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## 50-Megawatt SunPower Solar Plant Now Delivering Power to Xcel Energy Customers in Colorado

SAN JOSE, Calif. and DENVER, Dec. 23, 2015 /PRNewswire/ -- Xcel Energy (NYSE: XEL) and SunPower Corp. (NASDAQ: SPWR) announced today the commercial operation of the 50-megawatt Hooper solar photovoltaic (PV) power plant in Colorado's San Luis Valley. Xcel Energy is purchasing the power generated by the plant at cost-competitive rates under a power purchase agreement with SunPower. The utility estimates that the plant is generating enough electricity to serve the needs of approximately 13,500 average Colorado homes.



"This expansion of our renewable portfolio in Colorado is yet another example of how Xcel Energy brings solar power to its customers," said David Eves, president of Public Service Co. of Colorado, an Xcel Energy company. "We are adding large scale solar that competes with and surpasses other forms of generation alternatives, in terms of price, over the life of the project. This benefits all of our customers - both environmentally and economically."

SunPower designed and constructed the plant, and is now operating and maintaining it onsite, and monitoring power production from the company's remote operations control center in Austin, Tex. More than 150 jobs were created at the project site during peak construction.

"Xcel Energy is providing leadership in the promotion of large scale solar power development, and demonstrating how renewable technologies are part of the solution to ensure the health of our economy and our environment," said Jorg Heinemann, SunPower executive vice president, global power plants, customer operations and EPC. "SunPower's high-efficiency solar PV technology is competitively-priced for power plant applications, fast to install, and reliably delivers clean power, particularly during peak demand hours."

At the 320-acre site, SunPower installed a SunPower® Oasis® Power Plant system. Oasis is a fully integrated, modular solar power block that is engineered to rapidly and cost-effectively deploy utility-scale solar projects while optimizing land use. The technology includes SunPower's proprietary robotic solar panel cleaning capability that uses 75 percent less water than traditional cleaning methods and can help improve system performance by up to 15 percent.

SunPower constructed two other solar power plants in the San Luis Valley that are also generating power for Xcel Energy's Colorado customers. The 19-megawatt Greater Sandhill plant has been operating since 2010, and the 30-megawatt San Luis Valley Solar Ranch began delivering energy in 2011.

The capacity of power plants in this release is described in approximate megawatts on an alternating current (ac) basis.

### About Xcel Energy

Xcel Energy (NYSE: XEL) is a major U.S. electricity and natural gas company that provides a comprehensive portfolio of energy-related products and services to **3.5 million** electricity customers and 1.9 million natural gas customers through its regulated operating companies in eight Western and Midwestern states. Company headquarters are located in Minneapolis. More information is available at [www.xcelenergy.com](http://www.xcelenergy.com).

### About SunPower Corp.

As one of the world's most innovative and sustainable energy companies, SunPower Corp. (Nasdaq: SPWR) provides a diverse group of customers with complete solar solutions and services. Residential customers, businesses, governments, schools and utilities around the globe rely on SunPower's more than 30 years of proven experience. From the first flip of the switch, SunPower delivers maximum value and superb performance throughout the long life of every solar system. Headquartered in Silicon Valley, SunPower has dedicated, customer-focused employees in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North and South America. For more information about how SunPower is changing the way our world is powered, visit [www.sunpower.com](http://www.sunpower.com).

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