

Exhibit ____ (KM-1)
Schedule 7

- Non Public Document – Contains Trade Secret Data**
 Public Document – Trade Secret Data Excised
 Public Document

Xcel Energy

Docket No.: EL11-019

Response To: SDPUC

Data Request No.

Requestor:

1-29

Date Received: December 2, 2011

Question:

Referring to McCarten's testimony on page 7, please provide the results of the RFP used to select the Nobles wind project.

Response:

Pursuant to ARSD § 20:10:01:41, the Company respectfully requests confidential treatment of the information provided in this response. The Company addresses the Commission's five factors for consideration of confidential data as follows:

(1) An identification of the document and the general subject matter of the materials or the portions of the document for which confidentiality is being requested:

The response to data request 1-29 includes description of the process by which the Company evaluated the request for proposals ("RFP"), for which the evaluation process may be used for future processes. In addition, the Company is still subject to the confidentiality agreements with some of the RFP bidders, which typically does not allow us to disclose the participants in the bidding process.

(2) The length of time for which confidentiality is being requested and a request for handling at the end of that time. This does not preclude a later request to extend the period of confidential treatment:

The Company requests that the data contained in response to data request 1-29 be treated as confidential forever.

(3) The name, address, and phone number of a person to be contacted regarding the confidentiality request:

James C. Wilcox
Manager, Government and Regulatory Affairs
Xcel Energy

500 West Russell Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

(4) The statutory or common law grounds and any administrative rules under which confidentiality is requested. Failure to include all possible grounds for confidential treatment does not preclude the party from raising additional grounds in the future:

The material is confidential information the disclosure of which could result in material damage to Xcel Energy's financial position. *See* ARSD §§ 20:10:01:39 and 20:10:01:42. The materials contain confidential information regarding the Company's process for evaluating wind RFPs and the disclosure of which may have an adverse impact on Xcel Energy and its ratepayers.

(5) The factual basis that qualifies the information for confidentiality under the authority cited:

The Company treats this information as confidential information regarding RFP evaluations and information subject to contractual confidentiality agreements.

The Company issued an RFP for up to 500 MW of Company-owned wind energy projects in December 2007. The RFP sought proposals for build/transfer ("B/T") projects similar to the approach used for our Grand Meadow Wind energy project. We received 22 conforming-proposals (30 total proposals) in response to the RFP and one was subsequently withdrawn. As a result, we evaluated 21 of these proposals totaling approximately 3,000 MW of wind capacity in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Iowa. The initial screening process generally consisted of the five steps outlined in Attachment A. The 21 proposals were prioritized into five groups as shown in Attachment B. Based on the initial screening, the Company further prioritized twelve projects representing eight developers and 1,600 MW for additional consideration. Nine of these projects were located in Minnesota and three were located in North Dakota. Three proposals were selected as the best candidates with which to proceed into definitive negotiations.

Preparer: James R. Alders
Title: Director
Department: Regulatory Administration
Telephone: 612-330-6732
Date: December 20, 2011

NSP Wind RFP
Initial Screening Summary

[BEGIN TRADE SECRET]

[END TRADE SECRET]

NSP RFP List
Initial Screening List

Company

Project

Group

[BEGIN TRADE SECRET]

[END TRADE SECRET]