

At the entrance to the meeting, we will verify that you meet the requirements for admission. We will decide in our sole discretion whether the documentation you present meets the requirements described above. If you hold your shares in a joint account, both owners can be admitted to the meeting if proof of joint ownership is provided and you both follow the admission procedures described above. Each shareholder may bring one guest to the meeting, provided that the guest must also have valid state-issued photo identification, or, for minor children, the shareholder must sign a minor admission certification.

The annual meeting will begin at 11:00 a.m. CDT. The doors will open at 10:15 a.m. CDT. Please allow ample time for the admission procedures described above.

How do I make a reservation to attend the Annual Meeting?

You must make a reservation to attend. If you are a shareholder of record and plan to attend, please contact Xcel Energy's Corporate Secretary Department by email at CorporateSecretary@xcelenergy.com or by telephone at 612-215-5391 to make a reservation. Your name will be on a list as you check in. If you hold shares through an intermediary, such as a bank or broker, and you plan to attend, you will need to send a written request for a reservation either by regular mail, fax or email, along with proof of share ownership, such as a bank or brokerage firm account statement or a letter from the broker, trustee, bank or nominee holding your shares, confirming ownership to: Shareholder Relations, Xcel Energy Inc., 414 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401; fax: 612-330-2965; or email: CorporateSecretary@xcelenergy.com. Requests to make a reservation will be processed in the order in which they are received and must be received no later than May 11, 2018.

Who pays for the cost of soliciting votes for the Annual Meeting?

Some of our directors and officers, as well as management and non-management employees, may contact you by telephone, mail, email or in person. You may also be solicited by means of news releases issued by Xcel Energy, postings on our website, www.xcelenergy.com, and advertisements in periodicals. We will bear the expense of any such solicitation, as well as the costs of preparing, printing and mailing this proxy material.

We have also hired Morrow Sodali LLC to assist us in the solicitation of votes. We expect to pay Morrow Sodali LLC approximately \$19,500 for consultation services and preparation in connection with the solicitation, plus expenses. We will also reimburse brokerage houses and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses for forwarding proxy and solicitation materials to beneficial owners of our stock.

Does the Company offer shareholders electronic delivery of proxy materials?

Yes. Xcel Energy offers shareholders the option to receive the Annual Report to shareholders and proxy statement electronically instead of receiving paper copies of these documents in the mail. You must specifically request the electronic information prior to the record date for the annual meeting.

Shareholders of Record should call EQ Shareowner Services at 1-877-778-6786 to request electronic delivery. Beneficial Owners must contact their bank, brokerage house or other nominee record holder to request electronic delivery. As soon as the Annual Report to shareholders and proxy statement are available, electronic delivery participants will receive an email with a link to the information and a control number to use to vote online.

Why did I only receive a Notice directing me to the Internet instead of the proxy statement and Annual Report?

We are again providing shareholders internet access to our proxy to reduce the environmental impact of our annual meeting and to manage costs. On April 3, 2018, we began mailing a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials (the "Notice") to some of our shareholders and posted our proxy materials on the website referenced in the Notice (www.proxydocs.com/xel). As more fully described in the Notice, shareholders may choose to access our proxy materials on the website or may request to receive a printed set of our proxy materials. Shareholders can indicate a preference to receive a printed copy by calling 1-866-870-3684 or by internet at www.investorelections.com/xel. Once a shareholder requests to receive a printed copy, that choice will remain in effect until changed by the shareholder. If you are a beneficial owner and you want to receive separate copies of the Annual Report to shareholders and proxy statement in the future, you should contact your bank, broker, or other nominee record holder.

What does it mean if I receive more than one Notice of Internet Availability of proxy materials or proxy card or voting instruction card?

It means your shares are registered differently or are in more than one account. Please provide voting instructions for all notices, proxy cards and voting instruction cards you receive.