

The Commission met on **Thursday, March 6, 2025.**

Chair Sieben and Commissioners Ham, Partridge, Sullivan, and Tuma were present for the following item taken up by the Commission:

The Commission heard Item 2 before Item 1.

E-999/CI-24-316

In the Matter of the Investigation into Transmission-Curtailment Matters, Drivers, and Potential Solutions to Limitations Resulting from the Nobles County Substation

Commissioner Ham moved that the Commission:

1. Require the MTOs to include a cost benefit analysis in their 2025 Biennial Transmission Report that: (1) compares any feasible battery storage solution to status quo conditions, and (2) addresses the performance of any feasible battery storage solution under planned grid upgrades at the Nobles County Substation area.
2. Require the MTOs to include an update in the 2025 Biennial Transmission Projects Report about the WECS curtailment and economic impact data as provided in the Department's December 3, 2024 Supplemental Comments for the Nobles County Substation area and the areas of congestion identified as part of the GETs Study required under the 2024 Session Laws Ch. 126, article 6, section 52, subd. 2(1). In addition, the Commission will require the MTOs to consult with the Department in preparation for the 2025 Biennial Transmission Projects Report.

The motion passed 5-0.

Prior to the Commission taking up the next item, Commissioner Sullivan left the Agenda Meeting.

E-0145,328/SA-24-428

In the Matter of the Joint Request of the MiEnergy Cooperative and the City of Whalan to Modify Electric Service Territory Boundaries

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Approve the joint request of MiEnergy and the City of Whalan to Modify Electric Service Territory Boundaries resulting in the permanent transfer of the 58 Whalan Public Utilities accounts to MiEnergy.
2. Request MNGEO update the service territory map, to reflect the changes on the map as provided.

The motion passed 4-0.

IP-7103/GS-22-451

In the Matter of the Application of Enbridge Solar (Plummer), LLC for a Site Permit for the up to 130 MW Plummer Solar Project in Red Lake County

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Adopt the ALJ Report to the extent it is consistent with the Commission's decisions.
2. Determine that the Environmental Assessment and the record created in this matter address the issues identified in the Scoping Decision.
3. Issue the Proposed Site Permit attached to these briefing papers as the Site Permit for the up to 130-megawatt Plummer Solar, LLC project proposed in Red Lake County, Minnesota.
4. Modify special permit condition 5.1 as follows:

5.1 Tribal Engagement for Employment and Economic Opportunity Economic and Workforce Development

The Permittee shall continue engagement with local Native American tribes in order to provide meaningful opportunities for Tribal economic and workforce development opportunities related to the Plummer Solar project ~~tribal employment and economic opportunity throughout the project~~. The Permittee shall document the hiring of Tribal members and the utilization of Tribal businesses ~~tribal employment~~ for the project in its labor statistics reporting required under Section 8.5 of this permit during the construction phase of the project.

5. Delegate authority to the Executive Secretary to modify the amended site permit to correct any typographic and formatting errors and ensure consistency with the Commission's order.

The motion passed 4-0.

E-002/M-20-86

In the Matter of the Petition for Approval of a General Time-Of-Use Service Tariff

Commissioner Partridge moved that the Commission require Xcel to suspend its General TOU Service Rate Pilot Program and focus on developing a partial transition plan that is based on Xcel's 2024 resource plan to a default General Service TOU rate, and a detailed customer outreach and marketing plan, to be filed by March 31, 2026, with timelines and actions as described in Xcel's October 4, 2024 reply comments.

The motion passed 4-0.

Prior to the Commission taking up the next item, Commissioner Partridge left the Agenda Meeting.

E-002/M-23-524

In the Matter of the Petition of Xcel Energy for Approval of a Residential Time of Use Rate Design

Chair Sieben moved that the Commission:

1. Require Xcel to revise the on-peak period to be from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
2. Require Xcel to take the following actions related to implementation of the Space Heating Rate and include information on the proposed outreach in its 90-day Compliance Plan:
 - a. Require Xcel to develop a process to actively facilitate enrollment in the electric space heating rates for customers that receive an ASHP rebate through ECO.
 - b. Require Xcel to incorporate customer education and awareness of the residential electric space heating rates into customer communications for heat pump rebates to show the full value proposition of installing an ASHP.
 - c. Require Xcel to ensure implementers of complementary programs, such as local government campaigns and future state ASHP rebates, receive education about the new electric space heating rates and materials to promote the new rates.

- d. Require Xcel to provide educational resources to contractors to ensure appropriate sizing and switchover temperatures to optimize customer benefits.
 - e. Require Xcel to cross market TOU rates with ECO programs.
 - f. Require Xcel to educate heat-pump related staff, contractors, and customers with a broad range of topics, beyond new TOU rates, including electric heating systems that affect operating costs, such as system efficiency, rebate eligibility, proper sizing, and switch-over temperatures.
 - g. A preview of what webpages containing space heating rate information will look like. (Staff offered based on CEE recommendation and Xcel's intent to include such information on its website.
- 3. Require the Company to make the proposed 1-period electric space heating rate of \$0.06537 per kWh available to customers with electric space heating within 30 days of the Commission's Order, and allow the Company to track and recover revenue imbalances due to offering the 1-period electric space heating rate ahead of the TOU rate implementation through a true up mechanism. Xcel must show that this revenue imbalance amount is not already recovered through the sales true up recovery mechanism in the pending rate case in Docket No. E-002/GR-24-320.
 - 4. Deny Xcel's proposed changes to the Excess Generation – Average Retail Utility Energy Service A50 rate tariff.
 - 5. Require Xcel propose a method a revised methodology for solar customers to participate in the Time-of-Use rate and a compensation rate that complies with Minn. Stat. 216B.164, subd. 3(d) and Minn. R. 7835.0100, Subp. 2a with the 90-day Compliance Plan. The revised option should simplify the netting methodology from Xcel's initial proposal and provide a legal explanation of how the methodology complies with Minn. Stat. 216B.164, subd. 3(d) and Minn. R. 7835.0100, Subp. 2a.
 - 6. Approve Xcel's proposed new A57 (Sale to Company After Customer Self-Use), A58 (Monthly Net Metering), and A59 (Annual Net Metering (kWh Banking Option) rates subject to a compliance filing that contains the proposed rate calculations with the 90-day Compliance Plan.
 - 7. Require Xcel develop and perform targeted outreach to existing distributed generation rate customers on the existing A51 to A56 rate codes to inform them of the new rates and include it in the 90-day Compliance Plan. Require the Company to hold a training for DER developers on the new rate options at a quarterly DER Workgroup meeting prior to rate implementation.

8. Deny without prejudice the Company's request to cancel its time of day rate and update its residential EV rates to align with the TOU rates approved in this docket.
9. Require the Company to provide an analysis of, and any recommended changes to, its existing residential EV charging rates in order to accommodate longer off-peak time periods that allow for Level 1 charging and the ability to stagger the start time of EV charging in its Transportation Electrification Plan due November 1, 2025.
10. In its first annual report, Xcel shall identify the feasibility and cost of implementing a shadow billing program.
11. Require Xcel to file a detailed ME&O plan for the approved TOU rate rollout with the 90-day Compliance Plan outlined in Decision Option 4. This plan shall describe, at a minimum, the following:
 - a. What customer communications will look like and what form they will take (emails, mailers, notices on customer bills, etc.).
 - b. More detailed cost estimates for each feature in Xcel's proposed outreach plan.
 - c. Xcel's consideration of additional customer-support staff training to ensure employees are well prepared to answer questions about the new rate.
 - d. The timeline of when each step or communication strategy will be implemented.
 - e. Xcel's plan to engage and communicate with customers who are traditionally underrepresented in energy-decision making, including communities of color and low-income communities.
 - f. Any other relevant aspects of Xcel's proposal for customer outreach and education, including those adopted in other decision options.
 - g. The potential for automatic enrollment options.
 - h. Plans or results of a messaging study that goes beyond customers likely to adopt a TOU rate.
 - i. How digital, non-digital, and paired ME&O approaches will be leveraged and for which customer segments and/or geographies those messages will be deployed.

12. With the 90-day compliance plan outlined in Decision Options 4 and 29, require Xcel to file the following:
 - a. An implementation plan and proposed tariff changes reflecting any modifications approved by the Commission.
 - b. Clarification of, if applicable, the transition of existing space heating customers to Xcel's revised 1-period and TOU space heating rate.
 - c. Clarification on the intersection of the space heating and net metering rates prior to offering these rate options, especially if the Commission were to choose an opt-out rate.
 - d. The timing of the cancellation of Xcel's existing TOU rate and the timing to transition existing TOU rate customers to Xcel's revised TOU rate from its August 16, 2024 filing.
 - e. The plan to transition existing TOU rate customers to Xcel's revised, as detailed in its August 16, 2024 filing, TOU rate.
 - f. The cost of bill protections and a timeline for preparing its system to offer those protections.
 - g. Clarify whether an application could be developed that would use information from the billing system or even directly from the meters itself that could be included as a link in customer bills, rather than having the information appear directly on the bill. Include information from any RFI may issue exploring existence of developers that offer this kind of application.
13. Require Xcel to make an annual program evaluation filing, beginning 15 months after implementation of the new TOU rate and annually thereafter.
14. Require Xcel to file with its fifth annual report, a detailed report evaluating the current rate design and analyzing the costs and benefits of transitioning to a systemwide default time-of-use rate.
15. Delegate authority to the Executive Secretary to issue notice and comment to reevaluate, subject to a negative check-off, whether all ongoing reporting requirements remain valuable after the initial phases of TOU rate implementation are completed.
16. A comment period may be requested within 60 days of each program evaluation filing if it appears that changes need to be made to the rate design.

17. Require Xcel to co-create with a stakeholder group a set of annual reporting metrics, reduced number compared to those listed in staff briefing papers at Attachment A. Require Xcel to provide the group's agreed upon metrics in the 90-day Compliance Filing, with the provision that Xcel retain 15-minute interval data and make those data available upon stakeholder request consistent with existing data privacy standards and Xcel's data retention standards.

The motion passed 3-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: August 13, 2025

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Bull". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike Bull, Acting Executive Secretary