

The Commission met on **Thursday, November 21, 2024**, with Chair Sieben and Commissioners Means, Sullivan, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

**P-999/CI-24-253**

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

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission maintain the current TAP credit level of \$10.00 per line per month and surcharge of \$0.03 per access line per month.

The motion passed 4–0.

**ET-2/TL-23-410**

**In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy for a Route Permit for the 115-kV Pilot Knob to Burnsville Rebuild and Upgrade Project in Dakota County, Minnesota**

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission do the following:

1. Adopt the report of the administrative law judge (ALJ) to the extent that it is consistent with the Commission’s decisions, with the following modification to Finding 57:

Single circuit structures would have three phases of bundled conductor wires and one shield wire. Double circuit structures would have six phases of bundled conductor wires and up to two shield wires. It is anticipated that the phase wires would be 795 thousand circular mil aluminum-clad steel supported (795 ACSS) or a conductor with similar capacity.

2. Find that the Environmental Assessment and the record created at the public hearing address the issues identified in the Scoping Decision.
3. Issue a Route Permit that identifies the route proposed by Great River Energy for its 115-kilovolt Pilot Knob to Burnsville Rebuild and Upgrade Project and includes the requirements and conditions recommended by the ALJ.

4. Modify Section 5.3.10 of the Draft MN PUC Permit adding only the first two changes proposed in the September 2, 2024 comments of Art Kalmes addressing “private residences” and “human or environmental impacts.”
5. Delegate authority to the Executive Secretary to modify the Route Permit and the ALJ report if necessary to correct any typographic and formatting errors and to ensure consistency with the Commission’s order.

The motion passed 4–0.

**E-002,E-015,E-017/CI-24-248**

**In the Matter of the Interconnection Ombudsperson Surcharge**

Commissioner Sullivan moved that the Commission authorize the following:

1. Delegate authority to the Executive Secretary to update the Minnesota Distributed Energy Resources Interconnection Process document as follows:

1.5.1 The Interconnection Customer shall submit an Interconnection Application to the Area EPS Operator, together with the processing fee or deposit specified in the Interconnection Application. Additional fees or deposits for the interconnection process shall not be required, except as otherwise specified in these procedures. Application form templates are available in Attachment 2 Simplified Application Form and Attachment 3 Interconnection Application Form. The Area EPS Operator’s tariff shall include specific fees for Simplified Process, Fast Track Process, ~~and~~ Study Process, and Interconnection Ombudsperson Surcharge if applicable, consistent with:

1.5.1.1 The processing fee for the Simplified Process Application shall be up to \$100.

1.5.1.2 For certified, Fast Track Process eligible applications, the processing fee shall be up to \$100 + \$1/kW. For non-certified Fast Track Process eligible applications, the processing fee shall be up to \$100 + \$2/kW.

1.5.1.3 For an Interconnection Application that is not eligible or does not apply for Simplified Process or Fast Track Process, the processing fee shall be a down payment not to exceed \$1,000 plus \$2.00 per kW toward the deposit required for the study(s) under Section 4 Study Process.

1.5.1.4 Each Interconnection Application shall include the Interconnection Ombudsperson Surcharge, if applicable, as determined annually by the Commission in Docket 24-248.

1.5.1.4<sup>5</sup> Interconnection Applications shall contain a single line diagram and site diagram. A signature from a professional engineer licensed in Minnesota shall be required when: 1) Certified equipment is greater than 250kW; or 2) non-certified equipment is greater than 50 kW.

2. Delegate authority to the Executive Secretary to file an annual report in an annually recurring docket providing the following information, with the first report filed by October 1, 2025:
  - A. Total ombudsperson surcharges collected by the Commission.
  - B. Total expenses incurred for the ombudsperson position.
  - C. The number, type, resolution timelines, and outcome of interconnection disputes as required in the Legislation.
  - D. Proposed changes to the ombudsperson surcharge to meet the requirements established in the Legislation.
3. Delegate authority to the Executive Secretary to propose by Notice the approval of the ombudsperson annual report and any changes to the surcharge. If no objections to this Notice are filed within 30 days, then the Executive Secretary will issue a second Notice of Updated Ombudsperson Surcharge approving the change which will become effective 15 days after the date of the second Notice.
4. Require Xcel Energy, Minnesota Power, and Otter Tail Power to remit revenues received through the ombudsperson surcharge to the Commission by the 15th of each month for each interconnection application filed with the utility during the previous month.
5. Require Xcel Energy, Minnesota Power, and Otter Tail Power to file tariff, website, or other relevant language implementing the ombudsman surcharge consistent with the Commission's decision within 15 days of the Commission's Order or Notice of Updated Ombudsperson Surcharge.

6. Delegate authority to the Executive Secretary to approve by Notice utility tariff, website, or other relevant language updates related to the ombudsperson surcharge if no objections are filed within 30 days of the proposed language being filed.

The motion passed 4–0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: January 29, 2025**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Seuffert", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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**Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary**