QUALIFICATIONS OF MARGARET A. MEAL, CFA

Margaret Meal has worked in the electric power industry for her entire professional career, primarily as a consultant advising business interests, investors, lenders, public agencies and regulators on financial and economic issues, including asset valuation, risk assessment, financing alternatives, utility cost of capital and ratemaking.

From 1987 through 1989 Ms. Meal worked at Hansen, McOuat and Associates, advising state agencies on financing, contract and ownership alternatives related to the development of on-site power facilities. From 1989 through 1991, she was an Assistant Vice President at Trust Company of the West, structuring and negotiating investments in electric generation facilities for a \$200 million pension fund. From 1991 through 1997, Ms. Meal was a Senior Project Manager, and later Principal, at MRW & Associates, where she structured and negotiated debt and equity investments in power facilities, and prepared corporate and asset valuations and risk assessments for debt lenders and institutional investors. At MRW, she also prepared and presented expert witness testimony in support of litigation and in regulatory proceedings (including proceedings before the Public Utilities Commissions in California and New Hampshire), primarily related to financial issues concerning the valuation of energy assets and the financial risks and benefits of disaggregation and deregulation in the electric power industry.

Since 1997, Ms. Meal has been working independently, providing similar consulting services, including testimony before the California Public Utilities

Commission and the California State Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications

Committee regarding proposed plans for Pacific Gas and Electric Company's ("PG&E") emergence from bankruptcy. Her recent experience includes evaluations related to

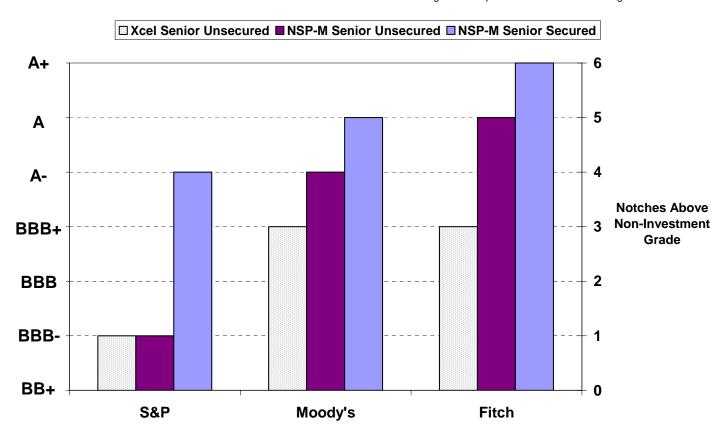
various aspects of utility ratemaking, utility planning and rate forecasting, project and asset valuation, asset acquisitions and contract negotiations, and independent power development and financing.

Ms. Meal is a graduate of Stanford University, with a degree of Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, and a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, with a degree of Master of Science in Energy and Resources. Ms. Meal is a Chartered Financial Analyst.

Current Bond Ratings, Xcel and NSP-Minnesota

(S&P Equivalent Ratings)

NSP-M Secured and Unsecured Debt rated well above non-investment grade except for S&P's unsecured rating



NSP and XEI's Risk Exposures as identified by S&P, Moody's and Fitch, **Based on recent published reports**

		S&P 1, 2	Moody's 3, 4, 5	Fitch 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
1. Hig	her interest rates	Limited	Not mentioned specifically	Yes
2. Gas	s/oil price increases	Not mentioned specifically	Not mentioned specifically	Yes
	nstruction spending uirements	Yes (somewhat less attention vs. other rating agencies)	Yes	Yes
4. Fina	ancial risks of PPAs	Yes	Likely at or near zero	Zero
	ent company financial file/debt burden	Yes	Some	Some
6. CO	LI tax liability (XEI)	No	Yes	Yes
7. Adv	verse regulatory rulings	Yes	Yes	Yes
8. Nuc	clear exposure (NSP)	Weakens biz profile ranking	Not mentioned specifically	Not mentioned specifically
9. Serv	vice area economy (NSP)	Weakens biz profile ranking	Not mentioned specifically	Favorable
	rger rate reduction and eze through 2005 (NSP)	Yes		
	vnturn in plant operating ord/performance	Yes (not highlighted)	Yes	Yes (not highlighted)

¹ Standard and Poor's, Research: Northern States Power Co., April 20, 2006

² Standard and Poor's, Research: Xcel Energy Inc., April 18, 2006

Moody's Investor Service, Credit Opinion, Northern States Power Co., August 9, 2005
 Moody's Investor Service, Analysis, Xcel Energy Inc., June 2005

⁵ Moody's Investor Service, Credit Opinion, Xcel Energy Inc., June 10, 2005

⁶ Fitch Ratings, U.S. Power and Gas 2006 Outlook for Key Credits, January 11, 2006

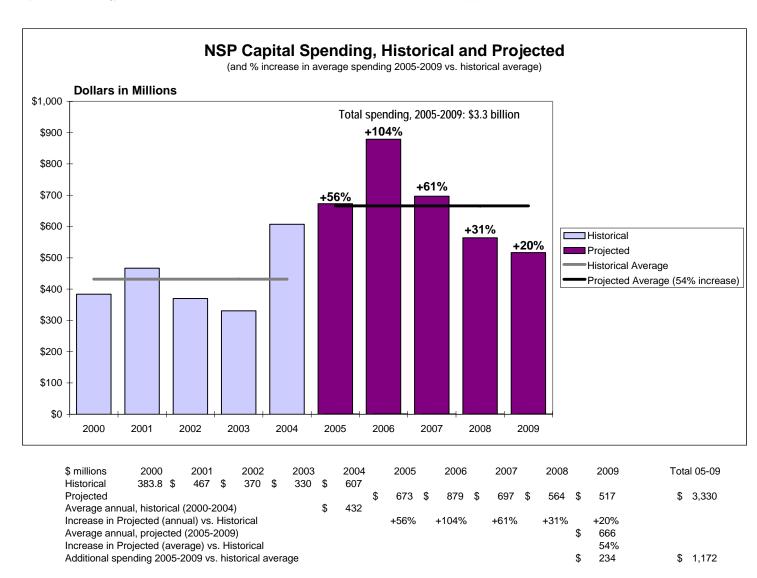
⁷ Fitch Ratings, U.S. Power and Gas 2006 Outlook, December 15, 2005

⁸ Fitch Ratings, Xcel Energy Inc. September 8, 2005 ⁹ Fitch Ratings, Xcel Group Group, January 11, 2006

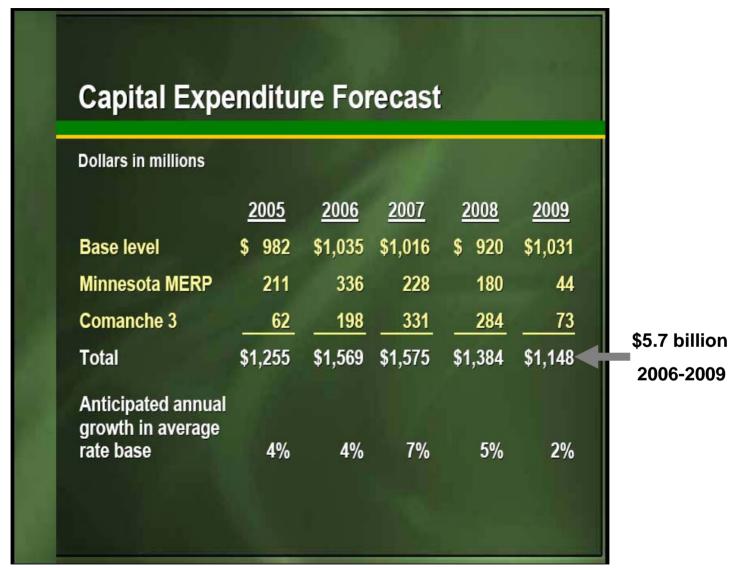
¹⁰ Fitch Ratings, Fitch Ratings Upgrades Xcel Energy to BBB+, Outlook Stable, August 9, 2005

NSP-M Historical and Projected Capital Expenditures

Historical: Standard and Poor's, Credit Opinion, Northern States Power, May 19, 2005, Table 4, capital expenditures Projected: Xcel Energy Inc. Slide Presentation, New York Investor Conference, November 29, 2005, Appendix, Slide 15

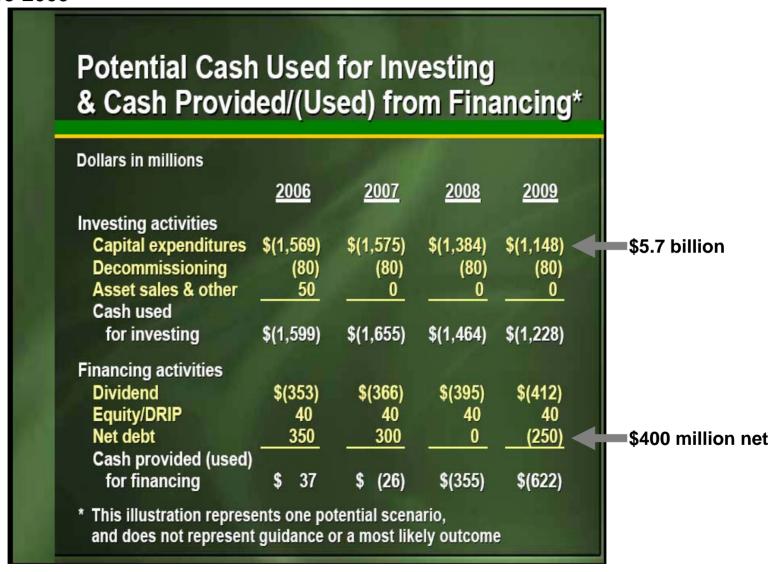


November 2005: \$5.7 billion in capital expenditures 2006-2009, includes base level, MERP and Comanche 3



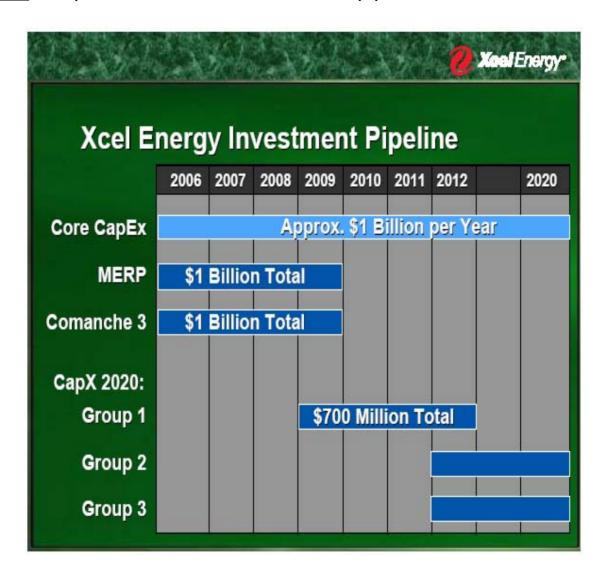
Xcel Energy Inc., New York Investor Meetings, November 28, 2005, Finance, Slide 4

November 2005: \$5.7 billion in capital expenditures requires \$400 million net debt 2006-2009



Xcel Energy Inc., New York Investor Meetings, November 28, 2005, Finance, Slide 10

June 2006: CapX 2020 added to investment pipeline



Xcel Energy Inc., Minneapolis Investor Meetings, June 20, 2006, Finance Overview, Slide 5

September 2006: Numerous projects added to investment pipeline



Xcel Energy Inc., Bank of America Annual Investors Conference, September 19, 2006, Slide 10

Exhibit MAM-6 Summary of Rating Agency Views on Financial Risk of PPAs						
	S&P 1, 2, 3, 4	Moody's ^{5, 6}	Fitch ^{7, 8, 9}			
General approach	Assess benefits and risks of PPAs; adjust financial statements to allow comparisons to utilities that build generation; financial risk quantified on a "risk spectrum;" impact of purchase power contracts on resource portfolio and construction spending requirements incorporated into business risk assessment; imputed debt adjustments account for financial risk	Assess risk and benefits of PPAs in light of contract structure, regulatory treatment and cost of and need for power PPA risk falls on a "risk continuum" based on contract-specific characteristics; qualitative and quantitative factors considered	Assess financial risk in light of economics of PPAs relative to the market and regulatory assurances regarding cost recovery in rates			
Financial statement adjustments for financial risk of PPAs for electric utilities generally	Risk factor assigned based on contract characteristics and regulatory treatment Imputed debt = NPV of capacity payments x risk factor of 30%-50% for take and pay contracts, 10-20% risk factor possible with legislative support for cost recovery	Imputed debt added to financial statements only as appropriate and based on classification of PPA contracts.	Quantified only if appropriate, and limited to above-market portion of payments; "Fitch may in exceptional cases treat a power purchase contract as debt;" "Power purchase contracts are generally treated as an operating expense"; "If capitalized, the debt value isthe PV of the over-market portion of the contract payments."			
Relationship between cost recovery mechanisms and imputed debt	Imputes debt in all cases, but reduces imputed debt by a "risk factor" where "The risk factor is largely a function of the strength of the regulatory recovery mechanisms established to address procurement costs"	"most likely" does <u>not</u> impute debt when "there is reasonable assurance that regulators will allow the costs to be recovered in regulated rates"	Imputes debt if there is a " <u>low likelihood</u> of recovery of the contract cost from regulated utility customers" (emphasis added)			
Current imputed debt adjustments for NSP	Risk factor = 30%	Uncertain/not specified, but likely at or near zero.	Zero. (see below)			
Other Notes		For XEI and its subsidiaries, Moody's does state that reliance on purchased power "does little to enhance earnings and retained cash flow" but that "the cost of purchased power is generally allowed to be passed through in rates"	"While XEL's subsidiaries have \$6.5 billion in off-balance-sheet power purchase agreement obligations, the capacity payments associated with these agreements are mostly recoverable, and <i>therefore</i> , <i>no debt equivalency is assumed.</i> " (emphasis added)			

¹ Standard and Poor's Utilities Credit Comment, "Utilities' risks in purchasing power," March 26, 1990
² Standard and Poor's, "Buy versus Build': Debt Aspects of Purchased-Power Agreements," May 8, 2003
³ Standard and Poor's, "Credit Implications of Public Power Utilities' Power Purchases," October 9, 2003
⁴ Standard and Poor's, "Assessing U.S. Vertically Integrated Utilities' Business Risk Drivers," September 14, 2006

⁵ Moody's Investor Service, Rating Methodology: Global Regulated Electric Utilities, March 2005

⁶ Moody's Investor Service, Analysis, Xcel Energy Inc., December 2004

⁷ Fitch Ratings, Long-Term Power Contracts, Credit Implications for Purchasers, Slide Presentation, U.S. Global Power Group, October 2005
⁸ Fitch Ratings, Xcel Energy Inc. September 8, 2005
⁹ Fitch Ratings, Long Term Power Contracts: Credit Implications for Purchasers, Slide Presentation, October, 2005

PUBLIC VERSION

EXHIBIT MAM-7, Schedule 1 Built from Exhibit GET-1, Schedule 2

Calculation of Estimated Annual Fixed Costs, GET-1 adjusted for interest rate adjustment factor of 1.0176

	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 5	Column 7	Column 5a	Column 7a	Column 5b	Column 7b	Column 5c	Column 7c
	Projected PPA Fixed				Imputed Debt		Imputed Debt		Imputed Debt		Imputed Debt
		Projected PPA Fixed N	let Present Value of	S&P Risk	@ 50% Risk	S&P Risk	@ 30% Risk	S&P Risk	@ 20% Risk	S&P Risk	@ 10% Risk
	Month		Payments @ 6.2%	Factor	Factor	Factor	Factor	Factor	Factor	Factor	Factor
	[TRADE SECRET BE		1 aymonto © 0.270	. 4010.	, doto.	1 40101	43%	, actor	62%	1 40101	81%
20			\$3,586,470	50%	\$1,793,235	30%	\$1,075,941	20%	\$717,294	10%	\$358,647
20			\$3,808,831	50%	\$1,904,415	30%	\$1,142,649	20%	\$761,766	10%	\$380,883
20	09		\$4,044,978	50%	\$2,022,489	30%	\$1,213,494	20%	\$808,996	10%	\$404,498
20	10		\$4,295,767	50%	\$2,147,884	30%	\$1,288,730	20%	\$859,153	10%	\$429,577
20	11		\$4,562,105	50%	\$2,281,052	30%	\$1,368,631	20%	\$912,421	10%	\$456,210
20	12		\$4,783,231	50%	\$2,391,615	30%	\$1,434,969	20%	\$956,646	10%	\$478,323
20	13		\$4,708,527	50%	\$2,354,263	30%	\$1,412,558	20%	\$941,705	10%	\$470,853
20	14		\$4,628,248	50%	\$2,314,124	30%	\$1,388,475	20%	\$925,650	10%	\$462,825
20	15		\$4,542,027	50%	\$2,271,014	30%	\$1,362,608	20%	\$908,405	10%	\$454,203
20	16		\$4,449,471	50%	\$2,224,735	30%	\$1,334,841	20%	\$889,894	10%	\$444,947
20	17		\$4,350,161	50%	\$2,175,080	30%	\$1,305,048	20%	\$870,032	10%	\$435,016
20	18		\$4,243,653	50%	\$2,121,827	30%	\$1,273,096	20%	\$848,731	10%	\$424,365
20	19		\$4,129,477	50%	\$2,064,738	30%	\$1,238,843	20%	\$825,895	10%	\$412,948
20:	20		\$4,007,128	50%	\$2,003,564	30%	\$1,202,138	20%	\$801,426	10%	\$400,713
20:			\$3,876,074	50%	\$1,938,037	30%	\$1,162,822	20%	\$775,215	10%	\$387,607
20:			\$3,735,747	50%	\$1,867,874	30%	\$1,120,724	20%	\$747,149	10%	\$373,575
20:	23		\$3,585,543	50%	\$1,792,771	30%	\$1,075,663	20%	\$717,109	10%	\$358,554
20:			\$3,424,820	50%	\$1,712,410	30%	\$1,027,446	20%	\$684,964	10%	\$342,482
20:			\$3,252,895	50%	\$1,626,448	30%	\$975,869	20%	\$650,579	10%	\$325,290
20:			\$3,069,045	50%	\$1,534,522	30%	\$920,713	20%	\$613,809	10%	\$306,904
20:			\$2,872,496	50%	\$1,436,248	30%	\$861,749	20%	\$574,499	10%	\$287,250
20:			\$2,662,431	50%	\$1,331,215	30%	\$798,729	20%	\$532,486	10%	\$266,243
20:	29		\$2,437,976	50%	\$1,218,988	30%	\$731,393	20%	\$487,595	10%	\$243,798
20			\$2,198,207	50%	\$1,099,104	30%	\$659,462	20%	\$439,641	10%	\$219,821
20			\$1,942,139	50%	\$971,069	30%	\$582,642	20%	\$388,428	10%	\$194,214
20			\$1,668,724	50%	\$834,362	30%	\$500,617	20%	\$333,745	10%	\$166,872
20			\$1,376,852	50%	\$688,426	30%	\$413,056	20%	\$275,370	10%	\$137,685
20			\$1,065,339	50%	\$532,670	30%	\$319,602	20%	\$213,068	10%	\$106,534
20			\$732,931	50%	\$366,465	30%	\$219,879	20%	\$146,586	10%	\$73,293
20			\$561,749	50%	\$280,874	30%	\$168,525	20%	\$112,350	10%	\$56,175
	TRAI	DE SECRET ENDS]									

PUBLIC VERSION

EXHIBIT MAM-7, Schedule 2 Built from Exhibit GET-1, Schedule 3

Calculation of Estimated Annual Fixed Costs, GET-1 adjusted for interest rate adjustment factor of 1.0176

Column 1 [TRADE SECRET BEGINS	Column 2		SECRET	Column 5 [TRADE SECRET BEGINS	Column 6	Column 7 [TRADE SECRET BEGINS	S	Column 9 RADE ECRET EGINS
		Interest Rate			Fixed O&M			
	Transmission	Index			Escalation			
	Costs (\$/kw-	Adjustment			Factor (2.5\$ /	-	Total Capacity	
Year	month)	Factor			year)		(MW)	
2005					1.000			
2006					1.025			
2007					1.051			
2008					1.077			
2009					1.104			
2010					1.131			
2011	\$1.10	1.0176			1.160		603	
2012	\$1.10	1.0176			1.189		603	
2013	\$1.10	1.0176			1.218		603	
2014	\$1.10	1.0176			1.249		603	
2015	\$1.10	1.0176			1.280		603	
2016	\$1.10	1.0176			1.312		603	
2017	\$1.10	1.0176			1.345		603	
2018	\$1.10	1.0176			1.379		603	
2019	\$1.10	1.0176			1.413		603	
2020	\$1.10	1.0176			1.448		603	
2021	\$1.10	1.0176			1.485		603	
2022	\$1.10	1.0176			1.522		603 603	
2023	\$1.10	1.0176			1.560			
2024	\$1.10	1.0176			1.599		603 603	
2025	\$1.10	1.0176			1.639			
2026 2027	\$1.10 \$1.10	1.0176 1.0176			1.680 1.722		603 603	
2027	\$1.10	1.0176			1.765		603	
2028	\$1.10 \$1.10	1.0176			1.809		603	
2030	\$1.10	1.0176			1.854		603	
2030	\$1.10	1.0176			1.900		603	
2032	\$1.10	1.0176			1.948		603	
2032	\$1.10	1.0176			1.946		603	
2034	\$1.10	1.0176			2.046		603	
2034	\$1.10	1.0176			2.048		603	
2036	\$1.10	1.0176			2.150		603	
TRADE SECRET ENDS]	ψ1.10	1.0170	TRADE SECRET ENDS]	SECRET	2.100	TRADE SECRET ENDS]	555	TRADE SECRET ENDS]

Financial Ratios and Credit Metrics do not Determine Ratings Importance of financial ratios and credit metrics, as described by the Rating Agencies							
S&P	Moody's	Fitch					
"Standard and Poor's ratings have never relied solely on quantitative measures." 1	"It is impossible to assign an accurate credit rating on the basis of financial ratio analysis alone, even less so on the	"financial ratios in isolation do not determine credit ratings" ⁴					
"Ratings analysis is not driven solely by these financial ratios, nor has it ever been. In factother factors can outweigh the achievement of otherwise acceptable financial ratios." ²	basis of any one ratio" ³						

¹ Standard and Poor's, "Credit Implications of Public Power Utilities' Power Purchases," October 9, 2003 ² Standard and Poor's, Research: New Business Profile Scores Assigned for U.S. Utility and Power Companies; Financial Guidelines Revised, June 1, 2004 ³ Moody's Investor Service, Rating Methodology: Global Regulated Electric Utilities, March 2005 ⁴ Fitch, U.S. Electric and Gas Utility Financial Peer Study, July 2006

built from GET-1 Schedule 5

EXHIBIT MAM-9

1

S&P reported 4-20-06 Schedule 5 page 1 NSP (Tyson Testimony) Schedule 5 NSP page 1 (Tyson Testimony) Risk Factor for Mesaba 1 = 50% (Tyson assump) Adjusted Capacity Payments and Risk Factors for Mesaba 1 Actual Actual Risk Factor Risk Factor Risk Factor Risk Factor NSP NSP projected 2006 projected 2006 projected 2006 NSP 10% projected 2006 50% 30% 20% YE 2005 Proi YE 2006 incl. Mesaba 1 Mesaba 1 1 Funds from Operations \$690 \$690 \$690 \$690 Interest Expense per S&P calculation 2 Interest charges and financing costs \$146 \$146 \$146 \$146 \$146 AFUDC Debt \$14 \$14 \$14 \$14 \$14 6.20% 3 Average Interest rate on operating leases 6.20% 6.20% 6.20% 6.20% 4 Average Imputed Debt from Operating Leases \$3 \$3 \$3 \$3 \$3 5 Average Interest rate on imputed debt from PPAs 6.20% 6.20% 6.20% 6.20% 6.20% 6.20% 6.20% 6.20% 6.20% 6 Average Imputed Debt from PPAs \$28 \$116 \$144 \$67 \$94 \$44 \$72 \$22 \$50 \$67 \$22 7 Total Interest Expense \$191 \$116 \$307 \$258 \$44 \$235 \$213 Total Capital 8 Balance Sheet Debt \$2,360 \$2,373 \$2,373 \$2,373 \$2,373 \$2,373 9 Imputed Debt from Operating Leases \$55 \$55 \$55 \$55 \$55 \$55 10 Imputed Debt from Existing and Potential PPAs \$401 \$445 \$1,877 \$2,322 \$1,076 \$1,521 \$717 \$1,162 \$359 \$804 11 Total Debt \$2,816 \$2,873 \$1,877 \$4,750 \$1,076 \$3,949 \$717 \$3,590 \$359 \$3,232 \$2,252 12 Balance Sheet Common Equity \$2,715 \$2,715 \$2,715 \$2,715 \$2,715 13 Total Capital \$5,068 \$5,588 \$1,877 \$7,465 \$1,076 \$6,664 \$717 \$6,305 \$359 \$5,947 S&P Credit Metrics -- NSP S&P S&P reported reported BBB S&P BBB S&P 04/20/06 04/20/06 (risk profile 5) (risk profile 4) 2004 2005 14 FFO/Interest Expense 3.8-2.8 3.5-2.5 4.4x 4.0x 4.6x 3.2x 3.7x 3.9x 4.2x 15 FFO/Average Total Debt 20-12 26.2% 21.3% 24.3% 18.2% 20.4% 21.5% 22.8% 22-15 16 EOY Total Debt/Total Capital 50-60 52-62 56.1% 55.6% 51.4% 63.6% 59.3% 56.9% 54.3% 17 EOY Equity/Total Capital 50-40 48-38 43.9% 44.4% 48.6% 36.4% 40.7% 43.1% 45.7% S&P Credit Metrics -- Xcel Consolidated 18 FFO/Interest Expense 3.4x 3.2x 19 FFO/Average Total Debt 15.9% 15.9% 20 EOY Total Debt/Total Capital 61.7% 61.7% 21 EOY Equity/Total Capital 38.3% 38.3%

2

CREDIT METRIC ANALYSIS AND COMPARISON--XEI \$ in millions

16 EOY Total Debt/Total Capital

17 EOY Equity/Total Capital

S&P Rating (CCR)

built from GET-1 Schedule 5

50-60

50-40

42-50

58-50

61.7%

38.3%

61.7%

38.3%

EXHIBIT MAM-9

1

S&P reported 4-20-06 Schedule 5 page 2 XEI (Tyson Testimony) Schedule 5 page 2 XEI (Tyson Testimony) Risk Factor for Mesaba 1 = 50% (Tyson assump) Adjusted Capacity Payments and Risk Factors for Mesaba 1 Actual Actual XEI XEI XEI Risk Factor Xcel Risk Factor Risk Factor Risk Factor projected 2006 Xcel Xcel 50% 30% projected 2006 20% projected 2006 10% projected 2006 YE 2005 Proj YE 2006 Mesaba 1 incl. Mesaba 1 1 Funds from Operations \$1,564 \$1.564 \$1,564 \$1,564 \$1,564 Interest Expense per S&P calculation \$450 \$450 \$450 \$450 \$450 2 Interest charges and financing costs AFUDC Debt \$25 \$25 \$25 \$25 \$25 6.21% 6.21% 3 Average Interest rate on operating leases* 6.21% 6.21% 6.21% 4 Average Imputed Interest from Operating Leases \$9 \$9 \$9 \$9 \$9 5 Average Interest rate on imputed debt from PPAs* 5.91% 6.20% 6.09% 6.20% 6.05% 6.20% 6.02% 6.20% 5.98% 6 Average Imputed Interest from PPAs \$73 \$116 \$189 \$67 \$140 \$44 \$117 \$22 \$95 \$67 7 Total Interest Expense \$557 \$116 \$44 \$22 \$579 \$673 \$624 \$601 **Total Capital** 8 Balance Sheet Debt \$7,479 \$7,721 \$7,721 \$7,721 \$7,721 \$7,721 9 Imputed Debt from Operating Leases \$145 \$145 \$145 \$145 \$145 \$145 10 Imputed Debt from Existing and Potential PPAs \$1,214 \$1,235 \$1,877 \$3,112 \$1,076 \$2,311 \$717 \$1,952 \$359 \$1,594 11 Total Debt \$8,838 \$9,101 \$1,877 \$10,978 \$1,076 \$10,177 \$717 \$9,818 \$359 \$9,460 12 Balance Sheet Equity (incl. preferred) \$5,395 \$5,753 \$5,753 \$5,753 \$5,753 \$5,753 13 Total Capital \$14,233 \$14,854 \$1,877 \$16,731 \$1,076 \$15,930 \$717 \$15,571 \$359 \$15,213 * except for interest on Mesaba 1 imputed debt, interest rates are calculated based on interest amounts shown on GET-1 schedule 5 S&P Credit Metrics -- Xcel A S&P BBB S&P (risk profile 5) (risk profile 5) 4.5-3.8 3.8-2.8 14 FFO/Interest Expense 3.2x 3.4x 3.8x 3.3x 3.5x 3.6x 3.7x 15 FFO/Average Total Debt 30-22 22-15 15.9% 15.9% 17.4% 15.8% 16.5% 16.8% 17.1%

61.3%

38.7%

65.6%

34.4%

XEI 3 credit metrics compared EXHIBIT MAM-9 Page 2 of 2

63.9%

36.1%

2

63.1%

36.9%

62 2%

37.8%

S&P Credit Metrics: NSP-M and Xcel, 2004 and 2005, Business Profile 5

