

The Commission met on **Thursday, February 24, 2022**, with Chair Sieben and Commissioners Schuerger, Sullivan, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

**P-6692/RV-21-425**

**In the Matter of the Revocation of Total Holdings, Inc, dba GTC Communications Certificate of Authority**

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission revoke Total Holdings, Inc, dba GTC Communications' certificate of authority.

The motion passed 4—0.

**E-002/M-20-815**

**In the Matter of Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy's Petition for Approval of the Renewable Energy Standard Rider Revenue Requirements for 2021 and Revised Adjustment Factors**

Commissioner Schuerger moved that the Commission take the following actions:

1. Approve RES rider cost recovery eligibility for the projects included in Xcel Energy's petition.
2. Approve Xcel Energy's RES rider revenue requirements and accompanying adjustment factor for 2021.
3. Require Xcel Energy to implement its updated RES rider rate factors and submit final tariff sheets, customer notice modified to reflect the new approved RES Adjustment factor, and supporting documentation for the calculation of the new RES rider adjustment factor, within 10 days of order issuance.
4. Approve Xcel Energy's project cost recovery of \$106,892,781.
5. Approve Xcel Energy's weighted cost of debt of 1.99% for the 2021 RES rider.

6. Approve Xcel Energy's removal of ADIT proration, assuming an implementation date after January 1, 2022.

The motion passed 4—0.

**E-015/M-20-900**

**In the Matter of Minnesota Power's Request for Approval of its 2021 Transmission Factors under its Transmission Cost Recovery Rider**

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission take the following actions:

1. Approve Minnesota Power's petition excluding internal cost recovery for the Iron Range Material Storage Building and Certain Other Non-Manitoba Ltd. Charges from the overall capital recovery calculation, as agreed to by both parties.
2. Require Minnesota Power to exclude internal cost recovery for the Iron Range Material Storage Building and Certain Other Non-Manitoba Ltd. charges from the overall capital recovery calculation, as agreed to by both parties.
3. Require Minnesota Power to file, within 10 days of the date of the order, compliance tariffs reflecting the modification made herein.

The motion passed 4—0.

**IP-7039/CN-20-646**

**In the Matter of the Applications of Louise Solar Project, LLC for a Certificate of Need for the 50 MW Louise Solar Project in Mower County, Minnesota**

**IP-7039/GS-20-647**

**In the Matter of the Applications of Louise Solar Project, LLC for a Site Permit for the 50 MW Louise Solar Project in Mower County, Minnesota**

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission take the following actions:

1. Determine that the environmental assessment and the record created in this matter address the issues identified in the scoping decision.
2. Grant a certificate of need for the 50-megawatt Louise Solar Project proposed in Mower 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 have an adverse effect upon the future adequacy, reliability,

or efficiency of energy supply to the applicant, to the applicant's customers, or to the people of Minnesota and neighboring states;

- 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 proposed facility, or a suitable modification of the proposed facility, will fail to comply with relevant policies, rules, and regulations of other state and federal agencies and local governments.
3. Adopt the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge (the ALJ Report), to the extent it is consistent with and necessary for the Commission's final decisions, with the correction identified by the Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review & Analysis unit (EERA) and the corrections proposed by Louise Solar Project, LLC (Louise Solar) to reference the corrected and renumbered draft site permit conditions (Attachment B of Louise Solar's Exceptions to the ALJ Report).
4. In addition to the ALJ's findings on the rationale for the fence, the Commission recognizes the flexibility outlined in the May 2016 Commercial Solar Siting Guidance developed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and, as a result, will modify Section 5.5 of the permit to read as follows:

#### 5.5 Security Fencing

The security fence surrounding the facility shall be designed to minimize the visual impact of the project while maintaining compliance with the National Electric Safety Code. ~~To ensure complete deer exclusion from the solar facility, the fence should be 10 foot high to meet DNR's Fencing Handbook For 10 ft Woven Wire Deer Exclusion Fence.~~ The Permittee shall coordinate with the DNR to develop a final fence plan for the specific site that is within the parameters laid out in the 2016 Commercial Solar Siting Guidance and is done in coordination with EERA and the DNR to further refine the appropriate fence design, identify ways to preclude wildlife entanglement in the security fence, and to ensure adequate deer escape technology exists at the facility. The final fence plan results of the coordination shall be submitted to the Commission with the site plan pursuant to Section 8.3.

5. Issue the proposed site permit attached to the briefing papers as the site permit for the 50-megawatt Louise Solar Project proposed in Mower County, Minnesota.
6. Authorize Commission staff to modify the proposed site permit to correct typographical and formatting errors, improve consistency, and ensure agreement with the Commission's final order in this matter.

The motion passed 4—0.

**IP-7046/WS-20-860**

**In the Matter of the Application for a Site Permit Amendment to Decommission the Existing Chanarambie and Viking Wind Facilities and Construct the 120-Megawatt Northern Wind Facility in Murray County, Minnesota**

Chair Sieben moved that the Commission adopt the Findings of Fact, Conclusions, and Recommendations of the Administrative Law Judge's Report and issue the proposed site permit.

The motion passed 4—0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: August 31, 2022**



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**Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary**