	Great River Energy	12300 Elm Creek Boulevard Maple Grove, MN 553694718	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Carmel	Laney	carmel.laney@stoel.com	Stoel Rives LLP	33 South Sixth Street Suite 4200 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Peder	Larson	plarson@larkinhoffman.co m	Larkin Hoffman Daly & Lindgren, Ltd.	8300 Norman Center Drive Suite 1000 Bloomington, MN 55437	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
James D.	Larson	james.larson@avantenergy .com	Avant Energy Services	220 S 6th St Ste 1300 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Dean	Leischow	dean@sunrisenrg.com	Sunrise Energy Ventures	315 Manitoba Ave Ste 200 Wayzata, MN 55391	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Annie	Levenson Falk	annielf@cubminnesota.org	Citizens Utility Board of Minnesota	332 Minnesota Street, Suite W1360 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Ryan	Long	ryan.j.long@xcelenergy.co m	Xcel Energy	414 Nicollet Mall 401 8th Floor Minneapolis, MN 55401	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Susan	Ludwig	sludwig@mnpower.com	Minnesota Power	30 West Superior Street Duluth, MN 55802	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Alice	Madden	alice@communitypowermn. org	Community Power	2720 E 22nd St Minneapolis, MN 55406	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Kavita	Maini	kmaini@wi.rr.com	KM Energy Consulting, LLC	961 N Lost Woods Rd Oconomowoc, WI 53066	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Mary	Martinka	mary.a.martinka@xcelener gy.com	Xcel Energy Inc	414 Nicollet Mall 7th Floor Minneapolis, MN 55401	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Samuel	Mason	smason@beltramielectric.c om	Beltrami Electric Cooperative, Inc.	4111 Technology Dr. NW PO Box 488 Bemidji, MN 56619-0488	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Gregg	Mast	gmast@cleanenergyecono mymn.org	Clean Energy Economy Minnesota	4808 10th Avenue S Minneapolis, MN 55417	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Thomas	Melone	Thomas.Melone@AllcoUS. com	Minnesota Go Solar LLC	222 South 9th Street Suite 1600 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55120	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Stacy	Miller	stacy.miller@minneapolism n.gov	City of Minneapolis	350 S. 5th Street Room M 301 Minneapolis, MN 55415	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
David	Moeller	dmoeller@allete.com	Minnesota Power	30 W Superior St Duluth, MN 558022093	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Dalene	Monsebroten	dalene.monsebroten@nmp agency.com	Northern Municipal Power Agency	123 2nd St W Thief River Falls, MN 56701	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Andrew	Moratzka	andrew.moratzka@stoel.co m	Stoel Rives LLP	33 South Sixth St Ste 4200 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Ben	Nelson	benn@cmpasgroup.org	СММРА	459 South Grove Street Blue Earth, MN 56013	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Carl	Nelson	cnelson@mncee.org	Center for Energy and Environment	212 3rd Ave N Ste 560 Minneapolis, MN 55401	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Dale	Niezwaag	dniezwaag@bepc.com	Basin Electric Power Cooperative	1717 East Interstate Avenue Bismarck, ND 58503	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
David	Niles	david.niles@avantenergy.c om	Minnesota Municipal Power Agency	220 South Sixth Street Suite 1300 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Sephra	Ninow	sephra.ninow@energycent er.org	Center for Sustainable Energy	426 17th Street, Suite 700 Oakland, CA 94612	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Rolf	Nordstrom	rnordstrom@gpisd.net	Great Plains Institute	2801 21ST AVE S STE 220 Minneapolis, MN 55407-1229	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Samantha	Norris	samanthanorris@alliantene rgy.com	Interstate Power and Light Company	200 1st Street SE PO Box 351 Cedar Rapids, IA 524060351	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
David	O'Brien	david.obrien@navigant.co m	Navigant Consulting	77 South Bedford St Ste 400 Burlington, MA 01803	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Jeff	O'Neill	jeff.oneill@ci.monticello.mn .us	City of Monticello	505 Walnut Street Suite 1 Monticelllo, Minnesota 55362	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Russell	Olson	rolson@hcpd.com	Heartland Consumers Power District	PO Box 248 Madison, SD 570420248	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Carol A.	Overland	overland@legalectric.org	Legalectric - Overland Law Office	1110 West Avenue Red Wing, MN 55066	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Dan	Patry	dpatry@sunedison.com	SunEdison	600 Clipper Drive Belmont, CA 94002	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Jeffrey C	Paulson	jeff.jcplaw@comcast.net	Paulson Law Office, Ltd.	4445 W 77th Street Suite 224 Edina, MN 55435	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Jennifer	Peterson	jjpeterson@mnpower.com	Minnesota Power	30 West Superior Street Duluth, MN 55802	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Hannah	Polikov	hpolikov@aee.net	Advanced Energy Economy Institute	1000 Vermont Ave, Third Floor Washington, DC 20005	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
David G.	Prazak	dprazak@otpco.com	Otter Tail Power Company	P.O. Box 496 215 South Cascade S Fergus Falls, MN 565380496	Electronic Service treet	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Kenneth	Rance	krance@sabathani.org	Sabathani Community Center	310 East 38th St Rm #120 Minneapolis, MN 55409	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Mark	Rathbun	mrathbun@grenergy.com	Great River Energy	12300 Elm Creek Blvd Maple Grove, MN 55369	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Michael	Reinertson	michael.reinertson@avante nergy.com	Avant Energy	220 S. Sixth St. Ste 1300 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
John C.	Reinhardt	N/A	Laura A. Reinhardt	3552 26th Ave S Minneapolis, MN 55406	Paper Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Generic Notice	Residential Utilities Division	residential.utilities@ag.stat e.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul, MN 551012131	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Kevin	Reuther	kreuther@mncenter.org	MN Center for Environmental Advocacy	26 E Exchange St, Ste 206 St. Paul, MN 551011667	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Isabel	Ricker	ricker@fresh-energy.org	Fresh Energy	408 Saint Peter Street Suite 220 Saint Paul, MN 55102	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Noah	Roberts	nroberts@cleanpower.org	Energy Storage Association	1155 15th St NW, Ste 500 Washington, DC 20005	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Amanda	Rome	amanda.rome@xcelenergy. com	Xcel Energy	414 Nicollet Mall FL 5 Minneapoli, MN 55401	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Robert K.	Sahr	bsahr@eastriver.coop	East River Electric Power Cooperative	P.O. Box 227 Madison, SD 57042	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Joseph L	Sathe	jsathe@kennedy- graven.com	Kennedy & Graven, Chartered	150 S 5th St Ste 700 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Thomas	Scharff	thomas.scharff@versoco.c om	Verso Corp	600 High Street Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Kay	Schraeder	kschraeder@minnkota.com	Minnkota Power	5301 32nd Ave S Grand Forks, ND 58201	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Christine	Schwartz	Regulatory.records@xcele nergy.com	Xcel Energy	414 Nicollet Mall FL 7 Minneapolis, MN 554011993	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Dean	Sedgwick	Sedgwick@Itascapower.co m	Itasca Power Company	PO Box 455 Spring Lake, MN 56680	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Maria	Seidler	maria.seidler@dom.com	Dominion Energy Technology	120 Tredegar Street Richmond, Virginia 23219	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Will	Seuffert	Will.Seuffert@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th PI E Ste 350 Saint Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Patricia F	Sharkey	psharkey@environmentalla wcounsel.com	Midwest Cogeneration Association.	180 N LaSalle St Ste 3700 Chicago, IL 60601	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Bria	Shea	bria.e.shea@xcelenergy.co m	Xcel Energy	414 Nicollet Mall Minneapolis, MN 55401	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Doug	Shoemaker	dougs@charter.net	Minnesota Renewable Energy	2928 5th Ave S Minneapolis, MN 55408	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Anne	Smart	anne.smart@chargepoint.c om	ChargePoint, Inc.	254 E Hacienda Ave Campbell, CA 95008	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Ken	Smith	ken.smith@districtenergy.c om	District Energy St. Paul Inc.	76 W Kellogg Blvd St. Paul, MN 55102	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Trevor	Smith	trevor.smith@avantenergy. com	Avant Energy, Inc.	220 South Sixth Street Suite 1300 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Ken	Smith	ken.smith@ever- greenenergy.com	Ever Green Energy	305 Saint Peter St Saint Paul, MN 55102	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Joshua	Smith	joshua.smith@sierraclub.or g		85 Second St FL 2 San Francisco, California 94105	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Beth H.	Soholt	bsoholt@windonthewires.or g	Wind on the Wires	570 Asbury Street Suite 201 St. Paul, MN 55104	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Ralph J	Solar Consulting	N/A	IPS Solar	821 Raymond Ave Ste. 400 St. Paul, MN 55114	Paper Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Sky	Stanfield	stanfield@smwlaw.com	Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger	396 Hayes Street San Francisco, CA 94102	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Jamez	Staples	jstaples@renewablenrgpart ners.com	Renewable Energy Partners	3033 Excelsior Blvd S Minneapolis, MN 55416	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Russ	Stark	Russ.Stark@ci.stpaul.mn.u s	City of St. Paul	390 City Hall 15 West Kellogg Bould Saint Paul, MN 55102	Electronic Service ¢vard	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Byron E.	Starns	byron.starns@stinson.com	STINSON LLP	50 S 6th St Ste 2600 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
James M	Strommen	jstrommen@kennedy- graven.com	Kennedy & Graven, Chartered	150 S 5th St Ste 700 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Eric	Swanson	eswanson@winthrop.com	Winthrop & Weinstine	225 S 6th St Ste 3500 Capella Tower Minneapolis, MN 554024629	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Dean	Taylor	dtaylor@pluginamerica.org	Plug In America	6380 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 1000 Los Angeles, CA 90048	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Stuart	Tommerdahl	stommerdahl@otpco.com	Otter Tail Power Company	215 S Cascade St PO Box 496 Fergus Falls, MN 56537	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Pat	Treseler	pat.jcplaw@comcast.net	Paulson Law Office LTD	4445 W 77th Street Suite 224 Edina, MN 55435	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Curt	Volkmann	curt@newenergy- advisors.com	Fresh Energy	408 St Peter St Saint Paul, MN 55102	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Roger	Warehime	roger.warehime@owatonna utilities.com	Owatonna Municipal Public Utilities	208 S Walnut Ave PO BOX 800 Owatonna, MN 55060	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Jenna	Warmuth	jwarmuth@mnpower.com	Minnesota Power	30 W Superior St Duluth, MN 55802-2093	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Samantha	Williams	swilliams@nrdc.org	Natural Resources Defense Council	20 N. Wacker Drive Ste 1600 Chicago, IL 60606	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Joseph	Windler	jwindler@winthrop.com	Winthrop & Weinstine	225 South Sixth Street, Suite 3500 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Robyn	Woeste	robynwoeste@alliantenerg y.com	Interstate Power and Light Company	200 First St SE Cedar Rapids, IA 52401	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Yochi	Zakai	yzakai@smwlaw.com	SHUTE, MIHALY & WEINBERGER LLP	396 Hayes Street San Francisco, CA 94102	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
Christopher	Zibart	czibart@atcllc.com	American Transmission Company LLC	W234 N2000 Ridgeview Pkwy Court Waukesha, WI 53188-1022	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Kurt	Zimmerman	kwz@ibew160.org	Local Union #160, IBEW	2909 Anthony Ln	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694
				St Anthony Village, MN 55418-3238			
Patrick	Zomer	Pat.Zomer@lawmoss.com	Moss & Barnett PA	150 S 5th St #1200 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_21-694_21-694