

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Gregory Scott	Chair
Edward A. Garvey	Commissioner
Marshall Johnson	Commissioner
LeRoy Koppendrayer	Commissioner
Phyllis A. Reha	Commissioner

In the Matter of an Investigation into Using  
Rate Design to Achieve the Demand-side  
Management Goals of Xcel Energy

ISSUE DATE: July 20, 2001

DOCKET NO. E-002/CI-01-1024

ORDER OPENING INVESTIGATION

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

On July 10, 2000, Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy (the Company) filed its 2000-2014 Resource Plan (Resource Plan), with supplement filed September 6, 2000. The Company's plan was assigned to Docket No. E-002/RP-00-787.

Between November 9 and March 5, 2001, the Commission received comments and reply comments on the Company's Resource Plan from the following: Michael O. Leavitt, Governor of Utah; the Minnesota Department of Commerce (the Department); Communities United for Responsible Energy (CURE); North American Water Office (NAWO); Center for Energy and the Environment (CEE); the Office of the Attorney General (OAG); the Prairie Island Indian Community; Minnesotans for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ME3); the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA); and Clean Water Action Alliance.

The Commission met on June 7, 2001 to consider the Company's Resource Plan.

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

In the course of its consideration of Xcel's Resource Plan, the Commission concluded that it would be appropriate to examine the potential for the Company's rate and tariff design to achieve DSM savings and to send appropriate pricing signals to rate payers.

Accordingly, the Commission will open such an investigation, examining how Xcel's rate design can be adjusted (time of use rates, real time pricing, etc.) to promote energy efficiency, conservation, load-shifting, and other consumer energy use response. Optimally, this investigation will proceed at a pace that will enable the Commission, the Company, and the rate payers to benefit from any rate design changes in the summer of 2002.

**ORDER**

1. The Commission hereby opens this docket to investigate the use of rate and tariff design to promote DSM goals and send appropriate pricing signals to rate payers.
2. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar  
Executive Secretary

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