

The Commission met on **Thursday, July 13, 2017**, with Acting Chair Lipschultz and Commissioners Sieben and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

### **ENERGY AGENDA**

#### **ET-6133/RP-17-468**

#### **In the Matter of Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (MMPA) Request for a One-Year Extension to August 1, 2018 to file its Integrated Resource Plan**

Commissioner Sieben moved to approve MMPA's request for a one-year extension to file its next Integrated Resource Plan.

The motion passed 3-0.

#### **E-999/M-16-83**

#### **In the Matter of Commission Consideration and Determination on Compliance with Renewable Energy Standards**

#### **E-999/PR-16-12**

#### **In the Matter of Renewable Energy Certificate Retirement Report for Compliance Year 2015**

#### **E-999/PR-15-12**

#### **In the Matter of Renewable Energy Certificate Retirement Report for Compliance Year 2014**

Commissioner Tuma moved to take the following actions:

1. Delegate authority to the Executive Secretary to modify the biennial RES reporting form to include the price of solar RECs when disclosing REC purchases and sales;
2. Find that the utilities subject to Minn. Stat. § 216B.1691 have complied with the 2014 and 2015 standards of 12% of annual retail sales (18% for Xcel); and
3. Find that the utilities subject to Minn. Stat. § 216B.1691 have submitted what appear to be reasonable plans to meet the renewable energy standards for 2016-2017.

The motion passed 3-0.

## ENERGY FACILITIES PLANNING AGENDA

### IP-6961/CN-16-215 Blazing Star Wind Farm, LLC

### In the Matter of the Application of Blazing Star Wind Farm, LLC for a Certificate of Need for the up to 200 Megawatt Blazing Star Wind Project in Lincoln County, Minnesota.

Commissioner Lipschultz moved to take the following actions:

1. In accordance with Minn. R. 7849.1800, subp. 2, determine that the Environmental Report and the record created address the issues identified in the January 11, 2017 Environmental Report Scoping Decision made pursuant to part 7849.1400, subp. 7; and
2. Grant a certificate of need for the up to 200 megawatt Blazing Star Wind Farm proposed in Lincoln County, Minnesota, finding that:
  - a. the factors set forth in Minn. R. 7849.0120(A), have been met and that denying the application would likely harm the future adequacy, reliability, or efficiency of the energy supply to Blazing Star Wind LLC's customers;
  - b. the factors set forth in Minn. R. 7849.0120(B), have been met and that a more reasonable and prudent alternative to the project has not been demonstrated by a preponderance of the evidence in the record;
  - c. the factors set forth in Minn. R. 7849.0120(C), have been met and that the preponderance of the evidence in the record demonstrates that the project will provide benefits to society in a manner compatible with protecting the natural and socioeconomic environments, including human health; and
  - d. the factors set forth in Minn. R. 7849.0120(D), have been met and that the record does not demonstrate that the design, construction, or operation of the project, or a suitable modification of the project, will fail to comply with relevant policies, rules, and regulations of other state and federal agencies and local governments.

The motion passed 3-0.

**IP-6961/WS-16-686**

**In the Matter of the Application of Blazing Star Wind Farm, LLC for a Site Permit for the up to 200 Megawatt Blazing Star Wind Project in Lincoln County, Minnesota**

Commissioner Tuma moved to take the following actions:

1. Adopt the ALJ's Summary of Public Testimony, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendations for the up to 200 MW Blazing Star Wind Large Energy Conversion System in Lincoln County;
2. Issue the Draft Site Permit authorized by the Commissions in its February 27 2017 Order and incorporate the permit amendments recommended by the ALJ and staff as the site permit for the up to 200 megawatt Blazing Star Wind Large Wind Energy Conversion System in Lincoln County; and
3. Authorize Commission staff to make further refinements to the FOF and permit conditions as necessary to ensure consistency with the record, the language of recently issued permits, and the Commission's decision.

The motion passed 3-0.

**ENERGY AGENDA (continued)**

**G-6977/M-17-186**

**In the Matter of a Petition by Lake Region Energy Services, Inc. for a Small Gas Utility Franchise Exemption to Provide Natural Gas Services to the Municipalities of Deer Creek and Parkers Prairie**

Commissioner Sieben moved to take the following actions:


1. Approve LRES' petition for a small gas utility franchise exemption under Minn. Stat. § 216B.16, subd. 12, and clarified that approval is limited to this docket and that future decisions involving interpretation of the term incidental service will be made on a case-by-case basis;
2. Clarify that LRES is subject to the following statutes, rules, and reporting requirements:
  - Annual Cold Weather Rule reports will be filed as required under Minn. Stat. § 216B.096, subd. 11 and Minn. Stat. § 216B.16, subd. 12 (c);
  - Annual tariff updates with municipally approved rates will be submitted to the Commission (Minn. Stat. § 216B.16, subd. 12 (c));

- Any subsequent changes in rates, tariffs and contracts for service outside the Municipalities will be filed at least 30 days in advance of implementation (Minn. Stat. § 216B.16 subd. 12 (b));
  - Provide annual Minnesota Natural Gas Utility Information reporting to the Department (required by Minn. Rules 7610.0800 – 7610.0860 to monitor reliability and costs of energy service in Minnesota) on July 1 of each year;
  - Notification to the Commission should its customer base expand beyond the 5,000 customer threshold (Minn. Stat. § 216B.16, subd. 12 (a));
  - Notice to cities of utility disconnection (Minn. Stat. § 216B.0976); and
  - Residential customer protections (Minn. Stat. § 216B.098).
3. Require LRES to file an annual compliance filing on March 1 of each year with the following information to be filed in this docket:
- a) Customer count by customer class, including the applicable rates for each customer class; and
  - b) The associated annual gas and non-gas revenues by customer class; and
  - c) Net Plant in Service by year and on an accumulated basis from when LRES' began construction on their natural gas system. (Net Plant in Service = Total Plant in Service – Accumulated Depreciation – Deferred Income Taxes)

The motion passed 3-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: July 26, 2017**



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**Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary**