

The Commission met on **Tuesday, September 20, 2016**, with Chair Heydinger and Commissioners Lange, Lipschultz, Schuerger, and Tuma present.

The following matter was taken up by the Commission:

ENERGY AGENDA

E-002/M-13-867

In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company, dba Xcel Energy, for Approval of Its Proposed Community Solar Garden Program

Commissioner Lipschultz moved to require Xcel to use a value of 2.0% (full-on full-off) for flicker voltage fluctuation level in both its aggregate and individual PV systems for the computer models used in the Tariff Section 10, Step 3 and 4 feasibility study computer models for the SunShare projects at the Becker and Glazier interconnection sites.

The motion passed 5–0.

Chair Heydinger moved to require Xcel to work with other interested parties to develop a plan for transition to incorporating the standards of IEEE 1453 into its modeling of voltage fluctuations and flicker for solar PV. The plan shall be filed within six months of this order.

The motion passed 5–0.

Commissioner Schuerger moved to require Xcel to file as a compliance report, within three months of the operational date of the Becker and Glazier projects, an assessment of impacts from voltage fluctuation and flicker, if any, on Xcel’s system, and to do so annually for the solar-garden program as a whole.

The motion passed 5–0.

Commissioner Lipschultz moved to require Xcel to perform all engineering rework (computer models, studies, or cost estimates) necessary to correct Xcel’s incorrect input errors at no additional charge to SunShare.

The motion passed 5–0.

Commissioner Tuma moved to require Xcel to report cost variances between the estimate performed and presented in Steps 4 and 5 (indicative cost estimate) and the actual costs for the total project, the substation costs, and the distribution costs. For each of these costs that fall outside a +/-20% range, Xcel shall provide a detailed explanation for the variance. Xcel shall report this information to the Commission within 30 days of the actual cost being submitted to the developer in the next monthly community-solar-garden update report.

The motion passed 5–0.

Chair Heydinger moved that SunShare not be permitted to activate noncertified functions of advanced-functionality inverters to perform flicker mitigation without Xcel's explicit permission, until such time as the inverter functions have been tested and certified by UL standards or until further order of the Commission.

The motion passed 5–0.

Commissioner Lipschultz moved to find that the Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) signed as part of a designated independent-engineer (IE) review process does not apply beyond the context of that IE review process, and is limited in scope to facilitating the IE review.

The motion passed 5–0.

Commissioner Lipschultz moved to find that there are no outstanding disputes on the issue of critical infrastructure information (CII) and that the IE's statements in this regard are not findings that require the Commission to take action.

The motion passed 5–0.

Chair Heydinger moved not to accept any additional findings in engineer reports 1–4.

The motion passed 5–0.

Commissioner Schuerger moved to provide a variance to the \$1 million cost limit for the Raser project through the completion of the project.

Commissioner Schuerger withdrew his motion.

Commissioner Lipschultz moved to accept the finding of the IE in the Raser report upholding Xcel's application of the material upgrade cost limit of \$1 million to the NES Raser site project.

The motion passed 5–0.

Chair Heydinger moved to accept the IE finding in the Lake Pulaski, Lester Prairie, Montrose and Waverly site report that the only available project capacity that could potentially move forward at the four substation sites in dispute is 2.1 MVA at the Lester Prairie site.

The motion passed 5–0.

Commissioner Lipschultz moved to accept the IE finding in the Klingelhutz and Rice Brunasky site report that Xcel's unit cost for distribution upgrade cost is within a reasonable range, its indicative cost estimate is reasonable, and its footage of reconductor is accurate.

The motion passed 5–0.

Commissioner Schuerger moved to set the following parameters for the independent-engineer review process:

1. Require Xcel, once a dispute is filed, and an IE selected, to file notice of: (1) the filing and date, (2) the developer, (3) the IE assigned, and (4) a brief summary of the disputed issues. Require Xcel, once the IE report is issued, to file the report with the Commission within ten business days.
2. In the event an appeal is filed, notice shall be given to those on the 13-867 service list and the Commission will open a new docket.
3. The independent engineer should address only those issues necessary to resolve the dispute between the parties.
4. The IE report must include the IE's credentials and licensing.
5. When a party appeals an IE report, each party must identify the documents submitted to the IE in the record necessary for the Commission's record.
6. Find that the current Xcel Energy tariff, Section 9, Sheet 68.13, para. 9.h, should be revised to allow a party to file an appeal to file the appeal within ten business days of the delivery of the IE's written determination rather than the five business days as currently set forth in this tariff.
7. The IE may request additional information from parties necessary to resolve the dispute before it.
8. Require Xcel to work with the Department and developers to develop a standardized format for IE reports.

The motion passed 5–0.

Commissioner Tuma moved to require Xcel, within 30 days of the issue date of the order in this matter, to submit any compliance filings necessary to reflect the decisions of the Commission in this matter.

The motion passed 5–0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: November 16, 2016



Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary