

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

File Number: H.F. 113

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In its most recent Integrated Resource Plan filing with the Public Utilities Commission, Xcel proposed closing two of its three coal-fired electric generating plants located in Becker in Sherburne County (Sherco 1, 2, and 3) in the mid-2020s. The commission agreed, setting the closure dates at 2023 and 2026.

House File 113 gives Xcel Energy authority to construct, own, and operate an electric generating plant fueled by natural gas on the Sherco site. The bill exempts the company from the requirement to obtain a Certificate of Need from the commission prior to constructing the plant. The commission retains its authority to approve prudently incurred costs for the plant in a rate case. The bill also allows Xcel to file with the commission an independent estimate of Xcel's forecasted costs of the plant, and to request the commission to increase or decrease its rate of return on the plant by 25 basis points if the plant's final costs are under or over, respectively, those estimates.