

NEWS RELEASE

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Xcel Energy completes first SB100 project

DENVER – Xcel Energy recently completed construction and has energized its \$6.3 million Missile Site Switchyard near Deer Trail, Colo. – the first Colorado Senate Bill 100 project designed to enhance electric transmission capabilities from the state’s “energy resource zones.”

The Missile Site Switchyard, located approximately 50 miles east of Denver, is a transmission switching station that will initially support generation from the Cedar Point Wind Project, a 252-megawatt wind farm. It is located in portions of Arapahoe, Elbert and Lincoln counties and is scheduled to come on line in late 2011.

In the future, the substation will serve as a major hub for transmission interconnection in the region, for additional renewable energy generation or other resource needs on Colorado’s Eastern Plains.

“The energizing of the Missile Site Switchyard marks an important milestone for the development of generation and transmission in general, and for the development of renewable energy generation in particular,” said Teresa Mogensen, Xcel Energy vice president for transmission. “The Missile Site facility essentially is a highway interchange for energy in the region.”

The switchyard project is part of a larger effort in the area that includes additional switching and substation equipment at both Missile Site and Xcel Energy’s Smoky Hill Substation in Aurora, Colo. The Missile Site facility went into service on Nov. 22.

In 2007, Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter signed into law Colorado Senate Bill 07-100, commonly referred to as Senate Bill 100. It established requirements for utilities to continually evaluate and if necessary, improve electric transmission facilities to meet the state’s existing and future energy needs. It essentially seeks to expand Colorado’s electric transmission system and promote the use of renewable resources.

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Xcel Energy (NYSE: XEL) is a major U.S. electricity and natural gas company with regulated operations in eight Western and Midwestern states. Xcel Energy provides a comprehensive portfolio of energy-related products and services to 3.4 million electricity customers and 1.9 million natural gas customers through its regulated operating companies. Company headquarters are located in Minneapolis. More information is available at www.xcelenergy.com.

This news release includes forward-looking statements relating to increased costs associated with expected higher commodity prices that are subject to certain risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Actual results may vary materially. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made, and we do not undertake any obligation to update them to reflect changes that occur after that date. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially include, but are not limited to, those risk factors listed from time to time by Xcel Energy in reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), including Risk Factors in Item 1A and Exhibit 99.01 of Xcel Energy's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended Dec. 31, 2008

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