

NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD

Issued: August 4, 2017

In the Matter of Xcel Energy's Petition for Approval to Terminate the Power Purchase Agreement with Benson Power, LLC, Acquire the Benson Power Biomass Plant, and Close the Facility

PUC Docket Number: Docket No. E-002/M-17-530

Comment Periods:

Reply comments to the Xcel Energy petition and Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) comments **By September 1, 2017 at 4:30pm**

Responses to reply comments **By September 15, 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 June 30, 2017, Xcel Energy filed a petition to terminate its PPA with Benson Power, acquire the biomass facility, and subsequently close the facility. Xcel Energy specifically requests that the Commission approve: termination of the PPA and closure of the facility, recovery of the investment and costs of the transactions through the fuel clause and related variance to the Commission's fuel clause rules, and creation of a regulatory asset for costs associated with the transaction.

On August 2, 2017, the Minnesota Department of Commerce recommended approval of the Xcel Energy petition, with a modification with respect to recovery of legal expenses.

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!*, 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.

Full Case Record: See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission's website - mn.gov/puc, select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (*17*) and the docket number (*530*), 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, Janet Gonzalez, at janet.gonzalez@state.mn.us or 651-201-2231 or Kelly Martone, at kelly.martone@state.mn.us or 651-366-4147.

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

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