



**Steve Taylor**  
**County Administrator**

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November 13, 2018

Daniel P. Wolf  
Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7th Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Minnesota Public Utilities Commission,

We are writing on behalf of Sherburne County to demonstrate our genuine support for Project Pine. Sherburne County's objective to create strong, vibrant communities will be supported by Project Pine's efforts to create jobs and capital investment in the region. Project Pine supports our commitment in attracting new industries for additional tax base and jobs in our community. The Project will help offset the impacts of when the Sherco generating station's oldest coal units are retired and replaced with a clean natural gas facility.

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development estimates there will be significant benefits from the first phase of Project Pine, including:

- More than \$500 million in capital investment that will benefit the City of Becker, Sherburne County and the State of Minnesota.
- More than 1,600 local construction jobs and more than 50 additional high-skilled, high-paying permanent jobs upon completion.

The project will likely have multiple phases resulting in significant capital investment, construction and permanent jobs, and increased positive economic impacts. The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development projects that the project will increase long-term economic activity, resulting in an increase in local and statewide spending by both the company and its employees. The project will also take advantage of underutilized land that is positioned for industrial expansion and leverage Xcel Energy's ability to provide renewable energy to the project.

In summary, Sherburne County is excited for the opportunity to partner with Project Pine in their expansion efforts!

Sincerely,

Steve Taylor  
Sherburne County Administrator

Cc: Sherburne County Board of Commissioners