



Mr. Daniel Wolf, Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

RE: In the Matter of Acquisition of the Mankato Energy Center (MEC)
Docket No. IP6949, E002/PA-18-702

May 22, 2019

Dear Mr. Wolf,

Pursuant to Minnesota Administrative Rules 7829.0430 Subp.2., the Citizens Utility Board of Minnesota (CUB) respectfully objects to the request, by Sierra Club, to withdraw from the record, its comments of March 5, 2019, entitled, "Sierra Club Initial Comments in the Matter of Xcel Energy's Petition for Approval of the Acquisition of the Mankato Energy Center (MEC)" in Docket No. IP6949, E002/PA-18-702. CUB believes that the comments of Sierra Club raise questions of the public interest concerning an open docket which requires commission action. In the referenced comments, Sierra Club raises the following issues:

- The acquisition of the Mankato Energy Center is not reasonable and prudent;
- The acquisition of the Mankato Energy Center indicates a high risk of stranded asset costs not in the public interest; and
- The acquisition of the Mankato Energy Center circumvents the Integrated Resource Planning process and is inconsistent with the public interest.

Sierra Club's comments contain factual statements regarding the need, cost, environmental benefits, and public impacts of the proposed acquisition. This evidence is necessary to ensure a full and complete record for the Commission to consider when it makes its final decision.

CUB believes the above referenced comments raise issues that are germane to the public interest and should be included in the record for consideration by the commission. Removal of these comments would contravene the public interest and contribute to an incomplete record of fact and position within this docket.

The comments of Sierra Club are both relevant to, and request commission action. Therefore, based on rule, the comments should remain in the record for consideration.

Minnesota rules allow the commission to permit withdrawal, subject only to conditions that might mitigate the harm of the withdrawal, *id.* CUB believes that in order to seek compromise, the commission could maintain a full record by retaining content of fact, while allowing Sierra Club to withdraw any recommendations, or ultimate position on the project.

CUB thanks you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Joseph Pereira

Joseph Pereira

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