



Letter to shareholders

April 2015

Dear shareholders:

Xcel Energy reported first quarter 2015 ongoing earnings of 46 cents per share, compared with 52 cents per share in 2014. The difference was primarily due to colder-than-normal weather in first quarter 2014, which drove a 5-cent variance compared with 2015.

Ongoing earnings this quarter do not reflect the impact of charges related to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission decision in the prudence review of our Monticello nuclear facility, which was 16 cents per share. We believe ongoing earnings provide a more meaningful picture of Xcel Energy's continuing operations and results.

Overall, we had a solid first quarter, with progress on several fronts. We achieved regulatory certainty with rate case decisions in Colorado and Minnesota and resolution in connection with the Monticello review. We increased your dividend 6.7 percent and raised our dividend growth target to 5 percent to 7 percent, reflecting the confidence we have in our business plan and our financial flexibility.

Looking ahead, we fully expect to keep operating and maintenance expense growth at 2 percent or less, and we are reaffirming our 2015 ongoing earnings guidance of \$2 to \$2.15 per share.

In some welcome recognition, **Forbes Magazine** included Xcel Energy on the magazine's list of the 100 Most Trustworthy Companies in America for 2015. We also were pleased to once again be named as a Best for Vets Employer by **Military Times**. We strongly believe that military veterans bring outstanding technical and leadership skills to the workplace. Our goal is to ensure 10 percent of newly hired employees are veterans.

In other recognition, the American Wind Energy Association named Xcel Energy the No. 1 provider of wind energy in the nation for the 11th year in a row. Because customers want cleaner energy at a reasonable cost, we are expanding our portfolio of renewable energy resources. That effort includes the opportunity to own and operate a 200-megawatt wind farm in North Dakota, which we are pursuing in regulatory filings next month in Minnesota and North Dakota. The facility is expected to be in service by the end of 2016 and is a good example of an effort that not only grows our business but contributes to environmental leadership.



Xcel Energy is part of an effort to upgrade and expand the electric transmission grid.

Important information for shareholders

Wells Fargo shareowner services features online account management through Shareowner Online. Shareowner Online is the convenient and secure way to manage your account. Enroll in the Direct Stock Purchase Plan, update your account, purchase or sell stock, get tax information and forms, review and print your record of transactions and much more, quickly and conveniently. Begin by visiting shareowneronline.com.

If you receive a dividend by check each quarter, consider signing up for direct deposit. Your dividend payment will be deposited into the authorized bank account on the dividend payable date, which eliminates inconveniences due to late or lost mail. You may request a direct deposit authorization form by calling Wells Fargo Shareowner Services at **1-877-778-6786**.

Consider depositing certificated shares into book entry at Wells Fargo and avoid the cost of certificate replacement due to loss, theft or destruction. To deposit your certificate(s) into book entry, send original certificate(s), including a letter of instructions, to Wells Fargo Shareowner Services, 1110 Centre Pointe Curve, Suite 101, MAC N9173-010, Mendota Heights, Minn. 55120. You will receive a confirmation of the deposit from Wells Fargo.

Finally, we achieved another milestone recently when we energized the final sections on two of our major CapX2020 projects, bringing the transmission lines into service on time and on budget. The CapX2020 effort, which includes 11 transmission owning utilities, was initiated to upgrade and expand the electric transmission grid to ensure continued reliable and affordable service. The projects provide needed transmission capacity to support new generation options, including renewable energy.

As you can see, it's been an eventful 2015 so far and we are well on our way to another successful year. We appreciate your trust and support.

Sincerely,



Ben Fowke
Chairman, President and CEO

Join us at the annual meeting

Xcel Energy's annual meeting of shareholders will be held Wed., May 20, at 11 a.m. CDT, at the Hilton Garden Inn, 201 E. 8th St., Sioux Falls, S.D. At the meeting, we will outline accomplishments and challenges, conduct company business, announce voting results and answer your questions.

You must **RSVP by May 15** to attend. Please contact Xcel Energy's Corporate Secretary department by email at corporatesecretary@xcelenergy.com or by telephone at **612-215-5391** to RSVP.

If you are not able to join us in person, consider listening to a webcast of the meeting, which will be available simultaneously and also archived on the **Investors** page of xcelenergy.com.

Please visit the Investors page on xcelenergy.com to view this and other shareholder communication.

