

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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Valerie Means
Matthew Schuerger
Joseph K. Sullivan
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Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

Shawn M. White
Manager, DSM & Renewable Regulatory
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Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

SERVICE DATE: February 23, 2021

DOCKET NO. E-002/M-13-867

In the Matter of Northern States Power Company, d/b/a Xcel Energy's Community Solar Garden Program

The above entitled matter has been considered by the Commission and the following disposition made:

- 1. Approved Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy's request to make additional information on its Community Solar Garden applications publicly available.**

This decision is issued by the Commission's consent calendar subcommittee, under a delegation of authority granted under Minn. Stat. § 216A.03, subd. 8 (a). Unless a party, a participant, or a Commissioner files an objection to this decision within ten days of receiving it, it will become the Order of the full Commission under Minn. Stat. § 216A.03, subd. 8 (b).

The Commission agrees with and adopts the recommendations of the Department of Commerce, which are attached and hereby incorporated into the Order. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION



Will Seuffert
Executive Secretary



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February 3, 2021

Mr. Will Seuffert
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

RE: **Reply Comments of the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources**
Docket No. E002/M-13-867

Dear Mr. Seuffert,

On November 2, 2020, Xcel Energy (Xcel or the Company) submitted a request to publicly post additional information about community solar garden (CSGs) applications. Specifically, the Company seeks approval to include the indicative cost estimate of a CSG interconnection in its publicly available information. In its December 2, 2020 comments, the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) requested that Xcel provide additional information on the necessity and value of publicly providing the indicative cost estimate of a CSG interconnection.

On December 14, 2020, Xcel submitted reply comments addressing the Department's request noting that providing cost information publicly would provide existing CSGs with information about other projects on their substation or feeder that might result in outages; provide projects on the same feeder the ability to assess the risk of additional costs if an earlier in queue project withdraws their project; and provide an opportunity for projects to collaborate and share costs.

The Department has reviewed Xcel's reply comments and agrees that publication of the indicative cost estimates can facilitate the development and interconnection of CSGs. Developers have raised concerns about the ability of Xcel to meet its interconnection timeframes. Providing additional information on interconnection costs associated with CSG projects should add transparency to the process and assist developers in evaluating the cost and risks of siting a CSG project.

The Department recommends **approval** of Xcel's request to make additional information on its CSG applications publicly available. The Department is available to answer any questions the Commission may have.

Sincerely,

/s/ SUSAN L. PEIRCE
Rate Analyst Coordinator

SLP/ja

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Robin Benson, hereby certify that I have this day, served a true and correct copy of the following document to all persons at the addresses indicated below or on the attached list by electronic filing, electronic mail, courier, interoffice mail or by depositing the same enveloped with postage paid in the United States mail at St. Paul, Minnesota.

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ORDER

Docket Number: **E-002/M-13-867**

Dated this **23rd** day of **February, 2021**

/s/ Robin Benson

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