



# Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

## Decisions

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Thursday, May 13, 2021

9:15 AM

Online via Webex

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### INTRODUCTION

### DECISION ITEMS

1. \*\* P999/CI-21-86; Starlink Services LLC (Starlink Services)  
P7047/M-21-26

In the Matter of a Notice to Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Grant Winners and In the Matter of the Application of Starlink Services, LLC for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier for Purposes of Receiving Rural Digital Opportunities Fund Support.

Should the Commission approve Starlink Services' Request for ETC status for high cost support in the Census Blocks listed in the docket? (PUC: **Fournier**)

**Attachments:** [Briefing Papers](#)  
[ETC Applicant Responses](#)  
[Decision Option Amendments](#)

**Approved ETC petition and set additional requirements.**

2. \*\* P999/CI-21-86; LTD Broadband LLC (LTD)  
P6995/M-21-133

In the Matter of a Notice to Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Grant Winners and In the Matter of a Petition of LTD Broadband LLC to Expand its Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier.

Should the Commission approve LTD Broadband's Request for ETC status for high cost support in the Census Blocks listed in the docket? (PUC: **Fournier**)

**Attachments:** [Briefing Papers](#)  
[ETC Applicant Responses](#)  
[Decision Option Alternatives](#)

**Approved ETC petition and set additional requirements.**

3. \*\* P999/CI-21-86; Savage Communications  
P7051/M-21-53

In the Matter of a Notice to Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Grant Winners and In

the Matter of the Petition of Savage Communications for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier.

Should the Commission approve Savage Communications' Request for ETC status for high cost support in the Census Blocks listed in the docket? (PUC: **Fournier**)

**Attachments:**    [Briefing Papers](#)  
                          [ETC Applicant Responses](#)  
                          [Decision Option Alternatives](#)

**Approved ETC petition and set additional requirements.**

4.    **\*\* P999/CI-21-86;                    AMG Technology Investment Group, LLC**  
      **P7049/M-21-31                    d/b/a NextLink Internet (NextLink Internet)**  
      In the Matter of a Notice to Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Grant Winners and In the Matter of Application of AMG Technology Investment Group, LLC d/b/a NextLink Internet for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier.

Should the Commission approve NextLink Internet's Request for ETC status for high cost support in the Census Blocks listed in the docket? (PUC: **Fournier**)

**Attachments:**    [Briefing Papers](#)  
                          [ETC Applicant Responses](#)  
                          [Decision Option Alternatives](#)

**Approved ETC petition and set additional requirements.**

5.    **\*\* P999/CI-21-86;                    Cable One VoIP LLC**  
      **P7055/M-21-161**  
      In the Matter of a Notice to Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Grant Winners and Application of Cable One VoIP LLC for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Minnesota to Receive Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (Auction 904) Support for Voice and Broadband Services and to Receive Federal Lifeline Support.

Should the Commission approve Cable One's Request for ETC status for high cost support in the Census Blocks listed in the docket? (PUC: **Fournier**)

**Attachments:**    [Briefing Papers](#)  
                          [ETC Applicant Responses](#)  
                          [Decision Option Alternatives](#)

**Approved ETC petition and set additional requirements.**

**The following items will not be heard before 10:00 AM**

6. \* **E015/M-21-60; Minnesota Power**  
**E015/M-21-61**  
In the Matter of Minnesota Power's Compliance Report on Rate Design for Large Light and Power Customers;  
In the Matter of Minnesota Power's Compliance Report on Rate Design for Large Power Customers.
1. Should the Commission accept Minnesota Power's compliance filings?
  2. Are there any actions the Commission should take in response to the compliance filings? (PUC: **O'Grady, McShane**)

**Attachments:** [Briefing Papers](#)

**Accepted filings.**

7. \* **E015/M-19-440 Minnesota Power**  
In the Matter of Minnesota Power's Request for Approval of its 2019 Transmission Factors under its Transmission Cost Recovery Rider.
- Should the Commission accept Minnesota Power's transmission cost recovery rider compliance filing and its comments in response to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC's) December 4, 2020 Audit Report and Order, in FERC Docket No. FA20-2-000? (PUC: **Hetherington, Bender**)

**Attachments:** [Briefing Papers](#)

**Accepted filing and required information to be filed in next general rate case.**

8. \* **E015/PA-20-675 Minnesota Power**  
In the Matter of the Petition by Minnesota Power for Approval of Land Sales.
1. Should the Commission approve Minnesota Power's request to sell certain residential lease lots for which company ownership is no longer required to continue operating its hydropower reservoirs?
  2. Should the Commission allow Minnesota Power to set the baseline value of each lot on the county's Estimated Market Value ("EMV") methodology?
  3. Should the Commission authorize Minnesota Power to defer all proceeds from the land sales into a regulatory liability that would be refunded to customers in either a future rate case or through the Renewable Resources Rider? (PUC: **Ubani**)

**Attachments:** [Briefing Papers](#)  
[Decision Option Amendment](#)

**Tabled this item.**

**9. \* G008/GR-19-524 CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., d/b/a  
CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Gas**

In the Matter of the Application by CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., d/b/a CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Gas for Authority to Increase Natural Gas Rates in Minnesota.

Should the Commission approve CenterPoint Energy's final rates and interim rates refund compliance filing? (PUC: **Alonso**)

**Attachments:** [Briefing Papers](#)  
[CPE Final Rates Customer Insert](#)

**Approved filing and required compliance filing.**

**10. \* G008/MR-21-182 CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., d/b/a  
CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Gas**

In the Matter of a Petition by CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Gas (CenterPoint or the Company) to Establish a New Base Cost of Gas in Compliance with the Commission's Order in CenterPoint's General Rate Filing in Docket No. G008/GR-19-524. (PUC: Alonso; DOC: Shah)

**Attachments:** [DOC Comments 4-12-21](#)  
[CPE Reply Comments 4-19-21](#)

**Approved new base cost of gas.**

**11. \*\* G008/M-21-138; G999/CI-21-135 CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., d/b/a  
CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Gas**

In the Matter of the Petition of CenterPoint Energy for Approval of a Recovery Process for Cost Impacts Due to February Extreme Gas Market Conditions;  
In the Matter of a Commission Investigation into the Impact of Severe Weather in February 2021 on Impacted Minnesota Natural Gas Utilities and Customers.

1. Should the Commission request comments on the merits of CenterPoint's request and, if so, what issues should parties address in their comments and how much time should parties have to investigate the merits of CenterPoint's request?
2. Should this matter be consolidated into the Commission's investigation regarding the impact of the February 2021 severe weather
3. Should this matter be referred to the Office of Administrative Hearings for a contested case proceeding? (PUC: **Alonso, Larson, Worlobah**)

**Attachments:** [Briefing Papers](#)  
[Decision Option Alternative](#)

**Denied petition, required notice, and authorized Department to request cost of technical professional services.**

- 12. \*\* G004/M-21-235; Great Plains Natural Gas Co., a Division of  
G999/CI-21-135 Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Great Plains, Company)**
- In the Matter of the Petition by Great Plains Natural Gas Co., a Division of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., for Approval of Rule Variances to Recover High Natural Gas Costs from February 2021;  
In the Matter of a Commission Investigation into the Impact of Severe Weather in February 2021 on Impacted Minnesota Natural Gas Utilities and Customers.
1. Should the Commission request comments on the merits of Great Plains' request and, if so, what issues should parties address in their comments and how much time should parties have to investigate the merits of CenterPoint's request?
  2. Should this matter be consolidated into the Commission's investigation regarding the impact of the February 2021 severe weather?
  3. Should this matter be referred to the Office of Administrative Hearings for a contested case proceeding? (PUC: **Alonso, Larson, Worlobah**)

**Attachments:**    [Briefing Papers](#)  
                          [Decision Option Alternative](#)

**Denied petition and required notice.**

- 13. \*\* G008/M-20-889; CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., d/b/a  
G008/M-21-48; CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Gas  
E,G999/CI-20-492**
- In the Matter of an Inquiry into CenterPoint Energy's Investments that May Assist in Minnesota's Economic Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic;  
In the Matter of an Inquiry into CenterPoint Energy's Request for Approval of its Advanced Metering Project;  
In the Matter of an Inquiry into Utility Investments that May Assist in Minnesota's Economic Recovery From the COVID-19 Pandemic.
1. Should the Commission approve immediate implementation of one or more of CenterPoint's proposed Tranche 1 investments: Accelerated Pipe Replacement, Additional Hydrogen Projects, High-Tech Demonstration Kitchen, Workforce Training and Development, Damage Prevention Campaign, and Hennepin County RNG Project?
  2. Should the Commission approve CenterPoint's request for approval of deferred accounting for its six proposed tranche 1 investments? (PUC: **Alonso**)

**Attachments:**    [Briefing Papers](#)

**Approved immediate implementation of certain proposed projects.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\* One star indicates agenda item is unusual but is not disputed.**

**\*\* Two stars indicate a disputed item or significant legal or procedural issue to be resolved. (Ex Parte Rules apply)**

**Please note: For the complete record, please see eDockets**