

The Commission met on **Thursday, October 22, 2015**, with Chair Heydinger and Commissioners Lange and Lipschultz present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AGENDA

P-6894/M-15-782

In the Matter of Boomerang Wireless, LLC d/b/a enTouch Wireless' Petition for Expanded Service Area as a Wireless ETC in the State of Minnesota

Commissioner Lipschultz moved to grant the petition, find that Boomerang has made a credible showing of its capability and intent to provide and advertise an affordable, quality Lifeline offering throughout its proposed expanded service area, and find that its designation for the provision of Lifeline service is in the public interest subject to the following conditions:

- A. Require Boomerang to provide certification that, in the portions of its service area served by AT&T, AT&T has reasonable amounts of backup power to ensure functionality without an external power source, the ability to reroute traffic around the damaged facilities and the ability to manage traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations; and that AT&T will provide the same level of service to Boomerang customers as it provides to its own customers.
- B. Require Boomerang to incorporate the revised description of its service area (Exhibit A attached to Boomerang's petition) into its informational tariff.
- C. Require that Boomerang update its informational tariff to remove the 125-minute plan, and include the tribal plan.

The motion passed 3–0.

ENERGY AGENDA

E-002/M-15-324

In the Matter of Xcel Energy's Electric Service Quality Performance and Proposed Reliability Measures

Commissioner Lange moved to take the following actions:

1. Accept the Report and set Xcel's reliability goals for 2015 as provided in the following table:

		Department Recommended 2015 Goals
Metro East	SAIDI	83.51
	SAIFI	0.91
	CAIDI	92.17
Metro West	SAIDI	97.13
	SAIFI	0.96
	CAIDI	100.75
Northwest	SAIDI	94.41
	SAIFI	0.84
	CAIDI	112.00
Southeast	SAIDI	86.31
	SAIFI	0.71
	CAIDI	121.42

2. Require Xcel to convene a stakeholder group of representative customer groups to discuss and identify new/additional metrics and appropriate standards to assess service quality. New metrics or standards may be identified from a number of sources, including but not limited to metrics and standards used or proposed in other states. In its April 1, 2016 service quality report, Xcel shall summarize the results of the stakeholder group discussions as well as its own review, and discuss the benefits and impacts of adding new metrics and standards.

The motion passed 3–0.

G-002/M-15-406

In the Matter of Xcel Energy’s Natural Gas Service Quality Performance and Proposed Reliability Measures

Chair Heydinger moved to accept the report.

The motion passed 3–0.

G-011/M-15-410

In the Matter of Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation’s Gas Service Quality Standards Report for 2014

Commissioner Lipschultz moved to take the following actions:

1. Accept the Company’s report.

2. Require MERC, in its 2015 Annual Service Quality Report, to review the meter-reading staffing data for all of the previous years (2010–2013) and indicate whether the historical data provided by MERC reflect the number of employees with the title “Meter Reader,” were based on payroll time charged to meter reading, or reflect a mixture of both methods.
3. Require MERC to propose a consistent reporting metric to be used going forward, and restate, if necessary, the Company’s meter reading staffing data for the years 2010–2014 to ensure comparability.

The motion passed 3–0.

E-111/M-15-694

In the Matter of A Request by Dakota Electric Association to Implement LED Lighting Rate Schedules

Commissioner Lange moved to approve DEA’s petition as modified to include the updated LED Security Lighting Service tariff language as proposed in DEA’s September 3, 2015 reply comments.

The motion passed 3–0.

E-999/M-15-462

In the Matter of Utilities’ Annual Reports on Progress in Achieving the Solar Energy Standard

E-999/CI-13-542

In the Matter of the Implementation of Solar Energy Standards Pursuant to 2013 Amendments to Minnesota Statutes Section 216B.1691

Commissioner Lipschultz moved to accept the utilities’ 2014 Solar Energy Standard reports as complete and to take no action on the process for future SES reports.

The motion passed 3–0.

G-004/D-15-527

In the Matter of Great Plains Natural Gas Co.’s Annual Depreciation Study

Commissioner Lange moved to take the following actions:

1. approve the depreciation parameters and depreciation rates proposed in Great Plains’ 2015 Depreciation Study;
2. require Great Plains to file its next depreciation study by June 1, 2016; and

3. require Great Plains to file a five-year depreciation study by June 1, 2017.

The motion passed 3–0.

E,G-002/D-15-46

In the Matter of Northern States Power Company’s Request for Approval of the Annual Review of Remaining Lives Depreciation for Electric and Gas Production and Gas Storage Facilities and Net Salvage Rates for 2015

Commissioner Lipschultz moved to take the following actions:

1. Approve Xcel’s proposed depreciation lives for electric production, gas production, and gas storage except for the remaining lives of Sherco Unit 1, Angus C. Anson Units 2 and 3, and Granite City Units 1–4.
2. Approve the Department’s recommended remaining lives of ten years for Sherco Unit 1 and Angus C. Anson Units 2 and 3.
3. Approve the Department’s recommended remaining life of seven years for Sherco 2.
4. Approve the Department’s revised remaining life of eight years for Granite City Units 1–4.
5. Approve Xcel’s proposed salvage rates for electric production, gas production, and gas storage, except for the salvage rates of Sherco Units 1, 2, and 3.
6. Approve Xcel’s corrected salvage rates for Sherco Units 1 and 2 of -15.2%.
7. Approve Xcel’s corrected salvage rates for Sherco Unit 3 of -2.7%.
8. Allow Xcel to reallocate reserves to the Minnesota Valley Plant and the Key City facility as proposed by Xcel.
9. Allow Xcel to implement the approved depreciation lives and salvage rates effective January 1, 2016.
10. Accept this filing for the limited purpose of complying with the Commission’s June 16, 2014 order in Docket No. E,G-002/D-14-181.
11. Require Xcel to make the following future filings:
 - File its 2017 remaining life depreciation filing by February 17, 2017;
 - File its next five-year depreciation study and net salvage rate study for electric and gas production and gas storage facilities on February 17, 2020;

- Continue to provide in future depreciation filings a comparison of depreciation remaining lives and resource planning lives for electric production with an explanation of any differences;
- Continue to provide in future depreciation filings a historical comparison of changes in remaining lives and net salvage rates;
- Continue to provide in future depreciation filings updates on removal costs for the Minnesota Valley Plant, Key City Plant, and Black Dog Units 3 and 4, including the impact on depreciation reserves, and a final true-up when the retirement/removal is complete; and
- File a compliance filing within 15 days of the date of the order in this matter showing the remaining lives, depreciation rates, salvage, and the annual depreciation expense without probabilities as approved.

The motion passed 3–0.

There being no further business, the meeting was concluded.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: October 28, 2015



Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary