

XCEL ENERGY INC
Form POS AMC
September 30, 2003

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON D.C. 20549

**AMENDMENT NO. 14
(Ninth Post-Effective)
TO
FORM U-1 APPLICATION-DECLARATION
UNDER
THE PUBLIC UTILITY HOLDING COMPANY ACT OF 1935**

Xcel Energy Inc.
and its Subsidiaries listed on Exhibit K hereto
800 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55402

(Name of company filing this statement and address of principal executive offices)

Xcel Energy Inc.

(Name of top registered holding company parent of each applicant or declarant)

Gary R. Johnson
Vice President and General Counsel
Xcel Energy Inc.
800 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55402

(Name and address of agent for service)

The Commission is requested to send copies of all notices, orders and communications in connection with this Application-Declaration to:

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This Amendment No 14 (Ninth Post-Effective) to the Application/Declaration on Form U-1, originally filed in File No. 70-9635 on February 23, 2000, as subsequently amended, amends and restates Amendment No. 12 (Seventh Post-Effective) filed on July 18, 2003, as amended by Amendment No. 13 (Eighth Post-Effective) filed on September 5, 2003, with the exception that it does not replace exhibits previously filed.

ITEM 1. Description of the Proposed Transaction

A. Introduction and General Request

Xcel Energy Inc., a Minnesota corporation (Xcel Energy), as the successor corporation in the merger of Northern States Power Company and New Century Energies, Inc., and certain of its subsidiaries filed an Application-Declaration on Form U-1 with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the Commission) in this file on February 23, 2000, as amended April 10, 2000, June 26, 2000, August 3, 2000, August 4, 2000, August 22, 2000, October 12, 2001, October 19, 2001, November 7, 2002 and December 20, 2002 (as so amended, the Original Financing U-1) and as further amended by an Application-Declaration on Form U-1 in File No. 70-10096 filed on October 9, 2002, and amended on December 20, 2002 and May 27, 2003 (the Supplemental Financing U-1). Xcel Energy and its Subsidiaries listed on Exhibit K hereto (collectively, the Applicants) seek an amendment to the authorization granted by the Commission in its order issued on August 22, 2000 (Holding Co. Act Release No. 27218) (the August 2000 Order), its order issued on March 7, 2002 (Holding Co. Act Release No. 27494) (the 100% Order), and together with the August 2000 Order, the Original Financing Orders), and its order issued May 29, 2003 (Holding Co. Act Release No. 27681) (the Supplemental Financing Order and, together with the Original Financing Orders, the Financing Orders) as described below.

The Financing Orders authorized Xcel Energy and its Subsidiaries to engage in various financing transactions during the period from the date of such orders through September 30, 2003 (the Original Authorization Period). By Amendment No. 12 (Seventh Post-Effective), as amended by Amendment No. 13 (Eighth Post-Effective) and this Amendment No. 14 (Ninth Post-Effective) in File No. 70-9635 (this Application), Applicants seek to extend the Original Authorization Period to June 30, 2005 (such period of time, including the Original Authorization Period, being hereinafter referred to as the Extended Authorization Period). By this Application, Applicants also request that the Commission authorize certain modifications to the terms and conditions applicable to the financing authorizations, the terms and conditions for intrasystem financings and guarantees, including implementation of a utility money pool, and the terms and conditions relating to the formation and operation of financing subsidiaries. Finally, Applicants request in this Application that the Commission release its reservation of jurisdiction in the Supplemental Financing Order² so as to authorize an increase in the aggregate amount of

¹ The term Subsidiaries used herein shall mean the companies listed on Exhibit K hereto, together with any future direct or indirect non-utility subsidiaries of Xcel Energy whose equity securities may be acquired in accordance with an order of the Commission or in accordance with an exemption under the Act or the Commission's rules thereunder; provided, however, that it should be noted that for all purposes of this Application Subsidiaries shall not include NRG Energy, Inc. and its subsidiaries. Other capitalized terms used in this Application that are not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Original Financing U-1.

² To that extent, this Application also serves as Amendment No. 3 (First Post-Effective) to the Supplemental Financing U-1 in file No. 70-10096.

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common stock and long-term debt securities that Xcel Energy can issue during the Extended Authorization Period from \$2.0 billion, as authorized in the August 2000 Order, to \$2.5 billion.

B. Overview of the Companies

On August 18, 2000, New Century Energies, Inc. and Northern States Power Company (NSP) merged and formed Xcel Energy pursuant to the Commission's order in New Century Energies, Inc., Holding Co. Act Release No. 27218 (August 16, 2000). Xcel Energy is a registered holding company under the Act. As part of the merger, NSP transferred its existing utility operations that were being conducted directly by NSP at the parent company level to a newly formed subsidiary of Xcel Energy named Northern States Power Company.

Xcel Energy directly owns six utility subsidiaries that serve electric and/or natural gas customers in 12 states. These six utility subsidiaries (collectively, the Utility Subsidiaries) are Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSP-M); Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin corporation (NSP-W); Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCo); Southwestern Public Service Co. (SPS); Black Mountain Gas Company (Black Mountain); and Cheyenne Light, Fuel and Power Company (Cheyenne). Their service territories include portions of Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Wisconsin and Wyoming. As previously announced publicly, Xcel Energy has entered into a contract to sell Black Mountain, which sale is subject to approval by the Commission under the Act.

Xcel Energy also engages through subsidiaries in various other energy-related and non-utility businesses (such subsidiaries, together with any future direct or indirect non-utility subsidiaries of Xcel Energy, but excluding NRG Energy, Inc. (NRG) and its subsidiaries, are collectively referred to herein as the Non-Utility Subsidiaries). The Non-Utility Subsidiaries that are directly or indirectly owned by Xcel Energy include: Seren Innovations, Inc., a provider of cable, telephone and high-speed internet access systems and an exempt telecommunications company under Section 34 of the Act; e prime, inc., a marketer of electricity and natural gas; and Eloigne Company, an investor in projects that qualify for low-income housing tax credits. In addition, Xcel Energy indirectly owns NRG, a holding company for many of Xcel Energy's non-utility businesses, including significant investments in independent power projects and foreign utility operations.

On May 14, 2003, NRG filed a voluntary petition for relief under chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York (the New York Bankruptcy Court). The making of this voluntary filing constitutes an order for relief under the Bankruptcy Code and NRG thus became a debtor in possession subject to the jurisdiction of the bankruptcy court and the requirements of the Bankruptcy Code. Under the requirements of the Bankruptcy Code (11 U.S.C. §363), any significant or out of the ordinary course transactions by NRG require the prior approval of the New York Bankruptcy Court.

C. Other Relevant Matters

In Holding Company Act Release No. 27533 (May 30, 2002) (the NRG Order), the Commission authorized Xcel Energy to acquire through an exchange offer and subsequent short-form merger (collectively, the Exchange Offer) the outstanding publicly-held stock of its 74%-

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owned subsidiary, NRG and to issue up to 33,394,564 shares of common stock pursuant to such transaction. Such 33,394,564 shares can only be issued for the purposes set forth in the NRG Order and are not available for general issuance. Specifically, of the 33,394,564 authorized to be issued, approximately 27.8 million shares were issued in the Exchange Offer to effect Xcel Energy's acquisition of all of the common stock of NRG. The remaining shares of Xcel Energy common stock authorized for issuance pursuant to the NRG Order will only be issued, to the extent necessary, upon exercise of stock options previously issued by NRG or upon conversion of corporate units previously issued by NRG, which, upon Xcel Energy's acquisition of all of the common stock of NRG, became exercisable or convertible into shares of Xcel Energy common stock.

On July 29, 2003, Xcel Energy, NRG Energy Inc. (NRG) and NRG Power Marketing, Inc. (NRG PMI) filed an application-declaration with the Commission in File No. 70-10152 (the NRG Reorganization U-1), seeking authorization under the Act to perform those acts and consummate those transactions contemplated as part of the solicitation of consent and implementation of a proposed plan of reorganization initially filed on May 14, 2003 in the bankruptcy proceedings in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York of NRG, NRG PMI and certain of NRG's other subsidiaries which are debtors in such bankruptcy proceedings.

On September 12, 2003, Xcel Energy filed with the Commission an amendment to its application-declaration in File No. 70-10096, seeking a release of a reservation of jurisdiction to authorize Xcel Energy to pay its third quarter dividend on its preferred stock and common stock out of capital and/or unearned surplus.

D. Authorization in Financing Orders

In the Original Financing Orders the Commission authorized the following transactions (collectively, the Financing Activities³):

- (i) Xcel Energy to issue and sell common stock and/or long-term debt securities for the uses described herein, provided that the aggregate proceeds received during the Original Authorization Period upon issuance of such common stock (exclusive of the issuance of common stock specifically authorized in the Original Financing Order in respect of employee benefit plans and dividend reinvestment plans,⁴ the issuance of common stock specifically authorized in the NRG Order⁵ and the issuance of common

³ In the Original Financing Orders, the terms Subsidiaries and Non-Utility Subsidiaries included NRG and its subsidiaries. For purposes of the authorization requested for the Extended Authorization Period in this Application, the terms Subsidiaries and Non-Utility Subsidiaries shall exclude NRG and its subsidiaries.

⁴ Xcel Energy was also authorized to issue and/or acquire an additional 30 million shares of its common stock (subject to adjustment for stock splits) from time to time through June 30, 2007 under various employee benefit plans and dividend reinstatement plans. This Application is not requesting any amendment to such authority.

⁵ In the NRG Order, the Commission authorized Xcel Energy to issue up to 33,394,564 shares of its common stock in connection with the consummation of the exchange offer for the publicly held shares of NRG common stock and upon subsequent exercise of options issued by NRG or conversion of the corporate units issued by NRG into shares of Xcel Energy.

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stock in connection with the reorganization of NRG⁶) and the aggregate principal amount of long-term debt issued and outstanding at any one time during the Original Authorization Period, together with any long-term debt or preferred securities issued by Financing Subsidiaries (as defined in the Original Financing Order) established by Xcel Energy, shall not exceed \$2.0 billion;

(ii) Xcel Energy to have outstanding at any one time short-term debt with a maturity date not more than one year from the date of the borrowing in an aggregate principal amount of up to \$1.5 billion;

(iii) Cheyenne and Black Mountain to each issue short-term debt to nonassociate lenders, when combined with borrowings from associate lenders, not to exceed \$40 million for each of Cheyenne and Black Mountain;

(iv) Xcel Energy's Subsidiaries to borrow from each other and from Xcel Energy, and for Xcel Energy and any Subsidiary to enter into guarantees, obtain letters of credit, enter into expense agreements or otherwise provide credit support with respect to the debt and other obligations of other Subsidiaries (Intrasystem Financings), excluding transactions that are exempt under rules 45(b) and 52, as applicable, in an aggregate outstanding principal amount not to exceed \$2.5 billion at any one time, provided that any short-term loans to Cheyenne and Black Mountain will be counted against their respective authorization for \$40 million of short-term debt and shall not apply against this limit on Intrasystem Financings⁷;

(v) Xcel Energy and the Subsidiaries to enter into hedging transactions with respect to existing and anticipated debt offerings, subject to certain limitations and restrictions specified therein;

(vi) Xcel Energy and its Subsidiaries to acquire, directly or indirectly, the equity securities of one or more corporations, trusts, partnerships or other entities (Financing Subsidiaries) created specifically for the purpose of facilitating the financing of the authorized and exempt activities of Xcel Energy and the Subsidiaries through the issuance of debt or preferred securities, including but not limited to monthly income preferred securities, to third parties, the loaning of the proceeds of such financings to Xcel Energy or such Subsidiaries, the guarantee of all or part of the obligations of any Financing Subsidiary under any securities issued by the Financing Subsidiary, and Xcel

⁶ On May 14, 2003, NRG and certain of NRG's subsidiaries filed voluntary petitions for bankruptcy under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York. NRG's filing included its plan of reorganization (NRG's Plan of Reorganization). NRG's Plan of Reorganization incorporates the terms of a tentative settlement among NRG, Xcel Energy and members of NRG's major creditor constituencies that provides for payments by Xcel Energy to NRG and its creditors of up to \$752 million. Pursuant to the terms of the settlement, and subject to the conditions thereof, up to \$200 million of the settlement payment can be satisfied by delivery of common stock of Xcel Energy. Authorization for Xcel Energy to issue common stock in accordance with the terms of NRG's Plan of Reorganization is being addressed in the NRG Reorganization U-1.

⁷ The Applicants do not request an extension of the authorization described in clause (iv) above, but rather seek the revised authorization for intrasystem financings and guaranties as described in Item 1.D. below.

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Energy or a Subsidiary to enter into expense arrangements in respect of the obligations of any such Financing Subsidiary⁸;

(vii) Xcel Energy and its Non-Utility Subsidiaries to acquire the securities of one or more companies (the Intermediate Subsidiaries), which would be organized exclusively for the purpose of acquiring, holding and/or financing the acquisition of the securities of or other interest in one or more other Non-Utility Subsidiaries, provided that Intermediate Securities may also engage in development activities and administrative activities relating to such subsidiaries;

(viii) Xcel Energy to restructure its non-utility interests, including the creation of new, or the elimination of existing, Intermediate Subsidiaries, the consolidation of Non-Utility Subsidiaries engaged in similar businesses, the spin-off of a portion of an existing business of a Non-Utility Subsidiary to another Non-Utility Subsidiary, the re-incorporation of an existing Non-Utility Subsidiary in a different state, the transfer of authority from one Non-Utility Subsidiary to another or other similar type arrangements, and to change the terms of any wholly-owned Non-Utility Subsidiary s authorized capital stock capitalization as deemed appropriate by Xcel Energy or other immediate parent company;

(ix) any Non-Utility Subsidiary to pay dividends out of capital and unearned surplus; and

(x) the use by Xcel Energy of financings to invest in exempt wholesale generators (EWGs), as defined in section 32 of the Act, and foreign utility companies (FUCOs), as defined in section 33 of the Act, and to guarantee the obligations of EWGs and FUCOs, provided that Xcel Energy s aggregate investment at the time of such investment shall not exceed 100% of its consolidated retained earnings , as defined in Rule 53(a)(1)(ii).

The authority granted in the Original Financing Orders is collectively referred to as the Current Financing Authority .

In the Supplemental Financing Order, the Commission authorized Xcel Energy to declare and pay two quarterly dividends out of capital and unearned surplus on its common stock and its preferred stock, in an aggregate amount of up to \$152 million and reserved jurisdiction over Xcel Energy s request to (i) increase the aggregate amount of common stock and long-term debt securities that it may issue during the Authorization Period from the \$2.0 billion authorized by the August 2000 Order to \$2.5 billion, (ii) modify certain of the conditions applicable to the Financing Activities, and (iii) pay dividends out of capital and unearned surplus for any subsequent quarterly period, up to an aggregate amount of \$260 million. As indicated above, Applicants are seeking in this Application a release of jurisdiction over item (i) referenced in the immediately preceding sentence.

⁸ The Applicants do not request an extension of the authorization described in clause (vi) above, but rather seek the revised authorization for Financing Subsidiaries as described in Item 1.D. below.

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E. Description of the Requested Authorization.

1. Extension of Authorization Period.

Xcel Energy's Current Financing Authority expires on September 30, 2003. Applicants request that the Commission extend the Authorization Period for the Current Financing Authority, as and to the extent modified in this Item 1.E., through the Extended Authorization Period. Except as described in this Item 1.E., Applicants do not seek to increase or modify the Current Financing Authority.⁹ Applicants will file an Application-Declaration with the Commission prior to the expiration of the Extended Authorization Period to seek financing authority beyond June 30, 2005.

2. Financing Parameters.

Applicants request that the financing authority granted by this Application be subject to the following general terms and conditions, where appropriate:

Effective Cost of Money. The effective cost of money on debt and preferred securities issued to non-associate companies pursuant to authorization in the Financing Orders and/or an order in this matter will not exceed competitive market rates for securities of comparable credit quality with similar terms and features.

Maturity of Debt. The maturity of authorized indebtedness will not exceed 50 years.

Investment Grade Ratings. Applicants further represent that apart from securities issued for the purpose of intrasystem financings and funding money pool operations, no guarantees or other securities, other than common stock, may be issued in reliance upon the authorization granted by the Commission pursuant to this Application, unless (i) the security to be issued, if rated, is rated investment grade; (ii) all outstanding securities of the issuer (except in the case of Xcel Energy, Xcel Energy's preferred stock¹⁰) that are rated are rated investment grade; and (iii)

⁹ As described above, for purposes of this Application and the financing authorization requested for the Extended Authorization Period, Subsidiaries and Non-Utility Subsidiaries shall not include NRG and its subsidiaries.

¹⁰ Xcel Energy currently has six series of preferred stock outstanding, each of which was issued by Northern States Power Company, its predecessor company, prior to 1970. Each of these series of preferred stock are redeemable, as set forth below:

| Series | Shares Outstanding | Redemption Price |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| \$3.60 Preferred | 275,000 | \$ 103.750 |
| \$4.08 Preferred | 150,000 | \$ 102.000 |
| \$4.10 Preferred | 175,000 | \$ 102.500 |
| \$4.11 Preferred | 200,000 | \$ 103.732 |
| \$4.16 Preferred | 99,800 | \$ 103.750 |
| \$4.56 Preferred | 150,000 | \$ 102.470 |

To redeem the preferred stock would require Xcel Energy to incur additional indebtedness of approximately \$108.25 million. Furthermore, to redeem the preferred stock at this time is uneconomic and would result in a net present value cost of approximately \$2,000,000.

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all outstanding securities of Xcel Energy (except for Xcel Energy's preferred stock) that are rated are rated investment grade. For purposes of this provision, a security will be deemed to be rated investment grade if it is rated investment grade by at least one nationally recognized statistical rating organization. As shown on Exhibit M to this Application, as of June 30, 2003, Xcel Energy's preferred stock is not rated investment grade. Applicants request that the Commission reserve jurisdiction over the issuance by Xcel Energy of preferred stock and/or any other such securities that are rated below investment grade. Applicants further request that the Commission reserve jurisdiction over the issuance of any guarantee or other securities at any time that the conditions set forth in clauses (i) through (iii) above are not satisfied.

Capitalization Ratios. Xcel Energy's common equity, as reflected on its most recent Form 10-K or Form 10-Q and as adjusted to reflect subsequent events that affect capitalization, will be at least 30% of consolidated total capitalization (the Xcel 30% Test¹¹) provided that in any event when Xcel Energy does not satisfy the Xcel 30% Test, Xcel Energy may issue common stock pursuant to this authorization. Similarly, the common stock equity of each Utility Subsidiary will be at least 30% of that Utility Subsidiary's total capitalization. Xcel Energy requests that the Commission reserve jurisdiction over Xcel Energy's authority to engage in the financing transactions authorized in the Financing Orders and in this proceeding at a time when Xcel Energy does not satisfy the Xcel 30% Test.

Fees, Commissions and Other Remuneration. The underwriting fees, commissions and other similar remuneration paid in connection with the non-competitive issuance of any security issued by Xcel Energy will not exceed the greater of (A) 5% of the principal or total amount of the securities being issued or (B) issuances expenses that are paid at the time in respect of the issuance of securities having the same or reasonably similar terms and conditions issued by similar companies of reasonably comparable credit quality.

The proceeds from the financings authorized by the Commission pursuant to this Application will be used for the same purposes authorized in the August 2000 Order, which are general corporate purposes, including (i) financing investments by and capital expenditures of Xcel Energy and its Subsidiaries, (ii) the repayment, redemption, refunding or purchase by Xcel Energy or any of its Subsidiaries of securities issued by such companies without the need for prior Commission approval pursuant to Rule 42 or a successor rule, (iii) financing working capital requirements of Xcel Energy and its Subsidiaries, and (iv) other lawful general purposes. In addition, any use of proceeds to make investments in any energy-related company, as defined in Rule 58 under the Act, will be subject to the investment limitation of such rule, and any use of proceeds to make investments in any EWG or FUCO will be subject to the investment limitation and other conditions set forth in the 100% Order or any order amending or replacing the 100% Order.¹² Xcel Energy further commits that no financing proceeds will be used to

¹¹ Total capitalization is the sum of common stock equity, preferred stock, long-term debt (including current maturities) and short-term debt.

¹² Under Rule 58, Xcel Energy may make additional investments in energy related companies as long as the aggregate investment of Xcel Energy and its Subsidiaries in all such companies does not exceed the greater of (i) \$50 million or (ii) 15% of Xcel Energy's consolidated capitalization. As of June 30, 2003, the aggregate investment of Xcel Energy and its Subsidiaries in energy-related companies was approximately \$1.217 billion, or approximately 10.8% of Xcel Energy's consolidated capitalization of \$11.246 billion. In the 100% Order, the Commission authorized Xcel Energy to use the proceeds of securities issuances to invest up to 100% of its

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acquire the equity securities of any new subsidiary unless such acquisition has been approved by the Commission in this proceeding or in a separate proceeding or is in accordance with an available exemption under the Act or the rules thereunder.

3. Common Stock/Long-term debt.

Xcel Energy requests that the Commission release jurisdiction reserved in the Supplemental Financing Order over Xcel Energy's request to increase the aggregate amount of common stock and long-term debt securities that it may issue from \$2.0 billion to \$2.5 billion. More specifically, Xcel Energy requests authorization, subject to the financing parameters set forth in section 2 of this Item 1.E., to issue and sell common stock and/or long-term debt securities for the uses described herein, provided that the aggregate proceeds received during the Extended Authorization Period upon issuance of such common stock (exclusive of the issuance of common stock specifically authorized in the Financing Orders in respect of employee benefit plans and dividend reinvestment plans, the issuance of common stock specifically authorized in the NRG Order and the issuance of common stock pursuant to NRG's Plan of Reorganization) and the aggregate principal amount of long-term debt issued and outstanding at any one time during the Extended Authorization Period, together with any long-term debt or preferred securities issued by Financing Subsidiaries established by Xcel Energy, shall not exceed \$2.5 billion.

The issuance of common stock¹³ and long-term debt of Xcel Energy would be subject to the following general terms and conditions:

Common Stock. Subject to the limits described above and the other conditions described in this Application, Xcel Energy may issue and sell common stock, options, warrants and stock purchase rights exercisable for common stock, or other equity-linked securities or contracts to purchase common stock. Such financings may be effected pursuant to underwriting agreements of a type generally standard in the industry. Public distributions may be pursuant to private negotiation with underwriters, dealers or agents, as discussed below, or effected through competitive bidding among underwriters. In addition, sales may be made through private placements or other non-public offerings to one or more persons. All such common stock sales will be at rates or prices and under conditions negotiated or based upon, or otherwise determined by, competitive capital markets.

Specifically, Xcel Energy may sell common stock, options, warrants, stock purchase rights and other equity-linked securities covered by this Application in any of the following ways: (i) through underwriters or dealers; (ii) through agents and (iii) directly to a limited number of purchasers or a single purchaser. If underwriters are used in the sale of the securities, such securities will be acquired by the underwriters for their own account and may be resold from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public

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consolidated retained earnings as defined in Rule 53(a)(1)(ii) in EWGs and FUCOs. As of June 30, 2003, Xcel Energy's retained earnings were negative.

¹³ Any common stock to be issued by Xcel Energy under the settlement with NRG and NRG's creditors is addressed in a separate application under the Act.

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offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. The securities may be offered to the public either through underwriting syndicates (which may be represented by a managing underwriter or underwriters designated by Xcel Energy) or directly by one or more underwriters acting alone. The securities may be sold directly by Xcel Energy or through agents designated by Xcel Energy from time to time. If dealers are utilized in the sale of any of the securities, Xcel Energy will sell such securities to the dealers, as principal. Any dealer may then resell such securities to the public at varying prices to be determined by such dealer at the time of resale. If such securities are being sold in an underwritten offering, Xcel Energy may grant the underwriters thereof a green shoe option permitting the purchase from Xcel Energy at the same price additional securities then being offered solely for the purpose of covering over-allotments.

Xcel Energy may also issue common stock in public or privately-negotiated transactions in exchange for the equity securities or assets of other companies, provided that the acquisition of any such equity securities or assets has been authorized in this proceeding or in a separate proceeding or is exempt under the Act or the rules thereunder.

Long-Term Debt. The long-term debt to be issued by Xcel Energy pursuant to this authorization will be unsecured. Subject to the limits described above and the other conditions described in this Application, Xcel Energy's long-term debt (a) may be subordinated in right of payment to other debt and other obligations of Xcel Energy, (b) may be convertible into any other securities of Xcel Energy, (c) will have maturities ranging from one to 50 years, (d) may be subject to optional and/or mandatory redemption, in whole or in part, at par or at various premiums above the principal amount thereof, (e) may be entitled to mandatory or optional sinking fund provisions, (f) may provide for reset of the interest rate pursuant to a remarketing arrangement, and (g) may be called from existing investors by a third party. In addition, Xcel Energy may have the right from time to time to defer the payment of interest on all or a portion of its long-term debt (which may be fixed or floating or multi-modal, i.e., where the interest is periodically reset, alternating between fixed and floating interest rates for each reset period).

Xcel Energy contemplates that long-term debt securities would be issued and sold directly to one or more purchasers in privately-negotiated transactions or to one or more investment banking or underwriting firms or other entities who would resell such securities without registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, in reliance upon one or more applicable exemptions from registration thereunder, or to the public either (i) through underwriters selected by negotiation or competitive bidding or (ii) through selling agents acting either as agent or as principal for resale to the public either directly or through dealers.

The maturity dates, interest rates, redemption and sinking fund provisions, subordination provisions and conversion features, if any, with respect to the long-term debt securities of a particular series, as well as any associated placement, underwriting or selling agent fees, commissions and discounts, if any, will be established by negotiation or competitive bidding; provided, however, that Xcel Energy will not issue and sell any such securities at interest rates in excess of those generally obtainable at the time of pricing or repricing thereof for securities having the same or reasonably similar maturities and having reasonably similar terms, conditions and features issued by utility companies or utility holding companies of the same or reasonably comparable credit quality, as determined by the competitive capital markets.

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Securities of Financing Subsidiaries. The August 2000 Order, as proposed to be modified hereby, authorizes Xcel Energy and its Subsidiaries to form one or more Financing Subsidiaries to issue preferred securities and/or long-term debt securities the proceeds of which may be loaned to Xcel Energy or the Subsidiary which established such Financing Subsidiary. Any issuance of such long-term debt securities by a Financing Subsidiary established by Xcel Energy will be counted against the \$2.5 billion financing limit described below.

4. Intra-System Financings and Guarantees.

In Item 1.D. of the Original Financing U-1, the Applicants requested authorization for intrasystem financings and guarantees. This authorization was granted in the Original Financing Order. For the Extended Authorization Period, Applicants request that the terms and conditions for intrasystem financings and guarantees be modified, as described below.

The Applicants request authorization for (i) Xcel Energy to enter into guarantees, obtain letters of credit, enter into expense agreements or otherwise provide credit support (Guarantees) with respect to the obligations of Utility Subsidiaries as may be appropriate to enable such Utility Subsidiaries to carry on in the ordinary course of their respective businesses, and (ii) Xcel Energy and the Non-Utility Subsidiaries to enter into Guarantees with respect to the obligations of Non-Utility Subsidiaries as may be appropriate to enable such Non-Utility Subsidiaries to carry on in the ordinary course of their respective businesses; provided that the aggregate principal amount of intrasystem financings and Guarantees pursuant to this paragraph shall not exceed \$1.0 billion outstanding at any one time during the Extended Authorization Period.¹⁴ The \$1.0 billion excludes any such Guarantees that are exempt pursuant to Rules 45(b) and 52. The authorization requested herein will permit issuances of guarantees in situations where the exemptions provided by Rules 45(b) and 52 are not applicable.

Xcel Energy may charge each Subsidiary a fee for each guarantee provided on behalf of such Subsidiary that is determined by multiplying the amount of any such guarantee by Xcel Energy by the cost of obtaining the liquidity necessary to perform the guarantee (for example, bank line commitment fees or letter of credit fees) for the period of time the guarantee remains outstanding. Non-Utility Subsidiaries may also charge each Non-Utility Subsidiary a fee for each guarantee provided on its behalf determined in the same manner as specified above.

The Applicants also request authorization for Xcel Energy to finance its Non-Utility Subsidiaries and its Non-Utility Subsidiaries to finance other Non-Utility Subsidiaries in an aggregate principal amount outstanding at any one time during the Extended Authorization Period of not to exceed \$400 million. The \$400 million excludes any such financings that are exempt pursuant to Rules 45(b) and 52.¹⁵

¹⁴ During the twelve month period ended June 30, 2003, the aggregate principal amount of intrasystem financings to Non-Utility Subsidiaries and Guarantees has ranged from approximately \$450 million to \$950 million.

¹⁵ During the twelve month period ended June 30, 2003, the aggregate outstanding principal amount of intrasystem loans to Non-Utility Subsidiaries has ranged from approximately \$250 million to \$350 million.

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Intra-system financings would generally be in the form of cash capital contributions, open account advances, inter-company loans, and/or capital stock purchases. Intra-system financing will provide funds for general corporate purposes, including working capital requirements, investments and capital expenditures. Xcel Energy or the lending Non-Utility Subsidiary will determine, at its discretion, how much financing to give each borrowing Non-Utility Subsidiary as its needs dictate during the Extended Authorization Period.

Generally, Xcel Energy or the lending Subsidiary's loans to, and purchase of capital stock from, such borrowing Subsidiaries will be exempt under Rule 52, and capital contributions and open account advances without interest will be exempt under Rule 45(b). The authorization requested herein will permit intra-system loans in situations where the exemptions provided by Rules 45(b) and 52 are not applicable.

Xcel Energy provides loans to its Non-Utility Subsidiaries (e.g., e prime inc. and Utility Engineering Corporation and its subsidiaries) through their respective intermediate holding companies. Typically, such loans are made on an exempt basis pursuant to Rule 52. However, circumstances can arise from time to time where maturity dates of the intercompany loan will not parallel the terms of recently issued debt of the lending company, as required by Rule 52(b)(2).¹⁶ Thus, Xcel Energy seeks the authorization requested herein for Xcel Energy to make loans to its Non-Utility Subsidiaries and for the Non-Utility Subsidiaries to make loans to other Non-Utility Subsidiaries on the terms described herein.

In the case of loans by Xcel Energy or a Non-Utility Subsidiary to a Non-Utility Subsidiary, the company making such loan or extending such credit may charge interest at the same effective rate of interest as the daily weighted average effective rate of commercial paper, revolving credit and/or other short-term borrowings of such lending company, including an allocated share of commitment fees and related expenses. If no such borrowings are outstanding, then the interest rate shall be predicated on the Federal Funds' effective rate of interest as quoted daily by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. In the limited circumstances where the Non-Utility Subsidiary effecting the borrowing is not wholly-owned by Xcel Energy, directly or indirectly, authority is requested under the Act for Xcel Energy or a Non-Utility Subsidiary to make such loans to such subsidiaries at interest rates and maturities designed to provide a return to the lending company of not less than its effective cost of capital. If such loans are made to a Non-Utility Subsidiary which is not wholly-owned, such Non-Utility Subsidiary will not provide any services to any associate Subsidiary except a company which meets one of the conditions for rendering of services on a basis other than at cost, as authorized in Holding Company Act Release No. 27212 (August 16, 2000).

In the event any such intra-system financings are made or guarantees are issued, Xcel Energy will include in the next certificate filed pursuant to Rule 24 substantially the same information as that required on Form U-6B-2 with respect to such transaction.

¹⁶ Holding Company Act Release No. 25574, in which the Commission proposed amendments to Rule 52, provides that the lender's cost of capital may be tied to an appropriate index only in the event that the lender has not recently issued debt securities. Xcel Energy has encountered situations, at a time when it has no short-term debt outstanding, in which it has issued long-term notes and, directly or indirectly, applied the proceeds to fund the working capital or other funding needs of its Non-Utility Subsidiaries. In such case, the maturities will not match and the interest rate on the intercompany loan will be determined in the manner described above.

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5. Utility Money Pool.

In order to provide intrasystem financing to the Utility Subsidiaries, Applicants request authorization to operate a Utility Money Pool. The Utility Money Pool would include some or all of the Utility Subsidiaries as borrowers from and lenders to the pool. Xcel Energy would participate in the Utility Money Pool, but only as a lender to the pool. Xcel Energy Services Inc. (Xcel Services) will act as the administrator of the Utility Money Pool. To the extent not exempted by Rule 52, the Utility Subsidiaries request authorization to make unsecured short-term borrowings from the Utility Money Pool and to contribute surplus funds to the Utility Money Pool and to lend and extend credit to (and acquire promissory notes from) one another through the Utility Money Pool. Xcel Energy requests authorization to contribute surplus funds and to lend and extend credit to the Utility Subsidiaries through the Utility Money Pool. No loans through the Utility Money Pool would be made to, and no borrowings through the Utility Money Pool would be made by, Xcel Energy.

The objective of the implementation of a Utility Money Pool is to provide more flexible cash management among the Utility Subsidiaries, by making excess funds at one Utility Subsidiary available to other Utility Subsidiaries on a cost-effective basis. The Applicants believe that the cost of the proposed borrowings through the Utility Money Pool will generally be more favorable to the borrowing participants than the comparable cost of external short-term borrowings, and the yield to the participants contributing available funds to the Utility Money Pool will generally be higher than the typical yield on short-term investments.

Under the proposed terms of the Utility Money Pool, short-term funds would be available from the following sources for short-term loans to each of the Utility Subsidiaries from time to time: (1) surplus funds in the treasuries of Utility Money Pool participants, (2) surplus funds in the treasury of Xcel Energy, and (3) proceeds from bank borrowings by Utility Money Pool participants or the sale of commercial paper by the Utility Money Pool participants for loan to the Utility Money Pool (External Funds). The determination of whether a Utility Money Pool participant at any time has surplus funds to lend to the Utility Money Pool or shall borrow funds from the Utility Money Pool would be made by such participant's chief financial officer or treasurer, or by a designee thereof, on the basis of cash flow projections and other relevant factors, in such participant's sole discretion. See Exhibit J for a copy of the Form of Utility Money Pool Agreement.

Utility Money Pool participants that borrow would borrow pro rata from each company that lends, in the proportion that the total amount loaned by each such lending company bears to the total amount then loaned through the Utility Money Pool. On any day when more than one fund source (e.g., surplus treasury funds of Xcel Energy and other Utility Money Pool participants (Internal Funds) and External Funds), with different rates of interest, is used to fund loans through the Utility Money Pool, each borrower would borrow pro rata from each such fund source in the Utility Money Pool in the same proportion that the amount of funds provided by that fund source bears to the total amount of short-term funds available to the Utility Money Pool.

Borrowings from the Utility Money Pool would require authorization by the borrower's chief financial officer or treasurer, or by a designee thereof. No party would be required to effect a borrowing through the Utility Money Pool if it is determined that it could (and had authority

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to) effect a borrowing at lower cost directly from banks or through the sale of its own commercial paper.

The cost of compensating balances, if any, and fees paid to banks to maintain credit lines and accounts by Utility Money Pool participants lending External Funds to the Utility Money Pool would initially be paid by the participant maintaining such line. A portion of such costs or all of such costs in the event a Utility Money Pool participant establishes a line of credit solely for purposes of lending any External Funds obtained thereby into the Utility Money Pool would be retroactively allocated every month to the companies borrowing such External Funds through the Utility Money Pool in proportion to their respective daily outstanding borrowings of such External Funds.

If only Internal Funds make up the funds available in the Utility Money Pool, the interest rate applicable and payable to or by the Utility Money Pool participants for all loans of such Internal Funds outstanding on any day will be the rates for high-grade unsecured 30-day commercial paper sold through dealers by major corporations as quoted in The Wall Street Journal on the last business day of the prior calendar month.

If only External Funds comprise the funds available in the Utility Money Pool, the interest rate applicable to loans of such External Funds would be equal to the lending company's cost for such External Funds (or, if more than one Utility Money Pool participant had made available External Funds on such day, the applicable interest rate would be a composite rate equal to the weighted average of the cost incurred by the respective Utility Money Pool participants for such External Funds).

In cases where both Internal Funds and External Funds are concurrently borrowed through the Utility Money Pool, the rate applicable to all loans comprised of such blended funds would be a composite rate equal to the weighted average of (a) the cost of all Internal Funds contributed by Utility Money Pool participants (as determined pursuant to the second-preceding paragraph above) and (b) the cost of all such External Funds (as determined pursuant to the immediately preceding paragraph above).

Funds not required by the Utility Money Pool to make loans (with the exception of funds required to satisfy the Utility Money Pool's liquidity requirements) would ordinarily be invested in one or more short-term investments, including: (i) interest-bearing accounts with banks; (ii) obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government and/or its agencies and instrumentalities, including obligations under repurchase agreements; (iii) obligations issued or guaranteed by any state or political subdivision thereof, provided that such obligations are rated not less than A by a nationally recognized rating agency; (iv) commercial paper rated not less than A-1 or P-1 or their equivalent by a nationally recognized rating agency; (v) money market funds; (vi) bank certificates of deposit; (vii) Eurodollar funds; and (viii) such other investments as are permitted by Section 9(c) of the Act and Rule 40 thereunder.

The interest income and investment income earned on loans and investments of surplus funds would be allocated among the participants in the Utility Money Pool in accordance with the proportion each participant's contribution of funds bears to the total amount of funds in the Utility Money Pool.

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Each Applicant receiving a loan through the Utility Money Pool would be required to repay the principal amount of such loan, together with all interest accrued thereon, on demand. All loans made through the Utility Money Pool may be prepaid by the borrower without premium or penalty.

Operation of the Utility Money Pool, including record keeping and coordination of loans, will be handled by Xcel Services under the authority of the appropriate officers of the participating companies. Xcel Services will administer the Utility Money Pool on an at cost basis.

Proceeds from the Utility Money Pool may be used by each such Utility Subsidiary (i) for the interim financing of its construction and capital expenditure programs, (ii) for its working capital needs, (iii) for the repayment, redemption or refinancing of its debt and preferred stock, (iv) to meet unexpected contingencies, payment and timing differences and cash requirements, and (v) to otherwise finance its own business and for other lawful general corporate purposes. The Utility Subsidiaries request authority to borrow up to an amount at any one time outstanding from the Utility Money Pool as set forth below:

| <u>Utility Subsidiary</u> | <u>Money Pool Limit</u> |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| NSP-M | \$ 250 million |
| NSP-W | \$ 100 million |
| PSCo | \$ 250 million |
| SPS | \$ 100 million |
| Cheyenne | \$ 40 million |
| Black Mountain | \$ 40 million |

Loans to Cheyenne and Black Mountain through the money pool will be counted against their respective \$40 million limits applicable to short-term debt

6. Financing Subsidiaries.

In Item 1.H. of the Original Financing U-1, the Applicants requested authorization in respect of Financing Subsidiaries. This authorization was granted in the Original Financing Order. For the Extended Authorization Period, Applicants request that the terms and conditions in respect of Financing Subsidiaries be modified, as described below.

The Applicants request authority for Xcel Energy and its Subsidiaries to acquire, directly or indirectly, the equity securities of one or more corporations, trusts, partnerships or other entities (Financing Subsidiaries) created specifically for the purpose of facilitating the financing of the authorized and exempt activities (including exempt and authorized acquisitions) of Xcel Energy and the Subsidiaries through the issuance of debt or preferred securities, including but not limited to monthly income preferred securities, to third parties and the loaning of the proceeds of such financings to Xcel Energy or such Subsidiaries. The proceeds of any securities issuance by a Financing Subsidiary would be loaned, divided or otherwise transferred to Xcel Energy or the Subsidiary that established such Financing Subsidiary. The proceeds of any securities issuances by a Financing Subsidiary would count against any applicable authorization limit of Xcel Energy or a Subsidiary establishing such Financing

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Subsidiary as though Xcel Energy or the Subsidiary had undertaken the issuance directly. Xcel Energy or the Subsidiary that established such Financing Subsidiary, as applicable, may, if required, guarantee all or part of the obligations of such Financing Subsidiary under any securities issued by the Financing Subsidiary. Xcel Energy or the Subsidiary that established such Financing Subsidiary, as applicable, also may enter into expense arrangements in respect of the obligations of such Financing Subsidiary. However, the amount of any such guarantee by Xcel Energy or a Subsidiary would not be counted against the authorization limit in respect of intra-system financings and guarantees discussed above.

Any such long-term debt or preferred securities would be issued with terms and features negotiated or based upon, or otherwise determined by, competitive capital markets, and in any event consistent with the general terms set forth above for Xcel Energy. Any such preferred securities would have dividend rates or methods of determining the same, redemption provisions, conversion or put terms and other terms and conditions as Xcel may determine at the time of issuance. In addition, all issuances of preferred securities will be at rates or prices, and under conditions negotiated pursuant to, based upon, or otherwise determined by competitive capital markets.

F. Filing of Certificates of Notification

As authorized in the August 2000 Order, Xcel Energy will integrate the reporting system of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the 1933 Act) and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the 1934 Act) with the reporting system under the Act to eliminate duplication of filings with the Commission that cover essentially the same subject matters, resulting in a reduction of expense for both the Commission and Xcel Energy. To effect such integration, the portion of the 1933 Act and 1934 Act reports containing or reflecting disclosures of transactions occurring pursuant to the authorization granted in this proceeding will be incorporated by reference into this proceeding through Rule 24 certificates of notification. The certificates will also contain all other information required by Rule 24, including the certification that each transaction being reported on had been carried out in accordance with the terms and conditions of and for the purposes represented in this Application. Such certificates of notification will be filed within 60 days after the end of each of the first three calendar quarters, and 90 days after the end of the last calendar quarter, in which transactions occur. Such certificates will include information with respect to all securities issuances that are exempt under Rule 52, and will be filed in lieu of any separate filings on Form U-6B-2 pursuant to Rule 52.

The Rule 24 certificates will also contain the following information¹⁷:

1. a computation under Rule 53(a) setting forth Xcel Energy's consolidated retained earnings and aggregate investment in all EWGs and FUCOs;
2. a breakdown showing Xcel Energy's aggregate investment in each individual EWG;

¹⁷ The reporting requirements listed here include those required by the August 2000 Order.

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3. Xcel Energy's consolidated capitalization ratios, in terms of debt, common equity and preferred stock;
4. the market-to-book ratio of Xcel Energy's common stock;
5. identification of any new EWG project in which Xcel Energy invested or committed to invest during the preceding quarter;
6. growth in consolidated retained earnings, segregating total earnings growth attributable to EWG projects from the revenue attributable to all other subsidiaries of Xcel;
7. year-to-date revenues and net income of each EWG;
8. if sales of common stock by Xcel Energy are reported, the purchase price per share and the market price per share at the date of the agreement of sale;
9. the total number of shares of common stock issued during the quarter, under (i) Xcel Energy's dividend reinvestment plan and (ii) Xcel Energy system employee benefit and executive compensation plans, including any such plans hereinafter adopted;
10. if a guarantee or other form of credit support is issued during the quarter, the name of the parent or issuing company, the name of the subsidiary and the amount, terms and purpose of the guarantee;
11. the amount and terms of any short-term debt issued by Xcel Energy during the quarter;
12. a list of the deposits and withdrawals by each Utility Subsidiary from the Utility Money Pool during the quarter;
13. the amount and terms of any financings consummated by any Utility Subsidiary during the quarter, which financings are not exempt under Rule 52;
14. the amount and terms of any financings consummated by any Non-Utility Subsidiary during the quarter, which financings are not exempt under Rule 52;
15. the amount and terms of any financings consummated by any Utility Subsidiary during the quarter pursuant to the exemption provided under Rule 52;
16. the amount and terms of any financings consummated by any Non-Utility Subsidiary during the quarter pursuant to the exemption provided under Rule 52;
17. the notional amount and principal terms of any Interest Rate Hedge or Anticipatory Hedge entered into during the quarter and the identity of the parties to such instruments;
18. the name, parent company and amount invested in any new Intermediate Subsidiary or Financing Subsidiary during the quarter;

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19. the consolidated balance sheets as of the end of the quarter, and separate balance sheets as of the end of the quarter for each company, including Xcel Energy, that has engaged in financing transactions during the quarter; and

20. future registration statements filed under the 1933 Act with respect to securities that are the subject of the Application will be filed (or incorporated by reference) as exhibits to the next certificate filed pursuant to Rule 24.

ITEM 2. Fees, Commissions and Expenses

Xcel Energy expects to pay or incur up to \$50,000 in aggregate fees, commissions and expenses in connection with the preparation and filing of this Application, in addition to the fees, commissions and expenses relating to the Original Financing U-1 and the Supplemental Financing U-1. The above fees do not include fees, commissions and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance and sale of securities.

ITEM 3. Applicable Statutory Provisions

A. General.

Sections 6(a), 7, 9(a), 10, 12(b), 12(c), 12(f), 32 and 33 of the Act and Rules 43, 45, 46, 53 and 54 are considered applicable to the proposed transactions. To the extent that the proposed transactions are considered by the Commission to require authorization, exemption or approval under any section of the Act or the rules and regulations other than those set forth above, request for such authorization, exemption or approval is hereby made.

B. Rule 54 Analysis.

Rule 54 promulgated under the Act states that in determining whether to approve the issue or sale of a security by a registered holding company for purposes other than the acquisition of an EWG or a FUCO, or other transactions by such registered holding company or its subsidiaries other than with respect to EWGs or FUCOs, the Commission shall not consider the effect of the capitalization or earnings of any subsidiary which is an EWG or a FUCO upon the registered holding company system if Rules 53(a), (b) or (c) are satisfied.

Xcel Energy does not satisfy the requirements of Rule 53(a)(1). In the 100% Order, the Commission authorized Xcel Energy to invest up to 100% of its consolidated retained earnings, as defined in Rule 53, in EWGs and FUCOs and found that such an investment would not have either of the adverse effects set forth in Rule 53(c). As of June 30, 2002, Xcel Energy's aggregate investment, as defined in Rule 53(a)(1), was \$2,406 million¹⁸. Xcel Energy's consolidated retained earnings, as defined in Rule 53, at June 30, 2002, was \$2,521.0 million. These investments by Xcel Energy were made in compliance with the 100% Order.

¹⁸ For purposes of these calculations, Xcel Energy's investment in NRG has been included as an investment in EWGs and FUCOs, even though NRG itself is not qualified as an EWG or FUCO, but rather serves as an intermediate holding company for EWG, FUCO and Rule 58 energy-related businesses.

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Xcel Energy has made no additional investment in any EWGs or FUCOs since June 30, 2002. However, during the third quarter of 2002, Xcel Energy International Inc. sold its interest in Yorkshire Power Group Limited. As a result, Xcel Energy's aggregate investment in EWGs and FUCOs was reduced by approximately \$36.9 million.

As a result of a significant loss in respect of impairment charges recorded by NRG in 2002, the consolidated retained earnings of Xcel Energy have been reduced by more than \$2.6 billion. Thus, at this time, Xcel Energy has no capacity to make any additional investments in EWGs and FUCOs, without further authorization from the Commission.

Xcel Energy currently complies with, and will comply with, the record-keeping requirements of Rule 53(a)(2), the limitation under Rule 53(a)(3) on the use of the Xcel Energy system's domestic public-utility company personnel to render services to EWGs and FUCOs, and the requirements of Rule 53(a)(4) concerning the submission of copies of certain filings under the Act to retail regulatory commissions.

The circumstances described in Rule 53(b)(1) have occurred. NRG filed a voluntary petition for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code on May 14, 2003. The book value of NRG's assets exceed 10 percent of the consolidated retained earnings of Xcel Energy.

The circumstances described in Rule 53(b)(2) have occurred. Xcel Energy's retained earnings declined by more than \$2.6 billion during the twelve months ended December 31, 2002 from impairment charges recorded at NRG and declined an additional \$143.6 million during the six months ended June 30, 2003 from additional impairment charges and other losses at NRG. The average consolidated retained earnings of Xcel Energy for the four quarterly periods ended June 30, 2003 was approximately \$537,000, or a decrease of over 99.9% from the average of Xcel Energy's consolidated retained earnings for the four quarterly periods ended June 30, 2002 of \$2.5 billion. In addition, Xcel Energy's aggregate investment in EWGs and FUCOs as of June 30, 2003 of \$2.366 billion exceeded 2% of the total capital invested in utility operations.

The circumstances described in Rule 53(b)(3) have also occurred. For calendar year 2002 Xcel Energy reported operating losses attributable to its investment in NRG, which in turn has investments in exempt wholesale generators and foreign utility companies, which exceed an amount equal to 5% of consolidated retained earnings. NRG reported an operating loss (after tax) of approximately \$3.5 billion for 2002. This amount is over 250% of the consolidated retained earnings (as defined in Rule 53(a)(1)) of Xcel Energy for the four quarters ended December 31, 2002 of \$1,297.5 million.

Xcel Energy respectfully submits that the requirements of Rule 53(c) are met. For the reason set forth below, Xcel Energy believes that the requested authorization will not have a substantial adverse impact upon the financial integrity of Xcel Energy and the Utility Subsidiaries.

Xcel Energy is not authorized to engage in financing transactions (other than issuance of common stock) in accordance with the authority requested in this Application during the Extended Authorization Period unless Xcel Energy has a common equity ratio of at least 30%. Xcel Energy's common equity ratio as of June 30, 2003 is over 39%. On a pro forma basis, further adjusting to take into account the additional financing authorization requested herein (i.e.,

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up to \$500 million of long-term debt or common stock), Xcel energy's common equity ratio as of June 30, 2003 would remain above 37%.

Moreover, the Utility Subsidiaries and their customers will not be adversely impacted by the requested relief. The ratio of common equity to total capitalization of each of the public utility subsidiaries will continue to be maintained at not less than 30%. In fact, the common equity ratios of the primary public utility subsidiaries, NSP-M, NSP-W, SPS and PSCo, are each in excess of 44% as of June 30, 2003. Furthermore, the common equity ratios of the primary public utility subsidiaries will not be effected by the proposed transactions. In addition, each of the public utilities is subject to regulation by state commissions that are able to protect utility customers within their respective states.

Moreover, even if the effect of the capitalization and earnings of EWGs and FUCOs in which Xcel Energy has an ownership interest upon the Xcel Energy system were considered, there would be no basis for the Commission to withhold or deny approval for the proposal made in this Application. The action requested in this Application would not, by itself, or even considered in conjunction with the effect of the capitalization and earnings of Xcel Energy's EWGs and FUCOs, have a material adverse effect on the financial integrity of the Xcel Energy system, or an adverse impact on Xcel Energy's public-utility subsidiaries, their customers, or the ability of State commissions to protect such public-utility customers.

ITEM 4. Regulatory Approvals

The Utility Subsidiaries participating in the Utility Money Pool require approval from the respective state commissions with jurisdiction over such Utility Subsidiary in respect of (i) the incurrence of debt and issuance of securities and/or (ii) transactions with affiliates. No Utility Subsidiary will participate in the Utility Money Pool until it has received any necessary approvals from the applicable state commissions.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued on June 26, 2003 interim rules implementing documentation requirements for FERC-regulated entities that participate in cash management programs. The Utility Subsidiaries participating in the Utility Money Pool will maintain the required documents, as applicable.

No other state or federal commission other than the Commission has jurisdiction with respect to any of the proposed transactions described in this Application.

ITEM 5. Procedure

The Applicants hereby request that there be no hearing on this Application and that the Commission issue its order as soon as practicable after the filing hereof. The Commission is requested to issue and publish the requisite notice under Rule 23 with respect to this Application-Declaration as soon as possible; such notice to specify the minimum period allowed under the Commission's rule during which comments may be entered and the date on which an order of the Commission granting and permitting the Application-Declaration to become effective may be entered by the Commission. The Applicants hereby (i) waive a recommended decision by a hearing officer, (ii) waive a recommended decision by any other responsible officer of the Commission, (iii) consent that the Division of Investment Management may assist in the

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preparation of the Commission's decision and (iv) waive a 30-day waiting period between the issuance of the Commission's order and the date on which it is to become effective.

ITEM 6. Exhibits and Financial Statements

The following Exhibits and Financial Statements are applicable to this Application.

A. Exhibits

| Exhibit No. | Description of Document |
|-------------|---|
| A-1 | Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of March 24, 1999, by and between Northern States Power Company and the New Century Energies, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to the Report on Form 8-K (File No. 1-12927) of New Century Energies, Inc. dated March 24, 1999). |
| A-2 | Restated Articles of Incorporation of Xcel Energy (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.01 to Xcel Energy's Form 8-K (File No. 1-3034) filed on August 21, 2000). |
| A-3 | By-Laws of Xcel Energy (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.01 to Xcel Energy's Registration Statement on Form S-8 (File No. 333-48590) filed on October 25, 2000). |
| F-1 | Preliminary opinion of counsel (previously filed) |
| F-2 | Past tense opinion of counsel (to be filed by amendment). |
| G | Proposed form of notice (revised) (previously filed) |
| H | Capitalization Table of Xcel Energy Inc. (previously filed) |
| I | Ratings of Xcel Energy and its Principal Utility Subsidiaries (previously filed) |
| J | Form of Utility Money Pool Agreement (previously filed) |
| K | List of Subsidiaries |

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B. Financial Statements

| Exhibit No. | Description of Document |
|--------------------|---|
| 3.1 | Consolidated Balance Sheet of Xcel Energy as of December 31, 2002 (incorporated by reference to Xcel Energy's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002, File No. 1-3034). |
| 3.2 | Consolidated Statement of Income of Xcel Energy for the year ended December 31, 2002 (incorporated by reference to Xcel Energy's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002, File No. 1-3034). |
| 3.1 | Consolidated Balance Sheet of Xcel Energy as of June 30, 2003 (incorporated by reference to Xcel Energy's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2003, File No. 1-3034). |
| 3.2 | Consolidated Statement of Income of Xcel Energy for the quarter ended June 30, 2003 (incorporated by reference to Xcel Energy's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2003, File No. 1-3034). |

ITEM 7. Information as to Environmental Effects

None of the matters that are the subject of this Amendment involve a major federal action nor do they significantly affect the quality of the human environment as those terms are used in Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act. None of the proposed transactions that are the subject of this Amendment will result in changes in the operation of the Applicants and their subsidiaries that will have an impact on the environment. The Applicants are not aware of any federal agency which has prepared or is preparing an environmental impact statement with respect to the transactions proposed herein.

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SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, as amended, the Applicants have duly caused this Amendment No. 14 (Ninth Post-Effective) to Application-Declaration to be signed on their behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

Date: September 30, 2003

Xcel Energy Inc.

By: /s/ Richard C. Kelly

Richard C. Kelly
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer