

The Commission met on **Thursday, July 16, 2020**, with Chair Sieben and Commissioners Means, Schuerger, Sullivan, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

IP-6946/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 Tuma moved that the Commission deny the petition for amendment of the site permit and require Xcel to make a compliance filing, within 30 days, detailing the Company's mitigation offer to the Madsons, along with the anticipated effects on noise and shadow flicker.

The motion passed 5-0.

E,G-999/M-19-505

In the Matter of a Petition by Citizens Utility Board of Minnesota to Adopt Open Data Access Standards

E,G-999/CI-12-1344

In the Matter of a Commission Inquiry into Privacy Policies of Rate-Regulated Energy Utilities

Commissioner Schuerger moved that the Commission take the following actions:

1. Approve the Open Data Access Standards for electric and natural gas utilities. The Open Data Access Standards will be implemented in a multi-step process. At this time the Commission will apply the standards to whole building aggregated customer energy usage data (CEUD) for building owners and benchmarking purposes.
2. Require that the Open Data Access Standards do not apply to commercial/industrial customers with peak demands greater than 5 megawatts.
3. Require that building level and public purpose data aggregation be provided by utilities without charge to building owners/managers, to local units of government, and to non-profit organizations that use that data for public interest energy research.
4. Continue to develop the record on further refinement of the Open Data Access Standards by requesting comments including the following topics:

- a. Whether the aggregation screens should be segmented into two (or more) distinct aggregation screens, with different threshold levels and requirements, ranging from building-level to community level, including consideration of multi-unit single owner rental properties and of the unique roles of building owners/managers and of local governments;
 - b. Refinement of specific provisions of the contract requirements for anonymized data access;
 - c. Establishment of uniform customer access forms;
 - d. Identification of opportunities to appropriately streamline the data access process to reduce the total cost of aggregating and releasing data;
 - e. Ascertaining the appropriate threshold for limiting application of the Standards to commercial/industrial natural gas and electric customers; and
 - f. Aggregated CEUD for communities and other local units of government.
5. Request that the Commissioner of Commerce seek authority from the Commissioner of Management and Budget to incur costs necessary to retain an independent expert to provide comments on the topics listed above and other issues arising from the Open Data Access Standards, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 216B.62, subd. 8. Once MMB approves, the Executive Secretary will coordinate with the Commissioner of Commerce, including development of the scope and schedule. The Commission directs the Executive Secretary to request technical assistance from the Regulatory Assistance Project, U.S. Department of Energy, or another expert group.
 6. Require each regulated utility to file its aggregation and release policies demonstrating compliance with this order within 30 days of this order.
 7. Require each regulated utility shall file an annual report, beginning March 1, 2021, for the calendar year 2020, that will include the following:
 - a. Current aggregation and release policies;
 - b. A summary of requests received for CEUD and its costs of aggregating and releasing that data; and
 - c. A discussion of which additional use cases should be considered by the Commission, or why no additional use cases should be added at this time.

8. Delegate authority to the Executive Secretary to issue notices, set schedules, and designate comment periods as needed.

The motion passed 3-2, with Commissioners Means and Tuma voting no.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: December 16, 2020

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

Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary