

The Commission met on **Thursday, May 24, 2018**, with Chair Lange and Commissioners Lipschultz, Schuerger, Sieben, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

**P-407,405/CI-18-122**

**In the Matter of a Commission Inquiry into the Service Quality, Customer Service, and Billing Practices of Frontier Communications**

Commissioner Lipschultz moved to modify the Commission's *Order Initiating Investigation and Referring Matter for Public Hearings* (April 26, 2018) to no longer require that the Notice of Public Hearings clarify the limits of the Commission's jurisdiction over internet service.

The motion passed 5–0.

**P-431/AM-17-835**

**In the Matter of the Petition of West Central Telephone Association for Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation;**

**P-409/M-17-837**

**In the Matter of the Petition of Garden Valley Telephone Cooperative for Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation;**

**P-530/M-17-838**

**In the Matter of the Petition of Halstad Telephone Company for Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation;**

**P-432/M-17-854**

**In the Matter of the Petition of Paul Bunyan Telephone Cooperative for Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation**

Commissioner Lipschultz moved to take the following actions:

1. Grant eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) status under 47 U.S.C. § 214(e) in the expanded exchanges listed in each company's application, with the designations for Garden Valley Telephone Cooperative and Halstad Telephone Company being contingent upon approval of each company's 911 plan.
2. Refer the following questions to Docket No. P-999/CI-17-509, *In the Matter of a Commission Investigation into the Appropriate Notice and Outreach Requirements for Eligible Telecommunications Carriers Under 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)*:
  - a. What information should customers receive about the availability of Lifeline service under 54 C.F.R. § 54.401 if Lifeline is not provided throughout the entire exchange by the ETC?

- b. How granular should information be about where a company provides Lifeline if the proposed ETC does not have facilities in the entire exchange?
- c. Should the Commission be informed about customers who requested service but subsequently declined due to the cost of excess construction charges?
- d. Should the Commission consider a change to Minn. R. 7811.0600, subp. 4, and 7812.0600, subp. 4, to require ETCs to serve customers either through facilities plus excess construction charges, or through facilities plus resold services?
- e. If the Commission considers a change to Minnesota rules so that they are consistent with 47 C.F.R. § 54.201(d)(1), then under what terms and conditions may the ETC impose excess construction charges?

The motion passed 5–0.

**E-999/CI-16-521**

**In the Matter of Updating the Generic Standards for the Interconnection and Operation of Distributed-Generation Facilities Established Under Minn. Stat. § 216B.1611**

Commissioner Schuerger moved to take the following actions:

1. Approve, with the following modifications, the Updated Staff Recommendations for the *Minnesota Distributed Energy Resources (DER) Interconnection Process* (MN DIP) (Att. A to Staff’s May 16, 2018 Briefing Papers):
  - a. Applicability to pending applications (MN DIP 1.1.3): Adopt edits from Xcel Energy’s New and Revised Decision Options dated 5/22/18.
  - b. Modifications to the interconnection agreement: Adopt language from the Comprehensive Proposed Decision Option (CPDO) filed by Xcel on 5/22/18.
  - c. Simplified-process timeline (MN DIP 2.2): Change “fifteen (15) Business Days” to “twenty (20) Business Days” in MN DIP 2.2.3.
  - d. Reduce fast-track size threshold for DER on 5–15 kV lines as proposed in Dakota Electric’s initial edits at MN DIP 3.1.1.
  - e. Certification of DER: Adopt agreed edits to paragraphs 1.0 and 2.0 of MN DIP Attachment 5 and refer remaining edits to Distributed Generation Workgroup (DGWG).
  - f. Facilities-study agreement: Adopt language from CPDO.
  - g. Adopt “Joint Movants’ Clarifying Edits for Simplified” as described in Joint Movants’ Proposed Additional Decision Options.
  
2. Approve, with the following modifications, the Updated Staff Recommendations for the *Minnesota Distributed Energy Resources Interconnection Agreement* (MN DIA) (Att. B, Staff’s May 16, 2018 Briefing Papers):

- a. Add indemnification language at 7.4.3 and 7.4.4 as proposed in Xcel and Otter Tail Power's initial edits.
- b. Add indemnification language at Att. 2: Simplified Application as proposed in Xcel's initial edits.
- c. Adopt Xcel's edits to MN DIA 11.2 on tax-status cooperation notification as described at in its New and Revised Decision Options.

### 3. Reporting requirements

- a. On March 1, until at least 2022, Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power, Xcel Energy, and Dakota Electric shall file a report with the Commission on interconnections that occurred during the preceding calendar year. This report shall include, at minimum:
  - i. Facility capacity;
  - ii. DER type (technology);
  - iii. Date of application submittal;
  - iv. Date application deemed complete;
  - v. Date and disposition at applicable milestones in the interconnection process:
    - o Initial review,
    - o Supplemental review,
    - o System-impact study,
    - o Facilities study,
    - o Interconnection agreement, and
    - o Permission to operate;
  - vi. Final process track (simplified, fast track, study);
  - vii. Number of pre-application reports requested and processed;
  - viii. A narrative of how the process is working and where there is potential for improvement by the utility or interconnection applicants; and
  - ix. For facilities larger than 20 kW, the variance between the cost estimate provided in the facilities study report and the actual cost of upgrades, including an explanation for variances that fall outside a +/- 20% range.
- b. Delegate authority to the Executive Secretary to determine the formatting and docket for the annual reporting.

### 4. Delegate authority to the Executive Secretary to develop, with DGWG input, the following:

- a. Standardized pre-application request form
- b. An updated version of flow charts based on Xcel Energy's edit
- c. Creating a certificate of completion
- d. Turning applications and agreements into PDF fillable forms
- e. DER capacity (MN DIP 5.14.3)
- f. DER certification (MN DIP Att. 5)

- g. Joint Movants' Proposed Additional Decision Option 6
  - h. Xcel's New and Revised Decision Options 5(f)–(h)
5. Set the effective date in MN DIP 1.1.3 for the MN DIP and MN DIA as June 17, 2019.
  6. Require rate-regulated utilities to file updated tariffs within 90 days of the issuance of the order for Commission review and approval under Minn. Stat. § 216B.1611, subd. 3.
  7. Xcel Energy transition
    - a. Require Xcel to convene a subgroup of DGWG, including the Department of Commerce and other non-DGWG stakeholders as appropriate, to inform Xcel's transition plan to the new MN DIP and MN DIA.
    - b. Grant Xcel an additional 45 days to file updated tariffs.
  8. Process for keeping MN DIP and DIA up to date
    - a. Delegate to the Executive Secretary authority to establish and maintain an ongoing Distributed Generation Workgroup to meet annually, or more frequently as needed, to review implementation and technical issues that arise with implementation of the MN DIP, MN DIA or emerging DER technology.
    - b. Require updates to the MN DIP and/or MN DIA to be triggered by Commission order in response to a petition.
  9. Administrative
    - a. Adopt the MN DIP and MN DIA as revised to be consistent with the decisions approved by the Commission today; including consistency in the Glossary of Terms between the MN DIP and MN DIA.
    - b. Edit the Updated Staff Recommendation on confidentiality at MN DIP 5.9.1 and MN DIA art. 9 as follows:

Parties providing Governmental Authorities trade secret, privileged, or otherwise not public or nonpublic data under the Minnesota Government Data Practices ~~Privacy~~ Act, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13, shall identify such data ~~must provide information~~ consistent with the Commission's September 1, 1999 Revised Procedures for Handling Trade Secret and Privileged Data, available online at: <https://mn.gov/puc/puc-documents/#4>

10. In reaching the foregoing decisions, the Commission does not prejudge the final outcome as to any disputed issue.

The motion passed 5–0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: October 24, 2018**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel P. Wolf". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

---

Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary