



401 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

A NOTICE AND INVITATION TO ALL EMPLOYEES AND APPLICANTS

Benjamin G. Fowke, III, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY POLICY STATEMENT

Xcel Energy has been and will continue to be an equal opportunity employer. To assure full implementation of this equal employment policy, we will take steps to assure that:

- a. Persons are recruited, hired, assigned and promoted without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, citizenship, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, protected veteran status, age or disability.
- b. All other personnel actions, such as compensation, benefits, transfers, layoffs and recall from layoffs, access to training, education, tuition assistance and social recreation programs are administered without regard to race, religion, color, veteran status, national origin, citizenship, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age or disability.
- c. Employees and applicants shall not be subjected to harassment, intimidation, threats, coercion or discrimination because they have: (1) filed a complaint; (2) assisted or participated in an investigation, compliance review, hearing or any other activity related to the administration of any federal, state or local law requiring equal employment opportunity; (3) opposed any act or practice made unlawful by any federal, state or local law requiring equal opportunity or (4) exercised any other right protected by federal, state or local law requiring equal opportunity.

I have appointed James Zakhem to take on the responsibilities of Affirmative Action Coordinator. The Affirmative Action Coordinator will be responsible for the day to day implementation and monitoring of the Company's Affirmative Action Plan. As part of that responsibility, the Affirmative Action Coordinator will periodically analyze the Company's personnel actions and their effects to ensure compliance with our equal employment policy and administer the audit and reporting system.

If you, as one of our employees or as an applicant for employment, have any questions about this policy or would like to view portions of the Affirmative Action Plan, please contact James Zakhem at 303-571-6255 during regular business hours. This is also a reminder that employees may update their disability status at any time by contacting James Zakhem.

I have reviewed and fully endorse our Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity program. In closing, I ask the continued assistance and support of all of the Company's personnel to attain our objective of equal employment opportunity for all.

Sincerely,

Benjamin G. Fowke III
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer