



414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-1993

July 14, 2021

Will Seuffert
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

—Via Electronic Filing—

Re: PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF A WORKFORCE TRAINING AND
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PILOT
DOCKET NO. E,G999/CI-20-492

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, submits the enclosed Petition for approval of a workforce training and development program pilot pursuant to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's ORDER ACCEPTING ECONOMIC-RECOVERY INVESTMENT REPORTS, REQUIRING FILINGS, AND ENCOURAGING ADVANCEMENT OF DIVERSITY GOALS issued March 16, 2021 in the above-noted docket.

We have electronically filed this document with the Commission, and copies have been served on the parties on the attached service lists. Please contact Bridget Dockter at bridget.dockter@xcelenergy.com or (612) 337-2096 or Mary Martinka at mary.a.martinka@xcelenergy.com or (612) 330-6737 if there are any questions regarding this submission.

Sincerely,

/s/

ALLEN D. KRUG
ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT, STATE REGULATORY POLICY

Encl
c: Service Lists

STATE OF MINNESOTA
BEFORE THE
MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Katie J. Sieben	Chair
Valerie Means	Commissioner
Matthew Schuerger	Commissioner
Joseph K. Sullivan	Commissioner
John A. Tuma	Commissioner

IN THE MATTER OF AN INQUIRY INTO
UTILITY INVESTMENTS THAT MAY ASSIST
IN MINNESOTA'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY
FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

DOCKET No. E,G999/CI-20-492

**PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF A
WORKFORCE TRAINING AND
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PILOT**

INTRODUCTION

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, submits this Petition for approval of a Workforce Training and Development Program Pilot (the Pilot). Xcel Energy is committed to fostering the development of a skilled and diverse workforce. In support of that goal, we have committed to investing in a three-year Pilot program focused on developing the necessary skills for those in traditionally under-represented communities to succeed in energy-related construction careers. Specifically, the Pilot will offer approximately 150 individuals exposure to a career in the trades and the opportunity to receive hands-on skills training through an apprenticeship-readiness program.

The Pilot is intended to coincide with the beginning of our work on the largest solar project in the state's history at Sherco. Graduates of the Pilot will have the opportunity to further develop the skills they will receive through the training program in practice by working on the Sherco solar project. Construction for the Sherco solar project currently is scheduled to begin in 2022 and be completed in 2024/2025, subject to permitting approvals and construction-related issues. Participants may also have the opportunity to work on other available construction projects. This will allow Pilot participants to continue their development and enter the Minnesota building trades.

To develop this Pilot, we plan to partner with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), as well as community organizations and stakeholders, to ensure the program meets the needs of the communities we are targeting.

Over the course of the Pilot, we will evaluate its success at providing valuable job training to individuals from traditionally underserved communities and improving diversity in the energy-related construction workforce. If successful, we may explore expanding the Pilot into an ongoing program.

We are excited to propose this Pilot and to see the benefits it will bring to Minnesota through the development of a more diverse workforce. Below, we set forth further details regarding the proposed Pilot including:

- Background concerning the development of the Pilot;
- Details of the proposed Workforce Training and Development Program Pilot;
- Background on the integration of the Pilot with the proposed Sherco solar project;
- Stakeholder outreach and support for the Pilot; and
- Proposed cost recovery for the Pilot.

I. SUMMARY OF FILING

A one-paragraph summary is attached to this filing pursuant to Minn. R. 7829.1300, subp. 1.

II. SERVICE ON OTHER PARTIES

Pursuant to Minn. R. 7829.1300, subp. 2, the Company has served a copy of this filing on the Office of the Attorney General – Antitrust and Utilities Division. We have also distributed copies of our filing to those on the Commission’s service list for its Inquiry into Utility Investments that May Assist in Minnesota’s Economic Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic (Docket No. E,G999/CI-20-492) and the Company’s COVID-19 Relief and Recovery proceeding (Docket No. E,G002/M-20-716).

III. GENERAL FILING INFORMATION

Pursuant to Minn. R. 7829.1300, subp. 3, the Company provides the following information.

A. Name, Address, and Telephone Number of Utility

Northern States Power Company, doing business as:
Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401
(612) 330-5500

B. Name, Address, and Telephone Number of Utility Attorney

Shubha Harris
Principal Attorney
Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall – 401, 8th Floor
Minneapolis, MN 55401
(612) 215-4517
shubha.m.harris@xcelenergy.com

C. Date of Filing

The date of this filing is July 14, 2021.

D. Statute Controlling Schedule for Processing the Filing

No specific statute controls the timeframe for processing this filing. The processing is therefore controlled by the Commission’s rules on Miscellaneous Filings, Minn. R. 7829.1300 and 7829.1400. We have included the information required under Minn. R. 7829.1300, subp. 3 for miscellaneous filings that, like this one, are subject to specific content requirements. We also note that, while Minn. R. 7829.1400, subps. 1 and 4 specify the time periods for initial and reply comments for miscellaneous filings, it has been the past practice of the Commission to set a comment schedule by notice to interested parties pursuant to Minn. R. 7829.1400, subp. 7.

E. Utility Employee Responsible for Filing

Bridget Dockter
Manager, Policy and Outreach
Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall – 401, 7th Floor
Minneapolis, MN 55401
(612) 337-2096
bridget.dockter@xcelenergy.com

IV. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Pursuant to Minn. R. 7829.0700, the Company requests that the following persons be placed on the Commission’s official service list for this proceeding:

Shubha Harris
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Minneapolis, MN 55401
shubha.m.harris@xcelenergy.com

Lynnette Sweet
Regulatory Administrator
Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall – 401, 7th Floor
Minneapolis, MN 55401
regulatory.records@xcelenergy.com

Any information requests in this proceeding should be submitted to Ms. Sweet at the Regulatory Records email address above.

V. DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF FILING

A. Background

On May 20, 2020, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) filed a Notice of Reporting Requirement by Utilities (Notice) in this docket, requiring all rate-regulated electric and gas utilities to report on investments that may assist in Minnesota's economic recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic. Additionally, those reports were to outline how the investments:

- Provide significant utility system benefits;
- Are consistent with approved resource plans, approved natural gas distribution infrastructure or pipeline safety plans, triennial conservation plans, and existing Commission orders;
- Reduce carbon or other pollutant emissions in the power sector or across economic sectors;
- Increase access to conservation and clean energy resources for Minnesotans;
- Create jobs or otherwise assist in economic recovery for Minnesotans; and
- Use woman, veteran, or minority-owned businesses as much as possible and provide documentation of these efforts.

In response to the Commission's Notice, on June 17, 2020, we filed our initial Report citing a proposed \$3 billion in investments that could spur 5,000 jobs over the next five years. In that initial Report, among other things, we proposed to accelerate the build of a solar array at our Sherco Plant in Becker, Minnesota to help meet capacity needs shown for mid-2022 in our Integrated Resource Plan in Docket No. E002/RP-19-368. At that time, we committed to using union jobs in the construction of this project. We also elaborated on our existing request for proposal (RFP) bidding process that provides additional scoring points for women, veteran, or minority-owned businesses.

Following our initial Report, numerous parties recommended we establish a program to train a workforce for the jobs needed to complete the projects in our proposal. Additionally, parties recommended this program focus on outreach and program participation for women and members of the BIPOC community.

Based on those recommendations, in Comments we filed on October 16, 2020 in this docket, we introduced the Workforce Training and Development Program and budgeted up to \$4 million for a program designed to engage and provide women and BIPOC participants with apprenticeship-readiness training to enter registered apprentice programs in the utility industry and building trades. As discussed here, the goal of this program is to offer construction career readiness opportunities to under-served communities for energy-related careers. On November 20, 2020, we provided a status update, indicating we were meeting with multiple stakeholders to gather input on program development and structure.

After many discussions with stakeholders on the development and implementation of the Pilot, we have finalized our plan. Below, we set forth our proposed details for the Pilot.

B. Proposed Workforce Training and Development Pilot

1. Program Development Outreach

Soon after we filed our October 16, 2020 Comments discussing the Workforce Training and Development program, we began soliciting information and advice from those with experience in this area regarding how the Pilot should be designed and RFPs should be evaluated. We met with a dozen parties who provide or coordinate job training including: Goodwill Easter Seals, Summit Academy, Dunwoody College, Minnesota Building Trades, DEED, Renewable Energy Partners, City of Minneapolis, Native Sun, Legacy, Hunt Electric, Siemens, Minnesota Renewable Energy Association, and Entrepreneur of the Future. We also received input from the International Union of Operating Engineers (Local 49) and the Laborers International Union of North America (LiUNA! - Local 563) about our proposed Pilot and discussed engagement during program training, as well as participant placement at the time of graduation.

2. Program Design

The Pilot is designed to provide training in the construction field and career pathways for approximately 150 participants, divided into three cohorts, over the course of three years. The exact Pilot design will be finalized once we select an organization through the RFP process. Based on our initial outreach, we understand that a comprehensive model should include plans for outreach and recruitment, orientation, navigation

services, comprehensive support services, work readiness skills, participant selection, occupational training, and placement. During those outreach discussions, we learned of several organizations with proven results in apprenticeship-readiness training programs including those run by Goodwill Easter Seals,¹ Summit Academy,² and the Minnesota Building Trades-Building Strong Communities.³ The apprenticeship readiness training programs offered by these organizations include critical training elements such as:

- Construction industry overview and information;
- Core competency training on:
 - Blueprint Reading
 - Building Materials
 - Construction Math
 - Hand & Power Tools
 - Construction Safety;
- Hands-on exposure at various union training centers;
- Expert and union led classroom instruction;
- Active construction site tours;
- Job interviews with participating unions and contractors.

If the Pilot is approved, Xcel Energy will partner with DEED to create an estimated 13- to 20-week construction apprentice-readiness training program (the duration of the program depends on the Pilot design from the organization we select through the RFP process). As the State of Minnesota's principal economic development agency, DEED programs promote workforce development⁴ and as a public entity, DEED has the expertise and capacity to convene and oversee multiple stakeholders. We believe they are the most appropriate organization to lead and administer this effort on our behalf.

The Pilot invests in the community by ensuring participants--many of whom we expect to also be our customers--are equipped with the education and skills necessary to enter and be successful in new careers in the energy construction industry that offer family sustaining wages. We anticipate the cost for the development and administration of this Pilot will be approximately \$4 million. This is a high-level cost estimate and was based on comments submitted by Jamez Staples of Renewable Energy Partners on September 17, 2020 in this docket. In those comments, Mr. Staples states:

¹ [Career Training & Education at Goodwill MN \(goodwilleasterseals.org\)](http://goodwilleasterseals.org).

² [Summit Academy OIC Construction - Summit Academy OIC \(sa.oic.org\)](http://sa.oic.org).

³ [About – Building Strong Communities.](#)

⁴ [All About DEED \(mn.gov\)](http://mn.gov).

Funding to expand these and other training programs should be dedicated as part of this initiative, as CenterPoint is doing. We note that Illinois utilities provided \$10 million in upfront funding for solar training as part of that state’s Solar For All legislation, and an equivalent amount for Minnesota would be at least \$4 million.

Our \$4 million estimate includes expert classroom instruction, a program coordinator who will help with participant questions and concerns, outreach and recruitment, location of training sites, career planning, mock interviews, initial union fees, and a basic tool set. From the outreach we conducted with community organizations, this package of services is critical in reaching women and members of the BIPOC community who have historically had very low participation in the building trades. Final costs will be determined by an RFP award, but will not exceed \$4 million.

**Table 1
Preliminary Budget Estimate**

Activity	2022	2023	2024	2025
Outreach	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$100,000	NA
Training	\$200,000	\$700,000	\$700,000	\$400,000
Wrap-Around Services	\$150,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$150,000
Administration	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Annual Total	\$850,000	\$1,400,000	\$1,100,000	\$650,000
Sum Total				\$4,000,000

3. Program Timing

Pending program approval, an RFP will be issued and awarded to an organization that will provide formal training, and outreach. The awardee will conduct community-wide outreach and recruitment in BIPOC communities, beginning in the fourth quarter of this year (October-December 2021).

The goal is for graduates to be eligible to assist with the preparation, construction, and post-construction of our proposed Sherco solar project. This will provide graduates with an immediate opportunity to develop real-world experience. Construction for the Sherco solar project currently is scheduled to begin in 2022/2023 and be completed in 2024/2025, subject to permitting approvals.

To meet this goal, the first cohort of approximately 50 participants will likely begin training in mid-2022 and are expected to graduate at the end of 2022. This graduation date coincides with the first stage of the Sherco solar project, which currently is scheduled to begin in the fall/winter of 2022, subject to permitting and material acquisition. Cohort 2 will begin training in the summer of 2023 and are expected to graduate in the fall/winter of 2023. Cohort 3 will begin training in the summer 2024 and are expected to graduate in the fall/winter of 2024. We anticipate the need for flexibility in the training plan to accommodate construction schedules. Should construction of the Sherco solar project be delayed for any reason, we also would delay implementation of the Pilot.

Below is a chart showing the expected training timelines for each cohort and the expected work on the Sherco project.

Figure 1
Estimated Training Schedule

	Summer	Fall/Winter	Sherco Solar Schedule
2022	Cohort 1 Begins	Cohort 1 Graduation	Construction Begins
2023	Cohort 2 Begins	Cohort 2 Graduation	Construction Continues
2024	Cohort 3 Begins	Cohort 3 Graduation	Construction Continues/Finishes/ Project Goes Live
2025 * Allows for flexibility in the construction schedule	All Cohorts	All Cohorts	Construction Finishes/Project Goes Live

4. Participant Recruitment

To recruit participants for the Pilot, we will work with the RFP awardee to leverage partnerships with existing community-based organization and labor partners. We anticipate additional recruitment methods through social media, neighborhood canvassing, and word of mouth and will post information on our website. While the exact requirements will be determined through the RFP process, participants in the Pilot must be 18 years of age or older, have proof of Minnesota domicile, be able to pass a drug test, and have the ability to obtain a valid Minnesota driver license.

Through outreach with the Local 563 - LiUNA!, we understand the importance of assisting potential participants to obtain a valid driver's license and to connect them with services that provide reliable transportation. We propose to use a portion of the program's wrap-around services budget to assist participants with these needs so to ensure they can reach job sites and remain employed. Participants in the program will be selected by the RFP awardee following an application and assessment/interview process. These measures will assure participants can commit to the Pilot and that they are available for immediate referral soon after the training is complete.

5. Training

The Pilot will help to prepare participants for careers in an energy-construction industry. The exact training program will be determined based upon a design developed by the RFP awardee. The awardee must have a developed union integration path for graduates in the construction trades. Preliminarily, and based on other training courses, we estimate the Pilot will consist of a 13- to 20-week training course, which will likely occur Monday through Friday, for eight hours each day. During these sessions, participants will receive instruction in skills development and career advice to help promote their professional growth. Participants will take part in one or more trade-specific modular trainings that will be offered through the applicable trade's apprenticeship programs. The training will primarily focus on specific trades with a scarcity of qualified workers and skills necessary for our Sherco project as well as other construction related trades.

Upon program completion, participants are expected to be work-ready, have a basic working knowledge of the construction industry, and have attained one or more industry-specific certifications. Participants will also receive guidance on how to enter the construction trades, will be given a starter set of tools, and access to funding to pay certain reasonable expenses.

6. Pilot Evaluation

The Company commits to provide two reports on the program. The first status report will be submitted by March 31, 2023 and will provide the following information: the organization(s) awarded the implementation contract, outreach and recruitment methodologies and levels of success, training program design, graduation rates, placement rates, demographic information, successes and challenges and budget allocation to date. The second status report will be submitted by June 30, 2025 or following completion of the Pilot, and will include an update to the first status report as well as participant surveys. The report will also include our evaluation of the Pilot's level of success and its potential for lasting impact on both creating family sustaining wages and increasing diversity within the building trades.

C. Integration of Workforce Training and Development Pilot and Sherco Solar Project

On April 12, 2021, in Docket No. E002/M-20-891, we submitted a Petition for Approval for the Company to develop, own and operate 460 megawatts of grid-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) capacity at the Company's Sherburne County generation facility site. As Minnesota's largest solar development to date, the Sherco solar project will play a key role in the state's transition to clean energy--producing enough clean energy to power approximately 100,000 homes in the Upper Midwest each year. It also takes advantage of the interconnection rights that will be become available due to the planned cessation of operations of the Sherco Unit 2 in 2023, retaining these valuable rights for our customers.

In addition to being a beneficial resource for our customers, the proposal will create and sustain substantial employment across all aspects of project development. A key requirement of our solicitation specified that bids include the use of union labor for project construction, and if approved, we expect the Sherco solar project will provide an estimated \$115 million in wages from nearly 900 union construction jobs.

On top of these employment opportunities for seasoned construction trades, we plan to use the Sherco solar project as an on-the-job opportunity for each cohort of the Pilot. A variety of construction activities must be completed to build the project.

We anticipate our apprenticeship-readiness program will qualify graduates for many of the activities listed below through classroom and on-the-job training. Below is a preliminary list of activities necessary to develop the Sherco solar project, including pre-construction, construction, and post-construction activities:

- Site preparation, grubbing, and grading;
- Construct laydown areas and set up temporary job site trailers;
- Construct fencing;
- Civil construction of access roads;
- Install PV mounting posts;
- Install below-ground or above-ground collection system;
- Install electrical enclosure/inverter;
- Tracker installation;
- PV panel installation; and
- Construct gen-tie line.

This is an incredible opportunity to provide participants with real-world experience. And it will foster the development of a diverse workforce in the growing field of renewable energy construction work.

D. The Pilot is Consistent with the Commission’s Request for Utility Programs to Assist Minnesotans in Economic Recovery

As noted above, this Pilot was proposed in response to the Commission’s Notice and fits well within the parameters the Commission set forth by specifically focusing on creating jobs for women and BIPOC individuals in the field of clean-energy development. Many parties have submitted comments demonstrating support of our efforts. Examples of those comments are included below:

Renewable Energy Partners (September 20, 2020 Comments):

“We believe investments in training capacity and targeted outreach to communities of color and women will help Xcel cost-effectively implement these proposed investments, and other projects including the 1,134 jobs from distribution system improvements and the rebuilding of wind turbines. Renewable Energy Partners has previously offered its training center in North Minneapolis to provide skills training for energy-related careers. Training programs there are beginning soon, including NABCEP-certified training as a Solar Associate that will begin in two weeks. Trainees receive 46 hours of classroom instruction, sit for the NABCEP exam, and are offered paid apprenticeships with solar development teams. Funding to expand these and other training programs should be dedicated as part of this initiative, as CenterPoint is doing. We note that Illinois utilities provided \$10 million in upfront funding for solar training as part of that state’s Solar For All legislation, and an equivalent amount for Minnesota would be at least \$4 million.”

Laborers International Union of North America (October 30, 2020 Comments):

“The achievement of equity gains through increased workforce and supplier diversity is a long-term project that will require a sustained commitment on the part of regulators, utilities, contractors, and other stakeholders. The recovery docket offers opportunities to accelerate progress, beginning with greater transparency, but efforts should focus on gains that are both feasible and sustainable within the context of recovery and ongoing utility operations. Investments that support the entry of members of underrepresented communities into registered apprenticeship programs -- or the continued employment of diverse apprentices whose progress might otherwise be derailed by sustained unemployment -- can meet this test by leveraging a short-term opportunity to generate a potentially significant long-term benefit, as long as utilities and the Commission make diversity gains an ongoing priority.”

Gabriel Chan, Assistant Professor, Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs (October 16, 2020 Comments):

“[W]e appreciate and applaud the Commission and Xcel Energy working to improve equity in its contracting practices through this submission, especially for those

workers that already have skills and access to those jobs in the trades. This investment package is an important opportunity for the continuation of efforts to increase the diversity of the utility workforce.”

Steve Grove, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (January 15, 2021 Comments):

“As the State of Minnesota’s principle workforce and economic development agency, DEED recognizes the critical need for additional job creation outlined in Xcel Energy’s \$3 billion Relief and Recovery proposal in this docket. Specifically, targeted resources allocated to workforce training and development for black, indigenous, people of color (BIPOC) in underserved communities will help those hit hardest by the pandemic. Xcel Energy’s commitment to work with unions and other local organizations for apprenticeships and internships in renewable and other energy related careers will help to move the state of Minnesota forward. This proposal will provide the tools necessary to reach for high quality energy related jobs and career opportunities.”

E. Cost Recovery

We propose to recover the approximately \$4 million of costs associated with this Pilot through the Low Income Surcharge Rider. For example, if the costs of this Pilot were to be recovered over the next three years, it would increase the current monthly \$0.98 surcharge by about \$0.08/month for a residential customer.

On October 30, 2020, however, the Department of Commerce (Department) filed comments stating:

While the Department is supportive of Xcel’s proposal to offer grants for workforce training, the Department has concerns with Xcel’s proposed funding for the program. Xcel proposed to fund its grants through an increase in the Low-Income Energy Discount surcharge. In its initial comments in this proceeding, as well as, in comments specific to Xcel in Docket No. E002/M-20-716, the Department has stated that asking shareholders to share the risk and costs of projects intended to assist in recovery from the pandemic is reasonable. In this instance asking ratepayers to take sole responsibility for the cost of grants to encourage job training is unreasonable. Further, the low-income electric rate discount authorized by Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.16, subd. 14 is required to focus on: customers with the lowest incomes and highest energy costs in order to lower the percentage of income they devote to energy

bills, increase their payments, lower utility service disconnections, and decrease costs associated with collection activities on their accounts. Costs associated with job training programs, while commendable, will not lower the percentage of income that customers pay for their energy bill, or contribute to the other requirements of the statute. Therefore, should the Commission direct Xcel to proceed with its proposal, the costs, or share of costs, should not be recovered through Xcel's Low-Income Energy Discount surcharge.

While the Company appreciates the Department's support of the Pilot, we disagree with their position that it is inappropriate for the costs to be recovered through our Low Income Surcharge Rider. Providing apprenticeship-readiness training and access to union employment to women and the BIPOC community enhances economic stability. It provides family-sustaining wages that in turn lower the percentage of income that graduates will need to devote to their utility bills; this not only has a direct impact on service disconnections, it will decrease costs associated with collection activities on their accounts. We agree with the Department's comments that "the low income electric rate discount under Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.16, subd. 14 requires a focus on: customers with the lowest incomes and highest energy costs to lower the percentage of income they devote to energy bills, increase their payments, lower utility service disconnections, and decrease costs associated with collection activities on their accounts." Access to sustainable wages moves the economy forward and provides the opportunity for further positive economic impacts.

That said, should the Commission agree with the Department that recovery of such costs is inappropriate through the Low Income Surcharge Rider, we would seek costs related to the Pilot in our next rate case. Given the length of the Pilot--and the possibility that we would expand the Pilot into an ongoing program in the future--including these costs in a rate case test year would be appropriate. Depending on the timing of a decision on this matter, however, there may be insufficient time to include such costs in the rate case budgets we would include with our direct testimony. In that case, we would update our budgets to reflect these costs on rebuttal.

VI. CONCLUSION

We are excited to be bringing this Pilot forward. We respectfully request that the Commission approve the Company's Pilot, including our proposed budget and request to seek cost recovery through the Low Income Surcharge Rider or, in the alternative, base rates in our next rate case.

We look forward to answering any questions the Commission and parties may have about the Pilot. Thank you for the continued opportunity to participate in this proceeding.

Dated: July 14, 2021

Northern States Power Company

STATE OF MINNESOTA
BEFORE THE
MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Katie J. Sieben	Chair
Valerie Means	Commissioner
Matthew Schuerger	Commissioner
Joseph K. Sullivan	Commissioner
John A. Tuma	Commissioner

IN THE MATTER OF AN INQUIRY INTO
UTILITY INVESTMENTS THAT MAY ASSIST
IN MINNESOTA'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY
FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

DOCKET No. E,G999/CI-20-492

**PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF A
WORKFORCE TRAINING AND
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PILOT**

SUMMARY OF FILING

Please take notice that, on July 14, 2021, Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, submitted a Petition for approval of a Workforce Training and Development Program Pilot (the Pilot). Xcel Energy is committed to fostering the development of a skilled and diverse workforce. In support of that goal, we have committed to investing in a three-year Pilot program focused on developing the necessary skills for those in traditionally under-represented communities to succeed in energy-related construction careers. Specifically, the Pilot will offer approximately 150 individuals exposure to a career in the trades and the opportunity to receive hands-on skills training through an apprenticeship-readiness program. Graduates of the Pilot will have the opportunity to further develop the skills they will receive through the training program in practice by working on the Company's Sherco solar project. Construction for the Sherco solar project currently is scheduled to begin in 2022 and be completed in 2024/2025, subject to permitting approvals and construction-related issues. Participants may also have the opportunity to work on other available construction projects. This will allow Pilot participants to continue their development and enter the Minnesota building trades.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Mustafa Adam, hereby certify that I have this day served copies of the foregoing document on the attached list of persons.

xx by depositing a true and correct copy thereof, properly enveloped with postage paid in the United States mail at Minneapolis, Minnesota

or

xx electronic filing

Docket No. E,G999/CI-20-492

Docket No. E,G002/M-20-716

Dated this 14th day of July 2021

/s/

Mustafa Adam
Regulatory Administrator

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
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First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
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John	Coffman	john@johncoffman.net	AARP	871 Tuxedo Blvd. St, Louis, MO 63119-2044	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_20-492_Official
Generic Notice	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_20-492_Official
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First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
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Generic Notice	Residential Utilities Division	residential.utilities@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul, MN 551012131	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_20-492_Official
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First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
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