

## **NOTICE CLARIFYING COMMENT PERIOD AND PROCEDURE**

*Issued: March 22, 2016*

### **In the Matter of an Alternative Rate Design Stakeholder Process for Xcel Energy**

**PUC Docket Number:** E-002/CI-15-662

**Comment Period:** Initial comment period closes April 8, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.

#### **Topics Open for Comment:**

- See list of topics in the Commission's February 16, 2016 notice in the above-cited docket

#### **Procedural Background and Clarification:**

On February 16, 2016, the Commission issued a notice seeking comments as part of the above-entitled alternative rate design stakeholder process. On March 11, 2016, the Department of Commerce (DOC) filed a request to extend by 12 months the comment period set forth in the February 16 notice. On March 14, 2016, Fresh Energy, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, and Energy Cents Coalition submitted comments objecting to the DOC's request. On March 17, 2016, the Suburban Rate Authority joined in the opposition to the Department's request.

In response to the DOC's request and other comments filed by parties in this docket, the Commission declines to modify the comment period. However, the Commission notes that there will be additional opportunities as part of this process for the DOC and others to provide comments. The Commission intends to collect information throughout the course of this proceeding; as such, the decision to file or not file comments on April 8 will not eliminate the ability to address the questions posed in the February 16, 2016 notice. Those questions and other matters can be addressed through workshops or in subsequent comments filed later in this process. Shortly after the first workshop, the Commission plans to issue a second notice setting out a future schedule and asking for further comments.

Moreover, the Commission notes that the alternative rate design stakeholder process is intended as an informational docket to assist the Commission in gaining a better understanding of various approaches to rate design in the evolving electric energy industry. Therefore, the initial aim of this process will be workshops and presentations involving national and local experts as well as Minnesota stakeholders. These workshops can proceed independently of the initial notice and comment process.

**Workshop Date:** The date of the first workshop will be May 13, 2016. The agenda and other details on the workshop will be provided to the service list in advance of the workshop.

**Filing Requirements:** Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are **required** to file documents using the Commission's electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants and interested persons are encouraged to use eFiling: [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *eFiling*, and follow the prompts.

**Submit Public Comments:** Visit [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *Speak Up!*, find this docket, and add your comments to the discussion.

- *If you wish to include an exhibit, map or other attachment, please send your comments via U.S. Mail.*

Send U.S. Mail to Public Utilities Commission, 121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul MN 55101. Please include the Commission's docket number in all communications.

**Full Case Record:** See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission's website - [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (15) and the docket number (662), select *Search*.

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**Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure?** Contact Commission staff, Susan Mackenzie, at [susan.mackenzie@state.mn.us](mailto:susan.mackenzie@state.mn.us) .

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