MINNESOTA
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Batch E-Filing for Docket 21-694

- **Patrice Koelsch**
- **Dan Turner**
- **Bret Pence**
- **Jessica Intermill**
- **Joe Foss**

From: Patrice Koelsch
To: Staff, CAO (PUC)
Subject: Docket 21-694
Date: Monday, June 26, 2023 3:45:12 PM

I believe that the request by Xcel to back out of its commitment to the Resilient Minneapolis Plan is an example of corporate bad faith. This was a good and feasible idea when Xcel initially agreed. It still is. The increase in cost is not excessive compared to the significant benefits that could result from the project. Now Xcel is willing to abandon projects that would serve the most vulnerable residents of Minneapolis, the persons who would most need Resiliency Centers in instances of excessive heat or sustained power outages. Given the relative costs compared to other Xcel projects and expenditures, and the fact that Xcel benefits tremendously from its near monopoly in Minneapolis, I believe that Xcel should be at the forefront is supporting the Resilient Minneapolis plan.

Consequently, I respectfully request that the PUC deny Xcel's request to renege on building the Resiliency Centers in Minneapolis.

Sincerely,

Patrice Koelsch
2633 34th Ave S
Minneapolis MN 55406

From: Dan Turner
To: Staff, CAO (PUC)
Subject: Docket 21-694
Date: Monday, June 26, 2023 4:21:41 PM

I write to ask that you DENY Xcel Energy's request to default on its commitment to the Resilient Minneapolis Plan. The amount involved, for a company the size of Xcel, is not sufficient to warrant backing out. The benefits of the project far outweigh the cost, all things considered. And the fact that the people of Minneapolis have permitted Xcel to operate as a monopoly should mean extra responsibility on Xcel's part.

Thank you.

Dan Turner

From:	Bret Pence
To:	Staff, CAO (PUC)
Subject:	MNIPL comments re Docket No. E002/M-21-694
Date:	Tuesday, June 27, 2023 3:31:20 PM

To whom it may concern,

Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light would like to submit the following comments for docket No. E002/M-21-694. While we understand the deadline for comment submission has passed, we remain hopeful they can be added into the public record for this docket.

Most Sincerely,

Bret Pence

Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light (MNIPL) submits these Comments in the matter of Xcel Energy's Resilient Minneapolis Project - Petition for Approval of Updated Costs Initial Comments, docket No. E002/M-21-694. Specifically, we ask that Xcel Energy's notice to withdraw its request to increase the cost cap for the Resilient Minneapolis project be denied by the Commission, giving more time for community groups and the City to explore additional partners and funding opportunities for the projects.

In the wake of the police murder of George Floyd, the police riot, and the popular uprising that followed, the City of Minneapolis and Xcel Energy made a commitment to invest 9 million dollars in community resilience projects. Three community organizations, the Minneapolis American Indian Center, Sabathani Community Center and Renewable Energy Partners, were chosen as sites to install solar and battery microgrids to provide electricity in the event of power outages.

The three centers are located in key low-income areas of Minneapolis and serve communities that are predominantly, black, indigenous, immigrant, and people of color. These communities have been disproportionately impacted by climate change and environmental pollution for generations.

The City and Xcel Energy met with these organizations to broaden the scope of the work towards equity and resilience objectives and they made a decision to pay more attention to the long-standing and continuing racial disparities impacting these communities.

The promised investments in solar and battery microgrids would allow these community centers to operate as refuges in times of emergency resulting from power outages. The centers would provide community spaces where vulnerable families from the area could find shelter, food, and power to charge their electronics.

Now Xcel wants to back out of the deal. Xcel claims that due to inflation the cost of the project has increased over 70% since the initial estimate of 2021. Yet Xcel Energy's gross profits for the 12 months ending on March 31st. 2023 was $8.521 billion. The investment in the community resilience projects is the equivalent of 0.176% of one year of the company profits. Clearly this is not a hardship to the

company.

And resources, from federal, state, and private partnerships, may be available to offset the additional inflationary cost to ratepayers. It is our understanding that the community groups involved would prefer additional time to explore these potential partnerships prior to denying this motion. We agree with this preference, and feel that it would be in the best interest of the public, and Xcel's ratepayers, for the commission to deny the request to withdraw the increase to the cost cap while these alternative partnerships are explored.

IPL strongly encourages the City, the County and Xcel Energy to deliver on their promise to invest in these communities and to continue their plan to invest in the Resilient Minneapolis project. Xcel Energy and the City of Minneapolis made an important decision to invest on building energy power resilience and address equity and environmental justice, and they shouldn't back out of it. We call on the PUC to stand with the community, support resilience, and not go along with Xcel's request to cancel the project.

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Bret Pence
Greater Minnesota Director
Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light
bretpence@mnipl.org
(218) 343-2527

From: Wufoo
To: Staff, CAO (PUC)
Subject: Submitted Public Comment Form
Date: Monday, June 26, 2023 11:35:32 AM

Name *	Jessica Intermill
Address	2631 Lincoln St. NE Minneapolis, Minnesota 55418 United States
Phone Number	(651) 324-2838
Email	jessica@intermillconsulting.com
Provide the docket's number.	E002/M-21-694

Leave a comment on the docket. *

I write to ask the PUC to deny Xcel Energy's notice to withdraw its request to increase the cost cap for the Resilient Minneapolis Project from Commission consideration. As a resident of Northeast Minneapolis raising my child in this community, it is important to me that the Public Utilities Commission serve the interests of the full Public. When it announced this project, Xcel pledged it would word "to advance equity, invest in our BIPOC customers and communities, diversify our workforce, and integrate more distributed energy resources that deliver benefits for all our customers across the system." It called the RMP a "key opportunity" to build the partnerships needed to do this work. It now seeks to abandon those partners-- trusted members of our community who were selected as hosts precisely for their credibility in our community. The hosts put their credibility on the line for Xcel and those hosts have expressed their need for more time to make the microgrids that Xcel promised a reality. The PUC should not let Xcel unilaterally pull the plug on a project it initiated without affording its partner hosts the time they need to try to make the project feasible.

From: Wufoo
To: Staff, CAO (PUC)
Subject: Submitted Public Comment Form
Date: Monday, June 26, 2023 12:52:04 PM

Name *	Joe Foss
Address	6030 6th St NE Fridley, MN 55432 United States
Phone Number	(763) 205-9750
Email	josephrfoss@gmail.com
Provide the docket's number.	Docket No. 21-694

Leave a comment on the docket. *

Dear members of the PUC,
I am concerned about XCEL's withdrawal from the Resilient Minneapolis Project. I think the project to establish three solar panel/backup battery locations at three Minneapolis sites is an exciting one. Sabathani Community Center, the Minneapolis American Indian Center, and the three building complex in North Minneapolis are important community assets. This project would strengthen their ability to serve their communities. Plus, it would serve all residents with cleaner air and more clean energy jobs.
I wonder why XCEL has to halt the whole project even if the Commission decided to limit Xcel's rate increase request in June. I feel that XCEL is a large company that should be able to absorb the cost. I would appreciate XCEL and the PUC to negotiate a price for the project, not halt the entire effort.
Sincerely,
Joe Foss (XCEL customer)
Fridley, MN