

The Commission met on **Thursday, February 21, 2019** with Acting Chair Lipschultz and Commissioners Schuerger, Sieben, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

E-002/GR-15-826

In the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power Company, d/b/a Xcel Energy, for Authority to Increase Rates for Electric Service in the State of Minnesota

E-002/RP-15-21

In the Matter of Xcel Energy's 2016–2030 Integrated Resource Plan

Commissioner Lipschultz moved that the Commission authorize the Commissioner of the Department of Commerce to seek authority from the Commissioner of Management and Budget to incur costs for specialized technical professional investigative services under Minn. Stat. § 216B.62, subd. 8, to continue investigating the causes of cost increases related to Xcel's Prairie Island and Monticello nuclear facilities and to assist the Department in Xcel's upcoming integrated resource plan and rate case.

The motion passed 4-0.

IP-6985/TL-17-701

In the Matter of the Application of Blazing Star Wind Farm 2, LLC for a Route Permit for the Blazing Star Wind Farm 2 115 kV Transmission Line in Lincoln County

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Approve and adopt the attached Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order for the Blazing Star 2 115 kV High Voltage Transmission Line Project;
2. Find that the environmental assessment and the record address the issues identified in the environmental assessment scoping decision; and
3. Issue the proposed HVTL route permit with appropriate conditions to Blazing Star Wind Farm 2, LLC

The motion passed 4-0.

In the Matter of Fenton Power Partners I, LLC for an Amendment to its Site Permit

Commissioner Schuerger moved that the Commission:

1. Grant the issuance of the amended site permit as attached for the Fenton SWECs Site Permit, as modified, including:

- A. Deleting Section 4.1 of the permit and substituting the following language:

Wind turbine towers shall not be placed less than five rotor diameters on the prevailing wind directions and three rotor diameters on the non-prevailing wind directions from the perimeter of the property where the Permittee does not hold the wind rights, without the approval of the Commission. This section does not apply to public roads and trails.

- B. Adopting Example A in Section 6.1 of the Site Permit as follows and deleting Example B.

The Permittee shall file quarterly reports with the Commission within 45 days of the end of the quarter regarding construction workers that participated in the construction of the project. The Reports shall (a) detail the Permittee's efforts and the site contractor's efforts to hire Minnesota workers, and (b) provide an account of 1) the gross number of hours worked by or full-time equivalent workers who are Minnesota residents, as defined in Minn. Stat. 290.01, subd. 7; 2) the gross number of hours worked by or full-time equivalent workers who are residents of other states, but maintain a permanent residence within 150 miles of the project; and 3) the total gross hours worked or total full-time equivalent workers. Permittee shall work with its contractor to determine the suitable reporting metric. The Report may not include personally identifiable data.

2. Require compliance finding(s) within 60 days of the Commission's order outlining the method for disposal or reuse of the turbine blades, providing the estimated costs, options considered, and why they were selected or rejected, and timing for disposal or reuse.
3. Require a compliance filing within 30 days from the date of the Commission meeting containing a report updating the Commission on the status of negotiations with affected landowners who have not accepted the Company's offer and a petition for waivers if any;

4. Delegate to the Executive Secretary the authority to set notice and comment requirements in response to the permittee's compliance filing above.
5. Authorize staff to make further administrative permit modifications as necessary to ensure consistency with the record and recently issued permits.

The motion passed 4-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: March 27, 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel P. Wolf". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'D' and 'W'.

Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary