

NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD

Issued: July 11, 2019

In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company for Approval of the Acquisition of the Community Wind North Facilities and the Jeffers Wind Facility

PUC Docket Number(s): E-002/PA-18-777

Comment Period: Response comments are requested by August 2, 2019 at 4:30pm

Reply comments are requested by August 12, 2019 at 4:30pm

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

Issue: Should the Commission approve the request of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy (Xcel or the Company) for approval of the acquisition, ownership, and operation of the Community Wind North Facilities and the Jeffers Wind Facility pursuant to the terms of a negotiated purchase agreement?

Topic(s) Open for Comment:

- Should the Commission authorize Xcel's request to acquire, own, and operate the Community Wind North Facilities (CWN) and the Jeffers Wind Facility pursuant to the terms of the negotiated purchase agreement?
- If the acquisition is approved, should the Commission authorize Xcel to recover the cost of purchasing the CWN and Jeffers Wind Facilities through its Fuel Clause Rider?
- Alternatively, should the Commission approve Xcel's proposed amendments to existing Purchase Power Agreements (REPAs) for the CWN and Jeffers Wind Facilities?
- Are there any other issues or concerns related to this matter?

Background:

On November 30, 2006, in Docket No. E-002/M-06-1234, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) issued its order and approved Xcel's petition for a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for Xcel to purchase energy from the Jeffers Wind 20, LLC 50-MW wind project, based in Cottonwood County, Minnesota (Original Jeffers PPA).

On August 26, 2010, in Docket No. E-002/M-10-734, the Commission approved Xcel's petition for two PPAs for Xcel to purchase energy from North Wind Turbines, LLC and North Community

Turbines LLC, which are based in Lincoln County, Minnesota and together had a total of 30 MW name-plate capacity. (Xcel refers to the combination of the North Wind Turbine, LLC and North Community Turbines, LLC facilities as the Community Wind North Facilities).

On October 8, 2018, Xcel and Minnesota Wind Holdings, LLC, a limited liability company and subsidiary of NRG that indirectly owns 99 percent of the outstanding membership interests in Community Wind North and Jeffers Wind 20, LLC, executed an Option Agreement granting Xcel the option to purchase the Community Wind North Facilities and the Jeffers Wind Facility.

These Facilities are currently owned by Longroad Energy (the Owner), who in early 2016 informed Xcel that it would be undertaking a substantial project to refurbish the Community Wind North Facilities and the Jeffers Wind Facility. The Owner indicated that the refurbishing project would involve installing smaller, more efficient 2.2 MW Vestas wind turbines (compared to the current 2.5 MW turbines), which will reduce the nameplate capacity of the Community Wind North Facilities to 26.4 MW from 30MW and the Jeffers Wind Facility to 44 MW from 50 MW.

On December 21, 2018 Xcel Energy submitted a Petition requesting Commission approval of the Company's acquisition, ownership and operation of the refurbished Community Wind North Facilities and the refurbished Jeffers Wind Facility. However, if approval is not granted as requested, Xcel requested the Commission approval for the Amendments to its Wind Generation Purchase Agreements (REPAS) for the Community Wind North Facilities and Jeffers Wind Facility.

On February 20, 2019, the City of Minneapolis submitted a letter supporting Xcel's petition.

On March 25, 2019, the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources (Department) submitted comments indicating that it believes Xcel has not demonstrated that its proposal to purchase the Jeffers and Community Wind North facilities is reasonable, but did demonstrate that the proposed amendments to the PPAs (the REPA alternative) are reasonable. The Department recommended the Commission approve Xcel's proposed amendments to the existing PPAs.

On April 12, 2019, Xcel submitted reply comments requesting Commission approval of the Company's proposed acquisition, ownership, and operation of the Community Wind North Facilities and the Jeffers Wind Facility.

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 (18) and the docket number (777), select *Search*.

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

Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure? Contact Commission staff, Godwin Ubani, at godwin.ubani@state.mn.us or 651-201-2191 or Jorge Alonso, at Jorge.Alonso@state.mn.us or 651-201-2258.

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.