

The Commission met on **Thursday, June 11, 2020** with Acting Chair Schuerger and Commissioners Means and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

E-002/WS-17-410

In the Matter of the Application of Freeborn Wind Energy LLC for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit for the 84 Megawatt Freeborn Wind Farm in Freeborn County

Commissioner Means moved to deny reconsideration of the Commission's Order Denying AFCL's Petitions and Amending Site Permit.

The motion passed 3—0.

IP-7002/WS-19-576

In the Matter of the Application of Three Waters Wind Farm, LLC for a Site Permit for the up to 201 MW Large Wind Energy Conversion System in Jackson County

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Issue the draft site permit proposed by the Department of Commerce, including changes proposed by staff (such as the cover page; Section 2: Project Description; Section 2.2 Project Location; Section 3 Designated Site; and the site maps attached to the permit) to account for the project design changes as per revised information included in the applicant's June 3 direct testimony, and the EERA's June 8 letter with recommendations.
2. Authorize Commission staff to modify the draft site permit to correct typographical and formatting errors, improve consistency, and ensure agreement with the Commission's final order in this matter.
3. Require the applicant to file a stand-alone amendment to the site permit application that provides clarity of projects changes. Applicant must serve the filing on other appropriate state agencies, local governments, and must make it available to the public to allow for further record development and to complete the associated environmental review of the proposed project. The amendment should describe in detail the proposed revisions to the project and address all components of the site permit application that are affected by the proposed changes.
4. Require the applicant to file updated maps with its amendment filing that detail and clarify the locations of the turbines, wind rights setbacks, property only boundaries, and sensitive receptors (including residences and cemeteries). Applicant must work with EERA in the development of maps that provide the detail necessary to fully evaluate the

human and environmental impacts of the proposed projects. When all of the necessary information and appropriate maps have been filed, EERA shall submit a letter indicating its agreement that the materials have been made a part of the record. These materials must be provided to affected landowners, the project contact list, and the public for a minimum of 21 days before the public hearing(s) on the project is held.

The motion passed 3—0.

P-999/PR-20-8

In the Matter of the Annual Certification Related to ETC Use of Federal Universal Service Support

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission allow the Executive Secretary to initiate communication with USAC.

The motion passed 3—0.

E-002/M-19-685

In the Matter of Xcel’s 2019 Hosting Capacity Analysis Report

Commissioner Schuerger moved that the Commission take the following actions:

1. Accept the 2019 Hosting Capacity Analysis Report filed by Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy and finds that the filing satisfies the requirements of the Commission’s Order Accepting Study and Setting Further Requirements (August 15, 2019) in Docket No. E002/M-18-684 [the 2019 HCA Order].
2. Direct Xcel to submit a compliance filing within 30 days including notation of which feeders had actual Daytime Minimum Load data incorporated in the 2019 DRIVE HCA.
3. Find that improved and additional information is necessary in future HCA reports, as set forth below.
4. Direct Xcel to collaborate with stakeholders in evaluating the costs and benefits associated with a hosting capacity analysis able to achieve the following objectives:
 - a. Remaining an early indicator of possible locations for interconnection;
 - b. Replacing or augmenting initial review screens and/or supplemental review in the interconnection process; and/or
 - c. Automating interconnection studies.

5. Direct Xcel to continue working with stakeholders to identify opportunities to integrate the HCA and the MN DIP pre-application and screening processes in future iterations of the HCA.
6. Direct Xcel to, in future HCA reports, to the extent practicable, include on the HCA map and in downloadable spreadsheet format the following data: Transformer Name, Transformer Absolute Min, Load Tap Changer (LTC) or Regulator, Feeder Absolute Min, and Network or Radial.
7. Require Xcel to, in its 2020 IDP Compliance Filing, provide a discussion of how Xcel's hosting capacity analysis can be used to assist state energy policy goals related to beneficial electrification including detail on how a load hosting analysis would be done, an estimate of the resources that would be required, and the specific information the Company could provide.
8. Direct that Xcel's future HCA reports be detailed enough to provide developers with a reliable estimate of the available level of hosting capacity at the feeder and sub-feeder levels at the time of submittal of the report to the extent practicable. The information should be sufficient to provide developers with a starting point for interconnection applications.
9. Adopt a long-term goal to use the hosting capacity analysis in the interconnection process's fast track screens. Xcel should work with stakeholders to refine the hosting capacity analysis. Xcel may seek cost and timing clarification from the Commission.
10. Require Xcel to, in its 2020 HCA Report, provide options for monthly, quarterly and semi-annual HCA updates, including cost estimates.
11. Require Xcel to, in its 2020 HCA Report, to the extent practicable, include a unique name or number for each line segment in the maps' pop-up boxes.
12. Require Xcel to, in its 2020 HCA Report, to the extent practicable, show the actual locations of distribution system lines instead of broad blocks of color on the HCA map.
13. Require Xcel to, starting in November 2020, make available a tabular report containing the sub-feeder results displayed on the 2020 hosting capacity map. This report shall be available in the docket, on the hosting capacity webpage, and/or by email request.
14. Require Xcel to, in its 2020 HCA Report, include the precise number of feeders with actual and estimated Daytime Minimum Load data and note the feeders with estimated Daytime Minimum Load on the tabular spreadsheet to inform developers' use of the report.
15. Require Xcel to, in its 2020 HCA tabular report, publish the criteria violation and corresponding hosting capacity values for each HCA model run and location, and map with appropriate caveats.

16. Not require a sensitivity analysis for the 2020 HCA.
17. Following a Commission determination of the Use Case for future HCA reports, require Xcel to develop a corresponding data validation plan for HCA results, solicit written feedback from stakeholders on the draft plan, and then include the final plan in the next HCA report.
18. Require Xcel to further explore and explain issues related to whether the result of Xcel Energy's hosting capacity analysis should be redacted for customer energy use data (CEUD) privacy and security concerns.
 - a. Require Xcel to separately evaluate and justify each privacy and security concern, so as to provide a full description and specific basis for withholding the information.
19. Delegate authority to the Executive Secretary to issue Notice(s), set schedules, and designate comment periods to further discuss grid and customer security issues related to public display or access to grid data which includes, but is not limited to distribution grid mapping, aggregated load data, and critical infrastructure. The Commission anticipates consideration of the record and comments within 12 months of this order.
20. Request that the Commissioner of Commerce seek authority from the Commissioner of Management and Budget to incur costs for specialty services to provide a recommendation on privacy and security in the next hosting capacity report proceeding and to participate in related analysis and stakeholder engagement, and subsequently bill those expenses to Xcel pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216B.62, subd. 8.
21. Require Xcel to implement its 2020 stakeholder engagement plan as outlined in the docket. In the 2020 HCA Report, Xcel must provide the results of the stakeholder process, including an overview of the feedback and suggestions provided by stakeholders, whether the feedback and suggestions are included in the 2020 HCA Report, and an explanation for any feedback and suggestions received but not included in the 2020 HCA Report.
22. Direct Commission staff to oversee and facilitate a discussion with Xcel and stakeholders of the technical assumptions, limiting criteria, and thresholds used in Xcel's HCA. The discussion should address:
 - a. Thresholds for what constitutes a significant change in configuration, load, or generation to warrant rebuilding a feeder model;
 - b. Use of the Maximum Tap Regulators in Over/Under-Voltage Analysis setting;
 - c. Analysis assumptions for Primary Voltage Deviation;

- d. Other voltage analysis issues identified in IREC's opening comments;
 - e. Limitations on Unintentional Islanding; and
 - f. Other topics identified by stakeholders for review.
23. Require Xcel to, in its 2020 HCA Report, provide the results of the stakeholder discussion, including an overview of the feedback and suggestions provided by stakeholders, and whether the feedback and suggestions are included in the 2020 HCA Report.
24. Require Xcel Energy to file the 2020 HCA Report on November 2, 2020.

The motion passed 3—0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION:



Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary