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Xcel Energy

Docket No.: EL16-037

Response To: South Dakota Public  
Utilities Commission

Data Request No. 5-9

Requestor: Tina Douglas

Date Received: June 21, 2017

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Question:

Regarding Community Solar Gardens, provide the following:

- a. MW of Community Solar Gardens projects that NSP has acquired to date.
- b. How many MW are in the queue to date?
- c. What is the Minnesota Commission approved MW target for acquiring solar community gardens and by what date?
- d. Are costs associated with Community Solar Gardens flowing through the South Dakota FCR? If so, provide the relevant cost details flowing through the rider. If not, does NSP intend to flow the community Solar Gardens related costs through the South Dakota FCR? Explain.

Response:

Please see Xcel Energy's response to the requested questions regarding our Solar\*Rewards Community program (Community Solar Gardens).

- a. As of June 1, 2017, the Solar\*Rewards Community program (Xcel Energy's community solar garden program) has interconnected 80 MW in conjunction with 25 gardens.
- b. At this time, there are 763 MW in the pipeline in various stages of development. This amount changes as projects either advance through the queue or fail to advance and fall away. This information is provided to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in Docket No. E002/M-13-867 through monthly compliance filings.
- c. There are no MW targets or deadlines for acquiring community solar gardens. The Solar\*Rewards Community program is based on Minnesota State Legislation §216B.1641 which states in part,

*..There shall be no limitation on the number or cumulative generating capacity of community solar garden facilities other than the limitations imposed under section 216B.164, subdivision 4c, or other limitations provided in law or regulations.*

- d. Prior to the rate freeze, no costs associated with Community Solar Gardens have flowed through the South Dakota FCR. When the monthly South Dakota fuel clause recovery process is resumed, the Company intends to recover from South Dakota the costs of the energy produced by the Community Solar Gardens by relying on MISO Locational Marginal Pricing (LMP) as a proxy to fuel and purchased energy costs. The Company believes it is a fair and reasonable approach. If there had been no Community Solar Gardens program, the Company would have to stream for resources to serve the program participants' energy requirement. Therefore, the derived proxy Community Solar Gardens costs are part of NSP System costs. The Community Solar Gardens program costs above the MISO LMP proxy price will be recovered from the Minnesota jurisdiction only.

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