

The Commission met on **Thursday, January 22, 2015**, with Chair Heydinger, and Commissioners Boyd, Lipschultz, and Wergin present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

## **ENERGY AGENDA**

### **E-289, E-017/SA-14-1011**

#### **In the Matter of the Joint Request of the City of Ortonville and Otter Tail Power to Modify Electric Service Territory Boundaries**

Commissioner Wergin moved to approve the requested service territory boundary modifications as identified in the Department of Commerce comments

The motion passed 4-0.

### **E-002/M-14-648**

#### **In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company for Approval of Interconnection Tariff Changes**

Commissioner Wergin moved to take the following actions:

1. Approve Xcel Energy's modifications to tariff sheets 10-85, 10-91, 10-93, 10-94, 10-95 as proposed in the Company's July 31, 2014 filing in this docket, with the following alterations:
  - A. On tariff sheet 10-93, change the title on the fee structure table from "Generation Interconnection Application Fees" to "Generation Interconnection Application and Engineering Study Fees."
  - B. On tariff sheet 10-93, set the interconnection application and study fee for facilities less than or equal to 20 kW at \$100. Maintain a fee of \$0 for open transfer interconnections of 20kW or less.
  - C. Require Xcel to make a compliance filing, within 15 days of the Order in this matter, reflecting the Commission's decisions regarding modified tariff sheets, and other appropriate updates.

### **Customer Refunds**

2. Order Xcel Energy to provide refunds, with interest, to Section 10 customers charged the \$250 application fee for facilities of 20 kW or less after September 1, 2012.

3. Require Xcel to make a compliance filing, within 15 days of providing a refund to customers, demonstrating that the refund has been made pursuant to Minnesota Rules, part 7820.3800, subparts 1 and 2.

The motion passed 4-0.

**ET-2, E-015/CN-14-853**

**In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy and Minnesota Power for a Certificate of Need for the Motley Area 115 kV Transmission Line Project in Morrison, Cass, and Toll Counties**

Commissioner Lipschultz moved to take the following actions:

1. Approve the proposed notice plan as modified by GRE in its reply comments, with the additional modifications proposed by staff.
2. Approve the requested variance to Minn. R. 7829.2550, subp. 6, on the timing of the implementation of the notice plan.
3. Approve the requested variance to waive Minn. R. 7829.2550, subp. 5, that requires an applicant to public a newspaper notice upon filing a certificate of need application.
4. Grant the following exemptions from Minn. R. 7849
  - Minn. R. 7849.0260, subps. A(3) and C(6), Line Losses.  
GRE requested to provide overall system loss data in lieu of line loss data.
  - Minn. R. 7849.0270, subps. 1 and 2, System-Wide Data.  
GRE requested to provide data for the affected load area for subps. 1 and 2.
  - Minn. R. 7849.0270, subps. 2(B) and 2(C), Customer Class Information.  
GRE requested to provide customer class information only as it relates to the proposed MPL pumping station.
  - Minn. R. 7849.0270, subp. 2(C), Annual Peak Demand.  
GRE requested to provide data for the affected load area on an annual coincident peak basis.
  - Minnesota Rule 7849.0270, subp. 2(D), Monthly Peak Demand.  
GRE requested to provide Minnesota Power substation and Great River Energy member cooperative substation demand data within the affected load area.
  - Minn. R. 7849.0270, subp. 2(E), Revenue Requirements.  
GRE requested to provide a description of the general financial effect of the Project on Great River Energy member cooperatives and on Minnesota Power.
  - Minn. R. 7849.0270, subp. 2(F), Weekday Load Factor.  
GRE requested a full exemption.

- Minn. R. 7849.0270, subps. 3-5, Forecast Methodology.  
GRE requested to provide forecast methodology for affected load area substations as reflected in the requests for certain exemptions from Minnesota Rule 7849.0270, subp. 2.
- Minn. R. 7849.0280(A) and (H), System Capacity.  
GRE requested to provide data for (A) and (H) for the affected load area.
- Minn. R. 7849.0280(B) through (I), System Capacity.  
GRE requested a full exemption.
- Minn. R. 7849.0290, Conservation.  
GRE requested to provide data on Minnesota Power programs and programs that Great River Energy makes available to member cooperatives serving the affected load area.
- Minn. R. 7849.0300, Consequences of Delay, 7849.0340, Alternative of No Facility.  
GRE requested exemption from the requirement to provide analysis using three confidence levels and instead, proposed to provide data regarding potential impacts caused by delay and the no build alternative on community service reliability in the affected load area.

The motion passed 4-0.

**IP-6853/WS-10-1240**

**In the Matter of the Site Permit Application for a 42-Megawatt Large Wind Energy Conversion System in Stearns County**

**IP-6866/WS-11-831**

**In the Matter of the Application of Getty Wind Company, LLC for a Site Permit for a 40 MW Large Wind Project in Stearns County**

Chair Heydinger recused herself and left the meeting.

Commissioner Wergin moved to deny reconsideration or rehearing of the November 18, 2014 Order(s) Amending Site Permits.

The motion passed 3 - 0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: February 4, 2015**




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**Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary**