

The Commission met on **Thursday, December 3, 2015**, with Chair Heydinger, and Commissioners Lange, Lipschultz, Tuma, and Wergin.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

ENERGY FACILITIES AGENDA

ET-2/TL-15-628

In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy for a Route Permit for the Bull Moose 115 kV Transmission Line Project in Cass County

Commissioner Tuma moved to take the following actions:

1. Take no action regarding adding additional routes for inclusion in the scoping decision for the environmental impact statement;
2. Accept the issuance of the generic route permit template; and
3. Delegate administrative authority to the Executive Secretary.

The motion passed, 5–0.

E-002/GS-15-834

In the Matter of the Application of Xcel Energy for a Site Permit for the 215 MW Black dog Unit 6 Project in Burnsville

Commissioner Wergin moved to take the following actions:

1. Accept the application as substantially complete;
2. Authorize review under the alternative permitting process;
3. Designate Tracy Smetana to serve as the public advisor;
4. Take no action to establish an advisory task force at this time;
5. Request an administrative law judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings be appointed to preside over the public hearing;
6. Request preparation of a summary report;
7. Grant a variance to Minn. R. 7850.3700, subp. 3 to vary the 10-day timeline;

8. Find that no additional sites will be added by the Commission for inclusion in the Environmental Assessment scoping decision;
9. Delegate administrative authority to the Executive Secretary, including the authority to establish or vary time periods as provided under Minn. R. 7829.3100;
10. Direct staff to formally contact relevant state agencies to request their participation in the development of the record and public hearings under Minn. Stat. § 216E.10, subd. 3;
11. Request state agencies to submit comments prior to the last day of the public hearing;
12. Require the applicant to place a printed and electronic copy of the application and any supplements in at least one government center or public library in each city where the proposed project is located; and
13. Delegate administrative authority to the Executive Secretary over timing.

The motion passed, 5–0.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AGENDA

P-6716,421/C-15-818

In the matter of the Complaint by CenturyLink QC against Charter Fiberlink CCO, LLC regarding l=Local Number Portability

Commissioner Tuma moved to dismiss the Complaint as requested by CenturyLink and Charter Fiberlink.

The motion passed, 5–0.

P-421/M-00-849

In the Matter of Qwest Wholesale Service Quality Standards

Commissioner Lipschultz moved as follows:

1. Retain the Qwest (now CenturyLink) Wholesale Service Quality Standards (Wholesale Plan) for adoption by competitive local exchange carriers (CLECs).
2. Relieve Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC (CenturyLink) of the reporting requirements of Sections 10.1 and 10.2 of the Wholesale Plan, until such time as any Minnesota CLEC seeks to incorporate the Wholesale Plan into its interconnection agreement.

3. Upon incorporation CenturyLink shall again become subject to the requirements of Sections 10.1 and 10.2 of the Wholesale Plan.

The motion passed 5–0.

ENERGY AGENDA

E002/CN-12-1240

In the Matter of a First Amendment to a Power Purchase Agreement with Mankato Energy Center II, LLC

Commissioner Lipschultz moved that the Commission adopt the Department recommendation to approve the petition.

The motion passed 5–0.

E002/RP-15-21

In the Matter of Xcel Energy’s 2016-2030 Integrated Resource Plan

Commissioner Lipschultz moved that the Commission take the following actions:

1. Require Xcel to file a supplement to its resource plan no later than January 29, 2016, and shall continue to share information with stakeholders. Upon submission, the Department will review Xcel’s supplemental resource plan filing to determine the time the Department will need to analyze the new filing. Within 30 days of the supplemental filing, the Department will submit a letter to the Commission recommending a comment period and whether any additional information is needed. After reviewing the Department’s recommendation and recommendations from any other party, the Executive Secretary is authorized to set a reply comment period.
2. Require Xcel, as part of its January 29, 2016 supplement, to file:
 - a. A rate impact analysis of the revised proposal;
 - b. A copy of the “Y-2 Study” by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) about the effects of shutting down one or two of the Sherco facilities;
 - c. An analysis of alternatives to all or part of the energy and capacity that would otherwise be provided by natural gas combined cycle and combustion turbine resources, including alternatives such as demand response, improved system or grid efficiencies, and distributed energy resources;
 - d. A proposed method to acquire proposed combined cycle and combustion turbine resources (e.g., a Company-issued request for proposals, a certificate of need, or some other process);
 - e. Information about potential sites for any proposed combined cycle facility;

- f. If the site for the proposed combined cycle facility is known, the estimated total costs, including costs of any extension of natural gas service and transmission lines, along with the basis for choosing the site; and
 - g. Estimated total costs, including costs of any extension of natural gas service and transmission lines, for adding a combustion turbine in North Dakota by 2025.
3. Require that, if Xcel files a Sherco Conversion Plan Proposal, it do so no earlier than one month following the issuance of a Commission order ruling on the merits of Xcel's resource plan. Require that in any such initial filing Xcel include a suggested procedural schedule, following consultation with the MPCA.

The motion passed 5-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: January 27, 2016



Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary