

The Commission met on **Thursday, January 9, 2020** with Acting Chair Means and Commissioners Schuerger and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

P-6707/RV-18-501

In the Matter of the Revocation of the Certificate of Authority Held by iNetwork Group, Inc.

Commissioner Means moved that the Commission revoke the certificate of authority held by iNetwork Group, Inc., and establish the following conditions of revocation:

1. Any Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILECs) that have an interconnection agreement with the carrier should be notified that the carrier no longer has authority to provide telecommunications services in Minnesota and services should no longer be offered under its interconnection agreement(s).
2. The carrier's 911 plan, approved on October 16, 2012 in Docket No. P-6707/EP-12-504, should be cancelled.
3. The carrier remains responsible for any unpaid regulatory assessments or fees.

The motion passed 3—0.

P-5518/RV-18-510

In the Matter of the Revocation of the Certificate of Authority Held by Net One International, Inc.

Commissioner Means moved that the Commission revoke the certificate of authority held by Net One International, Inc., and establish the following condition of revocation:

1. The carrier remains responsible for any unpaid regulatory assessments or fees.

The motion passed 3—0.

E-015/M-16-564

In the Matter of Minnesota Power's Revised Petition for a Competitive Rate for Energy-Intensive Trade-Exposed (EITE) Customers and an EITE Cost Recovery Rider

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission take the following actions:

1. Approve Minnesota Power's request to extend the terms of the EITE Rider until final rates, as determined by the Commission in Minnesota Power's current general rate case (Docket No. 19-442), take effect, with the condition that Minnesota Power is prohibited from recovering any EITE-related costs through any potential surcharge from non-EITE customers after February 1, 2021.
2. Require Minnesota Power to, within 10 days, submit revised tariff language indicating the term of the EITE Rider.

The motion passed 3—0.

G-022/M-19-318

In the Matter of a Petition by Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc. for a Change in Contract Demand Entitlement for the 2019-2020 Heating Season.

Commissioner Schuerger moved that the Commission take the following actions:

1. Direct Greater Minnesota Gas to provide the following in reply comments:
 - a. An explanation as to why the UPC observed from the 2018-2019 heating season was used to derive an estimated design-day Dth requirement as opposed to the UPC that was produced by the model.
2. Approve Greater Minnesota Gas' proposed level of demand entitlements as shown in the Company's Petition.
3. Allow Greater Minnesota Gas to recover associated demand costs through the monthly Purchased Gas Adjustment effective November 1, 2019.
4. Require Greater Minnesota Gas to undertake the following in future demand entitlement filings:
 - a. Use a constant annual average residential usage estimate based on weather normalized sales for the purpose of estimating customer rate impact.
 - b. Perform separate regression analyses by service area, using area-specific weather stations.

- c. Estimate its design day using data from at least 3 heating seasons when appropriate. If the results of these calculations are not acceptable, Greater Minnesota Gas must fully explain its decision to use a shorter estimation period in its initial filing.
- d. Maintain, on a going-forward basis, a two-part design-day process involving both regression analysis and mathematical analysis based on Greater Minnesota Gas' historical all-time peak-day send-out.

The motion passed 3—0.

G-004/GR-15-879

In the Matter of the Application of Great Plains Natural Gas Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc., for Authority to Increase Natural Gas Rates in Minnesota

G-004/M-19-198

In the Matter of the Request of Great Plains Natural Gas Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc., for a One-Year Extension of Revenue Decoupling Pilot Program

Commissioner Means moved that the Commission take the following actions:

1. Approve a one-year extension to Great Plains Natural Gas Co.'s pilot Revenue Decoupling Mechanism Rider.
2. Direct Great Plains Natural Gas Co. to update its tariff sheets to reflect the extension.

The motion passed 3—0.

G-008/M-19-558

In the Matter of the Petition of CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., d/b/a CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Gas (CenterPoint Energy) for Acceptance of its Annual Revenue Decoupling Report for the One-Year Period Ending on June 30, 2019 and Approval of its Revenue Decoupling Mechanism Rate Adjustment

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission take the following actions:

1. Accept CenterPoint Energy's 2019 revenue decoupling evaluation report.
2. Approve CenterPoint Energy's revenue decoupling adjustment factors.
3. Request that CenterPoint work with the Department of Commerce and other stakeholders on the development of a more streamlined Annual Evaluation Report.

4. Require CenterPoint Energy to make a compliance filing detailing proposed changes, if any, to the Annual Revenue Decoupling Evaluation Report format by July 31, 2020.

The motion passed 3—0.

G-008/M-19-699

In the Matter of the Petition of CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., d/b/a CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Gas (CenterPoint Energy) for Approval of an Extension of Variances to Minnesota Rules to Recover the Costs of Certain Natural Gas Financial Instruments Through the Purchased Gas Adjustment

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission take the following actions:

1. Find that CenterPoint’s variance extension request complies with the requirements set forth in Minn. R. 7825.3200.
2. Extend the variance to Minn. R. 7825.2400; 7825.2500; and 7825.2700 for a four-year period ending June 30, 2024.
3. Allow the variance to apply to all Commission-approved financial positions that CenterPoint enters into through June 30, 2024.
4. Require an annual limit on hedging volumes of 26 billion cubic feet (Bcf).
5. Require an overall limit on hedging volumes of 65 Bcf.
6. Allow multi-year hedging contracts of up to 60 months in duration with annual limits on volumes for years beyond 2024-25 of 13 Bcf.
7. Require an annual limit on net option premiums of \$6.5 million, excluding premiums or reservation fees paid for daily call gas.
8. Disallow recovery of interest costs through the Purchased Gas Adjustment.
9. Continue to allow CenterPoint to engage in put options in combination with call options to form a collar, but disallow the Company’s use of put options for any other reason without Commission approval.
10. Require CenterPoint to report data and follow the reporting requirements as detailed in Section 6.2 *Proposed Regulatory Reporting* of CenterPoint’s Petition.
11. Require CenterPoint to include, in future variance requests, a ratepayer benefit analysis similar to that shown in Section 7.3 *Ratepayer Benefit Analysis* of CenterPoint’s Petition.

12. Require CenterPoint to file a copy of its hedging plan each year after the plan has been approved by Company management.

The motion passed 3—0.

PL-9/CN-13-153

In the Matter of the Application of Enbridge Energy, Limited Partnership, for a Certificate of Need for the Alberta Clipper (Line 67) Phase 2 Upgrade Project

Commissioner Schuerger moved that the Commission take the following actions:

1. Require Enbridge Energy, Limited Partnership (Enbridge), to utilize the November 15, 2019 calculation methodology proposed by the Minnesota Department of Commerce for purposes of complying with the kilowatt-hour for a kilowatt-hour (kWh-for-a-kWh) requirements of the Neutral Footprint Objectives set forth in the Commission’s Order Clarifying Neutral Footprint Objectives and Requiring Compliance Filing (August 18, 2017).
2. Require Enbridge to take its renewable energy credits (RECs) and transfer them to, or consolidate them in, the Midwest Renewable Energy Tracking System (M-RETS) before they are retired.
3. Modify the Neutral Footprint reporting as follows:
4. Catch-Up Phase Reporting. By October 1, 2020, Enbridge shall make its final compliance filing demonstrating it has met its kWh-for-a-kWh offset requirements previously ordered for the period between initial operation on July 1, 2015, and December 31, 2019.
5. Ongoing Annual Reporting Obligation. Commencing March 15, 2021, and annually thereafter, Enbridge shall file with the Commission a report demonstrating it has met its kWh-for-a-kWh offset requirements for the prior calendar year.

Commissioner Tuma proposed to amend motion paragraph 3.a. as follows:

- a. Catch-Up Phase Reporting. By March 15 ~~October 1~~, 2020, Enbridge shall make its final compliance filing demonstrating it has met its kWh-for-a-kWh offset requirements previously ordered for the period between initial operation on July 1, 2015, and December 31, 2019. Enbridge may fulfill this requirement with RECs acquired after December 31, 2019, provided the RECs are retired by March 15, 2020.

Commissioner Schuerger accepted the amendment.

The amended motion passed 3—0.

E-002/MC-19-697

In the Matter of the Application for a Minor Alteration of Xcel Energy’s 115 kV Transmission Line 0881 in Cottage Grove, Minnesota

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission take the following actions:

1. Approve the proposed minor alteration with the following conditions:
 - a. **Best Management Practices.** Xcel Energy shall take precautions to avoid the spread of invasive plants by heavy equipment during construction and maintenance activities; use wildlife-friendly erosion control materials (<http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/wildlife-friendly-erosion-control.pdf>) to reduce mortality to small nongame species; work with landowners to preserve, wherever possible, low-growing shrub species that can provide wildlife habitat; and use only native seed mixes where reseeding of vegetated areas is needed.
 - b. **Complaint Procedures.** Prior to the start of construction, Xcel Energy shall submit to the Commission the procedure that will be used to receive and respond to complaints. The procedure shall be in accordance with the requirements set forth in the Commission’s standard complaint handling procedures.
 - c. **Notification to Landowners.** Xcel Energy shall provide all affected landowners with a copy of the Commission’s order authorizing a minor alteration. Xcel Energy shall also provide all affected landowners with a copy of the complaint procedure upon contacting landowners to begin construction
 - d. **Notification to Commission.** At least three days before the line is to be placed into service, Xcel Energy shall notify the Commission of the date on which the line will be placed into service and the date on which construction was complete. Within 60 days after completion of construction, Xcel Energy shall submit to the Commission geo-spatial information for all above ground structures associated with the project.
 - e. **Plan and Profile.** At least 30 calendar days before right-of-way preparation for construction begins on any segment or portion of the project, Xcel Energy shall provide the Commission with a plan and profile of the right-of-way and the specifications and drawings for right-of-way preparation, construction, structure specifications and locations, cleanup, and restoration for the transmission line. The documentation shall include maps depicting the plan and profile including

the right-of-way, alignment, and structures in relation to the route and alignment approved. Xcel Energy may not commence construction until the 30 days has expired or until the Commission has advised Xcel Energy in writing that it has completed its review of the documents and determined that the planned construction is consistent with the authorized minor alteration. If Xcel Energy intends to make any significant changes in its plan and profile or the specifications and drawings after submission to the Commission, it shall notify the Commission at least five days before implementing the changes.

- f. **Field Representative.** At least 14 days prior to commencing construction, Xcel Energy shall advise the Commission in writing of the person or persons designated to be the field representative. The field representative's address, phone number, emergency phone number, and email shall be provided to the Commission and shall be made available to affected landowners, residents, public officials and other interested persons.
2. Require Xcel to submit its Plan and Profile to Tim Wedin, Interceptor Engineering Assistant Manager in the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services, prior to construction.
3. When Xcel submits its Plan and Profile to the Commission, it shall notify owners of land that the transmission line crosses, the City of Cottage Grove, and the Metropolitan Council, and shall provide proof of right-of-way acquisition.
4. Require Xcel to complete its vegetation removal prior to April 1, 2020 in areas identified by DNR as critical for endangered species and species of special concern. The Company may commence that clearing prior to filing the Plan and Profile so long as it has landowner permission.

The motion passed 3—0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: June 3, 2020



Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary