

Midtown Greenway Coalition

Questions to Xcel Energy regarding the Hiawatha Project, 12/12/08

Please address these questions, in writing such as an email attachment, by end of day Wednesday, January 7, 2009.

1. What are the three most common causes for outages as well as for power quality problems experienced by businesses on Lake Street?
2. Are there any upgrades or improvements to the distribution system, or technical solutions at the customer level, that could help alleviate the power issues that individual customers are having?
3. In order to understand the stated problem of transformers at the substations operating above 75% of their rated capacity, how many days per year, for how many hours per day, and on what days, is this occurring for each of the transformers at the Southtown, Elliot Park, Aldrich, and St. Louis Park substations?
4. What is the average loading year-round on these transformers for each of the past 7 years?
5. How does our chain of hospitals in this area compare to the most efficient hospitals in the metro area on a kilowatt hour per year per square foot basis (or other units if more appropriate)?
6. How do the Wells Fargo Home Mortgage campus and Allina Commons compare to the most efficient office buildings in the metro area on a kilowatt hour per year per square foot basis (or other units if more appropriate)?
7. Please explain any incentives currently available from Xcel to maximize the electric energy efficiency of new developments, and existing buildings that which are being retrofitted.
8. Would Xcel use the 5% C.I.P. for solar program (as passed in the 2008 Minnesota Legislative session) to promote conservation and solar in the project area and which could help meet some of the energy needs?
9. How do residential electricity customers in the Hiawatha Project impact area and in greater south Minneapolis compare with households metro-wide on a kilowatt hour per year per household basis (or other units if more appropriate)?
10. What incentives or tools are being used in the industry now to achieve electricity usage reductions by residential customers, for example on-site meters for immediate feedback or efficient appliance buy down assistance, etc., and could those tools be used or expanded here?

11. Please characterize the relative electric efficiency of our area businesses and describe what programs or incentives are currently available to them to become more efficient, and what the expansion potential is for these programs?
12. Please help us understand what generating capacity is required to supply the 13-15 megavolt amps that the Hiawatha Project would bring to the area (is this about 13 to 15 megawatts of generating capacity?) and how does that compare to an average coal plant, wind machine, etc.
13. If large commercial users in the corridor were to implement gas-fired cogeneration for their heating needs, how much of the electricity needed in this area could be supplied in this way? (If other parties besides Xcel would be more appropriate to answer this question please direct us to them.)
14. If renewable or local generation was installed in the corridor and significant amounts of excess power was generated and put back into the grid, could existing distribution lines handle the load or would they need to be upgraded? If no, what would be the extent of upgrades needed to handle the reverse loading? (please be specific).
15. If the Hiawatha Project is part of a larger plan, what is the larger plan, including subsequent projects?
16. Is there a such thing as the “2008 South Minneapolis Load Serving Study” and if so, may we please see a copy?