



Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Decisions

Thursday, December 20, 2018

9:30 AM

Large Hearing Room

INTRODUCTION

DECISION ITEMS

1. **E114,264/SA-18-639** **Lakefield Public Utilities;
Federated Rural Electric Association**

In the Matter of the Joint Request of Lakefield Public Utilities and Federated Rural Electric Association for Approval of a Service Territory Transfer Agreement. (PUC: Terwilliger; DOC: Beckett)

Attachments: [DOC Comments 11-8-18](#)

Approved service Territory transfer; Approved service-by-exception to customer within Municipal's service territory; update of maps required.

2. **E002,228/SA-18-646** **Northern States Power Company,
doing business as Xcel Energy;
Delano Municipal Utilities**

In the Matter of the Joint Request of Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, and Delano Municipal Utilities for Approval of a Service Territory Transfer as reflected in the Compensation and Orderly Transfer Agreement. (PUC: Terwilliger; DOC: Beckett)

Attachments: [DOC Comments 11-16-18](#)

Approved service Territory transfer; update of maps required.

3. **** P999/CI-18-112** **All Local Service Providers**

In the Matter of Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP) Review.

1. What changes, if any should the Commission make to the TAP credit and/or surcharge levels?
2. Should the Commission take any other actions related to enhancing the effectiveness of the TAP program? (PUC: **McCarthy**)

Attachments: [Briefing Papers](#)

Accepted TAP reviews; directed Staff to work with organizations to

promote TAP and develop outreach program with Advisory Group and report to PUC by 7/1/19; set credit amount at \$5.00/month and surcharge \$0.10; with effective day of 7/1/19.

4. * **E015/M-18-545 Minnesota Power**
In the Matter of Minnesota Power's Petition for Approval of a 250 MW Nobles 2 Wind Power Purchase Agreement.
1. Should the Commission approve MP's petition for approval of the Nobles 2 Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)?
 2. Should the Commission approve the conditions proposed by the Department of Commerce?
 3. Should the Commission find the PPA is a reasonable and prudent way for Minnesota Power to continue to meet its obligations under Minnesota's Renewable Energy Standard in Minn. Stat § 216B.1691 and the July 2016 IRP Order? (PUC: **Stalpes, Martone**)

Attachments: [Briefing Papers](#)

Approved PPA; confirmed PPA reasonable way to meet RES; required revisions to 11.4, 11.5.3, required reporting of curtailment in fuel clause and AAA filings; required report a projected value of capacity and supporting analysis in next IRP; required MP to pursue RFP of generation resources.

5. * **IP6964/CN-16-289 Nobles 2 Power Partners, LLC**
In the Matter of the Application of Nobles 2 Power Partners, LLC for a Certificate of Need for the up to 260 MW Nobles 2 Wind Project and Associated Facilities in Nobles County, Minnesota.
1. Should the Commission find that the environmental report and the record created in this matter adequately address the issues identified in the environmental report scoping decision?
 2. Should the Commission grant a certificate of need for the up to 260 megawatt Nobles 2 Wind Project in Nobles County, Minnesota? (PUC: **Kaluzniak**)

Attachments: [Briefing Papers](#)
[Revised Decision Options](#)

Determined environmental report and record addressed issues; granted CON with required findings

6. * **IP6964/WS-17-597 Nobles 2 Power Partners, LLC**
In the Matter of the Application of Nobles 2 Power Partners, LLC for a Site Permit for the up to 260 MW Nobles 2 Wind Project and Associated Facilities in Nobles County, Minnesota.

1. Should the Commission adopt the administrative law judge's Summary of Public Testimony, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendation?
2. Should the Commission grant a site permit for the up to 260 megawatt Nobles 2 Wind Farm proposed in Nobles County, Minnesota? (PUC: **Kaluzniak**)

Attachments: [Briefing Papers](#)
 [Revised Decision Options](#)

Adopted ALJ's findings with modifications; authorized issuance of Site Permit with modifications; authorized staff to make refinements to findings; required compliance filing on aircraft detection and Lighting system.

7. **G011/M-18-589** **Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation**
In the Matter of the Petition of Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation for Approval of Proposed Winter Construction Charges.

Should the Commission approve Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (MERC) Petition to update its tariffs to incorporate annual adjustments to its Winter Construction Charges for years 2018, 2019 and 2020? (PUC: **Ubani**)

Attachments: [Briefing Papers](#)

Approved petition to update tariffs; required compliance filing.

8. ** **E,G002/M-18-121;** **Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy**
 E002/GR-92-1185;
 G002/GR-92-1186;

In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy (Xcel Energy) for Approval of its Annual Report of its 2017 Incentive Compensation Plan;

In the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power Company for Authority to Increase its Rates for Electric Service in the State of Minnesota;

In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Gas Utility for Authority to Change its Schedule of Gas Rates for Retail Customers within the State of Minnesota.

Should the Commission accept Xcel Energy's Annual Report of its 2017 Incentive Compensation Plan as filed, or require Xcel Energy to refund \$1,957,622 to its electric ratepayers? (PUC: **Bender**)

Attachments: [Briefing Papers](#)

Accepted report; required refund.

9. ** G002/M-17-894 **Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy**
In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company for Approval of Deferred Accounting for Manufactured Gas Plant Clean-Up Costs.

Should the Commission reconsider its October 17, 2018 Order Denying Petition for Deferred-Accounting Treatment for the costs related to the cleanup of two manufactured gas plant sites? (PUC: **Bartusch, Alonso**)

The Commission has the authority to accept or decline a petition for reconsideration **with or without** a hearing or oral argument (Minnesota Rules 7829.3000, Subpart 6) In other words, a decision on a petition for reconsideration can be made without taking oral comments at the Commission meeting.

Attachments: [Briefing Papers](#)

Denied reconsideration.

10. ** E015/M-18-603 **Minnesota Power**
In the Matter of Minnesota Power's Petition for Approval of an Amendment to Electric Service Agreement Between Verso Minnesota Wisconsin LLC and Minnesota Power.

Should the Commission approve Minnesota Power's petition to amend the Electric Service Agreement between Verso Minnesota Wisconsin LLC and Minnesota Power? (PUC: **Krishnan**)

Attachments: [Briefing Papers](#)

Amended Agreement approved; filings required.

11. * G004/D-18-369 **Great Plains Natural Gas Co.,
a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.**
In the Matter of Great Plains Natural Gas Company's Petition for Approval of its 2018 Depreciation Certification.

Should the Commission approve Great Plains Natural Gas Company's 2018 depreciation certification? (PUC: **Schwieger, Hetherington**)

Attachments: [Briefing Papers](#)

Study approved; filing requirements adopted.

12. ** G004/GR-15-879 **Great Plains Natural Gas Co.,
a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.**
In the Matter of an Application by Great Plains Natural Gas Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc., for Authority to Increase Natural Gas Rates in Minnesota.

1. Should the Commission accept or reject Great Plains' Year 1 annual revenue decoupling report for the period ended September 30, 2017, and approve or modify Great Plains' revenue decoupling rate adjustments?
2. Should the Commission require different evaluation period dates and/or a different reporting compliance date? If so, what should the evaluation period dates and/or the reporting compliance dates be?
3. Should the Commission alter the "Designed Revenue" formula and its application, resulting in modified RDM adjustments?
4. Should the Commission require the inclusion of the new N82 customer's sales in its test year in determining final rates?
5. Should the Commission require Great Plains' use of different weather-normalized sales dates/methods? (PUC: **Alonso; Hetherington**)

Attachments: [Briefing Papers](#)

12 Accept decoupling report as modified; provided instructions for future reports.

ADJOURNMENT

*** One star indicates agenda item is unusual but is not disputed.**

**** Two stars indicate a disputed item or significant legal or procedural issue to be resolved. (Ex Parte Rules apply)**

Please note: For the complete record, please see eDockets