

NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD

Issued: July 31, 2019

In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company, doing Business as Xcel Energy, Requesting Approval of its Proposed Community Solar Gardens Program

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

Comment Period: Comment period closes August 12, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.

Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not be considered by the Commission.

Issue: Should the Commission adopt the proposed reporting requirements listed in Attachment A?

Background: On April 1, 2019, Xcel Energy filed a motion to streamline the Company's Community Solar Garden (CSG) filing requirements. On April 5, 2019, the Department of Commerce filed comments on the motion. On April 12, 2019, the Environmental Law and Policy Center, Fresh Energy, the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, and the Minnesota Solar Energy Industries Association filed comments. Staff attaches a set of proposed reporting requirements for further comment, in an effort to reach agreement among the parties.

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.

Submit Public Comments: Visit mn.gov/puc, select *Speak Up!* to find this docket, and add your comments to the discussion or email your comments to consumer.puc@state.mn.us.

Full Case Record: See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission's website at mn.gov/puc, select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (13) and the docket number (867), 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 or 651-201-2241.

Change your mailing preferences: Email docketing.puc@state.mn.us or call Leesa Norton at 651-201-2246.

To request this document in another format such as large print or audio, call 651.296.0406 (voice). Persons with a hearing or speech impairment may call using their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service or email consumer.puc@state.mn.us for assistance.

Attachment

Proposal on Community Solar Garden (CSG) Program Reporting Requirements

1. **Maintain quarterly reporting in eDockets for all CSG applications and projects, with agreement to reconsider quarterly reporting requirements at some point in the future, such as in 3-5 years.**

Include the following information in quarterly reports:

- a. A copy of the current month's dashboard, with the additions indicated below.
- b. The information, presented in the same format, contained in Table 4: *Subscription Metrics*, from the Monthly CSG Update Report, filed in Docket No. E-002/M-13-867.
- c. A table, which provides data on missed tariff timelines and application delays, in a summary format as shown below:

Studies due delivered on-time	XX
Studies due not yet delivered	XX
<i>Reason A</i>	XX
<i>Reason B</i>	XX
<i>Reason C</i>	XX
Total past-due studies	XX
Past-due studies delivered	XX

- d. Summary reporting on the total incremental bill credit payments resulting from the residential adder adopted by the Commission, once these incremental credits begin.
 - e. Summary reporting on garden project disconnections and reconnections, with a brief a description of why the project was disconnected. Garden Operators will not be specifically named since the quarterly report is a public document.
 - f. Program updates for the Commission as appropriate, similar to what is currently provided in the CSG Monthly Update Report, filed in Docket No. E-002/M-13-867.
2. **Require the S*RC dashboard to be posted to Xcel's website and updated monthly and to provide reporting on all community solar gardens in the program regardless of application date.**

Xcel will add the following to its current dashboard and take actions as follows:

- a. In the "Project Status" chart in the current dashboard break out the Design and Construction Phases separately to be consistent with the Table 2: *Active Applications: Progress Summary*, in the CSG Monthly Update Report, filed in Docket No. E-002/M-13-867.

- b. In the bar graph entitled “Active Solar Gardens,” currently on the dashboard, add the actual subscriber data points (e.g. number of customers subscribed).
- c. Xcel will continue to seek input from the CSG Stakeholder Workgroup and other stakeholders on how the dashboard can be improved as the program evolves.

3. Continue Annual Reporting

- a. Xcel will continue to meet the current annual reporting requirements in the Commission’s *Order Rejecting Xcel’s Solar-Garden Tariff Filing and Requiring the Company to File a Revised Solar-Garden Plan*, in Docket No. E-002/M-13-867, issued April 7, 2014, Order Point 23.
- b. The following reporting requirements will be moved to the annual report:
 - i. Reporting on the withdrawals of applications from the program since its inception. These are currently reported in the Monthly Update Report, Table 1: *Status of Applications*. Xcel will add a line to this table for the number of applications rejected by the Company (if any) and the number that had to be returned to developers before being deemed complete.
 - ii. Reporting on Bill Credit Vintage of active projects, as currently reported in the CSG Monthly Update Report, in Table 3: *Active Project Sites – Bill Credit Vintage*.
 - iii. Reporting on unsubscribed energy (total number of project sites; total unsubscribed energy/kWh; and, total bill credit payments to Garden Operators for unsubscribed energy). This information is currently reported in the CSG Monthly Update Report, filed in Docket No. E-002/M-13-867.
 - iv. Reporting on final interconnection costs with a variance outside of +/- 20 percent within one of the required categories (substation or distribution) for all CSG applications, as currently reported in the CSG Monthly Update Report. Garden Operators will not be specifically named since the annual report is a public document.
 - v. Reporting on what percentage of the garden applications were finished within the 24-month deadline for project completion outlined in the S*RC program tariff. Since the 24-months begins at different starting points under the MN DIP and Non-MN DIP interconnection processes, each will be reported separately.
 - vi. Reporting on Value-of-Solar (VOS) project subscription metrics separately from the program-wide metrics, which under this agreement will be reported quarterly, as well as in the annual report.

vii.

4. Information to be provided on the S*RC website

- a. Xcel will continue to post a table with Garden Application Status (Attachment B to the Company's Monthly Update filing) on the Company's S*RC website and update the table monthly. This table will consist of information by County and include:
 - (1) Number of Active Applications with the associated number of MWs, and
 - (2) Number of Completed Applications with the associated number of MWs.