



414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-1993

April 29, 2020

—VIA ELECTRONIC FILING—

Mr. Will Seuffert
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

Re: COMPLIANCE FILING
IMMEDIATE INCIDENT REPORTS
PERMIT SECTION 7.5.3
DOCKET NO. IP-6903/WS-18-179

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, submits to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) this immediate incident report for the Lake Benton II Wind Farm in accordance with Section 7.5.3 of the site permit:

The Permittee shall notify the Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources within 24 hours of the discovery of any of the following:

- (a) Five or more dead or injured birds within a five day reporting period;*
- (b) One or more dead or injured state threatened, endangered, or species of special concern;*
- (c) One or more dead or injured federally listed species, including species proposed for listing; or*
- (d) One or more dead or injured bald or golden eagle(s).*

In the event that one of the four discoveries listed above should be made, the Permittee must file with the Commission within seven days, a compliance report identifying the details of what was discovered, the turbine where the discovery was made, a detailed log of agencies and individuals contacted, and current plans being undertaken to address the issue.

Will Seuffert
April 29,
2020 Page 2
of 2

On April 22, 2020, the consultant conducting post-construction mortality monitoring at the Lake Benton II (WEST, Inc.) reported finding multiple avian fatalities. WEST technicians spent the next two days in the field cataloging the fatalities and delineating the extent of the incident. A total of 185 avian fatalities from at least 25 species and one bat fatality were found. These fatalities were documented around 12 turbines (see Attachment A; Table 1). The avian species included in this event were primarily songbird species; however, one Minnesota state species of special concern (short-eared owl) was reported.

In accordance with Section 7.5.3, Xcel Energy reported the incident to the Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on April 22, 2020, within 24 hours of the discovery. Follow-up calls to DNR and the Commission were made on April 23 and April 24, 2020, respectively, to share additional details. Xcel Energy will work with the Commission, DNR, and USFWS to determine appropriate next steps in response to the incident.

Please contact Kate Schindler at kate.schindler@xcelenergy.com or (612) 330-6743 or Pamela Gibbs at pamela.k.gibbs@xcelenergy.com or (612) 330-2889 if you have questions about this compliance report.

Sincerely,

Kate Schindler
Environmental Analyst

cc: Mike Bloom

Raw summary of the total observed fatalities documented April 22-24, 2020 at the Lake Benton II Wind Energy facility.

Type	Species	Turbine ID											Species	
		9	10	20	21	22	23	25	26	27	31	32	41	Total
Bat	Bat, Silver-haired									1				1
Rails	Coot, American												1	1
	Sora			1						1				2
Owl	Owl, Short-eared ¹									1				1
Raptor	Hawk, Red-tailed	1												1
Woodpecker	Flicker, Northern						1	1						2
	Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied		1		1					1				3
Passerine	Blackbird, Yellow-headed			1										1
	Creeper, Brown									1				1
	Kinglet, Golden-crowned			1										1
	Kinglet, Ruby-crowned			3	1	3	3	1	1	6			1	19
	Lark, Horned						1							1
	Meadowlark sp.									1				1
	Junco, Dark-eyed			3			4			3		1		11
	Sparrow, Chipping			2	2		1		1	1				7
	Sparrow, LeConte's			3	2		2			2		2		11
	Sparrow, Lincoln's			1										1
	Sparrow, Savannah			2	3	2				2	1	2		12
	Sparrow, Song		2	10	5	2	2			8	1	2		32
	Sparrow, Swamp		2	10	6	7	2	4	4	7	2	1		45
	Sparrow, Vesper		1		1	2		1		4		1		10
	Sparrow, White-throated				1									1
	Sparrow, UNID			3		1				4			1	10
	Thrush, Hermit									1				1
	Warbler, Yellow-rumped			1	2		1			3	1	1		9
	Wren, Marsh				1		1							2
Total fatalities		1	6	41	25	17	18	7	6	47	5	10	3	186

¹MN Special Concern)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Lynnette Sweet, hereby certify that I have this day served copies of the foregoing document on the attached list of persons.

xx by depositing a true and correct copy thereof, properly enveloped with postage paid in the United States mail at Minneapolis, Minnesota

xx electronic filing

DOCKET NOS. IP-6903/WS-18-179

Dated this 29th day of April 2020

/s/

Lynnette Sweet
Regulatory Administrator

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Generic Notice	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_18-179_Official
Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 280 Saint Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_18-179_Official
Matt	Harris	matt.b.harris@xcelenergy.com	XCEL ENERGY	401 Nicollet Mall FL 8 Minneapolis, MN 55401	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_18-179_Official
Danell	Herzig	danell.herzig@nexteraenergy.com	NextEra Energy Resources, LLC	700 Universe Blvd Juno Beach, FL 33408	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_18-179_Official
Brian	Meloy	brian.meloy@stinson.com	STINSON LLP	50 S 6th St Ste 2600 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_18-179_Official
Brian J	Murphy	Brian.J.Murphy@nee.com	Nextera Energy Resources, LLC	700 Universe Blvd LAW-JB Juno Beach, FL 33408	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_18-179_Official
Carol A.	Overland	overland@legalelectric.org	Legalelectric - Overland Law Office	1110 West Avenue Red Wing, MN 55066	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_18-179_Official
Generic Notice	Residential Utilities Division	residential.utilities@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul, MN 551012131	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_18-179_Official
Stephan	Roos	stephan.roos@state.mn.us	MN Department of Agriculture	625 Robert St N Saint Paul, MN 55155-2538	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_18-179_Official
Will	Seuffert	Will.Seuffert@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Pl E Ste 350 Saint Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_18-179_Official

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Lynnette	Sweet	Regulatory.records@xcelenergy.com	Xcel Energy	414 Nicollet Mall FL 7 Minneapolis, MN 554011993	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_18-179_Official