

The Commission met on **Thursday, January 15, 2015**, with Chair Heydinger and Commissioners Boyd, Lange, and Lipschultz present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

ENERGY AGENDA

G-007/M-10-1166

In the Matter of a Petition by Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (MERC-NMU) for Approval of Changes in Contract Demand Entitlements for the 2010–2011 Heating Season Supply Plan Effective November 1, 2010

G-011/M-10-1167

In the Matter of a Petition by Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (MERC-PNG GLGT) for Approval of Changes in Contract Demand Entitlements for the 2010–2011 Heating Season Supply Plan Effective November 1, 2010

G-011/M-10-1168

In the Matter of a Petition by Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (MERC-PNG NNG) for Approval of Changes in Contract Demand Entitlements for the 2010–2011 Heating Season Supply Plan Effective November 1, 2010

G-011/M-10-1169

In the Matter of a Petition by Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (MERC-PNG Viking) for Approval of Changes in Contract Demand Entitlements for the 2010–2011 Heating Season Supply Plan Effective November 1, 2010

Commissioner Boyd moved to take the following actions:

1. Approve MERC's request for interstate-pipeline and other capacity changes to meet its Design Day and Reserve Margin requirements as described in the dockets listed above.
2. Approve MERC's request to recover the associated cost changes in its pipeline demand-entitlement contracts and supplier reservation fees as requested by MERC.
3. Require MERC, in its 2015–2016 demand-entitlement filings, to provide its evaluation and analysis of available gas-supply alternatives to its Bison/NBPL contracts.
4. Require MERC, in its future demand-entitlement filings, to provide a clarification of its statements regarding system balancing and detailed evidence assuring the Commission that the appropriate customer group is paying for any balancing charges or penalties.
5. Require MERC to provide the following in future demand-entitlement filings:

- A. The determinants used in its design-day models that account for each and every impact on usage associated with economic conditions; and
 - B. A detailed explanation of each and every cause of unexpected changes in usage that might impact the design-day calculation and what, if any, modifications the Company made to its design-day numbers.
- 6. Approve the PGA recovery of costs associated with MERC-NMU's proposed demand-entitlement level effective November 1, 2010, with the modification that MERC recover costs associated with the Bison contract through the commodity portion of the monthly PGA (and not the demand portion) on a going-forward basis.
 - 7. Approve the PGA recovery of costs associated with MERC-PNG's Northern PGA system proposed demand-entitlement level effective November 1, 2010, with the modification that MERC recover costs associated with the Bison contract through the commodity portion of the monthly PGA (and not the demand portion) on a going-forward basis.

The motion passed 4–0.

G-011/M-11-1082

In the Matter of a Petition by Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (MERC-PNG GLGT) for approval of Changes in Contract Demand Entitlements for the 2011–2012 Heating Season Supply Plan Effective November 1, 2011

G-011/M-11-1083

In the Matter of a Petition by Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (MERC-PNG Viking) for Approval of Changes in Contract Demand Entitlements for the 2011–2012 Heating Season Supply Plan Effective November 1, 2011

G-011/M-11-1084

In the Matter of a Petition by Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (MERC-PNG NNG) for Approval of Changes in Contract Demand Entitlements for the 2011–2012 Heating Season Supply Plan Effective November 1, 2011

G-007/M-11-1088

In the Matter of a Petition by Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (MERC-NMU) for Approval of Changes in Contract Demand Entitlements for the 2011–2012 Heating Season Supply Plan Effective November 1, 2011

Commissioner Lange moved to take the following actions:

- 1. Approve MERC's request for interstate-pipeline and other capacity changes to meet its Design Day and Reserve Margin requirements as described in the dockets listed above.

2. Approve MERC's request to recover the associated cost changes in its pipeline demand-entitlement contracts and supplier reservation fees as requested by MERC.
3. Require MERC, in its next demand-entitlement filing, to provide its evaluation and analysis of available gas-supply alternatives to its Bison/NBPL contracts.
4. Approve the PGA recovery of costs associated with MERC-NMU's proposed demand-entitlement level effective November 1, 2011, with the modification that MERC recover costs associated with the Bison contract through the commodity portion of the monthly PGA (and not the demand portion) on a going-forward basis.
5. Approve the PGA recovery of costs associated with MERC-PNG's Northern PGA system proposed demand-entitlement level effective November 1, 2011, with the modification that MERC recover costs associated with the Bison contract through the commodity portion of the monthly PGA (and not the demand portion) on a going-forward basis.

The motion passed 4–0.

G-002/M-13-867

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

Chair Heydinger moved to take the following actions:

1. Clarify that the Solar*Rewards Community (S*RC) applications will enter the appropriate Section 10 interconnection queue and be placed or reordered in this queue based on the date and time that Xcel determines the application to be complete as defined in Xcel's Section 9 Tariff, Sheet 67.
2. For interconnection applications already studied that require additional engineering study due to changes in the interconnection queue positions, Xcel should track the additional cost incurred by re-performing parts of the engineering study and bill applicants for the parts of the study that were required to be redone due to distribution-system changes.
3. Direct Xcel to provide monthly updates on the status of the initial cohort of 427 S*RC project applications, reflecting the following information: The number of initial S*RC applications commissioned and/or still active, related MW capacity, and categorized by county.

The motion passed 4–0.

Chair Heydinger moved not to appoint a lead commissioner.

The motion passed 4–0.

Commissioner Lipschultz moved to take the following actions:

1. Deny TruNorth's request for clarification of the Commission's September 17, 2014 order in this matter.
2. Require Xcel to consolidate and make available on its website information to determine if a potential subscriber meets the definition of a retail customer and qualifies as the legal entity taking service. Xcel should include an explanation of what is meant by the statement "affiliates are considered the same entity" as requested by the Department. The Company should also include contact information and, to the extent practicable, commit to a specific response period for assisting garden operators and potential subscribers who have questions or are unable to make this determination on their own. This information should be made available on the Company's website within 15 days of the issue date of the Order in this matter and updated as necessary as new information becomes available.

The motion passed 4-0.

Commissioner Lipschultz moved to require Xcel to file in eDockets the approved minutes (with attachments) and the agendas from all stakeholder workgroup meetings, including past meetings.

The motion passed 4-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: March 11, 2015



Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary