



The Commission met on **Thursday, September 15, 2022**, with Chair Sieben and Commissioners Means, Schuerger, Sullivan, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

**E-309,124/SA-22-281**

**In the Matter of the Joint Petition for Approval of a Permanent Service Territory Transfer Between Shakopee Public Utilities Commission and Minnesota Valley Electric**

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Approved the permanent service territory transfer between the Shakopee Public Utilities Commission and the Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative.
2. Requested that the Minnesota Geospatial Information Office (MnGEO) update the Commission's maps to reflect the service area designations as shown on the map in the petition.

The motion passed 5–0.

**E-015/M-11-409**

**In the Matter of Minnesota Power's Petition for Approval of a Rider for Customer Affordability of Residential Electricity (CARE)**

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Approved the Company's proposed modifications to its CARE program.
2. Required Minnesota Power to file, within 10 days of the Order date, a compliance filing with revised tariff sheets reflecting the approved CARE program changes.

The motion passed 5–0.

**G-004/M-22-217****In the Matter of Great Plains Natural Gas Company's 2021 Conservation Improvement Program Tracker and Shared Savings Demand Side Management Incentive**

Commissioner Sullivan moved that the Commission:

1. Approved Great Plains' Tracker Account as summarized in Table 1 on pages 2-3 of the Department's August 8, 2022, response comments.
2. Approved a CCRA rate of \$0.0805 per dekatherm, to be effective the first billing period following the Commission Order.
3. Required Great Plains to include the following customer notice in the billing month immediately following the Commission's approval: Great Plains recovers the cost changes in its energy conservation programs from the base established in 2021 through a Conservation Cost Recovery Adjustment (CCRA) subject to MN Public Utilities Commission approval. A CCRA of [insert rate] per dk is effective [insert effective date]. Learn more about reducing your energy use by visiting our website at [www.gpng.com](http://www.gpng.com) or calling us at 1-877-267-4764.
4. Required Great Plains Natural Gas Company to submit a compliance filing, within 10 days of the issue date of this Order, with revised tariff sheets reflecting the Commission's determinations in this matter.

The motion passed 5–0.

**G-008/M-22-215****In the Matter of CenterPoint Energy's 2021 Conservation Improvement Program Status Report, 2021 Demand Side Management Financial Incentive, Conservation Improvement Program Tracker Report, and 2021 Conservation Cost Recovery Adjustment Aggregated Compliance Filing**

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Approved CenterPoint Energy's 2021 DSM Financial Incentive of \$7,771,520.
2. Approved CenterPoint Energy's 2021 CIP tracker balance account as summarized in Table 1 of the Department's comments.
3. Approved an increase in the 2022/2023 CCRA to \$0.0905 per dekatherm, effective October 1, 2022.

4. Approved CenterPoint Energy's proposed bill message, and its proposed tariff sheet. The PUC has approved a Conservation Cost Recovery Adjustment (CCRA) factor of \$0.00905 per therm. This charge will be used to fund energy conservation activities and has been added to your delivery charge. For more information, please call or visit our website.
5. Required CenterPoint to submit a compliance filing, within 10 days of the issue date of this Order, with revised tariff sheets reflecting the Commission's determinations in this matter.

The motion passed 5–0.

### **E002/M-20-891**

#### **In the Matter of Xcel Energy's Sherco Solar Project**

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Approve the Company's acquisition and construction of the 460 MW Sherco Solar Project subject to the following conditions:
  - a. If the forthcoming RFP does not result in sufficient projects to meet the need identified in Order Point 2.a.5 of the IRP Order without also constructing the Sherco Solar Project (in other words, if less than 260 MW of company-owned projects interconnecting at Sherco and an additional 600 MW of solar resources unconstrained by interconnection location or ownership pass through both the completeness and threshold reviews of the RFP, excluding those that are not selected for shortlisting by the Company due to factors outside the Company's control (e.g., the bidder opts to sell the project or energy from the project to a different party)), such that the Sherco Solar Project would have been selected in the RFP were it to be bid in, then rider recovery for Sherco Solar is capped at the revised pricing discussed in this filing.
  - b. If the forthcoming RFP results in sufficient projects to meet the need identified in Order Point 2.a.5 of the IRP Order without also constructing the Sherco Solar Project (in other words, if 260 MW or more of company-owned projects interconnecting at Sherco and 600 MW or more of additional projects unconstrained by interconnection location or ownership pass through both the completeness and threshold reviews of the RFP, excluding those that are not selected for shortlisting by the Company due to factors outside the Company's control), then rider recovery for the Sherco Solar Project is capped at the lower of the dollar per kw of (1) the revised pricing discussed in this filing or (2) the highest-priced completed utility-scale (greater than 40 MW) project selected in the RFP (meaning, on time, all proposed MW, using union labor as defined in the RFP), thereby ensuring customers only pay costs for the Sherco Solar Project at an amount that would have been selected in the RFP.

- c. Adopt the Department's proposed ratepayer protections listed as follows:
- i. Xcel must justify any ongoing costs (including operations and management expense, ongoing capital expense – including revenue requirements related to capital included in rate base – insurance expense, land-lease expense, and property/production tax expense) that are higher than forecasted in this proceeding.
  - ii. Ratepayers will not be put at risk for any assumed benefits that do not materialize; Xcel customers must be protected from risks associated with the non-deliverability of accredited capacity and/or energy from the proposed Project, other than non- deliverability caused by weather. The Commission may adjust Xcel's recovery of costs associated with this proposed Project in the future if actual production varies significantly from assumed production over an extended period, for reasons other than those related to weather.
  - iii. Xcel must report in its fuel clause filing and annual automatic adjustment filings the amount of any curtailment, along with explanations for the curtailments, for the proposed Project.
  - iv. Xcel must clearly account for all costs incurred for the proposed Project.
  - v. Xcel must report quarterly, until the proposed Project is in service, project failures along with the options available to the Commission to remedy any failures that occur.
  - vi. Xcel must report on how the proposed Project as built is consistent with the information requested in the May 20, 2020, notice issued in Docket No. E,G-999/CI-20-492.
2. Approve Xcel's proposed approach of recovering Sherco Solar Project costs through the renewable energy standard (RES) rider. Any cost recovery is limited to the Minnesota jurisdictional allocators approved by the Commission.
3. Require Xcel to maximize the benefits to ratepayers of the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.
4. Require Xcel to submit a compliance filing by October 14, 2022, which discusses its plans to maximize applicable benefits of the Inflation Reduction Act and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act related to the Project for its customers and details its calculations of a revenue requirement and levelized cost of energy that incorporates

those benefits. The filing shall publicly identify the capital costs of the Sherco Solar Project. The Commission delegates authority to the Executive Secretary to modify the deadline.

The motion passed 5–0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: December 28, 2022**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Seuffert", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary