



Minnesota Center for
Environmental Advocacy

The legal and scientific voice protecting and defending Minnesota's environment

26 East Exchange Street,
Suite 206
Saint Paul, MN
55101-1667

651.223.5969
651.223.5967 fax

mcea@mncenter.org
www.mncenter.org

March 3, 2008

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Dr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place E., Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

**Re: In the Matter of the Xcel Energy Renewable Energy Plan
MPUC Docket No. E-002/M-07-1558**

Dear Dr. Haar:

Please accept this correspondence as the reply comments in the above-referenced matter on behalf of Wind on the Wires, Izaak Walton League of America – Midwest Office, Fresh Energy and Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy. We wish to address just one issue raised in the comments of the Department and the Chamber of Commerce initial comments, namely, the extent to which the Commission should address the merits of the Xcel Energy Renewable Energy Plan in Xcel's pending Resource Plan docket. We have concerns about deferring consideration of all aspects of the Xcel Renewable Energy Plan until the Commission issues an order in the Xcel Resource Plan docket.

First, essentially rolling the Renewable Energy Plan into the Resource Plan docket will no doubt delay decisions that could be made regarding Xcel's compliance plans for the RES. Second, having a stand-alone Renewable Energy Plan docket allows more focused attention on important and time-sensitive RES compliance issues. Although we recognize that the Renewable Energy Plan ultimately must mesh with the direction the Commission gives Xcel in the Resource Plan docket, we believe that separate and earlier consideration of the issues stemming from the filed Renewable Energy Plan would not create a barrier. The law creating the RES addresses the need for Commission review of the Xcel Renewable Energy Plans separately from ordinary Resource Plan requirements and review, and we believe that is for good reason, placing proper priority on RES-compliance issues.

Thank you for considering this reply.

Sincerely,

/s/
Elizabeth Goodpaster