



2015 Request for Proposals

Energy and Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) from Qualified Community Solar Gardens

Issued Date: June 11, 2015

Proposal Submission Date: July 9, 2015

Xcel Energy Inc., headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota, is a U.S. investor-owned holding company parent of four major electric and natural gas utilities. The four Xcel Energy operating companies have regulated utility operations in the eight western and midwestern states of: Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, Michigan, Colorado, Texas, and New Mexico. The operating companies of Xcel Energy provide, collectively, energy-related products and services to approximately 3.3 million electric and 1.8 million natural gas customers. More information about Xcel Energy is available at www.xcelenergy.com.

Public Service Company of Colorado (“Public Service” or the “Company”) is the Xcel Energy operating company in Colorado. Public Service often does business under the name of Xcel Energy. As part of Public Service’s Solar*Rewards Community (“SRC”) program, this Request for Proposals (“RFP”) seeks bids for the sale of energy and associated renewable energy credits to the Company from qualified Community Solar Gardens (“CSGs”) in conformance with the Company’s 2015 Renewable Energy Standard Compliance Plan as stated in PUC decision #C14-1505. The CSGs are to be located in Public Service’s electric service territory in Colorado. The terms, renewable energy credit, or REC, and community solar garden, or “CSG,” are defined in Rule 3652 of the Rules Regulating Electric Utilities adopted by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (“PUC”), 4 Code of Colorado Regulations (C.C.R.) 723-3-3652. This RFP is subject to the PUC’s rules and regulations governing CSGs. In accordance with the RES Compliance Plan, **the Company is seeking up to 29.5 MW DC from this solicitation.** The Company may accept up to 29.5MW, however, the Company reserves the right to reject all bids under this solicitation.

Eligible respondents to this RFP (“Respondents”) must be the CSG owner or the CSG Subscriber Organization of the proposed CSG, as those terms are defined in Rule 3652, which is the “CSG” section of the PUC’s Rules Regulating Electric Utilities. Respondents are requested to provide bids pursuant to the instructions provided herein. This RFP is limited to bids for energy and RECs that are generated from CSGs with a gross nameplate capacity at or above 10 kW direct current (DC) with renewable energy generation not exceeding 2 MW.

This RFP contains several sections, including an Introduction, Proposal Logistics, Bid Submittal, Evaluation Process and Assumptions, SRC System Application, Delivery and Interconnection, and SRC Producer Agreement.

Please provide all the information requested to enable the Company to properly evaluate your approach and viability as a Respondent for the sale of energy and RECs from a CSG. All information provided, and the extent of completeness will be used to evaluate the bid. Feel free to provide additional information, not requested here; that you feel would help in our evaluation.

This Bids RFP and all files, designs, specifications and other data appended or related to it are the property of the Company and are delivered only for the purpose of enabling each potential respondent to prepare and submit a proposal in response hereto.

SRC 2015 RFP

Section 1. Introduction

Public Service is an operating utility company of Xcel Energy Inc. Public Service is issuing this RFP seeking bids to construct new solar renewable energy systems in Colorado that meet the following requirements:

1. Uses a solar electric generation technology to generate electricity.
2. The system qualifies as a community solar garden or CSG.
3. The system will be located on property within Public Service's electric service territory.
4. The system must be operational by Feb 10, 2017. No CSG subscriber organization may own more than a 40 percent interest in the CSG after the CSG has operated commercially for 18 months.
5. The system has a gross nameplate capacity greater than or equal to 10 kW and less than or equal to 2 MW direct current (DC).
6. The system produces electricity primarily for its CSG subscribers, who must meet the requirements set out in Section 5.1. (Public Service will take delivery of the energy and credit it to those CSG subscribers.)
7. The Respondent must sell all unsubscribed power plus the associated RECs to Public Service at the prior calendar year's average hourly incremental cost of electricity supply over the immediate preceding calendar year.
8. The Respondent must sell all subscribed power plus associated RECs to Public Service at the REC price terms stated in the SRC Producer Agreement.
9. The Respondent must agree to all of the terms and conditions of the Solar*Rewards Community Producer Agreement.

Public Service invites bids from Respondents who are capable of meeting the requirements of the RFP.

This introductory section describes the type, amount and timing of solar resources sought in this SRC RFP. Section 2 covers logistics such as where and when bids must be submitted, bid evaluation fees, and policies and procedures. Section 3 describes the bid submittal process. Section 4 addresses the evaluation process and assumptions. Section 5 provides requirements related to interconnection.

1.1 Resource Acquisition Objectives

Colorado Revised Statutes ("C.R.S.") Section 40-2-124, sets forth the Colorado RES, and establishes the amount of energy to be generated from eligible energy resources that Public Service is required to obtain. C.R.S. Section 40-2-127, henceforth referred to as the Community Solar Gardens Act, provides in part that Public Service is to meet a portion of its RES obligations through the acquisition of energy from CSGs. In accordance with the Community Solar Gardens Act and the Company's 2014 RES Compliance Plan. In calendar year 2015 Public Service is authorized to

acquire between 6.5 and 30MW DC from community solar gardens. Up to 500kW of the total acquisition shall be a standard offer program for systems 10kW – 100kW in size, while the remainder may be through a competitive bid process. In accordance with the RES Compliance Plan, **the Company is seeking up to 29.5 MW DC from this solicitation.** The Company may accept up to 29.5MW, however, the Company reserves the right to reject all bids under this solicitation.

1.2 Eligible Technologies

All solar generating systems to be located in Colorado that qualify as community solar gardens under Colorado law and the PUC Rules are eligible to bid into this RFP.

1.3 Interconnection

The Respondents will be responsible for entering into an Interconnection Agreement with Public Service for each proposed CSG prior to energy production from the solar generating system.

The solar generating system installation under this RFP must be connected to Public Service's electric distribution system.

For successful Respondents, Public Service's Electric Distribution Standards Department will provide to the Respondent an estimate of the interconnection costs, if any, for each installation site.

1.4 Pricing

This RFP requires bid pricing in \$/MWh units. The Company will round all bids at least to the second decimal place for bid evaluation purposes. Pricing shall be a constant price for each year of the term specified in the SRC Producer Agreement. The pricing forms and instructions are in Appendix A of this RFP.

Should a Respondent's bid pricing contemplate payments being made to Public Service (Negative Bid Price), such payments will be flowed through to Public Service's customers in a manner to be determined.

1.5 Environmental and Renewable Energy Credits

For purposes of this solicitation, each REC represents one-megawatt hour (MWh) of renewable energy. The sale of RECs to Public Service includes the transfer to Public Service of all environmental attributes and renewable energy credits associated with the solar energy production.

1.6 Special Conditions Related to CSG Subscribers

1. The retail customer who is a CSG subscriber will continue to purchase the energy used at their premises from Public Service at the standard tariff rate. The retail customer will be credited on their bill a calculated dollar amount based on their portion of the energy generated at their proposed CSG project at the rate specified in the Company's SRC tariff. The customer's bill credit changes annually and the current year fixed rates are stated in the SRC Service tariff.
2. Public Service will own and read the kWh production meter, but the Respondents will reimburse Public Service for the cost of the meter and remote communications equipment.

3. Respondents set their own price for solar energy benefits sold to the retail customer/CSG subscriber from the solar installation. Respondents must enter into the Interconnection Agreement and SRC Producer Agreement with Public Service.
4. Respondents must sell unsubscribed energy and RECs to Public Service at last year's average hourly incremental cost of electricity supply over the immediate preceding calendar year.
5. Respondents must keep their subscriber list information current on a monthly basis. The subscriber list information must be updated before the last 5 business days of the month.

1.7 Meteorological and System Operation Data

A Production Meter to measure all energy output from the CSG will be installed by Public Service at the Respondent's sole cost. The CSG site shall be designed and constructed such that Public Service will have direct access to the Production Meter during normal business hours. The Respondent will be responsible for providing an active, wired telephone or data line and related equipment necessary to provide Public Service real-time access to 15-minute interval data regarding the renewable energy produced by the CSG and stored at the Production Meter. In the event that the Respondent also collects meteorological data at the CSG site, such meteorological data shall also be made available to Public Service on a real-time basis.

Section 2. Proposal Logistics

2.1 Schedule

As shown on the following schedule, Public Service will issue the RFP on June 11, 2015. Bids are due by 4 PM, Mountain Standard Time, Friday, July 9, 2015. Public Service will announce the bid winners on August 20, 2015.

Activity	Date
Issue Date	June 11, 2015
Bids Due	July 9, 2015
Short-list Selected	August 20, 2015
Completion Due Date	Feb 10, 2017

2.2 Proposal Submission

Bids will be accepted until 4:00 P.M. Mountain Standard Time on July 9, 2015. All bids must be transmitted by express, certified or registered mail, or hand delivered to the Public Service SRC RFP Project Manager at the following address:

Public Service SRC RFP Project Manager
 Kevin Cray
 Xcel Energy

1800 Larimer St., Suite 1500
Denver, CO 80202
solarrewardscommunity@xcelenergy.com

RFP website: www.xcelenergy.com/solar under “Solar*Rewards Community”

Bids received later than the due date and time indicated will be rejected and returned unopened, unless Public Service determines, in its sole discretion, that extenuating circumstances led to late delivery. One hardcopy of the bid must be included in the submittal. In addition, Respondents must submit one electronic copy on a CD or email in Microsoft® Word and/or Excel format.

