### BEFORE THE MINNESOTA OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS 600 North Robert Street St. Paul, MN 55101

#### FOR THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION 121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350 St Paul MN 55101-2147

IN THE MATTER OF A COMMISSION INVESTIGATION INTO XCEL ENERGY'S MONTICELLO LIFE CYCLE MANAGEMENT/EXTENDED POWER UPRATE PROJECT AND REQUEST FOR RECOVERY OF COST OVERRUNS MPUC Docket No. E002/CI-13-754 OAH Docket No. 48-2500-31139

SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM R. JACOBS, JR., PH.D.

ON BEHALF OF

THE DIVISON OF ENERGY RESOURCES OF THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2014** 

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM R. JACOBS, PH.D IN THE MATTER OF A COMMISSION INVESTIGATION INTO XCEL ENERGY'S MONTICELLO LIFE CYCLE MANAGEMENT/EXTENDED POWER UPRATE PROJECT AND REQUEST FOR RECOVERY OF COST OVERRUNS

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# I. INTRODUCTION

- Q. What is your name and business address?
- A. My name is William R. Jacobs, Jr., Ph.D. I am an Executive Consultant with GDS Associates, Inc. My business address is 1850 Parkway Place, Suite 800, Marietta, Georgia, 30067.

- Q. What is the purpose of your Surrebuttal Testimony?
- A. The purpose is to respond to the rebuttal testimony of Timothy J. O'Connor and J.A. Stall filed on behalf of Xcel Energy on August 26, 2014. I respond to misrepresentations of my testimony by Mr. O'Connor, address the Company's attempts to shift costs from Extended Power Uprate (EPU) to Life Cycle Management (LCM), explain my methodology in determining the cost of the EPU project and respond to other non-factual or misleading statements by Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Stall in their rebuttal testimonies.

- II. CORRECTIONS TO XCEL'S MISREPRESENTATION OF MY TESTIMONY
- Q. Please explain what you mean by the Company's misrepresentation of your testimony.
- A. In several instances Company witnesses attributed statements to me that were actually not in my testimony. In other cases, Company witnesses incorrectly inferred the meaning of my statements and stated their incorrect inference as my position.
  As with other DOC witnesses, it is necessary for part of my surrebuttal testimony to help ensure that the Commission has a reasonably accurate record in this proceeding.

1	Q.	Please provide specific examples of the Company's misrepresentation and explain
2		why your testimony was misrepresented.
3	A.	The following is an example of Mr. O'Connor's misrepresentation of my testimony.
4		On page 31 of Mr. O'Connor's rebuttal testimony, the question states "DEPARTMENT
5		WITNESS DR. JACOBS STATES THAT NO COSTS SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO
6		FUKISHIMA IMPACTED THE LCM/EPU LICENSE EFFORT." Mr. O'Connor's
7		representation of my testimony in his question is incorrect. In fact, in my direct
8		testimony I stated that Fukushima did impact the costs of the licensing for the EPU
9		project, but had little if any effect on capital costs or the overall project schedule, due
10		to Xcel's construction delays:1
11 12 13 14		While these issues clearly resulted in additional licensing costs for the EPU project, they did not result in significant additional capital costs or impact the overall project schedule.
15 16		DOC Ex at 15 (Jacobs Public Direct)
17		As I also explained in my Direct Testimony on that same page:
18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28		While the initial schedule objective of completing the LCM and EPU projects during the 2011 refueling outage was delayed to resolve licensing issues, discussions with Xcel personnel during the Monticello site visit revealed that other issues, including procurement and installation of critical components, would have delayed completion until the 2013 refueling outage even without licensing delays. Discussions with Xcel personnel revealed that there are no costs specifically related to NRC requirement regarding Fukushima impacts in the LCM/EPU project costs.
29		Thus, I was merely providing the results of my assessment after visiting the
30		plant, talking to Xcel personnel and reviewing information in this proceeding.

 $<sup>^{1}</sup>$  I note that effects on scheduling matter since, as DOC Witness Ms. Campbell discussed in her direct testimony at page 12, "[t]he longer it takes for a plant to be constructed and placed in service, the higher total AFUDC becomes."

1	Q.	What is another example of where your testimony was inaccurately represented?
2	A.	On page 57 of Mr. O'Connor's rebuttal testimony, the question states that I "take
3		issue with the scope changes that were made throughout the project". Again, Mr.
4		O'Connor is incorrect. I do not discuss "scope changes" in my testimony.
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6	Q.	Are there instances where your analysis was inaccurately represented?
7	A.	Yes. On page 88 of his rebuttal testimony Mr. O'Connor stated:
8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18		Finally, the letter actually does contain some descriptions of work that we specifically recognized were needed for LCM purposes. These include:  • 13.8 kV system;  • Main exciter  • M-G set point motors  • Reactor feed pump discharge check valves  While Dr. Jacobs says he prefers to rely on contemporaneous documents in his assessment, he ignores the content of the NRC Letter for these modifications.
20		I did not ignore the content of Mr. O'Conner's letter to the NDC in which he listed the
21		I did not ignore the content of Mr. O'Connor's letter to the NRC in which he listed the
22		EPU modifications. I address these four items individually:
23		13.8 kV system - The reasons I included the 13.8kV project as an EPU are
24		discussed in my direct testimony at some length (DOC Ex at 11, 16
25		(Jacobs Public Direct). As I discuss below, Mr. O'Connor discussed this
26		item in his rebuttal, which supports my classification of the 13.8 kV
27		distribution project as an EPU cost. Certainly, neither he nor I have
28		ignored the 13.8 kV system.
29		Main Exciter – Since the Main Exciter is listed in Mr. O'Connor's NRC letter
30		identifying EPU projects, in Mr. O'Connor's Schedule 30 showing LCM and

Jacobs Surrebuttal / 3

EPU project costs and in my direct testimony Exhibit WRJ-3 showing my development of EPU costs, I do not understand his criticism that the Main Exciter was ignored.

- M-G Set Point Motors –I believe Mr. O'Connor is referring to the M-G Set Motors as the term "M-G Set Point Motors," which is clearly an error. These motors are discussed in Mr. O'Connor's NRC letter, but he did not separately include these costs in his Schedule 30 as part of the \$664.9 million LCM / EPU costs. Therefore I could not specifically allocate these costs to M-G Set Motors in my Exhibit WRJ-3. To be included my Exhibit WRJ-3, an item must be listed in the NRC letter and be priced out in Mr. O'Connor's Schedule 30.
- Reactor Feedpump Discharge Check Valves These check valves are listed in Mr. O'Connor's NRC letter but are not a separate listing in his Schedule 30 and thus must be included in his \$664.9 million as part of another item. This is essentially the same as the set point motor issue above.

#### Q. Did Xcel misstate other aspects of your testimony?

A. Yes. While I do not intend to list every misstatement of my testimony in Xcel's rebuttal testimony, I note that several Xcel witnesses misstated my testimony in a similar manner, so I would like the record to be clear about what I did and did not say. On page 118 of his rebuttal testimony Mr. O'Connor stated that I used the example of a steam generator replacement as an "easy" like-for-like exchange. Mr. O'Connor places the word "easy" in quotes indicating that I used the word in my

testimony. In fact, I never said that steam generator replacements were easy. In fact they are very technically challenging.

My point, as I stated on page 13 of my direct testimony, was that it should be no surprise that the majority of the costs of changes to the Monticello plant were due to the EPU rather than the LCM:

...it is important to recognize that costs of "like-for-like" replacements are typically significantly less costly than replacements with larger components. Larger, new components often require strengthened foundations, new increased size piping, more building space, increased electrical capacity, wiring, and switchgear (i.e., the \$119.5 million 13.8kv electrical system). I saw numerous examples of such circumstances at the Monticello plant. For example, I learned during my visit to the plant that extensive foundation modifications [were needed] requiring excavation to bedrock in some cases to install larger equipment for the increased capacity of the plant due to the EPU.

- Q. Please respond to Mr. Stall's statement on page 14, lines 9 10 that "Dr. Jacobs testifies that major construction projects are easier only when the update is a likefor-like project".
- A. Although Mr. Stall's testimony contains a citation to my direct testimony at page 13, lines 18-19, again I note that I did not state that major construction projects at nuclear generation plants are "easy." To be clear, nothing in the nuclear power industry is "easy" or "easier." I did state that the nuclear industry has shown that it is able to perform well on major projects such as steam generator replacements when the update is a "like-for-like" project. Further, as noted above, when a utility is attempting to retrofit a nuclear generation facility with a small footprint, it is clear

that the utility needs to think through the process carefully in deciding whether or not to proceed.

- Q. Please respond to Mr. Stall's statement on page 14, lines 21 22 that "like-for-like replacements are rarely used."
- A. Mr. Stall has taken the term "like-for-like" in a literal sense that is not the general understanding in the nuclear power industry. "Like-for-like" does not mean using the exact same equipment made by the same manufacturer with performance inferior to today's modern equipment. It does not require, as Mr. Stall states, extensive reverse engineering. Instead, this term means replacing equipment with new equipment with similar performance specifications and physical characteristics.
- Q. Please respond to Mr. Stall's Rebuttal Testimony that you implied that Xcel should have continued a "piecemeal approach" and a "minimalist approach" to aging management.

A. First I note that the words "piecemeal" and "minimalist" are Mr. Stall's words not mine. These words clearly have a negative connotation as used by Mr. Stall and misrepresent my position on an approach to managing aging issues. To be clear, my opinion is that the operator of a nuclear power plant should make decisions to repair or replace aging equipment based first on nuclear safety considerations and second on a thorough analysis of the various options based on technical and economic factors. This was the approach taken at the Duane Arnold Energy Center in managing their aging equipment issues and I consider this approach to be appropriate and neither "piecemeal" nor "minimalist."

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On page 13, lines 1 – 2 of his rebuttal testimony Mr. Stall asked the question, "Do you agree with the Department's consultants' suggestion that the NRC licensing process did not contribute to the costs?" In fact, as discussed above, my direct testimony on page 15, lines 12 – 13 stated that the Fukushima accident and the NRC's decision to review the methodology for Containment Accident Pressure analysis "clearly resulted in additional licensing costs for the EPU project..." I further stated that this review did not result in additional capital costs or impact the overall project schedule. By "additional capital costs" I mean costs related to specific LCM / EPU projects implemented at Monticello.

- Q. Please respond to Mr. Stall's comments regarding your testimony in Florida on EPU projects which, under Mr. Stall's direction, also greatly exceeded the original budget.
- A. On page 16 of his rebuttal testimony Mr. Stall included a quote from testimony that I filed before the Florida Public Service Commission in 2013. This testimony was in relation to EPU projects at four nuclear units in Florida. Under Mr. Stall's direction, the Turkey Point 3 & 4 EPU projects exceeded the original budget by \$1,450,000,000, or nearly 3 times the original budget. The quote from my testimony that he referenced is:

To avoid a case of runaway spending resulting in a project that is harmful to ratepayers, it is clear that a utility contemplating a project having the magnitude and complexity of the Turkey Point EPU project must either perform a level of engineering sufficient to provide a grasp on overall costs, or must incorporate a level of contingency adequate to reflect the uncertainty of not having performed the engineering at the outset.

During our interview, Dr. Jacobs asked me a question similar to the following: "Was it necessary to upgrade to

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13.8 kV voltage if you had not done the uprate?" My answer was that a higher voltage may not be required without the uprate. This was an acknowledgment that the decision in 2007 to install 13.8 kV system was precipitated by the need to provide additional electricity to run the larger pumps and motors that were being installed for the uprate. However, this does not negate the longer term need that Monticello had for additional distribution capacity and to replace the aging distribution equipment. It is possible that, absent the uprate, we may have decided to add distribution capacity at a different voltage. Strictly speaking, 13.8 kV was not required absent the uprate but additional distribution capacity whether at 4 kV, 6.9 kV, or 13.8 kV was needed without the uprate. But Dr. Jacobs, for some reason, disregards the contemporaneous information provided to him regarding the need for enhanced distribution margin as well as the fact that space limitations in the existing power block would have required locating the additional bus in the same location. These same space constraints would drive the requirement to run many miles of cable and raceway to accommodate the new system. Thus, the cost of new distribution capacity would not have been avoidable absent the EPU. (Emphasis added)

The highlighted statements in Mr. O'Connor's testimony support my conclusion that the costs of the 13.8 kV distribution system are properly classified as EPU costs.

