

NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD

Issued: June 3, 2016

In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company, dba Xcel Energy, for Approval of Its Proposed Community Solar Garden Program

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

Comment period: Initial comment period closes June 13, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.

Comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. on the close date

Comments received after comment period closes may not be considered

Topics open for comment:

1. Xcel's proposal to modify tariff language to allow a one-time extension to the 24-month deadline to achieve commercial operation, extending the 24-month time of commercial operation from either the date of application or from the date of a subsequent Commission Order. Xcel proposed the following change to tariff language (Section 9, Sheet 67):

[t]he applicant shall complete the project by the later of either (1) twenty-four (24) months from the Company finding that the application is complete or (2) twenty-four (24) months from the Commission's August 6, 2015 Order.

2. Would extending the 24-month deadline for certain projects as proposed by the above tariff language affect other projects in the substation queue or in the design and construction stage that are behind the project requesting the delay?
3. Under what circumstances, if any, should extensions beyond those allowed under Xcel's proposed language be granted, and how would such extensions affect other projects?
4. What principles should the Commission rely upon and what process should it follow in establishing an appropriate REC payment for the bill credit rate?

5. Please respond to Xcel's recommendation, in comments filed April 1, 2016, that no modifications to the current calculation of the bill credit rate should be applied to an application that has been deemed complete prior to the issuance date of the Order requiring the change.
6. Please respond to comments filed by Xcel and the DOC on April 29, 2016 that there are statutory limits to the subscriber backup model because different from what has been proposed, backup subscribers would need to limit their garden subscriptions to less than 40% interest so as to have available excess subscriber capacity to backup low income subscribers.
7. Given the full set of subscriber protection measures proposed by parties in the record of this case, please indicate the appropriate entity to carry out each of these protection measures, including: the Office of the Attorney General (OAG), the Department of Commerce (DOC), the Commission, Xcel, other state or federal agencies, and garden developers. Also, please indicate the priority of the need for each protection measure.

Project Background: On February 26, 2016, the Commission issued a notice in the above-cited docket. In response, parties filed initial comments on April 1, 2016 and reply comments on April 29, 2016. In order to complete the record, the Commission seeks further comments on specific issues as noted above.

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, select *eFiling*, and follow the prompts.

Send U.S. Mail to Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th 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, select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (13) and the docket number (867), select *Search*.

Subscribe to receive email notification when new documents are filed in this docket at mn.gov/puc, select *Subscribe*, and follow the prompts.

Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure? Contact Commission staff, Susan Mackenzie, at susan.mackenzie@state.mn.us .

Change your mailing preferences: Email docketing.puc@state.mn.us or call 651-201-2204

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