

The Commission met on **Thursday, May 2, 2019** with Vice Chair Lipschultz, and Commissioners Means, Schuerger, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

IP-7003/CN-19-223

In the Matter of the Application of Regal Solar, LLC for a Certificate of Need for the up to 100 MW Regal Solar Project in Benton County

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Approve the requested exemptions conditioned on Regal providing the alternative data identified in its March 13 Request;
2. If Regal is requesting a partial exemption from Minn. R. 7849.0250 C(7), require data on the project's impact on state or regional wholesale prices in lieu of the required data; and
3. Vary the 30-day requirement of Minn. R. 7849.0200, subp. 6.

The motion passed 4-0.

E-290,142/SA-19-187

In the Matter of the Joint Request of Owatonna Public Utilities and Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric for Approval of a Service Territory Transfer Agreement between the Two Utilities

Commissioner Schuerger moved that the Commission:

1. Approve the requested service territory transfer from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric to Owatonna Public Utilities.
2. Request MNGeo to update the Commission's maps to reflect the service area designations as shown on the revised map in the March 24, 2019 update.

The motion passed 4-0.

P-999/PR-18-194

In the Matter of Proposed Amendment to TAM FY 2019 Budget

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Accept DHS' proposals on items 1 through 7, with the allocations on items 5, 6, and 7 being reevaluated with future budget proposals; and
2. Accept DHS' proposal to decrease the budgeted amount to correspond with the Commission's determinations on items 1 through 7.

The motion passed 4-0.

E-015/M-12-1359

In the Matter of a Request by Minnesota Power for a Modification to its Service Extension Tariff

Commissioner Lipschultz moved that the Commission:

1. Approves Minnesota Power's request to:
 - Change the amount used to calculate single phase line extensions of 1,000 feet or less from a unit cost of \$17 per foot to \$20 per foot;
 - Change the service extension allowance for the Residential class from \$668 to \$770. Minnesota Power bases its request on the change being greater than five percent;
 - Change the General Service/Municipal Pumping three phase service extension allowance to \$3,100 since the variance is greater than five percent;
 - Maintain the General Service/Municipal Pumping single phase service extension allowance at \$1,000 since the variance is less than five percent; and
 - Maintain the Large Light and Power service extension allowance at \$30,000.
2. Require Minnesota Power to credit the nine affected customers an appropriate amount and provide a compliance filing within 30 days documenting the provision of those credits to the nine affected customers. Require Minnesota Power to identify any additional customers beyond the nine identified to date who would also be entitled to and should have received the credit.

The motion passed 4-0.

G-008/GR-17-285

In the Matter of the Application by CenterPoint Energy for Authority to Increase Natural Gas Rates in Minnesota

Commissioner Lipschultz moved that the Commission:

1. Require CPE, within 65 days, to refund the additional interest due via one-time credits, plus interest accruing from December 7, 2018 to the refund date, to affected customer accounts.

The bill message must be approved the Commission's Consumer Affairs Office. Within 10 days of the refund, CPE must make a compliance filing detailing the credit amount, the number of customers receiving it, and the methodology used to calculate the refund. The cost to make the additional refund as a bill credit must be treated, for accounting purposes, in a manner that ensures it will not be recognized in a test year in any future rate case.

2. Require CPE to provide a discussion, in its 2018 and 2019 Safety, Reliability, and Service Quality Reports, regarding the impact of the interim rate refund issues on its service quality (as may be reflected in its customer complaint, call center response time, call center volume, and other impacted-metric).
3. Require CPE to file a compliance filing within 10 days of finalizing the return of the additional interest to show that it has been returned.
4. Require CPE to file a compliance filing within 30 days of CPE performing its tabletop exercise to report on the results as well as update the Commission on the status of the (1) development of a report to alert remittance when multiple ACH bank drafts have been requested within the same billing cycle, (2) system programming needed to allow mass and one-off electronic bank draft reversals, and (3) system enhancement work to automatically retire customer bank data 30 days after final billing on an inactive account.
5. Require CPE to notify, within four hours of discovery of a billing system problem, the Commission's Consumer Affairs Office of the problem.
6. For the next three years, require CPE to provide CAO with copies of any scripts the Company uses regarding any billing issues reported to CAO. The scripts must be provided to CAO contemporaneously with their use by the Company.

The motion passed 4-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: September 4, 2019



Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary