

## Staff Briefing Papers

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>October 31, 2024</b>	<b>Agenda Item 1*</b>
<b>Company</b>	CenterPoint Energy Corp. d/b/a CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Gas, Great Plains Natural Gas Co., Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc., Minnesota Energy Resources Corp., Northern States Power Co. d/b/a Xcel Energy	
<b>Docket No.</b>	<b>G-008/M-24-43</b> <b>In the Matter of CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Gas' Natural Gas Conservation Improvement Program 2023 Status Report &amp; Associated Consolidated</b>	
	<b>G-004/M-24-44</b> <b>In the Matter of 2023 Conservation Improvement Program Consolidated Filing by Great Plains Natural Gas Co.</b>	
	<b>G-022/M-24-45</b> <b>In the Matter of Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc.'s Petition for Approval of 2023 Energy Conservation and Optimization Program Tracker Account and Proposed Conservation Cost Recovery Adjustment</b>	
	<b>G-011/M-24-46</b> <b>In the Matter of Petition of Minnesota Energy Resources Corp. for Approval of the 2023 Conservation Improvement Program Tracker Account, Demand-Side Management Financial Incentive, and Conservation Cost Recovery Adjustment Factor</b>	
	<b>G-002/M-24-47</b> <b>In the Matter of Xcel Energy's 2024/2025 Natural Gas CIP Adjustment Factor</b>	
<b>Issues</b>	Should the Commission approve the gas utilities' proposed 2023 CIP Tracker balance?	
	Should the Commission approve the gas utilities' proposed CIP Demand Side Management Financial Incentives?	

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The attached materials are work papers of the Commission Staff. They are intended for use by the Public Utilities Commission and are based upon information already in the record unless noted otherwise.

Should the Commission approve the gas utilities' proposed Conservation Cost Recovery Adjustment Factor?

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<b>✓ Relevant Documents</b>	<b>Date</b>
Compliance Filing – CenterPoint Energy	May 1, 2024
Comments - Department	August 1, 2024
Reply Comments – CenterPoint Energy	August 22, 2024
Report – Great Plains Natural Gas	May 1, 2024
Comments - Department	July 26, 2024
Initial Filing - Greater Minnesota Gas	June 5, 2024
Comments - Department	August 1, 2024
Initial Filing - MERC	May 1, 2024
Comments - Department	August 1, 2024
Reply Comments – MERC	August 19, 2024
Initial Filing – Xcel Energy	April 1, 2024
Comments - Department	August 1, 2024
Reply Comments – Xcel Energy	August 13, 2024
Letter – Xcel Energy	October 10, 2024

## Staff Analysis

Staff would like to provide the following clarification regarding the effective dates proposed in the Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) Tracker account filings for natural gas utilities. These filings will be discussed at the agenda meeting scheduled for October 31, 2024. In the filings, the utilities have proposed differing effective dates.

Utility	Proposed Effective Date
CenterPoint Energy	October 1, 2024
Great Plains Natural Gas	September 1, 2024
Greater Minnesota Gas	First day of the month following approval
MERC	January 1, 2025
Xcel Energy	October 1, 2024

Among these dates, CenterPoint Energy, Great Plains Natural Gas, Greater Minnesota Gas, and Xcel Energy proposed an effective date earlier than October 31, 2024. So, in the decision options below Staff recommends that all effective dates should be consistent and set for the first billing cycle after Commission approval. This approach simplifies implementation and minimizes confusion for both utilities and customers. And Staff recommends the Commission to approve MERC's original proposed effective date as of January 1, 2025.

## Decision Options

Staff provides decision options below that have consensus between utilities and the Department of Commerce as indicated in utility and Department filings.

### CenterPoint Energy

1. Approve a 2023 DSM financial incentive of \$8,450,662 to be included in CenterPoint Energy's tracker account no sooner than the issue date of the Commission's Order in the instant docket. (CenterPoint, Department)
2. Approve CenterPoint Energy's 2023 CIP tracker account activities with a December 31, 2023, ending over-recovery balance of \$6,131,707. (CenterPoint, Department)
3. Approve the revised gas CCRA of \$0.1704 per Dth for all of CenterPoint Energy's Minnesota customer classes, effective October 1, 2024, or the first billing cycle in the month following the Commission's Order, in this matter, whichever is later. (CenterPoint, Department)
  - a. Effective on the first billing cycle in the month following the Commission's Order. (Staff)
4. Approve CenterPoint's customer notification message that reads as follows:

The PUC has approved a Conservation Cost Recovery Adjustment (CCRA) factor of \$0.01704 per therm. This charge will be used to fund energy conservation activities and has been added to your delivery charge. For more information, please call or visit our website. (CenterPoint, Department)

5. Require CenterPoint to submit a compliance filing with tariff sheets including all necessary calculations within 10 days of the issue date of the Order. (CenterPoint, Department)

### **Great Plains Natural Gas**

6. Approve Great Plains Natural Gas Company's 2023 CIP tracker account, resulting in a 2023 CIP tracker year-end balance of (\$401,172). (Great Plains, Department)
7. Approve a CCRA rate of \$0.0202 per Dth, to be effective September 1, 2024, or the first billing cycle after the Commission's determination in this matter. (Great Plains, Department)
  - a. Effective on the first billing cycle in the month following the Commission's Order. (Staff)
8. Require Great Plains Natural Gas Company to include the following bill message in the billing month immediately following the date of the Order in the current docket:
 

Great Plains recovers the cost changes in its energy conservation programs from the base established in 2021 through a Conservation Cost Recovery Adjustment (CCRA) subject to MN Public Utilities Commission approval. A CCRA of [insert rate] per dk is effective [insert effective date]. Learn more about reducing your energy use by visiting our website at [www.gpng.com](http://www.gpng.com) or calling us at 1-877-267-4764. (Great Plains, Department)
9. Require Great Plains Natural Gas Company to submit a compliance filing, within 10 days of the issue date of the Order in the present docket, with revised tariff sheets reflecting the Commission's determinations in this matter. (Great Plains, Department)

### **Greater Minnesota Gas**

10. Approve Greater Minnesota Gas' 2021, 2022, and 2023 ECO tracker account with a December 31, 2023 tracker balance of \$415,344. (GMG, Department)
11. Approve a Conservation Cost Recovery Adjustment of \$0.4407/Dth to be effective on the first day of the month following approval. (GMG, Department)
  - a. Effective on the first billing cycle in the month following the Commission's Order. (Staff)
12. Approve Greater Minnesota Gas' proposed bill message that reads as follows:
 

Effective \_\_\_\_\_, 2024, your bill will include an adjusted Conservation Cost

Recovery Adjustment (CCRA). The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission approved the CCRA on \_\_\_\_\_, 2024. The CCRA is necessary and allowed by law to fund the statemandated Energy Conservation and Optimization Program. The CCRA is \$0.04407 per therm, or \$0.4407 per dekatherm, of natural gas that you use. If you have questions, please contact us at 1-888-931-3411 or [www.greatermngas.com](http://www.greatermngas.com). Thank you. (GMG, Department)

13. Require Greater Minnesota Gas' to submit a compliance filing, within 10 days of the issue date of the Order in the present docket, with revised tariff sheets reflecting the Commission's determinations in this matter. (GMG, Department)

### **MERC**

14. Approve a 2023 DSM financial incentive of \$1,494,587 to be included in the Company' tracker account no sooner than the issue date of the Commission's Order in the instant docket. (MERC, Department)
15. Approve MERC's 2023 CIP tracker account activities with a December 31, 2023, ending over-recovery balance of (\$3,070,173.82). (MERC, Department)
16. Approve the revised gas CCRA of \$0.01221 per therm for all of MERC's Minnesota customer classes, effective January 1, 2025, or the first billing cycle in the month following the Commission's Order, in this matter, whichever is later. (MERC, Department)
  - a. Effective on the first billing cycle in the month following the Commission's Order. (Staff)
17. Approve MERC's customer notification message that reads as follows:

Effective January 1, 2025, the CCRA (conservation cost recovery adjustment) has been revised to \$0.01221 per therm. The CCRA is an annual adjustment to true-up under-recovery or over-recovery of CIP (conservation improvement program) expenses. (MERC, Department)
18. Require MERC to submit a compliance filing with tariff sheets including all necessary calculations within 10 days of the issue date of this Order. (MERC, Department)

### **Xcel Energy**

19. Approve Xcel Energy's natural gas Shared Savings DSM financial incentive of \$4,253,188. (Xcel, Department)
20. Approve a 2024/2025 natural gas CIP Adjustment Factor of \$ 0.030554 per therm beginning October 1, 2024, or the first billing cycle in the month following the Commission's Order in

this matter, whichever is later. (Xcel, Department)

a. Effective on the first billing cycle in the month following the Commission's Order. (Staff)

21. Approve Xcel Energy's Natural Gas 2023 Tracker account as filed on April 1, 2024, with an ending balance of (\$5,587,506). (Xcel, Department)

22. Approve Xcel Energy's proposed bill message, effective the first month the 2024/2025 natural gas CIP Adjustment Factor takes effect, revised as necessary to incorporate the approved CAF and effective date, that reads as follows:

Effective December 1, 2024, the Resource Adjustment line item on your bill has increased due to a change in the Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) factor. The natural gas CIP portion of the Resource Adjustment is \$0.030554 per therm. (Xcel, Department)

23. Require Xcel Energy to submit a compliance filing with tariff sheets including all necessary calculations within 10 days of the issue date of the Order. (Xcel, Department)