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## Xcel will test storing wind power in batteries

Minneapolis / St. Paul Business Journal - by [Doug Hamlin](#) Staff Writer

**Xcel Energy Inc.** will begin testing technology to store wind energy in batteries, the first such usage in the United States, the company said today.

A constant challenge for utilities producing electricity from wind is providing a constant flow of power, as weather conditions change throughout the day.

The test project will use sodium-sulfur batteries that, when filled to capacity, can power 500 homes for 7 hours.

Minneapolis-based Xcel (NYSE: XEL) will test 20 of the 50-kilowatt batteries in Luverne, near the state's Buffalo Ridge, which contains much of the state's wind-energy potential.

Minnesota's Renewable Development Fund will grant the project \$1 million, pending state approval.

Xcel is required to produce 30 percent of the power it delivers to Minnesota from renewable source by 2020 under a law passed by the Legislature last year.

Minnesota is the third-largest producer of wind power in the country, according to the American Wind Energy Association.

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