

NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD

Issued: April 20, 2016

In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company, dba Xcel Energy, for Approval of its Proposed Community Solar Garden Program

PUC Docket Number: E002/M-13-867

Comment Period: Initial comment period closes May 20, 2016 at 4:30pm

Reply comment period closes June 1, 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: see Attachment 1. The Commission will address only those issues necessary to resolve the dispute between Xcel and SunShare. Broader issues raised by the Independent Engineer may be considered at a later date.

Project Background: In an August 6, 2015 Order, the Commission adopted a modified partial settlement regarding Xcel's Community Solar Garden (CSG) program. Ordering Paragraph 1 of that Order provides that Xcel would agree, upon the request of any CSG developer, to submit interconnection disputes to an Independent Engineer (IE) selected by the Department of Commerce (DOC). Appeals of an IE report are due five (5) business days after issuance of the report. On April 7, 2016, Xcel Energy (Xcel) and on April 8, 2016, SunShare, LLC (SunShare) filed appeals of the IE recommendation of their dispute. In order to build a record on the issues raised in the appeals, the Commission has set out a number of questions in Attachment 1 for Xcel and SunShare to answer, to the extent they are not already answered within the 10 day deadline for responses to appeals pursuant to Section 9, Sheet 68.13 of Xcel's tariff.

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 (2013) and the docket number (867), 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 [651-201-2241](tel:651-201-2241) or susan.mackenzie@state.mn.us.

Change your mailing preferences: Email docketing.puc@state.mn.us or call 651-201-2204

This document can be made available in alternative formats (e.g., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with hearing loss or speech disabilities may call us through their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.

Attachment 1: Questions Open for Comment

Please comment on the following:

For Voltage Fluctuations and Flicker Values:

- 1) The IE's conclusion that Xcel's use of "Flicker Charts" or the "Flicker curve approach" from IEEE 141-1993 (R1999) as standards for voltage fluctuation has been superceded by IEEE P1453.
- 2) The IE's conclusion the Xcel is in violation of Tariff Section 10, F, Original Sheet 139 for not complying with the latest revisions of the ANSI/IEE standards.
- 3) The IE's determination that it is reasonable that Xcel use a value of 2.0 % for Flicker in both its "aggregate" and "individual" PV systems for the computer models used in the Tariff Section 10, step 3 and 4 feasibility study computer models for the SunShare-Becker Interconnection.

For Cost Estimations:

- 4) Whether the IE's determination that Xcel perform cost estimates to a +/- 20% certainty level departs from the Xcel's tariff process and/or requires a change to the tariff.
- 5) Whether the IE's determination that Xcel perform cost estimates to a +/- 20% certainty level was necessary to resolve the dispute concerning the SunShare-Becker interconnection.
- 6) Whether the IE's determination that Xcel may not charge SunShare for costs that are above the +20% cost estimate departs from Xcel's tariff.

For Advanced Functionality Inverters:

- 7) The IE's determination that SunShare may not use the Advanced Functionality Inverters to perform Flicker Mitigation without Xcel's explicit permission, until such time as the inverter functions have been tested and certified by UL/IEEE standards.