

Jeffcoat-Sacco, Illona

From: Schock, Victor F.
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2016 12:24 PM
To: Jeffcoat-Sacco, Illona
Subject: FW: Xcel Energy announces plans for four new wind farms

Brian asked me to forward this to you.

Thanks,

Victor Schock

From: Sederquist, Dave [mailto:dave.sederquist@xcelenergy.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2016 3:33 PM
To: Nitschke, Darrell D. <dnitschk@nd.gov>; Jeffcoat-Sacco, Illona <ijs@nd.gov>; Lein, Jerry R. <jlein@nd.gov>; Schuh, John M. <jschuh@nd.gov>; Fedorchak, Julie L. <jfedorchak@nd.gov>; Prescott, Julie S. <jprescott@nd.gov>; Kalk, Brian P. <bkalk@nd.gov>; Michael R. Diller (michaelraydiller@gmail.com) <michaelraydiller@gmail.com>; Fahn, Patrick J. <pfahn@nd.gov>; Christmann, Randel D. <rchristmann@nd.gov>; Schock, Victor F. <vschock@nd.gov>; Eberl, Stacy L. <steberl@nd.gov>
Cc: Archer, Alison C <Alison.C.Archer@xcelenergy.com>
Subject: Xcel Energy announces plans for four new wind farms

Commissioners, staff,

The following press release was sent to local media in Fargo, Grand Forks and Minot this afternoon. Yesterday we filed with the NDPSC a request to amend – under certain circumstances - the existing Settlement obligation to file an ADP for all larger generation such as these, given the uncertainty as to which wind projects will be advanced to meet our Resource Plan wind acquisitions. Let me know if you have any questions.

David H Sederquist

Sr. Regulatory & Financial Consultant

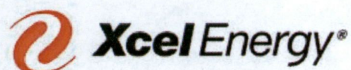
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No trees were killed in the sending of this message. However, several electrons were terribly inconvenienced.



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Xcel Energy announces plans for four new wind farms

New wind farms will provide enough renewable energy to power up to 400,000 homes

Fargo, ND (October 25 2016) -- Xcel Energy, the nation's leading utility wind energy provider, is proposing to build four new wind farms in Minnesota and North Dakota. The projects, totaling 750 megawatts, will provide enough energy to power nearly 400,000 homes. They are part of the company's plan to continue investing in renewable energy while still delivering cost-effective energy to customers.

"This is a big day for Xcel Energy and our customers as we take our wind leadership to a new level, while bringing value to our customers," said Chris Clark, president, Xcel Energy--Minnesota. "We're building an energy future with low-cost wind that delivers the renewable energy customers want at an affordable price."

Customers are expected to save hundreds of millions in energy costs over the next 20 years as a result of these wind investments. The projects will create jobs and increase the local tax base, benefitting landowners, local suppliers and communities during construction and operation of the wind farms.

Wind portfolio details

- Freeborn Wind Energy, a 150-200 MW project located in Freeborn County, Minnesota., developed by Invenergy
- Foxtail Wind, a 150 MW project located in Dickey County, North Dakota, developed by NextEra
- Blazing Star 1, a 200 MW project located in Lincoln County, Minnesota, developed by Geronimo Energy
- Blazing Star 2, a 200 MW project located in Lincoln County, Minnesota, developed by Geronimo Energy

"The new wind portfolio delivers on our plan to more than double our renewable energy sources over the next 15 years, and reduces carbon emissions by 60 percent from 2005 levels," said Clark.

"We are pleased to continue our longstanding relationship with Xcel Energy by developing the Blazing Star 1 and 2 projects for their ownership portfolio," said Blake Nixon, president of Geronimo Energy. "Geronimo Energy's community-focused wind development approach, combined with Xcel Energy's deep experience in project construction and operation, will result in cost-competitive, clean wind energy for Xcel Energy customers."

"As world leaders in renewable energy development and operations, NextEra Energy Resources and Xcel Energy have worked together on numerous wind and solar projects over the past decade and we are pleased to partner once again on the Foxtail Wind Energy Center," said John DiDonato, vice president of wind development for NextEra Energy Resources. The project will create good jobs and provide millions of dollars in landowner payments and tax benefits to North Dakota communities, while generating affordable, clean energy for generations to come."

Project development to occur 2017-2020

If approved by regulators, Xcel Energy will begin building the wind farms upon completion of the permitting process, expected by mid-2017. The projects are expected to be in service by 2020, enabling the company to secure the 100 percent Production Tax Credit and pass the savings on to customers.

In September, Xcel Energy asked for proposals for up to 1,500 megawatts of wind energy to serve the Upper Midwest. The company will evaluate the proposals and negotiate with the winning bidders. The projects, along with the ones announced today, will require regulatory approval.

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About Xcel Energy

Xcel Energy (NYSE: XEL) provides the energy that powers millions of homes and businesses across eight Western and Midwestern states. Headquartered in Minneapolis, the company is an industry leader in responsibly reducing carbon emissions and producing and delivering clean energy solutions from a variety of renewable sources at competitive prices. For more information, visit xcelenergy.com or follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

Cautionary Notes Regarding Forward-Looking Statements:

Certain information contained in this release is forward-looking information based on current expectations and plans that involve risks and uncertainties. Forward-looking information includes, among other things,

statements concerning the construction and subsequent operation of the wind farms, expected impact to customer bills and expected carbon dioxide reductions. Xcel Energy and Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation, (NSPM) caution that there are certain factors that can cause actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking information that has been provided; accordingly, there can be no assurance that such suggested results will be realized. The following factors, in addition to those discussed in each of Xcel Energy's and NSPM's Annual Reports on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015, and subsequent securities filings, could cause actual results to differ materially: the ability to control costs and avoid cost overruns during the development and construction of the wind farms, to construct the facilities in accordance with the requirements of permits and licenses, and to satisfy any operational and environmental performance standards, including the requirements of tax credits and other incentives; the failure to receive, on a timely basis or otherwise, the required approvals by government or regulatory agencies (including the terms of such approvals); the risk that a condition to closing of any of the he transactions may not be satisfied; and the possibility that the anticipated benefits from the transaction cannot be fully realized or may take longer to realize than expected. Xcel Energy and NSPM expressly disclaim any obligation to update any forward-looking information.

Kathy Aas

Xcel Energy | Responsible By Nature

Community Relations Manager

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