

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 3033

**DATE:** April 19, 2010

**Version:** First engrossment

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**Subject:** Rebates for solar energy projects

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### Overview

House File 3033 establishes a rebate program for property owners who install solar photovoltaic systems manufactured in Minnesota. The bill also amends the annual contribution of Xcel Energy to the renewable development account to allow the amount to increase as more casks containing spent nuclear waste are stored at the plant in the future.

#### Section

#### 1 [116C.779]

**Subd. 1. Renewable development account.** Amends the amount that the utility that owns the Prairie Island nuclear generating plant is required to annually transfer to the renewable development account, so long as nuclear waste is stored at the plant, from a flat \$16 million to \$500,000 for each dry cask of nuclear waste stored at the plant. (The change is effective when the number of casks at the plant reach 32, which is expected to occur in 2011.)

#### 2 [116C.7791] Rebates for solar photovoltaic modules.

##### Subd. 1. Definitions.

**Subd. 2. Establishment.** Directs the commissioner of commerce to establish a program to provide rebates to owners of properties that are eligible for rebates for installing solar photovoltaic modules, beginning in 2010.

**Subd. 3. Rebate eligibility.** Establishes conditions for eligibility for a rebate, including:

- the solar photovoltaic module must be manufactured in Minnesota;
- the solar system must not exceed 40 kW, and must be certified by an independent

agency;

- must be installed by a certified solar photovoltaic installer;
- must be installed on a residence, multifamily residence, business, or public building in Xcel Energy's service territory; and
- the property owner must apply for other rebates available from the state and Xcel.

**Subd. 4. Rebate amount and payment.** The rebate amount is the difference between the sum of all other rebates received from the state and the utility and \$5 per installed watt. The amount of all rebates received may not exceed 60 percent of the installed cost of the system. Rebate awards are to begin July 1, 2010, and are to be made in five consecutive annual installments.

- 3 Appropriation.** Directs Xcel to transfer \$2 million from the renewable development account in FY 11 to the commissioner of commerce, and \$4 million, \$5 million, and \$5 million in successive fiscal years for deposit into the special revenue fund, from which the same amounts are appropriated to the commissioner for the rebates. Provides funding for program administration.