

Summary/Abstract

Name of Applicant: Xcel Energy Inc. and its subsidiaries (electric grid operator; electricity storage operator; electricity generator; transmission owner or operator; distribution provider)

Program Manager: Jason Mauch

Project Title: Wildfire Mitigation and Extreme Weather Resilience for Xcel Energy

Project Objectives: Xcel Energy seeks DOE funding to implement a variety of projects that are focused on wildfire risk reduction, system hardening, and targeted undergrounding of electric utility assets. These projects will take place within our operating service territories that span across 5 states, and it will accelerate and enhance ongoing resiliency programs to minimize grid impacts from damaging wildfires, winter storms and other “high impact, low probability” (HILP) environmental events.

Project Description

Xcel Energy is committed to continuous improvement of grid resilience and has invested significantly in numerous grid modernization projects over the past decade. The wildfire mitigation, system hardening, and targeted undergrounding projects included in this application will expand and accelerate our efforts to improve service reliability and system resilience across our service territory.

Potential Project Impacts

Xcel Energy operates in Colorado as Public Service of Colorado and in New Mexico and Northwest Texas as Southwestern Public Service. These areas are exposed to high and increasing wildfire risk. Further, Xcel Energy serves customers in the upper Midwest including Minnesota and Wisconsin, as Northern States Power Minnesota and Wisconsin. These geographies are experiencing increasing severe winter weather as well as increased flood risk and damaging wind and hail events. The various HILP events have a low likelihood of occurring, but they pose significant safety, financial, and/or operational risk when they do occur. These proactive infrastructure upgrades will protect electric grid assets against extreme weather and environmental events and minimizes outage impacts.

Major Participants / Collaborators

- WeaveGrid Inc.
- World Resource Institute (WRI)
- La Crosse, Wisconsin Water Treatment Plant