Bids must be submitted in a sealed package to ensure confidentiality with the following information shown on the package:

Response to 2015 Solar*Rewards Community RFP
Confidential Sealed Bid Proposal

The Respondent’s company name and address must be clearly indicated on the package containing the proposal.

2.3 Information Policy

To obtain additional information about this RFP, Respondents may submit only written requests. These requests should be sent to the Public Service SRC RFP Project Manager. Questions or requests may be transmitted via email, fax, or U.S mail; email is preferred. Public Service will maintain a log of all inquiries and coordinate the preparation of a written response. Once a response is prepared, Public Service will post the information on the www.xcelenergy.com/solar website. Public Service has established this information policy to ensure that all Respondents have the same knowledge about the bidding process.

2.4 Bid Evaluation Fees

Respondents must include a non-refundable bid evaluation fee of \$750 with each proposal for each site. Those respondents that are allowed to enroll in the program will also be charged an annual site license of \$300 for each user that logs into to the SRC Application and Subscriber Management System as defined in the SRC Agreement. This number is subject to change in the 2016 and future contract cycle with the software platform vender. Checks should be made out to “Public Service Company of Colorado” and must be submitted as part of each individual bid proposal.

Each bid shall consist of the following:

- one proposed installation address;
- one Energy/REC delivery amount for each year;
- one prescribed term length of twenty years; and
- one set of prices (a price for each year of contract term).

Bids that include more than one of any of the above elements constitute multiple bids and, as such, will require an additional bid evaluation fee.

2.5 Bid Forms

All bids must include a complete set of forms for each bid. Using the forms will ensure consistency in bid submission, interpretation and evaluation by Public Service. If a Respondent is submitting more than one proposal, a separate set of forms must be submitted for each bid. The forms, together with instructions for each form, are provided in Appendix A to this RFP. Each bid alternative will require a separate set of forms and a separate bid evaluation fee.

2.6 Clarification of Bids

While evaluating bids, Public Service may request additional information about any item in the bid. Such requests will be made in writing, usually via e-mail. The Respondent is required to provide a written response to the Public Service Solar*Rewards RFP Project Manager within five (5) business days, or Public Service may deem the Respondent to be non-responsive and stop evaluating the bid. To facilitate meeting the five-day response timeframe, Public Service encourages Respondents to provide one or more alternate points of contact for these questions, with e-mail being the preferred method of communication.

2.7 Conditions of RFP

This RFP does not commit Public Service to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a bid in response to this RFP or to procure or contract for any services offered in response to this RFP. Public Service reserves the right to modify or withdraw this RFP, to negotiate with all qualified Respondents to resolve technical or contractual specifications, and/or to reject any or all bids and to terminate consideration of a bid or bids at any time. Public Service reserves the right to evaluate bids and proceed in the manner it deems appropriate, which may include deviation from the expected evaluation process. Public Service and its affiliates shall not be liable to any Respondent or other party in law or equity for any reason whatsoever for any acts or omissions arising out of or in connection with this RFP. By submitting its bid, each Respondent waives any right to challenge any valuation by the Company of its bid or any determination of the Company to select or reject its bid. Each Respondent, in submitting its bid, irrevocably agrees and acknowledges that it is making its bid subject to and in agreement with the terms of this RFP. Each Respondent shall be liable for all of its costs incurred to prepare, submit, respond or negotiate its bid and any resulting agreement and for any other activity related thereto, and Public Service shall not be responsible for any of the Respondent's costs.

Prior to bid acceptance, Public Service reserves the right to:

- Request from Respondents information that is not explicitly detailed in this document;
- Reject any or all bids;
- Reject any bids that, at Public Service's sole discretion, are not complete or contain irregularities, or waive irregularities in any bid that is submitted;
- Reject bids for reasons other than price or energy production;
- Accept other than the lowest cost bid(s);
- Obtain clarification from Respondents concerning bids; and
- Conduct discussions with selected Respondents concerning the development of the proposed CSG.

2.8 Confidentiality

Each page of the RFP response should be clearly identified as to whether it contains confidential or proprietary information. Public Service reserves the right to release any bids to agents or consultants for purposes of bid evaluation. Public Service's disclosure standards and policies will contractually bind such agents or consultants. Regardless of the confidentiality, all such information may be subject to review by the appropriate state jurisdiction, or any other governmental authority or judicial body with jurisdiction relating to these matters and may be subject to legal discovery. Under such regulatory and legal circumstances, Public Service will make all reasonable efforts to preserve Respondents' confidential information, including requesting that it be filed under seal. Public Service reserves the right to publicly disclose summary information regarding the bid information in a form and manner that does not reveal the identity of any particular bidder.

2.9 Addenda to RFP

Public Service reserves the right to modify or supplement this RFP by issuing one or more addenda at any time during this solicitation. Such addenda shall become a part of this RFP and any additional responses required of Respondents by any such addenda shall become part of each bid.

Section 3. Bid Submittal

3.1 Minimum Bid Eligibility Requirements

This section lists the minimum requirements that all bids must meet to be eligible to participate in this solicitation. Bids that do not comply with these requirements will be deemed ineligible and will not be considered for further evaluation.

- Bids must include all content requirements described in Section 3.2, including clear and complete written descriptions of all information requested and completed forms.
- Bids must clearly specify all pricing terms in accordance with Section 1.4.
- Bids must demonstrate an acceptable level of development and technology risk, as determined by the Company's evaluation team.
- Respondents must provide the \$750 bid evaluation fee (described in section 2.4) for each proposal submitted.
- Bids must clearly specify the pricing terms.

3.2 Bid Content Requirements

This section outlines the content and format requirements for all bids submitted in response to this 2015 Solar*Rewards Community RFP. Bids that do not include the information requested in this section will be ineligible for further evaluation unless the information requested is not applicable or relevant to a given bid. If it appears that certain information is inadvertently omitted from a bid, Public Service may contact the Respondents to obtain the additional information.

The first section of each bid must contain an Executive Summary that provides an overview of the bid's characteristics, including any unique aspects or benefits. The second section of the bid must include the set of forms included in Appendix A. These forms will contain essential information about each bid, and a separate set of forms and related information must be submitted with each bid. The third section of the bid must include other bid information, which must be in narrative form under specific topic headings.

A complete bid will include the following three components:

1. Executive Summary
2. Complete set of applicable forms
Appendix A of this RFP document includes detailed descriptions of each of these forms, as well as any special instructions for completing the forms.
 - Form A Bid Certification Form
 - Form B Bid Cover Sheet
 - Form C Technical Description
 - Form D Construction Milestones
 - Form E Supply Amount & REC Bid Form
 - Form F Bid Submittal Checklist

Narrative Topics Discussion

In addition to completed forms, each bid must also include a thorough written discussion of each of the following topics. The narrative topics should be organized under the following headings, with each heading beginning on a separate page.

- Development Experience, including solar gardens
- Financial Information and financing plan
- Proposed CSG Description and Development Schedule
- CSG location
- Equipment Description
- Energy/REC Production Profile
- Real Property Acquisition Description and Plan
- Permitting Plan
- Operations and Maintenance Plan
- Community/Local and State Government Reaction Assessment

CSG Location. Bids must include a site plan showing the exact location of the proposed site, including transformer location, interconnection point and acreage required for the proposed solar system.

Development Experience. All bids must describe the Respondent's qualifications and experience in developing, constructing, commissioning and operating generation facilities similar to the proposed facility, including the time it took to complete the projects and an overview of similar solar garden sized projects the Respondent has developed during the last five (5) years. Describe solar gardens you have operational and in process to date. Include size, location, time (months) to complete, or elapsed time to date for solar gardens in process. Please keep Xcel Energy garden information separate from other garden information provided. If an engineering, procurement and construction team is in place, the bid should identify the members of the team; if such a group is not in place, the bid must set forth the respondent's plan for assembling such team (including process and timing).

Financial Information. All bids must provide detailed financial information about the proposed CSG. Respondents shall provide a detailed plan for financing the

proposed CSG during construction and operation including the financing commitments that the Respondent has obtained. The bid should set forth the credit rating (if any) of any entities that would provide parent guaranties of the Respondents' obligations. Bids must include an organization chart showing the entities and parent companies that own the Respondent's organization, the proposed Subscriber Organization, the proposed SRC Producer and a description of the respondents' organizational structure.

Proposed CSG Description and Development Schedule. All bids must set out a description of the proposed CSG, including a description and plans for the proposed site and rights of way, utilities services, equipment configuration, interconnection construction and procurement, required permits, the nameplate capacity of the resource in MW, and the respondent's construction contractors and prime subcontractors (if known). Bids must provide a detailed Gantt chart of development activities that includes (at a minimum) entering major equipment and construction subcontracts, target completion dates for financing, site acquisition/control, engineering, permitting, equipment procurement, construction, startup and commissioning, and dates for system operation. Bids must describe the overall development strategy that will ensure that the proposed CSG can be developed in time to meet the proposed commercial operation date.

Equipment Description. At a minimum, bids should indicate for all major equipment;

- (1) the name of the manufacturer and other vendors,
- (2) models,
- (3) key metrics and characteristics of the equipment,
- (4) performance history of the equipment,
- (5) contracting status, and
- (6) planned delivery dates.

Energy Production Profile. All bids must provide information on expected annual REC production for each production year. Each Respondent must clearly describe anticipated energy production degradation over the term of the contract, and scheduled/anticipated replacement of significant components.

Real Property Acquisition Description and Plan. Bids must provide a description of the status of real property acquisition and land use permitting for the proposed CSG that is sufficient for Public Service to assess the completeness and sufficiency of the Respondent's real property rights, including but not limited to:

- The status of current site ownership or control. Indicate if control is through:
 - Ownership of a leasehold interest in, or a right to develop a site for the purpose of constructing the proposed generating facility,
 - An option to purchase or acquire a leasehold site for such purpose, or,
 - An exclusivity or other business relationship between Respondent and the entity having the right to sell, lease, or grant Respondent the right to possess or occupy a site for such purpose.
- The plan for acquiring any and all currently uncontrolled necessary real property rights to the proposed CSG,

- Acreage of real property required for the proposed CSG and a schedule for the completion of the real property acquisition process, and
- A description of any subdivision or zoning modifications and all city, county, or state land use permits that will be required, such as conditional use, special use or other similar permits and approvals, which will be required for any phase of development, construction, or operations of the proposed CSG.
- A description of existing and planned land use in all directions surrounding the proposed site.

Should a PV System Owner as defined in the SRC Producer Agreement, SRC Producer as defined in the SRC Producer Agreement, and their affiliated and parent companies own multiple CSGs on the same “site,” the total capacity of all of the CSGs on the “site” may not exceed 2 MW. The definition of a “site” is set forth in the statute and the rules of the PUC.

Permitting Plan. Bids must describe all permits and approvals that will be required for the proposed CSG. State whether any permits have been secured, and if not, whether applications have been filed. Report on the status of any pending applications and any feedback from permitting agencies.

Describe all other federal, state and local permits and approvals that will be required for the proposed CSG, but not limited to:

- Zoning permit
- Variance approvals
- Building permits
- Land use permit

Describe the plan to obtain the necessary permits and planning approvals required for the proposed CSG.

Describe the current status of obtaining these permits and any feedback from permitting agencies.

If the proposed site does not currently have the appropriate zoning designation, provide any rezoning requirements, plans to obtain the rezoning, and any known issues as to rezoning.

Operations and Maintenance Plan. Respondents shall summarize their operations and maintenance plans and labor arrangements for the generation facilities associated with their bids.

Community/Local and State Government Reaction Assessment. Each respondent must present a current assessment of, and a plan for continuing to monitor, local community and state reaction to the proposed CSG, and a plan to work with the local community on issues concerning the proposed CSG. Such plan might include the following elements:

- A list of the references used to assess the community/local and state government reaction, and the methodology used to draw conclusions,

- A list of key local contacts interviewed and their opinions,
- An assessment of the community/local and state government reaction at the time of the proposal,
- An action plan for working with the community/local and state government to successfully complete the proposed CSG and
- A description of the Respondent's proposed conflict resolution methodology.

Section 4. Evaluation Process and Assumptions

The bid evaluation process will include an assessment of cost and non-cost factors. The economic evaluation will identify the most cost-effective group of bids based upon the specifics of each bid's pricing proposal. The bid evaluation process will involve the following steps. These steps are generally sequential, but certain activities will overlap among steps.

4.1 Eligibility Screening

The information provided in each bid will first be evaluated for completeness and consistency with the proposal submittal requirements outlined in Section 3 of this RFP. CSGs must interconnect directly to the Public Service Company system. Preliminary due diligence will also be conducted to identify any "fatal flaws" associated with a bid, such as an unacceptably high level of development risk, ongoing business risk, and technology risk. As a result of this screening review, Public Service may either eliminate bids from further consideration, or contact Respondents to clarify information or request additional information. Given the short amount of time allotted to evaluate the bids, Public Service will limit follow-up contacts to only those bids that meet the minimum eligibility requirements listed in Section 3.1.

4.2 Economic Analysis

Levelized energy costs of the remaining bids will be calculated to determine potential winning bids. Levelized energy costs will be calculated from the specifics of the bid pricing, and any other costs associated with accepting energy and RECs from the facility. The lowest levelized bid price is the primary determinant for winning bids. However, the evaluation process will include an assessment of both economic and non-economic criteria. The non-economic criteria may be used to assess the feasibility of all potential winning bids. The non-economic analysis may result in a low cost bid being removed from the list of potential winning bids. The non-economic criteria may also be used to break ties after the application of economic evaluation.

In the event that price and non-price factors are unable to differentiate, the Company will award winning bids among the prospective winners. Priority will be given to gardens in low garden use counties or bidders with low participation in the program.

4.3 Non-Price Factor Analysis

The Company will assess the non-price characteristics of the bids. Non-price factors that will be assessed include, as applicable and without limitation, the following:

- Financing plan, including ability to utilize tax advantages
- Development, construction and operation experience
- Past solar PV development performance, including solar gardens

- Permitting and zoning and planning approval plan
- Real property acquisition/site control progress and plan
- Operational characteristics (energy production)
- Execution planning
- Operations and maintenance plan
- Community reaction

4.4 Evaluation Assumptions

The following planning assumptions will underlie Public Service’s bid evaluation process.

Utility Discount Rate and Cost of Capital

Public Service will use a discount rate based on its current weighted after-tax cost of capital which will be announced at the time of the RFP’s actual release.

Bonus for Community-Based Projects¹

Public Service is allowed to reflect an additional bonus amount of RECs generated from a Community-Based Project, as defined in Rule 3652(c) of the PUC Rules. This bonus amount will be calculated and added to the estimated number of RECs produced. This adjusted value will be used in the economic analysis of the bid when comparing it against other bids made in response to this RFP. To qualify for this bonus, the bidder must agree to structure the ownership of its proposed CSG in a manner that reasonably comports with the definition of Community-Based Project and, further, to assist Public Service in obtaining any approvals or declaratory rulings from the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, as deemed necessary by Public Service, that such proposed CSG qualifies as a Community-Based Project.

4.5 Evaluation Team

A bid evaluation team has been formed to develop the RFP, and to evaluate and select bids. Members of the bid evaluation team include personnel from various departments within Public Service, each with different responsibilities.

4.6 Notification of Bid Results

Public Service intends to notify Respondents of the results of the bid evaluation and begin contract development on or about August 20, 2015.

4.7 Post-bid Requirements

Once a Respondent is notified of an accepted bid, they will have thirty (30) business days to complete an application, which includes:

- 1) A submitted SRC Application showing a minimum of 10 subscribers, indicating their agreement to go forward with the proposed CSG through completion and execution of a Subscriber Agency Agreement (see Exhibit B to the SRC Producer Agreement).

¹ Each kilowatt-hour of solar energy generated by a Colorado community-based project, as defined by PUC Rule 3652(c), is counted as generating 1.5 Renewable Energy Credits.

- 2) A security deposit of an amount equal to \$25,000 (only checks or wire transfers will be accepted), which will be refunded if the proposed CSG is completed on or before Feb 10, 2017 and complies with the SRC Program requirements and PUC rules. If the CSG is not completed by that date, the deposit will be forfeited and credited to the Renewable Energy Standard Adjustment.
- 3) A deposit into an escrow account of an amount equal to \$100/kW of the CSG's nameplate capacity that will be refunded once the CSG is operational or upon notice that construction of the proposed CSG has been terminated prior to completion.
- 4) A non-refundable Interconnection Study Fee of \$2,000 pursuant to Xcel Energy's [Interconnection Requirements](#). This is required at the time of line diagram, site plan and Small Generation Interconnection Application submission.
- 5) Evidence that the 5% low income requirement, as specifically set forth in the SRC Producer Agreement, has been met.
- 6) An executed SRC Producer Agreement. Failure to sign the agreement or reach a negotiated settlement may result in suspension from the program.

Failure to meet post-bid requirements may result in suspension from the program.

4.8 Changes to system location

Once a bidder has been notified that a bid has been accepted, the CSG location, interconnection meter number and retail meter can only be changed one time without penalty, including but not limited to, rejection from the program. If the post-bid requirements cannot be fulfilled, the bid will be rejected. Public Service then reserves the right to accept the next most qualified bid from another project from this solicitation. The site restriction in section 3.2 will still apply.

4.9 Posting of Winning Bids

After the selection and notification of the winning bidders, Xcel Energy reserves the right to post on its website a subset of or in total the following information applicable to each Bid selected:

- 1) Geographic location of the CSG;
- 2) Nameplate capacity of the CSG;
- 3) Bid price
- 4) System tracking (fixed axis, single axis for example)
- 5) Name of the CSG Owner or CSG Subscriber Organization (if different than the CSG Owner);
- 6) Contact information (e-mail address and telephone number) of the CSG Owner or CSG Subscriber Organization.

Section 5. SRC System Application

All winning bids are required to fill out the SRC Application, which can be found on the Xcel Energy website. Winning bids have up to 30 days to submit the on-line application.

5.1 Application Requirements

Requirements of note are listed below:

- 10 subscribers minimum, with subscribers meeting the following requirements:
 - For each subscriber, there must be a completed and fully-executed Subscriber Agency Agreement;
 - All subscribers must be Public Service electric retail service customers in Colorado;
 - Each subscriber’s retail customer premises must be located in the same county, or adjacent county as the solar garden (with certain exceptions as provided for in the PUC Rules and the SRC Producer Agreement)
 - A “Consent to Disclose Utility Data” form must be submitted for each subscriber. Access to the form and instructions for use are located on the Xcel Energy website at:
<http://www.xcelenergy.com/staticfiles/xe/Marketing/Files/co-sr-community-Third-Party-Data-Privacy-Information.pdf>
- Non-low income subscriber allocations must be 1 kW minimum, not to exceed 120% of the customer’s average annual use.
- No one subscriber can have an allocation higher than 40% of the total garden
- 5% low income requirement must be met prior to Public Service Company setting the production meter
- The deposit and escrow requirements must be met when the application is submitted.
- A signed SRC Producer Agreement

All other requirements and application process instructions are located in the Solar*Rewards Community section on the Xcel Energy website.

Section 6. Delivery and Interconnection

6.1 REC Delivery Requirements

The point of delivery for the energy and RECs in response to this RFP will be the interconnection point of the CSG installation.

Successful Respondent(s) will be responsible for providing documentation necessary to obtain interconnection of their CSG installation at each facility.

Respondents may submit documentation for Interconnection to Public Service following the procedures outlined in Section 5.2 below at any time.

6.2 Public Service Interconnection Study Requests

Respondents may contact Public Service’s Manager of Area Engineering, Rodney Sgrignoli, to determine the requirements for interconnection of their proposed CSG.

Mr. Sgrignoli will be Public Service’s sole point of contract for all questions and requests related to interconnection studies and questions. His contact information is:

Mr. Rodney Sgrignoli
Manager, Area Engineering
Public Service Company of Colorado

1123 West 3rd Avenue
Denver CO 80223

Email: rodney.d.sgrignoli@xcelenergy.com

Phone: 303.571.3514

Respondents should note that, for any bids selected through this RFP that involve direct interconnection with the Public Service system, the winning Respondents will be required to submit an Interconnection Application and Interconnect Study Fee, and enter into an Interconnection Agreement with Public Service. Such Interconnection Agreement is a separate and distinct agreement from the SRC Producer Agreement.

Appendix A

Bid Forms and Instructions

As discussed in Section 3, the completed forms, attachments and narrative topic discussions, will comprise a complete bid. The contents of each form and any special instructions for completing the forms are described below.

If additional space is needed to elaborate on information requested on any form, please attach additional sheets with the heading “Form ___ - Additional Information.”

If certain information is requested that does not apply to the bid, the Respondent must indicate that the information is not applicable. If appropriate, the Respondent should explain why the information is not applicable.

In addition to submitting a hardcopy of the bid with the completed forms, Respondents must also include a CD or email in Microsoft® Word and/or Excel formats.

Form A Bid Certification Form

All bids must include a completed Bid Certification form signed by an officer or other authorized employee of the Respondent. This form will certify that the information in the bid is accurate, that the pricing includes all costs for the proposed term of service and that the bidder agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions contained in the RFP. Further, the Respondent must accept the SRC Producer Agreement included in the RFP.

Form B Bid Cover Sheet

This form requests general information about the Respondent, the proposed generation technology, type of sale, and capacity.

Form C Technical Description

This form requests information about the proposed configuration of generation equipment, as well as operational characteristics.

Form D Construction Milestones

This form requests that Respondents provide estimated dates for meeting a series of development and construction milestones for the proposed CSG.

Form E Supply Amount & REC Bid Form

Bid Pricing

In Form E - Supply Amount & \$/MWh Bid Form, the Respondents must provide a bid price in nominal \$0.00/MWh that would be charged to Public Service during each production year. The Company will round all bids at least to the second decimal place for bid evaluation purposes. (To clarify, a nominal price for production year 1 would be the actual price charged in production year

1). Should a Respondent's bid pricing contemplate payments being made to Public Service (Negative Bid Price), such payments will be flowed through to Public Service's customers in a manner to be determined.

All unsubscribed energy will be purchased at the Company's prior calendar year's average hourly incremental cost of electricity supply.

Respondents shall provide a constant price for each year of the term specified in the SRC Producer Agreement.

Bid prices must include all costs for which Respondents intends to seek compensation from Public Service, including electric interconnection.

REC Quantity

In Form E - Supply Amount & \$/MWh Bid Form, Respondents must also provide a projected number of RECs to be produced during each contract year. The number of projected RECs to be produced each year will be evaluated against data representing expected generation output according to the technology being employed. Annual projection estimates which do not appear reasonable in comparison to that data will be questioned and may cause the bid to be modified or rejected.

Form A – Certification Form

The Respondent hereby certifies that all of the statements and representations made in this proposal are true to the best of the Respondent's knowledge and belief, and agrees to be bound by the representations, terms, and conditions contained in the RFP. The Respondent accepts the contract included in the RFP.

Submitted by: _____
(legal name of firm)

Respondents: _____
(if different than above)

Signature of an officer of Respondents: _____

Print or type name of officer: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Form B – Bid Cover Sheet

1) CSG / Facility Name: _____

2) CSG Location (city, county): _____

3) Respondents Contact:

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Phone / Fax: _____

Email: _____

3) Alternate Respondents Contact:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone / Fax: _____

4) Estimated Peak Nameplate Capacity kW DC: _____

5) Estimated Annual Calendar Year Energy Production (MWh) _____

6) Proposed Construction Start Date: _____

7) Proposed Commercial Operation Date: _____

8) As applicable, please list and provide an organizational chart of all affiliates and parent companies of:

- a) The Subscriber Organization.
- b) The SRC Owner
- c) The SRC Producer

Form C – Technical Description

1) Describe the solar technology, including, system size, the number of PV panels, the number of inverters, ancillary equipment, etc.

2) Provide relevant specifications about the proposed generation, inverter and other significant equipment such as brand, model, fabricator, rating, size, capabilities, etc.

3) Describe the configuration of the proposed generation equipment, including system tracking, tilt, azimuth, etc.

4) Describe the performance history of major components of the technology as listed above. Provide a list of projects and contact information corresponding to past performance history.

Form D – Construction Milestones

DATE	RESULTS ACHIEVED	
1	Respondent shall have submitted post bid information (10 subscribers, deposit, and low income subscriber summary).	
2	Respondent has executed the SRC Producer Agreement.	
3	Respondent shall have received site acquisition/control.	
4	Respondent obtains site survey and soils report	
5	Respondent shall have obtained all variance allowances and planning approval.	
6	Respondent shall have obtained all required permits.	
7	Respondent shall have achieved closing on financing for the CSG facility or have provided Public Service with proof of financial capability to construct the proposed CSG.	
8	Respondent and all required counterparties have executed major procurement contracts, the Construction Contract, and any operating agreements needed to commence construction of the Facility.	
9	Respondent and all required counterparties have executed the Interconnection Agreement.	
10	Respondent shall have started garden construction.	
11	Respondent shall provide Public Service with copies of applicable inspection reports for the proposed CSG.	
12	Respondent shall provide Public Service with evidence of complying with that insurance coverage required prior to the Date of Commercial Operation.	
13	Respondent shall have made the Interconnection of the CSG generating facility and is capable of being energized.	
14	Commercial Operation has been achieved and the date duly recorded.	
15	All other requisite SRC application documentation is on file.	
16	Respondent completes proposed CSG 18 months from initial application approval.	

Form E - Supply Amount & \$/MWh Bid Form

Customer Information	
Customer Name **	
Mailing Address	
Contact Email address	
Third Party Developer Information (if applicable)	
Company Name	
Contact Name	
Mailing Address	
Contact Phone	
Contact Email Address	
Solar Facility Installation Information	
Street Address	
City, State, Zip	
Existing Public Service Customer? (Yes/No)	
If yes, Xcel Energy Account Number	
If yes, Xcel Energy Premise Number	
Projected Date of Commercial Operation	
System nameplate DC output capacity (kW)	
Annual solar degradation rate (%)	

Production Year	Production Estimate (MWh)	\$/MWh
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
Fill in requested data for each production year under contract		

Form F – Bid Submittal Checklist

<input type="checkbox"/>	Executive summary
<input type="checkbox"/>	All applicable forms complete
<input type="checkbox"/>	Narrative topics discussions
<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development Experience and past performance, including solar gardens
<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financial Information and financing plan
<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Description and Development Schedule
<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CSG Location
<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Equipment Description
<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• REC Production Profile
<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Real Property Acquisition Description and Plan
<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Permitting Plan
<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operations and Maintenance Plan