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Xcel Energy

Docket No.: EL11-019

Response To: South Dakota Public  
Utilities Commission

Data Request No. 4-11

Date Received: January 6, 2012

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Question:

For questions 4-1 through 4-17 please refer to Xcel's 2007 IRP referenced on page 8 of Witness McCarten's direct testimony:

Did Xcel force wind into the Strategist model or did the model select wind? Please explain your response in detail and demonstrate with quantitative analysis.

Response:

The Company forced the selection of wind units. Between 2009 and 2022 the model was required to take 2050 MW of new wind based on the amount estimated to be needed to meet renewable energy objectives and requirements of all our jurisdictions. The model was forced to take an additional 4400 MW of generic wind in years 2023 through 2047. Later wind additions reflect both the addition of new units for renewable energy compliance and the replacement of retiring wind farms already on the NSP system or added earlier in the Resource Plan. As indicated in our response to Data Request 4-12, we also ran a separate set of simulations in which no new wind was added to the system.

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