

## NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD

*Issued: August 18, 2017*

### **In the Matter of Xcel Energy's Petition for Approval to Terminate the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Laurentian Energy Authority I, LLC (LEA)**

**PUC Docket Number:        Docket No. E-002/M-17-551**

#### **Comment Periods:**

Reply comments to the Xcel Energy petition and Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) comments        **By September 8, 2017 at 4:30pm**

Responses to reply comments        **By September 18, 2017 at 4:30pm**

*Comments received after the comment period closes may not be considered*

#### **Topic/s Open for Comment:**

- Does the information and analysis provided by Xcel Energy in its petition and by the Department in its comments result in an adequate record upon which the Commission can make a decision?
- Please provide any other information, analysis, and recommendations the Commission should consider.

**Background:** Minn. Laws 2017, Chapter 94, Article 10, Section 20, amended Minn. Stat. §216B.2424, Biomass Power Mandate, to allow Xcel Energy to petition the Commission for approval of a new or amended PPA, the early termination of a PPA, or the purchase and closure of certain biomass facilities. The amendments also included criteria by which the Commission is to evaluate such petitions.

On July 14, 2017, Xcel Energy filed a petition to terminate its PPA with LEA. Xcel Energy specifically requests that the Commission approve: termination of the PPA, recovery of the transaction costs through the fuel clause, a related variance to the Commission's fuel clause rules, and a corresponding renewable development fund (RDF) grant contract.

On August 14, 2017, the Minnesota Department of Commerce recommended approval of the Xcel Energy petition and the requested rule variance.

**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 (*17*) and the docket number (*551*), select *Search*.

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

**Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure?** Contact Commission staff, Janet Gonzalez, at [janet.gonzalez@state.mn.us](mailto:janet.gonzalez@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2231 or Kelly Martone, at [kelly.martone@state.mn.us](mailto:kelly.martone@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2245.

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