

The Commission met on **Thursday, May 10, 2018**, with Chair Lange and Commissioners Lipschultz, Schuerger, Sieben, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

IP-6979/WS-17-265

In the Matter of the Application of Palmer's Creek Wind Farm, LLC for a Site Permit for the 44.6 Megawatt Palmer's Creek Wind Project in Chippewa County

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission take the following actions:

1. Adopt the ALJ's summary of public testimony, findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations, with modifications by Commission staff, for the 44.6 MW Palmer's Creek Wind Project.
2. Issue the DSP authorized by the Commission in its August 23, 2017 order and incorporate the permit amendments recommended by the ALJ and Commission staff as the site permit for the 44.6 MW Palmer's Creek Wind Project.
3. Incorporate the five conditions proposed by the Department on page 14 of staff briefing papers.
4. State that Fagen, Inc., or any of its subsidiaries, or its employees independently, will not be selected as the third-party consultants for the postconstruction noise study under Section 7.4 of the site permit.
5. Require the Permittee to contract with an independent third-party contractor, as approved by the EERA, to conduct noise monitoring and report directly to EERA and Commission staff.
6. Authorize Commission staff to make further changes to the findings of fact and permit conditions as necessary to ensure consistency with the record, the language of recently issued permits, and the Commission's decision in this matter.

The motion passed 5-0.

E-017/PA-18-40

In the Matter of a Petition by Otter Tail Power Company for Approval of Transfer of Property

Commissioner Tuma moved to approve Otter Tail's petition to acquire from East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. the substation facilities and substation-related assets at East River's F.L. Blair Substation located in Duel County, South Dakota, conditioned upon limiting the cost

recovered from Minnesota ratepayers to the Minnesota-jurisdictional share of the net book value of the property valued at \$67,795.

The motion passed 5–0.

G-008/GR-17-285

In the Matter of the Application by CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., d/b/a CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Gas for Authority to Increase Natural Gas Rates in Minnesota

Chair Lange moved that the Commission take the following actions:

1. Adopt the ALJ's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendation to approve the Settlement subject to the minor clarifications and corrections identified by the parties in their March 30, 2018 letter.
2. Accept and adopt the Settlement pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216B.16, subd. 1a(b).
3. Require CenterPoint to make the following compliance filings within 30 days of the order:
 - a. a revised base cost of gas, supporting schedules, and revised fuel-adjustment tariffs to be in effect on the date final rates are implemented;
 - b. a summary listing of all other rate riders and charges in effect, and continuing, after the date final rates are implemented;
 - c. a computation of the Conservation Cost Recovery Charge (CCRC) based upon the decisions made herein;
 - d. a schedule detailing the Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) tracker balance at the beginning of interim rates, the revenues (CCRC and CIP Adjustment Factor) and costs recorded during the period of interim rates, and the CIP tracker balance at the time final rates become effective; and
 - e. a proposal, in the event final authorized rates are lower than interim rates, to make refunds of interim rates including interest to affected customers.
4. Authorize comments on all compliance filings within 30 days of the date they are filed. However, comments are not necessary on CenterPoint Energy's proposed customer notice.
5. Require CenterPoint Energy to provide in its next rate case:
 - a. a spreadsheet that fully links together all raw data, to the most detailed information available and in a format that enables the replication of CenterPoint's processes, which the Company uses to calculate the input data used in test-year sales;
 - b. any, and all, data used for its sales forecast 30 days in advance of its next general rate case; and

- c. detailed information substantiating use of 10-year, 15-year, or any other average weather.
6. Require CenterPoint Energy to provide in future rate cases:
 - a. a thorough listing of all Minnesota gas jurisdiction and service company membership dues and license payments that the Company would like to recover;
 - b. CenterPoint Energy, Inc's historical capital structure for the previous five years; and
 - c. a comprehensive examination of the predictive power, volatility, and impact on test-year revenues of using 10-year, 15-year, and 20-year weather data in future rate cases.

The motion passed 5–0.

E-015,106/SA-17-893

In the Matter of the Complaint by Lake Country Power Against Minnesota Power Alleging Violation of Its Exclusive Service Area by Providing Service to Canadian National Railway Company Facilities Near Hoyt Lakes

Commissioner Lipschultz moved to require Lake Country Power to amend its complaint consistent with what Lake Country currently knows and is currently seeking from the Commission.

The motion passed 5–0.

E-002/AI-17-577

In the Matter of Xcel Energy's Petition for Approval of an Affiliated Interest Agreement

Commissioner Lipschultz moved to take the following actions:

1. Approve the use of Xcel's two tariffed contracts, the Solar*Rewards Community (S*RC) Standard Contract and the Interconnection Agreement, as they relate specifically to the 14 projects proposed in this docket, in order to allow participation by Nicollet Projects in Xcel's S*RC program.
2. Approve the Administrative Services Agreement (ASA) between Xcel Energy Services Inc. (XES) and Nicollet Projects, with the modifications to the Employee Ratio allocation method proposed by the Department reflected through adjustments in future rate-recovery proceedings. Find that the ASA between XES and Nicollet Projects will be subject to future review in rate-recovery proceedings where Xcel will demonstrate that all cost allocations are consistent with past Commission orders.

3. Require Xcel to show, as part of an annual compliance filing in the current docket (E-002/AI-17-577), the actual amounts of costs assigned and allocated from XES to Nicollet Projects compared to the estimated costs by services or cost categories, using a format similar to that provided in response to Department Information Request No. 3 in the current docket.
4. Require Xcel to report on the number of projects owned by an affiliated interest of the Company, including the associated MW capacity by project, as part of the Company's S*RC Annual Report, filed annually on April 1 in Docket No. E-002/M-13-867.

The motion passed 5–0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: August 15, 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