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Xcel Energy

Docket No.: EL11-019

Response To: South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Data Request No. 8-9

Date Received: February 3, 2012

Question:

How much capacity and at what cost has Xcel installed this capacity to back up the Nobles wind farm?

Response:

Wind is primarily just an energy resource and not a capacity resource. Wind replaces fuel that would have been consumed in the production of generation from other resources that already exist or that would have been added to the system regardless of the addition of wind. As a result we did not, and do not plan to install any additional capacity resources to back-up the Nobles Wind Project or other wind generation. Therefore, there are no associated costs as such.

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Date: February 22, 2012