

NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD

Issued: October 4, 2016

In the Matter of Xcel Energy's Petition for Approval of a Renewable*Connect Pilot Program

PUC Docket Number/s: E002/M-15-985

Comment Period: Initial comment period closes November 15, 2016 at 4:30pm
Reply comment period closes November 29, 2016 at 4:30pm

*Comments must be received by 4:30pm on the close date
Comments received after comment period closes may not be considered*

Topic/s Open for Comment:

1. Should the Commission approve Xcel Energy's proposed Renewable*Connect tariff and associated Customer Agreement?
2. Should the Commission approve Xcel Energy's proposed Renewable*Connect Government tariff and associated Customer Agreement?
3. Should the Commission grant Xcel Energy's November 12, 2015 Petition and authorize Xcel to dedicate a portion of recently contracted resources to the Renewable*Connect pilot program?
4. Should the Commission grant Xcel Energy's September 21, 2016 Supplement to its initial Petition and authorize Xcel to dedicate an additional portion from these resources to the Renewable*Connect Government pilot program?
5. Should the Commission authorize Xcel's Pilot Tranche Service Agreement and Addendum with the Minnesota Department of Administration?
6. Any other program-related issues or concerns, in regard to Xcel Energy's Petition?

Project Background: On November 12, 2015, Xcel Energy filed a Petition for approval to implement a Renewable*Connect pilot program. On November 20, 2015 the Commission issued a Notice of Comment Period. Upon a request from the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department), on December 22, 2015 the Commission suspended the Comment Period until a date to be determined later. On September 21, 2016, Xcel Energy filed a supplement to its November 12, 2015 Petition, which requested the Commission re-commence the Comment period in this docket. In addition, the supplement proposed a Renewable*Connect Government pilot tariff and Service Agreement.

Specifically, the September 21, 2016 Supplement requested that the Commission:

- expeditiously re-commence the Comment period in this docket,
- approve Xcel's proposal for implementing Renewable*Connect Government on a pilot basis,
- authorize the Company to dedicate a portion of recently contracted resources to Renewable*Connect Government (beyond the portion sought for Renewable*Connect),
- approve Xcel's proposed Renewable*Connect Government pilot program tariff and associated Service Agreement,
- authorize the Company's Pilot Tranche Service Agreement and Addendum with the Minnesota Department of Administration, and
- approve the modifications to the Company's initial Petition as discussed in Xcel's Petition Supplement.

In its initial Petition, Energy described Renewable*Connect as a "Green Tariff," which will allow customers to purchase renewable energy and renewable energy certificates (RECs) from dedicated projects within Xcel's service territory. Xcel proposed to dedicate up to 50 MW of wind from the Odell Wind Farm and 25 MW of solar from the North Star Solar Project. Both the Odell and North Star projects are new projects recently secured through contracts approved by the Commission.

In its Supplement, Xcel proposed a variation on the underlying Renewable*Connect concept targeted to public sector customers. Xcel proposed a Renewable*Connect Government pilot, which dedicated an additional portion from these projects for the pilot tranche of Renewable*Connect Government that would be allotted to the Minnesota Department of Administration (Admin) to supply the State Capitol Building, the State Office Building, and the Minnesota Senate Building with a blend of solar and wind energy beginning with the reopening of the State Capitol Building, anticipated in early 2017.

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.

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.

Full Case Record: See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission's website - mn.gov/puc, select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (15) and the docket number (985), 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, Andrew Bahn, at Andrew.bahn@state.mn.us or 651-201-2249.

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