STATE OF MINNESOTA BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Katie Sieben Valerie Means Matthew Schuerger Joseph Sullivan John Tuma Chair Commissioner Commissioner Commissioner

In the Matter of Xcel Energy's Integrated Distribution Plan and Advanced Grid Intelligence and Security Certification Request Docket No. E002/M-19-666

SUPPLEMENTAL COMMENTS OF THE CITIZENS UTILITY BOARD OF MINNESOTA

I. Introduction

The Citizens Utility Board of Minnesota (CUB) respectfully submits these supplemental comments regarding Xcel Energy's (Xcel) Integrated Distribution Plan (IDP) and Advanced Grid Intelligence and Security (AGIS) Certification Request, in response to the Public Utilities Commission's (PUC or Commission) December 31, 2019 Notice of Comment in the above-referenced docket, as amended by the Commission's April 1, 2020 Notice of Extended Reply and Supplemental Comment Period.

CUB, with the assistance of its expert, Strategen Consulting, LLC¹ (Strategen), reviewed Xcel's IDP filing as well as the parties' initial and reply comments. With respect to CUB's initial comments, a memorandum, prepared by Strategen, was attached thereto and provided a review of the Xcel's proposed Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) and the interrelated Field Area Network (FAN) investments. Additionally, Strategen analyzed Xcel's request for the Commission to certify these investments to enable future rate rider recovery and the relationship between Xcel's certification request and Minnesota's regulatory framework, including the utilization of a Multi-Year Rate Plan (MYRP).

CUB maintains that a modernized grid is the "backbone" necessary to advance Minnesota's energy goals, support integration of additional levels of renewables, empower consumers to make their own choices about the level and type of electric service they desire, and leverage customer-sited resources to assist in grid operation. Likewise, implementation of a grid modernization program should assist in both improving system reliability and flexibility. In that spirit, many of the investments proposed in Xcel's Integrated Distribution Plan, namely AMI and the interrelated FAN, can lay an important foundation for a dynamic, customer-centric utility approach in the future.

CUB reiterates that notwithstanding the potential benefits from AMI and grid modernization, experience has shown that these investments are inherently complex and can be subject to cost overruns. In addition, the customer-facing value proposition identified at the outset of a project is not

¹ Strategen Consulting, LLC, a California firm, is comprised of a team of well-respected leaders with technical, regulatory, product and organizational expertise in energy markets who have decades of experience working closely with consumer advocates, regulators, utilities, research institutions, technology providers, project developers, and large energy users to evaluate, analyze, and implement strong regulatory and policy strategies.

often realized upon implementation. These elements are further underscored by the Company's own determination that quantifiable benefits do not exceed quantifiable costs. Accordingly, the realization of qualitative, customer-facing benefits is critical to justifying an investment of this magnitude.

II. Certification Request

As a threshold matter, there remains broad and significant concern among stakeholders regarding certification and use of riders, generally, to recover investments in projects like the AGIS proposal; projects involving significant investment and that span multiple years can easily have cost-containment and double-recovery issues (as costs easily overlap into other cost categories, including those recovered through existing rates).

The Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources (Department) agrees with the arguments presented in CUB's initial comments that the certification process is discretionary, and that the determination on certification should be made with the totality of circumstances of the request, including factors such as timing of the next MYRP, size of investment, low cost to benefit ratio, unclear customer class impacts and others).² It is also worth highlighting that the City of Minneapolis and Clean Energy Economy Minnesota (CEEM) shared CUB's concerns that a certification analysis would be incomplete if it did not also account for the impact the certification, and subsequent rider recovery, would have upon the efficacy of the utility's MYRP, and that certification and rider recovery would likely undercut the Commission's ability to ensure that the Company's next MYRP would result in just and reasonable rates. Moreover, as CUB emphasized in its initial comments, the extensive use of riders shifts the amount of risk that is borne by the customer base as compared to that borne by the Company.

Consistent with CUB's initial comments, the City of Minneapolis, as a preferred approach, recommended denial of the certification and, instead, consideration of the proposal under a MYRP.³ As CUB noted in its initial comments, while we recommend certification denial, the Commission could, alternatively, direct the Company to move forward with AGIS and require conditions to ensure ratepayer protections in any future cost recovery request.

A. A Contested Case Proceeding is Warranted and Necessary to Adequately Evaluate Xcel's AGIS Initiative and to Ensure Proper Consumer Protections are Established

CUB continues to maintain that certification and subsequent rider recovery of AGIS investments is not in the public interest and should be denied. That said, CUB supports the Department's proposal to refer the AGIS Initiative (and aspects of Xcel's planned distribution system capital investments) to a contested case hearing overseen by the Office of Administrative Hearings as the preferred path forward.⁴

CUB shares the Department's belief that approval of a certification request, which is discretionary, should only be granted if it is determined that rider recovery of the investment is in the public interest. The Department's position is consistent with CUB's, that rider recovery for the AGIS Initiative would reduce transparent accounting of all distribution system costs and could lead to double recovery (once

² See Department Reply Comments at 14.

³ See City of Minneapolis Initial Comments at 8.

⁴ See Department Reply Comments at 14-15.

through the Transmission Cost Recovery (TCR) Rider, and again through base rates, or through overlapping cost categories.)⁵ CUB agrees that these issues support the position that additional scrutiny is warranted prior to authorizing rider recovery (or any proceeding deemed appropriate for cost recovery purposes), to ensure Xcel, stakeholders, and the Commission have a common understanding of the costs, project scope, and system functions that are being proposed.

Generally, CUB agrees with the Department that the AGIS Initiative should not be certified at this time. CUB fully supports referral of the AGIS Initiative (and aspects of Xcel's planned distribution system capital investments) to a contested case hearing overseen by the Office of Administrative Hearings as an optimal path forward, in terms of providing a forum for a level of evaluation and analysis of Xcel's proposal akin to a rate case, helping to ensure important ratepayer and customer privacy protections, proceeding in an efficient and timely manner, and allowing for additional, important input from the public.⁶ Critically, as outlined by the Department, the hearing process should facilitate alignment with the next MYRP or next TCR filing, and the outcome would be a determination of reasonable costs, identification of important ratepayer benefits and customer protections, and a clear vision for the future of Xcel's distribution system that is in the public interest.

Consistent with the Department's reply comments, and in recognition of the near-universal acknowledgment among stakeholders that certification of AGIS investments is very problematic, CUB concludes that, absent additional scrutiny, a decision on certification at this time would be inefficient, as the issues are likely to return to Commission and stakeholders regardless, either the next MYRP or 2021 Transmission Cost Recovery (TCR) Rider petition. Therefore, it is prudent to conduct a formal evaluation at this juncture and in a manner commensurate with the scope of the Company's request. **Accordingly, CUB supports the Department's Recommendation 3, as revised in its reply comments.**⁷

CUB agrees that increased transparency and analysis is necessary for the AGIS Initiative and that additional evaluation should include review of the \$2.5 billion in investments in the ISI Initiative and increased distribution system spending. Approval of any investments of this scale should include appropriate ratepayer protections, clear plans for system benefits, and clear outcomes that would inform future Commission decisions. As noted by Xcel and emphasized by the Department, the sixmonth certification process would provide the utility with cost recovery assurance by authorizing rider treatment; however, the timeframe does not allow full consideration of ratepayer protections, and it is potentially the most limited process (comment and reply) utilized by the Commission. The AGIS proposal involves significant multi-year capital investments which are unsuited for rider recovery, especially here, where the proposal includes a system transformation (potentially without conditions), at a high cost, over many years (beyond that of even a single MYRP), and with significant ratepayer impacts, many of which are unknown at this time.

CUB shares the Department's view that an important benefit of this approach is that an OAH evaluation conducted now could be concluded before or during the next MYRP.⁸

⁵ Department Reply Comments at 14-15.

⁶ See Department Reply Comments at 15.

⁷ See Department Reply Comments at 17-18.

⁸ See Department Reply Comments at 22.

B. Xcel has Failed to Demonstrate Why Certification of the AGIS initiative is in the Public Interest

Although Xcel rightly points out that rider recovery of certified advanced grid investments is permissible by statute, the Company fails to demonstrate why the use of rider recovery is appropriate for an investment of this magnitude and complexity and for a Company that is currently not operating under an MYRP. Xcel has failed to prove that rider recovery of the AGIS Initiative is in the public interest and has not outlined why the Commission should exercise its discretion to certify the AGIS investments.

As discussed in CUB's initial comments and pointed out by other parties, the Commission need not feel compelled to grant certification of the Company's identified investments. Per Minn. Stat. § 216B.2425, Subd. 2e, a utility operating under a Commission-approved MYRP "shall identify in its [distribution plan] investments that it considers necessary to modernize the transmission and distribution system...." Having been presented with a list of identified investments, the Commission shall "certify, certify as modified, or deny certification of the transmission and distribution investments identified under subdivision 2."⁹

Although certification does not guarantee cost recovery, it provides the Company with an opportunity to request recovery of costs in a subsequent rider filing. Indeed, as the Company has outlined, certification of AGIS projects "will provide a cost recovery option in the event the Company would not otherwise file a general rate case following the conclusion of [a] MYRP period."¹⁰ In other words, the certification process serves primarily as a "stage gate" mechanism, serving as the first step toward rider recovery of the identified investments.

Thus, in order for Xcel to show that *certification* is in the public interest, it must demonstrate more than simply that the underlying investments are in the public interest or that the Commission has the authority to exercise its discretion to certify the investments in question. **The central question in a certification decision is necessarily whether the identified investments should be recovered via rider, as opposed to other means.**

Xcel goes to some lengths to discuss how: (1) certification is an available regulatory mechanism; (2) the Company has met the Commission's requirements for certification; (3) additional process should wait until a cost-recovery proceeding; and (4) rider recovery of Xcel's proposed AGIS is allowed by statute.¹¹ Even assuming, *arguendo*, that Xcel has demonstrated certification is an available regulatory mechanism,¹² that it has met a narrowly prescribed set of certification requirements, and that rider recovery of AGIS is *permissible* by statute, the Company has not made an adequate showing as to why rider recovery is necessary and in the public interest and therefore why certification is necessary and in the public interest.

It is insufficient to demonstrate merely that the Commission maintains the statutory authority to certify; Xcel must also fulfil its obligation to outline why an exercise of that authority benefits all

⁹ Minn. Stat. § 216B.2425, Subd. 3. CUB further notes that the Commission likely lacks statutory authority to grant certification in the instant case because Xcel is not currently operating under an MYRP.

¹⁰ Docket No. E002/GR-19-564, Gersack Direct, at 19.

¹¹ See Xcel Reply Comments, at 5.

¹² CUB notes, however, that we and other parties have argued that Xcel is not currently eligible for certification because it is not operating under an MYRP. *See* CUB's Initial Comments, Attachment A at 8.

customers and specifically why rider recovery is preferred to other available cost recovery mechanisms. The Company has simply not met this threshold burden.

To the extent that the Company suggests that customers will not be able to enjoy the purported benefits of the AGIS Initiative unless the Commission grants the use of its preferred cost recovery mechanism is disingenuous, at best, and, at worst, a dereliction of Xcel's obligations as a public service corporation. Indeed, CUB observes that Xcel's implementation plans appear "contingent on a certification decision in this proceeding to move forward."¹³ A suggestion that Xcel would not move forward with the AGIS investments unless it is permitted to recover its costs through a rider, and presumably, that without rider recovery the Company will not pursue the AGIS Initiative outside of a test year is not consistent with the system that Minnesota uses to regulate utilities. As the Office of Attorney General (OAG) has stated in a similar context, "[t]he fact that Xcel is operating under a MYRP does not mean that all of the potential costs not included in the test years should be recovered through a rider."¹⁴

Xcel had originally proposed to recover AGIS investments in the Company's MYRP request, filed on November 1, 2019. The very nature of this initial cost recovery request would have necessitated an evaluation in a contested case setting, namely a rate case. For the Company to voluntarily withdraw its MYRP application and now claim that "[d]elaying certification pending a rulemaking or contested case would put unnecessary pressure and uncertainty on these investments,"¹⁵ appears to an attempt to sidestep the type of comprehensive analysis and evaluation an investment of this magnitude and complexity needs and deserves. In fact, if certainty is truly what the Company seeks, holding further process at the certification stage pursuant to the Department's recommendation, as revised in its reply comments, would streamline and expedite the type of process that Xcel concedes is appropriate for the cost recovery phase of its request for TCR rider treatment of AGIS investments. Waiting until the cost recovery phase of the process to engage in a contested case proceeding would not confer any greater clarity or certainty and should not impact whether or not "portions of the projects would need to be abandoned altogether."¹⁶ Xcel's approach and arguments in this regard appear to serve the interests of opacity and gamesmanship rather than the interests of transparency and integrity of the regulatory framework. Accordingly, CUB offers that such arguments are without merit.

III. Harmonization of MYRP with IDP and IRP

The timing and calibration of a three- to five- year MYRP cycle should be harmonized with power system planning and procurement cycles. This is particularly true given Xcel's IDP, which provides a 5-year action plan as part of a long-term plan for the distribution system, as required by filing requirement 3.D.2. The IDP action plan will likely have a material impact on system operation costs due to the nature and scale of new technologies deployed, which are partially predicated on achievement of greater efficiency. Overreliance on interim cost recovery mechanisms, such as the TCR rider, to account for major investments included in a five-year IDP action plan could result in a cumbersome regulatory process and dilute the cost reduction incentives integral to an MYRP. This is

¹³ Xcel Reply Comments, Attachment A at 25.

¹⁴ In re Xcel's Residential Time of Use Rate Design Pilot Program, Docket No. E002/M-17-775, OAG's Initial

Comments, filed February 5, 2018, at 27.

¹⁵ Xcel's Reply Comments at 26.

¹⁶ Xcel's Reply Comments at 26.

even more critical with the anticipated investments identified through the Company's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) as well.¹⁷

CUB observes that other parties agree with and support the need to appropriately link these important regulatory activities. While not recommending specific action at this time, the Department observes that other states are looking at this alignment between the related case types, MYRP, IRPs, IDPs, and performance incentives, and notes that this issue "will continue to arise and would be assisted by properly setting the system frameworks and expectations (system plans, as discussed above), now, that would inform future MYRPs and could support alignment of performance incentive mechanisms.¹⁸ The Department further notes that Commission proceedings are note undertaken in isolation, however, timing of the proceedings should occur in a way that does not preclude the Commission's ability to harmonize the results of each proceeding.

The Environmental Law & Policy Center and Vote Solar (ELPC-VS) also agree that the Commission, interested stakeholders and in particular Xcel's customers stand to benefit from an examination of the linkage between Xcel's planning processes (distribution, transmission, and resource); cost recovery mechanisms; and performance measurement and reporting processes.¹⁹ CUB agrees with ELPC-VS's further statement that "aligning these cycles does not mean simultaneous filing, nor does it require filing each with the same frequency. Rather it would mean that the Company harmonizes its ratemaking and planning cases such that the Company's revenue requirement during the cost control period is derived from an approved, stakeholder-informed investment plan."²⁰

IV. Consumer Protection Measures

A. Cost Recovery Caps and Benefits Assurance

As CUB outlined in our initial comments, if the Commission is inclined to grant certification, specific consumer protection measures must be included as conditions of any such action. Indeed, the customer safeguard outlined therein, including fixed and variable cost recovery caps and a methodology to ensure contemporaneous delivery of benefits to customers, would be equally relevant and prudent should the Commission direct the Company to recover AGIS Initiative costs through its MYRP.

Given the importance of these customer safeguards, CUB agrees with and supports the Department's contention that the conditions crafted by parties as "back-up" proposals in the instance that the Commission may certify the AGIS proposal "are insufficient for an investment of this magnitude and considering the facts of this case (unclear criteria, insufficient process, overlapping rate case information without rate case analysis, etc.)."²¹ Indeed, the conditions proposed by CUB and other parties would benefit from additional consideration, which would also occur through the contested case hearing process should the Commission decide to pursue that option.

¹⁷ See CUB's Initial Comments, Attachment A at 9.

¹⁸ See Department's Reply Comments at 8.

¹⁹ See ELPC-VS's Reply Comments at 2.

²⁰ ELPC-VS's Reply Comments at 2.

²¹ Department's Reply Comments at 20-21.

B. Data Access Policies to Unlock Customer Value

The deployment of AMI offers significant operational benefits for utilities and the potential for significant energy savings for consumers. A major lesson from prior state deployments of AMI is that full realization of consumer benefits from efficiency or time-shifting of usage will not occur unless consumers have convenient access to their own energy data made available by advanced meters. It is also critical that such policies are timely and consistently implemented. CUB offers that, should the Commission be inclined to grant certification of the Company's AGIS Initiative, such approval be conditioned on ensuring that consumers receive their share of the benefits of AMI – specifically, access to the energy data generated by their advanced meters, along with accompanying cost information.

More specifically, as articulated in CUB's initial comments, to ensure that Xcel's electricity customers have functional, secure access to new data-enabled technologies and services to help them save energy and money, and otherwise realize value from the state's advanced metering infrastructure deployment, CUB recommends the following:

- Provide consumers easy access to the best available information about their energy usage through two interfaces, including both the Company's FAN and a customer's home area network;
- Provide customers and authorized third parties with access to historic billing information in a machine-readable, automated manner;
- Provide consumers and third parties with rate information in standardized, machine readable formats;
- Provide a customer authorization process that is easy for consumers to use and requires the least number of steps; and
- Provide a set of open data access standards that would create the ability for third parties to access sets of customer energy use data, either aggregated or anonymized.²²

CUB notes that Fresh Energy, the City of Minneapolis, and the Institute for Local-Self Reliance all expressed strong support in backing minimum standards for customer and third party data access.

CUB also acknowledges and appreciates the Company's commitment to making Green Button Connect My Data (GBC) and the Home Area Network (HAN) accessible to customers within one year after mass deployment of AMI meters begins.²³ CUB also appreciates Xcel's confirmation that the Company's HAN offering contemplates customers' ability to "bring their own device" to take advantage of HAN capabilities. CUB further notes the Company's description of an ongoing "project to make rate information available in a machine-readable electronic format" to be completed in parallel with Xcel's GBC and HAN projects. The Commission should hold Xcel to these commitments by establishing a date-certain deadline of June 2022 as a condition of an IDP acceptance or approval

Finally, CUB reiterates our position that standards should be developed which recognize the need for ensuring customer privacy, while also allowing for the sharing of granular data sets for research in service to public policy goals.²⁴ The goal of adopting Open Data Access Standards is to provide energy use data in ways that are useful for third parties, while not unduly burdening utilities and associations, and protecting the privacy of individual customers.

²² CUB's Initial Comments, Attachment A at 13-14.

²³ Xcel's Reply Comments, Attachment A at 25-26.

²⁴ See Docket No. E, G-999/M-19-505.

V. Advanced Rate Design

CUB continues to highlight the critical interplay between Xcel's distribution grid modernization efforts and goals, on the one hand, and advanced rate design, on the other. Indeed, as we explained in our initial comments, Xcel's grid modernization efforts can serve as a pathway to enable additional value from DER and create opportunities for customers to more fully participate in the energy system. These opportunities cannot be fully realized without dynamic rate options and programs that help align customer behavior with grid needs.²⁵

CUB notes that Fresh Energy and ELPC-VS both strongly support an Advanced Rate Design Roadmap that explains how Xcel will leverage the technological and data capabilities of advanced meters – a foundational component of Xcel's grid modernization effort – through rate design to benefit customers and support the Company's distribution system planning and operations. Indeed, as ELPC-VS point out, "the business case for the Advanced Metering Infrastructure and the Field Area Network components of the Company's request for certification in this proceeding are at least in part dependent on the Company's ability to leverage the value of those technologies through rate design."²⁶

More specifically, Fresh Energy, in its comments, argues that Xcel should be required to develop a Rate Design Roadmap to accompany the next IDP that describes how the Company will leverage advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) capabilities to support the Commission's and Xcel's stated priorities. Fresh Energy offers that the roadmap should including the following components:

- A summary of the Company's current advanced rate designs and demand management programs, advanced rate designs in development, and relevant industry best practices.
- A timeline for offering updated dynamic rates and/or demand management programs for all customer classes.
- Potential rate and program design strategies to support low-income customer participation in these offerings.
- A discussion of opportunities for utilizing distributed energy resources and/or beneficial electrification technologies in conjunction with planned dynamic rates and/or demand management programs.
- Enrollment mechanisms for convenient customer participation in the advanced rate offerings.
- Implementation plans for offering advanced rates, including education and outreach to customers.
- Evaluation plans for monitoring, verifying, and improving the effectiveness of advanced rate designs.²⁷

Finally, CUB points out that the Company's attempts to distinguish its current context as sufficiently divergent from that of the Hawaiian Electric Companies is misleading and inaccurate. First, as noted in CUB's initial comments, the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission order in question was issued in March 2019, not 2016 as indicated in Xcel's reply comments.²⁸ Second, notwithstanding Xcel's assertion to the contrary, the Hawaiian Electric Companies have offered an interim residential time-of-use (TOU) rate plan for several years, dating back to before the issuance of the Commission's

²⁵ CUB Initial Comments at 16.

²⁶ ELPC-VS Reply Comments at 3.

²⁷ Fresh Energy's Initial Comments at 16.

²⁸ See Xcel's Reply Comments, Attachment A at 24.

Advanced Rate Design Strategy requirement.²⁹ Most critically, the mere existence of Xcel TOU pilots or outstanding proposals for default time-based energy rate does not mitigate the need for an advanced rate design roadmap to ensure that the AGIS Initiative delivers adequate benefits to customers. Indeed, CUB reminds Xcel that its own cost-benefit analysis for certain AGIS components is less than one. Accordingly, the utility needs customers to help prove the value of its distribution system improvements and, in turn, the Commission needs transparency, visibility, and accountability from the Company to ensure those benefits are realized.

CUB is supportive of a requirement for an Advanced Rate Design Roadmap in subsequent Xcel IDPs, to include the requirements as modified by the Department in its reply comments. That said, CUB submits that an Advanced Rate Design Roadmap is needed prior to the Company's next IDP filing, given the long lead times required to evaluate and deploy advanced rate offerings for customers. The need and value of an Advanced Rate Design Roadmap is not only for the Commission and stakeholders to better understand the linkage between grid modernization investments and advanced customer rate plans, but also for the Commission and stakeholders to have a strategic view and understanding of the linkages and calibration between Xcel's disparate advanced rate pilots and future customer offerings, including its Residential Time of Use Rate Pilot program, Flex Pricing, and two-year study of the influence of price signals and other information on customer energy use.³⁰

To that end, CUB appreciates and agrees with the Company's view that the instant IDP proceeding may not present the optimal venue by which to evaluate the Company's holistic strategic and tactical approach to advanced rate design. CUB supports a Commission requirement that the Company submit an Advanced Rate Design Roadmap in a dedicated rate design proceeding to include robust stakeholder input and discussion on the types of advanced rate designs and customer programs that can leverage AGIS investment capabilities, empower customers, and more cost-effectively meet grid needs.

VI. Conclusion and Recommendations

As noted in our initial comments, the value of AMI is predicated upon Xcel's realization of customer benefits. The Commission must ensure that the Company is acting timely and responsibly to achieve and credit customers with the full value promised through AMI implementation.

In this spirit, we offer the following recommendations:

- Although CUB maintains that the AGIS Initiative costs should be recovered through the Company's MYRP and not certified for recovery through the TCR rider, we support the Department's recommendation that the **Commission refer Xcel's AGIS Initiative proposal** to the OAH for a contested case hearing for further record development.
- The Commission should engage with stakeholders to facilitate harmonization of IDP, IRP, and MYRP processes, by properly setting the system frameworks and expectations (system plans, as discussed above), now, that would inform future MYRPs and could support alignment of performance incentive mechanisms.

²⁹ See Hawaiian Electric's Time-of-Use Program, *available at* <u>https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/products-and-services/save-energy-and-money/time-of-use-program</u>.

³⁰ *See* Xcel's Reply Comments, Attachment A at 23.

- The Commission should require the imposition of fixed and variable cost recovery caps as well as the development of a methodology to ensure that benefits are contemporaneously realized by customers.
- The Commission should mandate that the Company develop an Advanced Rate Design Roadmap, as a condition of IDP acceptance, that explains how Xcel will leverage the technological and data capabilities of advanced meters – a foundational component of Xcel's grid modernization effort – through rate design to benefit customers and support the Company's distribution system planning and operations. Such an Advanced Rate Design Roadmap should include:
 - Xcel's current advanced rate designs and demand management programs;
 - A summary of industry best practices;
 - A timeline and implementation plan (including education and outreach) for the Company to offer updated dynamic rates for all residential and commercial customers (including, the introduction of time-varying rates), which should include demand response offerings;
 - Potential low-income rate reform options;
 - Enrollment mechanisms for convenient customer participation;
 - Evaluation plans for monitoring, verifying, and improving the effectiveness of advanced rate designs; and
 - Opportunities for utilizing distributed energy resources and/or beneficial electrification technologies in conjunction with planned dynamic rates and/or demand management programs.

Respectfully submitted,

April 22, 2020

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Generic Notice	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.st ate.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_19-666_Official
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First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
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First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
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