



NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIODS

Issued: July 10, 2017

In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company, dba Xcel Energy, for Approval of a Customer Access Joint Pilot Program

PUC Docket Number: E-002/M-17-527

Comment Periods: Initial comment period closes August 16, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

Reply comment period closes September 13, 2017 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

Project Background: On September 6, 2016, the Commission issued its *Order Approving Value-Of-Solar Rate for Xcel's Solar-Garden Program, Clarifying Program Parameters, and Requiring Further Filings*, in Docket No. E-002/M-13-867. Order Point 9 required Xcel Energy (Xcel) to develop a community-solar-garden (CSG) proposal for low-income customers, applying LIHEAP eligibility standards and to file the proposal by March 1, 2017. The Commission also ordered proposals by other parties for community solar gardens for low-income customers to be filed at the same time. On March 1, 2017, both Xcel and the Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR) filed responses to Order Point 9. Xcel filed a concept proposal for a pilot, with a commitment to file a more developed proposal within 90 days. ILSR filed a set of guiding principles and best practices for low-income program design, as well as a set of recommendations for expanding access to an Xcel-run CSG program. On June 30, 2017, Xcel filed a more developed plan, with accompanying tariff sheets. The Commission is now seeking comments on the Xcel pilot proposal, as well as the recommendations and comments of the ILSR.

Topics open for comment:

1. Is Xcel's proposal for a low-income pilot in the public interest?
2. Is the proposal consistent with Minn. Stat. § 216B.1641, the Commission's September 6, 2016 Order (in Docket No. E-002/M-13-867), and other relevant law?
3. Does Xcel's proposal to work with non-Xcel project partners (Energy CENTS Coalition, Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Association, Center for Energy and Environment and THOR Construction) raise any issues for Commission consideration?

4. Minn. Stat. § 216B.1641, (e)(3) requires that any CSG plan approved by the Commission “not apply different requirements to utility and nonutility community solar garden facilities.” In addressing this statutory provision, Xcel was guided by three key principles of non-discrimination (described on pages 17-18 in the Petition). However, are there other issues of discrimination concerning non-utility developers/operators that the Commission should consider?
5. To implement the pilot program, Xcel is seeking approval of new tariff sheets (included as Attachment C to the Petition). Please comment on the proposed tariff sheets.
6. Please comment on the guiding principles, best practices and recommendations for low-income program design filed by ILSR on March 1, 2017. How do they relate to Xcel’s low-income pilot proposal?
7. Xcel proposed annual reporting for the pilot. Should any other information, in addition to that proposed, be included in the Company’s annual report to the Commission?
8. Should the Commission take up the issue of cost recovery separately at a later time?
9. What other parts of Xcel’s proposal require additional clarification?

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!*, 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 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 (17) and the docket number (527), 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 .

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