

The Commission met on **Thursday, December 21, 2023**, with Chair Sieben and Commissioners Sullivan and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

E-002/GR-21-630

In the Matter of the Application by Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy for Authority to Increase Rates for Electric Service in the State of Minnesota.

Commissioner Sullivan moved that the Commission:

1. Adopt the XLI Res/Non-Res Alternative methodology for the interim rate refund, modified in the following ways:
 - a. Use the customer cost allocations that existed before the rate case filing instead of cost-of-service allocations established for final rates.
 - b. Update to reflect financial revisions shown in Schedule 8 in Xcel's November 14, 2023 "Revised Final Rates Compliance" filing.
 - c. Update the refund calculation so that the surcharge period does not begin July 1, 2023, but instead begins no earlier than the date of final determination (July 17, 2023) and ends the date final rates go into effect.
 - d. Xcel shall make a compliance filing showing this method by December 29, 2023. If this alternative is adopted and Xcel's refund timeline changes, then the compliance filing should include revised refund calculations, including interest, that reflect the revised refund date.
 - e. Delegate authority to the Executive Secretary to approve the compliance filing.
2. Approve Xcel Energy's filing with respect to:
 - a. Compliance with the Commission's July 17 order with respect to the Annual Incentive Plan 15% cap,
 - b. Compliance with the Commission's July 17 order with respect to the Annual incentive plan top 10 compensation,
 - c. Compliance with the annual expenses related to the Annual Incentive Plan approved by the Commission in Ordering Paragraph No. 8 of the July 17 order,

- d. Revenue apportionment approved by the Commission in Ordering Paragraph No. 59 of the July 17 order,
 - e. Compliance with Ordering Paragraph No. 135(A)(i)-(iv), relating to financial schedules, schedules of rates and charges, revised tariff sheets, and customer notices,
 - f. Compliance with Ordering Paragraph No. 135(B), relating to revised fuel adjustment factors and related tariffs,
 - g. Compliance with Ordering Paragraph No. 135(C), listing other rate riders in effect.
 - h. Compliance with Ordering Paragraph No. 135(D), relating to the Conservation Cost Recovery Charge (CCRC) and Conservation Improvement Program (CIP).
3. Require Xcel Energy to update and resubmit the CIP tracker account (including rates, revenues, expenses, and ending balance) for the entire period that interim rates were in effect within 10 days after final rates become effective.
 4. Approve the changes reflected in Xcel's December 6, 2023 errata filing.

The motion passed 3-0.

G-002/M-23-77

G-008/M-23-79

G-011/M-23-80

G-004/M-23-78

G-022/M-23-81

In the Matter of Xcel Energy's, Center Point Energy's, Greater Minnesota Gas', Great Plains', and Minnesota Energy Resources' Service Quality Report.

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Accept the Gas Utilities' 2022 gas service quality reports. Data in future reports shall be submitted in a machine-readable format.
2. Require Xcel to ensure that the data reported in its attachment outlining Meter Reading metrics (Attachment B in the 2022 report) reflects all corrections for erroneous duplicate reporting, consistent with the Commission's Orders in Docket No. E,G002/M-13-371 and G002/M-22-210.
3. Require all gas utilities that provide service quality data in monthly intervals, such as monthly totals or monthly averages, to also include an annual value, such as an annual total or an annual average.

4. Require Gas Utilities to work with CAO to ensure that Gas Utilities' reporting of complaints forwarded by CAO matches CAO's records going forward.

The motion passed 3-0.

G-002, G-022, G-004, G-011, G-008/CI-22-548

In the Matter of an Exploration of Comparative Performance Metrics and Improvements to Natural Gas Service Quality Reports.

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Adopt recommendations 1-9 of the Natural Gas Working Group.
2. Authorize the Executive Secretary to establish a comprehensive list of current gas service quality reporting requirements, which all gas utilities shall work from in future reporting.

The motion passed 3-0.

E-002/TL-22-132

In the Matter of the Route Permit Application for the Minnesota Energy Connection Project in Sherburne, Stearns, Kandiyohi, Wright, Meeker, Chippewa, Yellow Medicine, Renville, Redwood, and Lyon counties in Minnesota.

Chair Sieben moved that the Commission:

1. Accept the route permit application as substantially complete and authorize review under the full permitting process.
2. Approve, to the extent practical, joint public meetings, joint public hearings, and combined environmental review of the certificate of need and route permit applications including preparation of an EIS in lieu of an environmental report pursuant to Minn. R. 7849.1900, subp. 2.
3. Deny the request to establish an advisory task force at this time.

4. Authorize the Executive Secretary to issue an authorization to the Applicants to initiate consultation with SHPO.

The motion passed 3-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: February 7, 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Seuffert", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary