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Xcel Energy

Docket No.: EL11-019

Response To: SDPUC

Data Request No.

Requestor:

1-26

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Question:

Referring to McCarten's testimony on page 8, please describe how wind was selected in the Company's 2007 resource plan.

Response:

We are required to comply with state mandates for renewable resources, absent circumstances justifying a request to be released from those obligations. Consequently, the resource modeling process selects the amount of wind resources needed to comply with our system requirements. Therefore, in our 2007 Resource Plan, we identified the amount of wind that would be needed to comply with the renewable energy standards in all of our jurisdictions. Once the plan for wind acquisition was identified in the resource plan, we then use various competitive processes (bidding, competitive negotiations) to actually acquire or select the wind projects that fulfill the plan. It is during this later project selection process that we have the opportunity, if the cost of the renewable resource were not competitive with other non-renewable resources, to seek an exemption or other relief from the renewable obligation.

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