Thus, as I stated on page 11 of my direct testimony:

I conclude that, but for the EPU, this upgrade would not have been needed. That is, this modification was needed only to provide the power to the larger reactor feedwater and condensate pumps necessitated by the increased secondary side flow rates. In addition, none of the EPU projects with which I am familiar, including the similar DAEC uprate, required this type of modification. Absent the EPU requirements, this \$119.5 million project cost was not necessary.

Q.	How do you respond to Mr. O'Connor's statement that "additional distribution
	capacity whether at 4 kV, 6.9 kV, or 13.8 kV was needed without the uprate"?
A.	I note that the statement above that an upgrade to the distribution system was
	needed absent the EPU is not confirmed by Xcel's January 18, 2005 Application to
	the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a Certificate of Need to Establish an
	Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at the Monticello Generating Plant
	(2005 CN), where Xcel mentioned only an "electrical breaker replacement" as a
	"potential capital improvement" – the Company did not mention an upgrade to the
	distribution system:
	Potential capital improvements included in the Resource Plan model include:  Cable replacement; Implementing Improved Technical Specifications; Future possible security upgrades; New steam dryer; Electrical breaker replacement; Repairs to cooling towers; Constructing or re-licensing ISFSFs; Repair or replacement of Main Steam and Feedwater piping; Upgrading to a next generation process computer and IT improvements; Replacing primary containment bellows; Replace/rebuild main control room instrumentation and control equipment due to obsolescence; Replace generator rotor and rewind/refurbish generator stator; Replace static exciters; and,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Pages 5-12, 5-13 of Xcel's January 18, 2005 Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a Certificate of Need to Establish an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at the Monticello Generating Plant.

degradation of performance over time. Utilities operating nuclear power plants make

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routine decisions on whether to repair or replace equipment, on the timing of the repair or replacement, and on the specific approach to take. Some, but not all, of the equipment at Monticello replaced to support the EPU would likely have needed repair or replacement during the extended license period just as some of it required repair and replacement during the first 40 years of operation. However, the specific repair or replacement decision would have been different in many cases absent the need to support the power uprate.

The only information known about the actual decisions that would have been in the LCM-only situation is the list of components above from Xcel's 2005 CN petition, in which Xcel identified the potential capital costs to allow the plant to operate until 2030 at the 600 MWe level. As discussed in more detail later in my testimony, the cost and timing of specific repair or replace decisions would clearly have been different if the Company had decided not to pursue the EPU.

#### Q. How did the Company allocate costs between EPU and LCM?

Mr. O'Connor discussed his methodology at page 83 of his rebuttal testimony. He stated that his process was an "avoided cost analysis." His testimony stated that he is "...focusing on costs that could be avoided if we did not undertake the EPU".

My understanding of his method is that he starts with the assumption that everything is necessary for Monticello to operate until 2030 at the 600 MWe level (*i.e.*, LCM), and then pares out costs that might not be required if the EPU had not also been accomplished. His methodology seems to assume that, unless a component can be shown as totally not required for the LCM, then the component's

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cost is for the LCM. That is, he assumed that cost components are LCM until proven EPU.

In some cases, he tried to allocate costs between the EPU and the LCM. This process, if done properly, would require detailed estimates for each project with and without the requirements imposed by the EPU. The cost difference between the project needed to support the EPU and the hypothetical LCM project assuming no EPU could then be used to allocate costs between LCM and EPU. However, Mr. O'Connor did not undertake this analysis.

## Q. What do you conclude about Xcel's approach to estimate LCM and EPU costs?

I conclude that Xcel's approach is not reasonable. The Company did not estimate the LCM-only costs of the components as needed to determine a proper allocation. It did not determine which components would be required for the LCM-only scenario and did not determine when certain components would be needed. Finally Xcel's approach of allocating costs for some components to the EPU based on the ratio of EPU capacity to total plant capacity does not adequately reflect the higher costs due of Xcel's difficulties in installing larger equipment in a facility with a small footprint.

# Q. What would be required to estimate the LCM-only costs?

A. Estimating the LCM-only costs for each project would be a challenging task. First it would need to be determined if the existing component could support operation during the LCM period of operation. If not, the next decision would be to determine whether repair, refurbishment or replacement would be the best option and when the repair, refurbishment or replacement would be done. If replacement was determined

to be the best option the availability of an appropriate replacement component would need to be evaluated based on the performance, physical characteristics and safety requirements. If repair or refurbishment was determined to be the best option, the costs of these activities would need to be estimated. Finally the total project cost including engineering, procurement, removal and installation costs would need to be estimated. This approach would be a lengthy and time consuming exercise.

- Q. Please provide some examples in which the Company has inappropriately shifted costs from the EPU to LCM.
- A. The following are examples where the Company attempted to inappropriately shift significant costs from EPU to LCM:
  - distribution project as an EPU cost as discussed in my direct testimony at page 11. The larger distribution system was installed to power the larger feedwater and condensate pumps and confirmed to be an EPU project by Mr. O'Connor during discussion at the Monticello plant and in his rebuttal testimony, both as discussed above and where he stated that if the EPU were not accomplished, "...we may have chosen to stay with the 4kv voltage and added capacity to the existing system..." Xcel Ex. \_\_\_ at 96 (O'Connor Rebuttal). These facts simply do not support Xcel's proposal to allocate the entire \$119.5 million for the 13.8 kV distribution plant to the LCM project without an analysis or an idea of what the alternative LCM project would have been or cost.

- EPU in my direct testimony because it was classified as such in Mr.

  O'Connor's NRC letter. In addition I was told during a tour of Monticello that the demineralizer tanks were only replaced because of the higher flow due to the EPU. Contrary to these facts, Xcel allocated the cost of this system primarily to the LCM project. Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Stall attributed the need for replacement of the entire demineralizer tanks to the outmoded system controls. However, controls can be replaced without replacing tanks, valves and piping. Contrary to Xcel's proposal in this proceeding to allocate all of the costs of replacing the condensate demineralizers to the LCM, the fact is that tanks, piping and valves had to be replaced because of the higher flows required by the EPU, not the LCM. This conclusion reflects what Mr. O'Connor told the NRC.
- New turbine Despite the component's name, Xcel proposes to classify the EPU Turbine Replacement as almost entirely LCM costs. The prior turbine was new in 1998, as part of an earlier uprate. The original turbine lasted for 25 years and it is not uncommon for turbines to last for the life of the plant. This turbine was replaced "...to accommodate increased steam flow under EPU conditions" as stated by Mr. O'Connor's letter to the NRC.
- Reactor Feedwater Pumps The component, MNGP EPU Replacement of Reactor Feedwater Pumps/Motors, was described by Mr. O'Connor to the NRC as "...Replace the existing reactor feedwater pumps with new pumps sized for EPU conditions." Yet Mr. O'Connor inappropriately charged this project almost entirely to the LCM.

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Company would not object if 58.4%, rather than 78%, of the costs were allocated to

While I agree that this approach reflects the relative amounts of costs that Xcel

this recommended split is based on a much lower total cost estimate and does not

consider the impact of the final cost of major EPU components such as the \$121

million 13.8 kV distribution system modification which greatly shifted the cost ratio to

the EPU projects. As noted throughout my testimonies, the appropriate split of costs

split I recommend recognizes, for example, that the EPU resulted in costs such as the

modifications requiring excavation to bedrock to install the EPU, that Xcel would not

between the LCM and EPU is the 15 (LCM)/85 (EPU) split that I recommend. The

On pages 122 and 123 of his rebuttal testimony, Mr. O'Connor suggested that the

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the LCM. How do you respond?

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6 initially indicated that the LCM and EPU projects would cost, an important fact is that

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#### ٧. CONCLUSIONS

Q. Do you have any closing remarks?

have incurred with the LCM alone.

18 A. Yes. The Company's rebuttal testimony is voluminous, but simply does not support 19 20

its recommended cost split. Mr. O'Connor's rebuttal testimony and schedules alone encompassed 612 pages in addition to the rebuttal testimony of Mr. Stall, Mr. Sparby, Mr. Alders and Mr. Sieracki. I note that volume of testimony alone cannot

22 bolster a lack of defense for the huge cost overruns.

> I also note that, in reviewing the Company's rebuttal testimony and attempts to ascribe to the LCM costs that the Company indicated previously were needed for