

The Commission met on **Thursday, August 27, 2020** with Chair Sieben and Commissioners Means, Schuerger, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

IP-7026/CN-20-269

In the Matter of the Application of Walleye Wind, LLC for a Certificate of Need for the up to 110.8 MW Walleye Wind Project in Rock County, Minnesota

IP-7026/WS-20-384

In the Matter of the Application of Walleye Wind, LLC for a Site Permit for the up to 110.8 MW Walleye Wind Project in Rock County, Minnesota

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Accept the certificate of need application as complete.
2. Accept the site permit application as complete.
3. Require Walleye Wind to file reports on the status of wind rights and the status of interconnection and to make the filing 14 days prior to the public information meeting on the draft site permit template and the Commission's consideration of whether to issue a draft site permit.
4. Require a prehearing conference at a date, time, and place to be set by the administrative law judge in consultation with the applicant, the Department, and Commission staff.
5. Direct use of the informal or expedited review process for consideration of the certificate of need application.
6. Direct use of joint proceedings on the certificate of need and site permit applications.
7. Delegate administrative authority to the Executive Secretary and include the following items:
 - a. Provide the name, telephone number, and email address of the staff person designated as Public Advisor to facilitate citizen participation in the process.
 - b. Request that the Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis.

- c. Require the applicant to facilitate in every reasonable way the continued examination of the issues by the Department and Commission staff.
 - d. Require the applicant to place a copy of the application (printed or compact disc) for review in at least one government center or public library near where the project is located.
 - e. Direct Commission staff to work with the Department staff to arrange for the public hearing(s) on the applications.
 - f. Direct the public advisor to e-file the public comments received once the application is open for comment.
8. Vary Minn. R. 7849.0200, subp. 5 to extend the 30-day deadline on the Commission's decision on application completeness.
 9. Vary Minn. R. 7849.1400, subp. 3, to extend the 40-day deadline for holding a public information and scoping meeting.
 10. Vary Minn. R. 7854.0800, subp. 1, to extend the deadline for issuing a draft site permit for the project.
 11. Vary Minn. R. 7849.1400, subp. 9, to extend the deadline for filing the Environmental Report.

The motion passed 4–0.

P-999/CI-20-359, P-6422/M-20-354, P-6236/M-20-259

In the Matter of Local Service Providers' Filings Under Minnesota Rules 7812.0600 and 7811.0600

Commissioner Tuma moved to do the following:

1. Find that Minn. R. 7812.0600 requires prior Commission approval for discontinuing a local service, but vary the rule pursuant to Minn. R. 7829.3200 for Docket Nos. P-6422/M-20-354 and P-6236/M-20-259 under these circumstances, permanently.
2. Direct the companies, 14 days prior to disconnection, to provide a copy of the notice it has issued to affected customers. Such notice shall include contact information for the Consumer Affairs Office. Within 10 days the companies shall make a compliance filing confirming the notice.

The motion passed 4–0.

E-017/M-20-181

In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company's Request for Approval of Electric Vehicle Charging and Infrastructure Programs

Commissioner Schuerger moved that the Commission:

1. Approve Otter Tail Power's Electric Vehicle Direct Current Fast Charging Service – Time of Day Pilot Rate Schedules, modified to include the price of wind renewable energy credits in the price of electricity.
2. Eliminate the customer minimum bills from Otter Tail Power's direct current/fast charging (DCFC) secondary service company-provider rate.
3. Approve Otter Tail Power's plan to develop, own, and operate 11 DCFC sites.
4. Require Otter Tail to file a compliance within 60 days of the date of the Commission's order that includes its request for proposal to electric vehicle developers.
5. Approve Otter Tail Power's request to classify electric vehicle infrastructure as distribution plant under Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Account 371 – Installation on Customer Premises, and require Otter Tail Power to track its electric vehicle capital costs separately from other distribution capital projects.
6. Require Otter Tail Power to make a filing, at the conclusion of its pilot program, that addresses divestment issues and identifies possible divestment strategies.
7. Approve Otter Tail Power's modified proposal to establish and install ten Level 2 charging stations to community host sites.
8. Require Otter Tail Power to Passthrough of time-varying rates at Level 2 charging at community sites by default and allow site hosts to opt out.
9. Approve Otter Tail Power's proposed modification to rate schedules:
 - a. Index
 - b. 13.00 Mandatory Riders – Applicability Matrix
 - c. 13.01 Energy Adjustment Rider with deletion of the reference to Section 11.07
 - d. 14.00 Voluntary Riders – Applicability Matrix
 - e. 14.04 Controlled Service – Interruptible Load CT Metering Rider

- f. 14.05 Controlled Service – Interruptible Load Self-Contained Metering Rider
 - g. 14.06 Controlled Service Deferred Load Rider
 - h. 14.07 Fixed Time of Service, to allow off-peak electric vehicle charging service
10. Require Otter Tail Power to provide advanced notice of control events resulting from MISO’s day ahead energy market forecast to customers enrolled in Rate Schedules 14.04, 14.05, 14.06, and 14.07.
 11. Approve Otter Tail Power’s proposal to utilize deferred accounting to track and recover the Company’s investments and expenses through the pilot project.
 12. Require Otter Tail Power track in its deferred account all of and only the incremental costs and revenues (amounts not already reflected in current rates) associated with the Company’s proposed electric vehicle pilot.
 13. Require Otter Tail to address, in its next general rate case filing after 2020, how it intends to handle and budget for future pilots.
 14. Grant deferred accounting for the costs incurred between the issuance of the Commission’s order approving the pilots and the onset of the test year in Otter Tail’s next general rate case after 2020.
 15. Require Otter Tail to prove the following information and data to the greatest extent practicable. Where Otter Tail is not able to do so, it shall explain why. Reports shall be filed on an annual basis throughout the pilot as part of Otter Tail Power’s Annual EV report in Docket 15-112, with a copy filed in the present docket, 20-181. Where applicable, include data in spreadsheet (.xlsx) format. Delegate authority to the Executive Secretary to establish final report formatting, clean up any inconsistencies between various existing reporting requirements in individual dockets, and modify reporting requirements via notice after input from stakeholders.
 - a. Otter Tail owned DCFC Pilot and Level 2 Charging Stations:
 - i. Location of each charging site, including the number of chargers and ports, including port capacity.
 - ii. Customer service and technical assistance needs.
 - iii. Operation and maintenance costs.
 - iv. Number of renewable energy credits retired.

- v. Revenues:
 - Energy revenues
 - Demand revenues
 - Fixed fee revenues
 - Number of renewable energy credits sold.

 - vi. For each site, on a monthly basis:
 - Energy Consumption for each period of Otter Tail’s rate schedule
 - Coincident peak demand, at the MISO system peak and Otter Tail system peak, including the time of day at which the peak occurred
 - Non-coincident peak demand, including the time of day the peak occurred
 - Number of charging events, times, and durations, to the extent available
 - For Level 2 community charging stations, the rates charged to end use customers

 - vii. A discussion on interoperability of installed charging equipment, including on any communication, billing, or access issues.

 - viii. Spending by category included in its deferred account for future recovery.
- b. Third Party DCFC Tariff offering:
- i. Number of customers enrolled in the rate.

 - ii. Publicly accessible information on site host characteristics, including rates and fees charged to end-user customers.

 - iii. Energy Consumption for each period of Otter Tail’s rate schedule.

 - iv. Coincident peak demand, at the MISO system peak and Otter Tail system peak, including the time of day at which the peak occurred.

 - v. Non-coincident peak demand, including the time of day the peak occurred.

 - vi. Revenues:
 - Energy revenues
 - Demand revenues
 - Fixed fee revenues
 - Number of renewable energy credits sold

- vii. No later than its 2022 report, Otter Tail shall file a proposal to either make the third-party DCFC rate offering permanent, or an filed a proposal for an updated rate schedule with changes that reflect pilot learnings.

c. Controlled Service Rates:

- i. Number of customers with EVs enrolling in each rate Track the frequency and duration of control events that interrupt service to customers enrolled in Rate Schedules 14.04, 14.05, 14.06, and 14.07.
- ii. provide a discussion in its annual reports on whether there are any issues that the Company or its customers experience during control events.

16. Where not otherwise noted, require Otter Tail Power to submit a compliance filing consistent with the Commission's decision in this matter no later than 10 days from the issuance of the Order.

The motion passed 4–0.

E-002/M-20-503

In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company for Approval of a One-Time Waiver to the Company Tariff Requirements for Peak Control Services

Commissioner Means moved that the Commission:

1. Approve Xcel Energy's petition to waive requirements on its Peak-Controlled Service tariff through December 31, 2020 or the end of the Covid-19 peacetime emergency as declared by the Governor, whichever is later, and relating to: (a) minimum interruptible load requirements; (b) notice requirements for increases to firm load, and (c) cancellation charges and notice requirements for customers transferring tot eh Peak Partner Rewards program.
2. Require Xcel to file a compliance tariff with language on the temporary waiver of notice requirements and specifying the termination date. The Company may start notifying customers of the waiver as soon as August 28, 2020.

The motion passed 4–0.

G-004/M-20-395

In the Matter of the Application of Great Plains Natural Gas Co. for Approval of its 2019 Gas Affordability Service Program Report

G-011/M-20-397

In the Matter of the Application of Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation for Approval of its Gas Affordability Program 2019 Annual Report

G-002/M-20-398

In the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota Corporation, for Approval of its 2019 Annual Gas Affordability Program Report

G-008/M-20-399

In the Matter of the Application of CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp. for Approval of its 2019 Gas Affordability Program Report

G-022/M-20-400

In the Matter of the Application of Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc. for Approval of its Gas Affordability Program Annual Report for 2019

Chair Sieben moved that the Commission:

1. Accept the 2019 Gas Affordability Program Annual Reports for Great Plains, MERC, Xcel, CenterPoint, and GMG.
2. Authorize CenterPoint to increase its GAP surcharge rate from \$0.0000/Dth to \$0.0236/Dth beginning October 1, 2020.
3. Authorize Great Plains to increase its GAP funding to \$70,000 annually.
4. Authorize Great Plains to increase its GAP surcharge rate from \$0.01393/Dth to \$0.02295/Dth.
5. Require CenterPoint to continue quarterly reporting, including the number and type of LIHEAP and GAP promotional retention efforts.
6. Require CenterPoint to continue telephone, U.S. mail and e-mail communication to past-due customers, to customers applying for Cold Weather Rule protection, and to customers receiving disconnection notices, to encourage them to apply for LIHEAP, including the provision of LIHEAP applications upon request and LIHEAP website referrals wherever possible.
7. Require CenterPoint to, in its annual CIP status reports, provide the number of LIHEAP and GAP customers that participate in CenterPoint's CIP programs.

8. In future GAP reports, require CenterPoint to:
 - a. provide the costs for each outreach activity associated with increasing LIHEAP and GAP participation and retention;
 - b. report the monthly number of LIHEAP and GAP customers compared to those numbers in the same months for the previous three years;
 - c. provide the average annual and range (low to high) of LIHEAP and GAP customer natural gas usage levels;
 - d. report on specific efforts to coordinate participation in LIHEAP, GAP, and CIP programs, including CenterPoint's mapping process to target CIP resources based on natural gas usage and census tract demographic data; and
 - e. standardize the method for reporting allowable, incremental and total GAP administrative costs, using the March 31, 2020 report in Docket No. 20-399 as the format, and continue to provide the percentage of program costs represented by administrative costs.

The motion passed 4–0.

E-015/M-11-409

In the Matter of Minnesota Power's Petition for Approval of a Rider for Customer Affordability of Residential Electricity (CARE) Program

Commissioner Means moved that the Commission accept Minnesota Power's eighth annual Customer Affordability of Residential Electricity Program Report.

The motion passed 4–0.

E-015/S-20-279

In the Matter of Minnesota Power's Petition for Approval of Its Capital Structure and Authorization to Issue Securities

Chair Sieben moved that the Commission:

1. Approve Minnesota Power's 2020 capital structure petition with:
 - a. total capitalization of \$6,145 million, including a contingency of \$559 million, and flexibility to allow total consolidated capitalizations to exceed the cap for a period not exceeding 60 days;

- b. an equity ratio of 60.56% with a contingency range of +/- 15% (resulting in an equity range of 51.48% to 69.64%);
 - c. a maximum debt limit of \$2,578 million; and
 - d. if there is a conflict between the authorized maximum debt and the authorized equity range, the debt limit would override the equity range.
2. Grant ALLETE, Inc. (the Company) permission to issue short-term debt not to exceed 15% of total capitalization, continued flexibility to issue long-term debt provided it remains within the limits approved for the short-term debt and equity ratios as well as the total capitalization limit, and flexibility to issue securities provided that the Company remains within the approved capital structure ratios or does not exceed them for more than 60 days.
3. Grant a variance of Minn. R. 7825.1000, subp. 6, to allow the Company to treat borrowings under multi-year credit agreements as short-term debt for approved capital structure purposes.
4. Require the Company to indicate in future capital structure petitions and compliance filings how much of any capital issuances and other activities cited is for Minnesota Power, how much is for other regulated entities, how much is for ALLETE Clean Energy, and how much is for other nonregulated entities.
5. Order that the approval of the Company's consolidated capital structure shall be effective for the period beginning with the date of issuance of an order in this docket through the date at which the Commission issues a subsequent order.

The motion passed 4–0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: December 2, 2020



Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary