



August 29, 2023

-Via Electronic Filing-

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

RE: REPLY COMMENTS

PAYMENT PLAN CREDIT PROPOSAL DOCKET NO. E002/M-20-760

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, submits these Reply Comments in response to August 18, 2023 Comments filed in the above-referenced docket in regards to our Payment Plan Credit Program (PPCP)led by the Citizens Utility Board (CUB).

We have electronically filed this document with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, and copies have been served on the parties on the attached service list. Please contact Pamela Gibbs at 612-330-2889 or pamela.k.gibbs@xcelenergy.com or contact me at 612-337-2096 or bridget.dockter@xcelenergy.com if you have any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely,

/s/

Bridget N. Dockter Manager, Policy & Outreach

Enclosure cc: Service List

STATE OF MINNESOTA BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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

IN THE MATTER OF NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY'S PAYMENT PLAN CREDIT PROPOSAL DOCKET NO. E002/M-20-760

REPLY COMMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, submits these Reply Comments in response to August 18, 2023 Comments filed in the above-referenced docket in regards to our Payment Plan Credit Program (PPCP) led by the Citizens Utility Board (CUB).

We appreciate the review of our 26-Month Status Report as well as the open dialogue with CUB prior to the filing of their Comments. We continue to believe that since the PPCP balance is less than five percent of its original budget, the appropriate next step is to distribute the remaining funds and close the PPCP, as the costs to administer the program are high and requires specialized touch points.

After further review, the Company supports utilizing the remaining PPCP funds for the PowerON Program. Due to significant outreach efforts in the past year, the PowerON Program has experienced higher than historic levels of participation and spend. Additionally, the newly approved auto-enrollment process in the Gas Affordability Program will auto enroll our joint gas and electric customers, further increasing our PowerON Program enrollment and spend.

In addition, the Company is currently finalizing a request to transfer underutilized funds from the Medical Affordability Program (MAP) to the PowerON Program for this same reason – the increased participation and spend in our PowerON Program. We anticipate submitting that request in the beginning of September. Shifting the remaining PPCP funds to the PowerON Program makes practical sense given customers' needs. The shift to transfer unused PPCP funds to the PowerON

program versus redistributing PPCP funds to past participants would modify Step 3 of the Company's proposed plan to close the PPCP filed on July 14, 2023 as follows:

- 1. No longer accept new participants to the PPCP effective the date of the status report (July 14).
- 2. Identify all customers in the PPCP as of August 30, 2023, and within one week, apply to their account the remaining monthly installments scheduled for their account as a lump sum dollar amount.
- 3. [Modified] Transfer the remaining PPCP funds to the PowerON Program once the Commission has provided feedback on direction.
- 4. Submit a final report regarding the Program completion on November 1, 2023 (30 days following full program closure).

CONCLUSION

Xcel Energy is committed to providing our customers with safe, reliable, and quality customer service. We continue to believe the appropriate next step is to distribute the remaining PPCP funds. We now recommend the remaining funds be transferred to the PowerON Program to help fulfill a budgetary need.

Dated: August 29, 2023

Northern States Power Company

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Ella Giefer, 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-20-760

Dated this 29th day of August 2023

/s/

Ella Giefer Regulatory Administrator

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