

March 2, 2015

Mr. Dan Wolf Executive Secretary Minnesota Public Utilities Commission 121 7th Place East, Suite 350 St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: January 28, 2015 Notice of Comment PUC Docket No. E022/M-13-867 Xcel Community Solar Garden Program

Sunrise Energy Ventures, LLC, through its affiliate SEV MN1 LLC, has several pending applications in Xcel Energy's new community solar garden program. We know from Xcel's comments surrounding the January 15, 2015 hearing that it received the vast majority of the approximately 430 MW worth of projects in its program queue on December 12, 2014 - the very day the program opened. Sunrise was among this group that applied immediately on December 12, 2014 and knows from communications subsequently with Xcel within their 30-day review period that we have submitted everything required from Xcel to have our applications deemed complete. As of the date of this letter well over the 30-day time period are still awaiting formal completeness determinations.

We have been carefully following this docket and understood the Commission's order in last September approving the program, to have intended to allow the program to open under a workable rate structure that support the development of CSGs here in Minnesota, while also allowing stakeholders time to work out a longer-range solution for a VOS rate package that would comport with statutory requirements. We also appreciate the Commission's careful direction in previous orders aimed at giving developers the certainty they need to develop CSG projects, specifically clarifying that any adjustments to the REC prices made by the Commission in later years only apply to new community-solar-garden project applications.

Out of an abundance of caution, however, we write to ask the Commission to continue its efforts to ensure that any potential tweaks to the program or rate are done on a prospective basis only and any applications pending filed but pending completion would be grandfathered in at the rules and rates as of the day of this letter. We raise the issue because previous orders have focused on the stability granted a developer "when it has submitted a complete application." Were completeness determinations moving forward as expected and within the tariff rules, there may be no cause for concern here because most of the existing projects would already have a set place in line with a firm rate structure. But that is not the case. Parties are working with Xcel to resolve its concerns, leaving some applications pending without a completeness determination. We are of course happy to work with Xcel in this regard. But please note that we have been marketing our projects with existing applications under the current Commission-approved rate and program structure. Any change impacting these existing applications could upend the projects.



Therefore, we specifically ask the Commission to ensure that any decisions made with respect to the REC pricing or eventual transition to a VOS rate (with an enhancement or not) be prospective and not applicable to existing applicants for whom completeness has not yet been determined by Xcel. While we are well aware of the fact the ARR will be adjusted every year, we want to make sure the overall rate structure that includes the REC Adder is not adjusted retroactively with respect to existing applicants who are not yet deemed complete by Xcel.

Respectfully,

Dean Leischow

/s/ Dean Leischow

Managing Director Sunrise Energy Ventures 601 Carlson Parkway, Suite 1050 Minnetonka, MN 55305

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## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Angie Schreiner, herby certify that I have this day served a true and correct copy of the following document to all persons at the addresses indicated below or on the attached list by electronic filing, electronic mail, courier, interoffice mail or by depositing the same enveloped with postage paid in the United States mail at Minneapolis, Minnesota.

## REPLY COMMENT OF BEHALF OF SUNRISE ENERGY VENTURES, LLC

In the Matter of the Xcel Energy's Plan for a Community Solar Garden Program Pursuant to MINN. STAT. § 216B.1641 Docket No. E-002/M-13-867

Dated this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2015.

/s/ Angie Schreiner
Angie Schreiner

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