

The Commission met on **Tuesday, April 1, 2014**, with Chair Heydinger, and Commissioners Lange, and Wergin present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

## **ENERGY AGENDA**

### **E-002/MC-14-163**

#### **In the Matter of Xcel Energy's Application for a Minor Alteration to the Blue Lake-Wilmarth-Lakefield 345 kV Transmission Line #0982 and Scott County Substation in Scott County**

Commissioner Wergin moved to authorize the minor alteration request with the following conditions:

1. **Best Management Practices.** Xcel Energy shall take precautions to avoid the spread of invasive plants by heavy equipment during construction and maintenance activities; use wildlife-friendly erosion control materials (<http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/wildlife-friendly-erosion-control.pdf>) to reduce mortality to small nongame species; work with landowners to preserve, wherever possible, low-growing shrub species that can provide wildlife habitat; and use only native seed mixes where reseeding of vegetated areas is needed.
2. **Complaint Procedures.** Prior to the start of construction, Xcel Energy shall submit to the Commission the procedure that will be used to receive and respond to complaints. The procedure shall be in accordance with the requirements set forth in the Commission's standard complaint handling procedures (Attached to the briefing papers in this matter).
3. **Notification to Landowners.** Xcel Energy shall provide all affected landowners with a copy of the Commission's order authorizing a minor alteration. Xcel Energy shall also provide all affected landowners with a copy of the complaint procedure upon contacting landowners to begin construction.
4. **Notification to Commission.** At least three days before the line is to be placed into service, Xcel Energy shall notify the Commission of the date on which the line will be placed into service and the date on which construction was complete. Within 60 days after completion of construction, Xcel Energy shall submit to the Commission geo-spatial information for all above ground structures associated with the project.
5. **Plan and Profile.** At least 30 calendar days before right-of-way preparation for construction begins on any segment or portion of the project, Xcel Energy shall provide the Commission with a plan and profile of the right-of-way and the specifications and drawings for right-of-way preparation, construction, structure specifications and locations, cleanup, and restoration for the transmission line. The documentation shall include maps depicting the plan and profile including the right-of-way, alignment, and structures in relation to the route and alignment approved. Xcel Energy may not commence construction until the 30 days has expired or until the Commission has

advised Xcel Energy in writing that it has completed its review of the documents and determined that the planned construction is consistent with the authorized minor alteration. If Xcel Energy intends to make any significant changes in its plan and profile or the specifications and drawings after submission to the Commission, it shall notify the Commission at least five days before implementing the changes.

6. Field Representative. At least 14 days prior to commencing construction, Xcel Energy shall advise the Commission in writing of the person or persons designated to be the field representative. The field representative's address, phone number, emergency phone number, and email shall be provided to the Commission and shall be made available to affected landowners, residents, public officials and other interested persons.

The motion passed 3-0.

**P-522,405/C-13-941**

**In the Matter of the Complaint by Farmers Mutual Telephone Co. against Frontier Communications of Minnesota Regarding Early Termination Fees**

Chair Heydinger inquired whether any Commissioner wished to move to reconsider the January 30, 2014 order. No Commissioner moved to reconsider, and the petition was therefore denied.

Commissioner Wergin moved to refer the matter to the OAH for record development.

The motion passed 3-0.

**E-017/M-13-795**

**In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company's Request for Approval of its Five Year Depreciation Study**

Commissioner Wergin moved to take the following actions:

1. Require the Company to keep the current retirement date of the Big Stone plant at 14.2 years;
2. Approve the Company's proposed life extension of Coyote Station from 19.0 years to 27.4 years;
3. Allow the Company to decrease the remaining life of Hoot Lake from 10.4 years to 7.4 years;
4. Approve the Company's proposed changes to include the terminal salvage value in the calculation of salvage rates for the following General Plant Accounts: 390.10 General Office Building, 390.20 Fleet Service Center Building, and 390.30 Central Stores Building;

5. Approve January 1, 2014 as the effective date of the Company's revised service lives, salvage values and depreciation rates as indicated in the schedules attached to the Staff Briefing papers;
6. Require the Company to file its next annual depreciation study on or before September 1, 2014;
7. Require the Company to file its next five year depreciation study on or before September 1, 2018;
8. Require the Company to provide in its first depreciation filing that includes new peaking generators, a comparison of the last rate case's short term peaking capacity costs to the peaking plant capacity costs of the new generators; and
9. Require the Company to include in future depreciation filings a table comparing asset lives used for the purposes of the Company's resource planning with the remaining lives proposed in the depreciation filings and explain any differences.

The motion passed 3-0.

