

The Commission met on **Thursday, August 1, 2024**, with Chair Sieben and Commissioners Means, Ham, Sullivan, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

E-017/M-23-496

In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Co.'s Petition for Approval of the Annual Update to its Renewable Resource Cost Recovery Rider Rate, Rate Schedule 13.04

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission take the following actions:

1. As set forth in Otter Tail's December 4, 2023 Petition, effective on the first day of the month following the Commission's Order, approve Otter Tail's:
 - a. 2023 RRR annual rate adjustment using a Minnesota E2 jurisdictional allocator of 53.5439 percent.
 - b. Forecasted \$8,006,953 revenue requirement.
2. Require Otter Tail to, within 10 days of the Commission's Order, file updated Renewable Resource Rider tariff sheets showing the rates approved by the Commission.
3. Require Otter Tail to, within 10 days of the Commission's Order, file updated RRR schedules and a revised customer notice reflecting the updated implementation date.
4. Require Otter Tail in their next RRR annual filing to provide an analysis of the impact of the jurisdictional allocation factors similar to that provided in their June 7, 2024 comments.

The motion passed 5-0.

E-015/CN-22-607

E-015/TL-22-611

In the Matter of the Application of Minnesota Power for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit for a High Voltage Transmission Line for the HVDC Modernization Project in Hermantown, Saint Louis County

Commissioner Ham moved that the Commission:

1. Adopt the ALJ's Report to the extent it is consistent with the Commission's decisions.
2. Adopt the modifications to ALJ Findings of Fact numbers 234, 262, and 446 requested by DOC EERA in its June 24, 2024, comments.
3. Adopt the recommendations set forth in Minnesota Power's July 1, 2024, exceptions to the ALJ's Report to:
 - a. Adopt new Findings 28a and 28b
 - b. Correct the Figure 1 label
 - c. Correct Findings 97 and 98
 - d. Revise Finding 240
 - e. Revise Finding 564
 - f. Adopt New Finding 565a
4. Find that the environmental assessment and the record address the issues identified in the scoping decision.
5. Issue a route permit that identifies the refined proposed route as proposed by the applicant for the HVDC Modernization Project in its February 14, 2024, Direct Testimony, incorporating the permit conditions recommended in the ALJ's Report.
6. Require Minnesota Power to file information regarding the milestone for obtaining federal funds from the U.S. Department of Energy Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships round 1 funding and what portion of those funds might be lost if there are delays that cause the project to not be completed by the 60-month deadline.
7. Require MP to file biannual reports in the acquisition docket, 24-198 and the CN docket, 22-607, on usage, as known, for the SunZia and North Plains Connector HVDC systems.
8. The Commission finds that the plain language of the statute does not preclude the Commission from now considering the evaluation of the alternative end point that was

completed before the law changed and also considering the ALJ's conclusion that the ATC alternative is not a more reasonable and prudent alternative.

9. Delegate authority to the Executive Secretary to modify the route permit to correct any typographic and formatting errors and to ensure consistency with the Commission's order.

The motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Ham moved that the Commission grant a certificate of need to Minnesota Power for the HVDC Modernization Project.

The motion passed 5-0.

E-002/M-13-867

In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company, d/b/a Xcel Energy, for Approval of Its Proposed Community Solar Garden Program

Commissioner Means moved that the Commission approve the following:

1. Deny the petitioners' requests for reconsideration of the May 30, 2024 order.
2. Not grant a stay.
3. Clarify the reasoning for the May 30, 2024 order and find that: to the extent the transition order may be a departure from the 2014 and 2016 orders, the Commission has authority under 216B.25 and relevant caselaw to depart from its past decisions, and finds that it was in the public interest to do so.

The motion passed 5-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: November 13, 2024



Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary