

The Commission met on **Thursday, December 14, 2017** with Chair Lange and Commissioners Lipschultz, Schuerger, Sieben, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

G-004/M-17-625

In the Matter of the Petition of Great Plains Natural Gas Co. for Approval of Proposed Revisions to Its Natural Gas Tariff to Comply with Federal Pipeline Safety Regulations 49 C.F.R. § 192.383

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Approve the Company's proposed tariff change with the following modifications:
2. At the time the customer requests the installation of an EFV on an existing service line, Great Plains will provide the customer with a detailed explanation of the installation costs identifying specific line items and the per-hour rates that the customer would be charged;
3. Great Plains must cover the cost of the EFV and any other physical plant placed in service to accomplish the installation of the EFV. The Company may add these costs to its physical plant for possible recovery in a future rate case.
4. Require the Company, within ten days of the date of the order, to make a compliance filing with redlined and clean versions of the updated tariff sheets.
5. Open a separate docket, Docket No. G-999/CI-18-41, for the purpose of investigating all gas utilities under the jurisdiction of the Commission to gain more information on the following topics:
 - a. Each natural gas utility's present tariffs and customer-notification practices as they relate to the installation of EFVs for new, refurbished, and existing customer lines;
 - b. Any similar gas-safety requirements that customers may request on the utility system between the main and the meter outlet into the customer's property;
 - c. The appropriate amount of installation costs that should be socialized among ratepayers or paid by a specific customer in light of recent changes to federal pipeline safety regulations;

- d. Payment options for requesting customers along with how to appropriately address requests for EFV installations from low-income customers.

The purpose of this docket is to determine the appropriate charge and tariff language for each natural gas utility under the Commission's jurisdiction.

The motion passed 5-0.

E-015/M-16-564

In the Matter of Minnesota Power's Revised Petition for a Competitive Rate for Energy-Intensive Trade-Exposed (EITE) Customers and an EITE Cost Recovery Rider

E-015/GR-16-664

In the Matter of the Application of Minnesota Power for Authority to Increase Rates for Electric Service in Minnesota

Commissioner Lipschultz moved to deny the petitions for reconsideration.

The motion passed 5-0.

E-002/M-17-425

In the Matter of a Petition by Xcel Energy for Approval of Solar Energy Standard Customer Exclusion Cost Treatment

Commissioner Sieben moved that the Commission:

1. Approve Xcel's proposal for identifying specific SES-related costs for exemption, crediting those costs back to SES-exempt customers, and recovering those costs from the Company's customer base.
2. Find that if funding for Xcel's Solar*Rewards, Minnesota Bonus, or Made in Minnesota Programs is changed and directed for uses other than solar rebate or solar-energy incentives as directed by statute, these funds may not be eligible for exclusion.
3. Approve the Company's proposed revisions to its Minnesota Electric Rate Book, including Sheet Nos. 5-91 (FCA), 5-92.1 (CIP), and 5-143 (RDF), to be effective ten days from the date of the order.
4. Find that only those costs associated with SRECs that are retired for the purpose of meeting the requirements of Minn. Stat. § 216B.1691, subd. 2f, can be excluded from rates charged to exempt customers.

5. As part of its SES annual reporting, require the Company to include all relevant information, including but not limited to the total costs that have been apportioned to and recovered from solar-paying (non-exempt) customers under Minn. Stat. § 216B.1691, subd. 2f(f), that would have been recovered from exempt customers.
6. Find that, in this docket, the Commission is not addressing or deciding the jurisdictional allocation or assignment of SES costs.
7. Find that, as proposed by Xcel in the Petition, any customer who participates in a solar program that incurs SES-related costs is ineligible for SES-cost exemption, and any customer exempted from solar costs is ineligible to participate in a solar program that incurs SES-related costs.

The motion passed 5-0.

IP-6964/CN-16-289

In the Matter of the Application of Nobles 2 Power Partners, LLC for a Certificate of Need for the up to 260 MW Nobles 2 Wind Project and Associated Facilities in Nobles County, Minnesota

Commissioner Schuerger moved that the Commission:

1. Accept the Application as complete.
2. Direct that the Application be reviewed using the informal review process under Minn. R. 7829.1200.
3. The administrative law judge assigned to this matter set a prehearing conference in consultation with the Applicant, the Department, and Commission staff.
4. Declare that the public hearing for the certificate-of-need proceeding shall be held jointly with the public hearing for the site permit application in docket IP-6964/WS-17-597.
5. Delegate administrative authority in this proceeding to the Executive Secretary.
6. Designate Charles Bruce as the Public Advisor to facilitate citizen participation in the review process. His phone number is 651.201.2251 and his email is publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us.
7. Request that the Department continue to study the issues and indicate during the hearing process its position on the reasonableness of granting a certificate of need.

8. Require the Applicant to facilitate in every reasonable way the continued examination of the issues by the Department and Commission staff.
9. Require the Applicant to place a copy of the Application (printed or compact disc) for review in at least one government center or public library near the Project location.
10. Commission staff will work with the administrative law judge and the Department to select a suitable location for the public hearings on the Application.
11. Require the Public Advisor to e-file the public comments received once the Application is open for comment.
12. Vary Minn. R. 7849.0200, subp. 5, and Minn. R. 7849.1400, subp. 3, to extend the timelines contained in those rules.

The motion passed 5-0.

IP-6964/WS-17-597

In the Matter of the Application of Nobles 2 Power Partners, LLC for a Site Permit for the up to 260 MW Nobles 2 Wind Project and Associated Facilities in Nobles County, Minnesota

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Accept the Application as substantially complete.
2. Requests that an administrative law judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings preside over the public hearing as described below:
 - a. Conduct the public hearing in accordance with Minn. R. 7850.3800, subp. 2–4, and, as the administrative law judge deems appropriate, with Minn. R. 1405.0500, .0600, .0800, .1900, and .2200, and provide a summary of public comments from the public hearing;
 - b. Direct that intervention as a party is not required to participate in the proceeding. The Commission notes that EERA and the Applicant are parties to the proceeding, and other persons may participate as public participants or as otherwise prescribed;
 - c. Request that state agencies participate in the proceeding in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 216E.10, subd. 3;
 - d. Establish the types of filings necessary to facilitate proper record development (i.e. testimony, briefs, reply briefs, proposed findings and site-permit

recommendations) and a schedule for submitting those filings through the scheduling of a prehearing conference in accordance with Minn. R. 1405.1100, as deemed appropriate;

- e. Emphasize the statutory timeframe for the Commission to make final decisions on the Application and encourage the Applicant and others to adhere to a schedule that conforms to the statutory timeframe;
 - f. Address and ask others to address whether the Project meets the criteria established under Minn. Stat. Ch. 216F and Minn. R. Ch. 7854;
 - g. Prepare a report setting forth findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations on the merits of the Application, and provide recommendations, if any, on conditions and provisions of the proposed site permit;
 - h. Direct that the hearing record be maintained through the Commission's eDockets filing system.
3. Delegate administrative authority in this proceeding, including timing issues, to the Executive Secretary.
 4. Designate Charles Bruce as the Public Advisor to facilitate citizen participation in the review process. His phone number is 651.201.2251 and his email is publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us.
 5. Request that EERA continue to study the issues and indicate during the hearing process, through testimony or comments, its position on the reasonableness of granting a site permit.
 6. Direct the Applicant to comply with all requirements set forth below:
 7. Require the Applicant to facilitate in every reasonable way the continued examination of the issues requested by EERA and Commission staff.
 8. Require the Applicant to place a print or electric copy of the Application in the government center or public library located closest to the Project site.
 9. Require the Applicant to work with Commission staff and the administrative law judge to arrange for publication of the notice of hearing in newspapers of general circulation at least ten days prior to the hearing, that such notice be in the form of visible display ads, and that proof of publication be obtained from the newspapers selected.

10. Require that all noticing requirements in these matters provided for under Minn. Stat. Ch. 216F and Minn. R. Ch. 7854 include delivery to all affected landowners. An affected landowner is any landowner or designee that is within or adjacent to the Project boundary.
11. Vary Minn. R. 7854.0600, subp. 1, and Minn. R. 7854.0800, subp. 1, to extend the timelines contained in those rules.
12. Grant the Applicant's request for a variance to Minn. R. 7854.0600, subp. 3, to allow it to provide hard copies or electronic copies of the Application and maps, and provide appendices via electronic means such as a CD or thumb drive, unless otherwise request by a recipient.

The motion passed 5-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: February 7, 2018

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel P. Wolf". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary