

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Dan Lipschultz
Matthew Schuerger
Katie Sieben
John Tuma

Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of the Petition of North States
Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy for
Approval of the Acquisition of the Mankato
Energy Center (MEC)

PUC Docket Number(s): IP-6949, E-
002/PA-18-702, IP-6949/GS-15-620

**COMMENTS BY MANKATO BUILDING TRADES ON THE PETITION BY
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY D.B.A. XCEL ENERGY FOR
APPROVAL OF THE ACQUISITION OF THE MANKATO ENERGY CENTER
(MEC)**

The Mankato Building and Construction Trades Council appreciates the opportunity to comment on Xcel Energy's proposed acquisition of the Mankato Energy Center (MEC). The Mankato Building Trades is part of the Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council, which represents over 65,000 unionized construction workers statewide. In Southwest Minnesota, the Mankato Building Trades and its affiliated local unions represent hundreds of skilled construction workers including many that rely on power from the Mankato Energy Center.

The Mankato Building and Construction Trades Council ("Mankato Building Trades") respectfully recommends that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") approve Xcel Energy's purchase of the Mankato Energy Center and approve transfer of its site permit.

Our Building Trades members built the MEC expansion. Work at the facility has provided our members good, family-supporting jobs and reliable power. But unlike power plants in Xcel's fleet, which are maintained by a highly-skilled union workforce, there are no agreements in place at MEC to ensure that ratepayer and local communities get the benefit of the same skills and jobs under the plant's current ownership.

If the transaction is approved, Xcel has committed to utilizing our skilled tradesmen and women for future maintenance on this facility. This will ensure opportunities for local workers and the positive economic impacts that come with putting local people to work.

Xcel has maintained a spirit of cooperation with the Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council affiliated unions across the state. They have been a partner in our work to recruit and train local workers for careers in construction. This partnership will continue at MEC if their acquisition of the facility is approved.

The approval of the purchase of the MEC will also bring needed stability to the facility, its workers and the community. The plant recently changed ownership and it will likely do so again

as the current owner is committed to the selling the plant. Xcel's purchase of the facility will bring stability and predictability for MEC workers and community members.

We strongly believe that approval of Xcel's purchase of MEC will benefit our members and residents of the Mankato area.

Dated: February 12, 2019

Respectfully Submitted,
Mankato Building & Construction Trades Council

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stacey Karels", is written over a horizontal line.

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