

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

Xcel Energy

Docket No.: EL11-019

Response To: South Dakota Public
Utilities Commission

Data Request No. 9-5

Date Received: February 9, 2012

Question:

Please provide the actual (from the in service date to most recent data available) and updated projections for capacity factor for Nobles. Please provide the relevant workpapers to support your response.

Response:

Please see Attachment A for the historic capacity factor data. Regarding projected capacity factors, the production budget forecasts a 37.2% capacity factor for 2012. The 37.2% capacity factor predicted for 2012 is consistent with 2011 generation, absent the equipment issues in the summer of 2011. Actual capacity factors will vary with wind patterns. We continue to predict a long term capacity factor of 41% for the project as used in our original request for regulatory approval as well as in our Strategist resource planning models, based on the original wind usage study done for the site.

Preparer: Sara J. Cardwell

Title: Manager, Regulatory Administration

Department: Regulatory Policy

Telephone: 612-330-7975

Date: February 20, 2012

**Docket No. EL11-019
Data Request PUC 9-5
Attachment A**

NOBLES WIND FARM Capacity Factors

| | Net Turbine Energy MWh | Monthly Avg Net Capacity Factor | YTD Avg Net Capacity Factor |
|--------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2010 | | | |
| December | 18,354.60 | 36.20% | 36.20% |
| 2011 | | | |
| January | 51,237.98 | 34.26% | 34.26% |
| February | 60,510.61 | 44.80% | 39.26% |
| March | 54,072.23 | 36.16% | 38.19% |
| April | 67,059.32 | 46.34% | 40.23% |
| May | 47,997.69 | 32.10% | 38.56% |
| June | 23,797.46 | 16.44% | 34.89% |
| July | 29,979.90 | 20.05% | 32.72% |
| August | 27,385.72 | 18.31% | 30.88% |
| September | 39,314.11 | 27.17% | 30.48% |
| October | 65,978.46 | 44.12% | 31.87% |
| November | 47,241.36 | 32.64% | 31.94% |
| December | 62,238.67 | 41.62% | 32.76% |
| Total/Avg for 2011 | 576,813.50 | 32.76% | 32.76% |