**G-002/M-12-440**

**In the Matter of Northern States Power Company's 2011 Annual Gas Service Quality Report**

**G-008/M-12-425**

**In the Matter of CenterPoint Energy's 2011 Annual Gas Service Quality Report**

**G-001/M-12-411**

**In the Matter of Interstate Power and Light Company's 2011 Annual Gas Service Quality Report**

**G-007,011/M-12-436**

**In the Matter of Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation's 2011 Annual Gas Service Quality Report**

**G-004/M-12-442**

**In the Matter of Great Plains Natural Gas Company's 2011 Annual Gas Service Quality Report**

**G-022/M-12-1130**

**In the Matter of Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc.'s 2011 Annual Gas Service Quality Report**

Commissioner Lange moved to accept all of the above 2011 Annual Gas Service Quality Reports.

The motion passed 3-0.

**G-001/M-13-324**

**In the Matter of Interstate Power and Light Company's 2012 Annual Gas Service Quality Report**

Commissioner Lange moved to accept the Company's 2012 Annual Gas Service Quality Report.

The motion passed 3-0.

**G-004/M-13-366**

**In the Matter of Great Plains Natural Gas Company's 2012 Annual Gas Service Quality Report**

Commissioner Wergin moved to accept the Company's 2012 Annual Gas Service Quality Report.

The motion passed 3-0.

**G-022/M-13-362**

**In the Matter of Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc.'s 2012 Annual Gas Service Quality Report**

Commissioner Wergin moved to accept the Company's 2012 Annual Gas Service Quality Report.

The motion passed 3-0.

**G-008/M-13-352**

**In the Matter of CenterPoint Energy's 2012 Annual Gas Service Quality Report**

Commissioner Wergin moved to accept the Company's 2012 Annual Gas Service Quality Report.

The motion passed 3-0.

**G-007M-011/M-13-355**

**In the Matter of Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation's 2012 Annual Gas Service Quality Report**

Commissioner Wergin moved to take the following actions:

1. Accept the Company's 2012 Annual Gas Service Quality Report; and
2. File an update regarding the Tracy residential explosion when the report of the Office Pipeline Safety is released.

The motion passed 3-0.

**G-002/M-13-371**

**In the Matter of Northern States Power Company's 2012 Annual Gas Service Quality Report**

Commissioner Lange moved to take the following actions:

1. Accept the Company's 2012 Annual Gas Service Quality Report; and
2. Require Xcel to provide, in the future, complete and accurate meter reading data with multiple reads excluded (or reference to its location in the electric service quality report), in future natural gas service quality reports.

The motion passed 3-0.

**E-002/M-13-642**

**In the Matter of Northern States Power Company's Petition for Approval of Tariff Modifications Implementing Net Metered Facility Provisions, Standby Service Exemptions, and Meter Aggregation Pursuant to the 2013 Omnibus Energy Bill**

Commissioner Heydinger moved to grant Xcel's request to clarify the Commission's January 27, 2014, order.

The motion passed 3-0.

**E-999./CI-12-957**

**In the Matter of Establishing Digital Service Area Maps Showing the Boundaries of the Assigned Service Area of Each Electric Utility in Minnesota**

Commissioner Wergin moved to take the following actions:

1. Declare the EUSA digital map developed by MnGeo for the Commission as the official map required under Minn. Stat. § 216B.39 without prejudice to any utility;
2. Require that after the Commission determines the EUSA digital map is the official map under Minn. Stat. § 216B.39, all electric utilities must file with the Commission for approval any future service territory boundary changes; and
3. Direct staff to issue an annual Notice to all distribution utilities in Minnesota reminding them to review the electronic service map and to submit any changes to the Commission for approval at the time of the boundary change.

The motion passed 3-0.

**E-015/GR-09-1151**

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

Commissioner Wergin moved to take no action at this time with respect to reopening Minnesota Power's 2009 rate case pursuant to the June 23, 2010 Multi-Party Stipulation and Settlement.

The motion passed 3-0.

Chair Heydinger moved to direct Minnesota Power to notify the Department of Commerce when MP's increased service to the City of Nashwauk, resulting from Essar Steel Minnesota, LLC, operations, reaches or exceeds 25 megawatts.

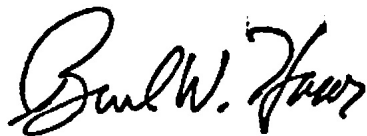
The motion passed 3-0.

Chair Heydinger moved to require Minnesota Power to submit a compliance filing within 20 days that explains and supports its claim that the non-public information included in the Department's comments and designated by MP as such, should remain non-public.

The motion passed 3-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: April 23, 2014**



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**Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary**