

The Commission met on **Thursday, November 14, 2019** with Chair Sieben and Commissioners Lipschultz, Means, Schuerger, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

IP-6981/CN-17-306

In the Matter of the Application of Dodge County Wind, LLC for a Certificate of Need for the 170 MW Dodge County Wind Project and Associated Facilities in Dodge, Steele, and Olmsted Counties, Minnesota

IP-6981/WS-17-307

In the Matter of the Application of Dodge County Wind, LLC for a Site Permit for the 170 MW Dodge County Wind Project and Associated Facilities in Dodge and Steele Counties, Minnesota

IP-6981/TL-17-308

In the Matter of the Application of Dodge County Wind, LLC for a Route Permit for the 345 kV High-Voltage Transmission Line Associated with the Dodge County Wind Project in Dodge and Olmsted Counties, Minnesota

Commissioner Lipschultz moved that the Commission:

1. Grant the request to withdraw the High-voltage transmission line route permit application;
2. Reject the revised certificate of need application, suspend the current proceedings, require the applicant to refile a comprehensive and complete certificate of need application that includes a proposal for associated facilities to interconnect the project to the transmission system;
3. Reject the revised site permit application, suspend the current proceedings, and require the applicant to refile a comprehensive and complete site permit application that includes a proposal for associated facilities to interconnect the project to the transmission system; and
4. Take no action of LIUNA's September 5, 2019 motion to compel, but note that the applicable statute and rules do not require attorney representation to appear before the Commission or the OAH.

The motion passed 5-0.

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

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 2001, Chapter 212

Commissioner Schuerger moved that the Commission:

1. Adopt the State of Minnesota Technical Interconnection and Interoperability Requirements (TIIR) as filed on August 23, 2019, with the following modifications:

- Section 1.4: Coordination with Area EPS Operator’s Specific Technical Standards

The following is a brief listing of some of the areas which further technical guidance is to be provided within the Area EPS Operator’s TSM. [insert footnote:] See Annex C for an anticipated list of additional topics in a TSM.

- Section 2: References

IEEE Std C62.92.2.-2017, IEEE Guide for the Application of Neutral Grounding in Electric Utility Systems, Part II – Grounding of Synchronous Generator Systems and Part VI – Systems Supplied by Current Regulated Sources

IEEE Std C62.92.6-2017, IEEE Guide for the Application of Neutral Grounding in Electric Utility Systems, Part VI

- Section 3.2: Definition of ESS Control Mode

The function that manages the real and reactive power flow from or to a DER ESS in response to certain parameters, (such as time, price signals, frequency or external signals, etc.).

- Section 5.4: Title

Voltage and Reactive Active Power Control

- Section 7.2: Protection Requirements

All equipment providing relay functions shall meet or exceed ANSI/IEEE Standards for protective relays, or standards applicable for the installation voltage, unless otherwise specified by the Area EPS Operator’s TSM. [insert footnote:] Inverters

certified to UL 1741 may contain protective functions that do not require equivalent external protective relays to meet IEEE 1547 requirements.

- Section 7.4: Additional Protection

Medium and large DER installations may require more sensitive and faster protection to minimize potential damage and ensure safety. [insert footnote:] Ride-through capabilities for bulk power system support should be considered before setting protective tripping times that conflict with BPS support.

- Add Annex C: Anticipated TSM Topics

1. Introduction
2. Abbreviations and Common Terms
3. Performance Category Assignment
4. Reactive Power Capability and Voltage/Power Control Performance
5. Response to Abnormal Conditions
6. Protection Requirements
7. Operations
8. Power Control Systems
9. Interoperability
10. Energy Storage Systems
11. Metering Requirements
12. Signage and Labeling
13. Test and Verifications Requirements
14. Sample Documents for Simplified Process
15. Appendix

2. Set an effective date for the TIIR and TSMs of July 1, 2020;
3. Request input from the Technical Subgroup (TSG) of the Distributed Generation Workgroup (DG Workgroup) as to when IEEE 1547-2018 certified equipment is “readily available.” The Commission delegates to the Executive Secretary the authority to issue a notice when the full TIIR goes into effect in consultation with the TSG;
4. Reconvene the DG Workgroup to draft a guidance document to accompany the TIIR that clarifies which provisions are in place in the interim period until newly certified equipment is available. The DG Workgroup should complete its work and finalize the document by the publication date of the TIIR. The filing of the guidance document will depend upon whether the DG Workgroup can reach a consensus on the contents of the document. If a consensus is reached, the guidance document shall be filed in Docket No. E-999/CI-16-521 and published by the Executive Secretary along with the TIIR on the Commission’s website. If no consensus is reached, each utility shall adopt their

preferred version of the guidance document to be included with the utility's Technical Specifications Manual (TSM);

5. Require each rate-regulated utility to make its draft TSM available to the DG Workgroup no later than April 1, 2020, for review and discussion;
6. Require each rate-regulated utility to file its final TSM no later than May 1, 2020;
7. After the final TSMs and any subsequent updates are filed, allow objections to be filed with the Commission within a 30-day period. Any objections should clearly identify the challenged provisions, the basis for the objection, and a preferred alternative approach where possible. If no objections are received, the TSM shall automatically become effective 30 days after filing. If objections are received, the Commission will make a formal determination on the objections before the challenged TSM can become effective. However, if the utility represents that safety or reliability will be directly affected by delayed implementation, then the TSM will immediately become effective while the Commission makes a formal determination on the objections. The absence of objections to a TSM during the initial 30-day objection period does not waive or nullify future objections to any TSM provisions;
8. Require rate-regulated utilities to file an informational notice with the webpage link each time their TSM is updated;
9. Require rate-regulated utilities to file their TSMs as part of their annual reporting under Minn. R. 7835.0300. The filing shall include a red-line of any changes, but the TSM is not required to be included in the utility's tariff;
10. Find that it is necessary for potential interconnection customers to be able to access the utility's TSM. These standards and procedures must not be more restrictive than the standards contained in the TIIR. The utility may include suggested types of equipment to perform the specified functions. No standard or procedure may be established to discourage cogeneration or small power production;
11. Recommend the following items for discussion and eventual resolution through the DG Workgroup:
 - a. Energy storage control modes and harmonization of the language and structure of the energy storage requirements in the operating agreements;
 - b. Determination of explicit treatment of distributed energy resources (DER) using Power Control Systems for maximum capacity and export control in the Minnesota Distributed Energy Resources Interconnection Process (MN DIP) and the TIIR document;

- c. Evaluation of Voltage-Reactive Power Regulation in the TIIR;
 - d. Harmonization of the language and structure of voltage regulation considerations in the operating agreements to the extent possible;
 - e. Harmonization of the language and structure of the communications operating agreements so as to not unduly burden DER operators; and
 - f. Plan to reduce and/or track unintended curtailments due to Voltage – Active Power Control prior to implementation.
12. Delegate to the Executive Secretary the authority to issue by Notice a clean copy of the statewide TIIR reflecting the modifications approved in this order; and
13. Delegate to the Executive Secretary the authority to establish and maintain an ongoing DG Workgroup to meet annually, or more frequently as needed, to review implementation and technical issues that arise with implementation of the MN DIP, Minnesota DER Interconnection Agreement (MN DIA), TIIR, or emerging DER technology. Updates to the MN DIP, MN DIA, and/or TIIR may be accomplished by Commission order in response to a petition.

The motion passed 5-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: July 15, 2020



Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary