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June 26, 2023

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

Re: Docket No. E-002/M-21-694 / In the Matter of Xcel Energy's Resilient Minneapolis Project –  
Petition for Approval for Updated Costs

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

Community Power, a Minneapolis-based Energy Democracy non-profit, submits the following comments regarding Xcel Energy's request to withdraw from the Resilient Minneapolis Project (RMP).

Per Administrative Rule 7829.0430, "If the commission determines that withdrawal would contravene the public interest or would prejudice a party, the commission may permit withdrawal only subject to conditions that mitigate the harm identified."

Community Power believes that this request does contravene the public interest. The RMP is intended to provide three community centers with electricity using solar and battery microgrids in the event of power outages. These community centers serve large populations of Black people, Indigenous people and people of color that have been disproportionately vulnerable to climate change and other stressors.

Xcel is acting unilaterally, without fully engaging its Clean Energy Partnership board & staff members in Minneapolis, a process which Xcel has committed to take part in. Xcel is acting with duplicity citing that the project would cost customers too much money; however, the company did not have the same concerns with its recently denied request for an exorbitant rate hike. The timing and the contradictions of this withdrawal request is dubious and the lack of concern for community impact is shameful.

Community Power asks the PUC to deny Xcel's request to withdraw. However, if the PUC allows the withdrawal, then please require Xcel to submit a revised RMP within six months, created in collaboration with its formal community partners and the communities impacted. This will mitigate the harm of losing electricity and without disinvesting in our BIPOC communities.

Sincerely,

Rebekah Doyle