



414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

April 4, 2016

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Mr. Daniel P. Wolf
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
350 Metro Square Building, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY, A MINNESOTA CORPORATION, AND GREAT RIVER ENERGY, A NOT-FOR-PROFIT COOPERATIVE, FOR A ROUTE PERMIT FOR THE HOLLYDALE 115 kV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT IN THE CITIES OF PLYMOUTH AND MEDINA, HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA PUC DOCKET NO. E002/TL-11-152

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF NEED FOR THE HOLLYDALE 115 kV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT IN THE CITIES OF PLYMOUTH AND MEDINA PUC DOCKET NO. E002, ET2/CN-12-113

COMPLIANCE FILING

Dear Mr. Wolf:

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, submits to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) its sixth compliance report on behalf of itself and Great River Energy in accordance with the Commission's May 12, 2014 Order in the above-referenced dockets.

SINCERELY,

/s/ Bria Shea

BRIA SHEA
REGULATORY MANAGER

cc: Service Lists

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
BEFORE THE
MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Beverly Jones Heydinger
Nancy Lange
Dan Lipschultz
Matt Schuerger
John Tuma

Chair
Vice Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY, A
MINNESOTA CORPORATION, AND GREAT
RIVER ENERGY, A NOT-FOR-PROFIT
COOPERATIVE, FOR A ROUTE PERMIT FOR
THE HOLLYDALE 115 kV TRANSMISSION
LINE PROJECT IN THE CITIES OF
PLYMOUTH AND MEDINA, HENNEPIN
COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Docket No. E002/TL-11-152
Docket No. E002, ET2/CN-12-113
OAH Docket No. 8-2500-23147-2

COMPLIANCE FILING

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF NEED FOR THE
HOLLYDALE 115 kV TRANSMISSION LINE
PROJECT IN THE CITIES OF PLYMOUTH
AND MEDINA

INTRODUCTION

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, and Great River Energy submit this sixth compliance filing in accordance with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's (Commission) May 12, 2014 order in the above-referenced dockets (Order). This Order granted Xcel Energy and Great River Energy's petition to withdraw pending applications for a certificate of need and route permit for the Hollydale 115 kV Transmission Project.¹ In addition to granting these withdrawals, the Order also acknowledged the need to address the existing electrical system issues

¹ As proposed the Hollydale Project sought to rebuild approximately eight miles of existing 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV capacity, construct approximately 0.8 miles of new 115 kV transmission line, construct a new 115 kV substation, and install associated equipment in the cities of Plymouth and Medina (Hollydale Project). The Hollydale Project was proposed to address capacity deficiencies on the existing distribution system and to alleviate low voltage conditions on the transmission system when certain facilities are out-of-service.

in the Plymouth and Medina areas. To document Xcel Energy and Great River Energy’s continued efforts to address these needs, the Order required the companies to submit compliance filings addressing the following topics: (i) public outreach efforts; (ii) load serving capacity of the distribution system; (iii) any improvements to the distribution system; and (iv) demand-side management (DSM) and other resources available to address the reliability issues in the area. The Order required that these compliance filings be made six months from the date of the Order and quarterly thereafter.

Xcel Energy, on behalf of itself and Great River Energy, has submitted five prior compliance filings in November 2014, April 2015, July 2015, October 2015, and January 2016.

UPDATE ON DEMAND-SIDE MANAGEMENT

After submitting the last compliance filing on January 4, 2016, Xcel Energy has continued to expand the number of customers participating in its DSM programs. The following table lists the number of new participants in the Company’s DSM programs for the months of December 2015 through February 2016. These new participants are all located within the Hollydale Focused Study Area, i.e., the customers that are served by the 13 distribution feeders that experience overload conditions. In prior compliance filings, Xcel Energy provided DSM data by city because we could not narrow the data down to specific feeders. Over the past year, the Company has been developing the capability to report this data by specific distribution feeders.

	Participants	kW savings	kWh savings	Total \$ Rebates
Business	60	417	2,055,405	\$241,700
Residential	411	778	115,724	\$24,191

In addition, Xcel Energy provided rebates for 18,932 energy efficient light bulbs from December 15, 2016 to February 16, 2016 in the cities of: Hamel, Long Lake, Maple Plain, Medina, Minnetonka, Minnetrista, Mound, Orono, Plymouth, St. Bonifacius, Spring Park, Watertown, and Wayzata. This data is provided by city because it cannot be tied to customers served by specific distribution feeders.

UPDATE ON IDENTIFICATION OF ELECTRICAL ALTERNATIVES AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

Since the last compliance filing, Xcel Energy has completed an initial draft of an electrical study to identify potential alternatives to meet the electrical needs in

Plymouth and Medina. In accordance with the Hollydale law and direction from the Commission's Order, new infrastructure proposed in the potential alternatives will be limited to distribution facilities.

Xcel Energy had a meeting with City of Plymouth officials and state legislators in January 2016 to discuss the preliminary results of these study efforts. Xcel Energy also had a meeting in February 2016 with representatives from Western Plymouth Neighborhood Alliance (WPNA) to discuss the preliminary results. Xcel Energy and Great River Energy had a follow-up telephone conference with WPNA in March 2016 to answer additional questions. Xcel Energy has also contacted a representative for the Barry Family, another intervenor in the Certificate of Need and Route Permit proceedings, to discuss the preliminary results of the Company's study efforts.

Xcel Energy is currently working to schedule a public open house in May 2016 to share the results of their study efforts with residents and other stakeholders. At this public open house, Xcel Energy will present three different electrical options that have been studied to meet the electrical needs of the area. Xcel Energy intends to send mailed notice of the public open house to residents that may be impacted by these three electrical options at least 10 days prior to the open house. In addition, Xcel Energy will send notice to all persons that signed up for the Hollydale project list that was created during the Route Permit and Certificate of Need proceedings. Notice will also be published in local newspapers.

At this public open house there will not be a formal presentation by the Company but rather a variety of stations will be set up for residents to gather information and ask questions of both Xcel Energy and Great River Energy representatives about a variety of topics. These stations will include: welcome and sign-in, DSM programs, electricity 101, project need and electrical options evaluated, vegetation management, construction, and right-of-way. There will also be an area set up to educate residents and stakeholders on the three electrical options as well as the opportunity to provide written comments about the three options presented by the Company and any other comments or questions that they may have. Residents will also have the option of sending an email with their comments.

After the public open house, Xcel Energy intends to review the comments and feedback received from residents and other stakeholders regarding the three electrical options and determine next steps.

CONCLUSION

Xcel Energy appreciates the opportunity to update the Commission and other stakeholders on the Company's continued efforts to comply with the Commission's

May 12, 2014 Order. Xcel Energy plans to submit its next compliance filing on July 1, 2016.

Dated: April 4, 2016

Northern States Power Company

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

/s/

BRIA SHEA
REGULATORY MANAGER

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY, A MINNESOTA CORPORATION, AND GREAT RIVER ENERGY, A NOT-FOR-PROFIT COOPERATIVE, FOR A ROUTE PERMIT FOR THE HOLLYDALE 115 kV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT IN THE CITIES OF PLYMOUTH AND MEDINA, HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA

PUC DOCKET No. E002/TL-11-152

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF NEED FOR THE HOLLYDALE 115 kV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT IN THE CITIES OF PLYMOUTH AND MEDINA

PUC DOCKET No. E002, ET2/CN-12-113

Theresa A. Senart hereby certifies that on the 4th day of April, 2016, she filed a true and correct copy of Northern States Power Company and Great River Energy's Compliance Filing by posting the same on www.edockets.state.mn.us in the above-referenced dockets. Said Compliance Filing is also served via U.S. Mail or e-mail as designated on the attached Official Service Lists on file with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in the above-referenced dockets.

s/Theresa A. Senart
Theresa Senart

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