

HENNEPIN COUNTY  
MINNESOTA

September 11, 2017

**PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

Mr. Daniel P. Wolf  
Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

**RE: Public Reply Comments of Hennepin County, Docket No. E002/M-17-532**

Dear Mr. Wolf:

Hennepin County appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Commission's Notice of Comment ("Notice") issued on August 22, 2017, in the above referenced docket. Specifically, we are commenting on Commission Staff's inquiry in the first bullet in the Notice.

Hennepin County is in agreement with Xcel's response to the PUC dated September 11, 2017. The Commission should be comforted by the fact that the negotiated agreement was thoroughly deliberated over a two year period and that the result is appropriate considering HERC's baseload electrical production located in the center of Minnesota's highest electrical demand. For all of the reasons we noted in our Reply Comments filed on August 14, 2017, we continue to strongly support all terms of the negotiated Power Purchase Agreement and urge the Commission to approve the Agreement. Doing so will result in a fair outcome for ratepayers (including Hennepin County) and all parties involved.

In the unlikely and unfortunate event that the Commission would not uphold the negotiated agreement and require arbitration, Hennepin County will work with Xcel to arbitrate expeditiously.

Sincerely,

  
David J. Hough  
County Administrator

**Hennepin County Administration**  
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