

XTRA

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When Estes Park flooded, help was needed



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40 percent increase on the way



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An aggressive new push for wind resources by the nation's longtime No. 1 provider of wind power should ensure that Xcel Energy remains in the top slot for years to come. Pictured here are several wind turbines situated on Minnesota farmland. For more information, please see story on page 8.

Thanks sent for support of teachers and KidWind effort

Dear Xcel Energy:

I want to thank you for your kind support of KidWind. When my superintendent asked if I would be interested in attending a "wind seminar," I had never heard of KidWind.

After attending the WindSenators program in Portland, Ore., this past summer, however, I can't stop talking about it. To say the course is extremely helpful to teaching science is a big understatement.

The information, activities, guest speakers, supplies, and camaraderie of the WindSenators program is excellent! Thanks to you and your generous support of KidWind, New Mexico now has two WindSenators that can represent renewable-energy options to the many students passing through our schools.

You have not only enriched our understanding of

wind energy, but you have provided us with the initiative, knowledge and encouragement to share this information with as many as possible – and not only the students we spend our days with each year.

The scholarship you made available to me has changed my science curriculum forever. You've made an impact in rural New Mexico that neither of us may fully comprehend.

As our students take the knowledge of wind energy with them and become more aware of the need for alternative energy sources, they will be in a better position to make smart choices for the future.

Thank you again for the generous spirit you show. Be assured that your contributions to KidWind are being used in an awesome way.

Teachers and students across the country are benefiting from them every day. I hope you can continue to support KidWind in the future. The program is outstanding.

—Samuel Hindi, Corona High School, Corona, N.M.

PHOTO OP



MINNESOTA MAMMOTHS

A set of transmission lines run to and from King Generating Station, located along the St. Croix River in Oak Park Heights, Minn. Tom Wieland, with Business Systems, framed a portion of lines against a recent sunset to capture this image.

Editor's Note: "Photo Op" is a standing feature in Xtra. Each issue, a photo submitted by a reader or produced by a member of Corporate Communications will be published. Please submit high-resolution digital photos to the editor at the e-mail address listed on the back page of this publication. By submitting images for "Photo Op," employees give Xtra permission to run the photos.

SETTING THE FRAMEWORK

New call to action focuses on competitive mindset

Price, value, trust and competition. Although words with a familiar ring at Xcel Energy, they are taking on new meaning as the company launches a new call to action and strategic framework.

Along with a newly reframed vision, mission and set of values, the call to action positions the company for ongoing success, said Ben Fowke, chairman, president and CEO.

“We need to start thinking and acting like a competitive business so our customers prefer us as their energy provider,” he said. “There already are more choices for our customers than ever before – and we see more coming – so we need to be well-positioned so our customers choose us.”

To that end, the company’s new vision states: “We will be the preferred and trusted provider of the energy our customers need.”

And the new mission reads: “We provide our customers the safe, clean, reliable energy service they want and value at a competitive price.”

“Our vision is what we aspire to be,” Fowke said. “And we should be aspiring to be the preferred and trusted provider of the energy our customers need. It’s pretty straightforward, and I think of this as more of a streamlined version of what we’ve always had in our minds.”

One word in the new mission – in particular – is key, Fowke said.

“We don’t say at an affordable price, we say at a competitive price,” he said. “We don’t say at a reasonable price. We say competitive.”

“Competitive prices can be benchmarked, and we know our customers have alternatives – even alternative places for our business customers to locate,” he added. “Competitive

businesses know their competition and their prices. We need to focus our attention on our prices and our costs. While we may still use words like affordable and reasonable in our external messaging, for our purposes we need to focus on competitive.”

The mission also sharpens the focus on customers and the services they want and value. “Our goal is to offer customers and communities more solutions,” he explained. “And even though we are regulated, we will need to get to know customers better and anticipate what they want.”

“We need to be responsive and work more closely with customers and communities than ever before,” he added. “We need to evolve with the changing environment.”

To turn challenges into opportunities, Xcel Energy needs to take a fresh perspective, Fowke said. A competitive mindset and increased customer focus will help the company build on its solid foundation and adapt to a rapidly changing environment.

“No matter how fast competition comes, we will never go wrong by keeping the focus on our customers,” he said.

To drive the strategy to reality, the plan puts forth a four-pronged call to action. The first point of the plan involves bending the cost curve while maintaining the drive to operational excellence.

“We cannot see our O&M costs rise 4 to 5 percent annually and be in front of our regulators continuously,” he said. “With technology breakthroughs, process improvements and managing the workforce transition, we can lower our cost curve while still driving toward operational excellence. We need to minimally impact our customers’ rates, while still getting the job done with great operating performance.”

Bending the cost curve and operational excellence may



seem on their face contradictory, but Fowke stressed that they can and need to go together.

"We know the problems utilities face when they lose sight of their operational performance – and our response to storms, floods and other events this year demonstrates that we know how to deliver," he said. "Great service is one of the table stakes that we need to offer, even as we work to drive down our cost curve."

Next on the call to action is providing customers and communities with more services and options that they want and value.

"We need to give them more options," he said. "And in a regulated framework, that is a challenge because those options have to be fair to all. But we have teams working on new ideas, and we will be up to that challenge."

Third on the list is making smart investments that position the company for the future.

"We are making investments today that we will be living with for 30 years, so we need to carefully consider what we are investing in – particularly on the generation side," Fowke said. "At the same time, there is no way the grid is not going to be a valuable asset, and we will be the owners of that grid, so we need to make the right investments with our infrastructure upgrades."

Fowke stressed that the company already is doing many of the right things that are in line with the call to action. For example, environmental leadership has helped Xcel Energy on both the investment side, as well as providing customers with more services and options.

"Environmental leadership has been a smart investment for us," he said. "It also is giving our customers options and meeting their desires. And we are taken seriously when at the

table shaping future regulations because we can demonstrate a great track record."

Lastly, thinking and acting like a competitive business means becoming more engaged than ever with customers, communities and policymakers, Fowke said.

"While I think we are very engaged with our communities and our policymakers, we need to further step up that engagement," he said. "We need to show what we can do as a utility, so our customers want us as their energy provider."

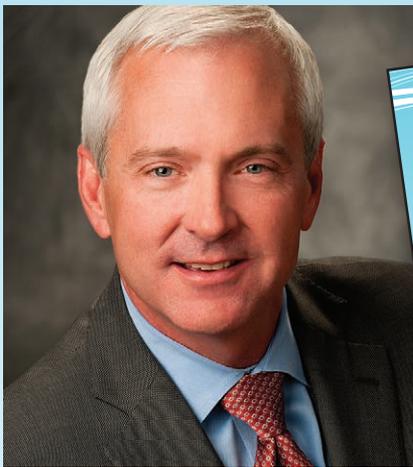
Employee engagement will be key in making the transition to a competitive mindset. "None of this is going to happen unless we have engaged employees," Fowke said.

The roll-out of the new vision and mission also included restatement of Xcel Energy's values. "We didn't need to make much change in our values, which makes sense," Fowke said. "Our values reflect how we want to work together and the environment we want to create for our employees, and we remain committed to a welcoming, productive place to work."

The slight changes to the company's value statement were aimed at calling out safety and a commitment to operational excellence. "One company value that we need to highlight on its own is safety," he said. "Not only for our employees, but for our customers as well. It's a core value."

Fowke stressed that while the strategy and call to action require change, the company is up for the task.

"In the end we need to think and act competitively because we want our customers to choose us," Fowke said. "And by introducing this competitive mindset, we will continue to develop new options for customers, pursue new technologies and improve our processes. We will drive costs down and reliability up and position ourselves for success." ❏



Ben Fowke



MOMENTS THAT MATTER

Customer effort aligns with new vision, competitive mindset

The company's Moments that Matter effort aligns well with its new vision and call to action as Xcel Energy shifts to a competitive mindset.

The strategy is considering and fine-tuning the critical moments when customers interact with the company.

"It involves listening to what customers want and providing them with choices – all part of being more competitive as a company," said Jay Herrmann, vice president of Marketing and Corporate Communications. "As such, it will be a key element in the company's new call to action.

"We want to move from just meeting customers' needs to making it easy and even enjoyable to work with us," he added. "We're asking, 'What are the moments that matter to our customers,' and working to address and improve our handling of those interactions."

The four Moments include:

- Start Service – Building a strong relationship.
- Pay Bill – Delivering convenience and choice.
- Outage – Providing accurate, relevant and timely information.
- Manage Energy – Engaging through the right choices.

In a series of articles in the coming months, *Xtra* will address each of these moments individually, discussing what is being done to improve processes and refine these crucial customer touch points.

The company will focus on several ways to improve the four Moments that Matter and transform the customer experience. They include:

- Customer and market insight
- Technology advancement
- Actionable measurement
- Internal education and tools
- Multi-channel approach

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We want to move from just meeting customers' needs to making it easy and even enjoyable to work with us.

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Jay Herrmann

- Engagement and choice.

A number of projects around the Moments the Matter are now under way and many more are planned, said Megan Scheller, manager of Customer Experience. The efforts are aimed at differentiating the company through the customer experience.

For instance, the company is now offering mobile payment options, and the paper bill recently was redesigned. The new bill now includes a more intuitive interface, at-a-glance information, pragmatic use of color and consistent terminology, along with educational content, she said.

In addition, the company is launching improved online reporting and map enhancements on XcelEnergy.com to better meet customer needs during escalated situations – tying to the "Outage" moment.

Numerous other efforts are planned or are under way for each "moment" and will be covered in the upcoming series in *Xtra*.

"Understanding customer needs, in addition to their wants, is critical to transforming the customer experience," Scheller said. "All of these efforts build momentum and align the right people, processes and technologies to help make Xcel Energy more competitive." 



Holidazzle Farewell

Xcel Energy will bid the Holidazzle Parade farewell in its final year this holiday season. Of the 22 years of lighting up downtown Minneapolis, the parade has had the support of Xcel Energy for 21 of those years as primary sponsor. The event has a history of attracting thousands of spectators to view floats and volunteers decked out in lights, including the Xcel Energy dancing light bulbs (pictured above in photo by Patrick Kelly, Worldwide Photography). Sponsored by Community Affairs, more than 200 employees, retirees, family and friends will carry the final Xcel Energy torch one last time this year by marching along Nicollet Mall.

NEWS BRIEFS

Sky Park Substation work under way

Xcel Energy is beginning work on a new substation, known as the Sky Park Substation, in the southwest corner of Eau Claire, Wis. The substation, to be completed by April 2014, will help meet current and growing demand for electricity in the area.

One large project driving the need for a new substation is the expansion of the city's wastewater treatment plant, which will need additional electricity. The upgraded wastewater treatment plant is expected to be complete in 2014, and Xcel Energy will be prepared to meet the increased demand, said Dawn Schultz, associate land rights agent with Siting and Land Rights.

"The new substation will provide the capacity required to serve the Eau Claire wastewater treatment plant and support continued growth in the area – positive benefits for both the community and Xcel Energy," she said.

The project also will provide operational flexibility and improved reliability to the city of Eau

Claire by providing contingency backup in the event of a system failure. It will be designed for future expansion to support long-term growth in the area, as well, she said.

The four-acre substation site is located southwest of the company's Sky Park facility, in the Town of Brunswick.

"Many other sites in the area were analyzed," said Schultz, noting that existing substations in the area do not have room for expansion. "This site offers the best options based on its size, the location of our existing facilities and the location of the wastewater treatment plant."

The Sky Park substation will include four new distribution feeders and two 69-kilovolt transmission line terminations. The substation will tie into the existing transmission line that runs along the bike trail just to the west of the new substation.

The location required four different permits: a driveway permit, conditional use permit, building permit and storm water permit.

"We acquired our final permit for the project on Nov. 11 and grading has officially begun," said Schultz. "Everything has been moving along according to plan, and we expect construction to be complete by March 31, 2014."



NEW WIND

Xcel Energy named 'Utility of the Year' as wind resources set to grow by 40 percent



Talk about not resting on your laurels.

An aggressive new push for wind resources by the nation's longtime No. 1 provider of wind power should ensure that Xcel Energy remains in the top slot for years to come.

Already at nearly 5,000 megawatts of wind production on its system, the company soon will push that number up by about 40 percent to nearly 7,000 megawatts, including two new wind farms in North Dakota and Minnesota that will be owned by the company. That's a lot of spinning turbines spread across Xcel Energy's eight-state territory.

"Our acquisitions were different this time around," said Tim Kawakami, director of Purchased Power. "We have met

or are in good shape in terms of our renewable compliance requirements, so these additions were about an economical power supply.

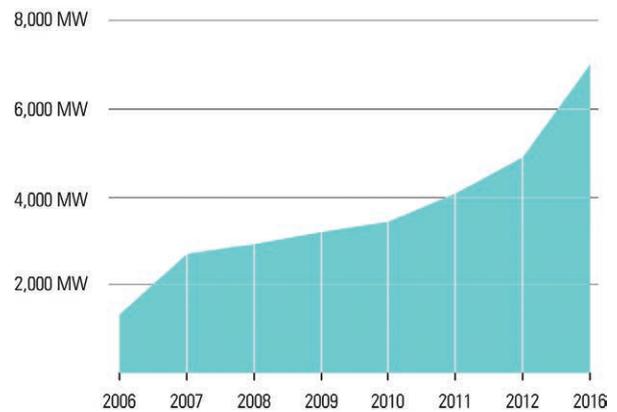
"I think we surprised both the wind and utility industries with what we did in adding 40 percent to our wind portfolio," he added. "As the process unfolded, we ended up buying as much wind as we could. With today's low prices, increasing our overall wind power capacity is an excellent way to protect customers from rising fuel prices."

The company's wind additions made waves nationally, he said. And other utilities soon lined up for their own wind acquisitions.

The expansion also landed the company a national



Xcel Energy Wind Growth



WIND PUSH

Already at nearly 5,000 megawatts of wind production on its system, the company soon will push that number up by about 40 percent to nearly 7,000 megawatts, including two new wind farms in North Dakota and Minnesota that will be owned by the company.

award from the wind industry's flagship trade organization, the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA). The group recently named Xcel Energy its 2013 "Utility of the Year."

For nine years in a row, Xcel Energy has been the No. 1 wind provider among utilities, said Rob Gramlich, AWEA CEO.

"By working with wind developers, Xcel Energy shows how a company can satisfy aggressive, state renewable-energy requirements and its customers' interest in clean energy, while keeping rates low," Gramlich said. "It's bringing new wind to its customers at a price that is below even today's low natural gas prices."

Through its wind power and other efforts, Xcel Energy is on track to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions 31 percent by 2020 over 2005 levels, he said. In addition, the company set a new record last May, with more than 60 percent of its electricity in Colorado coming from wind for an hour last May.

"We are proud of our commitment to wind energy – but just as proud of the fact that we are delivering wind energy at a price that benefits customers," Kawakami said. "Because we operate in a region with abundant wind resources, we've been able to establish a significant wind portfolio and now plan to increase it by 40 percent."

The newly approved wind-power projects are anticipated to reduce customer costs by more than \$900 million over the length of the contracts, Kawakami said.

"Xcel Energy is among the nation's leaders in delivering affordable, clean energy from renewable sources," he said. "Our wind-power strategy improves the environment, while ensuring we continue to meet customers' needs for low-cost reliable energy."

State regulators throughout Xcel Energy's service territories have approved a number of new wind power projects, including:

- Upper Midwest – Four projects totaling 750 megawatts in Minnesota and North Dakota for a system total of about 2,600 megawatts, including two projects totaling 350 megawatts that will be owned by the company. The additions will save Upper Midwest customers about \$225 million in fuel costs over 20 years.
- Texas/New Mexico – Three projects totaling almost 700 megawatts located in Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma, for a total of more than 1,500 megawatts in wind energy purchases. The additions will save Texas-New Mexico customers between \$480 million and \$590 million in fuel costs over 20 years.
- Colorado – Two projects totaling approximately 450 megawatts, for a system total of about 2,600 megawatts. The additions will save Colorado customers \$231 million in fuel costs over 20 years.

The company's pursuit of new wind-power capacity was made possible by competitive prices, he said, and the extended federal Production Tax Credit for projects that meet the qualification requirements by the end of 2013.

"We set out earlier this year to determine if we could add wind capacity in an economically beneficial way, and the results of our RFPs showed that we could," Kawakami said. "The price for this additional wind generation is as low as any wind power already operating on our system." ❧

EXPANDING EXECUTIVE ROLES

Prager, Tyson and Poferl take on new, additional challenges

In keeping with the company's new strategic call to action to think and act like a competitive business and to make smart investments, Ben Fowke, chairman, president and CEO, recently announced important shifts in responsibilities for three executives.

Frank Prager, vice president of Environmental and Public Policy, will take on additional responsibilities and lead Xcel Energy's solar strategy. With escalating market challenges, it has become apparent that the company needs a designated leader who will develop and implement a comprehensive solar market strategy, Fowke said.

With this assignment, Prager will be responsible for:

- Developing Xcel Energy's overarching solar position.
- Advocating for consistent and clear solar policies in all jurisdictions.
- Ensuring effective communication and public outreach efforts.
- Establishing a portfolio of solar product offerings.
- And determining company ownership and other key policy matters.

Prager also will work closely with Regulatory, Legal, Communications, Governmental Affairs, Marketing and other subject matter experts.

"It is critical the company is well positioned for the future, and Frank will strengthen our role as a clean energy leader who advocates for fair, transparent and reasonable solar-energy policies and offers solar solutions that serve all of our customers," Fowke said.

George Tyson, vice president and treasurer, will expand his current responsibilities to lead Xcel Energy's new business development. In this role, Tyson will serve as the central point of coordination for all business-development work across the company. Additionally, Tyson will:

- Establish a more comprehensive approach to identifying, evaluating and acting on new business opportunities.
- Lead the Treasury Forecasting and Business Development teams as they support complex corporate and financing structures, comprehensive financial modeling, and project execution.

- And engage subject matter experts from business, legal, product development and other financial disciplines to participate in business-development projects on an as-needed basis. With this change, associated CFO financial disciplines will report to Tyson, including James Weidner, director of Treasury Forecasting, and Paras Shah, director of Business Development, Acquisitions and Divestitures.

"All new ventures begin with financial consideration," Fowke said. "I asked George to lead business development as he has extensive financial experience and education.

"His ties to the financial and banking community make him a logical – and exceptional – choice," Fowke added. "His experience in investment banking, combined with his solid relationships across our company and with financial institutions, will serve him well in this expanded role."

Judy Poferl, vice president and corporate secretary, will take on additional responsibilities as Fowke's chief of staff. In this role, she will sit on each of the company's governance councils and will help drive Fowke's priorities through the business.

"As a key initiative, Judy will lead a cross-functional team to integrate Xcel Energy's vision, mission and strategic call to action into our business planning, talent management, strategic communications, and employee outreach and engagement," Fowke said. "Our strategy to think and act like a competitive business is multi-layered and – like any culture change – requires a long-term and comprehensive effort.

"This team will work together to ensure we develop and execute plans, measure and track our progress, and continue to adapt to the rapidly changing landscape surrounding our business," he added.

In addition, Poferl will work with Fowke's senior team to ensure good coordination and efficiency, and will coordinate his outreach across the Xcel Energy service territory.

"With her experience in regulatory, jurisdictional and strategic matters, Judy is uniquely qualified to do this important work across the organization," Fowke said. ☒



Frank Prager



George Tyson



Judy Poferl



Griffin lost, then found, during gas system struggle

It wasn't quite "man overboard," but when no one could contact Walt Griffin in Estes Park during the massive Colorado flooding this fall, true concern for his welfare arose.

At 3:30 a.m. on Sept. 12, as the rain poured down, Griffin headed up Highway 34 into the mountains to respond to a gas-odor complaint. The district fitter from Fort Collins drove around plenty of boulders and debris in the road, but made it safely to the town at the entrance of Rocky Mountain National Park, where he handles the gas system.

"I was lucky to make it up there," he said. "I had to take my time."

Once there, he proceeded to respond to gas leak after gas leak as the flood waters continued to expose gas lines and wreak havoc on the gas system. And he did so with no radio or telephone service.

"My job was to keep track of the town and do what I could," he explained. "I stayed out and in sight, so everyone knew where I was when something else happened."

Griffin stayed in constant contact with local fire and

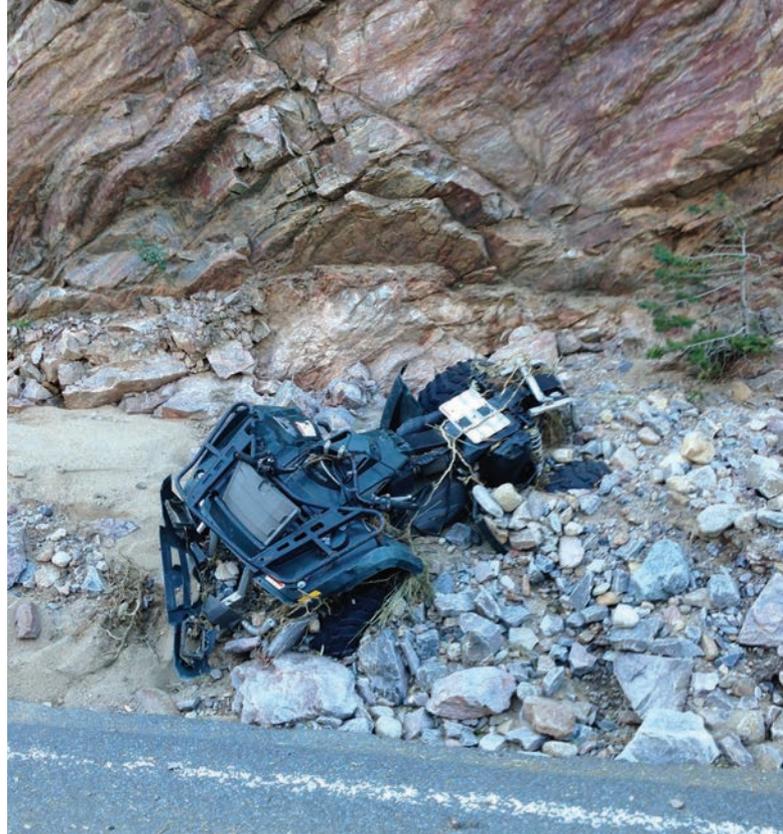
police departments, and when another gas line broke, they would track him down in his company truck. In the meantime, he knew where the main gas feeds came into town and prepared "squeezes" used to clamp and close down gas lines as needed.

While this was going on, Griffin had no idea people were worried about him and trying to locate him. He was busy doing his job.

But help was on the way. One crew headed up Highway 34, but the road had since washed out.

Meanwhile, Bob Macias, manager of Gas Trouble, and John Carson, manager of Gas Operations, had been busy with the dire circumstances arising near Boulder. But when they heard Fort Collins dispatch could not contact Griffin, the pair headed up another road to try and find him.

"It was pretty nerve wracking for a while," said Howard Kenney, manager of Gas Operations in Fort Collins and Griffin's supervisor. "With the media coverage and photos that were coming in, you knew the flooding was bad, and we thought he might be hurt and missing."



FLOOD

Plenty of employees came to the rescue in many different ways during the Colorado floods of 2013 this past fall. On page 12, Fish Creek in Estes Park is well out of its banks as it tears through parts of town. Pictured above is a mangled all-terrain vehicle in a Colorado canyon after the flooding, and at left is another example of the damage.

Thankfully, Macias and Carson made it through and around plenty of washouts before all roads closed, and soon found Griffin at work in the mud. The pair ended up serving as his crew over the next three days before more help could get through from the west on the fourth day of the crisis.

The six-inch gas pipeline along Fish Creek Road became the real trouble spot for the area. The crew found the buried emergency valve for the line and hand dug it clear to have it at the ready if the gas line failed.

They then watched as the gap between land, water and pipeline continued to grow wider and wider. At one time, the line was exposed for 200 feet, Carson said.

"We wanted to keep it up and running because half of Estes Park goes out without it," Carson said. "But you had to monitor it and be ready to shut it down if needed."

As well, there was plenty of work dealing with gas meters, regulator stations and emergency responses to leaks and odor complaints. The men dug and dug as the water and mud continued to flow.

"We dug until we couldn't dig anymore," Carson said. "My arms were like wet noodles."

Finally on day four, a Mountain Division crew made it over Trail Ridge Road from the west with a backhoe and a couple of

trucks and other equipment. The crew included Jamie Menzing, gas supervisor; Mike Simpson, lead fitter, and Filiberto Saldivar, fitter.

"They were saviors," Carson said. "And we were relieved after four days of hand digging."

Macias then left with the National Guard to return to the Denver area, and Carson stayed on in Estes Park for another two days. He remembers the many customers he came into contact with during the flooding.

"The appreciation that the customer has for what you're doing is amazing," Carson said. "They are just so appreciative and thankful."

And in the end, Griffin's early efforts during the flooding were appreciated, too, along with the fact that he was safe.

"Walt did a great job of isolating line breaks and getting the system shut down," Kenney said. "He knows the system up there better than anyone and documented what he did very well. So when it was time for repairs, we were ready to go from the engineering side of things."

"You have to get it under control while you have the chance, and we were able to head off a lot of trouble," Griffin said. "It could've been a lot worse." ❧

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Hill to head Energy Supply and Hudson named president of SPS, as Gary Hudson retires



Riley Hill



Gary Hudson



David Hudson

Energy Supply leadership will change at year end with the retirement of Gary Hudson, vice president of the business area. Riley Hill, currently president and CEO of SPS, will succeed Hudson. And David Hudson will succeed Hill and head SPS.

After more than 40 years with Xcel Energy, Gary Hudson announced his retirement effective Dec. 31, 2013.

"Gary is known for his strong commitment to excellence, safety and the company," said Kent Larson, senior vice president of Operations. "Under his leadership, Energy Supply has made great strides implementing its Operating Model, improving plant reliability by 30 percent and decreasing safety incidents by 30 percent."

In the early 2000s, Hudson launched a new Energy Supply Engineering and Construction team responsible for several major company capital projects, including MERP, Comanche 3, Jones 3 and 4, and Clean Air-Clean Jobs.

"Gary and his team delivered many projects on time and

on budget, at costs significantly below the industry benchmarks, providing great value for our customers and shareholders," Larson said. "His leadership, expertise and friendship will be missed."

Larson has named Riley Hill as the new vice president of Energy Supply as of Dec. 31, 2013.

"Riley has a strong and diverse background in leadership, and electric and gas utility operations, with more than 33 years of experience," Larson said. "Energy Supply will benefit from his depth, leadership and passion for employee and public safety and operational excellence."

Hill joined Xcel Energy in 2004 as the director of Denver Metro West Distribution, where he was responsible for the design, construction and maintenance of the gas and electric distribution facilities in west Denver. In 2005, Hill was named vice president, Construction, Operations and Maintenance for PSCo, and in 2007, served as the vice president of Customer and Community Relations at PSCo. Hill was named president

and CEO of SPS in November 2009.

In addition, Dave Sparby, senior vice president and group president, has named David Hudson as the new president and CEO of SPS, replacing Hill and effective Dec. 31, 2013.

"SPS has made significant progress in improving relationships and financial results in recent years," Sparby said. "David has been instrumental in every aspect of that improvement. His long history with key stakeholders, combined with a strong background in regulatory and in-depth institutional knowledge, will position him well in this role."

Hudson joined SPS in 1983 and has served the company for 30 years in numerous key positions. He began his career as a rate engineer in the Rates and

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Regulation Department. He held several positions within the Rate Department before becoming director of Regulatory Administration in 1997.

In 2008, after 25 years in the regulatory area, Hudson assumed responsibility for the strategic planning efforts for SPS, and in 2010, he became director of Customer and Community Relations.

"In the coming years, SPS will face numerous challenges and opportunities with significant load growth and the associated capital investment," Sparby said. "David is the right leader to continue with the important work being done in Texas and New Mexico with our customers, policymakers and the communities we serve."

"As we all know, leadership is crucial," said Ben Fowke, chairman, president and CEO. "That is never more apparent than when we experience change.

"First and foremost, thanks to Gary Hudson for his years of service and contributions," he added. "And as we look forward, please join me in congratulating Riley and David. Their leadership, commitment and vision will be an important part of our future success." ❧

NEWS BRIEFS

Xcel Energy names Davison new Prairie Island site vice president

Kevin Davison has been named site vice president at Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant.

"During his more than 30 years in the nuclear industry, Kevin has demonstrated strong leadership, and developed the knowledge and skills needed to lead nuclear plant operations," said Tim O'Connor, senior vice president and chief nuclear officer.

Davison, who joined Xcel Energy in 2010 as Prairie Island plant manager, has been director of site operations at the plant since November 2011. He has extensive experience in nuclear plant operations, and has filled leadership positions in nuclear plant maintenance, work management and training.

Davison succeeds Jim Lynch, an executive from the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations who is returning to INPO after serving as site vice president at Prairie Island since October 2012. INPO, sponsored by the commercial nuclear industry, is an independent, non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the highest levels of safety and reliability in the operation of commercial nuclear power plants.

"We were fortunate to have secured Jim from INPO to serve as Prairie Island's top executive," O'Connor said. "Jim's depth of experience was instrumental in supplementing Prairie Island's existing management team, and creating a sustainable and effective site-leadership team that has positioned the site to pursue performance excellence."



GOLD MEDALIST

Senior Games help Clark stay motivated and physically fit

Going for the gold usually conjures up images of young athletes in their prime. But a women's basketball team from Aurora, Colo., recently showed that being 50 or older doesn't preclude bringing home the gold.

The Longshots team, including Xcel Energy's Rita Clark, recently traveled from Colorado to Cleveland, Ohio, to compete in the Summer Senior National Games, also known as the Senior Olympics. And the team ended up winning the gold medal for the 50-plus category of women's basketball.

"I started playing basketball when I was in junior high school," said Clark, supervisor of Field Logistics who works out of Cherokee Generating Station in Denver. "I enjoyed playing with my friends and then simply fell in love with the game.

"I got involved back in 2006 after I read about the Senior Games and where the Colorado team was practicing," she added. "I began practicing with them and was invited to join the team.

The National Senior Games is the largest multi-sport event in the world for seniors. It is a national event because it is always held in the United States, but athletes come from all over the world to compete.

Part of the United States Olympic Committee, the Senior Games began in 1987 with 2,500 athletes participating. Today, up to 12,000 athletes compete in 19 different sports every two

years. The organization's main goal is to promote health and wellness for adults 50 and over, through sport, fitness, education and good nutrition.

"There also are annual state tournaments across the nation to keep seniors competing year round so they can stay motivated, physically fit and ready for the biennial Senior Olympics," Clark explained.

The Longshots team formed in 2007 by several women who had played basketball together years earlier at Adams State College, in Alamosa, Colo. The team took silver medals at the Senior Games in 2009 and 2011.

The team continued practicing every Saturday at a small elementary school gym, however, working and playing hard with an eye on the gold.

"We work out at a high level for two uninterrupted hours, which helps me maintain a high fitness level," she said. "We also travel and compete in other state tournaments during the year.

"Basketball is one of those sports that requires you to use every muscle in your body," she added. "I also work out weekly doing yoga, jogging and strength training."

While she is pleased that the Longshots won the gold medal this year, Clark said there are rewards beyond winning. Her focus, and one shared by the Senior Games, is on staying healthy and in excellent physical condition – fit, active and engaged.

"Playing basketball with the team keeps me in shape, and

//
Basketball is one of those sports that requires you to use every muscle in your body.

//



I'm thrilled that there are others at my age playing and competing," she said. "My fondest basketball memory is attending the games and seeing 80-, 90- and 100-year-old athletes still participating.

"Their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren were all there cheering them on," she added. "There was one 80-year-old female player with an oxygen pack. She would take it off, go into the game, then come out and put it back on. Now that is what I call having a passion for the sport.

"What's more amazing is that seniors can participate in sports as long as they can now, and that they still have avenues to play. There is a motto to support and inspire the spirit of the Senior Games – 'To participate is to win.'

"That pretty much sums up what it all means for me," she said. "Representing Colorado and winning the gold medal is just icing on the cake."

Clark stressed that staying fit and motivated is an under-published secret for living a full, comfortable and healthy lifestyle late into life. And she encourages others to get involved in staying fit in general and the Senior Games in particular.

"It helps provide a lifelong healthy commitment to fun, fitness and social interactions on a local and national stage," she said. "You don't have to be an elite athlete to have fun and succeed."

For more information about the National Senior Games go to: www.nsga.com. 



SENIOR OLYMPIAN

Although she enjoys competing in events like the Senior Games, Rita Clark says that staying fit and motivated is an under-published secret for living a full, comfortable and healthy lifestyle late into life. She encourages others to get involved in staying fit in general and the Senior Games in particular.

FRIENDS WE'LL MISS

Olin L. Blehm

86, service order supervisor, Colorado, died on Sept. 26, 2013. He worked for PSCo from 1953 to 1986.

Robert D. Carbone

84, operations analyst, Gas Distribution, Lipan Distribution Center, Denver, Colo., died on Sept. 15, 2013. He worked for PSCo from 1949 to 1986.

Kermit R. Carson

76, senior engineer, Boulder Service Center, Boulder, Colo., died on Oct. 12, 2013. He worked for PSCo from 1964 to 1994.

J. M. Chase

93, senior storekeeper, Colorado, died on Oct. 10, 2013. He worked for PSCo from 1959 to 1985.

James J. Coursey

90, supervisor, Colorado, died on Oct. 1, 2013. He worked for PSCo from 1947 to 1985.

Larry M. Cowger

58, deputy general counsel, General Counsel, 1800 Larimer, Denver, Colo., died on Sept. 25, 2013. He worked for Xcel Energy from 2005 to 2013.

William Deroo

84, locator, Colorado, died on Oct. 3, 2013. He worked for PSCo from 1952 to 1984.

Shirley M. Deutsch

88, died on Oct. 4, 2013. She worked for NSP from 1975 to 1988.

Richard K. Eggert

84, fitter, Colorado, died on Oct. 17, 2013. He worked for PSCo from 1953 to 1986.

James E. Elling

72, customer service representative, Metro Design, Maple Grove Materials Complex, Maple Grove, Minn., died on Sept. 28, 2013. He worked for NSP from 1963 to 1997.

E. J. Fennig

88, executive secretary, Colorado, died on Oct. 15, 2013. She worked for PSCo from 1945 to 1986.

Linda L. Garcia-Diaz

51, meter reader, Clovis Office, Roswell, N.M., died on Oct. 1, 2013. She worked for SPS from 2010 until her death.

Jesse J. Goodenough

82, watchman, Colorado, died on Aug. 5, 2013. He worked for PSCo from 1973 to 1994.

Linda J. Harris

73, senior associate, Denver Metro Engineering, Lipan Distribution Center, Denver, Colo., died on Oct. 11, 2013. She worked for PSCo from 1981 to 2006.

Marvin R. Holz

90, operator boiler, Valmont Generating Station, Boulder, Colo., died on Sept. 17, 2013. He worked for PSCo from 1970 to 1989.

Florence H. Kohn

96, credit clerk, Hiawatha Division, Minnesota, died on Aug. 31, 2013. She worked for NSP from 1973 to 1983.

Paul Leinweber

89, supervisor, Electric Operations, Boulder, Colo., died on Oct. 1, 2013. He worked for PSCo from 1948 to 1986.

W. J. Lloyd

84, station operator, Colorado, died on Oct. 8, 2013. He worked for PSCo from 1951 to 1986.

Harold L. Loveless

83, died on Aug. 8, 2013. He worked for SPS from 1973 to 1994.

William G. Mackie

73, coordinator, Vegetation Management, Ladysmith Office, Ladysmith, Wis., died on Oct. 19, 2013. He worked for NSP from 1966 to 2004.

Robert L. Meek

74, lead plant equipment operator, Riverside Steam Plant, Minneapolis, Minn., died on Oct. 4, 2013. He worked for NSP from 1965 to 1995.

Rollo H. Meeks

87, district storekeeper, Rifle Warehouse, Rifle, Colo., died on Oct. 21, 2013. He worked for PSCo from 1950 to 1981.

Tony M. Morrow

43, gas technician, Western Service Center, Minnesota, died on Oct. 10, 2013. He worked for NSP from 2006 until his death.

Robert G. Mrozek

88, supervisor, Maintenance, Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Red Wing, Minn., died on Oct. 10, 2013. He worked for NSP from 1951 to 1985.

Anton R. Nitsch

100, administrative coordinator, Minot, N.D., died on Oct. 21, 2013. He worked for NSP from 1976 to 1994.

Howard F. Peck

94, district superintendent, died on Oct. 2, 2013. He worked for NSP from 1945 to 1979.

Alden R. Pederson

75, senior operations technician, Viking Gas Transmission, Angus, Minn., died on Oct. 12, 2013. He worked for NSP from 1966 to 2000.

Frank O. Rasmussen

77, fitter serviceman, Colorado, died on Oct. 15, 2013. He worked for PSCo from 1967 to 1994.

Wayne W. Regelin

87, executive foreman, Colorado, died on Oct. 13, 2013. He worked for PSCo from 1948 to 1986.

Paul J. Searby

86, gas plant equipment operator, Gas Control, Wescott LNG Plant, Red Wing, Minn., died on Sept. 10, 2013. He worked for NSP from 1959 to 1988.

Gara G. Stifter

88, manager, Securities Insurance and Financial Reports, General Office, Minneapolis, Minn., died on Sep. 14, 2013. He worked for NSP from 1948 to 1983.

Mark R. Supancic

56, new business design manager, Southwest Metro Engineering, Kipling Service Center, Lakewood, Colo., died on Oct. 22, 2013. He worked for Xcel Energy from 1976 until his death.

Grace Tilton

96, secretary, Colorado, died on Oct. 20, 2013. She worked for PSCo from 1954 to 1980.

James T. Vogt

83, marketing representative, Colorado, died on Sept. 27, 2013. He worked for PSCo from 1954 to 1994.

Duane W. Wahlin

77, dispatcher, Gas Control, Rice Street Service Center, St. Paul, Minn., died on Oct. 1, 2013. He worked for NSP from 1960 to 1997.

Roy V. Wilson

86, died on Oct. 19, 2013. He worked for SPS from 1955 to 1988.

RETIRING

Rocky Caivano Jr.

planner, Design, Fort Collins, Colo., retired on Nov. 29, 2013. He worked for Xcel Energy for 34 years.

Camilla Edwards

(*camilla1966@aol.com*), energy efficient specialist, Business Solutions, 1800 Larimer, Denver, Colo., retired on Sept. 5, 2013. She worked for Xcel Energy for 24 years.

Karen Eiden

(*kmeiden@comcast.net*), contract administrator, Field Operations-Customer Care, Rice Street Service Center, St. Paul, Minn., retired on Nov. 29, 2013. She worked for Xcel Energy for 37 years.

Debra Eppen

(*deppen@charter.net*), principal information tech analyst, Business Systems, Prairie Island, Red Wing, Minn., retired on Dec. 2, 2013. She worked for Xcel Energy for 35 years.

Roger Horst

senior financial analyst, Commercial Accounting, 1800 Larimer, Denver, Colo., retired on Dec. 1, 2013. He worked for Xcel Energy for 40 years.

Randy Kemper

(*kemperrl@q.com*), material handler, Stores, St. Cloud, Minn., retired on Nov. 29, 2013. He worked for Xcel Energy for 40 years.

Paula Kimblin

(*paulasuek@gmail.com*), general manager, Customer and Community Service, Sky Park, Eau Claire, Wis., retired on Nov. 4, 2013. She worked for Xcel Energy for 35 years.

Howard Kiyota

(*H159Kiyota@aol.com*), purchase power analyst, Purchase Power, 1800 Larimer, Denver, Colo., retired on Nov. 1, 2013. He worked for Xcel Energy for 29 years.

Donn A. Larson

I&C specialist, Technical Services, Sherco Generating Plant, retired on Oct. 15, 2013. He worked for Xcel Energy for 37 years.

Philip C. Morgan

control specialist, Operations, Fort St. Vrain Generating Station, Platteville, Colo., retired on Nov. 15, 2013. He worked for Xcel Energy for 35 years.

Jeff Palumbo

(*PLMJ05@msn.com*), system relay specialist, System Protection, Operations and Maintenance, Maple Grove, Minn., retired on Dec. 2, 2013. He worked for Xcel Energy for 29 years.

Keith Reif

(*dkreif@hotmail.com*), district representative, Lennox, S.D., retires on Dec. 31, 2013. He worked for Xcel Energy for 37 years.

Kathy Ronning

(*krkittykat@msn.com*), senior designer, Reconstruction East Design, Wyoming Service Center, Wyoming, Minn., retires on Dec. 20, 2013. She worked for Xcel Energy for 34 years.

Daniel Seawell

(*ddseawell@aol.com*), system relay specialist, Maple Grove Service Center, Maple Grove, Minn., retires on Dec. 27, 2013. He worked for Xcel Energy for 34 years.

Sherry Stovern

(*dstovern@gmail.com*), designer, Design Electric Shorewood, Waconia Service Center, Waconia, Minn., retired on Oct. 18, 2013. She worked for Xcel Energy for 35 years.

Jan Wagner

(*treehouse3381@yahoo.com*), director, Thermal Energy, Zuni Generating Station, Denver, Colo., retired on Aug. 2, 2013. She worked for Xcel Energy for 39 years.

Debra Willoughby

electric designer, Monticello Service Center, Monticello, Minn., retired on Dec. 2, 2013. She worked for Xcel Energy for 29 years.

Dave Winkler

LPEO, Energy Supply, Red Wing Steam Plant, Red Wing, Wis., retired on Nov. 1, 2013. He worked for Xcel Energy for 26 years.

Xtra retiree web portal available on xcelenergy.com

The latest issue of Xtra is posted each month on a webpage on the company's website at: xcelenergy.com/retirees.

Retirees and employees are invited to visit the page to view the latest issue, as well as a number of back issues of Xtra. Links on the page also provide access to various utility shareholder groups.

In addition, the following phone numbers may be helpful:

- Human Resources main number – 800-689-7662 (Address changes)
- Shareholder Services – 612-215-5391
- Xcel Energy main number – 800-328-8226 (Hit "0" for operator to contact various departments or employees.)



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