

The Commission met on **Thursday, September 8, 2016**, with Chair Heydinger, and Commissioners Lipschultz, Schuerger, and Tuma present.

The following matters came before the Commission:

ENERGY FACILITIES PLANNING AGENDA

IP-6961/CM-16-215

In the Matter of the Application of Blazing Star Wind Farm, LLC for a Certificate of Need for the 200 Megawatt Blazing Star Wind Project in Lincoln County

Commissioner Schuerger moved to take the following actions:

1. Accept the certificate of need application as substantially complete.
2. Direct that the certificate of need application be reviewed using the informal review process.
3. Take the following administrative actions:
 - A. Delegate administrative authority, including timing issues, to the Executive Secretary.
 - B. Provide the name, telephone number, and email address of the Commission staff person designated as public advisor to facilitate citizen participation in the process.
 - C. Request that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (the Department) continue to study the issues and indicate during the hearing process through testimony or comment its position on the reasonableness of granting a certificate of need.
 - D. Require the applicant to facilitate in every reasonable way the continued examination of the issues requested by the Department and Commission staff.
 - E. Require the applicant to place a print or electronic copy of the application in the government center or public library located closest to the proposed project.
 - F. Direct the applicant to work with Commission staff to arrange for publication of the notice of hearings in newspapers of general circulation at least ten days prior to the hearings, and such notice be in the form of visible display ads, and that proof of publication be obtained from the newspapers selected.
4. Vary Minn. R. 7849.0200, subp. 5, and extend the 30-day time frame for Commission decision on application completeness.

The motion passed 4-0.

ENERGY AGENDA

E-002/GS-15-834

In the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power Company for a Site Permit for the 215 MW Black Dog Unit 6 Project in Burnsville, Minnesota

Commissioner Tuma moved to amend the language of the Site Permit Section 8.6 as follows:

Permittee shall, within 30 days prior to commencement of construction, inform the emergency responders that construction will commence at the site and meet with the emergency responders to review existing emergency plans. The Permittee shall prepare an updated Emergency Response Plan in consultation with the emergency responders having jurisdiction over the facility prior to project construction. The Permittee shall submit a copy of the plan, along with any comments from emergency responders, to the Commission at least 30 days prior to ~~construction~~ start up activities of the facility and associated pipeline. The Permittee shall provide as a compliance filing confirmation that the Emergency Response Plan was provided to the emergency responders and Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) with jurisdiction over the facility prior to commencement of construction. The Permittee shall obtain and register the facility address or other location indicators acceptable to the emergency responders and PSAP having jurisdiction over the facility.

The motion passed 4-0.

Commissioner Tuma moved to take the following actions:

1. Approve the proposed Findings of Fact for the Black Dog Unit 6 Project;
2. Find that the environmental assessment and the record address the issues identified in the environmental assessment scoping decision;
3. Issue the proposed site permit as amended with appropriate conditions to Xcel Energy;
and
4. Allow Commission staff to make modifications to the proposed Findings of Fact or the proposed Site Permit, as necessary, to ensure consistency and/or allow for administrative corrections following the Commission's oral decision on the matter.

The motion passed 4-0.

E-119,143/SA-16-354

In the Matter of the Joint Request of Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative and Lake Region Electric Cooperative for Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Service Territory

Commissioner Tuma moved as follows:

1. Within 10 days of the issuance of the order, Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) shall mail a copy of the order by first class mail to the affected landowner(s) along with a cover letter explaining the action. The letter should provide an invitation for the landowner(s) to contact LREC or the Consumer Affairs Office at the Commission (CAO) if they have any concerns with the order. The letter should provide a specific contract person at LREC along with the contact information for the CAO. The letter shall be filed in this docket immediately after it has been mailed and LREC shall inform the Commission in writing promptly of any disagreement regarding the service territory change expressed by the affected landowner(s).

Chair Heydinger proposed to amend the motion as follows:

1. Within 10 days of the issuance of the order, Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) shall mail a copy of the order by first class mail to the affected landowner(s) along with a cover letter explaining the action. ~~The letter should provide an invitation for the landowner(s) to contact LREC or the Consumer Affairs Office at the Commission (CAO) if they have any concerns with the order.~~ The landowner(s) shall have 20 days from the issuance of the order to contact LREC or the Commission's Consumer Affairs Office (CAO) of any objections to the transfer. The letter should provide a specific contract person at LREC along with the contact information for the CAO. The letter shall be filed in this docket immediately after it has been mailed and LREC shall inform the Commission in writing promptly of any disagreement regarding the service territory change expressed by the affected landowner(s).

Commissioner Tuma accepted the amendment.

Commissioner Tuma further moved to do the following:

2. Approve the requested service territory transfer such that LREC will provide retail electric service to an area previously assigned to Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative.
3. The Minnesota Geospacial Information Office shall update the Commission's maps to reflect the service area transfer as stated in the cooperatives' memorandum of understanding.

The motion passed 4-0.

TELECOMMUNICATONS AGENDA

P-3028/RV-16-453

In the Matter of the Revocation of Coast International, Inc.'s Certificate of Authority

Commissioner Tuma moved to do the following:

1. Revoke the Certificate of Authority of Coast International, Inc.
2. Inactivate the carrier from the Commission's Master Contact List until a disconnection order is issued.

The motion passed 4-0.

P-999/CI-16-302

In the Matter of the Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP) Review

Commissioner Lipschultz moved to do the following:

1. Issue an order confirming that the low income programs which confer eligibility on the federal Lifeline program also confer eligibility on low income customers applying for Minnesota's Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP).
2. Find that TAP credits may only be provided for telephone service under existing statute and that stand-alone broadband customers will not be eligible for the TAP credit.
3. Maintain the current TAP credit and surcharge levels.

The motion passed 4-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: November 9, 2016



Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary