

June 27, 2023

Xcel Energy  
1800 Larimer St  
Denver, CO 80202

Re: Xcel Energy Resource Planning

Dear Xcel Energy President Robert Kenney and the Xcel Energy Board of Directors,

As elected officials serving Xcel territory, we ask you to ensure that the 2021 Electric Resource Plan (ERP) proposes the highest level possible of local, clean, renewable, and affordable energy for Colorado customers. We appreciate the progress Xcel has made so far in accelerating coal plant retirements. We also appreciate your commitment to reducing the useful life of new gas plants to 25 years in this ERP. Xcel customers—our constituents—are demanding just that, and your responsiveness to these demands is encouraging.

To accelerate this progress, we ask that the plans you propose in Phase II of Xcel's 2021 ERP minimize reliance on new gas plants and instead increase investment in wind, solar, battery storage, energy efficiency, and demand side management. We also ask that you explore renewable energy and storage resources to replace any expiring Power Purchase Agreements for gas plants.

Climate change is no longer a far-off threat. Coloradans are already experiencing the effects of climate change in the form of extended drought alternating with flooding, massive wildfires at all times of year, and erratic and unpredictable seasons that wreak havoc on the recreation economy that is our state's backbone. Coloradans are doing all they can to reduce emissions, individually, but without immediate, collective efforts we have no hope of slowing the worst climate outcomes. We, as elected officials, and you, as a utility, have the responsibility of reducing emissions on a large-scale basis. A critical component in that process is reducing greenhouse gas pollution from gas and coal plants.

We are also concerned about the localized air pollution of new and existing gas plants in Colorado communities. Colorado's gas plants are disproportionately located in communities with a [higher share of people of color and low-income households](#) than the state average. Additionally, the negative health impacts of gas development on our communities is

well-documented, especially for those who live near drilling projects. [The American Lung Association](#) cites numerous carcinogens associated with gas development. It is our job to reduce these impacts to vulnerable communities and one important way to do this is to reduce our reliance on gas used to generate electricity.

Finally, we ask that Xcel make these changes for economic reasons as Xcel communities are already [experiencing alarming rate hikes](#) due to the price volatility of methane gas. These price hikes exacerbate the cost of living at a time when Coloradans are experiencing the greatest housing-cost increase in memory. This is an added hardship in communities that have disproportionately burdened environmental and economic impacts of fossil fuel infrastructure.

[Federal tax credits in the Inflation Reduction Act can make portfolios of zero-carbon resources cheaper](#) than existing and new gas infrastructure, and we look forward to seeing this reflected in your 2021 ERP.

Thank you for all you do to power our communities, and for your careful consideration regarding future investments in energy infrastructure on behalf of the environmental, economic, and personal health of our communities.

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