

February 12, 2019

Via Electronic Filing

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

Re: Northern States Power Company d.b.a Xcel Energy Petition for Approval of the Acquisition of the Mankato Energy Center (MEC). Docket No IP 6949, E-002/PA-18-702, IP-6949/GS-15-620

Dear Mr. Wolf:

I am writing on behalf of the Laborers District Council of Minnesota and North Dakota (LIUNA Minnesota) in support of the proposed acquisition of the Mankato Energy Center (MEC) by Northern States Power d.b.a. Xcel Energy. LIUNA Minnesota and its affiliated Locals represent more than 12,000 unionized construction workers and public employees in Minnesota and North Dakota including many thousands of Xcel ratepayers and hundreds of members that live in Mankato or elsewhere in Southern Minnesota

Our members have built and maintained Xcel's nuclear, natural gas, and coal-fired plants for generations. Xcel has served as a reliable service provider and employer to our members, not to mention longstanding and constructive partner to our organization. We are confident that the proposed transaction will put MEC in good hands while providing tangible benefits to our members, their families, and their communities by providing reliable power generation for the region.

MEC recently changed ownership, and if the transaction is not approved, we are concerned that the facility could end up in the hands of another party without Xcel's demonstrated commitment to the area and its workforce. Xcel's acquisition of the MEC will bring needed stability to the facility, its workers and our members in the region.

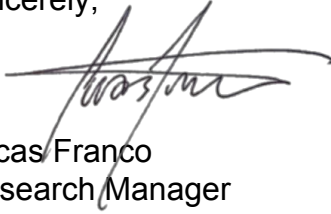
Over the long-term, ownership will be a more cost-effective option. The purchase will also bring the facility under state authority, since Xcel is regulated by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. This additional public oversight will ensure the continued delivery of safe and cost-effective energy to our members in the region. Finally, the purchase will ensure that MEC, like Xcel's other conventional and nuclear power plants, is maintained by a skilled union workforce that will help ensure reliability and contribute to economic development.

MEC is a critical component of Xcel's diverse energy portfolio and will help Xcel achieve the company's promised transition to carbon-free power generation by 2050. This investment goes hand in hand with the renewable energy wind farm investments Xcel has made in Minnesota in recent years including Blazing Star 1 and 2.

We encourage the members of the PUC to support Xcel's request for approval and its balanced energy vision.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Lucas Franco', with a stylized, flowing script.

Lucas Franco
Research Manager