



# Energy Transition Advisory Council Public Utilities Commission Overview

May 23, 2022

Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary

# Agenda

- PUC at-a-Glance: Who/How we regulate
- Integrated Resource Planning
  - Process, how to participate
  - IRP status update
  - Xcel IRP and related dockets
- Energy Facilities Permitting
  - Process, how to participate
  - How workforce and community issues are addressed

# Jurisdiction/Scope of Work

- **Investor-Owned Electric & Gas Utilities:**
  - **Rates** – Just & reasonable. Can't be unjustly discriminatory
  - **Services** – Sufficiently reliable
  - **Infrastructure** (Electric Utilities)
    - **Selection** – **Size, type, timing of resources** (IRP and CNs) - Least cost; renewable preference; environmental & socioeconomic impacts considered
    - **Construction & Location** *Large* Gen or Trans – (route/site permits)
- **Non-Utility Large Energy Infrastructure (CNs & Site/Route Permits):**
  - Petroleum pipelines, Natural Gas Plants, Large Transmission Lines
  - Large wind & solar
- **Landline Telecom Companies (Complaint-based/no rate reg)**

# PUC Structure

*The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's mission is to create and maintain a regulatory environment that ensures safe, reliable and efficient utility services at fair and reasonable rates.*

- Five Member quasi-judicial decision-making board
  - no ex-parte communications, subject to Open Meeting Law, decisions issued in written orders, “Commission speaks through its orders”
- Not a Cabinet-level agency (Independent from Administration)
- 57 Staff, 5 Commissioners (regulatory analysts, economists, attorneys, consumer affairs mediators, public advisor, business services, and administrative support)

# Integrated Resource Plans

## Current Integrated Resource Plans

Docket	Utility	Status
21-471	Basin Electric Coop.	Comment period ended May 16, 2022 – Pending Action
21-443	Dairyland Cooperative	Closed Sept. 1, 2021 – No Comments
21-414	Missouri River Energy.	Accepted February 15, 2022 - <a href="#">Order</a>
21-339	Otter Tail Power Co.	Filed Sept. 1, 2021; Reply Comments through June 13, 2022
21-33	Minnesota Power	Open Comment Period through June 29, 2022
19-368	Xcel Energy	Commission decision February 8, 2022 (next 2/1/24)
22-75	Great River Energy	GRE filing due 4/1/23, interim update 10/3/22

Integrated Resource Plans review and approve a utility’s proposed size, type, and timing of new resource additions, looking closely at the first five-years, and more generally at the next 10 years.

PUC approves IOU IRPs, for Coops and Munis, PUC decision is advisory, O-IRPs for utilities with a small presence.

# MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN PROCESS



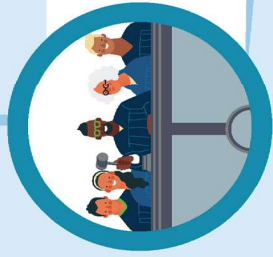
**Resource Plan Petition  
Filed & Accepted 'if' Complete**



**Comment Period  
(which may include  
Public Meetings)**

Opportunities for the public and interest groups to comment on the merits of the resource plan and propose alternative plans. This process step may be iterative and involve multiple rounds of comment.

TIME FOR  
PUBLIC  
COMMENTS



**Commission Decision**

Staff compiles a summary of the input received. Then Commissioners will make a decision at an Agenda Meeting.

# How to Participate?

Attend a Public Meeting

Subscribe for notices in eDockets

Submit a Comment:

- 1.Email** your comments to [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us).
- 2.Go to the [Comment page](#) on the Commission's **website** to learn more.
- 3.Mail** your comments to: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, Saint Paul, MN 55101.

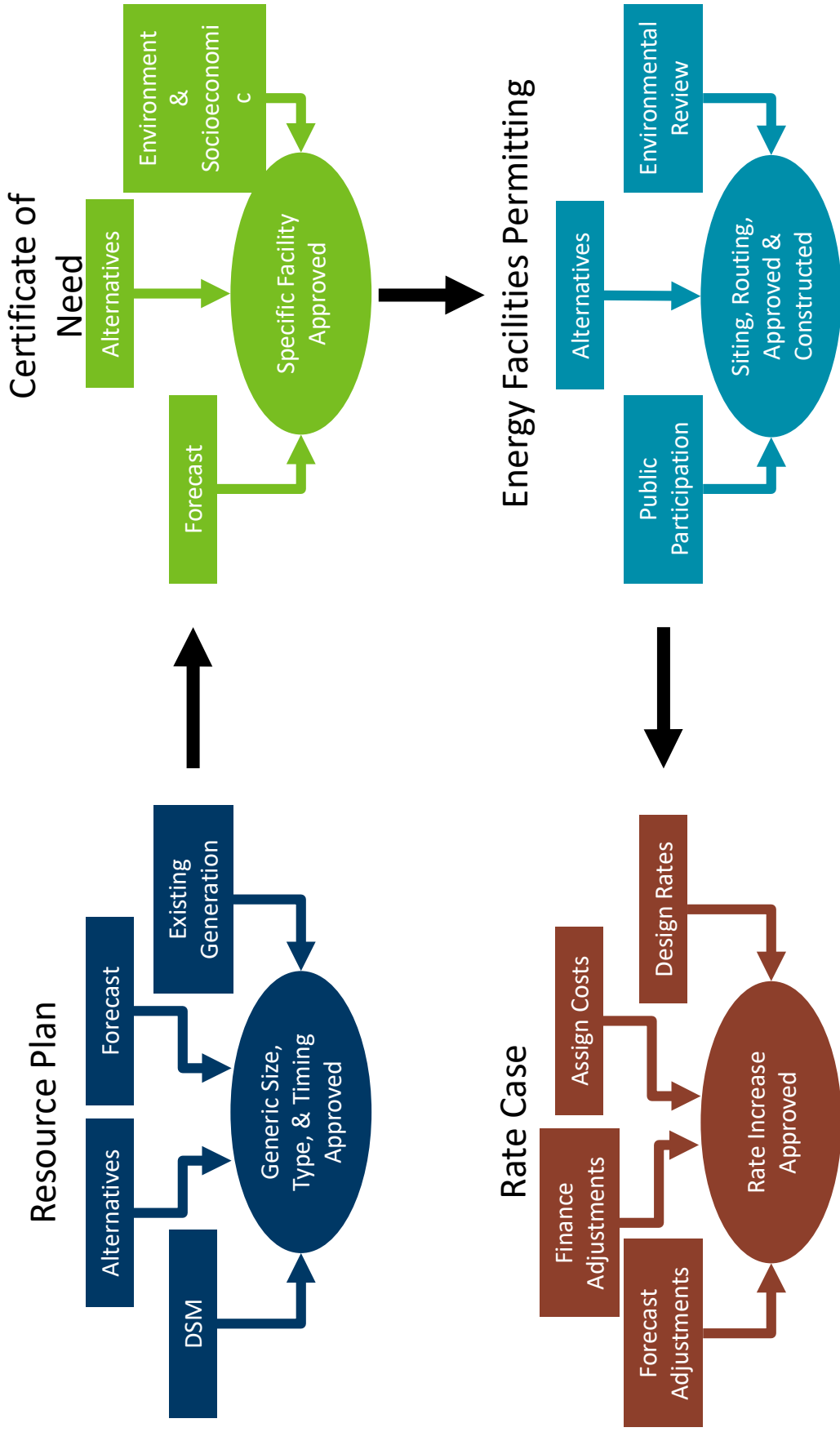
# Xcel Integrated Resource Plan

- Approved (verbally) 2/8/2022 (filed in 2019) after 3 all-day hearings; over 8,000 comments filed, over 20 parties participated
- Approves Xcel's plan to acquire or build up to 4,650 MW of renewable resources (solar, wind and storage)
- By 2032, 81% of Xcel's electricity will be carbon-free, reducing carbon emissions 86% relative to 2005 baseline
- Monticello extension to 2040
- King retirements in 2028, Sherco 3 retirement in 2030, with requirements for stakeholder engagement
- 2 new gen-tie lines to reuse interconnection rights at Sherco and King

# Xcel IRP Next Steps: Transparency and Community Engagement

- Remediation Plan for Sherco site
  - Xcel conduct stakeholder meetings
  - Xcel publicly file status update on plans and outreach (1/1/23)
  - Xcel publicly file annual remediation plan updates to PUC and City of Becker
- Remediation plan for King site
  - Same requirements and schedule as Sherco
- Workforce transition for retiring generation facilities
  - Xcel (working with DEED and ETO) shall develop a comprehensive plan supporting transitioning workers, publicly file 12/31/2022
- Workforce diversity, inclusive participation, and equitable access to utility services: Xcel engage communities/stakeholders, report 1/1/23





# Energy Facilities Scope of Authority

Type	Certificate of Need	Site/Route Authority
Generation – Non-Wind	Greater than 50 MW	Greater than 50 MW
Generation – Wind	Greater than 50 MW	Greater than 5 MW, Counties can assume authority up to 25 MW
High Voltage Transmission Lines	200 kV & > 1500-ft 100 kV & > 10-miles	100 kV or more
Pipelines – Large	-Crude or oil pipelines that are 6-inches in diameter and 50-miles -Natural gas pipelines > 200 psi and 50-miles	Hazardous liquids if greater than 6-inches in diameter or natural gas pipelines greater than 275 psi
Pipelines - Small	NA	Information Book Process for pipelines greater than 90 psi <i>*PUC does not regulate pipelines covered under the Federal Natural Gas Act</i>

# Certificate of Need

- 7849.0120 CRITERIA. A certificate of need must be granted to the applicant on determining that (paraphrased):
- A. the result of denial would be an adverse effect upon the adequacy, reliability, or efficiency of energy supply to the applicant to utility customers, Minnesota and neighboring states...
- B. An alternative to the proposed facility has not been demonstrated, considering [paraphrased]...the size, type, timing, cost, socioeconomic impacts, reliability needs.
- C. the proposed facility will provide benefits to society in a manner compatible with protecting the natural and socioeconomic environments, including human health, considering: (1) state energy needs, (2) the natural and socioeconomic environments compared to the effects of not building the facility; ... (4) the socially beneficial uses of facility, including its uses to protect or enhance environmental quality; and
- D. the record does not demonstrate that the facility will fail to comply with relevant policies, rules, and regulations of other state and federal agencies and local governments.

# Energy Facilities Permitting – Labor Data

## Reporting Data from Facilities Dockets

### Line 3 #15-13

**Permit Section 6.12.** The Permittee shall report annually on the number of workers employed by the Project. The report shall identify the number of workers that are Minnesota residents and the number of workers that are recognized members of a Minnesota Tribe.

### Recent Wind Permit Language

**Section 10.5 Labor Statistic Reporting.** The Permittee shall file quarterly reports with the Commission within 45 days of the end of the quarter regarding construction workers that participated in the construction of the project. The reports shall (a) detail the Permittee’s efforts and the site contractor’s efforts to hire Minnesota workers, and (b) provide an account of: (i) the gross number of hours worked by or full-time equivalent workers who are Minnesota residents, as defined in Minn. Stat. § 290.01, subd. 7; (ii) the gross number of hours worked by or full-time equivalent workers who are residents of other states, but maintain a permanent residence within 150 miles of the project; and (iii) the total gross hours worked or total full-time equivalent workers. Permittee shall work with its contractor to determine the suitable reporting metric. The report may not include personally identifiable data.

# 2022 Issues of Interest

- Transmission System Congestion, county tax impacts

Type	Operating	Pending	Permit In Progress	Expected
Wind	3,774 MW	632 MW	700 MW	240 MW
Solar	262 MW	180 MW	920 MW	300 MW

- Resource Adequacy
- Long-Range Transmission Planning
- Grid Modernization/Distributed Energy Resources/Electric Vehicles/Electrification
- Wholesale Energy Prices
- Federal Infrastructure Bill



Thank You!

Questions?

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