



**Minnesota Public Utilities
Commission
Decisions
PUC Agenda Meeting**

121 7th Place East
Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

Thursday, October 1, 2015

9:30 AM

Large Hearing Room

INTRODUCTION

ORAL ARGUMENT ITEMS

DELIBERATION ITEMS

DECISION ITEMS

1. * **P407/AR-15-388** **Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, LLC**

In the Matter of a Petition by Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, LLC Proposal to Adopt an Existing Alternative Form of Regulation Plan (AFOR).

Shall the Commission approve Citizen's petition to adopt the existing AFOR of Frontier Communications as reflected in the July 15, 2015 filing? (PUC: **McCarthy**)

Petition approved.

2. ** **P6716,421/C-15-818** **CenturyLink QC;
Charter Fiberlink CCO, LLC**

In the Matter of the Complaint by CenturyLink QC against Charter Fiberlink CCO, LLC regarding Local Number Portability.

Does the Commission have jurisdiction over the matter and are there grounds for further investigation of the allegations? (PUC: **O'Grady**)

Jurisdiction found; answer required; procedures established.

3. **E017/M-03-30** **Otter Tail Power Company**

In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company's Petition for a Monthly Fuel Clause Adjustment True-Up Mechanism (PUC: Alonso, DOC: Lusti)

Report and credit approved.

4. * **G011/AI-15-705** **Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation**

In the Matter of a Request by Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (MERC) for Approval of the Tax Allocation Affiliated

Interest Agreement between WEC Energy Group, Inc. (WEC) and its Regulated and Non-Regulated Subsidiaries. (PUC: Bender; DOC: Kundert) **Note:** Staff agrees with the recommendation of the Department including the corrected implementation date of June 29, 2015 (described in the Department's September 9 errata comment).

Petition approved.

5. * **G002/M-15-149** **Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy**

In the Matter of a Petition by Northern States Power Company (Xcel) for Approval of a Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) Rule Variance to include Kansas Ad Valorem tax as storage related cost of natural gas recovery through its PGA commodity factors.

Should the Commission approve Xcel's PGA variance request to include Kansas Ad Valorem taxes as storage related cost of natural gas recovery through its PGA commodity factor: 1) for an annual period; and 2) for the 2009 through October 2014 lump sum retroactive period? (PUC: **Brill**)

Variance granted with modifications.

6. ** **E,G999/CI-13-626** **All Regulated Electric and Natural Gas Utilities**

In the Matter of a Commission Inquiry into Decommissioning Policies Related to Depreciation.

Should the Commission require the utilities to stop using decommissioning probabilities in determining the salvage portion of depreciation expense?

If so, when should the Commission require Xcel Energy and Minnesota Power to stop using decommission probabilities?

Should the Commission provide parties direction on the frequency and adequacy of decommissioning studies or further clarification on how to coordinate depreciation filings with resource planning filings? (PUC: **Schwieger, Dasinger, Harding**)

Decommissioning probabilities prohibited in calculating salvage portion of depreciation expense.

7. * **ET2/TL-15-423** **Great River Energy**

In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy for a Route Permit under the Alternative Permitting Process for the Palisade 115 kV Project in Aitkin County.

Should the Commission accept the route permit application as complete?

What action should the Commission take regarding other procedural

items? (PUC: **Kaluzniak**)

Accepted application as complete; referred the matter to OAH to prepare a summary report.

8. ** **PL6668/CN-13-473** **North Dakota Pipeline Company LLC**
In the Matter of the Application of North Dakota Pipeline Company LLC for a Certificate of Need for the Sandpiper Pipeline Project in Minnesota.

Should the Commission reconsider its August 3, 2015 Order Granting a Certificate of Need with Conditions? What other actions, if any, should the Commission take regarding the Sandpiper certificate of need docket? (PUC: **Ek**)

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.

Denied parties' motions for reconsideration; granted NDPC's petition to amend 8-3-2015 order; reopened and stayed 8-3-2015 decision; solicit comments on next procedural steps in CON and routing due 10-30-2015.

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