

The Commission met on **Thursday, May 3, 2018** with Chair Lange and Commissioners Lipschultz, Schuerger, and Sieben present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

**P-405/M-16-696**

**In the Matter of Frontier Communications of Minnesota, Inc. Election of Small Company Alternative Form of Regulation Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 237.773, subd. 2**

The Commission took no action.

**E-002/M-14-761**

**In the Matter of Northern States Power Company's Petition for Approval of the 2016-2018 Triennial Nuclear Decommissioning Accrual**

Commissioner Schuerger moved to do the following:

1. Accept the April 3, 2017 filing of Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel) as compliant with all previous nuclear decommissioning orders.
2. Direct Xcel to, within 60 days of the Commission's order, make a compliance filing in this docket and Docket No. E-002/M-17-828, *In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company for Approval of the 2019-2021 Triennial Nuclear Decommissioning Study and Assumptions*, that provides a breakdown by jurisdiction of all contributions made into the Nuclear Decommissioning Trust (NDT) fund over the past 10 years.
3. Direct Xcel, in all future annual filings, to provide a breakdown by jurisdiction of contributions into the NDT fund made during the prior year.

The motion passed 4–0.

**G-011/M-15-895**

**In the Matter of a Petition by Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation for Evaluation and Approval of Rider Recovery for its Rochester natural Gas Extension Project**

Commissioner Lange moved that the Commission:

1. Approve MERC's capacity release plan as a reasonable framework to address the issue of surplus Rochester capacity on a going forward basis.

2. Require MERC to provide semiannual updates in this docket explaining its capacity-release-related activity during the previous 6 months (e.g., when capacity release was offered, amount accepted, and prices).
3. Require MERC to separately track and report Rochester-specific capacity release information (e.g., volumes, and revenue received) in future AAA filings in the same manner that it has in previous AAA filings for short-term capacity releases.
4. Require MERC to provide a detailed discussion of each capacity or substitution in its annual demand entitlement filings on a going forward basis.

The motion passed 4-0.

**IP-6985/WS-17-700**

**In the Matter of the Application of Blazing Star Wind Farm 2, LLC for the 200 MW Blazing Star 2 Wind Project in Lincoln County, Minnesota**

Commissioner Sieben moved that the Commission:

1. Request that an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) from the Office of Administrative Hearings be assigned to conduct the public hearing in accordance with Minn. R. 7850.3800, subp. 2-4 (to the extent applicable or useful), and as the ALJ determines appropriate, Minn. R. 1405.0500; 1405.066; 1405.0800; 1405.1900; and 1405.2200.
2. Direct that intervention as a party is not required. Parties to the proceeding are the Department of Commerce and the Applicant. Other persons may participate as public participants or as otherwise prescribed.
3. Direct state agencies to participate in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 216E.10, subd. 3.
4. Request that the ALJ 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 determined appropriate.
5. Request that the ALJ emphasize the statutory timeframe for the Commission to make a final decision on the application and encourage the applicants and others to adhere to a schedule that conforms to the statutory timeframe.
6. Request that the ALJ ask the applicant and others to address whether the proposed LWECs project meets the criteria established under Minn. Stat. 216F and Minn. R. 7854.

7. Request that the ALJ prepare a report setting forth findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations on the merits of the LW ECS site permit application, and provide recommendations, if any, on conditions and provisions of the proposed site permit.
8. Direct that the hearing record be maintained through the Commission's electronic e-Dockets filing system.
9. Issue the draft site permit for the Blazing Start 2 Wind Project, as set forth by the DOC EERA in its April 11, 2018 comments.
10. Authorize Commission staff to make refinements to the draft site permit as necessary to ensure consistency with the record, the language of recently issued permits, and the Commission's decision on this matter.

The motion passed 4-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: May 16, 2018**

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

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**Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary**