

Harrington Honor

Texas generating station
named **'plant of the year'**

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The Powder River Basin Coal Users' Group has selected Xcel Energy's Harrington Generating Station as its "plant of the year." The three-unit, 1,000 megawatt generating facility near Amarillo was recognized for its innovation and best practices in safety, coal handling, plant operations and environmental performance.





Sustaining our momentum

(Editor's Note: Ben Fowke, chairman, president and CEO, periodically writes a blog on XpressNet, as well as other articles and communications. *Xtra* will feature Fowke's comments on a recurring basis to share his thoughts with a wider audience.)

Celebrating the Fourth of July last month provided a good opportunity to reflect on our commitment to hire military veterans. You've heard me say many times that veterans bring outstanding technical and leadership skills and a competitive mindset to the workplace.

One of our recent efforts involved teaming up with an organization called Joining Forces and pledging to hire at least 75 military veterans each year for the next five years. We've had good success so far and have received some notable recognition.

But this is a long-term initiative and sustaining our momentum is important. Thanks to all of you who are in this for the long haul.

Speaking of long-term efforts, I recently attended a meeting of the Electric Sector Coordinating Committee (ESCC) in Washington, D.C. The ESCC was established to advise the federal government – specifically the White House, Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Energy – on issues related to the security of the electric grid.

Part of my role as a member of the ESCC is as a liaison to the financial sector, which has its own cybersecurity challenges and can teach us valuable lessons. In many ways, our challenges are just as significant – so it's good to work together with other industries

and the government in preparing for, mitigating and recovering from cybersecurity events. It's another case of sustaining our momentum in an arena where the stakes are high.

Finally, the recent announcement that Tesla Motors is gearing up to market new battery storage systems to residential, business and utility customers generated a lot of buzz. From our perspective, it's good and interesting news that we need to stay on top of.

Good news because this kind of innovation is key to making renewable energy viable for the long term. Interesting because it is not quite clear the role these batteries can play, either for our customers or on our system. But clearly, the initial support and enthusiasm for the PowerWall suggests a great interest in innovations in our business.

Being ready for innovations and change in this case means determining the best way to use batteries on our own system so all of our customers benefit. Being ready also means keeping energy costs low so our customers want to stay with our service. And being ready means doing the hard work involved in making sure the policies around this kind of innovation are fair to everyone.

I am interested in understanding the role batteries can play in enhancing reliability and facilitating renewables on our system. We also need to understand how new innovations might be used by our customers and ensure we can offer similar benefits.

So while our work is cut out for us, our customers trust us and want us to step up and play a part in this latest innovation. We're happy to oblige. ←



'Timber'

Planning and collaboration with pole supplier helps cuts costs, increase product quality

A group of Supply Chain employees recently met with McFarland Cascade, Xcel Energy's utility pole supplier in Seattle, Wash., to tour its operations and discuss ways to increase cost savings and plan for the future.

"Bending the cost curve is a complex challenge, especially when the material used is a product that is grown and not manufactured," said Mark Gauldin, senior supply strategist. "To deliver on our promise to our suppliers, we provide them with all of the forward-looking information we can, so they can efficiently meet our needs."

"No other U.S. utility provides us with quality forward-looking data and collaboration to help secure quality raw material like Xcel Energy does," said Kevin Comerford, vice president of pole sales with McFarland Cascade.

Gauldin, along with several fellow employees, traveled by float plane from Seattle to Olympia, and on to a nearby 95-acre logging section. A fourth generation logger, who began his career on the knee of his grandfather at the age of four, then

gave the group a tour of the location and explained the machinery used in logging.

Logging is one of the most dangerous jobs in the United States, and it takes many years of training to drop trees up to 120 feet high. During the tour, a 95-foot Douglas fir tree was cut down to demonstrate the skill and expertise needed to drop a tall tree without damaging it or the trees around it.

"I have a much better understanding now of the steps taken to cut down a tree of this size," Gauldin said. "Visiting the logging site and watching the fir tree fall was the most exciting part of the trip."

After the trees are felled, they are sent to the facility in Curtis, Wash., where a peeler strips the bark and limbs off of each tree. During this process the tree is inspected several times to spot any defects that would not allow it to meet company specifications.

"Quality is one of the main aspects of our Supplier Relationship Management (SRM) program, which helps support



collaboration between Xcel Energy and its suppliers,” Gauldin said. “Being able to see firsthand how the trees become utility poles at McFarland’s facility makes all the difference.”

“The Supplier Relationship Management program aligns with our Strategic Call to Action to think and act like a competitive business,” added Dan Pendar, category manager. “We actively engage our suppliers and provide the best detail and partnership we can, so they can position themselves to control costs while elevating product quality and improving the overall experience.”

The group then visited a treatment plant in Tacoma, Wash., where the trees are pressure-treated and inspected to maximize a pole’s life and meet Xcel Energy’s quality standards.

“Pole inspection is a major part of our goal to ensure we get the best product,” said Jeff Goodson, ancillary program manager, whose group performs all site inspections for Xcel Energy.

Lastly, the poles are loaded on rail cars and delivered to

one of McFarland’s pole yards, before they are shipped on to utility companies across the country.

“Our suppliers fully understand our expectations and what we require them to bring to the table, such as savings and superior service,” said Scott Glaesman, manager of Material Strategy and Planning with Supply Chain. “Operational excellence is about removing any road blocks, and working to establish and improve our processes and system support.”

“We are given the complete direction needed to meet and exceed expectations through Xcel Energy’s SRM program,” said Dean Anderson, director of U.S. pole sales for McFarland Cascade. “There is no other utility in the U.S. that provides the level of support that we get from Xcel Energy’s team.”

McFarland Cascade is the leading producer and marketer of pressure-treated wood products in North America. Beginning as a family run business in 1916, the company was acquired by Stella Jones in 2012 after family members decided to leave the business. ←



WIND ADDITION

XCEL ENERGY SEEKS TO ACQUIRE 200-MEGAWATT NORTH DAKOTA WIND PROJECT

To preserve the environmental and cost benefits of 200 megawatts of wind power at risk of not being developed, Xcel Energy has asked state regulators to allow the company to build and own the proposed Courtenay Wind Farm near Jamestown, N.D.

Regulators in Minnesota and North Dakota previously approved Xcel Energy's plan to purchase power from the Courtenay project under a power-purchase agreement with Geronimo Energy. However, Geronimo decided to exit the project for various reasons.

"The Courtenay project is an important part of our aggressive plans to reduce carbon-dioxide emissions and support renewable energy resources in the most cost effective way possible," said Chris Clark, president of NSP-Minnesota. "We are glad for the opportunity to preserve the benefits of this project for our customers.

"The Courtenay Wind Farm also has the added value of locating an important generation resource in North Dakota, an important part of our service territory," he added.

Xcel Energy previously announced plans to deliver more than 60 percent carbon-free energy by 2030 through aggressive conservation efforts, doubling renewable energy resources and scaling back the use of coal. Ensuring the Courtenay project continues also will provide economic benefits in North Dakota and Stutsman County, where 100 wind turbines will be constructed across 25,000 acres on property leased from more than 60 landowners.

"The project will create an estimated 200 construction jobs and about 10 permanent jobs for operations and maintenance," Clark said. "And it will provide about \$850,000 annually in tax

revenue to local governments."

If approved by regulators in Minnesota and North Dakota, the Courtenay Wind Farm is expected to be in service by the end of 2016.

The Courtenay project is part of a 750-megawatt wind power addition, representing a 42 percent increase in Xcel Energy's Upper Midwest wind portfolio – a critical component of the company's carbon emissions reduction plan. Together, four projects will save customers more than \$225 million over the projects' lives.

The other three projects in the package are or soon will be under construction and include:

- The 200-megawatt Odell Wind Farm near Windom, Minn.
- The 200-megawatt Pleasant Valley project near Austin, Minn.
- And the 150-megawatt Border Winds Project near Rolla, N.D.

Xcel Energy will purchase power from the Odell project, which was developed by Geronimo Energy and will be owned by Algonquin Power. RES America Developments Inc. is building the Pleasant Valley and Border Winds projects and will transfer ownership to Xcel Energy.

Xcel Energy, which recently was ranked the nation's No. 1 wind power provider for the 11th consecutive year by the American Wind Energy Association, already has 1,800 megawatts of wind on its Upper Midwest system and is well ahead of meeting state renewable energy targets.

"We know our customers want to reduce the environmental impact of energy production while keeping costs affordable, and our plan to acquire the Courtenay Wind Farm project helps us meet those expectations," Clark said. ←

Company signs on to support Joining Forces initiative

To further its commitment of supporting the men and women who are serving or have served in the U.S. armed forces, the company recently signed on to the Joining Forces initiative and pledged to hire at least 75 military veterans per year for the next five years.

"Teaming up with Joining Forces is a great way for Xcel Energy to support our nation's service members and veterans," said Ben Fowke, chairman, president and CEO. "They've sacrificed to secure our country's safety, and I'm pleased that we can assist them through this program."

"Veterans have proven their ability to overcome tremendous challenges, and they bring value to our company with their leadership, teamwork and competitive mindset," he added. "These are characteristics that will help us be successful as we transition to a workforce ready for competition. I'm proud to add this to the long list of ways that Xcel Energy is giving back to veterans and current service members who have given so much to us."

Joining Forces, chaired by First Lady Michele Obama and Dr. Jill Biden, was launched in 2011 to rally the public

around service members, veterans and their families – and to support them through wellness, education and employment opportunities.

Joining Forces works hand in hand with the public and private sector to ensure service members, veterans and their families have the tools they need to succeed throughout their lives. Primary objectives of Joining Forces include:

- Bring attention to the unique experiences and strengths of America's service members, veterans and their families.
- Inspire, educate and spark action from all sectors of society – citizens, communities, businesses, nonprofits, faith-based institutions, philanthropic organizations and government – to ensure service members, veterans and their families have the opportunities, resources and support they have earned.
- Showcase the skills, experience and dedication of America's service members, veterans and their families to strengthen the nation's communities.
- Create greater connections between the American public and the military.

News Brief

New study compares solar energy costs

According to a recently released study, customer solar generation costs per megawatt hour are estimated to be more than twice as high for residential-scale or rooftop solar as compared to utility-or large-scale solar.

Economists from The Brattle Group, a global consulting firm, conducted the study for First Solar, with support from the Edison Electric Institute. It is the first study to focus on a "solar-to-solar" cost comparison, analyzing equal amounts of rooftop and large-scale solar deployed on an actual utility system.

Xcel Energy served as a technical resource for the study, which is based on the company's Colorado system.

"This study supports something we have said all along about solar costs," said Frank Prager, vice president of Policy and Federal Affairs.

"Large-scale solar is half the cost of rooftop. As we look to implement new emission-reduction and renewable policies, our policymakers and regulators can use this information to make the most cost-effective decisions for customers."

Study authors compared the generation costs of adding 300 megawatts of large-scale solar and 300 megawatts of residential-scale solar to the Colorado system in 2019. The lower cost of large-scale solar is the result of construction economies of scale, greater solar electric output due to panel placement and other efficiencies compared to residential-scale solar.

The study also found that environmental and social benefits, such as emissions savings and energy resiliency, are substantially more favorable with large-scale solar and can be achieved at a lower cost.

"Xcel Energy is committed to giving our customers the clean energy they want at an affordable cost,"

Prager said. "All resources, including all types of solar, play an important role on our system. Large-scale solar can help us reduce emissions and satisfy our regulatory requirements in an economical way, while our rooftop-solar and solar-gardens programs help meet the interests of customers who want these resources."

"Over the last decade, solar energy costs for both rooftop and bulk-power applications have come down dramatically," said Dr. Peter Fox-Penner, Brattle principal and co-author of the study. "But utility-scale solar will remain substantially less expensive per kilowatt-hour generated than rooftop solar."

"In addition, utility-scale solar allows everyone access to solar power," he added. "From the standpoint of cost, equity and environmental benefits, large-scale solar is a crucial resource."





Engineering Consultants

Company's Consultant Management Team tackling hundreds of projects

Time flies – and with its flight often comes exponential changes.

When he started working for Xcel Energy back in 1974, Sheldon Silberman was no stranger to occasionally working with outside consultants to get jobs done for the company. But since then, outsourcing has increased beyond his expectations.

Today, there are some 600 engineering consultants working on company Substation and Transmission engineering and design projects. And understandably, that has meant some major changes in how Xcel Energy manages its work with consultants.

"In the early years, we utilized

consultants to perform specific tasks under the direction of an employee," said Silberman, manager of Engineering/Design Outsourcing. "Sometimes, entire projects were outsourced and reviewed by various in-house resources.

"These assignments were few in number and generally were required because of short-term limitations or for specialized expertise," he added. "In the early 1990s as the business began to grow and hiring limits were in place, the outsourcing of projects became a bit more frequent."

With passing years, projects increasingly were assigned to consultants. As a result, senior company staff

members were consistently asked by consultants for advice on how Xcel Energy wanted things done. Dealing with those inquiries meant essentially training and guiding consultants, and began taking up a lot of time.

"So we decided upon a dedicated group of engineers and designers to support the consultant work, and the Consultant Management Team (CMT) was born," Silberman explained. "We were essentially a self-managed team still reporting to our individual managers, but we worked almost exclusively on consultant-based projects.

"At the time, more senior people at the company were tagged for this effort,"



Projects

About one-third of the Consultant Management Team's projects are transmission lines and two thirds are substation projects, currently worth nearly \$2.6 billion.

he added. "We reasoned that our senior staff could more readily and effectively direct the consultants, and therefore minimize the cost of utilizing outside consulting services."

Growth not only continued, however, but accelerated in the coming years. Particularly in the early 2000s, Xcel Energy's transmission workload saw a dramatic increase as tariffs improved and the integration of renewable energy into the company's system led to increased workloads.

Silberman became the lead person for providing technical support, and in a matter of a couple years, he realized that the outsourcing effort was growing faster than any other part of Transmission.

"So we built the case for a second group to handle the expected rapid growth and development of the transmission system in our southern territory," he said. "That's when Randall Christiansen came in to develop a second CMT, focused on work in Texas, Colorado and New Mexico."

When Christiansen, manager of Engineering/Design Outsourcing, started with the company in 2002, the capital budget for Transmission for all of Xcel Energy was about \$100 million. But by 2013, that budget had soared dramatically to roughly \$1 billion – and the company today consistently spends a similar amount annually on Transmission projects.

"When the annual capital spend increases tenfold in roughly 10 years, it puts a lot of strain on our internal resources to perform the work," Christiansen said. "In addition to the growth in capital work, there also were additional pressures on resources, including compli-

ance-driven obligations and standards.

"Trying to grow our internal resource pool for engineering so we could perform all of the work in-house was not a feasible option," he added. "Instead, we looked for a blended-resource model – where we could perform the design of projects in-house or we could outsource them to a select pool of qualified engineering firms with minimal internal oversight."

"We expect them to act as an extension of our staff so their work is essentially indistinguishable from our own internally generated work."

To meet those goals, the CMT approach was updated and fine-tuned to work efficiently with Xcel Energy's growing number of outside consultants. Today, for example, the combined CMT handles more than 60 percent of the engineering and design work for transmission capital projects.

Currently, the team has between 1,200 and 1,300 active projects worth nearly \$2.6 billion and covering several years of work – some just starting and others just finishing up construction. About one-third of those projects are transmission lines and two thirds are

substation projects.

"Under the CMT approach, we expect our consulting partners to perform on our projects just as we would expect our internal engineering resources to perform," Christiansen said. "The duties are the same, and we expect the deliverables to be the same.

"In order to do this, we give our consultants the tools and access to our systems that are required to work on our projects," he added. "We have invested a lot of time in training each consulting firm in our processes and standards, and expect them to continue this training as new resources are brought on to our projects."

Silberman echoed the high expectations that are openly communicated with the more than 600 individuals who are employees of the consulting firm performing work for Xcel Energy.

"We expect them to act as an extension of our staff so their work is essentially indistinguishable from our own internally generated work," he said. "Our internal staff of about a dozen employees oversees all of this engineering work – ensuring that our needs are met and projects are developed in accordance with our standards, schedules and budgets.

"Our metrics have been consistent for several years now, and we raise the bar a bit when goals are regularly exceeded," Silberman said. "This has led to a deep understanding of our needs by our consultants.

"They understand that if we are happy, we will continue to assign additional work to them – the definition of a great alliance." ←



New HQ 'topped off' in Minneapolis

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HQ Construction

Employee photos documenting the HQ construction project are being featured each week in XpressNet News. Just submit your construction photos to the XcelEnergyNews mailbox by noon on Thursday each week. Submitters of the winning photo each week will be entered in a drawing for a chance to win a \$50 gift card once the building's exterior construction is complete.

The frame of 401 Nicollet – the nine-story structure that will complete Xcel Energy's new Minneapolis Headquarters Campus – is complete thanks to the hard work of local ironworkers, electricians, carpenters and fire-proofers.

Construction workers recently joined with project team members and management from the building's developer, Opus Construction, and sole tenant, Xcel Energy, to celebrate topping off the building's core.

The practice of "topping off" a new building is traced to an ancient Scandinavian religious rite of placing a tree atop a new building to appease the tree-dwelling spirits displaced in its construction.

During the topping-off dedication for 401 Nicollet, Opus hoisted the final beam mounted with an American flag. Prior to that, workers, planners and managers involved in the project signed the beam as a symbol of commitment and accomplishment.

In the coming years, a new generation of employees

will fill the halls of the headquarters campus.

"Our new headquarters campus will be designed to meet the needs of the changing workforce," said Darla Figoli, senior vice president of Human Resources and Employee Services. "We've found that innovative thinking and problem solving come together more effectively in easy-access, collaborative areas.

"So we've designed a more creative workplace environment that incorporates ad-hoc meeting and gathering spaces that welcome impromptu interactions," she added. "This concept will strengthen our efforts to recruit and retain a talented workforce for years to come."

The company will lease the 212,000-square-foot office building on the southeast corner of Fourth Street and Nicollet Mall in downtown Minneapolis beginning next year.

Work also recently took place on the 414 Nicollet Mall façade for installation of a skyway between the buildings. The buildings have been officially named 401 Nicollet and 414 Nicollet. ←

HURRAY FOR

Innovation and best practices cited
for 'plant of the year' award

Nearly 40 years have passed since Xcel Energy first opened its state-of-the-art Harrington Generating Station in Amarillo, Texas, and the world has changed a bit since then.

However, while Harrington Station was planned and built by men and women from a different generation, it still stands on the cutting edge of electric generation technology and environmental protection while providing low-cost energy for a growing region.

So much so, in fact, that Harrington has been named

"Plant of the Year" by the Powder River Basin Coal Users' Group (PRB), a trade association that promotes the safe, efficient and economic use of Wyoming's Powder River Basin coal.

Xcel Energy officials attended the annual conference of the PRB group in Chicago this past spring to formally accept the award. And last month, representatives from the group traveled to Amarillo to commend plant employees. Joining Xcel Energy in receiving the honor was Savage Harrington Energy Services, the firm that handles and processes coal before it enters Harrington's boilers.

HARRINGTON

An aerial photograph of the Harrington coal-fired power plant. The image shows several large industrial buildings, two prominent tall smokestacks emitting white steam, and a series of cooling towers. The facility is situated in a flat, arid landscape with some water bodies and roads visible in the background.

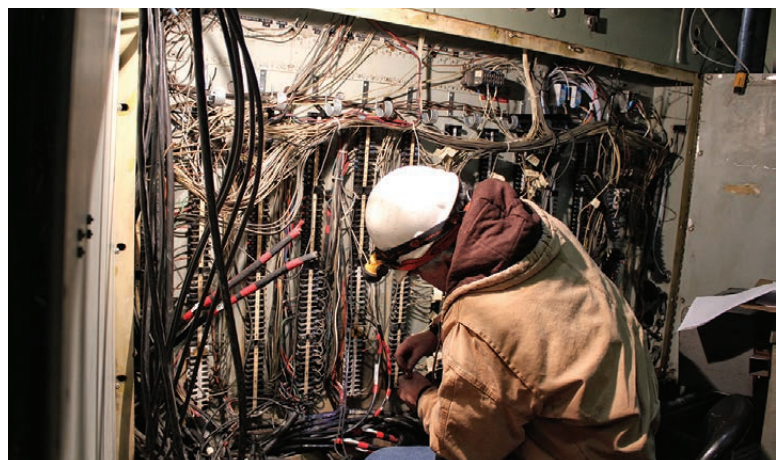
The three-unit, 1,000 megawatt coal-powered generating facility was recognized for its innovation and best practices in safety, coal handling, plant operations and environmental performance. The PRB group selects a power plant each year to honor, and the award is based on an extensive review of the facility.

"This award reflects the outstanding performance of employees from both Xcel Energy and Savage," said Dennis Buchanan, plant director, in accepting the award. "We couldn't be prouder of the work they do."

Harrington will be featured in an upcoming edition of PRB

group's Power magazine and also will be inducted into its Power Plant Hall of Fame. Xcel Energy's Tolk Generating Station near Muleshoe, Texas, received the honor in 2010.

In making the award, the PRB group cited Harrington's environmental stewardship, especially the plant's efficient use of water supplies. Harrington, and nearby Nichols Generating Station, use treated wastewater from the city of Amarillo in their cooling processes. Once the water cycles through the plant four to five times, most is turned out onto nearby farms for irrigation purposes.



Together, the two plants have saved billions of gallons of freshwater over the past five decades — at last count, 181 billion gallons. With the completion of a new water line from another City of Amarillo sewage treatment plant a few years ago, both Harrington and Nichols are now run almost entirely on recycled water.

Harrington also sells the ash from coal combustion to construction companies, which use the ash in roadbeds and in other beneficial ways, keeping it out of landfills.

In the mid-1970s, an in-house SPS team designed three steam-driven generating units at Harrington, which have the capacity to generate a total of more than 1,000 megawatts. The design team would go on to develop the Tolk Generating Station before it was spun off into a subsidiary company known as Utility Engineering, or UE. This company is now part of the San

Antonio-based Zachry Group.

The designs for the Harrington units called for the virtual elimination of particulate emissions. When the last two units came online in 1978 and 1980, they featured the world's first large "baghouses," which act much like vacuum cleaner bags, collecting particulates before they reach the outside air.

"Harrington Station has played a critical role in the development of the Amarillo and Texas Panhandle economy, providing low-cost and reliable power for almost four decades," said David Hudson, president of SPS. "Our employees take great pride in operating some of the cleanest, most-efficient power plants in the nation, and we're pleased to see their efforts honored this way."

PRB officials recently joined employees, retirees and community leaders in a celebration of the award at the plant



Hall of Fame

Harrington will be featured in an upcoming edition of the PRB group's Power magazine and also will be inducted into its Power Plant Hall of Fame. Xcel Energy's Tolk Generating Station near Muleshoe, Texas, received the honor in 2010. Plant employees are pictured here and on page 15, hard at work keeping the power plant in top shape.

to recognize Harrington. Tours of the plant and Savage's coal-handling facilities combined with a presentation of colors by members of the Golden Spread Council of Boy Scouts and a performance by the cast of the Texas Outdoor Musical group.

About 400 people attended the event, which – in fine Texas style – featured food from seven different barbecue groups.

Harrington's story is rooted in the energy crisis of the early 1970s when the cost of natural gas began to rise. Traditionally, SPS generating stations were powered by the area's abundant and cheap natural gas at the time.

However, tightening supplies, increased demand and shifting national energy policy led company officials to begin thinking about other sources of fuel just as the region began an economic boom in the early 1970s.

Concurrently, mining companies and railroads began to

develop what would become the nation's largest source of coal – Wyoming's Powder River Basin. PRB coal is highly valued because it is low in sulfur, which allows for more efficient and cleaner combustion than traditional sources of coal.

The BNSF Railway, then known as the Burlington Northern, provided a nearly direct link between the Texas Panhandle to the Powder River Basin. And so the stage was set for coal-fueled generating technology in the Texas Panhandle.

"Harrington is built with and continues to use advanced technology," Hudson said. "But its greatest strength has been the men and women who planned it, designed it, built it, and those who continue to operate it." ←

White House recognizes Minneapolis and Xcel Energy for energy-efficiency tracking tool

The White House and U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recently recognized the City of Minneapolis and Xcel Energy for designing a system that makes it easier for large-building owners to understand how their buildings use energy.

Owners and managers of buildings larger than 50,000 square feet are now required to disclose data on their energy use – a requirement that aims to increase energy awareness and

spur action to increase efficiency. But reporting the data has been a manual process, and managers of multi-tenant buildings have had to collect spreadsheets or bills from tenants separately.

The new web-based tool developed through the partnership allows building owners and managers to access

whole-building data. That data can then be automatically uploaded into Energy Star Portfolio Manager, the software they use to disclose energy use.

The new system is a tool in the DOE's Better Buildings Energy Data Accelerator initiative, launched to build a cleaner and more sustainable energy future. The initiative is part of President Obama's Climate Action Plan to engage leaders in utilities, industry, and state and local governments to demonstrate innovative policies and programs that will transform the energy-efficiency market and cut building energy waste.

In 2013, Minneapolis and Xcel Energy joined 19 city-utility pairs across the nation that have committed to developing tools to help building owners understand their energy use to save energy and money.

The Better Buildings Energy Data Accelerator initiative complements the energy-efficiency programs Xcel Energy offers building owners and other customers to help them better manage and control their energy use. Businesses can choose from a variety of affordable options, ranging from customized solutions to equipment efficiency and renewable energy programs.

News Brief

Photo Op



Cherokee Storm

Steam rises from Cherokee Generating Station in Denver and into a passing cloud, as a dark thunderstorm moves east of the plant earlier this summer. This photo was taken from the 16th floor of the 1800 Larimer building by Kevin Graham, editor and senior communications consultant.

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 email address listed on the back page of this publication. By submitting images for "Photo Op," employees give Xtra permission to run the photos.



Let there be light

Xcel Energy serves up solar at CHS Field

Workers installed 300 panels last month at the St. Paul Saints' CHS Field. The \$590,000 solar project – one of the largest at a major U.S. sports ballpark – is the result of a partnership between Xcel Energy, the city of St. Paul and the team.

"Everyone wins when renewable energy is part of the game," said Laura McCarten, regional vice president for NSP-Minnesota. "It was great teamwork that made this project possible, bringing solar energy directly to the Saints and their fans."

Workers from Ryan Companies US Inc. spent two weeks installing the panels. The solar project will supply 12 percent of the park's energy needs. The Saints expect to save more than \$22,000 on their energy bill annually; while reducing the city's carbon footprint.

"Incorporating green technology and practices into the ballpark has been a priority from the very beginning," said Chris Coleman, mayor of St. Paul. "The installation of these solar panels is just one more testament to St. Paul's leadership in sustainability."

The 103-kilowatt solar project includes a shaded pavilion, as well as a solar array in left field. Xcel Energy's Renewable Development Fund covered about \$550,000 of the cost, with St. Paul providing a little more than \$34,000 for the project.

Over the next 15 years, the solar project will generate approximately 1.9 million kilowatt-hours of electricity. That's enough to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by about 2.1 million pounds, or in baseball terms, to cook nearly 115 million hot dogs.

"It is a great day for St. Paul, Xcel Energy and all of our ballpark partners," said Tom Whaley, executive vice president for the Saints. "The solar project at CHS Field would not have been possible without the guidance and assistance from our long-time partner, Xcel Energy."

"It will bring the reality of solar power closer to our fans, who will be able to learn more about its benefits and get right up next to the panels when they visit the ballpark," he added. "Heck, we might even grill hot dogs on them!"

CHS is an energy, grains and foods business based in Inver Grove Heights, Minn. It was formed in a 1998 merger of Cenex and Harvest States. CHS is a major oil refiner, grain handler, food processor, fuel marketer and fertilizer distributor. ←

Friends We'll Miss

William J. Anderson

80, building service specialist, Building Management Services, 17th Street Plaza, Denver, Colo., died on May 28, 2015. He worked for PSCo from 1967 to 1994.

People

John S. Bergstrom

83, labor cost clerk, General Accounting, General Office, Minneapolis, Minn., died on May 28, 2015. He worked for NSP from 1956 to 1988.

Charles W. Best

84, Forms Management & Electric Design Information Services, Parkway Center, Denver, Colo., died on May 26, 2015. He worked for PSCo from 1954 to 1991.

Royce E. Boyce

88, died on June 9, 2015. He worked for SPS from 1948 to 1988.

Donald A. Coppock

98, New Mexico, died on June 6, 2015. He worked for SPS from 1952 to 1981.

Frank L. Dembowski

86, working foreman, WestGas, Rangely Operations Office, Rangely, Colo., died on May 29, 2015. He worked for PSCo from 1967 to 1990.

Christina Renee Duncan

50, customer contact center associate, Operations, Centre Pointe, Roseville, Minn., died on June 27, 2015. She worked for Xcel Energy from 2013 until the time of her death.

Jerry E. Ellis

72, system designer III, Gas Systems Engineering, Technical Services Building, Denver, Colo., died on June 9, 2015. He worked for Xcel Energy from 1966 to 2003.

Lowell B. Erdman

89, truck driver, Underground Construction, Rice Street Service Center, St. Paul, Minn., died on Jan. 17, 2015. He worked for NSP from 1946 to 1980.

Frank A. Falkner

84, Customer Accounting, Eau Claire, Wis., died on June 7, 2015. He worked for NSP from 1957 to 1988.

Glen E. Farmer

84, Western Substations, Colorado, died on May 17, 2015. He worked for PSCo from 1951 to 1986.

James C. Franks

76, plant operator, Tolk Station, Earth, Texas, died on May 14, 2015. He worked for SPS from 1978 to 2004.

Robert Leonard Husted

87, Texas, died on June 6, 2015. He worked for SPS from 1959 to 1993.

Steven P. Jones

63, senior plant engineer, Thermal Energy, Delganey Steam Plant, Denver, Colo., died on March 1, 2015. He worked for PSCo from 1979 to 2010.

Bruce R. Knudsen

83, service fitter, Gas Services, Valentia Service Center, Denver, Colo., died on May 17, 2015. He worked for PSCo from 1958 to 1994.

Marshall Koch

91, billing analyst, Customer Billing, Colorado, died on March 16, 2015. He worked for PSCo from 1946 to 1986.

Gary L. Kremer

70, plant equipment operator, Unit Operations, Riverside Generating Plant, Minneapolis, Minn., died on March 25, 2015. He worked for NSP from 1971 to 2001.

Daniel J. Leinonen

72, electrician foreman, Metro West Underground Construction, Chestnut Service Center, Minneapolis, Minn., died on April 10, 2015. He worked for NSP from 1964 to 1998.

Darrel G. Lofvenborg

88, Colorado, died on May 25, 2015. He worked for PSCo from 1948 to 1986.

Marvin L. Marsh

80, material identifier, Material Management, Arvada, Colo., died on May 30, 2015. He worked for PSCo from 1958 to 1994.

Janis K. Martin

76, specialist budget and scheduler, IT&S Internal Support, Colorado, died on June 11, 2015. She worked for PSCo from 1957 to 1994.

Christe C. Martino

93, master electric meterman, Red Rock, Newport Service Center, Newport, Minn., died on May 28, 2015. He worked for NSP from 1949 to 1983.

Davie Lee McClanahan

85, died on June 6, 2015. He worked for SPS from 1955 to 1990.

Richard R. Midwinter

89, vice president and controller, Colorado, died on June 1, 2015. He worked for PSCo from 1949 to 1987.

Melvin G. Muhlhausen

82, lead machinist, Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Red Wing, Minn., died on June 8, 2015. He worked for NSP from 1934 to 1990.

Larry Neifert

70, supervisor, Training and Development, 938 Bannock, Denver, Colo., died on June 13, 2015. He worked for PSCo from 1970 to 1990.

Paul John Richter

61, facilities service person, Facility Services, 414 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, Minn., died on June 8, 2015. He worked for NSP from 1981 until the time of his death.

Frances J. Riley

85, died on June 9, 2015. She worked for SPS from 1954 to 1991.

Coe H. Scott

83, died on June 24, 2015. He worked for SPS from 1951 to 1994.

John F. Scovil

79, line crew foreman, Construction, Edina Service Center, Edina, Minn., died on June 7, 2015. He worked for NSP from 1956 to 1991.

Carolyn J. South

73, payment scheduler, Accounts Payable, SPS Tower, Amarillo, Texas, died on June 30, 2015. She worked for Xcel Energy from 1987 to 2001.

Helen Tako

94, special billing supervisor, Metro East Meter Reading, St. Paul, Minn., died on May 24, 2015. She worked for NSP from 1942 to 1983.

Howard L. Toft

91, electric trouble repairman, Colorado, died on June 7, 2015. He worked for PSCo from 1954 to 1986.

Robert O. Vigil

68, plant operator, Operations, Comanche Generating Station, Pueblo, Colo., died on June 5, 2015. He worked for PSCo from 1975 to 2009.

Jimmy D. Wardlow

84, died on June 17, 2015. He worked for SPS from 1951 to 1995.

Norma A. Weingardt

74, accounting assistant, Accounting IMCS & Budget Services, 17th St. Plaza, Denver, Colo., died on Feb. 15, 2015. She worked for PSCo from 1973 to 1995.

Howard A. Willert

85, Minnesota, died on June 8, 2015. He worked for NSP from 1950 to 1991.

Archi J. Winters

84, mechanic classified, Shoshone Hydro, Glenwood Springs, Colo., died on May 31, 2015. He worked for PSCo from 1976 to 1995.

Retiring

Steven Albeck

lead repairman, Maintenance, Sherco Plant, Becker, Minn., retired on July 1, 2015. He worked for Xcel Energy for 37 years.

Mark J. Bauer

(riverbat18@yahoo.com), associate designer, Northwest Design, St. Cloud, Minn., retired on June 30, 2015. He worked for Xcel Energy for 31 years.

Charles O. Clark

(samtacolo53@gmail.com), lead mechanic, Fleet Maintenance, Gateway Service Center, Aurora, Colo., retired on June 30, 2015. He worked for Xcel Energy for 38 years.

MJ Dailey II

(mjdaileyiii@yahoo.com), control specialist, Operations, Cherokee Station, Denver, Colo., retired on June 30, 2015. He worked for Xcel Energy for 34 years.

David DeCourcey

mechanical technician, Maintenance, Riverside Plant, Minneapolis, Minn., retired on July 31, 2015. He worked for Xcel Energy for 36 years.

Dawn M. Faulkner

(shimmer.and.shine@hotmail.com), field operations supervisor, Gas Operations, Lipan Distribution Center, Denver, Colo., retired on July 31, 2015. She worked for Xcel Energy for 39 years.

Dennis "Steve" Kerschen

(steve.gloria@me.com), electrician specialist, Substation Operations and Maintenance, Alamosa, Colo., retired on June 19, 2015. He worked for Xcel Energy for 30 years.

Craig Koester

(peggy_koester@yahoo.com), line crew foreman, Electric Operations, Winona Service Center, Winona, Minn., retired on Aug. 4, 2015. He worked for Xcel Energy for 22 years.

Archie Lloyd

foreman, Construction, Materials Distribution Center, Henderson, Colo., retired on June 30, 2015. He worked for Xcel Energy for 37 years.

Bruce Meakins

working foreman, Electric Meter Shop, Valentia Service Center, Denver, Colo., retired on June 26, 2015. He worked for Xcel Energy for 37 years.

James LaMotte

(lamotte@frontiernet.net), system relay specialist, Operations & Maintenance, Maple Grove Service Center, Maple Grove, Minn., retired on June 30, 2015. He worked for Xcel Energy for 33 years.

Don Loeffler

principal nuclear oversight assessor, Nuclear Oversight, Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant, Monticello, Minn., retired on Aug. 20, 2015. He worked for Xcel Energy for 28 years.

Jean Miller

(wjmillier@charter.net), document control supervisor, Document Control and Records Management, Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Welch, Minn., retired on May 29, 2015. He worked for Xcel Energy for 39 years.

David Mills

(david.gay.mills@suddenlink.com), budgeting & reporting manager, Energy Supply Finance, Amarillo Tower, Amarillo, Texas, retired on June 15, 2015. He worked for Xcel Energy for 39 years.

Connie Morgan

(morgantx@suddenlink.net), business consultant, Human Resources, Amarillo Tower, Amarillo, Texas, retired on June 12, 2015. She worked for Xcel Energy for 40 years.

Kathleen O. Patrick

(k.patrick@hotmail.com), administrative assistant III, Chemistry Resources, Materials Distribution Center, Henderson, Colo., retired on July 6, 2015. She worked for Xcel Energy for 8 years.

Karen Porter

(portermiller2@yahoo.com), administrative assistant III, Corporate Communications/CCBC, 414 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, Minn., retired on July 31, 2015. She worked for the Xcel Energy for 35 years.

Roger L. Reed

(shrubberreed@msn.com), corrosion control specialist, Gas Technical Services, Valentia Service Center, Denver, Colo., retired on July 31, 2015. He worked for Xcel Energy for 43 years.

Janice Sebolboro

operations maintenance analyst, Facility Services, 414 Nicollet, Minneapolis, Minn., retired on July 6, 2015. She worked for Xcel Energy for 38 years.

Robert (Kenny) Schwitzer

working electric foreman, Substations Operation and Maintenance, Pueblo Service Center, Pueblo, Colo., retired on June 30, 2015. He worked for Xcel Energy for 33 years.

Seth Thomason

(sthomason@ieee.org), customer relations director, Managed Accounts, Amarillo Tower, Amarillo, Texas, retired on July 6, 2015. He worked for Xcel Energy for 37 years.

Edward E. Trujillo

(aetrufarm@aoc.com), working foreman gas fitter, Gas Operations, Valentia Service Center, Denver, Colo., retired on July 31, 2015. He worked for Xcel Energy for 35 years.

Dale Vincent

(jmvov@charter.net), senior project manager, Regulatory Affairs, Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Welch, Minn., retired on July 6, 2015. He worked for Xcel Energy for 42 years.

Tim Willemsen

(tim_willemsen@comcast.net), rate consultant, Revenue Requirements, 1800 Larimer, Denver, Colo., retired on June 30, 2015. He worked for Xcel Energy for 34 years.

Paula Deines Wrenn

(pwwrenn@msn.com), senior builders call line representative, Builders Call Line, Arvada, Colo., retired on June 30, 2015. She worked for Xcel Energy for 38 years.

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In addition, and as a reminder, Xcel Energy's main phone number is 800-328-8226. Just hit "0" for an operator to contact various departments and employees.

XTRA

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