

The Commission met on **Thursday, March 4, 2021**, with Chair Sieben and Commissioners Means, Schuerger, Sullivan, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

**IP-7026/WS-20-384**

**In the Matter of the Application of Walleye Wind, LLC for a Site Permit for the up to 110.8 MW Walleye Wind Project in Rock County, Minnesota**

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Issue the preliminary draft site permit as the draft site permit, and incorporate:
2. The modifications proposed by the Department of Commerce's Energy Environmental Review and Analysis unit (EERA) in its February 12, 2021 comments and recommendations;
3. Special condition 6.2 as proposed by Commission staff; and
4. Additional requirements and conditions deemed appropriate.
5. Authorize Commission staff to modify the draft site permit to correct typographic and formatting errors, improve consistency, and ensure agreement with the Commission's final order in the matter.
6. Request that the administrative law judge prepare a full report, including findings and recommendations.
7. Require the applicant, Walleye Wind, LLC, to maintain and file to eDockets combined site map(s) identifying each proposed and alternative turbine location by number, identifying receptor locations by number, and indicating the locations of roads, government unit boundaries, and other major landmarks, for easy use by the public. The combined map(s) shall be clearly identified as such. All maps must be available at all public meetings. The applicant shall maintain a consistent numbering scheme throughout the project, and any time there is a turbine layout modification that would significantly change impacts on environmental receptors, the applicant must file an updated version of the combined map(s) separately into the docket. All future direct notices sent to affected landowners with an identified environmental receptor located on the property shall inform the landowner of the location of the reference maps in the docket file and shall identify the specific receptor number associated with that landowner's property.

The motion passed 5–0.

**G-008/M-19-558;**  
**G-004/M-20-335;**  
**G-011/M-20-332;**  
**E-002/M-20-180**

**In the Matter of Proposed Streamlining for Annual Revenue Decoupling Evaluation Reports**

Commissioner Sullivan moved that the Commission accept and approve the proposed streamlined annual revenue decoupling evaluation report filed by the Minnesota Department of Commerce on July 1, 2020, and adopt the new process recommended therein.

The motion passed 5–0.

**G-011/M-20-332**

**In the Matter of 2019 Annual Revenue Decoupling Evaluation Report and Revenue Decoupling Mechanism Adjustment Calculation**

Chair Sieben moved that the Commission:

1. Approve the 2019/2020 revenue decoupling mechanism adjustments proposed by Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (MERC) as stated in MERC’s February 28, 2020 filing.
2. Accept MERC’s 2019 annual decoupling evaluation report.
3. Approve MERC’s proposal for reconciling the over- and under-recoveries for the small commercial industrial customer class occurring in the years 2017 and 2018, to be included in the revenue decoupling mechanism adjustments for 2020/2021 and 2021/2022.
4. Deny MERC’s request for deferred accounting for any remaining residual amounts.
5. Accept MERC’s streamlined annual revenue evaluation report compliance filing of July 31, 2020.
6. Approve MERC’s request to extend the 2020 revenue decoupling mechanism factors through the bridge period of March 1, 2022 through May 31, 2022, with a streamlined annual decoupling evaluation report and revenue decoupling mechanism factors to be filed June 1, 2022, for the period of June 1, 2022 through May 31, 2023.

The motion passed 5–0.

**G-008/GR-17-285**

**In the Matter of the Application by CenterPoint Energy for Authority to Increase Natural Gas Rates in Minnesota**

Commissioner Sullivan moved that the Commission:

1. Accept the annual report of CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., d/b/a CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Gas (CenterPoint), on its Incentive Compensation Plan for the period of January 1, 2019, through December 1, 2019, as compliant with the requirements established in Docket No. G-008/GR-15-424, except as modified below.
2. Require that the qualifying amount of the short-term incentive compensation paid that is compared to the base rate recovery amount be limited to the lower of:
3. the 15% incentive cap at the 100% target achievement, or
4. the amount paid.
5. Require that the Minnesota utility operations short-term incentive and the service company short-term incentive calculation and comparison be each independent of the other.
6. Allow CenterPoint to include the refund plus interest as part of any interim rate refund in the current rate case, Docket No. G-008/GR-19-524.

The motion passed 5–0.

**G-008/M-20-704**

**In the Matter of the Petition of CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., d/b/a CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Gas for Acceptance of Its Annual Revenue Decoupling Report for the One-year Period Ending on June 30, 2020 and Approval of Its Revenue Decoupling Mechanism Rate Adjustment**

Chair Sieben moved that the Commission:

1. Accept the 2020 revenue decoupling evaluation report of CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., d/b/a CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Gas (CenterPoint).
2. Approve CenterPoint’s revenue decoupling adjustment factors.

The motion passed 5–0.

**E-002/C-20-892**

**In the Matter of a Formal Complaint and Petition for Expedited Relief by Sunrise Energy Ventures LLC Against Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy**

Commissioner Schuerger moved that the Commission:

1. Find the Commission has jurisdiction over the issues raised in the Formal Complaint and Petition for Expedited Relief filed by Sunrise Energy Venture LLC.
2. Dismiss Sunrise Energy Venture LLC's formal complaint without prejudice.
3. Require Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy to work constructively with Lead Participants in the Distributed Generation Workgroup who also participated in this docket on the following and report findings and improvements agreed to the Commission within 30 days of the date of the Commission's Order:
4. Improved information provided to the Interconnection Customer with Xcel Energy's System Impact Study and the results to help the customer make more informed decisions going forward. The subgroup should consider, at a minimum, what assumptions and study methodologies accurately reflect good utility practice in the study of Distributed Energy Resource performance and impacts on the distribution system.
5. More transparent communication about how the Company's distribution system design standards, policies and business practices related to Distributed Energy Resource interconnections constitute good utility practice; including rationale when updates or changes to the standards, policies, or business practices occur. The subgroup should consider at a minimum: referencing in the Technical Specifications Manual, publishing on the website, and/or hosting trainings of developers among other options.

The motion passed 5–0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: March 17, 2021**



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**Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary**