

414 Nicollet Mall Minneapolis, MN 55401

April 1, 2020

-Via Electronic Filing-

Will Seuffert Executive Secretary Minnesota Public Utilities Commission 121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350 St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: INFORMATIONAL LETTER PLAN TO OFFER GENERATING RESOURCES INTO THE MISO MARKET ON A SEASONAL BASIS DOCKET NO. E002/M-19-809

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, submits this informational letter to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to supplement the record in the above-noted docket. At the February 27, 2020 agenda meeting, the Commission requested that the Company provide additional information about impacts on the workforce related to our plan to offer the Allen S. King Generating Station (King) and Unit 2 of the Sherburne County Generating Station (Sherco 2) into the MISO market on a seasonal basis. We provide additional information about workforce impacts in this letter.

During seasonal operations, there will be no reduction in plant employees, and every employee will be able to work their normal forty hours per week. However, we anticipate that the need for overtime at each impacted site will likely be reduced because there will be fewer needs at each plant. Each site will evaluate workload and make business decisions based on amount of work needed.

As described in our petition, the Company proposes to idle King and Sherco 2 for the months of March through May and September through November. Typically these times of year are when overhauls are performed at many of our generation plants. Again, we will evaluate workload for each overhaul. If the business need requires additional employees during an overhaul, we would seek volunteers to support overhaul work at other sites where additional workers are needed. Employees traveling to overhauls typically have an opportunity to work more than forty hours per week; however, there are union rules regarding employee travel to other work sites to which we must adhere. We also note that the COVID-19 pandemic may change how employees are utilized, at least in the near-term.

Plant managers have been engaging with employees regarding the future of our coal generators for several years. Management communicated to employees that the generation business is changing due to the significant additions of renewable energy on the system, low natural gas prices, and goals to reduce carbon emissions. As part of those communications, we discussed the likelihood that coal plants would shut down before their expected retirement date. We conducted this communication through plant meetings, small group meetings, individual discussions, and emails.

We hope this additional information about workforce impacts of our seasonal operations plan is helpful in the Commission's review of our proposal.

We have electronically filed this document with the Commission, and a summary of the filing has been served on all parties on the service list.

Please contact me at <u>allen.krug@xcelenergy.com</u> or 612-330-6270 Rebecca Eilers at <u>rebecca.d.eilers@xcelenergy.com</u> or 612-330-5570 if you have any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely,

/s/

Allen Krug Associate Vice President, State Regulatory Policy

Enclosures c: Service Lists

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Jim Erickson, hereby certify that I have this day served copies of the foregoing document on the attached list of persons.

- <u>xx</u> by depositing a true and correct copy thereof, properly enveloped with postage paid in the United States mail at Minneapolis, Minnesota
- <u>xx</u> electronic filing

## DOCKET NO. E002/M-19-809

Dated this 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 2020

/s/

Jim Erickson Regulatory Administrator

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