

The Commission met on **Thursday, January 5, 2017, 2016**, with Chair Heydinger and Commissioners Lange, Lipschultz, Schuerger, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

## **ENERGY AGENDA**

### **~~IP-6846/WS-10-798~~**

**~~In the Matter of the Site Permit for the up to 41 Megawatt Trishe Wind Minnesota Large Wind Energy Conversion System in Kandiyohi and Meeker Counties~~**

**PULLED**

### **G-002/GP-16-656**

**IN the Matter of the Application of Xcel Energy for a Route Permit for the Black Dog Natural Gas Pipeline Project in Burnsville**

Commissioner Lipschultz moved to take no action at this time.

The motion passed, 5-0.

### **E-281.124SA-16-753**

**In the Matter of the Joint Request of the New Prague Utilities Commission and Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative, to Modify Electric Service Territory Boundaries**

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission approve the requested service territory boundary transfer from Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative to the New Prague Utilities Commission, and require MnGeo to make the requested changes to the service territory maps.

The motion passed 5-0.

### **E-999/CI-01-1023**

**In the Matter of Establishing Generic Standards for Utility Tariffs for Interconnection and Operation of Distributed Generation Facilities under Minnesota Laws w2001, Chapter 212**

### **E-999/CI-16-521**

**In the Matter of Updating the Generic Standards for the Interconnection and Operation of Distributed Generation Facilities Established under Minn. Stat. § 216B.1611**

Commissioner Schuerger moved to take the following actions:

1. The Commission hereby delegates authority to the Executive Secretary to issue Notice(s), set schedules, and designate comment periods for the scope outlined in the paragraphs below. The Executive Secretary will, in cooperation with the Department of Commerce, convene a work group of appropriate size and composition, and may select a facilitator, to more fully develop the record.
  - A. The Minnesota interconnection process will be transitioned to one based on the FERC SGIP and SGIA. The Executive Secretary will set schedules and take comments. It is anticipated that the Commission will consider the record and comments within 18 months of this order, to replace Attachments 1,3,4 and 5. The Executive Secretary will use the Joint Movant's May 12, 2016 filing, generally, as the starting point for comments.
  - B. In the longer-term (nine to twenty-two months), the Executive Secretary will set schedules and take comments on updating the Minnesota interconnection technical standards. It is anticipated that the Commission will consider the record and comments within 24 months of this order, to replace Attachment 2. This stage of work would incorporate newly revised national technical standards, and other issues identified as areas in need on updating.

The motion passed 5–0.

Commissioner Schuerger moved that the Commission designate Commissioner Matt Schuerger as lead commissioner pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216A.03, subd. 9, with authority to help develop the record necessary for resolution of the issues in this docket, and to develop recommendations to the Commission.

The motion passed 5–0.

Commissioner Tuma moved to establish the following procedures for the workgroup process:

In the near term (first six months), the Executive Secretary will set schedules, and take comments on incremental process improvements to the existing 2004 MN interconnection standards. This initial stage of work will include process updates, including but not limited to expedited and fast track processes and timelines, and other issues that are identified as areas of consensus in the near term. The Executive Secretary will use the Areas of Agreement (as outlined above), generally, as the starting point in this stage of work. It is anticipated that the Commission will consider the record and comments in the near-term, within six months of this order, to update the 2004 MN Interconnection Standards with incremental process improvements.

The motion failed 1–4. Commissioners Heydinger, Lange, Lipschultz, and Schuerger voted against the motion.

**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**

The parties informed the Commission that they had reached a settlement.

The Commission took no action.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: February 1, 2017**

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

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**Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary**